

Ayelet Tsabari

Writer in Residence

Memoir, fiction and creative non-fiction

February through May, 2018

Toronto Reference Library



[Jonathan Bloom, Photographer]

Are you an aspiring writer? Join Ayelet Tsabari, award-winning author of *The Best Place on Earth*, as she leads workshops, gives presentations and an interview, hosts panel discussions, and provides one-on-one appointments.

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Ayelet Tsabari's debut story collection *The Best Place on Earth*, won the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, and was long listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. The book was a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2016, and has been published internationally to great acclaim. Her memoir in essays, *The Art of Leaving*, is due to be published in 2019 with HarperCollins Canada. Excerpts from the book have already won a National Magazine Award, a Western Magazine Award, and an Edna Staebler Award. She has also won a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, and is currently working on a novel, also under contract with HarperCollins Canada.

Ms. Tsabari was born in Israel to a large family of Yemeni descent. She grew up in a suburb of Tel Aviv, and travelled extensively throughout South East Asia, Europe and North America. In 1998 Ayelet moved to Vancouver, Canada, where she studied film and photography in Capilano University's Media Program. She directed two documentary films, one of which won an award at the Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films. She wrote her first story in English in 2006.

She is a graduate of Simon Fraser University's The Writer's Studio, and the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph. Ayelet teaches creative writing at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies.

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Programs

Program Launch: Meet Ayelet Tsabari, Writer in Residence

Monday, February 5, 7pm Beeton Hall, Toronto Reference Library

Meet Ayelet Tsabari. After a reading, the event will conclude with Questions and Answers. Free. No registration required.

Workshops: Writing Immigration Memoirs: Drop in Workshops

Saturdays, February 17, March 3, 17, 31, April 21, 10am Discussion Room, Toronto Reference Library

Ayelet Tsabari will lead informal, drop-in workshops that teach you how to write from life, followed by writing, sharing and discussion. Specifically geared to newcomers whose native language is other than English. Free workshops. No registration required.

Panel Discussion: Getting Published in Literary Magazines

Thursday, March 8, 6:30pm Beeton Hall, Toronto Reference Library

Ayelet Tsabari will lead a panel discussion of editors from literary magazines, as well as share insights gained from submitting her work. She will also share tips from other writers who contributed to her guide, *The Writer's Guide to Publishing in Literary Magazines and Entering Contests*. Free. No registration required.

Interview: Exchanging Notes: the Interview with Ayelet Tsabari, Writer in Residence

Thursday, March 15 6:30pm Hinton Learning Theatre, Toronto Reference Library

Free. No registration required. For further information please contact towc@live.com.

Panel Discussion: Writing Memoir

Wednesday, April 4, 6:30pm Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

Ayelet Tsabari will lead a panel of authors who have written memoirs. They will share their stories and struggles with the genre and offer insights and advice. After a reading by each author, there will be time for Questions and Answers. Free. No registration required.

Workshop: Wish You Were Here: Evoking Place in Memoir

Saturday, May 5, 9:30am Discussion Room, Toronto Reference Library

Ayelet Tsabari will lead a workshop on techniques to approach writing about place in your memoir, and to thinking of place as a potential character in our work. Examples and guided exercises included. Space is limited to 20 participants. Registration required.

Presentation: Ten Tips for Writing Great Memoirs – NEW DATE!!

Monday, May 14, 6:30pm Beeton Hall, Toronto Reference Library

Ayelet Tsabari will give a presentation on how to turn lived experience into literary art. Learn to locate the stories of your life in your lives, apply fiction techniques to enhance your work, and experiment with form, structure, tense and voice. Free. No registration required.

For more information, please email trlanglit@torontopubliclibrary.ca
or call 416-393-7085

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