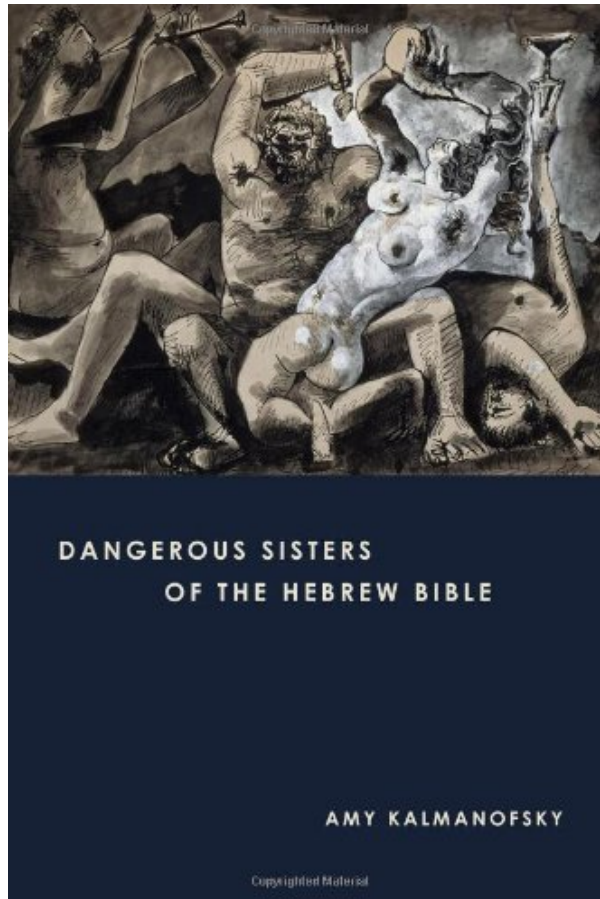
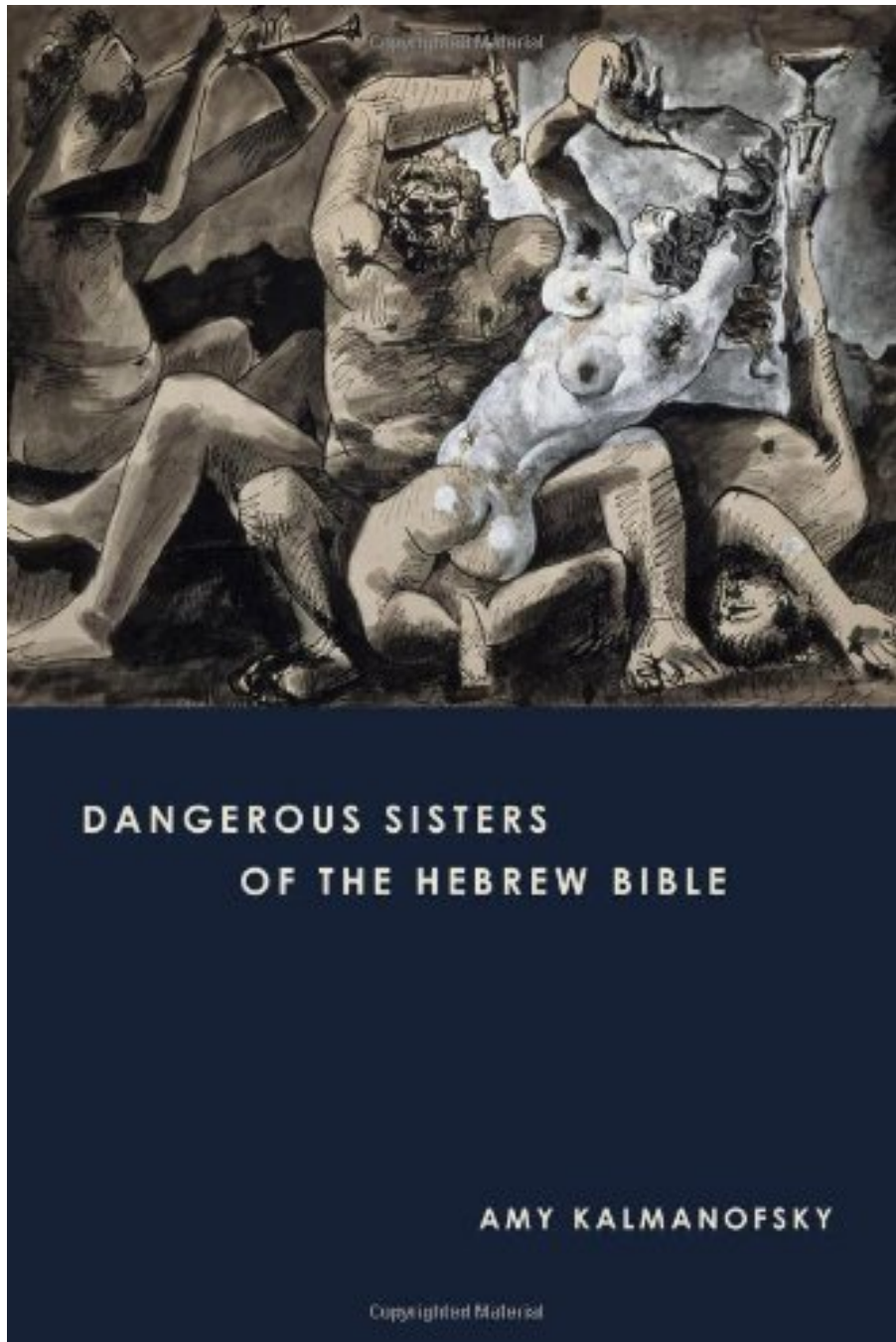


DANGEROUS SISTERS OF THE HEBREW BIBLE BY AMY KALMANOFSKY



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Review

"Amy Kalmanofsky rightly contends that 'conventional reading' of biblical narrative tends to 'overlook the Bible's significant sisters.' In *Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible*, she rectifies that oversight in a thoughtful and provocative manner. Her work is anchored in sensitive close reading from a refreshingly original point of view, and her focus on text is complemented by judicious appeal to theory, thoughtful engagement with previous scholarship, and sound judgment." Alan Cooper Jewish Theological Seminary "With exegetical finesse and ingenuity, Amy Kalmanofsky explores biblical stories about sisters and sisterhoods, a topic largely overlooked by prior scholars. *Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible* offers valuable new insights about these 'destabilizing figures' and the important role they play in family narratives in the Bible. Through her perceptive analysis of nine texts dealing with ideal and dangerous sisters and sisterhoods, Kalmanofsky shows how these stories compare to other narratives about women and brothers, what these texts tell us about the Bible's gender ideology, and how they contribute to the Bible's 'grand narrative.' As a result, the book is an important addition to the field of biblical studies." Andrea L. Weiss Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion "Dangerous Sisters offers fresh insight into the complex roles of sisters and sisterhoods from the biblical narrative that are resonant today where women are still seen as both essential agents and expendable objects. Our contemporary stories mirror the biblical ones as women support and explode existing boundaries in families, communities and societal structures. Though Amy Kalmanofsky approaches her topic with scholarly expertise this compelling book should be read by a broad audience of lay people and religious professionals from many faith traditions." Katharine Henderson Auburn Theological Seminary "Kalmanofsky's balanced, creative readings of biblical stories of sisters and sisterhood shed new light on biblical gender ideology. Her highly readable style makes this an invaluable resource for teaching about the Bible and gender." Karina Hogan Fordham University "Kalmanofsky's careful examination of both sisters and sisterhoods demonstrates how they were again and again critical in advancing grand narrative aims of the Bible and principles of Israelite society. Her groundbreaking work not only enables a fresh reading of the text, but also puts forward alternate understandings of the Israelite family and ultimately the divine-human relationship." Deborah Waxman Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

About the Author

Amy Kalmanofsky is assistant professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and an ordained rabbi in the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She has authored *Terror All Around: Horror,*

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Fathers, sons, and mothers take center stage in the Bible's grand narratives, Amy Kalmanofsky observes. Sisters and sisterhood receive less attention in scholarship but, she argues, play an important role in narratives, revealing anxieties related to desire, agency, and solidarity among women playing out (and playing against) their roles in a patrilineal society. Most often, she shows, sisters are destabilizing figures in narratives about family crisis, where property, patrimony, and the resilience of community boundaries are at risk. Kalmanofsky demonstrates that the particular role of sisters had important narrative effects, revealing previously underappreciated dynamics in Israelite society.

- Sales Rank: #854779 in Books
- Published on: 2014-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 6.00" w x .50" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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Eloquent and persuasive

By Stephanie Oppenheim

In *Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible*, Amy Kalmanofsky brings to light the previously overlooked role of sisters and sisterhoods in the Hebrew Bible. She identifies two paradigms of sisters and sisterhoods, the "ideal" and the "dangerous," and illuminates their vital function in biblical narrative. As she convincingly argues, sisters and sisterhoods are "crucial players in the biblical drama." Kalmanofsky aptly demonstrates the destabilizing power of these sister figures, as well as the surprising narrative and rhetorical power they wield in the Bible's master narrative. While most of the sister stories enforce gender expectations and serve patriarchal values, Kalmanofsky makes the powerful case that sisterhood can also provide an alternative family paradigm that is not only ideal but redemptive. Kalmanofsky supports her central argument with close readings of individual Bible stories that are precise, perceptive, and moving. *Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible* is an illuminating and elegantly written book. It makes compelling reading not only for biblical scholars but for anyone interested in literary narratives, women's studies, the history of the family, and Jewish studies.

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Accessible Style, Rich Insights

By toiletrybagpurchase

Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible is ideal for a wide range of audiences because of its accessible style and rich insights. Sisters and sisterhoods are portrayed with a significant role in shaping biblical narratives and the larger biblical drama. Drawing on sources with a discerning eye, Amy Kalmanofsky challenges students, lay and religious leaders of different backgrounds to confront commonly-held perceptions, wrestle with the nuance of stories and appreciate the dynamics at play.

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Dangerous pairs of women in Old Testament

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