



2006

Avalon High

Sarah Wanlass

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Cabot, Meg. *Avalon High*. HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN 0060755873. \$17.89. 288 p.

Reviewer: Sarah Wanlass

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Folklore;

Subject: Arthur, King--Juvenile fiction; High schools--Juvenile fiction; Reincarnation--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

When her professor parents decide to move the family to Annapolis, Maryland for a yearlong sabbatical, Elaine "Ellie" Harrison is less than thrilled. The beginning of her junior year of high school does not seem the ideal time to be a thousand miles from her Minnesota home, just to be uprooted again at the end of the year. Her one solace is the backyard pool at her new home, where she spends many hours floating on a raft. Ellie's parents spend their time writing their books: her father's subject is an ancient sword, while her mother's is Elaine of Astolat, the Lady of Shalott from Tennyson's poem and Ellie's namesake.

Avalon High, her new high school, appears fairly normal. At the head of the in-crowd are Will, senior class president and quarterback, Jennifer, his popular cheerleader girlfriend, and Lance, his best friend and a major jock. Other students fall into various groups and cliques as they do in any average high school, the teachers and classes are typical. But all is not as it seems. Ellie soon finds herself entwined in a reenactment of the famous Camelot saga in which her new friends are the players.

Told from Ellie's point of view, Cabot's *Avalon High* is a terrific blend of modern American life and the legend of King Arthur that will quickly engage teen readers.