

chapter 3
BLENDING IN



WE WEREN'T MEANT TO PUT DOWN ROOTS IN ALABAMA.



AND SOME DAY, RESUME OUR LIVES IN BUENOS AIRES,



BACK TO THE LIFE A GIRL IN
ARGENTINA WOULD'VE FOLLOWED,



STARTING
WITH
LA ESCUELA
PRIMARIA,



THEN
THE LICEO
FOR YOUNG
LADIES,

NEXT
UNIVERSITY,
AND THEN...

?



IT'S A BLANK,
THE LATENT
IMAGE FOREVER
HIDDEN.

AND ALTHOUGH FOR SOME YEARS
MAMA AND DADDY WOULD SAY,
"WHEN WE GO BACK," IT NEVER
HAPPENED. WE STAYED IN THE
U.S. AND LIVED A DIFFERENT LIFE.

MY PARENTS TOOK A HARD LINE AGAINST
THE UNDESIRABLE WAYS OF OUR NEW CULTURE.



IT WILL ROT YOUR MIND.



IT
WILL
ROT
YOUR
TEETH.

IT WILL ROT YOUR TONGUE.





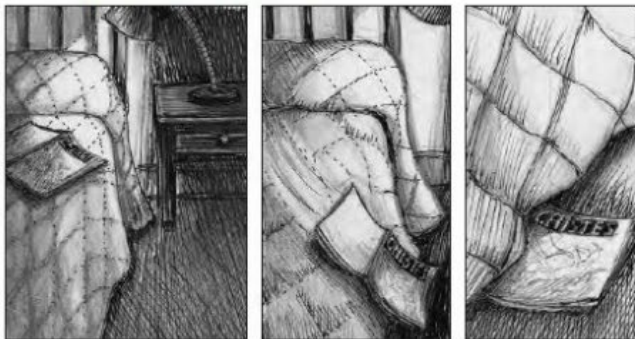
AND I LEARNED HOW TO SNEAK.



I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW, BUT IT SEEMS AS IF COMPREHENSION CAME TO ME ALL AT ONCE.



AS I RESISTED MY NATIVE TONGUE, IT BEGAN TO REPEPE INTO DUSTY CORNERS.



BUT MY PARENTS FELT NO SUCH HESITATION. THEY KEPT SPEAKING SPANISH AT HOME AND IN PUBLIC,



AS IF IT WERE THE MOST NORMAL THING—WHICH IN MARION, IT WAS NOT.



*TRANSLATION: VERY NICE TOMATOES. LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE WE NEED. MILK, EGGS, OIL. HONEY AND OATMEAL.



AT HOME, WHERE
I DIDN'T CARE
WHAT LANGUAGE
WAS SPOKEN,
CREATIVITY
FLOURISHED.

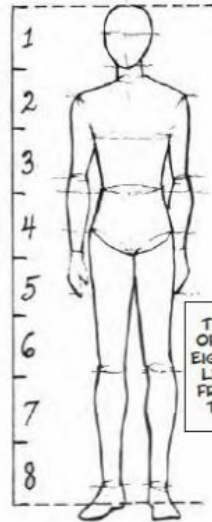


MAMA BAKED FRENCH BREAD, KNITTED SWEATERS, AND
PREPARED GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS LIKE RAVIOLI.

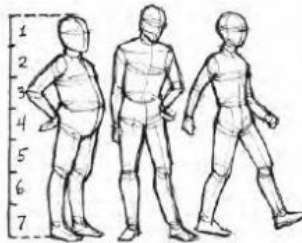


* WHAT A DELICIOUS SMELL!

THE LESSON
CONTINUED WITH
PROPORTIONS
OF THE HUMAN
BODY.



THE RULE
OF THUMB:
EIGHT HEAD
LENGTHS
FROM TOP
TO TOE.



AS YOU LEARNED TO LOOK—
REALLY LOOK—YOU BEGAN
TO SEE THE WISHFUL THINKING
BEHIND THAT FORMULA.

LISSY AND I WERE NOWHERE NEAR RELINQUISHING
THOSE IDEALS WHEN WE LAID EYES ON THE RAVISHING
ELKE SOMMER, A SCREEN STAR OF THE 1960S.

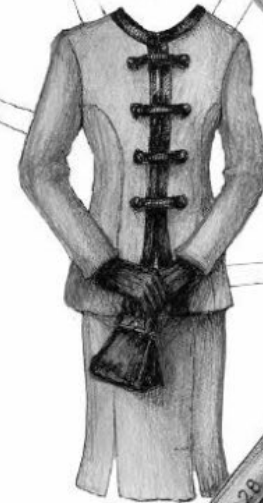


WOW!
SHE'S
GORGEOUS!

WE PERSUADED MAMA TO DRAW A PAPER DOLL
FOR US BASED ON ELKE. WE DREW AND COLORED
HER GLAMOROUS WARDROBE.

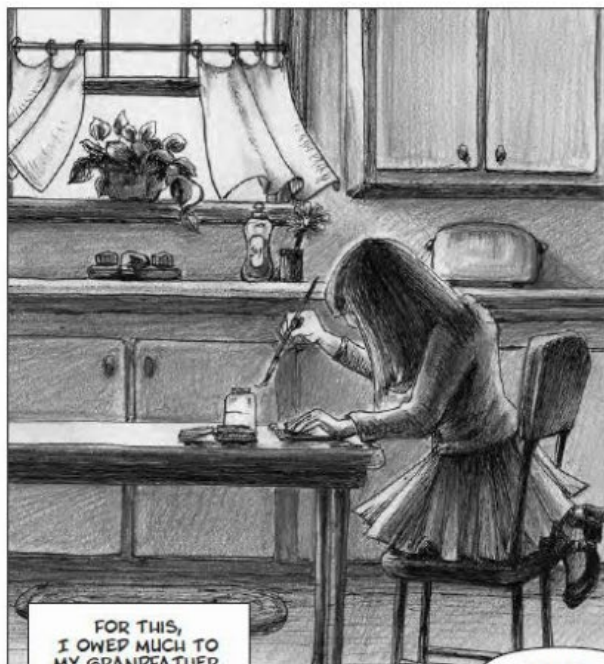


WE GAVE HER
CHANEL FOR
THE CHAMPS-
ÉLYSÉES.



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I OFTEN LOST MYSELF IN MAKING ART.



FOR THIS, I OWED MUCH TO MY GRANDFATHER, WHO TAUGHT HIS DAUGHTERS THE RIGORS OF DRAFTSMANSHIP.

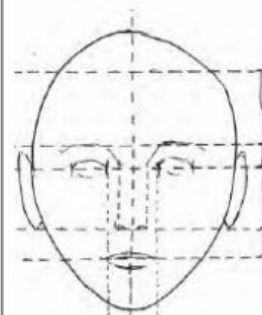


GIRLS, OBSERVE THE PROPORTIONS OF THE FACE.

MAMA PASSED THESE LESSONS ON TO US, HER CHILDREN.

THE LESSON

YOU ALWAYS BEGAN WITH AN IDEALIZED FACE.



AS YOU PROGRESSED, NEW CONCEPTS WERE INTRODUCED:



EH?
THAT'S
NOT ME.

REAL FACES DON'T OBEY THOSE RULES. THEY VARY LIKE CRAZY!

AND THE FACE ISN'T COMPOSED OF FLAT SHAPES.

INSTEAD, EVERY PLANE, EVERY FEATURE,



IS A FULLY DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURE WHOSE APPEARANCE VARIES DEPENDING ON THE ANGLE OF VIEW.



AND THE ONLY WAY TO DRAW IT CORRECTLY IS TO LOOK—REALLY LOOK.

