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Lady Of Avalon



Synopsis

A new age is coming...The King will come...and he will rule forever in Avalon. Through the generations the women of Avalon prepare for the coming of the Defender, the sacred king who will guard the old ways of the Britons and save their land from destruction. On the holy isle of Avalon, hidden in the mists between the world of Faerie and the world of men, they wait. For High Priestess Caillean, facing the Roman foe, salvation comes not through victory, but bitter sacrifice. Two hundred years later her successor, Dierna, faces a new enemy: the Saxon hordes who assail her people like savages. By the time of Viviane, Britain seems wholly lost. But a Merlin is made amongst the Druids once more, and the day of the Defender, who will come to be known as Arthur, draws close. A spellbinding historical fantasy, Lady of Avalon links the bestselling novels in the Avalon series-The Forests of Avalon and The Mists of Avalon.

Book Information

Series: Avalon (Book 3)

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged CD edition (October 20, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 140011778X

ISBN-13: 978-1400117789

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (130 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,822,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \(B \) > Bradley, Marion Zimmer](#) #3331 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #3887 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

Customer Reviews

Lady of Avalon is actually 3 books in one. Each part is a separate story, yet they are all interwoven in the Pagan idea of the life cycle, and reincarnation. The first section is called "The Wisewoman" and takes place from 96AD to 118AD. This is mostly Caillean's story as left off in "The Forest House" including the rest of the life of Eilan's son, Gawen. This story also reveals how and why Avalon came to have it's infamous "mists" and different time tract. The second section is called "The High Priestess" and takes place from 285AD to 293AD. This is mostly Dierna's story picking up from

the story line started in the book "Priestess of Avalon." I would personally recommend reading "Priestess of Avalon" between reading the first and second parts of this book, if one wishes to read the stories in chronological order. Part 3 is called "Daughter of Avalon" and takes place from 440AD to 452AD. This is mostly Vivianne's story, which directly leads in to "The Mists of Avalon." Although I thoroughly enjoyed the story that was presented, I was wanting even more. I felt it ended a little too early with a larger gap in time from the end of this to the start of "The Mists" than I would prefer. This story is VERY insightful to the character of Vivianne, and gives much more understanding of her actions carried out in "The Mists of Avalon." As with all the stories in the series, it was very spiritual. The description of what Vivianne felt and thought as she went to part the mists for the first time was moving. The books preceding this one in the series are: "The Fall of Atlantis," "Ancestors of Avalon," and "The Forest House."

When I read the Mists of Avalon a few years ago I was mesmerized. A huge tome of over a 1000 pages, this earlier novel relates the story of Arthur and his Camelot from the perspective of the three women closest in his life: his mother Ygraine, his sister, Morgaine and his wife, Guinevere. believe me this is a novel to be savored and reread many times. That being said, I was excited when Zimmer Bradley came out with her two prequels, firstly, "The Forest House" and "Lady of Avalon". Sadly, neither of these two books are worthy enough to complete a trilogy, but if you, like myself, were intrigued by the idea of a closed society of people using magic to effect the early history of Britain, you will also grudgingly like these. "Lady of Avalon" starts off where "Forest House" left off. In order to span the gulf between the time sequence of Forest House and Mists of Avalon, Bradley scrambles a bit and tells the story of three different generations of Avalon high priestesses. How disappointing . . . each of these vignettes would have made a wonderful more fully fleshed out novel of its own. Granted, each of the women are strong and they all have their particular mission with regard to Avalon with respect to the outside world. However detailed certain acts of magic are within storyline, Zimmer Bradley's own sparkling brand of magic so evident in "Mists" is unfortunately missing. But one positive note: however disappointing this trilogy of tales is, it still continues the tradition of Zimmer Bradley's brainchild and it is supremely better than Diana Paxson's sequel called "Priestess of Avalon" which cannot hold a candle to Zimmer Bradley's work. I both read the book and listened to the audio performance; the abridged version leaves far too much out to be considered serious. Recommended to all those who simply love Zimmer Bradley's interpretation of the Arthurian tales and must have more.

I have read Mists, Forest House, and Atlantis. I am currently in the process of finishing this, "Lady of Avalon"-- what I consider to be the fourth installment of Bradley's tale of Druidic religion, and can say fairly that I am truly torn. I am enjoying the book, I purchased it 4 days ago and am on chapter 21 or 22. From her first two books, because truly Atlantis sets the stage for the Druids who are to come, I feel that she has not allowed herself the time to develop her characters fully. With Atlantis we see the depth of conviction that the priests and priestesses have for their religion, and the spiral of lives that may come forth because of their rebellion; in Mists we see one of those very incarnations (which is why if you've read Mists and not Atlantis you REALLY should read Atlantis); the Forest House allows the reader to find out how the priestesses came to Avalon, while Lady explains how Avalon went into the mists. The whole story of Gawen could have taken a book in itself, and seemed rushed so that she could continue on with her storycraft. I believe that each section could have been larger, had I known so much history would be condensed into this installment, I would have expected to see it the size of Mists, not barely larger than Forest House. My loyalty to Ms. Bradley and her first two installments leads me to believe that after finishing Lady and reflecting, I will like it immensely. I am enjoying it--I would have enjoyed it far more had it seemed that she put the time into this as she had in Mists. By time I mean covering things more in depth, giving the reader time to become more involved with the characters. We know two of the characters from other books, Eilan and Vivianne. I like the book, and if you are an avid follower of Ms. Bradley's Arthurian tale I highly recommend it. Perhaps her brevity in this installment will allow her to expand on certain events or characters in later installments.

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