Shtetl—a key notion for understanding traditional Jewish life among East European Jewry—has become a topos of Jewish collective memory and one of the resources in constructing ethnic identity. A small Jewish population that is still living on the traditional ancestral territories seems to possess a special aura of “authenticity.” However, the long time spent under the Soviet regime, mass immigration of 1990s, and the “leveling” influence of the current “Jewish revival” may put this authenticity under question.

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Reception to follow.