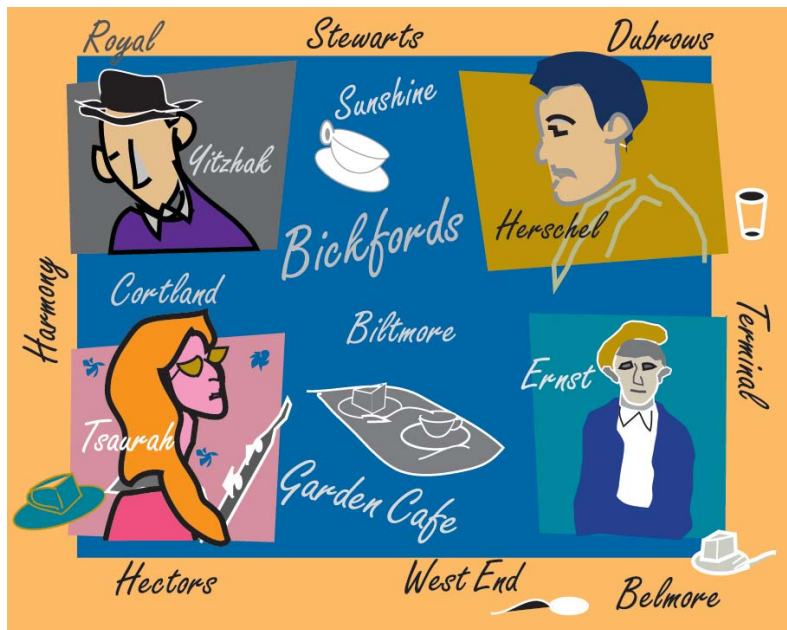




Cafeteria

by
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and
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Cafeteria is dedicated
to the memory of
Ernst Loesser 1937 - 1943



Cafeteria is an entertaining story that looks at an unexplored chapter in American Jewish history, namely the cafeteria as a central meeting place of large segments of the Jewish community. These public eating places were essential to the social, political and cultural life of New York City.

Cafeteria blends historical facts with the exploits and struggles of four main characters: immigrant writer Yitzhak Taylor, sharp witted proto-feminist musician Tsaarah Rosen, Holocaust survivor Herschel Lesser, and phantasmagoric son Ernst Lesser.

Cafeteria is the perfect gift book for Hannuka. Relevant issues for Jewish families explored in this narrative include ethnic identity, a woman's struggle to gain acceptance in a male dominated music scene, and the effects of personal and historical tragedy (the Holocaust) on an individual determined to forge a new life in America.

Some of the most exciting writing and artwork being produced today is being created by young Jewish writers and artists. History will some day prove that we are currently in the midst of a Jewish-American Literary Renaissance. Writers such as Michael Chabon, Nathan Englander, Jonathan Safran Foer and artists such as Art Spiegelman and Ben Katchor bare this out. In an increasingly visual age, the graphic novel **Cafeteria** can be part of this Revival.

But **Cafeteria** is more than a "Jewish" story. The cafeteria as a central image of the novel serves as a caldron (and microcosm of America) where old world loyalties are maintained, while new identities are forged. The ethnicity of recent immigrant groups may have changed, but yet the reality of the immigrant experience hasn't. While alienation is a common experience of recent arrivals, the United States still is a place where it's possible to start over, a current that has run through American literature from Ben Franklin's time. **Cafeteria** provides a narrative that anyone with a history of immigration in their family can relate to.

Cafeteria unfolds over 10 chapters, each roughly 12 pages long. Following is a list of chapters and a brief description of the contents.

Contents

1. **The Letter** - introduces the characters, setting and basic premise of the narrative.



2. **Food For Thought** - offers a historical and sociological context of the cafeteria's importance to Jewish culture.

3. **Just Us** - focuses on the Rosenberg Trial and the characters' response as well as the burgeoning love between Herschel and Tsaurah.



4. **Closing Time** - Herschel confesses he is haunted by ghosts of his past life and goes on a date with Tsaurah.



5. **Concerto** - Tsaurah's Carnegie Hall debut and an encounter with next door neighbor Marlon Brando.



6. **Debut Party** - Characters join New York's glitteratti at a loft party to celebrate Tsaurah's groundbreaking musical debut. Yitzhak faces an internal conflict over his status as an assimilated Jew and literary outsider.



7. **Ginsberg's Lot** - Yitzhak tells Tsaurah the cautionary tale of the semi-anonymous Max Davidson, former star of Yiddish stage and screen.

8. **Ivan the Terrible** - Close encounter of the surreal kind with a spectral former S.S. Guard and God in a t.v. set.



9. **His Story** - Ernst reveals himself to his father as Hersch comes to terms with his sublimated guilt.

10. **Daughters of Eve** - Concluding chapter in which Tsaurah establishes her individual artistic identity, and Yitzhak reaches a level of fame before leaving the safe confines of the cafeteria to take the literary world by storm.



