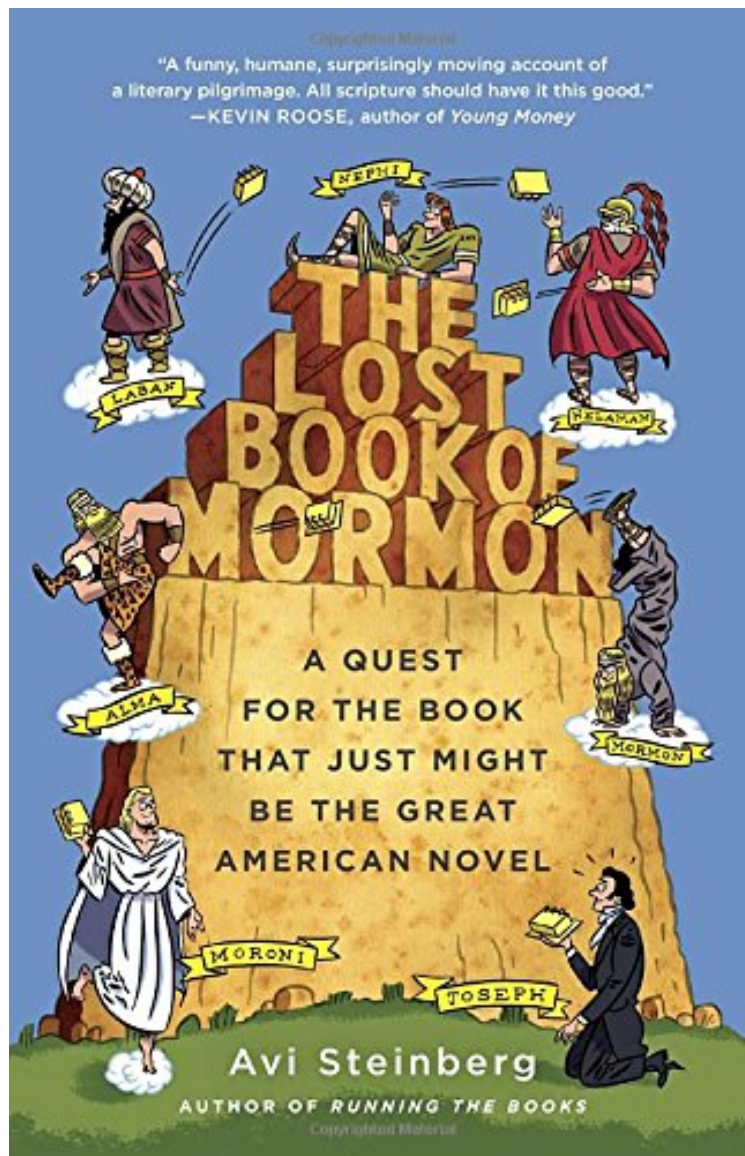


[Library ebook] The Lost Book of Mormon: A Quest for the Book That Just Might Be the Great American Novel

The Lost Book of Mormon: A Quest for the Book That Just Might Be the Great American Novel

Avi Steinberg

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#1981847 in Books Avi Steinberg 2015-11-24 2015-11-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .81 #File Name: 0307948366288 pagesThe Lost Book of Mormon A Quest for the Book That Just Might Be the Great American Novel | File size: 65.Mb

Avi Steinberg : The Lost Book of Mormon: A Quest for the Book That Just Might Be the Great American Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost Book of Mormon: A Quest for the Book That Just Might Be the Great American Novel:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A pilgrim's quest to the heart of "The Book of Mormon." By Florence Lewis Avi Steinberg undertakes a pilgrim's quest to the heart of "The Book of Mormon". In his droll, witty and understated style he lassos many interesting Joseph Smith tidbits, reveals fascinating connections between Hermann Melville and Smith, gamely bounces through a raucous, Chaucerian style, Mormon sponsored, quest to Mesoamerica in search of a Zarahemla siting, rehearses for, but does not act in, the Mormon Hill of Cumorah Pageant. On this journey Steinberg lays bare and deeply honors the author Smith's creative act, an activity with which Steinberg humbly identifies. As a riff on "The Book of Mormon", Steinberg acknowledges it as uniquely American literature and as a uniquely American religion. Steinberg shows us many echoes of the Hebrew Bible and its writer(s). He wisely hints that both the Book of Mormon and the Bible can sustain myriad interpretations. He suggests that both Mormon and Jewish text and practice can seem obscure and mysterious. Though Steinberg's book defies categorization, it is really a worthy read. We see before our eyes the thinking, the working and re working of quite complex religious and authorial ideas.. Steinberg would make a wonderful classroom teacher. He has the gift of gab with which he serves up a delicious dose of narrative and counter narrative. This is not a religious nor pious book. However, Steinberg's orthodox Jewish youth informs, shapes and structures his capacity to scrutinize, labor over and deliver an inside out view of another religious text.ter's is in a category by itself3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this book to people who like weird writing on ...By Art ShapiroA very weird book--part introspective memoir, part effusive cynicism, part interpretation of history, literature, religion, and the place where they all come together, the Hill Cumorah. Steinberg, during a depressing period in his life, decides to go on a pilgrimage to the supposed sites where the supposed history related in the Book of Mormon supposedly occurred. Most readers will be very surprised to learn that most of those sites are in Mesoamerica, not the eastern or central United States, and that Mormon history can be and has been thoroughly conflated with Mayan history. Some of the description of his almost-picaresque journey is a tad too cutesy--how could he have chanced upon quite so many cartoonish weirdos on one trip? Why in the world, when he decided to infiltrate and actually act in a Mormon pageant (which seems very similar to the New Age one at Mount Shasta, sort of a passion play for angelophiles), would he use an alias that sounds just as Jewish as Avi Steinberg does? I recommend this book to people who like weird writing on weird topics. Like my Uncle Uzzy, who thinks Andrei Codrescu sits at the right hand of God.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The first half was interesting and then it got bogged ...By M. GallasThe first half was interesting and then it got bogged down describing the Jos. Smith Farm and pageant. Should have gone to Nauvoo and Independence MO.

Is The Book of Mormon a Great American Novel? Avi Steinberg thinks so. In this quirky travelogue part fan nonfiction, part personal quest he follows the trail laid out in Joseph Smith's book. From Jerusalem to the ruined Mayan cities of Central America to upstate New York and, finally, to Jackson County, Missouri the spot Smith identified as the site of the Garden of Eden Steinberg traces The Book's unexpected path and grapples with Joseph Smith's demons and his own. Literate and funny, personal and provocative, the genre-bending *The Lost Book of Mormon* boldly explores our deeply human impulse to write books, and affirms the abiding power of story.

Powerfully resonant. . . . Steinberg masterfully interweaves his personal narrative . . . with the larger investigation. . . . A book about books, a story about stories, that sets out to explore why we tell them, how we craft them, and what makes some stand the test of time while others are forgotten. Chicago Tribune A funny, humane, surprisingly moving account of a literary pilgrimage. All scripture should have it this good. Kevin Roose, author of *Young Money* Vivid, honest and often hilarious. . . . It is as if [Steinberg] has managed to find a way of telling a Faulkneresque family saga through the form of a perfect sitcom. The Believer Steinberg's epic voyage is one born of admiration, and it never loses the thrill of discovery. . . . [He] gracefully navigates the tricky line between fan and voyeur. The Boston Globe Part memoir, part travelogue, part literary and cultural criticism. . . . A writer less curious about how this process [of storytelling] works might have approached *The Lost Book of Mormon* as a debunking mission, an opportunity to poke fun at those whose beliefs differ from his own. Steinberg, though, is less interested in whether or not stories are true than in why they move us and where they can be found. San Francisco Chronicle A truly weird and beautiful memoir. Elif Batuman, *The New Yorker*.com [A] rollicking travelogue. . . . Steinberg is winning as a travel writer, someone who can go native and understand the desire of others for something, anything, to come to pass. The Daily Beast Without a doubt, *The Lost Book of Mormon* will soon have you buying more books: anything written by Avi Steinberg and, yeah, most likely, the actual Book of Mormon. Steinberg could write about what he did yesterday and it would be glorious. Jacob Tomsky, author of *Heads in Beds* The story of a winsome, questing narrator's search for what it means to be a writer. . . . Steinberg is a funny and smart guide. The Salt Lake Tribune Steinberg makes a strong pitch for elevating *The Book of Mormon* to its rightful place in America's literary and social imagination. Haaretz A wonderfully thoughtful exploration of how *The Book of Mormon* itself is obsessed with the idea of stories being preserved to be passed on, and what that might tell us about Joseph Smith not just as a prophet, but as a writer. There's something almost holy about the way Steinberg celebrates the humanity revealed by this book. Salt Lake City Weekly Humorous and insightful. Times of Israel [Written] with real humor and honest self-reflection. Pacific Standard About

the Author Avi Steinberg is the author of *Running the Books: The Adventures of an Accidental Prison Librarian*, which was a San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorkers Culture Desk blog. His essays have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Salon, The Paris Daily, and n+1.