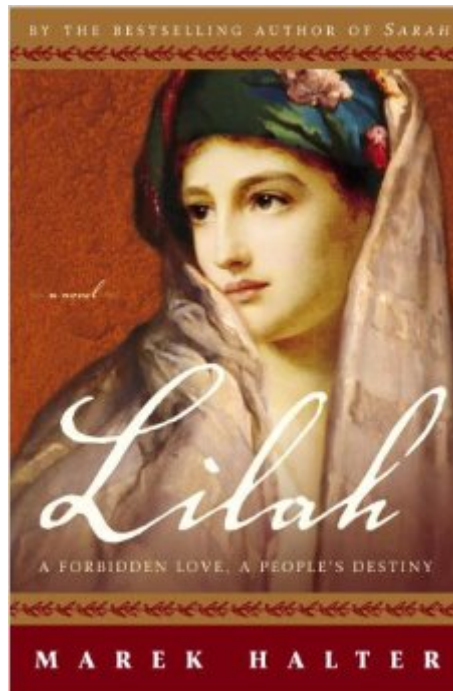


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Lilah: A Forbidden Love, A People's Destiny (Book 3 Of The Canaan Trilogy)



Synopsis

Set in the magnificent culture of the Middle East more than four thousand years ago, *Lilah* is a rich and emotionally resonant story of faith, love, and courage. Living in exile, Lilah is in love with Antinoes, a Persian warrior. They have known each other since they were children, and Antinoes dearly wants to make Lilah his wife. Yet Lilah does not feel she can marry without the blessing of her brother, Ezra. She and Ezra are close, and Lilah knows her brother well—he does not want his sister to have a husband outside their faith. Ezra is a scholar of the laws of Moses, and Lilah believes it is her brother's destiny to lead the Jewish people back to the Promised Land. While Antinoes pressures her to accept his proposal, Lilah realizes that before she can consider her own happiness, it is her duty to help her brother accomplish the seemingly impossible task that is before him. Putting herself in grave danger, and with the help of Antinoes, Lilah wins Ezra an audience with Artaxerxes II, the King of Kings, who grants permission to lead the exiles on their journey back to the Promised Land. After a hazardous trip across the desert, Lilah, Ezra, and the thousands who join them arrive in Jerusalem. But the hardship of rebuilding the Temple takes its toll, and the religious enthusiasm of some turns to extremism. Ezra, listening to the zealots, orders all non-Jewish wives and their children banished from Jerusalem. Lilah, whose love for Antinoes has never wavered, is horrified by this command. She knows she must now choose between her brother and her conscience, which tells her that the time has come to defy him. *Lilah* is a timeless story of one woman's stand against intolerance; it will linger in the reader's mind long after the last page has been turned.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was wasn't NEARLY as good as 'Sarah' but not quite as bad as 'Zipporah'. I was just about to put it down when Lilah was summoned to the queen. That's when it picked up and "saved" this book. I'm confused because I don't see how Marek could have written such a WONDERFUL book in 'Sarah' and then fallen so far in his next two. If you can borrow this book from a friend or a library then I would say to read it, but don't spend money on the hardcover version.

I was disappointed in this book. I read Sarah, and thought it was great. Zipporah was almost as good....this was not nearly as good. If you have read the other 2, you will probably want to read this, but if not....don't bother. The story is loosely based on the book of Ezra. I'm not sure Lilah is actually mentioned in the Bible, and I can't find her. The book started out very slowly, got interesting enough to continue about halfway through, but had a sudden and horrible ending. Very unsatisfactory! If this were submitted for a writing class and I was the instructor, I'd be handing it back with big red marks saying, "please try again Marek, I KNOW you can do better!"

Sadly, Halter at his worst. Sarah was magnificent. Zipporah was excellent, although it has a disappointing ending, but Lilah simply isn't worth the money. Weak story line and I can only categorize it as mediocre at best. I'm sorry I bought it and wish I could get a refund. My recommendation is don't waste your money on this book!

This book certainly did not live up to Sarah, and it was even worse--if that is possible--than Zipporah. I have never not finished a book, and that is the only reason why I finished this one, because I was fairly disgusted with it the whole way through. I have begun to wonder if Mr. Halter has something against the history of his people, what with the racial issues he introduced in Zipporah and the severe mess of judgmental [...] that this book was made up of. I'm not one who always expects or wants a happy ending, but the ending in this book was completely anticlimactic, and the only likeable character, in my opinion, was Antinoes--the rest of the characters were weak and annoying. The other issue I have with this novel is that both Sarah and Zipporah are mentioned in the Bible, while Lilah is not (at least not in the King James version that I own)...why did the author choose two well-known Biblical women for the first two installments of his trilogy, and then turn around and use a little mentioned and possibly even non-existent woman for the final novel? If you

really feel the need to finish out this trilogy, borrow this book from a friend or a library, but don't bother buying it, because in my opinion, it would not be a worthy addition to your shelves.

The heroine lived in a very dark time in Jewish history and the book paints Ezra as a very weak character. I thought it was interesting how the author portrayed the years in Jerusalem by having Lilah write a VERY long letter to her husband. The fact that writing then was with a stylus and very difficult makes it seem a bit far-fetched, but it enabled the author to cover history only from her knowledge and feelings.

I read Sarah and Zipporah and absolutely fell in love with them. I was so excited to read the third book in the trilogy that I marked the date on my calendar the day it came out. I was, however, a bit disappointed. If you read the other two you should still read this one, but it is definitely nowhere near as wonderful as Sarah or Zipporah.

This is my least favorite book in the trilogy, probably because I was not as familiar with the story of Ezra and Lilah as I was with Abraham and Moses. But this book is enjoyable because of the diversity of the characters that evoke emotion. Lilah is strong, proud, and full of love, like Sarah and Zipporah. However, we have a wider range of characters. Some are easy to root for, like Ezra's mentor, his servant, and Lilah's lover. And others are easy to despise, like the Queen, and even Ezra himself, who is not a very sympathetic character. Yes, the Jews are led to the Promise Land and the Temple is rebuilt, but Ezra does not care at what cost these tasks are done.

MY REVIEW OF THE TRILOGY AS A WHOLE (SPOILER ALERT!!!) I may seem like I'm slightly bashing these books just because I'm pointing out some flaws, but I did give these books 4 or 5 stars. Halter should not switch from first person to third. Yes, he distinctly separates them via prologues and epilogues and parts, but once he's really established style in one or the other, he changes ineloquently. These women of God were not as chaste as we were led to believe. Mind you, I'm not conservative, but generally, when people are reading biblical stories, they're not reading it for moderately steamy romance. Sarah committed adultery with Pharaoh, Zipporah slept with Moses before they were married and acknowledged that she lived in sin, and Lilah slept with her lover before they were married and did so with considerable passion. All of these women had a bit too much in common, and having concluded the third book, the trilogy seemed a bit redundant. All three women were raised in privilege and wanted men outside of their class. They all embarked on holy journeys and received both blessings and sorrow. It was a bit formulaic. Overall, I enjoyed the series. It was a

quick read with familiar characters and a good sense of setting and atmosphere. I felt the heat of the deserts and texture of the fabrics. But while I knew what was in the character's hearts, I never FELT it. As I said in my review of Sarah, I don't typically compare books to other books, but this series didn't hold a candle to The Red Tent.

This book was ok. I found the beginning hard to get into. However the more i got into it, the more I enjoyed it. The middle and end was very exciting. I started to feel more for the main character and then all of a sudden..the ending happens. I thought the ending was terrible, there was absolutely no closure.

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