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Giuntina**

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Giuntina

Laura Forti **THE ACROBAT**

(Novel, 2019, pp 120)

«I must run the risk of letting my story out, a story I've kept in for all these years, even though it breaks my heart, even though you might judge me». Because a son has the right to know which course led his father to choose armed struggle, fight dictatorship and die for freedom. One must start from the remote past, from the previous generations: from White Russia at the end of the nineteenth century to Italy under Fascism; from the Racial Laws to the flight to Chile; from the political commitment in favour of Salvador Allende to the tragedy of Pinochet's dictatorship. Up to the tragic ending.

Avoiding any sentimentalism and rethoric, Laura Forti delves into emotions and history. A highly intense monologue: a son is told the story of a father he's never met, and from this story the reader derives the awareness that only the elaboration of the past can give the courage to transform tragedy into strength, and grief into hope.

The works by the Italian playwright Laura Forti are widely staged abroad. Her texts have been translated and put on in many countries and published in Germany and France. She also teaches theatre and creative writing. As a journalist she collaborates with radio programmes and some national and international magazines. She translated *The Cannibals* and *Mein Kampf* by George Tabori into Italian (Einaudi publishing)



HERE ALL THE REVIEWS





HERE ALL THE REVIEWS



Miriam Camerini **RECEPIES AND RULES**

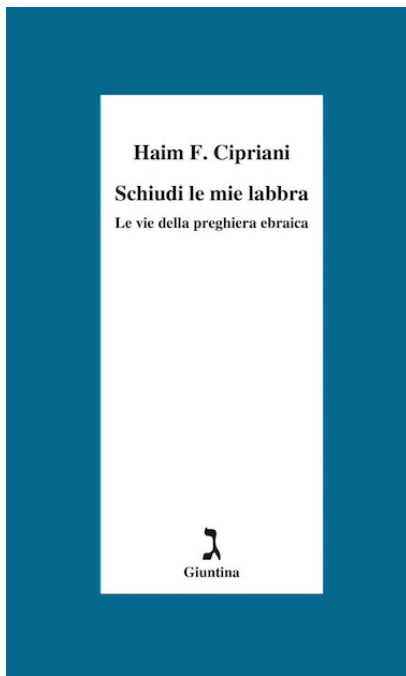
(Food, 2019, pp 224)

The biblical story starts with one bite too many: Adam and Eve have just come on the scene, God forbids them to eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and they promptly taste it. Since then our nutrition has been distinguished by laws and obligations, traditions and custom, devotion and rebellion. 45 stories and recipes narrate the tangled relationship between food and Christian, Islamic and Jewish religious rules.

Miriam Camerini (born in Jerusalem in 1983 on Purim night) is a theatre director, actress, singer and a scholar of Judaism. She lives in Milan where she stages theatrical performances, musicals, festivals, and exhibitions about Jewish culture. She is also a regular contributor of *Jesus* (a monthly magazine published by San Paolo edizioni), while occasionally writing for other newspapers. Among her shows and plays: *Golem*, *Un grembo due nazioni molte anime*, *Il mare in valigia*, *Caffè Odessa*, *Chouchani*, *Messia e Rivoluzione*, and *Lo Shabbat di tutti*

Jean Blanchaert is a manager of an art gallery, an editor, a glass scultor, a calligrapher, an illustrator and contributor of *Art e Dossier* (Giunti). With Philippe Daverio was the curator of *13x17. 1000 artisti per un'indagine eccentrica sull'arte in Italia* (Rizzoli 2007). He also published a pictorial calendar *Un santo al giorno* (Rizzoli 2013) and *100 Giusti del mondo* (Rizzoli 2018).

Benedetta Jasmine Guetta has a degree in Literature and works as a photographer and foodwriter. Manuel Kanah is a development manager with a great passion for cuisine. Together they created a site in 2009: *labna.it*, the only Italian blog specialized in Italian, Jewish and Middle East cuisine.



**HERE ALL THE
REVIEWS**

Haim F. Cipriani

***Open thou my lips
On Jewish prayer***

(Essay, 2019, pp 420)

In western culture praying is considered the «religious» act par excellence, addressed to a divine entity we believe in. In Judaism, a culture closer to the eastern world than to the western one, prayer has different nuances. In Hebrew the verb «pray» literally means «self-judge», and the liturgical texts were chosen in order to build a path of reflection, contemplation and creation of an individual and collective identity.

By adopting this approach we may «open our lips» a phrase deriving from Psalms evoking the possibility to go beyond the binding forces which keep humans far from achieving their potentials.

This book speaks to the reader's heart and helps him to travel the roads of life through the different paths of prayer.

Haim Fabrizio Cipriani, whose rabbinical education has its origins in Italian and Hasidic traditions, carries out his rabbinical ministry at a few Jewish communities in France (Marseille, Montpellier and Paris) and at Etz Haim, a community he founded in Italy. Author of several essays about Judaism (*Ascolta la sua voce* and *Voce di silenzio sottile*, published by Giuntina) he has also been performing has an international concert violinist and conductor for over thirty years.



Simone Somekh **WIDE ANGLE**

(Novel, 2017, pp 192)

It takes courage to grow up, but it takes even more courage to forsake your past. Especially if you're Ezra Kramer, a boy born and raised in an ultra-orthodox Jewish community in Boston, who's eager to explore the world through the lens of his camera. Ezra's story is about discovery and emancipation, both religious and sexual, through different and distant worlds—Brighton's ultra-orthodox community, New York's fashion photography business, Bahrain's Arab Spring, and Tel Aviv's free and transgressive cluster. During his journey, Ezra will run into several peers, each with their own story, and each fighting for their own personal fulfillment. Some will pass without leaving a mark, others will instead become brothers to him—because, just like him, they faced the toughest of all challenges: leaving their families behind in order to earn their freedom.

Simone Somekh was born in Turin in 1994. He's lived in Italy, Israel and the United States. He is currently based in New York, where he works as a journalist and is pursuing an M.A. in journalism at NYU. He's written for Wired Italy, The Forward, The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel and New York Transatlantic. He wrote *Wide Angle*, his first novel, when he was 21.

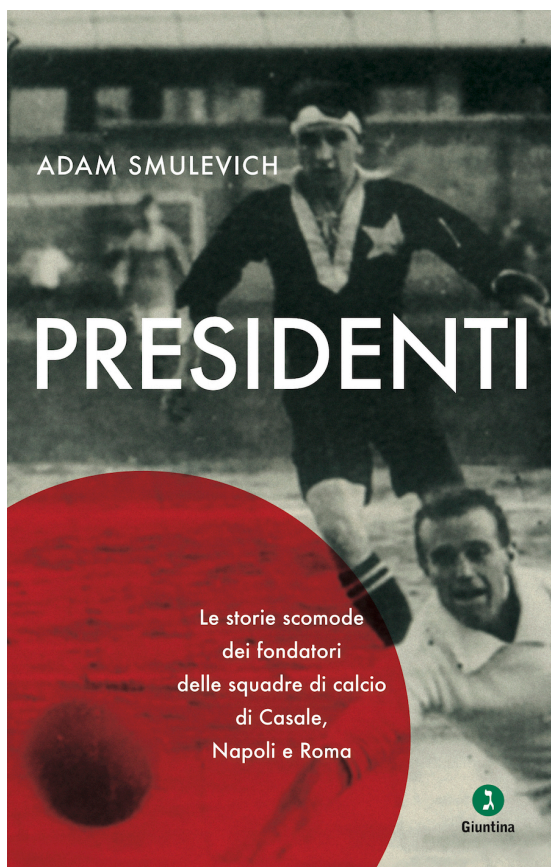
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[Wide Angle on Vanity Fair](#)

[VIDEO - Simone talks](#)

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Adam Smulevich

PRESIDENTS

The uncomfortable stories of the founders of Casale, Napoli, and Roma football teams

(Essay, 2017, pp 144)

Raffaele Jaffe, the man who won an unimaginable championship for Casale F.C. at the eve of the First World War. Giorgio Ascarelli, the founder of Napoli F.C. in a season marked out by many a lucky intuition. Renato Sacerdoti, the president who was the first ever to inspire Roma fans with dreams of victory. Three protagonists of Italian football today almost entirely forgotten.

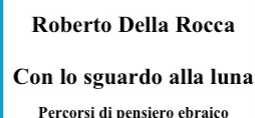
Fascism, or more precisely, the Racial Laws made these men unwelcome. Ascarelli, who had died long before those laws came into force, wasn't spared a cruel posthumous reprisal. Jaffe and Sacerdoti, despite being converted to Christianity for a long time, were discriminated: the prelude of the worst to come. Sacerdoti, a strong advocate of fascism, had a narrow escape, whereas Jaffe, was arrested by some "Blackshirts", and died in Auschwitz.

This book aims to reconstruct their stories with a narration that goes beyond the chronological events. It's an overall view of a time of choice and responsibilities; the hideous prejudice of fascist violence concerns all of us. This specific perspective – through sport, a sort of lingua franca - may foster a better clarity and a more conscious memory.

Adam Smulevich (b. 1985) a freelance journalist works for the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities and collaborates with several newspapers (Corriere Fiorentino, Avvenire, etc.). «I'm alive because Gino Bartali hid me in a cellar» Giorgio Goldenberg, a Jew from Fiume, told him in 2010. This testimony acknowledged «Ginettaccio» as one of the Righteous among the Nations

[HERE ALL THE REVIEWS](#)





Roberto Della Rocca
Con lo sguardo alla luna
Percorsi di pensiero ebraico



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<http://bit.ly/liKKwxh>

Roberto Della Rocca
LOOKING UP AT THE MOON
Trends of Jewish Thought
(Philosophy 2015, 206 pp.)

This book leads us to the rediscovery of a millenary Jewish tradition, rich and lively, always relevant, a perennial fountain of wisdom and teaching. The first trend introduces the reader to the Jewish marking of time with its profound meanings. The second one delves into the roots of the interpretation of the traditional sources as far as questioning the meaning of a single letter. The third trend reveals the values of Jewish ethics, pouring from the lines of the holy Scriptures. Like the moon which renews each month, a man will find in the ancient message of tradition a new sap for a never-ending revival and growth.



Raphael Luzon
LIBYAN SUNSET

Story of an Arab Jew
(Autobiography 2015, 144 pp.)

In these memoirs Raphael Luzon narrates the end of the Jewish community of Libya with its millenary history. As a child he was forced to leave Benghazi following the 1967's pogrom sparked off by the Arab mob against the Jews. That is the start of his exile, among homesickness and suffering, changes and new challenges, but always with the hope to revive, in his mind at least, his community destroyed by the destructive violence of fanaticism.

Luzon writes with no resentment since the pursuit of justice cannot be a hunting for the culprit, and also because he puts the desire for reconciliation before hostility, being full aware of the significance of a true, impartial testimony.

With reference to the above Roberto Saviano writes in the preface: «My advice to the reader is to read this book with great attention, to carefully consider some passages, because from Luzon's words we may sometimes derive the inspiration towards a path to peace and memory».



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Massimo Giuliani

JUSTICE SHALL THOU FOLLOW **Ethics and Halakhà in rabbinical thought**

(Jewish thought, 2016, 264 pp.)

Is it feasible to expound and understand Jewish ethics «standing on one foot», that is with few and simple lines? Isn't Judaism a long and complex path instead? And halakhà a set of rules intended to sanctify our daily lives and fortify a people's identity? What is it that connects the field of ethics, with its universal character, to the field of symbolic/ritual practices which define a Jewish style of life? And what does the rabbinical thought say about work ethics, or topical ecological issues, the exertion of power, and the defense of human rights? This book deals with the delicate subject of the relationship between ethics and halakhà, explored in the light of ancient rabbinical debates, up to our present-day discussions, while never neglecting Maimonides' great ethics lesson. A captivating and exacting study, a journey led by the Pole-Star of justice, according to the Torah's dictate: «Justice, justice shall thou follow». (Deut. 16, 20).

MARIO CAMERINI

"JUDEI DE URBE"



STORIA ILLUSTRATA
DEGLI
EBREI DI ROMA



Mario Camerini "JUDEI DE URBE"

An illustrated history of the Jews of Rome

(Graphic Novel 2015, 256 pp.)

More than 2000 years of History are narrated in this extraordinary graphic novel. From the first Jews arrived in Rome from Egypt in 200 b.c.e. to the meeting between Pope Francesco and the chief Rabbi of Rome Riccardo Di Segni. The elegant drawings in black and white by Mario Camerini describe the long and tireless presence in Rome of the oldest Jewish Community of the Diaspora. And through the eyes of its Jewish citizens the history of Rome with all its ups and downs is told in this unique book.





Enrico Fubini

JEWISH MUSICIANS IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

(Essay, 2016, 156 pp.)

What does it mean to be a Jewish musician in a Christian world? How did Judaism affect or condition a Jewish composer's vocation? Obviously, there are no unequivocal answers for these questions. From the Renaissance up until today, we can see a growing number of Jewish musicians, composers and performers. By the way they lived their own Judaism it might be possible to reconstruct the Jewish history of those centuries: the persecutions, the emancipation and assimilation movements up to Zionism and the birth of the State of Israel. Through this research music proves itself to be once again one of those perhaps invaluable clues to explore the historical and spiritual events of the Jewish people in the last few centuries.



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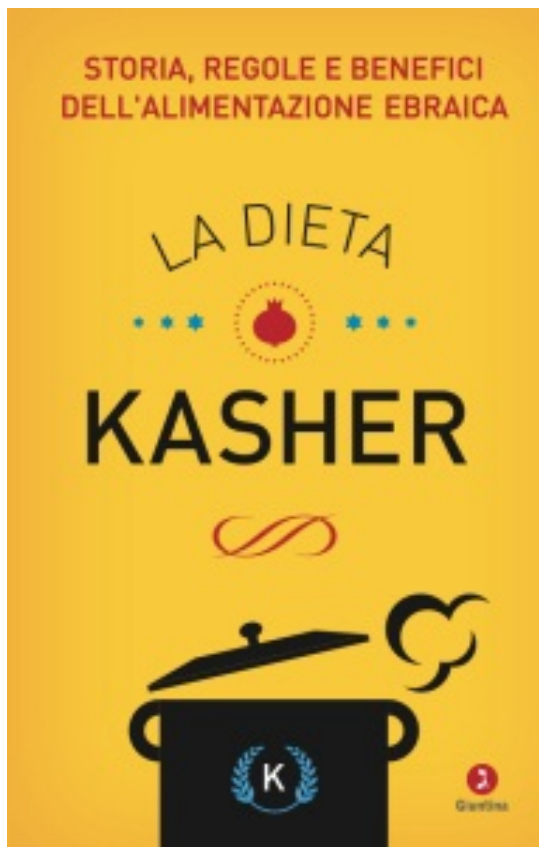
Roberto Matatia

THE TROUBLESOME NEIGHBOURS

**The story of a Jew, his wife and his
three children during Fascism**

(2014, 120 pp.)

Summer 1938. Nissim, a Greek Jew has recently moved to Italy. His skills have allowed him to be fairly well-off. The height of his career is embodied by a red brick house in the most elegant street of Riccione, facing the beach and, most of all, only a few meters away from the villa of the most powerful man of the time: the Duce. A location coveted by men of power: fascist party leaders or entrepreneurs. While the summer unfolds among parties, receptions, swimming and sunbathing, for the Jews the atmosphere gets more and more oppressive. A Jewish family so close to Mussolini's abode is definitely inappropriate. The thugs of the regime put more and more pressure on wretched Nissim to force him to sell his villa. Nissim holds on desperately till the Racial Laws befall on him. Under the threat of serious reprisals, the family sells the villa for a pittance and tries to survive as social outcasts. Camelia, Nissim's daughter, has left a precious testimony of those years: some of her letters reached us in a very fortuitous way. The innocence of adolescence is stronger than the wickedness of the world of the grown-ups, and though living in a world deranged by the hatred and violence against her «race», Camelia relates her dreams, her plans, but also the anguish for her family till her last farewell letter, addressed to her loved one, just a few moments before being taken away on her last journey.



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Watch the trailer

<http://bit.ly/1GQST0E>

Edited by Rossella Tercatin

THE KOSHER DIET

**History, rules and benefits of a
Jewish diet**

(Essay 2016, 228 pp.)

Keep calm... in this book you will not find precise instructions for a diet ... «The kosher diet» is meant to be a plain, yet thorough introduction to the world of the Jewish diet, while analysing its history, its distinguishing rules, and also dwelling upon topical issues such as safety, food quality control and certification, or how to face the problem of animal suffering. At the same time «The kosher diet» may also be read, especially with reference to some parts, as an introduction to Jewish thought and Jewish interpretation of the original sources. The reader will not fail to notice some valuable advice to be taken into consideration by whoever is going to start any diet...



Dario Miccoli

THE “MIZRAHI” ISRAELI LITERATURE

Stories, identities, memories of Middle East and Africa Jews

(Essay 2016, 206 pp.)

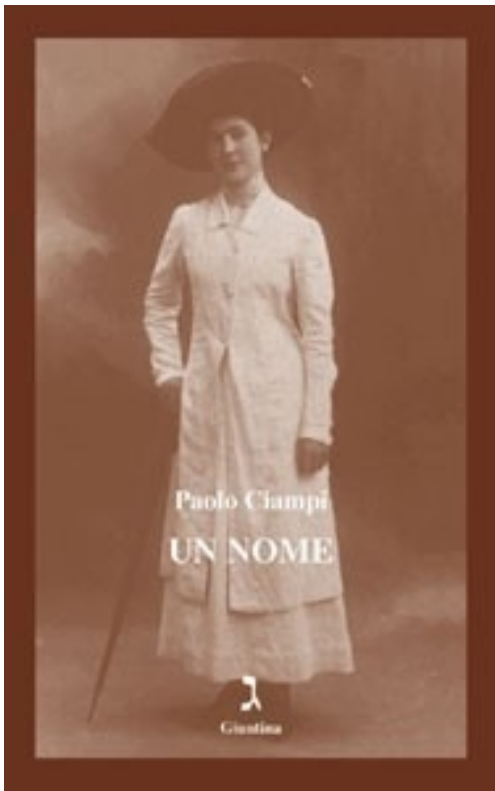
Mizrahim «Eastern people», that's how the Jews coming from Middle East countries and North Africa - arrived in Israel since the '50s and '60s -, and their descendants are called in Israel. Kept for a long time on the fringe of society, their culture and literature likewise disregarded, the mizrahim are presently going through a phase of great change and excitement. Beginning from an overall view of Israeli culture and literature, the book explores the three current generations of novelists and poets of «Eastern origin»: from refugee camps literature – somehow nostalgic and folkloric – like that of Sami Michael, to the second generation of the '80s and the '90s with authors such as Ronit Matalon, up to young poets and novelists such as Almog Behar, who try to rediscover the Jewish-Arab identity of their parents and grandparents in today's Israel. Thus Mizrahi Israeli literature gives voice to the mizrahim stories and memories, with an unusual but interesting perspective from which to look at Israel, rediscovering several cultural and historical connections between this country and Arabic- Islamic civilization.

Paolo Ciampi

A NAME

(2006, 232 pp.)

In the beginning it is only a name. A name and a lot of questions: what was it that thwarted the career of Enrica Calabresi, a young and brilliant scientist, in a time when for a woman it was difficult even to be admitted to higher education? And what happened to her after she left the university? Was it really the same person who, some years later, during the most dreadful months of the Nazi occupation, killed herself in a Florentine prison to escape deportation? These questions give rise to a book which is an emotional biography, an impassionate report, a polyphonic reflection on the barbarism of the Racial Laws, but also on the choices anyone is bound to make – if nothing else – not to forget. Enrica Calabresi, the Jewish professor did just that - to the end, with her dreams, her intellectual rigor, her silent resistance to horror. A story restored from oblivion, but not from nothingness because even today, from Milan to Jerusalem, there are people who still keep her memory alive: people who loved science and whose lives were involved in science thanks to this teacher. A true, vibrant story, full of surprises which lets us catch a glimpse of spring beyond every winter.



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<http://bit.ly/1Hr2NF8>

**Winner Premio Aquistoria
Finalist Premio Adei Wizo**

Roberto Riccardi I WAS A NUMBER

Alberto Sed narrates
(2009, 166 pp.)

This book narrates Alberto Sed's life from his birth to the present day. An orphan in his childhood, Albert spent several years in a boarding school. In 1938 the Racial Laws prevented him from continuing his studies. On the 16th October 1943 he escaped the roundup of the Roman ghetto, but later on he was captured with his mother and sisters Angelica, Fatina and Emma. After Fossoli transit station the family arrived at Auschwitz on a livestock wagon. Emma and the mother, judged unfit for work during the first selection, were immediately sent to the gas chambers. A month before the end of the war Angelica was torn to pieces by dogs to SS' enjoyment. Only Fatina survived but bearing indelible wounds: a witness of Angelica's end and herself a victim of Doctor Mengele's experiments. Alberto lived through several selections, hunger, torture and death marches. For a chunk of bread he took part in boxing matches among other captives, organized on Sundays to entertaining SS men and their wives. After escaping a bombing raid, he was released at Dora in April 1945. Back in Rome, after getting over the difficulties of reintegration, Alberto started working in metals strade and got married. He has three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



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Giulia Spizzichino

Roberto Riccardi

THE CRAZY BUTTERFLY

From the Fosse Ardeatine to Priebke's trial
(2013, 168 pp.)

The crazy butterfly: this is how a dear friend describes Giulia Spizzichino, a Roman Jewess bearing the marks of deportation and the slaughter at the Fosse Ardeatine that carried off twenty-six members of her family. An insect flapping its wings about without finding a place to rest. Following the roundup of October 16, 1943 in the Roman ghetto, and then the first half of 1944, which seems never ending, when the protagonist is forced to hide and many a time risks being captured by the Nazis, her life won't be the same anymore. A blithe adolescence is out of the question, to cultivate a love relationship is impossible, and two marriages are bound to fail. Fifty years later the ghosts of a never forgotten past resurface. The crazy butterfly will be summoned to leave for Argentina. A spatial and temporal journey to obtain Enrich Priebke's extradition. May 1944, her mission succeeds. But there is no light at the end of the tunnel; Giulia must face a new time of sufferings: the trials. A touching testimony that in spite of everything conveys a message of hope and love.



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Roberto Riccardi

THE PHOTO ON THE BEACH

(2012, 162 pp.)

Alba is a child growing in the fifties when Italy is poor in resources but full of hopes. She knows nothing about her past, even less about her future; yet she has a soft heart and this will lead her through unforeseen paths.

Auschwitz 1944: Simone, a father, daily snatches his life from death's clutches, while hoping and praying that his wife and daughter, whom he has not seen since their arrival at the lager, are still alive.

Two stories remote and incompatible and yet bound to meet against the background of a History which has too often trodden on every human feeling. Two stories united in a novel which is above all a dedication to millions of dead people without a grave.



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Victor Magiar
AND THE NIGHT FELL
Jews in an Arab country
(2003, 276 pp.)

And the night fell is the story of new awareness of a Jewish boy living in an Arab country, who overcome by an unexpected war, eventually understands the connection between his personal experience and the historical events of his family; thus turning tragic personal vicissitudes into a valuable interpretation of the world and human nature. Still it is the same story of his family driven out of Spain, in 1490, and doomed to roam around Europe till reaching Africa in 1900, which represents the wish of a culture not resigned to defend itself at the expense of sensitivity to «the other» and to the world. *And the night fell* is also the testimony, affectionate and yet harsh, of a lost world, memories of an ancient coexistence of closely related cultures, mixed flavors and customs, invented languages. A world swept away by religious fanaticism and nationalism. The book gives voice to a large part of the Jewish world so far faded into oblivion: the world of Sephardic Jews who lived for two millennia along the Mediterranean shores.



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Yarona Pinhas SPARKS OF SOUL

A spiritual journey in the Kabbalah
(2012, 120pp.)

In this new book Yarona Pinhas deals with the Zohar, The book of Splendor, which appears not only as the foundational work of Jewish mysticism, but also as a collection of gleams and illuminations. This work aims somehow at being another source of poetic astonishment and intuitions derived from the author's experiences and study. At the same time it is meant to be a concise grammar of the principal notions and spiritual references of the Kabbalah.

Yarona Pinhas
THE VEILED WISDOM
Woman in the Torah
(2002, 134 pp.)



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<http://bit.ly/1HveoHy>

Should we imagine biblical exegesis as a musical score women's voices would appear as rests. At least that has been the case so far; but now this score is permeated with sounds: women have started entering the world of a systematic study of the Scriptures, which they are no more precluded from. It is a revolution «from within», a countermelody that does not destroy tradition, but takes the past into consideration and projects the present into the future. In Israel there are schools for women expert on Halacha, whose task is to cooperate with rabbinical courts in order to avoid any possible discrimination against women. There are *midrashot* as well, schools of biblical exegesis which have definitely established an intellectual equality with male commentators of the Scriptures. Many Israeli women, either belonging to Orthodox Judaism or not, have a deep knowledge of Talmud. The chapters in this book are the written revisions of a course of lectures run by Yarona Pinhas in 2000 at the Circolo Pitigliani (in Rome). They deal with Jewish women's spirituality, with an interesting comparison between a veiled, inner female spirituality and an unveiled, outer male one. For this purpose there is an analysis of some biblical figures, female ones in particular, who contain, point out, and tell the value and action of this spirituality.



Yarona Pinhas
A SEALED WAVE
Water, Life and Word
(2008, 218)


A «sealed wave» is a chaotic whirlpool that precedes knowledge; it is a stream which cannot find an outlet and thus goes back to its origins. It is the word unsaid, the thought unexpressed: an aphasia all the more frustrating in a time of the utmost technology and communication. We are seized by the same sense of helplessness when we consider the condition of water at our disposal: despite the alarms and possible remedies, the water situation in the world is getting worse and worse. Both water and word are, though in a different way, essential to human existence. This book underlines the analogy between the process of knowledge-communication and water, in their decay and likely redemption. It is extraordinary how the right solutions can be found by simply following the principles of that millenary knowledge whose roots are in the Torah. Mankind is confronted with a choice that has already been made in much earlier times: the Tree of Knowledge or the Tree of Life. Then and now we have two main tools: our free will and listening; but if «then» it was a matter of staying or leaving the Gan Eden, today it is our survival to be at stake.



Enrica Orvieto Richetti
THE BRIDE AND THE
BRIDEGROOM

Marriage in Jewish tradition
(2005, 96 pp.)

According to Judaism marriage, generally representing the outgrowing of an individual and egoistic dimension towards a superior «common good», originates from God Himself who, from the living flesh of the first man, moulds a new human being specially made for Adam's intellectual and spiritual dignity. Starting off from Genesis and going over the story of the wedding ceremony, in a simple and consistent style this book highlights how the acts and words embodying the continuity of traditional Jewish thought, have remained unchanged: from the giving of the ring, when the bridegroom declares: «you are consecrated to me with this ring», to the various participating rites of the family and the whole community. Among several and curious aspects, the reader will discover – perhaps to his surprise – that in Judaism, referring to a millenary tradition doesn't exclude at all the acknowledgment of the central position of the woman, who has always been asked to express her instrumental opinion in the choice of the bridegroom and to play a fundamental role in the family.



Enrico Fubini
Musica e canto
nella mistica ebraica

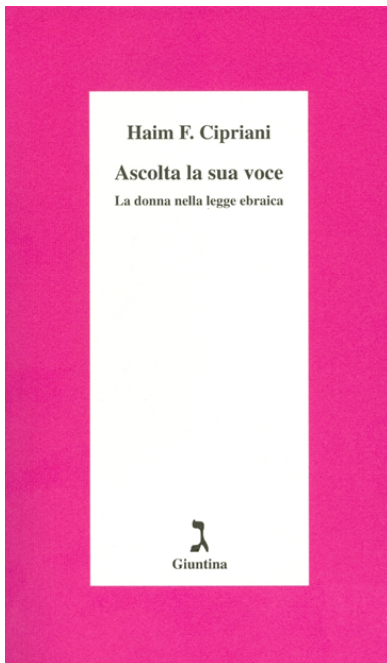


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Enrico Fubini
MUSIC AND SINGING IN JEWISH
MYSTICISM
(2012, 132 pp.)

The medieval books on Jewish mysticism give lots of space to music and singing, but it is not easy to reconstruct a rigorous and consistent notion from the several passages dealing with this subject. Nonetheless from the captivating and often inventive comments on the purpose of singing in Judaism we may grasp the fundamental ideas of the role of music over the centuries. In the coexistence of a more rationalistic Judaism and a more mystical one, the latter has undoubtedly favoured music and singing to such an extent that they have coincided with prayer. The Zohar, the foundational work in the literature of Jewish mystical thought, has been an inexhaustible source of comments on this topic. This study has mainly focused on a reading – often among the depths of this alluring esoteric book – of the passages devoted to music. The result is a concept evidently remote from what the western culture means by the art of sounds. It is quite interesting the comparison between two very different cultural traditions which both contributed to the development of musical civilization.



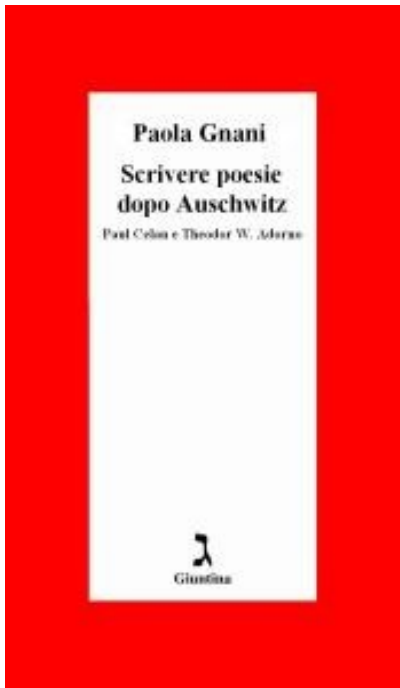
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Haim Fabrizio Cipriani **LISTEN TO HER VOICE**

The woman under Jewish law
(2011, 186 pp.)

Today the condition of woman is a central theme for all the greatest religions. A male privilege which in one way or another is characteristic of the different traditions, is more and more at odds with our way of life. Still need the situation remain exactly so? Is there no possibility to change the terms of such a glaring contradiction? Isn't Judaism able to find its way to get over this limit? In this book Haim Fabrizio Cipriani shows how Judaism can open up to a woman's world much more than it happens today, and explains why. There is neither an attempt to break with Jewish tradition nor to conform theoretically to modernity, but rather a proposal of a new reading of the same tradition which makes open attitudes more relevant, because «Judaism needs women, their minds, their hearts, to listen to different voices and perspectives that men wouldn't be able to offer».



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Paola Gnani

POETRY AFTER AUSCHWITZ

Paul Celan and Theodor W. Adorno

(2010, 162 pp.)

After an in-depth study and extensive documentation, the author reconstructs the various phases of the relationship between Celan and Adorno, starting off from the first post-war years to the end of their paths which almost met. From a perspective which combines both the human and the intellectual aspects we can see analysed the rapprochements and estrangements, the illusions and disappointments of their complex relationship. The study presents on the one hand Celan's several replies to Adorno's thesis with regard to poetry, and on the other hand, the progressive process of transformation of that same thesis. Actually the relationship with Celan represented a determinant for the evolution of Adorno's thought on art after the genocide.



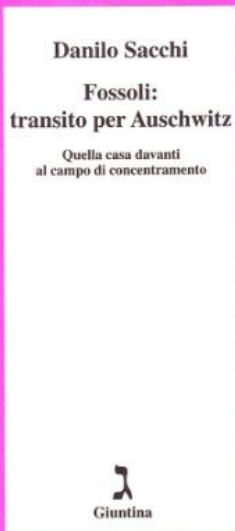
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**Joseph Bali
Viky Franzinetti
Stefano Levi Della Torre
THE OVEN OF AKHNAI**

**A talmudic dispute on catastrophe
(2010, 252 pp.)**

The book is a modern reading of a rabbinical dispute on an oven: If cut into separate tiles, will it be still declared «pure» according to the rule? This paradoxical story, both dramatic and ironical, taken from the Babylonian Talmud, and set at the end of the first century c.e., is interpreted against the background of a catastrophe: the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 c.e., the Jewish diaspora and the birth of Christianity. The seemingly specious dispute on the oven, is to be meant as a metaphor of a wide-ranging debate that must be confronted with in any time and by every community when facing an historical crisis. The crucial question is: How should a catastrophe be confronted with? Are changes inevitable? Whom does the authority to act belong to? To God's binding rule or to man's arguable interpretation? And how doctrines, reason, religion, human relationships, and feelings will affect making a decision?



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<http://bit.ly/1IXV9pQ>

Winner Premio Chianti

Danilo Sacchi

FOSSOLI: A TRANSIT STATION TO AUSCHWITZ

The house facing the concentration camp
(2002, 347 pp.)

«Can you believe it: Britons and Australians are here, at the other side of the ditch!» said my grandfather sighing, while watching from his farmyard the first prisoners arrived in the summer of 1942. But during the last months of war, when hearing about reprisal and slayings, he would sombrely mutter: «When are they going to knock that Camp down!». Because the mere sight of a concentration camp means the wreck and the sufferings of a war. This is the story of the Camp of Fossoli, built opposite our house in 1942. The story of soldiers and civilians, men and women who stopped off in these shacks, behind barbed wire, before continuing their journey toward Auschwitz or other nazi concentration camps. It is also our story of country people accustomed to an old-fashioned life in a silent and solitary world. A life suddenly shattered by the building of a concentration camp, whose sinister presence astonished and affected a child, like me.



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Shulim Vogelmann
WHILE THE CITY WAS ON FIRE
(2004, 232 pp.)

Both a report and a diary written in a lively, spirited style, this book introduces Israel as seen through the eyes of a young Italian Jew in search of his roots. With honesty and curiosity the author, a young man in his twenties, relates the everyday life of a group of friends living among doubts and questions difficult to solve. A cross-section of the Israeli society where contradictions emerge in their dramatic force, and backing down from looking into one's conscience is a no option. A story which bravely faces the different aspects of Jewish identity.

Winner Premio Città di Bari
Winner Premio Sandro Onofri
Winner Premio Amici di Edoardo
Winner Premio Giornalisti della cronaca Milanese
Finalist Premio Adei Wizo
Finalist Premio Chianti
Finalist Premio Berto
Finalist Premio Città di Gaeta
Finalist Premio Primo Romanzo
Finalist Premio Tondelli



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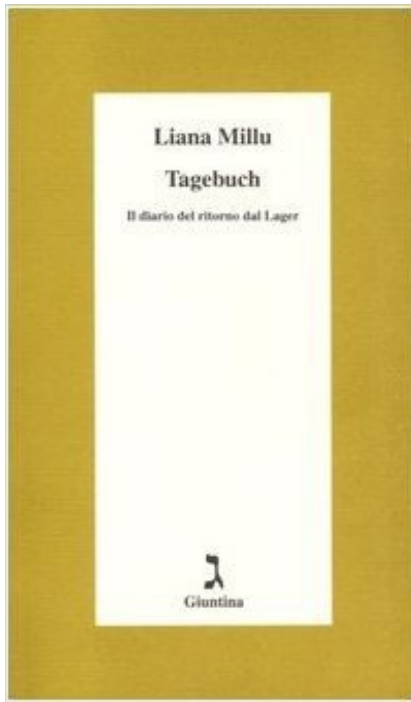
Liana Millu

THE SMOKE OVER BIRKENAU

(1986, 165 pp.)

Liana Millu's *The smoke over Birkenau* is among the most intense testimonies in Europe on women's concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau; definitely the most touching among the Italian testimonies. Six short stories about the desperate, low lives of female prisoners, whose conditions were much worse than their male fellow prisoners': a lesser endurance to heavy and humiliating labour, the suffering for their loved ones, the impending presence of crematoria, whose chimneys corrupted with their blasphemous smoke, nights and days, moments of respite and illusion, dreams and vain hopes.

(From the Preface by Primo Levi).



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<http://bit.ly/1eRtJqG>

Liana Millu
TAGEBUCH (DIARY)
(2006, 128 pp)

This is an exceptional text. In the fall of 1944, the author was deported to Birkenau concentration camp. Released in May 1945, she found, in an abandoned farm, a Tagebuch (Diary) and a pencil. She wrote all its 112 pages. She did it in a period of time that goes from May to September the 1st 1945, the day when she crossed the Italian border. Millu was familiar with writing. Before the Racial Laws she had already collaborated with some newspapers. The pages of the diary are written for herself in order to regain her human dignity, therefore her writing has an uncommon powerful style. The observations on her moods, the descriptions of her companions, the extraordinary portraits of two German soldiers after the defeat, the flash memories of the camp, are all a shocking and deep testimony. According to the author's will, the diary should be read only after her death.



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Paolo Ciampi

A FAMILY

(2010, 172 pp.)

Like a plant that after a frost manages to sprout again – because there are roots that even the direst situation cannot destroy – such is the story of the Venturas, a family belonging to the Italian Jewish middle class, that must undergo extremely hard trials between 1938 and 1945. When the events separate Anna and Luigi, bound to a tragic end, the rest of the family seems doomed. Their four children must learn to fend for themselves in Italy at war. Four children hunted after and forced to cope with a cruel world where it is not easy to distinguish between potential friends and traitors. But the four children will make it and with a new surname, in a new country, Israel, their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren will turn the fragile shrub of the Venturas into a luxuriating tree. A story of violence and sorrow but also of love and hope.

ISRAELE
Storia dello Stato
Dal sogno alla realtà
(1881-2007)
Claudio Vercelli



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<http://bit.ly/1AMCNY0>

Claudio Vercelli
ISRAEL. THE HISTORY OF THE STATE
From a dream to reality
(2007, 482 pp.)

Israel is in the heart and the minds of contemporaries and arouses passion and empathy, likes and dislikes and even denials. Its history is not generally well known: reasons, events, facts that led to the birth of a Jewish State, during the twentieth century, a time of profound changes. This book examines facts, figures and events, which gave birth to the State of Israel, up until today. Not a mere account, but a lively narration of the cultural, political and social conditions that from the second half of the XIX century led to Zionism and soon after to the immigration towards that land bound to be, in 1948, the new State: Israel, whose historical evolution, with social, economical and cultural changes are also narrated. From Herzl to modern leaders, remembering so many men and women who fought to have their rights recognized: a right to exist both as an individual and a part of a national community. A study on the past, a reflection on the present, an assumption on the future.

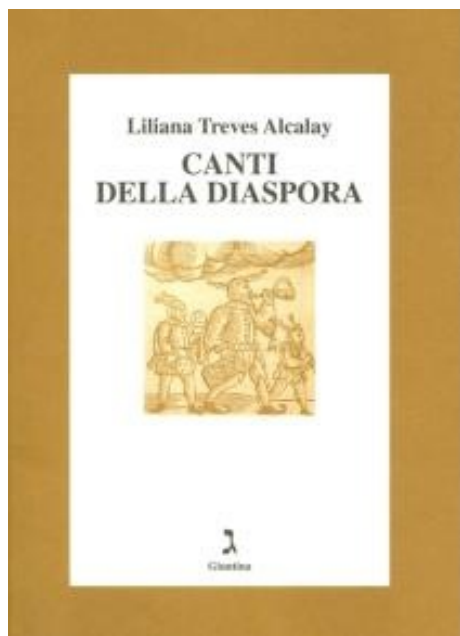
Francesco Lucrezi
HURBINEK'S WORD
The death of Primo Levi
(2005, 112 pp.)

April 11th 1987, why did Primo Levi decide to take his own life? The author strongly believed in the moral significance of testimony, and the imperative necessity of telling «what has happened»; so why this tragic end? By taking his own life did Levi mean to interrupt his testimony? Must his suicide be interpreted as a disclaimer of Levi's message or as integral part of it, instead? Is there a connection with his depression, or a resurfacing of the ghosts of Aushwitz? Is this a statement to be listened to and to be interpreted? The inquiry of Francesco Lucrezi focuses on all these questions trying to reconstruct the meaning of a death which somehow casts a dark shadow on all the pages written by this great witness of the Shoah.



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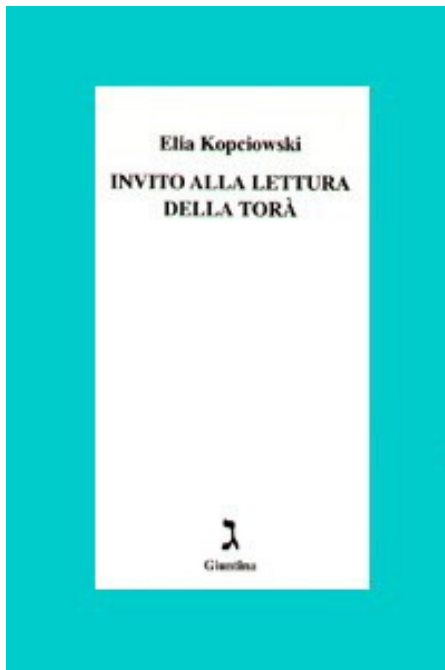


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Liliana Treves Alcalay
SONGS FROM THE DIASPORA
The best songs (Book + CD)
(2011, 70 pp. + 30 songs)

After 25 years since the first release of Songs from the Diaspora, collected, translated and performed by Liliana Treves Alcalay, this extraordinary singer and composer proposes again a selection of the most charming tunes. 27 songs in Ladin, Yiddish and Hebrew, with enclosed a book on the history of Jewish music, its evolution over the centuries, and the lyrics of the songs. Here collected you will find the most fascinating tunes of Jewish tradition: ancient ballads, songs of praise, wedding songs, nursery rhymes and love songs in Ladin; Yiddish poignant tunes, songs of protest, Hassidic *niggunim* and even more recent tunes belonging to Israeli tradition.

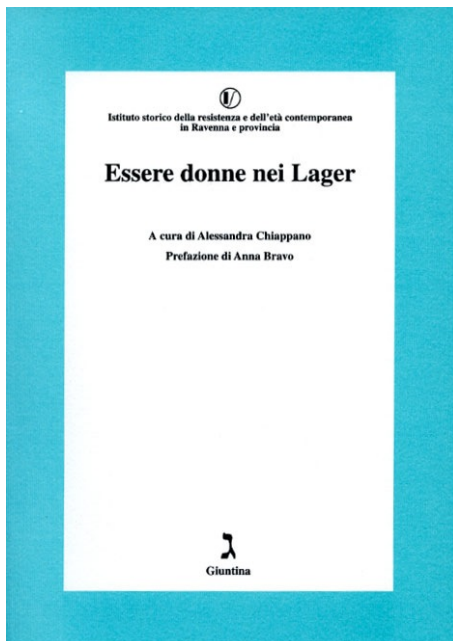


Elia Kopciowski

AN INVITATION TO READ THE TORAH

(1998, 278 pp.)

Is man a choice of God or a result of a slow evolution? And if the latter is the case why the evolution affected man only and all the other animals remained at the initial stage, devoid of conscience? How shall we judge the sin of eating the forbidden fruit, put by God Himself in the middle of Gan Eden, and the consequent exile? Which are the tasks and goals of man on the earth? These and many more questions, always relevant and pressing, are dealt with in this new commentary on the Torah. A simple and modern style makes the wisdom and the responses of the Old Sages extremely topical and modern. An inducement to reading a Book which after thousands of years is still an inexhaustible source of teaching and meditation.



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Alessandra Chiappano **BEING A WOMAN IN A** **CONCENTRATION CAMP** *(2009, 250 pp.)*

Being a woman in a concentration camp is a study on female condition in nazi death camps. This research combines an attempt to establish the exact numerical data concerning female deportations with the analysis of a more specific body of testimonies found in the Archives of Piedmontese deportations. It is not a mere historical study, since several essays deal with women memoirs, the role of SS guards inside the death camps, the relationship between testimony and literature, the places of substantial female deportation. A whole section is dedicated to some emblematic female deportees.