

# [PDF] Boychiks In The Hood: Travels In The Hasidic Underground

Robert Eisenberg - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

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Author: Robert Eisenberg  
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**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** A ponytailed secular Jew who grew up learning Yiddish, the lingua franca of the orthodox, modernity-resisting Jewish sect known as Hasidim, Eisenberg has produced an engaging, if not always deep, mosaic of Hasidic life around the world. In Williamsburg and Boro Park, Brooklyn, home of the Satmars and the Belzers, he sees deeply rooted communities, finding himself welcomed and quizzed when he shows up at synagogues. In Los Angeles, the Lubavitchers have helped transform a Jewish community of '60s rejects that "carries the brand of Los Angeles on its back with the stark simplicity of a concentration camp tattoo." He visits tiny communities in Ukraine and Poland and describes how the small town of Postville, Iowa, has been changed by the advent of a Hasidic meat-packing plant. In lively Antwerp, the author observes signs of the vigorous prewar European Jewish

community and, in one of his many quirky encounters, finds himself discussing Meir Kahane while listening to Frank Zappa. Indeed, given the Hasids' devotion, resiliency and high birth rate, the author expects them to play a vital role in the American Jewish future.

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**From Library Journal** Eisenberg, a secularist educated at Columbia and Harvard, is a descendant of a Hasidic family. He thereby gains easy access to the various Hasidic circles by use of a key passport: his ability to speak Yiddish, the lingua franca of many Hasids. The author estimates that there are 650,000 Hasids in the world, but he predicts that because of their high birth rate and devotion to their cause their influence will grow by leaps and bounds. His book, lighthearted but insightful, resembles a travelog in some respects and recounts his encounters with various Hasidic personalities and sects. Along the way, Eisenberg shows that Hasidism is not an undivided monolith of thought and opinion. Indeed, it is composed of many sects that proudly emphasize their differences with other Hasidic groups. The work also shows that Hasids are not as cut off from the secular world as imagined. This book makes a nice complement to Samuel Beilman's more scholarly *Defenders of the Faith* (LJ 2/1/92). Recommended for larger libraries. —Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill.  
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Boychiks in the Hood is your passport to the Hasidic "underworld" -- a destination far different from popular expectations. Join Robert Eisenberg as he hangs out with an ex-Deadhead in Antwerp, makes a pilgrimage to the grave of the revered Rebbie Nachman in the Ukraine, munches mini-bagels with Rollerblading kosher butchers in Minnesota, discovers the last remaining religious Jews in Poland, talks sex with a karate-champion-turned-rabbi in Israel, and more. Simultaneously respectful and hilarious, Boychiks in the Hood is a surprising and unforgettable journey through the world. It is a book about the Hassidim, titled "Boychiks in the 'Hood" and subtitled "Travels in the Hassidic Underground", by Robert Eisenberg, published in 1995 by Harper, San Francisco. It is essentially a travelogue, moving from one Hassidic community to another, in the US, Europe and Israel. Eisenberg writes well, the story moves briskly and the imagery is vivid--you can almost smell the cabbage soup or hear the davening. Let me describe some of his stops. The rabbi, a grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov and a leader of his own Hassidic stream, died in 1811, and asked his faithful to visit him each Rosh Hashanah--and even though the Ukraine is in turmoil, an economic basket case, they come, by the thousands. The other part was the diversity within the Hasidic community, where many did not grow up living the Hasidic Jewish lifestyle, but came from all sorts of lives before. Some were fans of the Greatful Dead (Deadheads), etc. Well, "Boychiks in the Hood" is your "Hasidic 101 Guide" to satisfy your curiosity. Written by Robert Eisenberg, a secular Jew who became driven to have that same curiosity satisfied after discovering that Hasidim are a part of his own family's history, this book is both very entertaining & very informative, delving deeply into a subculture very few of us are educated about. Boychiks in the Hood is your passport to the Hasidic underworld -- a destination far different from popular expectations. Join Robert Eisenberg as he hangs out Free Shipping on all orders over \$10. Published by Thriftbooks.com User , 21 years ago. Boychicks In The Hood is an enjoyable book, no matter your level of knowledge within the field of Hassidim. The author's style of writing not only provokes thought and interest, but makes you want to keep on reading. I recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about the sociological intricacies of Traditional Judaism or someone who simply wants to enjoy a good book. A very real look at the Chassidic lifestyle. Published by Thriftbooks.com User , 23 years ago.