This book presents a new framework for understanding the relationship between biblical narrative and rabbinic law. Drawing on legal theory and models of rabbinic exegesis, Jane L. Kanarek argues for the centrality of biblical narrative in the formation of rabbinic law. Through close readings of selected Talmudic and midrashic texts, Kanarek demonstrates that rabbinic legal readings of narrative scripture are best understood through the framework of a referential exegetical web. She shows that law should be viewed both as prescriptive of normative behavior and as a meaning-making enterprise. By explicating the hermeneutical processes through which biblical narratives become resources for legal norms, this book transforms our understanding of the relationship of law and narrative and of the ways in which scripture becomes a rabbinic document that conveys legal authority and meaning.

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Biblical Narrative and the Formation of Rabbinic Law

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For my grandparents, זכרונם לברכה,
Molly and Maurice Kanarek
Dorothy and Michael Kriseman
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