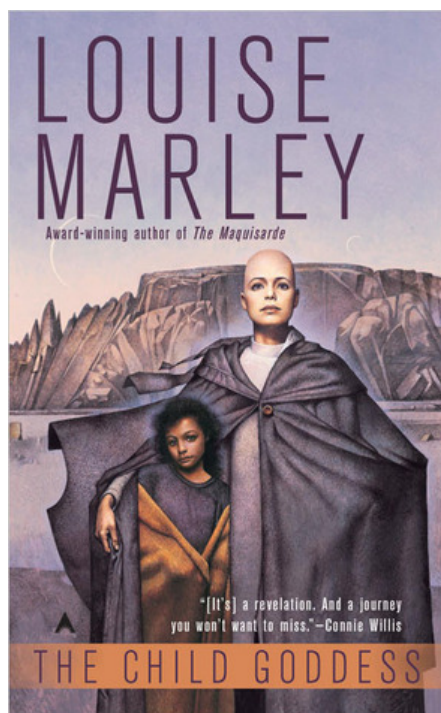




The Child Goddess

Louise Marley

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The Child Goddess Louise Marley

Louise Marley weaves a compelling story of a woman whose faith may be the only thing that can save a girl from certain doom.

The Child Goddess Details

Date : Published May 31st 2005 by Ace (first published May 31st 2004)

ISBN : 9780441012121

Author : Louise Marley

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Child Goddess for online ebook

Kerith says

Isabel Burke, a priest in the Order of Mary Magdalene and also an anthropologist, travels to a distant planet where a group of "old children" were discovered: children who haven't aged in over a 100 years. A corporate entity is on the planet to build a power station and of course there is some speculation on how these children's immortality might be exploited, but the tale is far more complicated than that. Author Louise Marley weaves science fiction, faith and the crises thereof, misplaced love and the meaning of soul into a riveting story that I couldn't put down. Must read more Louise Marley! The Terrorists of Irustan was also excellent.

Kate Page says

Another enjoyable read from Louise Marley. It's set in the same system as The Terrorists of Irustan, and I was pleased by the reappearance of Jon-Li. Marley is really good at characterisation - strong women characters in particular. Isabel, like other Marley heroines, is defined by her purpose, duty, career, faith, rather than her love for a man. The contradiction between female independence and romantic love is one of Marley's themes, and always done without sentimentality. Another theme is that of justice and humanity as opposed to corporations and greed, and individual powerlessness in the face of these forces. This works well at points, creating tension and driving the plot. For me, these contradictions are too easily resolved, meaning the plots can lose their tension and drift off a bit. But this is one of those books I start and don't want to put down, and still feel the shadow of the world and characters in my mind once I've stopped reading.

Liz says

I have always loved Louise Marley's books from the first book I'd read of hers The Terrorists of Irustan, and this book is no different. Marley weaves her characters into her stories. She blends plot, emotion, texture, sound, and culture expertly leaving you wanting to read more about the world that she creates.

That being said, I was frustrated with this book with how she treated the mystery of Oa - I felt that she took too long to unfold the mystery. I won't say much more because I don't want to leave spoilers. But overall, I would happily read it again, and recommend it to others.

Sylvia Sybil says

I was so caught up in the story I hardly noticed the time passing, and read the entire book in one sitting. I especially loved Oa's point of view, how alien everything seemed to her, and how naturally the author managed to conceal an important secret and then reveal it bit by bit. I also loved the interplay of faith and science here, seen in the two main characters of Isabel and Oa. Isabel is a priest in a time when technology is crowding out faith. And Oa baffles everyone around her by giving religious answers to their scientifically based questions. Neither viewpoint is "correct", nor complete.

Miss Ginny Tea says

I really liked this. The story is complex and develops nicely; instead of large exposition dumps, bits of information are doled out bit by bit, drawing the reader in through curiosity. The characters are complex, with their own desires and darkneses and traumas, but a desire to do right. Even the antagonists get some development and depth, even if one of them turns out unrepentant, it's okay because it's done well.

Danyel says

This book was a seamless blending of science fiction, speculative fiction, drama and religious themes. It was an easy and enjoyable read. It tells the tale of Oa, a child living on a distant earth colony, who has not aged in more than 100 years. Through her quest to become a person, the author is able to explore themes of belonging, religious beliefs, societal stigma and the endurance of the human spirit.

Heidi says

Touching, emotional, complicated characters, motivations, and a deceptively simple plot. I thought the back of the book gave a bit too much away. I also felt like while many of Louise Marley's books make me cry this was the least necessary tears. On the border of being a tear-jerker for the fun of it.

Lettie Prell says

Take a great other-world setting. Add one strong woman and an unusual girl-child. Full of character, emotion, and politics -- and a satisfying climax complete with surprise.

Jeannen says

Picked this up on a whim at Fred Meyer. It is by Louise Marley, whose work I've read before: "The Terrorists of Irustan" is the one I remember best. I remember really liking The Terrorist of Irustan, but feeling so disheartened by the end that I haven't been able to bring myself to re-read it. The Child Goddess is set in the same timeframe as that one, and I was so engaged with it that I stayed up really late on Monday night reading it, then stayed up really late on Tuesday night re-reading it. A beautiful story about love, faith, and the desire to feel human, that just happens to be set in a speculative future. This one has a more hopeful ending than "The Terrorists of Irustan" which I seem to need right now.

Holly says

Just happily finished reading this little gem. Marley penned a sweet sci-fi adventure interwoven with all kinds of goodies: a lost African space colony, Catholicism (Mary Magdalen as a disciple!), unrequited love, sacrifice, and the Fountain of Youth. Oh, and speaking of the main character arc, fall in love with "Oa" -- the

girl living with eternal hope that one day she will become a person.

Lois says

I really enjoyed this novel. It has been sitting on my to-read shelf for awhile but once I started it I found myself unable to put it down and I read it in a day.
It was interesting and I enjoyed it.

John says

I was predisposed to hate this book. Both the title and the cover screamed "Preachy New Age." I'm so glad I'm in a reading group, and we chose it, for this is one great read.
The story and characters are much better than the background. This is science fiction without the science. The most important hydrogen refueling planet is an earth type water world, with active volcanoes and no moon. Why extracting hydrogen from water is cheaper than skimming gas giants is never explained, or how a moonless world stays habitable (the Carbon Cycle should be broken and all oxygen should get locked up). And how you would have star-flight and still have humans, un-enhanced, very mortal, with our same life expectancy.
The story, however, blew me away. A child is found on the refueling world, and returned to Earth against her will. The protagonist is a woman Catholic priest (why the cover art didn't include a collar is beyond me) and anthropologist sent to be her guardian. The company that owns the refueling operation wants the child for something else, something medical, and isn't sharing that information with the protagonist. Very early in the story you get mystery, tension, and powerful emotion.
One relationship did bother me. That of the corporate CEO and one of his doctors. The doctor seemed outclassed by the rest of the main characters, I never did figure out why he was allowed to stay on the job when the CEO should have had better talent at her beck and call.
However, each mystery that is resolved leads to a further and more profound one. By the time the book is wrapping up, the reader has followed these characters through many intense changes.

Rainbowgardener says

Love Louise Marley's writing. This book is a follow up to Terrorists of Irustan. Not a sequel, but just uses a little bit of the same framework and one continuing character. She always has a lot to say, about authoritarian hierarchies, women's roles, how societies change, etc. but the message does not over-rule the story and the characters.

This one is set on a different planet, interesting because very limited land masses. It was an Earth Colony centuries ago and got abandoned. Now under the influence of the planet and its creatures, the earth colonists have changed in significant ways. When they are re-discovered they have to adapt to earth culture and vice versa. Very moving. 4.5 stars really.

Deanna says

this is not a book that will change your life but it was a good quick read. I couldn't put it down and read it in a day.

Nomi says

This was written in exactly the sort of "touchy-feely/hippity-dippity/medicine-woman" voice that I expected from the cover and the bookjacket blurb references to a nun and a child. I think I picked it up to prove myself wrong about "pre-judging"... Too bad I wasn't wrong and the most generous thing I can say is: The underlying mystery is not, ultimately, *that* interesting and the characters are all sort of... Meh... Then again, in it's good moments it's trying to tell an original story or suggest bits of original ideas that could have been exciting in the hands of a "crackpot craftsman"-type worldbuilder like Alan Dean Foster or Charles Maine.
