



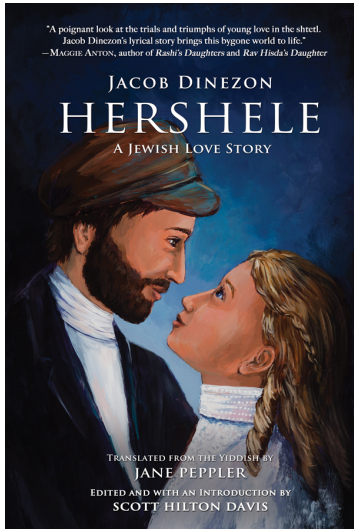
## JEWISH STORYTELLER PRESS

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*For Immediate Release*



### **HERSHELE** **A Jewish Love Story**

**Author:** Jacob Dinezon

**Translator:** Jane Pepler

**Editor:** Scott Hilton Davis

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**Media Contact:** Scott Davis

[scott@jewishstorytellerpress.com](mailto:scott@jewishstorytellerpress.com)

919-676-7881

### **HERSHELE** **A Jewish Love Story**

“A poignant look at the trials and triumphs of young love in the shtetl.”

**Maggie Anton**, author of *Rashi's Daughters*

**Raleigh, NC** — In 1891, the Yiddish writer Jacob Dinezon crafted a tender love story exploring the budding romance between two young people separated by class and tradition. This compelling fable, created with equal measures of hope and despair, charmed his many readers, but until recently has remained inaccessible to modern audiences.

*Hershele*, the third of Dinezon's books now published in English by Jewish Storyteller Press, is the bittersweet love story of Hershele and Mirele—he a penniless yeshiva student with no family, she the lovely daughter of a widow who provides a weekly charity meal to poor students. Their unlikely meeting spawns a strong attraction that gradually overcomes the powerful obstacles of social norms and class status. But determined forces are arrayed against them and their first tentative steps toward modernity are challenged at every turn.

*Hershele* is at once a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of Eastern European Jews in the late 19th century, and the extremely personal and poignant story of two young lovers trapped in the realities of the clash between existing traditions and social change. It is simultaneously an historical novel and a timeless tale of romance. In its own way, *Hershele* is the Romeo and Juliet story of the shtetl.

**Jacob Dinezon** (1851?-1919) was a central figure in 19th century Eastern European Jewish literary circles. Called “the Father of the Jewish Realistic Romance” by literary historians, he was a contemporary of such leading Yiddish writers as Sholem Aleichem (author of the Tevye stories) and I. L. Peretz (master of the Jewish short story).

**Jane Pepler** is an award-winning singer and musician, musical historian, and Yiddish translator. She has translated Yiddish stories by Sholem Aleichem and Mendele Moykher Sforim, and completed English translations of three Jacob Dinezon novels: *Hershele: A Jewish Love Story*, *Yosele: A Story from Jewish Life*, and *Alter*.

**Scott Hilton Davis** is a life-long storyteller, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, author, and collector of Jewish short stories from 19th century Eastern Europe. Over the past decade, he has commissioned English translations of four books by Jacob Dinezon and established a website devoted to this once-famous and beloved Yiddish writer's life and career at [www.jacobdinezon.com](http://www.jacobdinezon.com).

**Jewish Storyteller Press** was founded in 2007 to bring the works of 19th century Jewish writers to 21st century readers. Learn more at [www.jewishstorytellerpress.com](http://www.jewishstorytellerpress.com).