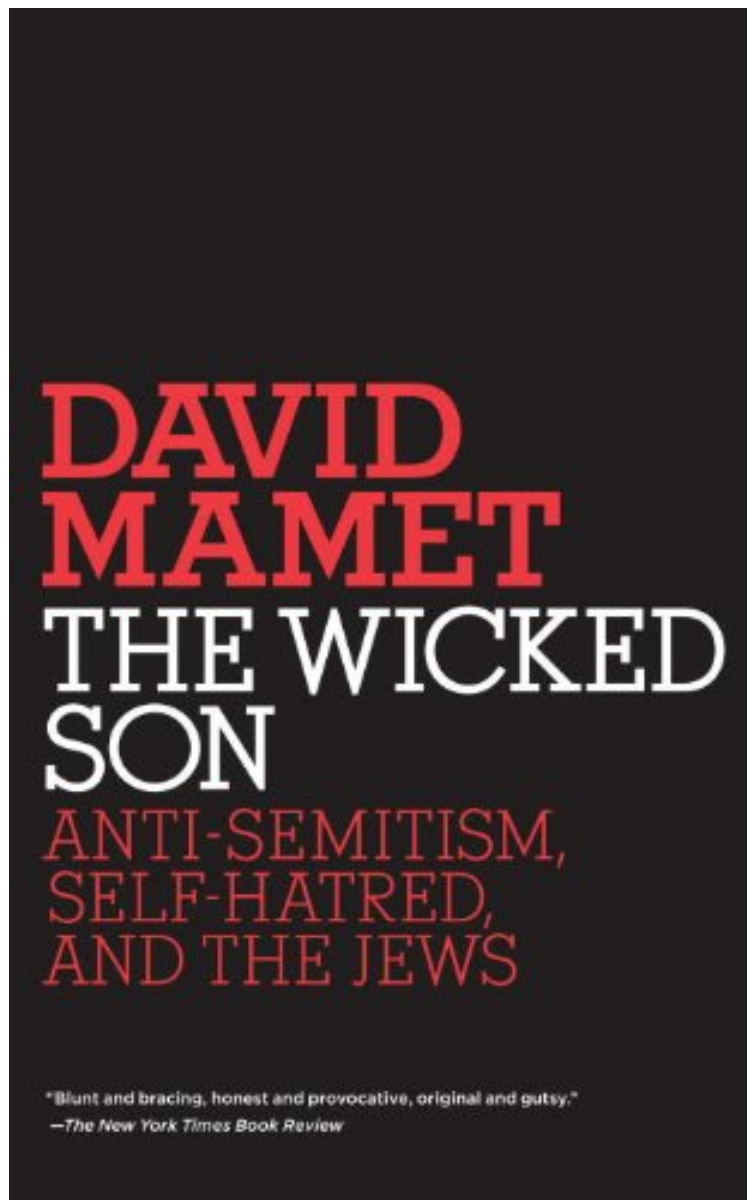


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## The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-hatred, and the Jews (Jewish Encounters Series)

David Mamet

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David Mamet : The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-hatred, and the Jews (Jewish Encounters Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wicked Son: Anti-Semitism, Self-hatred, and the Jews (Jewish Encounters Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thank you, Mr. Mamet. By Paige Turner This book answered some questions for me about liberal Jewish philosophy- which has often puzzled me. Mr. Mamet has obviously thought much about it also and had the desire and patience to find answers. It is, as would be expected, well written. It is also well thought out. Hopefully, with Mr. Mamet's insight, we will learn to carry ourselves proudly and not be the cause of our own demise.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For American Jews/ best book in 50 years By Kilian Schneider The writing and ideas in this book represent the best writing on the experience of being a "JEW" in America from the 60s to the present. Thank you Mr Mamet, especially for calling out Chomsky. Book gave led a lot more empathy, compassion and understanding of President Obama - who is not mentioned in the book. It is the way DM explained the "damned of you do, damned of you don't" explanation of how one is to act when half of you family is one ethnicity.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very well-written, intelligent book from a proud Jew... By Justin Roth I became interested in David Mamet from an interview I saw with him on PBS's The Charlie Rose Show. He came across as highly intelligent in a down-to-earth kind of way and very proud of his Jewishness. This prompted me to purchase this book, The Wicked Son. In it, Mamet rails against anti-semitic ideologies, anti-semites themselves, as well as "self-hating Jews". I find his raw, unapologetic writings on this subject matter to be refreshing, especially in the current climate of divisiveness in American Jewry. This book led me to purchase and read his book The Secret Knowledge, another intelligent text about Mamet's newly realized conservatism (please see my review). This book, I highly recommend. Five out of five stars! Keep your books coming, Mamet!

David Mamet's interest in anti-Semitism is not limited to the modern face of an ancient hatred but encompasses as well the ways in which many Jews have internalized that hatred. Using the metaphor of the Wicked Son at the Passover seder (the child who asks, "What does this story mean to you?") Mamet confronts what he sees as an insidious predilection among some Jews to exclude themselves from the equation and to seek truth and meaning anywhere--in other religions, political movements, mindless entertainment--but in Judaism itself. He also explores the ways in which the Jewish tradition has long been and still remains the Wicked Son in the eyes of the world. Written with the searing honesty and verbal brilliance that is the hallmark of Mamet's work, The Wicked Son is a powerfully thought-provoking look at one of the most destructive and tenacious forces in contemporary life.

From Publishers Weekly The world hates the Jews. The world always has and will continue to do so." So says celebrated playwright and novelist Mamet in this new entry in the Jewish Encounters series, as he sets his sights on both anti-Semites and apostate Jews, whom he refers to as "the Wicked Sons." Mamet marshals his passion and mastery of language to argue that only religious observance is an authentic, non-self-hating expression of Judaism. Organizing that argument coherently, however, doesn't seem to be a priority, as he moves from discussions of the State of Israel to excoriations of assimilated Jews and contemporary culture and back with no apparent order. The tone is that of the condescending expert: alternately Talmudic scholar, academic, psychoanalyst and anthropologist. But nowhere is Mamet's expertise proven; he provides no source materials to back up his pronouncements on everything from Santa Claus to gun control to religious observance. The implication of this bombastic text seems to be that anyone who disagrees is a coward, an anti-Semite or a self-hating Jew. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Mamet, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and filmmaker, has written a rather confusing but very provocative analysis of what is often called the "longest hatred" and its effects on Jews. Those unfamiliar with the often-oblique dialogue that characterizes Mamet's fiction will probably find wading through his language frustrating. His repeated allusions to the Bible and other literary sources are strained, and he paints with too broad a brush ("the world hates Jews"). If one can cut through the fog and tolerate his generalizations, it is evident that Mamet is on to something, particularly in his views on the apparent increase in Jewish disdain for and rejection of their own culture. He ties Jewish self-hatred to anti-Semitism, asserting that the victims eventually wonder if they somehow "deserve" the opprobrium heaped on them. So called "emancipated" Jews may try to cleanse themselves of racial taint by disparaging "Jewish" traits. Of course, Mamet finds the worst manifestations of this self-hatred in those Jews who seem to delight in attacking the very existence of Israel. In Mamet's view, they absurdly condemn Jewish passivity during the Holocaust and condemn Jewish aggressiveness in defending the State of Israel. This isn't an easy book to read, and it will likely outrage many Jews and non-Jews, but Mamet's blunt, passionate assertions have to be seriously considered. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A bold and blistering attack on all aspects of this enduring phenomenon, and a probing analysis of its root causes and some of its more insidious manifestations." Chicago Sun-Times Like everything Mamet does, [The Wicked Son] is blunt and bracing, honest and provocative, original and gutsy. The New York Times Book Rare among the defenders of the Jews and of Judaism Mamet recognizes the romance in the story of his ancient religion and race, and finds the words beautiful enough to describe it. The International Jerusalem Post [Mamets] clarity, insight, and passion . . . can be both devastatingly witty and scathingly angry. The New York Post Incendiary. The Jewish Observer