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Megillat Esther



Synopsis

Megillat Esther is commonly referred to as the Book of Esther: but there is nothing common about JT Waldman's interpretation of this Biblical story. In what may be the world's first religious, scholarly comic book, Waldman tells the epic tale of exile and redemption in graphic form. When Esther, a Jewish woman, is made Queen of Persia she must keep her identity hidden, all the while maneuvering to save her people from annihilation. This is a story familiar to many Jews who have heard it recounted every year on the holiday of Purim. But readers of all backgrounds will be entranced by what artist Waldman depicts in his interpretation of the text. At once traditional and groundbreaking Megillat Esther will challenge secular assumptions about the Bible. Each page of Megillat Esther is a visual tour de force and features the Hebrew text with original English translation, as well as opulent drawings depicting the story of the Persian Queen. Traditional interpretations of the story are woven throughout the panels. Megillat Esther presents the reader with a topsy-turvy world in which fortunes reverse and nothing is what it seems. This vibrant, edgy retelling of a classic Biblical tale is sure to amaze and intrigue scholars and laypeople of all religions and comic book lovers alike.

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: The Jewish Publication Society; 12/16/05 edition (August 4, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0827607881

ISBN-13: 978-0827607880

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #188,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Teens > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #40 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Religion & Spirituality #175 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens > Teens

Customer Reviews

"Waldman's Megillat Esther is a visual masterpiece. The richly detailed pages are dazzling. . . this is just the sort of independent, intelligent, nonapologetic work that JPS and entities like it should be promoting." •The Forward (The Forward)"Through text and art, Waldman feeds readers only the raw words, emotions, and actions of each of the characters, illustrated by

Expressionist-inspired drawing."•Jerusalem Report (Jerusalem Report)"JT Waldman is a very talented young man who has provided an original translation, artwork, and calligraphy for Megillat Esther. In essence, he has written and illustrated an adult comic book version of this classic story. The artwork is stunning, revealing layers of meaning behind the text... This is a work of great creativity and originality."•Jewish Book World (Jewish Book World)"A bravura display of detail and technique."•Will Eisner (Will Eisner)"Waldman's book represents a new breed of biblical work: more than a simple illuminated manuscript, he provides a visually interpreted translation of Esther with commentary. To my knowledge, nothing like this has ever been created."•SBL Forum (Society of Biblical Literature) (SBL Forum)

Megillat Esther has received strong, positive reviews from the scholarly press, comic book publications and aficionados, and the Jewish media, including: "Through exultant, grandiose images, Waldman has produced a true anomaly in comic book circles; a religious, scholarly graphic novel." - The Forward "Through text and art, Waldman feeds readers only the raw words, emotions, and actions of each of the characters, illustrated by Expressionist-inspired drawing." - The Jerusalem Report "JT Waldman is a very talented young man who has provided an original translation, artwork, and calligraphy for Megillat Esther. In essence, he has written and illustrated an adult comic book version of this classic story. The artwork is stunning, revealing layers of meaning behind the text... This is a work of great creativity and originality..." - Jewish Book World "A bravura display of detail and technique..." - Will Eisner "...Waldman's book represents a new breed of biblical work: more than a simple illuminated manuscript, he provides a visually interpreted translation of Esther with commentary. To my knowledge, nothing like this has ever been created." --SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) Forum

This is a wonderful telling of the story of Esther in graphic novel form. The text of the novel is true to the Megillah, and accompanied by some commentary at different points. If I had one complaint, it's that it's sometimes difficult to tell the commentary from the story. The drawings are creative and bring out aspects of the story, especially ones that are traditionally overlooked, in innovative ways. There is a salacious quality to the story, and this is represented in the drawings, so I wouldn't recommend it for young children.

The Book of Esther lends itself quite well to the graphic novel format. JT Waldman has done a brilliant job with arresting graphics and a translation that complements the images. Moreover,

Waldman has included the original Hebrew text to give an even richer experience to this book. If that were not enough (Dayenu), there are rabbinic citations, a bibliography, side stories, and halfway through, the book flips over and you read the text in Hebrew fashion right to left. Although the tradition at Purim is to read the story with appropriate sound effects, this graphic novel approach is truly novel and beautifully brings the story alive adding another dimension to the characters and actions.

The art and the concern delivered by Waldman is only matched by the entertainment value and readability of the story for Purim. A wonderful work for young and old, for Jewish families and interested onlookers.

I bought this book for my husband as he was preparing a program for our Purim celebration in our shul. I waited too long to order so it came a couple of days late. He wasn't able to use it for his preparations this year but he LOVES the book and it's rich illustrations and interesting text. Tells the story of Esther in a very innovative way.

Our second copy of this beautiful megillat Esther - perfect for my teenaged kids.

Love the flip in the middle of the book but the pictures and text are too abstract to really follow

A great combination of modern attitude, deep rooted wisdom and unique visual talent. A must-have. A retelling that is accessible to everyone.

I just think it's so great that someone ventured to turn Megillat Esther into a graphic novel. The artwork is beautiful, and graphic novel is an interesting medium in which to interpret biblical text.

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