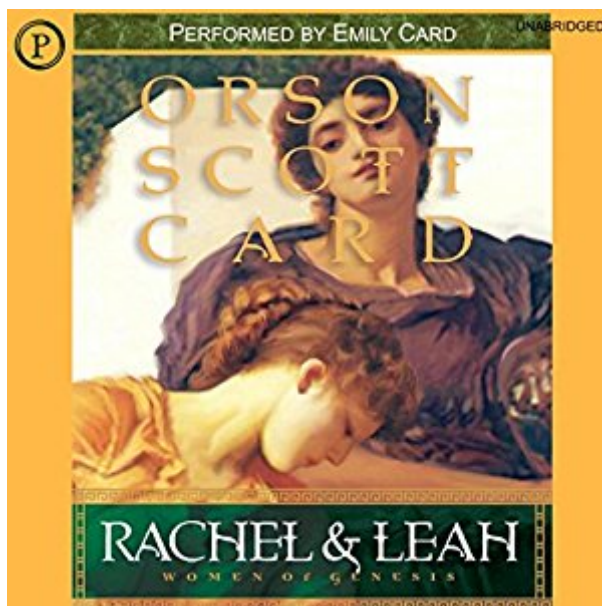


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Rachel & Leah: Woman Of Genesis, Book 3



Synopsis

In this third volume of his Women of Genesis series, Orson Scott Card paints a vivid picture of the intertwined lives of four celebrated women. We meet Leah, the oldest daughter of Laban, whose "tender eyes" prevent her from fully participating in the daily work of her nomadic family, and Rachel, the spoiled younger daughter, the petted and privileged beauty of the family - or so it seems to Leah. There is also Bilhah, an orphan who is not quite a slave but not really a family member, and Zilpah, who knows only how to use her beauty to manipulate men as she strives to secure for herself something better than the servitude into which she has been born. Into the desert camp comes Jacob, a handsome and charismatic kinsman destined to be Rachel's husband. But that doesn't prevent the other women from vying for his attention. Tracing their lives from childhood to maturity, Card shows how these women change each other - and are changed again by the holy books that Jacob brings with him. Ambition, jealousy, fear, and love motivate them as they vie for the attention of Jacob, heir to the spiritual birthright of Abraham and Isaac.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is very fascinating in the portrayal of a very strong woman in the old testament. Orson Scott Card is an excellent story teller, using all the information able to be gleaned from the scriptures and creating a fascinating story,,

This book is one man's fictional story of the lives of several biblical characters. Card never, to my knowledge, contradicts the scriptural account of their lives, but he fills in details and personality

where otherwise there is little. While one might quibble with how Card portrayed various characters, he has done no disservice to the biblical text. Rachel and Leah come to life with emotions, quirks, and lives of their own. Card offers a glimpse into what Leah might have thought as her father, Laban, prepared to marry off his younger, more beautiful daughter first. Jacob, the cousin from a distant land, grows in favor with Laban's family and gains respect in the reader's eyes as the story unfolds. For those who might worry that Card, himself a Mormon, might use the book as a pulpit for evangelism, you need not worry. The story is driven by its characters, and all religious references are there to serve the characters rather than any ideological agenda. Fans of Card's science fiction novels will enjoy his characteristic style come to life in a new setting and should not be turned away for fear of the religious content.

I love Orson Scott Card in general, and have been a fan of his other "Women of Genesis" books. This however was my least favorite of the series. Mostly it was a visceral response and nothing to do with the writing: I really identify with Leah, and think she got a bum deal (however historically accurate) at the end of the book. Also, this is another one of his books that he couldn't fit all into one actual book, so you are left in the middle of the story without much of a resolution at the end of the book. In many ways the story is very enjoyable. As usual, Card's characterizations are well done. He is a believer in "if you know how a person thinks about himself on the inside you'll understand him so much that you can't help but love him, imperfections and all." So he makes some characters self centered, others altruistic, others immature, but when the story is told from their point of view they are all sympathetic. It's interesting from that level alone. It's also interesting to get a more detailed view of life in Genesis days, the way people were casually treated as slaves and such. Card does his homework and makes the day to day details in the story as accurate as possible. All in all not a bad story, just one that once explored by Card in intimate detail, I didn't like.

Card makes the biblical stories come alive. You see their lives, share their joys and disappointments, hope for their dreams and ache for their tragedies. His interpretations help each of us understand how God wants us to become better people no matter where we live or what we do for a living. Each of us is invited to "walk with God".

This is one volume of a series By Card. READ THEM ALL! These books are, in my humble opinion, the greatest example of an author using what is known in theological terms as "sanctified imagination" since "Pilgrims Progress". I have always loved Card's science fiction. He was already

an established and highly respected author before he created these stories, but these books are evidence of a truly exceptional talent. His insights into the human heart and our relationships to God is nothing less than literally inspired. Read these and be truly blessed. Many thanks, Mr. Card!

It said there was to be another book but hasn't been released yet. Very good story lines. I would read it again

Im actually surprised how much I enjoy this series. I happened to pick up a couple long ago, and on a whim recently read them. As soon as I finished the first two I went and bought this third one. I'm not religious, but Orson Scott Card's writing is, as always, phenomenal. I honestly forgot that I was reading what he means to be a fictional but also based on the truth novel at times. Don't read the covers though... they give some spoilers

The third book in Card's Women of Genesis series, this intertwines the stories of four women - the two sisters from the title and their unlikely handmaidens, Bilhah and Zilpah. Similar in tone and style to the previous entries in the series, Sarah and Rebekah, it remains faithful to what is shown in the Bible while breathing full life and spirit into the characters. While the book is clearly one about faith, it does not shove that down the reader's throat. The women have normal hopes, fears and dreams. They are shown to be as strong as the men around them, which isn't a common view from biblical times. It is not often you can find spiritually uplifting fiction that flows this well. Card is an excellent writer, and fans of his better known science fiction and fantasy works would be well served to try out this series.

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