

[The Last Jewish Virgin: A Novel of Fate](#) by Janice Eidus. (Red Hen Press, 147 pp. \$24.95)

Janice Eidus's smart New York comic novel features a Jewish feminist author-mom, who lectures her daughter about the value of her Jewish and female identities and the importance of *tzedaka* and *tikkun olam*. The daughter, Lilith, an art student, is a fashionista who favors the vampire look. She is also determined to remain a virgin, and not get distracted by sex, love and marriage until she has conquered the fashion world. And, despite rejecting her mother's political and religious agenda, she nevertheless obsessively checks out people against her "Jewish-not Jewish" meter.

But something interferes with this intense relationship to take it to another dimension, literally. First, her strange art teacher, Baron Rock, appears to be singling her out in class and exerting a strong pull over her. She cannot refuse his invitation to his house—which has bat figures as doorknobs—to model for him. This is exciting and confusing—she'd love to discover if Rock sleeps in a coffin. Still, it is only after Rock meets her mother and she flips from mature feminist into a mindless groupie that Lilith asserts herself.

While the conclusion is surprising, moms will be happy to know that Lilith reaches a deeper appreciation of her mother.