

PRESS RELEASE

***Of Winter's Cost*: New Novel by Geoff Akers Fuses the Troubles of Modern Israel with One Man's Memories of his Father.**

Taking readers on a journey from Warsaw's World War Two ghetto to the modern-day disputes of the West Bank Territories, 'Of Winter's Cost' is a literary adventure with an emotional, personal undertone and a powerful reminder of the fragility of peace in the Middle East.

Edinburgh, United Kingdom – Following the success of his first novel, 'Beating for Light', Scottish author, Geoff Akers is delighted to announce the launch of his second book, 'Of Winter's Cost'.

The book's synopsis is a journey of emotion, history and truth.

"Sam is a confused and troubled young man. He wants to follow the path ordained by his father and the other settlers living on the dangerous West Bank. He wants to be part of the approaching Time of Redemption, when Jews will rule sovereign over all the peoples of the world, but is haunted by his grandfather's tales from the Shoah, and disturbed by the vicious tactics employed by his comrades against their Arab neighbours.

His doubt increases when he finds himself part of an elite religious unit battling the forces of 'evil' deep inside the Territories. As the scales fall away, he realises that the erstwhile victims of anti-Semitism have now become the victimisers in an increasingly bitter struggle for land.

The novel launches an uncompromising attack on all forms of racism – whether instigated by the Nazis during the Second World War, or Jewish fundamentalists in modern-day Palestine. The heroes are a survivor of the Shoah, who finds it in his heart to forgive the enemies of his people, and a young man struggling against the odds to discover where his true loyalties lie.

Of Winter's Cost is a brave attempt to shed light on facts concealed or deliberately ignored in the aftermath of the Holocaust."

Split among eleven chapters and rich with true-to-life historical details, the book ultimately asks the reader to choose between two future scenarios for the troubled region – a future of hope and rejuvenation, or a future of death and destruction.

Tony Benn described *Of Winter's Cost* as "a very powerful book skilfully drawing on the experience of a Jewish family, first in the Warsaw Ghetto and then on the West Bank" He added that "the way in which the novel draws the contrasts and parallels between the Jews as oppressed and the Jew as oppressor will strike many chords in the reader."

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Akers' first release, '*Beating for Light*' – *the story of Isaac Rosenberg*, received a number of favourable reviews. Martin Bell commenting on the tragically short life of the poet said that "Isaac Rosenberg was one of the great soldier poets of the First World War. Unlike Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, Edmund Blunden and Robert Graves, he was not an officer but a private soldier. He was also Jewish. He died

obscurely in the German offensive of March 1918. I hope that this illuminating book will help restore him to a deserved position of honour and equality with the others

BBC's Andrew Marr added that the novel's "great theme and taut story telling" contributed significantly to its success.

Scotland on Sunday wrote that, "Akers uses a number sources and datum points and joins the dots skilfully with his own prose. The dialogue, the characterisation, the action the sex: these are all fleshed out by the imagination of the author".

The Herald added, "Akers' elegiac biography of the young poet included much of his work. Hopefully, this powerful retelling of the story of a Jewish man who died at 28 will elevate his status."

Information about both books and how to purchase them can be found on the author's official website: <http://www.juniperbooks.net>

About the Author:

Geoff Akers was born in Peebles, Scotland in 1954, and studied at Aberdeen University, where his interest in modern history and literature was fostered. He became particularly interested in poetry written during the First and Second World Wars and focused his honour's dissertation on the work of Wilfred Owen and Isaac Rosenberg. He taught English, History and drama for over fifteen years before giving up to become a full-time novelist. To date, he has written three novels – including *Beating for Light* – and a number of short stories. His third novel is centred on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Geoff is a keen traveller and photographer and has been to many countries throughout the world. He also loves walking and cycling in the hills of Scotland.

Geoff is married and lives in Edinburgh with his wife, Fiona, and Breeta, his black lab retriever.