



UNA POSIBILI DAD

EDICIÓN INTEGRAL

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ASTIBERRI

I.

DEPTHS

**Se aprende en la cuna,
se aprende en la cama,
se aprende en la puerta
de un hospital.**

**Se aprende de golpe,
se aprende de a poco
y a veces se aprende
reci3n al final.**



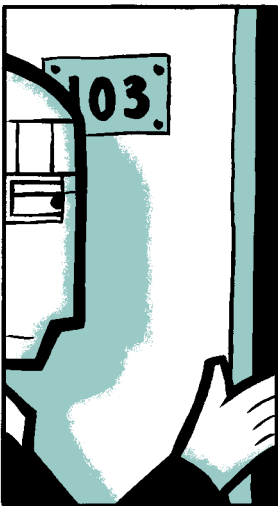
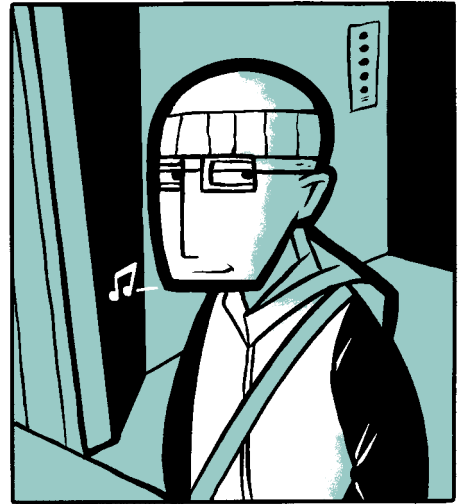
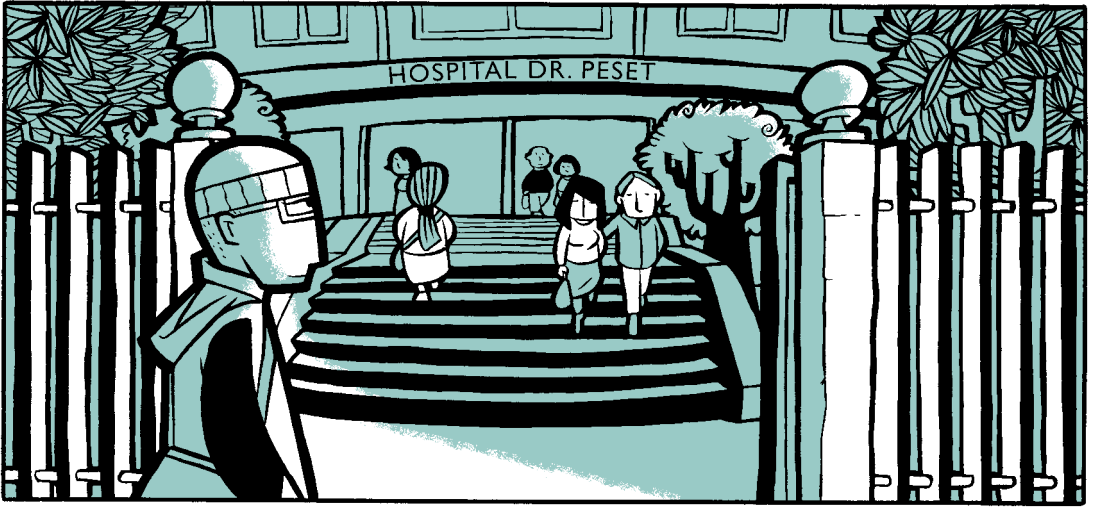
Poivo de estrellas
Jorge Drexler

Valencia, 2003.



3 months earlier.







IT'S FINE...
IT'S FINE...



SHE WAS JUST A
LITTLE LIMP AND THEY TOOK
HER TO RUN A FEW TESTS...



BUT THEY
SAY IT'S FINE...

SHE'S TRYING TO CALM ME
DOWN, BUT IT'S NOT WORKING.
IT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE...



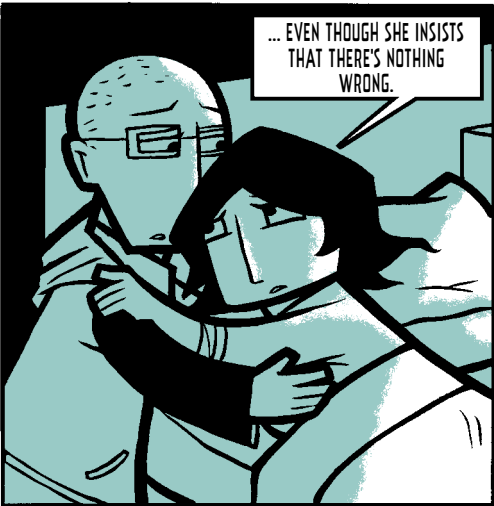
SHE WAS WEAK.
I TOLD THEM.



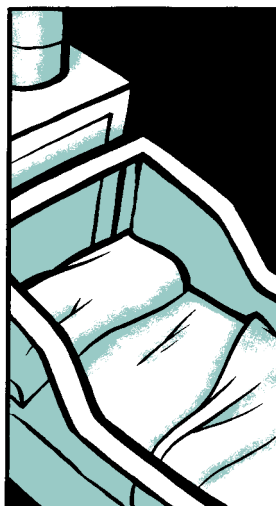
THEY LOOKED HER OVER AND SAID
SHE WAS OK. THEY DIDN'T PAY MUCH
ATTENTION TO ME AT THE BEGINNING.

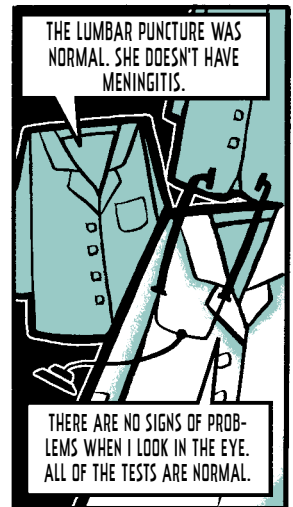
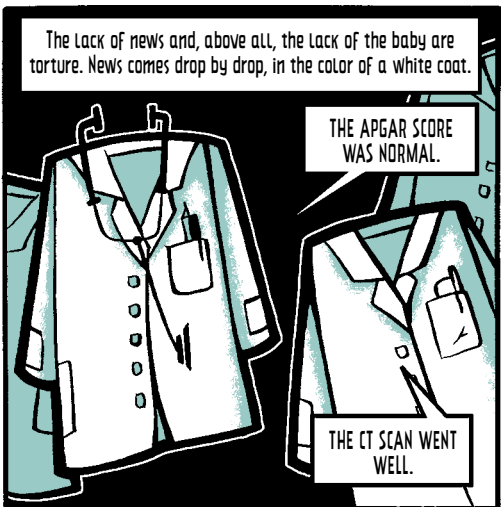
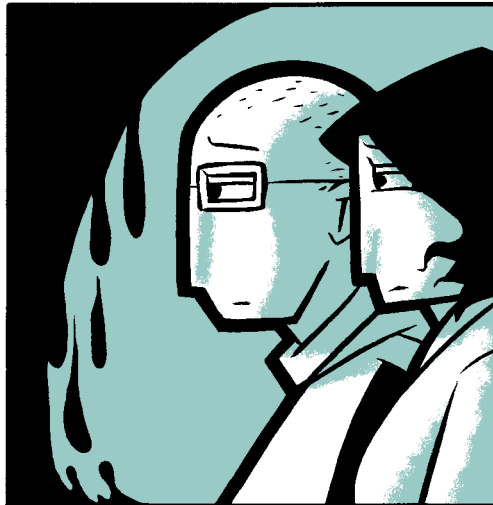


WHEN THE PEDIATRICIAN PASSED
BY AND SAW HER SHE TOOK HER
AWAY RUNNING...



... EVEN THOUGH SHE INSISTS
THAT THERE'S NOTHING
WRONG.







HELLO AGAIN. UM...
LET'S SEE, THERE'S BEEN A
BRAIN HEMORRHAGE.



IT SEEMS TO BE THE CAUSE
OF HER STATE...



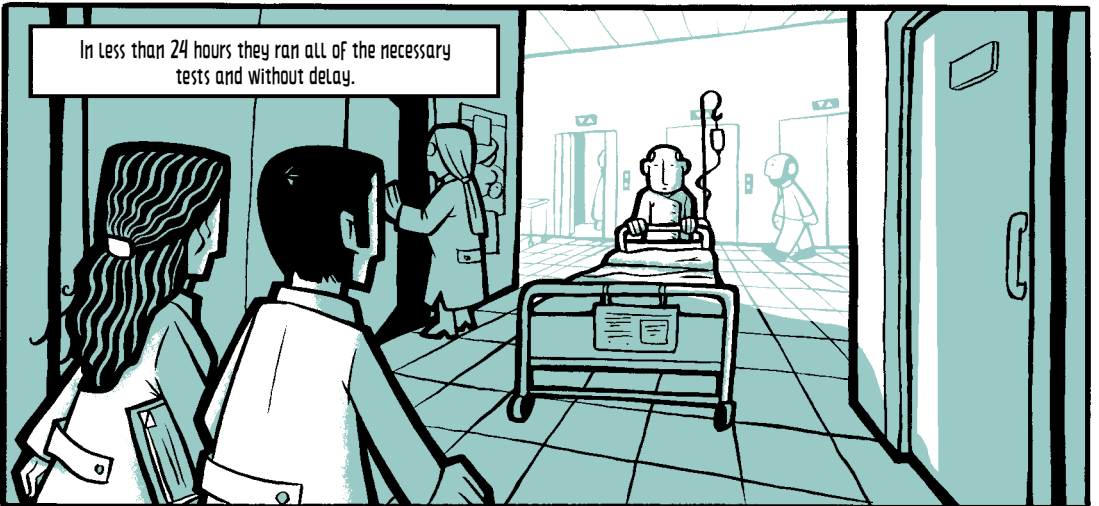
UM... I'M NOT
SAYING THAT SHE WILL
STAY SICK...



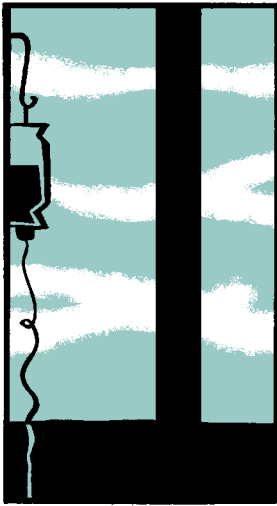
... BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE'LL
BE... UM... A LITTLE AFFECTED,
BUT HER LIFE IS NOT IN DANGER.



The reaction at the hospital was
spectacular. They threw them-
selves completely into the case.



In less than 24 hours they ran all of the necessary
tests and without delay.



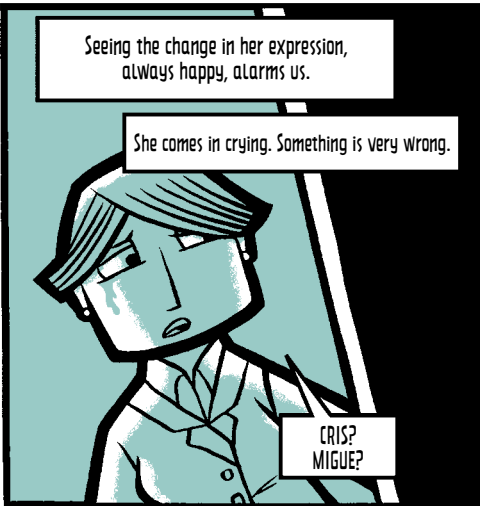
We see Ana, the gynecologist that attended the birth, pass by running. She's a friend of ours. She passes by without looking at us...



IT WAS ANA...



A little while later she comes by. That she is coming already sets our hearts trembling.



Seeing the change in her expression, always happy, alarms us.

She comes in crying. Something is very wrong.

CRIS?
MIGUE?



UM... LAIA HAS HAD A BAD SEIZURE TONIGHT...

SHE'S HAD CONVULSIONS AND SHE'S... SHE'S VERY BAD. SHE'S LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT AND HER LIFE IS HANGING BY A THREAD...



I... I'M... SORRY...

WE'VE GONE OVER THE BIRTH A THOUSAND TIMES AND EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT, EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL...



All of the sudden the professional doctor is gone and in her place is the stricken friend.



I... DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.



OH... ANA, DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.



The situation has become a drama. I don't know what to do...



The first person I think of is Cris. I can take this, but I know she can't.



The tricks our minds play on us in situations like this.

Without wanting to I see myself outside of the drama. I am a camera recording the scene.

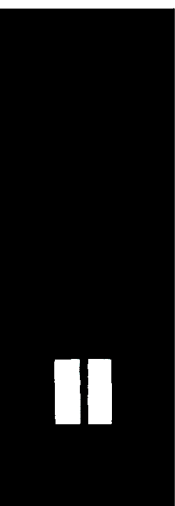
And I think: "Dof, I'm inside of a Lars von Trier film."

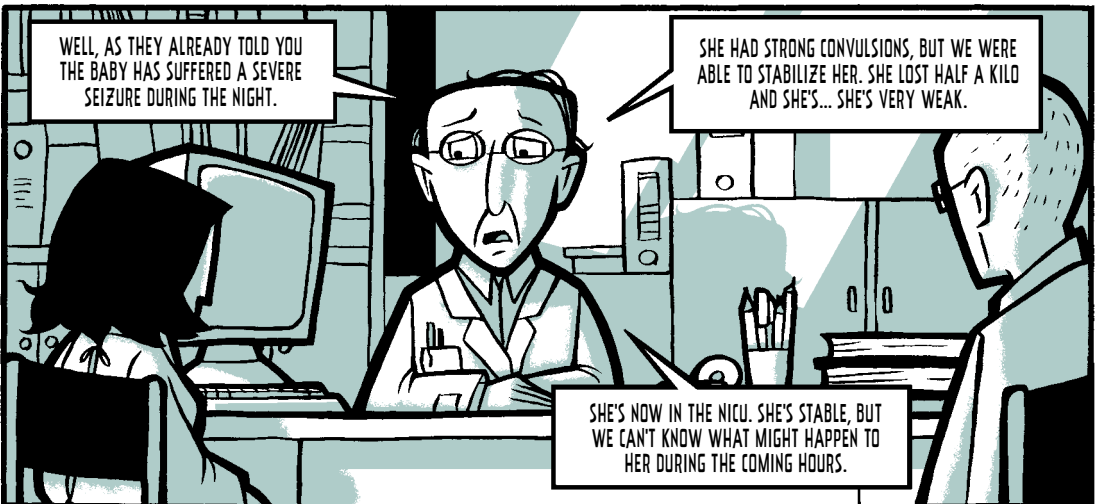
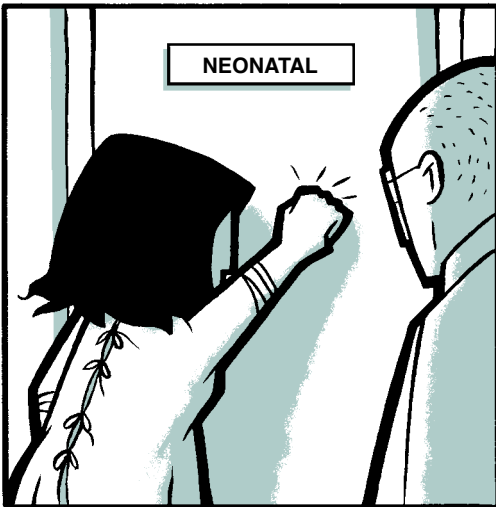


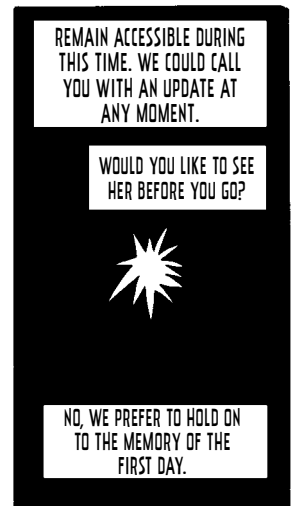
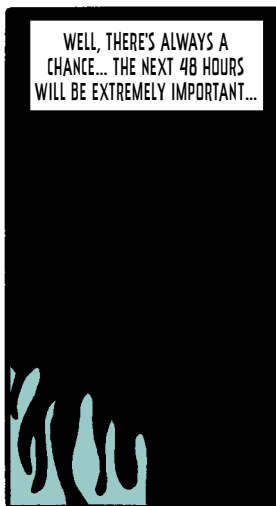
Then I react. Only a few seconds have passed.



We all end up crying.



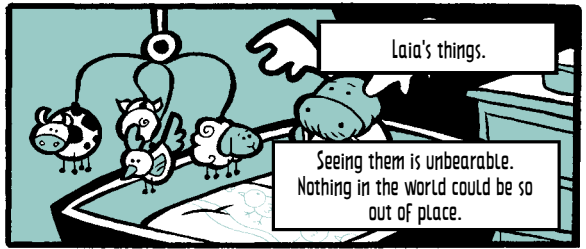






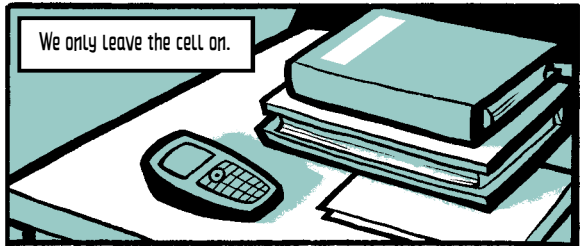
We arrive home.

At any moment they could call us to tell us that everything is over, that at last the nightmare has ended and we can finally start from zero again.

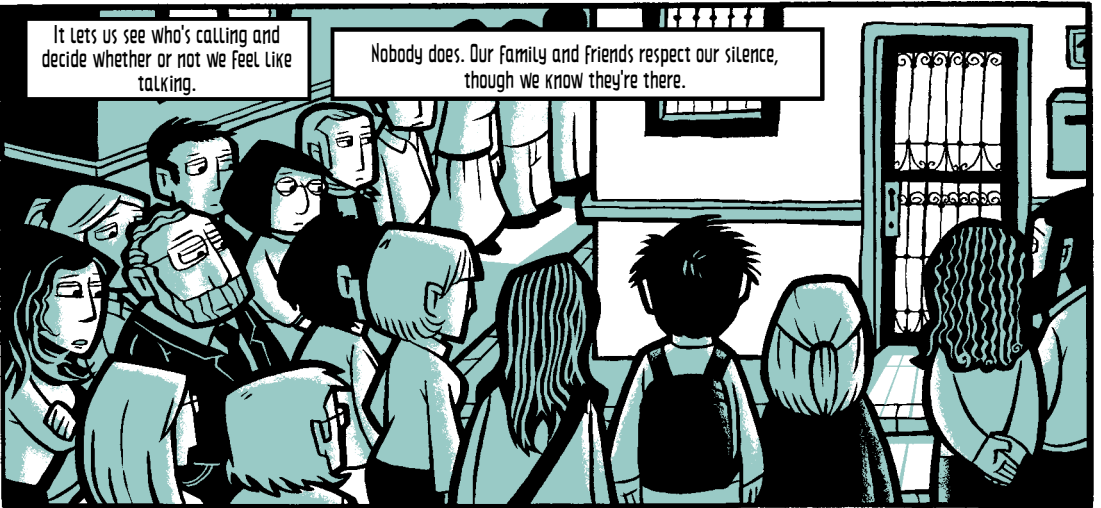


Lara's things.

Seeing them is unbearable. Nothing in the world could be so out of place.

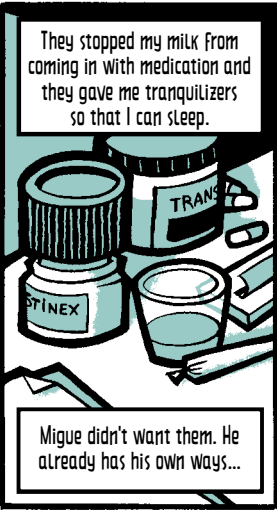


We only leave the cell on.



It lets us see who's calling and decide whether or not we feel like talking.

Nobody does. Our family and friends respect our silence, though we know they're there.



They stopped my milk from coming in with medication and they gave me tranquilizers so that I can sleep.

Migue didn't want them. He already has his own ways...

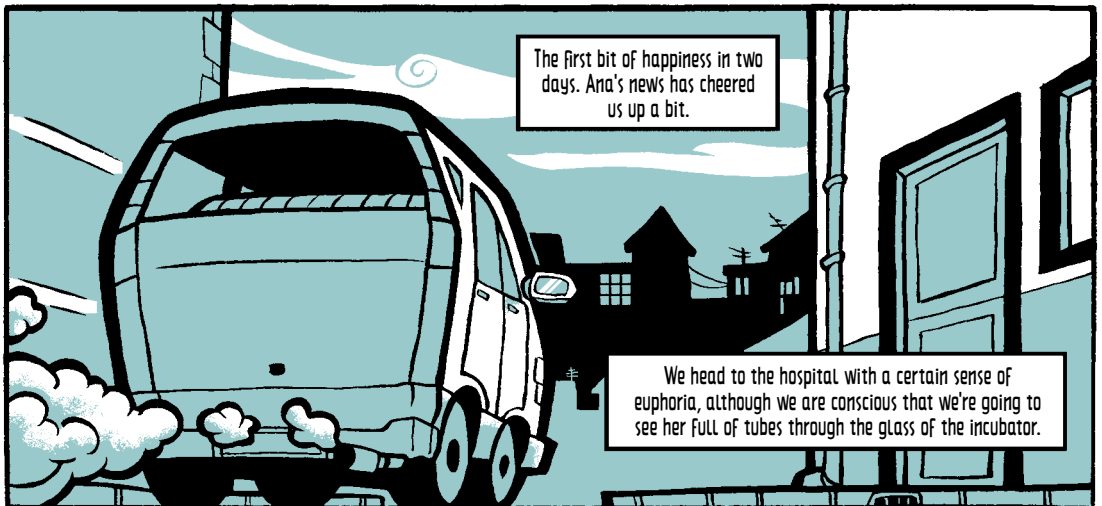
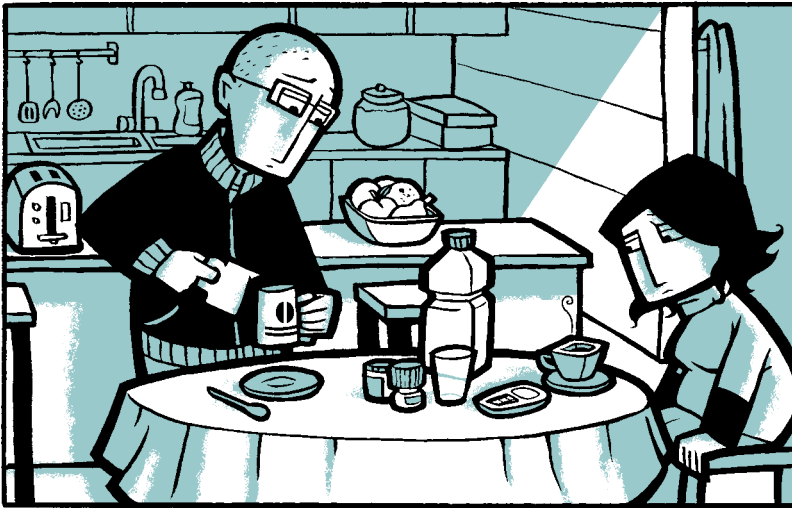


The fear of the phone ringing is unbearable.



In the end exhaustion overcomes us and we manage to sleep.





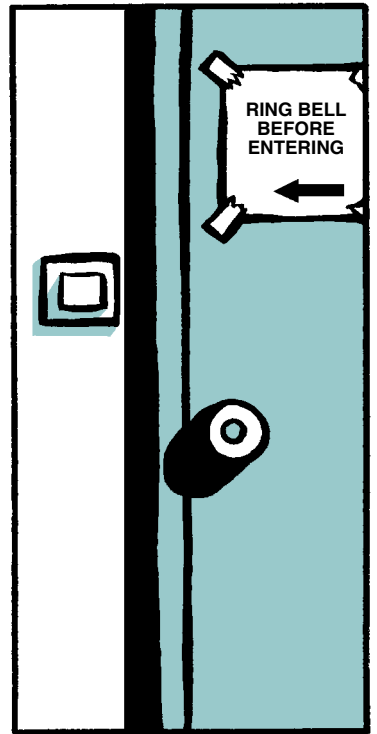
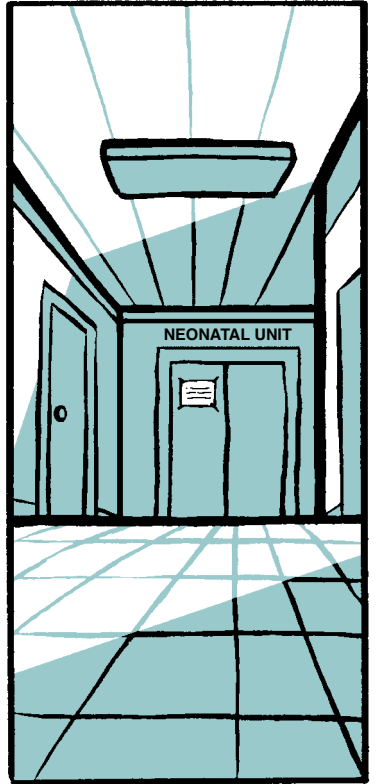
2.



THE TREE

**Jo tinc, per a tu, un niu
en el meu arbre
i un núvol blanc, penjat
d'alguna branca.**

**Un núvol blanc
Urs Lach**





HERE YOU ARE. PUT ON THESE GOWNS AND WASH YOUR HANDS. HYGIENE IS ESSENTIAL.



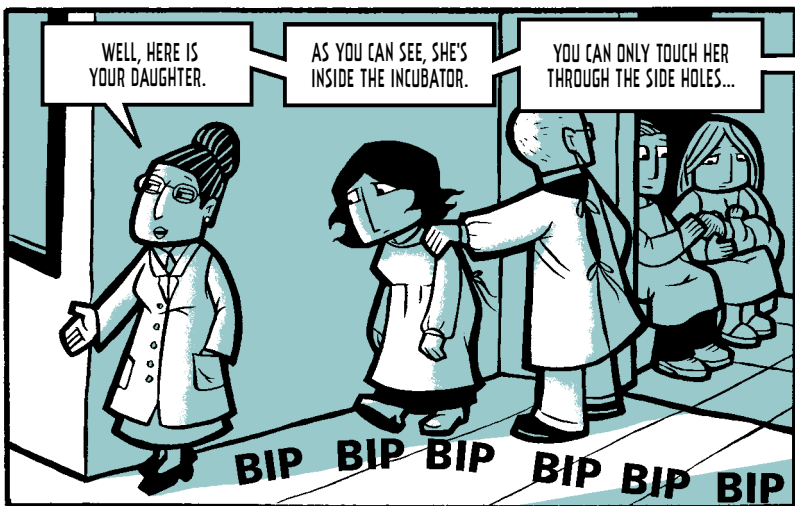
THERE'S NO CRYING HERE. IT'S PROHIBITED. OK? WE DON'T WANT WEeping MOTHERS.

YES, YES, SORRY.



PUT THE BABY'S NAME ON THE GOWN IN CASE YOU COME BACK IN THE AFTERNOON.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE FOR THE DAY YOU THROW THEM IN THIS PAIL, OK?



WELL, HERE IS YOUR DAUGHTER.

AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE'S INSIDE THE INCUBATOR.

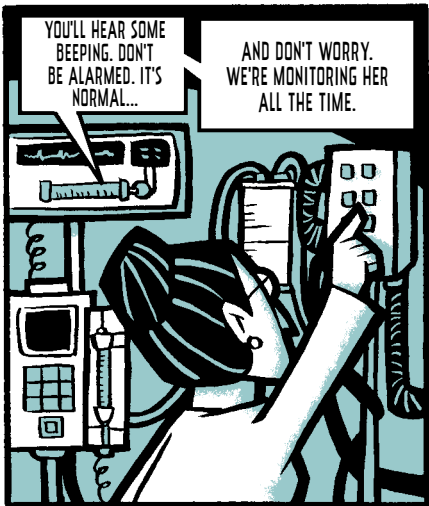
YOU CAN ONLY TOUCH HER THROUGH THE SIDE HOLES...

BIP BIP BIP BIP BIP BIP



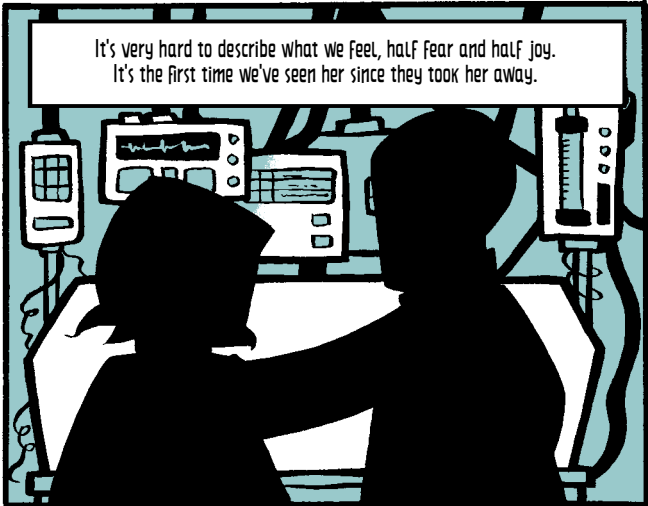
BUT DO TOUCH HER, IT'S THE BEST THING FOR HER.

BIP BIP

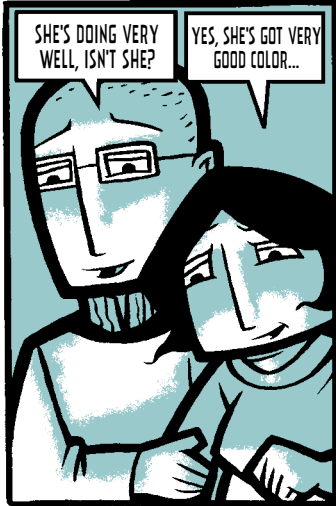
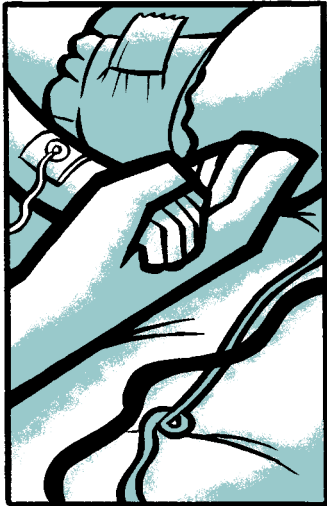
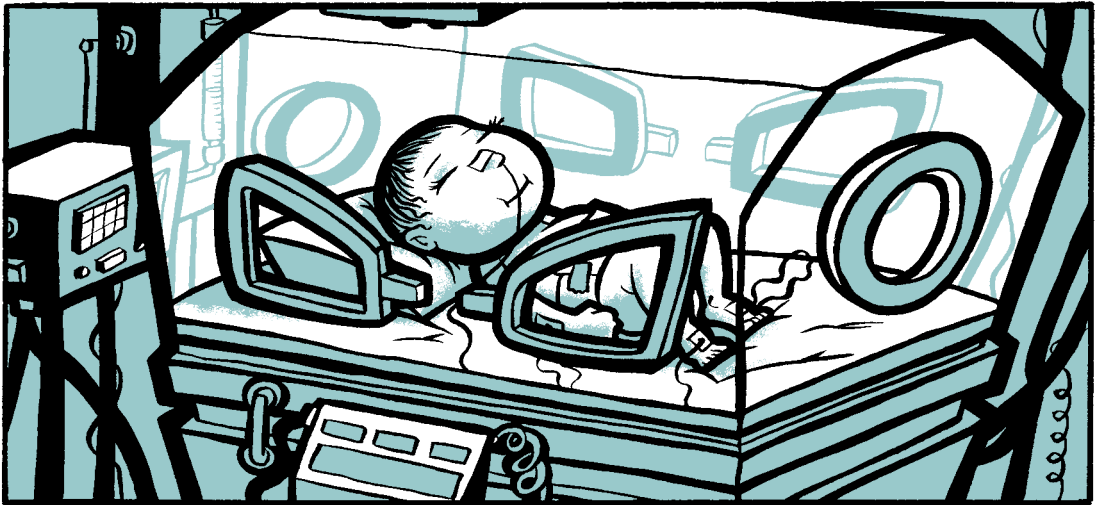


YOU'LL HEAR SOME BEEPING. DON'T BE ALARMED. IT'S NORMAL...

AND DON'T WORRY. WE'RE MONITORING HER ALL THE TIME.

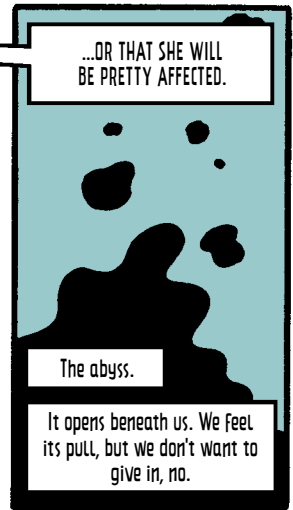
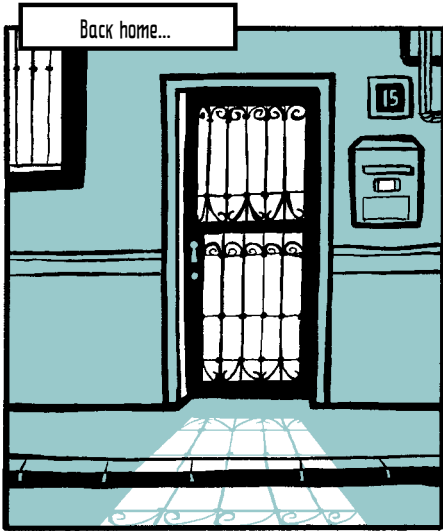


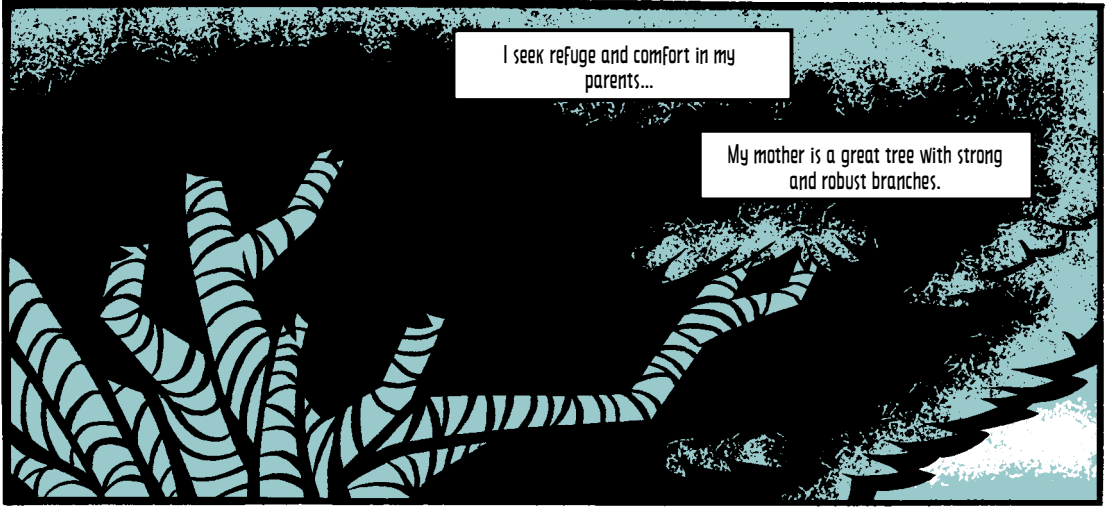
It's very hard to describe what we feel, half fear and half joy. It's the first time we've seen her since they took her away.



SHE'S DOING VERY WELL, ISN'T SHE?

YES, SHE'S GOT VERY GOOD COLOR...





I seek refuge and comfort in my parents...

My mother is a great tree with strong and robust branches.



My father is there too, by her side, like always.

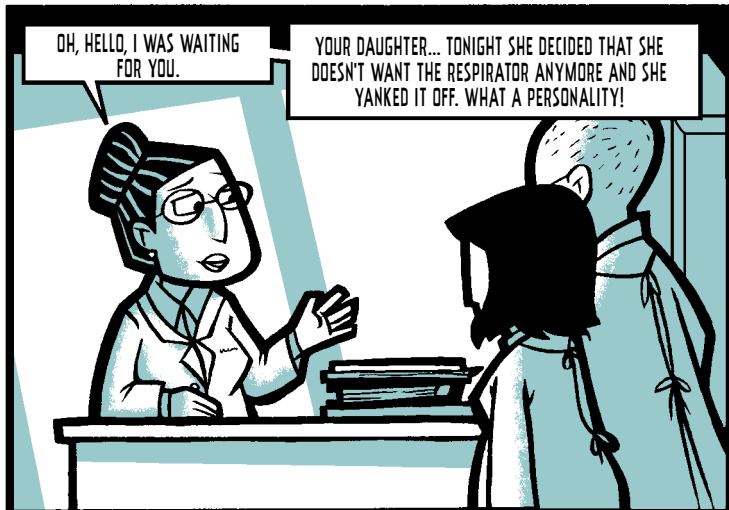
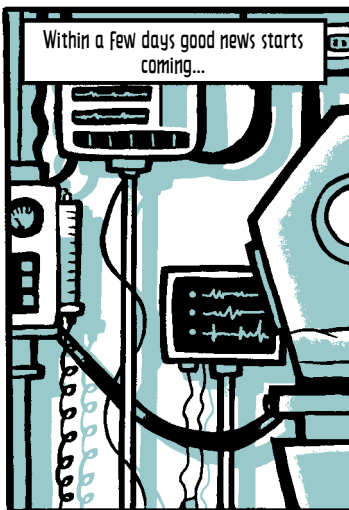
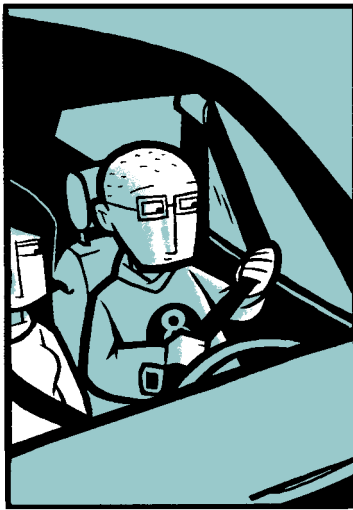
And I curl up blanketed in their shadow.

The strong wind hits the tree, but it only manages to make it sway on rare occasions.

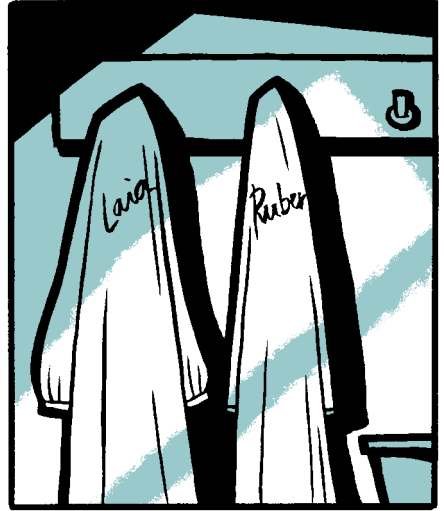


Its roots are deep and they maintain it with firmness grounded in the earth.

I know that they cry a lot too, but they always do it when I can't see them...



The NICU is a strange place...



SCHEDULE

From **12:00 p.m.** - Mothers only

Medical report - **1:00 p.m.** Mothers and fathers

From **6:00 p.m.** - Mothers only

Visit of mothers and fathers: **6:30 p.m.**

7:30 p.m. Visit from family members through the exterior hallway. (They can see the babies through the viewing window. Their entrance in the lactation room is prohibited)

Before going in you think you're going to find a sad and depressing environment...

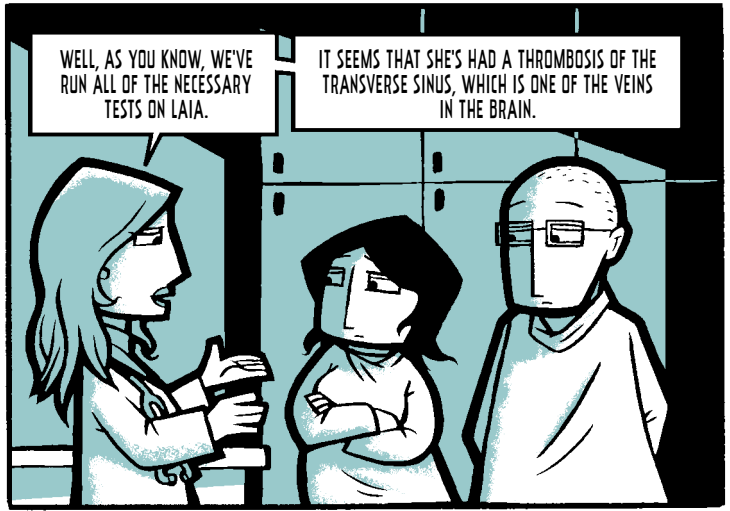
Exaggeratedly dramatic parents who think that what happened to them is some sort of divine punishment or something...

ph.
eco. 13h. Madres y padres.
8h.- Solo madres y padres. 18.30h.
de familiares por el pasillo exterior
de los bebés a través de la ventana.
El su ingreso a la sala de lactancia



Far from that, and despite all of the problems weighing them down, they are relaxed and happy that their child is going forward.





His calm voice and his way of explaining things helped us to understand everything.

A SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE IS... IMAGINE A FIELD FULL OF WATER AND LITTLE BY LITTLE THAT WATER STARTS REABSORBING.

A little while afterwards they let us take her out of the incubator, though she was still being monitored.

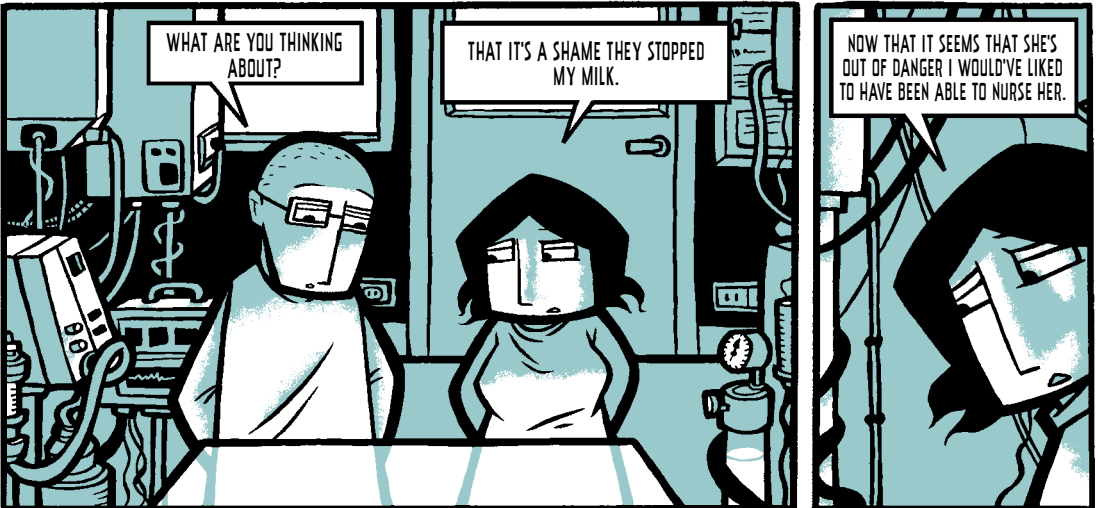
Being able to touch her without glass in between...



WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

THAT IT'S A SHAME THEY STOPPED MY MILK.

NOW THAT IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S OUT OF DANGER I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NURSE HER.



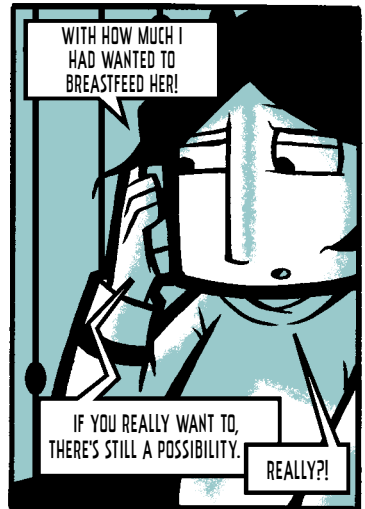


Salomé



SALO?

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT LACTATION...



WITH HOW MUCH I HAD WANTED TO BREASTFEED HER!

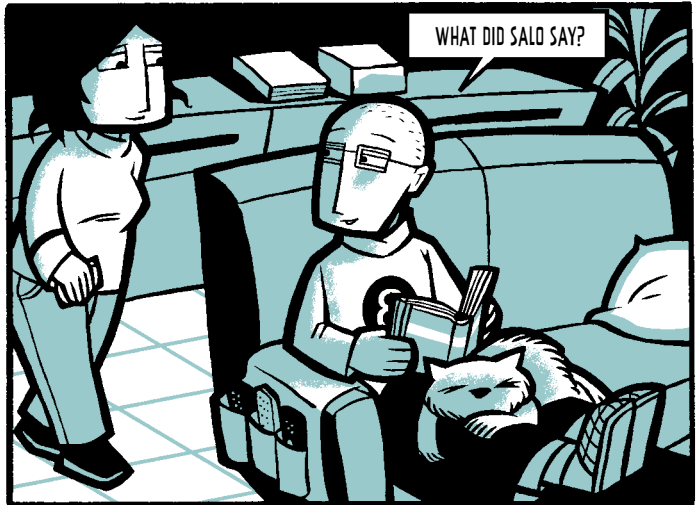
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO, THERE'S STILL A POSSIBILITY.

REALLY?!



IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT WOULD DO HER A LOT OF GOOD, THAT IT WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR HER...

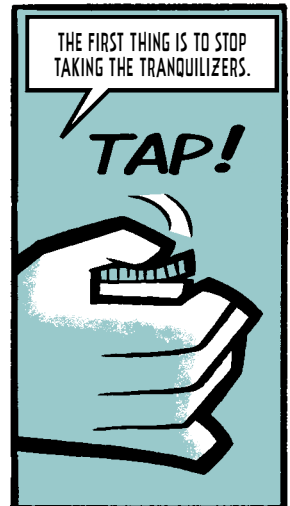
AND FOR YOU TOO...



WHAT DID SALO SAY?



THAT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THAT IT CAN BE TRIED.



THE FIRST THING IS TO STOP TAKING THE TRANQUILIZERS.

TAP!



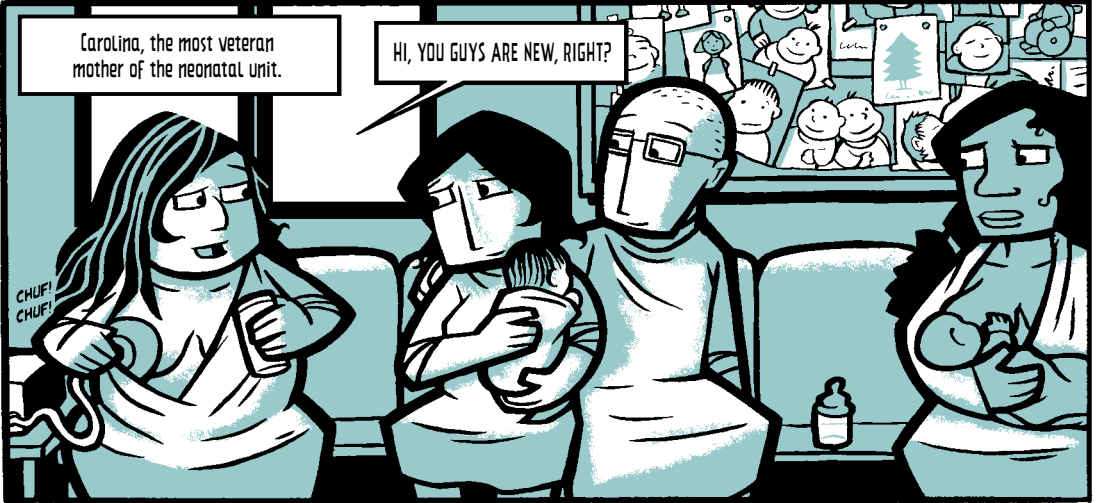
A few days later she leaves intensive care. They let us give her baby's bottles in a room set up for the purpose:



The lactation room.



At first twice a day, later up to three times.



Carolina, the most veteran mother of the neonatal unit.

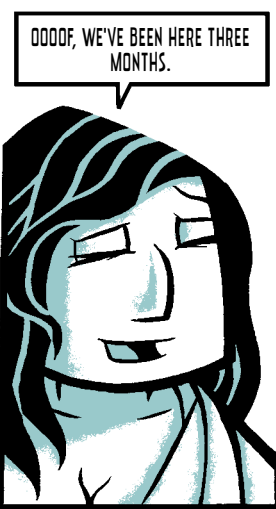
HI, YOU GUYS ARE NEW, RIGHT?

CHUF!
CHUF!



YES, WE WERE IN INTENSIVE CARE FOR TEN DAYS AND WERE JUST RELEASED...

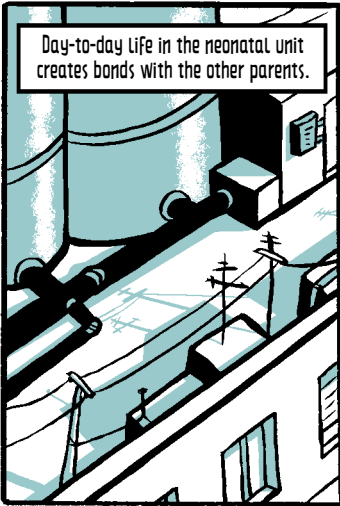
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?



OOOOF, WE'VE BEEN HERE THREE MONTHS.



THREE... THREE... MONTHS?



Day-to-day life in the neonatal unit creates bonds with the other parents.



Some are just passing through and after two or three days you don't see them again.



WE'RE GOING HOME!

However, for the rest of us there's still...



HEY WAIT, I NEVER TOLD YOU GUYS...



DURING THE BIRTH THEY GAVE ME LOCAL ANESTHETIC FOR THE C-SECTION...

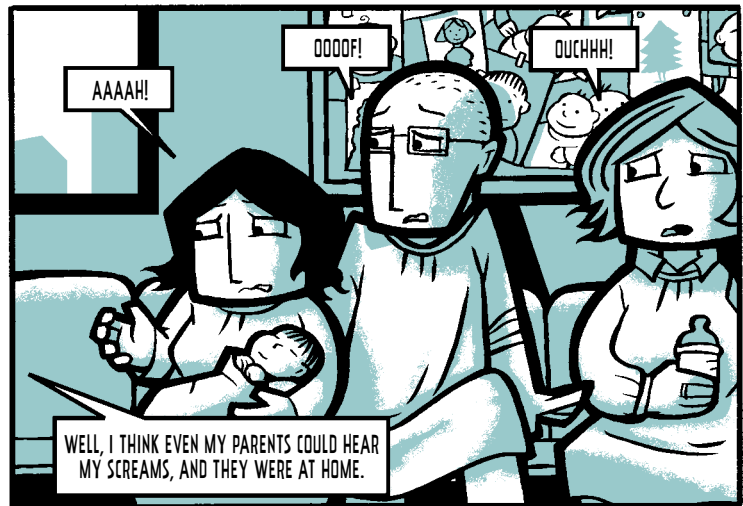


...BUT WHEN THEY APPLIED THE IODINE I TOLD THEM "HEY, I FELT THAT" ...



DON'T TELL ME...

WELL, YES, IT SEEMS THEY DIDN'T HEAR ME AND BAM! WITH THE SCALPEL!



AAAAH!

OOOOF!

OUCHHH!

WELL, I THINK EVEN MY PARENTS COULD HEAR MY SCREAMS, AND THEY WERE AT HOME.



Carolina has impressive milk production. It makes me envious...

I ONLY GIVE MY BABY MY OWN MILK...



I PUMP IT AT HOME.

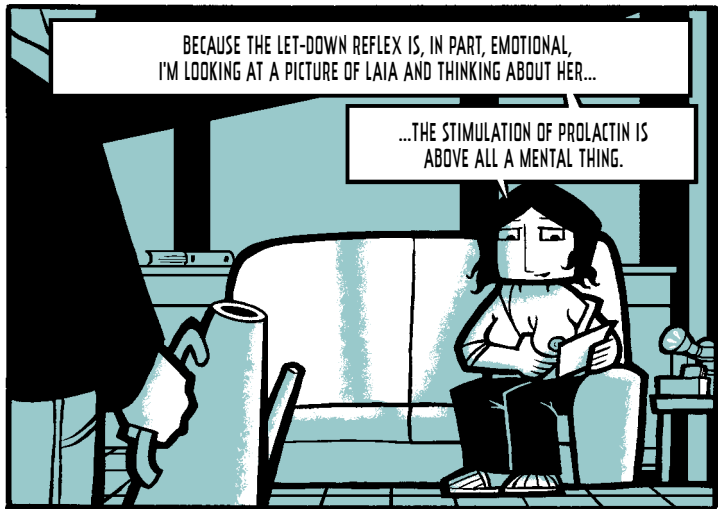
BUT I CAN'T STOP PRODUCING.



I PUMP TEN BOTTLES A DAY. I'M A REAL DAIRY COW!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

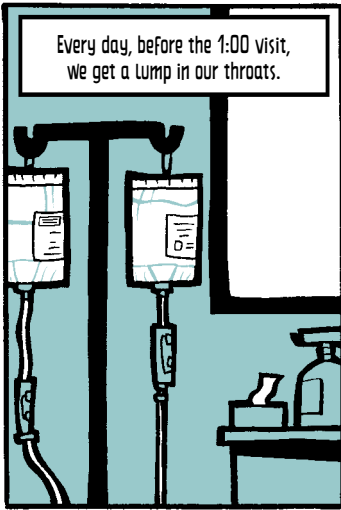


BECAUSE THE LET-DOWN REFLEX IS, IN PART, EMOTIONAL, I'M LOOKING AT A PICTURE OF LAIA AND THINKING ABOUT HER...

...THE STIMULATION OF PROLACTIN IS ABOVE ALL A MENTAL THING.



ALTHOUGH OF COURSE THE IDEAL THING WOULD BE TO TOUCH HER, SMELL HER... KISS HER.





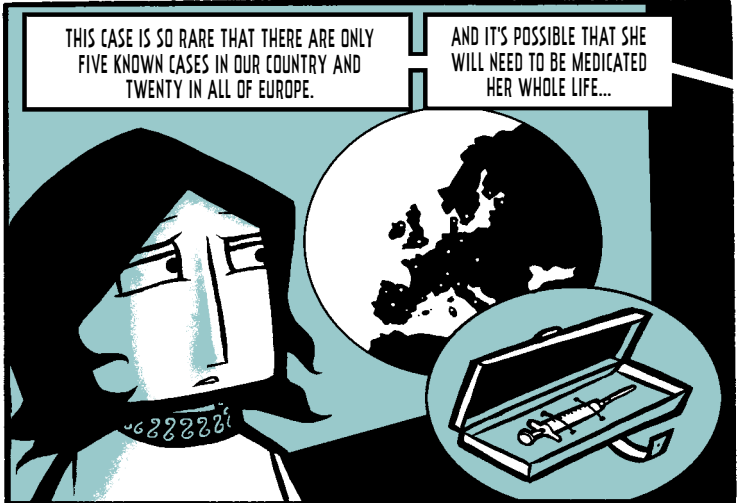
WHATEVER THE CAUSE, WE HAVE TO RAISE HER LEVELS.



LUCKILY THERE IS A LAB IN SPAIN THAT MAKES IT. WE'VE ALREADY ORDERED IT AND IT'S ON THE WAY.



THE DOSES ARE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN IDEA, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.



THIS CASE IS SO RARE THAT THERE ARE ONLY FIVE KNOWN CASES IN OUR COUNTRY AND TWENTY IN ALL OF EUROPE.

AND IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE WILL NEED TO BE MEDICATED HER WHOLE LIFE...



THE DIRECTOR OF THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN HERE. WE'VE ORDERED A GENETIC TEST.

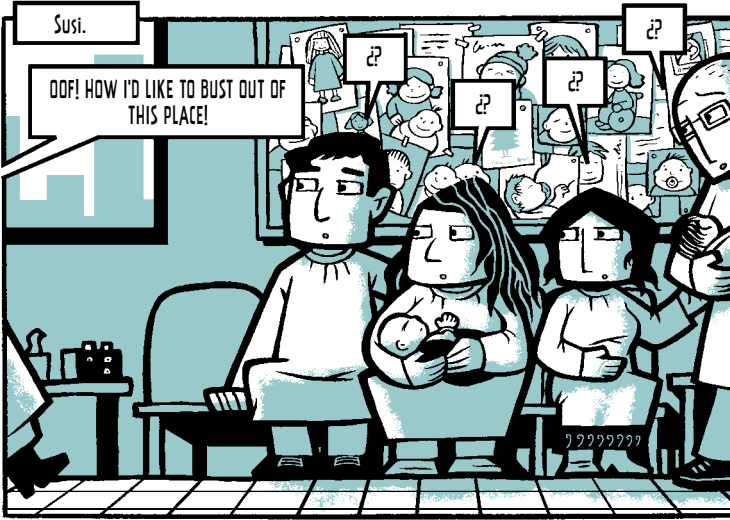
IT'S SO EXPENSIVE THAT WE NEED THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION.

ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT EITHER, IT'S ALREADY BEEN APPROVED.



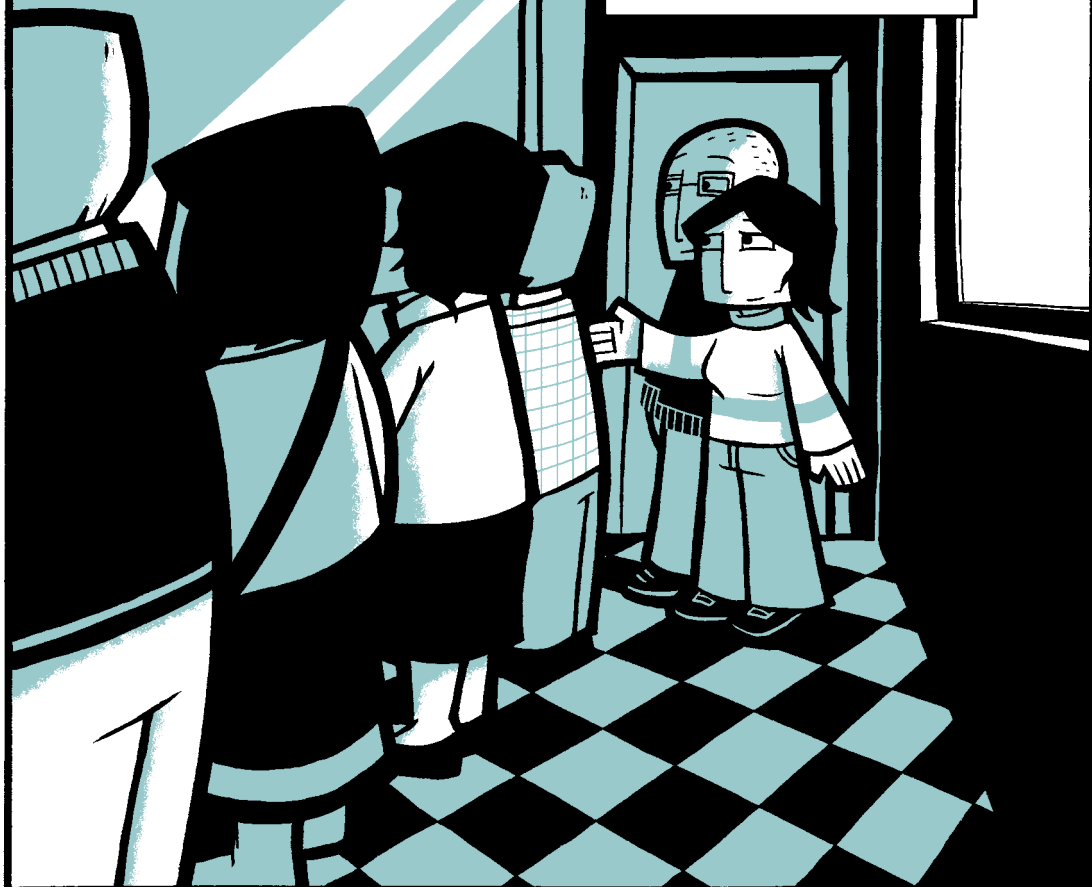
DOF, I THINK I'M NEVER GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT PAYING SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES AGAIN.

WELL YEAH, THANK GOD FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM.



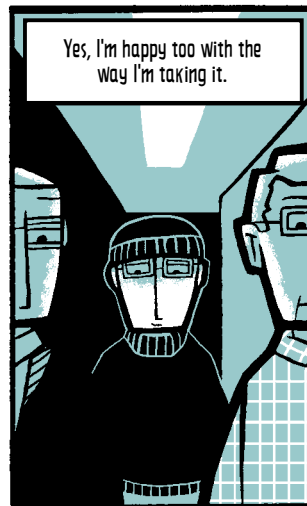
We start to arrange visits with family and friends.

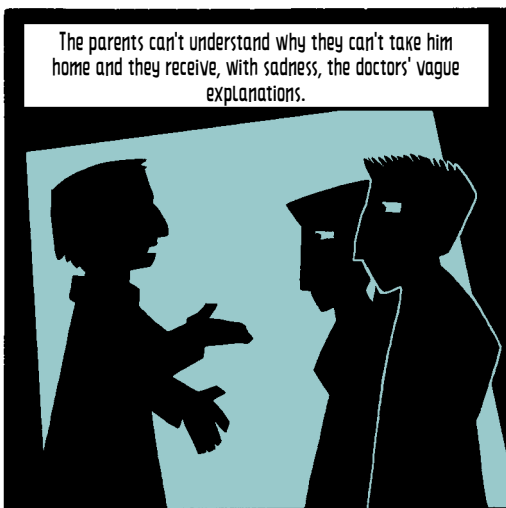
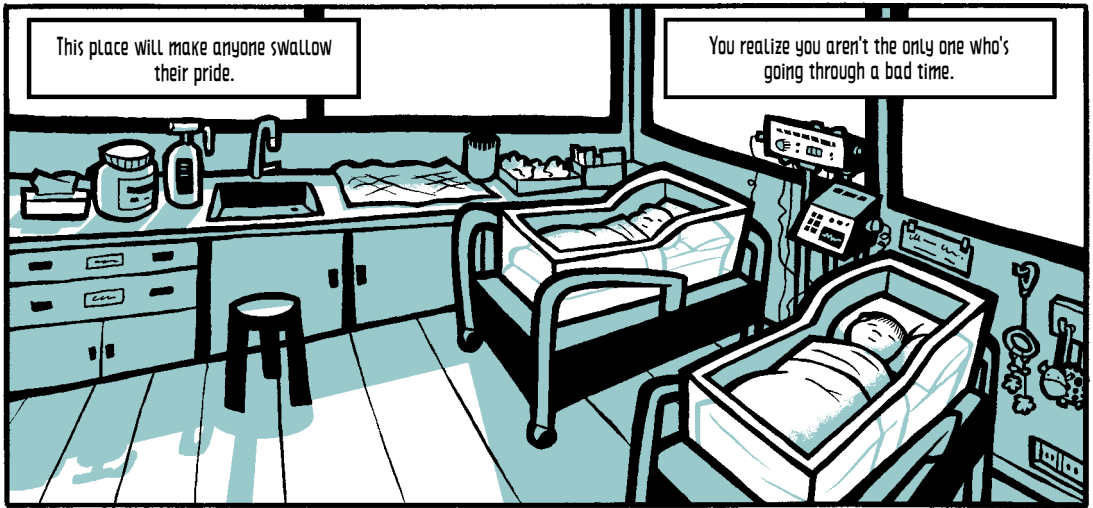
Even though they can't go in and touch her, they settle for seeing her through the glass.



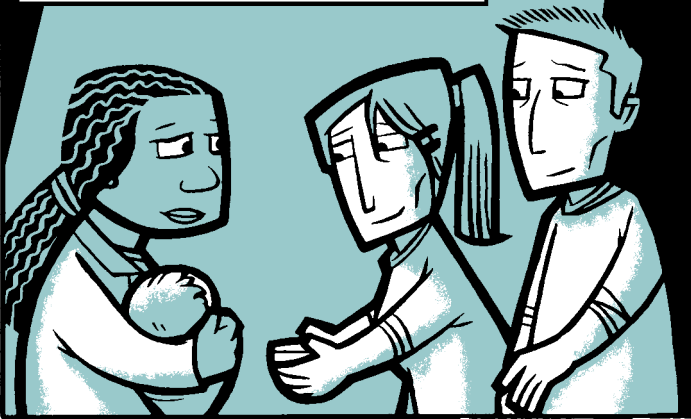
The first to come are the grandparents.







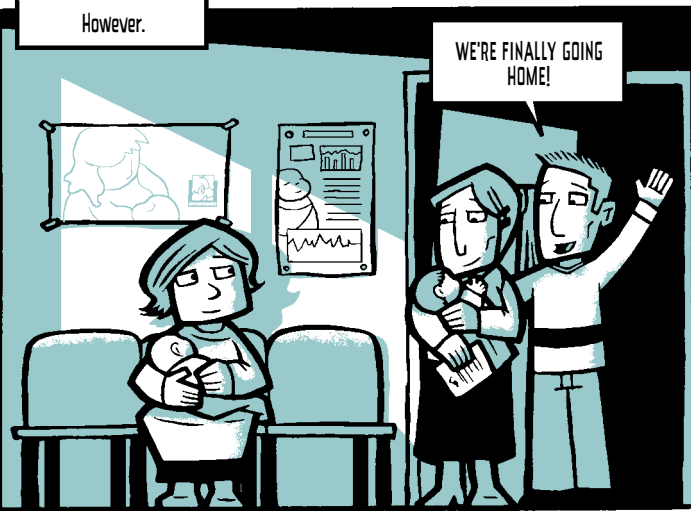
What no one tells them is that in reality they're awaiting a judicial order...



...and that what their son is suffering is abstinence syndrome.

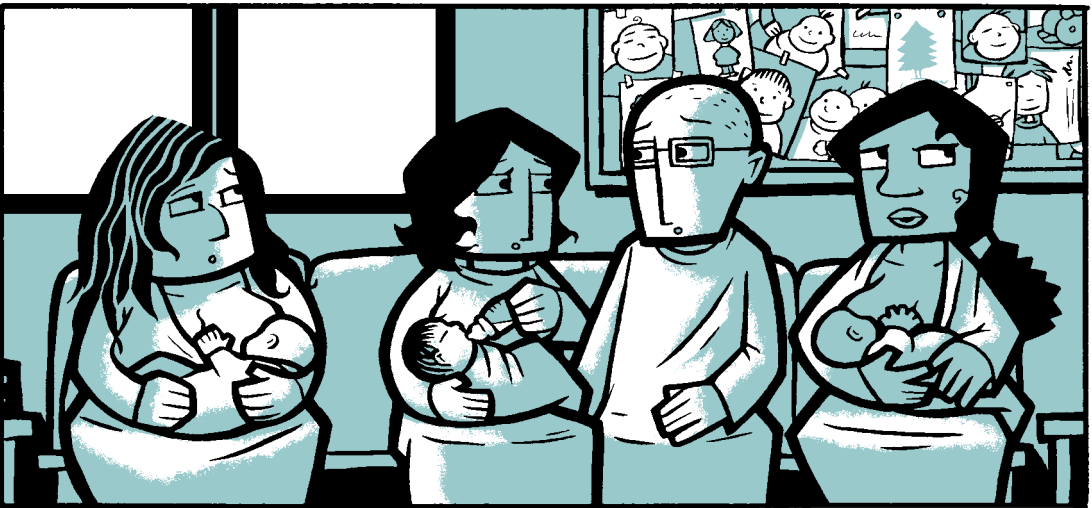


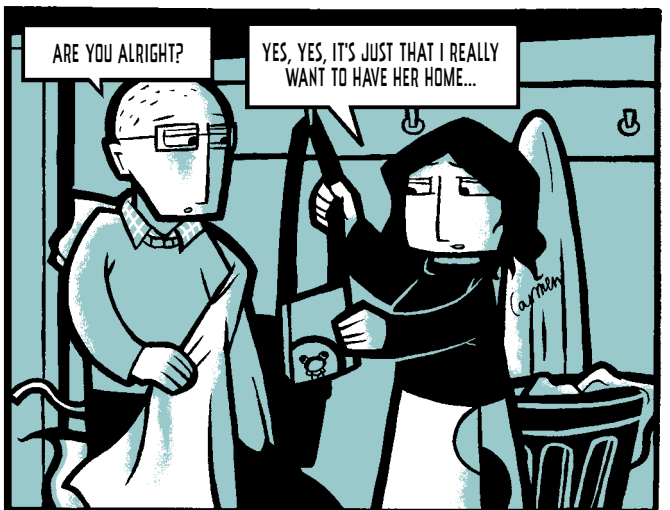
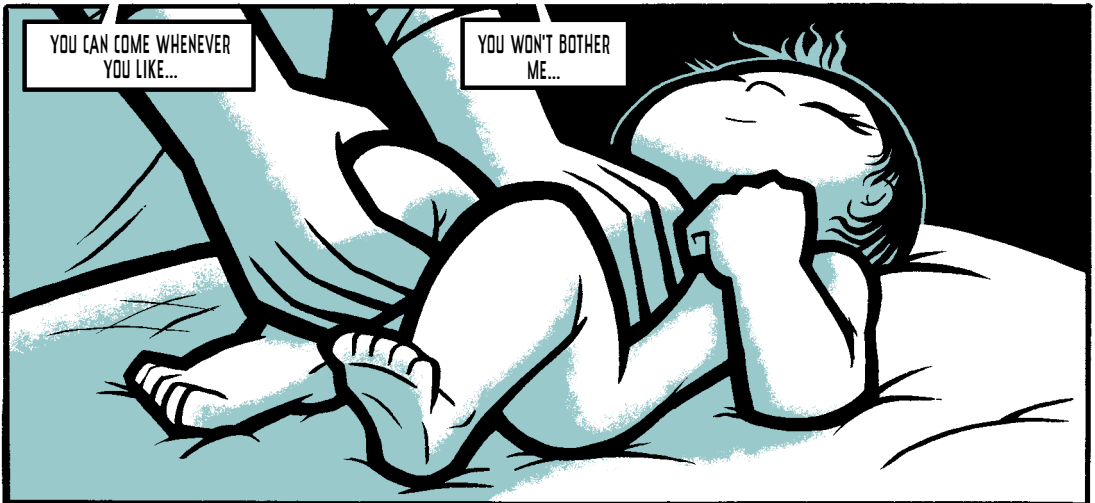
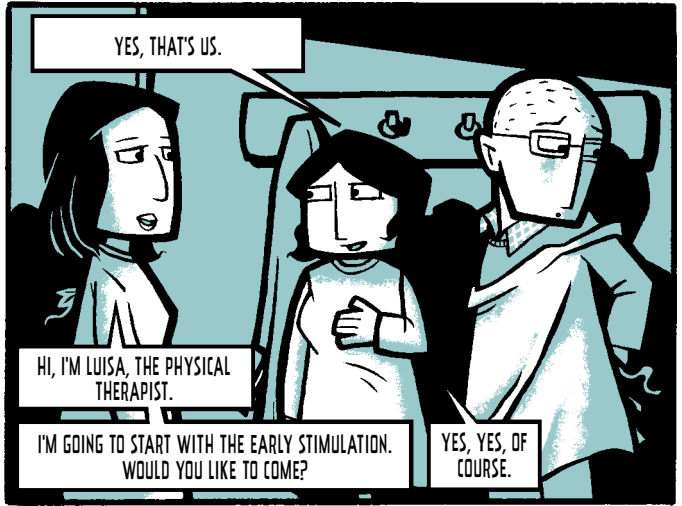
However.



WE'RE FINALLY GOING HOME!

AND THE DOCTORS WEREN'T ABLE TO TELL US WHY IT TOOK SO LONG...







IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A QUIET NIGHT...

WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY UP.

GIRLS, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE ONE IN 12...

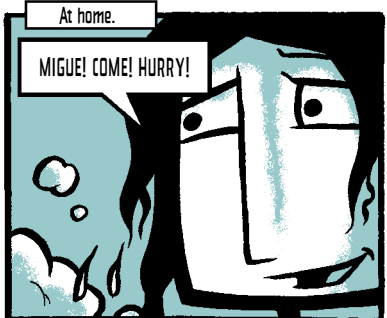
ATTENTION. PREMATURE TWINS COMING UP FROM LABOR AND DELIVERY.

HELLO THERE. YOU'RE HEADING HOME ALREADY?



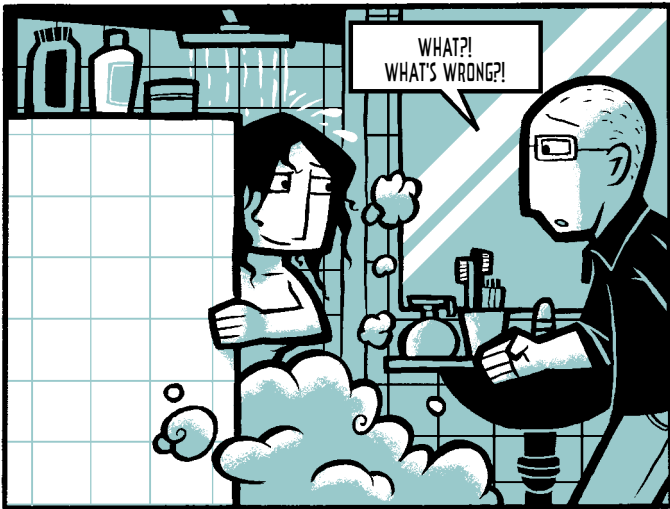
YES, ALREADY... YOU'VE GOT THE NIGHT SHIFT TODAY, PAQUI?

YES, BUT WELL, IT'S MY JOB...



At home.

MIGUE! COME! HURRY!



WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!



A DROP...!
IT'S A DROP OF MILK!