



With a Mighty Hand: The Story in the Torah

Amy Ehrlich , Daniel Nevins (Illustrations)

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Amy Ehrlich retains the beauty, drama, and mystery of the Torah in this unique adaptation, gorgeously illustrated with paintings by Daniel Nevins.

The Torah is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, which Christians call the Old Testament. It tells the story of the beginning of the Jewish people and their relationship with God. From Adam and Eve to the first patriarch, Abraham, to Moses, who led his people to the promised land, the stories in the Torah have been studied and revered since it was first written down nearly 3,000 years ago. Now in this glorious volume, Amy Ehrlich crafts an authentic, lyrical adaptation that is presented as a continuous narrative, one that honors the complexities of the original text. Daniel Nevins's richly hued paintings bring the ancient wonders of the Torah to resonant life, making this truly a gift to savor, share, and treasure.

Back matter includes notes, and a bibliography, and an artist's note..

Including:

an author's introduction
a genealogy of the Torah
a map of the region
annotated endnotes
a bibliography
an artist's note

With a Mighty Hand: The Story in the Torah Details

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Author : Amy Ehrlich , Daniel Nevins (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review With a Mighty Hand: The Story in the Torah for online ebook

Laura says

not really for young children but a wonderful read. It certainly cleared up some of the Torah's stories for me. Would probably give to a teen that was questioning or trying to learn more about the Jewish religion.

Rachel says

This is an easy-to-read retelling of the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. Read the enchanting and sometimes harsh tales of the patriarchs of Judaism (and Christianity) –Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses – and their families, friends, and enemies. Throughout the stories, follow the thread of the mighty hand of Yahweh, the God of the Israelites. Painted woodcarvings in bold, dark colors capture the awe and reverence embedded in Ehrlich's selected paraphrase.

Kim says

I can't rate or review this book properly. I received an advance copy from goodreads. The advanced copy does NOT have any of the illustrations which are what make this book special ...

Kevin says

A gorgeous book in every way. Wonderful and simple stories in a beautiful package. A great introduction to the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament). This has the feel of an oral history passed down through the ages which is how these stories began. They are simple but yet profound as they trace the narrative arc of the history and God's relationship with his chosen people. The illustrations share this simple yet meaningful style. They accompany rather than distract for the stories.

Karen Perry says

One of the pleasures of reviewing books is opening the box holding a brand new title that is unexpectedly wonderful. Such a book is With a Mighty Hand: the Story in the Torah, adapted by Amy Ehrlich and illustrated with paintings by Daniel Nevins. Published by Candlewick Press, this lovely volume is Ehrlich's version for children of the five books of the Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. She has framed the book as a series of stories that are simply told and easily read by upper elementary age students. This is a beautiful example of fine bookmaking from the embossed dust jacket to the thick, lush pages, wide margins, and golden design at the corner of every page. The book features a Torah map, a Torah genealogy, and the fine painting of Daniel Nevins. In an artist's note at the back, Asheville resident Nevins tells of his creative process and that he spent two years painting the deep, rich colors used in the illustrations.

A powerful painter, it will be exciting to see more of Nevins' work in future children's books.

Nicole says

I don't really know how to rate this bc it's like.....how do you rate the bible.....but idk four stars for pretty artwork and good retelling????

Lorraine Der says

Library Catalog

Ann says

So beautiful and new. Ehrlich's transcendent verse renders these familiar stories as shocking, perplexing and remarkably compelling — just as they always have been. Wonderful paintings by David Nevins. Kudos to Candlewick for this one.

Margie says

Sometimes reading Biblical text can be confusing, boring, etc, especially for children who are story-oriented. This narrative version pulls the essential stories from the first 5 books of the Bible, known as the Torah in Judaism. Coupled with many color illustrations, the stories become real, and believable, when whittled down from the usual wordiness.

Yossi Gremillion says

Can't wait to read this book!!

Roxanne Hsu Feldman says

Ehrlich's talent as a storyteller is evident in the book. She picked and chose powerful details. She then tailored them for young readers with simple and easily understandable words and sentences. The immediacy is almost shocking. Instead of the tales feeling distanced by archaic language or complex sentence structures as often found in the translated versions of the Bible (or Torah), a young reader can digest these stories quickly and see the pictures clearly (also with the help of the colorful paintings.)

I think that's why I had such conflicting reactions to this gorgeously illustrated religious text. On the one hand, I really admire Ehrlich's storytelling and distilling skills. On the other hand, all these immediacies

bring to sharp relief the brutal and the morally questionable events and behaviors in these stories. Being a non-believer of any religion myself, it was really hard for me to understand how anyone could “fall for” this inconsistent, arrogant, vengeful, deceptive, conspiring, and power-hungry GOD. Some of the lessons that I got from the book are

Since GOD is so fickle, but so all powerful, you’d better always do as told.

One’s relationship with GOD is and should be completely based on Fear.

All human inter-actions are based on Jealousy and sometimes bad deeds are richly rewarded.

Women are to be neglected and are of no or little importance except in bearing sons for the chosen people.

The chosen ones should endeavor in eliminating the non-believers and those who believe in other Gods.

So, I am left with a huge question: Why, in the year 2013, we need such a retelling of these brutal and morally antiquated tales to children which do not contain in the text itself explanatory notes or questions that encourage discussions for the family? Especially since this is a trade book and conceivably could be read and shared with people who are not of the Jewish faith. (There are indeed back matters with notes and an introduction but I really would have liked to see a more philosophical approach to these tales than the current shape it is in.)
