

Come Back for Me

A Novel By Sharon Hart-Green

Sharon Hart-Green's panoramic novel *Come Back for Me* was released this summer. Chosen as the inaugural fiction offering of the New Jewish Press (a new publisher associated with the University of Toronto Press), *Come Back for Me* is getting rave reviews from a wide range of prominent writers. Leah Kaminsky, winner of the Voss Literary Prize, called *Come Back for Me* "heart-wrenchingly beautiful," and "a must read for anyone with a moral conscience and a soul." Maxim Shayer, author of *Leaving Russia* said, "Sharon Hart-Green takes the modern Jewish novel to new heights." Reviewed recently in the *Times of Israel*, the *Jerusalem Post*, and the *Canadian Jewish News*, *Come Back for Me* is clearly creating a buzz.

The book tells the story of two young Jewish characters—Artur Mandelkorn and Suzy Kohn. Artur is a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who's on a desperate quest to find his beloved sister, Manya, after they become separated during the war. Artur's journey takes him to Israel where he falls in love with Fanny, a young woman who still bears the scars of her own tragic past. Suzy Kohn is a Toronto teenager whose seemingly tranquil life is shattered by her uncle's sudden death. As she struggles with her aunt's growing depression and her parents' collective secrecy, Suzy gropes for



answers to her unanswered questions. At the same time, she is

drawn into a troubled relationship with a charismatic young musician. As Suzy's coming of age story reaches a climax, Artur's quest for his sister leads to a shocking discovery. Their stories come together in Israel following the Six-Day War.

Like Tatiana de Rosnays' best-selling novel *Sarah's Key*, Sharon Hart-Green's novel *Come Back for*

"His was the kind of English I knew so well - deep, sonorous, rounded syllables - a European tongue caressing the flatlands of our plain Canadian speech."

Sharon Hart-Green, *Come Back for Me*
New Jewish Press, 2017

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Me deals evocatively with the scars left by tragedy and the possibilities for healing.

The inspiration behind *Come Back for Me* is partly based on the author's childhood experiences. Despite growing up in a serene Toronto neighborhood, she describes how she was haunted by the stories of war and loss that seemed to hover over the Jewish inhabitants of her leafy enclave. Her best friend's father had lost most of his family in the camps; her neighbor down the road had been hidden for four years in an Amsterdam closet, and her father's cousin had her arm brutally amputated in a Nazi concentration camp. Yet the author was perplexed by the fact that most of these people were somehow able to embrace life, despite their losses. How could they marry, raise children, build families and homes? How did they preserve the ability to laugh?

Unlike most novels about this dark period in Jewish history, *Come Back for Me* is ultimately a story of hope. Culminating in modern Israel, it portrays the Jewish State as a redemptive force in the life of her characters. Perhaps even more unusual, the novel is suitable



Author Sharon Hart Green

for readers of all ages. It is being marketed to book clubs, libraries, schools, Israel advocacy groups, and Holocaust education centers. It is also being promoted beyond the Jewish community to the general reading public in the US, Canada and international markets—and readers are already demanding a sequel.

Although *Come Back for Me* is her first novel, Sharon Hart-Green is no stranger to the world of Jewish

publishing. After receiving a PhD in Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, she went on to write two non-fiction books of Jewish interest: *Not A Simple Story*, about the work of the Nobel Prize winning Hebrew novelist Shmuel Yosef Agnon; and *Bridging the Divide*, a compilation of her translations of the Hebrew poems of Hava Pinhas-Cohen, the renowned Israeli poet.

In addition, her short stories, poems, translations, and reviews have appeared in a variety of publications. She taught Hebrew and Yiddish Literature at the University of Toronto for many years and is a sought-after speaker on topics ranging from the modern Jewish novel to the literature of contemporary Israel. At present, she is busy preparing for an upcoming speaking tour while also working on a second novel about the mystical inclinations of a young man in search of love. □

