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# **Four Rabbi Small Mysteries: Friday The Rabbi Slept Late, Saturday The Rabbi Went Hungry, Sunday The Rabbi Stayed Home, And Monday The Rabbi Took Off (The Rabbi Small Mysteries)**





## Synopsis

A collection of four novels from the New York Times' best-selling, Edgar Award-winning mystery series starring a rabbi in a tiny New England town. Spend a long weekend with the scholar and spiritual leader who watches over the Jewish community in 1960s Barnard, Massachusetts, and in his spare time, solves crimes. *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late*: A young nanny is found dead in the temple parking lot and her purse is discovered in Rabbi David Small's car. Now he has to collaborate with the local Irish-Catholic police chief to exonerate himself. *Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry*: Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, is defiled when a body is found and the rabbi must uncover who has something to atone for. *Sunday the Rabbi Stayed Home*: When Passover is overshadowed by congregational politics and a murder at a local university, the rabbi must study the clues. *Monday the Rabbi Took Off*: Rabbi Small journeys to Israel for a bit of peace, but instead has to team up with an Orthodox cop to unravel a bombing case. Don't miss these four mystery novels featuring an amateur detective who uses Talmudic logic—an introduction to the multimillion-selling series that provides both an eye-opening snapshot of a particular time in Jewish-American history and delightfully entertaining whodunits (Los Angeles Review of Books).

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

From the very beginning, this series plants itself firmly in the mundane and back-stabbing world of synagogue politics. Clever murder mysteries are woven throughout all four books, but to me at least, the most important plot line focused on Rabbi Small and the problems he was experiencing with his congregation. As I read further into this series, the running battle between Rabbi Small's conscience and certain cliques of unruly synagogue office-holders became a metaphor for the larger world of greed and self-aggrandizement versus people who want to make the world a better place for everyone (or at least for their friends and neighbors).  
Friday the Rabbi Slept Late (1964)-- In this Edgar-Award-winning mystery, Rabbi David Small is asked to adjudicate a problem that has caused two old friends to stop speaking to each other. As the ripples from the rabbi's judgment spread, we meet other members of his synagogue in Bernard's Crossing, and their non-Jewish neighbors. Then the body of a young woman is discovered on the grounds of the synagogue, and her purse is found in the rabbi's car.  
Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry (1966)--Rabbi Small and many of his congregation are fasting for Yom Kippur, when a non-practicing Jewish mathematician is found dead in his car, inside his closed garage. Was his death an accident, suicide, or murder?  
Sunday the Rabbi Stayed Home (1969)-- Certain officers of Rabbi Small's congregation are plotting to remove him, while others are planning to start a new temple in an old Victorian shore-side manor. Then a body is discovered in the manor, and teen-agers from Rabbi Small's congregation are being held as material witnesses to a murder.  
Monday the Rabbi Took Off (1972)--By now, Rabbi Small is heartily sick of synagogue politics, and he and his wife and young son take a three-month leave-of-absence without pay, and settle in Jerusalem. There is a murder mystery to be solved, even in Judaism's holiest city, but the real tension in the plot revolves around whether the rabbi will return to Bernard's Crossing...and whether his congregation will welcome him back if he does.

I have truly enjoyed all of the "weekly" Rabbi Small series (7)....except for the same , or almost the same, adversary clothed in the garb of the current temple president, who always wants to oust him from his job of rabbi...other than this jerk, who always gets a helping hand from the rabbi, th stories are very good...and I have enjoyed reading about Judaism...I didn't know much about it and don't

know a lot now, but do know more than I did...NOW...why can't I buy the remaining six(6) books for the same price as I paid for the first four??? And I have already recommended them to several of my Episcopal friends..

I had read these maybe 30 years ago and just read them again. It brings back memories of my youth and my family. I can certainly relate to the temple and the issues. I liked the explanations of the role of the rabbi and his relationship to the board. I am 70 years old and can appreciate the stories, not sure if the Jewish youth of today would have the same appreciation. I was very surprised at the rabbi's description of Israel in Monday the rabbi took off.

Very good reading. Each one is a story about the investigation of a murder, but without gory details, without graphic and unnecessary brutality. Very easy reading, very good portrait of life in a small New England town during the 60s and 70s, and a quick course on Jewish religion philosophy, from a Conservative Jewish view.

I'm now re-reading book two, having read the whole series more than thirty years ago. I have greatly enjoyed the well constructed plots, as well as the insights into Jewish culture and rites.

This series is a big hit -- they were written decades ago as contemporary mystery, but today read as very genuine historical. Do try them if you like mystery with quirky family life.

Read these YEARS ago when they first came out and they are good. Just not good to read them back-to-back, as they become a little repetitive.

I got these for a reduced price from BookBub. They are fascinating books, and took me on a journey back in time to my youth.

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Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles)  
The Land That Slept Late: The Olympic Mountains in Legend and History Seven Days:  
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