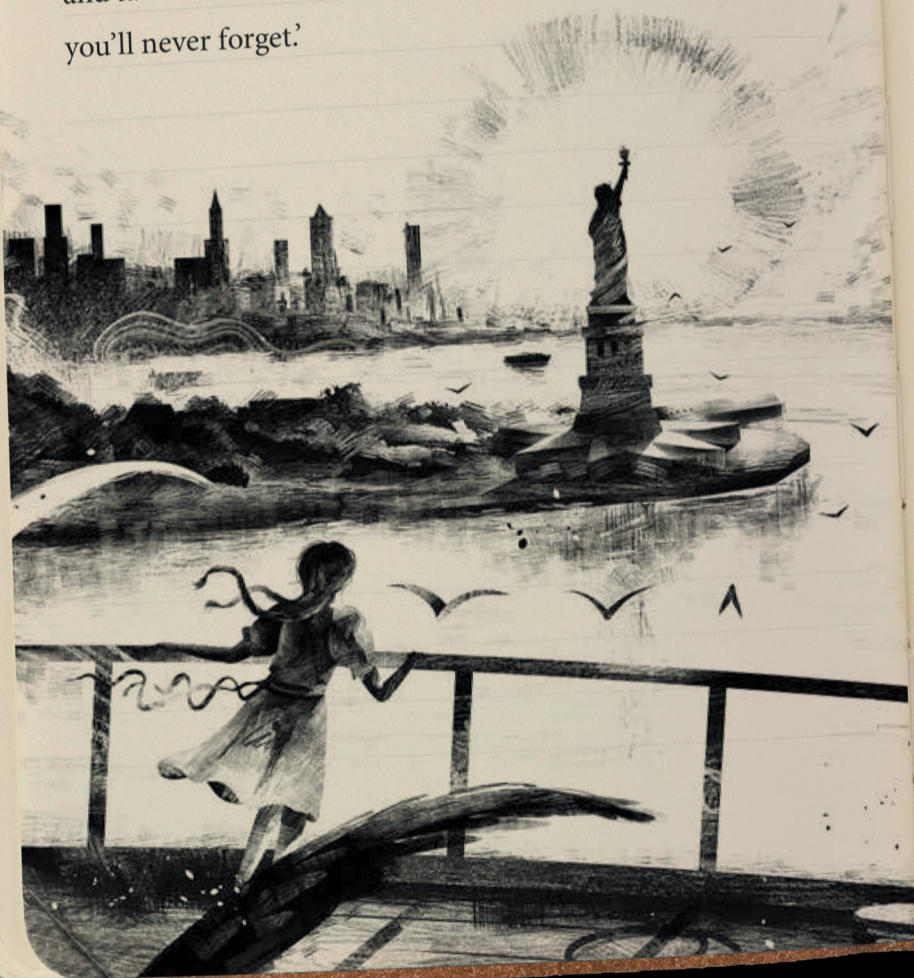


The incredible true story  
of Holocaust survivor

# TOVA FRIEDMAN

READ AN EXTRACT FROM WHEN TOVA ARRIVES  
IN NEW YORK AFTER THE WAR.

Just five months ago, Mama, Papa and I arrived in New York. I remember my awe at seeing the skyline for the first time as we came into the harbour. Mama was very sick after the many weeks at sea, and was lying on a mattress on the deck, when Papa sent me to the front of the ship. 'Go to the bow and take a look at the Statue of Liberty,' he told me. 'It's a sight you'll never forget.'



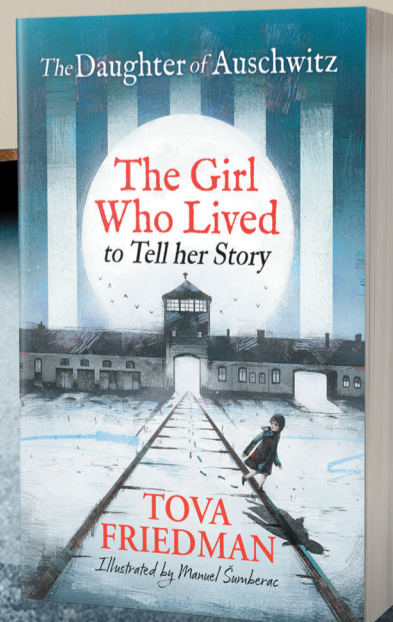
I had only ever seen the statue in photographs, and I gasped when I saw just how big she was and how her eyes seemed to follow our ship as we sailed slowly past. I couldn't believe how tall the New York City skyscrapers were either, and how they really did reach into the clouds. The city could not have looked more different from the dirty, bombed-out European landscapes I had known before. As we passed under Liberty's shadow, I prayed that life would change for the better in our new home.

For the first few weeks we lived in a hotel in Manhattan. Then Papa found a job, and we moved to our apartment in Astoria, Queens, an Italian neighbourhood made up of small family houses with well-kept gardens. Ours was the only apartment building on the block. We had one bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom – there were also curtains and even a radio. It felt so luxurious that I didn't mind having to sleep on the couch in the living room.

But outside the apartment, life was hard. Everything in New York was so strange to me: the clothing, the cars, the food, the noise, but most of all the language. Incomprehensible sounds came out of everyone's mouths, and at times I wondered if I would ever be able to understand them. I spoke only a few words of English at first; at home we had always spoken Yiddish. I could also speak a little Polish, but that wasn't any use here either.



Read more of  
Tova's story



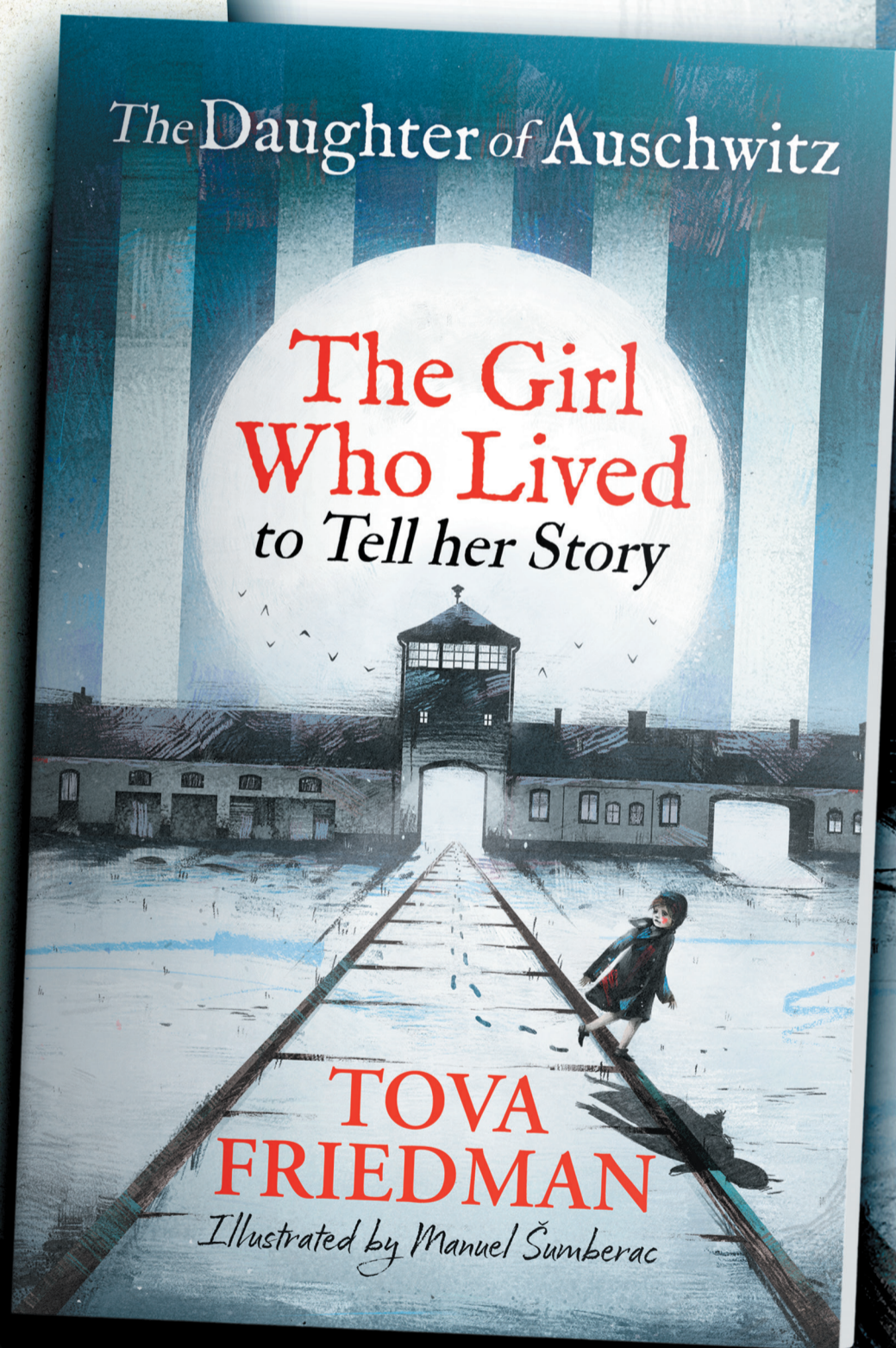
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# TOVA FRIEDMAN

**Tova Friedman** was just five years old when she and her mother were sent to a Nazi labour camp. She turned six in Auschwitz. At twelve she was on her way to America, ready to start a new life and tell her tale of survival.

### Discussion questions

- What do you think it was like to leave home for a labour camp aged 5?
- What emotions might Tova feel following liberation from Auschwitz?
- What challenges might she face arriving in America?
- Why do you think Tova has chosen to share her story?
- What would you ask Tova if you could speak to her?



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