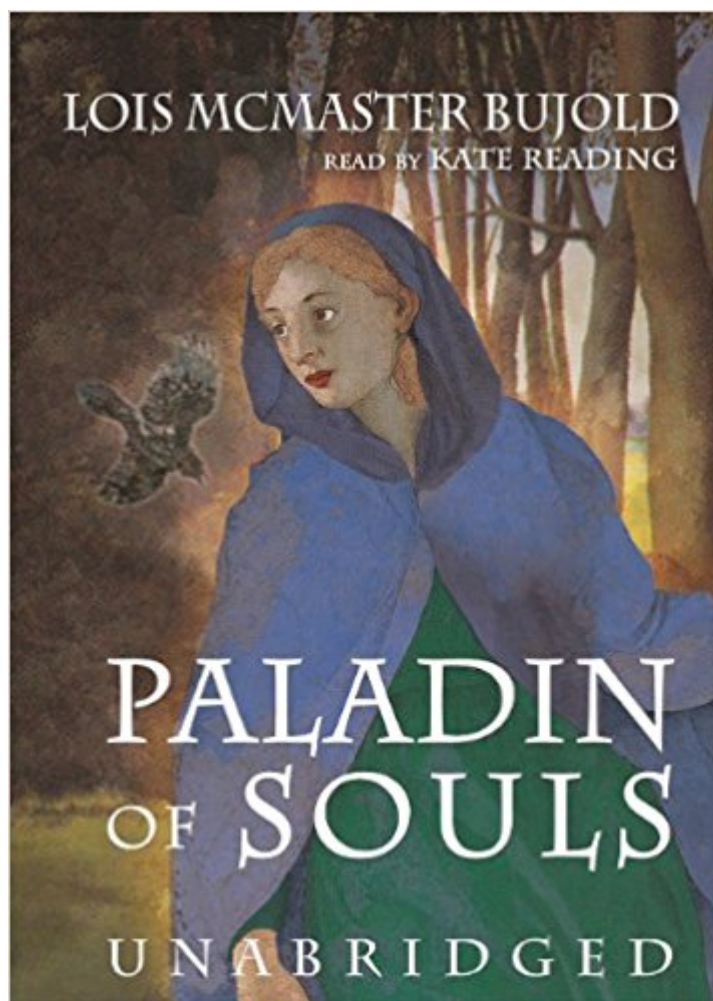


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Paladin Of Souls (Curse Of Chalion)



Synopsis

Follow Lois McMaster Bujold, one of the most honored authors in the field of fantasy and science fiction, to a land threatened by treacherous war and beset by demons. Three years have passed since the widowed Dowager Royina Ista found release from the curse of madness that kept her imprisoned in her family's castle at Valenda. Yet her newfound freedom is bittersweet, and so the road, and escape, beckons. As Ista and her little party of pilgrims wander at will, they are unexpectedly set upon. But a mysterious ally appears, a warrior nobleman who fights like a berserker. The temporary safety of her enigmatic champion's castle cannot ease Ista's mounting dread, however, when she finds his dark secrets are entangled with hers in a net of the gods' own weaving. What the inscrutable gods commanded of her in the past brought her land to the brink of devastation. Now, once again, they have chosen Ista as their instrument. And again, for good or for ill, she must comply.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fresh, intriguing, and as always from Lois McMaster Bujold, superb."Robert Jordan, New York Times best selling author of The Wheel of Time Series"Bujold continues to prove what marvels genius can create out of basic space operatics."Booklist"This is one of the great ones."Science Fiction Chronicle --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Lois McMaster Bujold is one of the most honored writers in the fields of science fiction and fantasy,

having won five Hugo Awards and three Nebula Awards. Her second novel, *The Warrior's Apprentice*, introduced young Miles Vorkosigan, one of the most popular characters in science fiction. In 2011, she was awarded the Skylark Award for her significant contribution to science fiction. The mother of two, she lives in Minneapolis.

In the "Curse of Chalion" (first book in the *World of the Five Gods*) we met Ista, mother of Tedez and Iselle, tragic participant in the first attempt to remove the curse on the ruling family of Chalion. A few years on and Ista conducts a queenly rebellion against the restricted life imposed by her family and those who loved her and yet thought her mad. A chance encounter on the road inspires her to go on a pilgrimage; desperate to make her listen to his objections, the castle warder, Dy Ferrej, writes to the Royina Iselle and Royse Bergon in hopes that they will provide some calming advice. Instead, they send their full support and an escort. After a bit more wrangling with Dy Ferrej, who wanted her to travel "in full panoply" as befit her rank, Ista finally settles the matter and sets off with her chosen companions; Ferda and Foix di Gura and their troop of the Daughter's Order, Liss the courier rider as her waiting lady and the Learned dy Cabon as her spiritual guide. At first her "pilgrimage of humility" proceeds as planned but an unexpected encounter with hostile Roknari forces turns her little pilgrimage into a battle for survival. And Ista discovers that the gods are not quite finished with her yet. This novel well and truly deserved the Hugo Award for Best Novel.

One of the most perfect books I have ever read. Bujold stimulates my imagination, tantalises and extends my vocabulary and satisfies my soul. For what more could I ask? This is the second book in the Chalion series and though no story is reliant on knowledge of the others, they are complementary and all lead to a rich understanding of this land. Religion is one of the major themes in this story and to some this would cause an automatic dismissal of the book. But I loved how the Qintarian religion was woven into the fabric of the people's lives. Who also, could not be interested in a religion where the fifth god is called the Bastard. I always read and reread Lois McMaster Bujold's stories slowly and carefully with repeated rereadings. They are dense and complex. Important details can be easily overlooked in a rushing gallop to reach the conclusion. Savour and enjoy a master storyteller at her best

Bujold is one of my favorite authors, and the "Paladin of Souls" is a book that I have gone back and read many, many times. So buying it on audiobook so I could listen to it while working was a no-brainer, especially given how much I love the audiobook version of "Curse of Chalion". While I

didn't always agree with the reader on pronunciation of some names and places at first, overall her voice is very nice, the cadence and different voices she uses for each character are good. By the time I listened to it a second time I was hooked :) I would recommend this audiobook to people who have read the book, or people who are just looking for a new audiobook to listen to!

I'm amazed at this author's ability to create a convincing theocracy that continues through the three fantasy novels in this series. This book is the continuation of *The Curse of Chalion*, taking up the story from the point of view of one of the more minor characters. Terrific writing and a great cast of characters made this one a winner for me. Top storytelling that we have come to expect from Bujold.

This may be Bujold's best book -- I like nearly everything she has written, but this is IMO the best. It's a great combination of thoughtfulness, wonder and action. Great characters.

Gee, these gods... Scary people. Another superb story. I think I preferred the previous book, but as before, it is fascinating to watch the main character heal and become strong again, able to face adversity. Ista is a worthy heroine, and the dilemma of the two brothers and the young wife difficult both for her to deal with and us to read.

Back into the world of Chalion, *Paladin of Souls* follows the story of Ishta and her attempts to adjust to her new life after the events of *The Curse of Chalion*. A great story following interesting characters back in the world of Chalion, working brilliantly as a standalone novel read for its own merits or as a sequel.

I was leery, since I read more "space opera" SF. I love the author and this book. There are 2 more in this "world" and I hope for more. These books do explore religions and relationships in a medieval level society. I enjoy the author's humor. Anyone who has read the *Barrayar* series will find a similar feel.

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