

★ FEMALE ★ FORCE ★

# THE SUPREME COURT



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MAP OF  
NEWYORK CITY,  
BROOKLYN,  
AND VICINITY.

Surface  
in operation and proposed.

# RUTH BADER GINSBURG

COLORING

Black Lines Manhattan (E.I. Ry.)  
Red • Long Island R.R.  
Blue • Proposed Cable E.I. Ry.  
Dotted • ---T--- (20000/1000)  
Brown • Brooklyn E.I. Ry.





IT IS A UNIQUELY  
AMERICAN MOMENT.

THE CULMINATION  
OF A UNIQUELY  
AMERICAN STORY.

THE WORLD'S MOST  
INFLUENTIAL  
JOURNALISTS WAIT  
AS THE LEADER OF  
THE FREE WORLD  
PREPARES TO  
SPEAK.

BUT FOR ONCE HE IS  
NOT THE ONE THEY  
HAVE COME TO SEE.

THE STORY THEY SEEK  
IS EMBODIED BY THE  
SMALL, UNASSUMING  
WOMAN WHO STANDS  
BESIDE THE PRESIDENT.

THEY WILL SOON BE  
INVESTIGATING EVERY WORD  
SHE HAS EVER SPOKEN,  
EVERY CHOICE MADE IN HER  
60 YEARS.

SHE IS HERE AT THE DISCRE-  
TION OF THE PRESIDENT...AND  
IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT SHE  
WAS NOT HIS FIRST CHOICE.

THAT CHOICE MUST  
STILL BE AFFIRMED  
BY A POTENTIALLY  
HOSTILE CONGRESS.

SHOULD SHE  
SUCCEED THROUGH  
ALL THAT...

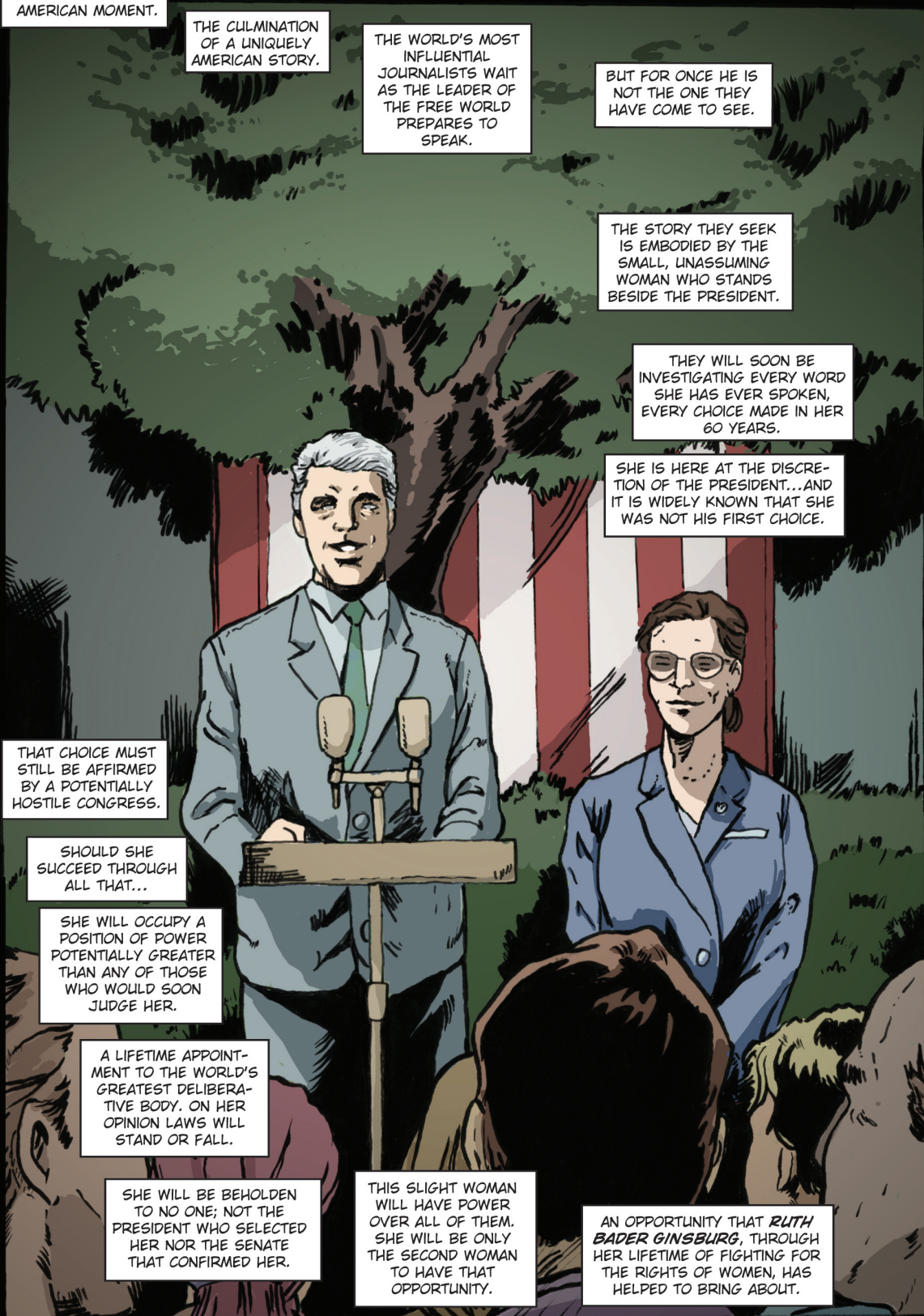
SHE WILL OCCUPY A  
POSITION OF POWER  
POTENTIALLY GREATER  
THAN ANY OF THOSE  
WHO WOULD SOON  
JUDGE HER.

A LIFETIME APPOINT-  
MENT TO THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST DELIBERA-  
TIVE BODY. ON HER  
OPINION LAWS WILL  
STAND OR FALL.

SHE WILL BE BEHOLDEN  
TO NO ONE; NOT THE  
PRESIDENT WHO SELECTED  
HER NOR THE SENATE  
THAT CONFIRMED HER.

THIS SLIGHT WOMAN  
WILL HAVE POWER  
OVER ALL OF THEM.  
SHE WILL BE ONLY  
THE SECOND WOMAN  
TO HAVE THAT  
OPPORTUNITY.

AN OPPORTUNITY THAT **RUTH  
BADER GINSBURG**, THROUGH  
HER LIFETIME OF FIGHTING FOR  
THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, HAS  
HELPED TO BRING ABOUT.



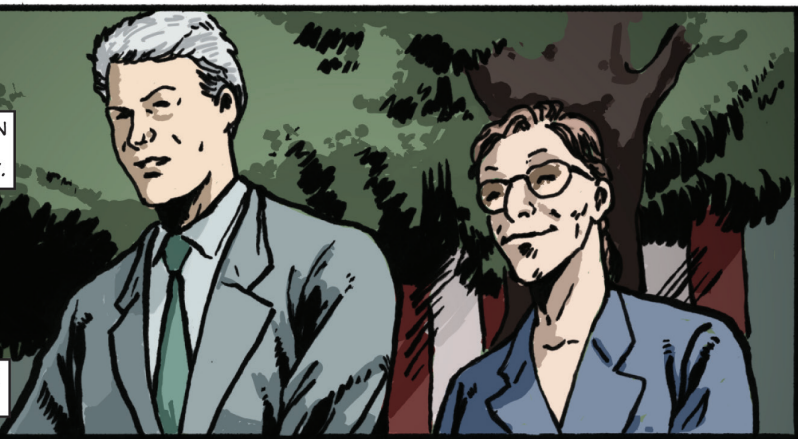


THE PRESIDENT IS  
OBVIOUSLY PLEASED  
WITH HIS CHOICE.

THAT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN  
THE CASE IN THE FIRST 6  
MONTHS OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

SOME OF HIS HIGH  
PROFILE CHOICES FOR  
HIGH POSITIONS HAD  
GONE DOWN IN FLAMES.

SEVERAL OF THEM  
WERE WOMEN.



ZOE BAIRD, AN UP AND COMING  
LAWYER WHO WOULD HAVE  
BEEN THE FIRST FEMALE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL, SAW HER  
NOMINATION CRASH AND BURN.



HER NANNY AND CHAUFFEUR  
TURNED OUT TO BE ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRANTS--FOR WHICH NO  
SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES HAD  
BEEN PAID.

NOT A WISE DECISION FOR  
SOMEONE ASPIRING TO BECOME  
THE CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICER OF THE LAND...

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SECOND  
CHOICE, JUDGE KIMBA WOOD,  
HAD ALSO HIRED AN ILLEGAL  
ALIEN AS A NANNY.



UNLIKE BAIRD, SHE HAD  
BROKEN NO LAWS. IT  
DIDN'T MATTER.

A GUN-SHY WHITE HOUSE PULLED  
THE PLUG ON HER NOMINATION,  
TURNING TO A THIRD CANDIDATE--THIS  
TIME A WOMAN WITH NO CHILDREN  
AND NO NANNY PROBLEMS.

WORST OF ALL, HIS LONGTIME  
FRIEND AND SUPPORTER LANI  
GUINIER FOUND HER NOMINATION  
DERAILED WHEN SOME OF HER  
MORE CONTROVERSIAL OPINIONS  
WERE MADE PUBLIC.



CLINTON WITHDREW HER CANDIDACY  
FOR ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS,  
CLAIMING HE WAS UNAWARE OF  
HER VIEWS - AN EXPLANATION  
THAT ANGERED HER SUPPORTERS  
AND EMBOLDENED HIS CRITICS.

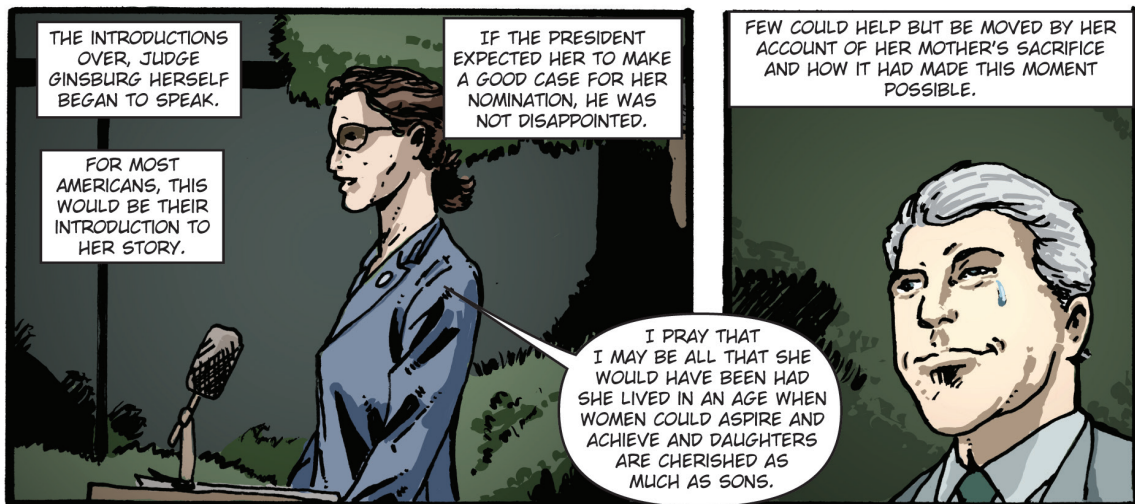
WHISPERS ABOUT THE  
COMPETENCE OF THE NEW  
WHITE HOUSE WERE GETTING  
LOUDER.

WITH THIS HISTORIC CHOICE  
THE PRESIDENT FELT  
CONFIDENT THAT FEW COULD  
COMPLAIN OR FIND FAULT.

SUCH WAS THE  
REPUTATION OF JUDGE  
RUTH BADER GINSBURG.







THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER, JUDGE GINSBURG HERSELF BEGAN TO SPEAK.

FOR MOST AMERICANS, THIS WOULD BE THEIR INTRODUCTION TO HER STORY.

IF THE PRESIDENT EXPECTED HER TO MAKE A GOOD CASE FOR HER NOMINATION, HE WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED.

I PRAY THAT I MAY BE ALL THAT SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD SHE LIVED IN AN AGE WHEN WOMEN COULD ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE AND DAUGHTERS ARE CHERISHED AS MUCH AS SONS.

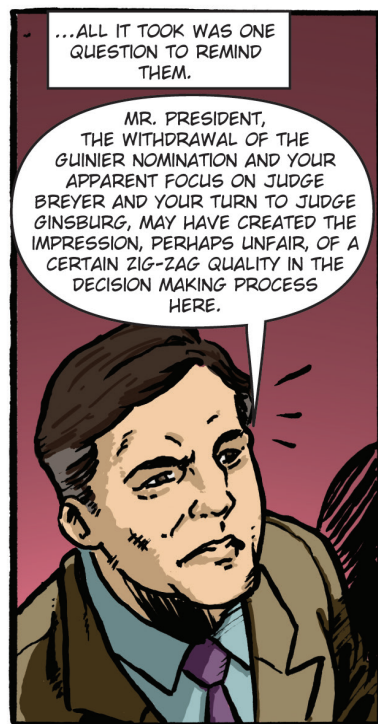
FEW COULD HELP BUT BE MOVED BY HER ACCOUNT OF HER MOTHER'S SACRIFICE AND HOW IT HAD MADE THIS MOMENT POSSIBLE.



THE SPEECH WAS A HOMERUN.

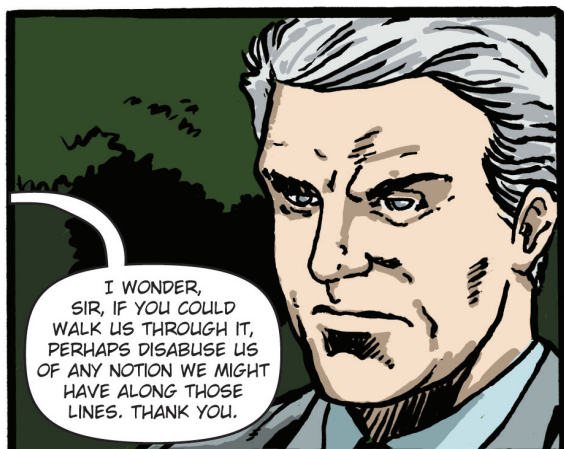
THE MOMENT WAS HEARTFELT.

BUT IF ANYONE HAD FORGOTTEN THE POLITICS OF THE DAY...

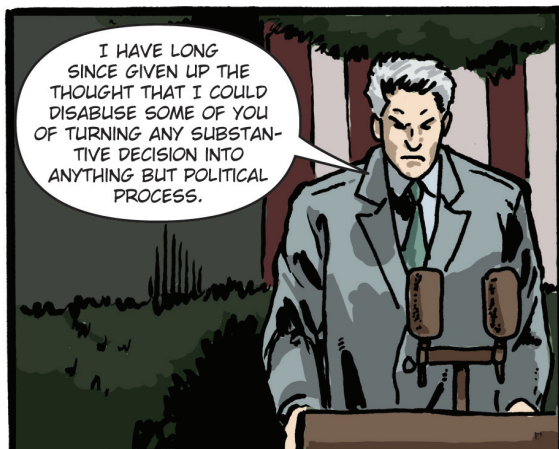


...ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE QUESTION TO REMIND THEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GUINIER NOMINATION AND YOUR APPARENT FOCUS ON JUDGE BREYER AND YOUR TURN TO JUDGE GINSBURG, MAY HAVE CREATED THE IMPRESSION, PERHAPS UNFAIR, OF A CERTAIN ZIG-ZAG QUALITY IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS HERE.



I WONDER, SIR, IF YOU COULD WALK US THROUGH IT, PERHAPS DISABUSE US OF ANY NOTION WE MIGHT HAVE ALONG THOSE LINES. THANK YOU.

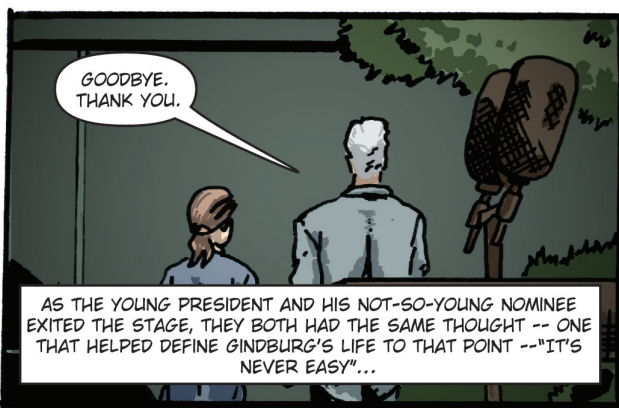


I HAVE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP THE THOUGHT THAT I COULD DISABUSE SOME OF YOU OF TURNING ANY SUBSTANTIVE DECISION INTO ANYTHING BUT POLITICAL PROCESS.





HOW YOU  
COULD ASK A  
QUESTION LIKE THAT  
AFTER THE STATEMENT  
SHE JUST MADE IS  
BEYOND ME.



GOODBYE.  
THANK YOU.

AS THE YOUNG PRESIDENT AND HIS NOT-SO-YOUNG NOMINEE  
EXITED THE STAGE, THEY BOTH HAD THE SAME THOUGHT -- ONE  
THAT HELPED DEFINE GINDBURG'S LIFE TO THAT POINT -- "IT'S  
NEVER EASY"...



SHE WAS BORN RUTH  
JOAN BADER ON MARCH  
15, 1933.

SHE WAS THE  
SECOND CHILD OF  
NATHAN BADER, A  
FURRIER WHO HAD  
IMMIGRATED TO  
THE UNITED  
STATES WHILE  
JUST A BOY, AND  
CELIA BADER,  
HERSELF THE  
CHILD OF  
IMMIGRANT  
PARENTS.

THE WORKING CLASS BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD WAS HOME  
TO MANY JEWISH IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WHO HAS LEFT OR  
FLED THEIR COUNTRIES TO SEEK A BETTER FUTURE.



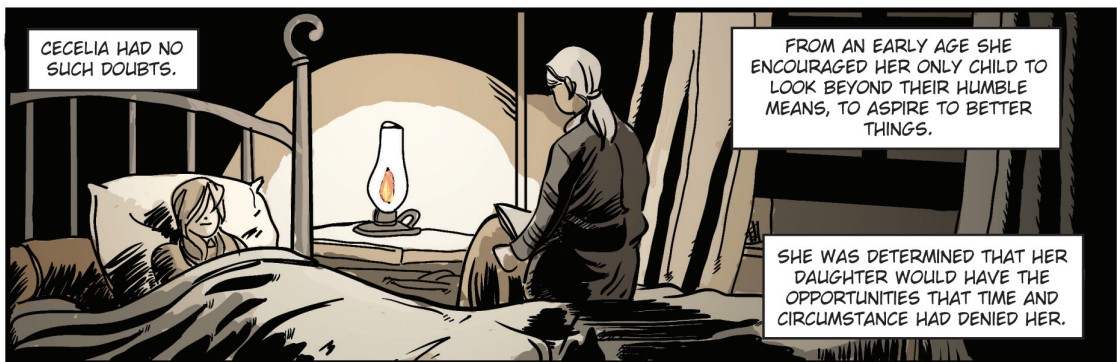
THAT FUTURE DID  
NOT COME  
EASILY...

WHEN RUTH WAS  
STILL A CHILD HER  
OLDER SISTER,  
MARILYN, DIED OF  
MENINGITIS.

WHATEVER DREAMS THE  
BADERS HAD FOR THEIR  
CHILDREN WOULD NOW REST  
ON HER SHOULDERS ALONE...



...THOUGH MANY WOULD  
HAVE THOUGHT IT FOLLY  
TO INVEST MUCH HOPE IN  
THE DAUGHTER OF POOR  
JEWISH IMMIGRANTS.

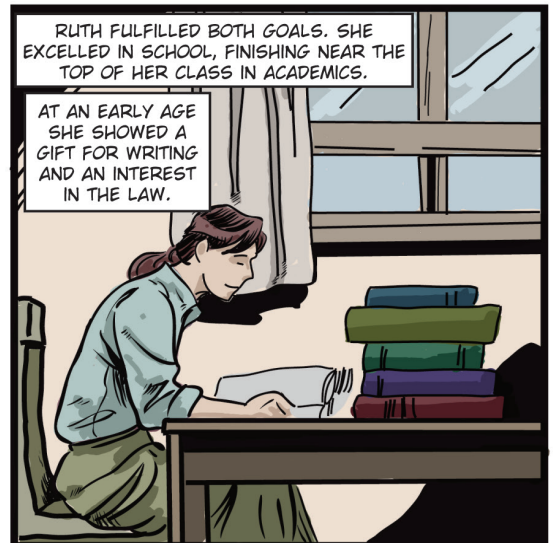
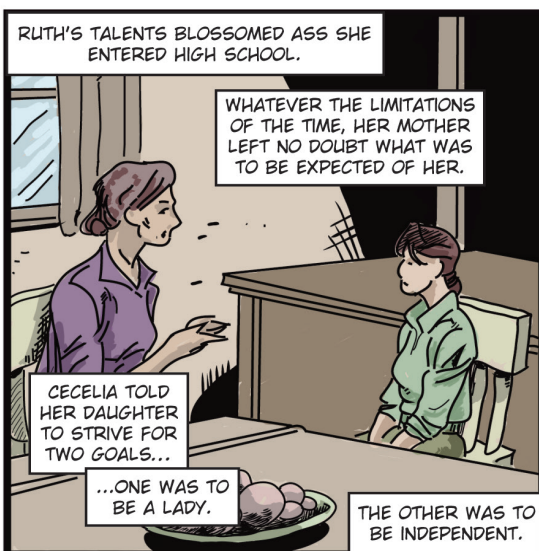
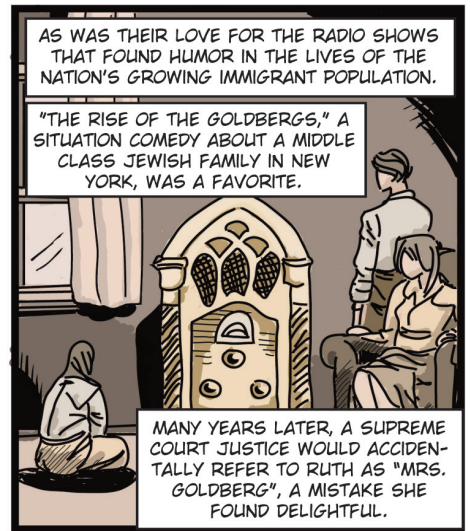
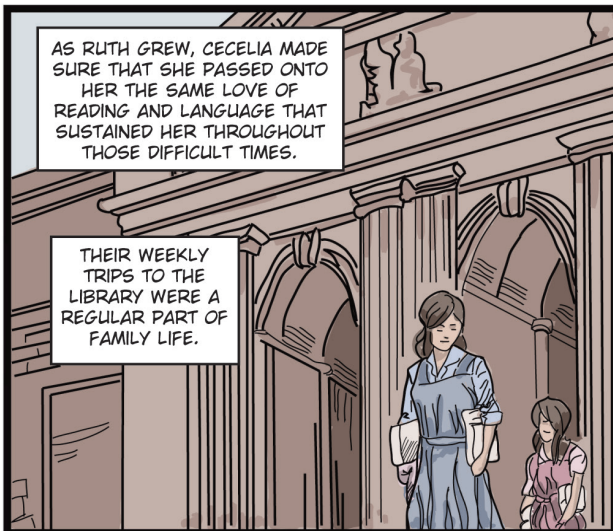
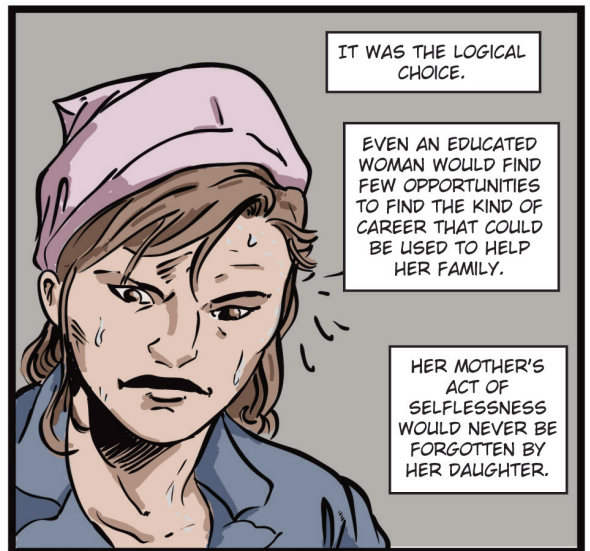
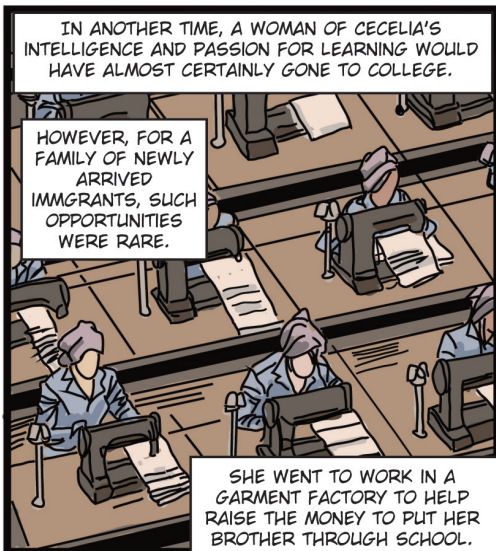


CECELIA HAD NO  
SUCH DOUBTS.

FROM AN EARLY AGE SHE  
ENCOURAGED HER ONLY CHILD TO  
LOOK BEYOND THEIR HUMBLE  
MEANS, TO ASPIRE TO BETTER  
THINGS.

SHE WAS DETERMINED THAT HER  
DAUGHTER WOULD HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITIES THAT TIME AND  
CIRCUMSTANCE HAD DENIED HER.



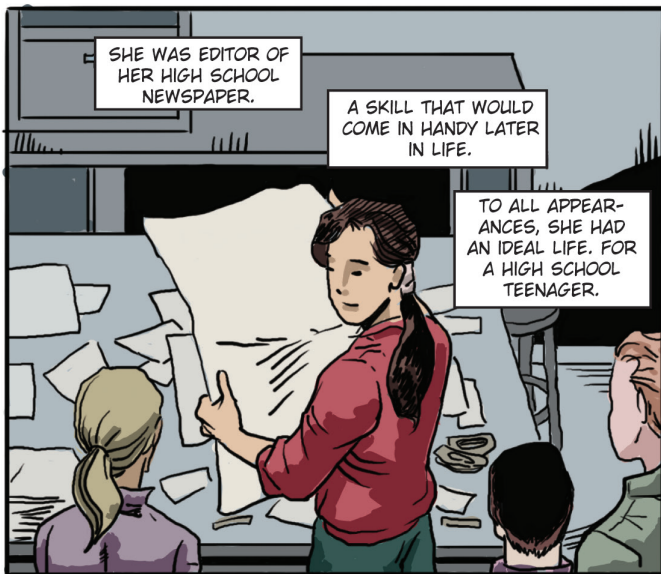






SHE PLAYED  
THE CELLO.

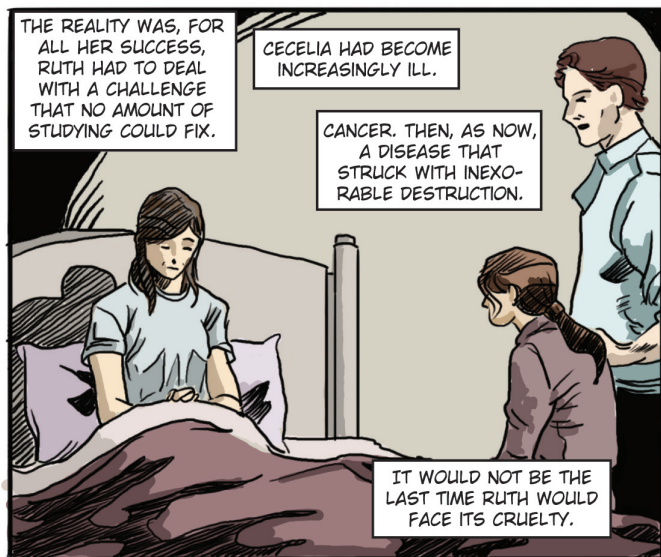
SHE WAS A  
CHEERLEADER.



SHE WAS EDITOR OF  
HER HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWSPAPER.

A SKILL THAT WOULD  
COME IN HANDY LATER  
IN LIFE.

TO ALL APPEAR-  
ANCES, SHE HAD  
AN IDEAL LIFE. FOR  
A HIGH SCHOOL  
TEENAGER.

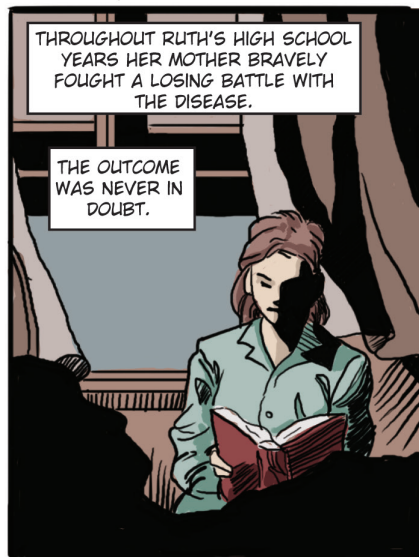


THE REALITY WAS, FOR  
ALL HER SUCCESS,  
RUTH HAD TO DEAL  
WITH A CHALLENGE  
THAT NO AMOUNT OF  
STUDYING COULD FIX.

CECELIA HAD BECOME  
INCREASINGLY ILL.

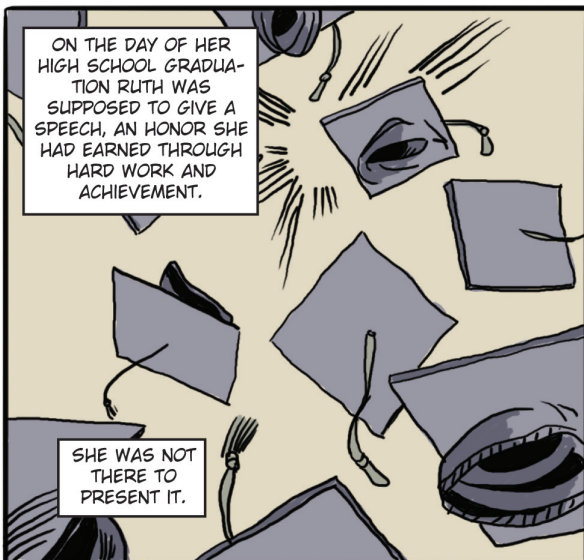
CANCER. THEN, AS NOW,  
A DISEASE THAT  
STRUCK WITH INEXO-  
RABLE DESTRUCTION.

IT WOULD NOT BE THE  
LAST TIME RUTH WOULD  
FACE ITS CRUELTY.



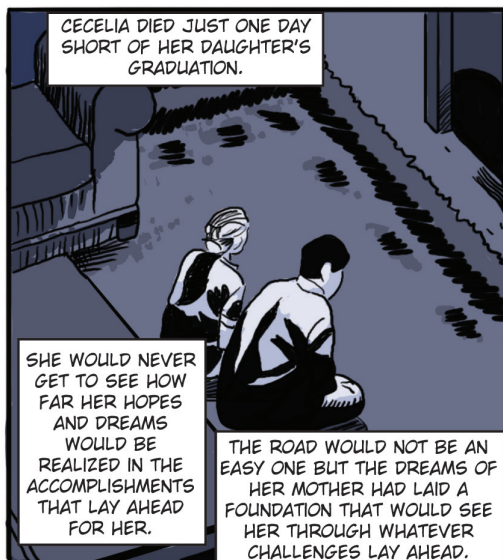
THROUGHOUT RUTH'S HIGH SCHOOL  
YEARS HER MOTHER BRAVELY  
FOUGHT A LOSING BATTLE WITH  
THE DISEASE.

THE OUTCOME  
WAS NEVER IN  
DOUBT.



ON THE DAY OF HER  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADU-  
ATION RUTH WAS  
SUPPOSED TO GIVE A  
SPEECH, AN HONOR SHE  
HAD EARNED THROUGH  
HARD WORK AND  
ACHIEVEMENT.

SHE WAS NOT  
THERE TO  
PRESENT IT.



CECELIA DIED JUST ONE DAY  
SHORT OF HER DAUGHTER'S  
GRADUATION.

SHE WOULD NEVER  
GET TO SEE HOW  
FAR HER HOPES  
AND DREAMS  
WOULD BE  
REALIZED IN THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
THAT LAY AHEAD  
FOR HER.

THE ROAD WOULD NOT BE AN  
EASY ONE BUT THE DREAMS OF  
HER MOTHER HAD LAID A  
FOUNDATION THAT WOULD SEE  
HER THROUGH WHATEVER  
CHALLENGES LAY AHEAD.