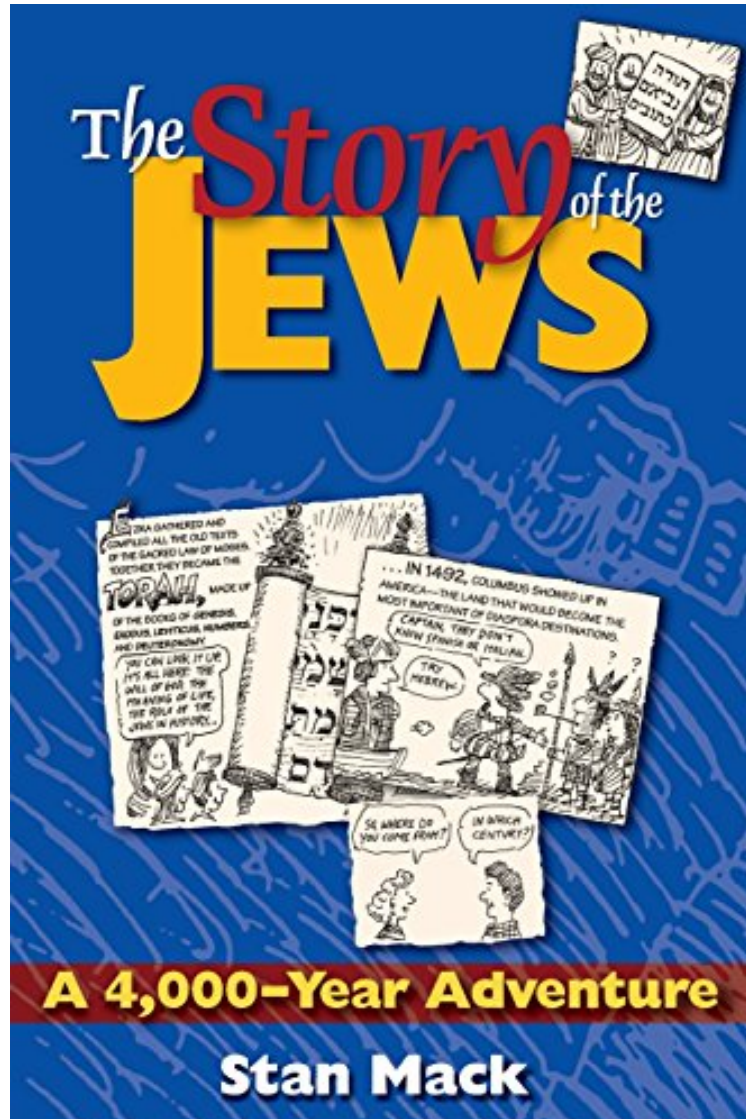


(Read free) The Story of the Jews : A 4,000-Year Adventure

The Story of the Jews : A 4,000-Year Adventure

Stan Mack

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Stan Mack : The Story of the Jews : A 4,000-Year Adventure before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of the Jews : A 4,000-Year Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book for someBy GFun and entertaining. Not wholly accurate. Still a good introduction to the subject if history bores you, or you know nothing about the subject and want a quick introduction. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love it. Briefly gives you information from AvrahamBy DemipitiLove it. Briefly gives you information from Avraham, to the Shoah (Holocaust), to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 (and the Haganah), to a more modern Israel and Jewish Diaspora. Great

book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Gilbert S RosoffAn excellent and visually interesting history for teens and older --highly recommended !!

A Fresh Look at 4,000 Years of Jewish HistoryAuthoritative, Complete...Funny Through witty, illustrated narrative, celebrated artist Stan Mack will take you on a rewarding pictorial journey through 4,000 years of ups and downs in Jewish history. The first "graphic history book" of its kind, *The Story of the Jews* celebrates the major characters and events that have shaped the Jewish people and culture, illustrating what it means to be Jewish. You will visit all the major Jewish happenings from biblical times to the twenty-first centuryfrom Abraham and Sarah on the banks of the Euphrates to the Diaspora, intermarriage, and the State of Israel. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, The triumph of King David, The creation of the Talmud, The rise of Christianity and Islam, The Crusades, The Inquisition, The Enlightenment, Life in the new Babylon (the United States), The birth of the state of Israel, Andof course the world's first Oy!

.com For every Talmudic scholar there are 10 well-intended souls who can't scan a page of Genesis without snoring. But thanks to Stan Mack, the history of the Jews is accessible to anyone who's ever succeeded in reading the comics. With humor, biblical quotes, cartoon sketches, historical accuracy, and an irreverent tone, Mack sums up 4,000 years of Jewish history in a fast-paced, delightful narrative. So a few incidents and details get lost along the way--more important is that what's included actually gets read, because Mack's style and drawings are so beguiling. From Abraham's covenant with God and the introduction of monotheism (a Jewish soldier instructs a Canaanite at sword point, saying "Y'see, our God isn't really fighting your God because our God is your God and your God isn't really a God because...") to today's diverse denominations ("My synagogue is unaffiliated. Our members have an equal say, are nonideological, and have low dues"), Mack's quips and sketches cover a lot of ground, from the Exodus, Romans, Christians and Moslems, onward. He sashays through ghettos and shtetls, illustrates Europe's anti-Semitism and Zionist fever, breezes through immigration to the U.S., WWII, and the establishment of Israel, ending with Jewish culture in the late 20th century. Backed by an index (which makes this a reference instead of a comic book) and a savvy political cartoonist's eye for irony, Mack's book emanates a fondness for his subject. And he tells a good story. -- Stephanie GoldFrom School Library JournalYA-At a near breakneck pace, this graphic-novel-style capitulation of history may be short on explanations but does an extraordinary job of presenting the experiences of the Jewish people in relation to social developments and political exigencies of every era. Humorous line cartoons with the occasional dialogue balloon expressing an "Oy" or an exemplary bit of pilpul carry readers through centuries of Biblical trials, tribulations, and discoveries. Secular Jews may find themselves deeply engaged by this facile journey through a past they haven't been able to reconstruct from traditional world-history courses. Other readers, too, will find a gem or two to nod and smile over. The greatest strength of this text is Mack's ability to humanize the nexus of cultures, whether it is Jews with Syrians, Jews with Greeks, or Jews arriving in the U.S. A supplement to ethnic-studies texts as well as an informative choice for casual readers.Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/religion/article/67522-at-jewish-lights-two-graphic-novels-exceed-expectations.html> (Evan Phail Publishers Weekly)*Jewish Lights*, a Vermont publisher specializing in books on Jewish traditions and culture, doesn't publish a lot of graphic novels, but the two released by the house have managed to exceed all reasonable expectations.First published in 2006, Steve Sheinkin's award-winning *Rabbi Harvey* graphic novel series, eccentric tales about a funny and very wise Rabbi in the old West, has sold more than 50,000 copies across its three volumes. And in 2001, the house acquired rights to former *Village Voice* cartoonist Stan Mack's out-of-print work, *The Story of the Jews: A 4,000-Year Adventure*, a graphic history of the Jewish people originally published by Villard, which has gone on to sell more than 20,000 copies in the *Jewish Lights* edition. That's a lot of sales for a book Matlins almost didn't publish. He rejected the manuscript after he read it the first time. Undaunted, two years later Sheinkin resubmitted the book to *Jewish Lights*; this time Matlins passed the manuscript on to his staff. To his amazement, everyone loved it and Matlin agreed to publish. According to Stuart M. Matlins, publisher and editor-in-chief at *Jewish Lights*, a book appealing to the niche Jewish market can be considered a success if it sells 5,000 copies. The *Rabbi Harvey* graphic novels (three books between 2006 and 2010), have been in print for nearly 10 years and sold tens of thousands of copies in the U.S. and international markets combined. The appeal of the *Rabbi Harvey* graphic novels lay in Sheinkin's hilarious (and educational) combination of classic Jewish folktales with the tropes of the Hollywood western. The books offer a comic version of Talmudic wisdom applied to a succession of crazy problems and riddles brought to the good Rabbi by neighbors looking for advice. Add Sheinkin's wacky stick-figure drawing style and the result is a series of charming Jewish "Westerns" starring the clever rabbi. Matlin said the *Jewish Lights* is dedicated to finding books that help people, "find meaning in their lives," and the *Rabbi Harvey* titles seem to do just that. And while the books are popular with children, Matlins said, Sheinkin's comics appeal to ministers, priests, rabbis, indeed, the whole family. The series has also been translated into French and Portuguese. Matlins suggested that because the Jewish communities are smaller in those countries, the books are finding success by attracting readers from other communities. It's a different story for Stan Mack's smart and funny

history of the Jews. Matlin said he loved the book when it was first published by Villard in 1998. I wished we had published it. Its inordinately brilliant, clever, and absolutely historically accurate," he said. When he found out the book was out of print, It took only seconds for me to accept and we published it in paperback. While these two graphic novels have found success, Matlins said the bigger problem is finding more comics content that is appropriate for Jewish Lights. These days Steve Sheinkin is writing history-related books and has put the Rabbi Harvey series on hold since 2010. But Jewish Lights is excited to be working with two new graphic novelists on original work. Matlins declined to provide more information about the two artists at this time, but said the house has worked for two years with one of the authors, who has been inspired by the Rabbi Harvey series. He expects to publish one of the authors in 2016 and the other in 2017. Looking back, Matlins described both Sheinkin and Macks works as unique, noting that he'd never seen comics like this before. Comics, once a niche market, have found a much bigger audience by offering broader, more diverse content. Besides, he said, any time you do anything new or different, not everyone will like it, but those who do like it will really like it. (Evan Phail Publishers Weekly)