



## Moonfall: Tales from the Levant

*Vanessa Morton*

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## **Moonfall: Tales from the Levant** Vanessa Morton

When sixteen-year-old Rachav drinks the Moon Temple's forbidden wine, she hardly expects it to result in the death of a priestess. But when King Nur orders Rachav to serve the Queen of the Night—the kingdom's powerful goddess—as restitution, Rachav's identical twin, Zaron, has her own reasons for joining the priesthood and offers to take her twin's place.

But choices have consequences.

Now Rachav's family is in danger. As she uncovers the shocking reason why, she finds an ally in Salma, a brooding nomad who wields an ancient force powerful enough to destroy the entire kingdom. While the epic showdown rages above the city, Rachav plays a dangerous game of her own. Can she rescue her sister and right the wrongs of that fateful choice? Or will the king succeed and trap her in the doomed city?

## **Moonfall: Tales from the Levant Details**

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Author : Vanessa Morton

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# From Reader Review Moonfall: Tales from the Levant for online ebook

## Shannon M says

I really enjoyed this book. I found it very interesting and really liked that it was a new and fresh idea, different than a lot of the other books that are out. I loved that it was about twins they're struggle to find their place in their society and I really enjoyed reading Rachev's journey. I loved that it was tied to the Exodus and that it had links to the Old Testament. I am a history teacher and I always find this particular period to be fascinating so it was neat to see its tie in with the Old Testament and historical references. I truly cannot wait to read the next book. Sad that it will be a while but totally understand that the writing process takes time!

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## Sarah Marie says

Moonfall: Tales from the Levant by Vanessa Morton

### 3 stars

Rachav drinks wine from the Moon Temple's forbidden wine. She doesn't think anything of it, but it slowly destroys her family and brings everything crashing down. The King orders Rachav to serve at the temple, but she refuses the life. Her twin, Zaron, longs to serve the temple and she decides that they should swap places. Rachav ends up in a different position than what she planned and finds solace with Salma. Everything comes crashing down and the very city Rachav calls home could be destroyed. I'm very conflicted about Moonfall. It's a strong novel. The writing is good, but there is one huge thing that bogs this novel down. It's an infodump. There's nothing but mentions of people, places, and religion. It's too much! I like that this novel is different from most YA, but this novel isn't too different from novels that think that the more information it shows the better it'll be. I wanted a story like the one promised in the summary, but the actual story is nothing like that. AT ALL! Not even close. It's not a bad thing that the summary is misleading, but the story is very different from what it is hinted at.

The main female character is Rachav. I kind of like Rachav. She shows good qualities, but she doesn't seem like a person. Rachav seemed like a cutout of a person at times. There was a lot of showing of her actions and no thought as to why. It bothered me.

### Kick-Butt Heroine Scale: 5.5

The main male character is Salma. Salma has his own POV, which I wasn't expecting at all. I do like Salma, but his POV was slumped with political talks and nothings in his daily life. The only interesting part of his POV was the war that took place.

## **Swoon Worthy Scale: 5**

**The Villain-** I honestly don't know who is supposed to be the problem in this story. It could be every single one of these characters. There was no exact problem.

## **Villain Scale: 5**

I honestly didn't like any of Rachav's family. All of her family were distant and jerks. I did like her father and mother and little sister, but besides that everyone in this family was off. They didn't seem like a close family or even a family. They felt like people who associated with each other because they had to.

## **Character Scale: 2**

While the characters aren't strong this novel offers good historical insight. It has wars and I'm sure all readers appreciate wars that have good meanings and just aren't done for the hell of a fight. The historical aspects are strong and this novel is good for that. I highly recommend this to fans of historical and history novels. It will definitely prove satisfying for them.

**Cover Thoughts:** Rachav and Zaron are girls with darkish, red hair. Not only that but they live in Jordan, so I'm pretty sure they wouldn't be blonde and that pale.

*Thank you, Netgalley and WEbook Publishing for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Trisha says**

This book was very different than my normal books. It wasn't just fantasy, but had a mix of religion and archaic beliefs/theories. Normally, this along with names that were hard for me to remember and a world with very little intro, I would not like the book.

But this one was strangely fascinating. I found myself flipping the pages, wondering what price Rachav would pay (or her family and twin) for drinking the wine.

The prophecies, the shuffle, the royal extortion and all the lies and secrecy. It was a really fun adventure to read.

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## **Katrina Southern says**

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. I'm actually involved in the Blog Tour for this book and originally planned to wait until tomorrow before doing any kind of reviewing. But I couldn't not say anything because I enjoyed this book. 'Moonfall' tells the story of Rachav, who drinks the Temple's forbidden wine and is ordered by the King to join the priesthood and serve the Temple Of The Night. In a desperate attempt to avoid her punishment, Rachav switches places with her twin sister Zaron. But she soon learns that her actions may have even more consequences, and it is up to Rachav to protect her family. There were so many good points to this book. The plot was well-written, the world-building phenomenal (seriously, the amount of work that has gone into this book is just breathtaking), and I was hooked from start to finish. There was a hint of romance in there too and I was absolutely desperate to read more of the couple in question. I loved the pairing! The main focus of the book was family though and I really enjoyed that aspect of it too. I felt a little thrown into the story at first, and after reading the book I wondered why Rachav actually drank the wine in the first place (it felt very out of character). That's a pretty minor niggle though that I'm willing to forgive because I enjoyed it so much! I loved the touch of fantasy found within this pretty recognisable Biblical story, they fell together very well. Well worth a read, I would highly recommend this book and can't wait to read more!

For a full review, see here: <http://chasedbymyimagination.blogspot...>

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## **Ashley Reads YA says**

This is such a unique book I loved every minute of it.

Rachav is a sixteen year old girl living in Yericho her family owns an inn and she has a twin sister named Zaron everything is fine and well until Rachav drinks the forbidden moon temple wine which results in the death of a priestess and the king orders her to serve the queen of night. Rachav does not want to go so she switches identities with her twin sister Zaron. When Zaron goes to the temple she brings along young Pudu and is using her as a blood sacrifice for the queen of night Rachav tries to save her but she can't. She gets lost and is half dead when found by Salma who takes her into his care trying to help her remember who she is and how to get her home.

Opinions: I really enjoyed this it was so different and unique from other books. It was action packed and thrilling. I also loved Rachav never give up attitude and her values of family.

Overall: I give this book 4 stars out of 5 a great read for fans of biblical times and people who like independent women as the main character.

You can get Moonfall at: <http://www.amazon.com/Moonfall-Tales-...>

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## **Janet Sweet says**

### **Fascinating story**

I couldn't put it down! I started reading it historically, but soon was caught up in the story. I can't wait for

this author's next book! Beautifully written, very descriptive, thoroughly engaging!

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### **Loraine Kemp says**

Rachav is a sixteen year old girl who, during a celebration of the spring equinox with her twin sister, drinks the forbidden moon temple wine. An eclipse occurs that night that is blamed on her drinking the forbidden wine. A priestess dies, and Rachav is ordered to serve in the Moon Temple for the rest of her life. Her twin sister, Zaron, offers to switch places, but drags off their younger sister to serve as a blood sacrifice for the Queen of the Night. Rachav attempts to save her younger sister, but is unable to. She rushes off to get help, but gets lost in the desert and almost dies. She is found by Salma who takes her in and nurses her back to health and helps her recover her memory. After she remembers who she is, she returns to her family's inn, but her family is not the same as she left it. Many bad things have come about which are blamed on her leaving. Rachav tries to bring the family together during an attack on their city.

Vanessa Morton has seamlessly incorporated vast historical research into a YA (and adult) fiction in the biblical era. Her characters are strong and compelling as is her plot. She brought scriptures (I'm not telling which ones) to life and even though she used artistic license to create a fictional story inspired by the scriptures, Christian morals and themes were adhered to. A strong thumbs up!

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### **Cynthia says**

Moonfall is well-written, rich in historical detail, and spiced with a supernatural ingredient. I highly recommend it, especially if you enjoy a story containing struggles between peoples with differing socio-economic circumstances or belief systems and appreciate a strong female as the main character. I had trouble with some of the foreign, ancient names of characters and keeping track whether they are male or female when I stopped reading for a while and then restarted (I always read a few books simultaneously in the same week), but that's my personal shortcoming and probably doesn't reflect the ability of most readers to follow them easily.

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### **Rachel Valentine says**

More of my reviews can be read on my blog [Reviews For The Living And The Undead](#) . Feel free to follow me. I love when people follow my blog.

Netgalley gave me this book in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Moonfall by Vanessa Morton is about two identical twins who live in Yericho. One of the twins is sophisticated and supposed to marry a well off man while another one is much more concerned about the family. However when Rachav is chosen to work in the temple, she and her identical twin sister take places. Rachav hopes that will help things work out for her but then she finds out some horrible is happening to her little sister.

This novel did have a very good concept. I'm afraid that I am not familiar with the bible story, but it does sound like it would be an interesting one. The twins were also pretty realistic for twins. They weren't super close and were instead like many siblings. They had problems that normal ones did such as rivalry between

the two of them. They still loved each other despite this and there many differences.

However, I found that this novel was very confusing at times. I also started getting bored at the end and had problems finishing it. I also found some grammar mistakes as it went on. Nothing to major though.

Overall I would give this book three out of five. I think other people might like it more than I did.

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### **Tom Morton says**

Really good read all the way to the end. Enjoyed the conflicts and seeing how they worked out.

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### **Lisa Godfrees says**

This book is fantastic. It's historical biblical fiction that reads like fantasy. The writing is wonderful and the story is rich. It diverges slightly from the Bible story on which it's based (I'm intentionally not telling you which one), by the fact that in this story, the biblical character is twins.

I wish the story had gone on a bit longer at the end. There was a romantic thread that I would have liked to see tied in a bow, but we all know how the story ends. :)

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### **a\_tiffyfit says**

Review to come. Tour! (P.S. You should stop by my blog on Saturday for the giveaway associated with this tour! hint hint!)

This book was NOTHING like I had imagined. The blurb is dead-on in description, but the historical world I was whipped away to was amazing.

It takes a well-known story (not of the girls directly, but of the animosity between opposing factions) and delivers it in a well-woven way with a healthy dose of supernatural mysticism. Rachav sneaks a sip of ceremonial temple wine during a festival and it sets off a chain of events for her family that brings about devastation.

When Rachav sets off to find her friend (and intended!) Nuvi before he can sell his goats, she is lost in a sandstorm and found by Salma, a nomad. For nearly a year, she suffers from amnesia. When she begins to remember in a rush, she hurries back to Yericho to save her family.

While there is much going on between an evil despot who is obsessed with adding to his pile of riches and his harem, animosity between opposing factions, etc., the core of this story is family. I was outraged and annoyed at Rachav's family, from her selfish twin to her b\*tchy sister in law to her disgusting brother. Admittedly, I approached her situation with a thoroughly modern mindset. When I thought about familial roles at that time etc., I was still outraged on her behalf, but understood completely that there is really very

little choice. When she returns from her amnesia-laden journey, she is not welcome with open arms. Her brother is truly despicable and continues to be so even though Rachav has proven herself over and over.

I admired Rachav's desire to save her family, no matter the cost, and how dedicated she was to the cause and adamant that no one is left behind. This book was richly descriptive, well-written, and held my attention throughout. I liked every aspect of it including the highlights of showing monotheistic beliefs versus polytheistic and the clash of different cultures all in one hotspot of a cultural center.

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### **CassandraG says**

Doing something forbidden always comes with a price and Rachav was about to learn the consequences of her actions. There were interesting, good, quirky and domineering characters you like and some you even despised just a little. It was a very likeable story that held your attention from the beginning. Check it out. You might not be sure about it, but you'll be pleasantly surprised by it.

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### **Crystal Wright says**

Disclosure: I got this book as an ARC from Netgalley.

Sixteen year old Rachav drinks the Moon Temple's forbidden wine, only to learn that decisions made in haste can have dire consequences when a priestess dies as a result. Her punishment for her transgression is an order by King Nur to serve the Queen of the Night, the Kingdom's powerful goddess by being a priestess herself. To Rachav this punishment is just short of a death sentence to her, however her identical twin Zaron is more than eager to switch places with her in order to become a priestess.

Rachav in a storm is lost and is found by Salma, a nomad that wields an ancient force powerful enough to destroy the entire kingdom. Rachav befriends Salma and in result he promises to help her return to her family, only to find that things are not as she left them and that her new identity as Zaron is not welcomed home with open arms.

This is not a typical book style that I would pick for myself, however it really was an enjoyable read. The way the story depicted the conflicts that Rachav faced was truly young adult, however it could easily be enjoyed in the adult reading section as well. The powerful images have almost a biblical sort of feel waging faith and family as the forefront of the story. I was surprised by the depth at which myself as the reader got to understand Rachav.

I would give this book a 4.5 out of 5.

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### **November Is Nyarlathotep says**

A uniquely intriguing tale which brings to vivid vibrancy life in the ancient Middle East, MOONFALL, the debut novel of Vanessa Morton, is deeply researched and historically accurate. Yet it's not dry and dusty, it's realistic, vibrant, and compelling. I raced through it, feeling as if I were an on-site observer, not just a reader.



Even readers not usually drawn to historical fiction ought to love MOONFALL. I anticipate more from this author.

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