

CHAPTER FOUR



Back in Rego Park. Late Autumn...







IT WAS THE LAST MINUTES OF THE WAR, I LEFT DACHAU...

I REMEMBER WE GOT EACH A TREASURE BOX FROM THE SWISS RED CROSS: SARDINES! BISCUITS! CHOCOLATE!



SO, AT NIGHT, SOME TRIED TO STEAL FROM ME...

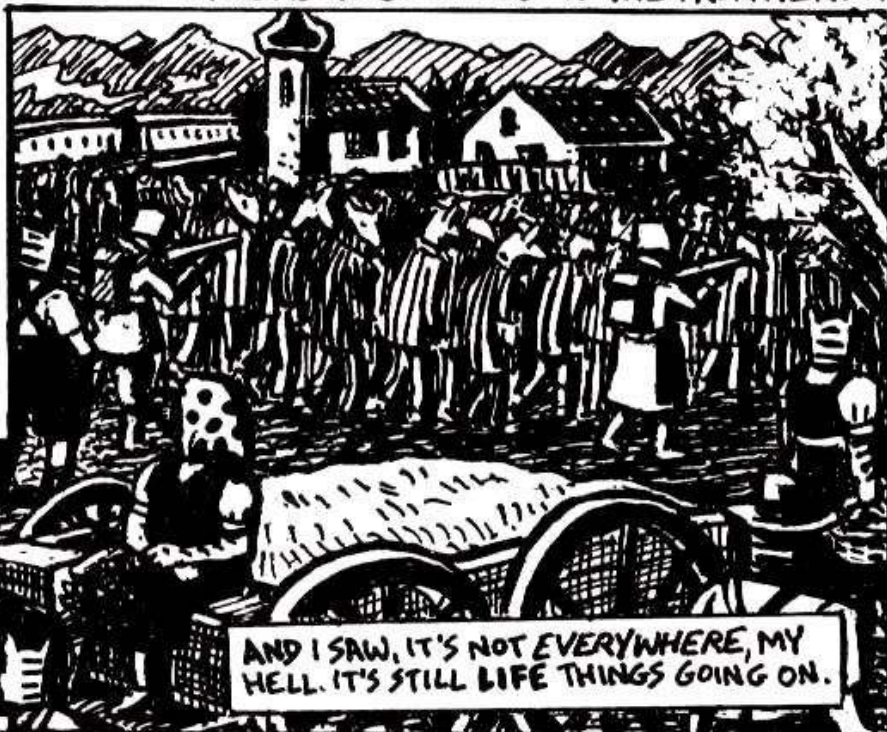


WITH MY TYPHUS I NEEDED STILL MUCH TO REST, BUT THIS TREASURE WAS MORE TO ME THAN SLEEPING.



HERE WAS THE
END OF OUR RIDE.

WE HAD FROM HERE TO GO BY FOOT TO THE FRONTIER...



AND I SAW, IT'S NOT EVERYWHERE, MY
HELL. IT'S STILL LIFE THINGS GOING ON.

WE MARCH. WE STOP. FOR HOURS WE STOOD.



(WHAT'S
GOING ON?)

(THEY'RE TAK-
ING US BACK
TO DACHAU!)

(NO, NO. THE
AMERICANS
ARE COMING.)

IT WAS COMMOTIONS AND RUMORS THEN SHOUTS:



THE WAR IS OVER!

IT WAS OVER.



MARCH BACK
TO THE TRACKS!
SCHNELL!

THEY DIDN'T LEAVE US GO, BUT PUT US TO A FREIGHT TRAIN.



THE AMERICANS WILL
BE IN THE NEXT TOWN.
THEY CAN HAVE YOU.

ON THIS TRAIN NO GUARDS CAME.
SO REALLY WE SAW, IT IS OVER NOW.

IN A HALF HOUR THIS TRAIN STOPPED

HEY! THE AMERICANS AREN'T HERE!

WHY WAIT? LET'S GO!



SOME WENT ONE WAY, SOME ANOTHER...

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE WE WENT.



HALT OR WE'LL SHOOT!

ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT WAS A WEHRMACHT PATROL!



LITTLE BY LITTLE THEY GOT ALL OF US WHAT WERE GOING TO BE FREE, MAYBE 150 OR 200 PEOPLE, OVER IN THE WOODS, BY A BIG LAKE !!!



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON, BUT I WAS AGAIN HERE IN GERMAN HANDS.

THEY GUARDED SO WE COULDN'T GO AWAY.

THERE ARE MACHINE GUNS SET UP ALL AROUND US!



WE OVERHEARD. THEY INTEND TO MURDER EVERY ONE OF US TONIGHT, RIGHT ON THIS SPOT!



IN THE LATER AFTERNOON I WENT OVER
CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE WATER ...

VLADK SPİEGEL-
MAN! IS THAT YOU?

SHİVEK?!
YOU'RE ALİVE?



SHİVEK WAS FROM BEFORE THE WAR, A
FRIEND FROM BEDZIN, NEAR SOSNOWIEC.

WE SURVIVED EV-
ERYTHING JUST TO
GET SHOT WHILE
THE WAR ENDS!

I STILL HAVE A
LITTLE COFFEE I
ORGANIZED. LET'S
MAKE A LAST CUP.



LOOK!
GET HIM!

SPLASH



ONE OLDER GUY, HE WAS
MAYBE 50, JUMPED TO THE
LAKE. IT WAS A FAR SWIM.

KBANG!
KBANG!

HE MADE IT!
DO YOU HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO TRY?



JUST STAY NEAR THE WATER.
WE CAN ALWAYS TRY IT WHEN
THE REAL SHOOTING STARTS.

SO IT CAME NIGHT. WE
WERE TERRIBLE FRIGHT-
ENED, WE SAT AND WAITED.



IT WAS CRYING AND PRAYING. SO LONG WE
SURVIVED, AND NOW WE WAITED ONLY THAT
THEY SHOOT, BECAUSE WE HAD NOT ELSE TO DO.



IN THE EARLY MORNING
WE WERE STILL ALL ALIVE.

THEY'RE GONE!



IT'S A MIRACLE!
THERE'S NOT ONE
GERMAN LEFT—
JUST THEIR GUNS!

WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

I WAS LYING NEAR THE
HEAD OFFICER'S TENT—
HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS
ARGUING WITH HIM...



SHE BEGGED HIM TO LET US GO. SHE
WARNED HIM HE'D BE PUNISHED.



"THE WAR IS OVER," SHE CRIED.
"LET'S RUN AWAY!" SHE SAVED US!



SOME, WE WENT ONE WAY, SOME ANOTHER.

MAYBE WE CAN GET FOOD
AT ONE OF THESE FARMS.



HALT!

ON THE ROAD WAS
ANOTHER PATROL,
ALSO CATCHING JEWS.



SO WE HAD AGAIN THE SAME STORY. THEY FOUND
40 OR 50 OF US, AND CLOSED US TO A BIG BARN.



WE CAME BY A GARAGE. SO I WENT OVER...



OVER A DAY WE LAY THERE.
THEN TWO WEHRMACHT CAME.





A PART OF THIS HOUSE, IT WAS A BARN.



FROM THE WALLS WE HEARD SHOUTING:



THE FAR SIDE FROM OUR BARN FELL DOWN A LITTLE...



I WENT MYSELF TO THE EMPTY HOUSE.



SO, WE BOTH DRANK TOO MUCH MILK AND LOOKED AROUND.



OUR STOMACH GOT A SHOCK TO EAT MILK AND CHICKENS. WE GOT VERY SICK OF DIARRHEA.



I TOLD EVERYTHING HOW WE SURVIVED TO HERE...

...AND FROM DACHAU WE
CAME OVER BY TRAIN TO-

BANG! All!
BANG!

THAT'S JUST MY MEN
SIGNALING THAT
THEY FOUND A CACHE
OF GERMAN AMMO...

THOSE KRAUTS CAN'T
HURT YOU ANYMORE.
THE ONLY ONES LEFT
ARE DEAD OR DYING.



ONE TIME IT CAME A WOMAN
WITH OFFICIALS TO THE HOUSE.





Herman + Hela. Lodz 1929

YAH. HE WAS ANJA'S OLDEST BROTHER. HE RAN, IN LODZ, THE FAMILY HOSIERY FACTORY.

IN 1939 HE AND HELA CAME TO SEE THE WORLD FAIR, AND STAYED HERE THE WAR. IN 1950 - YOU WERE A BABY - WE CAME ALSO HERE, FROM STOCKHOLM TO HIS HOUSE.



I LIKED BETTER TO STAY IN SWEDEN - I HAD AGAIN A GOOD BUSINESS - BUT ANJA INSISTED TO BE WITH THE ONLY SURVIVING ONE OF ALL HER FAMILY.



AND - OY - WHEN HERMAN DIED FROM A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER IN 1964, ANJA STARTED THE... ALSO TO DIE A LITTLE.



Herman. Norristown, PA. 1957

SO HERE IT'S THEIR TWO KIDS, LOLEK AND LONIA, WHAT STAYED BY US, IN SOSNOWIEC, IN THE WAR.



LOLEK, YOU KNOW HE THEN CAME OUT ALIVE FROM AUSCHWITZ. SO NOW HE'S AN ENGINEER AND A BIG-SHOT COLLEGE PROFESSOR.



THE LITTLE GIRL. SHE FINISHED WITH RICHIEU IN THE GHETTO.

THIS BROTHER OF ANJA, JOSEF, HE WAS A SIGN PAINTER, A COMMERCIAL ARTIST, ALWAYS SHE SAID YOU RESEMBLE.



Lolek + Hela 1946



Josef. Lodz. 1934

HE HAD, IN LODZ, A GIRLFRIEND-A BEAUTY- BUT SHE LIKED MONEY AND NIGHTCLUBS. THEN THE GERMANS TOOK AWAY THE FACTORY FROM ANJA'S FAMILY.



SO HE HAD LESS MONEY AND SHE LEFT HIM, AND HE KILLED HIMSELF.



THE MIDDLE BROTHER, LEVEK, HE RAN WITH HIS WIFE TO RUSSIA WHEN THE WAR CAME, BUT WHEN HE SAW HOW IT WAS THERE, HE WANTED TO RUN BACK.



THOSE WHO RAN TO RUSSIA, THEY PUT TO SIBERIA AS TRAITORS, BUT TO SMUGGLE BACK OVER THE BORDERS COST A FORTUNE. I SENT SOME MONEY...



IN '38, WHEN I NEEDED CASH TO MY FACTORY, HE GAVE. SO NOW I HELPED HIM COME BACK TO HIS WIFE'S FAMILY ... TO WARSAW.



IN WARSAW, YOU KNOW HOW IT WAS. IF THEY STAYED ONLY IN RUSSIA, THEY STILL NOW COULD MAYBE BE ALIVE.



ANJA'S PARENTS, THE GRANDPARENTS, HER BIG SISTER TOSHA, LITTLE BIBI AND OUR RICHIEU ... ALL WHAT IS LEFT, IT'S THE PHOTOS.



WHAT ABOUT YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY?

MY SIDE?... MY FATHER, AND FELA, AND HER 4 KIDS, I TOLD YOU GOT TAKEN IN '42.



ZOSHA AND YADJA, MY YOUNGER SISTERS, HAD ONLY 1 KID EACH, AND CAME WITH ME INTO THE GHETTO BEFORE THEY ALL DIED LATER TO AUSCHWITZ.



MARCUS, MY CLOSEST BROTHER, AND MOSES, WENT TO A CAMP, TO BLECHAMER, SOON AFTER I CAME OUT FROM THE ARMY.

I SENT THEM MONEY BY THE RED CROSS... I HID IT INTO BREAD.



I WROTE THEM: "THIS BREAD, IT'S EXPENSIVE. EAT IT VERY SLOW AND CAREFUL." I MET AFTER THE WAR A GUY, HE SAW THEM DIE, BUT WOULDN'T TELL ME HOW.



MY OTHER BROTHERS, LEON AND PINEK, THEY DESERTED OUT FROM THE POLISH ARMY TO LEMBERG, IN RUSSIA...



A FAMILY OF PEASANT JEWS KEPT THEM SAFE. PINEK, HE MARRIED ONE OF THEM. BUT LEON GOT SICK. DOCTORS SAID IT'S TYPHUS, AND HE DIED OF A BAD APPENDIX.



SO ONLY MY LITTLE BROTHER, PINEK, CAME OUT FROM THE WAR ALIVE... FROM THE REST OF MY FAMILY, IT'S NOTHING LEFT, NOT EVEN A SNAPSHOT.



THESE PHOTOS WE GOT FROM
RICHIEU'S POLISH GOVERNESS.
WE GAVE HER OUR VALUABLE THINGS
TO HOLD UNTIL THE WAR IS OVER.



BUT AFTERWARD SHE SAID, "ALL THESE
VALUABLES, THE NAZIS GRABBED AWAY."
WE DIDN'T BELIEVE, BUT THE PIC-
TURES AT LEAST, SHE GAVE BACK.



CAN I
TAKE
THESE
HOME?

YAH. IT'S FOR
YOU. BUT, WAIT-
I'LL PUT THEM
TO AN ENVELOPE...



THE CIGAR BOX I CAN
NEED FOR-

AKKH!



WHOO-YOU SEE! MY NITRO-
STAT HELPS ME RIGHT AWAY.
BUT I TALKED TOO MUCH.
I'LL LIE A LITTLE DOWN.



UM...WHAT
ABOUT THE
STORM
WINDOWS?

ALONE YOU CAN'T KNOW
HOW TO DO, AND I'M NOW
TOO TIRED FOR THIS. MAY-
BE TOMORROW WE'LL DO.



IMPOSSIBLE. I'M TOO
BUSY! I'LL COME OUT
AGAIN NEXT WEEK.

ACH. THEN
NOW WE
MUST DO IT.
I'LL-UNNF



GREAT- HAVE ANOTHER HEART ATTACK!
LOOK, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO PAY A BIT
MORE FOR HEAT A FEW DAYS LONGER.

GROAN.



I'M -UH- SORRY I
MADE YOU TALK
SO MUCH, POP.

SO, NEVER MIND,
DARLING. ALWAYS
IT'S A PLEASURE
WHEN YOU VISIT.



C H A P T E R F I V E



Winter...







HEY! EVERYTHING'S AL-
MOST PACKED, MALA.
THE MAIN REASON I
FLEW DOWN WAS TO HELP!

PSSH. YOU KNOW VLADSK.
WILD HORSES CAN'T HOLD
HIM STILL... SO NOW HE'S
EXHAUSTED, AND ME TOO.

GROAN



HI, POP.
HOW
ARE
YOU?

TERRIBLE.
SO WEAK...
SO WEAK...

DID YOU ARRANGE
EMERGENCY OXY-
GEN FOR HIM ON
TOMORROW'S PLANE?



UH-HUH. AND I'VE GOT AN AMBULANCE
TO TAKE HIM AND ME FROM J.F.K. TO
LAGUARDIA HOSPITAL. I'LL CHECK HIM
IN WHILE FRANÇOISE DRIVES YOU HOME.



HOW DID YOU
TWO GET BACK
TOGETHER?

I DON'T KNOW. I GOT A
CALL FROM THE HOSPI-
TAL AND FELT SORRY
FOR HIM. I WENT OVER.



I SWORE I'D NEVER SEE HIM
AGAIN, BUT I'M JUST A SUCKER.
HE TALKED UNTIL I WAS BLUE
IN THE FACE... AND HERE I AM.

MALA,
MALA!
COME
QUICK!



ANJA MUST HAVE
BEEN A SAINT!
NO WONDER SHE
KILLED HERSELF.

HE'S
CALL-
ING
YOU.



IT'S JUST HIS STOOL. HE
WANTS ME TO CHECK IT
BEFORE HE'LL FLUSH.
HE'S AS DIFFICULT AS EVER.



BUT NOW HE'S MORE CON-
FUSED AND DEPENDENT.
...WHAT CAN I DO?
HE TRAPPED ME.

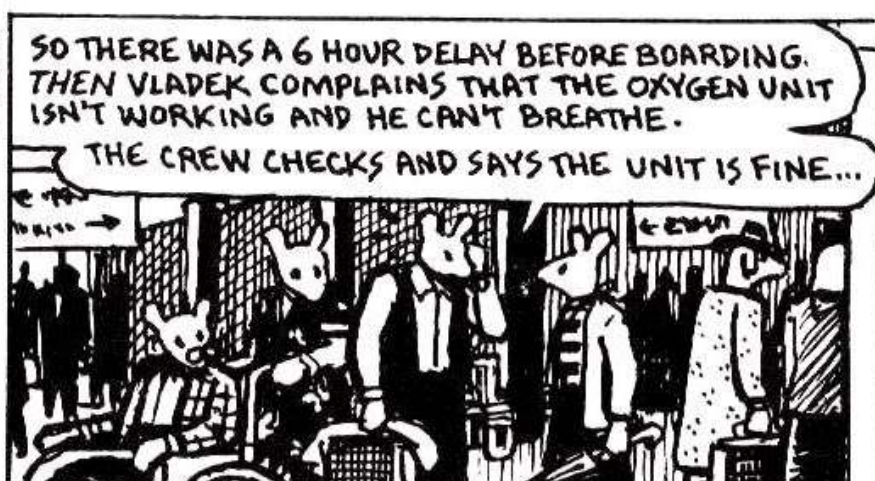
Next morning...







Late that night...



LaGuardia Hospital...



A month or so later...





SO, IT CAME AN ORDER...

WE ALL CAME OVER TO GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN.



I WAS FOR A GOOD FEW DAYS VERY SICK.



A YEAR AFTER, I FOUND OUT IT WAS NOT ONLY TYPHUS, BUT ALSO DIABETES.

IN THIS DP CAMP, I HAD IT EASY...



WE CARRIED MANY GOODIES WHEN FINALLY WE GOT OUR I.D. PAPERS TO GO.



TRAINS STOPPED AND STARTED AND HAD TO CHANGE OFTEN DIRECTIONS...



WE CAME TO ONE PLACE, WÜRZBURG-WHAT A MESS!



WE CAME AWAY HAPPY.



WE ARRIVED FINALLY TO HANNOVER...

THE KIDS CAN SHARE ONE BEDROOM.
YOU TWO CAN HAVE THE OTHER...



DO YOU KNOW
WHERE ANY
OF **YOUR**
FAMILY IS?

I'LL GO TO POLAND TO
SEE IF ANYONE'S LEFT.
WE PLANNED TO MEET
IN SOSNOWIEC IF WE
GOT SEPARATED.



I SENT A LETTER TO THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER THERE, FOR MY
WIFE, BUT- SHE CAN'T STILL BE ALIVE...
I SAW HER IN AUSCHWITZ LAST YEAR...



SHE WAS
SO THIN...
SO WEAK...

YOU MIGHT GET NEWS ABOUT
YOUR FAMILY AT THE BIG DP
CAMP AT BELSEN. JEWS ARE
FLOODING IN FROM ALL OVER.



IT WASN'T FAR, SO I WENT FOR A FEW DAYS TO BELSEN.
ONE MORNING A CROWD ARRIVED IN, WITH TWO GIRLS
WHAT I KNEW A LITTLE FROM MY HOME TOWN...



WE JUST
CAME FROM
POLAND...

WE WERE
LUCKY TO
GET OUT!...



WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T
GO BACK TO SOSNOWIEC.
THE POLES ARE STILL
KILLING JEWS THERE!





"HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
HE SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE
SHED BEHIND HIS HOUSE..."



"THE POLES WENT IN. THEY BEAT HIM AND HANGED HIM."



HIS BROTHER CAME FROM
THE CAMPS A DAY LATER,
AND ONLY STAYED LONG
ENOUGH TO BURY HIM...



JUST TELL ME.
DID YOU HEAR
ANYTHING
ABOUT ANJA?

I SAW HER! SHE DIDN'T
TRY TO GET HER PROP-
ERTY BACK. THE POLES
LEAVE HER ALONE.



ANJA IS ALIVE!
MY HEART JUMPED!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE.



ANJA WAS ALL ALONE THERE IN SOSNOWIEC...

SORRY ANJA.
NO NEWS
FOR YOU...



EACH DAY SHE CHECKED TO
THE JEWISH ORGANIZATION,
AND EACH DAY SHE CRIED.

SHE TOLD ME LATER, SHE
WENT ONCE TO A GYPSY...



ANJA KNEW IT WAS FOOLISH,
BUT LOOKED ONLY FOR SOME HOPE.

I SEE TRAGEDY...DEATH!...
YOU'VE LOST YOUR FATHER--
YOUR MOTHER...EVERYONE!

Y-YES. ONLY
LOLEK, MY
NEPHEW,
CAME BACK-



I SEE A CHILD...
A DEAD CHILD...

RICHIEU! MY
LITTLE BOY,
RICHIEU. SOB.



WAIT! NOW I SEE A MAN...
ILLNESS...IT'S YOUR HUSBAND!
HE'S BEEN VERY, VERY ILL...



HE'S COMING - HE'S COMING HOME!
YOU'LL GET A SIGN THAT HE'S ALIVE
BY THE TIME THE MOON IS FULL!



I SEE A SHIP... A FARAWAY PLACE...
YOU'LL HAVE A NEW LIFE...
AND ANOTHER LITTLE BOY.

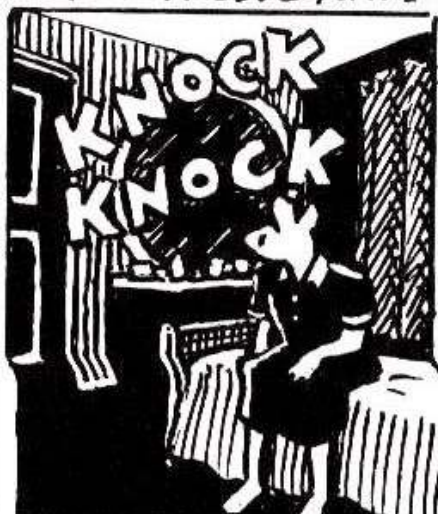


ANJA WENT A FEW TIMES
EACH DAY OVER TO THE
JEWISH ORGANIZATION...



BUT NO SIGN
CAME OF ME.

SO SHE SAT HOME EVEN
MORE DEPRESSED, UNTIL...



ANJA! GUESS WHAT!
A LETTER FROM YOUR
HUSBAND JUST CAME!



HE'S IN GERMANY...
HE'S HAD TYPHUS!

IT'S JUST LIKE
THE GYPSY SAID.



AND HERE'S A PICTURE OF HIM!
MY GOD-VLADEK
IS REALLY ALIVE!



I PASSED ONCE A PHOTO PLACE WHAT HAD
A CAMP UNIFORM - A NEW AND CLEAN ONE -
TO MAKE SOUVENIR PHOTOS..



ANJA KEPT THIS PICTURE ALWAYS.
I HAVE IT STILL NOW IN MY DESK!
HUH? WHERE DO YOU GO?

I NEED
THAT PHO-
TO IN MY
BOOK!





WE WENT, SOMETIMES BY FOOT, SOMETIMES BY TRAIN.



ONE PLACE WE STOPPED, HOURS, HOURS AND HOURS.



I MARKED OUR TRAIN CAR, BUT WHEN I CAME IN AN HOUR BACK, IT WAS GONE TO ANOTHER TRACK.

SHIVEK WENT BACK TO HANNOVER TO FIND ME AGAIN...



WHEN I CAME FINALLY TO SOSNOWIEC,
I HAVE SEEN VERY LITTLE JEWS AROUND.



THERE IT WAS PEOPLE WHAT KNEW ME.



AND SOMEBODY FOUND HER...



ANJA, ANJA.
MY ANJA!



SO... LET'S STOP, PLEASE,
YOUR TAPE RECORDER...



SPIEGELMAN

VLADEN
OCT. 11, 1906
AUG. 18, 1982

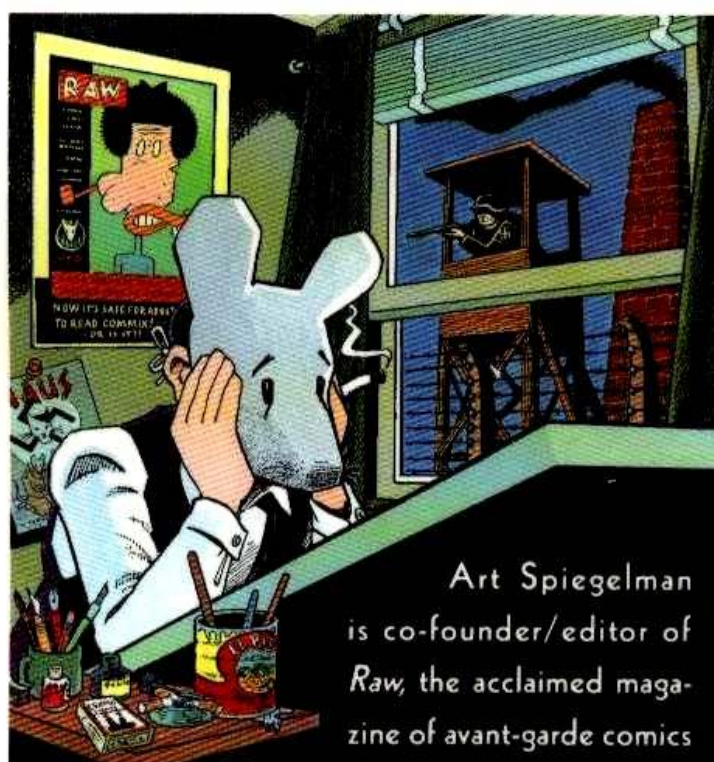
ANJA
MAR. 15, 1912
AUG. 21, 1968

- art spiegelman - 1978-1991



Maus is a book that cannot be put down, truly, even to sleep. When two of the mice speak of love, you are moved, when they suffer, you weep. Slowly through this little tale comprised of suffering, humor and life's daily trials, you are captivated by the language of an old Eastern European family, and drawn into the gentle and mesmerizing rhythm, and when you finish *Maus*, you are unhappy to have left that magical world and long for the sequel that will return you to it."

— Umberto Eco



Art Spiegelman is co-founder/editor of *Raw*, the acclaimed magazine of avant-garde comics and graphics. His work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Playboy*, the *Village Voice*, and many other periodicals, and his drawings have been exhibited in museums and galleries here and abroad. Honors he has received for *Maus* include a Guggenheim fellowship, and nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Mr. Spiegelman lives in New York City with his wife, Françoise Mouly, and their daughter, Nadja.

Jacket illustration by Art Spiegelman

Pantheon Books, New York

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"All too infrequently, a book comes along that's as daring as it is acclaimed. Art Spiegelman's *Maus* is just such a book."

— *Esquire*

CAMP EX-
TENSION

WORK-
SHOPS

AUSCH-
WITZ

S.S. HEAD-
QUARTERS

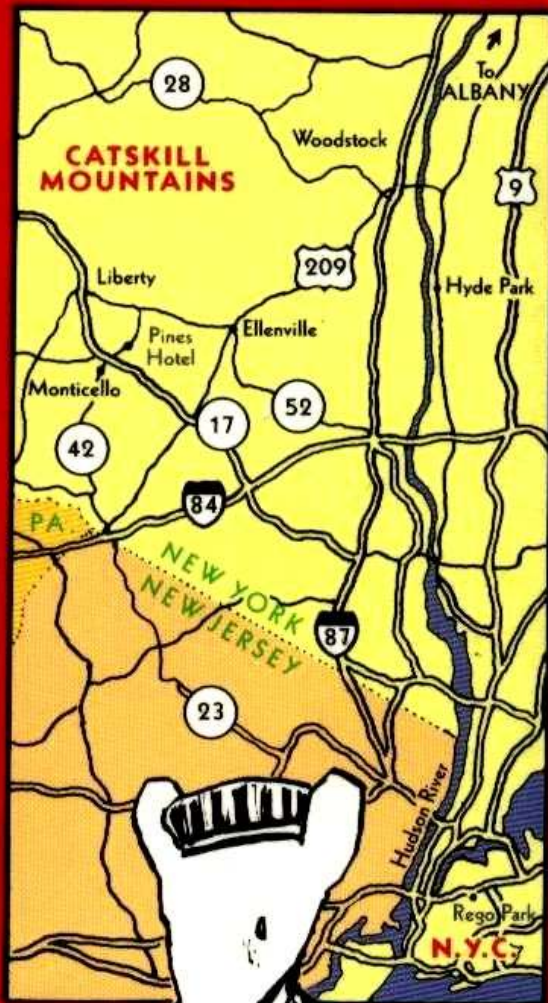
AUSCHWITZ II
(BIRKENAU)

600-1000 prison-
ers per barrack

WOMEN'S
BARRACKS

GAS CHAMBER
AND CREMATORIUM II

N E W Y O R K



ISBN 0-394-55655-0

"AN EPIC STORY TOLD IN TINY PICTURES." — *NEW YORK TIMES*