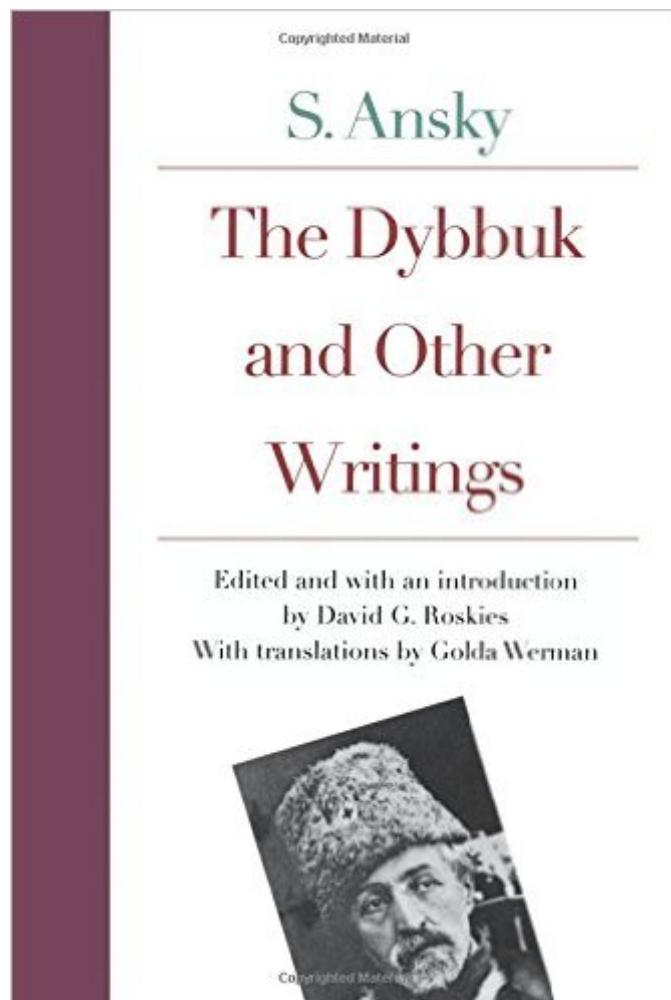


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The Dybbuk And Other Writings By S. Ansky



Synopsis

This volume presents The Dybbuk, S. Ansky's well-known drama of mystical passion and demonic possession, along with little-known works of his autobiographical and fantastical prose fiction and an excerpt from his four-volume chronicle of the Eastern Front in the First World War, The Destruction of Galicia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Dybbuk is a haunting and beautiful and haunting combination between a love story and a ghost story, growing out of the tradition of Yiddish theatre. The main story revolves around a young rabbinical student, Channon, whose beloved and promised bride, Leah, is denied to him, because of his poverty. He dies as a result of his misuse of the holy texts of the Kabbalah. His soul invades the body of his intended bride, as a Dybbuk - which is a spirit in Jewish mythology that invades other people's bodies. When he is exorcised from Leah's body, she makes a pact with her beloved to unite her soul with his spirit, and so she departs the earth too- so strong was the love of Leah and Channon that their spirits would not be kept from each other even in death. This volume contains some of the richest treasures of old Yiddish mythology and literature , much of it involving rich Chassidic mysticism.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All right, so I'm probably

one of the few people who hadn't heard of S. Ansky before reading this collection. Shame on me, I know. Anyway, *The Dybbuk* is actual a theatre play based on a folklore story S. Ansky gathered info for during his travels. The story is about a young bride who is possessed by a dybbuk – this can best be compared to an evil spirit, or demon. Her name is Leahâ™le, and she went to the graveyard before her wedding day, where not only she invited her motherâ™s spirit to attend the marriage, but also the spirits of a young couple who were murdered before their wedding could be consummated. Sheâ™s also drawn to one other grave, that of Hannan, a young scholar who was in love with her, and wanted her hand in marriage, but was refused so by her father. Leahâ™le comes back from the graveyard a changed woman. A local sage tries to exorcise the Dybbuk who has possessed her, but fails, and is forced to call in the help of the rabbi. The rabbi decides that Leahâ™leâ™s father must appear before the court of rabbis, apparently upon the request of the spirit of Hannanâ™s father. What follows is a trial half debated in the world of the living, and half in the spirit world. Itâ™s certainly an intriguing story, and I wished I couldâ™ve seen the actual play. This sounds right up my alley. I enjoyed reading it here though, but it mustâ™ve been even more intriguing to see it on stage. This collection also features other stories by S. Ansky, but the *Dybbuk* was by far the most notable one. If youâ™re a fan of historical fiction, mysticism and paranormal stories, then youâ™ll probably enjoy *The Dybbuk* and *Other Writings*.

The book was received without hassle in very good condition and all-in-all the whole process was easy. This served its purpose far a class this semester and it is a book that I will probably not use again but it was a pleasant read.

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