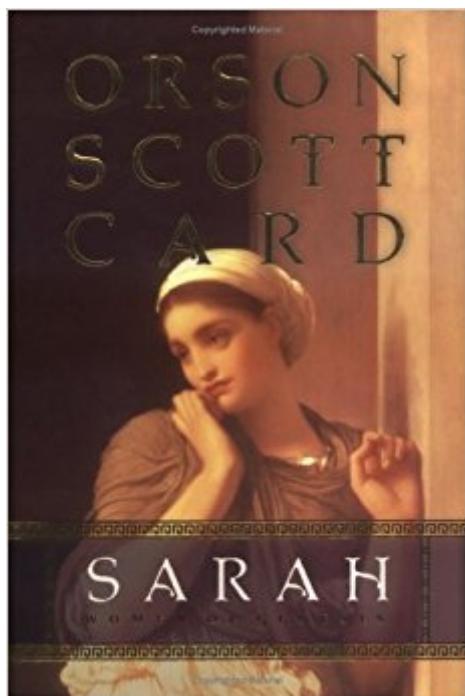


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# Sarah: Women Of Genesis (Women Of Genesis (Forge))



## **Synopsis**

Sarai was a child of ten years when she first met Abram. He appeared before her in her father's house, filthy from the desert, tired and thirsty. But as the dirt of travel was washed from his body, the sight of him filled her heart. And when Abram promised Sarai to return in ten years to take her for his wife, her fate was sealed. Abram kept his promise, and Sarai kept hers. They were wed, and so began a lifetime together of both great joy and great peril, for with the blessing of their God, who bestows on them new names, a great nation would be built around the core of their love. Bestselling author Orson Scott Card uses his fertile imagination and uncanny insight into human nature to tell the story of a unique woman--one who is beautiful, tough, smart, and resourceful in an era when women had little power. Sarah, child of the desert, wife of Abraham, takes on vivid reality as a woman desirable to kings, a devoted wife, and a faithful follower of the God of Abraham, chosen to experience an incomparable miracle. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

From New York Times bestselling author Orson Scott Card comes the finely crafted novel of Sarah, about a beautiful and courageous Jewish woman who changed the course of history through her faith, wisdom, and commitment to her husband, Abraham. As a man writing from a woman's perspective, Card nevertheless shows great perspicacity. Sarah's range of emotions is credible, including her fear as she pretends to be Abraham's sister in order to fool the Egyptian pharaoh

Neb-Towi-Re, and her pain as she deals with her barrenness. Later, the kindness Sarah showers on Hagar, her personal handmaid, conflicts believably with her agonizing jealousy over her decision to let Abraham father a child with Hagar. Card's research for the book results in detailed descriptions that help make it memorable, from the practice of religion and styles of dress to the accounts of desert and city life. He succeeds in offering a memorable tale for both those who are interested in biblical women as part of their faith and readers who just enjoy a good story. --Cindy Crosby --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Although Card's popular science fiction and fantasy have always been permeated with religious themes, this version of the life of Sarah, Abraham's wife, is more in keeping with his lesser known *Stone Tables*, a reconstruction of the life of Moses. In his afterword, Card explains that here he is not an apologist for the Bible, but rather "an apologist for Sarah, a tough, smart, strong, bright woman in an era when women did not show up much in historical records." He takes the tantalizingly rich references to Sarah in the book of Genesis and determines to bring her to life for his readers. This novel is not an epic volume rich in cultural and historical detail about ancient Mesopotamia, Canaan and Egypt. Its focus is more what Card does best: exploring human motives and relationships, and the role of faith in individual lives. The entire novel is told exclusively from the point of view of Sarah and her sister Qira, whom Card has created as Lot's wife. Qira is the blind, selfish materialist who cannot understand the kindness or self-sacrifice of the faithful who surround her and who chafes against her husband's authority. Sarah, by contrast, is a wise and virtuous figure who struggles to have the unflinching faith of Abraham, even though she glimpses God's presence in her life only rarely. The narrative is sometimes uneven, and the sprinkling of references to LDS theology may be awkward for the non-Mormon reader. Overall, however, this playfully speculative novel succeeds in bringing Sarah's oft-overlooked character into vivid relief. (Oct.)

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A beautiful story from the Bible, given the depth and life it deserves. Orson Scott Card is a master of the twist, and there were several in this book I didn't see coming. It was a delight to read scenes from this story, knowing the conclusion but wondering how the characters would come to it. Card paints ancient Egypt in a light I've never considered before, brings honor and reverence to the shepherd life of Abram, and brings a level of realism to the debauchery of Sodom and the story of Lot's wife. As with many other stories from Card, I found the internal monologue of Sarai a bit much at times. I remember feeling similarly when reading 'Ender's Shadow' years ago. This didn't

make the book any less intriguing, and I enjoyed the story and the characters from start to finish.

Orson Scott Card does an excellent job of finding how a person could be who they are and still become the great men and women we know from the Bible. While Orson's story here is a fictional account he makes his characters come alive showing how ordinary people could become extraordinary. Using human flaws, time period, circumstances, and choices both good and bad he comes up with believable accounts of how Sarah ended up who she was, and where she was. All while showing God's control and purpose and taking scripture into consideration. I enjoyed it.

I love Biblical fiction. I love Orson Scott Card. I love this series. Of course, as Scott Card himself warns, if you believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, you'll be a bit bothered by some of the choices he makes. But, obviously, you can't read Biblical fiction expecting complete accuracy. I felt that Scott Card did a beautiful job bringing Sarah and Abraham and their adventures to life.

One of Card's remarkable talents is the ability to craft a character that thoroughly engages the reader's interest while remaining persistently unrealistic. His characters all seem so alive and fascinating to me that it startled me to remember that no one I know would think or behave in the ways he describes. And yet I like his characters so much, at least at first, that sometimes I wish I had a friend like them. This Bible story has many weird events that imply strong, complex players, a situation Card handles without many surprises. Lot doesn't really make an appearance whereas his wife is one of Card's stupid bullies. Perhaps Card's interest in having babies (Bean was my favorite of Card's creations before he inevitably became another outlet for Card's obsession with reproduction) helps him handle the handmaiden breeding issue with aplomb in this book. I'd often viewed Hagar's story as kind of puzzling but Card's spin is believable without sacrificing the integrity of any of the personalities. I really like both Card and the Bible, and this is well written and does bear Card's stamp of the occasional psychological showdown so I'm happy with this work overall, but in some ways I'd wanted to see something riskier and more surprising. Maybe it would be too blasphemous for Card to write the personality of God and have him debate strategy with Abraham the way he likes his child-warriors to do in other books, but that's what I would really pay a lot to see.

A great read and surprisingly interesting. Card writes from a woman's perspective and does so convincingly. He obviously put much effort into researching the historical background (i.e. how

people lived, daily life, etc.) to really bring the story to life. I really enjoyed it, and once I started it, I had a hard time putting it down.

Love anything Card writes

This is one of those characters whose story you wish could just go on and on. Mr. Card is truly gifted. I have read about Sarah in the Bible all of my life but she really comes alive in this book. All of the characters have been developed so richly. We don't know exactly what happened and have only old accounts written and re-written, but he writes in such a way that believably fills in the gaps. Even if you don't believe it, it is a wonderfully written story. What is really important is to see the heart of these women and how their faith is the one thing that carries them through their good and bad times. Beautiful.

I'm a big fan of OSC's sci-fi books, with their strength being character development & ethical dilemmas as opposed to "gadgetry" or technological advances. So I was interested to see what he would do with the fictional account of a biblical matriarch from 3,000 years ago (give or take). I found this book profoundly moving. As a man reading a book by another man, about a woman from long ago & lacking in historical details of what her life was really like, you would think this book would lack authenticity. I can't say how women would react to it (although my wife found it excellent). But to me, the author's portrayal of Sarah's stigma of barrenness, her struggle to find a role for herself in Abraham's world, her deft handling of their visit to the Pharaoh in Egypt, and her weary patience with her (fictional) spoiled sister Qira (in this book, the author has her married to Lot of Sodom & Gomorrah fame), all ring true. This is supposed to be the first of a series of three books on women from the Old Testament; based on this one, you can definitely sign me up for the next two.

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