

BIOGRAPHY

ISIDORO

ENGINEER
TRAVELER
STORYTELLER

—HOLCBERG

The
**SECOND
LIFE OF**
Lilly Kimmel

Born in Buenos Aires in 1954, Isidoro B. Holcberg is an Israeli writer whose fiction blends a life shaped by migration, science and travel with sharp wit and emotional authenticity.

SUMMARY



4.

**LITERARY
DEBUT**



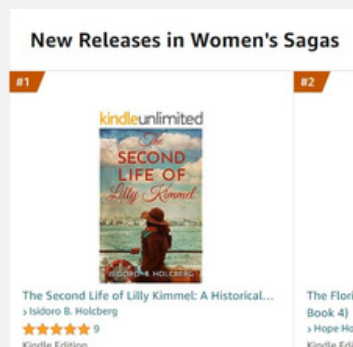
10.

**ROOTS &
ROUTES**



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**BOOK
REVIEWS**



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RECOGNITION



ISIDORO B. HOLCBERG

THE AUTHOR & SCIENTIST

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1954 to Jewish immigrant parents, Isidoro B. Holcberg moved to São Paulo, Brazil, in 1963, where he spent his formative years. Relocating to Israel in 1978, he built a life bridging continents and disciplines.

Before his literary debut, Holcberg established a distinguished career as a chemist and pharmacist, running his own pharmacy from 1987 to 2006.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1978 - 1981

M.Sc. in Food Engineering and Biotechnology

Technion Israel Institute of Technology.

1972 - 1977

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacy & Biochemistry

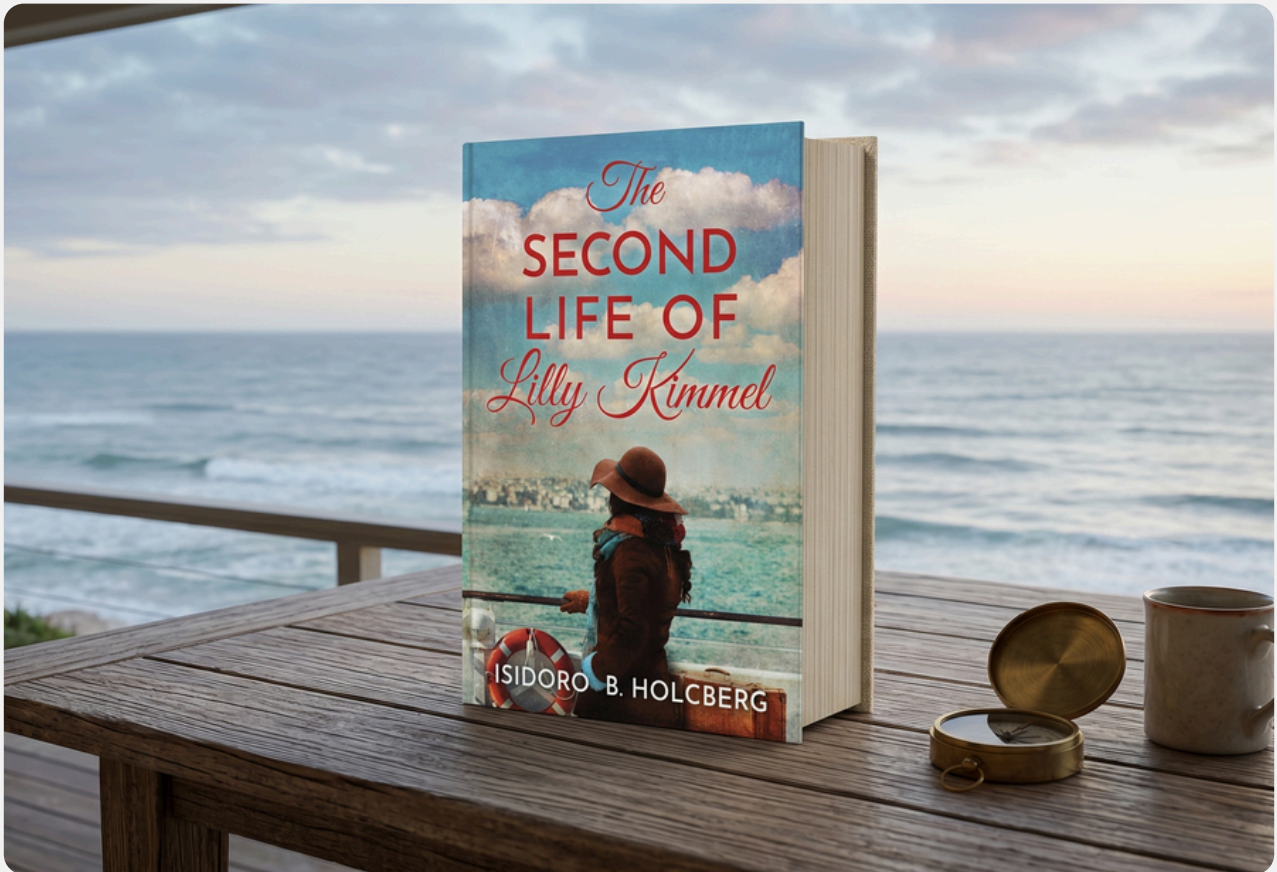
University of São Paulo (Top of his class).

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Holcberg is a recognized researcher with significant contributions to biotechnology. In 1976, he co-authored a frequently cited study on the isolation of proteins in coconut water.

During the early 1980s, his work focused on immobilized cell technology for alcohol fermentation, specifically improving ethanol production efficiency under challenging conditions like high sugar concentrations.

LITERARY DEBUT



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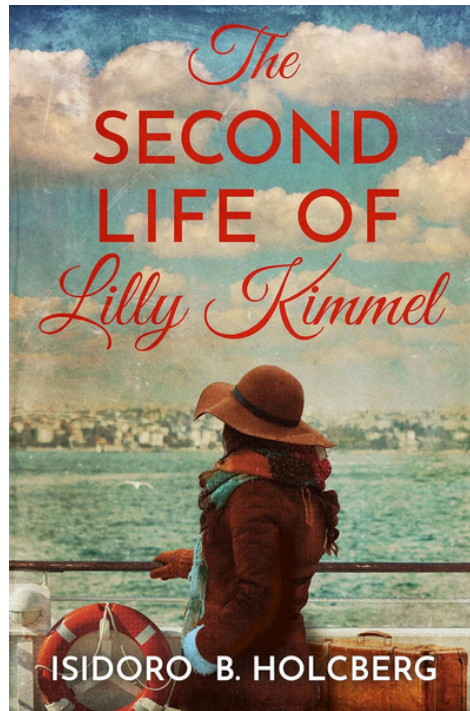
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The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel by Isidoro B. Holcberg is a historical fiction novel inspired by themes of survival, immigration and family secrets across generations, drawing on the author's own background of traveling the world and his family's immigrant history. The story reflects the experiences of people who left their homelands in search of safety and a new life, carrying memories, trauma and hidden truths that continue to shape future generations.

Published by eBookPro and available on Amazon, the book was released on June 13, 2023.

Genre: Historical Fiction | Language: English | Pages: 512 | ISBN: 9798398190212.

The Second Life of *Lilly Kimmel*



She's running away from her past. Can she shape herself a safer future?

Europe, 1921. When young, ambitious Lilly Kimmel finds herself alone and pregnant on a boat bound for South America, she is not merely off in search of adventure. In fact, Lilly is desperately escaping the life she left behind in her small hometown of Przemyśl in Poland.

Haunted by a failed marriage and irreparable damage to her reputation, she knows she must make a new life for herself – far away from the people who know her and those who hurt her. But no matter how far Lilly tries to run, her fate always seems to intertwine with theirs, beckoning the past into her future and threatening everything she is trying to build for herself and her family.

Estonia, 1995. Decades later, in a small restaurant in Estonia, a remarkable realization leads Ike Himmelschlag to a monumental discovery. What he learns about the secret life his late grandmother Lilly led will change everything he knew about the grandmother he loved – and everything he thought he knew about himself.

Crafting Authentic Characters



Poland, 1920.

"I strived to depict human relationships, the good and the bad, love and brutality, friendship and rivalry, in as natural a way as possible."

Isidoro Holcberg (2026)

Lilly Kimmel

Lilly is an unfairly ostracized protagonist who overcomes every obstacle with strong determination. Holcberg drew inspiration from the women in his family who fought to break free from patriarchal expectations of submission and obedience. Witnessing their struggles turned him into an outspoken feminist, providing the psychological blueprint for Lilly.



Lilly Kimmel, Poland 1920 (Illustrative image)

Norma & Marta

Norma and her niece Marta played a vital role in Lilly's life, helping during the childbirth and accompanying her throughout her years in Chile and Argentina. The author had the privilege of meeting people like them in his life, discovering stories of humanity, strength and compassion that continue to inspire his work.



Norma & Marta, Chile 1938 (Illustrative image)

Ike Himmelschlager

Ike, Lilly's grandson, discovers her secret past. Holcberg integrated his own identity into the narrative by portraying Ike as gay in the most natural way possible.



Ike, Tallinn 1995 (Illustrative image)



Isidoro and his Partner, 2026

The Villain

VS

The saviour

Tadeusz Kortchuk: A complex villain. Holcberg explains the origins of his depravity through his intense religious upbringing, historical bigotry, gullibility under peer pressure and ambiguous sexual morals.



Tadeusz Kortchuk, The villain (illustrative)

Captain Rodriguez: Captain Rodriguez was a very important figure in Lilly's journey. Even after discovering that she was pregnant, he continued to support and protect her, showing great compassion and loyalty.



Captain Rodriguez (illustrative)

ROOTS & ROUTES

THE BURDEN OF HISTORY



Isidoro's father in Paris, 1947

Migration is a fundamental part of Holcberg's life and personal history, deeply shaping both his worldview and the emotional foundation of his writing. The themes of antisemitism, pogroms and the Holocaust are explored in the book with sensitivity and depth, reflecting the historical realities that forced millions of families to flee their homes in search of safety and survival.

His father's family escaped Poland during the rise of Nazi persecution, first finding refuge in Russia before eventually crossing the Atlantic from Genoa to Brazil in 1947. His mother's family also narrowly escaped Europe in 1940, boarding a steamer in Amsterdam that carried them across the ocean to Chile. These journeys of displacement and survival across continents form the emotional and historical backdrop that influences the narrative, highlighting the lasting impact of migration, loss and resilience across generations.

Sea voyages

Transoceanic crossings are a significant part of Holcberg's personal and family history, shaping both his identity and his literary imagination. Beyond his parents' earlier escapes, his family later relocated to Brazil aboard the Eugenio C. in 1963, continuing a life marked by migration across oceans and continents.

In 1972, Holcberg himself spent ten days working as a deckhand on a German cargo ship sailing between Brazil and Argentina. This intense, hands-on experience at sea gave him a vivid and realistic understanding of maritime life, which later influenced the oceanic escape sequences in his novel, adding authenticity and emotional depth to his storytelling.

“Working on a ship gave me the essential, lived experience that made it possible to truly understand and write about the sea within this book.”

Isidoro Holcberg, 2026



German Cargo ship, 1972

A citizen of the world

Holcberg uses the places he has visited as vibrant backdrops to engage readers and inspire curiosity.



ISRAEL & VOLUNTEERING

At 19, he volunteered at a kibbutz, connecting with his father's agricultural past in Russia and meeting people from across the globe.



EUROPEAN IMMERSION

Solo travels through Western Europe immersed him in classical art, history and the languages he had learned: Hebrew, Yiddish, French and English.



LITERARY BACKDROPS

Extensive adult travels, particularly to the Baltic states and the Andean regions of Chile and Argentina, inspired the settings of his book.

JNF – Supporting Israel for life



Video made by JNF, 2006

In 2001, Isidoro took part in a JNF (Jewish National Fund) campaign as a promotional figure in a video. The initiative aimed to encourage Jewish communities around the world, many with histories of displacement and refugee life to reconnect with Israel and consider returning or migrating there as part of a renewed sense of identity and belonging.

BOOK REVIEWS



goodreads

Available at
amazon

Book reviews around the world describe **The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel** as a powerful historical fiction novel filled with emotional depth and rich storytelling. Readers praise its portrayal of immigration, identity and family secrets across generations, set between Europe and the Americas.

The novel is widely recognized for blending historical detail with intimate human drama, showing how the past continues to shape the present and how hidden truths can transform an entire family history.

REVIEWS

goodreads



Píaras Cíonnaoith ★★★★★

A captivating tale of escape, legacy, and rediscovery...

Isidoro B. Holcberg's *The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel* is a captivating historical fiction novel that delves into the compelling story of Lilly Kimmel, a young and determined woman seeking to shape a safer future for herself.

Set against the backdrop of 1921 Europe, Lilly's journey unfolds as she escapes her troubled past in the small Polish town of Przemyśl. Fleeing a failed marriage and the lingering scars of a damaged reputation, Lilly embarks on a courageous voyage to South America, yearning to leave behind those who have hurt her and create a new life for her and her family.

Holcberg skillfully portrays the interplay between fate and Lilly's choices, revealing how the past persistently entwines with the present, threatening to unravel the future she is painstakingly building. No matter how far Lilly runs, the echoes of her past resurface, challenging her resolve and testing the strength of her newfound foundation.

Decades later, in Estonia of 1995, Ike Himmelschlagler embarks on a personal odyssey that leads him to a profound realization about his late grandmother Lilly. In a humble restaurant, Ike uncovers the secret life she lived, forever transforming his perception of her and his own identity.

Drawing inspiration from true events, *The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel* explores the far-reaching consequences of fortuitous life events cascading through generations. Holcberg's narrative brilliantly captures the indelible legacy inherited by subsequent generations, leaving an indelible mark on their lives.

Through compelling storytelling and richly developed characters, Holcberg's novel offers a thought-provoking examination of personal history, the complexities of human connections, and the profound impact of choices made in the face of adversity. *The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel* is an engrossing and poignant read that illuminates the inescapable interplay between past, present, and future, leaving a lasting impression on readers' hearts and minds.

Highly recommended, and a well-deserved five stars from me. I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

REVIEWS

goodreads



Grady ★★★★★

A breathtaking life adventure - A great read!

Israeli author Isidoro B. Holcberg earned his degree in food engineering and biotechnology from Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, and is a chemist. His background includes the influence of his parents' immigration to South America as Jewish immigrants during WW II and his birth in Argentina and education in Brazil before moving to Israel.

The vivid acuity of Holcberg's superb writing is immediately evident as he opens his book with an intricately detailed description of a restaurant encounter in Estonia, introducing Ike Himmelschlager as he surprisingly discovers a menu dessert that was created by his grandmother, setting the tone for the unveiling of the life of Lilly Kimmel. That chapter is a stroke of perfection as this immensely well-scribed novel unfolds. The life of Lilly Kimmel then spreads across the pages - condensed by the author as follows: 'Europe, 1921. When young, ambitious Lilly Kimmel finds herself alone and pregnant on a boat bound for South America, she is not merely off in search of adventure. In fact, Lilly is desperately escaping the life she left behind in her small hometown of Przemyśl in Poland. Haunted by a failed marriage and irreparable damage to her reputation, she knows she must make a new life for herself - far away from the people who know her and those who hurt her. But no matter how far Lilly tries to run, her fate always seems to intertwine with theirs, beckoning the past into her future and threatening everything she is trying to build for herself and her family.'

Reading this novel is both entertaining and enriching, a refreshing way to enter history through the experienced eyes of a fine craftsman. This is an unforgettable novel, and one that I recommend most highly.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book



Abbigail Holmes ★★★★★

Unexpected Journey

Running from the past is always hard and it is even harder to keep secrets because they are somehow bound to be discovered. The main character of the historical part of the story, Lilly, did everything she could to run away from her past and bury her secrets deep down, never to be revealed again. And yet, her own grandson Ike is the one who will, totally accidentally, start digging and searching for answers to one, on the surface, very benign question: how one restaurant in a small place far away from her grandmother's home, has her recipe book?

I like the idea of one pie, one piece of a dessert can start a journey Ike never expected to take.

RECOGNITION

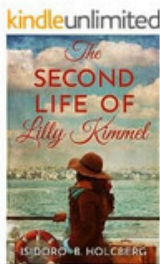
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The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel: A Historical...

> Isidoro B. Holcberg

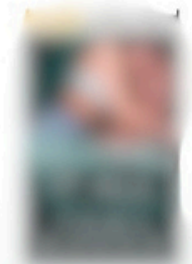
★★★★★ 9

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> Isidoro B. Holcberg

★★★★★ 9

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#2



#3



For the Love of the Game: A Novel...

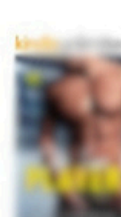
> [Author Name]

★★★★★ 9

Kindle Edition

\$8.99

#4



#6



The Second Life of Lilly Kimmel: A Historical...

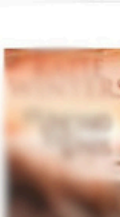
> Isidoro B. Holcberg

★★★★★ 9

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> Isidoro B. Holcberg

★★★★★ 9

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> Isidoro B. Holcberg

★★★★★ 9

Kindle Edition

\$4.99

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> Isidoro B. Holcberg

★★★★★ 9

Kindle Edition

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