



LOS

RECUERDOS

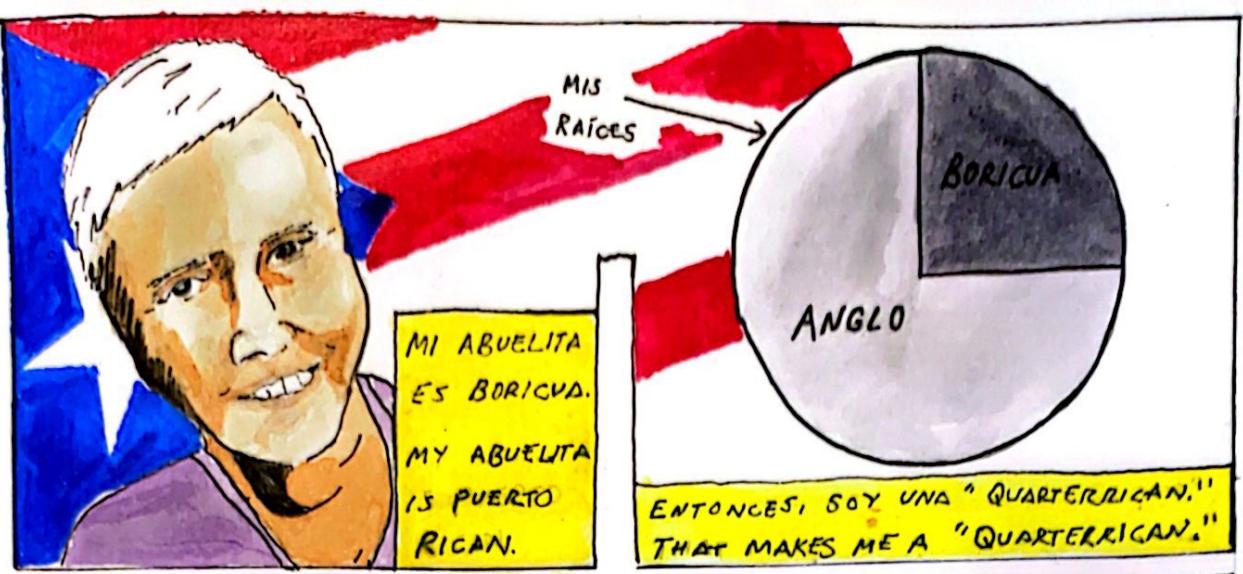
DE

MI ABUELITA

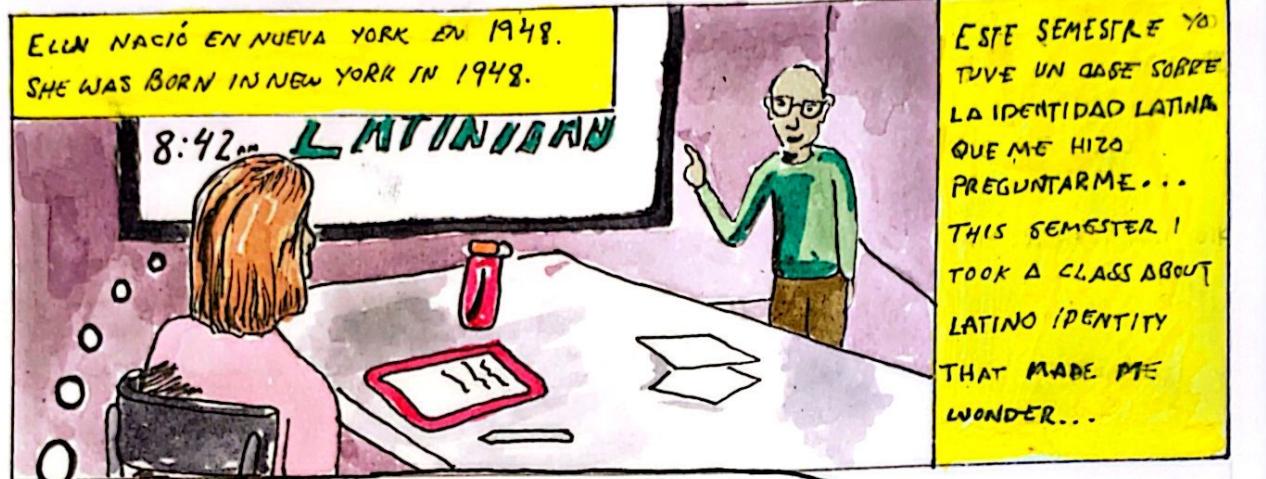
LOS RECUERDOS  
DE MI  
ABUELITA

por MARÍA NORRIN

para mi familia.



ENTONCES, SOY UNA "QUARTERRICAN."  
THAT MAKES ME A "QUARTERRICAN."





"THE FIRST THING YOU  
NEED TO KNOW IS THAT

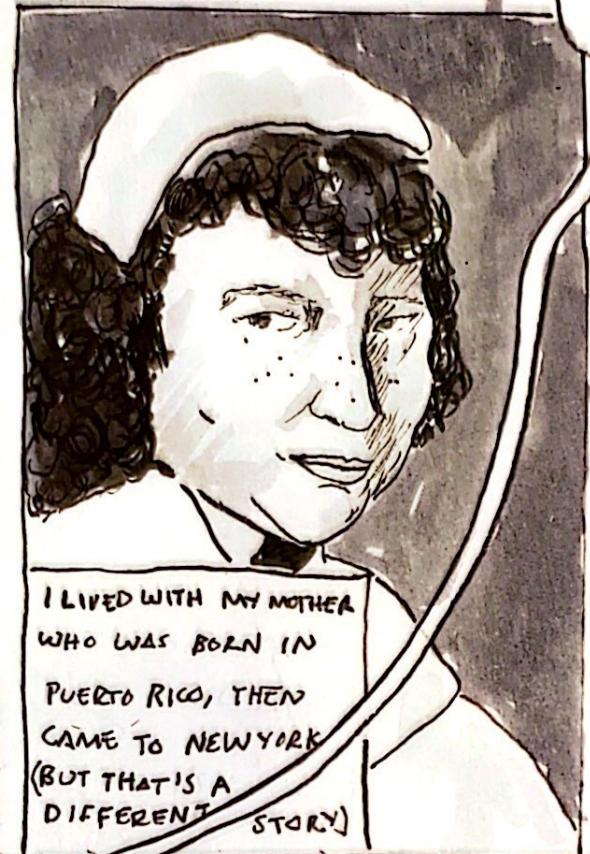
ROBERT MOSES

DECIDED TO PUT ALL  
THE POOR PEOPLE  
ON THE EDGES OF  
MANHATTAN.

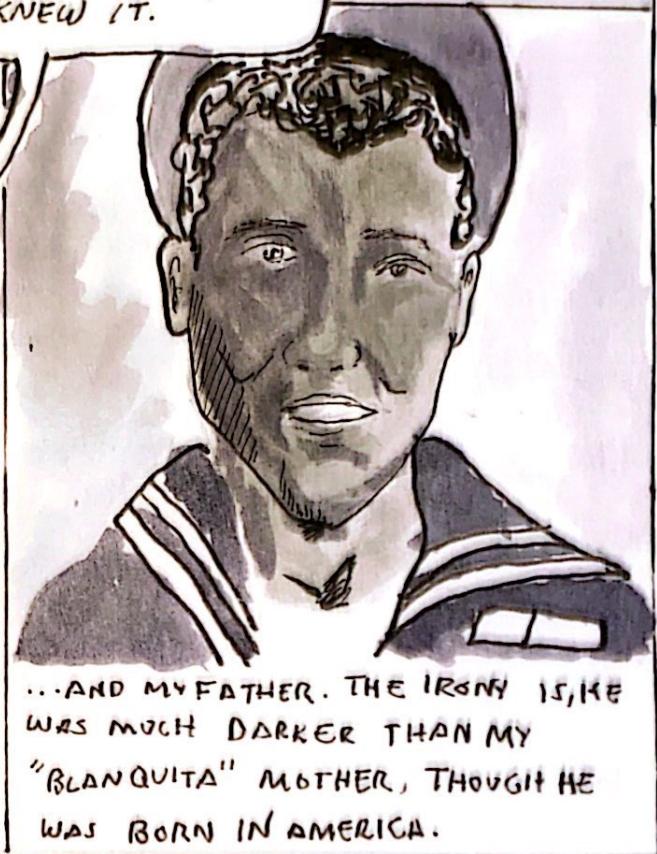
IN  
MANHATTAN

ALFRED  
E. SMITH  
HOUSES

WE WERE VERY  
POOR, BUT I NEVER  
KNEW IT.



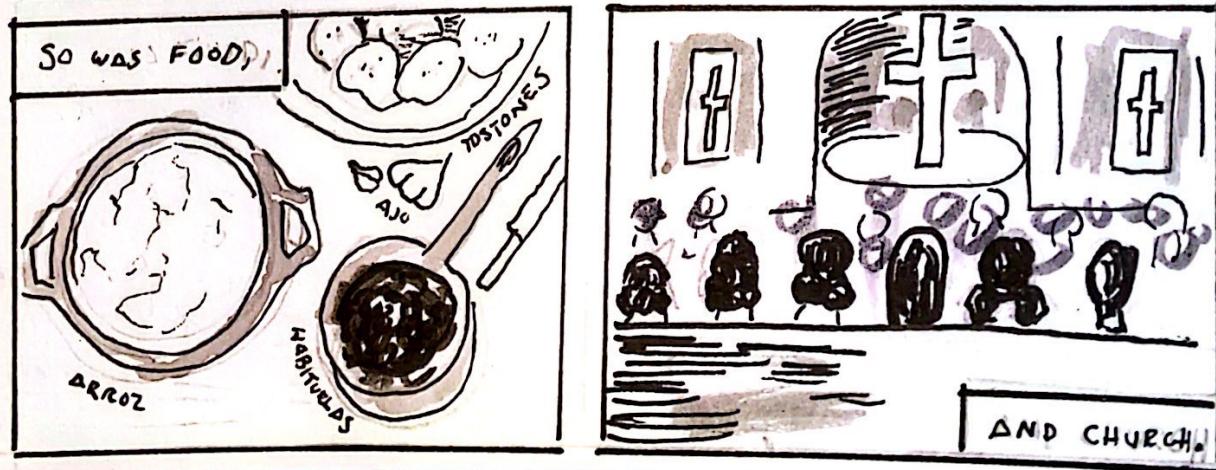
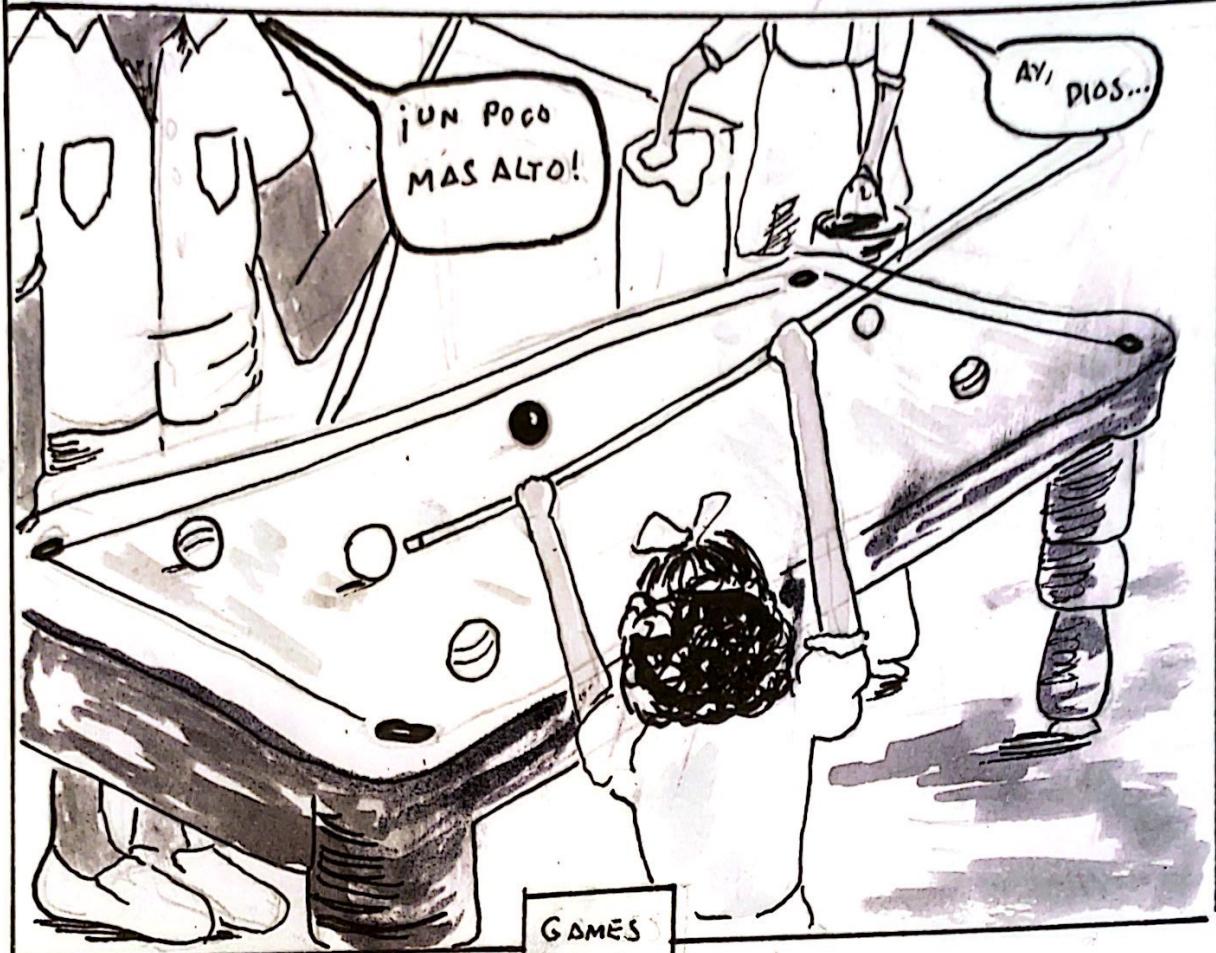
I LIVED WITH MY MOTHER  
WHO WAS BORN IN  
PUERTO RICO, THEN  
CAME TO NEW YORK  
(BUT THAT'S A  
DIFFERENT STORY)



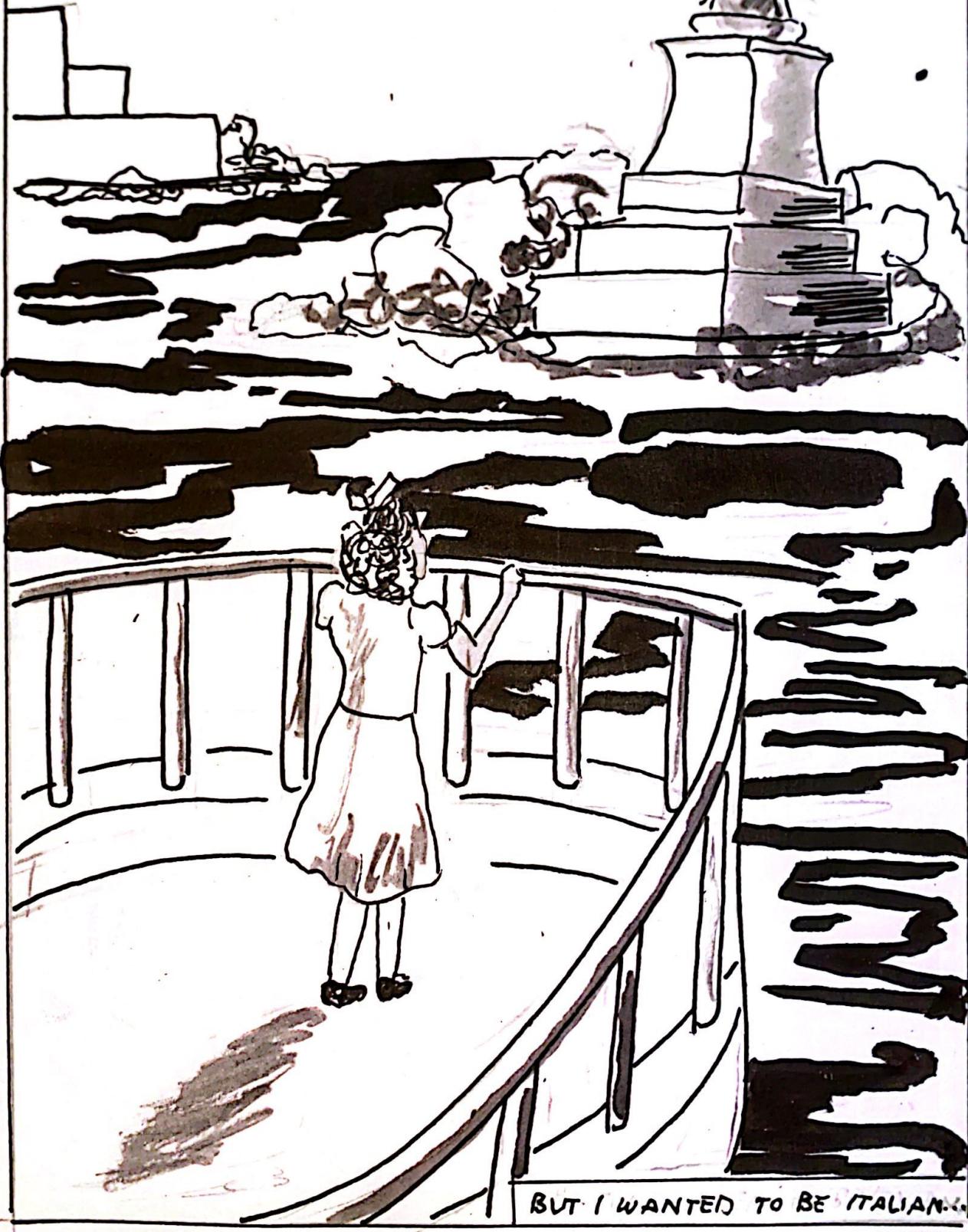
...AND MY FATHER. THE IRONY IS, HE  
WAS MUCH DARKER THAN MY  
"BLANQUITA" MOTHER, THOUGH HE  
WAS BORN IN AMERICA.



I ALSO LIVED WITH MY 5 SIBLINGS. OUR APARTMENT WAS TINY,  
BUT WE STILL MANAGED TO FIT A POOL TABLE IN THERE.



I NEVER CONSIDERED  
MYSELF AN AMERICAN.  
I WAS PUERTORICAN.



BUT I WANTED TO BE ITALIAN.

THE ITALIANS LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACROSS THE STREET FROM ME.



WHEN YOU WENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOL, YOU THOUGHT YOU  
WERE BETTER THAN EVERYBODY ELSE...

SLACKERS

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME FROM THE SAME PLACE AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS.



I NEVER HAD FRIENDS OVER. I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO HEAR MY MOTHER'S ACCENT.

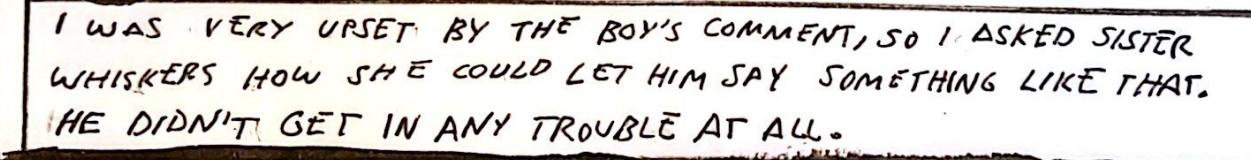


BUT SHE WOULD ALWAYS SEND DOWN A DIME FOR SOME ICE CREAM.

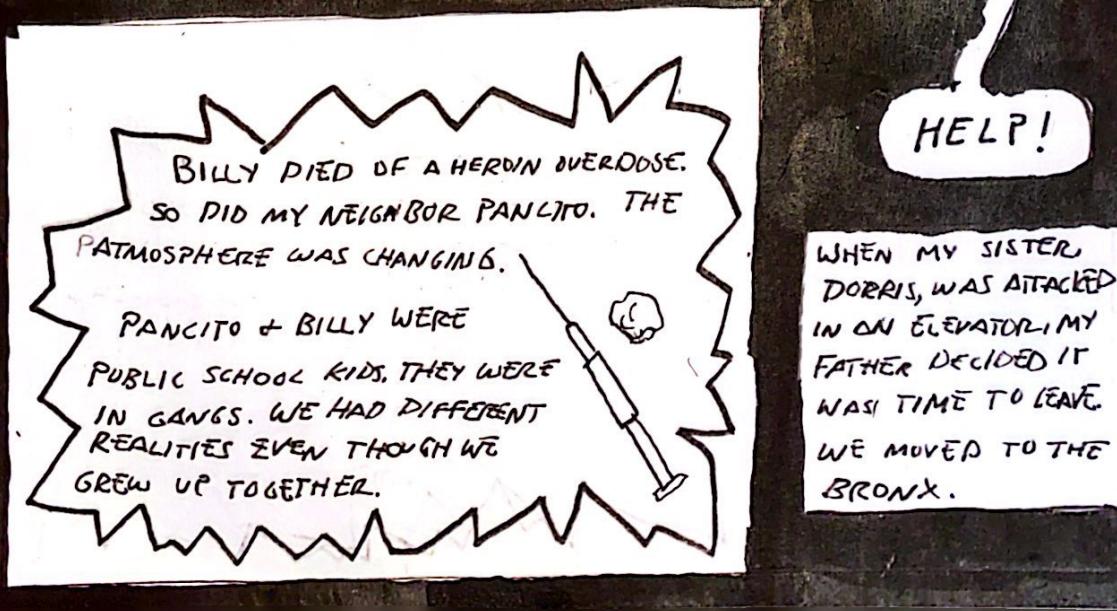
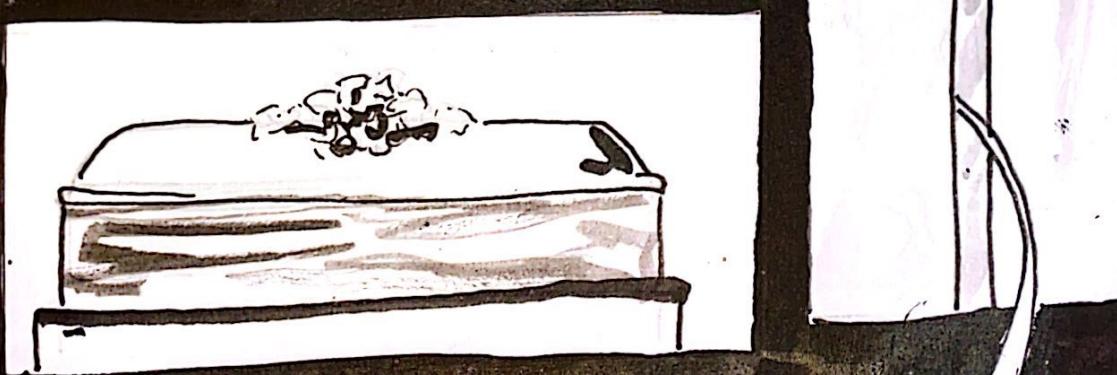
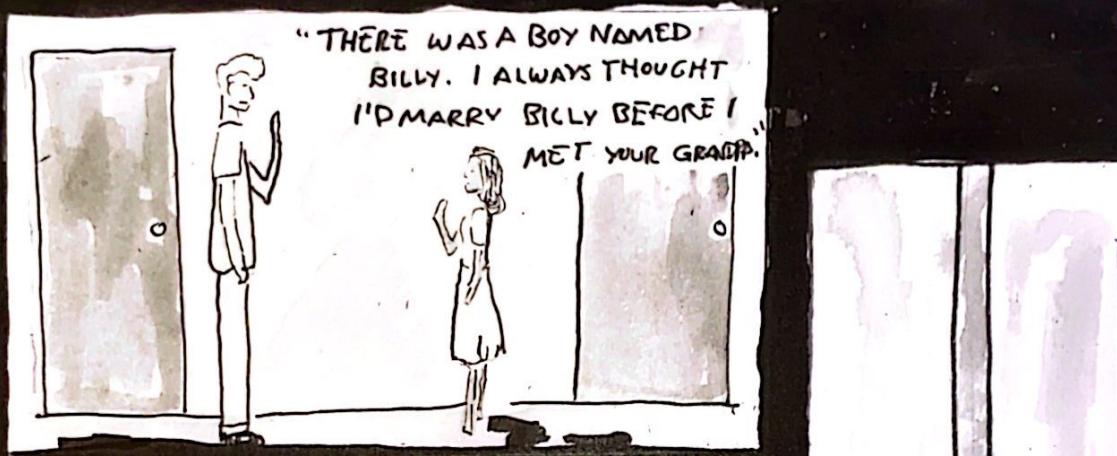


MOSTLY...



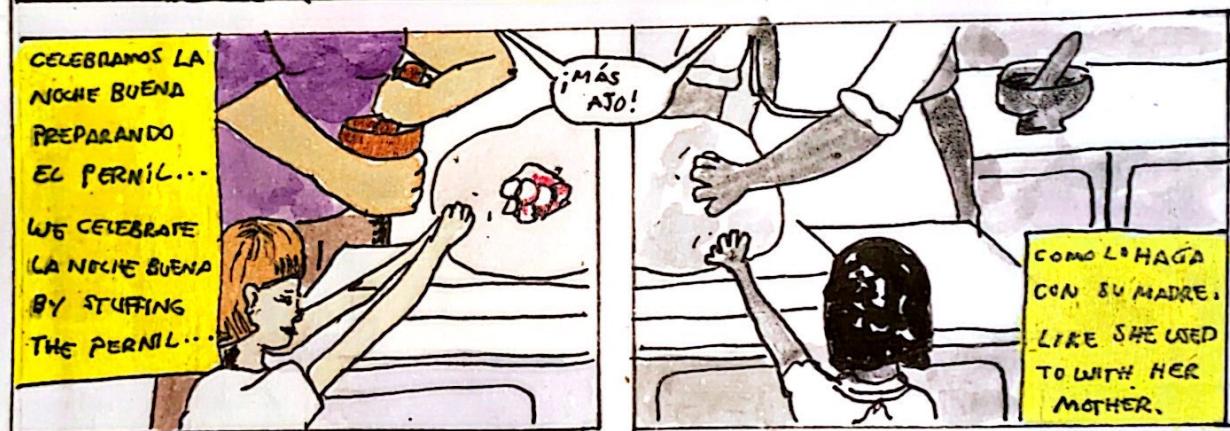


IN HIGH SCHOOL I SAT WITH MY OWN CROWD. I GAVE UP ON PRETENDING TO BE ITALIAN.



MI ABUELITA PASÓ A CONVERTIRSE UNA MAESTRA Y TRABAJADORA SOCIAL. ELLA APRENDÍ EL LENGUAJE DE SEÑAS, SU TERCER IDIOMA. ENSEÑABA A ESCUELAS PARA LOS SORDOS Y CIEGOS...

MY ABUELITA WENT ON TO BECOME A TEACHER AND SOCIAL WORKER. SHE LEARNED SIGN LANGUAGE, HER THIRD LANGUAGE, AND SHE TAUGHT AT SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND...



ELLA HA NEGOCIADO SU IDENTIDAD POR  
TODO SU VIDA, PERO NUNCA HA  
PERDIDO SU LATINIDAD.  
SHE HAS NEGOTIATED HER IDENTITY  
THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, BUT SHE  
HAS NEVER LET GO OF HER  
LATINIDAD.



EL FIN.  
THE END.