



After Abel and Other Stories

Michal Lemberger

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“Her knowledge of the Bible is evident and her creativity shines through as she weaves nine thoughtful and layered accounts of distant, complicated times.”

—*Publisher's Weekly*

“Reminiscent of Anita Diamant’s *The Red Tent*. . . These beautifully written stories feel like meeting Eve, Lot’s wife, and many other compelling characters for the first time.” —LAUREL CORONA, author of *The Mapmaker’s Daughter* and *The Four Seasons: A Novel of Vivaldi’s Venice*

“Stunning.” —MOLLY ANTOPOL, author of *The UnAmericans*

“Gorgeous and captivating.” —DARA HORN, author of *A Guide for the Perplexed* and *The World to Come*

“Marvelous.” —MICHELLE HUNEVEN, author of *Off Course* and *Blame*

“What struck me most about these stories is their clear, assured confidence—as if Michal Lemberger had pulled apart some of the lines in the old story, spied a new story tucked in there way off in a corner, shimmied in a fishhook and pulled it out.” —AIMEE BENDER, author of *The Color Master* and *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

“Lemberger liberates the voices that are trapped beneath the [biblical] text . . . with artistry and erudition.” —RABBI DAVID WOLPE, Rabbi of Sinai Temple, Los Angeles and author of *Why Faith Matters*

Eve considers motherhood.

Miriam tends Moses.

Lot’s wife looks back.

Vividly reimagined with startling contemporary clarity, Michal Lemberger’s debut collection of short stories gives voice to silent, oft-marginalized biblical women: their ambitions, their love for their children, their values, their tremendous struggles and challenges. Informed by Lemberger’s deep knowledge of the Bible, each of these nine stories story recasts a biblical saga from the perspective of a pivotal woman.

Michal Lemberger’s nonfiction and journalism have appeared in *Slate*, *Salon*, *Tablet*, and other publications, and her poetry has been published in a number of print and online journals. A story from *After Abel*, her first collection of fiction, was featured in *Lilith Magazine*. Lemberger holds an MA and PhD in English from UCLA and a BA in English and religion from Barnard College. She has taught the Hebrew Bible as Literature at UCLA and the American Jewish University. She was born and raised in New York and now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

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Dick McAlister:

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