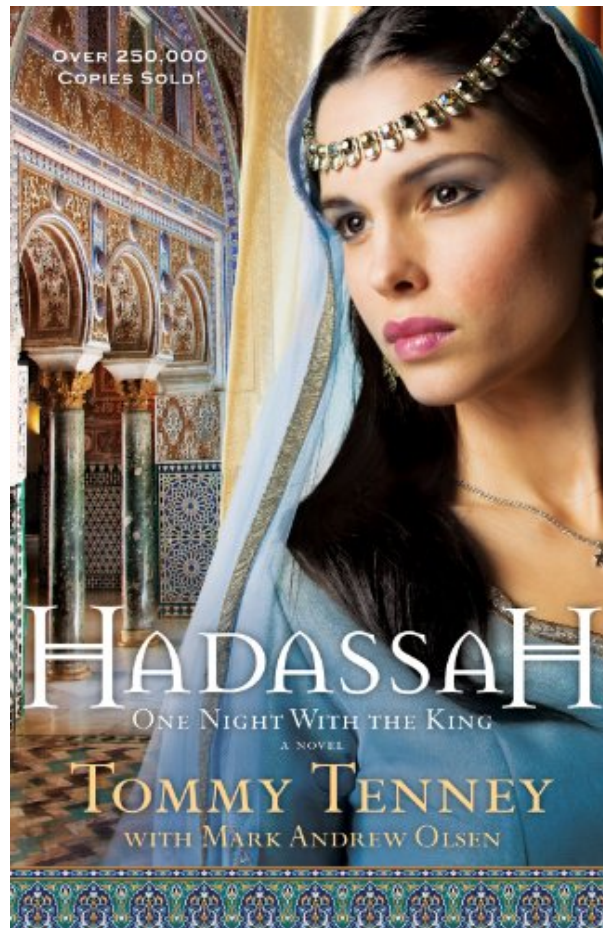
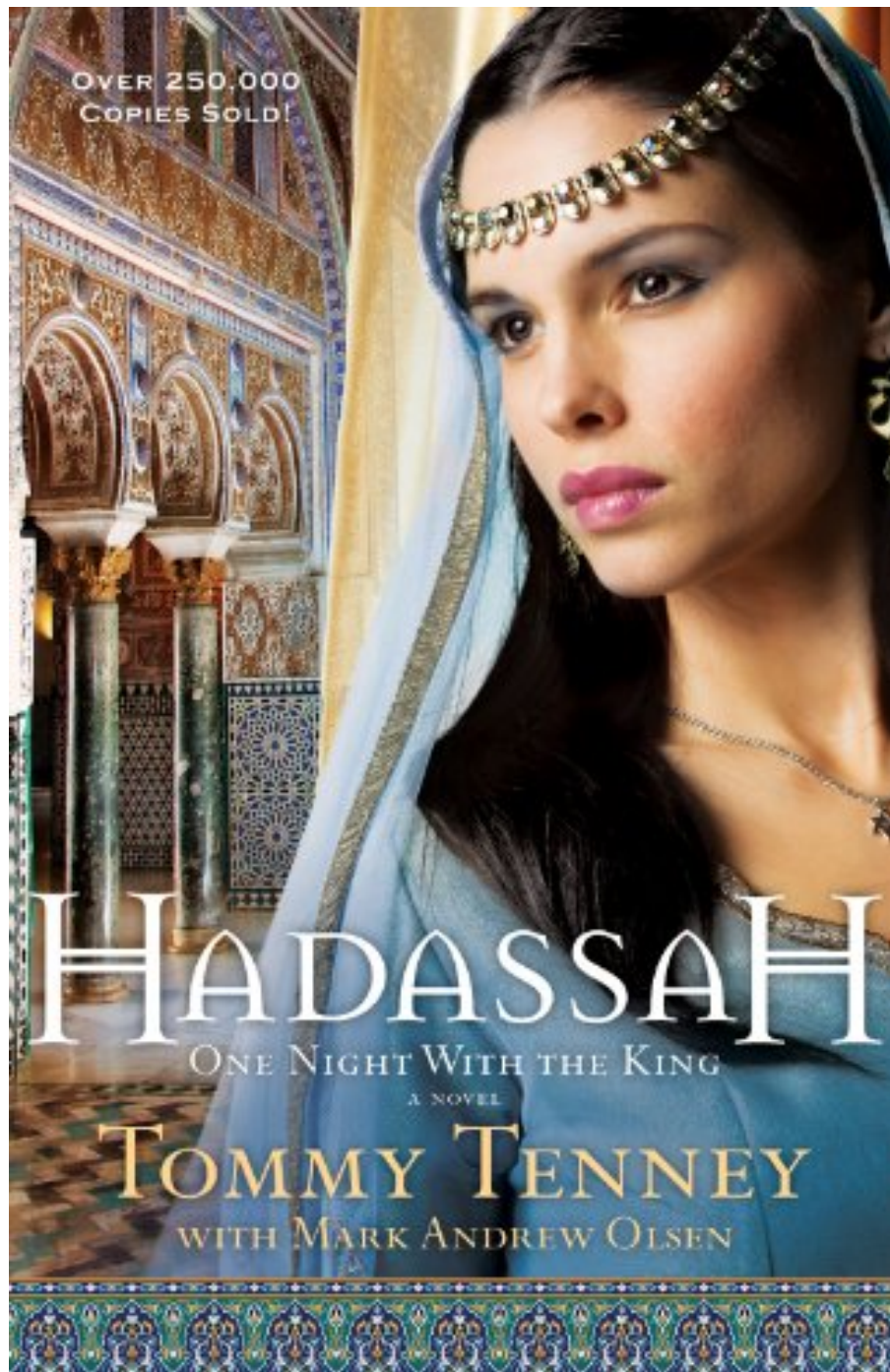


HADASSAH: ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING BY TOMMY TENNEY



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From Publishers Weekly

Despite a few glitches, there is much to like about this coauthored novel from Tenney, best known for his nonfiction book *The God Chasers*, and Olsen, a writer whose work includes screenplays. Esther, queen of Persia, who inspired the eponymous book of the Bible, is a fascinating character whose story lends itself well to a fictional retelling. The novel opens as a contemporary woman named Hadassah receives a letter penned by Esther (also called "Hadassah" and "Star" in the novel) and passed down through her family for generations. The reading of the letter transports the reader back to the Persian Empire (a similar device is used in Bodie and Brock Thoene's *Zion Legacy* series). Several time periods and points of view make for a slow start, but the pacing picks up when Esther becomes the focus. The dialogue is stiff in places, and some readers will find the use of "G-d" rather than "God" out of reverence rather tiresome. However, from their imaginative fleshing out of Esther's unusual girlhood and preparation for her tryst with the king to the uttering of her famous words, "If I perish, I perish," the authors reinvigorate an age-old story. The sexual tension and violence necessary to the tale are rendered inoffensive for the evangelical Christian market, and a few surprise twists will catch readers familiar with the story off-balance. CBA readers should enjoy this account of one of the Bible's most courageous heroines.

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Review

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From the Back Cover

POWERFUL FICTION FEATURING ONE OF THE BIBLE'S MOST BELOVED CHARACTERS!

Against a vividly painted historical backdrop, bestselling author Tommy Tenney breathes new life into the age-old story of Hadassah, the simple peasant girl who must vie with more than a hundred other young women to become the next queen of Persia. Will her beauty alone be enough? And if she succeeds, will she have the courage to stand up to the cunning enemy of her people?

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Bestselling author Tommy Tenney expands the extraordinary story of Esther like no novelist has done before. Both a thriller and a Jewish woman's memoir, Hadassah takes readers to ancient Persia (now known as Iraq), into the inner sanctum of the palace and back out into the war zones of battle and political intrigue. This gripping drama of a simple peasant girl chosen over many more qualified candidates to become Esther, Queen of Persia, captures the imagination and fires the emotions of men and women alike.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This has been my favorite so far

By Amazon Customer

I have read a lot of books about Esther, written from her point of view. This has been my favorite so far. Yes, there have been things added to the book that aren't in the account in the Bible, but that is what helps the characters feel like that real people that they were.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

AWESOME!!!!!!!

By Amazon Customer

LOVE! One of the BEST books I've ever read!

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Haddassah

By LMN11

I had mixed feelings about this book. I love the account of Esther in the Bible, and we read the author's version of that account in the last 20% of this book. However, the first 80% of this book leaves much to be desired. I understand that this is a work of fiction, and that the author is trying to fill in gaps. However, I still expect the fictional parts to be plausible. Unfortunately, Tenney's version is not at all plausible. Instead, he seems to chose events simply to make the story more dramatic. Personally, I think the story of Esther is dramatic enough as it is. There was no need for the author to add such idiotic events of his own. The end result was just way too unrealistic, and it ruined the Esther account for me.

Some examples of the dramatic license taken:

- Haman is the last descendant of the Amalekites and the king Agag. In the Bible, we know that Saul didn't have King Agag killed right away. It wasn't until later that the prophet Samuel killed him. In Tenney's version, this delay allowed for King Agag's wife, who was also captured, to escape from her bonds, sneak past her guards, find where they were keeping her husband the king, sneak into him, have sex with him (also unnoticed) and escape, now carrying the king's son. She taught this son to hate the Jews, and this son was a forefather of Haman, who was thus also raised to hate Jews. While it is true that Haman was an Amalekite, and quite possibly a royal descendant, I find it unlikely that his forefather was conceived in such a way. If I was king Agag's wife, and managed to escape, I wouldn't stop to have whoopie with my heavily guarded husband one last time. I would have run for it. And if I really loved him, maybe I would have tried to help him escape, but I certainly wouldn't have wasted time having sex with him. Anyways, this whole account was just ludicrous. I almost stopped reading after this.

- We know, based on the bible, that Esther's parents must have died, and that Mordecai raised her, but we don't know how they died. Most likely, it was from something simple, like a disease or illness. But in Tenney's version, her entire family is stabbed to death and then burned by none other than Haman himself. Really? If Haman really did kill them, I think the bible would have mentioned that, because there's just too much irony there to leave it out. Since it's not in the bible, it seems most likely that Haman did not kill them. Just another ridiculous account by the author trying to create needless drama.

- Haman and his men have their own symbol that they have on their flags and tattoo on their bodies. What is that symbol you ask? Why, a swastika, of course! Really? Does the author really want us to believe that Haman was the originator of the most notorious symbol in the history of the world? What's next? Is the author going to tell us that Haman was actually Hitler's twentieth something great grandfather???? I'm sorry, but the use of the swastika was ridiculous, and perhaps even a bit offensive.

- The opening and concluding chapters of this book actually take place in modern day. There, one of Esther's great grandchildren is getting married. A week before her wedding, her family takes her to an underground vault where they show her an old document. It is Esther's account of her life, and every one of her female descendants has signed the document before their wedding. Amazingly, this document has managed to remain secret for centuries. Right..... Meanwhile, with the document is an ancient necklace with a pendant of the star of David, the same necklace Esther wore 2500 years ago. And the bride is allowed to wear it to her wedding. Seriously? A top secret document? And a 2500 year old necklace? That she was allowed to wear in public? Somewhere along the way one of the thousands of girls that was Esther's descendant would have broken or lost that necklace. Completely unbelievable.

If you try to look past the totally implausible parts of this book, what will you find? For the most part, only tedious paragraphs of Esther's ramblings. The farther into the book we get, the better it gets (probably because it starts to match the biblical account more closely). But honestly, only the last 20% of the book was enjoyable. The rest was fairly boring. I wish the author had spent more time developing the relationship between Esther and the king. And frankly, the last 20% is nearly verbatim the account from the bible. I say save yourself the \$10 it costs to buy this book, take out your copy of the Bible, and read the account of Esther from there. Not only will it be free, but you'll be reading from the word of God, and you can't find a better author than him!

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