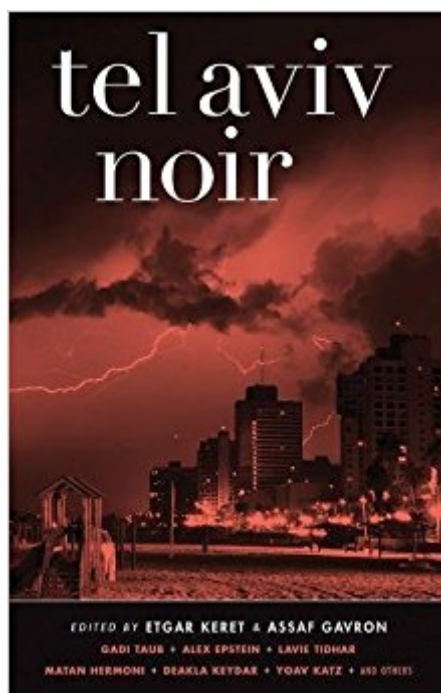


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# Tel Aviv Noir (Akashic Noir)



## Synopsis

Gon Ben Ari's story "Clear Recent History" has been named a finalist for the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award for Best P.I. Short Story!"This consistently strong collection showcases a group of Israeli writers who are not well known in the U.S. Definitely one of the highlights in the long-running Akashic series."--Booklist, Starred review"May be the very best in a generally solid series....This collection escapes the limits of formula fiction and sets the bar high for subsequent Noir offerings. The genre is hot, Tel Aviv is exotic, and this volume is outstanding. What's not to like?"--Library Journal, Starred reviewOne of Jewish Journal's Noteworthy Books for the New Year"Even in the Holy Land, people find ingenious ways to screw up their own lives, as the latest entry in Akashic's Noir Series proves....Editors Keret and Gavron stress not what makes Tel Aviv unique but what it has in common with other cities: its people's endless, often fruitless struggle to cash in on a losing hand."--Kirkus Reviews"There's a marvelous underlying tension to [the stories], a paranoid tinge, as if some vast monstrous conspiracy is lurking behind every misdeed and bad stroke of luck."--San Francisco Book Review"The collection reflects much of the daily reality of the city, but not the sort one is likely to read in tour guides....There's a complexity and virtuosity to plot and prose that leaves the reader with a sense of satisfaction and appreciation, despite the typically devastating denouement of the tales....Superb."--PopMatters"Readers interested in exploring the dark side of Tel Aviv will be fascinated by these short pieces of noir literature."--Times of IsraelAkashic Books continues its groundbreaking series of original noir anthologies, launched with the summer '04 award-winning best seller Brooklyn Noir. Each book is comprised of all-new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. For Tel Aviv Noir, Etgar Keret and Assaf Gavron have masterfully assembled some of Israel's top contemporary writers into a compulsively readable collection.From the introduction by Etgar Keret:"In spite of its outwardly warm and polite exterior, Tel Aviv has quite a bit to hide. At any club, most of the people dancing around you to the sounds of a deep-house hit dedicated to peace and love have undergone extensive automatic-weapons training and a hand-grenade tutorial...The workers washing the dishes in the fluorescent-lit kitchen of that same club are Eritrean refugees who have crossed the Egyptian border illegally, along with a group of bedouins smuggling some high-quality hash, which the deejay will soon be smoking on his little podium, right by the busy dance floor filled with drunks, coked-up lawyers, and Ukrainian call girls whose pimp keeps their passports in a safe two streets away. Don't get me wrong--Tel Aviv is a lovely, safe city. Most of the time, for most of its inhabitants. But the stories in this collection describe what happens the rest of the time, to the rest of its inhabitants. From one last cup of coffee at a cafÃ© targeted by a suicide bomber, through repeat

visits from a Yiddish-speaking ghost, to an organized tour of mythological crime scenes that goes terribly wrong, the stories of Tel Aviv Noir reveal the concealed, scarred face of this city that we love so much."Featuring brand-new stories by: Etgar Keret, Gadi Taub, Lavie Tidhar, Deakla Keydar, Matan Hermoni, Julia Fermento, Gon Ben Ari, Shimon Adaf, Alex Epstein, Antonio Ungar, Gai Ad, Assaf Gavron, Silje Bekeng, and Yoav Katz; translated by Yardenne Greenspan.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For anyone interested in some of Israel's best younger writers, as well as the seamy underside of its most populous city, Tel Aviv Noir will keep your adrenaline flowing at any hour."--Jewish Book Council"Distinct Tel Aviv neighborhoods...lay bare their gritty, less-than-lovely aspects....Even the seamiest side of Tel Aviv is briefly redeemed."--Lilith Magazine"This is a terrific collection to pick up, read a story or two, then return to, for different slices of life in Israel."--Chicaco Jewish Star"Excellent....It is delightful to discover these writers....This book will shine a different light on your next visit to Israel."--CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism"An ambitious collection of unique stories told in lucid, and often lurid, detail."--Jewish News (UK)

Etgar Keret was born in Tel Aviv in 1967. He is the author of five collections of short stories, three children's books, and three graphic novels. His writing has been published in the New Yorker, Zoetrope, and the Paris Review. His books have been translated into thirty-four languages and published in over thirty-eight countries. In 2007, Keret and Shira Geffen won the Cannes Film

Festival's Caméra d'Or Award for their movie Jellyfish. In 2010, Keret received the Chevalier Medallion of France's Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He is the coeditor of Tel Aviv Noir. Assaf Gavron is an Israeli writer and translator. He is the author of five novels and a short story collection. His fiction has been translated to many languages and adapted to the stage and cinema. He is the winner of several awards including the Israeli Prime Minister's Creative Award for Authors, Bucher Prize for the Best Hebrew Novel in Germany, and Prix Courier International in France. Gavron is responsible for the highly regarded English-to-Hebrew translations of J.D. Salinger's *Nine Stories*, Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint*, and Jonathan Safran Foer's novels. He is the coeditor of Tel Aviv Noir.

Tel Aviv Noir is an exciting and eclectic round of short stories. There are many surprises in this collection, and for those who do not read Hebrew, many new names whose work has never been translated into English. Despite the title, this collection very seldom falls into genre traps. Whatever formulaic demands the writers make to creating a "noir" story are offset by vibrant characterization and plot twists. But like any collection of diverse stories, some will hit the reader while others will miss the mark. But the overall tenor of this collection is excellent, and there is enough punch to offset the occasional misses. Yardenne Greenspan provides a smooth translation, reminding us that we are reading a Hebrew text, and therefore compartmentalized to a certain city at the certain time, while also rendering the English stylishly and precisely.

When I read collections that are centered around a particular place I like to feel that the events depicted could only have happened there, and that it would not have been possible to relocate the stories without a perceptible change in context. In other words, within this collection I looked for "only in Tel Aviv" stories. Per that criteria this collection achieved that in about 80% of the stories. Hence four stars.

Very good selection of excellent writers, varied themes. It held my interest, and I'm not a big fan of short stories.

More of an Etgar Keret vibe than "noir" in terms of style. Well written and enjoyable.

I was really enthralled by this collection. I don't know if it was nostalgia, or whether the stories were just that good. I'm definitely going to buy another in the noir series!

If you have been to or know about tel aviv, this is a great book that takes you to the other side of the city.

first story was excellent, then it went downhill from there. I really dont recommend this book

A collection of short stories -- most of them quite good -- about the darker side of life in Tel Aviv. Beautiful translation from Hebrew to English.

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