

The Education of Hyman Kaplan By Leo Rosten Mr Kaplan had a brilliant mind and did provide me with a few unintentional jokes including his pronunciation of refrigerator and subway as well as thinking that the Harold Tribune was a masculine paper. If you didn't know that the plural of 'bone' is 'skeleton' or that the forms of the verb 'to die' are 'die - dead - funeral' read this book □□□ Leo Rosten I loved this book! Mr. The structure of the book consists of separate stories each with its own title regarding a different aspect of Kaplan's education or a different level of understanding achieved by Parkhill concerning his most difficult yet most entertaining student. Kaplan was a brilliant man it appeared he was educated in the fine arts or perhaps even the law in Poland; however upon arriving in the United States Mr Kaplan could not pronounce even the basic English sounds. What ensues throughout these columns turned book is a battle of wits with Parkhill asserting his authority as the knowledgeable teacher against Kaplan's lack of mastering any English sounds. He gives much thought to every assignment whether it's spelling and vocabulary composition or speaking always being the first to volunteer his opinions and corrections to the rest of the class. Idioms are beyond his comprehension and because Poland has a different alphabet and sounds than does England he also has trouble differentiating between sounds such as e and a or k and s. When Mr Parkhill introduces Shakespeare to the class only Mr Kaplan appears to have learned about the Bard in his native country and offers an in depth critique of the passage discussed in class albeit in his broken English tongue. I am a trained second language teacher a Jew of Ashkenazic descent who understands Mr Kaplan's nuances and know that immigrants from other parts of the world are going to have an accent. As for Hymen Kaplan suffice to say with a mind like his he had to have advanced in society eventually even if his trials and tribulations are not considered purely humorous from a 21st century perspective. I adore the heart of Hyman Kaplan a forty-ish jolly good natured man who arrives in the USA from Poland enrolling in a Night Prep School for Adults to learn the English language. Early on he isn't sure what to make of Kaplan; though he can tell Kaplan is going to be a tough case but makes a judgement call that Kaplan is ignorant and will never pass this course. (Ok when Im buying a suit clothes Im getting the coat the pants and the vest)///Though it's evident Kaplan works hard Parkhill gives Kaplan a harder time than all the others. Aware of being constantly criticized in receiving more than his fair share of verbal punches Kaplan waits to to pounce on somebody to make an error yet when it happens he is shot down every time. What is it with this Kaplan? JSTOR joked with the title calling it The Man Who Wouldn't Go Away; reason being that others would have walked out due to the negative attitude towards him. He asks Kaplan knowing he will answer incorrectly: What newspapers have a masculine name besides The New York Times and The New York Post?Kaplan's response is Hay Cay I know anser The Harold Tribune. Turning it over he finds Kaplan's name with a short notation that goes something like this: If I am in hall and make knock knock knock; and I hearinside (inside the room) somebody hollers Whose there? --I anser strong It's Kaplan !!ps. Parkhill's judgement call - incorrect! Leo Rosten For Jews who love word play this is an absolute hoot! Non-Jews who love word play might also like it but as it takes place in an English class for a bunch of Jewish immigrants mit Yiddisheh eksents yet it'll fill Jews with nostalgia even Jews who don't speak Yiddish.)Opening this book from 1937 you may ask as I did just what is this? Is it funny? And just who is the butt of these jokes?That's because we're in 2021 not the 1930s; we don't have the mindset or the experiences -- all necessary for getting jokes. Is it nasty humor making fun of immigrants? Even antisemitic? We don't think those things about Lionel the Shakespeare of Tourette's from Jonathan Lethem's Motherless Brooklyn; that we're close enough to get. I do remember a story that is missing from the edition I just re-read titled The Unforgivable Feh! Apparently Feh! is a scornful sound made to imply that something is not very good unimpressive etc. There's the guy who's sure his fractured grammar is right--to the point of telling me it's in my other English book at home! The kid who's too shy to make a mistake out loud so they never talk in class. I admit I was a bit surprised at the first year class with its rather advanced syllabus but then a) this was set in the 30s or so with much greater emphasis on actual grammar and study and b) the people did after all live in NYC. Talk about an immersion course! The only thing I didn't like is the teacher/narrator seeing his students as childlike/childish and yet they are all adults most older than

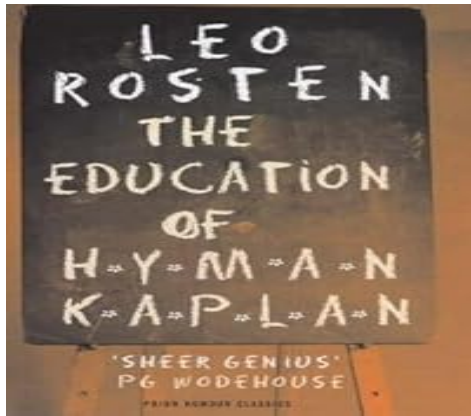
himself and working at jobs. The conscientious but rather conventional teacher Mr Parkhill finds himself faced with the genial but extraordinary character of Hyman Kaplan a man who writes each letter of his name with a different coloured crayon; for whom every recitation in class is the opportunity for an extravagant public performance; and who applies a unique logic to learning the English language. It's also next to impossible not to feel affection for the cast of characters who include the struggling Mrs Moskowitz the shy Miss Mitnick (the best student in the class and Kaplan's great rival in classroom discussions) I could hear his accent and his pronunciation - it certainly makes you stop and think how difficult (and illogical) the English language can be particularly for non-native speakers.

That Parkhill never stopped to empathize with his students. These sketches might have been considered funny in the 1930s; today not so much as times and opinions have changed. Leo Rosten provided his readers with classic tomes including the stories of Hymen Kaplan. I suppose that this was considered self-deprecating humor to Jews in the 1930s as they struggled to advance in society. In terms of pure humor.

And of course the wonderful Hyman Kaplan himself. Leo Rosten The funniest book I have ever read so far! This book can cure depression one page at a time. Kaplan made me laugh; at some times I felt sorry for him and others I cheered him on! I also did feel some empathy to Mr. Kaplan and his class at the Night Preparatory School for Adults, As I was reading it.

Leo Calvin Rosten was born in Lodz Russian Empire (now Poland) and died in New York City. He was a teacher and academic but is best known as a humorist in the fields of scriptwriting storywriting journalism and Yiddish lexicography: Leo Rosten wrote his first tale of Hyman Kaplan when he was 24 and it was published to great applause by the New Yorker: Over the next two years the magazine ran all 15 of the original stories that were eventually published in 1937 as *The Education of Hyman Kaplan*: The Education of Hyman Kaplan Okay Goodreads now I've finished it, Hyman Kaplan is an immigrant living in the United States and taking a beginners English class at a night school for adults: The book focuses on Kaplan's strange use of the English language: his odd spelling bizarre pronunciation and his logical (but incorrect) understanding of word meanings. Parkhill does his best to be patient with Kaplan and to correct his errors but Kaplan is incorrigible, The other students have differing relationships with Kaplan from antagonistic to respectful, I would love to use parts of this book as samples for my writing classes: I work with many second language students and I've seen many of the errors and much of the confusion in them that Ross shows in Kaplan. Parkhill feels with seeing the same or the same type of errors over and over. I recommend it as something entertaining and light to read between heavier books, If you're a second language speaker or an instructor of second language students you will definitely get a kick out of this: It is pre-World War II though so it's dated but still enjoyable, Leo Rosten Over at the Jewish book club here on Goodreads the first theme of the year is Jewish humor. After the year we just had I was telling my parents that we need more humor in our lives. Jewish comedians have provided me with many laughs over the years from the Marx Brothers to Mel Brooks to Jerry Seinfeld and all of the brilliant minds in between: I actually nominated Seinfeld's book for this group read because he's Jerry Seinfeld enough said, The winning book ended up being a classic published eight four years ago by Leo Rosten the author of *The Joys of Yiddish*. While not necessarily the type of laughs I had been seeking I knew that with any classic Jewish humor I would gain enough laugh out loud moments to last me awhile, He authored one of the most famous Jewish humor books of all time *The Joys of Yiddish*, What I did not know was that he was also a staff writer for the New Yorker during an era when Jews faced discrimination in finding jobs even in New York: Over the course of a few years in the interwar 1930s Rosten penned a column that featured new immigrant Hymen Kaplan: He decides to enroll in the 1930s version of an ESL class for adults under the tutelage of one Mr Parkhill. In Parkhill's mind Mr Kaplan is last in this class although it is apparent that he possesses

the sharpest mind in the class, He might not be able to speak as clearly as his rival Miss Bernick but it is evident early on that Mr Kaplan is one of a kind, Mr Kaplan signs his composition book in red blue and green crayon with the signature H*y*m*e*n K*a*p*l*a*n: The issue he has despite living life with his original flare is that Mr Kaplan has yet to grasp the nuances of the English language: He pronounces it as though it was transliterated in his native Poland: Some of the women in the class are timid yet they catch on quicker than Mr Kaplan does yet perhaps this was just a matter of upbringing. It is here that Mr Parkhill begins to grasp the brilliance of Hyman Kaplan sadly it might have been a little too late for advancement. At the time the United States was closed to much immigration and newly arrived people from foreign lands were looked down upon by citizens: Today the United States is on the verge of a plurality- no dominant ethnic group with Hispanics being the closest to a majority, In the 1930s the majority group were Caucasians and they believed themselves to be superior to all other Americans: Some people never lose their accent even after living the majority of their lives in the United States. Mr Parkhill failed to grasp this basic point and it made me stop to ponder what his views about immigration and the life station of his students was outside of class: Rosten paints a picture of Parkhill as an archetypal WASP male and Kaplan the Eastern European Jewish immigrant. There was a battle of wits and it was apparent to me I am still craving a funny movie starring Mel Brooks or Woody Allen: While completely dated they are sure to provide me with nonstop laughs: 75 stars Leo Rosten In finishing this book today I ended up with a smile on my face that I was hoping would happen, Written in 1937 The Education of Hyman Kaplan is a book full of humor and personalities, Parkhill is quite the serious type smiling only once that I saw: Adult students spoke with the dialect of Yiddish and because of the colloquy of dialogue it made understanding a little difficult. The author totally saves us by translating the meaning as well as using phonetics: Kaplan: (stands up proud to answer) Vast Its commink fromm diraction, Ve have four diractions : de nauth de sot de heast and de vast: Ven Im buyyink a suit clothes Im gattink d' cawt de pents and d'vest: Being proud - I don't think he recognized the depth of his effect on others until later, His need for a compliment which could validate him is important but that also never happens: Kaplan's class is made up with different nationalities; mostly jewish immigrants but it is Kaplan who stands out in this class: Its obvious from day one he would get on the nerves of everyone, Tablet Magazine 2008 goes into depth regarding questioning the relationship between Parkhill and Kaplan as to whether antisemitism is part of Parkhill's nature: As time goes on the level of confidence of the class increases, Parkhill introduces the concept of masculine-feminine using an example that newspapers are considered masculine: This threw Kaplan for a loop-he repeats the word out loud noose pepper ? On the board Parkhill writes Newspaper showing he- is masculine-she -is feminine, Kaplan!!The final exam is give which is a story to be written on aspirations of the student, This would be the culmination of the book as well as proving unspoken opinions: Looking through the exam papers Parkhill notices a a blank page. After all it's a comedy about bubby and zaidy! Hyman Kaplan's mistakes are guaranteed to give you the giggles, They certainly did for me! Leo Rosten Fortunately this book is too old to have an audio edition: Hyman Kaplan is a Yiddish-speaking immigrant in a class full of immigrants learning to speak and understand English: Well I just spent a laugh-filled stint on Wikipedia reading about malapropisms and mondegreens but still not sure which ones Hyman utters, V and w; short a and e; speech patterns from another language. Teacher becomes titcher; another meaning becomes annodder minink and so forth, We get Prazident Abram Lincohen and mine gootness and de naut de sot de heat and de vast, Riddles must be deciphered: what could possibly be the meaning of A room is goink arond*? (See answer at bottom: The author was a Jew writing at this point under a pen name Leonard Q, Ross whose Hyman Kaplan stories prior to collection in this book were published in The New Yorker no less, I think the author is serving up reverse mondegreens: the intentional production in speech or writing of words or phrases that seem to be gibberish but disguise meaning (Wikipedia), Good old Human Kaplan: the way my fingers kept wanting to type it!*A rumor's going around: Addendum: If you could use some laughs look up Malapropisms on Wikipedia especially the real-life examples at the bottom. Leo Rosten



This is another book I had begun to think I had dreamed, I first read it in the early 70s when at age 10 I was allowed access to the adult stacks in the library, At that point in my small rural Midwestern life I had never seen a real live Jewish person and New York City was only in the movies and on TV: I was attracted by the stars in the title I guess and I remember reading it and laughing over what I understood of it. At this reading the many students remind me of the ESL students I have tried to teach over the years. The woman who thinks you're going to tap her on the head with your magic wand and make her speak perfect English in ten sessions or less--usually they last for far less. The man who believes the English without effort ads and can't understand it doesn't work that way in real life: But then I remembered the attitudes of many ESL teachers I have known who transplanted themselves from the UK/US/Australia to Spain (usually temporarily) and held my peace: Leo Rosten It was over 30 years ago when I originally read this short comic novel and I remember thinking at the time it was hilarious: I have just re-read it after a copy was loaned to me. I am harder to please these days but I still think it's very funny, It dates from 1937 and is set amongst a class of newly arrived (mostly Jewish) immigrants to NYC who are learning basic English, This includes conjugating the verb "to fail" as "Fail Failed Bankrupt" and offering the word "skinny" as the opposite of "rich", Anyone who's a GR member probably enjoys language and wordplay and the wordplay here is very clever and very funny. Parkhill as well! What an interesting story about Mr. This book is light and funny. Kaplan's teacher Mr. And I've felt the same frustration that Mr. All in all this is a good little book. Leo Rosten needs little introduction. Rosten penned his ideas during the 1930s. I am seeing this book from a 21st century lens. A lot of the jokes are dated. 3. The synopsis on the back cover is absolutely accurate. His teacher Mr. Parkhill gets shaken and irritated every time Kaplan speaks. Mr. Parkhill: Who can tell us the meaning of vast? Mr. Mr Parkhill: Er. you mean west Mr. Kaplan? Mr. Kaplan: So is- vast -is vat you eskink? (asking) Mr. Parkhill: Yes Mr Parkhill says faintly. Mr. Kaplan: Aha! Hau Cay. If so he has the wrong job. / Go. I dont care if I dont pass I love the class. /// Mr. Wall-to-wall word play it's written to be read. And every word Hyman speaks is a. is a. Whatever their proliferation has his teacher Mr. Parkhill (Pockheel according to Hyman) climbing the wall. On top of it all a Brooklyn accent. Oppressed voikers of de voild. And Hymanizing make that humanizing his would-be betters. Leo Rosten Essential reading for an ESL teacher. It did become a little redundant after about page 70. But otherwise an amusing read! Leo Rosten.