An Enemy of Society: Autobiography Outline of Alexander Berkman

People:

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Tags: emma goldman, east side, lecture tour, labor leaders, union square, san francisco, prime minister, prison, life, labor.

Text:

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EARLY DAYS: Life at home and school in St. Petersburg. My bourgeois father and aristocratic mother. Jews and gentiles. I question my father about the Turkish prisoners of war begging alms in the streets.

OUR FAMILY SKELETON: Strange rumors about my mother and her brother Maxim. Echoes of the Polish rebellion of 1863. I hear of the dreaded Nihilists and revolution.

A TERRIFIED HOUSEHOLD: A bomb explodes as I recite my lesson in school. The assassination of Czar Alexander II. Secret groups in our class. Police search our house. Uncle Maxim is arrested for conspiring against the Czar's Life. The funeral of the dead Czar. A terrorized city.

FAMILY TROUBLES: Rumors of my beloved Uncle Maxim's execution. My terrible
grief. Death of my father. We lose the right of residing in the capital. Race prejudice and discrimination. Breaking up our business and home.


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MY FIRST REBELLION: I defy my rich uncle Nathan and defend a servant girl against my mother. Punished in school for my essay, "There is no God", written when I was 13 years old. Chumming with a factory boy and teaching him to read. I discover capitalism. I worship my martyred Uncle Maxim.

PLANNING AN ESCAPE: I learn that Uncle Maxim is alive and has escaped from Siberia. My brother Max is refused admission to universities, because he is a Jew. My violent indignation. More trouble at school. Max preparing to enter a German university. I conspire to accompany him. A narrow escape in stealing our way across the border. I go to Hamburg. Traveling steerage to America.


REALITY VERSES IDEALISM: Life and struggle. Devotion to my ideals. My intimate
comrades and our first "commune colony". Planning to return to Russia for revolutionary work. John Most and the German anarchist movement in America. My friends Emma Goldman and Fedya. Love, friendship and revolution.

THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE: The steelworkers of Pennsylvania. Carnegie and H. C. Frick. the blood-

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SOME MORE TROUBLE: A massmeeting in Cooper Union. I object to a speaker's remarks and am railroaded to Blackwell's Island.

STRUGGLES OF LABOR: The beginning of American imperialism and my first anti-war work. The Industrial Workers of the World and the American Federation of Labor. Outstanding personalities. I help to found the Francisco Ferrer Association for libertarian education. My new role as a radical Sunday-school teacher. I write my prison memories. The unemployed movement; taking possession of churches. The Ludlow massacre; strikes and great labor trials. Big Bill Haywood, Hillquit, Emma Goldman, Margaret Sanger, Gurley Flynn, Tresca, and other personalities. The Union Square tragedy. I defend the McNamra brothers. The Los Angeles TIMES explosion. General Otis. Mother Jones and martial law. Clarence Darrow gets acquitted and convicts the McNamara brothers, his clients. Golden-rule Lincoln Steffens is double-crossed at his own game. We fight it out with the police at Union Square. I lead the siege of Tarrytown, home of Rockefeller. The inside story of some explosions. I am charged with inciting to riot and face prison again.


I tour the country in his behalf and work for Mooney in New York.

THE WAR: America enters the war. Jingo Quakers and radicals. The NO-WAR
campaign and my fight against conscription. Exciting mass meetings. I break my leg and talk on crutches. Defying police and soldiers. The Revolution breaks out in Russia and I plan to go there. I am arrested for obstructing the draft. In the Tombs. California demands my extradition in connection with the Mooney case. The Kronstadt (Russia) sailors threaten the life of the American ambassador Francis in case I am extradited to California. Wilson sends a confidential messenger (Colonel House) to the Governor of New York. The Governor refuses to extradite me. My trial for "conspiracy to obstruct the draft".


DEPORTATION: First deportation of politicals from the United States. The hell of Ellis Island and our kidnapping in the dead of night. The leaky boat "Buford" and its passengers. A near-mutiny. Sailors and soldiers offer to turn the ship over to me. The "sealed orders of the captain". We make demands and gain them. In danger of landing in the country of the Whites. Traveling in Finland under military convoy. Finnish soldiers steal our provisions. Crossing the border.

IN THE SOVIET RUSSIA: The Revolution day by day. Meeting Bolshevik leaders: Lenin, Tchicherin,

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FROM PILLAR TO POST: Arrested in Latvia: the revenge of a Tchekist. Spending
Christmas in prison with Emma Goldman and another friend. Liberated with apologies and "advised" to leave the country. Chasing for visas. Danger and fun. Invited to Sweden by Prime Minister Branting.

I KEEP GOING: I write an article for a Stockholm paper in behalf of the persecuted politicals in Russia. Result: the bourgeois press attacks Prime Minister Branting for offering the hospitality of Sweden to "dangerous anarchists". We are requested to leave. Refused a visa by several countries, I stowaway on a tramp steamer during a great snow-storm. I manage to get to Hamburg and lose no time reaching Berlin.

Life in Germany during the inflation. I have suddenly become a millionaire. Six billion marks for one dollar. I rechristen myself "Dr. Schmidt" and try to explain where and why I was born. The adventure of living without "documents". Discovery in Bavaria and my timely escape.

Paris and Montparnasse. Types and doings. The Latin quarter: artists, bohemians, and their various "movements". The expatriated of the world.

I am suddenly expelled from France. Mysterious enemies. An involuntary journey to Belgium and my arrest on the border. I am ordered to leave but remain "underground". Adventures with diamond speculators and contrabandists. A perfect stranger risks his wealth and liberty for my sake and refuses my thanks. My faith in humanity grows 100 per cent.

Back in France. Soon again requested to leave. Expelled again, and again. Must get off the earth, but am still here. Nowhere to go, but awaiting the next order.

INTERESTING PERSONALITIES: Some men I have met and women I have known. Love and friendships. How the world keeps turning round.
Chronology:


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