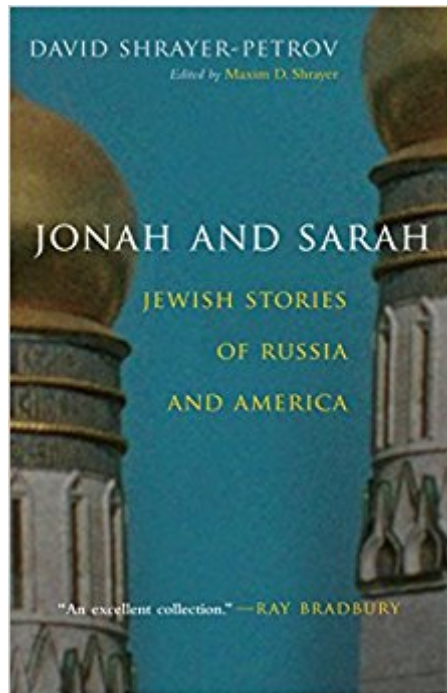


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Jonah And Sarah: Jewish Stories Of Russia And America (Library Of Modern Jewish Literature)



Synopsis

From the deceptively simple narratives *Apple Cider Vinegar* and *Hurricane Bob* to the surrealist story *Dismemberers* and the magical tales *Jonah and Sarah* and *Lanskoy Road*, the tempo fluctuates, but throughout, David Shrayer-Petrov seamlessly preserves familiar voices. The stories have a genuine feel of the setting and epochthe Russian stories work as narratives of everyday life, while the American stories offer an accurate sense of an immigrant's alienation. Like all good works of fiction, these stories take on a mythic quality and transcend time and place. Each carries and communicates to the reader an aura of mystery, the enigma of love, and a meeting of Jewish past and present. Whether he invokes lyrical dialogue, gentle irony, or sharp polemical discourse, Shrayer-Petrov shows that he is a powerful presence in Russian and Jewish literature. For those interested in fiction about new immigrants to America or in the psychology of Jews in the two decades before the Soviet Union's collapse, this collection is a must read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have just completed reading this collection of short stories and am moved by their sheer beauty and powerful message. Shrayer is a first rate literary artist, and it is so wonderful that his author son, Maxim, was able to translate them so the English speaking world could benefit from their aesthetic power. It would have been a shame if Shrayer's stories had not made it to the west, because they have so many compelling and exquisite things to say about being human under extraordinary

circumstances. This is a book that deserves a wide readership. Rarely does a work of literature strike as many high notes as this one.

I bought "Jonah and Sarah" based on a positive review I read and I enjoyed this collection a great deal. The short stories are moving and offer fascinating perspectives on Jewish life in the Soviet Union, immigration and Jewish life in America. The translations are superb. What makes the collection special is that it was edited by the author's son and is a labor of love. I recommend it highly. I think it would make a great holiday gift!

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