

Women and the Reading of the Megillah

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Based on *Hilkhot Nashim*, Vol. 1 ed. Rahel Berkovits

Source	Women can read for men	Women can read for women	Women cannot read
Mishna Megillah 2:4	All are eligible	All are eligible	
BT Megillah 4A	Obligated, same miracle	Obligated, part of miracle	
BT Arakhin 2B-3A	Fit agents to read	Obligated	
JT Megillah 2:4		Obligated to hear	
Tosefta megillah 2:7			Women are exempt and do not discharge the obligation of many
Sefer Halachot Gedolot, laws of Megillah Vol. 1, 405-6			Women are exempt, do not discharge the obligation of many, but have to listen.
Teshuvot Hageonim, Shaarei Teshuvah 345		Obligated to read, should not read to many, a curse upon men	
Rashi Arachin 3A	Can read and discharge the obligation of men		
Or Zarua Vol. 2 Laws of Megillah 368	Can read and discharge obligation of men		
Mishne Torah Hilchot megila vechanukah 1:1-2	Women are obligated in megillah, can read for men		
Maggid Mishne 1:2	Women may read on behalf of men		
Nummukei Yosef Megilah 4A	Women can read for men, equal obligation		

Meiri (Beit Habehirah Megillah 4A)	Women can read for men, equal obligation		
Avraham min Hahar Megillah 19B	Women are able to read for men	Women should avoid reading for a man	
Tosafot Sukkah 38A		Women should not read for men because men are more important, beneath their dignity	
Ritva Megillah 4A		Obligated in reading the Megillah, but should not read for men because of congregational honor, curse	
Kolbo 45		Equal obligation, but kol isha (cites Aseret hadibrot, no quote)	
Tosafot megillah 4A		Women can read for other women	
Rosh Megillah 1:4		Women can read for other women	
Ran (on Rif) Megillah 2B		Women can read for other women	
Tur Orach hayim 689	Women are obligated in the reading Rashi: they can read for men	Behag: they cannot read for men	
Shulchan Aruch Orach hayim 689	Women are obligated in the reading of the megillah Some say can't read for men		
Aruch Hashulchan Orach Hayim 689:6	Women are equal to men (rejects Tosefta, Behag)		
Marheshet Vol. 1 #22	At night, even according to Behag, women and men have equal obligation	Women are obligated in pirsumei nisa, not obligated in remembrance (war)	

Havvot Yair #10		Different obligation due to R Yehoshua b Levi	
Turei Even Megillah 4A		Different obligation: Men-ruach hakodesh, women-rabbinic	
Or Sameach Laws of Megillah and Chanukah #1		Different obligation: men-ruach hakodesh from a written text, women-as if orally	
Magen Avraham Orach Hayim 689			Midrash Haneelam (not a direct quote)
Beur haGra Orach hayim 689		Midrash Haneelam	
Hayyei Adam Vol.2-3 #155			Can read for herself from a klaf
Korban Netanel Megillah 4A (Rosh) 1:4			Can read for herself or 1 other, cannot read for others-beneath dignity
Ben Ish Hai Parshat Teztaveh, Hil. Purim			Even if knows how to read, hear from men-custom
Mishnah Berurah 689		Kavod tzibbur, or different obligation Woman can discharge obligation of others	Read at home or go to shul Can read for herself (Shaar Hatsiyyun 689:16)
Mikraei Kodesh 29 (R Tz. P. Frank)	Night time reading: equal obligation (rabbinic)		
Yehavveh Daat Vol. 3 51 (R Ov. Yosef)	Women can read for men		
Kaf Hahayyim OH 689	Only in desperate circumstances	May read but beneath dignity	Listen to man, read from a klaf in women's section
Mishne halachot 4:82 (R M Klein)			Priorities

Tze Lach beikvei hatzon (R Shachter)			Can't count to a minyan, questionable motivations, changing minhagim
Mekor Hayyim Livnot Israel 34:6 (R H. D. Halevi)	In pressing circumstances	Can read for women	
Halichot Shlomo Moadim 2 19:3 (R Sh Z Auerbach)		Can read for women	
Women and Megillah Reading p. 59-60 (R Y Henkin)		"Clearly implied halachic option" Practical concerns: second reading, can't hear, teenage boy-beneath dignity	
Bemareh Habazak Vol. 7:52 (R M Ehrenreich and R Y Carmel)		Can read for women "The desire to perform mitzvot through personal involvement is appropriate and correct"	
"Megillah Reading for Women by Women" (R B. Lau)		Can read, "In terms of pure halacha there is no room to undermine the desire of women to organize themselves for a women's megillah reading"	