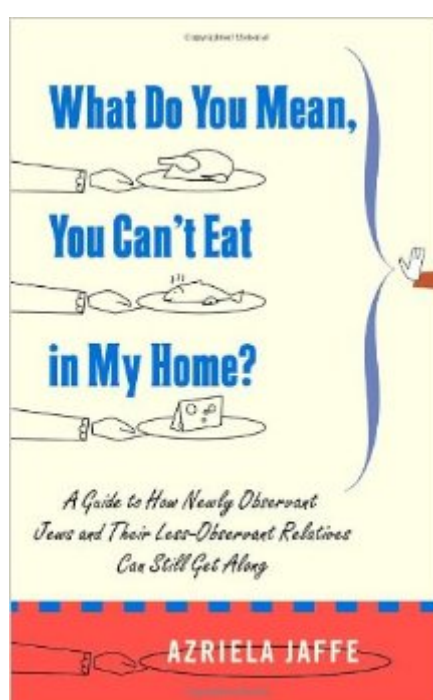


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# What Do You Mean, You Can't Eat In My Home?: A Guide To How Newly Observant Jews And Their Less Observant Relatives Can Still Get Along



## Synopsis

Here is a book of workable, sensible solutions to the everyday problems faced by newly observant Jews as they try to explain the parameters of their new lives to the people who love them—but think they’ve gone around the bend. For the formerly nonobservant Jew who has decided to live an observant life, the most daunting task can be dealing with less-observant loved ones. How can you explain to them what you now feel and believe? How can you continue to be part of the lives of your parents, your siblings and their families, and your in-laws, given how differently you now live your life? In this book, Azriela Jaffe—the observant daughter of less-observant parents—answers these and other pressing questions. Jaffe discusses how to eat kosher and observe the Sabbath and Jewish holidays in the home of a non-observant relative, and how to host nonobservant relatives in your own home; how to explain the laws of modesty and courtship practices; how to attend family life-cycle events—or explain why you sometimes can’t; and how to help your relatives understand the decision to put secular education temporarily aside to attend yeshivah and further your knowledge of Jewish law, rituals, and customs. Eminently insightful, helpful, and readable, *What Do You Mean, You Can’t Eat in My Home?* will be an invaluable tool in the lives of an ever-increasing number of Jewish families.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Schocken (September 13, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080524221X

ISBN-13: 978-0805242218

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,361,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Law](#) #189 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Orthodox](#) #1120 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life](#)

## Customer Reviews

Newly observant Orthodox Jews do not have it easy. Once they have made the commitment to live according to the Torah’s dictates, they face many challenges. One of the thorniest problems may be: How does a person maintain a loving relationship with secular family members who do not

understand why a modern person needs to follow so many rules and regulations? Some of the questions that non-observant relatives may ask are: Why buy kosher food, which is often more expensive and may be harder to obtain? Why refrain from doing what you want to do on the Sabbath? Why is it necessary for women to dress modestly? Why should there be a partition in the synagogue between men and women? Why spend extra money on a yeshiva education for your children when there are perfectly good public schools in your neighborhood? Azriela Jaffe's "What Do You Mean, You Can't Eat in My Home?" is a thoughtful and sensitive guide to avoiding the conflicts that inevitably arise when a formerly secular person decides to become fully observant. Jaffe knows whereof she speaks, since she became observant late in life, and her husband was more observant than she was at the time of their marriage. It took her years to "see the light," so she has great sympathy and understanding for those relatives who are bewildered by the "extreme" behavior of the ba'al teshuvah (a Jew who returns to his religious roots). In fact, Jaffe admits that to this day, her family is not completely reconciled to her life style. However, she is comfortable knowing that she is bringing up her children in a home imbued with Torah values. Jaffe's book is practical, with clearly written and well-researched chapters on kashrus, holiday observances, modesty, dating and marriage, family celebrations, and education.

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