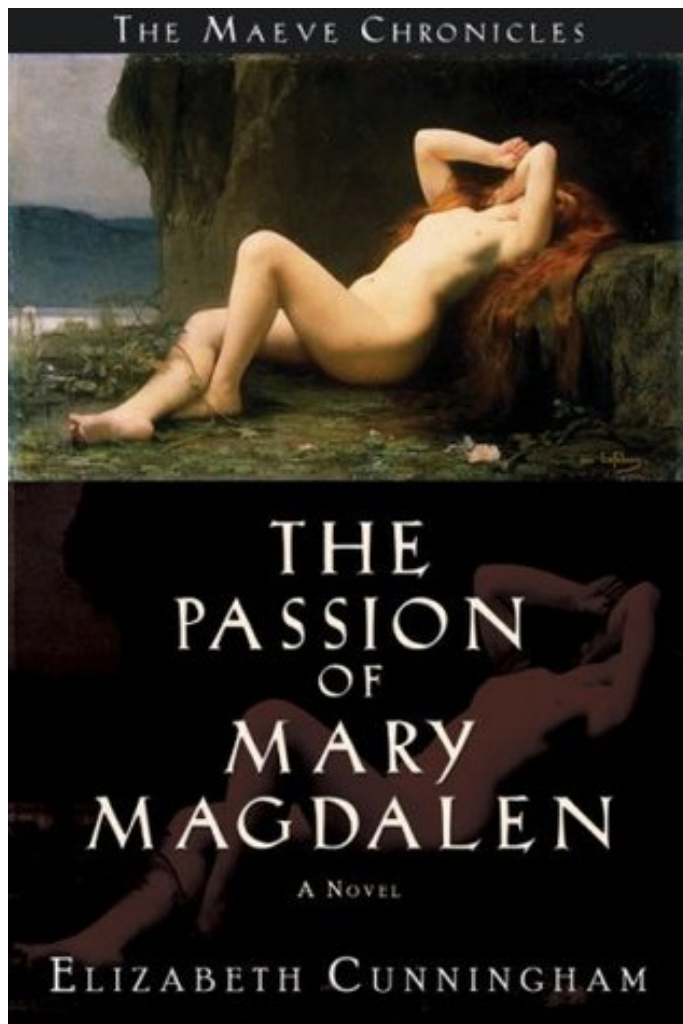

Elizabeth Cunningham

The Passion of Mary Magdalen (Maeve Chronicles)



Title: The Passion of Mary Magdalen (Maeve Chronicles)

Author: Elizabeth Cunningham

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 640

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0976684330

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.1 MB

Download: allowed

Description

For the millions of readers fascinated by Dan Brown's revelations about Mary Magdalen in *The Da Vinci Code*, here, at last, is their chance to meet the Gospel's most provocative woman face to face on her own terms.

Make way for a new Magdalen. Born on a Celtic isle to eight warrior-witch mothers, Maeve is raised to be as brave as any hero. In her stubborn, enchanting voice, she recounts her perilous quest for the young man, Esus, whose life she once saved from druid sacrifice. Captured and sold to a Roman Madam, Maeve is sustained by a fierce sense of identity, compassion for her sister whores, and her unquenchable love. When she wins her freedom and finds her lost lover, a stormy life begins for both as we follow the Passion story through the eyes of Jesus's partner-disciple to no man. Not even the One she loves. By turns feisty and funny, outrageous and tender, this Celtic Mary Magdalen challenges all stereotypes, both old and New Age, and brings us to transforming encounter with the divine feminine made flesh.

Insightful reviews

Astrid: Vol. 2 of a four-book series. Thought at first this was really, really stupid, then realized that you have to have a sense of humor and take it as just good storytelling. Mary M. was actually born Maeve, from Ireland, a redhead everywhere, giving new meaning to the biblical "burning bush" phrase (that comes straight from the book). She has been kicked out of "Druid College" because she had this thing going with this foreigner "Esus". The Druids wanted to use him for a human sacrifice, because the Romans kidnapped one of their own. Maeve put a stop to that and the book starts with her being sold, at age 19, on the slave market in Rome. A "Madam" buys her for her brothel and Maeve becomes a whore called Red. She still carries a torch for the Galilean guy with the beautiful feet, and the story progresses from there. It was over 600 pages, but didn't feel like it. Very good read, but not for any very religious folks who would consider this book to be the epitome of blasphemy. Interestingly, the author comes from a long line of Episcopal priests, go figure!

Lauren: This is one of my favorite books. The deep love you feel while reading this rocks me to my core every time.

Grace: Elizabeth Cunningham's long-awaited sequel to *Daughter of the Shining Isles* (now sold under a different name), this book follows Maeve in her days as a slave in the Holy Land. Although it's a thick book, I read this in no time at all since I could never put it down. Maeve goes through so much in this story....from slavery to harlotry to sacred/spiritual harlotry...from the depths of despair to being the lover of the Christ (but never quite his unquestioning "follower").

Being of a Christian background, I don't find much fascination in the recent *Da Vinci Code*/biblical questioning. If Cunningham's book series had started with Maeve as the

Magdalen in the Holy Lands, I likely would have just passed it by. But this series is absolutely outstanding, and it's fascinating to follow Maeve and her spiritual beliefs, which never waver from a belief and love of the goddess, even as she acknowledges the truth of her lover's words as well.

Jeff: This novel really took me by means of surprise. this can be the second one of a trilogy of books that includes the name character, who calls herself Maeve. the idea is this: What if Mary Magdalen of the hot testimony was once truly of Gaelic first rate -- a Celt with blazing pink hair who used to be raised as a type of Pagan priestess in a tradition with extra lady than male deities? What if she and Jesus turned pals as kids, and fell in love in younger adulthood? And what in the event that they have been separated and went via sufficient travails of their makes an attempt to reunite to fill the 1st half a 600-page novel? And what if Jesus had a stunning enchanted mom, yes, but additionally one that mirrored much less flattering stereotypes of the Jewish matron? And what if Jesus had many siblings? this is often definitely a extra believable scenario than the one baby state of affairs depicted by means of the apostles within the King James Bible. The novel "The ardour of Mary Magdalen" takes those and different speculations in logical and intensely relocating directions. Throughout, Jesus is depicted as either human and an embodiment of his one god. Mary, at the different hand, is painted vividly the following as girl who's torn from her fatherland via the crimes of her sexually abusing father and a chain of guys and ladies who kidnap and enslave her. intercourse is whatever she is sort of stable at, and he or she makes use of it as a way to profitable the money, energy and impact she must locate her one real love, the guy she known as Esus as a child. That said, the intercourse scenes within the ebook are faraway from prurient. they're provided within the matter-of-fact language of a intercourse worker, that's what Mary freely admits she is. Mary / Maeve is the sacred prostitute, (she calls her league that of "holy whoredom"). She eventually opens a temple to Isis, the Egyptian goddess, the place males end up healed and serviced in equivalent measure. (If you guffaw on the notion, this publication ain't for you. much more approximately whom this used to be no longer written for in a moment.) To justify her temple / brothel, she explains that "When I open myself to the goddess, he [i.e., her one actual love, Jesus:] is restored to me within the stranger's embrace." (p. 342). Jesus plays miracles; there isn't any doubt of his holiness. What could shake a few readers up, however, is how, during this world, you do not have to worship Christ's God that allows you to channel the powers of a healer. In fact, a thread operating throughout the ebook is that the bottled tears of a prostitute have powers to heal. specially with the good highs and lows of this woman's life, that implies there are abundant possibilities for therapeutic miracles past the normal factor New testimony tales. those customary miracles are, incidentally, defined completely if now not conventionally during this book. At this aspect I may still inform you that i used to be a very good Catholic boy at St. Joseph's Grade School. I grew up steeped within the terrific tales approximately Christ, instructed to me via Franciscan monks and nuns. I stepped clear of the religion round puberty and feature by no means appeared back. (I'd prefer to imagine my powers of discernment better round then, yet understanding how boys boost in center college i would need to admit that my choice to turn into a Biblical doubter was once much more likely the results of different organs stepping into the equation.) Whatever was once the cause, I stay a skeptic in non secular matters. but as any ex-Catholic will inform you, the ritual-rich religion by no means thoroughly leaves you either. So i discovered this clean exploration of who Christ rather used to be specifically moving. It supported my love of this crucial myth. i'm additionally happy that i have learn it time time of year, in December, a time of

1 of the 2 greatest Christian celebrations. This booklet has made me believe toward those myths, and jogged my memory why they're so instructive and inspiring. yet Cunningham pulls few punches in her speculations. This passage is indicative: FRIEND: "Your sweetie had a nasty reputation, Red." MARY: "Tell me anything i do not know," I shrugged ... "Got thrown out of shul after shul for consistently having a sensible remark. He extensively utilized to play at awesome humans lifeless via casting them right into a trance. Supposedly he grew to become a few little ones into goats as the would not play with him. He was once a terror." FRIEND: "Did you recognize concerning the drinking, gambling, and free ladies in Sepphoris?" MARY: "He spared me nothing," I stated grimly. Many humans may locate this kind of speak deeply offensive, as they'd the proposal that she and Jesus have been married -- in fact, married in a whorehouse (a holy whorehouse notwithstanding). Yes, many could hate what they might suppose is the undignified humanization of Jesus and his followers. those humans will be lacking the point. i used to be encouraged by means of the eagerness and ecstasy of Mary and her beloved. They enjoyed one another as deeply as any humans born in flesh and blood each could. The difference: They used this bond to specific their love for the least of these round them (although now and then Mary / Maeve turns into as whiny and exasperated as an army spouse who is had approach an excessive amount of of her husband's many absences and sacrifices). The Pagan earthiness and secret of it this unconventional Mary of Magdalen jogged my memory of the works of Sufi poet Rumi. As during this passage: "God has been known as our father. God has been referred to as our mother. God has been born and reborn as a child. i'm asking you currently to grasp god as your lover, the person who fills you and surrounds you, who offers and calls for everything. Yield your self to him, to her. Lose yourself. Remember." (pp. 445-6)

Janey: i've got regularly hated the truth that Mary Magdalene has been known as a prostitute all through background while she actually was once now not one. That being said, when you thoroughly disconnect this publication from the bible, Christianity and Judaism, its a superb old novel approximately girls in historical times. it really is jam-packed with sex, passion, sorrow and drama. the connection among Jesus and Mary is beautiful. Elizabeth Cunningham manages to explain an enormous love that's grander than simply people. you are going to love this publication should you loved the pink Tent and the Mists of Avalon. if you happen to like irreverent stories of Jesus, try out Lamb: The Gospel in keeping with Biff, Christ's youth buddy

Gregory: i do not supply loads of five's yet this can be a ebook of actually outstanding delight. it's the tale of the Jesus mythos final days informed throughout the eyes of his saucy, celtic/druid reared, Goddess Isis worshipping sacred whore/lover/wife Maeve sometimes called Mary of Magdala. The e-book is now and then raucous chortle out loud humorous and at different instances it's going to holiday your heart. I enjoyed the humanness in addition to the divinity and the rendering of the disciples from thick as a block to plotters, schemers and the entire different petty intrigue that is going in addition to the human condition. The depiction of the ladies was once really "divine". I learn past due and that i learn early and that i was once actually sorry to determine this e-book end. Enjoy.

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