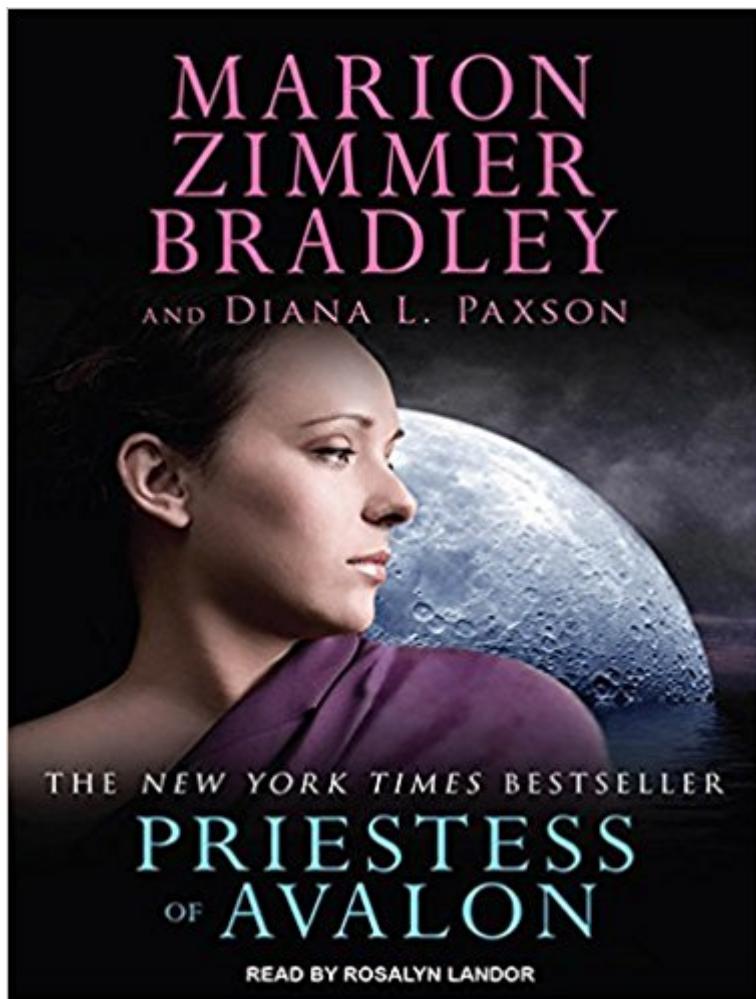


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# Priestess Of Avalon



## **Synopsis**

When a British princess falls in love with a Roman officer destined for imperial greatness, their forbidden desire exacts an unexpected price: banishment from Avalon. Journeying outside the enchanted isle, Helena grows from maiden to mother to wisewoman, experiencing both joy-with the birth of her child-and loss, when politics forces her lover to choose between the Empire and her. Then Helena's son, Constantine, becomes Emperor, and her position as Empress-Mother propels her to prominence at a crucial turning point in Western history. Seeking a way to bridge the pagan world of the Goddess and the new Christian Empire, Helena embarks on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to find the truth that transcends both the old religion and the new.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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 Julianne Margulies, due soon to run on TNT. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is more like "The Rogue Priestess of Avalon". This book concentrates mostly outside of Avalon and is more of a biography of a priestess trained Lady who had a considerable influence in the Roman empire. A good book all in all and Paxton's contributions is both apparent and welcome. Just a little off the beaten path from the previous Avalon books is all. I still enjoyed the story very much and will probably continue reading Paxton's attempts at continuing the series.

This book felt like a transcendence to Avalon and beyond. A complete and great book to enjoy and escape to an adventure of a Goddess....a woman.

Have read this book several times. It is a staple of my bookshelf.

loved the series

I enjoyed the history lesson that was intertwined in this wonderful story. Anything with Avalon in it, is always a winner!

This book is an interesting tale of a Catholic saint. As a practicing Catholic and an ancestor of the Celtic isles, it has always been a pleasure to read Marion's tales of the "before times". While this book does not broach the true depth inherent in Mists of Avalon and Firebrand, it is still a story of life. How we are born, grow, and die; the cycle of child to mother to grandmother and teacher. Priestess of Avalon is a nice continuing story.

Deep into the thick of this book and enjoying every minute of it!

Not my favorite of the series, but still good!

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