ESCAPING BUDAPEST

A WORLD WAR II NOVEL
BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

BUDAPEST · WINTER 1944



DEBUT NOVEL BY

EITAN POSNER HALEVY

ABOUT
EITAN POSNER HALEVY

Born in Transylvania in 1953, the son of Holocaust survivors, and immigrated to Israel in 1964. After more than twenty years as a self-employed dental technician, he was persuaded by friends to visit a well-known fortune teller. She looked at him and said:

“You will be a writer. A well-known, famous writer. You’ll start writing at the age of 58!”

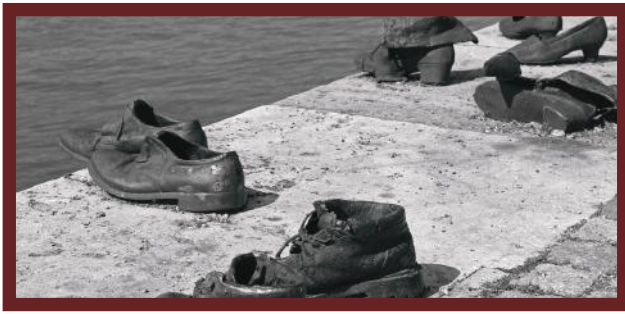
Years later, he began writing poetry, short stories, novellas, and illustrated children’s books. About eight years ago, he began his debut novel in Hebrew - “Evil Nature” - rooted in family testimony, visits to historical sites, research in state archives, court protocols, verified survivor accounts, and history books. The story draws on the experiences of his own family, who survived the events depicted in the novel. The writing and publication process lasted six and a half years, with an additional year for translation and publication of the English edition.

The novel has been presented at the world’s leading international book fairs: Frankfurt, London, New Delhi, Beijing, and Budapest itself - and is available in Kindle, paperback, and audiobook on all major platforms.

HaLevy lives in Jerusalem, where he continues to write and engage in Holocaust education and remembrance. His next novel is in the works, different in content, but certainly a continuation of the first.

"**EVIL IS AN ELEMENT**. LIKE IRON. LIKE CARBON. IT DOES NOT APPEAR FROM NOWHERE. IT WAS ALWAYS THERE, IN THE FIRST PLACE."

"Escaping Budapest" is a historical novel set during the final weeks of the siege of Budapest, in the closing months of World War II. On October 15, 1944, as the Nazi army tightens its grip on the city, members of the Arrow Cross Party - fanatical Hungarian nationalists whose extremism, cruelty and brutality rivaled the worst of history's killing regimes - seize power.



As the Red Army closes in, the Arrow Cross leadership abandons the city, leaving behind gangs of violent criminals consumed by hatred, greed and the thirst for murder. With no authority to answer to, the gates of hell swing open.

Against this backdrop, the intertwined fates of four family members unfold: Miriam Levy, her husband István - a Jewish resistance activist - their seventeen-year-old daughter Magda, and her husband János, a spirited fighter, an escapee from

forced labor, and a member of the underground resistance. They are confronted with the most degrading and savage expressions of human nature - embodied above all by a young, fanatical priest - but also its most noble and courageous possibilities.

The novel follows several characters, but three women stand out: Miriam and Magda, who drive the heart of the plot, and Nina - who bursts into the story like a storm and vanishes with barely a whisper.



The narrative unfolds dramatically, revealing documented historical events that occurred in this magnificent, devastated city - events that resonate with raw intensity and penetrate the souls of the heroes, as the hunger for survival and revenge drives some of them toward unexpected salvation.

At its core, the author searches for the most fundamental particle - the root cause of the most terrible genocide in modern history. And perhaps he finds it: evil nature - like an element in the periodic table - embedded in every human being. But where there is an evil inclination, there is also the capacity for good. The reader encounters the full spectrum between these extremes - and must decide where they themselves stand.

"POWERFUL"

AMICHAI SHALEV

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Powerfully dramatic, with excellent pace, with a very tight storyline. Nothing in it is there by chance, and every moment is important to what came before it and what comes after. The pace! The pace! There's no unnecessary chapter."

"DO NOT MISS"

ABIGAIL COHEN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"This is a book that must not be missed. Written excellently, precisely, truthfully to the point of pain, and successfully achieves its goal, breathing life into those worn iron shoes on the banks of the Danube."

"MULTI FACETED"

ADI DEKEL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"This book is about evil, but equally about humanity. This book consists of many layers. For me, the book prompted reflection on the place of evil, as well as the place of goodness in one's heart."

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