



Bright Dark Madonna: A Novel (The Maeve Chronicles Book 3)

Elizabeth Cunningham

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"The best one yet!"—Catherine MacCoun, author of *On Becoming an Alchemist*

"As usual, Cunningham provides plenty of juicy controversy embodied by vivid characters and expressed in vigorous action, all in crisply drawn biblical settings."—*Booklist*

"Gleefully iconoclastic. For that dwindling demographic with a sense of humor about religion, Maeve's profane skewering of the all-too-human foibles of the Church fathers is a hoot." *Kirkus Reviews*

"Elizabeth Cunningham has again delved into her fabulous treasure trove of impeccable research, and come up with gold. In *Bright Dark Madonna*, her interweaving of Biblical-Celtic themes brings the first century to life with unexpected freshness and many surprises." —Katherine Neville, author of *The Eight* and *The Fire*

After playing an intimate role in the mystery of the Resurrection, what is left for Maeve, the Celtic Mary Magdalen? Never a follower, will she emerge as a leader of the early church? Will she retire quietly to mother a sacred bloodline? Will she set sail for France to proselytize and go spelunking? The answer: all and none of the above. No sooner does Maeve open her mouth to preach the gospel her way than a fierce debate begins about what to do with the child she is carrying. Maeve has her own ideas about where best to raise the savior's scion. When she returns to Temple Magdalen, the holy whorehouse she founded, a custody battle of biblical proportions ensues. Maeve, her infant daughter Sara, and Jesus' mother flee to the remote Taurus Mountains where they live in hiding among the Galatians until a mysterious man is dumped on their doorstep more dead than alive. When Maeve discovers the identity of the man she has healed, she is appalled and determined to keep her family's secret. But Maeve has reckoned without the will of her brilliant, angry adolescent daughter who resolves to find out the truth about her father—for herself.

Required reading for fans and accesible to those new to The Maeve Chronicles, *Bright Dark Madonna* takes the reader on a breathtaking journey from the temple porticoes of Jerusalem, to the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, to the south of France, and, as always, to the treacherous, beautiful terrain of the human heart.

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