A memoir in comics of a free spirit making her way in the Soviet Union

Soviet Daughter

A Graphic Revolution

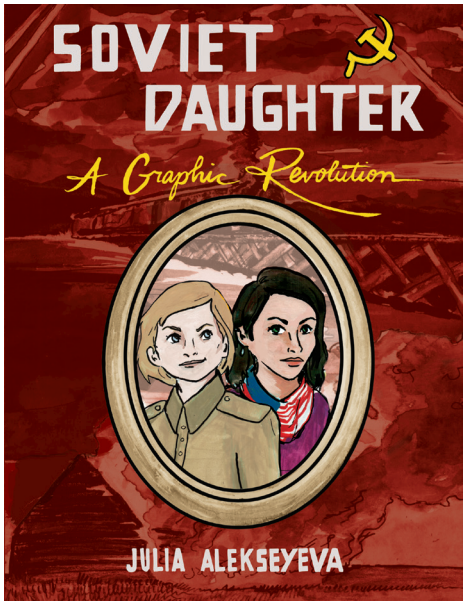
by Julia Alekseyeva

From the book:

"I don't really remember when exactly the burden of the family fell on my shoulders. I think I was around 10. My mother was often sick, and as I was the eldest girl, I became head of the household. We had an enormous family. Every other year, someone new was born into the world. I had to take care of everyone and somehow I pulled it off.

When my siblings became old enough, they went to school. This was from 1918-1921, though you could barely even call it school, when all around there were gangs, famine, illness, and cold. After fourth grade, I was forced to stop going to school. I just couldn't anymore with so much work around the house.

We didn't have any books, but Vova would bring me back some from his school, which I would read in secret, under the bed at night. There was no other time to do it. But I'd read anything and everything. I'd read until late at night, until the early morning hours."



Soviet Daughter provides a window into the life of a rebellious, independent woman coming of age in the USSR, and the impact of her story and spirit on her American great-granddaughter. It is the story of two extraordinary women swept up in the history of their tumultuous times: Julia Alekseyeva and her great-grandmother Lola. Born in 1910 to a poor, Jewish family outside of Kiev, Lola lived through the Bolshevik revolution, a horrifying civil war, Stalinist purges, and the Holocaust. She taught herself to read and supported her extended family working as a secretary for the notorious NKVD (which became the KGB) and as a lieutenant for the Red Army. Interwoven with Lola's history we find Julia's own struggles of coming of age in an immigrant family in Chicago, and her political awakening in the midst of the radical politics of the turn of the millenium.

SUBJECT: Graphic Novel / Soviet History
PUBLICATION: **January 10, 2017**
PRICE: **$14.95**
ISBN: 978-1-62106-969-0
FORMAT: 192 pages, 6x8"
CARTON QTY: 36
ART: b/w illustrations throughout

Marketing Notes

1. A first-person account of Soviet history and its connection to first generation Americans' lives today.
2. Of interest to readers of Jewish histories and biographies.
3. A beautifully-drawn nonfiction graphic novel with an expertly-told narrative and compelling characters.

Comparative Titles

- *Threadbare* Anne Elizabeth Moore 9781621067739 (Microcosm) $13.95, 2016
- *March* John Lewis 9781603093002 (Top Shelf) $14.95, 2013
- *Red Rosa* Kate Evans 9781784780999 (Verso) $16.95, 2015

Born in the former USSR and raised a proud citizen of Chicago, **Julia Alekseyeva** is an author-illustrator as well as an academic. She is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at Harvard, specializing in the avant-garde and film practices in France, Japan, and the former USSR. Julia has received press from publications such as Reuters, the New York Times, and Bloomberg Business for illustrating the first graphic novel legal brief, submitted as an amicus brief in USA vs. Apple. She has lived in Kiev, Chicago, New York City, Paris, Cambridge, Kanazawa, and Yokohama, and currently lives in Brooklyn with her partner.

A small, innovative publishing house, **Microcosm Publishing** specializes in work designed to make the reader feel good about being alive, take an active role in bettering their life, and impact the world around them. Microcosm has developed a reputation for teaching self-empowerment, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity through challenging conventional publishing wisdom with books and zines about DIY skills, food, politics, and art.

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