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Family journey by rollercoaster

IMAGINE A monologue that shuttled between a trip to the Gulag and a jaunt to Alton Towers, and you will have some sense of the tone of the central section of *Two Point Five Minute Ride*, an autobiographical one-woman show written and presented now by the American performance artist Lisa Kron.

Conveyed as a gossipy slide-talk, the piece juggles accounts of two very different journeys. In one, Kron accompanies her father on his first visit to Auschwitz, the place where his parents met their end. The other is the Kron family's annual trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Ohio. Here, her father - who, as a blind, diabetic septuagenarian with a heart condition might seem an unlikely devotee of rollercoasters - still delights in taking rides on the Demon Drop and Mean Streak. It's

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hard to say on which of these trips she fears more for the old man's health.

With a winningly open manner and a stand-up's fast delivery, Kron treats us to funny, affectionately exasperated snapshots of her eccentric relations. It's the honesty of the piece that impresses as much as its humour. The most touching moments are like an elegy for the life ripped from her father, as she berates herself for letting the details of his early years slip through her fingers. Never pious in tone, *Two Point Five Minute Ride* is an act of filial piety.

PAUL TAYLOR