



Reverend Katz Library

New Book Reviews

August 2022

During August, we invite you to come and make your selection from our wonderful collection of varied and interesting books. These are some of the interesting new books awaiting you.

Natalie Livingstone *The women of Rothschild: the untold story of the worlds most famous dynamic women* BIO LIV

In *The Women of Rothschild*, Natalie Livingstone reveals the role of women in shaping the legacy of the famous Rothschild dynasty, synonymous with wealth and power.

As Jews in a Christian society and women in a deeply patriarchal family, they were outsiders. Excluded from the family bank, they forged their own distinct dynasty of daughters and nieces, mothers, and aunts. They became influential hostesses and talented diplomats, choreographing electoral campaigns, advising prime ministers, advocating for social reform, and trading on the stock exchange. Misfits and conformists, conservatives and idealists, performers, and introverts, they mixed with everyone from Queen Victoria to Chaim Weizmann, Rossini to Isaiah Berlin, and the Duke of Wellington to Alec Guinness, as well as with amphetamine-dealers, suffragists and avant-garde artists. Rothschild women helped bring down ghetto walls in early nineteenth-century Frankfurt, inspired some of the most remarkable cultural movements of the Victorian period, and in the mid-twentieth century burst into America, where they patronized Thelonious Monk and drag-raced through Manhattan with Miles Davis.

Absorbing and compulsive, *The Women of Rothschild* gives voice to the complicated, privileged, and gifted women whose vision and tenacity shaped history.

Leslie Stein, *The undermining of Western Civilisation* HIS STE

This book offers the reader a unique approach in surveying the extent to which modern day Marxists, along with their fellow travelers, have been undermining the essence of Western Civilization. By contrast to other volumes in the field, its coverage of Marxist radicals, incorporates the historical factors that have facilitated their resurgence, the means by which they have been able to capture the universities and the tactics they been employing in order to gain dominant positions throughout Western society. It cogently provides a clear understanding of the nature of the New Left and the essence of their various beliefs and practices. Topics in question include Radical Race Theory, White Fragility, Black Live Matter, Post-Colonial Studies, Radical Feminists, the Left's Love Affair with Muslim Extremists and the Left's anti- Semitism. The concise and coherent writing style of the author allows for easy reading, even in areas which might normally be difficult to follow. Above all, this informative work, briefly set out, is based on extensive research, with all sources referenced.

Simon Mawer, Ancestry: A Novel F MAW

The past is another country, and we are all its exiles. Banished forever, we look back in fascination and wonder at this mysterious land. Who were the people who populated it? Almost two hundred years ago, Abraham, an illiterate urchin, scavenges on a Suffolk beach and dreams of running away to sea... Naomi, a seventeen-year-old seamstress, sits primly in a second class carriage on the train from Sussex to London and imagines a new life in the big city... George, a private soldier of the 50th Regiment of Foot, marries his Irish bride, Annie, in the cathedral in Manchester and together they face married life under arms. Now these people exist only in the bare bones of registers and census lists but they were once real enough. They lived, loved, felt joy and fear, and ultimately died. But who were they? And what indissoluble thread binds them together?

Simon Mawer's compelling and original novel puts flesh on our ancestors' bones to bring them to life and give them voice. He has created stories that are gripping and heart-breaking, from the squalor and vitality of Dickensian London to the excitement of seafaring in the last days of sail and the horror of the trenches of the Crimea. There is birth and death; there is love, both open and legal but also hidden and illicit. Yet the thread that connects these disparate figures is something that they cannot have known - the unbreakable bond of family

Deborah Cadbury, The school that escaped the Nazis HOL CAD

The extraordinary true story of a courageous school principal who saw the dangers of Nazi Germany and took drastic steps to save those in harm's way

In 1933, the same year Hitler came to power, schoolteacher Anna Essinger saved her small, progressive school from Nazi Germany. Anna had read *Mein Kampf* and knew the terrible danger that Hitler's hate-fuelled ideologies posed to her pupils, so she hatched a courageous and daring plan: to smuggle her school to the safety of England.

As the school she established in Kent, England, flourished despite the many challenges it faced, the news from her home country continued to darken. Anna watched as Europe slid toward war, with devastating consequences for the Jewish children left behind. In time, Anna would take in orphans who had given up all hope: the survivors of unimaginable horrors. Anna's school offered these scarred children the love and security they needed to rebuild their lives.

Featuring moving firsthand testimony from surviving pupils, and drawing from letters, diaries, and present-day interviews, *The School that Escaped the Nazis* is a dramatic human tale that offers a unique perspective on Nazi persecution and the Holocaust. It is also the story of one woman's refusal to allow her belief in a better world to be overtaken by hatred and violence.

Leah Garrett, X Troop: The secret commandos who helped defeat the Nazis HIS GAR

This is popular WW2 history at its heart-stopping best, fuelled by an incredible, previously untold story of the Jewish refugees who fought in Britain's most secretive special-forces unit. The untold story of Britain's most secretive special unit. June 1942. The shadow of the Third Reich falls across Europe. In desperation, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff form an unusual plan - a new

commando unit made up of Jewish refugees. This top secret unit becomes known as X Troop. Others simply call them a suicide squad. From British internment camps to the beaches of Normandy, the battlefields of Italy and Holland, and the hellscape of Terezin concentration camp, Leah Garrett follows this band of brothers who will stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis.

Dr Norman Swan So you think you know what is good for you MISC SWA

We all want to be healthier, but do you know what's good for you?

For over thirty years, Dr Norman Swan has been delivering straight, honest, common-sense health information to ordinary Australians as both a physician and much-loved broadcaster. And when Australia needed clear, scientifically backed COVID-19 facts and advice, it was Norman Swan who stepped up every day to provide the answers we required.

After many years of listening, Norman Swan knows what medical issues people are curious and concerned about. Drawing on the questions he hears time and again, from millennials to baby boomers and all the generations between, *So You Think You Know What's Good For You?* is a one-stop handbook that will settle fruitless anxieties and allow people to focus on what matters to them. Replace medical myths, half-truths and misconceptions with the information you need to make better decisions about how to eat and how to live to put your mind at ease and ensure your and your family's health is the best it can be.

Joshua Cohen, The Netanyahus F COH

Mixing fiction with non-fiction, the campus novel with the lecture, *The Netanyahus* is a wildly inventive, genre-bending comedy of blending, identity, and politics - 'An Account of A Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family' that finds Joshua Cohen at the height of his powers.

Corbin College, not-quite-upstate New York, winter 1959-1960: Ruben Blum, a Jewish historian-but not an historian of the Jews-is co-opted onto a hiring committee to review the application of an exiled Israeli scholar specializing in the Spanish Inquisition. When Benzion Netanyahu shows up for an interview, family unexpectedly in tow, Blum plays the reluctant host, to guests who proceed to lay waste to his American complacencies.

'Absorbing, delightful, hilarious, breathtaking and the best and most relevant novel I've read in what feels like forever.' - New York Times Book Review

Lavie Tidhar, Maror F TID

A multi-generational saga with cultural and political depth, drawing on the rich, often troubling recent history of Israel, for fans of *A History of Seven Killings* or *The White Tiger*.

How do you build a nation?

It takes statesmen and soldiers, farmers and factory workers, of course. But it also takes thieves, prostitutes and policemen.

Nation-building demands sacrifice. And one man knows where those bodies are buried: Cohen, a man who loves his country. A reasonable man for unreasonable times.

A car bomb in the back streets of Tel Aviv. A diamond robbery in Haifa. Civil war in Lebanon. Rebel fighters in the Colombian jungle. An assassination in Cancún. How do they all connect? Only Cohen knows.

