



Priestess of the White

Trudi Canavan

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When Auraya was chosen to become a priestess, she could never have believed that a mere ten years later she would be one of the White, the gods' most powerful servants.

Sadly, Auraya has little time to adapt to the exceptional powers gifted her by the gods. Mysterious black-clad sorcerers from the south plague the land, and rumours reach the White of an army being raised. Auraya and her new colleagues work tirelessly to seal alliances and unite the northern continent under their banner, but time is running out.

War is coming to the lands of the White, and unless Auraya can master her new abilities, even the favour of the gods may not be enough to save them . . .

Priestess of the White Details

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From Reader Review Priestess of the White for online ebook

Julia says

This is a review for ALL of the books, ie. the whole series.

I started the book about 5 or 6 Months before I finished it, but never got past the first fifty pages. I had liked the Black Magician Trilogy, but I thought I didn't like the theme too much in this book.

Yet, in the end, I think I totally prefer this series to the other!

There were many positive points in the series. It was more complex and the plot and the world seemed very well developed. It had more mature themes, which are definitely not too suited for Teenagers (It says on the website that she wanted a more "Sex, Drugs and Violence" theme), but the main ones are Religion and Belief. I think the Ideas for the Religions are very interesting and unconventional - but this is only revealed later on.

I definitely think that one of Trudi Canavan's Strength lies in the last books. As the series goes on, it develops more excitement and friction. Thus, the last book is definitely the best.

I reread this trilogy afterwards and It confirmed to me what I have thought once again. The Black Magician trilogy is not half as entertaining or well made - to me. I'm in love with this world much more than I am with Kyralia, i can relate much better to the Characters and the flaws in the plot can be overlooked.

This is not the common opinion, I know, but I stick to it. These books are Trudi Canavan's best.

Charlie says

Every time I read this I enjoy it more than the last. It's truly one of the best fantasy series I've ever read.

Julie says

Teleurstellend. Hoewel de wereld en het concept intrigerend waren, zat er echt geen vaart in het verhaal en waren de personages zo vreselijk vlak. Het hoofdpersonage, Auraya, had geen enkele diepgang en ik bleef het hele boek lang tevergeefs wachten tot ze zich zou ontplooien tot een écht personage. De bedoeling van het boek was wellicht het opbouwen van spanning tot de laatste eindscène, maar dit resulteerde slechts in een saaie en ellenlange (500 pagina's!) aanloop die uitdraaide op een soort van sisser. Jammer, een gemiste kans.

Elisabeth Cook says

I **love** the Black Magicians Trilogy, so it pains me to review another Trudi Canavan book with a DNF at 66%. I like the concept of *Priestess*, the fragile balance between magic and the power of the gods is quite an original feeling backdrop (to me). Unfortunately, there are too many disappointments elsewhere. After the hundreds of pages I've read, I still don't have much of a sense of the protagonist, Auraya's personality; I don't

know what motivates her, what she finds funny, or what distinguishes her from the (also two-dimensional) characters she interacts with. I did, however, enjoy reading the story of Emerahl and her character alone might motivate me to finish this book in the future, but the plot going on around her is slow and uninteresting. Finally, I was pretty disappointed by how familiar it all felt: a young woman taken to be trained as a magician, but whose ideas about the world differ from the institution; the threat of stronger foreign magicians across the border; **SPOILER** love interest with a once-teacher - it felt all too much like a rehash of Sonea and Kyrallia.

Jensownzoo says

Okay, I give up. I couldn't even finish this one, which is very rare for me--and I had less than a hundred pages to go. I had put it down one night and have not been able to make myself pick it back up again.

I found it to be completely boring, despite the interesting concepts and potential conflicts. This book just *drug*. Not much action to move it along. Gets bogged down in what seem to be side-stories (they may come together at the end, I'll never know). I liked this authors previous series, so this was a disappointment.

Filip says

Docela m? mrzí, že po tak dlouhém odkládání m? *Bílá kn?žka* zklamala. Bylo to až moc pr?m?rné vzhledem k tomu, jak se mi kdysi líbila Trilogie o ?erném mágovi (i když si za?ínám myslet, že dneska by m? nezaujala ani Sonea). Když jsem už od Trudi Canavan p?e?etl (a te? si to musím zkontrolovat, abych nelhal) osmou knížku, najednou bych dokázal s jistotou její styl lehce ur?it.

D?j je zbyte?n? moc dlouhý, konverzace jsou vlašné, pohledy všech postav jsou vždy stejné.

P?íb?h, kdy je u moci církev, ke které promlouvá p?tice boh? (opravdové "siluety zalité ve sv?tle" – t?m ale nev??ím, jen tak btw.) a všichni se snaží této církvi v??it, je zajímavý. Ale podle m? to tak úpln? nefunguje. Trudi Canavan aplikuje až moc stejný v?cí do r?zných p?íb?h? a najednou si uprost?ed knihy ?eknete: "Hej, tohle jsem už n?kde ?etl!"

Hlavním cílem je ?ešit spíše politické záležitosti celého sv?ta a i když m? tyhle v?ci baví, tohle bylo dlouhé a z?ídkakdy zajímavé. Dá se ?íct, že konec jsem ?etl už jenom z principu, i když m? osudy pár postav zajímaly. Každopádn? naivita Aurayany, že sv?t je nádherné místo, se mi moc nelíbila, i když se m? snažila p?emlouvát o opaku více jak 600 stránek. Prost? jí to nev??ím. Až moc hloupou?ká láska, dar nesmrtnosti a snaha skrýt, s kým spí, i když to d?lá každý Bílý, bylo jenom zbyte?ným rozrušením od hlavní d?jové linky. K tomu všemu to skon?ilo tak uzav?en?, že si myslím, že další díly nejsou pot?eba. Spojenectví, válka, nebezpe?í, románec. Uzav?eno, jdeme dál. Co bude nám?tem dalších díl?, by m? hodn? zajímalo...

P.S.: Ten malý formát musel vymýšlet samotný Satan.

Joanna says

This is just not fun. I'm having to force myself to finish it. I can't even be sure if it's a good book, I'm so sick of reading it! The plot seems creative, but something about it draaaaaaags.

Edit: Finally finished it, and still completely unimpressed. And after I enjoyed her other trilogy so much, too!

Claire says

Really liked this book though it jumped around a lot. I totally want Mischief lol he is so cute.

Terran says

Was looking for a new author (having exhausted all the ones I know I like). Ran across this in the local library. I really couldn't get into it. The writing was a bit clunky and the plotline seemed fairly standard high fantasy by the time I gave up. The world building seemed potentially interesting, but I couldn't bring myself to care enough to keep reading. I gather from other comments that this author has more interesting works, so I may try another book another time.

Maria says

I would have actually given this book 3,5 stars but there's no such scale.

After reading The Black Magician trilogy I expected this one to be better... there was nothing wrong with the style of writing but I wanted something fresh, something new. And here? I'm getting a copy of Canavan's previous novel.

The motive of forbidden romance between Sonea and Akkarin is very similar to the one that Auraya and Leiard struggle with. Despite the fact that they are featureless (most of the characters in this book actually are boring and nothing pushes me towards any of them stronger than the others... with one exception I'm gonna write about later). To be honest the main heroin annoys me. I hope that there won't be much about her in the 2nd volume... 'cause as it's called 'Last of the Wilds' I'm positive there's gonna be much more about Emerahl which is probably the only character that has intrigued me with her personality a bit more.

I wonder if the author really couldn't create something more original and different from The Black Magician trilogy. It was a huge success but it doesn't mean that you should follow it in that way Miss Canavan ;) As for now in all your books I've read so far an evil nation without any particular reason (oh, maybe except being purely evil) attacks the innocent one. They possess amazingly powerful magic (which is not known by anyone else) and their sorcerers wreak havoc among unarmed people. Yet they are being defeated by valiant defenders which are suspiciously lucky. Unbelievable, isn't it? The only difference is that in the first trilogy the invader is Sachaka and the victim is Kyralia. Here we've got conflict between Pentadrians and Circlians. Still it was obvious for me from the very beginning that the scales of victory are going to tilt on the side of Circlians... and Auraya will be the saviour.

One more thing that irritated me was poor duplication of Sonea in the person of Auraya - the chosen one, the brave, the greatest, loved and admired by everyone. It's not that funny as it was for the first time, especially that Sonea was way better and much more likable than Auraya. Not only that I don't like her but sadly I have to admit that I can't stand her and her fake willingness to be the good White.

Maybe my rating would be higher if not the fact that I read The Black Magician trilogy first and was delighted by the plot, completely new way of understanding magic and putting young apprentices into the Magicians' Guild. But I won't give up and gonna finish the whole trilogy, hope it's gonna be worth it ;)

Gabriel??Jan says

?1.5/5?

DNF @ 15%

I just wasted my time.

Firstly, there are too many characters in this story (and most of them have weird names which is difficult to remember). Secondly, writing style is so fake and amateurish, it's like the author has no ability to lay out her thoughts so she decides to combine very simple and short sentences (and long ones look awkward). Moreover, nothing has happened in these 15%. It's so(ooooo) boring to read.. So I decided dnf it instead of continuing.

I feel a little bit sad, 'cause I love Black Magician trilogy by Trudi Canavan. ~.~

Angelica says

At first I didn't like this book, but the intriguing sub-plots and many of the characters hooked me. I didn't like the main character as she was a little too Mary Sue-ish and the planned romantic entanglement seemed a little too contrived. I loved every other character and the world created and that more than made up for it.

This book has strong feminist themes, such as Emmerahl teaching girls to defend herself, or becoming a whore to survive, but with no shame. I didn't think this was overbearing, but I suppose some readers might. It was a bit strange they had such "modern" thinking in what was clearly ancient times.

Overall I will be reading the second book, although I'm not sure I'd reread this one again.

Joby Walker says

Interesting and with the potential to be better

The Good

Secondary/Tertiary Characters: Most of the secondary viewpoint characters have some personality that make the story worth reading and some of the tertiary characters are good too. Character development is lacking for most characters though. Looking forward to more from the Hag.

Hints: There are many hints at history and future of the world -- enough potential to make continuing the series worth while.

The Bad

World Building: I don't find the world all that interesting. Canavan's need to have fantasy names for all plants, animals, and beverages make the world less comprehensible (one of the annoyances of using an

ebook is the glossary is not as accessible). While the area of the Si is more compelling, the rest of the world is pretty generic.

Auraya: a clone of Sonea of the Black Magician trilogy -- too good, smart, perceptive, etc. She just doesn't come across as a real person.

Story arc: Honestly there are no surprises in the story. The main story arc plods forward with no deviation or real turmoil (even with a war). There are a few developments, but no panic, suspense, or serious drama.

Hoping for more in the second book!

E L E A N O R (bookishcourtier) says

2.5 stars

Sooo, while there were some things I liked about this book, it was just too slow and long and unexciting to merit anything higher than a 2 star rating. I mean, I didn't hate it. That's why I upped my rating to 2.5 stars, because this was a pretty average book. There was nothing I loved, yet there was nothing that I thought really problematic.

So, the world building wasn't amazing. Trudi Canavan managed to convey the actual geography of the land itself to me, with the help of a map (thank goodness), which is made up of a load of Kingdoms that I can't remember the names of. But I seriously know nothing about these kingdoms - what is their culture? Their language? We literally never saw anything about them because the White (imaginative name, I know) are so elevated above them. I am also slightly confused about what the White rule. They seem revered everywhere, but they only seem to rule one kingdom? And they had to make all these alliances? For a war which didn't really have any causes? Things seemed to happen very conveniently so the plot could progress, especially at the end. (view spoiler) And I have no idea how magic is distributed and who gets it. **Also, most of the characters are very flat.** We have Auraya, the God's chosen, very good, wise etc. She had no depth. All the male characters seemed the same as well, and the only interesting character was Emerahl, and even she fell into some clichés later in the book. **I am also slightly concerned about the relationship between Auraya and Leiard.** She is 26, and he says he's forty, but he's not sure??!! And he was her teacher when she was 16. And he has white hair...so I pictured him as old. And even without this age gap, I was still not feeling the romance. It was just so...sudden.

I did like the Siyee though. Triste was annoying, but I liked Drilli, and their romance was pretty cute. I think they were the most original part of the book - you don't read about many winged (as in, their arms are actually wings) tiny childlike creatures (not in any books I have read, anyway). **And I enjoyed Emerahl's point of view, as she was the most interesting character.** She was a bit less good than the others, and I think that made her more realistic.

This was just a bit too long and slow and flat for me. I did consider reading the sequel but they are such long books and I really don't think I would make it. This had some promise but the world was pretty boring, and I just really didn't care about many of the characters. There were small things I liked about this, but the general overview of the book was just average.

Kitvaria Sarene says

This one... I read it rather a short time after the Magicians Guild books - and so it took me a bit by surprise how different it was.

While the first series is published as YA (here in Germany), the second series definitely is not. There is a bit of a love plot and some sex scenes in it - and of course the main protagonists are older.

After I got used to the change - I did definitely enjoy the book, though it didn't completely blow me away. I liked the main character and definitely wanted to spend some more time with her in this new world. The pace was fast again, and the prose fluent as with her other books, but the story lacked a bit for me. I would have liked it a bit more - complex maybe? Can't really put my finger on it. As I was still very well entertained all the way through, I will go with 4 stars.

Sonja says

Trudi Canavan kenne ich zwar vom Hörensagen, habe aber ihre berühmte erste Trilogie um die Gilde der schwarzen Magier nie gelesen. Vermutlich hätte ich auch nie zu ihren Büchern gegriffen, wäre ich nicht auf einem Flohmarkt über die komplette zweite Trilogie zum Schnäppchenpreis gestolpert.

Der Einstieg in die Geschichte ist etwas verwirrend, weil es nicht nur unterschiedliche Erzählstränge sondern auch einen größeren Zeitsprung gibt. Erst begegnen wir Auraya als Kind und plötzlich sehen wir sie als Priesterin.

Mir ist bewusst, dass es so konzipiert wurde, um die frühe Verbindung mit dem Traumweber zu zeigen, dennoch fand ich diese Wandlung vom Kind zu einer bedeutenden Figur sehr überraschend.

Abgesehen davon liest sich der Rest der Story sehr flüssig und unterhaltsam. Canavan baut in diesem ersten Band eine phantastische Welt mit vielen interessanten Völkern, real existierenden Göttern und Magie, die keinen festen Strukturen gehorcht – sind die Götter gewillt, entstehen neue magische Fähigkeiten.

Auch wenn die Geschehnisse auf einen Krieg hindeuten (dessen Entstehung allerdings nicht sehr ausführlich erklärt wird), bleibt der Grundton des Buches positiv und optimistisch.

Gibt es so etwas wie „Cozy Fantasy“? Dazu würde ich „Priester“ zählen: man kann sich mitziehen lassen in all die drohenden Gefahren und hat stets das Gefühl „alles wird gut“.

„Priester“ ist keine High Fantasy. Vielmehr ist es eine nette, ein wenig weichgespülte Erzählung mit phantastischen Elementen und relativ friedlichen Wesen. Selbst der Krieg am Ende ist weniger dramatisch, als man hätte annehmen können, beinhaltet aber einen interessanten Gedanken, der Lust auf den Folgeband macht.

Leichte Fantasy für zwischendurch.

Sky says

I love stories within fantasy that focus heavily on gods, priests, religions etc. so this grabbed my interest as

soon as I saw it and it did not disappoint.

I love multiple POV in books so I'm very pleased you usually get 2 or 3 POV's in a chapter and it was not overwhelming either: you are given enough time to get to know a few characters before a new POV is added. There are a lot of characters but that is part of why I enjoyed it so much.

The world building is fantastic. Canavan created such a vibrant world with really rich cultures and races. There are a few different religions that are a major feature in this book and they are very well done. Canavan has also introduced us to two non-human societies in this novel and they are both unique takes on ideas that are not seen much in fantasy.

I am so invested in Auraya, and also many of the other characters. The character growth is a strong point of the book for me as not only Auraya grows for both good and possibly bad but so do others and the possible outcomes of this growth are intriguing and I'm excited to read the next instalment to see where these characters will go next.

There was also a bit of romance in this book which I personally enjoy and **I did not see it coming at all!** I think the mini-conclusion to the romance was well written: it feels wrapped up in this book but you still know there is more to it.

Something I really appreciate is that the story was actually wrapped up. Sometimes series have a tendency to leave you on a big cliff hanger just before a big reveal and I find it annoying. Canavan wrapped up this story very well but there are plenty of questions I still want answered.

Overall I really loved this story: it spoke to a lot of my personal preferences and had a strong execution. I am so excited to read the next book, just have to wait for my library hold to come in!

PaperTigerMaddy says

Edit: dropped this rating down from 2.5 to a 1 because it's really not worth anyone's time.

Why the heck has this been rated so high? It's crap, especially compared to her excellent debut trilogy! The respect I had for Canavan's writing has largely evaporated. I hope this terrible book was simply a dud, and not that the Black Magician trilogy was a fluke.

Okay, gripe #1. Plants, animals and vehicles are given totally random names despite being albeit identical to things we have in this world. Why? Who bloody knows. To purposefully confuse the novel? Maybe! When a Reyna is 'a swift flighty animal used for riding' mate you are literally just describing a horse so for the love of god just say HORSE

This however is the only complex thing about the novel, which is otherwise let down by its sheer simplicity. The writing tells, not shows, to the point where it reads awkwardly and childishly. Dialogue is affected and stupid. Witness 16 year old Auraya on page 9:

'Even I, living in this tiny village, know of the famous Dunwayan Fire-Warrior Clan'.

Oh god. At this point I was already groaning. Entire paragraphs are wasted with people repeating each other's formal titles and greetings. It's all 'Welcome, Auraya of the White' this and 'She made the sign of the circle' that.

Excessive exposition from characters' internal monologues when they ponder over their emotions is also so overused it's stupid. Witness pages 42-44:

'Her father's letters were, by necessity, short. She felt a wary relief after she read more of them. We were careful, she thought. (Ok, point established.) We didn't say exactly what we were doing. (Yes, we got that.) Except for the first letter I sent, in which I had to make it plain what I wanted Father to do. (CLEARLY!?) Hopefully he burned that one. She sighed and shook her head. No matter how careful she and her father had been, the gods must know what they had done. They could see into the minds of all. Yet they still chose me, she thought. Of all the high priestesses, they chose someone who had broken the law and used a Dreamweaver's services. (We GET it. My god. Cut forward a page). I was so sure this would stand against me being chosen (are you STILL talking about this?!) I wanted so much to be part of the White....but the gods still chose me. What am I to make of that? (One paragraph later) Why would the gods do that? (Gahhh! Kill me!) (Okay screw this I'm not typing out the next 1.5 pages, suffice it to say IT IS ALL THE SAME)

inhales deeply yes calm

This is a shame, as it is character interaction and internal dialogue which is a key strength of the Black Magician trilogy. Worse, this (lack of) style here washes away much of the benefit gained by Canavan's core strength - her ability to create a large cast of relatable, distinct and likeable characters.

While the occasional stab is made at scenery description, in general very little world building has gone here, and we are left with a minimal sense of place and atmosphere. An entire continent! With no sense of place! Battle scenes are reduced to one liners such as 'She blasted him with magic'. Ooooh! Description stretches to things like 'There was a mountain range.' K thanks Trudi das cool I feel totally swept away. Not. And no, stupid animal names do not a substitute make.

We are supposed to blindly accept that the Pentadrians are evil, with literally zero realistic motive provided for their invasion. Mainly, because they wear black, carry pentacles (bwahahaha!) they are CLEARLY evil, right? Why are they evil, you ask? Because they just ARE BWAHAHAHAHA!!! Now stop asking stupid questions.

Also, did anyone else find it weird that the only explicitly PoC characters (apart from the creepy fish people) were the evil ones? Seriously? What is this, Tolkien?

Similarly, the Circlian gods are never developed past a blind acceptance that they are all mighty and all-benevolent, despite occasional hints that this might not be the case. The White are also happy skippy all

benevolent all frolicking servant/king/priests, with no apparent flaws in their governance or self interest to make them more believable. They don't even really seem to dislike Dreamweaver's all that much! Apart from the 'truly regrettable' death of Mirar (Agh the terrible guilt upon Juran's unstained conscience! It's so hard being flawless!) everything they do is...utopian. Which is totes ridic.

There is no suggestion that (as I suspect-potential spoiler) the Pentadrians are exactly like the Circlians, and the war is all an evil ploy of two evil groups of gods. Further development on these any of these fronts would have made for a far stronger novel. Instead it is super one sided and crap.

What is left is a one road plot with no depth. And as a result in part of this lack of plot development, Canavan is forced to fish around for alternative, random, one-shot narrative voices (OTHER than her main characters!) in order to give the story depth. While it isn't unusual for writers to have one major POV and then a series of random minor one-shot POVs (Horowitz springs to mind), it IS weird to have a cast of major POVs (five if you count Auraya, Leiard, Danjin and Tryss) and STILL need more! This is messy, and a sign of poor writing in my opinion. If your main characters cannot give the story enough colour, you have a problem.

Now as for the actual characters. I wanted to like Auraya, but her chapters are let down by the overly affected exposition I've already discussed. She's also extremely bland, as other reviewed have mentioned. Same for Leiard. Though I got their attraction, it turned into love out of nowhere. And then became totally meh. Romantic love scenes are censored, but perfunctory brothel sex is not. Why!? Damn it WHY!!!

Let's be real: Tryss' entire story line is extraneous to the plot, not to mention the most boring and childlike of the lot. It should have been cut, or a better way found to incorporate the Siyee. I never really got over the line 'He meant to fly on, but found himself circling, fascinated by the small dark hollow between her breasts.' YE GODS. The only POV I truly enjoyed was Emerahl's adventures in the brothel, though ironically this is also pointless up until the final chapter. Now, a novel about HER I would like to read. But with more sex.

All in all, a massive let down. Come on Canavan, we know you can do better than this.

Becky says

Priestess of the White is the first novel in Trudi Canavan's Age of Five series.

Set in a fantastical world where Gods have chosen representatives to do their bidding in the world, this novel mixes magic and religion. The leaders of Hania are the White – five powerful sorcerers who are guided by their Gods. Auraya is the youngest of the White and the novel begins with her joining the Priesthood and her commitment to devote her life to the will of the Gods.

It is the Gods' will that all of Northern Ithania be united and at peace. Auraya is a problem solver by nature, she is patient and caring. She had a childhood friendship from a Dreamweaver and this makes her more

open-minded and accepting of their choices. It is this unique vision that makes Auraya a great peace-maker and her role as a servant of the Gods sees her travel to form alliances with other races in Northern Ithania.

This is an epic book and I feel the challenge of summarising the complicated history of the Gods' past is beyond me. Those who do not follow the Gods they are known as Dreamweavers – the White view them as heathens. The leader of the White killed the leader of the Dreamweavers and there is a deep rooted hatred between these peoples. Dreamweavers are healers and pacifists. They were persecuted by followers of the White and were massacred in the past. Auraya hopes to change the dynamic between the White and the Dreamweavers.

While the nations of Northern Ithania are debating alliances with the White, in the South the heathen cult known as the Pentadrians (who follow fake Gods) are readying themselves for war.

Trudi Canavan's storytelling leaves me awestruck. There are so many different plots and subplots running through this novel and they all link together in a coherent mesmerising way. The story is told in Canavan's usual style – a third person roving viewpoint. We still the events of the story from so many different characters and it could be completely overwhelming but Canavan's writing is so incredibly clear that it isn't.

The themes in this novel are war and loyalty, the idea of devotion and free will, power and sacrifice, strength and weakness. It was fascinating to read about characters who range from fervent in their belief in their Gods to absolute hatred towards the Gods. It made me feel impartial to all the different social groups. If there was a character that stole my heart it was Mischief – Auraya's pet veez – he added a much needed humour in the darkest times.

I can't wait to see where this story goes next. The thing I love most about Trudi Canavan is her novels never disappoint. Great epic fantasy at its best.

Patricia Vocat says

This book is well written, inventive and descriptive, but quite boring. The story has good foundations, but to me it dragged on endlessly without anything happening. And I just couldn't connect to the flawless heroine who set out to become even more flawless. Although I liked some of the side characters, there were just so many storylines that seemed disjointed from and in conflict with the main plot.
