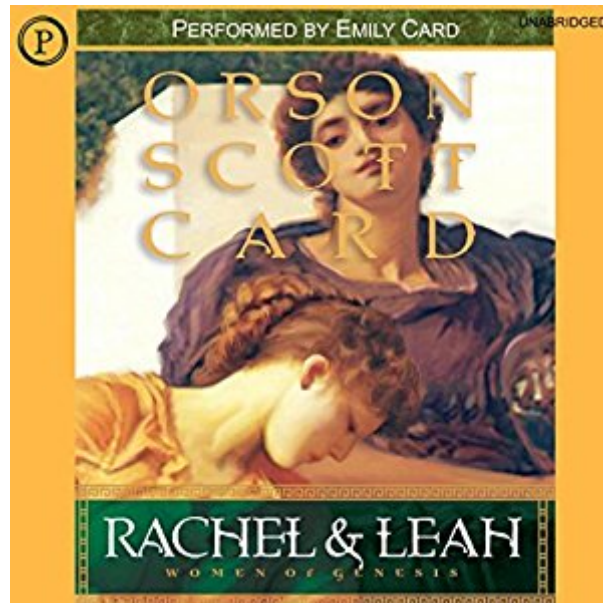


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Rachel & Leah: Woman Of Genesis, Book 3



Synopsis

In this third volume of his Women of Genesis series, Orson Scott Card paints a vivid picture of the intertwined lives of four celebrated women. We meet Leah, the oldest daughter of Laban, whose "tender eyes" prevent her from fully participating in the daily work of her nomadic family, and Rachel, the spoiled younger daughter, the petted and privileged beauty of the family - or so it seems to Leah. There is also Bilhah, an orphan who is not quite a slave but not really a family member, and Zilpah, who knows only how to use her beauty to manipulate men as she strives to secure for herself something better than the servitude into which she has been born. Into the desert camp comes Jacob, a handsome and charismatic kinsman destined to be Rachel's husband. But that doesn't prevent the other women from vying for his attention. Tracing their lives from childhood to maturity, Card shows how these women change each other - and are changed again by the holy books that Jacob brings with him. Ambition, jealousy, fear, and love motivate them as they vie for the attention of Jacob, heir to the spiritual birthright of Abraham and Isaac.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I had quite an opposite experience as k_b. I found I appreciated Rachel & Leah, as well as other Women of Genesis books, greater as a novel than as a piece of spiritual literature. Moreover, as compared to Saints, I didn't feel the pressure of religion overshadowing the shining characters and very real plot. I have always been a firm believer in extensive characterization. No matter how awesome and intricate a plot is, if you don't love the characters you won't care what kind of situations they get into. Card's talent isn't simply his ability to weave a good story, it is his ability to

create characters so vivid we cannot help but think of them as real people and empathize with their exploits. I knew the story of Jacob and his four wives very well, but it always sat uneasy with me; they and their actions were too detached, too foreign. All the characters in R&L feel real, and I found myself strongly empathizing with them (well, not so much Rachel, but that's probably the older sister in me talking). I am not spiritual AT ALL, but I love the Women of Genesis series (Rebekah has since become, in my opinion, one of the most kick-butt women in literature). Religion in the books feels more like a background or a means through which the REAL story can be told, neither offensive or distracting in its persistent function (see Saints). This is a remarkable book that evokes true emotion and paints very real portraits from fuzzy biblical sketches, transforming obscure literary references into human beings. I actually read Red Tent after finishing R&L. While I enjoyed it for the style and imagination, Card's portrayal of these characters was far more complete and I would revert back to his interpretation when the stories diverged.

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