

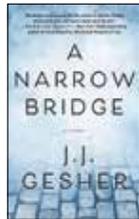


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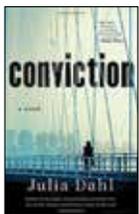
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## FICTION



**A NARROW BRIDGE** by J.J. GESHER. Jacob Fisher grew up in an Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn. Even though he rebelled at times, he married and had children. Then in one shattering moment the life he knew ended. After fleeing in anguish, he found himself in a predominantly African American town in rural Alabama where he met Rosie, the single mother of a young son. Their friendship, along with the rekindling of his love of music, inspired Jacob to find courage after tragedy through the restorative power of human connection.



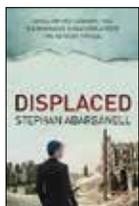
**CONVICTION** by JULIA DAHL. Another thriller featuring journalist Rebekah Roberts. She sees a handwritten message from a convict named DeShawn Perkins who insists he was wrongfully convicted for the brutal murder of a Crown Heights family in 1992. Rebekah notices that one of the main detectives was Saul Katz, the boyfriend of her long-estranged mother. However, witnesses are missing and people's memories have faded and no-one wants to talk about this violent time when Black/Jewish relations were strained. Dahl examines the power of community, loyalty and denial.



**NINE LOVE LETTERS** by GERALD JACOBS. The novel revolves around two separate families from the 1940's onwards, the Haroun family in Baghdad and the Weisz family from Budapest who had to deal with the horrors of the concentration camps in Europe and the Farhud in Iraq. Some family members found refuge in London and had to adapt to their shattered lives after the war. Through each letter the love between child, husband and wife, different generations and cultures shine through despite the terrible violence and tragedy they had to endure. A story of hope and forgiveness.



**GHOST VARIATIONS** by JESSICA DUCHEN. This thriller is written by Duchén, a pianist and musical scholar. In London during the 1930's, Jelly d'Aranyi, a Hungarian Jewish violinist participates in an Ouija board sitting and receives a message supposedly from the spirit of Robert Schumann who entreats her to find his unknown violin concerto in D minor. Jelly embarks on a complex quest to find the piece amidst the rise of the Nazis in Germany where the manuscript is held. With her career sliding out of control, Jelly realises that saving the concerto will lead to her own redemption.

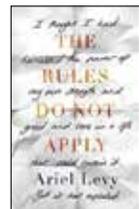


**DISPLACED** by STEPHAN ABARBANELL. An intelligent debut thriller beginning in British-occupied Palestine in 1946. Elderly writer Elias Lind is not convinced that his scientist brother Raphael died in a concentration camp. Too frail to search himself he persuades a contact in the Jewish resistance to help him. Lilya Wasserfall, a member of the Haganah is ordered to do this. She embarks on a journey to Europe hoping she may find him in displaced persons camp. She encounters survivors and fugitives and even secretly interviews a prominent Nazi commander. A compelling, exciting read.

## MEMOIRS AND PERSONAL INSIGHTS



**MAMAN** by MORIS NIKNAM. This is a fascinating journey through the life of a Jewish-Iranian mother and her husband Baba. They married when Maman was 13 years old, raised seven children through poverty and the severe political upheaval in Iran. Her love for her homeland of Persia and her unfailing belief prevented her from following her older children to live in the United States and Israel. When the situation became dire she joined her children in Israel. Moris — her son and the author of this biography — was the only one who was able to care for her when she became ill.

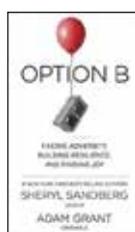
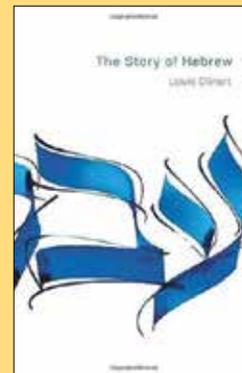


**THE RULES DO NOT APPLY** by ARIEL LEVY. In this deeply moving memoir, Levy chronicles the adventures and heartache of being "a woman who is free to do whatever she chooses." When she left for Mongolia in 2012, 38 year old Ariel was pregnant, married and financially secure. Within a month it all changed. Levy discovered she was not exempt from certain hard truths and that fate was beyond our control. She acknowledges that our lives are not the same as the stories we want to tell about them. Her compassionate writing offers the reader a salve against sorrow.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

**THE STORY OF HEBREW** by LEWIS GLINERT.

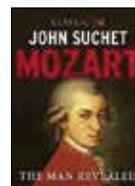
A unique history of the Hebrew language from biblical times to its reinvention as a national modern language. Gilnert, a renowned linguist, explores the way Hebrew has been used in Jewish life and how Jews and Christians have invested it with a symbolic power beyond normal language. While Herzl thought German should be the language of Israel, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, Hayim Nahman Bialik and their colleagues devoted themselves to the remaking of the Hebrew language. A richly, detailed book which has been meticulously researched.



**OPTION B** by SHERYL SANDBERG AND ADAM GRANT.

Written by Sandberg, Facebook's chief commanding officer and Grant, Wharton's top professor. This riveting book begins with the moment when Sheryl finds her husband Dave Goldberg collapsed on a gym floor. Sheryl describes the acute isolation she felt in the wake of his death. She combines her personal insights with Adam's expert research on finding strength in adversity. Option B is an absorbing read illuminating how to help others in crisis providing lessons in helping to overcome hardships and preserve the human spirit.

## MUSICAL INTEREST



**MOZART: THE MAN REVEALED** by JOHN SUCHET. A wonderful biography transporting you to a time of musical soirees in eighteenth century Europe. Suchet covers the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart from his birth in Salzburg in 1756 to his early days as a child prodigy and finally his untimely demise in 1791. Written with warmth and wit, he reveals in fine detail the man behind the genius examining all the myths and misunderstandings which surrounded him. Using an assortment of delightful illustrations and documents, he highlights this best-loved musical composer's fascinating life.



**JEWIS AND JAZZ: Improvising Ethnicity** by CHARLES HERSCH. This book explores the meaning of Jewish involvement in the world of American jazz. Hersch illustrates how jazz was used as an art form from the 1920s to the current era. He discusses how the black-Jewish alliance was a fraught relationship. He focuses on the way prominent musicians like Benny Goodman, Dave Lieberman, Artie Shaw and others engaged with jazz as a means to emphasize their Jewish identity. Hersch finds a British thread by highlighting the patron of Thelonius Monk, Baroness Pannonica Rothschild.

## HOLOCAUST



**SURVIVOR** by HARRY BORDEN. Award winning photographer, Borden features in these compendium portraits of Holocaust survivors living in Australia, Israel, the U.K. and the U.S. Borden was inspired by artists such as Irving Penn and August Sander whose works were constrained under the Nazis. Borden invited his subjects to handwrite a message alongside their image — a poem, memory or an expression of how it feels to survive such an atrocity. The end section provides information about each person. The photographs convey the dignity of each unique subject.



**JEWISH SALONICA: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece** by DEVIN NAAR. The author, professor of Sephardic studies, uncovers the experiences of the once dynamic Jewish community of Salonica. Using new archival materials in Ladino, Greek, Hebrew and French, Naar reveals how the Jews of Salonica sought to transform themselves from Ottoman Jews to Hellenic Jews in the early twentieth century. This study takes readers into institutional hallways, homes of the Jewish elite and ordinary citizens, the majority of whom were deported to their deaths at Auschwitz-Birkenau.