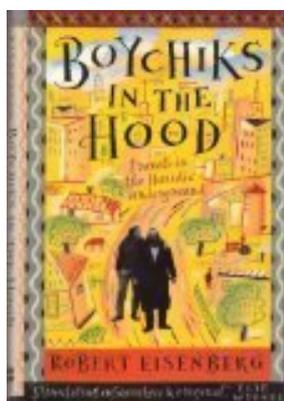


# [PDF] Boychiks In The Hood: Travels In The Hasidic Underground

Robert Eisenberg - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: Boychiks in the Hood: Travels

Author: Robert Eisenberg

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#### Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** A ponytailed secular Jew who grew up learning Yiddish, the lingua franca of the orthodox, modernity-resisting Jewish sect known as Hasidim, Eisenberg has produced an engaging, if not always deep, mosaic of Hasidic life around the world. In Williamsburg and Boro Park, Brooklyn, home of the Satmars and the Belzers, he sees deeply rooted communities, finding himself welcomed and quizzed when he shows up at synagogues. In Los Angeles, the Lubavitchers

have helped transform a Jewish community of '60s rejects that "carries the brand of Los Angeles on its back with the stark simplicity of a concentration camp tattoo." He visits tiny communities in Ukraine and Poland and describes how the small town of Postville, Iowa, has been changed by the advent of a Hasidic meat-packing plant. In lively Antwerp, the author observes signs of the vigorous prewar European Jewish community and, in one of his many quirky encounters, finds himself discussing Meir Kahane while listening to Frank Zappa. Indeed, given the Hasids' devotion, resiliency and high birth rate, the author expects them to play a vital role in the American Jewish future.

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**From Library Journal** Eisenberg, a secularist educated at Columbia and Harvard, is a descendant of a Hasidic family. He thereby gains easy access to the various Hasidic circles by use of a key passport: his ability to speak Yiddish, the lingua franca of many Hasids. The author estimates that there are 650,000 Hasids in the world, but he predicts that because of their high birth rate and devotion to their cause their influence will grow by leaps and bounds. His book, lighthearted but insightful, resembles a travelog in some respects and recounts his encounters with various Hasidic personalities and sects. Along the way, Eisenberg shows that Hasidism is not an undivided monolith of thought and opinion. Indeed, it is composed of many sects that proudly emphasize their differences with other Hasidic groups. The work also shows that Hasids are not as cut off from the secular world as imagined. This book makes a nice complement to Samuel Beilman's more scholarly *Defenders of the Faith* (LJ 2/1/92). Recommended for larger libraries. —Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill.

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