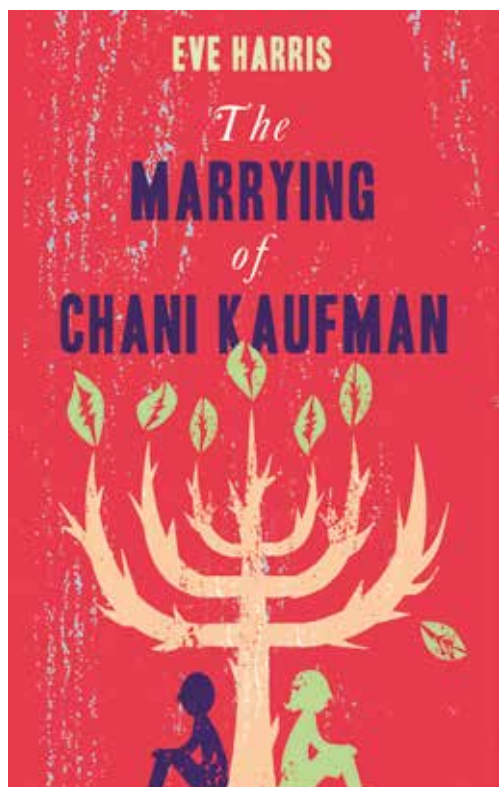




Reader's Guide



The Marrying of Chani Kaufman
is Eve Harris' first novel

The Marrying of Chani Kaufman

Eve Harris

Sandstone Press

www.themanbookerprize.com



Innovating to perform



About the author

Eve Harris was born in London in 1973. She lives there with her husband and their daughter.

Her novel, *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman* (2013) was inspired by teaching at an all girls' Orthodox Jewish school in North West London.

The Marrying of Chani Kaufman

19 year-old Chani lives in the ultra-orthodox Jewish community of North West London. She has never had physical contact with a man, but is bound to marry a stranger. The rabbi's wife teaches her what it means to be a Jewish wife, but Rivka has her own questions to answer. Soon buried secrets, fear and sexual desire bubble to the surface in a story of liberation and choice; not to mention what happens on the wedding night...

Discussion points

Chani comes from a family and a background very different from those of most teenage girls in Britain today. How do these differences affect the way she views love and marriage? What impact, good or bad, do you think Chani's ultra-orthodox background will have on her future as an adult and a married woman?

What differences are there between the families of the engaged couple and how do they impact on everyone involved in arranging the marriage?

The loss of their child drives Rebecca/Rivka and her husband apart. Might it have had the opposite effect of bringing them closer? What factors do you think have caused this increasing estrangement?

Avromi finally ends his secret relationship. Did you think that was inevitable, and if so why? What would have had to change for him to be able to be with a non-Jewish girl?

Are there any signs in Chani and Baruch's relationship that it could go the same way as that of Rivka and the Rabbi? What might make their relationship more likely to survive?

Themed reading

Chaim Potok *The Chosen*

Bernice Rubens *The Elected Member*

Amos Oz *In The Land Of Israel*

Hella Winston *The Unchosen: The Hidden Lives of Hasidic Rebels*

Shalom Auslander *The Foreskin's Lament*

Naomi Alderman *Disobedience*

Useful links

Publisher's website

<http://www.sandstonepress.com>

http://www.sandstonepress.com/title/The_Marrying_of_Chani_Kaufman/