



## **Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War**

*Clemence McLaren*

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# Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War

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## Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War Clemence McLaren Two women, one war.

Helen, at age twelve, is not prepared to deal with her famous beauty: to have the face that will launch a thousand ships, kill fifty thousand men, and cause the fall of the world's greatest city. But when she is kidnapped by Theseus of Athens, she begins her journey into womanhood and finds passion strong enough to start the Trojan War.

Cassandra has the gift, or curse, to predict the future. When she foresees the ruin of her family and city that Helen's arrival in Troy will cause, she is outraged. Yet she cannot help being drawn to Helen.

As the war rages around them, Helen, the woman who started the conflict, and Cassandra, the one who foresaw it, develop a deep friendship. And through their eyes we see the Trojan War in a fascinating new way.

## Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War Details

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Author : Clemence McLaren

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## **From Reader Review Inside the Walls of Troy: A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War for online ebook**

### **Finlay Logan says**

This book brings the reader face to face with the harsh reality of life in the exciting, heroic, mythical time of the ancient Greeks: women were excluded. They did not make their own decisions or decide their own fate. In this book, the choices that men do not make for Helen or Cassandra, the heroes, are decreed by the gods. This is the best example I've seen of an author trying to breathe life into the silent women of antiquity and imagining what they would have attempted to do to control their own lives, within the extremely narrow limits set by their society. Helen and Cassandra are very different from each other, but you end up respecting them both for doing their best to find happiness and protect their families.

This book would make an excellent counterpoint to a study of the Greek myths or epics, or to a history unit to remind students that yes, women DID exist in ancient times, we just don't hear about them.

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### **Patricia Martin says**

Not a memorable book. Not at all! UGH!

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### **Webajeb says**

YA book about Helen of Troy as a young girl (12) and the events of the next few years. It was ok. I'd like it to have had more details about the battles and the way they lived then. It was from Helen's perspective (and later, Cassandra) so they only watched battles from the tops of the walls. Women were not privy to much info in those days either so there was a lot of rumor and speculation going on in the women's quarters.

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### **Julia says**

This was one book that I came across by accident and I was intrigued by the fact that it offered to give what could have been a female point-of-view for a time of history where women didn't have point-of-views. And when I read it I did fall in love with the story of the book more than the accuracy or the timeframe that it represents.

The characters were given more personality than we actually meet in the actual Greek mythoi but although Helen started off to being someone that you wanted to know more about it was in the second part of the book, Cassandra's point-of-view, where Helen actually ended up as she did in the tales of the mythoi - almost with no personality, bland and hard to really get a hold of. Instead I am pleased with the way that Cassandra turned out for she was always the one that seemed to have need of her story being told but in the original tales she was the one that just like any other outcast of society gets shoved to the side even as she struggles to make her presence known.

The author also did a good job to go into some of the particulars and customs of the timeframe but since it isn't a historical book I wouldn't use it as a basis of research for the study. Furthermore she gave a general idea of the beliefs while I loved how she wove the stories of what the Ancients thought about their deities into the story without the actual deities entering and taking over the story thus leaving the story human.

All in all this is a beautiful book to read about what may have been for the lesser known gender in an event of time where the world didn't think twice about them and the powerful force that love can lead to. It is also a story of how women have had to gather as friends and allies so that they may survive in a world where a choice wasn't given them but a demand that they conform.

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### **Bailey Allison says**

A very accessible (especially younger teens) version of the Trojan cycle through the lens of Helen and Cassandra. It cuts out the sex which is refreshing, as most depictions of Helen and Paris is based on sex. Unfortunately, another version of the Trojan War stories that cousin-zones Patroclus and Achilles.(They weren't the focus, only mentioned in passing, but still.)

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### **Marybeth says**

This book was like my favorite book when I was younger. I'm almost scared to go back and read it because I don't want to tarnish what enjoyment I have of it. Obviously there are some pitfalls, like cramming 10 years into ~200 pages. However, I really think this book is fascinating because it focuses on two characters who, despite the fact that one of them is sort of the primary cause of the war, rarely get to exercise their own voice within the canon. I think there are more similarities between Cassandra and Helen than perhaps first apparent. I did love this book as a kid so I'm interested in seeing what I would think of it upon a re-read.

Edit: so upon reread I'm basically of the estimation that you can read better novelizations of the Trojan war but as far as YA retellings go this one is pretty decent. It's pretty simplistic though but it doesn't do anything too strange and for the most part the characterization is consistent (even if I personally don't agree with it).

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### **Chanel Sharp says**

What can mom and I say? It was good. Someone of the historical elements were interesting. Especially since mom took Ancient Greece in High School. It was a nice blast from the past, but the story was not one that completely absorbed mom in. It just was not her complete cup of tea.

Give it a try if interested, but it is not a must.

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### **Zoe T says**

100% one of the most influential books of my early childhood. I had an illustrated children's book of the Iliad as a wee child, but as might be expected, it glossed lightly over Helen and barely touched on Cassandra, much like my later Greek mythology book which did get a little into what happened Cassandra post-war. But

this book gave me a Helen who was thoroughly understandable, a girl whose beauty turned her into an object instead of a person in the eyes of many, and it gave me a Cassandra who was angry but sympathetic and a friendship between them that is deeply important to me even now. It also gave me a way to hope for Cassandra's happy ending, and was definitely the book that kick-started my Cassandra-obsession.

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### **Sara says**

Vomit. Unfortunately I have to teach this book to 7th graders this upcoming school year and I'm NOT a fan! I don't know if it's because I really don't appreciate Greek mythology and all that or if it really is the book but it was told from Helen and Cassandra's point of views (which I suppose is a nice change of pace from the usual Trojan war battle book) and the plot encompassed a decade or two which forced it to speed along so quickly (in just 190 pages) that it left no room for character development or any of the things that make most books worth reading. It really read as more of a summary, and not a very good one at that. Additionally, I'm now frightened of teaching this book to my male students because there was entirely too much 'lovey dovey' stuff (short tunics, muscular thighs, golden haired god-like men) and no 'boy stuff' until the last ten pages when someone finally gets dragged behind a chariot and by that point you're so bored by the book you practically cheer.

Why am I giving it two stars? In the hopes that in teaching it it will grow on me but somehow I doubt it.

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### **Steven says**

Helen was a beautiful princess of Sparta who was known for being the most beautiful girl in the world and for her father been the most powerful Greek God named Zeus. She had been kidnapped at the age of twelve by the Athenian legendary warrior Theseus that had defeated the half man half bull from Crete. When she was rescued she was to be married right away for fear that she would be kidnapped again. So twelve princes were gathered from all around Greece. The father of Helen and king of all of Sparta was afraid that if he chose one that war would rage on Sparta because of his daughter's beauty. So he made the twelve princes swear an oath that they would support the prince that would be chosen. After, Menalous a important prince was chosen. Menalous was rich because his brother Agamemnon was king of most of Greece.

The years passed and Helen had a girl with Menelaus and they both became king and queen of all of Sparta. Although Helen didn't love Menalos she did as he pleased because she loved her daughter and didn't want to dishonor her kingdom. One day Menalos had invited a handsome prince from Troy to his kingdom. The prince's name was Paris. Helen had fallen in love with him and so had he. So they ran away to Troy. When Menalos found out that his wife was missing he summoned a war against Troy with the help of his brother and the prince that had sworn the oath a long time ago. To support the husband of the Great Helen of Sparta.

A great war began and a great warrior that was said to be son of the God of War participated in the war. His name was Achelles. But then he had refused to serve his king for not showing mercy on young me as he did. Paris brother Hector a few to the thrown of Troy fought Achelles or atleast he thought he did. Achelles' cousin Patroclus had taken his armor and fought in the way Achelles taught him. Making it look like he was Achelles. Achelles avenged his cousin's death by killing Hector and Hector was avenged by being killed by an arrow that Paris had shot. But Achelles' death was avenged by Menalaus that killed Paris. That's when the city of Troy was weak and was in conquered by the Greeks.

I think that this book is interesting because it is about a important war in history. I also think thats it's interesting because it tells us the great warriors that were in Greece and Troy and what they believed in. I give this book five stars and recommened this book to anyone and hope that they read it.

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### **Sky says**

I had to read this book for school. It was entertaining enough for me to not be bored the entire time however it did not make me want to pick up another book by this author.

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### **Patricia says**

I bought this book when I was probably 9 years old and I fell in love with it. I think I've read it more than 10 times and it's also one of the books with the most worn out cover in my book shelf. It's a great take on the Trojan war and it has a lot of romance. I really recommend it to the people who love Greek mythology as much as I do!

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### **Katie says**

I picked this up at the library as a young teen. I've always been interested in mythology and Ancient Greece in particular. Though it was quite a long time ago now, I remember being completely pulled in by the stories. To see such an epic event from the perspective of young women, not much older than myself at the time, was enthralling. I knew the summary of this story and knew of Helen and Cassandra. But this book gave me another side of it. My impression of Helen and Cassandra shifted as a result. This was an interesting experience for me as a young person because it allowed me to see how viewing a story through another's eyes changed my understanding. That's a good lesson to learn!

I'm sure if I read it now, with all that I've learned since, I would have a different experience. That's life! But *Inside the Walls of Troy* did make an impression on me and fanned the flame of my interest in all things Ancient Greece.

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### **Becky says**

An easy read and nice retelling of this story.

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### **Naveen Mina says**

I am a fan of mythology and I had a huge crush on Achilles back in high school when he was first introduced to us. Brad Pitt killed that fantasy for me...

I didn't like this book much. It was good to read and was well-written... but I guess I was just looking for

more mud slinging from the women... but then again... that must have been the man in me. I should know that women would rather keep their silence than make a fist and end a fight.

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