



# Thief of Corinth

Tessa Afshar

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First-century Corinth is a city teeming with commerce and charm. It's also filled with danger and corruption—the perfect setting for Ariadne's greatest adventure.

After years spent living with her mother and oppressive grandfather in Athens, Ariadne runs away to her father's home in Corinth, only to discover the perilous secret that destroyed his marriage: though a Greek of high birth, Galenos is the infamous thief who has been robbing the city's corrupt of their ill-gotten gains.

Desperate to keep him safe, Ariadne risks her good name, her freedom, and the love of the man she adores to become her father's apprentice. As her unusual athletic ability leads her into dangerous exploits, Ariadne discovers that she secretly revels in playing with fire. But when the wrong person discovers their secret, Ariadne and her father find their future—and very lives—hanging in the balance.

When they befriend a Jewish rabbi named Paul, they realize that his radical message challenges everything they've fought to build, yet offers something neither dared hope for.

## Thief of Corinth Details

Date : Published August 7th 2018 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (first published July 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Tessa Afshar

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Biblical Fiction, Christian, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Thief of Corinth for online ebook

### Natalie Jager says

Tessa Afshar never fails this devoted reader! I devoured *Thief of Corinth*. The spunky, clever, bright, though-so-damaged-by-life heroine had my heart from page one. Ms. Afshar writes a heroine in which we can all see ourselves, if even just a little. Ariadne leads a life of grand adventure which is actually forced upon her due to circumstances beyond her control. She doesn't shirk or run from disaster, but bravely attempts to forge from her disasters a stronger, more powerful woman. In the midst of all that "growing up" on her own, she discovers she needs something beyond herself because all of the self-actualization and hard work will not heal internal wounds.

Filled with action, adventure, humor, historical insights and cultural treasures, and of course, a thread of romance, *Thief of Corinth* will have you on your seat and reading well into the wee hours! Enjoy every transforming page!

"Later, hours after he had left, joy lapped at the edges of my mind as I lay in bed, too radiant to sleep. Regret, too, nestled in my thoughts, sinking its sharp fangs into my new happiness. Joy and regret tangled in my soul, uneasy companions. Neither was strong enough to dispel the other. Somehow, mercy had won the battle."

*Thief of Corinth*

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### Cynthia Marcano says

Great read that left me wanting more. I gave it a four because of preferring a different happy ending. Totally biased...lol.

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### Shantelle says

Tessa Afshar has become an author that I one-hundred percent recommend. I hardly have to wonder anymore if I'll love her books; each new one I read is phenomenal. *Thief of Corinth* was beautiful. It was deeply emotional, as well as an intriguing, adventurous page-turner.

I'm not sure about her older books (*the ones set in the Old Testament*) because it has been awhile since I've read them, but Tessa's writing style in her three latest novels is wonderful. It's a little different, but masterful and definitely keeps me reading. I just love it.

The city of Corinth came to life within the pages of *Thief of Corinth*. It was so interesting to me. It was quite an adventure to journey with our main character, Ariadne, on these ancient streets as she struggles to work through the wounds of an abusive childhood and the pain and chaos of her here and now.

The characters were fabulous, as always. Complex and each adding something special to the story. I love that

we get to see Paul again! Tessa Afshar really brings this amazing apostle of Christ to life, and I love contemplating what it would have been like to know him and if he would have been something like this book portrays.

Some parts of this book were so hard, but it spoke to me. I cried and I cried again. It seems that Tessa Afshar writes stories straight from the heart. So real and raw and painful. But there is beauty. And redemption. And love. Amazing.

This *might* not be the best book for people feeling very emotionally fragile, but I found it to be an incredible story of pain and forgiveness.

*Thief of Corinth* is about abuse, divorce, loss, sin, pain, danger, and ... Jesus Christ. It has a tender love story and plenty of adventure. It is about a beautiful and broken girl who is about to have an encounter with God.

If you are a fan of Biblical retellings ... or are a fan of authentic, emotional fiction in general ... read this book!

*I received a copy of Thief of Corinth from Tyndale Blogger Program in exchange for my honest review.*

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### **Rachael says**

4.5 Stars

This was a terrific read from beginning to end. The characters are thoroughly engaging, the plot unique and intriguing, and a simply wonderful novel.

I really enjoyed this read, the tie in with Biblical characters, and the story as a whole. I don't give spoilers so the best parts you will just have to find out for yourself!

It's a tremendous read, and readers won't be disappointed with the twists and turns of this novel.

A few quotes :

Popularity can dull the senses like a drug. It can numb the heart. It robs one of truth.

...true love is patient and kind...We fail. We fail because we have never tasted of such love. We do not know how to receive it, how to give it. It requires a power beyond our own.

How I pray that you will have spiritual strength to comprehend how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for you.

Our Lord has a tender place in his heart for thieves who repent.

This God did not move in half measures...he wanted to have my soul. He wanted me.

I received this book from the publisher. All opinions are my own.

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## **Megan says**

Beautiful. Moving. Fast paced. All the feels. “The Thief of Corinth” by Tessa Afshar is all these things and more! I took two courses specifically on 1 and 2 Corinthians in college, so my heart has a special place for these books of the Bible. Paul is also one of my favorite Bible characters, so I loved reading about him in this book as well! Ms. Afshar truly makes first-century Corinth come alive! She adds so much detail of the setting and time period that I could vividly picture this bustling city.

Ms. Afshar uses a more edgy writing style and tries to be true to the time period by showing the good and bad. Corinth was a very corrupt place. I think Ms. Afshar does a good job of being realistic but not too graphic.

I love that the story is told from a younger girl’s point of view (Ariadne) and reads more like a Young Adult novel, in my opinion. But it can be enjoyed by young and old alike. Ariadne faced a lot of rejection in her life and is part of a corrupt, fractured family, torn apart by divorce. Even though the book takes place in Biblical times, teens and adults will find the themes very relevant today. Some of these themes are family dynamics, searching for a parent’s approval, wanting to be popular, dysfunctional families and reconciliation. I highly recommend this book!

Content: This definitely falls in the edgy Christian fiction category. I would give it a PG-13 rating. See my above paragraph on my thoughts regarding the content. Some examples of the content are: a mention of men being drunk; men drink wine; a scene showing a slave girl has been raped; a mention of a child having been beaten; talk of prostitution at the temple of Aphrodite; talks about men competing in sports in the nude; a man committed suicide; mentions that people swear, but the word isn’t actually written.

Rating: I give this book a solid 5 stars!

Genre: Christian fiction; Biblical fiction; Historical

I want to thank Tessa Afshar and Tyndale House Publishers for the complimentary copy of this book for review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I express in this review are my own. This is in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s CFR 16, Part 255.

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## **Kaye Whitney says**

I enjoy books that also teach me about history or society, while I am reading for pleasure. Thief of Corinth certainly fulfills both goals. Neighbors Dionysius, Justus, Theodotus, and Ariadne grew up together as family and neighbors, but with quite different personalities, abilities, interests, and goals. They are bi-lingual, speaking both Greek and Latin because they live in Corinth, a major business city during the early Roman Empire.

Thief of Corinth surprised me at each plot twist. Although these diverse characters can speak two different languages, they don’t always communicate effectively, causing many problems. I observed much growth and many changes in the people, some for better and some for worse.

I recommend Thief of Corinth for those who like adventure, historical fiction, Biblical fiction, and coming-of-age stories. I look forward to reading more of Tessa Afshar’s books.

I received a complimentary copy of Thief of Corinth and was under no obligation to post a review.

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### **Amanda Geaney (Christian Shelf-Esteem) says**

Review coming closer to release date.

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### **Melissa says**

If you've ever read Francine Rivers' Mark of the Lion trilogy and have ever wanted to read something else like it, this book has the same feel without all the gladiator games. Ancient Corinth/Athens, underhanded Romans, the early church. Skilled writing.

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### **Kelly Bridgewater says**

I have not read a lot of Biblical Fiction. It isn't my first choice of genre to reach for. I have read a book by Mesu Andrews and Connilyn Cossette and have mixed feelings about the writing. But the Thief of Corinth by Tessa Afshar's cover looked amazing. Then I read the synopsis and figured it might be something I would enjoy reading. I'm glad that I did. With the Thief of Corinth, I finished the entire novel in one day.

Her writing is amazing. I have a deep respect for writers of Biblical fiction because they have to bring the world of the Biblical world to life without overwhelming their readers. They have to be careful with every little aspect. From what they wear to what they would talk like to what the customs of the day was. They have to include just enough to make the setting realistic for the story, but they can't overwhelm the reader with too much information about the Biblical time.

The plot in this story is something I haven't seen. It was interesting, and I had a hard time putting the novel down. I have heard of Corinth because of Paul's two famous letters to the Corinth church. First and Second Corinthians. I was spellbound by the characters and the troubles in their daily lives. Paul, the apostle, made an appearance and shared about God to the family. He helped them see the need for God.

The character of Ariadne was brave and heroic. She did what was not expected of her station in life, but she chose how to make her life. When her life started out pretty rough, she jumped ship literally and moved to Corinth in search of a better life. Dangers followed. The only issue I had with the plot was expecting Ariadne's mother and grandfather to follow sometime in the novel and find them. Not just allow them to go so easily.

Even though the story is about some characters from the Bible, I don't think Afshar made it preachy. She did a fabulous job at telling a story to show the need and desire for God's love.

Overall, Thief of Corinth by Tessa Afshar is a captivating novel filled with solid research to create an interesting story to show the aspects of living with the Bible characters I read about. I really enjoyed this novel. I think fans of Connilyn Cossette and Mesu Andrews should pick up this book.

I received a complimentary copy of Thief of Corinth by Tessa Afshar from Tyndale Publishing, but the opinions stated are all my own.

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### **Pat says**

Thief of Corinth is set in the New Testament and Tessa will transport you back to those days. When reading you will forget you are in the 21st century and be back in Biblical days. You will smell the rich scent (yep good and bad), feel the heat, taste the sand, find yourself fleeing the dangers of our young heroine. The research is rich in history, scenery and even though the story isn't part of the Bible it is set in those times and the plot is rich in plot, characters and I had a hard time setting the book down. When I read my first book by Tessa Afshar I was hooked. She quickly became one of my all time favorite authors and I immediately bought two more of her books the same week I bought the first one. I consider it a privilege and honor to be on her review team. She made me remember why I love ancient history (Egypt, Middle East and Biblical times). Tessa Afshar paints history like an artist paints on canvas, only she does it with words. Her plot will tug at your heart and you might even shed a tear or two when she touches your heart.

I received Thief of Corinth from the publisher and Tessa Afshar. There were no expectations on my review and I absolutely loved this wonderful book. It's so rich in history, context, story line and characters. I recommend this book to anyone that loves Biblical history, a tight woven story and superbly written book.

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### **Virginia Winfield says**

I loved this very different book of fiction. This is a very interesting time period. I have never read a book based in Corinth and enjoyed learning a bit about it. I loved the character of Ariadne and how strong she is. It had to be hard to choose to do something different than most other women. I enjoyed her journey of discovery along with all of her friends. I did not want to stop reading this story. I hope to read many more of Tessa Afshar's books. I received a copy of this book from the author for a fair and honest opinion that I gave of my own free will.

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### **Alyssa says**

Perfection as usual!

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### **Catherine P says**

Thief of Corinth is a read that I just didn't want to put down. The plot never slows. I also like the way Paul's teachings were woven into the story. At the end, I wanted more adventures and for the story to continue on.

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### **Sarah says**

Redemption and Restoration There is a reason that Tessa Afshar is one of my favorite Christian authors. She pens Biblical fiction with consummate skill and keen insight, and "Thief of Corinth" is no exception. The

ancient world of first-century Corinth springs to vivid life and offers readers a tour of the culture and people residing there. Despite this antiquated setting, Afshar draws many parallels between Corinth and the modern world. The issue of women's rights—or acute lack thereof—features prominently, as does the fallout of a broken family and the repercussions of strained and severed relationships, friendships and peer pressure, and financial struggles. With unerring acumen, "Thief of Corinth" weaves social and personal concerns and how the two intersect in the lives of the characters. Ariadne, the young heroine, challenges the status quo with her fiery personality and sense of self-preservation. Her cunning and naiveté create a duality that makes her all the more relatable and sympathetic. As readers follow her journey and understand the great impact of the past and how she came to make her choices, they realize the prospect and the cost of restoration. Perhaps the circumstances of her life have, in fact, tuned her ear to the whisper of redemption. Likewise, this novel targets a larger audience besides Christians. Readers outside the faith will doubtless enjoy Ariadne's story and be touched by its telling and its outcome, gleaning the treasure of "Thief of Corinth" and serving as a testament to the power of love regardless of the time and place. I received a complimentary copy of "Thief of Corinth" from the publisher. I was not required to post a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Clara says**

Some novels leave you feeling so full you don't have room for your own words. For real though, if I could I'd fill this review with only quotes from the book but I'll leave it to you guys to explore ;-)

Tessa Afshar has truly written as a masterpiece! In "Thief of Corinth" we experience a journey not only read through one. I wish I could share all my highlights, insights and moments of tears and laughter for with a spunky heroine, there is a promise for this and much more. I'm impressed by this author's research and writing! I felt the scent of every herb and perfume, the taste of the food, and saw in my mind the majestic villages. It was hard to put this one down! And the heart!! The heart of this book was the most powerful part of all! Truly a story and an author to keep an eye out! So glad this might not be the last one considering her notes on Theo at the end... maybe Claudia too? \*hint hint\*

\*many thanks to the publisher for providing a review copy; this is my honest review

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