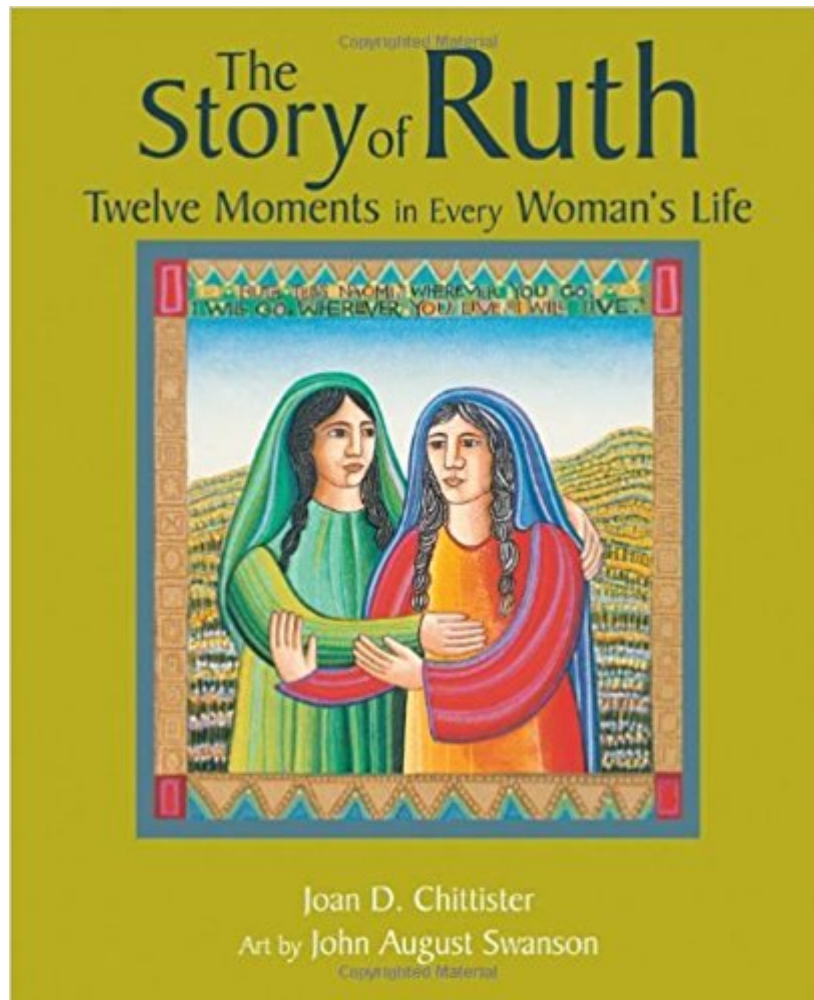


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The Story Of Ruth: Twelve Moments In Every Woman's Life



Synopsis

In this beautiful book best-selling author Joan Chittister and celebrated artist John August Swanson together reclaim the ancient story of Ruth as a model for contemporary women seeking a fully spiritual life. In concert with Swanson's rich and evocative art, Chittister's graceful prose explores, through this powerful biblical story, a series of twelve defining moments in every woman's life — moments of loss, change, transformation, aging, independence, respect, recognition, insight, empowerment, selfdefinition, invisibility, and fulfillment. A lovely blend of art and text, *The Story of Ruth* offers inspiration for women seeking wholeness and presents compelling devotional images for eyes and mind alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner "Chittister and Swanson's *A Story of Ruth* is an easy, wise, and instructive lens through which to view one of the gems of the Hebrew Bible. This creative and engaging book is in the highest Jewish tradition of reading 'between the lines' of scripture. . . Should be required reading for Christians and Jews, women and ? above all ? men." — Rosemary Luling Haughton "Joan Chittister's reflections about loss and change, about isolation and empowerment, are both realistic and liberating. . . And John August Swanson's artworks are contemplative experiences in themselves ? quiet, yet glowing and vivid." — Michael Downey "These pages shimmer. Lush, warm colors and patterns together with piercing, prophetic words summon the heart to behold an enduring image of fidelity. Look and listen

? long and lovingly ? to the story of Ruth and Naomi. And receive, once again, the gift of hope still on offer." *Â Spirit & Life* "In twelve unusual chapters, Ruth is portrayed as the prototype of a 21st century 'Everywoman,' free, independent, and equal with all humankind. Complementing the text, twelve lovely paintings by John August Swanson illustrate the way Ruth wins her freedom and feminine independence. A beautiful book in every way, 'The Story of Ruth' is for treasuring and gift-giving." *Â Parade Magazine* "Writing a book that blends spirituality, inspiration and feminism is no easy feat, but Joan D. Chittister has accomplished it with rare sensitivity in *Â The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*. Taking the biblical narrative of the young Moabite widow who followed her mother-in-law to a new land she relates the story to modern women's quest for independence, respect, empowerment and self-fulfillment. You can agree or not with the lessons she finds, but her analysis is thoughtful and free from treacly interpretations. The book is enhanced immeasurably by John August Swanson's biblical-style illustrations." *Â The Newark Star-Ledger* "Attractively illustrated by John August Swanson, 'Ruth' is 'part self-help book, part poetry,' with Chittister presenting a God interested and intent on transforming women. . . Though it's the lives of two Old Testament women we're examining, Chittister leaves no doubt about the relevance and practical application to modern women. Don't be surprised to find yourself lingering in those moments that apply to the season of your life. . . Chittister's style is like that of friends whose advice is therapy. No, they haven't got any degrees in counseling, but that's where our feet carry us when we need wise counsel." *Â Sisters Today* "This book is a treat on all fronts. As usual, Chittister is challenging and thought provoking as she uses Ruth to illustrate moments in a woman's life. But the illustrator, John August Swanson has it right in his Notes when he says, 'This is not only a woman's book. . . ' Swanson's colorful and detailed illustrations alone are worth the price of the book, but with the text the book becomes richer still." *Â Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* "The ancient biblical tale of a woman who left everything she knew for love of *Â of all things* *Â a mother-in-law* is brought to contemporary relevance by author Joan D. Chittister, a Benedictine nun, and artist John August Swanson. The prose is arresting and the illustrations simple, brilliantly colored and striking enough for second and even third looks. . . This is an old favorite made more so with the retelling." *Â The Bible Today* "The biblical story of Ruth is the basis of these twelve reflections on issues facing every woman. . . The contents of each chapter are a mix of personal reflection on life experience and social concern. Swanson's colorful art enhances every page, and a full page drawing depicting a scene from the biblical story introduces each chapter. The talents of the author and the artist come together to

produce a book of note. This will make a fine gift." — Lutheran Woman Today "Occasionally one finds a book so powerful and beautiful that it needs to be purchased and shared with many people!" — The Story of Ruth "is such a book." — Benedictines Magazine "This beautiful book combines the best of many arts — the script of the ancient writer, the insights of the modern feminist-theologian, the portrayal in color, line and form of the illustrator and the glow of vibrant inks on every page. . . This is a book to be savored and appreciated for its form and content. Never at a loss to create a stir in her readers' minds and hearts, Chittister has outdone herself in The Story of Ruth." — Society for Old Testament Study Booklist "This book combines Catholic spirituality and modern art to produce a charming and insightful account of twelve key moments in the lives of two biblical women, Ruth and Naomi, who are seen to function as 'metaphors' for all women." — Barbara Brown Taylor "With characteristic wit and spitfire, Joan Chittister tells the story of Ruth for anyone challenged by loss, change, aging, or invisibility. Basing her reflections on the lives of two marginal biblical women, she reveals their central roles as mothers of faith and dares all their descendants — both daughters and sons — to follow their lead." — Publishers Weekly "The best book on Ruth thus far may be Joan Chittister's creative, gorgeously illustrated exploration of the famous Moabitess as archetype for all women. The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life shows how Ruth's journey through loss, change, transformation, aging, independence, respect, recognition, insight, empowerment, self-definition, invisibility and fulfillment mirrors similar stages in many women's lives. . . The text's perceptive, piercing truths are complemented by stunning full-color artwork by John August Swanson." — The Living Church "A beautifully illustrated and printed book on the Book of Ruth with commentary by well-known spiritual writer Joan Chittister on how Ruth's story speaks to women of today in their own quest for spiritual wholeness."

Joan Chittister is executive director of Benetvision: A Resource and Research Center for Contemporary Spirituality, Erie, Pennsylvania. She is also a contributor to The Huffington Post blog. Her many books include God's Tender Mercy, The Story of Ruth (with John August Swanson), and Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope. For more information, visit her website at www.joanchittister.org. Los Angeles artist John August Swanson is noted for his finely detailed, brilliantly colored Biblical pieces. His unique style is influenced by the imagery of Islamic and medieval miniatures, Russian iconography, the color of Latin American folk art, and

This is a fantastic book. One every woman should read. My book club spent more time than

expected because of the great discussions that came from it. I've since ordered it to give as gifts.

I am a Lutheran pastor and brought this book to my weekly Women's Bible Study group for review as a study choice. Because it is not technically a Biblical study, it was to my surprise they chose it. Not only are the graphics beautiful and provocative - as good in the paperback edition as mine are in the original hardcover - Joan Chittister's writing is thorough, deep and insightful. It has led us to have many, many thoughtful discussions on our personal pasts, our growth, our challenges, the role of women - past, present and future - and faith in God by using the chapters as weekly topics and reflecting back on the nuances in the Biblical account of Ruth, Orpah and Naomi. Yes. It takes some work on my part but the blessings we have achieved from the book are well worth the extra effort! I highly recommend it for personal reading as well as group study.

Last fall we gathered a group of "mature" women who had lost spouses in the last five years. No, it was not a grief support group as there are lots of those out there. As Christian widows, our focus was on "where is God calling me now" as a newly single woman. Chittister's book served as a backdrop for our monthly discussions and offered encouragement as we traversed a new path in our lives. FYI-our group facilitator, an ordained female pastor, read aloud a chapter at each meeting which added one more joy to our lives as few of us are read to once we leave childhood. This approach was very soothing and gave us an opportunity for deeper reflection.

A very fine book! AND it gives us women a wonderful "go ahead" on being who we are!!!The illustrations--pictures and borders are also so "happy" and "hopeful"--great artist,too!

It is beautiful! The twelve moments are times in every women's life. This is a timeless book. I love, love, love Joan Chittister. I also ordered a dozen used books to have a group reading and discussion. How great it will be to share this book with others.

I was disappointed in this book. It did not speak to me at my stage of life. I feel it is a great book for younger women in the midst of their life, but as a senior person I had already passed most of the markers pointed out in this story of Ruth and Naomi. I would recommend this book to any woman going through the mid twenties through to the fifties age groups.

i really love reading this book.

This book is a wonderful resource for women's retreats. The stages, or moments, are real and traverse many ages and times. The art work is prayer in itself. I felt the various chapters gave the individual opportunity to do some deep, inner work.

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