



## Nobody's Princess (Princesses of Myth)

By Esther Friesner

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**Nobody's Princess (Princesses of Myth)** By Esther Friesner

**Helen of Sparta wants to be more than a princess and a pretty face—she wants to be a hero.**

The traditions of ancient Sparta would have Helen know her place: a beautiful princess, a loyal daughter, a perfect bride. But Helen wants adventure, and she's not looking back. Not one to count on the gods to take care of her, she sets out to see the world and seek her own fate with steely determination. Her rebellious will makes Helen dangerous enemies—such as the self-proclaimed "son of Zeus" Theseus—but it also gains her true friends, from the famed huntress Atalanta to the young priestess who is the Oracle of Delphi. If she is strong enough, if she is cunning enough, if she is brave enough, Helen will find her destiny . . . but what does destiny have in store for her?

In *Nobody's Princess*, author Esther Friesner deftly weaves together history and myth as she takes a new look at the girl who will become Helen of Troy. The back of the book includes further facts about Helen of Troy and Ancient Greece.

**"A must-read for fans of fantasy and mythology."—VOYA**

**"Along the way, Friesner skillfully exposes larger issues of women's rights, human bondage, and individual destiny. It's a rollicking good story."—Booklist**

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## **Nobody's Princess (Princesses of Myth) By Esther Friesner Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

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Helen of Sparta is a feisty, beautiful young princess who is doted upon by her family, even though her determination to be independent and hunt and fight like her brothers creates various awkward, even dangerous situations for everyone. Using the mythical character of Helen of Troy as inspiration, Friesner focuses on Helen's youth, before she became "the face that launched a thousand ships." In an epilogue, Friesner discusses the historical facts and classical texts that she drew from to imagine Helen's childhood. The resulting novel is a fascinating portrait of a spoiled child who uses her wily ways and privileges to learn how to use a sword, track and kill game, ride a horse, and bargain for a slave's freedom. Along the way, Friesner skillfully exposes larger issues of women's rights, human bondage, and individual destiny. It's a rollicking good story all the way to the abrupt conclusion, which will leave readers crying out for a sequel.

*Frances Bradburn*

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### **Review**

"This is my kind of Helen!"—Tamora Pierce

### **About the Author**

Nebula Award winner Esther Friesner is the author of 31 novels and over 150 short stories, including the story "Thunderbolt" in Random House's *Young Warriors* anthology, which lead to the creation of *Nobody's Princess*. She is also the editor of seven popular anthologies. Educated at Vassar College and Yale University, where she taught for a number of years, Friesner is also a poet and a playwright. She is married, is the mother of two, harbors cats, and lives in Connecticut.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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