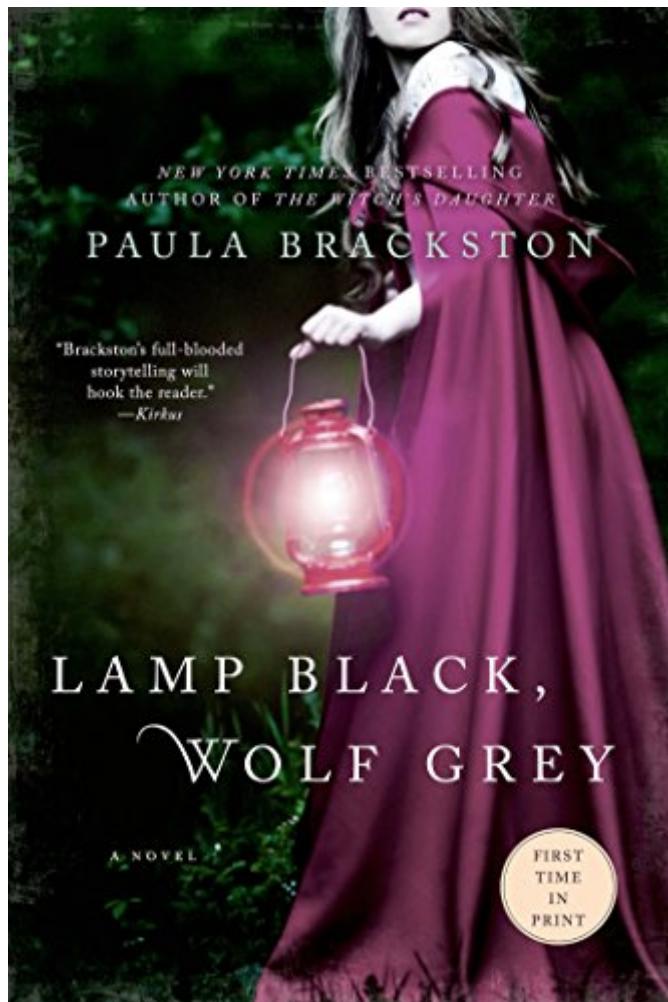


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Lamp Black, Wolf Grey: A Novel



Synopsis

Artist Laura Matthews finds her new home in the Welsh mountains to be a place so charged with tales and legends that she is able to reach through the gossamer-fine veil that separates her own world from that of myth and fable. She and her husband Dan have given up their city life and moved to Blaencwm, an ancient longhouse high in the hills. Here she hopes that the wild beauty will inspire her to produce her best art and will give her the baby they have longed for. But this high valley is also home to others, such as Rhys the charismatic loner who pursues Laura with fervor. And Anwen, the wise old woman from the neighboring farm who seems to know so much but talks in riddles. And then there is Merlin. Lamp Black, Wolf Grey tells both Laura's story and Merlin's. For once he too walked these hills, with his faithful grey wolf at his heel. It was here he fell in love with Megan, nurse-maid to the children of the hated local noble, Lord Geraint. Merlin was young, at the start of his renowned career as a magician, but when he refuses to help Lord Geraint it is Megan who may pay the price. From New York Times bestselling author Paula Brackston, Lamp Black, Wolf Grey is an enchanting tale of love and magic featuring her signature blend of gorgeous writing, an intriguing historical backdrop, and a relatable heroine that readers are sure to fall in love with.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paula Brackston's "Lamp Black, Wolf Grey" starts out with promise and then dissolves into the mists of the Welsh countryside that stands as a backdrop to this tale of Merlin and the lasting power of storytelling. Brackston, an author popular for her novels revolving around magic and witches, tries to underscore the importance of keeping legends alive while writing an underwhelming plot that fails to be memorable. Laura, a modern day artist, moves from London with her husband Dan to the rural Welsh countryside where she intends to indulge in her artwork while fulfilling the couple's dream to conceive a child. Instead she meets up with the reclusive Rhys--a passionate soul who immediately mesmerizes her into infidelity. In a parallel story, Megan from the time of King Arthur, meets Merlin the Magician--Brackston's Merlin is of the Pierce Brosnan variety--dark haired and blue-eyed--no long white beards or sorcerer's apprentice robes for him--and falls in love awhile acting as a nanny of the lord of the manor's two children. Politics abound and sadly, roadblocks are put in the way of Megan and Merlin's love. Brackston pulls the reader into the story initially but fails to develop any of her characters--all are stereotypical at best. Where she succeeds is creating the Welsh landscape--a place of dreamy unreality where magical things can happen. Brackston wields her magic, but this, too, is ineffective; the story flails, plunging into trope as both Megan and Laura's hearts move in directions that lead then to their eventual and very predictable fates. Appearing in both story lines is Merlin--Brackston's portrait seems off as one would think the clever magician would employ more wily devices to charm and control his hosts and enemies. Instead, Brackston depicts the wizard as a man with a not-so-clever tongue, defying the local nobility in alliances that do not make much sense and are never fully explained. Laura in particular seems a babe in the woods--her ability to step into dangerously foolish situations is part of her characterization, but Brackston's unraveling of the mysteries in her plot line render her unsatisfying at the very least. On the other hand, Megan is a fairy tale heroine who gives her all with maidenly virtue even in the darkest moments. This too is not fulfilling in terms of the story. The story ends with an lengthy epilogue that summarizes the characters outcomes. There is little emotion or reaction, just relief when the last page is finally reached. Bottom line? I recommend *Lamp Black, Wolf Grey* only for its atmosphere. The story line while initially compelling fades into stereotypes and contrivances that quickly become boring and disappointing especially for those who want to see Merlin in a more faceted light. Diana Faillace Von Behren "Buzzard's Eye View" B

A tryst between two worlds is sharedWith passion, love and lust.A nod to Poe and Hawthorne tooWill make these comments just.Ms. Laura and Ms. Megan meetA man they can't deny.Their very souls are stressed withalTo meet each tempered try.If witchcraft old and new you seekThis tale will meet your need.Its magic most will never see,But those who know will heed.

It was sad indeed to read almost the same dialog here as in another of Paula Brackston's books. Another long house on another mountain, repeated dialog through out. Some differences were just not enough to make me truly enjoy this one, but I paid good money for it so I felt I had to slog through.

I loved the book. Twists and turns in the plot makes it hard to put the book down. If you are a fan of Arthurian stories you'll love this, too.

Love her novels, good read

I really wanted and expected to like this book. It's easy to read, but it shouldn't be so easy to see every plot twist coming from miles away. I think the author should work a bit harder to deserve all the admiration her fans give her.

I love to read

Like Paula Jackson's books - her people are entertaining.

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