

TRANSCRIPT
THE GENTILE OR JEW?

SUNNI BEAN:

The Old Broadway Synagogue looks surprisingly cool from the outside. There's large street murals on either side, and the stained glass windows are checkered with green diamonds, like the kind of bar I'd probably like.

They say I can't record until after sundown. *It's shabbat.*

The day of rest.

Growing up, my Mom made a six-braid challah every Friday.

But she's not jewish.

So for the members of this synagogue, I'm probably not either.

I'm SUNNI BEAN and this is Onomatopoeia- a podcast about the people and places of New York City. In this episode, the gentile or jew?

It took a tough negotiation to get out of my family's mandatory Shabbat dinner.

It was the bane of my existence in middle school. The era of Friday skate nights.

When I left for university, I stopped doing Shabbat. It was so nice to finally have ownership over my Fridays.

So, these days though, if I'm back in Virginia, Friday night is at my parents. At least for dinner.

Today, nobody asks about my mother's background.

They tell me they have to search my bag, but then decide it's fine.

[Can we just check the bag?](#)

A man attending the door points me upstairs.

[So the way it works is the women sit](#)

I head up. The paint is yellow, peeling. The same shade as their website.

Up on the balcony, I'm alone.

At an orthodox synagogue, genders are separated.

[Eliyahu Hanavi](#)

After 40 minutes of chanting, a man begins preparing the post-services meal behind me, the kiddush. A man gives a lecture on lighting candles on Hanukkah.

[Suppose you have ten people in the house, second night twenty, and so on and so forth.](#)

The questions are so specific and people really want to know.

[Not after sunset or before, but rather during the time.](#)

It reminds me, Judaism is all about the rules.

So I decided to host my own shabbat.

[It's okay you're forgiven. I'm Forgiven?](#)

I bought two big bags of shrimp, before my friend asked if I was joking. It's not kosher.

So I'm making chickpeas.

[Okay, Baruch atah adonai ...](#)

This episode of Onomatopoeia- was created by me, Sunni Bean. Onomatopoeia is a production of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Joanne Faryon is our executive producer and professor. Original theme music by Lee Feldman. Our graphic

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