

# Isaac and Ishmael:

## A Novel of Genesis

By Mary F. Burns

*Isaac and Ishmael* attempts to bring to human scale the legends and mythic dimensions of Abraham and Sarah, their sons Isaac and Ishmael, and Isaac and Rebecca's twin sons Esau and Jacob. Readers will experience the struggles, competition, betrayals and loves of these brothers, fathers and sons caught up in the overarching tension between time and eternity, a place where a new God is coming into being—Yahweh, the uncanny, irascible, mischievous, bargaining God who participated in the life of a new people and compelled them to a new way of being human.

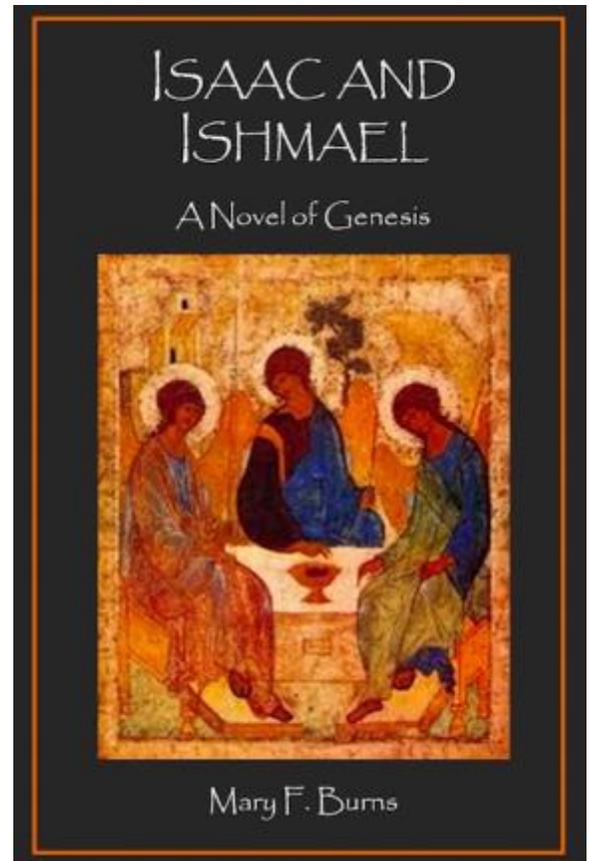
Written in an unusual biblical, style, we feel the authenticity of the ancient story, but are drawn in by detail and placement in this archaic world.

This is a tale of brothers, a legendary father, and a series of strong women. I enjoyed how the characters were written and developed—and with them, I rode a roller coaster of highs and lows, love and betrayal. The author's writing style is something I haven't come across before. There are no quotation marks and no dialog. The book has a quiet loveliness that flows easily.

L. M. Montgomery, *The Book Drunkard*

Told with humor, spiritual awe, and a true sense of the rivalry and love, the story seems to rise from ancient sands. Yahweh is as present as the shape of the land and the stars in the sky. Isaac and his sons Jacob and Esau are seekers of their own complicated destinies and Yahweh's often mystifying will. The women root them to their worlds and are the source of stability and love within their tents. *Isaac and Ishmael* is a moving novel which made me feel joyful and also brought tears to my eyes several times. There are so many truths about life in these pages, as we lived it then and as we live it now.

Stephanie Cowell, *Vine Voice*



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Ms. Burns writes historical fiction, is a member of and book reviewer for the Historical Novel Society, has won awards for short stories, and lives in San Francisco.

### Previous Titles

- *J-The Woman Who Wrote the Bible* (O-Books, 2010) ISBN 978-1-84694-324-9
- *The Spoils of Avalon*, (Sand Hill Review Press) ISBN: 978-1-937818-28-9, ISBN 978-1-937818-79-1
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