

## The White Spring – summary

Hedvika, the protagonist of the book „White Spring“ is a German girl growing up in the westernmost city of the republic - Asch - in a traditionally farming family. In this way, we could see her as a classic novella protagonist who accompanies us through her life. However, her life story is set in the Sudetenland and the dramatic period between 1915 and 1946, when everything in the once industrially advanced and glittering city of Asch has begun to fall apart.

Hedvika was born at a time when the city of Asch was called „little Paris“. The textile industry, services and trade flourished here. It was full of small shops and cafes and the population was almost solely German. Hedvika lives in today's periphery of the village, in Wernersreuth, and because she is a promising girl, ambitions are awakening in her. The environment of the farm, the village school and later studies in the city unstopably shape her nature, the main feature of which is the „compulsion“ - the need to constantly do something. She introduces us to her relationship with her strict father, an unresponsive mother, a half-brother and a grandmother who vehemently supports her in her ambitions. The entanglement of village relations reaches its peak for her in the form of Anton, a boy from the local pub, whom she has loved since childhood.

This girl who lacks any humility from the beginning is brought down by life. The parallel of her life's twists and turns is mingled with historical events. First with the cession of the Sudetenland to Germany, then with the war, which also affected the local German population without distinction, and finally with the expulsion, which will destroy everything the girl has dreamed of.

However, the main role here is not played by politics or historical facts, but by the small dramas of common people from the Sudetenland. Hedvika is a prototype of a girl of this time, who completely deviates from the well-established schemes, which are often presented in literature with this theme. Her experience in the background of all events is not pathetic, but it remains true. Love is presented without embellishments, Hedvika herself is a character experiencing deep feelings, but at the same time is detached. Her ambivalent nature eventually seals her fate, which strikes most of the locals - she has to leave her homeland.

The author of the book was born and still lives in the now almost excluded locality of Asch, where she returned after her studies. She writes about the city despite its inhospitality, which nevertheless provides her with constant inspiration. Despite its limitations, she sees it as a beautiful and original region that deserves to regain its glory.