

IN SEARCH OF OUR STORIES:  
RETELLING AND RECLAIMING  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN  
RELIGIOUS TRADITION

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Mercy Global Action Emerging Fellowship

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*Over 3 million copies sold—an international bestseller*

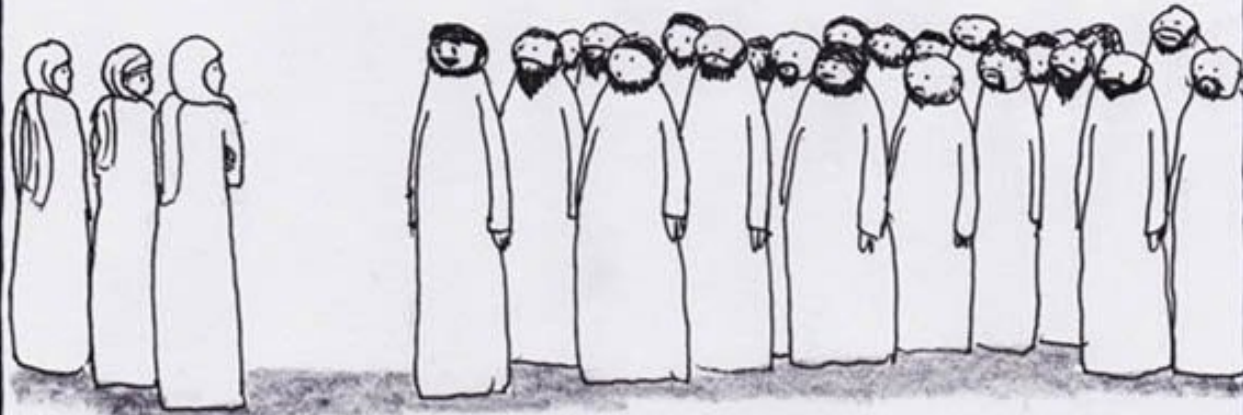
10TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION  
*Includes a new  
introduction from  
the author and  
reading group  
notes*



*The* RED  
TENT  
ANITA DIAMANT

© nakedpastor

Kalndra



"SO LADIES, THANKS FOR BEING THE FIRST TO WITNESS AND REPORT THE RESURRECTION AND WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE."

## MY PROJECT:

I have aimed to compile an anthology which reimagines the often undervalued, misrepresented, or misunderstood stories of women in religion. These stories are retold in order to display and uplift the incredible examples of leadership women of our traditions can offer us today.

## WHY BOTHER RETELL, REIMAGINE, AND RESURRECT THESE STORIES?

- Religion: strong global influence
- Existing precedent

## BIBLICAL CREATIVE LICENSE

- “Creative time” Anderson Bernhard
- Rabbis “did not hesitate to embellish, retell, reimagine, or even radically change the stories of the Torah.” Howard Schwartz

## DRAWBACKS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Is it meaningful? Is it ethical?
- Not indoctrination
- Exploring perspectives

## WHY NOT JUST FOCUS ON INTERPRETATION AND THEOLOGY?

- Engaging and memorable
- Avenue into further thought



*HER GODDESS*  
CARLY PERINI

To any man it was a curse; to Medusa it was a blessing.

Athena's solution gave her power,

She embraced her new role.

Her Goddess gave her a weapon.

*LILITH*  
NATALIE DIBONA

“...Since some people see Lilith as evil, I portrayed her with devil horns and a snake, though you can see she looks content and unbothered by these labels. For me, she represents the freedom of feminist women who do not want to be good, obedient girls.”





*THE ORIGINAL DREAM*

*MOTHER EVE*

*JULIA MORISI*

*THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD*  
BY LAURA S. ELLIS

“Mahlah thought forward to the day when they would finally enter the promised land. And she knew that the five sisters would stand with all the other sons, brothers, and leading men of each family—all the other heirs—as they claim their inheritance. They, daughters of Zelophehad, daughters of Israel, heirs to the land.”

*THE PROPHECY OF DELILAH*  
JULIA MORISI

“She held the soldiers off for as long as she could. For several nights, she told them falsehoods about Samson, who, like Delilah herself, had been consecrated to his own God at birth, and who had his own fate to fulfil. But as long as she resisted, she saw her city still smoldering, her neighbors still mourning, and her family waiting for her to fulfil God’s plan and set an end to it all. So as Samson drifted off in her lap, Delilah reached for the razor.”

*PRAYER FOR PEACE*  
JULIA MORISI

On paper, you remain a woman without a name,  
But in living story, you have many names.  
In scripture, you are silent,  
But we invite you to find voice in us.

# *THE STORY OF ESTHER*

## JEMIMA WELSH

Five celebrated Esther traits:

1. Fortitude
2. Discernment
3. Diplomacy
4. Authenticity
5. Servant Leadership

“an example of a woman ‘saving the world’.”

*MOTHER MARY*  
LAURA PIERSON

*Can a leader cry?*

Mother Mary, what a gift you are.

With fear, faith, pain, and love you gave life to Beloved.

Leading your son from your womb into the world.

Cry Mary.

For the love of God, cry.





*JUNIA*  
CECILIE KERN

“Junia and the early Church are enduring examples for us in the twenty-first century to exercise courageous leadership that is welcoming of all people, open to change, and that looks to the future with hope and determination.”



# *JUDGES*

BY *JULIA MORISI*

“The woman stands in front of a crowd of men. One man holds a pen, one man holds a scroll, and another two stones. This represents how men have historically controlled the story, how it has been recorded, interpreted, and how its message has been enforced.”

# WHAT KINDS OF LESSONS CAN WE LEARN?

- Wisdom
- Inclusion

THANK YOU!

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