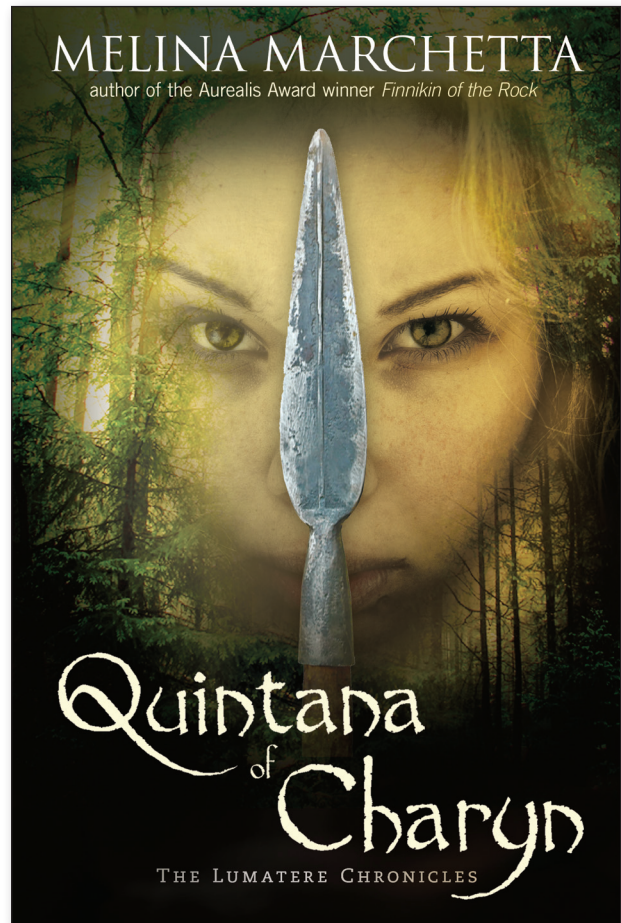


QUINTANA of CHARYN



BY MELINA
MARCHETTA



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ABOUT THE BOOK

After eighteen barren and painful years, the people of Charyn are finally expecting a child, a prince who could grow up to be their king. Yet not everyone is rejoicing. The kingdoms of Skuldenore are riven by warfare, intrigue, and lies. Princess Quintana has fled Charyn, waiting out her pregnancy in a dark cave surrounded by women she barely knows. Froi is torn between competing loyalties, building an army for Quintana while straining to keep their intimacy a secret. Queen Isaboe of Lumatere wishes to await her own new baby peacefully, but she still burns to avenge the unspeakable horrors visited upon her people.

The acclaimed Lumatere Chronicles, which began with *Finnikin of the Rock* and *Froi of the Exiles*, reaches its much-awaited climax in this dazzling tale of tangled bloodlines, fierce politics, and abiding love.

CONNECTING THE COMMON CORE WITH QUINTANA OF CHARYN

Whether you use this guide in a classroom or with a book group, its questions are likely to lead to spirited discussion. They will also help readers meet important Speaking and Listening Standards of the Common Core State Standards, which call for students in grades 9–12 to “initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on [grade-specific] topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Froi says Quintana is unbreakable, “the stone of this kingdom” (page 361). Yet many Charynites consider her crazy or useless or worse. Why is there such a range of opinions about Quintana? How has she used this confusion to her advantage?
2. Do the women in this series govern differently from men? How does Isaboe’s gender influence the way she rules Lumatere? How would Lumatere be different if Finnikin were king and Isaboe his consort? How would Finnikin be different if he were the king?
3. What does it mean to be gods’ blessed? Which characters in this novel are thought to be gods’ blessed? How can they be sure that they are? Do you think they are?
4. “People aren’t interested in the truth,” an elder priest of Charyn tells Froi. “They’re interested in a tale being spun” (page 45). What tale is being spun for the people of Charyn? Is it better for them than the truth? Why or why not?
5. Isaboe wanted the birth of her first child to bring hope to the shattered people of Lumatere, but she hopes the birth of her second child will rid her of her “malice” and “fury” (page 350). What is the difference between these two desires? How has she changed between pregnancies?
6. For nearly a generation, happiness was impossible in Lumatere and Charyn. What are the lingering effects of great suffering? How did the ordinary people of the two kingdoms survive their ordeal? What allows them to have faith in the future? Would you have such faith?
7. What painful bond unites Froi and Isaboe? Why does it make Finnikin jealous? Should it?
8. Although most of *Quintana of Charyn* is told in the third person, the prologue and a few other passages are written in the first person. Who narrates these sections? Why do you think the author chooses to briefly change the book’s point of view?
9. The Lumatere Chronicles is a fantasy set in a distant time and place of the author’s imagining, yet sometimes the characters sound surprisingly modern. Find a few examples of these seeming anachronisms. How do they affect your understanding of the speaker?
10. “The trust of a people,” says Phaendra, “comes from the goodness of their leaders” (page 313). Do you agree? Do you believe that your local, state, or national leaders are good? Do you trust them?
11. Take a closer look at Quintana’s companions in the cave. How is each changed by her time with the Charynite princess? How is Quintana changed by her time with them?
12. “We’re not so different, me and the queen of Lumatere,” Quintana says (page 357). Do you agree? What are the important ways in which Isaboe and Quintana are similar? What are their significant differences?
13. When she hears Froi sing and feels Gargarin’s joy, Lirah thinks, “Ah, there it is. That’s why I’ve suffered all my life. For this moment of beauty and perfection” (page 347). Do you agree that one perfect moment can justify decades of suffering? Why or why not?
14. Who or what is the greatest enemy of the Charyn people? How is this enemy defeated?
15. Fleeing mortal enemies and all but frozen dead, Froi stays alive by summoning the names of the people he loves and would never see again if he let go of life. Who would be on your list?
16. “Hatred smothers all beauty,” Yata tells Lucian (page 217). Do you agree? How can hate be more powerful than beauty?
17. If you have been fortunate enough to read the entire trilogy, trace the growth and development of its three central characters: Finnikin, Isaboe, and Froi. Who do you think changes the most over time? Why?
18. “There’s nothing more frightening to those in charge than learned people,” Simeon tells Gargarin. “It’s why the palace always strikes at brilliant young minds and those who teach them” (page 145). Is that true now? Where in today’s world have powerful leaders tried to silence brilliant young students and their teachers?
19. *Quintana of Charyn* is a rousing adventure story, but it is also intensely romantic. Discuss the couples who are together at the end of the novel. Which survives the toughest obstacles? Which would you want for parents?
20. According to Gargarin, there are two sides of a day: the side of despair and the side of wonder. Froi resolves to keep himself and those he loves on the side of wonder. What is your idea of the side of wonder? How will you stay in it?

ALSO IN THE LUMATERE CHRONICLES



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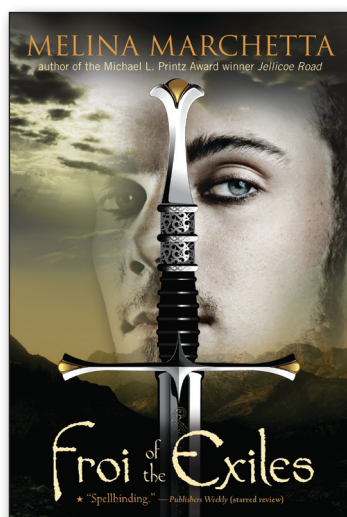
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PRAISE FOR THE LUMATERE CHRONICLES

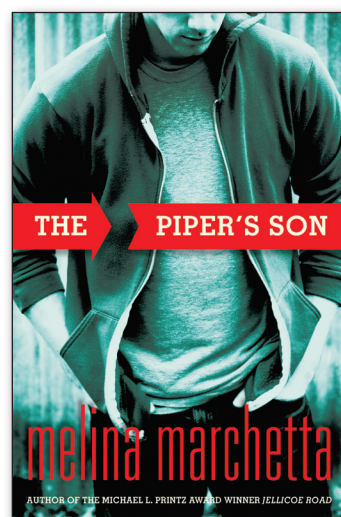
Finnikin of the Rock

★ "Filled with questions about the impact of exile and the human need to belong, this standout fantasy quickly reveals that its real magic lies in its accomplished writing."
—*Booklist* (starred review)

Froi of the Exiles

★ "Marchetta again demonstrates her fearlessness in exposing humanity at its ugliest, but also at its noblest. . . . Leaves readers aching—but also terrified—to discover what comes next."
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

ALSO BY MELINA MARCHETTA



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★ *Kirkus Reviews*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Winner of Australia's Aurealis Award for *Finnikin of the Rock*, the first of the Lumatere Chronicles, and America's Michael L. Printz Award for *Jellicoe Road*, Melina Marchetta has earned a worldwide audience for her brilliantly written young adult novels. She lives in Australia.