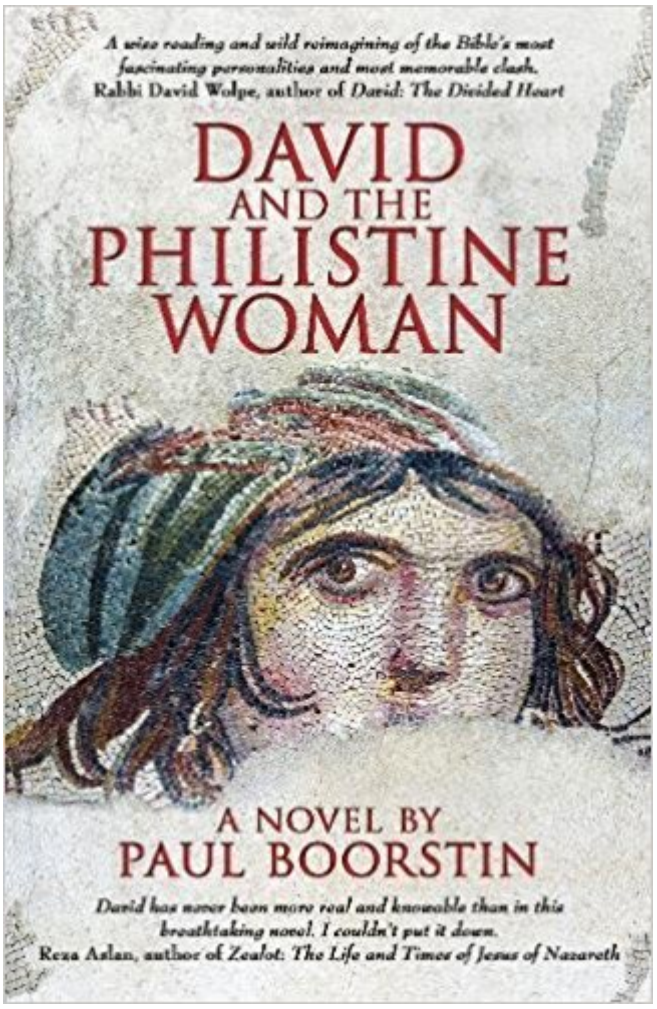
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David And The Philistine Woman



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Synopsis

Nara is a young Philistine woman who has given up hope of ever finding a husband. No man will take a wife who towers head and shoulders above him. She lives in isolation with her father, until she is discovered by the Philistine priests. They betroth her to Goliath, to give him warrior sons. What happens when Nara’s fate collides with that of David, who is destined to face Goliath in combat, will forever transform how you experience this pivotal moment in the Bible... Boorstin reimagines David’s dangerous path from shepherd to charismatic leader, interweaving his life not only with Nara’s, but with key Biblical characters including King Saul, and Saul’s daughter Michal, who will later become David’s wife. While faithful to the spirit of the Bible, Boorstin reads between the lines of the ancient narrative to bring immediacy, relevance and even greater meaning to the life of the young Israelite who would become the most beloved character in the Old Testament. David and the Philistine Woman combines exciting storytelling and rich characters to fashion an unforgettable epic.

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Customer Reviews

Breathing to life the world of the Philistines and Israelites, documentary filmmaker Paul Boorstin has thrust us into the turbulent ancient world in a powerful and inspirational novel that remains faithful to the spirit of the Biblical original, yet reads like a thriller.Ã Â (Jim Calio, The Huffington Post)With the pace of a thriller, Boorstin vividly reimagines the struggles of the characters he's borrowed from the Bible. David and the Philistine WomanÃ Â carries with it a message of humanity, sacrifice,

and the importance of compassion. (Princeton Alumni Weekly, July/August 2017)Both a wise reading and a wild reimagining of the Bible's most fascinating personalities and most memorable single clash. Philistines and the Israelites, their gods and loves and struggles, spring to dramatic life in David and the Philistine Woman. (Rabbi David Wolpe, Newsweek has called Ã¢â ¬Å“the most influential rabbi in America," author of David: the Divided Heart,)King David is revered by more than half the population of the planet, yet he has never been more real and knowable than he is in Boorstin's breathtaking novel. Here the man God called "Beloved" is utterly, unforgettably human. I couldn't put this book down. (Reza Aslan, author of Zealot and No god but God, author of #1 New York Times bestseller Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth, and executive producer/host of CNN's Believer)A powerful and inspirational novel that remains faithful to the spirit of the Biblical original, yet reads like a thriller. (Jim Calio The Huffington Post, 05/12/2017)In David and the Philistine Woman, Paul Boorstin creates a remarkable new kind of narrative voice, at once mythic and insightful. His radiant David is a rare hero who feels as relevant as tomorrow. (Bill Blakemore, ABC News Middle East Correspondent)Boorstin dazzles with razor-sharp insight as he focuses on characters who leap from the pages of history with rich and newly defined clarity. Be prepared for surprises at every turn. (Lionel Friedberg, New York Times bestselling author)This is a lovely and loving take on David's early story.Paul Boorstin's David and the Philistine Woman fleshes out the David and Goliath story as never before,populating it with complex personalities from both sides of the divide who raise fresh questions of religiosity, faith, andnation.While elements of the novel will be familiar to those versed in King David's storyÃ¢â ¬â ¢the boyhood as ashepherd, spent filling the air with music from his lyre; the affection between David and King Saul's children, Michaland Jonathan; the contention that followed his anointingÃ¢â ¬â ¢much of its power comes from the gaps it fills in. Goliath ishere, fearsome in his presence; paranoid King Saul does what he can to trip the shepherd up. But it's the personalitiesaround them that make their stories shine.This is particularly true when it comes to Goliath's brideÃ¢â ¬â ¢a towering woman, Nara, whose strength led her toforge weapons for the Philistines in secret, and whose safety depends on her ability to give the warrior sons. She isdutiful at firstÃ¢â ¬â ¢but life with a vicious hero reveals cracks in her society. The warrior god, Dagon, does not provide. Aforbidden goddess, Ashdoda, mightÃ¢â ¬â ¢but trust in her might come at a great expense, too.David's turns inspire. He is written in as a humble and patriotic young man, committed to the role that Israel'sGod has chosen for him, and determined to honor Saul's line all the same. He risks much to push Israel back to arighteous path, and his brave decisions throughout the novel make for engrossing fare. His faith leads to great acts;yet the novel respects the beliefs of his enemies as well, with goddesses beyond

Israel given full and honoredtreatment.This is a lovely and loving take on David’s early storyÃ¢â ¬â ¢seeing him only through the showdown, yes, butawakening cravings for more after the giant is felled. If Boorstin gives the complicated King David the same thoughtfultreatment in future novels as he has given to the young shepherd here, it will be all the better. (Michelle Anne Schingler Foreword Magazine, July/August 2017)With vibrant color, Paul Boorstin paints a wholly new portrait of one of the Bible’s most enigmatic figures. David and the Philistine Woman is a welcome addition to the rich tradition of Jewish historical fiction. (Emily K. Alhadeff, editor of Jewish in Seattle Magazine)Paul Boorstin’s David and the Philistine Woman is an exciting rendering of the Biblical story with compelling relevance for today. The dialogue sparkles with wit, and the ingeniously constructed plot leads to an unexpected and inspiring climax. (Joseph Schraibman, Professor of Jewish Studies, Washington University in St. Louis)Leave it to this documentary filmmaker to conceive this richly imagined story. Boorstin has created the page-turner that book clubs have been waiting for since The Red Tent. Storytelling at its best. (Judy Kancigor, Orange County Register columnist, author of Cooking Jewish)A page-turning, action-filled novel that is both harrowing and fulfilling. Boorstin’s poetic prose reimagines a world so long ago it might as well be mythical, but which resonates with eternal human truths. (Mary F. Burns, author of Isaac and Ishmael)A stunning expansion of the Biblical tale of David. Boorstin vividly imagines an archaic world of ritual, intrigue and sacrifice. The writing is so gripping and intense you can smell the ancient cities of Gath and Gibeah. (Stephen Kitsakos, author of The Accidental Pilgrim)A compelling account of the fierce struggle of rival gods and their followers. A major achievement, gripping and finely wrought. (Nicholas Clapp, author of Sheba: Through the Desert in search of the Legendary Queen)This novel reimagines tales of King David and his contemporaries, including the fearsome Goliath. Boorstin conjures up a new female character: Goliath’s wife, Nara, who in this telling exerts considerable influence on the outcome of one of the most famous biblical battles. (The Times of Israel, August 2nd 2017)Boorstin deserves praise for writing a novel so full of adventure, intrigue and passion that it stands entirely on its own as a great yarn. (Jewish Journal, 27th July 2017)Like a filmmaker using a wide-angle lens, Boorstin captures the epic panorama of a struggle that changed history. At the same time, as if with a close-up lens, he zooms in between the lines of the Bible to discover the mysteries and revelations he sees hidden in the hearts of the characters. (Heritage: Florida Jewish News, July 7th 2017)In the tradition of The Red Tent, David and the Philistine Woman (Top Hat Books; due Aug. 2017) is award-winning documentary filmmaker Paul Boorstin’s inspired reimagining of the ultimate narrative of good triumphing over evil Ã¢â ¬â ¢ the clash of David and Goliath. (JN Detroit Jewish News, 29th June 2017)With the pace of a thriller, Boorstin, a

longtime screenwriter, vividly reimagines the struggles of the characters he’s borrowed from the Bible. David and the Philistine Woman (Top Hat Books) carries with it a message of humanity, sacrifice, and the importance of compassion. (Princeton Alumni Weekly, June 16th 2017)In his entertaining David and the Philistine Woman...Boorstin creates a twisting, imaginative journey and brings his multiple strands together nicely. (The American Jewish World, July 26th 2017)

What drew you to the story of David and Goliath as the basis for your novel?Growing up in Chicago as a Jewish kid with thick glasses and zero athletic ability, I was always the last to be picked for baseball, football, soccer--you get the idea. So when I learned at temple about young David triumphing over the giant Goliath, I knew who my role model was! And David is still my hero. My novel examines what it takes to be a true hero, someone of moral character as well as physical daring.Ã¢â ¬â How did your experience as a documentary filmmaker affect the way you approached the subject?Ã Â Working with camera crews around the world under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions, I learned that what is happening outside the narrow frame of the camera--both behind the scenes, and in the human heart--can be more important than what finally appears on film or video. In the same way, starting with one of the world's most beloved stories--only a few paragraphs in the Bible--I felt I had to reach beyond it. I felt compelled to reimagine the panorama of conflict that raged during this crucial turning point in ancient history.Ã¢â ¬â How closely do the characters and story points in your novel adhere to the Biblical account of David and Goliath, and in what ways did you take liberties?No liberties were taken! I used my imagination to dig deeply into the story and explore its most provocative possibilities. The resulting novel, my personal vision, is the product of that journey. And I'm grateful to say that the enthusiastic reaction from rabbis including David Wolpe suggests that they have found inspiration as well as entertainment in it.Ã¢â ¬â Why the importance of women in your novel?Ã Â I believe that the role of women as a moral anchor in the Bible cannot be overstated. Of course, that role was not as openly discussed in ancient times as it is today. So in reimagining the story of David and Goliath, I saw the part played by women as crucial. In my novel, the women of David's time risk their lives for what they believe is right, just like the women of today, whether or not they always get the credit they deserve.Ã¢â ¬â Why did you choose to focus not just on the God of the Israelites in your novel, but on the gods of other peoples of that time?For us to truly understand just how revolutionary Judaism was in that era of idol worship, I believe we have to experience the broader landscape of other gods of that era. The clash of religions in my novel is as fierce as the clash of the Israelites against the Philistines, and it will change the world. Ã Â Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â Who

do you see as the audience for your novel?Ã Â The clash of David and Goliath is one of the best-known stories in the world, so I consider the world my audience. I believe that my novel's story of courage, self-discovery and sacrifice reaches across religions and cultures.Ã¢â ¬â What do you hope readers will learn from reading David & the Philistine Woman?There's "learn" and there's "experience." First of all, I want readers to experience what life might have been like in those distant times, understanding that, to my mind, human nature has not changed in the thousands of years since. As far as what readers can "learn" from the novel, that is for each reader to decide. One theme that I hope to convey is this: Whether or not we look to God for miracles, it is for each of us to do all that is in our power to help defeat Evil in our own time, as young David did in his.Ã¢â ¬â What attracted you to the cover image of the young woman who represents the character of the Philistine woman Nara in your novel?Ã Â This ancient mosaic from the Eastern Mediterranean comes from the same region as the setting of the novel. What spoke to me was the haunting look in the woman's eyes--the look of a woman who is afraid, but who has the strength to triumph over her fear.Ã¢â ¬â Are you working on a sequel to David & the Philistine Woman?Yes! It's a companion piece about the dangerous struggle of another renowned and beloved figure in the Bible at another decisive turning point in ancient history. The story will be told from a fresh perspective and written with the goal of offering the reader a compelling experience. I can promise that if you liked David and the Philistine Woman, you will enjoy it every bit as much!

The Biblical story of David and Goliath has been brilliantly expanded into a novel with twists from the imagination of author Paul Boorstin, principally the invention of the wife of Goliath, Nara, who raises his wrath by her inability to bear him sons. The intertwining of Nara’s fate with the fate of David, the poet / musician destined to become King of Israel, shows the author’s deft literary skill. Boorstin’s recreation of Biblical times, realistically placing us in an era when you might say a wheelbarrow would be considered advanced technology, shows massive research and meticulous attention to detaIl. It has a lyric simplicity of style that makes for easy reading.

Great Novel. Keeps you interested in what is going to happen next in the interactions of young David, his family, the Philistines,and the other people leading up to the biblical story of David and Goliath. Parallels the lives of David and the Philistine woman.

This beautifully imagined story of David and Goliath, based on the Bible story, brings historical and

social realities of two clashing tribes Israelites and Philistines.David is the youngest son of Jesse of Bethlehem. He doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t follow his brothers to war. Instead he becomes the shepherd of his fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s flock. A task which some may find shame in, but he feels pride instead, tenderly caring for the sheep. Until a prophet Samuel shows upon their door and announces the next Israelite king, after King Saul.David's story is intertwined with NaraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, who is a daughter of master blacksmith of the Philistine city of Gath. At the age of 16, she is chosen for an honor by the high priest. She doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t understand the meaning of his words at the time. Soon after, she gets married to Goliath, a giant warrior.DavidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s and NaraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s search, of what is meaningful to each of them, puts them on the same path. At the end, two people from opposite tribes join in the same mission.The story ends with the famous fight of David and Goliath.The story is engrossing, bringing DavidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s caring nature, his search for meaning in life. When he feels lost, he goes back to what is most meaningful in his life ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ simplicity.

The writer undertaking historical fiction faces a problem peculiar to this genre, which is to make the narrative and dialogue seem authentic while at the same time keeping the characters accessible to the modern readerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sensibility. People in ancient Judea canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t fist-bump each other or say ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“OKÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•; on the other hand, if they speak in King James Biblese, the reader might have trouble seeing them as flesh and blood, living characters. Boorstin solves this problem with such facility that, unless you know it can be a problem, you donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t even notice that he has accomplished it. As a result, he is able to render an epic, pivotal career in understandable, human terms. David and the Philistine Woman is a remarkable literary achievement and, by the way, a great read. Lots of action, insight and intriguing propositions about how circumstances, inherent character and inspiration came together to transform a shepherd boy into a king.

Paul Boorstin, while sticking to the basic tenets of the biblical narrative, has written a gripping, reimagined and insightful story of David's violent and victorious confrontation with Goliath that felled the giant with a single slingshot.In "David and the Phillistine Woman" Boorstin, differing from the scant mention of women in the biblical story, has placed them most believably and sensitively in deservedly important roles, in all aspects of life. He has shown their strengths, weaknesses and moral courage.The story pulsates with life, and evokes a longing to know more about the characters Boorstin has so cleverly portrayedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •from David, the shepherd destined for greatness,

to Nara the Phillistine woman who is Goliath's imagined wife, and the many other important players in this powerful story that marked a crucial turning point in history. Contrary to ancient beliefs, recent research reveals that the Phillistines were an advanced, civilized people, accomplished builders, potters, adept with the loom, and producers of wine and olive oil.Paul Boorstin, an award winning documentary filmmaker, while true to the basic historical account, has written a thriller with unexpected twists and turns that will keep you reading through the night!Ester Benjamin Shifren Author:Ã Â Hiding in a Cave of Trunks: A Prominent Jewish Family's Century in Shanghai and Internment in a WWII POW camp.

What would happen if Goliath had a wife whose destiny crossed paths with David? True to the spirit of the Bible, Boorstin's richly imagined tale is the fast-paced and exciting read book clubs have been yearning for since "The Red Tent." Unlike "The Secret Chord," which my book club found to be a bit of a slog, "David and the Philistine Woman" is a page-turner with fully developed characters and a compelling plot line.

DAVID AND THE PHILISTINE is a fascinating, creative depiction of the events leading up to the familiar ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœDavid & GoliathÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ story, one of my favorites since childhood Bible classes. Paul BoorstinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s elaboration on well-known Biblical figures, addition of fascinating new characters, and detailed descriptions of the varied cultures bring the shepherd David and his world to life. This well-researched book allows the reader to become immersed in the cultures of the Israelites and Philistines and begin to understand the motivations behind familiar Biblical events. I enjoyed seeing the world not only from DavidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s perspective, but also from the womenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s point of view. Nara, GoliathÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wife (the Philistine Woman from the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s title), and Michal, SaulÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s daughter, have significant roles in DavidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s story. The interactions of these women from different cultures and beliefs with DavidÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s path make for an exciting, page-turning narrative. I highly recommend this beautiful story.

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