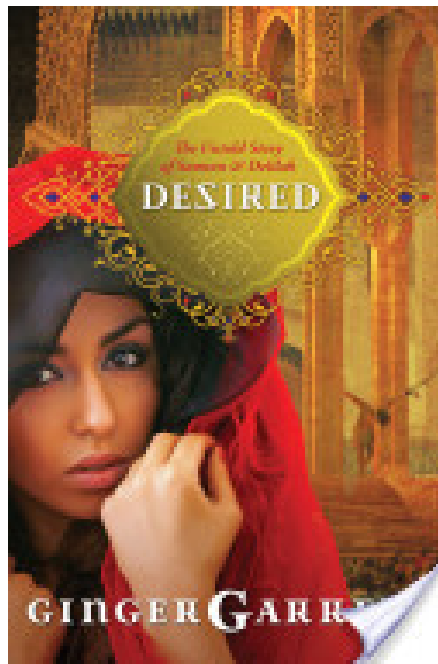




Desired: The Untold Story of Samson and Delilah

Ginger Garrett

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Desired: The Untold Story of Samson and Delilah Ginger Garrett

Meet the legendary Samson as you've never known him before ... through the eyes of the three women who loved him. Before Samson was an Old Testament legend, he was a prodigal son, an inexperienced suitor, a vengeful husband, and a lost soul driven by his own weakness. This is his story as told by three strong women who loved him—the nagging, manipulative mother who pushed him toward greatness, the hapless Philistine bride whose betrayal propelled him into notoriety, and the emotionally damaged seductress—the famous Delilah—who engineered his downfall and propelled him to his destiny. Desired celebrates the God of Israel's to work powerfully in the midst of hopes, fears, desires, and sorrows.

Desired: The Untold Story of Samson and Delilah Details

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From Reader Review Desired: The Untold Story of Samson and Delilah for online ebook

Linda says

After finishing a Ginger Garrett novel you will want to immediately read another. Desired tells the story of Samson from the perspective of the three prominent women in his life: his mother, his first wife, and his second love. This story is not for the faint hearted, but then again, neither is the Bible. This is a great adaptation of Samson taken directly from Scriptures. Ginger's writing style brings truth to life.

One man, Samson, born for God's purpose seems to have women get in his way. Or do they? Did God purposely put these particular women in his life to perpetuate his destiny or did Samson stray from God's calling? Either way God uses all things for His good. As you read each of their thoughts and stories you cant help but sympathize and be angered all at the same time. Responding emotions constantly change.

The story flowed well until the end. The last chapter felt rushed and sadly, in my personal opinion, missed an important Biblical detail. Other than this disappointment the Biblical accuracy was greatly enhanced with the fictional details. With that said, I encourage you to read the Biblical account of Samson found in Judges 13 - 16 for an additional bonus.

Melanie says

Being a fan of Bible stories in general and of Samson's story in particular, I really was looking forward to reading this book as it tells his story from a totally different point of view, that of the three very important women in his life.

From the start of this book, I knew it would be different and I thought I was prepared for it, but I was also surprised by its content as well.

I didn't really expect an accounting about Samson from the Bible nor the movie I saw long time ago with Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr, but I also didn't expect this sweaty, smelly beast of a man who goes after what he wants without caring who he hurts. A man in this book is vicious, vengeful and way too dark. He was unappealing and I couldn't picture him at all as a hero.

Delilah on the other hand was the only character that made this story worth the read. Her characters evolution was well written and I enjoyed watching her become the seductress we all read about in the Bible.

If you're looking for a different viewpoint of this story, and one that offers at times a sensual, dark and emotional view, you might like it. Personally, I found it too depressing.

Mel for b2b

*Book provided by publisher through NetGalley.

Amanda Geaney (Christian Shelf-Esteem) says

4.5/5 Stars.

I liked the author's portrayal of Delilah. I wasn't expecting to empathize with her as much as I did. Additionally, I've always viewed Samson's choices as reckless in my personal reading of the biblical accounts. Ginger Garrett turned that presumption upside down in her novel, by making her readers consider his choices to be directives from God. Much like His command for Hosea to marry a prostitute.

For the more sensitive readers: This story has elements that may make you cringe. Namely sexual assault, Delilah as a temple priestess, and that children born out of the "love unions" of the temple are discarded. All illustrate the depravity of the culture and the need for the Israelites to be delivered by a Judge.

Jonida says

Mixed feelings about this book. I enjoyed the detail and learning more about the world of Samson and the two women he loved. However it is not a book I would recommend to anyone who is not a really mature christian and can deal with how sad and full of pain the accounts of its characters are .

Beks says

I have read stories like this before (Pearl in the Sand was amazing) and have really liked them, however this one just wasn't up to par. I really liked the young women's points of view. Young Amara was nicely characterized and fleshed out, though not particularly dynamic.

The people I had the most problems with, were 1 Samson and 2 his mother. Samson seemed like a little boy who never grew up. I understand that he was more of side story and the real focus was on both Amara and Delilah but still I would rather have dynamic characters than stagnant ones. He seemed to be unwilling to take true control of his life and that simply irritated me. Also his mother...I don't see her being that nagging of a person. She was probably of the same caliber of Elisabeth and Mary in the New Testament or Hannah and Sarah from the Old Testament. I don't see a nagging, manipulative, prideful woman being called to raise a "chosen one." So her portrayal really made me tune her out throughout the novel.

The one who made me keep reading this is Delilah. Her story was wonderfully written, her change from a young innocent to the infamous seductress was believable and my favorite part to read. I loved her and how she was humanized and how were actions, which have little to no motivation given in the biblical story found in Judges.

Overall I would say it was ok but not my favorite.

Many thanks to NetGalley for helping me get a copy to read for review.

Christie Hagerman says

In this historical fiction that retells the famous love story of Samson and Delilah, Samson himself is practically a footnote to the main stories, which are of the three women of his life. The reader comes to know him from the impact he has on these women. I learned a lot about what life was like for women of that time and place. I learned about the relationship between the Hebrew nation and their neighbors, the Philistines, and about the Philistine's god Dagon. Because this familiar story is retold from the viewpoint of the women, the lines of right and wrong, good guy and bad guy, are blurred a bit. Instead of faulting this person for his action or that person for her lack of action, the reader sees the possible "story behind the story".

The circumstances that drew these characters to each other were so intriguing, and I found myself really hoping for a different ending than the one I knew was to come. Throughout the book, I was reminded that life doesn't always turn out as expected. I think the summary in the lesson to be derived from this book is found on page 307, in the words of Samson's mother:

"Every winter, just before spring arrives, the almond trees bloom. They are a promise from God, each of those white blossoms, that He is watching and His words will be fulfilled in their appointed time. Sometimes, this appointed time comes before we are ready. Sometimes, it seems to come too late. We cannot understand His timing..."

However, as we learn in this story, we can trust that He is faithful to keep His word and to work miracles for those who obey Him even when they don't understand Him.

I really enjoyed the author's style of writing. She is a gifted craftsman of poetic prose, with descriptions and phrases that make the story breathe. I never felt that she'd overdone it, nor that she could have developed a point further. The story does deal with adult themes that may be unsuitable for teens, but I'd recommend this book for my girlfriends who need to be reminded that God can redeem any situation, and that He finishes what He starts.

Holly Renee says

To be honest, I have mixed feelings about this Desired. It was written well, offered a compelling story, drawn out and real characters, and everything that is worthy of a five star review. Yet, this book also had some serious draw backs for me personally.

Desired is very dark. While Ginger Garrett never glosses over the Biblical realities we so often miss when browsing our own Bible, she's been known to point out the darker side of stories that we may not think on. This story, was a tad too dark for me.

Yet, nothing in Samson's account gives any indication that it should be anything other than a dark story. This man was a man of war. Despite this truth, I could have lived without the graphic violence.

This book also contains a lot of sensuality. I don't really mind the sensuality between those who are married- no Christian literature will ever make me blush as much as reading Songs of Solomon. So I can handle that. The opening scene, however, left my stomach retching. While it may have been common practice among the Philistines to esteem homosexual marriage, I felt like it could have been implied without describing one of the men as having a "virgin's blush."

In spite of all of this, Ginger Garrett truly manages to bring one back to the truth and lessons that we glean

from Samson. She brings the reader back to reflect on how Samson's life may resemble our own, what we can do differently, and how God is merciful in spite of what we've done.

Desired is not a book I would recommend to the average reader. If you're able to handle the darkness this book deals with, you will definitely gain so much from it. If you're not, my recommendation is that you should start with Ginger Garret's first book, Chosen, and work your way up to this one.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from David C. Cook Publishers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Desired: The Untold Story of Samson & Delilah

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There are many interesting people who lived in Biblical times whether one is referring to the Old Testament or the New Testament. Each testament offers to us truth about the One True God who reveals Himself, starting in Genesis. The times those people lived in are vastly different than ours culturally as well as politically, economically and more. There is one thing that is the same: We are a people created to know God relationally through Jesus Christ.

Samson and Delilah were people who lived before the time of Christ. Readers can learn about Samson's true history (nonfictional) beginning in the book of Judges Chapter 13, which is located in the Old Testament. There are several historical books that can be read to understand the times and people that can help readers grasp the history of that period.

Ginger Garrett writes a fictional tale of Samson and Delilah that will captivate the reader as it is told from point of view of Samson's mother, Amara and Delilah. Being told from three different women's' points of view is helpful as readers get to understand the possible thoughts and feelings of women in ancient times. In ancient history, women were raised in a patriarchal society. Their lives were to be led and cared for by men. As such, some had good, rich and full lives while others weren't as fortunate. Some people today use this as a reason to live a life focused on doing without the "restraints" the Bible teaches. This is unfortunate and living life with less instead of more.

The novel's chapters alternate between the women in Samson's life and his mother, allowing us to understand both sides of the action. We see what happens when a man doesn't live his life according to what God has said, but we also see the redemption of that life God brings. Samson lived during the time known as the Judges when Israel had no king and they did what "was right in their own eyes". The novel fictionalizes many of the true events in Samson's life, which serves to captivate the imagination of the audience.

Remember what Ginger Garrett wrote is a wonderful fictional tale you can enjoy and share with others.

Then, read the true account of Samson from the Word of God, beginning in Judges Chapter 13. I found the novel reminding me of how short we fall from what God has planned for us, and how He redeems us when it seems like all hope is lost.

My rating is 4 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Jeanie says

The story of Samson & Delilah was told in such a way that you could actually put a face to a name. A personality. We have all read the story over the years but this brought it to a different light. You felt very connected to the characters and also more of an understanding of what God was doing.

Christy says

Ginger Garrett is a masterful storyteller. Through vivid descriptions and accurate research, she sweeps the reader away on a trip to the ancient city of Timnah during Philistine rule. The wine is plenty, the idol worship is rampant, yet love is still sought in this heathen land. It is here that the Hebrew, Samson, meets his Philistine wife, Amara, and where she becomes the first woman to betray him.

But she will not be the only women to claim such a title. Delilah, who most have always associated with a seductive nature, begs and pleads for Samson to share his secret with her. Through several tests, we know that he does indeed share this well-kept secret, and it leads to his demise.

For those readers familiar with this tale from Judges, do not be convinced yet that you know the whole story of Samson. Garrett has a few surprises up her sleeve. This dramatic Biblical story will have you burning the midnight oil, and will also have you reaching for your Bible to compare both stories when you are finished.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot...>

I'm really surprised and somewhat disappointed that Ginger Garrett's *Desired* didn't work for me. I won't lie, I found the darker themes of the Samson and Delilah tragedy very appealing, especially since most of the biblical fiction I've encountered centers on much lighter tales. I also loved the idea of Samson's story as told by the women in his life. Unfortunately, content alone does not make a good book.

I mean no disrespect to Garrett when I say this as there is nothing inherently wrong with her writing, but her work didn't speak to me. Her characters appeared stilted, the narrative description heavy and the storyline wooden and lifeless. I read because I like getting away from the stress of the real world, but getting through *Desired* felt more like a chore than a relaxing diversion.

I'll grant that some authors have enormous followings, but no writer has universal appeal and I beg you remember that when taking in my less than enthusiastic commentary. The bottom line is that a rating reflects a reader's experience and *Desired*, though technically sound, wasn't a good pick for me.

Rachel says

Desired tells the story of the legendary strongman through the eyes of the three most important women in his

life. The fiercely loving Jewish mother who nags him toward greatness ... and rebellion. The impoverished Philistine girl, Amara, who becomes Samson's bride. And the emotionally damaged seductress—the legendary Delilah—who becomes the instrument of his destruction and the key to his tragic triumph. Poetic, meticulously researched, and jaw-dropping honest, *Desired* ultimately celebrates the God of Israel's ability to work mightily despite our human weakness.

Of the 3 women I truly only cared for Amara. There was an innocence and beauty to her character. She seemed generally happy and she loved her family. Her story demonstrated a typical Philistine way of life and worship. But her life was tragic. The bible only really says that she cried for 7 days (not an appealing quality) until Samson gave her the answer to his riddle and that after the wedding (and Samson's abandonment) her father wed her to a wedding guest and the town people burnt her and her family alive. Samson's mother must have been a woman of great faith and wisdom (read the Bible encounters she had with the angel). But she wasn't a pleasant woman in the book. I didn't like her. She seemed like a hard judgmental woman. But I can only imagine how proud she was of her son, the deliverer of Israel. And then he is sleep with these women and marrying them. That must have been shocking and horrifying.

Delilah also lead a tragic life. Born a girl, Delilah tries to get her father to love her. She believes that if she just earns enough money, he will see her worth. In her pursuits for money, she is raped and the resulting pregnancy seals her fate. She is brought to the temple of Dagon to serve as a prostitute.

After time, a man purchases Delilah's freedom and she purchases a house for herself. With no real purpose and broken by the many tragedies of her life, Delilah self-harms. When Samson saves her, he is struck by her. Though Delilah cares very little for him, he offers some relief from her memories. When she is offered 5,500 pieces of silver to discover the secret of his strength, Delilah is determined to learn it. And so begins Delilah's persistence. After a few lies from Samson, Delilah wins the truth and so ends Samson's strength. Samson's eyes are gouged out and he is toured through the Philistines cities. He is set to work grinding grain. After some time, there is a big feast and thousands of people gather to see (and ridicule) Samson. Samson prays for one last display of strength and, with his death, he destroys the temple and more Philistines than he did in life.

This story added a new dimension to the story of Samson. He was imperfect and though strong, he had many weaknesses which proved to be his downfall. In this book it was not easy for Samson to kill so many people. His gift was his burden. The women in his life were the catalyst for his battles and his destiny.

Mesu says

Desired: The Untold Story of Samson and Delilah is written from the point-of-view of three women in Samson's life: his mother, a young Philistine girl (who becomes his wife), and finally Delilah. Ginger Garrett's writing is phenomenal—a mastery of words and phrases that painted pictures and stole my breath. This story depicted Samson, a complex, bigger-than-life biblical character, in ways that I could apply to my daily walk with the Lord. A Samson-sized feat, indeed.

This story was not what I expected. Seeing Samson through his mother's eyes was an unsettling conundrum. Amazon's description labeled her as nagging and manipulative, which didn't scratch the surface of this Hebrew mama's impact on her miracle-boy-turned-renegade. At times, I felt embarrassed for the woman—so overbearing were her maternal instincts. I didn't really like Samson's Philistine wife or Delilah. I generally pitied the whole bunch! But I found myself unable to stop reading because I needed to know the fate of each one. This is where Ginger's superb writing excelled.

The Book of Judges glimpses a time in Israel's history when heroes were hard to find:

“At that time the Israelites...went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance. In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” Judges 21:24-25

The extensive research and biblical accuracy helped explain many questions from Samson's story in Judges 13-16. But be forewarned. This is not a novel for the faint-of-heart. Just as the stories in Judges are graphic in content and description, so Ginger's novel describes the characters' activities realistically—without sensationalizing.

I can sum up the message of this book with words from Samson's mother that challenged me for days. (Don't you love it when a book has that kind of impact?)

"I could not understand why everyone devoted themselves to understand the secret of his strength. Why did it matter? Why did no one care what his strength was for, why it had been given to him? Why did no one seek that answer? No one wanted to know. They preferred the excitement of miracles to the hard work of change, the hard work of breaking away from a culture that enslaved them all so comfortably."

Michelle says

I loved the author's approach to this book. She makes characters that are traditionally misunderstood come to life. She also makes situations that are alluded to in the Scriptures but not necessarily spelled out very easy to relate to. I loved the female characters in this book and understood why they had hard hearts that led to decisions that they ultimately regretted.

Women had so little power in the Philistine culture. So when an opportunity for these women to change their situations presented itself it was hard for them to say no. Love had betrayed Delilah and wounded her in the past, so it wasn't enough to keep her from hurting others. Understandable, even if it's not something we admire characters for. The author had to stay true to what happened in the Bible, so altering that aspect of the story wasn't an option.

I wept for both Amara and Delilah (not literally, but my heart grieved when they deal with the consequences of their choices) which is a testimony to the author's ability to grab the reader's heart. Garrett did a great job making me empathize with their plights. It was never an excuse for what they did, but an explanation that made sense to me. I think this is Garrett's best book, bar none. The author did a great job of showing how Samson's strength was also his downfall. And his Jewish mother was excellently portrayed as well. I could sense his mother's disillusionment when things continually happened that she didn't understand and couldn't control.

This is the first time the similarities between Samson (and the people looking to him for deliverance,) and Jesus were brought to light in my thoughts. God has a way of doing things much differently than people expect. This is shone through Samson's story, but his life also reflected the consequences of his poor choices just like in the story of David and Bathsheba. People who enjoy Biblical fiction and it's ability to bring Scriptural truths to light will appreciate this book.

Audrey says

I didn't expect to feel empathy towards Samson's wife or to Delilah but I certainly did. What a sad account of the hurts and disappointments those women may have faced. His mother comes across as overbearing and self-righteous but I could sense her love for him. Even when we sin and make mistakes God can still redeem us and use us for His purposes. Ms. Garrett did an excellent job of bringing the Bible Story to life and revealing another side of Samson's life.

