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*Debbie Weissman*

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**Debbie Weissman : Memoirs of a Hopeful Pessimist: A Life of Activism through Dialogue** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memoirs of a Hopeful Pessimist: A Life of Activism through Dialogue:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Delightful Walk Through Life with a Remarkable WomanBy Joseph MontvilleDebbie Weissman is an American Israeli orthodox Jew who is guided by the most humane of the teachings of the Hebrew prophets. As president of the International Council of Christians and Jews, she led the way to the respectful embrace of Muslims as members of the Abrahamic family. Her memoir is a delightful journey through her active life as a teacher and leader. It is warm and as comfortable as a cozy evening at home.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You might become an even better person just by reading this book.By Joel B.

GordonDisclaimer: the author is my good friend. This book is bright, entertaining, engaging and overflowing with challenging ideas and important values. It takes you into the life of a truly good, innovative and significant person, who will surprise you with her honesty, her clarity and her compassion. You might become an even better person just by reading this book. It's that good.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Memoirs of a Hopeful Pessimist is a fun read. The author has a voice that draws ...By BookloverMemoirs of a Hopeful Pessimist is a fun read. The author has a voice that draws you in, makes you read page after page, story after story, so that you are unable to put the book down. If you grew up in the US, or if you spent time in Israel, you will identify with the author, fully sympathize with what she has to say, and laugh heartily at the often hilarious (and sometimes hair-raising) episodes she recounts. Such as almost being crushed by the foot of an elephant when a carload of friends decided to ignore the danger warnings in a safari park in Africa. She engages, she teaches, she inspires. Read it and enjoy it and give it as a great gift to others. I hope she will write a sequel.

For many people, "observant Jew," "feminist," and "interfaith pioneer" are not necessarily words they would put together in the same sentence. And yet, in this book by Dr. Debbie Weissman, each is a vitally important aspect of a dynamic and passionate life.

"An engaging memoir of a much-travelled life. Weissman tells of her involvement in many historic movements: Jewish education, Zionism, orthodox feminism, and inter-faith work, as well as the founding of a progressive Orthodox synagogue community in Jerusalem. She describes the development of a religious and political

consciousness 'dancing,' as she puts it, between opposite poles of tradition and liberalism. An often wry humor marks her account of the personal and the public dimensions of her career. Both idealistic and pragmatic, her memoir is a fitting testimony to a life of commitment and achievement." mdash;Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, author, *The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis*

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