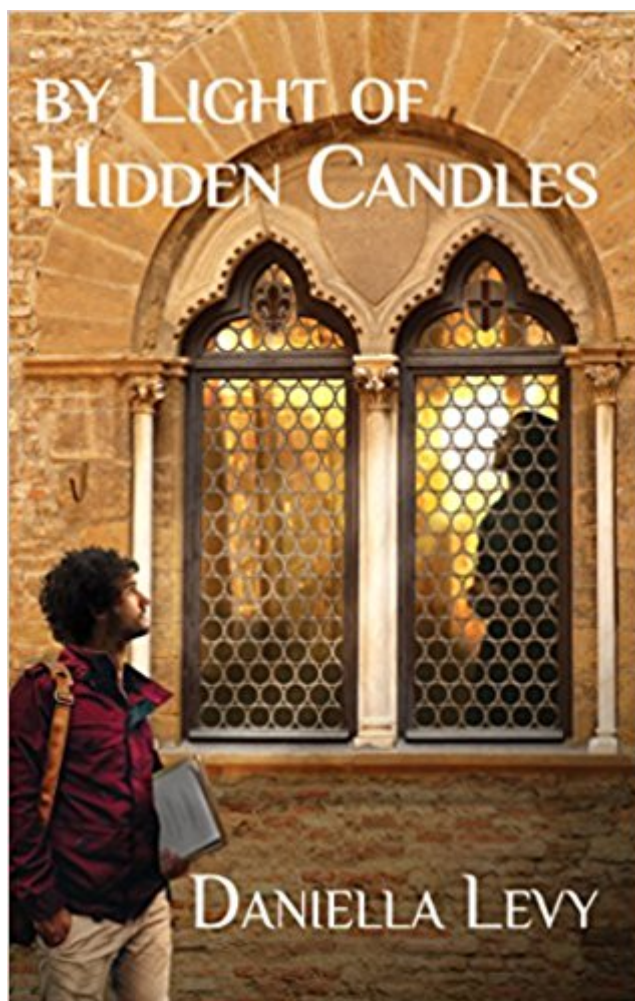


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By Light Of Hidden Candles



Synopsis

In a mud hut in the Jewish Quarter of 16th-century Fez, a dying woman hands her granddaughter a heavy gold ring--and an even heavier secret. Five hundred years later, Alma Ben-Ami journeys to Madrid to fulfill her ancestor's final wish. She has recruited an unlikely research partner: Manuel Aguilar, a young Catholic Spaniard whose beloved priest always warned him about getting too friendly with Jews. As their quest takes them from Greenwich Village to the windswept mountain fortresses of southern Spain, their friendship deepens and threatens to cross boundaries sacred to them both; and what they finally discover in the Spanish archives will force them to confront the truth about who they are and what their faiths mean to them. At times humorous, at times deeply moving, this beautifully written and meticulously researched book will appeal to anyone interested in the history of Inquisition-era Spain, Sephardic Jews, or falling in love. "A well-researched and engaging debut - *By Light of Hidden Candles* is an enchanting read!" - Barbara Stark-Nemon, author of multiple-award-winner *Even in Darkness*

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Customer Reviews

"Daniella Levy's first historical novel, *By Light of Hidden Candles*, includes many attractive aspects: main characters who transcend our expectations, a mystery originating in Inquisition-era Spain and Morocco, a touch of chaste romance, and a whiff of magical realism. Alma Ben-Ami doesn't quite fit the stereotype of the contemporary religious Jewish girl in New York: with a healthy dose of sass and spunk, she confidently claims her religious observance while taking risks to forge an independent path and fulfill a mission passed down through the centuries by the women in her family. She partners in this effort with a young Spanish student with his own family mysteries

to solve; add to the mix the fact that he is a Catholic considering the priesthood, and the plot complications multiply. Moving back and forth in time throughout the novel, Levy respectfully navigates the sensitivities of religious boundaries, the delicacies of falling in love, the demands of family honor and loyalty, and the complicated history through which the generations of characters in the book travel. She evokes the rich legacy of Sephardic Jewish Spain, leading her young characters to meaningful, life-affirming answers. A well-researched and engaging debut, *By Light of Hidden Candles* is an enchanting read." - Barbara Stark-Nemon, author of multiple award winner *Even in Darkness* "Engaging characters, a 500-year-old family mystery, and romance - what more could a reader want? I had a hard time putting it down!" - Maggie Anton, award-winning author of the *Rashi's Daughters* trilogy "A shiny gem of a novel that seamlessly explores the harrowing history of the Spanish Inquisition with the very contemporary quest of two university students to resolve the mysteries of their families indelibly scarred across centuries by religious persecution. The unexpected twists, roadblocks and triumphs are an inspiration to all amateur genealogists who have sought to unravel their own family sagas." - Doreen Carvajal, author of *The Forgetting River*

Daniella Levy is a mother of three, rabbi's wife, writer, translator, self-defense instructor, bridal counselor, black belt in karate, and certified medical clown -- and she still can't decide what to be when she grows up. She is the author of *Letters to Josep: An Introduction to Judaism*, and her articles, short fiction, and poetry have been published in both English and Hebrew in popular and literary magazines such as *Writer's Digest*, *Pnima Magazine*, *Reckoning*, *Newfound*, *Rathalla Review*, and the *Jewish Literary Journal*, as well as online platforms such as *Kveller*, *Aish.com*, *JWire*, *Ynet News*, and *Hevria*, and in the international poetry collection *Veils, Halos & Shackles*.

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