



The Shoemaker's Tale

Mark Ari

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Wild, rambunctious, brutal and beautiful, **The Shoemaker's Tale** plumbs the depth of the human spirit with a boundless charm that is part zen, part dada and wholly satisfying. If books can heal, this is penicillin. As with Levy's bread, you don't have to be Jewish to love Mark Ari.

A Chagall painting brought to life, the novel traces the episodic journey of an orphaned 18th-century cobbler in search of the legendary Jewish rabbi and miracle worker, the Baal Shem Tov.

Painter-storyteller Ari's novel is a true original, with roots in Jewish mysticism and Yiddish folklore ... extravagant, charming, and deeply serious in its matter-of-fact mingling of moral history, prophecy and magic.--*Kirkus Reviews*

"The Shoemaker's adventures are portrayed with an artist's sensitivity, and we get an exquisite and humorous portrait of life [in] 18th-century Poland. The number of allegorical tales in the novel add to its stature...a promising start to what should be a fine literary career." *The Jerusalem Post*

"Awesomely imaginative..."

-Jerry Stern, author of , *Making Shapely Fiction*

Rich with the ironic wisdom of the great Yiddish folklorists. -- *The Miami Herald*

A magical Tale...*The Shoemaker's Tale* has the kind of blurbs on the back that we all dream about. I add my voice to that as well."

-Leonard Lopate, "*New York & Co.*"

WNYC-AM (New York, NY)

"Ari's provocative world of metaphors reflects...his awareness of the impact of the Holocaust on the Jewish psyche and the intricacies of modern Jewish humor."

-*Jewish Week*

"Mark Ari's well-shod first novel, *The Shoemaker's Tale*, is a delight, a genuinely original look at Jewish life in the Eastern Europe of the eighteenth century. The critics have been enthusiastic...and so am I. It's universal. I felt that immediately!"

-Ruth Jacobs, "*The Jewish Home Show*"

WEVD-AM (New York, NY)

"If ever there was a book that reads like a Chagall painting, this is it. *The Shoemaker's Tale* is comic, surrealistic and engrossing. A wonderful story."

-*Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter*

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Anne Hernandez:

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