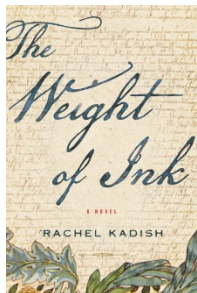


***The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish**



An ailing historian with a fondness for Jewish history reviews 17th century documents discovered during a renovation in London, and learns the story of an anonymous scribe working for a blind rabbi just before the onslaught of the plague.

See also:

Tolstoy Lied: A Love Story (2006)

From a Sealed Room (1998)

FURTHER READING:

***Maimonides, Spinoza and Us: Toward an Intellectually Vibrant Judaism* by Marc D. Angel (189)**

A challenging look at two great Jewish philosophers, and what their thinking means to our understanding of God, truth, revelation and reason.

***The Lost Messiah: In Search of the Mystical Rabbi Sabbatai Sevi* by John Freely (B)**

A dual portrait of controversial religious figure Rabbi Sabbatai Sevi and his Jewish cult traces Sevi's early life and education against a richly detailed backdrop of Jewish community culture, discussing how he acquired an international following despite his conversion to Islam in 1666.

***Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew who Gave Us Modernity* by Rebecca Goldstein (B)**

An intriguing portrait of the renegade seventeenth-century Jewish philosopher examines the events of his life, his heretical writings and his excommunication by Amsterdam's Jewish community, and the cultural and religious context and influence of his ideas.

***Spinoza: The Outcast Thinker* by Devra Lehmann (TB)**

A clear-sighted introduction to Spinoza, the Dutch philosopher who developed some of the most radical ideas in history, geared for teen reader.

***Spinoza: A Life* by Steven Nadler (B)**

A new edition of the Koret Jewish Book Award-winning biography of Baruch Spinoza is enhanced by exciting new archival discoveries about his family background, his youth, and the various philosophical, political and religious contexts of his life and works.

***A Life of Menasseh Ben Israel* by Cecil Roth (B)**

Published in 1934, this was the first comprehensive, modern account of the life and career of Menasseh ben Israel, the founder of Anglo-Jewry.

***Shakespeare and the Jews* by James Shapiro (811)**

Going against the grain of the dominant scholarship on the period, Shapiro presents how Elizabethans imagined Jews to be utterly different from themselves—in religion, race, nationality, and even sexuality. From strange cases of Christians masquerading as Jews to bizarre proposals to settle foreign Jews in Ireland, this book looks into the crisis of cultural identity in Elizabethan England and sheds new light on *The Merchant of Venice*.

READ-ALIKES:

***People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks (F)**

Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, Australian rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins.

***The Elixir of Immortality* by Gabi Gleichmann; translated by Michael Meigs (F)**

Spans a thousand years of European and Jewish history, as seen through the beguiling members of the Spinoza family who have passed down a manuscript containing the recipe for immortality for thirty-six generations.

***The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln* by Gluckel Hamelin (B)**

The diary of a German Jewish widow, begun in 1690 for her children, describes the manner in which she tended her business and family amid war and persecution.

***A Guide for the Perplexed* by Dara Horn (F)**

While consulting at an Egyptian library, software prodigy Josie Ashkenazi is kidnapped and her talent for preserving memories becomes her only means of escape as the power of her ingenious work is revealed, while at home, her jealous sister Judith takes over her life at home.

***Shylock Is My Name: The Merchant of Venice Retold* by Howard Jacobson (F)**

In a modern re-imagining of Shakespeare's Shylock--Simon Strulovitch, riddled with grief after the death of his wife, struggles with his daughter Beatrice's betrayal of family and his daughter Jessica's rejection of her Jewish roots.

***The Witch of Cologne* by Tobsha Learner (F)**

A sensuous Jewish midwife is persecuted by the Spanish Inquisition, a chief rabbi is forced to choose between his daughter and his people, and an inquisitor harbors a deeply personal reason for seeking the midwife's condemnation.

***Gateway to the Moon* by Mary Morris (F)**

A young, amateur astronomer, Miguel, takes a babysitting job for a Jewish family new to his hometown in New Mexico and is surprised to find many of their family's customs are similar to the ones he's grown up with and didn't understand.

***Heretics* by Leonardo Padura; translated from the Spanish by Anna Kushner (F)**

Padura takes us from the tenements and beaches of Cuba to Rembrandt's gloomy studio in seventeenth-century Amsterdam, telling the story of people forced to choose between the tenets of their faith and the realities of the world, between their personal desires and the demands of their times.

***The Spinoza Problem* by Irvin D. Yalom (F)**

Alfred Rosenberg, a Nazi ideologue, is convinced of German cultural greatness but he becomes haunted by the intellectual legacy of his hero, Goethe, when he discovers the poet's regard for the Jewish philosopher Baruch Spinoza.