

The Moon & Ruben Shein

A Novel By
O. Henry Award Winner

Steve Stern

The Moon Ruben Shein

Guillaume Favre



The Moon Ruben Shein:

The Moon & Ruben Shein Steve Stern, 1984 A Fool's Kabbalah Steve Stern, 2025-02-18 In the ruins of postwar Europe the world's leading expert on the Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism goes on a hair raising journey to recover sacred books stolen by the Nazis At the end of the Second World War Gershom Scholem the magisterial scholar of Jewish mysticism is commissioned by the Hebrew University in what was then British ruled Palestine to retrieve a lost world He is sent to sift through the rubble of Europe in search of precious Jewish books stolen by the Nazis or hidden by the Jews themselves in secret places throughout the ravaged continent The search takes him into ruined cities and alien wastelands The terrible irony of salvaging books that had outlasted the people for whom they'd been written leaves Dr Scholem longing for the kind of magic that had been the merely theoretical subject of his lamplit studies Steve Stern's *A Fool's Kabbalah* a novel featuring numerous real life historic figures reimagines Gershom Scholem's quest and how it sparked in him the desire to realize the legacy of his dear friend the brilliant philosopher Walter Benjamin At the heart of that legacy was the idea that humor is an essential tool of redemption In a parallel narrative Menke Klepfisch self styled jester and incorrigible scamp attempts to subvert through his antic behavior the cruelties of the Nazi occupation of his native village As Menke's efforts collide with the monstrous reality of the Holocaust we see in another place and time evidence that Dr Scholem in defiance of his austere reputation has begun to develop the anarchic characteristics of a clown *A Fool's Kabbalah* intertwines the stories of these 2 quixotic characters who though poles apart complement one another in their tragicomic struggles to oppose the supreme evil of history using only the weapons of humor and a little magic *The Pinch* Steve Stern, 2015-06-02 A dazzling spellbinding novel set in a mythical Jewish community by the acclaimed author of the New York Times Notable Book *The Book of Mischief* It's the late 1960s *The Pinch* once a thriving Jewish community centered on North Main Street in Memphis has been reduced to a single tenant Lenny Sklarew awaits the draft by peddling drugs and shelving books until he learns he is a character in a book about the rise and fall of this very *Pinch* Muni Pinsker who authored the book in an enchanted day containing years arrived in the neighborhood at its height and was smitten by an alluring tightrope walker Muni's own story is dovetailed by that of his uncle Pinchas Pin whose epic journey to North Main Street forms the book's spine Steve Stern interweaves these tales with an ingenious structure that merges past with present and his wildly inventive fabulism surpasses everything he's done before Together these intersecting stories transform the real world experience of Lenny whose fate determines the future of the *Pinch* in this brilliant unforgettable novel **The Village Idiot** Steve Stern, 2022-09-13 A Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2022 A frothy picaresque that vibrates to the sweet celestial confusion of Soutine's painting delirious and earthy reverent and irreligious The New York Times Book Review A wild effervescent absinthe soaked novel that tells of the life of the extraordinary artist Chaim Soutine Steve Stern's astonishing new novel *The Village Idiot* begins on a glorious spring day in Paris 1917 Amid the carnage of World War I some of the foremost artists of the age have chosen to stage a boat race At

the head of the regatta is Amedeo Modigliani seated regally in a bathtub pulled by a flock of canvasback ducks But unbeknownst to the competition he has a secret advantage his young friend the immigrant painter Chaim Soutine is hauling the tub from underwater Soutine an unwashed misfit artist who incidentally can't swim has been persuaded by the Italian to don a ponderous diving suit and trudge along the floor of the river Seine Disoriented and confused by the artificial air in his helmet Chaim stumbles through the events of his past and future life It's quite an extraordinary life From his impoverished beginnings in an East European shtetl to his equally destitute days in Paris during the Années Folles the Crazy Years from the Cinderella patronage of the American collector Albert Barnes who raises him from poverty to international attention to his perilous flight from the Nazi occupation of France Chaim Soutine remains driven by his unrelenting passion to paint To be sure there are notable distractions such as his unlikely friendship with Modigliani who drags him from brothels to midnight felonies to a duel at dawn there are the romances with remarkable women who compete with and sometimes salvage his obsession But there is also always on the horizon the coming storm that threatens to sweep away Chaim and a generation of gifted Jewish refugees from a tradition that would outlaw their longing to make art Wildly inventive as funny as it is heart breaking *The Village Idiot* is a luminous fever dream of a novel steeped in the heady atmosphere of a Paris that was the cultural capital of the universe a place where anything seemed possible

The Book of Mischief Steve Stern, 2012-09-04 In the 25 years since Stern published his first book younger Jewish writers have run with a similar shtick But Stern was there first *The Toronto Globe and Mail* *The Book of Mischief* triumphantly showcases twenty five years of outstanding work by one of our true masters of the short story Steve Stern's stories take us from the unlikely old Jewish quarter of the Pinch in Memphis to a turn of the century immigrant community in New York from the market towns of Eastern Europe to a down at the heels Catskills resort Along the way we meet a motley assortment of characters Mendy Dreyfus whose bungee jump goes uncannily awry Elijah the prophet turned voyeur and the misfit Zelik Rifkin who discovers the tree of dreams Perhaps it's no surprise that Kafka's cockroach also makes an appearance in these pages animated as they are by instances of bewildering transformation The earthbound take flight the meek turn incendiary the powerless find unwonted fame Weaving his particular brand of mischief from the wondrous and the macabre Stern transforms us all through the power of his brilliant imagination

Reimagining the Bible Howard Schwartz, 1998 A collection of essays from Schwartz's previously published work exploring how each successive phase of Jewish literature has drawn upon and reimagined previous ones and arguing that there is a continuity in Jewish Literature which extends from the biblical era to our own times

Contemporary Jewish-American Novelists Joel Shatzky, Michael Taub, 1997-07-16 Since World War II Jewish American novelists have significantly contributed to the world of literature This reference book includes alphabetically arranged entries for more than 75 Jewish American novelists whose major works were largely written after World War II Included are entries for both well known and relatively obscure novelists many of whom are just becoming established as significant literary figures While the

volume profiles major canonical figures such as Saul Bellow Norman Mailer and Bernard Malamud it also aims to be more inclusive than other works on contemporary Jewish American writers Thus there are entries for gay and lesbian novelists such as Lev Raphael and Judith Katz whose works challenge the more orthodox definition of Jewish religious and cultural traditions Art Speigelman whose controversial I Maus R established a new genre by combining elements of the comic book and the conventional novel and newcomers such as Steve Stern and Max Apple who have become more prominent within the last decade Each entry includes a brief biography a discussion of major works and themes an overview of the novelist s critical reception and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources A thoughtful introduction summarizes Jewish American fiction after World War II and a selected general bibliography lists additional sources of information Since World War II Jewish American novelists have made numerous significant contributions to contemporary literature Authors of earlier generations would frequently write about the troubles and successes of Jewish immigrants to America and their works would reflect the world of European Jewish culture But like other immigrant groups Jewish Americans have become increasingly assimilated into mainstream American culture Many feel the loss of their heritage and long for something to replace the lost values of the old world This reference book includes alphabetically arranged entries for more than 75 Jewish American novelists whose major works were largely written after World War II Included are entries for both well known and relatively obscure novelists many of whom are just becoming established as significant literary figures While the volume profiles major canonical figures such as Saul Bellow Norman Mailer and Bernard Malamud it also aims to be more inclusive than other works on contemporary Jewish American writers Thus there are entries for gay and lesbian novelists such as Lev Raphael and Judith Katz whose works challenge the more orthodox definitions of Jewish religious and cultural traditions Art Speigelman whose controversial I Maus R established a new genre by combining elements of the comic book and the conventional novel and newcomers such as Steve Stern and Max Apple who have become more prominent within the last decade Each entry includes a brief biography a discussion of major works and themes an overview of the novelist s critical reception and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources A thoughtful introduction summarizes Jewish American fiction after World War II and a selected general bibliography lists additional sources for information **Lazar Malkin**

Enters Heaven Steve Stern,1995-10-01 All of Steve Stern s effervescent stories in this collection have a common relationship either by setting or allusion to the whimsically dangerous North Main Street neighborhood of Pinch a mythical Jewish area perched atop the river bluff in Memphis Here the voice of the Lord rises up from gas burners and out of pay phones Here aging fathers in law live in backyard sheds and negotiate with the Angel of Death Here is a land in which a host of very different characters share a common tendency to ignore the usually agreed upon bonds of reality And in their rollicking wisdom all will confirm Susan Sontag s earlier inventory of Mr Stern s talents Great brio whiplash sentences lots of energy and charm The New Diaspora Avinoam Patt,Mark Shechner,Victoria Aarons,2015-05-01 Readers of contemporary

American fiction and Jewish cultural history will find The New Diaspora enlightening and deeply engaging **Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature** Gloria L. Cronin, Alan L. Berger, 2015-04-22 Presents a reference on Jewish American literature providing profiles of Jewish American writers and their works

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