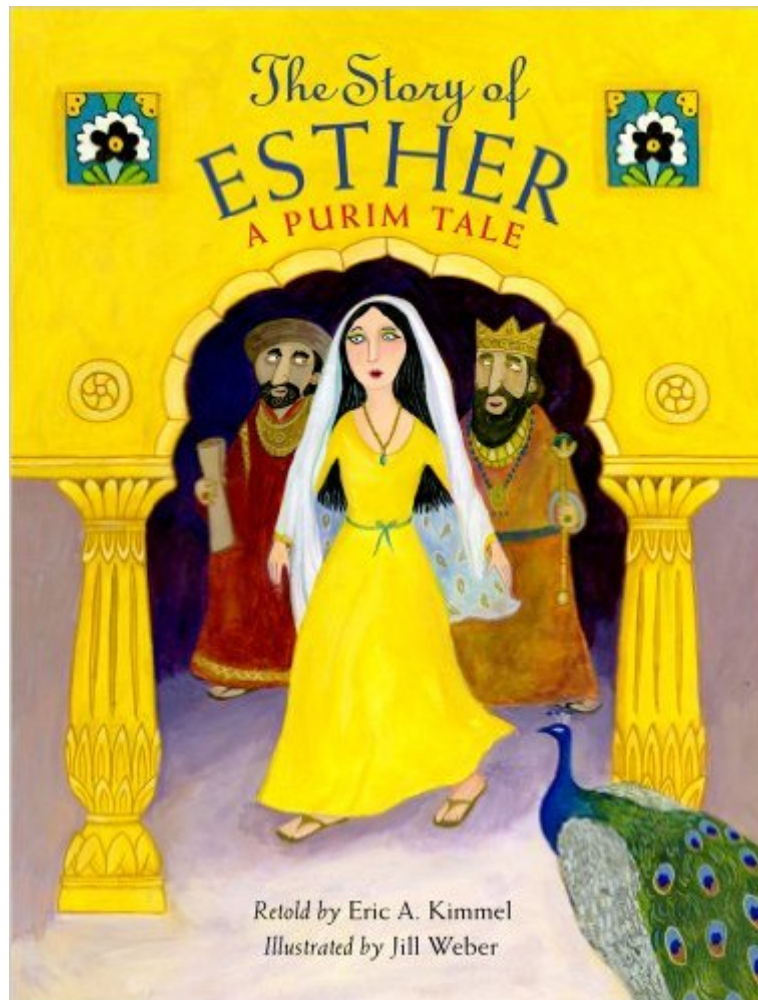


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The Story Of Esther: A Purim Tale



Synopsis

Told for many thousands of years, Esther's story is still thrilling as well as inspiring. The Purim story is full of drama. It brings together a mighty king, a jealous scoundrel, and a wise uncle. However, at its center is a clever heroine who was so beautiful she was known as the Morning Star. It is only because of Queen Esther's cunning and courage that evil was brought to justice and many lives were saved.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD670L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823422232

ISBN-13: 978-0823422234

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #519,328 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism #132 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious #179 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Kimmel's latest reads the way a storyteller sounds. His solid holiday tale parallels Purim's origins as recorded originally in Torah passages. His text is long, dense and colorful with rich vocabulary in the embroidered dialogues underlining biblical action. This length offers a good volume for third graders who often consider themselves readers too advanced for picture books. The serious, bordering on stern, words get a lift from Weber's delightful illustrations which suggest humor and foreshadow the happy ending. Beauty pageant, murder plots, political jockeying, and manipulating feasts unroll in biblical order. Esther wins with natural beauty and few adornments which, though not part of Torah details, offer a lovely message to the would-be princess crowd. Readers discover the assimilated culture of Persia, the sad fate of Vashti, Esther's dedication to her Judaism, Mordecai's descent from Jewish captives in Babylonia, Haman's use of dice and its connection to the holiday's name.

The book teaches much in a captivating way through exciting plot, beautiful women with strong moral fiber, daring Jewish heroes vanquishing an evil scoundrel and a big party to celebrate, not once but every year, a glorious victory. Well done, well recommended! For grades 1-3. Ellen G. Cole

This biblical tale is full of action, political intrigue and murder plots. Not typical fare for a children's picturebook? In the hands of master storyteller Eric Kimmel, the tale of Esther and the origins of Purim becomes a captivating, enriched adaptation. But as Eric offers in a recent interview, "...it's a very problematical text. It's not really a children's story - it's full of sex and violence. It would make a great video game." He pares down the traditional text, changing some of the details to make the story accessible. But the theme remains true: In times of trouble, have faith, and don't give up. Esther is the clever heroine. Commanded to the king's palace, Esther wins the king's heart with her natural beauty and wit. Meanwhile, the king's chief minister Haman becomes enraged when Mordecai, Esther's uncle, refuses to bow down to him. He vows revenge on Mordecai's family and people. When Esther learns of the wicked plot, she must use every shred of her wit to save them. The plot is full of twists and turns as clever Esther devices a plan to save her beloved uncle and people. Jill Weber blends acrylic, gouache, tempera and watercolor inks, creating a brilliant display of color and form that evoke ancient tapestries. This makes a wonderful addition to your collection!

Fast delivery, inexpensive and good quality for a used book. I read it to my religious school students (Jewish) and it spurred some good discussion, although it is missing some major points from the original Megillah.

Master story teller Eric A Kimmel puts his magic touch on the biblical Story of Esther. His lengthy text is more suited for upper elementary students than younger children. Eric skillfully highlights important facts and details from the original version into a child friendly adaptation. Jill's creative artwork includes a mixture of acrylic, gouache, tempera, watercolor inks and pencil. The detailed drawings adds to the overall appeal and provides a better understanding of life in ancient Persia.

I am not an educator or artist, merely a grandparent who was looking for a Purim book to read to my grandchildren. The book ends with Haman begging Queen Esther for mercy, and the King, implicitly with her support, ordering "Hang him from the gallows out there! Hang his whole family with him!" This is the first mention of Haman's "whole family", When the young listener or reader hears "whole family" they will think of and identify with families like their own, with very young children. They will

wonder any children deserve to be hung (what did they do?) and may wonder just what kind of religion Judaism is. Technically, the rendition of events in this children's book version follows the original (his children were adults and in on the conspiracy) but in my opinion, this is a gratuitous insertion into the narrative.

I bought this to introduce our son to the story of Purim. Some parts i thought were a little too graphic for him (even if they are authentic) such as Hamen being hung on the gallows made for Mordechai; however, they were easy enough to simply skip. The story itself is long. It kept our son's attention, but it did take awhile to read it. The pictures are nice and, like i said, the story is authentic.

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