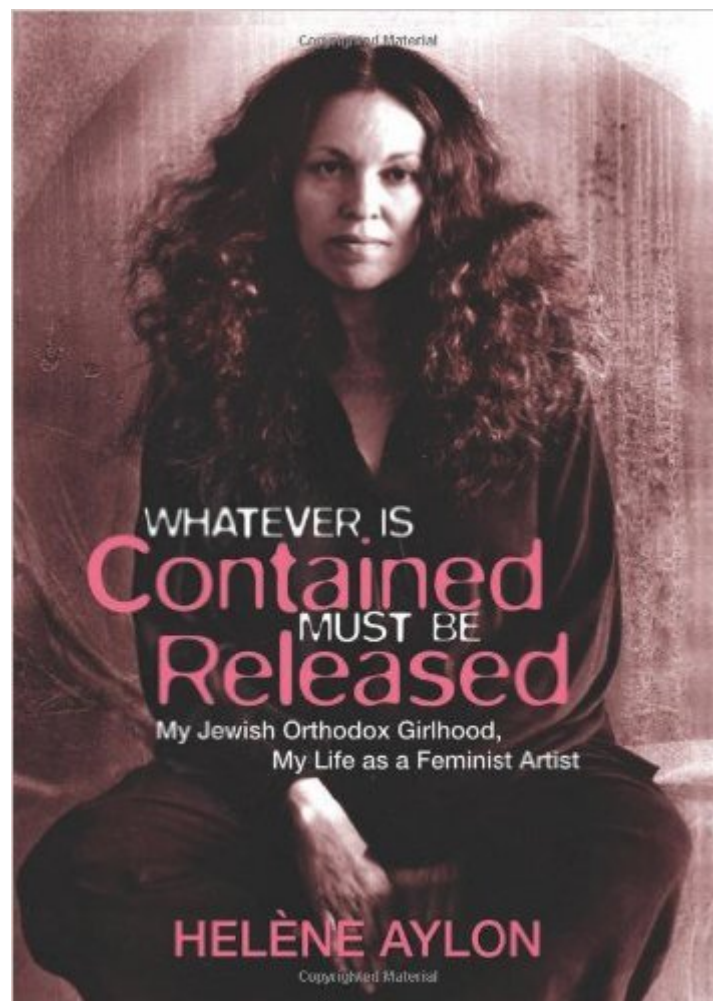


The book was found

# Whatever Is Contained Must Be Released: My Jewish Orthodox Girlhood, My Life As A Feminist Artist (Jewish Women Writers)



## Synopsis

Growing up an Orthodox Jew in Brooklyn, Helene Aylon spends her Friday nights in a sea of extended family as the Sabbath candles flicker. She dreams of escape but marries a rabbi and becomes a mother of two. Suddenly her world splits apart when she is widowed at thirty. Aylon finds a home in the burgeoning environmental art scene of the 1970s—creating transgressive works that explore identity, women's bodies, the environment, disarmament, and the notion of God. Eventually she asks of Judaism what she never dared to ask as a child: Where are the women? Examples of Aylon's work included are her early doors for the Jewish chapel at JFK airport, her peace pillowcases (including one worn by Grace Paley), and her current search for the links between feminism and Judaism

## Book Information

Series: Jewish Women Writers

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: The Feminist Press at CUNY (May 15, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155861768X

ISBN-13: 978-1558617681

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #728,491 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Individual Artists > Essays #356 in Books > Arts & Photography > Individual

Artists > Artists' Books #1394 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists,

Architects & Photographers

## Customer Reviews

Helene Aylon's autobiography records the fascinating story of her personal and professional transformation from the daughter of Orthodox Jewish parents to an independent and formidable feminist artist. Her account begins with her upbringing, which was entrenched in Jewish tradition. For the uninitiated, Aylon parenthetically translates Yiddish and Hebrew expressions used in her household and explains the cultural significance of holy days and rituals observed by her family. While the overarching structure is chronological, Aylon easily and compellingly interjects related experiences that, in some instances, occurred at different times in her life. In this respect, her book

has an organic conversational quality that further enhances her engrossing story. While the book recounts Aylon's gradual emancipation from the strictures of her Orthodox background, her personal journey did not lead to the outright rejection of her Jewish heritage. Instead, her cultural experiences informed her art in varied, nuanced, and sometimes unexpected ways. The book is punctuated by photographs of Aylon's work in double-page spreads. Instead of interrupting the text, they revisit and expand many of the themes that run through the surrounding narrative. In this remarkable autobiography, the author's mother is a persistently important presence, even when Aylon's art challenged established notions about women, the environment, and the Torah. Although tensions sometimes arose as Aylon's progressive mindset contravened her mother's traditional worldview, the two remained close. In fact, the book begins and ends with Aylon's mother. Ultimately, this is more than an autobiography.

Helene Aylon's art is never easy. She makes you look at the world, rethink your perceptions and values and challenges you to change. So it is exciting to be invited into her life through this autobiography, to understand the genesis of her work and its development. She grew up in a Modern Orthodox home in Borough Park, NY where she attended the Shulamith School for Girls, shared her bedroom with her Yiddish speaking grandmother, and was very close to her mother. She was possessed of a bright and courageous mind that questioned everything around her, but her life was limited by her environment. She had a growing awareness of the absence of women in Jewish texts and worship and bristled at the void. She struggled with the limitations of women's lives, hopes and expectations. At 18 she married a rabbi, and at 30 she was a widow. Her second life began with her enrollment at Brooklyn College to study art, where she was mentored by the Abstract Expressionist, Ad Reinhardt. As a symbol of her new life she changed her name from Greenfield to Aylon, the Hebrew equivalent of Helene. She became Helene Helene, creator of herself. Her art became an exploration of the voids that she was always trying to understand and reshape. In the 1970s it was the body; in the 80s it was the earth and the environment; in the 90s it was God. A major part of that work is *The Liberation of God*. Installations of her art have been shown in major museums across America. Each one makes the viewer stop and ask the same questions that she asked as she grew up. Each one forces you to find your own understanding and response. The book deepens your experience of her art, how it was conceived and evolved, and how the artist herself understands it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Whatever Is Contained Must Be Released: My Jewish Orthodox Girlhood, My Life as a Feminist

Artist (Jewish Women Writers) Dorothy Must Die Stories: No Place Like Oz, The Witch Must Burn, The Wizard Returns (Dorothy Must Die Novella) Whatever After Boxset, Books 1-6 (Whatever After) Orthodox Children's Coloring and Story Book: 10 Commandments for Christian Orthodox Children A Season of Singing: Creating Feminist Jewish Music in the United States (HBI Series on Jewish Women) Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Chinese Literature and Society (Sunny Series in Feminist Criticism and Theory) (Sunny Series in Feminist Criticism & Theory) The Third Way: Foundations of Distributism as Contained in the Writings of Pope Leo XIII and Gilbert K. Chesterton Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel: Life History, Politics, and Culture (HBI Series on Jewish Women) Pastel Artist's Bible: An Essential Reference for the Practicing Artist (Artist's Bibles) The Watercolor Flower Artist's Bible: An Essential Reference for the Practicing Artist (Artist's Bibles) Women in Shaker Community and Worship: A Feminist Analysis of the Uses of Religious Symbolism (Studies in Women and Religion) The My Little Pony G1 Collector's Inventory: an unofficial full color illustrated collector's price guide to the first generation of MLP including all ... playsets and accessories released before 1997 Mail Order Bride: 16 Book Mega Mail Order Bride Box Set: (With A Never Before Released Surprise Book) Mail Order Bride: Summer Brides Have Second Chances: 7 Book Box Set Collection (With A Never Before Released Surprise Book) Dorothy Must Die Stories Volume 2: Heart of Tin, The Straw King, Ruler of Beasts (Dorothy Must Die Novella) Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl?: The Impact of Fatherlessness on Black Women The Writers Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers, 3rd Edition Romance, Emotion, and Erotica Writers' Phrase Book: Essential Reference and Thesaurus for Authors of All Romantic Fiction, including Contemporary, ... Suspense (Writers' Phrase Books) (Volume 7) 101 Best Sex Scenes Ever Written: An Erotic Romp Through Literature for Writers and Readers (Great Books for Writers) Writers of the Future 26, Science Fiction Short Stories, Anthology of Winners of Worldwide Writing Contest (L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future)

[Dmca](#)