



Off the Shelf

# Alternative views of World War II

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

What if? That's the question that drives almost all fiction. Authors wonder what would happen if a person fell in love or moved halfway across the world or just decided to drive by a different route to work one day. However, another version of this question serves as the impetus for the alternative history genre. For example, what if the South won the Civil War? What if technology were more advanced during the French revolution? What if someone used time travel to prevent John F. Kennedy from being assassinated? Some of these stories stray into fantasy or science fiction, but not all. Two recent works of alternative history try very hard to adhere to historical reality – except for one or two vital changes. While Guy Saville's "The Madagaskar Plan" (Henry Holt and Company) posits a world where Nazi Germany transported European Jews to Madagaskar, an island off the coast of Africa, rather than sending them to concentration camps, "The Ambassador" by Yehuda Avner and Matt Rees ((The Toby Press) suggests what might have occurred if Israel became a state in 1937, rather than in 1948.

"The Madagaskar Plan" opens in 1952 to a world where Great Britain and Germany signed a peace agreement af-

## Refugee. . . Continued from page 1

people from all walks of life – different nationalities [and] religions – that came for one purpose: humanitarian aid."

By giving the presentation, she hopes to help spread awareness of the problems, clear up misconceptions and potentially inspire more volunteerism. "I think people will be more aware of what is really happening [and] they could maybe contribute or their perspective will change," she said. "I'm in hope people will see things as they are, not as they're portrayed in the media." She admitted that her idea to actually volunteer to work in Greece was unusual. "I wouldn't expect people to go and take a plane and fly to Greece or fly to Europe and help refugees," she said. "I think it's a big leap that I took. But I'd like to see people more engaged in this, or that people will donate or understand the crisis... If people can help in any way that would be great, but if you don't have the means to help or do something about it, just spread the word out there and understand better the situation."

ter the Germans destroyed British forces at Dunkirk. (In real life, most of the troops were successfully evacuated.) Although the British empire and Nazi Germany divided most of Africa between the two countries, tensions remain as each side jockeys for power. The United States has remained strictly isolationist during these events, although American Jews are pressuring the government about the Nazis' treatment of the Jews in Madagascar. (In real life, the Nazis considered making Madagascar a Jewish settlement before deciding the plan wasn't feasible.) Since "The Madagaskar Plan" is the second book in "The Afrika Reich" trilogy, this information is given in the opening pages so readers (like myself) who haven't read the first novel will be able to follow the action.

The plot centers on conflicting British and Nazi plans for Africa. Although technically not at war, each vies for control of the continent. At the same time, the Nazis seek a final solution to the Jewish problem, even as they pretend the island of Madagascar will be a new homeland for the Jews, rather than a place to die. The British want to help the emerging Jewish resistance effort and blackmail Reuben Salois, one of the only Jews ever to escape from Madagascar, to return and lead the rebellion. Salois hopes his effort will force the U.S. to declare war on Germany so the Nazis can be defeated. British mercenary Burton Cole, on the other hand, travels to Madagascar for personal reasons: to rescue his Jewish lover, Madelene Cranley, whose British husband sent her to the island as a punishment for infidelity. Several Nazis also play an important role in the action, including Obergruppenführer Walter Hochburg, who seeks Cole's death for reasons based on their common past. The wide-ranging cast of characters – British, German and Jewish – all have conflicting agendas.

While "The Madagaskar Plan" veers greatly from recorded history, "The Ambassador" hews closer to reality. What does change is British actions in the Middle East: after English troops leave Palestine, the League of Nations votes to create the state of Israel in 1937. When Israel wins its War of Independence (like the state did in 1948), David Ben Gurion – who, as in real life, was elected as Israel's first prime minister – appoints Dan Lavi as its ambassador to Berlin before the formal start of World War II. Lavi's mandate is to help as many Jews as possible escape from

Germany. In order to get permission for these Jews to leave, he must work with high level Nazi officials whose contempt for him and Israel is obvious. His position is controversial – both at home and in Europe. Will he be accused of fraternizing with Nazis – wasting his time while they plan the destruction of the European Jewish community? Should he support Mossad, whose members want to assassinate Hitler? As events progress, Lavi must decide the best path to help his country and his people. The question becomes whether or not saving the lives of others will come at great personal expense.

While it would have been interesting to read either of these novels on their own, reading them together was a fascinating experience. One or two changes in historical fact created very different worlds, something that is the underlying basis of the alternative history genre. Although the focus of "The Ambassador" is on Jewish history, the reality of the Nazis' hatred of Jews is also clearly shown in "The Madagaskar Plan." The range of the novels also differs. This is mainly due to plot considerations: "The Madagaskar Plan" is set across parts of England and Africa. The majority of "The Ambassador" occurs in Berlin, although some action is located in Israel. Both works contain a multitude of characters – some well-rounded and others more stereotypical. However, since the emphases in both is on plot rather than character development, that didn't distract from my enjoyment.

These novels are aimed at fans of alternative histories, although they will also appeal to readers of action novels. "The Madagaskar Plan" is the more difficult to read due to its dense, rich prose and its many descriptions of place – particularly in those sections taking place in Africa – which also makes it the more literary work. "The Ambassador" moves faster due to fewer descriptions and more dialogue. While I didn't feel much emotional response during the course of either book, I was surprised by my reaction to their endings. "The Madagaskar Plan" made me understand the deep feeling of revenge that has to be the focus of book three in the series, while the epilogue of "The Ambassador" brought tears to my eyes. It's difficult to recommend one over the other because it depends on one's personal preference. However, reading them together gave me far more to contemplate about the nature of history than reading either alone.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Jerod Terry Music LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/4/16. Office location: Broome County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jerod Terry, 510 Mersereau Ave., Endicott, NY 13760. General purpose.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: Eric T. Booth Carpentry & Cabinet Making, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/1/16. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORELIFE EATERY FRANCHISOR, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/10/16. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

BCD, LLC (the "Company")

Dated: February 17, 2016

Pursuant to LLCL §206, notice is hereby given of the formation of the Company for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is BCD, LLC.

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 9, 2016.

3. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County.

4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to the Company at 1025 Reynolds #E203, Johnson City, New York 13790.

5. The character or purposes of the business of the Company is for any lawful business purpose except one for which a statute requires some other business entity or natural person to be formed or used.

Notice of Formation of Hermes Land Holdings LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/10/16. Office Location: Broome County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom service of process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Peter J. Kelly, 100 Patterson Plank Road, Unit 326, Jersey City, NJ 07307. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY:** The name of the limited liability company is: QUALITY LAWN CARE SERVICE, LLC (the "Company"). The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was February 19, 2016. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process

against the Company, to Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, Attn: James W. Orband, 80 Exchange Street, Suite 700, Binghamton, NY 13901. The purpose of the business of the Company is any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORE of Strongsville, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/2/15. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORE of Greece, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/9/15. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORE of Vestal, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/28/15. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

To place a legal notice, contact Bonnie at 724-2360, ext. 244 or [bonnie@thereporter.org](mailto:bonnie@thereporter.org)

NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORE of Clarence, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/15/15. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: CORE of Henrietta, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/15/15. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: South West of Centerville 6.7, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/22/16. Office location: Broome County. SSNY designated LLC agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC, Attn: John G. Dowd, PO Box 1905, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Date of dissolution: None.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

1. The name of the limited liability company ("LLC") is MelJons Farms, LLC.

2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is February 26, 2016.

3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.

4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: 94 Windsor House Road, Windsor, New York 13865.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

### NOTICE OF FORMATION

Lake Road Advisors LLC (LLC). Application for Authority accepted by New York Secretary of State (SSNY) 2/17/2016. Jurisdiction: Delaware. Organization date: 1/28/2016. LLC principal office located in Broome County, NY at 37 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. SSNY designated agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of process served against LLC to 37 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905. Authorized officer in Delaware where copy of Certificate of Formation is filed: Division of Corporations, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose of LLC is to engage in any activity authorized by Delaware law.

Court and Olympia LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/27/13. Office location: Broome County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, P.O. Box 10-0809, Brooklyn, NY 11210. General purpose.

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