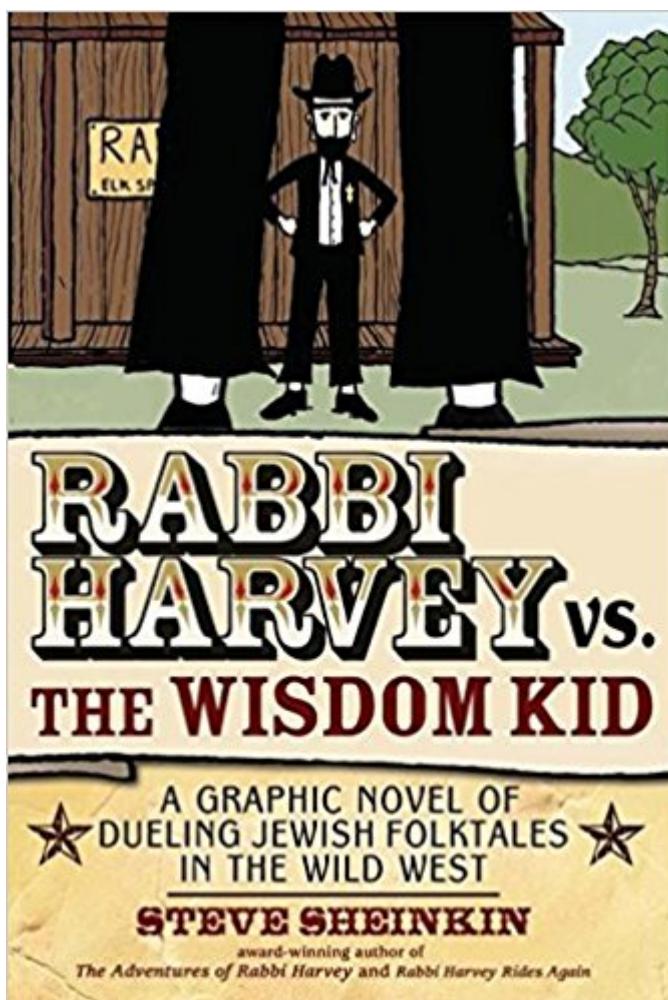


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Rabbi Harvey Vs. The Wisdom Kid: A Graphic Novel Of Dueling Jewish Folktales In The Wild West



Synopsis

Rabbi Harvey's First Book-Length Adventure and Toughest ChallengeIn his colorful career on the Rocky Mountain frontier, Rabbi Harvey has matched wits with a variety of villains—most notably the sweet-faced "Bad Bubbe" Bloom, and the self-proclaimed genius "Big Milt" Wasserman. In this exciting new volume, these two formidable foes team up to try to rid the West of Rabbi Harvey once and for all. The key to their evil scheme: Bad Bubbe's darling son, Rabbi "Wisdom Kid" Rubin, newly arrived from back East. He's young. He's clever. He's eager to take Harvey's place. But is he fast enough on the draw—the wisdom draw, that is—to take the town from Rabbi Harvey? The hilarious, action-packed plot draws on classic Jewish folktales, Talmudic teachings and the timeless wisdom of the wise men of Chelm. As always, Rabbi Harvey protects his town and delivers justice, wielding only the weapons of wisdom, wit and a bit of trickery. He also gets a bit of help from Abigail, the town's quick-thinking school teacher—a woman, it appears, who just may have captured his heart.

Book Information

Series: Rabbi Harvey

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 - 9

Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up Sheinkin combines dry wit and subtle humor with sepia-toned cartoons to tell the story of an unusual hero. Rabbi Harvey uses no other weapon than his intellect, but it serves him well

when he faces a competing rabbi who believes that the town isn't big enough for both of them. In one scene, Rabbi Ruben (aka The Wisdom Kid) sets up a competing Stump the Rabbi booth at the Elk Spring Fair. In another, Sheinkin incorporates both verbal and visual humor as the two men face off in the middle of the street in a scene reminiscent of a classic Western. People of all faiths will be able to appreciate this smart and thought-provoking story, but Jewish readers will be able to understand more of the references to the religion and Talmudic teachings. Translation footnotes are included when necessary, as is an overview of the author's story sources. Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Graphic-novel heroes can be anything from X-Men to Buddhist priests. So why not a rabbi? And why not a rabbi who lives in nineteenth-century Elk Spring, Colorado, where the women are party and everyone seems to be Jewish? Sheinkin takes this conceit and gallops with it as Rabbi Harvey (he loves learning, justice, and trout) jousts against a formidable rival, Rabbi Ruben. Ruben comes armed with his own wisdom—and parents who can give their son a little push. With two rabbis to work with, Sheinkin has ample opportunity to do what he does best: reworking Midrash, Jewish folktales, and Talmudic lore. Particularly fun is seeing the Wise Fools of Chelm relocated to Helm Falls, where they've just hung the baker for murder (he didn't do it—the blacksmith did—but Helm Falls only has one blacksmith, and there were two bakers). The illustrations feature deadpan characters and flat prairie colors; both match the droll, understated telling. Excellent sourcing moves readers to other stories, but they might not be as much fun without Harvey. Grades 6-9. --Ilene Cooper

I admit to initial doubts about the Rabbi Harvey books, but when I finally read them, they were extremely fun and entertaining. He admits he takes otherwise known Jewish stories, and rewrites them in a western setting, but they are good stories, and the retelling is done really well. The dialogue is often hilarious, and these books really appeal to the American Jewish public.

awesome books for kids and adults!

(Nor could my 11 year old--that speaks volumes.). Fun and entertaining, yet full of the wisdom of ancient sages. I'm hooked! I only hope he keeps adding to the series.

My son (age 10) loves all the Rabbi Harvey books!

Not as good as the first in the series. But still worthwhile if you like Rabbi Harvey, which I do.

Great for kids from age 6 or 7 through the dotage of old age. Charming, tongue-in-cheek humor, cute comic-book- style illustrations and presentation, everyone I know - most importantly, my 7- and 9-year-old grandsons - enjoys all of the books in this series.

This is part of a wonderful series. We now have all 3 of the Rabbi Harvey series and my children ages 6, 10 and 13 all enjoy them. The series is witty, funny, and thoughtful.

Here's the puzzle: How does an author of history textbooks convince American kids that traditional Jewish folklore is cool? Historian Steve Sheinkin solved the problem this way: He created Rabbi Harvey of the Wild West comic books. His graphic novels contain real-life Jewish wisdom embodied in a tough, tall, black-garbed hero who looks like Clint Eastwood's Jewish cousin--except that Harvey always shoots from his brain, never from his hip. Sheinkin's third book-length comic, "Rabbi Harvey vs. the Wisdom Kid," poses the toughest challenge yet for the clever young rabbi--another clever young rabbi! Their running confrontation brings Harvey to his knees--once again in classic Hollywood Western style. Sheinkin's overall goal is a revival of interest in Jewish folklore, and---even more than that---he wants to show readers that there are solutions to violent challenges that don't involve escalating the violence. His lifelong love of American history lights up especially around those moments when men and women found clever solutions to defuse crises. (If you want to sample his approach to getting kids interested in pure history, check out his prose book on the American West: *Which Way to the Wild West?: Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About Westward Expansion*) When Sheinkin sketches his hero Harvey, the drawings may look a bit like Clint Eastwood---but the overall storylines hark back to classic Hollywood Westerns and timeless spiritual themes. Rabbi Harvey's moral compass is more Moses than Eastwood's Man Without a Name. Rabbi Harvey doesn't part waters, but he dodges plenty of fists, knives, bullets and nooses by fearlessly drawing on the sheer wit and wisdom of Jewish literature.

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