



"The Ivory Pomegranate is a highly original work which focuses on the theme of Jewish consciousness among American Jewish intellectuals. The author portrays a group of unusually well-drawn characters who are profoundly affected by their movement toward or away from Jewish consciousness. Freedman's depiction is both contemporary and convincing.

The novel is structured in relation to an anti-Semitic incident at a university in the American Southwest. The narrative of the characters' soul-searching in response to this incident is a skillfully woven pattern of telling mental images. Ultimately Freedman illuminates the unique way in which each individual's Jewish consciousness comes to reflect the larger layers of history that have formed the Jewish experience.

Freedman displays an impressive erudition concerning the various thematic elements of the novel; her language and imagery are rich and imaginative. By the end of the novel the author has successfully brought together the disparate lives of her characters into a well-balanced vision of a complex whole."

Ziva Shamir
Head, Katz Research Institute for Hebrew Literature
Tel Aviv University, Israel

"Like all genuine accounts of spiritual journeying, *The Ivory Pomegranate* presents more questions than answers. It remains open-ended, fluid and shifting rather than definitive—as it should."

Perle Besserman
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