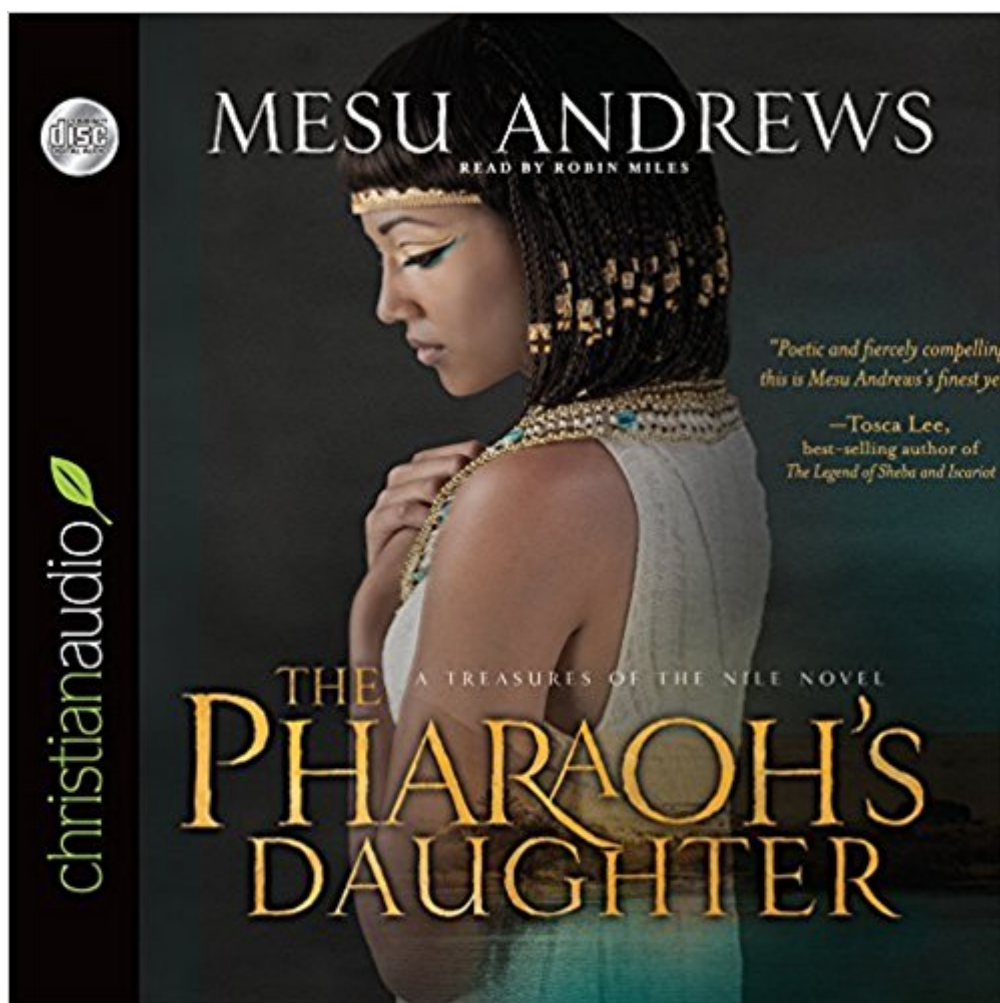


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The Pharaoh's Daughter: A Treasures Of The Nile Novel



Synopsis

"You will be called Anippe, daughter of the Nile. Do you like it?" Without waiting for a reply, she pulls me into her squishy, round tummy for a hug. "I'm trying not to cry. Pharaoh's daughters don't cry. When we make our way down the tiled hall, I try to stop at ummi Kiya's chamber. I know her spirit has flown yet I long for one more moment. Ameniah pushes me past so I keep walking and don't look back. "Like the waters of the Nile, I will flow. Anippe has grown up in the shadows of Egypt's good god Pharaoh, aware that Anubis, god of the afterlife, may take her or her siblings at any moment. She watched him snatch her mother and infant brother during childbirth, a moment which awakens in her a terrible dread of ever bearing a child. Now she is to become the bride of Sebak, a kind but quick-tempered Captain of Pharaoh Tut's army. In order to provide Sebak the heir he deserves and yet protect herself from the underworld gods, Anippe must launch a series of deceptions, even involving the Hebrew midwives women ordered by Tut to drown the sons of their own people in the Nile. When she finds a baby floating in a basket on the great river, Anippe believes Egypt's gods have answered her pleas, entrenching her more deeply in deception and placing her and her son Mehy, whom handmaiden Miriam calls Moses, in mortal danger. As bloodshed and savage politics shift the balance of power in Egypt, the gods reveal their fickle natures and Anippe wonders if her son, a boy of Hebrew blood, could one day become king. Or does the god of her Hebrew servants, the one they call El Shaddai, have a different plan for them all?

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Customer Reviews

Mesu Andrews' A deep understanding of and love for God's Word brings the biblical world alive for her readers. Her first novel, A Love Amid the Ashes won the 2012 ECPA Book of the Year for a Debut Author. Her three subsequent novels, A Love's Sacred Song, Love in a Broken Vessel, and A The Shadow of Jezebel all released to great reader enthusiasm. Mesu lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband Roy.

Thanks to technology and a diverse set of authors, many fictionalized accounts of the Exodus story exist, from Cecile B. DeMille's The Ten Commandments to Dreamworks' The Prince of Egypt, and everything in between. Miriam is probably one of the most unique takes on the familiar Bible epic I've seen in awhile. Part of this is because of the protagonist; the exodus is never told from Miriam's point of view. Therefore, not many people know she was a prophetess - I didn't know that and I've read the Bible several times. (Guess I missed that detail). Here, she is a well-developed character with a complex struggle. Her God, El-Shaddai, has always been faithful in speaking clearly to her. They've always had a strong relationship, such that Miriam didn't feel the need for marriage. But now, her brother Moses is back from the wilderness and talking about deliverance from slavery, and he says God has revealed His secret name, Yahweh. Miriam realistically struggles with the feeling that God disapproves of or has abandoned her. At times, these emotions take over, but she is still able to communicate Yahweh's love and faithfulness to others, especially her nephew Eleazar and his intended, Taliah. Neither are eager to believe in Yahweh. Taliah has grown up as an outcast because although a Hebrew, she was taken into the Egyptian harem. Eleazar has felt the sting of his parents' rejection and gone through so many trials, he sees God as a vindictive and petty Being. Both these characters must go on an arduous spiritual journey to find the truth. The journey is well-written and gratifying. I especially found myself identifying with the intellectual Taliah. Mesu remains true to the Scriptural account of the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, while giving readers realistic details and peeks into psyches that the Bible doesn't offer. She also fleshes out characters who are only names to many Bible readers. I'm going to investigate her other books soon and invite you to do so as well. I also hope for a third or even fourth Treasures of the Nile story.

As I carefully & slowly read the prologue, I felt enveloped in Miriam's vision from El-Shaddai. It was a gentle place of warmth. This feeling was replaced by anticipation because I thought I knew what was coming - the release of the Israelites from captivity. There was so much more to the exodus than the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. Mesu

provides the more in Miriam. Mesu Andrews carefully unearthed truth from Exodus and used the pieces she discovered to recreate one of the mightiest stories of God's redemption. I kept my Bible close while reading Miriam so that I could see the truth woven in the story. If you have never read the first 15 chapters of Exodus, Miriam provides a story to set the scene. If you have read these chapters a hundred times, Miriam fills in the blanks so that you can consider what might have been. I received this book from Waterbrook Press, a division of Penguin Random House, in exchange for an honest review.

If you haven't read any Biblical fiction book lately, then I highly recommend this one. Mesu Andrews takes you in depth to the life of being a Hebrew slave. She takes you through Moses' life as Prince Regent, his returning, the plagues, the crossing into the Promised Land. As you read this story, you will feel like you're living their life, feeling the slash of a whip, the cruelty of the slave handlers, and Pharaoh's cruelty. Through all this, you will see and feel God's power unleashed. You'll see His hand in ALL things! Mesu knows how to draw her readers in and you will not be disappointed! You'll be so drawn in time will fly. With a heartbreaking sigh, the story will be at its last sentence. May you enjoy and fall in love into the biblical life of Miriam as I did. I received an advanced readers copy of this book from Waterbrook Multnomah Publishing, a division of Penguin House, for my honest and unbiased opinion of this book.

Thank you, Mesu Andrews!! I, like the main character, Anippe, didn't really have a clue to how bad the Israelite slavery was, or the depravity of man in war could be. In the Pharaoh's Daughter, Mesu paints a graphic picture of the intrigue, avarice, insanity, and violence of ancient Egypt. Having always been fascinated with the pyramids, the hieroglyphics, the stories of the ancient Egyptian gods, here is the counterpoint to that amazing view. We see not only the riches and power of Egypt, but the corruption, the devaluation of women, the plotting to ascend and keep the throne, the horrific condition of slaves. Fear, peace, terror, greed, contentment, want, plenty, life, death, love, and hate; all are woven together as deftly as the famous Egyptian cotton into an incredibly moving story that will stay with me forever. Halfway through this story, I wondered how Mesu can justify not sticking to Biblical accounts. As I read on, I was amazed at the twists that prove that Mesu DOES INDEED STAY TRUE TO SCRIPTURE, but uses strategic verses and story turns that sew everything seamlessly together. I was thrilled to receive this book and another as a gift through a contest sponsored by Mesu Andrews, Multnomah/Waterbrook, and Mommy-nificent's blog.

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