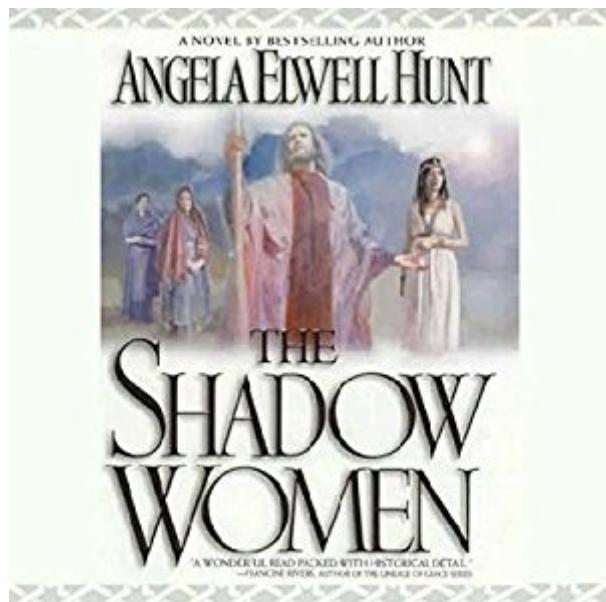


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# The Shadow Women



## **Synopsis**

Under the shadow of ancient Egypt, a baby boy is born to a peasant woman. His young sister leaves him in a basket in a river, hiding in the rushes to watch over him until a princess comes to claim the child as her own. She names him Moses, and he grows to become a man whose life is characterised by violence and terror, but equally by faith, and whose sacrifice ultimately leads to the redemption and liberation of his people from slavery. Told from the perspective of the women who loved him, from his mother and sister, who saved him by giving him up, to the Egyptian princess who adopted him, to the shepherd's daughter he married, this epic novel of passion and intrigue offers a fresh perspective on the man who received the 10 Commandments, parted the Red Sea and lead God's people out of Egypt: Moses, one of the most enigmatic figures in Biblical history.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When the name Moses is said, the image most likely that comes to mind is Charlton Heston parting the Red Sea or thundering down Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments in hand. Yet, there is much more to the character, and Ms. Hunt uses the women of his life to show modern readers that. His sister Miryam sees Moses' (Moshe) life begin. Though under orders from their Egyptian overlords to kill all newborn males, her mother tries to hide her child, until it is absolutely necessary to place him in an ark like Noah's, and put him in the Nile. There he is found by Pharaoh's daughter - wife, Merytam, the child of Ramses most loved wife, Neferritti, and Pharaoh's most recent wife. She is barren, and seeks an answer from her gods to hide the condition that would exile her to the harems

for the rest of her life. Finding the baby solves her problem, though keeping him alive in the face of coniving, jealous court advisors will not be easy. Perhaps it is only her desperate prayer to the unknown God of the Hebrews that saves her "son's" life. Moses grows to adulthood, never dreaming that he is one of the "mud people" that his people have enslaved. Learning the truth triggers an incident that sets off his rage and reveals his secret. Exiled and outcast, Moses flees to the lands far from Egypt, and makes a new life as a shepherd, until he is sent back to Egypt by God, with the mission of freeing his people. Moses is a man without a people, though. He is rejected by Egyptian and Hebrew alike, but he is determined in his quest, and through God's power, he is able to bring his people into the wilderness. As they travel towards the Promised Land, the way is hard, and the people rebellious. On the way, he suffers great loss and many trials. Through them all, his wife and sister watch and support him, despite their resentments and misgivings.\*\*\*\* If you have ever thought a historical novel would be boring, then read this one and change your mind. It is fascinating and true to the Biblical account, though more detailed and sheds light on things that may mystify readers of the Bible. Like the *MISTS OF AVALON*, the story is told by varied perspectives, but in this case, it is a true story, and one that will increase your faith.

Hebrew slave baby, prince of Egypt, wandering shepherd, Israelite leader, friend of God-Moses is certainly one of the most complex, intriguing characters in the Judeo-Christian faith. In this imaginative epic, his story is told by three extraordinary women who inhabited the shadows of his life. There are Merytamor, the Egyptian princess who rescues Moses from the bulrushes and her father's dreadful edict and perpetuates a lie that will haunt her life; Miryam, who's never quite able to relinquish her big-sister role; and Zipporah, Moses' Midianite wife, who struggles to understand the God Who has first claim on her husband's life. Together they give us a unique portrait of Moses as son, brother, husband, and man. Hunt's meticulous research and superb storytelling have created a masterpiece. This poignant story breathes life into the historical figure of Moses. It's also a vivid portrayal of a holy God Who is always just, but seldom safe.-Kristine Wilson

Most of us know the story of Moses through movies like *The Ten Commandments* and *Prince of Egypt*. *The Shadow Women* gives you a new way to see the story: through the eyes of the women who loved him. From the Egyptian princess who adopted him, to the Canaanite woman he married, and his sister, Miryam, you'll see the story in a whole new way. Angela Elwell Hunt expertly weaves together Biblical fact and thorough research into a compelling tapestry. Nuggets of information mined through her research illuminate puzzling parts of the Biblical account and give the story

freshness. You won't be disappointed whether you approach The Shadow Women as inspiration or entertainment. You'll find richly detailed settings, intriguing characters, and storytelling at its best. The Shadow Women is a book you can come back to again and again, gleaning fresh insight and inspiration each time.

This book goes into the life and times of Moses from the three perspectives of the women in his life: his Egyptian mother, his Hebrew sister, Miriam, and his Medianite wife, Zipporah. It brought to life the conflicting cultures Moses lived in and his personal conflicts in the various stages of his life. I became aware of Moses' humanity and his very real internal struggles as well as his one-of-a-kind relationship with God and his role as intercessory between God and the Israelites. As I read I had to remind myself on more than one occasion that although the book is based on historical fact, much of it is fiction such as the interaction of the three women with Moses and between themselves. The book was easy and interesting to read. I'm glad a friend recommended it to me.

Forget about Moses. His story has been told and retold. But the story of the enslavement and salvation of the Israelites from Egypt has never been told like this. "Mists of Avalon" is brought to mind by this book. We see the familiar tale told this time through the eyes of the women who lived this story. The story is told by the Princess of Egypt whose barrenness terrified her until she found salvation in a Hebrew child, by Miriam whose enforced role as the protector of her family leads her to bitter self revelation and by Zipporah whose love of a strange refugee from Egypt place this desert girl center stage in a drama written by a God she does not understand. Marion Zimmer Bradley couldn't have done this saga better. Each woman's voice is distinctive and each character fully fleshed and developed. If you miss this book, you will miss a real gem.

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