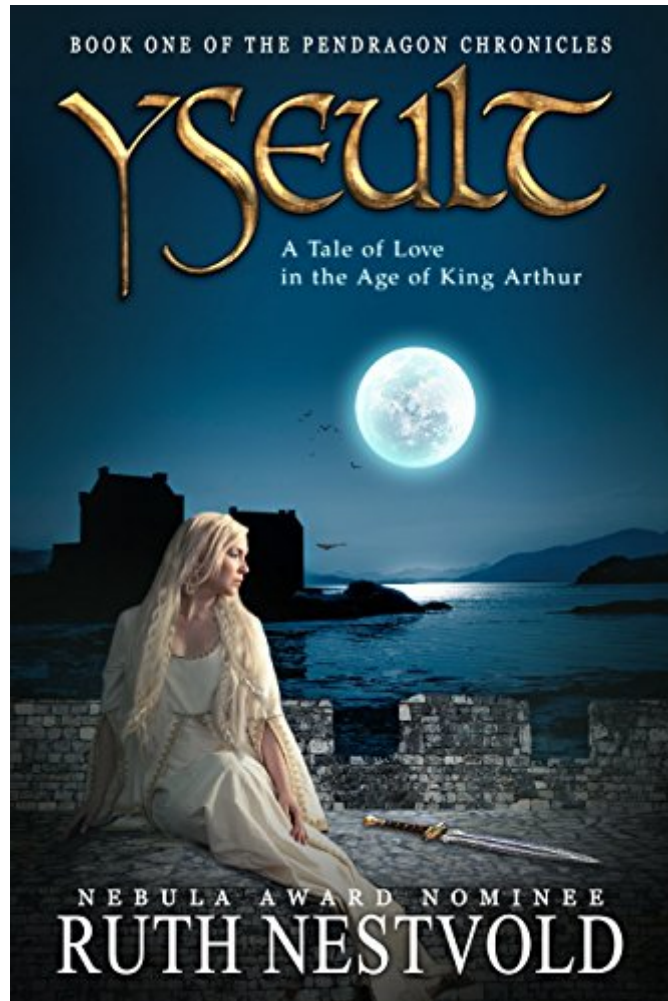


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Yseult: Parts 1-4 (The Pendragon Chronicles)



Synopsis

"Gripping historical fantasy!" "Simply epic!" For the price of a truce, Yseult is sent to a world where magic is dying - to marry the father of the man she loves. 5th Century Britain is a land on the brink of war. Abandoned by the once great Roman Empire, it must see to its own defense. Under the leadership of Arthur, the kings of Britain fight to push back the Saxon hordes and save what is left of civilization. The Pendragon Chronicles tell the Arthurian legends re-imagined through what little is known of the historical details of the era. Here is no chivalric society of knights and ladies; here, the battles are real and gritty, love is mixed with lust, and it is not a given that the good survive. This epic retelling of the tragic legend of Yseult and Drystan plays out against the backdrop of a violent world threatening to descend into the Dark Ages. As a member of the Old Race of Ireland, Yseult could act as a bridge between the old age and the new - but will the price be too high? What readers are saying about The Pendragon Chronicles: - "This book is simply Epic! Not only for the length of it (came as a shock after reading novellas for a while!) but also for the amount of history, information and detail given." Review of Yseult by Marissa. - "For those who like a strong historical component in their historical fiction. Yseult is fully realized as an Irish princess, with a component of "powers" totally appropriate to the myths of Ireland and Arthurian tales. This story made even some of the less likely parts of the tale seem not just plausible, but inevitable." Review by Cary. - "The book is much more than a love story. It is truly an epic, exploring the conflicts between paganism and Christianity, political maneuvering between the various kings of Britain and Ireland, the wars between themselves and with the Saxons, and a lot more. It reminded me a bit of The Mists of Avalon, although Yseult was much more fun to read." Review by Kriti Godey. A #1 bestseller in Arthurian fantasy and an international success, with translations into German, Italian and Dutch.

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Customer Reviews

(For transparency's sake, I should mention that the author and I belong to the same online writer's community.) The key to *Yseult* is knowing what you're getting yourself into. This book is very heavy on the history. If you are interested in the British Isles/Ireland of King Arthur's time, then you will indeed enjoy this book. Or if you enjoy books that delve into Kings and wars and political maneuvering, you will also enjoy this book. It's got quite a lot of historical cast of characters mucking about with swords in historically-accurate sounding locations and ladies using mugwort, marigold, and comfrey to heal and detailed descriptions of Britain, Eriain, and Saxon Kings and generals fighting battles and raiding coast against a backdrop of Post-Roman colonization of the British Isles. As well as some authentic-sounding religious portrayals of St Patrick and the pagan religion of those times. (which I enjoyed. This Patraic is very believable as a Christian in the middle of a Pagan land trying to prove his God is the only God, while dealing fairly with the tension between Brehon law and Christian morality. I liked how possible the magic element of this book was portrayed. *Yseult* is of the Feadh Ree, a race in ancient Ireland who have 3 powers: the power of knowing, the power of calling, and the power of changing. The first two powers are always used in the book in such a way that they could be just force of personality and coincidence..while the third one is slightly more magical. I also enjoyed meeting well-known characters and trying to guess where they fit into the Arthur mythology in general. We meet Mordrun and Myrrdin in this story, though they play no big part.

I won an ebook of *Yseult: A Tale of Love in the Age of King Arthur* in the LibraryThing member giveaway a couple of weeks ago. I opened up *Yseult* to flip through it and see what kind of a book it was. I'm usually not the biggest fan of romance, even though I love fantasy and historical books, so I wasn't really expecting to get sucked into this book like I was. I started reading, and couldn't

stop. Yseult is a retelling/interpretation/whatever-you-want-to-call-it of the classic Tristan and Isolde story. I was vaguely familiar with the story ("basically Romeo and Juliet"), but only to the extent that I recognise some characters and plot elements. I didn't even know that Tristan was one of Arthur's knights. The book is much more than a love story. It is truly an epic, exploring the conflicts between paganism and Christianity, political maneuvering between the various kings of Britain and Ireland, the wars between themselves and with the Saxons, and a lot more. It reminded me a bit of *The Mists of Avalon*, although Yseult was much more fun to read. Anyway, onto an actual description of the book. Yseult the Fair is an Irish ("Erainn") princess descended from the Feadh Ree, the original race of Ireland. She grows up in a time where Christianity is trying to make inroads into Ireland, and has already taken over much of Britain. The Feadh Ree, who were once universally respected, are even being attacked by some Gaul kings. War is everywhere, and any available peace seems to be temporary. Yseult tries to make the best of her situation, defending her home when necessary. Along the way, she meets Drystan, and falls in love with him. However, for political and personal reasons, she agrees to be married to his father Marcus, one of the Kings of Dummonia.

Romantic tragedy has always attracted readers. *Romeo and Juliet* is one of the most romantic and yet sad stories of all time. But their story was taken from an even older one that is much more heroic and adventurous. It is the story that has been told for hundreds of years with various names as the lovers. It is in *Yseult: A Tale of Love in the Age of King Arthur* by Ruth Nestvold that the reader gets to smile, cheer, and cry for Yseult and Drystan. The story goes back to the times of Roman occupation of the British Isles and the rise of King Arthur. The Irish fought the advancement of the Romans the religion of Christianity they brought. The old ways became a battle cry for many. For the daughter of a queen, it became more than that. She became the one to bridge cultures through a loveless marriage while loving her step-son who had her heart. The tangled webs they all weave in trying to stay honorable and yet find love trap them in lies, deceit, and death. It's a story you'll cry with as you read. This is not a fast read as many romances can be. It is more than just a story of two ill-fated lovers. It is a story of the battle of Britain and Ireland as well as the battle of hearts. The beginning moves a little slow as the author sets up the story and establishes the history that will be very important in preventing full bloom of love and the causes of conflict and war. It was many pages in before Drystan was introduced. Once the lovers meet, the action picks up. If you are one that just wants to focus on the main characters, this might be a book you avoid. The battles are drawn out in detail. The relationships among others around them are explored.

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