



Cohen & Shiloh Literary Agency

Spring 2023 LIST

P.O.Box 10054, Tel Aviv 6110001, Israel

Tel: +97236490811

www.cohen-shiloh-agency.com

Table of Contents

Fiction

Ilana Rudashevski, <i>Taska</i>	3
Agur Schiff, <i>Professor Schiff's Guilt</i>	5
Shimon Adaf, <i>One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset</i> (<i>The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 1</i>)	7
Shimon Adaf, <i>A Detective's Complaint</i> (<i>The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 2</i>)	8
Shimon Adaf, <i>Take Up and Read</i> , (<i>The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 3</i>)	9
Orly Castel-Bloom, <i>Biotope</i>	10
Tamar Weiss-Gabay, <i>The Weather Woman</i>	13
Omer Meir Wellber, <i>The Absences of Chaim Birkner</i>	15
Hila Amit, <i>The Lower City</i>	17
Yirmi Pinkus, <i>Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret</i>	19
Saleit Shahaf Poleg, <i>Till it Rains Again</i>	21
Netalie Gvirtz, <i>The Volunteer</i>	23
Savyon Liebrecht, <i>The Bridesman</i>	25
Shifra Horn, <i>O Daughters of Jerusalem</i>	27

Thrillers

Nilly Assia, <i>The Aya File</i>	29
Nilly Assia, <i>The Odeski File</i>	30

F i c t i o n

Ilana Rudashevski



Ilana Rudashevski is an Israeli author, architect, and urban planner. *Taska*, her debut novel, was a critical and commercial success in Israel, receiving glowing praise in the local media. Her short stories have been published in various Hebrew literary magazines, winning a number of literary honors, including first place in Haaretz's prestigious short story contest.

Rudashevski lives in Jerusalem with her family.

Taska

Novel

Publisher: Shtaim

Year: 2022

255 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: Partial English in progress

Taska is an untranslatable Russian word that captures a sense of inexplicable melancholy, longing, and nostalgia. This elusive feeling is at the heart of Ilana Rudashevski's debut novel—an instant bestseller that received enthusiastic responses from readers and critics alike. Following an immigrant family from the Soviet Union to Israel, *Taska* relates a migration story that is witty, poignant, and entirely new.

In the early 1970s, Max and Sophie leave behind their beautiful home and loved ones and immigrate to Israel with their two daughters. They know that they may never see their family and friends again, but are nevertheless driven by a persistent urge—part ideology, part survival instinct. Once in Israel, they settle in a utopian tiny community on the Egyptian border—only to be uprooted again when the Sinai Peninsula reverts to Egyptian control.

Present-day Israel. Sophie is dead; her elder daughter Elka, an urban planner in Jerusalem, is caught up in a bribery scandal. Even though she has lived in Israel since her childhood, the affair confronts her with cultural rifts that have been running beneath the surface all the while. At once earnest and ironic, nostalgic and disillusioned, Elka traces her family's story—and the sense of indistinct longing that is inseparable from immigrant life.

Critical Praise

Written with charismatic skill uncommon in debuts, diving into [Taska] is emotionally and conceptually rewarding.

Omri Herzog, Haaretz

Composed with confidence, with a humor typical of modern Russian literature, [Taska] moves elegantly between times and continents.

Shiri Lev-Ari, Calcalist

Rudashevski moves between life and death, past and present, childhood and old age, hallucination and hard-core reality (a misconduct affair), with the skill and grace of a sophisticated author.

Yaron Fried, Maariv



Agur Schiff

Born in Jerusalem in 1955, Agur Schiff is an author, filmmaker and professor emeritus at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. He has published two short story collections and six novels. He has been awarded the Israeli Prime Minister's Prize for Hebrew Literary Works; his novel *The Latecomers* (2013) was shortlisted for the Israel's prestigious Sapir Prize for Literature. Schiff lives in Tel Aviv.

Professor Schiff's Guilt

Novel

Publisher: Achuzat Bayit

Year: 2021

287 pp.

Translation rights: World excluding English

Translation: English translation by Jessica Cohen, Man Booker International Prize winner.

Rights sold: World English (New Vessel Press, NY)

An Israeli professor travels to a fictitious West African nation to trace a slave-trading ancestor, only to be imprisoned under a new law barring successive generations from profiting off the proceeds of slavery. But before departing from Tel Aviv, the protagonist falls in love with Lucile, a mysterious African migrant worker who cleans his house. Entertaining and thought-provoking, this satire of contemporary attitudes toward racism and the legacy of colonialism examines economic inequality and the global refugee crisis, as well as the memory of transatlantic chattel slavery and the Holocaust. Is the professor's passion for Africa merely a fashionable pose and the book he's secretly writing about his experience there nothing but a modern version of the slave trade?

Critical Praise

In this very funny, wise, and rueful novel, the cranky hero thrashes around in the coils of guilt, atonement, desire, and shame once he learns that a distant relative was a slave trader. (There's other bad stuff, not nearly so distant.) But really, he's no more culpable than we all are—and no less.

James Traub, author of Judah Benjamin: Counselor to the Confederacy and Foreign Policy magazine columnist

Not only a hilarious satirical novel full of self-deprecation, but also a topical and very relevant book, which cleverly ridicules the self-righteous and should finally place its author alongside the most prominent writers.

Haaretz

One of the most thrilling and thought-provoking novels I've read in the past year... Schiff writes with simplicity, full of charm and humor.

Israel Hayom

A wonderful and brilliant book... a very entertaining book, rich with imagination and literary innovations.

Walla



Shimon Adaf

A poet, writer, and part-time musician, Shimon Adaf was born in Sderot in 1972 to Jewish parents of Moroccan heritage. Adaf has published four collections of poetry, twelve novels, and a book of essays; his literary plaudits include the Ministry of Education Award for debut book, the Yehuda Amichai Prize for Poetry, the Sapir Prize, and the Newman Award for Hebrew Literature. Aside from being shortlisted for the Sapir Prize, Adaf's novel *Take up and Read* (2017) was selected by the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corp as the outstanding novel of the year.

The *Lost Detective* trilogy highlights Adaf's musical leanings, featuring lyrics that he penned for Dalia Shusan, the Sderot-born singer-songwriter he created for the fiction. In 2019, Adaf and composer Haim Rachmani, collaborating under the moniker ReQamot, recorded the album *An Entire Mythology Beneath the Fingernails*—a companion piece to the *Lost Detective* trilogy, featuring “covers” of Shusan's songs recorded with leading Israeli rock musicians.

The Lost Detective Trilogy

Critical Praise

SHIMON ADAF'S *Lost Detective Trilogy* embodies many worlds, attitudes, genres, and voices. Like Walt Whitman and Bob Dylan, it contains multitudes. Philosophy, literary theory, immunology, temporal rifts, and religious texts mingle together in this trilogy to produce a work that attempts to mimic what Adaf believes is a deep truth: that people are not closed systems but nodes in a network of relationships...

...the tragedy of the Holocaust, with its barbarism and depravity, came over to Israel with the refugees of eastern Europe. It hangs over their descendants, seeping into the life of every Israeli and keeping the many social and political hostilities at a constant simmer. And yet, as Adaf has declared in the form of the *Lost Detective Trilogy*, we are all connected across time and space. Other realities might and likely do exist, technology will only force us to understand ourselves more, and the true detective is one who follows an investigation wherever the clues may lead.

World Literature Today

Shimon Adaf's voice is one of the most interesting and original in contemporary Israeli literature. Both as a poet and as a novelist he excels in rich, fascinating imagination, in lyrical qualities, and in [presenting] a unique concept of reality. I consider Adaf an excellent poet and writer.

Amos Oz

Shimon Adaf is my literary hero, a fearless explorer with the endless curiosity of a child and the skill of an Old Master, combined to unleash strange and wonderful masterpieces on the world. In his *Lost Detective Trilogy*, what begins as conventional mystery becomes by degrees a brilliant deconstruction not just of genre but of our own search for meaning. Both profound and compulsively readable, these books demand to be devoured.

Lavie Tidhar, author of By Force Alone

The superlatives have all been deployed already to describe the fiction writer and poet Shimon Adaf [...] once again he proves himself worthy of them. It is hard not to be impressed by his magnificent command of the many layers of the Hebrew language, and by his remarkable ability to deconstruct and then reassemble language, creating along the way an alchemical, ingenious, exciting reality in words.

Ynet

It's hard to say when last, if ever, we experienced Hebrew prose that welds beauty and speech; or any other contemporary Israeli writer confronting us with questions of exile, epiphany, and history.

Haaretz



One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset (The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 1)

Novel

Publisher: Keter; Kinneret, Zmorah-Bitan, Dvir

Year: 2004; 2015

325 pp.

Translation rights: World excluding English

Audio visual rights: World

Book published in translation: Picador, NY, 2022

At age 30, Elisha Ben Zaken has opted out of the rat race, choosing the challenge of authenticity over the compromises of fame. Once an influential rock music critic, disillusionment with the commercialized priorities of the music world has forced on to a different track. He now works with a detective agency as “a clerk of small human things,” tracking down missing cars and wayward husbands.

His equanimity is disturbed when he is asked—by the police, no less—to investigate the suicide of Yehuda Menuhin, an infamous professor of philosophy. Something seems off to Elish. Why investigate what seems like an open-and-shut case? Why not the police? Indeed, why him? The intrigue thickens when he discovers in the case file an unexpected note—a reference to the singer Dalia Shusan. Shusan was a young rock artist whose talent Elish had been one of the first to champion—a potential cut short by her murder two months before.

To make sense of the unexpected connection between the two deaths, Elish must return to the past. And when violence forcefully inserts itself into the investigation, Elish knows that to resolve the mystery he must first unpick a dangerous secret—and resolve a trauma that he thought he had left far behind.

Adaf's Elish Ben Zaken is an enigmatic yet unforgettable protagonist. In Tel Aviv, self-proclaimed “city that never sleeps,” Elish is the quintessential outsider: a thinker, a second-generation immigrant, a man with his heart still attached to Israel's marginalised social peripheries. *One Kilometre and Two Days Before Sunset* is a detective novel without precedent: a clear-eyed portrait of a man and a city, leavened with disappointment, longing, and the oft-thwarted wish to truly know another.

Critical Praise

Emotional insights and flashbacks to Elish's youth are sinuously written and movingly translated in lyrical prose, and Adaf ably ties up the plot's tangled complications. More than a mystery, this is a dark and yearning portrayal of Tel Aviv and the southern cities. Readers will eagerly turn to the next two installments.

Publishers Weekly

This is a courageous novel, in its suggesting an encompassing fictional alternative to popular cliches about the detective and his motives ... there is no doubt that *One Mile and Two Days before Sunset* is an exception in our [literary] landscape—and an exception for the good.

Ynet

A Detective's Complaint (The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 2)

Novel

Publisher: Kinneret, Zmorah-Bitan, Dvir

Year: 2015

319 pp.

Translation rights: World excluding English

Audio visual rights: World

Rights sold: (English) Picador, NY, 2022

At the beginning of the sequel to *One Kilometre and Two Days Before Sunset*, Elish Ben Zaken has shrugged off the existential questions that had long preoccupied him. He now writes detective fiction, mystery novels based on real-life cold cases. But the ordinariness of his present notwithstanding—literary festivals, meetings with his agent—the past still hovers just out of sight. The questions from another time rush back into sharp focus when his teenage niece Tahel asks him for help in unpicking a strange tale. A young woman boarded the inter-city bus in Beer Sheva on a Thursday evening for an hour-long journey to Sderot—and arrived three days later. Of the journey and the intervening days, she remembered nothing.

Elish returns to Sderot to help Tahel—and, he tells himself, to research his new novel. He finds there another riddle, closer to home. Yaffa, his sister, on returning to Sderot from Tel Aviv, had moved into a surprisingly affordable new lakeside apartment in their hometown. Despite the ambience, the development stands half empty; there are whispers that the developer has fled the country. Tahel, his niece is worried about her mother. Several times, she has found her staring out onto the lake in the dead of night. She is being watched, Yaffa believes...

The perpetual background of the Israel-Palestine conflict forces its way center-stage when the 2014 Israel-Gaza War erupts. In Sderot, close to the Gaza border, sirens and missile strikes intrude into the everyday reality of the city—as do violent clashes between protestors on both sides of the sudden and brutal war. Within the tense moment, Elish is confronted by the deep open wounds of history, personal and political, and by an urgent need for answers in a world that has none to offer.

Critical Praise

In the moving and perceptive second volume of Adaf's Lost Detective Trilogy (after *One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset*) ... Adaf provides charming descriptions of scrappy, headstrong Tahel and dreamy Oshri as they aid Elish and Manny in the case. The author also has a keen ear for the cacophonous region, which Greenspan conveys in a flavorful translation. This series continues to delight.

Publishers Weekly

A Detective's Complaint presents [Adaf] at the heights of his powers as he tackles his subjects—when he writes about the individual submerged in the routines of war, or about familial relationships going awry. In this sense, he leaves the readers with one sensation, a remarkable sensation for any notable literary trilogy: the urge to read the next installment.

Haaretz

Take Up and Read (The Lost Detective Trilogy, Book 3)

Novel

Publisher: Kinneret, Zmorah-Bitan, Dvir

Year: 2017

608 pp.

Translation rights: World excluding English

Audio visual rights: World

Book published in translation: Picador, NY, 2022

At the height of the 2014 Israel-Gaza war, Elish Ben Zaken had a brief encounter with Nahum Farkash, a poet and librarian. The meeting may have uncovered an important clue in the mystery of the woman who lost three days of her life—the mystery at the heart of *A Detective's Complaint*—but at the time Elish did not pick it up.

Fourteen years on, *Take Up and Read*, the concluding part of Shimon Adaf's The Lost Detective trilogy, returns to Nahum Farkash. Defending the legacy of Dalia Shusan, the singer whose murder is the anchor in *One Kilometre and Two Days Before Sunset*, Nahum tries to stop the production of a documentary about the singer's life. The campaign, both principled and personal, takes him back in time and to his childhood as a young observant Jew in Sderot.

In this Israel of the near future, rent asunder by catastrophic war, Tahel and Oshri, Elish's niece and nephew are also looking back to the past; to the failed investigation of fourteen years earlier, and the tragedy that struck their family in its wake. Seeking out a truth that has eluded them for so long, the brother and sister find themselves drawn into the heart of a conspiracy almost beyond comprehension...

In this masterful book, Shimon Adaf pulls together futuristic biotechnology, parallel universes, and Jewish mysticism in a piercing interrogation of our fragile grasp on the boundaries of the self, and the arbitrary connections between the body, consciousness, and perception.

Critical Praise

Adaf (*The Detective's Complaint*) concludes his epic Lost Detective Trilogy with an extraordinary blend of science fiction, crime, and high fantasy... As with the previous installments, Adaf's rich characterizations are complemented by the clever prose. The result is an instant classic.

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly

Extended sections of Shimon Adaf's prose in *Take Up and Read* rank among the best of his literary generation, the 1970s generation [...] presenting an extraordinary amalgam of vivid and rich expressiveness, and a detailed and precise capability of perceiving reality [...] resulting in a unique totality, repeatedly calling to mind the great American writer Thomas Wolfe.

Yediot Aharonot



Orly Castel-Bloom

One of the leading voices of contemporary Israeli writing, Orly Castel-Bloom is a celebrated Israeli novelist, feted for her unique post-modern prose style. After studying Film at the Beit Zvi Institute and Tel Aviv University, Castel-Bloom published her first collection of stories in 1987 to critical acclaim, and has been a leading voice in Hebrew literature ever since.

Dolly City, her much lauded 1992 novel, has been included in UNESCO's Collection of Representative Works; it was nominated in 2007 as one of the ten most important books published since the creation of the State of Israel, and in 2013 was named by *Tablet* magazine as one of the

101 Great Jewish Books in English translation. Castel-Bloom's work has been published in translation in 14 languages, her creative output encompassing novels, short story collections, and a book for children.

Her numerous awards and accolades include the Tel Aviv Foundation Prize (1990), the Alterman Prize for Innovation (1993), The Neuman Prize (2003), the French WIZO Prize (2005), the Lea Goldberg Prize (2007), and the Rishon Le Zion Prize for Creativity in the Hebrew Language (2016). *An Egyptian Novel*, her most recent book, was awarded the Sapir Prize—Israel's premier prize for fiction—for 2015. The jury's citation noted that "in this story, [Castel-Bloom] broadens the canvas of Hebrew literature, in a unique manner setting out a decidedly Israeli story, one which has never been told before."

Castel-Bloom has taught at Harvard, UCLA, UC Berkeley, NYU, Oxford, and Cambridge. Presently, she teaches creative writing at Tel Aviv University.

Biotope

Novel

Publisher: Hakibbutz Hameuchad/Siman Kriah

Year: 2022

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translations: Partial French translation by Rosie Pinhas Delpuech

Books in translation: French: Actes Sud, Arles, forthcoming

Joseph Schimmel ought to have been a world-class expert in gastronomy in the work of Honoré de Balzac. But after failing to complete his doctoral dissertation, and being fired from his position in the Department of French Studies at Tel Aviv University, he finds himself almost destitute in his sooty Tel Aviv apartment. He makes a meager living from translations for new immigrants from France—clients of Sophie Ha-Ezrachi, a shrewd albino lawyer who built an empire on the backs of Jewish families seeking to settle in the Holy Land. Sophie, who only works at night to protect her skin from the cruel rays of the sun, sends Joseph in her place to meet her clients.

But the cruel rays of the sun are not the only risk for Joseph. One day, once again waiting at the airport for one of Sophie's families, Joseph meets a charming but shady businessman, who turns his world upside down. Joseph Schimmel follows the man—who lost his entire family in the Park Hotel terrorist attack—into an unavoidable collapse.

Biotope is an eco-urban novel that wends its way through the streets of a central Tel Aviv neighborhood. With sharp observations and the precision of a surgeon's scalpel, Castel-Blum analyses the lives of the homeless, the drug addicts, and the permanent residents populating the neighbourhood. The soot of the buses, the unfinished road works, and the daily bustle take on an original and new dimension in her prose.

Orly Castel-Bloom, one of Israel's leading writers, has already taken her place of honor in the canon of Hebrew literature, and is highly regarded around the world. Once again, she demonstrates her mastery of the Hebrew language with her unique inventive style, in a sweeping and brilliant novel that raises topical issues of loneliness, bereavement and morality.

Critical Praise

I read this book a few days after the recent Israel elections, and *Biotope* is a commentary on the outcome. The novel is about owning a home, exploring what it means to "own a home"—a central issue for the Right-wing parties during the election campaign. At the current time, at least, the book takes on an acutely political, even urgent character.

But this is still Orly Castel-Bloom, defiantly rejecting the didactic role of political or social commentator. One shouldn't expect ordered analysis or feigned seriousness from her. Her writing is unruly, precise in its perspective—and also very funny. She wilfully muddles the subjects being addressed, until it becomes impossible to distinguish one from the other. In essence, one cannot mistake her rhetoric...

As we know, a biotope is a space possessing distinct ecological conditions. Because it is limited, it can also be explored... The eponymous biotope of this novel is a specific area—and domain—in the center of Tel Aviv... a tiny, fascinating ecosphere...

Without quite meaning to do so, Castel-Bloom has written an extremely political novel... but *Biotope* is not a melancholic story; it is steeped in empathy, with kindness and humor. It engages with the Israeli obsession with real estate (and real estate prices). In our political climate, it's better to think about this phenomenon through Castel-Bloom's words than through the politicians' speeches or angry op-eds. Her brilliant new novel offers deeper insights than either of them.

Omri Herzog, *Haaretz*

A new book by Orly Castel-Bloom is cause for celebration. In *Biotope*, she scrutinizes, close-up, the Tel Aviv scene (not disconnected at all from what we describe as "the Israeli Experience"). The subject here is home, property, real estate—but also their complete lack: what it means to have a home, in the broadest sense of the word, as against what it means to not have a home, also in the broadest sense... Castel-Bloom's writing, funny and smart and rich with irony as always, portrays a variety of extremely "Israeli" types...[*Biotope*] provides a lucid account, granular in its detail, of what we do here.

Shiri Lev-Ari, *Calcalist*

Joseph Schimmel—Francophile and loser, fired from his job as an adjunct lecturer in the university's failing Department of French Culture—is gradually shutting himself off from the world in his real estate achievement: an apartment in the heart of Tel Aviv slap-bang in the middle of an eternal traffic jam. Here he lives, protected by his precious belongings from the sights and smells of the polluted city.

Schimmel's sole self-imposed task is "to live" with responsibility for the maintenance of the house, and all the contents of the house, which happen to include him. For Schimmel, home is the essence of existence: "What you have in life is what you have at home, the parking lot included."

Biotope is a brilliant anatomy of the absurdities of "real estate identity," a distinctly Israeli phenomenon vividly depicted here in the nuanced tones of Castel-Bloom's poetics. Schimmel, who only leaves his

apartment for essential tasks and to walk his adopted sort-of-dachshund, never strays further than nearby London Ministore shopping mall. Still, the countless colorful homeless people that he encounters—the richness of their character sketches a highlight of this book—are more than enough to feed his pedantic observations.

These homeless people, carrying with them mere fragments of a home—all that they own, in fact—become the pinnacle of real estate identity, precisely because they are constantly preoccupied with its negation. Ostensibly opposed to Schimmel, closer inspection suggests that they may in fact be a collection of his metaphors.

All these people enslaved by their properties (or lack thereof)—together with the tenants of the two nearby luxury blocks, who too reveal their own “tower” mentality – allow Castel-Bloom to document a series of clichés depicting the Tel Avivian “biotope”. But the meticulous realism of Castel-Bloom’s descriptions are accompanied by a wink of cheerful and surprising surrealism.

The book’s plot picks up when Schimmel begins to venture further afield, to acclimatize new immigrants from France to Israel; then shifts another gear when his Francophile identity merges with his identity as a landlord, Schimmel inheriting a house in Normandy. His life is soon overtaken by an extraordinary drama of deceptions, deriving from a political climate that gradually expropriates his assets, leaving him unable to connect to himself anymore.

But by the end, the incompetent anti-hero of Biotope has become an awe-inspiring character, his vicissitudes touching our hearts. And thanks to him, too, the novel joins the first rank of Castel-Bloom’s unforgettable fiction output.

From the back cover: Prof. Menakhem Perry



Tamar Weiss-Gabbay

A writer, editor, and screenwriter, Tamar Weiss-Gabbay writes for both adults and children. Co-founder and editor of the leading Israeli literary journal HaMussach, Weiss-Gabbay has initiated a number of literary-social projects, including The Israeli Women Writers' Forum, The Street Libraries in Jerusalem, Two: A Bilingual Project for Arabic and Hebrew Contemporary Literature, and others.

Her books *Babylonian Mythology* and the children's book *Vainana Chooses a King*, both published in 2003, are based on Sumerian and Akkadian myths. Weiss-Gabbay has also written two fiction books for adults, *Zeppelin (Keter)* and *Blind Spot (Ha'Kibbutz Ha'Meuchad)*.

Her children's books *Tali Under the Table* (Kinneret Zmora, 2020) and *Just an Empty Field* (Kinneret Zmora, 2022) were both selections of the PJ Program, with 120,000 copies distributed in kindergartens and preschool facilities across Israel. The PJ Program published special limited editions of both books in Spanish and Portuguese.

Her novella *The Weather Woman* received the prestigious Brenner Literary Prize, 2022.

Her picture book *Tali Under Table* was the Winner of the prestigious Dvora Omer award (2021), and her book *The Thank You Tomatoes* was shortlisted for the Jewish Children's Book Award (2022)

The Weather Woman

Novella

Publisher: Locus Books

Year: 2022

91 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: English translation by Jessica Cohen, **Man Booker International Prize Winner.**

Books in translation: Italian, Giuntina, Florence, forthcoming

The first part of the novella The Weather Woman was translated into English by Jessica Cohen, and published by Two Lines Press in the anthology Elemental in March 2021. It has since been developed into a TV script.

An isolated town, perched on a cliff overlooking a canyon in the middle of a desert. Changing weather patterns and worsening floods mean imminent peril for the town and all its residents.

The novella follows the fate of three protagonists: a charismatic teacher, who stands bravely against the forces of nature; his daughter, the local weather woman, whose prognosis for the town's survival is bleak and counsels abandonment; and her niece, slow and unambitious, sent to live in the town to attend a special education program, a final chance to set herself right.

Basking in her aunt's status as the saviour of the town after predicting the deadly floods, the girl tries hard to make the best of the opportunity she's been given. Beneath the surface though, charged emotions are threatening to pull the family apart. Seeking to impose his authority on the forces of nature, the father initiates construction of a giant pipeline to divert the flow of the next flood, into the canyon below.

The weather woman fears the arrogance of her father and his followers. Their belief, that they can bend nature to their will, can only end in hubris and loss, she fears. And so, the battle lines are drawn...

In *The Weather Woman*, Weiss-Gabbay personifies the all-too-real extreme manifestations of nature as characters in her fiction, channeling them into a complex and engaging relationship with her human heroes and villains. *The Weather Woman* is a sweeping, topical story, with unforgettable protagonists who will work their way into the reader's heart and mind.

Critical Praise

Then came *The Weather Woman*—a clever and agile Israeli novella, embroidering an exemplary allegory about the complex relationship between man and nature. This is not a book about the climate crisis; the concept itself is not mentioned in the novel, the characters do not deal with global warming, and it is not even clear that in their fictional world there is awareness of the depth of the crisis and its far-reaching consequences. This is not an environmental manifesto, but simply excellent prose, in part because it deals with the environment without making abrasive statements about it. *The Weather Woman* is a powerful book in part because the climate-environmental issue is not pushed forward; the plot, and the characters are simply steeped in it and organically influenced by it...

Every sentence in the book is symbolic, denoting something else besides. Everything is loaded with meaning beyond the plot and the words themselves; everything says something about the power balance at the core of the book, which makes reading it a kind of layered and enigmatic game. Reading *The Weather Woman* requires vigilance, but is also able to generate pleasure and curiosity. Everything in this novella is tight and precise. There are no unnecessary words, no overflowing descriptions. Weiss Gabbay sculpts with Hebrew as if with damp clay, and also places in the story references to other works—to films, belles lettres, the Bible—some implicit and some direct. ‘The relationship between man and nature’ is a big, pretentious theme, but the novella itself is modest, and avoids preaching as is the way of good works of art. The change will take place through the heart... It evokes a sense of a one-time event. *The Weatherwoman* is a timeless and clever parable, one that deserves to become a significant landmark, in both the environmental and the cultural sense.

Haaretz, September 2022

This journey should begin with a travel warning: while small in size, *The Weather Woman* is powerful in its literary dimensions [...] Its ninety pages present an engrossing, original, and concise plot that lingers on after its last page.

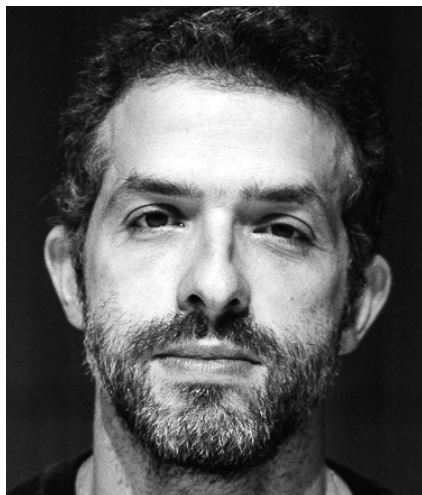
Gilit Chomsky, Makor Rishon

It's a surprise and a pleasure to come across such a book, that wanders away from the magnet of Tel Aviv and all the bourgeoisie troubles; with a plot that unfolds in a rock-carved canyon, rather than in a big shopping mall; with deers, eagles, and wild dogs supporting characters, set against mountains and changing seasons.

Maya Becker, Haaretz

Weiss-Gabbay's writing maintains a sensible edge, even as it strives toward an optimistic and peaceful vision in its allusions to a fascinating intellectual-literary proposition: that changing our relationship with nature may bring with it a literary change—not only in the way we read our classics, but in the composition of all masterpieces of the future.

Keren Dotan, Israel Hayom



Omer Meir Wellber

Omer Meir Wellber (b. 1981) is one of Israel's leading conductors of operatic and orchestral repertoire. Music Director of the Teatro Massimo Palermo and Artistic Director of the Toscanini Festival, he has since 2009 served as Music Director of Israel's Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra. Wellber is also the incoming Music Director of the Volksoper Wien. He has worked with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras, and is a regular guest conductor at the Israeli Opera.

A long-standing association with the Semperoper Dresden culminated in Wellber's appointment as Principal Guest Conductor between 2018 and 2022. Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic between 2019 and 2022,

Wellber gave his inaugural concert at the BBC Proms in July 2019. Other career highlights include serving as Music Director at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia between 2010 and 2014, and assisting Daniel Barenboim at the Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden and Milan's Teatro alla Scala between 2008 and 2010.

Wellber is a Goodwill Ambassador for Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli-based non-profit organization that provides critical cardiac medical support. He works with various institutions on a range of music outreach programs, and is a passionate champion of the emerging generation of Israeli conductors.

The Absences of Haim Birkner (*Die vier Ohnmachten des Chaim Birkner*), Wellber's first novel, was published by Germany's Berlin Verlag in 2019, and by Sellerio Editore in Italy in 2021 (*Storia vera e non vera di Chaim Birker*). The French translation has been published in September 2022 by Éditions du Sous-Sol/Le Seuil. *Die Angst, das Risiko und die Liebe - Momente mit Mozart*, which explores the emotional context of the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas, was published in Germany in the spring of 2017.

The Absences of Chaim Birkner

Novel

Publisher: Keren Books

Year: 2023

174 pp.

Translation rights: World English

Translations: Complete German, French and Italian translations. Partial English

Rights sold to Germany (Berlin Verlag), France (Sous Sol/Le Seuil), Italy (Sellerio)

It is the near future, and Chaim Birkner is about to turn 108 years. He is the oldest man in Israel, and quite possibly the last Holocaust survivor. When a celebration to commemorate the event is announced, Chaim sparks a scandal by deciding to return to Hungary, and to the apartment of his parents which he has resolved never to sell. A century of memories converge, images juxtaposed across one another in the story of one man's life: sometimes sincere, sometimes ironic, sometimes tragic, sometimes fantasy.

A Jew from Budapest, Chaim recalls his childhood and his father: their dreams and their indiscreet deeds, the Torah Rolls that they saved from their synagogue, his first love. He revisits his escape, under dubious circumstances, from the Budapest Ghetto to Palestine: a Jew saved, but deprived forever of the status of a survivor.

From there to his new life in a new land: the Kibbutz, marriage, separation; the small jobs, the betrayals, the other women; conflicts between survivors from the Old World and the pioneers in the Land of Israel.

The Absences of Chaim Birkner is the tale of a tired and devastated man facing up, for the last time, to his complex past—invented, but also sometimes very true.

Critical Praise

The novel, which often follows without transition the narrator's memories across a centenary, also explores the consequences of lies and of the unspoken on family life... Despite a sometimes intermittent narrative, this imaginative novel seduces the reader with strong characters who are determined to do what they want. Even if this might be wrong.

Le Monde

Wellber's prognostication on Israel's future is readable. In his first novel... Chaim is a hundred and eight-year-old who leaves his country and is on his way to disappearing. The year is 2038. Israel still exists. That's good. But it is in the hands of fundamentalists. Jews are fleeing back to Europe. Chaim plans to go to Hungary. There, it has not yet become an anti-Semitic hell. That's good, too. Wellber collected material for his book on his cell phone while out and about—bottled messages to Chaim Birkner, as it were—which he then incorporated into the novel during the summer vacation. This two-hundred-page book is not an Israel dystopia. It is not a Holocaust book. Here, the Holocaust manifests in the form of as an echo chamber; as an undercurrent on which Chaim's fluid identity draws twists and turns and funny figures, at times heart-breaking ones...

The life trajectory of Chaim Birkner serves as the cantus firmus for Wellber's novel. Around it, he has scattered leitmotifs—the story of the Torah scrolls, for example, salvaged from the Nazis by Chaim's father in Budapest, a story that is repeatedly told anew (Torah scrolls as a Wagnerian leitmotif is one of the not-so-few cruel ironies in the novel). The structure is fluid, musical. Linear thinking, Wellber figured, is not possible for someone like Chaim...

So the story jumps through time and perspectives, creating a panorama of scenes that have never appeared in literary panoramas of Israel. As an example—the depth of the rift on kibbutzim, between Holocaust survivors and those Israelis already born in the country.

December 1, 2019 Welt am Sonntag No. 48



Hila Amit

The award-winning author and educator Hila Amit was born in Israel in 1985 to a Jewish family with Iranian-Syrian roots. After studying creative writing at Tel Aviv University, Amit took a PhD in the field of Gender Studies at SOAS, University of London. Hila Amit's fiction has been published in a range of literary journals, including *Lilith*, *Jalta*, *Emrys Journal*, *Lalitamba*, *The Sycamore Review*, and *The Washington Square Review*. Amit's story "The Kinneret" was recently selected for the Sue Lile Inman Fiction Prize. She has been awarded fellowships from The Vermont Studio Center and the McDowell Colony. Her short story collection, *Moving On From Bliss* (Tel-Aviv: Am Oved, 2016), a recipient of the Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize for Debut Authors, was recently selected as one of the 10

best literary works in Hebrew for the years 2010-2020. Her non-fiction book, *A Queer Way Out: The Politics of Queer Emigration from Israel* (Albany: SUNY, 2018) was awarded the AMEWS (Association of Middle East Women's Studies) Book Award.

In 2014, Amit established the International Hebrew School, a vehicle for advancing Hebrew learning by way of a queer, feministic, and pluralistic approach. Her Hebrew learning book, *Hebrew For All* (7) was published in English and German. She is the co-founder of "Anu نحن אנא: Jews and Arabs Writing in Berlin", and curates literary events bringing together Jews and non-Jews with a shared Middle Eastern heritage.

The Lower City

Novel

Publisher: Am Oved

Year: 2022

220 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translations: Partial English and German translations and long synopsis

In this debut full length novel (TK) by Hila Amit, the lives of Eliad, Ibrahim, and Miriam are inexorably drawn together by two forceful but opposing powers— passion and societal limitations. Eliad, a Jew from suburbia, drifts from one job to another, full of angst and unresolved anger with parents—as a youth, they first denied, then rejected, his sexual orientation. Years have passed, but the pain and its consequences still cast a pall over his life.

Ibrahim, born into a wealthy and supportive Arab family, must leave Haifa to fulfil his musical talent—and give his homosexuality free rein. Despite their love for him, his parents will not—cannot—allow for this. The Arab community of Haifa's Lower City are not yet ready for this.

And then there is Miriam, a social worker also from the Lower City, who must hide her sexual desire and preferences, from her mother, her sister, and everyone close to her. In this world of deception, she gives birth to a daughter and lives the life of—as it seems from the outside—a normal family.

Across the years, a strong bond emerges between the three protagonists of this daring novel, a friendship and mutual appreciation that surpasses the limiting influence of gender, religion, and society. It's a ground-break-

ing bond; but it is also one that can only exist in secret—as though nourished in a different city, an invisible one. There’s no way of knowing if their friendship can ever see the light of day, whether it will endure or disintegrate.

Literary critic Nissim Calderon cited *Moving on from Bliss* Amit’s previous collection of short stories, as one of the ten best books published in Israel in the last decade; with her new book, she creates a unique and unorthodox novel.

Critical Praise

An original and daring novel, its exceptionality evoking emotion and thought...

The novel underlines a simple truth: cleaving to a romantic choice is not always the glorious victory of the “I”. Sometimes, when this is given in a traditional social structure, the price of romantic autonomy can be high...

Amit sets this complexity at the intersection of sexual orientation and ethnicity...

The bustling drama, contrasting the romantic expectations of a Jew and an Arab, unfolds in a novel steeped in tension. There is never a dull moment in it.

Omri Herzog, Haaretz

The Lower City, Hila Amit’s second novel...is faithful to the truth. She depicts with honesty the difficulties experienced by gays and lesbians in Israel’s Arab sector—and not just there. Amit crafts a full portrait of her three principal characters (Ibrahim, Mariam, and Elad). The reader feels her love for each of them, and the compassion that she believes they deserve .

Maya Levin, L’Isha



Yirmi Pinkus

An illustrator, novelist, and one-time opera critic, Yirmi Pinkus won the Sapir Prize for a Debut Novel in 2009 for *Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret*. The French edition of the novel was later shortlisted for the Prix Ulysse. *Petty Business*, published in 2012, was an Israeli bestseller, winning the Golden Book award of the Israeli Association of Book Publishers, and was adapted to theater. These two novels have been published in Italian, French and English.

A founding member of the Actus Independent Comics collective, Pinkus is a professor of illustration at the Shenkar College of Art and Design, Israel, where he has taught visual story telling for two decades. He is

also an editor of picture books for young readers at Noah Books Publishers; in 2014, he received the Israel Museum Illustration Award for his picture book *Mr. Fibber*.

Pinkus, who lives in Tel Aviv, is widely considered one of the wittiest and most astute storytellers of his home town.

Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret

Literary non-fiction

Publisher: Am Oved

Year: 2008

303 pp.

Translation rights: World

Book published in translation: French—Paris, Grasset, 2013;

Audio visual rights: World

Translations: complete French and Italian translations; long synopsis in English

A unique and fascinating hybrid of fictional and documentary writing, *Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret* depicts the rise and fall of Jewish cultural life in Eastern Europe between 1880 and the beginning of World War II. Jewish life is resurrected in all its diverse shades—from the lower classes to the bourgeoisie, from popular variety theater to avant-garde modernity—in ripe and vibrant prose taken directly from research, memoirs set in the period, and personal interviews with Holocaust survivors conducted by the author.

Alongside its fictional characters, the novel features real-life individuals drawn from the annals of Yiddish culture and theater: playwright Avraham Goldfaden, poet Itzik Manger, and the Ukrainian folk singer known as Papir Na Muhi, among others. Iconic historic sites, such as the Nowosci Theater in Warsaw and the Jewish Quarter in Krakow, are eased effortlessly into the plot. Professor Fabrikant, protagonist of this novel, is himself based on the controversial Romanian actor and impresario "Professor" Mosyhe Hurwitz.

Divided into chapters which trace the trajectory of the cabaret's wanderings across Europe, the novel paints a vivid portrait of the Jewish world, from the big metropolises to its small and almost forgotten towns. The materialistic and sensual writing is characterized by colorful descriptions, and by its references to the tradition of the picaresque novel of the 19th century.

The text is accompanied by 30 ink drawings, all executed by the author. These illustrations play an important narrative role, expanding the reading experience and providing readers with visual and emotional cues to the characters and locations within.

Critical Praise:

A picaresque ode, dedicated to the love of Yiddish folk theater...chanting the Hebrew text, words from their language, bits of sentences that become music in French translation, melancholy yet with legendary humor. They will recognize the very soul of their culture. Professor Fabrikant's Grand Cabaret retraces the odyssey of the troupe of eccentric Romanian bourgeois, made up of seven young orphans whom he saved from a sad fate.
Eglal Errera, Le Monde

But the '30s were actually bustling years of revival for Yiddish and Yiddish culture. Pinkus alludes to Kafka, Chagall, and Manger, who represent this avant-garde period. Having Yiddish represented by aged actresses may seem anachronistic, like the present's view of the past. But Pinkus manages to breathe new life into even this cliché: nothing, his novel convinces us, is younger and more alive than an old Yiddish actress.
Benny Mer, Haaretz

A troupe composed of bric-a-brac, with its orphans, and its abandoned women with hatreds, complicities, and pettiness. A joyful epic that serves as a picaresque tale, a Polish-style road movie; a truculent tale where Yiddish theater is in the spotlight, before meeting the looming horror of the camps.
Lauren Schteiner, Lecturama



Saleit Shahaf Poleg

Saleit Shahaf Poleg is a writer, editor, and university lecturer. Born in 1977, she spent her childhood in Beer-Sheva, and her adolescence on a Kibbutz and in a Moshav (collective agricultural settlement) in the Jezreel Valley in Northern Israel. Shahaf Poleg has an MA in English Literature and Creative Writing from Bar-Ilan University, and has published short stories in leading Israel and international literary periodicals, in both Hebrew and English. In the summer of 2017, the Harrison NY Jewish Community Center's Short Story Club invited her to host a master class discussing her short stories.

Till it Rains Again, Poleg's debut novel, is an Israeli bestseller, topping the charts for weeks and is highly praised by critics and public.

Till it Rains Again

Novel

Publisher: Two Sfarim Publishing house

Year: 2021

235 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

German rights sold (Aufbau)

Translation: Partial English

Winner of the Ministry of Culture award for debut book 2021

Yaeli Shteinman returns to the village that she had promised never to set foot in again. She is carrying her unborn child, its future already overshadowed by uncertainty and fear. Gali, her sister, has returned from Canada. She is to be wed, she thinks, under the grapefruit tree in the backyard of the family home; but the groom is not showing up.

It has been twelve years since it last rained, twelve years since the family secret was exposed. Now, the past is threatening to haunt them once again.

In a valley defined by strife, in one of the first of Israel's revered collective agricultural settlements, three generations of Yael's family must face the consequences of the secret locked up in their attic for decades—and other secrets, even more terrifying, passed like a heirloom from generation to generation. As the family drama unfolds, the villagers struggle with the rain that refuses to fall. Farmers clash over the little water left, even as their crops are superseded, slowly but surely, by soulless real estate.

In *Till it Rains Again*, Saleit Shahaf Poleg details with humor and irony, but also with compassion, a portrait of what remains of the great Zionist settlement dream; a story played out by some of the most colorful and forgotten characters of contemporary Israeli literature.

Critical Praise

A mature and sophisticated novel... superbly crafted in terms of plot and structure, its gaze and its voices, its universe and its characters... an impressive debut by a writer who enters the arena of Hebrew fiction with a confidence, offering the readers a multidimensional artistic and emotional experience.

Haaretz

Excellent constructed from beginning to end... Shahaf Poleg succeeds in creating a multi-generational mythology of authentic Israelis, rooted and replete with Zionist ideals, slowly being abandoned through a despairing process that one cannot tear one's gaze away from... Shahaf Poleg's [book] has a rich and sophisticated plot full of revelations... a book with rhythm, fun to read.

Yediot Aharonot



Netalie Gvirtz

A screenwriter, journalist, and editor, Netalie Gvirtz is the author of two novels, and seven books for children and young adults. In 2017, she was awarded The Devorah Omer Prize for Literature by the Israel Ministry of Science and Culture.

Editor-in-Chief of the leading children's magazine *Adam Tsair*, Gvirtz also writes content for science museums and international exhibitions.

Netalie Gvirtz was born in 1980 in Tel Aviv, and still resides there with her family.

The Volunteer

Literary Thriller

Publisher: Keter

Year: 2021

304 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World. Pending option on TV series

Translation: Partial English translation by Yardenne Greenspan

Mira Åberg has an important mission. Tasked by her recently deceased mother, the mission takes her from her native Sweden to Israel, to volunteer at Kibbutz Sadot—as her mother did, four decades earlier. The kibbutz offers a warm welcome, going so far as to re-open, just for Mira, its long-defunct volunteering program.

Knowing little about Israel, Mira is unprepared for Kibbutz Sadot. Following in her mother's footsteps, she moves into the old and crumbling accommodation for volunteers, sharing the space with laborers from Thailand. Around her, whispered secrets in Hebrew escape her comprehension.

She has just one chance to find out the truth about the dark deed done to her mother long ago, between the orange trees and the barn. To guide her mission, Mira has a map, that her mother drew for her from her sick bed in a trembling hand, and a list of five men. One of these is her biological father. But there is a problem: no one ever taught Mira how to fight back, or what revenge should look like...

An immersive and breathtaking novel, *The Volunteer* pivots around a unique hero for our time, striving to reveal secrets from the past and to gain control of her future. On publication, *The Volunteer* received rave reviews and warm public praise.

Critical praise

A witty and exciting Israeli thriller, Netalie Gvirtz's novel resurrects past fantasies, of female kibbutz volunteers—and of teasing the reader. This is an impressive book, revealing above all a passion for writing and a literary curiosity that one does not see every day.

Ynet

The Volunteer, by the successful young writer Netalie Gvirtz, is a book that will stay with you. The plot of *The Volunteer* unfolds in the form of a secret atop a secret—a secret that Gvirtz hides from the reader... Out of

this novel's refinement and restraint comes one of the most important statements about #MeToo to date in Hebrew ...an important book that will stay with the reader long after turning the last page.

Yediot Ahronoth

Gvirtz clears challenging literary hurdles with ease. Evading stereotypes of kibbutz life, she spins a witty and realistic tale, the pastoral setting of the novel concealing horrible past deeds.

Israel Hayom

[The Volunteer] is fascinating like Swedish television detective series, fun like ABBA's songs—and much better quality than IKEA

MAKO



Savyon Liebrecht

One of the most powerful voices in contemporary Hebrew literature, the German-born Liebrecht is the author of several novels, novellas and collections of short stories. She is also a prolific writer for the stage and for television. Her play *The Banality of Love* was performed in Israel and abroad, and was adapted in Germany into an acclaimed opera. Three of her books have been adapted for television; two others have been made into feature films.

Liebrecht has received several awards for her work, including the Alterman Prize (1987) and the Amelia Rosselli Prize (Italy, 2002) for *Mail Order Women*; The Maior-Amalfi Award (Italy, 2005) and the WIZO Prize (France, 2009) for *A Good Place for the Night*; and the Adei WIZO Prize (Italy, 2017) for *Pearls in Daylight*. She has been named Israel Playwright of the Year twice, for the plays *It's All Greek to Me* (2005) and *Apples from the Desert* (2006).

Liebrecht's books have been translated and published in nine languages, and she has a dedicated following in Germany, Italy, Poland and the United States.

The Bridesman

Novella

Publisher: Keter,

Year: 2020

188 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World (excluding Israel)

Translation: Complete English translation by Gilah Kahn

Rights sold to USA (Europa), UK (Europa), Italy (Edizioni e/o), France (Mercure de France)

Micha, an Israeli expat in Los Angeles working as a ghostwriter, receives an unexpected invitation. Adella, married to his beloved uncle, has sent a flight ticket to Israel and a reservation for a boutique hotel, for him to come home and to meet with her.

Micha was the bridesman at Adella's wedding, years before. His memory of her is as a poor and rebellious young woman, out of sorts and mocked by his family. Micha is stunned by the Adella of today—poised, confident, with nothing of the uneasy woman that he remembers from the past. Adella's life story brings up evocative memories, but nothing can prepare him for the surprise she has in store for him...

The Bridesman presents a beguiling cast of characters, interwoven into an alluring story of a forgotten past and a surprising present. Liebrecht's book has been adapted for the stage, and will soon be performed by Tel Aviv's prestigious Beit Lessin Theatre.

Critical Praise

[The book] is a creation of haute couture.

Yediot Aharonot

Fascinating book....a surprising ending.

Makor Rishon

The Bridesman is a novella full of ... revelations and upheavals. Despite the soft and occasionally light tone, there is never a dull moment. And as such, as in Liebrecht's short stories, every word has meaning; each scene touches, in its own way, the profound themes that characterize her writing.

Haaretz

The Bridesman is a well-carved miniature, a piece of delicate embroidery that floods the heart, chamber by chamber. Savyon Liebrecht... builds a complicated story with patience and modesty, with a good ear for language and precise comic timing—perfected over the years as a successful playwright, with an almost Chekhovian compassion.

Maariv

The excellent characters of Micha and Adela ... remind us that Savyon Liebrecht is one of the best writers we have.

LaIsha

The way Liebrecht presents her craft of storytelling evokes respect.

Yediot Aharonot

With a rich language, Liebrecht succeeds in telling two different narratives, with different rhythms and different perspectives, but still appearing as a single coming-of-age story.

Makor Rishon

A mesmerizing encounter between characters, between past and present, between literature and life.

The Good Life Magazine



Shifra Horn

Born and raised in Jerusalem, Shifra Horn is the scion of a family that has lived in the city for five centuries, descendants of the scholar Maimonides. Horn has published six bestselling novels, a collection of short stories, three non-fiction books, and four books for children. In a prolific career, Horn has received numerous accolades for her work, including the Israel WIZO Prize (1997), the Bat Yam Prize for Literature (1997), the Prime Minister's Prize (2005), the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2006), the Brenner Prize (2006), and the French WIZO Prize for Ode to Joy (2008). Her novel *Scorpion Dance [Promenade à Deux]* was awarded the Minister of Culture's Prize (2014) and the ADEI-WIZO Prize (Italy, 2017). Five of her novels have been awarded Gold and Platinum Awards by the Book Publishers

Association; in 2002, Horn was nominated Literary Woman of the Year by the financial daily Globes.

Horn's work engages intimately with questions of identity and belonging—themes she explored as a guest of the Israeli television program *Who Do You Think You Are?*, based on the BBC series of the same name. Tracing her roots back ten generations, from Jerusalem to Bukhara-Uzbekistan via Odessa, Horn makes an astonishing discovery about her father's family—whom, until then, had all been presumed to have perished in the Holocaust.

Horn's books have been published in nine languages, including English (St Martin's Press, Piatkus), French (Fayard), Italian (Fazi), German (Bertelsman, btb), and Dutch (Archipel/ Arbeiderspers).

O Daughters of Jerusalem

Historical Novel

Publisher: Kineret

Year: 2021

445 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio visual rights: World

Translation: Partial English translation by Gilah Kahn; Long synopsis in English available

Italian rights sold (Fazi)

Alexandra, last of a proud lineage of women, scrolls through her family history, weaving her own life into the historical narratives. It begins with the photograph of a little girl, which takes her on a journey from Ottoman-era Jerusalem to the signing of the Oslo Accords and the murder of Yitzhak Rabin.

Alexandra is at work on her book at the writers' retreat at Mishkenot Sha'ananim in Jerusalem, the city in which her family have always lived. In the writing room, looking out on a landscape that her ancestors knew well, she traces the forces of fate that determined her family's history, embroidering it with the love stories of the women inhabiting the pages of her book: the orphan Shoshanna, married to a poet-adventurer; Victoria, wild and beautiful, and her relationship with a British prince and heir to the throne; Eduarda, an illegitimate child married to an amputee hunter; Abigail, who turns her back on all men; and finally Alexandra herself, with a father whose fate remains unknown.

Alexandra's journey is populated by characters real and imaginary, alive and dead: English counsels, a Turkish pasha, a white donkey, a cat called George who turns up again and again across the ages, and a grumpy goat

named Vashti. From the city of Jerusalem, the plot wends its way to the streets of Victorian London and its rolling waves of fog.

A compelling family saga ranging across several generations, *O Daughters of Jerusalem* blends history and imagination in a lively narrative that draws the reader into engaging anew with the past.

Critical Praise

Descriptions in this book are really a masterwork ...I have read Shifra Horn's previous novels, and marvelled at her talent; here, in this novel, she exceeds even herself—*O Daughters of Jerusalem* is a clever and heartfelt novel, and will fascinate the reader from start to end.

Moshe Granot, Literary Scholar and Critic

This saga, about a female dynasty, is narrated in crisp and clean writing. Horn, this time, begins with the Ottoman period, sweeping breathlessly to the mid-1990s...with lyrical prose, as in her previous books... she succeeds, once again, in constructing a puzzle, taking it apart, then putting it together anew. And this without losing either its magic, or the reader, along its complicated path.

Shlomit Cohen Asif, Author and Literary Critic

Once again, Horn demonstrates her talent for the baroque, displaying her ability to describe the subtleties of life in Jerusalem, principally of the past but also of today.

Makor Rishon

O Daughters of Jerusalem is a marvellous display of talent. It is a book that captures the reader from the first line.

Mira Magen, Author

In a flowing and heartfelt prose, the narrator recounts a family saga with four strong and intriguing women at the center: Shoshana; her daughter Victoria, who has an affair with a British prince; and Edwarda, her illegitimate daughter who later gives birth to Abigail, who is really not interested in men and yet gives birth to Alexandra, the narrator... The book presents four generations of fierce women, rebelling against conventions.

The Good Life Magazine, September 2022

Thrillers

Nilly Assia



Nilly Assia is an author, a lecturer and a marketing executive with twenty years' experience in the high-tech industry. A mother of four, she loves art and live rock concerts, and is addicted to detective books. *The Aya File* and *The Odeski File* are the first books in her suspense series featuring police officer Liora Dgani. Both are Israeli bestsellers; *The Odeski File* is the most popular title on Storytel, a leading audiobook platform in Israel.

Bestselling Suspense series

The Aya File

Novel (thriller)

Publisher: Kinneret, Zmora, Dvir

Year: 2019

269 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio Visual rights: Under option by Eight Productions

Translation: Complete English translation by Yaron Regev

Sixteen-year-old Aya vanishes from her home in north Tel Aviv one morning. Runaway? Kidnap? Where are you, Aya? The investigation case lands on the desk of Police Detective Liora Dgani. Liora, addicted to work and cigarettes, loves black boots and misses her grandmother dearly. She has cracked some complicated cases in her career; Liora's interrogation methods, a combination of excellent intuition and an obsessive fondness for detail, have often triumphed despite the odds. Now, she has a series of suspects to investigate; the secrets of adolescents to decipher; a dinner at her parents' house that she cannot wriggle out of; and an investigations officer whose rippling dorsal muscles do strange things to her. Amidst all this, Aya's fateful day takes over Liora, sucking her into a whirlpool of the personal and the professional that she cannot control. *The Aya File* is a rhythmic and sweeping detective novel, its protagonists trying their best to rise above their circumstances but repeatedly exposed in all their human vulnerability

Critical Praise

The *Aya File*, the enjoyable debut novel by Nilly Assia, is easy to read; it mostly travels on uncommon territory thanks to its heroine, a brilliant police investigator, a lone wolf focusing on professional advancement and casting ambitious eyes on promotion to Chief Superintendent.

Gili Izikovitch, *Haaretz Galleria Cultural Supplement*

The work *The Aya File*, Nilly Assia's sympathetic debut book, is a detective novel placing at its center the image of Police Detective Liora Dgani. Assia knows how to create a light and diverting thriller; it seems that its key inspiration is the TV series 'Law and Order' and its likes.

Omri Herzog, *Haaretz*

The depth of the research into the police carried out by the author Nilly Assia for 'The Aya File' is certainly evident; one can easily imagine such a police detective in our Israeli reality.

Assaf Golan, Israel Hayom



The Odeski File

Novel (thriller)

Publisher: Shtaim

Year: 2022

285 pp.

Translation rights: World

Audio Visual rights: World (option on the first novel in the series, see above)

Translation: English translation by Gilah Kahn (partial)

Police Detective Liora Dgani thought she was going to get a promotion, but instead, she got an unwelcome new boss. No one remembers the files she slaved over to decipher; while her erstwhile commander vacations in Sri Lanka, the promises he gave her are all drifting away in the wind. Liora wants to get up and walk out, but how can she? After all, someone has left a body in a bordeaux-colored suitcase in the parking lot of a shopping center, right next to the grocery store. Armed with black boots, a battered car, terrible eating habits, and excellent intuitions, Liora Dgani tries to find out who is responsible for the murder of Lena Odeski, an immigrant care worker for the elderly. However, it quickly becomes clear that nothing is as it seems. This immigrant worker had not been taking care of the elderly for some time; the neighborhood may be quiet, but it is certainly not sleepy. All this aside: might it be that Liora's commander, who always wanted the best for her, has betrayed her this time, and perhaps not only her? Or that her best friend has been disloyal to her, and not only her? And that perhaps the story with Gur, the muscular officer in Investigations who did nothing but good for her, isn't actually good for her at all? Her ex-boyfriend returning to the country after three years abroad, Liora Dgani intuitively, probably isn't very good either.

The country is hardly functioning, and the sanitation department is on strike. Amidst all this garbage, Liora Dgani, the toughest but also the most humane detective in Israel, is searching for a lead.

The Odeski File is the second book in the Liora Dgani investigation series by Nilly Assia.

Critical Praise

It's a great exposition, following the tropes of the classic male detective: broken hearted (twice), a staple in detective literature; heavy drinking is a necessary element for shaping her character; so too the loneliness that defies any cure, interactions with the secondary characters only reinforcing it. The solution to the mystery, therefore, cannot not deliver the heroine from her anguish but rather intensifies them; what at first seems like the possibility of redemption turns out to be merely a step in the wrong direction. This is, then, our heroine—lonely, a drinker, broken-hearted: equipped with these qualities, she sets out on her way... *The Odeski File* is an elegant and interesting thriller which, thanks to the author's familiarity with Israeli society and her ability to reflect what is happening in it, is about much more than merely solving a mystery. The way Assia shines a flashlight into this dark corner puts the things that happen in it on the agenda, even if only for a moment.

Haaretz

The Odeski File, by Nilly Assia, is not just a detective story. It is a real reflection of life today in Israel. This makes the book much more realistic; the reader can easily identify with the plot details, along with its twists and turns. From this point of view, it is great to be able to say that this is a very Israeli detective book, and a very pleasant read.

Assaf Golan, Israel Hayom

The Odeski File is not the name of the new Versace bag; it is the title of another suspense book featuring Liora, the police detective who proves us that not only men get addicted to work or struggle with commitment issue. This time, Liora is annoyed because she didn't get the long waited promotion she thought was in her pocket. Still, she can't say no when told that the body of an immigrant worker has been found in a suitcase set next to the grocery store in Tel Aviv. An interesting, enjoyable, and readable book, providing along the way an answer to that age-old question, "What is an Israeli in your eyes?"

Mako N12

Nilly Assia has done it again. *The Odeski File* does not convey a message; it is an excellent book, full stop. Assia has created a wonderful, rounded, intriguing, and human characters, embedded in an intriguing and suspenseful plot. Above this, she does not make assumptions, not for the characters and not for me, as a reader wanting something specific for Liora. The insights had to wait until I finished the book.

Sarit Plain, Vocabular