

Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural

From Oxford University Press

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Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural From Oxford University Press

Once upon a time in the city of Tunis, a flirtatious young girl was drawn into Lilith's dangerous web by glancing repeatedly at herself in the mirror. It seems that a demon daughter of the legendary Lilith had made her home in the mirror and would soon completely possess the unsuspecting girl. Such tales of terror and the supernatural occupy an honored position in the Jewish folkloric tradition. Howard Schwartz has superbly translated and retold fifty of the best of these folktales, now collected into one volume for the first time. Gathered from countless sources ranging from the ancient Middle East to twelfth-century Germany and later Eastern European oral tradition, these captivating stories include Jewish variants of the Pandora and Persephone myths and of such famous folktales as "The Fisherman and His Wife," "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," and "Bluebeard," as well as several tales from the Middle Ages that have never before been published.

Focusing on crucial turning points in life--birth, marriage, and death--the tales feature wandering spirits, marriage with demons, werewolves, speaking heads, possession by *dybbuks* (souls of the dead who enter the bodies of the living), and every other kind of supernatural adversary. Readers will encounter a carpenter who is haunted when he makes a violin from the wood of a coffin; a wife who saves herself from the demoness her husband has inadvertently married by agreeing to share him for an hour each day; and the age-old tale of Lilith, Adam's first wife, who refused to submit to him and instead banished herself from the Garden of Eden to give birth to the demons of the world.

Drawn from Rabbinic sources, medieval Jewish folklore, Hasidic texts, and oral tradition, these stories will equally entrance readers of Jewish literature and those with an affection for fantasy and the supernatural.

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Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural From Oxford University Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #307714 in Books
- Published on: 1991-12-12
- Released on: 1991-12-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.38" h x .57" w x 8.00" l, .86 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
"Imagine an American Hans Christian Andersen, conceive of the Brothers Grimm living in Missouri, and you will approximate Howard Schwartz, a fable-maker and fable-gatherer seduced by the uncanny and the unearthly. In Lilith's Cave, he once again reaches into a magical cornucopia of folklore and fantasy and spreads before us, in enchanting language, the marvels and shocks of dybbuks, ghosts, demons, spirits, and wizards."--Cynthia Ozick

"Howard Schwartz continues to mine the rich vein of Jewish story with marvelous results....These engrossing tales travel the breadth and depth of Jewish tradition, encompassing not only the holy and enlightened, but the other side of the Jews' fears and longings as well."--Jane Yolen, editor of Favorite Folktales from Around the World

"Howard Schwartz is a leader in a generation of Jews devoted to rebuilding that which was nearly destroyed a few mere decades ago. He sifts through the ashes and finds sparks and fragments of a spiritual world which offers us light and sustenance. Contained within these tales is an authentic voice of the Jewish people. Howard Schwartz is therefore like an angel: he is a messenger between worlds, bringing gifts from one to another."--Arthur Kurzweil, editor-in-chief, Jewish Book Club

"A collection of fifty captivating stories....Fascinating....An excellent translation, a scholarly introduction, and a good system of cross-reference ensure that this book will become a classic in its genre."--The Jerusalem Post

"The selections for this collection afford a fascinating vision of life beyond the Yenne Velt, the 'Other World'....Both a scholarly investigation into a valuable repository of human history and an engaging journey into the shadowy world of our ancestors' fears."--Midstream

"Howard Schwartz is an excellent teller of tales and an erudite editor....The writing and choice of tales is lively, thoughtful, and emotionally engaging."--Genesis 2

"Howard Schwartz...possesses two of the most marvelous gifts one can receive: he is both a born storyteller and a wise scholar in the realm of Jewish mystical folklore and tales of the supernatural."--St. Louis Jewish Light

"These fifty Jewish tales of the supernatural, dug up...and retold by our leading tale-recycler, will delight fans of goose pimples."--Sh'ma

"A delightful collection of tales of Jewish ghosts, demons, magic, holy and powerful rabbis, and seductive demonesses, Lilith's Cave could be great bedside reading for the coming winter nights."--Gnosis Magazine

"The light and the dark interpenetrate here, as in life, and are caught in the dazzling patterns of Shulevitz's masterly illustrations....Schwartz provides nourishment for both male and female souls, and passes on tales collected from grandmothers, rabbis, and tailors."--Shaman's Drum

From the Back Cover

'[Schwartz] reaches into a magical cornucopia of folklore and fantasy and spreads before us, in enchanting language, the marvels and shocks of dybbuks, ghosts, demons, spirits, and wizards.'

About the Author

Howard Schwartz has written and edited many books on Jewish subjects, including *Elijah's Violin & Other Jewish Fairy Tales*, *Gates to the New City*, *Voices Within the Ark*, and the award-winning *The Captive Soul of the Messiah*.
Uri Shulevitz is an internationally-known, award-winning author and illustrator of over twenty-five books, including *One Monday Morning* and *Writing with Pictures*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Villegas:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be change about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Ann Bland:

This book untitled Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that's because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this publication from your list.

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