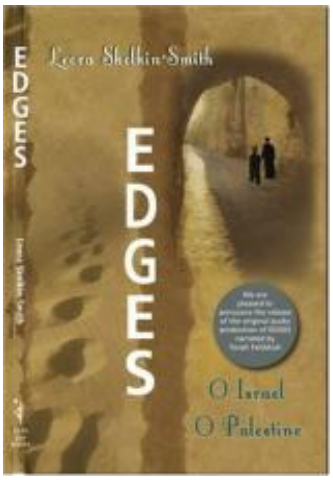
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Edges: O Israel, O Palestine

by Leora Skolkin-Smith



About the Book

Edges, was selected and edited by Grace Paley for Glad Day Books. Set in a pre-1967 Israel/Palestine **Edges** takes the reader to an Israel before high walls formed a border, when, instead, metal wires hung "like hosiery lines" across the land. Liana Barish is fourteen years old when the suicide of her American father forces her mother, mourning, in despair back to her family--to Jerusalem where she grew up. For Liana it is the place where the powerful interdependence of mother and daughter--physical and spiritual--ends. It is the place of her sexual awakening. Characters are drawn from Israel?s long-forgotten past, members of the 1940?s Haganah and Jewish underground who find themselves displaced amidst the chaotic and complex tensions of an Israel just beginning to modernize and expand

Discussion Guide

1. In the beginning of the novel, how would you describe Liana's feelings and attitude towards her mother? How do Liana's feelings about her mother change during the course of the novel?

2. How does the author use the physical geography of Israel as it relates to Liana's own personal growth? How do the rough and raw territories of pre-1967 Jerusalem play a role, reflecting Liana's inner battles? What is the significance of all the geographical boundaries or lack of boundaries of her mother's land?

3. Why do you think Skolkin-Smith chose to make Liana's lover an American diplomat?

4. After William leaves Liana, she decides to return to her mother and Jerusalem. Why doesn't she go to the police station to report the Arab boy's death in the forest? What does she fear? What does this tell us about her inner conflicts as well as the conflicts of the larger war?

Author Bio

Leora Skolkin-Smith's new novel HYSTERA is the winner of this year's Global E-Books Award. Hystera is published by Fiction Studio Books, Lou Aronica, Publisher.HYSTERA has also been awarded as a Finalist in Literary Fiction in the 2012 International Book Awards, and the National Indie Excellence Awards.

Ms. Skolkin-Smith was born in Manhattan in 1952, and spent her childhood between Pound Ridge, New York, and Israel, traveling with her family to her mother's birthplace in Jerusalem every three years. She earned her BA and MFA and was awarded a teaching fellowship for graduate work, all at Sarah Lawrence.

Her first published novel, EDGES was edited and published by the late Grace Paley for Ms. Paley's own imprint at Glad Day books. EDGES was nominated for the 2006 PEN/Faulkner Award by Grace Paley. Recently, her work has been chosen by Princeton University and the Department of the Humanities for their series: "Fertile Crescent Moon: Stories from the Middle East Diaspora."

THE FRAGILE MISTRESS, a feature film based on EDGES, is currently in pre-production, scheduled to begin shooting on location in Jerusalem, Jordan, and New York, produced by Triboro Pictures, directed by Michael Gunther. http://www.thefragilemistress.com

Excerpts from HYSTERA were first published by Persea Books, and recently appeared in The Hamilton Stone Review. Recent publications include a piece from THE FRAGILE MISTRESS, which appeared in Guernica Magazine in 2010.

She was recently a panelist, at MAINE READS, The Haitian Cultural International Book Festival, The Miami International Book Fair, The Virginia Festival of the Book, and The National Women's Association. She is currently a contributing editor to readysteadybook.com. and her critical essays have been published in The Washington Post, The National Book Critic's Circle's Critical Mass, Conversational Reading, the Quarterly Review, and other places.

Critical Praise

"**Edges** is a novel "told with restraint and poetic precision, ...memorable (for the) the sense of place that Ms. Skolkin-Smith has achieved -- the sunny and scary Jerusalem and countryside -- and the hope, love, hate and fatalism of the groups, Palestinian and Israeli, living amongst and apart from each other..."

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