



A Reluctant Queen: The Love Story of Esther

By Joan Wolf

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A Reluctant Queen: The Love Story of Esther By Joan Wolf

You've read it as a biblical tale of courage. Experience it anew as a heart-stirring love story.

She was a simple girl faced with an impossible choice. He was a magnificent king with a lonely heart.

Their love was the divine surprise that changed the course of history.

The beloved story of Esther springs to fresh life in this inspired novel that vibrates with mystery, intrigue, and romance.

"Joan Wolf never fails to deliver the best!" ?Nora Roberts

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Historical fiction writer Wolf (*The Road to Avalon*) has turned the biblical Book of Esther, read in synagogues on the merrymaking festival of Purim, into a novel. She maintains most of the story's primary elements but rearranges them, invents a bit, and changes several attributes of the characters. The hero, Mordecai, appears as Esther's uncle rather than her cousin, as he was in the original biblical tale. More importantly, she reimagines King Ahasuerus, who was originally based on the historical Xerxes, son of Darius and grandson of Cyrus the Great, and makes him the fictional praiseworthy character. The real Xerxes was actually arbitrary and brutal. In Wolf's novel, he plays a minor role as Ahasuerus's brother. Some things don't change. The villain, Haman, who is booed and jeered when his name is mentioned in synagogue readings, is just as nasty a person in the novel as he is in the biblical story. In both, he receives his just desserts. Wolf has succeeded in tidying up the biblical account, reconstructing its people and events while preserving its essential elements and producing an attractive love story. Readers can decide for themselves which version they prefer. (June)

Review

Wolf's latest gives readers a wonderful glimpse into the life of Queen Esther. Readers will enjoy getting to know her as a woman beset with political ambition and family rivalries. While this novel doesn't completely follow the biblical story, readers will still enjoy this Cinderella tale come to life. (**** Rating) -- Romantic Times

About the Author

Joan Wolf was born in New York City but has lived most of her adult life in Connecticut with her husband, two children, and numerous pets. She's the author of *A Reluctant Queen* and *The Road to Avalon* lauded as "historical fiction at its finest" by Publisher's Weekly.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shannon Batiste:

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