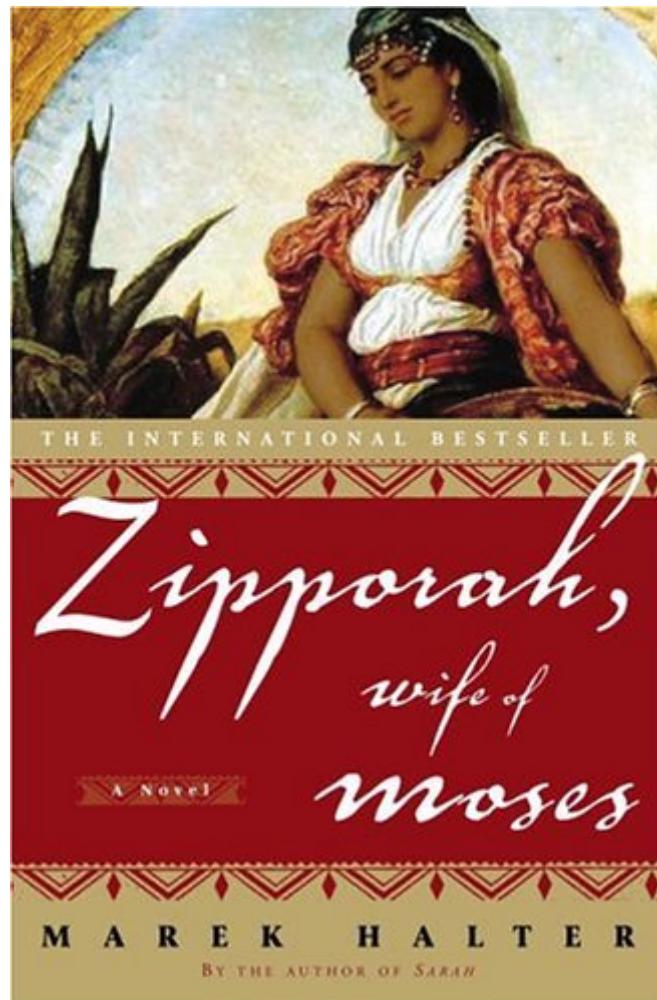


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Zipporah, Wife Of Moses: A Novel



Synopsis

From the internationally bestselling author of Sarah comes the riveting story of the remarkable woman who walked beside Moses. Although she is a Cushite by birth "one of the people of the lands to the south" Zipporah grew up as the beloved daughter of Jethro, high priest and sage of the Midianites. But the color of Zipporah's skin sets her apart, making her an outsider to the men of her adopted tribe, who do not want her as a wife. Then one day while drawing water from a well, she meets a handsome young stranger. Like her, he is an outsider. A Hebrew raised in the house of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Moses is a fugitive, forced to flee his homeland. Zipporah realizes that this man will be the husband and partner she never thought she would have. Moses wants nothing more than a peaceful life with the Midianites, but Zipporah won't let Moses forget his past or turn away from his true destiny. She refuses to marry him until he returns to Egypt to free his people. When God reveals himself to Moses in a burning bush, his words echo Zipporah's, and Moses returns to Egypt with his passionate and generous wife by his side. A woman ahead of her time, Zipporah leaps from the pages of this remarkable novel. Bold, independent, and a true survivor, she is a captivating heroine, and her world of deserts, temples, and ancient wonders is a fitting backdrop to an epic tale.

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Customer Reviews

The topic of Zipporah, Moses' black African wife, fascinated me, so this book supplied a want. What we know from the Bible is Moses married a black African woman and had two sons (Gershom and Eliezer) by her. She and her sons pretty much disappear thereafter. That could be the basis for a happy story, a heroic story - heck, even a comedy. Author Marek Halter, however, inexplicably chose to turn what might have been "Much Ado About Nothing" into "King Lear meets Titus Andronicus". On the one hand, you have Halter's excellent story telling ability. On the other hand, you feel that Halter perversely abuses his protagonist, Zipporah. Halter breathes considerable life into Zipporah, a sensitive Dickensian underdog character, and then, instead of exalting her with triumph for her moral integrity - as Dickens would do - Halter instead has her husband abandon her, destroys her children in front of her eyes, and disembowels her. If you feel there is something grossly perverted with Halter's conception, then you and I concur. This Marek Halter story fails aesthetically on multiple levels. 1. Rather than a loyal submissive wife (standard for that time, I'm surmising), Zipporah is an endearing shrew. 2. Zipporah's death and the death of her two sons was totally unnecessary; indeed, the unnecessary bloodiness reminds you of the black comedy of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus. 3. Moses is depicted as vacillating and weak, when in fact he was a prince of Egypt who "was trained in all the wisdom of Egypt, was great in his words and works", and had encountered God personally. 4.

I will first state that I listened to this book on CD, and that probably made the book flow a lot better. When you study the Hebrew Bible, you learn that every place where there is a non sequitur (2 lines that don't necessarily seem to go together, but are next to each other anyway) in the Bible, there is a story behind the story (called a Midrash in Hebrew). I was curious to learn this author's interpretation of who Zipporah was. The first part of the book had some worthwhile background material, but some side stories didn't seem to be necessary. I really enjoyed the middle part of the story where the author followed the Bible closely: the story of how Moses helped Zipporah and her sisters at the well, the burning bush, the birth of their sons. It was hard to read about the suffering of the Hebrews, but when the book followed the Bible, it was enjoyable, and it made the Bible as well as the characters come alive. (Note: there are scenes of a sexual nature in this portion that other reviewers have found inappropriate. I personally don't think these scenes added much to the book.) Other reviewers have mentioned being disturbed about the prejudice shown to Zipporah, and I am no different. While I believe that the Hebrews would definitely have mistrusted an outsider, I sincerely doubt that her color was an issue. Many Jews today are white skinned, but that has more

to do with where they have lived rather than where they are originally from. There are Jews on every continent, and they have every skin color. I don't know what color the Hebrews of the book of Exodus were, but I would be willing to believe that they were dark-skinned. It seems that this author had an agenda, but I think it would have been better served in a different book.

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