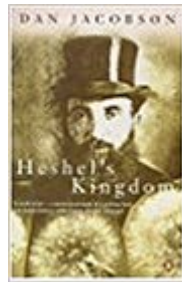


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Heshel's Kingdom : A Family, A People, A Divided Fate



Synopsis

The Orthodox rabbi Heshel Melamed's sudden death by heart attack in 1919 set his widow and children free to leave Lithuania. In this deeply personal memoir, his grandson journeys to the nation after the fall of Communism, and his story is both a philosophical tableau of secularism, religion, and family and a communion with history's darkness-and, where possible, its illumination. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Dan Jacobson's Heshel's Kingdom is a marvelously sensitive, observant, scrupulously honest and intensely autobiographical account [of a journey]."--Times Literary Supplement"A seamless and tautly written narrative. . . . What we are finally left with is neither a history lesson nor a neatly unfolding drama but simply--not so very simply--an experience which has been lived through, more fully understood than it could ever have been from the outside, and transmuted, thanks to the quality of the writing, into a work of art."--Daily Telegraph --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã Â Jacobson grew up in Kimberley, South Africa, but has lived in London for most of his adult life. He is a Professor Emeritus in English at University College, London. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A wonderful story of the history of the Lithuanian Jews and how they arrived in South Africa.

Beautifully written and reads like a novel

As a South African living in Europe with a similar and yet in many ways different background, I am able to identify with Mr Jacobson's sensitive account of his search for his family roots in Lithuania. The construction of the work itself is a masterpiece: first his perception of Lithuania from South Africa, then his childhood in South Africa and then the encounter with Lithuania, where he finds nothing concrete and yet conveys the atmosphere of what he finds so movingly. The touching letter to his grandfather and his dream at the end are full of feeling and yet not in the least sentimental. This book has deeply impressed me and given me a wonderfully tragic picture of Lithuania.

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