

**CATALOGUE  
SPRING 2009**

**NON-FICTION**

**JEWISH ASTROLOGY**

**Yonadav Kaplun and Miriam Binyamini**

Israel: Am Oved, April 2009

400 pages

**Partial English translation and Overview available**

In this landmark publication traditional and innovative Jewish thought joins the ancient mysteries of the heavens. Through the merging of these two worlds, the authors explore the mysteries hidden in each of us and teach us to discern our natures and how to exploit our greatest individual potential.

In a groundbreaking book for the general reader, the authors share ancient Jewish wisdom about the two conflicting aspects of consciousness: free choice and the nature an individual is born with. The result is a lucid, penetrating insight into Jewish understanding of the influence of the stars and planets on human thought and behavior.

Modern psychology has enriched and popularized astrology. With remarkable creativity and pragmatism, Kaplun and Binyamini offer rich spiritual insights from a profound and relevant religious tradition.

**Yonadav Kaplun**, a poet and teacher of Kabbalah and Hasidism, is the author of four books of poetry, and of *A STILL, SMALL VOICE*; Companion Prayer Books for Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur that have sold over 100,000 copies each. He is the recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize for Poetry, the Ministry of Education Prize for Jewish Writing and the Tel Aviv Foundation Grant for Arts and Literature. Kaplun leads workshops for creative writing through inspiration of holy texts in many educational institutes throughout Israel.

**Miriam Binyamini** has been the leading astrologer in Israel for over three decades. She is a columnist for several main newspapers and magazines, in addition to broadcasting a highly popular radio show on a weekly basis. She is a frequent guest on television and is often interviewed in all of the media. In recent years, Binyamini has devoted herself to the research of Astrology in Judaism.

**NOISE; The Profile of a Cultural Disorder**

**Jacob Burak**

Israel: Kinneret Zmora Bitan, April 2009

296 pages

**#2 on best seller's list one week after publication**

**English translation available**

How can we be apathetic to the suffering of millions but are brought to tears by the fate of one individual "packaged" in a newspaper article? Why do we lose hours of sleep, upset with something we sputtered at dinner last night? *Noise*, that ceaseless rumble of intrusive thoughts, the malaise of indecision, the clatter of media, is everywhere in our

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lives. How we handle that noise defines who we are and how well we live. By examining internal noise, external noise, noise amplifiers and noise suppressors, this book helps the reader define his/her own 'noise profile' and offers tools for coping -- and thriving.

**Jacob Burak** is the author of *DO CHIMPANZEES DREAM OF RETIREMENT*, which appeared for nine months on the Israeli best –sellers list, and is to be published in five other languages. He graduated from the Technion, Israel's highest institute for technology, with a BA in industrial and management engineering, and studied in the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School. In 1987 he founded Evergreen, which would become one of Israel's largest venture capital funds. Recently he has served as chairman of Ma'aleh, Israel's Corporate Social Responsibility organization, and has a regular column in the leading financial magazine *The Marker*.

## **The Bible's Genetic Code**

**Israel Knohl**

Israel: Dvir Publishing House, 2008

224 pages

**18 weeks on the best sellers list**

**English translation available**

This provocative and stimulating exploration of the origins of the people of Israel and the Old Testament is surprisingly topical. Renowned biblical scholar Israel Knohl describes how climate change, droughts and famine caused a great crisis in the Mediterranean in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.E. Out of this "big bang," old empires and kingdoms collapsed and new nations were formed. *The Bible's Genetic Code* is a fascinating, multi-dimensional story of how different cultures, including Hebrews, Sea Peoples and Philistines, merged their "family albums" into what became the biblical narrative.

In Knohl's previous book, *The Messiah before Jesus* he argues that, before Jesus, Jewish culture already contained a popular myth about a messiah who rose from the dead. His controversial theory is now supported by the recent, well-publicized decoding of a tablet predating Jesus that apparently refers to a messiah who will be resurrected after three days.

**Israel Knohl** is the Yehezkel Kaufmann Professor Bible at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Knohl served as a visiting professor at University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He is the author of *The Messiah before Jesus: The Suffering Servant of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (University of California Press, 2000), which was published in eight languages, among several other titles.

*"Knohl is a revolutionary who speaks in measured, restrained language....Knohl works like a detective. His craft is the delicate craft of piecing a puzzle together. He identifies cracks, both in the traditional story and in the work of other scholars; then he searches for a description that will mend the cracks. His basic assumption is that although the Bible is not a book of history, it does contain a kernel of historical memory.....There is a degree of virtuosity in the way that he brings the various elements together into a coherent theory, using historical, archaeological and literary knowledge".*

Prof. Hagai Dagan, Haaretz

## **A BRIDE FOR ONE NIGHT**

**Ruth Calderon**

Israel: Keter Publishing House

156 pages

**English translation available**

Ruth Calderon's *A Bride for One Night* is a fascinating exploration of some of the liveliest and most colorful stories in the Talmud. Calderon rewrites Talmudic legends as richly-imagined fictions, drawing us into the lives of such characters as a woman who risks her life for a sister suspected of

adultery; a humble schoolteacher who rescues his village from drought; and a wife who dresses up like a prostitute to seduce her pious husband in their garden. Breathing new life into an ancient text, *A Bride for One Night* offers a surprising and provocative read, both for those intimate with the Talmud and to anyone interested in one of the most canonical works of Jewish literature.

**Ruth Calderon** is the founder and director of Alma College (1996) - a liberal arts center in Tel Aviv specializing in the study of Hebrew Culture. In 1989 she founded "Elul" that had the unique distinction of offering Jewish studies on the basis of equality for men and women, religious and non-religious scholars.

After receiving her PhD at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she was a graduate of the first class of the Mandel School for Educational Leadership and received the prestigious Avichai Prize in 1997, in recognition of her contribution to the propagation of the legacy of Israel.

## FICTION

### UNTIL THE END OF THE LAND

**David Grossman**

Israel: HaSifriya Hahadasha/HaKibbutz HaMeuchad

Italy: Mondadori

Germany: Hanser

France: Editions du Seuil

Holland: Cossee

Spain: Random House Mondadori (Lumen)

Spain: Ediciones 62 (Catalan)

Brazil: Cia das Letras

632 pages

**English translation available**

*Until the End of the Land* is the story of two men, a woman and her two sons, about love and unrequited love, about friendship and generosity between men, about parenthood and the almost heroic efforts to sustain the delicate texture of family in the heart of the violence and dread and fleetingness of Israeli life.

**David Grossman** is a leading Israeli writer of his generation and his work has been translated into 25 languages.

*"This book is a love story in every possible way; the love of a mother to her son, the love between a man and a woman and between two men; and the love of the writer to his characters and his love to this country, its landscape and its language...I don't remember ever reading something with such deep identification. I don't remember anything flooding me like this from every possible direction: the language and the landscape, motherhood and Israeliness, the political situation and the lack of solution, and the simple fear to lose the things our lives are made from – losing a child, losing a family, losing a grasp of life." Ilana Dayan (from her speech at the launching of the book, reprinted in Yedioth Aharonoth)*

*"UNTIL THE END OF THE LAND is the stamp of maturity upon Israeli literature, the closest thing to an anti-war novel that has ever been written here...in the end – as happens to the readers of great books – you will not be who you were when you began...The formative novel of Hebrew literature in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. No less. Perhaps a lot more."*

Ariana Melamed, YNET

*"Grossman's novel is a milestone in the history of modern Hebrew literature. An epic spanning from the Six Day War until the last Lebanon War..."*

Anat Feinberg, Die Welt

"This novel contains leaps of genius – verbal leaps, psychological ones, in the descriptions of nature and reality, leaps in drama and plot... Grossman displays transcendence and genius sensitivity to the smallest vibration of the soul..."

Arik Glasner, Ma'ariv Literary Supplement

"It's not easy, and may even be wrong, to try and describe this book. The reader should be left alone to row into the depth of the experience...if I say it's not easy to read I'll also say you cannot stop reading it. What I can say...is that it should be read slowly, page after page, let it sink into your heart and soul. There won't be many like it."

Dan Lahman, e-mago

## **PROFESSOR FABRIKANT'S HISTORICAL CABARET**

**Yirmi Pinkus**

Israel: Am Oved

Italy: l' Ancora del Mediterraneo

303 pages

When the distinguished, affluent Professor Fabrikant dies, he leaves his nephew Herman an incredible inheritance: a Yiddish-speaking Jewish Theater consisting of seven aging actresses who have passed their glamour days and now scramble to win back their dwindling audience in 1930s Romania. This debut novel, a modern version of Sholem Aleichem, is a festive, entertaining and yet extremely touching journey to a long-lost world. The plot alternates between the anti-Semitic atmosphere experienced by the old actresses recapturing their classic scenes and the story of the theater's beginning as a Jewish orphan rescue project concocted by the eccentric Professor Fabrikant. As the theater recreates its glory days, the actresses are also fighting Herman's greedy mother, who wants to put the women away in an old-age home so that she can get her hands on her late brother-in-law's money. This unique, richly-imagined, novel is filled with Jewish humor, spicy Yiddish rants and gentle love for these aging ladies. As the looming future casts its shadow on Jewish European life, we savor this feisty group of old women, their bickering and mini-scandals (including one that involves some missing diamonds), their love of nosing, and most of all their commitment to the theater. This novel is a brilliant mosaic of a lost Jewish world that comes to life in modern, hilarious and often heartbreaking ways.

**Yirmi Pinkus** was born in Tel Aviv in 1966. After graduating from Bezalel, Israel's most prestigious Academy of Arts, he began working as an illustrator and an opera critic. He co-founded the *Actus Comics Group* with whom he published several books. In 2001 he illustrated a daily comic strip in the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. In 2004 he won the Education Minister's Award of design.

"Subversive and critical, original and queer, applause to Professor Fabrikant's Historical Cabaret..."

Arik Glasner, Maariv

"Yirmi Pinkus describes, in a rich, colorful and witty language the funny and touching *Odyssey* of a group of old actresses whose journey will end in 1939...therefore, in spite of the novel's amused tone, the abundance of comic situations and the colorful characters this book bears an elegiac stamp."

Yhil Tsaban, Haaretz

"Yirmi Pinkus' debut novel is a masterpiece of pity mixed with rebuke...if he learned the rebuke from the grandfather of Hebrew literature, Mendele the Bookseller, it's clear he learned his pity from the grandson, Sholem Aleichem. He has a precise, rich Hebrew and unique humor...the world created in the novel is so convincing it is hard to believe that the cabaret is just a fable, a fable of Yiddish, of course, that even before 'Hitler took it' has ended its historical role...He convinces you that there's nothing younger and more alive than an old Yiddish actress."

Benny Mer, Haaretz

**WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BEFORE THE WAR (1998)**

**ONCE THERE WAS A FAMILY (2002)**

## **DAYS OF SILENCE (2003)**

**Lizzie Doron**

France: Heloise d'Ormesson

Germany: Juedischer Verlag Suhrkamp

Italy: La Guintina

Russia: Text Publishers

Poland: Muza

**English translation available**

"At the beginning of the 1950's a new country was founded in the State of Israel, 'the land of here'. In this country lived the survivors of an extinct people who came from 'the land of there'. The inhabitants came here against their will, their only property – a foreign language, strange manners, memories and nightmares. After the chaos of 'the land of there', they forced themselves to initiate a new beginning, to recreate a world." (from the prologue to *Why Didn't You Come Before The War*)

Lizzie Doron's trilogy - a collection of short stories, *Why Didn't You Come Before the War* (1998); the novel *Once There Was A Family* (2002); and *Days of Silence*, (published in April 2003) - portrays the lives of the inhabitants of a strange, almost autonomous world, in the middle of Tel-Aviv. Determined to recreate their shuttered lives, each of these survivors from hell deals with his "life after death" in his own way, trying to hold on to a kind of sanity. At the heart of the trilogy stands Helena, the narrator's mother, an ingenious and creative woman, equipped with a bitter sense of humor and a strong sense of dignity.

Indirectly, seemingly almost in passing, the writer touches upon infinite depths of pain, loss, fear and guilt, never dwelling on them. With great sensitivity and an amazing sense of humor she creates a world populated by people so sad, it breaks your heart, and yet so funny, you just can't stop laughing.

The first story is told from the point of view of a growing girl, while the second is seen through the eyes of a young woman who comes back home to bury her mother. The third novella tells the stories of the community's elders, from the point of view of the manicurist who has worked in the neighborhood for over 30 years and knows everybody intimately. As the story progresses, the hidden world of the manicurist is revealed, her love affair with the hairdresser, and the lives and secrets of the people who have reinvented themselves. With the help of an external narrator all the pieces come together and the trilogy is complete.

*"There is tenderness and a lot of restraint but also oddities in the simply drawn up chapters. With the eyes of a grown-up who remembers, the reader discovers not only evil but the shadow it projected over those that suffered, the wounds that it dug and the abyss it opened."*  
Les Mondes des Livres

*"This novel seems to be not much at first glance but don't fool yourself --- with her simple prose, Lizzie Doron, tears your soul out."*  
Elle

*"Why Didn't You Come Before the War?" is an admirable Jewish story --- one of those that makes you cry without knowing whether it is out of joy or sadness or both."*  
Vogue

*"Why Didn't You Come Before the War?" is an effortless read but not without emotions. The reader is quickly carried away by the bitter-sweet story of a much adored child of an eccentric mother who colors her little girl's hair blond since "only the blond ones survived..."*  
Le Figaro Magazine

*"With great sensitivity and a feel for the comic element, Lizzie Doron has written a wonderful book. She has given the indescribable form and her mother dignity and individuality."*  
Neue Zuercher Zeitung

*"Even those who are liable to toss this wonderful book away at the mention of the word 'holocaust' will be surprised at what a little gem it is – wise and full of humor. One can't help being charmed by the two marvelous Holocaust-survivor 'shiva specialists' who accompany the narrator on her journey to discover the mother she never knew – and herself. Among the visitors to the house of mourning are a mix of characters from here and from there...The living and the dead come to pay Helena their last respects. But this is not a melancholy, lifeless procession. Despite their tragedies the visitors are vibrant, colorful characters, sometimes even comical. Even the most ironic and sober-eyed descriptions of them are brimming with compassion and love."*  
Ha'aretz

## THE FOURTH ASSASSIN

*The fourth Omar Yussef Mystery*

**Matt Rees**

**Manuscript available**

USA: Soho Press

UK: Atlantic Books

Brazil: Record Publishing

Germany: Beck Verlag

Indonesia: Diomedia

Omar Yussef, the principal of a UN school in a Bethlehem refugee camp, arrives in New York for a U.N. conference. He goes to the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bay Ridge, where his youngest son, Ala, lives among the large Palestinian community. In Ala's apartment Omar discovers the dead body of one of the two young men from Bethlehem with whom his son lives. The third roommate has disappeared. Ala is arrested on suspicion of involvement in the death. Omar Yussef sets out to clear his son and to track down the real killer.

The investigation takes Omar deep into the Arab communities of Brooklyn, where he uncovers a plot by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to kill the Palestinian Prime Minister at the UN conference Omar is supposed to be attending. Omar also is forced to question his own assumptions about his hometown, his people, and America.

He discovers that his son's roommate, Nizar, an old pupil of his from Bethlehem, was sent to New York by Islamic Jihad to lead the plot. He realizes that Nizar, rather than being a fanatical Islamic terrorist, has become attracted to the way of life he found in the U.S. Nizar has killed to avoid carrying out the assassination, rubbing out other Islamic Jihad operatives who would have forced him to follow through with the hit. Though Omar must stop him before he kills again, he sympathizes with a boy he knows to be intelligent and passionate, who is torn between his ideals, his faith and his desire for a better life.

Omar is aided by Bethlehem police chief Khamis Zeydan, who is in New York as head of the Palestinian Prime Minister's security detail, and by Hussam, an NYPD officer assigned to Bay Ridge. An immigrant from Bethlehem, Hussam is a member of the same tribe as the Martyrs Brigades chief whom Omar confronted in *The Collaborator of Bethlehem*, and there is tension between the two men.

Hussam fills Omar in on the Arab community in Brooklyn and provides the physically unimpressive schoolteacher with some muscle when needed. He takes Omar into the world of basement mosques in Bay Ridge, where Omar confronts Brooklyn Arabs who believe 9/11 was a Jewish plot. Elsewhere he faces white Americans who assume that Omar, as a Palestinian, has an automatic sympathy for terrorism and suffers from the New York winter — mainly because he is unprepared for the extreme cold and, very much contrary to his habitual penchant for European fashion, is forced to buy an unsightly Yankees stocking cap and a puffy overcoat.

**Matt Rees** is the author of the Omar Yussef mystery series, which includes *The Collaborator of Bethlehem*, *A Grave in Gaza* and *The Samaritan's Secret*, and has been translated into 14 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.

## **BACKLIST:**

### **In the Beginning by Meir Shalev**

Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Germany: Diogenes; Israel: Am Oved

### **No Elfs is Gonna Show Up by Sara Shilo**

UK: Portobello; Germany: DTV Verlag; Italy: Giuntina; Holland: Signatuur; Israel: Am Oved

Excerpted in [www.wordswithoutborders.org](http://www.wordswithoutborders.org)

#### **Complete English translation available**

- **Recipient of the Sapir Prize 2007**

### **The House of Dajani by Alon Hilu**

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

Israel: Yediot Books

#### **Complete English translation available**

### **The World a Little Later by Amir Gutfreund**

World English: Toby Press; Israel: Kinneret Zmora Bitan

### **Biography of Simon Wiesenthal by Tom Segev**

World English: Doubleday; Germany: Siedler Verlag; Holland: Balans; France: Liana Levi; Israel:

Keter

#### **English language translation: September 2009**

### **Secrets from the Mikve by Varda Polak-Sahm**

World English: USA, Beacon Press; Israel: Modan Publishing House.

### **The Holocaust is Over; We Must Rise from It's Ashes by Avraham Burg**

USA: Palgrave Macmillan; Germany: Campus Verlag; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; France: Fayard; Italy:

Neri Pozza; Portugal: Tinta da China; Palestinian Authority: MADAR; Israel: Yediot Ahronot Books

### **Do Chimpanzees Dream of Retirement by Jacob Burak**

Italy: Mondadori; Holland: Ten Have; Korea: Wisdom Publishing; Japan: Tokuma Shoten Publishing;

Brazil: Campus; Israel: Kinneret Zmora Bitan

#### **English translation available**

### **Jewish Women's Prayers (Religion) by Dr. Aliza Lavie**

USA: Spiegel & Grau; Israel: Miskal -Yediot Achronot Books.

### **The Collaborator of Bethlehem (Mystery) by Matt Rees**

USA: Soho Press; UK: Atlantic Books; Germany: Beck Verlag; France: Albin Michel; Italy: Cairo

Publishing; Brazil: Planeta; Portugal: Gotica; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Spain: Ediciones B; Poland:

Bertelsmann; Denmark: Gyldendal; Norway: Pressforlaget; Sweden: Alfabeta; Iceland: Skuggi; Israel:

Keter; Czech Republic: Euromedia; Romania: Editura Niculescu; Japan: Random House Kodansha;

Indonesia: Diomedia

### **A Grave in Gaza (Mystery) by Matt Rees**

USA: Soho Press; UK: Atlantic Books; Germany: Beck Verlag; France: Albin Michel; Italy: Cairo

Publishing; Holland: Ambo/Anthos; Spain: Ediciones B; Poland: Bertelsmann; Denmark: Gyldendal;

Romania: Editura Niculescu; Brazil: Record Publishing; Indonesia, Diomedia

### **The Samaritan's Secret (aka Nablus Noir) by Matt Rees**

*The third Omar Yussef Mystery*

USA: Soho Press; UK: Atlantic Books; Germany: Beck Verlag; France: Albin Michel; Italy: Cairo

Publishing; Brazil: Record Publishing; Indonesia: Diomedia

### **So What: New and Selected Poems 1973-2005 by Taha Muhammad Ali**

USA: Copper Canyon Press, USA; Germany: Fischer Verlag; France: Galaade