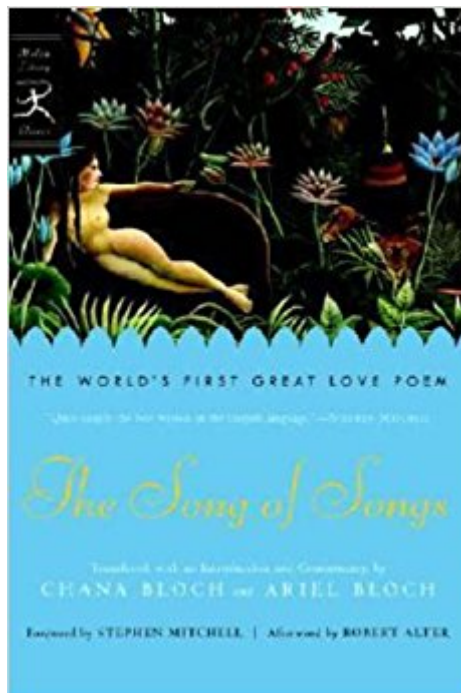




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# The Song Of Songs: The World's First Great Love Poem (Modern Library Classics)



## Synopsis

• Next to Genesis, no book in the Hebrew Bible has had a stronger influence on Western literature than the Song of Songs. • "The New York Review of Books" One of the greatest love poems ever written, The Song of Songs celebrates the sexual awakening of a young woman and her lover and the intoxicating experience of falling in love. Composed more than two thousand years ago, this book of the Old Testament is not only an essential religious and literary text, but also a source of inspiration to modern-day poets and lovers. Enhanced by an Afterword by the esteemed scholar Robert Alter and a new Foreword from the noted translator Stephen Mitchell, this definitive volume showcases Chana Bloch and Ariel Bloch's sensuous translation which has a lyrical purity that is delightful • (W. S. Merwin).

## Book Information

Series: Modern Library Classics

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: Modern Library (October 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812976207

ISBN-13: 978-0812976205

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #77,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > Old Testament #84 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Love Poems #99 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Inspirational & Religious

## Customer Reviews

Ariel and Chana Bloch's new translation of the Song of Songs--the most sexually explicit and sensually rich book of the Bible--is pure delight from beginning to end. Its introduction is an accessible, sophisticated, entertaining, and comprehensive orientation to the literary and religious history of the Song of Songs. The Blochs say the speakers in this poem "don't suffer love, they savor it." Their translation, overflowing with full--almost to the point of florid--feeling ("Feast, friends, and drink / till you are drunk with love!"), arrives at a time when many Jews and Christians are opening themselves to the religious dimensions of sexuality and human love. Song of Songs has a

great deal to teach us; this translation is sure to attract many eager students. --Michael Joseph Gross

The Blochs, he a professor of Near Eastern history and she a poet, have teamed up to render a strikingly beautiful translation of this oldest of Western erotic love poems. The Blochs' translation captures the frank sensuality and rich erotic lyricism that earlier translations have often missed. The poem is accompanied by a splendid introduction that traces the social, historical, and literary contexts of the poem. The afterword, by biblical scholar Robert Alter, praises the Blochs' translation by comparing it with older ones, while an exegetical and expository commentary offers readers a chance to see why the translators made certain choices in rendering their version. Evocative lyrics and lucid expositions make the Blochs' offering one of the best of recent versions. Highly recommended. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

There are so many commentaries & angles on The Song of Songs in Scripture. But this one is translated from the Hebrew by the authors themselves, with more of a literary understanding from the original Hebrew than a spiritual treatise of the book, although that aspect is there. What this book does is take the writing out of the religious realms & down into each of our lives, personal, deep, evocative, & sexually explicit without being sanitized. In other words, it's really real in every sense. It's especially rich for anyone who loves Hebrew & related languages.

I am reading this slowly. Expect to use it a lifetime. I love it! I have rested under the branches of the scholarly work done and tasted of the fruit. I return frequently, opening the pages of the text and comments. It is refreshing and provokes me to admire love in all its forms, both earthly and heavenly. I love Robert Alter's contribution and the insights offered by the two authors. I would highly recommend this book.

Love and marriage as God intended - before the fall - . A marvelous translation and commentary on one of the most beautiful love poems composed.

The great mystics considered this poem to be about the love relationship between God and his people/individuals. The commentary is wonderful and the side by side Hebrew translations of the poem is spectacular!

Required for a course and very readable.

The first edition of this book had a really beautiful cover was just generally a wonderful visual experience. This more recent edition has a hideous cover and is not as attractively put together. The translation and scholarship that surround it are wonderful.

If you want to move past Rashi (who's he?) and take a look at the naked words complied by an artist -- this is the version to use.

Such a beauty and translation! Publisher did well with this masterpiece! It was in excellent condition.

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