Diogenes

Book factsheet

Eve Harris
The Marrying of Chani Kaufman

Published by Diogenes as *Die Hochzeit der Chani Kaufman*
Original title: *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman*



Eve Harris' spectacular debut novel is an emotional and humorous insight in an Orthodox Jewish community.
They have met three times, they have never touched, and they are going to get married: 19-year-old Chani and the soon-to-be Rabbi Baruch Levy. But how does marriage work? What does happiness look like? Chani and Baruch feel more than counterbalanced by their anxieties.
The Marrying of Chani Kaufman is an almost impossible love story set in a world full of rules and rituals. The bold and touching debut of Eve Harris.
Nominated for the 2013 ›Man Booker Prize‹. More than 250'000 copies have been sold.

Contemporary Literature
464 pages
12.5 × 19.5 cm
September 2015

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Praise

The Marrying of Chani Kaufman

»Like a surgeon cutting into human flesh for the first time, Eve Harris audaciously dissects a community defined by inscrutable social mores; her profound reverence for her characters in no way hinders her intrepid plunge into the murky viscera of this complex world. Readers will be mesmerized by Harris's unforgettable voice; this powerful debut novel is a startling and effervescent contribution to a canon much in need of enrichment.« – Deborah Feldman / author of Unorthodox and Exodus

»Longlisted for this year's ›Booker Prize‹, *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman*, by former teacher Eve Harris, is one of those books you cannot put down.« – The Sunday Express

»Harris writes of this closed world with knowledge and understanding, and highly observant, slightly acidic humour. Deservedly longlisted for the ›Booker‹.« – The Times

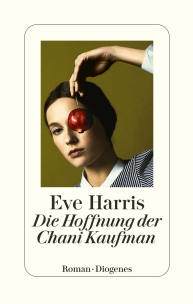
»Harris's debut novel, also longlisted for this year's ›Man Booker prize‹, is confidently done, a romantic comedy at ease with its own lightness. Its setting, northwest London's ultra-orthodox Jewish community, is small and devoutly separate, and reading about such enclosure is pleasantly consuming [...] Harris is humorous and clement throughout with her characters.« – The Sunday Times

»Harris's eye for suburban social mores is wickedly acute, as is her evident relish in describing both the sensual life and its absence. While perhaps too breezily written to take it further in the ›Booker‹ stakes, her book has the potential to be that rare thing – a crowd-pleaser about Orthodox Judaism.« – The Guardian



Photo: © Karolina Urbaniak

Eve Harris, born in London in 1973 to Polish-Israeli parents, worked as a teacher for twelve years, including at Catholic and Orthodox Jewish girls' schools in London and Tel Aviv. *The Marriage of Chani Kaufman* was nominated for the ›Man Booker Prize‹ in 2013. Eve Harris lives in London with her husband and two children.



After the Wedding
512 pages
2024

Praise (cont'd)

»Compassionate and witty […] *The Marrying Of Chani Kaufman*

is about more than an innocent girl in a rigorously controlled community hoping for a soul mate while being paraded before husband material (Jane Austen has done that already). At the heart of the book is the theme of identity and the glue that fastens us to communities, be they religious, racial or social. […] [It has] the emotional and thematic complexity needed to raise the story to a ›Booker‹ contender.« – The Independent

»Harris evokes the community's insular nature, she also suggests the sense of comfort and belonging that it confers, offering a sympathetic window on a way of life little glimpsed in contemporary fiction.« – The Financial Times

»A lovely, very funny and touching account of a marriage in orthodox Jewry.« – The Spectator

»Engages from the very first page, slipping the reader deep into the orthodox Jewish community, beyond the rituals and prayers, the constraints and the hair-covering wigs, into the secrets and emotions beneath, illuminating the story of Chani's journey from schoolgirl to bride and revealing the lives of others around her besides. This novel is beautifully done and highly recommended.« – Daily Mail

»Intelligent, revealing characters who command conviction and connection; the tug between the old ways and modern life; and the universal themes of desire, guilt, manipulation and submission will resonate with readers from all backgrounds. Harris' debut is as deeply melodic and exciting as her depiction of Shabbat in Jerusalem, and will linger after the last page.« – Publishers Weekly

»Readers seeking genuine Jewish characters have no need to search for the latent beneath the manifest here. . . . *[The Marrying of Chani Kaufman]* has received the British literary establishment's seal of approval. It deserves it.« – Jewish Chronicles