Deborah Frances-White on Isis, Egyptian Great Mother

So, the legend of Isis sounds like a particularly complex 1980s plot of ‘EastEnders’. There’s lots of killing and revenge and, and fashioning of penises to create new life, but it's certainly what's latent there is not just the feminine idea of nurturing and compassion, but the feminine idea of protection. Because a woman can lift a car off her baby, if necessary. A woman can power through and power forward. And if you look around the world at the moment at the refugee crisis, there are women everywhere doing it hard, protecting, creating space, demanding rights and doing everything in their power to continue on with life, nurturing and compassion, but in an extremely powerful and protective manner.

When I think of Isis, she is somebody who we see represented in terms of menstrual blood, in terms of being larger than her husband – and as someone who’s a little bit taller than my husband, I'm often a little bit conscious of that, and I think, ‘Oh, I shouldn't really wear high heels if we're going out together’ – but she's like towering over him in the imagery and she’s not worried about high heels at all. She's like twice his height, more than, and protecting him.

So, when I see Isis, I think of a regal power and I think of a menstrual power and with all of the circle of life that that involves. And I also see her as being something of a warrior. And those are qualities that I see in many of the women around me.