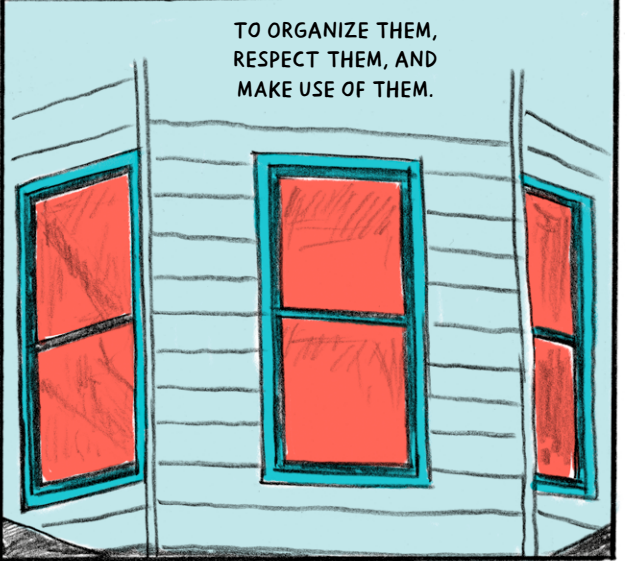
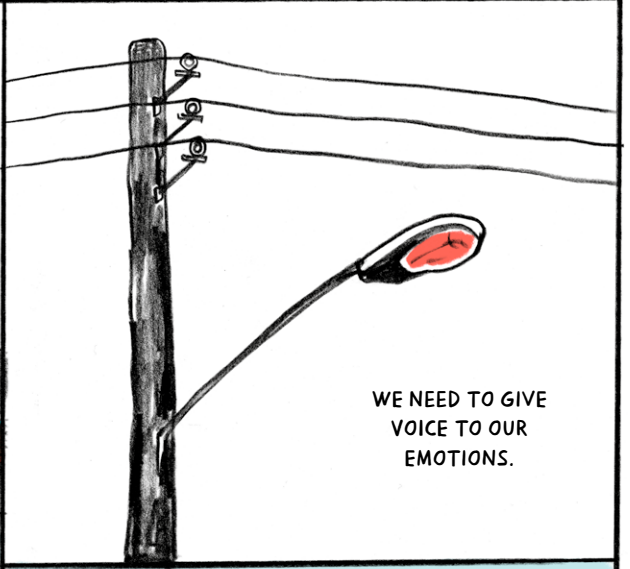




AUDRE LORDE











BECAUSE I AM  
A WOMAN, BLACK,  
LESBIAN, MOTHER,  
POET.





AND I DO  
MY WORK.

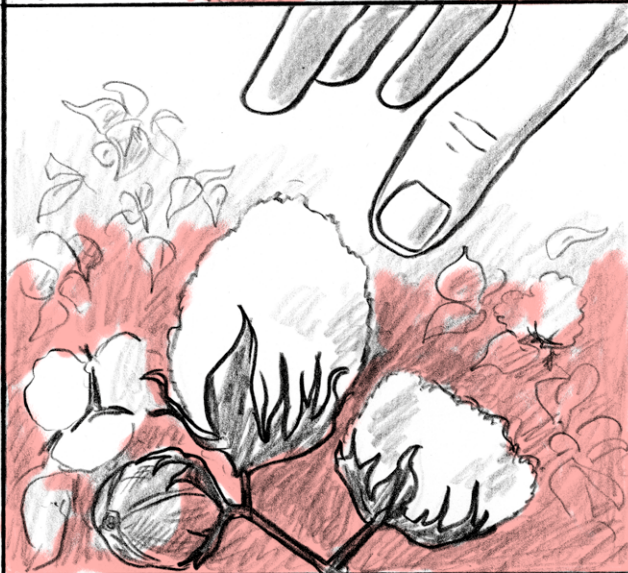
AND  
YOU?

HOW ARE YOU  
DOING YOUR  
WORK?





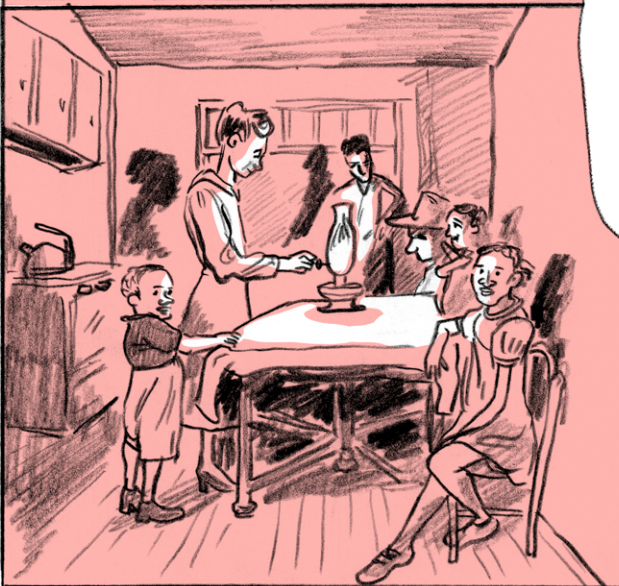
IN ORDER TO WRITE A POEM, YOU NEED TO TAP INTO SOMETHING THAT IS BOILING WITHIN YOU.



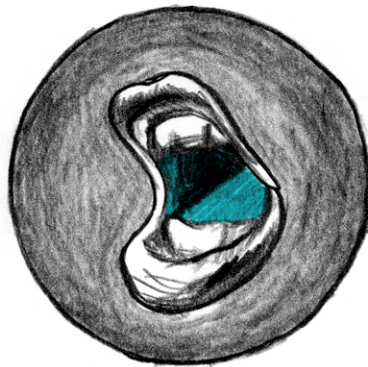
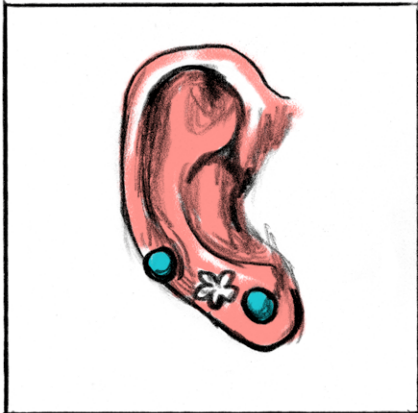
POETRY IS NOT A LUXURY.





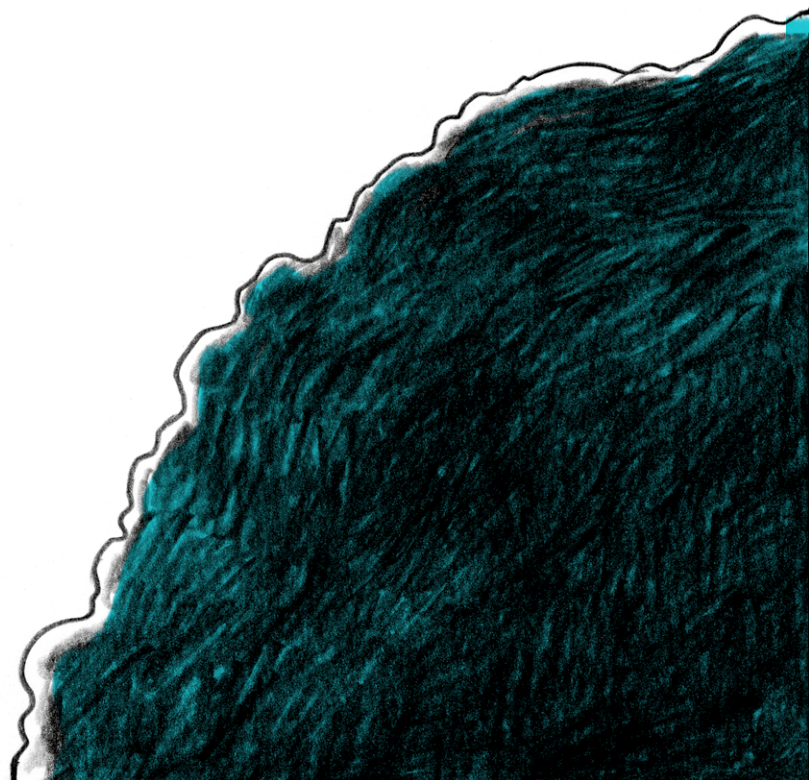




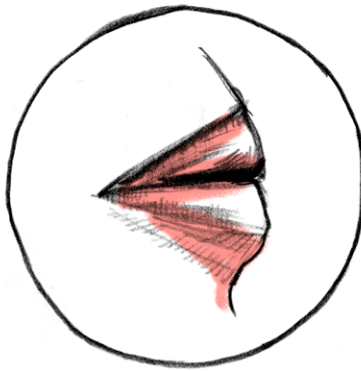
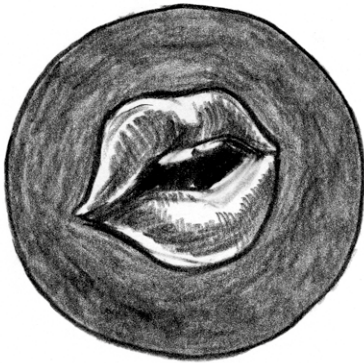


POETRY IS  
NOT ONLY  
DREAM AND  
VISION.

POETRY HELPS  
US NAME THE  
UNNAMABLE SO  
THAT WE CAN  
THINK ABOUT IT.



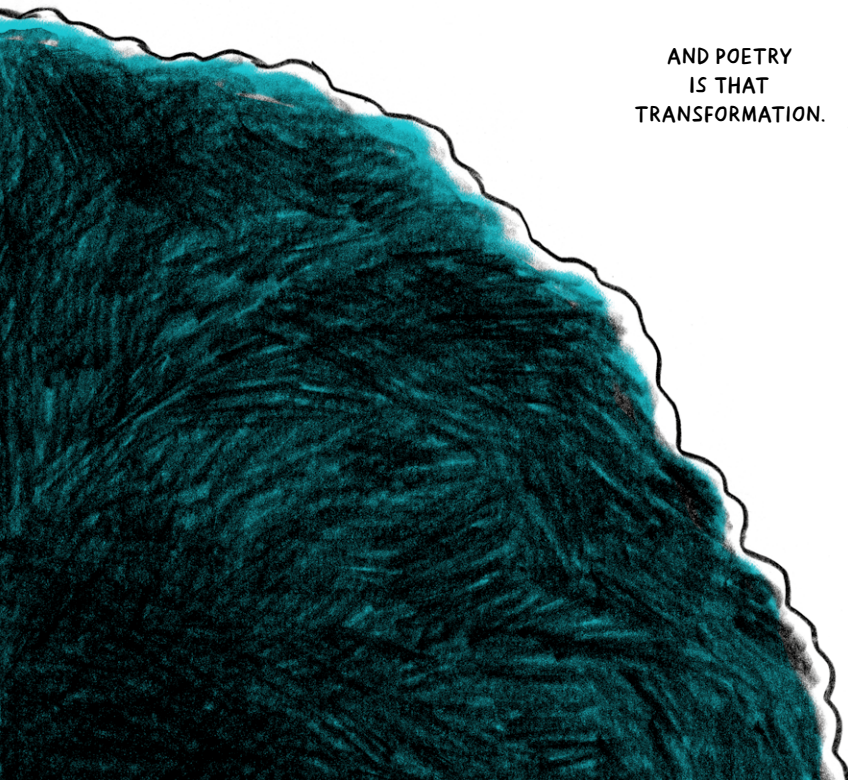




THE SKELETON  
THAT STRUCTURES  
OUR LIVES.

NOTHING  
TRANSFORMS  
MORE THAN  
EMOTION,

AND POETRY  
IS THAT  
TRANSFORMATION.







IN THESE TUMULTUOUS YEARS,  
I POUR MYSELF BODY AND SOUL  
INTO VARIOUS SOCIAL CAUSES, THE  
BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT,  
THE GAY AND LESBIAN MOVEMENT,  
AND ABOVE ALL THE FEMINIST  
REVOLUTION.







THE SUBJECT OF  
REVOLUTION IS US,  
OUR LIVES.

IF WE DON'T DEFINE OURSELVES,  
OTHERS WILL DO IT TO THEIR OWN  
ADVANTAGE, AND THAT CAN BE  
HARMFUL TO US.

WOMEN  
UNITE!

WOMEN  
of the  
WORLD  
UNITE

UNITE FOR  
WOMAN'S  
EMANCIPATION

STATE





AHEM,

WHEN WE SPEAK,  
WE ARE AFRAID THAT  
OUR WORDS WILL NOT  
BE HEARD OR WILL BE  
MISUNDERSTOOD,

BUT WHEN WE STAY  
SILENT, WE KEEP ON BEING  
AFRAID, SO IT'S BETTER  
TO SPEAK.



WE MUST  
TRANSFORM SILENCE  
INTO ACTION, INTO  
LANGUAGE.

I TOO  
STARTED OUT  
LIKE YOU,

A  
COWARD,  
FULL OF  
FEAR,



BUT IT DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHETHER OR  
NOT I AM AFRAID,  
BECAUSE I AM  
MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN MY FEARS.

ONCE I  
ADOPT THAT  
POSITION, I CAN  
LEARN FROM  
THEM.

IF I HAD BEEN BORN  
MUTE OR HAD KEPT  
A LIFE-LONG VOW OF  
SILENCE IN ORDER TO  
SURVIVE, EVEN STILL, I  
WOULD HAVE SUFFERED  
AND EVEN STILL, I  
WOULD DIE.

MY SILENCE  
WILL NOT  
PROTECT ME.



WE NEED EACH OTHER.

WE NEED THAT WHICH IS DIFFERENT IN ORDER TO ADVANCE AND OVERCOME OUR LIMITS.

BECAUSE THERE LIES THE CONCEPT OF DIFFERENCE.

IT IS NOT DIFFERENCE THAT IMMIBILIZES US, BUT SILENCE.



AND THERE ARE SO MANY SILENCES TO BREAK...

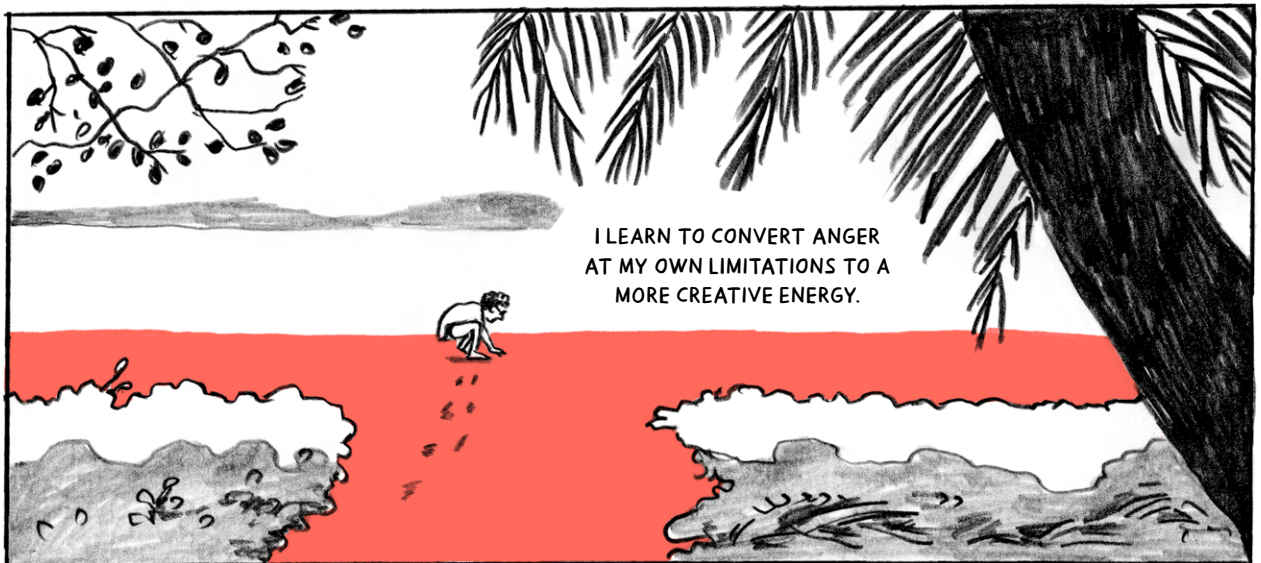




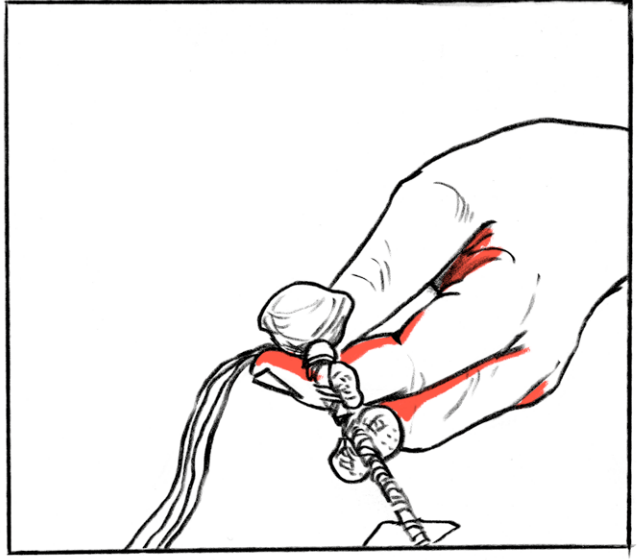
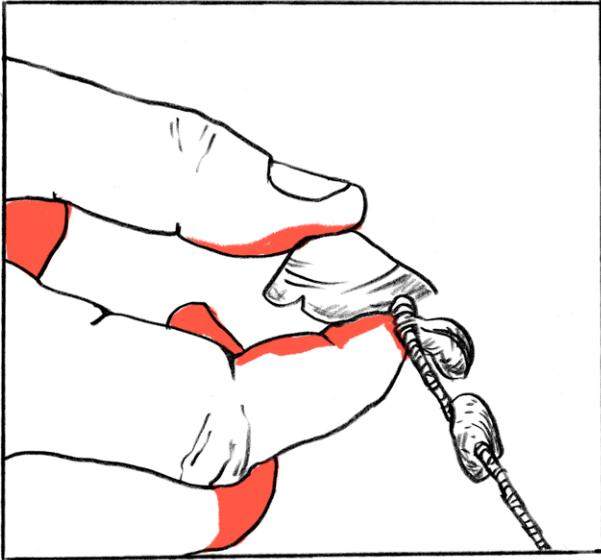
I AM 44 YEARS OLD WHEN  
THEY DIAGNOSE ME WITH  
BREAST CANCER.



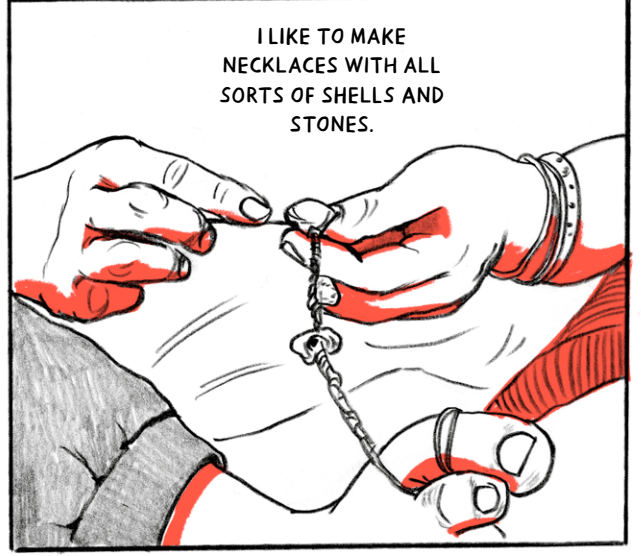
LIVING STUCK IN FEAR IS  
TEACHING ME TO TRANSCEND IT,



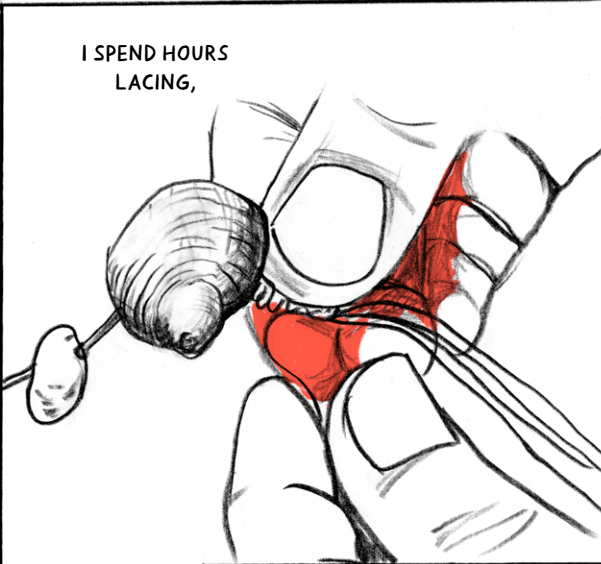
I LEARN TO CONVERT ANGER  
AT MY OWN LIMITATIONS TO A  
MORE CREATIVE ENERGY.



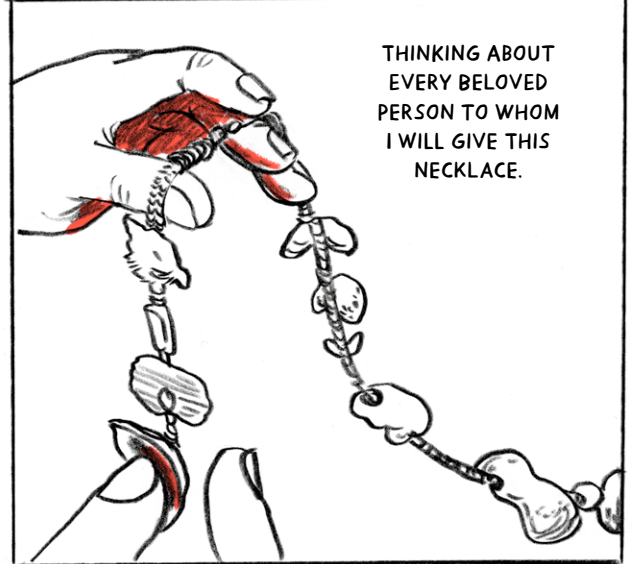
WHEN I FEEL  
WEAK,



I LIKE TO MAKE  
NECKLACES WITH ALL  
SORTS OF SHELLS AND  
STONES.

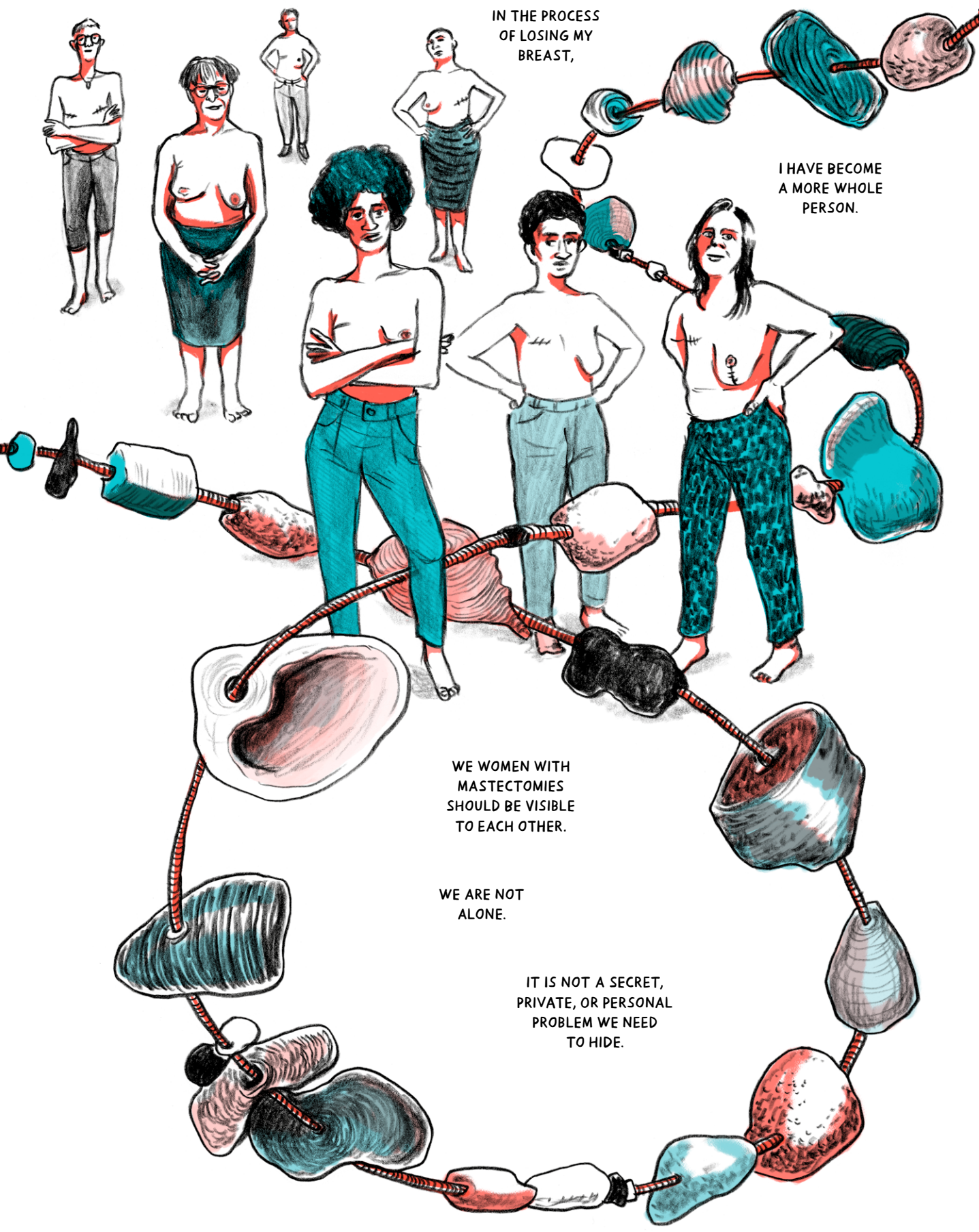


I SPEND HOURS  
LACING,



THINKING ABOUT  
EVERY BELOVED  
PERSON TO WHOM  
I WILL GIVE THIS  
NECKLACE.





IN THE PROCESS  
OF LOSING MY  
BREAST,


I HAVE BECOME  
A MORE WHOLE  
PERSON.

WE WOMEN WITH  
MASTECTOMIES  
SHOULD BE VISIBLE  
TO EACH OTHER.

WE ARE NOT  
ALONE.

IT IS NOT A SECRET,  
PRIVATE, OR PERSONAL  
PROBLEM WE NEED  
TO HIDE.





THE LOVE  
OF WOMEN  
HEALED ME.

IF IT HADN'T BEEN  
FOR ALL OF THEM,  
I WOULD'VE DIED A  
WHILE AGO.

THE WOMEN WHO  
SUSTAIN ME ARE  
BLACK AND WHITE,  
OLD AND YOUNG,  
LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND  
HETEROSEXUAL.

AND WE ALL SHARE  
A WAR AGAINST  
THE TYRANNIES OF  
SILENCE.



THEY GAVE ME  
STRENGTH AND  
CONCERN WITHOUT  
WHICH I COULD NOT  
HAVE SURVIVED.

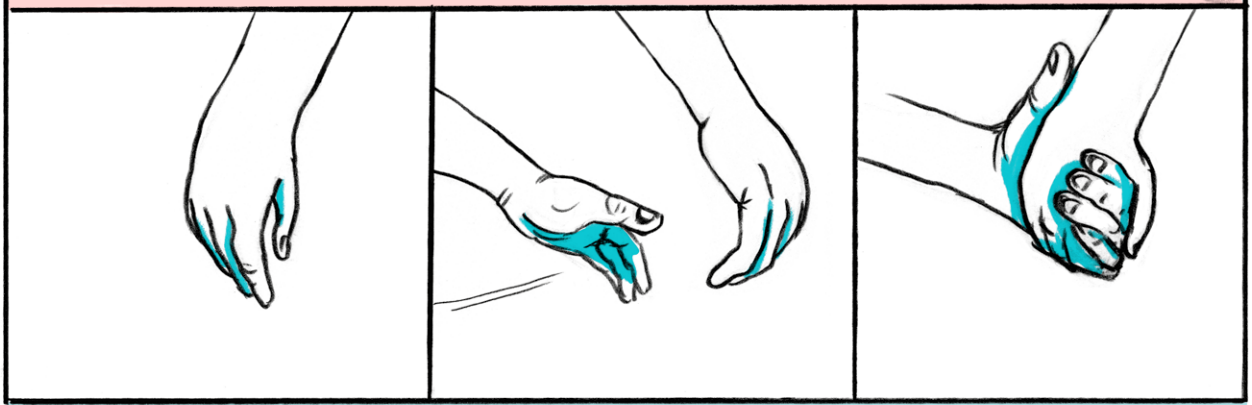




IN MY ENGAGEMENT  
WITH LANGUAGE AND  
THE POWER IT HAS,

I FIND A  
NEW WAY OF  
WRITING MY  
NAME.

Z  
A  
M  
I



\* ZAMI IS A CREOLE NAME THAT DESIGNATES THOSE WOMEN FRIENDS AND/OR LOVERS,  
AND IT IS ALSO HOW LESBIANS ARE PEJORATIVELY DENOMINATED IN THE CARIBBEAN.



DURING MY TIME AS A GUEST PROFESSOR IN BERLIN, I GIVE CLASSES ON AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AUTHORS AND I ALSO HOLD A POETRY WORKSHOP.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO BE AWARE OF YOUR IDENTITY.



WHO ARE THE GERMAN WOMEN OF THE DIASPORA?

WHERE DO OUR ROADS OVERLAP AND DIVERGE AS WOMEN OF COLOR?

WRITING IS VERY IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR YOU, BUT ALSO FOR ME, TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, IT IS INTERESTING TO READ ABOUT THE LIFE OF AFRO-GERMAN PEOPLE.



AND NOW, I'D LIKE FOR THE WHITE WOMEN IN THE ROOM TO LEAVE AND FOR ALL THE BLACK WOMEN TO STAY,

BECAUSE I HOPE THAT, BEFORE YOU GO, YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER SOMEHOW AND YOU FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.



LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ME: NO ONE WILL DO IT FOR YOU! YOU HAVE TO TALK AND BUILD BONDS.





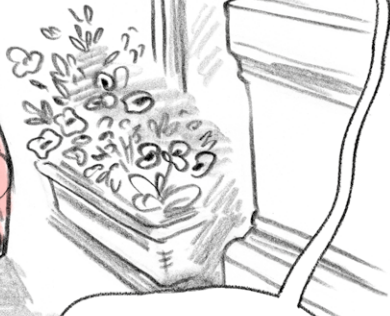
WRITING THE  
CANCER JOURNALS  
WAS DIFFICULT AND  
PAINFUL.



I HAD TO REMIND  
MYSELF THAT  
I HAD ALREADY  
LIVED IT. THAT I  
HAD KNOWN PAIN  
AND SURVIVED IT.

ALL THAT WAS LEFT  
WAS TO GIVE VOICE TO  
IT, SHARE IT SO THAT IT  
MIGHT BE USEFUL, SO THAT  
IT WASN'T WASTED.

AND, OF  
COURSE, I WAS  
AFRAID,



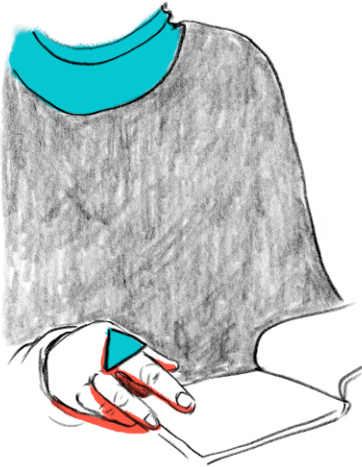
BECAUSE THE  
TRANSFORMATION  
OF SILENCE INTO  
LANGUAGE, INTO ACTION,  
IS AN ACT OF SELF-  
REVELATION AND IT  
ALWAYS SEEMS CHARGED  
WITH DANGER.



TODAY IS NOT THE DAY.

I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE...

STARING AT DEATH IN HER FACE BLINKING AND ASKING FOR A NEW NAME BY WHICH TO GREET HER.



I AM NOT AFRAID OF SAYING UNEMBELLISHED

I AM DYING,



BUT I DO NOT WANT TO DO IT LOOKING THE OTHER WAY.

TODAY IS NOT THE DAY. TODAY.

