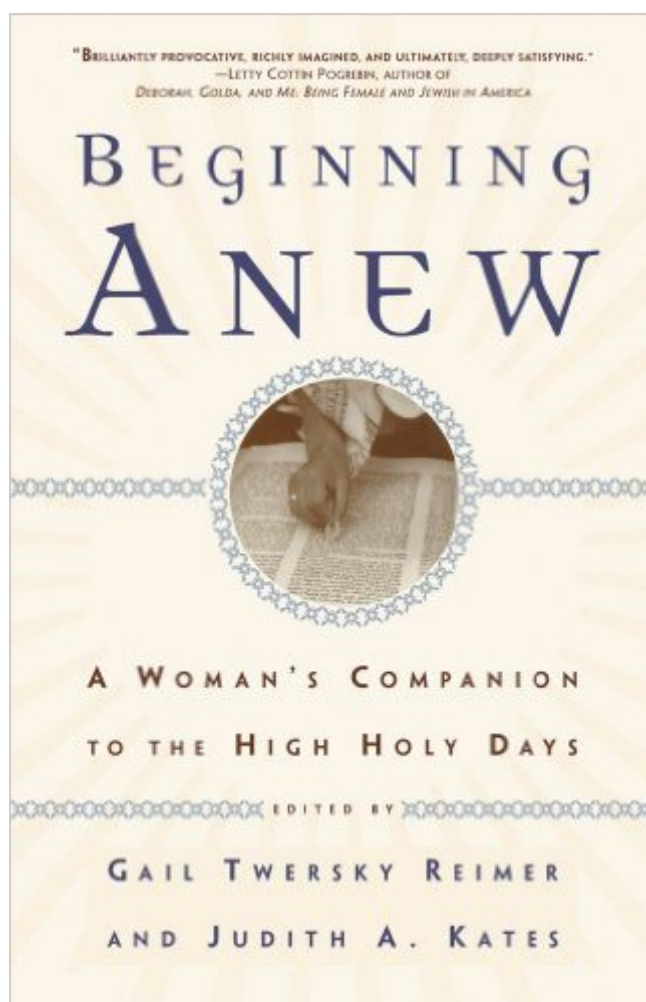


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# Beginning Anew



## Synopsis

Provides an anthology of women's spiritual writing for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Original ed. edition (September 15, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0684826879

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #995,279 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #135 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Women & Judaism](#) #180 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Holidays](#) #2661 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Meditations](#)

## Customer Reviews

This contemporary anthology features 33 essays by women from a variety of Jewish backgrounds, exploring the biblical passages and liturgical themes for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The approach is modernist-feminist but with a deep, sincere respect for the tradition and what it can teach us today. Both Jews and non-Jews will find insights here about two of the more troubling stories in the Bible --the casting out of Hagar, and the almost-sacrifice of Isaac -- both of which are read in the synagogue during the High Holy Days. The Torah tells us only the bare outlines of the story, but does not explore the feelings of the women involved with much depth. But the Bible is not the only sacred text available. Traditionally, Jews have "filled in the blanks" with a process called "midrash" (which means "from searching" in Hebrew) and there is a whole body of this type of literature, which forms an interpretive lens through which Jews "see" these stories. This book uses both classical midrash and personal insights to explore some serious questions: Was Sarah justified in demanding that Abraham send Hagar away? How could Abraham have even considered sacrificing his son? How did this event affect his wife Sarah? Etc. Etc. You may not agree with the opinions offered in this book, but I guarantee it will make you think!

My teacher read some parts of this book in a class last week and assigned more readings for a class next week. Based on what was read in class, I fell in love with the book and ordered it before

leaving the classroom!

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