



## Books in brief

**Diana Brement • JTNews Columnist**

Posted: March 11, 2010

### **Fiction**

**The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz**, by Michelle Cameron (Pocket, cloth, \$25). Historical novelist Cameron weaves fact and fiction together in this tale of European medieval Jewry during one of the most challenging periods in Jewish history. The fictional Shira is witness to some of the more horrific events of the times: Talmud burning, religious disputations, executions and Crusader massacres. Shira has a real-life husband, Meir of Rothenberg, a distant ancestor of the author, which adds to the book's appeal. As often occurs in this genre, the author sometimes works too hard to include all the historical details, but it reads well and is entrancing in parts.