



In this special catalogue, we are delighted to showcase six books, each accompanied by a **full translation into English**.

A committee of literary and academic experts selected the finest of the recent Israeli novels, from different genres. IIHL commissioned leading translators on the international scene who, over many months, devoted their expertise and creativity to polish the texts to the utmost degree of perfection. **The books are now ready for publication.**

We invite publishers who are interested in publishing these books to contact the Israeli Institute for Hebrew Literature **to request a copy of the translations** and to discuss **possible additional grants**.





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## Rita



A novel

Keter, 2021. 146 pp.

**FULL** English translation available

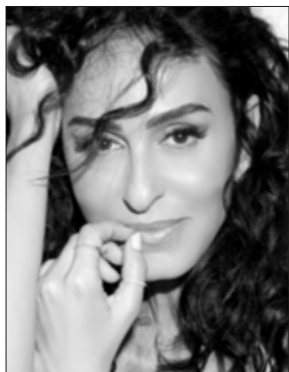


PHOTO © DUDI HASSON

## Rain-Soaked Chador



### A family saga steeped in magic; an artist's coming-of-age story

The chador, the traditional garb of women in Iran, envelops the wearer, layer upon layer. In renowned Israeli singer Rita's debut novel, these layers mirror the structure of passing time as they unravel—stories of childhood, migration and emotional storms. This family saga weaves a tale of humans and demons, peddlers and rogues, miracles and fateful relationships, into a vibrant tapestry.

Rita's recounting of the rich life of the Jewish community in Tehran and her family's migration from Iran to Israel is sprinkled with magic dust. From the bustling neighbourhoods of Tehran to Bialik Street in Ramat Hasharon the novel depicts, with dazzling sensuality and dreamlike quality, a journey of self-discovery. Rita writes about the difficulties of immigration and the pain of being uprooted with candour. In parallel, she relates her journey to becoming an artist—how she nearly lost her voice due to the hardships of the journey, but managed to reclaim it through the power of song.

**"This humble memoir is full of grace and radiant with beauty."** *Ma'ariv*

**"A wonderful and captivating book."** *Walla!*

**"Vivid and juicy memories depict a childhood rich in flavors and aromas, wild and full of warmth"**  
*Makor Rishon*

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## Sami Berdugo



A novel  
Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2019.  
264 pp.

**FULL** English translation available

French translation sample available



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## Donkey



Ruslan Isakov, an immigrant from Azerbaijan in his fifties, hides a donkey in his ramshackle backyard. Five months ago, while wandering around in his village, Ruslan bumped into a few police officers who asked him to hold on to their donkey for them, saying someone would come to pick it up. But no one came and the donkey has lived with him ever since. In parallel to this, Berdugo daringly describes the sexual encounters between Ruslan and his only friend, an American named Steve, pioneering new grounds in Hebrew literature. This book tells the tale of eight days during June, lived by Ruslan, filled with care and heart-melting beauty.

*Donkey* is a remarkable achievement in Hebrew literature. Berdugo has invented a language of subversive prose that broadens our perceptions and rattles our conventional forms of speech.

**“A great book, in its glorious language, in its two plot lines that together spin a super-Israeli story, and in the enigma that lies between them.”** *Haaretz*

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## Eldad Cohen



A novel

Yedioth Ahronoth, 2019. 327 pp.

**FULL** English translation available

Detailed French synopsis available



PHOTO © OREN BIRAN

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## Wake Up Mom



Yuda, a 12-year-old boy, lives with his mother in a small apartment overlooking the Machaneh Yehuda market in Jerusalem. He has always thought that his father was dead. “So now think for half an hour that he is alive”, his mother tells him one morning. At once, Yuda sets out on an absurd journey, full of trials and tribulations, to find his father. A succession of unlikely characters appear, among them: Yuda’s good friend Captain Avot, who suffers from PTSD; another friend, Ronit, who has to eat before she can get ideas; his mother, both the prettiest woman in the market and a math teacher who worships Julio Iglesias; and even Yuda himself, curious and naïve, funny and touching. This is an enchanting tale about the inner world of a boy, set in Jerusalem and Israel of the early 1980s. Through poetic, distinctive language, Yuda opens his heart to us to reveal a sensitive and humorous view of the world in which he lives.

“An Israeli novel infused with nostalgia for the Jerusalem of the 1980s.” *Makor Rishon*

“A book with smells and sounds... heart wrenching and funny.” *Otzar Milim blog*

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Yitzhak Livni



A novel

N.B. Books, 2022. 160 pp.

**FULL** English translation available



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## *The Substance of Life: Fragments*



### **A first taste of a monumental work**

Rarely do we encounter a literary phenomenon like Yitzhak Livni's *The Substance of Life: Fragments*— excerpted from a monumental work that is Proustian in its scope, and published in this shortened form posthumously.

Autobiographical at its core, the work is a vast mosaic of contemplative chapters of life and memory, opening with childhood memories and closing with chapters on fatherhood. Livni examines microscopic substance through a powerful lens that isolates and amplifies events that a different author would have cast aside. The result is a cosmos of sensual textures and philosophical thoughts—stories and flashes of perspective intertwined in a bewitching manner. All of these add up to a portrait of a unique narrator, maybe a scientist of the spirit, who seeks to investigate the substance of life itself. This edition provides an introduction to a work rarely found in either Israeli or world literature.

**“The literary event of the year”** *Haaretz*

**“A literary miracle. A masterpiece... Stories like these... can only be written by a great author”**

*Author Eyal Megged*

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## Miron C. Izakson



A novel

Kinneret Zmora-Dvir, 2021. 255 pp.

**FULL** English translation available



PHOTO © DINA GONA

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## Furthermore



“He extends his arms as we approach the crane together and helps me climb, ‘Look up, just look at where we need to reach, don’t look down, don’t look at what we are leaving”.

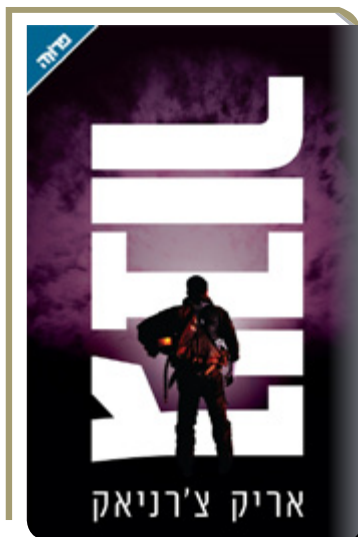
Dodo is a sensitive and vulnerable boy who possesses surprising powers and a burning love for cranes. He is attached to his parents and mourns the deterioration of their relationship. He loves Daphne constantly wondering, almost philosophically, about the origins of his desire to embrace her. An extremely lucky and unplanned encounter with Eitan, an eccentric and visionary man, involves Dodo in a mysterious master plan to change the face of his city and society as a whole. Dodo, his sister and their parents are swept away into an adventure that transcends the boundaries of realism into the realm of imagination, fantasy and dream. *Furthermore* is an enigmatic and beautiful novella that explores the boundaries of sanity, family and loyalty, walking boldly on the verge of destruction and healing.

**“A heartfelt story about a family that is breaking apart, told by a master storyteller.”** *Haaretz*



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## Arik Czerniak



A novel

Yedioth Ahronoth & Locus, 2017.  
328 pp.

**FULL** English translation available

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## *If I Die in Battle*

**BESTSELLER – 30,000 COPIES SOLD**

### **A nerve-scorching Israeli thriller**

A normal day in the Middle East goes horribly wrong when a bomb dropped over Gaza by the Israeli Air Force misses its mark, instantly threatening to send Israel over the edge and into war.

In the cockpit: Pilot Noam Gibbor and navigator Na'ama Fisher will soon find themselves crossing Israel's northern border into Syria in their F16, and coming to grips with their greatest fears.

On the ground: Reserves are mobilized and civil unrest ensues. Major (Res.) Eli Ozrad isn't called in for duty and he knows why. In Israel, however, fighting for your country also means battling your inner demons; whatever it takes, Ozrad isn't going to miss this chance to slay his own.

At the homefront: As civilians face the realities of a full blown regional war, the famous Israeli steadfastness starts to crack, quickly turning into a chaotic fight for survival where nothing remains sacred nor sane.

*If I Die in Battle* is a perfectly paced, intense, true-to-life action thriller, with protagonists who tear through the pages and through the heart, and scenes that remain etched into the mind, long after they end.

***"If I Die in Battle is an important book that signals a turning point in modern Hebrew writing... The best debut book that I've read in years."*** *Israel Hayom*

**Selected as one of the 50 best books of the year**  
*Mako Magazine*







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