

**A SWEEPING SAGA OF FOUR GIRLS FROM
DIFFERENT GENERATIONS OF A JEWISH FAMILY**

SPAIN, 1492: During the Spanish Inquisition, Benvenida's family is given three choices: convert from Judaism to Catholicism, leave the country, or be condemned to death. They choose to uproot themselves and journey across the sea to make a new start.

TURKEY, 1923: After the Turkish War of Independence, Reina is optimistic about women gaining more freedom; however, when her father ships her off to Cuba as punishment for a small act of disobedience, her future is completely altered.

CUBA, 1961: Alegra, Reina's daughter, is excited to be part of Castro's revolution, working as a brigadista teaching country folks to read and write; however, Castro's crackdowns on business are making it increasingly hard for her family to survive in Cuba, and their days there are numbered.

MIAMI, 2003: Paloma, Alegra's daughter, is fascinated by all the journeys that had to happen before she could be born, and is grateful to live in a time and place where she feels free and safe. She's excited to learn more about her heritage on a trip to Spain with her parents and Abuela Reina—a trip that astounds them all when they make a momentous discovery.

Though many years and many seas separate these girls, they are united by their love of life, the haunting beauty they find in sad Spanish songs, and in their desire to belong and to matter.

RUTH BEHAR, the Pura Belpré Award-winning author of *Lucky Broken Girl*, *Letters from Cuba*, and *Tia Fortuna's New Home*, was born in Havana, Cuba, grew up in New York, and has lived in Spain and Mexico. Her work also includes poetry, memoir, and the acclaimed travel books *An Island Called Home* and *Traveling Heavy*. She was the first Latina to win a MacArthur "Genius" Grant, and her other honors include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and being named a "Great Immigrant" by the Carnegie Corporation. She is an anthropology professor at the University of Michigan and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. and Spain.

**READ BY READ BY ALLISON STRONG, VICTORIA VILLARREAL,
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AUDIO

RUTH BEHAR

ACROSS SO MANY SEAS

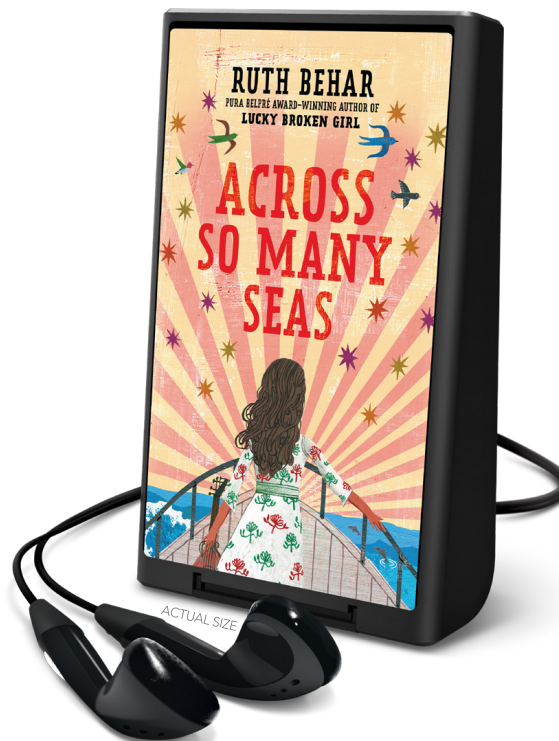


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