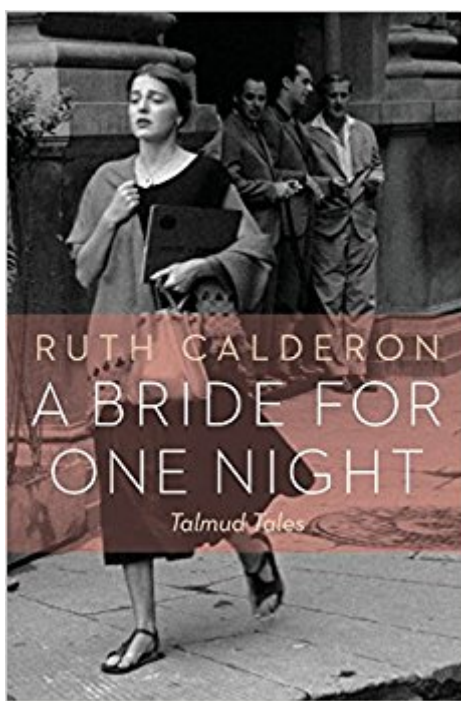


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A Bride For One Night: Talmud Tales



Synopsis

Browse discussion questions Ruth Calderon has recently electrified the Jewish world with her teachings of talmudic texts. In this volume, her first to appear in English, she offers a fascinating window into some of the liveliest and most colorful stories in the Talmud. Calderon rewrites talmudic tales as richly imagined fictions, drawing us into the lives of such characters as the woman who risks her life for a sister suspected of adultery; a humble schoolteacher who rescues his village from drought; and a wife who dresses as a prostitute to seduce her pious husband in their garden. Breathing new life into an ancient text, *A Bride for One Night* offers a surprising and provocative read, both for anyone already intimate with the Talmud or for anyone interested in one of the most influential works of Jewish literature.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (37 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

to the rescue. Our magazine needed a second copy of this book, on a faster schedule than the publisher could meet. got it to us in two days, helping us meet our publishing deadline. Reviewer David C. Jacobson wrote (in part): Rabbinic legends have been of central interest to the returners to the Jewish bookcase, and collections of such legends that attempt to make them accessible to the general reader have been composed in Israel in recent years by such writers as Ari Elon, Adriel Kosman, and Ruhama Weiss (all of them following in the giant footsteps of Bialik and Ravnitzky's *Sefer Ha-aggada*). Ruth Calderon's contribution to this growing genre was titled in Hebrew *Hashuq. Habayit. Halev: Aggadot Talmudiyyot* (The Market. The Home. The Heart:

Talmudic Legends). It was published in 2001, and the Jewish Publication Society has now brought out an English edition of this important book under a different title, *A Bride for One Night: Talmud Tales* (well translated into English by Ilana Kurshan). Calderon selected 18 "one of which is not included in the English edition" brief rabbinic legends from talmudic and midrashic sources. In addition to her reflections on the contemporary significance of each story, Calderon presents what she refers to in the Introduction as "a midrash, or creative retelling that springs from my own imagination." It isn't easy for the contemporary reader to appreciate rabbinic stories. They emerge as part of the associative flow of talmudic discussions of law and legend, and only a person trained in the reading of rabbinic texts would even be able to locate them. (They are not, needless to say, titled.) Many of them are written in Aramaic, a language not comprehensible to most Israelis.

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