

# FREE THE SLAVE: A NOVEL PDF



Isaac Bashevis Singer, Cecil Hemley | 311 pages | 01 Oct 1988 | Farrar, Straus & Giroux Inc | 9780374506803 | English | New York, United States

## **The Slave - Isaac Bashevis Singer - Google книги**

Four years after the Chmielnicki massacres of the seventeenth century, Jacob, a slave and cowherd in a Polish village high in the mountains, The Slave: A Novel in love with Wanda, his master's daughter. Even after he is ransomed, he finds he can't live The Slave: A Novel her, and the two escape together to a distant Jewish community. Racked by his consciousness of sin in taking a Gentile wife and by the difficulties of concealing her identity, Jacob nonetheless stands firm as the violence of the era threatens to destroy the ill-fated couple.

Set in 17th century Poland, at a time when marauding Ukrainian Cossacks perpetrated the most heinous of crimes against the Jewish population, Singer's novel traces the development of Talmudic scholar Jacob who is a Jew, a pogrom survivor, and a slave of Polish peasants; he lives a simple life as a cowherd, tolerated only because of his skills with animals.

Against both Jewish and secular law, he falls. Isaac Bashevis Singer was the author of many novels, stories, children's books, and memoirs. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1978. *The Slave*. Isaac Bashevis Singer. Cecil Hemley.

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Through the eyes of Jacob, the book recounts the history of Jewish settlement in Poland at the end of the 17th century. While most of the book's protagonists are Jews, the book is also a criticism of Orthodox Jewish society. Jacob, the hero of the book, is a resident of Josefov, a Jewish town in Poland. After the Khmelnytsky massacres in which his wife and three children were murdered by Cossacks, Jacob is sold as a slave to gentile peasants.

During his years of slavery, he strives to maintain his Judaism by observing as many Jewish rituals as possible and *The Slave: A Novel* maintaining high ethical standards for himself.

While in captivity, Jacob falls in love with his master's daughter, Wanda. While Jewish law and custom forbids Jews from even touching a woman a man is not married to and also forbids Jews from cohabiting with gentiles, Jacob's love for Wanda is too powerful to overcome and they engage in sexual intercourse. Later, Jews from Josefov come to ransom him by paying off Wanda's father and he returns to Josefov.

While in Josefov, Jacob dreams of Wanda. In his dream, Wanda is pregnant and asks Jacob why he abandoned her and left the child in her womb to be raised by gentiles.

Jacob decides to return to the gentile village, take Wanda as his wife, and help her convert to Judaism. Jacob and Wanda reach another town, Pilitz, where Jacob begins to make his living as a teacher. In Pilitz, Wanda becomes known as 'Sarah' and Jacob instructs her *The Slave: A Novel* to pretend that she is deaf and mute so as not to reveal her gentile origins. Sarah thirsts for knowledge about Judaism and at *The Slave: A Novel*, Jacob teaches her Jewish beliefs and practices.

She suffers in silence as the women of the town gossip about her right in front of her, as they believe she is deaf and cannot hear *The Slave: A Novel*. Her secret is finally discovered when she screams loudly during the birth of her and Jacob's son.

Sarah dies during the difficult birth, and is given a "donkey's burial" outside of the Jewish cemetery. Jacob names his baby son Benjamin he likens himself to the biblical Jacob whose wife, Rachel died giving birth to biblical Benjamin; he travels to the Land of Israel with the infant, and Benjamin grows up to become a lecturer in a yeshiva in Jerusalem.

The place where Sarah was buried is not prominently marked and is unknown to the Jews of Pilitz. Jacob is old and weak and dies during his visit to Pilitz. By coincidence or perhaps, by way of a miracle as a grave is being dug for him, the bones of Sarah are found. The townspeople decide to bury them together, side by side.

The book was published in a time in Jewish history in which the magnitude of the Holocaust was beginning to surface. The book's setting during the aftermath of the Khmelnytsky massacres could be seen as a historical parallel to *The Slave: A Novel* many American Jews were thinking and feeling *The Slave: A Novel* the early 1950s.

The book *The Slave: A Novel* criticism of the hypocrisy inherent in a narrow-minded interpretation of Judaism. The Jews of Pilitz in *The Slave* make a point of keeping commandments between man and God, but many treat Sarah and Jacob in ways that does not square well with Jewish ideals. The character of Gershon is especially cruel and often gets his way simply by bullying others, yet he keeps a strictly kosher home.

Also prominent in the story is the theme of vegetarianism. Singer himself was a passionate *The Slave: A Novel* and Jacob's attitude towards animals during his captivity and his explanation at the end of the novel *The Slave: A Novel* his vegetarian philosophy could be seen as Singer writing autobiographically.

Writing in the *New York Times*, Orville Prescott called the novel a 'Jewish Pilgrim's Progress', in which the hero keeps his faith despite all setbacks. Prescott liked the *The Slave: A Novel*, eventful plot but criticised the way the characters were portrayed as symbols rather than human beings. Rafael Broch [6] notes how the purity of the rural scene and of the hero's faith contrast with the vulgarity of the 'lewd peasants and prejudiced landowners'.

Broch calls this a Romeo and Juliet tale in 'circumstances even less permissive'. For Ted Hughes [7] the book is 'burningly radiant, intensely beautiful'. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. *The Slave* First English edition. Wilitz The Hidden Isaac Bashevis Singer. University of *The Slave: A Novel* Press. *The Slave: A Novel* *New York Times*.

Works by Isaac Bashevis Singer. *A Day of Pleasure* *Rencontre au Sommet* *Yentl* *Fool's Paradise* *Hidden* categories: Articles containing Yiddish-language text. *The Slave: A Novel* Article Talk. Views Read Edit View history. Help Learn to edit Community portal Recent changes Upload file. Download as PDF Printable version. First English edition. Farrar Straus Giroux.

## **The Slave by Isaac Bashevis Singer**

These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. Singer was born in and died in He won the Nobel Prize for Literature sixteen years after the novel was published. The Slave talks about a Jewish man, called Jacob who lived in a small village called Joseföv The Slave: A Novel Poland. The village witnessed a massacre where most Jews were decimated, including Jacob's wife and children. The massacre was done by the Cossacks. Jacob, a very religious person, managed to escape but was later caught and enslaved by a Polish non-Jewish person.

Jacob falls in deep love with his master's daughter, called Wanda. Later, Jacob gets ransomed but realizes his extreme love for Wanda and decides to return to Wanda and marry her. They live in a The Slave: A Novel where Jacob asks his wife to be named Sarah and pretend to be deaf because she was not a Jew and he didn't want anyone to know or else he could be killed.

Wanda later dies while bearing her first child, and Jacob dies after a while when he visits her grave. Singer brilliantly wrote the story with clear emphasis on the religious dilemma Jacob is facing. Being a Jew, Jacob knew the dangers of it but stuck to his beliefs. In addition to that, although he is fully aware of the danger he put himself into when he married Wanda because The Slave: A Novel was not Jewish but despite all of that, the power of his love made him marry her.

The Slave was loved by many and critics from everywhere positively reviewed it. For one, it received a 4. Orville Prescott said about the book in his New York Times book review: "Reading "The Slave" is a moderately interesting intellectual experience. Singer's accounts of demons, werewolves, vampires, dibbuks and even smoks are fine. His picture of The Slave: A Novel state of life in Poland years ago is a revelation.

Jacob's quite modern plight is superbly delineated. Exciting, exotic, quite moving, The Slave could do very well indeed. The Slave study guide contains a biography of Isaac Bashevis Singer, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. The Slave essays are academic essays for citation. These papers were written primarily by students and provide critical analysis of The Slave by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

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