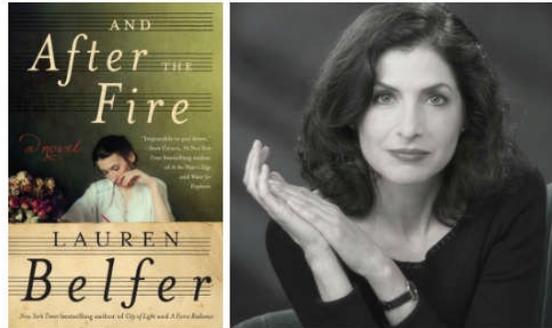


ICCV BOOK CAFÉ
JOIN US ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017
WHEN WE WILL DISCUSS
"AND AFTER THE FIRE" BY LAUREN BELFER



The Book

This fascinating novel, a National Jewish Book Award winner, was inspired by historical events—about two women, one European and one American, and the mysterious choral masterpiece by Johann Sebastian Bach that changes both their lives. In the ruins of Germany in 1945, at the end of World War II, American soldier Henry Sachs takes a souvenir, an old music manuscript, from a seemingly deserted mansion and mistakenly kills the girl who tries to stop him. In America in 2010, Henry's niece, Susanna Kessler, struggles to rebuild her life after she experiences a devastating act of violence on the streets of New York City. When Henry dies soon after, she uncovers the long-hidden music manuscript. She becomes determined to discover what it is and to return it to its rightful owner, a journey that will challenge her preconceptions about herself and her family's history and offer her an opportunity to finally make peace with the past.

The Author

Lauren Belfer was born in Rochester, New York, and grew up in Buffalo, where she attended the Buffalo Seminary. At Swarthmore College, she majored in Medieval Studies. After graduating, she worked as a file clerk at an art gallery, a paralegal, an assistant photo editor at a newspaper, a fact checker at magazines, and as a researcher and associate producer on documentary films. She has an M.F.A. from Columbia University. Her debut novel, *City of Light*, was a *New York Times* bestseller, as well as a *New York Times* Notable Book, a *Library Journal* Best Book, and a Main Selection of the Book of the Month Club. *City of Light* was a bestseller in Great Britain and has been translated into six languages. Her second novel, *A Fierce Radiance*, was named a *Washington Post* Best Novel of 2010 and an NPR Best Mystery of 2010. Her third novel, *And After the Fire*, received a 2016 National Jewish Book Award.

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism
167-11 73rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366
718-591-5353 aratzabi@gmail.com

