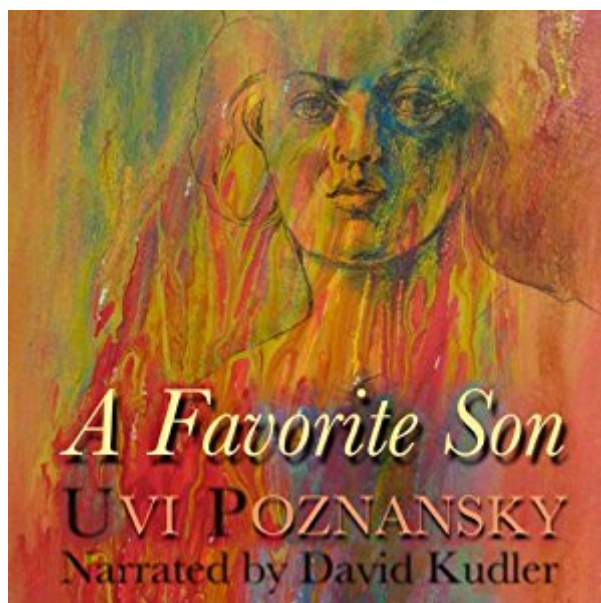


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A Favorite Son



Synopsis

A Favorite Son is a modern twist on an old tale: Jacob and his mother are plotting together against the elderly father Isaac, who is lying on his deathbed. They wish to get their hands on the inheritance and take control of the power in the family. Jacob yearns to become the favorite son, but sees only one way to achieve it: deceit. In planning his deception, it is not love for his father, nor respect for his age that drives his hesitation--rather, it is the fear to be found out. And so, pretending to be that which he is not--he is now ready for the last moment he is going to have with his father. This is no old fairy tale. Its power is here and now, in each one of us.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

A biblical fan fic with the emphasis on the dysfunctionality of a family. A brothers betrayal. A mothers mental dissociative disorder and above all greed. Lentil soup never tempted me though the kosher -- oops not yet a firm concept -- stew sounds far more appealing. When a woman faints the first time she sees her husband you know something will go wrong. Written with a very dry sense of humor using facts of a medley of the Christian and Jewish faith to confuse and lay upon the table the discrepancies of blind faith. A unique story of human frailty and insecurities which is expressed in greed and deception. A true treasure. WaAr

"Sell me your birthright," I say, as loudly as I can. "We are twins, after all. First son, second son -- same difference, right? It's a split second either way. What does it matter? Sell me the damned

thing and you get to eat." So speaks Jacob to Esau, the twin sons born late to Rebecca and Isaac. That competition fuels this Biblical story of young men at odds and in competition over inheritance and their father's deathbed blessing. Like the Biblical tale from which it is drawn, "A Favorite Son" has much to teach us. So you think you know this story, have already gleaned from it all it has to offer? Think again. Uvi Poznansky's Biblical tales are always surprising, always lyrical, yet always modern and fresh. Morality tales updated for the 21st century? Why bother? Because we need those lessons, those insights, more than ever. But don't read A Favorite Son for the meditation upon truths of human nature -- which it does offer, and rich ones at that. Read it for what Uvi brings to her tales of bible times: a unique and special flavor, hers alone. Zola is credited with saying, "Art is life seen through a temperament." Whether or not Zola was the first to say this, the definition of art is the best we have. And by that definition, Uvi creates art in "A Favorite Son," but art never distanced from the reader; literary fiction for our times. Read all of Uvi's tales of the Old Testament and learn something about your own history, your own emotions, your own culture while you're enjoying the sumptuous feast laid before you. Did I say feast? Well, there is a certain meal in this particular tale, which nourishes the story and the reader in surprising ways...

Dysfunctional families aren't reserved just for the modern day, and this story retells what must be one of the most classic cases in history. The fact that it's Biblical history just adds to the mystique. It's the gentle twists of difference that bring this tale of Jacob and Esau to life and give it power. Yankle, the younger son, grows up resenting his bigger, stronger, marginally older brother. Parental favorites wound. Meanwhile the beloved mother appears as a foreigner, carried away from home and family (and riches) to live in a tent with her past safely hidden in a box. She doesn't wear a burka. Her shoes are painfully inappropriate. She doesn't belong, and neither does her son. Author Uvi Poznansky adds a sense of immediacy to the tale as Yankle looks back on his past with a curious mix of modern and ancient perspectives. There's a pleasing humor as he muses over religions born from his home or complains of "no bus ticket to be found; and... a plane ticket was out of the question." There's all the delight of the familiar when Jacob's ladder appears, and all the joy of the new as hints and details sneak quietly into the tale. Simultaneously bringing past and present to life, the author gives this Bible story a powerful modern-day relevance behind its haunting antiquity, with every detail inspiring further thought and contemplation. A masterful retelling. Disclosure: I was lucky enough to buy this when it was free.

"A Favorite Son" by Uvi Poznansky is a skillful, creative modernization of the Biblical story of Isaac

and Rebecca, and their twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Ms. Poznansky creates a story full of jealousy, spite and even hate, which competes with compassion, family ties and love. This is a quick read that was entertaining and often funny. The author appears to take turns respecting and mocking tradition, doing both in a delightful manner. One of the many lessons in this book is to be careful what you wish for, as is so brilliantly illustrated in the character Yankle, whose voice carries the story. This is a real good book and I look forward to reading more of Uvi Poznansky's work.

A Favorite Son is a very clever retelling of the story of Jacob and Esau. The underlying story holds very strongly to the conflict of Jacob and Esau, the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca as described in the book of Genesis. However, just as reading the Torah is a lot about reading between the lines and interpreting what is said, and not said, so, too, does A Favorite Son provide the "inside story" from the viewpoint of all the major characters in this tale. The story is set in modern times, with modern conveniences, such as the stiletto heels Rivkah wears, and the reference to a Rolls-Royce when she demands a quadruple-humped camel from Isaac. This is a tongue-in-cheek satire that also makes the reader think about the motivations of the characters in the story in the book of Genesis. The story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis is well - known: Jacob steals Esau's birthright by convincing the dying Isaac that he is Esau, Isaac's favorite, with help from his conniving mother Rebecca, whose favorite is Jacob. In this amusing re-telling, Jacob is Yankel (a Yiddish-ized version of Jacob), and he is a snide, lazy, whining, well, schmuck, but his parents and brother are no better. While the book is very funny, the underlying story of family dysfunction and the consequences of envy, favoritism, and deceit, as told in Genesis, is made even more obvious in this re-creation. I have read other attempts to re-tell Bible tales and have been sorely disappointed; and so approached this tale with a great deal of hesitation. I was pleasantly surprised to find this so well done. I would like to read more by this author.

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