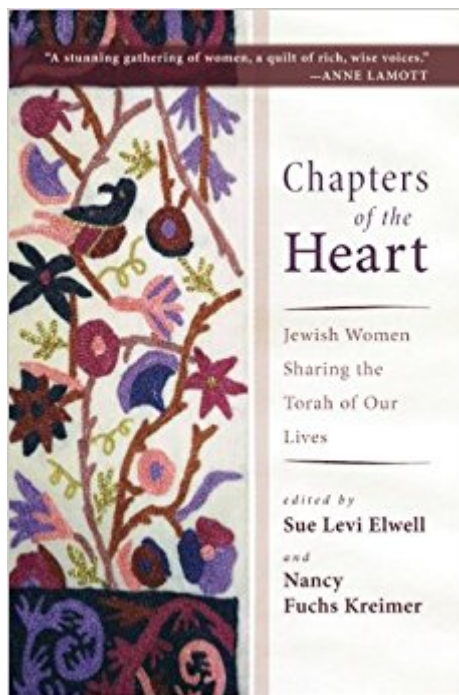




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# Chapters Of The Heart : Jewish Women Sharing The Torah Of Our Lives



## Synopsis

Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives invites readers into the lives of twenty women for whom Jewish language and texts provide a lens for understanding their experiences. The authors don't just use religious words (texts, theologies, or liturgies) like a cookbook. Instead they serve readers something closer to a real meal, prepared with love and intention. Each essay shares one piece of its writer's heart, one chapter of experience as refracted through the author's particular Jewish optic. The authors write about being daughters, mothers, sisters, partners, lovers, and friends. They share their experiences of parenting, infertility, and abortion. One describes accompanying her young husband through his life-threatening illness. Another tells of her daughter's struggle with an eating disorder. Still another reflects on long decline of a parent with Alzheimer's. All these writers wrestle with Jewish texts while growing as rabbis, as feminists, and as interfaith leaders. They open their hearts and minds, telling when Jewish tradition has helped make meaning and, on occasion, when it has come up empty. The results are sometimes inspiring, sometimes provocative. Readers will find new insights into God, into Judaism, and into themselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is a beautiful, profound, and deeply touching addition to the body of spiritual writing that heals and reveals ourselves to us in our full humanity. Nothing moves me more than women telling the truth about their real lives their families, relationships, choices, inspirations, losses, transformation, survival, their histories and their immersion in the now. And these writers are a

stunning gathering of women, a quilt of rich, wise voices.”--Anne Lamott, author of "Traveling Mercies" "When I put this wonderful and wise book down (having read it straight through), I felt an unusual feeling: stirred up, but contemplatively so. Chapters of the Heart is for anyone who wants to find the holy in the ordinary, for anyone who wants to read the sacred texts of her own life with more attentiveness, more generosity, and more curiosity.”--Lauren F. Winner, author of "Girl Meets God" "I have long encouraged women to share their journeys toward holiness; Chapters of the Heart brings together a remarkable circle of women who share their Jewish wisdom with insight and humor, taking their place in the tradition of sacred storytelling.”--Rabbi Zalman M. Schachter-Shalomi, Jewish Renewal Movement "This marvelous collection reminds me how much I have learned (and am still learning) from my Jewish sisters. Thank you for sharing your stories and wisdom with us.”--Marie M. Fortune, FaithTrust Institute "This book brings together extraordinary explorers of life who mix truth, courage, wisdom, grace, surprise, delight, and love in a magic alchemy. . . . Read this book and you will be enlightened, enchanted, and enlivened, and you will feel blessed to be living in an era of such teachers.”--Rabbi Irwin Kula, National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership --Wipf and Stock Publishers

Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, who works for the Reform movement as a congregational consultant, edited "Lesbian Rabbis" (2001) and "The Open Door" (2002). Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer is the founding director of the Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She is the author of "Parenting as a Spiritual Journey" (1998).

Beautiful stories, very well written. I am loving this volume and can't put it down. It's very inspirational and easy to read as someone trying to learn more about the Torah stories. It's very informational and gives a different take on Torah stories than what you hear in typical Torah learning settings. The stories are about women's lives, which are easy to relate to, and then the authors incorporate Torah or midrash teachings into their life stories in a way that makes the teachings just as relatable, and even if you don't always agree with their take on the teaching you still learn more. This volume would be good for well-studied and newer students of the Torah alike. A wonderful read and great gift.

I like the book, what I've read of it so far. But I bought the Kindle version for a book club discussion and was MORE THAN DISAPPOINTED to discover that THREE PAGES of the chapter I was reading were MISSING in the document. There was no forewarning about this before I made my

purchase, and no explanation other than a notice that my purchases didn't include page X, etc. There was also no means of redress. If you've ever purchased from , you know that there don't seem to be actual people on the other end. DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT by the Kindle version. It's incomplete. I'll be unlikely to by a Kindle version of any book through again. It has added to my dissatisfaction with the mega-company. Linda Myers, Ithaca NY

This book was purchased and given to a friend who has become head of our ritual committee. I did not read the book; rather I skimmed of the chapters. This a combination of intelligent-sharing women which offers an enormous sigh of relief when you hear others speak with you on religion. I believe this to be a wonderful addition to any person's library including your own!

These chapters are written with remarkable courage, grace, and depth. What an exceptional collection of writers! They have crafted essays of great beauty and scholarship. Each one interweaves a particular Jewish text with their individual life experiences in an incredible way. I love this book and highly recommend it.

Insightful and warms the heart

Thoughtful, well conceived and. Many points of view, all well written, each personal and accessible. Essays by the editors especially stand out.

Really good and inspiring.

GOOD IDEAS WELL WRITTEN

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