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You Never Call! You Never Write!: A History of the Jewish Mother

By Joyce Antler

Oxford University Press Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW PRINT ON DEMAND., You Never Call! You Never Write!: A History of the Jewish Mother, Joyce Antler, Antler examines the cultural history and iconography of images of Jewish mothers through the twentieth century. The book begins with the Yiddish Mama of the early immigrant families, the popular radio and TV personality Molly Goldberg of the 30's and 40's, the evil and good mothers penned and films by their second-generation sons including Philip Roth, Arthur Miller, Woody Allen and Mel Brooks. Antler discusses how, in the prewar and immediate postwar period, psychoanalysis and pop culture reshaped the Jewish mother into a source of neurosis and manipulation; while in the 1960's, feminist daughters rebelled against, what Betty Friedan described as 'her mother and her discontent.' This cultural history provides an engaging look at issues of gender, class, ethnicity and the role of the mother, anchoring Jewish assimilation in the American life while providing a foil for reliving the tensions that acculturation caused. The dominant images of the Jewish mother from each era change over time, as they align with new social relations. As Jews successfully acculturated to mainstream norms, joking about old...



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