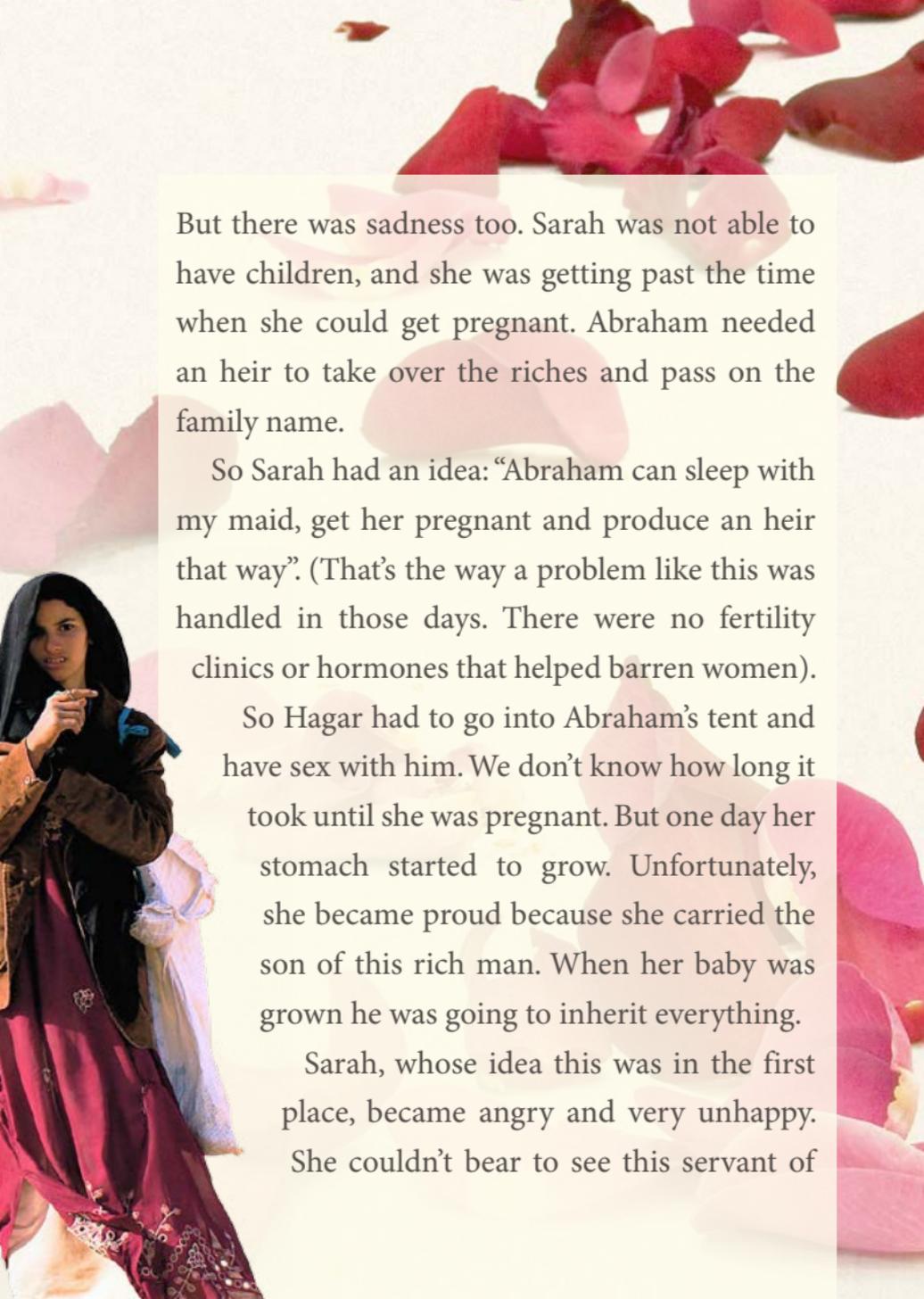


A WOMAN
CALLED

Hagar

Hagar was the servant of a desert princess whose name was Sarah. Sarah was extremely beautiful although she was already quite old. They were nomads and lived in tents. Abraham, Sarah's husband, moved his big flock, servants and many goods from place to place. He was a wealthy man.



But there was sadness too. Sarah was not able to have children, and she was getting past the time when she could get pregnant. Abraham needed an heir to take over the riches and pass on the family name.

So Sarah had an idea: “Abraham can sleep with my maid, get her pregnant and produce an heir that way”. (That’s the way a problem like this was handled in those days. There were no fertility clinics or hormones that helped barren women).

So Hagar had to go into Abraham’s tent and have sex with him. We don’t know how long it took until she was pregnant. But one day her stomach started to grow. Unfortunately, she became proud because she carried the son of this rich man. When her baby was grown he was going to inherit everything.

Sarah, whose idea this was in the first place, became angry and very unhappy. She couldn’t bear to see this servant of

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hers carrying her husband's child. She mistreated Hagar so badly that she ran away into the desert.

After Hagar had walked a long way, she found a well and drank. She was sad and didn't know where to go. She was lost and depressed, had no clue who to turn to, what to do or how to survive. Suddenly an angel of God appeared and assured her that she and the baby would be fine and not die; her son would become a mighty warrior.

Hagar was greatly comforted. “You are the God who sees me,” she said. “You saw how badly I was treated by my mistress, how I was forced to sleep with a man, and how I was hurt and bullied by his jealous angry wife. I am not alone. You are with me and understand my situation,

and you are going to turn everything to a good end.”

This story is written in the first book of the Bible. God helped Hagar, a struggling, lonely single mum. Her son grew up and became a strong warrior. His name was Ishmael which means: God hears. He heard Hagar’s crying and saw her sadness and showed her his love and mercy.

He sees your situation as well and feels deeply with you. You can tell Him your deepest needs. Hagar experienced that God hears and is merciful, so can you. Will you give Him a try?


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