

New Books from Israel • Spring 2018



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THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE





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NEW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL

Spring 2018

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Ayelet Gundar-Goshen



Ayelet Gundar-Goshen was born in Israel in 1982. After completing an MA in psychology at Tel Aviv University, she studied film and screenwriting at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. Gundar-Goshen has written a number of screenplays, and has produced short films which were screened at film festivals in Israel and abroad. She has also written and co-written a number of TV series.

Gundar-Goshen has been awarded 2nd prize at the IEMed European Short Story Competition (Barcelona, 2010), the Gottlieb Screenplay Prize (2010), the Berlin Today Award for the screenplay of the short film *Batman at the Checkpoint* (Berlin, 2012), the Sapir Prize for Debut Fiction (2012) and the Adei-Wizo Prize (Italy, 2016) for *One Night, Markovitch*. Her second novel, *Waking Lions*, is being adapted for a TV series by NBC. Her books have been published in 12 languages.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

The Liar and the City

a novel

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, 2018. 278 pp.

The narrative follows Noy, an ordinary girl who works in an ice-cream parlor during the summer. Dozens of customers come in every day, but no one gives Noy a second look - she is not one of those girls that the eye lingers on.

But everything changes when Avishai Milner comes into the ice-cream parlor. An embittered reality-show runaway, he insults and humiliates her. Deeply offended, Noy rushes out to the backyard, and Avishai—who is still waiting for his change—chases after her. “Leave me alone!” she cries with all her 17 mediocre years’ worth of hurt and frustration. Her screams alert the townsfolk, and to her surprise everyone is convinced that Avishai tried to sexually assault her.

Now, for the first time in her life, Noy finds herself the center of attention. The support that she receives from the community turns her into a kind of Cinderella and the ice-cream salesgirl becomes a Media Princess. But the magic of this Cinderella story comes from her lies about an attack that did not actually happen.

English rights sold to **Pushkin Press**, London; German rights sold to **Kein & Aber**, Zurich; Italian rights were sold to **Giuntina**, Florence; Dutch rights sold to **Atlas** (Amsterdam); French rights sold to **Presses de la Cité** (Paris); Korean rights sold to **Open Books** (Seoul).



PHOTO © ALON SIGA

The writing is brilliant.
WDR

A great book with psychological depth.

Die Zeit

It's a pleasure to read how Ayelet Gundar-Goshen exposes her protagonists with psychological mercilessness.

Literatur Spiegel

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen has a trained, keen sense of observation. Her narrative is characterized by a deep knowledge of human vulnerability.

Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Yoram Kaniuk



Yoram Kaniuk (1930-2013), one of Israel's leading writers, was born in Tel Aviv. Wounded in Israel's 1948 War of Independence, he moved to New York for 10 years. A novelist, painter and journalist, Kaniuk published over 20 novels and novellas as well as stories, non-fiction and books for children and youth. Among his many prizes: the Prix des Droits de l'Homme (France, 1997), the Bialik Prize (1999), the prestigious Prix Méditerranée Étranger (2000), the Newman Prize (2006), the France-Israel Foundation Award (2010), the Sapir Prize (2011) and the Italian WIZO Prize (2013). In 2012, Kaniuk received the prestigious French decoration of Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Kaniuk's books have been published abroad in 22 languages, among which: English (**Harper & Row; Grove/Atlantic; NYRB Lit; Dalkey Archive**), French (**Stock; Fayard**), German (**Paul List; Hanser; Aufbau**), Italian (**Einaudi; Giuntina**), Dutch (**Meulenhoff**), Norwegian (**Cappelens**), Danish (**Gyldendal**), Swedish (**Forum**), Arabic (**Canaan, Damascus**).

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Soap

a novel

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2018. 317 pp.

Although Kaniuk started writing *Soap* in 1959, the novel was only recently discovered in a cardboard box in the late author's study.

The late 1940s: Israel's War of Independence is over, and soldiers have gone on to study at the Hebrew University and realize their dreams. Among them is Yosef, a quiet, naïve fellow, his friends think. He registers to study chemistry and rents an apartment on the roof of a building that was a monastery before the war. His friend Avi, a daring fighter in the Palmach, is very attached to Aya, a war widow and femme fatale who toys with men. A tempestuous type, Avi wants to be an artist, but in the meantime he makes a living selling gold fillings and rings he took from Arabs during the war. A circle of friends takes shape and meets on the roof of Yosef's building. One of them is Ruthie who, unlike the others, came from the camps in Europe. She goes to art school; her neighbors call her "the refugee" and suspect she isn't Jewish.

Ruthie soon accepts to marry Yosef, hoping to free herself from the nightmares of her past. But the marriage is short and ends in tragedy: Ruthie, the subject of Nazi medical experiments, dies in childbirth. In a letter she leaves behind, she asks Yosef to find her father Jozsef. He was a violinist and had studied philosophy but later became the most popular clown-comedian in Germany before the war. And his popularity saved his life: at the death camp, he had the job of playing music and making jokes on the way to the gas chambers. He even played and joked when he saw his wife and younger daughter go to their death. In 1950, Jozsef comes to Israel to look for Ruthie, but the strange, unfriendly country—where Holocaust survivors are sneeringly called "soaps"—drives him to the edge. He feels he will never be able to leave, even when he wants to.

An ambitious novel, profound and gripping—vintage Kaniuk!



PHOTO © DAVID RUBINGER

Kaniuk must be considered one of the great writers of our time.

Le Monde

Of the novelists I have discovered in translation... the three for whom I have the greatest admiration are Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Peter Handke, and Yoram Kaniuk.

Susan Sontag

Clearly a writer of remarkable gifts

New York Review of Books

Sami Berdugo

Parce que Guy

a novel

Tel-Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2017. 265 pages.



Sami Berdugo was born in 1970. He studied comparative literature and history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. At present, he teaches creative writing at Tel Aviv University and Bezalel Academy of Art and Design. He also holds writing workshops for youth. Berdugo has published novels, short stories and novellas. In 1998, he won the *Haaretz* Short Story Competition. He has also been awarded the Yaakov Shabtai Prize (2002), the Peter Schweifert Prize (2003), the Bernstein Prize (2003), the Prime Minister's Prize (2005), the Neuman Prize (2007) and the Isaac Leib and Rachel Goldberg Prize for his novel *That Is to Say* (2010). His novel, *An Ongoing Tale on Land*, was shortlisted for the Sapir Prize (2015) and won the Kugel Prize (2016), and his most recent novel, *Parce que Guy*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Sapir Prize. Berdugo was the first Israeli to be awarded a Sanskriti Foundation Residency (New Delhi, 2007).

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The novel begins with a murder: Guy claims that his hands pushed a man called Brenner into a lime pit, and that, as he did it, he felt himself become a different person.

Guy left his hometown about forty years ago, at age 17. Now he has come back for a visit, maybe even to stay, and he plans to meet the people who knew him long ago. Brenner, who never left the town, shows him the new neighborhood, but the reader will never know why Guy pushes him into the lime pit. Maybe because Brenner moved his pelvis slightly and looked at him in a questioning way—or so it seemed to Guy, insecure and desperately wanting to fit in.

Guy's seven-day visit is depicted in very high resolution, but the details leave many unanswered questions. All of Guy's meetings end strangely, as though he wanted to hear his own flaws spoken out by the other person. But what is it that he both fears and wants to reveal? And why did he flee the town, not even showing up for his parents' funerals?

The unique language that Berdugo creates here is breathtaking. It places this novel among the select few great novels of Hebrew literature.

This is Berdugo's fourth novel; it was shortlisted for the Sapir Prize in 2017.

For literature such as this, frequencies have to be reset.

Haaretz

A challenge to Israelis' concept of time and logic...language that succeeds in reviving dimensions that had been lost to Hebrew.

Israel Hayom

The novel that appeared recently with the odd title *Parce que Guy* is in my eyes a further and improved level in Berdugo's ability to leverage the Hebrew language in a sophisticated and original manner. A daring, but also credible, adventure in its wise use of Hebrew.

A. B. Yehoshua

This book is another brick in Sami Bardugo's very significant literary project, one of clarifying issues of alienation and belonging in Hebrew literature.

The Sapir Prize Jury



PHOTO © SHLOMO AMITAY

Aya Kaniuk

The Kingdom of Want

a novel

Tel-Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2018. 391 pp.



Aya Kaniuk was born in New York in 1960 and grew up in Israel. Today she lives in Jerusalem. She has been writing for many years, on and off, mainly reflections and testimonies, as an expression of resistance, publishing them on a political website which she helped establish.

The Kingdom of Want is her first book.

Adam Brock, a 37 year-old psychiatrist, is called in to evaluate Anna, a beautiful, enigmatic young girl who is suspected of murdering her mother. Adam has to decide whether she is fit to stand trial. Filled with a deep malaise, he leaves his wife Miriam and withdraws into himself. There, he returns to his life with his adoptive father Ernest, the head of a psychiatric institute, and to the personalities of the patients.

With a steady hand, Aya Kaniuk interweaves present and past, slowly revealing the connections between the characters. Relationships between parents and children are always deficient or distorted, while substitute “adopted” ones provide vitality and comfort. Man is basically alone: with his body, with his consciousness and its reflections in the world.

Little by little Adam’s life unravels until it disintegrates completely.

But in the process, there is also reconstruction. The question remains: Can he break through the loneliness of his kingdom of want?

Aya Kaniuk’s debut novel is a profound, remarkable literary achievement. It describes the tiniest movements of mind and soul while retaining a sense of mystery of the human condition. Kaniuk writes with rare sensitivity and intensity.



PHOTO © TAMAR GOLDSCHMIDT

Aya Kaniuk recounts from the inside, the lives of the inmates, both involuntary and voluntary, of hospitals for the mentally ill. She steers clear of romanticized, exaggerated or prettifying accounts of the lives of the mentally ill.

Haaretz

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Gali Mir-Tibon

The List of the Mothers

a novel

Tel Aviv, Am-Oved, 2017. 263 pp.



Gali Mir-Tibon was born in Kibbutz Kvutzat Shiller. She has a PhD from Tel Aviv University in Holocaust Studies. She is the founder and CEO of the Institute for Excellence in the Humanities, a teacher trainer in the Amit schools, and a lecturer at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. and Bar-Ilan University, Israel. She is also the former principal of high schools in Bat Yam and Ma'alot Tarshicha. *The List of the Mothers* is her first novel.

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On one side of the investigation table, an investigator is determined to find out the truth, and on the other side two people are being questioned about one awful accusation: sending hundreds of Jewish mothers with their young children to be imprisoned in a deserted military base, with no food or water and with no way out. Guards have been put outside the locked doors, and they refuse to open them.

One by one the two interrogates speak their answers, open up and confess or hide and lie. None of them are innocent, none of them a criminal. Under the circumstances they were operating under, maybe no one can stay pure.

The voices of three mothers are also heard here, and the voice of one girl who goes through what no child should ever go through.

Many have written on World War II, and Gali Mir-Tibon, in her debut novel, bravely lights one of its darkest corners. A harsh investigation goes on in this novel, an investigation which is not restricted to one room, but step after step, goes deeper into the human soul—into its best and worst, and the struggle between both.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE
(FOR PUBLISHERS ONLY).

A heart-rending story that also makes one's blood boil, but the writer fills it with a radiant love of humanity, compassion for human frailties, and a profound curiosity towards what drastic situations do to people.

Amos Oz

Mir-Tibon... has written a courageous novel. She is cautious and refrains from provocation, and precisely because of that her book is meaningful, complex and reverberant. The book haunted me long after I finished reading it for exactly this reason: It has no simple moral, perhaps no moral at all; only human faces that are uncovered when the mask of humanity is removed from them.

Haaretz



PHOTO © NATHAN MANGESTU

Shimon Adaf



One Mile and Two Days before Sunset

a novel

Or Yehuda, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2015. 325 pp.

Who murdered the celebrated rock singer Dalia Shushan? Did controversial philosophy professor Yehuda Menuhin commit suicide or was he murdered? And what is the connection between the two events? These are the questions facing private investigator Elish Ben Zaken, former philosophy student, rock music expert and author. Like all the people in Adaf's clever novel, Elish is an unusual character. Born into a family of Moroccan immigrants, he grew up in outlying town, and although he now lives in Tel Aviv, people still say that he is a roughneck posturing as an intellectual. Asked to investigate Menuhin's suicide, Elish finds evidence that leads him to the murder of Dalia Shushan, whom he knew and idolized when she was a young girl. Like him, Dalia came to Tel Aviv from an outlying town in the south, studied at the university and worked with Professor Menuhin. She also sang and wrote songs for a promising rock band.

Elish Ben Zaken is a metaphysical detective, bothered by questions of truth, not only justice. He is an outsider who questions everything that those who surround him take for granted. Nothing escapes his discerning eye, and Israeli society and its complexities are sharply criticized in his investigations.

In this novel, Adaf introduces us to many areas of conflict in Israeli society, conflicts that exist within his hero, who moves between them but is not defined by any one.

Shimon Adaf was born in Sderot, Israel, in 1972 to parents of Moroccan origin and now lives in Jaffa. He began publishing poetry during his military service. A poet, novelist and musician, Adaf studied in the program for outstanding students at Tel Aviv University, simultaneously writing articles on literature, film and rock music for leading Hebrew newspapers. He was also a founding member of the literary group "ev" whose aim was to find a new poetic interface between classical and modern Hebrew. Adaf worked for several years as literary editor at Keter Publishing House, and has also been writer-in-residence at Iowa University. At present, he lectures on Hebrew literature at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and is head of the creative writing program there. Adaf has been awarded the Ministry of Education Award (1996), the Prime Minister's Prize (2007), the Yehuda Amichai Prize for Poetry (2010), the Sapir Prize for his novel *Mox Nax* (2012) and the Neuman Prize (2017). His latest novel, *Tolle Lege*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Sapir Prize.

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PHOTO © DAN PORGES

With his seamless transitions between genres, Adaf's writing reminds us of the virtuosity of Agnon.

The Neuman Prize Committee

The qualities of this book... deserve an appreciative audience. We look forward to Adaf's next book.

Ynet

Shimon Adaf



A Detective's Complaint

a novel

Or Yehuda, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2015. 320 pp.

Elish Ben Zaken, Shimon Adaf's enigmatic hero, has given up working as a private detective and makes his living writing detective novels based on unsolved cases from the past. He appears to live an ordinary, balanced life. But person like Elish can't get away from his past so easily, especially when his niece Tahel calls on him for help. Tahel, a small child in Adaf's previous novel, is now a teenager and an apprentice sleuth herself. And she has found a mystery to solve: a young woman gets on a bus in Beersheva on a Thursday evening and gets off in Sderot, close to the Gaza border, on Sunday evening. A bus drive that should have lasted an hour has lasted three days. The young woman remembers nothing—as far as she is concerned, the trip took an hour.

In order to help Tahel solve this mystery, Elish moves to Sderot. It is the summer of 2014, and Sderot is at the center of the Israel-Gaza war, filled with fear and hate. For Elish, this is a chance to investigate other issues—the meaning of family and the basic human need to look for mysteries and solve them.

A Detective's Complaint is the second book in Shimon Adaf's detective trilogy.

It leaves the reader with one prominent feeling: the desire to read Adaf's next book.

Haaretz

Shimon Adaf is blessed with abundant talent... He has an alchemic ability with language to create resonant and deep beauty.

Haaretz



NEW

Tolle Lege

a novel

Or Yehuda, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2017. 608 pp.

Tolle Lege—literally: pick up and read—is the third and last book in Shimon Adaf's detective trilogy whose protagonist is Elish Ben Zaken. Adaf's wildest but also most revealing and intimate novel, it goes far beyond the detective genre.

During his investigation into the disappearance of a girl from Sderot in the summer of 2014, an investigation recounted in the previous book in the trilogy, Elish Ben-Zaken meets poet Nahum Farkash. The encounter was brief and at the time did not carry much weight. But, it is in that brief encounter that Elish may have missed the most important clue for his investigation. Fourteen years later, in an Israel that has gone through great changes, the failure of that investigation and its missing pieces continues to haunt the lives of Elish's niece and nephew, Tahel and Oshri.

The story of Nahum Farkash opens this book and the relations between his unexpected character and the events told in the previous books are gradually revealed. Elish, a character that was an enigma from the very first book, becomes the center of the mystery in this closing chapter.

Tolle Lege was shortlisted for the prestigious Sapir Prize 2017.

Shimon Adaf challenges the reader, plays with genres, deconstructs and puts back together styles of writing, language and characters. One of the characters of the novel says that 'detective novels are the opposite of poetry', but in Adaf's case, this is not necessarily true.

Davar Rishon

Adaf's gaze is always unique, sharp, different, and strange. How wonderful is his gaze, how incomparable...In *Tolle Lege*, Adaf gifts his readers.

HaOketz

Mira Magen

Michaella

Tel Aviv, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2018, forthcoming.



Mira Magen was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, in 1950 to an Orthodox family. She studied psychology and sociology before turning to nursing. She worked as a nurse at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and started publishing short stories in the early 1990s. Magen has published a number of bestselling novels and a book of short stories. She has been awarded the Olschwing Foundation Award (1988), the Prime Minister's Prize (2005) and the Book Publishers Association's Gold Book Prize five times (2001; 2004; 2005; 2011; 2012). Her books have been translated to Italian, German and French to great acclaim.

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PHOTO © DAN PORGES

No reviews available yet.
For *The Carpenter's Sister*:

Magen creates flesh and blood characters... A convincing and moving picture, full of life.

Haaretz

A pleasure! Beautiful language and a story that is so moving... touching, sad and hard, so full of pain and emotion, but also of hope.

Saloon

Nissim Aloni

The Gecko

Stories

Or-Yehuda, Kinneret-Zmora-Bitan Dvir, 2017. 304 pp.



Nissim Aloni (1926-1998), one of Israel's leading dramatists, was born in Tel Aviv. He fought in the 1948 War of Independence and then began publishing stories in the soldiers' weekly, *Bamahaneb*. Aloni studied history and French culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and then spent a year in Paris, where he became closely acquainted with the new European theater. After his return from Paris, he wrote and directed *The King's New Clothes*, which represented a total revolution in Israeli theater.

Aloni's work was critically acclaimed and enjoyed a popular following. He wrote and staged 12 plays, and published one collection of short stories during his lifetime that was translated into French (**Viviane Hamy**, 2016). His play, *Eddy King*, has also been adapted for the screen.

Aloni was awarded many prizes, including The Kinor David Prize for Playwright of the Year three times (1964; 1971; 1976), Director of the Year (1971); the President's Prize for *Aunt Lisa* (1971), The Bialik Prize (1983), the Rosenblum Prize for stage arts (1993), the Ada Ben Nahum Translation Prize (1994), the Israeli Theater Prize for Lifetime Achievement (1995), the Israel Prize for Theater (1996) and the Israeli Theater Prize for Translator of the Year (1997; 1998). In 1992, he became an Honorary Fellow of the The Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Jerusalem.

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PHOTO © YAKOV AGOR. THE ESTATE OF AGOR. COURTESY OF THE ISRAELI CENTER FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE PERFORMING ART. UNIVERSITY OF TEL-AVIV.

Aloni creates a unique style, an original stance against reality.

Ynet

For Aloni's previous collection of stories *The Owl*:

Aloni is one of the fathers of the fantastic-lyrical story in Hebrew literature. The level of design, the powers of observation, and the rare ability to turn reality into fable are what give him a special place in Hebrew literature.

Haaretz

Aloni's stories, which bear the stamp of fantasy, are close to those of Günter Grass, Bulgakov and Marques

Davar

The Owl by Nissim Aloni represents the best of Israeli literature

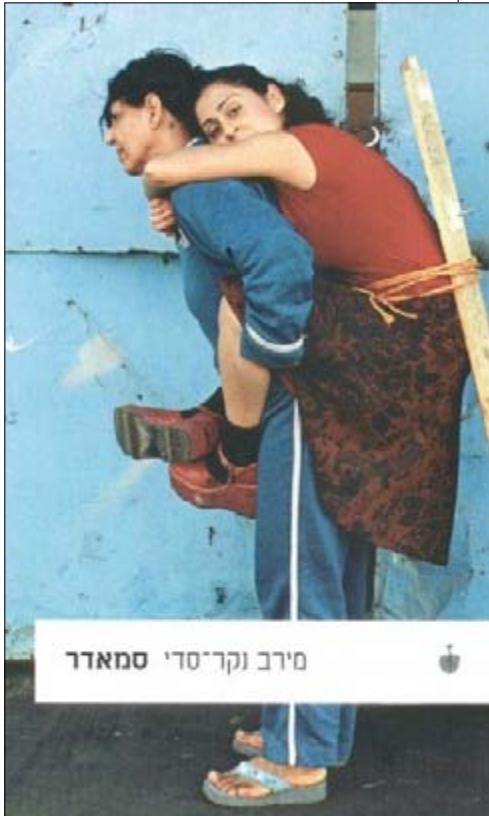
Maariv

Merav Nakar-Sadi

Smaadar

a novel

Tel-Aviv, Babel, 2017. 149 pp.



Merav Nakar-Sadi was born and grew up in Or Yehuda, Israel. She studied sociology and anthropology at Tel-Aviv University, and has a PhD in sociology from UCLA. Her dissertation focuses on the complex relationships between immigration and welfare policies in the USA. In 2013, her debut novel *Oxana*, about an illegal worker living in Israel, was published and won the Sapir prize for debut novels. *Smaadar* is her second novel.

Teenage Smaadar's life changes completely when she leaves her abusive father, together with her mother, and moves in with her grandfather. Confused and depressed, she shuts herself up in her grandfather's apartment and refuses to go out. She is even scared to show her face on the stairs of the building. Only her concern for her mother gets her out of herself momentarily, but her mother's harsh reaction to any sign of affection makes her retreat back into her solitude.

That summer, Smaadar also fights with her closest friend, breaking a lifelong bond, so she has no one to turn to at all. And over all this hovers the nerve-racking wait for a letter that will tell her which section she will be joining at her new high school—the prestigious A section, or the C section, where her mother Zemira spent her high school years.

Can Smaadar change the path that her family and society have set out for her? Or will she be able to turn her life around? In sensual but economical language, Nakar-Sadi describes the grey areas of adolescence in the 1980s.

Merav Nakar-Sadi's first novel, *Oxana*, won the Sapir Prize for Debut Novels, 2014.



PHOTO © MEIR AZULAY

Smaadar, the heroine of Nakar-Sadi's new book, is a type of girl that is new to Hebrew literature.

Haaretz

A remarkable literary achievement.

Hebrew Psychology

Smaadar is ostensibly a minor tale about a tragic adolescence, and yet the broken but beautiful language, and the female characters in it, produce a defiant and powerful novella.

Israel Hayom

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Shoham Smith was born in Jerusalem in 1966 and lives in Tel Aviv. Smith studied industrial design at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and literature at Tel Aviv University. She writes book reviews and is a translator. Smith has published collections of short stories and a number of children's books. She received the Prime Minister's Prize (2009), the ACUM Award for Furthering the Publication of Children's Books twice (2011; 2015), the Devorah Omer Prize for *A Treasury of Hebrew Legends for Children* (2014) and the Lea Goldberg Prize for *My Aunt Lea Goldberg* (2017).

Eitan Eloa was born in Ashdod in 1984 and lives in Tel Aviv. Eloa studied visual communication at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and criminology and human resources at Bar Ilan University. He works as a graphic designer and illustrator. His illustrations have been published in children's books, graphic novels and *Haaretz* weekend magazine. He received the Israel Museum Children's Book Illustration Award (2016), the Israeli Design Award (2015) and two Silver Medals in the special format category of the Society of Illustrators, New York (2015; 2016).

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Shoham Smith & Eitan Eloa

The Bride's Dresses

a graphic novel

Milta, Rehovot, 2018. 32 pp.

This is a post-modern fairy tale—grotesque and wild—about an insecure bride, whose wedding date was set by a fortune teller before she had even found a groom. It takes place during two eventful days filled with love and envy, hope and disappointment. Madness, freedom, happiness, cruelty, and irony are all mixed together.

When the upcoming wedding still has no groom, the focus shifts to the intense and explosive relationship between mother and daughter, and all the tension builds around the wedding dresses. The struggle between mother and daughter is both hilarious and heart-breaking, and the brilliant illustrations bring out the best—and the worst of the characters. A bitter-sweet and funny tale.

The book is designed as a two-way concertina—one for each day—and is printed in a limited edition of 1,000 copies, collated by hand. It has won a silver medal at the annual competition of the American Society of Illustrators.



PHOTO © MOTI KIKAYON



PHOTO © TZUR KOTZER, THE ISRAEL MUSEUM, JERUSALEM

No Reviews available yet. For Shoham Smith, *Things that My Heart Fails to Tell*:

In addition to the distinctive humor and command of the language, there is Smith's abundant imagination. The book is rich in voices, tales and different worlds, and it is highly colorful.

Haaretz

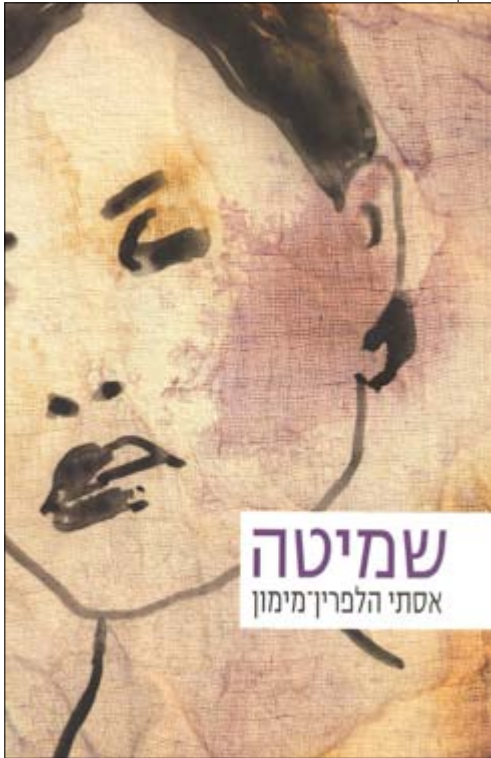
Shoham Smith's linguistic freedom is marvellous.

Iton Tel Aviv

Smith knows how to listen and submit to the language, to herself, to her environment, and especially to the relations between the three.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Esti Halperin-Maymon



Esti Halperin-Maymon was born in Israel in 1978. She holds an MA in clinical psychology from Tel Aviv University as well as an MA in research psychology from Bar-Ilan University. She works in the field of psychotherapy in a private practice in Tel Aviv. In 2015 Halperin-Maymon won a writing competition award from the Ardit Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue. *Lying Fallow [Shmita]* is her first novel.

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Lying Fallow [Shmita]

a novel

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2017. 239 pp.

In a religious settlement, among the identical houses, inhabited by similar families, inside a closed and conservative community, a forbidden relationship develops between a teacher and one of her female students.

Tamar is a 27-year-old teacher of language and literature in a religious girls' seminary and, according to her strictly Orthodox community, is an aging spinster. All the other women of her age are married with children, and she is scorned for being different. She lives in a small apartment next to her parents' home and spends her free time marking her students' work and clinging to memories of her love for Michal, an old classmate. Naomi, a lovely, much-courted 17-year-old student, lost her mother in a terror attack and her world seems to be falling apart. Soon, she will be engaged to Avishai, a handsome and much admired young man in the settlement. All the girls are in love with him, but is Naomi? She wonders whether he understands her and can make her happy.

An implicit lesbian connection springs up between Tamar and Naomi. The essays Naomi submits to Tamar, and Tamar's remarks about them are the code through which the two signal their attraction for each other, their refusal to live by the norms of their community, and their fears.

Lying Fallow [Shmita], Esti Halperin-Maymon's debut novel, is seductive and profound. It calls on the reader to realize the power and price of being different; to contemplate the disturbing fact that identity—personal, communal and sexual—is fluid; and to acknowledge a fundamental otherness within the human condition that cannot be overcome, except at brief moments of grace.



PHOTO © RONIT LUBEZKY

This is an intriguing and exciting glimpse into a world that has not yet been discovered, and into the forces that drive it. *Lying Fallow* is a sensitive and profound novel.

Author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

Esti Halperin-Maymon is a true writer, and that is no trivial matter. She [simply] knows how to write.

Yael Geller, Yedioth Ahronoth

It broke my heart... astonishing... a lovely book.

Meira Barnea Goldberg, KAN 11 TV

Eran Bar-Gil



Eran Bar-Gil was born in Holon, Israel, in 1969. He studied psychology and comparative literature at Bar Ilan University, and is also a musician. Bar-Gil writes articles and reviews for the Israeli press, and has published collections of short stories, books of poetry and novels. He has spent a few years between Israel and Africa and is working on a literary-musical trilogy whose first part, *1:1*, was published in 2005. Bar-Gil has been awarded the Bernstein Prize (2006), the ACUM Prize for fiction three times (2007; 2010; 2017), the Johanna Prenner Prize (2008) for a film script based on his novel, *Iron*, the ACUM Prize for Poetry (2013) and the Prime Minister's Prize (2014). *Saving Neta*, a film based on his fourth novel, *Iron*, was released in 2017.

Bar-Gil's novel *Horseshoe and Violin* was published in German (**Rowohlt**).

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Saving Neta (Iron)

a novel

Ben Shemen, Keter, 2008; 2017. 227 pp.

Sheri, the wife of a criminal, is wondering if she should go to the police station and turn him over, to protect her adolescent daughters. Miri's husband has fallen in love with a man and is leaving her, and she is preparing her kids for a portentous meeting where their father will reveal his secret. Sharon comes back to her parents' home from New York, after years of estrangement, to attend the funeral of her brother. Shuli, suffering from terminal muscular dystrophy, takes leave of her family and the house she has lived in all her life. Mali has worked her heart out for her boss and just when she thinks he is trying to make a pass at her, he unexpectedly fires her. Leah wakes up in the hospital after being wounded in a terrorist attack, appalled to discover that she has lost her right hand.

What do all of these women, who tell their stories in this novel, have in common? They all share once-in-a-lifetime situations that have shaped their destinies; they all do it with heart-breaking honesty, concealing nothing; and at the decisive moments of their lives, they all meet the mysterious hero of the novel, Neta Harlev, a sensitive young man who is in the throes of a mental crisis but still projects physical power. Through the stories of the women, the character of Neta is gradually uncovered and his secrets and passions are revealed. He is a man both material and spiritual, a man of death and life, and of destruction and creation. He will find redemption for his soul by means of art—sculpture in iron—and through meeting a beloved woman, also an artist, a kindred soul.

Saving Neta is a novel that describes unanticipated, life-changing moments and encounters. It touches upon the raw material of existence and observes how it becomes life, and how matter becomes a work of art.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © GADI DAGON

A remarkable text... delicate, sensitive prose.

Yedioth Ahronoth

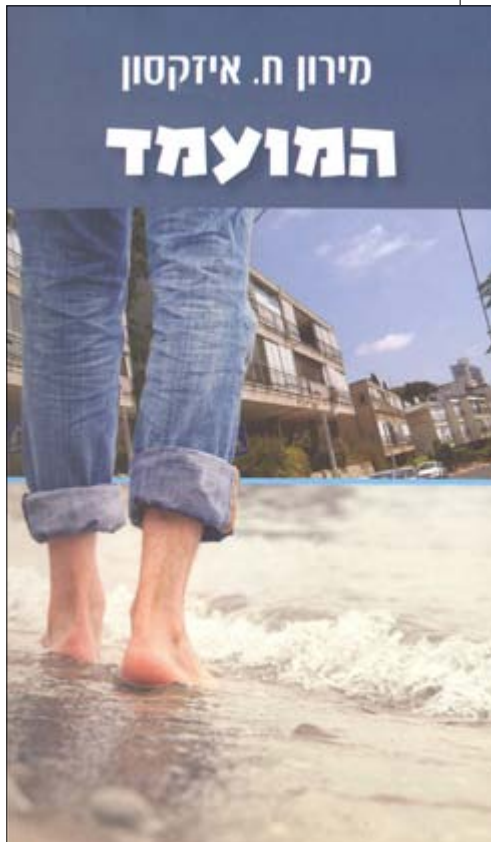
Bar-Gil's talent is expressed in idyllic descriptions of human work... a joyful fusion of plastic art... a way of looking at the world that may be called instinctive humanism.

Maariv

Bar-Gil manages to avoid melodramatics; his analyses are sensitive and have a richness of description.

Haaretz

Miron C. Izakson



The Candidate

a novel

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2017. 249 pp.

Charming Arye Weismann has to make a choice: On the one hand is a mature and impressive woman, the widow of a great musician. On the other, a beautiful young Orthodox Jewish woman who is also a single parent. And that is not the only ambivalence Arye has in his life. In fact, it seems that ambivalence is part of who he is.

Although Arye is very self-conscious—excessively, at times—he often does not realize what is expected of him and sometimes these expectations are funny, even ridiculous. In the enchanting figure of the frenetic, graceful Arye, there is also a trace of the child watching the world in amazement and discovering it slowly.

Through the choices he has to make, and through his childhood memories, his complex psychological self is revealed. And through this, the novel also examines the seam between the secular and the religious worlds.

Miron C. Izakson was born in 1956 to a family that was among the first orange growers in pre-state Israel. He studied law and Jewish philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at Tel Aviv University. Later he served as chairman for literature on the Israel Culture and Arts Council. At present, Izakson lectures on literature at Bar-Ilan University and is a member of the Board of Directors. He is also Honorary Consul for Luxembourg in Israel. Izakson has published many books of poetry and a number of novels, to widespread literary acclaim. Four collections of his poems have been set to music and released as CDs. Izakson has been awarded the President's Prize (2001), the Natan Yonatan Prize for Poetry (2012) and the Brenner Prize for Poetry for *This Time* (2013).

His poems and prose have been translated to Norwegian (**Solum Forlag**), French (**Caractères; Levant; Stavit**), English (**Toby Press; Syracuse University Press; Gefen**), Spanish (**Verbum**), Russian (**Kniga-Sefer**) and Chinese (**Harbin Pub**).

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PHOTO © DAN PORGES

No reviews available yet.
For *Aliza with Child*:

Izakson's novel is light, saucy and a little gossipy, just what people like. The leading character is well-rounded and portrayed with humor... A triumph.

Maariv

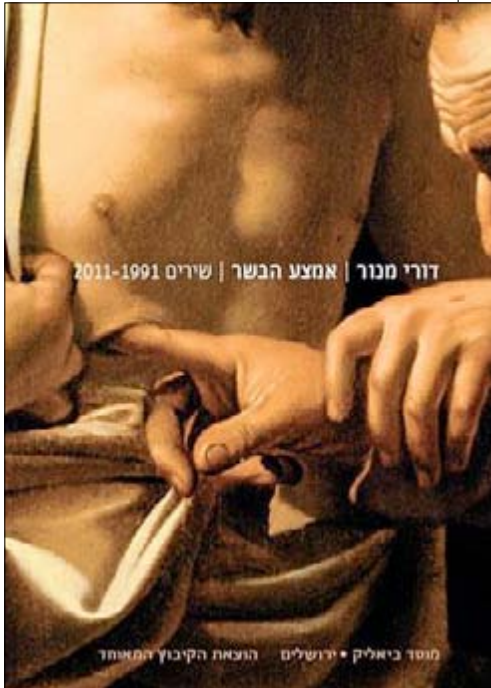
There is in this novel a humane grace reminiscent of Hanoch Levin.

Haaretz

This book should be called 'From the Depths'. There is something pure in its attitude to people, towards objects, feelings and words.

Moznayim

Dory Manor



Dory Manor, poet, translator and editor, was born in Tel Aviv in 1971. In 1993 he was a founding member of the literary group “Ev”, whose aim was to find a new poetic interface between classical and modern Hebrew. Three years later, he moved to Paris, where he studied French and general literature at Paris VII University and taught Hebrew literature and translation at INALCO University and at Sciences Po. In 2017 He received his PhD in translation studies and comparative literature from INALCO University of Paris.

Manor is the founder and editor of the prestigious literary magazine *Ob!*, a lecturer at Tel Aviv University, and editor and broadcaster for IDF radio.

Manor has published four books of poetry and his Hebrew translations of classic literature include works by Voltaire, Descartes, Molière, Flaubert, Baudelaire, Ginsberg, Blake and others. He is the recipient of several literary prizes, including the Prime Minister's Prize (2007), the Tchernichovsky Prize for Translation (2008), the Ministry of Culture Prize for Literary Editing (2011) and the Yehuda Amichai Prize (2015).

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The Center of the Flesh: Poems 1991-2011

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad / Jerusalem, Bialik Institute, 2012. 141 pp.

Dory Manor started publishing poems in the early 1990s, and attracted a lot of attention even before his first book came out. Also, his statements about Israeli poetry provoked stormy debates. *The Center of the Flesh* is a provisional collection of two decades of Manor's poems. Into them he pours the materials of his life: childhood and adolescence; sexuality and love; life in Europe, especially Paris, and his return to Tel Aviv; his attitude to cultural heroes distant in time and space, as well as to friends and lovers. Erotic and homosexual elements dominate his work, and he examines the human condition through its affinity to them. As such, it is minority poetry, defiant of heterosexual poets, free in form and meter. And Manor also connects his homosexuality to his Jewish identity as two types of minority.

Dori Manor is both cosmopolitan and typically Israeli. On the one hand he follows the “great poetry” tradition, revealing a fine sense of musicality drawn from the French symbolists of the late 19th century and their followers. On the other, his poetics are adapted to contemporary reality and express a subversive, innovative and original quality.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE



PHOTO © GREG BALL

Qualitatively... Manor's poetry is no less than “perfect.”

Dan Miron, Afterword to Manor's *The Center of the Flesh*

A book that is a milestone not only for Dori Manor himself, but for Hebrew poetry as a whole.

Haaretz

The Center of the Flesh reinforces Manor's image as the literary *wunderkind* who burst in out of nowhere and very quickly earned attention and appreciation.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Israel (Anton) Pincas



Israel (Anton) Pincas was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1935, and immigrated to Israel as a child. He divided his time between Tel Aviv and Paris and currently lives in Tel Aviv. Pincas has worked as a night editor for United Press, as a translator, and as editor at Am Oved, Sifriat Poalim and Even Hoshen Publishers. He has also managed two art galleries and continues to work with contemporary art. Pincas began publishing poetry in 1951. He has received several literary awards, including the Prime Minister's Prize twice (1976; 2011), the Bernstein Prize (1981) and the prestigious Israel Prize for Literature (2005). Pincas's poems have been published in French (**L'Escampette**) and German (**Lyrik-Kabinett**), and are forthcoming in French (**Caractères; Obsidiane**).

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PHOTO © DAN FORGES

Antennae and Sensors *Fragments*

Ra'anana, Even Hoshen, 2008, 71 pp.

Do You Still See Me? *Poems*

Ra'anana, Even Hoshen, 2015, 39 pp.

“One of the most beautiful collections of poetry that I have ever read,” is what author Dror Burstein wrote when Israel Pincas's volume of collected poems appeared in 1999. A poet beloved by poetry lovers, he burst onto the scene with full force from his very first works. His refined and restrained poems refer to the cultural and artistic traditions of the countries along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea—Greece, Italy, and France—and are in constant dialogue with their glorious and epic histories. That said, his modernist poetry relates to the revolution the Israeli poetry underwent in the 1950s and 60s. His poems depict his childhood in Tel Aviv in the 1940s and 50s, the feelings of the persecuted refugees who migrated to the Land of Israel, and the sorrow over the fallen of Israel's wars. But even as he addressed the distress of the individual and the collective, he remained an existentialist poet reflecting upon the human condition.

Antennae and Sensors and *Do You Still See Me?* are Pincas's most recent books. *Antennae and Sensors* contains fragments that dovetail prose and poetry, reality and illusion, diary entries and Kafkaesque aphorisms. “The fragment is, in effect, a kind of fraction,” Pincas writes, “a partial sketch, or the beginning of something without a defined middle or end... The direct continuation of my poetic writing and a late stage of it.”

Do You Still See Me? is dedicated to the poet's wife and it is an inner journey to his biography, a summation of his life. In this volume the poet works these fragments of memory and longing into sublime, moving verse.

Antennae and Sensors

A lovely book.

**Author Dror Burstein,
Literary Blog**

This book captivated me right away... *Antennae and Sensors* is a deceptive masterpiece.

Yedioth Ahronoth

The fragments with which Pincas allows tangible reality to penetrate the dreamy atmosphere and conquer it are among the most beautiful and touching in the book.

Haaretz

Do You Still See Me?

Israel Pincas, one of the main poets of the “State Generation” and of Israeli verse in general...Pincas's linguistic imagination has always bestowed a rare beauty upon his poetry.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Only the transparent language is likely to do any justice to the robbery that time perpetrates against us. Herein lies the secret of this book's power.

Haaretz