



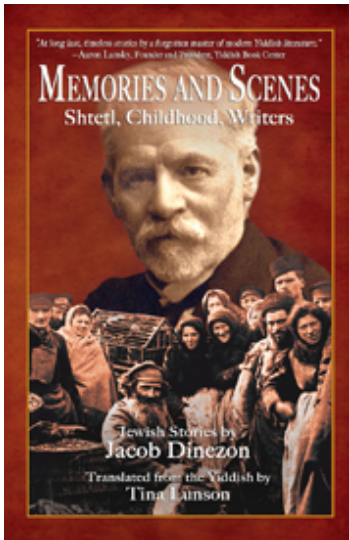
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## **MEMORIES AND SCENES: SHTETL, CHILDHOOD, WRITERS**

### **First-Ever Translation of Yiddish Stories By Forgotten Jewish Author, Jacob Dinezon**

**Raleigh, NC** — In August of 2014, the English-speaking world received access to a short-story collection by the once-beloved author Jacob Dinezon, a central figure in the development of Yiddish as a literary language at the turn of the 20th century.

This profound and delightful collection translated from the Yiddish by Tina Lunson, paints a vivid portrait of life in the small shtetl towns of Eastern Europe. Amid poverty and strict adherence to Jewish law and customs, Dinezon's characters struggle to reconcile their heartfelt impulses with strict religious teachings and social norms.

In *Memories and Scenes: Shtetl, Childhood, Writers*, a humble tailor finds the courage to speak out against poverty and inequality from the contents of an old whiskey flask. The life of an orphan boy is thrown into turmoil by the relentless pressure of a matchmaker. An old Torah teacher, shunned by the community for his interest in modern mathematics, comes to understand the poetic beauty of nature from his artistic student. And an entire town is thrown into chaos by the antics of a sacred community goat.

Dinezon's poignant and provocative characters paint a vivid portrait of late 19th century Eastern European shtetl life and provide readers with a treasure trove of Jewish history, culture and values.

**Jacob Dinezon** (1851?-1919), called "The Greatest Yiddish Writer You Never Heard Of" by the *Jewish Daily Forward*, was an important figure in 19th century Eastern European Jewish literary circles. Credited with writing the first "Jewish Realistic Romance" and the first bestselling Yiddish novel, Dinezon was closely associated with the leading Jewish writers of his day, including Sholem Abramovitsh (Mendele Mocher Sforim), Sholem Aleichem, and I. L. Peretz—dubbed the "Classic Writers of Modern Yiddish Literature." Dinezon focused on the emotional conflicts affecting young people as modern ideas challenged traditional religious practices and social norms. The plight of his characters frequently brought tears to the eyes of his ardent readers.

**Tina Lunson** is the former administrative director and senior consultant to the Vilnius Program in Yiddish Language and Literature at Vilnius University in Lithuania. She has worked with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a consultant, researcher and translator.

**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).

### **MEMORIES AND SCENES Shtetl, Childhood, Writers**

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**Translator:** Tina Lunson

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