

Around The Mediterranean

The latest novels that take place on the shores of our local sea.

By ADI SHTAMBERGER



by Naomi Keren, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan -

In this well-researched novel written through letters, the story of Beatriz de Luna, a young Portuguese woman who we know better as Doña Gracia Nasi, is told in great detail and with much talent. Doña Nasi was a daughter of a rich family of Jews who in the 16th century had to hide their Judaism and act as Christians for fear of the inquisition. Doña Gracia finds out about all this only after her mother dies during childbirth, and the secret changes her whole life. She grows up to be one of the strongest and most powerful women of her time, always torn between her two religions, Judaism and Christianity. Keren follows this process, as well as her journey from Lisbon to Venice and through Europe, till her final days in Istanbul. She paints a portrait of a highly intelligent, independent woman, who manages to thrive in a dangerous world ruled by dangerous men. Not a light read, but definitely worth the effort.



by Margaret Mazzantini, Kinneret, Zmora-Bitan -

Farid and Vitto are both boys, walking on a beach. But it is not at all the same beach. They are actually living in two separate worlds. Farid is in North Africa, Vitto is in Sicily, and the great Mediterranean Sea lies between them, their families and their lives. Both have loving mothers, Jamila and Angelina, to take care of them and guide them through life, but have very different futures ahead of them. In the background of the recent historical events of the Arab Spring in Libya, Mazzantini has built in this tiny book a story of a divided world, but also a lyrical tale of the relationship between mothers and their sons, with their deep love for each other that exists wherever they may be.



by Itay Lev, Matar -

When Grandpa Zalman passes away, he is buried in the Patria section in the Carmel Coast cemetery. Why there? When his life was lived in Jerusalem's Beit HaKerem? 11-year-old Uriah has a few ideas as to the reasons, but when he starts looking around in a shoe box in his grandparents' porch, he discovers a mysterious poem, that may be at the center of the mystery. It is a poem that his grandmother received many years ago, and sets Uriah on a journey of discovery through his family history. He hears about Grandma Abigail's adventures as a young woman, and how brave she was, trying to get to the promised land on her own. Her journey takes her to the famous Patria ship, and puts her in a love triangle which has had an effect on Uriah's family. Uriah is a charming character, full of humor and curiosity, and the character of his grandmother is inspiring and larger-than-life. This is a lovely historical novel, which reminds us of events long forgotten.



Dictionary

Researched	ריסרצ'ט	שנחקר
Detail	דיטיל	פירוט
Century	קנצ'ורי	מאה
Process	פרוסס	תהליך
Journey	ג'רני	מסע
Independent	אינדיפנדנט	עצמאית
Manages	מנג'ז	מצליחה
Thrive	ת'ריב	לשגשג
Definitely	דפנטלי	בהחלט
Worth	וורת'	שווה
Effort	אפורט	מאמץ
Actually	אקצ'ואלי	למעשה
Separate	ספרט	נפרדים
Recent	ריסנט	שקרו לאחרונה
Events	איבנטס	אירועים
Divided	דיב'יד	מחולק
Exists	אגזיסטס	קיימת
Buried	ב'ריד	נקבר
Cemetery	סמיטרי	בית קברות
Porch	פורץ'	מרפסת
Discovers	דיסקברז	מגלה
Poem	פואם	שיר
Received	ריסיבד	קיבלה
Adventures	אדבנצ'ר	הרפתקאות
Triangle	טריאנגל	משולש
Charming	צ'רמיני	מקסימה
Character	קרקטר	דמות
Curiosity	קיריוסיטי	סקרנות
Inspiring	אינספ'רינג	מעוררת השראה
Reminds	רימ'נדז	מזכיר