

OUR HOLOCAUST

By Amir Gutfruend

Translated by Jessica Cohen

First published in Hebrew by Kinneret, 2001

English translation published by The Toby Press, 2006

ABOUT THE BOOK:

This novel is the story of Amir and his cousin Effi, two Israeli children growing up in the Haifa suburbs in the 1970s who try to make sense of the impact of the Holocaust on their family. The children of survivors, Amir and Effi are repeatedly told that they are not “Old Enough” to understand what went on “Over There.” But the cousins are obsessed with understanding: They read library books, ask questions, snoop around, and read old letters, piecing together whatever they can. Their primary sources of information include an eccentric circle of relatives and acquaintances: penny-pinching Grandpa Lolek, Attorney Perl of the hardware store, and Gershon Klima the sewer cleaner. As time passes, Amir and Effi pursue their own lives: Amir gets married and has a son of his own, and Effi goes on to become a doctor. This book, which flashes forward and back between childhood and adulthood, offers a penetrating exploration of the impact of the Shoah on Israeli society and on childhood consciousness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amir Gutfruend was born in Haifa in 1963. After studying applied mathematics at the Technion, he joined the Israeli Air Force. *Our Holocaust* was his first novel. It was awarded the Buchman Prize by Yad Vashem. His second novel, *Shoreline Mansions*, won the Sapir Prize in 2003, and his third novel, *The World, a Little Later*, was recently published in Israel. Gutfreund lives in the Galilee with his wife, a clinical psychologist, and their two children.

