

Krakoff, Jere. Something Is Rotten in Fettig. August, Ga. Anaphora Literary Press, 2015. 265 pp. \$20.00. (9781681141978). Jere Krakoff spent many years as a civil rights attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project. The things he discovered and the people he met doing this work inspired him to write a novel. *Something Is Rotten in Fettig* tells the story of Leopold Plotkin, a gifted kosher butcher who has a hard time making ends meet. He also hates conflict, so he blindly obeys his father, who gives very bad advice. This advice leads to an arrest for a crime against the government. A Secret Blind Jury indicts him and he ends up in the Purgatory House of Detention with assorted lunatics and criminals. The prosecution judge, jury, and prosecutor are convinced of his guilt before the trial starts. Plotkin expects the worst, but there are surprises. Readers will enjoy this humorous trip through absurdity. The author has drawn caricatures of some of the characters to enhance the story. He also provides a list of characters at the beginning to help readers keep track of the large cast. The story is especially relevant given the current challenges to civil rights. The author's gift for satire and his well-defined characters demonstrate "Tzedek, tzedek tirdof" This is an excellent choice for book clubs and anyone who enjoys stories in the tradition of Shalom Aleichem.

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