

ART BY CHEN-DAO LEE



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BY BREE A. ROLFE

She's reading *US Weekly* by the Best Western pool—ripping out tampon ads and reading bits of celebrity

gossip out loud. "I was raised on Jew wine," she says, her feet dangling in the motel pool.

"Four cups is a lot for a ten-year-old." I picture her wobbly, sick from Manischewitz dancing to Paula Abdul after the Passover Seder.

Her pink hair unreal in the heat. She looks like a cartoon princess, against the synthetic lawn and the cerulean pool.

Or one of the Weeki Wachee mermaids that inspired her "Under the Sea" themed Bat Mitzvah.

She toes the pool water and says it's too cold. It has to be eighty before she'll get in.