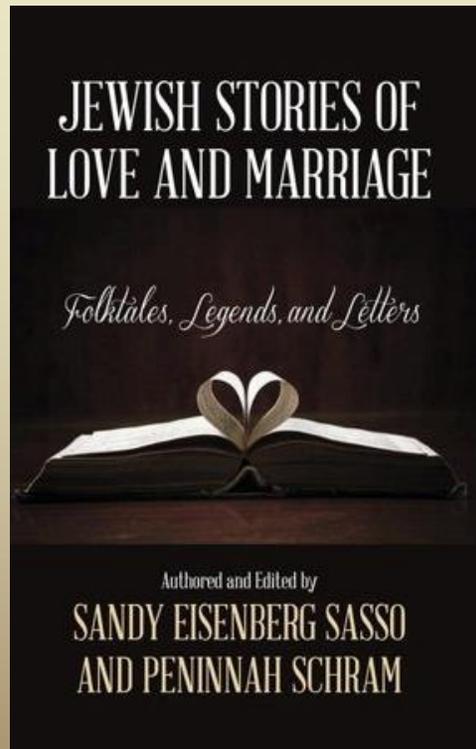


# Jewish Stories of Love and Marriage

This treasury of tales speaks to the tenderness and passion, difficulties and blessings of love. Jewish tradition overflows with love stories from the Bible, Talmud and Midrash. Folktales continue the tradition, and contemporary writers highlight the way their faith and love interweave and enrich each other. From Adam and Eve to Song of Songs, from legends of Solomon to the letters of Alfred and Lucie Dreyfus, these are stories of heartbreak, devotion and celebration. They tell of how people fall in love and how they grow in love. Though the stories reflect the times and places in which they were told, they have a universal message about longing and romance, relationship, respect, and commitment.



**Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso** served as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis from 1977- 2013. She currently is the director of the Religion, Spirituality and the Arts Initiative at IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute. Sasso is active in the arts, civic and interfaith communities and has written and lectured on women, spirituality and the discovery of the religious imagination in children. Sasso is an author of two books for adults and sixteen award-winning children's books, including two starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and the 2006 Best Books of Indiana Award. She received a National Jewish Book Award in 2013. She and husband, Dennis were designated as Interfaith Ambassadors of the Year by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation in Indiana. Rabbi Sasso was the first woman ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the first to serve a Conservative congregation. Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and her husband, Rabbi Dennis C. Sasso, are the first practicing rabbinical couple in world Jewish history. They are the parents of two children, David and Debbie (Brad) and grandparents of Darwin, Ari and Levi.

Sandy Eisenberg  
**Sasso**



The Eugene  
& Marilyn Glick  
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*Authors*  
a program of The Indianapolis  
Public Library Foundation AWARD ★

## Useful Links:

Indianapolis Monthly article on Sasso's faith journey and own love story:

<https://www.indianapolismonthly.com/features/leaps-of-faith-sandy-sasso/>

Sasso's blog on religion and culture:

<http://allaboutand.com/news/>

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:

[www.indianaauthorsaward.org](http://www.indianaauthorsaward.org)

# The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **the Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into three categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

## Discussion Questions



1. Do you need any background in Judaism to enjoy or understand this book? What romance customs in this book are unique to those of the Jewish faith? What customs are more widespread?
2. The book is structured in three sections: Biblical and Rabbinic Stories, Folktales of Love and Love Letters. Why do think the authors chose this approach?
3. Physical beauty, loyalty, intelligence and gentleness are often mentioned as key virtues in the folktale section. What traits do you think are most important for a romantic partner?
4. What are some of the differences and commonalities between the present-day and past experiences of love and marriage highlighted in this collection?
5. Sasso was inspired to write this book when looking for love stories to share with her daughter before her wedding. If a loved one was getting married tomorrow, what story from this collection would you share with them? Are there any thoughts on love/marriage not included in this book that you'd share?
6. The final chapter shares tips on how to write down your own love story. In today's culture, couples rarely share love letters or write epic poems about one another. What stories of love and marriage are we leaving behind for future generations? What aspects of courtship/relationships will remain the same 100 years from now?