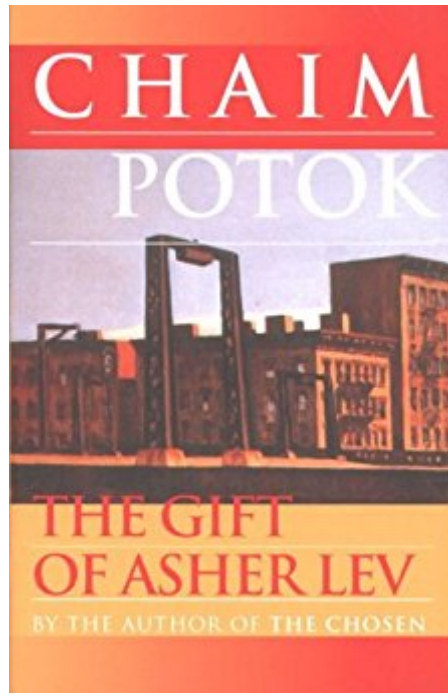




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The Gift Of Asher Lev



Synopsis

"Rivals anything Chaim Potok has ever produced. It is a book written with passion about passion. You're not likely to read anything better this year."THE DETROIT NEWS
Twenty years have passed for Asher Lev. He is a world-renowned artist living in France, still uncertain of his artistic direction. When his beloved uncle dies suddenly, Asher and his family rush back to Brooklyn--and into a world that Asher thought he had left behind forever....From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A look at a world as strange as it is noble and beautiful in its faith in Master of the Universe. Asher Levin is a complicated man, consumed by his art, and other artists as well. Art is his essence. But also consumed by his family and his religion, and they remain in conflict for him. He is a soul in torment, which he believes is the essence of humanity.

I have no experience with such conservative Judaism so this book (and the previous book, My name is Asher Lev) has an other world feel for me. Almost like I accidently saw behind a closed

curtain. The one thing that kept me from loving this book is that it is absolutely exhausting. Asher Lev is one of the most conflicted individuals I have ever encountered- from the first moment you meet him as a child in the first book until the end of this book. Conflicted about his parents, his community, his faith, his art, his relationships. All of the characters seem to be in a painful struggle to live in a world with suffocating inconsistencies which cannot be reconciled. Even the daughter who struggles for breath from asthma. I don't have a visual of Asher Lev ever laughing or even really smiling. But I really cared about these people. I so wanted this family to find some peace.

Excellent setup of the conflict between the secular and religious worlds showing how both Asher and the Rebbe appreciated the values of both. the second half of the book dragged and does not really come to closure. I wonder if the author was planning a third book in the series but never got it published.

We did this book for book club in addition to the first one. I had read it after we did the first one. So I read it again. It was very good. It kept on where the first novel ended. It started with his marriage and family ;then went on to the conflicts he faced when the family returned to the USA to his home for a funeral. I enjoyed the book very much. It was interesting.

Chaim Potok beautifully captures the tension between living in and serving a beloved religious community and the honest pursuit for truth everywhere. My Name is Asher Lev is the better book (really must read to fully understand The Gift of), but this volume means more to me as an adult. Captivating throughout.

Just an amazing book. I read it with my 12-year-old as an alternate for a book they were reading in school and we had such deep, wonderful conversations about the story. DEFINITELY RECOMMEND!!!!

Excellent book

I think that the author's writing is between good and great; it's not really great but it's better than good. It is an excellent follow-up to My Name is Asher Lev. I haven't finished it yet, but I am really drawn into the story. How an ultra-orthodox Jew can be a successful painter of today is truly remarkable.

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