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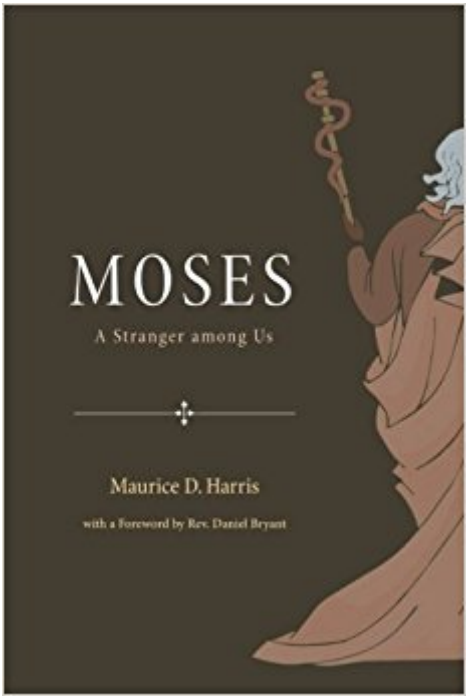
Moses: A Stranger Among Us



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Synopsis

In Moses: A Stranger among Us, Rabbi Maurice Harris leads us to look beyond familiar and popular portrayals of Moses so that we can discover the Moses whose lesser-known attributes and experiences provide us with surprisingly fresh ethical and spiritual guidance. Harris offers many angles on his subject, interweaving traditional religious interpretations, academic Bible scholarship, psychological and sociological analysis, feminist readings, and more. Combining deep respect for the biblical text with a willingness to question received tradition, Harris reveals a complex Moses whose life story gives us important tools for better understanding issues like religious fundamentalism, intermarriage, identity confusion, civil disobedience, gay and lesbian equality, and the nature of sacred mythic storytelling. Written in a refreshing, plainspoken voice for people of all faiths or none, the result is a volume of creative, thought-provoking, and exciting readings of the Bible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the Register-Guard, by Randi Bjornstad:Ã Â Ã Â ...there's nothing stuffy about Harris' book, which promises to present Moses as "the adopted child, the ex-con, the failure and the intermarrier." ... [It has a] colloquial, back-and-forth tone, probably unusual for a religious tome, that makes it easy to read and easy to think about.Ã Â John Wofford writes inÃ Â New VoicesÃ Â (Sept. 5, 2012), "Harris' writing style is clear and concise. A Stranger Among Us is a tight, accessible read: only 164 pages. But the miracle of this book is less its portrayal of Moses than its ability to work as both serious theology and general reading. "Stranger" succeeds as it presents meaty ideas to the

layperson without a condescending--or, conversely, an overly academic--voice."In the Dec. 2012 issue of Oregon Jewish Life, Joseph A. Lieberman writes: "Well known in Eugene's Jewish community for taking discussions beyond conventional boundaries, Rabbi Maurice uses the life of Moses to demonstrate concepts that spin off into much larger ideas."The Winter 2013 issue of Tikkun includes a recommendation of Moses: A Stranger among Us. They write, "Maurice Harris is a Reconstructionist rabbi, and his close readings of the text and the latest secondary materials are integrated into a lively discussion of some of the critical issues of spiritual interpretation."

Original insights to understanding the nature of the outsider, the other. We think of Moses as the ultimate insider due to being raise in the palace of Pharaoh. But like all of us, regardless of economic or educational status, Moses was an outsider. When he fully realized this, he went on his spiritual quest. This book is a must for learning the mind and soul of Moses.

I really liked reading a book about a biblical topic that asked questions and suggested answers that as a Christian had never occurred to me but which make a lot of sense when thinking logically. The author wrote in a very interesting way which is different from my usual experience with this kind of book.

This book is a great investment for anyone who reads Torah critically.Moses is not superhuman.he is an example for outsiders.just like me a Jewish revert.found a friend in Moses and somethings in common.a bargain on kindle.met the author.he is as literate as he writes.very smart man.

Moses: A Stranger Among Us is an engaging, thought-provoking, and insightful examination into the life of Moses and, by extension, those whose lives were connected to his. While it is a scholarly work, it is written in a very accessible style. The great gift of this book is its ability to demonstrate how faith is a living reality that responds to human experience, needs, and new understandings and situations through examples from the life of Moses. For those of us who are deeply concerned with the narrow-mindedness, fundamentalism, cruelty and hatred towards others that are spawned by rigid, inflexible and dogmatic interpretations of God and God's Scriptures, Rabbi Harris offers intellectually and theologically sound arguments for an open, responsive and living faith that can embrace new ideas, interpretations and visions of God. This is a book to read, to learn from, and share. I look forward to sharing its insights with my Anglican parish!

In Moses: A Stranger Among Us, Rabbi Maurice Harris challenges us to take a fresh local at a familiar character. This book is full of fine scholarship, inspiring ideas, and well written discussions that lead the reader through the life of Moses with a contemporary focus. Harris taps into an important need in Jewish settings to speak to the broad spectrum of identity that now includes interfaith, multi-racial, pan-ethnic, non-traditional families, and queer Jews. Proving that the opportunity to make Torah relevant is available for every generation, he uses Moses' unique biography to inspire us to engage again and again with our sacred texts. I can't wait to incorporate the teachings from this book into my work.

I've known Rabbi Harris for a decade. He's always been very thoughtful and insightful in his opinions and studies. In this book, he applies these same qualities towards the topic at hand, Moses. He does an excellent job at looking at Moses from different perspectives and also faiths. This is an enjoyable and easy read. It also is very insightful in his research. I'm greatly anticipating his next book. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone remotely interested in Moses, or theology surrounding him.

Moses: A Stranger Among Us is an incredible look into an ancient story. Rabbi Harris points a reflective and intense light on the character of Moses, looking at the biblical narrative with new eyes. His vision is a Moses that we can each connect with, and a journey that we each take together when we read the story of the Exodus. This refreshing book will forever strengthen your relationship to the text, and will change the way you look at biblical literature.

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