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HOLD ON TO THE SUN
Michal Govrin
Edited by Judith G. Miller
Including an interview with the author

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The Feminist Press is delighted to publish an exuberant new collection by Michal Govrin, who was recently named by Paris' Salon du Livre one of the most influential international writers of the past thirty years. Govrin's previous works include *The Name*, which received the Kugel Literary Prize in Israel and was nominated for the Koret Jewish Book Award, and *Snapshots*, which was awarded the 2003 Acum Prize for the Best Literary Achievement of the Year.

Hold On the Sun, a collection of fiction and autobiographical stories, spans her life as a writer. She gains inspiration from her life in Paris as a student. She visits Poland, where her mother had survived a death camp, after she learns that her mother had not been alone. She lost her first husband and eight-year-old son, and kept the deaths a secret from her daughter for many years. Throughout these essays and stories, Govrin explores sudden fractures in the flow of reality that reveal the mystical moments of revelation underlying daily life. She plumbs the depths of fear and denial, and finds hopes in the most unlikely moments.

This edition concludes with an interview exploring Govrin's technique, spirituality, and feminism—adding context, history, and personal details about this major writer whose work and technique are informed by her experience as a woman, a Jew, an Israeli.

Born in Tel Aviv, **Michal Govrin** is the daughter of an Israeli pioneer father and a mother who survived the Holocaust. After obtaining her Ph.D. in theater studies from the University of Paris, Govrin moved back to Israel where she became one of the country's most prominent writers, an award-winning poet, and a theater director. Govrin has published nine books of poetry and fiction.

Editor Judith G. Miller is a professor and former chair of French at New York University. She has written extensively on French and Francophone theatre, including a recent book on theatre director Ariane Mnouchkine. She also translates plays from the French, most recently excerpts of plays by Hélène Cixous (with an introductory essay) for Columbia University Press.

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Praise for *Hold on to the Sun*:

"This is a strong, brave, and ever-shifting book – essays that trace the powerful narratives of family, history and memory, and stories that swirl mystically out of history and into dazzling floods of wonder."—Don DeLillo, author of *White Noise*

"Govrin raises an image of a world utterly different from the one we know. Her book joins the few serious ones that use artistic means to face the unspeakable."—Aharon Appelfeld, author of *Badenheim 1939*

"Govrin is a learned, passionate author. Her writing is dominated by impossible choices: to be bound to ancient customs, to make love to the enemy, to be part of the larger community, to reach inside and outside time."—David Shapiro, author of *David Shapiro: New and Selected Poems, 1965-2006*

"In all of these stories Govrin exercises magic, or hypnosis...."—Benny Ziffer

"Some of the stories are like minimalist sketches, and others present a broader picture of the world. In all of them, long and short, the writer's scrupulous attention to style is evident. She is aware of the power of words and takes pains to model her prose with precision."—Keshet

Praise for *The Name*:

"...a writer of no small talent."—Publishers Weekly

"Wrenching...beautifully written."—Barbara Hoffert, *Library Journal*

"A fascinating story of Jewish mysticism and erotic intensity"—Grace Schulman

Hold on to the Sun
By Michal Govrin
Edited by Judith G. Miller
Paperback: \$16.95
ISBN: 978-1-55861-673-8
Publication: October 2010