

## LADY STARS OF THE BOOK

**EVE:** Eve is a figure in the Book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible. According to the creation myth of the Abrahamic religions, she was the first woman. In Islamic tradition, Eve is known as Adam's wife and the first woman, although she is not specifically named in the Quran. According to the second chapter of Genesis, Eve was created by God (Yahweh) by taking her from the rib of Adam, to be Adam's companion. She succumbs to the serpent's temptation to eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She shares the fruit with Adam, and as a result the first humans are expelled from the Garden of Eden. Having been expelled from paradise, Adam and Eve had two sons: Cain and Abel.

Eva, Awa, Evis, Hewan, Eevi, Eeva, Ieva, Ewa, Hawa, Havva, Efa

Meaning: to breathe, to live, to give life, living

**SARAH:** Sarah was the wife and also the half-sister of Abraham and the mother of Isaac as described in the Hebrew Bible. Her name was originally Sarai. According to Genesis 17:15, God changed her name to Sarah as part of a covenant after Hagar bore Abraham his first son, Ishmael. Sarah gave birth to her son Isaac when she was old.

Sara, Sahra, Sarra, Saara, Sari, Saija, Salli, Sircha, Hara, Sarai, Salcia, Sirke, Capa, Sasa, Sarolta

Meaning: lady, princess, noblewoman, woman of high rank, woman minister, pleasant

**HAGAR:** Hagar is a biblical person in the Book of Genesis. She was an Egyptian handmaid of Sarai (Sarah), who gave her to Abraham to bear a child. The product of the union was Abraham's firstborn, Ishmael, the progenitor of the Ishmaelites. After Abraham's wife Sarah finally gave birth to Isaac, she had Hagar and Ishmael expelled into the desert. God heard their crying and saved them. Various commentators have connected Hagar to the Hagrites, perhaps as their eponymous ancestor. The name *Hagar* originates from the Book of Genesis, and is only alluded to in the Quran. She is considered Abraham's second wife in the Islamic faith and acknowledged in all Abrahamic religions.

Hagir, Hajar, Agar, Hacer

Meaning: flight, escape, this is the reward

**MIRIAM:** Miriam was the daughter of Amram and Yocheved, and the elder sister of Moses and Aaron. She watched over the infant Moses as the pharaoh's daughter drew him from the Nile. She was a prophet and first appears in the Book of Exodus.

Myriam, Mirjam, Mirijam; Mira, Miri, Mimi, Maria, Mary, Marie

Meaning: love, beloved of Amun, beloved of Ra

**REBECCA:** Rebecca was the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau. Rebecca and Isaac were one of the four couples believed to be buried in the Cave of the Patriarchs, the other three being Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, and Jacob and Leah.

Rebekah, Rebekka, Rifka, Becca, Becky, Becks, Rabqa, Reb, Rea

Meaning: to tie firmly, snare, noose, tied up, secured, beautifully ensnaring

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**RACHEL:** Rachel was the favorite of Biblical patriarch Jacob's two wives as well as the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, two of the twelve progenitors of the tribes of Israel. Rachel died after she gave birth to Benjamin. Rachel was the daughter of Laban and the younger sister of Leah, Jacob's first wife. Rachel was a niece of Rebekah (Jacob's mother), Laban being Rebekah's brother, making Jacob her first cousin.

Rachael, Rahel, Raquel, Rachelle

Meaning: ewe

**LEAH:** Leah, as described in the Hebrew Bible, was the daughter of Laban. She and her younger sister Rachel became the two concurrent wives of Hebrew patriarch Jacob. She had six sons, whose descendants became some of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. She also had a daughter, Dinah.

Lea, Leia, Leja, Lia, Liia

Meaning: weary, mistress, ruler

**TAMAR:** Tamar was the daughter-in-law of Judah (twice), as well as the mother of two of his children. First Tamar married Judah's eldest son Er. He was killed by God because of his wickedness. So Tamar was married to Judah's second son, Onan. Onan didn't want to have children with Tamar, so he was also killed by God. Judah was afraid to lose his third son, Shelah, if he married Tamar so Judah did not allow Tamar to marry Shelah. After that, Judah and Tamar had sex and Judah thought he was having sex with a prostitute. Judah did not recognize Tamar. Tamar became pregnant and was accused of prostitution on account of her pregnancy. Judah ordered that she should be burned to death, but Tamar could prove that Judah had caused her pregnancy. Judah released Tamar from her sentence and married her. She gave birth to twins, Perez and Zerah.

Thamar, Tamara, Tamra, Tamera, Tami, Tamia, Tammy, Toma, Tammara

Meaning: palm tree

**RUTH:** Ruth was a Moabite, who married into the Israelite family of Elimelech and Naomi, whom she met when they left Bethlehem and relocated to Moab due to a famine. Elimelech and his two sons died, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law as widows. When Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, Ruth decided to go with her despite the fact that Orpah, Naomi's other daughter-in-law, went back home. Ruth said to Naomi: "Whither thou goest, I will go." In Bethlehem she met and married Boaz. She was the great grandmother of King David.

Hirut, Routh, Rue, Rufa, Rut, Ruta, Rute, Ruthanne, Rutherine, Ruthia, Ruthie, Ruthven, Ruut, Tootie, Tuti, Ruti

Meaning: friend, companion, vision of beauty

**NAOMI:** Naomi was the mother-in-law of Ruth. After the deaths of her husband and sons, she returned to Bethlehem with Ruth. There she declared that her name should be "Mara" which means "bitter".

Noemi, Noomi, Naome, Noemy, Nahomie, Noemia, Nohemi

Meaning: pleasantness, enjoyment, the joy, directly, upright, the beauty and the honest, the sweet one

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**ABIGAIL:** Abigail was the wife of Nabal. After Nabal's death she became the wife of the future King David. Abigail was David's third wife, after Saul's daughter, Michal, whom Saul later married to Palti, son of Laish when David went into hiding, and Ahinoam. She became the mother of one of David's sons, who is listed in the Book of Chronicles under the name Daniel, in the Masoretic Text of the Books of Samuel as Chileab, and in the Septuagint text of 2 Samuel 3:3 as Dalouia. Abigail is described as an intelligent, beautiful, loyal woman

Abigaia, Apikali, Abigael, Abigayel, Apikalia, Abigel, Abigaille, Apikaira, Abiigayil, Abbey, Avigail

Meaning: my father's joy, my father is joy, my father is exultation

**DEBORAH:** Deborah was a prophet, the fourth Judge of pre-monarchic Israel, counselor, warrior, and the wife of Lapidoth according to the Book of Judges. The only female judge mentioned in the Bible, Deborah (being a prophetess) told Barak that the Lord God of Israel commanded him to lead an attack against the forces of Jabin, king of Canaan and his military commander Sisera.

Dibella, Dvorah, Devorah, Debora, Debbra, Deborha, Debee, Debbie, Deb, Deby

Meaning: bee

**DELILA:** Delila was a woman in the Book of Judges, where she is the "woman in the valley of Sorek" whom Samson loved, and who was his downfall. Her figure, one of several dangerous seductresses in the Hebrew Bible, has become emblematic: "Samson loved Delilah, she betrayed him, and, what is worse, she did it for money."

Delila, Dalileh

Meaning: delicate, weak, languishing, she who weakened, poor, small, head of hair

**ESTHER:** The Book of Esther in the Old Testament tells the story of Queen Esther, the Jewish wife of the king of Persia. The king's advisor Haman persuaded the king to exterminate all the Jews in the realm. Warned of this plot by her cousin Mordecai, Esther revealed her Jewish ancestry and convinced the king to execute Haman instead. Her original Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning myrtle tree.

Eistir, Eseza, Essie, Esta, Ester, Estera, Esteri, Eszter, Eszti, Ettie, Ety, Hester, Hettie, Essi, Essy, Ashtaar, Venus, Aphrodite, Inana, Yesfir

Meaning: star, goddess of love Ishtar

**JUDITH:** Judith appeared in the Old Testament as the wife of Esau. Judith is also the name of the main character of the apocryphal Book of Judith. She killed Holofernes, an invading Assyrian commander, by beheading him in his sleep.

Hudes, Judit, Jutta, Jodi, Judy, Jude, Jodene, Yutke, loudith, Yehudit, Judita, Jitka, Jytte, Giuditta, Judyta

Meaning: woman from Judea, young, Jewess, the praised one

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**HANNAH:** Hannah was the wife of Elkanah. Her rival was Elkanah's other wife Peninnah, who had children while Hannah remained barren. So Hannah prayed to God and promised to give her child to God if she became pregnant. Hannah became pregnant with Samuel. After breast feeding Samuel for three years, Hannah gave him to the priest Eli and this way to God. After Samuel, Hannah had more other children.

Hannah was also a prophetess who recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

Also the name Anna is traditionally assigned to the mother of the Virgin Mary.

Anissa, Keanna, Nensi, Nainsi, Hene, Henye, Hendel, Anabel, Nandag, Annag, Anya, Anushka, Hania, Ona, Chanah, Channah, Hanna, Hanne, Quanna, Ane, Anne, Anna, Annick, Ana, Ani, Anka, Aina, Anais, Anica, Anita, Anja, Anka, Ankica, Jana, Hana, Aneta, Anika, Annetta, Annette, Anu, Antje, Niina, Anniina, Anni, Aniko, Annukka, Hena, Henda

Meaning: favour, grace, the graceful, the charming, God was gracious, the gifted

**MARY:** Mary was a 1st-century BC Galilean Jewish woman of Nazareth, and the mother of Jesus, according to the New Testament and the Quran. The gospels of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament and the Quran describe Mary as a virgin and Christians believe that she conceived her son while a virgin by the Holy Spirit. The miraculous conception took place when she was already betrothed to Joseph and was awaiting the concluding rite of marriage, the formal home-taking ceremony. She married Joseph and accompanied him to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

Maria, Marie, Mariah, Mariam, Maryam, Miryam, Marion, Molly, Muire

Meaning: love, beloved, bitter, drop of the sea, star of the sea

**MAGDALENE:** Mary Magdalene was a Jewish woman who, according to texts included in the New Testament, traveled with Jesus as one of his followers. She is said to have witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Within the four Gospels she is named at least 12 times, more than most of the apostles.

Magda, Madeline, Marlene, Magdalena, Madeleine

Meaning: tower, to grow strong or great, fortress, elevated, great, magnificent

**SALOME:** Salome was the daughter of Herod II and Herodias. On Herod's birthday, Salome danced before them and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give Salome whatsoever she would ask him for. Salome demanded and received the head of John the Baptist. Herodias, the mother of Salome, bore a grudge against John for stating that Herod's marriage to her was unlawful. She encouraged Salome to demand John's execution. According to Josephus, Salome was first married to Philip the Tetrarch of Ituraea and Trakonitis. After Philip's death in 34 AD she married Aristobulus of Chalcis and became queen of Chalcis and Armenia Minor. Salome is also the name of a Christian saint, who was traditionally one of the women who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Salomea, Soolomiia, Solomiya, Solomia, Selome, Salomeja

Meaning: peace