



Love's Sacred Song

Mesu Andrews

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Standing in the shadow of his famous father, young King Solomon wavers between fear and bravado, longing for a love that is true and pure--a love that can be his cornerstone.

A shepherdess in the northern city of Shunem, Arielah has known since she first laid eyes on Solomon that it was her destiny to become his bride. When her father secures a promise from Solomon to marry Arielah as a treaty bride to help unite the kingdom, it seems her dreams will come true.

But how can this simple shepherdess live as part of Solomon's harem? Can Solomon set aside his distractions to give himself completely to just one woman? Or will he let duty, deception, and the daily routine divide his heart?

Mesu Andrews expertly weaves the words of the Song of Solomon into this touching story of the power of love from a master storyteller.

Love's Sacred Song Details

Date : Published March 1st 2012 by Revell Books (Baker Publishing Group)

ISBN :

Author : Mesu Andrews

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Biblical Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review Love's Sacred Song for online ebook

??Trea says

I enjoy Christian romances quite a bit, but ones based on Biblical stories are usually ones I am eager to read, and this one was no exception. However, this was the first time I didn't get a high level of enjoyment out of reading one.

This book centered around King Solomon and Arielah, one of his wives from Northern Israel. It takes place shortly after the death of King David, and chronicles some of Solomon's reign. The story was interesting and kept me involved and caring about what happened to the characters, but some of the themes of the books were repeated too much for my tastes. Solomon required Arielah's forgiveness too many times for my liking, and he kept doing things that hurt her! It made me hate him as a character, especially after Arielah was injured because of his actions. The story also ended abruptly for me, and I was jarred out of the flow because of it. To me, this was worse than the author's first work, *Love Amid the Ashes*, but I enjoyed it enough to keep reading the author. It just wasn't my favorite book of hers. Here's hoping that *Love in a Broken Vessel* is better!

Laura says

Title: LOVE'S SACRED SONG

Author: Mesu Andrews

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Genre: Biblical Fiction

Arielah is a shepherdess who has known ever since she met Solomon that it's her destiny to become King Solomon's bride—but Solomon finally reluctantly agrees to take Arielah as a treaty bride to help unite the kingdom. Arielah is content, as it seems all her dreams will come true.

King Solomon is standing in King David's famous shadow, and Solomon wavers between fear and bravado. He does take Arielah as a treaty bride, but he adds her to his harem, something Arielah never expected or wanted.

Can Arielah live as part of Solomon's harem? Can Solomon set aside his distractions to give himself to just one woman? Or will duty, deception, and the daily routine divide his heart?

LOVE'S SACRED SONG is the latest release by biblical fiction author Mesu Andrews. Those who are familiar with the biblical stories of King Solomon will know some of the details of this story, and the rest is pure imagination that vividly brings the time period, the characters, and the setting to life.

Arielah becomes real on the pages of this book, as does King Solomon. I enjoyed getting to know these characters and seeing where this story would take them. Knowing that Solomon had many wives and a huge harem, it seemed unlikely Arielah would get her dreams of a forever love, but I hoped that she would.

Author's notes are included at the end of the book. \$14.99. 448 pages.

Margaret Chind says

At the beginning of the week you may have seen the flyer posted about this book. Could the book cover get any more yummy? Now if you had a Bible cover like this, wouldn't you want to jump in and read about these characters/people and try to understand their emotions and the events surrounding them? I would! Sometimes reading your Bible is hard and you need a bit of a jump start on your imagination. That is what you find in these Biblical Fiction books from Mesu. She uses scripture as a baseline and then adds possible fiction to the storytelling to bring the names to life and gives them form and face in imagination. It causes you to want to go back and delve more. Read more about abba David from the sheep field to the harp in the courtyard to the pain in treachery and then the death bed. To Solomon's encounter with God and to the events in his kingdom.

If you know me and my opinion and thirst for Christian Historical Fiction you might have heard me mention that my first introduction was through Liz Curtis Higgs and her Scottish Lowlands Series. While her historical novels might be staged in Scotland and hosted in a different century the elements and foundation of a scripture story is there. Now, would you believe me if I told you my heart and curiosity was even more enraptured by the storytelling's of the book Song of Songs telling King Solomon, son of the shepherd and poet King David in a novelization from Mesu Andrews?

This book had me by the heart and held on. Our Beloved Arielah captured my sympathy and interest and made me turn the page in the same way that any historical romance from others of my favorite author's like Mary Connealy, Julie Lessman, or Susan Page Davis and MaryLu Tyndall might force me to do. Yet she did something even more. While it is not entirely surprising for me to explore some related scripture after reading a particular Christian Historical Fiction novel, the storyline from Mesu caused me to venture in and read Song of Songs in its entirety from my Bible without interruption and with a new set of lenses for my eyes. They are not rose colored glasses, but they sure are vivid... and enchanting.

As a reader, one is pulled into the life and times of a Biblical monarch that finds himself a real man enduring such troubles and tasks to be realistic and interesting. There is romance of course, but it doesn't stop there as the suspense and drama propels each page forward. In the end it is a fascinating take that just makes me want to crack the spine on my Bible more often.

Well done Mesu! Need I even say it? Highly recommended!

Thanks to Mesu and Revell for providing a copy for review.

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Don't forget you may want more and to go back and read Dinah's story in Love Amid the Ashes.

Cindy says

Oh what a story!! Mesu Andrews has taken the Bible book Songs of Solomon, and Biblical history and woven a beautiful story, centering around King Solomon and his love for his Shulammitte princess Arielah. This story is a beautiful story of love that is pure, and life lasting. Arielah, first saw Solomon when he was a teen and she just a child of seven years old, but she knew that she would one day be his bride. And she dared to dream that she would win his heart. And win his heart she did, however she was a strong young woman, determined to follow the laws of Jehovah and often angered Solomon with her actions. Once the wedding day arrived and Arielah was a beloved queen in the palace, she became the target for the secret group of men trying to overthrow the kingdom, the Sons of Judah. A target that was in dire danger, a target that Solomon was unable to protect, and Arielah, nearly lost her life at the hands of this covert group.

This story was divided into two parts and while each part was important to revealing the whole story, I often found myself bogged down in part one of the book, while part two moved quickly and kept you reading to find out what would happen next. All in all this story was a good story, a story that will open your eyes and bring the stories of the Bible to life for you. 438 pages \$14.99 US 4 stars

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This book was provided by Revell Books for review purpose only, no payment was received for this review.

Holly Renee says

If I could give this book a ten star rating, I would! To be honest, I'm putting it right up there with Redeeming Love! Yes, it's that good.

Mesu Andrews' newest novel, Love's Sacred Song, is a powerful rendition of the Songs of Solomon. It captivates in the same way the Shula-mite bride captivated Solomon.

Andrews pens a novel that thrusts readers into an emotionally gripping story, capturing the beautiful poetry of the Songs of Solomon and transforming it into magnificent, passion-filled prose that moves the heart. She skillfully works in the historical and biblical implications found in Kings and Chronicles, expounding on the lessons we find inside those ancient pages while masterfully immersing her readers into another time and place, surrounding us with characters and "Sunday school lessons" that become living, breathing people who capture the heart and stir emotions.

Love's Sacred Song is a romance unlike any other. Andrews sweeps us into a passionate story that sheds light on those often hard to comprehend poetical phrases found in Songs of Solomon.

While true to the events and portrayal of the characters found in Kings and Chronicles, Love's Sacred Song draws its main plot from the book of Songs, spinning the poetry into an entire novel. The dialogue between the Lover and the Beloved is worked into the dialogue of the main characters--but it's done in such a way that it never comes across as corny. In addition, Andrews weaves some proverbs into the plot, as well as using Ecclesiastes to create a well-rounded story and character. She even throws some psalms in there, too!

I have not only studied the kings of Judah to a various extent, but I've also delved into studying Songs of

Solomon and the theories that surround it. Having delved into these subjects, I give Andrews one of the highest marks in capturing its accuracy historically, Biblically, theologically, and romantically.

While romance is usually geared toward women, I believe both men or women can not only enjoy this novel, but value the depth of Biblical truth etched into the pages of this story.

Love's Sacred Song not only points to the most sacred song ever created, but will earn a sacred place in reader's hearts as well.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Revell publishers in exchange for an honest review.

Available March 2012 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Donna says

Love's Sacred Song is the third book I have read by Mesu Andrews and I have loved every one. At this point, Love's Sacred Song is a close second to Love In A Broken Vessel.

I know this is fiction but Ms. Andrews has a wonderful talent that makes me think "Yeah, it could have happened that way" when the bible is silent. My biggest question about Solomon has always been; if he was so wise and the author of Songs of Solomon, how did he become an idol worshipper, have so many wives and raise his son so badly? Andrew's Solomon is so strong and weak that I got a glimpse of the answer to my questions. Throughout the story I kept thinking how could his treaty bride love him so much? Then it would dawn on me that God is so like that when I have been so consistently sinful and unfaithful. I would find myself being grateful that that kind of love is God's specialty and wanting to love Him back more faithfully. As is the author's practice, I am now in the middle of the accompanying bible study where she asks the kind of questions that make me leave the fictional account and settle into the truth of the bible. I'd recommend this book to anyone.

Linda Goossen says

There are so many people out there that have a wonderful imagination about what life is about during the Biblical times. This is a very interesting book. Thanks, Carole!

I finished the book. I was kind of disappointed at the ending, but I think it was worth the time.

Kim says

This has to be the best book I've readin a long time. So close to fact of the Bible and so much insight to life. May have to reread soon!

Janna says

This is a beautiful Biblical fiction account of what might have happened to lead Solomon to write the book "Song of Solomon". I was moved by this book and devoured it to the end. I cried at the end, I'll admit it. A lovely, heart warming and, at the same time, sad tale of Solomon and his treaty bride, Arielah, who believes that God has chosen her to teach Solomon how to love. I loved the way Mesu really drew me into that particular time and place and brought the traditions to life for me. There were times when I questioned how someone who had the wisdom of God blessed over him could be so dense when it came to the treachery all around him, but sometimes I suppose things that are so close to you that you are blind to it. All around this book was moving and wonderful. I will now go back and read her first book "Love Amid the Ashes" about Job. Another thing about both of Mesu's books - the covers are stunningly beautiful!

Diane Wallace says

This book is very well written with so many details of the time period. I really enjoyed the Israelite wedding customs which were unique. Each chapter also begins with Scripture to relate what it will be about.

Ruth says

When Arielah was a child she accompanied her father Jeheosephat, a respected judge of Shunem, to Jerusalem, where she spied the young prince Solomon. And ever since that day she's carried in her heart the certainty that they would one day wed. Years pass, and the great King David lies on his deathbed, comforted by the prize of Shunem, the beautiful Abishag (1 Kings 1& 2), who serves as his "belly-warmer," an intimate but platonic relationship. Abishag's lack of any official status in the royal household becomes a lightning rod, symbolizing the northern tribes' discontent with their favored southern brethren, the tribe of Judah's, rule and dominance in Israeli affairs. With the once-mighty warrior king near death, the time is ripe for conflict to erupt between those who favor a united Israel and David's chosen heir, Solomon, and those who would usurp God's anointed and seek to advance the pre-eminence of Judah. Into this politically volatile climate steps Solomon, a prince of privilege possessing the promised gift of godly wisdom with which to govern his people -- but with an equally competing temptation to succumb to the paralyzing fear of failure. When Arielah is offered as a treaty bride in an attempt to appease the simmering temper of the northern tribes, Solomon accepts, but is wholly unprepared for his unconventional bride and the surrender the love she offers him requires. While the cost of the pure love Arielah offers seems impossible to grasp, with the future of his kingdom and very character at stake, can Solomon afford to reject the hope of love's sacred song?

After Mesu Andrews brought Job's story to life in her debut, *Love Amid the Ashes*, I was left eagerly awaiting her next novel. I must confess that beyond a rather rudimentary knowledge of Solomon's reign and his famous wisdom, I don't think I've ever given the man his due (I've always been more of a David girl). :) And while the *Song of Songs* is among the most passionate of texts, I never really connected with it -- perhaps because that slim book always seemed to lack context, a place in the greater narrative of the Old Testament that would put faces to the passionate declarations in those short eight chapters of verse. But ever since I began reading *Love's Sacred Song*, I feel as though God has been whispering the intent of that book to my heart, birthing within me a love and understanding for this book within the context of my faith. Through Andrews' intricately plotted, brilliantly recreated, colorfully evocative portrait of ancient Israel, the purpose and passion of Solomon and his Shulammitte bride spring to life on the page in such a way that -- if

one is willing -- you cannot help but be changed and inspired by the journey.

Love's Sacred Song is epic in its scope, embodying everything I love about biblical fiction, making characters on the pages of scripture once again living, breathing people full of passion and life, leaving you cheering for their victories and heart-broken over their (all-too relatable) mistakes. Andrews restores Solomon's humanity, much needed as his legendary wisdom too often leaves him seemingly unrelatable. Here Andrews gives us Solomon early in his reign, a young man attempting to establish himself outside the shadow of his famous father, often paralyzed by the fear of failure and subsequently blinded by pride and the trappings of position. Arielah is a woman you'd like as your friend, a window into the world of a royal harem and its politics and heartbreak, incomprehensible by today's standards. Yet, such was the reality she faced -- and that makes the challenge and victory of the love illustrated in Solomon's sacred song all the more powerful.

More than a love story, though, Love's Sacred Song speaks to the heart's cry of the Father and the unfathomable depth of the love He longs to lavish on each one of His children -- if we but accept it. If the marriage relationship is a gift, an earthly expression of the relationship God desires with mankind -- then the Song of Songs is much more than a picture of God-ordained, sacred love between a man and a woman as outlined in the Song. Since the church is the bride of Christ, the Song of Songs and the love that inspired it point back to the giver of every good and perfect gift, the only one, ultimately, who is capable of offering a lasting love because He knows us best, as He is the one who fashioned us in our mothers' wombs (Ps 139:13). And because He so loved, because the sacred passion He harbored demanded no less, His Son was sent to earth to suffer unspeakably at the hands of His creation, in doing so offer the ultimate bride-price -- His precious blood, covering our failings and reconciling mankind with the creator.

Rich with atmosphere and historical detail, including fascinating glimpses into everything from wedding customs to court protocol and intrigue, Love's Sacred Song is sure to delight historical and biblical fiction lovers alike. With lead characters who send sparks flying from the page and a host of well-drawn supporting players, Mesu Andrews's second novel is a rich, meaty read that will not only entertain, but if you'll let it, challenge and grow your faith, inspiring a deeper appreciation for the texts from which Song draws its inspiration. An intricately plotted page-turner, I particularly appreciated how Andrews seamlessly wove the scriptures that head each chapter into her narrative -- by giving a face and voice to the scripture, the words and their potential impact take root in your soul in a powerful, fresh way. This is fiction at its best, a masterfully crafted work that challenges, inspires, and will break your heart with its beauty all the while encouraging your faith even as tears threaten to fall -- because at its heart this masterclass in biblical fiction points straight back to the Master Storyteller. This novel is an extraordinary gift, one I won't soon forget.

Faye says

Richly woven Biblical Fiction, based on Song of Solomon.

I was surprised at how easily I was swept into another time and place, with Love's Sacred Song. Mesu Andrews expertly mixes historical fact, with well-crafted fiction, creating a page-turning, Biblical romance that is nearly impossible to put down.

Now you might be wondering, "How do you make a story about a man with numerous wives, romantic?" Well, you'll have to read this book to find out! I had some doubts too, about this story, but Love's Sacred Song completely blew me away.

I think that this book gave me some new insight on the struggles that Solomon faced, and helped me understand the circumstances under which he ended up with so many wives!

My favorite character ended up being Jehoshaphat, Arielah's father. He was a man full of faith, with wisdom, character, and an innate sense of honor, that made him someone that I instantly admired.

Overall, Love's Sacred Song is a bitter-sweet, yet powerful love story. Based on Song of Solomon, Love's Sacred Song is so different from the kind of book that you might typically expect to get as a result. I highly recommend this book. Even if you're like me and don't typically read Biblical Fiction, Love's Sacred Song is so good that it's totally worth giving a shot.

Final Rating: 5 out of 5

With thank to Revell and Donna Hausler for providing me with this review copy in return for an honest review :)

Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says

MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK

Love's Sacred Song by Mesu Andrews

I was anxious to read this Biblical fiction based on the Song of Solomon, and my first book by Mesu Andrews and I can say I was not disappointed. "Love's Sacred Song" is Solomon's story. The author starts at the end of Solomon's dad, David's life, and the beginning of Solomon's reign as King. Being a King, Solomon had many wives but he didn't love any of them. That is until he meets Arielah, who had loved Solomon for years, and all she wanted was his heart, and to let him know what love really was. Their love

didn't come easy, the journey a very difficult one, which brought on a lot of hurt and pain, especially for Arielah.

This is a beautifully, well written story that came about from many hours of research by the author. Ms. Andrews gives the situations in detail, which was sometimes difficult to read, but it is truth, right from God's Word. I love the way Mesu included mysterious and thriller situations to keep readers on the edge of their seats. The details of the setting of the story, the characters, and every scene so strongly draws the reader into the story it is almost as if you are right there, living the story with them. Reading "Love's Sacred Song" makes the lives of Solomon and David come to life in a new and different way, and makes the reader want to read more Old Testament stories.

This story shows how God will use willing vessels, whoever it may be, for His glory. Even though Solomon, like his dad David, was anything but perfect, God loved him unconditionally and was willing to forgive him of his sinful life when he truly repented. This is a beautiful picture of God's love for us, of how He extends His mercy and grace to us. Sometimes it was difficult to understand the attitude of Arielah, but yet she loved Solomon so much she was willing to endure anything to win his heart.

I highly recommend this book, especially to those who enjoy Biblical fiction. This is a story that will capture your heart and not let go for a good while after you finish reading the book. You will find that the investment in this book is well worth it, and the time it takes to read it is time well spent.

"Available March 2012 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group."

I received this book from Revell Publishers. I was not required or expected to write a positive review. The opinions in this review are my own.

Alisha Alisha says

Men f*cking up since 900BC.

Michelle says

Well, this book was a long one, but beautifully written to the point that it captured my heart and I spent two solid days reading it until I finished. It had everything I love to read in a book. Deep truths about faith and

God's love, intense emotion and intrigue, and people shown as flawed, but redeemable because they are loved by a Holy God who only wants to claim their hearts and devotion. That was well portrayed in this book. It made me think more deeply about God's ways not being our ways, and how He uses willing vessels to accomplish His perfect will, even though it often hurts.

Real love is not without pain. There were many beautiful illustrations of this fact in *Love's Sacred Song*. I loved how Arielah exemplified Christ's love in many ways. I was riveted by her devotion to Solomon despite everything, but at the same time saw it as real and painful and not painted to be perfect and easy as is often the case. And in some crazy way, this story helped me to see that while having a ton of wives was never God's will, that He blessed Solomon despite it, and at the same time it was Solomon's downfall. I loved how Arielah's love was shown as being so pure and intense that it often broke Solomon's heart, because he felt so unworthy of her. Just like Christ's love overwhelms us to the point of repentance.

This was a deep and profoundly beautiful story that gave me a greater appreciation for the Old Testament because it helped shine a light on God's plan and setting the stage for the Messiah. I loved this book and was emotionally moved by it on many occasions. It's making my favorite fiction list for 2012. Well done!
