



CONTENTS

Preface	xiii
General Introduction	xv
 <i>PART ONE: LIVING ON THE EDGE</i>	
Introduction	3
Jewish Business—Jerome Weidman	4
A Capitalist Triumph—Abraham Cahan	15
The Goldwater Story—Howard Simons	22
Tel Aviv, 1939—Arthur Koestler	25
Between Two Worlds—Itzik Feffer	28
 <i>PART TWO: GROWING UP</i>	
Introduction	31
Father and Son—Henry Roth	32
Mottel Gets a Job—Sholem Aleichem	40
A Writer's Beginning—I. L. Peretz	44
The Three-Star Canadian Bar Mitzvah—Mordechai Richler	48
Sex and Money in Newark—Philip Roth	53
Marriage in Medieval Cairo—S. D. Goitein	58
The Story of a Marriage—Solomon Maimon	59

Jack and Sadie—Jack Benny	64
An Intellectual Couple Starts Out—Diana Trilling	67

PART THREE: MATURING AND DYING

Introduction	73
The Rattle of a Simple Man—I. L. Peretz	73
The Struggle for Survival—Mendele Mokher Seforim	78
Why Do Jews Like Chinese Food?—Ivan Kalmar	80
Why I Did Not Become a Professor—Bernard Berenson	85
Dying and Burial—Bernard Malamud	89
The Laws of Mourning—The Shulchan Orech	92
Sitting Shiva—Mordechai Richler	92
A Good Mother Remembered—S. D. Goitein	102

PART FOUR: DIVINE INTOXICATION

Introduction	107
The Essentials of Biblical Judaism—Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Job, Psalms	108
The Exile from Eden—Robert Graves and Raphael Patai	111
The Day of Atonement—Shmuel Yosef Agnon	114
Talmudic Angelology—The Babylonian Talmud	116
Kabbalah—The Zohar	117
Making a Golem—Gershom Scholem	120
Sectarian Conflict—Abraham Ibn Daud	121
Wisdom Derives from Many Sources—Jacob Anatoli	122
The Messiah Has Come!—Nathan of Gaza	122
The Essentials of Hasidism—Martin Buber	124
The Sayings of Rabbi Nachman—Nachman of Bratislava	129

Reform Judaism—Isaac Mayer Wise	131
Neo-Orthodoxy—Joseph B. Soloveitchik	133
Creative Life-Force Among Jews—Franz Rosenzweig	134
Transactional Theology—Martin Buber	136
The Meaning of the Covenant—Abraham Joshua Heschel	137

PART FIVE: VICTIMS AND MARTYRS

Introduction	141
The Poets' Laments—Chaim Nachman Bialik, Perets Markish, Abraham Sutzkever	142
A Novelist's Insight—Aharon Appelfeld	145
Auschwitz—Primo Levi	148
The Final Solution—Leni Yahl	152
The Elimination of Hungarian Jewry—Hannah Arendt	155
Jewish Collaborators with the Germans—Raul Hilberg	160
Decline and Fall in Lodz—I. J. Singer	167
Exile from Alexandria—Andre Aciman	174
The Martyrdom of Colonel Marcus—Dan Kurzman	178
1492—Henry Kamen	182
Masada—Josephus Flavius	189

PART SIX: HOPING AND COPING

Introduction	195
The Alexandrian Sage—Philo Judaeus	196
Medieval Merchants—Norman A. Stillman	199
The Jewish Town—Der Nister	199
Government and Law in the Shtetl—Diane K. and David G. Roskies	208
Shtetl Derivatives—Maurice Samuel	212

The Lower East Side—Irving Howe	213
A Reconstituted Life—I. B. Singer	220
I Never Prayed with My Father—Franz Kafka	226
The Return to Zion—S. Y. Agnon	228
Seventy Years Later—Amos Oz	234
The Geniza World—Ammiel Alcalay	239
The Orientals—Tom Segev	244

PART SEVEN: WOMEN

Introduction	253
The Talmudic Rabbis Give Sex Lessons—Daniel Boyarin	254
Sex, Marriage, and Birth Control—Chaim Bermant	255
A Jewish Businesswoman in the Seventeenth Century—Gluckel of Hameln	259
A Hasidic Baby Girl—Esther Singer Kreitman	263
Under Hitler's Shadow—Anne Frank	266
The New American—Mary Antin	268
The Market—Adele Wiseman	276
The Activist—Henrietta Szold	282
A Neo-Orthodox Feminist—Blu Greenberg	285
The Hollywood Image of American Jewish Women—Letty Cotton Pogrebin	294
A New York Princess in Nazi-Land—Erica Mann Jong	303

PART EIGHT: STRIKING BACK

Introduction	311
Are the Jews Genetically Superior?—Raphael Patai	312
Judaism versus Medieval Christianity and Islam—Maimonides	313

The Perpetual Superiority of Israel—Judah Halevi	316
A Jewish Prince in Medieval Baghdad—Benjamin of Tudela	318
The Great American Retailers—Leon Harris	319
Hollywood Moguls—Irving Lazar	324
Chicago Jew Wins Nobel Prize for Literature—Malcolm Bradbury	331
Warsaw, April 1943: Germans versus Jews—S. B. Beit Zvi	335
The Romantic Image of the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt—Sholem Asch	345
Victory—Yael Dayan	346
Elation—Saul Friedlander	354
Jerusalem the Golden—Amos Elon	356
The Clan—George Weidenfeld	360
Stalin's Jews—Arkady Vaksberg	364

PART NINE: ICONS

Introduction	376
Moses—The Haggadah	377
Solomon—The Haggadah	379
Akiba—The Haggadah	380
Maimonides—Moses Ben Maimon	387
Dreyfus—Alfred Dreyfus, Emile Zola	391
Einstein—Isaiah Berlin, Ronald Clark	396
Brandeis—Louis D. Brandeis	406
Frankfurter—Robert A. Burt	409
Herzl—Theodore Herzl	415
Weizmann—Chaim Weizmann	422
Ben-Gurion—David Ben-Gurion	427
Ahad Ha'Am—Asher Ginzberg	430

PART TEN: ALTERNATIVE INTIMATIONS

Introduction	434
Demonology—S. Ansky	436
The Satmar Rebbe—Israel Rubin	439
Black Hats on the West Bank—Robert I. Friedman	442
Monastic Zionism—Yeshayahu Leibowitz	449
New Age Judaism—Lawrence Kushner	454
The Fascist Turn—Barry Chamish	455
Sociology—Emile Durkheim	460
Social Anthropology—Claude Lévi-Strauss	461
Psychoanalytic Theory—Sigmund Freud	468
Spinoza's Rationalism—Yirmiyahu Yovel	472
The Rise and Fall of Yiddish—Benjamin Harshav	475
Reconstructionism—Mordechai Kaplan	477
Epilogue: The Coming of the Messiah—Franz Kafka	479
Author Index	481
Copyright Acknowledgments	483
Illustration Credits	488