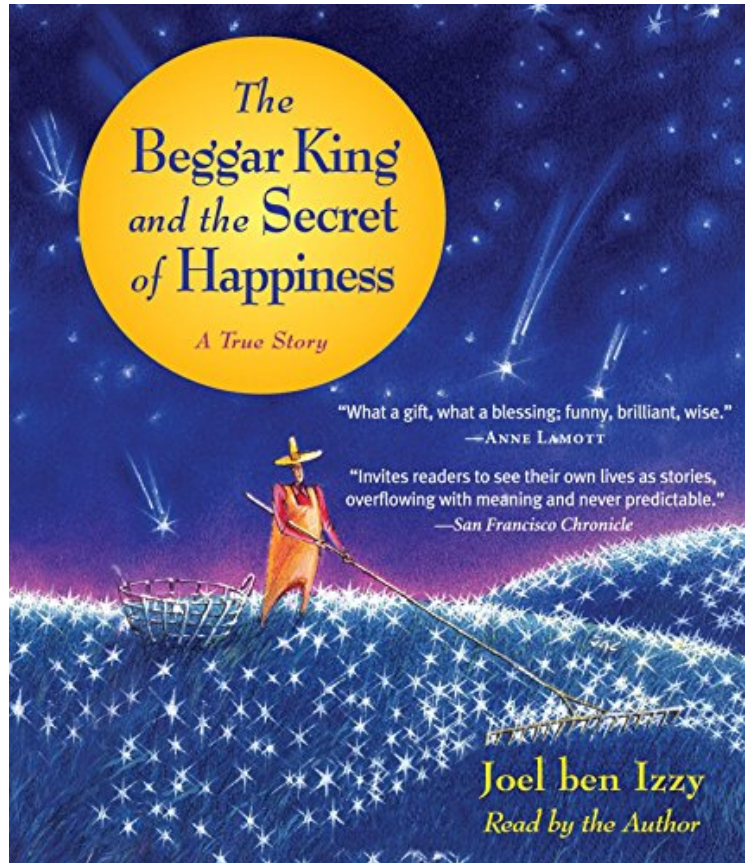


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The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness: A True Story

Joel ben Izzy

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#2268145 in Books HighBridge Company 2007-06-28 2007-06-28 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 4 5.30 x .64 x 6.40l, .32 Running time: 16200 seconds Binding: Audio CD | File size: 43.Mb

Joel ben Izzy : The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness: A True Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness: A True Story:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable, Thought provoking. By apoem This book is the one you will refer back to several times during the course of your life. It is a good reminder of what happiness and contentment in this life really is and how you really get to that point in your life. It is about bad things happening to good people. It is about perception and reality. It is about learning from life and taking charge of your situation. I really enjoyed this book. It was not a long read - maybe a 2-3 day read. It was interesting. The format was this story of Joel Ben Izzy and his story as a story teller who lost his voice. Sprinkled through out this story though are other stories that he uses to help drive the lessons he's learning home to the reader. There is so much to say about this story and so much to love. I will end with just saying it has a place on my favorites book shelf and I have bought several copies for friends now. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Simple, profound By Bright Baby Wonderful, wonderful book. I've purchased several copies and given them to friends who are going through trials. Joel ben Izzy manages to mine an

incredibly painful time in his life -- thyroid cancer surgery costs him his voice -- using age-old stories as introductions to each chapter. He communicates great universal truths through the very specific lens of his own losses in a way that gives due weight to the gravity of his circumstances while still holding out hope that there's some moral to his story -- he just has to hang in long enough to learn what that moral is. It has become a forever book for me -- one that I will reread, one that I will give to dear ones who are struggling to make sense of their lives. This book has changed my soul a little bit. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun for all ages. By UnicornQueen Really fantastic little book filled with fun stories that compel deep thought and offers sage wisdom.

When a storyteller loses his voice, he believes he's lost everything. In fact, he's been given a great gift. Once upon a time, a successful storyteller lost his voice to throat cancer. Deprived of the instrument of his art and his livelihood, he retreated into dark, sullen silence and depression. While searching for a spiritual explanation, he encountered his former mentor, a cantankerous and often drunk old man. Their meetings began a journey into the timeless wisdom of ancient tales: of beggars and kings, monks and tigers, lost horses, buried treasures, and ultimately the secret of happiness. In this altogether original book, Joel ben Izzy shares his personal account of surviving loss, gaining wisdom, and rediscovering one's true purpose. Weaving in tales he's collected over the years from Sufi, Muslim, Chinese, Jewish, Iraqi, Zen Buddhist, Italian, and Indian cultures, he passes along the lessons he has learned. As we travel with Izzy from tragedy back into light and sound, we are encouraged to see our own lives as stories, and to open our own hearts to happiness.

From Publishers Weekly Joel ben Izzy has a peaceful, almost mesmerizing voice—a fine storyteller's voice—altered only when he becomes the characters in his tales. He does a perfect Yiddish accent, but he doesn't spoil other stories by struggling for genuine accents. Parables have morals: as he narrates the agonizing loss of his voice and ultimate recovery, he seeks lessons from his misery. One of his Chinese tales reminds us: What seems like a blessing may be a curse, and what seems like a curse may be a blessing. Izzy begins each chapter with a fairy tale from some corner of the globe, then relates it to a segment of his life. The book is a blend of fiction and nonfiction genres much in fashion now: memoir, the journey toward healing, the spiritual awakening, the search for wisdom and meaning through pain and loss. Izzy's book will find a happy home next to those of Paulo Coelho, Mitch Albom, Sue Monk Kidd, Alice Seabold et al., and will be particularly popular in audio format. An Algonquin paperback (s, July 28, 2003). (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In his debut effort, professional storyteller Ben Izzy shares personal experiences that have caused him to search for life's true meaning in the stories he has spent two decades telling. The book starts with the fable of the beggar king, in which King Solomon loses his kingdom and is left to wander the land as a beggar, and from there Ben Izzy's own tale unfolds. A renowned storyteller, the author was at the top of his game when throat cancer robbed him of his voice. As a consequence, he lost his livelihood and became severely depressed until he met up with his old mentor Lenny, a cantankerous and often drunk old storyteller who helped him to stop dwelling on his misery and to see his fate in terms of life's bigger picture. The book ends with the conclusion of the story of the beggar king, in which King Solomon's journey is realized as an illusion, and with Ben Izzy making sense of the cards fate has dealt him. Kathleen Hughes Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved His story is a poignant one, filled with sadness, laughter, and joy. Hearing ben Izzy's warm voice takes some of the surprise out of the story of his voice loss; after all, once you hear his voice, it's no secret that he eventually regains it. But it's not so much the destination as it is the sites along the way that make The Beggar King an unforgettable listening experience. - Audiofile