



LOASCA

LGBTQ+ Older Adult Social Care Assessment Study






The LOASCA project sought to understand how social care workers ask about sexual orientation and gender identity in adult social care assessments, hoping to improve social care for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ+) people.



This graphic novel presents some of the stories told by older LGBTQ+ people in the LOASCA study. The following graphic novel contains three stories drawn from findings in the study and show how social care workers can help or hinder engagement of older LGBTQ+ people.



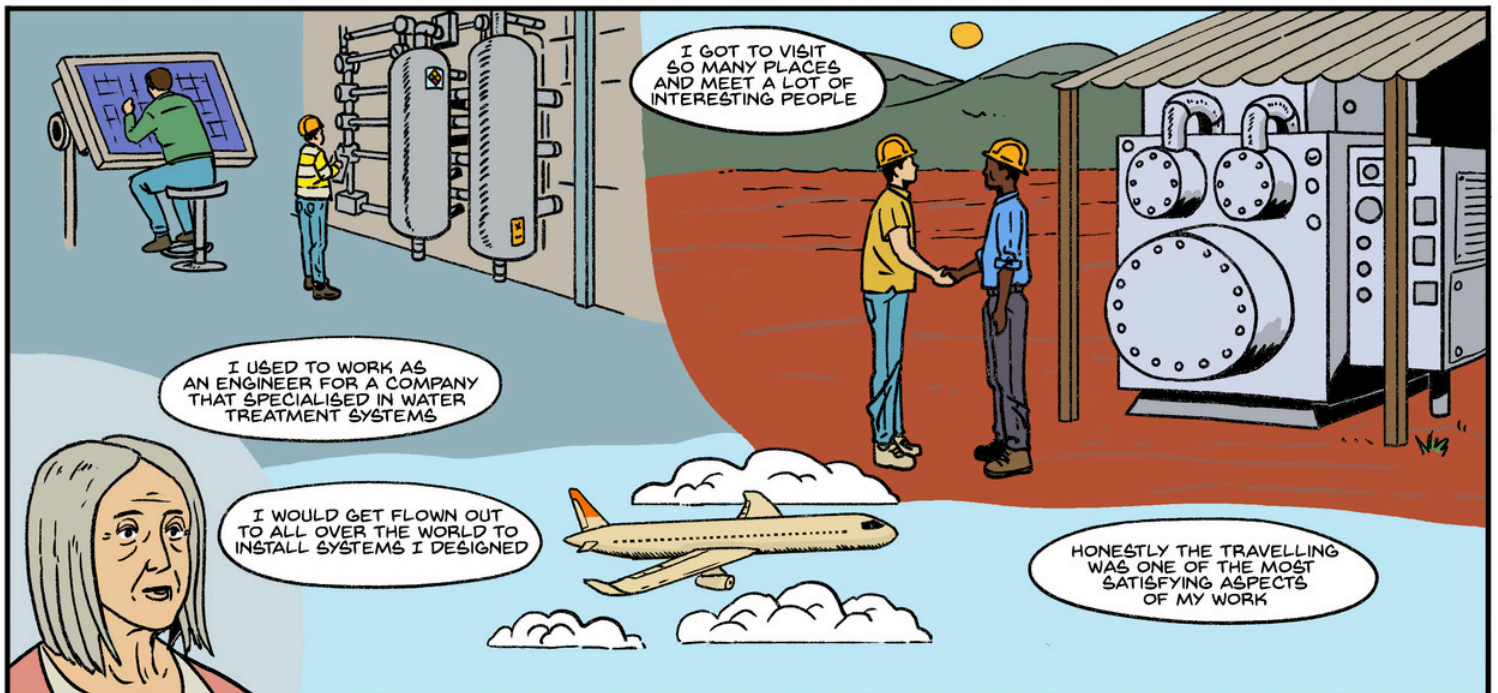
About the artist: Dominique Brouwers is a Belgian illustrator based in the north of England. Their work often focuses on bringing overlooked aspects of the human experience to the forefront.



Story 1



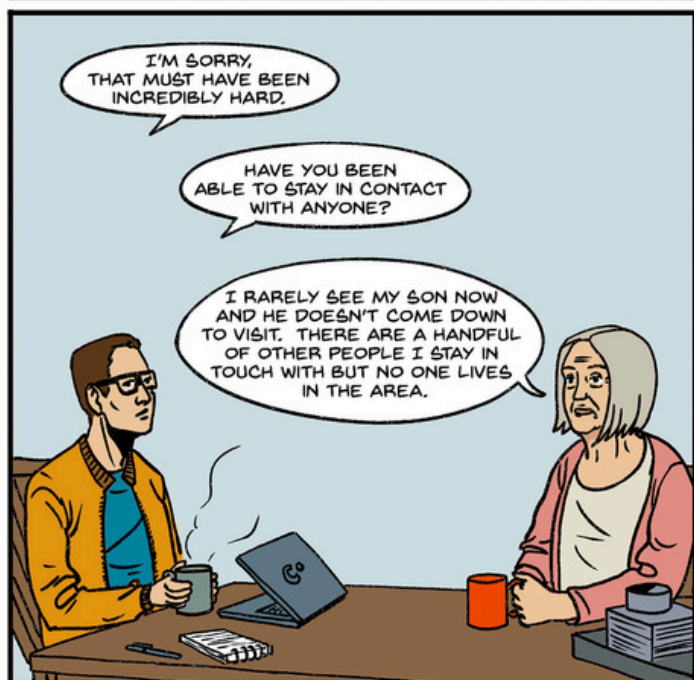
Emily





I KNEW WHO I REALLY WAS SINCE I WAS QUITE YOUNG BUT WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO COME OUT, MY MARRIAGE ENDED AND MY WIFE BROKE OFF CONTACT WITH ME AND MADE IT HARD TO SEE MY SON.

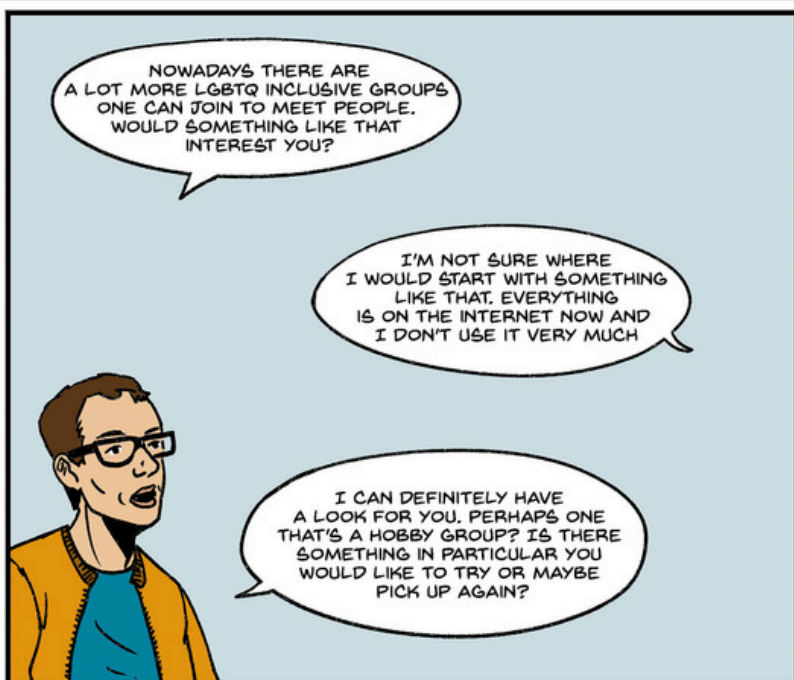
I LOST MY JOB SOON AFTER, IT REALLY WASN'T ACCEPTED AT THAT TIME AT ALL.



I'M SORRY, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY HARD.

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE?

I RARELY SEE MY SON NOW AND HE DOESN'T COME DOWN TO VISIT. THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF OTHER PEOPLE I STAY IN TOUCH WITH BUT NO ONE LIVES IN THE AREA.



NOWADAYS THERE ARE A LOT MORE LGBTQ INCLUSIVE GROUPS ONE CAN JOIN TO MEET PEOPLE. WOULD SOMETHING LIKE THAT INTEREST YOU?

I'M NOT SURE WHERE I WOULD START WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT. EVERYTHING IS ON THE INTERNET NOW AND I DON'T USE IT VERY MUCH

I CAN DEFINITELY HAVE A LOOK FOR YOU, PERHAPS ONE THAT'S A HOBBY GROUP? IS THERE SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY OR MAYBE PICK UP AGAIN?



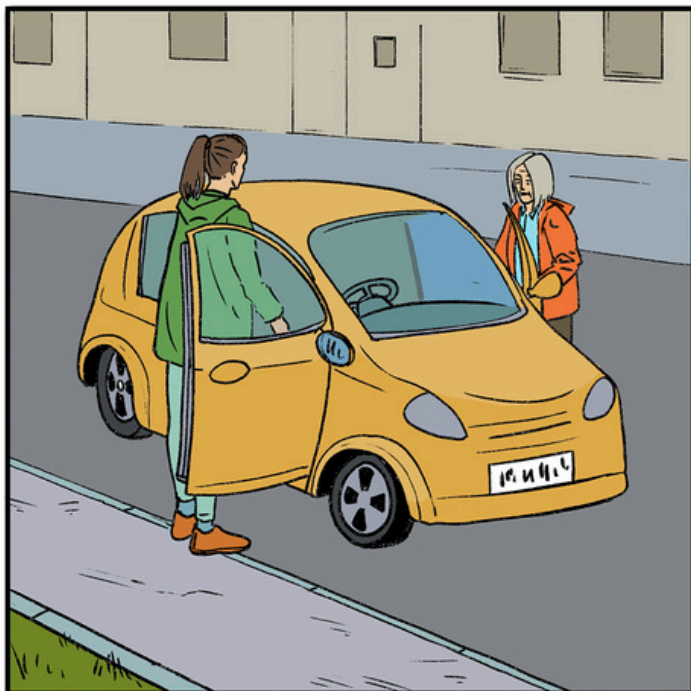
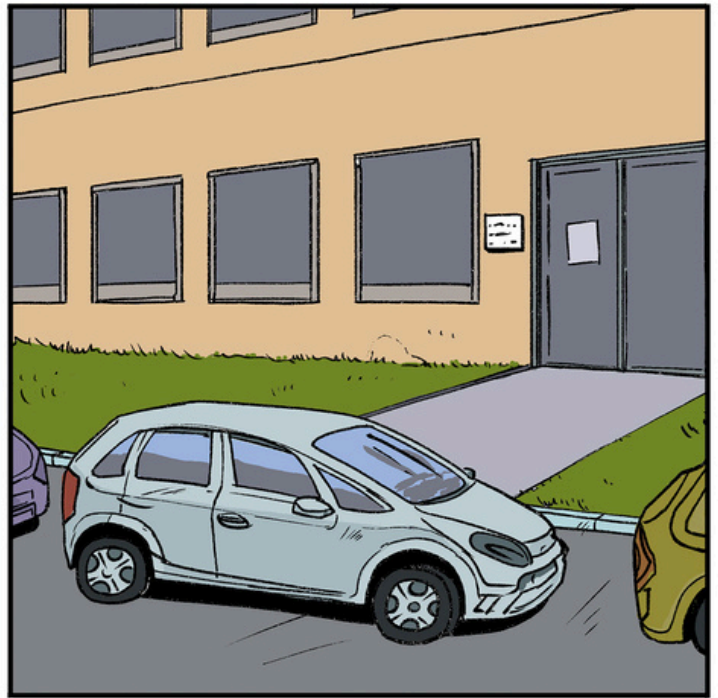
OH WELL, I ALWAYS KEPT A JOURNAL DURING MY TRAVELS, AND I HAVE SO MANY STORIES TO SHARE. RECENTLY I WAS THINKING I'D LIKE TO TAKE A WRITING COURSE TO TRY TO TURN SOME OF THESE STORIES INTO A NOVEL.

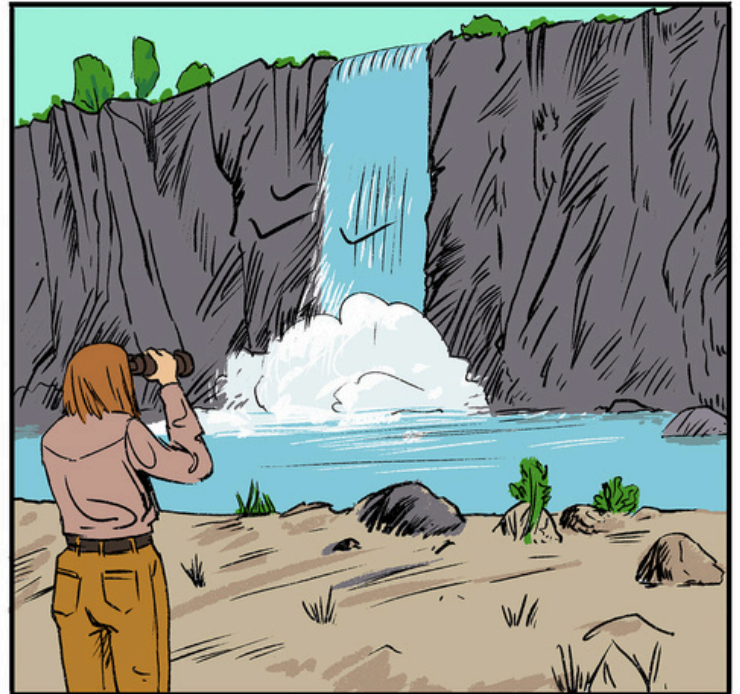
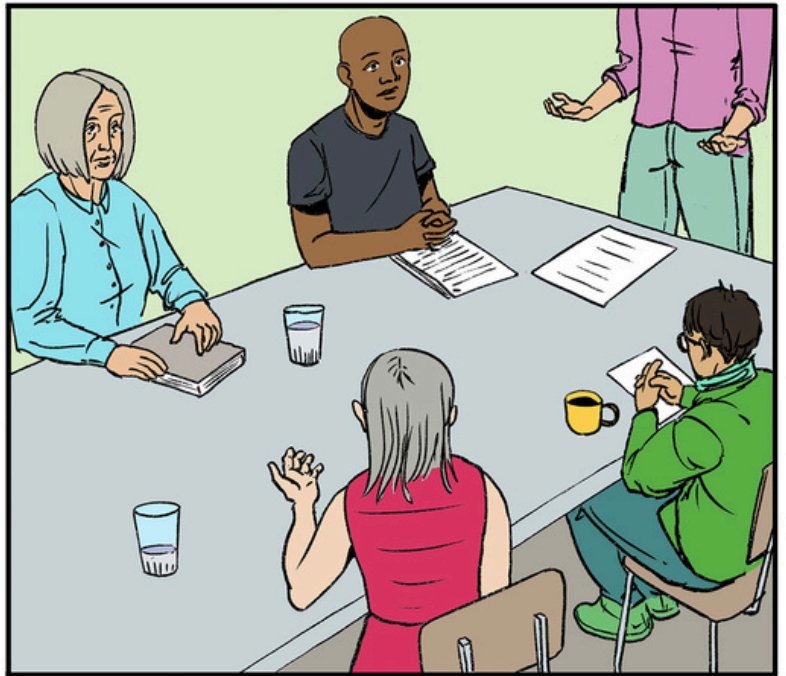


THAT SOUNDS PERFECT! YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY PURSUE THAT! I'M SURE I CAN FIND SOMETHING FITTING.

SAY I FOUND SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WOULD IT HELP IF SOMEONE CAME TO PICK YOU UP?

YES I THINK THAT'S HOW I WOULD PREFER IT.







Story 2

George



WILL, A SOCIAL WORKER, HAS COME TO VISIT GEORGE A RETIREE LIVING BY HIMSELF, A FAMILY MEMBER SUGGESTED HE COULD REQUEST SOME HELP FROM THE COUNCIL WITH HIS MOBILITY ISSUES.



YOU SAID YOU'RE SINGLE NOW, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN MARRIED OR BEEN IN A LONG RELATIONSHIP BEFORE?

NO, ACTUALLY I'M GAY AND IN THE PAST IT'S BEEN QUITE HARD TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP FOR VERY LONG.

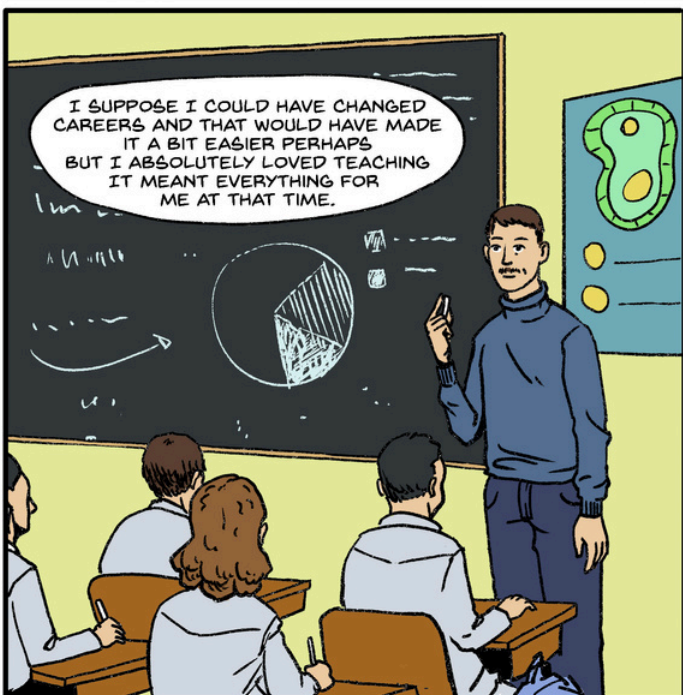


SEE, I WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER AND IN THOSE DAYS YOU JUST COULDN'T BE OPENLY GAY AND ESPECIALLY NOT AS A TEACHER

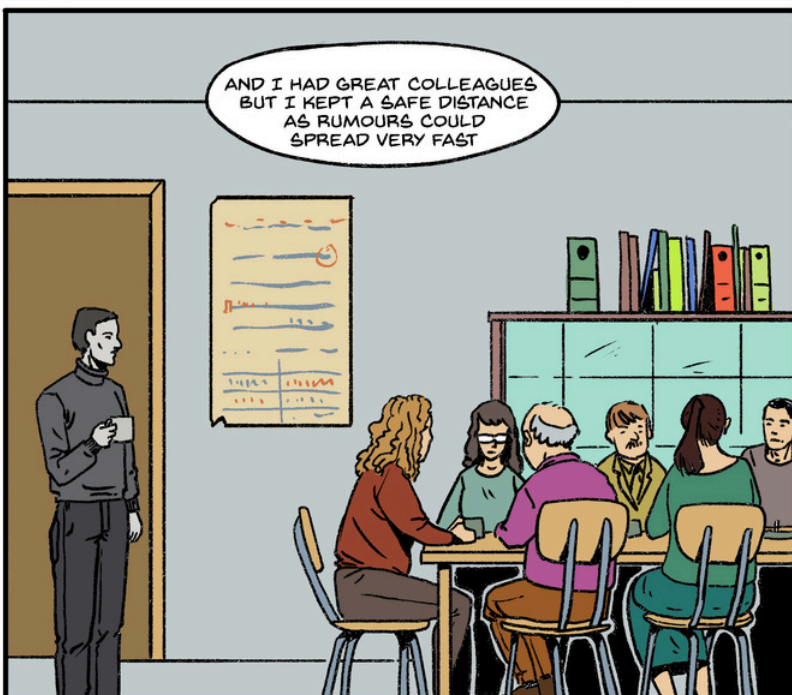
NO, OF COURSE NOT. I'M SORRY THOSE TIMES WERE SO HORRIBLE.

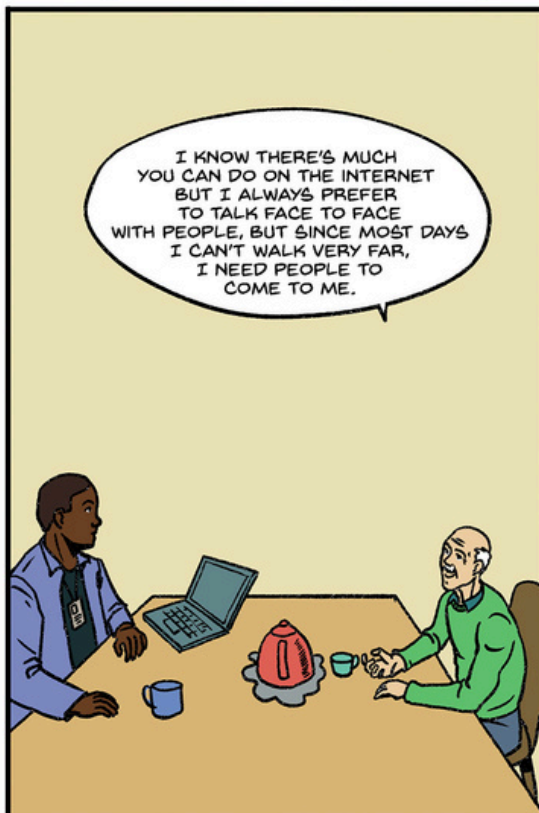
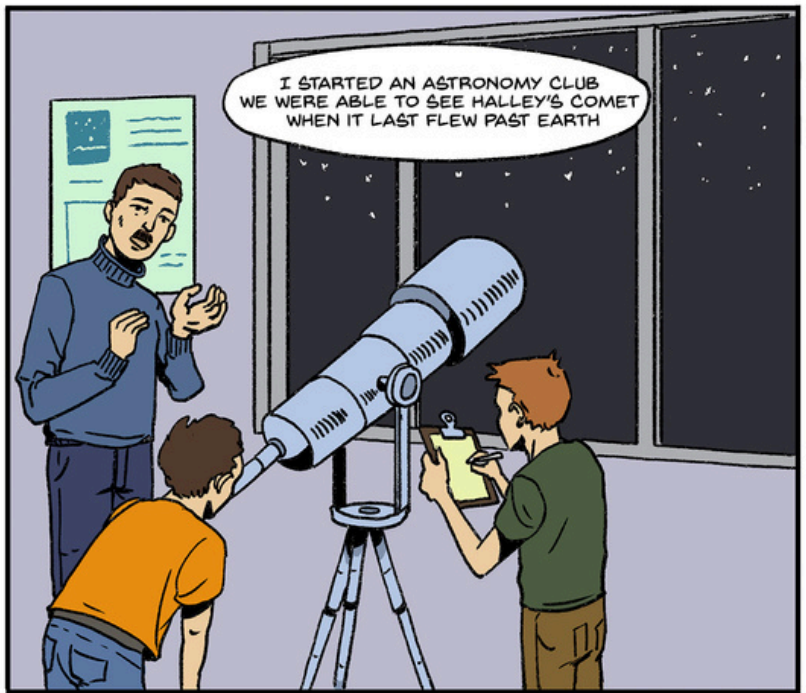


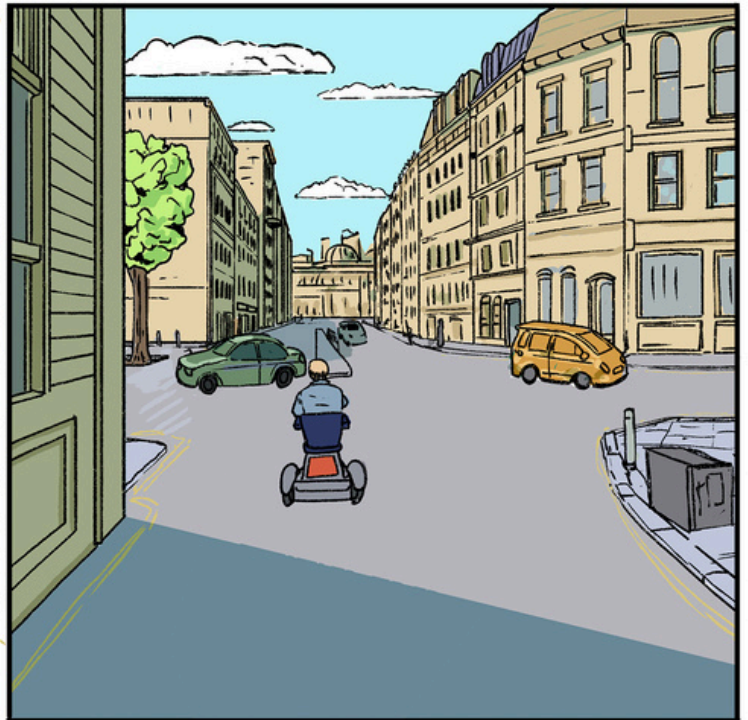
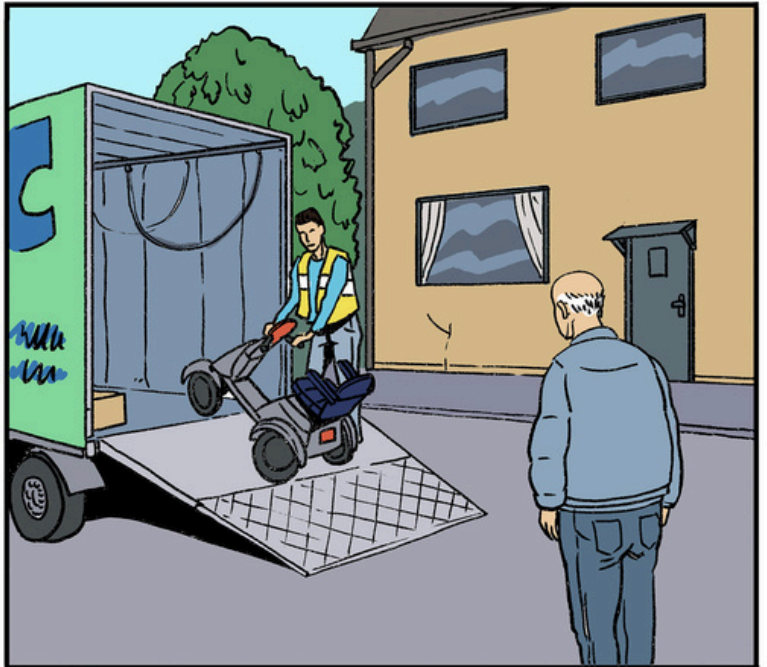
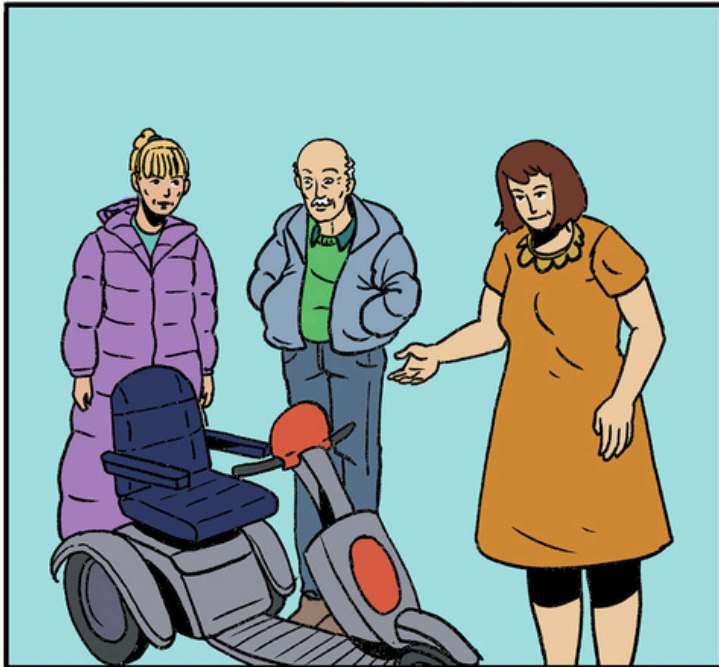
I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE CHANGED CAREERS AND THAT WOULD HAVE MADE IT A BIT EASIER PERHAPS BUT I ABSOLUTELY LOVED TEACHING IT MEANT EVERYTHING FOR ME AT THAT TIME.

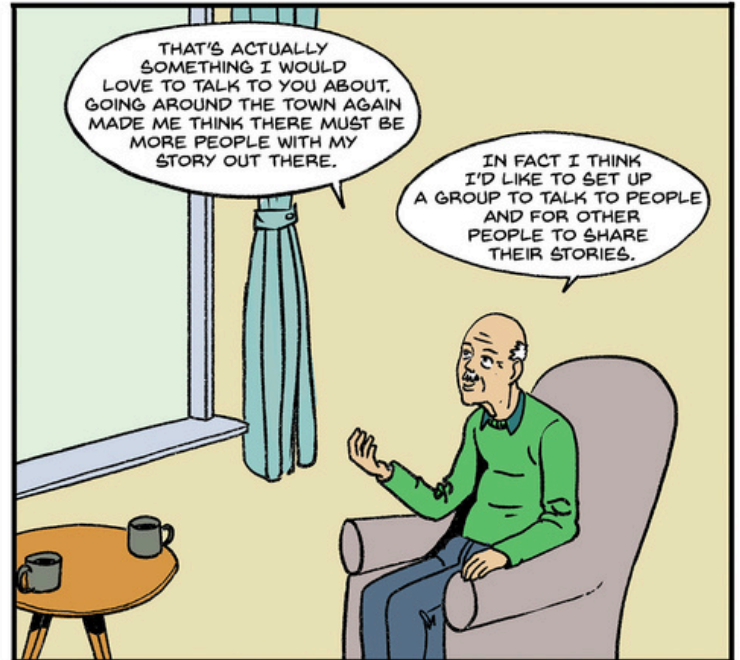
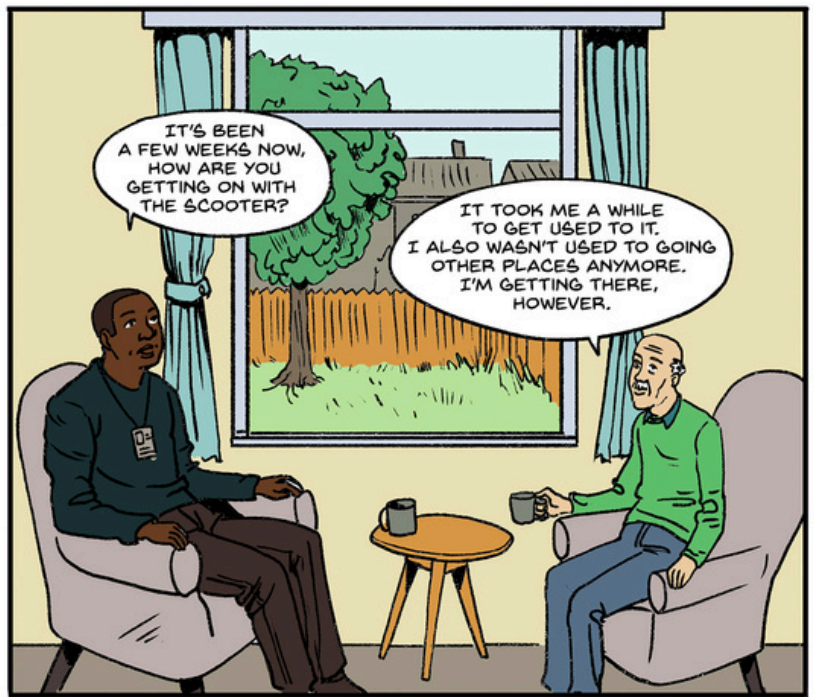


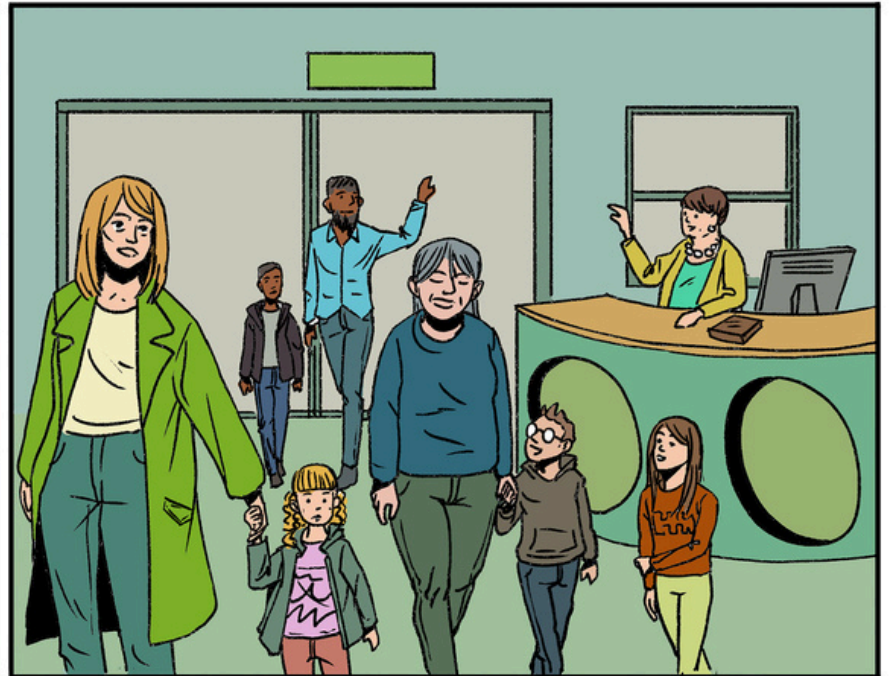
AND I HAD GREAT COLLEAGUES BUT I KEPT A SAFE DISTANCE AS RUMOURS COULD SPREAD VERY FAST









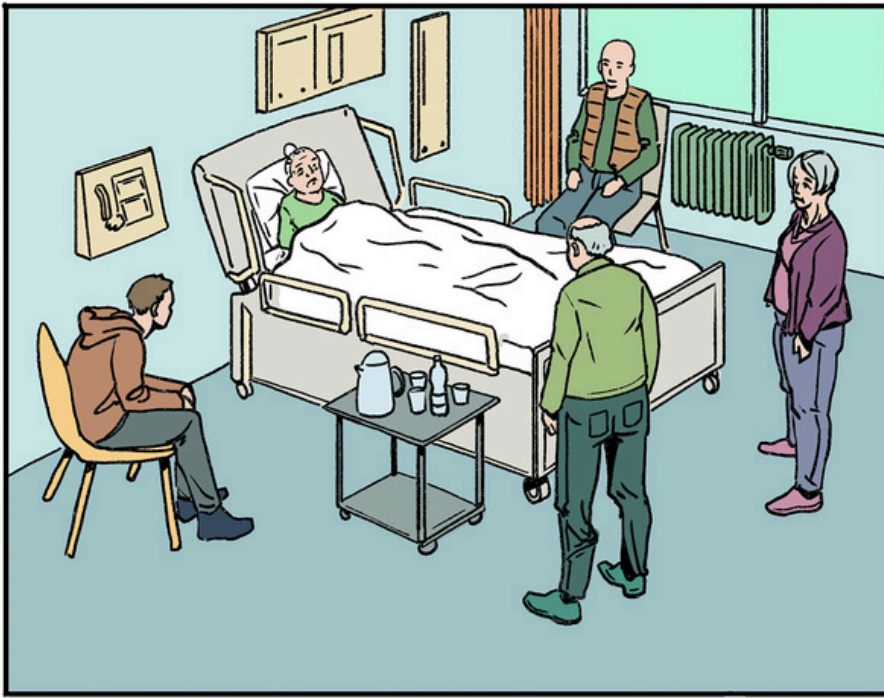


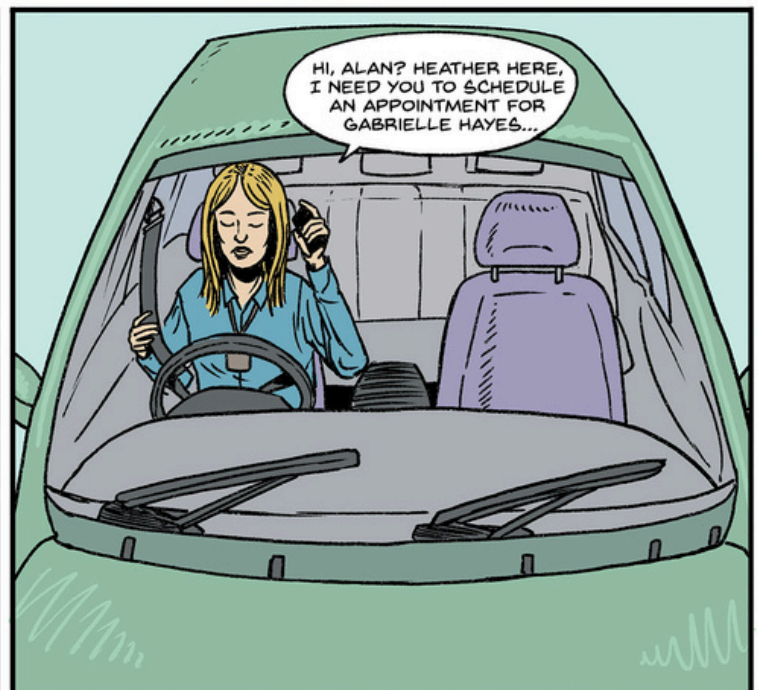
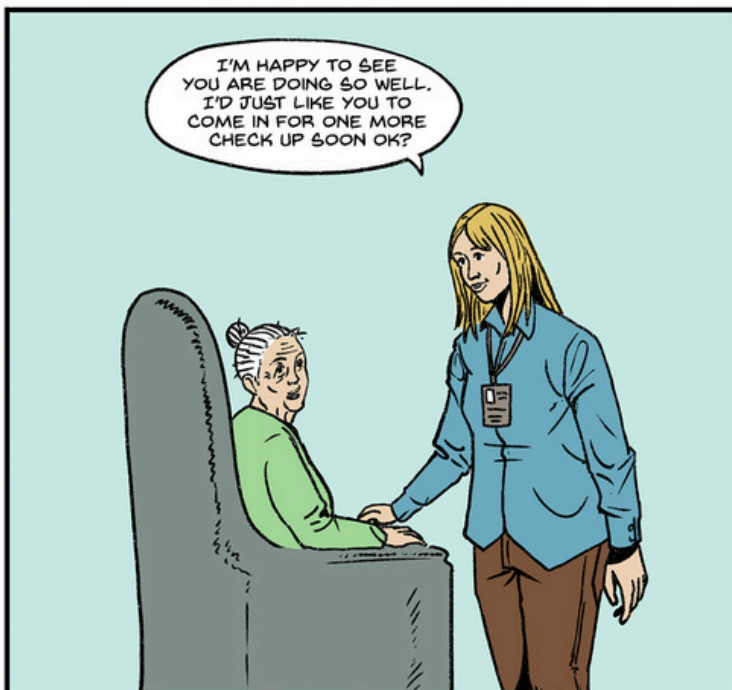
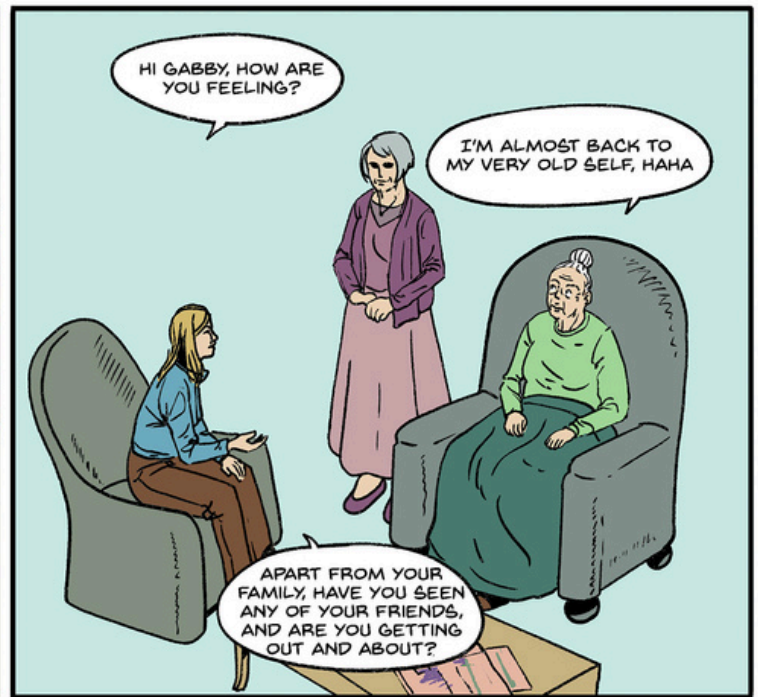


Story 3

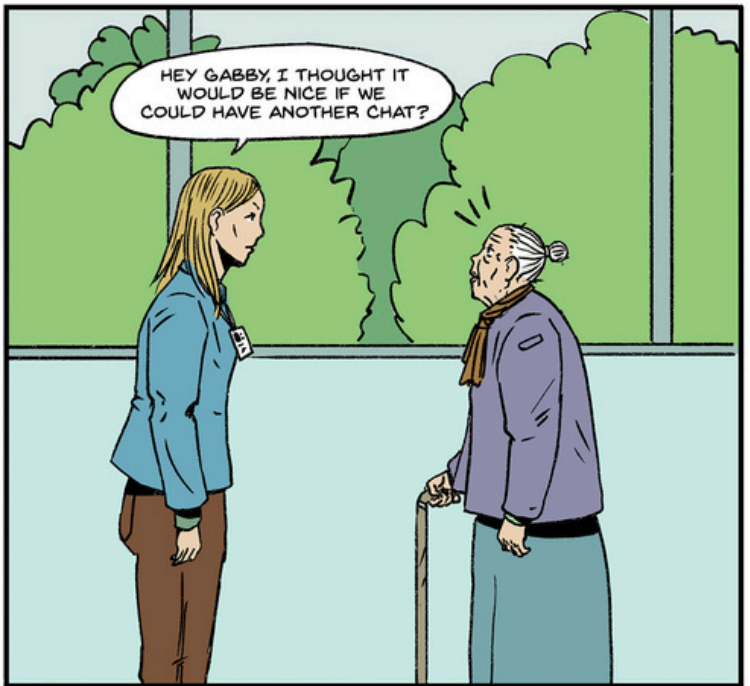


Gabby

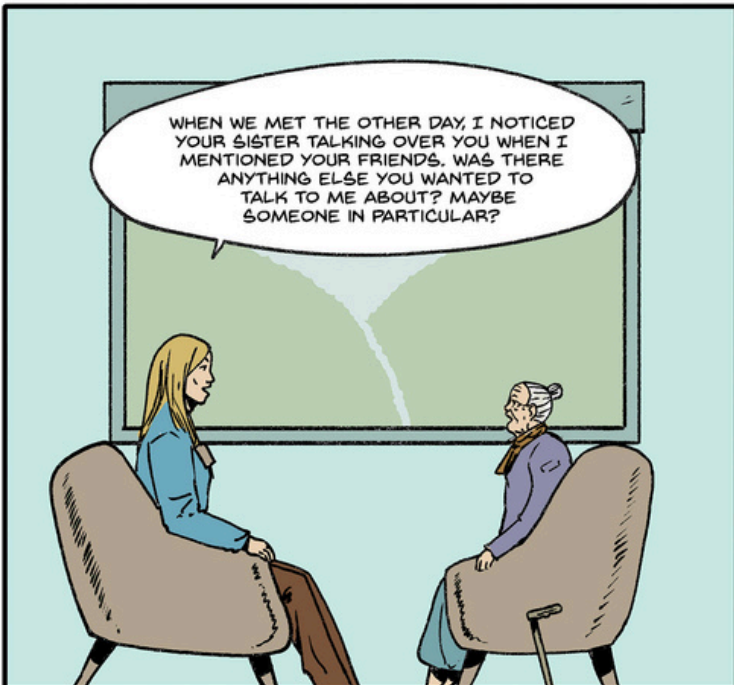




LATER THAT WEEK...



WHEN WE MET THE OTHER DAY, I NOTICED YOUR SISTER TALKING OVER YOU WHEN I MENTIONED YOUR FRIENDS. WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT? MAYBE SOMEONE IN PARTICULAR?



I BELIEVE I WAS TALKING ABOUT MY FRIENDS BUT REALLY I ALSO WANTED TO TALK ABOUT ELIZA. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BRING IT UP. MY SISTER DOESN'T LIKE HER, AND WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL SHE TRIED TO VISIT ME A FEW TIMES BUT I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW MY SISTER HAD KEPT HER OUT AND TOLD HER TO LEAVE.

MY SISTER ALSO DOESN'T LIKE HER COMING OVER SO WE MEET AT HER PLACE USUALLY



ACTUALLY, ELIZA IS MY PARTNER! THAT'S WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY!

WE LOVE GOING TO THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

SHE CAN ALWAYS TELL WHICH BIRDS ARE IN THE GARDEN JUST BY THE SOUND!

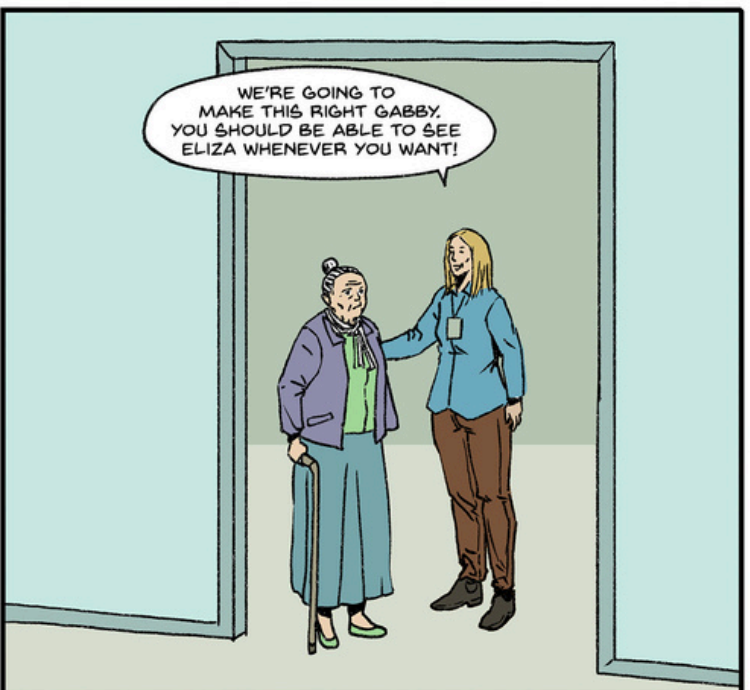
WE MET AT A FUNDRAISER AND WE WERE BOTH WEARING THE SAME HAT, IT WAS SO DAFT! HAHA

SOMETIMES SHE TEASES ME AND PRETENDS SHE IS SELLING ME SOMETHING! OH, SHE DOES SUCH A FUNNY VOICE!

...WE ACTUALLY STARTED A COLLECTION TOGETHER...



WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT GABBY. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE ELIZA WHENEVER YOU WANT!



WONDERING WHY ELIZA WASN'T BEEN RECORDED AS GABRIEL'S PARTNER IN THE PAST, SHE BRINGS UP THE ISSUE WITH HER SUPERVISOR.

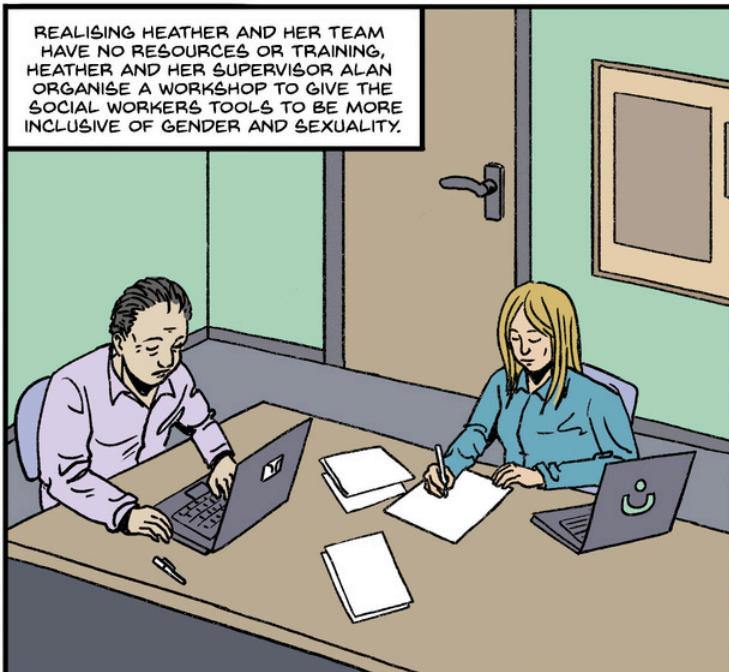


SEE, SHE HAD AN ASSESSMENT BEFORE THE HOSPITAL STAY BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN RECORDED ABOUT HER SEXUALITY OR ANY PARTNERS.



I THINK WE JUST OFTEN DON'T ASK OR KNOW HOW TO...

REALISING HEATHER AND HER TEAM HAVE NO RESOURCES OR TRAINING, HEATHER AND HER SUPERVISOR ALAN ORGANISE A WORKSHOP TO GIVE THE SOCIAL WORKERS TOOLS TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY.



HI, IS THIS ELIZA? MY NAME IS HEATHER, I HAVE SPOKEN WITH YOUR PARTNER GABBY.

HI YES, I'M ELIZA

I'VE BEEN MADE AWARE OF YOUR STRUGGLES WITH MEETING EACH OTHER AND HER FAMILY. I THINK WE CAN WORK THIS OUT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH US?

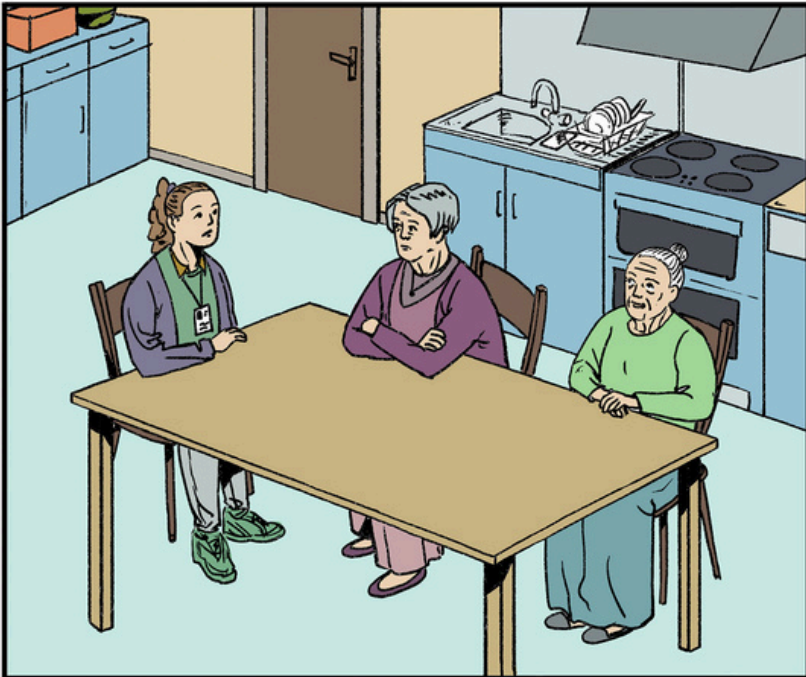
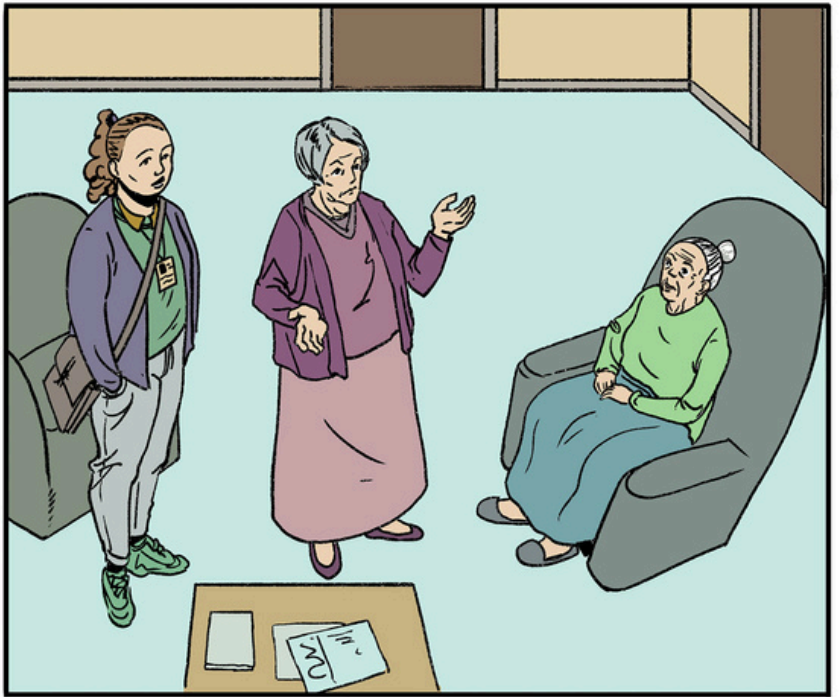


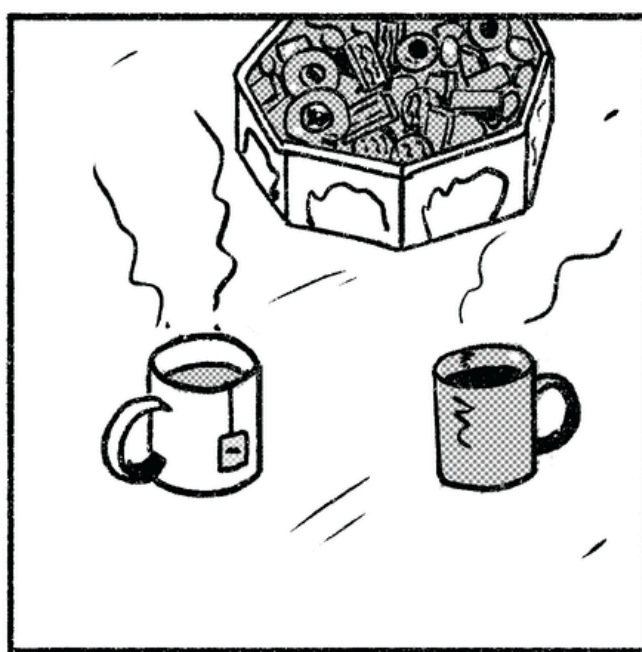
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, YES OF COURSE I'LL COME IN

HI ELIZA, THIS IS MEL, SHE IS GOING TO TALK TO GABBY'S SISTER.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR DOING THIS.







For more information, go to
www.birmingham.ac.uk/loasca

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