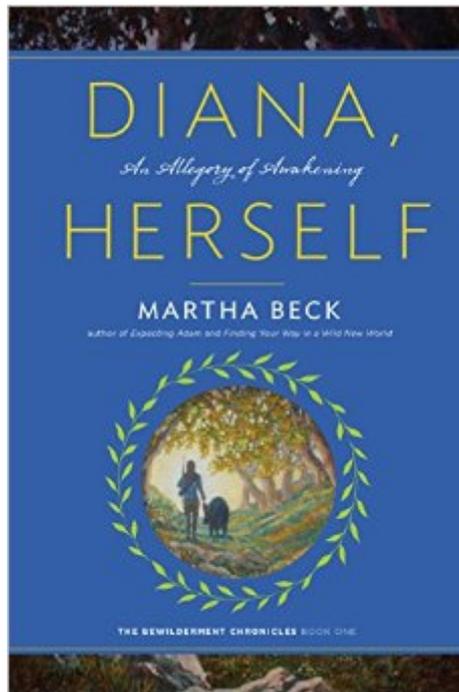


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Diana, Herself: An Allegory Of Awakening



Synopsis

Maybe, once or twice in your life, you've experienced a surge of destiny so strong it made you believe in miracles. Such bolts from the blue seem to hit when weariness or ill fortune have plowed through the ground of reason, breaking it up so magic can take root. What follows is so perfect that to call it accidental defies belief. Diana Archer is an absolutely "mathematically" average woman, living an unremarkable life, when destiny reaches her. Without quite knowing how or why, she finds herself leaving everything familiar and moving into a world where miracles are commonplace, where her supposed flaws become her salvation, and where each person's story is everyone's. In this exuberant allegory, bestselling memoir and self-help author Martha Beck takes readers into the wild parts of the world and the human psyche. The story of Diana, Herself helps every reader chart a course for awakening to greater joy, adventure, and purpose. It feels almost magical to Diana Archer's out-of-work store clerk, former foster child, and bearer of multiple psychological diagnoses when she's pulled into the orbit of world-famous life coach and reality TV star Roy Richards. Together, Diana and Roy embark on the latest in his series of "conquests," surviving a month in California's trackless Sierras Oscuras National Forest. It's in the forest that their quest devolves into disaster and the real magic begins. Lost, alone, and dying, Diana is taken under the trotter of a benevolent spirit animal (or is it a projection of her perennially troubled mind?) who promises to take her home. But "home" proves to be a place much more mysterious than Los Angeles. Awakening is the goal, Diana learns, and bewilderment is the method. As the first volume of the three-part "Bewilderment Chronicles" proceeds, Diana will undergo a transformation that will change her irrevocably, and just possibly save the world. Let the enchantment begin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have never read a piece of fiction more than once. I've held onto beloved books with the dreamy intention of diving in again so I could float back to the place they took me. But, I've never actually gotten around to doing that. I read "Diana Herself..." twice in the first 72 hours I owned it. A 3rd reading may inspire me to live in Diana's forest for good. I could never understand why my girls read the Harry Potter books over and over. They said it was because JK Rowling's imagination forever changed the way they perceived reality. As 3rd graders, they would look out the window and ponder, "How would JK Rowling describe this tree? I wonder what kind of magical powers it would possess?" As they've gotten older, each reading revealed a deeper message about their own inner wisdom. "Diana, Herself..." has done that for me. And, it will do it for my daughters (I just bought them copies). It will do it for you, too. I'll be waiting in line at the bookstore at midnight for Martha Beck's next novel in this trilogy to be released. She truly hit the bullseye with this amazing story.

This is, hands down, one of the most phenomenal books I've ever read - of any genre. Like so many other readers, I literally couldn't put it down. I ended up being grateful that I had a terrible cold and stayed home from work the day it was released. I'm an avid reader, and I like to savor my books, because I know I'll be a bit sad when they're done. That being said, I read this book in two days (and I only took that long because I needed a teeny bit of time to assimilate the profound lessons). It was one of those books that made me feel like I didn't want to exist for even one more moment the way I had been, without knowing everything this book had to teach me. I've read so many books by so many "self-help" and spiritual authors, picking out and absorbing what resonated and tossing out the rest. But I didn't toss out one single word of this book. It touched me and, dare I say, changed me *as* I was reading it. And one of the most amazing subtleties of this book is that it doesn't contain any exercises (in a "how to", "do this homework" sort of sense) - it doesn't tell you to meditate two hours a day, and it doesn't insist you go vegan or gluten-free. It simply tells a story. And by the end, you *want* to meditate and change what you allow into your body and your mind, just because you want to share in the amazing experiences in the book. And once you've read it, you finally *know* that all those experiences are absolutely possible - for all of us. Thank you so, so much to Martha Beck for this profound and life-changing book!

To call this book a "page turner" might just be the understatement of the decade. I cannot imagine this allegory not touching every single person who gives it a chance; which only takes a chapter or two. Martha Beck's other books are educational and entertaining, sometimes downright funny in spots. This one takes a whole different route because technically it's fiction. Downright riveting fiction...until you realize that it's not. It's all true and you just have to wrap yourself around the fact that this crazy tale applies to you! Go get it!

I'm NOT a fantasy reader, but since this was by Martha Beck, I picked it up. I galloped through the pages the first time, riveted by the sheer propulsion of the storytelling; it's one of those wait-is-it-midnight-already-maybe-I'll-just-read-a-few-more-pages-wait-it's-3:00am-already books. Then I went back and re-read it for the sheer power of the prose, along with the graceful, compelling step-by-step instructions for waking up your soul. I wish there were 10 stars to recommend it!

Martha Beck's "Diana, Herself" brings her work full circle. Her fictional characters bring to life her teachings in a way that infuses the soul and brings the possibility of awakening to the forefront. This extraordinary book is a new ripple in the global movement to bring our people and our planet into alignment. The lessons in this book are inspired and deeply impactful.

Never before have I read -or felt compelled to- a novel in one sitting. I read it slowly; re-reading some of the more delicious passages. I read the first line of this book at 8am and the last at 8pm. It was a great day. The next day I found myself revisiting images from the great movie I just saw...or was it a dream I had... It was this book!

So much more than a novel, than a self-help book! As I read I could feel my life shift around me - almost as if my life paralleled the heroine's journey. I love this book and it's message and felt the grief one feels of losing a friend when the book was over.

First: Let me tell you I couldn't put it down and am buying multiple copies for... Everyone. Next: I will warn you that this is not a "normal" book! I don't think the author would mind my saying that. Well I know she wouldn't! It is written in something that appears to be English but is sort of oddly discomfiting... "she's writing in 'animal' or something" is how my articulate, shaman friend Kimberly pointed this out to me. And the tale is disturbing in parts. Triggering, even possibly, as they like to say nowadays. But it will not leave you. And you will be changed. And you will be glad for it.

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