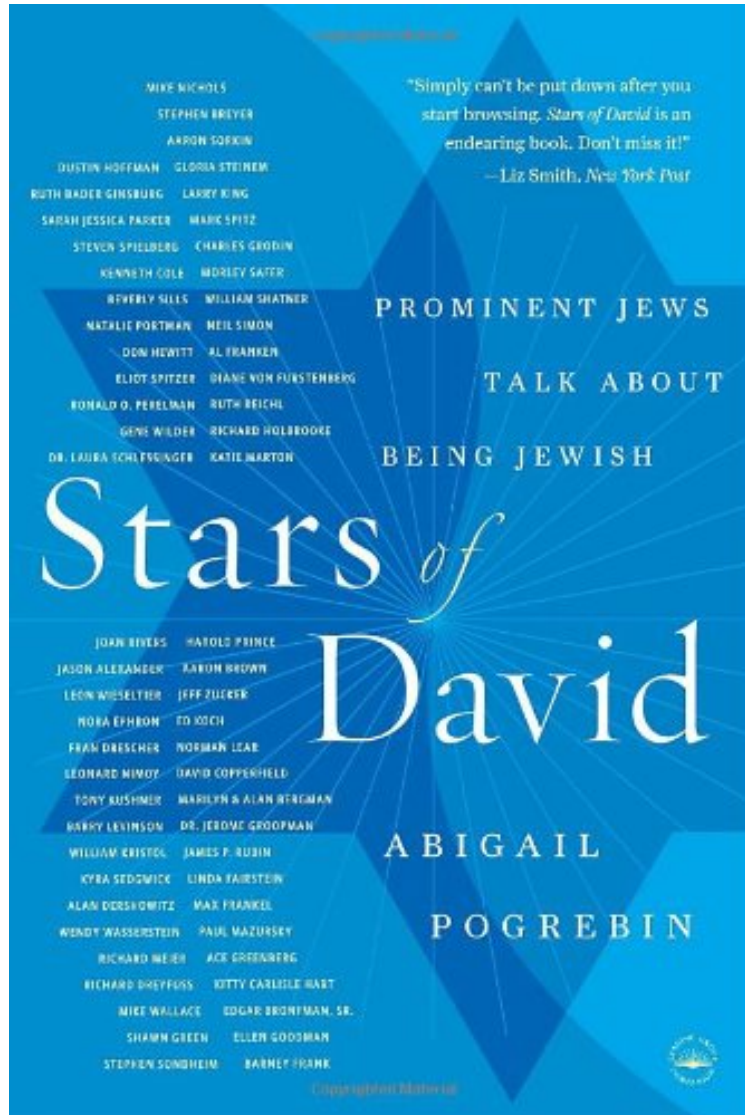


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Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish

Abigail Pogrebin

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#193904 in Books Abigail Pogrebin 2007-08-14 2007-08-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.50l, .69 #File Name: 0767916131402 pages Stars of David Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish | File size: 35.Mb

Abigail Pogrebin : Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ambivalence may be the name of the game By murielwe are [jews] all in this together, wondering where "others" will let us fit in to their groups , retreating when we need to. no matter your talents, life is never easy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was interesting and thought

provoking and led to some great discussions. Who could ask for anything better from ...By Barbara MI was not expecting much, but I was pleasantly surprised. I still wonder what her selection process was---probably a convenience sample, Bit in the end, it did not matter. It was interesting and thought provoking and led to some great discussions. Who could ask for anything better from a book?0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The world is too much with us.By Shirley FriendVery interesting book includes interviews with celebrities about their feelings about their Jewishness. The book was well done butI felt it was sad because of the attitudes of some of those interviewed I feel that this generation has lost a great deal of the beautyof the religion. The world is too much with us.It is sad, but I am very glad I read it.Shirley Friend

Sixty-two of the most accomplished Jews in America speak intimatelymost for the first timeabout 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 theyve felt most Jewish (or not). This book of vivid, personal conversations uncovers how being Jewish fits into a public life, and also how the authors 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 baseballs 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 havent 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 HoffmanIts a heritage to be proud of. And then, too, its something that you cant escape because the world wont let you; so its a good thing you can be proud of it. Ruth Bader GinsburgMy 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 SpielbergAs someone who was born in Israel, youre put in a position of defending Israel because you know how much is at stake. Natalie PortmanJewish introspection and Jewish humor is a way of surviving . . . if youre not handsome and youre not athletic and youre not rich, theres still one last hope with girls, which is being funny. Mike NicholsI felt not only this enormous pride at being a Jew; I felt this enormous void at not being a better Jew. Ronald O. PerelmanAmerican Jews, like Americans, have a very consumerist attitude toward their identity: they pick and choose the bits of this and that they like. Leon WieseltierI thought if I had straight hair and a perfect nose, my whole career would be different. Sarah Jessica ParkerIve 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 KristolThere were many times when I kept silent about being Jewish as I got older, when Jewish jokes were told. William ShatnerJew bastard was something I heard a lot. Leonard Nimoy. I always liked shiksas. Larry KingIt specifically says in the Torah that you can eat shrimp and bacon in a Chinese restaurant. Jason AlexanderYom 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

From Publishers WeeklyConsistently engaging, these 60 interviews conducted by journalist Pogrebin explore the thoughts of well-known artists, politicians and others in the public eye on the complexities of Jewish identity;and the emotions they engender. The issues touched on range from the legacy of the Holocaust to the Middle East, Jewish traditions, intermarriage and much more. The conflicts are typified by Sarah Jessica Parker, who says her supportive feelings about Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians make her feel more Jewish, but she is uncertain about the religious education she will give her child. Others, like Dustin Hoffman and William Kristol, have been firmly committed to passing on Jewish rituals and history to their children. Gloria Steinem, who joyfully attends feminist seders, still remains alienated by the sexist bias of most religions. In two arresting pieces, politician Barney Frank and playwright Tony Kushner address what it's like to be both gay and Jewish. Pogrebin says this book grew out of her efforts to clarify her own Jewish identity. But you don't need to be on such a quest to enjoy the wide range of experiences and feelings recorded here. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pogrebin not only succeeded in securing access to dozens of celebrities, but also managed the difficult task of getting them to open up about a facet of their very public lives that generally has remained private. The Forward*** People MagazineFrom the Inside FlapSixty-one of the most accomplished Jews in America speak intimately--most for the first time--about how they feel about being Jewish, the influence of their heritage, the weight

and pride of their history, the burdens and pleasures of observance, the moments they've felt most Jewish (or not). In unusually candid interviews conducted by former "60 Minutes producer Abigail Pogrebin over the course of eighteen months, celebrities ranging from Sarah Jessica Parker to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, from Larry King to Mike Nichols, reveal how being Jewish fits into their public and most private lives. This book of vivid, personal portraits reveals how the experience of being Jewish is amplified by fame and also how the author's evolving Jewish identity was changed by what she heard. - Dustin Hoffman, Gene Wilder, Joan Rivers, and Leonard Nimoy talk about their most startling encounters with anti-Semitism. - The challenges of intermarriage are explored by Kenneth Cole, Steven Spielberg, Eliot Spitzer, and Ronald Perelman.- Attitudes toward Israel range from unquestioned loyalty to complicated ambivalence in the musings of Mike Wallace, Richard Dreyfuss, Natalie Portman, and Ruth Reichl. - William Kristol scoffs at the notion that Jewish values are incompatible with Conservative politics.- Alan Dershowitz talks about why, despite his Orthodox upbringing, he gave up morning prayer. - Shawn Green, baseball's Jewish star, describes the burden of that label.- Tony Kushner finds parallels in being Jewish and being gay. - Leon Wieseltier throws down the gauntlet to Jews who haven't taken the trouble to study Judaism. These are just a few snapshots from many poignant, often hilarious conversations -- with public figures whom many of us felt we already knew.