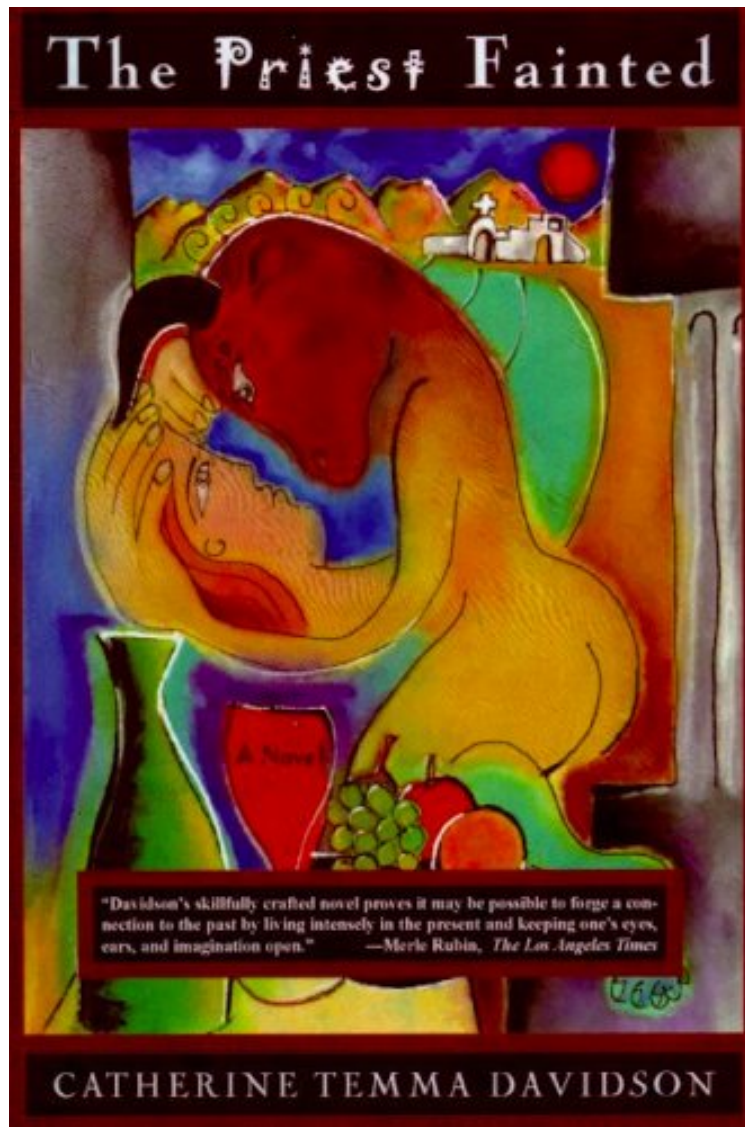


(Online library) The Priest Fainted: A Novel

The Priest Fainted: A Novel

Von Catherine Temma Davidson

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Von Catherine Temma Davidson : The Priest Fainted: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Priest Fainted: A Novel*:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Remarkable achievement Von Alekos The theme of this superb novel is change. Change that happens in people and places when people are uprooted, for whatever reason, from places their forebears have loved for centuries. The book's persona spends time in Greece trying to understand the truth of her relationship with her mother and grandmother. In that sense it is a piece of fiction for women, but it also offers plenty about relations among humans in general. By far

the most interesting and likeable personage is the over-achieving mother, who actually got a lift uptown from Eleanor Roosevelt. There is lots of sex in this work, all of it honest, none of it forced. The protagonist falls into a manipulative relationship with a gorgeous athlete whose sense of basic humanity is second-rate and of course she suffers. But that's a kind of trade-off because at the same time she is learning things and resolving issues with regard to members of her family, both Greek and American. There is a happy array of flamboyant minor characters here, each with his or her own special character flaw and particular fear or maladjustment. I suspect the author had as good a time writing this book as I did reading it. She comes off as a joyful person. The book is structured by seemingly mythic stories that move the narrative along and at the same time tie us back to what it means to be Greek and Greek American, even though thorough enjoyment of Davidson's book does not depend on any Greek connection.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. davidson takes her place alongside Tan, Naylor, SilkoVon toskom@numen.elon.eduDavidson's first novel is a smooth and poetic story intertwining Greek myths with the story of the female side of the protagonist's family. Much like Leslie Silko does in her novel "Ceremony," Davidson uses ancient myths to help explain the present, making these myths seem relevant and alive, as well as infusing the present with the weight of the past. Although the novel does not center on mother/daughter conflict as much as Amy Tan's "Joy Luck Club," Davidson's story highlights the unspoken spiritual bond that unites mothers and daughters, much like Tan did in her celebrated novel. Having lived in Greece myself and being married to a native Greek woman, I can say that her rendering of this beautiful but hard-to-explain country is accurate. My only point of contention is with the protagonist's ongoing relationship with a clearly abusive man. Other reviewers have pointed out the realism of the story, but this male reader was just looking for some kind of explanation as to why she stayed in this unhealthy situation for so long. Still, I recommend this book to anyone who would like a glimpse into Greek/Greek-American culture.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Has a few great passages that made reading this worthwhileVon Ein KundelI was very excited to read this book, and I am still recommending it to every Greek person I know; however, while reading this book, I was quite offended by things like Davidson's misuse of the Greek language. (There were several mistakes of spelling and tense.) Couldn't somebody proficient in the Greek language help her out?The story of her mother is very interesting, but she never fully delves into this; instead, we're bored to tears by her days at UPI and her uninteresting account of hanging out with the model, Isabella. I wished the "narrator" (Davidson?) had a better relationship with her mother so we knew more about this woman.I did enjoy the feminist twist on mythology. For example, I've always thought of Artemis as the strong and powerful type. I also liked the comparison between the celebration of Dionysus and Easter.I agree with the reader from Brookline, MA--This was a bit hard to swallow. Consequently, I am now considering writing a book of my own. For that, I am very thankful to Davidson.

KurzbeschreibungA stunning debut about a young Greek-American woman and the history she shares with her mother and grandmother.Imam is a recipe known throughout villages in Greece, handed down from mother to daughter. If you come from these villages, your history is passed on through your body.Its full name is imam baildi, and it means the priest fainted. Perhaps the priest was given a bit of bitter and sweet pleasure, and the power of everything behind the dish pushed him off his rock, just for a moment. Perhaps, when he was tumbling through the air, sighing with fear and ecstasy, he saw a glimpse of a new life to come.Layered with love affairs, family squabbles, poignant misunderstandings, moments of wonder, and more, *The Priest Fainted* is nothing less than the recipe for a young Greek-American woman's life. Using her imagination and the stories passed through her bones as ingredients, Catherine Temma Davidson uses memories, Greek myths, recipes, and family gossip to uncover a hidden history, which is the story of one woman's year in Greece as it crosses and doubles back over the lives of her mother and grandmother..deCatherine Temma Davidson's roots as a poet are immediately apparent in the lyrical prose style she adopts for her first novel, *The Priest Fainted*. Describing the lives of young girls in Greece, where the unnamed narrator has come for a year, Davidson writes: "Girls helping their mothers to prepare simple meals acquire an unspoken knowledge in their palms and fingers. If you come from these villages, you must find your history in your body." Larissa, the Greek village she visits, "sweats in the plains, dusty and sedentary. Like a promise, the peaks rise in the distance, garlanded in gorges and wild onions, goats and streams." This closely autobiographical novel follows the fortunes of a 21-year-old Greek-American woman as she returns to the land of her foremothers and reimagines their lives and her own in terms of classic Greek myths. Food, (the book's title is the name of a popular eggplant dish), mythology, religion, and feminism are just a few of the themes Davidson's heroine touches on in the course of her year in Greece as she caroms between the personal (her Greek relatives, an affair with a Greek-American basketball player) and the political: the circumscribed lives of women down through the years. By the end of the book, the narrator has realized that no individual life story exists in a vacuum; in order to understand ourselves, we must understand those who came before.Pressestimmen"Davidson has created an admirable heroine, a kind of female Odysseus who must survive the dangers and beauties of a foreign place." (Lisa Shea, *The New York Times Book "Pondering the lives of women who came before her, revising Greek myths to uncover feminist parables and chronicling a modern woman's*

adventures in an ancient land, Davidson's skillfully crafted novel proves it may be possible to forge a connection to the past by living intensely in the present and keeping one's eyes, ears, and imagination open." (Merle Rubin, Los Angeles Times)