Harvest of Rubies by Tessa Afshar

**Opening Prayer**

What are you overall impressions of the book?

 What did you think of how Sarah was portrayed?

How did you relate to Sarah in the beginning of the book? Her wedding? Her talking to Amestris to explain the plot? Her way of finding out about Teipes? Riding without complaint?

What about the line I should have prayed before…

Your Account is with me…

Let’s look at page 205 and 206…207 “I want David’s why” Page 208: “I had even meant some of them”

The conversation that Sarah has with Nehemiah about not being good enough in her fathers’ eyes. Nehemiah says: “He pronounced them good not because of what they had accomplished, but because of who He made them to be.” “My child, the Lord’s care for you has never depended on what you achieve. You were created for His love, not to be His work mule. Your accomplishments are meant to be a response to that love, instead you have made love a response to your accomplishments.” (page 266-67) “My work is a small part of me-an assignment from God.

Any reactions to this conversation?

PG 330… how the title of the book came about, a vineyard of rubies…what did you think of the analogy?

What did you think of the ending of the book?

Has anyone tried the recipes?

Compared to the others we have read how would you rate this one?

What did you take away from this book?

**Discussion for next book, date and time. Example below.**

**Closing prayer**



 Next book ideas: **Ester: by Angela Hunt When an ambitious tyrant threatens genocide against the Jews, an inexperienced young queen must take a stand for her people.**

When Xerxes, king of Persia, issues a call for beautiful young women, Hadassah, a Jewish orphan living in Susa, is forcibly taken to the palace of the pagan ruler. After months of preparation, the girl known to the Persians as *Esther* wins the king's heart and a queen's crown. But because her situation is uncertain, she keeps her ethnic identity a secret until she learns that an evil and ambitious man has won the king's permission to exterminate all Jews--young and old, powerful and helpless. Purposely violating an ancient Persian law, she risks her life in order to save her people...and bind her husband's heart.

"The biblical tale of Esther is a story often told, but here it is enhanced and elaborated with scholarly insight...*Esther* is a good read for those who love Bible accounts come to life." -*RT Book Reviews*
"Biblical fiction seems to be on the rise and readers will find nothing better in the genre than bestselling Hunt's interpretation of the biblical book of Esther....Hunt handles the tale's nuances with care and openness, presenting readers a beautiful, honest, captivating retelling of a familiar story." -*Publishers Weekly*"With carefully researched, richly rendered historical details, Hunt breathes new life into the biblical blueprint. The result is a chilling tribute to Esther's bravery that is sure to grip and surprise readers." --*Booklist*

Read more

With nearly five million copies of her books sold worldwide, Angela Hunt is the New York Times bestselling author of The Tale of Three Trees, The Note, and The Nativity Story. Angela's novels have won or been nominated for several prestigious industry awardsRead more

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 **Harvest of Gold (Book 2) A hidden message, treachery, opposition, and a God-given success will lead to an unlikely bounty.**

In *Harvest of Gold* (Book 2), the scribe Sarah married Darius, and at times she feels as if she has married the Persian aristocracy, too. There is another point she did not count on in her marriage—Sarah has grown to love her husband. Sarah has wealth, property, honor, and power, but her husband’s love still seems unattainable.

Although his mother was an Israelite, Darius remains skeptical that his Jewish wife is the right choice for him, particularly when she conspires with her cousin Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Ordered to assist in the effort, the couple begins a journey to the homeland of his mother’s people. Will the road filled with danger, conflict, and surprising memories, help Darius to see the hand of God at work in his life—and even in his marriage?