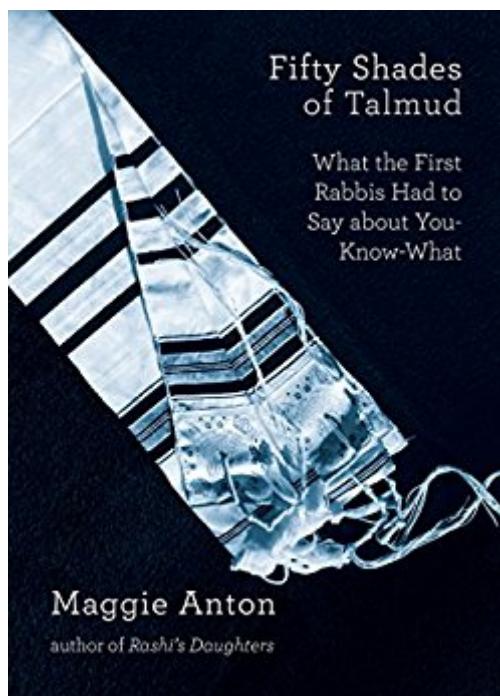


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Fifty Shades Of Talmud: What The First Rabbis Had To Say About You-Know-What



Synopsis

Amusing. Seductive. Stimulating. We're talking about the Talmud? That's right. Take fifty actual Talmudic discussions, mix in pithy sayings (appropriate and inappropriate) by luminaries from Mae West and Amy Schumer to George Washington and Gandhi, add a few cartoons, and delighted and enlightened readers will come away with a new perspective on what the Talmudic sages say about our most intimate relationships. In this lighthearted, in-depth tour of sexuality within the Talmud, come eavesdrop at the first rabbis' locker-room door as they discuss every aspect of sexual relations--how, when, where, with whom--often in startlingly explicit fashion. Author Maggie Anton reveals how Jewish tradition is more progressive in many respects, and more bawdy, than one might think. The award-winning historical novelist's first foray into nonfiction is likely to leave her fans going OMG, WTF, and even LOL.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fifty Shades of Talmud (about sex?). Oy. What made Maggie Anton even think of this? A lovely, talented Jewish woman, creator of bestsellers (Rashi's Daughters; Rav Hisda) An

observant daughter of the Hebrew Tribe? And who ever imagined she was this funny, this inquisitive and so clever. I am so happy someone did. Folks have been singing "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" ever since Paul Simon - a nice Jewish boy (but not a doctor alas) wrote it and inspired men to "make new plan or drop off the key. In fact the term "50 Ways" has become vernacular in the last few decades - as shades of grey most recently. But rabbis and sages? Who'd have thought? And yet they thought about it a good deal and in at least 50 ways - as they compiled the Mishnah and Gemara and reaching - at times confusing - conclusions. You gotta read this one!!!! You don't even have to be Jewish (but it couldn't hurt). I started chuckling after I read the first page, blushing a little and then laughing out loud as Ms. Anton delved (is that the right word) into the close-up views and interpretations of sex between Jewish men and women in biblical times and "doing it". They spent many years debating the subtitles and finer points of sex among Jews and the list of euphemisms is a ganzer gescheften. And it has remained so as this discussion has continued for centuries. Want to know about your Yetzer Hara and what to do about it if it gets out control? Or ask your wife to wear a nighty? No way. - that is how the conquering Persians did it and if a good Jewish husband asked for this - divorce was inevitable and a fine was paid to the wife. Makes rethink of a wedding joke about teeth. But you must trust me on this, there will be no more spoilers. I must admit, as I read I pictured the sages in black suits, wide brimmed hats, Eastern European accents and gestures, schmoozing at a bungalow colony in the mountains. I doubt if this is kosher, but that's what I saw in my head. The quotes are delicious and for you true scholars of Talmud; there are citations in the back. Who could make this up? Read it, send it to friends and enjoy - some restrictions do apply - but buy it - you'll like it. I did.

I appreciate that it was only \$5, but it was just not that well done, in my opinion. It could have been a little more scholarly and lot more funny. In trying to explain how contradictory Talmudic scholars and Sages are, she ends up getting lost right along with them. Surprisingly, she just isn't that good at making her case; i.e. that trying to create holy laws to govern the minutiae of anything that could be considered sexual can't help but become funny after 1500 years. If we are going to enjoy some light-hearted laughs about how brilliant medieval men seriously debated the finer points of what defines a nipple, being more clear about what those laws were... would have really helped with the humor. She certainly comes across as a delightful person with a happy, accepting view of sex, I just wish the book had been done with a little more care but then again, it was only \$5! :)

I received my copy of Fifty Shades of Talmud early yesterday afternoon and peeked inside it for a quick preview. That was all it took for me to realize I couldn't put the book down and finished it in just a couple of hours. It really does offer laugh-out-loud moments, and it is fascinating to read of the Talmudic rabbis' own fascination with sex. Ms. Anton is an engaging author as proven by her previous books, the Rashi's Daughter series, and Rav Hisda's Daughter and its sequel, Enchantress. I eagerly look forward to her next book. Kohenet Gail Tishman

This is not just a funny title for a short, easy reading humorous book. Fifty shades of Talmud is written by the very knowledgeable Maggie Anton whose previous books about Rashi's Daughters and Rav Hisda's Daughter educate the reader about fascinating Jewish history as well as illuminate Mishnaic law and Talmudic debates. As an avid reader of those biblical historical fiction novels, I was excited to get into this book. Initially put off by its size, I quickly realized that it's a perfect little book, engaging the reader about the specific topic of sex in the Talmud with humor to help the reader get comfortable with the idea that the rabbis actually discussed these issues. This book will surely instigate interesting discussion at my book group.

Wow! I was not familiar with this aspect of the Talmud. But it is written by a Talmudic scholar, so the subjects therein have some or a lot of merit.

I would have given 5 stars but I felt that the book was far too short... what was there was so interesting though, it made me hunger and thirst for a lot more... I am sure you can relate... Make the next volume on this subject more complete.. I want to know more on sex and the Talmud but I cannot get past the ancient euphemistic language... Please help us..

Enjoyed the book, although there were other sections that could have been included. Would have liked a more scholarly approach, but the references in the back allowed me to go back to source and check. Only issue was that book was printed upside down - opens from the back cover. I'm hoping this was a one-off mistake and that it will become a valuable collector's item some day :-)

Fascinating look at the sexual themes in the revered Jewish holy book, the Talmud. Maggie Anton's approach is somewhat brash, often bawdy, and filled with fascinating insights.

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