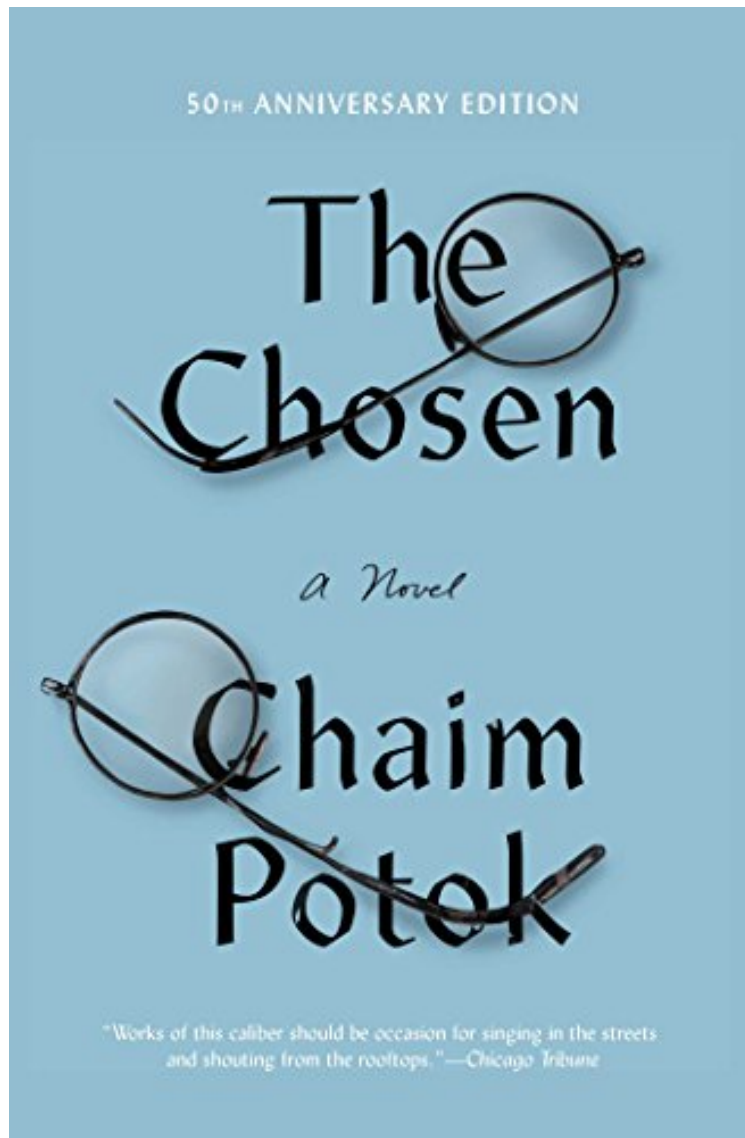


(Download free ebook) The Chosen (English Edition)

## The Chosen (English Edition)

Von Chaim Potok

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**Von Chaim Potok : The Chosen (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Chosen (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. STILL THE BEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ- but Reuven's not secularVon Andrew NusbaumWell, it's been another year, but the Chosen is still the best book I've ever read. I made some errors on my last review, so I'll change them. I did not WRITE the Chosen, I READ it (which is what I meant to say, except that I was too busy applauding Chaim Potok).

And I have since found out that the term for one who is born Jewish but becomes more religious later is "b'aal teshuvah", not "born-again-Jew". (But it kinda works, doesn't it?) For people who are still confused about all the Jewish terms: LOOK THEM UP! I didn't know much about Judaism before I read it either, so I read through dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc... NOW I know enough to UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT. (And aren't books much more FUN that way?) Reuven is clearly NOT a secular Jew. He is Orthodox. (Modern Orthodox, as it is called now.) No secular Jew goes to synagogue, is instructed in Yiddish and Hebrew in a yeshiva, (or even goes to a yeshiva) studies Talmud, wears a yarmulke and prays with tefillin, ok? Clearly, Reuven's character is portraying the few thousand Orthodox Jews who think that the current-day-Israel has the right to exist, despite passages in the Torah that say otherwise. (I think Potok, who is also Orthodox, is one of them too, and the fact that there were enough Orthodox Zionists in the High School show that he was really trying to set these characters apart, even among the Orthodox.) The theme here is not that Danny is more religious than Reuven. It's that BOTH are religious, and that each thinks the other way is wrong. This often occurs among M.O. (Modern Orthodox) and U.O. (Ultra-Orthodox, including Hasidism). The interesting thing is, according to the HALACHAH (I hope I spelled that right), or "religious laws", they are both "religious". ex: Torah forbids touching face and sides of head with a blade, so Hasidism grow beards and "sidelocks" (peyes). However, M.O. use an electric razor (no blade), so technically, they are still fulfilling the commandment. Every time I read this, more insight is gained. I still say this book, although fictional, is a valuable reading material for the secular and Reform Jews of today who still can't comprehend why "anyone would want to live like that". This book has impacted my life and I will always be grateful to Chaim Potok for writing it. He is a genius, and I hope he continues to write many more masterpieces of literature. (I eagerly look forward to the finishing of Asher Lev's story, which Potok is supposedly working on.)

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "The Chosen" Is A Miracle For All Von Dan Eaton I am an African American attorney who read this book as part of collecting readings for a summer trip with Operation Understanding to share with Black and Jewish high school students. Operation Understanding takes 8 Black and 8 Jewish students between their Junior and Senior years of high school on a trip across the South and Northeast, stopping at places of significance to both, in an effort to restore the alliance that existed between the groups especially during the Civil Rights Movement. This was the perfect book to gain a deeper understanding of American Jewry for the trip. The book explores the relationship between two deeply religious boys from profoundly different traditions within that religion who are accidentally -- divinely, really -- brought together. The development of both boys' spirituality starts with lessons from their fathers and deepens with lessons from each other. The Chosen takes place in World War II America. I was already familiar with many of the classic accounts of Holocaust survivors (Anne Frank, Elie Wiesel, and others.) This book richly filled a gap in that understanding by presenting a fully formed first person account, though fictitious, of the wrenching experience of American Jews who helplessly learned of the horror from here. The book also offers thorough background information (which will have to be supplemented by further reading) about Jewish history, both cultural and religious. The author patiently explains terms presumably unfamiliar to the general reader and then trusts the reader to turn back if, during the course of reading the novel, the terms are momentarily forgotten. Those reviewers who said that Potok left the reader unaided were simply not paying close attention. Beyond its fascinating historical and religious perspectives, this book's elegant craftsmanship and universal themes will move anyone, regardless of background. Potok's gift for writing regional American dialogue is similar to that of Twain and Steinbeck. Thematically, especially moving to me was the way in which the fathers' mostly wordless love and support for their sons manifested itself in the friends' often wordless love and support for each other. It is significant in this regard that the fathers never meet in the novel, even as they separately express a conflicted admiration for each other when each speaks to one or both boys. When both boys choose career paths their fathers had not expected, Potok allows the reader to share all four characters' realization that it is fulfilling the expectations of God, the Father that ultimately matters most. I will share an excerpt of this extraordinary book with the young people on our trip. And when we reach New York, my hometown, I'm giving my copy to my Dad.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. THE BEST BOOK I HAVE EVER READ- TEACHES WHAT JUDAISM IS ABOUT Von Ein Kunde I had to read the Chosen for my 8th Grade English class in 1998. It is without a doubt the best book I have ever written. I read it in under 2 days, and since then have read almost all his books dealing with adolescent Jews. This book shows what it means to be Jewish, that Judaism is as much about personal relationships with God as it is with others, with the community. It shows that friendship conquers all, even schisms in religion. It was a big insight into the sometimes mysterious worlds of Hasidism and Orthodoxy, and is useful in showing differences (I was not aware of any until I read this book). I am a secular Jew and identified strongly with both characters. For the students who say it was boring and that only Jews could understand it, I think they should have done some research before starting it. For instance, you shouldn't read this book until you know what the Torah is, at least. A glossary at the back would have helped comprehension, but would have taken away from the story as well. By not providing definitions every five pages, Chaim Potok let the story envelop readers, so that they felt that they knew everything Danny and Reuven knew. If the students didn't understand something, they should have looked it up, like the students in my class should have. I cannot believe that anyone can say this was boring, as I think it is one of the best looks into stricter American Judaism. Such books are necessary for the Reform Jews of today who

regard Orthodox Jews and Hasidism as fanatics and extremists. His books "The Promise", "My name is Asher Lev", and "The Gift of Asher Lev" are good for this purpose as well. The character of Reb Saunders is one of the most original ones I have ever encountered. He makes me understand my late grandfather, a "Born-again Jew" better. This book has impacted my life and I will always be grateful to Chaim Potok for writing it. He is a genius, and I hope he lives to write many more masterpieces of literature.

**Kurzbeschreibung** A coming-of-age classic about two Jewish boys growing up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, this profound and universal story of what we share across cultures remains deeply pertinent today (The Wall Street Journal). Its the spring of 1944 and fifteen-year-olds Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders have lived five blocks apart all their lives. But they've never met, not until the day an accident during a softball game sparks an unlikely friendship. Soon these two boys one expected to become a Hasidic rebbe, the other at ease with secular America are drawn into one another's worlds despite one father's strong opposition. Set against the backdrop of WWII and the creation of the state of Israel, *The Chosen* is a poignant novel about transformation and tradition, growing up and growing wise, and finding yourself even if that might mean leaving your community..de Few stories offer more warmth, wisdom, or generosity than this tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times in which they live. Though on the surface it explores religious faith--the intellectually committed as well as the passionately observant--the struggles addressed in *The Chosen* are familiar to families of all faiths and in all nations. In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood. The intellectual and spiritual clashes between fathers, between each son and his own father, and between the two young men, provide a unique backdrop for this exploration of fathers, sons, faith, loyalty, and, ultimately, the power of love. (This is not a conventional children's book, although it will move any wise child age 12 or older, and often appears on summer reading lists for high school students.)**Pressestimmen** Anyone who finds *The Chosen* is finding a jewel. Its themes are profound and universal.... It will stay on our bookshelves and be read again. (The Wall Street Journal) *The Chosen* is one of the best novels I have read in the last decade. The author asks and provides unique and original answers to the nature of parental love, infuses his novel with a quiet and compelling wisdom, and brings alive a period and neighborhood with rare style. (Los Angeles Times) Perceptive, touching, exquisite, and unusual.... This is a most profound novel: Chaim Potok is a gifted writer. (The Boston Sunday Herald) It makes you want to buttonhole strangers in the street to be sure they know its around.... It revives my sometimes fading belief in humanity. Works of this caliber should be occasion for singing in the streets and shouting from the rooftops. (Chicago Tribune) So entertaining, so full of love and compassion that readers of all persuasions will take it to their hearts. Mr. Potok is writing about two fathers and their sons... in a way that will ring just as true at Iowa as in Brooklyn. (Publishers Weekly) *The Chosen* is a compelling, absorbing book. It offers deep, sympathetic insight into the variety and profundity of Jewish tradition and heritage. Its interesting as social commentary and as, simply, story. Its a joy to read for its splendid, singing prose style as much as for its message. (Minneapolis Star Tribune) We rejoice, and even weep a little.... Long afterward it remains in the mind and delights. (The New York Times Book ) It is a simple, almost meager story... yet the warmth and pathos of the dealings between fathers and sons and the understated odyssey from boyhood to manhood give the book a range that makes it worth anybody's reading. (The Christian Science Monitor) A fine, moving, gratifying book. (Saturday ) Sensitive written and heartwarming. (Library Journal) A coming of age classic. (The Boston Globe)