



The Ciphers of Muirwood

Jeff Wheeler

Download now

Read Online 

The Ciphers of Muirwood

Jeff Wheeler

The Ciphers of Muirwood Jeff Wheeler

From the moment she was banished by her father, the king, Princess Maia journeyed to seek sanctuary at Muirwood Abbey, the epicenter of magic and good in the land. Now safe for the first time since her cruel abandonment, Maia must foster uneasy friendships with other girls training to be Ciphers: women who learn to read and engrave tomes of ancient power, despite the laws forbidding them to do so.

As Maia tries to judge whom to trust, she makes a shocking discovery: her destiny is to open the Apse Veil and release trapped spirits from her world. Then she learns that her father is coming to Muirwood Abbey to celebrate the Whitsunday festival—and Maia's estranged husband, whom she was forced to abandon, will join him. Torn between deadly political machinations and unstoppable spiritual forces, Maia must channel unknown powers within herself to save her friends, the abbey, and the entire kingdom of Muirwood.

The Ciphers of Muirwood Details

Date : Published September 15th 2015 by 47North

ISBN :

Author : Jeff Wheeler

Format : Kindle Edition 402 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Magic

 [Download The Ciphers of Muirwood ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Ciphers of Muirwood ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Ciphers of Muirwood Jeff Wheeler

From Reader Review The Ciphers of Muirwood for online ebook

Kerry says

A wonderful second book in this series of Maia's adventures and the world where Muirwood Abbey exists. In this book Maia has a much more stable environment within Muirwood Abbey, surrounded by friends and family. Her trials and tribulations are not over though sadly. She must find strength, fortitude and learn quickly to sit the Maston Test. She has a great task ahead of her and the secret machinations of the King's court and warring factions of the world around her are very real distractions and dangers. She has her magic, education, family life, love life and the fate of the kingdom to deal with. Along with a looming visit from her father the King and his court, many of whom wish her harm. It's action packed, gripping and hard to put down. A great read!

Elizabeth "Liza" says

Reading With ABC <http://readingwithabc.com> <http://readingwithabc.com/review-the-...> Ciphers of Muirwood is the second book of the Covenant of Muirwood series (see the review of book #1 here) and I have to say that I love it. Now that I'm more familiar with the world created by Wheeler and the politics and I was able to understand everything much better.

Ciphers start where Vanished ended. Maia and her grandmother escaped the Victus and arrive to Muirwood Abbey. Here Maia is safe from the 'spirits' that chase her and will study and prepare to take her Maston test. I liked this gentle side of Maia. For the first time she has a stable environment, a place to stay, plenty of food and is surrounded by people that learn to love her and appreciated. I was very happy for her and especially by her connection with Suzenne.

"Your greatest test may come from your father himself. He has treated you most cruelly. "Tears gathered in the old man's eyes. "Our greatest pain in this life often comes from those who should love us the most... The hardest thing you will ever be asked to tame is your own heart."

Collier is back! He was freed from captivity and is resentful and hurt by Maia's betrayal. Their first encounters are rocky at best, but after a while Collier starts to forgive her and most importantly, to understand her. Maia is too good for own good. She is humble, wise, and careful of everyone's feelings and way too forgiving! I really liked their relationship and how it turned into something real and sincere.

"Surely all can plainly see that Maia is the fairest woman in this room. And to Maia's beauty, add grace, wisdom, and refined talents. She was born to be a queen in her own right and not just trained as a courtier. I can see why you have so jealously hidden her from me, my lady." ...

"Lady Deorwynn, forgive me, but you are blind. Your power has waned. Maia and I were secretly married in Dahomey many months ago. I came to Comoros to reclaim my wife. And I am not departing these shores without her."

The plot, politics, betrayals, changes of sides get very complicated! The "religion" is very present and prevalent during the book, but it didn't feel preachy at all. I actually understood everything much better. The book ended with a really bad cliffhanger so I was very excited when I found the last book in Netgalley! I devoured the entire series quite fast.

Overall, The Ciphers of Muirwood was a great addition to the series. It expands more on the history, the politics, and the cast of characters is much bigger. Collier and Maia get reunited (which I've been waiting for!) even if wasn't all I was waiting for. This review was originally posted on Reading With ABC

Hollie says

This was a much faster pace than the first book in the series. I'm glad I moved onto to book 2. I have to say, though, I am not a fan of the cliffhangers. I did enjoy how the characters seemed to develop much more in this read. I also appreciate this being offered as a kindleunlimited and I look forward to the next installment.

Ann says

Maia makes her way to the Muirwood Abby after being banished by her father the king in book one of this series. She discovers her special ability is to open the Apse Vail and release the trapped spirits of the dead. This fantasy is well written and fairly easy to follow. The story is full of magic, good vs. evil and family politics. I did not read book one of the Covenant of Muirwood but will look for it soon.

Gary says

4.9 stars

Another well crafted book in the series. Maia is more likable in this book (perhaps because she's not playing the role of an active hetaera?) Location wise, the story centers back on Muirwood as Maia seeks sanctuary there. That makes kind of a homecoming for the reader if you read the separate **Legends of Muirwood** series.

I did not care for the very last chapter. It is once again a contrived plot device required to transition the story into the third book of the series, but not really true to the preceding plot flow. (see spoiler) Hence the slight tick against a full five star rating.

(view spoiler)

David A Engel says

I like this series. I've listened to it on audiobook. The narrator does a good job, and it's easy to listen to and follow. The detail isn't excessive like it is some fantasy series. I understand this to be called world-building, and it can get to the point in some books that it's over the top, and hard to follow, where you dig into details (counting stitches is what I call it), and pull back out to continue the story. And then you think to yourself, "where were we again?". The detail is sufficient to visualize it and to feel part of the world. Though I used the word fantasy, I don't feel this is a fantasy book or series. There is "magic" but I don't think the word is ever used. It's really more of a power that comes from "The Medium" who is a God-like being, or more similar to the Holy Spirit from christianity. A guide, and a source of direction. As as long as you have faith and believe in the Medium it will grant you powers to support a good cause, or defend the righteous. There are very deep ties to religion and faith here. I'm LDS (as is Wheeler) and there are certainly similarities

between some of the Maston customs, rites, and rituals, and LDS doctrine, and Mason ideology. Though if you're not LDS you likely won't notice it, but that being said, I don't think it mocks LDS doctrines, nor does it take away from the story. He puts a creative spin on it. I give it 3 stars because I don't classify it as fantasy. And though I like the story I wish there was a little more conflict. This specific book in the series is slow, and I believe Wheeler explains his reason for that at the end of the book, in a note to his readers. This book has lots of dialogue, and very little happening in terms of conflict, adventure, or excitement. The book leaves you hanging, and I immediately picked up the third to continue the story. I'd give the third book 4 stars as it picks up the excitement more. No explicit language, or sexually intimate relationships, though there is a clean and growing love story for those that like that sort of thing. Overall, I'd say this is not your typical fantasy, but it's enjoyable to read, nonetheless, and I'd highly recommend it.

Tian Xie says

A lot of the scenarios have a sort of fairy tale development which is cool but is predictable and blandish. Most of my issue with this book was just how incredibly goody two shoes our main character acts esp with relation to her daddy, some traumatic fire emblem fates conquest flashbacks. The medium is starting to sound like some weird cult and it just feels like they're relying on it too much, making it less of a story about the will of the characters and more like just about them following the medium...

Darryn says

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley for an honest review.

I have really enjoyed both of the books in this series by Jeff Wheeler. They are fast paced with political intrigue, magic, quick wit, and memorable characters. The writing is wonderful. Beautifully smooth and colorful. That being said, there are a few things keeping me from giving this book 5 stars.

As with most reviewers I find Maia's soft spot for her father partially understandable (he is her father after all) but incredibly annoying. I would like to see a little less Lawful Good and more Lawful Neutral in the next book. Jeff Wheeler has said that he wants to write virtues characters you can root for, that inspire, but that doesn't mean they have to be a dull or predictable.

The King's motive is the other weakness in this book series that bugs me. Why did he all of the sudden change? Was he always bad? His mannerisms are also childish and tedious, not something that inspires fear. He doesn't make a very interesting villain in my opinion.

Looking forward to the next book to find out the ending of this series.

Tish says

I'm really enjoying this series. Jeff Wheeler does a great job of balancing the action and intrigue with getting inside the characters. I also liked the blurbs from Richard Syon--a lot of wisdom there. I'm off to start the third one right now!

Note: I received a free e-galley of this from NetGalley and the publisher.

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2015/09/0...>

Publisher: 47 North

Publishing Date: September 2015

ISBN: 9781503947115

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: 3.2/5

Publisher Description: From the moment she was banished by her father, the king, Princess Maia journeyed to seek sanctuary at Muirwood Abbey, the epicenter of magic and good in the land. Now safe for the first time since her cruel abandonment, Maia must foster uneasy friendships with other girls training to be Ciphers: women who learn to read and engrave tomes of ancient power, despite the laws forbidding them to do so.

Review: Maia is “speshul”. Amend that. Maia is “super speshully goodness wrapped in sweet sugar”. So Princess Maia escapes her daddy King’s clutches and resides in Muirwood, waiting for her initiation as a Maston.

The whole novel resides in Muirwood as palace intrigue, slut shaming and burgeoning love transpire around Maia. Maia is at once doe-eyed, wiser than Buddha, prettier than a Labrador puppy and smarter than Einstein. Oh, and she has magical connections to the “Medium”. Hate her yet? She is married to a King (but never consummated) which makes her a Queen and all of the Realm is depending on her to open magical gates and depose her evil daddy. So why does Maia suck besides the obvious? See her King Daddy killed her mom, Queenie the First, while banging a lady in waiting and tried to have his Speshul daughter killed multiple times. He deposed and subsequently killed the Earl of whatever and all his sons and is now banging a new lady in waiting. He kills his last lady in waiting to make room for the new lady in waiting because as her then, new wife, she started banging some musicians. And yet, at every opportunity, Maia implores those that really care about her, to not harm her daddy. She refuses to go against him in any way. Huh? That’s like letting a rabid skunk play with your kids in the backyard.

The writing is good as is the overall story line. The characters are well developed but Maia just plane sucks. There were some annoying phrases throughout the novel like “soft, softer, softly” over-used 70 times but minor compared to Maia’s perfection. This would have gotten 4 stars except for Maia’s cloying sickly sweetness.

Mari says

We all face difficulties, but they should not become our core. We grieve, we suffer, we weep. Challenges are experiences that help us to grow. Storms are always temporary and should never distract us from the

beautiful days that were before or will come after. Do not become so fixed on a single injustice that you can no longer remember others may be suffering near you. Like the healing of the body when it is ill, the healing of the heart requires patience.

Hoofta, just typing out that quote already made me a little tired; however, I felt like it was too good to shorten. If there is one thing to take away from Wheeler's *Covenant of Muirwood* series, is that he knows how to write a phrase that feels like it should be on a poster somewhere. Not only did I enjoy the plot more in *The Ciphers of Muirwood*, but I also enjoyed the writing more.

That being said, I still find myself struggling to get through these books. I'm constantly torn between whether I truly enjoyed this book or if it was a drag...even now I'm questioning the rating, but I want to give the author more credit than my uncertainty, so I'll leave it as is.

The Ciphers of Muirwood was much more enjoyable in my opinion than the first installment, mostly because there wasn't the need for as much world-building. Where I was left confused for a lot of the first, the second book gave me enough reminders to remember what happened in *Banished* yet built up from that and allowed me to learn more.

Maia's time at Muirwood, practically the pinnacle of her religion, gives the reader a lot more depth and understanding of Maia's belief system. While the description of the book calls it "the epicenter of magic and good in the land", the entire system feels more like a religion than simple "magic". Anyone who has had even the smallest insight into Christianity will see a lot of similarities between the two in this series. At times, the book did get a bit preachy and made me feel like I was reading more of a Christian fantasy novel (is that a thing?) than a fantasy novel. This may not necessarily be a bad thing, however. Anyone who enjoys both Christian lit and fantasy may get great enjoyment out of this; I enjoy both, but I wasn't expecting both in this series, and the Christianity/religion/you-must-be-completely-pure-in-body-and-soul sometimes threw me off or lost me completely.

That last point is also related to the protagonist, Maia. While no longer under control of evil, she finds incredible peace at Muirwood. That isn't what I have a problem with. Basically, from here on out, Maia is the most good, pure, and (almost) no-doubts-about-anything protagonist that I may have read about. Any doubt or uncertainty Maia feels seems to fly away pretty quickly. While I understand that she is working to purge herself of the evil she experienced before and that it is a perfectly acceptable goal, she was almost, dare I say it, *too good* at it? Same as in *Banished*, Maia keeps her emotions well-controlled and is seen as an embodiment of strength because of how she has persevered through her struggles. However, it's difficult for an imperfect mortal like myself to truly connect and care about a protagonist who is just so dang perfect.

Also, if I read the below exchange (or anything similar to it), one more time, my eyelids are going to start twitching.

"I could almost kiss you for saying that," he said, pleased. "But I will not."

I don't think Collier could be clearer on his dilemma for the majority of the book. Speaking of Collier, I have a couple of quick comments. First of all, was I supposed to like Collier? I think I am, but I realized that I had no clue why Maia liked/loved Collier so much at this point in the book. While Collier is a fun and complicated character from the get-go, for a good portion of the series so far, all he's done is help Maia in order to push his own agenda forward. He gave you a flower? That's all fine and dandy, but it wasn't really *for you* as a message that he knew who you were. I love a good romance in any novel really (I will not be ashamed for this), but I think I've been trained to find romance to the point that I sometimes have to slow down and remind myself to find it beyond: *there is a girl and a boy so they must be in love*. Then, as soon as I start to like Collier a bit more, he leaves. ***sigh***

I know from my review that you may wonder why I gave it four stars (and I'm still sort of on the fence for a strict star review), I did enjoy *The Ciphers of Muirwood* more than I imagined and was glad that the pace picked up here. Whether because I'm stubborn, nosy, or truly enjoyed the book, I continued to the third installment immediately after the first without complaint. Overall, while this isn't a series that I'm rushing to tell people about, I can see many reading this who enjoy fantasy, those who enjoy Christian/religious reading (without actual Bible verses), or those who don't realize they like either one.

Matt (Book Devour-er) says

Another great book by Jeff Wheeler. I really enjoyed the character development in this book. Unfortunately, after i was about halfway through the book i realized i might of read them out of order. I looked it up and i was definitely supposed to read the Legends of Muirwood trilogy first but i guess ill read that in a few months when i forget some the things i already know from reading this one. This book had a good climax but it did sizzle a little for me but thats not to say it wasnt good still. Starting the next one now, hope it finishes with a bang.

Jessica says

I highly enjoyed the first book in this series, but must confess to strong disappointment in this installment. It seemed to take a long time to accomplish nothing, the improbability factor was higher, and the dialogue scenes set my teeth on edge (personal gripe--do not convey emotion through nearly constant written intonation of speech, like 'spoke softly,' 'sighed and whispered,' 'said sorrowfully,' etc.).

The protagonist seemed more like a conduit for something to work through her than an active participant in what took place. While I have a strong respect for the miraculous, miracles in and of themselves don't really yield a satisfying conclusion if they are solely responsible for the resolution of the problem.

Thank you to the publisher for providing a free electronic galley copy of this book for review purposes.

Meghan Palmer says

Could the strong but weepy women cliché - written by a dude- be more exhausting?

Kristina Aziz says

I read the first installment of this series in graphic novel form, which has its merits. The last time I read a series in split formats was when I read *Spy Goddess*. I don't believe reading just one format for an entire series makes the experience any more or less enjoyable, but that's just me. Anyway, I got this version from NetGalley after reading the first book. In this installment, Maia finds a for of freedom from her father, and meets other powerful women like her training to be ciphers. Of course, in this world everyone is scared of the power a woman can wield, so her father and ex husband have plans to pass a law that would give her father far too much power. I really liked watching Maia develop as a person and seeing her deal with the sudden information that she needs to basically save the world with powers she doesn't have a complete hold

on just yet. Pair this with the fact that nearly everyone she meets seems to not like her at all, it's inevitable that we get to see her find inner strength.

It takes talent and guts to release books so closely together as Wheeler is doing. It's not a bad thing--the previous book is fresh in our mind, we're still excited--but what a deadline! this book is set to release just a few months after the last one. Will we be reading the last one before Christmas? Luckily, Wheeler's prowess at writing keeps readers at the edge of their seats anyway, so he's doing a public service releasing these so close together.

Overall: I'd get it a library, and recommend it to friends. I wouldn't quite buy it for myself, but I would get a print version for my sister and then my daughter when she's old enough, so it still counts. 5/5
