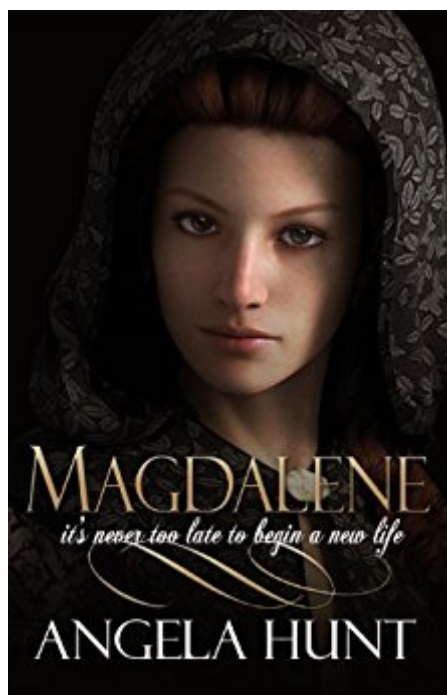


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Magdalene



Synopsis

Mary Magdalene The controversial woman with a past only one Man could forgive. A true love story that changed the face of history. "I was Miryam of Magdala, seller of fine fabrics and wife of Yaakov the fisherman. With my husband and son, I held a place of honor among my countrymen until a company of rogue soldiers took everything from me. I might not be Roman, but I knew injustice when I saw it. And I had been most grievously wronged." In an era when women are sequestered and silenced, Miryam of Magdala lives a contended life until her son's careless gesture evokes a hostile action that shatters her serenity. With no hope of justice, Miryam commits an unthinkable act and descends into depths of darkness that threaten her life and her sanity. Even after Yeshua the Messiah dramatically restores her life, Miryam can neither forget nor forgive unresolved injustices. Prodded by a hunger for vengeance she will not deny, this woman of uncommon courage risks her life and her heart by drawing destiny into her own hands.

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Customer Reviews

Angela Hunt, author and Darla Middlebrook, narrator, have formed an excellent team to provide the

audio book, *Magdalene*. It is a beautiful historical fiction that takes place during and immediately following Jesus's ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection. Yeshua the Messiah is, of course, the central focus, and His teachings and ministry are scripturally accurate. While some of the conversations may not be exactly as occurred, they are essentially who Jesus was with Mary Magdalene - Rabboni. Jesus did call out demons from Mary Magdalene - known in this story as Miryam of Magdala. However, we do not know anything about her life outside of following Jesus and being one of the women who cared for the needs of Jesus and later, His disciples. And this is an encouragement to search the scriptures - the gospels and book of Acts, to clarify for yourself exactly the truth the Lord has given us in His love letter, the Bible. The rest of the story is fiction that is rich in history and with beautiful, emotive prose; that it is a work of fiction is made clear from Angela Hunt's notes. Along with taking place during and after Jesus's life on earth, it is also the period of the Roman occupation of Israel. Very well researched, one can almost hear the boots of the soldiers, and experience the fear and even anger of some of those under the occupation when soldiers were in town for any reason. In the novel, Miryam was a seller of fine cloth, and experimented with and made unique dyes to use on these cloths; she was a successful businesswoman. Her husband was Yaakov the fisherman. She was a mother to both her infant son and adult son, with a grandbaby on the way. When the unfathomable occurred at the hands of the Roman soldiers, she unknowingly sets events in motion that bring an even greater horror for her to endure, being possessed by several demons. Meeting Jesus, being immensely relieved of the demons by Jesus, and becoming a follower of Yeshua, brought about heartache and rejection from Miryam's friends. She believed in Jesus as Messiah and wanted to be part of His coming kingdom. Like many others of that time, however, she thought Yeshua's kingdom would be earthly, and the revenge she so desired against the Romans would occur. She supported the work, travelled with and cared for the needs of the Messiah and His disciples. After His crucifixion, resurrection, and return to heaven, she continued to support the disciples' work. Yet the thirst for revenge was not something she had given to her Lord - and it ate away at her very being. The characters are strong and vibrant men and women who are very well defined. Yeshua's teaching and actions were in line with the Bible. Miryam and her fellow travelers and friends each have their feelings and convictions. Atticus, the Roman soldier, and his lady friend and son, and the transformation in their lives after their son was healed by Jesus, was nothing short of the Holy Spirit's work. The plot is a tapestry of spiritual lessons. When we meet Jesus, there may be things from our past that we have to deal with and let go of, one by one. If we don't turn over those things, they can lead us to make horribly destructive decisions,

blocking our view of Jesus as they stand between us. There are interesting twists in the story; some took this reader completely by surprise and some did not. I am in awe of the historical research that Angela Hunt had done before writing, and the way she could weave a tale such that the spiritual lessons live on in the reader's heart long after listening to the final credits. Angela Hunt's excellent prose is taken to the next level with Darla Middlebrook's narration. I was so appreciative of the beautiful sound of a gifted narrator reading Magdalene with emotions appropriate to the culture and time. I like audio books – I had purchased the book on Kindle a couple years ago but not yet read it, and this audio book showed me what I had missed! I highly recommend this to adults of any age who appreciate historical fiction written around the time of the New Testament writings, especially Jesus' life. Fans of Angela Hunt will not want to miss this! With a grateful heart, I received a copy of this book through the "For Readers Only" group at The Book Club Network, in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

I normally love Angela Hunt's books, but this one disturbed me greatly. I know it is biblical fiction, but many of Ms. Hunt's works are based on substantial research and seem true to who the person probably was. Because there is not much known about Mary of Magdala, there are a lot of assumptions here by the author, including that Mary was an angry, bitter, and hateful person longing for revenge. It is a very dark portrait of an important biblical figure that I found to be very disturbing and hard to believe. This one just had too much made up in it for me to enjoy.

Once again Angela has taken the most important time in history and given it a life and power rarely seen. Modern man looking back is always more aware of the story than those who lived at the time. The Gospels had not been written and people were trying to make sense of just who and what Jesus was. Until the whole drama had been played out doubts and confusion reigned. Add to that the expectations of the Messiah being a political and military figure further smothered understanding what Jesus was doing. This story has yet again opened up my understanding of the times. Thank you Angela, bless you.

Mary Magdalene is one of the more fascinating characters in the Bible however little is known about her. I had hoped that in the author's research she discovered at least a bit more than what I know which is essentially that Mary was considered a prostitute, Jesus cast out her demons and she became one of His followers. Well turns out the author does not know any more than I do so she

just "faked it". And not very well. Mary's character is not fleshed out in a multi-dimensional or very believable way. This is not dramatized history. This is just your run of the mill, not particularly well written in my opinion, fiction novel about a woman named Mary who happened to come from the town of Magdala. I am presently reading another book about Mary Magdalene (by Diana Wallis Taylor) and I feel like I am reading about two entirely different women. The "demons" and how she came to be possessed by them are explained completely differently; in one she was married with a husband and children who were killed by Romans; in the other she was married, had no children, and her husband died following an accident. Mary's history of prostitution is ignored in both books. What I did enjoy about the "Mary" in Angela Hunt's novel is that she is portrayed as a strong woman who, despite being a widow (an unmarried woman), did not buckle under to the social expectations of the time. She handled her own money, travelled "unchaperoned" with various disciples and followers of Jesus, and managed her own life. Otherwise, they are both quite simply just fabricated stories and I don't recommend reading either of them. You won't come away with any new insight into Mary and the "story" just isn't that good.

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