

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society: A Charming Tale of Resilience and Friendship

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society is more than just an intriguing book title or a quirky film adaptation; it represents a unique story woven with history, humor, and heartfelt human connections. Set against the backdrop of post-World War II, this novel and film have captivated readers and viewers alike, offering a glimpse into life on the island of Guernsey during the German occupation and the power of literature to bring people together.

Discovering The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Originally penned by Mary Ann Shaffer and later completed by her niece Annie Barrows, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is an epistolary novel—that is, a story told through a series of letters. This format lends an intimate and personal tone, allowing readers to connect deeply with the characters' thoughts and emotions. The narrative follows Juliet Ashton, a London-based writer, who begins corresponding with the residents of Guernsey after the war. Through their letters, Juliet uncovers the rich stories of survival, love, and camaraderie that flourished during the island's occupation.

The title itself is a nod to a makeshift book club formed as a cover story to explain why members were out past curfew during the German occupation. The club members bonded over literature and, somewhat humorously, potato peel pie—a dish born out of necessity when food was scarce.

The Historical Context Behind The Story

Understanding the historical backdrop of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* enriches the reading or viewing experience immensely. Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, was the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by German forces during World War II. The occupation lasted from 1940 to 1945, subjecting the islanders to strict curfews, rationing, and many hardships.

Life Under Occupation

The novel vividly captures the daily struggles and subtle acts of resistance by the islanders. The potato peel pie itself symbolizes the creativity and resilience of those trying to survive with limited resources. Food shortages were commonplace, and inventive recipes like these became essential.

Moreover, the book club served not only as a literary escape but as a means of emotional support. It fostered a sense of community and offered hope amid adversity. Through this lens, readers gain insight into how art and human connection can thrive even in the darkest times.

Characters That Bring the Story to Life

One of the most compelling aspects of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is its well-drawn characters, each with their own unique voice and story. The epistolary style allows for multiple perspectives, enriching the narrative with diverse experiences.

- **Juliet Ashton:** A witty and independent writer seeking new inspiration, Juliet's journey to Guernsey introduces readers to the island's charm and its resilient inhabitants.
- **Elizabeth McKenna:** A strong-willed islander who initially hosts Juliet, Elizabeth's courage and kindness make her a central figure in the community.
- **Dawsey Adams:** A gentle and book-loving farmer whose correspondence with Juliet sparks the entire narrative.
- **Other Society Members:** Each character adds depth, from the humorous to the tragic, reflecting the varied human experience during the war.

These characters resonate because they are flawed yet hopeful, showcasing the complexities of human nature and the power of friendship.

From Page to Screen: The Film Adaptation

The popularity of the novel led to a 2018 film adaptation directed by Mike Newell, starring Lily James as Juliet Ashton. The movie beautifully brings to life the scenic island of Guernsey and captures the warmth and humor of the book club's members.

Differences and Highlights

While the film stays largely faithful to the novel, it condenses some storylines and emphasizes the romantic elements between Juliet and Dawsey. The visual medium allows viewers to immerse themselves in the picturesque landscapes and period details, from vintage costumes to wartime settings.

For fans of historical dramas and heartfelt stories, the film is a delightful companion to the novel, offering a slightly different but equally engaging experience.

Why The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society Resonates Today

Even decades after its setting, the themes in *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* remain relevant. The story highlights the enduring human spirit, the importance of community, and the solace literature can provide during challenging times.

Lessons on Resilience and Connection

In today's fast-paced world, the novel reminds us to slow down and appreciate the bonds forged through shared stories and experiences. Whether it's through book clubs, letters, or simple conversations, connecting with others can be a powerful antidote to loneliness.

Celebrating Literature and History

The novel also encourages readers to explore historical events from personal perspectives, making history feel accessible and alive. For book lovers, it's a celebration of reading's transformative power, showcasing how books can unite diverse individuals and spark lasting friendships.

Exploring Guernsey: A Literary Travel Destination

For those inspired by the story, Guernsey itself offers a rich cultural experience. The island's history museums, wartime sites, and charming villages invite visitors to step back in time and walk in the footsteps of the book's characters.

Places to Visit

- **Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery:** Exhibits focus on the island's occupation history, providing context to the novel's setting.
- **German Occupation Museum:** A detailed look at the wartime period through artifacts and personal stories.
- **St. Peter Port:** The island's capital, full of quaint shops, cafes, and historic architecture.
- **Local Bookshops and Cafes:** Many embrace the legacy of the literary society, offering themed events and cozy spots to enjoy a good book.

Visiting Guernsey can deepen one's appreciation for the novel and the real-life stories that inspired it.

Tips for Reading The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

If you're about to dive into this charming novel or watch the film, here are some tips to enhance your experience:

1. **Embrace the Letter Format:** Take your time with the epistolary style—it allows you to savor the characters' voices and perspectives.
2. **Research the Historical Context:** Familiarizing yourself with the Channel Islands' occupation can add layers of meaning to the story.
3. **Join a Book Club:** Given the novel's theme, discussing it with others can be particularly rewarding.
4. **Pair Reading with the Film:** Watching the adaptation after reading can offer visual insights and deepen emotional connections.

These suggestions can help you fully appreciate the richness and warmth of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.

Whether you're drawn to historical fiction, heartfelt stories of friendship, or simply looking for a novel that combines humor and humanity, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society offers a memorable journey. Its unique blend of history, literature, and the indomitable spirit of a small island community continues to enchant readers around the world. The legacy of this story serves as a reminder that even in the toughest of times, the simple pleasures of friendship, books, and shared experiences can light the way forward.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' about?

It is a historical novel set after World War II, focusing on a writer who forms a bond with the residents of Guernsey Island through their shared love of books and their experiences during the German occupation.

Who wrote 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'?

The novel was written by Mary Ann Shaffer and completed by her niece Annie Barrows after Shaffer's

death.

Is 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' based on a true story?

While the characters and events are fictional, the book is inspired by real historical events, particularly the German occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II.

Has 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' been adapted into a film?

Yes, a film adaptation was released in 2018, starring Lily James and Michiel Huisman.

What genre does 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' belong to?

The book is a historical fiction novel written in an epistolary format, combining romance, drama, and literary themes.

Why is the society called 'Potato Peel Pie Society'?

The society was named after a spontaneous meeting where members bonded over shared hardships, including making potato peel pie during food shortages in the German occupation.

What themes are explored in 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'?

The novel explores themes of friendship, resilience, love, the power of literature, and the impact of war on ordinary people.

Is 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' a good choice for book clubs?

Yes, its engaging characters, unique format, and rich historical context make it a popular and thought-provoking choice for book clubs.

Additional Resources

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society: A Literary Exploration

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society is a novel that has captured the imaginations of readers worldwide since its publication. Authored by Mary Ann Shaffer and later completed by Annie Barrows, this epistolary work offers a unique blend of historical fiction, romance, and post-war recovery, set against the backdrop of the German occupation of the Channel Islands during World War II. Its title, both intriguing and whimsical, hints at the novel's charm and the unusual circumstances from which the story unfolds.

In-Depth Analysis of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

At its core, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is a narrative constructed entirely through letters exchanged between characters. This format not only provides an intimate look at the personalities involved but also allows for a multifaceted perspective on historical events and personal dynamics. The story primarily follows Juliet Ashton, a London-based writer, who begins correspondence with residents of Guernsey after the war, uncovering their stories of hardship, resilience, and unexpected friendship.

The novel's setting—the island of Guernsey—is more than a mere backdrop; it plays a pivotal role in shaping the narrative. Guernsey's occupation by Nazi forces during World War II is a relatively lesser-known chapter of history, and the novel sheds light on the impact of war on civilian populations, particularly through the lens of cultural and intellectual survival. The literary society itself, formed as a cover for members breaking curfew to gather and share books, symbolizes resistance and the sustaining power of literature amidst adversity.

Historical Context and Literary Significance

One of the most compelling aspects of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is its ability to weave historical fact with fiction seamlessly. The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles occupied by Germany during WWII, making the book a rare narrative focusing on this unique experience. Through the epistolary form, readers gain insight into daily life under occupation, the challenges of scarcity, and the moral complexities faced by the islanders.

In addition to its historical value, the novel has been praised for its literary craftsmanship. The interplay of multiple voices enriches the narrative and allows for a nuanced exploration of themes such as loss, community, and the redemptive quality of art and storytelling. This structure keeps the pacing fresh and engages readers by revealing different character viewpoints and emotional layers.

Character Development and Interpersonal Dynamics

The characters in *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* are vividly drawn and memorable. Juliet Ashton serves as the reader's conduit into the island's world, her wit and empathy inviting audiences to invest emotionally in the other characters' lives. The members of the literary society each bring unique backgrounds and personalities, from the pragmatic Dawsey Adams to the spirited Isola Pribby.

The novel excels in portraying complex interpersonal relationships fostered under extraordinary circumstances. The bonds formed through shared adversity highlight themes of loyalty and healing. The literary society itself acts as a microcosm for these interactions—a space where intellectual curiosity and human connection intertwine.

Comparisons and Cultural Impact

Since its release, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* has been adapted into a feature film and has inspired a resurgence of interest in epistolary novels and historical fiction centered on WWII civilian experiences. When compared to other works in the genre, such as Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* or Kate Morton's historical narratives, Shaffer and Barrows' novel stands out for its distinctive narrative voice and focus on a lesser-known historical setting.

The novel's popularity has also sparked discussions on the role of literature in times of crisis. The titular society's formation as a response to curfew restrictions underscores the importance of cultural life and creativity in sustaining morale and identity during oppression. This theme resonates with contemporary audiences, reinforcing the timelessness of the book's message.

Pros and Cons of the Novel

- **Pros:**

- Engaging and unique epistolary format that offers multiple perspectives.
- Rich historical detail that educates as well as entertains.
- Strong character development with emotionally resonant relationships.
- Exploration of themes such as resilience, community, and the power of literature.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the letter format less dynamic than traditional narrative styles.
- Occasional pacing issues due to the epistolary structure, which can slow down plot progression.
- The novel's whimsical title might mislead some potential readers about the tone or seriousness of the content.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society continues to enjoy popularity years after its initial publication, attesting to its enduring appeal. It occupies a unique niche in historical fiction, blending

humor, romance, and a poignant examination of human resilience. The novel's emphasis on the healing nature of books and writing has made it a beloved title among bibliophiles and history enthusiasts alike.

Moreover, the story's focus on community solidarity during wartime offers valuable insights relevant to modern readers facing global challenges. Its depiction of ordinary individuals making extraordinary choices underscores a universal message about hope and perseverance.

Whether encountered as a novel or through its film adaptation, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* invites readers to reflect on the ways literature can connect lives across time and hardship, making it a significant work in contemporary historical fiction.

[The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society](#)

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the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows, 2009-05-10 The beloved, life-affirming international bestseller which has sold over 5 million copies worldwide - now a major film starring Lily James,

Matthew Goode, Jessica Brown Findlay, Tom Courtenay and Penelope Wilton 'I can't remember the last time I discovered a novel as smart and delightful as this one ... Treat yourself to this book, please - I can't recommend it highly enough' Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love* To give them hope she must tell their story It's 1946. The war is over, and Juliet Ashton has writer's block. But when she receives a letter from Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - a total stranger living halfway across the Channel, who has come across her name written in a second hand book - she enters into a correspondence with him, and in time with all the members of the extraordinary Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Through their letters, the society tell Juliet about life on the island, their love of books - and the long shadow cast by their time living under German occupation. Drawn into their irresistible world, Juliet sets sail for the island, changing her life forever.

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2016-10-12
Unlock the more straightforward side of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, which tells the story of Juliet Ashton, a writer who one day is contacted by a man living in Guernsey. Through a series of letters exchanged with him and other residents of the island, Juliet acquires first-hand information about life under Nazi occupation and discovers how reading helped to keep the islanders alive. The book received the Indies Choice Book Award for Best Indie Buzz Book (Fiction) and reached the top of the New York Times Best Seller List for paperback trade fiction. Mary Ann Shaffer was an American writer and editor who died before seeing the publication of her first and only novel. Before she passed away, she asked her niece Annie Barrows, a children's author, to finish the editing and rewriting of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Find out everything you need to know about The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: •A complete plot summary •Character studies •Key themes and symbols •Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (Random House Reader's Circle Deluxe Reading Group Edition) Annie Barrows, Mary Ann Shaffer, 2011-12-12 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A NETFLIX FILM This deluxe eBook edition of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society features more than eighty additional pages of exclusive, author-approved annotations throughout the text to enrich your reading experience. You can access the eBook annotations with a simple click or tap on your eReader via the convenient links. Access them as you read the novel or as supplemental material after finishing the entire story. There is also Random House Reader's Circle bonus content, sure to inspire discussion at book clubs everywhere. A runaway New York Times bestseller that was named one of the ten best books of the year by Time and USA Today, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society has captivated readers around the world. Told with warmth and humor in a series of letters, this is a tale of finding connection in the most unexpected places. January 1946: As London emerges from the Second World War, writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of Guernsey, the British island once occupied by the Nazis? As Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence, she is drawn into the world of this man and his friends, all members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club formed to protect its members from arrest by the Germans. Through their letters, she learns about their island, their taste in books, and the powerful, transformative impact the Occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey. What she finds there will change her forever.

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the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: Book Club in a Box Marilyn Herbert, 2010-08-17 Guernsey is one of four British Channel Islands that was occupied for five years (1940-1945) by the Nazis. This extraordinary story is one that few people, except for historians, are aware of. Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows have recreated the wartime atmosphere in postwar London and Guernsey through the journalist, Juliet Ashton, and her relationship with the islanders. It all started with a letter from a farmer, Dawsey Adams, who was trying to track down books by Charles Lamb. Juliet's name and address were written inside the single copy of Lamb's essays that Dawsey owned. None of the Guernsey bookstores had survived the war and Dawsey was looking for help. His letter hinted at the existence of a strange book club called the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and its connection to a secret dinner of roast pig. Those two details alone guaranteed a spike in Juliet's interest. She responded and the rest is intriguingly revealed in the novel's subsequent correspondence between Juliet and the Guernsey inhabitants.

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the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: A Study Guide for Mary Ann Shaffer's "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Mary Ann Shaffer's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis;

author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: Recovering the Self Ernest Dempsey, 2010-06-01 *Recovering the Self: A Journal of Hope and Healing* (Vol. II, No. 3) July 2010 This issue explores the themes of recovery and healing through poetry, memoir, opinion, essays, fiction, humor, art, media reviews and education. Contributors to RTS Journal come from around the globe to deliver unique perspectives you won't find anywhere else! The theme of Volume II, Number 3 is Addiction and Recovery. Inside, we explore this and several other areas of concern including: Diet, Health, Fitness, Disaster Recovery, Abuse Survivors, Relationships, Grieving, Journaling ...and much more! This issue's contributors include: Morgan Phillips, Barbara Sinor, Christy Lowry, Margaret Placentra Johnston, Telaina Eriksen, David J. Roberts, Karen Sherman, Robin Lathangue, Patricia Wellingham-Jones, Sherry Jones Mayo, Alana Richardson, Sweta Srivastava Vikram, Jim Kelly, Tyler R. Tichelaar, Jo Ann Magill, Holli Kenley, Sam Vaknin, Robert Rugel, and George W. Doherty. Acclaim for *Recovering The Self* Editor Ernest Dempsey does an admirable job of pulling this material together in a pleasing shape. Each piece offers a revelation, insight, or lesson for the reader to take away. The writing throughout is excellent. --Janet Riehl, author *Sightlines: A Poet's Diary* I highly recommend a subscription to this journal, *Recovering the Self*, for professionals who are in the counseling profession or who deal with crisis situations. Readers involved with the healing process will also really enjoy this journal and feel inspired to continue on. The topics covered in the first journal alone, will motivate you to continue reading books on the subject matter presented. Guaranteed. --Paige Lovitt for Reader Views Visit us online at www.RecoveringSelf.com Published by Loving Healing Press www.LovingHealing.com Periodicals: Literary - Journal Self-Help: Personal Growth - Happiness

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: Book Club Kit Mary Ann Shaffer, 2008 In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* Joyce G. Saricks, 2009 This revised edition provides a way of understanding the vast universe of genre fiction in an easy-to-use format. Expert readers' advisor Joyce Saricks offers groundbreaking reconsideration of the connections among genres.

the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: The Book Club Cookbook, Revised Edition Judy Gelman, Vicki Levy Krupp, 2012-03-01 "Part cookbook, part celebration of the written word, [The Book Club Cookbook] illustrates how books and ideas can bring people together." —Publishers Weekly We are what we eat, they say. We can eat what we read, too. The Book Club Cookbook by Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp (Tarcher/Penguin, \$21.95), first published in 2004 and now newly updated and revised, offers up dozens of new recipes inspired by book clubs' favorite books, their characters and authors. —USA Today It's pretty much a no-brainer why we love something like The Book Club Cookbook - it combines two of our all-time favorite things: food and books. Even better - the recipes in the book let us get a fuller experience of our favorite novels by thinking up recipes either inspired by the story or literally contributed by the author as essential to the book. —Flavorwire The Book Club Cookbook excels at offering book groups new title ideas and a culinary way to spice up their discussions. —Library Journal Whether it's Roman Punch for *The Age of Innocence*, or Sabzi Challow (spinach and rice) with Lamb for *The Kite Runner*, or Swedish Meatballs and Glögg for *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, nothing spices up a book club meeting like great eats. Featuring recipes and discussion ideas from bestselling authors and book clubs across the country, this fully revised and updated edition of the classic book guides readers in selecting and preparing culinary masterpieces that blend perfectly with the literary masterpieces their club is reading. This edition features new contributions from a host of today's bestselling authors including: Kathryn Stockett, *The Help* (Demetrie's Chocolate Pie and Caramel Cake) Sara Gruen, *Water for Elephants* (Oyster Brie Soup) Jodi Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper* (Brian Fitzgerald's Firehouse Marinara

Sauce) Abraham Verghese, Cutting for Stone (Almaz's Ethiopian Doro Wot and Sister Mary Joseph Praise's Cari de Dal) Annie Barrows, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (Annie Barrows's Potato Peel Pie and Non-Occupied Potato Peel Pie) Lisa See, Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (Lisa See's Deep-Fried Sugared Taro) The Book Club Cookbook will add real flavor to your book club meetings!

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the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: *The Prison Book Club* Ann Walmsley, 2015-10-01 When Ann Walmsley was asked to take part in a book club in a men's prison, she was initially anxious: after a violent mugging a few years before, could she really cope being surrounded by violent criminals? Luckily, curiosity got the better of her, and she signed up for eighteen months of meetings with heavily tattooed inmates, talking about books ranging from *The Grapes of Wrath* to *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. But this wasn't your typical book club - there was no wine and cheese, plush furniture or superficial chat about recent holidays. Classic works of fiction and non-fiction became springboards for frank discussions about loss, anger, redemption and loneliness, and for the men a prized oasis in which to regain a sense of humanity. In this heart-warming example of the rehabilitative power of reading, follow Graham the biker, Frank the gunman, Ben and Dread the drug dealers, and the robber duo Gaston and Peter as they share ideas and reveal their life stories. The Prison Book Club is unlike anything you've read before.

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the guernsey literary and potato peel pie society: *Law, Literature, and History* Richard H. Weisberg, 2025-03-24 The author claims in this book that close readings of stories, from Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader* and Guenther Grass's *The Tin Drum* through Bernard Malamud's *The Fixer* and Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows' *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, uniquely situates us to understand the clash of religious values that led to genocide in World War II Europe (including Great Britain). Most of the stories respond directly to this enormity, but some involve writers such as Shakespeare and Herman Melville, who, avant la lettre, pointed to seismic conflicts in law and religion. Law and Literature methods uniquely permit the author to justify this assertion. Just as his work of history, *Vichy Law and the Holocaust in France*, grew out of a deep interest in Albert Camus (who also plays an important role in this manuscript), and just as it proceeded to analyze as texts various authoritative statements that contradicted each other and lied about Jews, but that found their way into French law books and theological discourse during Vichy, so throughout this book series, once closely examined, open the door to fathoming the violence caused by religious differences. Inspired in particular by James Carroll's *Constantine's Sword* and Harold Bloom's *Jesus and Yahweh*, the book provokes its reader to seek answers to millennia of atrocities disguised as Judeo-Christian affinity and at the same time to re-engage with a series of superb stories. The author is already seen as a pioneer of the modern Law and Literature movement and is

associated with connecting stories to fraught questions about history. The book continues to impart actual data from the wartime period, innovated in Vichy Law and the Holocaust in France (NYU), but it is a work of law, literary criticism, and comparative religion. Weisberg has a PhD French and comparative literature from Cornell, taught those subjects on the graduate faculty of the University of Chicago, practiced and taught law at Cardozo Law School in NYC and in many venues around the world. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his work on behalf of victims of the Vichy regime. His previous books have been translated and reviewed widely. Richard Weisberg's standing as a sage of the Law and Literature Movement is augmented in this masterful book. Anthony Julius, Deputy Chairman Mishcon de Reya LLP, Professor, Faculty of Laws, University College London. In this masterful book, Richard Weisberg brings his extraordinary learning to bear on a group of stories, written both before and after the Holocaust, to explore some of its deepest, and most hidden causes. The Holocaust, Weisberg argues, was fueled by Christianity-infused interpretations of religious and legal texts, which have been deployed for centuries against Jewish traditions, intellectual histories, customs, Jewish Law, and legalist ideals. Weisberg builds his case through literary and legal analyses of (among others) Malamud's *The Fixer*, Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, Melville's *Billy Budd Sailor*, Gunter Grass's *The Tin Drum*, The Old Testament, Nietzsche's meditations on morals, and holocaust-era legal texts from Germany, Britain and Vichy France. We are ill-served by attempts to paper over and distort this history with bromides about "Judeo-Christian" values and shared aspirations. Weisberg's elegant and straightforward scholarship takes us on a path toward a truer accounting. Professor Robin West, Georgetown Law. Richard Weisberg has writte...

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