

# ★ FEMALE ★ FORCE ★

## WOMEN IN POLITICS





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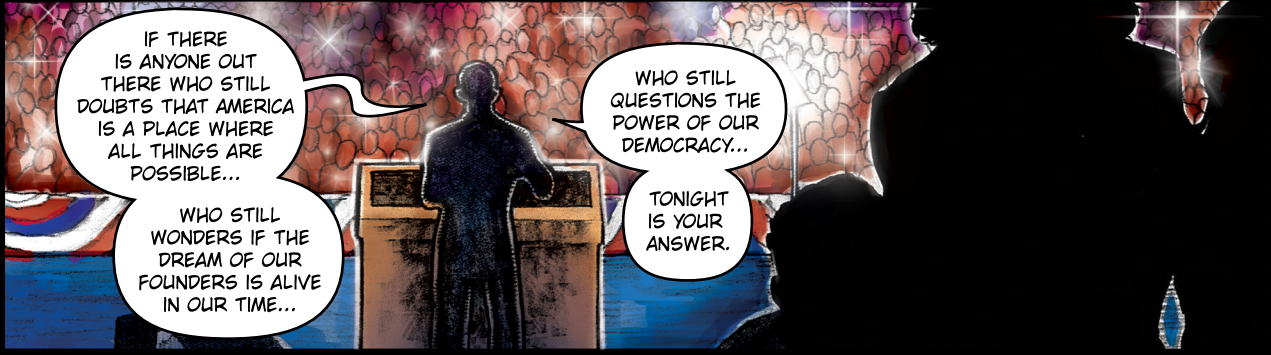
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# MICHELLE OBAMA





HELLO,  
CHICAGO!



IF THERE  
IS ANYONE OUT  
THERE WHO STILL  
DOUBTS THAT AMERICA  
IS A PLACE WHERE  
ALL THINGS ARE  
POSSIBLE...

WHO STILL  
QUESTIONS THE  
POWER OF OUR  
DEMOCRACY...

WHO STILL  
WONDERS IF THE  
DREAM OF OUR  
FOUNDERS IS ALIVE  
IN OUR TIME...

TONIGHT  
IS YOUR  
ANSWER.



**DISCLAIMER:**

WHEN OBAMA  
WON, I CRIED.



I CRIED LIKE JESSE  
JACKSON, WHICH IS  
WEIRD, BECAUSE I'M  
NOT EVEN FOND OF  
JESSE JACKSON.

UNITY, AT  
LONG LAST



I THOUGHT, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF WAR AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL LOSS AND POLITICAL DISMISSAL, I RECALLED MY FEAR THAT SHOULD OBAMA, MY CANDIDATE, ACTUALLY MAKE IT TO THE FINAL LECTERN, HIS IDEALISM WOULD BE SILENCED BY A RACIST SNIPER'S BULLET.

AND YET HERE WE WERE AS A NATION. THE FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT. ALIVE. SUCCEEDING. HOW? HOPE?

HEY, KIDS, IT'S NEAL! THE BIOGRAPHER!

HOLY MOLY.

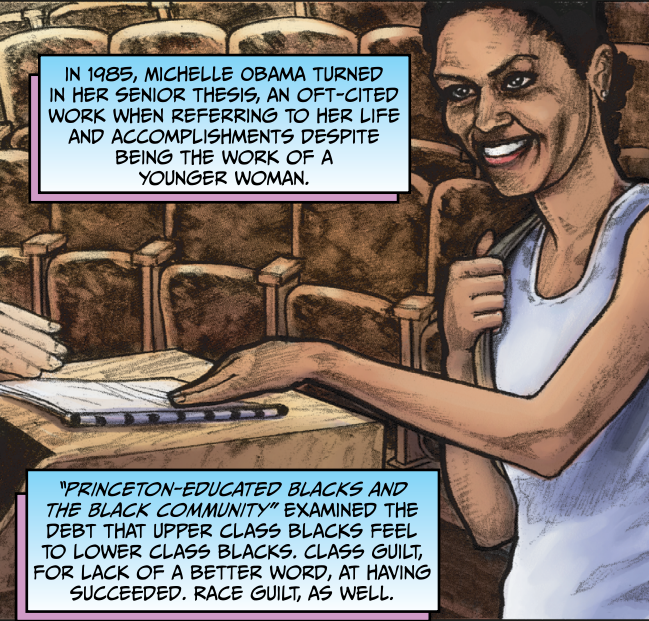
I LIVED TO SEE A BLACK PRESIDENT.

THIS WAS LIKE GETTING A FLYING CAR OR A JETPACK, YOU REALIZE. IT'S THE THING THAT EVERYONE ALWAYS DREAMED OF, BUT COULD IT REALLY HAPPEN?

A MAJORITY OF THE NATION, BY VOTE, WERE GLAD TO SEE THIS DAY. THE CRITICS, OF COURSE, WERE QUICK TO SPEAK UP. AND NOT WITHOUT SOME VALIDITY.

IN A NATION PLAGUED WITH GUILT OVER RACISM AND PREJUDICIAL TREATMENT OF MINORITIES, THE PAPERS SEEM TO WONDER IF "WHITE GUILT" PLAYED A ROLE IN THE ELECTION.

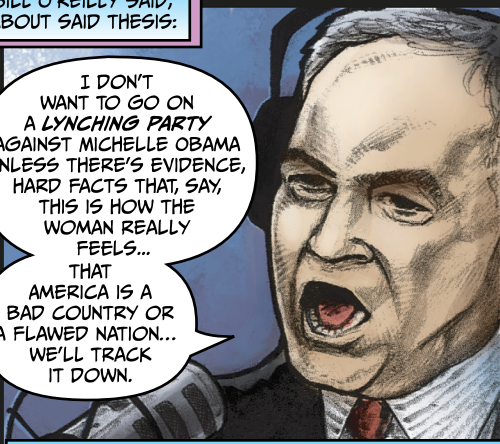
A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION, I ASSERT, IS IDENTITY IN MICHELLE OBAMA AND HER BLUE COLLAR ROOTS. WITHOUT MICHELLE, BARACK WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD THE SUPPORT STRUCTURE HE NEEDED TO BECOME AN AGENT OF CHANGE.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white tank top, is sitting at a wooden desk. She is smiling and looking towards the viewer while writing in a notebook with a pen. The background shows rows of wooden chairs, suggesting a classroom or lecture hall setting.

IN 1985, MICHELLE OBAMA TURNED IN HER SENIOR THESIS, AN oft-cited work when referring to her life and accomplishments despite being the work of a younger woman.

"PRINCETON-EDUCATED BLACKS AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY" EXAMINED THE DEBT THAT UPPER CLASS BLACKS FEEL TO LOWER CLASS BLACKS. CLASS GUILT, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, AT HAVING SUCCEEDED. RACE GUILT, AS WELL.


BILL O'REILLY SAID, ABOUT SAID THESIS:

A close-up of an older man with grey hair, wearing a suit and tie. He has a serious, somewhat angry expression on his face, with his mouth open as if speaking or shouting.

I DON'T WANT TO GO ON A LYNCHING PARTY AGAINST MICHELLE OBAMA UNLESS THERE'S EVIDENCE, HARD FACTS THAT, SAY, THIS IS HOW THE WOMAN REALLY FEELS...


THAT AMERICA IS A BAD COUNTRY OR A FLAWED NATION... WE'LL TRACK IT DOWN.

CRITICS MISINTERPRETED AND MISQUOTED HER ACTUAL THESIS TO HAVE A SEGREGATIONIST BIAS, A HARD SELL GIVEN MICHELLE'S ATTENDANCE OF AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND HER CHOICE OF ASSIMILATION AT PRINCETON.

A person wearing blue overalls and a yellow glove is shown from the side, working on a wooden structure. The background is a simple outdoor setting with a fence.

MICHELLE'S THESIS CONFRONTED THE WAY SUCCESSFUL BLACKS FEEL TOWARD OTHER BLACKS IN THEIR COMMUNITY. SHE CONFRONTED THE PERCEIVED DEBT THE RICH OWE TO THE IMPOVERISHED. THAT, PREDICTABLY, MADE RICH PEOPLE UNCOMFORTABLE.

SOME HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT IT IS HER DIABOLICAL PLAN, ONCE HER HUSBAND IS IN OFFICE, TO GIVE A FREE RIDE TO ALL MINORITIES.

A person wearing blue overalls is standing in a room, holding a black bag. They are next to a large metal tub filled with dark material. The room has brick walls and a wooden door.

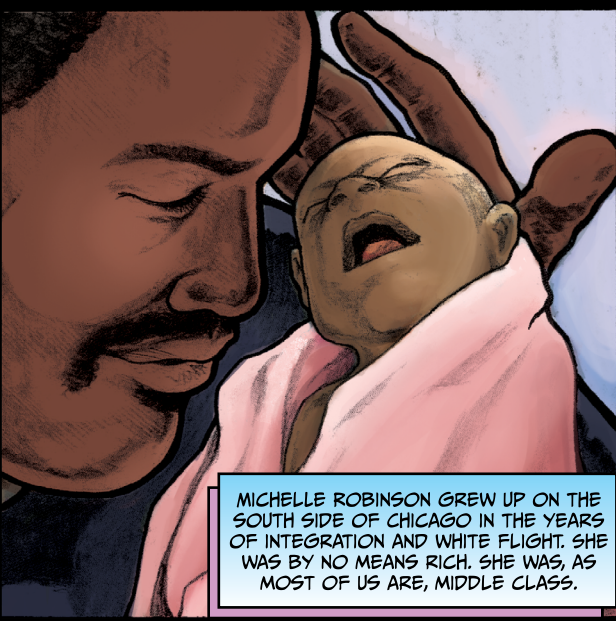
OTHER CRITICS SUGGEST THAT HER "ELITISM" DRAWN FROM A LIFE OF EASE AND MONEY GIVE HER NO PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE POOR, BLACK OR OTHERWISE.

THIS MAN, FRASER ROBINSON, WERE HE STILL WITH US, MIGHT BEG TO DIFFER, AND HE IS WHERE MICHELLE'S STORY STARTS.

A person wearing blue overalls is shown from the back, walking up a set of concrete steps. They are holding a long-handled tool, possibly a shovel or a brush. The steps are made of concrete and are bordered by brick walls.

HE IS MICHELLE OBAMA'S FATHER, AND HE STARTED HIS SUCCESSFUL WORKING LIFE AS A JANITOR.





MICHELLE ROBINSON GREW UP ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO IN THE YEARS OF INTEGRATION AND WHITE FLIGHT. SHE WAS BY NO MEANS RICH. SHE WAS, AS MOST OF US ARE, MIDDLE CLASS.

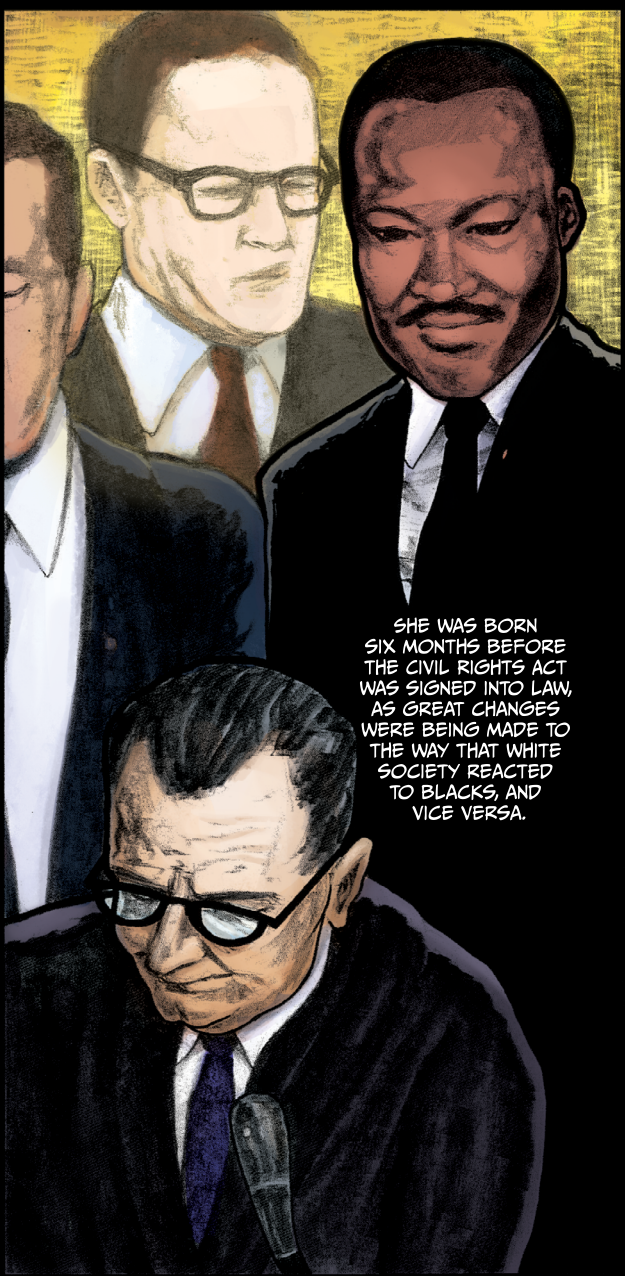


SHE TOOK THE EL TRAIN FOR UP TO TWO HOURS A DAY AS A CHILD...

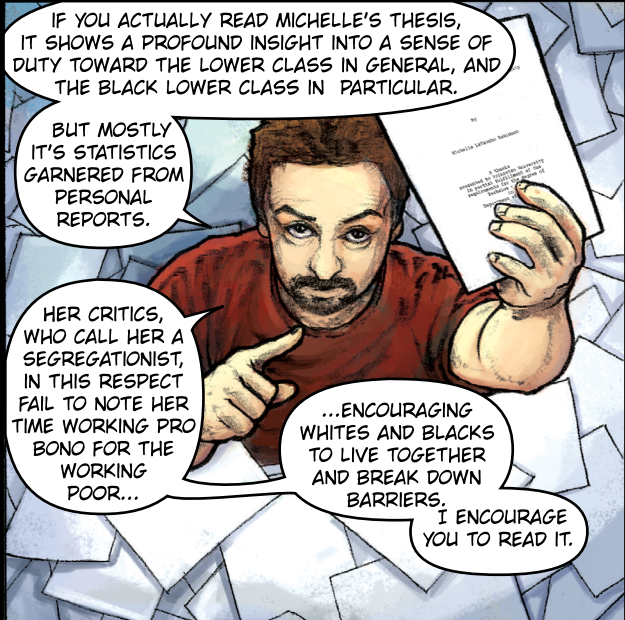


...AND EARNED A MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AT WHITNEY M. YOUNG MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL, GRADUATING SALUTORIAN IN THE SAME CLASS AS SANTITA JACKSON, JESSE JACKSON'S DAUGHTER.

SHE WORKED FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS. DESPITE NOT STARVING OR LIVING ON THE STREETS, SHE WASN'T HANDED SUCCESS. NOR WAS SHE GIVEN A FREE RIDE.



SHE WAS BORN SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW, AS GREAT CHANGES WERE BEING MADE TO THE WAY THAT WHITE SOCIETY REACTED TO BLACKS, AND VICE VERSA.



IF YOU ACTUALLY READ MICHELLE'S THESIS, IT SHOWS A PROFOUND INSIGHT INTO A SENSE OF DUTY TOWARD THE LOWER CLASS IN GENERAL, AND THE BLACK LOWER CLASS IN PARTICULAR.

BUT MOSTLY IT'S STATISTICS GARNERED FROM PERSONAL REPORTS.

HER CRITICS, WHO CALL HER A SEGREGATIONIST, IN THIS RESPECT FAIL TO NOTE HER TIME WORKING PRO BONO FOR THE WORKING POOR...

...ENCOURAGING WHITES AND BLACKS TO LIVE TOGETHER AND BREAK DOWN BARRIERS. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ IT.

MICHELLE GREW UP IN THIS BRICK HOUSE. THE FAMILY STARTED IN THE BUNGALOW AND EVENTUALLY, THE HOME WAS BEQUEATHED TO THEM.

AT FIRST MICHELLE SLEPT IN THE LIVING ROOM NEAR HER BROTHER CRAIG, WITH A SMALL DIVIDER TO SEPARATE THEM. THIS SERVED TO PREVENT HER RICH ELITISM FROM TAKING HER OVER UNTIL SHE REACHED A POSITION OF POWER.\*

*\*THIS LAST STATEMENT MAY BE THE WRITER BEING SARCASTIC/ PARODYING EXPECTATION.*

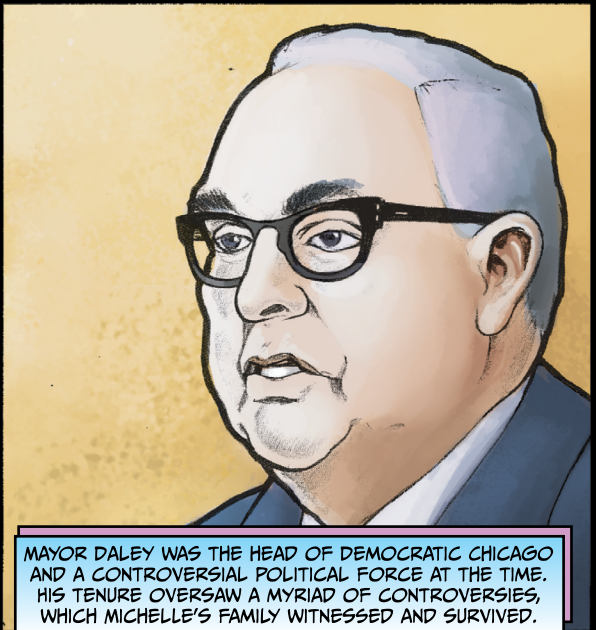
MARIAN ROBINSON, MICHELLE'S MOTHER, MANAGED TO STAY AT HOME, A LUXURY FOR MANY STRUGGLING BLACK FAMILIES AT THE TIME.

MICHELLE'S FATHER WORKED HIS WAY UP TO A CONSUMMATE SALARY DESPITE BEING AFFLICTED WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

ONE OF MICHELLE'S JOYS WAS PLAYING THE PIANO, WHICH SHE DID WITHOUT PROMPT FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.



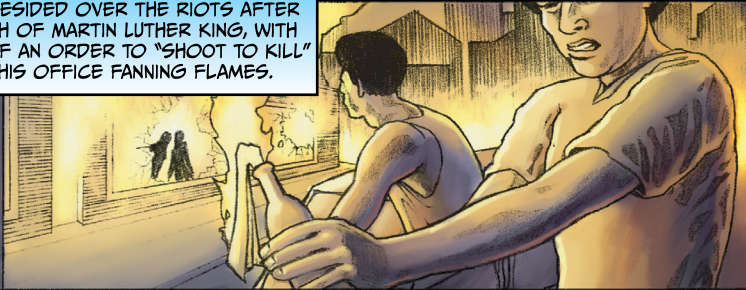
FRASER WAS A DEMOCRATIC FUNDRAISER AND AN ACTIVE POLITICAL FORCE IN HIS COMMUNITY. THIS HAS BEEN CRITICIZED AS HOW HE GOT HIS JOB.



MAYOR DALEY WAS THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC CHICAGO AND A CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL FORCE AT THE TIME. HIS TENURE OVERSAW A MYRIAD OF CONTROVERSIES, WHICH MICHELLE'S FAMILY WITNESSED AND SURVIVED.



DALEY PRESIDED OVER THE RIOTS AFTER THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, WITH RUMORS OF AN ORDER TO "SHOOT TO KILL" FROM HIS OFFICE FANNING FLAMES.



CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM RAN RAMPANT IN THE ALDERMAN SYSTEM, AND EVENTUALLY CHICAGO WAS EXPOSED FOR ITS MACHINE POLITICS, DRIVING CHANGE.

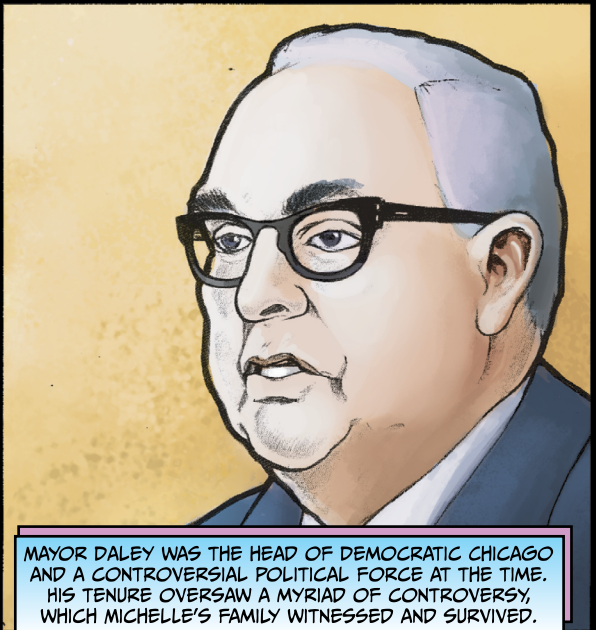


IF FRASER GOT THE JOB THROUGH CRONYISM, I THEN PONDER, WHY A JOB AS A JANITOR? WHY NOT A BUREAUCRAT? THEY CERTAINLY MAKE MORE MONEY.

IF FRASER WAS REWARDED WITH A JOB FOR BEING POLITICALLY ACTIVE IN HIS COMMUNITY, IS THAT WRONG? I WOULD THINK INSTEAD WE WOULD TARGET THE MACHINE OVER THE COG, BUT THEN, THE COG ISN'T TRYING TO CHANGE STATUS QUO.



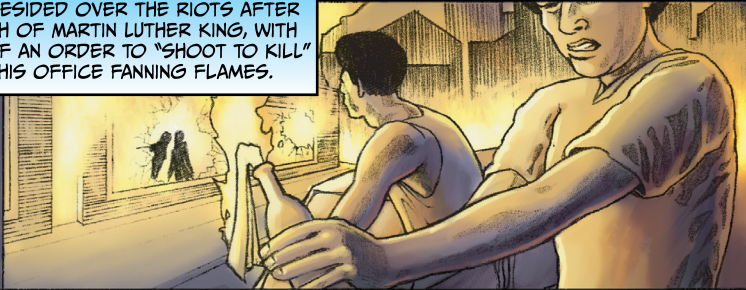
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IF FRASER GOT THE JOB THROUGH CRONYISM, I THEN PONDER, WHY A JOB AS A JANITOR? WHY NOT A BUREAUCRAT? THEY CERTAINLY MAKE MORE MONEY.

IF HE WAS REWARDED WITH A JOB FOR BEING POLITICALLY ACTIVE IN HIS COMMUNITY, IS THAT WRONG? I WOULD THINK INSTEAD WE WOULD LOGICALLY TARGET *THIS GUY* FOR HIS GAINS. BUT THEN, *THIS GUY* ISN'T TRYING TO CHANGE STATUS QUO.