

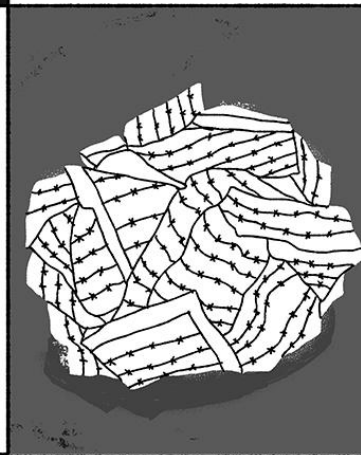
ALL  
STORIES

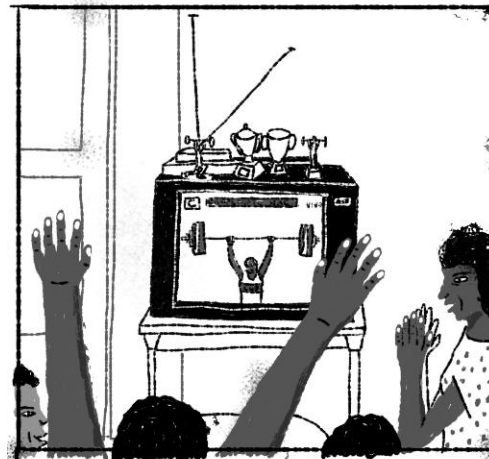


ARE  
INSPIRED



BY REAL  
EVENTS  
IN CUBA.





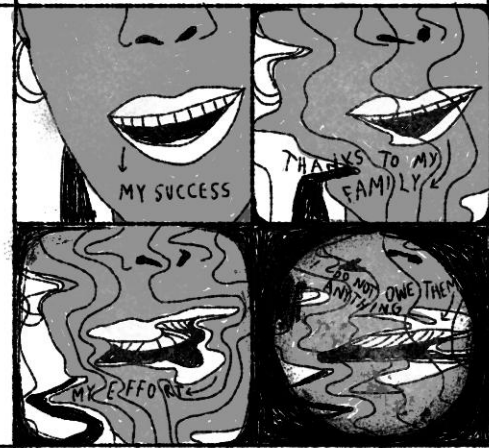
HOW DO CUBANS LIVE THESE DAYS?



GRACIELA WAS A WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPION.



AFTER A COMPETITION, SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE STATE-OWNED TELEVISION CHANNEL.

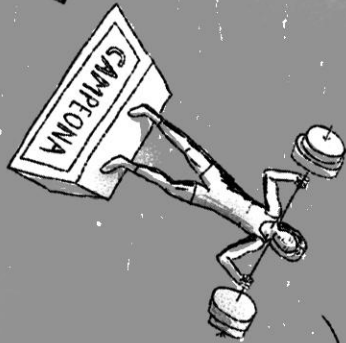


GRACIELA CRITICIZED HER COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT FOR THE LACK OF SUPPORT TO HER CAREER. THE INTERVIEW NEVER AIRD.



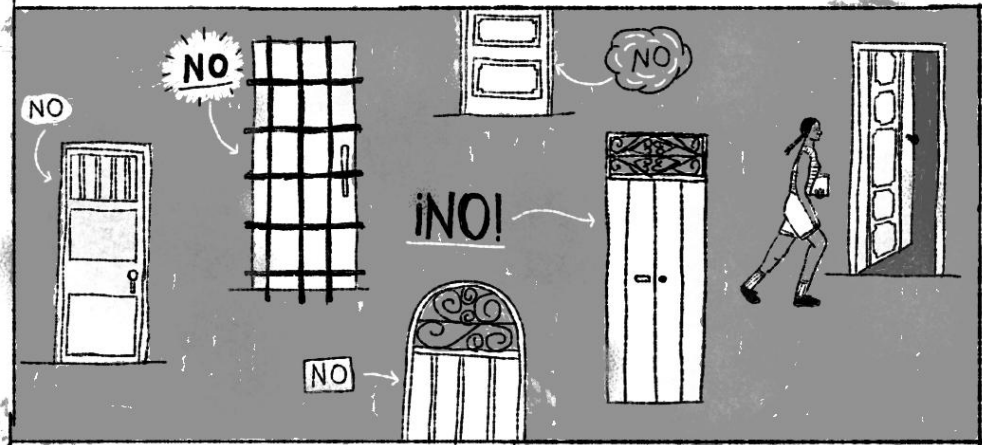
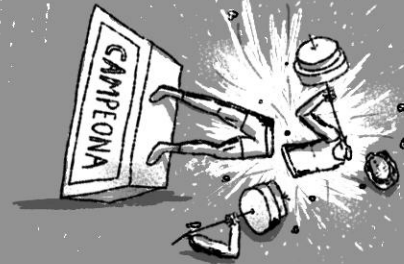
GRACIELA WAS LABELLED  
A COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY.

SHE WAS BANNED  
FROM HER SPORT.



AND FIRED  
FROM HER  
GOVERNMENT JOB.

SHE WAS GIVEN 20 DAYS  
TO FIND A NEW JOB.  
IF SHE REMAINED UNEMPLOYED,  
SHE COULD BE CHARGED  
WITH "DANGEROUSNESS"  
BE TREATED AS A CRIMINAL  
AND CONSIDERED A SUSPECT  
CAPABLE OF COMMITTING A CRIME.



HER REBEL STATUS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO FIND WORK  
AND HER OPPORTUNITIES WERE LIMITED.



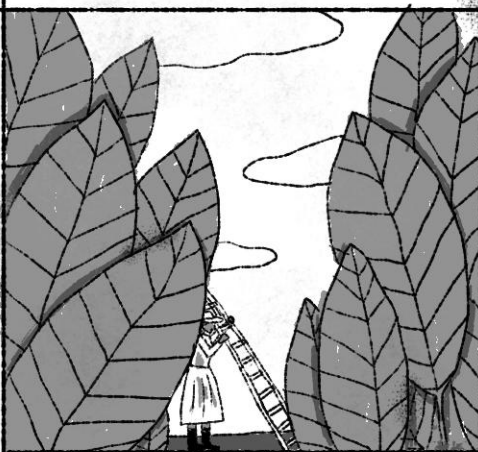
THE ONLY JOB OPPORTUNITY THAT THEY OFFERED HER  
WAS TO GO AND WORK IN THE FIELDS.



THE WORK WAS TEDIOUS.



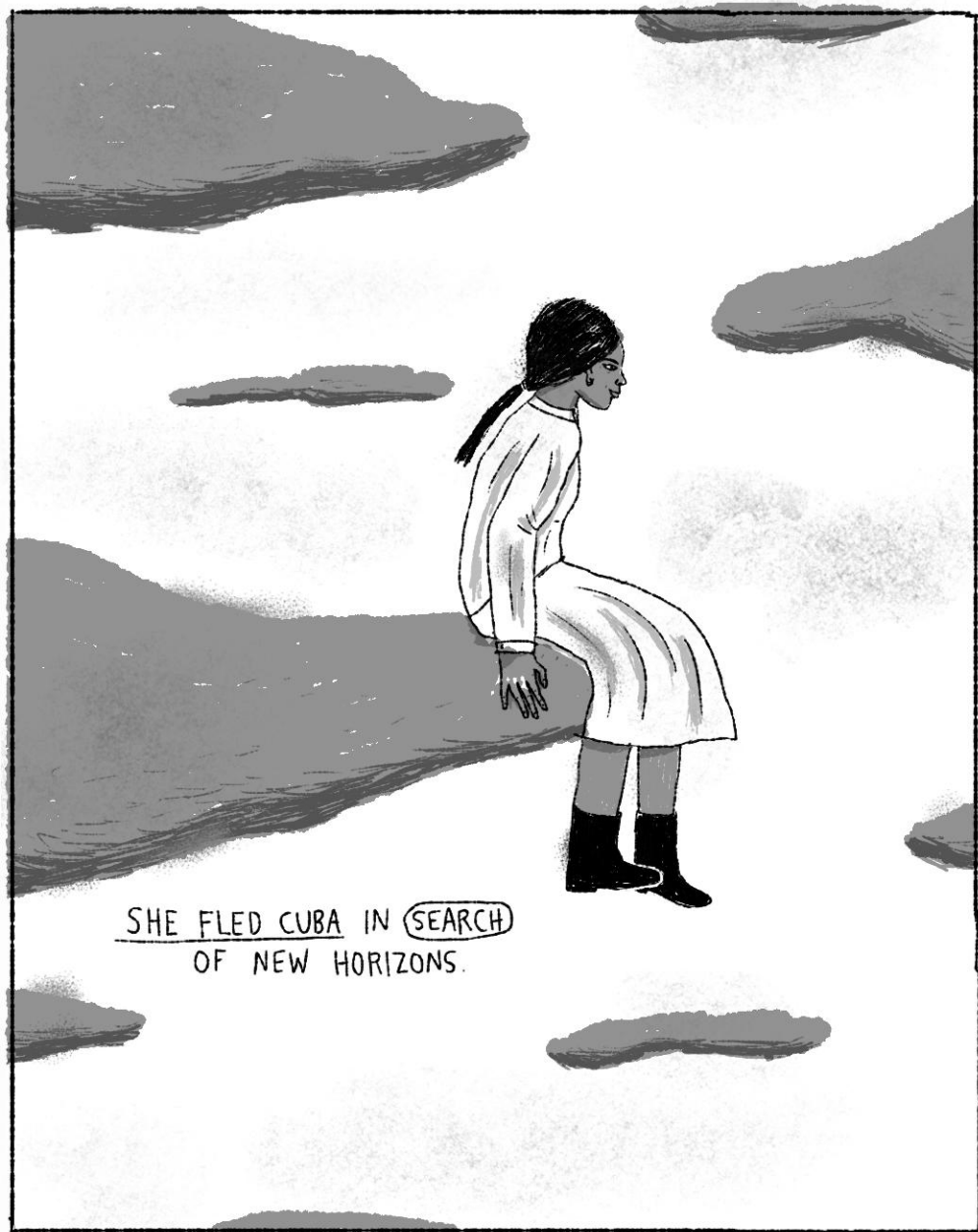
SHE FELT WORRIED.



IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK  
AFTER HER FAMILY WITH THE  
SALARY THAT SHE RECEIVED.



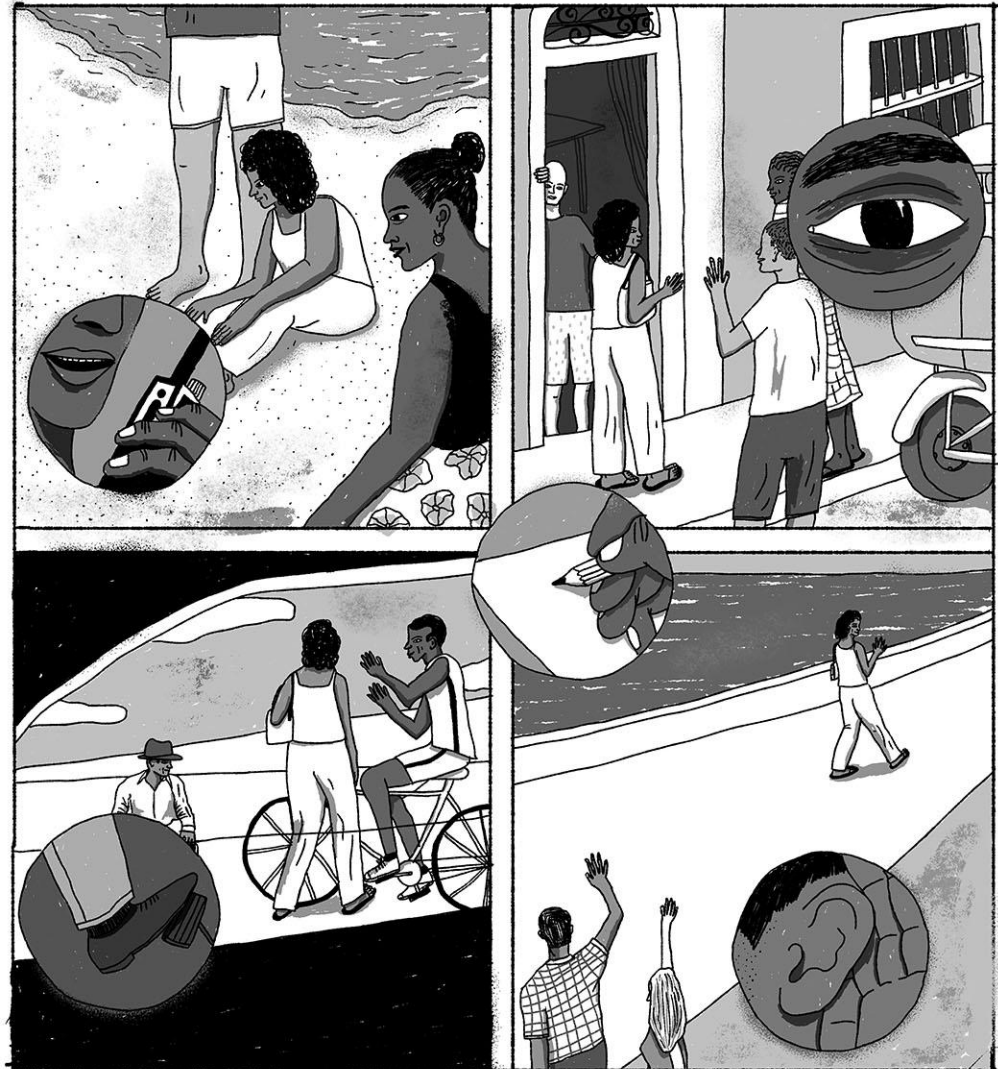
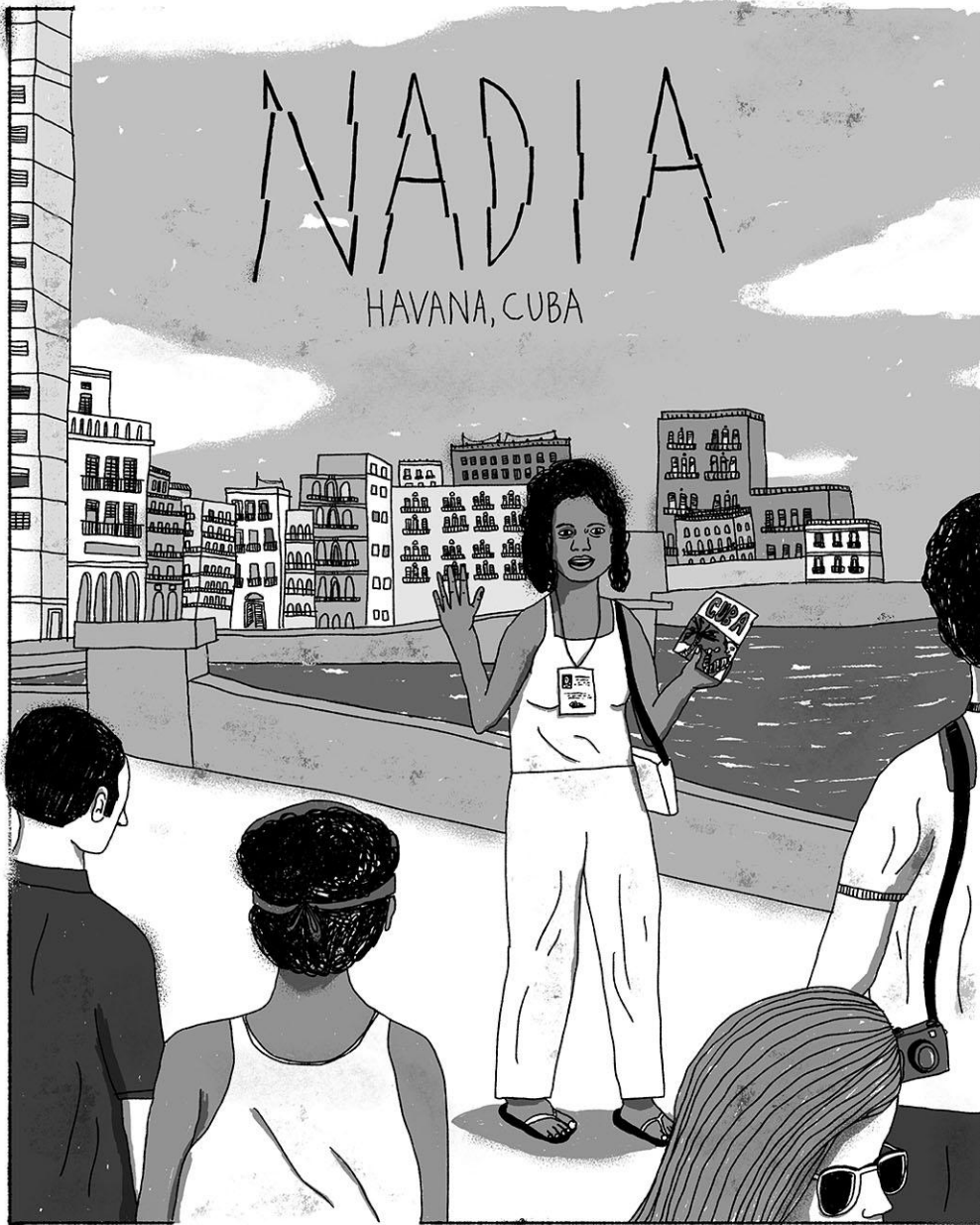
SO IT WAS TIME TO MAKE  
ANOTHER DECISION.



SHE FLED CUBA IN SEARCH  
OF NEW HORIZONS.

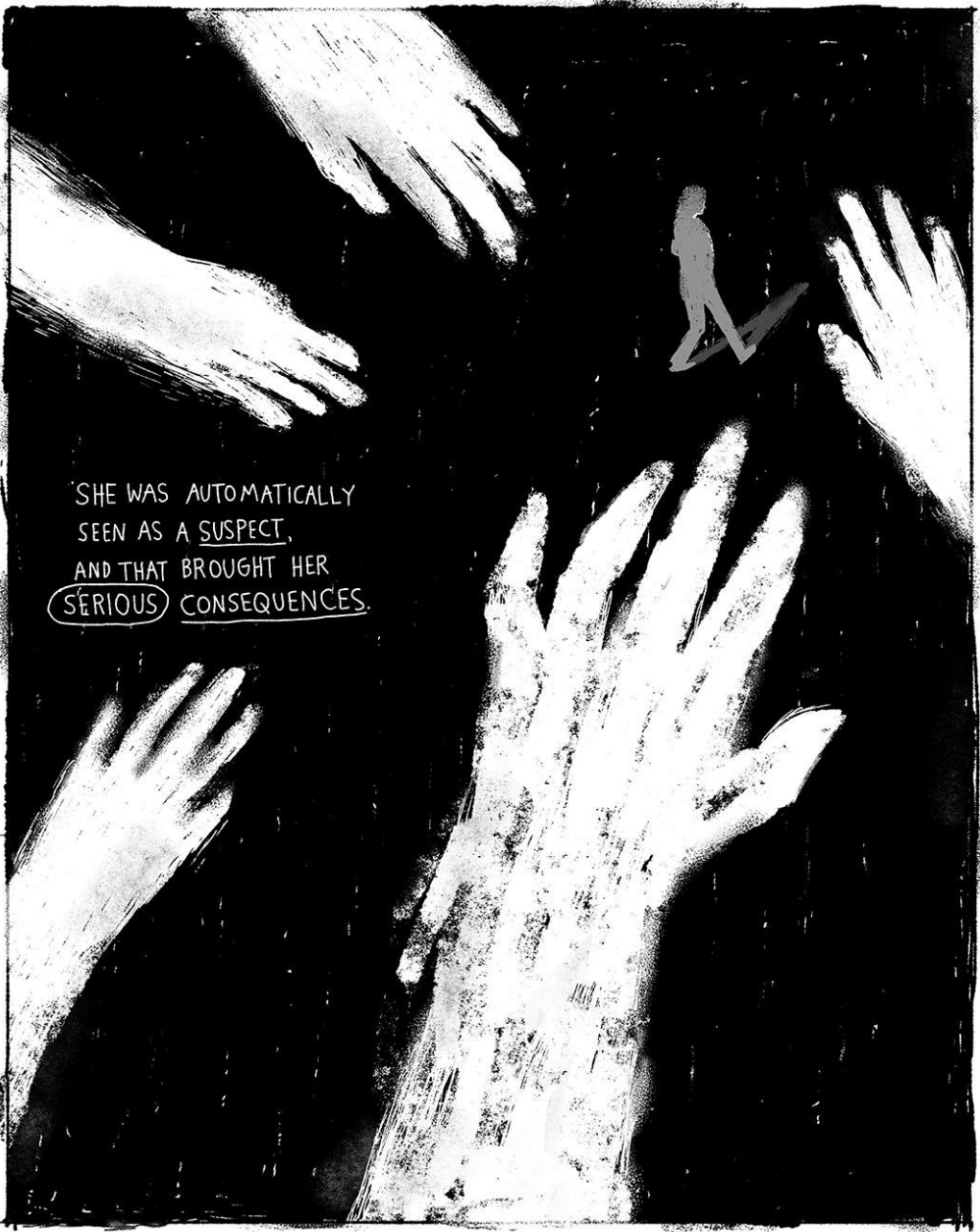
# NADIA

HAVANA, CUBA



NADIA WAS A LANGUAGE STUDENT AND WORKED AS A TOUR GUIDE. SHE HAD MANY FRIENDS, SEVERAL OF WHOM WERE CONSIDERED (DISSIDENTS)

DESPITE THIS, NADIA HAD (NEVER) ACTUALLY BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ACTIVISM HERSELF. BUT THIS DIDN'T SAVE HER FROM BEING MONITORED CONSTANTLY IN HER NEIGHBOURHOOD, ON THE STREETS AND AT UNIVERSITY.




SHE WAS AUTOMATICALLY  
SEEN AS A SUSPECT,  
AND THAT BROUGHT HER  
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.



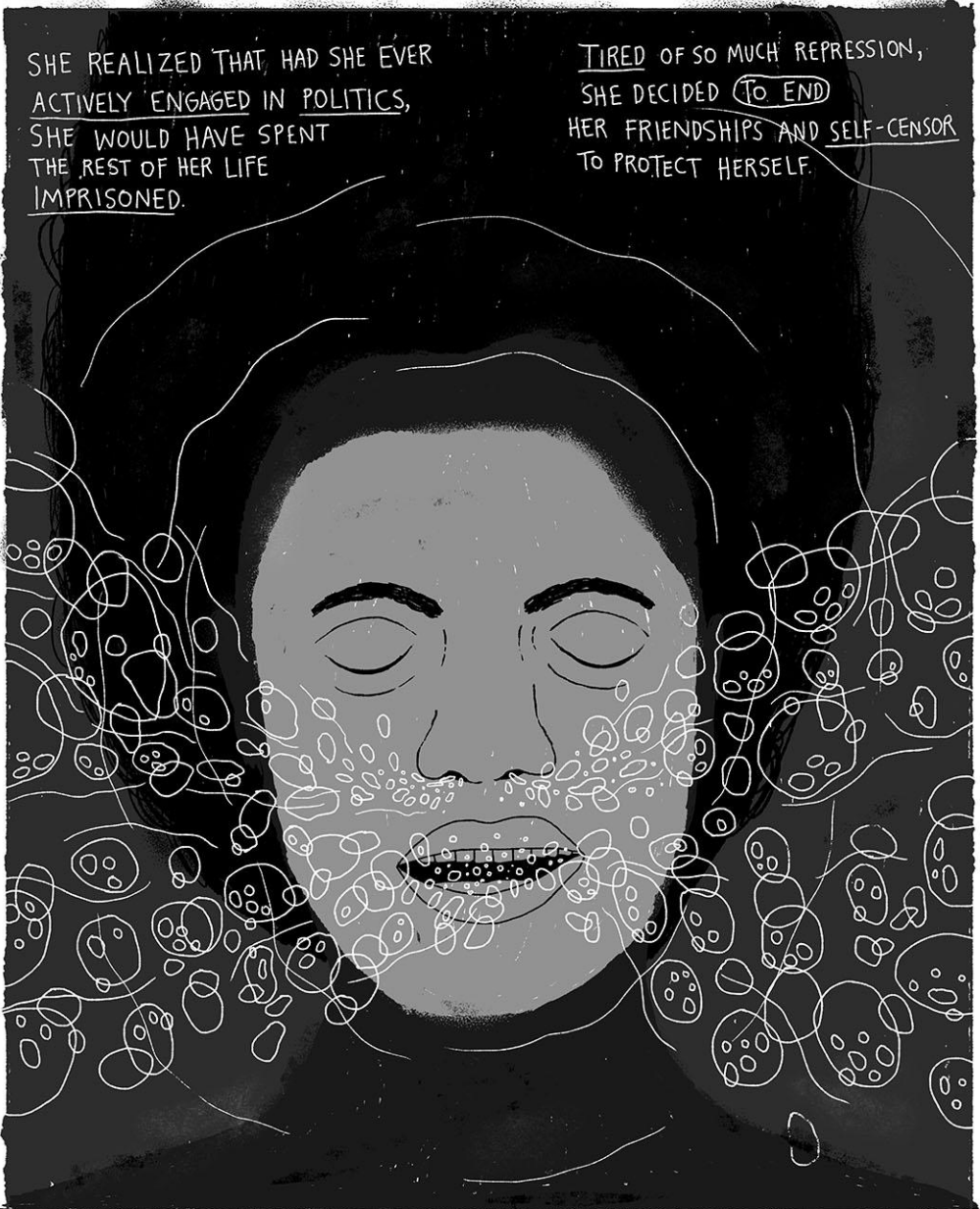
FIRST, SHE WAS EXPELLED  
FROM UNIVERSITY, AND THEN  
THEY THREATENED  
TO SEND HER  
TO PRISON.

AFTER THAT,  
SHE SPENT  
SEVERAL MONTHS  
UNDER HOUSE  
ARREST.

FINALLY, A COURT  
SENTENCED HER  
TO A YEAR IN PRISON  
UNDER AN ABUSIVE  
CRIMINAL LAW.



NADIA TRIED TO ESCAPE  
FROM CUBA BY BOAT,  
BUT SHE WAS INTERCEPTED  
BY AUTHORITIES AND IMPRISONED  
ONCE AGAIN.



SHE REALIZED THAT HAD SHE EVER  
ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN POLITICS,  
SHE WOULD HAVE SPENT  
THE REST OF HER LIFE  
IMPRISONED.

TIRED OF SO MUCH REPRESSION,  
SHE DECIDED (TO END)  
HER FRIENDSHIPS AND SELF-CENSOR  
TO PROTECT HERSELF.

# CARLOS

HAVANA, CUBA



CARLOS WAS INVITED  
TO JOIN THE STATE  
SECURITY FORCES  
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG,  
BECAUSE OF HIS  
PHYSICAL ABILITIES.





FOR YEARS, HIS MISSION WAS TO INFILTRATE DIFFERENT WORKPLACES IN ORDER TO MONITOR HIS COLLEAGUES AND REPORT THEIR MOVEMENTS.

ONLY HIS CLOSE FAMILY KNEW ABOUT HIS WORK.

CARLOS HAD IMMENSE POWER OVER THE LIVES OF OTHERS. HE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES ON COLLEAGUES CONSIDERED "SUSPECT", "DANGEROUS", "ANTI-SOCIAL" OR "UNRELIABLE".

AFTER SOME YEARS, CARLOS REALIZED THAT MANY OF HIS FRIENDS WERE IN PRISON BECAUSE OF THE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD LEAKED TO THE AUTHORITIES.



CARLOS FELT GUILTY FOR HAVING RUINED THE LIVES OF SEVERAL OF HIS LOVED ONES.

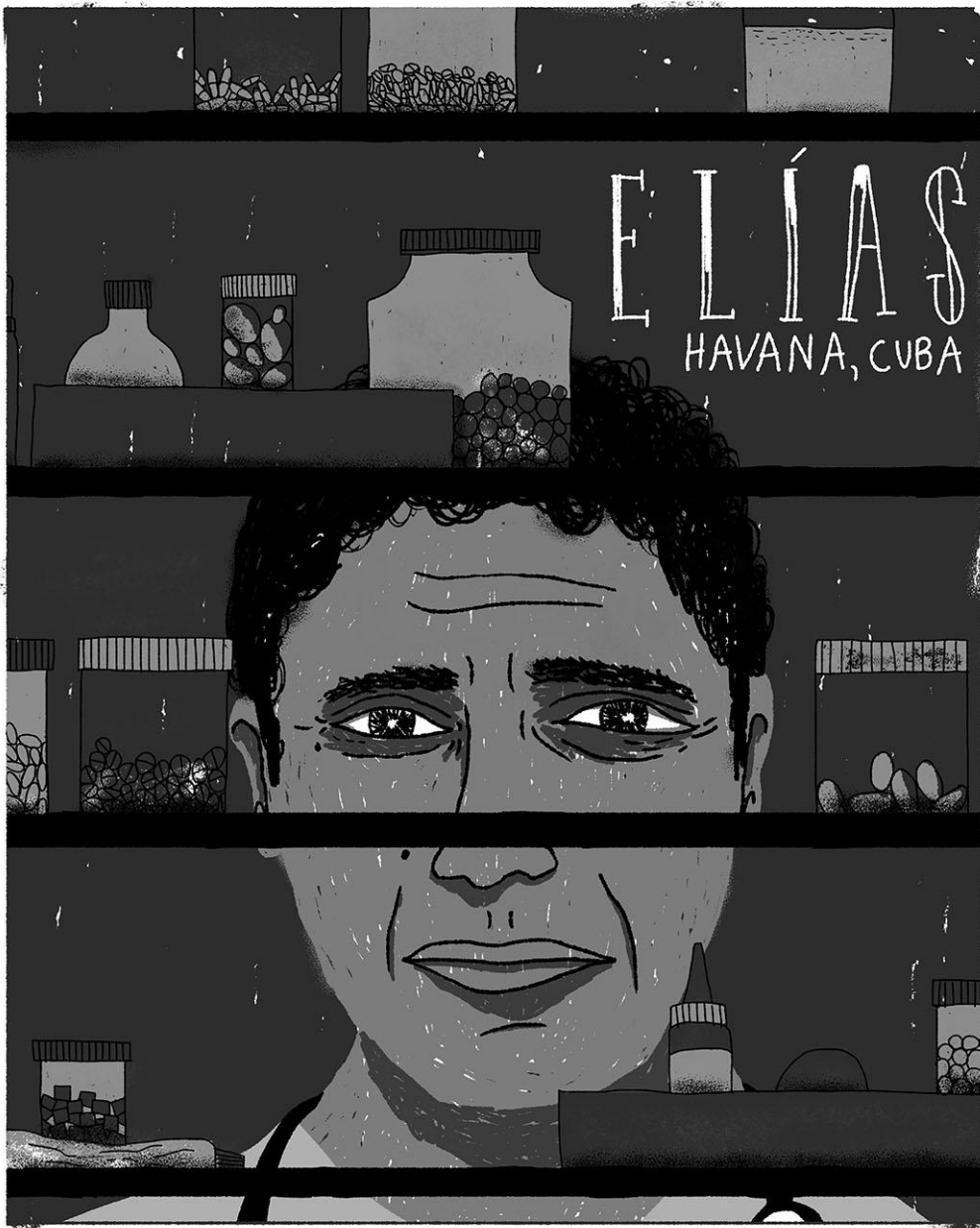


HE WAS NOT AGAINST THE REVOLUTION BUT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE EXISTING REPRESSION, SO HE TRIED TO JOIN OPPOSITION GROUPS



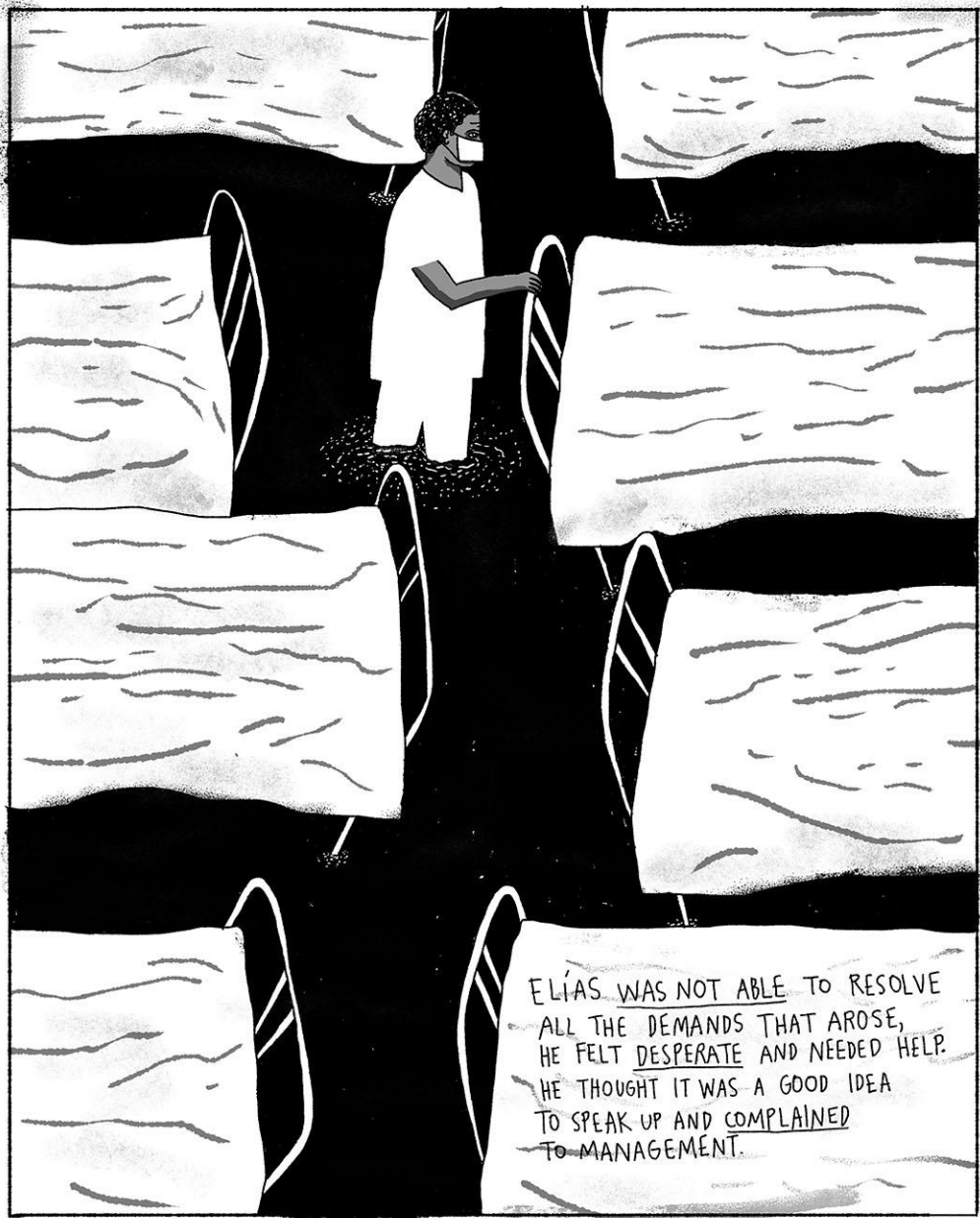
CARLOS BEGAN TO FEAR FOR HIS LIFE. HE KNEW THAT ALL GROUPS ARE INFILTRATED BY STATE SECURITY.

HE DECIDED TO RISK LEAVING THE ISLAND BEFORE ENDING UP IN PRISON.



ELÍAS WORKED AS A NURSE IN A HOSPITAL. HE RAN FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER TAKING CARE OF (ALL) THE PATIENTS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH STAFF.

HIS GREATEST SATISFACTION WAS BEING ABLE TO HELP OTHERS DESPITE THE DEMANDING CONDITIONS.



ELÍAS WAS NOT ABLE TO RESOLVE ALL THE DEMANDS THAT AROSE, HE FELT DESPERATE AND NEEDED HELP. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO SPEAK UP AND COMPLAINED TO MANAGEMENT.

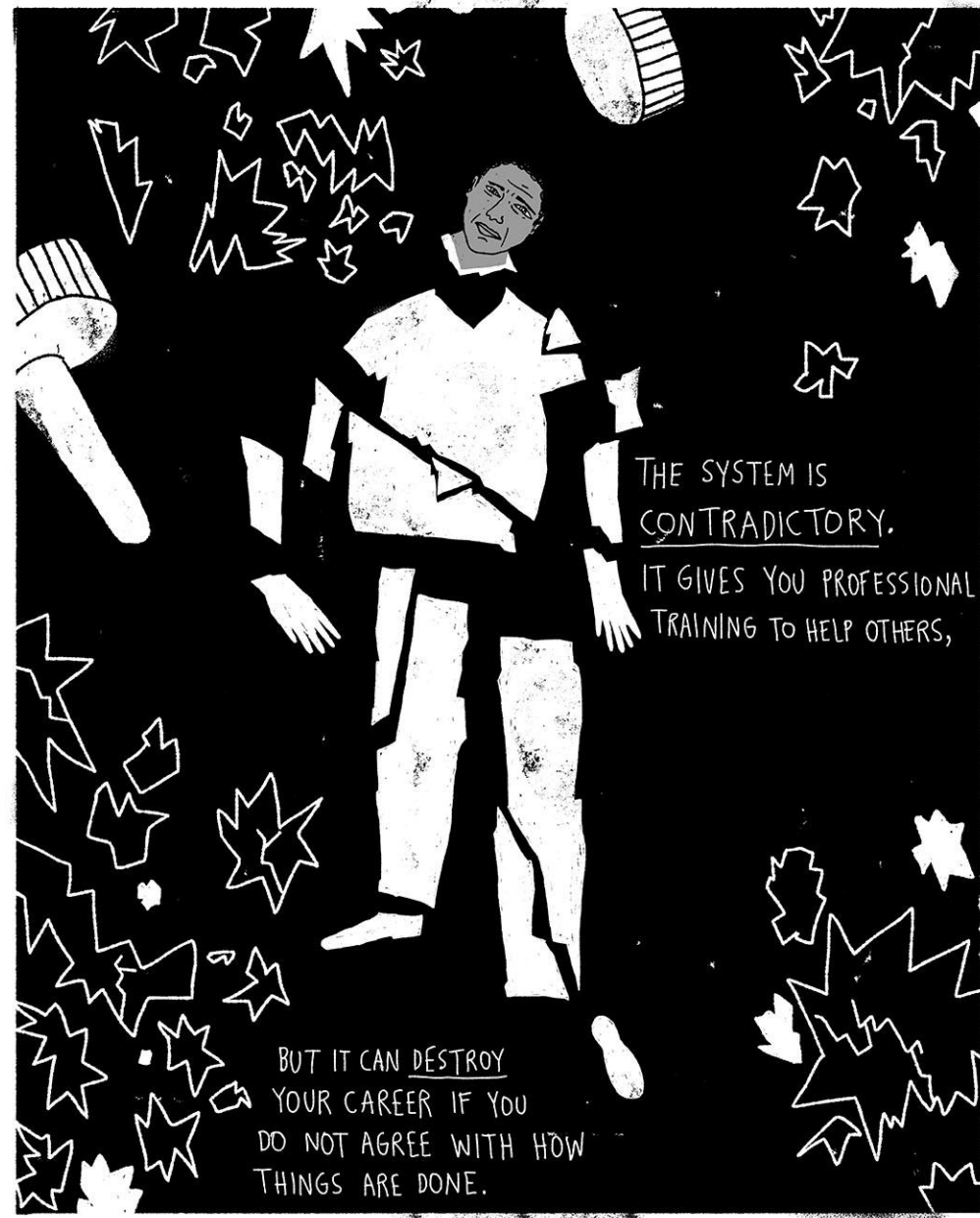


COMPLAINING HAD NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM.

HIS SUPERIORS IGNORED HIS DEMANDS, HIS COLLEAGUES REJECTED HIM.

HE FELT TRAPPED.

LITTLE BY LITTLE ELÍAS FELT  
FORCED TO RESIGN.  
HE MOVED FROM THE CITY  
TO SEARCH FOR WORK IN OTHER  
HOSPITALS, BUT HE WAS LABELED  
AS AN "UNTRUSTWORTHY PERSON"  
AND HE COULD NEVER RETURN TO  
WORK AS A NURSE.



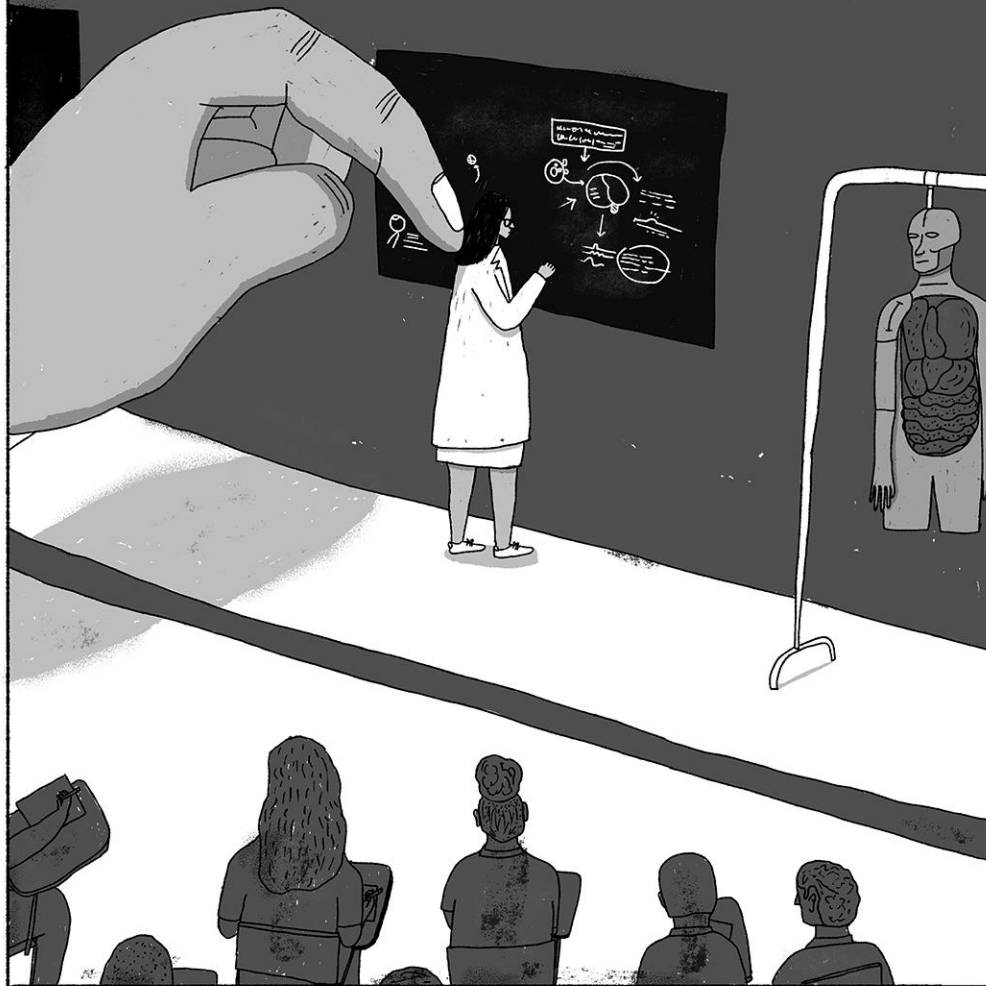
THE SYSTEM IS  
CONTRADICTIONARY.  
IT GIVES YOU PROFESSIONAL  
TRAINING TO HELP OTHERS,

BUT IT CAN DESTROY  
YOUR CAREER IF YOU  
DO NOT AGREE WITH HOW  
THINGS ARE DONE.

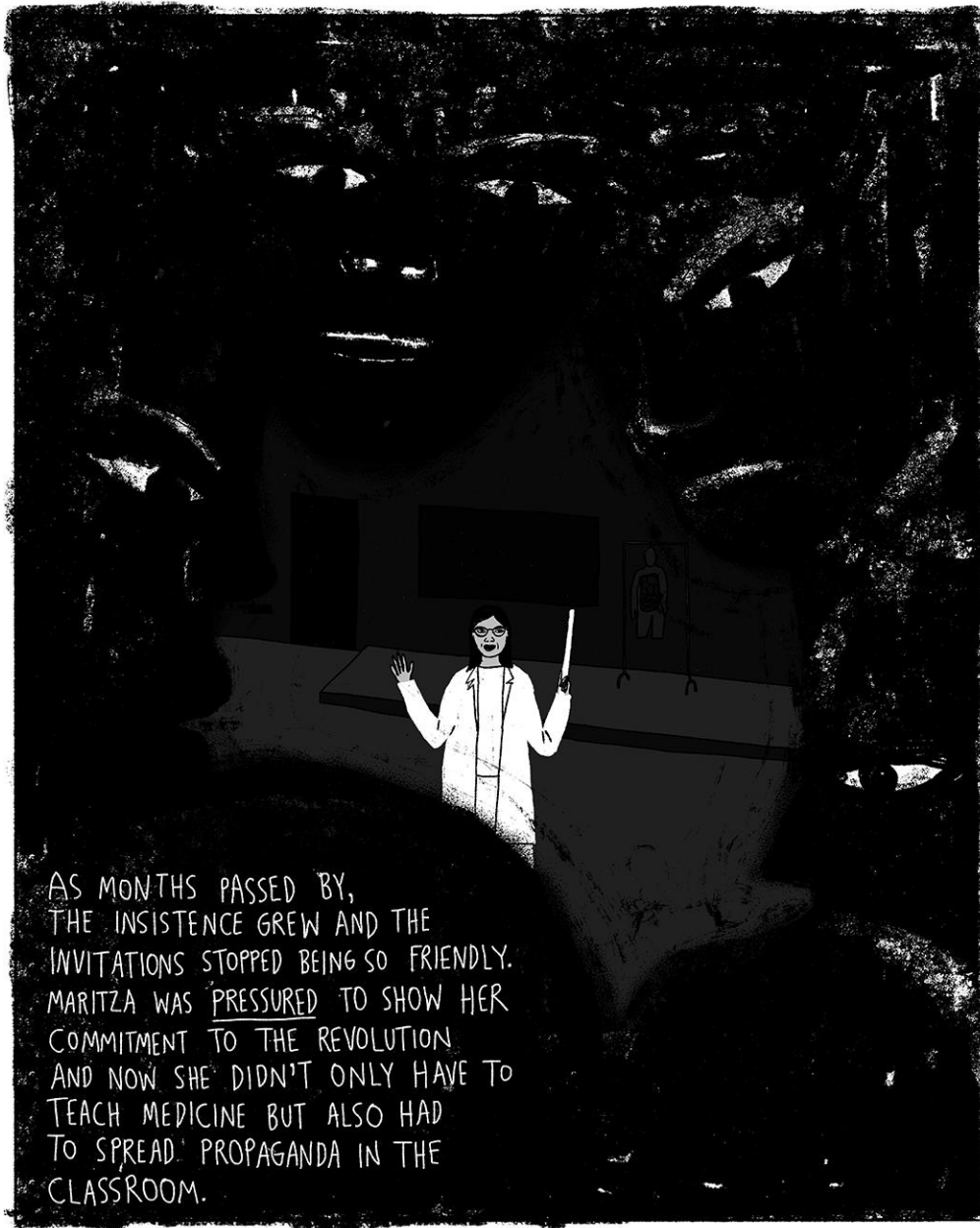


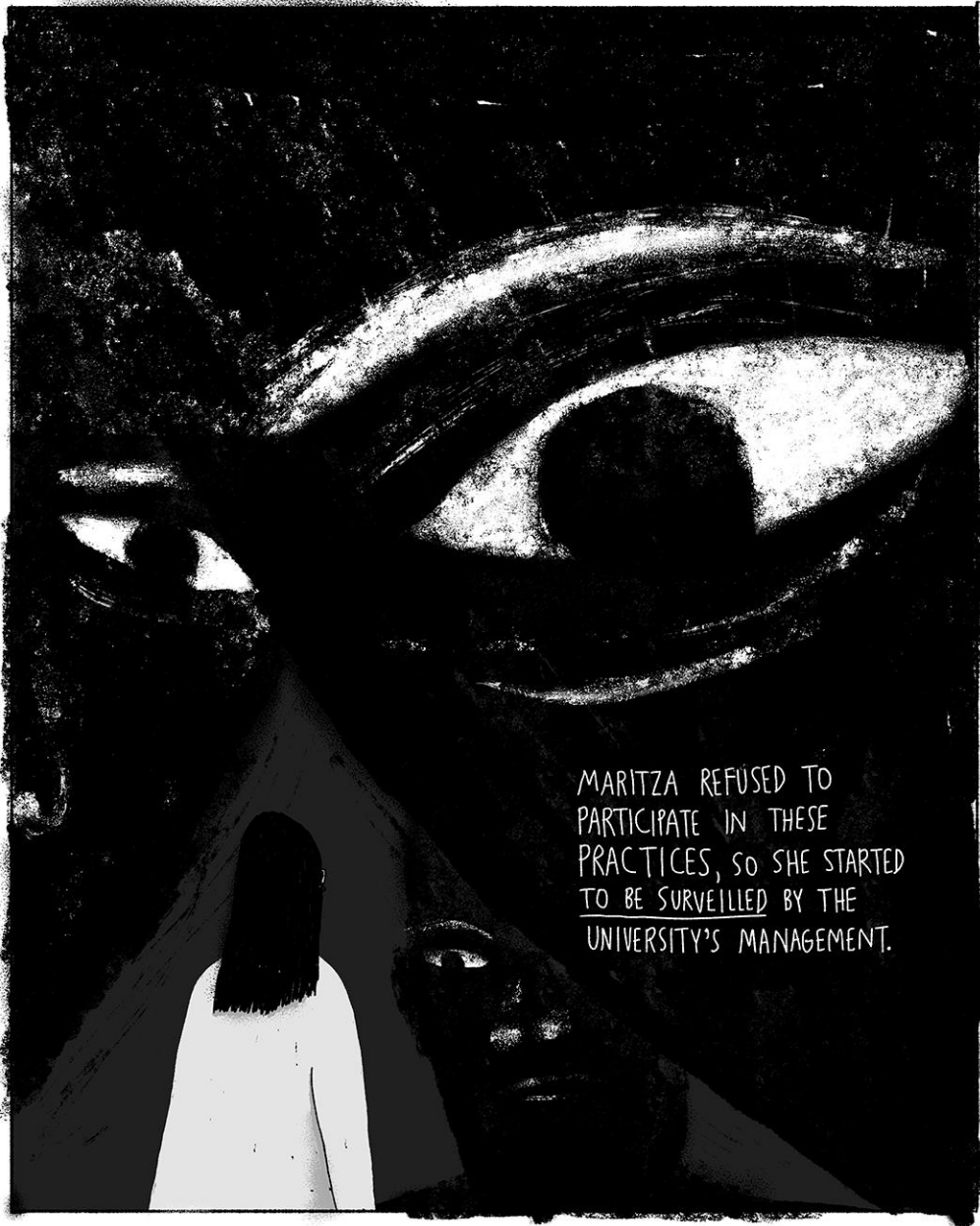
SOON AFTER STARTING WORK AS A PROFESSOR, SHE BEGAN RECEIVING INVITATIONS FROM HER COLLEAGUES AND MANAGERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS LINKED TO THE STATE, SUCH AS THE OFFICIAL TRADE UNION.

BUT MARITZA HAD NO INTEREST IN POLITICS; SHE WANTED TO FOCUS ON WHAT SHE LOVED, WHICH WAS TEACHING MEDICINE AND SHARING HER KNOWLEDGE.



AS MONTHS PASSED BY, THE INSISTENCE GREW AND THE INVITATIONS STOPPED BEING SO FRIENDLY. MARITZA WAS PRESSURED TO SHOW HER COMMITMENT TO THE REVOLUTION AND NOW SHE DIDN'T ONLY HAVE TO TEACH MEDICINE BUT ALSO HAD TO SPREAD PROPAGANDA IN THE CLASSROOM.



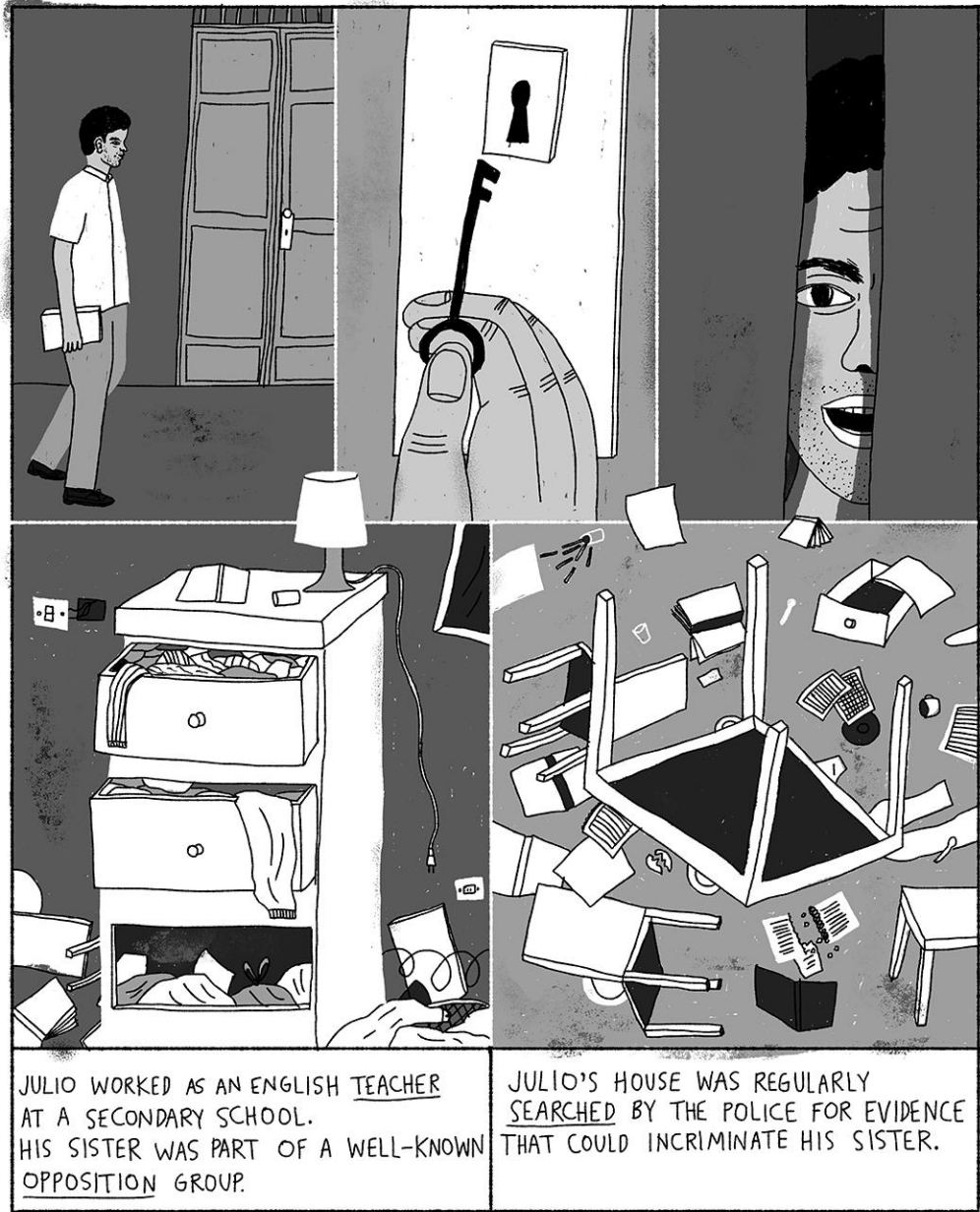
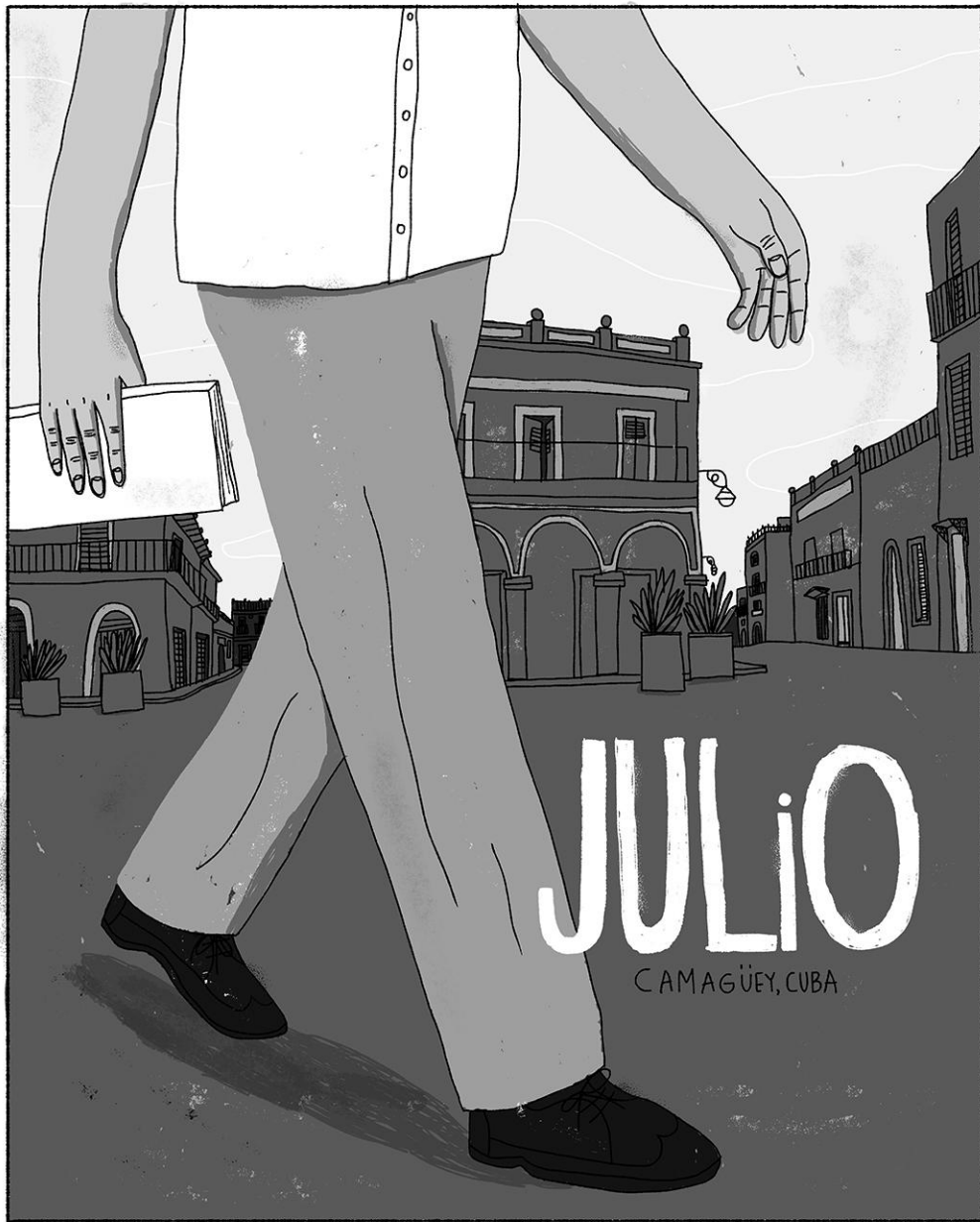


MARITZA REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PRACTICES, SO SHE STARTED TO BE SURVEILLED BY THE UNIVERSITY'S MANAGEMENT.



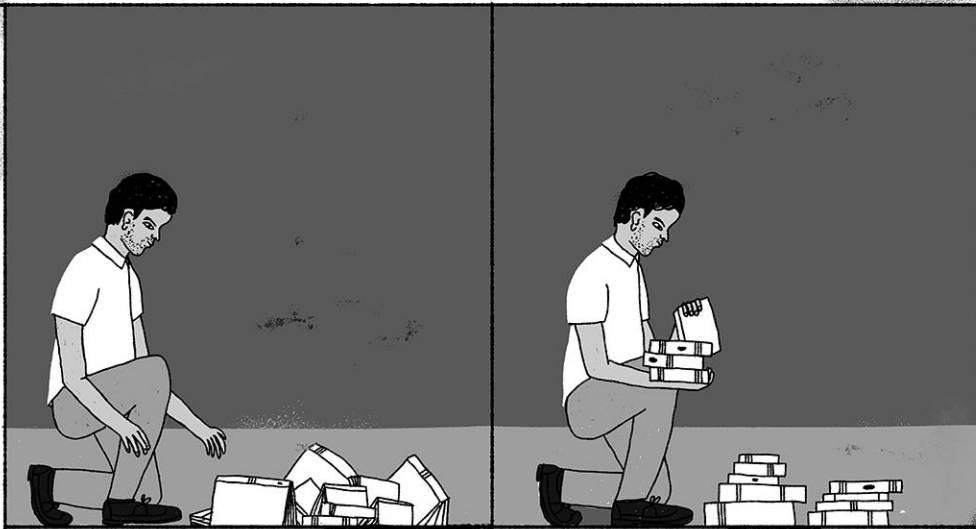
MARITZA COULD NOT HANDLE THE PRESSURE. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE JOB SHE HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, SHE HAD TO RESIGN AND ABANDON HER DREAMS.



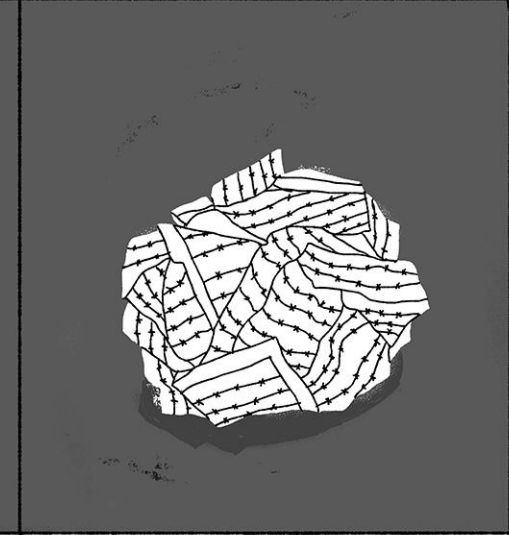
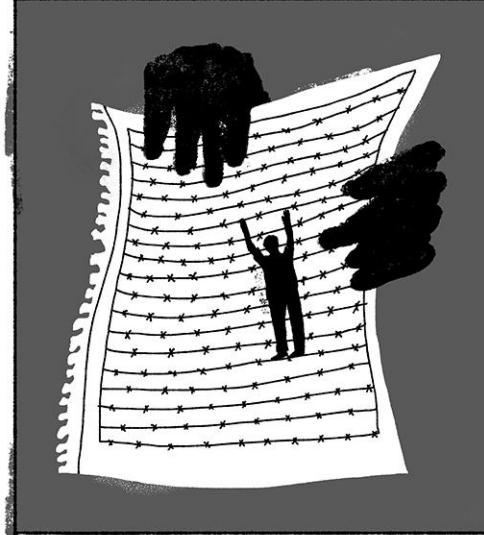
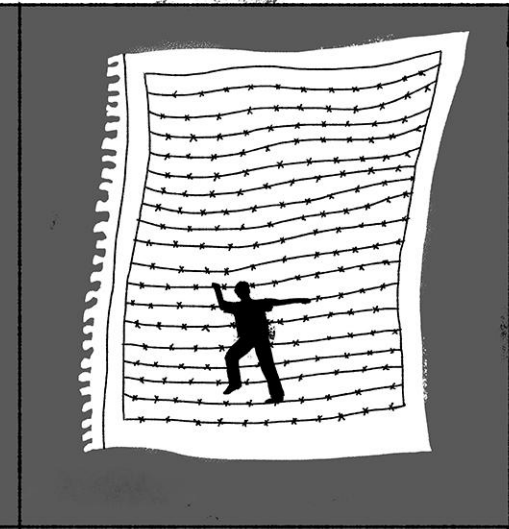
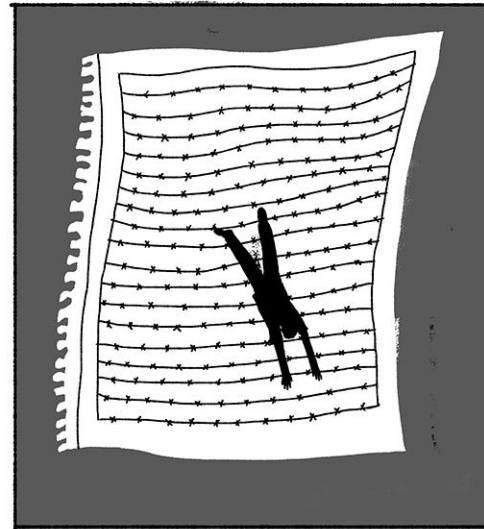


JULIO WORKED AS AN ENGLISH TEACHER  
AT A SECONDARY SCHOOL.  
HIS SISTER WAS PART OF A WELL-KNOWN  
OPPOSITION GROUP.

JULIO'S HOUSE WAS REGULARLY  
SEARCHED BY THE POLICE FOR EVIDENCE  
THAT COULD INCRIMINATE HIS SISTER.



JULIO BEGAN TO SUFFER FROM HARASSMENT SINCE HIS SISTER'S ACTIVISM WAS DISCOVERED AND, LITTLE BY LITTLE, HE BEGAN TO BE EXCLUDED FROM HIS JOB.



ON ONE OCCASION HE ASKED HIS STUDENTS TO LOOK FOR AN ARTICLE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TO ANALYZE IN CLASS.

HIS SUPERVISORS FOUND OUT AND ACCUSED HIM OF INTERFERING WITH THE STATE IDEOLOGY AND PROHIBITED THEM FROM READING INTERNATIONAL MEDIA BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THEM, THEY LIE.

JULIO'S SALARY WAS CUT IN HALF.  
THEN HE WAS SUSPENDED AND FINALLY  
THE ONLY JOB ALTERNATIVE HE WAS  
PROPOSED WAS THE SCHOOL'S  
GARDENER POSITION.

