

David

Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust

Aftershocks

The Hallelukhic & Conceptual World of the Ethiopian Jews

C.W. Ceram visualized archeology as a wonderful combination of high adventure, romance, history and scholarship, and this book, a chronicle of man's search for his past, reads like a dramatic narrative. We travel with Heinrich Schliemann as, defying the ridicule of the learned world, he actually unearths the remains of the ancient city of Troy. We share the excitement of Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter as they first glimpse the riches of Tutankhamen's tomb, of George Smith when he found the ancient clay tablets that contained the records of the Biblical Flood. We rediscover the ruined splendors of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world; of Chichen Itza, the abandoned pyramids of the Maya; and the legendary Labyrinth of tile Minotaur in Crete. Here is much of the history of civilization and the stories of the men who rediscovered it. Illustrated with drawings, maps, and photographs

Now in paperback, a masterly analysis of the book of Numbers, the newest volume in the award-winning series of commentaries on the Hebrew Bible by "a celebrated biblical scholar, keen on on weaving together traditional Jewish exegesis, psychoanalysis, and postmodern criticism" (The New York Times Book Review) Through the magnificent literary, scholarly, and psychological analysis of the text that is her trademark, Avivah Zornberg tackles the enduring puzzlement of the book of Numbers. What should have been for the Israelites a brief journey from Mount Sinai to the Holy Land has become a forty-year death march. Both before and after the devastating report of the Spies, the narrative centers on the people's desire to return to slavery in Egypt. At its heart are speeches of complaint and lament. But in the narrative of the book of Numbers that is found in mystical and Hasidic sources, the generation of the wilderness emerges as one of extraordinary spiritual experience, fed on miracles and nurtured directly by God- a generation of ecstatic faith, human partners in an unprecedented conversation with the Deity. Drawing on kabbalistic sources, the Hasidic commentators depict a people who transcend prudent considerations in order to follow God into the wilderness, where their spiritual yearning comes to full expression. Is there a way to integrate this narrative of dark murmurings, of obsessive fantasies of return to Egypt, with the celebration of a love-intoxicated wilderness discourse? The question touches not only on the language the Israelites speak but also on the very nature of human utterance. What effect does the cumulative trauma of slavery, the miracles of Exodus, and the revelation at Sinai have on a nation that is beginning to speak? In Bewilderments, one of our most admired biblical commentators suggests fascinating answers to these questions.

Reminiscent of the early work of Jhumpa Lahiri, Ayelet Tsabari's award-winning debut collection of stories is global in scope yet intimate in feel, beautifully written, and emotionally powerful. From Israel to India to Canada, Tsabari's indelible characters grapple with love, violence, faith, the slipperiness of identity, and the challenges of balancing old traditions with modern times. These eleven spellbinding stories often focus on Israel's Mizrahi Jews, featuring mothers and children, soldiers and bohemians, lovers and best friends, all searching for their place in the world. In "Tikkun," a man crosses paths with his free-spirited ex-girlfriend-now a married Orthodox Jew-and minutes later barely escapes tragedy. In "Brit Milah," a mother travels from Israel to visit her daughter in Canada and is stunned by her grandson's upbringing. A young medic in the Israeli army bends the rules to potentially dangerous consequence in "Casualties." After her mom passes away, a teenage girl comes to live with her aunt outside Tel Aviv and has her first experience with unrequited love in "Say It Again, Say Something Else." And in the moving title story, two estranged sisters-one whose marriage is ending, the other whose relationship is just beginning-try to recapture the close bond they had as kids. Absorbing, tender, and sharply observed, The Best Place on Earth infuses moments of sorrow with small moments of grace: a boy composes poetry in a bomb shelter, an old photo helps a girl make sense of her mother's rootless past. Tsabari's voice is gentle yet wise, illuminating the burdens of history, the strength of the heart, and our universal desire to belong. Praise for The Best Place on Earth "It's impossible not to be awestruck by the depth and power rendered in Tsabari's stories."-Elle "Tsabari creates complex, conflicted, prickly people you'll want to get to know better."-Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "There's remarkable scope in Ayelet Tsabari's The Best Place on Earth, which interweaves stories of discrimination, loss, displacement, sex, death, religion, and a host of other issues. And yet, despite the range of viewpoints and the different facets of Israeli society explored, this is a collection that always stays intensely personal, the broader forces of history moving not merely across nations but within the souls of her beautifully conceived characters."-Phil Klay, National Book Award-winning author of Redeployment "With incredible compassion and a delicate touch, Ayelet Tsabari explores the heartbreak inherent in forming bonds, whether with another person or with a whole country. The Best Place on Earth, a complicated love song to Israel, is a sure-footed and stunningly skillful debut."-Shelly Orta, author of New York 1, Tel Aviv 0 "Powerful . . . brilliant . . . These stories . . . depict minorities so skillfully, with such a light and accurate touch."-The Daily Beast "Highly recommended . . . Compelling and compassionate; [Tsabari's stories] speak out from the heart of Israeli society and experiences. . . . The stories of The Best Place on Earth leave you wishing they wouldn't end."-The Times of Israel "This short story collection is a fiction debut for Tsabari, but it demonstrates that she is already a talented storyteller. . . . Her writing has an immediacy and power that invites readers into her characters' psyches."-Publishers Weekly

Bewilderments

New Tales of Biblical Women