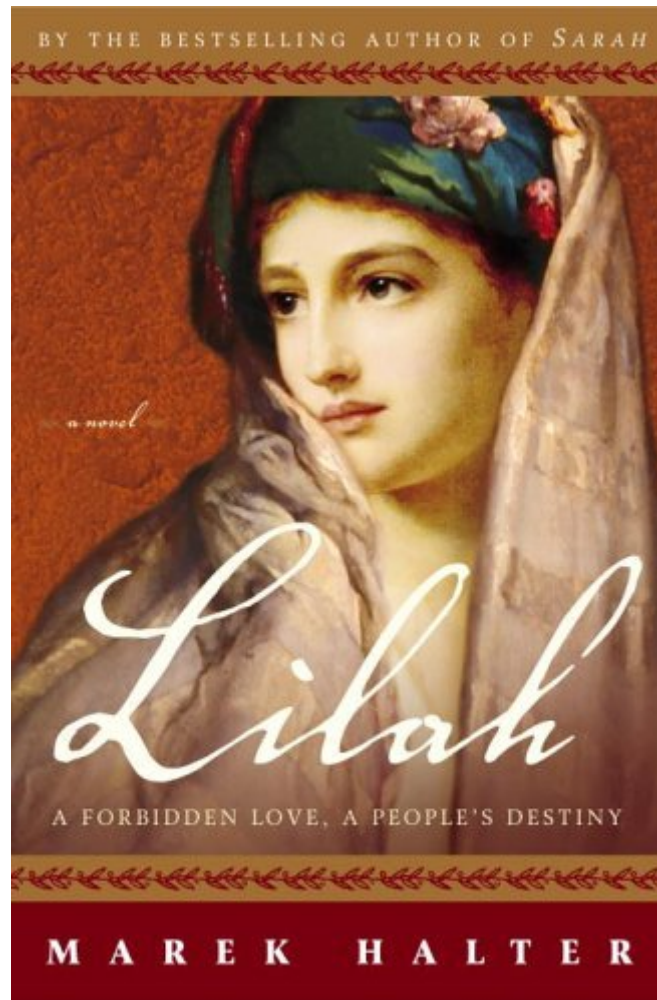


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Lilah: A Novel



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. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 lead 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 lead to believe. Mind you, I'm no 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.

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