Her name meant date palm, and like her namesake, Tamar hoped to survive the harsh environment she was placed in: to bend but not to break. Rubbed with scented oil and arrayed in wedding finery, 14-year-old Tamar is thrust into a world of abuse, betrayal, and disillusionment when she is given in marriage to an evil, idol-worshiping man. In the face of her suffering, she must make choices: Will she let her new husband, Er, destroy her innocence and corrupt her? Will she leave the religion of the Canaanites and embrace the God of the Hebrews despite the life of misery she is cast into? Or will she fall into despair and become as wicked as her husband and his brothers? Unveiled is the first in award-winning veteran author Francine Rivers Lineage of Grace series of five novellas, which feature biblical women in the genealogy of Christ: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. This dramatic retelling of the scandalous
risks Tamar must take to ensure her place in biblical history showcases Rivers ability to sketch a short vignette of an ancient character and bring her to life in the minds of contemporary readers. The twin themes of sins consequences and Gods redemption resonate throughout the pages of this engrossing novella. --Cindy Crosby

**Personal Review: Unveiled: Tamar (The Lineage of Grace Series #1) (No 1) by Francine Rivers**
We've all read the story in Genesis about how the line of Judah managed to survive: the woman wived to his sons refuses to give up her right to a child, even if she has to seduce Judah himself to conceive. Looking at it from Tamar's side, we realize that this woman who prostituted herself was far more complex than the original story reveals. Tamar was not raised as a child of God, but she went into a house that served Him. Did she come to love Him? If not, then why would she have been spared when her first two husbands died for unfaithfulness? So assuming she became a child of the Lord, how hard must it have been to be sent back to her father's house? And how brave must she have been to go to Judah himself when he reneged on his word to her? Tamar becomes, through Rivers' skillful hand, a woman willing to sacrifice herself for the sake of the chosen ones of God, a woman willing to put on a veil and be used so that she can take it off and serve.

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