



# 2023 FALL CATALOGUE



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Oren Waldman

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*Panther in Jerusalem*

WINNER OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE'S PRIZE FOR DEBUT NOVEL



A novel  
Shtaim, 2021. 302 pp.

English translation sample available

**A story that spans continents and eras, about a fateful friendship between a translator and a boy**

Israel, 1972. Eran Volotsky is a 16-year-old boy whose mother left the house under unclear circumstances a decade ago, so he lives with only his father. As part of his school's community service program, he visits a seriously ill patient at a local hospital several times a week. The patient is Dov Gaponov, a translator with exceptional abilities, who translated the classic 12th-century Georgian epic *The Knight in the Panther's Skin* from Georgian into Hebrew. Gaponov won the Tchernichovsky Prize for translation in 1969.

Eran falls in love with Hava, a patient in the same hospital. But above all, Eran passionately depicts the inner landscapes of his life. The rare connection that develops between him and the translator reveals Gaponov's profound artistry and accompanies the boy's initiation into the art. The novel is intertwined throughout with the translator's authentic Hebrew letters and excerpts from the epic translation, creating a rich and polyphonic text that illustrates the translator's existential journey. Like the translation work itself, Waldman's poignant coming-of-age story travels between eras and places, bridging distances and dissolving solitude. *Panther in Jerusalem* has generated much excitement upon publication—so much so that Gaponov's exemplary translation is set to be reissued in Hebrew.

Original and mature, bubbling with warm emotion..." *Ma'ariv*

"The connection between the fictional character of the boy and the real-life figure of the translator is wonderful, brilliant." *Rachel Paran*



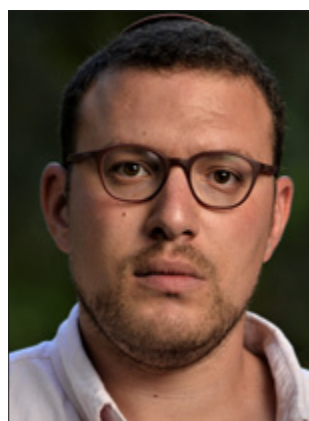
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## Ariel Horowitz



A novel  
Keter, 2021. 238 pp.



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## *The Best of our Sons*

### **A stormy political drama set in contemporary Israel**

Menachem Laufer, a representative of Israel's largest religious-nationalist party, spent his days on the margins of leadership, in painful obscurity. He seemed reconciled to the dull status of a minor politician. But when his son Yoav, an influential right-wing newspaper editor, suddenly launches a political career, accelerated events reignite his smoldering ambition. Soon the entire family is thrown into turmoil. While grappling with the rising ambitions of his son Aviv, Yoav loses touch with the world of his son Eitan, whose shady business dealings threaten the family's good name. The fraying tapestry of relationships exposes a world where faith becomes an empty ritual, and intellectual and moral vacuum is translated into destructive political power.

With a rare narrative talent, moving between intimate moments and comic-satirical peaks, Horowitz unfolds a multi-generational saga, enabling a close look at the most influential stratum in Israeli society today.

**"An amusing and intelligent reading experience."**  
*Omri Herzog, Haaretz*

**"An interesting and enjoyable debut novel."**  
*Arik Glasner*

**"*The Best of Our Sons* offers a curious and relevant glimpse into the politics of the religious-national community, as well as the turbulent social processes taking place in within it."**  
*Ariel Shenbal, Makor Rishon*

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Ola Kravchenko



Stories

Parterre Projects, 2023. 74 pp.

English translation sample available



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## *Stories from a Farther-Off Land*

### Childhood in all its beauty and pain

Ola Kravchenko's cycle of legends recalls the taste of children's literature from before the days of the oppressive censorship of the politically correct. Ola's legends are wounded, gloomy. At times they read like an underground radio broadcast smuggled out of the desert island of childhood. When Bertrand Russell was asked to summarize Freud's doctrine in one sentence, he sighed and said, "It's so hard to be a child!"

Ola's haunting stories relate this struggle: the story of the violent kidnapping that adults call "growing up," the pain of encountering the world with its unfolding fan of terrors, and the heroic human attempt to capture these fears in a word or an image. This is not a conventional children's book. It tells of abandoned palaces, destroyed kingdoms, and girls whose childhood was devastated. It dives into the abyss, and from its depths, it reflects the stars. It touches childhood with an honesty and boldness that we—children and adults alike—need as much as the air we breathe. The stories are accompanied by breathtaking illustrations painted by the author.



"Kravchenko's landscape of imagination comes to life with a spectacular burst of shape and color" *Haaretz*

"It's been a while since I encountered such kindness, which is truly heartfelt and not saccharine sweet." *Writer Marit Ben-Israel*

"Kravchenko has created a riveting and fascinating work. It offers readers the opportunity to engage with difficult and complex subjects without panicking or fleeing, and restores splendor to the legends genre." *Yedioth Ahronoth*

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Romit Samson

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*The Back Kitchen*

**WINNER OF THE 2021 SAPIR PRIZE FOR BEST DEBUT NOVEL**



A novel

Am Oved, 2021. 434 pp.

English translation sample available

### **A magnificent symphony of bureaucracy and human nature**

A tender for building apartments for young couples sparks a wave of hope among the residents of a small coastal town. But when the contractor disappears in the middle of the job, and the desperate residents are left with apartments that exist only on paper, the municipal dance of demons begins. Romit Samson guides us with a gentle, practiced hand through the endless labyrinth of bureaucratic corridors full of intrigue. As protagonists of this rich, complex plot, we meet an ambitious lawyer representing the residents' interests and the city's legal advisor, who juggles between a desk overflowing with cases and her dramatic private life. Romit Samson weaves together a legal drama and a high-emotion plot, constructing the details of human comedy inside dusty, neon-lit offices.

**“A real literary discovery! There’s never a dull moment throughout the entire 434 pages of *The Back Kitchen*. Samson creates a convincing world of legal drama, with emotional depth and warm humorous moments. *Haaretz***



PHOTO © EFRAT ESHEI



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Oren Gazit



A novel  
Shtaim, 2022. 206 pp.

English translation sample available



PHOTO © TZACHI ZEILNIKER

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*The Boy in the Window*

**A thriller replete with twists that traces the dark origins of our deepest intimate connections**

Eighteen years have passed since Ketzale entered a store on Bialik Street in Ramat Gan to ask if they had baby onesies. When she returned to peek inside the stroller, she discovered her baby had vanished. Eighteen years of living in the shadow of a terrible loss, under the accusing gaze of a judgmental community. Eighteen years in a world that was transformed abruptly into an alien territory that she surveyed with constant suspicion.

And then she hears a rumor—a young man is modeling swimsuits in the display window of a store on Bialik Street. Ketzale embarks on a detective journey, during which she loses her last remaining convictions and discovers the fleeting and circumstantial nature of the love of those closest to her.

Oren Gazit has written a gripping thriller that is impossible to put down. The intricate plot traces the dark origins of the most intimate relationships. At times, we may read it as a narrative embodiment of Jean Genet's assertion that the family is the most fundamental nucleus of crime.

**"A stirring plot... The use of language is simply captivating!" Prof. Nurith Gertz**

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## Yotam Tolub



A novel  
Keter, 2022. 312 pp.

English translation sample available

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## *The Day Money Runs Dry*

### **A coming-of-age story of growth and healing in the shadow of orphanhood and loss**

Five years after his father's death, Tom receives an SMS message from him saying, "I'm in trouble, help me." He believes his father is trying to return from the dead, and that his return depends solely on him. The possibility of his dead father's return inspires Tom to fix the past and restore a life that has gone awry beyond recognition—and the painful disillusionment that came with it. Tom's coming-of-age story goes through the various upheavals of a wounded and disrupted family. The plot reaches its climax in a Dickensian journey through nightmarish institutions for mentally troubled boys.

Yotam Tolub's novel exposes the open wounds of childhood and the brutal encounters with institutional forces that pretend to control it. He is fueled by a passion to fix the world—and if that fails, at least to write about it. The novel is partly based on Tolub's own experience as an activist and as an attorney for the NGO *Bizchut*.

**"A convincing blend of two searing stories... The effect on the reader is powerful and compelling"**  
*Haaretz*

**"A fascinating, wonderful, disturbing book, written by a master hand and read with bated breath. A must read."**

*Sigal Peretz Yahalomi, CEO of AKIM*

**"Two different stories are beautifully woven into a powerful narrative that you're unlikely to forget."** *Makor Rishon*



PHOTO © ALEX LIBAK

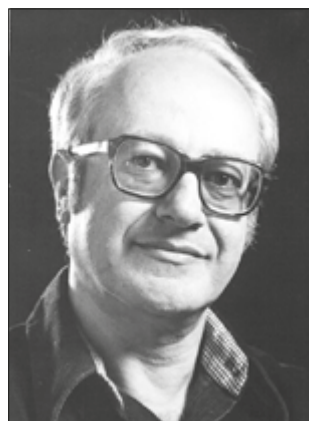


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## Amnon Shamosh



A memoir  
Massada, 2015. 198 pp.



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## *Good Morning, Alzheimer's*

### Love in the shadow of illness

Even among the enlightened who are involved in supporting a person through the twilight of consciousness and life, *Good Morning, Alzheimer's* occupies an exceptional position. Amnon Shamosh supports his wife during her unfortunate journey into forgetfulness, starting on the day she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. However, Shamosh's book is no lament. In it, forgetfulness is not a negative, lacking presence. Instead, Shamosh grants forgetfulness a place, treating it as a continent to be mapped in minute detail. He finds in it intimacy and warmth, as well as new possibilities for presence and love. He humanizes the disease, giving it an image, character, and name. He invites Mr. Alz Heimer to sit at the table with him and his life partner, forming a threesome. Instead of wrestling with the disease, Shamosh speaks with it, challenges it, and negotiates with it, incorporating it into daily life. Day by day, page by page, Shamosh's diary of this devastating illness is transformed into a powerful record of a new incarnation of love, and of life's paradoxical ability to distill itself to the essence, precisely at the point where it recedes.

**"A guide to the devoted lover of any age."**

*David Guedj, Haaretz*

**"I read this diary with interest and excitement from beginning to end in one day. The diary opens a window into the complex world of Alzheimer's patients and the people around them. The diary also provides important insights into the true nature of deep love."**

*Prof. Aharon Ben-Zeev, Haifa University*



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