

COMMON GOOD COMICS







GATHERING THE VOICES



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GATHERING THE VOICES ARE THE SIX PEOPLE YOU SEE HERE. THREE COUPLES.

THE REASON WE STARTED IT WAS BECAUSE WE KNEW THE SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST WERE GETTING OLDER, AND WE WANTED TO BE SURE THEIR STORIES WERE RECORDED AND REMEMBERED.





IN PARTICULAR WE WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT THE WARMTH AND WELCOME THAT THEY RECEIVED IN SCOTLAND WHEN THEY SETTLED HERE AND THE CONTRIBUTION THEY THEN MADE TO SCOTTISH LIFE.



WE WANTED TO CHALLENGE NEGATIVE STORIES ABOUT REFUGEES, TO HELP NEW SCOTS FEEL AT HOME.

AND WE WANTED ALL THOSE STORIES OUT THERE, FREELY AVAILABLE. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO PAY TO ACCESS TESTIMONY.



FOR MANY YEARS, WE HAD VOLUNTEERED WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES, HELPING OUT AT THEIR AFTERNOON TEAS.

PEOPLE WOULD CHAT, AND TELL THEIR STORIES. OVER THE YEARS A BOND OF TRUST DEVELOPED. THAT'S WHY THEY GAVE US THEIR TESTIMONY.



WE BORROWED RECORDERS FROM GCU AND STARTED TO GET ORGANISED. IT TOOK A WHILE FOR PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED...

I RECORDED MY TESTIMONY.

OH DID YOU? WELL MAYBE I SHOULD DO MINE.

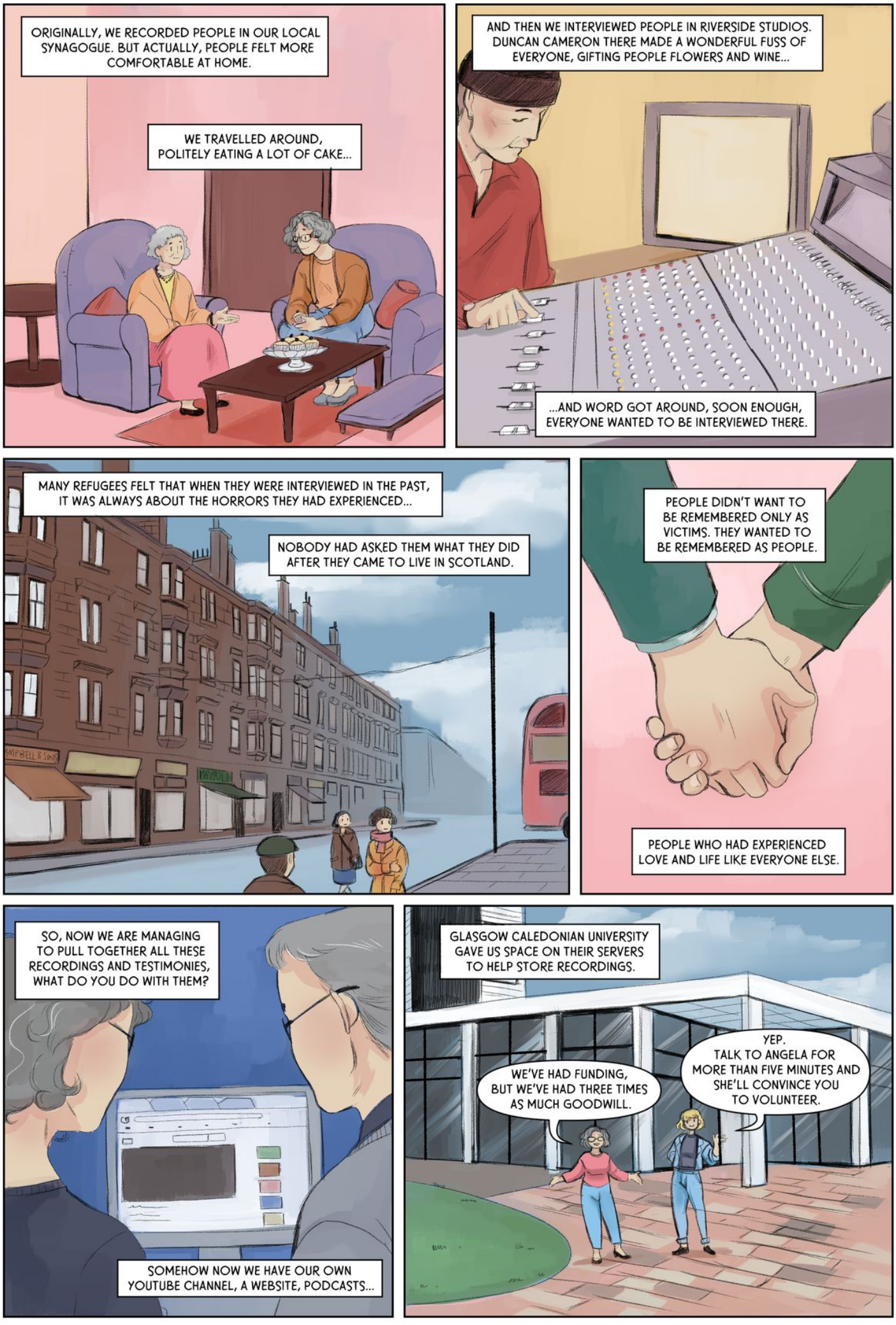
BUT EVENTUALLY, MORE AND MORE WANTED TO SHARE.



SOME INITIAL FUNDING FROM SENSE OVER SECTARIANISM, KICKSTARTED THE PROJECT, MANY OTHER COMMUNITY TRUSTS AND PUBLIC BODIES HAVE SUPPORTED US SINCE.

PEOPLE WELCOMED ME HERE AS A FRIEND. BUT IN THE PLACE MY FAMILY HAD LIVED FOR GENERATIONS, PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO MURDER ME.

BECAUSE OF MY RELIGION.


ORIGINALLY, WE RECORDED PEOPLE IN OUR LOCAL SYNAGOGUE. BUT ACTUALLY, PEOPLE FELT MORE COMFORTABLE AT HOME.
WE TRAVELLED AROUND, POLITELY EATING A LOT OF CAKE...
AND THEN WE INTERVIEWED PEOPLE IN RIVERSIDE STUDIOS. DUNCAN CAMERON THERE MADE A WONDERFUL FUSS OF EVERYONE, GIFTING PEOPLE FLOWERS AND WINE...
...AND WORD GOT AROUND, SOON ENOUGH, EVERYONE WANTED TO BE INTERVIEWED THERE.
MANY REFUGEES FELT THAT WHEN THEY WERE INTERVIEWED IN THE PAST, IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT THE HORRORS THEY HAD EXPERIENCED...
NOBODY HAD ASKED THEM WHAT THEY DID AFTER THEY CAME TO LIVE IN SCOTLAND.
PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT TO BE REMEMBERED ONLY AS VICTIMS. THEY WANTED TO BE REMEMBERED AS PEOPLE.
PEOPLE WHO HAD EXPERIENCED LOVE AND LIFE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
SO, NOW WE ARE MANAGING TO PULL TOGETHER ALL THESE RECORDINGS AND TESTIMONIES, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM?
SOMEHOW NOW WE HAVE OUR OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL, A WEBSITE, PODCASTS...
GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY GAVE US SPACE ON THEIR SERVERS TO HELP STORE RECORDINGS.
WE'VE HAD FUNDING, BUT WE'VE HAD THREE TIMES AS MUCH GOODWILL.
YEP. TALK TO ANGELA FOR MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES AND SHE'LL CONVINCE YOU TO VOLUNTEER.

PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE THEIR STORY IS IMPORTANT.

ACH I'VE NOTHING INTERESTING TO TELL YOU...

HER STEPFATHER WAS AN ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR WHO WORKED WITH EINSTEIN -- HE'S GOT A CRATER NAMED AFTER HIM ON THE MOON!

OTHER PEOPLE SIMPLY SURVIVED AND HAD HAPPY FAMILY LIVES.

WHICH IS STILL AN ACHIEVEMENT. STILL A SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

AND OF COURSE SOME PEOPLE NEVER REALLY GOT OVER WHAT HAPPENED.

WE INTERVIEWED ONE LADY WHO WOULD NEVER TELL ANYONE WHERE SHE LIVED, NEVER HAD HER NAME ON HER FRONT DOOR.

FUGEE JOURNEYS

COMING TO BRITAIN AND SETTLING IN

THE TOURING EXHIBITION WE CREATED HAS BEEN TO ALL SORTS OF PLACES -- KELVINGROVE, SYNAGOGUES, PAISLEY ABBEY.

4. REFLECTIONS

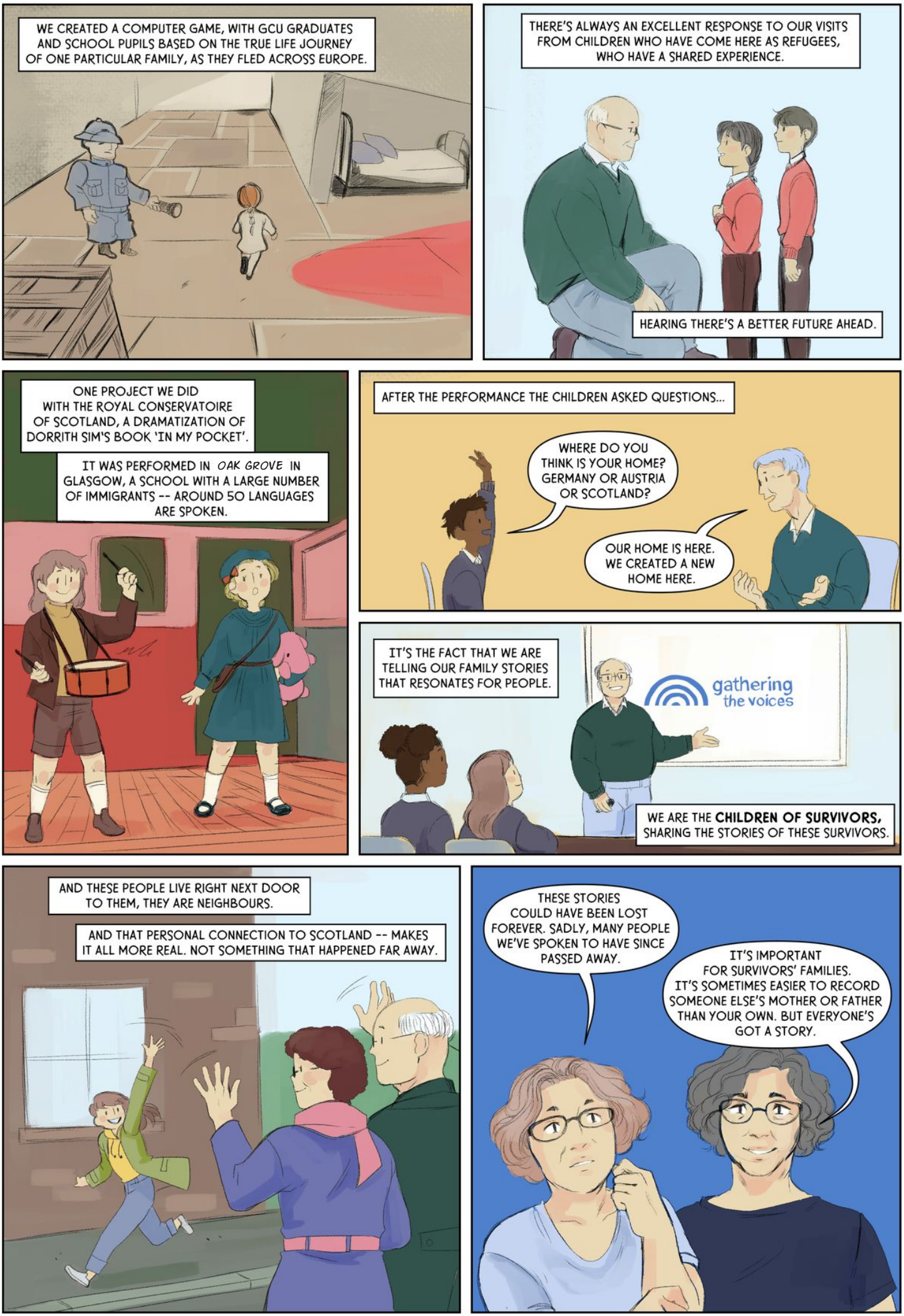
CONTRIBUTING TO SCOTTISH LIFE

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IT.

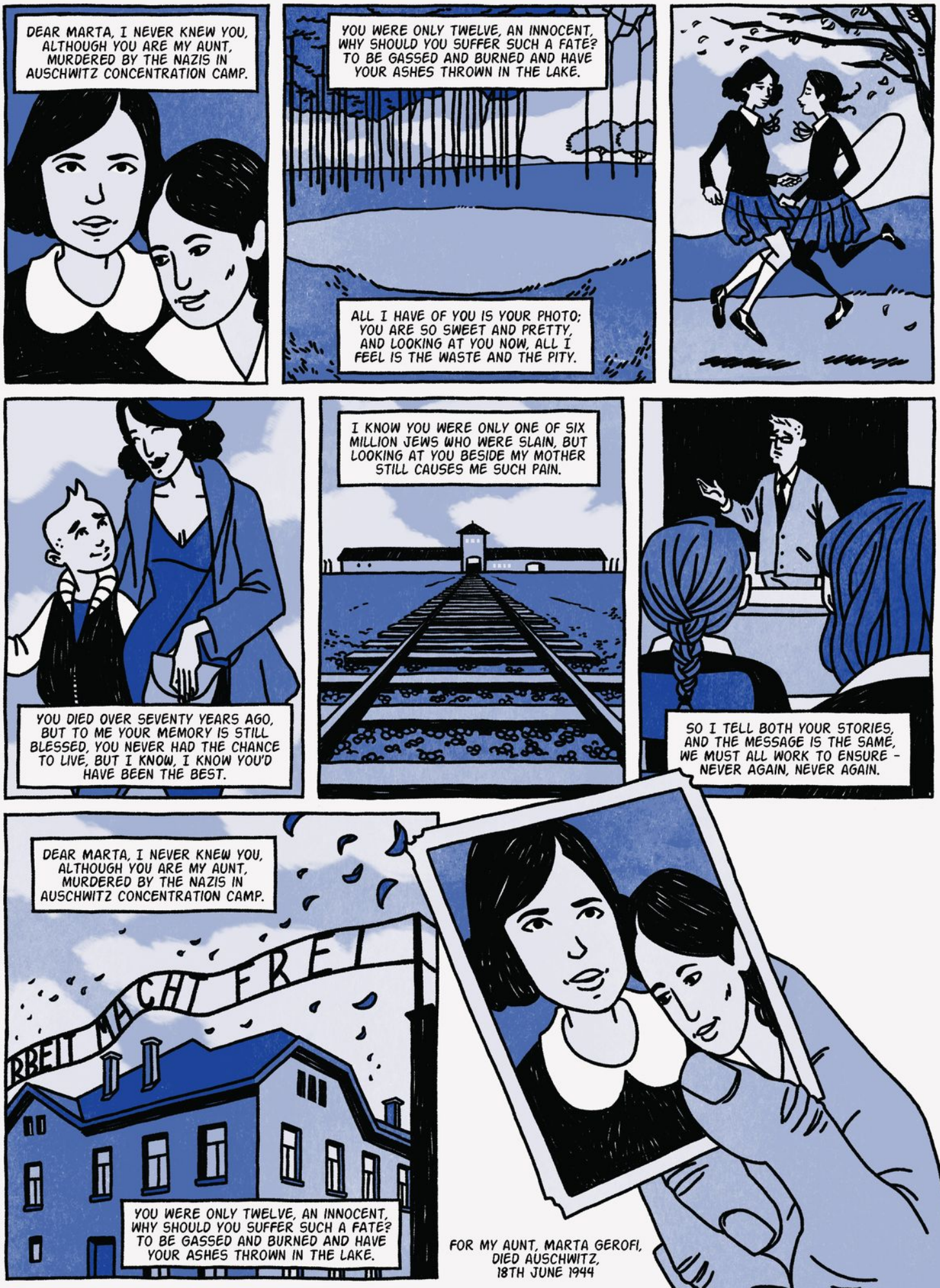
AND I EVEN PRESENTED TO SCHOOLCHILDREN IN GERMANY IN THE TOWN MY FATHER ORIGINALLY HAD TO LEAVE.

WE'RE A SMALL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, BUT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO SO MUCH. OUR APPROACH IS "LET'S JUST HAVE A GO AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS"

AND SO, NOTHING SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.


WE CREATED A COMPUTER GAME, WITH GCU GRADUATES AND SCHOOL PUPILS BASED ON THE TRUE LIFE JOURNEY OF ONE PARTICULAR FAMILY, AS THEY FLED ACROSS EUROPE.
THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO OUR VISITS FROM CHILDREN WHO HAVE COME HERE AS REFUGEES, WHO HAVE A SHARED EXPERIENCE.
HEARING THERE'S A BETTER FUTURE AHEAD.
ONE PROJECT WE DID WITH THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND, A DRAMATIZATION OF DORRITH SIM'S BOOK 'IN MY POCKET'.
IT WAS PERFORMED IN OAK GROVE IN GLASGOW, A SCHOOL WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS -- AROUND 50 LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN.
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE THE CHILDREN ASKED QUESTIONS...
WHERE DO YOU THINK IS YOUR HOME? GERMANY OR AUSTRIA OR SCOTLAND?
OUR HOME IS HERE. WE CREATED A NEW HOME HERE.
IT'S THE FACT THAT WE ARE TELLING OUR FAMILY STORIES THAT RESONATES FOR PEOPLE.
gathering the voices
WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS, SHARING THE STORIES OF THESE SURVIVORS.
AND THESE PEOPLE LIVE RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO THEM, THEY ARE NEIGHBOURS.
AND THAT PERSONAL CONNECTION TO SCOTLAND -- MAKES IT ALL MORE REAL. NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED FAR AWAY.
THESE STORIES COULD HAVE BEEN LOST FOREVER. SADLY, MANY PEOPLE WE'VE SPOKEN TO HAVE SINCE PASSED AWAY.
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR SURVIVORS' FAMILIES. IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO RECORD SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTHER OR FATHER THAN YOUR OWN. BUT EVERYONE'S GOT A STORY.

"marta" by Howard Singerman



gathering the voices

COMMON GOOD COMICS
Gathering The Voices

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