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Rahab, a resourceful beauty, struggles to survive in the pagan culture of ancient Jericho. As years of harsh labor begin to lift her and her family from poverty, a foreign army threatens the well-fortified city. Rahab is forced to make an immediate decision. Will she put her faith in the fabled walls of Jericho or the powerful God of the Hebrews? Either choice may cost her life.

The Scarlet Cord Details

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From Reader Review The Scarlet Cord for online ebook

N.N. Light says

I am a huge fan of historical fiction, especially when it comes to the retelling of the Bible. As a woman, I am always striving to understand women from the Bible. Who were they and what was their background? When the moment came, how did they lean on their faith even in the grips of mortal danger? Esther, Mary, Elizabeth are examples of such women from the Bible. Rahab is another, although there isn't much of anything in the Bible about her.

Rahab, a resourceful beauty, struggles to survive in the pagan culture of ancient Jericho. As years of harsh labor begin to lift her and her family from poverty, a foreign army threatens the well-fortified city. Rahab is forced to make an immediate decision. Will she put her faith in the fabled walls of Jericho or the powerful God of the Hebrews? Either choice may cost her life.

From the moment I read the first page, I was Rahab. Everything she went through, I went through. She became an extension of me and I couldn't wait to read the next page to see what happened. The very fabric of Jericho culture is woven throughout the book and I could close my eyes to be transported. The story is told in such a way that is consistent with both history and the Bible. It's not preachy, by any means.

What I loved most about this book was the richness of the characters and how, no matter what obstacle Rahab encountered, she persevered. The plot twists were unexpected and at one point, I gasped aloud.

Whether you like historical fiction or Inspirational Fiction, you will love this book! This is one of those books that sticks with you long after you finish reading it.

My Rating: 5 stars

Gay N says

I don't have enough high praise for this book. It was awesome. The authors researched historical facts and remained true to Biblical accounts. The dialog and backstory, although fictional, could have easily happened. The dusty streets of Jericho came alive, and I felt the hunger Rahab's family experienced. When the Hebrews came calling for the city, the king of Jericho sacrificed his son to a god called Molech. Of course the sacrifice was useless. Without drawing the conclusion, the reader could see the subtle parallel made by the authors. God sacrifices His Son for mankind with success. I highly recommend this book.

Kim McMahill says

A masterful fictional re-telling of a biblical story. The characters were well-developed, which made it impossible not to feel their pain, fear, and ultimate joy. Great job.

Emily-Jane Orford says

When the walls of Jericho came tumbling down, one family survived and was welcomed into the Hebrew faith and community. It was the family of the innkeeper, Rahab, also known as a zonah or a harlot. Rahab and her twin sister, Rohat, were the most beautiful girls in the family. Three other children had already been sold into slavery, but when Rahab's twin sister and best friend is sold to the temple of the goddess Ashtoreth to help feed her family, Rahab realizes her parent's disregard for her well being and takes matters into her own hands, settling into a life as a harlot to support herself. Although her family forgets that she is one of them, Rahab never forgets her family and works hard to help support them, saving all the well to create a more satisfying home and income by purchasing her own inn. This is where she first meets the Hebrew, Prince Salmon. By helping him escape, she seals her fate when Jericho falls and it is not so different than what the fortune teller once told her.

Carlene Havel and Sharon Faucheux's novel "The Scarlet Cord", takes the reader back to the days before and after the fall of Jericho. The Hebrews, who recently escaped Egypt, follow God's course and plan to create their own home. In the process, pagan communities like Jericho fall to power of God's will. It is not an easy time to be a woman, especially in Jericho, and the authors develop a plausible plot around the character of Rahab, who is herself a very strong character, a survivor as well as a compassionate person. A fascinating story of the early days of the Hebrews in the Promised Land. Well done!

Reviewed for readersfavorite.com

Penelope Marzec says

The story of Rahab in the Bible is short, but Carlene Havel and Sharon Faucheux have woven it into a beautiful and finely detailed historical. The book has some heartbreak moments, but at its core is the wonder of trust and forgiveness. This exceptional, updated parable is a worthy read and one I thoroughly enjoyed.

Marsha Bernabe says

Very good

I really enjoyed this book. The story of Rahab was brought to life in a way I had never thought of before. A great example of God's grace and mercy.

Victoria says

As with their previous novel, Daughter of the King, I was driven to the Word to find the historical implication of the story. The Silver Cord unfolds as a very young Rahab learns the painful ways her family survives: her sisters are being sold into slavery or sacrificed to a nonexistent god. The struggle to endure in Jericho causes her parents to make harsh, uncaring choices.

Rahab runs from her family, making her own way and eventually saves them all. The life of Rahab is at the

very core of truth as how an imperfect person, once a harlot can inherit the Kingdom.

Havel and Faucheux detailed events of everyday life in Jericho brought this story to fruition for this reader. No detail was left unattended from the description of the clothing, foods, and living quarters making the historical correctness of the story significantly believable.

I highly recommend The Silver Cord to readers of Historical Biblical Fiction. You will not be disappointed in this touching and monumental story.

Lisa says

Wonderfully researched, beautifully written, lovingly shared...this version of the story of one of the more elusive biblical characters is a treat for those who love fiction based on short facts known about documented people.

Rahab, called by several discourteous terms in the account of Joshua's capture of the city of Jericho. She is a sympathetic person, and perhaps her family and descendants embody acceptance and forgiveness, mercy and love in a way the pen strokes of God's law do not.

Canaanites occupying the Promised Land were wary of the mysterious Hebrew tribes, escaped former slaves from Egypt, marching across the land, conquering mighty kingdoms in their way, worshiping an unseen and powerful force. Rumors were rampant, and when their path led through the mighty city of Jericho, only one family was destined for salvation.

I appreciated the effort these authors put into their historically accurate research. Even the food, types of clothing, daily life, was well done and woven skillfully into a narrative that fleshed out Rahab and her family in an engaging way. Although I have preferred to wish that Rahab had been branded a harlot because of her business, these authors gave me a new perspective to see why and how the professions were entangled. The possible personalities of Rahab's family developed for this tale enhanced each aspect of life, from the earliest memories of sacrifice on many gruesome levels, to the escape into an unknown future, to the acceptance or denial of the gift of new opportunities, each family member represented a cross-section of personalities, and ultimately, of how we treat God, no matter how we believe.

Told from multiple viewpoints, that of Rahab and her future husband Salmon, The Scarlet Cord and a treasure and wonderful addition to the collection of biblical fiction.

Aviar Savijon says

The Scarlet Cord

A wonderful read with a lot of action and adventure. A good book to read. So good its hard to put down til the last page.

Leonard R Budney says

Note: I've tried to be careful to avoid spoilers, but there are some small ones. I'm assuming that you know the Bible story of Rahab, though, so I will refer to elements of the Bible story freely.

I feel bad giving this book 2 stars, because it's engagingly written. As a children's or young adult book, it reads well. If you just want a light, enjoyable read, this is a decent choice. Two things disappointed me to the point that I couldn't finish the book, though:

First, although the authors made it clear that it was intended as fiction, the historical setting was inaccurate enough that it became a distraction.

For example we don't know much about the religion of Jericho, but we do know that it was not highly developed, and appeared to be based on family and ancestor worship. Clay figurines were common religious objects, and skulls coated in plaster were buried under the floors of houses. In the 2000's BC the city did have one temple, but little or nothing is known about what god was worshiped there.

The book gave Jericho a much more developed religion, complete with THREE temples, devoted to each of the three gods prominently mentioned in the Old Testament (Baal, Asthoreth, and Molech). The city was very prosperous to support one temple, but certainly didn't have three.

It's also a misconception to portray these as three gods: "Baal" is a generic term (meaning "lord") referring to the god Hadad (as in Benhadad, the Syrian king); "Asherah" is a generic term for a goddess-consort; and "Molech" is actually an uncertain term but is probably not a god at all. "Molech" is most likely a type of child sacrifice, probably offered to Hadad/Baal. So to the best of our knowledge there should only have been one temple, devoted to Hadad, where people worshiped both Baal and his Asherah, sometimes by sacrificing children. The book's conception of Molech worship is associated with Carthage, at least 500 years later.

The general impression I'm left with is that various Bible verses, some of them dating hundreds of years later, along with some material from Josephus in the 1st Century CE, were taken and used uncritically to fill in any gaps in the narrative. Since I have an interest in both the Bible and the history of the period, I found it very distracting.

The second thing that bothered me was that the book read in some ways like most Christian fiction: it had a certain naive preachiness to it. It was better than average in this respect, so by itself it didn't stop me from reading, but it was noticeable. For example when Rahab hears about the Israelites, nearly the first thing she does is pray to the Israelite God to spare Jericho. The prayer was the usual one prayed in evangelical fiction by the protagonist that you know, in the end, is going to convert: "I don't know who you are or if you're listening to me, but if you're out there somewhere, please help me!" You'll also notice that she strikes her bargain with the Israelites immediately and without question. The book doesn't really lay a foundation for that.

Naturally, Rahab is just a little... different... from the rest of her family. She's estranged from their religion. She's just a little bit morally superior. She's just a little bit bothered by the things they take for granted. If you're familiar with the genre, you can smell from a mile away that she's going to convert by the end.

When the time comes, her entire family converts--instantly and effortlessly. Rahab's conversion is so complete that when Achan's family is killed (See Joshua 7) she immediately assumes that it must be just in

some way that she can't necessarily understand. This was also jarring because it portrays Rahab as a modern woman in an ancient world: a modern person might question capital punishment, but an ancient person probably would not. The author didn't manage to construct a viewpoint for Rahab that would justify either her questioning or her acceptance.

(That's not the only instance where the characters clearly speak in modern voices. There are glimmers of feminism here and there which I'm heartily in favor of, but which seem more than a little anachronistic.)

I'm a bit sensitive to stories with a preaching/conversion subtext. When I was a kid I listened to "Unshackled" on the radio, and I read the "Elizabeth Gail" series by Hilda Stahl. This book isn't nearly as obvious about it as they were, but it left a flavor I don't care for. In the end I made it about 2/3rds of the way through the book before quitting.

If you aren't so picky about historical accuracy, and you don't mind a good conversion story, this might be a good book for you. It's got a nice flow and is an easy, breezy read.

Peggy says

The Scarlet Cord.v

This is a very good book on the life of Rahab as imagined by the authors of the book. No one can be sure how she became a harlot but it makes since on how hard people's live were back then. Read the book you will be glad you did

Lillie says

Although the authors emphasize that this story of Rahab the harlot is fiction, it is completely believable and fits well with the Biblical account. We see how the young girl had few choices to survive in Jericho, and we admire her for supporting her entire family in spite of how they treated her. We are thrilled when she learns of the one, true God and realize the depths of God's love and forgiveness that this sinful woman was not only forgiven, but blessed to become an ancestor of Jesus. The story is entertaining, encouraging, and faith-building.

Victoria Green says

A book written with pages to that keep you turning them...bring the JOY and the SADNESSES and the EXCITEMENT as if you are really a part of the community of Rahab's family, Rehab's thoughts. Then the assent into being accepted by God's people- The author details the LOVE of THE FATHER through all those that accepted this woman and her family.

The author's love of God's character; His sovereignty, and His provision is painted across the pages of this non-fiction/fiction story of Rahab and her FAITH. Rahab was rewarded by her GOD who she had not known (except through word of mouth) stepped out in faith amongst all her own people and trusted above and beyond human logic and reasoning. That's faith! Walking with Rahab through her young life, into her teens,

seeing her as the Bible describes her as a harlot and then their deliverance from Jericho is so thrilling! I highly recommend this book!!
