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Rachel And Leah (Women Of Genesis (Forge))



Synopsis

Leah was so young when her sister Rachel was born that she could not remember a time when Rachel was not the darling of the family – pretty, clever, and cute, whereas Leah plugged along being obedient, hard-working, and responsible. Then one day a good-looking marriageable kinsman named Jacob showed up, looking for a haven from his brother's rage, and Leah fell in love at once. It didn't surprise her at all that Jacob saw only Rachel. But surely, as the two sisters worked and lived alongside Jacob for seven years, he would come to realize that Leah was the one he ought to marry...

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Customer Reviews

I had quite an opposite experience as k_b. I found I appreciated Rachel & Leah, as well as other Women of Genesis books, greater as a novel than as a piece of spiritual literature. Moreover, as compared to Saints, I didn't feel the pressure of religion overshadowing the shining characters and very real plot. I have always been a firm believer in extensive characterization. No matter how awesome and intricate a plot is, if you don't love the characters you won't care what kind of

situations they get into. Card's talent isn't simply his ability to weave a good story, it is his ability to create characters so vivid we cannot help but think of them as real people and empathize with their exploits. I knew the story of Jacob and his four wives very well, but it always sat uneasy with me; they and their actions were too detached, too foreign. All the characters in R&L feel real, and I found myself strongly empathizing with them (well, not so much Rachel, but that's probably the older sister in me talking). I am not spiritual AT ALL, but I love the Women of Genesis series (Rebekah has since become, in my opinion, one of the most kick-butt women in literature). Religion in the books feels more like a background or a means through which the REAL story can be told, neither offensive or distracting in its persistent function (see Saints). This is a remarkable book that evokes true emotion and paints very real portraits from fuzzy biblical sketches, transforming obscure literary references into human beings. I actually read Red Tent after finishing R&L. While I enjoyed it for the style and imagination, Card's portrayal of these characters was far more complete and I would revert back to his interpretation when the stories diverged.

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