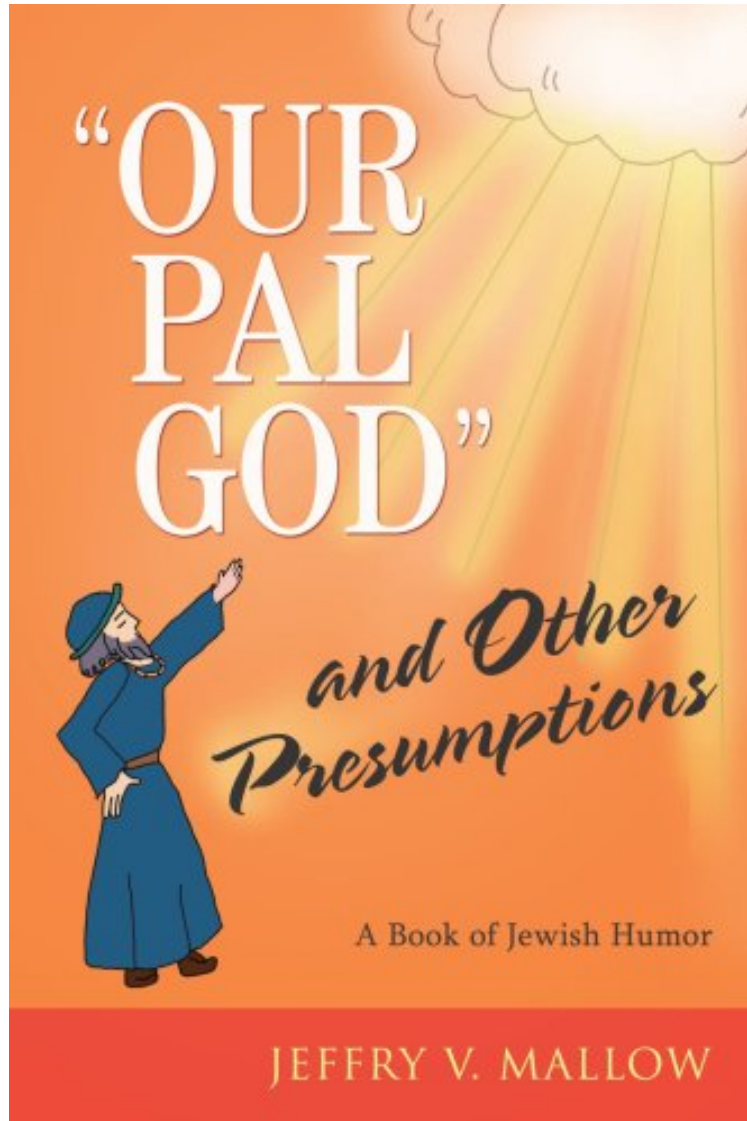


[Download] "Our Pal God" and Other Presumptions: A Book of Jewish Humor

## "Our Pal God" and Other Presumptions: A Book of Jewish Humor

*Jeffrey Mallow*

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**Jeffrey Mallow : "Our Pal God" and Other Presumptions: A Book of Jewish Humor** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "Our Pal God" and Other Presumptions: A Book of Jewish Humor:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Did you hear the one about the Rabbi and the . . .By Steven LubetJeffrey Mallow is a humorist, a linguist, and a physicist - perhaps no one else in the United States combines those three talents, and certainly not at his high level. In "Our Pal God, and Other Presumptions," Mallow puts his humor and language skills to superb use, and he even throws in a little science now and then."Our Pal God" is a book

of Jewish humor, but it is far more than just another collection of funny stories. To be sure, it is a collection of jokes - really, really good jokes - but Mallow does much more than that. He categorizes and defines Jewish humor, explaining both its inward-looking and outward-looking aspects. He also shows how the Yiddish language contributed to Jewish humor, but you don't need to understand a word of Yiddish in order to get the jokes (Mallow deftly provides unobtrusive definitions at every key point). Indeed, the best section is probably the one on Language Humor, especially the chapter on "Jokes that Do, Almost Do, and Do Not Translate." It is a perfect introduction to Jewish culture and the immigrant experience. Then again, perhaps the best section is "Compare and Contrast - Jewish/Non-Jewish Variants" in which Mallow shows us how one joke can show up in two or three different cultures, each time taking on a subtle variation in meaning. Everyone knows about chutzpah, an untranslatable Yiddish word that is usually defined as temerity, gall, or unbelievable nerve. Here is one of Mallow's chutzpah jokes (I picked the shortest one) An Israeli is walking down the street in Jerusalem, chuckling. He stops the first passerby and says, "I heard a great joke about our dumb prime minister, and I've just got to tell it to someone." The passerby replies, "I am the prime minister." "Okay," says the Israeli, "I'll talk slow." There is much more. You will enjoy this book cover to cover. And that's the emmis (truth). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For a Gentile (me), it's quite humorous By D. Arnett Very earthy and self-deprecating. Obviously the basis of much American humor of similar nature. While I'm not Jewish, I found myself laughing more times than not. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Our Pal, God and Other Presumptions: A Book of Jewish Humor By Sue M. Thank you to Jeffrey Mallow-----a most wonderful and charming collection of Jewish humor. We keep our copy in the kitchen so that we can spontaneously pick it up, select a joke or funny story and chuckle out loud!!! Also-----you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy this!!! A great gift----lovely addition to anyone's library. WONDERFULLY DONE!!!!-----SM RM Cold Spring Harbor, New York

What began as a casual collection of Jewish jokes for Jeffrey V. Mallow's personal amusement soon became a napkin-scribbling compulsion to document the very best in Jewish humor, whenever and wherever he came across it. The bigger his trove, the clearer it became to Mallow that the jokes were more than just funny—they were authentic in their depictions of Jews and their interactions with each other and with non-Jews; they represented the breadth of Jewish life. Field-tested by Mallow's stand-up comedy audiences for decades, here are guaranteed rib-ticklers about matchmakers, cantors, and circumcisers; the overly pious, freethinkers, and heretics; the illogic of Jewish logic; and even Jewish encounters with alien societies! In these pages, Jews poke fun at their own foibles and at the Gentiles who befuddle them, and Mallow offers witty and informative introductions, explanations, background, and cultural context. There's also a handy glossary at the end. Not only is this a laugh-out-loud compilation of the best Jewish jokes that date back to the Talmud and up to today, but it's also a fascinating and entertaining look at Jewish life around the world and through the centuries.

About the Author Jeffrey V. Mallow has been a university professor and public lecturer on science, politics, and Jewish humor for more than thirty years. He was also a stand-up comic with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band. Married, with one son, Dr. Mallow currently lives near Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in the Bronx.