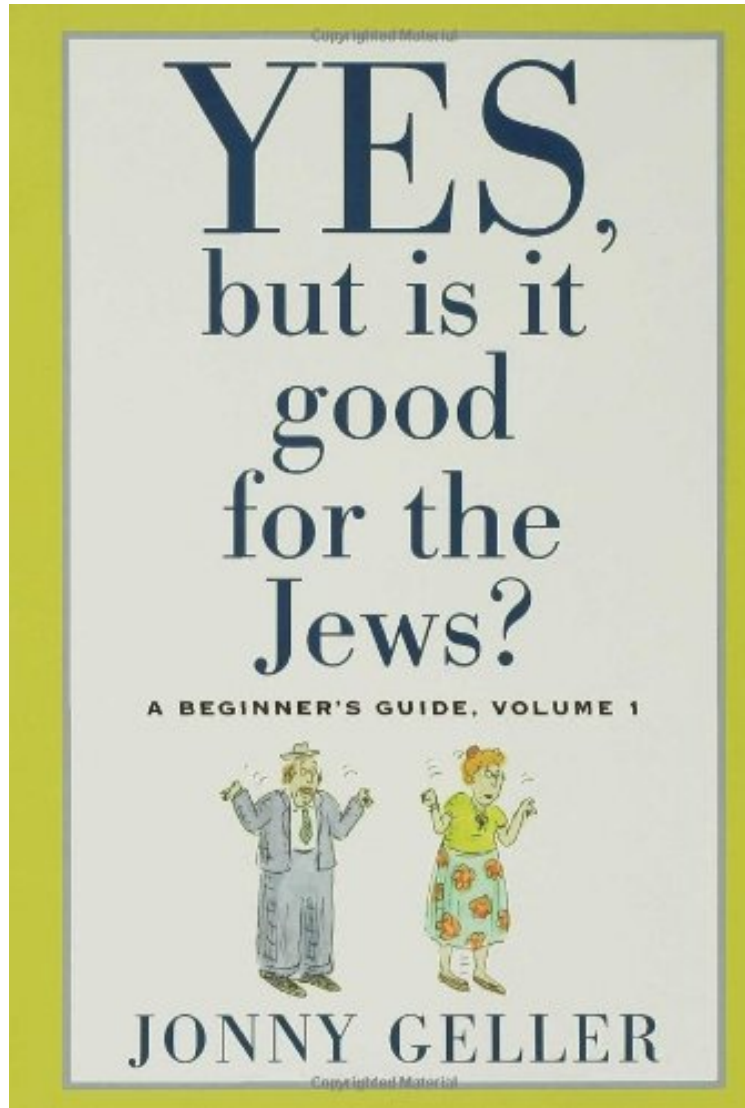


(Mobile book) Yes, But Is It Good for the Jews?: A Beginner's Guide, Volume 1

Yes, But Is It Good for the Jews?: A Beginner's Guide, Volume 1

Jonny Geller

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Jonny Geller : Yes, But Is It Good for the Jews?: A Beginner's Guide, Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yes, But Is It Good for the Jews?: A Beginner's Guide, Volume 1:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Gary Funny. A very humorous and affectionate Jewish satire. Jews, especially, will enjoy this book! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Yes, but is this book good for anyone else? By Steve GA word of warning to the reader; this book is not a cohesive story that one reads from the front cover to the back. It consists of an encyclopedia-style collection of entries of those elements that the author

has rated as being good or bad for Jews. Having said that, then typical of Jewish humor, the author plays on Jewish insecurity. This book was not written for non-Jews; its charm is in the reader recognizing themselves and their own sensitivities. This book was also not written for Jews who cannot laugh at themselves. For these readers, the satire will be lost. If however, you are Jewish and insecure and yet can laugh at yourself, then I recommend this book. 3 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A not bad idea not well done
By Shalom Freedman
This is one of those books I wanted to like a lot better than I did. I understood it to be the kind of book which might interest certain highly assimilated Jews a bit more in their own Jewishness. But the fare here is really not that attractive. The book is really a long commentary on pop-culture, on fashions of the hour. It also does not provide any real argument in asserting something to be good or bad for the Jews. And in a way makes the whole question seem ridiculous. I might add for me it is not a ridiculous question but a most important one. There is no effort to deal with any serious political issue. For instance at this moment the state of Israel is threatened by a leader aiming at nuclear weapons who has said he will 'wipe out the Zionist state'. I imagine that a serious book on a subject of what is good or not good for the Jews would touch upon a threat like this. The book has inaccuracies. It lists Mark Twain as one of the worst writers in attitudes towards the Jews. In fact the truth is overwhelmingly the opposite and Twain wrote most friendly and appreciative words about the Jewish people. The book does have humor at certain points. I did get a few chuckles going through it. And I suppose a few chuckles is better than none at all.

From the Amish to Zoolatry, this hilarious tour of world history and culture will answer the question on everyone's lips this Chanukah: "Yes, but is it good for the Jews?" Jews have long evaluated everything from current events to dinner menus through the prism of "Yes But is it good for the Jews." Finally, there is a method by which to evaluate this burning question? the ancient art of Judology. It's easy: Add "Anti-Semitic Potential" (an open and obvious threat to the Jews) + "Impact on the World" (10 years or more) x "The J-Factor" (level of "Jewishness") = Tzurus (Yiddish word for trouble), and divide by the Mystical Kabbalistic number "Seven." Readers will no longer be tortured by such decisions as: where to vacation (Micronesia good, Venezuela bad), what television to watch (Desperate Housewives no, Eurovision Song Contest yes), which celebrity to marry (Scarlett Johansson yes, Joaquin Phoenix no), whether it's okay to use Google, enter a spelling bee, and much more. Extras include: the "How Jew Are You" quiz, handy lists such as "Jews Who Switched"; the "Six Degrees of Larry David" games, plus timelines, charts, and graphs. We guarantee you won't find this valuable info in either the Torah or the Kabbalah.

From Publishers Weekly
London literary agent Geller revolves his mock science of Judology around an equation that weighs the potential for anti-Semitic backlash, links to Jewish culture and worldwide cultural influence to determine whether a given subject is, as the old saying goes, "Good for the Jews" or "Not Good for the Jews." Of course, the numbers turn out to be largely meaningless, as the real substance of Geller's evaluations lie in his idiosyncratic commentaries. In some cases, the effort to find a Jewish connection feels strained, and most of the discussions are lightweight. The Godfather films, for example, are Good because they diverted attention from Jewish gangsters, while Nigella Lawson's love of ham and pork dishes make her Not Good. But there are thoughtful discussions of subjects like eBay's policy against allowing auctions of Nazi memorabilia and the impact of TiVo on Orthodox TV viewing. A lengthy section toward the end assesses various countries for their suitability as vacation spots, and a recurring sidebar presents a world history timeline from a Jewish perspective (the Louisiana Purchase is dubbed "a sweet kosher deal"). Unfortunately, there's really only one joke here, and though it's amusing in small doses, it can't sustain the entire book. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
In the 1950s, it was common for Jewish kids to hear their parents whispering about current events: "Is it good for the Jews?" (The Rosenbergs--not so much.) Apparently, the whispering is still going on, prompting Geller to come up with a formula to answer all the questions. Here's how it works: anti-Semitic factor plus impact on the world times the level of Jewishness equals Tzurus (i.e., trouble) divided by seven equals good or not good for the Jews. Grouped alphabetically, the list of topics Geller rates on this scale constitutes an eclectic mix of bedfellows: alcohol is next to the Amish, and K-Y Jelly snuggles beside Karma. After each entry comes a definition and some examples of the term and an explanation of what went into the rating. There are surprises: Monica Lewinsky--good for the Jews! Andrew Lloyd Webber--not good for the Jews! Sidebars include lists of anti-Semitic writers (Roald Dahl, Agatha Christie, and Graham Greene, among others). He doesn't address Mel Gibson, but let's guess: not good for the Jews. Ilene Cooper
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About the Author
Jonny Geller is a literary agent and is based in London where he lives with his wife and two sons.