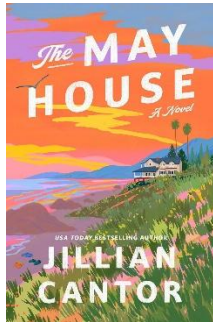


New Titles July 2026

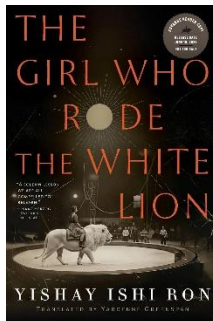
FICTION

The May house by Jillian Cantor



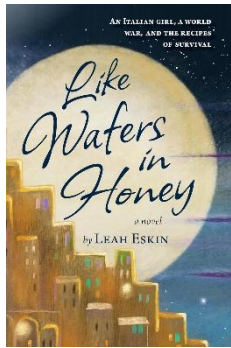
Three adult sisters inherit a beach house on the condition they spend one week together every May, leading to the discovery of family secrets, unexpected romance, and a new understanding of each other. No matter what's going on in the May sisters' lives, the one thing they can rely upon is seeing each other for one week in May at their grandmother's beachside home in gorgeous Coronado. As adults, Julia, Emily, and Nora aren't particularly close, their homes spread out across the country and the sisters busy with careers, relationships, and the minutia of life, but their promise to return each year keeps them anchored together. Until one May when Julia, the oldest and most dependable sister, doesn't show. Suddenly Nora and Emily start to question how much they truly know about their sister's life. Told in alternating points of view, spanning from their time together with Grandma Vera as kids into their adult lives, *The May House* explores how a decades-long family secret has unknowingly shaped each sister and, ultimately, how it brings them closer together. Funny, poignant, and brimming with heart, *The May House* is an irresistible story about the special bond between sisters who are figuring out what matters most in life, in all its ups and downs.

The girl who rode the white lion by Yishay Oshi Ron



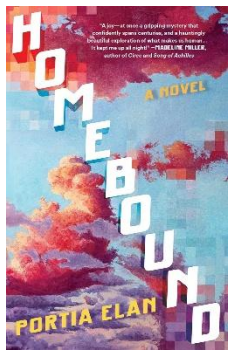
A hidden truth, a relentless pursuit, and a story history could not silence. Germany, 1938. On the eve of war, as Nazi violence engulfs Jewish homes and businesses, young Sarah Frank escapes an SS officer whose obsession with her family turns deadly. Forced into a world suddenly stripped of safety and certainty, she finds refuge in a traveling circus-an unlikely sanctuary of lion trainers, acrobats, elephants, and outsiders who become her family. Under their protection, Sarah discovers a courage she never knew she possessed, even as the Nazi grip tightens and the man she fled closes in. New York City, 1957. A routine autopsy at the city zoo uncovers a chilling object inside an elderly lion: a silver SS ring engraved with a skull. For chief veterinarian Mark Spencer, the discovery ignites a transatlantic search that leads through postwar Paris, Tel Aviv, and the shadowed corners of New York-toward the buried story of a girl who dared to challenge an unfathomable evil.

Like wafers in honey by Leah Eskin (2026 SJCC Jewish Book Festival Featured Author)



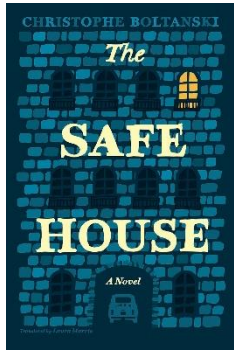
The story opens on the mountaintop town of Pitigliano, Italy, once called Little Jerusalem for its vibrant, centuries-old Jewish community. But the year is 1943. Mussolini has enacted anti-Jewish laws across Italy, and the family of Stella Fortuna struggles to maintain any sense of their former life. Then one night a neighbor comes to their door holding a ricotta pudding and tells them “You must leave now. You’re in grave danger.” The Nazis have arrived to help the Fascists of Italy enact their own Final Solution. Grabbing what few things they can carry (and the pudding), Stella Fortuna escapes into the woods below Pitigliano with her two older brothers and younger sister, Marcella. What follows is a desperate months-long flight. Stella finds temporary and precarious shelter with sympathetic, but fearful families in the countryside, dodging the ever-closer Fascists in pursuit. Meanwhile, she dreams of romance, the comforts of home, and the food that was not just her mother’s love, but the delicious expression of an entire culture in danger. In a separate timeline, Edda Servi Machlin is a housewife in 1960s Westchester trying to make sense of a new culture, as well as the “spaghetti and meatballs” food that passes for Italian cuisine. With caustic wit, we see twentieth-century America through an immigrant’s eyes, someone who can never return to her former home because it no longer exists. Someone who comes to understand that it might be up to her to preserve the indelible flavors of an Italian-Jewish way of life that is in danger of extinction, as her family once was. In between these two remarkable stories are more than forty recipes (updated for today’s cooks), all inspired by the life and example of Edda Servi Machlin, author of *The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews*.

Homebound by Portia Elan



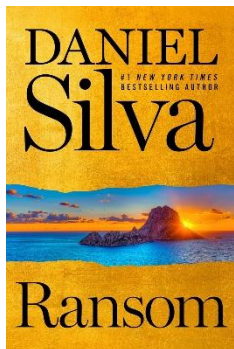
1983. Becks is nineteen, blasting her Walkman, and hiding from the fact that her beloved uncle, and the only person who understood her, is dead. Luckily, he left her a half-finished video game to complete—one last collaboration to find her way out of loneliness. 2078. Dr. Portman works at the intersection of artificial intelligence and robotics, wrestling with her responsibility to Earth's precarious future. But increasingly, it seems an exceptional project may transcend everything she believed to be possible...2586. After decades of life on the sea, Yesiko knows a scavenger's work is rife with moral compromise. Yet when a long-lost piece of technology walks aboard her ship, she is set on a path toward a sacrifice even she may be unwilling to make. Linking these women across the centuries is a chain reaction of love, longing, and creativity that reveals our deep interconnectedness. Clear-eyed and hopeful, *Homebound* imagines how future generations will find meaning in the things we leave behind.

The safe house by Christophe Boltanski



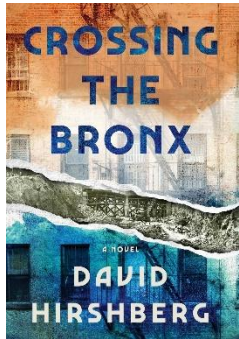
When the Nazis came, Étienne Boltanski divorced his wife and walked out the front door, never to be seen again during the war. So far as the outside world knew, the Jewish doctor had fled. The truth was that he had sneaked back to hide in a secret crawl space at the heart of the house. There he lived for the duration of the war. With the Liberation, Étienne finally emerged, but he and his family were changed forever—anxious, reclusive, yet proudly eccentric. Their lives were spent, amid Bohemian disarray and lingering wartime fears, in the mansion's recesses or packed comically into the protective cocoon of a Fiat. That house (and its vehicular appendage) is at the heart of Christophe Boltanski's ingeniously structured, lightly fictionalized account of his grandparents and their extended family. The novel unfolds room by room—each chapter opening with a floorplan—introducing us to the characters who occupy each room, including the narrator's grandmother—a woman of “savage appetites”—and his uncle Christian, whose haunted artworks would one day make him famous. “The house was a palace,” Boltanski writes, “and they lived like hobos.” Rejecting convention as they'd rejected the outside world, the family never celebrated birthdays or even marked the passage of time, living instead in permanent stasis, ever more closely bonded to the house itself. The Safe House was a literary sensation when published in France in 2015 and won the Prix de Prix, France's most prestigious book prize. A French-language film adaptation, *La cache*, was released in 2025 from director Lionel Baier. With hints of Oulipian playfulness and an atmosphere of dark humor, The Safe House is an unforgettable portrait of a self-imprisoned family.

Ransom by Daniel Silva (Gabriel Allon series book 26)



Alice Winter, one of Britain's most dazzling socialites, seemingly has the perfect life—a lavish home in posh Knightsbridge, a grand estate in Devon, millions of followers on social media who eagerly await her next post. But when she disappears without a trace while on holiday with three old friends from Cambridge, her desperate husband, the real estate baron Edward Knight, turns to none other than Gabriel Allon to find her. He soon discovers that Alice Winter is not the woman she appears to be, that she has a reckless side, that she has secrets. But Edward Knight has a secret too, a secret so dangerous that Gabriel will have no choice but to return to the life he thought he had left behind. An old enemy lurks there, waiting for him to make one misstep, waiting for the perfect moment to exact vengeance. From its irresistible opening chapters to its heart-pounding climax and shocking final twist, *Ransom* is a riveting, page-turning tour de force that proves yet again why Daniel Silva is the reigning master of international intrigue and suspense.

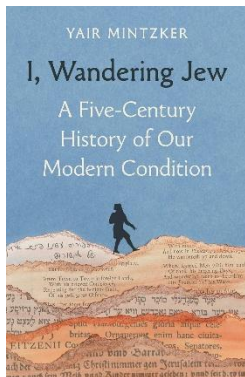
Crossing the Bronx by David Hirshberg



Crossing the Bronx is an historical literary novel set primarily in the 1950s in The Bronx. It is a modern retelling of the Jacob and Esau story from Genesis. The narrative that propels the story forward concerns the destruction of a neighborhood in the guise of progress. Jay and Eric, the sons of Ike (an Italian Jew), and Rebekeh, (a Mountain Jew), are estranged-as are their parents-and find themselves on opposite sides of a bitter struggle that pits those in power against the defenseless people of a local community.

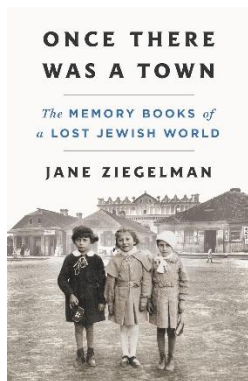
NON-FICTION

I, wandering Jew: A five-century history of our modern condition by Yair Mintzker (2026 SJCC Jewish Book Festival Featured Author)



Combining history, detective story, and memoir, a surprising and revealing account of the antisemitic myth of “the Wandering Jew.” The story behind the mythical figure of “the Wandering Jew” is one of the most fascinating tales in European history. In *I, Wandering Jew*, National Jewish Book Award–winning historian Yair Mintzker traces the tale back to its source, follows its many metamorphoses through five centuries, and relates it to the fraught present moment. According to a mysterious pamphlet published in 1602, the Wandering Jew was a real person, named Ahasversus, who was cursed by Jesus to eternal wandering after refusing to help him as he was led to his crucifixion. For more than four hundred years, many otherwise reliable witnesses have claimed to have seen the Wandering Jew. Moving in reverse chronological order, *I, Wandering Jew* explores crucial episodes in the story of this figure. We meet an unforgettable, Wandering Jew–like character who appeared out of nowhere in Israel in the 1950s; a nineteenth-century novelist who was the first Jew to favorably describe the Wandering Jew; an eighteenth-century German scholar who saw the Wandering Jew emerging from a devastating fire; and the man who likely inspired the 1602 pamphlet. A work of history that reads like a detective story, *I, Wandering Jew* is also part memoir. As Mintzker discovers affinities between his own story and that of the Wandering Jew, the surprising history of an old antisemitic trope and its meanings becomes a profound meditation on home and exile, Judaism and Christianity, poetry and truth, the deep past and the present.

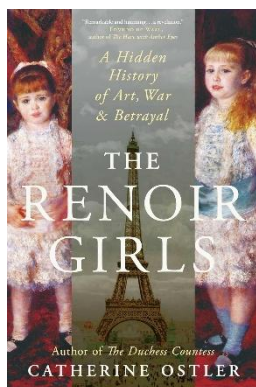
There once was a town: The memory books of a Lost Jewish world by Jane Ziegelman (2026 SJCC Jewish Book Festival Featured Author)



By the close of World War II, six million Jews had been erased from the face of the earth. Those who eluded death had lost their homes, families, and entire way of life. Their response was quintessentially Jewish. From a people with a long-history of self-narration, survivors gathered in groups and wrote books, yizkor books, remembering all that had been destroyed. Jane Ziegelman's *Once There Was a Town* takes readers on a journey through this largely uncharted body of writing and the vanished world it depicts. *Once There Was a Town* resounds with the voices of rich and poor, shopkeepers and tradespeople, scholars and peddlers, Zionists and Communists, men and women telling stories of the towns that were their

homes. Stops are made in the bustling market squares where Jewish merchants catered to local farmers; study houses where men recited Torah; kitchens where homemakers baked 20-pound loaves of bread; cemeteries where mourners conversed with departed loved ones and wooded groves where young couples met for the occasional moonlit tryst. Of the many towns on Ziegelman's itinerary, she always circles back to Luboml, her family's ancestral shtetl and the point of departure for her own journey of discovery. In conversation with classics by IB Singer and Roman Vishniac, *Once There Was a Town* is a landmark of rediscovery, and a love song to a vanished world.

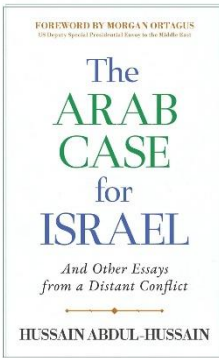
The Renoir girls: A hidden history of art, war & betrayal by Catherine Ostler



Three sisters, the daughters of a prominent French Jewish family, all painted as children by Pierre-Auguste Renoir. In the turbulent years from the Belle Epoque to World War II, one would marry an English aristocrat and escape; one would become a collaborator with the Nazis; one would die in Auschwitz. This is the remarkable hidden history of the lives behind Renoir's beguiling portraits. Paris, 1881. The artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir knocks on the door of a wealthy Jewish family's home in the 8th arrondissement, the grandest quarter of Paris. He has arrived to paint the portrait of the family's two youngest daughters. The parents, the Cahen d'Anvers, are bankers, collectors, philanthropists, and pillars of Parisian

society. They go to balls, breed racehorses, and ride in the Bois de Boulogne with their aristocratic friends. But for the Jewish community, the undercurrents of Parisian sentiment are already moving in a sinister direction. The story of the Renoir girls will end in the duplicity and the horror of the Second World War. With an extraordinary cast of characters, from the girls themselves, their mother's lovers, a heroic British General; from the King of Spain to Dreyfus, Proust, and Maupassant—this is a story about one of the world's most famous pictures, *The Pink and the Blue*. But really it is a story about Paris—one that prefers to be hidden. With access to never-before-seen letters, diaries, and personal recollections—it is a tale of privilege, beauty, and betrayal almost lost in the shimmering memory of a vanished world.

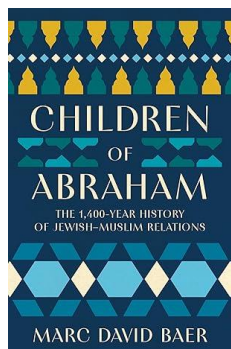
The Arab case for Israel: And other essays from a distant conflict by Hussain Abdul-Hussain



Before the State of Israel emerged, Arab nationalism and Islamism rejected the European-crafted state boundaries in the Middle East, including the concept of Palestine. Instead, these nations aspired to forge a unified Arab or Muslim nation. This grand vision, however, never materialized. The notion of Palestine as a distinct entity emerged in 1964, largely driven by inter-Arab rivalries rather than a historical reality. Since then, Palestinians have cultivated a narrative of a lost state that, in truth, never existed as a sovereign entity. Their collective aspiration for a “return” is less about reclaiming a physical homeland and more about yearning for a time when Israel did not exist. This imagined past fuels a vision that, if realized, risks

creating yet another unstable state, given the challenges faced by many Arab nations today, including neighboring Syria and further away Iraq, where peace is always tenuous and civil war haunting these countries and their failing states. A more pragmatic path forward lies in recognizing Israel’s existence as an opportunity rather than a threat. Israel’s robust economy, technological innovation, and regional influence make it a valuable partner. Arab states that have embraced peace with Israel, such as those in the Abraham Accords, have unlocked significant economic benefits proportional to their level of normalization. These agreements demonstrate that cooperation can yield mutual prosperity, fostering stability and growth across the region. Arab intellectuals and leaders who privately support peace with Israel must boldly advocate for it publicly. It is time for Arab nations to pursue full normalization with Israel, embracing a future of coexistence and shared progress. By prioritizing peace over historical grievances, the region can move forward with stability, economic growth, and mutual respect.

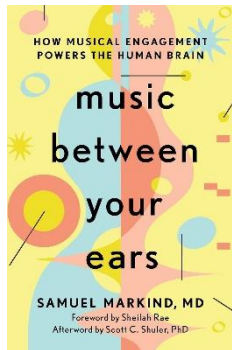
Children of Abraham: The 1,400 year history of Jewish-Muslim Relations by Marc David Baer



Today, the dominant narrative of the relationship between Jewish and Muslim peoples assumes a long history of violent hostility. In *Children of Abraham*, historian Marc David Baer lays this myth to rest, showing how Jews and Muslims lived together in the Middle East and Europe, more often in cooperation than in conflict, for more than a millennium. When Islam emerged in the seventh century, Muslims and Jews were bound by shared religious tenets and common cultural practices, and for centuries afterward, they were often allies. Baer introduces readers to Muslim warriors fighting for a medieval Turkish Jewish kingdom on the Caspian Sea, Jewish viziers leading the Muslim sultan’s troops in Spain, and Jewish literary lights and

political party leaders in modern Egypt and Iraq. But Baer resists the alluring fable that Jews and Muslims ever lived in interfaith utopia, and he shows how European colonization and nationalism fed the emergence of modern antisemitism and Islamophobia and helped to drive these two peoples further and further apart. Traversing the full spectrum of Jewish–Muslim relations, this is an urgent, essential history for understanding today’s unending conflicts in the Middle East and beyond.

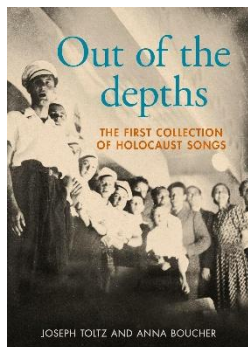
Music between your ears: How musical engagement powers the human brain by Dr. Samuel Markind (2026 SJCC Jewish Book Festival Featured Author)



Why does music influence how we feel so deeply—and what are the scientific mechanisms behind this phenomenon? In *Music Between Your Ears*, Dr. Samuel Markind explores the intriguing relationship between music and brain function. Using evolutionary theory, he illuminates the pivotal role that music plays in human survival and procreation. From communication and caregiving to social bonding and partner selection, music has molded the human species and continues to shape our lives in remarkable ways. This book combines insights from neuroscience and psychology with helpful drawings and vivid examples to present compelling evidence for music's life-enhancing potential. Dr. Markind highlights the brain's instinctive capacity

for music: from newborns' natural affinity for rhythm and melody to the effect that music has on brain development throughout the lifespan. Music also helps people learn at any age and in any condition, so it can improve speech, movement, and memory in both healthy individuals and those suffering from illness or injury. Dr. Markind encourages readers to engage actively with music. Whether through singing, dancing, or instrument playing, the benefits of active participation are profound and accessible to everyone, regardless of musical background. This book, filled with straightforward and practical suggestions, is an inspiring guide for anyone seeking to enrich their life through music. *Music Between Your Ears* shows how the act of engaging with music can profoundly impact your mental, physical, and emotional well-being. And the benefits of music go far beyond entertainment—they're essential to the very fabric of what makes us human.

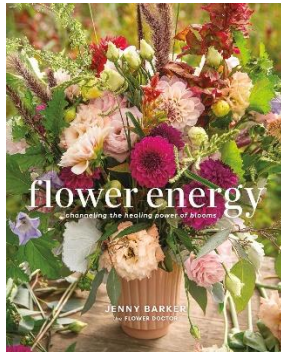
Out of the depths: The first collection of Holocaust songs by Joseph Toltz and Anna Boucher



Available for the first time in English translation, this collection of songs is a powerful memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. In June 1945, before the full devastation of the Holocaust had emerged, a team of researchers embarked on a remarkable project. While documenting the experiences of Jewish refugees, they began to collect songs composed and sung in the Nazi camps and ghettos. The resulting book, *Mima'amakim* (*Out of the depths*), was published in a short run of 500 copies. Today, only a handful survive. *Out of the depths: The first collection of Holocaust songs* presents the contents of this extraordinary document for a new generation of

readers. Based on a copy of *Mima'amakim* discovered in 2013, it contains not only the songs' melodies and lyrics, the latter in a new translation by Joseph Toltz, but also short biographies of the composers, drawn from painstaking original research. Introductory essays provide historical and musicological background, deepening our knowledge of this terrible event and the creative means by which the Jewish people responded to and endured it. Described by the original editor, Yehuda Eismann, as a 'memorial stone for Polish Jewry', the songbook is a timeless document of a people's despair, hope and strength.

Flower energy: Channeling the healing power of blooms by Jenny Barker

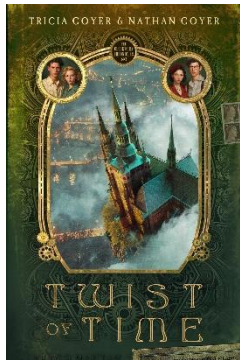


This one-of-a-kind flower arranging book from a celebrated florist and clairvoyant teaches you to channel the healing power of blooms and intuit the perfect flower or arrangement for any need. For Jenny Barker, flowers are the best medicine. She has a unique, spiritual connection to the blossoms and blooms she arranges at her flower shop—so much so that she became known as the Flower Doctor for her ability to prescribe the perfect flowers. Whether it's buttermilk flowers for holding onto a secret, thistle for staying grounded, or viburnum for believing in yourself, every flower possesses its own energy and can help you in a special way.

Through stunning photographs and countless tips, *Flower Energy* teaches you to interpret and channel the messages each unique flower holds, including: Snapdragons, roses, misty blue, and dahlias to tell someone “I’m here for you”; Pincushion flowers to clear away loneliness; Sunflowers, rosemary, and marigolds for mental wellness; Pink and purple garden roses, cremon mums, sweet peas, and lavender to congratulate someone expecting a baby. With this book, you'll be empowered to channel these magical blooms and intuit the exact combination of flowers to heal whatever might be ailing you or your loved ones.

Young Adult

Twist of time by Tricia Goyer and Nathan Goyer (The clockwork chronicles book 3)

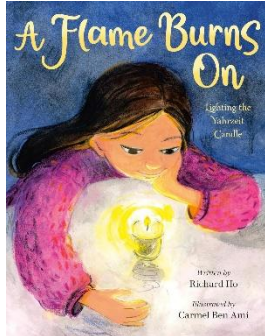


In 1945, war rages across Europe, but deep beneath Prague, another kind of battle is unfolding. It's a fight not just for land or power but for the very soul of humanity. Kateřina Dubová, a brave journalist turned spy, receives a mysterious gift from a high-ranking Nazi officer—a jewel tied to a terrifying prophecy. Clues draw her deep into ancient secrets hidden within Prague Castle and a clock that may hold the power to save the world . . . or bring about its destruction. Kateřina joins forces with Josef Loew, a gifted inventor; Theodora, a daring mafia spy gone rogue; and Dante, a historian with a powerful artifact of his own. Together, they unravel a chilling plot rooted in mysteries that whisper from beyond the veil. But the deeper they

go, the more dangerous their path becomes. Otherworldly forces are seeping in, and time is running out. Can this unlikely group stop the countdown before darkness falls for good? *Twist of Time* is the thrilling final chapter in *The Clockwork Chronicles*--a blend of history, adventure, and supernatural suspense that will keep you turning pages until the very last tick of the clock.

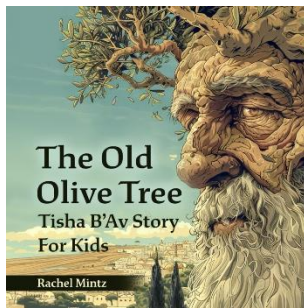
JUVENILE

A flame burns on: Lighting the Yahrzeit candle by Richard Ho



A girl and her mom light a candle to honor the memory of a loved one in this gorgeously illustrated picture book about this special Jewish tradition. Each year, a girl and her mom light a yahrzeit candle on the anniversary of an uncle's passing. Even though she was young when he died, her memories of him shine bright and clear: all the times they went camping, read together, and how he was there for every birthday. The mom and daughter spend the day exchanging their favorite stories, sometimes laughing or shedding a tear, and visiting his plot, his spirit lives on, rekindled in the yahrzeit candle's flame. It's then that the girl understands the true purpose of her family's custom: to share, celebrate, and heal. With luminous art that glows on the page, *A Flame Burns On* is an unforgettable, poignant story about finding joy and light in the darkness, and an ode to the loved ones that stay in our hearts forever, long after they are gone.

The old olive tree: A Tisha B'Av story for kids by Rachel Mintz



An old olive tree which has been overlooking the Temple Mount for 3000 years tells a group of children what it has seen for years. What happened to the Jewish Temple on Tisha B'av? What happened 2000 years later? This unique story is perfect for children of all ages.