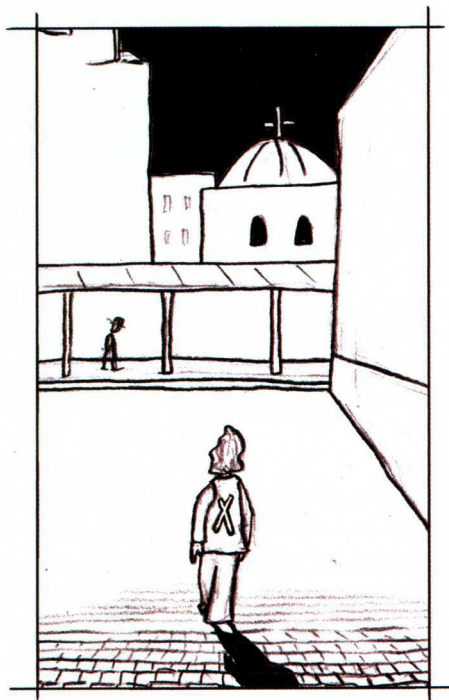


# El Iluminado

A GRAPHIC NOVEL



*Ilan Stavans and Steve Sheinkin*

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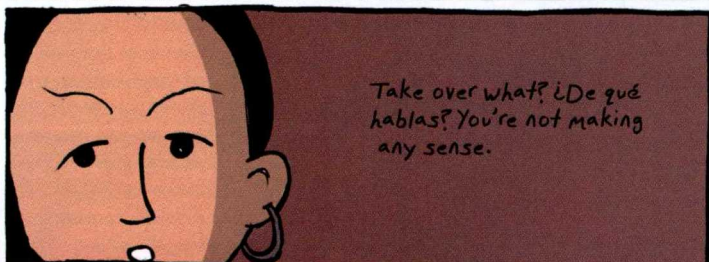
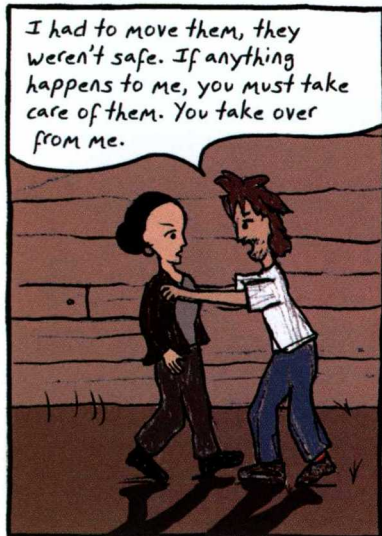
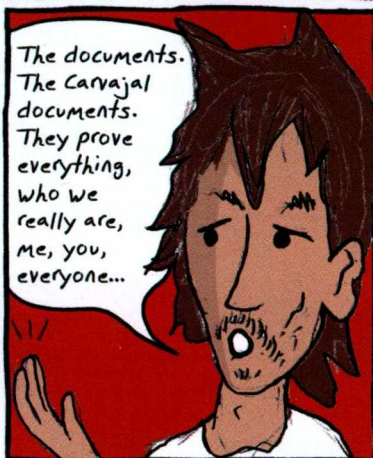
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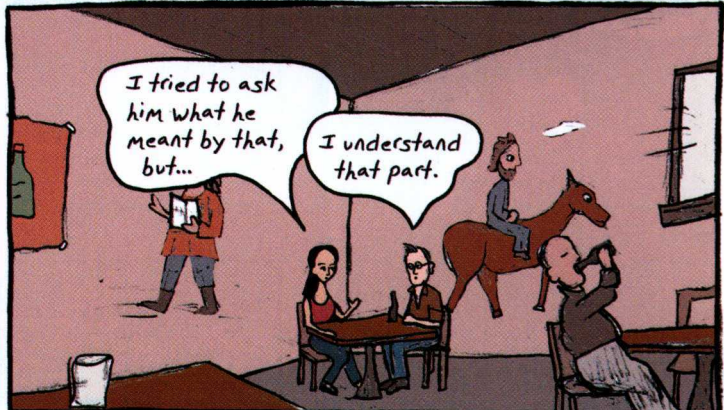
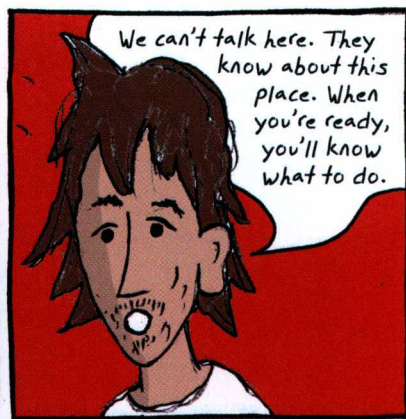
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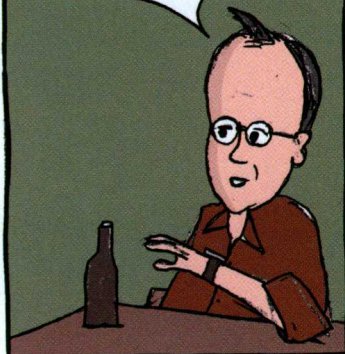
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You see, Carvajal was El Iluminado. At least, that's how he came to see himself.



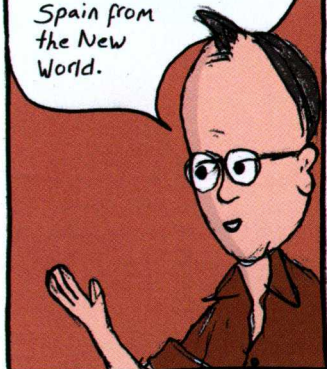
Luis began to learn the traditions and rituals of Judaism. And he began to see that there was an entire world hidden beneath the surface in Spain, a shadow world of hidden Jews.



But to dijiste he was a leader of Jews in Mexico.



Yes, when Luis was about fourteen, his uncle, Luis de Carvajal the Elder, returned to Spain from the New World.



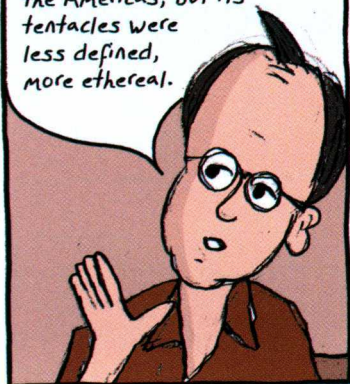
Carvajal the Elder had become a powerful man, a conquistador, known as "the pacifier of the Indians," and then governor of the region of Nuevo León.



Carvajal knew his family's dirty secret, knew it could destroy everything he'd built. So he announced he was taking them to Mexico, ostensibly to pursue new business opportunities.



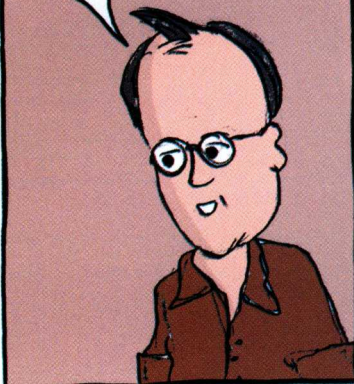
But in fact, he wanted to get them as far as possible from the mighty fist of el Santo Oficio. Not that the Inquisition wasn't active in the Americas, but its tentacles were less defined, more ethereal.



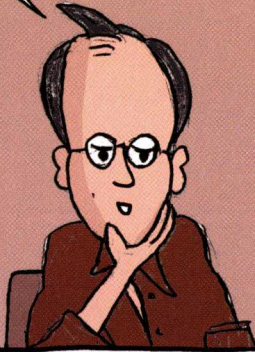
There were branches in Peru and Mexico, the two largest colonies, but America was a theater in which all sorts of racial groups interacted...



It was somewhat harder to identify los infideles, those without proper devotion to the Catholic faith.



It's amazing how similar Rolando's circumcision is to the scene Carvajal describes.



Claro! Rolando must have known muy bien these stories of Carvajal's life.

Yes, as I said, his autobiography is available. And there's an excellent biography, *The Martyr*.



But *usted cree...* Can he have modeled his actions after Carvajal in other ways?

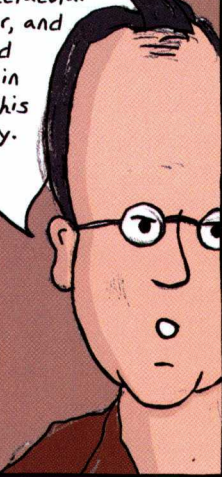


It's very possible.

Carvajal went to work for his uncle, and showed great administrative skill. But while living under the governor's close watch, he had to abandon even secret Jewish rituals - they would have been too risky.



Carvajal finally decided it was too great a sacrifice. He left his uncle, tossing away the promise of a spectacular career, and moved back in with his family.



Carvajal's father had died, and the family was now living in Mexico City. Their home became a sort of secret community center for crypto-Jews.

