

BIRGIT
WEYHE

RUIA GIRL

avant-verlag

So here I am.

Where are you going?
Heaven OR Hell
954-FOR-TRUTH John 3:36

In the land of unlimited possibilities.



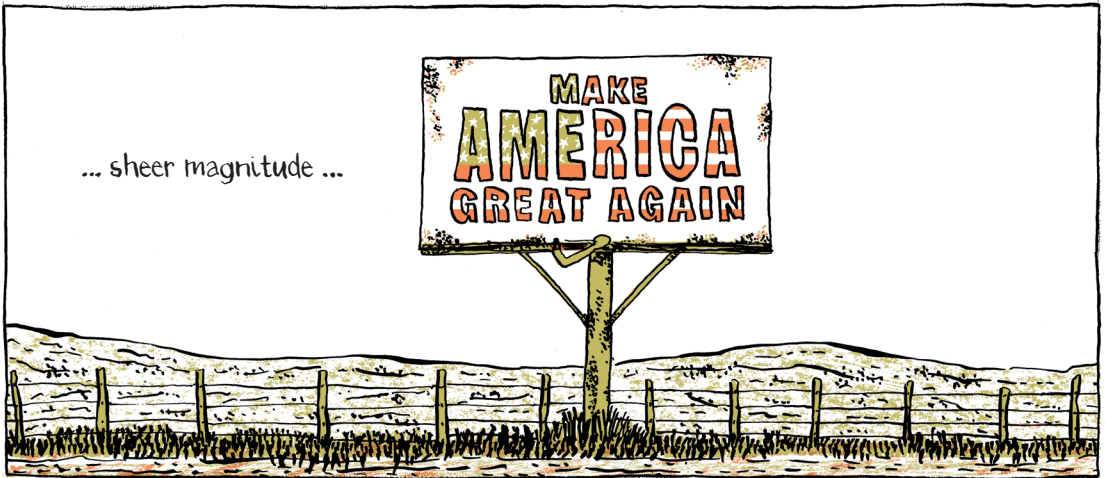
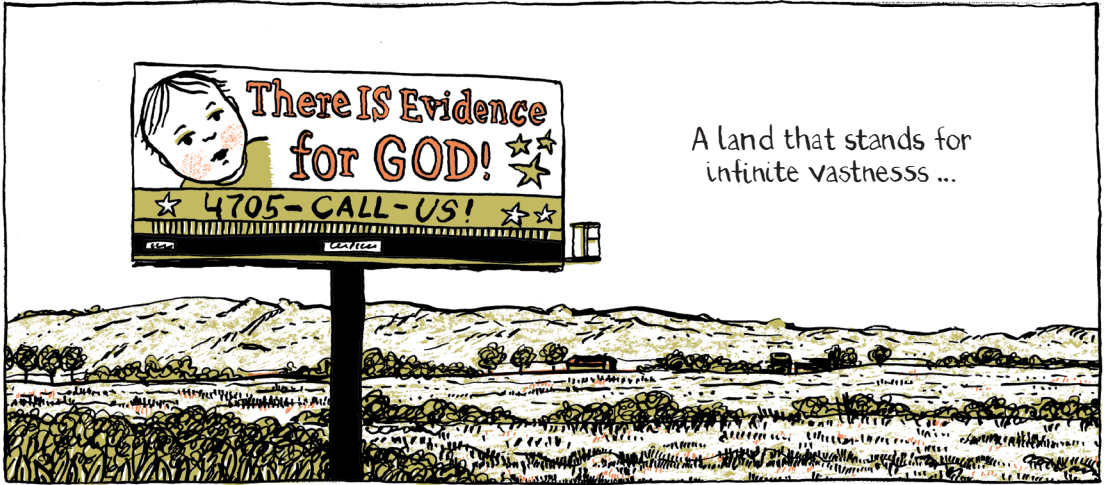
FUN AHEAD
EXIT 61

That promises the most possible individual freedom.

EXIT 159



JOLLY★OUTFITTERS.com



I had imagined spending two months teaching at a university in the Midwest ...



... would be easier.

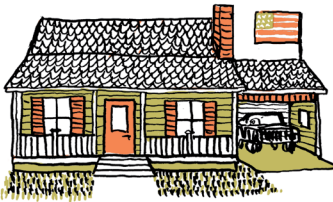
We'll begin with some drawing exercises. Do you like to draw?



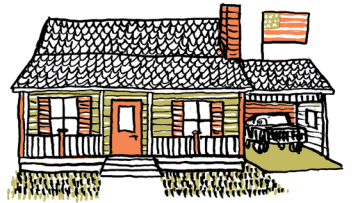
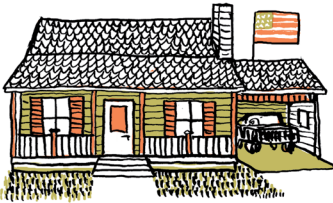
Without a license, I was stuck ...



... in a place marked by friendly disinterest...



... and absolute boredom.



At the local supermarket, I can buy guns ...



... but no wine...

Excuse me, where can I find the wine and spirits?

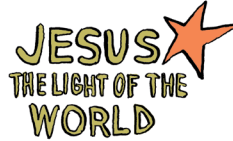
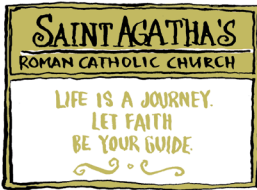
Alcohol?! We don't sell that.

... or freshly-baked bread.

Hmm...

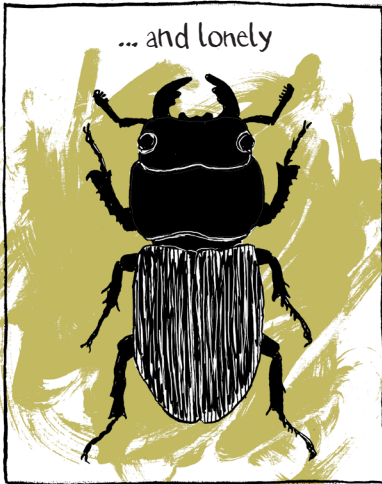


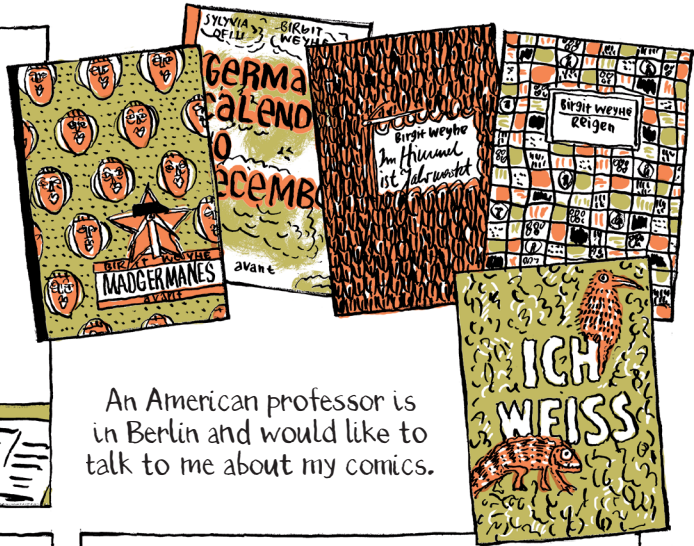
In general, there are more churches than stores.

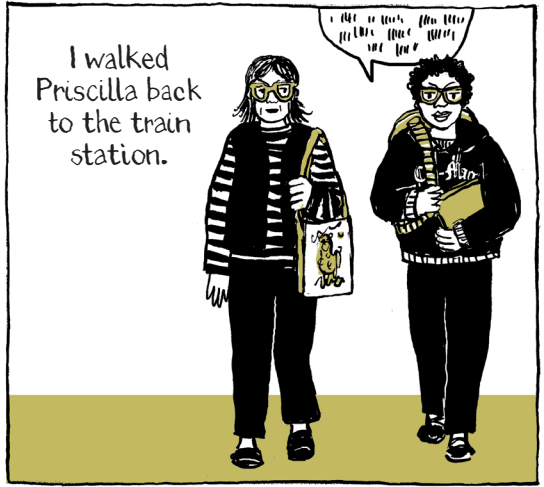
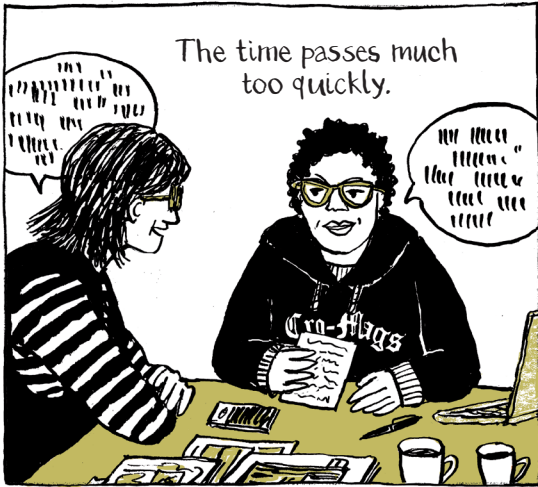


I feel like an
outsider...

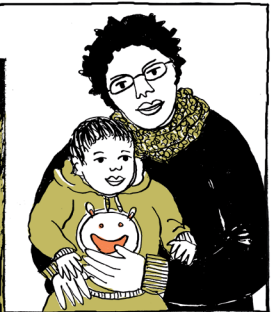






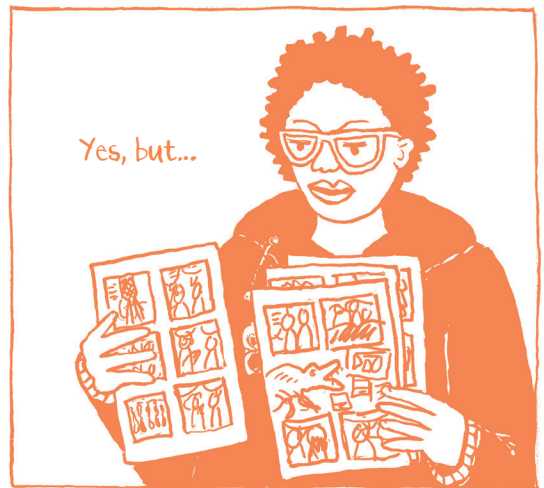


During our brief conversation, it quickly became clear that she's led an extraordinary life.





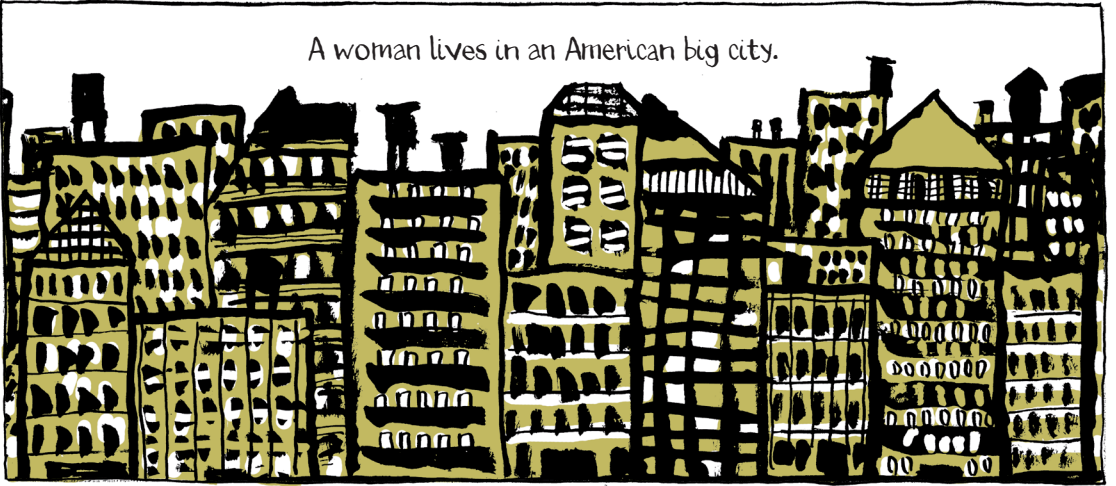
And eventually I decided to turn them into a book.



WENDY ALLEYNE AND THE DYNAMICS



A woman lives in an American big city.



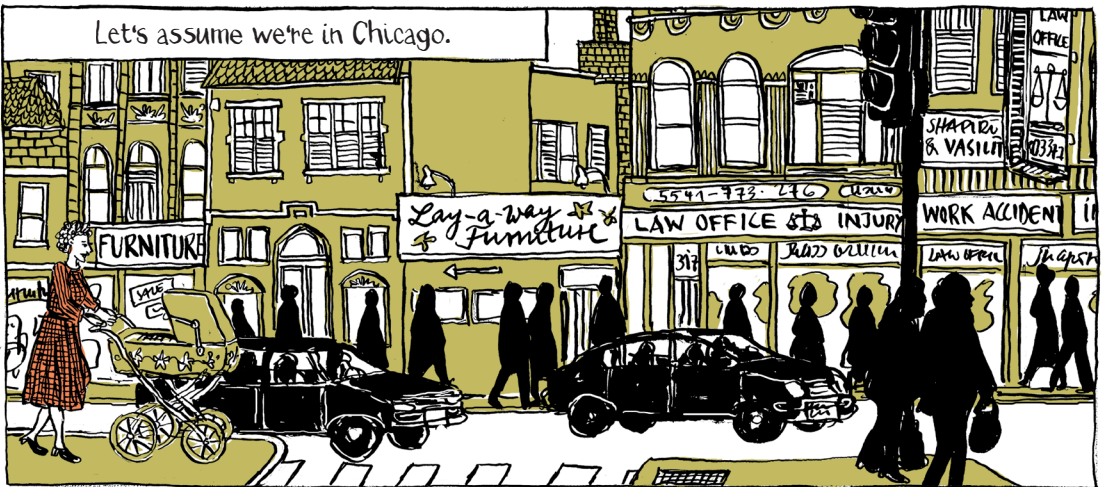
Let's call her Tina.



Let's say it's spring, 1981.

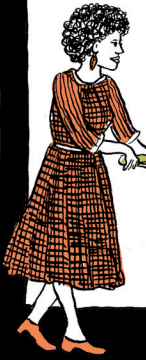


Let's assume we're in Chicago.

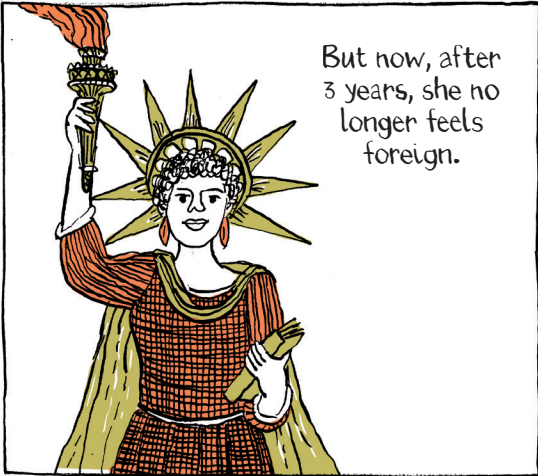




This country isn't her homeland.



She's from Barbados.



But now, after 3 years, she no longer feels foreign.



Though back then, in November 1977, definitely.



How cold it was when she arrived.



Back home, in Venture, Mamey always said food in cans is bad.



Never buy anything in cans, dear. You never know what's inside!



You have to prepare everything from scratch, otherwise it won't taste good.

Of course grandma, I'll do that.



But where in Chicago can you find the ingredients for a good pigeon pea rice?





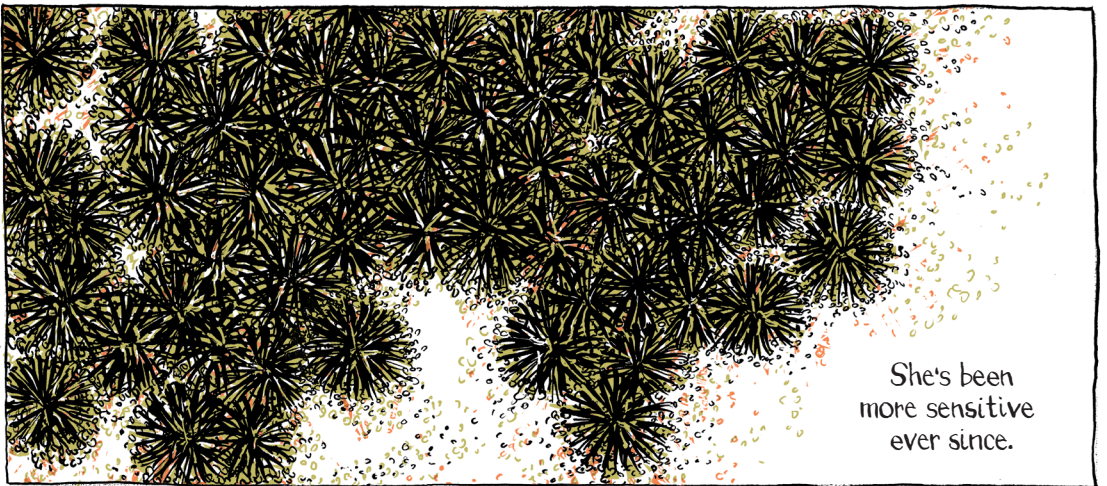
Today Tina is feeling homesick again.



Maybe ...



... because she has a baby now.



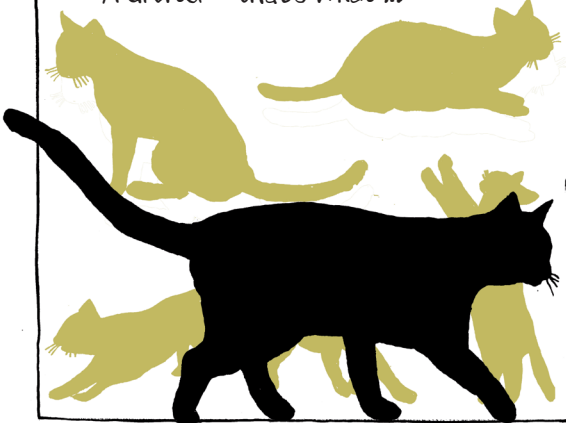
She's been more sensitive ever since.

Or is it
because of
Duke ...



... who's
never
there.

A drifter - that's what ...



... her mother Victoria called him.



You'll see what you'll get if
you marry him!



She could make him green bananas tonight. He promised to wait.



But she can't find his favorite food in any supermarket.



Can she still make it to the Caribbean market two blocks away?



Her baby is getting fussy.



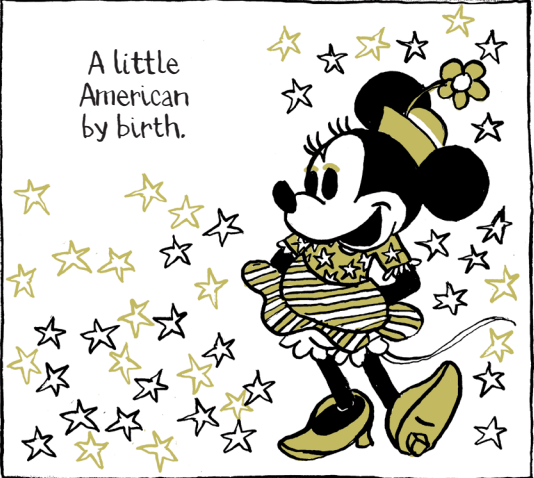
It's almost time for the next feeding.



Tina named her Crystal.



A little American by birth.



She'll grow up quite different.



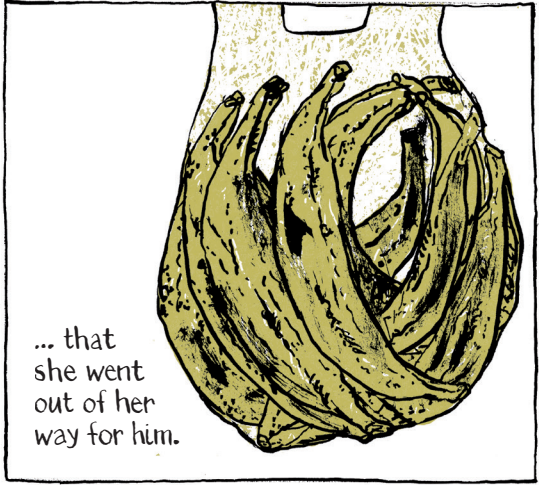
Have different experiences.

Until now Crystal has been an easy going child.



Only breast-feeding hasn't gone well.

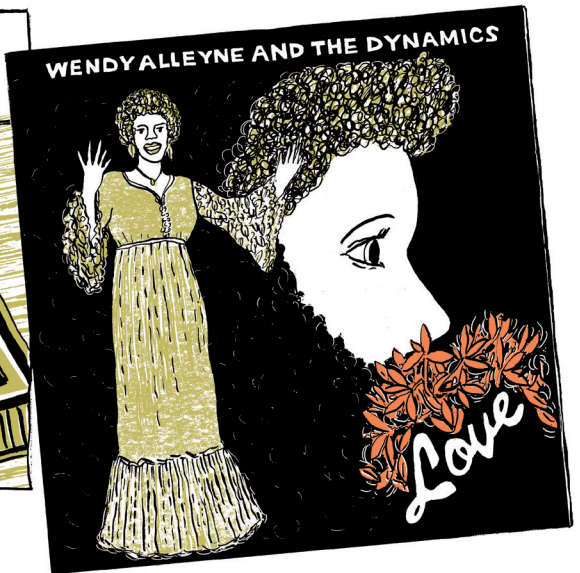


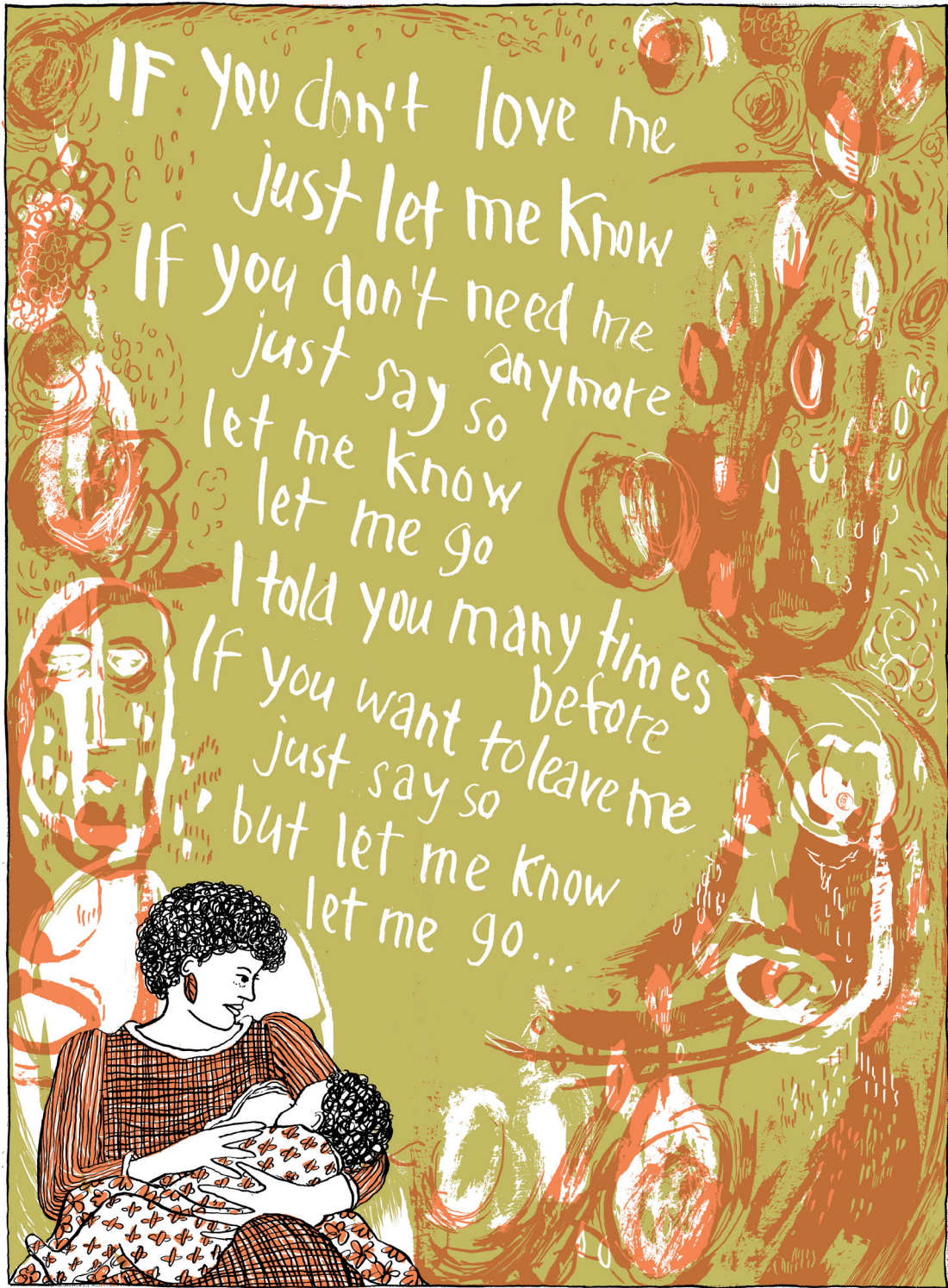


Hey -
I have to go
out again -
don't wait for
me to eat!
x Duke

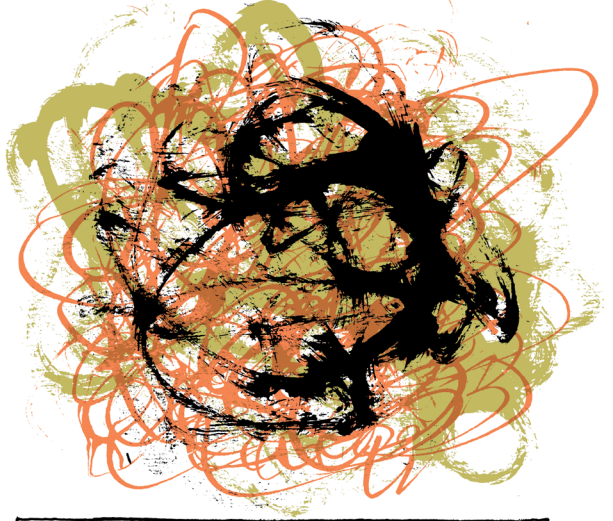


Shhh ...
come
here -
there's
no need
to be
sad!



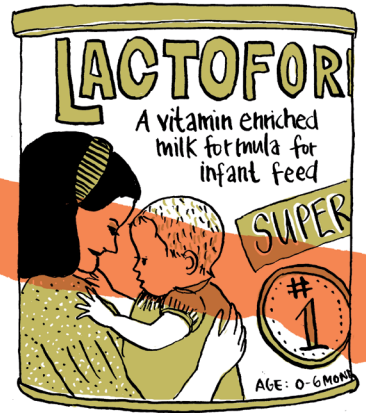
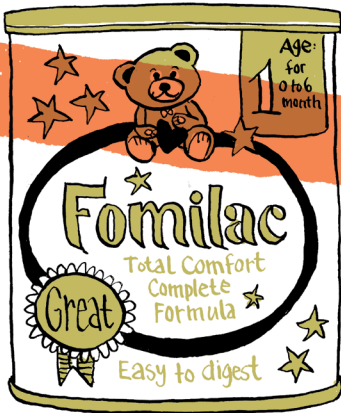


IF you don't love me
just let me know
If you don't need me
just say so anymore
let me know
let me go
I told you many times
before
If you want to leave me
just say so
but let me know
let me go...





Stop being silly by boycotting formula.

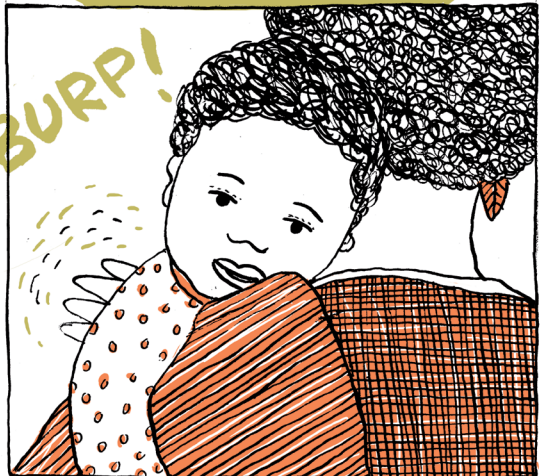
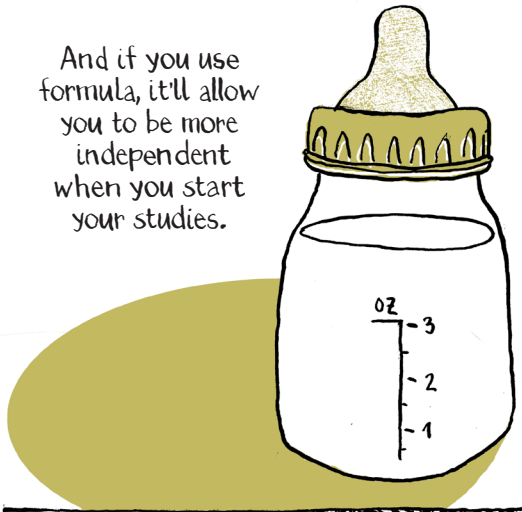


I'll just make her a bottle - I'm a nurse after all.

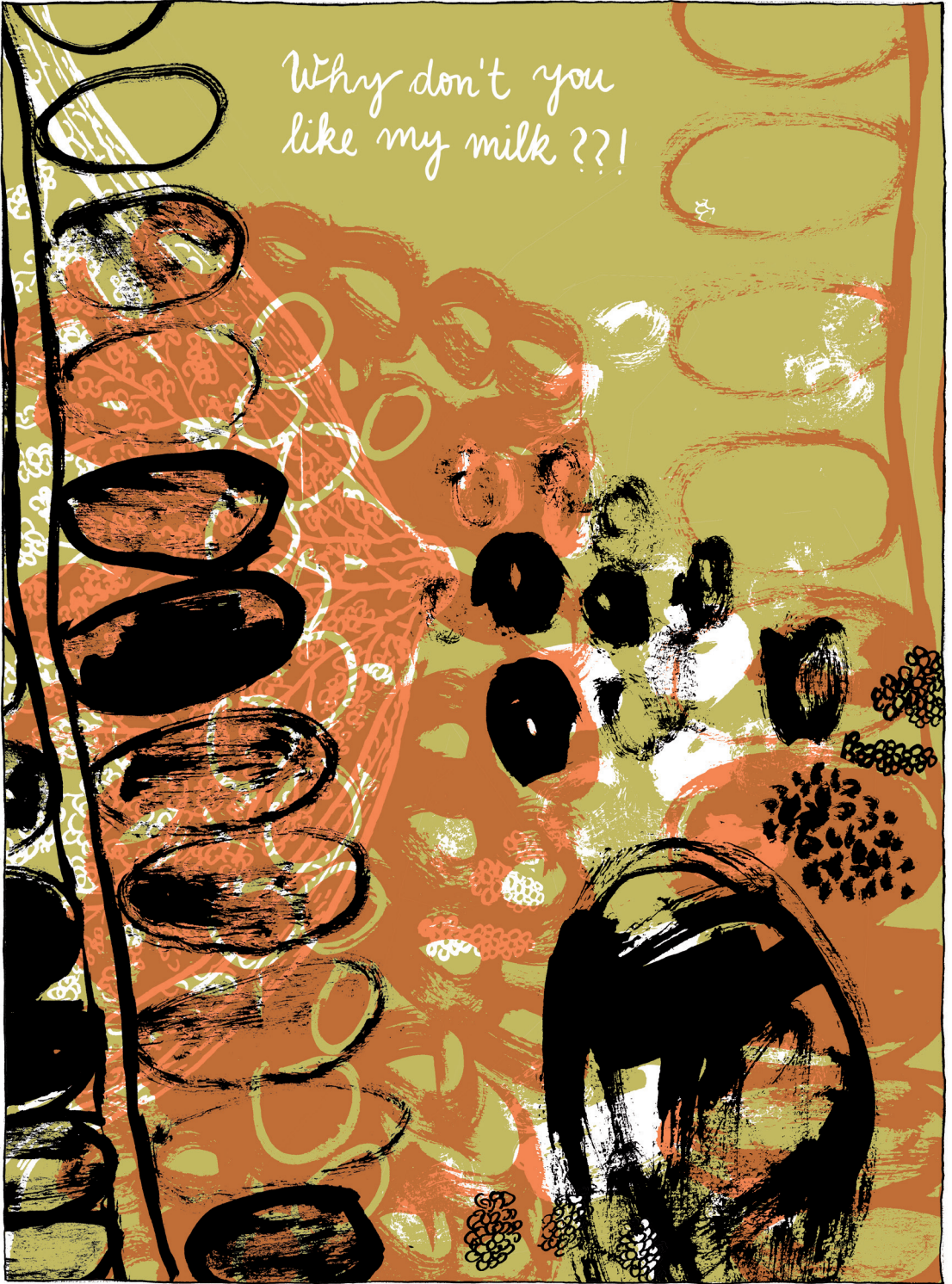




And if you use
formula, it'll allow
you to be more
independent
when you start
your studies.



Why don't you
like my milk ???!





You captured the relationship between my mother Tina and my grandmother very well.



The whole story is pretty complicated.



My grandmother was very young when she had my mother - just 15.



My grandfather, Stanley, really loved her and wanted to provide a better life for his family.



So he went to England.



As soon as he established himself, Victoria, my grandmother, was supposed to bring my mother and join him.



But when she finally moved to London after many years...



She had two more daughters from a new husband.



But she left my mother in Barbados, with her great-grandmother Mamey.



For my granddad, this caused unimaginable disappointment and anguish



As a result, Tina was naturally more comfortable with Mamey as with her own mother.



My grandmother always worked very hard.



She wanted to be a nurse.





That's why, for as long as I can remember, our place in Chicago ...

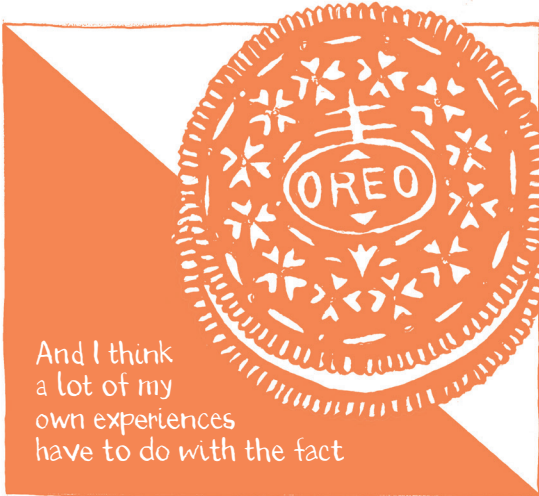




You forgot to mention ...



... that my father came from Jamaica.



And I think a lot of my own experiences have to do with the fact



... that my parents are immigrants.



Didn't know anything about American culture ...



... and felt foreign themselves.

