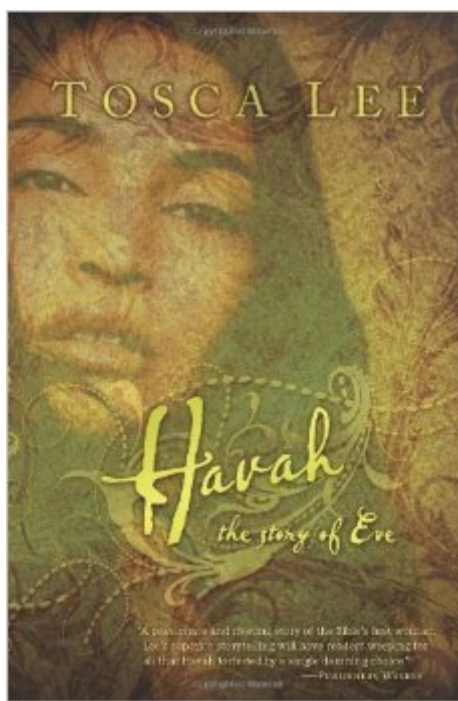


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Havah: The Story Of Eve - A Novel



Synopsis

Eve, exiled to a life outside paradise, nears death. As she waits, she recounts the story of her creation and a cruel existence. Revisit the birth of humankind through the eyes of the first woman ever to live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's been a long time since I've enjoyed a book as much as the one I just finished reading. Havah: the story of Eve by Tosca Lee. I'm not even sure where to begin. Here--I loved it. I devoured it. From the moment I cracked the spine and started to read, I was compelled to finish. Not many books command me to read them, tell me to stop working, stay up late, and sacrifice my entire Saturday so that I might spend a few more moments seated before the hearth of someone else's tale. Havah required that I hear her story. The book never felt like a piece of fiction to me. It was as if, finally, the veil had been lifted and I could hear the beginning verses of Genesis told in Eve's voice. As if we crouched together before a flickering fire, the night wind at our backs, and like a beloved friend, she told me all of her secrets. Tosca has created a masterpiece in Havah. Chapter one begins with the birth of Havah (Eve) in the Garden. With a poetic voice, Tosca tells the tale of the first woman, her relationship with "the adam" and her desire to know the One that Is. Havah frolics in a perfect world, where the river sounds like music and the air is stained with the fragrance of pomegranate and plum. Her dearest friends are a lioness, Levia, and a fallow deer, Adah, and it is through these relationships that we later see the bitter contrast between life in the Garden and life after the

Fall. Because, of course, Havah has yet one more friend--a serpent. More beautiful than any of the other animals, it dwells on an island, always near a tree that bears forbidden fruit. If you think this is a story you've heard before, you're wrong. No one has ever told this tale with such lush detail.

The story of Havah drips with the sorrow of womankind from the very first sentence: "I have seen paradise and ruin. I have known bliss and terror. I have walked with God." From there the story unfolds - the story we all know so well - except when you read Havah you realize you really don't know the story so well after all. There are so many things you've never considered, so many emotions you've never felt. Each page brings new surprises. Havah is a work of art, and from the other reviews, it sounds like I'm not the only person who feels that way. Specifically: -It successfully replaced my flannel-board childhood conception of Adam and Eve and the garden with much richer 3D imagery. -There was never any point where I said to myself "Dang, that one little choice there kind of screwed up the whole story." All the elements were very wisely and carefully chosen. -I liked the deliberate avoidance of cliché. I'm a copywriter and there's a phrase we copywriters probably stole from the fiction writers - I'm not sure - but it's "Make the familiar strange, and the strange familiar." Havah accomplishes that. Like the name Tosca chose for Cain. The way she portrayed the serpent. The poetry, the specific ways Eden's perfection devolves into chaos, Eve's clear, consistent, recognizable voice. The estrangement that grows between Havah and the adam. As I reached the last few chapters, the story developed a running-towards-the-finishline pace. It was reminiscent of the last few chapters of Barbara Kingsolver's "Poisonwood Bible"... except Poisonwood Bible is an angst-driven drum beat. Havah's is the heartbeat of the mother of humanity and the love of The One. The final chapter is superb.

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