



***The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem* by Sarit Yishai-Levi**

A sweeping novel set against the Golden Age of Hollywood, the dark days of World War II, and the swinging 1970's follows four generations of women in Jerusalem as they forge their own paths through times of dramatic change.

READ-ALIKES

***Jerusalem Maiden* by Talia Carner**

Sacrificing her dreams of becoming an artist after tragedy strikes her family, Esther Karminsky, a young ultra-Orthodox woman in Jerusalem at the end of the Ottoman Empire's rule, devotes herself to becoming an obedient "Jerusalem Maiden" until an internal struggle causes her to question her destiny.

***The Debt of Tamar* by Nicole Dweck**

Follows the intertwined lives of the descendant of an Ottoman sultan and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor against a backdrop of their unknown shared ancestry in mid-sixteenth-century Istanbul.

***The Family Orchard* by Nomi Eve**

From 1838 to the present day, this multigenerational debut novel chronicles nearly two hundred years in the lives of a family of immigrants in Jerusalem, capturing the love affairs, legends, family secrets, triumphs, and tragedies of six generations. See also: *Henna House*

***The Girl from the Garden* by Parnaz Foroutan**

For all his wealth and success, Asher Malacouti--the head of a prosperous Jewish family living in the Iranian town of Kermanshah in the early twentieth century--cannot have the one thing he desires above all: a son. His young wife Rakhel, trapped in an oppressive marriage at a time when a woman's worth is measured by her fertility, is made desperate by her failure to conceive, and grows jealous and vindictive.

***When I Lived in Modern Times* by Linda Grant**

A young woman's journey to Palestine in the wake of World War II stands at the center of this novel about the birth of Israel.

***Sweet Dates in Basra* by Jessica Jiji**

After two Iraqi families - one Jewish and one Muslim - break through a wall in the 1930s to accommodate a shared water pipe, a Jewish boy falls in love with an Arab maid, whose mother is determined to preserve her daughter's honor in a land where the loss of it can be punishable by death.

***A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz**

A life story of the award-winning Israeli writer recounts his boyhood in war-torn Jerusalem of the 1940s and 1950s, his mother's tragic suicide when he was twelve, his decision to join a kibbutz and change his name, and his participation in Israel's political upheavals.

***The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari**

These eleven spellbinding stories often focus on Israel's Mizrahi Jews, featuring mothers and children, soldiers and bohemians, lovers and best friends, all searching for their place in the world.

***Mr. Mani* by A.B. Yehoshua**

Five conversations between two people reconstruct the history of the dying Mani clan, describing the lives of six generations of its members from their emigration from Greece to Palestine in 1848 to the mid-1980s.

***The Genizah at the House of Shepherd* by Tamar Yellin**

Shulamit Shepherd returns to Jerusalem after a long absence and becomes caught up in a family feud over possession of the Shepherd codex, a valuable, mysterious Torah manuscript found in her grandparents' attic, and a quest to discover not only her ancestors' history, but also her own past, present, and future.

DVDs

***Every Time We Say Goodbye* (1986)**

A young Tom Hanks stars as a Royal Air Force officer who meets and falls in love with a beautiful Sephardic Jewish girl while recuperating from a leg wound in Jerusalem during the period of the British Mandate. (in Ladino and English)

***Late Marriage* (2002)**

Unmarried at 31, Zaza is a failure to his family, and they continue to try to set him up. Curious, his family investigates and soon discovers his secret relationship with divorcee Judith. Upset, the entire family decides to intervene, culminating in a dramatic showdown. (in Georgian and Hebrew with English subtitles)