AJL JEWISH FICTION AWARD: MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

Omer Friedlander, Rachel Barenbaum and GennaRose Nethercott

Description: Meet Omer Friedlander, winner of the AJL Jewish Fiction Award for his story collection, *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*, and honor winners Rachel Barenbaum, author of *Atomic Anna*, and GennaRose Nethercott, author of *Thistlefoot*.

Rachel Barenbaum is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Atomic Anna* and *A Bend in the Stars*. She is a prolific writer and reviewer. Her work has appeared in the *LA Review of Books*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and more. She is a scholar-in-residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis and is the founder/host of the podcast Check This Out, which spotlights new and diverse authors. Rachel has degrees from Harvard in business and in literature and philosophy. She is an elected member of Town Meeting in Brookline, MA.

Omer Friedlander was born in Jerusalem in 1994 and grew up in Tel Aviv. He is the author of the short story collection *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*, winner of the AJL Fiction Award and a finalist for the Wingate Prize. The book was also longlisted for the Story Prize and was a Sophie Brody Medal Honor Book. He has a BA in English literature from the University of Cambridge and an MFA from Boston University, where he was supported by the Saul Bellow Fellowship. Omer is a Starworks Fellow in Fiction at New York University. His collection has been translated into several languages, including Turkish, Dutch and Italian. His writing has been supported by the Bread Loaf Fellowship and Vermont Studio Center Fellowship. Omer is currently teaching creative writing at the MFA program at Columbia University.

GennaRose Nethercott is a writer and folklorist. Her first book, *The Lumberjack’s Dove*, was selected by Louise Glück as a winner of the National Poetry Series. Whether authoring novels, poems, ballads or even fold-up paper cootie catchers, her projects are all rooted in myth - and what our stories reveal about who we are. She tours widely, performing strange tales (sometimes with puppets in tow), and researches/writes for the podcast Lore. She lives in the woodlands of Vermont, beside an old cemetery. *Thistlefoot* is her debut novel.