

INTERNUM MARE

By: Yoav Halevy

SYNOPSIS:

In Haifa, a coastal Israeli city, a "war" is waged between crime families. A child, the son of one of the families, is killed when a bomb goes off in his father's car. A line has been crossed, and revenge killings are imminent.

TALI, 30, a single woman who works as a schoolteacher, refuses to let the criminal activities into her life. For the past five years, following her beloved father's death by drowning in the sea, she's been trying to get her life back together. Feeling abandoned by her father, she moves from one unstable, destructive relationship to the next, leaving or being left in a state of deep emotional crisis.

Among Tali's students is OR, 10, the son of one of the city's most prominent criminals. While the crime families carry out attempted assassinations on each other, Or's mother HILA, 30, arrives at Tali's apartment and asks her to hide Or at her place. She explains that Or's life is in danger; he is the target of the upcoming revenge killing. Tali refuses to harbor Or, and yet Hila abandons Or on Tali's doorstep, leaving her no choice but to take Or in.

Tali feels that both she and Or are in mortal danger. The violence is now tangible. In order to hide Or and save him from his violent destiny, she embarks on a "journey" with him, which takes both of them through the different people in her life. On her journey, Tali finds no haven and no grace; instead it is a tour of the fragments of her life and her difficult relationships with the people closest to her. Tali decides not to return Or to his parents, and the journey turns more and more violent the further away she gets. On her tail are OR'S FATHER, who hurts everything she holds dear, and BOAZ, 55, a police detective who is trying to stop what he calls "her suicide mission." Tali's mission, to save Or and save her own life in the process, ends as soon as Or can return to his family, leaving Tali to confront the ruins and failure of her life.

This seems to be the point of no return. Tali faces her father's place of death - the sea. But there, of all places, in seeking her own death, Tali experiences a rebirth; she finds the will to live, in a clear, painful and poetic act of catharsis.