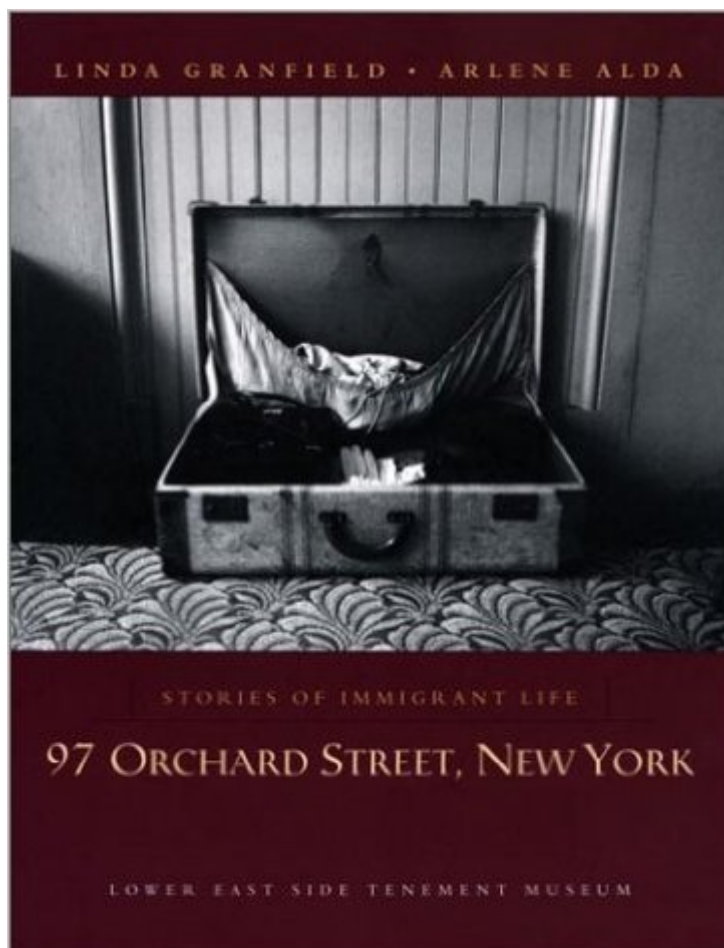


The book was found

# 97 Orchard Street, New York: Stories Of Immigrant Life



## Synopsis

Imagine growing up on Orchard Street in 1916. If you were a member of the large Confino family you'd be living in 325 square feet of space. The only fresh air and natural light would come from the two windows in the front room. No heat, no water, no bathtub, no shower. Toilet in the hall. The Confino's apartment is only one part of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, an extraordinary facility in New York City. The Museum has restored 97 Orchard Street to provide us with an opportunity to understand the immigrant experience shared by millions who have come to North America. In text and with archival photos, Linda Granfield tells the story of four families, including the Confinos, who called 97 Orchard Street home, and provides information about the period, the history of the house, and the neighborhood, bringing to life conditions that were familiar to immigrants in many of North America's big cities. The stories and archival materials are beautifully complemented by Arlene Alda's sensitive photographs that evoke the hardship, the dignity, and the hope encompassed in 97 Orchard Street. The book includes useful facts, information about the Museum and its efforts to help new immigrants who share similar experiences. Whether or not the reader can visit the Museum itself, this book is a valuable resource in understanding our own histories in North America.

## Book Information

Paperback: 56 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books (October 2, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0887765807

ISBN-13: 978-0887765803

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #420,008 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants](#) #190 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > State & Local](#) #271 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#)

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

## Customer Reviews

This is a great glimpse at early immigrant life in New York City. The pictures were amazing and the stories that went with them really gives the reader an idea of what it was like to live as a new arrival to America. I would have enjoyed it more if it were longer but the stories and pictures provided were great.

I visited the Lower East Side Tenement Museum several years ago. It was fascinating. The photographs and research conducted for this book made everything come alive. As a fan of immigrants' stories and culinary history, I was a happy reader.

I wanted to love this book because I loved the museum but I barely liked it. There was no continuity, no thread linking one chapter and one family to the next. And the author didn't even explore or explain words that were used such as the Irish women calling the big pot a "biler." And WHY did they call it that? Because they BOILED food in it and with their pronunciation it came out BILER. But I only know that because of my Irish grandmother, the author sure didn't clue anyone in on it. There were other things like that but I didn't keep track, just kept getting annoyed by the lack of fact checking.

Difficult to categorize this book...yes, glimpses into the squalid conditions in the tenements with real immigrant families, but we are left with no "story" about them before a new chapter begins with yet another situation. If the point was to capture various peeks into their daily survivalist lifestyles, perhaps it is worthwhile. Otherwise, readers who are hoping for more about each family (and we do get to "know" a few of them)...will be disappointed . It's a Soc 101 type book..there, I categorized it!

It just reminded me of a book for kids, I thought it would have more volume. This would be a good book to teach kids about immigrant America.

THis is a nice book, but it's really mostly photos with a bit of text...if that's what you want.

Wonderful story. It makes me want to visit him Tenement Museum in New York City. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who's interested in the turn-of-the-century era.

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