



Or Turkish Version, *Kirk Diken*

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## ***FORTY THORNS***

Judy Light Ayyildiz

Entangled with the historical times from 1912 through 1985 and the present, this is the story of Adalet: an innovative woman wedged in a war-torn love story set among social values, ethnic myths and legends on the stage of the emerging third-world country of Turkey. After Adalet's burial, her friend, American daughter-in-law and writer, Lee, begins the quest to fulfill Adalet's wish of two summers ago: "Write my life. I'm not important but my woman's story is," and Lee ponders, woman: the backbone of culture. Lee probes the details of how this strong and centered woman manages to emerge from material loss, love's betrayals, sudden death of one of her seven children, devastating disappearance of another, parental disdain and, always, the rugged travel and resettling all across Anatolia while following hollow promises and hope left in the wake of Burhan, Adalet's husband for whom she gives up everything and yet, manages to survive with grace and hope.

*This is such a sensitive novel, written with compassion and tenderness. I was touched by Adalet's story. It reflects the predicament of all first-generation Turkish-Americans (and those that they've left behind in the Old Country) very well. We need fiction like this to remind us who we are, how we're all connected through invisible fibers of fate, and that in the last analysis, we're not alone. As long as we have a narrator, the kind of voice that Ayyildiz brings to life with such lyrical detail, things will be all right.*

Ugur Akinci, Ph.D.  
<http://www.TechnicalCommunicationCenter.com>

*A novel of astounding scope and mesmerizing nature, Forty Thorns depicts the story of the new Turkish society and spirit through the conscience-ridden persona of Adalet. Wry and imaginative Judy Light Ayyildiz displays a rare balance of cultural symbolism and historical accuracy as she journeys into the life her heroine, whose rhapsodic adventure embodies a broader transformation that takes place in Turkey. Few can match the candor and humor Ayyildiz encapsulates in her Forty Thorns, where the English-speaking audience will find a woman's voice from the East – poetic and just, full of yearning and life.*

Günseli Sönmez İşçi, Prof. Dr.  
Dean, Faculty of Science and Letters  
Yeni Yüzyıl University, Istanbul-Turkey

Pictured: Judy & Vedii Ayyildiz