

# [PDF] Call It Sleep: A Novel

Alfred Kazin, Henry Roth - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: Call It Sleep: A Novel  
Author: Alfred Kazin, Henry Roth  
Released: 2005-06-16  
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Pages: 480  
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#### Description:

**Review** "One of the few genuinely distinguished novels written by a twentieth-century American." -- Irving Howe, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Arguably the most distinguished work of fiction ever written about immigrant life...Surely the most lyrically authentic novel in American literature about a young boy's coming to consciousness." --Lis Harris, *The New Yorker*

"Roth has done for the East Side Jew what James T. Farrell is doing for the Chicago Irish in the Studs Lonigan trilogy.... When his characters are speaking pure Yiddish, Roth translates it into great

beauty....The final chapters in the book have been compared to the Nighthtown episodes of Joyce's Ulysses; the comparison is apt." --John Chamberlain, *The New York Times*

### **From the Inside Flap**

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When Henry Roth published his debut novel *Call It Sleep* in 1934, it was greeted with considerable critical acclaim, though, in those troubled times, lackluster sales. Only with its paperback publication thirty years later did this novel receive the recognition it deserves&mdash;and still enjoys. Having sold to date millions of copies worldwide, *Call It Sleep* is the magnificent story of David Schearl, the "dangerously imaginative" child coming of age in the slums of New York.

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"There has appeared in America no novel to rival the veracity of this childhood. It is as honest as Dreiser's *Dawn*, but far more sensitive and ably written. It is as brilliant as Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist*, but with a wider scope, a richer emotion, a deeper realism."&mdash;Alfred Hayes, author of *All Thy Conquests*

"For sheer virtuosity, *Call It Sleep* is hard to beat; no one has ever distilled such poetry and wit from the counterpoint between the maimed English and the subtle Yiddish of the immigrant. No one has reproduced so sensitively the terror of family life in the imagination of a child caught between two cultures."&mdash;Leslie A. Fiedler, author of *The Life and Death of the Great American Novel*

Henry Roth (1906&mdash;1995) was born in the Austro-Hungarian province of Galitzia. He probably landed on Ellis Island in 1909, and began his life in New York on the Lower East Side in the slums where *Call It Sleep* is set. He is the author as well of *Shifting Landscapes*, a collection of essays, and the *Mercy of a Rude Stream* tetralogy.

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