



## A Tale of Love and Darkness

By Amos Oz

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**A Tale of Love and Darkness** By Amos Oz

**Winner of the National Jewish Book Award**

**International Bestseller**

"[An] ingenious work that circles around the rise of a state, the tragic destiny of a mother, a boy's creation of a new self." — *The New Yorker*

A family saga and a magical self-portrait of a writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lived through its turbulent history. *A Tale of Love and Darkness* is the story of a boy who grows up in war-torn Jerusalem, in a small apartment crowded with books in twelve languages and relatives speaking nearly as many. The story of an adolescent whose life has been changed forever by his mother's suicide. The story of a man who leaves the constraints of his family and community to join a kibbutz, change his name, marry, have children. The story of a writer who becomes an active participant in the political life of his nation. "One of the most enchanting and deeply satisfying books that I have read in many years." — *New Republic*

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**A Tale of Love and Darkness By Amos Oz Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. This memoir/family history brims over with riches: metaphors and poetry, drama and comedy, failure and success, unhappy marriages and a wealth of idiosyncratic characters. Some are lions of the Zionist movement—David Ben-Gurion (before whom a young Oz made a terrifying command appearance), novelist S.Y. Agnon, poet Saul Tchernikhovsky—others just neighbors and family friends, all painted lovingly and with humor. Though set mostly during the author's childhood in Jerusalem of the 1940s and '50s, the tale is epic in scope, following his ancestors back to Odessa and to Rovno in 19th-century Ukraine, and describing the anti-Semitism and Zionist passions that drove them with their families to Palestine in the early 1930s. In a rough, dusty, lower-middle-class suburb of Jerusalem, both of Oz's parents found mainly disappointment: his father, a scholar, failed to attain the academic distinction of his uncle, the noted historian Joseph Klausner. Oz's beautiful, tender mother, after a long depression, committed suicide when Oz (born in 1939) was 12. By the age of 14, Oz was ready to flee his book-crammed, dreary, claustrophobic flat for the freedom and outdoor life of Kibbutz Hulda. Oz's personal trajectory is set against the background of an embattled Palestine during WWII, the jubilation after the U.N. vote to partition Palestine and create a Jewish state, the violence and deprivations of Israel's war of independence and the months-long Arab siege of Jerusalem. This is a powerful, nimbly constructed saga of a man, a family and a nation forged in the crucible of a difficult, painful history.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

An international novelist of stature, Oz makes an assured leap to autobiography and is greeted with reverence and awe. Aware of the universality of his story, he enlists excerpts from the diaries of friends and relatives to provide a broader context. He also forgoes tying his narrative to a strict timeline, opting instead for a circular approach. Settings and characters bear the vibrant imprint of his descriptive skills. For all the praise, a few devil's advocates lurk out there—David Cesarini of *The Independent* calls the prose "dense ... almost liturgical"—but even he concedes that it's an impressive piece of work. It is rare for a fiction writer's life to be more dramatic than his novels, but such is the case with Oz.

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From [Booklist](#)

"Books filled our home," writes Oz, as he presents the first of many gorgeously detailed descriptions of the humble settings of his often-harrowing Jerusalem boyhood. The only child of multilingual, literature-loving parents, Oz was destined to be a writer, even though he harbored fantasies of a more overtly heroic life. In a memoir as effulgent as his fiction, this internationally celebrated, capacious, observant, and bedazzling writer unfurls the complex story of his fascinating family history, one that encompasses the heartbreaks of the Diaspora and the Holocaust, and brings to vivid life the violence, fury, fear, determination, and sorrow that brought Israel into being, and that set in motion the intractable conflicts that still rage today. But for all its acute anecdotal and philosophical parsing of the larger world, this generous, gracefully meandering, many voiced, eventful, gently funny, and often magical reminiscence revolves most around Oz's mother and her tragic death. A powerful story of the making of a writer on the scale of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Living to Tell the Tale* [BKL O 15 03], Oz's panoramic memoir enhances the history of literature and of Israel, and the literature of examined lives. *Donna Seaman*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Richard Morris:**

This book untitled A Tale of Love and Darkness to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by using online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

#### **Douglas Dossett:**

Can you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't ascertain book by its protect may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer could be A Tale of Love and Darkness why because the great cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

#### **Clarence Cobb:**

Reading a book to become new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to examine a book. When you learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, along with soon. The A Tale of Love and Darkness provide you with a new experience in examining a book.

#### **Elizabeth Rivera:**

This A Tale of Love and Darkness is completely new way for you who has attention to look for some information since it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this A Tale of Love and Darkness can be the light food for you personally because the information inside that book is easy to get by anyone. These books develop itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book variety for your better life along with knowledge.

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