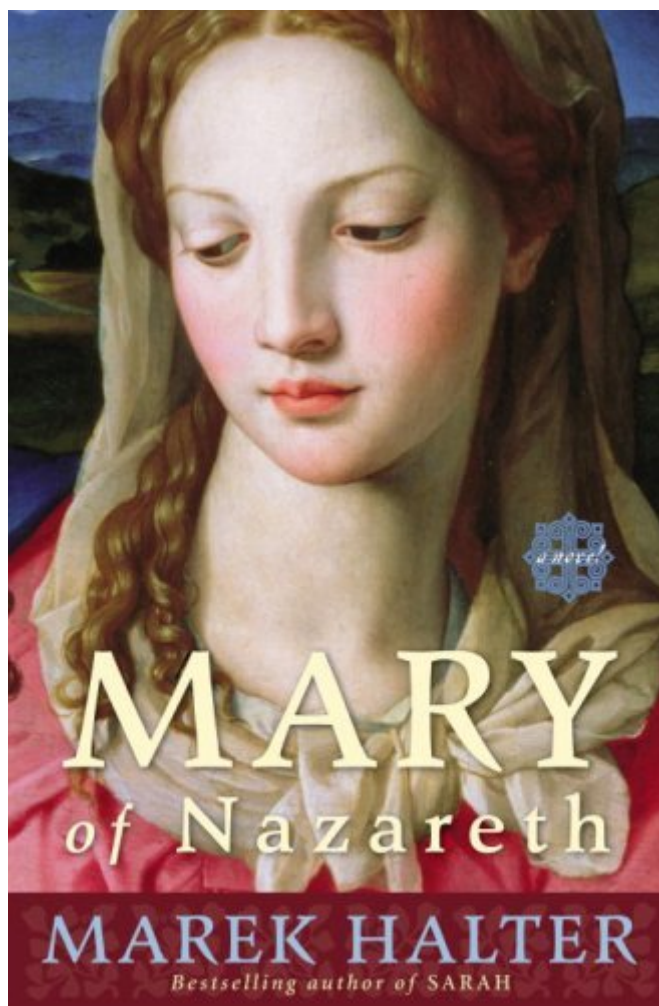


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Mary Of Nazareth: A Novel



Synopsis

The ancient world and its politics come to life through the eyes of a young Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth. Miriam—also known as Mary—was born into a Palestine oppressed by Herod the Great; she is accustomed to living with uncertainty and unrest. But when her beloved father is wrongly imprisoned by the Romans, she takes action. She calls upon a well-known rebel by the name of Barabbas, and together they set out to save her father. A daring escape is accomplished and, against staggering odds, Miriam's father is saved from crucifixion. Barabbas, flush with the success of the rescue, is intent on leading a full-scale rebellion against Herod and the Romans. Along with Mary and her father, he speaks before Jewish leaders who have gathered from various communities. Miriam feels great frustration as the men endlessly debate morality, the wisdom of rebellion, and the nature of God's will. Having almost lost her father, and knowing she will be ostracized, she nevertheless speaks out against the use of violence. And to her surprise, one man, Joseph, listens. He offers to take her to Magdala, where she will be allowed to study in the company of intelligent, well-read women. This rare opportunity sets into motion a series of events that will change Miriam's life—and the history of the Jewish people—forever. Based on extensive historical and biblical scholarship, *Mary of Nazareth* is a revealing, utterly captivating portrait of a woman whose story we only thought we knew. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I was disappointed and frustrated by this book. In the end, I am not sure what story the author is trying to tell. On the positive side, the story is well written and compelling, and keeps you engaged to the end of the book. But I was left wondering, who is the Mary he is telling the story of? Is it Mary the Mother of Jesus? Some version of Mary with the character of a modern-day Jewish mother? or the Mary he met in Poland, who had rescued Jews from the Holocaust. In historical terms, the story is contrived. The author brings together disparate actors from the gospels in a way that it lacks credibility. The story is clearly set up to demonstrate the possibility that Jesus survived the crucifixion, First, Mary rescues her father from the cross and then heals a boy with a spear wound. This is an unnecessary assault of Christian beliefs, when considering that the story focuses on Mary's preparation for the birth of Jesus. At the same time, the author goes to extraordinary lengths to preserve Mary's perpetual virginity (a belief that is hotly debated amongst Christians). The so-called Gospel of Mary appended to the book is clearly made up and lacks any resonance with other writings of the time. Mostly notably it is written in the first person, which would have been considered a supremely arrogant form of speech in first century Palestine. It is disappointing that the author didn't use the real Gospel of Mary, which provides some wonderful support for aspects of the character he developed. The view of Palestine seems out of sync with the Gospels. The Romans, and the tax collectors are just too oppressive. There is no hint of the uneasy accommodations that come through the Gospel accounts. Meanwhile, the Jewish society seems a little too perfect. And it wasn't until some weeks after reading, it then occurred to me what was missing - the lepers. The ubiquitous outcasts of the ancient world are simply absent. Which led me to the conclusion that while this is an interesting work of fiction, the historical presentation is poor and the author misses an important opportunity to tell a story that Jews, Christians and Muslims could all identify with.

I really enjoyed this novel. I found it very interesting how he wrote about the romans and how they were when then had run of the land and how bad they treated the people during those days how cruel they were. It was very sad how they percussed the people for there own fun and games and how the people lived with the political in those days and like us how we deal with our own governmnet and the problem that arise. I enjoyed how he protrayed mary as a young girl full of fire

and not letting nothing get in her way. the story and the plot was excellent but I was not happy with the ending part and how he ended the story. Coming from a jewish person I could see why he wrote it and a lot of jewish people think this is what happened,or one theory anyway. But due to the fact that a lot of non jewish people would read it they will not agree with what he said.I am one of those people who do not agree with what he said. I think he should of thought about the ending a little bit more. I have read many of his novels but this one was the pits.

One of the most captivating books I have ever read... It'd recommend it to everyone! Whether your someone of strong faith or simply an atheist the book doesn't fail to engage you and you'll be gripping to the words until the very end.

As usual, this was another great read from Marek Halter. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and this different look at Mary and her experience and life. Many other reviewers are stuck on the fact that this isn't identical to (or even in line with) what the Bible says (or what is generally accepted about Mary and her life). But that's good. And also correct - this isn't another of the same old rehashing of the same old boring story. This is a different story that puts Mary at the center, and her thoughts and experiences with her faith and journey. It makes you THINK. Which is why I would recommend this book for those looking for a story about the real Mary of Nazareth.

Too far away from the Mary I grew up knowing. Also, the attempt to rewrite and undo God's plan, was too far out there for me. Marek amazed me with Sari, but disappointed me with Mary.

I was disappointed they strayed so far from what we read in the bible :-)

This book came to me in very poor condition. The corners were dogearred and the edges of pages were worn, almost as if they may have been wet at one time. I was very disappointed.I haven't wanted to pick it up to even start reading it.

while the book is basically fiction it helped me to reject the portrayal of Mary as read in Mary of Nazareth; it made me appreciate and uphold the beliefs I have held of Mary throughout my life...

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