

Published in Association of Jewish Libraries Reviews, May/June, 2015, p. 43.

Gold, Nora. *Fields of Exile*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2014. 424 pp. \$24.99. (9781459721463).

Judith Gallanter, thirty-two years old, is back in Canada after spending ten years in Israel as a social worker helping mentally disabled children and working with Jewish-Arab coexistence groups for adolescents. A committed left-wing Zionist with a visceral love of Israel, she leaves only to nurse her father in his final illness. (She has no siblings and her mother is dead.) She promises her father to pursue a master's degree in social work in Canada because he thinks this will make her more economically selfsufficient. After he dies she enters the MSW program in (fictional) Dunhill University. The novel, which largely takes place in 2002 and 2003 during the second intifada when Israel suffered many terrorist attacks, has two major plot strands. One is Judith's experience at university and her discovery of the anti-Zionism of much of the academic left. The other is her ambivalent relationship with her ex-high school boyfriend, Bobby Kornblum, now an attorney in a major Toronto law firm. The ambivalence arises from their political differences (he is much more conservative than she) and also from his total lack of interest in making aliyah (though he is supportive of Israel). Judith is well-drawn, her situation intriguing, and the tone serious. The novel ends on an exilic note of uncertainty and yearning. Definitely recommended (with the caveat that there are more than a few sexually explicit scenes).

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