



# The Priest: Aaron: 1

*Francine Rivers*

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*The Priest* is the first book in a new companion series to A Lineage of Grace. Each novella peers into the life of one of five biblical men (such as Aaron, Jonathan, Silas) who stood behind the great heroes of faith.

In *The Priest* you'll meet Moses' brother Aaron, the first high priest of Israel. How will Aaron support Moses while he struggles with being satisfied with God's plan for his own life? Be inspired by how this seemingly secondary character plays a key role in supporting his leader and impacting the faith for eternity.

## The Priest: Aaron: 1 Details

Date : Published March 1st 2013 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (first published 2004)

ISBN :

Author : Francine Rivers

Format : Kindle Edition 228 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Biblical Fiction

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# From Reader Review The Priest: Aaron: 1 for online ebook

## Thebarrys10 says

I listened to this tale about Moses from Aaron's point of view. At first I thought that it was going to be the Ten Commandments all over again, but I FELT so much while listening. The process of Aaron's path to humility, repentance, ultimate dependance on God was worth the 6 hours of listening.

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## Sydney Young says

The one and only Francine Rivers I did not love. But it still spoke to me through the struggle.

I think the reason is because, you just can't cover it all. Makes it feel more like an amplified OT, rather than a glimpse into a patriarch's life. I picked it up because I've really been searching lately: what does it mean for someone to lead God's people? I would have rather given up the whole journey and seen a more personal glimpse of that with this book.

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## librarian4Him02 says

Moses' brother Aaron was called on to speak for his brother before Pharaoh. Then, he played the role of defending his brother to the Israelites in the wilderness. Finally, God called him to be High Priest of the Jewish people following their exodus from Egypt.

Rivers included vivid details of Ancient Egyptian culture. She did a great job of bringing to life the historical figures from this key period in Jewish history. I enjoyed reading the events of Exodus from a different perspective.

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## Tammy says

I'm only giving this book 3 stars because it reminded me too much of the Bible version. I didn't feel like there was enough story behind it, maybe because the Bible is so detailed.

One part that did make me think was when Aaron compared his life with his brother, Moses. "While Aaron lived the life of a slave, Moses grew up in a palace. While Aaron was tutored by hard labor and abuse at the hands of taskmasters, Moses was taught to read and write and speak and live like an Egyptian. Aaron wore rags. Moses got to wear fine linen clothes. Aaron ate flat bread and whatever his mother and sister could grow in their small plot of hard, dry ground. Moses filled his belly with food served by slaves. Aaron worked in the heat of the sun, up to his knees in mud. Moses sat in cool stone corridors and was treated like an Egyptian prince despite his Hebrew blood. Moses led a life of ease instead of toil, freedom instead of slavery, abundance instead of want. Born a slave, Aaron knew he would die a slave. Unless God delivered

them."

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### **Sherri says**

Rivers takes the Bible and turns it into a living breathing account of what could have happened. While staying true to the account she adds feeling and emotion to the people that you imagine you're there feeling the heat on your face, the whip on your back, the sand on your feet and the presence of God in the pillar of cloud and fire.

I like how she got across the forgetfulness of the chosen people and the struggles of Aaron and Moses in dealing with the people. To see the strengths and weaknesses in men that were chosen by God to lead his people.

The ache they had of dealing with faithless and forgetful people they loved while trying to do the will of God. It is easy to see the Father/Child relationship between Him and us in his punishments and love.

I recommend Rivers to anyone that wants to feel these characters come alive off the pages.

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### **Gloria says**

This first of five books about men who were part of major stories, but we don't hear much about in the Bible is a great fictional account.

This book is about Aaron and Francine Rivers states that she uses the account in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers to frame the story, then used her imagination and logic to bring the story to "life". It is very well written and, to me at least, brought the characters and the biblical story to life.

There are many Psalms used during this book - as snippets, thoughts, praises sung, etc. which may or may not have been known at that time, but artistic license allows for them.

There are also internal thoughts, requests, or hopes that the author attributes to characters, but the ideas are found in New Testament books. Certain thoughts show what Aaron is thinking and what he is seeing or experiencing at that point in time. Again, all of this is attributable to artistic license.

There is a study guide at the end of the book, but I did not participate in it or use it. It takes up about 20 pages and is meant for a more in depth look at the lessons that the author wanted to draw attention to by the reader.

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### **Natalie Vellacott says**

I'm conflicted about this book because I have really enjoyed other books by Francine Rivers. To begin with I couldn't really put my finger on what the problem was. The details I was reading seemed very familiar almost like a *deja vu* experience, so I was scratching my head and trying to work out whether I was reading something else similar as I usually have several books on the go at one time. Then I realised it was my

Bible....doh! My daily readings right now are in Exodus/Leviticus so I have been reading about Moses and Aaron.

Those of you who follow my reviews will probably now be surprised because usually I am complaining about the lack of Christian content or the errors in theology. It was almost like this book had too much biblical content--it is basically the biblical narrative of Aaron's life with some creative additions. I think the problem with this approach is because it is so close to the biblical account, the creative additions from the author may become part of the biblical narrative in the mind of the reader, but they are fiction. I am reading another book *Agents of Babylon*, about the life of Daniel, it gives a fictional story for each chapter then follows it up with the biblical narrative afterwards. This is a much better approach as there is no blending/mixture and there is a clear distinction.

The author really hasn't added much to the life of Aaron apart from making him into a bit of a wimp who was always afraid, in awe of Moses and cowering in the background and from God suffering terrible guilt over his many sins. I'm not sure that this is a correct portrayal of Aaron but as it is fiction I guess it doesn't matter. I liked the idea of Aaron beginning as a slave but I'm not sure about all the jealousy of Moses and the complaining that went on.

This book is clean and biblical. I didn't see any obvious theological issues. It just wasn't that much of a story. I probably won't bother to read the rest of the series. Maybe some who don't know the biblical account of Aaron would enjoy learning about him through this story but I would suggest reading the biblical account as well to understand what is fiction and what is not!

Check out my Francine Rivers shelf!

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### **Stephanie says**

This was a good book, not great or gripping. I think it is worth the read if you want more insight to the Tabernacle and the laws of that time and in the Bible. I would have my kids read it for that reason alone. Just for a better grasp on that time period in history.

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### **Ellen says**

Rivers does an outstanding job retelling the story of Moses through a person some may see as a supporting cast member, behind the scenes: Aaron. Pulling in vast and accurate Biblical detail, she extrapolates plausible dialog and situations that follow the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, through the 10 plagues, and to the shores of the Jordan River. A main emphasis of the story is on Aaron's learning to support rather than envy the leadership of his younger brother, and how the temptations of pride and anger lead them both into sin. A key to leadership lies in the oft repeated phrase, "And the people followed his example." This was true for Aaron both in good and bad choices. All the descriptions of the endless sacrifices, a life full of the stench of blood and incense, reminds one of the hymn, "Not all the blood of beasts/ On Jewish altars slain/ Could give the guilty conscience peace/ Nor wash away the stain." Aaron's longing for a lasting peace and finally being cleansed from sin not just without, but within, does accurately focus the reader on the

Savior. I look forward to reading more from this series! \*\*An added plus, my son also enjoyed listening to the audiobook and immediately recognized it as a story about God. Nice reinforcement of the familiar Sunday School stories. Only one question I would ask the author... Why did you leave out the story of the bronze serpent on the pole?

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### **Mandy J. Hoffman says**

"The Priest" was the first Francine River's book I have read. I was not dissatisfied! Francine did an amazing job of staying true to the Biblical account of Aaron while at the same time capturing his emotions and human perspective as a simple man beyond that of the title of *"Bible character"*.

She probed the depth of what it was like to be a man that many in today's age admire and scorn in the same breath. I walked into this story thinking *"how could he have made the golden calf?"*, and stumbled away convicted of the times I, too, have crumbled under pressure and the curse of sin.

I began the story with a judging heart of Aaron and ended the book in tears as I reflected on my own rebellious heart.

"The Priest" brought new meaning and life to the account of the Israelite's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land in a way that touched both my mind and heart.

This book is not only an enjoyable and relaxing read, but a challenge to your own walk with the Great I Am.

I am honored to give this excellent work of writing a 5 star rating! This is a must read for all; young and old.

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### **Judith says**

This was my favorite out of the series. Aaron, the brother of Moses. Moses got all the credit. Aaron shows resentment - after all, he IS the older brother. I can see myself in him, as I am the older sister. But Aaron also realizes that God is the one ultimately in control. He continues to find himself inadequate for the job of priesthood - and yet God chose him to do that job. We are all inadequate for the job that God entrusts on us. Yet, that's how God chooses to work in this world - through inept individuals.

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### **Joy DeKok says**

I suppose I've known the stories of Moses and the Children of Israel for fifty years (I'm 54 as I write this review). I've always focused on Moses because the storytellers did. Now, when I read the biblical account, I am far more aware of Aaron. In this book, The Priest, Rivers leveled the field between the two brothers. For all his mistakes (really Aaron - a gold calf?), I came away from this book liking the brother behind the brother.

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### **Akinlabi Akinbulumo says**

it was the mores and aaron story told as if i was right in the midst of it all. i couldnt put it down.read it straight through. What's truly amazing about this book is how we get to see mores through aarons eyes,his growth from being weak and aaron's gradual realisation of God's big plan.

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### **Gail says**

I really liked this as I can so identify with Aaron. Out of all the characters Mrs. Rivers has written, I really can relate the most to Aaron and his feelings of inadequacy. It gave me insight into what could have motivated the golden calf incident and the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. I think Mrs. Rivers is best at writing of Biblical or early Christian historical fiction. I've read a few of her modern or early 20th cent. works and I feel more connected to and more vibrancy in her early historicals.

The Priest was such an inspiring read that I bought Lineage of Grace compilation, which is a masterful work as well. Having the insights from this book gave me a fresh look at Hebrews 7 and John 17. Contrasting imperfect Aaron with Jesus the sinless high priest makes me cry because Aaron's prayers have been answered in God's perfect time. Praise the Lord!

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### **Veronica says**

This was an extremely hard book for me to read. All I could think about was how stupid the Israelites were and how they were squandering the opportunities God had given them. I mean, come on, how could they forgot all of the miracles God worked for them! But, as I read more and more, God started to work in my heart. How many times had I been just like the Israelites, questioning God when things were good and then running to him, begging and pleading, when things were bad. How many times had I rebelled against his plan for my life? This is an extremely powerful, highly moving, account of the story of a secondary character who had a huge impact on the story of Moses and the Israelites. I would recommend this book to everyone.

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