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Englard, Zahava D. *The Gilboa Iris*. Jerusalem: Gefen, 2012. 465 pp. \$19.95. (9789652295743).

Dara Harow is an American olah (female immigrant to Israel), and this novel follows her from the 1980s when she volunteers on a kibbutz in her late teens until the early twenty-first century. There are two Israeli men, Roni and Uri, who are her romantic interests. The core story definitely has the potential to be interesting and the thriller aspects of the tale, involving Arab terrorists and neo-Nazis, are not badly done. Unfortunately, the bulk of the novel concerns two love stories which are handled much less well. The banter between the main protagonists is meant to be cute, if a bit vulgar, but I found myself rolling my eyes at it. Interestingly, while the men have very good qualities, they are both portrayed stereotypically as arrogant Israelis. Even more tiresome than the immature persiflage is the overuse of modifiers. I lost track of how many times brows "crinkled" and smiles and eyes were needlessly described. This tale is simply not well written.

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