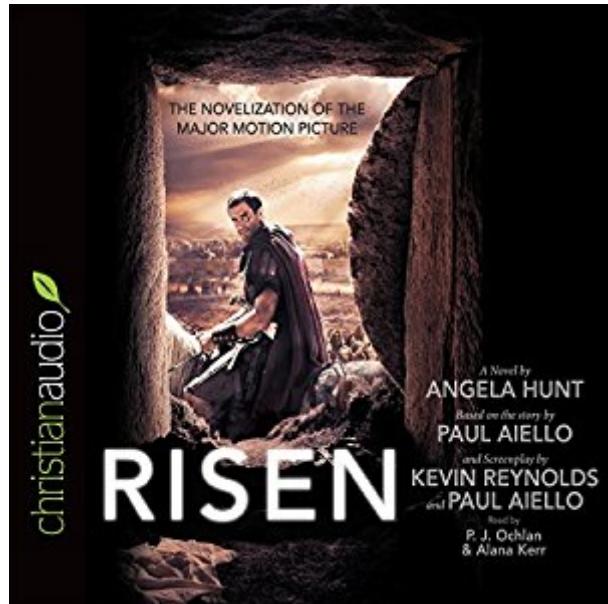


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# Risen: The Novelization Of The Major Motion Picture



## Synopsis

A Powerful Novelization from Best-Selling Author Angela Hunt Epic in scope yet deeply personal, this novelization offers a unique perspective on the story of the resurrection. Roman Tribune Clavius is assigned by Pilate to keep the radical followers of the recently executed Yeshua from stealing the body and inciting revolution. When the body goes missing despite his precautions, Clavius must hunt it down. His investigation leads him from the halls of Herod Antipas to the Garden of Gethsemane and brings him in touch with believer and doubter alike. But as the body still remains missing, Clavius commits to a quest for the truth - and answers that will not only shake his life but echo throughout all of history.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

[No Spoilers] Written in the first person point of view and spanning just over 300 pages, the novel follows two individuals: a Roman tribune named Clavius and a Jewish widow named Rachel. The book is historical fiction so it wraps fictitious people and/or events in with real people and events. In this case, the book (and movie) is intended give a different perspective on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by showing it through the eyes of an unbeliever. This also means that artistic license will be used. Author Angela Hunt does a great job of weaving the biblical events surrounding Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection into this retelling. Clavius (played by Joseph Fiennes in the film) is an ambitious soldier, and early on he puts down a Zealot revolt led by Barabbas, the infamous thief and murderer Pilate released at the crowd's request instead of Jesus. Later that day, Clavius is sent by

Pilate to make sure the three people crucified that day were killed before sunset so as to not upset Jewish sensitivities. When he arrives, it is clear that the man in the middle, Jesus (called Yeshua in the novel), is already dead. Clavius orders a soldier to pierce Jesus to make sure. Two days later, Clavius is summoned by Pilate and told that the Jewish leaders claim the man's disciples had stolen the body of Jesus and are declaring that Jesus has risen from the dead. Clavius and his new assistant, a beneficiarii named Lucius (played by Tom Felton in the film), embark on an investigation that takes them in and around Jerusalem over the next several days interviewing witnesses and tracking down the disciples. I really enjoyed many of the tie-ins Hunt made with historical figures.

Risen is also the name of a movie being released this month. The subtitle for this book is "The Novelization of the Major Motion Picture." Book and movie are based on a story by Paul Aiello and screenplay by Kevin Reynolds and Paul Aiello. Usually the book comes out first, and the movie follows if the book is popular. In this case, the book and movie released about the same time. Interesting marketing move. The story takes place during the week of Jesus' crucifixion. It revolves around two characters. Clavius is a Roman tribune, who was present when Jesus died. Rachel is a Jewish widow who supports herself by baking bread for the community. Clavius reports to Pontius Pilate, and he is charged with finding Jesus' body when it goes missing. There's an illicit romance between Rachel and Clavius, I suppose to add spice. Rachel has heard that Jesus (Yeshua) is the long-awaited Messiah, but she does not know whether she believes it or not. As Clavius investigates the disappearance of the body, he must speak with Jesus' followers as well as his enemies. As the promotional material says, Clavius does not realize that this experience will change him (and Rachel) forever. In the beginning, I was a little distracted by the romance between Clavius and Rachel. I wanted to get on with the story. That's a problem with using Biblical events for fictional stories. The reader knows how events unfold, but he or she won't know how the fictional characters are affected. Author Angela Hunt has a master's degree in Biblical Studies and a PhD in theology. She writes Biblical fiction that makes you feel like you're there with the characters. She takes some liberties with the story, but she explains why in the book's notes. I don't know if I will see the movie or not.

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