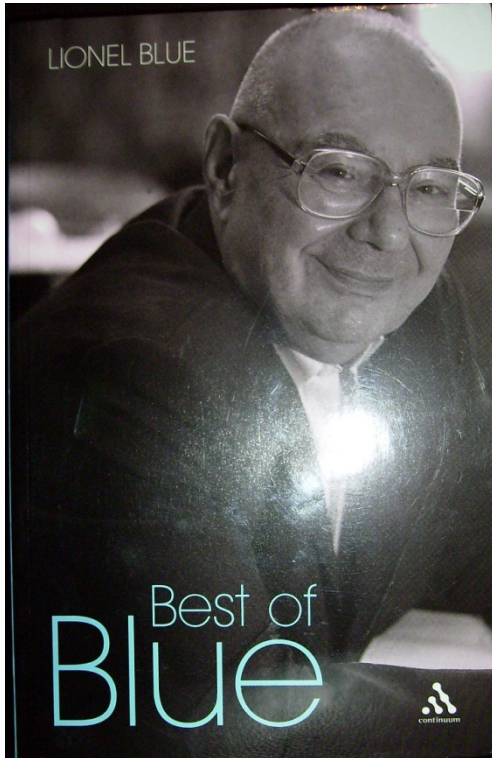


Montague Library Books Synopsis - Rabbi Lionel Blue

Best of Blue – Lionel Blue



Lionel Blue's *Thought for the Day* broadcasts continue to enchant and invigorate millions of listeners. Now in his mid-seventies, Lionel Blue has decided to present some of the very best of his writing for a wider public. Much of this – including articles from *The Tablet* and various lectures – has never been published in book form before. *Best of Blue* sparkles with Lionel Blue's characteristic and idiosyncratic humour. It is through this that his profound wisdom has touched the hearts and minds of millions of appreciative listeners.

In 1972, Lionel Blue was a little known Rabbi in London when he published his first book, *To Heaven with Scribes and Pharisees*. Many still consider this his best. The variety of books that followed was incredible – cookery books, compilations of Jewish Jokes. *The Blue Guide to Eternity and Jewish Prayer Books for High Days and Holy Days* (the last two written with Rabbi Jonathan Magoner). The whole range of his writing is represented in this charming new collection.

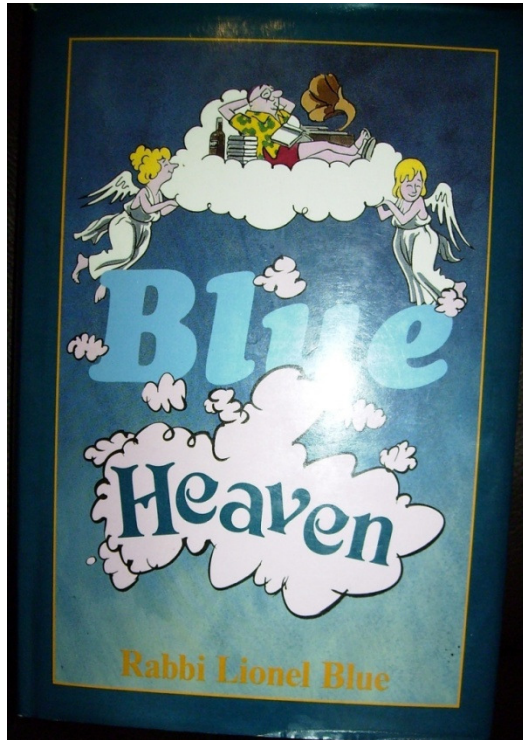
Bolts from the Blue by Rabbi Lionel Blue



A SUNDAY ROAST that looks like grey polystyrene, a bearded bride, a dog with an existential problem, a whisky-drinking nun. A Tom Sharpe novel? No, the world of Lionel Blue, a world grounded very firmly in reality. No respecter of false piety. Rabbi Blue shows how we can piece together the scriptures of our lives not just in synagogues and churches, but in bus queues, waiting rooms and airports.

Using his own experiences, Rabbi Blue has produced in *Bolts From The Blue* a selection of stories, incidents and conversations whose dotty inconsequential flavour he believes has the hallmark of ordinary life. Full of insight, and the author's offbeat humour. *Bolts From The Blue* will appeal to people from all religions, and from none. A book to read and reread, to laugh at, to think about, to enjoy – when feeling good or feeling just – blue.

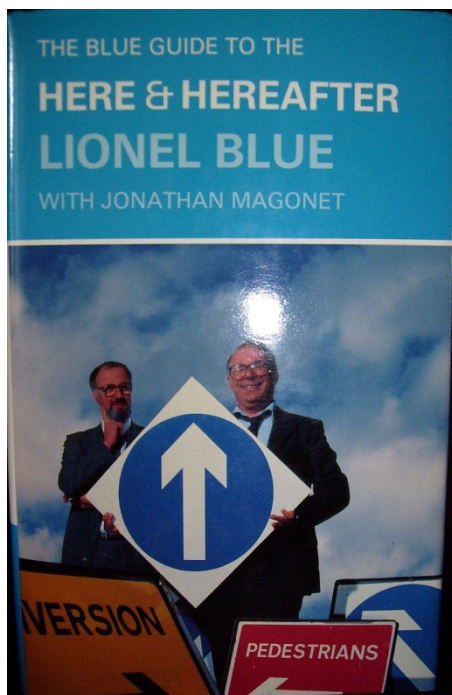
Blue Heaven by Rabbi Lionel Blue



When he was younger, Lionel Blue searched for holiness in candles and eternal lights, lusted after voices and visions, and waited anxiously to be struck by a special revelation from heaven. As he grew older and the bolt from above failed to materialise, he realised that real knowledge of heaven – and earth – came in the most unlikely situations: cooking cabbage in a kitchen, riding a bad-tempered camel while on a package holiday. He also realised that humour is an integral part of our ability to cope with living.

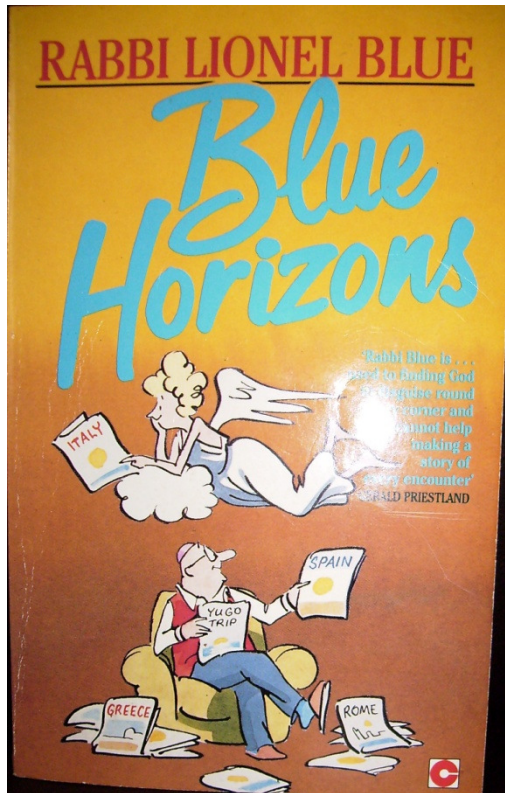
Now Lionel Blue has a large audience for his unique blend of humour and insight and in BLUE HEAVEN he has produced a further collection of stories drawn from his own experience. Funny and thought-provoking without every losing its appealing simplicity. BLUE HEAVEN will interest believers and non-believers alike. It is sure to find the same wide readership as his previous bestselling collection, *Bolts from the Blue*.

The Blue Guide to the Here & Hereafter by Lionel Blue and Jonathan Magonet



A collection drawn from the great treasury of Jewish spirituality, from the Old Testament to modern times, with linking passages by Rabbi Lionel Blue

Blue Horizons by Rabbi Lionel Blue

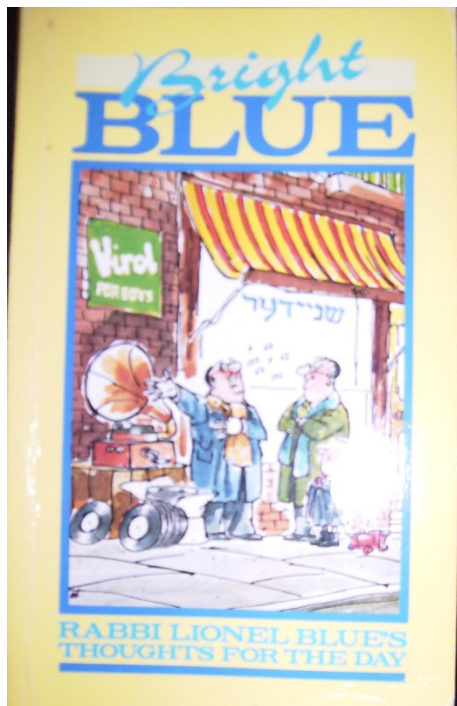


Rabbi Lionel Blue has travelled on trains, in planes and on hospital trolleys. He has hitchhiked, been given lifts in Mercs, found himself among the hippies of Amsterdam and pondered the meaning of life in East Berlin. He has explored Southend, Torremolinos and Benidorm. He has queued for buses, crowded onto commuter trains, sat in seething departure lounges and hospital waiting rooms.

In *Blue Horizons* he shows us how our daily excursions can go hand in hand with inner journeys and eternity can be found while waiting on a street corner.

Blue Horizons is a travel book, a funny book, a practical book and a spiritual book.

Bright Blue – Rabbi Blue’s Thoughts for the Day



Many a listener to Radio 4’s ‘Today’ programme has enjoyed a brighter and better morning because of Rabbi Blue’s celebrated ‘Thought for the Day’. His rare combination of humour and common sense makes these talks, derived from his own experience, unforgettable. *Bright Blue* contains a selection of the best of them. Rabbi Blue has known the East End of London, the University of Oxford and religious establishments in various European countries. He is at home in back street cafes and international conferences. His thoughts may strike him anywhere: in the pulpit, the kitchen or, on one notable occasion, a freshly-dug grave. *Bright Blue* will both sustain those people already committed to religion and clarify the nature of the religious experience to ‘outsiders’.

Rabbi Blue is convener of the religious court of the Reform Synagogues in Great Britain, and is a lecturer at the Leo Baeck College, the seminary for progressive rabbis in Europe. His previous books include *A Back Door to Heaven*, *A Taste of Heaven* (with June Rose), *To Heaven with Scribes and Pharisees*, and *Forms of Prayer* (with co-editor Rabbi Jonathan Magonet).

Simply Divine – Recipes from the Cooking Canon and Rabbi Blue



John Eley, BBC television's ever-popular Cooking Canon, has teamed up with Rabbi Blue, whose contributions to Radio 4's 'Today' programme have cheered many a morning listener, to present a selection of colourful and delicious recipes, based on their 'Pebble Mill at One' series. The book covers a whole range of themes – from religious and ritual dishes to picnic food and nursery favourites. Each section opens with a lively and amusing introduction and the authors never miss an opportunity to comment and approve each other's recipes. In 'Loaves and Fishes' the culinary couple suggest ingenious ways of feeding a multitude, their recipes in 'Comfort Food' are carefully chosen to cheer you up in times of stress, while special occasions can be celebrated with suitable aplomb in 'Putting on the Style'. *Simply Divine* is exactly what it claims – an entertaining way to enjoy cooking and produce some truly heavenly fare.