

## America And I Anzia Yeziarska

Red Ribbon on a White Horse  
 Open Cage  
 The Open Cage  
 Soap and Water  
 Conflicting Paths  
 The Jewish Immigrant Experience in Anzia Yeziarska's Bread Givers and Mary Antin's The Promised Land  
 The Tenement Writer  
 Bieganski  
 Ethnic Passages  
 Hungry Hearts  
 Hungry Hearts / by Anzia Yeziarska  
 SHORT STORIES FOR STUDENTS  
 The Free Vacation House  
 How I Found America  
 Bread Givers  
 All I Could Never Be  
 Children of Loneliness  
 How They Wrote America  
 From Hester Street to Hollywood  
 Arrogant Beggar  
 My Own People  
 Salome of the Tenements  
 The Lost "Beautifulness"  
 "The Fat of the Land"  
 John and Anzia  
 Hungry Hearts  
 The Fat of The Land: Anzia Yeziarska's Journey to Plenty  
 Hungry Hearts  
 Study Guide: America and I by Anzia Yeziarska (SuperSummary)  
 Bread Givers  
 Arrogant Beggar  
 A Study Guide for Anzia Yeziarska's "America and I"  
 All I Could Never Be  
 America and I  
 Hungry Hearts  
 How We Found America  
 Wings  
 America and I  
 "Till All America Stops to Listen"  
 Hungry Hearts

*America And I Anzia Yeziarska*

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### ESCOBAR MAY

**Red Ribbon on a White Horse** Open Road Media

We grow up--so simple, it just seems to happen--and yet there are endless variations in the way we do it. What part does culture play in the process? How much do politics and economics have to do with it? As the nation has matured, have the ways people grow up changed too? This book traces the many paths to adulthood that Americans have pursued over time. Spanning more than two centuries of intense transformation in the lives of individuals and the life of a nation, *Conflicting Paths* is an innovative history of growing up in America. Harvey J. Graff, a distinguished social historian, mines more than five hundred personal narratives for what they can tell us about the passage from childhood to maturity. Drawing on diaries, memoirs, autobiographies, and letters, he builds a penetrating, complex, firsthand account of how childhood, adolescence, and youth have been experienced and understood--as functions of familial and social relations, as products of

biology and physiology, and as cultural and political constructs. These first-person testimonies cross the lines of time and space, gender and class, ethnicity, age, and race. In these individual stories and the larger story they constitute, Graff exposes the way social change--including institutional developments and shifting attitudes, expectations, and policy--and personal experience intertwine in the process of growing up. Together, these narratives form a challenging, subtle guide to historical experiences and to the epochal remaking of growing up. The most socially inclusive and historically extensive of any such research, Graff's work constitutes an important chapter in the story of the family, the formation of modern society, and the complex interweaving of young people, tradition, and change.

**Open Cage** Legare Street Press

In evoking the joy and pain of the Jewish immigrant experience, Anzia Yeziarska has no peer. Her stories, written from the 1920s to the 1960s, immortalized the lives of the Jews of New York's Lower East Side. The *Open Cage* collects sixteen of her best stories and excerpts from her autobiography to illustrate her extraordinary storytelling gift as well as her personal experience as

an immigrant woman. Along with her novel *Bread Givers*, the work gathered here constitutes her enduring achievement. Included are "The Fat of the Land," *Children of Loneliness*, "America and I," *The Lost 'Beautifulness*," and other stories; vignettes from *Red Ribbon on a White Horse: My Story*; and four remarkable stories of old age. The introduction by Historian Alice Kessler-Harris and the afterword by Yeziarska's daughter and biographer, Louise Levitas Henriksen, place the writings in a rich and valuable context.

**The Open Cage** Simon and Schuster

Anzia Yeziarska tells of her odyssey from the sweatshops of New York's Lower East Side to success in Hollywood and then a return to poverty in New York

**Soap and Water** Simon and Schuster

*America and I* is the first anthology to chronicle the female tradition in 20th century American Jewish literature. Containing 23 short-stories by some of the best short-story practitioners, the book traces the remarkable output of Jewish women writers from 1900 to the present day.

*Conflicting Paths* UNC Press Books

Experience the triumphs and struggles of immigrant life with Anzia Yezierska's powerful novel, "The Fat of The Land." Journey alongside characters who navigate the complexities of identity, ambition, and the pursuit of the American dream. As Yezierska's vibrant narrative unfolds, immerse yourself in the colorful tapestry of immigrant culture in early 20th-century America. Witness the clash of old traditions and new opportunities as characters strive to carve out their place in a land of promise and possibility. But amidst the hustle and bustle of immigrant life, a question emerges: What if the true measure of success lies not in material wealth, but in the bonds of community and the strength of the human spirit? Could Yezierska's poignant story challenge our notions of prosperity and fulfillment? Explore the resilience and determination of characters who refuse to be defined by their circumstances. Yezierska's sharp wit and keen insight illuminate the struggles and triumphs of the immigrant experience with honesty and compassion. Are you ready to embark on a journey of hope and resilience with "The Fat of The Land"? Join the characters as they confront adversity with courage and resilience, forging their own path in a land of opportunity. Let Yezierska's timeless tale inspire you to pursue your dreams with passion and perseverance. Here's your chance to not just read, but to celebrate the rich tapestry of immigrant life. This is more than a novel; it's a testament to the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity and thrive. Will you dare to seize the fat of the land? Seize the opportunity to own a masterpiece of immigrant literature. Purchase "The Fat of The Land" now, and let Yezierska's stirring narrative remind you of the boundless potential that lies within each of us.

#### **The Jewish Immigrant Experience in Anzia Yezierska's Bread Givers and Mary Antin's The Promised Land** Bettina Berch

*Hungry Hearts* is a collection of short stories by Jewish/American writer Anzia Yezierska first published in 1920. The short stories deal with the European Jewish immigrant experience from the perspective of fictional female Jews, each story depicting a different aspect of their trials and tribulations in poverty in New York City at the turn of the 20th century. The stories were adapted into a film of the same name. Wings Shenah Peshah a young lonely janitress living a painfully secluded life in poverty. She is given hope when she meets a young sociologist who moves into her building to study the people he writes about and falls in love with him. Hunger A sequel to 'Wings', Peshah gets a job at a shirtwaist factory where one of the workers falls in love with her. The Lost "Beautifulness A mother dances on the edge of self-destruction when she paints her kitchen white for her son returning home from the military but has her rent raised by her cruel landlord as a response. The Free Vacation House A woman being crushed by motherhood is offered a stay at a free vacation house but finds the strict humiliating living conditions worse than her life in poverty. The Miracle A Jewish girl travels to America to find love but finds hardship and loneliness. Where Lovers Dream Poverty separates a happy couple forever, marking their lives as lifestyles separate them. Soap and Water A student is denied her diploma because of her unsightly appearance due to her grueling life going to school and supporting herself in grinding poverty, making her rebel against the divisions of class. "The Fat of the Land" A mother goes from poverty to wealth, expecting happiness but only finding a cruel Catch 22. My Own People A young writer finds inspiration and purpose in the suffering of her brethren. How I Found America

*The Tenement Writer* Persea Books

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**Bieganski** Simon and Schuster

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tribulations in poverty in New York City at the turn of the 20th century. The stories were adapted into a film of the same name.

**Ethnic Passages** Gale, Cengage Learning

Shenah Peshah a young lonely janitress living a painfully secluded life in poverty. She is given hope when she meets a young sociologist who moves into her building to study the people he writes about and she falls in love with him. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

*Hungry Hearts* Namaskar Book

SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 36-page guide for "America and I" by Anzia Yezierska includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 15 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Immigration and Assimilation and Poverty.

*Hungry Hearts / by Anzia Yezierska* Penguin

A timeless American novel about an immigrant girl growing up on the Lower East Side who dares to challenge her Orthodox Jewish family's narrow conceptions of a woman's place in the world, featuring a new foreword by the author of the New York Times bestseller *Unorthodox*—the basis for the hit Netflix series—and cover art by New Yorker cartoonist Liana Finck A Penguin Classic The youngest of four daughters in a family that left Poland in the 1920s for the crowded tenements of New York City's Lower East Side, Sara Smolinsky has seen her sisters resign themselves, under their rabbi father's iron fist, to loveless marriages and empty futures. They are "bread givers," working to feed the family while their father studies the Torah—according to which, as their father reminds them, a woman without her father or husband is "less than nothing." But Sara hungers for more. In defiance of her father, she breaks free, escaping home to see what the American dream holds for her in this poignant coming-of-age tale and striking portrait of feminist rebellion.

**SHORT STORIES FOR STUDENTS** Wildside Press LLC

A Study Guide for Anzia Yezierska's "America and I," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

**The Free Vacation House** S.B. Gundy

A mother goes from poverty to wealth, expecting happiness but only finding a cruel Catch-22. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

*How I Found America* Simon and Schuster

Anzia Yezierska (c.1880-1970) was born in Poland, emigrating to the United States in 1890. *All I Could Ever Be* is a semi-autobiographical account of a young Polish woman emigrating to the United States and becoming a successful writer.

**Bread Givers** Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

A woman being crushed by motherhood is offered a stay at a free vacation house but finds the strict humiliating living conditions worse than her life in poverty. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

**All I Could Never Be** Simon and Schuster

The target of intense critical comment when it was first published in 1927, *Arrogant Beggar's* scathing attack on charity-run boardinghouses remains one of Anzia Yezierska's most devastating works of social criticism. The novel follows the fortunes of its young Jewish narrator, Adele Lindner, as she leaves the impoverished conditions of New York's Lower East Side and tries to rise in the world. Portraying Adele's experiences at the Hellman Home for Working Girls, the first half of the novel exposes the "sickening farce" of institutionalized charity while portraying the class tensions that divided affluent German American Jews from more recently arrived Russian American Jews. The second half of the novel takes Adele back to her ghetto origins as she explores an alternative model of philanthropy by opening a restaurant that combines the communitarian ideals of Old World shtetl tradition with the contingencies of New World capitalism. Within the context of this radical message, Yezierska revisits the themes that have made her work famous, confronting complex questions of ethnic identity, assimilation, and female self-realization. Katherine Stubbs's introduction provides a comprehensive and compelling historical, social, and literary context for this extraordinary novel and discusses the critical reaction to its publication in light of Yezierska's biography and the once much-publicized and mythologized version of her life story. Unavailable for over sixty years, *Arrogant Beggar* will be enjoyed by general readers of fiction and be of crucial importance for feminist critics, students of ethnic literature. It will also prove an exciting and richly rewarding text for students and scholars of Jewish studies, immigrant literature, women's writing, American history, and working-class fiction.

*Children of Loneliness* Beacon Press (MA)

A collection of ten short stories portraying immigrant life in 1920s New York City by the acclaimed Jewish American author of *Bread Givers*. Anzia Yezierska, known as the "Cinderella of the Tenements," calls upon her own background as a child of immigrants who worked in sweatshops on Manhattan's Lower East Side to bring to life stories of women struggling to survive in similar circumstances. From a hardworking woman who becomes the target of her children's scorn and indifference when they find success to the young mother and her family who are subjected to humiliating rules and circumstances when offered a vacation in the country, these are tales of women who strive, dream, and fight to hold on to their dignity and identity in a harsh reality. "Coping with scholarly dependents and chiseling landlords, chafed by the class system, ravenous for learning and desperate for beauty, Anzia Yezierska's protagonists have emotions they express in great, big, attention-getting gestures. . . . Louis B. Mayer was so taken by Yezierska's stories he brought her to Hollywood: The film adapted from *Hungry Hearts* is about as loud as silent cinema gets." —Tablet, "101 Great Jewish Books" "Poverty makes no one eloquent, and lack of opportunity to learn leaves its scars. Yezierska, despite her literary faults, is a remarkable writer, a recorder of a history that still is attached to us, that still follows us like a shadow." —The Los Angeles Times "These stories . . . are, in fact, slices of life as much as fiction, in that tradition of American social realism which harks back to Dreiser." —The Irish Times

*How They Wrote America* National Geographic Books

Lost masterpiece of ten tales by Jewish-American author of the early 20th century, set in New York City's Lower East Side, provides rich psychological portraits of immigrant mothers and daughters.

*From Hester Street to Hollywood* Harvard University Press

"A powerful, provocative, ultimately profound work of scholarship regarding the stereotypification of Poles and its implications not only for Polish-Jewish relations in the Old World and the New, but also for anyone wishing to fathom the inter-workings of class and ethnicity in an America that has all too often fallen short of its promise."—James P. Leary, folklorist, University of Wisconsin.

**Arrogant Beggar** Dutton Adult

"Russian Jews in New York City." Cf. Hanna, A. *Mirror for the nation*

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