

# The Of Lights Chaim Potok

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*Chaim Potok Daniel Walden 2015-09-22* Chaim Potok was a world-class writer and scholar, a Conservative Jew who wrote from and about his tradition and the conflicts between observance and acculturation. With a plain, straightforward style, his novels were set against the moral, spiritual, and intellectual currents of the twentieth century. This collection aims to widen the lens through which we read Chaim Potok and to establish him as an authentic American writer who created unforgettable characters forging American identities for themselves while retaining their Jewish nature. The essays illuminate the central struggle in Potok's novels, which results from a profound desire to reconcile the appeal of modernity with the pull of traditional Judaism. The volume includes a memoir by Adena Potok and ends with Chaim Potok's "My Life as a Writer," a speech he gave at Penn State in 1982. Aside from the editor, the contributors are Victoria Aarons, Nathan P. Devir, Jane Eisner, Susanne Klingenstein, S. Lillian Kremer, Jessica Lang, Sanford E. Marovitz, Kathryn McClymond, Hugh Nissenson, Adena Potok, and Jonathan Rosen.

**The Book of Lights** Chaim Potok 1981 In his confusion about his life and times, Gershon Loran reveals the

uncertainty, fear, and rage of the generation of Jewish men and women who came of age following World War II  
**Chaim Potok** Sanford Sternlicht 2000 An in-depth study of the eight major novels by renowned Jewish-American writer, Chaim Potok.

A Different Light Barbara Spectre 2000 Pluralistic perspectives on the Festival of lights and profiles in modern Jewish courage.

*Davita's Harp* Chaim Potok 1996-08-27 For Davita Chandal, growing up in New York in the 1930s and '40s is an experience of indescribable joy—and unfathomable sadness. Her loving parents, both fervent radicals, fill her with the fiercely bright hope for a new, better world. But the deprivations of war and the Depression take their ruthless toll. And Davita, unexpectedly, finds in the Jewish faith that her mother had long ago abandoned both a solace to her questioning inner pain and a test of her budding spirit of independence. To her, life's elusive possibilities for happiness, for fulfillment, for decency, become as real and resonant as the music of the small harp that hangs on her door, welcoming all guests with its sweet, gentle tones. Praise for Davita's Harp "Rich . . . enchanting . . . [Chaim] Potok's bravest book."—The New York Times Book Review "It is an enormous pleasure to sink into such a

rich . . . solidly written novel. The reader knows from the first few pages that he is in the hands of a sure professional who won't let him down."—People "Engrossing . . . Filled with a host of richly drawn characters. Potok is a master storyteller."—Chicago Tribune "Gripping and intriguing . . . A well-told tale that needed telling."—The Philadelphia Inquirer

Shoshana's Song Jerry Marcus 2013 Shoshana's life drastically changes when she rejects her father's wishes for an arranged marriage, and questions why she must decide between her love of judaism, and her dream to pursue a college education and professional fulfillment.

*Conversations with Chaim Potok* Chaim Potok 2001 "Writing at its best is an exalted state, an unlocking of the unconscious and imagination and a contact with sanctity." One of America's most popular Jewish writers, Chaim Potok (b. 1929) is the author of such novels as *The Chosen* (1967), *The Promise* (1969), *The Book of Lights* (1981), and *Davita's Harp* (1985). Each of his novels explores the tension between tradition and modernity, and the clash between Jewish culture and contemporary Western civilization, which he calls "core-to-core culture confrontation." Although primarily known as a novelist, Potok is an ordained Conservative rabbi and a world-class Judaic scholar who has also published children's books, theological discourses, biographies, and histories. *Conversations with Chaim Potok* presents interviews ranging from 1976 to 1999. Potok discusses the broad range of his writing and the deep influence of non-Jewish novels—in particular, Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* and James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*—on his work. Interviews bear witness to Potok's many other influences—Orthodox Jewish doctrine, Freudian psychoanalytical theory, Picasso's *Guernica*, and Jewish kabbalah mysticism. Though labeled an American Jewish writer, Potok argues that Flannery O'Connor should then be called an American Catholic writer and John Updike an American Protestant writer. "In his mind," editor Daniel Walden writes, "just as Faulkner was a writer focused on a particular place,

Oxford, Mississippi, . . . so Potok's territory was a small section of New York City." Potok often explores conflict in his writings and in his interviews. Strict Jewish teachings deem fiction an artifice and therefore unnecessary, yet since the age of sixteen Potok has been driven to write novels. At the root of all of these conversations is Potok's intense interest in the turmoil between Jewish culture, religion, and tradition and what he calls "Western secular humanism." As he discusses his work, he continually includes broader issues, such as the state of Jewish literature and art, pointing out with pride and enthusiasm his belief that Jewish culture, in the twentieth century, has finally begun to have a significant role in producing and shaping the world's art and literature. Whether discussing the finer details of Talmudic textual analysis or his period of chaplaincy during the Korean War, Potok is articulate and philosophical, bringing deep consideration into what may seem small subjects. Although his novels and histories take place primarily in the recent past, the Chaim Potok that emerges from this collection is a writer deeply rooted in the tensions of the present. Daniel Walden is Professor Emeritus of American Studies, English and Comparative Literature at Penn State University. He has written or edited several books, including *On Being Jewish* (1974), *Twentieth Century American Jewish Writers* (1984), *The World of Chaim Potok* (1985), and *American Jewish Poets: The Roots and the Stems* (1990).

The Chosen Chaim Potok 2022-01-11 The story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again.

**The Gates of November** Chaim Potok 2010-02-24 "REMARKABLE . . . A WONDERFUL STORY." --The Boston Globe The father

is a high-ranking Communist officer, a Jew who survived Stalin's purges. The son is a "refusenik," who risked his life and happiness to protest everything his father held dear. Now, Chaim Potok, beloved author of the award-winning novels *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev*, unfolds the gripping true story of a father, a son, and a conflict that spans Soviet history. Drawing on taped interviews and his harrowing visits to Russia, Potok traces the public and private lives of the Slepak family: Their passions and ideologies, their struggles to reconcile their identities as Russians and as Jews, their willingness to fight--and die--for diametrically opposed political beliefs. "[A] vivid account . . . [Potok] brings a novelist's passion and eye for detail to a gripping story that possesses many of the elements of fiction--except that it's all too true." --San Francisco Chronicle

My Name Is Asher Lev Chaim Potok 2003-03-11 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In this modern classic from the National Book Award-nominated author of *The Chosen*, a young religious artist is compulsively driven to render the world he sees and feels, even when it leads him to blasphemy. "A novel of finely articulated tragic power . . . Little short of a work of genius."--The New York Times Book Review *Asher Lev* is a Ladover Hasid who keeps kosher, prays three times a day and believes in the Ribbono Shel Olom, the Master of the Universe. He grows up in a cloistered Hasidic community in postwar Brooklyn, a world suffused by ritual and revolving around a charismatic Rebbe. He is torn between two identities, the one consecrated to God, the other devoted only to art and his imagination, and in time, his artistic gift threatens to estrange him from that world and the parents he adores. As it follows his struggle, *My Name Is Asher Lev* becomes a luminous, visionary portrait of the artist, by turns heartbreaking and exultant.

Graven Images Arnold Schwartzman 1993 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth

beneath, or that is in the water under the earth". So decrees the second commandment. Could anything be clearer? And yet, through the centuries, Jews have decorated their tombstones with graven images. This rich tradition of liberally interpreting the biblical admonition has provided centuries' worth of graphic symbols and motifs that illuminate Jewish history and lore. In *Graven Images*, a surprisingly spirited view of a usually somber subject, author and photographer Arnold Schwartzman has assembled a lavish array of color photographs of Jewish tombstones. Focusing on the treasures he has discovered in thirty-eight European cemeteries, this book reproduces more than two hundred graven images from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Romania. Schwartzman's beautiful close-up photographs and fascinating captions reveal the significance of some of the most common images found on the gravestones. Some reveal the occupation of the deceased (an inkwell and quill for a scribe) or something about character (a candelabrum for a pious woman). Others allude specifically to a person's name (a fish for a member of the Fischel family) or refer to biblical tradition (Noah's ark, Adam and Eve in the Garden). The book begins with a riveting essay by Chaim Potok, the renowned novelist and Jewish thinker, who asks: "How in the light of all these images are we to understand the second commandment?" A unique assemblage of what Schwartzman has called "hallowed milestones that plot the course of the Jewish diaspora", *Graven Images* will appeal to everyone interested in Jewish history, symbols, and tradition.

Under this Blazing Light Amos Oz 1996-07-13 This collection brings together political, personal and literary essays by Israel's most celebrated living writer. Lively and undogmatic, Oz's compelling insight makes for consistently stimulating reading, while his commentary on Israel's cultural and political situation seems more relevant than ever in the light of recent events. These essays, which offer a unique perspective

on the author's own experience and development, will win for Oz new readers, while delighting those already familiar with his writings.

**Jerusalem Maiden** Talia Carner 2011-05-31 "Talia Carner is a skillful and heartfelt storyteller who takes the reader on journey of the senses, into a world long forgotten." -Jennifer Lauck, author of *Blackbird*  
"Exquisitely told, with details so vivid you can almost taste the food and hear the voices...A moving and utterly captivating novel that I will be thinking about for a long, long time." -Tess Gerritsen, author of *The Silent Girl*  
"Talia Carner's story captivates at every level, heart and mind." -Jacquelyn Mitchard, author of *The Deep End of the Ocean*  
The poignant, colorful, and unforgettable story of a young woman in early 20th-century Jerusalem who must choose between her faith and her passion, *Jerusalem Maiden* heralds the arrival of a magnificent new literary voice, Talia Carner. In the bestselling vein of *The Red Tent*, *The Kite Runner*, and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *Jerusalem Maiden* brilliantly evokes the sights and sounds of the Middle East during the final days of the Ottoman Empire. Historical fiction and Bible lovers will be captivated by this thrilling tale of a young Jewish woman during a fascinating era, her inner struggle with breaking the Second Commandment, and her ultimate transcendence through self-discovery.

*The Collected Plays of Chaim Potok* Chaim Potok 2018-10-23 While Chaim Potok is most famous for his novels, particularly his first book *The Chosen* (1967)—which was listed on *The New York Times* bestseller list for 39 weeks and sold more than 3,400,000 copies—he also wrote plays, which are collected and published here for the first time. Rena Potok edited the collection and wrote the introduction. This book features all five of Potok's plays, production notes on each of the plays, prefaces by the directors, and the transcript of a post-performance discussion on *Out of the Depths* featuring Chaim Potok and Prof. David Roskies, which appears for the first time in print, in this volume. Includes: *Out of the Depths* (Performed in Philadelphia in 1990. The

last version was a 1990 video of the staged workshop performance. The play was reconstructed for this collection by Rena Potok and David Bassuk, the play's director and co-creator, based on the video and on the final rehearsal script.) *Sins of the Father: The Carnival and The Gallery* (Performed in Philadelphia in 1990. Adapted from scenes in Chaim Potok's novels *The Promise* and *My Name is Asher Lev*.) *The Play of Lights* (Performed in Philadelphia in 1992. Adapted from Chaim Potok's novel *The Book of Lights*.) *The Chosen* (Premiered in 1999 and performed widely since then. Adapted from the novel of the same name into a play by Chaim Potok and Aaron Posner. This volume contains the most recent authorized version of the play.)

**I Am the Clay** Chaim Potok 1993-12-04 "[Chaim] Potok writes powerfully about the suffering of innocent people caught in the cross-fire of a war they cannot begin to understand. . . . Humanity and compassion for his characters leap from every page."—*San Francisco Chronicle*  
As the Chinese and the army of the North sweep south during the Korean War, an old peasant farmer and his wife flee their village across the bleak, bombed-out landscape. They soon come upon a boy in a ditch who is wounded and unconscious. Stirred by possessiveness and caring the woman refuses to leave the boy behind. The man thinks she is crazy to nurse this boy, to risk their lives for some dying stranger. Angry and bewildered, he waits for the boy to die. And when the boy does not die, the old man begins to believe that the boy possesses a magic upon which all their lives depend. . . .

**Borrowed Light** Carla Kelly 2011 Julia Darling never expected to cook for some cowboys in Wyoming, but when she breaks off her engagement in Salt Lake City, it's the perfect opportunity for her to escape. Determined to stick the job out, Julia faces her biggest challenge yet - letting go of borrowed light to find her own testimony. Set in the early 1900s, this is one romantic adventure you'll never forget!

**Shadow & Light** Darryl L. Tippens 2013 "Shadow & Light has a variety of selections spanning a range of

literature from medieval religious lyrics to contemporary American poetry, from John Bunyan to Isaac Bashevis Singer and John Updike, it makes vividly clear that the exploration of spiritual values is not limited to believers of one faith, or, indeed, not even to believers."—Robert Alter, Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley; author of *The Art of Biblical Narrative* "Writers—poets and novelists, playwrights and bards—have always been essential witnesses to the ambiguities...the all-encompassing mysteries of birth and death, primary witnesses to matters of God and the soul. Unfortunately many of these witnesses have been sidelined in the curricula of our schools for the last fifty or so years, depriving us of ready access to the very language that is essential for living humanly. Thanks to this new edition of *Shadow & Light*, they are back on the playing field, taking their rightful place as witnesses to unexpurgated life."—Eugene H. Peterson. Professor Emeritus of Spiritual theology, Regent College, Vancouver, BC

**Lights on the Mountain** Cheryl Anne Tuggle 2018-12-01 Love, loss, and the memory of an otherworldly encounter haunt the days and nights of a Pennsylvania dairy farmer. Barely old enough to vote when he loses his parents in an accident and inherits the family farm, Jess Hazel struggles to find meaning in the life he has always loved. Unable to shake the memory of a strange light he has seen hovering on the mountain peak above his valley home, he embarks on a pilgrimage, a halting inner odyssey riddled with fits and false starts. Like the creek which cuts through the Allegheny foothills of its Western Pennsylvania setting, hope runs through every chapter of this novel. The beauty of the story lies in the unlikely people Jess encounters along the way, transmitters of a grace which at first hounds, then quietly eludes. Through events both tragic and joyous, Jess is led on a journey of self-discovery through ancestral sin, unexpected love, loss, holiness, compassion, forgiveness and redemption.

**The Daily Show (The Book)** Chris Smith 2016-11-22 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The complete, uncensored history of the award-winning *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, as told by its correspondents, writers, and host. For almost seventeen years, *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart brilliantly redefined the borders between television comedy, political satire, and opinionated news coverage. It launched the careers of some of today's most significant comedians, highlighted the hypocrisies of the powerful, and garnered 23 Emmys. Now the show's behind-the-scenes gags, controversies, and camaraderie will be chronicled by the players themselves, from legendary host Jon Stewart to the star cast members and writers—including Samantha Bee, Stephen Colbert, John Oliver, and Steve Carell — plus some of *The Daily Show*'s most prominent guests and adversaries: John and Cindy McCain, Glenn Beck, Tucker Carlson, and many more. This oral history takes the reader behind the curtain for all the show's highlights, from its origins as Comedy Central's underdog late-night program to Trevor Noah's succession, rising from a scrappy jester in the 24-hour political news cycle to become part of the beating heart of politics—a trusted source for not only comedy but also commentary, with a reputation for calling bullshit and an ability to effect real change in the world. Through years of incisive election coverage, passionate debates with President Obama and Hillary Clinton, feuds with Bill O'Reilly and Fox, and provocative takes on Wall Street and racism, *The Daily Show* has been a cultural touchstone. Now, for the first time, the people behind the show's seminal moments come together to share their memories of the last-minute rewrites, improvisations, pranks, romances, blow-ups, and moments of Zen both on and off the set of one of America's most groundbreaking shows.

**In the Beginning** Chaim Potok 1997-09-10 "Powerful . . . It successfully recreates a time and place and the journey of a soul."—*The New York Times* All beginnings are hard—that is the lesson David Lurie learns early and painfully in his life. As a boy in the depression-

shadowed Bronx, he must begin to hold his own against neighborhood bullies and the treacherous frailties of his own health. As a young man in a world menaced by a distant, horrifying war, he must begin once more—this time to define a resolute path of personal belief that departs boldly from the tradition of his teachers and his own father, a courageous defender of their people. Learning how to remember his past as he nourishes the future, David struggles to complete his first long journey into ancient beginnings. “A major work in every sense.”—Pittsburgh Press

**The Gift of Asher Lev** Chaim Potok 2010-03-24

“Extraordinary . . . No one but Chaim Potok could have written this strangely sweet, compelling, and deeply felt novel.”—The Cleveland Plain Dealer In his powerful *My Name is Asher Lev*, Chaim Potok gave the world an unforgettable character and a timeless story that The New York Times Book Review hailed as “little short of a work of genius.” The Chicago Sun-Times declared it “a story that had to be told.” Now, Chaim Potok’s beloved character returns to learn, to teach, to dream, in *The Gift of Asher Lev*. Twenty years have passed. Asher Lev is a world-renowned artist living with his young family in France. Still, he is unsure of his artistic direction. Success has not brought ease to his heart. Then Asher’s beloved uncle dies suddenly, and Asher and his family rush back to Brooklyn—and into a world that Asher thought he had left behind forever. It is a journey of confrontation and discovery as Asher purges his past in search of new inspiration for his art and begins to understand the true meaning of sacrifice and the painful joy in sharing the most precious gift of all. Praise for *The Gift of Asher Lev* “A masterwork.”—Newsday “Rivals anything Chaim Potok has ever produced. It is a book written with passion about passion. You’re not likely to read anything better this year.”—The Detroit News “Fascinating.”—The Washington Post Book World “Very moving.”—The Philadelphia Inquirer *Wanderings* Chaim Potok 2021-05-04 A fascinating history of the Jews, told by a master novelist, here is Chaim

Potok's fascinating, moving four thousand-year history. Recreating great historical events, exploring Jewish life in its infinite variety and in many eras and places, here is a unique work by a singular Jewish voice.

**Self-Portrait with Boy** Rachel Lyon 2018-02-06 Longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize “Fabulously written, this spellbinding debut novel is a real page-turner. A powerful, brilliantly imagined story” (Library Journal, starred review) about an ambitious young artist whose accidental photograph of a boy falling to his death could jumpstart her career, but devastate her most intimate friendship. Lu Rile is a relentlessly focused young photographer struggling to make ends meet. Working three jobs, responsible for her aging father, and worrying that her crumbling loft apartment is being sold to developers, she is at a point of desperation. One day, in the background of a self-portrait, Lu accidentally captures an image of a boy falling to his death. The photograph turns out to be startlingly gorgeous, the best work of art she’s ever made. It’s an image that could change her life...if she lets it. But the decision to show the photograph is not easy. The boy is her neighbors’ son, and the tragedy brings all the building’s residents together. It especially unites Lu with the boy’s beautiful grieving mother, Kate. As the two forge an intense bond based on sympathy, loneliness, and budding attraction, Lu feels increasingly unsettled and guilty, torn between equally fierce desires: to advance her career, and to protect a woman she has come to love. Set in early 90s Brooklyn on the brink of gentrification, *Self-Portrait with Boy* is a “sparkling debut” (The New York Times Book Review) about the emotional dues that must be paid on the road to success and a powerful exploration of the complex terrain of female friendship. “The conflict is rich and thorny, raising questions about art and morality, love and betrayal, sacrifice and opportunism, and the chance moments that can define a life...It wrestles with the nature of art, but moves with the speed of a page-turner” (Los Angeles Times).

**I Am the Clay** Chaim Potok 2010-04-28 “[Chaim] Potok writes powerfully about the suffering of innocent people caught in the cross-fire of a war they cannot begin to understand. . . . Humanity and compassion for his characters leap from every page.”—San Francisco Chronicle As the Chinese and the army of the North sweep south during the Korean War, an old peasant farmer and his wife flee their village across the bleak, bombed-out landscape. They soon come upon a boy in a ditch who is wounded and unconscious. Stirred by possessiveness and caring the woman refuses to leave the boy behind. The man thinks she is crazy to nurse this boy, to risk their lives for some dying stranger. Angry and bewildered, he waits for the boy to die. And when the boy does not die, the old man begins to believe that the boy possesses a magic upon which all their lives depend. . . .

**The Lavender Garden** Lucinda Riley 2013-06-11 After she inherits her childhood home, a magnificent chateau in Le Cote d'Azur, France, Emilie de la Martinieres realizes that it may hold secrets to her family's enigmatic past during World War II. Original. 60,000 first printing.

**My Name is Asher Lev** Chaim Potok 2009 Asher Lev is a gifted loner, the artist who painted the sensational Brooklyn Crucifixion. Into it he poured all the anguish and torment a Jew can feel when torn between the faith of his fathers and the calling of his art. Here Asher Lev plunges back into his childhood and recounts the story of love and conflict which dragged him to this crossroads.

**The Saturday Wife** Naomi Ragen 2008-10-14 Beautiful, materialistic Delilah Levy, married to a young rabbi, finds her life beginning to unravel because of the incessant demands of her husband's congregation, her faith, and her life, and the temptations of the modern world. By the author of *The Covenant*. Reprint. 75,000 first printing.

*The Pagan Rabbi, and Other Stories* Cynthia Ozick 1995 Ozick is a kind of narrative hypnotist. Her range is extraordinary; there is seemingly nothing she can't do. Her stories contain passages of intense lyricism and

brilliant, hilarious, uncontrollable inventiveness. *Fugitive Pieces*. [In verse. By F. Greensted. Second edition.] 1800

**As a Driven Leaf** Milton Steinberg 1987 Relates the story of Elish ben Abuyah, a talmudic rabbi who turns to Greek philosophy in his search for a rational explanation for religious faith, is excommunicated by the Sanhedrin, and betrays his former associates in the rabbinate to the Romans

**In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist** Ruchama King Feuerman 2014-03-25 2013 National Jewish Book Award Finalist American Library Association Sophie Brody Medal Honor title 2015 An eczema-riddled Lower East Side haberdasher, Isaac Markowitz, moves to Israel to repair his broken heart and becomes, much to his own surprise, the assistant to a famous old rabbi who daily dispenses wisdom (and soup) to the troubled souls who wash up in his courtyard. It is there that he meets the flame-haired Tamar, a newly religious young American hipster on a mission to live a spiritual life with a spiritual man. Into both of their lives comes Mustafa, a devout Muslim, deformed at birth, a janitor who works on the Temple Mount, holy to both Muslims and Jews. When Mustafa finds an ancient shard of pottery that may date back to the first temple, he brings it to Isaac in friendship. That gesture sets in motion a series of events that lands Isaac in the company of Israel's worst criminal riff raff, puts Mustafa in mortal danger, and leaves Tamar struggling to save them both. As these characters—immigrants and natives; Muslim and Jewish; prophets and lost souls—move through their world, they are never sure if they will fall prey to the cruel tricks of luck or be sheltered by a higher power.

**Tobiasse** Chaim Potok 1986 Gathers paintings by the modern French artist, discusses his themes and technique, and briefly describes his childhood in Nazi-occupied Paris

Everything Beautiful Began After Simon Van Booy 2011-07-05 “A powerful meditation on the undying nature of love and the often cruel beauty of one's own fate.

This is a novel you simply must read!" –Andre Dubus III, New York Times bestselling author of Townie From Simon Van Booy, the award-winning author of Love Begins in Winter and The Secret Lives of People in Love, comes a debut novel of longing and discovery amidst the ruins of Athens. With echoes of Nicole Krauss's The History of Love and Charles Baxter's The Feast of Love, Van Booy's resonant tale of three isolated, disaffected adults discovering one another in Greece is the compelling product of an inquisitive, visionary talent. In the words of Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain, "Simon Van Booy knows a great deal about the complex longings of the human heart."

**Chaim Potok** Daniel Walden 2013-07-03 Chaim Potok was a world-class writer and scholar, a Conservative Jew who wrote from and about his tradition and the conflicts between observance and acculturation. With a plain, straightforward style, his novels were set against the moral, spiritual, and intellectual currents of the twentieth century. This collection aims to widen the lens through which we read Chaim Potok and to establish him as an authentic American writer who created unforgettable characters forging American identities for themselves while retaining their Jewish nature. The essays illuminate the central struggle in Potok's novels, which results from a profound desire to reconcile the appeal of modernity with the pull of traditional Judaism. The volume includes a memoir by Adena Potok and ends with Chaim Potok's "My Life as a Writer," a speech he gave at Penn State in 1982. Aside from the editor, the contributors are Victoria Aarons, Nathan P. Devir, Jane Eisner, Susanne Klingenstein, S. Lillian Kremer, Jessica Lang, Sanford E. Marovitz, Kathryn McClymond, Hugh Nissenson, Adena Potok, and Jonathan Rosen.

The Chosen Chaim Potok 2016-11 The story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they

discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again.

The Tree of Here Chaim Potok 1993 Jason is upset that he has to move for the third time in five years, but he gains comfort from his favorite tree and from the gift of a young tree that he can take with him to his new home.

**Davita's Harp** Chaim Potok 2010-03-10 For Davita Chandal, growing up in New York in the 1930s and '40s is an experience of indescribable joy—and unfathomable sadness. Her loving parents, both fervent radicals, fill her with the fiercely bright hope for a new, better world. But the deprivations of war and the Depression take their ruthless toll. And Davita, unexpectedly, finds in the Jewish faith that her mother had long ago abandoned both a solace to her questioning inner pain and a test of her budding spirit of independence. To her, life's elusive possibilities for happiness, for fulfillment, for decency, become as real and resonant as the music of the small harp that hangs on her door, welcoming all guests with its sweet, gentle tones. Praise for Davita's Harp "Rich . . . enchanting . . . [Chaim] Potok's bravest book."—The New York Times Book Review "It is an enormous pleasure to sink into such a rich . . . solidly written novel. The reader knows from the first few pages that he is in the hands of a sure professional who won't let him down."—People "Engrossing . . . Filled with a host of richly drawn characters. Potok is a master storyteller."—Chicago Tribune "Gripping and intriguing . . . A well-told tale that needed telling."—The Philadelphia Inquirer

The Promise Chaim Potok 2005-11-08 In a passionate, energetic narrative, The Promise brilliantly dramatizes what it is to master and use knowledge to make one's own way in the world. Reuven Malter lives in Brooklyn, he's in love, and he's studying to be a rabbi. He also keeps challenging the strict interpretations of his teachers,

and if he keeps it up, his dream of becoming a rabbi may die. One day, worried about a disturbed, unhappy boy named Michael, Reuven takes him sailing and cloud-watching. Reuven also introduces him to an old friend, Danny Saunders—now a psychologist with a growing reputation. Reconnected by their shared concern for Michael, Reuven and Danny each learns what it is to take on life—whether sacred truths or a troubled child—according to his own lights, not just established authority.

**The Book of Mormon Girl** Joanna Brooks 2012-08-07 Story about leaving behind the innocence of childhood belief and embracing the complications and heartbreaks that come to every adult life of faith. Explores the author's journey through her faith, and the experience of being a Mormon.

*Old Men at Midnight* Chaim Potok 2008-12-30 From the celebrated author of *The Chosen* and *My Name Is Asher Lev*, a trilogy of related novellas about a woman whose life touches three very different men—stories that encompass some of the profoundest themes of the

twentieth century. Ilana Davita Dinn is the listener to whom three men relate their lives. As a young girl, she offers English lessons to a teenage survivor of the camps. In "The Ark Builder," he shares with her the story of his friendship with a proud old builder of synagogue arks, and what happened when the German army invaded their Polish town. As a graduate student, she finds herself escorting a guest lecturer from the Soviet Union, and in "The War Doctor," her sympathy moves him to put his painful past to paper recounting his experiences as a Soviet NKVD agent who was saved by an idealistic doctor during the Russian civil war, only to encounter him again during the terrifying period of the Kremlin doctors' plot. And, finally, we meet her in "The Trope Teacher," in which a distinguished professor of military history, trying to write his memoirs, is distracted by his wife's illness and by the arrival next door of a new neighbor, the famous writer I. D. (Ilana Davita) Chandal. Poignant and profound, Chaim Potok's newest fiction is a major addition to his remarkable—and remarkably loved—body of work.