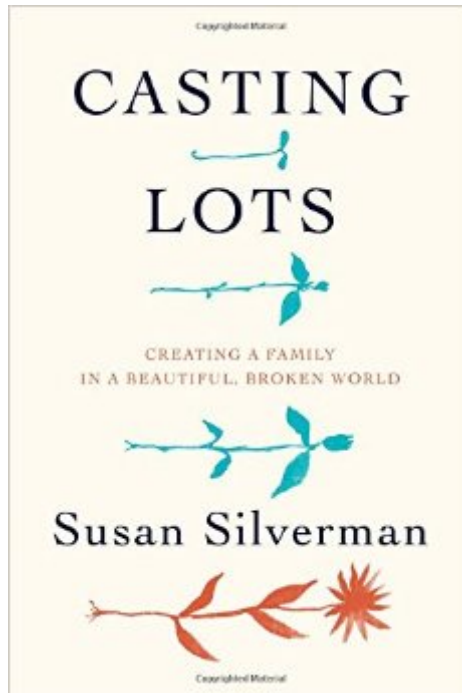


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# Casting Lots: Creating A Family In A Beautiful, Broken World



## Synopsis

Susan Silverman grew up with parents who were, both before and after a devastating loss, atheists. Yet, as a young adult, she shocked everyone who knew her ("But you were elected Class Flirt in high school!" and became a rabbi. What was not surprising, however, was that she built her own big, unwieldy family through both birth and adoption, something she had intended from childhood. With three daughters and two sons ("We produce girls and import boys"), this unique family becomes a metaphor for the world's contradictions and complexities; a microcosm of the tragedy and joy, hope and despair, cruelty and compassion, predictability and absurdity of this world we all live in. A meditation on identity, faith, and belonging; one that's as funny as it is moving; Casting Lots will resonate with anyone who has struggled to find their place in the world and to understand the significance of that place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Susan Silverman has written a beautifully touching tale with humor and compassion. When she told an aunt that she was planning to adopt a child the aunt advised against it saying "you never know what you're getting. Susan replied "With my genes it's a better bet to adopt." Was she ever right. How do I know? She's my daughter and Adar is my incredible grandson

"Kee tov. It is good." I opened this delicious book at 11 pm for a quick glance and didn't put it down until I got to the last page. What a beautiful exploration of family bonds, adoption, Judaism, anxiety, race and love. Adoption books are not so hard to come by and as an adoptive mom I've got most of

them in the house -- It was a real joy to find a book focusing on transracial adoption from a Jewish perspective -- that is very hard to come by and much appreciated. I can't recommend the book highly enough. You know the cliché "I laughed, I cried, it became part of me"? That. And the author's note on *The Global State of Adoption* was top notch too. The only thing I didn't like is that it kept me up until 1 am because I couldn't make myself put it down.

The family agrees that Susan Silverman, author of *Casting Lots*, is the funny sister. That comes as a surprise to many who know and love the comedy of super-famous sister Sarah and the brilliant comedic acting of sister Laura (in such roles as Jane Benson in *The Comeback* as Andy in *Bob's Burgers*.) Your skepticism about Susan as the funny sister will disappear as you get into *Casting Lots*, a deeply personal mix of memoir, Torah, and advocacy for international adoption. Anyone with children will appreciate and relate to the challenges, ideals and frustrations of parenting that Silverman describes in hilarious detail. We all have visions of our best nature being the guiding force of our parenting and we all have dealt with tantrums in the supermarket. Silverman walks the line between the feelings that give birth to books like *Go To Sleep* -- "I just can't take it any more! -- and moments where love and awe ooze from the page and make even a manly man like myself tear up. The first half of the book is a riveting account of her journey from a New Hampshire kid to activist, wife and mother. She recounts early tragedy in her family and in great and often hilarious detail catalogues the impact this had on her as a young girl and the fears that accompany her to this day. The book follows Silverman's path from assimilated New Hampshire Jew to Rabbi by starting with little Jewish content and ending up as a deeply meaningful exposition of the connection between family life and Jewish Torah learning. I highly recommend this book for any parent, for fans of the Silverman Sisters, for those who have adopted or are thinking about adopting, and for those looking to see how Jewish learning can be relevant to a modern family life.

Susan Silverman is truly one of the most wonderful people on earth. This book reminds us that there is still kindness, generosity and beauty in the world. Her family is an inspiration to all of us. Loved this book!

Not a typical adoption memoir, there is just so much heart and humor and texture in this book! You will laugh out loud in many places, marvel at the author's honesty, cheer her on through the pain of early family loss and fracture and all the ways she builds family around her. A very special book.

This was a book about a beautiful spirit, a woman who wants to do good in the world by starting in her own family. The way she does it is by inspiring her husband and children to truly love the stranger. The story of how she grows her family inspires.

Unusual family dynamics, within all generations included in the book. Reminded me that we all come from unique places. If Warmth, love and commitment are the basics in parenting, a family perseveres and thrives. Thank you, Susan, for your candid sharing and for opening your heart for all to see.

Casting Lots is an honest, hopeful, and nuanced narrative about creating intentional families. I look forward to using it as a study tool in my community to teach about bringing holiness into our most fundamental actions.

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