

# The Tale of Daisy & GAIA

A FAMILY  
HISTORY &  
MEMOIR  
COMIC



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THE ART ON MARKET STREET KIOSK POSTER SERIES  
IS A PROJECT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION  
AND THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

THE TALE OF DAISY & GAIA  
© GAIA WXYZ

STORY CONTINUES  
ON OTHER SIDE

# Daisy & Gaia's San Francisco Connection

ALTHOUGH THE TIMELINE OF MY LIFE ONLY INTERSECTED WITH HER'S BRIEFLY ...

GRANDMA DAISY WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE RELATIVES

I LIKE TO BELIEVE IT WAS MY GREAT GRANDMA DAISY WHO PLANTED THE LOVE OF SAN FRANCISCO IN MY HEART WHEN I WAS JUST A LITTLE BABY

DAISY...

MY FATHER'S MOTHER'S MOTHER, A WOMAN WHO LIVED FOR 98 YEARS ...

I'D DREAMT OF LIVING IN THE BAY SINCE I WAS EIGHT

AFTER MY FIRST TRIP HERE ...

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT DAISY LIVED HERE WHEN I MOVED TO OAKLAND

SPENT HER EARLY TWENTIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

A CENTURY, TWO GENERATIONS SEPARATING US!

MET HER HUSBAND,

HAD A BABY ...

MOVED BACK TO JAMAICA, AND NEVER RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA

THE MOST DISTANT ANCESTOR I'LL EVER MEET

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

COULD IT BE MORE THAN COINCIDENCE THAT I ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE SHE CALLED HOME?



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# Daisy's Journey to San Francisco



SAN FRANCISCO

WHEN DAISY WAS A CHILD SHE TRAVELLED WITH HER MOTHER TO COSTA RICA, THEN PANAMA...

JAMAICA

PANAMA

COSTA RICA

Daisy Marcella Manning WAS BORN ON JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 1897 DAUGHTER OF ELLEN LOUISE MANNING AND JOHN WILLIAMS, IN CHANTILLY WESTMORELAND, JAMAICA

THAT'S LIKELY WHERE SHE BECAME FLUENT IN SPANISH!

SHE WAS ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE MOVED ALL THE WAY TO SAN FRANCISCO WITH A FAMILY HER MOTHER BEFRIENDED

DAISY WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING BEAUTIFUL, SLENDER, TALL AND INTELLIGENT SHE LOVED LIFE...

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR DAISY...

LIVING HER ENTIRE LIFE IN HOT, TROPICAL JUNGLES,

TO SUDDENLY FIND HERSELF IN A BUSTLING METROPOLIS!

1918: 12 YEARS AFTER 1906 EARTHQUAKE  
15 YEARS BEFORE THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED

PLUS-

THE CITY WAS SUCH A DIFFERENT PLACE BACK THEN!



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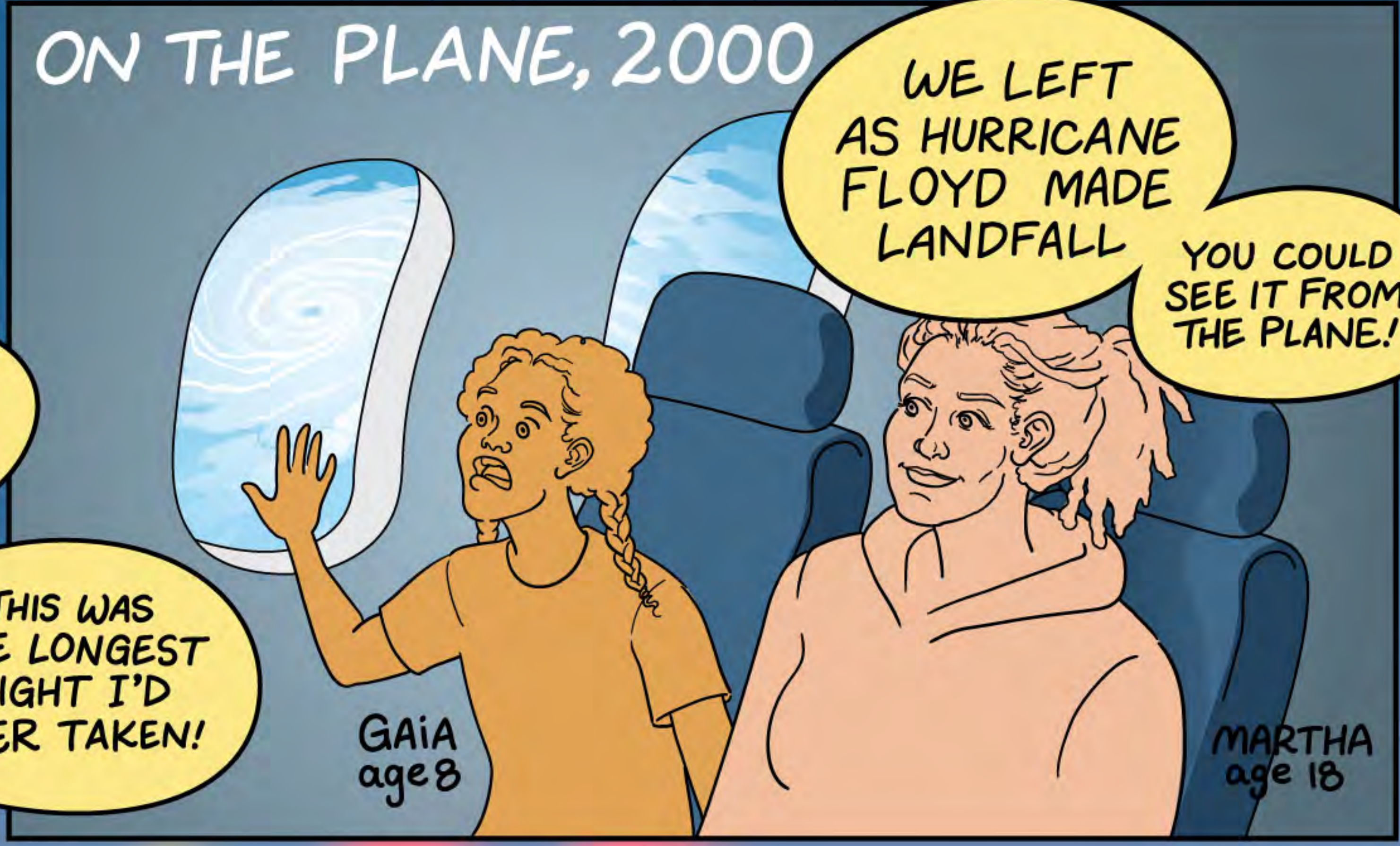
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STORY CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE

# GAI'A'S FIRST SAN FRANCISCO TRIP



MY SISTER MARTHA WAS GOING TO UC SANTA CRUZ SO WE FLEW TO CALIFORNIA TO SEND HER OFF...



ON THE PLANE, 2000

WE LEFT AS HURRICANE FLOYD MADE LANDFALL

YOU COULD SEE IT FROM THE PLANE!

THIS WAS THE LONGEST FLIGHT I'D EVER TAKEN!

GAI'A age 8

MARTHA age 18

SAN FRANCISCO MADE A STRONG, IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION ON ME, I LOVED IT...



## SOME OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES



I WAS STRUCK BY HOW DIFFERENT EVERYTHING WAS

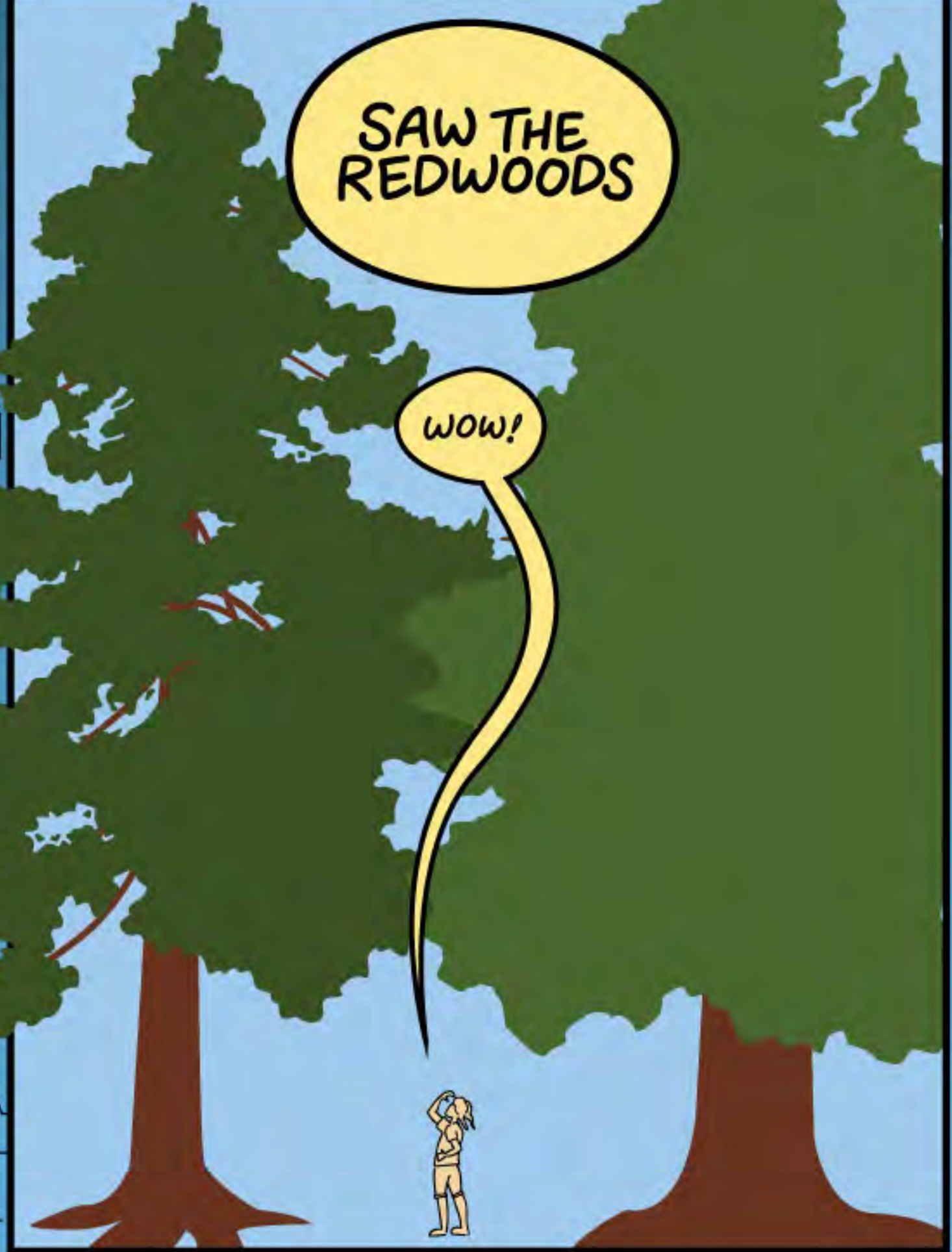
BORN AND RAISED IN FLORIDA, I HAD NEVER SEEN SO MANY HILLS!

LOMBARD STREET WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE

I CAN SEE FAR?

IT WAS A TYPICALLY TOURISTY TRIP—

BUT HEY! I WAS JUST A KID!



SAW THE REDWOODS

WOW!



LEARNED TO USE CHOPSTICKS IN CHINATOWN

HRRM...

MOM, DAD ...

WHY DON'T WE LIVE HERE?!



HAD MY FIRST EVER

SUPER BURRITO

THE TALE OF DAISY & GAI'A

STORY CONTINUES ALONG MARKET



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© GAI'A WXYZ

FILLMORE DISTRICT, 1920

# Daisy meets Edward Basil



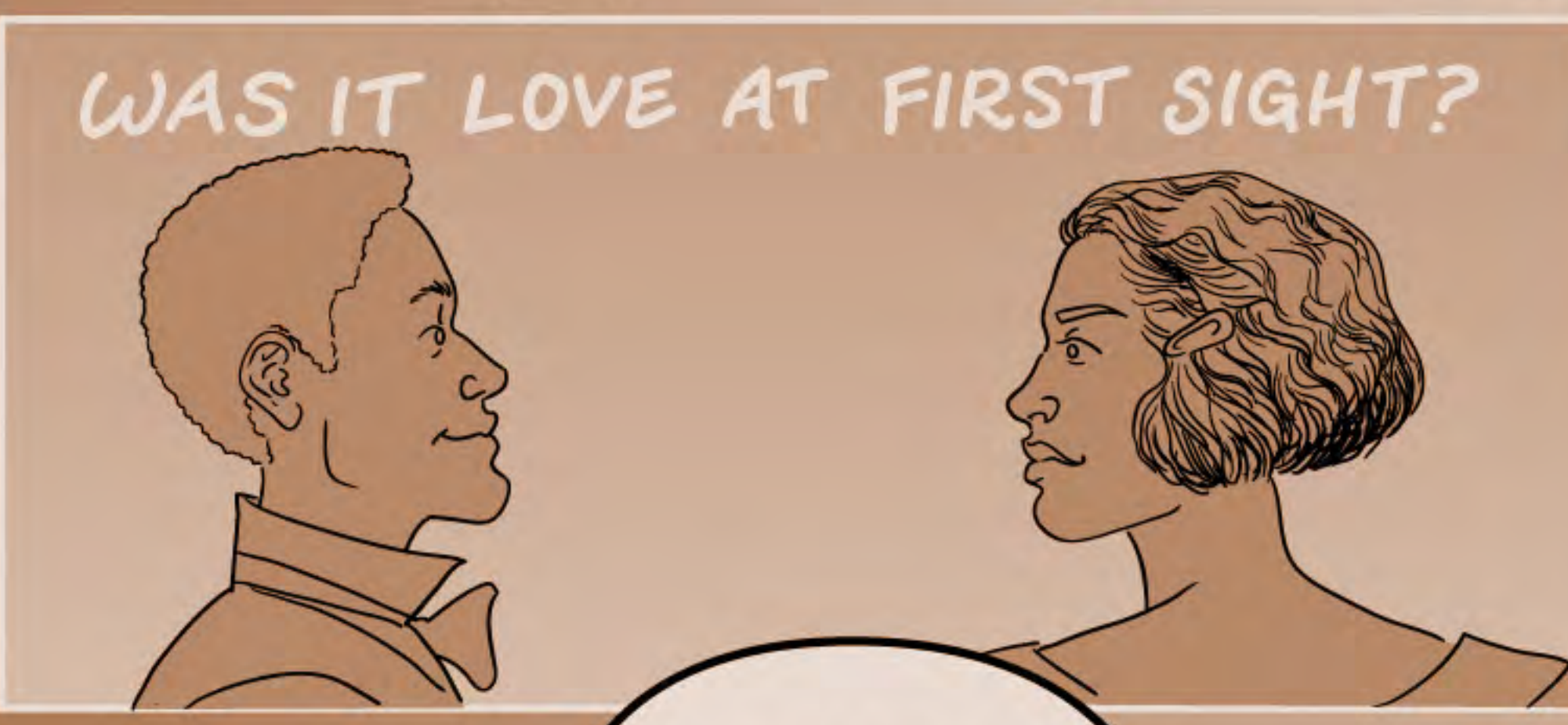
I LOVE THE STORY OF HOW THEY GOT TOGETHER

MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS MET AT A DANCE, PROBABLY AT THE MADAME C.J. WALKER HOUSE, THE BOARDING HOUSE FOR BLACK WOMEN WHERE MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER LIVED AT THE TIME, AT 2066 PINE STREET, BETWEEN LAGUNA AND BUCHANAN



I WONDER HOW THEY MET...

WHAT WERE THE ODDS SHE'D MEET ANOTHER JAMAICAN AT A PARTY?



WAS IT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

HOWEVER IT HAPPENED ...



TWO YEARS LATER...

THEY GOT MARRIED!

HAD THEY NOT MET THAT FATEFUL NIGHT ...

I WOULDN'T EXIST TO MAKE THIS COMIC!

1922 - 2022

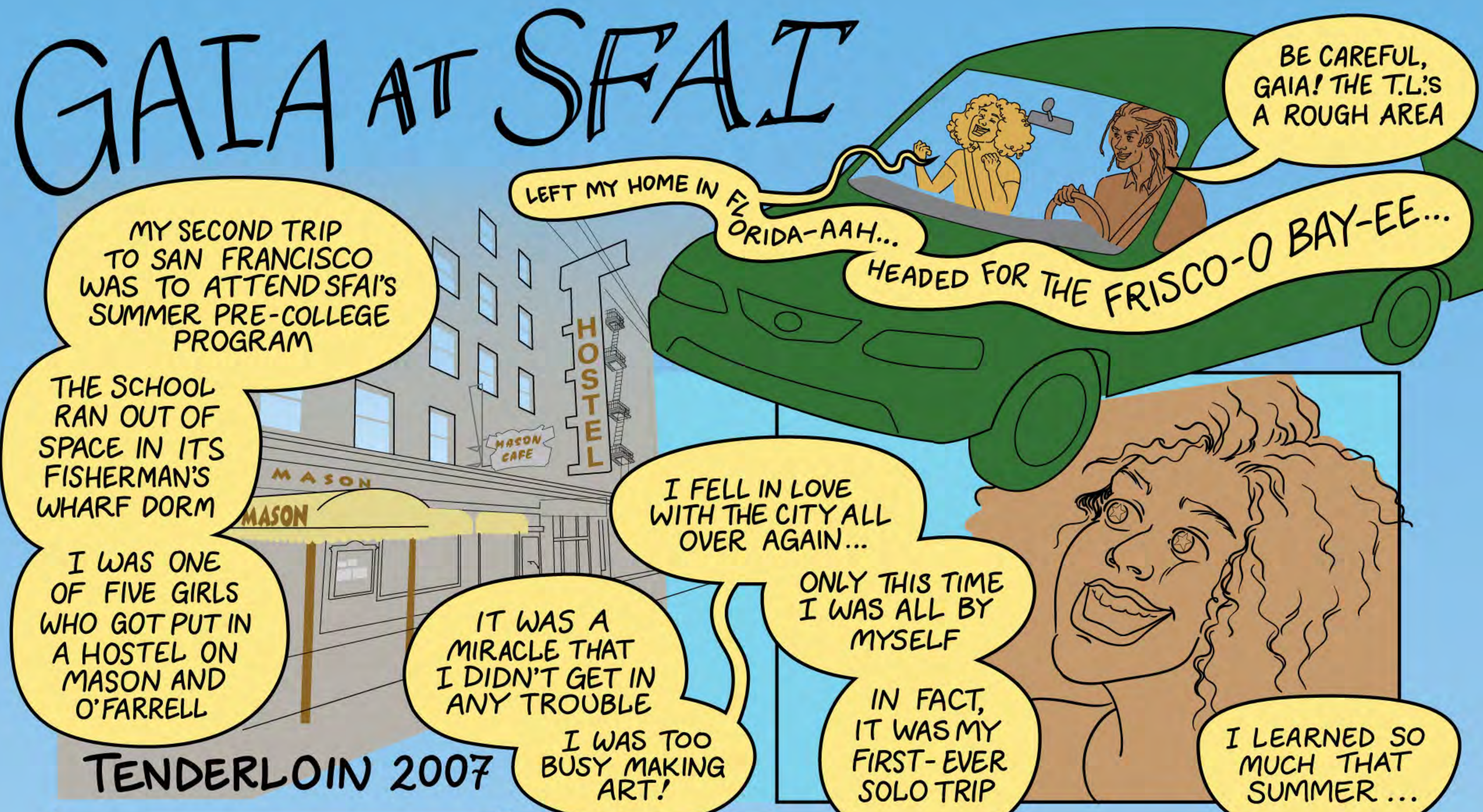


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# GAIAT AT SFAI



BE CAREFUL, GAIAT! THE T.L.'S A ROUGH AREA

LEFT MY HOME IN FLORIDA-AAH...

HEADED FOR THE FRISCO-O BAY-EE...

MY SECOND TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO WAS TO ATTEND SFAI'S SUMMER PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM

THE SCHOOL RAN OUT OF SPACE IN ITS FISHERMAN'S WHARF DORM

I WAS ONE OF FIVE GIRLS WHO GOT PUT IN A HOSTEL ON MASON AND O'FARRELL

I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CITY ALL OVER AGAIN...

IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT I DIDN'T GET IN ANY TROUBLE

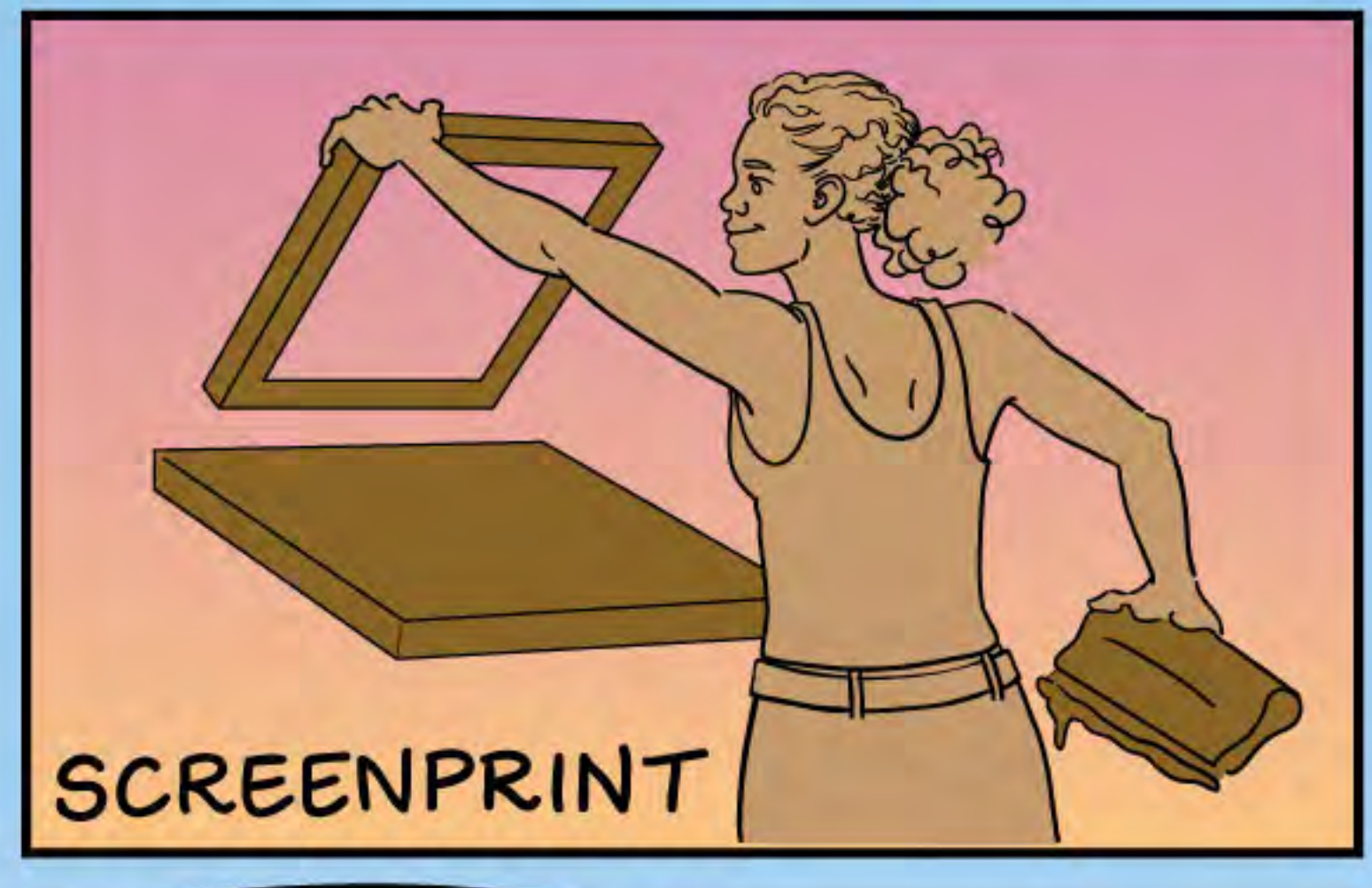
I WAS TOO BUSY MAKING ART!

ONLY THIS TIME I WAS ALL BY MYSELF

IN FACT, IT WAS MY FIRST-EVER SOLO TRIP

I LEARNED SO MUCH THAT SUMMER...

## TENDERLOIN 2007



SCREENPRINT



PAINTING



COMICS!



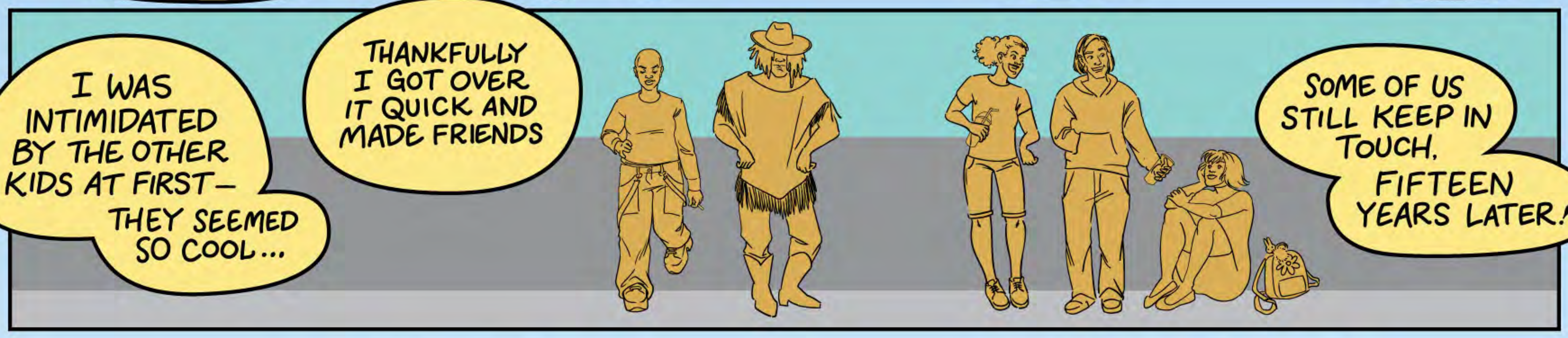
THIS WAS ALSO MY FIRST DAILY COMMUTE USING PUBLIC TRANSIT

THERE WERE TWO ROUTES I'D TAKE TO GET TO THE SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE

I'D EITHER CATCH A CABLE CAR AT POWELL

OR WALK THROUGH UNION SQUARE AND CATCH THE BUS...

GOTTA ADMIT— THE HILLS LOST A BIT OF THEIR CHARM!



I WAS INTIMIDATED BY THE OTHER KIDS AT FIRST— THEY SEEMED SO COOL...

THANKFULLY I GOT OVER IT QUICK AND MADE FRIENDS

SOME OF US STILL KEEP IN TOUCH, FIFTEEN YEARS LATER!



THIS EXPERIENCE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE COURSE OF MY LIFE...

THAT SUMMER I MADE TWO DECISIONS —

THAT I WAS GOING TO ATTEND ART COLLEGE...

AND WOULD ONE DAY MOVE TO THE BAY!



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STORY CONTINUES ALONG MARKET

# Daisy & Basil Sr's Candy Shop

I'M NOT SURE WHAT DAISY DID FOR WORK BEFORE SHE MARRIED MY GREAT GRANDFATHER...

I KNOW THAT SHE AND EDWARD BASIL HAD A SMALL SHOP TOGETHER WHERE THEY SOLD CANDY AND OTHER ITEMS

THIS RIPPED PHOTOGRAPH IS THE SOLE DOCUMENT I HAVE OF THEIR SHOP...

THEY ONLY HAD THIS SHOP A FEW YEARS BEFORE RETURNING TO JAMAICA

I'M INCREDIBLY PROUD THAT THEY WERE BLACK IMMIGRANT BUSINESS OWNERS

I WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF BLACK SAN FRANCISCANS

SO I WENT TO THE HISTORY CENTER AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARY ELLEN PLEASANT



MARY ELLEN PLEASANT WAS A COOK, MAID, AND SECRET ENTREPRENEUR. SHE OWNED HOTELS AND OTHER BUSINESSES IN SAN FRANCISCO AND HID HER WEALTH WITH A WHITE FAMILY. SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND PROVIDED RESOURCES FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY. SHE BECAME A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE LATER IN LIFE, EVEN ACCUSED OF MURDER! HER HOME WAS TURNED INTO A PARK

## Notable Black San Franciscans of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

WILLIAM



LEIDESDORFF

WILLIAM ALEXANDER LEIDESDORFF WAS ONE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S FOUNDERS. HE WAS BIRACIAL, ORIGINALLY FROM THE CARIBBEAN, BUT HE PASSED FOR WHITE. HE HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON THE GROWING COMMUNITY. HE BUILT THE FIRST HOTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO, AS WELL AS THE FIRST COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE IN THE CITY. LEIDESDORFF STREET IS NAMED AFTER HIM.

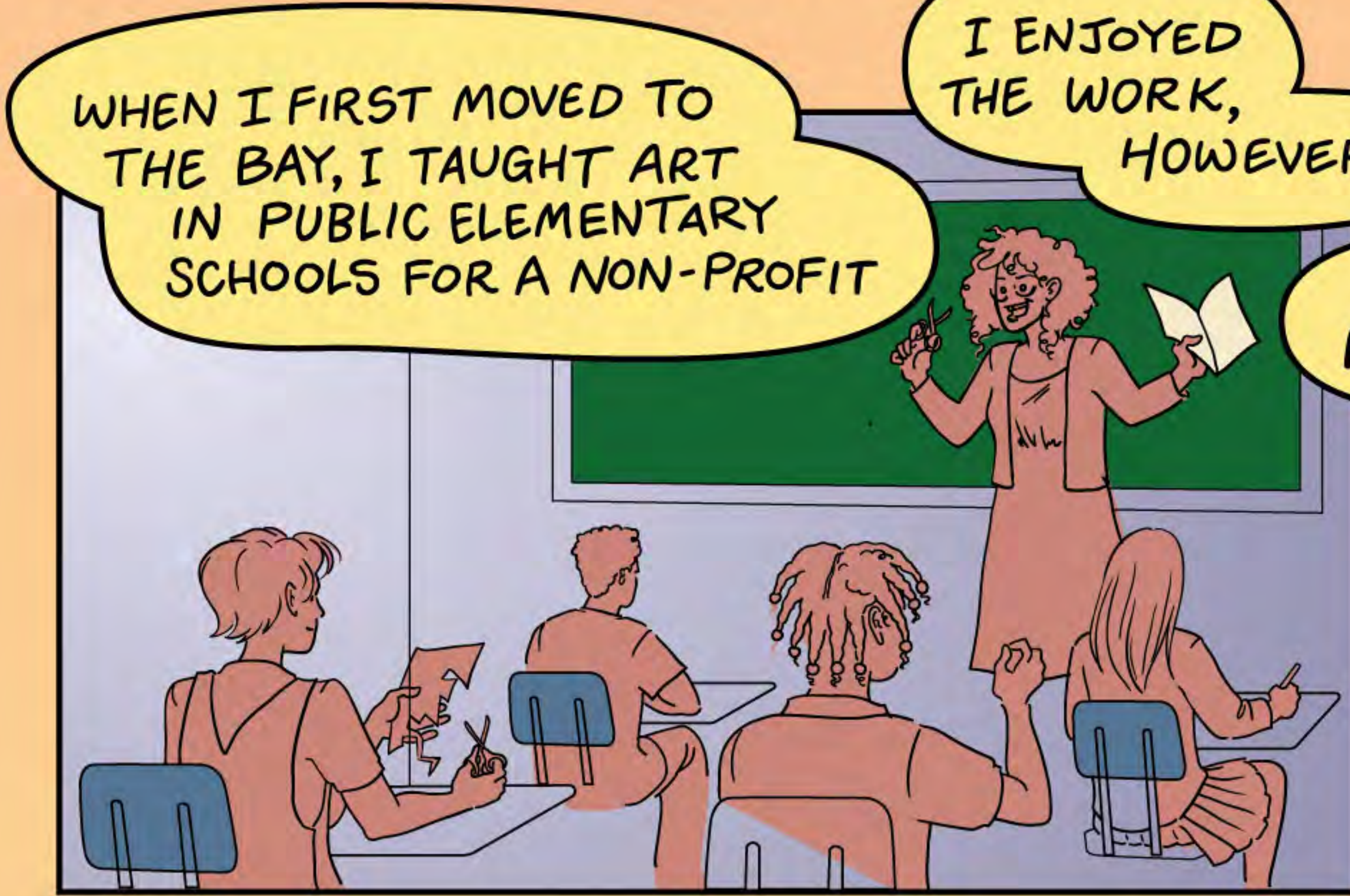


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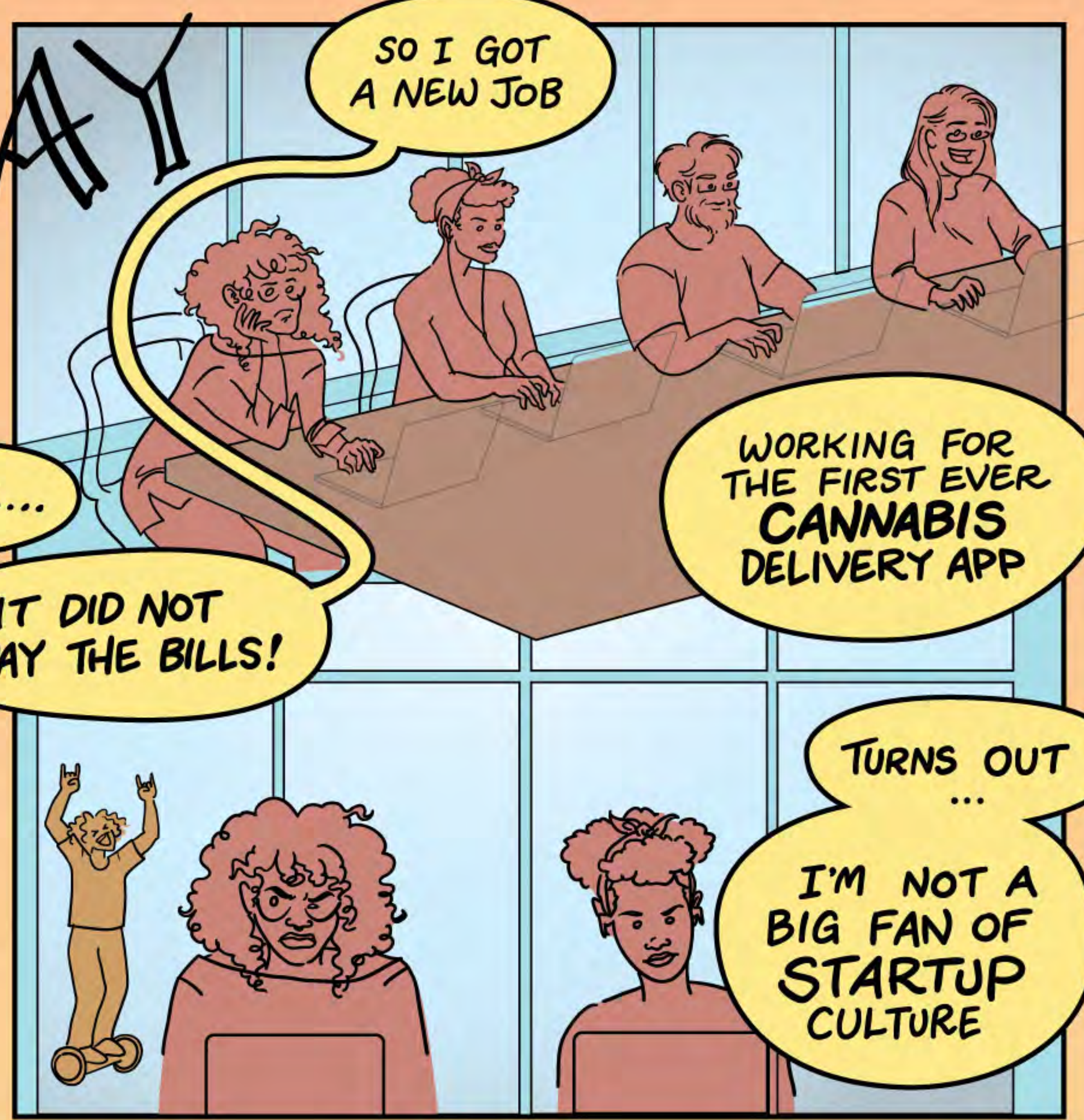
# GAIJA'S JOBS IN THE BAY



WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO THE BAY, I TAUGHT ART IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR A NON-PROFIT

I ENJOYED THE WORK, HOWEVER...

IT DID NOT PAY THE BILLS!



SO I GOT A NEW JOB

WORKING FOR THE FIRST EVER CANNABIS DELIVERY APP

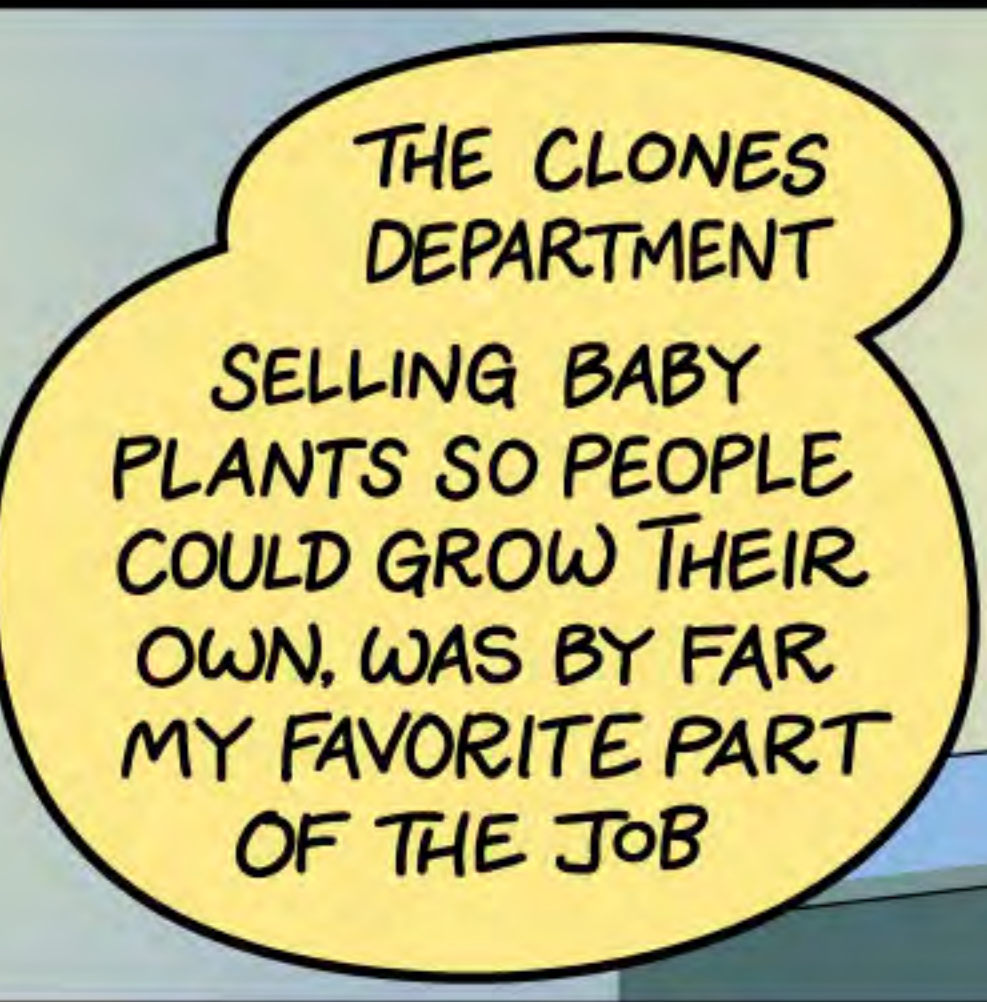
TURNS OUT ...

I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF STARTUP CULTURE

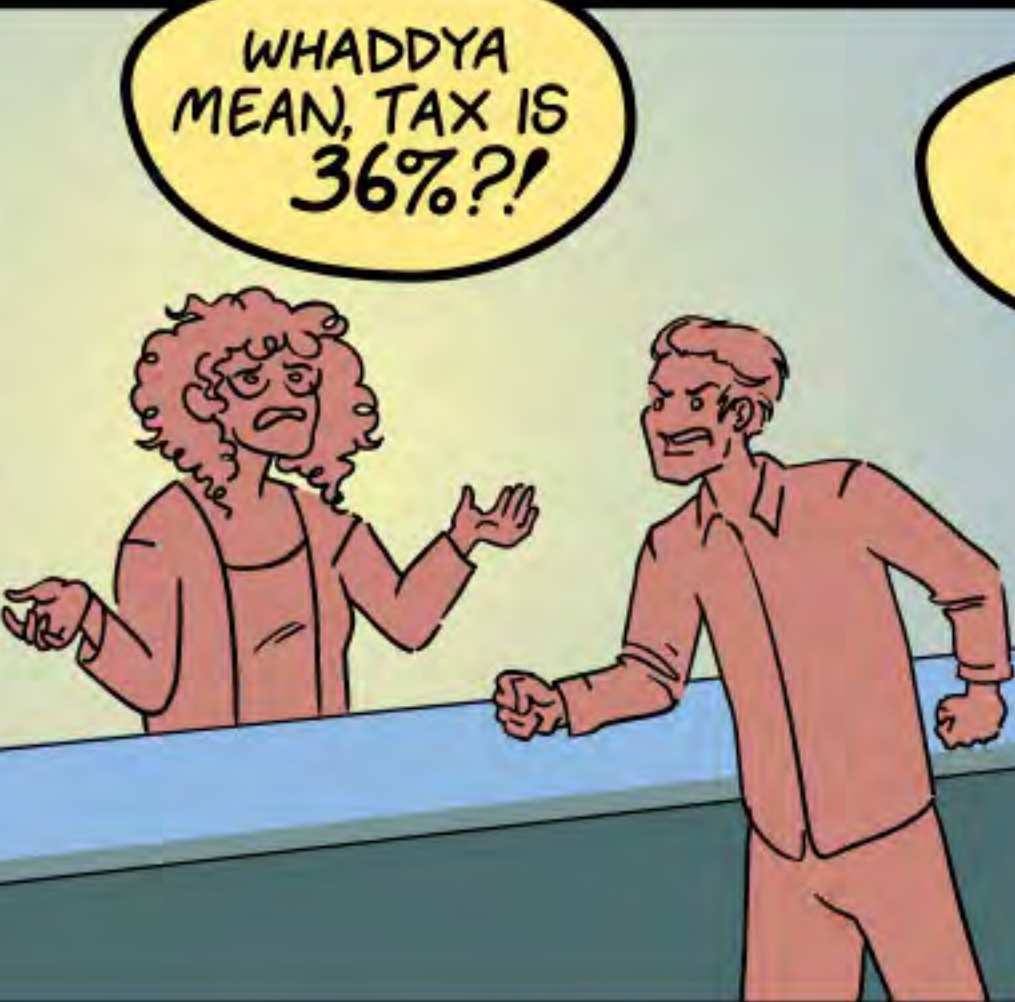


WORKING AT DISPENSARIES FELT IMPORTANT TO ME AS A JAMAICAN-AMERICAN

IT FELT GOOD, BUSTING MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES, WITNESSING PEOPLE'S HEALTH IMPROVE...



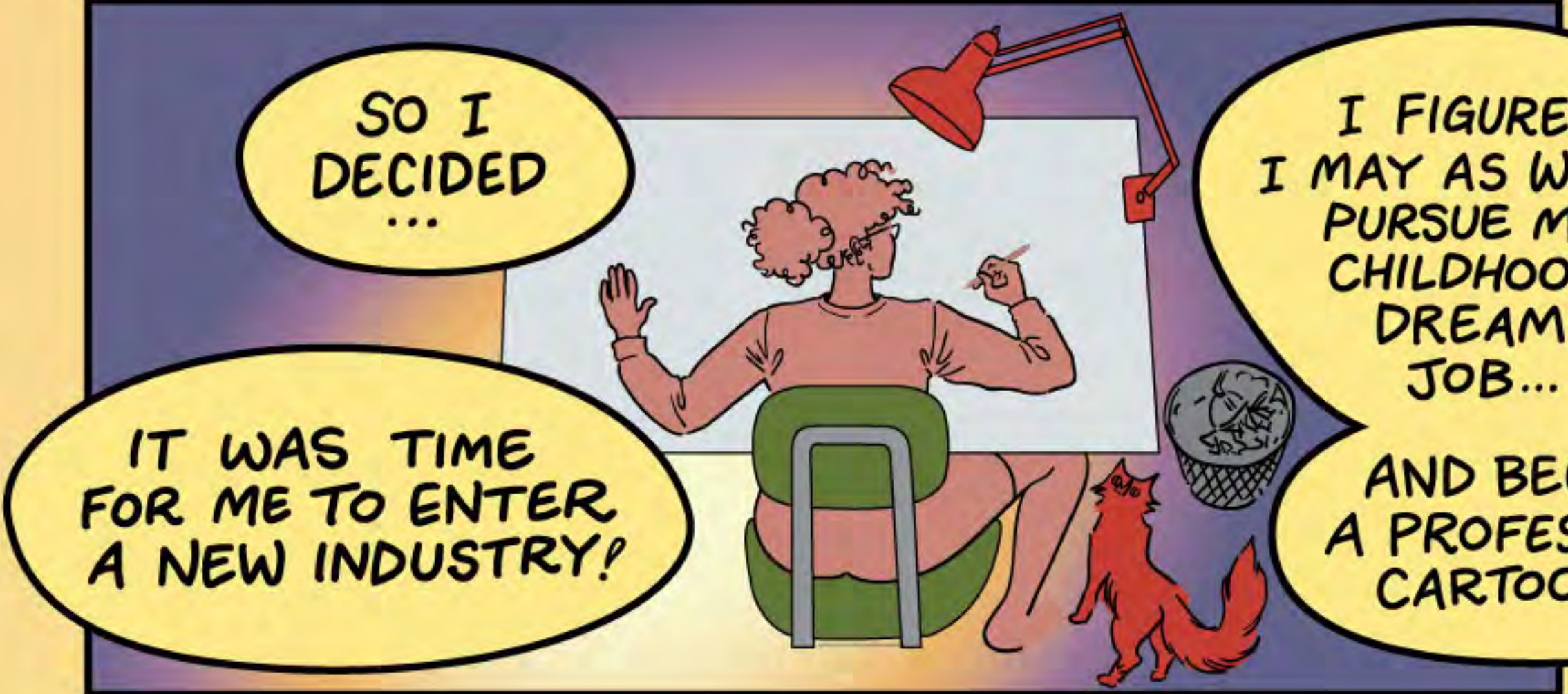
THE CLONES DEPARTMENT SELLING BABY PLANTS SO PEOPLE COULD GROW THEIR OWN, WAS BY FAR MY FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB



WHADDYA MEAN, TAX IS 36%?!

LEGALIZATION MADE ME QUIT

I COULDN'T SEE A FUTURE IN IT...



SO I DECIDED ...

IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO ENTER A NEW INDUSTRY!

I FIGURED I MAY AS WELL PURSUE MY CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB... AND BECOME A PROFESSIONAL CARTOONIST



BLACK COMIC ART FESTIVAL, 2018

I FOUND OUT ABOUT CCA'S MFA IN COMICS PROGRAM...

AND DECIDED TO APPLY!



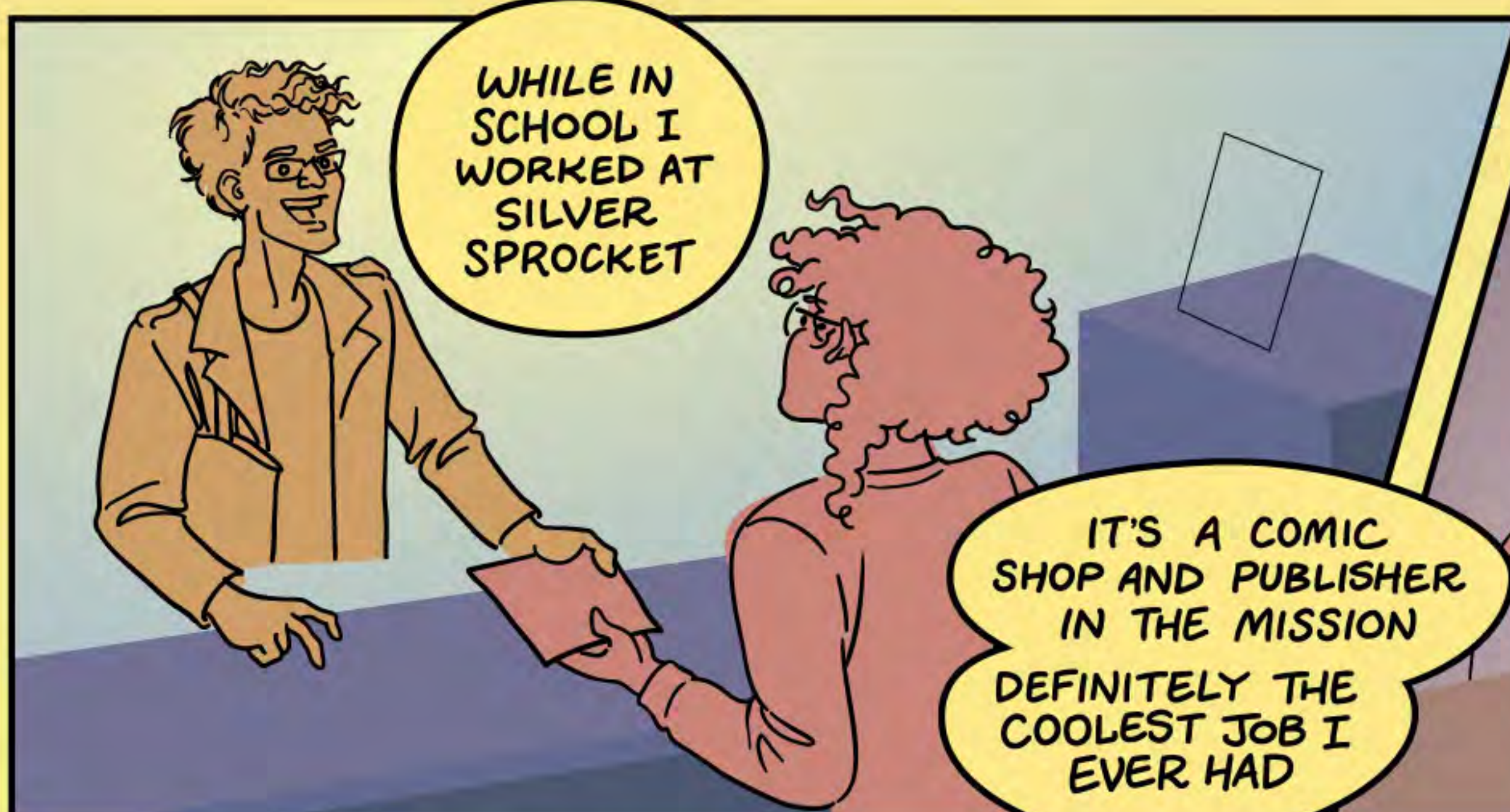
I WOUND UP GETTING IN...

I EVEN GOT TWO SCHOLARSHIPS!



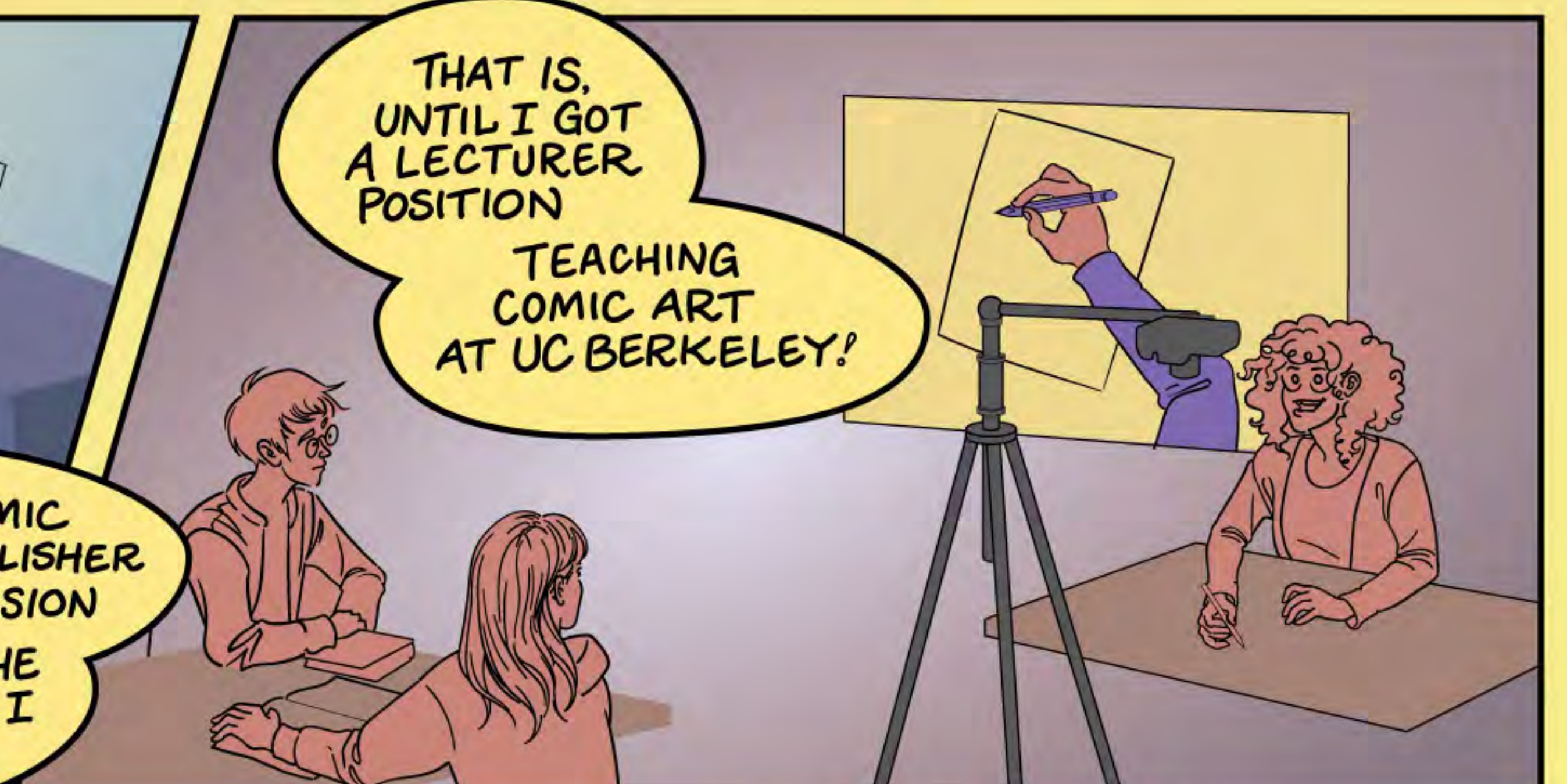
I'M A MASTER OF COMICS!

I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT IN 2020 I GOT MY DEGREE



WHILE IN SCHOOL I WORKED AT SILVER SPROCKET

IT'S A COMIC SHOP AND PUBLISHER IN THE MISSION DEFINITELY THE COOLEST JOB I EVER HAD



THAT IS, UNTIL I GOT A LECTURER POSITION TEACHING COMIC ART AT UC BERKELEY!



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STORY CONTINUES ALONG MARKET



# Madame C.J. Walker Home

BEFORE MY GREAT GRANDMA DAISY GOT MARRIED SHE LIVED AT THE MADAME C.J. WALKER HOME FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

IT WAS A BOARDING HOUSE WHERE BLACK WOMEN COULD LIVE AND FIND EMPLOYMENT

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN SAN FRANCISCO...

AND DAISY WAS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST RESIDENTS!

THE HOME WAS NAMED AFTER THE HAIRCARE ENTREPRENEUR AND SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE WHO HAD RECENTLY PASSED AWAY

FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS ONE OF TWO SOCIAL HALLS WHERE BLACK PEOPLE COULD GATHER IN THE CITY

THEY HOSTED NUMEROUS EVENTS, INCLUDING A CHRISTMAS PARTY WHERE THEY'D BLOCK OFF THE STREET

THE HOUSE STILL STANDS TODAY AT 2066 PINE STREET IN LOWER PACIFIC HEIGHTS



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# GAIJA AT THE GROWLERY

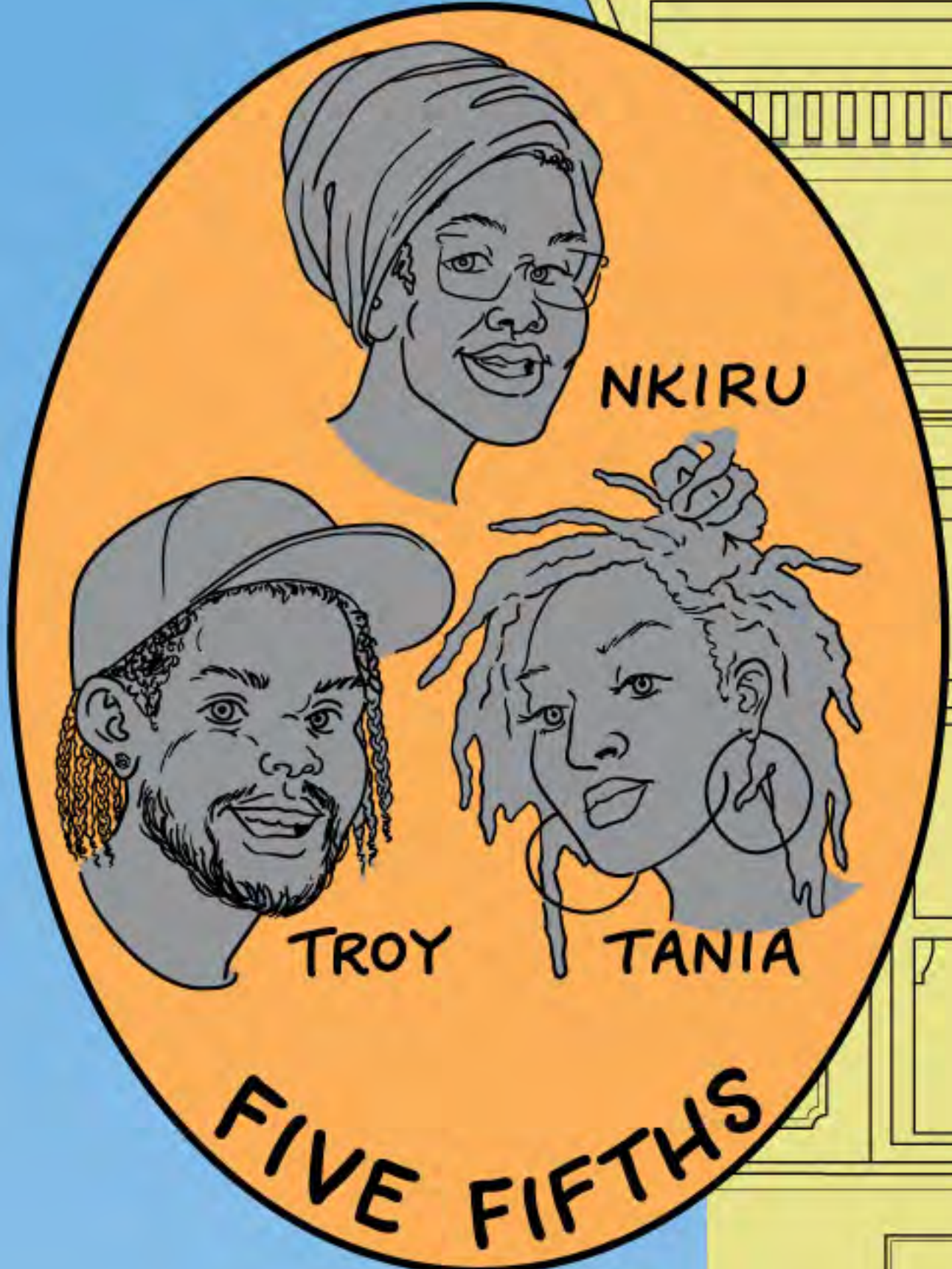
THE GROWLERY WAS A HYBRID GALLERY RESIDENTIAL SPACE IN HAIGHT-ASHBURY

ARTISTS WOULD STAY RENT-FREE, CREATE NEW WORK AND PRODUCE EXHIBITS

SO...

ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE BAY AREA FOR GOING ON SEVEN YEARS NOW...

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY LIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO



I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY BY FIVE-FIFTHS COLLECTIVE

A THREE PERSON ALL-BLACK ART COLLECTIVE

THE CLOSEST I'VE COME TO LIVING IN THE CITY SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN WAS WHEN I GOT TO SPEND ONE MONTH AT THIS PLACE

WE WERE THE LAST ARTISTS IN RESIDENTS BEFORE THEY MOVED THE PROJECT TO THE EAST BAY



I SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN GOLDEN GATE PARK

I GOT TO HAVE A TASTE OF HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES!

THE SHOWER HAS THREE HEADS!



BECAUSE OUR STAY COINCIDED WITH THE START OF SHELTER-IN-PLACE

THE RESIDENCY WAS EXTENDED FOR TWO WEEKS

I TRIED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THAT EXTRA TIME

BUT OUR GALLERY SHOW WAS CANCELLED



#\*@\$ CORONA!

I KNOW—

I'LL MAKE A COMIC ABOUT MY GREAT GRANDMA SHE MOVED TO SF AT THE HEIGHT OF THE 1918 SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC



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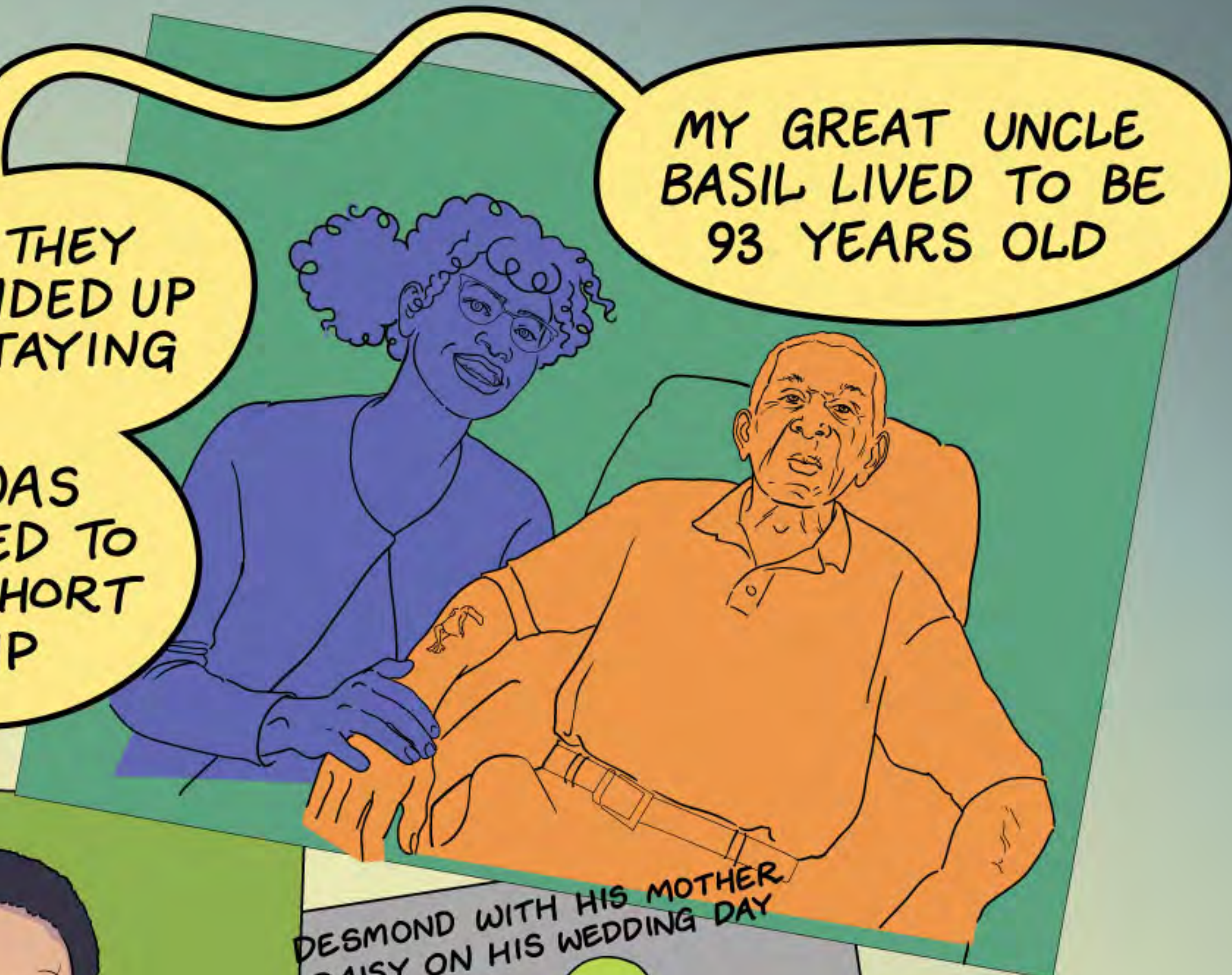
# Daisy's Descendants

DAISY AND EDWARD BASIL LEFT SAN FRANCISCO FOR JAMAICA SOON AFTER THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST SON, BASIL JR.

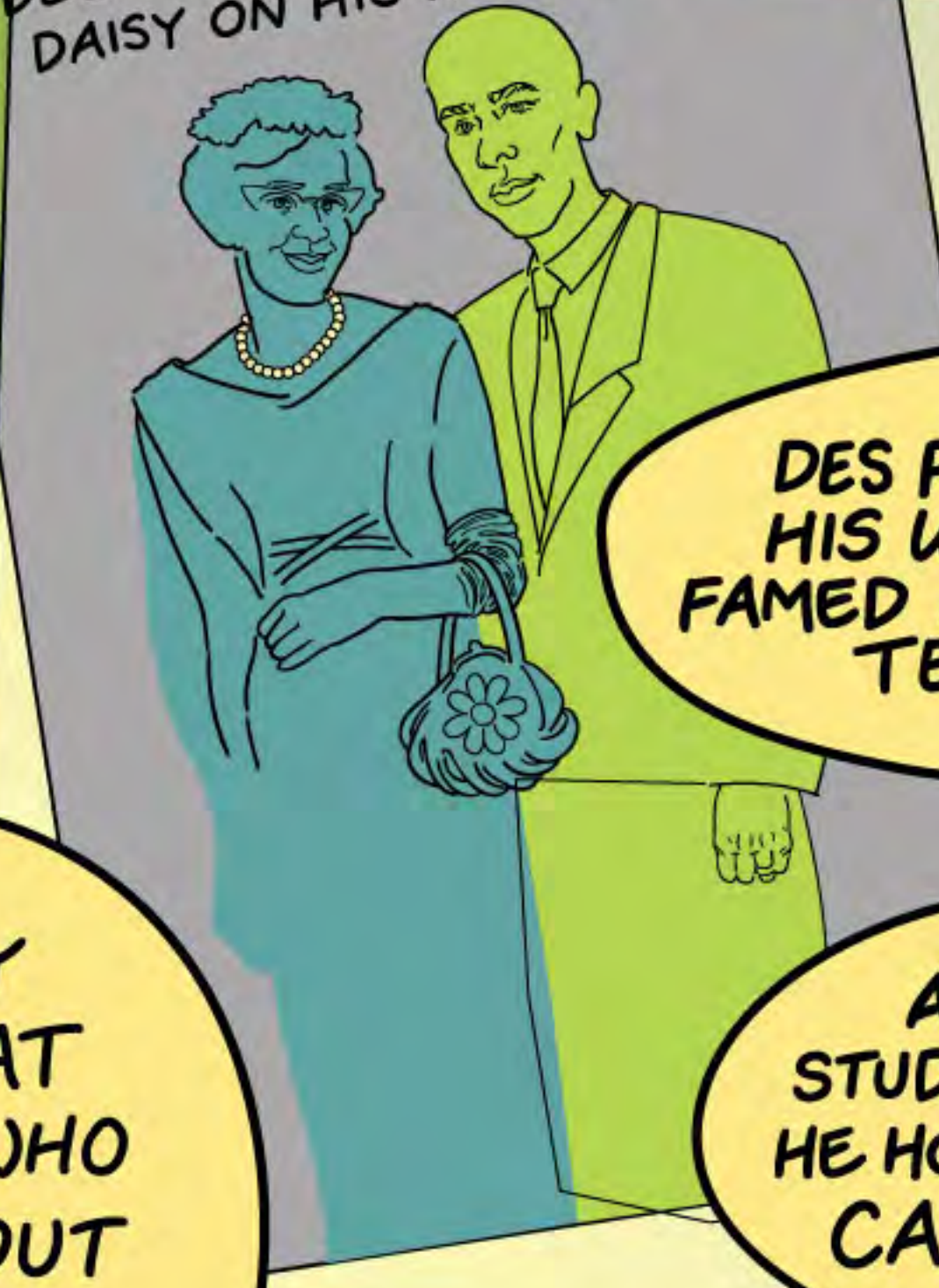
THEY ENDED UP STAYING

IT WAS PLANNED TO BE A SHORT TRIP

MY GREAT UNCLE BASIL LIVED TO BE 93 YEARS OLD



DESMOND WITH HIS MOTHER, DAISY ON HIS WEDDING DAY



DES PROPOSED TO HIS WIFE ON THE FAMED ASTRONOMER'S TELEPHONE

AS A GRAD STUDENT AT CAL, HE HOUSESAT FOR CARL SAGAN

IT WAS MY OTHER GREAT UNCLE DES WHO TOLD ME ABOUT OUR FAMILY'S CONNECTION TO CALIFORNIA

HE WAS AN INCREDIBLE PERSON AN AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST WHO WON MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR HIS WORK



SADLY...

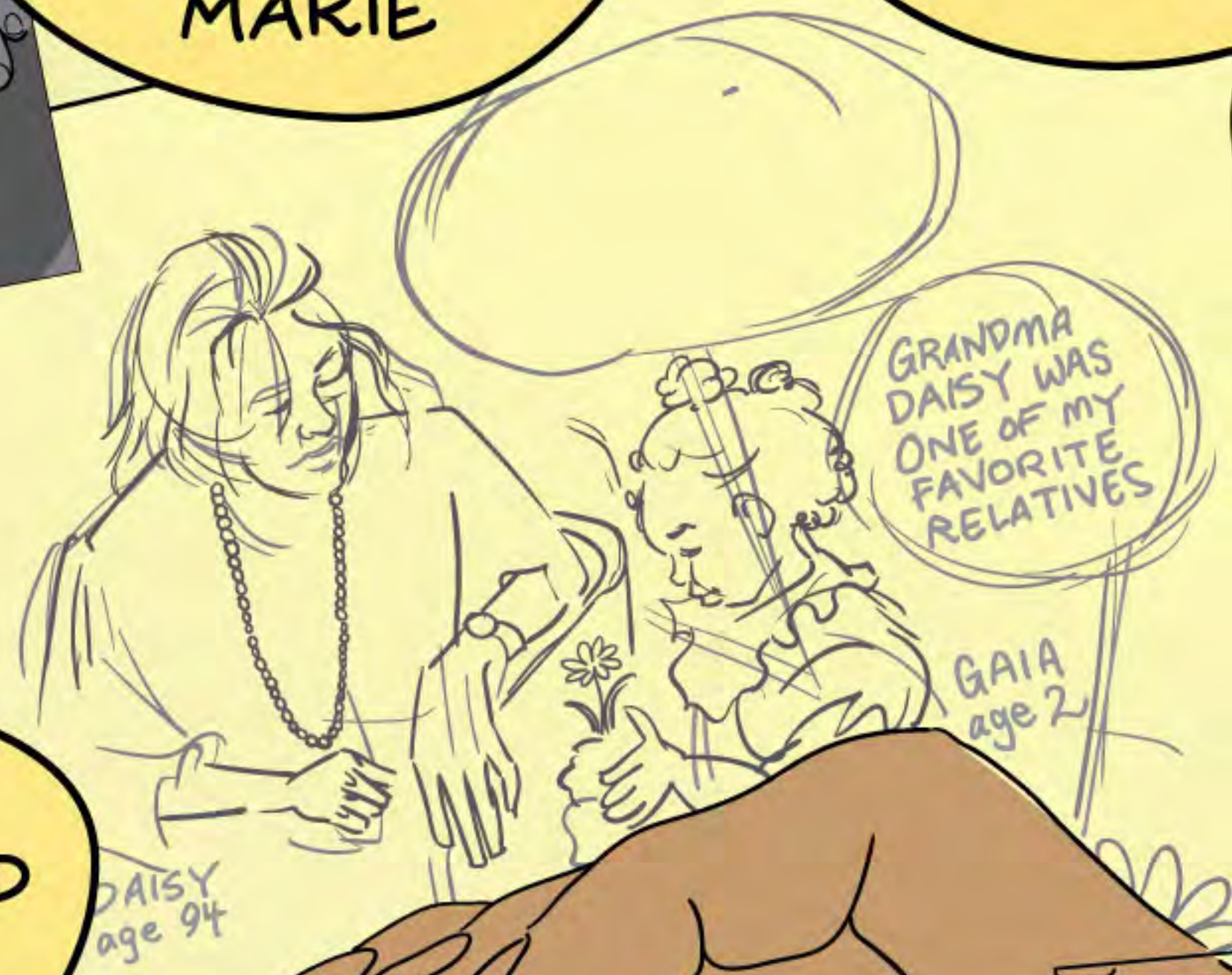
EDWARD BASIL DIED YOUNG

LEAVING MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WITH SEVEN KIDS TO RAISE ALONE!

ONE OF THOSE KIDS WAS MY GRANDMA MARIE

I WISH THAT I KNEW MORE ABOUT THIS HISTORY...

I'M LEFT WITH SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THEIR LIFE WAS LIKE



DAISY age 94

GAIA age 2

ITS SO IMPORTANT TO GATHER THESE STORIES WHILE OUR ELDERS ARE STILL WITH US

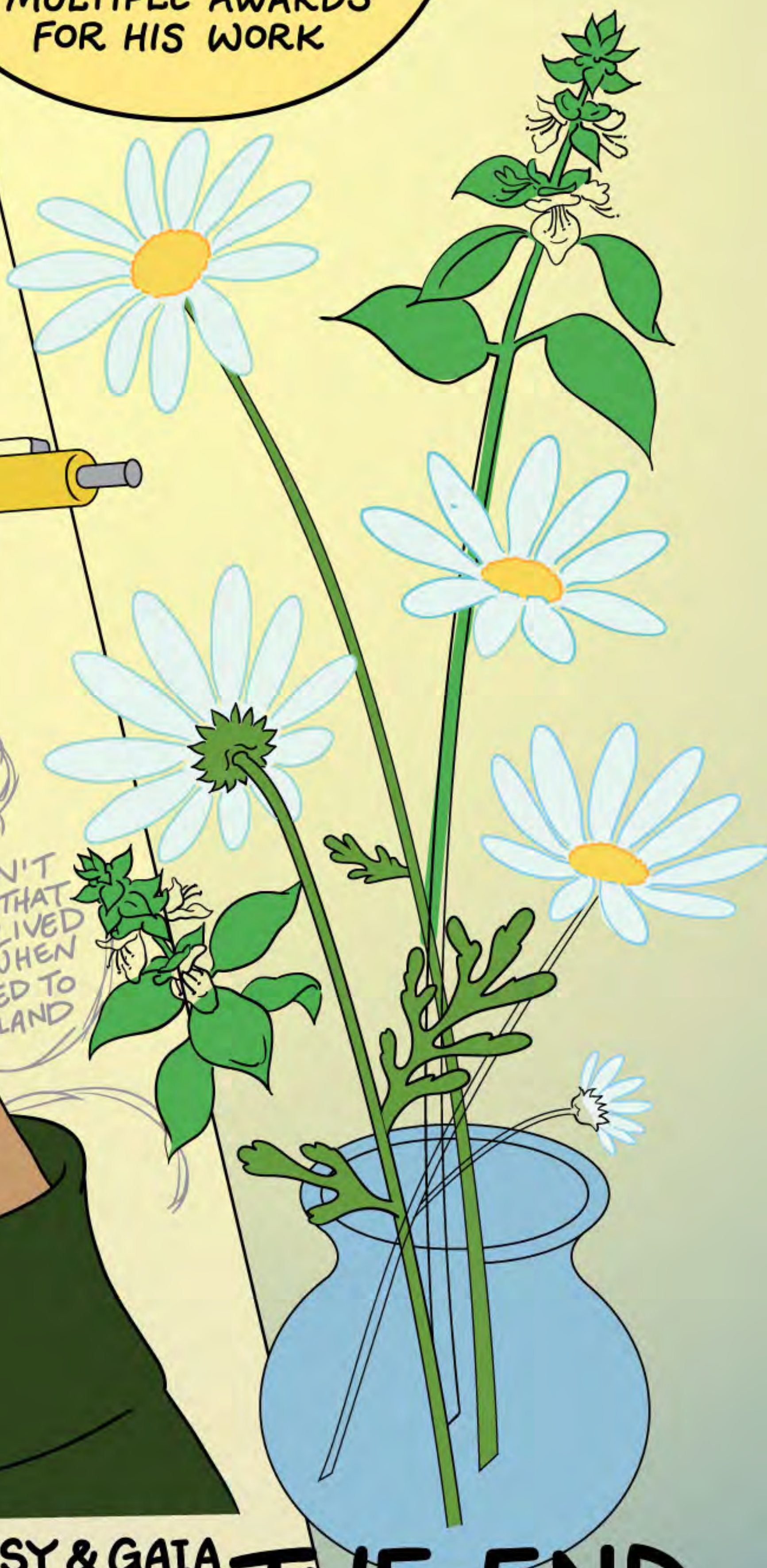
EVEN THOUGH I ONLY HAVE FRAGMENTS

I KEEP THE MEMORY OF MY ANCESTORS ALIVE WITH MY ART

I HOPE I'M MAKING THEM PROUD



DIDN'T KNOW THAT DAISY LIVED HERE WHEN SHE MOVED TO OAKLAND



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THE END

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

HEY THERE!  
THANKS FOR  
READING! ♡

MY NAME IS  
GAIA WXYZ  
PRONOUNCED  
WIZE

I AM HONORED  
TO SHARE MY  
FAMILY STORY  
AND LOVE FOR  
SAN FRANCISCO

I'M A  
PROUD BLACK  
NON-BINARY  
PERSON

IF YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN  
SEEING MORE  
OF MY WORK  
USE THIS  
CODE

BEEN  
LIVING IN  
OAKLAND  
SINCE 2015

BIG THANK YOU  
TO MY MENTORS,  
SFPL HISTORICAL  
WING, MY FAMILY  
(BIO & CHOSEN)  
AND SFAC!

I'VE BEEN  
MAKING ART  
AND COMICS  
FOR 20 YEARS

STAY TUNED  
FOR MY UPCOMING  
COMIC SERIES  
SUPACLUSTA

I ALSO  
MAKE  
MUSIC!



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