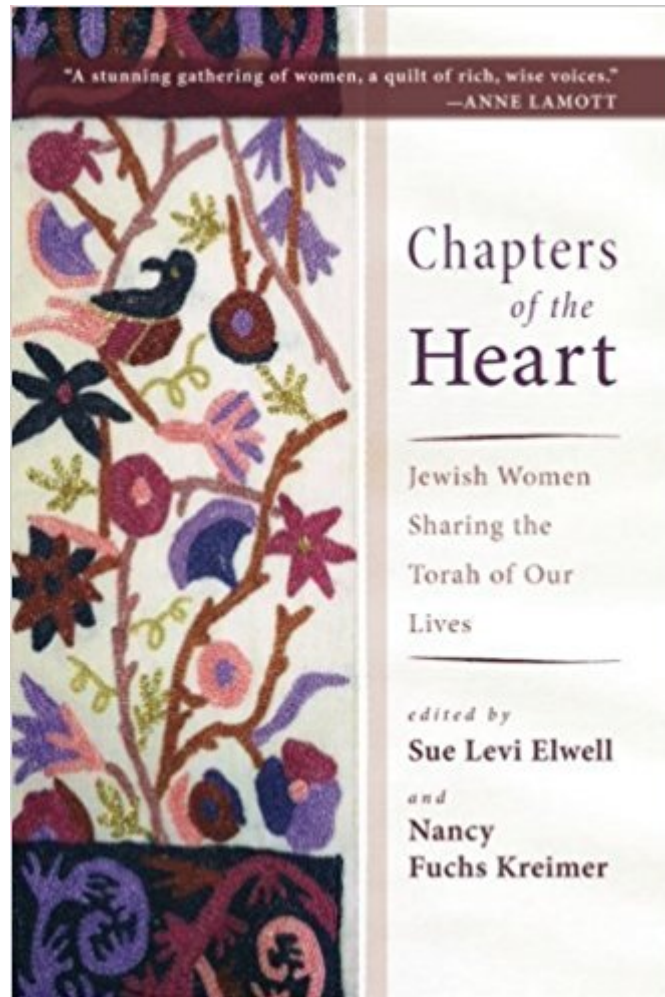


The book was found

Chapters Of The Heart : Jewish Women Sharing The Torah Of Our Lives



Synopsis

Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives invites readers into the lives of twenty women for whom Jewish language and texts provide a lens for understanding their experiences. The authors don't just use religious words (texts, theologies, or liturgies) like a cookbook. Instead they serve readers something closer to a real meal, prepared with love and intention. Each essay shares one piece of its writer's heart, one chapter of experience as refracted through the author's particular Jewish optic. The authors write about being daughters, mothers, sisters, partners, lovers, and friends. They share their experiences of parenting, infertility, and abortion. One describes accompanying her young husband through his life-threatening illness. Another tells of her daughter's struggle with an eating disorder. Still another reflects on long decline of a parent with Alzheimer's. All these writers wrestle with Jewish texts while growing as rabbis, as feminists, and as interfaith leaders. They open their hearts and minds, telling when Jewish tradition has helped make meaning and, on occasion, when it has come up empty. The results are sometimes inspiring, sometimes provocative. Readers will find new insights into God, into Judaism, and into themselves.

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Customer Reviews

Beautiful stories, very well written. I am loving this volume and can't put it down. It's very inspirational and easy to read as someone trying to learn more about the Torah stories. It's very informational and gives a different take on Torah stories than what you hear in typical Torah learning settings. The stories are about women's lives, which are easy to relate to, and then the

authors incorporate Torah or midrash teachings into their life stories in a way that makes the teachings just as relatable, and even if you don't always agree with their take on the teaching you still learn more. This volume would be good for well-studied and newer students of the Torah alike. A wonderful read and great gift.

This book was purchased and given to a friend who has become head of our ritual committee. I did not read the book; rather I skimmed of the chapters. This a combination of intelligent-sharing women which offers an enormous sigh of relief when you hear others speak with you on religion. I believe this to be a wonderful addition to any person's library including your own!

I had the good fortune to attend a presentation of the book by the editors and authors who read excerpts and shared the creative process. I am really looking forward to reading these essays! But after hearing the presentation I do want to share that although these essays may have been written by women who are feminists, the essays are not for feminists alone. They are profoundly moving insights from extraordinary women that teach anyone willing to engage their stories. The power of the stories comes from the willingness to open one's self to others- by being willing to make oneself vulnerable, the message is incredibly strong.

These chapters are written with remarkable courage, grace, and depth. What an exceptional collection of writers! They have crafted essays of great beauty and scholarship. Each one interweaves a particular Jewish text with their individual life experiences in an incredible way. I love this book and highly recommend it.

What a stunning collection of essays by courageous Jewish women, telling their stories of courage and resilience and healing, and bringing new perspectives to familiar Torah texts. I am honored to have studied with a number of these women in my training to become a rabbi, and I am deeply grateful for their inspired leadership and generosity in sharing their journeys.

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