

Harper 006284640X

# Sara Berman's Closet

AN ILLUSTRATED MEMOIR: GUIDE TO LIFE AND LEGACY

## Introduction to the Narrative

"Sara Berman's Closet" is a captivating family memoir by Maira Kalman and Alex Kalman, blending narrative with striking visuals. It serves as a tribute to an exceptional woman and a celebration of individuality, personal expression, and the art of living authentically. This book, a 2018 National Jewish Book Award Finalist, invites readers to explore the profound impact of a life lived with intention and simplicity.

# SARA BERMAN'S CLOSET



This is a book about Sara.  
and her journey to America.  
and eating Lemon ices.  
and the meaning of TIME.

MAIRA KALMAN  
ALEX KALMAN

Figure 1: The cover of "Sara Berman's Closet," illustrating Sara Berman in her signature white attire. This image sets the tone for the memoir's focus on her unique life and style.

## Part 1: The Journey of Sara Berman

This section delves into Sara Berman's early life and her significant journey. Born in a small village in Belarus, her life was marked by both hardship and moments of joy. Her emigration to the Bronx in the early 1950s with her family, and her later decision to return to New York City alone in her sixties, highlight her independent spirit and resilience.

In the little village  
of Lenin in Belarus,  
there lived a Large and  
Reasonably Happy Family.

They lived in a collection  
of shacks next to the  
Muddy River Such.

Yes, there were Pogroms.  
Yes, there was deprivation.  
But life was not all bad.

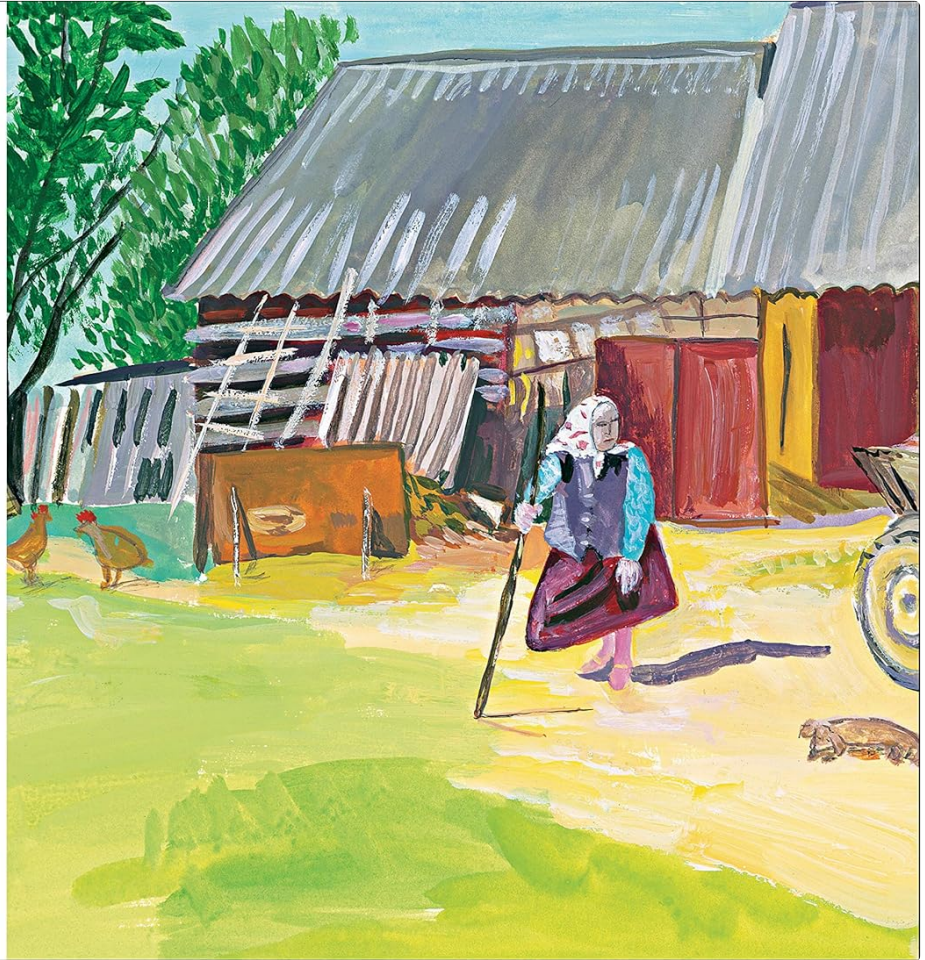


Figure 2: An illustrated page from the book, depicting Sara Berman's early life in a Belarusian village. The accompanying text describes her family's simple existence.

Her time in Palestine, where she lived in a shack near the beach, further shaped her character. Despite challenging conditions, she maintained an elegant demeanor, influenced by her mother's practice of sewing outfits inspired by European fashion magazines. The emphasis on cleanliness and meticulous care, such as heavily starched and pressed linens, became a hallmark of her life.





IN Palestine, they lived in a SHACK  
NEAR the BEACH. They tried to make  
it a Slightly FANCY SHACK.

SAND COVERED EVERYTHING. But  
SARA still managed to look Elegant.  
SARA's Mother SEWED outfits copied  
from EUROPEAN fashion Magazines.

The women WERE always washing,  
IRONING, and baking. Friday was  
the day for SUPER-cleaning and  
Super-baking.

The Middle Eastern sun bleached  
the Laundry a BLINDING WHITE.  
Fanatically starched and pressed  
Linens were folded precisely.  
The clothes were so heavily  
starched, they could get UP  
and WALK AWAY.

Figure 3: A photograph of a young Sara Berman, paired with text detailing her life in Palestine and the origins of her meticulous habits.

A pivotal moment in Sara's life was her decision to leave her husband after 38 years of marriage, returning to New York City with just a single suitcase. This act symbolized her pursuit of personal freedom and reinvention.

One night she left  
with just one suitcase,  
saying good-bye to  
Everything she owned.



Figure 4: An illustration depicting Sara Berman's departure, emphasizing her decision to embark on a new chapter with minimal possessions.

## Part 2: Principles of Authentic Living

Upon her return to New York, Sara established new rituals and embraced a life of simplicity and intention. She found joy in seemingly insignificant moments, such as watching Jeopardy or eating pizza at the Museum of Modern Art. Her philosophy centered on discarding the unnecessary and performing every action with care.

She edited out useless distractions. She cherished the small moments, which are the sweetest.

Every action was done with care. Every day was filled with precise and brilliant actions.

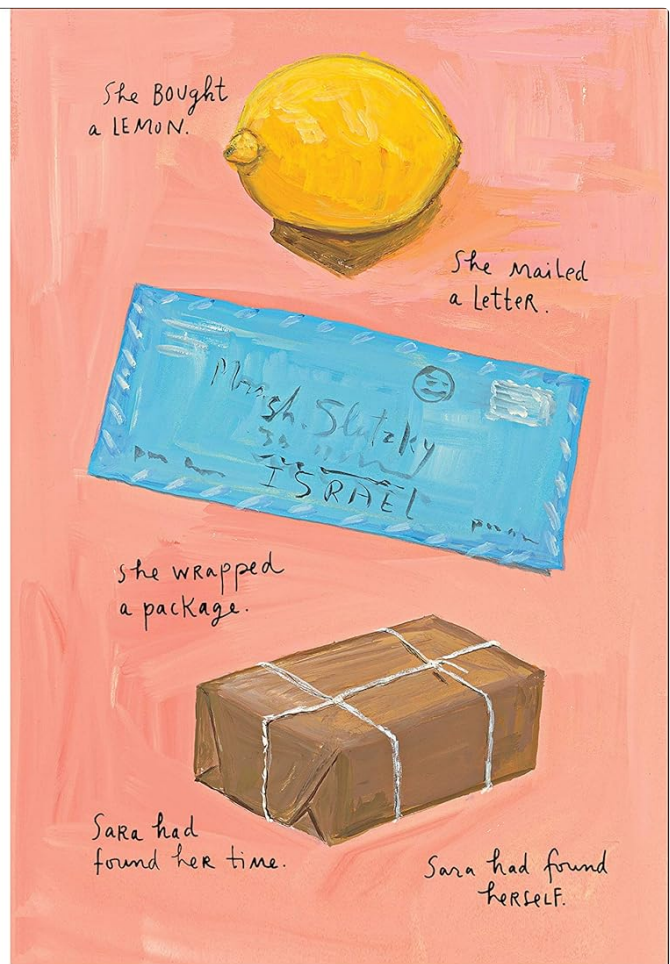


Figure 5: An illustration highlighting Sara Berman's focus on small, deliberate actions that brought her joy and a sense of self-discovery.

A defining aspect of her personal expression was her decision to wear only white. This choice was not merely aesthetic but a profound statement of her individuality and a commitment to a minimalist lifestyle.



One Friday morning  
in a BURST of  
Personal Expression,  
she decided to wear  
ONLY white.



*Figure 6: A photograph of Sara Berman, showcasing her distinctive all-white attire, a symbol of her unique personal expression.*

## Part 3: The Significance of Objects - Sara Berman's Closet

Sara Berman's closet was a testament to her organized and minimalist approach to life. It contained impeccably pressed and folded all-white clothing, including socks and undergarments, alongside carefully selected personal items like a potato grater and Chanel No. 19 perfume. This space was not just storage; it was a sublime reflection of her inner world.



What did she have?

*Figure 7: A detailed view of Sara Berman's famously organized closet, showcasing her minimalist and precise approach to her belongings.*

Among her possessions were thirteen blouses, many purchased from Loehmann's and Lord & Taylor, reflecting her simple yet elegant taste. These items, like all her belongings, were cared for with great attention.



Thirteen blouses.



Mostly purchased from Loehmann's and Lord & Taylor. At Lord & Taylor, she loved going to the Bird Cage Restaurant with her daughters to eat a plate of tea sandwiches.

Figure 8: An image displaying some of Sara Berman's blouses, illustrating her preference for white and light-colored garments and her shopping habits.

## Part 4: Engaging with the Visual Narrative

The book is richly illustrated with family photographs, exclusive images, and Maira Kalman's distinctive paintings. These visuals are integral to the storytelling, offering a deeper insight into Sara's life and the emotional landscape of the memoir. The artistic style complements the narrative, creating a unique and immersive reading experience.

## Part 5: Legacy and Impact

After Sara's passing in 2004, her family preserved the contents of her closet, leading to its recreation as a popular exhibit. In 2015, the Mmuseumm, founded by Sara's grandson Alex Kalman, featured "Sara Berman's Closet" in Tribeca. This installation later moved to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other prestigious venues, allowing her story to reach a wider audience.

Ten years later,  
in a little museum  
called MMUSEUMM,  
in an alley in lower Manhattan,  
SARA BERMAN'S CLOSET  
opened to the public.

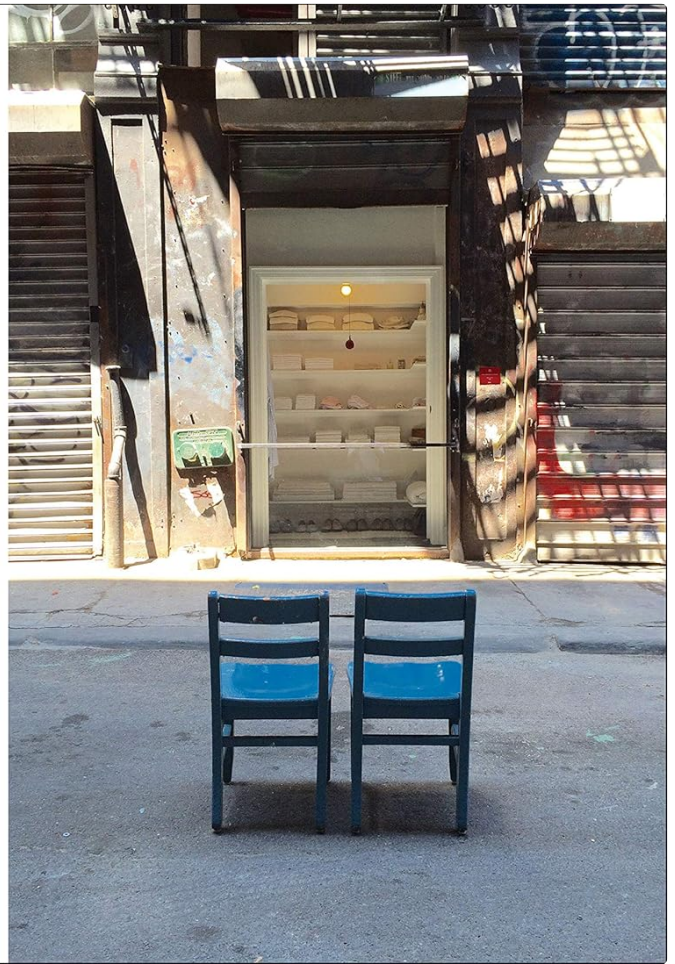


Figure 9: The exterior of the Mmuseumm, where Sara Berman's Closet was first exhibited. This image highlights the unique and accessible nature of the museum. Learn more about the Mmuseumm [here](#).

The book, inspired by this exhibit, serves as an ode to Sara's life, freedom, and reinvention. It is a powerful reminder of the human experience – overcoming hardship, taking risks, experiencing joy, and enduring loss. It emphasizes the significance of seemingly insignificant moments, which often turn out to be the sweetest.

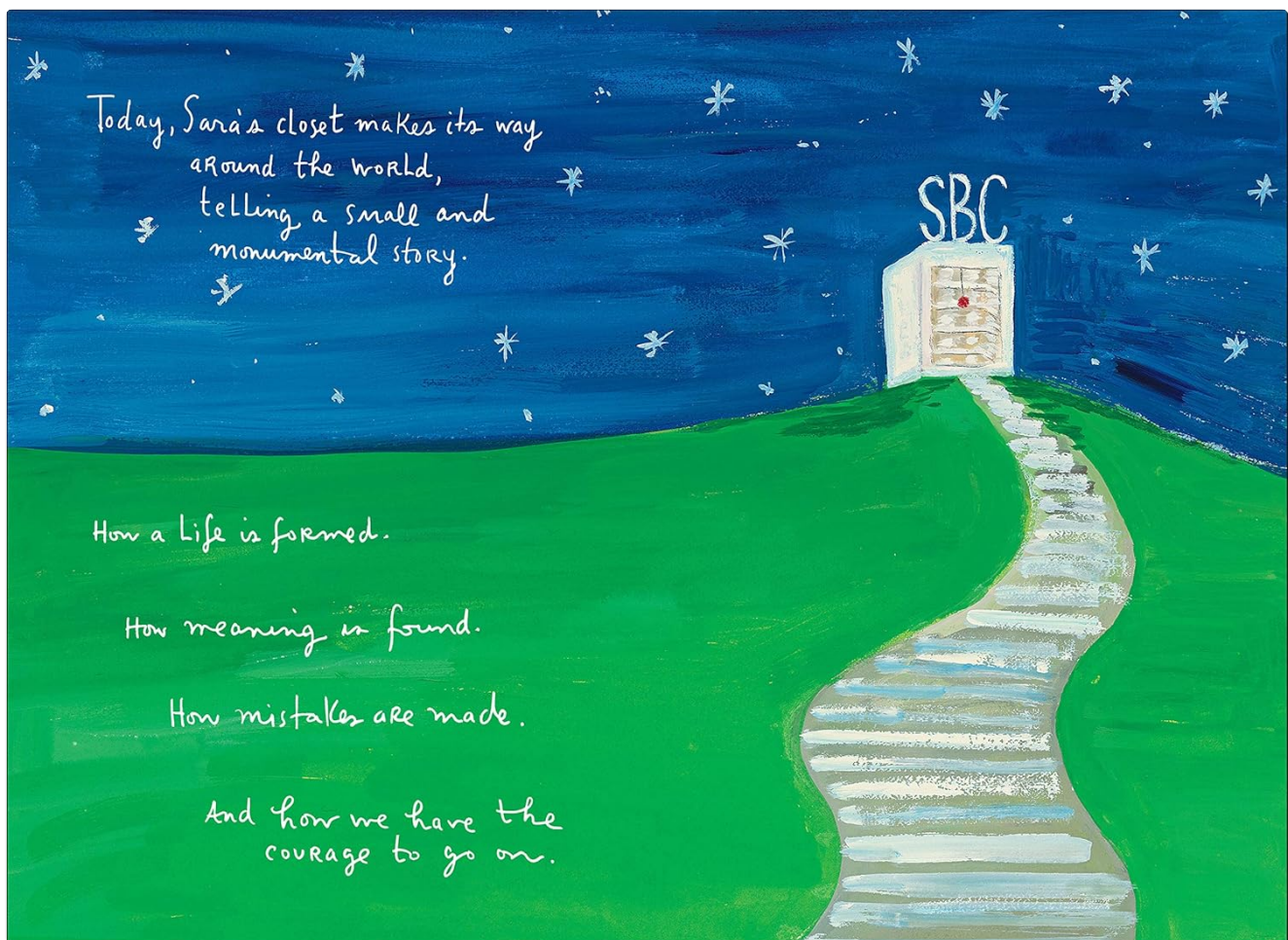


Figure 10: An illustrative page conveying the enduring message of Sara Berman's story and its universal themes of life, meaning, and courage.

## Specifications

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## About the Authors

**Maira Kalman** is a renowned author and illustrator, known for her distinctive artistic style and insightful narratives. Her works include bestsellers like *The Principles of Uncertainty* and *The Elements of Style*. Her art has graced numerous covers of *The New Yorker*, and her designs have been featured at the Museum of Modern Art. She resides in New York City.

**Alex Kalman** is an artist, editor, designer, publisher, and curator. He is the founder of Mmuseumm, an innovative museum concept, and owner of What Studio? His work often explores unique perspectives on everyday life and objects.

Together, Maira and Alex Kalman bring a unique blend of artistic vision and personal connection to "Sara Berman's Closet," creating a deeply personal yet universally resonant memoir.

## Reviews and Critical Reception







"Sara Berman's Closet" has been widely praised for its unique storytelling and profound message. Critics and readers alike have lauded it as a beautiful and heartfelt tribute.

- "A beautiful and heart felt telling of Sara Berman with lovely in between the line story telling." *Customer Review*
- "Brilliant companion to the installation... tells the wonderful unique story of a women who loved white white white..." - *Customer Review*
- "An illustrated tribute to Maira Kalman's late mother, this book deconstructs the life and spirit of Sara Berman through items in her meticulously kept closet." - *Publishers Weekly*
- "A new way of looking at rooms and possessions and women's history." -*Amelia Peck, curator of American decorative arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*
- "A small and monumental story." - *From the Back Cover*

## Support Information

For inquiries regarding "Sara Berman's Closet" or general support, please refer to the publisher's official website or your point of purchase for their respective customer service and return policies. As a published book, standard retail return and exchange policies apply.

## Related Documents - 006284640X

 <p>Цифровой телевизионный приемник HDT2-5010</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper HDT2-5010 Digital Set-Top Box User Manual</a></p> <p>User manual for the Harper HDT2-5010 digital set-top box, including manufacturer details, warranty information, service life, and support contact. This guide provides essential information for operating the device.</p>
 <p>ВЕРТИКАЛЬНЫЙ ВОЗМОЩИТЕЛЬНЫЙ ПЫЛЕСОС 2-В-1 РЕЧУГАЮЩИЙ НАКОПИТЕЛЬ ВКУСОВЫХ ЧАСТИЦ 2-В-1 TK ОБЪЕДЫВАЮЩИЙ ШАВЕРСОВЫЙ 2-В-1 HVC-VR02</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper HÔME HVC-VR02 Rechargeable Handheld Vacuum Cleaner User Manual</a></p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Harper HÔME HVC-VR02 2-in-1 rechargeable handheld vacuum cleaner, covering intended use, components, operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, safety instructions, and warranty.</p>
 <p>Bluetooth стереонаушники с микрофоном Bluetooth stereo headset with microphone HB-513</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper HB-513 Bluetooth Stereo Headset with Microphone: User Manual and Specifications</a></p> <p>Complete user manual for the Harper HB-513 wireless Bluetooth stereo headset with microphone. Includes setup, operation, safety guidelines, technical specifications, and warranty information.</p>
 <p>Беспроводные наушники с микрофоном Беспроводные наушники с микрофоном Микрофонные беспроводные наушники HB-555</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper HB-555 Wireless Bluetooth Headphones User Manual</a></p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for Harper HB-555 wireless Bluetooth stereo headphones with microphone. Learn about features, operation, pairing, touch controls, charging, specifications, warnings, and disposal.</p>
 <p>OPERATOR'S &amp; PARTS MANUAL</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper Beefcake Operator's and Parts Manual</a></p> <p>This manual provides assembly, operating, and service information for Harper Beefcake models BC1000, BC1500, and BC2000. It includes safety warnings, specifications, feature identification, installation instructions, operating procedures, and parts lists.</p>
 <p>РАДИО С ФУНКЦИЕЙ MP3 И БЛУETOOTH РАДИОСТАНЦИЯ С ФУНКЦИЕЙ MP3 И БЛУETOOTH РАДИО С ФУНКЦИЕЙ MP3 И БЛУETOOTH HRS-440</p>	<p><a href="#">Harper HRS-440 Radio with MP3 Player and Bluetooth Function User Manual</a></p> <p>User manual for the Harper HRS-440 portable radio, featuring MP3 playback and Bluetooth connectivity. Contains detailed instructions for operation, specifications, safety guidelines, and troubleshooting.</p>

