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LAMENT: A GRIPPING, TIMELY, TRUE-LIFE FEMINIST SURVIVAL STORY

Exile, War, and Anti-Semitism in a Vividly-Realized Soviet-Era Setting

NEW YORK CITY, November 2018 - A new American publishing company presents its inaugural title, a modern epic novel that confronts the 20th century's most pitiless decades through the lives of a Jewish woman and her children. With **Lament: A Soviet Woman and Her True Story**, independent author Liz Mackie has crafted a propulsive marvel of narrative immediacy and nearly cinematic effect. Author notes and a wide-ranging list of print sources detail the five-year creation of the book that began with a neighbor's dinner invitation; while Nostalgistudio's website engages readers with an attractive wealth of supporting materials.

Based on real life events, deeply-researched, richly-detailed, **Lament: A Soviet Woman and Her True Story** begins in peacetime as a story of two impoverished sisters from Odessa, then takes a surprising leap thousands of miles east to Siberia and Birobidzhan, the little-known, barely-developed capital of the U.S.S.R.'s Jewish Autonomous Region. Cultures clash as Musya, the younger sister, is thrust into a loveless marriage and unsought motherhood. An ill-timed visit home leaves her and her children trapped inside the front lines once Hitler invades the Soviet Union. Scenes of massacre give way to the novel's brutal core, set in the war-ravaged Ukrainian countryside, as the family suffers three years of starvation, disease, and grueling forced labor inside Obodovka, a Jewish ghetto under Romanian control. Sparkling portraits of fellow captives and local townsfolk alike fill these grim pages with indelible dialogue and abundant, heart-wrenching humor. Sustained by daydreams of love, Musya survives because of her children, who draw on unexpected talents to keep the embattled family alive. The book's final section returns, via an entertaining ride on the Trans-Siberian railway, to hard-scrabble Birobidzhan. New love and new involvement in the Yiddish theater coincide tragically with the anti-Semitic campaigns of Stalin's final years. The costs of survival keep rising for a heroine who is both Everywoman and entirely one-of-a-kind.

So far unanimous five-star reviews on Amazon call **Lament** a "captivating and truthful story" and "A beautifully written journey that paints one detailed picture after another. Certainly a lament, but so specific that the 1940s feel like yesterday... a work of great craft, perceptive about the details of the everyday, the small triumphs of single moments, and the way social relationships frame out society at all levels in ever-shifting arrays of power."

A long-time resident of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, Liz Mackie is the author of the **Famepunk** novels in addition to other fiction, poetry and on-line work, and the founder of Nostalgistudio, an independent publishing company for new American writing. Interviews topics can include the real-life people and events behind the writing of **Lament**; centering woman in historical fiction; researching and writing about the Holocaust; creating Yiddish characters as a Yiddish learner; and self-publishing as a choice and a challenge in 21st-century New York.

