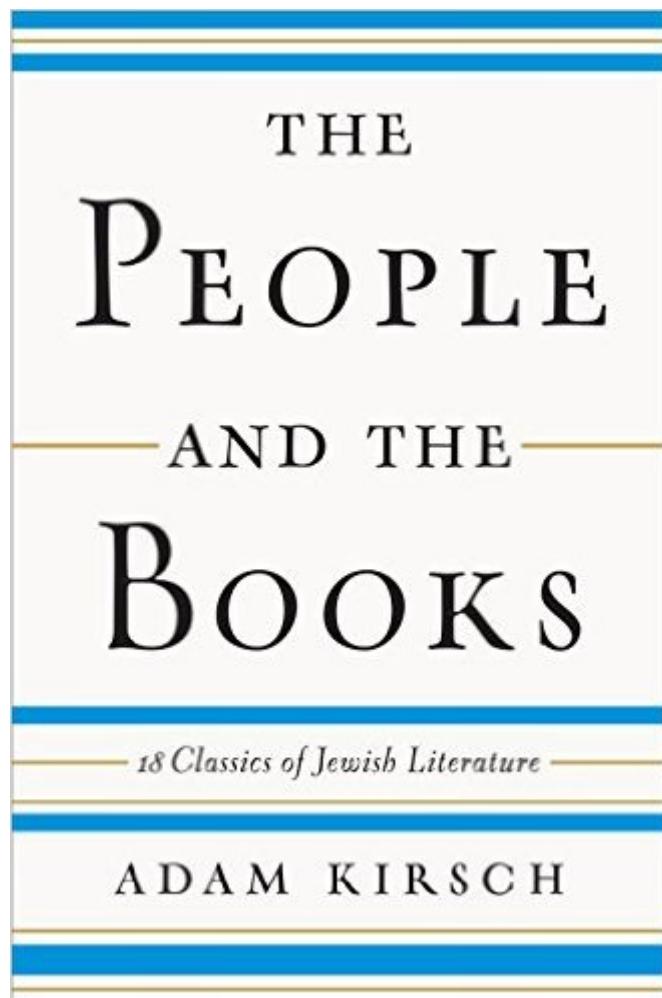


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The People And The Books: 18 Classics Of Jewish Literature



Synopsis

An essential exploration of a rich literary tradition from the Bible to modern times, by a *â œrare literary authority* • (New York Times Book Review) and *â œone of our keenest critics* • (Washington Post). Jews have long embraced their identity as *â œthe people of the book.* • But outside of the Bible, much of the Jewish literary tradition remains little known to nonspecialist readers. *The People and the Books* shows how central questions and themes of our history and culture are reflected in the Jewish literary canon: the nature of God, the right way to understand the Bible, the relationship of the Jews to their Promised Land, and the challenges of living as a minority in Diaspora. Adam Kirsch explores eighteen classic texts, including the biblical books of Deuteronomy and Esther, the philosophy of Maimonides, the autobiography of the medieval businesswoman *GlÃœckel of Hameln*, and the Zionist manifestoes of Theodor Herzl. From the Jews of Roman Egypt to the mystical devotees of Hasidism in Eastern Europe, *The People and the Books* brings the treasures of Jewish literature to life and offers new ways to think about their enduring power and influence.

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