



Priestess of Avalon

By Marion Zimmer Bradley, Diana L. Paxson

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In the long-awaited return to Avalon by the beloved author of **The Mists of Avalon** and her collaborator, bestselling author **Diana L. Paxson**, **Marion Zimmer Bradley** fuses myth, magic and romance in a spectacular unfolding of one woman's role in the making of history and spirit...

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Mists of Avalon (1982), a feminist goddess-oriented retelling of the legend of Arthur, won acclaim and a crowd of lifelong fans for Bradley, also author of the Darkover series. Now, after Bradley's death in 1999, this prequel coauthored by skilled fantasy writer and friend Diana L. Paxson (Hallowed Isle) completes her story of the women of mystical Avalon and their attempts to influence a world caught in the grip of unavoidable change. In A.D. 296, young British princess Helena goes to the Isle of Avalon to learn the path of the goddess. Helena grows in spirit and wisdom, awaiting the day when her initiation prophecy will become real and she'll meet the man of her dreams. He turns out to be Flavius Constantius Chlorus, fated to become the Roman emperor. Her aunt, High Priestess Ganeda, aims to wed a more biddable girl to the Roman power structure, but when Constantius chooses Helena, Ganeda exiles her from Avalon. Helena gives birth to Constantius's son, Constantine, and counsels her lover through the intrigues of a vast and dangerously unbalanced empire. Separated by civil demands from her family, Helena seeks the answers her troubled soul demands during a pilgrimage through the Holy Lands. The message that all religions call on the same higher power should go over well with fans of Mists. Paxson's own skill at bringing historical characters and places to vivid life enriches Helena's story. This final book in the Bradley canon is sure to please her devotees and win her more. (May 7) Forecast: This title will get an extra boost from The Mists of Avalon miniseries starring Anjelica Huston, Joan Allen and Juliana Margulies, due soon to run on TNT.

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From Library Journal

Though destined to achieve distinction as the pious mother of Constantine, the young woman once called Eilen or Helena first served as a priestess of the old deities on her native island of Briton. Returning to the alternate version of Arthurian legend created in her best-selling Mists of Avalon, Bradley creates a powerful tale of magic and faith that enlarges upon pagan and Christian traditions to express a deeper truth. Though Bradley died before she finished the novel, veteran fantasy author Paxson brings to completion this last work of a master of the genre. For most fantasy collections.

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From Booklist

In this stunning prequel to *The Mists of Avalon* (1982), 10-year-old Eilan, whose greatest wish is to serve as priestess for her goddess, is brought to Avalon for training. From a prophetic vision, she knows she is destined to love one man and to bear his son. When the man of her vision, a young Roman soldier, comes to Avalon, Eilan is compelled to follow her heart, which means defying her high priestess, the Lady of Avalon. For that, she becomes an outcast from her spiritual family and embarks on a lifelong path of love, treachery, heartbreak, and fame in the outside world. Her Roman soldier is to become the emperor Constantius, and their son, Constantine, will succeed him on the imperial throne. When Eilan, her name Latinized to Helen, becomes the empress mother at the heart of Constantine's flourishing Christian empire, she quietly continues to worship the goddess on her own while seeking the truth in the sacred teachings of all people. Thus, she becomes a powerful force for union between her people's pagan beliefs and the new religion of the Christ. Completed by Paxson after Bradley's death in 1999, this rich and moving novel merits its place beside Bradley's fantasy classic. *Paula Luedtke*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Watkins:

Book is definitely written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can know everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A publication Priestess of Avalon will make you to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think in which open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suited book with you?

Martha Doughty:

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Robert Poulin:

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