

# Capturing The Moon Classic And Modern Jewish Tales

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*A Shepherd's Song* Michael Leo Samuel 2014 In an age of great spiritual disconnection and alienation from the deepest aspects of our souls, Rabbi Michael Leo Samuel's *A Shepherd's Song: Psalm 23 and the Shepherd Metaphor in Jewish Thought*, takes us on a spiritual journey through the luminous imagery of the shepherd archetype. The transformative power and message intimated by the shepherd metaphor and its history serves to remind us that we are not alone in a universe that is bereft of God's ethical Presence. Timeless and inspirational, the shepherd metaphor addresses the fundamental relationship between God and man, speaking directly to questions raised by centuries of persecution. What is the nature of suffering in a just universe? How does suffering alter our perceptions of God? How can we rediscover our faith in difficult and challenging times? Rabbi Samuel explores questions of faith that are as old as the story of Job and as modern as the Holocaust.

*By the Light of the Captured Moon* Julian Scheer 2001 The night before school starts, Billy Whee tries to hold onto the fun he and his friends have been having by capturing the last full moon of summer and trying to hide it in his bedroom.

*Stars of David* Abigail Pogrebin 2007-08-14 Sixty-two of the most accomplished Jews in America speak intimately—most for the first time—about how they feel about being Jewish. In unusually candid interviews conducted by former 60 Minutes producer Abigail Pogrebin, celebrities ranging from Sarah Jessica Parker to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, from Larry King to Mike Nichols, reveal how resonant, crucial or incidental being Jewish is in their lives. The connections they have to their Jewish heritage range from hours in synagogue to bagels and lox; but every person speaks to the weight and pride of their Jewish history, the burdens and pleasures of observance, the moments they've felt most Jewish (or not). This book of vivid, personal conversations

uncovers how being Jewish fits into a public life, and also how the author's evolving religious identity was changed by what she heard. · Dustin Hoffman, Steven Spielberg, Gene Wilder, Joan Rivers, and Leonard Nimoy talk about their startling encounters with anti-Semitism. · Kenneth Cole, Eliot Spitzer, and Ronald Perelman explore the challenges of intermarriage. · Mike Wallace, Richard Dreyfuss, and Ruth Reichl express attitudes toward Israel that vary from unquestioning loyalty to complicated ambivalence. · William Kristol scoffs at the notion that Jewish values are incompatible with Conservative politics. · Alan Dershowitz, raised Orthodox, talks about why he gave up morning prayer. · Shawn Green describes the pressure that comes with being baseball's Jewish star. · Natalie Portman questions the ostentatious bat mitzvahs of her hometown. · Tony Kushner explains how being Jewish prepared him for being gay. · Leon Wieseltier throws down the gauntlet to Jews who haven't taken the trouble to study Judaism. These are just a few key moments from many poignant, often surprising, conversations with public figures whom most of us thought we already knew. "When my mother got her nose job, she wanted me to get one, too. She said I would be happier."—Dustin Hoffman "It's a heritage to be proud of. And then, too, it's something that you can't escape because the world won't let you; so it's a good thing you can be proud of it."—Ruth Bader Ginsburg "My wife [Kate Capshaw] chose to do a full conversion before we were married in 1991, and she married me as a Jew. I think that, more than anything else, brought me back to Judaism."—Steven Spielberg "As someone who was born in Israel, you're put in a position of defending Israel because you know how much is at stake."—Natalie Portman "Jewish introspection and Jewish humor is a way of surviving . . . if you're not handsome and you're not athletic and you're not rich, there's still one last hope with girls, which is being funny."—Mike Nichols "I felt not only this enormous pride at being a Jew; I felt this enormous void at not being a better Jew."—Ronald O. Perelman "American Jews, like Americans, have a very consumerist attitude toward their identity: they pick and choose the bits of this and that they like."—Leon Wieseltier "I thought if I had straight hair and a perfect nose, my whole career would be different."—Sarah Jessica Parker "I've always rebelled a little when people say, 'My Jewish values lead me to really care about the poor.' I know some Christians who care about the poor, too."—William Kristol "There were many times when I kept silent about being Jewish as I got older, when Jewish jokes were told."—William Shatner "'Jew bastard' was something I heard a lot."—Leonard Nimoy. "I always liked shiksas."—Larry King "It specifically says in the Torah that you can eat shrimp and bacon in a Chinese restaurant."—Jason Alexander "Yom Kippur is something I do alone, with nobody else, because I believe that my relationship with God is mine and mine only."—Diane von Furstenberg

**Goliath's Head** Alan Fleishman 2010-02 GOLIATH'S HEAD tells of a search for courage and hope amidst crushing oppression. Avi Schneider is a Jewish boy growing up in Russia on the eve of early-twentieth-century revolution. He is nine years old when he meets his own personal devil, Viktor Askinov, a brutal youngster who relishes tormenting Jews. In the following years, Avi is the object of his tormentor's obsession. Fourteen years later in 1905 the Tsar

instigates riots - pogroms - against the poor, teeming Jewish villages. Now a husband and father, Avi takes to the barricades to defend his village from the mob coming to kill the men, rape the women, and burn down his village. Armed, he again faces Viktor Askinov, who is leading the mob. But he has been warned that if he kills Viktor Askinov, he puts his beautiful young wife Sara and newborn son Itzhak in deadly peril. Avi must decide this night what he stands for. Is it survival at any cost, for himself and those he loves? Or is it righteous vengeance for his people?

Love and Treasure Ayelet Waldman 2014-04-01 A spellbinding new novel of contraband masterpieces, tragic love, and the unexpected legacies of forgotten crimes, Ayelet Waldman's *Love and Treasure* weaves a tale around the fascinating, true history of the Hungarian Gold Train in the Second World War. In 1945 on the outskirts of Salzburg, victorious American soldiers capture a train filled with unspeakable riches: piles of fine gold watches; mountains of fur coats; crates filled with wedding rings, silver picture frames, family heirlooms, and Shabbat candlesticks passed down through generations. Jack Wiseman, a tough, smart New York Jew, is the lieutenant charged with guarding this treasure—a responsibility that grows more complicated when he meets Ilona, a fierce, beautiful Hungarian who has lost everything in the ravages of the Holocaust. Seventy years later, amid the shadowy world of art dealers who profit off the sins of previous generations, Jack gives a necklace to his granddaughter, Natalie Stein, and charges her with searching for an unknown woman—a woman whose portrait and fate come to haunt Natalie, a woman whose secret may help Natalie to understand the guilt her grandfather will take to his grave and to find a way out of the mess she has made of her own life. A story of brilliantly drawn characters—a suave and shady art historian, a delusive and infatuated Freudian, a family of singing circus dwarfs fallen into the clutches of Josef Mengele, and desperate lovers facing choices that will tear them apart—*Love and Treasure* is Ayelet Waldman's finest novel to date: a sad, funny, richly detailed work that poses hard questions about the value of precious things in a time when life itself has no value, and about the slenderest of chains that can bind us to the griefs and passions of the past. This eBook edition includes a Reading Group Guide.

**A Picture Book of Harry Houdini** David A. Adler 2015-01-19 Harry Houdini astounded audiences around the globe with his death-defying acts and illusions. With his wife, Bess, often by his side, he freed himself from ropes, handcuffs, straitjackets, and prison cells. Once he even made a ten-thousand-pound elephant vanish into thin air! Yet Harry's life was not always so glamorous. When he was a boy, he shined shoes and did odd jobs to help make ends meet. But a career in magic was always in the cards for Harry. Readers will be mesmerized by this captivating biography of one of the most celebrated escape artists and magicians in history.

Children's books, brain development, and language acquisition Ralf Thiede 2018-11-13 This book correlates English-speaking children's brain development and acquisition of language with the linguistic input that comes from

children's books. Drawing from the most current research on the developing brain, the author demonstrates how language acquisition is exclusively interactive, and highlights the benefit that accrues when that interaction includes the exploratory language play found in early childhood literature. Through discussions of specific domains of grammar, the relation of these domains to children's literature through scaffolding, and the resultant linguistic and cognitive advantages for the child, this volume offers an innovative approach to early brain maturation.

**Fashioning Jews** Leonard Jay Greenspoon 2013 "Proceedings of the twenty-fourth annual symposium of the Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization and the Harris Center for Judaic Studies, October 23-24, 2011"--p. [i].

**Waking the Witch** Pam Grossman 2020-10-06 From the podcast host of The Witch Wave and practicing witch Pam Grossman—who Vulture has dubbed the “Terry Gross of witches”—comes an exploration of the world’s fascination with witches, why they have intrigued us for centuries and why they’re more relevant now than ever. When you think of a witch, what do you picture? Pointy black hat, maybe a broomstick. But witches in various guises have been with us for millennia. In *Waking the Witch*, Pam Grossman explores the impact of the world’s most magical icon. From the idea of the femme fatale in league with the devil to the bewitching pop culture archetypes in *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* and *Harry Potter*; from the spooky ladies in fairy tales to the rise of contemporary witchcraft, witches reflect the power and potential of women. Part cultural analysis, part memoir, *Waking the Witch* traces the author’s own journey on the path to witchcraft, and how this has helped her find self-empowerment and purpose. It celebrates witches past, present, and future, and reveals the critical role they have played—and will continue to play—in the world as we know it. “Deftly illuminating the past while beckoning us towards the future, *Waking the Witch* has all the makings of a feminist classic. Wise, relatable, and real, Pam Grossman is the witch we need for our times” (Ami McKay, author of *The Witches of New York*).

**Moonwalking with Einstein** Joshua Foer 2011-03-03 “Highly entertaining.” –Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker* “Funny, curious, erudite, and full of useful details about ancient techniques of training memory.” –*The Boston Globe* The blockbuster phenomenon that charts an amazing journey of the mind while revolutionizing our concept of memory An instant bestseller that is poised to become a classic, *Moonwalking with Einstein* recounts Joshua Foer's yearlong quest to improve his memory under the tutelage of top "mental athletes." He draws on cutting-edge research, a surprising cultural history of remembering, and venerable tricks of the mentalist's trade to transform our understanding of human memory. From the United States Memory Championship to deep within the author's own mind, this is an electrifying work of journalism that reminds us that, in every way that matters, we are the sum of our memories.

*Putting God on the Guest List* Jeffrey K. Salkin 2005 Updated resources for parents seeking more information about modern Jewish theology, holidays, and

lifecycle events, and Jewish concepts and terminology accompany an updated list of places for tzedakah and information about what non-Jews should know about the bar and bat mitzvah service. Reprint.

**The Cambridge History of Judaism: Volume 2, The Hellenistic Age** W. D. Davies 1984 Vol. 4 covers the late Roman period to the rise of Islam. Focuses especially on the growth and development of rabbinic Judaism and of the major classical rabbinic sources such as the Mishnah, Jerusalem Talmud, Babylonian Talmud and various Midrashic collections.

*Miriam's Tambourine* Howard Schwartz 1988 An illustrated collection of fifty traditional Jewish tales from various parts of the world.

**A Treasury of Jewish Folklore** Nathan Ausubel 1972

*Folktales Aloud* Janice M. Del Negro 2014 A good folktale triggers the imagination, connecting children to a wider world as well as increasing their vocabulary and comprehension skills. In this delightful and easy-to-use book, teacher and storyteller Del Negro gives librarians, teachers, and parents the keys to storytelling success. Including more than a dozen original adaptations of folktales from around the world, tailored specifically for library and classroom use, she Reviews storytelling basics such as selecting a tale and learning the story Offers tips for dealing with stage fright and reluctant listeners Presents a bibliography of recommended online and print resources, steering readers to more wonderful tales to tell For young listeners the folktale is a perfect gateway to the exciting worlds of culture and literature, and Del Negro's book invites their engagement with proven techniques and original story scripts that can be used by experienced as well as beginning tellers.

**Queer Theory and the Jewish Question** Daniel Boyarin 2003-12-10 The essays in this volume boldly map the historically resonant intersections between Jewishness and queerness, between homophobia and anti-Semitism, and between queer theory and theorizations of Jewishness. With important essays by such well-known figures in queer and gender studies as Judith Butler, Daniel Boyarin, Marjorie Garber, Michael Moon, and Eve Sedgwick, this book is not so much interested in revealing—outing—"queer Jews" as it is in exploring the complex social arrangements and processes through which modern Jewish and homosexual identities emerged as traces of each other during the last two hundred years.

**Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith** Gina B. Nahai 2000-02-01 An epic tale blending Persian and Jewish cultures travels from the Tehran's Jewish ghetto, through Turkish whorehouses, to Los Angeles as Lili, with the help of Aunt Miriam the Moon, searches for her magical mother Roxanna the Angel. By the author of *Cry of the Peacock*. Reprint.

**Capturing the Moon** 2008 Thirty-six classic and modern Jewish folk tales. Note:

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The Devil's Arithmetic (Puffin Modern Classics) Jane Yolen 2004-04-12 30th Anniversary edition with a new introduction from the author Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award "A triumphantly moving book." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review

*When Scotland Was Jewish* Elizabeth Caldwell Hirschman 2015-05-07 The popular image of Scotland is dominated by widely recognized elements of Celtic culture. But a significant non-Celtic influence on Scotland's history has been largely ignored for centuries? This book argues that much of Scotland's history and culture from 1100 forward is Jewish. The authors provide evidence that many of the national heroes, villains, rulers, nobles, traders, merchants, bishops, guild members, burgesses, and ministers of Scotland were of Jewish descent, their ancestors originating in France and Spain. Much of the traditional historical account of Scotland, it is proposed, rests on fundamental interpretive errors, perpetuated in order to affirm Scotland's identity as a Celtic, Christian society. A more accurate and profound understanding of Scottish history has thus been buried. The authors' wide-ranging research includes examination of census records, archaeological artifacts, castle carvings, cemetery inscriptions, religious seals, coinage, burgess and guild member rolls, noble genealogies, family crests, portraiture, and geographic place names.

**An Empire of Their Own** Neal Gabler 2010-11-17 A provocative, original, and richly entertaining group biography of the Jewish immigrants who were the moving forces behind the creation of America's motion picture industry. The names Harry Cohn, William Fox, Carl Laemmle, Louis B. Mayer, Jack and Harry Warner, and Adolph Zucker are giants in the history of contemporary Hollywood, outsiders who dared to invent their own vision of the American Dream. Even to this day, the American values defined largely by the movies of these émigrés endure in American cinema and culture. Who these men were, how they came to dominate Hollywood, and what they gained and lost in the process is the exhilarating story of *An Empire of Their Own*.

*The Assistant* Bernard Malamud 2003-07-07 A struggling neighborhood Jewish grocer takes on a helper who falls in love with his daughter and steals from his store

The Jewish Phenomenon Steve Silbiger 2000-05-25 With truly startling statistics and a wealth of anecdotes, Silbiger reveals the cultural principles that form the bedrock of Jewish success in America.

*Leah's Journey* Gloria Goldreich 2012-05-17 Winner of the National Jewish Book Award of 1979, this classic novel of love and war is now available in ebook format for the first time! Violence shattered her golden world, and Leah's journey began... It swept her from the burning villages of old Russia to the tenements of New York, from the glittering showrooms of Paris to the settlements of war-torn Israel. It brought her marriage to a man who yearned for her sweet, denied love - and passion for a man who yearned only for danger. It gave her a son born of shame, and a daughter born to destiny. It tested her love in the shadow of the Depression and the hell of the Nazi fury... And then Leah's journey brought her home.

**Mein Kampf** Adolf Hitler 2021-03-19 'MEIN KAMPF' is the autobiography of Adolf Hitler gives detailed insight into the mission and vision of Adolf Hitler that shook the world. This book is the merger of two volumes. The first volume of MEIN KAMPF' was written while the author was imprisoned in a Bavarian fortress. The book deals with events which brought the author into this blight. It was the hour of Germany's deepest humiliation, when Napoleon has dismembered the old German Empire and French soldiers occupied almost the whole of Germany. The books narrates how Hitler was arrested with several of his comrades and imprisoned in the fortress of Landsberg on the river Lech. During this period only the author wrote the first volume of MEIN KAMPF. The Second volume of MEIN KAMPF was written after release of Hitler from prison and it was published after the French had left the Ruhr, the tramp of the invading armies still echoed in German ears and the terrible ravages had plunged the country into a state of social and economic Chaos. The beauty of the book is, MEIN KAMPF is an historical document which bears the emprint of its own time. Moreover, Hitler has declared that his acts and 'public statements' constitute a partial revision of his book and are to be taken as such. Also, the author has translated Hitler's ideal, the Volkischer Staat, as the People's State. The author has tried his best making German Vocabulary easy to understand. You will never be satisfied until go through the whole book. A must read book, which is one of the most widely circulated and read books worldwide.

Best Jewish Books for Children and Teens Silver 2011-01-01 Linda Silver selected the titles that "represent the best in writing, illustration, reader appeal, and authentically Jewish content--in picture books, fiction and non-fiction, for readers ranging from early childhood through the high school years."--P. [4] of cover.

**Tough Questions Jews Ask** Edward Feinstein 2011-10 With honesty, humour and respect, Rabbi Edward Feinstein tackles topics as diverse as: 'Why does God let terrible things happen?', 'What is God anyway?', and 'If I pray for something, will I get it?'

*The Wise Men of Helm and Their Merry Tales* Solomon Simon 1973 The collection of Jewish folk tales that the New York Times called a delightful little book . . . a classic of its kind . . . full of merriment and wisdom. Illustrated with whimsical drawings, these humorous stories are just right for children.

The Jewish Story Finder Sharon Barcan Elswit 2012-07-27 Storytelling, as oral tradition and in writing, has long played a central role in Jewish society. Family, educators, and clergy employ stories to transmit Jewish culture, traditions, and values. This comprehensive bibliography identifies 668 Jewish folktales by title and subject, summarizing plot lines for easy access to the right story for any occasion. Some centuries old and others freshly imagined, the tales include animal fables, supernatural yarns, and anecdotes for festivals and holidays. Themes include justice, community, cause and effect, and mitzvahs, or good deeds. This second edition nearly doubles the number of stories and expands the guide's global reach, with new pieces from Turkey, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, and Chile. Subject cross-references and a glossary complete the volume, a living tool for understanding the ever-evolving world of Jewish folklore.

**The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales** 2008 A collection of classic Jewish folktales which emphasize values and moral lessons, each with an introduction that places it in context with other Jewish teachings.

**The Chutzpah Imperative** Rabbi Edward Feinstein 2014-09-24 Reconnect with Judaism's most important contribution to humanity—and redeem our world. “The gift of Judaism is an understanding of what it means to be a human being—what we can do, what we can hope for, how we can live with purpose, what is expected of us. It is a celebration of human freedom, human possibility and human responsibility. Judaism is a way to live a heroic life, to construct a life devoted to values that are eternal, values of ultimate significance. The reward of a Jewish life is walking the world with a profound faith that you matter, your life matters, your dreams matter. I call this chutzpah.” —from the Introduction In this clarion call for a new way to “do Judaism,” award-winning spiritual leader Rabbi Edward Feinstein urges us to recover this message of Jewish self-empowerment—or chutzpah—to reshape our world. He walks us through the history of chutzpah—from the early chapters of Genesis, Jewish biblical law and the Rabbis of the Talmud to the mystics of medieval Spain and the European Hasidic tradition, Zionism and post-Holocaust thought. By showing us the ever-presence of chutzpah in Judaism he reveals the inner story of the Jewish People's soul as well as the meaning that Judaism's deepest purpose and most precious treasure has for us today.

I Hate to Say Goodbye Ruti Yudovich 2012-10-22 "How many Arabs did you kill Daddy?" Eight-year-old Rimi--a forward thinking tomboy asks her father upon his return from the Israeli army. Taught to fear Arabs, she then falls in love with one. Rimi's passion to understand life, leads her to orchestrate unusual adventures that at times demand a high price. Her dream of putting joy into everything around her becomes a daunting task when dealing with a depressed mother who goes on mysterious journey and an explosive father she adores. This is an intimate and compelling story of not quite ordinary people caught up in an extraordinary time and place. Passion! Conflicts! Political intrigues! Young and forbidden love! Fertile imaginings and meaningful lessons! The strange and wonderful nuances of living in a farming village and the gut wrenching loss of

a one-true-love. These and much much more (all based on a true story) can be found within. This first book by the emerging writer Ruti Yudovich is an experience to be embraced.

**The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones** Rich Cohen 2017-05-30 A gritty, one-of-a-kind backstage account of the world's greatest touring band, from the opinionated music journalist who was along for the ride as a young reporter for Rolling Stone in the 1990s ONE OF THE TOP FIVE ROCK BIOGRAPHIES OF THE YEAR—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR—KIRKUS REVIEWS A book inspired by a lifelong appreciation of the music that borders on obsession, Rich Cohen's fresh and galvanizing narrative history of the Rolling Stones begins with the fateful meeting of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards on a train platform in 1961—and goes on to span decades, with a focus on the golden run—from the albums *Beggars Banquet* (1968) to *Exile on Main Street* (1972)—when the Stones were at the height of their powers. Cohen is equally as good on the low points as the highs, and he puts his finger on the moments that not only defined the Stones as gifted musicians schooled in the blues, but as the avatars of so much in our modern culture. In the end, though, after the drugs and the girlfriends and the bitter disputes, there is the music—which will define, once and forever, why the Stones will always matter. Praise for *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones* "Fabulous . . . The research is meticulous. . . . Cohen's own interviews even yield some new Stones lore."—*The Wall Street Journal* "[Cohen] can catch the way a record can seem to remake the world [and] how songs make a world you can't escape."—*Pitchfork* "No one can tell this story, wringing new life even from the leathery faces of mummies like the Rolling Stones, like Rich Cohen. . . . The book beautifully details the very meaning of rock 'n' roll."—*New York Observer* "Masterful . . . Hundreds of books have been written about this particular band and [Cohen's] will rank among the very best of the bunch."—*Chicago Tribune* "Cohen, who has shown time and time again he can take any history lesson and make it personal and interesting . . . somehow tells the [Stones'] story in a whole different way. This might be the best music book of 2016."—*Men's Journal* "[Cohen's] account of the band's rise from 'footloose' kids to 'old, clean, prosperous' stars is, like the Stones, irresistible."—*People* "You will, as with the best music bios, want to follow along on vinyl."—*The Washington Post* "A fresh take on dusty topics like Altamont and the Stones' relationship with the Beatles . . . Cohen takes pilgrimages to places like Nellcôte, the French mansion where the Stones made *Exile on Main Street*, and recounts fascinating moments from his time on tour."—*Rolling Stone* "On the short list of worthwhile books about the Stones . . . The book is stuffed with insights."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

**The Jew, The Gypsy and El Islam** Sir Richard Francis Burton 2019-11-25 *The Jew, the Gypsy and El Islam* is a work by Sir Richard Francis Burton. It aims to show what the Christians and Muslims of the East hold to be the belief of the Hebrew race and its religious practices.

**Days of Mashiach** Tzvi Fishman 2011-06-08 "Days of Mashiach" is a collection of original and off-beat stories about Jewish life in Israel and the Diaspora.

Written with a keen and humorous eye on the Jewish experience in our time, the stories center around the redemption of the Jewish People, the ingathering of the exiles, repentance, settlement of the Land of Israel, and Mashiach.

**He, She and It** Marge Piercy 2010-11-24 "A triumph of the imagination. Rich, complex, impossible to put down."—Alice Hoffman In the middle of the twenty-first century, life as we know it has changed for all time. Shira Shipman's marriage has broken up, and her young son has been taken from her by the corporation that runs her zone, so she has returned to Tikva, the Jewish free town where she grew up. There, she is welcomed by Malkah, the brilliant grandmother who raised her, and meets an extraordinary man who is not a man at all, but a unique cyborg implanted with intelligence, emotions—and the ability to kill. . . . From the imagination of Marge Piercy comes yet another stunning novel of morality and courage, a bold adventure of women, men, and the world of tomorrow.

*To Cuba and Back* Richard Henry Dana 1859

□□□□ □□□□ Elyse D. Frishman 2007

**Once a Jew, Always a Jew?** David Dvorkin 2015-09-16 Worldwide, the number of people who call themselves Jews is about 14 million. They may all call themselves Jews, but what they mean by that name varies widely. These self-described Jews range from the most Orthodox, who have submitted themselves entirely to the imagined dictates of an imaginary god, to those who practice various forms of Judaism that are so watered down that they scarcely qualify as a religion, to those who observe no part of Judaism at all other than the celebration of a festival that they may call Hanukkah but that is in reality merely a Judaized version of Christmas. In this short book, I focus on the United States, which until recently had the largest Jewish population in the world—just under six million self-identified Jews. Although it was recently surpassed by Israel, America arguably still has the most politically, socially, and theologically influential Jewish population in the world. According to a survey conducted in 2013 by the respected Pew Research Center, of those almost six million American Jews, 22% "describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or having no particular religion[.]" In the case of the youngest adult American Jews, the so-called Millennial generation, "32% describe themselves as having no religion and identify as Jewish on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture." This large group of Jews, which is a growing percentage of American Jewry, as the above Millennial number shows, is commonly referred to "secular Jews," although some of them prefer the label "atheist Jews." These are the people I want to discuss in this book. I contend that they are not Jews in any meaningful sense of the word. They may wish to call themselves Jews for a number of emotional reasons, but I call upon them to be intellectually honest and accept that they have ceased to be Jews. They are ex-Jews. The contrary argument is based on the idea encapsulated in the phrase "once a Jew, always a Jew." For the anti-Semite, this phrase is used as a slur. It refers to negative character traits supposedly possessed by all Jews. To Jews who think that there

can be such a thing as a secular Jew, the phrase refers to some innate quality, entirely apart from religion, that distinguishes Jews from their non-Jewish neighbors. What is that innate quality? That's the crux of the issue. Let's go hunting for it.

**Living in the Presence** Benjamin Epstein 2019-12-12 In our frantic, fast paced society, we need constant guidance to remind us that we can only find the peace of mind we sorely lack by looking inward. Judaism, like many other spiritual traditions, offers a unique path to cultivating fulfillment and presence of mind. In cultivating peace of mind, we do not aim to achieve transcendence. Rather, our goal is to enter fully into whatever is occurring in our lives and meet it with full presence. But being a better Jew and a happier person are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they are mutually interdependent. From the moment we wake to the moment we fall asleep, biblical commandments provide us with guidelines that encourage us to be aware of the present moment. A Guide to Jewish Mindfulness provides concise and clear instructions on how to cultivate peace of mind in order to attain a life of greater commitment and inspiration for the present moment.