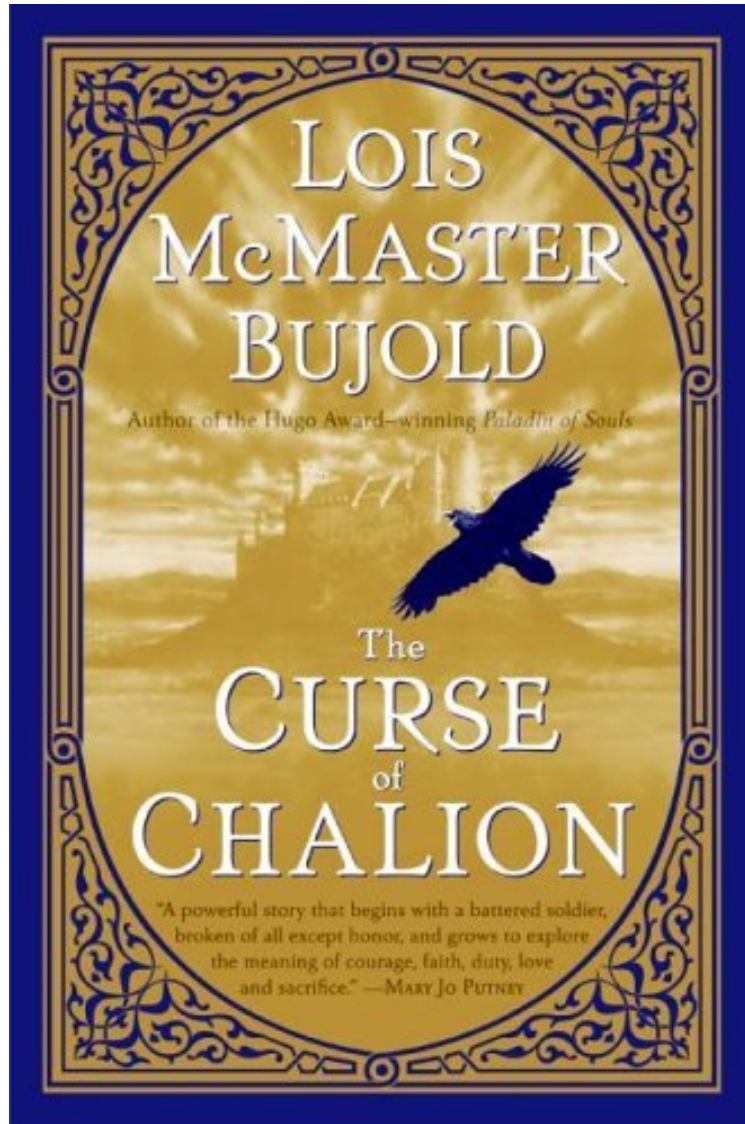


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## The Curse of Chalion

Von Lois McMaster Bujold  
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**Von Lois McMaster Bujold : The Curse of Chalion** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Curse of Chalion:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good but not Bujold's best workVon nicky2910"The Curse of Chalion"'s protagonist, Cazaril, finds himself unexpectedly in the role of secretary to the fiercely independent royesse Iselle of Chalion. While his work mainly consists of managing her household and teaching her at rural Valenda, things take a turn for the worse when her elder brother Orico calls her and their younger brother Teidez back to the capital Cardegoss to name Teidez his rightful heir to the throne. Cazaril

and Iselle find themselves wrapped tightly in a net of intrigue - with a deadly curse looming ever threatening above the royal family. "Curse of Chalion" is a very interesting story, set in a medieval world where just as much attention is paid to the daily routine than to the 5 gods that seem to influence everything. However, this novel didn't quite manage to captivate me, it didn't have me on the edge of my seat, yearning for the next chapter and biting my nails if I didn't get to reading it at once. Quite frankly, the first 100 to 150 pages even drag out a bit until Cazaril returns to Cardegoss and the final 150 pages don't quite make up for that unfortunately. Cazaril is the typical anti-hero, world-weary, handicapped by a torturous imprisonment, who just hoped to find some peaceful work when he returns to Valenda only to be appointed Iselle's secretary and thus be thrown into the middle of unsolved issues from his past along with new problems. Of course, it seems to be Bujold's favourite theme to turn physically incapacitated people into heroes - not by denying their physical frailties but by showing that heroes are made of far more than physical strength. Equally, Iselle is stepping out of the boundaries set for women by society by taking her fate into her own hands, thus giving Cazaril the incentive to gather up his own courage and fight for what is right. To be honest, I can't really pinpoint why this book doesn't have me yearning for more. The characterization is at Bujold's usual high level, the story is interesting enough... but, unfortunately, it didn't quite manage to get me involved on a more emotional level.

0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I was disappointed  
Von Constant Bookworm  
A shorter, bowdlerised Game of Thrones. The first half of the book just pootles along until stuff starts to happen. But most of the surprises were not surprising, and the happy end a bit hasty and, dare I say, contrived. Nice to meet a book with gods who actually do something, even if they are almost as helpless as our hero. I have to compare this to her space opera, and it just isn't as good. The plot is rather obvious, the good guy just too gormless while still managing to be a paragon of virtue. It lacks the adult humour and shenanigans of Vorkosigan. I confess I am disappointed and I won't buy any more in the series.

11 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great!  
Von Ein Kunde  
An outstanding novel, although the fans of Miles Vorkosigan might have some problems. Chalion's Curse is set in an alternative world reminiscent of the Middle Ages. Starring is Castilliar Lupe dy Cazaril, a very talented if ill-fated warrior. Sounds familiar? Well, but not much else is. Cazaril fights a curse stemming from the blood of a good with the mostly double-edged help of other deities. (The oligarchical polytheism is one of the most fascinating ideas of Lois M. Bujold.) It's a very suspenseful plot full of unexpected turns and vivid situations. The characters are, typical for the author, convincing and sympathetic. So overall I'd recommend this book to any lover of phantastical, historical, thrilling and plain good novels.

Kurzbeschreibung  
A man broken in body and spirit, Cazaril returns to the noble household he once served as page and is named secretary-tutor to the beautiful, strong-willed sister of the impetuous boy who is next in line to rule. It is an assignment Cazaril dreads, for it must ultimately lead him to the place he most fears: the royal court of Cardegoss, where the powerful enemies who once placed him in chains now occupy lofty positions. But it is more than the traitorous intrigues of villains that threaten Cazaril and the Royesse Iselle here, for a sinister curse hangs like a sword over the entire blighted House of Chalion. And only by employing the darkest, most forbidden of magics can Cazaril hope to protect his royal charge -- an act that will mark him as a tool of the miraculous . . . and trap him in a lethal maze of demonic paradox.

de  
In The Curse of Chalion Lois McMaster Bujold abandons her usual military space-opera for good reason; this is an emotionally powerful, inventively plotted novel which needs to be fantasy to work. Cazaril, betrayed by his enemies into a crippling two years in the galleys, returns to court a physical and emotional wreck: appointed secretary-tutor to the young princess Iselle, he finds himself in direct opposition to his powerful betrayers. His preparedness to make the ultimate sacrifice and save Iselle from an unwanted marriage to one of them by a death spell that will kill him also has unforeseen results; he learns the hard way that the gods have plans for him, ingenious and mischievous plans. Bujold does charm very well--we share Cazaril's sheer joy at mentoring the bright snippy Iselle--and she is also good at physical and emotional pain--Cazaril's sense of himself as broken and worn-out is entirely convincing. This is also a fantasy which includes some inventive thinking about the nature of gods and the consequences of curses; there is a nasty-minded logic to almost everything that happens here. Bujold's fans will read it without recommendation; many readers who have resisted the Vorkosigan books will find this an attractive and intelligent fantasy.

--Roz Kaveney  
Pressestimmen  
Nicely detailed and wittily accented...Heres hoping it launches a series of tales as well told as the Vorkosigan volumes. (ALA Booklist (starred review)) "This is one of the great ones." (Science Fiction Chronicle)  
Bujold continues to prove what marvels genius can create out of basic space operatics. (Booklist)  
First-rate . . . this is space opera at its dramatic best. (Publishers Weekly on Memory)