



# All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir

By Shulem Deen



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Named one of "forty-three books to read before you die" by the *Independent* (UK) 2015 National Jewish Book Award Winner 2016 Winner of the GLCA New Writers Award in Nonfiction

One of Star Magazine's "Fab 5 Can't-Miss Entertainment Picks"

A moving and revealing exploration of Hasidic life, and one man's struggles with faith, family, and community

Shulem Deen was raised to believe that questions are dangerous. As a member of the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the US, he knows little about the outside world--only that it is to be shunned. His marriage at eighteen is arranged and several children soon follow. Deen's first transgression--turning on the radio--is small, but his curiosity leads him to the library, and later the Internet. Soon he begins a feverish inquiry into the tenets of his religious beliefs, until, several years later, his faith unravels entirely.

Now a heretic, he fears being discovered and ostracized from the only world he knows. His relationship with his family at stake, he is forced into a life of deception, and begins a long struggle to hold on to those he loves most: his five children. In *All Who Go Do Not Return*, Deen bravely traces his harrowing loss of faith, while offering an illuminating look at a highly secretive world.



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## All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir By Shulem Deen Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

Review

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"Astonishing. . . . Deen's harrowing story . . . is also an indictment of those who are standing by and allowing it to be." ? The Washington Post

"With this book Deen has laid to rest the idea that a Hasid from New Square could never become a great writer in English, or an articulate chronicler of his own experiences." *?The New Republic* 

"All Who Go Do Not Return is an extraordinary memoir. The writing is beautiful. The journey it chronicles is poignant, relatable-and also unlike anything most readers will ever have experienced. . . . His voice is an important one in our generation." ?ZEEK

"A heartbreaking read as Deen fights to reconcile his identity and love for his family with his loss of faith in God. But it is also one of great courage and hope as Deen aspires to live openly and without fear for the first time." *Publishers Weekly* 

"In this moving book, Deen lays bare his difficult, muddled wrestling with his faith, the challenges it posed to everything he thought he knew about himself, and the hard-won redemption he eventually found." *?Library Journal* 

"A clash of cultures made fascinating and personal." ?Booklist

"I understand that even if I did visit New Square I would have no greater access to Hasidic life than my occasional walk through Williamsburg, where I can see but can't penetrate its appeal, or its secrets. Deen's memoir, however, does grant me that access. It is the book's ticket to mass appeal as well as the seat of his disquiet in its writing. Though he writes because he has a story to tell, Deen's work, especially in his memoir, is clearly crafted to benefit others dealing with a wavering faith." *?Tablet Magazine* 

"Shulem Deen has a fascinating story to tell, and he tells it with exquisite sensitivity. *All Who Go Do Not Return* gives us not only an insider's glimpse into a shrouded world few outsiders get to see, but also a movingly told narrative of one man's struggle toward intellectual integrity. The setting may be the world of Hasidic Judaism, but the drama and the insights are universal." ?Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction* 

"All Who Go Do Not Return is a deeply honest and moving story about a man's decision to do something both so simple and so radical - to live in accordance with his own beliefs. Shulem Deen has written an enormously powerful and important memoir about faith, doubt and freedom." ?Tova Mirvis

"On the eve of his marriage, at eighteen, Shulem Deen knew how to slaughter an ox in Jerusalem's ancient temple, but he knew less than most seven-year-olds do about sex and movies and technology and literature-about the world that lay only miles away from him. Among the Skver Hasids, all who go do not return, but in

writing this memoir, Deen has returned, and brought us, his lucky readers, with him. This is a heartbreaking book, and an important one, about the consequences of being true to yourself, and about a world and a community few of us know." ?Joshua Henkin

#### About the Author

**Shulem Deen** is a former Skverer Hasid, and the founding editor of *Unpious*. His work has appeared in the *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *Tablet*, and *Salon*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Kim Duncan:**

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great as well as important the book All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir. All type of book would you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

### **Evelyn White:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Jacob Smith:**

All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

## Carolyn Ziolkowski:

As a university student exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart

and soul or real their hobby. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring along with can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore, this All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir can make you really feel more interested to read.

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