

JEWISH BOOK WORLD

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THE MIRACLE LETTERS OF T. RIMBERG

Geoff Herbach

Three Rivers Press, 2008. 320 pp. \$14.00 (pbk.)

ISBN: 978-0-307-39637-2 (pbk.)

Told in letters, journal entries, and interview transcripts, *The Miracle Letters of T.*

Rimberg chronicles the (supposedly) last year in the life of "a skittish part-Jew who grew up underachieving in a small Midwestern town." After messing up in nearly every aspect of his life, T Rimberg is planning to kill himself. He's not sure exactly how, but in preparation and desperation, he writes letters to all the people in his life: his brother, his young children, high school teachers, Julia Child Then a letter comes addressed to T; his estranged father has died and left him a large inheritance. T begins a journey from Minneapolis, to Antwerp to Warsaw. He eventually ends up in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Along the way he discovers a side of his father he never knew. Though Herbach's debut novel ventures into clichéd plot territory and would not be categorized as Jewish literature, *The Miracle Letters'* true strength lies in the voice of its not-always-lovable, imperfect narrator. **JBH**

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