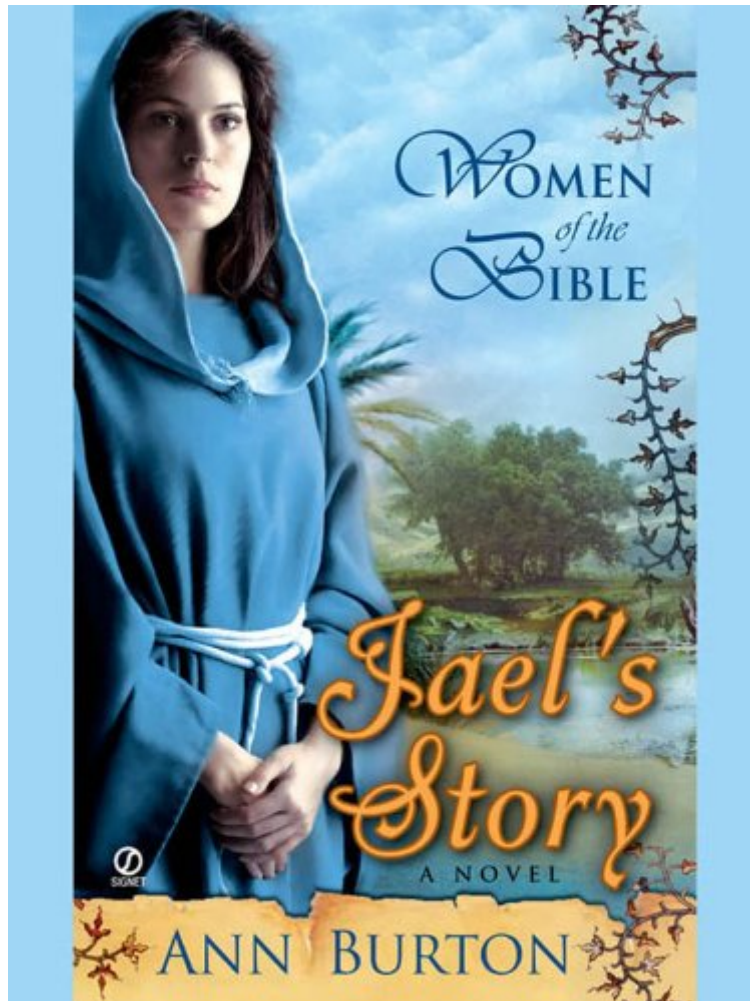


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Women Of The Bible: Jael's Story: A Novel



Synopsis

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

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jael's Story by Ann Burton is the Old Testament story from the book of Judges about a Kenite woman who uses a mallet and tent peg to kill Sisera the captain of the Canaanite charioteers. That's really all we know about Jael from the Bible. The story is told twice, once in prose, once in Deborah's song as poetry. The story of Jael has always fascinated me, so as soon as I heard about this book, I had to read it. Burton does a great job of describing life in a tent community using authentic language to add to the atmosphere. In Burton's book, Jael is a young Canaanite woman married to a brutish Kenite with another wife and concubine. One thing that really stands out about the book is that Burton does not portray the Canaanites as evil or immoral as often happens in Biblical fiction. All of the characters (except perhaps Heber and Sisera) are portrayed as true people with merits and flaws. The only time the book didn't flow well was during the one scene that we have the most information about. When Jael picks up the mallet and tent peg to strike Sisera, the story

kind of jerks along until the scene is over and then flows back into a smooth narrative. So the one thing we know to be true about Jael is the one thing that doesn't fit into Burton's story, and the mystery of Jael continues.

SPOILER ALERT (well it's a spoiler if you haven't read what the Bible says about Jael - I don't give lots of details though) On the whole this was a wonderful book - well-written, engaging, thoroughly enjoyable. I thought it was going to be a 5-star review for it... until I reached the part that actually corresponded with scripture. Let me be fair and say Burton had reasons for how she wrote the story and her logic was solid enough that I plan to read at least one more of her books before deciding whether she's an author I'll read more of. From her perspective she felt Judges 4 and 5 accounts of Jael were inconsistent. I can understand why she felt that way, but personally - since I believe in the inerrancy of the Word - if I read something that seemed contradictory I would assume there was something *I* was not understanding, not that there was an error in the word. I would have respected her more as a writer if she'd accepted the challenge and found a way to write a story that made BOTH accounts of Jael fit. And personally I think the Judges 4 account of the killing actually fit with the character of Jael as she'd written her. The other thing that just hit me funky was the whole "spirit of the tigress" bit. As a believer I want only one spirit operating - the HOLY Spirit. I know it's simply a way of speaking that she's using and it didn't make me hate the book by any means, but honestly it did detract for me. All that said there were MANY details about the book I thoroughly enjoyed! I loved the relationships between the woman, the way Burton painted the scenes, how Jael's heart was drawn to Yahweh-Shalom, the interactions between Jael and Levi... all wonderful! Eager to start on *Women of the Bible: Deborah's Story: A Novel: Deborah's Story: A Novel* tonight :)

I've always been fascinated by the little snippets of information contained in the Bible about ordinary people, especially the women, who have done something important enough to be remembered and recorded in the most read and published book in history. What were they like? What were their lives like? What was the rest of the story behind the few sentences we have? Ann Burton has done a wonderful job of creating a very plausible history for Jael, the contemporary of Deborah and heroine of the Israeli/Canannite conflict of that time. I was able to feel her fear, her pain, and her hopelessness, as well as her joy, friendships, and dreams. It is a story of honesty, faithfulness, courage, and a touch of sweet romance. I'll be reading Ms. Burton's other books in this series.

This is an interesting story about Jael and her cruel husband who also had 2 wives and 2

concubines. These 3 ladies were like sisters who work together and support one another when their husband was not around. When the general Sisera lost the war and fled from the battle, she gave him milk to drink and then killed him with a hammer and a tent peg. This was an interesting story.

I enjoyed this story. It was nice to get a perspective on one of the little known women of the Bible. I always enjoy historical fiction and I liked the way this author placed her research into the novels to make it believable and give insight to the ways and culture of the day. The story itself was engaging and I didn't want to put it down. Makes me thankful for the circumstances I find myself in today instead of having to live back then. God's plan for all of us is perfect. Really liked the take this writer had on the story. Makes a lot more sense than some accounts I've heard. I like that she also writes to the reader after the story giving background on why she wrote as she did. Nice job Ann.

Another wonderful book by Ann Burton. This one is Jael's story who's about to marry a man arranged by her parents. She like every other bride hopes for happiness and love. Instead her husband is far worse than she could imagine and she's the third wife. Jael becomes good friends with the two other wives and the concubine who shows up a little later. In order to stay alive in her marriage Jael must have sons yet through the other wives Jael learns the only way to do so is by committing adultery. Jael finds that troubling to say the least. Through the concubine Jael slowly starts following her God. Her killing of Sisera really surprised even though it happened in the Bible. It was very brave and yet still surprised me. I liked the arrival Deborah and look forward to reading her story.

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