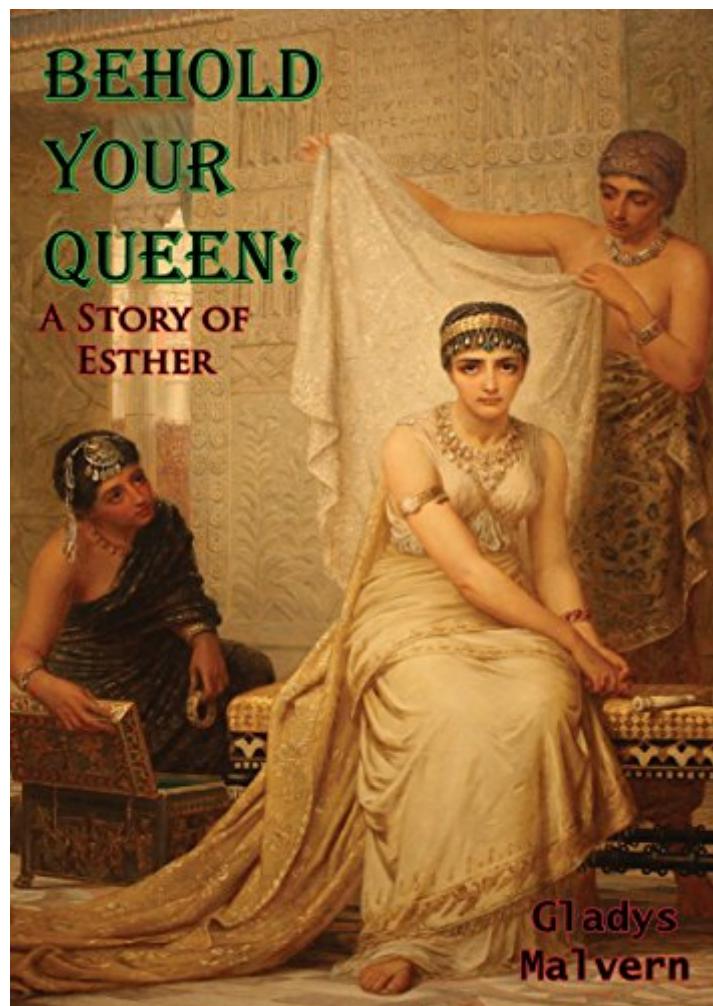


The book was found

Behold Your Queen!: A Story Of Esther



Synopsis

It is the ancient days of the Persian Empire. Hadassah was content in her quiet life in the Jewish quarter of the city of Babylon with her uncle Mordecai, who had raised her from childhood. But she was old enough to be married, and yet her uncle hadn't arranged a marriage for her. Meanwhile in Shushan, King Ahasuerus' marriage to the vain and selfish Vashti has ended, and a new wife must be found. Why not bring to him the most beautiful women of the kingdom, and let him choose? And so the loveliest young women of the empire are selected in local contests, and Hadassah is among those chosen to go to Shushan to meet the King. But as a Jewess in a foreign land with powerful enemies to her faith, she must conceal her true identity and take the Babylonian name of Esther. Will she find love with a man she has never met? And can she survive in a strict royal court controlled by the evil prime minister Haman, who wants to destroy her people? -Print ed.

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Customer Reviews

Firstly, 127,000 "Thank Yous", (a thousand for each of the 127 provinces in Ahasuerus' ancient Persian Empire), to Susan Houston and Special Edition books, for bringing this wonderful, classic book back into print! The Biblical "Book of Esther" has been re-told by many, many authors, in

books for adults, young adults, and for children -- but this re-telling, "Behold Your Queen!", by Gladys Malvern, is surely the best of all! The title of my review, "To All!", stems from the last two words of this novel. It truly is a story TO all people, and FOR all people, of whatever age, race, religion, or gender. It is also the best version of this story I have ever read. I discovered this book in the public library when I was about 11 or 12. At that time, Hadassah's age at the beginning of the book, (14), seemed quite old and sophisticated to me...but as I have grown, I realize how very, very young she was at the start, and even at the end of this story. (It is not specified how old Esther is at the end of this story, but, as Malvern mentions that Esther passed her 18th birthday in "the House of Women", I judge she cannot have been more than 25 at the end of it.) The Book of Esther is the ONLY book of the Old Testament in which the name of God is not mentioned. Perhaps this is because the story is, at its base, about courage, and, although prayer to God is helpful in achieving courage, courage itself must inevitably be assumed by each individual, alone, and with God only guiding, not doing..... This new edition of BEHOLD YOUR QUEEN, is a beautiful, full-sized trade paperback.

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