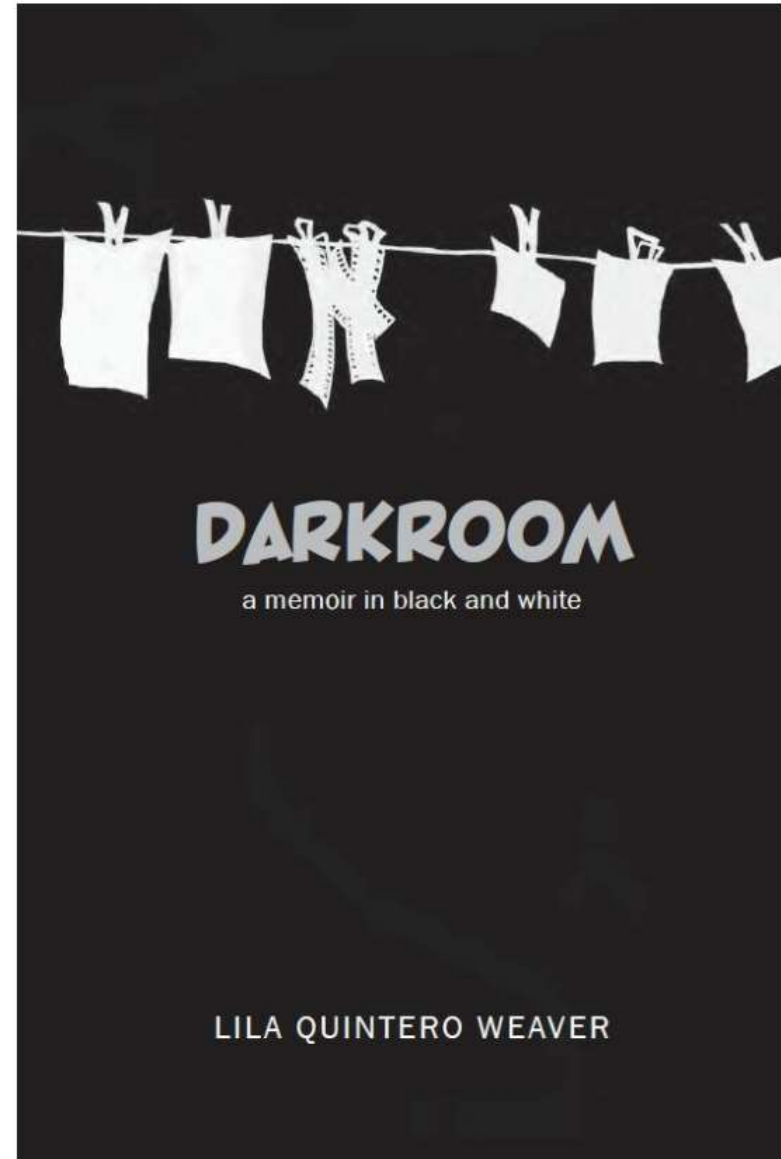




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In memory of
Mama & Daddy,
whose gifts are without number.

To Paul,
who keeps on giving,

and to
Jude, Benjamin, & Caitlin,
who've inherited these collective
treasures.

I love you all.

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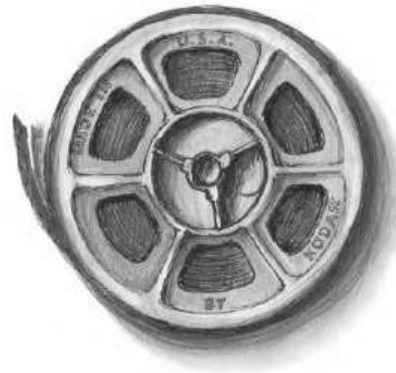
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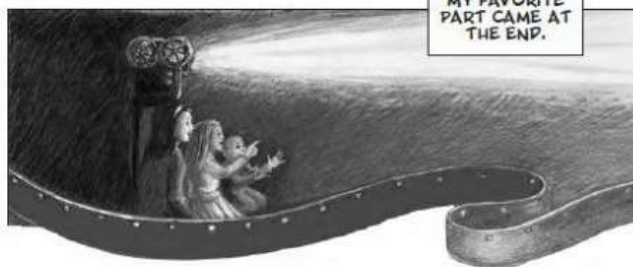
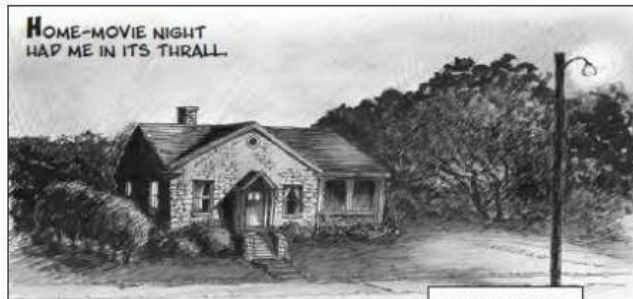
Chapter 10. School Lessons

Epilogue

Acknowledgements

Prologue
HOME MOVIES





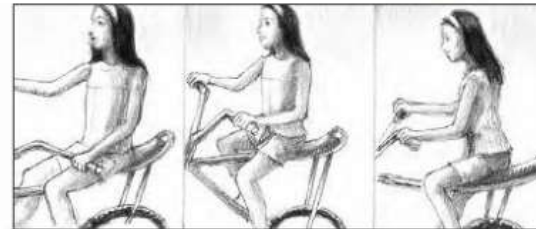
AT THAT POINT, DADDY REWOUND
THE FILM, AND WE SAW IT ALL IN REVERSE.



THE BACKWARDS FLIGHT OF A SNOWBALL



THE BACKWARDS
PEPAGING OF A BIKE



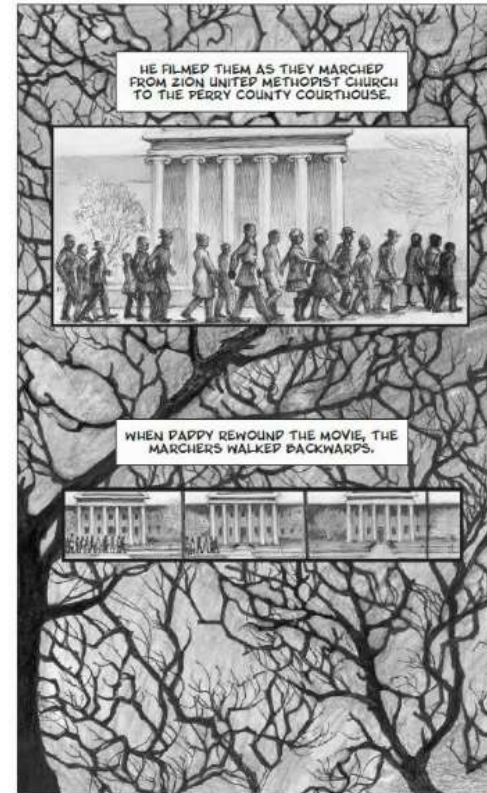
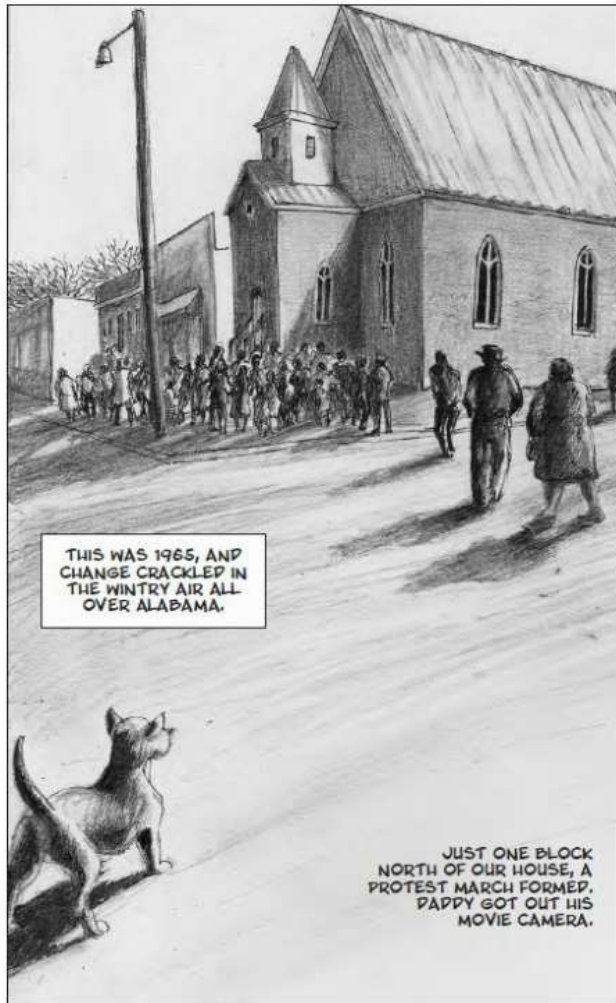
THE BACKWARDS
DIGGING OF A HOLE.



HILARIOUS



BUT NOT EVERYTHING TICKLED OUR FUNNY BONES.



IT WAS FUNNY. HOW COULD ANYBODY KNOW WHERE THEY WERE GOING WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BACK? BUT THEY WALKED WITH SUCH APLOMB, AND THAT'S WHAT KILLED US.

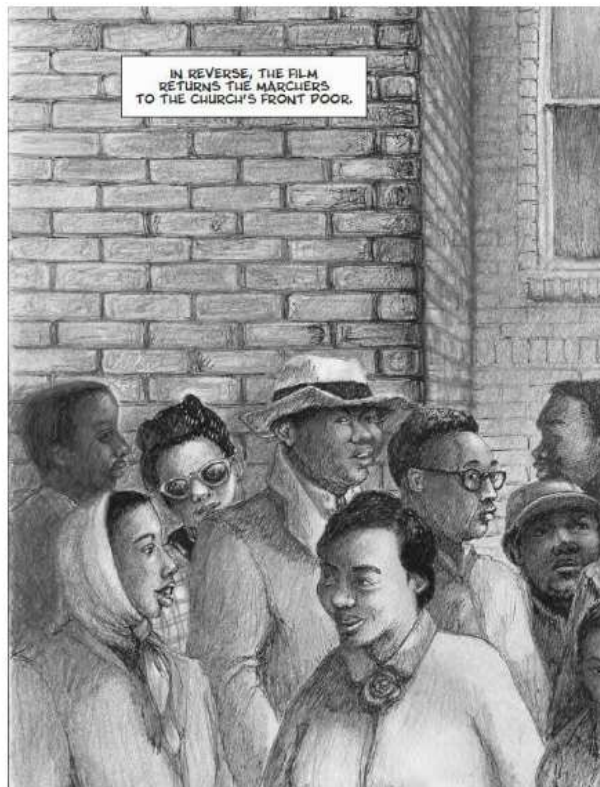


THE MARCH TOOK THEM AROUND THE COURTHOUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES.



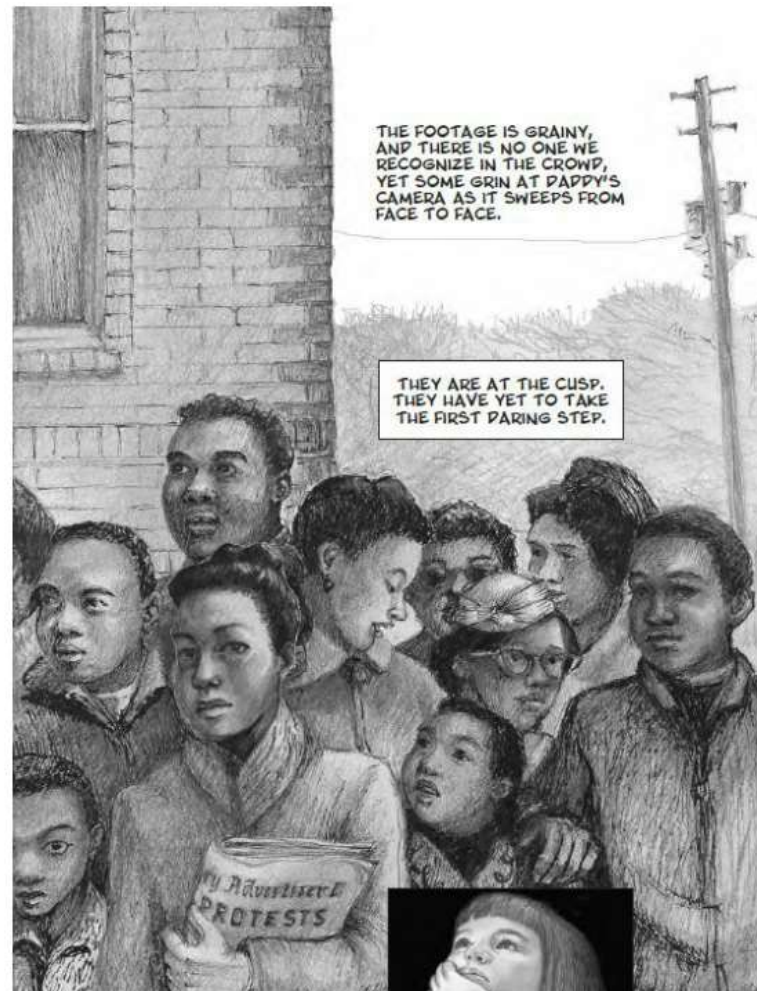
THE MOVIE DOESN'T SHOW HOW WHITE PEOPLE REACTED. BUT HAVING LIVED AMONG THEM, I CAN MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS.





IN REVERSE, THE FILM
RETURNS THE MARCHERS
TO THE CHURCH'S FRONT DOOR.

8



THE FOOTAGE IS GRAINY,
AND THERE IS NO ONE WE
RECOGNIZE IN THE CROWD,
YET SOME GRIN AT PAPPY'S
CAMERA AS IT SWEEPS FROM
FACE TO FACE.

THEY ARE AT THE CUSP.
THEY HAVE YET TO TAKE
THE FIRST PARING STEP.

I HAD BUT THE DIMMEST
COMPREHENSION OF
THEIR CAUSE.



9

A SCENE OR TWO MORE, THEN WITH A FLAP, FLAP, FLAP, THE TAKE-UP REEL TURNS LOOSE THE FINAL BIT OF FILM.



AND LIKE THE BACKWARDS UNWRAPPING OF A GIFT,



EVERYTHING RETURNS TO ITS NEAT BEGINNING.



WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE GET THE LIGHTS?

