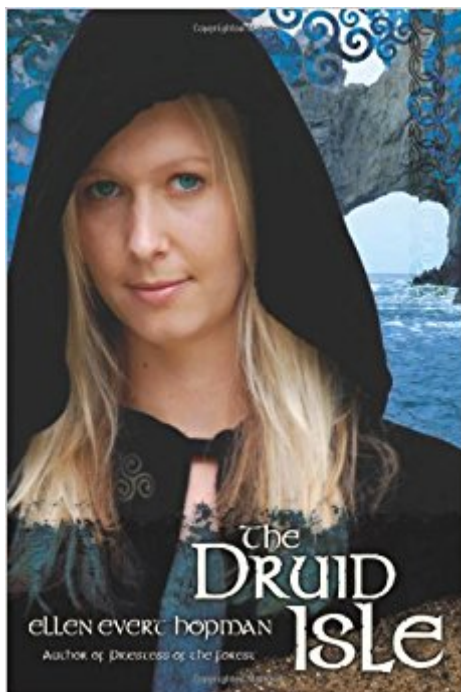


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The Druid Isle



Synopsis

For Aífe, the beautiful adopted daughter of Druid healer Ethne and her warrior partner Ruadh, life revolves around the sacred beauty and ancient mystery of the Old Ways. Surrounded by lush, green trees and frolicsome wildlife, the Forest School has been the heart of her Druidic education-and her beloved home. But to become a healer and priestess, she must leave behind all that she loves and journey to the Druid Isle . . . Handsome and spirited, Lucius is resolved to seek adventure outside of the Christian monastery where he was raised. Following a daring escape one night, Lucius arrives at a Pagan Gaulish village and discovers their gentle way of life. But a political firestorm is brewing, and Lucius is caught in the middle as the church and the Romans attempt to destroy everything the Druids hold dear. In his desperation to escape ruthless enemies and untold dangers, Lucius finds himself on the Druid Isle, where he will face the biggest decision of his life. Set on a third-century island off the coast of Scotland, this instructional Celtic tale delves deeply into the spiritual mysteries of the Druids, offering glimpses of Druidic daily life, herbal lore, and ancient rituals, along with a fascinating look at the Romans, Gauls, and Britons. Includes a Celtic/Druidic glossary. "One of the best features of the book is the small bits of old lore from the Druids scattered throughout . . . I would definitely recommend this book!" •Rev. Skip Ellison, Archdruid of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF) and author of *Ogham: The Secret Language of the Druids* •

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Customer Reviews

Ellen Evert Hopman (Massachusetts) has contributed to several Pagan journals and is a popular author of Druidry-related titles. A former teacher at the Grey School of Wizardry, Hopman has been

active in American Druidism since 1984. She is a member of the Grey Council of Mages and Sages, co-founder and former co-chief of the Order of the Whiteoak (Ord na Darach Gile), a master herbalist, and a registered herbalist of the American Herbalists Guild. Visit her online at www.elleneverthopman.com or at <http://witchesandpagans.com/Herbalist-s-Path/Blogger/Listings/ellen-evert-hopman.html>. Â

I so looked forward to this book. The knowledge inside so often confirmed what I knew inside. What I knew inside was old, the story felt familiar. At times it seemed that this story was far fetched, but the lessons on the Isle felt right somehow. I so wished that I could travel there and learn the ways of energy and establish my own connection with Spirit. I look forward to reading the last book in this trilogy, to discovering more what resonates within me and opening myself to what still has not been mined within my own spirit. Again I say that this story of the Gaels is one that sings something deep inside of me, I almost lived this story in places like I did when I first read *The Mists of Avalon*. I feel opened now in places within myself that have been closed for a long time.

This book is the sequel to *Priestess of the Forest: A Druid Journey* and continues to follow the lives of the druid healer Ethne and the warrior Ruadh years after the first book took place, as well introducing the new characters of Aife, their foster-daughter who is studying to be a druid, and Lucius, a young monk with a mysterious past. The story itself is detailed and well told, with strong characterization and a fast paced story. The reader is quickly swept up in the lives of the four main characters, as well as several minor characters, and the ending is very satisfying, answering a question left open from the earlier book. Beyond it's value as a good work of fiction - and it's worth recommending just for the story - the book is also a subtle primer on druid belief and practice. Reading this will help the reader understand Gaelic culture circa the 3rd century CE and will also help with an understanding of different druidic principles on a practical level. Unlike a non-fiction book on the same topic the reader isn't spoonfed step-by-step instructions and explanations, instead you see the concepts and practices in action as the characters live them out. Very reminiscent of the old mythologies. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone looking for a good story, or for anyone who wants to learn more about druidry.

so far there are three books in this series, and this is the third one. it is great fiction mixed with Druidic knowledge. Ellen Evert Hopman is an entertaining writer as well as an active Druid. But I think one could just enjoy this fiction as it is, without being a Druid oneself.

I loved all her Celtic/Druid books. They seem to be historically quite accurate, and her descriptions of the "old ways" are very charming and educational. Character development is very nice. She does a nice job of accurately describing how the early christians were not at all the pious "holier than thou" types that historical revisionists claim they were. I would recommend this book as well as her other books in this trilogy wholeheartedly for anyone who wants to be transported to that bygone era when common sense was held in esteem and before the Roman emperor Constantine forced christianity as the only legal religion. This information is NOT widely known by the masses, and it is refreshing to see it accurately described. EXCELLENT BOOK.

As an enchanting mesmerizing story, I couldn't put the book down. As a book that is now part of my reference library, I found the historical Druid practices, descriptions, and information to be invaluable and enlightening. I bought the book as a companion to Ellen's first novel, Priestess of the Forest: A Druid Journey. The book is excellent even if you haven't read her first novel; as a follow-up sequel, it is terrific. The Druid Isle satisfies that desire to continue on with Ethne's journey that you wish had never ended in the first book. You can't go wrong making the purchase.

Druid Isle wasn't a bad book but I had a hard time believing that the Druids knew about the workings of the Chakra system. And yes, I read the essay at the end on why they might know about it. But I really felt it was a bit of stretched. However I did enjoy most of the story line. But the whole section while AÃ-fe was Druid Isle could been so much better. And that was the part I was looking forward to read the most, instead it read more like a new age book. I wish the author had stuck to more traditional Druid stuff.

Couldn't put it down. Continuation of PRIESTESS OF THE FOREST which I have read many times . I wish Ms. Hopman would write more in this series !!!!

wonderful story with terrific lessons on druidic spiritual practice woven throughout.

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