The Fixer

Bernard Malamud

'A novel that offers a great experience, first of all a literary experience, but not merely that' – Saturday Review

Kiev, in the years before the First World War, is a hot-bed of anti-semifism. When a twelve-year-old Russian boy is found stabbed to death, his body drained of blood, the accusation of ritual murder is made against the Jews.

Yakov Bok, a handyman, is blamed, arrested, and imprisoned without indictment. What becomes of this man under pressure, to whom acquittal is made to seem as terrifying as conviction, is the subject of this outstanding novel.

'Bernard Malamud writes about an ordinary harmless man who believes in justice. In his hands it makes a novel of great power, even grandeur' – Life Magazine

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The Magic Barrel (Short stories)
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Idiots First (Short stories)
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Penguin Crime

Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry

Harry Kemelman

It's the eve of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year. The Kol Nidre drags on in the temple. And Isaac Hirsch is dying drunkenly in his car. Accident? Suicide? Or...?

David Small, the young rabbi of the Jewish community in Barnard's Cross, finds himself deeply involved in the post mortem. And the consequences. Everyone has his suspicion, and it take the rabbi's pilpul reasoning to solve the mystery and avert a crisis.

Harry Kemelman's book is a lot more than a thriller. It's a fascinating, funny, gentle poke at the petty politics and religious sharp practice inside a respectable mid-western Jewish community.

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Franz Kafka

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