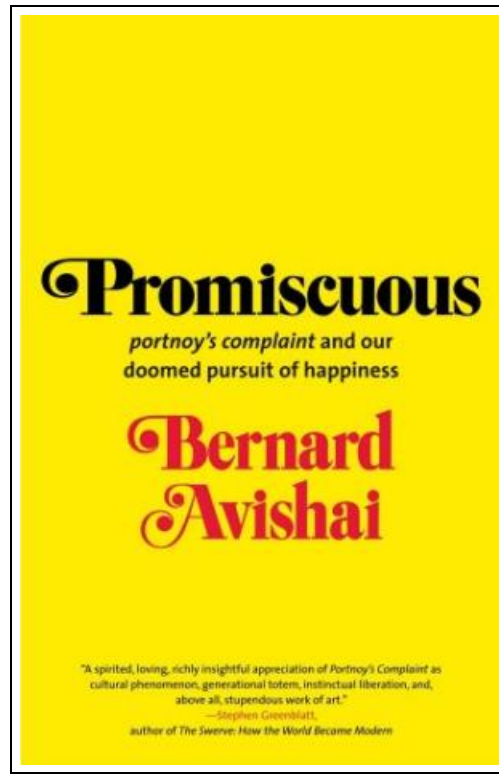


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Yale University Press, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The publication of Portnoy s Complaint in 1969 provoked instant, powerful reactions. It blasted Philip Roth into international fame, subjected him to unrelenting personal scrutiny and conjecture, and shocked legions of readers-some delighted, others appalled. Portnoy and other main characters became instant archetypes, and Roth himself became a touchstone for conflicting attitudes toward sexual liberation, Jewish power, political correctness, Freudian language, and bourgeois disgust. What about this book inspired Richard Lacayo of Time to describe it as a literary instance of shock and awe, and the Modern Library to list it among the 100 best English-language novels of the twentieth century? Bernard Avishai offers a witty exploration of Roth s satiric masterpiece, based on the prolific novelist s own writings, teaching notes, and personal interviews. In addition to discussing the book s timing, rhetorical gambit, and sheer virtuosity, Avishai includes a chapter on the Jewish community s outrage over the book and how Roth survived it, and another on the author s scorching treatment of psychoanalysis. Avishai shows that Roth s irreverent novel left us questioning who, or what, was the object of the satire. hilariously, it proved the serious ways we construct fictions about ourselves and others.

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