

New Books from Israel • Spring 2019



THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE





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NEW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL

Spring 2019

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P.O.B. 10051, Ramat Gan 5200101, Israel. Tel: 972 3 579 6830 Fax: 972 3 579 6832 E-mail: litscene@ithl.org.il

Offices: 23 Baruch Hirsch Street, Bnei Brak

All contracts and negotiations through the Institute

Zeruya Shalev

Fate

a novel

Ben Shemen, Keter Books, forthcoming. 250 pp.

Zeruya Shalev was born at Kibbutz Kinneret. She has an MA in Biblical studies and works as a literary editor. Shalev has written novels, poetry and two children's books. *Love Life*, *Husband and Wife* and *Thera* were bestsellers in several countries. *Love Life* is also included in *Der Spiegel's* prestigious list of "20 Best Novels in World Literature over the Past 40 Years." *Husband and Wife* was included in the French FNAC list of "200 Best Books of the Decade." And *The Remains of Love* was featured in *The Independent's* "Books of the Year in Translation" for 2013. Shalev has received the Book Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes, the Corine Prize (Germany, 2001), the Amphi Award (France, 2003), the ACUM Award (1997, 2003, 2005), the French Wizo Prize (2007), the Rome-Jerusalem Prize (2014), the Prix Fémina (France, 2014) and the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2017). Her books have been published abroad in 27 languages, among which: English (**Grove/Atlantic**, **Canongate**, **Bloomsbury**), French (**Gallimard**, **Folio**), German (**Berlin Verlag**, **Berliner Taschenbuch**, **Spiegel**), Italian (**Frassinelli**, **Mondolibri**), Spanish (**Galaxia Gutenberg**, **Siruela**), Polish (**WAB**), Dutch (**Vassalucci**, **Cossee**), Greek (**Patakis**), Turkish (**Dogan**), Japanese (**Fuso**), Chinese (**People's Literature**), Vietnamese (**Bach Viet**), Korean (**Prunsoop**).



PHOTO © ITZIK SHOKEL

The much-awaited novel by the author who has won acclaim across the globe!

After the death of her father, a renowned scientist, Atara tracks down the woman he was married to in his youth and who fought beside him in an underground Jewish militia before the establishment of the State of Israel. The meeting between the two women sets off a dramatic series of events that changes the course of Atara and her family's life. The narrative alternates between the minds of the two women. Rachel, the former wife, is now an elderly but clear-minded widow who misses the passion of the old days; she is worried about the country she fought for, and the one that the next generation will inherit. Atara is a conservation architect, married for the second time, the mother of two children. She struggles with problems in her marriage as well as a crisis with her son, a soldier in the naval commandos. The gradual disclosure of the past sheds light on the present and forces the characters to face questions of fate, control and responsibility, disillusionment and love.

Reviews for Shalev's previous novel, *Pain*:

An immense novel.

Author Leila Slimani

Shalev's writing manages to grasp everything... [a novel of] impressive power.

Le Monde

A captivating novel, between suffering and grace.

Elle

From the great Israeli writer, a novel that searches through the cracks in our souls.

La Repubblica

A magnificent book...full of irony.

Corriere della Sera

Shalev's fifth novel...and her best so far.

Der Spiegel

Shalev's finest novel since *Love Life*.

Süddeutschen Zeitung

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

Sarit Yishai-Levi

A Woman Beyond the Sea

a novel

Ben Shemen, Modan, forthcoming. 468 pp.

Sarit Yishai-Levi was born in Jerusalem in 1947 to a Sephardic family that has lived in the city for seven generations. She studied at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio and later at Tel Aviv University. Before turning to journalism, Yishai-Levi acted in theater and film for several years. Later, she was a correspondent for various Israeli newspapers and magazines, including *At*, *Monitin*, *Ha'Olam Ha'Zeh* and *Hadasot*; she also hosted Hebrew TV and radio programs in Los Angeles. At present, she is a senior correspondent for *Olam Ha'Isra* magazine and hosts TV shows on tourism and lifestyle. Yishai-Levi has published four non-fiction books. Her first novel, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, an outstanding bestseller in Israel, received the Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes (2014) and the Steimatzky Prize for bestselling book of the year (2014). It is now being made into a feature film. The book has been published in English (**St. Martin's Press**), German (**Aufbau**), Italian (**Sonzogno**), Turkish (**Koton**) and Russian (**Knizhniki**).

A new novel by the author of the huge bestseller *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*!

Three unforgettable women are at the heart of this thrilling novel. A young woman whose husband dumps her in a Paris café; a mother who vanishes for long hours every day, and her daughter doesn't know where she is; and a mysterious woman who has abandoned her newborn baby on the doorstep of a convent on a snowy night in Jerusalem. They are the keys to a volcanic tale that takes us to the alleyways of the Latin Quarter in Paris, to Tel Aviv of the 1970s, and links pre-1948 Jerusalem under the British Mandate with a picturesque village in England. In these places, the three women seek their identities and their mysterious past. And as each one faces upheavals in her life, the narrative masterfully ties the three together, striking chords of love and hate, of heartbreak, blood and tears.



PHOTO © ELAD DAVID, COURTESY OLAM HAISHA MAGAZINE

No reviews available yet. For *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*:

Highly recommended.

Booklist (starred review)

Fans of Gabriel Garcia Marquez will find much to love in [this book].

Jewish Journal

A poignant and intriguing book.

Historical Novel Society

A compelling and meticulously researched historical backdrop...A romantic and engaging novel.

Jewish Book Council

A great family novel.

Frankfurter Rundschau

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Shifra Horn

Daughters of Jerusalem

[working title]

a novel

Tel Aviv, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir, forthcoming. 250 pp.

Born in Jerusalem, **Shifra Horn** holds a BA in biblical studies, archeology and communications. She has worked as spokesperson for the Ministry of Absorption; also as a journalist, lecturer and TV host. Later she managed her own independent public relations firm. She has published five bestselling novels, a collection of short stories, non-fiction and books for children. In 2002, Horn was nominated Literary Woman of the Year by the Israeli financial daily, *Globes*. She has also been awarded the WIZO Prize (1997), the Book Publishers Association's Gold and Platinum Prizes, the ADAI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2006), the Brenner Prize (2006), the French WIZO Prize (2008) and the Minister of Culture's Zionism Prize for *Scorpion Dance (Promenade à Deux)* (2014). Horn's books have been published in eight languages, among which English (**St Martin's Press, Piatkus**), French (**Fayard**), Italian (**Fazi**), German (**Bertelsman, btb**), Dutch (**Archipel/ Arbeiderspers**).

By the author of the unforgettable worldwide bestseller *Four Mothers!* Alexandra sits in a room facing the timeless beauty of the Jerusalem hills. She is writing her family's history, inspired by the house in which they all lived, now a residence for artists and writers. Alexandra's family have lived in the city for over a hundred years, but there is so much she doesn't know about them. Where is her father? Only one dim memory—a photo of a little girl presenting flowers to an elegantly dressed young man.

Generations of women will reconnect and bond via the winding tales that ensue. Alexandra turns to her grandmother Eduarda, the bearer of family memories. The old woman tells her fascinating life stories, and identifies the photo—the little girl is Alexandra's great-grandmother Victoria, the young man Prince Edward, son of Queen Victoria and the future king of England, who visited Jerusalem in 1862. Years later in London, the two will meet again, with unexpected consequences...

In an extraordinary story that leads back to the Crimean War of 1857, then forward to shocking details about her parents and the tragic circumstances of her own birth, Alexandra gathers up her past. And Jerusalem, with all the political and religious conflicts that have divided this complicated city, is an inseparable part of the novel.

No reviews available yet.
For *Four Mothers*:

Poignant, earthy and engaging.
Daily Telegraph

Shifra Horn spins a magic web
Jewish Telegraph

A rich and magical tale.
The Bookseller

A novel that is palpable...filled with voices and suggestiveness.
La Stampa

[Amidst] Jerusalem's residential neighborhoods, [Horn's] characters are epic heroines.
Publishers Weekly

A lively, reader friendly tale effectively flavored with atmospheric detail and fascinating chunks of Israeli folklore and myth.
Kirkus Reviews



PHOTO © DAN PORGES

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Elhanan Nir

Just the Two of Us

a novel

Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2017. 198 pp.



Elhanan Nir was born into a rabbinic family in Jerusalem in 1980 and was educated at various yeshivas. At a young age, he was exposed to secular art and literature and began to write poetry and short stories; he was even published in the daily press and in magazines, without his community's knowledge.

After his military service, he continued his religious studies and became a teacher at the Siach-Yitzhak Hesder Yeshiva. Since 2012, he also teaches at the Machanayim Hesder Yeshiva. In 2004, he founded the literary section of *Makor Rishon* and was its editor for seven years. Nir's books of poetry and Jewish thought have won, among others, the Wertheim Prize for Poetry (2008), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010), and the Prime Minister's Award (2011). *Just the Two of Us*, his first novel, won the Posen International Fellowship (2014) and the Ministry of Culture Award (2017).

Nir is married to Sarah and has four children. He lives in Jerusalem.

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Much is expected of Yonatan Lehavi. He is a brilliant Torah scholar and a great future is foreseen for him. But like his father before him, he gives up this career for the woman he loves, Alyssa. He desires only to nurture his young marriage and overcome his misgivings about his faith. However, this fragile togetherness—the feeling of “just the two of us”—is threatened by his two brothers. One of them, Micha, suffers from manic attacks and manages to drag Yonatan into his deranged projects. The other, Iddo, who died of cancer in childhood, still casts a long shadow over the present. And over it all hovers his father whose life, he feels, predicts a bleak future. What is it that drives this two-generation story, with its paternal abandonment and the guilt that demands reparation? The book tosses its characters between a sense of simple coincidence in their suffering and the possibility that all is predestined by a contaminated heredity.

With sensitivity and power, Nir shapes a subject, a character, and a conflict that are rare in contemporary Israeli fiction. He depicts a hero torn between different worlds, growing up in the often conflicting shadows of militarism, religiosity, nationalism, and family.



PHOTO © MICHALFATTAL, COURTESY POETRY PLACE LITERARY ORGANIZATION

A fine book, aesthetic and decidedly impressive.

Haaretz

Nir presents a number of lifelike and original characters.

Literary critic Aryeh Glassner



There are Also Optometrists in Tel Aviv

a novel

Jerusalem, Carmel Publishing House, 2018. 228 pp.

This book portrays the lives and fates of German Jews during the period of the Nazis' rise to power. The plot follows Ruth and Ernst, a married couple who manage to escape to Palestine before the outbreak of World War II. It describes their life in Tel Aviv in the 1930s, and the lives of their relatives still in Germany, with all the hardships that they face, as well as their thoughts on personal identity and its strong connection to their home country and its history.

The novel deftly embeds its story within the German-Jewish context and relates to historical events, dates and documents while telling the personal story of Ruth and Ernst, their son Ilan and his family.

Rina Ouziel-Blumenthal was born in Tel Aviv. She holds a BA in theater and Hebrew literature from Tel Aviv University and also completed studies in creative education. Ouziel-Blumenthal was an actress for many years, and performed with the Cameri Theater as well as with a number of experimental theater groups. She also participated in a project using acting therapy for children with special needs. Over the years, she has published short stories in literary journals such as *Proza*, *Iton 77* and *Moznayim*. In 2001, she won the ACUM Gold Quill Prize for *Invention, Memory*.

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



In this novel, Blumenthal's talent reaches an impressive and particularly moving peak...A candid portrayal of the problems encountered by *Yekkes* (German Jews) in this country...and their ambivalence towards it.

Prof. Moshe Zimmerman,
Hebrew University of
Jerusalem

In her beautiful, flowing prose Blumenthal paints a broad, multilayered canvas, encompassing the memory and history...of this unique wave of immigrants.

Dr. Rahel Livneh
Freudenthal, Leo Baeck
Institute

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 Neuman 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 his home.

The late 1940s: Israel's War of Independence is over, and soldiers have gone on to study at the Hebrew University. 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 who toys with men. 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 Yosef's rooftop. One of them is Ruthie who, unlike the others, came from the camps in Europe. She studies art; her neighbors call her "the refugee" and suspect she isn't Jewish.

Ruthie soon accepts to marry Yosef, hoping to leave the past behind. But their happiness is shortlived: 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 but later became the most popular clown-comedian in pre-war Germany. 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. Yet he feels he will never be able to leave.

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 he knew 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.



PHOTO © SHLOMO AMITAY

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

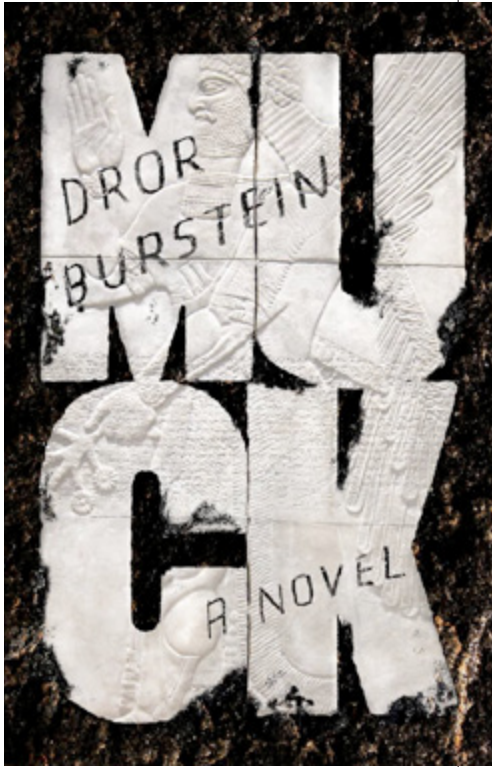
Shows a new level of Berdugo's ability to leverage the Hebrew language in a sophisticated and original manner. A daring, but also credible, adventure.

A. B. Yehoshua

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

The Sapir Prize Jury

Dror Burstein



Muck

a novel

Jerusalem, Keter, 2016. 331 pp.

The hero of Burstein's sixth novel is the prophet Jeremiah, a young poet who starts predicting a catastrophe. In the Jerusalem streets where he wanders, the citizens travel on the light-rail train and talk on cell phones, but the Temple is standing, King Jehoiakim lives in an ugly palace, and Jeremiah's words demoralize the people. He warns that Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army is going to surround the corrupted city, destroy it and send its population into exile. But no one listens, even when Babylonian helicopters and tanks are on the city outskirts. Jehoiakim then commits suicide and his crown passes to his son Jehoiachin, a talented pianist who is tricked into giving up his musical career in Vienna and flying back home. But his reign is short and his uncle, Zedekiah, takes power. Zedekiah is a successful poet who sports tattoos and whose poems appear in prestigious journals. He is also a childhood friend of Jeremiah's. But now that he is king, Zedekiah sees Jeremiah as a traitor and orders him to be thrown into a pit of mud. Fortunately, a pack of dogs, headed by a talking dog, saves the tormented prophet from drowning.

Muck is a complex, brilliant and daring novel. Partly an attempt to rewrite the story of Jeremiah in modern dress, it may also be a chilling prophesy for contemporary Jerusalem. It invites the reader to re-assess the relevance of the biblical text today and to view the cyclical nature of history.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION PUBLISHED BY **FARRAR STRAUS AND GIROUX**, NEW YORK, 2018

Dror Burstein was born in 1970 in Netanya, Israel, and lives in Tel Aviv. He first became a fully qualified lawyer, then he left the legal field and started studying literature. He received a PhD in Hebrew literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2001 and now teaches at Tel Aviv University. A literary editor and curator of exhibitions, Burstein writes literary and art reviews for the Hebrew press and has also edited programs for Israel Radio's music station. Since 2011 he is editor of the poetry journal *Helikon*. Burstein has been awarded the Jerusalem Prize for Literature (1997), the Ministry of Science and Culture Prize for Poetry (2002), the Bernstein Prize (2005), the Prime Minister's Prize (2006) and the Goldberg Prize (2014).

Burstein's novels have been published in French (*Actes Sud*), English (**Farrar Straus and Giroux**; **Dalkey Archive**), German (**Wallstein**), Italian (**Riuniti**) and Turkish (**Dedalus**).

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A dazzling and dizzying triumph.
Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Brilliant...and moving.
The New Statesman

One of the most...exciting Israeli novelists writing today.
The New York Times

Richly inventive.
Publishers Weekly

A gripping world of hyperreal-istic abandon.
Library Journal

A work of brilliance.
Makor Rishon

A magnificent book.
Maariv

Shimon Adaf



PHOTO © DAN PORGES

Shimon Adaf was born in Sderot, Israel, in 1972 and now lives in Jaffa. 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. Adaf has 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 *Max Nox* (2012) and the Neuman Prize (2017).

English rights for all three novels sold to **Farrar, Straus and Giroux**, New York.

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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 Prof. Menuhim commit suicide or was he murdered? And what connects these two events? These are the questions facing private investigator Elish Ben Zaken, former philosophy student, rock music expert and author. Born to immigrants from Morocco, raised in an outlying town, Elish lives in Tel Aviv but people still say he is a roughneck posing as an intellectual.

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

The Neuman Prize Committee

A Detective's Complaint

a novel

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

Elish Ben Zaken has given up working as a private detective and makes his living writing detective novels. But a man like Elish can't get away from his past so easily, especially when his niece Tahel asks for help. Tahel, a teenager and apprentice sleuth, has found a mystery: a young woman gets on a bus in Beer Sheva on Thursday evening and gets off in Sderot on Sunday evening. The journey should have lasted an hour. The young woman remembers nothing.

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

Haaretz

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 Adaf's detective trilogy. During Elish's earlier—and unsuccessful—investigation into the disappearance of a girl on a bus, he met poet Nahum Farkash. And that brief meeting may hold the central clue. Fourteen years later, the failed inquiry still haunts Tahel and Oshri, Elish's niece and nephew. But now it is Elish, always an enigma, who becomes the center of the mystery.

Tolle Lege was shortlisted for the prestigious Sapir Prize 2017.

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

HaOketz

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 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 and withdraws into himself. Inwardly, 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—in his body, 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 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.

**WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS SAPIR PRIZE
FOR DEBUT NOVEL, 2018!**



PHOTO © TAMAR GOLDSCHMIDT

“Aya Kaniuk has written a fascinating novel, with a complex plot, yet one that can easily be deciphered and interpreted. Her characters are deep and full. Kaniuk’s language is sophisticated, mesmerizing and disturbed, in the best sense of the word.”

2019 Sapir Prize jury

Aya Kaniuk portrays the lives of the inmates of psychiatric hospitals...from the inside. She steers clear of the romanticized, exaggerated or prettifying.

Haaretz

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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 short screenplay *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 15 languages, among them: French (**Presses de la Cité**), English (**Pushkin Press**, **Little, Brown**), German (**Kein & Aber**, **Gutenberg**), Italian (**Giuntina**), Dutch (**Meridiaan**, **Atlas**).

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.

Foreign rights sold to **Pushkin Press**, London; **Little Brown**, New York; **Kein & Aber**, Zurich; **Giuntina**, Florence; **Cossee**, Amsterdam; **Presses de la Cité**, Paris; **Open Books**, Seoul; **Artforum**, Bratislava; **Cumartesi Kitapligi**, Istanbul; **Sindbad**, Moscow.



PHOTO © ALON SIGA

The writing is brilliant.
WDR

A great book with psychological depth.
Die Zeit

It's a pleasure to read Gundar-Goshen's relentless exposition of her characters' psychology.
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



Yael Neeman was born in Kibbutz Yehiam, Israel in 1960. She studied for her Master's degree in literature and philosophy at Tel Aviv University. Her novel *We Were the Future* received awards and was a best-seller in Israel. Neeman's stories have appeared in *World Literature Today* and the *Chattahoochee Review*. She was selected by the Fulbright Foundation to participate in the International Writing Program (IWP) in Iowa City.

We Were the Future has been published in French, (**Actes Sud**), English (**Overlook Press**), Dutch (**Atlas**) and Polish (**Wydawnictwo Czarne**).

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE

Once There Was a Woman

Tel-Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, 2018. 253 pp.
a novel

Once There Was a Woman is an incomparable book about an incomparable woman. Over the past ten years, Yael Neeman has researched the story of a mysterious woman who left behind no immediate family, no property, nothing of what she had created. Neeman spoke to her surviving relatives, her lovers, her neighbors, a doctor who treated her, the people she worked with, and her childhood friends—many of whom were, like her, born to parents who were Polish Holocaust survivors. From what these people told her, she has woven the story of the woman's life, and theirs.

Once upon a time, it transpires, there was a woman living among us who was blessed with talents, full of contradictions, brilliant and creative, a gifted translator who loved literature and writing, but who systematically destroyed everything that she ever committed to paper. With the help of those who shared her life, places and events connected to her are vividly portrayed, but the riddle of who she was only deepens.

Why write about someone who wished to wipe herself out of the world is addressed and echoes throughout the book: "I am still interviewing, still trapped in her web without a satisfactory reply to the question: Why am I doing this?" writes Neeman. In her uniquely lucid, trenchant style, Yael Neeman paints a portrait of a remarkable woman, that is also a riveting document about the second generation, those who were born right after the war.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS

French language rights sold to **Actes Sud**, Arles.



PHOTO © TOMER EPELBAUM

Neeman writes a very intense, unadorned prose that creates great intimacy with the reader. This intimacy is very powerful... What stands out most in this book is the emotional jolt that it gives the reader.

Haaretz

A book that is remarkable for its delivery and the way it traps the reader inside it.

Musach Literary Magazine

Michal Ben-Naftali



The Teacher

a novel

Jerusalem, Keter, 2015. 185 pp.

No one knew the story of Elsa Weiss's life. She was a respected English teacher at a Tel Aviv high school, but she remained aloof and never tried to be friendly with her students. She was a riddle, and yet the students sensed that they were all she had. When Elsa killed herself by jumping off the roof of her building, she remained as unknown as she had been during her life.

Thirty years later, one of her students, who is also the narrator, decides to solve the riddle of Elsa Weiss. In retrospect, she realizes that she had learned a fateful lesson from her. But what was it? This is where the dizzying journey of Ben-Naftali's novel begins. Expertly dovetailing explosive historical material with flights of imagination, the novel traces the footprints of a Holocaust survivor who did her utmost to leave no footprints. The lesson she taught is an intricate code, and by gradually deciphering it the narrator comes to some of the most tumultuous junctions in the history of the twentieth century.

The narrator invents a fictional biography for Elsa. She describes her childhood in Hungary, her journey to Paris, her marriage, her experiences after the German invasion of Hungary, how she was taken on the highly controversial "rescue train," first to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and then to Switzerland; how she decided to remain silent and to leave no trace. But the narrator hears her teacher's wordless scream and creates a life for her. Writing it down is a way to save her from oblivion.

WINNER OF THE SAPIR PRIZE, 2016!

Foreign rights sold to: **Open Letter**, New York; **Actes Sud**, Arles; **Mondadori**, Milan; **Knizhniki**, Moscow; **Kul-Shee**, Israel.

Michal Ben-Naftali was born in Tel Aviv in 1963. A writer, translator and editor, she studied history and philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and received her PhD in contemporary French philosophy from Oxford University. Ben-Naftali lived in Paris for several years; she was the editor of a French series for Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishers, followed by a series on Hebrew aesthetics for Resling. She now teaches French literature and creative writing at Tel Aviv University. Ben-Naftali has published collections of essays, a novella, a memoir and a novel, as well as many academic articles. Her translations from French to Hebrew include Jacques Derrida, Marina Tsvetaeva, Julia Kristeva. In 2008, she received a translation scholarship from the French Ministry of Culture, and in 2013 she was writer-in-residence at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. Ben-Naftali has received the Prime Minister's Prize (2007) and the *Haaretz* prize for Best Literary Essay of the Year (2008).

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PHOTO © ABRAHAM BEN-NAFTALI

Like the discovery of a new continent.

Sapir Prize Committee, Dec. 2016

Ben-Naftali achieves the impossible...An unusual novel.
Haaretz

A lovely, moving novel.
Yedioth Ahronoth

An important and interesting novel.

Arutz 7 Radio

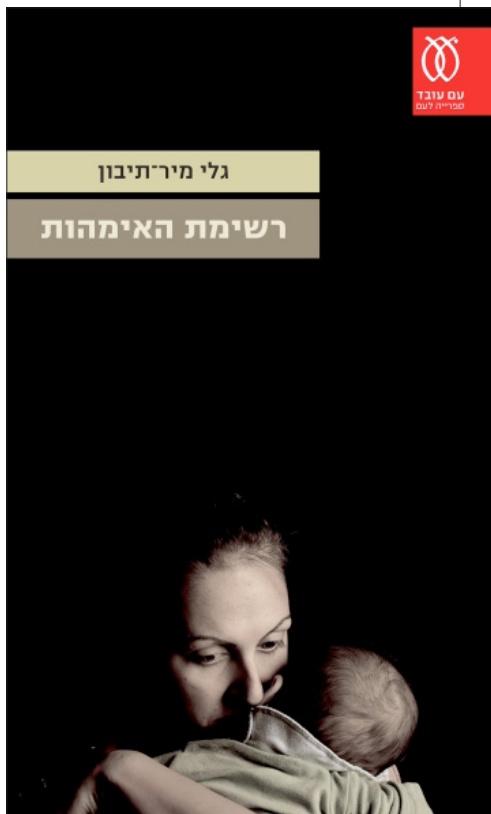
Much to think about.
Makor Rishon

Gali Mir-Tibon

Abandoned Mothers

a novel

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



Gali Mir-Tibon was born in Kibbutz Kvutzat Shiller, near Rehovot. She has a PhD from Tel Aviv University in Holocaust Studies. A former principal of high schools in Bat Yam and Ma'alot Tarshicha in the Galilee, she is now a lecturer at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. and at Bar-Ilan University. In addition, she trains teachers in the Amit school system. Mir-Tibon is the founder and CEO of the Institute for Excellence in the Humanities. *Abandoned Mothers* is her first novel.

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

One by one the two interrogatees speak their answers, open up and confess, or hide and lie. Neither is innocent, neither a criminal. Under the circumstances, maybe no one could remain clean.

We also hear the voices of three mothers, and the voice of a girl who goes through what no child should ever go through.

Many have written about World War II, but Gali Mir-Tibon, in her debut novel, bravely lights one of its darkest corners. A harsh investigation takes place in this novel, but it is not restricted to one room. Instead, step by step, it goes ever deeper into the human soul—its best and its worst, and the struggle between the two.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

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 refrains from provocation, and precisely because of that her book is meaningful, complex and resonant. 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

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Mira Magen

Michaella

Tel Aviv, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan, 2018. 320 pp.



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 German (**dtv, S. Fischer**), French (**Mercure de France**) and Italian (**Atmosphere Libri**) to great acclaim.

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Michaella seems to have it all—beauty, a good career as a couples counselor, a lovely husband and three gorgeous children. But beneath the surface is a painful family past that she can neither escape nor forget.

Michaella and Rona's father left them early on, and their mother was hospitalized with psychiatric problems soon after, leaving the two small girls at their aunt's. The sisters grow up to be very different and drift apart: Michaella creates a good life for herself, while Rona is deeply disturbed, lost in drink and drugs. Now, as a part of Rona's rehab, and hoping for a stable framework to start out anew, she moves in with her sister. But peace is fleeting: attracted to a patient of her sister's—a married man—she starts an affair. What's more, their mother is released into Michaella's care, and the three women share the same house again after years of separation.

How old-new emotions rise to the surface makes for an unforgettable novel, as Magen goes to the heart of the relationship between the two sisters.



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



Shoham Smith was born in Jerusalem in 1966 and lives in Tel Aviv. She studied industrial design at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and literature at Tel Aviv University. Smith writes book reviews and is a translator. She has published collections of short stories and a number of children's books. She has 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).

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Eitan Eloa was born in Ashdod in 1984 and lives in Tel Aviv. He 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. Eloa's illustrations have been published in children's books, graphic novels and *Haaretz* weekend magazine. He has 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).

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 tension builds around the wedding dress. The struggle between mother and daughter is both hilarious and heart-breaking, and the brilliant illustrations bring out the best, and worst, in 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.

ENGLISH PDF AVAILABLE



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 her 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 very 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 relation between the three.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Judith Rotem

*Come Back, My Soul*

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2018. 255 pp.
a novel

The life stories of two women unfold alongside each other in this book. One of the women, Yuli, is a migrant worker from Ukraine, escaping from a life of poverty and the treacherous father of her children. She comes to Tel Aviv with her younger son, 5-year-old Dima. Yuli wanders around the old bus terminal, an area inhabited by migrant workers and misfits, tries to find a job, decent accommodation and to protect her child in the harsh neighborhood. She meets Barry who helps her, but ultimately discovers that her reliance on him has a terrible price. She also meets an Eritrean asylum-seeker, Koplom, whose situation is as desperate as hers.

The other woman, Shelly, is much older and a widow. She has given up on religion for the sake of freedom and is searching for a loving, creative way of life. As she struggles with her memories and her longing for her dead husband, she is swept into a stormy late-life romance that threatens her world—with the same Barry that Yuli has met.

Although these two women are very different, they are connected through Barry, an Orthodox Jew, a seductive, multifaceted character who insinuates himself into their lives with deceitful charm.

Freedom of choice, passion, survival and enslavement are portrayed in this novel that looks without wavering at contemporary Israeli society.

Judith Rotem was born in Budapest, Hungary. As a baby, she was taken on the “Kastner train,” spent several months in Bergen-Belsen and then in a refugee camp in Switzerland. She arrived in pre-state Israel at age 3. Later she married an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva student, and supported the family as a teacher while raising her seven children. In 1983, she divorced and left the ultra-Orthodox community, taking her children with her. She subsequently wrote and edited hi-tech publications, wrote many books and articles, and ghost-wrote a number of autobiographies for Holocaust survivors.

Rotem has published novels, short stories, non-fiction and books for children. She has been awarded the Book Publishers Association’s Gold and Platinum Prizes (2001; 2004), the Prime Minister’s Prize (2002), the Ramat Gan Prize (2010) and the Arik Einstein Prize (2014).

Selected books have been published in Italian (**Feltrinelli**), German (**Paul List**), English (**Jewish Pub. Soc. of America**) and Hungarian (**Mult es Jovi**).

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PHOTO © DAN PORGES

Warmly recommended.
Saloon

Rotem writes wonderfully, quotes from the Bible and from Hebrew poetry, and rummages in the human soul as only a few writers know how.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Lovely, stirring...rich in feeling...reveals a verbal as well as cultural wealth that express the personal and literary maturity of the author.

Makor Rishon

Galit Dahan Carlibach

It's Me, Iowa

Tel-Aviv, Graff, 2018. 126 pp.
a novella



Galit Dahan Carlibach was born in 1981. She grew up in Sderot, Ashdod and Jerusalem. She has published three novels, two novellas and two fantasy books based on Moroccan tales told by her grandmother. Her stories, poems and essays are published on different platforms including *Haaretz*, *Alaxon*, *Maariv*, 929 and more. In addition, Dahan Carlibach gives writing workshops and lectures and takes part in *Persona Non Grata*, a literary-musical duo, as a singer and guitarist. Dahan Carlibach has been awarded the Prime Minister's Prize (2014) and the National Library of Israel Pardes Prize (2014). She was a participant in the International Writing Program in Iowa and the Shanghai Writing Program. Her previous novel, *Alice's Storm*, was longlisted for the 2017 Sapir Prize.

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

Representatives of thirty countries have come to the famous writers' workshop in Iowa. Galit Dahan Carlibach is one of them, and she makes herself the heroine of this novella. She arrives at the workshop, where an unexpected tale of obsession, passion and menace commences. The author, a married woman, falls madly in love with a young man at the workshop and is swept into a love affair that reopens old wounds. She is sucked deeper and deeper into this destructive relationship, until its deadly denouement.

This is a passion-filled novella by one of the most interesting writers in Israel today. It begins as a memoir about the writing experience, the journey to the renowned Iowa writing program, the encounter with writers from so many, so different countries. But in a manner that is full of humor and self-awareness, the author gradually deviates from the expected story and takes her readers into the unexpected realm of obsessive love. Dahan Carlibach's writing is strong and painterly, and the choice of allowing the heroine to stray so far is courageous.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © GAL HERMON

Dahan Carlibach...sweeps the reader away toward the bloody and wonderfully enjoyable collision.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Acrobatic, at times virtuoso Hebrew...In this short novella, Dahan Carlibach positions herself as a promising writer who has kept her promise.

Makor Rishon

The story takes us to the cornfields of the U.S., only to shine a searing spotlight on contemporary Israel in which the personal and the public are always mingled.

Haaretz

Merav Nakar-Sadi

Smadar

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 Novel. *Smadar*, her second novel, was shortlisted for the Sapir Prize, 2018.

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Teenage Smadar's life changes completely when she and her mother leave her abusive father and move 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 be seen 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, Smadar 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-wracking 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.

Must Smadar stick to the path that her family and community have set out for her, or can she 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 Novel, 2014.



PHOTO © MEIR AZULAY

Smadar, the heroine of Nakar-Sadi's new book, is a new type of girl in Hebrew literature.

Haaretz

A remarkable literary achievement.

Hebrew Psychology

Smadar is ostensibly a minor tale about a tragic adolescence, and yet the broken but beautiful language, together with the female characters, create a defiant and powerful novella.

Israel Hayom

Hila Amit

*Moving on from Bliss*

stories

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2016. 191 pp.

Dana, a single mother, and Mounir, a young Palestinian from Nablus, meet in a restaurant in a shabby Tel Aviv neighborhood where they both work. A warm father-daughter relationship grows between Mounir, who is gay, and Dana's little girl Natalie. When Mounir travels to Canada for medical treatment and decides to live there, Dana follows him, leaves Natalie with him and returns to Israel. Mounir and his partner bring Natalie up, and an unusual family is formed.

Joumana, an Arab doctor living in Tel Aviv with her Jewish partner, leaves the city when her father dies, and goes back to her parents' home in Umm al-Fahm. Once again she confronts what made her leave her conservative family—not only her desire to study, but also her sexual identity. Her father's death frees her from his tyranny and heals her relationship with her mother, her sisters and elder brother.

A girl who is estranged from her strict, taciturn mother falls in love with Oshri, a neighbor, and decides to move in with her. In Oshri's home she finds an alternative family, and in Oshri's mother a loving substitute for her own. The story, which takes place after Oshri's death in a car accident, is a lyrical lament on the death of a partner as she tries to cope with grief and longing.

Jewish Adele is attracted to Tahrir, an Arab girl and the daughter of a well-known crime family, who lives near her in Jaffa. The forbidden, the alien and the dangerous all become more familiar in this and other stories in this collection.

Amit depicts gays, lesbians, Arabs and other marginalized characters. There is much courage and talent in this book—the courage to take on big subjects, and the talent to write about them in an original way

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Hila Amit was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, in 1985. She studied literature and creative writing at Tel Aviv University and received a PhD in gender studies from the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) in London in 2016. She has published poetry and short stories in several literary magazines and anthologies. She was awarded the Ministry of Culture Prize for Debut Authors (2016) for her book *Moving on from Bliss*. She is currently dividing her time between Tel Aviv and Berlin, and working on her second book. Amit's non-fiction book, *A Queer Way Out*, was published by **Suny Press**, New York in 2018.

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PHOTO © HILA SPAK

Amit writes differently about “different”...unique and beautiful.

Haaretz

Amit finds different ways, some of them simple and very effective, to rein in tragedy and the cheap handling of heartache.

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 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 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 is falling apart. Soon, she will be engaged to Avishai, a much admired young man in the settlement. But she wonders whether he understands her and could make her happy.

An implicit lesbian connection springs up between the two young women. The essays Naomi submits to Tamar, and Tamar's remarks about them are the code through which the two signal their attraction, 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 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.

Yedioth Ahronoth

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

KAN 11 TV

Amir Gilboa

Doe

Selected Poems

Doe

Doe I'll send you to wolves not in the forest
even on city sidewalks you'll flee them without rest
terror in your lovely eyes they will envy me seeing
how you flee fearing and your soul

Doe I'll send you into the thick of battle
War is no longer for me

Doe my heart bleeds when I watch you wander bloodstained
At dawn

Translated by Dom Moraes with Aryeh Sivan

Amir Gilboa (1917-1984) was born in the Ukraine and immigrated to Palestine illegally in 1937. After working for a few years as a manual laborer, he joined the British Army's Jewish Brigade, serving in Egypt, North Africa and Italy. At the end of World War II, he helped bring survivors illegally to Palestine. He also fought in Israel's War of Independence, and his military experience figures strongly in his early poems. Later, he was an editor at Massada Publishing House as well as a translator. Gilboa received numerous awards for his poetry, including the Shlonsky Prize (1961), the Ussishkin Prize (1964), the Brenner Prize (1970), the Bialik Prize (1971), the Chomsky Prize (1977), the Fichman Prize (1980), the Israel Prize (1982) and the Neuman Prize (1984).

Amir Gilboa was one of the most original and experimental Hebrew poets. Consciously breaking with the poetic norms of the time, he combined the traditional with the contemporary, the personal with the national. His poetry is ambiguous and introspective, playful yet nightmarish, and it set the stage for those who came after him, well into the 1970s.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



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