

H E N I K A S P I

Salted Fish



One Man's Forced Journey

One man's forced journey home

ABOUT THE BOOK

Oren Illouz has built a life far from home—a bistro in Perth, a steady rhythm, the quiet comfort of distance. But when a late-night phone call shatters that peace, he finds himself on a plane back to Israel, drawn by a debt he can no longer ignore and by a father dying on a remote kibbutz in the Negev. From the moment he lands, urgency closes in. Legal deadlines loom. Old resentments resurface. He drifts between Tel Aviv's restless street life and the stark isolation of the kibbutz he once fled, unable to settle in either world. The financial mess appears impossible to resolve. Through the unexpected kindness of a small bar owner, Oren is introduced to a lawyer who agrees to represent him without charge, a gesture born of shared kibbutz roots. Yet no courtroom can resolve what waits for him at home. The real battle is within his own family. His mother's anger remains unspent. His father's time is running out. And the insular world of the kibbutz—where children slept apart from their parents and learned early to stand alone—still holds its quiet grip on him.

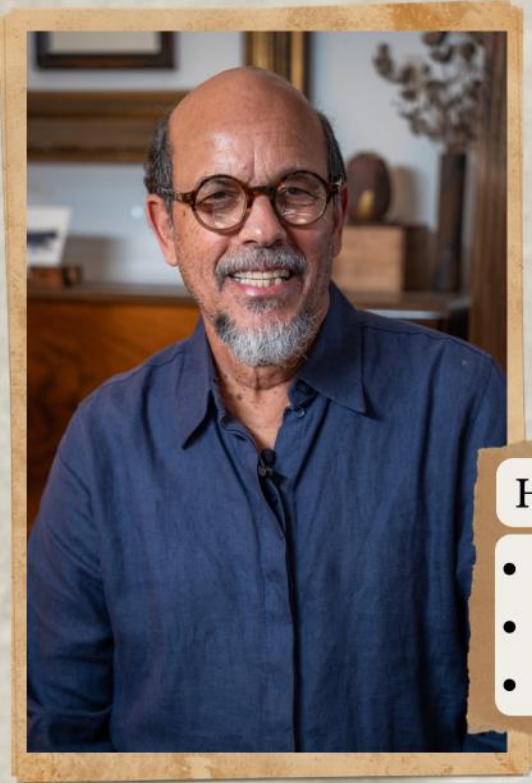
Rich in food, music, and tenderness, *Salted Fish* is a novel about a man in his fifties reckoning with the weight of the past—through shame, memory, and longing—confronting the unfinished relationships waiting for him at home.

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK DISTINCTIVE

Kaspi writes in vivid, sensory prose shaped by lived experience—the intimacy of small kitchens, the exhaustion and fragile pride of building something from nothing. In a modest Tel Aviv bar, Hungarian goulash cooked for strangers becomes an unexpected act of offering; in Perth, the rhythms of a small bistro reveal the quiet drama behind every plate served. Food is not backdrop but a language of memory and unspoken connection. Music threads through the narrative like a second language: jazz clubs, Weber's Clarinet Concertino, moments of goodbye played without words. This is a novel of atmosphere and interiority, grounded in the real textures of restaurant life and the complex emotional dynamics of a man returning to a place that never stopped shaping him.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



HENI KASPI

- Jazz Saxophonist
- Restaurateur
- Debut Novelist

Heni Kaspi is a restaurateur, jazz saxophonist, and novelist based in Perth, Australia. Born in Israel and raised on Kibbutz Reim in the western Negev desert, he emigrated to Australia with his wife, Riki, and their two children, where they built a new life between languages and cultures—an experience that continues to shape his writing.

Together they ran a successful bistro before expanding into a cooking school. Kaspi's intimate knowledge of restaurant life—the rhythm of small kitchens, the exhaustion and joy of building something from nothing, the sensory richness of food as human connection—runs deeply through *Salted Fish*.

A lifelong musician who moved from clarinet to saxophone, Kaspi spent years playing jazz in small clubs and bringing music into his writing as a second language. His lyrical, atmospheric style draws on the philosophical tradition of Albert Camus, whose work he encountered as a mature-age student at the University of Western Australia.

THE NOVEL'S VOICE

Salted Fish stands at the intersection of Israeli literary fiction and the universal story of exile and return. It brings together layered emotional relationships, the insular world of kibbutz childhood, the sensory textures of food and music, and the bittersweet comedy of one man's legal battle—all told in vivid, atmospheric prose with deep psychological insight.

This is a novel for readers who want to feel the weight of place, hear the silence between notes, and taste the salt carried in memory.

CENTRAL THEMES

- Exile, homecoming, and the solitude of a man reckoning with his past
- The insular world of kibbutz childhood—fierce loyalty shaped by emotional restraint
- Food and music as languages of memory and unspoken connection
- Layered relationships and the moral tension of debts—both financial and emotional

READERS' ACCLAIM

“Salted Fish lingers long after the last page, like a jazz solo played at dusk: soulful, fractured, and wholly human.”

Piaras ★★★★★ Amazon US

“The story about Oren will stay with you long after you read it.”

Abbigail Holmes ★★★★★ Amazon US

“Haunting, raw, unforgettable, and deeply human.”

Len ★★★★★ Amazon US

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