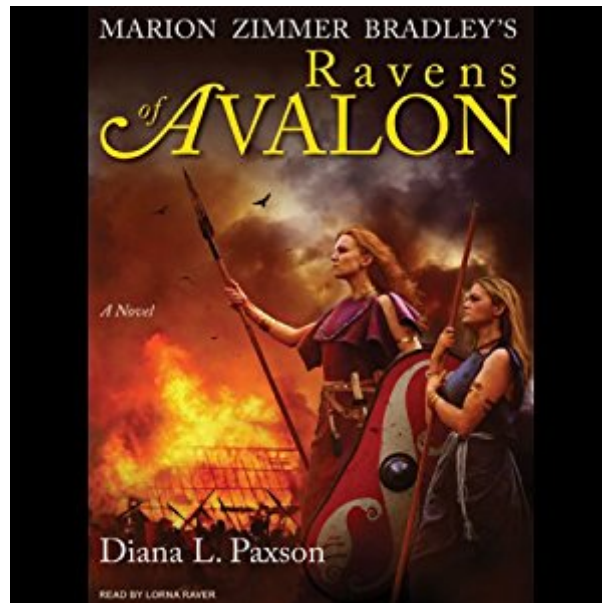


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Marion Zimmer Bradley's Ravens Of Avalon: A Novel



Synopsis

Diana L. Paxson expands Marion Zimmer Bradley's beloved and bestselling Avalon series in a dramatic new installment. Marion Zimmer Bradley's Ravens of Avalon, the prequel to The Forest House, tells the story of the Roman conquest of Britain and the origin of the Forest House that preceded the return to Avalon. Marion Zimmer Bradley's Ravens of Avalon follows the journey of Boudica, a Celtic princess, and Lhiannon, a priestess who is Boudica's mentor on the Druid isle. When the Romans conquer Britain, Lhiannon fights them while Boudica marries a king who has surrendered. Theirs is a great love story, but when he dies, the Romans brutalize her and her daughters. Enraged, Boudica raises the British tribes and nearly succeeds in driving the Romans from Britain, claiming a place in history. Lhiannon survives and becomes the guardian of the Druid traditions in the new Roman Britannia as high priestess of the Forest House. Epic in its sweep and peopled by the remarkable women who have always inhabited Avalon, Marion Zimmer Bradley's Ravens of Avalon expands the legendary saga that has enchanted millions of readers over the years and is sure to please Bradley's loyal readership as well as anyone who loves wonderfully told stories of history, myth, and fantasy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 40 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 16, 2007

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000V7YYXQ

Best Sellers Rank: #78 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Druidism

#1499 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic #2604 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure

Customer Reviews

She is a great writer.

One of the least sensational and most plausible takes on "The Killer Queen of the Iceni", a woman who came close to defeating the Roman conquerors of her country. Takes the time to explore Boudicca before her marriage, loss, and rebellion.

Great work as usual for Miss Paxson.

I am an avid fan of Boudica and this book centers around her and draws in Avalon as well. Although, nothing I've read, to date, places Boudica in Avalon it makes for an interesting read. I would certainly recommend it for fans of Marion Zimmer Bradley. It's an intense read.

A worthy addition to the Avalon series written in Bradley's style. I didn't notice a change in authors. This particular title takes us back to the time when Druids were still on Mona and through most of Boudicca's life. It visualizes the events leading up to the Mona massacre, as well as Boudicca's rebellion. Particularly dear to me is a story behind Lhiannon. Lhiannon, a young priestess, is very different from Lhiannon, the High Priestess in later novels. The novel gave me a very welcome glimpse into why and how of Lhiannon's later detachment, while High Priestess.

Ravens of Avalon fits well in Marion Zimmer Bradley's history of Avalon. Diana Paxson continues the story with well developed characters and a very believable story line. I couldn't put it down!

My daughter loved them. Books were in excellent condition.

Before I read this book, I made the mistake of reading the reviews here at , including complaints that the characters were dull and flat, and that may be why I had difficulty getting through the first hundred pages. I don't think the characters are dull or flat, but I think some people probably had a hard time getting into the book because the cast of characters is a bit overwhelming--there are pages of them in the listing at the front of the book, and most of them have names with strange spellings that make it difficult to keep track of them. However, really there are only a few characters you need to keep track of--Lhiannon the priestess, Ardanos, the priest she loves, Boudica, and Boudica's later husband Prasutagos. Once I sat down and focused on the book, I found myself unable to put it down. Ravens of Avalon has redeemed the series for me and now makes me anxious to read "Sword of Avalon." Also, it should be noted that if anyone else wants to read this series, there is no order in which to read it. Priestess of Avalon takes place around 300 A.D. while

"Ravens of Avalon" takes place around 40-60 A.D. and Sword of Avalon, although I have not read it, takes place at the end of the Iron Age and deals with descendants of ancient Troy apparently. All the novels are prequels to "The Mists of Avalon" -- I wish Paxson would consider a sequel because I want to know what happened to Morgan le Fay after the book ended. "Ravens of Avalon" retells the story of the iconic and historic Queen Boudica of Britain. The basics of her story are well known. The Romans raped her and her daughters, causing her to seek revenge by raising an army against the Romans, an army eventually defeated. A difficulty many historical novelists have is that the reader already knows how the story is going to turn out; even though I knew Boudica would die in the end, I kept reading, wanting to know how Paxson would twist the ending. The end is tragic; Paxson does not change it in any surprising way, but she makes Boudica come alive and for the reader to understand and follow her motivations. The details of Boudica's life and what led to her battling the Romans is largely lost to history, but Paxson does an admirable job of depicting what could have been Boudica's life as she is schooled on Avalon, and she eventually settles for life being a queen, through a dynastic marriage, rather than being a priestess. Her marriage is especially well-depicted as she gets to know a husband who seems standoffish at first until their story becomes a great love story. Of course, Avalon is sort of the spectacle of the novel, and the powers of the priests and priestesses are impressive and fascinating as they engage in magic, including raising mists to hide themselves from the Romans, or have visions of the future, or feel the spirit of a goddess enter them to aid them in battle. I am usually a sucker for this kind of magical realism, the possibility that the Druids knew how to use their minds in ways we have since forgotten. I was very moved especially by Boudica's dialogues with herself or with the Raven or the goddess who enters her as she tries to understand her need to battle the Romans and what it will all mean and that in the end it is for the greater good. "Ravens of Avalon" is well worth taking the time to read. After The Mists of Avalon, it is the best in the series. I have no doubt that Queen Boudica will live in my thoughts for a long time to come. - Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D. and author of King Arthur's Children

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