

## Parallel Narratives: Stories of Lives Lived Together and Apart

Dr. Miryam Sivan, University of Haifa



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Stories both reflect and mold our world. They enable us to process and make meaning from experience. Whether meant to be read alone, aloud, performed, or watched on stage or screen, stories are windows that allow us to peer into, and make contact with, a particular society. Engaging with contemporary stories by Israeli Jewish and Palestinian writers and film directors – with the parallel narratives that emerge from these communities – creates an opportunity to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the country's complex history. These texts invite readers and viewers to enter into multifaceted dimensions of identity, community, and place.

**Dr. Miryam Sivan** teaches literature and writing at the University of Haifa and has published scholarly articles on American and Israeli writers, and a book-length study on Cynthia Ozick's fiction. She is also a fiction writer and many of her stories are about the experiences of expats in love, in flux, in the liminal space between cultures, languages, and historical epochs. Sivan is the author of the short fiction collection, *SNAFU and Other Stories* (2014) and a novel, *Make it Concrete* (2019). Sivan's most recent novel, *Love Match*, will be published in June 2024.

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