

After Lisa returns home in June, she presses for the interview to appear as a success as a consequence. Meanwhile, she learns that the situation is becoming worse. She decides to no longer strike in public and will publicize her situation and hold a press conference which is supported by her aides to publicize her studies in Jerusalem. She is a doctor and takes a job in Jerusalem. She is able to work indefatigably on behalf of Inna. In 1987, Inna is granted a visa to leave Russia and move to Washington. Unfortunately, it is too late. Naum is finally given a visa to leave Israel where he died in 2001 at the age of 89. Despite the sad ending, this is an inspiring story. What Lisa achieved is a tribute to the power of one determined individual in bringing about important change. She is truly a Righteous Gentile who fully merits our gratitude for her persistence and tenacity. We are all in her debt.

her husband in his scholarly pursuits and to produce sons. The often unhappy consequence of this custom is vividly described for Esther, her relatives, and friends. It was a particular source of sorrow for Esther who faced the conflict between adhering to tradition and expressing her creative talent. She is tempted by Pierre to join him at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy where talented pupils study art and she is also coaxed by her musically gifted first cousin to defy convention and marry him. He takes her to a church where he plays the organ and where she is overwhelmed by the great works of art. However, her religious convictions persuade her to follow the prescribed pattern and to become the bride of a man she does not know who was selected for her by her father. His name is Nathan Bloomenthal and he turns out to be a modern Jew who is a wealthy merchant and who lives in Jaffa but travels a good deal to buy and sell china. Among his customers is the sultan of the Turkish empire which was then ruling over Palestine and whose soldiers had recently kidnapped Esther's younger brother for military service. Esther's father hopes that his new son-in-law can help secure the release of his son.

Strident clash between tradition and modernity

Jerusalem Maiden. By Talia Carner. New York: Harper, 2011. 454 Pages. \$14.99.

This remarkable story begins in Jerusalem in 1911 where 12-year old Esther Kaminsky, the precocious *Jerusalem Maiden*, lives with her Orthodox family in Me'ah She'arim. Her father's horizons had been broadened when he worked briefly in an American bank. As a result, he sent Esther to the Evelina de Rothschild School where English was the language of instruction and where she was befriended by her teacher, a French woman, who encouraged Esther to develop her artistic talent. She also introduced Esther to her son, Pierre, who eventually became a leading sculptor and an important person in Esther's life.

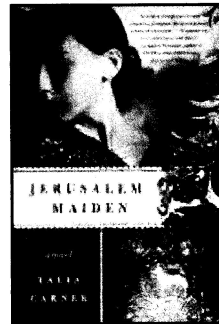
At an early age, girls in Esther's community were betrothed by their parents without any participation in the decision by the prospective bride. Her job was to support

Tragedies beset Esther including the deaths of her mother, another brother, and the suicide of her friend who was unhappily married. As it turns out, she makes her peace with her own marriage, settles in Jaffa, and soon has three children but she continues to long for opportunities to express her skill in painting. When Esther's sister is divorced because she failed to produce any children after eight years of marriage, Esther takes her into her home where she looks after the three children, freeing Esther to travel.

Esther decides to join Nathan in Europe where he is on business. However, three days before she landed in Marseille, he left for Vienna. He instructs her to wait in Paris for a month until he will be able to come there. What follows is the realization of her fantasies as she is reunited with her French teacher from Jerusalem and her son, Pierre. She also meets Chaim Soutine, one of the Jewish painters who became the School of Paris. These three friends encourage her to resume painting and she produces a number of canvases that are scheduled for an exhibition. Esther is forced to confront the essential conflict that has dogged her life for so long. This permeates the scene and the challenging choices that Esther has to make.

This profoundly moving story grabs the reader's attention from the very beginning and never lets go. The author, Talia Carner, is a seventh generation Sabra, born in

(see Teicher, page 18)



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Lisa describes her 1984-85 year in Moscow, including accounts of her many friends, both Russian and American; her mother's visit; her lessons with Inna; and the deterioration of Inna's health. To publicize Inna's situation, Lisa arranges for her to be interviewed by an American journalist, hoping that an American TV network might broadcast all or part of the

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 ...treatment beyond what she can
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 ...She has received invitations from
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 her a visa.