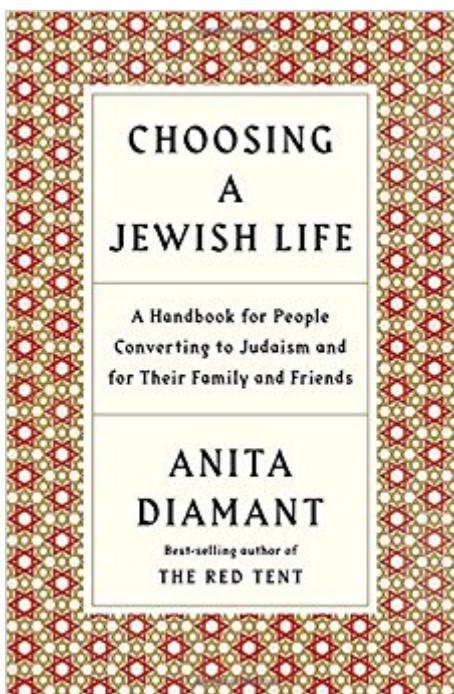


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# Choosing A Jewish Life, Revised And Updated: A Handbook For People Converting To Judaism And For Their Family And Friends



## **Synopsis**

The definitive guide to the conversion process, revised and updated for a new generation of Jews-by-choice. However you choose to fashion your personal journey to Judaism, Anita Diamant is the perfect guide. In this comprehensive, wide-ranging book you will learn how to choose a rabbi, a synagogue, a denomination, and a Hebrew name; how to discuss your decision with your birth family; what happens at the mikveh (ritual bath) and at the hatafat dam brit (circumcision ritual for those already circumcised); how to find your footing in a new spiritual family and create a new Jewish identity; and how you and your children can maintain bonds to your family of origin. Also included are suggestions for readings, prayers, and poems that can personalize conversion rituals; a glossary of terms; and a short history of conversion in Judaism. This revised edition contains a completely updated chapter on how the mikveh is used in the conversion process and an updated list of online resources and books for further reading. Whether you are just beginning to consider converting or have already started down the path to Judaism, here is everything you will need to make the process joyous, sacred, and meaningful.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Married to a convert herself, Anita Diamant provides advice and information that can transform the act of conversion into an extraordinary journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth. Here you will learn how to choose a rabbi, a synagogue, a denomination, a Hebrew name; how to handle the difficulty of putting aside Christmas; what happens at the mikvah (ritual bath) or at a hatafat dam brit (circumcision ritual for those already circumcised); how to find your footing in a new spiritual family that is not always well prepared to receive you; and how not to lose your bonds to your family of

origin. Diamant anticipates all the questions, doubts, and concerns, and provides a comprehensive explanation of the rules and rituals of conversion.

"As a rabbi and convert, I appreciate this book for its sensitivity to the complex feelings of those who are exploring paths to becoming Jewish. I will give it to every interfaith couple, and recommend that they give it to their parents."--Rachel Cowan, Co-author of Mixed Blessings"Indispensable." --Dru Greenwood, Director, Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach, Union of American Hebrew Congregations"Will deeply enrich the journey of anyone who is converting to Judaism." --Rabbi David Woznica, Director, Bronfman Center for Jewish Life at the 92nd Street Y

A terrific book written for those who are contemplating conversion to Judaism. The author explores conversion for Reform, Conservative and (now limited) Orthodox possibilities. She discusses "blended" families and how to maintain relationships with ones family of origin, so no one feels slighted, or left out. She also discusses what prospective converts can expect from their Rabbi and other supports which may be available to the convert, formally and informally, within their Shul (Synagogue). This book is a fountain of information and I would recommend it highly.

I love this book! I'm a covert in-progress, and this book really cleared up a lot for me. I even gave it to my mother to read, and she understands Judaism and my conversion much better, now. It is worth noting that Anita Diamant is Reform Jewish, and the book seems very much geared towards that branch of the faith. Just a note.

This book is written from a progressive Jewish perspective which the book happily admits. It addresses "Who Is A Jew" and who recognizes one as such from a progressive perspective and admits that converts who undergo liberal conversion most likely will not be recognized as Jewish by Orthodox community. It is an easy informative read about what converts go through with their own families, leaving traditions and customs behind, family strains and tensions, even psychological scarring, and even be treated like "the other" by Jews by birth. It makes a good case for converts, it is also a good read for born Jews to understand what a convert's perspective of Jewish life may be. As the book said, Jews, born or convert, are all Jews by choice.

I am currently in the process of conversion, after being married to a Jewish man for many years. I found this book to have a particularly welcoming tone, and it covers the different steps one goes

through, privately as well as publicly, in choosing Judaism. Diamant gives good advice on finding a rabbi to work with, courses of study, as well as questions that might be asked by the Bet Din (a council that interviews you and decides whether you are ready to convert.) These questions themselves formed the basis of discussions with my husband, and a lot of journal writing as I thought about the issues she raised. She gives a good description of the visit to the mikvah which does not diminish the mystery of what goes on spiritually, but does take away any anxiety I might have felt about what going to the mikvah entails. Diamant also gives some historical perspective on conversion during different time periods, discusses issues regarding family, holidays, and becoming part of the Jewish community. I read the book through once quickly, and had a good feeling from it. Then, after I met with the rabbi, I found myself re-reading sections pertinent to where I am in the process. I have a feeling I will be turning to the book many times as I go through this important change in my life.

This is a great introductory book; but nothing takes the place of your own experience. It was the last book I read just prior to converting and I thought it was very helpful even though many of the situations anticipated by the author were not what I experienced. It's still a great book and I quote several "gems" from it to my adopted Jewish family...

This book does not "talk down" to the reader, yet does not assume that the reader is familiar with terms and wordings used by the Jewish faith. I recommend this book to anyone beginning the thought process of conversion. This was not my first book I read, but I wish that it had been & will recommend it highly. It answered all the questions I had been seeking answers to, & did so in concise form.

Great!

Any Jew should be a Jew by choice. Informative and easy to read. I gave this to someone considering conversion. It was greatly appreciated.

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