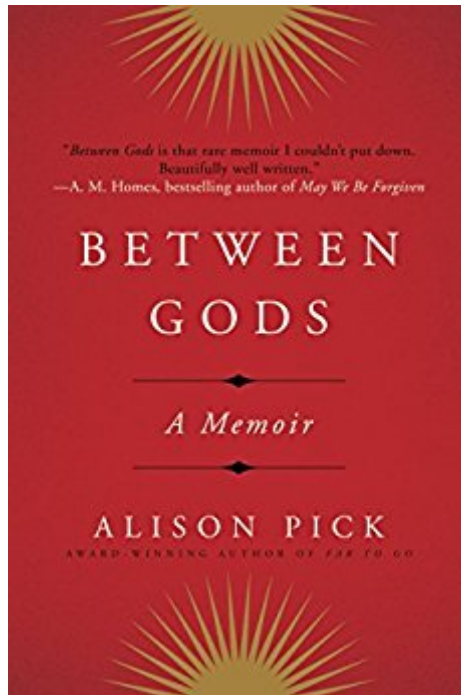


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# Between Gods: A Memoir



## Synopsis

Profound, honest, and masterfully written "Between Gods forces us to reexamine our beliefs and the extent to which they define us. Growing up in a tight-knit Christian family, Alison Pick went to church regularly. But as a teenager, she discovered a remarkable family secret: her paternal grandparents fled from the Czech Republic at the start of WWII because they were Jewish. Tragically, other family members who hesitated to emigrate were sent to Auschwitz. Haunted by the Holocaust, Alison's grandparents established themselves in their new lives as Christians. Not even Alison's father knew of his parents' past until he visited the Jewish cemetery in Prague as an adult. This atmosphere of shame and secrecy haunted Alison's journey into adulthood. Drowning in a sense of emptiness, she eventually came to realize that her true path forward lay in reclaiming her history and identity as a Jew, and she began attending conversion classes. But the process was far from easy as old wounds were opened, and all of her relationships were tested.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just finished Alison Pick's memoir *Between Gods*. Excellent book. About a woman who finds out

she is Jewish after she has been brought up Christian. Her trials and tribulations converting to Judaism. Many paternal relatives died in Holocaust. She discussed universal problems of faith and interfaith marriage. Also the theme of survivor guilt wove throughout.

Food premise. Girl finds out she's Jewish, which was hidden from her for her protection during the Holocaust. When she found out she felt it was her duty to learn about her heritage and consider converting. It was too slow and didn't hold my interest. I wanted to find out her destiny. But it wasn't worth the boring times I would have to read through minutia. Yes it was important but not enough for me to have the patience to go through the almost daily occurrences of thoughts, experiences; thoughts of those experiences, etc. Worth reading if you have the time and patience. Too slow for me.

This was a well-written and compelling memoir, delving into issues of depression and identity. The book was focused on the author's need to come to terms with the Holocaust's effects on her family, and the rediscovering of her Jewish identity. Her grandparents had fled Europe and immigrated to Canada. They chose to become Christians so as not to burden their children with the prejudice they had encountered. Being the child of a Christian mother and father who had been raised as a Christian, the author had to take classes and undergo a conversion process to return to her Jewish roots. The book deals with her relationship with her fiancé, her wedding and pregnancies, all against the background of her conversion classes and the obstacles she encounters. It was an interesting story, and she told it very well.

The author really dials into the metaphysical of spirituality and motherhood near the end of the memoir. It was a little disappointing for her to hold all the profound statements until the last chapter. Great for anyone interested in world religion and its tie to human history and war.

I really enjoyed this book because it can apply to your own life as far as what you believe. What is your ancestry and is that your religion too.

Alison Pick's memoir is a stream of consciousness baring a range of human emotions from depression to fear, gladness and joy. Her struggle to decide to become Jewish and the angst that goes forward is, indeed, a psychological pregnancy, with the ever-growing "fetus" finally emerging as a full-fledged Jew. But, on the way she agonizes over her tragic family's past, her non-Jewish

fianc  and eventual husband, and her own self doubts that this is the right thing to do, for her. It is a fascinating read, written with heart-rending feeling that will remain with you long after the book is finished.

I liked this book about a young woman, who finds out that she is half Jewish not long before she is about to get married. She was not raised with any knowledge of this, but decides to convert, based on her Grandmother's experiences in Europe and concentration camps, and hearing stories of survivors. An interesting read.

It is an interesting memoir. The perspective of connecting to Judaism through the Holocaust is compelling. The author sometimes seems a bit self absorbed and even selfish, but the truthfulness is part of what makes this memoir so interesting.

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