

Foreword Review

Kaddish: Before the Holocaust and After

Jane Yolen

Holy Cow! Press (Oct 12, 2021) Softcover \$16.95 (90pp) 978-0-9986010-9-0

Though her name evokes fabulism and dream-weaving, Jane Yolen is a literary renaissance woman. In this intimate, history-based poetry collection, she tackles the complicated subject of antisemitic persecution across the ages, and does so in a searing, haunting way. Notably, the collection also touches on the Israel-Palestine conflict, as well as the roles of women in Judaism, beginning with the first woman to be too easily cast aside: indomitable Lilith.

Slouching Towards Bethlehem "Israel Convicts a Palestinian Poet: for a poem they say incites violence and supports terror." -Unknown Headline

Yeats is crouched in his grave, preparing to turn over like meat on a spit. One more round and he is done.

Jerusalem, where King David wrote poems about politics and self-doubt has been cancelled. The Garden is closed for the millennium.

Lions no longer lie down with lambs, for all the psalmists are in prisons on one side of the Golan Heights or another.

I am waiting for the summons on my door, that invitation to prison, that long slouch to the old city, Bethlehem or D.C.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (July / August 2021)

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