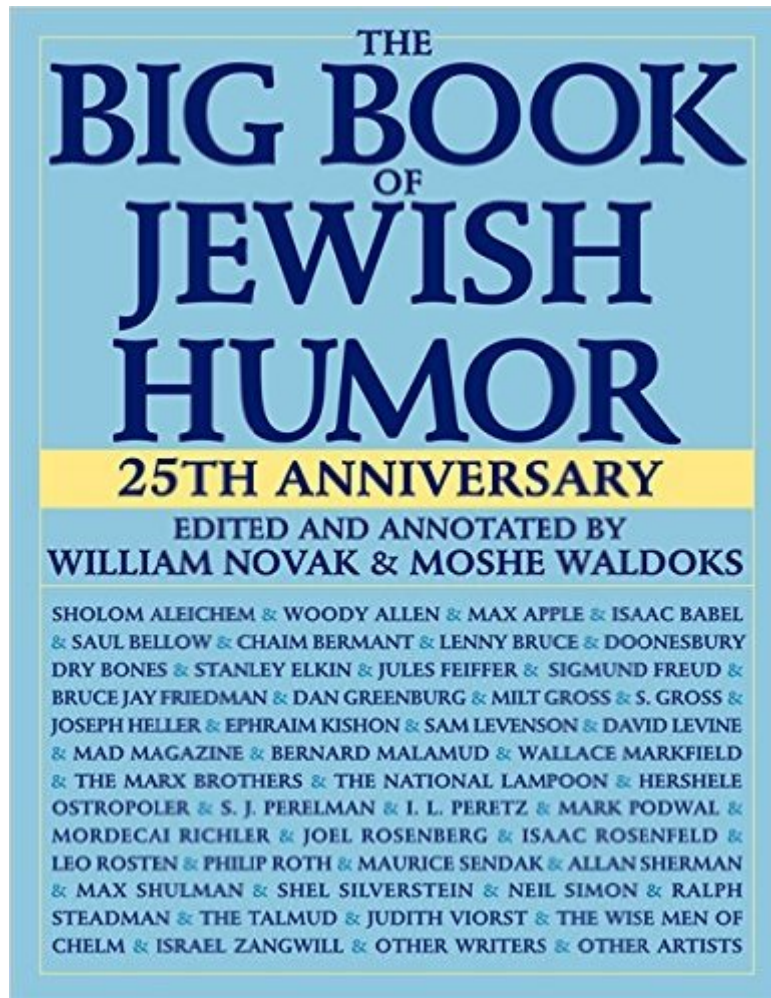


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The Big Book Of Jewish Humor



Synopsis

Two rival businessmen meet in the Warsaw train station. "Where are you going?" says the first man. "To Minsk," says the second. "To Minsk, eh? What a nerve you have! I know you're telling me you're going to Minsk because you want me to think that you're really going to Pinsk. But it so happens that I know you really are going to Minsk. So why are you lying to me?" Four men are walking in the desert. The German says, "I'm tired and thirsty. I must have a beer." The Italian says, "I'm tired and thirsty. I must have wine." The Mexican says, "I'm tired and thirsty. I must have tequila." The Jew says, "I'm tired and thirsty. I must have diabetes."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Big Book of Jewish Humor, Edited & Annotated by William Novak & Moshe Waldoks; Harper & Row (paperback 1981) "Tiresome!" THAT certainly wasn't anticipated. And then the publisher's binding glue (vintage 1981) staggered & now I'm the owner of two books - a marvelous, lightweight & outsized front-&-back cover adorned in blue background with gold & white lettering --- & The Contents Of Within. I blame all this on the 47 Republicans who recently invited Bibi to address our U.S. Congress without the expressed written consent of Major League Baseball. Seriously, the unresolved tension of the book was apparent almost immediately. This was possibly due to two constituencies, both of whom Novak & Waldoks attempted to please (their 1990 anthology "The Big Book of American Humor" has a single-minded purpose & is highly recommended). Obviously there were those who wanted humorous entries. And, evidently, there were those who wanted stories & other entities that, in this context, could be considered to be humorous, but more importantly, would

feature, in depth, the culture of the people about whom the stories were written. The humorous entries are self-explanatory. The best example is the brilliant, untitled story (author unknown) told early on: "Levinger, a businessman from Utica, goes to the train station to catch the eleven-thirty express to Philadelphia..." And there are many others in the same vein (although I was somewhat surprised by the "duds" - usually in the annotation columns - that made the cut).

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