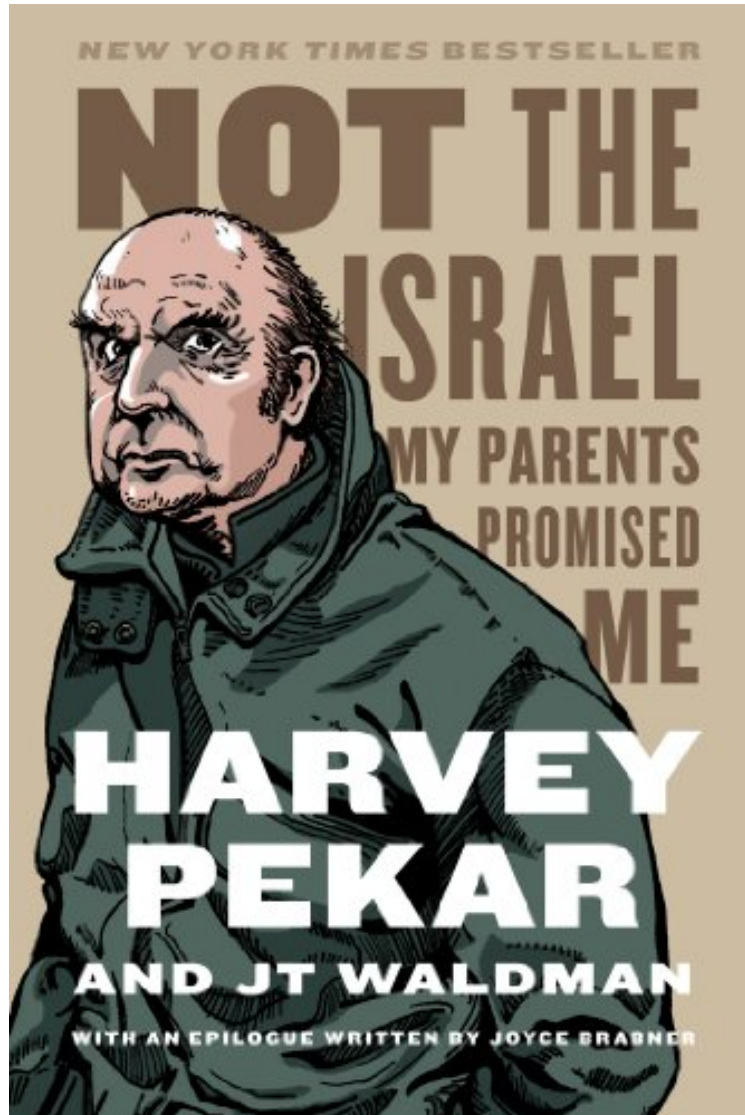


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## Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me

*Harvey Pekar*

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**Harvey Pekar : Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Pekar's posthumous take on Jews Israel By Frank L. Greenagel  
II Harvey Pekar discusses his parents' religious views, the history of Judaism, the creation and governance of Israel and his problems with the Jewish faith Israel. I continue to be amazed by how much Pekar read, and wish he had a larger forum to air his knowledge/views when he was alive. Despite not going to college, he is a true intellectual and a rare American original. Another reviewer wrote that this book is controversial because it deals with religion. There are

currently 3 negative reviews of this book up on , and they all take exception with Pekar's views. He absolutely takes a side, but he is balanced in his presentation and he never claims to be all-knowing (like so many media pundits).3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Underappreciated!By paschimoHarvey' work has always been underappreciated by the mainstream. To me, he's an existentialist, with a very deep compassion for humanity and the predicament. Much more emotional, not so much in the words, but in the milieu, when compared to others. Steinbeck comes to mind in some way. But Harvey never had the same level of sheer literary prowess -- he had the images, the scenes, and others helped bring them to life.The history of the middle east is very complicated, and this, like all other works I've seen, don't account for all the subtleties in the relationships. But he represents a voice that disaffected American Jews have struggled to articulate: how one can believe in Judaism, but not in Israel. The Jewish religion has always been based on hard questions, but questioning the motives of modern Israel has been a third rail. This is a disservice to the entire religion worldwide. This book exposes some of this hypocrisy, and it's "middle road" view will do nothing but anger all sides. But for people with a brain in their head, it's a very thought provoking book that is worth reading.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A few interesting moments, but this is no "Our ...By J. D. BaldwinA few interesting moments, but this is no "Our Cancer Year," to put it mildly. Another reviewer called it "infantile." I won't really go that far, but Harvey puts a lot of value here on "questioning" without really enough (or any) value on really serious probing for answers to those questions.Basically, this book is little more than a long, extended kvetch.

In *Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me*, one of the final graphic memoirs from the man who defined the genre, Harvey Pekar explores what it means to be Jewish and what Israel means to the Jews. Pekar's mother was a Zionist by way of politics, his father by way of faith, and he inevitably grew up a staunch supporter of Israel. But as he became attuned to the wider world, Pekar began to question his parents' most fundamental beliefs. This book is the full account of that questioning. Over the course of a single day in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, Pekar and the illustrator JT Waldman wrestle with the mythologies passed down to them, weaving a personal and historical odyssey of uncommon wit and power. With an epilogue written by Joyce Brabner, *Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me* is an essential book for fans of Harvey Pekar and anyone interested in the past and future of the Jewish state.

[Pekar's] message here is important--that a good Jew asks tough questions, that a history of oppression requires us to be more conscious of the oppressed. David L. Ulin, Los Angeles TimesThis posthumous publication reflects the seminal graphic memoirist at his edgy best. Kirkus (starred review)[T]his posthumous work by Pekar functions as a multipronged exploration of religious, political, and personal histories and is all the richer for it . . . A sweet and simple epilogue by Pekar's widow, Joyce Brabner, provides the perfect capstone. Publishers WeeklyThis is not only Pekar's greatest work, but probably the most powerful use of his talent for plainly speaking truth to power and ignorance. JT Waldman masterfully captures the wry innocence of Harvey's interrogation while still celebrating the subtle contours of modern American Jewishness. Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Life Inc.* and *Program or Be Programmed*A fascinating history of the so-called Promised Land--as seen through the eyes of an estranged Jew from Cleveland. Brimming with classic Pekar asides and details, the book sheds light on a subject often obscured by heat. JT Waldman's evocative artwork combines down-to-earth American Splendorstyle illustrations with motifs inspired by everything from mythology and Islamic art to illuminated manuscripts and Chagall. I never got to say goodbye to Harvey, but reading this book was like having a final conversation with him. Josh Neufeld, American Splendor artist, and author and artist of *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*Pekar peppers accounts of perpetual persecution with poignant autobiographical anecdotes in this concise, compelling, and sure-to-be controversial graphic history of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. JT Waldman's art, juxtaposing realism with ancient styles, rocking exquisite mosaics and elaborate medieval and Middle Eastern design flourishes, is nothing less than a majestic tour de Schwartz. Jeff Newelt, Heeb Magazine comics editor, and editor of Harvey Pekar's *Cleveland**Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me* is Harvey Pekar's final exploration of his conflict over the history of Israel, as illuminated by JT Waldman's protean art. This is their Jewish Book of Hours. Dean Haspiel, artist of *The Quitter* and *Cuba: My Revolution*One part history lesson, one part autobiography, and all Harvey Pekar, *Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me* is an insightful look at one of the burning topics of our time. With Pekar's scholarship and humor and JT Waldman's stylistically varied art, this graphic book is visually entertaining and highly informative. Peter Kuper, artist of *The Metamorphosis*About the AuthorHarvey Pekar is best known for his graphic autobiography, *American Splendor*, which was based on his long-running comic-book series and was adapted into a film of the same name. He died in 2010. JT Waldman is an artist, interactive designer, and comic-book creator. He is the author and illustrator of the graphic novel *Megillat Esther*. He lives in Philadelphia. Joyce Brabner is an award-winning author of graphic books. She frequently collaborated with her late husband, Harvey Pekar, on his *American Splendor* series. She lives in Cleveland.