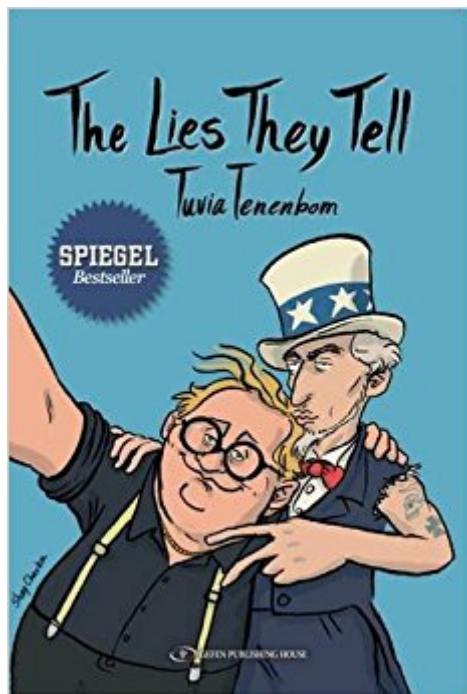


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The Lies They Tell



Synopsis

Welcome to the real America, a place you call home but don't yet know! The USA is the world's empire and its actions will influence us all for generations to come. But who are the Americans, the people who make up America? Tuvia Tenenbom travels through America to find out. His wanderings take him across regional frontiers, partisan lines, and socioeconomic boundaries in a fearless quest for the flesh-and-blood American. He visits black ghettos and white gated communities, megachurches and Indian reservations. He schmoozes with robbers who teach him the true meaning of love and meets Jews who dedicate day and night to hatred of their brethren. He finagles his way into a prison where skinheads pray, goes to the Senate where no Senator seems to be working, experiments with drugs on American streets and ponders the deeper meaning of life with rednecks. He mingles with soldiers who teach him how to invade foreign countries and intellectuals who teach him the beautiful nature of Mother Earth, the goodness of man, and the sadism of the Israeli. The characters he encounters, the adventures he eagerly embraces and the findings of his journey are always unique and often unexpected.

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Customer Reviews

Israeli-German journalist Tenenbom (Catch the Jew!) employs his not-so-subtle sarcasm to expose the hypocrisy, contradictions, and delusions of average Americans. Following his assessment of Europeans in his previous books, he now endeavors to meet as many people as possible and portray the character [of America] and its people. He begins his journey in June 2015, the day of the Charleston, S.C., church shooting, and ends after the San Bernardino, Calif., shooting in December

2015. He encounters propaganda and denial, and exposes political corruption in Chicago, gun culture, megachurches, anti-Semitism, polarizing opinions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, vanishing Native American culture, proud rednecks intimidating African-Americans and Muslims, and climate-change deniers denigrating intellectuals. He reveals the hypocrisy of a nation where international aid organizations are well funded and \$30 million is raised for a Catholic shrine in Wisconsin, yet devastated neighborhoods in Detroit and Chicago get nothing. His outlook may be bleak, but it's hard not to share his incredulity at the levels of laughable self-delusion. For instance, a guide at the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit disavows Ford's anti-Semitism, saying, Here we talk only about positive stuff, not about problems. Brutal, irreverent, and cutting, Tenenbom's riveting book aims to disrupt American complacency. For those willing to look at America from an outsider's perspective, Tenenbom is a sobering guide.--Publisher's Weekly STAR Review The Lies They Tell exposes the real America, the one where racism and anti-Semitism lurk just beneath the surface ... Not to worry, Tenenbom knows how to serve his dishes in an easy, palatable manner, which won't allow you to put the book down until it's finished. --Israel HayomSavage, disturbing, comical ... Tenenbom has again written a book that is unputdownable.--The Jerusalem Post In "The Lies They Tell," Tuvia has turned the guided missile that is himself onto America, the country that has sheltered, housed, fed, and welcomed him, a native Israeli, for nearly four decades. --New Jersey Jewish Standard Tenenbom's latest book demonstrates why a concerted effort should be made to encourage American Jews to emigrate to Israel.--Asaf Shiloni, The Times of Israel Tenenbom had a grim story to share about anti-Semitism in the United States. He told it in a most entertaining way.--Robert Isler, Jewish Link of New Jersey A unique, funny and disarming man gets to the parts of America that Obama seems not to have noticed, even those populated by African-Americans. The Lies They Tell, is about America. Yes, about We, the People. What he found was eye-opening.--Prof. Phyllis Chesler, Arutz 7 The Lies They Tell ranks Tenenbom among the best social anthropologists, like Comte Alexis de Tocqueville and Mark Twain. Tenenbom, too, analyzes America's living standards, democracy, and social contract. This polymath has an interviewing style of disarming exuberance and bonhomie that keeps the reader turning pages to get to the next encounter.--American Thinker The entire book is worth a read, not only for those who are still wondering how the real estate mogul and reality star became president, but for those who wonder, like Tenenbom, what a person might learn from chatting with the locals in 39 places around America. --Lindsey Ellefson, MEDIAtelInternational Praise for Tuvia Tenenbom Highly engaging and emotional, eminently readable, brutally honest.--Publishers Weekly Irresistibly fascinating...seductive and engaging.--New York Times Illuminating and alarming.Wall Street

Journal Read what Tenenbom has to tell us, without bias. We don't have the privilege not to know.--Haaretz (Israel) Tenenbom's laughter touches our soul in places where mere intellect could never reach.--Die Zeit (Germany) One of the most iconoclastic and innovative of contemporary dramatists.--Corriere Della Sera (Italy) Tuvia Tenenbom is Michael Moore and Borat in one.--Die Welt (Germany) A force of nature . . . provocative, satirical, intellectual.--La Repubblica (Italy) A free artist who fights for truth and tolerance.--Le Vif L Express (Belgium) A mystical provocateur.--Le Monde (France) Brilliant.Deutschlandradio (Germany) Tuvia is curious as a cat, sly as a fox, friendly as a Labrador, and is also a man with seismographic sensitivities. Mida (Israel) Tenenbom rides the razor's edge...and goes all the way off.Amsterdam News Hugely entertaining, terribly funny, sarcastic, engaging, powerful, accusatory, judgmental, good! --National Review

Tuvia Tenenbom, the author of three bestsellers in a row, is a journalist, dramatist, and the founder of the Jewish Theater of New York. Tuvia studied for his doctorate in English literature at St. John's University, earned his MFA in playwriting at CUNY-Brooklyn, received his BS in mathematics and computer science from Touro, and finished his rabbinical studies in Jerusalem. He also studied Christianity and Islam in Israel and New York as well as journalism, acting, theater, and finance (at NYU).

This is the third book of Tuvia's that i have read and by far enjoyed the most.Under all the layers of PC and "good manners" lies the truth. Tuvia Tenenbom has that innate quality of being able to ask anything, say anything without guile. He has an almost childlike appearance & naivete which disarms all those he interacts with. He is razor sharp however with insights and honesty that are rare and hard to find in this day & age. Yes, truth hurts but it will also set us free. This book is a must for all humans, jewish or not.

To begin with, I have read this and two other books by Mr. Tenenbom in which he engages in first-person antagonizing of his interviewees. His methods are provocative and somewhat unethical, as he frequently lies about his national and religious identity in order to get his subjects' truest feedback. I have serious questions about whether the people he is interviewing are giving their truest answers, or the ones they believe are likeliest to satisfy the correspondent. For that alone, his books should be banished, or at least get no more than a single star.THAT said, the books are extremely entertaining, and the author should get double-stars for his willingness to tackle identity politics in a depth that no one else seems to address. The truths he unearths about human nature

are achingly painful to observe, which means they have the ring of truth. All people, all relationships, all families, all nations, all religions and all ethnicities eventually have to deal with "membership" -- who is IN, who is OUT; who belongs, and who does not. We establish various boundaries for ourselves in interesting and contradictory ways. For Tenenbom this inconsistency sparks ridiculous outrage, which is itself entertaining to read. For example, in the United States, our constitution establishes that an American is someone born here, or to an American parent, or naturalizes. In Judaism, we are members of the tribe if our mother is Jewish, or if we "naturalize" through conversion. For certain native American groups, membership follows 1/16th "blood." In Germany, there are people whose grandparents and parents were born there, but have not been able to become citizens. It makes sense, in principal, that groups are entitled to determine who does, or does not belong. Yet for some reason, the native American tribal membership pattern is outrageous to Tenenbom. This is ridiculous in itself -- but because it is true to his own personality, it is interesting to read. This book deals with the intricacies, conflicts, and ridiculousness of American identity politics. Written just as Donald Trump was about to be elected president of the United States, and this may date the book, somewhat. But as of THIS review being written, when women are marching in defense of their rights, and Nazis are carrying citronella torches and guns through the streets, when the AltRight and the AltLeft are looking more and more like one another, this book is painfully, heartbreakingly relevant.

Tenenbom has performed an invaluable service by exposing the hypocrisy, tribalism and deference to corporatism of our society and our political parties. Sure individuals are hesitant to talk about how they voted as our division runs through families, friends, coworkers and congregations. The destruction of our middle class has created dissatisfaction with both parties and the desire for a strong man to take control and shake things up. Tuvia is a genius at presenting himself as a harmless, pudgy middle-aged teddy bear in order to uncover true feelings. We ignore the voices of those who have fallen out of the middle class at our peril.

Wonderful book as All others of Tenenbom, highly recommended

Tuvia once again provides a real picture of American culture. Entertaining and scary at the same time. Can't wait till his next adventure.

This is a very funny book. There were a few parts when I literally couldn't stop laughing :). The

author has a great sense of humor. Americans can be pretty ridiculous in off-the-cuff moments. It's also a devastating critique of political correctness. All the Americans he talks to are so concerned about violence against Palestinians (while remaining woefully ignorant about Israel and Middle Eastern history) but no one seems to care about all the violence going on in Chicago and other cities. He suggests that perhaps Americans are afraid to criticize black-on-black violence for fear of appearing racist. Great satire on political correctness here.

Tenenbom holds up a mirror for us. Before the election I would have questioned the reflection. But after the post election reactions by the press, the "left" (for lack of a better word), and lots of Facebook exchanges - to me, the book rings much more true than not. It describes the true cultural state of the nation where the rubber meets the road as well as any sampling could.

America doesn't sound anything like the America the politicians describe. The poor are forgotten, the "decent" citizens are hopelessly ignorant, and racism is everywhere. Once again, Tuva shows the hidden underbelly of society. And proves Americans have deluded themselves about their country. The most humble, those struggling at the bottom of the American Dream, are the people with the most soul and humanity. With his tremendous gift to connect with people, Truvia shows these are the people who are real in America. Another great book. A must read for conscious Americans. We have met the enemy and they are us.

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