

The Gett
by Liba Vaynberg

A Note from the Dramaturg

Dear Reader,

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive guide to understanding *The Gett* by Liba Vaynberg. The information I have compiled can help you pull deeper meanings from the plot, connect history and fiction, and begin to understand what is at stake for these characters. This play distinctly follows the seven days of creation and many traditions and beliefs of the Jewish people throughout big moments in their lives. Knowing the history behind these aspects will help you to draw new meaning from the text. This text is steeped in storytelling tradition and rituals of the Jewish American people. With the deep knowledge and understanding of this group of people, you can give its characters new life.

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What It Is

- Effects the divorce between a Jewish couple according to Jewish law
- Traditionally the only way to end a marriage, aside from death of one or both spouses
- A dated and witnessed document wherein the husband expresses his unqualified intention to divorce his wife and sever all ties with her under the supervision of the Rabbinical Council
- Without a Gett, it doesn't matter how many legal documents the couple has, or how long they've been separated, they are still married under Jewish law
- Marriage is a union of souls and a Gett is the only way for these souls to be separated
- Individually tailored to the particular couple
- Can technically be written in any language as long as it includes the words and phrases mandated by Jewish law, it is custom to be written in Aramic
- Customary to be written in 12 lines (the numerical value of the Hebrew word Gett) - the witnesses sign below the 12th line

How You Get One

- A divorce document must be written, usually done by a professional religious scribe, or sofer
- It must be written on the explicit instructions and with the free-willed approval of the husband with the specific intention that it is to be used on that marriage
- It cannot be initially written with blanks that are to be filled in later
- It must be delivered to the wife, whose physical acceptance of it is required to complete and validate the divorce process
- The procedure is performed in front of a Beth Din, which is a rabbinical court consisting of three rabbis
- Only the presence of the husband, wife, and two witnesses is required to effect it, but it cannot be done without the presence of experts in the field due to its complexity
- After the document is written by the scribe the husband hands it to his wife in the presence of two kosher witnesses and the marriage has officially been dissolved and both parties will be given a certificate confirmation their new marital status
- In special occasions the husband or wife can appoint someone to stand in their place for the procedure, but it makes the process even more complex

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT
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TO SEE THE FULL PACKET