

An encounter with a strange, bearded man on a motorcycle foretells a journey of redemption for Amir, an Israeli ex-paratrooper who is a veteran of two Middle East wars and the first Intifada. His marriage and his relationship with his troubled daughter both fraying, he secretly longs to parachute again, but worries that his life in Los Angeles has made him go soft, too weak to return to the skies. One rainy afternoon, he finds respite in a restaurant run by expatriate Israelis. There, he finds an unlikely friend in Rosenberg, an elderly Holocaust survivor who makes his living conducting funerals. Estranged from his own family, Rosenberg makes the rounds of convalescent homes and mortuaries, picking up lonely strangers like wounded birds. When Amir's daughter is implicated in a shooting, Rosenberg becomes Amir's spiritual compass as the two come to terms with devastating events long buried in their pasts.



Photographs by Talia Krygier.

Born in Tel-Aviv, **Leora Krygier** is a writer and a Referee with the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. She has been a writer for the Los Angeles Daily Journal and was a finalist in the Ernest Hemingway First Novel Competition, the James Fellowship for First Novels and the William Faulkner Writing Competition. Ms. Krygier lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

"**First The Raven** is a first novel by Leora Krygier, but you would have not guessed it as the sheer warmth, freshness and mastery of narrative suggest firm familiarity and ease in portraying complex, yet engrossing and captivating characters who spring right from the printed page. A spiritual and moving piece."

*John Bernstein, Ph.D.
Professor of Film and Television
Boston University*

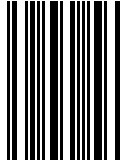
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