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Heilman, Samuel and Menachem Friedman. *The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010. 343 p. \$29.95 (ISBN 978-0-69113-888-6).

This is a very good, accessible, non-hagiographic biography of the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe. The authors supplement written sources with personal interviews (though none with Schneerson himself). They engage in some speculation but mostly do not go beyond where the evidence takes them, even though it leaves the reader wishing we knew more about Schneerson's attitudes before he fled to the U.S. and about the life and character of his wife, who kept a certain distance from Hasidism. While the book does a good job of placing Schneerson—and the hothouse messianism that characterized his later years—in the context of Chabad's history, an overview of Chabad theology would have been helpful. Highly recommended for collections of twentiethcentury Jewish history.

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