



New Vessel Press

ALEXANDRIAN SUMMER by Yitzhak Gormezano Goren

A Reading Group Guide



1. What role does horse racing play in the novel and what is its significance?
2. David Hamdi-Ali is a Jewish jockey. What's unusual about that and what demands does it place upon him?
3. What is the importance of food in the lives of the main characters?
4. What kind of relationship do the Alexandrian Jews in this book have with Israel before the fall of Egyptian King Farouk?
5. Discuss the erotic undertones of the book.
6. How are Jewish-Muslim relations portrayed and how do these develop over the course of the novel?
7. In what ways do the siblings in the book differ and how does this play out in the narrative?
8. Discuss the role of servants and how they are treated.
9. André Aciman writes in the introduction that “*Alexandrian Summer* is a return to a mythical past, to a lost paradise that was not really a paradise but that, being lost, has, over the years, acquired all the makings of one.” Do you agree that Yitzhak Gormezano Goren regards his childhood in Egypt as a lost paradise?
10. Would he be justified in doing so?

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