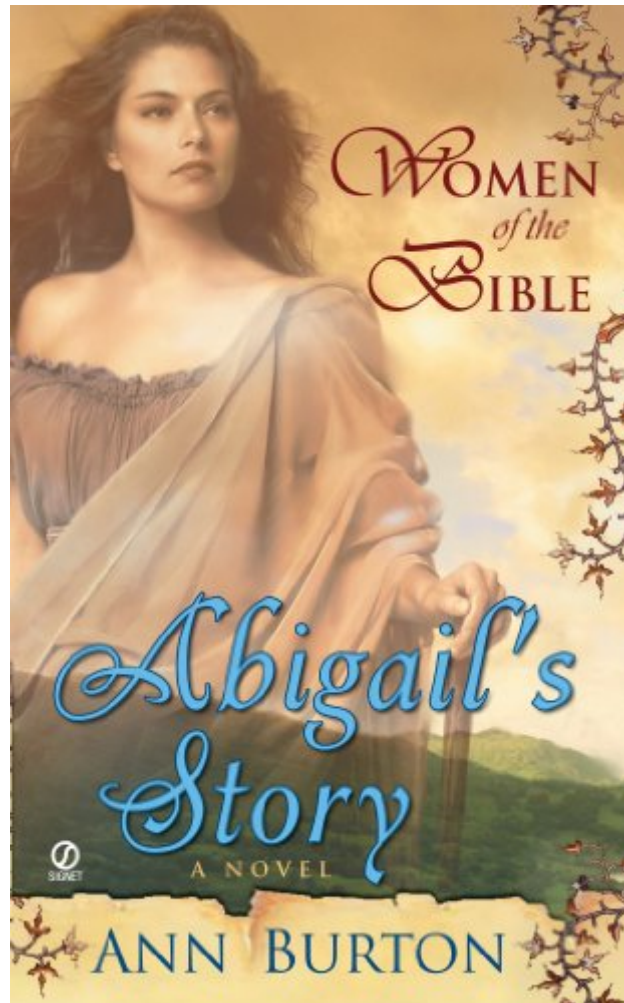


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Women Of The Bible: Abigail's Story: A Novel



Synopsis

More information to be announced soon on this forthcoming title from Penguin USA.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I hate to say it, but I am deeply disappointed with the lack of historical accuracy in this book. I'm listening to this book in audio and I haven't finished it yet. It's an interesting listen and has certainly kept my attention, but I find myself groaning over the license taken. I understand it's fiction, but being based on a real woman from the Bible, I feel that more care should have been taken to stick close to what the Bible does say about Abigail. I do not believe that I would lable it "inspirational." As for being any sort of view of the peoples of the times, I consider that doubtful also. It's just sordid to have Abigail and David basically having an affair in all but the final sense. Who knows.. maybe that's still to come. I get more disappointed and disgusted the longer I listen. I often depend on reviews to give me some idea of what to expect from a book. This time I wasn't prepared as well as I could have wished. I've never left a review and never expected to give a negative review if I did, but I'd have appreciated some warning, so here I am. If you read/listen to this book, you may well

enjoy it, just don't expect Biblical accuracy.

When her father Oren who taught her to believe in Adonai and to make pottery, no longer could walk to the market, Abigail took over those chores as her older brother Rivai who should have done so was too much the foolish dreamer. Still she dreams of marrying for love and raising children together while worshipping Adonai. Her hopes for the future are shattered when Rivai owes a gambling debt to Nabal that he cannot pay. Abigail offers Nabal her hand in marriage as remittance because a family pays every member's debts; Nabal accepts. Being the Fool that he is, Nabal sends his spouse away to work with sheep. Although she still hopes to be a good wife, Abigail enjoys the solitude and the people she meets. One of those is David, who takes a liking to the proud strong young woman. However, when her husband the Fool refuses to provide food and liquid to a requesting David for his soldiers and actually insults the warriors, war seems imminent. Abigail tries to bring peace between the two men. Abigail is an interesting biblical character whose story is a short segment of the Book of Samuel. Ann Burton brings more than just Abigail to life as she paints a vivid deep look at a biblical time when Saul is the king. Ms. Burton through the first person account of the title heroine provides an intriguing glimpse at family life of shepherds, warriors, and artisans and obligations like debts. A glossary provides helpful definitions to what is a terrific biblical biographical fiction, the genesis of a new series. Harriet Klausner

I'm pretty cautious about reading fictionalized accounts of Bible characters because I just don't enjoy those books that take too much license with the facts. This book falls into that category. Not only does it not seem to be historically accurate in the practical details of the lifestyle and setting, but it injects some eroticism and a cheesy romance description that had me laughing at the cheap use of sex and also at how I'd been duped into reading what I thought would be an entertaining and respectful rendition of this Bible character's life. If you're the type that likes a bit of porn in your "inspirational" fiction, help yourself.

At first I found this story a bit boring. When things started moving along I was intrigued by the family's arrangement to have Abigail marry that horrible man Nabal just to cover their debts. I suppose that was a fair representation, since women were considered nothing more than property back then. When David first laid eyes on Abigail I thought I would experience their romance, but I never expected David to practically beg Abigail to let him have a "taste of her sweetness" in the fields (without the benefit of marriage.) Plus, she was technically married to someone else. That was

pretty steamy stuff, and not at all what I'd expected for a "biblical" type story. Overall, I'd say this book was a waste of time, and clearly not written by someone wanting to portray David as anything more than a "horny" man who had fanatical ideas about God and a flamboyant way of worshipping him. I'm not planning to read any other books in this series.

Burton definitely adds to what we're told in the Bible and takes liberties with the few facts we are given, but in an engaging, believable, seamless way. I thoroughly enjoyed her idea of "what might have been." I especially appreciated the history lesson in Jewish tradition and learned much from the book's setting and the thinking/actions of the characters. It's hard for me to believe that Ms. Burton wrote only four books and believe "Ann Burton" may be using another name for writing these days. I wish I knew what it is because I would happily purchase more from this author.

This story might give us a little bit of background of what her life might be like before Abigail became David's wife. The Bible did not say much about her except that she kept David from killing her household and after her husband died, then she joined him to be his wife. A little too sensual between her and David although.

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