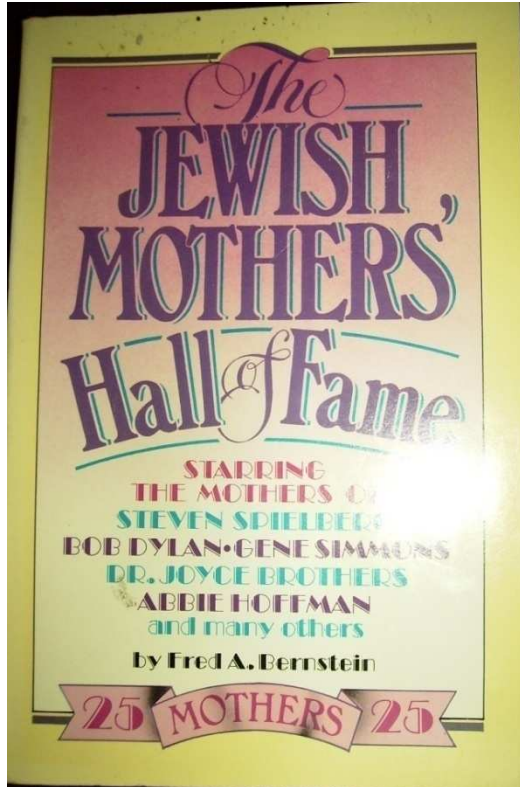


## Montague Library Books Synopsis - Jewish Humour

The Jewish Mothers' Hall of Fame starring the Mothers of Steven Spielberg • Bob Dylan • Gene Simmons • Dr Joyce Brothers • Abbie Hoffman and many others by Fred A Bernstein

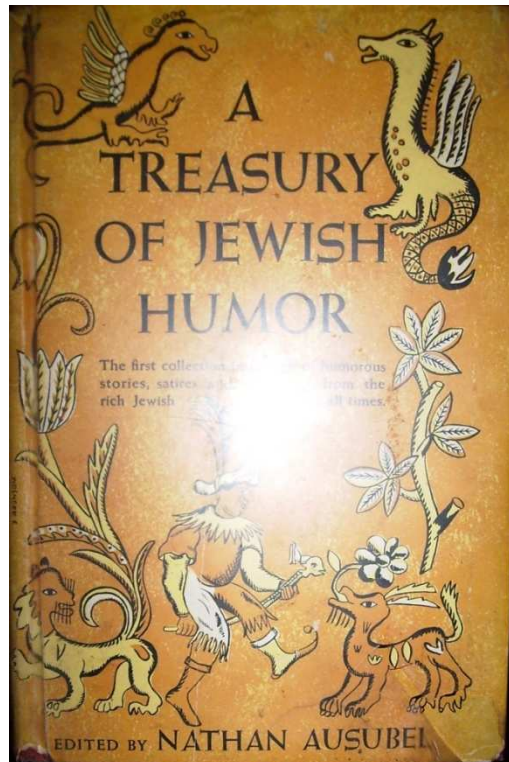


Being a Jewish mother means more than just being a Daughter of Zion with children. It means much more than simply ushering in the Sabbath Queen. It is more complicated than only redistributing guilt. It's harder than cooking brisket.

It has to do with participating in a legacy of histrionics and love-smothering, medical school applications and gym excuses. It has to do with great humour and *kvelling*.

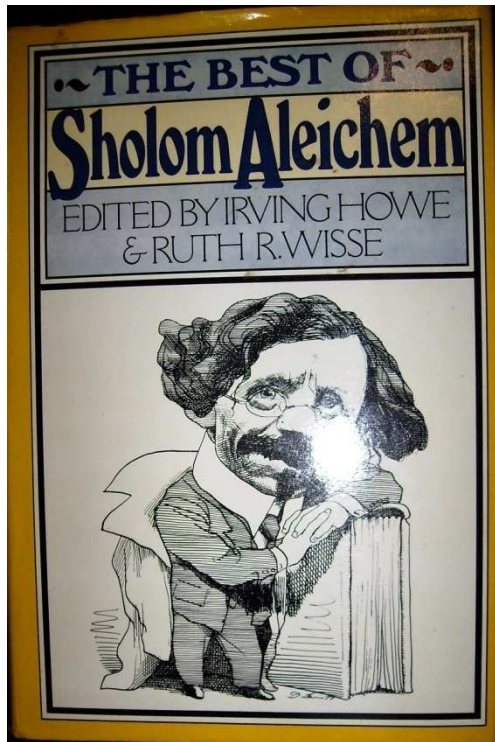
Jewish mothers are only nominally like normal mothers. A Jewish mother would never have "left it to Beaver." Why give up total control? Besides, no Jewish mother that I've met has ever waited until her husband came home from the office to vent her opinions. They're feisty even during business hours. Of course, not all Jewish mothers are alike!

A Treasury of Jewish Humour edited by Nathan Ausubel



Among the authors included in this anthology are Sholom Aleichem, Arthur Kober, Franz Werfel, Sholem Asch, S. J. Perelmann, Peretz, Bialik, Zangwill, Heinrich Heine, Ferenc Molnar, and a host of others, some well known, some anonymous. The wry, happy, bitter, funny, and ironic stories they tell are taken from the rich and colourful tapestry of Jewish life throughout the ages. In this volume there are modern short stories and ancient tales, poems, excerpts from novels, epigrams, and witty sayings. Some are taken from medieval Hebrew, some from modern authors, and many from that great unwritten literature that is passed on from generation to generation. And they are presented here under such groupings as *Tooters and Pipernooters*, *Luftmenschen and Pipe dreamers*, *Vitriolic Tales*, *Love Shmove*, *Curdled Love*, *Love with Gelt and Nudniks*, *Pludniks and Trombeniks* – to mention but a few.

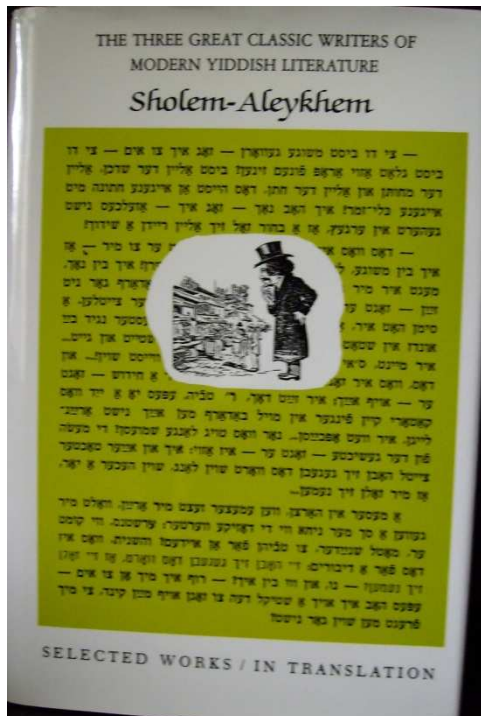
The Best of Sholom Aleichem edited by Irving Howe & Ruth R. Wisse



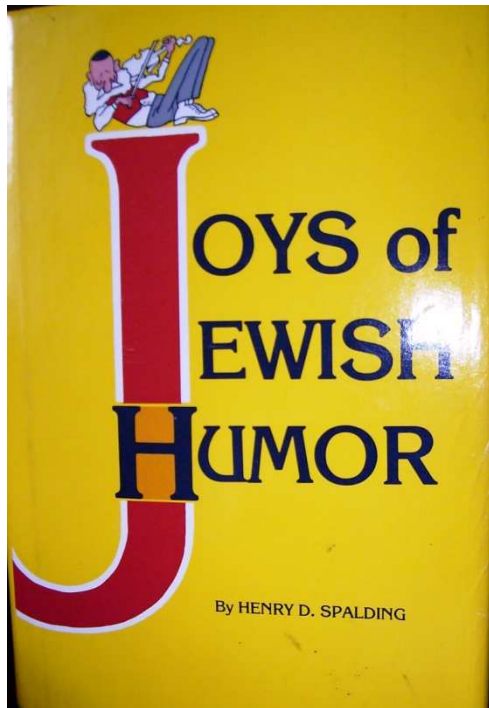
Sholom Aleichem is the greatest Yiddish writer of modern times – a storyteller and humorist of world stature. In this book two well-known critics, Irving Howe and Ruth Wisse, have brought together twenty-two of his most heartwarming and profound stories – twelve of them are newly translated and three have never before appeared in English. This delightful collection also includes such classics as ‘The Clock Struck Thirteen’, ‘Yom Kippur Scandal’ and the Tevye stories, on which *Fiddler on the Roof* was based.

In their introduction, Irving Howe and Ruth Wisse firmly place the work of this master storyteller in the Yiddish tradition and then clarify and evaluate it in its own right. The result is a new insight into Sholom Aleichem, whose stories bring pleasure to lovers of both Jewish culture and modern literature.

Sholem Aleykhem – selected works / in translation



Joys of Jewish Humour by Henry D. Spalding

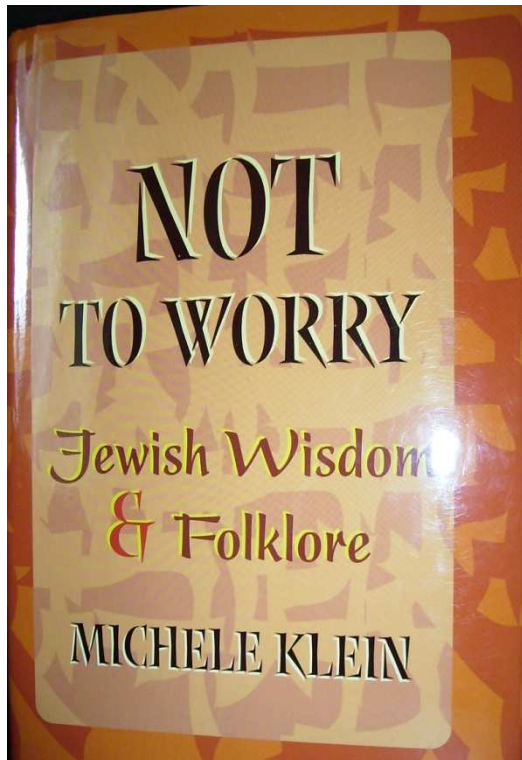


In thirty-two entertaining chapters, humorist and master storyteller Henry D. Spalding introduces us to a wider range of colourful characters from the Jewish past and present. We laugh and sometimes cry with schlemiels, schlimazels, atheists, agnostics, rabbis, cantors, doctors, lawyers, marriage brokers, and others as they find themselves in some highly unexpected and always hilarious situations.

Spalding parades the intriguing characters that infuse the pages of this encyclopaedic work through forty centuries of Jewish history – from biblical times to the modern age. He portrays the trials and tribulations as well as the joys of Jewish living in country after country where Jews have had a presence. Through wit and humour Spalding succeeds in revealing the character of Jews as they relate to each other and to the world-at-large.

This is a warm and unusually entertaining collection that will be treasured by all who want to know what makes Jews think and behave as they do. The volume is enhanced by the delightful drawings of Alex Bloch.

Not to Worry – Jewish Wisdom & Folklore by Michele Klein



At one time or another we all are confronted with troublesome situations. How do we react? Do we fret over little things, or only in a crisis? Can we turn worry into a constructive force in our lives?

Psychologist Michele Klein discusses the ways in which Jews have experienced, expressed, and understood their feelings of worry from biblical times, right up to the post-9/11 present. She takes a close look at why, when, and how Jews have engaged in prayer, meditation, and dream interpretation, and she examines the use of mysticism, melody, and humour as coping mechanisms. As Klein so persuasively shows, Jewish history has much to teach us about psychological strength, peace of mind, and creative thinking.