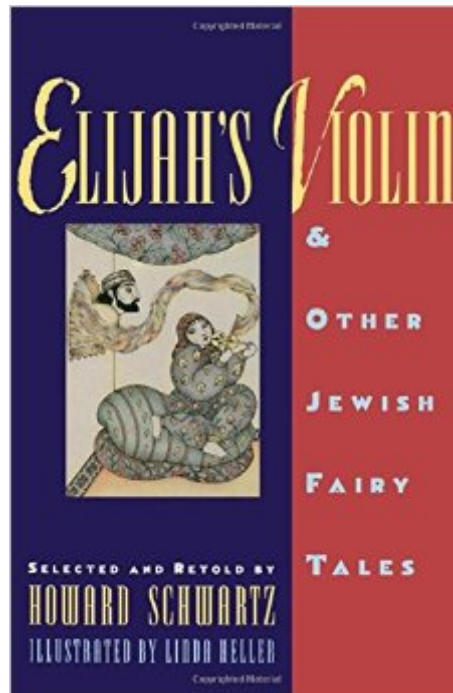


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# Elijah's Violin And Other Jewish Fairy Tales



## Synopsis

With this collection, Howard Schwartz retells 36 Jewish fairy tales that are at once otherworldly and earthy, pious and playful. Drawn from sources as diverse as Morocco and India, Spain and Eastern Europe, Babylon and Egypt, the stories are characterized by their infusion of traditional Jewish characters with the archetypal forms found in all fairy tales, or by their treatment of Jewish religious themes. The book combines the playfulness of fairy tales with the author's depth of knowledge of the historical origins of the tales. Throughout one can find the quests and riddles of the traditional fairy tale along with the divine intervention that characterizes the Jewish fairy tale.

## Book Information

Paperback: 324 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (October 20, 1994)

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,350,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #233 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Jewish #1869 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature #8225 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales

## Customer Reviews

Howard Schwartz's *Elijah's Violin* will appeal to both those who love fairy tales and those who love Jewish folklore. The stories have elements of more familiar fairy tales - birds that speak, mute princesses, magic mirrors, love, fear, good, and evil. However, Jewish elements make the stories distinctive. King Solomon appears in several of the tales, as does Asmodeus, King of the Demons in Jewish folklore. Schwartz's retellings are deft and lyrical and Heller's art complements the stories beautifully. If you're looking to be transported to a palace made of water or wish to go on a journey with a pirate princess, look no farther than *Elijah's Violin*.

I have read *Elijah's Violin* numerous times and think it is a wonderful ride through fairy tales and fantasy. Children will love this book, I have been reading it since the age of 7, and am still enjoying it

to this day. I suppose I have a slight bias since the author is my father, but I still think it's a great book!

My wife and I are BIG lovers of Jewish folk tales, so this is the perfect addition to our library! It is intriguing for us to know that some of these stories are old enough that Jesus Himself may have heard them as a young child. Besides that, they add an enlarged understanding for us of other cultures and peoples.

I bought this for a Birthday gift for a friend who loves fairy tales. Then I started to worry that they might not be any good. I decided to read a few of the stories and ended up reading the whole thing cover to cover! This book is filled with wonderful stories that are well written. I am not Jewish which is probably why I have never hear any of the stories before. My friend however is Jewish and LOVED this book. He said it has all of his favorite stories. SPOILER: I particularly love the stories because they have strong females who occasionally save the men.

I have been a fan of Howard Schwartz's story collections since I first read Liliths Cave a few years ago. I bought this for my girlfriend for our anniversary, and she loved it as well. Reading Howard Schwartz's story collections together has become an almost nightly routine. I would recommend this to anyone who has an interest in Jewish culture, or in folklore in general. Whether you are looking for something to read to you kid, or (like us) you are a university student...these stories are compelling fun and a great insite into the way our ancestors lived.

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