

New Release, *We Can't Go Back* by Robert L. Hirsch Explores Radicalization, Trauma, and Redemption in a World of Conflict

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[We Can't Go Back](#) by Robert L. Hirsch offers an interesting journey through the complex lives of individuals impacted by terrorism, personal trauma, and moral dilemmas.

The novel brings together characters from contrasting backgrounds, each on their path through fear, loyalty, and resilience, escalating violence and societal unrest. Hirsch's narrative shows the intersecting experiences of individuals confronting the relentless impact of radicalization and violence in modern society.

The novel is centered in two primary settings: Iran and the United States. In Iran, the story follows Alilah, an operative deeply invested in planning a global jihad alongside her partner, Kurt. Behind her outward dedication lies a personal struggle with trust and a past marked by covert support of terror activities, even as she led a life of normalcy with her family. Kurt, her enigmatic partner, holds grand ambitions of his own, targeting groups he sees as adversaries and driving Alilah to question the very mission she has committed herself to.

Adding another layer to the story is the character of Dr. Alan Mazer, Alilah's estranged husband, whose involvement in a bioterrorism plot linked to a mutated measles vaccine puts thousands of lives at risk and sends shockwaves through national security channels.

As the fallout from his actions unfolds, Congress steps in to investigate, revealing the broader implications of personal choices and the thin line between duty and destruction. In parallel, Sabina, Alan's wife, races to protect herself and her children, executing a carefully devised escape plan when Alan's radical activities come to light.



Through themes of radicalization, trust, and the moral ambiguity that accompanies extreme situations, *We Can't Go Back* addresses the societal and individual ramifications of violence. Each character's journey is an exploration of loyalty, survival, and the choices that define them in a world often devoid of clear right or wrong.

Hirsch's portrayal of Alilah and Sabina offers a moving look at how individuals caught in the crossfire of global conflict struggle to reconcile their personal lives with the harsh realities surrounding them.

We Can't Go Back is now available in print and digital formats at leading online bookstores.

Robert L. Hirsch began writing his second novel before the recent surge in anti-Semitic hate crimes in 2023 and 2024 and prior to the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. His work reflects a commitment to exploring critical themes of radicalization, security, and the challenges of resilience in a divided world. Hirsch draws attention to the alarming reality that, despite comprising only 2% of the U.S. population, Jewish communities are targeted in 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes, according to FBI data (Security Community Network, Oct. 2023).

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