



The Book of Samson

David Maine

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"This is the story of my life and it's not a happy one. If you wish to read about me you're welcome to but if you're looking for something to give you hope & joy comfort & inspiration then you had best leave off here straightaway and go find something else. My life has an abundance of frustration and pain plus a fair bit of sex and lots of killing and broken bones but it's got precious little hope & joy comfort & inspiration.

It's got some women in it too plus a wife. Dalila is the one you may have heard of and a rare piece of work she was. You may think you know the story but believe me there's more."

--from *The Book of Samson*

From the author of the acclaimed and provocative novels *Fallen* and *The Preservationist* comes a tale about a man who believes he is touched by the hand of God--then instructed by that God to slaughter his enemies. It is the story of "this worldly existence of men & brutes desire & unkindness" and of the woman, Dalila, who figures at the center of it all. In *The Book of Samson*, David Maine has created an unforgettable portrait, a unique and astonishing masterpiece that puts a face on a previously faceless icon.

The Book of Samson Details

Date : Published October 31st 2006 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9780312353391

Author : David Maine

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Book of Samson for online ebook

David Goode says

An interesting reimagining of the familiar story found in the book of Judges from the Bible.

Judy "Intergalactic Bookworm" says

This is a send-off (I do not know if I am using the right word here) of the story of Samson found in the Book of Judges in the Bible. For those of you who are not familiar with the story, an Angel appears to Samson's mother, giving her a few restrictions on her diet, saying that she should not drink wine or strong drink or eat "unclean" food. She would have a son and he will become a Nazirite, meaning "dedicated to the LORD" and he should also stay away from strong drink and wine and "unclean" food.

For the most part I liked it, but David Maine uses some language that for "sensitive" readers, for lack of a better word/term, like me, found a bit harsh. Language that would appear in steamier roances. But I liked some of the satire that Maine included that wasn't a part of the story as it appeared in the Bible.

David Viland says

Generally I've enjoyed David Maines writing. His books have in many ways brought me to a new level of realization about the humanness of biblical characters - Noah, Adam & Eve, and now Sampson. However there are two things about his writing I dislike:

1. His very casual, or even absence of appropriate punctuation, such as not using quotation marks, and often not commas where needed. For example something might read like, (Sampson Speaking)

Then I told Delila meet me at the barn tomorrow morning.

I know that's stylistic, Maine's style, but I found it distracting.

2. The second thing I disliked about Maine's writing is his seeming fixation on sex. Of course Sampson and Delila had sex, and maybe often, that is an assumed part of the story. But the way he tells it is usually crude and very often demeaning to women. Except for Dilila, which he generally presents as a nymph, only once in all three of his "biblical" books do I recall any reference to the woman enjoying the sex. It is nearly always presented as women simply being the object of the man's desire. "Wham, Bam, Thank you Ma'am."

Sarah says

Maine has chosen another Biblical character to put his own twist on – this time the Philistine-killer Samson. In this version of the Biblical story, Samson's birth is prophesied by an angel, he is able to talk to animals and stones, and descends into an overpowering rage whenever the Spirit of the Lord comes over him. From the very get-go, Samson tells us that his story is not a happy one, that he makes stupid mistakes and allows his pride to get the best of him at times. Maine does a fantastic job making this story not just depressing though, with titles on the chapters such as "what I did next," "what the Philistines did next," and "you will be

forgiven at this point for thinking I'm really very stupid." Despite his tendency to rip out people's throats, snap their necks, and set them on fire, Samson is a likeable man. You almost feel sorry for him sometimes as he fights against the inevitable ending you know is coming (at least, if you've read the story of Samson before).

"I've noticed in my life that the less substance a man carries inside the more he will try to create on the outside to make up for it and so will wear ever finer clothes and live in ever grander mansions and buy his wife ever more expensive jewels and then he will talk about these things to ensure that you don't overlook them and he will mention often what they cost." – p 196

This is the second of Maine's books I've read (he only has three out so far, I think) and I'm still not quite sure what to make of him. He does a great job of introducing me to facets of Biblical stories I never considered before – such as how Samson's parents would react to his violence, or the fact that people would probably consider him a serial killer. But he also adds things in which are necessary to his story, but very unlikely to be a part of the true story, such as Samson being able to talk to animals and to communicate with stone. I like that these stories add a richer depth to Biblical accounts I've heard many, many times but I'm still not sure how to take the way they treat them in an almost fairytale manner at times. I'm tentatively excited to read the third Maine book – Fallen.

Natalie says

The Book of Samson tells the tale Samson, the biblical warrior, from the eyes of author David Maine. The book starts with Samson chained to the pillars of the Philistine temple, and he begins to reflect back on his life and experiences in order to tell his story in his own words.

I have to say that even though i'm not really a religious person, i do like to see how others interpret the Bible and other facets of their religion; and after reading Fallen (which i absolutely loved) i thought this story would be another i would adore.

However, as i read futher, i truly came to dislike Samson. Maine writes Samson as a revenge driven, prideful, and selfish man who claims that all of the people he has killed was for the sake of the Lord. Now last time i checked, Thou Shalt Not Kill was pretty high up there in the Ten Commandments. But, I digress. Because i had a strong dislike for the main character early on in the book, i found it hard to enjoy the story, even though i knew the outcome, as it is based on one of the most famous stories from the Bible.

The fact still remains that David Maine is an excellent writer, able to really put the reader into the story. Hardcore religious fanatics, i'm sure you'd love this book. However, I have to say that I do not recommend this novel for everyone else, regardless of my love for Maine.

Rach says

An interesting and innovative retelling of the Biblical story of Samson. I would have rated this higher, but I am not a fan of the "If I knew then what I know now" style of flashback storytelling. It doesn't let you live in the moment and really experience a story. Also, I don't really feel like I got to know Samson as a person. I heard about his life, and his battles, and his women, but not enough about who he was or what he felt. I just wish there had been more substance. But it was definitely entertaining. :)

Chelsea says

I don't know that this book would be interesting at all to anyone who isn't familiar with the story of samson. Having grown up in sunday school and deeply immersed in the Bible i was interested when i heard of David Maine who has written several books retelling popular Biblical stories. I love the idea of taking these stories that we have heard so many times and have become two dimensional little fables from which we pull a few spiritual truths and actually putting some skin on them, turning these stories into real people with problems and pain and hopes and conflicts. Turning them into stories that are not so black and white and easily categorized.

His story was particularly interesting because it was not told from a christian point of view. This was both uncomfortable and challenging for me in a good way. It both acknowledged and challenged things I have always believed and/or questioned. Brought up pieces of the story that they didn't like to/can't appropriately talk about in sunday school and tend to gloss over in church. :) (not in my church.) love you, central vineyard people!

However, the writing was just okay. And the book didn't have enough meat to stand on its own for someone just looking for a good novel. (In my opinion.) Still glad i read it though and plan to read others in the future.

David Maine says

What can I say, I'm biased.

Stuart says

I do not rate books with stars, but I really liked this one and recommend it as being worth the time.

I love the biblical source (Book of Judges), so, besides the author's guarantee that there was lots of sex and violence (always a good start) I was intrigued to see the story retold in another form. While of course the detailed novelistic format is foreign to the Hebrew Scriptures, I thought Dave Maine captured much of the strange, disturbing aspects of the Samson story and of the Scriptures in general. Samson here is not simply a flawed hero: he's a violent, shortsighted man, not particularly intelligent or self-aware, a slave to his appetites and to the amazing strength that God has given him. The Judges of the Scriptures are heroes of all sorts, from righteous saviors to erratic, egotistical tyrannical deliverers whose rule is only slightly less odious than the threat posed by the Philistines, Aramites etc. Maine's Sampson accurately reflects that, shedding light on those aspects of the Scriptures, where God is on our side, well, because he just is. You root for Samson's magnificence at the same time as you despise him for his brutal nature and his sanctimonious invocations of the One True God. At the same time, there's something elemental and cathartic when he brings the Temple down around him at the end: the idea of a man in chains bringing down the house is impossible to resist, even if the house he's bringing down is, in a way, our own.

Stacy says

I have read all of David Maines books. They are all great! I love reading about biblical charaters and stories , wether they are heartfelt books about the bible or wether they are just fun to read books that make me laugh.

Well, this is one of the fun to read and make you laugh type books. Very fast reading, very unique writing style, and his own twist on Samson and Delilah. You have to remember while reading books like this, that they are FICTION and you can't read it and get upset because he puts his own twist on it. You have to read and just enjoy his storytelling which is amazing.

Jill says

I listened to this on audiobook and I stopped after two discs. All I really know about the Bible story of Samson is that Delila cuts his hair off and he loses his super strength. This is a re-telling of the story from Samson's point of view and it's basically told by a sociopath who feels very little, kills at will (in the name of God) and ruins everything around him. He hadn't even met Delila yet before I quit on it. This was my first try at a David Maine book; I guess this is part of a trilogy of biblical stories that he re-tells, but I wasn't interested enough in the story or the characters or the setting...anything, really.

Lorraine says

What I like about David Maine's writing is his narrative voice, different in each of his books, but each sharing some common themes that make the characters come alive with humor, sarcasm, irreverence, malice, sincerity, honesty. Especially in *The Book of Samson*, the story seems to be a personal conversation between the reader and the hero of the story, and this makes the tale come alive in new ways. The actual Biblical narrative is not very long, but in this book, it comes alive with characters that seem as fresh as if they were living today. The very humanity of Samson is heartbreaking, even when infuriating.

John says

David Maine has now taken three Old Testament stories and turned them into novels: *The Preservationist* (Noah), *Fallen* (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel), and *The Book of Sampson*. He has a knack for showing several sides of these stories as his fertile mind sees them. In his take on Samson, we see zealotry, lust, stupidity, cunning, the nuances of gender relations, nationalism, and several other themes rise to the surface. Whereas in the biblical account, Samson comes across as a brutish zealot who's actually not very bright, Maine's take on him is both sympathetic (perhaps) and critical. We especially get into the mind of a strict believer with large urges to please both his god and his own lust.

However, Maine also avoids what could have easily been reduced to a commentary on violence and terrorism. His portrait of Samson is much more subtle and interesting.

I had just finished *Samson Agonistes*, John Milton's notable attempt to create a classic Greek tragedy out of an Old Testament tale, prior to reading Maine's book. The two takes on the story are quite distinct, but understandable in the context of what we learn in *Judges*. This made reading Maine's book all the more pleasing.

Lori says

Wow. Having no previous knowledge of who Samson is, biblically speaking I mean, I loved, loved, loved this book! The narrator (Samson himself) has a very unique voice, which pulled at me once I began reading and would not let go.

An intriguing look into the life of a mass-murderer in the name of THE ONE TRUE GOD. To see things from his side. As a man who believes he is doing the work of god.

Amazing. Must read, even if you have no interest in religious novels, as ..in my opinion.. this book can be read by anyone. at anytime.

Sidenote: I noticed that the author uses no commas in the novel. (along with no parathenesis for dialouge). (sp?)Interesting writing style.

I have read and like Fallen, and now I am going to pick up more from David Maine on my next trip to the book store!!

Jayshree Salian says

This book is a retelling of a story from the bible. I read the biblical story of Samson and Delilah before starting of with Maine's writing. I love the fact that Samson isnt portrayed as a good jolly holy man but with a lot of realistic psychology. You like him but also despise him , he is in ways a serial killer of sorts after all. I wouldn't wanna judge or criticize the true Bible story(to each his own beliefs) but a very interesting take indeed .
