

DR. RUTH HAS LIVED A ROLLER-COASTER LIFE!

She's been an orphan and a soldier; a professor and a star; a struggling new immigrant in America. Dr. Ruth Westheimer's resilience and love of life have helped her succeed through a lifetime of challenges. No matter the situation, she found a way to come through it standing tall – even at 4'7"!



"There's not much more awesomely surreal than a graphic novel—a comic book, honestly!—about the life of Dr. Ruth. Her life is inspiring, her story is amazing, and this format is as creative and hilarious as she is. Brilliant."

—Mayim Bialik, Neuroscientist and Actress, *Big Bang Theory*

"An inspiring story of the triumph of the human spirit—and a great comic! What more could you want?"

—Steve Sheinkin, author and illustrator of the *Rabbi Harvey Series*



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ROLLER-COASTER **Grandma**

BY
DR. RUTH K. WESTHEIMER
AND PIERRE A. LEHU



THE AMAZING STORY OF DR. RUTH

ILLUSTRATED BY MARK SIMMONS



For my four grandchildren,
Ari, Leora, Michal, and Ben,
who were the inspiration for this book and who inspire me every day with their talents, family values, and love for their Omi.
- R.K.W.

For my three grandchildren, Jude, Rhys, and Isabelle.
- P.L.

For Rich and Rhoda, Bill and Bev, and Julie most of all.
- M.S.

If I teach you something by which you shall live, will you learn it?
-Talmud Sanhedrin

The song that Karola sings on the train is excerpted from the song "Jeder Mensch auf der Welt." It begins:

Every person in the world
Has his own country
And there he is at home
Only one people in the world has no homeland of their own
And every day there stands before them
The eternal Jewish question,
Whither Jew?
Who in the world will take you?
Where can you be safe?

The flashbacks in this book are all based on real events.
The amusement park story is fictional.

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I Lehu, Pierre A., author. I Simmons, Marc, illustrator.
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Karola, I know you care about *everyone's* feelings, even geese!

But geese are happier in their pen than on Mr. Schwartz's *table*, ja?

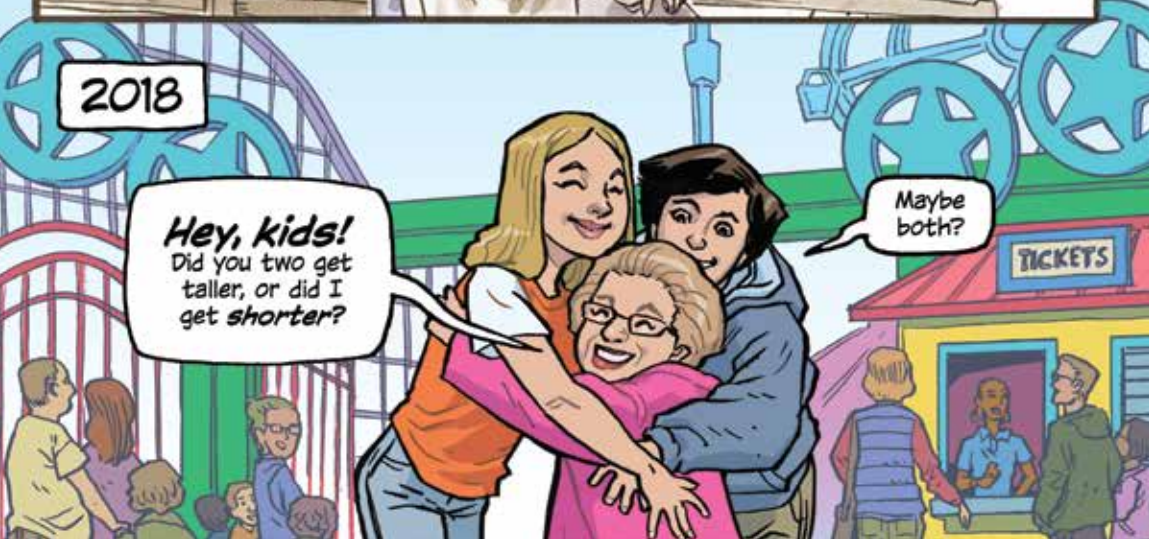


Ja. I'm sorry, Omi. But...we had *fun*, didn't we?



We did! Life is about finding the *good* in every experience.

So, nu, I got some *schmutz* on my dress. But I was with my Karola the whole time! How could I not be *happy*?



2018

Hey, kids! Did you two get taller, or did I get *shorter*?

Maybe both?



One senior citizen and two children, please.



That will be sixty-two dollars and...*oh!* Oh my goodness!

It's *YOU!* It's **DR. RUTH!** It's *YOU!*



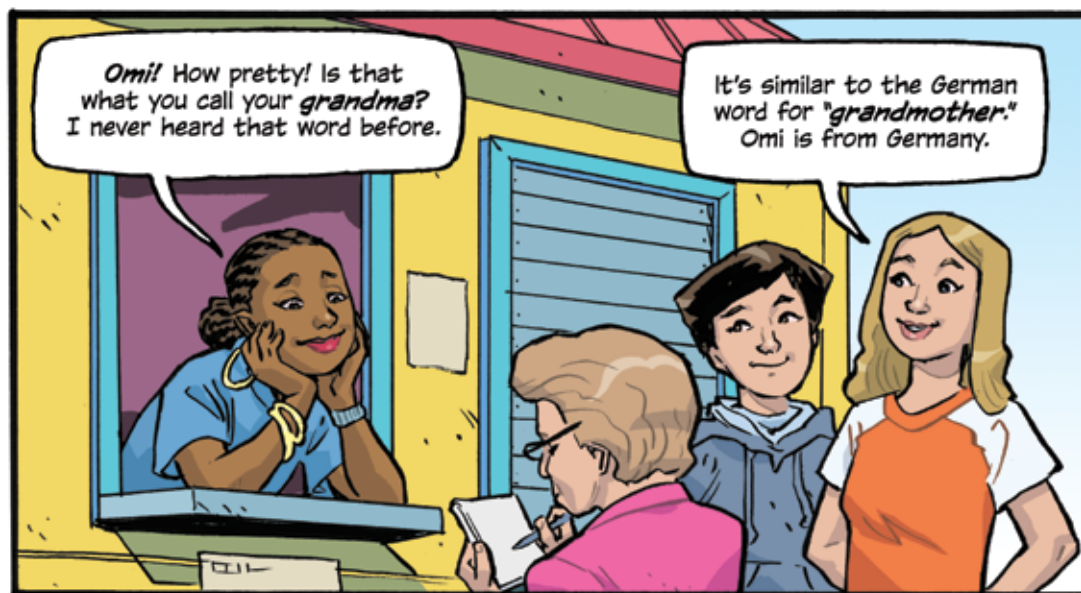
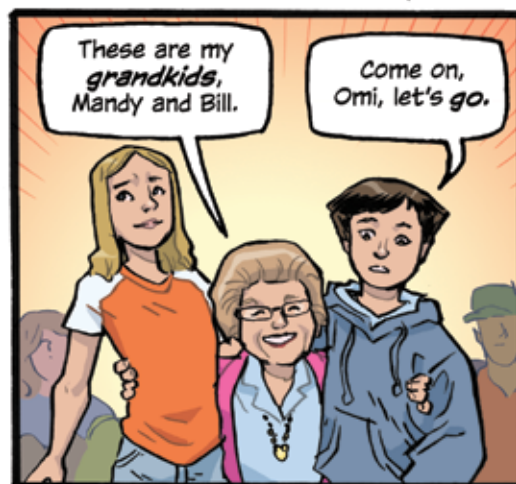
Yes. It's definitely me!



I just love, love, *love* you!

When you were on TV, you always made me laugh. I still *follow* you on social media.

Do you think I could get your *autograph*?



HALL OF MIRRORS

I want to take
this mirror *home*.

I haven't been *taller* than the two of you in *years*.

Look at me,
I'm all stretched out.

Omi, look at
my *smile!*

This is a little much, I think!
But my *father—he* had the
most *wonderful* smile....

1938

Come, Karola.
We must hurry.
It's almost time
for *Shabbat*.

Can we get
an *ice cream*,
like always,
Daddy?

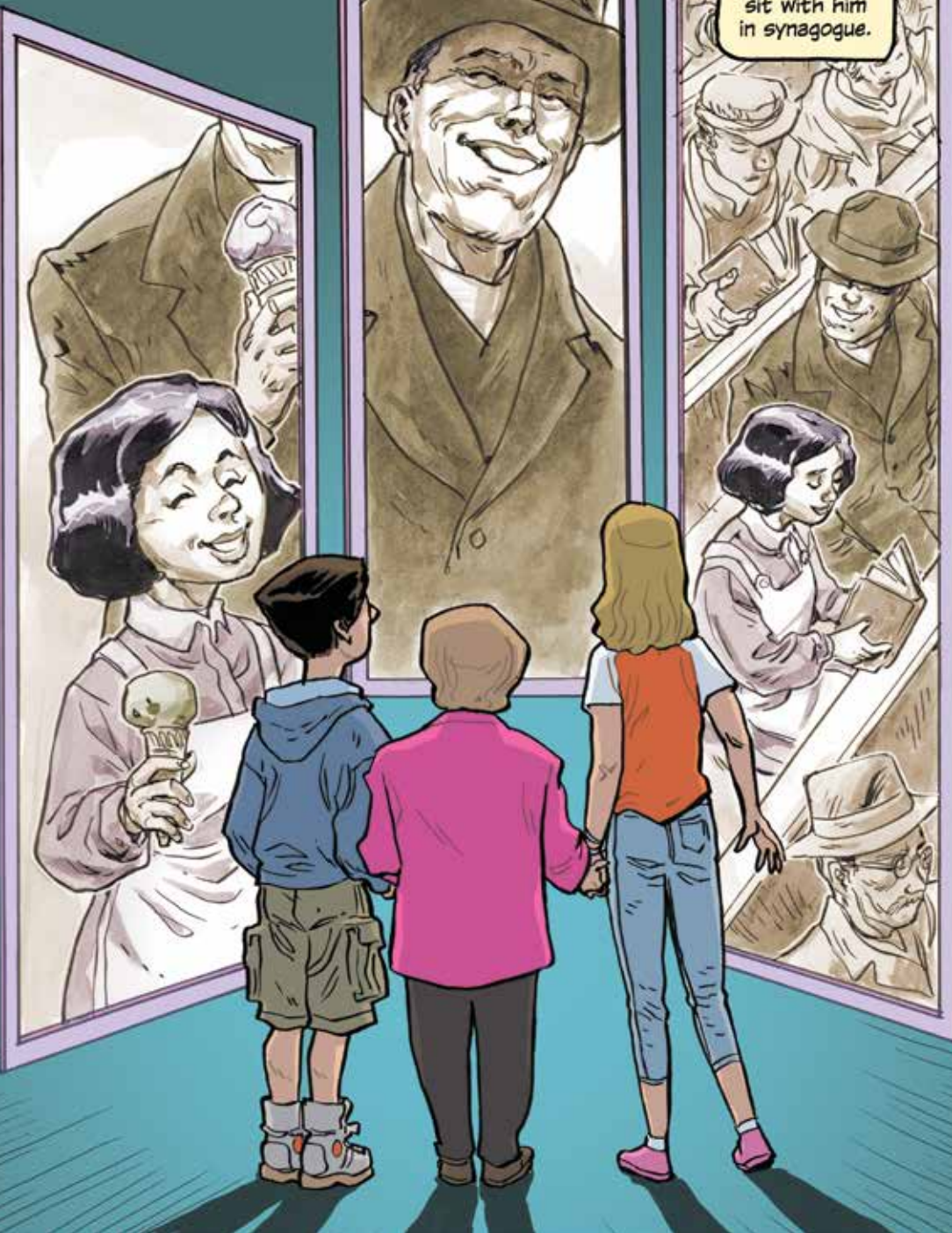
Of course!
But only if we
get there before
sundown, before
Shabbat starts.



He took me
for ice cream,

smiled,

and had me
sit with him
in synagogue.



But then, *Hitler*
came to power.
The *Nazis* took charge,
and they made things
worse and *worse* for
Jews in Germany.

One terrible
day, two
soldiers came
to our little
apartment.



I watched as they dragged
my father *away* from us.
I was *terrified*.



I'm sure he
was, *too*!



But he still managed to look up at me
and give me one last *smile*, a smile
of strength and love—just for *me*.

