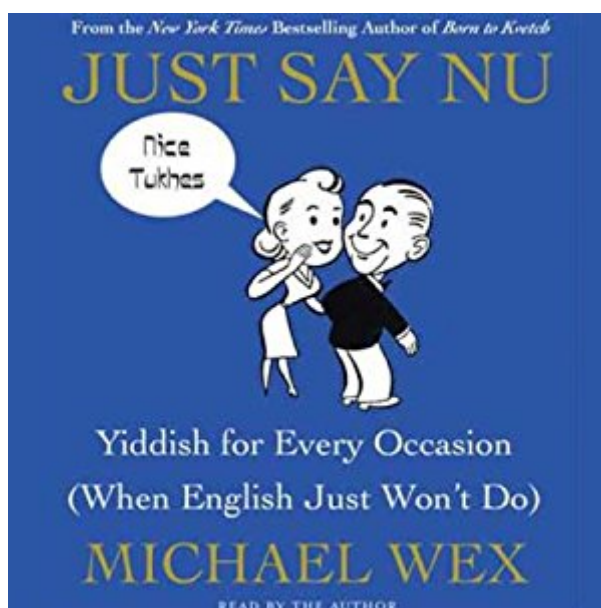


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Just Say Nu: Yiddish For Every Occasion (When English Just Won't Do)



Synopsis

In his New York Times bestseller, *Born to Kvetch*, author Michael Wex led readers on a hilariously edifying excursion through Yiddish culture and history. With *Just Say Nu*, he shows us how to use this remarkable language to spice up conversations, stories, presentations, arguments, and more, when plain English will not suffice (including, of course, lots of delightful historical and cultural side trips along the way). There is, quite simply, nothing in the world that can't be improved by being translated into Yiddish. With *Just Say Nu*, readers will learn how to shmooze their way through meeting and greeting, eating and drinking, praising and finding fault, maintaining personal hygiene, parenting, going to the doctor, committing crimes, going to singles bars, having sex, talking politics, talking trash, and a host of other mundane activities. Here also is a healthy schmear of optional grammar and the five most useful Yiddish words—what they mean, and how and when to use them in an entire conversation without anybody suspecting you don't have the vaguest idea about what you're actually saying. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 37 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 4, 2007

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000XE3XHU

Best Sellers Rank: #147 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Language Instruction > Other

Languages #2144 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction

Customer Reviews

I loved this book because:- Michael Wex's speaking/writing style captures the essence of treasured memories of early childhood.- It made me cry.- It made me laugh.- It made me remember.Maybe not for everyone. I bought it for a dear friend whose response was "Feh. Ferkakteh chazerai." She found it abrasive. Not me. I've listened to it twice.

it refreshed my yiddish!

I really enjoyed the walk down memory lane. Really good read.

I really liked it. Some of the expressions and situations he chose were really funny. I wish they'd have been written in Yiddish in addition to having been transliterated. Also, the dialect/accent in which he transliterated isn't the one I'm used to...but that's just a personal thing. I can adapt most of it, and speaking like a Galitzianer sometimes is fine too. But the book's hilarious and educational. I recommend it.

I love Yiddish, not only as a language, but especially why it developed, its many levels of coded--even apocalyptic--language, and the essential spirituality that defined a cultural identity. Wexman's "Just Say Nu" is a bit more fluffy than his best work, "Born to Kvetch," but that's OK. It's somewhat different in orientation than a book like "Joys of Yiddish." The serious note is never far away, even amidst the "Nu." It doesn't put the phrases in their original context, as "Kvetch" does. But it's a good book, and anyone who loved "Kvetch" will like this, too.

This is an instructive and entertaining audio book. That being said, it would make more sense to read the print edition first. Doing so would enable a person to (1) see how Yiddish words are spelled and (2) recognize cognates in other languages, for example, German. Both of these advantages would yield a derivative benefit, namely, an increased likelihood of actually remembering the Yiddish words and phrases that the author discusses.

This is a great book with all of the idioms of "real" Yiddish, that you will never learn at a YIVO class. The author describes the "zaftike" expressions of "poylishe yidn" with great talent. Frankly there were one or two places where his etymology is suspect (at least to me) and his transliteration system takes some getting used to (even for those of us who speak Yiddish fluently.) Notwithstanding these minor shortcomings it is an excellent work that deserves to be in the bookshelf of every serious Yiddish student, teacher, and speaker. A lot of these expressions are dying out even among the Yiddish-speaking Orthodox communities, where subtle language shift is taking place, and some of the racier expressions are never used by them in any case. Familiarizing yourself with these idioms will make it a helluva lot easier to read Isaac Bashevis Singer (and others) in the original. It is less "cutesy" than "Born to Kvetch", which I also recommend highly.

If you don't know Yiddish, this is the book for you.

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