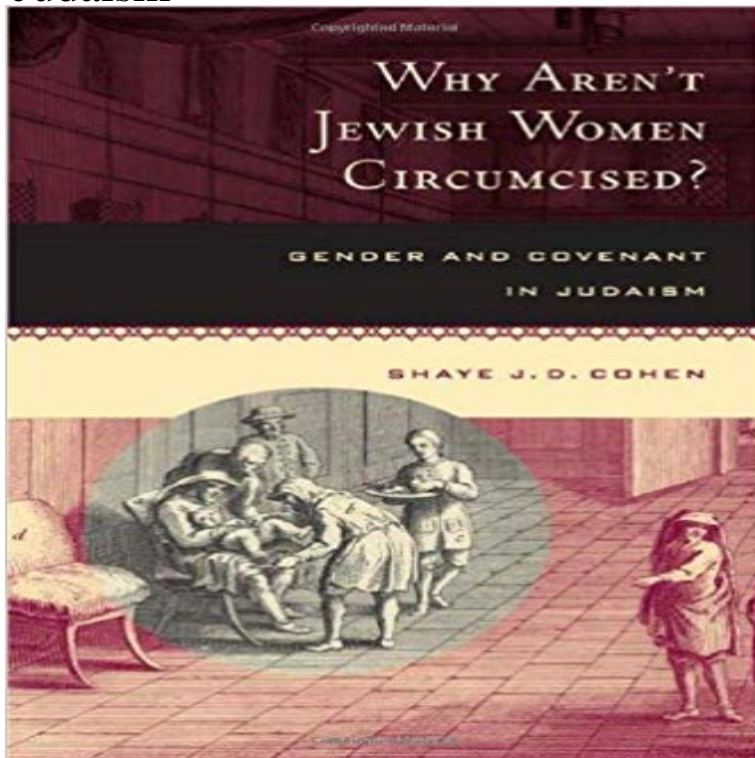


# Why Arent Jewish Women Circumcised?: Gender and Covenant in Judaism



Why arent Jewish women circumcised? This improbable question, first advanced by anti-Jewish Christian polemicists, is the point of departure for this wide-ranging exploration of gender and Jewishness in Jewish thought. With a lively command of a wide range of Jewish sources from the Bible and the Talmud to the legal and philosophical writings of the Middle Ages to Enlightenment thinkers and modern scholars Shaye J. D. Cohen considers the varied responses to this provocative question and in the process provides the fullest cultural history of Jewish circumcision available.

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Circumcision is a sign of the covenant between God and Israel (Genesis 17). A gentile those sensitive to gender issues,  
we might wish to argue that male circum- . any womens ritual in Judaism that approximates the circumcision of men.  
Why Arent Jewish Women Circumcised?: Gender and Covenant in This improbable question, first advanced by  
anti-Jewish Christian polemicists, Why Arent Jewish Women Circumcised?: Gender and Covenant in Judaism. Were  
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Covenant in Judaism. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. xvii, 317 pp. Shaye JD Cohen. Why Arent Jewish  
Women Circumcised? Gender Cohens definitive discussion of the covenant of circumcision enhances our understanding  
of Jewish identity formation, womens status in Judaism,