

Elizabeth Casillas e Higinia Garay  
**LA PALABRA QUE EMPIEZA POR A**



**ASTIBERRI**



“Y, COMO DE COSTUMBRE, ERA IMPOSIBLE  
DETERMINAR SI EL ABORTO ESTABA PROHIBIDO  
PORQUE ESTABA MAL, O SI ESTABA MAL PORQUE  
ESTABA PROHIBIDO. SE JUZGABA CON RELACIÓN A  
LA LEY, NO SE JUZGABA LA LEY”.

ANNIE ERNAUX



IN 2007, JUDD APATOW DIRECTED KNOCKED UP, A COMEDY ABOUT A WOMAN WHO GETS PREGNANT AFTER A ONE-NIGHT STAND.

TO HAVE A BABY WITH A GUY I DON'T KNOW OR NOT TO HAVE ONE, THAT IS THE QUESTION.

KATHERINE HEIGL

IN THE MOVIE, MENTIONING THE WORD "ABORTION" IS LIKE SAYING "LORD VOLDEMORT" IN THE HARRY POTTER SAGA.

AN 'A' WORD.

SETH ROGEN

THE WORD THAT RHYMES WITH 'SHMISH-MORTION'.

JONAH HILL

TAKE CARE OF IT.

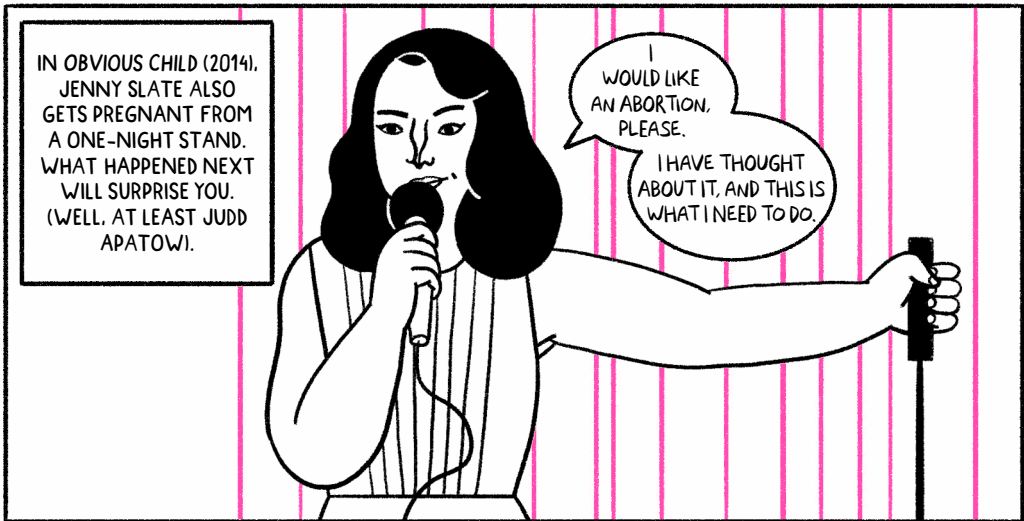
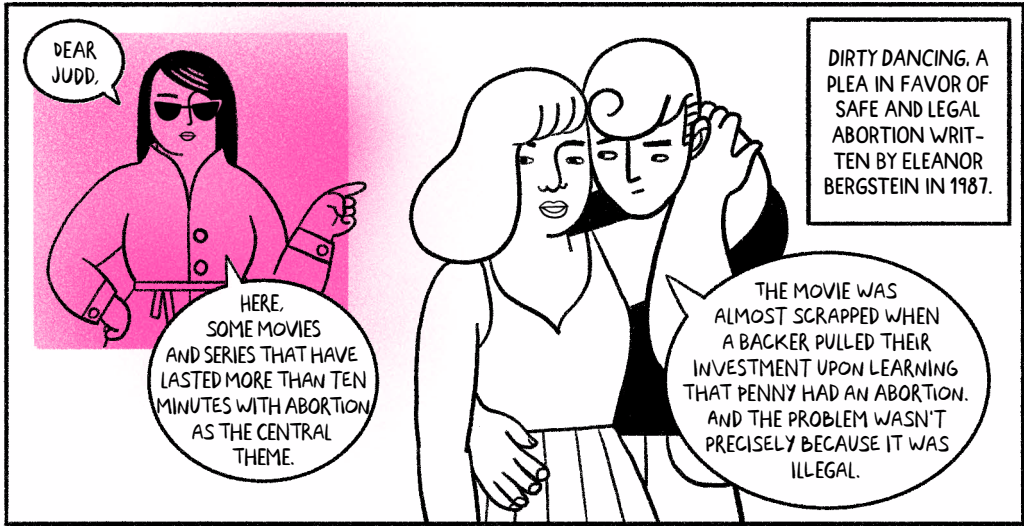
MOVE ON.

JOANNA KERNS

NO ONE IS MORE PRO-CHOICE THAN I AM, BUT THE MOVIE WOULD'VE LASTED TEN MINUTES IF SHE HAD HAD AN ABORTION\*.

I'M FEMINIST

\* JUDD APATOW SAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

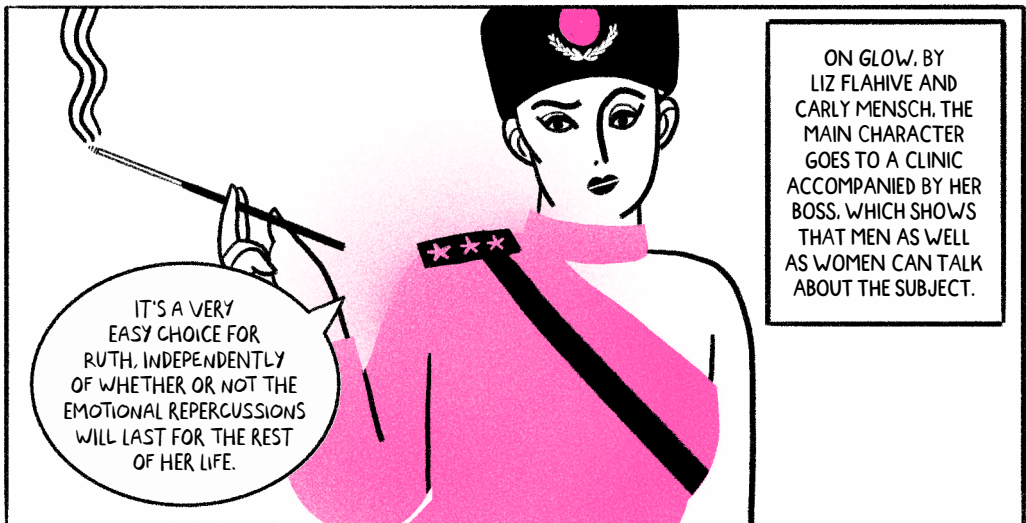




IN THE SECOND EPISODE OF GIRLS, ONE OF THE PROTAGONISTS GOES TO A CLINIC TO TERMINATE HER PREGNANCY. FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, IT WASN'T SO EASY.

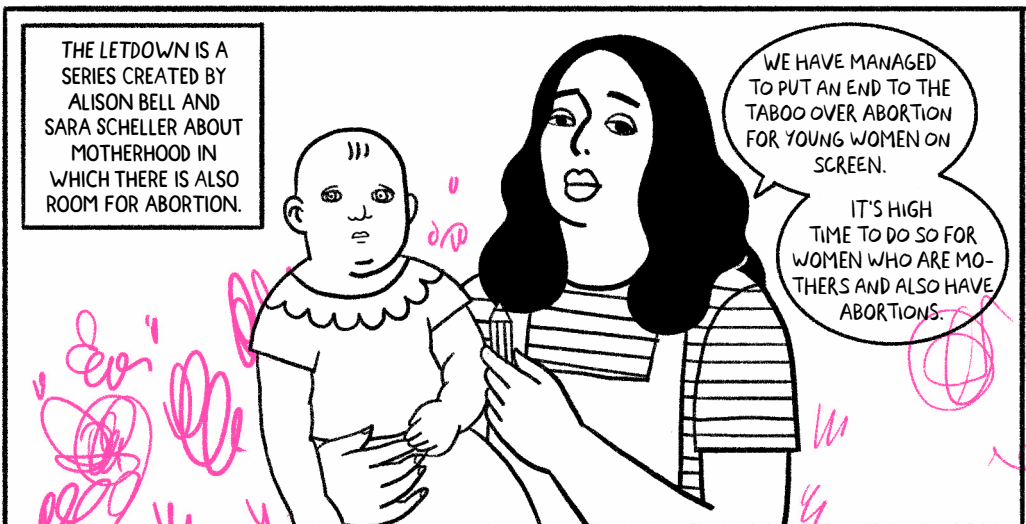
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT APATOW TOLD ME THAT IF WE TALK ABOUT ABORTION IN THE FIRST EPISODE, IT WOULD BE LIKE KRAMER KILLING A PUPPY IN THE SEINFELD PILOT!

MAYBE HE THINKS WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT AN ABORTION-FEST.



ON GLOW, BY LIZ FLAHERTY AND CARLY MENSCH, THE MAIN CHARACTER GOES TO A CLINIC ACCOMPANIED BY HER BOSS, WHICH SHOWS THAT MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN CAN TALK ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

IT'S A VERY EASY CHOICE FOR RUTH, INDEPENDENTLY OF WHETHER OR NOT THE EMOTIONAL REPERCUSSIONS WILL LAST FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

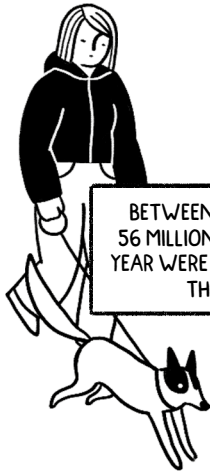


THE LETDOWN IS A SERIES CREATED BY ALISON BELL AND SARA SCHELLER ABOUT MOTHERHOOD IN WHICH THERE IS ALSO ROOM FOR ABORTION.

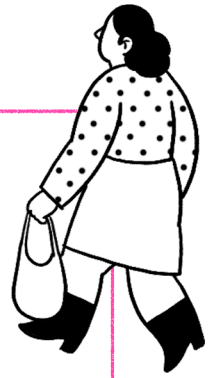
WE HAVE MANAGED TO PUT AN END TO THE TABOO OVER ABORTION FOR YOUNG WOMEN ON SCREEN.

IT'S HIGH TIME TO DO SO FOR WOMEN WHO ARE MOTHERS AND ALSO HAVE ABORTIONS.

\* FREE INTERPRETATION OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN JENNI KONNER AND LENA DUNHAM.



BETWEEN 2010 AND 2014,  
56 MILLION ABORTIONS PER  
YEAR WERE INDUCED AROUND  
THE WORLD.



THE ANNUAL RATE OF ABORTIONS  
IN WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE,  
BETWEEN 15 AND 44 YEARS OLD, IS ES-  
TIMATED, THEN, AT 35 PER EVERY 1,000.




IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 40% OF  
THE WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE  
COMPLICATIONS AFTER AN ABORTION  
NEVER RECEIVED TREATMENT.



45% OF THOSE ABOR-  
TIONS WERE NOT SAFE.







13% OF MATERNAL DEATHS ON A GLOBAL LEVEL ARE DUE TO UNSAFE ABORTIONS.



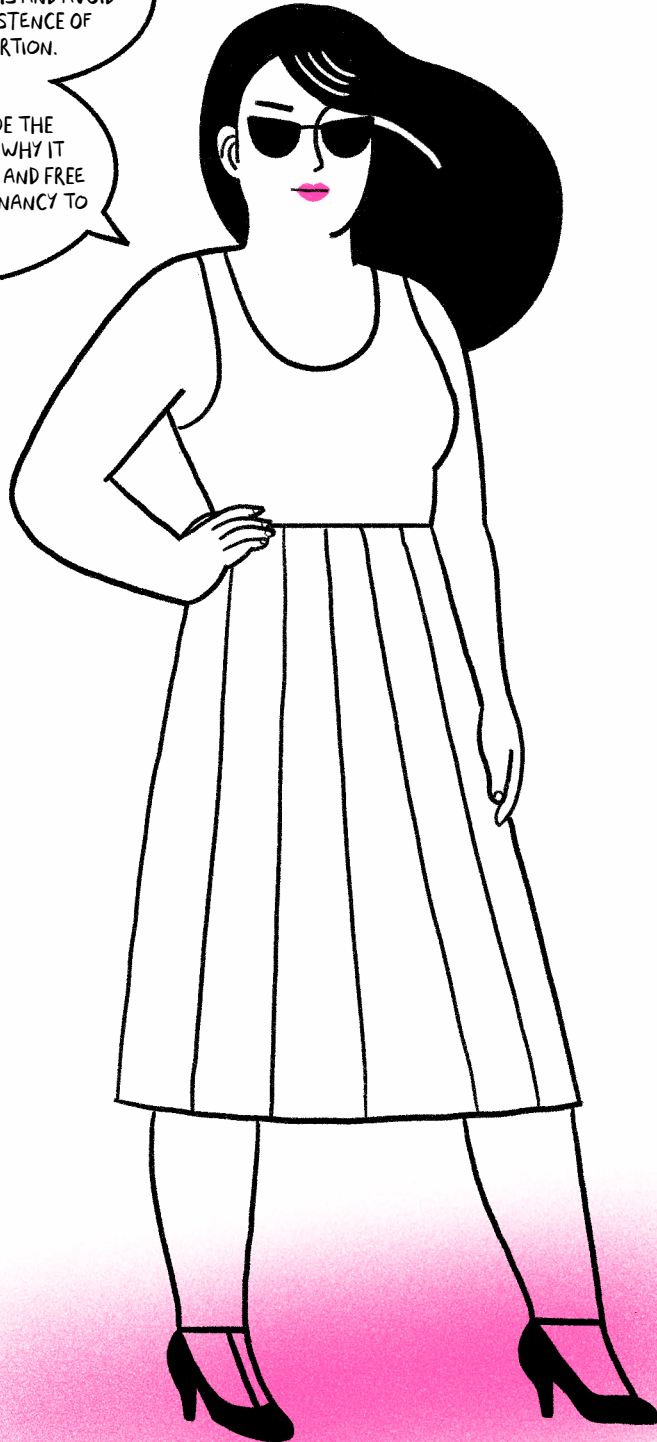
ALMOST ALL OF THOSE DEATHS HAPPEN IN COUNTRIES WHERE ABORTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



AT LEAST 47,000 WOMEN DIE EVERY YEAR DUE TO COMPLICATIONS AFTER THE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY AND AROUND 5 MILLION SUFFER TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT DISABILITIES.

LIKE JUDD APATOW,  
WE CAN KEEP USING  
EUPHEMISMS AND AVOID  
THE EXISTENCE OF  
ABORTION.

OR WE CAN SET ASIDE THE  
TABOO AND ANALYZE WHY IT  
IS NECESSARY FOR SAFE AND FREE  
TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY TO  
BE ACHIEVED.



DE QUÉ  
HABLAMOS  
CUANDO  
HABLAMOS  
DE ABORTO

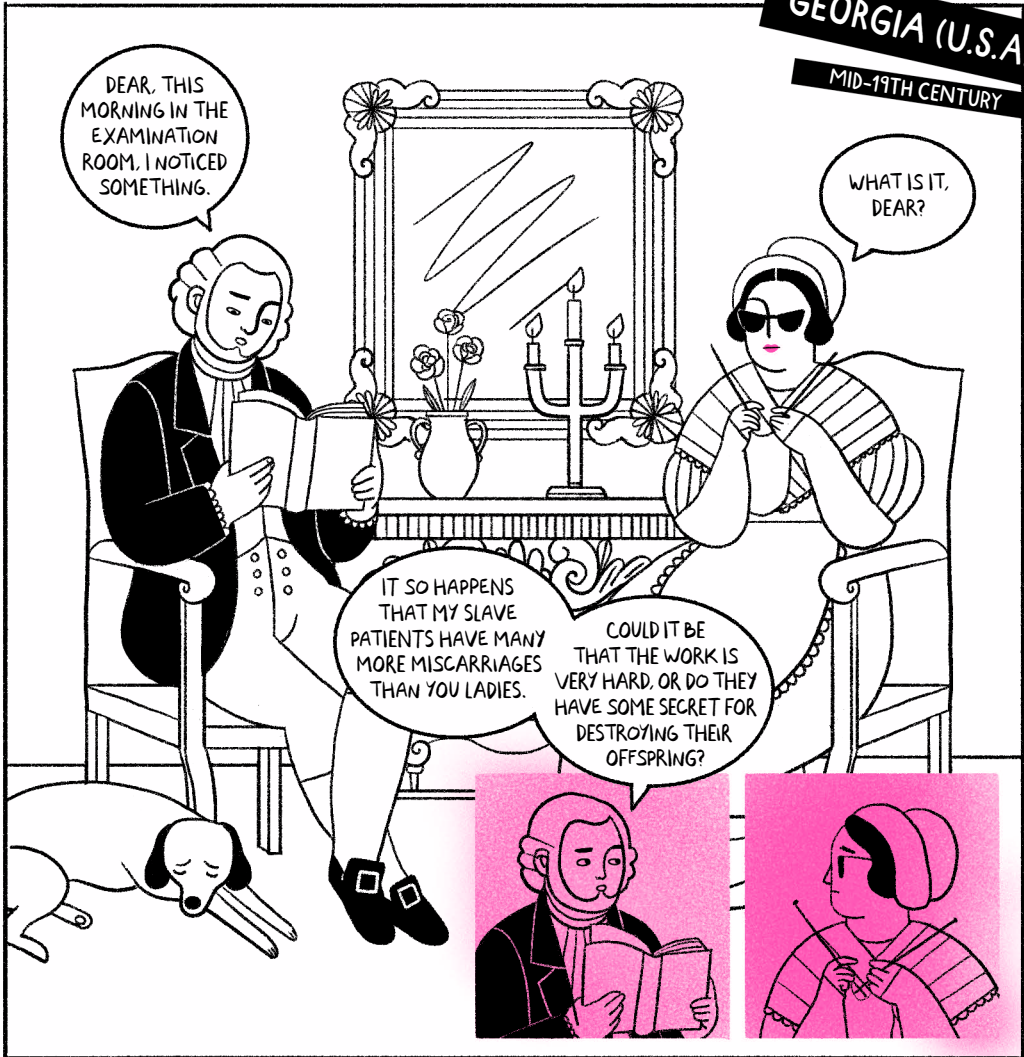


POOR  
WOMEN  
DON'T ABORT  
THEY DIE



**GEORGIA (U.S.A.)**

**MID-19TH CENTURY**



DEAR, THIS MORNING IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM, I NOTICED SOMETHING.

WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

IT SO HAPPENS THAT MY SLAVE PATIENTS HAVE MANY MORE MISCARRIAGES THAN YOU LADIES.

COULD IT BE THAT THE WORK IS VERY HARD, OR DO THEY HAVE SOME SECRET FOR DESTROYING THEIR OFFSPRING?



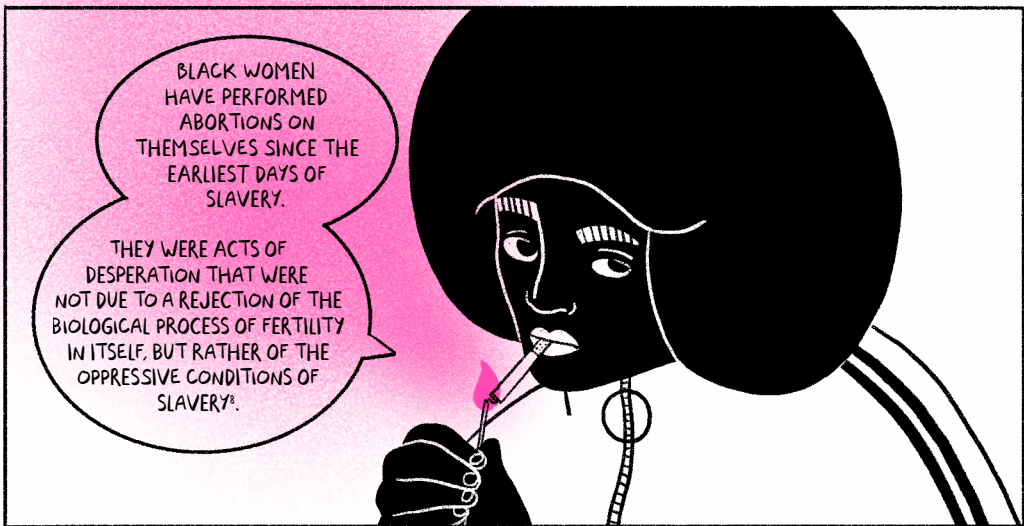
WHEN, IN 1807, THE U.S. OFFICIALLY PROHIBITED THE SALE OF PEOPLE, A POLICY OF "SLAVE BREEDING" WAS ADOPTED.

I CONSIDER A WOMAN WHO HAS A CHILD EVERY TWO YEARS TO BE MORE PROFITABLE THAN THE BEST MAN IN THE FIELD: THAT WHICH SHE PRODUCES INCREASES CAPITAL.

HOWEVER, THE PLAN FAILED. THE BIRTH RATE ON PLANTATIONS WAS ABNORMALLY LOW.

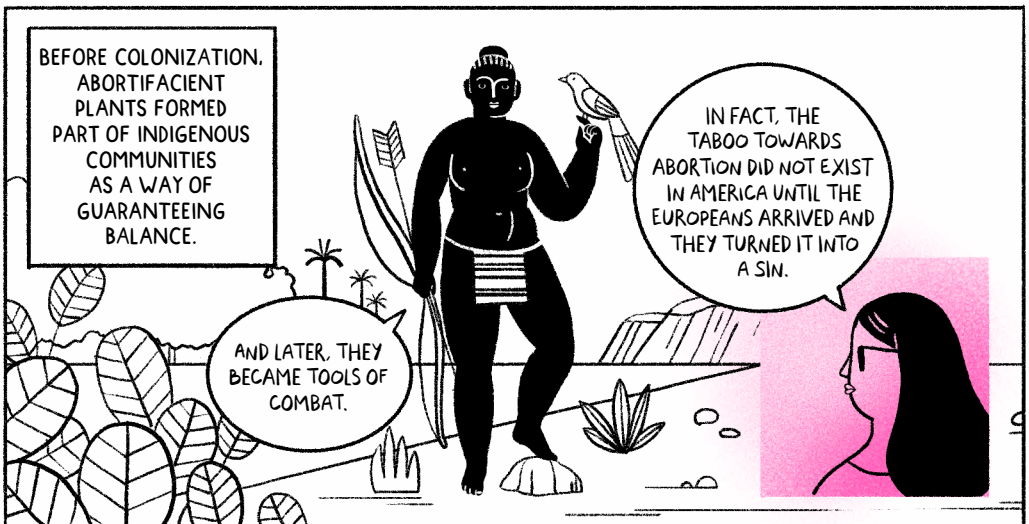
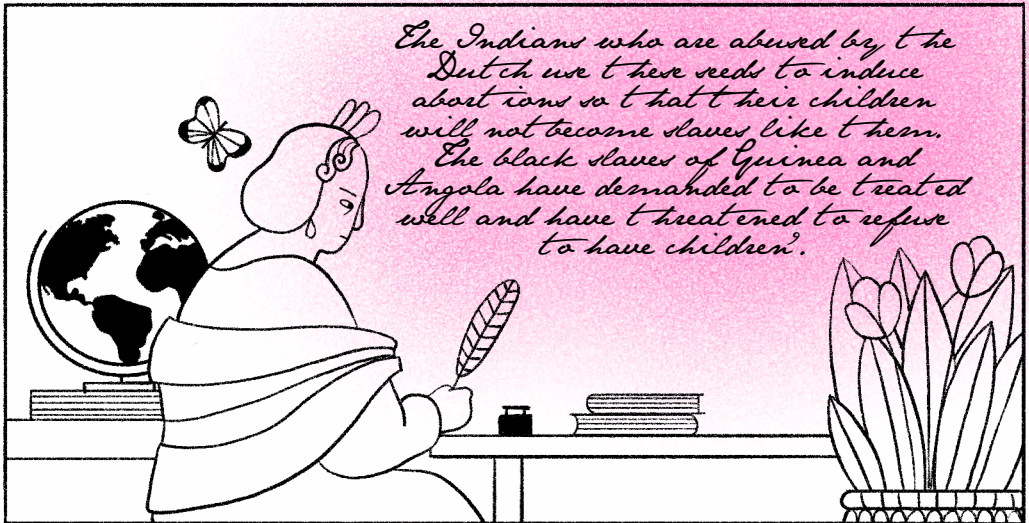
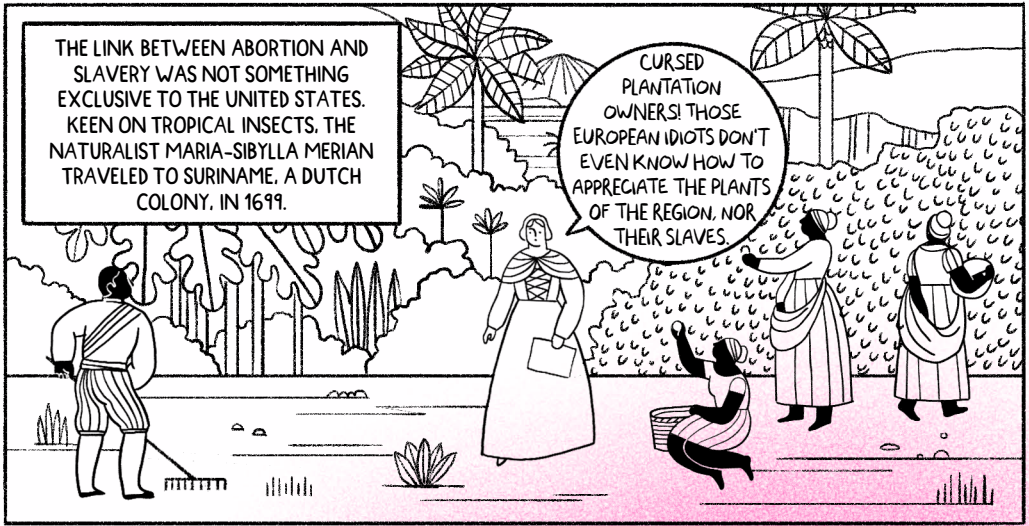
**THOMAS JEFFERSON**  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND OWNER OF 600 SLAVES





<sup>7</sup> CALIBAN Y LA BRUJA, SILVIA FEDERICI, MADRID: TRAFICANTES DE SUEÑOS, 2010, P. 172.

<sup>8</sup> MUJERES, RAZA Y CLASE, ANGELA Y. DAVIS, MADRID: AKAL, 2005, P. 205.

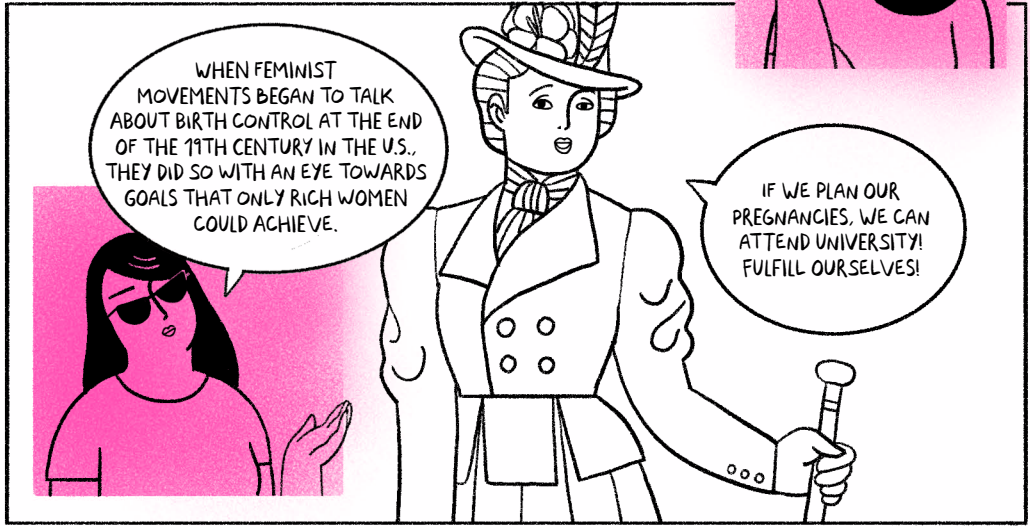




DESPITE THE FACT THAT BLACK WOMEN HAVE HAD ABORTIONS SINCE SLAVERY, THEY DID NOT FORM PART OF THE CAMPAIGNS FOR THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE IN THE U.S.A. DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE 70S.

BUT WHY DIDN'T THEY FIND SUPPORT AMONG WOMEN FROM LOWER SOCIAL CLASSES OR ETHNIC GROUPS?

LET'S LOOK A BIT FURTHER BACK.



WHEN FEMINIST MOVEMENTS BEGAN TO TALK ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY IN THE U.S., THEY DID SO WITH AN EYE TOWARDS GOALS THAT ONLY RICH WOMEN COULD ACHIEVE.

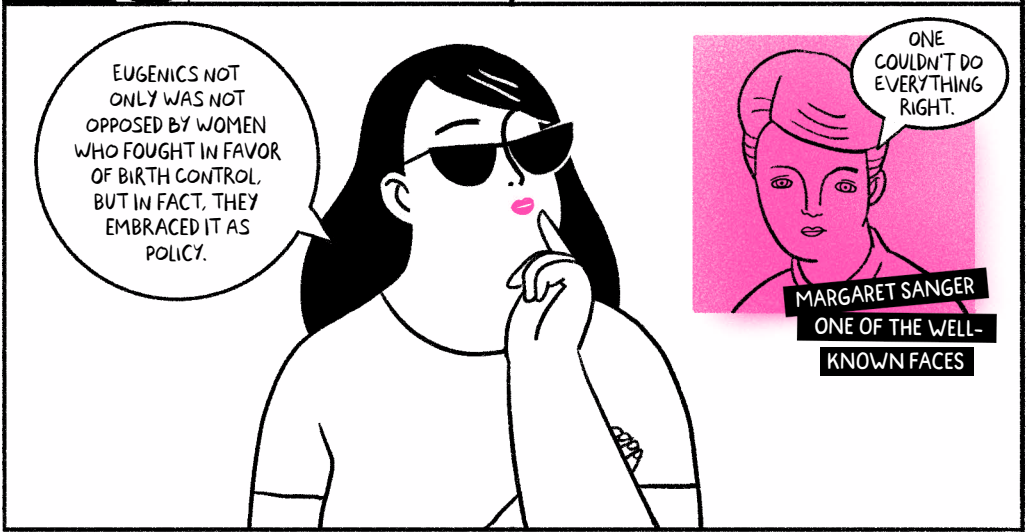
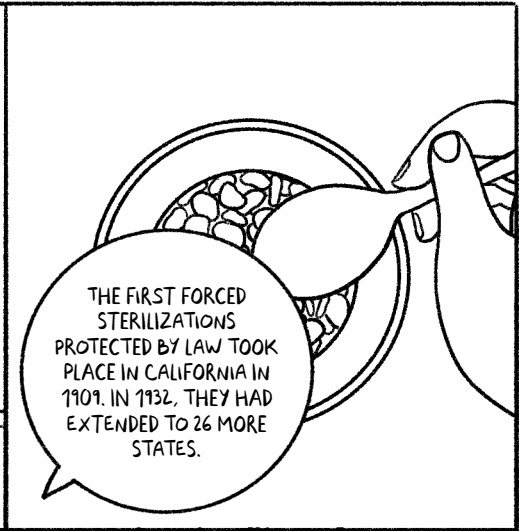
IF WE PLAN OUR PREGNANCIES, WE CAN ATTEND UNIVERSITY! FULFILL OURSELVES!



WHAT WAS DEMANDED AS A RIGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGED CAME TO BE SEEN AS A DUTY FOR THE POOR.

RACISM SNUCK INTO THE RANKS OF THE MOVEMENT, WHICH INTERNALIZED ARGUMENTS THAT ADVOCATED BIRTH CONTROL AS A TOOL TO AVOID REPRODUCTION IN THE LOWER CLASSES AND AS A PROTECTION OF THE WHITE RACE.





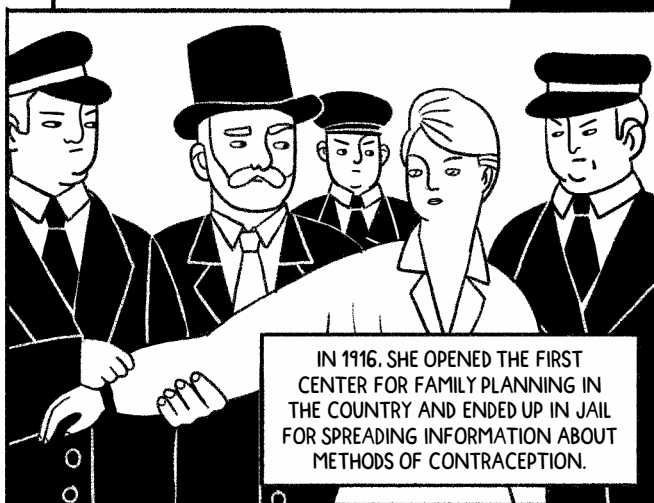
# THE HISTORY OF MARGARET SANGER

OR THE LITTLE "BUT"

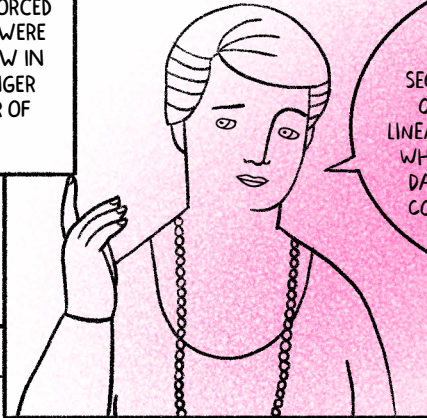
I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF MOTHERS WHOSE MISERIES WERE AS VAST AS THE SKY.

COMING FROM A WORKING-CLASS FAMILY, SANGER STUDIED NURSING AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH. HER MOTHER'S TUBERCULOSIS HAD WORSENERD SIGNIFICANTLY AFTER HER LAST MISCARRIAGE, TWO YEARS BEFORE. IN TOTAL, HER MOTHER HAD HAD 18 PREGNANCIES AND 11 CHILDREN.

RELENTLESS DEFENDER OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS. SHE FOUNDED THE AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL LEAGUE, WHICH, YEARS LATER, WOULD GIVE WAY TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD.



WHEN, IN 1932, FORCED STERILIZATIONS WERE APPROVED BY LAW IN 26 STATES, SANGER WAS IN FAVOR OF THEM.



APPLY A STRICT POLICY OF STERILIZATION AND SEGREGATION OF THOSE PARTS OF THE POPULATION WHOSE LINEAGE IS ALREADY CORRUPTED OR WHOSE HEREDITY IS SUCH THAT DAMAGING CHARACTERISTICS COULD BE PASSED ON TO THEIR DESCENDANTS.

DESPITE HER ORIGINS, SANGER DID NOT MANAGE TO PUT AN END TO THE CLASSIST AND RACIST UNDERCURRENT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR BIRTH CONTROL THAT HAD FLOURISHED UNTIL THEN.

IN 2020, PLANNED PARENTHOOD REMOVED MARGARET SANGER'S NAME FROM ONE OF ITS BUILDINGS.

 **Planned Parenthood**



IT WAS A 'NECESSARY AND OVERDUE STEP' TO REFLECT ON HER LEGACY AND 'ACKNOWLEDGE PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HISTORICAL REPRODUCTIVE HARM WITHIN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.'

ELLEN CHESLER'S BIOGRAPHY NOTED THAT THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT HAD WIDE SUPPORT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY, BUT THAT SANGER REJECTED THE BELIEF THAT MIDDLE-CLASS WHITE FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE MORE CHILDREN THAN OTHERS.

SANGER SIMPLY BELIEVED THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL CHILDREN COULD BE IMPROVED IF THEIR PARENTS HAD SMALLER FAMILIES.

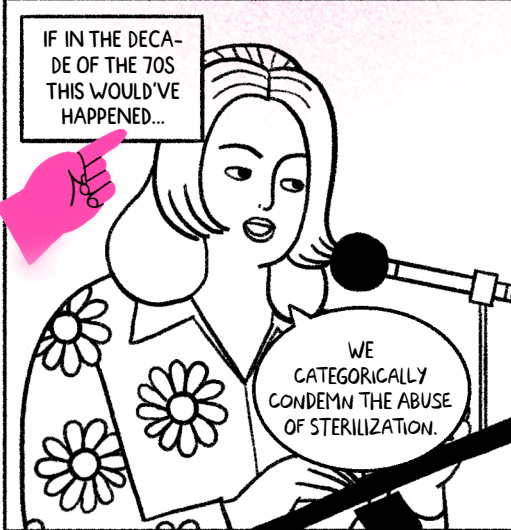
WHICH INCLUDED BLACK CHILDREN AND IMMIGRANTS.





IN TOTAL, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 60,000 PEOPLE WERE SUBMITTED TO FORCED STERILIZATIONS FROM 1909 TO 1979 IN THE U.S.

THE MAJORITY OF US WERE MEXICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, AND AMERICAN INDIANS, WHO WERE TRICKED OR THREATENED INTO DOING IT.



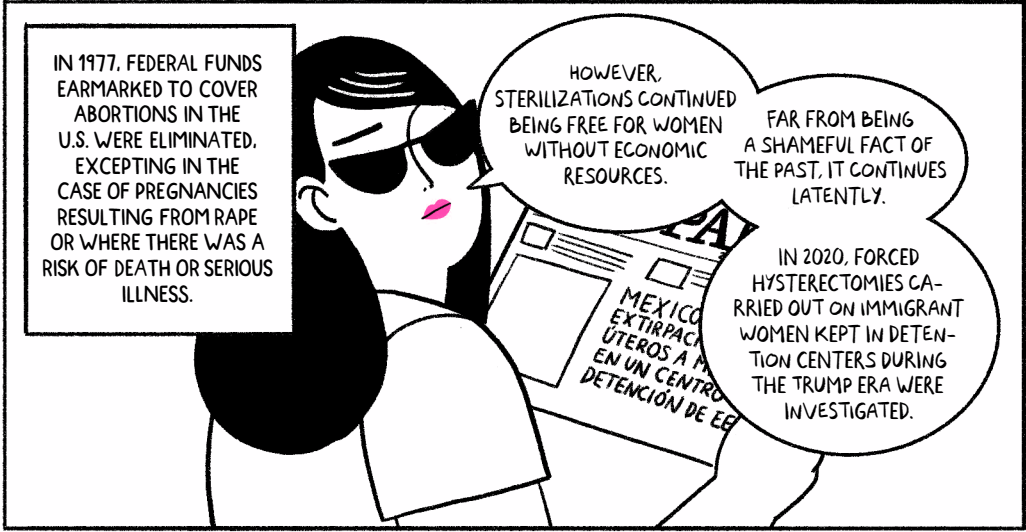
IF IN THE DECADE OF THE 70S THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED...

WE CATEGORICALLY CONDEMN THE ABUSE OF STERILIZATION.



...SURELY THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED, TOO.

YOU HAVE OUR SUPPORT, SISTERS.



IN 1977, FEDERAL FUNDS EARMARKED TO COVER ABORTIONS IN THE U.S. WERE ELIMINATED, EXCEPTING IN THE CASE OF PREGNANCIES RESULTING FROM RAPE OR WHERE THERE WAS A RISK OF DEATH OR SERIOUS ILLNESS.

HOWEVER, STERILIZATIONS CONTINUED BEING FREE FOR WOMEN WITHOUT ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

FAR FROM BEING A SHAMEFUL FACT OF THE PAST, IT CONTINUES LATENTLY.

IN 2020, FORCED HYSTERECTOMIES CARRIED OUT ON IMMIGRANT WOMEN KEPT IN DETENTION CENTERS DURING THE TRUMP ERA WERE INVESTIGATED.

MEXICO EXTIRPACIÓ UTÉROS A MUJERES EN UN CENTRO DE DETENCIÓN DE EE.UU.

70% OF POOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE WOMEN AND THIS FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY IS A VIOLATION OF THEIR RIGHTS.

WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POOR, NOT FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS MERELY, BUT FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

VIRGINIA  
WOOLF

BECAUSE OF THIS, WHEN FEMINIST MOVEMENTS DEMAND ABORTION RIGHTS, THEY ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT ABORTION SHOULD BE FREE.

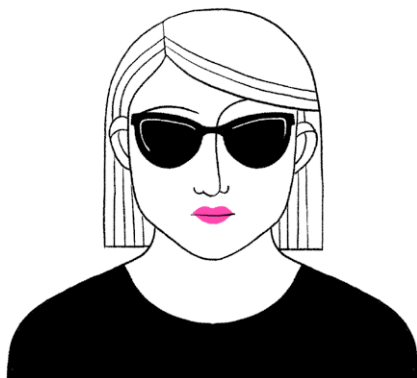
IN COUNTRIES WITH MORE RESTRICTIVE LAWS, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AMONG WOMEN IS EVEN MORE VISIBLE.

WOMEN WITH HIGHER EARNING POWER GENERALLY OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL FOR ABORTIONS, BUT MILLIONS OF POOR WOMEN TRY TO TERMINATE THEIR PREGNANCIES BY UNSAFE METHODS.

BLOCKING ACCESS TO LEGAL AND SAFE ABORTION BY MEANS OF LAWS OR MONEY IS MAKING A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH INACCESSIBLE.



**Elizabeth Casillas** (Bilbao, 1986). Licenciada en Periodismo por la Universidad del País Vasco, fundó la revista *Cactus*, donde realizó tanto labores de edición como de redacción centradas en literatura, arte, cómics y feminismos. Habitualmente colabora hablando y escribiendo sobre cómics en diferentes medios de comunicación y coordinando clubes de lectura de novela gráfica. Es la guionista de *Todas nosotras* (Astiberri, 2020), con dibujos de Higinia Garay, que retrata la durísima realidad del aborto en El Salvador.



**Higinia Garay** (Bilbao, 1978). Licenciada en Bellas Artes y posgraduada en Diseño de Publicaciones en el Instituto Europeo de Diseño de Madrid, trabaja como ilustradora y diseñadora gráfica desde 2002, y está a cargo de su propio estudio desde 2013. Además, compagina estas actividades con la docencia en másteres y talleres. Su trayectoria y sensibilidad artística la han llevado a especializarse en temáticas relacionadas con la cultura, la desigualdad de género y la vulneración de los derechos humanos. Es la ilustradora de la novela gráfica *Todas nosotras* (Astiberri, 2020), con guion de Elizabeth Casillas, y entre sus últimos trabajos destacados se encuentran proyectos realizados para el Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Cruz Roja Juventud, Obra Social La Caixa, Tabakalera Donosti, Farmamundi, Anesvad, Mundubat y BBK Live, entre muchos otros.



A Katixa, por venir a este mundo a acabar con los falsos mitos.

Y a todas nosotras.

**Elizabeth**

## LA PALABRA QUE EMPIEZA POR A

© 2022 Elizabeth Casillas por el guion  
© 2022 Higinia Garay por los dibujos  
© 2022 Noemí López Trujillo por el epílogo  
© 2022 Astiberri Ediciones por la presente edición  
Colección Sillón Orejero

Diseño y maquetación: Alba Diethelm

Corrección: Soraya Pollo

Edición: Héloïse Guerrier

ISBN: 978-84-18215-52-0

Depósito legal: BI-260-21

Impresión: Edelvives

1.ª edición: marzo 2022

Astiberri Ediciones

Apdo. 485

48080 Bilbao

info@astiberri.com

www.astiberri.com



*Subvencionado por el Departamento  
de Cultura y Política Lingüística*