

Title: Facing Fear: Anna Fain and Terrorism in Israel  
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The list of contemporary, Russian-speaking women writers has been enriched lately by the name of Anna Fain (b.1963). Her literary works – prose, poetry, critiques – display a unique voice of the modern self, especially the female self, in today's violent world.

An Israeli, Fain is witness to uncommon, everyday violence. In her work, the fear engendered by terrorism becomes a metaphor for the dissolution of identity. She examines how this identity is perverted irreparably or how it is reborn in psychically, metaphysically resourceful ways. Fain's works are rich, too, in the symbols, metaphors and cultural and religious references of Jewish and Russian life.

In my paper, I explore three of Anna Fain's short prose works, full of autobiographical motifs, reflective of the mind of her generation, and seeded with dread: *The Tretyakov's Baldareya*, *Liora's Body*, and *The Programmer and Her Demon*. In these works a mentality of apprehension takes possession of the soul. In Fain's world, space and time are configured by bombs. Essential elements of relationships, life decisions and the revelation of another self are precipitated by inexorably routine death and the fear that accompanies it. How one accommodates this threat of casual oblivion is the significant – and often the only – criterion determining the nature of people and things. Transfixed with horror and an enveloping violence, her characters enter motherhood and womanhood as fractured people: bodies and souls exchange places (or do they?), anger divides a family from itself and from society, escape is nestled in language that connects in liberating (or confining?) ways.