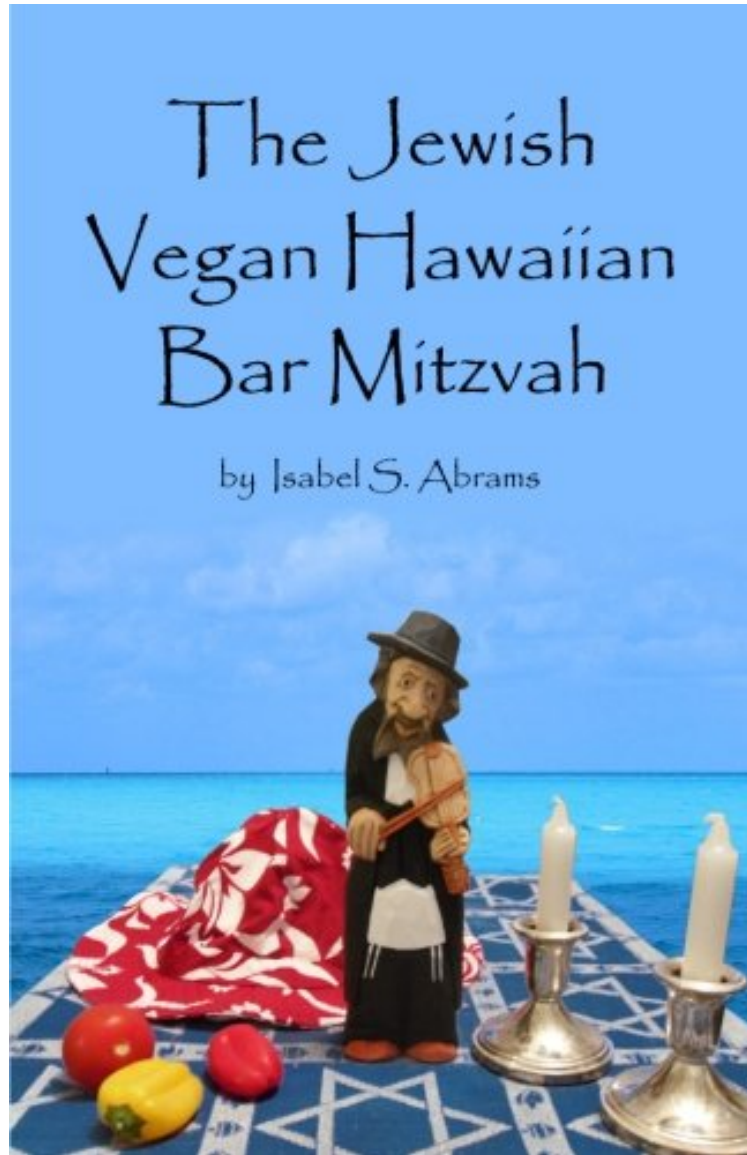


[E-BOOK] The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah

The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah

Isabel S. Abrams

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Isabel S. Abrams : The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Celebration and Inspiration-Family StyleBy M. DunnFrom the moment I saw the charming book cover design, a mixture of religious, cultural, and dietary symbols, my curiosity was aroused. I had to read The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah. I'm glad I did.With clear, flowing prose, Isabel Abrams, the author and narrator of the story, weaves a delightful account of the complicated preparations for the Bar

Mitzvah of Stanley, her grandson, on the magical island of Hawaii. As with many family gatherings, anything that can go wrong does go wrong. As the humorous plot unfolds, the reader is drawn into Isabel's anxious moments in the days before the big event. Without seeming as though she's in charge, Isabel has to resort to drastic measures to make the celebration flow seamlessly. Realizing there's not much time before the service, and her grandson doesn't know a word of Hebrew, Isabel takes on the task of tutoring him so that he'll be able to sing his portion of the Torah during the traditional prayers. Days before the ceremony, she makes sure that food preparations are in keeping with koshering rules, but this is complicated by the fact that her daughter is a vegan. Imported rabbis suddenly become her houseguests. She begs one of them for a special prayer to stop her husband's snoring so that she can get some sleep. As if all of this is not enough, at the last minute a crisis erupts in the kitchen that threatens to spoil the feast she's painstakingly prepared. With quick thinking, Isabel averts a catastrophe. In the end, the humor, warmth and pride the relatives share in preparing for the religious experience is heartwarming. Members of any religious group can identify with the frustration and ultimate joy of Isabel's moments of family togetherness. Read it! You'll enjoy it! (Tasty recipes are included!)

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very Disappointing
By Carie S. Levine Cole
I was excited to receive this book, the title and topic intrigued me. But I was sorely disappointed on multiple levels. First of all it was barely 45 pages. And that's generous given the large and very well spaced font it was printed in. And it was badly written. Weak, humored and bland, it read like a badly written anecdote. Not even close to the engaging and humorous story I was looking forward to. I also very much disliked the poor representation of the Orthodox Rabbis in the book. It portrayed them as ignorant and commandment focused to little else. As someone who grew up in a cultural Jewish and minimally "Reform" home and spent time later within Orthodoxy and eventually settled somewhere in the middle—in other words, as someone who has practiced Judaism at all levels of observance, I was disappointed to see that the book displayed none of the beauty that can be found in Bar Mitzvah and keeping Shabbat and kosher and some of the other rituals, only the hardcore rules from the perspective of the non-observant—none of them were explained, only mocked. It told only of the long Hebrew service which went on not understood and made fun of. And while the rabbis could have played better to the crowd and explained more things instead of plowing on, the closed-mindedness of the Reform grandmother did nothing to reconcile their differences. She only served to show the sheer bitterness that exists between the non-observant to the observant. The only thing I agree with is the statement that prayer is more than saying Hebrew words and that we should be ambassadors for tolerance and peace for Judaism. But with her mockery and obvious disdain for orthodoxy, I think the author achieved the exact opposite of that. In the end I am sorry I spent 10 dollars plus shipping on this book. It was a waste. The title was the only interesting thing about it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book!
By Chris Rigel
This little book transported me to a different world. I sat down with a cup of coffee and didn't get up until I turned the last page. Abrams' writing brings you into the pages. You forget you're reading -- you become a part of this funny, quirky, colorful family episode. It's a perfect escape.

“The Jewish Vegan Hawaiian Bar Mitzvah” is the story of Stanley, a 13-year-old-boy who comes of age in this Jewish tradition. Three Orthodox Rabbis and a Reform grandmother are caught in a web of religious and cultural traditions, and together they must make it happen. The setting is Hawaii, a state with gorgeous scenery, lush vegetation and fabulous beaches. The invited guests are a fascinating mix of ethnic groups, including vegans, surfers and spiritual folk. Will they make it a heartwarming experience? And will Stanley deserve many Mazel Tovs (good luck wishes)?

About the Author
Isabel Abrams is a Jewish mother and grandmother. She maintains perspective in family life by finding the humor in trying situations. In her non-parental role she is a science, environmental and medical writer and author of the book *The Nature of Chicago*. She is also co-founder and Director of Communications for Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI), a network of high school students and teachers. When her children were young she wrote science songs (*Do You Know How you Grow?* Folkways/Smithsonian records). As science editor and feature writer for *Current Health 2*, *Current Energy and Ecology*, *Science Challenge* and *Biology Bulletin* magazines, she acquired many amusing insights from scientists (see website). She lives in Chicago with her husband and they travel overseas, and to Vermont and Hawaii to visit their two daughters and five grandchildren. Website:

www.wisdomfromthewild.com