

## Info Sheet for Retailers: Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold



Image Cover Design: Erin Law @StoryUnlocked

### FICTION

Christian fiction, Historical fiction, Religious fiction, Inspirational Fiction, Women In The Bible  
300 pages, B/W, 6x9 inches  
55% Wholesale Discount through Ingram  
40% Retailer Discount through author

#### Hardcover

978-1-03-914333-3  
Retail List Price US\$34.99 (C\$45.50)

#### Softcover

978-1-03-914332-6  
Retail List Price US\$19.99 (C\$26.49)

#### eBook

978-1-03-914334-0  
Retail List Price US\$5.99 (C\$7.85)

by Elaine Ricker Kelly

After years of submission, Mara is afraid and unsure about everything—especially her nephew, Jesus. Then he is chased off a cliff, and Mara is forced into the unknown. At the same time, Joanna grapples with hiding her mixed-race heritage or losing her family and community. Despite trauma, abuse, racism, and inequality, they join other women disciples. Will Jesus's opposition to the establishment endanger their lives?

Forgotten Followers brings love and encouragement to anyone who has felt alone, rejected, or simply out of place. Instead of dismissing women of the Gospels as unimportant, author Elaine Ricker Kelly lifts them up as empowered and vibrant characters. Whether evangelical, exvangelical, atheist, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, deconstructing or doubting, readers can find themselves in this historical fiction, the first novel in her Broken to Bold series.

"If you've ever felt like women are treated like secondary characters in God's story, then let **Forgotten Followers** bring the many women who loved and followed Jesus to life! Such a refreshing, life-giving read to see how knowing

Jesus can free you from the cage you put yourself in—or that society puts yourself in. These fictional stories are grounded in amazing historical research—and made me see Jesus' love for me in a whole new way."  
**Sheila Wray Gregoire**, author of **The Great Sex Rescue** and founder of BareMarriage

Elaine Ricker Kelly uses her experience as a woman in business to inspire and empower women at home, church, and society. She has been an investment and insurance advisor, has three daughters, and aims to encourage girls and women in leadership. Elaine R Kelly lives in Grimsby, Ontario, Canada, with her husband and their dog. She and her husband enjoy hiking, nature, tennis, music, history, and culture. They worship in the mainline Protestant Christian tradition.

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## Reviews: What readers are saying

### **Captivating work of biblical fiction**

Through the pages of this captivating work of biblical fiction by Elaine Ricker Kelly, we meet broken followers of Jesus, women whose lives have been damaged either through sexual abuse, anxiety, fear, racism, or demon possession. As these women live their daily lives in the presence of Jesus and his followers, the impact of his life and teachings becomes apparent through the experiences of the women with whom he interacted.

I highly recommend this novel to anyone looking for a fascinating work of biblical fiction, one that highlights the particular concerns of female contemporaries of Jesus and gives an opportunity to experience the great contrast between Jesus' take on the place of women with that of the prevailing order of the day.

This honest review was based on a complimentary Advance Reader Copy.

**Elisabeth, Chapters-indigo kobo ebook review**

### **Engaging**

Reviewed in the United Kingdom on 14 September 2022

This engaging novel brings the Bible to life through the eyes of women. Biblical stories can be cheesy and devoid of conflict but here the author delivers realism and plenty of dialogue and opinions.

Through meticulous research, Elaine Ricker Kelly introduces us to a diverse cast of characters and adds historical details that open our eyes to often-unknown wider contexts of the era.

This honest review was based on a complimentary Advance Reader Copy.

**Helen, Chapters-indigo kobo ebook review**

### **Engaging and Thoughtful, a heart-warming, empowering Story**

Story speaks truth to the heart. Better than any other novel I have read, Kelly's imagination enables women of today to see themselves as beloved of God, as healed, chosen and sent by Jesus. With her extensive research into traditions, "Forgotten Followers" is a credible and very relatable unfolding of the gospel stories from the perspective of the women who accompanied Jesus during his three years of public ministry. You will read the Scripture differently once you have read this story. There are too many surprises in the story to begin to list them! I'd love to unpack some of these new perspectives in a study group for "Forgotten Followers".

It was a bonus to read the Epilogue, in which Kelly lays out the traditions around which her characters are built, and the "facts, traditions and fiction" about Mara and Joanna, through whose eyes unfolds the story "Forgotten Followers, from Broken to Bold".

This honest review was based on a complimentary Advance Reader Copy.

**Laurie, Goodreads.com review**

## **Forgotten Followers evens up the Gender Gap and makes Jesus a real person**

When people think of disciples of Jesus, they generally think of men. Elaine Ricker Kelly shifts the focus to the women in his orbit. She tells the gospel story through their eyes. In some cases, these would be family members of Jesus and the characters Kelly fleshes out are all mentioned in the Bible. She has done meticulous research. But above all, she grapples with the emotional impact of having such a controversial figure in their midst. Today people preach sermons and devise theologies about Jesus. But, by writing it in the style of historical fiction, she brings home the fact that it is above all a story, a compelling one at that.

**Mike, Amazon.ca reviewer**

## **Inspiring!**

As an atheist concerned about the plight of women as second-class citizens through the past 20 centuries, I was initially intrigued by this story because it transcends religion. "Forgotten Followers" addresses racial and gender inequality and in fact, brings to the forefront how men decided women didn't even have sufficient intelligence to report on events. It elicits several responses to ponder well after finishing the story, as these women eventually rose above the constraints of their time. The author's meticulous research, excellent writing and believable dialogue effectively change a familiar story in an unexpected and heartwarming way.

**MM, Amazon .com reviewer**

## **Very Impressed**

Very impressed by this first time author. The amount of research is very evident. Her characters are very relatable. Sometimes I forgot that I was reading a fiction the way she blends her characters with biblical characters. As a man, it was a great insight on a woman's point of view. I recommend this read and look forward to her next book.

**Bill, Goodreads reviewer**



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## Excerpts from Forgotten Followers

### **Excerpt 239 words:**

Despite her size, no one saw her. Mara had learned the hard way how to make herself invisible. Being seen or heard led to trouble. She rarely left her home. But that afternoon, Mara dropped her bread-making and went out. Her firstborn son Jamie had burst into her outdoor cooking courtyard, calling her to come right away. She banked the fire and left her baking in a cast iron pot over the embers in her brazier. She covered herself with a full-length robe and fastened it with her copper brooch. She pulled along nine-year-old Janis and six-year-old Simeon. Her eleven-year-old son, Joses, was apprenticing with his abba at the blacksmith shop. Mara soon fell behind, her chest heaving. As she reached Nazareth's market square, she was embarrassed by her son's enthusiasm.

"Has he done any miracles yet?" Jamie stretched on his tiptoes.

"No, he hasn't," replied the onlooker.

Mara kept silent, as always. She did not speak unless someone addressed her directly, did not speak in public, and definitely did not speak to men outside her family. Afraid of being judged by the religious leaders, she checked that her copper shawl pin closed her robe at the neck. She followed the Jewish code of modesty to avoid drawing unwanted attention. Jamie seemed to expect his cousin to perform miracles. The onlookers expected it too. Mara knew better. She did not believe in miracles. Mara felt alone in the crowd.

### **Excerpt 131 words:**

Men turned and looked up at the family and Mara blushed. She hated being in the spotlight. She fingered the copper brooch Clopas had crafted for her at his blacksmith shop. When they were newly married, she was embarrassed to undress in front of Clopas, ashamed of her body, afraid of pain in her marriage duty. She feared Clopas would divorce her, but he was patient and self-controlled. He told her their marriage was about more than the marriage bed and that he would be faithful. The copper shawl pin reminded her of how he protected her from pain and made her feel safe.

Maria saw Mara fidgeting nervously and whispered, "Don't worry, this is our home. This is our family."

But Mara replied, "I have a bad feeling. They rejected you once before."



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