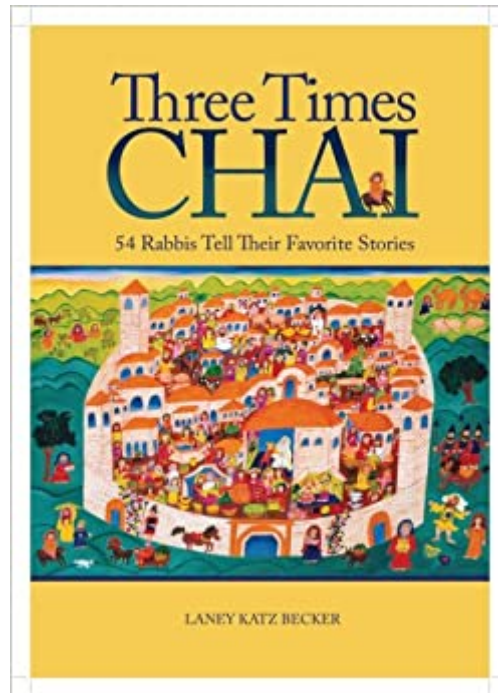




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Three Times Chai



Synopsis

Why do the disciples of the Ba al Shem Tov want to sneak out of prayer services? How can it happen that when two men climb down a chimney, one comes out clean while the other comes out dirty? What lesson does the mother teach her son by grabbing his pinky finger and pointing to his fingernail? If God is everywhere, why does the seer of Lublin go into the forest to find God? The answers to these curious questions, and many others, are revealed in the fifty-four stories in *Three Times Chai*. Storytelling has always been central to the Jewish tradition, and it's easy to understand why: A good story entertains, enlightens, and at its best, inspires. It's little wonder that to inform hearts as well as minds, we often choose to tell a story. *Three Times Chai* presents the very best of the Jewish tradition of storytelling in the voices of fifty-four contemporary rabbis. Some of their stories are light and humorous; others invite more reflection. And whether it leaves a smile on your lips or a lump in your throat, each story reflects a Jewish ideal. Each one can help us think about who we are, the nature of our relationships, and the way in which we would ideally lead our lives. The stories in *Three Times Chai* are diverse in origin, style, and content: There are classic Bible stories, rabbinic and modern commentary, folktales, and legends. And the rabbis who retell these stories are likewise diverse in their backgrounds and personal beliefs. Some of them are well-known in the Jewish community; some are well-known for their storytelling abilities; some have only just begun to establish their own voice. All of them retell their favorite stories in their own voice, allowing their unique style and personality to shine through. Each story is followed by a brief explanation about why it is the rabbi's favorite. You need not be religious to appreciate what these stories have to say; the lessons are universal. They remind us that even while we are entertained, we have a tremendous responsibility to ourselves, to our families, to our neighbors, and to our communities. Most certainly, among these fifty-four stories you will find your own favorites!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Laney Katz Becker is an award-winning writer and the author of the novel *Dear Stranger, Dearest Friend*. Her articles have appeared in more than fifty magazines and newspapers. She lives in Westchester County, New York, with her husband, Harold, and their children.

Classic stories retold. Some engaging and with meaningful messages, some with standard moralizing and obvious messages. These stories are retold in the teller's own reworked version of an older story; readers are then encouraged to take these stories and rework them as well, to improve the narratives, and to sharpen the points made.

Some one screwed up here and got too cutesy - It's never a good idea to use an obscure title -- (Chai is the number 18 in Hebrew so 'Three Times Chai' means 54 - the number of stories in the book) -- and that's too bad, because a lot of people who would really love this book are going to pass right over the title without ever knowing about the gems, humor and joy inside. What we have here are 54 Rabbi's favorite folk tales, parables and stories; collected and retold as short stories (most only one or two pages) with a quick paragraph at the end of why it's the Rabbi's favorite. It's hard to say who this is aimed at though. Folktale lovers? A solid hit. Bubbe reading to a six year old? Not so much... a little too heavy on the morality and too light on the humor for the littlest kids. Should every Hebrew School Library have it -- of course! Will a lot of kids take it out? Not sure. Do tweens read folktale morality stories? I loved this book. I guess you'll just have to try it out yourself.

Some stories more meaningful than others but in general , inspirational. I have a copy and have now given the book as a gift several times.

These stories were absolutely beautiful. I've already started passing them along to others and raved about this book. Beautiful collection.

This book was given to me as a gift my by Rabbi. I loved it so much that I bought a copy for my Mom and a good friend. It's like a box of good chocolates - you are tempted to devour the whole

book in one sitting, but it's better if you pace yourself and savor the message of each story.

Absolutely fabulous!

Love this book. Found it my accident one year and now I buy hit for gifts.

I have always enjoyed reading Jewish Tales - and I was thrilled to find a book with so many! The stories were short, but a joy to read...when is volume 2 coming out?

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