

The Yiddish Policemen's Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon, Michael By Michael Chabon

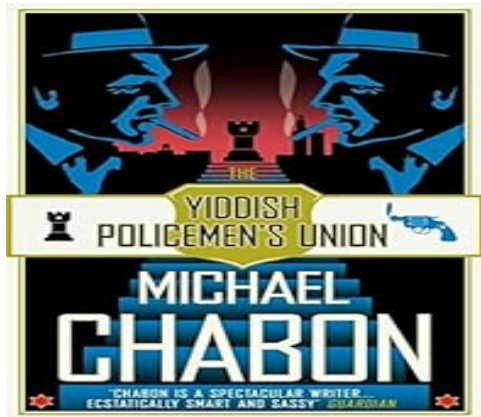
The brilliantly original new novel from Michael Chabon author of THE ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY and WONDER BOYS What if as Franklin Roosevelt once proposed Alaska - and not Israel - had become the homeland for the Jews after the Second World War In Michael Chabon's Yiddish speaking 'Alyeska' Orthodox gangs in side curls and knee breeches roam the streets of Sitka where Detective Meyer Landsman discovers the corpse of a heroin addled chess prodigy in the flophouse Meyer calls home Marionette strings stretch back to the hands of charismatic Rebbe Gold leader of a sect that seems to have drawn its mission statement from the Cosa Nostra Meyer is determined to unsnarl the meaning behind the murder Even if that means surrendering his badge and his dignity to the chief of Sitka's homicide unit - his fearsome ex wife Bina A novel of colossal ambition and heart THE YIDDISH POLICEMEN'S UNION interweaves a homage to the stylish menace of 1940s film noir with a bittersweet fable of identity home and faith The brilliantly original new novel from Michael Chabon.

Michael Unless you are strongly steeped in Judaism and speak Yiddish I would strongly suggest getting the Kindle version of this book. What if as Franklin Roosevelt once proposed Alaska - and not Israel - had become the homeland for the Jews after the Second World War? In Michael Chabon's Yiddish-speaking 'Alyeska' Orthodox gangs in side-curls and knee breeches roam the streets of Sitka where Detective Meyer Landsman discovers the corpse of a heroin-addled chess prodigy in the flophouse Meyer calls home. A novel of colossal ambition and heart THE YIDDISH POLICEMEN'S UNION interweaves a homage to the stylish menace of 1940s film noir with a bittersweet fable of identity home and faith. It follows many of the conventions of the detective thriller: the dysfunctional central character has issues with life authority stimulants chess religion while his sidekick is less intelligent but stalwart; he is unable to do his job properly because of an interdiction from his boss who is also his ex wife; the action of the book takes place in low dives and involves grand conspiracies and human frailty; the detective can sustain a blow to the head and subsequently come to with no permanent damage. And reading these lines it struck me that many other writers could have come up with images of similar beauty but they would have overstated them given them too heavy a treatment. A lesser writer would have spelled it out the snow is falling so the footprints have been filled with fresh snow making them look as if a figure with no weight or substance has left its imprint. As for other aspects of the cultural background maybe it does make it hard going for goyim like myself but this is why I read books to find out about things I don't know about! So perhaps not the greatest book I've ever read but certainly a strong candidate for the best written and very entertaining. The prose was 'purple' (over flowery) and distracted from the story there was far too much Yiddish which made it difficult to follow at times the characters were so so and the plot was a bit chaotic. Set in an alternate history 21st century it posits that if European Jews had been allowed to settle in Alaska (as actually proposed) then the world would have been a different place. And so it is there are teasing glimpses of the changes wrought by a single change in our own history but Chabon doesn't let this get in the way of a wonderful detective novel. The protagonist (Meyer Landsman) is on the face of it a cliché a hard drinking maverick detective with claustrophobia) in the Alaskan Jewish homeland of Sitka; his ex wife works with him and he is drawn into a case involving the death of a man staying in the same down at heel hotel as him. For example when describing the influx of refugees to Alaska he says: In drafty tin roofed huts and barracks they underwent six months of intensive acclimatization by a crack team of fifteen billion mosquitoes working under

contract with the US interior department. And he's so inventive the phrase The Frozen Chosen to describe the Alaskan Jews is used only once in the whole book whereas a less able author would have re used it over and over again (it's so good). The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon Michael If one should only praise Chabon's literary skills and his almost Wodehouse esque and surprisingly apt nuggets of wit and metaphor it would be praise enough but there is far . It appears that in the early stages of World War II it was mooted that Jewish refugees be settled on Sitka an island off the coast of Alaska As it turned out nothing came of that but Chabon has taken this germ of an idea and created a complex Jewish society decades on at a time when the lease on the land (as with Britian and Hong Kong) is about to expire and the Jews have to wander on. His formidable ex wife is now his boss the upper echelons of the police force have ordered Landsman and his colleagues to close all their cases pending the US takeover and a man has been shot dead while playing chess in his room in the hotel where Landsman is living. Refreshingly this novel is quite unlike anything I've read before although there are echoes homages to film noir Philip K Dick Raymond Chandler and no doubt others but interestingly this is still a thoroughly enjoyable and original novel. ' The beauty of Chabon's one liners is in their accuracy their originality and the fact that his similes and metaphors provoke visual comparisons which are both accurate and appropriate. The novel is jammed with eccentrics saints and sinners from the grossly corpulent Verbover Rabbe Spilman to the waitresses bar owners and other perfectly drawn characters that populate the pages, That is because there are many words that are not familiar to even an educated gentile, Kindle has the useful facility to allow you to highlight such words and get an explanation/definition of the meaning: That being said it does not detract from the story which is basically an alternative history of the Jewish people following WW2 and the failure to establish a homeland in Israel. It is certainly cleverly written and pokes enough fun at the language used to be amusing: The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon.

Author of THE ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY and WONDER BOYS, Marionette strings stretch back to the hands of charismatic Rebbe Gold leader of a sect that seems to have drawn its mission statement from the Cosa Nostra, Meyer is determined to unsnarl the meaning behind the murder: Even if that means surrendering his badge and his dignity to the chief of Sitka's homicide unit - his fearsome ex-wife Bina, The brilliantly original new novel from Michael Chabon author of THE ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY and WONDER BOYS. Marionette strings stretch back to the hands of charismatic Rebbe Gold leader of a sect that seems to have drawn its mission statement from the Cosa Nostra. Meyer is determined to unsnarl the meaning behind the murder. Even if that means surrendering his badge and his dignity to the chief of Sitka's homicide unit - his fearsome ex-wife Bina. The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon Michael This is very much Noir land as well as being an alternative Jewish homeland where Yiddish is spoken rather than Hebrew. Put like this it makes it sound like I didn't like this book. The plot is definitely genre fiction and the political stance will undoubtedly anger some people. I don't think I have ever read a book where I stopped so often to re read and admire a line which had me gasping with admiration or chuckling in amusement, There is a line somewhere where the snow is falling and he says something like The footprints in the snow outside were as shallow as an angel's. Chabon suggests this but leaves the reader to fill in the gaps: There are a lot of Yiddish words in it but then much of that will be familiar to anyone who has read Leo Rosten and it is all easily available on Google. The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon Michael I was underwhelmed I'm afraid, I usually love alternate history I like Jewish culture and know quite a few Yiddish words and I like a mystery: Clearly my view isn't universal hence the success of the book. The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon Michael This is a wonderful book intelligent humourous thought provoking and a great noir detective novel to boot, It encompasses multiple genres including alternative history and a crime thriller and others (no spoilers here!), The plot is admittedly complex and we have to keep track of characters different histories plot twists and above all Yiddish slang. But Chabon handles this all expertly and despite being just over 400 pages I could not put this book down. The intelligence of

the plotting and characterisation is helped immensely by Chabon's humourous prose. He has some wonderful lines almost one every page that sticks in the mind. Just one of a whole host of lines that had me laughing out loud: I won't divulge any details of the plot save to say that as with all great noir thrillers it leads us where we don't expect: The characters are well sketched and the ending is very satisfying: Even at the end you'll realise that the title (which crops up once in the book) has than one meaning, I'll definitely read of his work after this stunning book which is the best thing I've read all year: Stubborn hardbitten and going against the grain at every turn Landsman is determined to solve this last case before `Reversion' leaves him without a home or job: There are lines such as `his haircut occupied the thin space between astronaut and paedophile scoutmaster. Landsman and his half Native American partner Berko follow leads into various levels and factions of Jewish Society slowly uncovering a plot with international ramifications: I urge you to read it and find yourself in the wonderful and compelling land of Sitka where life is cheap but miracles can occasionally happen: The Yiddish Policemans Union [Lingua inglese] : Chabon Michael



.The prose may not suit all readers. But go with it. And there is even a car chase of sorts. Nothing could be further from the truth. But the man writes incredible wonderful beautiful prose. I'd been looking forward to reading it for some time. But but but. I can't read any of his books as I am put off. Meyer Landsman is a detective with issues. It verges on high quality poetry. Chabon doesn't shirk on characters either