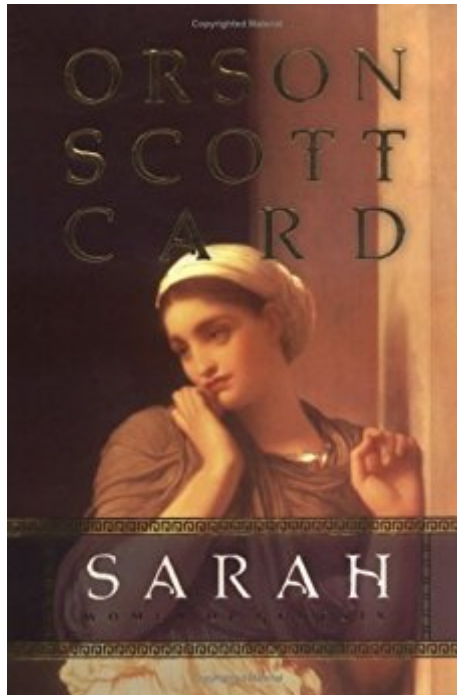


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Sarah: Women Of Genesis: 1 (Women Of Genesis (Forge))



Synopsis

In Sarah, author Orson Scott Card uses his fertile imagination and uncanny insight into human nature to flesh out a unique woman â” one who is beautiful, tough, smart, and resourceful in an era when women get short shrift in life as well as in the historical record. Sarah takes on vivid reality as a woman desirable to kings, a devoted wife, and a faithful follower of the God of Abraham, chosen to experience an incomparable miracle. Set in the splendor and excess of Egypt and the starkly beautiful desert landscapes of the Sinai peninsula, Sarah is an altogether believable and provocative drama. This first novel in a trilogy on the women of Genesis illuminates the hardships and the triumphs of a woman destined for greatness.

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Customer Reviews

A beautiful story from the Bible, given the depth and life it deserves. Orson Scott Card is a master of the twist, and there were several in this book I didn't see coming. It was a delight to read scenes from this story, knowing the conclusion but wondering how the characters would come to it. Card

paints ancient Egypt in a light I've never considered before, brings honor and reverence to the shepherd life of Abram, and brings a level of realism to the debauchery of Sodom and the story of Lot's wife. As with many other stories from Card, I found the internal monologue of Sarai a bit much at times. I remember feeling similarly when reading 'Ender's Shadow' years ago. This didn't make the book any less intriguing, and I enjoyed the story and the characters from start to finish.

Orson Scott Card does an excellent job of finding how a person could be who they are and still become the great men and women we know from the Bible. While Orson's story here is a fictional account he makes his characters come alive showing how ordinary people could become extraordinary. Using human flaws, time period, circumstances, and choices both good and bad he comes up with believable accounts of how Sarah ended up who she was, and where she was. All while showing God's control and purpose and taking scripture into consideration. I enjoyed it.

I love Biblical fiction. I love Orson Scott Card. I love this series. Of course, as Scott Card himself warns, if you believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, you'll be a bit bothered by some of the choices he makes. But, obviously, you can't read Biblical fiction expecting complete accuracy. I felt that Scott Card did a beautiful job bringing Sarah and Abraham and their adventures to life.

One of Card's remarkable talents is the ability to craft a character that thoroughly engages the reader's interest while remaining persistently unrealistic. His characters all seem so alive and fascinating to me that it startled me to remember that no one I know would think or behave in the ways he describes. And yet I like his characters so much, at least at first, that sometimes I wish I had a friend like them. This Bible story has many weird events that imply strong, complex players, a situation Card handles without many surprises. Lot doesn't really make an appearance whereas his wife is one of Card's stupid bullies. Perhaps Card's interest in having babies (Bean was my favorite of Card's creations before he inevitably became another outlet for Card's obsession with reproduction) helps him handle the handmaiden breeding issue with aplomb in this book. I'd often viewed Hagar's story as kind of puzzling but Card's spin is believable without sacrificing the integrity of any of the personalities. I really like both Card and the Bible, and this is well written and does bear Card's stamp of the occasional psychological showdown so I'm happy with this work overall, but in some ways I'd wanted to see something riskier and more surprising. Maybe it would be too blasphemous for Card to write the personality of God and have him debate strategy with Abraham the way he likes his child-warriors to do in other books, but that's what I would really pay a lot to

see.

A great read and surprisingly interesting. Card writes from a woman's perspective and does so convincingly. He obviously put much effort into researching the historical background (i.e. how people lived, daily life, etc.) to really bring the story to life. I really enjoyed it, and once I started it, I had a hard time putting it down.

Love anything Card writes

This is one of those characters whose story you wish could just go on and on. Mr. Card is truly gifted. I have read about Sarah in the Bible all of my life but she really comes alive in this book. All of the characters have been developed so richly. We don't know exactly what happened and have only old accounts written and re-written, but he writes in such a way that believably fills in the gaps. Even if you don't believe it, it is a wonderfully written story. What is really important is to see the heart of these women and how their faith is the one thing that carries them through their good and bad times. Beautiful.

I'm a big fan of OSC's sci-fi books, with their strength being character development & ethical dilemmas as opposed to "gadgetry" or technological advances. So I was interested to see what he would do with the fictional account of a biblical matriarch from 3,000 years ago (give or take). I found this book profoundly moving. As a man reading a book by another man, about a woman from long ago & lacking in historical details of what her life was really like, you would think this book would lack authenticity. I can't say how women would react to it (although my wife found it excellent). But to me, the author's portrayal of Sarah's stigma of barrenness, her struggle to find a role for herself in Abraham's world, her deft handling of their visit to the Pharaoh in Egypt, and her weary patience with her (fictional) spoiled sister Qira (in this book, the author has her married to Lot of Sodom & Gomorrah fame), all ring true. This is supposed to be the first of a series of three books on women from the Old Testament; based on this one, you can definitely sign me up for the next two.

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