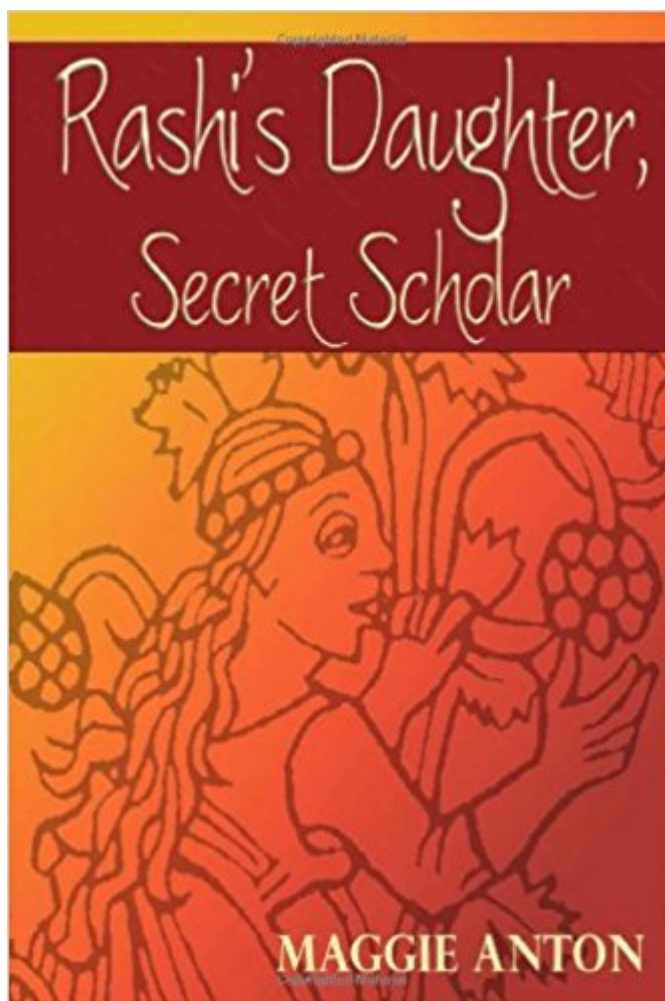




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Rashi's Daughter, Secret Scholar



Synopsis

Rashi's Daughter, Secret Scholar was adapted from the first book in this series, Volume 1: Joheved. The tale of a young girl who challenges conventions to engage in Jewish learning; Set in 11th-century Troyes, France, Rashi's Daughter, Secret Scholar tells the story of Joheved, eldest daughter of Salomon ben Isaac (known as Rashi), one of the great medieval Jewish Bible commentators. At a time when women traditionally were barred from studying Jewish texts, Rashi secretly teaches first Joheved, then her sister Miriam. By day, Joheved helps in running the household and the family winemaking business, and by night she studies Talmud with her father. As she nears marriageable age, Joheved finds her mind and spirit awakened by religious study, but she must keep her passion for learning and prayer hidden. When she becomes betrothed to Meir ben Samuel, she is forced to choose between marital happiness and being true to her love of the Talmud. Will she fulfill the expected role of a Jewish woman or pursue a path of Jewish learning?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

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Historical Fiction > Biographical > European #85 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Religious > Jewish #325 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Ancient

Customer Reviews

Based on her adult books about the daughters of Biblical scholar Rashi, Anton introduces Joheved and her sister, Miriam, who are living in eleventh-century France. Though the book spans years, readers come to know the sisters only superficially, and time and place is all. Anton provides a detailed but never boring look at what life was like at the time for residents of Troyes in general and Jewish girls in particular. In some ways, it's what one might expect "keeping religious holidays, making a home" but these sisters are also privileged and study the Torah (against their mother's wishes). Moreover, Joheved knows the family business, winemaking, and Miriam

prepares to be a midwife. Throughout Anton does a masterful job of explaining the intricacies of medieval life, from how a grape is picked to the way paper is made, why certain amulets are used in childbirth, and the system of taxation on wine. With several important female characters besides the sisters, this beautifully shows the rich diversity of women and the lives they lead, even long ago. Grades 8-12. --Ilene Cooper

"Anton maintains much of the details of Medieval life that makes the book so vivid and appealing."â "JTNews (JTNews)"Anton does a masterful job of explaining the intricacies of medieval life . . . this beautifully shows the diversity of women and the lives they lead, even long ago."â "ALA Booklist (ALA Booklist)"An absorbing tale."â "Hadassah Magazine (Hadassah Magazine)"The book is fascinating for the ways in which religion and superstition interact in every important act of life. This book should totally enchant and hold the interest of both adult and young adult readers."â "Multicultural Review (Multicultural Review)

A great addition to the Rashi's Daughters series. It gives a background to the story of the three daughters with a smattering of Talmud to boot. An enjoyable read

I really enjoyed the book and went on to finish the series. I was impressed at how much research was done into the time.

excellent for younger readers

Great

A very interesting book with a lot of jewish laws and stories.

Just a collection of thoughts copied from the important trilogy. Nothing new in it. Don't waste your time or money. But, do read the trilogy of the three daughters.

My wife is the one reads the books. She shares them with our daughter. They both think the series is wonderful.

Having read the first two volumes of Rashi's Daughter's I ordered this immediately upon making it

available, March 28, 2008. I didn't know it was for readers "ten and up." I assumed (always a bad idea) that it would be about the third daughter, Rachel. Silly me. It is a re-telling of the story of Jocheved for younger readers...unless they have read the first two volumes. I will give the book to a young girl, a friend's daughter. I am sure she will find it fascinating. My disappointment is more than likely my own fault.

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