Judging Noa: A Fight for Women’s Rights in the Turmoil of the Exodus. 2018

Author: Michal Strutin

Genre: Historical fiction

Subject: Women in biblical Jewish history

Hook: Made me glad to be a woman now, not then

Reviewer’s opinion: Fascinating to read a more “fleshed out” account of those biblical times

Personal recommendation: The writing was good, not great. There are other, better written books about women in Jewish history

Reviewed by Tracey Kite
TBI member for 6 years

Judging Noa is a fictionalization of the Israelites’ 40 years in the desert from the perspective of Noa. The story is based on the biblical story of the sisters who, following the death of their father (and having no brothers) successfully claimed their father’s portion in the land of Israel. It starts at the escape from Egypt and moves through the 40 years in the desert.

It was fascinating to read a more “fleshed out” account of those biblical times. The characters were relatable (and made me glad to be a woman now, not then). As someone who enjoys historical fiction (it helps me understand and engage with the past) it really helped me to connect to that time. The writing was good, not great. There are other, better written books about women in Jewish history (The Red Tent by Anita Diamant and the Rashi’s Daughters trilogy by Maggie Anton) but this one has helped me to create pictures in my mind of a very “foreign” time in Jewish history.