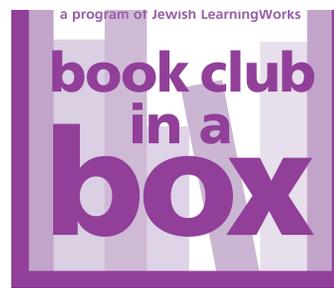


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**S. Y. Agnon: A Simple Story**

(Fiction, 246 pp. Hebrew, 1935; English translation, 1985)

By no means simple, this quasi-love story and portrait of bourgeois life by the only Nobel laureate to write in Hebrew renders with deft, comic touches the microcosmic inner workings of a small town in Ukraine at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**S. Y. Agnon: To This Day**

(Fiction, 177 pp. Hebrew, 1952; English translation, 2008)

This comic tale of a Galician Jew who has lived in Palestine, returns to Europe on the eve of WWI and gets stranded in Berlin evolves into a profound commentary on exile, Zionism, divine providence, and human egoism.

**Marjorie Agosín, editor: The House of Memory: Stories by Jewish Women Writers of Latin America**

(Short Stories, 272 pp. 1999)

These 22 selections from Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Cuba, and Costa Rica, paint a rich picture of Jewish women's experiences in diverse settings. The protagonists often struggle to maintain ties with their Jewish heritage while trying to become part of a New World society suffused with Catholicism.

**Naomi Alderman: Disobedience**

(Fiction, 240 pp. 2006)

Ronit, a thirty-something single lawyer living in Manhattan, reluctantly returns to London after the death of her estranged father, a prominent rabbi, where she must face the small, tight-knit Orthodox community she fled many years ago.

**Molly Antopol: The UnAmericans**

(Short Stories, 288 pp. 2014)

Spanning “the entire Ashkenazi Jewish universe from New York to Belarus to Israel and Los Angeles”

**Aharon Appelfeld: Blooms of Darkness**

(Fiction, 279 pp. Hebrew, 2006; English translation, 2010)

When the Nazis begin to liquidate the Ukrainian ghetto, a mother leaves her 11-year-old son with her best friend Mariana, a prostitute. Confined to Mariana's room by day and locked in her closet by night, the boy clings to family memories while witnessing Mariana's depression, alcoholism, abrupt disappearances, and abuse by visiting soldiers. This haunting coming-of-age novel depicts – with powerfully sparse prose – loss, love, and the resilience of the human spirit.

**Aharon Appelfeld: The Iron Tracks**

(Fiction, 208 pp. Hebrew, 1991; English translation, 1998)

Each year, Erwin Siegelbaum takes to the rails for months on end, canvassing the small towns of Austria in quest of Jewish ritual objects that have survived their owners. In an extended monologue related over the course of one such journey, Siegelbaum reveals the memories that haunt him, his growing isolation as fellow survivors die out, and his persistent fantasy of revenge.

**Jami Attenberg: The Middlesteins**

(Fiction, 288 pp. 2012)

After thirty years of marriage in the suburbs of Chicago, Richard Middlestein leaves his wife, Edie, as she awaits surgery to address complications of her excessive eating. It is up to their adult children to attend to the crisis, but nobody is up to the challenge.

**Giorgio Bassani: The Garden of the Finzi-Continis**

(Fiction, 200 pp. Italian, 1962, English translations, 1965, 2007, 2011)

The classic novel, adapted into an award-winning film by Vittorio De Sica, chronicles the relationship between the young middle-class narrator and the children of a wealthy, assimilated family in the provincial city of Ferrara. The events take place on the eve of WWII, against the background of the anti-Semitic legislation and policies of the Italian fascist state.

**Susan Berrin, editor: A Heart of Wisdom: Making the Jewish Journey from Midlife Through the Elder Years**

(Nonfiction, 384 pp. 1997)

This thoughtful guide includes passages from ancient and modern texts that explore the ways Jewish tradition has approached the process of aging. Through personal stories, poetry, and ceremonies, this anthology is an invitation to fully embrace aging and all that comes with it.

**Louis Begley: Matters of Honor**

(Fiction, 307 pp. 2007)

Henryk Weiss, a young Polish Holocaust survivor, has reinvented himself at Harvard as Henry White. In a world governed by genteel prejudice and strong class values, both Archie and Sam, his non-Jewish roommates, have secrets of their own. Narrated by Sam, this novel probes the inner workings of self-identity, the cost of pursuing external rewards, and thwarted love.

**Saul Bellow: Seize the Day**

(Fiction, 110 pp. 1956)

**David Bezmozgis: *The Betrayers***

(Fiction, 256 pp. 2015)

*The Betrayers* spans one momentous day in the life of powerful Israeli politician Baruch Kotler, a former Soviet refusenik. Fleeing to the Crimea in the wake of political pressure and blackmail, he unexpectedly comes face to face with the man who denounced him to the KGB forty years earlier. Evoking biblical themes while casting attention to the plight of Jews in both Israel and Ukraine, *The Betrayers* poses profound questions about ethics and forgiveness.

**David Bezmozgis: *The Free World***

(Fiction, 354 pp. 2011)

In 1978 thousands of Soviet Jews landed in Ladispoli, a way station outside Rome, waiting to secure visas for new lives in the West. Bezmozgis's debut novel chronicles six months in the lives of three generations of the Krasnansky family as, stuck in Ladispoli, they experience love affairs and hustles, the frustration of dislocation, and feelings of nostalgia and aspiration.

**David Bezmozgis: *Natasha and Other Stories***

(Short Stories, 147 pp. 2004)

Bereft of money or English skills, the Bermans have departed Brezhnev-era Riga to settle in Toronto. Told in the restrained but slyly humorous voice of their son Mark, these seven stories span two decades, recording the narrator's growth and the family's efforts to adjust to their new life and cope with its disappointments.

**Geraldine Brooks: *People of the Book***

(Fiction, 372 pp. 2008)

One of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, the Sarajevo Haggadah survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it. Brooks has turned the intriguing but sparsely detailed history of this precious volume into an emotionally rich fictionalization that retraces its turbulent journey.

**Geraldine Brooks: *The Secret Chord***

(Fiction, 316 pp. 2015)

This inventive re-imagining of one of literature's most iconic and enigmatic figures goes beyond the myth to bring King David the man to life. Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished old age.

**Chandler Burr: *You or Someone Like You***

(Fiction, 319 pp. 2009)

Anne, the wife of Hollywood executive Howard Rosenbaum and mother of their seventeen-year-old son, finds herself leading an exclusive book club for the industry elite in a town where "nobody reads." When a crisis of identity unexpectedly leads Howard back toward the Orthodoxy he left behind, Anne sets out to save what she values above all else, in this freshly comic, emotionally gripping and surprisingly intelligent novel.

reflections.

**Doreen Carvajal: *The Forgetting River: A Modern Tale of Survival, Identity and the Inquisition.***

(Memoir, 320 pp. 2012)

Moving to Arcos de la Frontera in the Spanish province where her father's family had originated, the author explores the fascinating, fraught – and ultimately personal -- history of the Sephardic Jews who had been forced to become Catholic converts or exiles.

**Michael Chabon: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay***

(Fiction, 656 pp. 2000)

Two cousins, one from Prague, one Brooklyn-born, come of age during World War II and spin their fantasies, dreams, and fears into a wildly popular comic book series. See for yourself why this panoramic novel won the Pulitzer Prize.

**Michael Chabon: *Moonglow***

(Fiction, 430 pp. 2016)

Masked as a memoir, Chabon's playful novel unfolds as the final confession of the narrator's grandfather, whose tongue has been loosened by painkillers and whose memory has been stirred by the imminence of death. It reflects on the difficulties of love and family, the shining aspirations and demonic underpinnings of American space program, and the importance of stories told and untold.

**Michael Chabon: *The Yiddish Policemen's Union***

(Fiction, 414 pp. 2007)

It's bad enough that the Jewish mini-state established in Alaska for survivors of Hitler is about to revert to US control after sixty years. Now Yiddish-speaking cop Meyer Landsman has to solve a tragic murder that pits him against his ex-wife boss, an assortment of odd relatives, and a swarm of corrupt Hasidim with apocalyptic dreams.

**Roz Chast: *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?***

(Graphic memoir, 228 pp. 2014)

The *New Yorker* cartoonist describes the last several years of her aging parents' lives, told through colorful cartoons and family photos. With her signature wit she offers laughs, tears, comfort and profound insights.

**Bernard Cooper: *The Bill from My Father***

(Memoir, 240 pp. 2006)

The author recounts the story of his distant, irascible, father — a high-profile LA divorce lawyer. Before he dies, Cooper senior sends the son who always disappointed him (and who happened to be the only one of four sons to survive him) an itemized bill for two million dollars for the costs of his upbringing. By turns comic and horrifying, Cooper's book is a testament to the terrible legacy of bad parenting, written by an ever-hopeful son.

**Edmund de Waal: *The Hare with Amber Eyes***

(Memoir, 360 pp. 2010)

**Irene Dische: *The Empress of Weehawken***

(Fiction, 307 pp. 2007)

Frau Professor Doktor Elisabeth Rother is self-centered, cynical, sarcastic and incorrigibly anti-Semitic. A German army nurse in WWI, she marries a Jewish surgeon after he converts to Catholicism. To Elisabeth's dismay, their racially impure daughter, grows up, marries a Jewish professor and has two children, a boy too intelligent for his own good and a rebellious daughter. In the formidable voice of her grandmother, the author pushes the boundaries of autobiographical fiction in a novel that is and is not based on her family history.

**Elizabeth Ehrlich: *Miriam's Kitchen***

(Memoir, 36 pp. 1997)

Ehrlich describes her mother-in-law Miriam, a Holocaust survivor born in a small village in Poland, thus: "A keeper of rituals and recipes, and of stories, she cooks to recreate a lost world, and to prove that unimaginable loss is not the end of everything." Ehrlich assembles recipes, stories, and traditions from Miriam's family, as well as from her own, into a vibrant collage that evokes Jewish life past and present.

**Erin Einhorn: *The Pages In Between***

(Memoir, 276 pp. 2008)

Einhorn's mother was saved as a child during World War II by a Polish woman who took her in at the risk of her own life. Fifty-five years later, Einhorn, a newspaper reporter and contributor to NPR's *This American Life*, traveled to Poland to find the family that had sheltered her mother. There she finds herself enmeshed in a decades-old land dispute. What started as a simple journey of discovery becomes a bewildering trek through half a century of hurt feelings, resentments, and mountains of archival records.

**Ruth Andrew Ellenson, editor: *The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt***

(Essays, 318 pp. 2005)

With irony, wit, and self-revelation, twenty-eight Jewish women explore the indelible places that guilt has inhabited in their lives. Their stories range from marrying a German to not wanting to have children, from getting a manicure on Yom Kippur to having (or not having) a Christmas tree. Take together, these stories present ways women have tried to reconcile traditional values and modern options.

**Nathan Englander: *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank***

(Short Stories, 224 pp. 2012)

In his first collection since *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, Englander offers eight expertly crafted stories that paint humorous, irreverent, and unflinching portrayals of Jewish life in America and Israel.

**Helen Epstein: *Where She Came From***

(Memoir, 322 pp. 1997)

A masterful work of family archaeology that chronicles the lives of the author's mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Epstein's quest began in 1898, after the death of her mother, a Holocaust survivor, and after the opening of Czechoslovakia to the West.

### **Boris Fishman: *A Replacement Life***

(Fiction, 321 pp. 2014)

Russian-born Slava Gelman, a frustrated young Manhattan writer, is attempting to distance himself from the rest of his immigrant family in Brooklyn. When his grandfather asks him to compose a fraudulent application for German reparations for Holocaust survivors, Slava becomes entrenched in ethical conflicts and the difficulties of navigating his American and Russian identities.

### **Judith Frank: *All I Know and Love***

(Fiction, 432 pp. 2014)

When domestic partners Matthew Greene and Daniel Rosen learn that Daniel's twin brother and sister-in-law have been killed in a bombing in Jerusalem, and that they have been designated to raise the deceased couple's children in Massachusetts, their relationship faces major challenges.

### **Sigmund Freud: *Moses and Monotheism***

(Nonfiction, 192 pp. German, 1939; English translation, 1955)

Writing under the shadow of the Nazis, Freud investigates the story of Moses as told in the Torah.

Asserting that Moses wasn't really a Hebrew but an Egyptian, murdered in the wilderness by the people he liberated, Freud goes on to explore the original conception of Moses, the roots of anti-Semitism, and ways that Moses' religious ideas continue to influence Jews and Christians.

### **Matti Friedman: *The Aleppo Codex: A True Tale of Obsession, Faith, and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible***

(Nonfiction, 320 pp. 2012)

The 10th century Aleppo Codex, named for the Syrian city in which it was kept, is considered the most accurate manuscript of the Hebrew Bible. However, a large portion of it went missing in the mid-20th century. Investigative journalist Friedman's account of the document's strange path over time feels like a detective thriller, with equal parts history and mystery, conspiracy and convolutions.

### **Romain Gary (Emile Ajar): *The Life Before Us***

(Fiction, 191 pp. French, 1975; English translation, 1978)

Momo, an orphaned Arab adolescent, has been raised by his ailing surrogate mother, Madame Rosa, a survivor of Auschwitz and former lady of the night. A streetwise kid in Belleville, Paris' immigrant slum neighborhood, Momo narrates a world filled with pimps, prostitutes and witch doctors as he takes care of Madame Rosa. This moving story, told with sensitivity and black humor, won the Prix Goncourt, France's premier literary prize, and was the basis for *Madame Rosa*, the 1977 film starring Simone Signoret.

### **Assaf Gavron: *Almost Dead***

(Fiction, 328 pp. Hebrew, 2006; English translation, 2010)

Eitan Enoch, a Tel Aviv tech company worker, achieves accidental celebrity when he survives three terror attacks, becoming a hero to many Israelis and a thorn to the Palestinian radicals behind the attacks. Part thriller, part black comedy, the novel is narrated from the dual perspectives of Eitan and the Palestinian Fahmi, whose connection to Eitan gradually unfolds.

Assaf Gavron: *The Hilton*

must be defended—the settlement takes in a motley group of new members and launches iffy schemes under the wary gaze of the neighboring Palestinian village.

**Peter Godwin: *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of- Africa***

(Memoir, 341 pp. 2007)

As journalist Godwin records the collapse of his native Zimbabwe, he is confronted with his father's deathbed confession. The elder Godwin, who had always claimed to have been British, reveals himself to be a Polish Jew whose mother and sister were killed in Treblinka.

**Myla Goldberg: *Bee Season***

(Fiction, 275 pp. 2000)

When Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, wins her district spelling bee, she captures the attention of her father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism, and displaces her brother, Aaron, who embarks upon a lone quest for spiritual fulfillment. Meanwhile, her brilliant but distant lawyer mother is having a crisis of her own.

**Paul Goldberg: *The Yid***

(Fiction, 320 pp. 2016)

With elements of Shakespeare and Yiddish theater, a rag-tag group decides to assassinate Stalin just before the 1953 Soviet pogroms are to begin. This satirical mad-cap adventure tale effectively blends historical events, family stories and ingenious imagination.

**Rebecca Goldstein: *Betraying Spinoza***

(Nonfiction, 287 pp. 2006)

Baruch Spinoza, son of Portuguese immigrants to Holland, was excommunicated by the Amsterdam Jewish Community in 1656. Investigating Spinoza's background, education, and his own writings, Goldstein reveals how this yeshiva student became an influential philosopher and possibly the Western world's first secular Jew.

**Lev Golinkin: *A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka***

(Memoir, 320 pp. 2014)

In the twilight of the Cold War, nine-year old Lev Golinkin and his family cross the Soviet border with only ten suitcases, \$600, and the vague promise of help awaiting in Vienna. Years later, Golinkin, now an American adult, sets out to retrace his family's long trek, locate the strangers who fought for his freedom, and in the process, gain a future by understanding his past.

**Allegra Goodman: *Paradise Park***

(Fiction, 368 pp. 2000)

Hate her or love her, anti-heroine Sharon Spiegelman will take you from Massachusetts to Hawaii and back again on an exhaustive, sometimes exhausting, and frequently comical tour of practically every spiritual path known to humankind.

**Vivian Gornik: *Fierce Attachments: A Memoir***

(Memoir, 202 pp. 1987)

**Amy Gottlieb: *The Beautiful Possible***

(Fiction, 336 pp. 2016)

Spanning seventy years and several continents—from a refugee’s shattered dreams in 1938 Berlin, to a discontented American couple in the 1950s, to a young woman’s life in modern-day Jerusalem—this novel follows a postwar love triangle between an American rabbi, his wife, and a German-Jewish refugee.

**Michal Govrin: *Snapshots***

(Fiction, 384 pp. Hebrew, 2002; English translation, 2007)

When a beautiful, brilliant Israeli intellectual and architect — the daughter of a legendary founding Zionist — dies in a tragic car wreck, her estranged husband, a prominent Holocaust scholar, pieces together the woman he thought he knew from the documents she left behind.

**David Grossman: *A Horse Walks into a Bar***

(Fiction, 208 pp. Hebrew, 2014; English translation, 2017)

Winner of the 2017 Man Booker International Prize, this caustic short novel explores the life of a stand-up comic, as revealed in the course of one evening’s performance. In the dance between comic and audience, with barbs flying back and forth, a deeper story begins to take shape.

**David Grossman: *Her Body Knows***

(Fiction, 264 pp. Hebrew, 2002; English translation, 2005)

Two novellas of searing psychological intensity deal with the pain of betrayal. In *Frenzy*, Shaul confides to his sister-in-law that he knows about his wife's ten-year love affair. *In Another Life* portrays the thorny relationship between a dying woman and her emotionally blocked daughter.

**David Grossman: *See Under: Love***

(Fiction, 458 pp. Hebrew, 1986; English translation, 1989)

Related in four chapters with radically divergent styles, this challenging book by one of Israel’s best known contemporary writers presents the complex story of an only child of survivors grappling with the ghosts of the Holocaust.

**David Grossman: *To the End of the Land***

(Fiction, 576 pp. Hebrew, 2008; English translation, 2010)

Grossman's epic novel follows Ora, the mother of an Israeli soldier on active duty, as she journeys away from home in order to evade delivery of the news that she fears: that her son has been killed in action.

**Ayelet Gundar-Goshen: *One Night Markovitz***

(Fiction, 383 pp. Hebrew, 2012 ; English translation, 2015)

Two men cross the sea to marry women they have never met in order to help the women escape war-torn Europe for the Jewish homeland. Their changing fortunes take them through war, upheaval, terrible secrets, tragedy, joy and loss. Vital, funny and tender, this debut novel fuses personal lives and epic history in a story of hopeless longing and the desperate search for love.

**Ayelet Gundar-Goshen: *Waking Lions***

(Fiction, 352 pp. Hebrew, 2014; English Translation, 2017)

**Yossi Klein Halevi: At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for Hope with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land**

(Nonfiction, 336 pp. 2001)

In 1998, the American-born Israeli Halevi, an Orthodox Jew, embarked on a spiritual quest to engage with believing Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land and transcend his own prejudices and resentments. Integrating spirituality with politics, history, psychology, and theology, he creates an engaging, empathetic, and enduring perspective on the possibilities of reconciliation and healing.

**Ehud Havazelet: Like Never Before**

(Fiction, 268 pp., 1998)

Arranged as a series of interlocking short stories, this “broken novel” chronicles three generations of a family in war-torn Europe, the Orthodox communities of Brooklyn, and rural Oregon as they struggle to hold together in the face of “changing cultures and shifting fortunes.”

**Kevin Haworth: The Discontinuity of Small Things**

(Fiction, 239 pp. 2005)

In 1943, the Danish Resistance smuggled nearly all of the country's 7,500 Jews across the water to Sweden. This novel explores the lives of a handful of Danes — Jewish and non-Jewish — whose paths cross in unexpected ways, all revealed through the writer's attention to the small moments of their daily lives under the Nazi occupation.

**Zoë Heller: The Believers**

(Fiction, 352 pp. 2009)

After a prominent civil rights lawyer is left in a coma, his wife of forty years and their two daughters and adopted son are called upon to examine their lives together and their identities as individuals. When a dark secret involving the paterfamilias is revealed, the complex characters in this bitingly comic novel struggle to rediscover themselves.

**Alice Hoffman: Marriage of Opposites**

(Fiction, 384pp. 2015)

Set in the early 1800s on the lush Caribbean island of St. Thomas, this fictional reimagining traces the complicated life of Rachel Pomié, mother of the impressionist painter Camille Pissarro, and the marriage of passion that scandalizes her Sephardic Jewish community.

**Eva Hoffman: Lost in Translation**

(Memoir, 280 pp. 1989)

When her family relocated from Krakow to Canada during her adolescence in the 1950s, Eva Hoffman lost the place, people, and language that were central to her identity. This penetrating memoir recalls Hoffman's difficult adjustment to her new life as an outsider in North America, focusing on the role of language in mediating her experience.

**Dara Horn: A Guide for the Perplexed**

(Fiction, 312 pp. 2012)

questions about fate and free will, family and destiny.

**Ranya Idliby and Suzanne Oliver, Priscilla Warner: *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew: Three Women Search for Understanding***

(Nonfiction, 308 pp. 2006)

In the months after 9/11, three mothers, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish, set out to write a children's book about their different faiths. Instead, in alternating sections, they recount their difficult conversations about the crucifixion, the Holocaust, Palestine, Israel, and their own spiritual journeys, and the ways in which the three of them changed and grew out of their encounter.

**Howard Jacobson: *The Finkler Question***

(Fiction, 307 pp. 2010)

This brash, irreverent novel tackles the anxiety of Jewish life in Britain today through the lives of two Jewish widowers and their close non-Jewish friend. At times uncomfortable, always witty, this winner of the prestigious Man Booker Prize offers a darkly satiric perspective on Jewish identity, anti-Semitism, shifting attitudes towards Israel, and the nature of male friendship.

**Howard Jacobson: *Kalooki Nights***

(Fiction, 450 pp. 2007)

This darkly comic novel takes place in Manchester, England in the wake of the Holocaust. Max, a professional cartoonist, was raised in a working class political family. When his deeply religious friend Manny is involved in an unspeakable crime, Max struggles to make sense of his complex family, his art, his Jewishness, and his lust for gentile women.

**Peter Stephan Jungk: *Crossing the Hudson***

(Fiction, 219 pp. German, 2005; English translation, 2008)

In this inventive, comic and dreamlike novel, a devoted son and his overbearing mother drive out of Manhattan on a Friday afternoon and are caught in a traffic jam on the Tappan Zee Bridge. Determined to observe the Orthodox stricture to cease driving before the Sabbath begins, he finds himself in conflict with his nonobservant mother as they reexamine their lives and their relationships with the family's recently deceased patriarch.

**Rachel Kadish: *The Weight of Ink***

(Fiction, 592 pp. 2017)

A mysterious collection of papers hidden in a historic London home sends two scholars of Jewish history on an unforgettable quest. Set in London in the 1660s and the early 21st century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of Ester Velasquez, scribe to a blind rabbi, and Helen Watt, an ailing historian determined to uncover the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive "Aleph."

**Mitchell James Kaplan: *By Fire, By Water***

(Fiction, 320 pp. 2010)

As the kingdoms of Spain are being unified under Christian rule at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Luis de Santángel, chancellor to the king of Aragon, agrees to finance Cristóbal Colón's imminent voyage to the

This slyly subversive, semi-autobiographical account of Arab Israeli life recounts the story of a Palestinian boy who wins a prestigious scholarship to a Jewish high school but slips into listless malaise as an adult, despising himself, scorning his fellow Arabs, and resenting Jewish Israelis.

**Sayed Kashua: Second Person Singular**

(Fiction, 352 pp. Hebrew, 2011; English translation, 2013)

When an ambitious Arab lawyer in Jewish Jerusalem unexpectedly discovers a love letter from his wife, his hunt begins for the other man. The creator of the Israeli sitcom, *Arab Labor*, spins a complex psychological mystery, a searing dissection of the individuals that comprise a divided society.

**Etgar Keret: Seven Good Years**

(Memoir, 292 pp. Hebrew, 2015; English translation 2015)

The seven years between the birth of his son in the midst of a terrorist attack and the death of his father from cancer are the ostensible subject of Keret's first nonfiction book published in America. The short vignettes and ruminations are filled with wonder and life and love, poignant insights, and characteristically dark humor.

**Etgar Keret: Suddenly, a Knock on the Door**

(Short Stories, 188 pp. Hebrew, 2010; English translation, 2012)

Keret is the most popular Israeli writer of his generation, with a style and focus that mark a new direction in the nation's literature. The 35 brief stories in this new collection focus on everyday life, leavened with the author's legendary taste for the absurd and the impossible.

**Nicole Krauss: Forest Dark**

(Fiction, 304 pp. 2017)

This hybrid work of fiction, memoir and literary criticism alternates between two distinct stories about two Americans who travel to Tel Aviv searching for something they cannot articulate: a New York lawyer named Epstein in the final stages of giving away his fortune and a critically acclaimed American novelist named Nicole, suffering a mixture of writer's block, insomnia and restlessness.

**Nicole Krauss: The History of Love**

(Fiction, 252 pp. 2005)

Covering over 60 years and taking the reader from Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe to present day Brighton Beach, this haunting novel deals with issues of loneliness and the need to fill a void left by lost love.

**Ilana Kurshan: If All the Seas Were Ink**

(Memoir, 320 pp. 2017)

At the age of 27, alone in Jerusalem in the wake of a painful divorce, Kurshan adopted the practice of *daf yomi*: reading a page a day of the Talmud. Undaunted by the idea that it would take more than seven years to complete the full text on Jewish law, she adapted to its pace, attuned her ear to its poetry, and discovered her passions in its pages.

**Tony Kushner: Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes**

**Lucette Lagnado: *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World***

(Memoir, 352 pp. 2007)

This award-winning memoir by a Wall Street Journal reporter chronicles her Jewish family's traditions, tragedies and triumphs in their epic exodus in 1963 from the splendor of cosmopolitan Cairo, to Paris, and finally Brooklyn.

**Aaron Lansky: *Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books***

(Nonfiction, 328 pp. 2005)

In 1980, a twenty-three-year-old student set out to rescue abandoned Yiddish books before it was too late. Filled with poignant and often humorous anecdotes from Lansky's travels across the country as he collected books from older Jewish immigrants, *Outwitting History* also shows how an almost-lost culture of Yiddish writers was preserved by the founding of the National Yiddish Book Center.

**Elena Lappin: *What Language Do I Dream In***

(Memoir, 520 pp. 2017)

In this rich family mosaic, Moscow-born, London-based writer and editor Elena Lappin explores the impact of her peripatetic, multilingual background on the development of her identity and her sense of home and self. As she reconstructs the stories and secrets of her parents and grandparents, each language -- Russian, Czech, German, Hebrew, and finally, English -- is a link to a different piece of Lappin's struggle to find a voice in a language not her own.

**Erik Larson: *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin***

(Nonfiction, 464 pp. 2011)

Larson's gripping nonfiction work depicts the Nazis' consolidation of power and increasing restrictions on Jews chiefly through the eyes of American ambassador William Dodd and his freewheeling daughter, Martha. While Ambassador Dodd's perspective quickly moves from admiration to alarm, the United States State Department shows little willingness to take his warnings seriously.

**Michel Laub: *Diary of the Fall***

(Fiction, 240 pp. Portuguese 2011; English translation 2014)

This Brazilian novel about memory and identity covers three generations: a grandfather who survived Auschwitz and spent the rest of his life trying to forget it; a father in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease who is fighting to remember everything; and the 40-year-old narrator who remains haunted by his role decades earlier in a brutal prank on a fellow student.

**Joan Leegant: *Wherever You Go***

(Fiction, 253 pp. 2010)

Three young American Jews—a Talmud teacher, a college dropout, and a secular New Yorker estranged from her ultra-religious sister—are drawn to Israel for different reasons. Their lives intersect unexpectedly in Jerusalem when they become caught in the vortex of religious and political extremism.

with Sonia's father, effectively denying his heritage in order to secure her hand. The consequences of this bargain escalate for the couple, their extended families, and their young son as the Fascist regime imposes increasingly restrictive laws on Italian Jews.

### Primo Levi: **The Periodic Table**

(Memoir, 233 pp. Italian, 1975; English translation, 1984)

A complex and beautifully rendered memoir by the author of *Survival in Auschwitz*. A chemist by profession, Levi uses the elements as a frame for stories of his childhood in the Jewish community of Turin, his work with the Partisans, and some extraordinary experiences after the War.

### Primo Levi: **The Reawakening**

(Memoir, 222 pp. Italian, 1963; English translations, 1965, 2015)

Also published as *The Truce*, Levi's memoir describes his strange and eventful thirty-five-day journey home to Italy by way of the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Romania following his liberation from Auschwitz.

### Savyon Liebrecht: **A Man, a Woman, and a Man**

(Fiction, 256 pp. Hebrew, 1998; English translation, 2001)

This novel by one of Israel's most celebrated writers reveals the complex underpinnings of an adulterous romance. Hamutal and Saul's liaison blossoms unexpectedly in the Tel Aviv nursing home where they come to visit their ailing parents, offering them emotional shelter as they struggle with their relationships with their families.

### Eleanor Lipman: **The Inn at Lake Devine**

(Fiction, 253 pp. 1998)

In this updated screwball comedy, Lipman employs a deft and light-handed manner to tackle anti-Semitism, intermarriage, and her heroine's quest for inner growth and separation from family.

### Lynda Cohen Loigman: **The Two-Family House**

(Fiction, 304 pp. 2016)

Two families in post-war Brooklyn are inextricably linked by blood, marriage, and a long-held secret. This debut novel is permeated with hope, happiness, heartbreak, betrayal, yearning, and disappointment.

### Michael Lowenthal: **The Paternity Test**

(Fiction, 288 pp. 2012)

Having relocated from New York City to a cottage in Cape Cod, two men in a long-term relationship enlist a Brazilian Jewish immigrant to serve as a surrogate mother. Complications ensue as this character-driven novel sensitively and humorously explores gay marriage, Jewish identity and continuity, family dynamics, sexuality and fidelity.

### Michael David Lukas: **The Oracle of Stamboul**

(Fiction, 304 pp. 2011)

Set in the heart of the Ottoman Empire during the first years of its chaotic decline, this debut novel follows

Plagued by guilt after taking part in the robbery of a small New York grocery, Italian-American Frank Alpine tries to make good by taking a job helping the struggling shop's poor Jewish owner. As he works through his moral debt and falls in love with the grocer's daughter, Frank undergoes a painful struggle to transcend the base instincts that engendered his criminal behavior.

**Bernard Malamud: *The Fixer***

(Fiction, 352 pp. 1966)

Malamud won both the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for his novel set in Kiev in 1911. During a period of heightened anti-Semitism, an apolitical, nonobservant Jewish handyman is arrested and imprisoned for the ritual murder of a young Russian boy. Refusing to confess to a crime that he did not commit, the "fixer" vacillates between despair, outrage, and hope for justice.

**Adam Mansbach: *The End of the Jews***

(Fiction, 310 pp. 2008)

In the 1930s, Tristan Brodsky escapes the Bronx, finds success as a novelist, and marries a sensitive poet. Fifty years later, their hip-hop-obsessed grandson, Tris, gets involved with a half-Jewish Czech refugee, who is a photographer for a black jazz band, and starts writing novels too. Tensions arise when the writers make use of each other's life stories to create new fictions. Exploring the delicate lines between appropriation and exploitation, between blacks and Jews, and between the give and take of artistic partnership, this sensitive novel is a powerful statement about identity in 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

**Anouk Markovits: *I Am Forbidden***

(Fiction, 320 pp. 2012)

This multilayered story is a sensitive consideration of tradition and commitment, and the conflict between individual independence and the obligations of faith. It follows four generations of the Stern family, members of the Satmar Hasidic sect, from Transylvania to Paris and Brooklyn, focusing on the diverging paths of two daughters, close friends until one wants more than her proscribed world can offer.

**Alice Mattison: *In Case We're Separated***

(Fiction, 226 pp. 2005)

Thirteen linked stories imitate in prose the complex poetic form called a sestina, inviting readers into the lives of four generations of a Jewish family, once from Russia and now scattered across North America. Moments of joy, despair, hope, and puzzlement weave through stories that move back and forth in time.

**Aharon Megged: *Foigman***

(Fiction, 277 pp. Hebrew, 1987; English translation, 2003)

When an Israeli historian agrees to find a translator for a passionate Yiddish poet and Holocaust survivor whom he barely knows, he unwittingly throws his marriage and personal life into tragic confusion. Winner of a Koret Jewish Book Award, this rich novel of ideas concentrates on language and identity to play out the unresolved conflicts between the Israeli and the Diaspora Jew.

**Sami Michael: *A Trumpet in the Wadi***

(Fiction, 244 pp. Hebrew, 1987; English translation, 2003)

**Arthur Miller: *Death of a Salesman***

(Play, 448 pp. 1996)

Miller's award-winning 1949 play about traveling salesman Willy Loman, his wife, and their two sons is accompanied by essays contextualizing and elucidating the play.

**Arthur Miller: *Focus***

(Fiction, 240 pp. 1945)

A reticent personnel manager living with his mother shares the prejudices of his times and of his neighbors, until he begins wearing glasses, and others begin to mistake him for a Jew. Miller's only novel investigates the insidious effects of increasing anti-Semitism in 1945 New York.

**Tova Mirvis: *The Ladies Auxiliary***

(Fiction, 336 pp. 1999)

Narrated from the collective perspective of a synagogue's Ladies' Auxiliary, Mirvis's inspired debut depicts the perceived threat that the arrival of free-spirited Batsheva poses to the insular Orthodox community of Memphis, Tennessee. The intergenerational conflict that ensues illuminates the difficulty of maintaining tradition while honoring personal freedom.

**Tova Mirvis: *The Outside World***

(Fiction, 304 pp. 2005)

This humorously insightful novel follows Tzippy, a 22-year old modern Orthodox woman eager to marry, who unexpectedly falls for Bryan, who, following a year in yeshiva in Israel, has become stringently observant and now calls himself Baruch. The couple moves to the small Orthodox community of Memphis, Tennessee, where they and their parents deal with issues of isolation and assimilation, faith and doubt, destiny and true love.

**Agi Mishol: *Look There***

(Poetry, 78 pp. Hebrew, 1999; English translation, 2005)

Mishol's poetry, written in the instability of contemporary Israel, is an astounding balancing act between brave utterance and comic revelation, stark reality and pure pleasure.

**Wendy Mogel: *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children.***

(Nonfiction, 287 pp. 2001)

Child psychologist Wendy Mogel brings together classical Jewish texts and insights from her work with families to craft a guidebook helping parents educate their children to be flexible and independent. Grounded in the Jewish values of moderation, celebration, and sanctification, each chapter offers practical and humorous guidance for empowered yet sensitive parenting.

**Sélim Nassib: *The Palestinian Lover***

(Fiction, 164 pp. French, 2004; English translation, 2007)

This novel, by a Lebanese-Jewish writer, tells the story of a rumored secret love affair between Golda Meir and a Palestinian aristocrat. Meir is young, married, the lone woman among the inner core of Zionist

just outside Jerusalem, whose Arab inhabitants were displaced in 1948. Nevo masterfully explores the dualities of life in Israel, delicately drawing out the hope and love submerged in the hearts of its citizens.

**Eshkol Nevo: *Three Floors Up***

(Fiction, 304 pp. Hebrew 2015; English translation 2017)

Three tenants in a suburban Tel Aviv apartment building each tell their stories, and in the process explore the connections between identity, memory and loneliness. On the first floor, a retired officer who fought in the First Intifada confesses his obsession about his young daughter's safety. Above him lives Hani, whose husband travels the world while she stays at home with their two children. On the top floor lives a former judge, who tries to reconnect with her estranged son and falls in love with a man who isn't what he seems.

**Sherwin Nuland: *Lost in America***

(Memoir, 259 pp. 1981)

The author, a Bronx-born physician and noted writer, probes his tortured relationship with his Yiddish-speaking immigrant father. In recreating the tense environment of his childhood, his father's dark moods and increasing debilitation, Nuland charts his ultimately successful struggle to live in a larger and more fulfilling world.

**Anne-Marie O'Connor: *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer***

(Nonfiction, 368 pp. 2012)

Often referred to as the "Austrian Mona Lisa," Gustav Klimt's gold-leafed portrait of Jewish art patron Adele Bloch-Bauer has a complicated and controversial history. O'Connor relates the story of the painting, casting light on its creation during the Viennese Belle Epoque, its confiscation under Nazi rule, and the long struggle over its ownership after World War II.

**Achy Obejas: *Days of Awe***

(Fiction, 357 pp. 2001)

The protagonist of this semi-autobiographical novel was born in Cuba and grew up in Chicago in a community of refugees who nurtured the hope that they might eventually return to their homeland. When her job takes her back to Cuba, she discovers that her ostensibly Catholic ancestors are actually conversos who converted to Christianity during the Spanish Inquisition. Enlightened by a revised understanding of her past and her culture, she uncovers new truths about relatives who struggled with their own identities so long ago.

**Julie Orringer: *The Invisible Bridge***

(Fiction, 624 pp. 2010)

In Fall 1937 Andras Lévi leaves Hungary to study architecture in Paris, and his brother Tibor leaves for medical school in Italy. Both men eventually return to Hungary with their wives until the war upends their world. This intricate mélange of historical events and personal drama is an unforgettable story of love, courage, and survival.

**Amos Oz: *Between Friends***

(Fiction, 190 pp. Hebrew 1967; English translation 2010)

In 1959 Jerusalem, a young biblical scholar finds work as a caregiver for a brilliant but cantankerous old man. In the house is also an alluring widow, the daughter of a deceased Zionist leader. This love story and coming-of-age novel is also an allegory for the State of Israel and for the New Testament tale from which it draws its title.

**Amos Oz: Panther in the Basement**

(Fiction, 155 pp. Hebrew, 1994; English translation, 1997)

It is the summer of 1947 in Palestine under the British Mandate. A 12-year-old Jewish boy befriends a British soldier to improve his English, only to find himself branded as a traitor by his friends. A coming of age novel with a difference.

**Amos Oz: A Tale of Love and Darkness**

(Memoir, 560 pp. Hebrew, 2002; English translation, 2004)

Past and present spiral in this dense memoir of growing up in Jerusalem in the years before and after Israeli independence. Oz's richly colored tales of his European immigrant family trying to recreate itself in an alien landscape allow readers to know the inner workings of a distinguished writer and gain insight into what impelled him toward his craft.

**Cynthia Ozick: The Puttermessa Papers**

(Fiction, 256 pp. 1997)

In a modern urban version of a classic Jewish myth, Ozick offers her take on the Golem. Visionary and malcontent Ruth Puttermessa stars in this surrealistic tale of destruction and rebirth.

**Victor Perera: The Cross and the Pear Tree**

(Nonfiction, 282 pp. 1995)

Perera, who taught at U.C. Berkeley, was born in Guatemala City to Sephardic émigrés from Jerusalem. Through the lens of his own family, he tells of Sephardic wanderings from the time of the Expulsion from Spain in 1492, linking Pereras across generations and continents.

**Francine Prose: Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife**

(Nonfiction, 336 pp. 2009)

The second most widely-read book in the world, *Diary of a Young Girl* has a fascinating history from its origins in the secret annex to publication in more than fifty languages and controversial stage and screen adaptations. Prose chronicles Frank's process to create a deliberate work of art intended for publication, offering a literary and historical analysis of an iconic work.

**Elizabeth Poliner: As Close to Us as Breathing**

(Fiction, 368 pp. 2016)

A multigenerational family saga about the long-lasting reverberations that result when a terrible accident transforms a summer of hope and self-discovery into a lifetime of atonement and loss for members of this close-knit clan.

**Dorit Rabinyan: All the Rivers**

(Fiction, 300 pp. Hebrew, 2014; English translation, 2017)

**Tova Reich: *My Holocaust***

(Fiction, 326 pp. 2007)

Is it appropriate to write a satiric novel about the place of the Holocaust in contemporary culture? Reich has done just that, asking difficult questions without providing easy answers. Jostling to capitalize on the legacy of human victimization are survivors and their children, Arabs, Poles, vegetarians, and mystics, all fighting to dominate a national Holocaust museum in the name of their own sacred causes.

**Irina Reyn: *What Happened to Anna K.***

(Fiction, 244 pp. 2008)

Overly romantic thirty-seven-year-old Anna K. is comfortably married to an older businessman from her tight-knit Russian-Jewish immigrant community in Queens, but her longing for escape is ignited when she meets her cousin's young boyfriend. This fresh reinvention of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* masterfully explores issues of identity, fidelity, and community in a contemporary setting.

**Mordecai Richler: *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz***

(Fiction, 377 pp. 1959)

A man must pursue his dreams, and Duddy has big dreams. You will be charmed by him, you will hate him, and you will most certainly keep reading as his scheme to get out of Montreal's Jewish ghetto and buy a piece of land does battle with his moral principals.

**Stuart Rojstaczer: *The Mathematician's Shiva***

(Fiction, 384 pp. 2014)

Sasha Karnokovitch and his family would like to mourn the passing of his mother, Rachela, with modesty and dignity. But Rachela, a brilliant Polish émigré mathematician, is rumored to have solved the million-dollar Navier-Stokes Millennium Prize problem, and spitefully taken the solution to her grave. A motley group of socially challenged mathematicians arrives to crash the shiva, vowing to do whatever it takes to find the solution.

**Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum: *A Day of Small Beginnings***

(Fiction, 368 pp. 2006)

The relationship between the spirit of the elderly, childless Friedl and three generations of a secular Jewish family whose "faithless" patriarch fled Poland for America in 1906 permeates this novel, which interweaves history, mysticism, and magic realism with the reality of anti-Semitism and spiritual redemption.

**James Ross: *Fragile Branches: Travels through the Jewish Diaspora***

(Nonfiction, 229 pp. 2000)

Journalist Ross introduces six isolated communities in India, Peru, Brazil, Israel, and Uganda that embrace Judaism despite enormous obstacles. Offering new perspectives, encouraging reexamination of relationships with tradition, and reminding us of the richness and diversity of Jewish life, the book also poses the ever-perplexing question of who, exactly, is a Jew.

**Philip Roth: *Nemesis***

(Fiction, 304 pp. 2010)

Bucky Cantor is a vigorous young playground director when a polio outbreak mysteriously begins to ravage 1944 Newark. Faced with an opportunity to leave the city for work in a Catskills summer camp, Bucky is torn between personal safety and professional duty in this modern American morality tale.

**Philip Roth: *The Plot Against America***

(Fiction, 416 pp. 2004)

Roth's stirring work of historical fiction depicts the impact on a New Jersey Jewish family of Charles Lindbergh's defeat of Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 Presidential election.

**Danya Ruttenberg: *Nuture the Wow: Finding Spirituality in the Frustration, Boredom, Tears, Poop, Desperation, Wonder, and Radical Amazement of Parenting***

(Nonfiction, 320 pp. 2016)

Rooted in Judaism and incorporating a wide-range of religious and literary traditions, this book shows how seeing parenting as a spiritual practice can lead to transformation.

**Ariel Sabar: *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq***

(Memoir, 325 pp. 2008)

Ariel Sabar's father, Yona, was born in the northern Iraqi village of Zakho, a place so remote that the Kurdish Jews who lived there still spoke the ancient language of Aramaic. Ariel, a journalist who grew up in Los Angeles, investigates his father's dedication to preserving the stories, traditions, and language of his past.

**Sigal Samuel: *The Mystics of Mile End***

(Fiction, 320 pp. 2015)

In Montreal's Mile End neighborhood, shared by hipsters and Hasidic Jews, a professor of Jewish mysticism is diagnosed with an unusual heart murmur, becoming convinced that his heart is whispering divine secrets. When his frenzied attempts to ascend the Tree of Life lead to tragedy, his children set out separately to finish what he's started.

**Rebecca Schwartz, editor: *All the Women Followed Her: A Collection of Writings on Miriam the Prophet and the Women of Exodus***

(Essays, 327 pp. 2001)

Just who was Miriam? The first female prophet in the Bible has always been an enigmatic figure. In this anthology, women from across the Jewish spectrum offer original midrashim, poems, rituals, and biblical exegesis that suggest new ways of understanding Miriam and expanding her presence in Jewish thought and practice.

**Esther Schor: *Emma Lazarus***

(Nonfiction, 347 pp. 2006)

Scion of a wealthy, assimilated Sephardic family with American roots that pre-date the Revolution,

### **Moacyr Scliar: *The Centaur in the Garden***

(Fiction, 216 pp. Portuguese, 1980; English translation, 1984)

An outsider among outsiders, a Jewish centaur narrates his life's journey from his birth on a farm homesteaded by his Russian immigrant family in southern Brazil through his efforts to rid himself of the equine portion of his body and take his place in contemporary Brazilian society. Listed by the National Yiddish Book Center as one of the 100 greatest works of modern Jewish literature, this earthy tale is one you won't soon forget.

### **Francesca Segal: *The Innocents***

(Fiction, 282 pp. 2012)

A small suburb in North West London is the setting for this recasting of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*. Twenty-eight-year-old Adam Newman has been dating Rachel Gilbert since they were both sixteen and now, to everyone's relief and happiness in their tight-knit Jewish community, they are finally to marry. But as the vast machinery of the wedding gathers momentum and Rachel's fiercely independent cousin Ellie moves home from New York, Adam finds himself questioning everything, torn between security and desire, tradition and independence.

### **Lore Segal: *Her First American***

(Fiction, 287 pp. 1994)

This surprisingly comic novel follows the adventures of Ilka Weissnix, a 21-year-old Austrian Jew who has survived the War and come to the United States. As she explores her new world, she enters into an unlikely romance with an older African-American intellectual, who also turns out to be losing a battle with alcoholism.

### **Meir Shalev: *The Blue Mountain***

(Fiction, 378 pp. Hebrew, 1988; English translation, 1991)

This imaginative novel transcends time and place as it depicts three generations of the inhabitants of a rural village in Israel—from the four immigrants pioneering a new life in a new land, to their grandson Baruch, who reflects on the past with nostalgia, curiosity, and ambivalence.

### **Meir Shalev: *The Loves of Judith***

(Fiction, 315 pp. Hebrew, 1994, English translation 1999)

Also published as *Four Meals*, this rich and remarkable novel recounts how, over the course of four meals that take place across several decades, a boy named Zayde learns about his mother Judith's relationships in a rural village in British Mandate Palestine in the 1930s with her three lovers, all of whom consider him their son.

### **Meir Shalev: *My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner***

(Memoir, 224 pp. Hebrew, 2009; English translation, 2011)

This humorous and tender memoir about the acclaimed Israeli author's grandmother and her obsession with cleanliness richly evokes the idealism and disappointments of the Eastern European Jews who came to Palestine in the 1920s.

connection to the bird handler.

**Meir Shalev: *Two She-Bears***

(Fiction, 320 pp. Hebrew, 2013; English translation, 2016)

This unconventional literary thriller about two murders—one committed as an act of vengeance and the second as an act of retribution—takes place in a rural village in Israel. Spanning three generations in one family's life, this is a tale of love, betrayal, revenge, loss, brutality, and salvation.

**Ari Shavit: *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel***

(Nonfiction, 464 pp. 2013)

In this award-winning book that is both political and highly personal, veteran Israeli journalist Shavit analyzes episodes in the history of Israel and the Zionist movement through his own family's experience, and through the eyes of fellow Israelis. The resulting vision is a complex and challenging one that both affirms the nation's achievements and confronts its failures.

**Sholem Aleichem: *Tevye the Dairyman and the Railroad Stories***

(Short Stories, 309 pp. Yiddish, 1894-1914; English translation, 1987)

Faced with a household of daughters to marry off, pogroms, expulsions, and the erosion of the traditional ways of the shtetl, why shouldn't a poor dairyman complain? Tevye relates his woes in monologues peppered with wry humor, homespun philosophy, and his celebrated use and misuse of Jewish texts.

**Isaac Bashevis Singer: *Enemies, A Love Story***

(Fiction, 280 pp. Yiddish, 1966; English translation, 1972)

Like no other love story you might have read before, this tale of a Holocaust survivor and his three wives in 1950s New York City is presented with humor and pathos in Singer's ironic style.

**Isaac Bashevis Singer: *The Slave***

(Fiction, 311 pp. Yiddish, 1962; English translation, 1962)

Jacob, a pogrom survivor who has been sold as a slave to Polish peasants, lives a simple life in a remote village. Contrary to both Jewish and secular law, he falls in love with the daughter of his Christian owner, and together they begin a new life in another shtetl. Set in 17th century Poland, this dark and passionate allegory is considered Singer's most lyrical and well-constructed novel.

**Israel Joshua Singer: *The Brothers Ashkenazi***

(Fiction, 426 pp. Yiddish, 1937; English translation, 1980)

It's not your grandfather's shtetl. This epic novel about the bitter rivalry of twin brothers is set against the development of Lodz, Poland in the late 19th century from a sleepy town into an industrial center. Family and community relationships are transformed by wealth, social divisions, and the politics of a rapidly changing world.

**Yuri Slezkine: *The Jewish Century***

(Nonfiction, 344 pp. 2006)

A professor of Russian history at U.C. Berkeley, Slezkine develops a controversial understanding of

wife Farnaz struggles to keep from slipping into despair, while his young daughter Shirin tries to take matters into her own hands. Far away in Brooklyn, Isaac's son Parviz, though not religious, falls for the pious daughter of his Hasidic landlord. Sofer masterfully captures the small tensions and larger brutalities that sharply impact a family unable to conform.

**Ruth Sohn: Crossing Cairo**

(Memoir, 272 pp. 2013)

Rabbi Ruth Sohn explores the experience of living in Egypt with her husband and children, after having been advised not to share the fact of their Jewish identity. Unexpected discoveries unfold as they attempt to cross the boundaries of language, culture and religion to form real friendships and find a home among Egyptians.

**Alisa Solomon: Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof**

(Nonfiction, 448 pp. 2013)

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the iconic Broadway musical, theater critic and scholar Solomon details how and why the story of Tevye the milkman, the creation of Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, was reborn as a blockbuster entertainment and a cultural touchstone transcending ethnic and national boundaries.

**Anna Solomon: Leaving Lucy Pear**

(Fiction, 336 pp. 2016)

The lives of an abandoned girl's biological mother—a wealthy Jewish pianist—and adoptive mother—a dirt-poor Irish Catholic woman—are juxtaposed with that of their little girl. Set on the New England coast in the 1920s, the novel investigates class, freedom, gender, sexuality, and the meaning of family.

**Art Spiegelman: Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale**

(Graphic memoir, 295 pp. Vol I, 1986; Vol II, 1991)

This Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, incongruously told in the form of a comic strip, is a haunting story within a story, of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his aging father's history.

**Ilan Stavans, editor: The Oxford Book of Jewish Stories**

(Short Stories, 493 pp. 1998)

Fifty-two stories from eighteen countries, originally written in ten languages, allow your group to explore the global reach of modern Jewish literature. A great way to discover new writers for future discussions.

**Milton Steinberg: As A Driven Leaf**

(Fiction, 480 pp. 1939)

This classic historical novel, written by an American rabbi, draws readers into the era of the great rabbis of the Talmud. At its center is the renegade sage Elisha ben Abuyah, whose doubts lead him to search for answers in the Greek and Roman world, with dramatic consequences.

**Steve Stern: The Frozen Rabbi**

(Fiction, 262 pp. 2010)

**Chanan Tigay: *The Lost Book of Moses: The Hunt for the World's Oldest Bible***

(Nonfiction, 368 pp. 2016)

In 1883, Moses Wilhelm Shapira—archaeological treasure hunter, inveterate social climber, and denizen of Jerusalem's bustling marketplace—arrived unannounced in London claiming to have discovered the world's oldest Bible scroll. Tigay, an award-winning journalist, follows every lead, no matter how unlikely, in his attempts to find the treasure and solve the riddle of the brilliant, doomed antiquities dealer accused of forging it.

**Daniel Torday: *The Last Flight of Poxl West***

(Fiction, 302 pp. 2015)

Elijah Goldstein loves his uncle, Poxl West, who has for fifty years portrayed himself as a RAF hero during World War II, but who may or may not have been all the things he claimed to be. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award for fiction, this coming-of-age story is a meditation on memory, aspiration, and truth.

**Ayelet Tsabari: *The Best Place on Earth: Stories***

(Short Stories, 272 pp. 2016)

These eleven stories, set between Israel and Canada, feature mothers and children, soldiers and bohemians, lovers and best friends, all searching for their place in the world. Tsabari's Mizrahi characters grapple with love, violence, faith, the slipperiness of identity, and the challenges of balancing old traditions with modern times.

**Anya Ulinich: *Petropolis***

(Fiction, 324 pp. 2007)

Chubby, biracial teenager Sasha Goldberg continually disappoints her overbearing mother until she manages to escape the confines of her bleakly named Siberian town, Asbestos 2. She first lands as a mail-order bride in Phoenix, then ditches her husband and makes her way to suburban Chicago where a wealthy family adopts her as their pet. Her search for her father takes her to the mean streets of Brooklyn and back to Russia in this smart, darkly humorous, satire about coming of age in the 20th century.

**Kim van Alkemade: *Orphan #8***

(Fiction, 416 pp. 2015)

In this historical novel inspired by true events, Kim van Alkemade tells the fascinating story of a woman who must choose between revenge and mercy when she encounters the doctor who subjected her to dangerous medical experiments in a New York City Jewish orphanage years before.

**Angel Wagenstein: *Isaac's Torah: Concerning the Life of Isaac Jacob Blumenfeld Through Two World Wars, Three Concentration Camps and Five Motherlands***

(Fiction, 304 pp. Bulgarian, 2000; English translation, 2008)

Tragedy is overlaid with Jewish humor as an affable tailor survives war and nationalism in Central Europe between World War I and the death of Stalin. This darkly ironic novel, peppered with Yiddish jokes, fables from the Kolodetz shtetl, and the unorthodox comments of sometimes atheist Rabbi Shmuel Ben-David, offers profound insights into life's absurdities.

**Wendy Wasserstein: *The Sisters Rosensweig***

(Play, 109 pp. 1993)

This award-winning comedy follows three Jewish-American sisters in the midst of midlife transitions.

Their off-stage parents, a crew of friends and lovers, and one daughter complicate their quest for love, self-definition, and fulfillment.

**Katharine Weber: *Triangle***

(Fiction, 242 pp. 2006)

On March 25, 1911, 146 sweatshop workers, most of them women, perished in the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in New York City. The novel alternates between stories, interviews and court records to reveal the mystery behind the unlikely survival of 106-year-old Esther, and the role of her geneticist granddaughter Rebecca, Rebecca's composer partner George, and Ruth, a feminist historian determined to unravel the contradictions in Esther's testimony after the fire.

**Helene Wecker: *The Golem and the Jinni***

(Fiction, 496 pp. 2013)

An immigrant tale that combines elements of Jewish and Arab folk mythology, this inventive historical novel describes two supernatural creatures who arrive separately in New York in 1899. They work to create places for themselves in this new world until they meet, becoming friends and soul mates.

**Michael Wex: *Born to Kvetch***

(Nonfiction, 303 pp. 2005)

So you think you know something about Yiddish? Wait till you read this book, which marries humor and scholarship to unearth the origins of Yiddish and its growth and development. Covering topics from food to cursing, from birth to death, Wex uses stories, jokes, and anecdotes to kvetch and kvell and do everything in between.

**Andrew Winer: *The Marriage Artist***

(Fiction, 384 pp. 2010)

Winer's audacious novel alternates between two plot lines: a present-day New York art critic is determined to discover why his wife and her artist lover jumped from a window; a creator of staggeringly beautiful *ketubot* (marriage contracts) achieves fame in prewar Vienna, leading to his downfall. The two stories converge in a psycho-political-sexual puzzle exploring the mystical, memorializing powers of art and the endless hunger of love.

**A.B. Yehoshua: *The Liberated Bride***

(Fiction, 568 pp. Hebrew, 2001; English translation, 2004)

Yehoshua focuses on the family and professional life of a Haifa professor of Near Eastern Studies to reveal a web of relationships linking characters from diverse sectors of Israeli society. Rich in detail and humor, the novel deftly explores the deep divides in a complex country, illuminating the struggles of Jews and Arabs and husbands and wives to live together in peace.

**Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi: *Freud's Moses***

(Nonfiction, 100 pp. 1993)

*Bread Givers* gives voice to the immigrant Jewish woman's struggle as, in unadorned prose, the harsh world of a young woman without resources or external support is graphically represented. We cheer, we sigh, and we shake our heads in disbelief as our heroine pushes the boundaries of culture, religion, and family to survive.

Joyce Zonana: **Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, An Exile's Journey**

(Memoir, 223 pp. 2008)

In the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, the Jewish Zonanas fled Cairo with their infant daughter Joyce. They settled in Brooklyn, where Joyce grew up in Brooklyn, struggling with feelings of isolation. She eventually meets her extended family living in Colombia and Brazil, travels to Cairo to understand her parents' past, and survives the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Markus Zusak: **The Book Thief**

(Fiction, 560 pp. 2006)

An orphaned girl, who steals books even before she knows how to read them, comes to live with a foster family, who turn out to be hiding a Jew in their basement.



(6/2018)