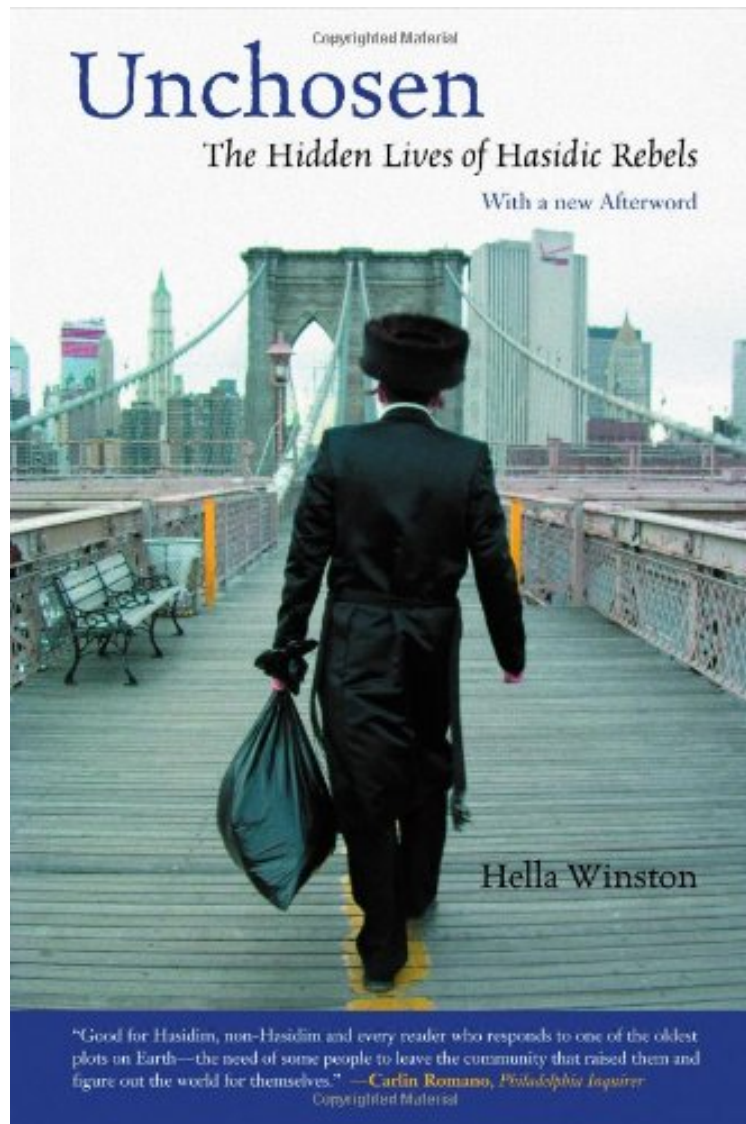


[Download] Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels

Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels

Hella Winston

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#858987 in Books Hella Winston 2006-11-15 2006-11-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.00l, .67 #File Name: 0807036277216 pages Unchosen The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels | File size: 58.Mb

Hella Winston : Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Important Breakthrough book By Cindy T. Rizzo This book was an eye opener, to me as well it seems to the author who thought she was writing about the quaint lives of Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn and instead ended up getting a view beneath the surface of the Fiddler on the Roof fantasy. Even though

she is criticized as showing only the negative side of these communities, she does leave the reader with a clear understanding of why it is so difficult for people to leave--not just because they have no job skills or lack a formal education---but because they have come to expect and seek comfort from a supportive community where people will help you. Of course that help comes at a price and that's what she explores. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating By Dick Gordon Can Well written. Having once flirted with joining the Lubavitch and being unable to give up science and rationality Or sitting beside my spouse in public. I could identify with much written here and left with more information beyond the Lubavitch Hassids. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An interesting Read By Arlyne An insightful book from an author who was allowed into this narrow world. It is not "anti" anything. It is just a good look at the difficult world that constitutes Hasidim. Lives, lived in the 19th century, today. Many will think this is love of God, but the world can love God without dressing like they came from 19th century Poland, or narrowing lives to the control of a small number of people, who are just people. Being a secular Jew, this type of thought disturbs me. One can still, believe, in God without controlling the everyday lives of others. Winston, does a good job.

An exploration of Hasidic Jews struggling to live within their restrictive communities and, in some cases, to carve out a new life beyond them When Hella Winston began talking with Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn for her doctoral dissertation in sociology, she was surprised to be covertly introduced to Hasidim unhappy with their highly restrictive way of life and sometimes desperately struggling to escape it. Unchosen tells the stories of these rebel Hasidim, serious questioners who long for greater personal and intellectual freedom than their communities allow. She meets Malky Schwartz, who grew up in a Lubavitch sect in Brooklyn, and started Footsteps, Inc., an organization that helps ultra-Orthodox Jews who are considering or have already left their community. There is Yossi, a young man who, though deeply attached to the Hasidic culture in which he was raised, longed for a life with fewer restrictions and more tolerance. Yossi's efforts at making such a life, however, were being severely hampered by his fourth grade English and math skills, his profound ignorance of the ways of the outside world, and the looming threat that pursuing his desires would almost certainly lead to rejection by his family and friends. Then she met Dini, a young wife and mother whose decision to deviate even slightly from Hasidic standards of modesty led to threatening phone calls from anonymous men, warning her that she needed to watch the way she was dressing if she wanted to remain a part of the community. Someone else introduced Winston to Steinmetz, a closet bibliophile worked in a small Judaica store in his community and spent his days off anxiously evading discovery in the library of the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary, whose shelves contain non-Hasidic books he is forbidden to read but nonetheless devours, often several at a sitting. There were others still who had actually made the wrenching decision to leave their communities altogether. In her new Preface, Winston discusses the passionate reactions the book has elicited among Hasidim and non-Hasidim alike. Named one of Publishers Weekly's Ten Best Religion Books of 2005. Honorable Mention in the 2012 Casey Medals for Meritorious Journalism

From Publishers Weekly Starred . While other excellent studies by Sue Fishkoff, Stephanie Wellen-Levine and Lis Harris have examined the inner lives of Lubavitcher Hasidim in a mostly positive way, this account distinguishes itself by focusing on the "rebels," not just among the Lubavitch but in other Hasidic communities as well, including the insular and right-wing Satmar sect. Winston, a doctoral candidate in sociology at CUNY, unfolds a world-within-a-world, where some young Hasidim sneak televisions into their apartments in garbage bags, change clothes on the subway to frequent bars in Manhattan and blog about their double lives online. She builds fascinating case studies, inviting readers into her interviewees' conflicted, and often painful, lives. One chapter profiles a famous Hasidic teacher who in fact no longer believes; another offers a walking tour of a Hasidic 'hood (slang for neighborhood); and another chronicles the hopeful and inspiring story of Malkie, a college-age woman who is building a sort of halfway house for others, like her, who have chosen to leave Hasidism. Winston shows us a Hasidic underworld where large families and a lack of secular education have resulted in extreme poverty and some serious at-risk behavior among youth. Her story of courage and intellectual rebellion will inspire anyone who has ever felt like a religious outcast. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The Jews that are this book's subjects are members of the extremely insular Satmar in Brooklyn, one of the largest Hasidic groups in the U.S. Responsible for bearing and raising as many children as possible to husbands they have met only once or twice before marriage, the women are expected to focus on maintaining a Jewish home. The men are obligated to study, and they must pray three times daily. The author, a secular Jew whose mother is a Holocaust survivor, wanted to talk to them for her doctoral dissertation in sociology. Some of these people, Winston found, are able to cope fairly easily with the compartmentalization required of such a life. Others suffer terribly, and often alone, not wanting to live as hypocrites, but also knowing that making the decision to abandon the community's way of life would likely cause rejection by their families and community, and guilt about bringing shame on their relatives and abandoning their traditions. An important work of scholarship and an absorbing account of these Hasidic Jews. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Complex and heart-wrenchingly compelling. --

Caroline Leavitt, Boston Globe "Winston . . . builds fascinating case studies, inviting readers into her interviewees' conflicted, and often painful, lives . . . show[ing] us a Hasidic underworld where large families and a lack of secular education have resulted in extreme poverty and some serious at-risk behavior among youth. Her story of courage and intellectual rebellion will inspire anyone who has ever felt like a religious outcast." --Publishers Weekly, starred review "Good for Hasidim, non-Hasidim and every reader who responds to one of the oldest plots on Earth-the need of some people to leave the community that raised them, and figure out the world for themselves." --Carlin Romano, Philadelphia Inquirer "Dives fearlessly into a fascinating topic . . . Winston channels the exhilaration of her subjects' newfound freedom, without losing all compassion for the disappointed even angry community they are leaving behind." --Holly Lebowitz Rossi, Dallas Morning News