Recommended Reads: The Latest & Greatest in Jewish Fiction for Adults
Rachel Kamin, Ellen Tilman & Judy Weidman
Association of Jewish Libraries Conference
June 2016 Charleston, SC

New Books by Favorite Authors

Saving Sophie
by Ronald Balson
St. Martin's, 2015
“paperback available”

Karolina’s Twins
by Ronald Balson
St. Martin’s, 9/2016

See also:
Once We Were Brothers (2013)

Don’t Let My Baby Do Rodeo
by Boris Fishman
HarperCollins, 2016

See also:
A Replacement Life (2014)

The Theory of Death
by Faye Kellerman
William Morrow, 2015
“paperback available 8/2016”

See also:
Aaroe Blit (2016)
Almud 10 (2016)
and other Decker/Lazarus mysteries

More New Books by Favorite Authors

Mooiglow by Michael Chabon (Harper, 11/2016)
Here I Am by Jonathan Safran Foer (Farrar, 9/2016)
A Hero of France by Alan Furst (Random House, 2016)
An Undisturbed Peace by Mary Glickman
(Open Road Media, 2016)
Shylock Is My Name by Howard Jacobson (Hogarth, 2016)
The Orphan’s Tale by Pam Jenoff (Mira Books, 2/2017)
Nighthalf Over Shanghai by Daniel Kalla (St. Martin’s, 2016)
On Turpentine Lane by Elinor Lipman
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2/2017)
Velvet Hours by Alyson Richman (Berkley, 9/2016)
Black Widow by Daniel Silva (HarperCollins, 7/2016)
Leaving Lucy Pear by Anna Solomon (Viking, 7/2016)
Award Winners

2015 Edward Lewis Wallant Award

**The Sunlit Night**
by Rebecca Dinerstein
Bloomsbury, 2015
*paperback available*

Previous Winners:
The Betrayers by David Bezmozgis (2014)
The Lion Seeker by Kenneth Baber (2013)
The World Without You by Joshua Henkin (2012)
 Binocular Vision by Edith Pearlman (2011)

http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/greenberg-center/wallant.html

Award Winners

2015 National Jewish Book Award
Debut Fiction Winner

**The Boatmaker**
by John Benditt
Tin House Books, 2015
*in paperback*

Award Winners

2015 National Jewish Book Award
Debut Fiction Finalist

**The Empire of the Senses**
by Alexis Landau
Pantheon, 2015
*paperback available*

Read Alikes: The Zone of Interest by Martin Amis
Away by Amy Bloom
The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer

Award Winners

2015 National Jewish Book Award
Fiction Winner

**The Last Flight of Poxl West**
by Daniel Torday
St. Martin’s Press, 2015
*paperback available*

Award Winners

2015 National Jewish Book Award
Fiction Finalist

2016 Sophie Brody Award Winner
ALA Notable Book
Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction Finalist

**The Book of Aron**
by Jim Shepard
Knopf, 2015
*paperback available*

Read Alikes: The True Story of Hansel and Gretel by Louise Murphy
The River Midnight by Lilian Nattel
A Curable Romantic by Joseph Skibell
Recommended Reads

2015 National Jewish Book Award Fiction Finalists
- The Ambassador by Yehuda Avner
  The Toby Press, 2015
- A Reunion of Ghosts by Judith Claire Mitchell
  Harper, 2015
  "paperback available"
- The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
  St. Martin’s Press, 2015
  "paperback available"

2015 National Jewish Book Award Debut Fiction Finalist
- After Abel and Other Stories by Michal Lemberger
  Prospect Park Books, 2015
  "in paperback"

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2015 National Jewish Book Award Debut Fiction Finalist
- After Abel and Other Stories by Michal Lemberger
  Prospect Park Books, 2015
  "in paperback"

Biblical Fiction

The Secret Chord
by Geraldine Brooks
Viking, 2015
"paperback available 10/2016"

See also:
- The People of the Book (2008)
- The Secret Book of Kings by Yochi Brandes (8/2016)
- Queenmaker: A Novel of King David’s Queen
  by India Edghill
- God Knows by Joseph Heller

Esther
by Rebecca Kanner
Simon & Schuster, 2015
"in paperback"

See also:
- Sinners and the Secret: The Untold Story of Noah’s Wife
  (2013)

Game of Queens
by India Edghill
St. Martin’s, 2015
"paperback available 9/2016"

See also:
- Daniel (2009), Wisdom’s Daughter (2004) and Queenmaker (2001)
- Queenmaker
  - The Secret Chamber by Rebecca Kohn

New from Israel

Rachel Kamin, Ellen Tilman & Judy Weidman
New from Israel

**A Remarkable Kindness**
by Diana Bletter
William Morrow, 2015
*in paperback*

Read Alikes:
Safekeeping by Jessamyn Hope
Wherever You Go by Joan Leegant
Welcome to Heavenly Heights by Risa Miller

**City of Secrets**
by Stewart O'Nan
Viking, 2016

Read Alikes:
Day After Night by Anita Diamant
The List by Martin Fletcher
Louisa by Simone Zelitch

**The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem**
by Sarit Yishai-Levi
(Translated by Anthony Berris)
Thomas Dunne/Randum House, 2016
*paperback available 4/2017*

Read Alikes:
Jerusalem Maiden by Talia Corner
The Family Orchard by Nomi Eve
When I Lived in Modern Times by Linda Grant

More New Books from Israel

**The Man Who Never Stopped Sleeping**
by Aharon Appelfeld
(Schocken, 1/2017)

Duet in Beirut by Mishka Ben-David (Overlook Press, 2015)
Alexandrian Summer by Yitzhak Gormezano Goren
(New Vessel Press, 2015)

A Horse Walks into a Bar by David Grossman (Knopf, 2/2017)
Lies, First Person by Gail Hareven (Open Letter, 2015)
The Photographer’s Wife by Suzanne Joinson (Bloomsbury, 2016)

The Sound of Our Steps by Ronit Matalon
(Metropolitan Books, 2015)

Judas by Amos Oz (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 11/2016)
Two She-Bears by Meir Shalev (Schocken, 9/2016)
The Extra by A.B. Yehoshua (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016)

Short Stories

**The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction**
edited by Aarons, Patt & Schechner
(Wayne State University Press, 2015)
*in paperback*

2015 National Jewish Book Award Finalist for Anthologies & Collections
Recommended Reads

Short Stories

*Honeydew: Stories*
by Edith Pearlman
(Little Brown & Company, 2015)
“paperback available”

See also:
- Binocular Vision: New & Selected Stories (2011)
- How to Fail: Stories (2005)
- Love Among the Greats (2002)
- Vaquita and Other Stories (1996)

*The Best Place on Earth: Stories*
by Ayelet Tsabari
(Random House, 2016)
2015 Sami Rohr Prize Winner

More Short Stories

*And So Is the Bus: Jerusalem Stories* by Yossel Birstein
(Dryad Press, 2016)

*The Bed Moved* by Rebecca Schiff
(Knopf, 2016)

*In the Land of Armadillos* by Helen Maryles Shankman
(Simon & Schuster, 2016)

*Jewish Noir: Contemporary Tales of Crime and Other Dark Deeds*
edited by Kenneth Wishnia
(PM Press, 2015)

*Nine Facts That Can Change Your Life* by Ronna Wineberg
(Serving House Books, 2016)

Jew-ish Fiction

*The Good Neighbor*
by Amy Sue Nathan
St. Martin’s, 2015
“In paperback”

See also:
- The Other Wives (2013)

*Who Do You Love*
by Jennifer Weiner
Atria, 2015
“paperback available”

See also:
- Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love, and Writing (10/2016)
- Certain Girls (2009)
- In Her Shoes (2002)
- Good in Bed (2001)
More Jew-ish Fiction

Early One Morning by Virginia Baily (Little, Brown & Company, 2015)
The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende (Atria Books, 2015)
The Jazz Palace by Mary Morris (Nan A. Talese, 2015)
The Song of Hartgrove Hall by Natasha Solomons (Plume, 2015)
Wherever There is Light by Peter Golden (Atria Books, 2015)
White Collar Girl by Renee Rosen (New American Library, 2015)

More New Novels

The Debt of Tamar by Nicole Dweck
Thomas Dunne, 2015

Read-Alikes:
Henna House by Nomi Eve
Sweet Dates in Basra by Jessica Jill
The Luminous Heart of Jonah S. by Gina B. Halper
The Secret Book of Ghazal de la Rosary by Jacqueline Park
The Golem and the Jinn by Helene Wecker
The Wayward Moon by Janice Weisman

The Yid by Paul Goldberg
St. Martin’s, 2016 “paperback available 2/2017”

Read-Alikes:
Panic and Suicide by Yelena Akhshorskaya
A Replacement Life by Boris Fishman
Mannequin Girl by Ellen Litman
The Mathematician’s Birthday by Stuart Rojstaczer

The Two-Family House by Lynda Cohen Loigman
St. Martin’s, 2016 “paperback available 3/2017”

Read-Alikes:
Golden Country by Jennifer Gilmore
An Almost Perfect Match by Bonnie Shiefferbaum
The Sisters Weis by Naomi Ragen

The Muralist by B.A. Shapiro
Algonquin Books, 2015 “paperback available 10/2016”

Read-Alikes:
Fugitive Colors by Lisa Barr
The Art Forger (2012) by Natasha Solomons
Lisette’s List by Susan Vreeland
Recommended Reads

More New Novels

The Book of Esther by Emily Barton (Random House, 7/2016)
And After the Fire by Lauren Belfer (Harper, 2016)
The Houseguest by Kim Brooks (Counterpoint, 2016)
Modern Girls by Jennifer Brown (Penguin, 2016)
The House of Dreams by Kate Lord Brown (Thomas Dunne, 2016)
The Beautiful Possible by Amy Gottlieb (Harper Perennial, 2016)
As Close to Us As Breathing by Elizabeth Poliner (Lee Boudreaux Books, 2016)

Unspeakable Things by Kathleen Spivack (Knopf, 2016)

Book Club Favorites

The Betrayers by David Bezmozgis
Little Brown, 2014 “paperback available”
2014 National Jewish Book Award Winner for Fiction
2014 Edward Lewis Wallant Award Winner

See also:
The Free World (2011)
Natasha and Other Stories (2004)

Read Alikes:
The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks
The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth
Damascus Days by Robert Stone

Washing the Dead by Michelle Brafman
Prospect Park Books, 2015 “in paperback”

See also:
Bertrand Court (9/2016)

Read Alikes:
Disobedience by Naomi Alderman
The Marrying of Chani Kaufman by Eve Harris
I Am Footloose by Anouk Markovits
Moving Waters: Stories by Rasele Roseff
The Wholeness of a Broken Heart by Kellie Singer

The Hours Count by Jillian Cantor
Riverhead Books, 2015 “paperback available 8/2016”

See also:
Margot (2013)
Her to an Execution: A Granddaughter’s Story; a documentary film by Ivy Meeropol

Read Alikes:
The Book of Damek by E.L. Doctorow
Is This Tomorrow by Caroline Leavitt
Something New by Jennifer Gilmore
Leaving Berlin by Joseph Kanon
Married a Communist by Philip Roth

Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast
Bloomsbury, 2014 “paperback available 9/2016”
Recommended Reads

Book Club Favorites

**All Who Go Do Not Return**
by Shulem Deen
Graywolf Press, 2015
*paperback available*
2015 National Jewish Book Award Winner
Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice

Read-Alikes:
- This is Not a Love Story by Judy Brown
- Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman
- Uncovered by Leah Lax
- Cut Me Loose by Leah Vincent

**The Nightingale**
by Kristin Hannah
St. Martin’s, 2015
*paperback available*
2015 National Jewish Book Award Fiction Finalists

See also:
- Grand Central: Original Stories of Postwar Love and Reunion
  with an introduction by Kristin Hannah (2014)

Book Club Favorites

**The Marriage of Opposites**
by Alice Hoffman
Simon & Schuster, 2015
*paperback available*

See also:
- The Dovekeepers (2011)
- Incantation (2006)

Read-Alikes:
- Henna House by Naomi Eve
- Sweet Dates in Batavia by Jessica Ja

Book Club Favorites

**Marjorie Morningstar**
by Herman Wouk
Doubleday, 1955
*paperback available*
1956 National Book Award Finalist for Fiction

See also:
- Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-Old Author (2016)

Coming Soon . . .
Recommended Reads

AJL Conference 2016

Coming Soon...

- The Last Woman Standing by Thelma Adams (Lake Union, 7/2016)
- The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa (Atria, 10/2016)
- Inheriting Edith by Zoe Fishman (William Morrow, 11/2016)
- The Waiting Room by Leah Kaminsky (Harper Perennial, 11/2016)
- Mischling by Affinity Konar (Lee Boudreaux Books, 9/2016)
- Among the Living by Jonathan Rabb (Other Press, 10/2016)
- The Butcher of Borough Park by Sonja Sharp (Fig Tree Books, 3/2017)

Staying on Top of New Jewish Fiction

The Association of Jewish Libraries
www.jewishlibraries.org Newsletter, Reviews, Bibliographies, AJL Reads Book Club, annual Conference & more

Jewish Review of Books
https://jewishreviewofbooks.com Quarterly print publication with an active online presence for serious readers with Jewish interests $39.95/year print or $19.99/year digital

Jewish Book Council

Booklist and Booklist Online
www.booklistonline.com 22 Booklist and 4 Book Links print issues, plus access to Booklist Online (one login per subscription) starting at $147.50/year.

Staying on Top of New Jewish Fiction

The New York Times Book Review
www.nytimes.com/pages/books

NoveList
Access through your local public library for read-a-like suggestions

Library Journal's Newsletters
http://www.libraryjournal.com

PrePub Alert

Publishers Weekly's Newsletters
www.publishersweekly.com

Religion BookLine (2x/month) and Tip Sheet (weekly)

Booklists
www.goodreads.com

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