

BINGO⁶³ LOVE

TEE FRANKLIN
JENN ST-ONGE
JOY SAN



*"A towering emotional achievement.
BINGO LOVE is the graphic novel
I didn't know I couldn't live without."
—Gail Simone*

BINGO

L VE

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For more information about *Bingo Love* visit BingoLoveComic.com



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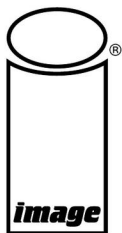
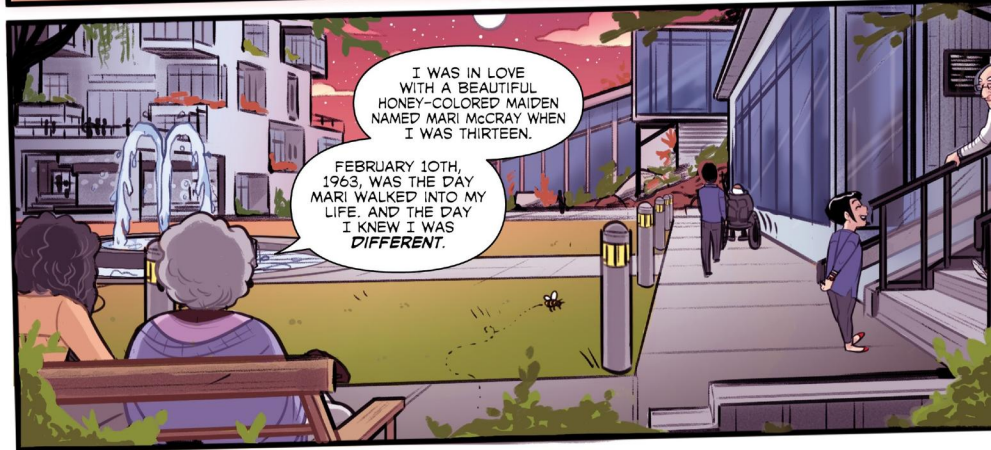
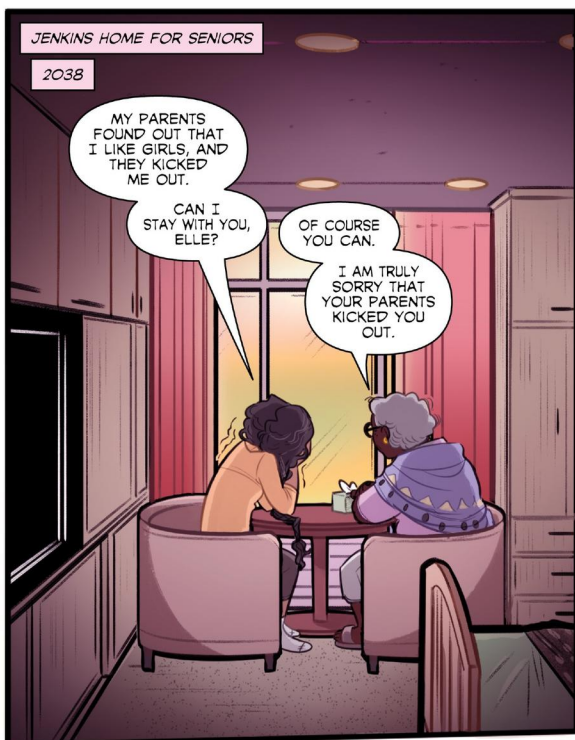


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FEBRUARY 10TH, 1963

PATERSON, N.J.

"EVERY SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH I WOULD GO WITH MY GRAMS TO THE BINGO HALL."

"MOM WORKED ON SUNDAYS TO AVOID GOING TO CHURCH WITH GRAMS."

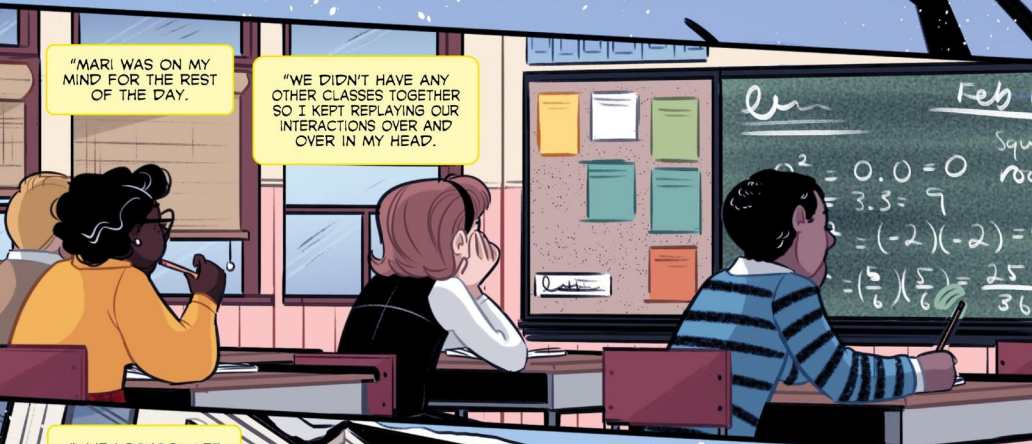
"SHE WASN'T RELIGIOUS, AND THAT PISSED OFF MY GRAMS...A LOT."











"MARI WAS ON MY MIND FOR THE REST OF THE DAY."

"WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OTHER CLASSES TOGETHER SO I KEPT REPLAYING OUR INTERACTIONS OVER AND OVER IN MY HEAD."

"WHEN SCHOOL LET OUT, I WAS HOPING TO SEE HER AGAIN."



≈sigh≈

Looks like I missed Mari after school. I wanted to walk her home.

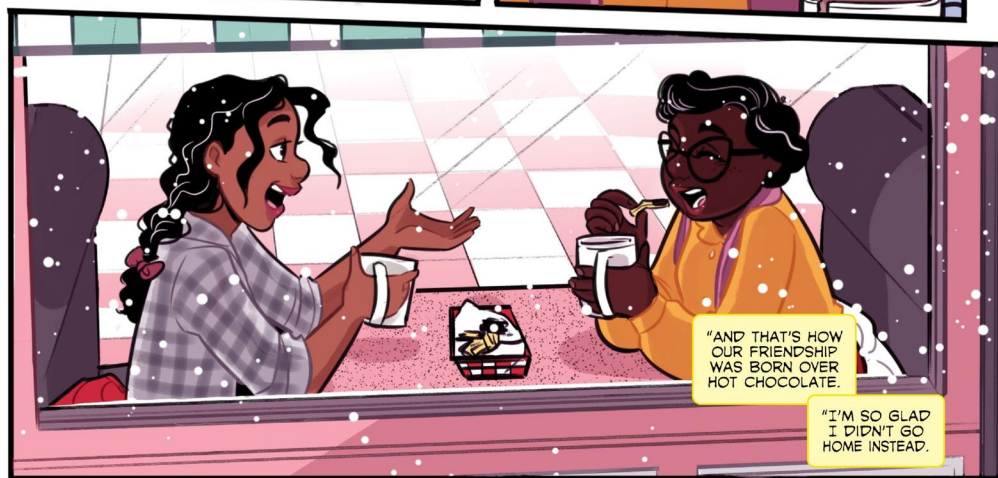
HEY!
WAIT
UP!

WANNA
WALK HOME
TOGETHER?

SURE,
MARI!!











BYE, ELLE.
SEE YOU TOMORROW
AT SCHOOL.

"WHEN SHE KISSED
MY CHEEK, IT WAS
JUST...MAGICAL."

"IN THAT MOMENT,
I REALIZED I WANTED
TO MARRY MARI."





"FROM THAT FIRST HOT CHOCOLATE, MARI AND I WERE BEST FRIENDS.

"MY MOTHER USED TO SAY WE WERE JOINED AT THE HIP.

"BETWEEN SCHOOL AND SPORTS, WE SPENT EVERY MOMENT WE COULD TOGETHER.

!



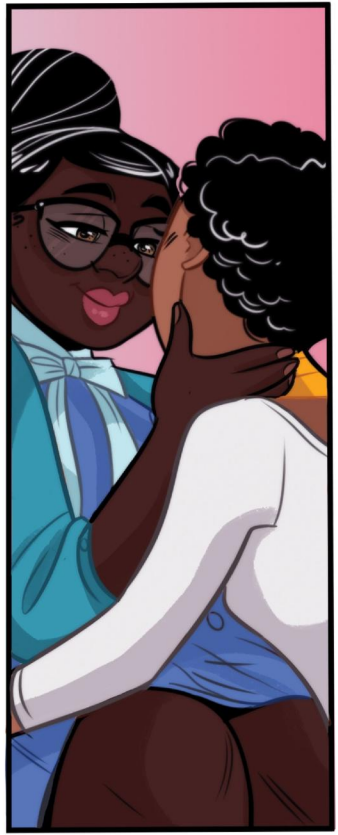
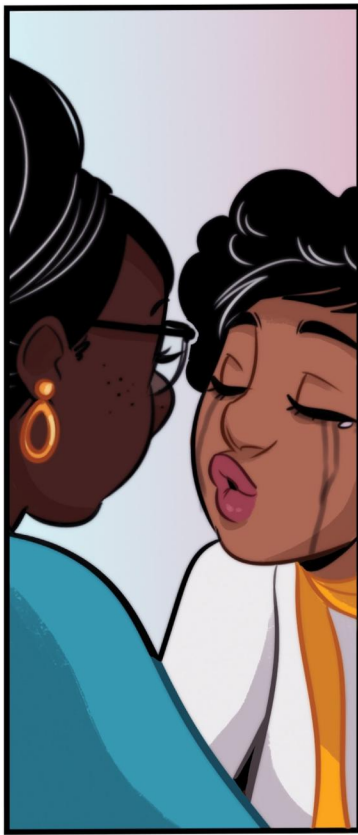
"WE REALLY
LOVED EACH OTHER
AS FRIENDS..."

"...BUT I
WANTED
SOMETHING
MORE."

"I WRESTLED WITH MY FEELINGS
FOR MARI FOR YEARS. WAS IT WORTH
RUINING OUR FRIENDSHIP IF SHE
DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY?"

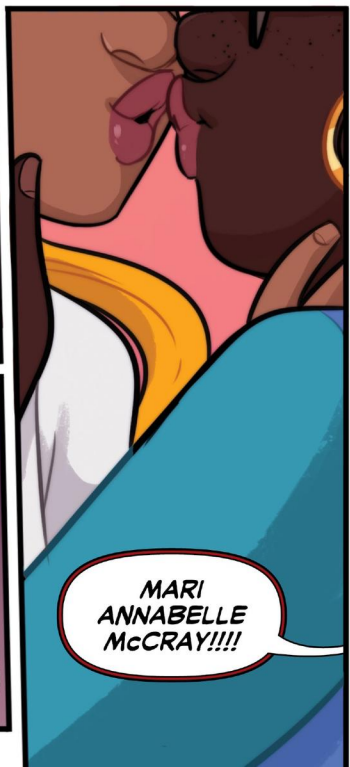














IT'S NOT
WHAT IT
LOOKS
LIKE!

I KNOW I
HAVE CATARACTS
AND CAN'T SEE WELL,
BUT I **KNOW** WHAT
I JUST SAW.

MY GRANDDAUGHTER
WAS **KISSING** A GIRL IN
FRONT OF MY HOUSE.

**GET YOUR
TAIL IN THE
HOUSE
NOW!**

AND DON'T
COME AROUND
HERE NO MORE,
HAZEL JOHNSON.

I **WILL** BE
TELLING YOUR
GRANDMOTHER
ABOUT THIS.





"THAT NIGHT,
I COULDN'T
SLEEP."

"I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...
HOW COULD SOMETHING
SO BEAUTIFUL, BE
SO WRONG?"

"I LOVED
MARI AND SHE
LOVED ME."

**GET
DOWN HERE,
HAZEL MARIE
JOHNSON!**



SISTER JACKIE JUST
TOLD ME SHE SAW
YOU KISSING HER
GRANDDAUGHTER.

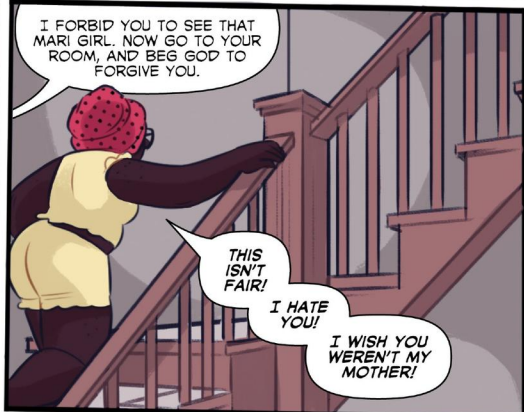
HOW **DARE**
YOU RUIN THE
JOHNSON FAMILY
NAME WITH THIS
PERVERSION!

WAIT UNTIL
YOUR FATHER
GETS HOME,
YOUNG LADY.

JESUS DID
NOT DIE ON
THE CROSS FOR
THIS SIN.

YOU
DISGUST
ME.

SMACK



I FORBID YOU TO SEE THAT
MARI GIRL. NOW GO TO YOUR
ROOM, AND BEG GOD TO
FORGIVE YOU.

**THIS
ISN'T
FAIR!**

**I HATE
YOU!**

**I WISH YOU
WEREN'T MY
MOTHER!**



*Since when
is it a sin to
be in love?*



"I COULDN'T WAIT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING."

"KNOWING THAT I WAS GOING TO SEE MARI AT SCHOOL IS WHAT GOT ME THROUGH THE EVENING."



"ALAS, SHE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL THAT DAY..."



"...OR ANY OTHER DAY AFTER THAT."



Mari was my air, and now I can't breathe.



How am I supposed to live without her?



JOHNSON. UHH, GO TO THE NURSE ABOUT YOUR... UHH, WOMANLY PROBLEMS.







"THE FOLLOWING YEAR, I MARRIED JAMES DOWNING, AN AIR FORCE PILOT.

"MY FATHER WAS NOT PLEASED WITH MY LITTLE 'REBELLIOUS STUNT' AND MADE ME MARRY JAMES."



"LOOKING BACK, I SHOULD'VE SAID NO TO MY PARENTS AND LIVED MY LIFE, BUT I WANTED TO MAKE THEM HAPPY."

"JAMES WAS A GREAT MAN. I LOVED HIM."



U.S. AIR FORCE

"BUT HE WAS DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM A FEW MONTHS LATER."



"WE WROTE TO EACH OTHER EVERY DAY."

"THANK THE LORD HE CAME BACK TO ME."

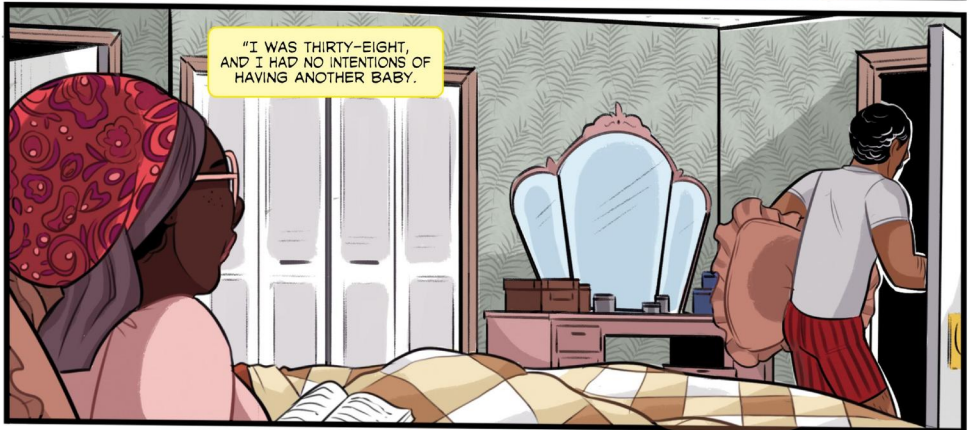


"AND IN 1970, WE HAD OUR FIRST BABY, ISAIAH."



"JOSHUA CAME IN 1972."





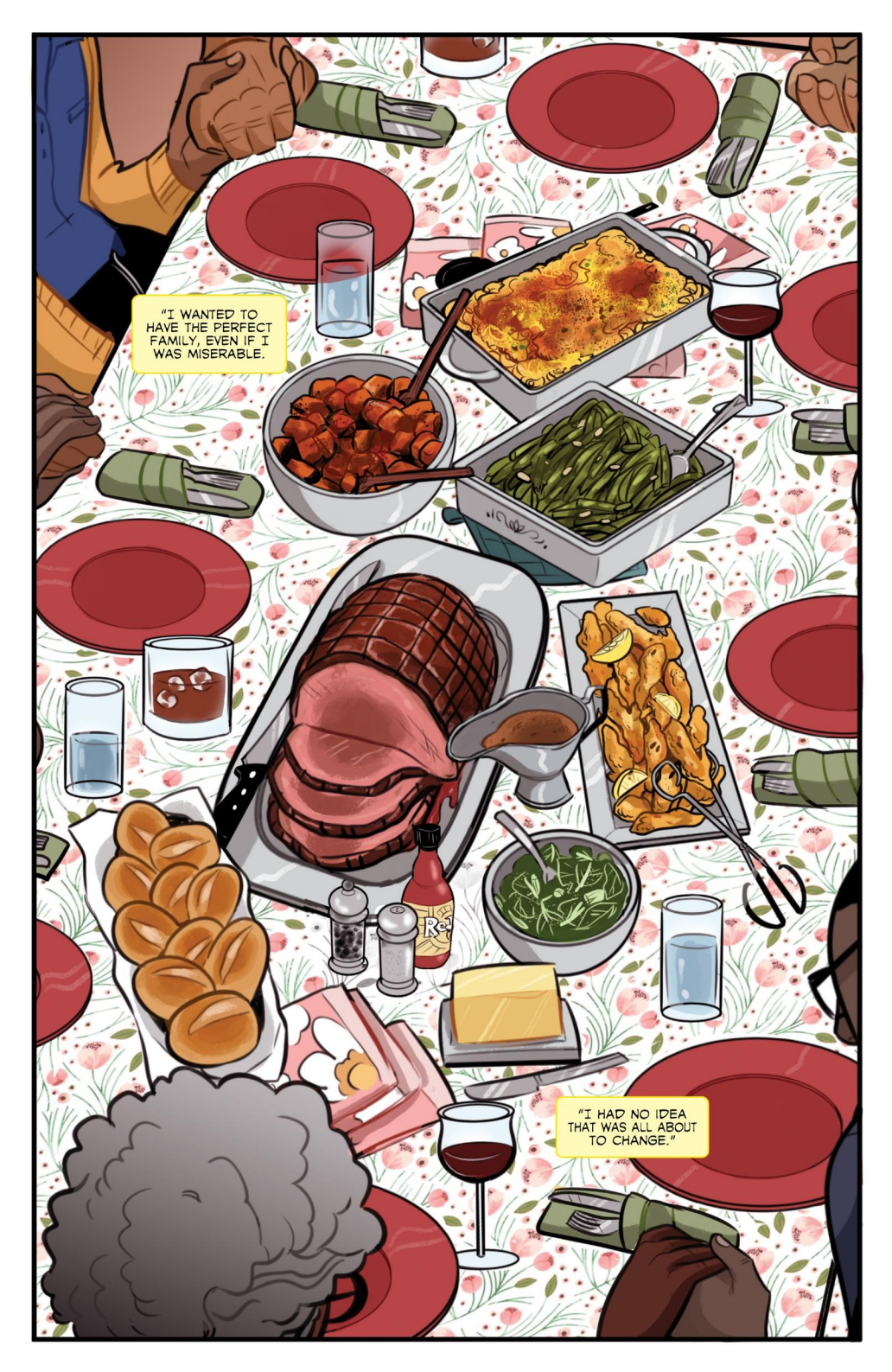
ENGLEWOOD, N.J.

"THIS WENT
ON FOR
DECADES.

"I COULD HAVE LEFT,
BUT I STAYED BECAUSE
OF THE KIDS...

"...AND THEN
THE GRANDKIDS.

GRAND
THE MA
THE MYT
THE LEGEN

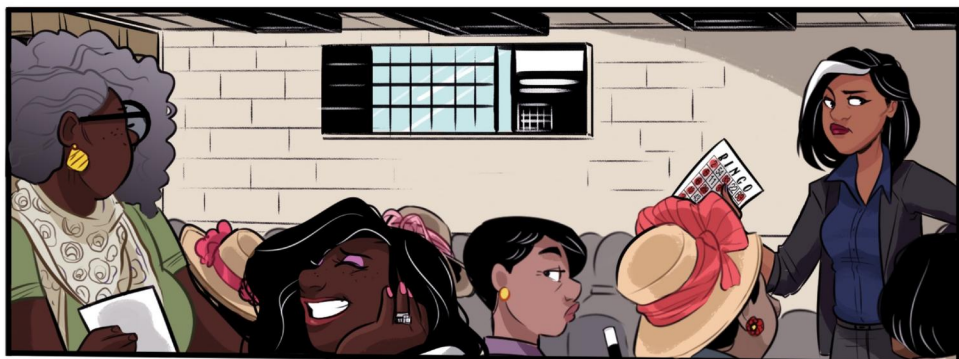


"I WANTED TO HAVE THE PERFECT FAMILY, EVEN IF I WAS MISERABLE."

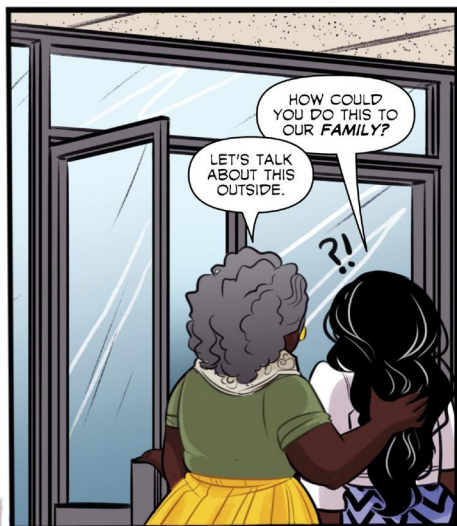
"I HAD NO IDEA THAT WAS ALL ABOUT TO CHANGE."

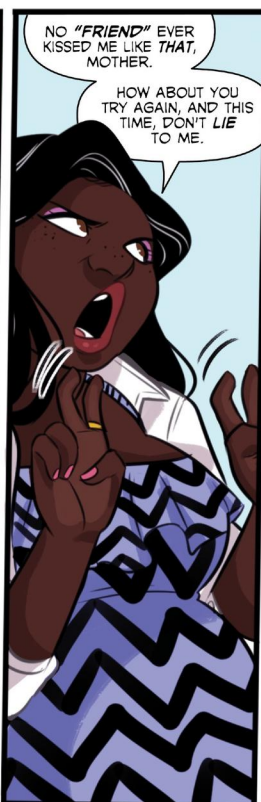










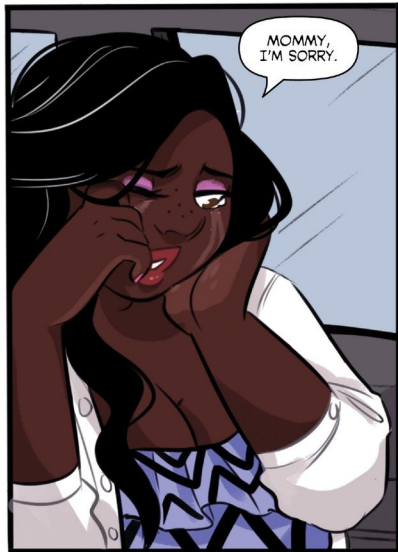
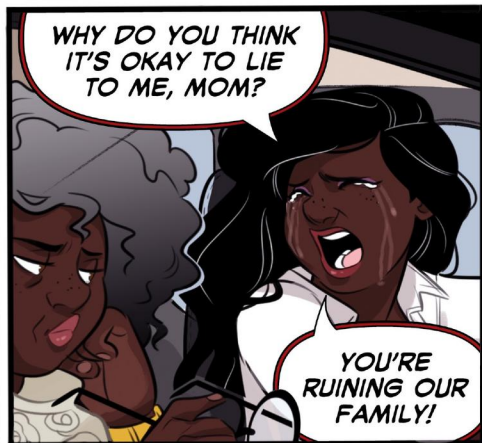














Am I ready
to give all
of this up?

YOU'RE
HOME
EARLY.
EVERYTHING
OKAY,
HAZEL?



NOT
REALLY,
JAMES.

I HAVE A
HEADACHE.

CARE TO
ASSIST ME
UPSTAIRS?

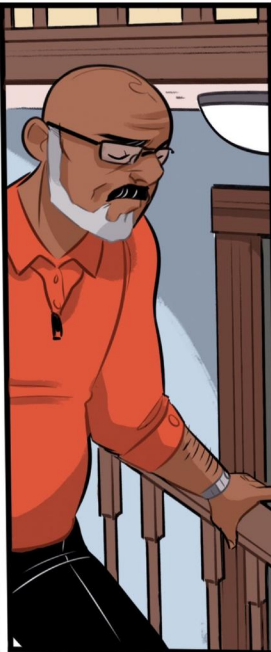


I love my family, but
deep down inside, I'm
truly not happy.

I sacrificed
my true happiness
for my family.

I think I'm
entitled to finally
be happy.







**SHE KISSED
YOU IN FRONT OF
MARIAN?!?!?**

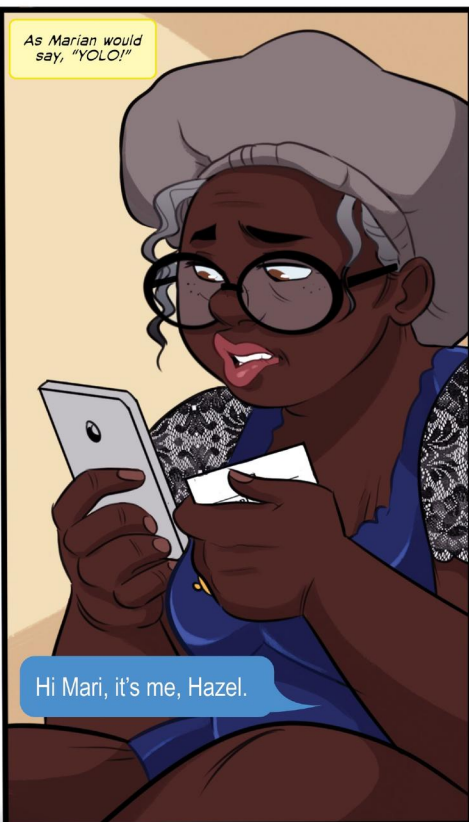
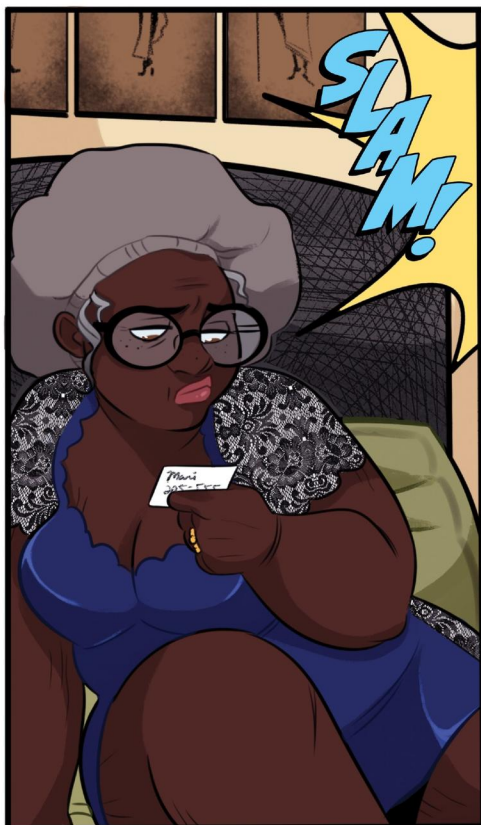
**HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
SEEING HER?**

**I MARRIED
A LESBIAN!!**

**WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL
ME?!?!?**

I-I-I...





Hi Mari, it's me, Hazel.

Elle. I still can't believe
today happened.

I've been pinching
myself, it feels like a
dream.

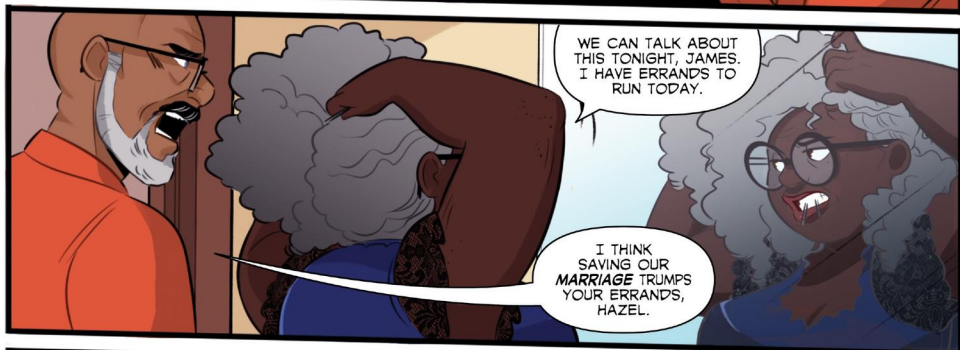
I'm not dreaming, Mari.

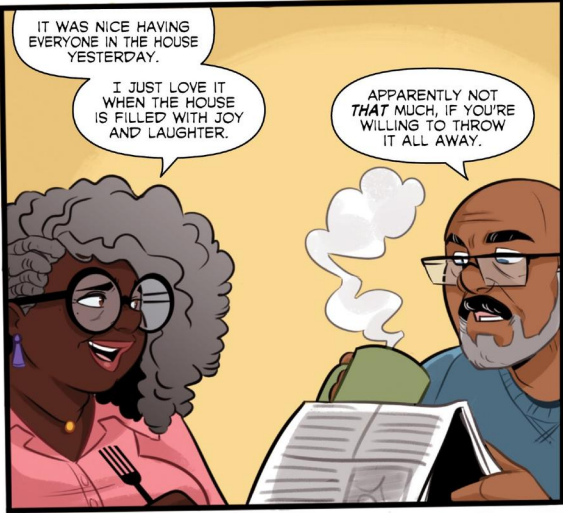
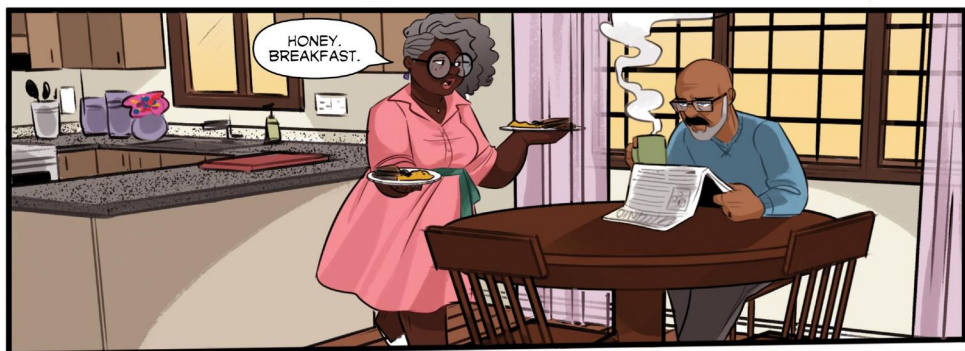
That kiss was definitely
not a dream.

I've had dreams of
kissing you, and it was
never like that.



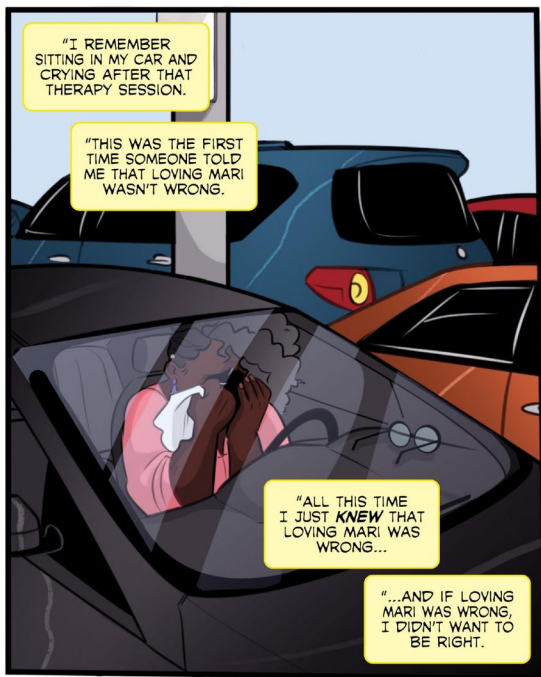


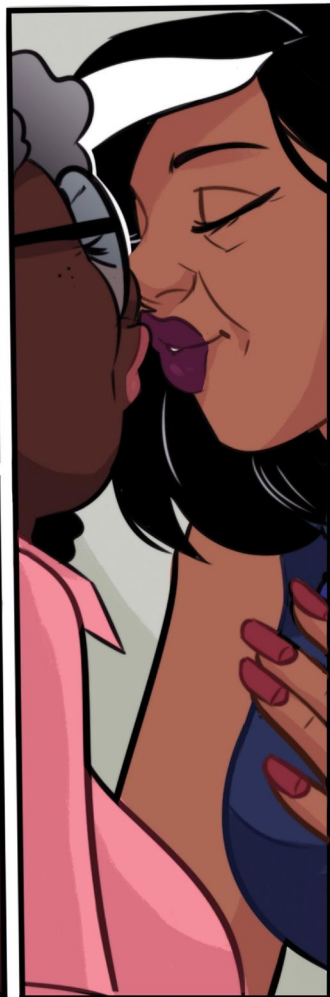
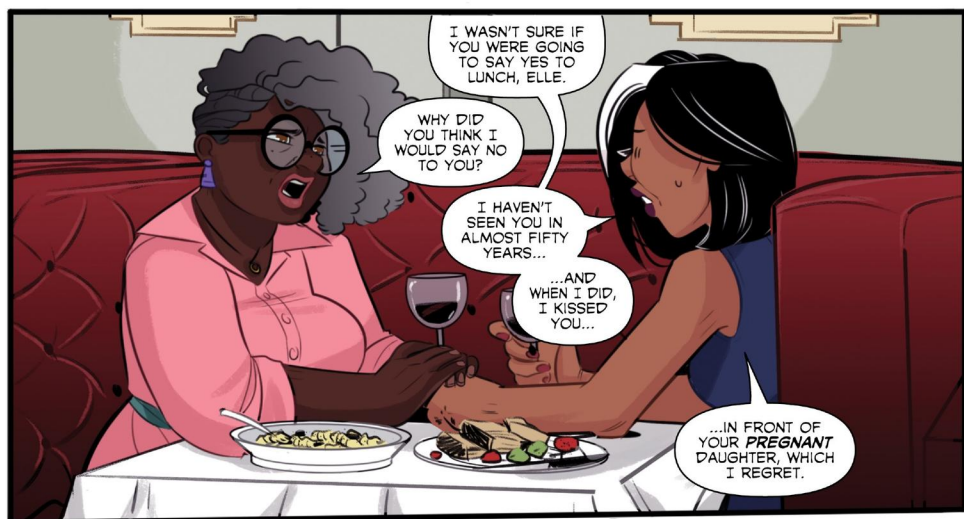


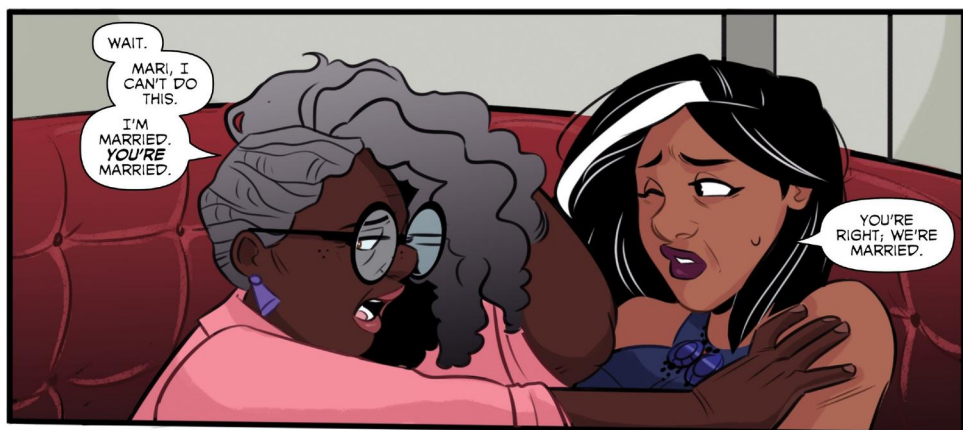
















YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I WANT TO DO WITH
MY MARRIAGE...

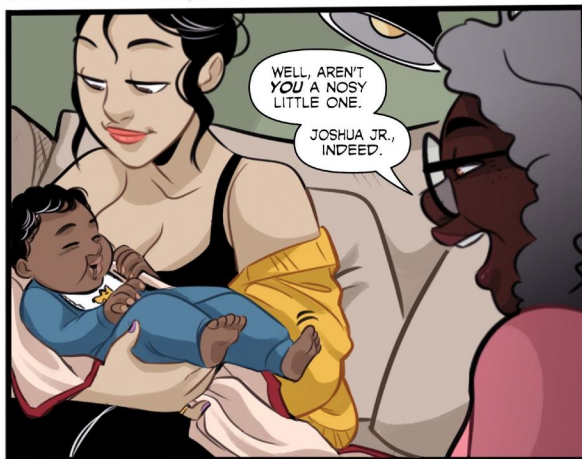
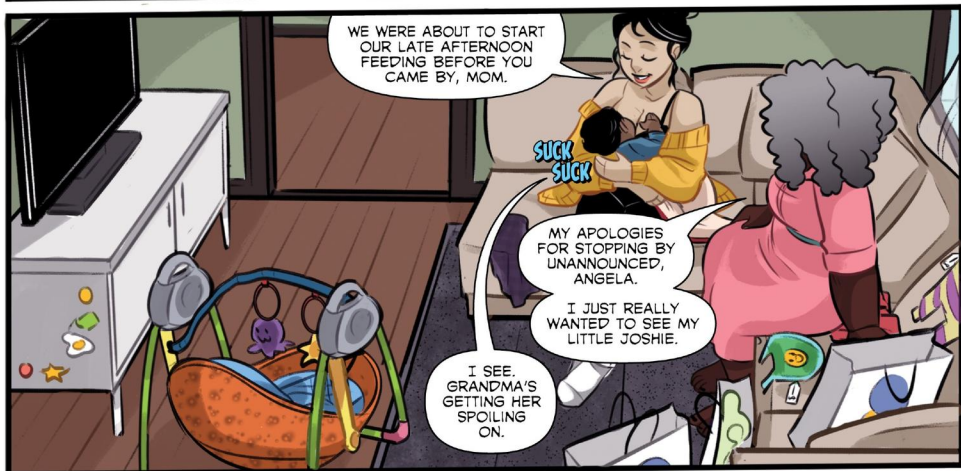
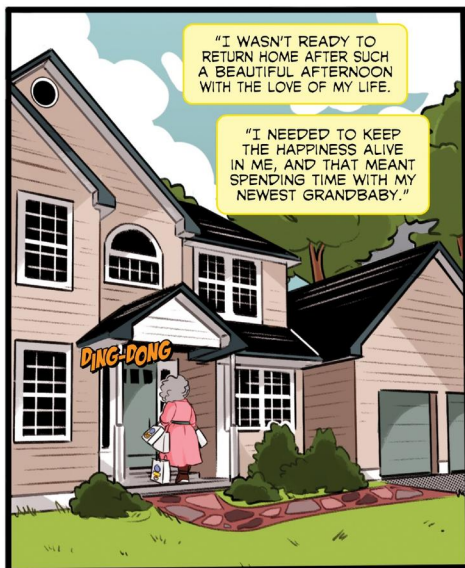
BUT I **DO**
KNOW THAT I
WANT YOU IN
MY LIFE.

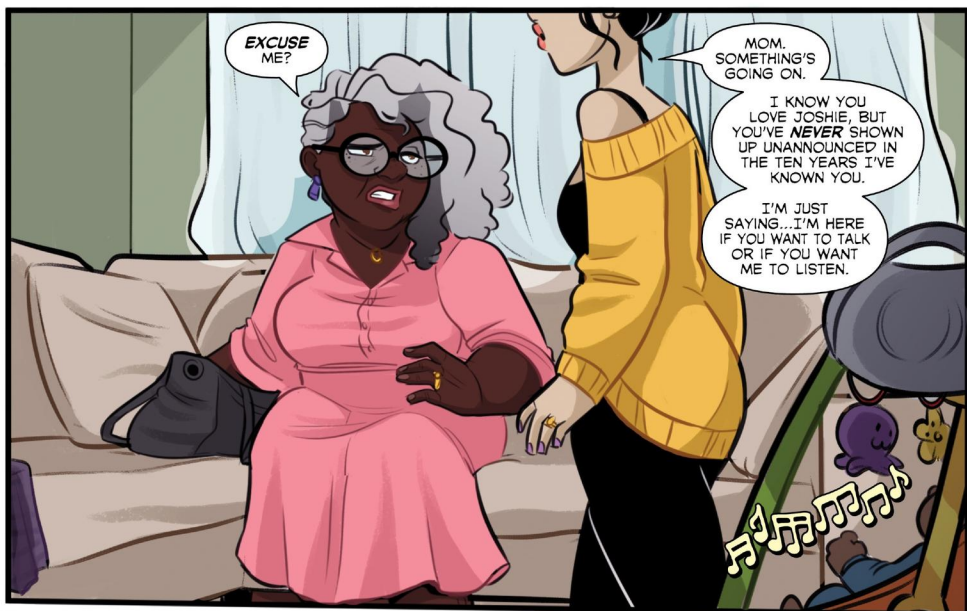
LIFE IS TOO SHORT,
AND I HAVE A SECOND
CHANCE WITH MY ONE
TRUE LOVE.

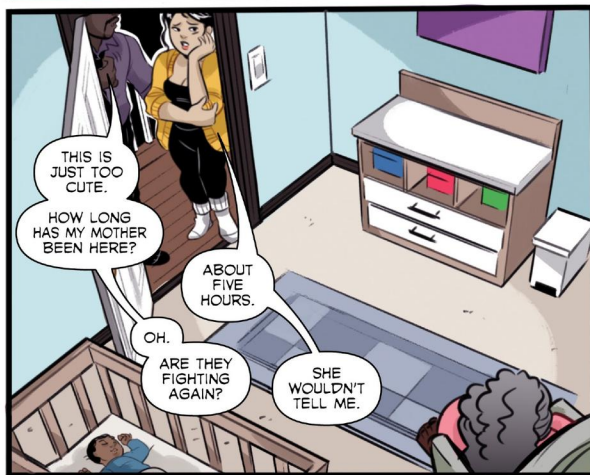
YOU BRING
ME COMPLETE
JOY.

I LOVE
YOU, MARI
MCCRAY.

ERR...
CONWAY.











"WHILE I WAS DOING ANNE'S HAIR, I WONDERED ABOUT MARI'S GRANDCHILDREN.



"SHE HAD SIX GRANDCHILDREN FROM THREE OF HER FIVE CHILDREN.



"DID THEY LOOK LIKE HER?

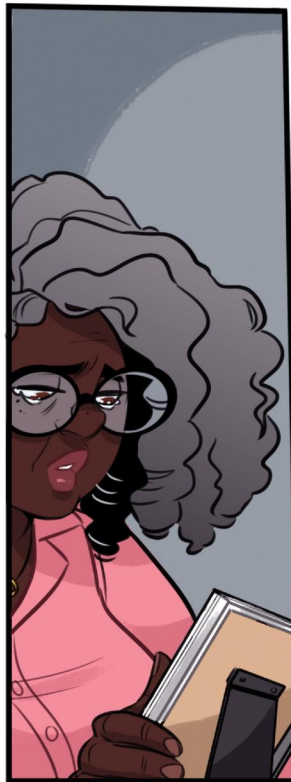
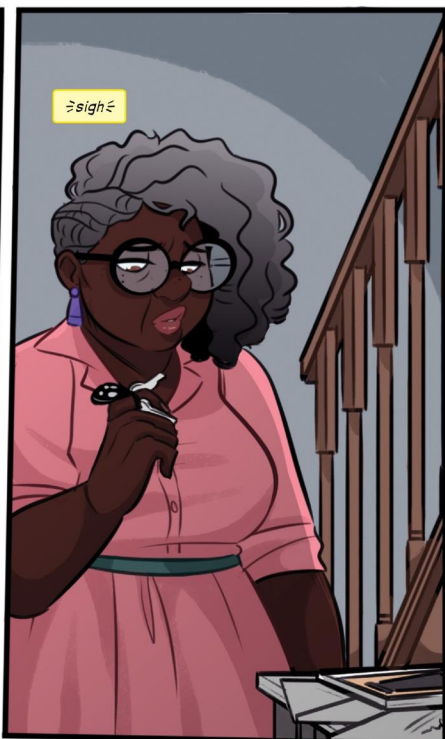


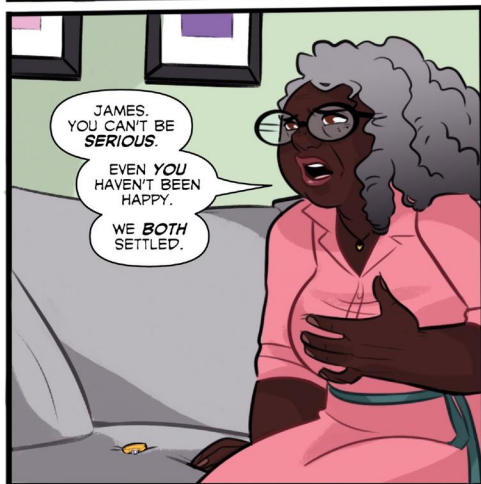
"I JUST COULDN'T GET HER OUT OF MY MIND.

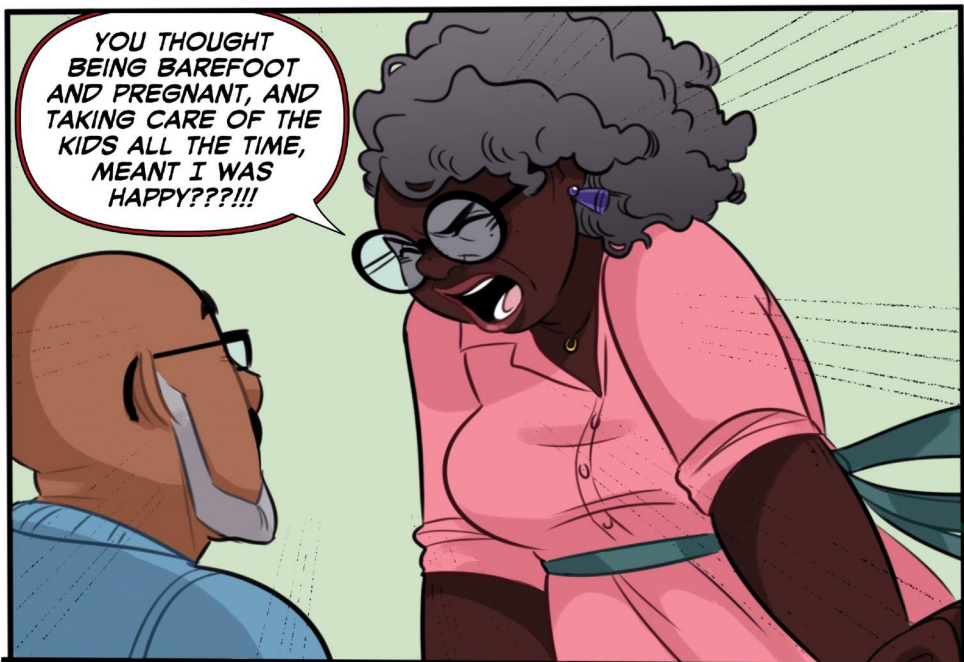


"ALTHOUGH I **NEEDED** TO, I WAS ABOUT TO GO TO MY HUSBAND SOON.



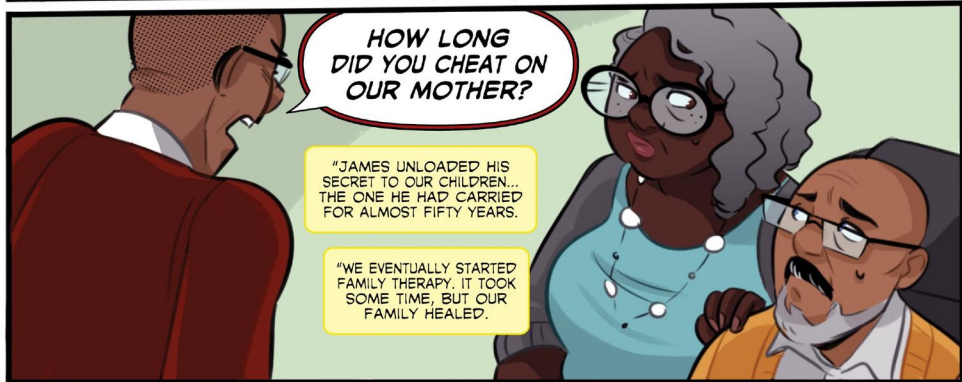
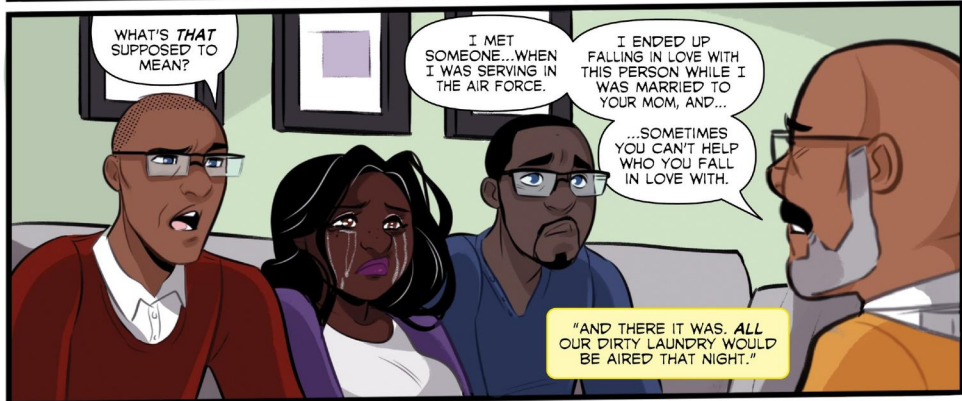














"THEN MARI AND
I WERE FREE TO START
OUR LIFE TOGETHER."

KITCHEN



"IT WAS SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
TO SEE."

"EVEN IF OUR KIDS
WEREN'T HAPPY WITH
OUR CHOICES, THEY
STILL CAME TOGETHER
TO HELP US TO MOVE."

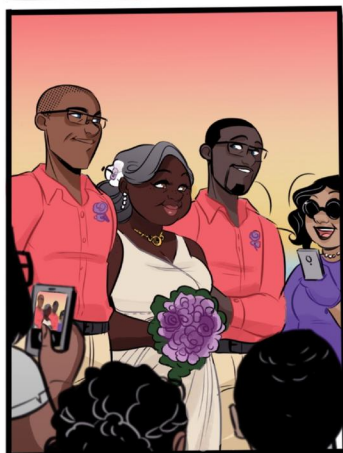












I'VE DREAMT OF THIS MOMENT EVERY SINGLE NIGHT I WOULD GO TO SLEEP.

MARRYING YOU ONLY HAPPENED IN MY DREAMS.

NOW I STAND BEFORE YOU, WIDE AWAKE, READY TO LOVE YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY.

OUR LOVE WAS ONCE FORBIDDEN, AND I VOW TO NEVER KEEP MY LOVE FOR YOU HIDDEN.



YOU COMPLETE ME, ELLE. I LOVE YOU.



FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU, I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE...

...THE ONE I WANTED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH. I DREAMT OF OUR WEDDING WHEN YOU FIRST KISSED ME ON MY CHEEK.

DREAMS DO COME TRUE, AND I'M FINALLY SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH YOU.



WE LOST SO MUCH TIME NOT BEING TOGETHER, BUT I PROMISE THAT WE'LL MAKE EVERY SECOND AN ADVENTURE.

MARI, YOU ARE MY SOUL-MATE. MY ONE TRUE LOVE. MY HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU "PARTNERS FOR LIFE."



PARIS, FRANCE

"WE TRAVELLED
ALL OVER FOR OUR
HONEYMOON."

*MARGUERITE BENNETT AND ASIA KENDRICK-HORTON
TAKE US AROUND THE WORLD IN BINGO LOVE!
HONEYMOON, A DIGITAL RELEASE — ED

THE MALDIVES

REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

OAHU, HAWAII

"OUR LAST STOP WAS OAHU.
ALTHOUGH OUR TWO-MONTH
HONEYMOON WAS ENDING,
OUR HAPPILY EVER AFTER
WAS JUST BEGINNING."



"I LOVED MARI
WITH EVERY FIBER
OF MY BEING.

"AND SHE SHOWERED
ME WITH COMPLIMENTS
DAY IN AND OUT."



YOU ARE SO
EXQUISITE,
ELLE.

YOU'RE JUST AS
BEAUTIFUL AS THE
FIRST DAY I SAW
YOU IN CLASS.

I AM TRULY
BLESSED TO HAVE A
SECOND CHANCE AT
LOVE WITH YOU.



I LOVE
ME SOME
YOU.



"BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP
AND TREATED THIS WAY WAS
ALL SO NEW TO ME.

"WE DIDN'T JUST HAVE
A SECOND CHANCE AT
LOVE, WE HAD A SECOND
CHANCE AT LIFE."

2018

"WHILE MARI WORKED, I WENT TO THE BEST FASHION SCHOOL IN NEW YORK."

"SHE WANTED TO SEE ME SUCCEED AND SUPPORTED ME."

"I ALWAYS HAD A LOVE OF FASHION, BUT I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO ATTEND COLLEGE, SO I COMBINED THEM BOTH."

"DESIGNING OUTFITS FOR MARI WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PASTIMES."

NOT WITH ALL THESE UGLY **BATTLE SCARS** ON MY STOMACH.

HONESTLY, I COULD JUST STARE AT YOU STANDING HERE FOR HOURS.

YOU ARE PERFECTION.

THOSE "BATTLE SCARS" ENHANCE YOUR BEAUTY, MY WARRIOR GODDESS.

NOW KEEP STILL.

"I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE BEFORE."

CONGRATULATIONS

"IT TOOK ME FIVE YEARS TO FINALLY REALIZE I WAS LIVING THE LIFE I WAS DESTINED TO LIVE."

"THE LIFE THAT I DESERVED."

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, ELLE.

YOU DESERVE ALL OF THIS AND SO MUCH MORE.

I THINK YOU MEAN "WE," MY LOVE.



"MARI AND I
LIVED OUR LIVES
TO THE FULLEST.

"WE ENJOYED SPENDING
TIME TOGETHER AND WITH
OUR GRANDBABIES.

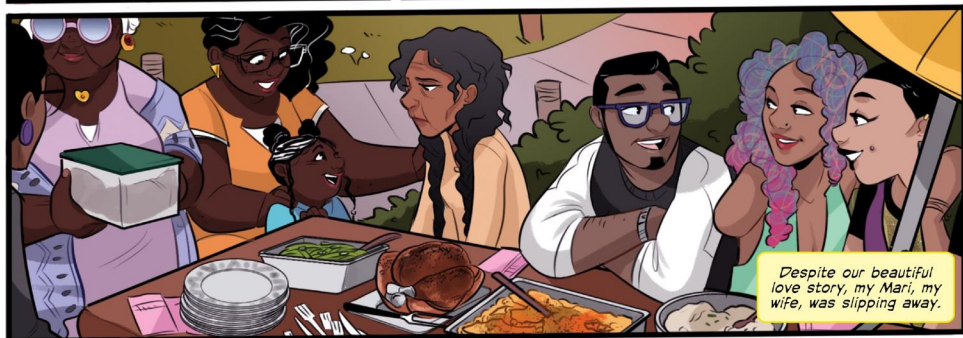
"WE KNEW WE DIDN'T HAVE
A LIFETIME TOGETHER...

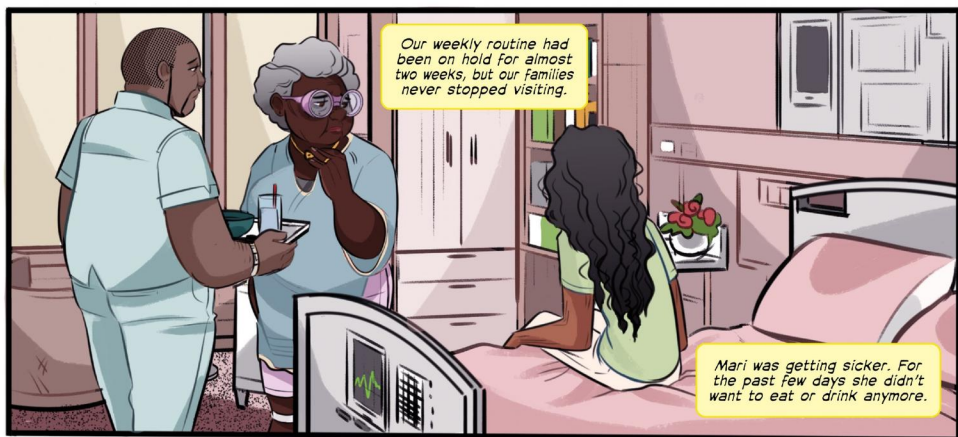


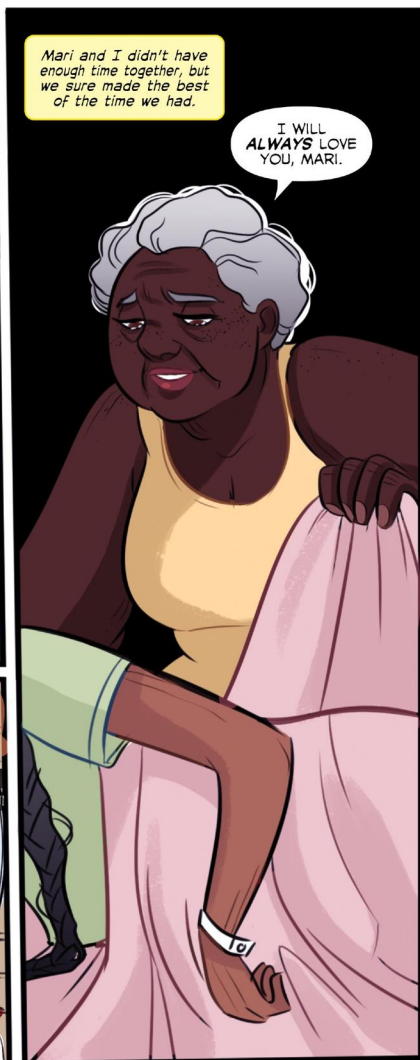
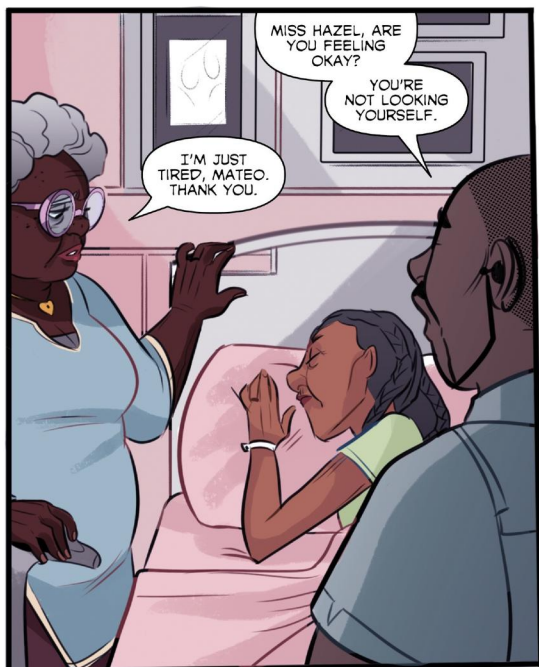
"...BUT WE CRAMMED AS MUCH AS WE POSSIBLY COULD INTO THE TIME WE DID HAVE. WE WANTED IT TO LAST FOREVER.

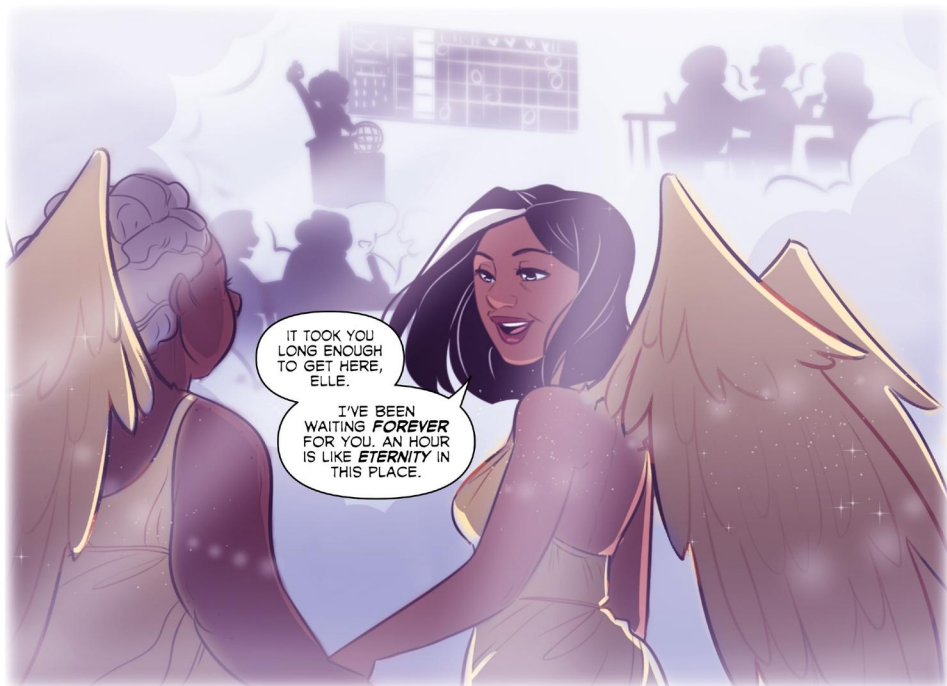
"UNFORTUNATELY, TIME CATCHES UP TO ALL OF US..."











BINGO

L VE

To everyone who supported our
story of grandmothers in love,
THANK YOU!

YOU made *Bingo Love*
the success it is!





LGBT / ROMANCE
RATED T / TEEN
IMAGECOMICS.COM
BINGOLOVECOMIC.COM



Take a trip through time with Hazel Johnson and Mari McCray as they fall in love at church bingo in 1963, break up because of pressure from their families, and reunite nearly fifty years later!

"Tee Franklin's delivering a fresh, charming story of adolescent love with adorable, fluid art from Jenn St-Onge and Joy San. And if you care about representation, here's a great opportunity to step up. The world needs more stories with African American girl heroes of all different kinds, and BINGO LOVE is leading the charge."

—Greg Pak (Kingsway West, Totally Awesome Hulk)



INCLUSIVE
P R E S S