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DIBUJANDO MIRADAS

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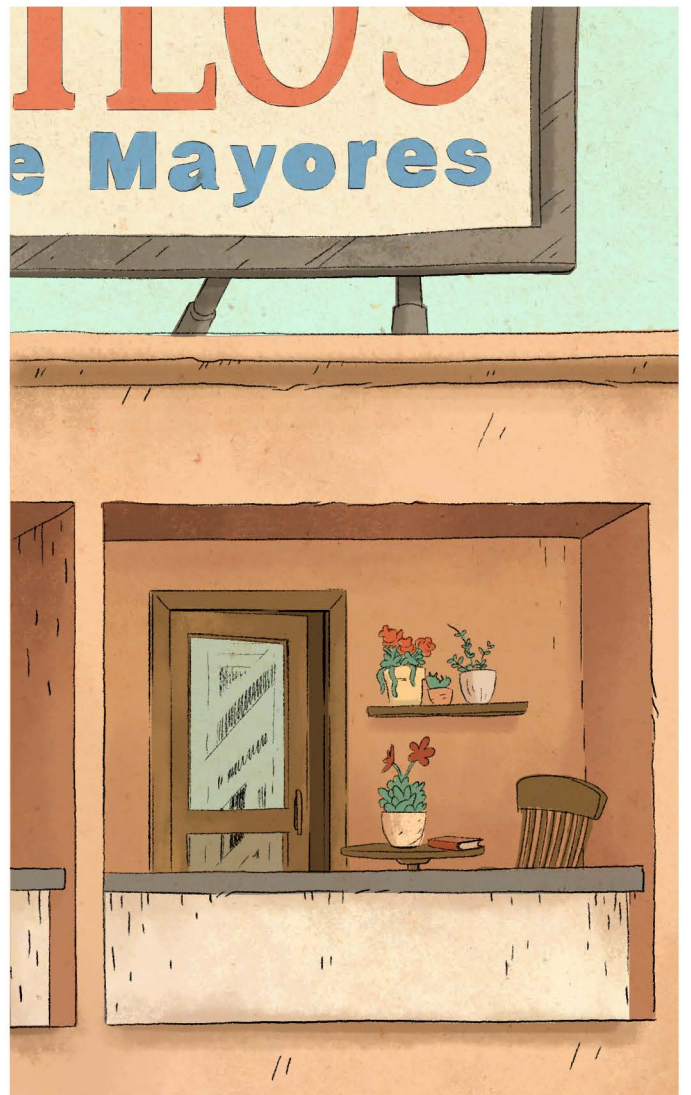
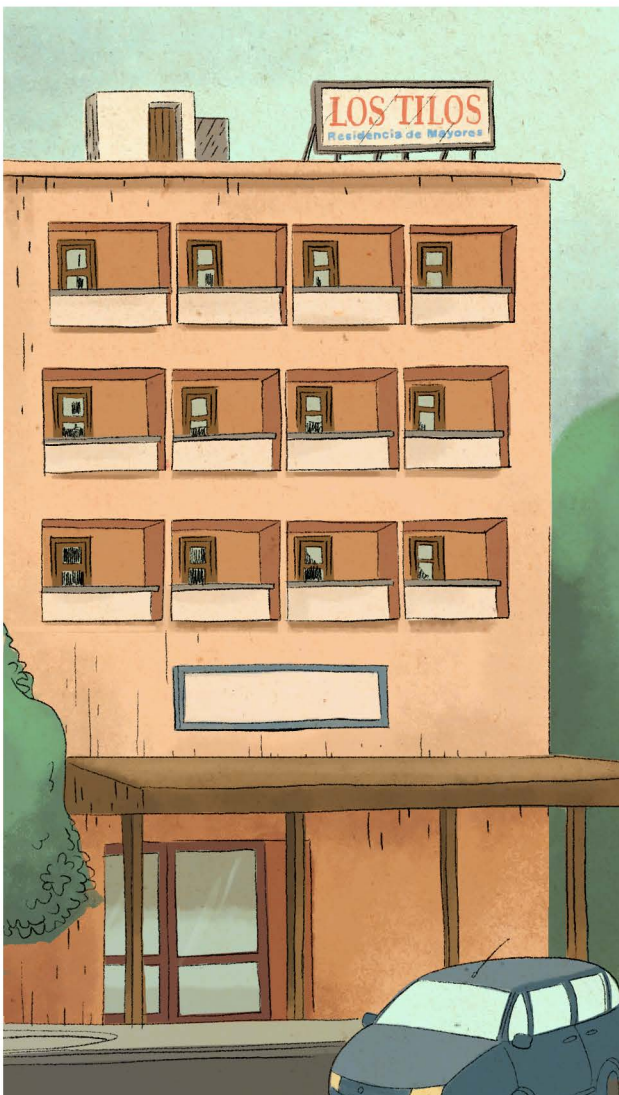
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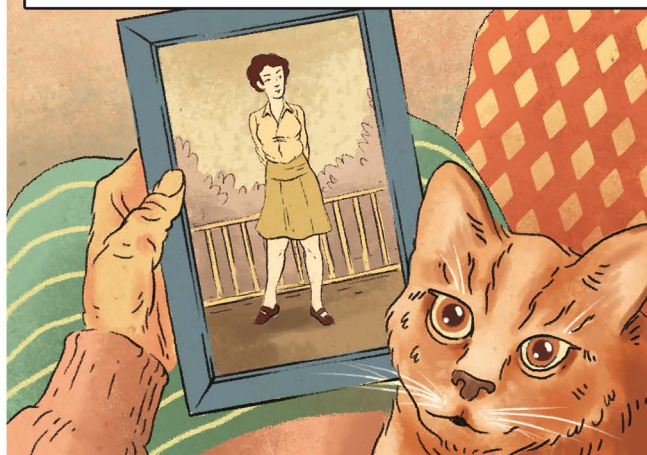


JUST ONE SUGAR PACKET
IS FINE...

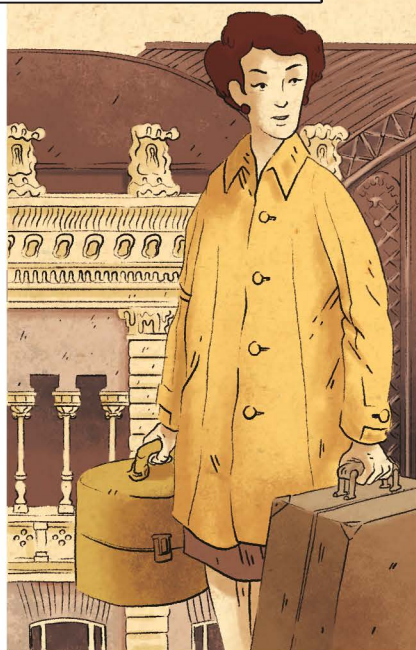


...THANKS, DEAR.

LOOK, THAT'S ME WHEN I WAS 20 YEARS OLD.



I HAD JUST ARRIVED
IN MADRID.

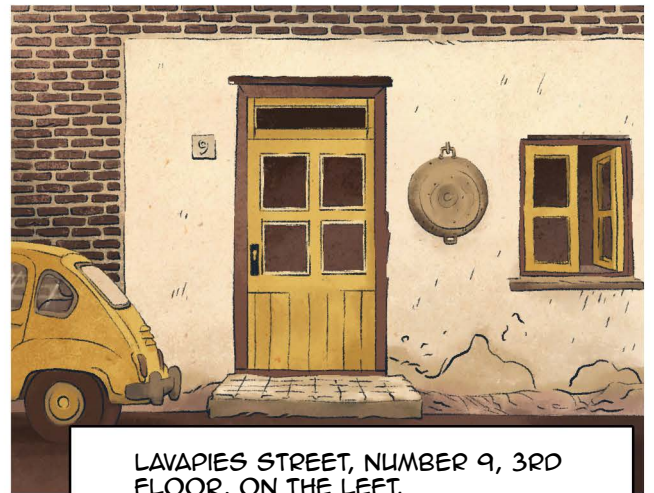


I REMEMBER THAT THE CITY WAS LIKE CHAOS TO ME, WITH ALL THOSE CARS AND PEOPLE
RUNNING AROUND FROM ONE PLACE TO THE NEXT. COMPARED TO MY VILLAGE, IT WAS JUST
SO MUCH NOISE.

I WAS ABLE TO STAY FOR A FEW DAYS AT THE HOUSE OF MY COUSIN'S FRIEND.



I STILL REMEMBER THE EXACT ADDRESS:



LAVAPIES STREET, NUMBER 9, 3RD FLOOR, ON THE LEFT.

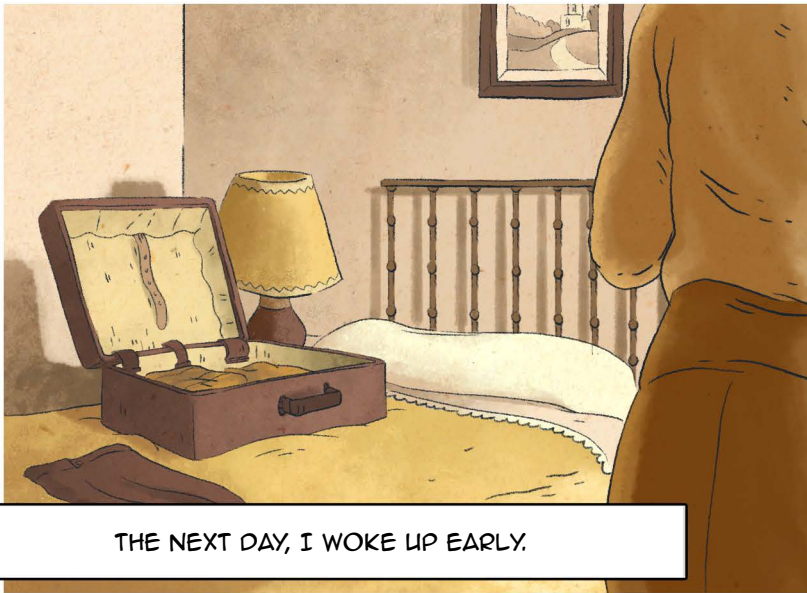
MY COUSIN'S FRIEND DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME...



...AND THAT NIGHT I DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL...



...I FELT TERRIBLY ALONE.



I WASHED UP, BECAUSE THEY SAY CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS...



THE NEXT DAY, I WOKE UP EARLY.



...AND I WENT OUT INTO THE STREETS.



I SPENT HOURS WALKING AROUND MADRID, OBSERVING EVERYTHING.



I WAS SO EXCITED.

EXCITED AND OVERWHELMED AT THE SAME TIME.

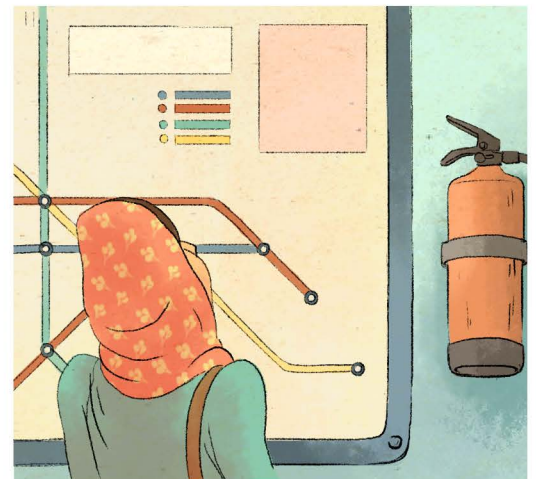
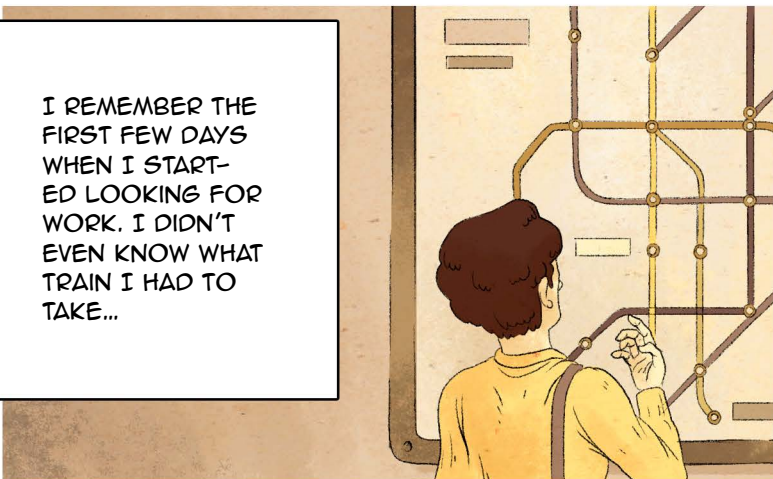
IN THE BEGINNING, IT WASN'T EASY.



THERE'S NO POINT IN LYING TO YOU.



I REMEMBER THE FIRST FEW DAYS WHEN I STARTED LOOKING FOR WORK. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TRAIN I HAD TO TAKE...



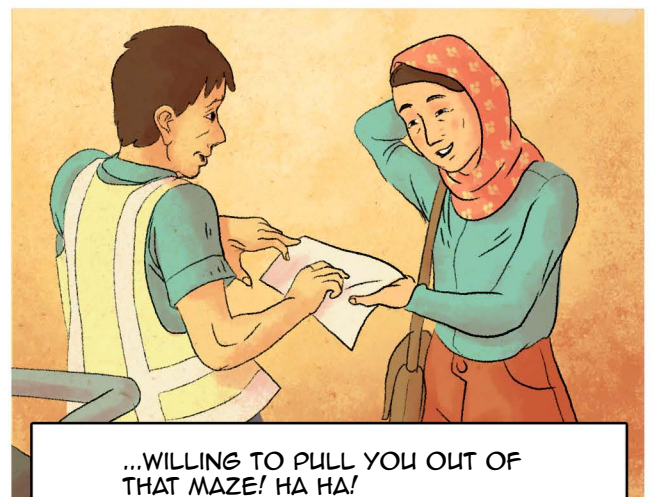
...AND EVERYBODY LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE IN SUCH A HURRY THAT I WAS TOO AFRAID TO STOP SOMEONE AND ASK FOR HELP.

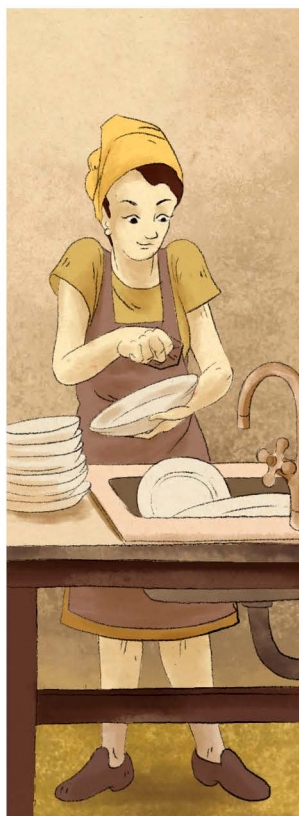


LUCKILY, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE...



...WILLING TO PULL YOU OUT OF THAT MAZE! HA HA!





I WORKED HARD THOSE FIRST FEW YEARS. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

BUT I DIDN'T CARE BECAUSE I WAS
MAKING A LIVING,



AND WITH A BIT OF EXTRA EFFORT,



I ALWAYS MANAGED TO SEND SOMETHING TO MY FAMILY IN THE VILLAGE.

ONE THING I HAVE NEVER
TOLERATED IN THIS LIFE



IS WHEN PEOPLE LOOK DOWN ON ME



OR THAT THEY TALKED TO ME AS IF I WAS IDIOT.



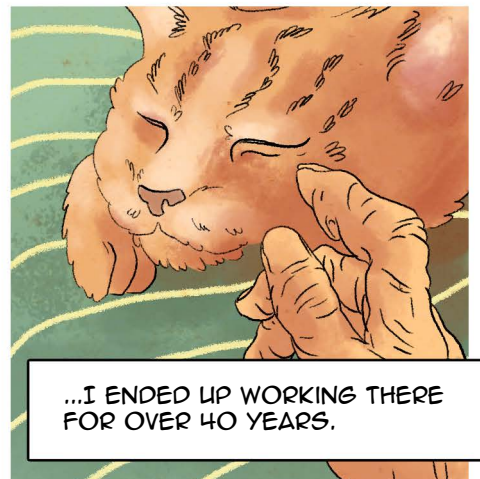
SURE! I COME FROM A VERY POOR
VILLAGE, BUT I'M NOT A FOOL!



FINALLY, I GOT A GOOD JOB AT A SEWING SHOP IN THE SALAMANCA NEIGHBORHOOD.
SEWING WAS SOMETHING THAT I LIKED, AND I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE CRAFT. I
WAS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND I WAS HAPPY, SO MUCH THAT...



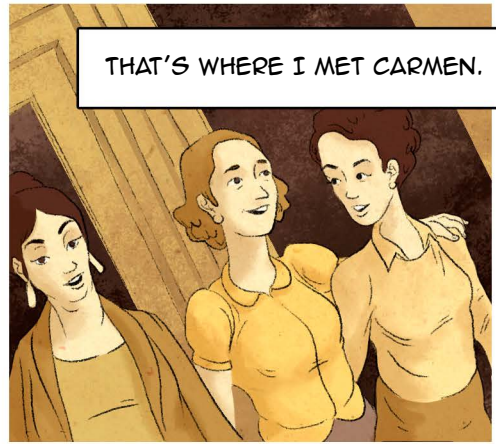
...I ENDED UP WORKING THERE
FOR OVER 40 YEARS.



IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW TIME PASSES.



THAT'S WHERE I MET CARMEN.



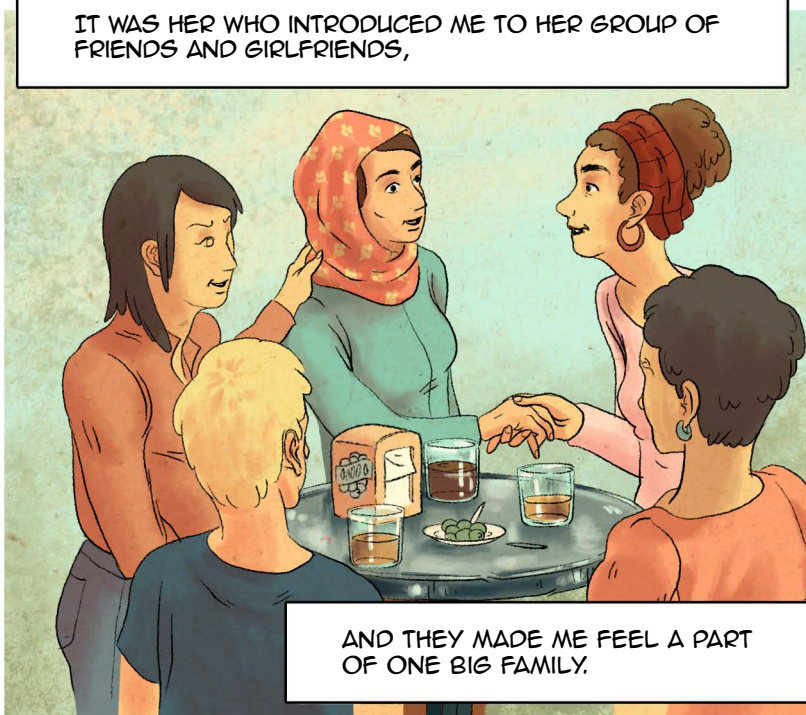
SHE'S THE MOST VIVACIOUS PERSON I'VE EVER MET.



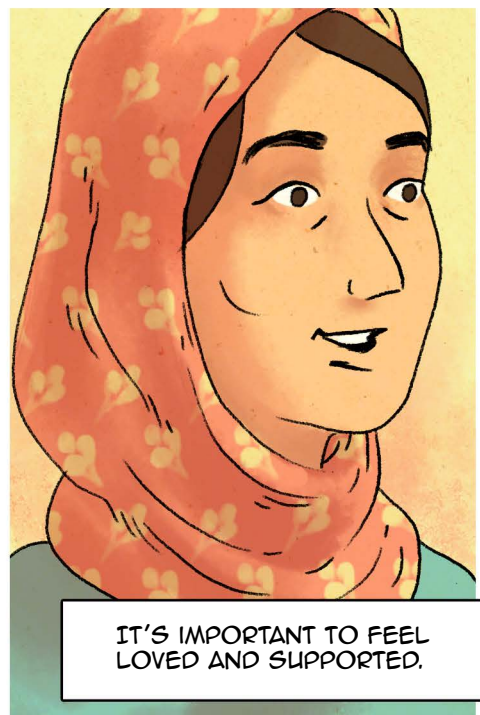
RIGHT FROM THE START, WE BECAME GOOD FRIENDS.



IT WAS HER WHO INTRODUCED ME TO HER GROUP OF FRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS,



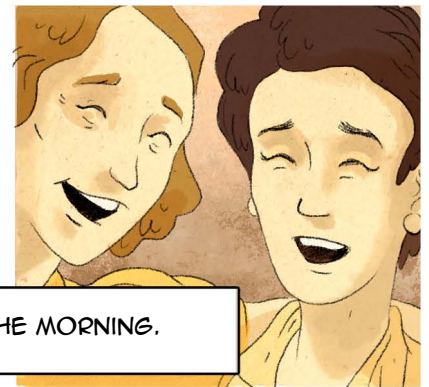
AND THEY MADE ME FEEL A PART OF ONE BIG FAMILY.



IT'S IMPORTANT TO FEEL LOVED AND SUPPORTED.



WE USED TO GO TO PACO'S TAVERN TOGETHER.



THERE, WE WOULD SING AND LAUGH UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING.

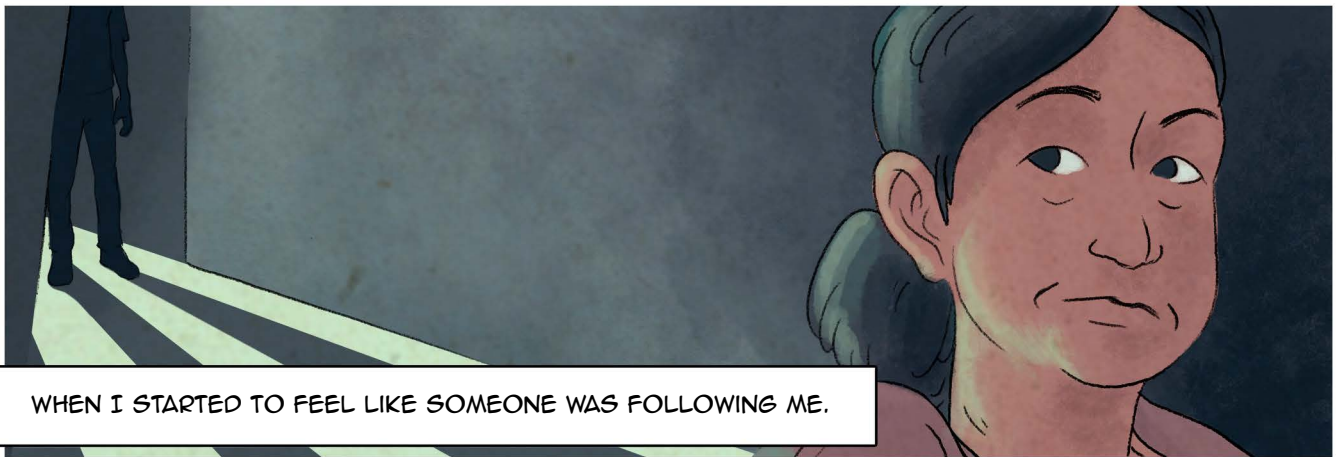
ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS,



WHICH I'LL NEVER FORGET,



I WAS WALKING BACK HOME



WHEN I STARTED TO FEEL LIKE SOMEONE WAS FOLLOWING ME.



I TURNED DOWN THE NEXT STREET AND
BEGAN TO WALK FASTER,



BUT I FELT THE PERSON
GETTING CLOSER.



I BECAME VERY NERVOUS.



SO, I THREW DOWN MY BAG AND STARTED RUNNING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG
I WAS RUNNING FOR.



I ALSO DIDN'T KNOW



WHERE I WAS GOING.

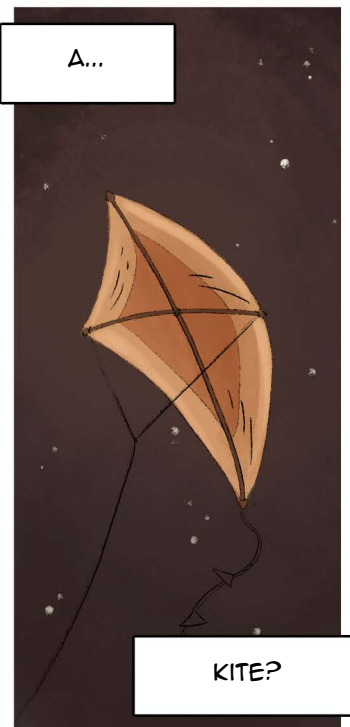


WHEN I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO
CATCH MY BREATH, I SAW THAT
THERE WAS A LITTLE PLAZA
JUST AHEAD OF ME.

BUT WHAT WAS I
LOOKING AT?



A...



KITE?

SURE ENOUGH, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO WAS FLYING A KITE...AT THOSE ODD HOURS OF THE NIGHT!



I WATCHED HER FOR AWHILE AND WHEN I WENT OVER TO SAY HELLO,



SHE LOOKED AT ME LIKE WE HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER.



I TOLD HER WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME AND SHE INVITED ME TO STAY THERE WITH HER.



WE SPENT HOURS TALKING ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS.



SHE WAS SO WARM...

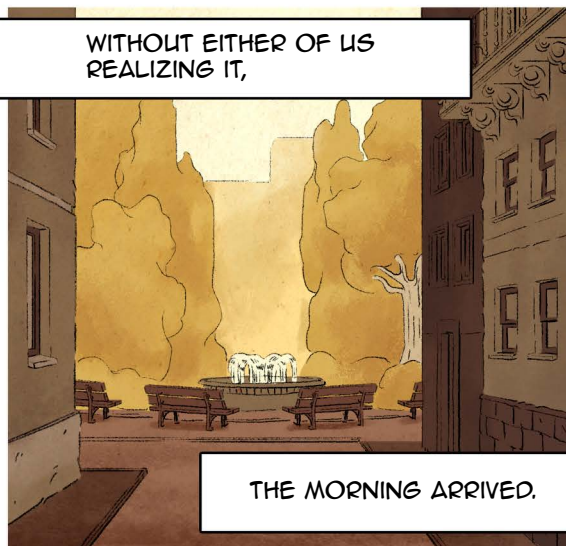


...SO LOVELY



AND I FELT SO SAFE NEXT TO HER.

WITHOUT EITHER OF US REALIZING IT,



THE MORNING ARRIVED.

FROM THAT DAY ON, ALBA AND I NEVER LEFT EACH OTHER'S SIDE.



BUT ANYWAY, HEY, YOU'RE PROBABLY GETTING BORED OF MY WAR STORIES, AREN'T YOU?



NOT AT ALL, JACINTA!



YOU KNOW WE LOVE LISTENING TO YOUR MEMORIES.

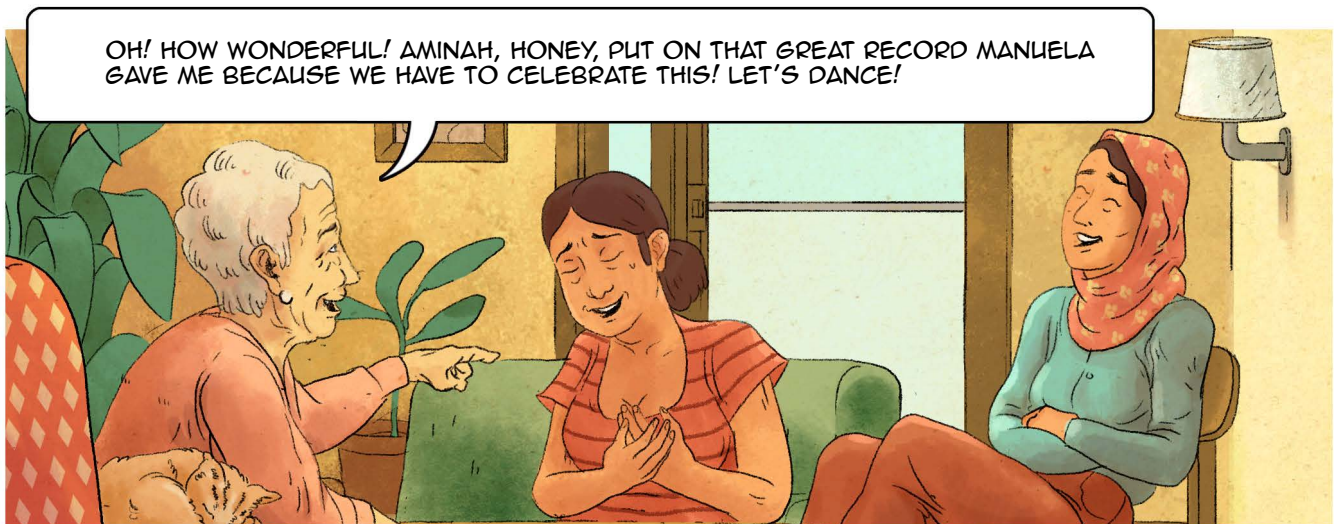
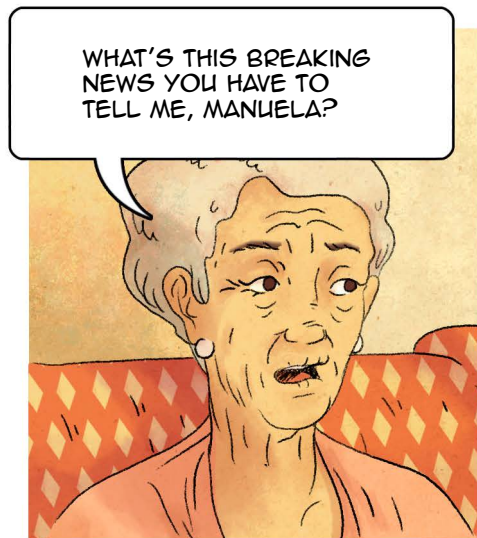
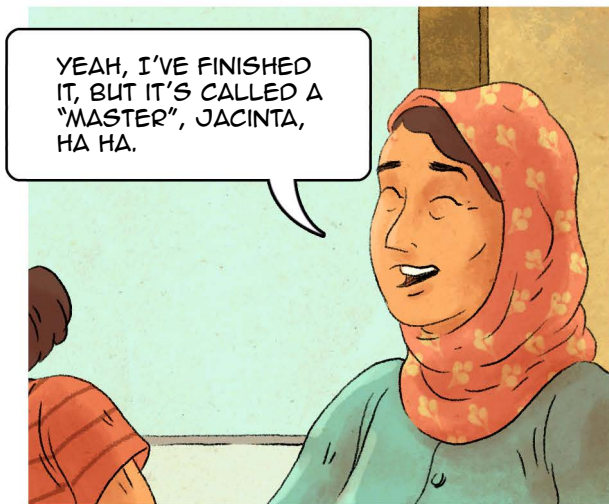


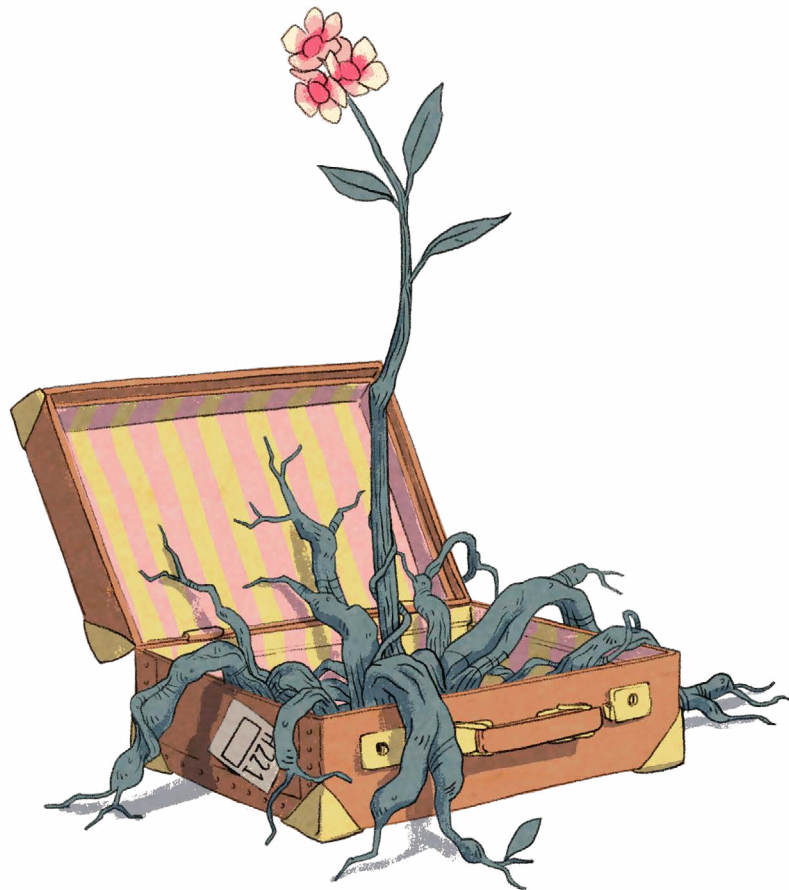
YEAH! I LEARN SO MUCH FROM YOU, JACINTA!



OH GIRLS, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM THAT YOU COME TO VISIT ME. THANKS TO YOU, MY DAY DOESN'T FEEL SO LONG, YOU KNOW?







The Federation of Progressive Women (FPW) is a non-profit social organization, declared of public utility, that has more than 30 years of experience. FPW defends women's rights, raises awareness of the discriminations they suffer in all contexts, and works to implement the social, economic, and cultural measures that will achieve the empowerment of women and gender equality. All of these efforts are carried out with a special focus on the reality of migrant women.

“Drawing Glances: An Outreach Program for Improving Coexistence” is a project of the Progressive Women Federation, funded by the Directorate-General of Inclusion and Humanitarian Assistance and co-funded by the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund. The project is a state-wide transmedia campaign designed to raise awareness of intercultural coexistence through the dismantling of the prejudices and stereotypes that surround immigration.

This comic forms a part of a participation process that took place in Madrid, Ceuta, and Melilla, with immigrant women workers as the protagonists. In the first phase of the program, women shared their different stories as migrants through a series of workshops and interviews. They talked about living with stereotypes and prejudices and made reflections on integration and coexistence. The results of this participation have given life to the campaign and have served as the inspiration for this comic that reflects the different stories of the lives of migrant women.

This comic, which has been translated into Arabic, English, and French with the goal of reaching a broader public, is part of a collection of materials that include a video spot, a pedagogical dossier, and a best practices poster. All of these are compatible in use and can be found on the Progressive Women Federation web page for free access and download.

