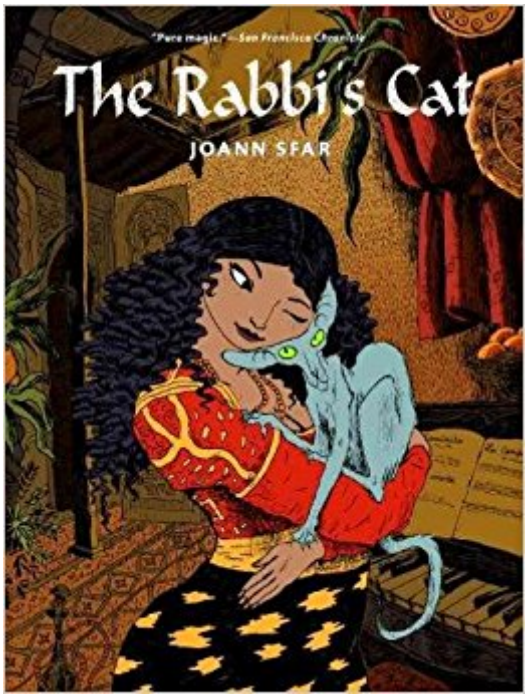
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The Rabbi's Cat (Pantheon Graphic Novels)



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Synopsis

The preeminent work by one of FranceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most celebrated young comics artists, The RabbiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Cat tells the wholly unique story of a rabbi, his daughter, and their talking catÃ¢â ¬â œa philosopher brimming with scathing humor and surprising tenderness. In Algeria in the 1930s, a cat belonging to a widowed rabbi and his beautiful daughter, Zlabya, eats the family parrot and gains the ability to speak. To his masterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s consternation, the cat immediately begins to tell lies (the first being that he didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t eat the parrot). The rabbi vows to educate him in the ways of the Torah, while the cat insists on studying the kabbalah and having a Bar Mitzvah. They consult the rabbiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rabbi, who maintains that a cat canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t be JewishÃ¢â ¬â œbut the cat, as always, knows better. Zlabya falls in love with a dashing young rabbi from Paris, and soon master and cat, having overcome their shared self-pity and jealousy, are accompanying the newlyweds to France to meet ZlabyaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cosmopolitan in-laws. Full of drama and adventure, their trip invites countless opportunities for the rabbi and his cat to grapple with all the importantÃ¢â ¬â œand trivialÃ¢â ¬â œdetails of life.Rich with the colors, textures, and flavors of AlgeriaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Jewish community, The RabbiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Cat brings a lost world vibrantly to lifeÃ¢â ¬â œa time and place where Jews and Arabs coexistedÃ¢â ¬â œand peoples it with endearing and thoroughly human characters, and one truly unforgettable cat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Sfar, the French cartoonist behind the Little Vampire children’s books, has come up

with a hilarious and wildly original graphic novel for adults. The nameless, scraggly-looking alley cat who narrates the story belongs to an Algerian rabbi in the ’30s. When the cat eats a parrot, he gains the power of speech and tries to convince his master to teach him the Torah, raising the question of whether the appropriate age for his bar mitzvah should be in human years or cat years. Of course, being a cat, he has plenty of impertinent opinions about Judaism. That’s a delicious setup on its own, but it gets better when the cat loses his speech again halfway through, and the story becomes a broader, more bittersweet comedy about the rabbi’s family and the intersection of Jewish, Arab and French culture. The rabbi’s daughter Zlabya marries a young man from a nonobservant family in France. The Algerian family’s visit with their Parisian in-laws is the subject of the final and funniest section of the book. Sfar’s artwork looks as mangy and unkempt as the cat, with contorted figures and scribbly lines everywhere, but there’s a poetic magic to it that perfectly captures this cat’s-eye view of human culture and faith. (Aug.) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â œA slinky gray cat lives with a rabbi and his beautiful young daughter. One day, the feline eats their parrot, only to find that he has gained the birds ability to talk. Witty and highly intelligent, the cat immediately decides that he wants to learn more about Judaism, from the Kabbalah to the Torah. Thus begins this funny, sad, spiritual, and utterly delightful trio of tales. The stories tell much about Jewish life in the 1930s, both in the initial setting of Algeria and in Paris. They also impart Jewish teachings and philosophies in a highly entertaining way, bringing to mind Jostein Gaarders Sophies World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy (Berkley, 1996). Sfar is predominantly known in this country for his Little Vampire childrens series (S & S), and the drawings have the colorful, cartoon quality of those works while still fitting the sophistication of these. His palette is a gorgeous mix of earth tones that perfectly captures the North African setting. There is plenty for teens to likeÃ¢â ¬â œhumor, romance, and theological questioning combined with a folkloric quality to bring to life a multifaceted work. Sfar is highly praised in France; heres hoping more of his creations are translated.Ã¢â ¬â œJamie Watson, Harford County Public Library, MD Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This applies to both Vol 1 and Vol 2 of The Rabbi’s Cat. I rented to animated movie version and my wife and I both fell in love with it. Sfar’s artwork is both original and also a bit on the wacky side,

which really appeals to me. Anyway, I Googled the guy after watching the movie and found that he had several books. So, being a collector of graphic novels (especially off-beat ones) I promptly ordered both volumes from . The characters are just so vivid and illustrations are sensational. I especially love the way he draws the cat (me also being a cat-person). It's so slinky it's almost half snake, and boy is it clever. My only problem with these books is that there's so much dialogue that the print is almost microscopic in places and I actually need to use a magnifying glass to read some of it, which is the only reason I gave it four stars instead of five. I should also add that the story and settings are so vivid and touching. It really gave me a sense of a culture and place that have pretty much vanished forever. If you have any interest in the Algerian Jewish community pre WW II, rent the movie first, and if you want more stories about these characters get the books. Just be prepared for a little eye strain.

I absolutely love the rabbi's cat and his snarky comments on life. In this book life goes on. He goes on a adventure with his master's cousin, Malka,and meets a snake who offers his bite as a gift and release from the miseries of life. Then he travels with his master, another cousin who is an Arab, a Russian painter who escaped the pogroms of Russia by hiding himself in a crate of holy books shipped to Algeria, and a crazy, rich Russian who desn't belive in anything but drink and sex. They are off on an expedition to find the Falasha who live in a hidden city in Ethiopia called Jerusalem. The cat must learn to keep his mouth shut in sticky situaions or he could get everyone killed as sorcerers. Peoples in the African deserts can be superstitious and dangerous. True love intervenes, there is a singing donkey and gigantic black jews with absolutely no sense of humor. Another wonderful book about tthe rabbi's cat.

I am not much of a graphic novel reader, but after seeing the movie based on this book and the one that follows (The Rabbi's Cat 2), I had to get both books.This one contains storyline not in the movie, but also differs in that it is a little less cheery, slightly more sad. But overall still delightful, and just as good, just in a different way.The illustration is a little unusual as it changes in detail and flavor a lot, even from frame to frame, but after a while it seems to actually work very well, and the more I think about it, I am surprised this is not done more often.

As a Jewish American, I've always been fascinated by the experiences our people in the Diaspora. The lives of American, British, French, and Algerian Jews are all different. We can be found in the unlikeliest of places; Cuba, Mexico City, Rio, Mumbai, Dublin (I'm not joking, there are Jews in

Ireland).I once boarded with a Jewish family in Strasbourg. Their lives were much different from those of New York Jews; they kept a lower profile, avoided gentiles, and their eating habits were more like those of their neighbors (no bagels, herring, or kugel on their table). British Jews, respectively, make a greater effort to appear "English" while avoiding non-Jews. You won't see cockneys eating in Jewish delis (not that I saw any Jewish delis in London aside from Bloom's).The Rabbi's Cat has a very quirky story that's not easy to summarize. A scrawny cat gains the power of speech and engages his master, a Rabbi, in debates. The Rabbis gorgeous daughter, having no interest in philosophy (and having no work to do) loves this cat as if he were an irritating younger sibling.Zlabya is your typical Arabian-Nights-Fantasy though she happens to be Jewish. She marries a French Jew of Turkish origin, and some funny conflicts arise; he bores her, she feels self-conscious of her background, and her father isn't sure why the French Jews lack vitality. Or is he just too... full of life?I'm glad that graphic-novel fans will learn about the Jews of France thanks to this book. The Jews have been an important part of French society for years, but with the way things are going now, it may not last. Jews have been leaving France in greater number since 2001, and I hope they don't all leave for Israel, UK, or the USA. It would be a shame for France to lose such a great part of its culture.

I never laughed as much when reading a book as I did when reading The Rabbi's Cat. It is absolutely hilarious. The cat eats a parrot, acquires speech and he has an awful lot to say. He learned to read along with the rabbi's daughter so he has learned much over the years. He argues about religion, science, philosophy, love and anything he can think of. He is a smart cat and a smart-aleck cat. And he wants to be bar-mitzvahed so he can be a good Jewish cat. That fact alone causes nothing but trouble for the rabbi. I absolute love this book and its sequel and will give copies to my son-in-law who will love them as much as I do. Highly recommended.

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