



## Anathema

*Megg Jensen*

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# Anathema

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**Anathema** Megg Jensen

*Forget prophecy. Make your own destiny.*

Reychel is a slave girl surrounded by magic, lies, and manipulation. Her best friend disappears in the middle of the night leaving Reychel to face her fifteenth birthday, the day her master burns his brand into the back of her bald head, alone.

Sheltered from the outside world and without any hope for escape, can Reychel learn to believe in herself?

## Anathema Details

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Author : Megg Jensen

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## From Reader Review Anathema for online ebook

### DelSheree says

For a people who have been conquered and subjected to slavery, believe in a prophet meant to save them is difficult to give up. Their faith that they will one day be rescued spurs hope and planning. Reychel, a simple slave, has no notion of the prophecy. Her life has been sheltered beyond any other slave's, even to the point of never being allowed to go or look outside except in her master's presence. She knows nothing but the life of a slave...until her best friend goes missing and a mysterious coin is left in her place. Her friend's disappearance changes everything. Reychel is thrown into more intrigue, secrets, and danger than she ever imagined could exist in the outside world.

This basic idea of Anathema sounds interesting. That's what I thought when I downloaded the book. The idea behind the story is a thought provoking one with a lot of potential. Unfortunately it didn't live up to that potential. As a whole, the book was interesting. There were many chapters that finished with a good enough hook that I wanted to turn the page, but in general the book fell short of my expectations.

The lack of consistency throughout the book was frustrating. The characters did not use consistent speech patterns. At times they spoke like old world villagers. At other times they spoke like modern teens. The characters themselves were often inconsistent, being clever at one moment than oblivious at the next, or sure of something then speak as if they had hardly considered the idea. The flow was also a problem in many cases. The idea that there were "gifted" people was never brought up until Reychel met one, but then she suddenly recalled many times that she had seen gifted slaves in her master's house. I wasn't sure if the author forgot to mention these gifted people earlier on and thought having Reychel remember would suffice, or she thought she was revealing some secret.

Many authors like to drop subtle hints as they write to either increase curiosity, guide readers toward the right conclusion, or trick them into leaning the wrong direction. This can be a wonderful tactic to draw readers in, but subtly is the key. I'm about to reveal some spoilers, but I need to in order to explain why this writer's hints stole much of the tension from the story.

The first time Reychel is allowed to look out a window while in her master's presence he asks her to tell him a story, as he usually does. Reychel's story becomes a tale of her escape from slavery. The fact that Reychel was forbidden to look outside at any other time had been emphasized so much by that point that it was no surprise when Reychel's "story" came true. I immediately assumed Reychel's gift was prophecy related to looking at the sky. The frustrating part of the writer's not-so subtle hints was that the characters in the book were all completely oblivious to this fact and just couldn't figure out what Reychel's talent was supposed to be.

Another instance was after Reychel and her friend Ivy have a fight and Ivy runs away, Reychel sees a vision of Ivy living luxuriously and looking very fiendish. When Reychel hears that her former master has suddenly announced his marriage to a mysterious girl, again it was readily apparent to me that Ivy was that mystery woman. But the other characters were at a loss to figure out who the master was marrying and passed off Ivy running away as a non-issue even though she told them before leaving that she knew an important secret about Reychel. Of course, Ivy turns out to be the master's fiancée and reveals the devastating secret she knew, ruining Reychel's plans.

I encountered the same problem when Reychel and her friends come up with a plan to rescue prisoner's from

her former master. Over and over again the characters reiterated how simple the plan was, how easy it would be, how it couldn't possibly fail. It was so overemphasized that I, as a reader, knew the plan was doomed- which it was. One small, barely noticeable hint does so much more than blatant, repetitious hints will ever do.

The one aspect of the book that kept me from really connecting with the story or the characters was its lack of emotion. The first several chapters make a point of mentioning Grey, another slave, that Reyche has feelings for. But when she escapes she doesn't have a single thought about this boy. No request to rescue him as well, no longing to see him again. She doesn't even remember he exists until she ends up back in the palace trying to rescue the prisoners. And while Reyche is away from the palace, she meets another young man, Mark, that she makes some friendly comments about, but shows no internal devotion to. Yet when Ivy accuses Reyche of stealing Mark's attention, everyone acts as if it is obvious that Reyche is in love with Mark. Throughout the book there were scenes where the characters spoke of something being very passionate, but preceding that there was very little internal emotion. This gave the book a rather bland tone at times.

Anathema was an interesting book. It had a very good idea at its base that I simply felt was not utilized to its full potential. I was intrigued at times, but I did not have the overpowering urge to keep reading. I didn't connect with the characters enough to worry about their future, though that may have been partly due to the fact that the hints told me what was coming up and left little suspense. I enjoy a good love triangle, and though this book hinted that this would play a bigger part in the second book, I have a hard time seeing it suck people in since Reyche forgot the existence of one of the boys for almost the entire book. Overall, I wanted more from this book. I don't think I will read the other books in the series.

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### **Linda Ash says**

This book drew me in when I read the first chapter on the author's blog. I thought to myself, "I've finally found a really good indie book." The opening is terrific, it says so much in a compelling way and I found myself reading on. I downloaded the book for my nook and read it in two sittings.

Now, having said that, with further reading, I could tell that this was an indie book. It's hard for indie authors to escape this, I think (being one myself, I know). Those of us who can't afford top notch editing (and we are legion) have to rely on beta readers, critique groups, and self-editing, and it shows (in my own work, too). Editing doesn't only catch typos, a good editor can help tighten a story and bring out the best in the writing. This book (and my own as well) would benefit from just such editing. I think the author is creative and with that kind of support, her novel would shine all the more.

I do think that Meg Jensen will find plenty of fans. This is the first book in a slated trilogy and I believe there will be many readers who will clamor for more, to find out what happens in this world of oppressive Malborns, their Serenian slaves, and the girl who may be the answer to the Serenian's woes - The Cloud Prophet.

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### **Books says**

The first book in the Cloud Prophecy series, "Anathema" was an awesome read! I downloaded it as a free

book from kindle, and wasn't in a rush to read it. But once I got started, I was hooked! Before I got to the end of the book, I was already looking forward to the next two books in this series by Megg Jensen.

I loved everything about this book. It was an easy and fast read, with an uncomplicated, yet unpredictable, plot line. The story moves at a comfortable pace and each setting is so well-described, it effortlessly drew me into the book.

I quickly fell in love with the characters, especially with the main character Reychele. She is a down to earth character, accepting her life as a slave without complaint. What I also enjoyed about this character, is how she grew as a person throughout the book, while staying true to her unassuming and sincere nature. The one thing that annoys me, is when female characters are portrayed as weak and helpless. This is not the case with Reychele, or any of the other characters, and in my books that makes her so much more likeable.

Supporting characters, good and bad, were also well crafted and the author skillfully blended them into the storyline. The romance between Reychele and her love interest was subtle and tastefully written.

I would've liked if Kandek's character could've been a little more developed, and it would've added a lot more to the plot if certain things were seen from his point of view, but hopefully this will be done in the next two books. It doesn't really take anything away from the story though.

The ending is a bit of a cliffhanger, but as this is the first book in the series, some points are neatly tied up and others are left open to be developed in the next book. Fellow readers, I highly recommend this stunning book to young and old alike!

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### **Nina says**

First of all, this book is pretty short. I finished it in a few hours. I was reading on my kindle and wasn't keeping track of the locations, and all of a sudden it was done.

Aside from the length, I thought the book was really good. I enjoyed the story and it was entertaining enough that I didn't realize how fast I was whipping through it. The story revolves around a slave girl who discovers that she is a foretold savior of her people. This book takes her through the discovery of her status as the prophet.

There are two other books in this series, and I hope the second and third are as good as the first. The author packed a lot of character development and world building into the short text, which I thought was impressive. Moments where I felt I was being lectured were few and far between, which was nice. I feel like sometimes in short books this happens too often - the author needs to dump a lot of information about the world at once, so characters just go on a rant about culture, which is really jarring and unrealistic. Jensen keeps this to a minimum.

If you're looking for a quick read and like stories about magic with a bit of romance, I'd recommend picking this one up.

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## **Crystal Collier says**

A very interesting story world with deep politics, conflicting views, and the constant struggle over whom to trust. Even to the very end there were compelling conflicts that kept me reading, and several twists I didn't see coming. Along with some I did...but mostly ones I didn't. Happy times.

Heads up to series readers: this one doesn't completely resolve by the end. You get the sense there's a significant amount of story still to come.

All in all, I enjoyed it.

Content warning: Clean.

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## **Mindy says**

Wow, what an amazing book! Hopefully, I won't have to wait long to read the following 2 books in this series! Picking up this book I had no idea what to expect. When I read the first page I was immediately intrigued! Even though the book is less than 190 pages, so much happens in the book that I am truly amazed that Megg Jensen was able to create and deliver such a compelling book in so few pages.

While reading, I was so focused on anticipating what would happen next that I couldn't put the book down until I was finished, which was about 1:30am. And when I finally put it down, I was determined to write something even though I was so delirious from lack of sleep. And this is what I wrote, "What an amazing book! I am too tired to write a review at the moment so I will be doing it in the morning. This is a good one! Very compelling, there are some twists and you don't know who to trust. Very good!"

The emotions I felt from reading this book ranged from excitement to intensity to shock and then to frustration! There is very little detail about the story that I would want to include in this review because I loved that I read it completely blind and I want all readers to experience the same emotions I did. I do want to say that one particular person more than disgusted me! I wanted to jump through the book and strangle them (I won't say him or her to ruin it for you).

Anyways, I would highly recommend this book!

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## **Krystal Hammond says**

I've seen this book on the First Reads page over and over again, and I've entered to win in several times. Never did. So, when this book popped up on Amazon's Top 100 Free list for Kindle, I decided to go ahead and download it.

Here's the super brief summary (mild spoilers): Reyhel is a slave who is about to become the permanent property of her owner via a brand on her fifteenth birthday. She gets rescued and is launched on a big adventure.

My thoughts ... this book just doesn't deliver. If you look at the cover and then at the title, even the description available, this looks like it should be kind of dark and intense. It's not. The tone is pretty light and fluffy to me. There are several cliches thrown in that just come off as cheesy.

Also, the main character, Reychel, is annoying to me. Jensen nails her as an innocent, naïve girl, but she goes a bit overboard with it. I had things figured out really, really early while Reychel was still puzzling over them. Reychel reminds me of Bella from Twilight (overly naïve to the point of being dumb). This annoyed me throughout the book.

As for the writing itself, there were a couple mangled sentences, a little bit of info dumping here and there at the very beginning. Nothing big.

The positives? As others have said, this is a fast-moving book. As much as I was tempted to just put it down/use the "remove from device" function on my Kindle, I kept reading. This says something about Jensen's ability to put together a compelling narrative.

Overall, I thought this book was okay. If it got into the hands of a capable editor who could prod Jensen to revise in a way that would bring out the strengths and handle the cliches in interesting ways, this could be a really interesting book. Right now, though, it reads like a draft. It's a good draft, but it's a draft.

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## **David Powell says**

This book was published some time ago, in 2011, so anything I write about it will have little effect on sales. Not that that should bother me.

I read this through, drawn by a not half-bad story, but irritated by the manner of telling. I feel the writer would perhaps have benefitted from critiques that were from other writers without any connection to her. As it is, one gets the impression that most of the pre publishing reviews must have come from adoring family and friends.

She writes of a young woman, a slave, called Reychel, who inhabits an indeterminate fantasy world at some time or other.

The story starts with Reychel's fifteenth birthday, a day which she has been dreading, because it is the day when she is to be branded the property of Kandek, the local lord.

So, not a bad premise for a YA novel, and the story progresses quite nicely after.

The problem is with the telling. There is a 'rule' in writing, 'show don't tell'. It is right to be suspicious of any 'rule' in any art form, so it is not, in fact, a rule.

As an aside the first proponent of this 'rule' was George Orwell, although he showed a great deal of disdain for it in his writings.

However, although not a rule, it is a bloody good 'rule of thumb'. And Miss Jensen's thumb has not been in use. There are constant flashbacks in the form of thoughts and/or conversation, which 'explain' the book and they become wearisome.

In terms of telling the story they are a break in the progress, and in fact the whole books reads to me as a precursor to book two.

Another of the so called 'rules' is that all the main elements of the plot should be told in the first 25%. Again, a strong recommendation rather than a rule, but one that has been followed by all the great writers over hundreds of years. But not M's Jensen and important characters 'pop-up' almost until the very end.

It makes for a curious mish-mash which needs to be sorted out. Maybe it will in the next part of the story.

Which, quite frankly, I will not be reading.

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### **Kami Dodson-Perry says**

I love the main character Raychel. In the beginning we learn that Reychel is a slave. She lives with countless #s of other slaves that serve one master, Kandek. Kandek has never been mean to her. But he does treat her differently than the other slaves. She is not allowed outside, she is not allowed to be in a room without the curtains drawn & her main job is dish duty in the backroom with no windows. This is all Reychel knows, this is all she has ever known. She is unsure why Kandek restricts her as such but she is a good slave & does not question it. She is called into Kandek's chambers on a regular basis, there he opens the curtains for her to see into the outside world & asks her to tell a story to him. She loves this part where she can get lost in thought & dream. Her best friend is Ivy & her crush is Grey.

There is basically a war going on between the Serenians (slaves) & the Malborn (nobleman). The Malborn took the Serenians land by force & then made the slaves to their people. For the last 15 years slaves have been disappearing into thin air & the only thing left in their place is a gold coin with the word Anathma on one side & a picture of a mother, father, & baby on the other. These slaves are not heard from again.

There is a prophecy of a gifted that will free the people & bring balance & harmony back to the lands.

**\*\* SPOLILER ALERT \*\***

Reychel is & meets some new friends like Johna, an herbalist who is showing Reychel how to make a living as a herbalist in the real world. Some can be trusted & some can not. Reychel meets Mark a solder for the realm & loyal to Kandek's army. However, Mark's loyalties really lie elsewhere. She learns a lot about herself & others which she thought she knew but it turns out things are never what they seem. That is really played throughout this entire story. You are unsure whom to trust & which side their loyalties will serve. You learn why Kandek treated Reychel differently & why he will not stop searching for her until she is returned to him.

This was a great story with subtle twists & turns but twists & turns none the less. I will be reading the 2nd book in the series soon.

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### **G.P. Ching says**

Full disclosure, I am part of Megg's writer's circle, so I was able to read *Anathema* before it was published. *Anathema* is the kind of book you read in a day. It moves fast and has both romantic and fantasy elements. What I like about how Megg Jensen writes fantasy is that she doesn't over-write it. Maybe it's my short fiction roots but many modern fantasy novels seem bloated to me. Not this one. The writing is tight but she doesn't sacrifice plot or characterization.

I thought the premise was original and the lead female character had a strong voice. The world she builds is extraordinary but believable. And truly, this book is one I can let my teen read without concerns about the content being inappropriate. I recommend *Anathema*. Even though I've already read it, I'll be purchasing this one.

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### **Ivy says**

*Anathema* by Megg Jensen is intriguing and it had me hooked since reading the synopsis!

I normally do not read the fantasy genre, however, *Anathema*'s synopsis really caught me and I knew I would need to read it. When Megg approached me to ask me to review this book, I really jumped at this opportunity because I have heard great things about it and it looked interesting for me to read.

Knowing that there is a character in this book with my name did not make me automatically like her. I wished I did like her, but I do not. You will know why if you have read *Anathema*.

My favorite character is Reyche. Her name is spelled oddly, but it is interesting to know that maybe someone out there spells "Rachel" differently. I did not quite understand why she was always hidden away from the outside world and from windows until you discover the power she holds. Her power is within the clouds. She is an amazing character with amazing powers! However, she did not discover the power she holds until people with similar powers saved her. Her power is very powerful and if she is in the hands of bad people, it will be disastrous!

Reyche is a very likeable character. You know those people who you can like, but never dislike because she is so likeable by everyone? Yeah, Reyche is one of those people. I do not think anyone can dislike her. She is willing to help people too. She is strong-willed and is determined to help people out even if it means to jeopardize herself in the process. You see how likeable she is? And how you cannot like her even though you want to dislike her? Yup!

*Anathema* is such a captivating novel that it is extremely easy to lose yourself into it. The whole time I have read this book, I did not want to put it down. It is one of those books you would not want to stop until you reach the last page! Superb novel! I cannot wait for the second book!

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### **Vee ?Under Mountain Books? says**

I decided to get a copy of this a little while ago, after seeing it around so often and seeing so many positive reviews of it. I can happily say I'm very pleased with my purchase! This short book is heaps of fun and I look forward to reading the rest of the series.

The pacing in this was perfect. Didn't go too quickly, didn't drag on for hours. Everything was revealed at the right moments and the romance wasn't too intrusive either! I did find one element a little stereotypical but I still enjoyed it all the same.

The story is really unique, at the same time as feeling comfortingly familiar. I love books with lots of magic and castles and this really hit the spot in that aspect.

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### **Krista (CubicleBlindness Reviews) says**

I loved the pacing of the story. All of the little pieces unraveling at the perfect time. I sat and read this book all the way through in one day and found it highly enjoyable and different than anything I have read recently. The idea that the slaves/workers had to shave their heads to symbolize their position in the society. Then to actually have their masters symbols burned into the back of their skull? Seriously? Ow.

When Reychele wakes up to find her friend gone from the bed, the rumor starts immediately that she was taken, as this is a common thing. But Reychele spreads the rumor that she just woke up early and is around doing her chores. But the token she finds beneath the bed leads to her know better. That is the symbol that she will not be back. Reychele eventually escapes and must find somewhere to hide but her shaved skull is a dead giveaway that she is a slave and should not be out. There are different characters she meets in her travels. But she has a destiny that must be fulfilled.

There is a mixture of several great characters and magic. Reychele is a strong and feisty main character. I loved the last couple of chapters and the how all of the events eventually end. Very happy that this is only the beginning to a series.

I enjoyed that fact that even though there is a boy, and somewhat of a romantic interest there is not really any romance exactly that overwhelms what is really going on here. I loved that. Cute and funny moments, great writing and it had me hooked.

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### **Mimi says**

2.5 stars.

Not crazy about this one. It wasn't bad, but it felt rushed in some places, and just a touch incredulous. Yes, I know it's a fantasy novel, but somehow, the suspension of disbelief just didn't reach the right level for me, I guess.

Best way to describe this story: put Harry Potter and Divergent into a blender, pour it through a sieve and you get Anathema. Not bad, but without any real substance.

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### **Linny says**

Review on Linny's Literature

The first book in the *Cloud Prophet Trilogy*, *Anathema* introduces us to a world full of slavery and people

with extraordinary gifts. I got *Anathema* for free on Amazon (Where it is still free, by the way. Hey, wait! You haven't read my review yet! ... \*sigh\*) While I can never turn down a free book with an intriguing description, I haven't had many good experiences with free books. But *Anathema* was better than I had expected it would be.

Why I liked it:

1. The unique storyline.

Just like any other poor book lover with a Kindle, I love freebies. Because of some bad experiences with freebies, however, I don't just take any old book that I come across. *Anathema*'s unique storyline caught my attention though, and it was that storyline that kept my attention through the whole book. Oppressed slaves forced to shave their heads and be branded like cattle by their masters. Both the slaves and masters alike harboring magical powers. A prophecy that puts one slave girl in the center of a rebellion. I've been really into the dystopia genre lately, and this had the dystopian and fantasy combined. I haven't seen anything similar and I enjoyed reading and watching the story play out. The entire Cloud Prophet thing I especially liked. I think that *Anathema* could have been an amazing read if some of the aspects of that story were tweaked.

What bothered me:

1. A "light" read. Light reads are fun and pass the time, but they never take the gold. How could've it transcended the "light"-zone? More life and death situations. Make me feel genuinely afraid for the characters. Everything came too easily for them and worked out with a cherry on top. And having more character development. I want to understand my characters and become invested in them.
2. The writing. It wasn't terrible, not one of those freebies littered with misspelled words and grammar errors, but it was still just sort of awkward. I'm sorry I don't know how to explain it any better than that.
3. Instalove. This sort of ties in with the character development that I mentioned earlier. While the book did say that they fell in love over the span of a few months, these months happened in just a few pages of the book, so it felt rushed and unrealistic.

None of these things were make it or break it, but together they lessened the quality of the story for me. I really enjoyed the unique storyline and as a whole, *Anathema* was much better than what I have come to expect from on-sale free books. While I am not fully invested in the characters, I am interested in learning how their story will play out and will likely read the other two books in the trilogy sometime. There was a chapter of the next book, *Oubliette*, at the end of *Anathema* as well, which was interesting. I would 100% recommend this book because, well, it's free. And like I said, *Anathema* was really great for a free book.

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**Jodi Perkins says**

The beginning of *Anathema* was compelling and sucked me right in, but once Reyhel is rescued from the castle, the story is "just okay." The storyline lacks intensity and, with the exception of Reyhel and Ivy, the interactions between the characters feel forced. The insta-love between Reyhel and Mark make their relationship bland--a little wariness and/or volatility between them would have gone a long way in adding tension to the story. Also, while I enjoy a light read from time to time, *Anathema* was far too light considering the subject matter. As a reader, when you pick up a book that claims to be about a girl trapped in slavery, you're expecting a heavy/intense read. But for *Anathema*, I often felt like I was reading a children's

story (a pretty great children's story, but a children's story nonetheless). It was like the author was constantly on the brink of taking risks, but kept stopping short. Even the supposed 'bad guys' in this novel are pretty soft. Jensen, bless her heart, is simply far too kind to her characters, which makes for a sweet little story, but not the emotional or intense one that I was expecting.

Still, the novel, though light, is enjoyable. I stopped reading several times for a few seconds to tell my husband "I like this story! It's cute." I'm not a fan of stories with a ton of magic, but Jensen pulls it off. The premise is intriguing and the world she creates is appealing. I think Jensen would be a phenomenal middle-grade novelist, since she has lines in her writing that she doesn't feel comfortable crossing.

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### **Rhonda says**

Very interesting idea for a story but the follow through fell a little short. It was very unbelievable to me that these older, wiser, more experienced people would just follow a 15 year old girl with her ideas, plans, and wants so easily. There was hardly any disagreement with her no matter what her plans were. "You want to lead a rescue of some prisoners even though we have been waiting for you for centuries? Sure, no problem."

I don't think so.

There was also a weird shift from a shy, unsure young girl to a bold, brave and confident girl. The transformation seemed to happen far too quickly to be believable. It seems odd that a girl who was a slave for 15 years would just magically become a person who leads others in a brief period of months. At least not without some major character building moments, of which there aren't any. She is rescued then given nice comfy places to hide out. Where are the conflict and suffering that generally make a hero a hero?

All in all I would say it was a fast read with an unique twist but needs more to it. There is just too much missing from it.

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### **Kristina says**

I was really excited when I got this book from the author, Megg Jensen to review. Well, actually I asked her to review it because I really wanted to read it! I had read the summary on goodreads and thought it sounded very interesting. This book did not disappoint! I was captivated from page one, and it only got better and better.

The heroine, Reychele has been a slave her entire life. On her 15th birthday she will be branded with a fox on her neck, her master's symbol. This means she will always belong to him. Before the branding "ceremony" can take place, Reychele is able to escape with the help of some invisible, magical people which will eventually become her friends. Free for the first time in her life, Reychele begins to learn who she truly is and secrets of her past are revealed.

What I liked most about Anathema was how everything flowed perfectly. No plot points were dragged on for eternity, but at the same time, nothing was said to quickly (did that even make sense??). There were so many questions of mine that were answered, but there is still enough for a second book to take place. I think what I

am trying to say is that nothing was forced onto the reader, everything was told to us at the appropriate times.

The characters were also very well written. I loved Reyche. After everything she had been through, she was still trusting, honest, and brave. Then there is Mark, the hero and love interest to Reyche. There is more to him then meets the eye, and I can't wait to see him again and hopefully, learn more about him!

Anathema is a great read, especially for fantasy lovers! It might seem like a short novel, but even at only 160 pages (nook pages), there was still an entire world that was to be discovered. I hope in Oubliette (the second one in the series-due out June 20th) we get to learn more about the Malborns, and why they were able to rise to power.

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### **Krystal says**

This is my first read by Megg Jensen and she did a great job on Anathema. This book took me by surprise I didn't think I was going to like it because for its low rating. But wow I freaking loved it. I completely and utterly devoured Anathema. This book really sucked me in and there was no turning back for me. Anathema had a great fast pace and it really keep me on my toes.

All the characters were ok but there really wasn't anything overly great about them. The character building wasn't up to par. I'm kind of conflicted about the main character Reyche. I liked her well enough but she didn't stick out. She was mediocre at best. I wish she was a little more of a kick ass chick. I also wanted her to stand up more for herself like how she stood up for others. In my option Reyche gift was really freaking weak. I really can't say much about the other characters or really care to; there was nothing special about or worth remembering.

Overall I had a great time reading this book. I really loved the storyline and I am looking forward to what's going to happen next. I didn't like how the ending ended. Throughout the whole book there wasn't a love triangle but at the very end I mean like the last page another love interest came in. Anathema has a lot of twist, turns, and OMG I didn't see that coming surprises. It is a one of a kind read.

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### **Cheri says**

WOW. Loved this book. One of the few books this year that has kept my attention throughout, and which had me reading long past my bedtime. Author Megg Jensen has a gift for fine storytelling, for suspense, for compelling characters. I was enchanted by the world she created with Anathema. And I long to read on to the second book in the series. I highly recommend Jensen's work to any who adore young adult fiction but, most importantly, those who simply like to read a compelling story well-told.

Cannot wait to devour the rest of Megg Jensen's canon of work.

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