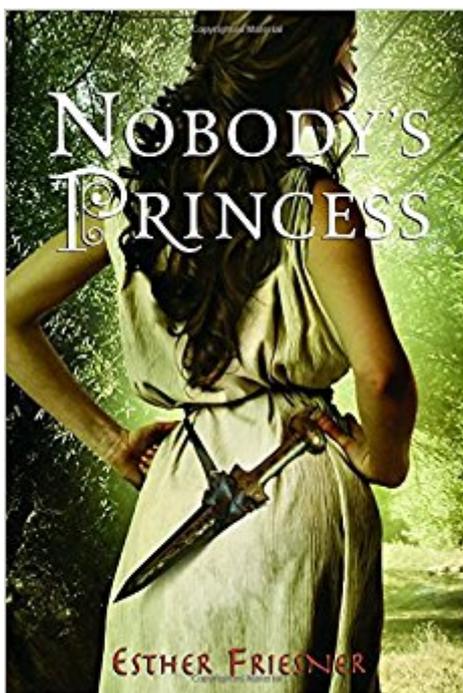


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# Nobody's Princess (Princesses Of Myth)



## Synopsis

Helen of Sparta wants to be more than a princess and a pretty face—she wants to be a hero. The traditions of ancient Sparta would have Helen know her place: a beautiful princess, a loyal daughter, a perfect bride. But Helen wants adventure, and she's not looking back. Not one to count on the gods to take care of her, she sets out to see the world and seek her own fate with steely determination. Her rebellious will makes Helen dangerous enemies—such as the self-proclaimed "son of Zeus" Theseus—but it also gains her true friends, from the famed huntress Atalanta to the young priestess who is the Oracle of Delphi. If she is strong enough, if she is cunning enough, if she is brave enough, Helen will find her destiny . . . but what does destiny have in store for her? In *Nobody's Princess*, author Esther Friesner deftly weaves together history and myth as she takes a new look at the girl who will become Helen of Troy. The back of the book includes further facts about Helen of Troy and Ancient Greece. "A must-read for fans of fantasy and mythology." VOYA "Along the way, Friesner skillfully exposes larger issues of women's rights, human bondage, and individual destiny. It's a rollicking good story." Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850 (What's this?)

Series: Princesses of Myth

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 25, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375875298

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Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #212,898 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Teens >

Historical Fiction > Ancient #121 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy >

Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #204 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk

Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Helen of Sparta is a feisty, beautiful young princess who is doted upon by her family, even though her determination to be independent and hunt and fight like her brothers creates various awkward, even dangerous situations for everyone. Using the mythical character of Helen of Troy as inspiration, Friesner focuses on Helen's youth, before she became "the face that launched a thousand ships." In an epilogue, Friesner discusses the historical facts and classical texts that she drew from to imagine Helen's childhood. The resulting novel is a fascinating portrait of a spoiled child who uses her wily ways and privileges to learn how to use a sword, track and kill game, ride a horse, and bargain for a slave's freedom. Along the way, Friesner skillfully exposes larger issues of women's rights, human bondage, and individual destiny. It's a rollicking good story all the way to the abrupt conclusion, which will leave readers crying out for a sequel. Frances Bradburn Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“This is my kind of Helen!”  
— Tamora Pierce

This is a great story about Helen of Troy. It does not espouse history but tells a story about her based on what we know. Our middle school student found this a great book.

I really enjoyed the first part of this book. It drew me in quickly and was very interesting. I was worried that as an adult, I wouldn't appreciate this book as much since it's written for young teens, but that ended up not being an issue. It doesn't read like a teen novel typically does. It was really interesting to imagine Helen as a real person and as someone who was more than just a pretty face. However, as the novel went on, I felt my interest waning. During her travels, I kept looking forward to when she would go back home because the story was so wonderful and rich while she was in Sparta, but the majority of the book is set in other locations where it just loses something. The ending was so remarkably anti-climatic that I was initially in complete disbelief that it was the end of the book. Granted, there is a sequel, but the first book didn't even end in such a way that I even care about reading the sequel. Throughout the book, I kept thinking about what the circumstances would be for this Helen to end up married to Menelaus and run away (or be kidnapped) by Paris to start the Trojan War. Unfortunately, it seems clear from the description of the sequel that we will never find those answers, which is a big disappointment to me. I understand the author wanted to tell the story "before" the story that everyone knows, but this ended up feeling like a story about some random girl because I can't seem to match up the Helen from this story with the

Helen she supposedly would become. If the author had taken the next step and continued Helen's journey, this would be a much different review. All in all though, this seems like a great book for young teens. If you happen to be an adult that was drawn in because of the topic though, don't expect to be blown away.

Nobody's Princess (Princess of Myth) by Esther Friesner follows the story of Helen of Sparta who itches for more out of life. She's not one to sit by and count on the gods to take care of her, so she sets out to get what she wants with a sassy attitude. However, that attitude can also get her into trouble and cause a few enemies. On the one hand, it was a pretty good read and on the other hand, it had some flaws. It was a very quick read, so that's always a plus. I loved the theme and setting since I love my history - even more when it's Greek history and there's Greek Gods involved. However, there were a few issues as well. Most of the characters were flat and the MC seemed a bit whiny and too perfect. Pretty much close to a Mary Sue, if not one already. I mean, she happens to excel at everything more than her brothers? Yeah, okay... Of course, this novel also teaches that girls aren't girls unless they act like men and fight. It was a predictable plot and it wasn't done in an interesting or different way. It was the standard, stereotypical way. Still, it wasn't like it was horrible to read. It was a quick read that wasn't too bad.

Helen is determined to be more than what people expect her to be, which is a princess of Sparta. She isn't willing to just sit at home and embroider. No she plans on taking her fate into her own hands and having as many adventures as possible. Cute story. I picked it up as I love historical fiction and hadn't read much from the Grecian time period recently. And while I enjoyed it, I have to say it's probably better for a young adult/teen reader. Bit too simple and not enough grit for me. As well, there was not really an ending to the book. Instead, it ends as a lead up to the next book, which was a bit disappointing.

Okay so I read the first one and loved it and ordered the second one I had the intention of reading them to my 10 year old sister because I thought these might get her to read more because she hates girls who are helpless but loved Princess stories when she was younger. Well those intentions changed when I read this. It was really good but has more young adult middle school aged content than I expected. I loved the book because I understood a lot of what happened but my sister is 10 and would not get any of it and would start asking interesting questions. I recommend this for children over age 12 for children younger I would wait a while. Other than that it was a really good

book. There are some sad parts but things are happy in the end. Helen is a wonderful character and was shown perfectly as more than the 'Face that launched a 1000 ships' I have no doubt that her friend Milo would go to war for his Helen these are great books if you can understand them.

Personally, I thought it was boring. I read it awhile ago for school and we talked about it in a group. Others thought the same. I guess this will be your type of book if you like princesses and adventures that but it is not for people who want something exciting or thrilling.

When reading this book I wasn't sure if I'd like it, being that I'm not a history buff. Well, I didn't have to worry about it after all. This book has an issue that some girls face when being around your friends that may not be as pretty as you and they voice their opinion on it. There is also the tomboy aspect for you tomboys. It was very enjoyable and I did not put it down once. I'm very excited to read the next one.

I really think this is worth buying, it's inspiring. I look forward to read more of Esther Friesner's books!! I love it.

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