



JEWISH STORYTELLER PRESS

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For Immediate Release



THE DARK YOUNG MAN Bestselling Yiddish Novel Now in English

A bestseller upon its publication in 1877, Jacob Dinezon's debut novel, *The Dark Young Man*, is considered the first Jewish realistic romance. Dinezon, called "The Greatest Yiddish Writer You Never Heard Of" by the *Forward*, was a leading figure in Jewish literary circles at the turn of the 20th century. Now, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Dinezon's 1919 death in Warsaw, Jewish Storyteller Press is publishing the first English translation of *The Dark Young Man*.

Infusing European literary realism into a Russian-Jewish love story, *The Dark Young Man* relates the efforts of a ruthless husband determined to preserve his authority over his wife's family by destroying the reputation of her younger sister's prospective bridegroom. Shady matchmakers and criminal intrigues conspire to keep the young lovers apart.

The novel evokes themes familiar to readers of Dinezon's more famous colleagues and friends Sholem Aleichem and I. L. Peretz: disparities between rich and poor, the impact of modernity on religious traditions, and the challenges of assimilation on Jewish identity.

Suspenseful and bittersweet, *The Dark Young Man* offers those new to Dinezon's work an excellent introduction. For readers already aware of Dinezon's significance to the Jewish literary canon, the availability of this novel in English provides a meaningful and timely offering.

Jacob Dinezon (1851?-1919) was a leading figure in 19th-century Eastern European Jewish literary circles. He was a successful novelist with 11 volumes in his collected works, a staunch advocate for Yiddish as a literary language, and a social-welfare activist and reformer.

Tina Lunson, translator, is the former administrative director to the Vilnius Program in Yiddish Language and Literature in Lithuania. She worked with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum as a researcher and translator, and consulted on two Holocaust-era films. Her English translations include Jacob Dinezon's *Memories and Scenes: Shtetl, Childhood, Writers*, Holocaust memorial books, and personal diaries and correspondence.

Scott Hilton Davis, adapter and editor, is an author and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker. For the past 15 years, he has worked to bring English translations of Jacob Dinezon's novels into the 21st-century. His books include *Souls Are Flying! A Celebration of Jewish Stories* and *Chanukah Tales from Oykvetchnik*.

Jewish Storyteller Press was founded in 2007 to bring the works of 19th-century Jewish writers to 21st-century readers. For more information, please visit www.jewishstorytellerpress.com.

THE DARK YOUNG MAN

(*Der shvartser yungermantshik*)

Author: Jacob Dinezon

Translator: Tina Lunson

Adapter/Editor: Scott Hilton Davis

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