



# Portnoy's Complaint

By Philip Roth



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Portnoy's Complaint *n.* [after Alexander Portnoy (1933- )] A disorder in which strongly-felt ethical and altruistic impulses are perpetually warring with extreme sexual longings, often of a perverse nature. Spielvogel says: 'Acts of exhibitionism, voyeurism, fetishism, auto-eroticism and oral coitus are plentiful; as a consequence of the patient's "morality," however, neither fantasy nor act issues in genuine sexual gratification, but rather in overriding feelings of shame and the dread of retribution, particularly in the form of castration.' (Spielvogel, O. "The Puzzled Penis," *Internationale Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse*, Vol. XXIV, p. 909.) It is believed by Spielvogel that many of the symptoms can be traced to the bonds obtaining in the mother-child relationship.

With a new Afterword by the author for the 25th Anniversary edition.

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## Portnoy's Complaint By Philip Roth Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Along with Saul Bellow's *Herzog*, Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* defined Jewish American literature in the 1960s. Roth's masterpiece takes place on the couch of a psychoanalyst, an appropriate jumping-off place for an insanely comical novel about the Jewish American experience. Roth has written several great books--*Goodbye, Columbus* and *When She Was Good* among them, but it is perhaps *Portnoy's Complaint* for which he is best known.

#### From Publishers Weekly

The 25th-anniversary edition of Roth's classic novel features a new afterword by the author. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Library Journal

This is the first audio recording of this work, tying in with the 30th anniversary of the novel's publication. Author Roth both chose the reader, actor Ron Silver, and supervised the taping. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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