



Child of the Dark Prophecy (The Great Tree of Avalon, Book 1)

By T. A. Barron

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Long ago, the great wizard Merlin planted the seed that would become the peaceful world of Avalon. Now, though, Avalon is suffering from mysterious droughts. Then the very stars begin to lose their light, and it seems that the Lady of the Lake's dire predictions are about to come true. The fate of Avalon now rests with Tamwyn, a wandering wilderness guide; Elli, an apprentice priestess; and Scree, a young eagleman. One of them is the true heir of Merlin, the only person who can save Avalon . . . and one of them is the dreaded child of the Dark Prophecy, fated to destroy it.

As in his acclaimed epic *The Lost Years of Merlin*, T. A. Barron has created a radiant, richly imagined world, full of high adventure and un-forgettable characters.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9—In this first installment in a new series, Barron reimagines the legendary world of Avalon as a gigantic tree, with a separate realm located on each of its seven roots and stars hanging in the unseen branches far atop its trunk. A crippling drought has brought the realm to the verge of warfare, and 17-year-old Tamwyn and his bickering companions seek the advice of the fabled Lady of the Lake. Tamwyn fears he's the child of the Dark Prophecy, foretold centuries ago as the one who would destroy Avalon, and he wants desperately to change his destiny and save his beloved world. With its mixture of high fantasy and slapstick humor, the tale resembles Barron's "The Lost Years of Merlin" series (Philomel) and Lloyd Alexander's "Chronicles of Prydain" (Holt). Despite loads of goofiness and violence, the plot moves rather slowly through lengthy introductions of the large cast and descriptions of the Great Tree. While the characters and setting are interesting, this is clearly the prologue to a much longer saga: all beginning, with no middle or end. The story will appeal most to devoted fantasy readers, particularly fans of the "Merlin" series, who will recognize details from the earlier books and try to guess how the epics will converge.—*Beth Wright, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, VT*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 6-12. Barron builds on his popular Lost Years of Merlin saga, creating an elaborate, richly detailed world spread out on the seven roots of the Great Tree of Avalon, which grew from "a seed won by Merlin on his journey through a magical mirror." The story begins in Avalon's year 1002, when it appears that the Lady of the Lake's Dark Prophecy is coming true and the only hope of saving Avalon lies in finding Merlin's true heir. The fates of two boys born 17 years earlier and raised as brothers are intrinsically bound to the prophecy: Scree, the orphaned eagleboy charged with guarding Merlin's staff, and Tamwyn, who fears he is the Dark Child destined to destroy Avalon. Liberally laced with humor and wit, the first book in The Great Tree of Avalon series effectively introduces and fleshes out remarkable characters, both human and nonhuman. It also vividly sets the scene through the adventures of various beings who eventually come together in a desperate quest to stop the evil that threatens Avalon and its denizens. Even readers unfamiliar with The Lost Years will relish this fine debut of a promising new fantasy series. *Sally Estes*
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Review

. . . tree is cultivated and nurtured by T.A. Barron, author of numerous fantasy books and possessor of a fabulously fertile imagination.... -- *Book Page*

...rich with interesting characters and fascinating landscapes, sure to please readers looking to travel deep into another world. -- *Kliatt Reviews*

The Great Tree of Avalon opens a door into a mythical, magical world. I was transported and I was enthralled. -- *Dr. Jane Goodall, U.N. Messenger of Peace, Founder, The Jane Goodall Institute*

Barron's fascination with and appreciation for nature shines through in his rich and inventive tale, *The Great Tree of Avalon*. -- *Robert Redford, Actor, Director, and Conservationist*

This high fantasy will surely please readers with its epic, myth-laden adventure. -- *Bulletin of the Center for*

Children's Books

This is a brilliant epic tale with memorable and glowing characters—a real gift. -- *Isabel Allende, author of House of the Spirits and Daughter of Fortune*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bobby Bagwell:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is actually reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this Child of the Dark Prophecy (The Great Tree of Avalon, Book 1).

Jaime Worm:

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