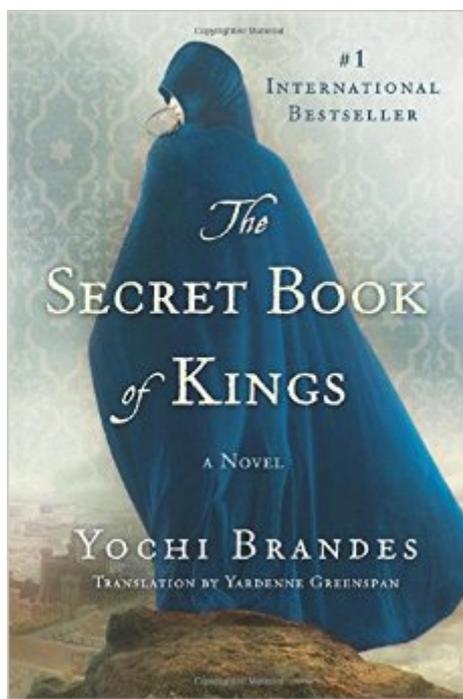


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The Secret Book Of Kings: A Novel



Synopsis

• This volume, by Biblical scholar Yochi Brandes, is a riveting novel based on textual sources about the experiences of David and Solomon. Its lessons are also relevant for our turbulent time.

• Elie Wiesel, #1 New York Times and internationally bestselling author of Night

In the tradition of The Red Tent from internationally bestselling author Yochi Brandes comes the stories of the struggles of King David and King Saul in the early days of the Kingdom of Israel, seen through the eyes of Michal, Saul's daughter and David's abandoned queen. Stories are deadlier than swords. Swords kill only those who stand before them, stories decide who will live and die in generations to come.

Shelomoam, a young man from the tribe of Ephraim, has grown up in the shadow of dark secrets. He wonders why his father is deathly afraid of the King's soldiers and why his mother has lied about the identities of those closest to him. Shelomoam is determined to unearth his mysterious past, never imagining where his quest will ultimately lead him.

The Secret Book of Kings upends conventions of biblical novels, engaging with the canonized stories of the founding of the Kingdom of Israel and turning them on their heads. Presented for the first time are the heretofore unknown stories of the House of Saul and of the northern Kingdom of Israel, stories that were artfully concealed by the House of David and the scribes of the southern Kingdom of Judah.

Yochi Brandes, one of Israel's all-time bestselling novelists, enlists her unique background in both academic Jewish scholarship and traditional religious commentaries to read the Bible in an utterly new way. In this book, a major publishing phenomenon in Israel and one of the bestselling novels in the history of the country, she uncovers vibrant characters, especially women, buried deep within the scriptures, and asks the loaded question: to what extent can we really know our past when history is written by the victors?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is broken up into 3 sections, and each section opens thusly: 1. The Soldier- "Mother took me to the lepers' cave for the first time on the fifteenth day of the eighth month." 2. The Princess- "Still staring at me with that same angry helplessness, my wild wolf." 3. The King- "When I was a child I liked to embellish." I guarantee you that each section is vastly different, however they all connect and form the main story line. We open with the main character Shelomoam, a boy of 8. Throughout the chapters we live in his life struggle of growing up, learning secrets, keeping his own secrets bottled up, and running away from his problems. And like any kid, he thinks that spiting his family, and doing the exact opposite of their wishes will hurt them the most. The only thing Shelomoam cannot foretell is that his spitefulness will actually set him on the path that was originally meant to be his. The second part of the book was an extremely fast read for me. If you are familiar with (and enjoy) the story of David, I think you'll enjoy this part of the book as well. Although David is a main character in this particular section, the perspective is told from Michal, daughter of King Saul. Michal relates the tale of her family; growing up in the palace, falling in love with soldiers, supporting her brother Jonathan, falling in love with David, wanting a child, helping David escape the clutches of her father's army. The brief story of David and Goliath is wrapped up in there as well, but it's nothing like the Sunday School stories you heard. Again, this was my absolute favorite section in the entire book. Mainly because it was so heartfelt, and human, that the reader could just connect with Michal, whether you've been through her tragedies or not.

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