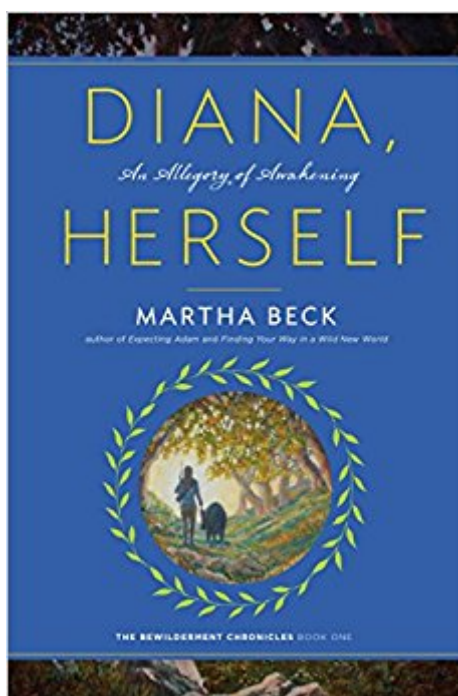


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Diana, Herself: An Allegory Of Awakening (Bewilderment Chronicles)



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—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

"This book is everything. It's a romp, a fable, a myth, an inspiration, a teachable moment, a true heroic journey, a cautionary tale, and a fairy tale for an entirely new (or rather, ANCIENT) species of fairies. It's rare that so much wisdom can be found wrapped up in such comedy, such kindness, such lightness of touch. It's a perfect book. I want every woman I know to read it. This is storytelling at its very best, and also at its most

important. -- ELIZABETH GILBERT, bestselling author of Eat, Pray, Love and Big Magic

"What I love about this book is that you think you're reading a grand adventure story, but by the end of the book you realize you've been abducted by the genius Martha Beck who has given you a soul transfusion •you're more awake, more inspired, deepened, broadened, uplifted. I was amazed that a book can be so funny and so enlightening at the same time. Now I have to read it again, because I know that hiding within the book's oddest twists and turns, there is even more spiritual gold to be mined. Martha Beck has written The Wizard of Oz for our times, but this time, the story comes with instructions on how each one of us can find our way home. --ELIZABETH LESSER, Cofounder of Omega Institute, author of the New York Times bestseller, Broken Open and Marrow: A Love Story

"Once in a triple blue moon, a book comes along that combines riveting narrative, delightful characters, and timeless spiritual wisdom: In Diana, Herself, Martha Beck has written such a story. Beck takes readers on an unforgettable, magical journey filled with deep truths that resonate, above all, in the heart. Who knew enlightenment could be so much fun?"

-- SUSAN CASEY, author of The Wave, The Devil's Teeth, and Voices in the Ocean Even though this book is fiction and not self-help or memoir, Martha does not hold back her clear instructions for living with greater peace. I devoured Diana, Herself in the span of a few days; I daresay it is the most powerful book I've ever read for furthering my own personal and spiritual growth. --CHRISTINE CARTER, Ph.D., Author of The Sweet Spot: How to find your groove at home and work

MARTHA BECK is a life coach and bestselling memoir and self-help author. Her books include Expecting Adam, Finding Your Own North Star, Steering By Starlight, and Finding Your Way in a

Wild New World. Readers can also find her unique blend of wit and wisdom every month in O, The Oprah Magazine. Martha lives on her ranch in California with her tribe of horses, wild turkeys, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, gophers, and the occasional human.

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.

A story that started off a bit fragmented and I almost bailed about three times in the first quarter of the book, but I really really like Martha Beck's work so I decided to stick it out. I was really really glad I did. I read it in chunks, taking time to absorb some of the things presented before moving on. I haven't read all her books, but she is terrifically smart and eloquent and has been through a lot of crap in life and keeps finding a way both to overcome challenges, or at least survive them, and then have the courage to share with readers. I both admire that and find it useful to examine her viewpoints.

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!

This book is the most original thing I've ever read. And I read a lot. It's weird, and wonderful and takes you on an interesting journey. It takes a while to start coming together but it's worth the wait. I only reserve 5 stars for books I can't put down. This one I needed to absorb and read over a few days to ensure I was "getting" it all. Martha Beck is a talented writer and I am a fan. Read this book!

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!

While I am an unabashed Martha Beck fan, when I heard that her newest book was fantasy fiction, I didn't immediately go out and pre-order it. However, when I read Liz Gilbert's endorsement I changed my mind and I'm SO glad I did!!! This book pulled me right in and I know I'll re-read it multiple times - I've already read it twice and am working my way through the Tasks. Still on One, but making progress! I CANNOT wait for the next volume in the trilogy!!!

Pure magic - but then I would expect nothing less from Martha Beck. Martha Beck knows how to take readers of a journey of discovery to depth they hadn't ever visited before. Not only was this tale of Diana Archer a fun and captivating read, but the lessons learned from this book are powerful, life changing lessons. I walked away from my first reading of this book feeling like something magical had happened. I am now on my second read-through of this book and the magic just keeps getting deeper and deeper. This is, without hesitation, one of the best books I have read in a very long while.

Truly an inspiring and amazing journey Martha takes us on! She is such a visionary writer and has

the capacity to touch something so deep in me. I'm so grateful to have read this book.

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