



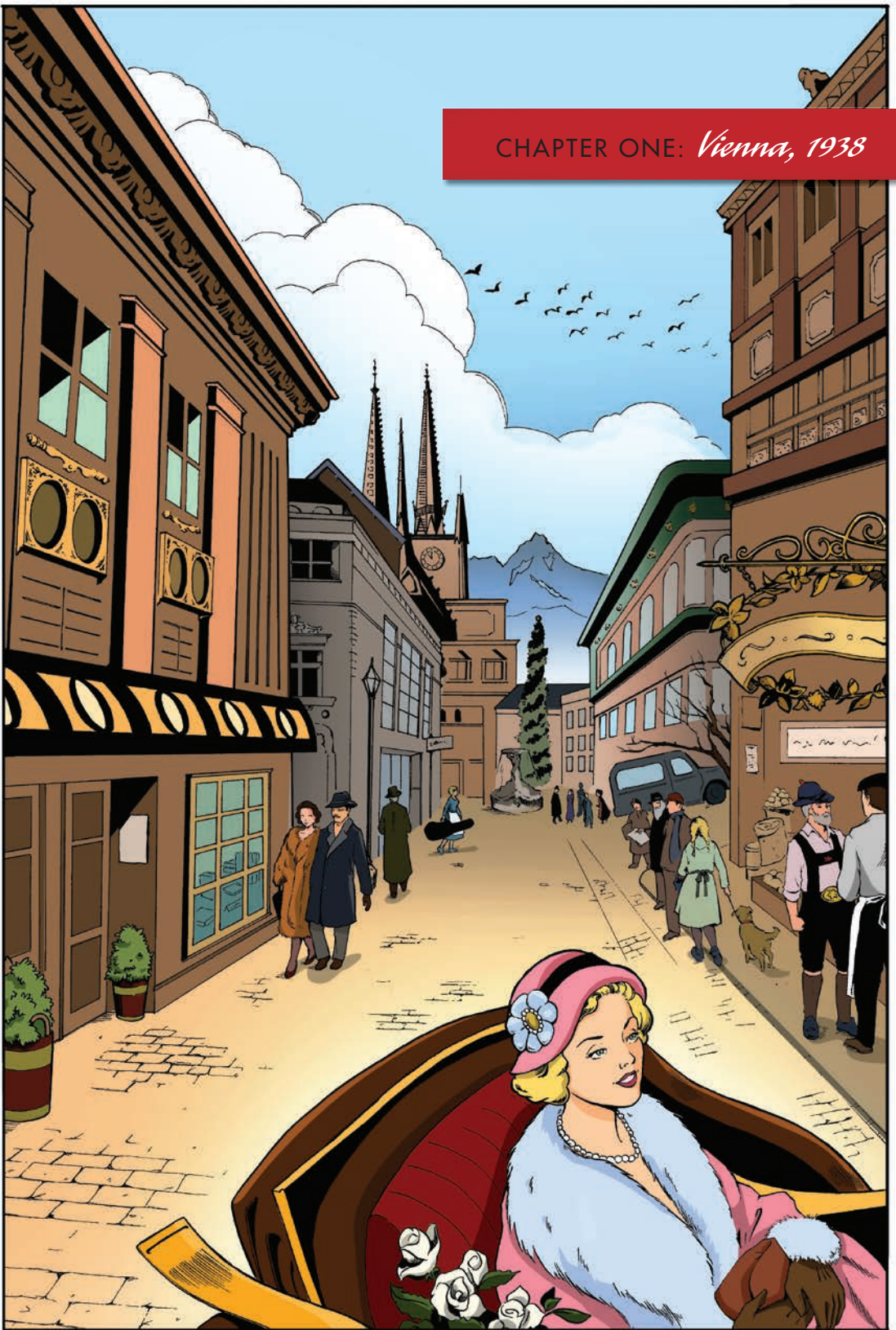
*In 1938, Lily Renée Wilhelm is a 14-year-old Jewish girl living in Vienna.*

Her days are filled with art and ballet. Then the Nazis march into Austria, and Lily's life is shattered overnight. Suddenly, her own country is no longer safe for her or her family. To survive, Lily leaves her parents behind and travels alone to England.

Escaping the Nazis is only the start of Lily's journey. She must escape many more times—from servitude, hardship, and danger. Will she find a way to have her own sort of revenge on the Nazis? Follow the story of a brave girl who becomes an artist of heroes and a true pioneer in comic books.

*Trina Robbins* is the author of numerous nonfiction and fiction books and comics for children and adults, including several histories of women cartoonists. A pioneer in comics herself, she took part in the underground comix movement of the 1960s and illustrated the Wonder Woman comic book. Most recently, she authored the Chicagoland Detective Agency graphic novel series. She lives in San Francisco with her partner, comics artist Steve Leialoha.

CHAPTER ONE: *Vienna, 1938*





Growing up in Vienna, the capital of Austria, in the 1930s, Lily Renée Wilhelm experienced the best of everything.



Vienna was a gracious and cultured city, with museums, a famous opera, and beautiful old buildings.





Lily's family was well-off. Her father managed the Holland America line, a big steamship company that ran transatlantic travel and cargo shipments, and provided elegant vacation cruises.

Her parents took Lily to the ballet, and she visited the opera twice a year with her school.

Lily attended dancing classes and art school. She was a talented artist, and while she was still very young, her art was exhibited at a gallery.



One day, it all changed...

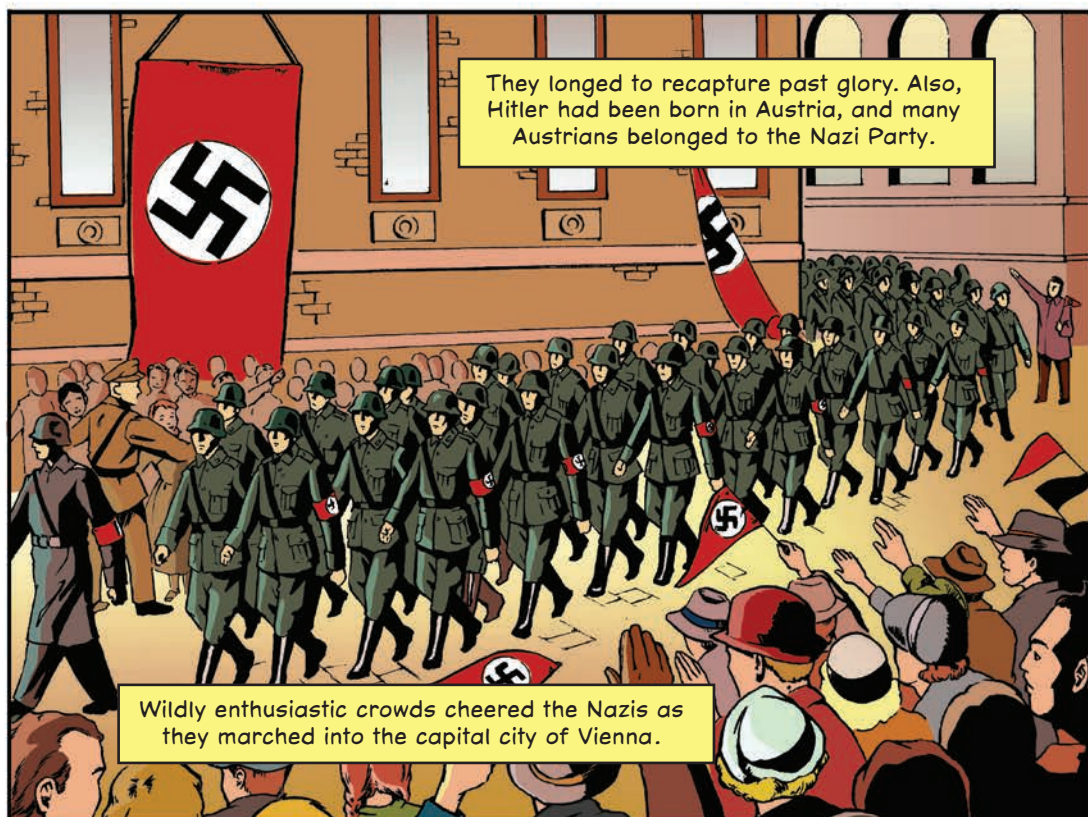




On March 12, 1938, Hitler's Nazi army invaded Austria.

Long before the Nazis came to power, Austria had wanted to form a union with Germany and bring all German peoples together into one country. The word for this union was **Anschluss**.





They longed to recapture past glory. Also, Hitler had been born in Austria, and many Austrians belonged to the Nazi Party.

Wildly enthusiastic crowds cheered the Nazis as they marched into the capital city of Vienna.




But not everyone was enthusiastic.

Mama, Papa,  
I'm scared.

So are we,  
*liebling*.

Lily and her parents were Jewish. They knew how fiercely the Nazis hated the Jews.





Almost immediately, the Nazis began to persecute the Austrian Jews.

On April 10, an election was held. 99% of the votes were in favor of Austria becoming part of Germany. Most people were afraid to vote no, in case their votes should be made public. Jews were not allowed to vote.


The Nazis confiscated Jewish property.

Nazi headquarters needs a radio. We're taking this one.

But, Mama, that's our only radio.


Shh.





The Nazis forced all Jewish merchants to mark their stores. Then the Nazis stood outside the stores, urging people not to shop there.

Nazis made all the Jews in Austria move to Vienna. Viennese Jews with large houses or apartments had to share them with the displaced Jews.

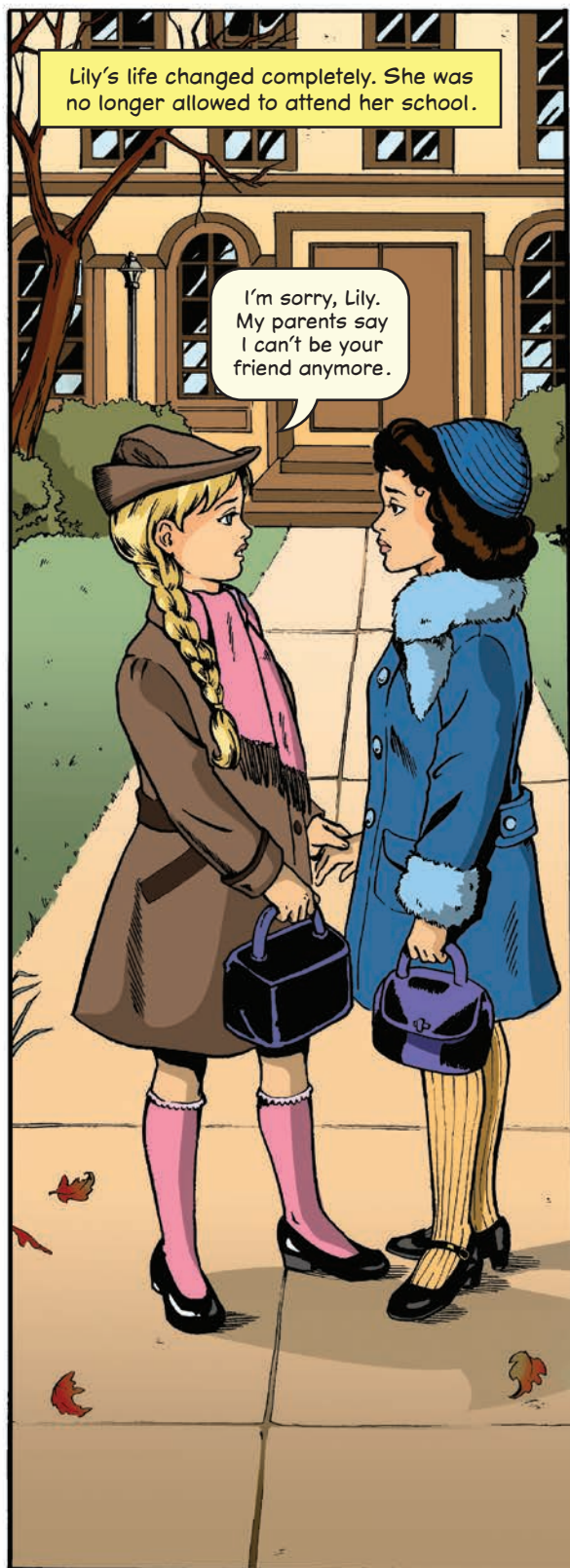


You'll have to share your apartment with these people. You have plenty of room.

≥Sigh≤

I guess we'll fit them in somehow.







The Gestapo (the Nazi secret police) arrested Lily's uncle and sent him to Dachau, a concentration camp in Southern Germany, but they let him out again.

Uncle Samuel!

We were afraid we'd never see you again!

They only let me out because I have a ticket on a ship out of the country, to Palestine.

It was terrible! They made us stand in the freezing cold all night in bare feet.

But why?

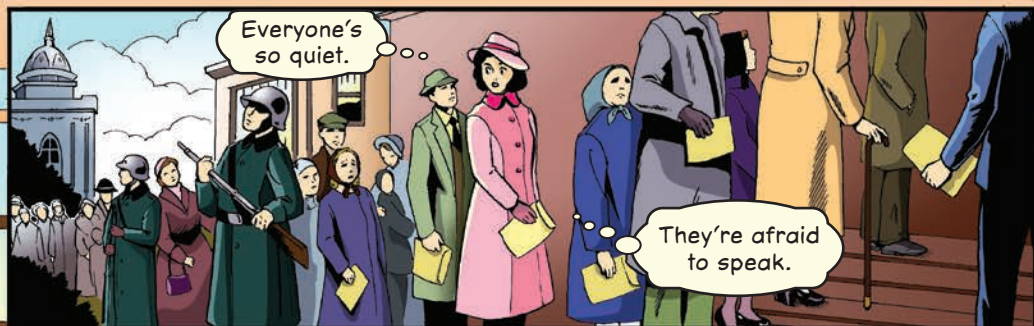
Because Nazis play horrible games with people!

But I'm afraid they'll arrest me again before I can get away. You have to hide me!

We'll just hide him here for one night. Then you can have your room back.

Samuel was arrested again, a month later, before he could get out of the country. He died in Buchenwald, the largest concentration camp in Germany.









Are we being arrested?



**INSIDE!  
GET A  
MOVE ON!**

Into the synagogue?  
But why?

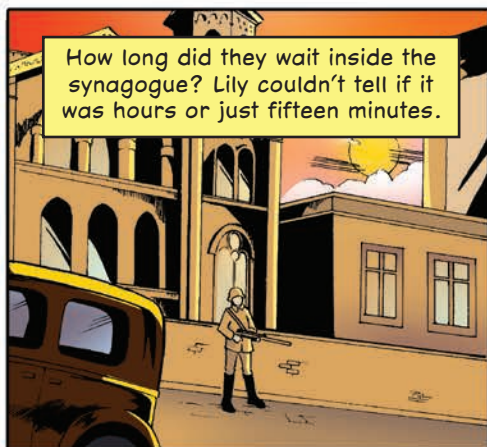


Did you hear?  
They're going to burn  
down the synagogue  
with all of us in it!

No! I can't believe  
that! That guard  
must be protecting  
us from something.  
That's why they  
brought us in here.



His face!  
So cold!  
He hates us!



How long did they wait inside the  
synagogue? Lily couldn't tell if it  
was hours or just fifteen minutes.



**ALL OF YOU!  
GET OUT!**



Oh, Mama, they never even told us *why*!  
And then they finally sent us all home!

And now I'll have  
to wait to get  
their papers  
stamped all over  
again tomorrow!

I'm just happy  
that you weren't  
harmed, *liebling*.



On the morning of November 10, 1938...

Papa, Mama, I  
had the strangest  
dream last night.

There was shouting,  
and screaming and  
crashing...

What...?







It wasn't a dream.

Lily, come inside.





In Berlin, a seventeen-year-old Jewish boy named Herschel Grynzpan, protesting the brutal treatment of his family by the Nazis, had shot and killed a German diplomat.

The Nazis retaliated by starting riots in Berlin and Vienna, with mobs led by the Gestapo disguised as citizens.



So this time they really did burn the synagogue.

It's not safe anymore. We have to leave Austria.



Because of the broken glass covering the sidewalks and streets, this night was named Kristallnacht, or *The Night of Broken Glass*.



Soon after Kristallnacht...

Look, England has made an agreement with Germany to take in Jewish children under the age of seventeen. We can send Lily out of the country!

Let me see!

The children will have to find a sponsor in England, someone who agrees to take them in and be responsible for them.

Maybe my British pen pal can help! I'll send her a letter right now.

Soon after Lily sent a letter to her British pen pal, she got a reply.

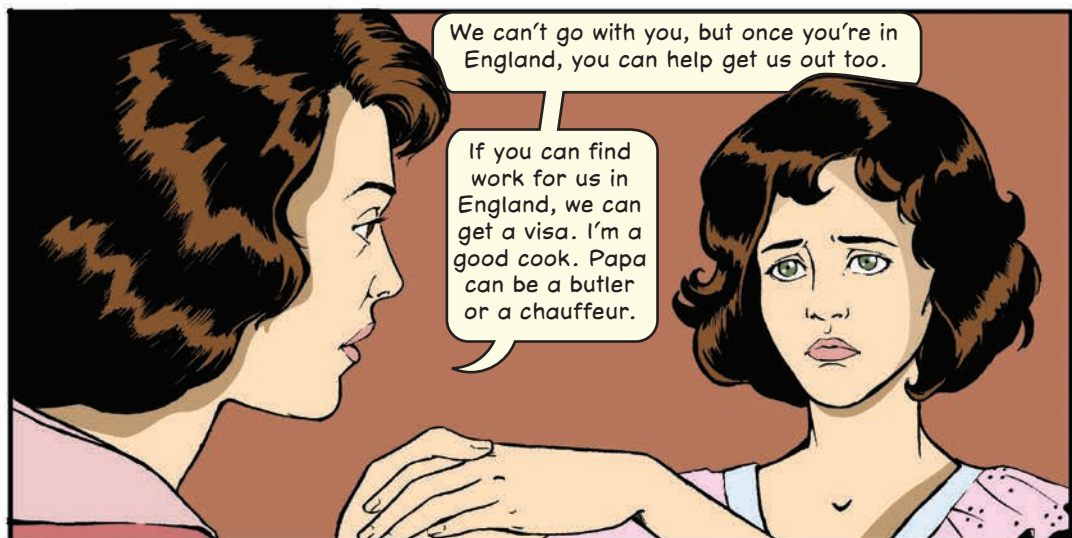
Mama! Papa!  
It's a letter from Molly!

Molly's mother has agreed to be my sponsor! I can live with them until this nightmare is over!





But...Papa, Mama, what about you? I don't want to leave without you.



We can't go with you, but once you're in England, you can help get us out too.

If you can find work for us in England, we can get a visa. I'm a good cook. Papa can be a butler or a chauffeur.



You'll see, we'll be joining you in a few weeks.