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One-Minute Jewish Stories

Shari Lewis

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Shari Lewis : One-Minute Jewish Stories before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One-Minute Jewish Stories:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The way back to ChelmBy Alyssa A. LappenI had no idea when I watched Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop on television as a child that her grandfather was a rabbi. So we learn in the introduction to this charming book. "I found myself weeping as I read of the indomitable spirit with which endless generations of Jews have faced a hostile world," she writes. The book includes 20 stories, none more than two pages, and several of them related, touchingly, in only one. Several are Biblical, such as Abraham and the idols, how Moses became a stutterer, Jonah and Nineveh and one of David. Children will also delight in Solomon's lesson about the importance of small creatures. Other tales are Talmudic, for example one about the boy who prays with a flute. Still others are humorous, like the tale of the cobbler from Chelm: On a trip from Chelm to the big city, he falls asleep under a tree, but first points his boots toward Warsaw so he'll know which way to go when he awakens. As he sleeps, a branch dangling from the side of a wagon turns the boots around. When he wakes, the toes point towards Chelm so he follows them back home. He arrives thinking, "Why is Warsaw so famous? This is no different than Chelm." Kids love these stories so much that our copy is falling apart.--- Alyssa A. Lappen

Twenty stories from various aspects of Jewish life--the Talmud, folklore, the Bible, history--all in a format for reading in one minute.

From School Library Journal Grade 1-4--This is the ninth in the series of "one-minute" stories, and includes tales of Jewish interest based on literary and historical tradition as well as the Bible and Talmud. The book is being marketed as a way for busy Jewish parents to "free up time" while simultaneously sharing their rich cultural heritage with their children. It is appropriately arranged for this purpose with several brightly colored illustrations on each double-page spread; each story occupies no more than two facing pages, making it easier to read quickly. Yes, it is possible to read each of these stories aloud in one minute if one reads quickly and with little attention to the niceties that make the experience an enjoyable one for listeners. The question is, why bother? Most of these stories are so abbreviated that they lack any unique flavor or character: they tend to be simplistic, and at times preachy. Busy parents would do better to spend seven minutes once a week sharing a longer, richer story.-Susan Kaminow, Arlington County Public Library, VA Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.