



This book is written in a very easy style that makes it a good read. I found it a most enjoyable and moving tale that I simply could not put down.

Set in biblical times the book is the story of Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob, father of the famous Joseph of the technicolour dream coat (the musical). It tells of Jacobs four wives, all apparently siblings and Dinah's entire life story from when her father met her mothers to her eventual death.

Dinah's life is only briefly hinted at¹ in the Old Testament, within the familiar chapters of the book of Genesis which deal with her father, Jacob, son of Issac, grandson of Abraham and brother of Esau. But this moving and compelling story brings the lives glimpsed through the verses of the Old Testament into sharp, colourful and sometimes shocking focus. In a world where an eye for an eye was an accepted rule of life, Dinah shows us there is another way and that it is possible to find peace and happiness through love.

Diamant's knowledge and imagination weave a story told in the first person where we meet Dinah, the child relating to her mothers, who each month enter the red tent and the midwifery and relationships that ensued. Dinah, the adult who became a midwife herself, and finally Dinah in her last years.

The title of the book refers to *the red tent* the place the women retreated to from the general family camp whilst they bled each month. There is a focus on sexual awakening, menstruation, womanhood and the entry into womanhood, and fertility in general. The story highlights the clear lines between the female world and the male, down to the stories the two genders pass on, the heritage they feel is worth telling. It follows the Biblical emphasis on the woman providing her husbands legacy, providing him with sons, the joy of being able to do this and the heartbreak of being unable.

In *The Red Tent*, Anita Diamant has taken the scant details of Dinah's life and imagined them into an amazing narrative of what might have happened, giving a researched account of life in biblical times. -- *Nicki Chatterton*

But don't just take my word. Here are some other peoples opinions.

I genuinely fell into this rich and colourful world and Dinah and Leah have stayed with me as ancestors and sisters brought to life by Anita Diamant's imaginative novel. -- *Maureen Lipman*

A collection of liberal Rabbis recommended this book to its congregations, and they have recommended it in turn to their reading groups. *The Guardian*

Julia Roberts chose it as a "*book that changed my life*" in Oprah Winfrey's influential O magazine.

This book has been adapted as a TV mini series starring Rebecca Ferguson and Minnie Driver.

¹ Genesis 34:1-31