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Press release

The Boy's Own Manual to Being a Proper Jew

Eli Glasman

Yossi, at seventeen, feels as though his homosexuality makes him less of a Jew. Living as he does in Melbourne's Orthodox Jewish community, he has a lot to hide.

When non-religious rebel Josh turns up at school, Yossi is asked to look after him, and while Yossi educates Josh on the ancient traditions of their race, Josh does some educating of his own. Through their relationship, Yossi learns to see the laws of Judaism in a very new light.

But when he and Josh are caught kissing in the bathhouse, Yossi's life takes on a dramatic new turn, and he can ignore his new reality no longer.

The Boy's Own Manual to Being a Proper Jew is full of heart and human blundering, as a family gradually learns to accept the parameters of its faith, and how to work around them.

For lovers of Melbourne, drama, and romance, and for anyone who remembers teenage or thwarted love, this is a page-turner.

'Five stars. Glasman is an author to watch.'

—*Books and Publishing*

'A painful – in a good way! – and funny story about secrets in the bagel belt. Eli guides us through a mad little ghetto he knows all too well.'

—John Safran

'Glasman bursts onto the scene, positively brimming with the three C's: courage, compassion and chutzpah. An immensely enjoyable, totally unexpected little novel.'

—Bram Presser

'The journey of a gay Orthodox Jewish boy towards his own religious, spiritual, and sexual truth – a poignant, courageous, thought-provoking and sweet coming-out story.'

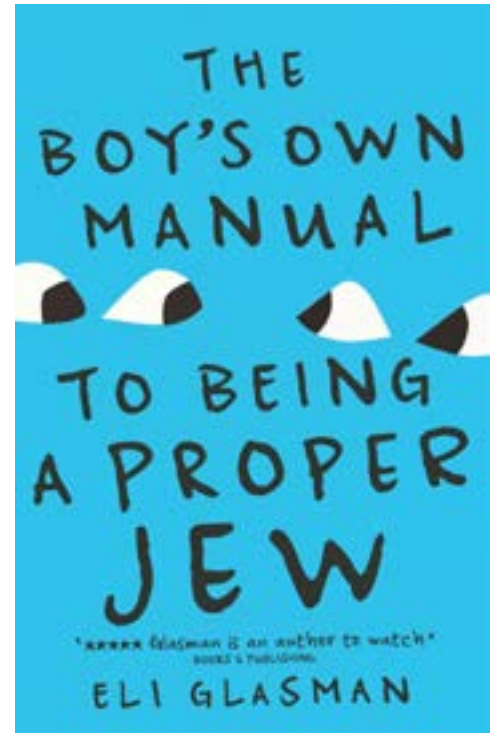
—Nancy Garden, author of *Annie on My Mind*

'A voice that demands to be heard. This book speaks to all those reconciling sexuality, spirituality, culture, family, and finding the space in between.'

—Amra Pajalic

'Rarely does a single book offer a reader so much to delight over as Eli Glasman's smart, fun debut novel.'

—Alex Sanchez, author of *Rainbow Boys* and *The God Box*



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TO BEING A PROPER JEW

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About the author: Eli Glasman was born in Caulfield in Melbourne, Australia, to an Orthodox Jewish family. He began writing at an early age and continued to practise throughout his schooling. At seventeen, he decided that Orthodox life wasn't for him, and he enrolled in a creative writing degree at the University of Melbourne, where he completed Honours. *The Boy's Own Manual to Being a Proper Jew* is his first novel. Eli is keeping a candid and fascinating blog at eliglasman.com.