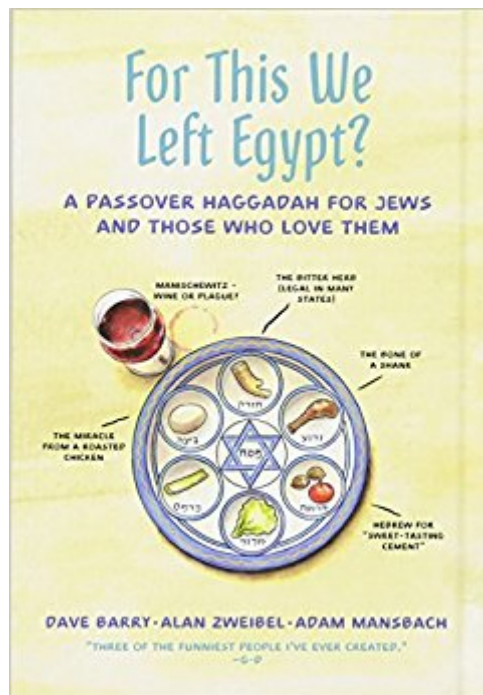




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For This We Left Egypt?: A Passover Haggadah For Jews And Those Who Love Them



Synopsis

The book you hold before you is no ordinary Haggadah. If you've ever suffered through a Seder, you're well aware of the fact that the entire evening can last as long as the exodus from Egypt itself. There are countless stories, dozens of blessings, and far too many handwashings while the meal turns cold. Now prepare to be entertained by another version of the book that's responsible for this interminable tradition. With this hilarious parody Haggadah from the comedic minds of Dave Barry, Alan Zweibel, and Adam Mansbach, good Jews everywhere will no longer have to sit (and sleep) through a lengthy and boring Seder. In *For This We Left Egypt?*, the authors will take you through every step of the Seder, from getting rid of all the chametz in your home by setting it on fire with a kosher blowtorch to a retelling of the Passover story starring Pharaoh Schmuck and a burning bush that sounds kind of like Morgan Freeman, set against the backdrop of the Promised Land which turned out not to be a land of milk and honey but rather one of rocks and venomous scorpions the size of Yorkshire terriers. You then eat a celebratory brisket and wrap up the whole evening by taking at least forty-five minutes to say good-bye to everyone. So gather all the Jews in your life (even the few who don't appear to be long-suffering) and settle in for a fun way to pass the time while waiting for Elijah to show up.

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Customer Reviews

"Three comic writers have some fun with Passover. Seders may never be the same. •
USA Today "A full-fledged comic assault on Passover | Finally, someone has created a full Haggadah that is not only fun to read, but isn't covered in wine

stains. | For This We Left Egypt? runs riot with the Haggadah and takes readers from the sophomoric to the sublimely funny. | The Forward | “Three well-known humorists have written a Haggadah for an overlooked crowd: the wiseguys, cutups, and punsters who frankly have a hardtime taking the whole thing seriously. | Jewish Telegraph Agency | “[Barry, Zweibel, and Mansbach] have joined forces to come up with the perfect humoristic antidote to this Passover ritual | [For This We Left Egypt?] is a loudly humorous, acerbic parody of the haggadah, as it dissects every aspect of the Passover holiday | All in all, a new Passover tradition can be established with For This We Left Egypt? So instead of singing some traditional holiday songs before or after the festive meal, families can recite passages from this book and get a full comic Passover experience. Then again, they can use this book as a haggadah substitute. | Montreal Times | “A must-have for those who collect haggadot or for anyone who loves a laugh. If you’re looking to lighten up your seder, you might read a page or two from it. Just be careful, though: people might refuse to turn back to the traditional text. | The Reporter | “[For This We Left Egypt?] brings a fair measure of levity to a holiday when leavening is banned. The book is both reverential and irreverent. | New York Jewish Week | “A hilarious take on Passover. | • | Long Island Pulse

Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning humor writer whose columns and essays have appeared in hundreds of newspapers over the past thirty-five years. He has also written a number of New York Times bestselling humor books, including Live Right and Find Happiness (Although Beer Is Much Faster). He is not Jewish, but many of his friends are. An original Saturday Night Live writer, Alan Zweibel has won numerous Emmy and Writers Guild of America awards for his work in television, which also includes It’s Garry Shandling’s Show (which he co-created), Late Show with David Letterman, and Curb Your Enthusiasm. He collaborated with Billy Crystal on the Tony Award-winning play 700 Sundays, and he won the Thurber Prize for his novel The Other Shulman. Unlike Dave Barry, he has no Jewish friends. Adam Mansbach is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Go the F*** to Sleep and You Have to F***** Eat, as well as the California Book Award-winning novel The End of the Jews, a dozen other books, and the movie Barry. His work, which has been translated into more than forty languages, has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Book Review, Esquire, and The Believer and on National Public Radio’s All Things Considered and This American Life. Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel are his only friends.

At first glance, I couldn't wait to give this a second and third glance, followed by a probing analysis (with the focus on the 'ysis' part, not the other part). Anyway to clarify, this is not a Hagada it's more like primer/sidebar commentary as written by your very smart, somewhat snarky yet definitely very funny uncle--the one your parents had to invite every few years when it was "their turn"(or when your aunt called your mom and said "I don't care what excuses you come up with, next year he's all yours")...To put this in a more "Haggadic" context (and give me another chance to use non-air quotes), the 5 Rabbinic sages(none of whom had the Hebrew letter "phlegm" in their names) who pulled an all nighter discussing our Exodus from Egypt(and if God and/or Moses could sue Leon Uris for stealing the title) have nothing on the 3 comedy sages who made this instant classic a reality. Regardless if you celebrate Pesach, Passover, or "none of the above", (because you're gentile and use your Jewish-sounding name to get discounts when shopping in Jewish neighborhoods)It's truly a well crafted tome that's also a wake up call to anyone who thinks Seder reading material starts and stops with Maxwell house... speaking of Maxwell House, this is like a shot of espresso...and I mean the good stuff, not the overpriced stuff those hipster posers buy...it's so good, I can't wait to see the Broadway version!All kidding aside(well most of it), please don't confuse this with anything by Artsroll, Feldheim or for that matter Maxwell House, but despite that methinks it WILL inspire some smart Pesach/Passover-related conversation(which is what the Seder is all about)and in the process, add a fun dynamic...which is not at all surprising, considering it was done by some seriously funny guys. Makes me wish I was a fly on the wall at the "seders past" that inspired this idea.

This is a "Haggadah" by three of the funniest people G-d ever created (really, it says so right on the front of the book), Alan "I wrote for SNL when it was still really good" Zweibel, Adam "I wrote a dirty kids book" Mansbach and Dave "I've sold considerably more books than either of the other two guys" Barry. It's not so much a Haggadah as Haggadish, but it IS a very, very funny book. Actually using this Haggadah at a Seder would likely lead to a very, very short Seder. (This may be a big selling point.) At the same time, the authors have actually expanded the story of the Exodus beyond the traditional Haggadah, as they note: "In a standard Haggadah, the story of Passover ends with the crossing of the Sea of Reeds. This is because the authors of most Haggadahs have not promised their publishers that they would deliver a manuscript of no fewer than ninety-six pages." It can (and WILL, at my Seder), however, be used as a fantastic supplement as it raises important discussion questions such as "Vito Corleone had

four children: Sonny, Fredo, Michael, and Connie. At Corleone family Seders, who do you think asked each of the four questions, and why?" (I anticipate significant debate at my Seder; of course, my contention is that Vito would always have Connie do the four questions, because she had that cute little voice until it got all whiny after she got married to that jerk Carlo.) In true Talmudic fashion, there is a supplemental note (it is not clear whether this is from the Rashi): "Tom Hagen, an orphan whom Sonny brought home and who once told Sonny, 'I'm as much a son to him [Vito] as you or Mike, but he does not count. Though it's certainly revealing that he didn't say, 'you, Mike, or Fredo.' Clearly, Tom considered himself more of a Corleone than Fredo. This seems likely to be accurate; as Rabbi Eliezer has written, 'Fredo got dropped on his head as an infant.' Generally speaking, this is a very funny overview of the Haggadah, probably most enjoyable for those already familiar with the Seder, but funny for anyone who ever watched the Ten Commandments and wondered just how dumb the Egyptians had to be to follow the Israelites into the split Red Sea when they had just spent the last however long getting brutalized by plagues and anybody with half a brain had to know that the water was coming back.

I thought it was great. I am in middle of writing my own Haggadah. (No competition, different audience). It made me laugh and think. Thank god my midrash has a different audience or I'd be depressed tonight. But this one makes me happy, never boring and i still write mine. oh yeah this isn't about me, this midrash was fun and stuck to the the book, I can almost stop asking "can we eat yet". ?

I have ten grandchildren ,varying in age .Preparing for and running the Seder , while maintaining their interest has always been a challenge , and in the process have used 15 different Haggadahs over the years .The Barry Haggadah is one of a kind, offering numerous belly laughs ,as it covers the Seder essentials.Hope you can still get it in time for next week's Seder. But , not to worry it has enough in it to provide helpful material for many years.

As I expected, this was so funny. To all who know what a Haggadah is supposed to be, this adds light to the table, fun and laughs to the usually hungry and of course, people are altogether too serious!!Great idea.

This is probably the first Haggadah rated R....for grown-ups only (and certainly not if you are

religious!) Dave Barry never writes anything that doesn't give you a belly laugh on every page....enjoy!

As a lifelong gentile, I can't say I've ever read the Haggadah. I can say that it's probably not as hilariously funny as this Haggadah, and therefore I'm glad this is the one I own. Dave Barry, Alan Zweibel, and Adam Mansbach employ their unparalleled humor to make the traditions of Passover wildly entertaining. I hope someone invites me to their Seder so I can share all of my newly found knowledge....and bring this Haggadah with me!

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