



Yiddishlands: A Memoir (Non-Series)

David G. Roskies

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A rich, sweeping memoir by David G. Roskies, *Yiddishlands* proceeds from the premise that Yiddish culture is spread out among many different people and geographic areas and transmitted through story, song, study, and the family. Roskies leads readers through *Yiddishlands* old and new by revisiting his personal and professional experiences and retelling his remarkable family saga in a series of lively, irreverent, and interwoven stories. Beginning with a flashback to his grandmother's storybook wedding in 1878, *Yiddishlands* brings to life the major debates, struggles, and triumphs of the modern Yiddish experience, and provides readers with memorable portraits of its great writers, cultural leaders, and educators.

Roskies's story centers around Vilna, Lithuania, where his mother, Masha, was born in 1906 and where her mother, Fradl Matz, ran the legendary Matz Press, a publishing house that distributed prayer books, Bibles, and popular Yiddish literature. After falling in love with Vilna's cabaret culture, an older man, and finally a fellow student with elbow patches on his jacket, Masha and her young family are forced to flee Europe for Montreal, via Lisbon and New York. It is in Montreal that Roskies, Masha's youngest child, comes of age, entranced by the larger-than-life stories of his mother and the writers, artists, and performers of her social circle. Roskies recalls his own intellectual odyssey as a Yiddish scholar; his life in the original Havurah religious commune in Somerville, Massachusetts, in the 1970s; his struggle with the notion of aliyah while studying in Israel; his visit to Russia at the height of the Soviet Jewry movement; and his confrontation with his parents' memories in a bittersweet pilgrimage to Poland. Along the way, readers of *Yiddishlands* meet such prominent figures as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Melekh Ravitch, Itzik Manger, Avrom Sutzkever, Esther Markish, and Rachel Korn.

With *Yiddishlands*, readers take a whirlwind tour of modern Yiddish culture, from its cabarets and literary salons to its fierce ideological rivalries and colorful personalities. Roskies's memoir will be essential reading for students of the recent Jewish past and of the living Yiddish present. An audio CD of Masha Roskies singing in Yiddish, Russian, and Polish is also included with this volume.

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David Blunt:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book Yiddishlands: A Memoir (Non-Series) it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

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