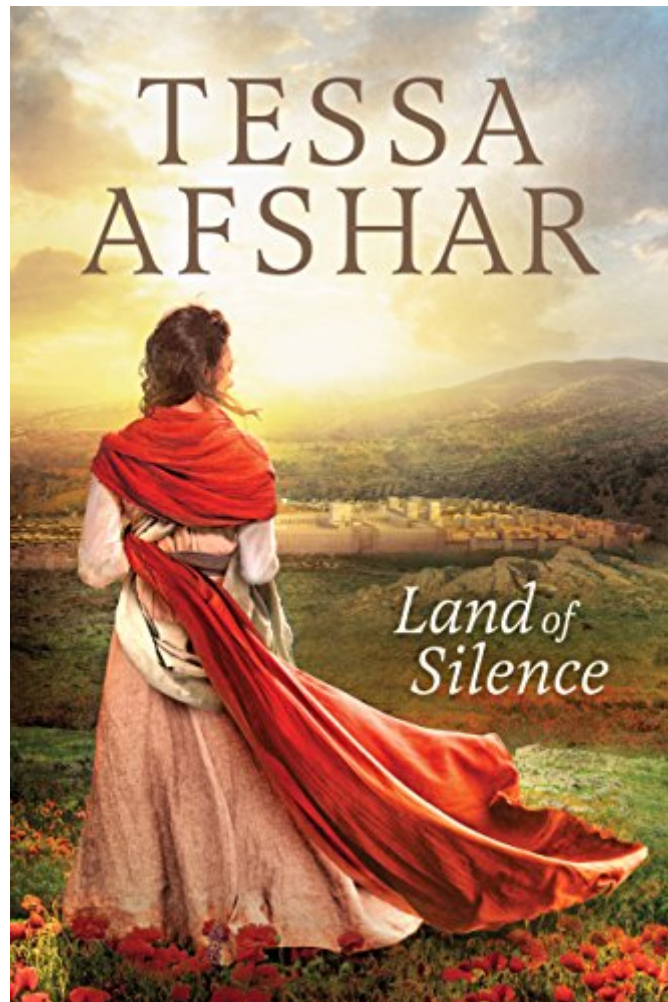


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# Land Of Silence



## Synopsis

Before Christ called her daughter . . . Before she stole healing by touching the hem of his garment . . . Elianna is a young girl crushed by guilt. After her only brother is killed while in her care, Elianna tries to earn forgiveness by working for her father's textile trade and caring for her family. When another tragedy places Elianna in sole charge of the business, her talent for design brings enormous success, but never the absolution she longs for. As her world unravels, she breaks off her betrothal to the only man she will ever love. Then illness strikes, isolating Elianna from everyone, stripping everything she has left. No physician can cure her. No end is in sight. Until she hears whispers of a man whose mere touch can heal. After so many years of suffering and disappointment, is it possible that one man could redeem the wounds of body . . . and soul?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once in a great while I come across a book that can be described as nothing less than a stunning masterpiece written by an exceptionally gifted author. The Land of Silence is that book and Tessa Afshar is that author. I've read Afshar's other four books and was beyond excited to read her newest

book. This fictionalized book is the biblical account of "the woman with the issue of blood" found in the gospels. In the opening chapter I was transported back in time to a hillside in Jerusalem where I first meet Elianna, a beautiful young girl, the daughter of a weaver of fine linen and wool, betrothed to Ethan. She's full of all the hopes and dreams a sixteen year old's heart can hold. By the end of the chapter, I joined Elianna in tears at the shattering of all those hopes and dreams. So begins her journey and mine as well. I experienced all the anguish, pain and hurt right along with her. Such is Afshar's talent, her ability to draw me in and have me walk side by side with Elianna through life's trials. Her betrothed Ethan, is a man of integrity and character, both admirable and loyal in his love for Elianna. I love the way he loved her, giving her leeway in her work while being firm with her when need be. Their love is forced to endure many hardships. Their difficult choices beyond comprehension at times, sacrificial and selfless. When I thought Elianna could endure no more (and me as well), the scriptures that began each chapter provides a comforting and stabilizing force. As Elianna chose to live out the scriptures, they became not only her strength, but the beginning of her healing. She learned to put her whole trust in God, the freedom found in forgiveness and one of the hardest things of all, to love her enemies.

In the usual Tessa Afshar fashion, we meet yet another woman from the Bible that is destined to be your friend. Land of Silence is due out in May of 2016. I received a complimentary preview e-copy to read and review from Tyndale House Publishers and Netgalley.com. This is the story of Elianna, who is better known as the woman who simply touched Jesus garment and was healed of a 12 year issue of blood. I have always wrestled with this short passage, thinking this woman was so shy. Afshar shows just how strong this woman really was, and what courage and faith she really had. Afshar fleshes out an entire life to the point you feel you have been a part of this woman's life. I can't wait to get to Heaven and sit down for coffee and chat to hear her real story. For now, I thank Ms. Afshar and God that I have this story to fill my imagination and bring life to another part of the Bible. In true Afshar fashion, she pays attention to historical detail, as well as shining a light on Biblical truths. I had never connected the two twelves in the story of this woman, and the little girl that Jesus was on his way to heal. I thought that was brilliant. We witness the story of Elianna's life starting at a young age. While she has hopes and dreams, we go through her life seeing how circumstances and choices can reshape dreams. Some dreams do work out to become a reality, while other dreams are put on hold for what seems a lifetime. The lessons we can learn from Elianna are "Never giving up hope". Afshar uses the Biblical account of this woman's life as the climax of the story. Through this we see how much God loves each one of us.

One tragic afternoon, Elianna's brother dies while in her care, His death is only the beginning of her sorrows. Seeking redemption from her guilt, Elianna applies her talent in her father's linen manufacturing business which brings momentary success that eventually dissipates. Knowing her failures, she breaks off her betrothal to Ethan Ben Ezer, a good man and the love of her life. A bleeding illness soon strikes that depletes her body and financial resources. With no other hope, Elianna travels to see a new Jewish prophet, expecting tricks and cunning, but finds a teacher who speaks deep words to her heart. After years of suffering and illness, will she find healing for her body and soul? Read more in Land of Silence by Tessa Afshar. Land of Silence is my favorite novel by Tessa Afshar to date. Like Elianna, Tessa Afshar weaves her craft adeptly. Blending together Biblical events, tragedy, healing, romance and spiritual truths, Land of Silence, enlivens the story of the unclean, nameless woman with a bleeding disease who is mentioned in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. There was nothing I disliked about the novel and much that I enjoyed. Having a less popular Biblical figure (compared to Mary or Esther) as the protagonist certainly elevated this book's appeal to me. Tragedy and healing gave Elianna's record depth and authenticity while humor kept it from feeling depressing. By not glossing over the hardships that Elianna endured, a deeply moving story flowed with strength and spiritual truths I found applicable to my life. Example: "Despair is an invitation to prayer. You can either sink or pray when it lodges at your door." • (Page 329) I know Land of Silence is a fictional retelling.

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