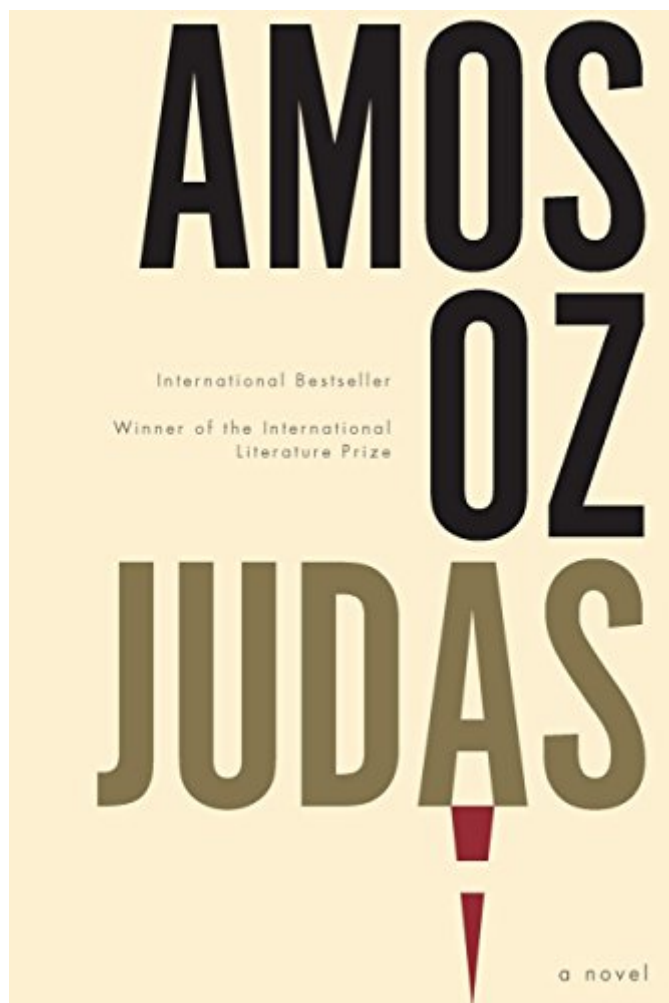


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Judas



Synopsis

SHORT-LISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER INTERNATIONAL PRIZE Winner of the International Literature Prize, the new novel by Amos Oz is his first full-length work since the best-selling *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. Jerusalem, 1959. Shmuel Ash, a biblical scholar, is adrift in his young life when he finds work as a caregiver for a brilliant but cantankerous old man named Gershom Wald. There is, however, a third, mysterious presence in his new home. Atalia Abarbanel, the daughter of a deceased Zionist leader, a beautiful woman in her forties, entrances young Shmuel even as she keeps him at a distance. Piece by piece, the old Jerusalem stone house, haunted by tragic history and now home to the three misfits and their intricate relationship, reveals its secrets. At once an exquisite love story and coming-of-age novel, an allegory for the state of Israel and for the biblical tale from which it draws its title, *Judas* is Amos Oz's most powerful novel in decades.

Book Information

File Size: 2911 KB

Print Length: 325 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0544464044

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (November 8, 2016)

Publication Date: November 8, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01912QAJM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #46,784 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #80 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Jewish #115 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Jewish #143 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Jewish

Customer Reviews

Not for everyone. I suggest it for Amos Oz fans as well as anyone interested in the pros and cons of the decision made in 1959 to make Israel a state. Oz fairly expresses both viewpoints from a

historical perspective and as usual his writing is beautiful and the arguments well rendered. I find myself thinking of the ideas posed in the book often, particularly, the role and opinions of Judas. Those with an interest in Jewish history as well as rhetorical argument will enjoy. Plot is a bit thin. More a novel of ideas.

Other than a young man attempting to find himself, the subtext runs about the views of the historical Judas and fate of his landlady's dead husband. Both convinced of the value of their deeds.

Amos Oz is a writer of the first order. This book paints clear and nuanced characters who are engaged in real life struggles. At the same time the characters are used by the author to present some of the fundamental and complex arguments surrounding the creation of the State of Israel and its relationship to its neighbors.

A fascinating study of loyalty and betrayal full of sensitivity and nuance.

Amos Oz is such a beautiful writer. You feel like you know the characters in his book and don't want to say goodbye to them at the end.

Thought-provoking yet easy to read, JUDAS offers interesting characters with varied views on war, nations and the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. The story takes place in the late 50's prior to the 1967 Six Day War. Worthwhile and worthy of ongoing discussion. Great for Book Clubs!

Brilliant. An intelligent return to an age old story with an unexpected twist. Kept my attention all the way through. A must read novel ideal for book club discussion.

Very thoughtful and intriguing story of emotional development in a young man. I was reminded a little of John Fowles "The Magus" in its tempo and development, but the book does not in any way involve the character machinations of Fowle's book.

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