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# Growing Up Jewish In Small Town America: A Memoir

**GROWING UP JEWISH IN  
SMALL TOWN AMERICA:  
A MEMOIR**



Elaine Fantle Shimberg



## Synopsis

This book will make you laugh and might make you cry as you remember life in the 40's and 50's whether you come from a small town or not. You certainly do not have to be Jewish to enjoy this book. It will remind you of the days of Roy Rogers and The Shadow, when popcorn was 5 cents a bag at the movies. You'll laugh as Elaine tells about her adventures as an ear of corn and of playing "Mary" in the Christmas play. A tear might be shed when you learn of the 'sugar' episode, but you'll come away proud of a small town girl who used every scrap of imagination to reach her goals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tidbits of Jewish customs and history are woven throughout Elaine Fantle Shimberg's delightful memoir of a typical small town girl with whom we can easily identify. After all, I'm sure many of us swiped something from the dime store, got found out, and still have the tainted object (in my neighborhood it was almost a rite of passage). GROWING UP JEWISH IN SMALL TOWN AMERICA is a mirror of the lives of many kids growing up in the 1940s and '50s, regardless of their family's religious beliefs. Shimberg's keen sense of humor shines through, making this memoir both a picture of one girl's experience and a reflection of our society as it was before the advent of computers and cellphones. If you remember ration books and oleomargerine, you'll love reliving the memories. If you're "too young" for Captain Video, GROWING UP JEWISH IN SMALL TOWN AMERICA is a fun way to learn about the post-war years. This book is a quick read and a real treat! Reviewed by Laurie Loveman Author of the Firehouse Family Mysteries: MEMORIES, THE QUARRY, THE FARM FIRES and DEMISE OF THE HORSE FAIRY

Elaine Fantle Shimberg took me on a tour of her upbringing in Iowa where she and her family were part of a small community of Jewish residents in the mid 1900s. Her stories struck a chord of familiarity in me and I'm sure they will do the same for others, especially Baby Boomers who are watching the world change so dramatically. This is a mid-western, hometown slice-of-life that goes beyond a Jewish experience and reaches into the past in a cozy, heartfelt manner uplifting to everyone. Young people should read it and be amazed at the world their parents and grandparents knew!

In this delightful memoir Elaine Fantle Shimberg brings to life the feel of small-town mid-twentieth-century America from the special vantage point of a feisty, creative child whose family was among a handful of Jewish residents. Readers of any religion will enjoy reading about the young Elaine's adventures in a bygone time. *The Complete Book of Breastfeeding, 4th edition: The Classic Guide*

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