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SYNOPSIS: (YESTERDAY GIRL)

Anita G., 22 is a Jewish girl who has fled to West Germany from Leipzig in the East Zone. She has been arrested for shoplifting. The judge says that her Jewish childhood in Germany has no bearing on the present case, that she came here not out of fear but out of opportunism. She is sent to jail. A zealous social worker urges her toward idealism and prayer but Anita says goodness is only what is good for her. The police promise to help her when she gets out on probation. She gets a job selling foreign language courses for a high pressure boss who romances her. His jealous wife gets rid of Anita and she takes a job as a chambermaid. She fantasizes about a storybook Germany of the past and cannot seem to cope with the harsh present. Again she is accused of stealing and her landlady throws her out for non-payment of rent. She takes up with a young student briefly, then goes to Frankfurt to start a new life. She attends courses at the university but the professor lectures her with scholarly, impenetrable theories and can give her no practical advice. Anita muses, "Will yesterday come tomorrow?" She picks up a man who turns out to be the Undersecretary in the Ministry of Culture. His wife becomes jealous too. She returns to shoplifting. She reads about a Dr. Bauer who sometimes grants amnesty to people with police records but she is unable to locate him through the maze of officialdom. Her Undersecretary returns and tries to teach her the joys of the arts of the past, particularly opera. They part again and Anita becomes a homeless waif, wandering about the city. She gives herself up to the police pregnant. The police promise to help her when she gets out.

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