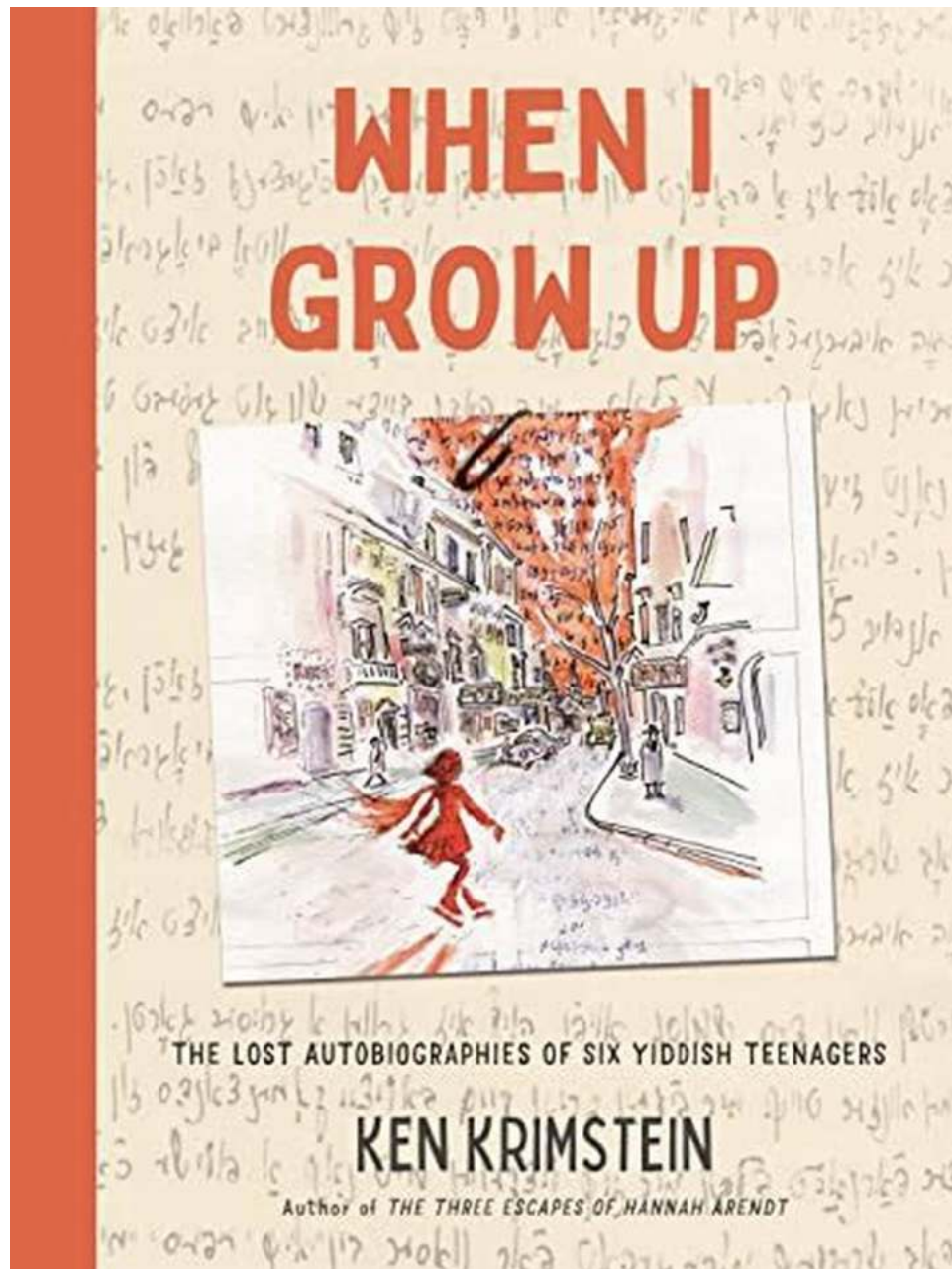


The Lost Autobiographies Of Six Yiddish Teenagers: Unveiling the Untold Stories

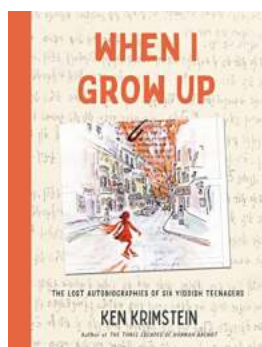


In the world of literature, there are countless stories waiting to be discovered and shared. Among these hidden treasures are six remarkable autobiographies, written by Yiddish teenagers in the early 20th century. These autobiographies, filled with poignant narratives and powerful emotions, offer a unique glimpse into

the lives of young Jewish individuals during a time of profound historical significance. Unfortunately, these writings were lost to history for decades, only to be recently unearthed, allowing us to explore the lives of these forgotten teenagers and the experiences that shaped their identities.

Discovering the Lost Autobiographies

The story of how these lost autobiographies resurfaced is as intriguing as the writings themselves. It was during an excavation of a former Jewish school site in Eastern Europe that a collection of buried documents was discovered. Among these buried treasures were six handwritten notebooks, each containing the personal stories of young Yiddish teenagers. Historians and researchers were amazed by the significance of this finding and immediately began the painstaking process of deciphering and translating the texts.



When I Grow Up: The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish Teenagers by Ken Krimstein (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 241942 KB

Print length : 256 pages

Lending : Enabled





A Voice from the Past

As the translations unfolded, the autobiographies revealed a multitude of powerful stories. From tales of immigration and displacement to accounts of personal struggles and triumphs, these writings became a testament to the resilience and spirit of young Jewish individuals during a tumultuous time in history.

One autobiography, written by Rachel Cohen, a 16-year-old girl who grew up in a small shtetl, depicts her journey of leaving her home behind and immigrating to a foreign land. Her words give voice to the hopes and fears of countless young immigrants who longed for a better future. Another autobiography, penned by David Rosenberg, recounts his experiences as an orphan during wartime, portraying the stark realities faced by many young Yiddish teenagers.

Preserving the Heritage

With the discovery of these lost autobiographies, efforts to preserve and share these invaluable writings are underway. Museums and cultural institutions have dedicated exhibition spaces to showcase the notebooks and the stories they hold. Through interactive displays and digital platforms, visitors can immerse themselves in the vibrant world of these Yiddish teenagers, gaining a deeper understanding of their experiences and the historical context in which they lived.



KEN KRIMSTEIN

CARTOONIST AND AUTHOR

in conversation with

JESSICA KIRZANE

**ASSISTANT INSTRUCTIONAL PROFESSOR IN
YIDDISH, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

Thursday, November 18, 2021

7:30pm - 8:30pm

Virtual.

Register:

<https://www.semcoop.com/event/ken-krimstein-when-i-grow-jessica-kirzane>

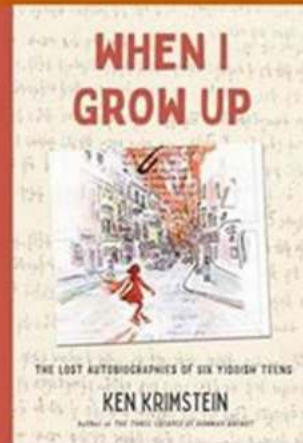
When I Grow Up is New Yorker cartoonist Ken Krimstein's new graphic nonfiction book, based on six of hundreds of newly discovered, never-before-published autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish teens on the brink of WWII, found in 2017 hidden in a Lithuanian church cellar. These autobiographies, long thought destroyed by the Nazis, were written as entries for three competitions held in Eastern Europe in the 1930s, just before the horror of the Holocaust forever altered the lives of the young people who wrote them.

In *When I Grow Up*, Krimstein shows us the stories of these six young men and women in riveting, almost cinematic narratives, full of humor, yearning, ambition, and all the angst of the teenage years.

About the author: Ken Krimstein has published cartoons in the *New Yorker*, *Punch*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and more. He is the author of *The Three Escapes of Hershok Arendt*, which won the Bernard J. Brommel Award for Biography and Memoir, and was a *Finalist* for the Jewish Book Award and the Chautauque Prize, and also of *Kvetch as Kvetch-Con*, he lives and writes and draws in Evanston, Illinois.

About the interlocutor: Jessica Kirzane is the Assistant Instructional Professor in Yiddish at the University of Chicago and the editor-in-chief of *In geyet: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. She is the translator of Miriam Karpilove's *Diary of a Lonely Girl, or the Battle against Free Love* (Syracuse University Press, 2020).

**TO DISCUSS
HIS NEW GRAPHIC
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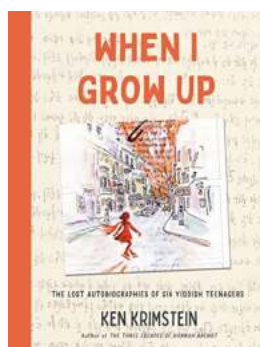
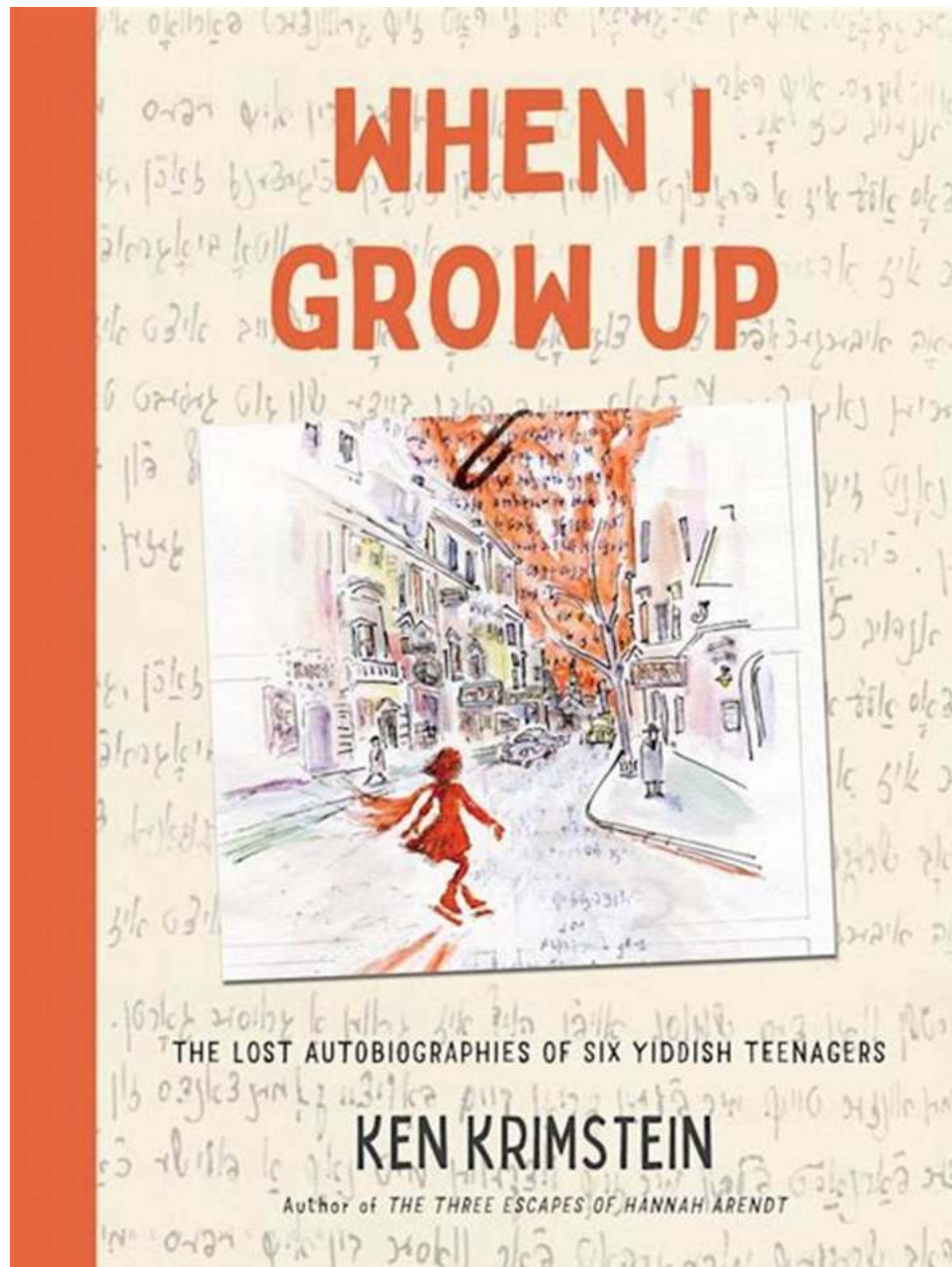
In addition, scholars and researchers are actively working on translating and publishing these autobiographies for a wider audience. By making these stories accessible to the world, they hope to shed light on a part of history that has remained in the shadows for far too long.

The Significance Today

Although these autobiographies were written over a century ago, their relevance today is undeniable. They serve as a reminder of the strength and resilience shown by young individuals facing adversity. Moreover, these writings foster empathy and understanding, as they provide insight into the experiences of a marginalized community during a time of upheaval and persecution.

The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish Teenagers are not merely historical artifacts; they are an invaluable part of our collective heritage. Their stories challenge us to reflect on our own lives and to appreciate the courage it takes to overcome obstacles in pursuit of a better future.

The discovery of these lost autobiographies has brought to light a hidden chapter of Jewish history and literature. The stories of these Yiddish teenagers captivate, inspire, and offer a deeper understanding of the human experience. Through preserving and sharing these texts, we honor the lives and voices of these forgotten individuals, ensuring that their stories are never lost again. The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish Teenagers stand as a testament to the enduring power of literature and the importance of uncovering untold stories from the past.



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An NPR Best Book of the Year
A Washington Post Best Book of the Year
A Chicago Tribune Fall "Best Read"
An Alma most anticipated book of November

From the prize-winning author of *The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt*, a stunning graphic narrative of newly discovered stories from Jewish teens on the cusp of WWII.

When I Grow Up is New Yorker cartoonist Ken Krimstein's new graphic nonfiction book, based on six of hundreds of newly discovered, never-before-published autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish teens on the brink of WWII—found in 2017 hidden in a Lithuanian church cellar.

These autobiographies, long thought destroyed by the Nazis, were written as entries for three competitions held in Eastern Europe in the 1930s, just before the horror of the Holocaust forever altered the lives of the young people who wrote them.

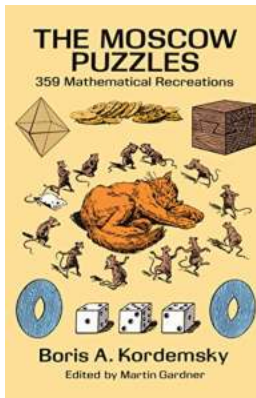
In *When I Grow Up*, Krimstein shows us the stories of these six young men and women in riveting, almost cinematic narratives, full of humor, yearning, ambition, and all the angst of the teenage years. It's as if half a dozen new Anne Frank stories have suddenly come to light, framed by the dramatic story of the documents' rediscovery.

Beautifully illustrated, heart-wrenching, and bursting with life, *When I Grow Up* reveals how the tragedy that is about to befall these young people could easily happen again, to any of us, if we don't learn to listen to the voices from the past.



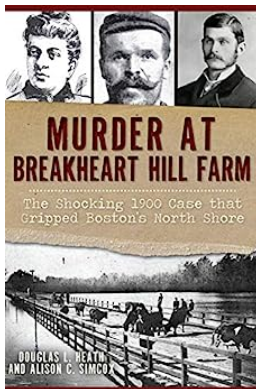
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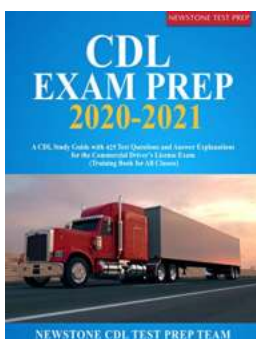
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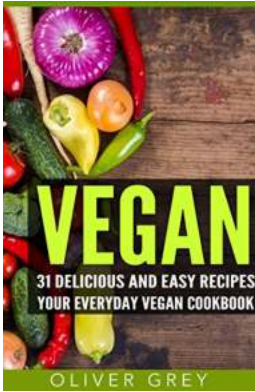
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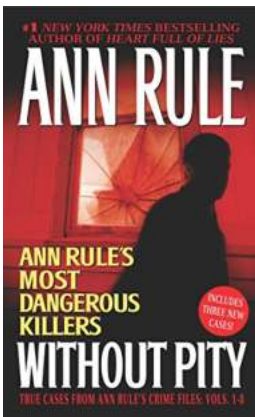
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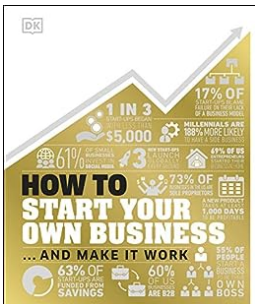
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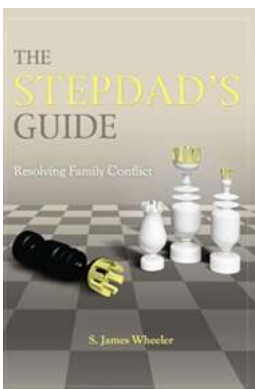
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when i grow up matilda the lyrics