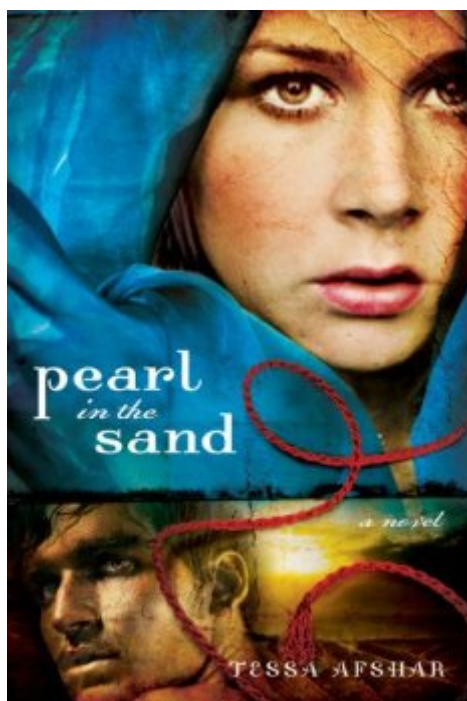


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Pearl In The Sand: A Novel



Synopsis

Can a Canaanite harlot who has made her livelihood by looking desirable to men make a fitting wife for one of the leaders of Israel? Shockingly, the Bible's answer is yes. Pearl in the Sand tells Rahab's untold story. Rahab lives in a wall; her house is built into the defensive walls of the City of Jericho. Other walls surround her as well—walls of fear, rejection, unworthiness. A woman with a wrecked past; a man of success, of faith & of pride; a marriage only God would conceive! Through the heartaches of a stormy relationship, Rahab and Salmone learn the true source of one another's worth and find healing in God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Picture a woman who is betrayed by people she trusted, whose whole world falls apart and who builds emotional walls around herself to survive and avoid feeling the pain. Is this the author of a New York Times bestseller or a guest on the latest Oprah? Not exactly. This woman is Rahab - the prostitute mentioned a few times in the bible - so skillfully brought to life by first-time novelist Tessa Afshar in "Pearl in the Sand" (Moody Publishers, 2010), that the story which takes place during and after the fall of the wall of Jericho transcends time and breathes life into a character full of the same

fears, heartbreaks and joys we experience today. The first reference to Rahab, in the Old Testament book of Joshua, tells how she hides Israeli spies in her house built into the wall of Jericho, brought down by Israel. Later we learn that she and her family, all spared during the siege because of Rahab's actions, settle permanently in Israel. She's referenced in other books, but no further clues about her destiny appear again in Scripture until we read in the Gospel of Matthew that she was married to a man named Salmon and had a son named Boaz. Afshar has merged these few details with historical, biblical and archaeological information to create a sweeping tale of a woman's life and the complex relationship between her and Salmone (the author chooses an alternate, less "fishy" spelling for the name of her novel's hero). Just how does a prostitute from Jericho end up married to an important leader of Israel and the mother of Boaz, who was in Jesus' genealogy? The answers and the details laying their foundation make for excellent historical fiction, wrongly classified by some as romance.

Pearl in the Sand not only retells the story of Rahab in a wonderful, vibrant way, but also has many wonderful lessons that are sure to speak to each reader. When I first began this book, I thought the story would end after the battle of Jericho with the marriage of Salmone and Rahab...but that was only the beginning! The bible doesn't tell us about Rahab's adjustment into the Israelite camp after they destroyed Jericho, or how she ended up marrying Salmone. Tessa Afshar, using her amazing creativity, has crafted together a plausible, meaningful, and wholly believable story of what might've happened for this woman of Faith to end up being the mother of Boaz. The plot was amazing, with surprises along the way that kept me interested and glued to the pages, eager to find out what would happen next. Both Rahab and Salmone were well defined characters that were deep, meaningful, and each struggling with different issues. I loved how the story really took off after their marriage. That was something I wasn't expecting, but totally loved! The writing style did a bit more telling of the characters thoughts and feelings than I usually like, but it wasn't that noticeable. Maybe I'm just picky. As should be obvious (this being the story of Rahab the harlot) there is quite a bit of adult content in Pearl in the Sand. But I was amazed at how the author handled it. Leaving out sensual descriptions, she kept it very factual and clean. In fact, one of my favorite scenes was when Salmone helped Rahab get past old scars and memories of her past life so that she could find joy in their marriage bed. Very sweet, touching, and so true. With her gift of retelling biblical stories with vibrancy and creativity, I can't wait to see what Tessa publishes next!

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