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Awake in the Dark: Stories

Shira Nayman



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Bold and deeply affecting, *Awake in the Dark* is a provocative and haunting work of fiction about who we are and how we are formed by history. These luminous stories portray the contemporary lives of the children of Holocaust victims and perpetrators as they struggle with the legacy of their parents -- their questions of identity, family, and faith.

Awake in the Dark is peopled by characters embarking on journeys of self-discovery; they unearth the past and the secrets that shaped them. In "The House on Kronenstrasse," a woman returns to Germany to find her childhood home; in "The Porcelain Monkey," the shocking origins of an Orthodox Jewish woman's faith are revealed; in "The Lamp," the harrowing experiences of a young woman leave her with the perfect daughter and a strange light; and in "Dark Urgings of the Blood," a patient is convinced that she shares a disturbing history with her psychiatrist.

Rendered in clear, unaffected prose, Shira Nayman's powerful and heartbreaking collection explores the burden of history. *Awake in the Dark* is an illuminating and startling book about the disguises we don, the secrets we keep, and the consequences of our silences.

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