



# Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books

*Aaron Lansky*

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**“Incredible . . . Inspiring . . . Important.”** —*Library Journal*, starred review

“A marvelous yarn, loaded with near-calamitous adventures and characters as memorable as Singer creations.” —*The New York Post*

“What began as a quixotic journey was also a picaresque romp, a detective story, a profound history lesson, and a poignant evocation of a bygone world.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Every now and again a book with near-universal appeal comes along: *Outwitting History* is just such a book.” —*The Sunday Oregonian*

As a twenty-three-year-old graduate student, Aaron Lansky set out to save the world’s abandoned Yiddish books before it was too late. Today, more than a million books later, he has accomplished what has been called “the greatest cultural rescue effort in Jewish history.” In *Outwitting History*, Lansky shares his adventures as well as the poignant and often laugh-out-loud stories he heard as he traveled the country collecting books. Introducing us to a dazzling array of writers, he shows us how an almost-lost culture is the bridge between the old world and the future—and how the written word can unite everyone who believes in the power of great literature.

**A *Library Journal* Best Book**

**A Massachusetts Book Award Winner in Nonfiction**

**An ALA Notable Book**

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