Women And Jewish Law: The Essential Texts, Their History, And Their Relevance For Today
Synopsis

How has a legal tradition determined by men affected the lives of women? What are the traditional Jewish views of marriage, divorce, sexuality, contraception, abortion? Women and Jewish Law gives contemporary readers access to the central texts of the Jewish religious tradition on issues of special concern to women. Combining a historical overview with a thoughtful feminist critique, this pathbreaking study points the way for informed change in the status of women in Jewish life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ms. Biale’s book, not only explains relevant laws and how they effect Jewish women (marriage, divorce, abortion, niddah)... she also takes the time to cite the teachings of the great Rabbis, allowing all sides- from right to middle to left- to be heard. This presentation is a fascinating read and allows you to consider all of the evidence and create your own, informed opinions.

I much enjoyed this book. It is well-researched and argues its case equally well. The author points out how so many of the halakhic decisions were originally made to protect women from aggressive males within the patriarchal system of those times. It ends, however, with the cry for those rulings to be reconsidered in light of the "fact" that women no longer need or want to be protected.

What a great book. I purchased this book after the ben ish chai’s laws for women. I was a bit hesitant, thinking that this book too would be too simple for where I am in my studies. Fortunately, I was wrong. This book goes into relevant commentary from big-time sages on essentially all issues
pertaining to women. I really enjoyed reading it. I've definitely learned from it and will surely recommend it.

This is a clear concise book that pulls no punches and does not fail to go into adult language to explain a woman's rights and obligations in a relationship that is truly according to Jewish Law.

I felt that the reference to "today" was sometimes out of date. Otherwise, I found it to be a good review of the women in Jewish law. Hopefully, another writer will take another look at the subject as it is viewed since women have taken a larger role among rabbis. Good read for someone with very little knowledge for Judaism.

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