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Religion

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*The following review appeared in the September 2014 issue of CHOICE:*

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Kalmanofsky, Amy. **Dangerous sisters of the Hebrew Bible**. Fortress, 2014. 208p bibl indexes afp ISBN 9781451469950 pbk, \$24.00

Kalmanofsky (Jewish Theological Seminary) offers a provocative and intriguing literary reading of the often ignored typology of sisters and sisterhoods in the Hebrew Bible. Following an introduction, this tripartite volume is divided into "Sister Pairs" ("Rachel and Leah," "Michal and Merav," "Israel and Judah"); "Incestuous Sisters" ("Lot's Daughters," "Sarah," "Tamar"); and "Sisterhoods" ("The Daughters of Adam, Moab, the Land, and Israel"; "The Daughters of Jerusalem"; "Ruth and Naomi"). Building on earlier feminist and gender studies by Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Carol Meyers, Gail Yee, and Claudia Camp, the author discovers within each sister, metaphoric sister (e.g., Israel and Judah), and sisterhood story the presence of a dangerous sister paradigm "in which an independent sister destabilizes a natal household in distress." At the same time she depicts "the ideal counterpart" of what a sister or sisterhood should be. Kalmanofsky reveals that the narratives involving sisters "function as cautionary tales that support patriarchal ideology and warn young women ... to curb their desires and serve the needs of their patriarchs." The revelation of this paradigm, and its contribution to biblical narratives, is the strength of her literary reading; her reading of incestuous sister stories may spark responses from scholars engaged in feminist and literary analyses of the Hebrew Bible. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty; general readers. -- *H. M. Szpek, emerita, Central Washington University*