



2023 SPRING CATALOGUE

Cover Illustration by Oia Kravchenko. From: *Stories From a Farther-Off Land*.
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2023 SPRING CATALOGUE

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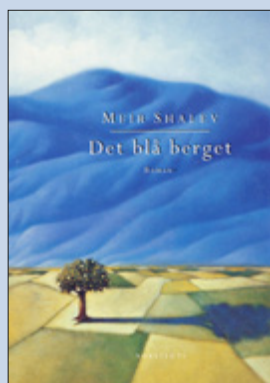
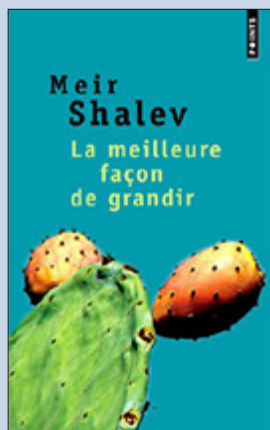
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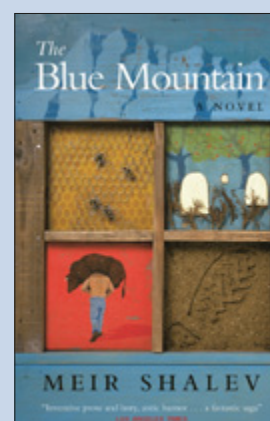
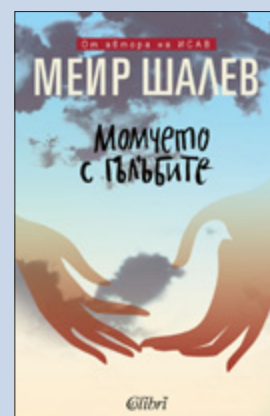
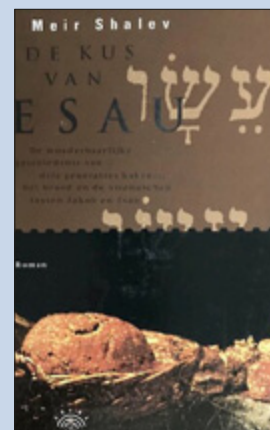
Meir Shalev

1948-2023

Meir Shalev's international success is indisputable evidence of the miracle called literature. His writing is immersed in the qualities of a specific place and time. Like Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Macondo*, based on the town of Aracataca, or Faulkner's *Yoknapatawpha County*, which treasures the landscapes of Mississippi, so are Meir Shalev's eternal valley landscapes drawn from his childhood in Nahalal.

The intimacy that Shalev's work maintains with the land is as private as a personal name. Shalev exchanges secrets with plants and animals, feeling the physical texture of the place with his fingers, spreading over it a delicate net of sensitivities that vibrates to every minute breeze, every hue. Shalev's language is also carved from the history of this place, and its rich sound box rolls freely through the layers of Hebrew—from the language of the Bible to the most modern slang. Shalev has never ceased to listen.

Shalev's writing is local in the most complete sense; he did not leave home to discover the world. Instead, like other great writers, he found an entire world in the backyard he knew so well. Shalev's books have been translated into 70 languages. Paradoxically, it is the secret core of the specific, which he works so hard to extract and polish, that holds universal truth within its intricate details. Shalev has carved his path to the untranslatable essence of existence—and behold, there is no one more worthy of translation, exalted and deserved. Shalev's village is small, its houses few; yet it has enough room for all of humanity.



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Ola Kravchenko



Parterre Projects, 2023. 74 pp.

English translation sample available

Ola Kravchenko was born in 1983 in Ukraine and immigrated to Israel as a child. She is an artist, a writer and an illustrator.

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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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Oren Waldman

[CLICK HERE](#)*Panther in Jerusalem*

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



A novel

Shtaim, 2021. 302 pp.

English translation sample available

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*



PHOTO © GALIA SIMAN-TOV

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.

Oren Waldman was born in 1973 and grew up in Israel. He has a BA in Physics from Tel Aviv University. He is a senior organizational consultant. Recently he started writing for theater. *Panther in Jerusalem* is his first novel.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Romit Samson

[CLICK HERE](#)*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.

Romit Samson was born in 1962 in Israel and grew up in Nazareth Illit. She has a BA in law and an MA in public administration. Samson has worked as a legal advisor in the legal service of the municipality of Netanya since 1994, and in recent years served as deputy legal advisor to the municipality.

Samson published her first book, *The Back Kitchen* at the age of 60. The book was a bestseller and won the Sapir Prize for best debut novel.

"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 ESHEL

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Yotam Tolub



A novel
Keter, 2022. 312 pp.

English translation sample available

[CLICK HERE](#)*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*.

Yotam Tolub was born in France in 1978 and grew up mainly in Israel. He studied law and cultural studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and is completing an MA in gerontology. He also studied screenwriting at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School. He works as a lawyer for the NGO *Bizchut*, Israel Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities.



PHOTO © ALEX LIBAK

"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*

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Oren Gazit



A thriller
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.

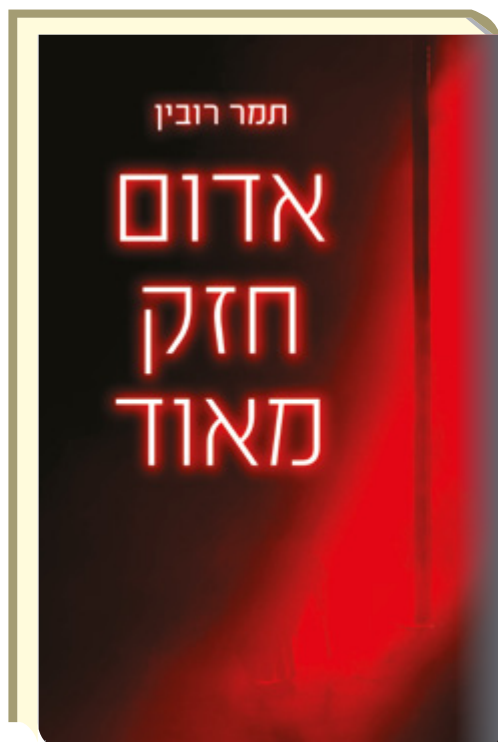
Oren Gazit has written a gripping thriller that is impossible to put down. The intricate plot traces the dark origins of the most intimate relationships. At times, we may read it as a narrative embodiment of Jean Genet's assertion that the family is the most fundamental nucleus of crime.

Oren Gazit was born in Israel in 1971. He was a military correspondent and editor at *Bamahaneh* and a journalist at *Maariv*. He has worked in Israeli television, including directing the documentary and docu-reality department for commercial Channel 13. His first novel *The First End and the Second End* was published in 2019.

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

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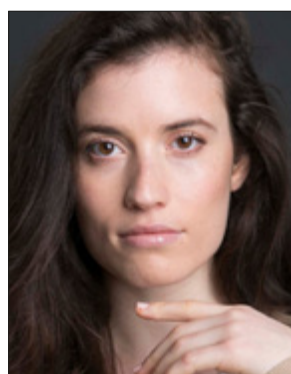
Tamar Rubin



A thriller

Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2021. 392 pp.

English translation sample available


[CLICK HERE](#)
Radiant Red

A gripping thriller that uses the Israeli stripper scene to lay bare the relationship between the sexes

Shani, a young and quiet programmer at the cyber department of a successful investigation firm, is sent on an unusual assignment: to integrate herself at the biggest strippers club in Tel Aviv and, as an undercover agent, help investigate the sudden disappearance of one of the employees.

At the club, she discovers a world of passion, illusions, easy money, and deceptive balances of power. She meets fickle managers, customers who arouse conflicting emotions within her, and both vulnerable and strong women, who reveal the unwritten rules of the trade, the secrets of seduction, and her own inherent power.

But what is the price of Shani's involvement in this world? Will she manage to maintain her hold on her protected world, or will she be inadvertently pulled into the night life?

Tamar Rubin's electrifying thriller rakes its readers into the depths of the darkness and presents them with piercing questions about the world in which they live: relationships between men and women; the economics of passion and the trading of flesh; the quest for power and its price.

Tamar Rubin was born in Tel Aviv in 1995. She studied theatre and computer science in school. After working for two years in strip clubs in Tel Aviv, she studied cinema and production in London. *Radiant Red* is her first book.

"Thought-provoking and engaging... An important book that must be read"

The Books Parliament

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Arik Czerniak

[CLICK HERE](#)
*If I Die in Battle***BESTSELLER – 30,000 COPIES SOLD**

A thriller
Yedioth Ahronoth & Locus, 2017.
328 pp.

FULL English translation available

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TV rights sold to Keshet International



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.

Arik Czerniak is a former fighter pilot in the IAF, a serial entrepreneur in the Israeli tech scene, and a VC manager.

"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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Youval Shimoni



A novel

Am Oved, 2021. 430 pp.

English translation sample available



PHOTO © AVSHALOM TULIPMAN

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Beyond the Transparent Bottom

Columbus comes to life in an intriguing historical novel

The year is 1540 on the Carribean island of Hispaniola. Tobias, an apostate who ran away from home as an adolescent and joined Columbus' crew, which left the same year on his famous exploration journey, is being held prisoner in the local jail, awaiting execution. In the little time he has left, he shares his story.

The second half of the book provides a different perspective on the events: it is in the form of a letter from Columbus to King Ferdinand of Spain, written in 1506. In it, Columbus describes his four great journeys to India, and his wish to embark on a fifth journey, which he believes is more important than all of the others: an expedition to Jerusalem, which is under Muslim conquest.

Shimoni's epic novel is a master class in storytelling, at once a meditation on the struggle between the power of institutions and man's boundless creativity, and a glimpse of the foreign territory that lurks within the human heart.

Youval Shimoni was born in Jerusalem in 1955. He studied cinema at Tel Aviv University and first began publishing in 1990. Shimoni is a senior editor at Am Oved publishers; he also teaches creative writing at Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities. He has been awarded the Bernstein Prize (2001), the Prime Minister's Prize (2005) and the Brenner Prize for *The Salt Line* (2015).

"Fascinating, clever, and demanding... it invites a second reading" *Haaretz*

"An original, beautiful novel" *Yedioth Ahronoth*

"A rich, intelligent novel" *Prof. Nissim Calderon, Panas, A Literary Criticism Supplement*

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Yitzhak Livni



A novel

N.B. Books, 2022. 160 pp.

FULL English translation available

"The literary event of the year" *Haaretz***"A breathtaking book"** *Omri Herzog, Haaretz Books Supplement***"A literary miracle. A masterpiece... Stories like these... can only be written by a great author"** *Author Eyal Megged*[CLICK HERE](#)*The Substance of Life: Fragments***The 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, with entire worlds passing before him, 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.

Yitzhak Livni (1934-2017) was born in Lodz, Poland, and emigrated to pre-state Israel with his parents. He grew up in Tel Aviv and graduated in Hebrew literature and history from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A writer, journalist and a media personality, Livni served as chief editor of the soldiers' weekly magazine, *Bamahane*, and from 1968 to 1974 was head of the IDF's radio station. From 1974 to 1979 he was CEO of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and from 2004 to 2007, chairman of Channel 2 News Company, Israel's foremost news organization.

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Shahar Bram



A novel

Kadima Publishing, 2017. 104 pp.

English translation sample available

[CLICK HERE](#)

Requiem to a Bird

The extraordinary relationship between a teacher and student attempting to fly

1987, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A lecturer who does not identify himself by his name teaches a single course about the bird in Hebrew poetry. Most of the students think the course is a nightmare. But one student, when relating his memories years later, feels that the course paved secret pathways into his heart and gradually changed his life. What was that lecturer, who earned himself the nickname “the Bird” trying to do? Was he attempting to resurrect forgotten poets, or was he seeking the hidden lives of his students? Was he interested in literary representations of winged creatures, or could this have been his attempt to grow wings for himself and his students, to teach them to soar above and beyond the words and the gravitational pull of this world? What about those who responded to the Bird’s call and flew in its wake—would they ever find their way back to the ground?

Shahar Bram’s novella is a modern version of the Icarus story. In its restrained style it explores the ability of an individual to tap into the core of another person’s loneliness.

Shahar Bram PhD. is a poet and academic. He teaches at the Department of Hebrew & Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa. He is the author of several books of poetry, prose, and scholarly works.



“This novella is musical and delicately written... It has genuine spiritual power—a pretty rare thing”

Yedioth Ahronoth

“A wonderful and moving book, one of the most beautiful that I’ve read in Hebrew” *Author Dror Burstein*

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Amit Varshizky



A novel

Carmel, 2021. 350 pp.

English translation sample available

[CLICK HERE](#)

Face of Janus

A historical thriller that dives into the sources of human evil

Face of Janus opens as its protagonist, a discharged American soldier in post-World War II Paris, falls in love with a prostitute who dizzies his senses.

During the course of their relationship, she entrusts him with the diary of the chief of the Nazi *Sicherheitspolizei* (security police). The secrets enclosed in the diary draw the superpowers to the scene, as each struggles for dominion over Europe's bleeding body. But is the diary authentic? Who is actually benefiting from the high-risk interrogation of the book's protagonist?

Varshizky gifts us with a thriller that is also an enquiry into the eternal question of the sources of evil. The book's narrative twists, like its characters, between conflicting sources and opposing muses, and the Gothic architecture that it embellishes embodies chronic human ambivalence.

The book's twists and turns and its Gothic architecture brilliantly embody the chronic ambivalence of the human condition.

Dr. Amit Varshizky is an author and historian. His research focuses on the intellectual and cultural history of Nazi Germany and the Weimar Republic.

"This exceptional work will generously reward anyone who invests time and thought in it".

Maariv

"A magnum opus in the full sense of the term, rare in its breadth and depth."

Israel Hayom



PHOTO © ELIA BARAK

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Roy Chen



A novel

Keter, 2020, 325 pp.

Partial English translation available

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Italian (**Giuntina**), Russian (**Phantom**)[CLICK HERE](#)

Souls

Grisha is a 40-year-old chain-smoker who lives with his mother in Israel. He doesn't look too good and doesn't smell great either. Even though this is how he is now, in former times he was a loveable little Polish boy, an impressive Venetian teenager and a gorgeous Moroccan woman. Grisha's delicate soul has been transmigrating for four centuries from one body to another in the search for one other soul that will understand him.

Masterfully written and based on years of research, Roy Chen's novel takes us on a journey that begins in the 17th century and passes through Poland, Italy, Morocco, Germany and Russia, ending in Israel today. *Souls* was shortlisted for the 2020 Sapir Prize and nominated for the 2021 Geffen Prize.

Roy Chen, writer, playwright and translator, was born in Tel Aviv in 1980. His father's forefathers settled in the Land of Israel after the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, and his mother's family immigrated from Morocco in the late 1940s. An autodidact, Chen taught himself English, Russian, French, and Italian. He has translated into Hebrew classical works of Russian literature as well as over 40 plays from English, Russian and French.



**"Why the hell didn't I think of this story?
Perhaps I will in my next incarnation."**

Author Meir Shalev (1948-2023)

**"Overflowing with literary tricks and
kaleidoscopic games that present a different
picture and new characters at every twist."**

Makor Rishon

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Gish Amit



Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2022. 137 pp.

English translation sample available

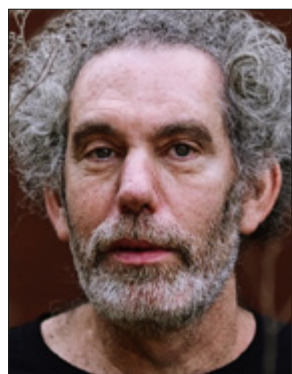


PHOTO © ELIA BARAK

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Matriculation: A Memoir

A teacher's unforgettable memoir as the world causes his classroom walls to collapse

Gish Amit's book opens with a long list of names: the names of his students, that he's unsure he'll be able to remember. To a great degree, this paragraph sums up the essence of the entire book: in his work as a teacher, later as principal of two schools, and in the face of external and internal pressure that threaten to erase the names of the students and dissolve their faces in the name of the system's needs, the narrator seeks to recall their names and zealously protect their right to be unique.

Matriculation describes the tense, complex process that the author experienced at two very different schools: first, a school for children of immigrants, exposed to the problems minorities face when struggling to exist in an indifferent society, and the second, an anthroposophical school that seeks to protect the children's innocence from the problems of the world.

Matriculation boldly questions the role of education in a changing world; at the same time, it is a personal essay on the limitations of our interaction with our children.

Gish Amit has worked in education for two decades. He taught at a school for refugee children in South Tel Aviv, in addition to serving as principal of an anthroposophical school. For the past three years, he has been the principal of an elementary school in the Judean Desert.

"One of the most brave and touching texts that I've read recently" *Walla!*

"A genuine, honest memoir" *Haaretz*

"Amit Gish proves that a heaping dose of optimism is necessary to believe in education" *Or Kashti, Haaretz*

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Amotz Asa-El

[CLICK HERE](#)*The Jewish March of Folly***SOLD TENS OF THOUSANDS OF COPIES**

Yedioth Ahronoth, 2019. 392 pp.

English translation sample available
FULL English translation in process**An eye-opening essay on forces of destruction and anarchy in the history of the Jewish nation**

In a controversial historical essay, Amotz Asa-El moves between the biblical period and the 21st century, reviewing 12 civil wars that ripped apart Jewish society and threatened its continued existence. He maps out the deep channels gushing beneath the historical scenes and points to a dark, consistent trend throughout the Jewish nation's history: the temptation of anarchism, a self-destructive tendency that causes leaders, time after time, to abandon their nation and lead the society entrusted in their hands toward destruction.

With literary momentum and sharp political insight, Asa-El traces the roots of this force through the ages and seeks its sources, as he analyzes moments of destructive political folly. The book also turns a sharp spotlight on the present: in its closing chapters, Asa-El addresses the situation in the State of Israel today, and points out the internal political follies that threaten its very existence.

The Jewish March of Folly was a bestseller in Israel and aroused heated discourse as soon as it was published.

Award-winning journalist and bestselling author **Amotz Asa-El**, formerly the *Jerusalem Post*'s executive editor, is the *Jerusalem Post*'s senior commentator and a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.



PHOTO © JACQUES LEVI

"Bold, smart, deep, superbly written" Author A.B. Yehoshua (1936-2022)

"A well-written and thought-provoking retelling of Jewish history, which artfully connects past events with present concerns"

Prof. Yuval Noah Harari

"Unique, refreshingly candid examination of biblical history and its impact on the Jewish State, one that combines scholarship and creativity into a powerful, cautionary tale" Author Michael Oren

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Moshe Pearl



Yedioth Ahronoth, 2021. 304 pp.

English translation sample available

"An insightful and entertaining read."
Forbes

"Highly recommended... The book provides a broad perspective filled with historical anecdotes that cause us to think again." Nadav Eyal, journalist, author of *Revolt: The Worldwide Uprising Against Globalization*


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Following the Money

An abridged history of money

The moment man became an independent creator of food, he sentenced himself to the pursuit of money. This fundamental state conditions human life from the dawn of history to this day. *Following the Money* is simultaneously a discovery-rich historical essay, a personal journey and a thrilling investigation of the human lust for money.

Moshe Pearl wanders between periods and continents, communities and individuals; he analyzes historical events and lingers on seemingly marginal anecdotes. He opens up the incredibly complex relationship between humanity and money and its ramifications on social and status structures, the lives of individuals and fates of nations, the course of history and our mental reality, down to the most intimate levels.

Following the Money is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the historical moment in which we live, the twisting road that led to it and how the possibility of a different life can be extracted from within it.

Moshe Pearl is a lecturer and director of the Joseph and Vicky Safra Institute for Banking and Financial Intermediation at the Coller School of Management, Tel Aviv University. He simultaneously engages in literary writing and journalism for the newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*. Until 2018, he was executive director of the Association of Banks in Israel, and prior to this, was one of Israel's leading economic journalists.



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