



Refuge: A Biblical Story of Good and Evil

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Intent on total destruction, Satan notices Cain's obsessive lust for Lilith and the dark roots of jealousy growing deep in his soul toward his do-gooding brother Abel. Satan goads him to the point of madness, barraging his mind with thoughts of hatred, lust, and futility. In a blinding rage, Cain wrecks everything.

Filled with shame, he flees into the vast wilderness, unable to possess the one thing he truly desires—Lilith. His life is destroyed, and he wonders if he will ever find his way back. He longs for refuge, and wonders if he will ever find God again?

Refuge: A Biblical Story of Good and Evil Details

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From Reader Review Refuge: A Biblical Story of Good and Evil for online ebook

Christy says

First I would like to say that I won this book from the Goodreads Giveaway! Thanks.

This is one of those books books that you pick and look at and kinda second guess what will happen. This was a great read. I picked it up and was hooked from the beginning. It is a good Christian Historical It kinda ensembles the bible in ways. It was a nice read. I also love that it has a study guide in the back plus references and such from the bible.. All in all a good Christian novel..

Thanks again Goodreads Giveaway!

Jessica Higgins says

Refuge is a very powerful novel with themes that can't help but hit home with all of us. In this story, we see the struggle of sin starting with Adam and how it accelerates with each generation. The story largely focuses on Cain and his struggle with sin and how he eventually succumbs. The aftermath of his action reaches farther than he could have ever expected. Not only is this a story of sin and the ramification of our actions, it is also a love story. We see how Cain's act affected not only himself, but also the people he loved most.

When I first started this book I wasn't sure what to expect. The further I read, I found myself turning the page waiting to find out what was going to happen next. Tackling a concept of this depth is no easy task and I am happy to say I was not disappointed in the quality of the work. Throughout the story, I found myself questioning several things I had never really thought about before.

A story like this that can keep my attention is difficult to find. I hope others get as much from the story as I did. A job well done Melinda.

Sara Williams says

Wonderfully written

Powerful story! The author places you right into the family of Adam and Eve. I highly recommend this book. It was hard to put down

Kristin Beck says

This is a very powerful book showing the power of sin to destroy a perfect world and tear apart a family: Cain's physical power over his brother and Satan's intense anger and hatred for humankind. As a reader, seeing the brokenness of Adam and then his son, Cain, over their own personal sins really hit home when I think about how blasé I sometimes am about my own attitude toward God. I also really enjoyed the fictional aspects of the book- the descriptions of the relationships and conversations between the first family ever created, the descriptions of the Garden being guarded by cherubim, and how nature may have looked in the newly-fallen and tainted world.

I was pretty engrossed in this book (lost some sleep because of it! I had to find out what happened next!). The discussion questions are not to be overlooked, either.

Susan Lloyd says

This Story while hauntingly familiar compels you to consider is there more to this story than I think I know? The exploration is captivating because you are drawn to the dilemma the character struggles through as though it were your own. Is it going to be as you expect, or will you be surprised by the conclusion? Dear reader, do you want to expand your world view and color outside the lines boldly, where it is safe to do so within the comfort of an intriguing fictional story? Venture into the dark side that begs for redemption, and Find it? You decide! Jump in and explore, you won't be disappointed!

Kelli Pizarro says

She did it again!

The author pulls you in, and makes you ask yourself, "How could things have happened any other way?!" A beautiful version of the story of Cain & Abel. I have highlighted this book to pieces! Too many life lessons to list in one review-just read for yourself. As a Christian fiction author, I am drawn to stories like these but not easily impressed. This author put her heart, soul, and research into this series.

Elaine Viergever says

Because I had the privilege of reading this book before the publisher got it, I can review it. It is definitely a page turner. I did not want to put it down. Melinda takes twists and turns with the story of Cain and Abel that only a very vivid imagination could do, but also, through the story she causes the reader to fall in love with the merciful, loving God of the Bible. She is able to portray human nature so very well, but she also portrays very strongly the character of God. Melinda aptly displays the personalities of the two brothers and introduces the reader to the immediate family of Adam and Eve illustrating what their lives were like after they were banished from the Garden of Eden. To some, Refuge will be a book that turns their hearts to God; to others, it will be a book that takes a controversial view of Cain's life after Satan pushes him to the point of taking his own brother's life. Exciting. Romantic. Controversial. Thought-provoking. Heart-wrenching. Entertaining. After reading Refuge, you will want to read the other books that Melinda has written in the series.

Jacqueline says

I read this as I was editing the first pass. I could NOT put it down to go to bed, preferring to lose the sleep! I just had to see what happened next! I love the way it is so compelling that the reader hardly realizes the positive spiritual impact the book is having! Thanks, Melinda, for following the dream God put in your heart to write!

Sharon Hughson says

Who knew a story about the first "bad guy" mentioned in the Bible would be so uplifting? This is a love story that emphasizes the theme of redemption, which is central in the Bible.

It was most difficult for me to get into this book because I knew what would happen. I hoped the author would find some reason that made sense for one brother to rise up against another. It wasn't there. I found Cain to be shallow at that point in the story and wasn't sure why Lilith loved him. After that point, everything was from a fresh perspective that stayed true to the information given in the Bible. Cain wandered and found his way back to God.

I give it 4.2 stars, mostly because the characters didn't jump off the page and into my heart. I found it easy to hold their pain at arm's length rather than feeling it alongside them. All in all, an excellent example of Biblical fictionalization as it should be written.

Kelli says

The Refuge captured my attention at the onset. Within the first few pages, I was hooked. Totally recommend this book! Even though the setting is unfamiliar compared with today (immediately outside the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve), Melinda's rich and engaging development of the setting and the characters drew me in. The people and the relationships are believable, and I could relate to them as though they were people I know now, faults and strengths. I think what was most evident to me throughout the entire story is how God so deeply loves each and every one of us no matter what we have done or where we are in our journey. He yearns for our fulfillment through Him as we were designed to be, and desires for us to receive His forgiveness and healing, to become who He created us to be. That message is strong. I also enjoyed the straight-up recognition of Satan as the leader of the fallen angels, prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). What the adversary can and cannot do is addressed in various situations, and the study guide helps readers understand and apply this important knowledge of spiritual warfare, a reality of life whether we like it or not. An appropriate ending for the time being, but the ending left me wanting more...

Barb says

To be honest, I don't normally read Christian fiction. It's not a genre I've found to my liking. I purchased this book on the recommendation of a friend and to support the author, who's blog I follow. I was more than pleasantly surprised. Biblically sound, I found many of the characters' struggles similar to my own. I've been

putting their solution - prayer and seeking refuge in God and His promises - to practice.

The plot was intriguing. It's rare that a fiction book impact my daily practices. I recommend this book not only for the storyline but also for the encouragement it can give.

Erin says

Refuge is not only historically enlightening but a fascinating and poignant depiction of human nature. Real struggles with guilt, lust, anger, frustration, jealousy and insecurity are depicted with honest, raw and truly captivating candor. The characters are diverse, the setting is engrossing; the story feels very real.

The author includes some fantastic information and questions in the back of the book demonstrating the impressive breadth of her historical research: ranging from nomadic mythology to the ancient Israelite church.

Cover to cover, a great read.

Katie Andraski says

I very much enjoyed reading this book, which describes the Cain and Abel story, from Cain's perspective. The author draws Cain in all his humanity and shows how he grows from a vengeful, controlling man into someone who must depend on his creator. Refuge shows how persistent God's love is. This is the kind of book that gives back and restores your soul while being thoroughly entertaining. I'm looking forward to the prequel.

Kristin says

Brokenness is a universal human condition. As a pre-reader of this novel, I have experienced the first family - on earth- and their fall from grace, the first murder, Satan's tactics and God's care of them as they progress from a beautiful Garden of Eden to the harshness of the world broken by their own sin. You will find yourself nodding your head and saying, "Yes, I so understand," or "I had not thought of that being a concern". Life was very different for them than for us in the modern world, and yet the humanness is something I experience every day. Wonderful writing, insightful dialogue and an invitation to discover who you are and who God is - after the Fall of Man.
