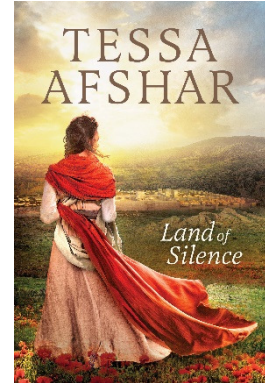




ADVANCE PRAISE

LAND OF SILENCE

By Tessa Afshar



“In perhaps her best novel to date, Afshar steps outside her typical Old Testament setting for an exquisitely heartfelt glimpse into the New.

Building off one beautiful word in the Biblical narrative, she grants a familiar character not only a name, but also a poignant history to which many modern readers can relate. **The wit, the romance and the humanity make Elianna’s journey uplifting as well as soul-touching.”** 4 ½ stars,
Romantic Times Book Review

“The newest biblical fiction from Christy Award–winning novelist Afshar imaginatively elaborates on the short gospel story of the woman who stealthily touches Jesus and is healed. Afshar presents Elianna, whose life is blighted by the death of her young brother while in her care. The wound of estrangement from her father over this incident never heals, even as Elianna grows to prove herself a capable business partner in her father’s textile trade. When Elianna later falls ill, she becomes isolated from everyone close to her. The denouement will be familiar to Christian readers, who will be fascinated by the ways Afshar breathes life into the ancient time and place of Jesus’s life. Her portrait of the commerce and business of the time is fresh, making the family business a central aspect of the story. Some edges need polishing: the writer’s evangelical theology occasionally breaks through explicitly (“my guilt is gone, replaced by grace”) and the dialogue occasionally rings too modern. But **fans of biblical fiction will enjoy an absorbing and well-researched chariot ride.”** *Publisher’s Weekly*

“Betrothed since childhood, Elianna and Ethan have their lives planned out until the death of Elianna’s baby brother while in her care. Her Jewish community may live under Roman rule, but its religious beliefs are strongly held. Shunned, Elianna isolates herself from family and breaks her marriage contract. When she is stricken by an incurable illness, news of the miracles of Jesus of Nazareth sparks hope in Elianna. Seeking absolution and healing, she travels to see Jesus, and her life is forever changed. **VERDICT** Afshar (*In the Field of Grace*) fleshes out the gospel story (Luke 8:43-48) of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus’s garment. **Readers will be moved by Elianna’s faith, and Afshar’s elegant evocation of biblical life will keep them spellbound. An excellent choice for fans of Francine Rivers’ historical fiction, and those who read for character.”** *Starred review, Library Journal*

“Christy Award-winner Afshar has written a compelling backstory for the Gospel account of the woman with the issue of blood. Fascinating details about the textile trade draw readers deeply into the ancient world. At the same time, heartache and healing blend beautifully in this gem among Christian fiction. **Highly recommended.”** *CBA Retailers + Resources*

“No one brings the Bible to life like Tessa Afshar. *Land of Silence* grabs hold of the woman who stole healing by touching Christ’s hem in a way that brings us all to a place where we can recognize that we, too, are daughters of the King.” **Debbie Macomber, #1 New York Times bestselling author**



“Tessa Afshar’s *Land of Silence* is a biblical novel in a category all its own. Moving, believable . . . This inspiring, uplifting story encouraged me at a heart level. The nuggets of truth woven throughout the story touched me deeply, and in my own hour of need increased my faith in His loving grace. If God can call a desperate unclean woman ‘daughter ‘and purify her longings with His great love, He can do the same for you, for me. A wonderful story—not to be missed!” **Jill Eileen Smith, bestselling author of *The Crimson Cord* and *The Wives of King David* series**

“Tessa Afshar’s captivating and emotive story is about one first-century woman’s pain and struggle. But the hope she describes is real and for you and me today.” **Chris Fabry, bestselling author of *War Room* and *Dogwood***

“Tessa Afshar is a brilliant writer and a beautiful soul. She crafts stories and characters that stay with you long after you’ve read the last page. *Land of Silence* is no exception. I held my breath over the heartbreak and gasped over the injustice. I even found myself praying for the characters before I realized what I was doing! But that’s the point, isn’t it? Tessa’s novels draw you in so that you’re both captivated and changed by the power of story. You’re in for a treat with this one. Enjoy.” **Susie Larson, national speaker, radio host, and author of *Your Beautiful Purpose***

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