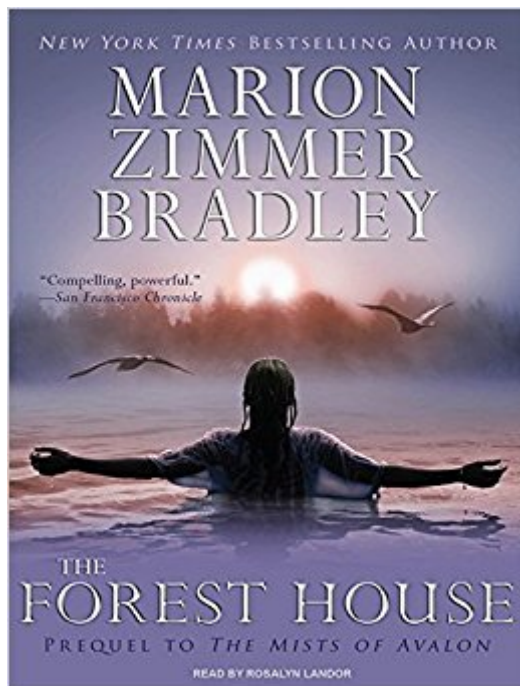


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# The Forest House (Avalon)



## Synopsis

She was Eilan, the daughter of a Druidic warleader and gifted with visions. In a land struggling to survive both Roman conquerors and her own people's enemies, surely fate had marked her to become a priestess of the Forest House. But first Eilan had chosen a different, forbidden path-to love Gaius, a soldier of mixed blood among the legions sent to subdue her country. So she must hide a terrible secret when she is anointed as the new High Priestess. With mighty enemies poised to usurp the wealth of magic the Forest House sheltered, Eilan could only trust in the power of the great Goddess to find her destiny amidst the treacherous labyrinth in which fate had placed her.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #5,904,954 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Avalon](#) > Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( B ) > Bradley, Marion Zimmer #3924 in [Avalon](#) > Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #4649 in [Avalon](#) > Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

YA-The setting of this historical/fantasy novel is Roman Briton. Eilan, a Druid girl who has been raised in the cult of the Goddess with the priestesses wielding the power, has fallen in love with a young Roman named Gaius. He is a half-Briton whose mother was of the Druid tribes and whose father is a powerful officer in the Roman legions. The clash between these two cultures and the eventual hope of unification through Eilan and Gaius's son is one of the book's many story lines. Bradley does a masterful job of creating the flavor of the period and the two diverse cultures, as well as strong female characters. With its elements of love story, intense emotions, and mysticism, Forest House will appeal to YAs. Susan B. McFaden, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The forbidden love of a druid priestess and a Roman soldier mirrors the clash of cultures in Roman Britain in the latest novel by the author of *The Mists of Avalon* (Ballantine, 1985). The novel evokes an age when three major religions maintained an uneasy coexistence on the island of Britain. Eilan, a daughter of goddess-worshipping druids, and Gaius Marcellius, a half-British Roman, live for the coming of a legendary future king to unite the warring islanders. Bradley envisions the "old religion" as a refreshing blend of classic and revisionist concepts, adding a distinct flavor to her seamless weave of history and myth. Most libraries will want this for their fantasy collections. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 12/93. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is a far back prequel to the *Mists of Avalon* and an introduction to the next book, *The Lady of Avalon*. Back in the time when the people of Britannia weren't yet so dominated by Christian oppression and the Druids, were experiencing their first battles against Roman occupation of the territory. Avalon was not even a place yet and the priestesses were not quite independent yet. The Forest House is the just the beginning of the magical road to Avalon.

The history is so very well done. One can feel the blend of real history and fantasy are seamlessly combined with the real Earth-Goddess based religions of today. Excellent book, I couldn't put it down, but what else could we expect from the amazing Marion Zimmer-Bradley! As good as "The Mists of Avalon" I have a first edition....In fact, I reread them both in order..A 10!

I expected more from this book. I love *The Mists of Avalon*, I thought this would be just as good. It was not. It explains the times and the historic facts well, however I just couldn't love the characters as I did in *Mysts*. It does explain how and why the priestesses end up on Avalon, which was interesting. There is a love story also. I think the main character Eilan was far too timid to be a priestess, and I wanted her to be much stronger. It did hold my interest throughout the story. It's good, just not great.

Loved *Mists* so I decided to try this one as well. I was very curious about Eilan. I am glad I read it. It wasn't quite the pageturner that *Mists* was, but I felt it was essential since it tells us about Avalon's beginnings and makes some sense of some of the things I had questions about in *Mists*. \*\*\*TRIGGER WARNING\*\*\*This book has SEVERAL graphic mentions of rape and other

similar violence to women. It's essential to the plot but could be very triggering to some.

This book is the third book in the Mists of Avalon series, following "The Fall of Atlantis" and "Ancestors of Avalon." Although this book starts far later than the ending of the previous book, and with all new characters, there are bits and pieces of the characters that tie them in as reincarnations of characters from the previous books, including bindings that they've made with each other before. As with all the books in this series, I found this one to be very spiritual. It gives a sense of connectedness with the past and Pagan spiritualness. This story takes place in 1st century AD, when the priestesses and Druids are mostly practicing to the north of Avalon, and then covers the priestesses and Druids moving to Avalon to establish there. This lineage will go through to "The Mists of Avalon." The situations and characters in this book have their stories continued in the first part of the book "Lady of Avalon."

I loved this book; I love the series. For anyone interested in history with a fantasy twist, definitely add these books to your wish list. 'The Forest House' is a prequel to 'The Mists of Avalon' and delves into the story of how the priestesses moved to the Isle of Avalon. If you're a fan of any of Bradley's fantasy novels, definitely pick this one up.

The book is written with many details that it becomes real. It's not just like a story you can stop reading at any time, you want to know how it ends. Sometimes in movies you see the hero going through water and then as soon as he's out his cloth is dry... and you know it's "just a movie" but in the stories of Marion Zimmer Bradley, she creates such a vivid reality that is not "just fiction". I like her books very much and my favored "Mists of Avalon" and "Fires of Troy" I have read more than once.

I loved "The Mists of Avalon" and was pleased to find so many books by the same author in the Kindle book selection. Last weekend I began reading "The Forest House" and did not put it down for long. It has amazing insight into Mists and leaves the reader wanting more, which I am finding in "Priestess of Avalon" as well. As a Pagan and a practitioner of the lost arts I am pleased to find subject matter that relates to many of my spiritual beliefs. I can not wait to read everything that I can get my hands on by this author. And Bravo to .com for making this and all of her other books available for Kindle downloads.

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