



Reviews of Literature Titles for Adults

Gold, Nora. *Fields of Exile*. Toronto, ON: Dundurn, 2014. 424 pp. \$24.99. (9781459721463).

In *Fields of Exile*, Judith Gallanter, peace activist and Zionist, considers her time spent in Toronto, as her own personal exile. However, Judith discovers that the people and places in her life are not exactly as she thought they were.

On his deathbed, Judith's father asks her to remain in Canada to get her Master's Degree in Social Work. After reluctantly agreeing to do so, Judith resents being away from her friends and her work in peace activism while enjoying being around her cohorts in the MSW program at Dunhill College. However, Judith soon discovers that, except for a timid few, her professors and fellow students do not share her love for Israel and her fight against anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and freedom of speech. She is afraid to 'rock the boat' by speaking out against, what she considers, anti-Semitism that is masked as anti-Zionism.

Judith is a very conflicted person. She is attracted to men, such as the married Israeli, Moshe, who don't share her liberal political views yet who share her sexual passion. In Canada, she is reunited with a high school sweetheart, Bobby Kornblum, a politically conservative attorney, who disagrees with her politics yet waits, ever-so-patiently, for her to agree to marry him. She views her time in Canada and her relationship with Bobby as temporary. Isolated in the college environment, feeling ostracized by those who she trusted to be defenders of injustice and freedom of expression, Judith finds her only true allies to be Bobby and her politically ambivalent friend Cindy.

This book can be appreciated by people of all political and religious persuasions. Given the climate of anti-Israel hatred, this book is an excellent choice for book discussion clubs and interfaith and inter-political dialogue.

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