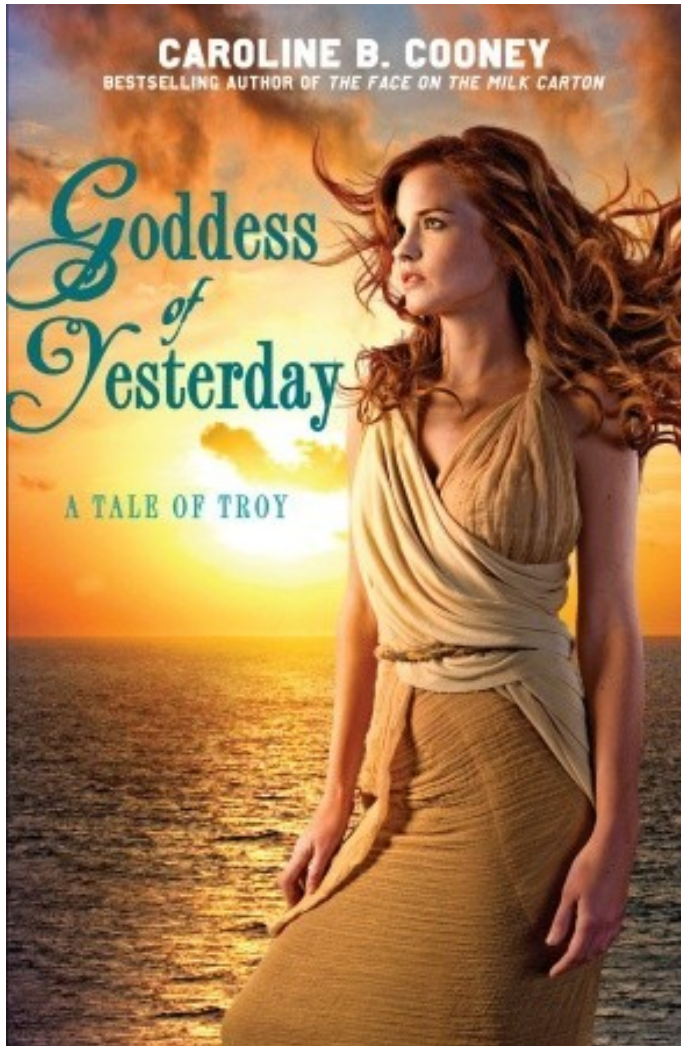


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**Caroline B. Cooney**

**Goddess of Yesterday**



Title: Goddess of Yesterday

Author: Caroline B. Cooney

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## Description

Anaxandra is taken from her birth island at age 6 by King Nicander to be a companion to his crippled daughter, Princess Callisto. Six years later, her new island is sacked by pirates and she is the sole survivor. Alone with only her Medusa figurine, she reinvents herself as Princess Callisto when Menelaus, great king of Sparta, lands with his men. He takes her back to Sparta with him where Helen, his beautiful wife, does not believe that the red-headed child is Princess Callisto. Although fearful of the half-mortal, half-goddess Helen, Anaxandra is able to stay out of harm's way—until the Trojan princes Paris and Aeneas arrive. Paris and Helen's fascination with each other soon turns to passion and plunges Sparta and Troy into war. Can Anaxandra find the courage to reinvent herself once again, appease the gods, and save herself?

In Caroline B. Cooney's epic tale of one girl's courage and will to survive, Anaxandra learns that home is where you make it and identity goes deeper than just your name.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Insightful reviews

J. Else: I was very impressed with this story and where it went. The author has beautiful descriptions. As a reworking of a traditional tale, this story comes alive with an original character and new perspectives.

The author laces historical beliefs and rules and creates a relatable tale. It's a great time period to explore. The main character, Anaxandra, goes through a lot of growth. She learns about the different societies and takes the readers along in her observations. I really like the details the author included. For instance, the men of Sparta laugh at men of Troy because they ride on the back of a horse, finding it a pointless exercise. "Kings were not stable boys, to handle animals." I also love how the characters notice differences in Greek dialect between cities! I felt very immersed in the time period.

In terms of writing style, I think the author used "but" too many times before clauses. I've found a few cases where "and" would have made the sentence flow better. While I think this largely relates to the author mimicking the literary styles of ancient Greek authors & playwrights, a few sentences did not fully make sense the way they were structured.

Gods and goddesses are portrayed as being an intrinsic part of everyday life, including peoples' belief that their fates were completely in their gods' hands, and this strongly ties the story to the Illiad's style. I liked this aspect and felt it was very believable for the culture. The author is never graphic, yet issues are laid out clearly about the life of islanders and pirates. Societies and their points of view came alive as I read.

The author is honest about what is taken from historical records and what is fiction. Anaxandra is a creation of this author, but I liked the minor role she comes to play in the Trojan War. It

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helped bring her redemption of her guilt. It also gave her meaning to a life otherwise dictated by the kindness or cruelty of strangers. Women at this time had few if any rights and thus were not always an active participant in where their life went. This is portrayed gently in the story and came to a satisfying conclusion at the end. Anaxandra persevered through all the boulders thrown in her path.

There are small plot threads that come back later in Anaxandra's life, like the idea of men riding on the backs of horses and how actually experiencing this changed her outlook. In addition, her hair is a constant bit of conversation. When Helen orders it shaved a second time, Anaxandra believes she is being punished by the gods and that it will never grow back (hair being considered a glory of a woman's life). Yet the author gives us hope again after she return Plies to Menelaus. The author is great at resolving not only major events but also the subtle occurrences that affect the characters. There is a beauty illuminated when things great and small wrap themselves together. The author gave us that. Would it have been nice to have a bit more pages about when Anaxandra landed on King Euneas's island?... Yes. But I was left satisfied with the ending nonetheless. I would enjoy reading more from the author.

Shayla Smith: I loved this book! It was different from the usual Trojan War books that i've read. One of the main differences is that Helen is a "Bad guy" and that this book sides with the Greeks rather than the trojans.

The book is about Anaxandra, a slave that is brought from her home to a kingdom to play with the king's crippled daughter Callisto. The kingdom is attacked and Anaxandra is the sole survivor. She is found by King Menelaus and is taken to Sparta under the alias of Callisto. She ends up going to Troy with Helen and has many adventures.

This book was wonderfully written and is an adventure from beginning to end.

There is mild sexual content, but nothing graphic, just talk. There is violence, but other than that there isn't any offensive content.

If you enjoy this book check out

Troy by Adele Geras--About the servants of troy

Ithika by Adele Geras--About Odysseus's wife as she waits for her husband to return from the war. (Odyssey).

Nikki: Just finished reading this for the second time (April 2008). An absolutely incredible book. Definitely one that should not be judged by its (unfortunate) cover. The research alone that went into the setting of this book makes every page an amazing experience, but I also love love love the characters and the plot is so compelling. I want to read it over and over.

Krisi Bacher: Goddess of Yesterday, by way of Caroline B. Cooney was once an relaxing read. whereas it didn't blow me away (it is written for a more youthful audience, so the plot is a bit ordinary for my tastes) it was once nonetheless a good tale to experience. This novel takes a

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special examine the start of the Trojan War, and the notorious Helen. it really is informed from the perspective of the younger (the oldest she will get is thirteen – even if she lies approximately her age a couple of times) Anaxandra. Taken from her domestic at age six, Anaxandra's existence alterations numerous instances all through her tale as she alters houses or even identities to be able to survive. This girl, it turns out, is difficult as nails as she navigates a perilous global and attempts to determine who she was once intended to be. I may name this a center grades read. by way of that, I suggest i might suggest it for grade 5-8. a few at the younger, or much less skilled finish should be intimidated through the books size (254 pages) however it imagine it's greater than manageable. the tale was once fascinating and simply held my attention. there has been violence, however it matches in with the story. there's death, yet it is a period of time piece, and existence then did carry loads of uncertainty. I don't see this as an entire type read, even if i might suggest it to a person looking for a robust girl protagonist for more youthful readers or somebody who enjoys tales of Greek Mythology.

Dan: i am no classicist, yet I flatter myself that i do know a piece extra approximately historic Greek heritage than the typical Joe. yet Cooney gave me a very new standpoint at the personality of Helen, Paris and Menelaus. They became, for wish of a higher word, believable. As is so usually the case, an excellent ebook has been relegated to the YA cabinets simply because the protagonist is a tender girl. do not permit that label maintain you from examining this glorious tale. [Audiobook note: At first, i assumed the narrator's voice was once too deep for a tender girl's. yet as soon as I acquired used to it, it didn't abate my enjoyment. She does a prime narration.]

Mell: i do not regularly provide four stars to such brief books, simply because there often isn't really sufficient time to construct characters and storylines that i will get into. yet Cooney packs a superb tale into this little paperback. I enjoyed studying Greek mythology and The Iliad in excessive school, so returning to this subject was once fun. Anaxandra is a sturdy personality and a vibrant narrator as she witnesses occasions resulting in the Trojan War. She offers perception into lifestyles in the course of the Greek age, explaining the tradition and religions of the people. Cooney works this details well, with out going into tedious element or bogging down the story. It's fascinating to learn a 12 12 months outdated girl's tackle Helen, the pending war, and the way the final word end result will influence everyone. The ebook is not graphic, yet Cooney does not sugarcoat the truth that looting, rape, and slavery make up the bounty of war. Anaxandra's function and vulnerability as a woman in a society that values males is particularly truly communicated. examining Goddess of the day before today makes me are looking to re-read Marion Zimmer Bradley's The Firebrand. Her model of the Trojan warfare is usually narrated through women, yet addresses the violence and politics at an grownup level. lovers of Goddess may well like Firebrand.

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