

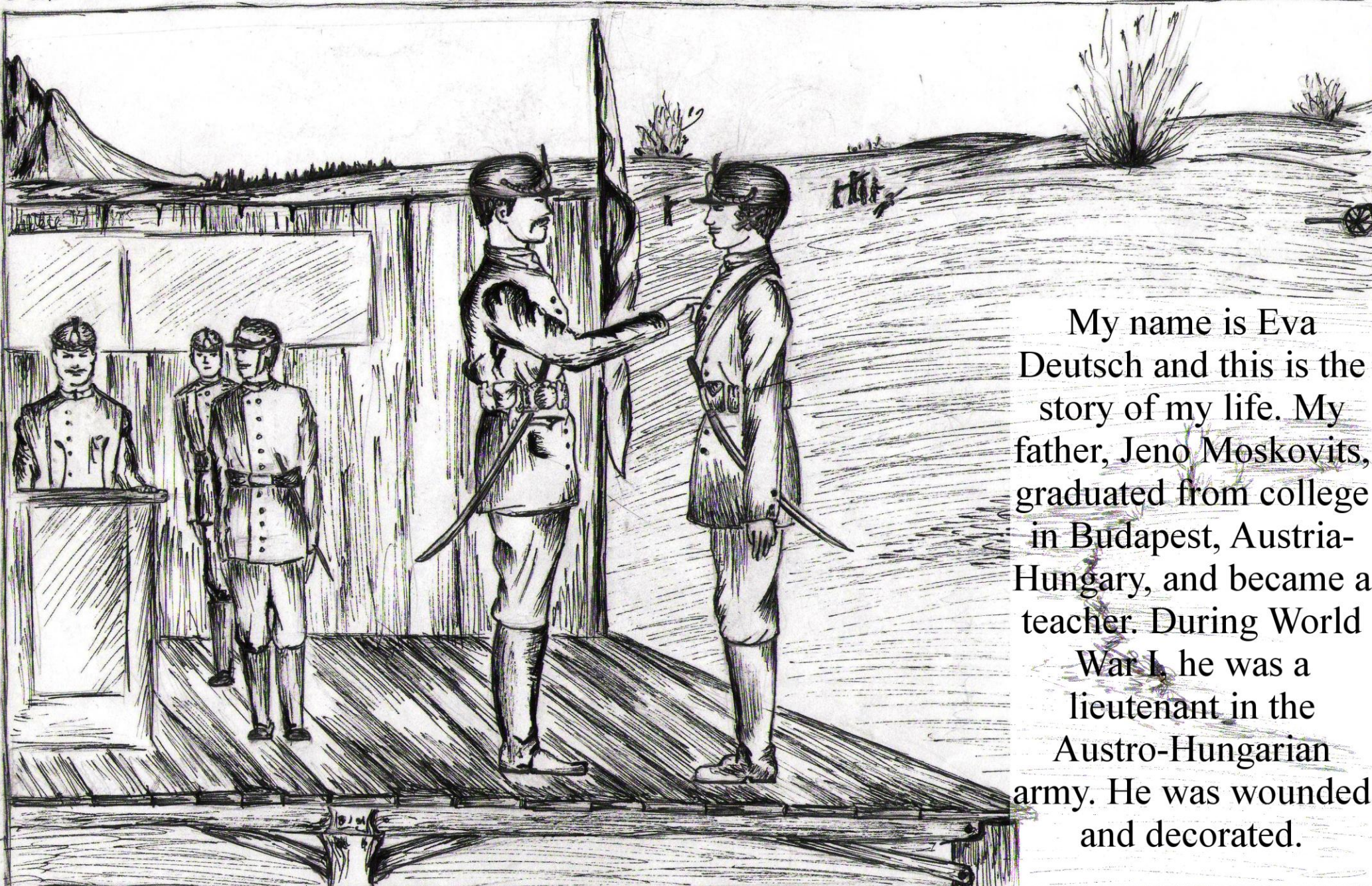
We had no time to say good-bye...

Based on the testimony of Eva Deutsch
Presented on www.centropa.org

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With special help of Esther Cotoarbă

Coordinating teachers - Horațiu Suciu and Dan Bortoc



My name is Eva Deutsch and this is the story of my life. My father, Jeno Moskovits, graduated from college in Budapest, Austria-Hungary, and became a teacher. During World War I, he was a lieutenant in the Austro-Hungarian army. He was wounded and decorated.





Germany

Poland

U.S.S.R.

Czechoslovakia

Austria

Hungary

Romania

Italy

Yugoslavia (Serbo-
Croat-Slovene Kingdom)

Bulgaria

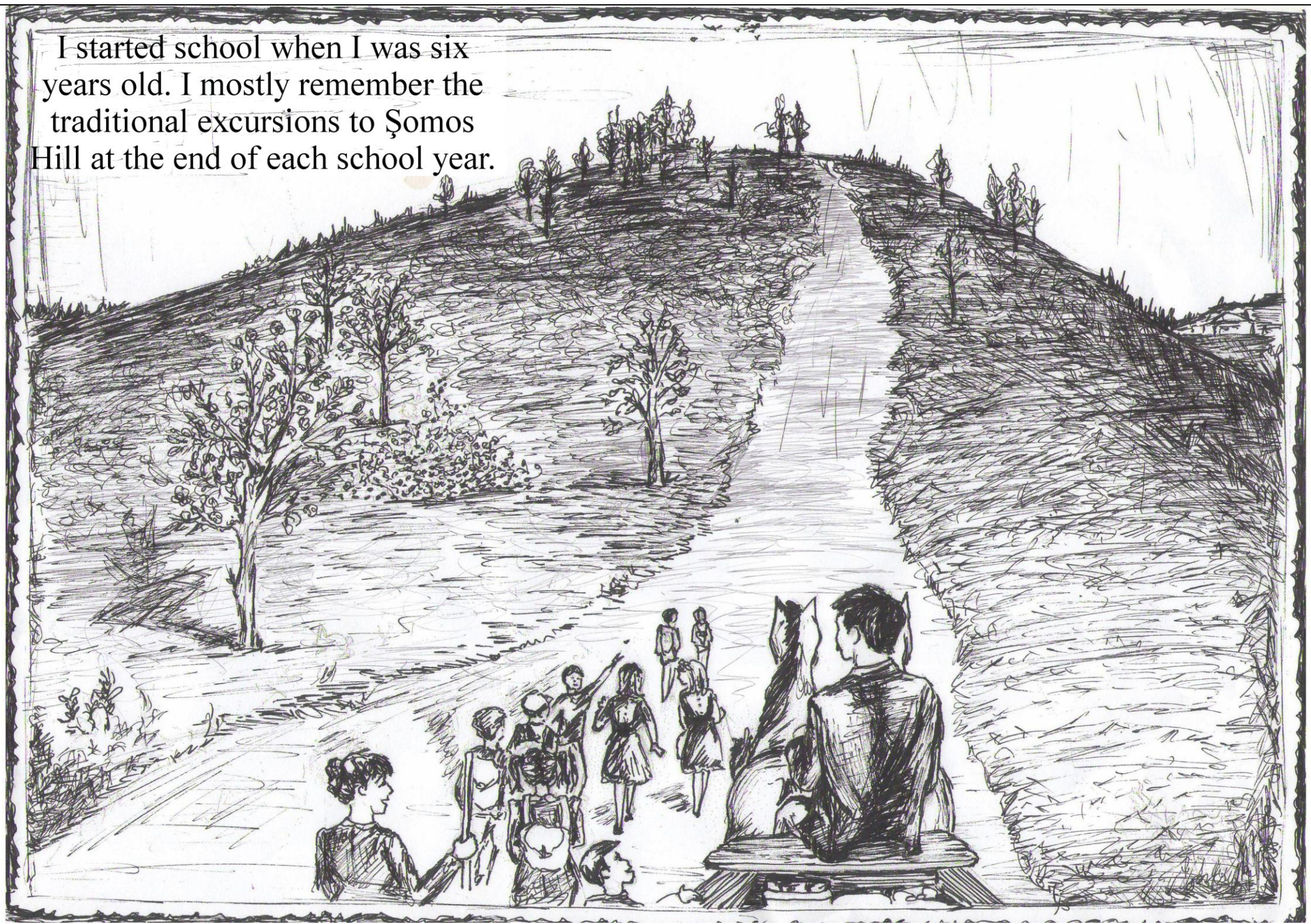
Eastern Europe at the
end of World War I (1918)

After 1918, Transylvania
was united with
Romania. My father got a
job as a teacher in Târgu
Mureș (Marosvasarhely).

He married my
mother Jolan Klein in
1920.



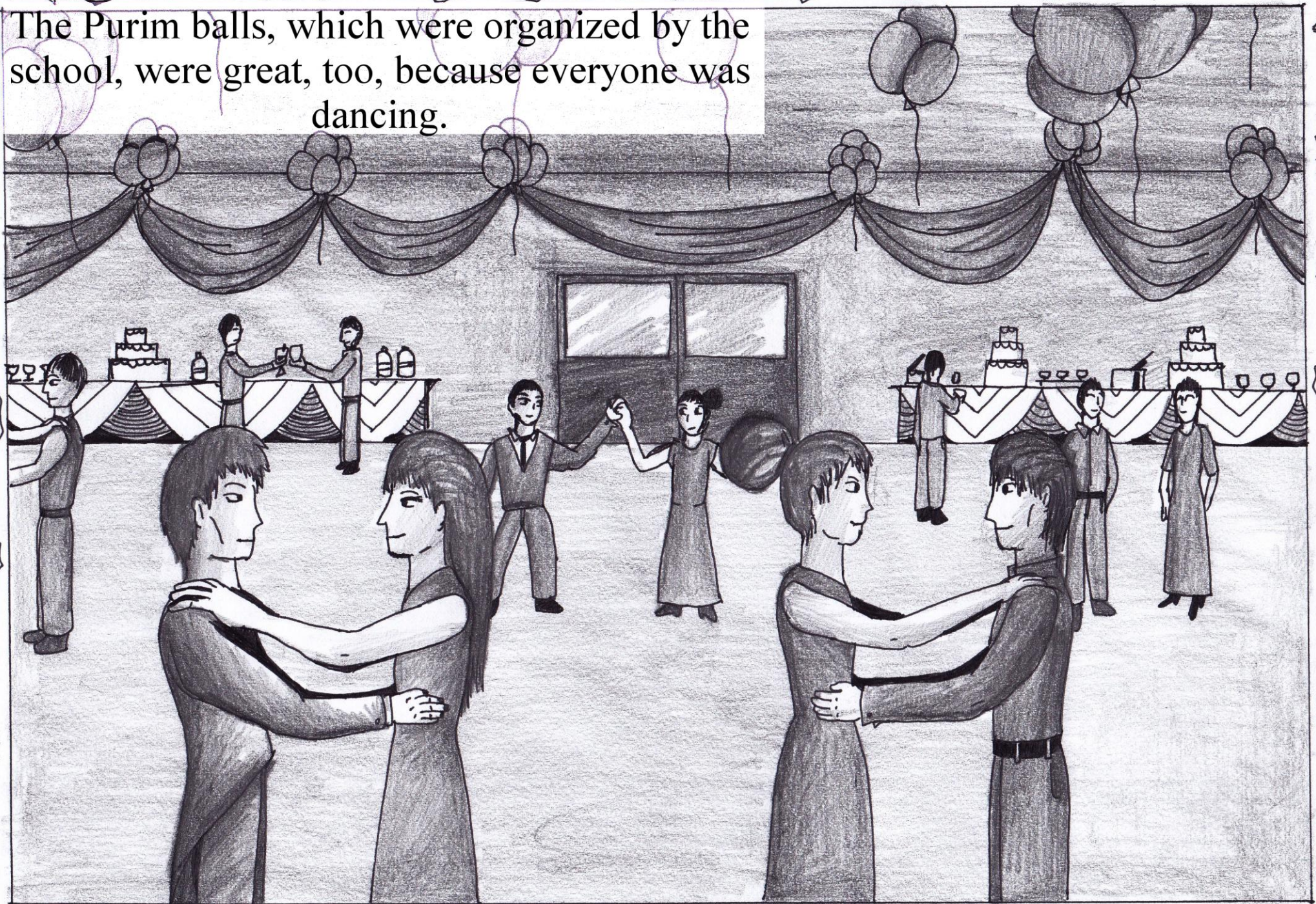
I started school when I was six years old. I mostly remember the traditional excursions to Şomos Hill at the end of each school year.



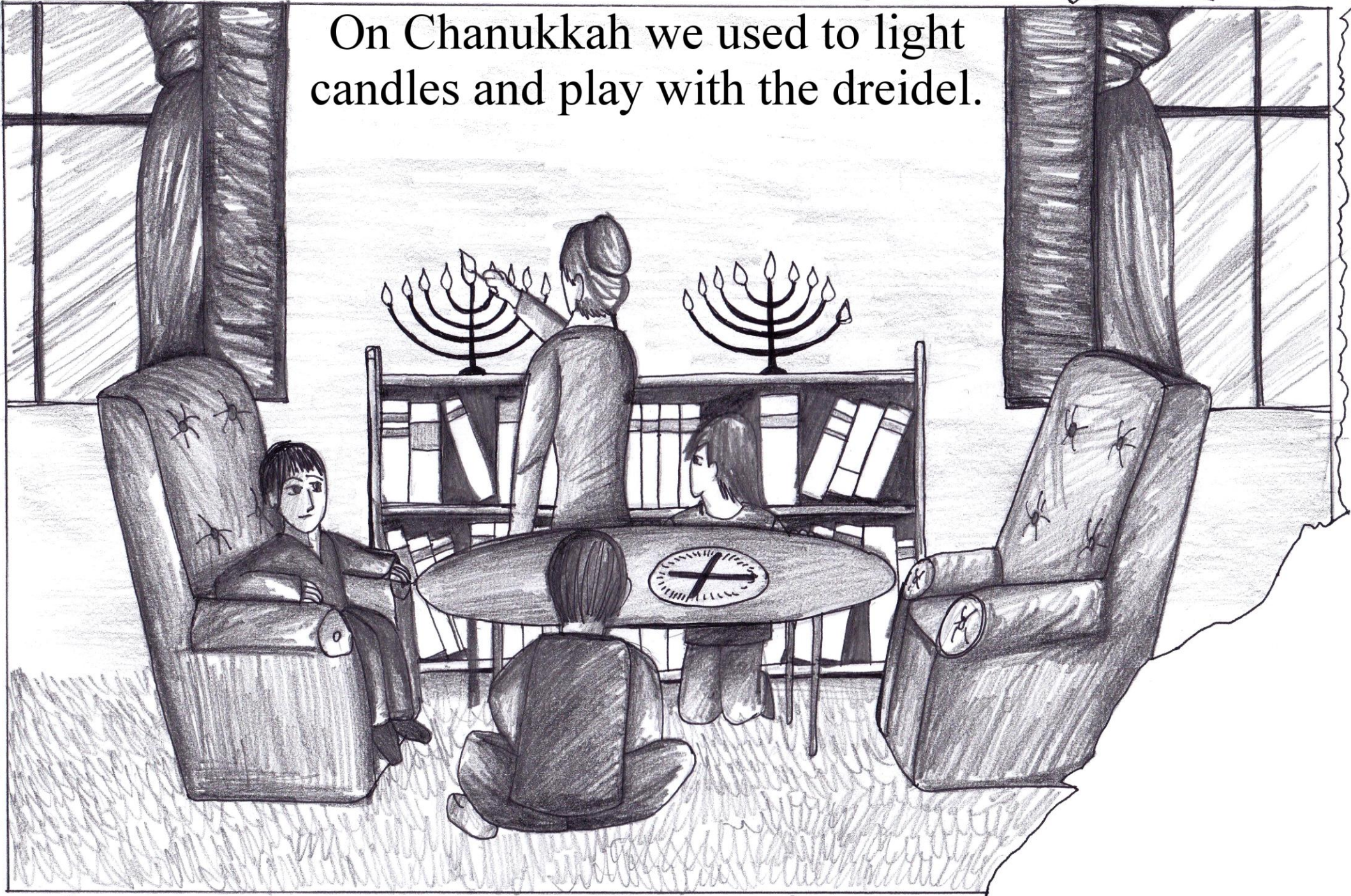


And the class photos
that we took at school.

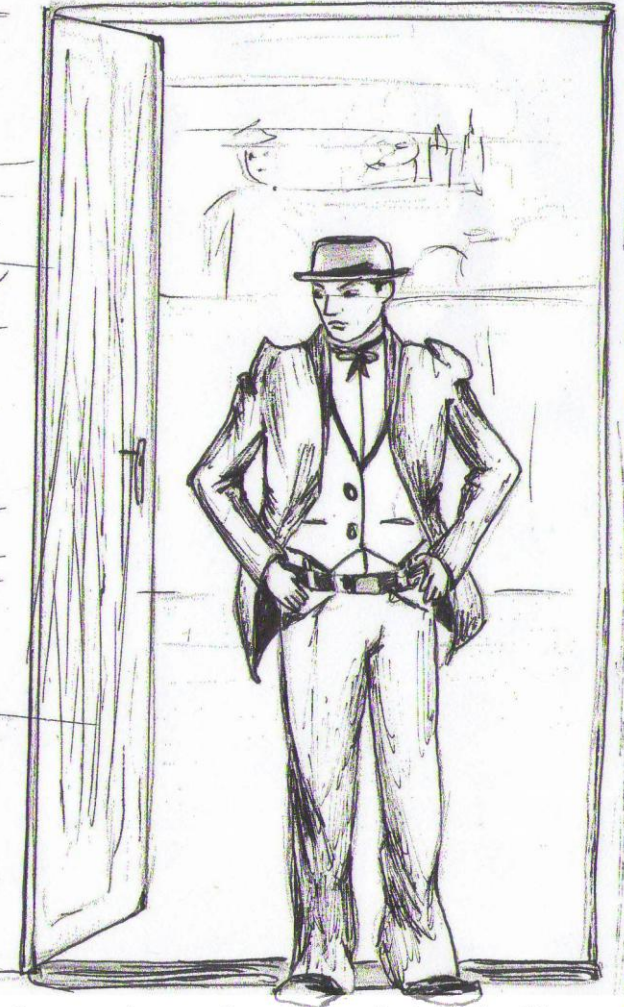
The Purim balls, which were organized by the school, were great, too, because everyone was dancing.



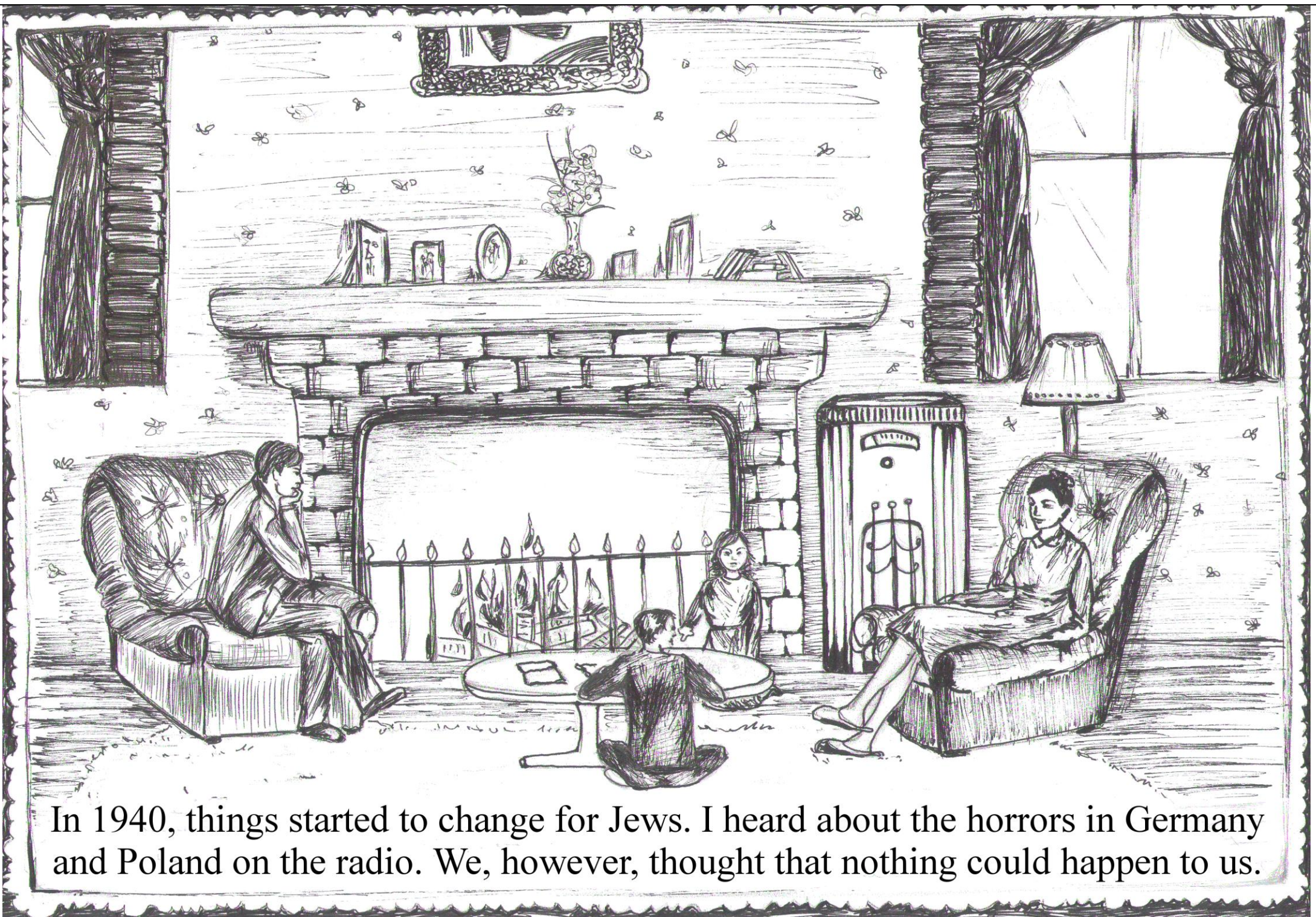
On Chanukkah we used to light
candles and play with the dreidel.



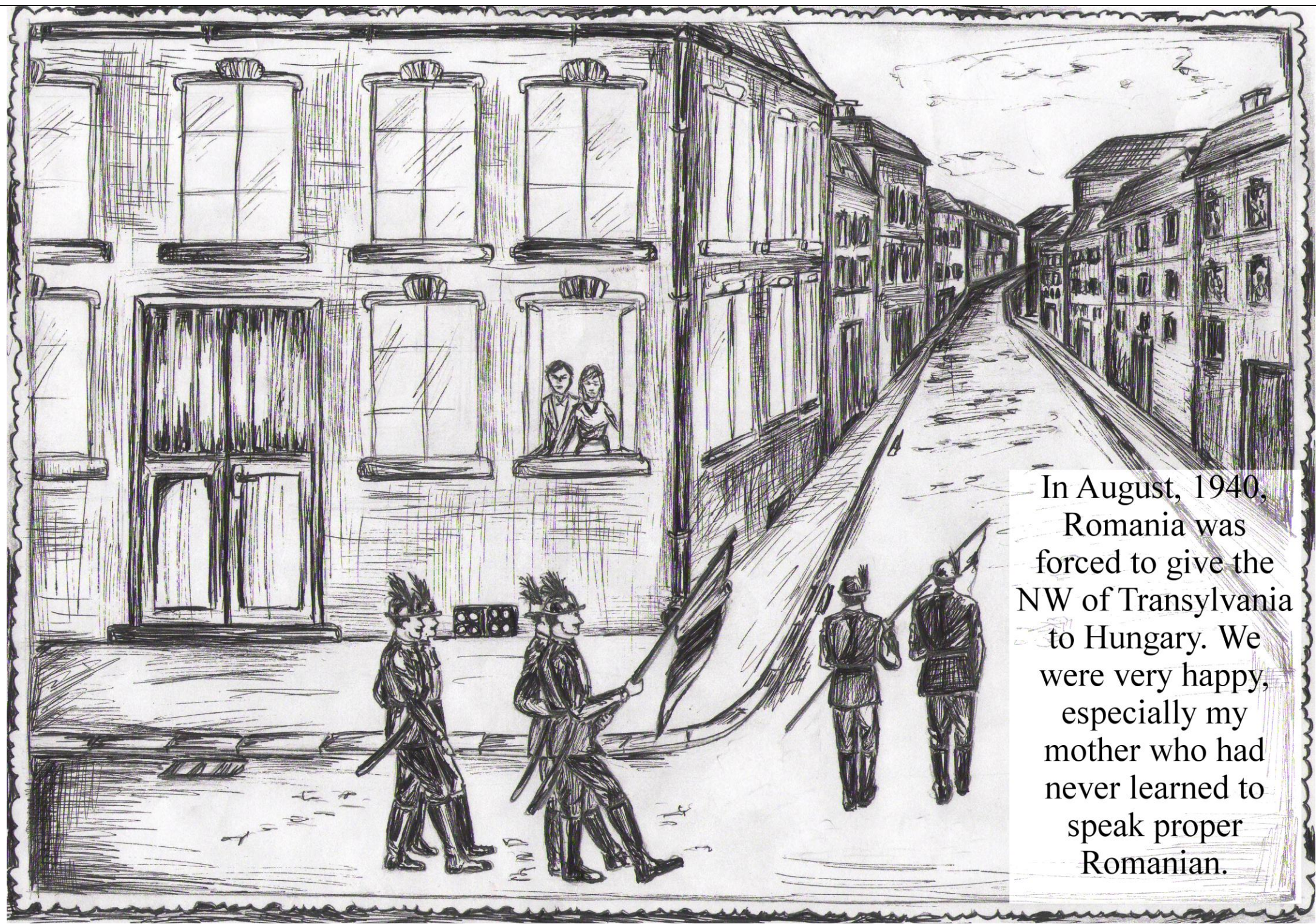
NUSSBAUM



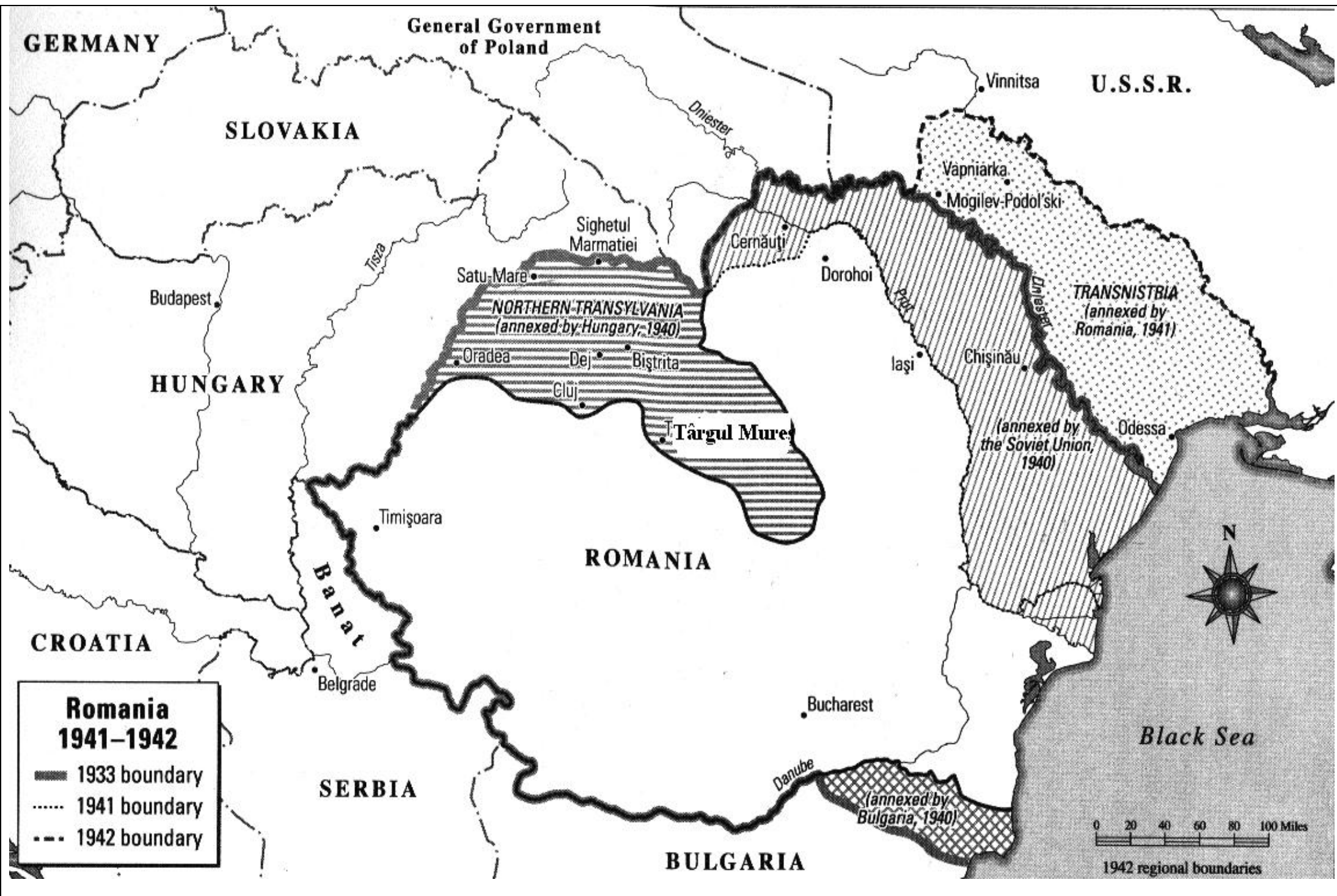
There were many Jewish shops in the city. I still remember the shop with dolls and toys, in front of which I always stopped.

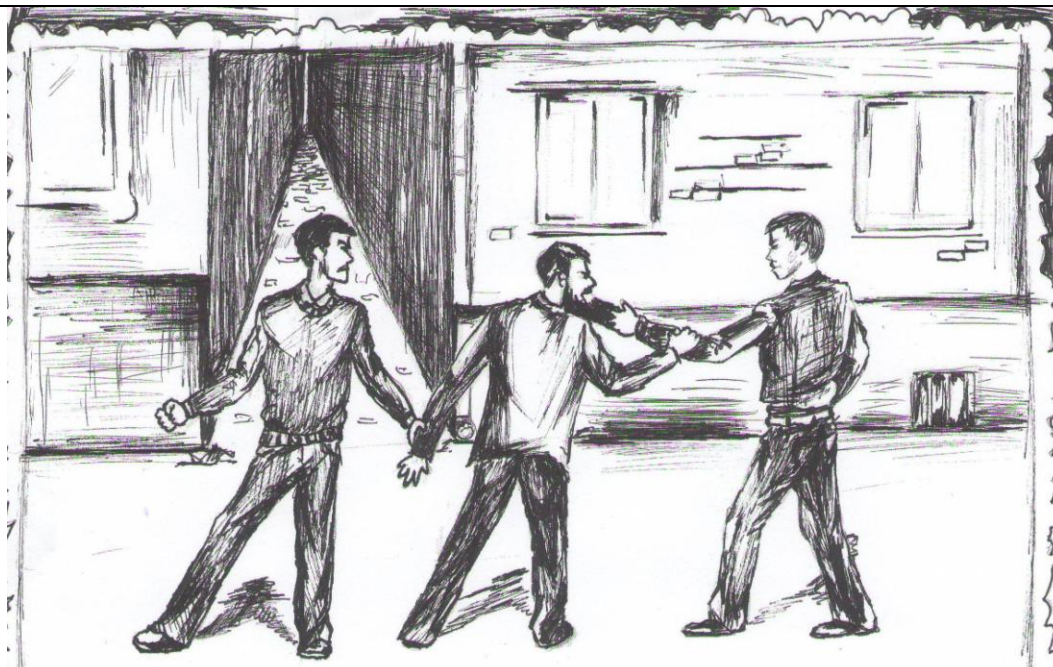


In 1940, things started to change for Jews. I heard about the horrors in Germany and Poland on the radio. We, however, thought that nothing could happen to us.

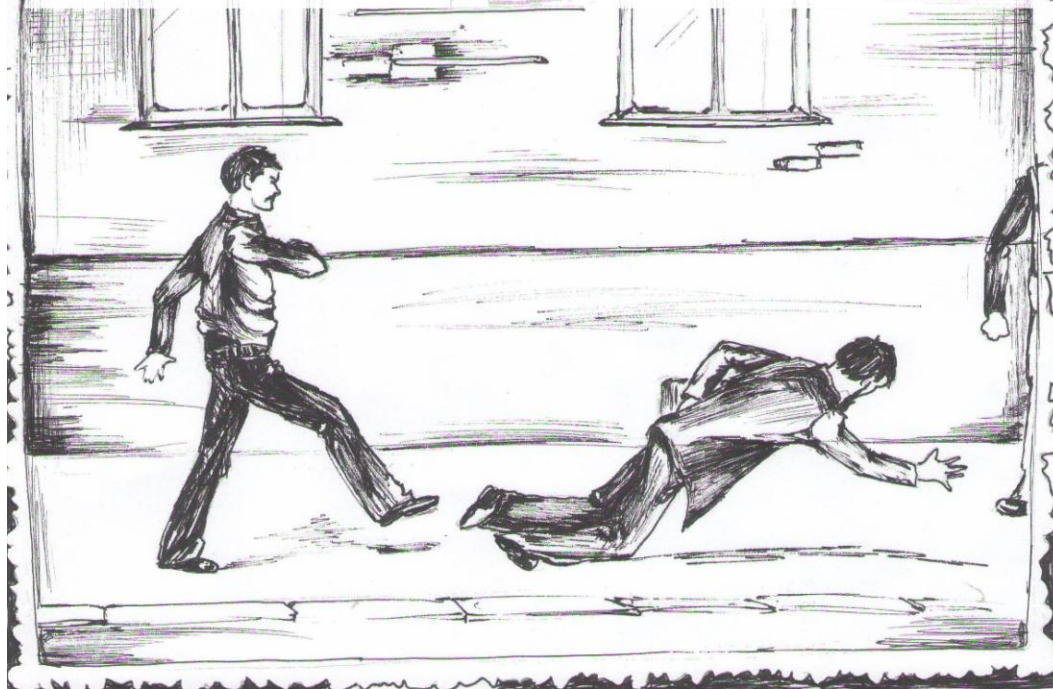


In August, 1940,
Romania was
forced to give the
NW of Transylvania
to Hungary. We
were very happy,
especially my
mother who had
never learned to
speak proper
Romanian.

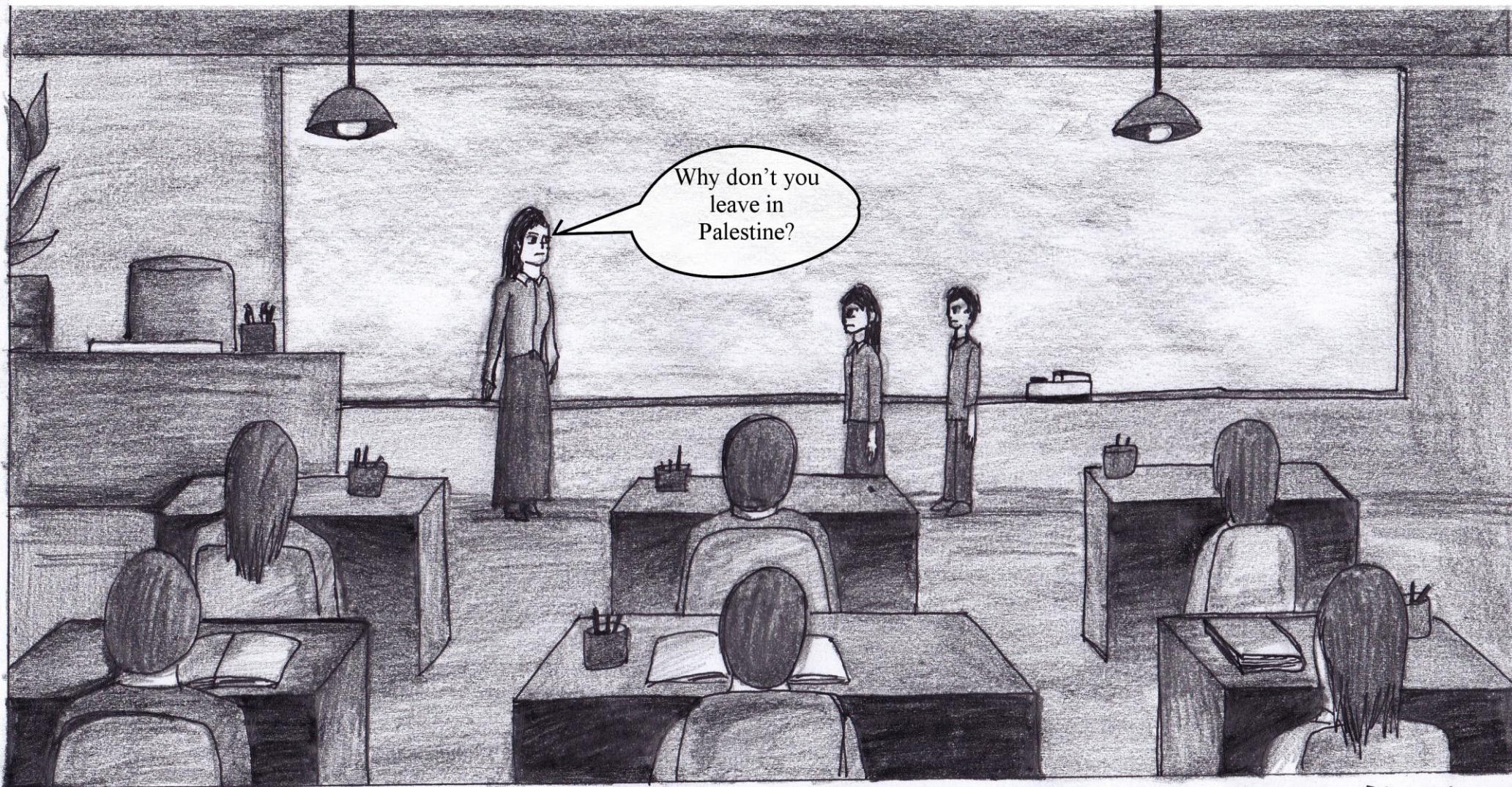




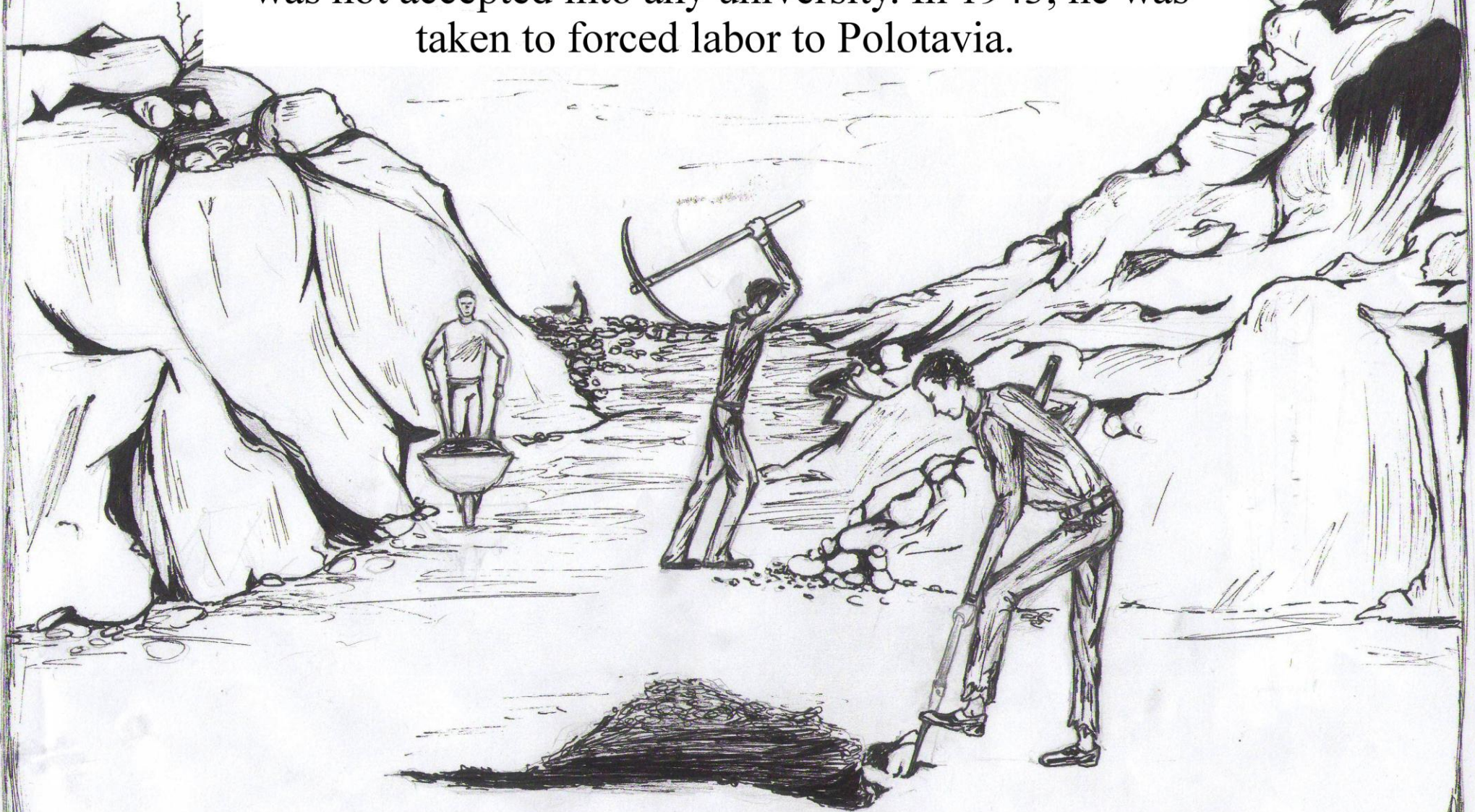
But something had changed for the worse. Some young people started to assault Jews on the streets.



I could only go to school because my father had fought in the Austro-Hungarian army during WWI. However, most of the Jewish children were not allowed to attend school any longer. Schools in Târgu Mureș only accepted 6% Jewish students – but there were many more. Some teachers were anti-Semitic.

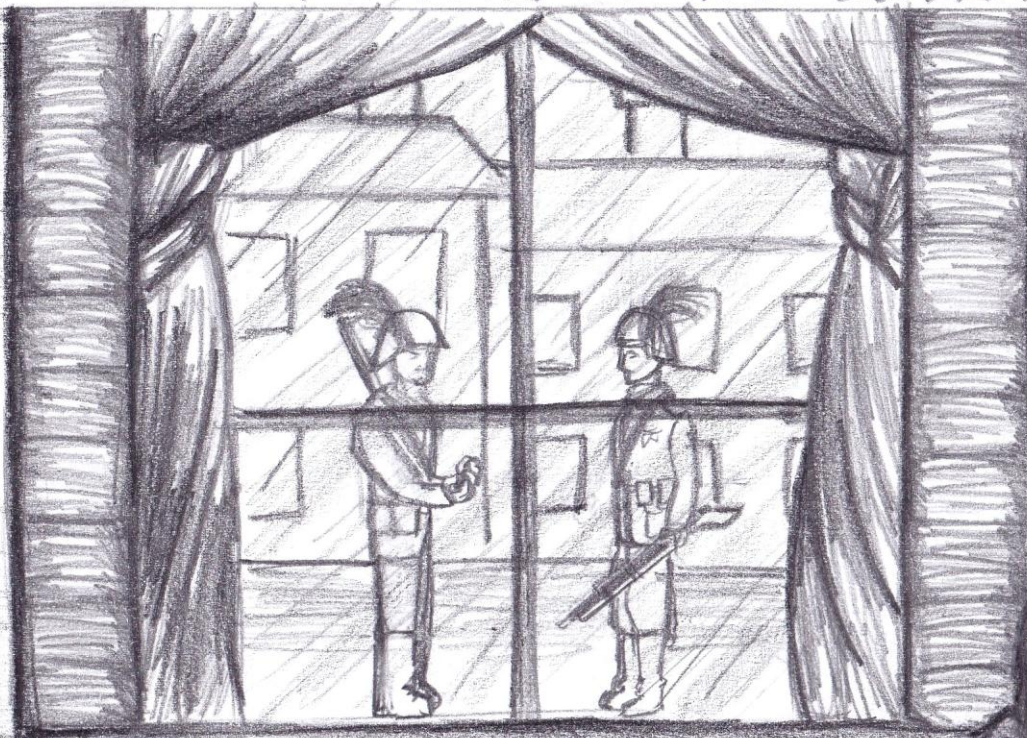


My brother graduated from high school but, being a Jew, was not accepted into any university. In 1943, he was taken to forced labor to Polotavia.

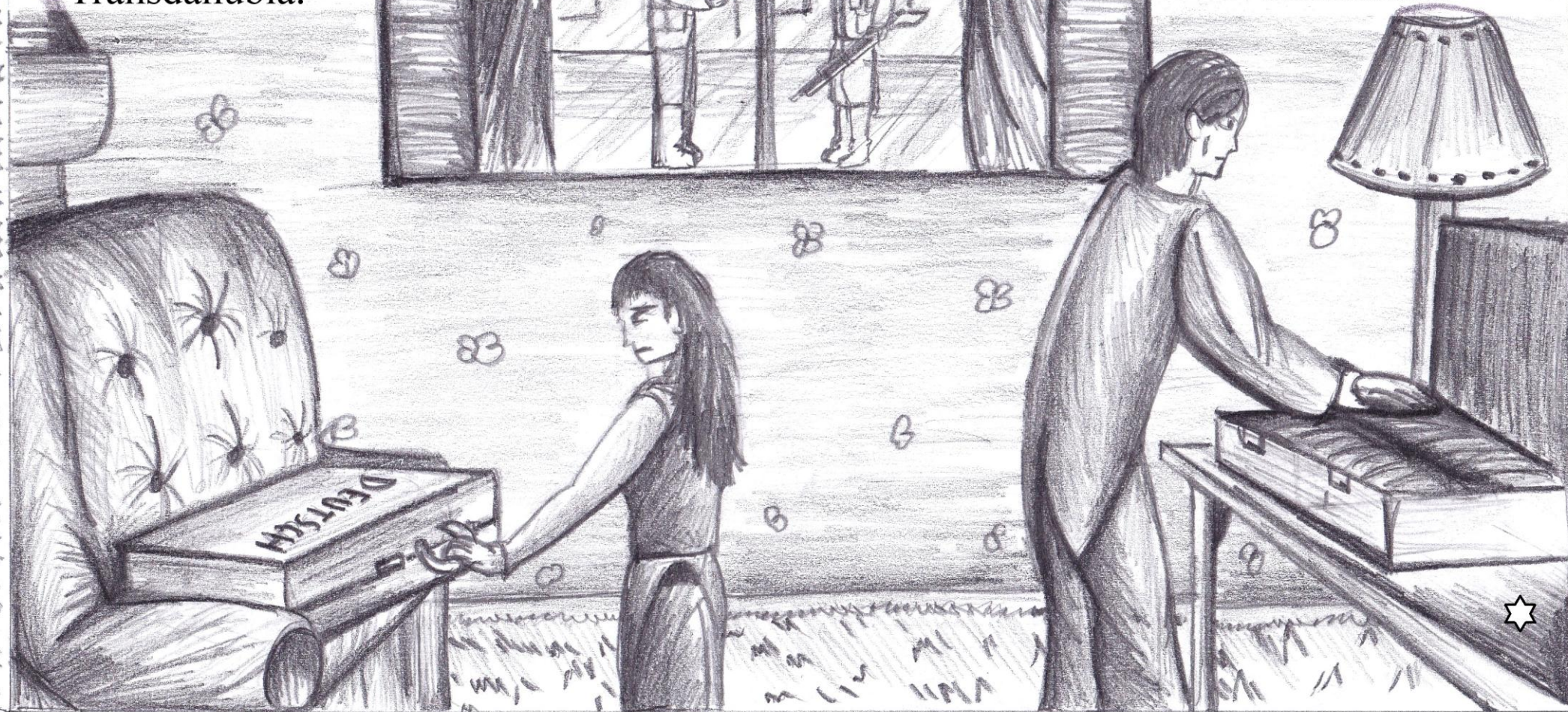


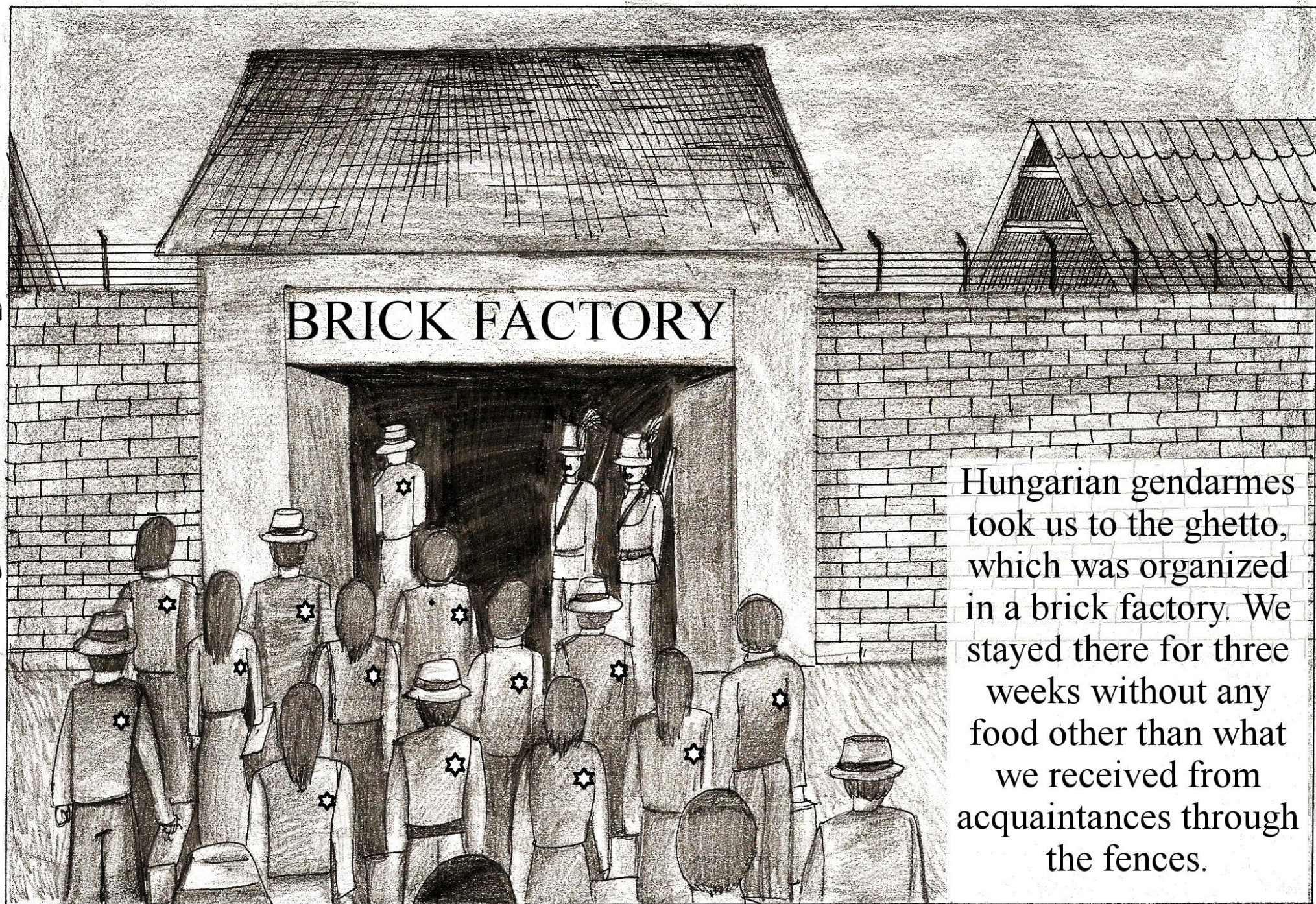
He was released by the Hungarians in 1944, only to be taken prisoner by the Russians. He died of typhus in February 1945.

The Germans arrived
in Târgu Mureș in
March 1944 and
spread the news that
Jews would be sent
to work in
agriculture in
Transdanubia.



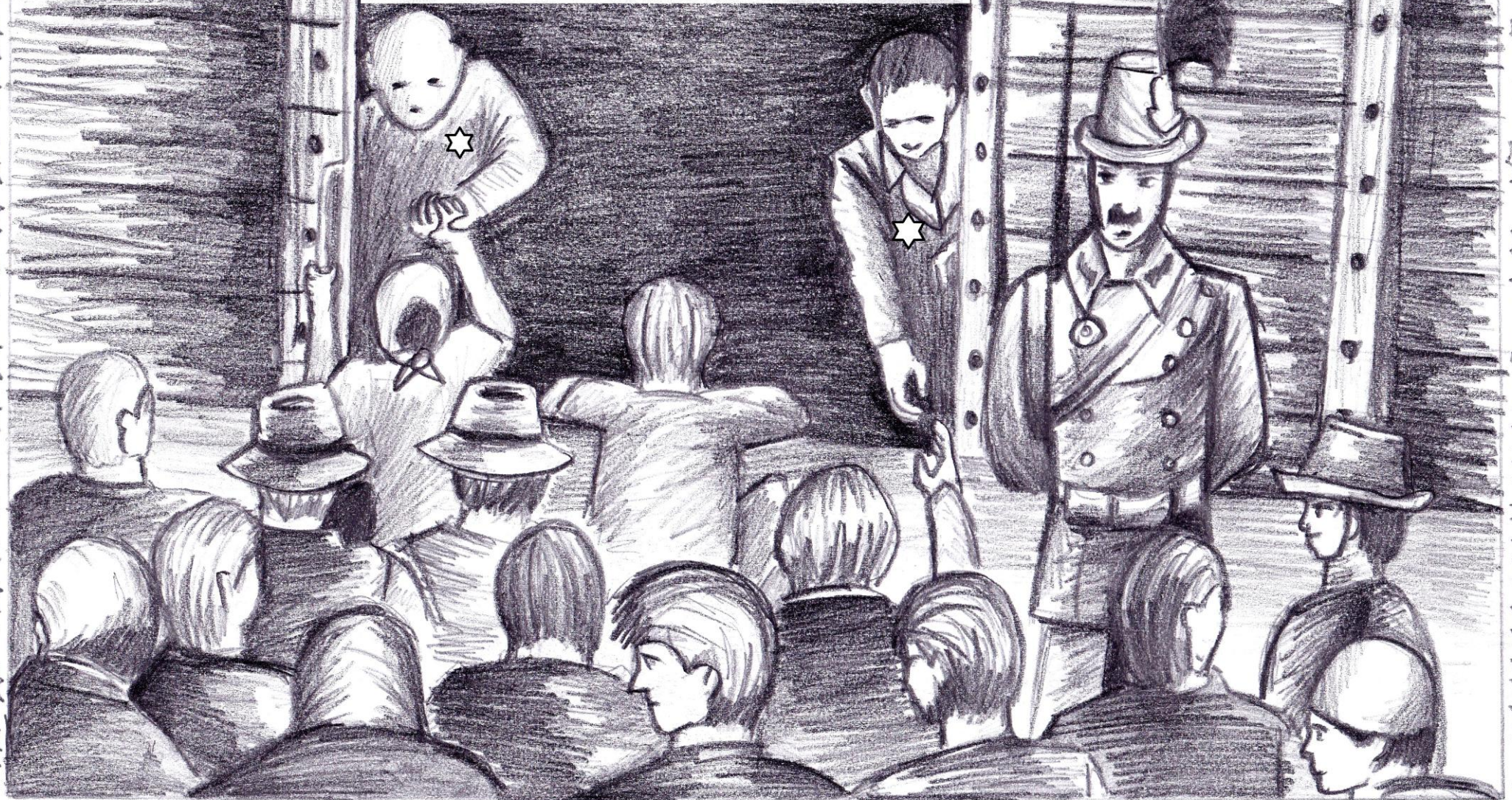
We packed and,
among other things,
took our diplomas
and papers. We
never thought about
hiding or fleeing to
Romania.

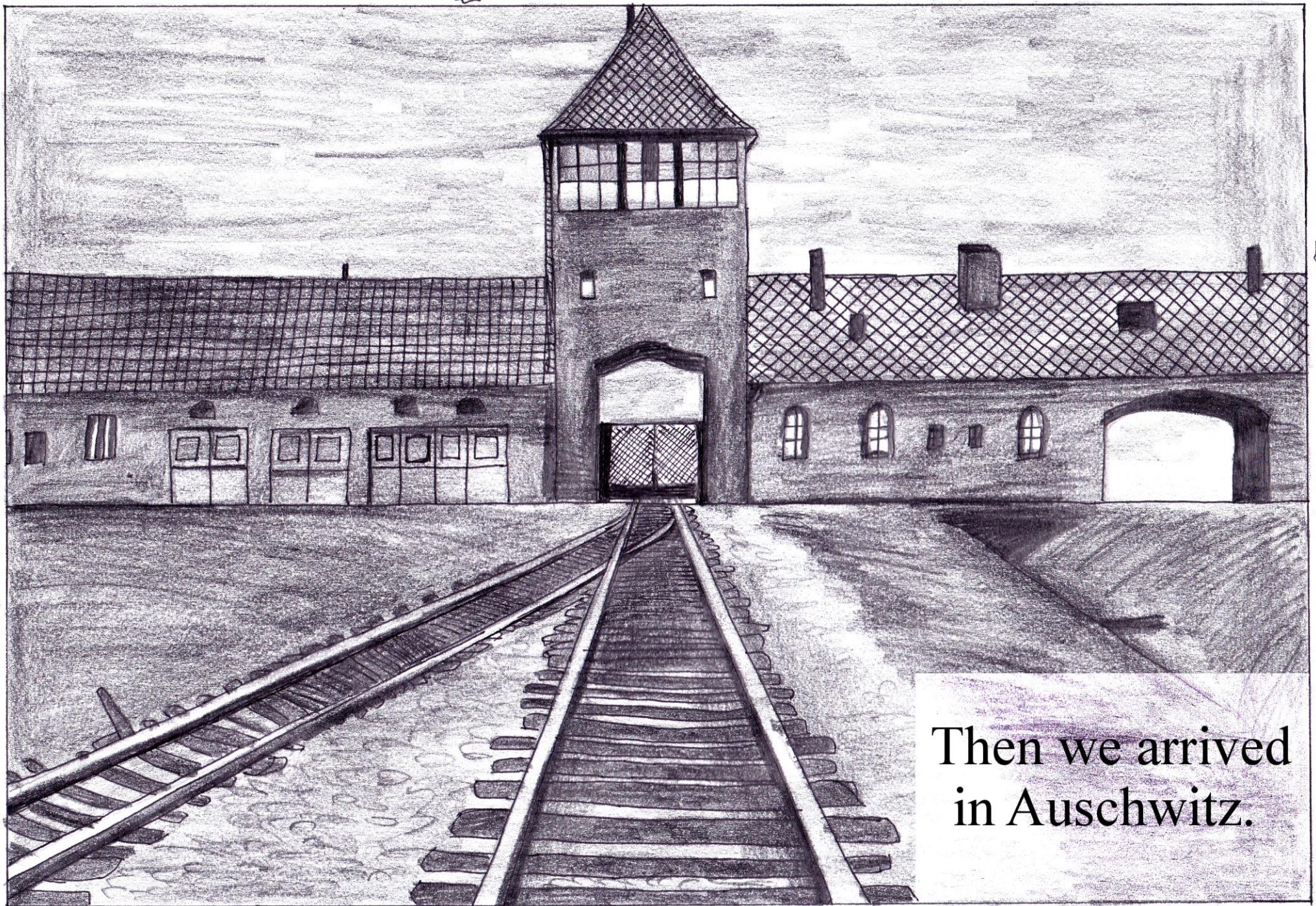




Hungarian gendarmes took us to the ghetto, which was organized in a brick factory. We stayed there for three weeks without any food other than what we received from acquaintances through the fences.

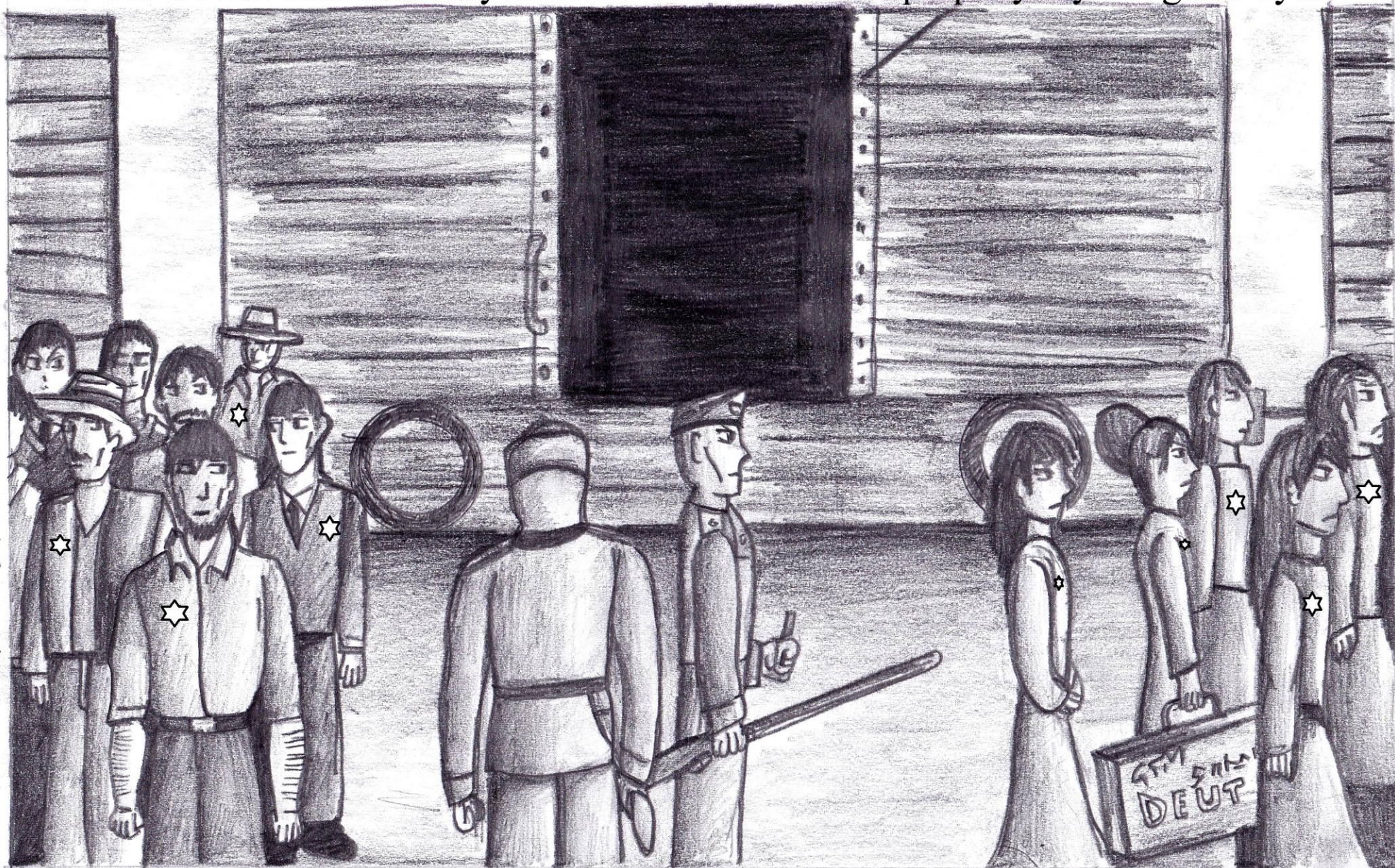
Then we were taken to the train station and put on cattle-cars. We were transported for four days on this train, without any food, to an unknown destination.



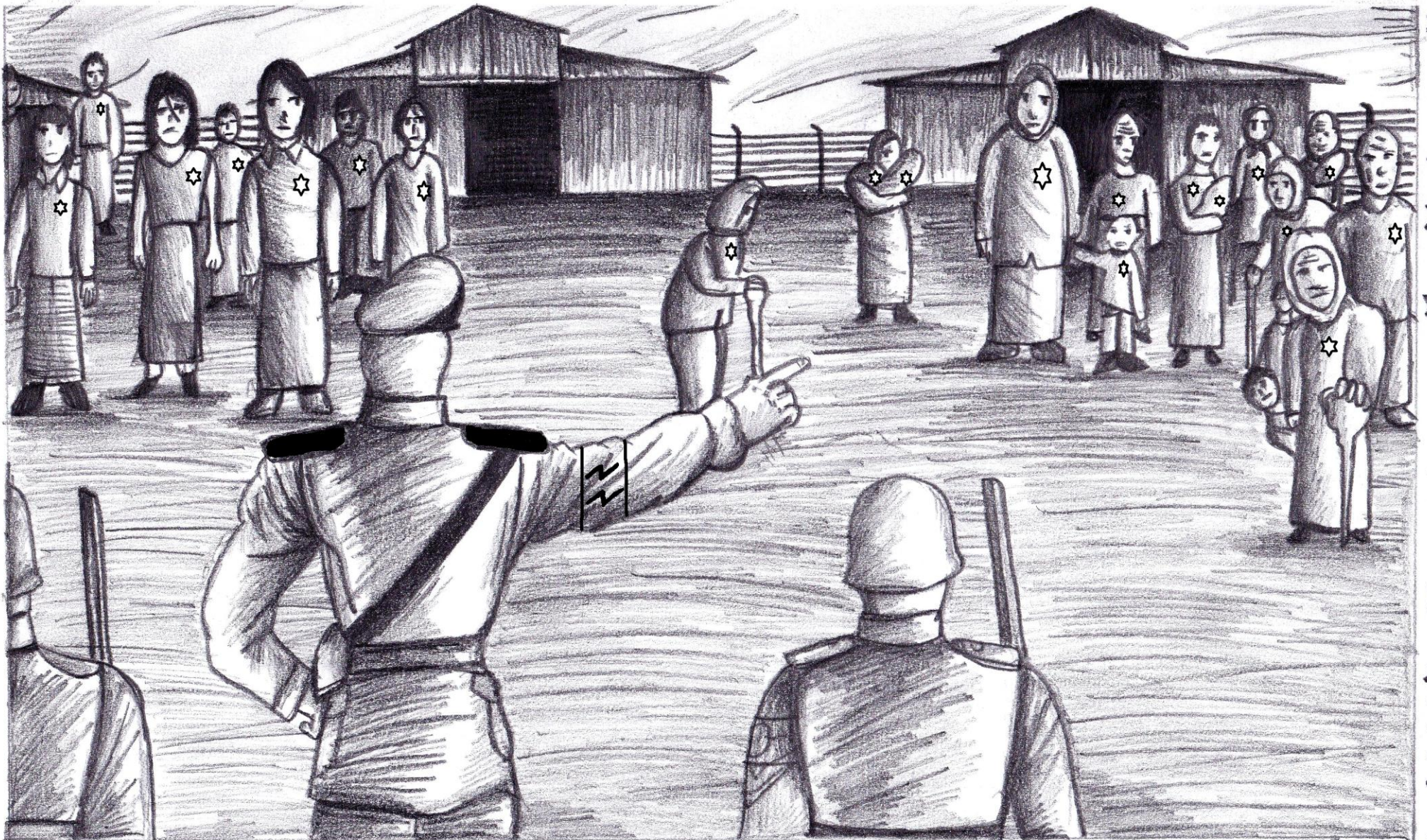


Then we arrived
in Auschwitz.

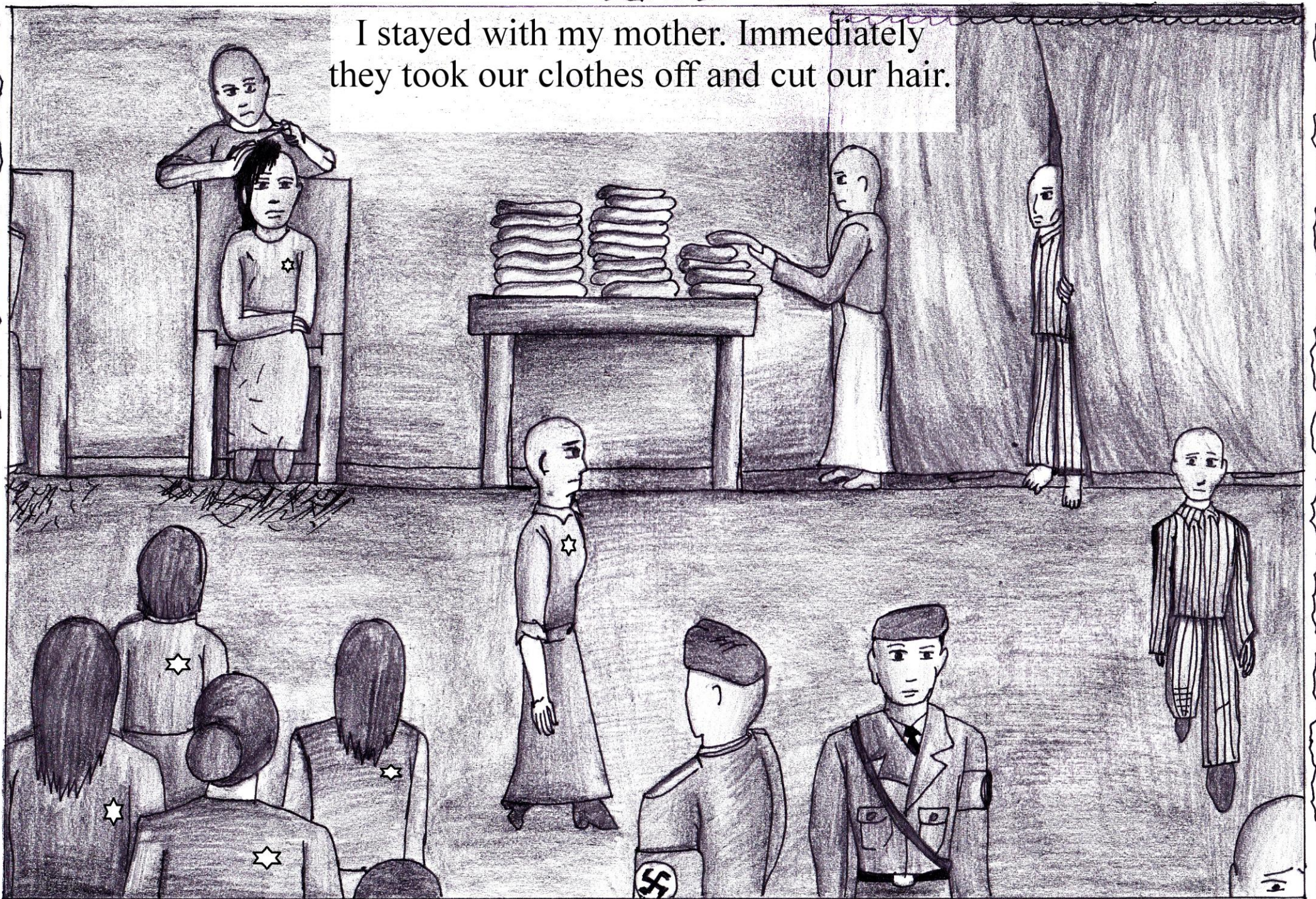
The doors were opened and we had to descend quickly. Men and women were separated.
It was the last time I saw my father. We had no time to properly say our good-byes.

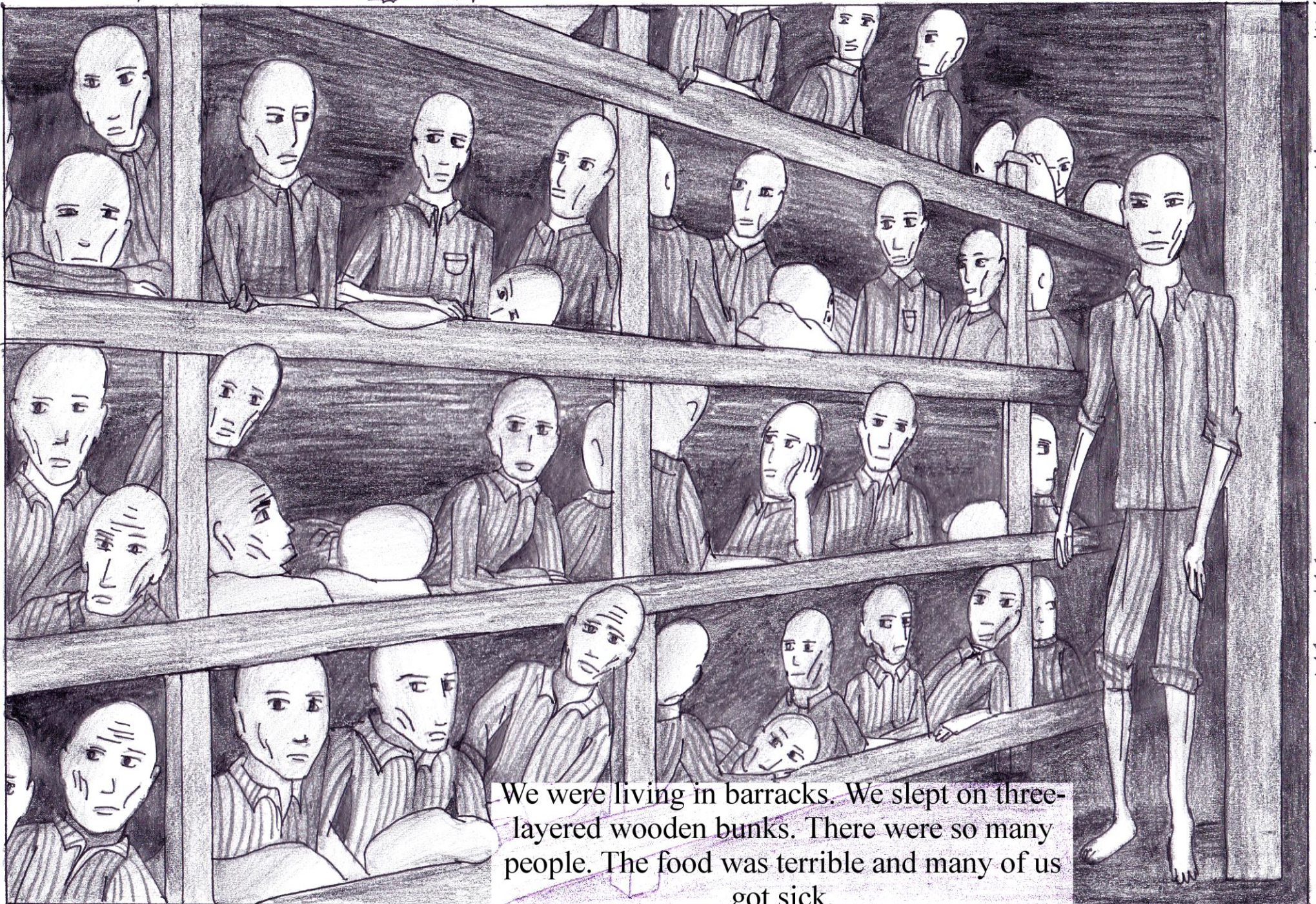


Immediately after that the first selection took place. Women with small children and old women were separated from those who could work and sent to the showers. At that time I did not know that the showers were gas chambers.



I stayed with my mother. Immediately they took our clothes off and cut our hair.

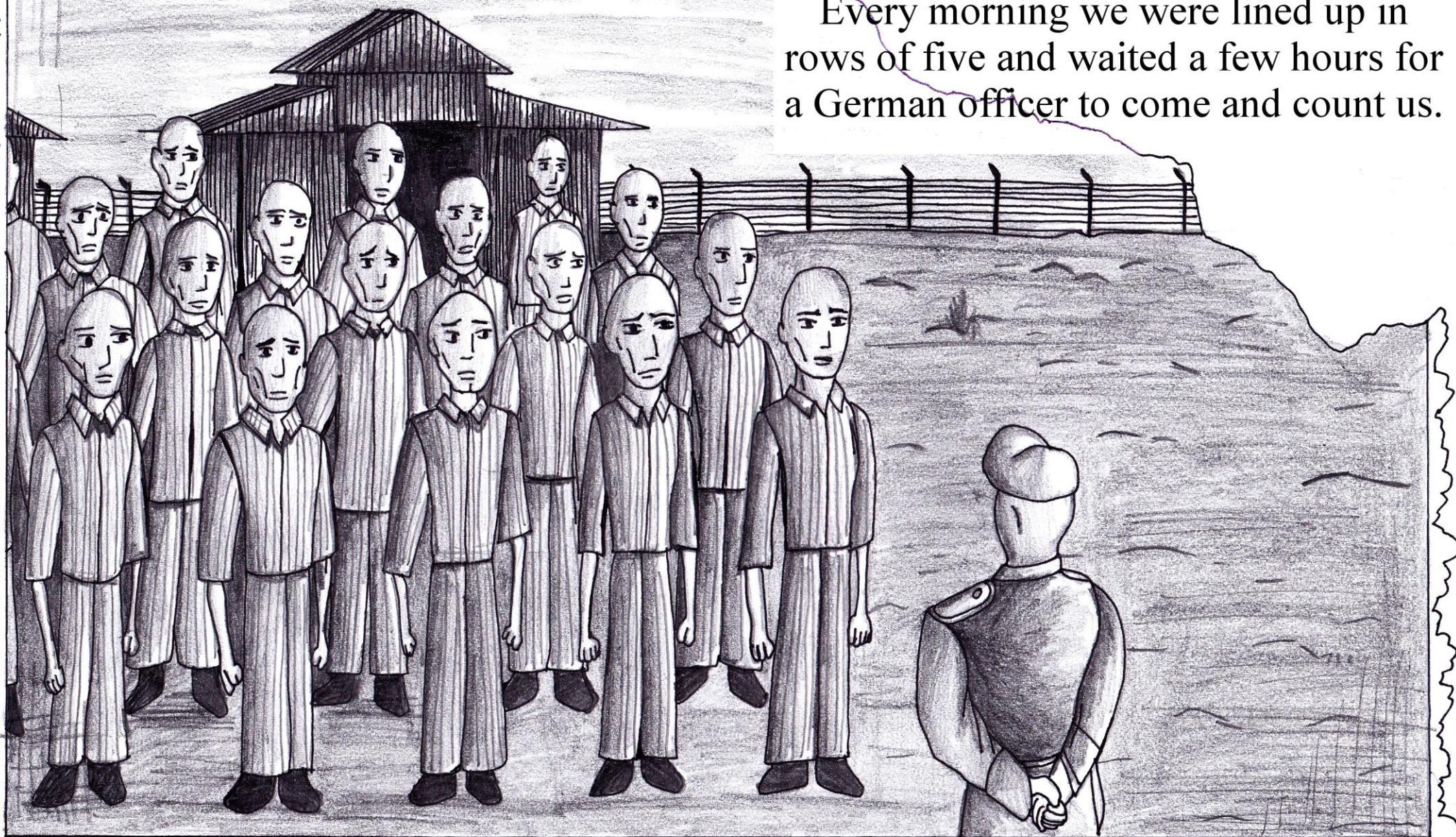




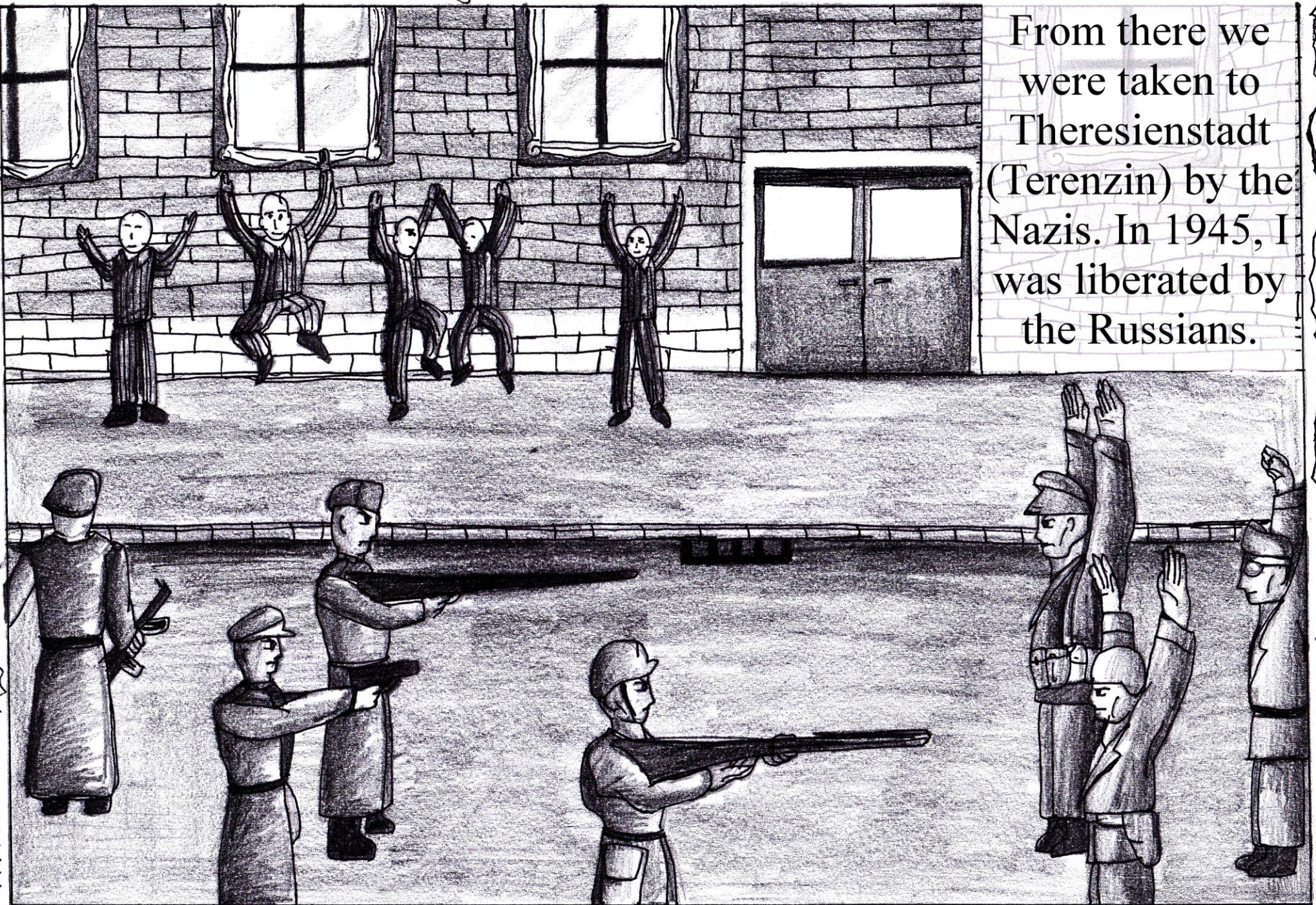
We were living in barracks. We slept on three-layered wooden bunks. There were so many people. The food was terrible and many of us got sick.

Auschwitz was an extermination camp, so we did not work. We expected that we would be taken to work or to die.

Every morning we were lined up in rows of five and waited a few hours for a German officer to come and count us.

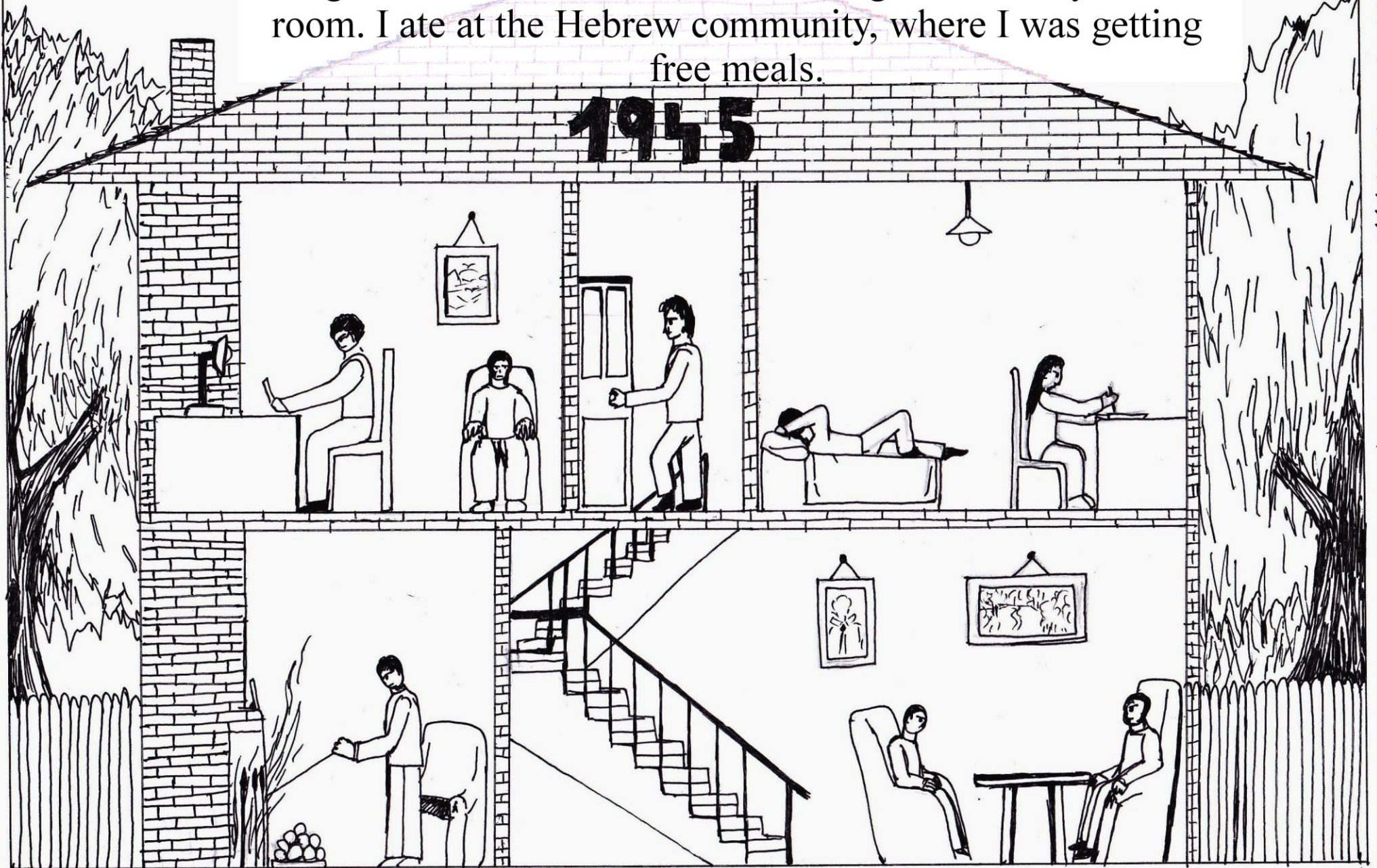


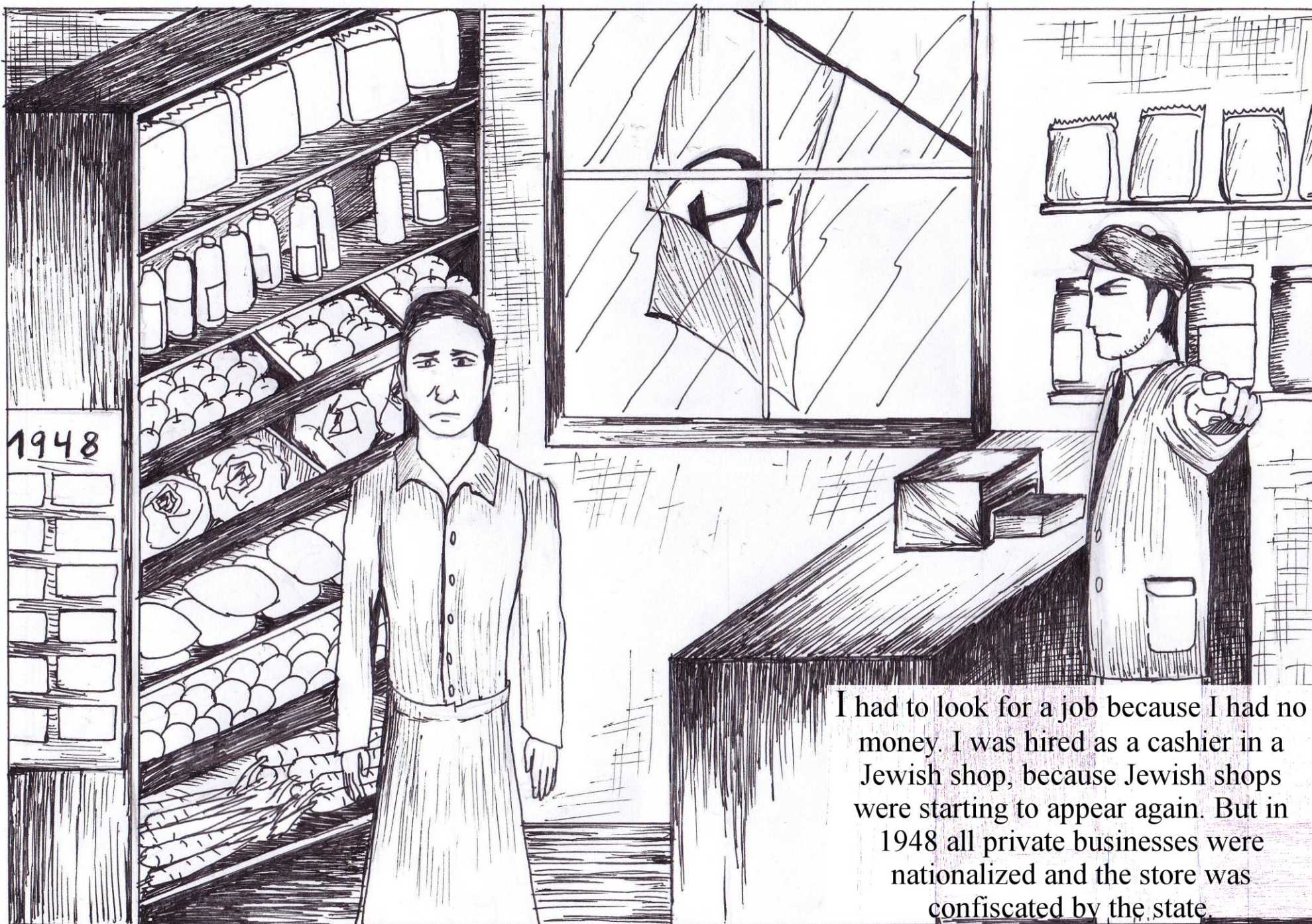
From there we
were taken to
Theresienstadt
(Terezin) by the
Nazis. In 1945, I
was liberated by
the Russians.



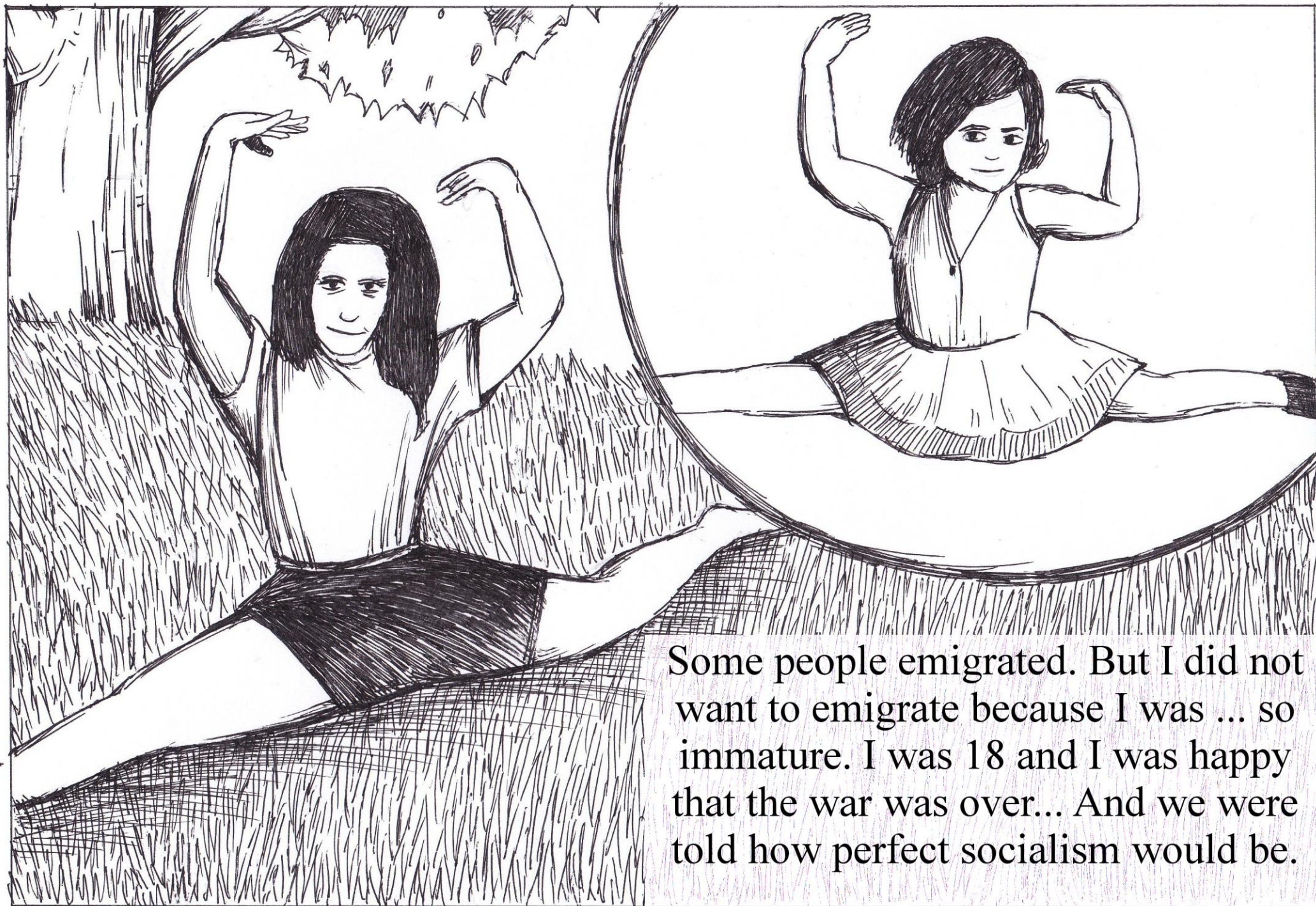
When I got back to Targu Mureș, there were many people living in our house. Our furniture was gone. I hardly found a room. I ate at the Hebrew community, where I was getting free meals.

1945

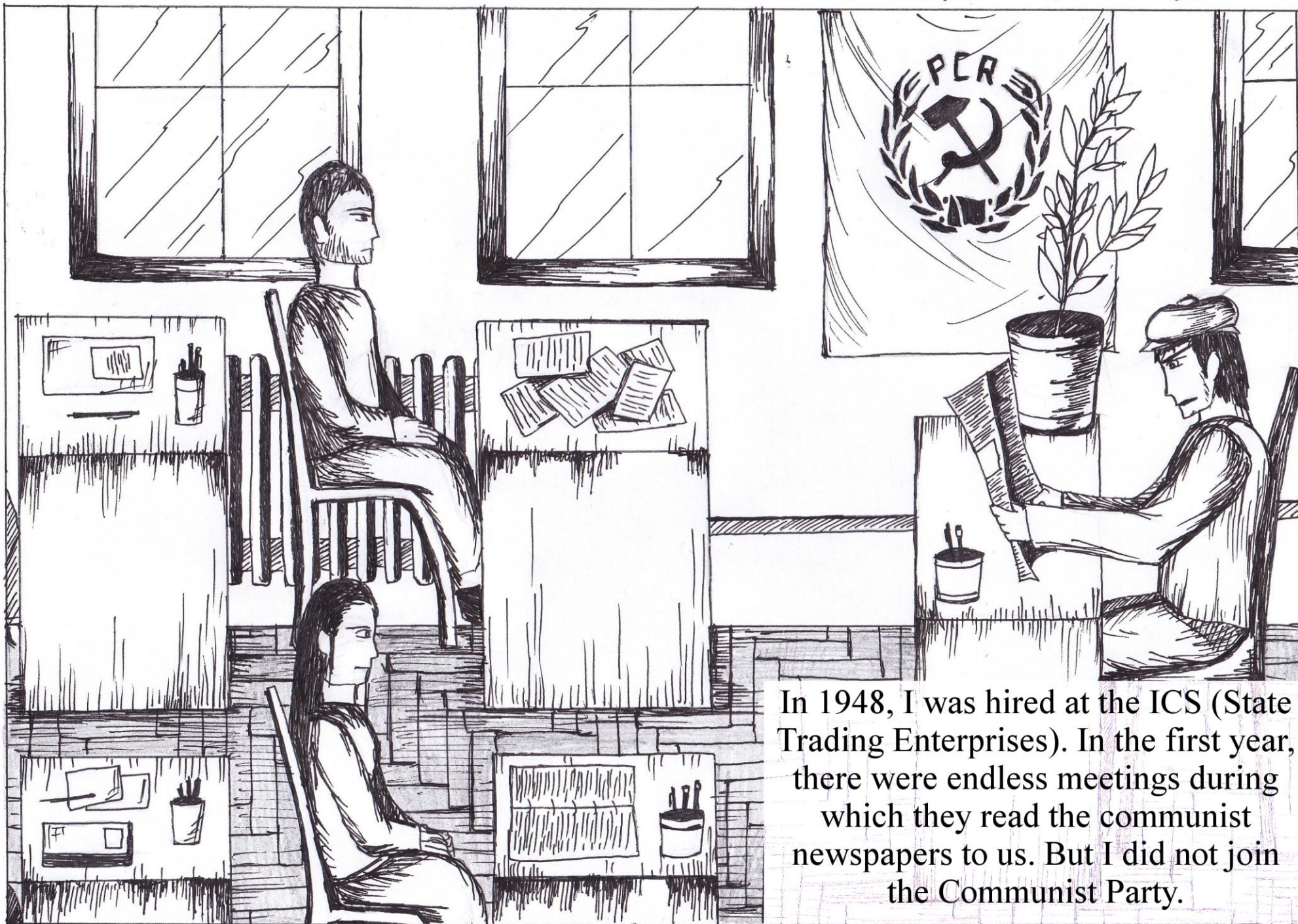




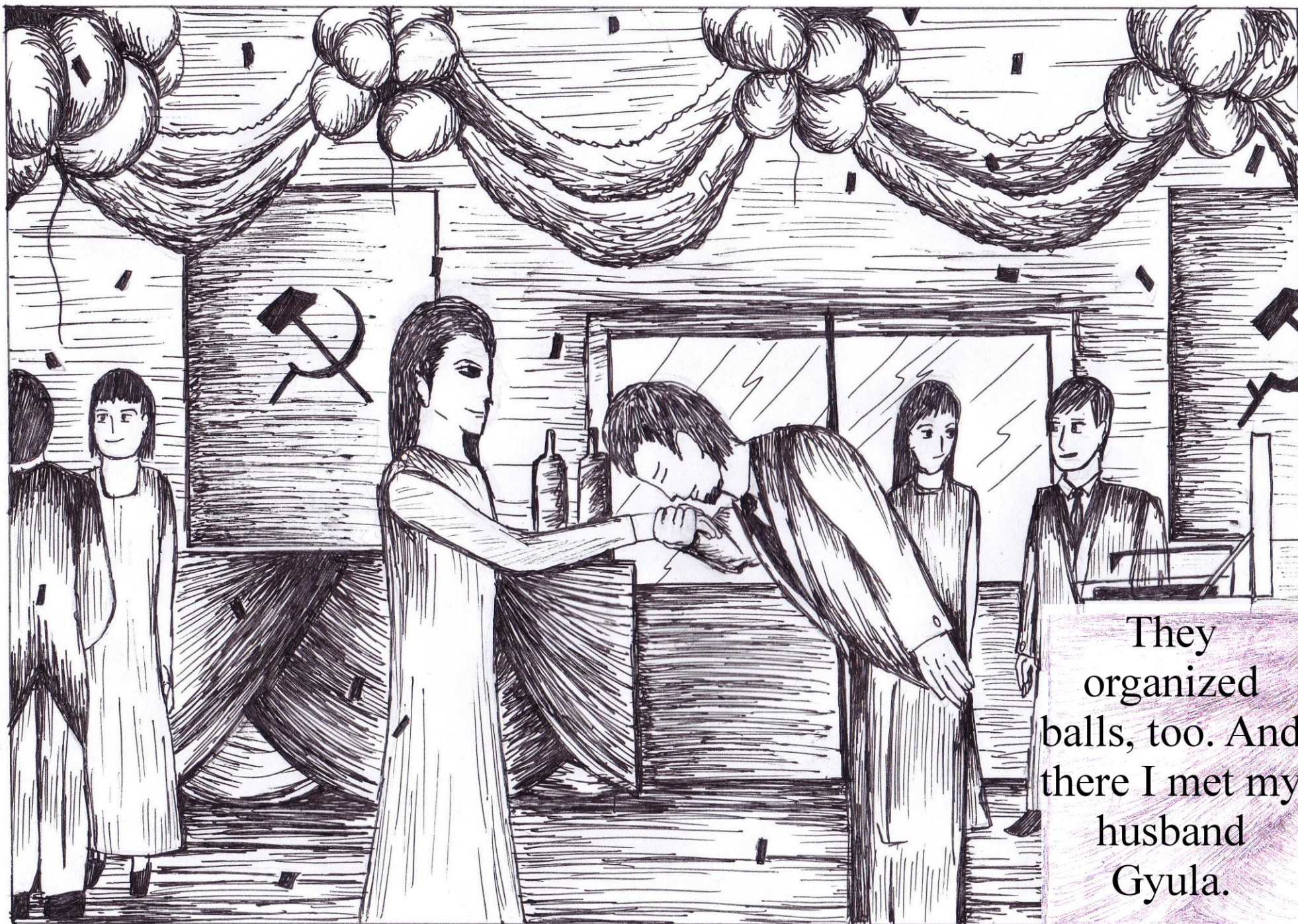
I had to look for a job because I had no money. I was hired as a cashier in a Jewish shop, because Jewish shops were starting to appear again. But in 1948 all private businesses were nationalized and the store was confiscated by the state.



Some people emigrated. But I did not want to emigrate because I was ... so immature. I was 18 and I was happy that the war was over... And we were told how perfect socialism would be.



In 1948, I was hired at the ICS (State Trading Enterprises). In the first year, there were endless meetings during which they read the communist newspapers to us. But I did not join the Communist Party.

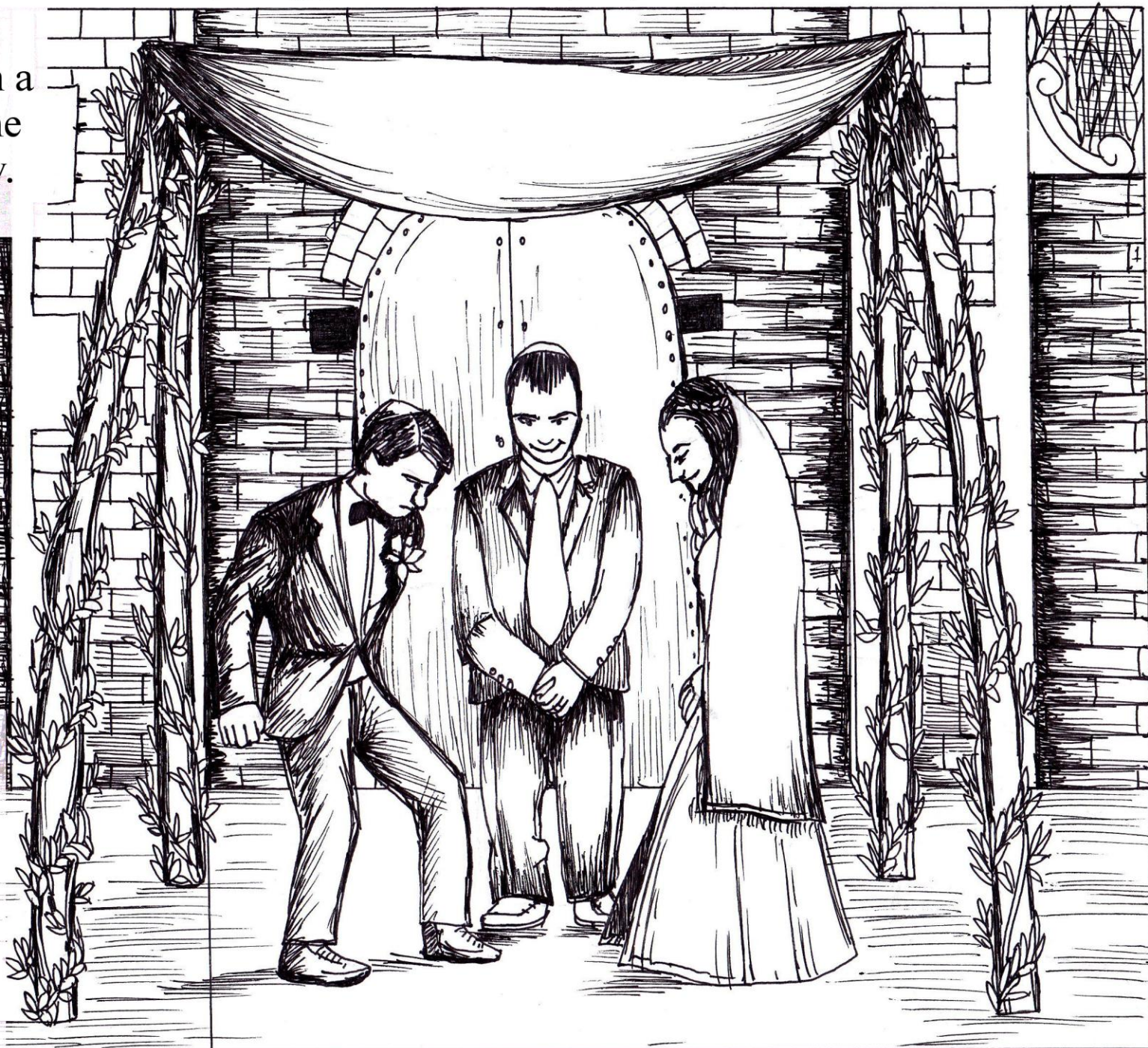


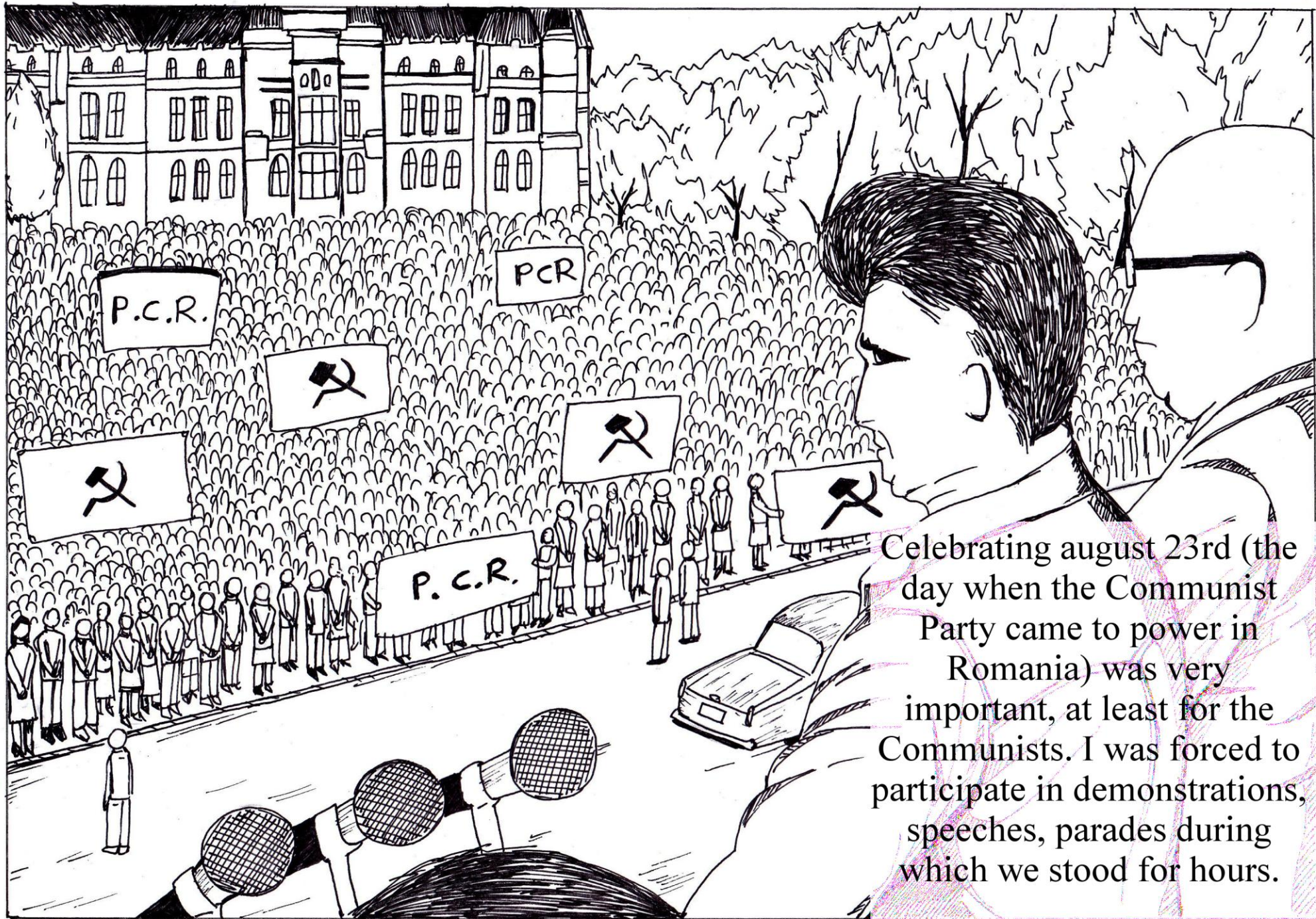
They
organized
balls, too. And
there I met my
husband
Gyula.

We had our civil wedding first. Then a rabbi performed the religious ceremony.



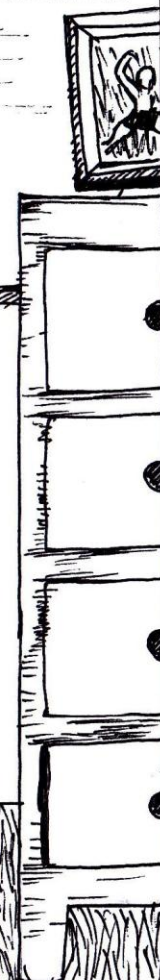
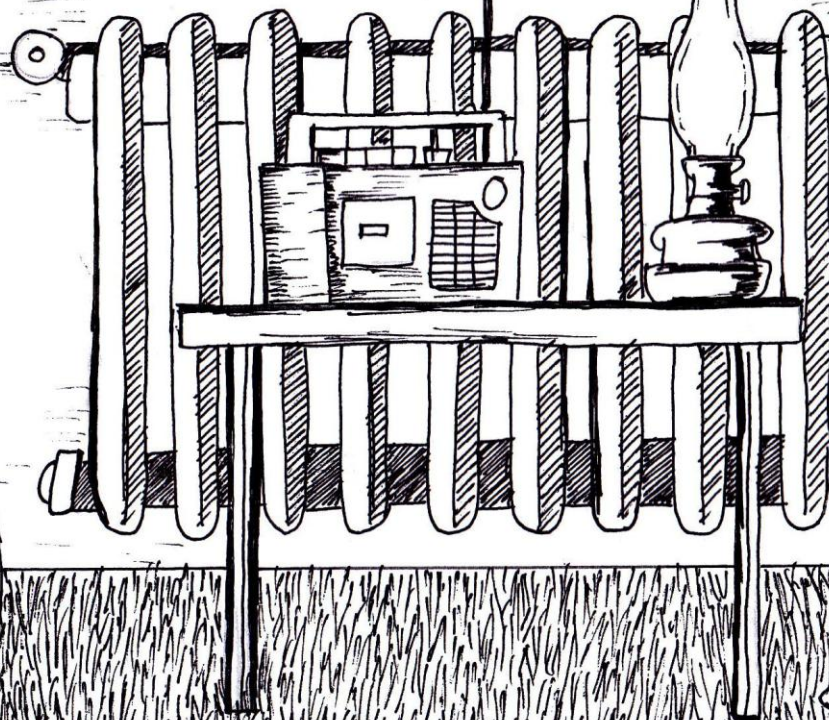
The wedding took place in an apartment because religious weddings in synagogues were forbidden. A few friends attended. A Chuppah was installed in the courtyard.



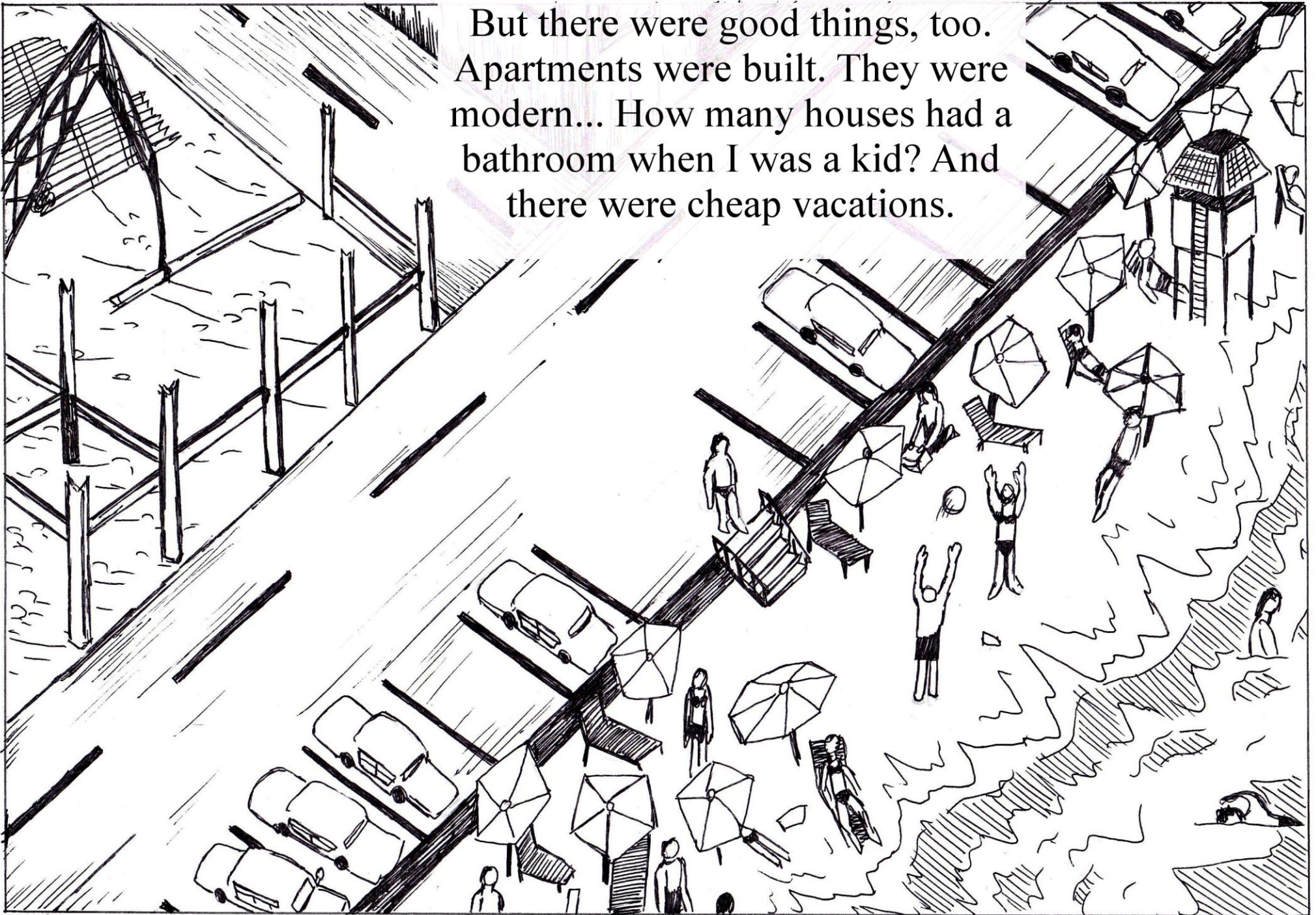


Celebrating august 23rd (the day when the Communist Party came to power in Romania) was very important, at least for the Communists. I was forced to participate in demonstrations, speeches, parades during which we stood for hours.

There were many bad things. You were afraid to talk freely. Anyone could be an informant for State Security. Yet people listened to the radio Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. In the 80s Ceausescu began rationalizing: I had no gas, heat, electricity. Things of strict necessity began to disappear: food, soap, toilet paper.



But there were good things, too.
Apartments were built. They were
modern... How many houses had a
bathroom when I was a kid? And
there were cheap vacations.

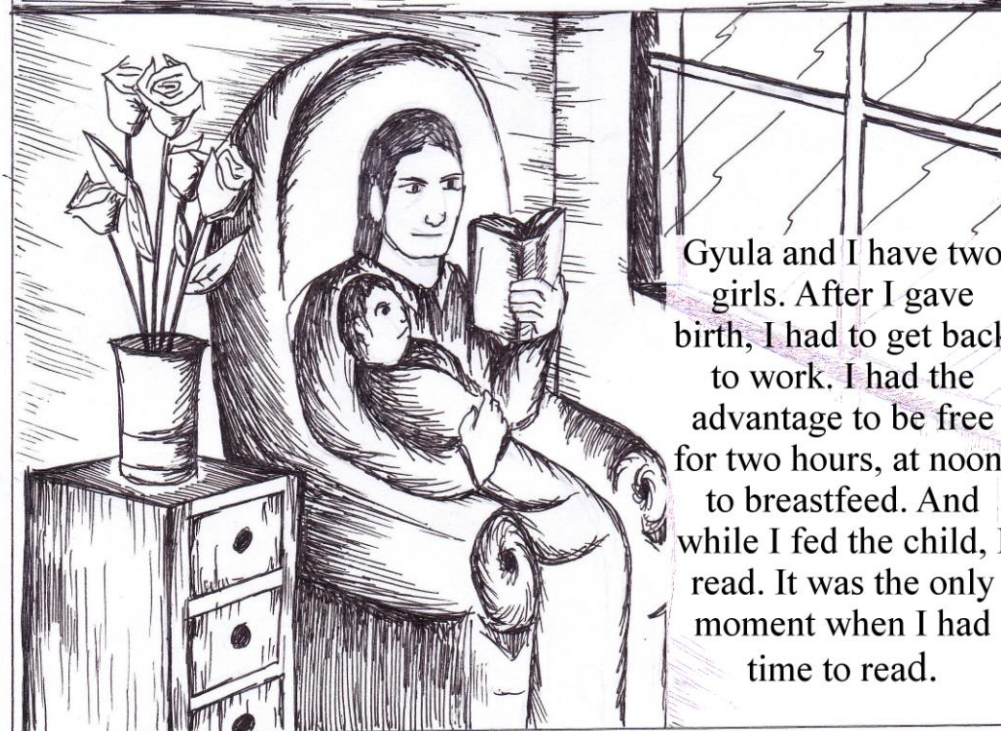
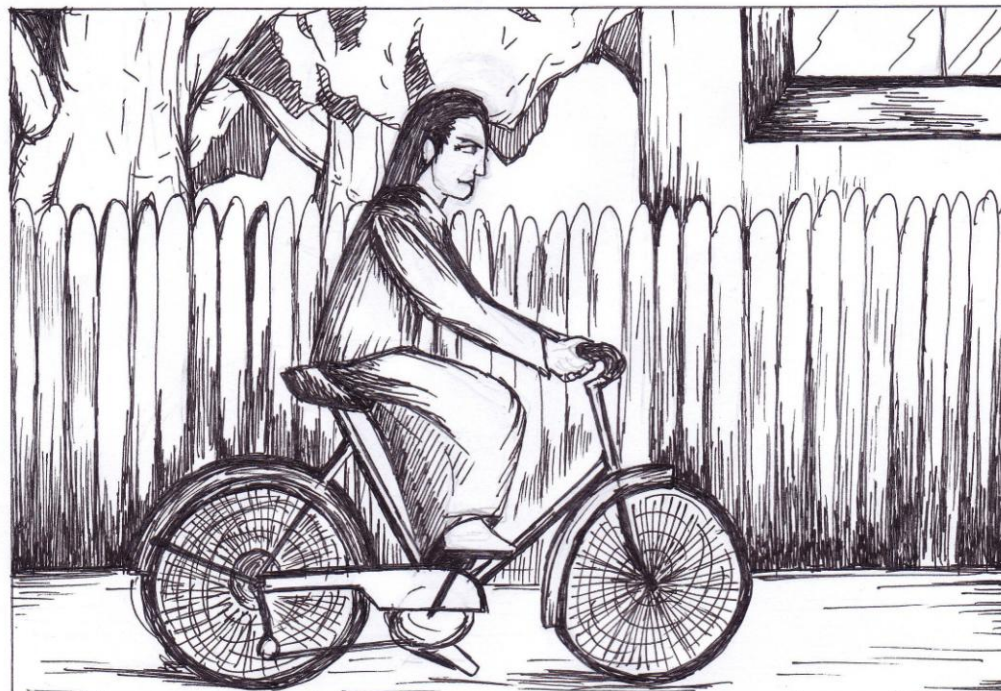


In the late 60s I got permission to go abroad, to other communist countries.

We traveled everywhere with our Dacia and a tent because it was cheaper.

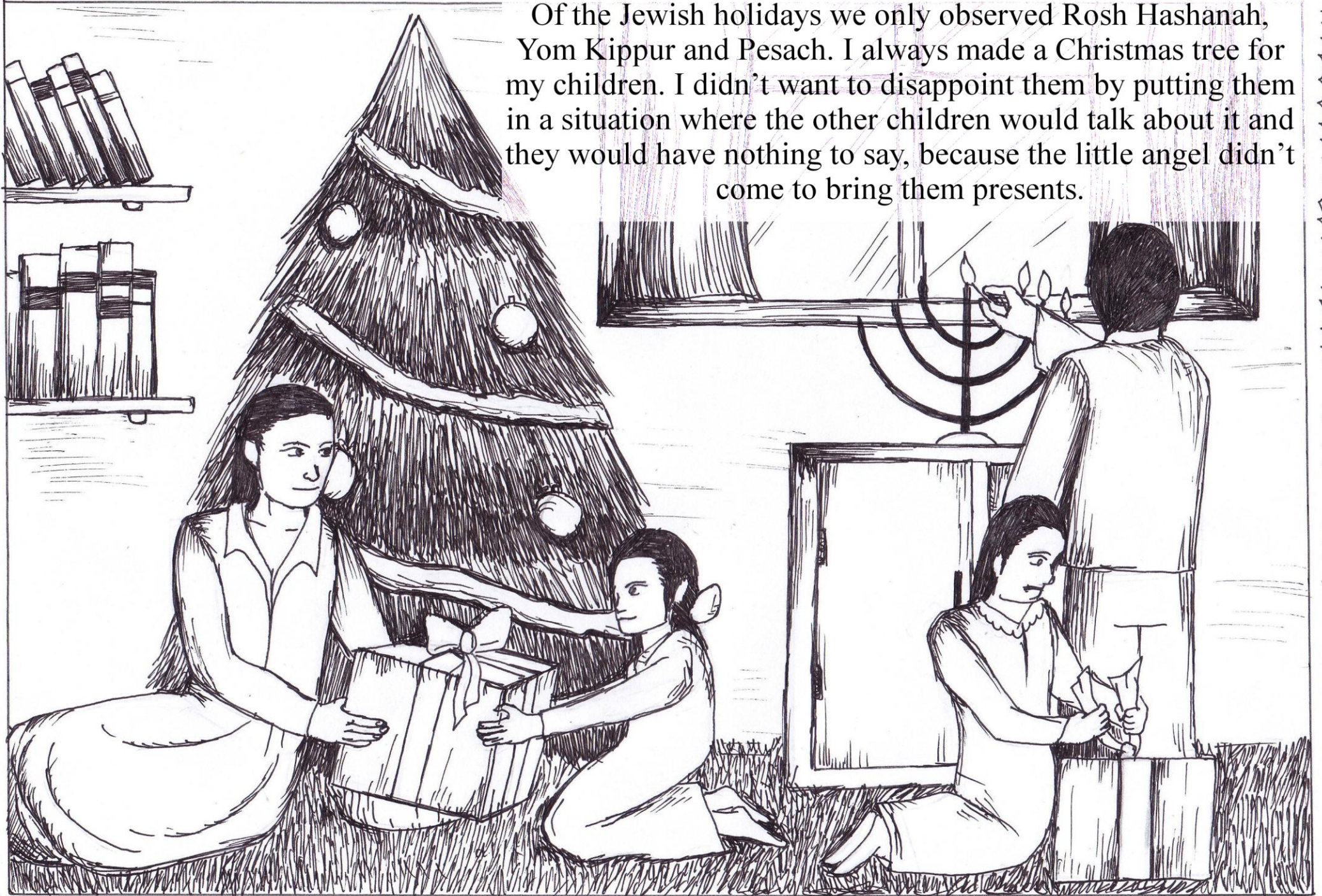
POLAND, 1975





Gyula and I have two girls. After I gave birth, I had to get back to work. I had the advantage to be free for two hours, at noon, to breastfeed. And while I fed the child, I read. It was the only moment when I had time to read.

Of the Jewish holidays we only observed Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Pesach. I always made a Christmas tree for my children. I didn't want to disappoint them by putting them in a situation where the other children would talk about it and they would have nothing to say, because the little angel didn't come to bring them presents.



In the 50s everyone wanted to emigrate to Israel.

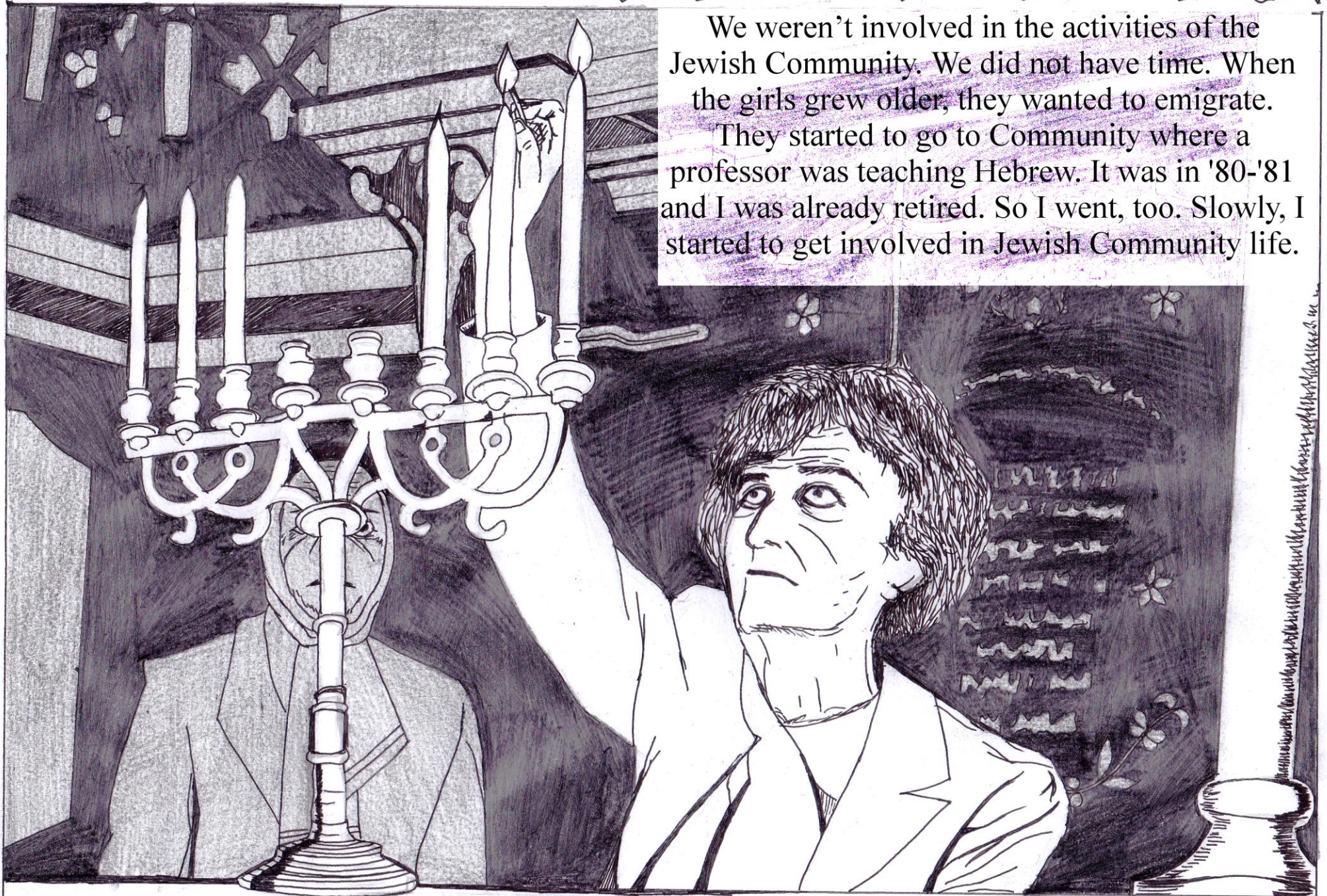
We submitted the documents required for emigration as well, but we did not receive the approval to go. After that we did not try to leave anymore. There were some who kept trying.



They sold everything they had but did not receive the approval and lived in terrible conditions until they managed to leave.

We weren't involved in the activities of the Jewish Community. We did not have time. When the girls grew older, they wanted to emigrate.

They started to go to Community where a professor was teaching Hebrew. It was in '80-'81 and I was already retired. So I went, too. Slowly, I started to get involved in Jewish Community life.





In the 90s, after the girls emigrated, I became closer to the Community. Gyula often went there to help. Jewishness began to be part of our lives.



Now I meet with my friends
and talk to girls on the
phone. I wish for health ...
but I do not have big plans
for the future.

Possible didactic activities

The activity will take place in a classroom where there are at least four computers connected to the Internet.

1. After reading the material, the class is divided into four groups. Groups will seek information on the Internet (or other bibliographic sources) about the following topics:

Group 1: History of Transylvania between 1867 and 1947

Group 2: History of the Jews in Austria-Hungary and Transylvania (1867-1918)

Group 3: Death Camp of Auschwitz

Group 4: Jewish Holocaust in Hungary

Group 5: History of Communist Romania (1945-1989)

After researching these topics, one student from each group will present the discovered information to the class. The use of images, maps and photos is recommended.

2. After reading the material, the students will respond to the following questions:

How can Eva's childhood be characterized? What are the things that she remembers about her childhood? Who are Eva's parents? Which culture do they belong to, the Romanian or the Hungarian one? Why do you think that?

What changes take place in Jewish life in Târgu Mureş after NW Transylvania was annexed to Hungary? What happens to Eve's brother? Do you think that the anti-Jewish measures taken by the Hungarian are justifiable? How did people react to these changes?

Who is responsible for the deportation of Jews from Transylvania? What are the stages of deportation? Where are the Jews of Transylvania sent? What happens there? How did they react once they arrived in Auschwitz? How does Eva try to take care of her mother?

How do the Jews imprisoned in Nazi camps try to resist? What happens when Eva returns home? Is there a "home" for Eva? What do you think about the fact that after losing her family, Eva loses the house, too? Why and by whom do you think the house was taken away?

What are the problems that people in communist Romania face? How would you describe this life? What are the ways in which people relax during the Communist era? What are the milestones of Jewish life in Communist Romania? Would you choose to emigrate? Have you been to a synagogue? How does the relation between Eva Deutsch and the Hebrew community evolve? What do you think of the fact that the Deutsch family celebrated Christmas?

3. After reading the material students will have to think about the following (and write down their thoughts):

You are a journalist and want to ask Eva some questions. What questions would you ask? Imagine the possible answers, too.

You are a journalists and want to ask the gendarmes who have deported the Hungarian Jews of Târgu Mureş some questions. What questions do you ask? Imagine the possible answers, too.

You are a journalists and want to ask Nazi soldiers in Auschwitz a few questions. What questions would you ask? Imagine the possible answers, too.

You are a journalists and want to ask the prisoners who have sabotaged the weapons factory some questions. What questions would you ask? Imagine the possible answers, too.

You are a journalists and want to ask Eva Deutsch's daughters about their life in Communist Romania, in a family of Holocaust survivors. What questions would you ask? Imagine the possible answers, too.