RECOMMENDED READS FROM THE AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD COMMITTEE

Paula Breger, Chair
Rena Citrin
Sarah Feldman
Dina Herbert (incoming)
Laura Schutzman (outgoing)
Hannah Srour-Zackon
AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD WINNERS 2023

The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land
Omer Friedlander

Atomic Anna
Rachel Barenbaum

Thistlefoot
GennaRose Nethercott
Stockholm
Noa Yedlin
translated by Jessica Cohen
HarperVia, November 2023

Other works (Hebrew)
House Arrest
People Like Us
The Wrong Book

Read-alikes
The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett, Annie Lyons
We All Want Impossible Things, Catherine Newman
**Cyclorama**
Adam Langer
Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022

**Other works**
The Salinger Contract, 2013
The Thieves of Manhattan, 2010
Ellington Boulevard, 2008

**Read-alikes**
What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories, Nathan Englander
People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present, Dara Horn
Love and Shame and Love, Peter Orner
The Latecomer
Jean Hanff Korelitz
Celadon Books, 2022

Other works
The Plot, 2021
The Devil and Webster, 2017
You Should Have Known, 2012
Admission, 2009

Read-alikes
Fleishman Is in Trouble, Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Waking Lions, Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, trans. Sondra Silverston
Signal Fires, Dani Shapiro
All Adults Here, Emma Straub
Signal Fires
Dani Shapiro
Knopf, 2022

Other works
Inheritance, 2019
Black & White, 2007
Family History, 2003
Picturing the Wreck, 1995
Fugitive Blue, 1992
Playing with Fire, 1990

Read-alikes
The Latecomer, Jean Hanff Korelitz
The Interestings, Meg Wolitzer
The Marriage Box
Corie Adjmi
She Writes Press, 2023

Other works
Life and Other Shortcomings, 2020

Read-alikes
Kantika, Elizabeth Graver
An Unorthodox Match, Naomi Ragen
A Woman Is No Man, Etaf Rum
The Only Daughter
A. B. Yehoshua
translated by Stuart Schoffman
Harpervia, 2023

Other works
The Tunnel, 2020
A Woman in Jerusalem, 2006
Five Seasons, 1998
Mr Mani, 1992
and many more!

Read-alikes
The Lying Life of Adults, Elena Ferrante, trans. Ann Goldstein
In Mr. Lublin's Store, S. Y. Agnon, trans. Glenda Abramson
HISTORICAL FICTION
**Kantika**
Elizabeth Graver
Metropolitan Books, 2023

**Other works**
*The End of the Point*, 2013
*Awake*, 2004
*Unravelling*, 1997
*The Honey Thief*, 1991
*Have You Seen Me?*, 1991

**Read-alikes**
*The Marriage Box*, Corie Adjmi
*Bread Givers*, Anzia Yezierska
Before All the World
Moriel Rothman-Zecher
Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2022

Other works
Sadness is a White Bird, 2018

Read-alikes
The Rise of David Levinsky, Abraham Cahan
When the Angels Left the Old Country, Sasha Lamb
Frank Wynne
Suleiman’s Ring
Sherif Meleka
translated by Raymond Stock
Hoopoe, 2023

Read-alikes
The Pillar of Salt, Albert Memmi, trans. Edouard Roditi
Out of Egypt: A Memoir, André Aciman
The Woman Beyond the Sea
Sarit Yishai-Levi
translated by Gilah Kahn-Hoffman
Amazon Crossing, 2023

Other works
The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem

Read-alikes
Jessica Cohen
Once We Were Home
Jennifer Rosner
Flatiron Books, 2023

Other works
The Yellow Bird Sings, 2020

Read-alikes
We Were the Lucky Ones, Georgia Hunter
House on Endless Waters, Emuna Elon, trans. Anthony Berris and Yinda Yechiel
Promised Land, Martin Fletcher
The Red Balcony
Jonathan Wilson
Schocken Books, 2023

Other works
An Ambulance Is on the Way, 2007
A Palestine Affair, 2003
The Hiding Room, 1994
Schoom, 1994

Read-alikes
Once We Were Home, Jennifer Rosner
The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem, Sarit Yishai Levi, trans. Anthony Berris
Two She-Bears, Meir Shalev, trans. Stuart Schoffman
When I Lived in Modern Times, Linda Grant
City of Secrets, Stewart O'Nan
**Hotel Cuba**
Aaron Hamburger
Harper Perennial, 2023

Other works
*Nirvana Is Here*, 2019
*Faith for Beginners*, 2005
*The View from Stalin's Head*, 2004

Read-alikes
*Kantika*, Elizabeth Graver
The World and All That It Holds
Aleksander Hemon
MCD, 2023

Other works
The Making of Zombie Wars, 2015
Love and Obstacles, 2009
The Lazarus Project, 2008
Nowhere Man, 2002
The Question of Bruno, 2000

Read-alikes
Red Cavalry, Isaac Babel
Bolla, Pajtim Statovci, trans. David Hackston
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store
James McBride
Riverhead Books, August 2023

Other works
Deacon King Kong, 2020
Five-Carat Soul, 2017
The Good Lord Bird, 2013
Song Yet Sung, 2008
Miracle at St. Anna, 2002
The Color of Water, 1996

Read-alikes
Harlem Shuffle, Colson Whitehead
HISTORICAL FICTION
HOLOCAUST/WWII
**The Paris Daughter**
Kristen Harmel
Gallery Books, 2023

**Other works**
*The Forest of Vanishing Stars*, 2021
*The Book of Lost Names*, 2020
*The Winemaker's Wife*, 2019
and many more!

**Read-alikes**
*Sarah's Key*, Tatiana de Rosnay
*All the Ways We Said Goodbye*, Beatriz Williams,
Lauren Willig, and Karen White
The Circus Train
Amita Parikh
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2022

Read-alikes
The Ringmaster's Daughter, Carly Schabowski
Water for Elephants, Sara Gruen
The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern
**At the Hour Between Dog and Wolf**
Tara Ison
Ig Publishing, 2023

**Other works**
*Ball: Stories*, 2015
*Rockaway*, 2013
*The List*, 2007
*A Child Out of Alcatraz*, 1997

**Read-alikes**
*Once We Were Home*, Jennifer Rosner
*Those Who Are Saved*, Alexis Landau
The Postcard
Anne Berest
translated by Tina Kover
Europa Editions, 2023

Finalist, 2021 Prix Goncourt
Winner, American Choix Concourt Prize
Winner, Prix Renaudot des Lycéens

Other works

Read-alikes
The Plum Trees, Victoria Shorr
Send for Me, Lauren Fox
The Collector  
Daniel Silva  
Harper, July 2023

Other works  
Twenty-two other Gabriel Allon books  
The Marching Season, 1999  
The Mark of the Assassin, 1998  
The Unlikely Spy, 1996
ROMANCE AND SUMMER READS
**Unorthodox Love**
Heidi Shertok
Alcove Press, July 2023

**Read-alikes**
*Kissing Kosher*, Jean Meltzer
*The Friend Zone*, Abby Jimenez
*All Your Perfects*, Colleen Hoover
*Weather Girl*, Rachel Lynn Solomon
Kissing Kosher
Jean Meltzer
Mira Books, August 2023

Other works
Mr. Perfect on Paper, 2022
The Matzah Ball, 2021

Read-alikes
Unorthodox Love, Heidi Shertok
Sadie on a Plate, Amanda Elliot
Love and Latkes, Stacey Agdern
Meant to Be Mine, Hannah Orenstein
The Matchmaker’s Gift, Lynda Cohen Loigman
Marry Me by Midnight
Felicia Grossman
Forever, August 2023

Other works
Dalliances & Devotion, 2019
Appetites & Vices, 2019

Read-alikes
Bridgerton novels, Julia Quinn
Tempest in the Tea Room, Libi Astaire
The Breakaway
Jennifer Weiner
Forever, August 2023

Other works
The Summer Place, 2022
That Summer, 2021
Big Summer, 2020
and many more!

Read-alikes
The Hotel Nantucket, Elin Hilderbrand
Shipped, Angie Hockman
FANTASY
The First Bright Thing
J. R. Dawson
Tor Books, 2023

Read-alikes
The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern
The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue, V. E. Schwab
The Ways We Hide, Kristina McMorris
The Circus Train, Amita Parikh
Ordinary Monsters, J. M. Miro
The Pomegranate Gate
Ariel Kaplan
Erewhon Books, September 2023

Other work (YA)
We Are the Perfect Girl, 2019
We Regret To Inform You, 2018
Grendel’s Guide to Love and War, 2017

Read-alikes
The Wolf and the Woodsman, Ava Reid
The City of Brass, S. A. Chakraborty
Spinning Silver, Naomi Novik
The Dark Star Trilogy, Marlon James
SHORT STORIES
**The House of Love and Prayer and Other Stories**

Tova Reich

Seven Stories Press, 2023

**Other work**

One Hundred Philistine Foreskins, 2013
My Holocaust, 2007
The Jewish War, 1995
and more!

**Read-alikes**

The Worlds We Think We Know, Dalia Rosenfeld
Choose Somebody Else, Yvonne Fein
Beautiful as the Moon, Radiant as the Stars: Jewish Women in Yiddish Stories, Sandra Bark, editor
Have I Got a Story for You: More Than a Century of Fiction from the Forward, Ezra Glinter, editor
The Best Place on Earth, Ayelet Tsabari
In Other Lifetimes All I’ve Lost Comes Back to Me
Courtney Sender
West Virginia Univ. Press, 2023

Read-alikes
Sing to It: New Stories, Amy Hempel
We Want What We Want, Alix Ohlin
**A Provincial Newspaper and Other Stories**

Miriam Karpilove  
translated by Jessica Kirzane  
Knopf Publishing Group, Sept. 2023

**Other work (all translated by Jessica Kirzane)**  
*Judith: A Tale of Love & Woe*, 2022  
*Diary of a Lonely Girl, or the Battle Against Free Love*, 2020

**Read-alikes**  
*Hungry Hearts*, Anzia Yezierska  
*Bread Givers*, Anzia Yezierska  
*The Rivals and Other Stories*, Jonah Rosenfeld, trans. Rachel Mines  
*From the Jewish Provinces: Selected Stories*, Fradl Shtok, trans. Jordan D. Finkin and Allison Schachter  
*The Book of Mischief: New and Selected Stories*, Steve Stern  
*A Bintel Brief: Sixty Years of Letters From the Lower East Side to the Jewish Daily Forward*, Isaac Metzker, editor
A Small Sacrifice for an Enormous Happiness
Jai Chakrabarti
Knopf Publishing Group, 2023

Other work
A Play for the End of the World—2021 AJL Jewish Fiction Honor Book

Read-alikes
In Other Lifetimes All I've Lost Comes Back to Me, Courtney Sender
The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land, Omer Friedlander
ON OUR RADAR
ON OUR RADAR

ISABEL ALLENDE
THE WIND KNOWS MY NAME

NAOMI RAGEN
THE ENEMY BESIDE ME

PAUL GOLDBERG
THE DISSIDENT

AYELET GUNDIR-GOSHEN
THE WOLF HUNT

ESHKOL NEVO
INSIDE INFORMATION
MORE NEW AND UPCOMING TITLES
MORE CONTEMPORARY-ISH FICTION

Mount Chicago, Adam Levin (Doubleday, 2022)
Lech, Sarah Lippman (Tortoise Books, 2022)
The 12th Commandment, Daniel Torday (St. Martin's Press, 2023)
Becoming Emily Novak, Audrey Beth Stein (2023)
My Last Innocent Year, Daisy Alpert Florin (Henry Holt & Co., 2023)
Künstlers in Paradise, Cathleen Schine (Macmillan, 2023)
The New Earth, Jess Row (Ecco, 2023)
The Jewish Son, Daniel Guebel, trans. Jessica Sequeira (Seven Stories Press, 2023)
Forgetting, Frederika Amalia Finkelstein, trans. Issabel Cout (Deep Vellum Publishing, 2023)
Where I Am, Dana Shem-Ur, trans. Yardenne Greenspan (New Vessel Press, 2023)
Hope, Andrew Ridker (Viking, July 2023)
All-Night Pharmacy, Ruth Madlevsky (Catapult, July 2023)
To Die in Secret, Haviva Ner-David (Bedazzled Ink Publishing, July 2023)
How to Love Your Daughter, Hila Blum, trans. Daniella Zamir (Riverhead Books, July 2023)
The Wolf Hunt, Ayelet Gundar-Goshen (Little, Brown & Company, August 2023)
The Enemy Beside Me, Naomi Ragen (St. Martin’s Griffin, September 2023)
Yara, Tamara Faith Berger (Coach House Books, October 2023)
Baumgartner, Paul Auster (Atlantic Monthly Press, November 2023)
The Great Goldbergs, Daniel Goodwin (Cormorant Books, September 2023)
MORE HISTORICAL FICTION

Love and War in the Jewish Quarter, Dora Levy Massanen (Post Hill Press, 2022)
When Franny Stands Up, Eden Robins (Sourcebooks Landmark, 2022)
My Mother's Secret, Alina Adams (History Through Fiction, 2022)
The Village Idiot, Steve Stern (Melville House, 2022)
A Castle in Brooklyn, Shirley Russak Wachtel (Little A, 2023)
The Family Morfawitz, Daniell H. Turtel (Blackstone Publishing, 2023)
The Promise of a Normal Life, Rebecca Kaiser Gibson (Arcade, 2023)
Incident at San Miguel, A. J. Sidransky (Black Opal Books, 2023)
The Glass Château, Stephen P. Kiernan (William Morrow, 2023)
Shelf Life, Martin Sneider (Forefront Books, 2023)

Shadows We Carry, Meryl Ain (SparkPress, 2023)
The Dissident, Paul Goldberg (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2023)
Counting Lost Stars, Kim van Alkemade (William Morrow, 2023)

Ravage & Son, Jerome Charyn (Bellevue Literary Press, August 2023)
Bessie, Linda Kass (She Writes Press, September 2023)
Anything But Yes, Joie Davidow (Monkfish Book Publishing, October 2023)
The Tears and Prayers of Fools, Grigory Kanovich, trans. Mary Ann Szporluk (Syracuse University Press, October 2023)
Lilith, Nikki Marmery (Alcove Press, October 2023)
The Opera Sisters, Marianne Monson (Shadow Mountain, 2022)
The Winter Orphans, Kristin Beck (Berkley, 2022)
Three Muses, Martha Anne Toll (Regal House Publishing, 2022)
Night Angels, Weina Dai Randel (Lake Union Publishing, 2023)
Code Name Sapphire, Pam Jenoff (Park Row, 2023)
The Vienna Writers Circle, J. C. Maetis (MIRA, 2023)
Code Name Edelweiss, Stephanie Landsem (Tyndale House Publishers, 2023)
The Paper Man, Billy O’Callaghan (David R. Godine, 2023)
Professor Schiff’s Guilt, Agur Schiff, trans. Jessica Cohen (New Vessel Press, 2023)
The Wind Knows My Name, Isabel Allende, trans. Frances Riddle (Ballentine Books, 2023)
The Violinist of Auschwitz, Ellie Midwood (Grand Central Publishing, 2023)
Poland, a Green Land, Aharon Appelfeld, trans. Stuart Schoffman (Schocken, 2023)
The Forger of Marseille, Linda Joy Meyers (She Writes Press, July 2023)
Lost Bread, Edith Bruck, trans. Gabriella Romani and David Yanoff (Paul Dry Books, July 2023)
A Tale of One January, Albert Maltz (Calder Publications, July 2023)
The Keeper of Hidden Books, Madeline Martin (Hanover Square Press, August 2023)
We Must Not Think of Ourselves, Lauren Grodstein (Algonquin Books, November 2023)
Split, Alida Bremer, trans. Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp (Amazon Crossing, November 2023)
The Porcelain Maker, Sarah Freethy (St. Martin’s Press, November 2023)
Ashes in the Snow, Oriana Ramunno (HarperVia, September 2023)
The Cellist of Dachau, Martin Goodman (Barbican Press, October 2023)
ISRAEL FOCUS

*Inside Information*, Eshkol Nevo (Other Press, 2023)
*The Lover*, Rebecca Sacks (Harper, August 2023)
*Only the Dead Know Peace*, Alberto Mansur (Blackstone Publishing, August 2023)

MORE SHORT STORIES

*Casualties*, Joyce Becker Lee (Tortoise Books, 2023)
*Gallery of the Disappeared Men*, Jonathan Papernick (The Story Plant, 2023)
*The Archivists*, Daphne Kalotay (Northwestern University Press, 2023)
ROMANCE AND SUMMER READS

Season of Love, Helena Greer (Forever, 2022)
Bad Summer People, Emma Rosenblum (Flatiron Books, 2023)
B'nai Mitzvah Mistake, Stacey Agdern (Tule Publishing, 2023)
Business or Pleasure, Rachel Lynn Solomon (Berkley, July 2023)
Someone Just Like You, Meredith Schorr (Forever, July 2023)
Thank You for Sharing, Rachel Runya Katz (St. Martin's Griffin, September 2023)
Maybe Once, Maybe Twice, Alison Rose Greenberg (St. Martin's Griffin, October 2023)
I For Never & Always, Helena Greer (Forever, November 2023)

MYSTERY

An Affair of Spies, Ronald H. Balson (St. Martin’s Press, 2022)
Death of a Dancing Queen, Kimberly G. Giarratano (Datura Books, 2023)
Past Imperfect, Joshua Cohen (Casemate Publishers, 2023)

FANTASY AND FOLKLORE

The Golem of Brooklyn, Adam Mansbach (Random House, September 2023)
HOW WE KEEP UP
The Association of Jewish Libraries
www.jewishlibraries.org
Newsletter, reviews, bibliographies, annual conference, Jewish Fiction Award & more

Jewish Review of Books
https://jewishreviewofbooks.com/
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Jewish Book Council
www.jewishbookcouncil.org
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Paper Brigade, annual literary journal $25/year

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 $184.95/year.

The New York Times Book Review
www.nytimes.com/pages/books
**Edelweiss**
https://www.edelweiss.plus/
Prepub books with reviews

**NetGalley**
https://www.netgalley.com/
Prepub books and audiobooks with reviews

**NovelList**
Access through your local public library for read-alike suggestions

**Library Journal e-Newsletters**
https://www.libraryjournal.com/section/reviews+
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