



## A Forgotten Land: Growing Up in the Jewish Pale: Based on the Recollections of Pearl Unikow Cooper

Lisa Cooper

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A Forgotten Land is the story of one Jewish family's lives and experiences in the Russian Empire in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, set within the wider context of pogroms, World War I, the Russian Revolution and Civil War. It weaves together personal tragedy and a fascinating but little-known history of the period, as Pearl - the author's grandmother - finds her comfortable family life shattered first by the early death of her mother and later by the Bolshevik Revolution and all that follows.

Her hometown is ravaged by the Tsarist and Communist armies, as well as numerous lawless bands of rebels. Almost all are anti-Semitic and slaughter Jews at will. Starvation is threatening the country and although Pearl is only a teenager, she is forced to become the family breadwinner, risking life and limb to keep her relatives alive. Eventually she becomes a black market gold dealer - a crime punishable by death. Finally she can take it no more. Leaving behind her family and the only home she has ever known, she makes her escape to a new world.



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