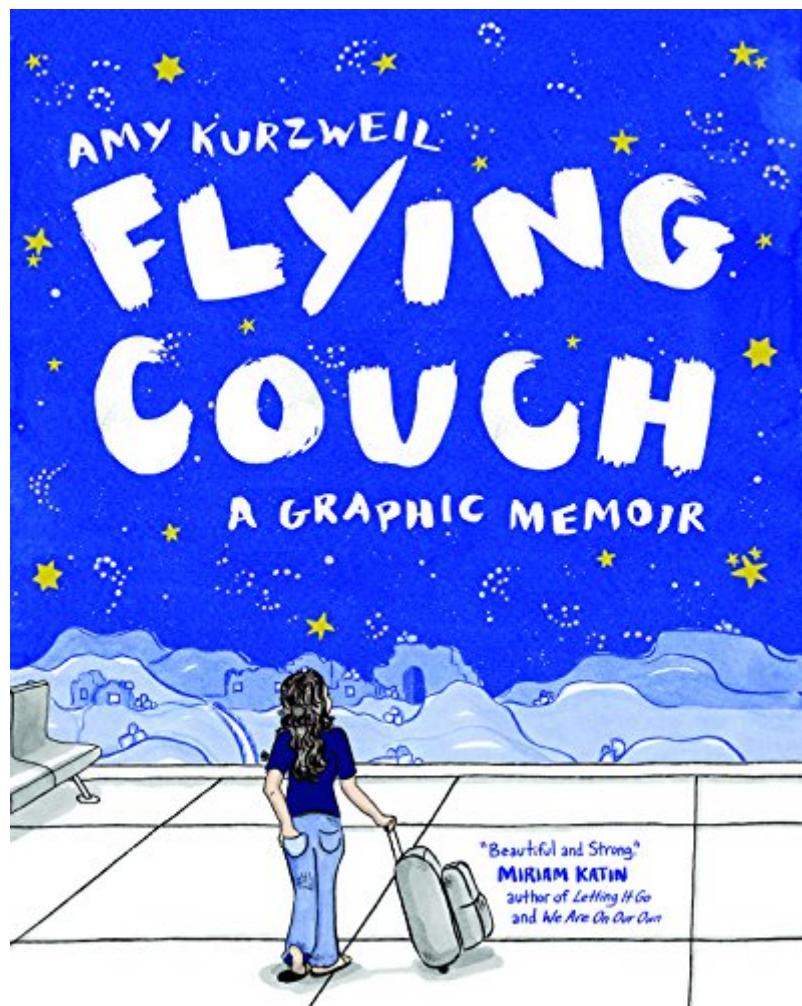


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Flying Couch: A Graphic Memoir



Synopsis

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice  A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of 2016  A Junior Library Guild Fall 2016 Selection Flying Couch, Amy Kurzweil's debut, tells the stories of three unforgettable women. Amy weaves her own coming-of-age as a young Jewish artist into the narrative of her mother, a psychologist, and Bubbe, her grandmother, a World War II survivor who escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto by disguising herself as a gentile. Captivated by Bubbe's story, Amy turns to her sketchbooks, teaching herself to draw as a way to cope with what she discovers. Entwining the voices and histories of these three wise, hilarious, and very different women, Amy creates a portrait not only of what it means to be part of a family, but also of how each generation bears the imprint of the past. A retelling of the inherited Holocaust narrative now two generations removed, Flying Couch uses Bubbe's real testimony to investigate the legacy of trauma, the magic of family stories, and the meaning of home. With her playful, idiosyncratic sensibility, Amy traces the way our memories and our families shape who we become. The result is this bold illustrated memoir, both an original coming-of-age story and an important entry into the literature of the Holocaust.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Graphic novels or works of non-fiction are a different read from written books. They take less time to read but the starkness of the art can give a more penetrating look at the subject. And so it is with Amy Kurzeil's "Flying Couch: A Graphic Memoir", a book of art about mothers/daughters of two or more generations and both the joys and the worries each bring the other. Amy's maternal grandmother - Lily, born Luba - lost her whole family in the Holocaust. She survived by living as a Christian with false identity papers. Part of the book is about her life during the Holocaust, and the rest is about her life when she emigrated to the US after the war with her husband and daughter, Sonya, who is Amy's mother. Amy's family lived outside of Boston but met up with her grandmother fairly often. Amy book's also includes her own journey as a Jewish woman, with the Holocaust in the not-so-far past and figuring out her own part in the Jewish future. Sonya, the generation between Lily and Amy, has her own worries. Amy Kurzweil's memoir is interesting and is a fresh look at the generational dynamics of Jewish families.

I didn't connect to the story until about a quarter way into it. Once I settled into its rhythm, I enjoyed the author's perspectives, the roles of her mother and grandmother in her life, and where she was headed in the future. I also appreciated the graphic memoir format.

Excellent book; powerful story. I really enjoyed the synthesis of art and story.

A thoughtful graphic narrative about the second and third generations of Holocaust survivors. A bit fragmented at times . . .

Amy kurzwail is a talented comics writer

Wonderful book!

different, but interesting read.

I guess the graphic format didn't work for me. Very simplistic in its message.

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