



Reverend Katz Library

New Book Reviews

June 2022

As the cold winter weather sets in, we invite you to come and make your selection from our wonderful collection of books to enjoy during the winter weather. These are some of the new books received in June.

Diane Armstrong, *Dancing with the enemy* F ARM

From the bestselling author of *The Collaborator* comes a compelling story of betrayal, collusion, revenge, and redemption set in German-occupied Jersey during World War II.

June 1940. 'It was a perfect June evening that began with hope and ended in despair.' So begins the journal of Hugh Jackson, a Jersey doctor, whose idyllic world is shattered when Britain abandons the Channel Islands which are invaded by the Germans. Forced to choose between conflicting loyalties, he sends his pregnant wife to England, believing their separation will be brief. It's a fateful decision that will affect every aspect of his life.

May 1942. Young Tom Gaskell fumes whenever he sees the hated swastika flying from Fort Regent. Humiliated by Jersey's surrender and ashamed of his mother's fraternisation with the occupiers, Tom forms an audacious plan, not suspecting that it will result in guilt and tragedy.

April 2019. Sydney doctor Xanthe Maxwell, traumatised by the suicide of her colleague and burnt out by the relentless pressure of her hospital work, travels to St Helier so she can figure out what to do with her life. But when she finds Hugh Jackson's World War II journal, she is plunged into a violent world of oppression and collusion, but also of passion and resistance. As she reads, she is mystified by her growing sense of connection to the past. Her deepening relationship with academic Daniel Miller helps her understand Jersey's wartime past and determine her own future.

By the time this novel reaches its moving climax, the connection between Tom, Xanthe and Hugh Jackson has been revealed in a way none of them could possibly have imagined.

Ashley Goldberg *Abomination* F GOL

A compelling and compassionate debut about friendship, faith, family and identity.

Melbourne 1999: Ezra and Yonatan are best friends whose lives are forever changed when their school, the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Yahel Academy, is rocked by a scandal and they are thrown onto divergent paths. Twenty years later, the lives of the two men are very different: Ezra identifies as secular and atheist, while Yonatan has been ordained as a rabbi and teaches at the academy. By chance they are reunited, and the events of their past and present collide with devastating consequences.

Abomination lays bare the clash between religious and secular worlds in contemporary Australia and provides a revealing glimpse into a closed community. With great tenderness and insight debut author Ashley Goldberg tells the story of an enduring and evolving friendship as Yonatan and Ezra

struggle to come to terms with the choices they have made, search for meaning, and forge their own identities. This is a beautifully observed, moving story from an exciting young writer.

Kerry Breen, Humanity in medicine: the life of physician Dr Stanley Goulston. BIO GOU

In 1940, soon after graduating, Dr Stanley Goulston joined the Australian Army. As the sole doctor to 1500 soldiers, he was sent to the Middle East where the Allied forces were fighting the Germans and Italians. His battalion was part of the iconic Rats of Tobruk during the famous siege. At Tobruk he was awarded a Military Cross.

In 1947 he was appointed honorary physician to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. He became one of Australia's first gastroenterologists and advanced this speciality at his hospital and beyond. In senior roles with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians he headed a long-lasting redesign of physician training. Stanley Goulston was universally admired for his humility, empathy and commitment to teaching and research. For most of his life, he wrote poetry. At 79 he completed a Master of Philosophy degree at Sydney University and then taught narrative and poetry to doctors and medical students with the aim of fostering a more humane and compassionate version of modern scientific medicine.

Henry R Lew, Patterson of Israel: The most amazing Jewish story of Gallipoli and the ANZAC Light Horsemen BIO PAT

'This book adroitly focusses on the life and times of an Irish Protestant Christian, Lieutenant-Colonel John Henry Patterson (1867-1947) who was a contemporary of Lawrence of Arabia. Uniquely for his time, Patterson was staunchly pro-Jewish and pro-Zionist. Dr Lew's compelling narrative about Patterson, who prior to 1915 had never met a Jew, but who commanded Jewish Legions at Gallipoli and then during the Palestine Campaign, should be made available to students of all ages. Indeed, as some commentators have mentioned, it is my view that the last chapter of Patterson of Israel, 'The four main causes of 21st century anti-Semitism in Western democracies' is so powerful that it deserves to be a stand-alone publication.'" Ross Fitzgerald AM

John Henry Patterson (1867-1947) was a non-Jewish British army officer who sought to help the Jews to create a Jewish state in Palestine. He was involved with such major figures as Vladimir Jabotinsky and Trumpedor.

Jabotinsky and Patterson also believed that Jews, within the boundaries of a Jewish state in Palestine, would treat peaceful minorities with much more compassion and tolerance than they themselves would be treated if they attempted to be the peaceful minority. Patterson was the commander of the Jewish Legion, "the first Jewish fighting force in nearly two millennia", and has been described as the godfather of the modern Israel Defence Forces.

Frances Prince, Gift of time, discoveries from the daily ritual of reading with my father BIO PRI

At the beginning of the pandemic, Frances Prince began reading to her Holocaust survivor father, David Prince. As they read many memoirs by Holocaust survivors, David reflected upon his Holocaust experiences and life as a Polish Jewish university student in post-war Munich. Frances penned Gift of Time to capture their conversations together which centred on David's recollections from the past.

Chaim Sztager, L'Chaim: the exceptional life of Chaim Sztager BIO SZT

Chaim's story begins pre-war Czestochowa, Poland where poverty and antisemitism are an everyday struggle surpassed only by the strength and love of Chaim's tight knit religious family. Chaim's horrific experiences of his world destroyed by the Holocaust, and the unimaginable horrors of the Treblinka death camp are revealed. The story continues beyond World War II, as Chaim rebuilds his life: first in Israel, and then Australia. L'Chaim is a testament not only of survival in the face of unspeakable horror and adversity, but a life able to start again and thrive.

Abraham S Abraham, Nishmat Avraham: Medical Halacha for doctors, nurses, health care personnel and patients JUD ABR

Volume 2 - Yoreh Dea **Volume 3** - Even Haezer and Choshen Mishpat

Dr. Abraham S. Abraham is a world-renowned physician who has lectured at medical conferences in many countries. In addition, he is one of the world's leading experts on the halachic ramifications of modern medicine. In his practice and extensive research, Dr. Abraham has come across virtually every instance where medical practice requires halachic opinion. Hundreds of doctors consult him and, when necessary, he in turn consults premier halachic authorities.

[javascript:void\(0\)](javascript:void(0))