

New Books from Israel • Fall 2017



THE INSTITUTE FOR THE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW LITERATURE





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NEW BOOKS FROM ISRAEL

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Yoram Kaniuk



Soap

a novel

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, forthcoming. 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 and will be published for the first time in Hebrew in early 2018.

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!

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**), French (**Stock; Fayard**), German (**Paul List; Hanser; Aufbau**), Italian (**Einaudi; Giuntina**), Dutch (**Meulenhoff**), Norwegian (**Cappelens**), Danish (**Gyldendal**), Arabic (**Canaan, Damascus**).

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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

Nava Semel

Fanny and Gabriel

a novel

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2017. 460 pp.



Nava Semel was born in Tel Aviv in 1954 and has an MA in art history. She has worked as a journalist, art critic, and TV, radio and recording producer. Semel has published novels, short stories, poetry, plays, children's books and TV scripts. Many of her stories have been adapted for radio, film, TV and the stage in Israel, Europe and the USA. Her novel, *And the Rat Laughed*, has been made into an opera; it will also be a feature film, directed by David Fisher. Semel also serves on the board of governors of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Among her many literary prizes, the National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature (USA, 1990), the Women Writers of the Mediterranean Award (1994), the Best Radio Drama Award (Austria, 1996), the Rosenblum Prize for Stage Arts (2005), Tel Aviv Literary Woman of the Year (2007), One of the Best Seven for y/a books (German Radio, 2010) and the Educators and Scientists Association Award (Germany, 2010).

Rights to Semel's books have been sold abroad in 11 languages.

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“You will marry twice,” a Roma fortuneteller told Fanny, but she found this hard to believe. Gabriel, her fiancé, had vanished, thought killed in the war, but Fanny remained faithful.

Fanny and Gabriel were born in Bukovina, part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. They got engaged just before World War 1, but then Gabriel, like many others, was conscripted into the Imperial army. He hated war and eventually deserted, finding shelter and love with a young Russian peasant woman. Meanwhile, Fanny continued to sell the excellent beer that her father brewed.

Three years later, when the war was over, Gabriel came home and married her. He made her swear never to ask about his years of absence, and although she tried, Fanny could not make him love her, even after the birth of their son Yitzhak. Gabriel felt that his future lay in America. In 1921, he set sail for the United States, promising to send tickets for his wife and son as soon as he was settled. He became a Wall Street stockbroker but he never sent the tickets. A charming man, he had many affairs and lived for years with Clara as if they were man and wife. As for Fanny, the only man in her life was her talented son, and his resourcefulness saw them through the Holocaust. After World War 2, Yitzhak, his new wife, and Fanny emigrated to Palestine.

Twenty-eight years after he left them, Gabriel comes to the new State of Israel to see his grandson. He finally divorces Fanny and goes back to New York. But the story of their love is not over. Ten years later, Gabriel reappears in Fanny's life and proposes to her once again. Despite everything she accepts.

A spellbinding novel based on the life of the author's grandparents.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS



PHOTO © NIZAN LOTEM

Vivid ... The two main characters keep growing taller and stronger, amassing significance and influence over the events, up to a point where they resemble mythic characters... An engrossing work.

Maariv

A moving story. An enchanting book.

Galei Tzahal

Yishai Sarid

The Memory Monster

a novella

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2017. 136 pp.



Yishai Sarid was born in 1965 in Tel Aviv. He studied law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and received a graduate degree in public administration from Harvard University. Sarid has worked in the State Attorney's office as prosecutor for criminal cases; he now works as an attorney in the private sector. He also contributes articles to the Hebrew press.

Sarid's second novel, *Limassol*, won the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière for Best Foreign Crime Novel (France, 2011), the SNCF Award (France, 2011), the Maria Giorgetti International Award (Italy, 2013), and was shortlisted for the prestigious IMPAC Award (Dublin, 2012). *The Third*, his latest novel, won the Bernstein Prize (2016).

Sarid's novels have been published in 11 languages.

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The narrator of Yishai Sarid's powerful novella is a young Israeli Holocaust scholar who never intended to become one. Or to guide Israeli high school students to the Nazi death camps in Poland. He just wanted to live a quiet life. However, practical considerations and the need to make a living led him to write his doctoral thesis on the death camps and to start working as a guide, first at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem and then at the camps themselves. He came to see his job as a way to pass on the memory of the Holocaust, and thought he was immune to the stress involved. But memory became a monster—he slowly became addicted to his occupation, renting an apartment in Warsaw and staying away from home for long periods of time.

Sarid's novella is written as a report by the narrator to his superiors, in which he tries to explain a violent incident at a death camp. In this incident, he lost his temper and hit a German movie director who was making a film on the extermination of the Jews. Ranging beyond pure report, the narrator describes himself, his life story and his mental deterioration. He raises ethical questions about the struggle to cope with the memory of the Holocaust; the lessons to be drawn; the connection between the Jews of then and the Israelis of today; the adulation of power, and what turns human beings into killers. He also claims that in the camps the illusion of humanity was wiped out, and that anyone could become a murderer. High culture, refined art, scientific progress—all these are simply a thin veil that cannot protect us.

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PHOTO © DAN FORGES

In *Memory Monster* Sarid is at his best... The tension is transmuted into questions that touch upon the very core of our story and the violence that he presents as reality.

Haaretz

Challenging and subversive... focused and thought-provoking.

Maariv

It's not easy to slaughter such a sacred cow as Holocaust memory, but Sarid is up to the task. This book can be devoured in two hours, but after closing it one is left with many unanswerable questions.

La'Isha

Sara Aharoni

Persian Silence

a novel

Tel Aviv, Yedioth Ahronoth, 2017. 343 pp.



Sara Aharoni was born in Israel in 1953. She worked as a teacher, educator and school principal for 20 years. She also spent four years in Lima, Peru, as an educational envoy of the Jewish Agency. Together with her husband, Meir Aharoni, Sara wrote, edited and published a series of books about Israel, including four in English. She has also published six children's books.

In 2008, Aharoni published her debut novel, *Saltana's Love*, based on her mother's life story, and it became a bestseller. Her third novel, *Mrs. Rothschild's Love*, went instantly to the top of the Israeli bestseller list. Aharoni received the Book Publishers Association's Platinum Prize for her first novel (2010) and the Steimatzky Prize for bestselling book of the year for *Mrs. Rothschild's Love* (2016).

Spanish rights to *Mrs. Rothschild's Love* sold to **Random House**, Mexico.

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Iran, 1978: After violent riots in Tehran, the Shah of Persia is ousted and the country becomes an Islamic republic.

Pari, a cute and clever Jewish teenager is in love with her cousin Mourad Levy and they get engaged. But the fall of the shah and the Islamic revolution force the couple repeatedly to postpone their wedding. Eventually they do get married, but as Jew-hatred worsens in Tehran and the city becomes a threatening environment, they decide to leave. By now they have two small children, but they are determined to find a safe and free place to live. Their escape route is filled with danger, anxiety and breathtaking drama. With the children they flee across fields in remote villages and climb the mountain ranges of Kurdistan on horseback, finally crossing into Turkey to fly to Israel.

From the tapestry of lives that emerges and the personal stories of Pari and Mourad, we get a picture of Iranian Jewry's relations with their Muslim neighbors under the shah and then under the ayatollahs. Sara Aharoni also gives us a wonderful portrait of the traditional ways of life in Tehran, mixed with modern Western influences. She depicts the character of the city, its charm and beauty contrasting with its poverty; the people's longing for change, the hopes they pinned on the new ruler, and the inevitable disillusionment.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION IN PROGRESS



Engrossing and compelling... Aharoni's novel is a Persian delight.

Haaretz

In recent years, Sara Aharoni has been one of the best Israeli writers... A unique voice that transports the reader each time on a riveting new journey.

Parshan Literary blog

BESTSELLER



Blood Ties

a novel

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, 2016. 223 pp.

Wahid Atef is a young Arab chemistry lecturer at Haifa University. One day he finds an old photo of a young woman in his mother's clothes closet at her home in Jaffa. The discovery disturbs him, and awakens a dormant family secret.

Wahid decides to renew his connection with his older brother, Zohir, who is in jail. He asks Zohir to tell him what he knows about their aunt, Nadia, who was murdered forty years before and whose death has always been shrouded in an oppressive silence. But Zohir doesn't acquiesce. Their mother also refuses to tell him the story of her dead sister. Even Wahid's wife hides something from him. All of this intensifies his curiosity. Was Nadia murdered because her husband, who was from Gaza, thought she was betraying him, or because she opposed his nationalistic activities? Either way, Wahid's attempts to grasp the circumstances of his aunt's death becomes an examination of his own identity.

Blood Ties is a novel about a family in which concealment and falsehood are passed down from generation to generation like a cursed inheritance. The heroes of the book long to reach out for their loved ones but cannot: letters get to the wrong people, phone calls aren't picked up, and garbled memories become facts. The book takes its readers on the characters' journeys between Jaffa and Haifa, Gaza and the Galilee village of Eilabun, and between the characters' consciousness.

Ayman Sikseck, writing in poetic Hebrew about Israeli-Arab characters, marvelously tells how national identity is branded onto their life stories and determines their fate.

Ayman Sikseck, born in 1984, is an Israeli-Arab author, literary critic and opinion journalist, who writes in Hebrew. His successful debut novel, *To Jaffa*, was published in 2010, and translated to Arabic and German. His writing tackles questions of national identity, and the still-evolving social fabric in Israel. Sikseck won the National Library of Israel's 2013/2014 scholarship to encourage young Israeli writers following his debut novel. His second novel, *Blood Ties* (*Tisbrin* in Hebrew, published in 2016), was a runaway bestseller in Israel and won him the Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Authors in 2017. *Blood Ties* was nominated for the Sapir Literary prize, the most prominent literary award in Israel. He lives in Jaffa, where he was born, and is working on his third novel.

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PHOTO © MOSES BENSON

A unique literary accomplishment. An excellent novel and a must read.

Author Nir Baram

Blood Ties places Sikseck right in the heart of the arena of contemporary Hebrew literature. In many ways, Sikseck is continuing the literary revolution that Anton Shammas began with his novel *Arabesques*.

Haaretz

It is a pleasure to write about the book that is at the top of the bestsellers lists, and that deserves to be there. That doesn't happen often.

Walla

Agur Schiff

Anonymity

a novel

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2017. 386 pp.



Agur Schiff was born in Tel Aviv in 1955. He is a graduate of St. Martin's School of Art in London and of the Rijks Art Academy in Amsterdam. He won critical acclaim as a filmmaker before turning to writing: he received the Silver Dragon Award at the Cracow Film Festival, and, for his film *Gentila*, a prize at the Haifa Film Festival (1997). Schiff started publishing fiction in the early 1990s and has published two collections of stories and five novels. He is a senior lecturer at the Bezalel Academy of Art & Design in Jerusalem where he teaches creative writing, screen writing and cinematic concepts. Schiff was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize (2010), and his last novel, *The Latecomers*, was shortlisted for the Sapir Prize (2014).

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Two Israeli authors are invited to a literary festival in Marrakesh, Morocco. One, Yoel Onn, is popular, arrogant and internationally acclaimed. He is accompanied by his young wife. The other, Aram Frisch, almost unknown even in his own country, is shrewd, ironic and self-deprecating. The three are kidnapped from their hotel by an unknown revolutionary organization and held hostage in a tent in the Sahara.

During their long ordeal in the desert, they are cut off, exhausted and desperate. Engaged in a lunatic dialogue with their captors and anticipating an unimaginable fate, the two writers fluctuate between mutual contempt and forgiving kinship, while the woman alternately mediates between and divides them. They hope, of course, that Israel will rescue them in a brilliant military operation, or at the very least pay the huge ransom demanded by the kidnappers. But negotiations over their release move slowly, and in any case, the abductors tell Aram he is free to leave because they don't want anything in exchange for him. But where would he go? All around there is only sand and wilderness.

Within this drama, there are two sub-plots: The new novel that Yoel Onn dictates to his wife at night tells the story of a Jewish orphan born in Lithuania in the 19th century who emigrates to the United States, becomes rich and famous and is offered the position of emperor of a new Jewish kingdom which will be founded in the deserts of Arizona. The other sub-plot consists of flashes from Aram's memories of his childhood in Tel Aviv and imaginary letters that he writes to his wife, and it wraps the entire novel in a gripping biographical envelope.

A grotesque, comic and intelligent novel, bursting with imagination and inventiveness.

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PHOTO © HALELAH SCHIFF

A complex- and creative novel, revealing and witty but entirely free of supercilious respectability ... Its laugh is infectious.

Haaretz

Anonymity is brilliant and subtle satirical novel ... Schiff's books are excellent, and they are getting better ...

Makor Rishon

Amir Ziv

Four Fathers

a novel

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2017. 312 pp.



Amir Ziv, a journalist and writer, was born in 1968. He holds a law degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After working briefly as a lawyer, he changed direction and started a completely new life in journalism. Since 2007 he is deputy editor in chief of *Calcalist*, Israel's leading business and financial daily; he is also editor in chief of its weekend supplement. Over the years Ziv has published numerous articles and essays. His first novel, *Four Fathers*, received enthusiastic reviews. He lives with his family in Givatayim.

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One day, Giora, a veterinary surgeon by profession, discovers that his wife Sharon has been publishing love poems under a pen-name in a youth magazine. A few hours later, Sharon is killed in a car crash and the newly widowed Giora is left alone with a little daughter.

Eliahu, a crotchety Tel Avivian shoots off a series of complaints to the city deputy engineer complaining that his upstairs neighbor has built a terrace without a permit. When the official comes to check it out, he falls in love with the beautiful neighbor.

On her 17th birthday, Nira writes a blog revealing that on the day she turned six her father left her in a forest on the road to Jerusalem, alone at night in an abandoned truck. "I am not your father," he told her and returned home alone.

What connects all of these characters and events? The three plots that make up the novel take place years apart from each other, but link up and coalesce at the end, and they are all founded upon lethally powerful love and jealousy, betrayals and dark secrets. What begins as an apparently routine correspondence between a prying citizen, secretly in love with his neighbor, and a conscientious municipal clerk, uncovers a great underlying drama.

Amir Ziv, in his debut novel, fluctuates with surprising skill and much talent from comical scenes to dramatic climaxes, and he integrates characters from several generations inextricably into the plot. From page to page, the reader is carried along together with them, and is entertained, jolted, intrigued and engrossed, right up to the last line.

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PHOTO © AMIT SHAVAL

Four Fathers is a spellbinding book that is at the same time both disturbing and enjoyable... How good it is to discover a new and promising Israeli writer, who leaves the reader looking forward expectantly to his forthcoming books.

Makor Rishon

Ziv succeeds in a very impressive manner to clear a way through the entangled path of the forging of a new Israeli masculinity.

Haaretz

Tsur Shezaf

The Lost Pilot's Wife

a novel

Tel Aviv, Xargol/ Am Oved, 2011. 245 pp.



Tsur Shezaf was born in Jerusalem in 1959. He studied archaeology, geography, history, theater and marine biology at Tel Aviv University, and has worked as a research fellow at the Institute for the Philosophy and History of Ideas and Sciences. Shezaf was editor of the Keter Travel Library, as well as senior writer and editorial staff member of *Masa Acher*, an Israeli geographical magazine. As a journalist and photojournalist, Shezaf has been on special assignments (including to Somalia, Chechnya, South Sudan, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and Yemen), for *Masa Acher*, *Yedioth Abnonoth*, *Ynet*, *Haaretz*, Channel 10 and Channel 1 TV, and his travels serve as the basis for his literary work. He received the Prime Minister's Prize in 2008.

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Assaf, an Israeli Air Force pilot whose plane is shot down over Lebanon, bails out behind enemy lines. It happens in the mid-1980s, and a bloody civil war is raging in Lebanon. Assaf expects that he'll be rescued by the Israeli army, but instead he is captured by one of the Shi'ite organizations. In Israel, his wife Ruth, in late stages of pregnancy, tries in vain to find out what has happened to her husband.

The novel is told in two voices, that of the pilot who has vanished, and that of the woman who has been left behind. Will the pilot's wife get the answer to the question that is tormenting her? How does one break free in a complicated place like the Middle East, where a person can be a total stranger and a persecuted refugee only a few kilometers from the place where he was born?

Assaf tries to escape but he is caught and ends up in the hands of Hizballah. He is transferred to Damascus, returned to Lebanon, undergoes physical and mental torture, and is moved around. Finally, he is taken in to the home of Abu Shams, a Lebanese village doctor, who gives him a new life and a new identity. Assaf learns Arabic, starts a new family and becomes Yusuf, a doctor specializing in herbal remedies. He wanders from village to village in the enchanted country landscapes, healing the ill and gaining admiration. He achieves his freedom and attains peace, but needs to tell his story to Ruth.

The Lost Pilot's Wife tells a suspenseful story that exceeds the limits of imagination, an exciting drama of survival, against the backdrop of a conflicted political and military situation.

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PHOTO ©

A big, dramatic, nerve-wracking story... Shezaf navigates the plot with an impressively masterful hand.

Haaretz

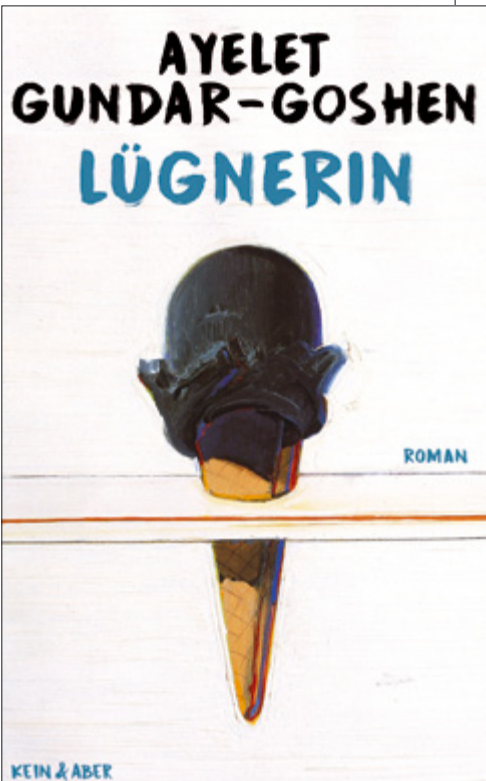
Shezaf charges the space in which the characters roam with lyricism, symbolism and mystical meanings... [Written] with ease and sensitivity.

Ynet

Enthralling and mesmerizing...from the moment I began reading the book, I could not put it down; since the moment I finished reading it, it has not left me alone.

Motke

Ayelet Gundar-Goshen



The Liar and the City

a novel

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, forthcoming

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; **Little Brown**, New York; German rights sold to **Kein & Aber**, Zurich; Italian rights sold to **Giuntina**, Florence; Dutch rights sold to **Atlas**, Amsterdam; French rights sold to **Presses de la Cité**, Paris.

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 in the US. Her books have been translated into 14 languages.

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PHOTO © ALON SIGA

No reviews available yet
For *One Night, Markovitch*

Utterly delightful.
The Times

A dazzling storyteller is born.
Elle France

For *Waking Lions*

A sophisticated and darkly ambitious novel, revealing an aspect of Israeli life rarely seen in its literature.

The New York Times

Gripping, provocative, original.
Foyles

Uncommonly complex and socially aware.

New York magazine

Alona Kimhi

To Be Amadea

a novel

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, forthcoming

Alona Kimhi was born in Lvov, Ukraine, in 1966 and came to Israel with her family in 1972. Following her graduation from the Beit Zvi Academy for Performing Arts, she became a stage and film actress. In 1993, Kimhi started writing plays, lyrics and essays. Since 1996, she has published novels, short stories and a book for children. Kimhi has been awarded the ACUM Book of the Year Prize (1996) for *I, Anastasia*, the Bernstein Prize (1999) for her first novel, *Weeping Susannah*, the French WIZO Prize (2001) and the Prime Minister's Prize (2001). In 2004, a film based on a script of hers received the Israel Academy's Best TV Film Award. Her books have been published in 15 languages.

For 12 years, Esther has toiled away at her novel with great passion and faith. When it is finished she is sure that she has produced a masterpiece. After all, could anyone evaluate great literature better than her, a sought-after editor with impeccable taste? She only respects the opinion of her friend Bertie, a professor she has admired ever since her student days. She shows him the manuscript without revealing the author's identity, but to her great surprise, he pans the novel as the work of a pretentious scribbler without talent.

Around the same time, Hili, an unknown young actress, comes into Esther's life. Hili, who suffers from low self-esteem, is involved with a married man. Trapped in a self-destructive relationship, she worships the wise and self-confident Esther. Esther, in turn, becomes addicted to Hili's admiration and fails to see how manipulative the young actress can be. Inevitably, their relationship deteriorates and Hili's adulation turns into hatred. After she loses the role of a lifetime to another actress, she commits suicide, but leaves behind the manuscript of a splendid novel. Esther is thrilled by this literary gem, and cannot resist the temptation... The novel is published, it becomes a huge success, and Esther takes all the glory for herself. However, an old friend of Hili's threatens to expose the fraud. Esther will not let him ruin her. She has to take extreme, insane action to save herself, and she does not hesitate.

French rights sold to **Gallimard**, Paris.



PHOTO © OSNAT HARPAZ

No reviews available yet
For *Victor and Masha*:

A terrible novel. Terribly beautiful.

Le Figaro

Raw and gripping.

The Independent

For *Weeping Susannah*:

Literature in the Russian tradition – quirky and soul-searching.

The Observer

Lily la Tigresse was a bestseller in France! A rich, fantastic novel.

Le Monde des livres

A luminous...consciously, deeply feminist novel.

l'Unita

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Michal Ben-Naftali

The Teacher

a novel

Jerusalem, Keter, 2015. 185 pp.



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). Her novel, *The Teacher*, won the 2016 Sapir Prize.

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ON THE ITHL WEBSITE.

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 apartment building, she remained as unknown as she had been during her life.

Thirty years later, the narrator of the novel, one of her students, decides to solve the riddle of Elsa Weiss. In retrospect, she realizes that she had learned a fateful lesson from her, a lesson for life. But what was that lesson? What had her teacher taught her? This is where the dizzying journey at the heart 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 revealed to be 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 of who she had been. 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.

COMPLETE ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

French rights sold to **Actes Sud**, Arles; Italian rights to **Mondadori**, Milan.



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

Yossi Avni-Levy

The Love Peddlers

a novel

Tel Aviv, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan, 2016. 381 pp.



Yossi Avni-Levy was born in Israel in 1962, first son to parents who immigrated to Israel from Afghanistan and Iran. He studied Middle Eastern history and law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and joined Israeli diplomatic service. He has published four novels, two collections of short stories and novellas and one children's book. Avni-Levy is one of Israel's most successful gay writers; in a unique and a colorful language he describes family relations in a traditional Jewish Sephardi environment, as well as international experiences and father-son relationships.

Snails in the Rain, a film based on one of his short stories, was released in 2013, and his novel *A Man Without Shadow* is now being made into a feature film. Avni-Levy has received the Prime Minister's Prize (2007). His books have been translated to German, Polish, Serbian and Albanian.

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A couple returns to their apartment in Tel Aviv with a tiny baby wrapped in a blanket. Far away, in time and space, a frightened, handsome Jewish lad sets out on the journey of his life, through the legendary city of Herat in Afghanistan. What is the thread that connects the boy slipping away from school so that he can watch the dancers in their colorful garb cavorting in the marketplaces, to Assaf, an Israeli professor of linguistics, a gay man, a new father, who wants to be reconciled with his own father?

Yossi Avni-Levy's novel is an emotional confession of a father to his newly born first son who embodies a mixture of different cultures, an intimate confession through which he tries to trace his own identity. Assaf unfolds the saga of his family, beginning in Afghanistan in the 1940s and reveals the story of his father and in particular the story of his father's younger brother, Assaf's uncle, who was a dancer in the Herat marketplaces and a lover of a Pashtun man.

It is a book that is both sad and amusing, a powerful and humane love story which will resonate all around the globe—a constricted, unspoken love between a son and his father, an unrestrained love of a child for his mother, and a tortuous love between two fathers. It is also a story of love for a world that is no more, for its colors and fragrances, studded with characters who are both delightful and heart-breaking. In his inimitable and sensual language, Avni-Levy leads the reader through the poverty-stricken and yet magnificent streets of a dusty Israeli town of the 1960s to the picturesque streets of a remote city in Afghanistan, where humans and demons live side by side.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © ADAM KOZAK

This is a book loaded with colors and sounds, flavors and smells, devils, women and men. Very far from the here and now, but so close.

Author Amos Oz

Yossi Avni-Levy leads his readers with a sure step into the world he has created, and he masters its details amazingly.

Author Judith Katzir

There's no-one in contemporary Hebrew literature who writes like Avni-Levy.

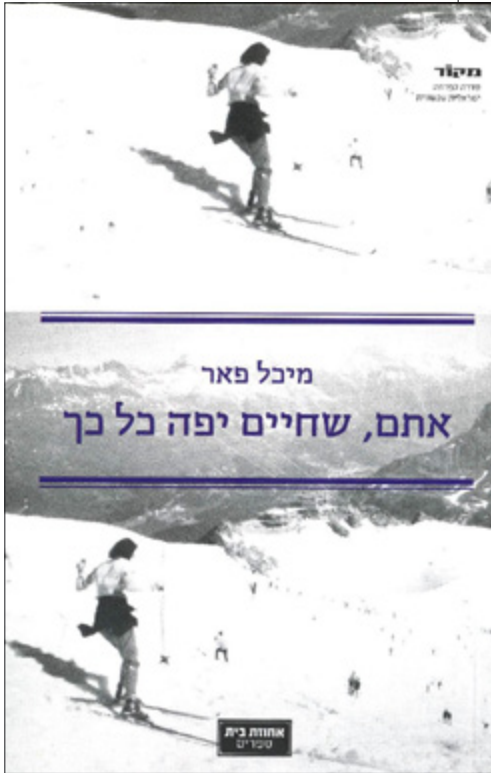
Author Eshkol Nevo

Michal Peer

You, Who Live So Beautifully

a novel

Tel Aviv, Achuzat Bayit, 2016. 282 pp.



Michal Peer was born in Tel Aviv in 1966. She holds a BA in screenwriting and an MA in organizational behavior from Tel Aviv University. She is currently a doctoral student in German studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, researching German and Israeli cinema among the third generation of Holocaust survivors. She has worked as a scriptwriter for the Israeli children's TV channel, and was for many years head of the film program at a prestigious high school for the arts in Tel Aviv. At present, she lectures in the film department of Beit Berl College, and teaches screenwriting and creative writing at the same high school.

Peer's short stories have been published in *Mita'am* as well as other journals. *You, Who Live So Beautifully* is her first novel. She received the Ministry of Culture Prize for Debut Authors in 2016.

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You, Who Live So Beautifully is a sweeping, wild novel that tells the tale of a young family in a poor suburb of Tel Aviv. It begins in the late 1980s when the father, Kika Weinstein, a charming conman trapped in his own lies but who still harbors dreams of getting rich quick, flees the country. Leaving his wife Miriam and children Ilsa and Assi with promises to “fix them up with a new life,” he heads to England and then vanishes, leaving behind only debts and a family that is falling apart. And this is not a one-off: Kika is a pro at building castles in the air and then leaving people penniless.

The novel moves back and forth in time and space to reveal a web of false identities and wanderings, as well as a distressed branch of the family descended from Kika's mother, who lost her family in the Holocaust. Years later, when Kika disappears, his daughter Ilsa—the main narrator—must grow up prematurely and deal with her fractured world, including her dysfunctional mother who gets together with random men only to be disappointed.

A few years on, Ilsa and her brother meet their father again in New York and realize that he hasn't changed. But the contact with his charismatic personality forces Ilsa to face up to the same qualities within herself. At 18, she becomes a fashion model. Pretty, malicious and lost, she wants the good life and is not deterred by any risks or dubious escapades.

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PHOTO © GUY SHAPIRA

Written with great skill and brilliance.

Haaretz

An impressive literary achievement.

Yedioth Ahronoth

A very impressive first novel... Peer writes with wild humor, great sensitivity and poetic precision.

La'Isha

Superb!
Mako

Shula Modan

Teatime for Good Girls

a novel

Ben Shemen, Modan, 2016. 373 pp.



Shula Modan was born in 1944 in Tel Aviv. She studied Hebrew literature, French culture and social work at Tel Aviv University, and then trained as a psychotherapist. Modan works as a therapist and is also an editor at Modan Publishing House. Shula Modan has published cookbooks, many children's books and a novel. Her cookbook, *Bishula*, and her children's book, *Where Is Mrs. Pinky?* are national bestsellers.

When Rachel comes from Lodz to the Land of Israel with her husband, she brings elegant suits and hats, a stash of Polish recipes and endless nostalgia. Bound by tradition, Rachel tries to run her modest Tel Aviv home in the 1930s and 1940s in accordance with “what is appropriate” and “what will the neighbors say?” She fulfils her duty as a housewife and respectable woman and refuses even the simplest pleasures of life. She is constantly distressed by the gulf that separates the heated young city from the cultivated restraint of Lodz.

Rachel's three children struggle, each in their own way, with their mother's strict upbringing. Motl, who has always been the spirit of mischief and humor, abandons his studies and plunges into the exciting new world. The girls dazzle him, especially one, who is both beautiful and educated, haughty and self-disciplined, very similar to his mother. His sister, Rivka, a good and obedient girl, gives in without a fight to the match that her parents arrange for her with a coarse, dull-witted man. Chayaleh, the youngest, is creative and rebellious; she longs to break away and live the life that her mother didn't dare to try. She finds a boyfriend from a kibbutz, only to discover that the conservatism she so criticized in her mother is hers as well.

Shula Modan conveys the spirit of the period with brilliance and great psychological insight.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



PHOTO © JONATHAN BLOOM

Captivating magic.
Haaretz

Modan brings an entire period back to life.

Yedioth Ahronoth

Shula Modan's superb language reminds me of Shalom Aleichem...A story of the 1930s that is entirely relevant today.

Saloon

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Hila Amit

Moving on from Bliss

stories

Tel Aviv, Am Oved, 2016. 191 pp.



Hila Amit was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, in 1985. She studied Literature and Creative Writing at the 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 spending her time between Tel-Aviv and Berlin, and working on her second book.

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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



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

Yoav Shutan-Goshen

One Time, One Woman

a novel

Tel Aviv, Zmora-Bitan, forthcoming. Ca. 180 pp.



Yoav Shutan-Goshen was born in Israel in 1980. He received a BA in law and humanities from Tel Aviv University and completed a screenwriting program at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School. Shutan-Goshen has worked as a journalist for *Yedioth Ahronoth*, as well as writing a comic column for *The Marker*. He is now a playwright for the Gesher, Beit Lessin and Beersheba Theaters, and also wrote a drama series for Channel 2 TV. His feature film will be released in 2017. His new play, a modern adaptation of Sholem Asch's play "Motke Ganev" is now playing at Beit Lessin Theater. Shutan-Goshen lives in Tel Aviv with his wife, author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, and teaches law at Sapir College. *One Time, One Woman* is his first novel.

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Ido has all that a middle class urban male could desire: a cute little daughter, a wife he loves, a manageable mortgage, and a career as an attorney. But when his wife, Nurit, comes home from a dentists' conference in Spain and tearfully confesses to a one-night stand with a dental specialist, everything changes. Ido does not want a divorce. Their love is too great. But neither can he just let the matter go. He proposes a solution that only a lawyer could think up: retribution that would leave their marriage intact. Ido too would have a one-night stand and after that, his and Nurit's life would get back on track. At least, this is what they think.

However, Ido sets out on a journey that will change his life. It's not every man that gets permission from his wife to go off with another woman, and Ido really doesn't want to waste the opportunity on just anyone. But he soon discovers that women are not actually lining up to go to bed with him. When Nurit discovers that he is having a hard time with his end of the bargain, she decides—behind his back—to help him, anything to save their marriage.

One Time, One Woman is a humorous and biting novel about Israeli masculinity and a sort of open-heart surgery on the institution of marriage. Shutan-Goshen dares to write about love and sexuality in a blunt yet endearing manner, and offers his readers romance *sans* kitsch, stemming from honest observation of his characters.

PARTIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



There are many books about infidelity, but nothing quite like this one. *One Time, One Woman* is original and insightful; it takes a surprisingly fresh and a terribly funny stance on marital relationship in a crisis. There is no doubt that the book will sweep many a reader off their feet.

Author Eshkol Nevo

The humor of Shutan-Goshen's work...adds to the lighthearted tone in which the book is written...The solutions that the betrayed man finds are quite creative

Israel Hayom