

# Voyages

*A Collection of  
Sequential Visual Stories*



Edited by Danièle Archambault

# Voyages

A collection of stories by the students  
of the Visual Storytelling class  
*Writing and Publishing a Graphic Novel.*  
Palo Alto Art Center, Winter 2016

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*Voyages* is a collection of sequential visual stories created by the students of the 2016 Visual Storytelling class, “Writing and Publishing a Graphic Novel,” at the Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, California.

For a few years now, I have been teaching various graphic novel and illustration classes at the Palo Alto Art Center. The classes are a success! Students enjoy learning the basics of different forms of visual storytelling and creating their own story. However, I wanted to offer students the possibility of going one step further to discover the excitement of not only writing but also publishing a graphic novel. For the winter 2016 session, I designed a new class: “Writing and Publishing a Graphic Novel: A Grand Voyage.”

The project was ambitious. Over the course of a ten-week evening class, each student had to develop a five-page story in the visual narrative style of their choice: comics, memoirs, travel diaries, children stories, science-fiction epics, superhero adventures, etc. The common theme “Voyage” could be taken literally or figuratively.

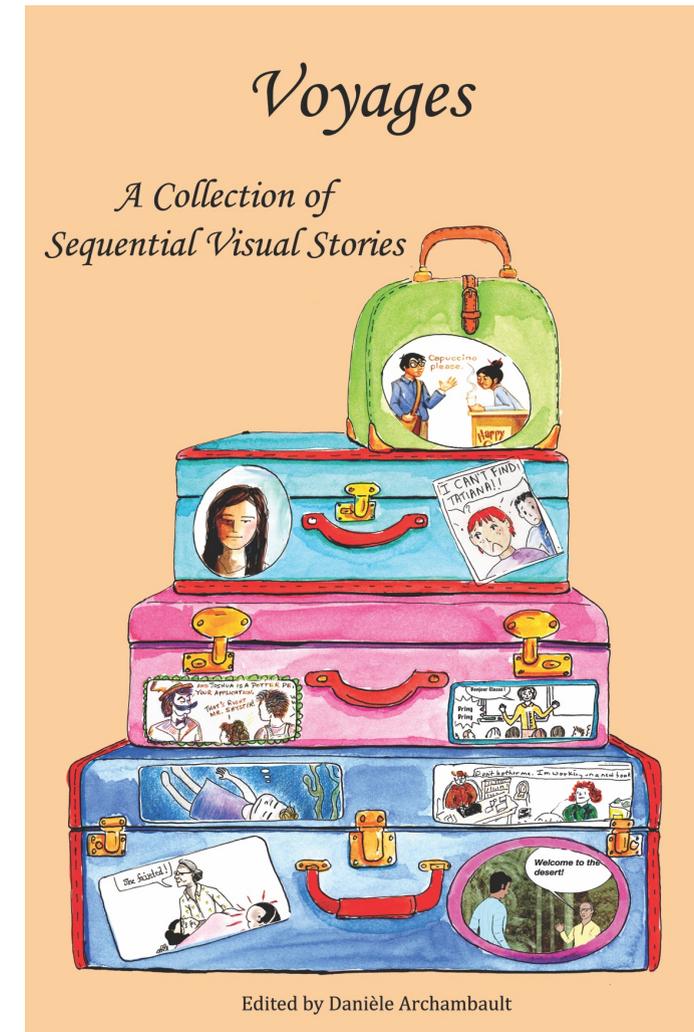
A series of exercises introduced the students to the fundamentals of visual storytelling such as storyboarding, thumbnailing, character design, picture composition, camera angles and shots, page layouts, etc. While many students preferred traditional techniques, such as pencil, black ink and watercolor on paper, others chose to work with digital tools. Finally, the class participants learned to organize the collection of individual stories into a cohesive digital graphic novel. Topics included book layout, cover design, title page, preface, barcodes and ISBN numbers, copyrights, etc.

The final collective graphic novel includes eight complete stories. Two of the students had their stories accepted for publication in professional magazines before the end of class and therefore were not allowed to include them in this class project. Although we are sorry not to be able to show their work in this collective book, we are all thrilled for them!

Each of the stories in the book is preceded by the student's self-portrait and artist statement. Some of the class participants were total beginners with no experience at all in storytelling or in art. Others were professional illustrators and children book writers. All the pieces are wonderful! They range from touching personal stories to complete work of fiction, which is also the way we decided to present them in this book. We also thought it might be interesting to add, following the series of stories, a section including some of the students' thumbnails and preliminary work.

*Voyages* is available as a pdf, an ePub, an iBook and as a video. You can download all these versions, free of charge, by scanning this QR code or going directly to this webpage. The book was designed with a simple and convenient iPad app: "Book Creator" by Red Jumper [www.redjumper.net/](http://www.redjumper.net/)

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Enjoy this wonderful voyage!

To download **Voyages** :

<http://danielebd.com/voyages-a-collective-digital-graphic-novel>



# Stories

## Figuring it out



Roja Bandari

## Before I Was

Joni Gupta



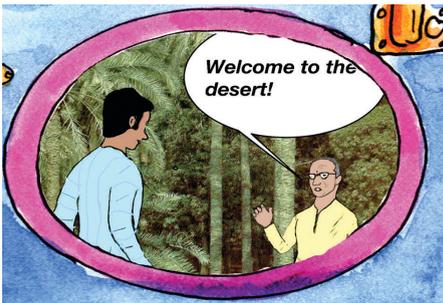
## Mr. Silly Socks

Kristin Abbott



## Getting to Stanford

Sean Bandarkar



## A lesson with iPad

Anne Dumontier



## Uproar Up North

Judy Weiler



## Bamboozled

Angela Young



## The Runaway Tortoise

Janet Lipkin Bein



## Fleeing from God. Jonah's Voyage

Paloma Liu



# Before I Was

Joni Gupta



I'd heard bits about the story of when my mother was pregnant with me. As a child, I filled in the missing pieces with my own ideas of how it all happened. It never occurred to me to ask my mother directly. When I heard the theme of our project was voyage, I knew I wanted to explore my initial voyage within my mother.

I was a bit hesitant to ask my mother to tell me the story. I was afraid she might not want to talk about it or might not remember the details. How could I write my own story without some reference to her experience? I certainly didn't have memories from that time. And all my information came to me in the form of overhearing adults talk as a young child.

So I called my mom, and what follows is my interpretation of the story she told me.

# Before I Was

## September 1973

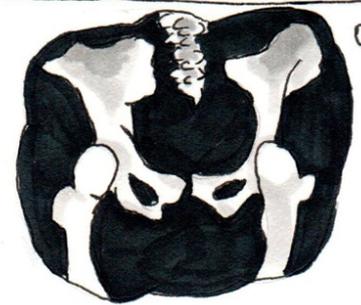


My mom at age 24, five months after giving birth to her first child.

What about the health of the baby after all that happened?



A lot happened the previous month ...



x-ray

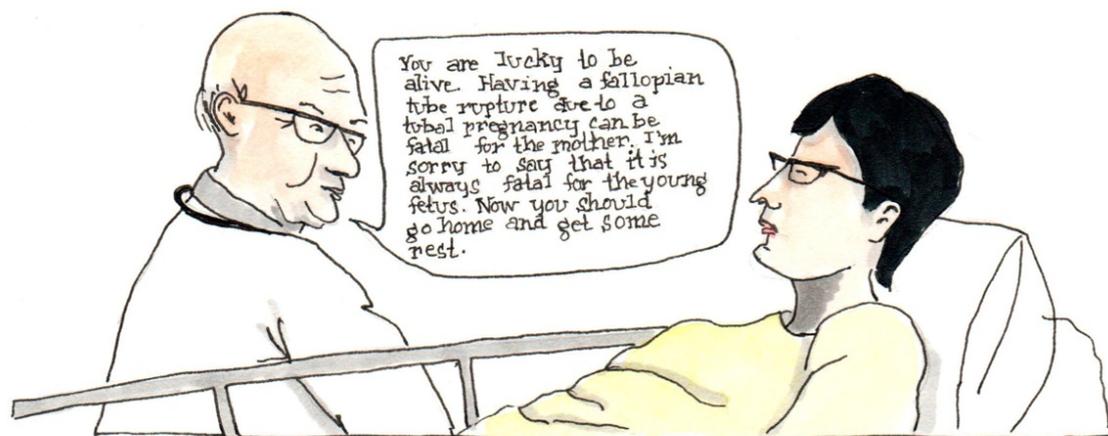
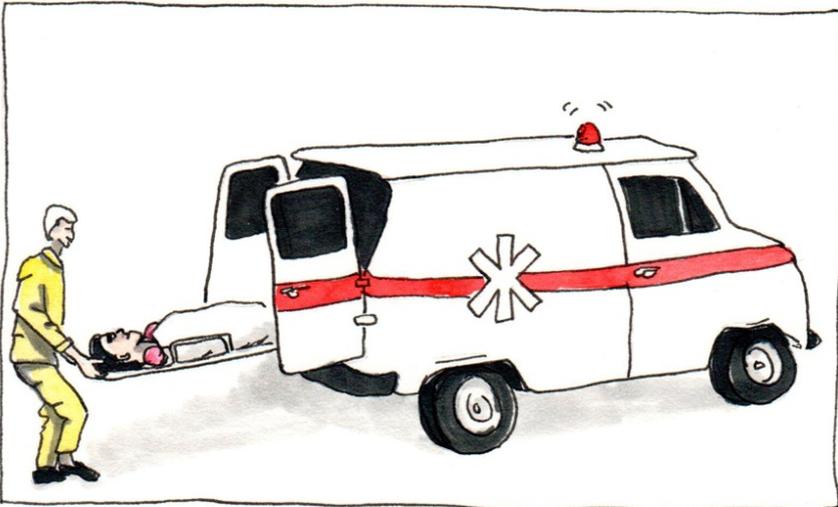


anesthesia

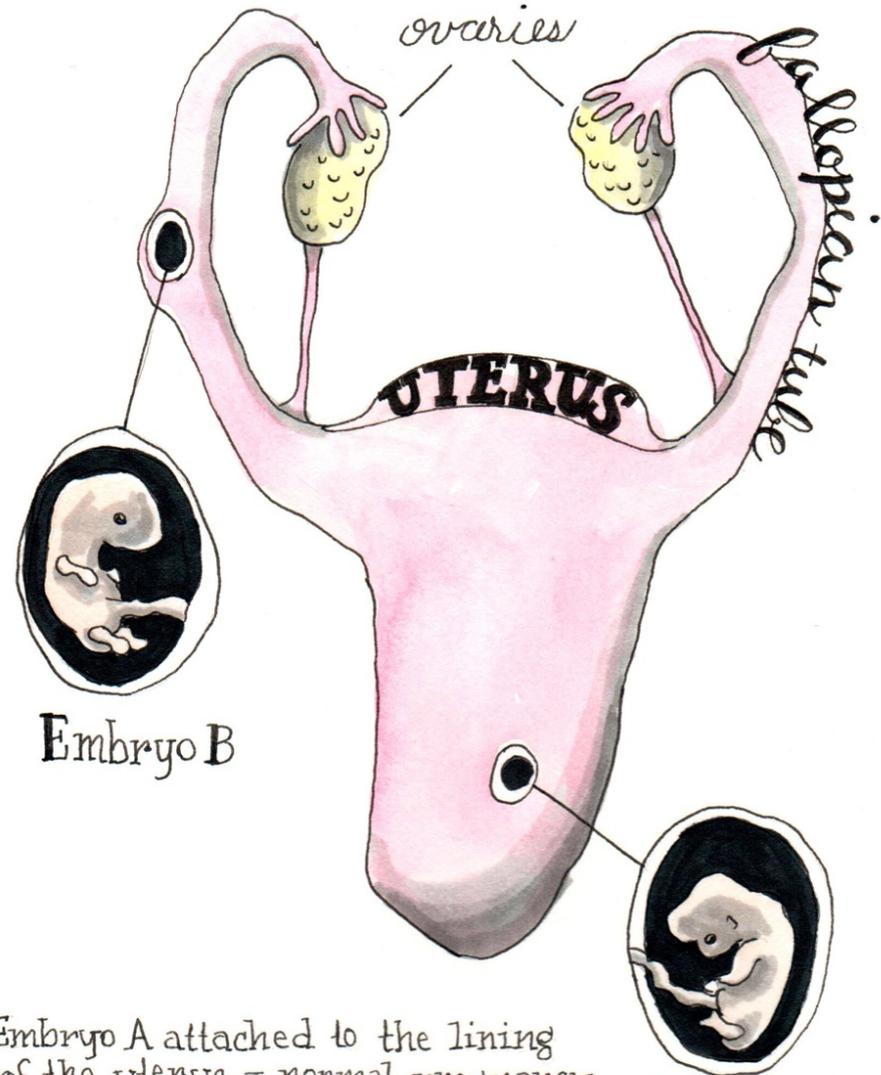
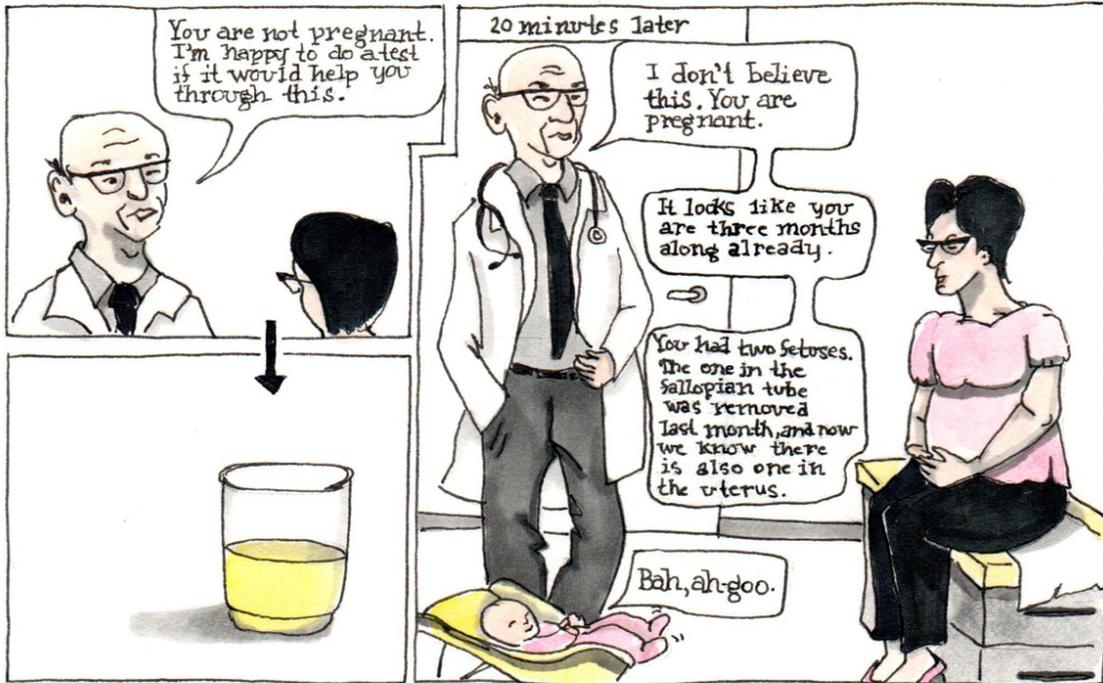


surgery

# AUGUST 1973



A month after leaving the hospital



Embryo A attached to the lining of the uterus. = normal pregnancy

Embryo B remained in the fallopian tube. = tubal pregnancy

Rarely these two pregnancies happen simultaneously. = heterotopic pregnancy

Embryo A (me)

# Getting to Stanford

by Sean Bandarkar



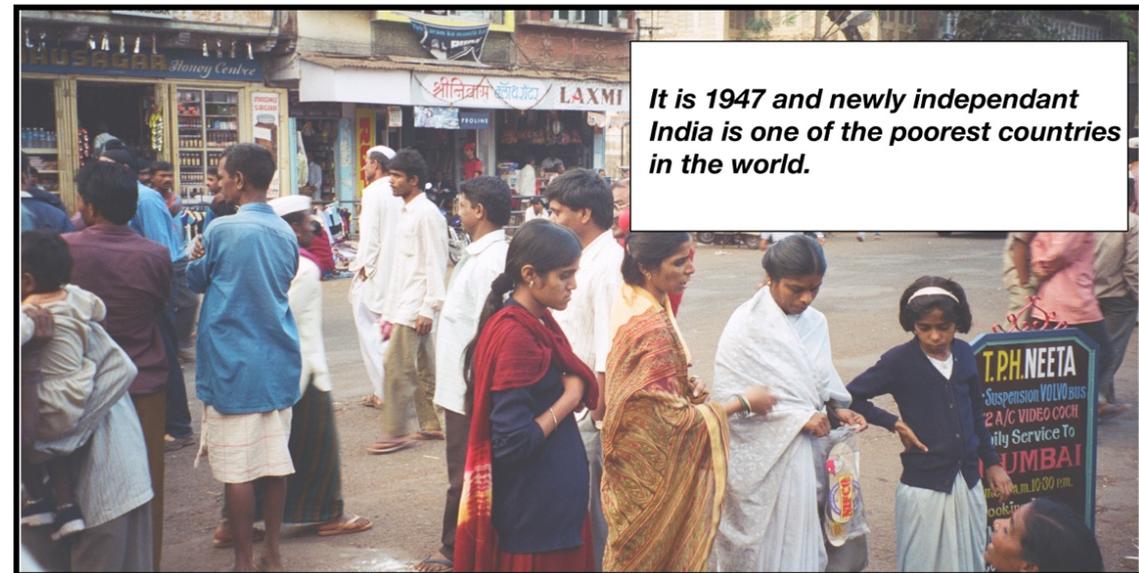
I have lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 30 years and have worked at computer companies like Oracle, Hewlett-Packard and Fair, Isaac. I have a wife and two teen-aged children.

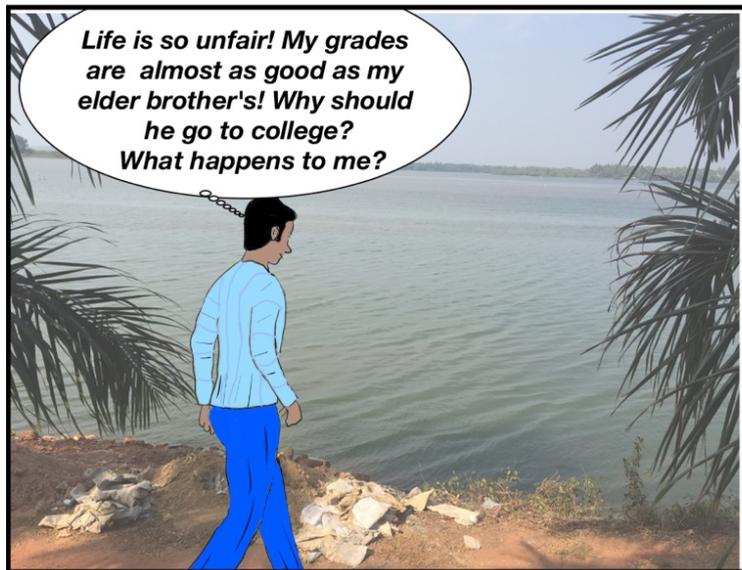
I chose this class because graphic novels seemed an ideal way to indulge my interests in writing and art - while allowing me to catalog family stories for my children in a fun package. I was afraid that even a minimal level of art would prove intractable or consume too much time. Technology, the instructor and other members of the class came to the rescue!

Getting admitted to and then successfully graduating from top universities like Stanford is coveted but always difficult. It's an especially daunting challenge for the families of first-generation college goers. In my story, the protagonist undertakes both a literal odyssey and a metaphorical life journey to indirectly achieve a personal ambition.

Los Altos, CA  
March 2016

Digital art





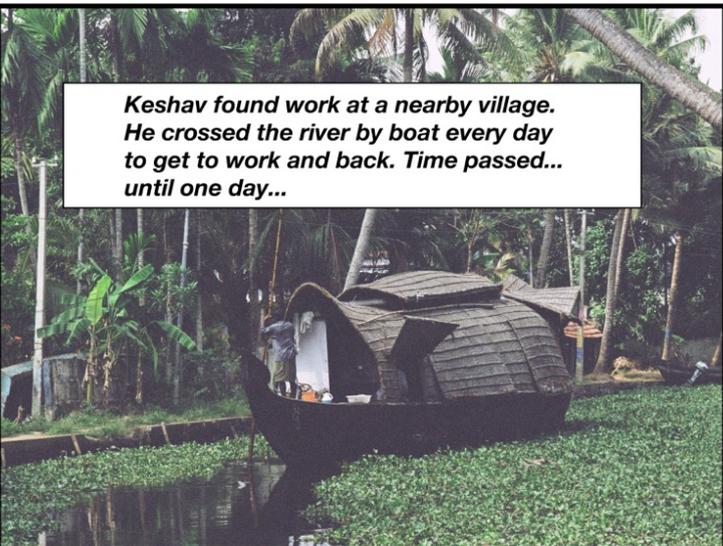
Life is so unfair! My grades are almost as good as my elder brother's! Why should he go to college? What happens to me?



I have no choice but to do my duty to my father and my family.



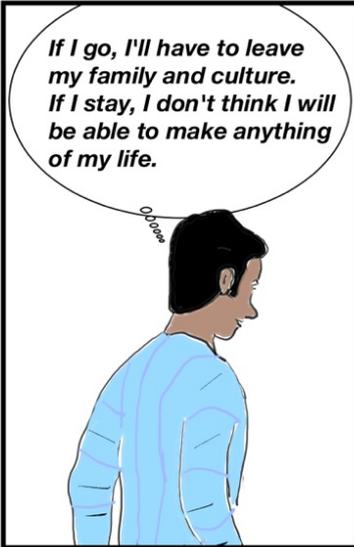
I will look for work. May be in a bank as a clerk... Like my father.



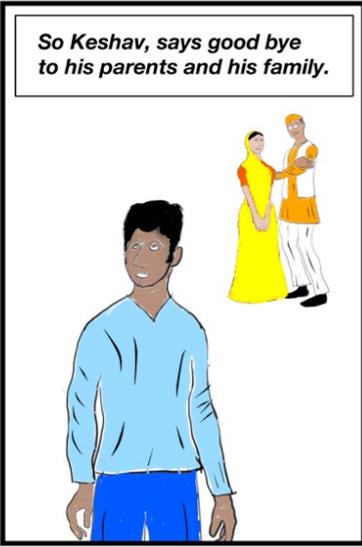
Keshav found work at a nearby village. He crossed the river by boat every day to get to work and back. Time passed... until one day...



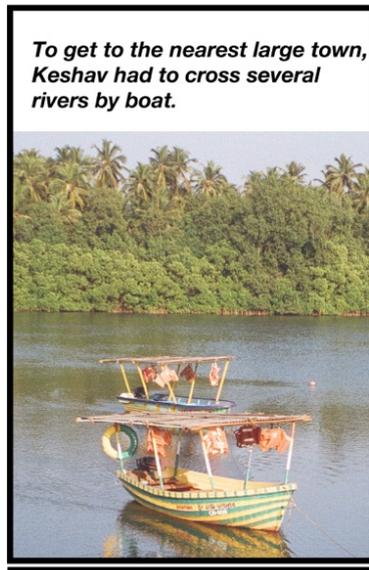
Your cousin in Bahrain writes that there may be a job for Keshav there.



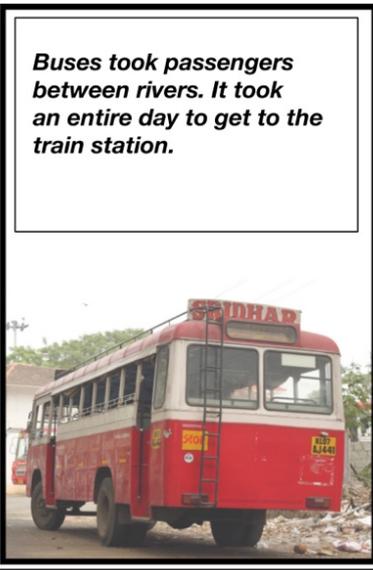
If I go, I'll have to leave my family and culture. If I stay, I don't think I will be able to make anything of my life.



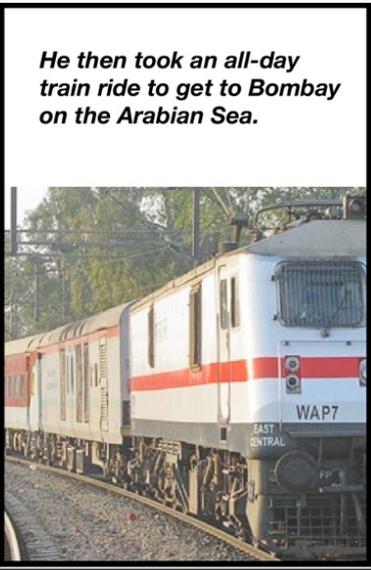
So Keshav, says good bye to his parents and his family.



To get to the nearest large town, Keshav had to cross several rivers by boat.



Buses took passengers between rivers. It took an entire day to get to the train station.

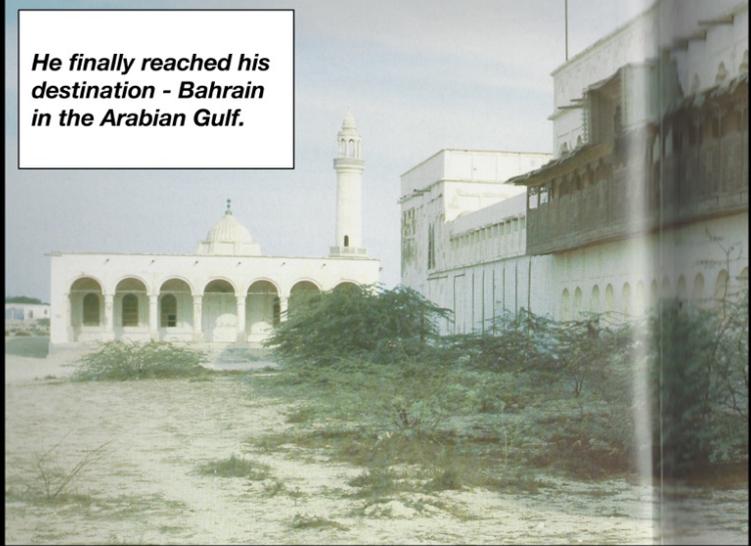


He then took an all-day train ride to get to Bombay on the Arabian Sea.



Next, a 2-week boat trip across the Arabian Sea!

I am so sick!



He finally reached his destination - Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf.



Welcome to the desert!



Is this village bumpkin going to survive so far from home?

In the beginning, Keshav found English and many other things difficult.

I can't hear anything!

Try turning the phone around!



But soon they discovered that Keshav was good with numbers.

Year	Rate	Interest	Tax	Scheduled Deposits
1	4.00%	428.3	42.8	10000
2	4.00%	566.4	56.6	3,000.0
3	4.00%	709.7	71.0	3,000.0
4	4.00%	858.2	85.8	3,000.0
5	4.00%	1,012.1	101.2	3,000.0
6	4.00%	1,171.7	117.2	3,000.0
7	4.00%	1,337.2	133.7	3,000.0
8	4.00%	1,508.7	150.9	3,000.0
9	4.00%	1,686.5	168.7	3,000.0
10	4.00%	1,870.9	187.1	3,000.0
11	4.00%	2,062.0	206.2	3,000.0
12	4.00%	2,260.2	226.0	3,000.0
13	4.00%	2,465.5	246.6	3,000.0
14	4.00%	2,678.6	267.9	3,000.0
15	4.00%	2,899.4	289.9	3,000.0
16	4.00%	3,128.3	312.8	3,000.0
17	4.00%	3,365.7	336.6	3,000.0
18	4.00%	3,611.7	361.2	3,000.0
19	4.00%	3,866.8	386.7	3,000.0
20	4.00%	4,131.2	413.1	3,000.0
21	4.00%	4,405.4	440.5	3,000.0
22	4.00%	4,689.6	469.0	3,000.0
23	4.00%	4,984.3	498.4	3,000.0
24	4.00%	5,289.7	529.0	3,000.0

He worked very hard and studied like crazy. He became an expert in currencies.



BBC News

Financial Times



Economist magazine

As the years go by, OPEC is created and Bahrain prospers - and so does Keshav.



I like my new office.

He readies himself for another trip - very different from his initial journey to Bahrain, over thirty-five years ago.



A twenty hour flight! It's a little easier in business class though.

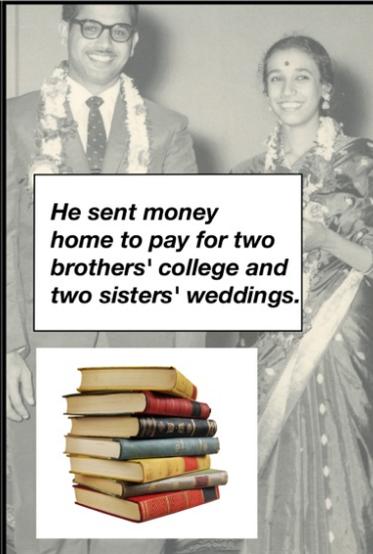
He lived simply and saved as much money as possible.

Keshav, you need new clothes.

Maybe in 2 months.



He sent money home to pay for two brothers' college and two sisters' weddings.



Until one day...

I can now afford a family of my own.



Keshav attends the ceremony as his son graduates from Stanford University. He has been thinking about this his entire life.

Congratulations, on your achievement!



He is moved beyond words... He has never forgotten the initial talk with his father.



Keshav had an arranged marriage and they had two children.



But the family is soon split...the kids are sent away to school.

Boarding schools are expensive but the local schools are not good enough.

How can I live so far away from my children?



The family's path is now changed for ever. My life's journey may now be complete.



He feels he is able to really relax for the first time in his life. Maybe even take a real vacation!

Was the sea always this blue?





# UPROAR UP NORTH

by  
Judy Weiler

I grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula when the place was thriving, before our copper and iron mines shut down. Michigan has an early mining history. 4000 year old copper pits are scattered along the shores of Lake Superior and on Isle Royale. These early miners dug a hole, lit a fire, threw cold water on it, then blasted it with rocks. Scientists are amazed that they dug up and hauled away 50 million tons of copper. No one knows who they were or why they quit coming. Jesuits in the 1600s discovered the pits, drawn by the hunks of copper tossed around that the glaciers dragged down from Canada.

My story is about a professor who finds an 1847 survey map and journal describing the copper pit and contents. He is determined to find the mine, rescue the tools and write a book. His daughter thinks he should move into a retirement home. The professor escapes, goes back to the UP, so the locals help him. This "Voyage" is a quest, with lots of driving around and exploring a new town.

Ink and brush pens.

## The House

Sunday



Stella makes a weekly visit to her father's house.



Piles of dirty dishes and pans cover sink, stove, counters and table.

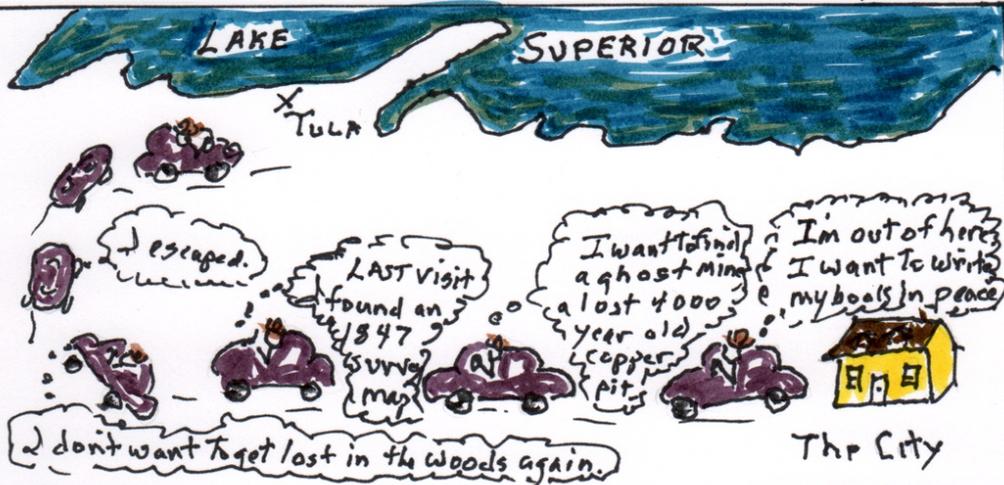


One day, Gerta, the cleaning lady arrives. She gets right to work.

The Drive

Tuesday

2



The Professor leaves the city and drives up north to Tula Town.



Tula is an old mining town, a sagging mix of wood, granite and brick bldg.

HDWE

WEDNESDAY



Locals welcome the Professor back to town.

LUNCH

WEDNESDAY



HDWE man and Professor eat pastries at the coffee shop.

DINNER

THURSDAY



The Professor goes out to dinner at the Pizza Palace

MORNING HDWE

FRIDAY



Stella, the professor's daughter arrives in Tula.



Stella drags her father back to the city.



Stella takes her dad to a retirement home.



The Professor drives up north to TULA TOWN. All shall be...



The Professor sneaks out the back door of the HDWE, runs to pizza.



Stella comes inside.





## The Runaway Tortoise

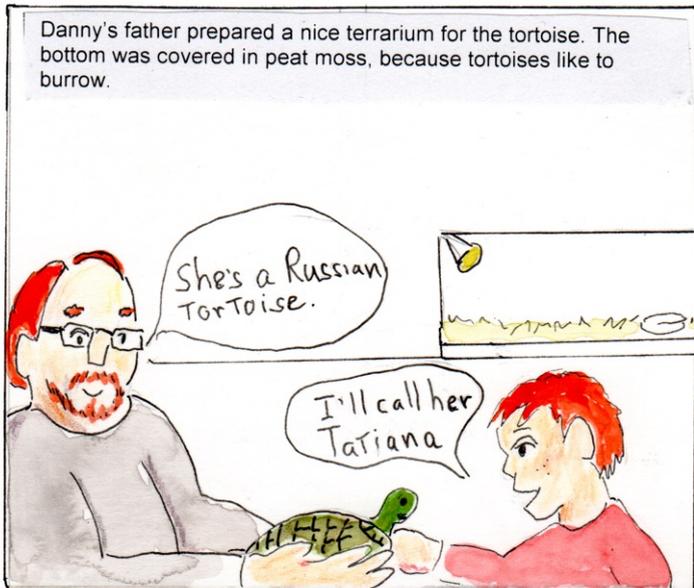
Janet Lipkin Bein

I spent most of my working life as a technical writer, because I came to live in Silicon Valley just as the personal computer industry was bursting forth. But I have a liberal arts background and knew very little about computers until I moved to Palo Alto in 1984. I appreciate the fact that I was able to help support my family by learning enough about computer software to explain it to others. And I appreciate that computers make it possible for me to communicate with friends and family living in different parts of the world. However, my interest in computers and computer software is purely utilitarian. In my free time, I read and write stories. In fact, I've enjoyed writing stories and drawing pictures ever since I was a small child.

That's why I chose this class, Writing and Publishing a Graphic Novel. A friend told me that the class was a combination of writing and drawing. The class has been challenging. Sometimes it's frustrating that I cannot draw as well as I would wish. But it's also been a lot of fun. I chose this story, because it's based on a real incident that happened last year to my older grandson (who is now 7 1/2). I remember how deeply he was affected by the incident. The story is now part of our family lore. I changed some of the details, including the names. The story relates to the theme of "voyage" in a couple of ways. On the one hand, the Russian tortoise takes a voyage by running away. On the other hand, the escape of the tortoise pushes the family into a voyage of increasing togetherness. And that's what I like about the story.

Ink and watercolor.





Danny's parents and Danny searched and searched for Tatiana. They looked in the front yard, the back yard, and the side yards. But could not find Tatiana.



We'll keep looking every day.

Maybe we'll find her tomorrow.

My fault.



Danny's parents made time to play more with Danny and discovered they enjoyed it.



Danny and his father began to help his mother with cooking and other chores.



Danny started to look for information about turtle and tortoise behavior.



Danny's parents joined him.



So Danny's mother had more free time to play.



One day Danny hit a home run!

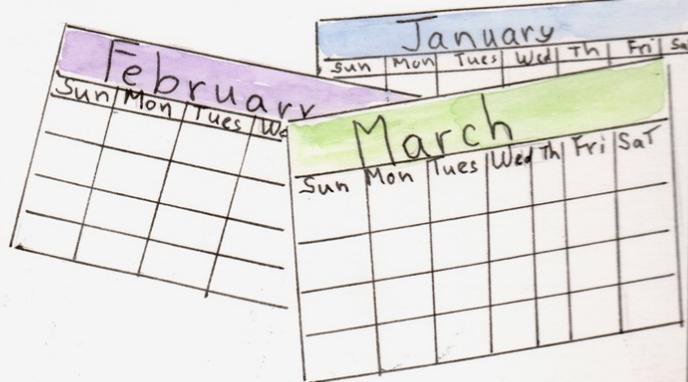


We'll keep the terrarium clean and ready

I miss her so much!



Months passed. But there was no sign of Tatiana.



MOM, DAD! COME SEE!



I think Tatiana is going to become a football fan.

She must have been hibernating

I'm just glad she's home again





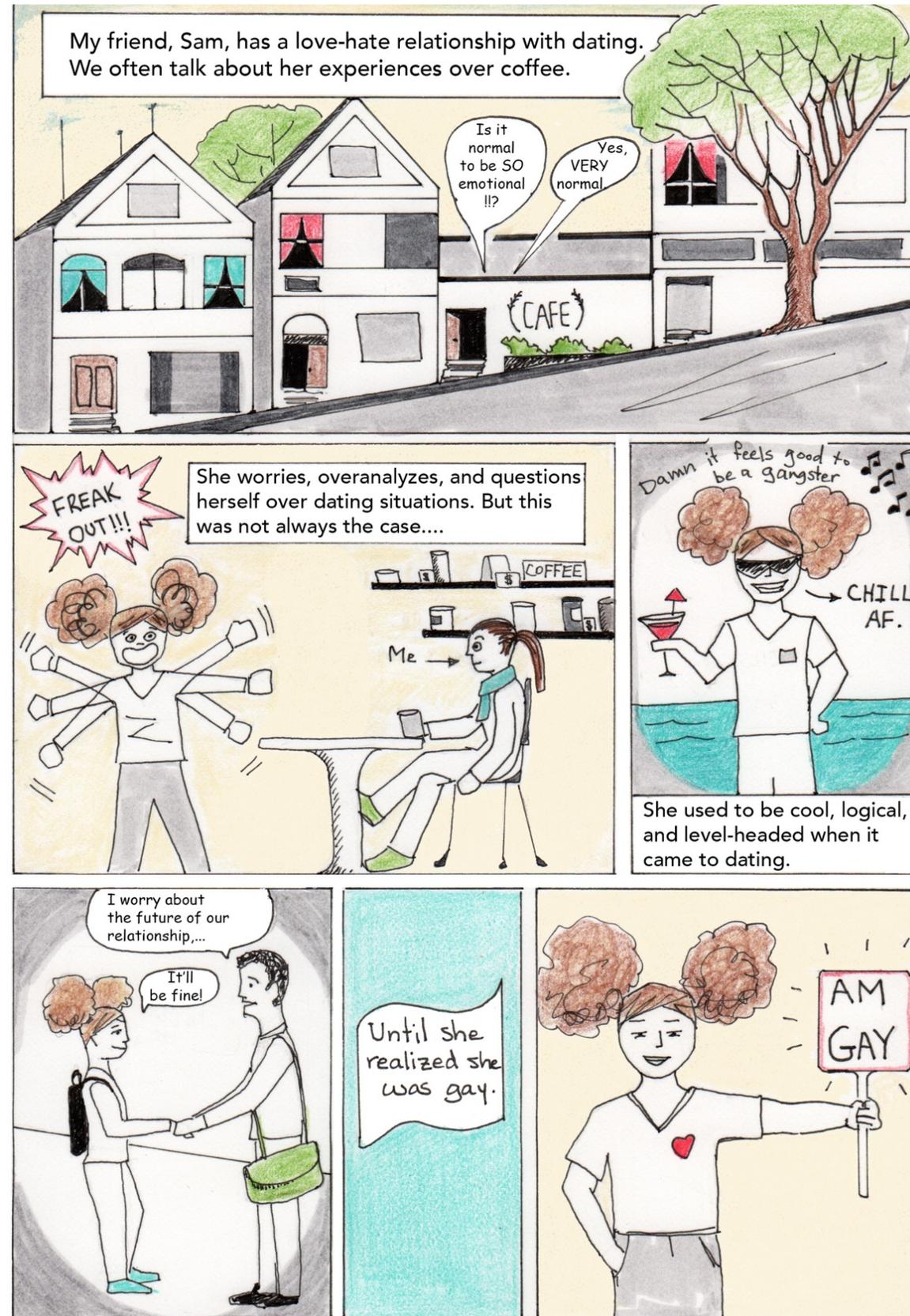
## Figuring It Out

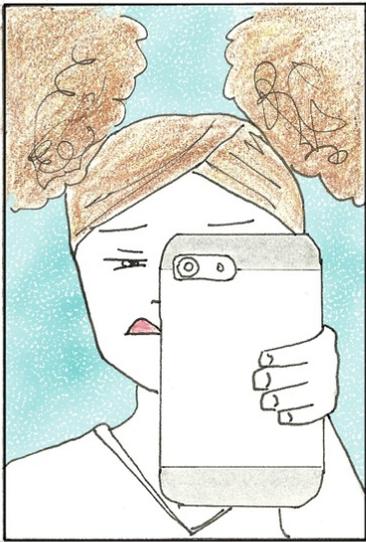
*Roja Bandari*

This is the true story of my friend's dating experience after coming out and starting to date women for the first time. It is a journey toward connection and love through a newly discovered identity. My friend had been dating men and was always drama-free when it came to dating but now she is finding herself to be emotional and vulnerable (which is basically what the rest of the people in the dating world have been experiencing all along). She is very funny and candid and shares her stories and questions with me. My role has been to let her know that it's all good; and that when it comes to love, nobody knows what the right answer is and everyone is making it up as they go.

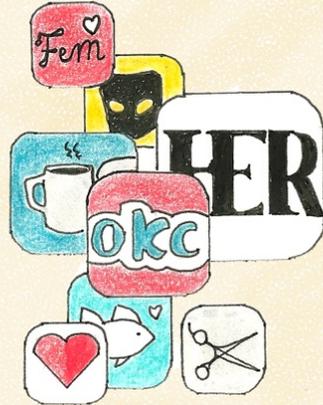
I was lucky to take Daniele's class and I learned a lot from her. She is a great teacher and a very caring person. Although I have been so busy that I don't think I will get to complete coloring this work, I am so glad that I was able to participate in her class.

Pencil and brush pens. <http://roja-bandari.tumblr.com/art>





She signed up for a bunch of dating apps.



She met someone!  
How is Tuesday?  
Tuesday is good!  
Great! See you then!



So it was back to dating apps...

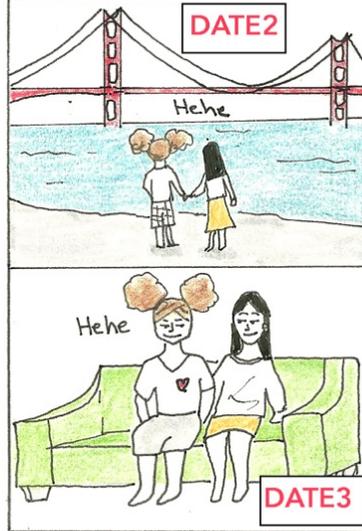


This time her date did not share her sense of humor

I can give you a ride  
As long as you don't kidnap me!



But things were awkward and Sam had many questions...

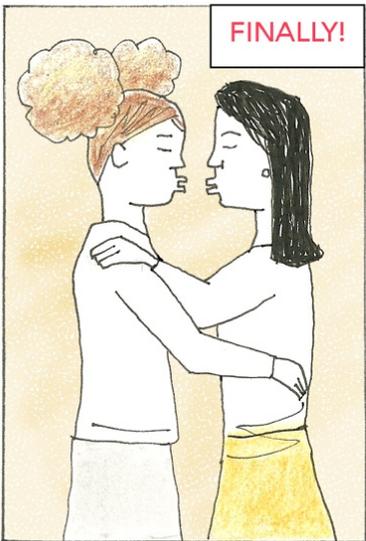


WOMEN ARE THE WORST!!!!

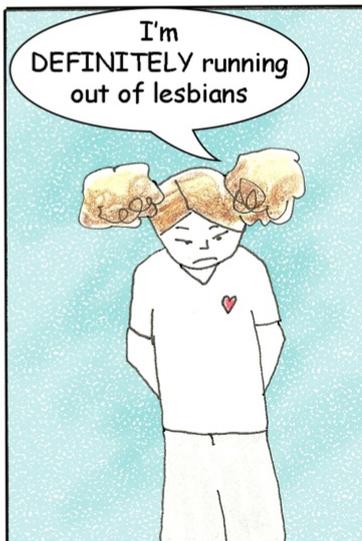
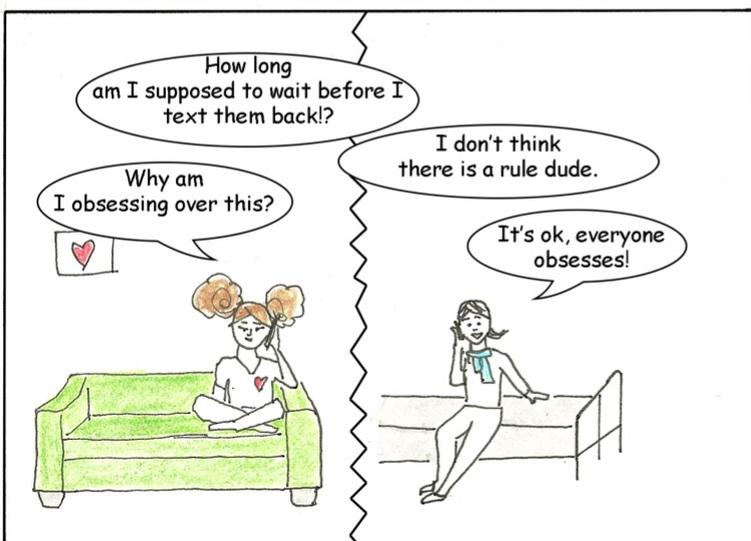
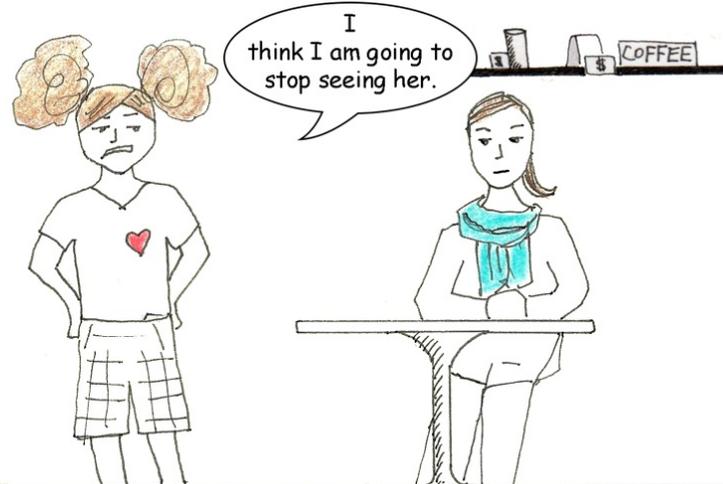


Still, she went on other dates,... with mixed success.

Hey, I like your photo, where is that?  
Let's grab a coffee some time?  
Yes I have but I'm getting my degree in math...  
I had a great time...  
I had a great time but let's just be friends...  
I am too busy right now.  
I needed to be my friend's roommate... Small world!  
Tuesday is good....



In the end, she wasn't really Sam's type.



Eventually Sam met someone different: Abbey, who was perfect, cool, and lovely.



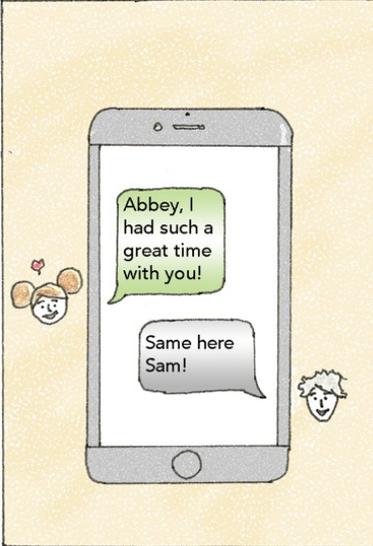
And Sam fell for Abbey hard,...



After a few dates, she just knew this was it.



Next day...



Oh my god Sam! Are you ok? You're soaked wet! Come in.

What is wrong with me? Why am I so emotional? I didn't even know her for that long. Why am I sad?

There is absolutely nothing wrong with you.

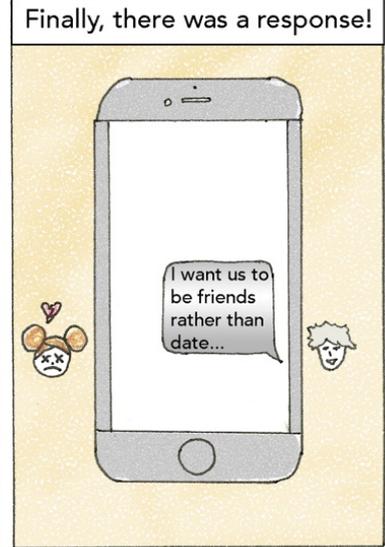
Next day...



And next day...



Finally, there was a response!



Love can be painful for all of us. You are going out with people you care about for the first time.



I guess pain is better than indifference.



NOT SO SURE



Maybe... Why don't I make you some hot tea now?

# Mr. Silly Socks

by Kristin Abbott



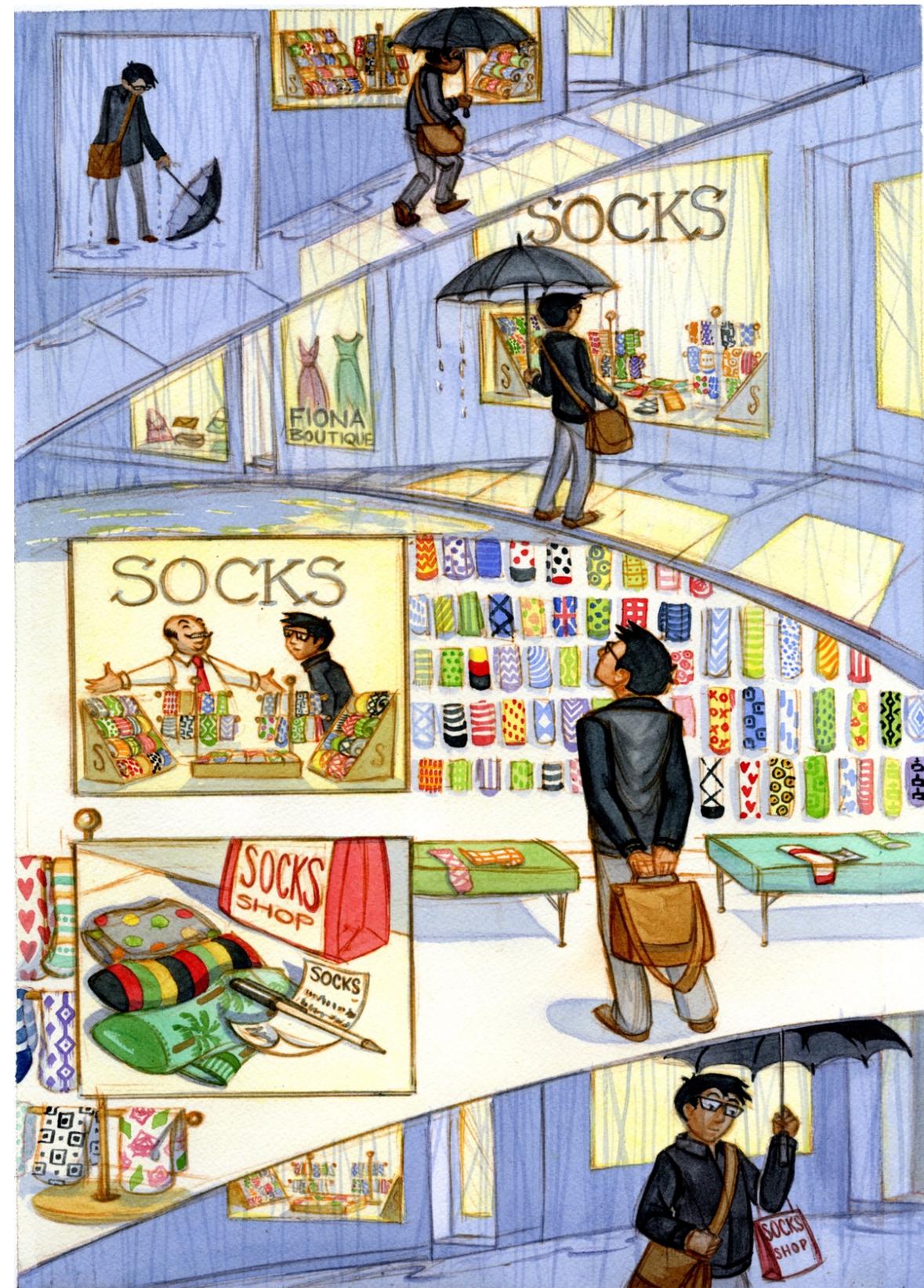
Working as an illustrator I have always I wanted to explore illustrating sequential art, but never found the time. Daniele's class was a good way to get some expert advice (Thank you Daniele.) and a way to hold myself accountable so that I really finish the whole project.

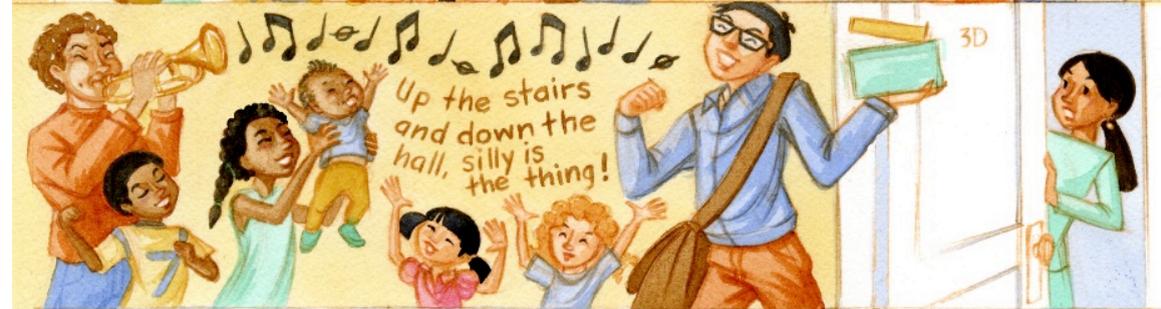
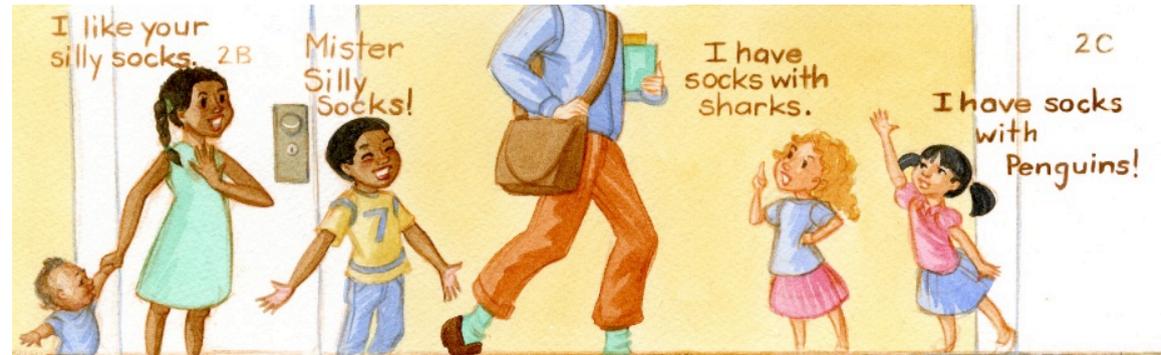
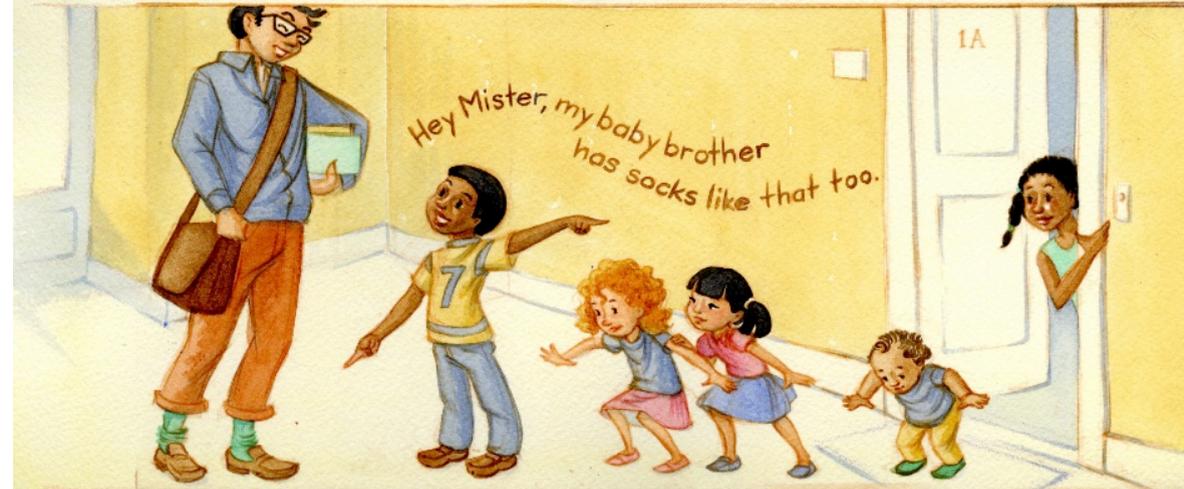
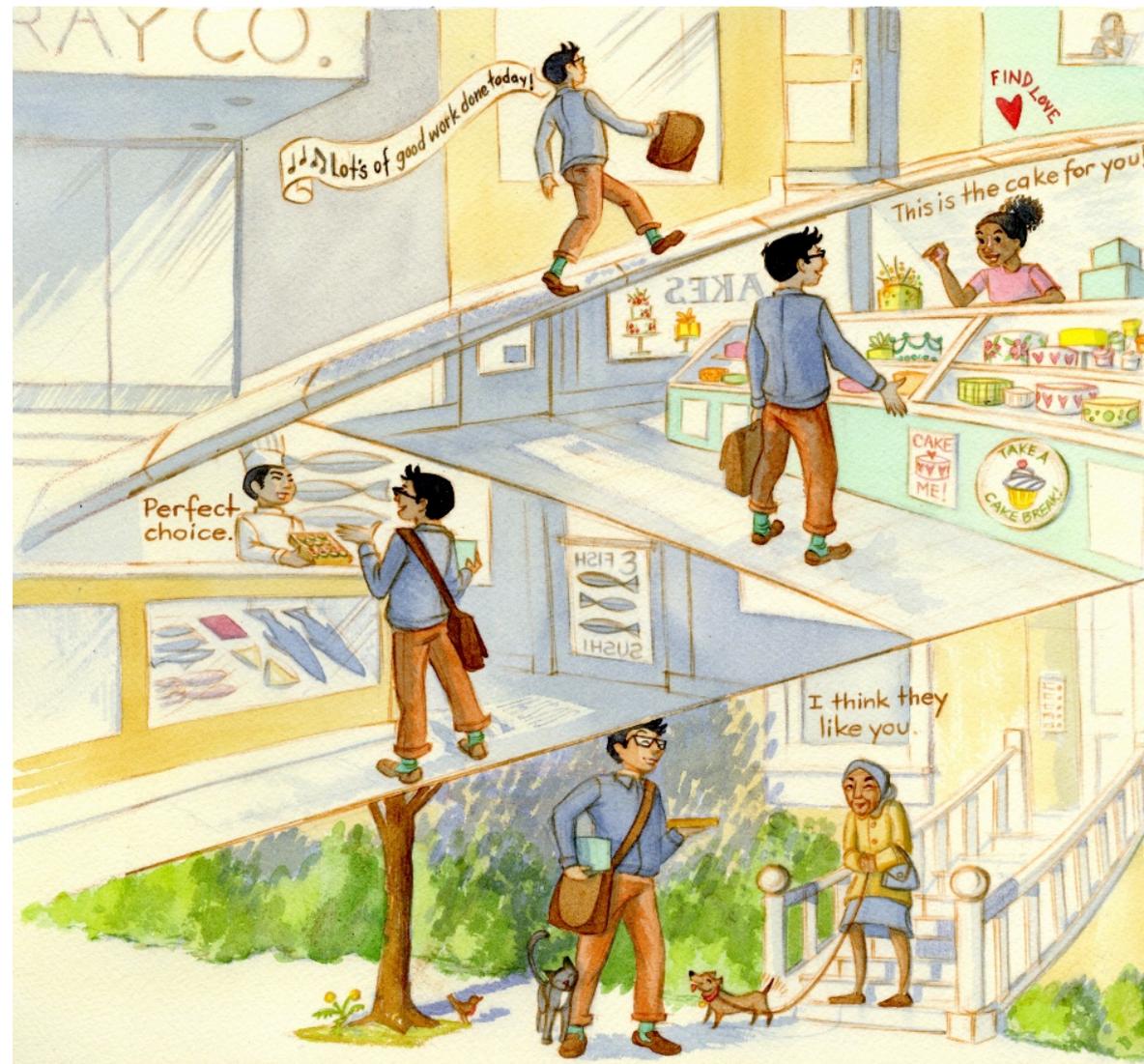
Sometimes a voyage can travel through emotion as well as space or time. I tried to create a very simple tale where a big emotional change happens in an otherwise ordinary sort of life.

A small, insignificant thing, such as changing one's socks, triggers a big change in the outlook for my main character in this story, thus the title, "Mr. Silly Socks."

I dedicate this story to my husband, the original Mr. Silly Socks.









## A lesson with iPad

Anne Dumontier

I am a French native who moved to California 20 years ago. After working in the Tech industry for many years, as a computer science engineer, I recently changed career and became a French Teacher in a local public High School. I am also a tech instructor for teachers.

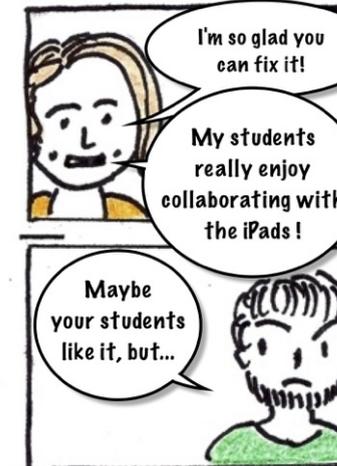
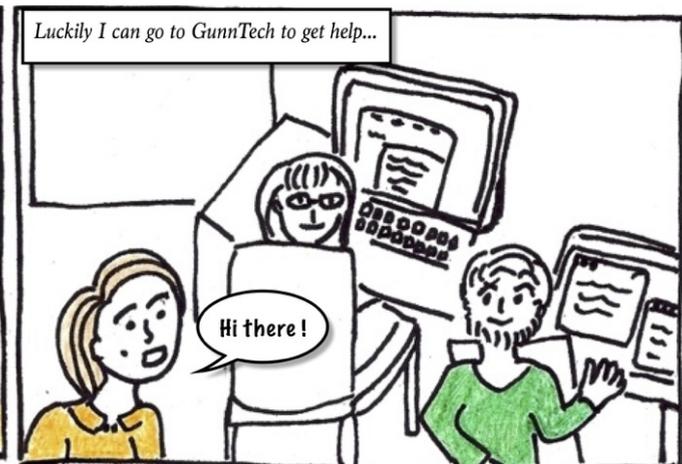
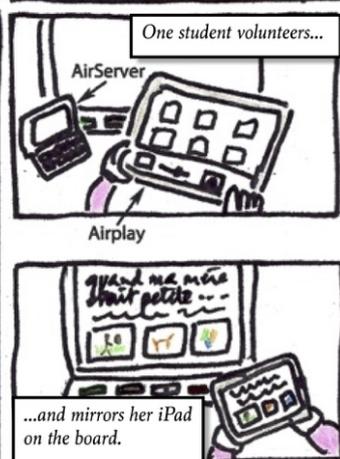
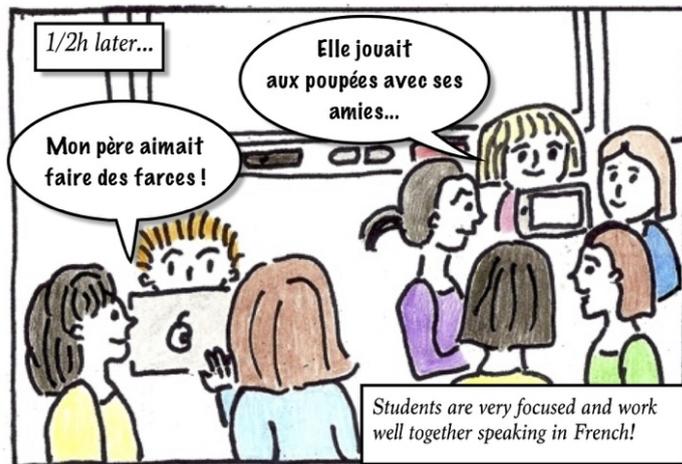
Comics are a big part of the French speaking culture. As a result, every year, I teach a unit on comics and make my students explore this sequential and visual art combined with the French language to tell a 3-act story. Danièle has been my mentor for these projects and we've been collaborating for more than 4 years.

For this spring workshop with Danièle at the Palo Alto Art Center, my husband - who is also interested in comics - and I decided to purchase Manga Studio and a Wacom tablet. These tools definitely open up a vast field of new and exciting possibilities to draw comics. But because we spent time learning how to use them, I couldn't finish my initial voyage story and had to switch to another project I had worked on before.

My story is a 3 page-comics. It is a true story that happened one day when I was experimenting with technology in my French class. Students were enthusiastic and very engaged in their learning using iPads and QR codes. But it turned out that I had a malicious student in the class. I used these pages to conclude with humor some of my tech workshops for teachers.

Ink and brush pens.







# **BAMBOOZLED**

**ANGELA YOUNG**

**ANGELA YOUNG IS AN ARTIST AND JOURNALIST WHO WORKED FOR CLIENTS ON PROJECTS FROM ALBUM COVERS TO MURALS. GOD HAS MADE HER A STORYTELLER AND SHE LOVES TO COMBINE IMAGERY AND WORDS, WHICH IS THE REASON WHY ANGELA TOOK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL CLASS. ALTHOUGH CREATING SEQUENTIAL ART IS SECOND NATURE TO YOUNG, SHE WORKS LONG HOURS ON HER PROJECTS.**

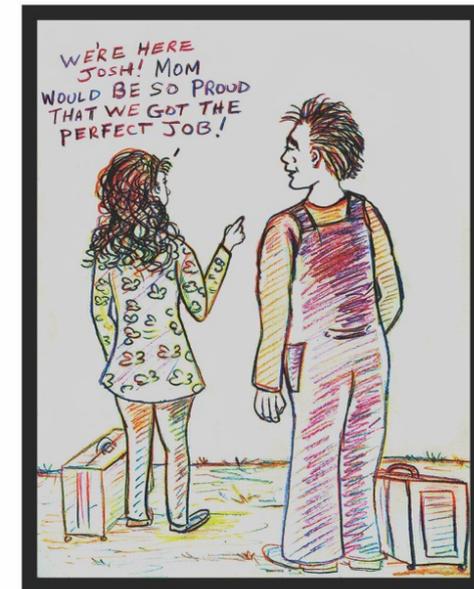
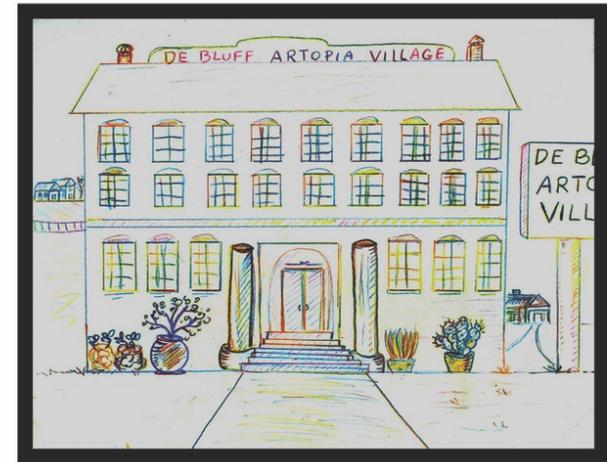
**BAMBOOZLED CAME FROM YOUNG'S DREAM SHE HAD YEARS AGO. IT STUCK WITH HER. YOUNG ENJOYS ACTION STORIES WHERE THE MAIN CHARACTER IS IN PERIL AND GOES THROUGH ALL KINDS OF CRAZY STUFF.**

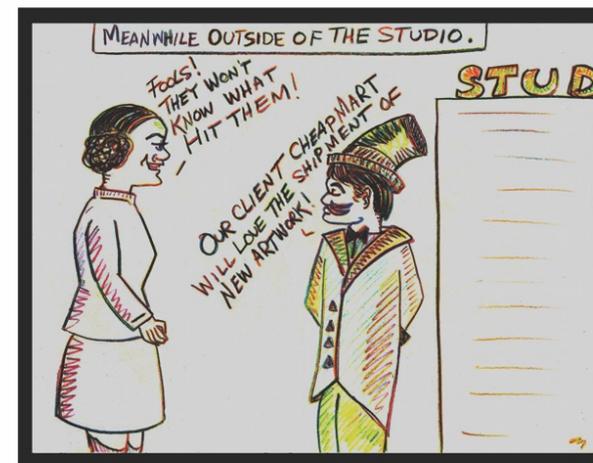
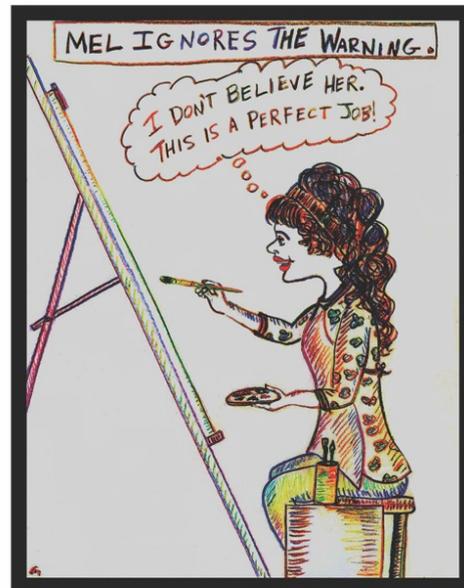
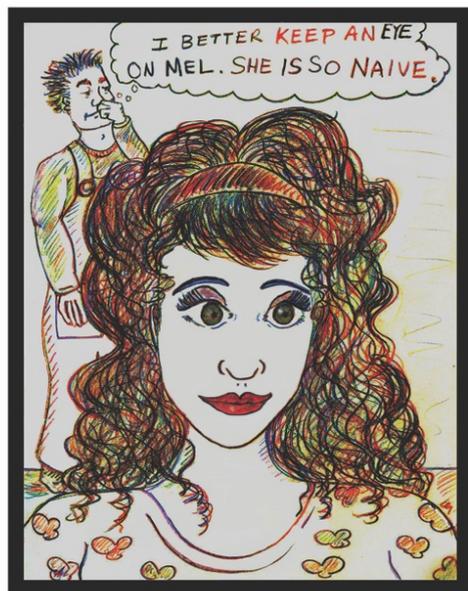
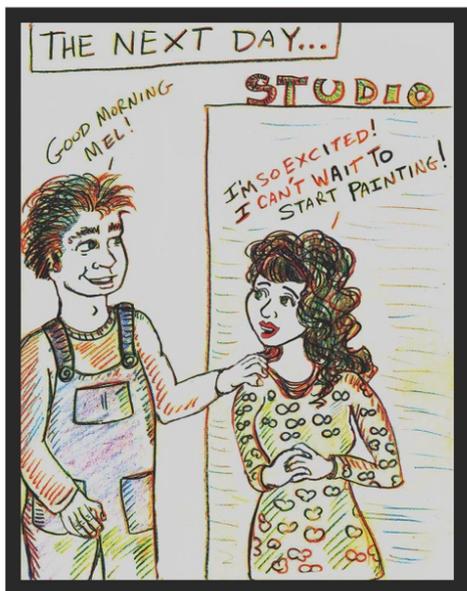
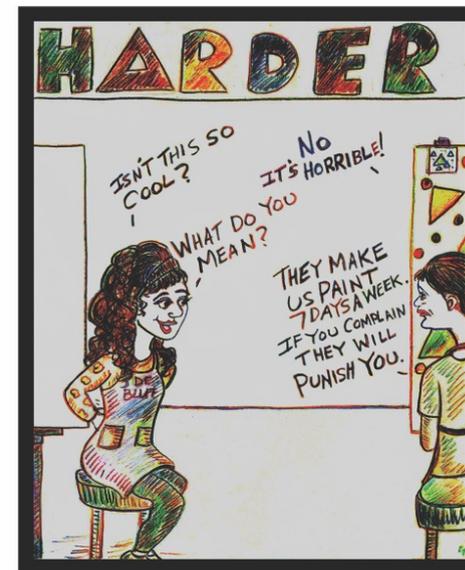
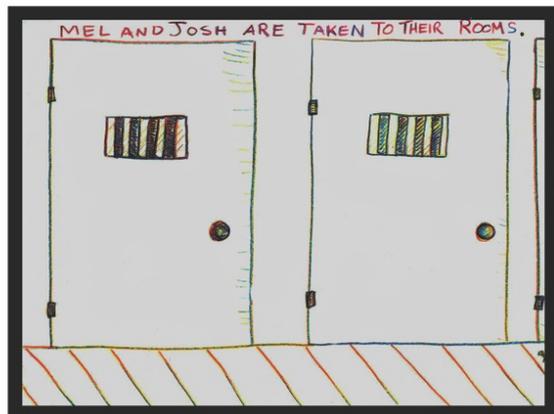
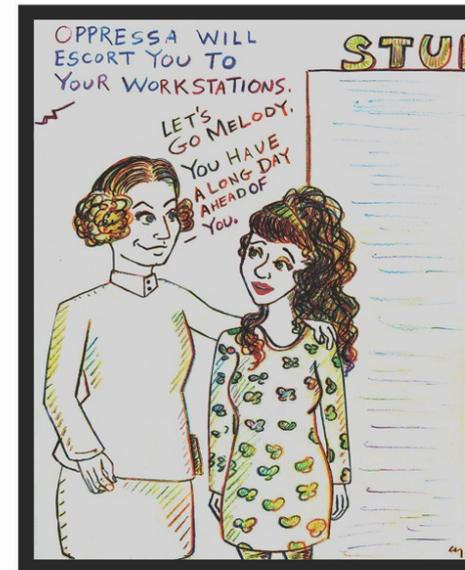
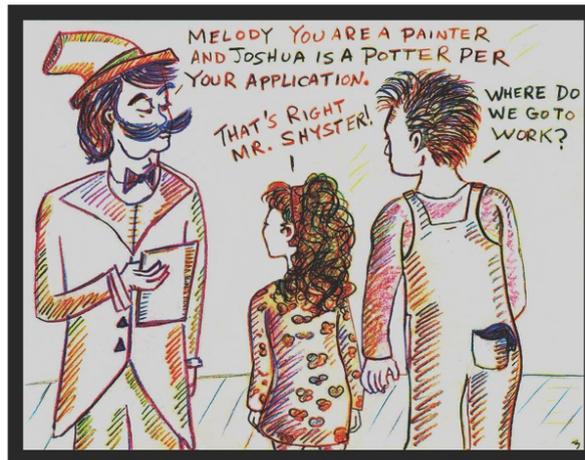
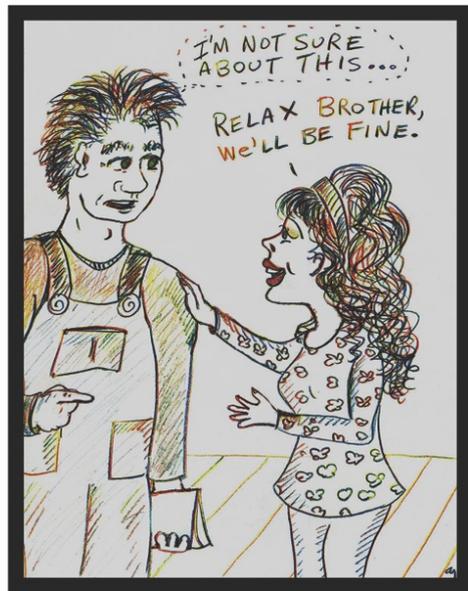
**IN THIS TALE, MELODY TAKES A VOYAGE FROM BEING NAÏVE WITH EYES WIDE SHUT TO SOMEONE WHO LEARNED NOT EVERYONE IS OUT FOR HER BEST INTEREST.**

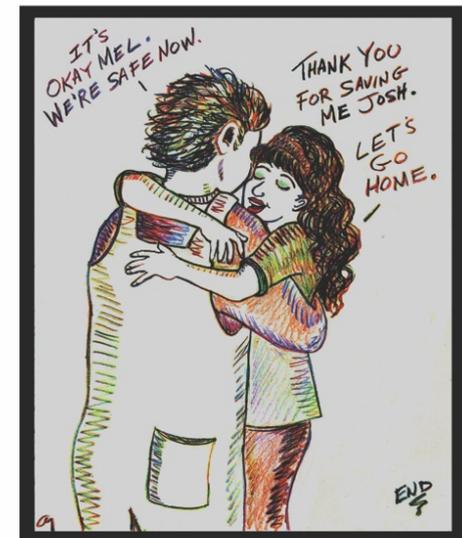
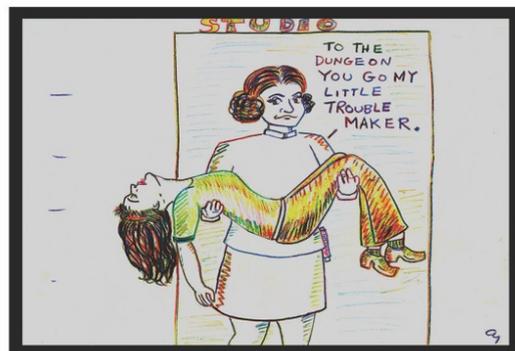
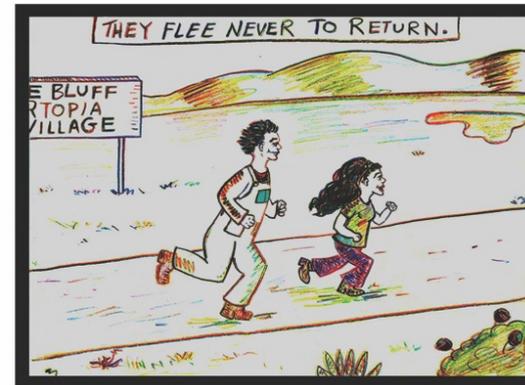
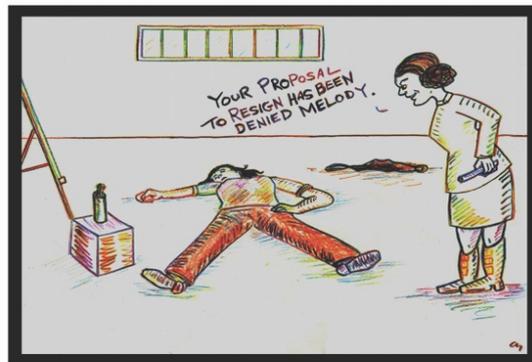
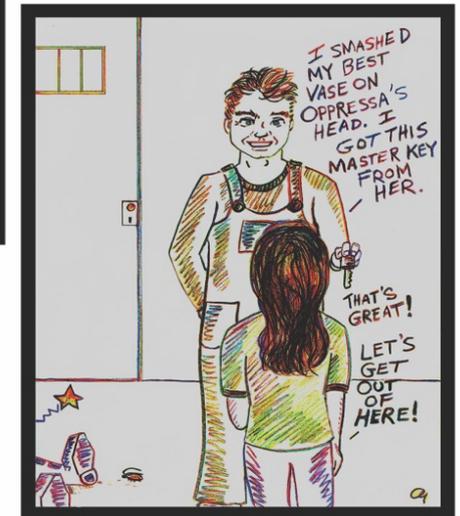
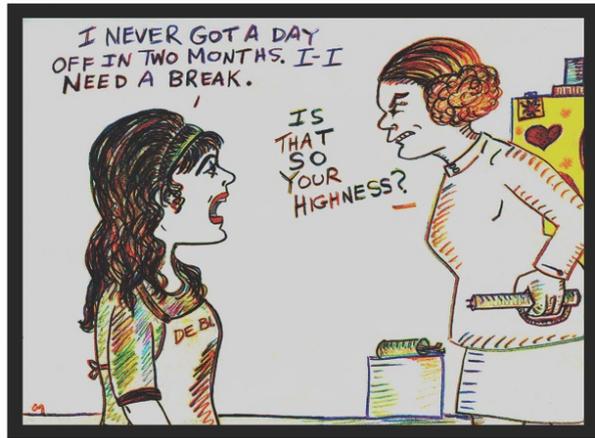
**THE STORY ISN'T PURELY FICTION, UNFORTUNATELY. EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE WHERE MANY INCLUDING KIDS ARE ENSLAVED IN SWEATSHOPS PRODUCING ART AND OTHER PRODUCTS FOR RETAIL CHAINS.**

**THIS STORY IS FOR THEM.**

Color pencils and digital art on paper. [www.angelayoungstudios.com](http://www.angelayoungstudios.com)









## Fleeing from God. Jonah's Voyage.

*Paloma Liu*

I'm Paloma Liu, born in China and came to the bay area in 2011 with my husband. During my first five years in the States, I couldn't work legally, so I figured I need to find something to make my life fulfilling. And that's how I get into this graphic novel hobby. Before I found Daniele's class, I already finished my first graphic novel project on "early church history". It took me almost three years. I did that all on my own. The journey was exciting, but also lonely .....until I found Daniele's class!

Since my "early church history" comic was more like children's book style, I expected this time I could do a real graphic novel with multiple panels on each page. I knew I need someone to push me and taking a class is good way to get that. But I have to admit, it's a little frightening to commit to finish a complete story in two months.

The reason I chose Jonah's story is simple. When Daniele introduced the theme "voyage", it's the first story that came to my mind. It is a literal voyage and a spiritual one as well. Speaking of the story, many people think the most dramatic part is Jonah's survival in the belly of a whale (or fish). That part is exciting, but it's not the part that touches me most. I consider Jonah's story more as a voyage of love, communication and relationship. It was a voyage in which Jonah gradually realized God's nature and the condition of his own heart. The voyage might painful, but the fruit was sweet. By the way, I believe it's a true story.

However, when I almost finish my project, I found a Chinese online magazine who wants to publish my work. So I can't publish my work anywhere else right now. But here's a panel from my story.



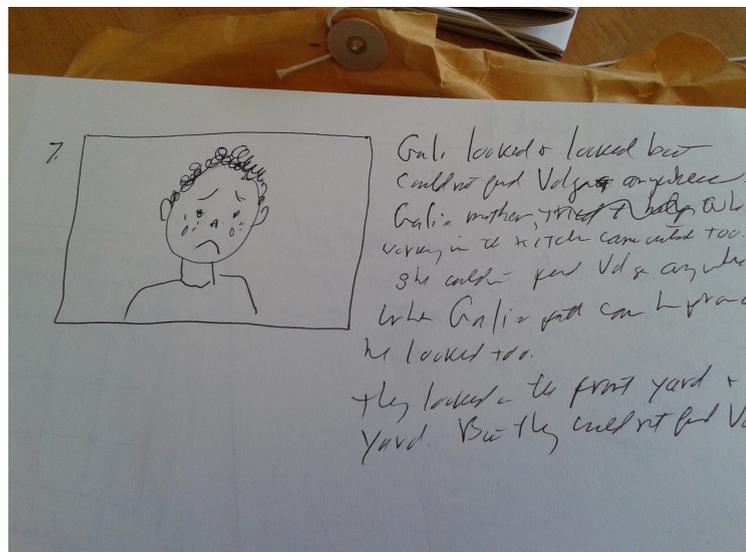
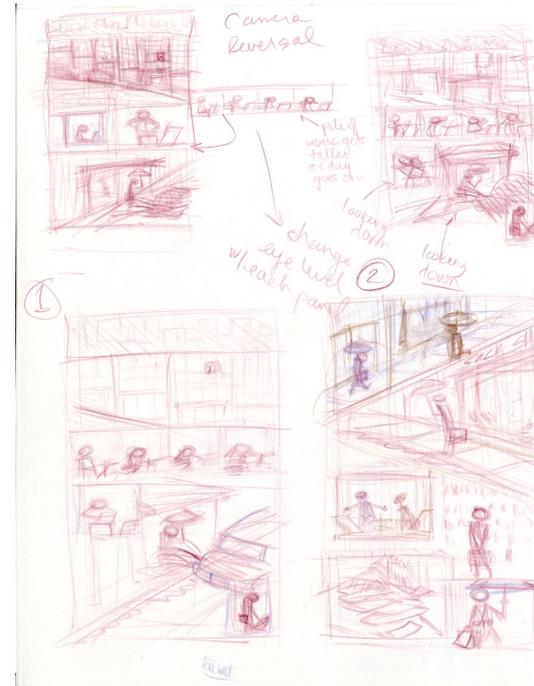
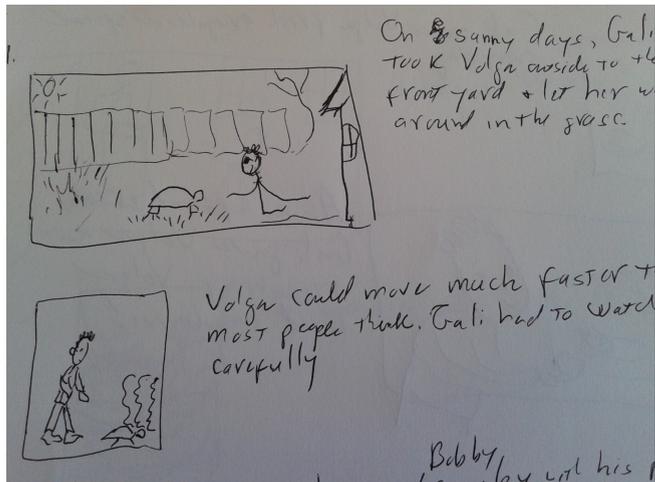
Here is a QR code of my facebook page. I'll post my story there after the magazine publish it.



# Thumbnails and preliminary work

*Mr. Silly Socks* Kristin Abbott

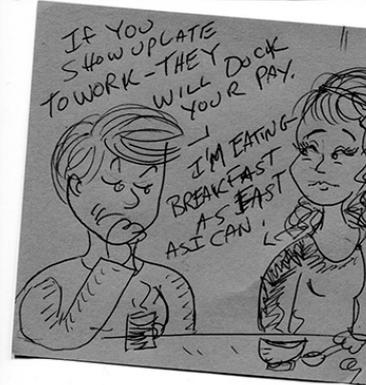
## *The Runaway Tortoise* Janet Lipkin Bein



# A lesson with iPad Anne Dumontier



# Bamboozled Angela Young





Danièle Archambault, Ph.D. (Linguistics).

I am a researcher, author, and educator who is interested in comics as a way to document a society's cultural and linguistic landscape. I am the author of three graphic memoir series: *Stairway Stories*, *Québec-California*, and *Une année sans alcool* (*A Year Without a Drink*).

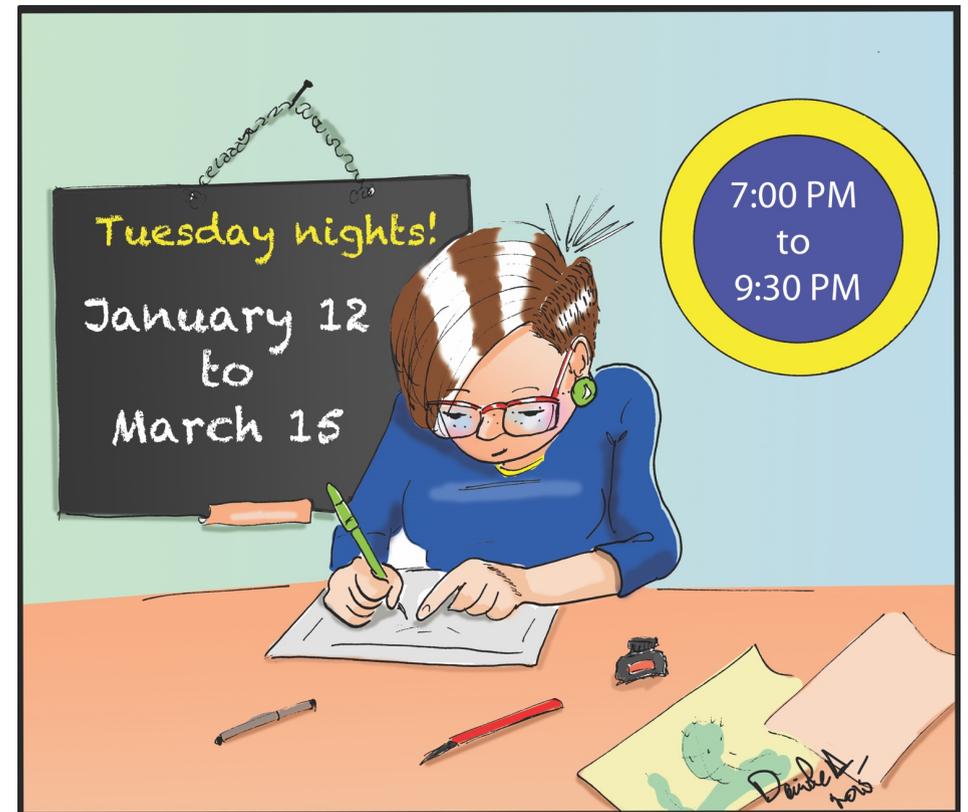
I have had solo and group exhibitions (juried) in Canada and in the United States. I am a regular guest speaker on documenting culture and dialects through comics at various educational and cultural institutions. I teach graphic novel and illustration classes at the Palo Alto Art Center and other educational venues, focusing on the art of visual storytelling. Originally from Montréal, I now live in Palo Alto, where I am an artist-in-residence in the Cubberley Studio Artist Program, City of Palo Alto, California.

Comments and questions: [Daniele@DanieleBD.com](mailto:Daniele@DanieleBD.com)

Website: [www.DanieleBD.com](http://www.DanieleBD.com)

## Writing and Publishing a Graphic Novel

Class announcement, winter 2016



We hope you had a grand **Voyage!**