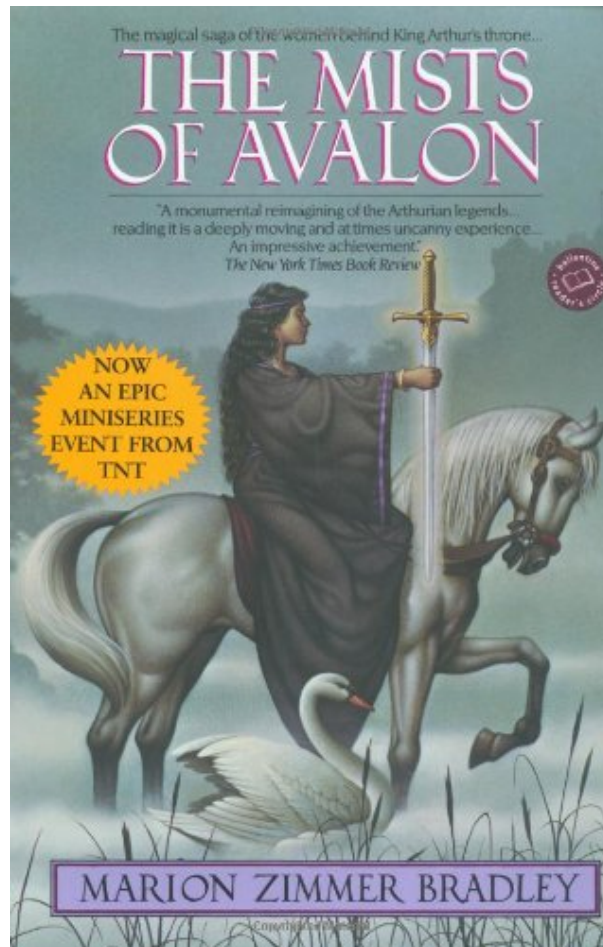
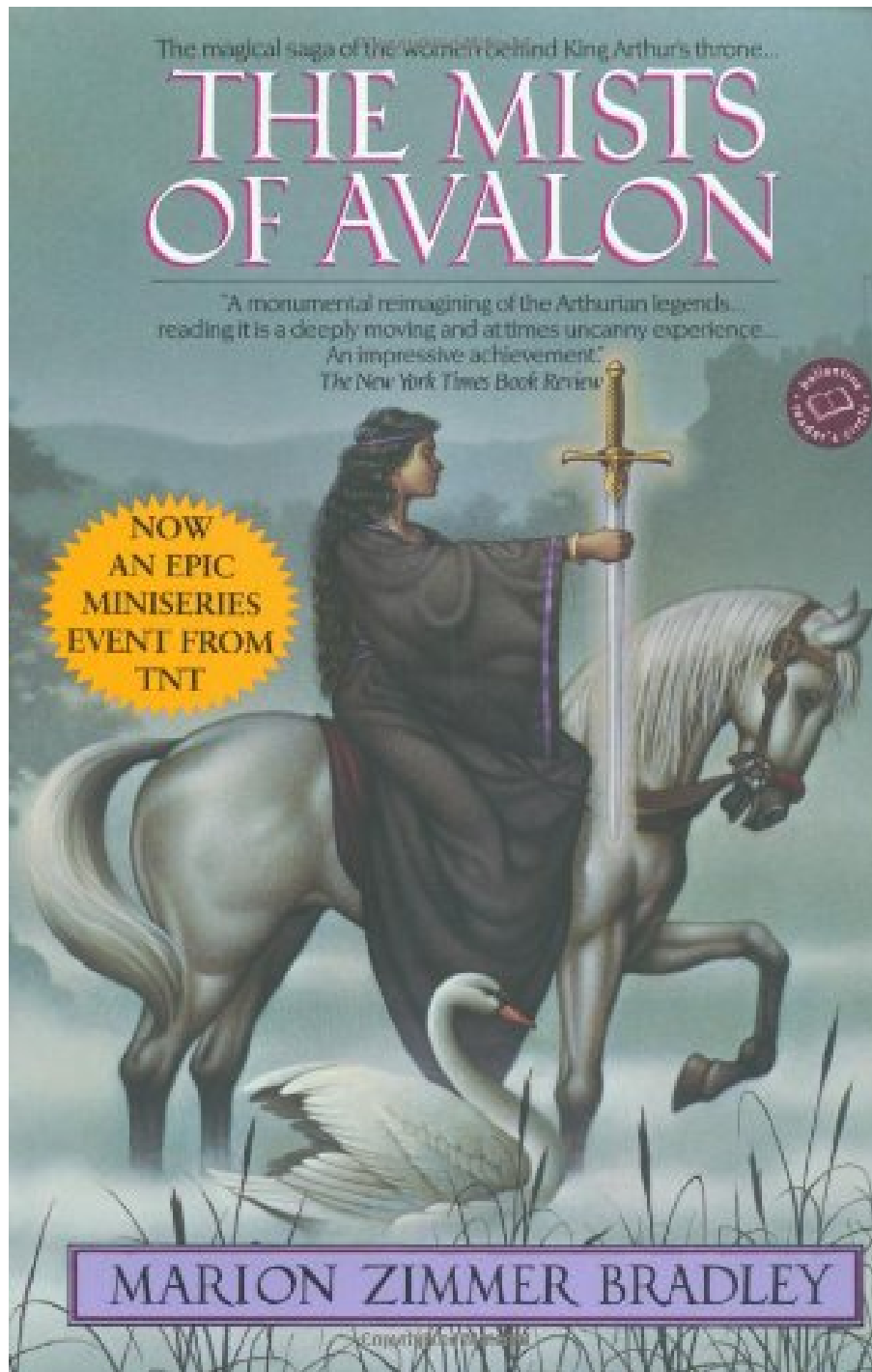


THE MISTS OF AVALON BY MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY



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A Literary Guild Featured Alternate

Here is the magical legend of King Arthur, vividly retold through the eyes and lives of the women who wielded power from behind the throne. A spellbinding novel, an extraordinary literary achievement, THE MISTS OF AVALON will stay with you for a long time to come....

- Sales Rank: #12540 in Books
- Color: Grey
- Brand: Del Rey
- Published on: 1984-05-01
- Released on: 1987-05-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.15" h x 1.51" w x 9.09" l, 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 876 pages

Features

- Great product!

Amazon.com Review

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--Shelly Shapiro, Executive Editor

Most helpful customer reviews

222 of 240 people found the following review helpful.

A Novel Take On A Classic Tale - Superb!!

By Jana L.Perskie

Marion Zimmer Bradley's "The Mists of Avalon" is one of my favorite versions of the Arthurian legend. I first read the novel in the early 1990s, right after its publication. I reread it recently and was surprised at how much I enjoyed this extraordinary novel the second time around. I turned the pages more slowly and took more time to savor Ms. Bradley's excellent narrative and fresh version of the legendary saga of the rise and fall of Camelot. Her take on the classic characters gives them new depth and dimension. She tells her tale from a feminine perspective, and while the King and knights of Camelot dwell on war, battles and keeping their golden city and realm safe, along with focusing on chivalric honor, the women have different priorities and concerns.

The tale is told from the points of view of the much maligned Morgaine, (Morgana Le Fey), Priestess of Avalon and Gwenhwyfar, (Gwynivere), Christian princess and future queen of Camelot. Although most of the events of the traditional Arthurian legend are presented here, it is extremely interesting how the tale, told by men, changes when viewed through the eyes and experiences of a woman. This is also the important story of the political and religious conflict between the new Christianity and the "old ways" of goddess worship. Believers of each religion seek to control the throne, but ultimately Christianity ascends to be the organized religion of the land. Since Morgaine is a Druid High Priestess, it would explain why she received such a bad rap in Christian civilization. The reader also views other famous female characters from a different vantage point, including Igraine, Morgaine's and Arthur's mother,

Ms. Bradley follows Morgaine from childhood to Priestess in her home on the Isle of Avalon, the center of Druidism and goddess worship since the Roman occupation forced the religion underground, where it remained long after the Roman departure. Mists surround this mystical isle, protecting it and its inhabitants from all who do not have the psychic powers to penetrate the barrier. Morgaine has dedicated her life to preserving her ancient religion and tries to defend it against the growing numbers of her countrymen and the Camelot royalty who exchange the old ways for Christianity. She is also a very powerful person and struggles against the stereotypes which expect her to adhere to more traditional "feminine," (dependent), behavior and roles.

Bradley also follows the lovely Gwenhwyfar from the innocence of her girlhood to her rise as King Arthur's Christian Queen. She deeply fears Druid magic and her terror causes her to miscarry a long awaited baby. King Arthur's acquiescence to his wife's pleas to turn his back on the old ways and adopt Christianity is the beginning of the cataclysmic fall of his reign.

This is a most unique novel and Ms. Bradley's innovative fantasy version of Camelot, Britain during the Dark Ages, and the profound changes which took place in the land and among the people during this period had me riveted until I completed the last page. If you are open to a different take on a classic tale, then I

highly recommend this wonderful novel.

JANA

189 of 205 people found the following review helpful.

A man's point of view

By A Customer

As I sense many of those who posted a review are women, I felt compelled to offer my thoughts.

A little preface: I read this book when I was in my early 30's. I am a college-educated professional, and a married heterosexual. I generally read non-fiction: political and military history and mountaineering literature. This book came up in a discussion with my wife, a published writer, who has read it several times and claimed it was one of her all-time favorites. As this is not slight praise from a woman who thinks Shakespeare was a lightweight compared to John Dunne, and actually argue the point!

So I picked up this book and read the first page. Quite a mistake. Three days later I finished this is not so small work having spent nearly every available non-working moment enthralled in this modern masterpiece. Simply put, it is very well written. It is a great story and it is well told. There is romance, fantasy, religion, war, politics, intrigue, and other elements to keep your attention.

I pity those who are so heavily invested in the "accuracy" of the Arthurian legend as to miss the beauty of this book. Doubly so for those who are too religiously dogmatic.

82 of 92 people found the following review helpful.

The definition of a good book!

By A Customer

I had forgotten my love for reading after going through so many books that didn't hold my attention. The Mists of Avalon reminded me of my love for a good book and got me hooked on Marion Zimmer Bradley. This book is a perfect blend of romance, action, magic and just plain creativity that binds you to the story and leaves you begging for more. This book tells the Arthurian legend through the eyes of the women around King Arthur's life. It tells the story of the strength of Morgain (his sister), Igraine (his mother) and Guenivere (his wife). It wonderfully portrays the bravery of these women in such a brutal time, without taking away the romance and insecurity's women feel. Beautiful book. Be sure to read the Forest House and Lady of the Lake also, which take place before The Mists of Avalon although Bradley wrote them afterward. I started with the Mists of Avalon and had no trouble at all. Marion Zimmer Bradley was a genius. I'm terribly grateful to her for giving me something to refresh my mind.

See all 1295 customer reviews...

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Based on some experiences of many individuals, it is in truth that reading this **The Mists Of Avalon By Marion Zimmer Bradley** could help them making far better choice and also offer even more encounter. If you wish to be one of them, let's acquisition this publication **The Mists Of Avalon By Marion Zimmer Bradley** by downloading the book on web link download in this site. You can obtain the soft file of this book **The Mists Of Avalon By Marion Zimmer Bradley** to download as well as deposit in your offered electronic devices. Exactly what are you awaiting? Allow get this book **The Mists Of Avalon By Marion Zimmer Bradley** online as well as review them in whenever as well as any kind of area you will read. It will not encumber you to bring hefty book **The Mists Of Avalon By Marion Zimmer Bradley** inside of your bag.

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