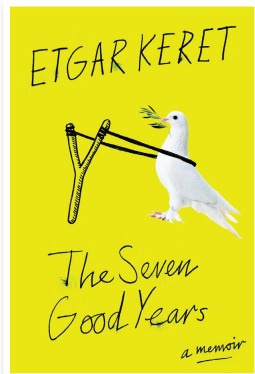




Bookshelf



THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS: A Memoir by Etgar Keret

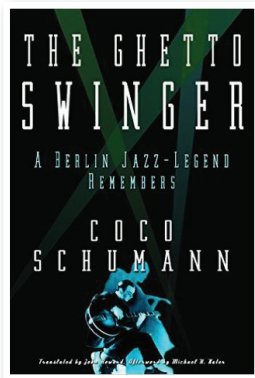
translated by Sondra Silverston, Miriam Shlesinger, Jessica Cohen and Anthony Berris

Riverhead Books, New York, NY, 2015, 171pp. (hardcover)

The seven years between the birth of Etgar Keret's son and the death of his father were good years, though still full of reasons to worry. Lev is born in the midst of a terrorist attack. Etgar's father gets cancer. The threat of constant war looms over their home and permeates daily life.

What emerges from this dark reality is a series of sublimely absurd ruminations on everything from Etgar's three-year-old son's impending military service to the terrorist mind-set behind Angry Birds. There's Lev's insistence that he is a cat, releasing him from any human responsibilities or rules. Etgar's siblings, all very different people who have chosen radically divergent paths in life, come together after his father's shivah to experience the grief and love that tie a family together forever. This wise, witty memoir — Etgar's first nonfiction book published in America, and told in his inimitable style — is full of wonder and life and love, poignant insights, and irrepressible humor.

Etgar Keret was born in Ramat Gan and now lives in Tel Aviv. A winner of the French Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, he is a lecturer at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the author, most recently, of the story collection "Suddenly, a Knock on the Door." His work has been translated into thirty-seven languages and has appeared in The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, The Paris Review, and The New York Times, among many other publications, and on "This American Life," where he is a regular contributor. 📖



THE GHETTO SWINGER: A Berlin Jazz-Legend Remembers by Coco Schumann

with Max Christian Graeff and Michaela Haas, translated by John Howard

DoppleHouse Press, Los Angeles, CA, 2016, 177pp. (hardcover)

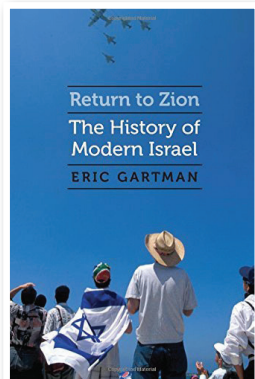
Coco Schumann's celebrated career as a jazz and swing musician spans more than seventy years and is replete with honors. But for decades Schumann bore his wartime experiences as a Holocaust survivor in silence, with only the pleasure of composing music and performing for live audiences to ease the burden of his most haunting memories.

In his memoir, Schumann recounts the vibrant underground club scenes of Berlin in the years surrounding World War II and offers backstage glimpses into Berlin's famous nightlife, where he shared the stage with such jazz notables as Helmut Zacharias, Tullio Mobiglia, Toots Thielemans, and American visitors like Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald.

The Ghetto Swinger also provides Schumann's harrowing testimony from 1943-1945 about daily life inside Theresienstadt (Terezin) and Auschwitz, and gives readers the important perspective of a Jewish Holocaust survivor who remained in Germany after the war.

Featuring rare photographs and an afterword by Weimar and Nazi era culture scholar Michael H. Kater, The Ghetto Swinger is an engrossing historical document as much as it is a heartwarming memoir.

Coco Schumann was born in Berlin in 1924. He has spent his lifetime playing jazz and swing and is known as one of the genre's best musicians in Europe. Several times named the foremost jazz guitarist in Germany, Schumann appeared throughout his life in well-known swing bands and alongside jazz notables like Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Toots Thielemans, and Louis Armstrong. Schumann led his own quartet, has been a composer and arranger, briefly opened up his own Berlin bar in the 1970s, and taught music at Berlin's prestigious music conservatory in Steglitz-Zehlendorf. His latest song collection appeared in 2014, and until his retirement later that year at 90 years old, Schumann was playing regularly in Berlin for packed crowds. Recipient of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany in 1989 and the Berlin Order of Merit in 2008, Schumann received the prestigious Ehrenpreise Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Record Critics in 2015. 📖



RETURN TO ZION: The History of Modern Israel by Eric Gartman

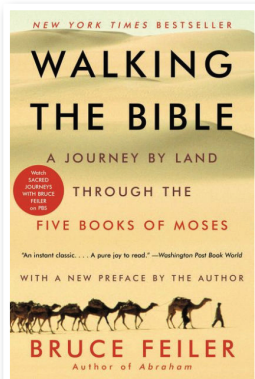
The Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, PA, 2015, 384pp. (hardcover)

The history of modern Israel is a story of ambition, violence, and survival. Return to Zion traces how a scattered and stateless people reconstituted themselves in their traditional homeland, only to face threats by those who, during the many years of the dispersion, had come to regard the land as their home. This is a story of the "ingathering of the exiles" from Europe to an outpost on the fringes of the Ottoman Empire, of courage and perseverance, and of reinvention and tragedy.

Eric Gartman focuses on two main themes of modern Israel: reconstitution and survival. Even as new settlers built their state they faced constant challenges from hostile neighbors and divided support from foreign governments, as well as being attacked by larger armies no fewer than three times during the first twenty-five years of Israel's history. Focusing on a land torn by turmoil, Return to Zion is the story of Israel — the fight for independence through the Israeli Independence War in 1948, the Six-Day War of 1967, and the near-collapse of the Israeli Army during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Gartman examines the roles of the leading figures of modern Israel — Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin, and Ariel Sharon — alongside popular perceptions of events as they unfolded in the post-World War II decades. He presents declassified CIA, White House, and U.S. State Department documents that detail America's involvement in the 1967 and 1973 wars, as well as proof that the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty was a case of mistaken identity. Return to Zion pulls together the myriad threads of this history from inside and out to create a seamless look into modern Israel's truest self.

Eric Gartman is an intelligence analyst for the United States Department of Defense who has lived and studied in Israel and traveled extensively throughout the Middle East. 📖



WALKING THE BIBLE: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses by Bruce Feiler

William Morrow, New York, NY, 2014, 451pp. (paperback)

Both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest, "Walking the Bible" describes one man's epic odyssey — by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel — through the greatest stories ever told. From crossing the Red Sea to climbing Mt. Sinai to touching the burning bush, Bruce Feiler's inspiring journey will forever change your view to some of history's most storied events.

Bruce Feiler is the author of six consecutive New York Times bestsellers, including "Abraham," "Where G-d Was Born," "America's Prophet," "The Council of Dads," and "The Secrets of Happy Families." He is a columnist for the New York Times, a popular lecturer, and a frequent commentator on radio and television. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and twin daughters. 📖