



## Helen of Troy

By Margaret George

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**Helen of Troy** By Margaret George

**Acclaimed author Margaret George tells the story of the legendary Greek woman whose face "launched a thousand ships" in this *New York Times* bestseller.**

The Trojan War, fought nearly twelve hundred years before the birth of Christ, and recounted in Homer's *Iliad*, continues to haunt us because of its origins: one woman's beauty, a visiting prince's passion, and a love that ended in tragedy.

Laden with doom, yet surprising in its moments of innocence and beauty, *Helen of Troy* is an exquisite page-turner with a cast of irresistible, legendary characters—Odysseus, Hector, Achilles, Menelaus, Priam, Clytemnestra, Agamemnon, as well as Helen and Paris themselves. With a wealth of material that reproduces the Age of Bronze in all its glory, it brings to life a war that we have all learned about but never before experienced.

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## **Helen of Troy By Margaret George Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* George (*Mary, Called Magdalene*) depicts with bravado, grace and eloquence the grand spectacle surrounding Helen of Troy. The author's research into Mycenaean culture, coupled with Trojan War mythology's larger-than-life heroes, enliven a bold story pulsing with romance and sacrifice, omens and battles. Helen's noble Spartan parents try to defy the fates when a seer foretells the tragedy Helen and her legendary beauty will cause, but, as the myth of Helen demonstrates, destiny cannot be altered. Helen's years of seclusion in Sparta lead to a frigid marriage to Menelaus before she connects with Paris, the Trojan prince with whom she forges an inextricable bond. Barely into her 20s, Helen escapes with Paris to Troy, but finds the Trojan royals welcome her with less than open arms. The mythic war, which, in less capable hands, might be over-romanticized, is portrayed with an enthusiasm that rings true to the period without verging on stagy—no small feat when dealing with such a sweeping conflict. George's extraordinary storytelling abilities shine in her portrayal of Helen as both a conflicted woman who abandoned her homeland and child for true love, and as a legendary figure whose beauty and personal choices had epic consequences. (*On sale Aug. 7*)

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From [Booklist](#)

When Helen of Sparta is seven years old, the sibyl at Delphi prophesies she will start a war in which many Greeks will die. King Tyndareus and Queen Leda, stricken with panic, keep their younger daughter in seclusion, discouraging rumors that Zeus is her real father. To marry her off quickly, they spread word that Helen is the most beautiful woman in the world. But because Helen fails to invoke Aphrodite when choosing a husband, her marriage to Menelaus of Mycenae is passionless. The fickle goddess finally hears Helen's pleas, yet Aphrodite's powers affect only Paris, a visiting Trojan prince, with whom Helen immediately falls in love. When the pair elopes one night to Paris' affluent homeland, it precipitates a war destined to last 20 years, one that Menelaus' restless and greedy brother, Agamemnon, has been itching to fight. Only George, reigning queen of the epic fictional biography, could render Helen's story with all the emotion, grandeur, and tragedy it deserves. Her characters are precisely crafted, and the lovely Helen, clear-eyed and intelligent, is a sympathetic narrator. Despite the novel's length, the pages practically turn themselves. An absorbing retelling of the classic Trojan War myth, and a sobering look at the utter futility of trying to change one's fate. *Sarah Johnson*

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Review

“Delicious.”—*People*

“The face that launched a thousand ships has sparked a scintillating historical novel.”—*Chicago Tribune*

### MORE PRAISE FOR THE NOVELS OF MARGARET GEORGE

“An evocative portrait.”—*The New York Times*

“If only history lessons had been like this.”—*Cosmopolitan*

“Engaging and intelligent fiction.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Readers looking to be transported to another place and time will find their magic carpet here.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Extensively researched with the highest integrity, and deeply engaging, it sets a new benchmark for the genre.”—*New York Times* bestselling author Alison Weir

“An impressive feat of research and imagination.”—#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Diana Gabaldon

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