

What do Jerusalemites hate about Jerusalem? Everything the city has to offer. They hate the garbage that invades their lives, seeming to spawn from in between the cracks. They hate the light that reveals every spec of dirt, the bastards who live in the streets, the homeless drunks who rest like lizards on the sidewalks. The beggars of Jerusalem they hate, the gagging tourists who enrage their senses. They hate the noise, the screaming, the bubbling craziness that overflows. They hate the civil servants, the philanthropists, the money hungry contractors. They hate when people say that Jerusalem is the center of the world, they hate the world, cause they want to remain alone, just them and the city, like a leper with his disease, to stay only with the city, to die with the city.

Three young men and a woman wander through Jerusalem, a city in which it is forbidden to look up at the sky. Street fights break out between rival cults, a red heifer cow saunters through the alleyways, garbage trucks zip around without stopping and a mysterious, naked motorcycle driver spreads fear amongst the religious inhabitants.

A City Forsaken is a dizzying novel that plays between realism and fantasy, love and hate, a dark reflection of this place and time. This is the first novel by **Amit Goldenberg** (1981), a writer and psychologist who researches emotions.