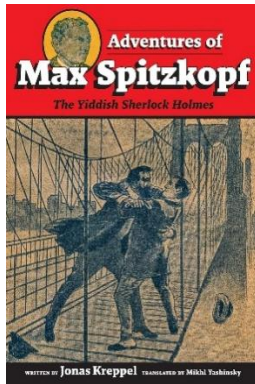


New Titles December 2025

FICTION

The adventures of Max Spitzkopf: The Yiddish Sherlock Holmes by Jonah Kreppel



Max Spitzkopf, the Yiddish Sherlock Holmes, “heads the famous Viennese detective bureau Blitz . . . He’s bold as a lion and takes the wildest risks.” Meet Max Spitzkopf: legendary private eye, undefeated foe of villains, and passionate defender of the Jewish people. No matter how hopeless or dangerous the case, when “the investigatory profession’s greatest artist” is summoned, justice is assured. Aided by his trusty assistant, Fuchs, super-sleuth Spitzkopf deploys equal parts physical bravery and intellectual ingenuity— not to mention a knack for stealthy disguise— to unpick evil conspiracies, outwit the canniest of criminals, and restore moral order to the world. Giving a unique twist to a beloved literary genre, this complete

collection of the fifteen Spitzkopf mysteries is also a vibrant testament to Jewish life, in all its variety, during the last years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Reading the tales, with every iota of their linguistic verve and historical charm preserved in Mikhl Yashinsky’s translation, it’s easy to see why the young Isaac Bashevis Singer thought them masterpieces.

I wanted to be wonderful by Lihi Lapid



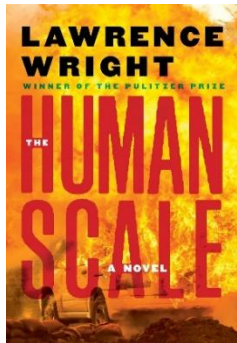
I wanted to be wonderful follows the lives of two women in their first years of marriage and motherhood. One is a fictional character trying to live the happily-ever-after many imagine for themselves, and the second woman is inspired by the author herself, relating the most intimate moments of her life. Both couples start their marriages full of idyllic happiness, but as the stressors of everyday life seep into their daily lives, that spark of young love begins to dim. In trenchant, thoughtful prose, Lihi Lapid tells a braided story of women struggling to live up to modern pressures; about shattered dreams; and about finding the strength to gather up the pieces and to learn to smile again.

Queen Esther by John Irving



Esther Nacht is born in Vienna in 1905. Her father dies on board a ship from Bremerhaven to Portland, Maine, and anti-Semites murder her mother in Portland. In St. Cloud's, it's clear to Dr. Larch, the orphanage physician and director, that the abandoned child not only knows she's Jewish, but she's familiar with the biblical Queen Esther she was named for. Dr. Larch knows it won't be easy to find a Jewish family to adopt Esther, he doubts he'll find any family to adopt her. When Esther is fourteen, soon to become a ward of the state, Dr. Larch meets the Winslows, a philanthropic family with a history of providing for unadopted orphans. The Winslows aren't Jewish, but they detest anti-Semitism and similar prejudice. Esther's gratitude to the Winslows is unending. As she retraces her steps to her birth city, Esther keeps loving and protecting the Winslows—even in Vienna. The final chapter of this historical novel is set in Jerusalem in 1981, when Esther is seventy-six.

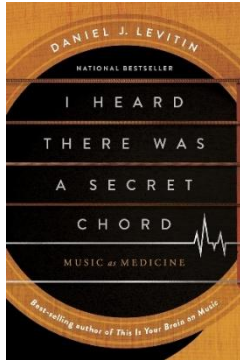
Human Scale by Lawrence Wright



Tony Malik, a half-Irish, half-Arab FBI agent based in New York, specializes in tracking money from drug and arms deals. His life takes a dramatic turn when a long-term relationship ends and his job hangs in the balance. Amid personal turmoil, Malik becomes intrigued by his Palestinian father's past. He decides to visit his ancestral homeland for his niece's wedding, accepting a seemingly simple FBI assignment along the way. Upon arrival in the West Bank, Malik's world is upended when the Israeli police chief is murdered. Initially a suspect, Malik's investigative prowess soon earns him a place in the Israeli investigation. At the heart of the story is Malik's complex relationship with Yossi, the hardline anti-Arab Israeli police officer leading the case. They must learn to trust each other because, as they move closer to solving the case, they realize there is no one else they can trust on either side. Lawrence Wright populates the novel with richly drawn characters: Yossi's daughter studying in Paris, Malik's niece whose wedding is shattered by violence, her peacenik fiancé with ties to Hamas, and a cast of religious leaders, corrupt cops, and militants on both sides. Through these intersecting lives, Wright weaves an intricate tapestry that culminates in the devastating Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. More than a thriller, Wright's novel explores the complex history between Israel and Palestine, revealing the tragic human scale of this long-standing conflict and offering a nuanced perspective on a tragedy that continues to shape the region and the world.

NON-FICTION

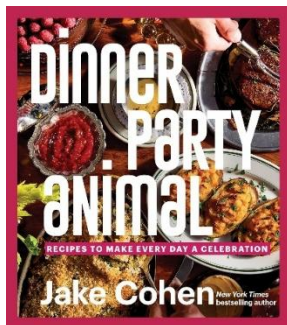
I heard there was a secret chord: Music as medicine by Daniel Levitan



Music is perhaps one of humanity's oldest medicines as well as its most universal: from China to the Ottoman Empire, Europe to Africa and pre-colonial South America, cultures have developed rich traditions for using sound and rhythm to ease suffering, spur healing, and calm the mind. Despite this history, musical therapy has long been considered the remit of ancient practice and alternative medicine, if not outright quackery and pseudoscience. In the last decade, however, an overwhelming body of scientific evidence has emerged that persuasively argues music can offer profoundly effective treatment for a whole host of ailments, from Alzheimer's to PTSD, depression, pain, and cognitive injury. It is, in short,

one of the most potent and remarkably promising new therapies available today. A work of dazzling ideas, cutting-edge research, and joyful celebration of the human mind, *I Heard There Was a Secret Chord* explores the critical role music has played in human evolution, illuminating how the story of the human brain is inseparable from the creative enterprise of music that has bound cultures together throughout history. Music insinuates itself into our earliest memories; it is intimately connected to our emotional regulation and cognition; its shared rhythms and sounds are essential to our social behaviors.

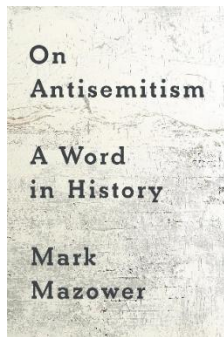
Dinner party animal by Jake Cohen



An impromptu cocktail party, casual brunch with friends, or celebratory dinner with family—food just tastes better when shared. For chef Jake Cohen, making a homemade meal from scratch for those you love is nothing short of magic. Now he's giving you everything you need to cook and entertain with ease in this highly anticipated collection of 100 delicious recipes and sixteen inventive menus for every mood, occasion, and possible guest list. With menus ranging from Treat Yourself Brunch to Veg Out, Meatballs to the Wall, Ride or Pie (a whole meal of pies!), That Was Tonight? (recipes that come together in a hurry), and even the

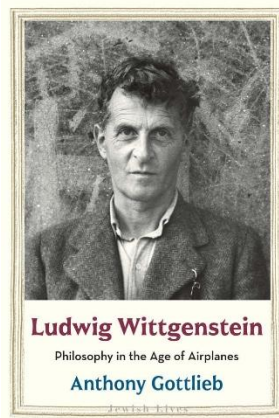
ultimate Passover and Thanksgiving feasts, these are recipes you'll turn to again and again for special occasions and weeknight dinners alike. Each menu comes with a grocery list, prep and make-ahead guide, store-bought shortcuts, and a day-of run-of-show to take the stress out of hosting. Jake reminds us that we don't have to be perfect or even have a dining room table to entertain: anyone can do this, whether you're a comfortable home cook or a newbie in the kitchen. With cameos from Jake's array of celebrity friends—including Isaac Mizrahi, Benny Blanco, Taffy Brodesser-Akner, Alex Edelman, Jill Zarin, Joan Nathan, Debra Messing, and more—this delicious book is guaranteed to turn you into the ultimate Dinner Party Animal.

On antisemitism: A word in history by Mark Mazower



What are we talking about when we talk about antisemitism? For most of its history it was understood to be a menace from the political Right, the province of ethno-nativists who built on Christendom's long-standing suspicion of its tiny Jewish population and infused it with racist pseudoscience. When the twentieth century began, the vast majority of the world's Jews lived in Europe. For them, there was no confusion about where the threat of antisemitic politics lay, a threat that culminated in the nightmare of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. Now, in a piercingly brilliant book that ranges from the term's invention in the late nineteenth century to the present, Mark Mazower argues the landscape is very different. More than four-fifths of the world's Jews live in two countries, Israel and the United States, and the former's military dominance of its region is guaranteed by the latter. Before the Second World War, Jews were a minority apart and drawn by opposition to Fascism into an alliance with other oppressed peoples. Today, in contrast, Jews are considered "white," and for today's anti-colonialists, Israel's treatment of the Palestinians has become a critical issue. The old Left solidarity is a thing of the past; indeed, the loudest voices decrying antisemitism see it coming from the Left, not the Right. Mazower clearly and carefully shows us how we got here, navigating this minefield through a history that seeks to illuminate rather than to blame, demonstrating how the rise of a pessimistic post-Holocaust sensibility, along with growing international criticism of Israel, produced a gradual conflation of the interests of Jews and the Jewish state. Half a century ago few people believed that antisemitism had anything to do with hostility to Israel; today mainstream Jewish voices often equate the two. The word remains the same, but its meaning has changed. The tragedy, Mazower argues, is that antisemitism persists. If it can be found on the far Left, it still is a much graver danger from those forces on the Right chanting "Jews will not replace us" in Charlottesville and their ilk. If we allow the charge to be applied too loosely and widely to shut down legitimate argument, we are only delegitimizing the term, and threatening to break something essential in how democracies function. *On Antisemitism* is a vitally important attempt to draw that necessary line.

Ludwig Wittgenstein: Philosophy in the age of airplanes by Anthony Gottlieb (Jewish Live series)

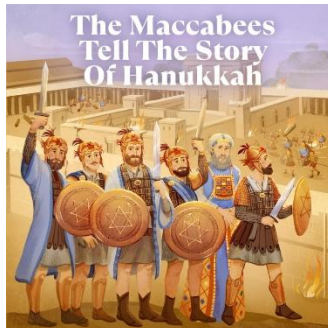


According to the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951), philosophy is a “battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language.” This audacious idea changed the way many of its practitioners saw their subject. In the first biography of Wittgenstein in more than three decades, Anthony Gottlieb evaluates this revolutionary idea, explaining the evolution of Wittgenstein’s thought and his place in the history of philosophy. Wittgenstein was born into an immensely rich Viennese family but yearned to live a simple life, and he gave away his inheritance. After studying with Bertrand Russell in Cambridge, he wrote his famous *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* while serving in World War I. He then took several positions as a primary-school teacher in rural Austria before returning as a fellow to

Cambridge, where a cultlike following developed around him. Wittgenstein worked not only as a philosopher and schoolteacher, but also as an aeronautical engineer in Manchester and as an architect in Vienna. Gottlieb’s meticulously researched book traces the itinerant and troubled life of Wittgenstein, the development of his influential ideas, and the Viennese intellectual milieu and family background that shaped him.

JUVENILE

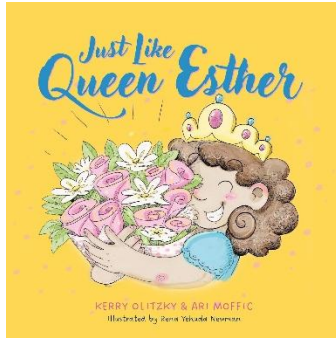
The Maccabees tell the story of Hanukkah by Noah Press



The Maccabees Tell The Story of Hanukkah is a beautifully illustrated children’s book that brings the remarkable story of Hanukkah to life through the eyes of the Maccabees themselves. Join Judas Maccabee, his father, and his brothers as they recount the incredible events that shaped Hanukkah. From witnessing the oppressive rule of the Greeks to their courageous decision to fight back and protect their people, the Maccabees tell a story of bravery, faith, and perseverance. Filled with engaging illustrations and told in a way that is both entertaining and educational, this book provides young

readers with a front-row seat to the Maccabean revolt and the miraculous events that followed. With accessible language and vivid artwork, this story not only teaches the historical significance of Hanukkah but also offers important lessons about standing up for what is right.

Just like Queen Esther by Kerry Olitsky and Ari Moffic



Atara loves to wear her crown - to the library, to the dentist, even to her swim lessons. It gives her confidence, and shows the world that she is a girl, not a boy, like everyone thought at first. But when Atara reads the story of Queen Esther, on the Jewish holiday of Purim - she realises that you don't need a costume to express who you really are.