



## Chapter Four

Luckily, my parents can also be very stubborn when they want to be. They kept returning to Rabbi Hirsch to try and convince him to help them convert. In the meantime,\* they bought lots of books about halacha and Jewish thought, and they also hired a teacher to teach them Jewish subjects, starting with the *aleph beis*. Finally,\* after around two months, the rabbi realized\* that my parents were serious about becoming Jewish. He started studying with my father, and Mrs. Hirsch began studying with my mother and with Karen.

Everyone was surprised by how serious Karen was about the lessons. She had never especially liked studying at school or with her Korean teacher, but she loved learning with Mrs. Hirsch. "I can't believe how quickly Karen learned to read the *aleph beis*," Mrs. Hirsch told my parents. "I think that she is the best student that I've ever had." I tried to help both my parents and Karen review at home, and my friend Shelly also spent some time reviewing with us. (Like me, she used to\* study in public school, and she only moved to the Jewish Academy at the beginning of 9th grade, so she understands how hard it is to start learning Jewish subjects from zero.)

\*In the meantime = בינתיים

\*Finally = סוף-סוף

\*realized = הגיע להכרה

\*used to = הייתה (בעבר)

As they learned more, my family started to keep more and more halachos. Dad began wearing a kippa, and Mom and Karen started dressing more modestly.\* My parents and Karen stopped eating non-kosher food outside the house. We all began going to shul together every Shabbos.



A lot of people were very surprised by these big changes. Dad is a doctor, one of the most popular doctors in town. Wherever he goes, his patients come to him to say hello. Some of his patients seemed\* a little uncomfortable seeing my father with a kippa on his head, but most of them were okay with it. A few patients even told him how nice it was to see someone taking his religion seriously.

\*modestly = צנוע

\*seemed = היו נראים