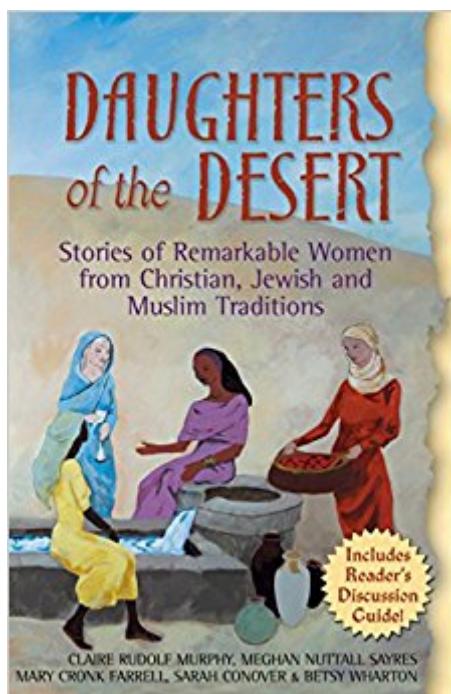


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# Daughters Of The Desert: Stories Of Remarkable Women From Christian, Jewish And Muslim Traditions



## **Synopsis**

How would the most cherished stories of Christianity, Judaism and Islam be different if women were the active central figures? This ground-breaking collection of short stories brings to life the women—daring, brave, thoughtful and wise—who played important and exciting roles in the early days of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Join Esther as she stands against injustice and her king to save her people, Aisha as she leads hundreds of men into terrifying battle and Mary as she and Elizabeth dream of the new lives growing inside them. How must Sarah have felt, turning Hagar out into the desert? And how must Hagar have felt, traveling from the safety and security of Abraham's land toward an uncertain future? These stories invite us to come to know and appreciate the struggles and triumphs of these women—mothers, daughters, believers and seekers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gr. 7-10. Women, though mentioned in the holy books of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, have never really gotten their due. This book tries to rectify that situation in 18 stories. Using sacred writings as their basis, the five women authors have reshaped the stories of such individuals as Sarah, Mary Magdalene, Eve, and Khadiji, the wife of Mohammed. The authors also give voice to some unnamed women—for example, the servant girl who confronts Peter for denying Jesus. The stories are short and simply told, but they are intriguing and invite discussion. Two of the most interesting concern the dismissal of Hagar and Ishmael from Abraham's tents: one is told from

Sarah's viewpoint; the other from Hagar's. The story endnotes give the basis for each telling. An interesting way of showing how three religions spring from the same sandy landscape. Ilene CooperCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Recovery of the wisdom of women in the great Abrahamic religions is long overdue. Daughters of the Desert is a knock-out contribution to that project. Read the stories, fill your heart, share the wealth with others. This book deserves to become a classic of twenty-first century spiritual reading. Cherish it."—Mitch Finley, author of *Prayer for People Who Think Too Much* and *The Joy of Being Catholic*"These engaging stories of women, some of whom are important to all three religions, and some known only to one, help build bridges of understanding between religions and demonstrate the importance of religion in our lives."—Dr. Freda Crane, member, Islamic Society of North America"How refreshing to find the stories of Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. They are like water in the desert offering new voices and new hope to our generation."—Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, author of *Cain & Abel: Finding the Fruits of Peace and But God Remembered: Stories of Women from Creation to the Promised Land*"Some stories speak powerful narratives. Others point to new understandings of our world. Still others ask questions of justice, mercy, and devotion within communities. Daughters of the Desert speaks and points and questions in all three ways, with stories about women from three spiritual traditions. Their ancient journeys—Jewish, Christian, and Muslim—startlingly and wonderfully like our own, call us to and encourage us in our own paths to God."—Gary Schmidt, author of *Winter: The Spiritual Biography of the Season* and *William Bradford: Plymouth's Faithful Pilgrim*

I belong to a group called 'Daughters of Abraham.' There are Muslims, Jews, and Christians. We chose to read and discuss this book because it features women from each tradition. It was the first book we read and it proved to be wonderful ice breaker.

I was surprised by the ease of reading. This is written in storytellers format and short stories are easily shared with my kids and roommates alike. I've read one story to a 2nd grader and another to a friend in her 80s. I've shared these with Christian women, woman with no "religious preference" only background in a church of sorts and a couple of guys who hadn't a clue where they were spiritually at that moment. These are preaching tales but stories of women from 3 faiths that share some common ground. I particularly liked the Adam and Eve fictional tale where Evil was originally a

camel made into serpent. I won't spoil the surprises you will find in this book. Highly recommend - even to advanced elementary readers. My fifth grader (who only reads Harry Potter and fantasy/mystery novels) loves these stories. Even if she'd rather they be read aloud. Want a book club book for people who don't like to read A LOT - this is your pick. Want to reach to someone set in their ways of being Jewish or Christian or Muslim, I can't say enough but I'm from the Christian persuasion and undoubtedly seeking diversity. This is one of my favorites!

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