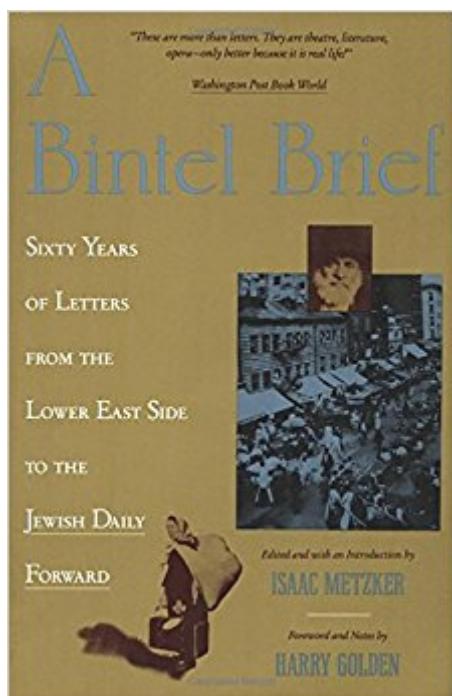


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A Bintel Brief: Sixty Years Of Letters From The Lower East Side To The Jewish Daily Forward



Synopsis

For more than eighty years the Jewish Daily Forward's legendary advice column, "A Bintel Brief" ("a bundle of letters") dispensed shrewd, practical, and fair-minded advice to its readers. Created in 1906 to help bewildered Eastern European immigrants learn about their new country, the column also gave them a forum for seeking advice and support in the face of problems ranging from wrenching spiritual dilemmas to petty family squabbles to the sometimes hilarious predicaments that result when Old World meets New. Isaac Metzker's beloved selection of these letters and responses has become for today's readers a remarkable oral record not only of the varied problems of Jewish immigrant life in America but also of the catastrophic events of the first half of our century. Foreword and Notes by Harry Golden

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Customer Reviews

"A Bintel Brief was a part of my life at a time when anything that is a part of your life is of crucial importance . . . Isaac Metzker has reminded me of a debt I can never repay. Maybe you will help me. By reading this wonderful, wonderful book. Anti telling other people to read it. You will be doing them and every other American a service." Jerome Weidman, The New York Times Book Review "The letters reveal a rather wide range of opinion, but one constant throughout the years seems to have been ethical perplexities, and it is impressive that so many readers wrote in not to be told that they were right, but to find out what, in the opinion of the editors and the other readers, was right." The New Yorker

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Yiddish

My father (I am now almost 80) used to tell me of the "Forvertz" "Bintel Brief" column. I finally got exposed to it, and found it as fascinating as he told me it was. Everyone with a European Jewish background should read this one. My only complaint is that the responses to the letters have been heavily edited, thus removing their essential flavor. But any reader will get some appreciation of what the "greeners" (such as my grandfather) lived through in becoming "Americanized".

The letters to the editor of the Yiddish newspaper "The Daily Forward" predates Ann Landers and Dear Abby. The Jewish community in New York brought up many questions and looked to the Forward to provide answers. It is quite interesting to see what issues the community asked about in the early twentieth century. And, the answers to these letters reflect a thoughtfulness that may surprise you. It is a slice of history along with a view into the Jewish community.

A collection of Jewish memories from the early 1900's to 1950. I gifted several copies of this book to old friends and saw tears fall. So glad the author took time to translate the letters into English for all to read! Thank you, Isaac!

My grandfather read "The Forward" but called it "The Forverts." This book definitely presents a picture of a bygone era. It is as much a part of Jewish history as a scholarly text. I will make certain that my grandchildren read it.

This is the original book which is a collection of incredible stories of Jewish Immigrants from the beginning of the 20th century mostly in New York's lower east side. Fascinating accounts of life in America....some tragic...some funny...but all are notable.

Good source for researching the life and times of the Jews and others living in the Lower East Side during the early years of the 20th century. My copy was a little difficult to read due to age. [...]

This is so great. It really puts you into the lower east side in the beginning of the last century. I'm so glad these people had someone to go to with their many questions!

This text shows amazing insight into the American Jewish community. Most people disregard their

own histories. How did you get here? How did your grandparents, who had nothing, create the community we have today? A Bintel Brief helps sort out some of these problems, without being bogged down by historical writing.

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