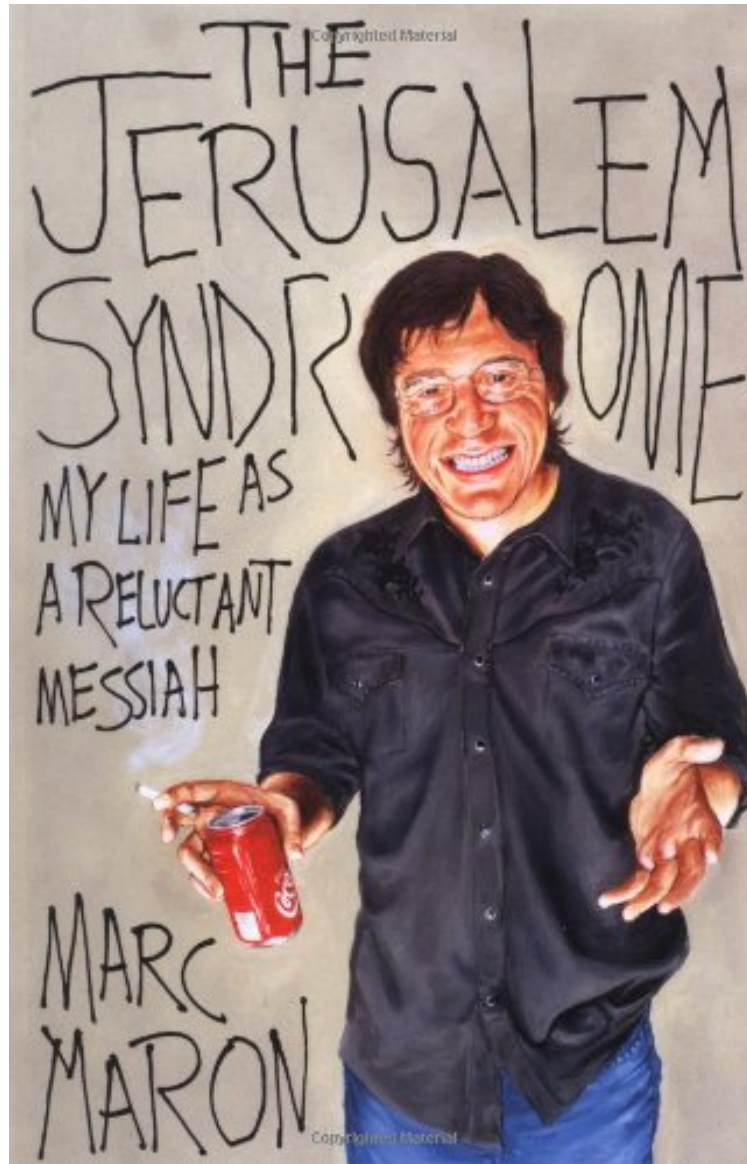


(Free) The Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life as a Reluctant Messiah

The Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life as a Reluctant Messiah

Marc Maron

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Marc Maron : The Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life as a Reluctant Messiah before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life as a Reluctant Messiah:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hey, WTFanauts, Get in Here!By HermgirlWow! What a tremendous book! I've been a Marc Maron fan, like, forever--like BEFORE he was on Conan's show. But I waited til now for some reason to read his autobiography, his other book, "Attempting Normal", is more like a gateway drug for

the Marc uninitiated--it didn't suck, but it was somewhat familiar territory for me. In this book Marc talks about his youth in Albuquerque, New Mexico, his college years, as well as the early days of his career in Los Angeles' famed Comedy Store. What you will read here is that Marc Maron is actually a very spiritual guy--don't laugh, it's true. At one point he actually meditates. Reading this, one will see the drive behind his manic, neurotic comedy, see the gestation and formation of the themes behind it. It was a great ride, I dug it! There's your review, Marc, we good? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not too shabby, especially from a relative. By Joel S. Rose This one kept me reading, which is more than I can say for most of the books I (start to) read these days. I found myself asking "And then what happened?" Religiosity is an alien concept to me, so in my case there was a steep hill to climb to get and hold my interest. But that's not really what the book was about anyway, was it? What WAS it about, anyway? Drat, I just saw the requirement that you have to be at least 13 years old to submit a review. That is SO unfair! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really liked this book. Good read for Maron or general standup comedy fans. By Susan Weisenberg If you are a fan of Marc Maron, you will enjoy this book. Some passages are well written with original vivid descriptions of Marc's interior process.

By the author of *Attempting Normal* and host of the podcast *WTF with Marc Maron*, *The Jerusalem Syndrome* is *The Gospel according to Maron*: a spiritual memoir of your average hyperintelligent, ultraneurotic, superhip Jewish standup comedian and seeker. The Jerusalem Syndrome is a genuine psychological phenomenon that often strikes visitors to the Holy Land—the delusion that they are suddenly direct vessels for the voice of God. Marc Maron seems to have a distinctly American version of the Jerusalem Syndrome, which has led him on a lifelong quest for religious significance and revelation in the most unlikely of places. Maron riffs on Beat phenomena with its sacred texts, established rituals, and prescribed pilgrimages. He spends some time exploring the dark side of things, as his obsessions with cocaine (known to Maron as “magic powder”), conspiracy theories, and famous self-destructive comedians convince him that the gates of hell open beneath Los Angeles. As his quest matures, he reveals the religious aspects of Corporate America, pontificating on the timeless beauty of the Coca-Cola logo and even taking a trip to the Philip Morris cigarette factory, where the workers puff their own products with a zealot-like fervor. The culmination of Maron's Jerusalem Syndrome comes during his own tour of the Holy Land, where, with Sony camcorder glued to his eye socket, he comes face-to-face with his own ambiguous relationship to Judaism and reaches the brink of spiritual revelation—or is it nervous breakdown? Marc Maron has considerably adapted and expanded his praised one-man show to craft a genuine literary memoir. Whether he's a genuine prophet or a neurotic mess, he'll make you laugh as you question the meaning of life. “Marc Maron is blazingly smart, rapid-fire, and very funny . . . A brilliant and relentless screed.” —David Rakoff, author of *Fraud* “Marc Maron is the first crazy person I've ever envied. In his brainiac-memoir-meets-hilarious-travelogue, he demonstrates the ability to tell a story with an extraordinary provocative intelligence that is regrettably shared by few.” —Janeane Garofolo, comedian

.com Named for a psychological condition that often afflicts visitors to the Middle East, *The Jerusalem Syndrome* provides a vivid and comedic sense of what it's like to believe you're a conduit for the voice of God. In this case, the affliction belongs to standup comic Marc Maron, whose brief, engrossing memoir recounts a lifelong parade of revelation and delusion. In New Jersey, in New Mexico, and in Israel (among many other places), Maron has found God in encounters with Beat poetry, cocaine, the Coca-Cola logo, and conspiracy theories. Brief chapters sketch Maron's picaresque adventures, all narrated in a relentlessly neurotic style: “I had just made a horrible but good decision.” Maron's decidedly nontraditional perspective on Judaism--“Believing in the grand plan can take the edge off if you let it, because it really doesn't end well for anyone”--may strike some readers as blasphemous. To others, it will seem revelatory, and for the many in the middle, it will be both. --Michael Joseph Gross From *Publishers Weekly* Standup comic Maron, a regular on late-night TV, has adapted and expanded his off-Broadway show of the same name into a darkly funny memoir. Only after a particularly manic trip to Israel not “to get Jewy” but to visit a friend did Maron conclude that he had long had Jerusalem Syndrome, a psychological condition of mystical self-aggrandizement. After all, he'd always felt special; at Hebrew school in Albuquerque, he first recognized his “unique talent for driving people to the edge.” In college, he found a spiritual focus for his desires: an obsession with the beats and an embrace of their rituals (bad poetry, mind-altering fluids). After graduation, he moved to Los Angeles and worked as a doorman at the Comedy Store (“a dark temple of fear and pain”), where he spent too much time with cocaine and the self-destructive genius comic Sam Kinison. He made pilgrimages to the Philip Morris headquarters and the Coca-Cola Museum, which reflected the “almost religious faith” of brand loyalty. He became a professional comic and, ultimately, “came out as a Jew on stage” and “eased into my anger over time.” Finally, in Israel, carrying a camcorder to protect himself from “unmediated reality,” Maron found himself on the brink of a spiritual crisis and moments of primal peace. Three years later, he reflects, “the cure... was essentially living life.” He closes with a redemptive story about performing a benefit for his old Albuquerque synagogue: “Faith in the face of disappointment is only enhanced by laughter in the face of pain. That's my belief. That's my job.” There are some narrative gaps here, but Maron is compelling enough to transcend them. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From the *Inside Flap* *The Gospel according to*

Maron: a spiritual memoir of your average hyperintelligent, ultraneurotic, superhip Jewish standup comedian and seeker. The Jerusalem Syndrome is a genuine psychological phenomenon that often strikes visitors to the Holy Land—the delusion that they are suddenly direct vessels for the voice of God. Marc Maron seems to have a distinctly American version of the Jerusalem Syndrome, which has led him on a lifelong quest for religious significance and revelation in the most unlikely of places. Maron riffs on Beat phenomena with its sacred texts, established rituals, and prescribed pilgrimages. He spends some time exploring the dark side of things, as his obsessions with cocaine (known to Maron as "magic powder"), conspiracy theories, and famous self-destructive comedians convince him that the gates of hell open beneath Los Angeles. As his quest matures, he reveals the religious aspects of Corporate America, pontificating on the timeless beauty of the Coca-Cola logo and even taking a trip to the Philip Morris cigarette factory, where the workers puff their own products with a zealot-like fervor. The culmination of Maron's Jerusalem Syndrome comes during his own tour of the Holy Land, where, with Sony camcorder glued to his eye socket, he comes face-to-face with his own ambiguous relationship to Judaism and reaches the brink of spiritual revelation—or is it nervous breakdown? Marc Maron has considerably adapted and expanded his praised one-man show to craft a genuine literary memoir. Whether he's a genuine prophet or a neurotic mess, he'll make you laugh as you question the meaning of life. "Marc Maron is blazingly smart, rapid-fire, and very funny . . . A brilliant and relentless screed." -David Rakoff, author of "Fraud" "Marc Maron is the first crazy person I've ever envied. In his brainiac-memoir-meets-hilarious-travelogue, he demonstrates the ability to tell a story with an extraordinary provocative intelligence that is regrettably shared by few." _ Janeane Garofolo, comedian