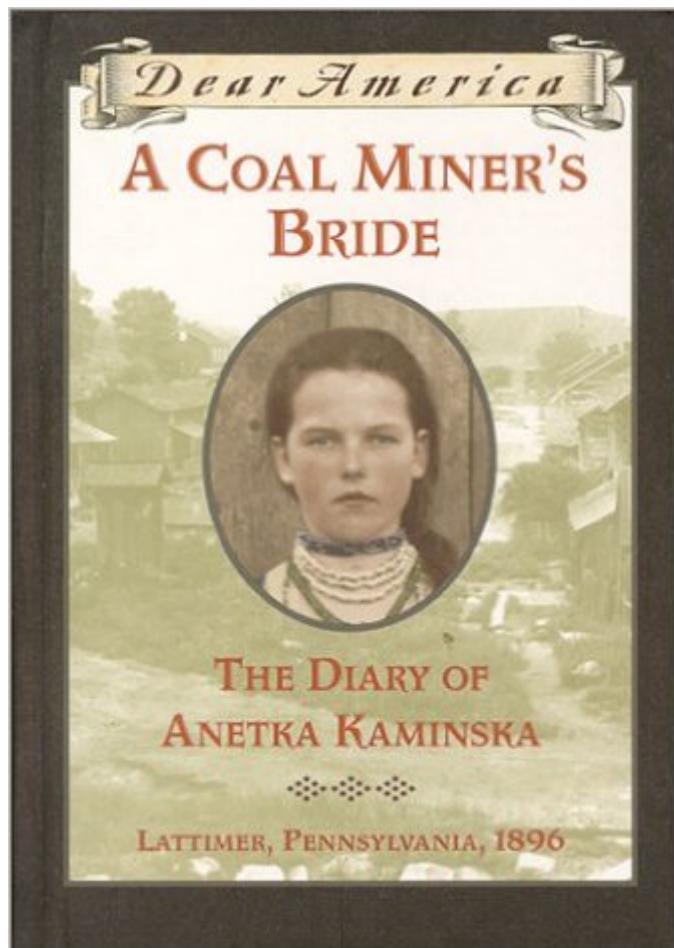


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# A Coal Miner's Bride: The Diary Of Anetka Kaminska (Dear America)



## **Synopsis**

Meet Anetka, a 13-year-old Polish girl who comes to America as a promised bride to a Pennsylvania coal miner. Her fascinating diary entries give readers a personal glimpse into what life was like in a coal-mining town during a tumultuous time in our country's past.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Annetka Kaminska is a thirteen-year-old girl living in Russian-controlled Poland in 1896. She bitterly resents the Russians that have taken over her country and are forcing her people to give up their language and customs. But she is even more angry when her father, living in America, arranges a marriage for her, with a Pennsylvania coal miner twice her age. A widower with three little girls, Stanley mourns for his wife and does not love Annetka, treating her almost like a servant. Yet when he dies in a mining accident, things become even more difficult, as she must care for the children and pay the rent. Yet in spite of her bleak life, she finds some hope in the children, and in the possibly of true love. I highly recommend this novel to historical fiction fans. Annetka is a well-developed, likeable character that you can't help but cheer for as she struggles to survive daily and make a new life for herself in America.

"A Coal-Miner's Bride, the Diary of Anetka Kaminska" is a wonderful new Dear America book. It tells

the story of Anetka, who is a Russian Pole who must go to America to marry someone she doesn't know. Throughout the book, she discovers lots of different things about herself and other people. She has many hard things happen to her and you keep thinking she will just give up. This book is one of the best Dear America books, in my opinion. The beginning is a little slow, but the pace quickens after the first several pages. The book teaches about mining, Poland, arranged marriages, and life in a mining town. I would give it 5+++ stars if I could. I think it has a wider age range than some of the other D.A. books. I recommend this to girls ages 10-15.

This book was so good! "...I laughed...I cried...it moved me." :) Anyway, it's about Anetka, the spirited Polish girl who leaves her homeland everything she knows, to marry an unknown man in America. Anetka is worried about whether she'll be able to be a good wife (she's only 13), but even more worried about what kind of man she is going to marry. When Anetka reaches America with her brother Josef; and Leon, the teasing soldier who protects them; she discovers that she also has another role: a mother. The man she is betrothed to has three daughters who need a mother. Throughout her short marriage, Anetka struggles with her many responsibilities and hopes that love will come between her and her husband. Just when their relationship is looking up, however, he gets killed in the coal mines. Now Anetka has to care for 3 daughters, her father, brother, 3 boarders, and eventually Leon. Worsening working conditions for the coal miners also cause more hardships for the immigrants. Anetka's life does get better though, and she finds true love in Leon.

A Coal Miner's Bride was a great read, and now my favorite in the Dear America series! It tells the story, in diary form, of a 13 year old Russian Pole, Anetka, who leaves her country to marry a coal miner in America. She is not happy to go, however, especially when her grandmother decides to stay behind - and gives her ticket to a Russian soldier, who will accompany Anetka and her brother. Anetka's husband doesn't seem to love her, but when things are looking better, he dies in an accident and she is left to support his three daughters. And when massacres and her friend Leon enter her life, things are even harder. Will life always be harsh for Anetka? This was a great book, and I'd recommend it for ages 11 - 15. Be sure to read "Dreams in the Golden Country", another Dear America book!

Anetka Kaminska is satisfied with her life in Poland until one day her father sends steamship tickets and a letter saying she must come to America and marry Stanley Gawrich. She must leave in a hurry

with a young soldier, Leon Nasevich, who mysteriously happens to be wherever Anetka is. When she gets to America she finds that all the immigrants are poorly treated. To make matters worse, Stanley doesn't want a wife, he only wants a mother for his 3 daughters. After about 6 months of Anetka's unhappy marriage, Stanley dies and leaves Anetka with his three daughters. She has to take in borders to make ends meet and to pay off Stanley's large debt. Leon comes back into her life and mixes all her feelings up. Everyone should read this book. It gives perspective to the way life was for immigrants in the late 1800's. This was the best Dear America I have read yet.

This is the best diary ever. Ms. Bartoletti did a FABULOUS job on this book. I loved it. It's about a young girl you are forced to marry an American miner at age 13. Until she reaches the US she doesn't know that her fiancee has two young children also. For a few months she works hard to get her husband to love her until her husband gets killed in a mining accident, but her lover Leon, an ex-Russian takes care on her family and.....you'll have to read it to find out more. But by far, this is the BEST dear America book ever! But this has a more advanced context than most DA books, and I too think that this is for kids ages - 13 to 17.

I fell in love with the Dear America series last year and since then I've read most of the series. So far this book is my favorite. For anyone who enjoys historical fiction, this book has great descriptions and information about coal mining in the late 1800's. The story is about Anetka Kaminska, a fiery 13 year old who moves to America with her younger brother to be with their father who is working in the mines. Accompanying them is a Russian soldier named Leon who Anetka cannot stand because he is in the Russian army and teases her. But he is detained when they arrive. Anetka has an arranged marriage with a man who turns out to be twice her age-- and a widower with 3 daughters who does not love her. Anetka struggles with the work of living as an immigrant in a country and being a mother to the 3 girls. Her troubles become even more when the Black Maria arrives with to tell her that her husband has been killed in the mines. I loved the second half of the book because of how we see Anetka's character develop, and also the beautiful and very sweet love story. This book wasn't boring for one second and the story was just wonderful. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a good -but very dark at times- read.

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