

SPRING 2011

NON-FICTION

**THE EGYPTIAN ANGEL & THE MOSSAD**

**Uri Bar-Joseph**

Israel: KZBD

Did he jump or was he pushed? In June, 2007, the Egyptian millionaire Ashraf Marwan fell to his death from the fourth floor balcony of his London apartment. Scotland Yard's investigation was inconclusive. Marwan was the son-in-law of Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser and a close and trusted adviser to Anwar Sadat. He was also a louche businessman who was involved in an enormous British financial scandal. But behind his life of power and wealth, Marwan was also the most important spy that Israel ever fielded in the Arab world. For more than a quarter of a century, he gave Israel access to Egypt's most closely guarded secrets. It was Marwan's warning, just before the start of the Yom Kippur War of 1973 that provided Israel with a precious few hours to begin mobilization, ultimately saving it from a catastrophic defeat and even the demise of the Jewish state. In this timely and compelling account, Uri Bar-Joseph marshals an impressive body of evidence that points to Egyptian Intelligence as responsible for Marwan's death.

*The Egyptian Angel*, the first comprehensive and authoritative account of Ashraf Marwan's career as an Israeli secret agent, is an important contribution to the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's military censors allowed Bar-Joseph access to documentary evidence that until then had been kept under seal. Bar-Joseph was also able to gather previously undisclosed information from those in the intelligence community who were most closely involved with Marwan. In addition, the author also conducted interviews in London with people who either were eyewitnesses at the scene of Marwan's death or who knew details about the last few hours of his life.

This is an intriguing, relevant and highly readable account of one of the most audacious espionage coups of our time.

**Uri Bar-Joseph** is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Haifa. He received his Ph.D in political science from Stanford University. He specializes in strategic and intelligence studies, focusing on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israeli security policy. He has taught both in Israel and abroad, including San Francisco State University (2009-2007). In addition to more than thirty articles in journals such as Political Science Quarterly, The Journal of Conflict Resolution, Security Studies, Political Psychology and Armed Forces and Society, he is the author of five books, the most recent of which is *The Egyptian Angel & the Mossad* (KZBD, 2010).

*"The book's final dramatic scene, shows that truth is indeed stranger than fiction....fascinating and important....Bar-Joseph weaves a narrative that will appeal not simply to fans of spy stories; one that is all the more powerful because it really took place. He offers a rare glimpse into the mysteries of the Mossad and its secret methods, and even if those in the know disagree with the decision to expose them, the curious are likely to be satisfied by the book."*  
Yigal Kipnis, Ha'aretz

**BERNIE AND ELLIS**

**Ellis Cohen-Pareira & Shula Bitran**

Israel: HaKibbutz-HaMeuhad

Holland: Balans

Scheveningen, Holland, December, 1945: Ellis Cohen-Paraira, a young Dutch Jewish woman who has survived the war, is putting on her wedding dress. She is about to marry a soldier from Palestine. A package arrives for her in the mail. Inside is the diary of Bernie Spier. Bernie was her love, the passion of her life in Europe, but he has not emerged from the war, and his fate is unknown. Now, suddenly he is back with her in a way, just as she is miraculously starting a new life. For decades, Ellis keeps the diary, unread. Finally, urged by her husband and children, she opens Bernie's diary, as well as her own from the same time, and she begins to recover her past and to put two worlds together.

9 Yael Street Jerusalem 93502 Israel  
TEL 972 2 6722145/3 FAX 972 2 6725797

Bernie wrote in his diary about desperately moving from place to place, and about the round-ups of Jews, and about his exquisite love for Ellis. She wrote about being hidden in a farmhouse, and about her longing to be reunited with him. Bernie knew that sometimes they were near to each other, but Ellis only learned this many years later. By October 1942, the Nazis were closing in, and Bernie fled the area with his family. Before he left, he entrusted his diary to a woman who smuggled it to a member of the underground, who managed to get it to Ellis.

Years later, Ellis and her daughter Shula, now living in Israel, set about unraveling the mystery of what happened to Bernie. They travel to Holland, and there they realize that Bernie left clues embedded in his diary. They learn that Bernie's final escape was to a house on a canal in Amsterdam. In the end, Bernie and his family were betrayed, for a bounty of eight guilders per Jew. They were sent to Auschwitz, where all of them were murdered, save one. In a breathtaking turn of events, some of the crucial details of what happened to Bernie and his family were recently discovered by Ellis and Shula.

The narrative of Ellis and Shula's search is interwoven with *Bernie and Ellis's* diaries. Together, they produce a true, and truly extraordinary, story of love and loss, tragedy and joy. Perhaps not since *The Diary of Ann Frank* have we seen the likes of this.

*"This is a deeply moving story about the resurrection of love. Written with compelling candor and sense for drama the riveting plot may easily pass for a superb work of fiction, but its fascinating power stems from the fact that it all happened in reality".* Tom Segev

## THE INVENTION OF TOMORROW

**Daniel S. Milo**

English translation available

Israel: Kibbutz HaMeuhad

France: Editions du Seuil

220 pages

The *Invention of Tomorrow* is an exploration of evolution and the human dilemma, written for a popular audience. Daniel Milo, a brilliant professor of natural philosophy and a gifted raconteur, maintains that evolution has given human beings a brain that is simply too large for our own good. Producing options without end, this overly fertile organ also condemns us to lives of restlessness, dissatisfaction and overconsumption. How did the jewel of creation come to be a cause of such discontent? Milo's answer is that, because of the excess capacity of the human brain, we don't need to employ all of our intellectual faculties in the basic tasks of life, and so we have created the concept of the future. Man is the only creature that is capable of planning more than a few hours ahead. We have, as he puts it "invented tomorrow" and, with it, generated an abiding dissatisfaction with what we already have in the present.

Refreshingly eclectic, and in the style of the best popular scientific writing, *The Invention of Tomorrow* succeeds in being at once serious and entertaining, provocative and amusing. Science and philosophy are interwoven with references to chess boxing, tickled chimpanzees, Chinese taxidermists, the Passover Haggadah and McDonalds hamburgers.

**Daniel Shabetai Milo** was educated in Israel and in France. He is a professor of natural philosophy at the École des Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales in Paris. In addition to many books and articles, he has also directed a play and two films.

**Praise** for *The Invention of Tomorrow* (Hebrew original):

*"The book is excellent and deserves a central place in the library of Darwinian evolution. I especially liked the revival of the way of seeing pertaining to a "philosopher of nature," based on curiosity, observation, analogies,*

and conclusions. The quotations of literary and historical sources broaden the horizons, and add a unique charm to the book.”

Zvi Yanai, author of “Yours, Sandro.”

"The result, as it is reflected in the reading, is exhilarating and interesting. To the reader's joy, the freedom that the author takes in the book and the wide span he depicts (...) are pleasurable. Milo isn't satisfied with the 'dry' scientific methodology, but rather chooses to tell a story, based on data (...) and also offers an explanation; by doing so he transforms the book (...) into an epic tale of Man's descent and his unique nature."

Dudi Goldman, Notes on Science and Short Poesy

"There's something definitely refreshing about an academic with the zeal of a preacher (...) who is simply trying to understand why man is just a sad mammal who knows how to comb his hair."

Iri Rikin, NRG

## ELEMENTS OF A COLD PEACE

**Amr El-Zant**

English Manuscript available

With compelling and poignant references to the incongruities of the author's own life, *Elements of a Cold Peace* looks at the root causes of the collapse of the peace process after what had seemed to be the breakthrough at Oslo. With a scientist's eye and a writer's pen, Dr. El-Zant shows how the inflexible nationalisms of the Middle East have incapacitated the adversaries and rendered them unable to constructively or even accurately communicate their views. The agony of the Middle East is a consequence of rigid, deterministic identities, both personal and collective. The problem is universal, relevant beyond the confines of the region.

*Elements of a Cold Peace* is an exceptional, well-rendered book by a brilliant Egyptian who lived and taught in Israel during a time of great promise and frustration. Amr El-Zant has integrated an insightful analysis of the failed Oslo peace process with a remarkable personal saga.

**Amr El-Zant** is an astrophysicist at the Centre for Theoretical Physics in Cairo, affiliated with the British University in Egypt. He also writes a weekly column for *Al Masry al Youm*, the leading independent newspaper in Egypt. Raised in a hard-line Arab nationalist Nasserite family, he studied in Cairo and then spent four years in Israel as a Fellow at the Haifa Technion, Israel's premier institute of technology. It was from that unique vantage point that he watched the disintegration of the Oslo peace process.

### **Advance praise for *Elements of a Cold Peace***

"Thank you for giving me the chance to read your remarkable work, *Elements of a Cold Peace*. You have lived a courageous life, and have written a courageous book. This kind of life, and this kind of book, are rare in an Arab world that desperately needs both. Perhaps it is the outstanding physicist in you, the ability to see patterns in the universe. And you write with lyricism and flair. The great Egyptians of the liberal age would recognize you as their faithful descendent. And humanists everywhere would celebrate this book."

Fouad Ajami

"The Middle East has more than its share of prophets, but they should make way for one more. Amr el Zant has produced something unique: an account of a personal journey into the pathologies of the Arab-Israeli conflict that is at once open-minded, empathetic and powerfully illuminating. Both sides need badly to hear his myth-demolishing testimony, before it is too late."

Max Rodenbeck, Chief Middle East Correspondent for *The Economist*

## **OPPORTUNISM: How to Change the World – One Idea at a Time**

**Shraga F. Biran**

USA: Farrar, Straus & Giroux (January 2011)

Israel: Miskal

*“In today’s world, opportunity can no longer be viewed as a chance occurrence or as a starting point for competition in society. Rather, it is the raw material for a new era of abundance.”*

In this bold and forward-looking book, an Israeli civic leader shows how reorienting our society to make the most of “opportunity” could restore the global economy to health—and give added value to the contributions of the new class of knowledge workers.

In *Opportunism*, Biran restores respect for that misunderstood virtue. He has re-introduced opportunism not as the exploitation of a workforce or individuals, as its reputation unfairly stands, but the exploitation of an idea, a technology, a moment in time. With this groundbreaking book, Biran shows clearly how reorienting our society to make the most of opportunity could restore the global economy to health – and give added value to our most important asset: human capital.

For most of us, opportunism is a tainted concept. Shraga F. Biran thinks otherwise. He shows how our current economy favors the wealthy few more than at any point in history. But such an economy is both unstable and outmoded, unable to recognize the true value of the work done by the new knowledge class, whose commerce is in ideas, not financial assets.

Biran argues that in today’s economy, the way to thrive is to create an opportunity and make the most of it. He proposes that we should establish a “right of opportunity,” with an actual Online Idea Bank, akin to patents and copyrights, enabling all members of society to lay claim to their ideas and benefit from them financially. Thus empowered, the new opportunists can help bring about a revolution in applied knowledge on the scale of the Industrial Revolution—and a more just, stable, and prosperous society.

**Shraga F. Biran** is the founder of one of Israel’s leading law firms and an entrepreneur specializing in energy and international real estate. Since publishing his first book, *In Tears Shall They Reap* (2002) Biran has offered his social, economic and political ideas in both public and academic forums. He lives in Jerusalem.

## **FICTION**

### **TAMING THE FIRE**

**Iris Le’al**

Israel: KZBD

300 pages

A wintery weekend in the lives of two couples begins with dinner preparations and ends with the eruption of fire. Liza Sher, a movie editor and Eddie Fight her curator boyfriend have invited Eddie's colleague Arkadi and his wife Anya to dinner at their new house. A pleasant evening in the country turns into dramatic twenty-four hours where the foundations of their friendship, the fragility of love, and the inability to escape their past are all bluntly exposed.

Between smuggling art from Russia and selling it in London; between Morocco and a poor Tel Aviv neighborhood the plot of this gripping novel twists and turns undermining notions of gender, class and national identity.

With a lethal mixture of pain and irony, love and hope, the fates and stories of these four people cross and unfold against the background of the turbulent Israeli society during the second intifada, questioning both the impact of immigration as well Western materialism through a sophisticated literary prism.

A linguistic virtuoso, applauded by the critics, Leal manages to combine biting wit, humor and deep compassion placing *Taming the Fire* at the forefront of contemporary Israeli literature.

**Iris Leal** has published four novels and is currently writing a play for the Cameri Theater. She is the chair of the writing department at the Camera Obscura School of Art and often writes essays for the *Ha'aretz* book review. Leal has won several prestigious prizes including the **Prime Minister Prize** for writers and the **Bernstein Prize**; she was also nominated twice for the **Sapir**, the Israeli equivalent of the Booker prize. Published in 2008 to rave reviews, *Taming the Fire* was chosen as one of the best books of 2008 by *Maariv* newspaper as well as one of the best novels of the decade.

*"Taming the Fire reminds me why I'm a book critic. There are few new novels which provide the critic the rare experience of work that isn't work, business that is pure pleasure due to the quality the of writing. [The novel] forefronts a literary text in which almost every sentence is loaded with novelty, its lines accumulating into a richness creating the satisfying illusion of capturing reality...the same illusion titled superb realistic fiction".*

Arik Glasner, Maariv

*"So rare in its literary quality, honest and brave....a display of literary fiction that is written with tremendous talent, with exceptional preciseness, with X-ray eyes and a laser tongue which cuts through the rotting flesh of the new Israeliness."*

Shoham Smith, Haaretz Book Review

## **IRON**

**Eran Bar Gil**

Israel: Keter Publishing

220 pages

Full English translation available

On her deathbed, unable to speak, a woman bids farewell to her family and the house she has lived in most of her life as she watches an old tree being cut down outside her window. The wife of a criminal has doubts if she should turn him in to the police. A mother prepares her children for a crucial family gathering that will expose her husband's long time secret.

These are some of Eran Bar Gil's heroines. Each one, through her unique monologue, reveals a moment of crisis and despair, a moment of decision. The stories at first seem disparate and unrelated, but then we discover that all of the women are encountering, on different levels, the figure of one man, Netta Harlev. He enters the first story as a laborer in a neighbor's yard. He then emerges in successive stories as an increasingly complex, compassionate and intriguing man who faces his own turmoil and conflicts—art versus life, creation versus destruction and life in the face of death.

Through this sophisticated, remarkably creative structure of introspective journeys, Eran Bar Gil manages to subtly capture the unexpected encounters of life and how they shape its course. The stories of eight different women not only piece together the image of one man but also unveil a narrative of redemption through love.

*Iron* is **Eran Bar-Gil's** eighth book. Born in 1969, he studied psychology and comparative literature at Bar Ilan University. Bar-Gil, has written articles and reviews for the Israeli press and has published a collection of short stories, three books of poetry and three novels. In the past few years he has been working on a literary-musical trilogy with the critically acclaimed ensemble "1:1". *Iron* is the second book in this trilogy which will conclude with the group's current album *Happiness*. Bar-Gil has been awarded the **Bernstein Prize (2006)**, the **ACUM Prize (2007)**, the **Johanna Prenner Prize (2007)** for a film script of *Iron* and recently the ACUM prize for an anonymous manuscript, for his forthcoming novel *Lies and Magic* (2011).

## SECOND PERSON

**Sayed Kashua**

USA: Grove

Israel: Keter

France: Editions de L'Olivier

Germany: Berlin Verlag

Italy: Neri Pozza

Holland: Ambo/Anthos

300 pages

*The appearance of Second Person Singular is a joyful event...[a] fascinating and daring novel. Kashua...offers an intriguing outlook on Israeli society and on the hybrid identity of its Arab citizens.*  
Professor Michael Gluzman, Chair, Dep. Of Literature, Tel Aviv University

The novel's protagonist is an ambitious lawyer who is considered to be the best Arab criminal attorney in Jerusalem. He has a thriving practice in the Western Jerusalem, the Jewish part of the city, a big house, speaks perfect Hebrew, frequents neighborhood cafés, and enjoys an altogether satisfying lifestyle. He is in love with his wife, Leila and his two children. In his favorite bookstore one day he picks up a used copy of *The Kreutzer Sonata*, a book that his wife, Leila, has casually mentioned. Inside, he finds a note, in Arabic, in his wife's handwriting: "I waited for you and you didn't arrive. I hope everything is all right with you. I wanted to thank you for last night, it was wonderful. Call me tomorrow?" The lawyer becomes consumed with suspicion and jealousy. Humiliated and obsessed, he follows his wife around Jerusalem attempting to decipher the mystery.

Kashua deftly spins a tale of love and betrayal, faith and disloyalty, honesty and artifice.

**Sayed Kashua**, a Palestinian Arab living in Jerusalem, is an author and journalist and the creator of the critically acclaimed TV series *Arab Labor*. He was born in the Galilee and graduated from the Hebrew University. His popular weekly column in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz satirically describes the ironies, insults, challenges and absurdities that Israeli Arabs confront as they navigate between two often irreconcilable worlds. His novels DANCING ARABS and LET IT BE MORNING have been published in USA, UK, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Vietnam and Indonesia. Sayed Kashua has received the **Grinzane Cavour Award** for First Novel 2004 (Italy), **The Prime Minister's Prize** 2005 (Israel) and the **Lessing Prize** 2006 (Germany).

"Second Person Singular, *Sayed Kashua's* new book, proves once and for all that he is the best Hebrew writer working today"

Walla

"This is one of those books that with each chapter you realize that the book is even better than what you thought it was in the last chapter in which you thought it was already very good."

E-mago

## MOZART'S LAST ARIA

**Matt Rees**

USA: HarperCollins (Autumn 2011)

UK: Corvus

Indonesia: Tiga Serangkai Publishing

In the autumn of 1791, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart told his wife that he had been poisoned. Six weeks later, he was dead. Mozart's long-estranged sister Nannerl, a piano prodigy herself who had toured Europe with Wolfgang, travels from Salzburg to Vienna to investigate his death. She uncovers a series of dangerous conspiracies that may be connected to Wolfgang's murder -- involving the Masons, the Austrian secret police, and a Prussian spy ring. Through Wolfgang's last opera, *The Magic Flute*, she also comes closer to the brother she lost and finds love with a Baron who was Wolfgang's patron. *Mozart's Last Aria* is based on historical facts about Mozart's life, the art and politics of Vienna, and the story of Nannerl Mozart.

**Matt Rees** is the author of the Omar Yussef mystery series, which includes *The Collaborator of Bethlehem*, *A Grave in Gaza*, *The Samaritan's Secret* and *The Fourth Assassin*, and has been translated into 15 languages. The author is the recipient of the **Golden Dagger Award 2008** (UK) for *The Collaborator of Bethlehem*. Rees is also the author of *Cain's Field: Faith, Fratricide and Fear in the Middle East* (The Free Press), an acclaimed and highly original account of the deep internal divisions within both Israel and the Palestinian community. As Time Magazine Bureau Chief, Rees received the Henry Luce Award for Reporting in 2003 for his coverage of the Middle East.

## WHEN WE COULD DANCE WATER

**Evan Fallenberg**

Manuscript Available

USA: HarperCollins (Summer 2011)

At eighty-five, Teo Levin has had a full life, first as a dancer with the Royal Danish Ballet, later as a student of Balanchine and then, for more than fifty years, as head of the Tel Aviv Ballet and the choreographer of spare, prize-winning ballets that are hailed as some of the finest of the twentieth century. But when Vivi, a young waitress at the Tel Aviv café he frequents, enters his life, both of them are changed dramatically. Their relationships to art and indeed to life itself shift, and their separate experiences and suppressed memories from Warsaw and Copenhagen, from Berlin and Tel Aviv, resurface with a vengeance. Other major characters include Pincho, Vivi's gay flatmate who comes from a family of religious settlers; her Dead Sea-to-Berlin boyfriend Martin; her mother Leah, a feisty Holocaust survivor from Hungary; Nelly, Teo's pale and silent Polish housekeeper, and Freddy, an aristocrat and art dealer whose complex obsessions change the course of Teo's life.

**Evan Fallenberg** is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, a graduate of Georgetown University and the MFA program in creative writing at Vermont College. He has lived in Israel since 1985, where he writes, translates and teaches. His first novel, *Light Fell* (Soho Press, 2008), won the **American Library Association's Barbara Gittings Stonewall Book Award for Literature** and the **Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction**, was shortlisted for the **National Jewish Book Award** in fiction, the **Lambda Literary Award** for Debut Fiction, and the **Samuel Goldberg Foundation Prize** for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers, and was selected as a Great Debut of 2008 by Rocky Mountain News (Denver). Fallenberg's recent translations include Ron Leshem's *Beaufort*, Batya Gur's *Murder in Jerusalem*, Alon Hiliu's *Death of a Monk* and *The House of Rajani*, and Meir Shalev's *A Pigeon and a Boy*, winner of the 2007 National Jewish Book Award for fiction and a finalist for the **PEN Translation Prize**. Fallenberg has been an instructor in the Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Bar-Ilan University and heads his own Studio for Writers (and Readers) of English. The recipient of a MacDowell Colony fellowship, Fallenberg is the father of two sons.

## TO JAFFA

Ayman Sikseck

Israel: Yediote Achronot  
Partial English translation available

140 pages

*To Jaffa* is Ayman Sikseck's stunning debut novel about the paradoxical and problematic life of a Palestinian-Israeli. The protagonist, who is given no name, comes from a venerable and traditional Arab family in the ancient city of Jaffa. A student at the Hebrew University, he is expected by the older generation to devote himself to Arabic literature, and to Islam, but instead he becomes a devotee of the great Hebrew poet Chaim Nahman Bialik. He is also involved in two relationships: one with Sherihan, a Muslim woman who is engaged to another man, and the other with Nitzan, a Jewish woman who works in security and who is trained to see Arabs in a crowd as potential dangers. Sikseck writes in a restrained, reflective prose style that manages to be both poetic and reportorial. *In Jaffa* penetrates the complex and fragmented psychological, social and political realities of the third generation of Palestinians since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 -- what Jews call Israeli Independence and what Palestinians describe as the Nakba ("the Catastrophe").

**Ayman Sikseck**, is a columnist and literary critic who studied comparative literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was the co-editor of "The Palestinian Nakba in Hebrew Poetry, 1948-1958," published in 2009. His novel *To Jaffa* grew out of several short stories that received numerous awards, including the Ha'aretz short story competition.

### Praise for *To Jaffa*

*A wonderful novel; I read it breathlessly, and savored every moment. I hope as many people as possible read To Jaffa - a truly heart-wrenching piece.*" Kol Israel

*"To Jaffa is an important novel; it allows its readers to experience the fabric of life of an Arab living within and alongside the Israeli society, and yet is forced to deal on a daily basis with dilemmas which an Israeli Jew is exempt from seeing or hearing. Sikseck exposes the Israeli society in its bare weaknesses; his standpoint is ominous yet always compassionate. We are inclined to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict with aggression and incitement. Sikseck shows us, through his chaste lyrical style and rich inner world, the many varying colors and complexities of the situation."* Ha'aretz

*Sikseck's ironic tone stands for the basic irony of the Israeli-Arab existence, a kind of irony inherent to the definition "Israeli-Arab" itself. To Jaffa brings to the fore several alarming and crucial issues, such as the battle for the democratic nature of Israel, and the growing hatred toward the Arab and the foreigner in the Israeli society."*

Ma'ariv

## THE UNDERGROUND BAZAAR

Ron Leshem

Israel: KZBD

Germany: Rowohlt

France: Editions du Seuil

English translation available

350 pages

Acclaimed writer Ron Leshem's richly imagined new novel, set in modern-day Teheran, is both provocative and highly entertaining. At times appalling, at times funny, this is a tale of love, friendship, and repression. Kami, a young man who abandons the port city of his youth for the bright lights of Teheran, falls in love with a beautiful and charismatic and adventurous young woman. Their love takes them to forbidden and dangerous places: to underground parties in the metropolis, to drugs, music and passion. In the strange building owned by his aunt, an actress whose star has dimmed, Kami befriends an elderly, tough, disgraced judge, a cat, and a shy homosexual with a penchant for men in uniform. When Kami gets a computer, the horizons of the Internet beckon in different ways to each of the reclusive tenants,, with the allure of freedom in stark contrast to the repressive theocracy in which they are caught. From the black market, where one can buy everything that is illicit, to the public squares where adulterous women are executed; between euphoria and paranoia, *The Underground Bazaar* presents a dramatic, almost palpable portrait of modern Iran..

**Ron Leshem's** first novel, *Beaufort*, won the Sapir Prize, Israel's top literary award. The film version of *Beaufort*, which Leshem coauthored, won the Berlin International Film Festival's Silver Bear for Best Director. Leshem lives in Tel Aviv, where he is writing a dramatic series for television and is at work on his third novel.

*"A glimpse into an unfamiliar world, an engaging plot which brings to mind The Kite Runner...superb."*

YNET

*In this flowing, riveting, and wonderful book Leshem proves that he is one of the greatest literary voices to have emerged in Israel in recent years. Beautiful! Once again Leshem demonstrates that he knows how to tell a story of a faraway place, in this case the Islamic Republic of Iran and still make the reader feel as though he was born, raised, and educated there."*

MAKOR

RISHON

*"[Choosing to write about Iran] proves that Leshem is interested in crossing the border, offering the local literary imagination an unfamiliar territory!"*

*"The reading experience fulfils the political role of meaningful literature: to provide expressions through which the readers can experience the plot for themselves, to adopt unfamiliar—sometimes forbidden and dangerous—points of view, and to expand the boundaries of the imagination through them."*

Ha'aretz

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Yoel Hoffmann**

USA: New Directions

France: Galaade

Israel: Keter

120 pages

Part novel and part memoir, Yoel Hoffmann's *Curriculum Vitae* is a remarkable story of an exceptional life: the writer's early years in Palestine; school days and adolescence; two marriages; fatherhood; his immersion in Japanese Buddhism; his journeys and sojourns; his creative work and his ever-surprising inner life. *Curriculum Vitae* is an extraordinary and astonishing meditation on growth and mortality. Deep, funny and utterly unique, the book looks backward and inward even as its hero is propelled into the future.

*Yoel Hoffmann's* writing has been described as "miraculous" (A. B. Yehoshua), "spectacular" (*The New Yorker*), "radiant" (*World Literature Today*), and "stunning" (*The New Leader*). He was born in Hungary in 1937, and his parents fled with him to Palestine when he was one year old. He received his doctorate in the Philosophy of Religion and Buddhism at the University of Kyoto, Japan, and is currently a professor of Eastern Philosophy at the University of Haifa. In addition to his works of fiction, he is the author of several books on Zen Buddhism, comparative philosophy, and Japanese poetry. Yoel Hoffmann has been awarded the Koret Jewish Book Award (USA), the Newman Prize of Hebrew Literature by the Bar-Ilan University and the Bialik Prize.

*"Not just a good writer but a great one. Hoffmann has the ability to find, in the moment-to-moment dislocation of daily existence, epiphanies of revelatory force... What he has achieved is a kind of magic."*

The Chicago Tribune

*"Hoffmann holds the world, decades, entire lives, sorrows and beauties all as if in a pair of cupped hands...Beautiful, humane, priceless."*

American Book Review

*“But the sweetest pleasure of reading his latest book comes in listening to Hoffmann. It creates a language with which to remember the past as if felt when it was present. It is tempting to say that the hundred fragments of Curriculum Vitae are Hoffmann’s pearls – mysterious in origin, scattered, but in the end beautifully retrieved.”*

Ha’aretz Book Review

## RECENT SALES

Friedman, Matti: **Keepers of the Crown** (Non-Fiction)

USA: Algonquin Books

Grossman, David: **Until The End of The Land** (Fiction)

USA: Knopf Publishing; Canada: McLelland & Stewart; UK: Jonathan Cape; Italy: Mondadori; Germany: Hanser Verlag; France: Editions du Seuil; Portugal: Dom Quixote; Brazil: Cia das Letras; Holland: Cossee; Spain: Random House Mondadori (Lumen); Spain (Catalan): Ediciones 62; China: Shanghai 99; Greece: Kastaniotis; Serbia: Arhipelag Publishing; Finland: Otava; Sweden: Albert Bonniers; Denmark: Forlaget Vandkunsten; Norway: Agora Publishing; Slovakia: Artforum; Czech Republic: Mlada Fronta; Poland: Swiat Ksiazki; Russia: Corpus; Albania: Botiment Dudaj; Korea: Sapiens Co.; Hungary: Scolar Kiado; Turkey: Siren

Hilu, Alon: **The House of Rajani** (Fiction)

UK: Harvill; France: Editions du Seuil; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Germany: Beck Verlag; Italy: Einaudi; Portugal: Quidnovi

Pinkus, Yirmi: **Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret** (Fiction)

Italy: l'Ancora del Mediterraneo; Germany: Ventil Verlag; France: Grasset

Rees, Matt: **Caravaggio on Fire** (Fiction)

UK: Corvus

Segev, Tom: **Simon Wiesenthal: A Biography** (Non-Fiction)

USA: Doubleday; UK: Jonathan Cape; Germany: Siedler Verlag; Holland: Balans; France: Liana Levi; Poland: Swiat Ksiazki; Czech Republic: Paseka; Portugal: Materia Prima; Slovakia: Alpha Publishers

Shalev, Meir: **In the Beginning** (Non-Fiction)

USA: Doubleday; Switzerland: Diogenes; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Russia: Inostrannaya Literatura

Shalev, Meir: **My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner** (Fiction)

USA: Pantheon/Schocken Books; Switzerland: Diogenes; Italy: Feltrinelli; France: Gallimard; Russia: Text Publishers; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Czech Republic: Garamond; Slovakia: Slovart; Poland: Muza; Russia: Text Publishers; Korea: Sigong Sa

Shilo, Sara: **The Falafel King is Dead** (Fiction)

UK: Portobello; Germany: DTV Verlag; Italy: Giuntina; Holland: Signatuur; Russia: Text Publishers; Poland: Czarne Publishers