

SERÁ DESEADA

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a flower. The hand is rendered in a vibrant red color with white outlines, set against a green background with a white stippled texture. The flower is also in red with white outlines. The overall style is graphic and minimalist.

SCRIPT: GABRIELA JAUREGUI
ILLUSTRATIONS: ERENDIRA DERBEZ

Será deseada is the result of the work of a great team. We appreciate the idea and support of Cordelia Freeman and Sandra Rodríguez Castañeda, the patience and love that Gabriela and Eréndira have poured into each page; and the experiences, care and focus of the Balance/Fondo MARIA team: Oriana López Uribe, Sofía Garduño Huerta, Daniela Tejas Miguez, Stephanie Lomelí and Jazmín Zarco.

SERÁ
DESEADA

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Estudio Plumbago 2022

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Translation: Cordelia Freeman

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Prologue

Abortions have always taken place. For generations, women and people who can become pregnant have shared knowledge of herbs, drugs, strategies, and the names of traditional or biomedical abortionists with each other in order to terminate unwanted pregnancies. In the context of illegality these strategies have come with great costs. As a result of these unsafe abortions, many women have been prosecuted, had their health severely affected, and have even died.

The situation took a turn in 2007, when Mexico City legalized abortion up to the twelfth week of pregnancy. For those in the capital or for those who could easily travel there, this was a huge step forward for dignity and choice.

But the vast majority of Mexicans did not directly benefit from this development and in other parts of the country women and pregnant people have had to continue with unwanted pregnancies or find their own methods of ending the pregnancy. The tireless efforts of activists, including Fondo MARIA, have been crucial in facilitating access to the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol or safe surgical abortions, to navigate the complex laws around legal access to abortion, and to support women to travel to Mexico City.

In September 2021 the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation issued a historic decision that will ensure that women and pregnant people enjoy the constitutional right to freedom and reproductive autonomy, including the right to interrupt

an unwanted pregnancy without facing criminal consequences. Although this does not mean the immediate elimination of barriers to access safe abortions, there is no doubt that this landmark ruling will pave the way for the transformation of the legal landscape of abortion in Mexico.

*

This graphic novel is a meeting place. The protagonists, Victoria, María and Gloria, all find themselves in a gynecological clinic and, even while they do not talk to each other, their stories intertwine. These three stories connect different trajectories, decisions, and emotional ties, but they are linked because something in common unites them: experiencing an unwanted pregnancy and deciding to end it. Through these interwoven individual, but also collective, experiences this novel asks the reader to consider the complexity of the stories of women who have abortions, and also the everyday lives in which they travel, make decisions, and inhabit. In this way it is also a meeting place with ourselves as readers.

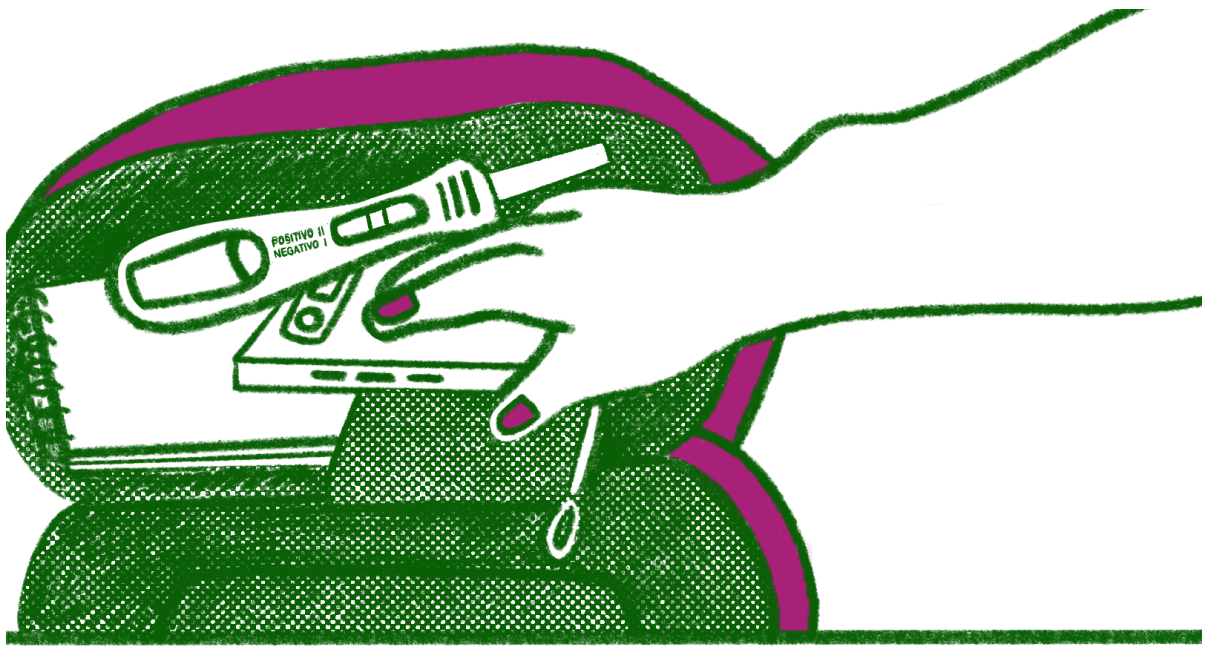
Although they are fictionalized stories, each one draws on the experiences of women and pregnant people with whom Fondo MARIA has worked over the years. This graphic novel is dedicated to them. And to all those who came before them. And to those who will go through similar situations – but which we hope will be radically different now that the laws that criminalize abortion have been declared unconstitutional.

Será deseada o no será. [It will be wanted or it will not be].

Cordelia Freeman & Sandra Rodríguez

Department of Geography, University of Exeter, UK







FICHA MÉDICA

IDENTIFICACIÓN PERSONAL:
NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS: Victoria Sanchez Ortiz
EDAD: 33 AÑOS: 26/4/84
OCCUPACIÓN: Disfrutadora de Pasatiempo
DIRECCIÓN: Persepolis 36 A. col. Norte
CD.MX. TELEFONO CEL:

TEL. FID: _____
NOMBRE DE LA MÉDICA: _____
GRUPO SANGUÍNEO: _____

ANTECEDENTES: SÍ NO
*ALERGIAS: _____
*ELECCIÓN DE LA OPCIÓN QUE DEFINA SU SITUACIÓN:
 CASADA DIVORCIADA VIUDA SOLTERA OTRO
MEDICIONES O INTERVENCIONES QUIRÚRGICAS: _____

EMBARAZOS PREVIOS: SÍ NO
DUPLICADOS, ESPONTÁNEOS: SÍ NO
EDAD DEL PADRE EN MOMENTO: 17
EL EVENTO: NO

DESEÉ AGREGAR: _____

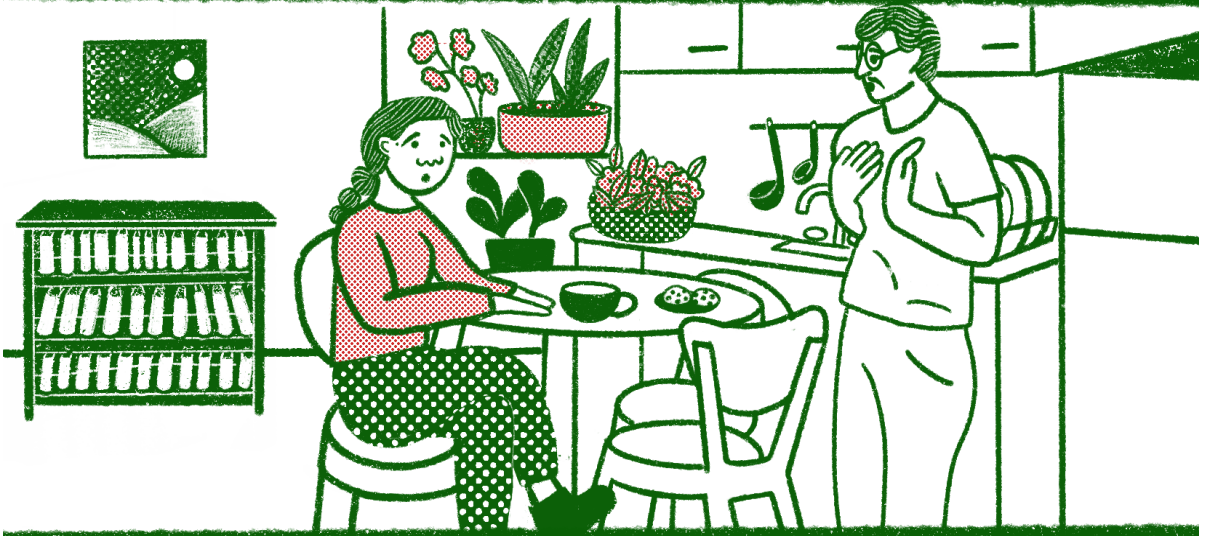
NOMBRE Y FIRMA: V. Sanchez O.
FECHA: 4 de agosto de 2021







THE PREVIOUS EVENING...



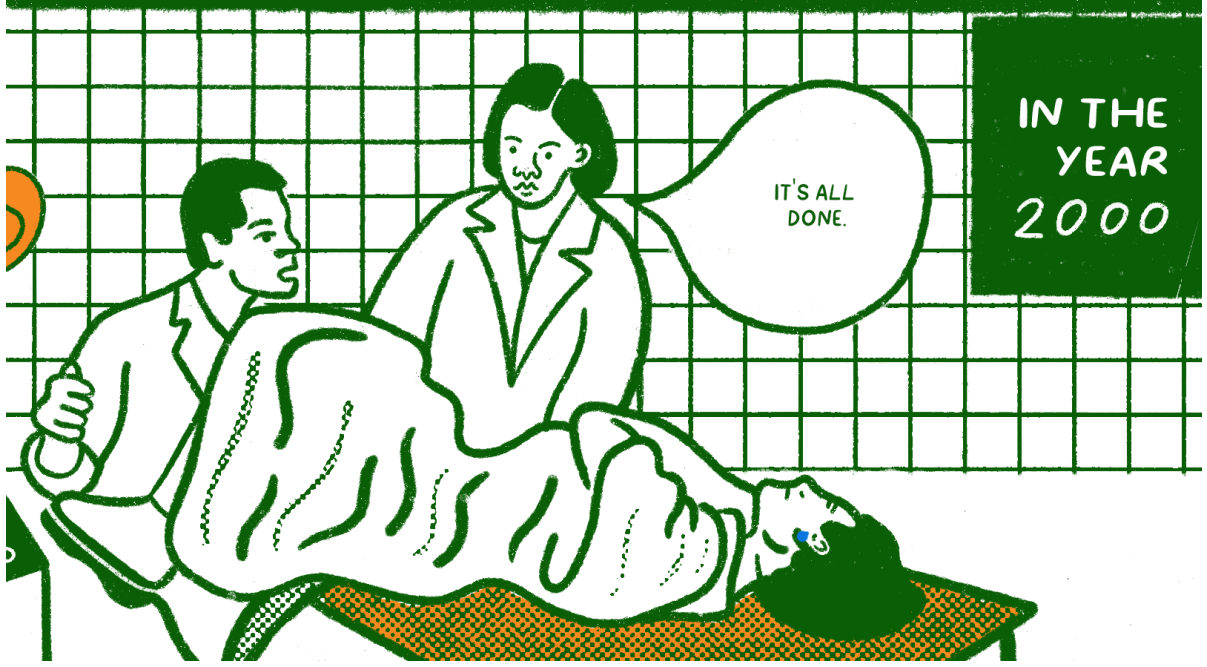




SO THERE ISN'T ANY RISK
BECAUSE OF...
BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID
YEARS AGO?

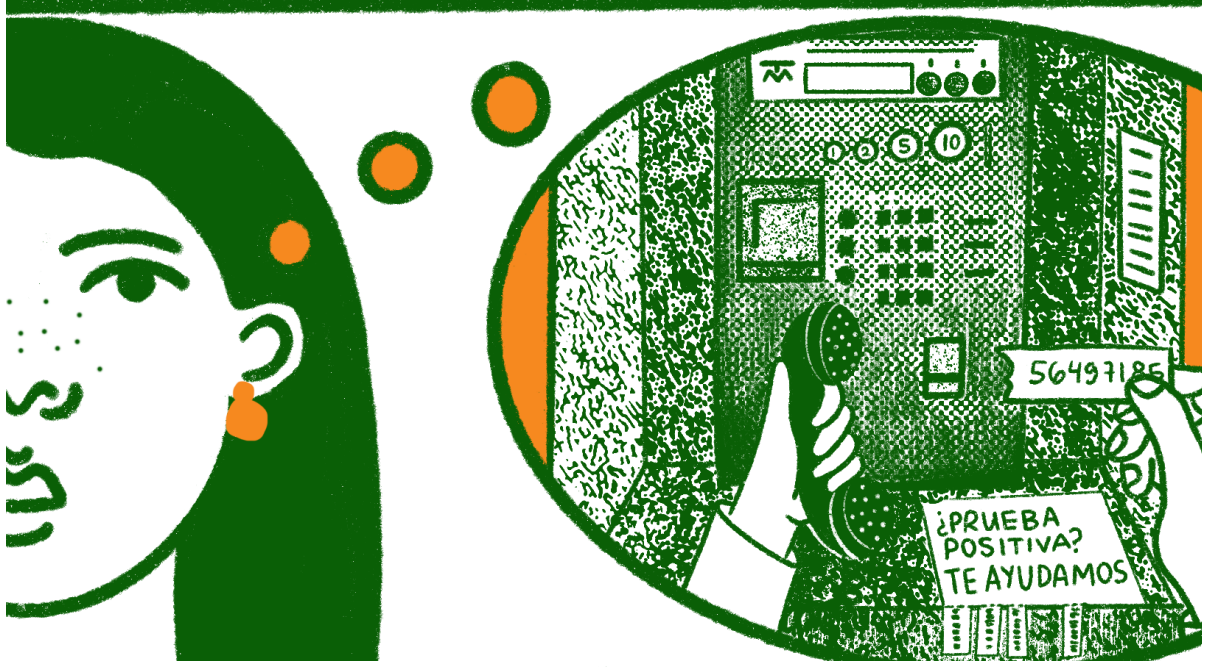
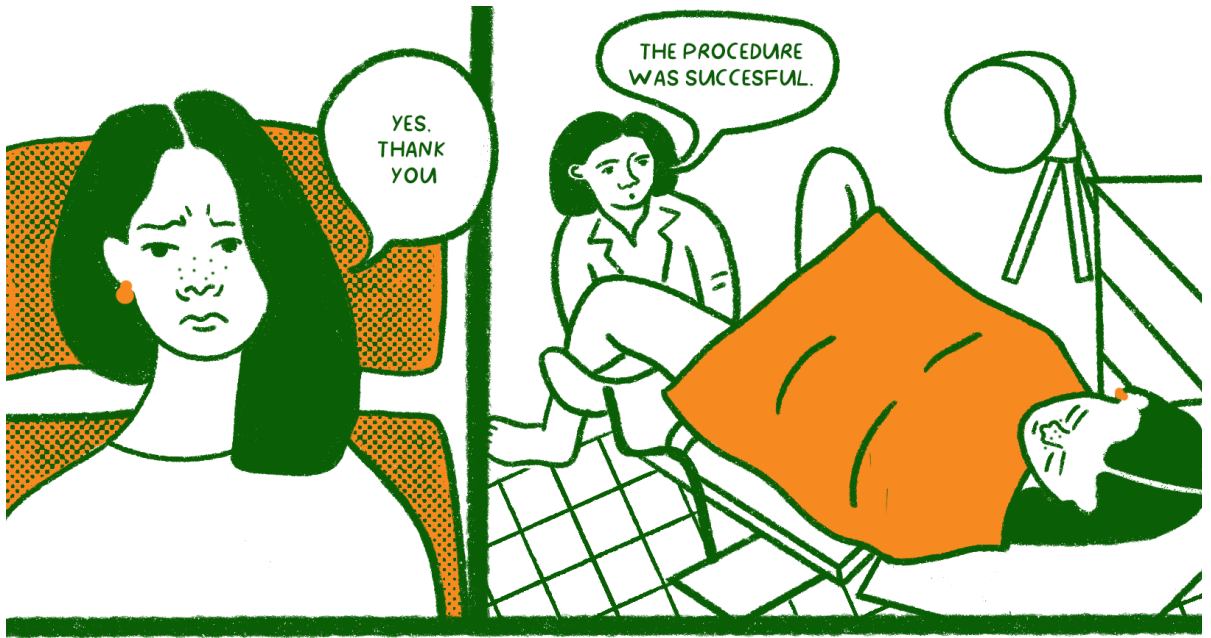


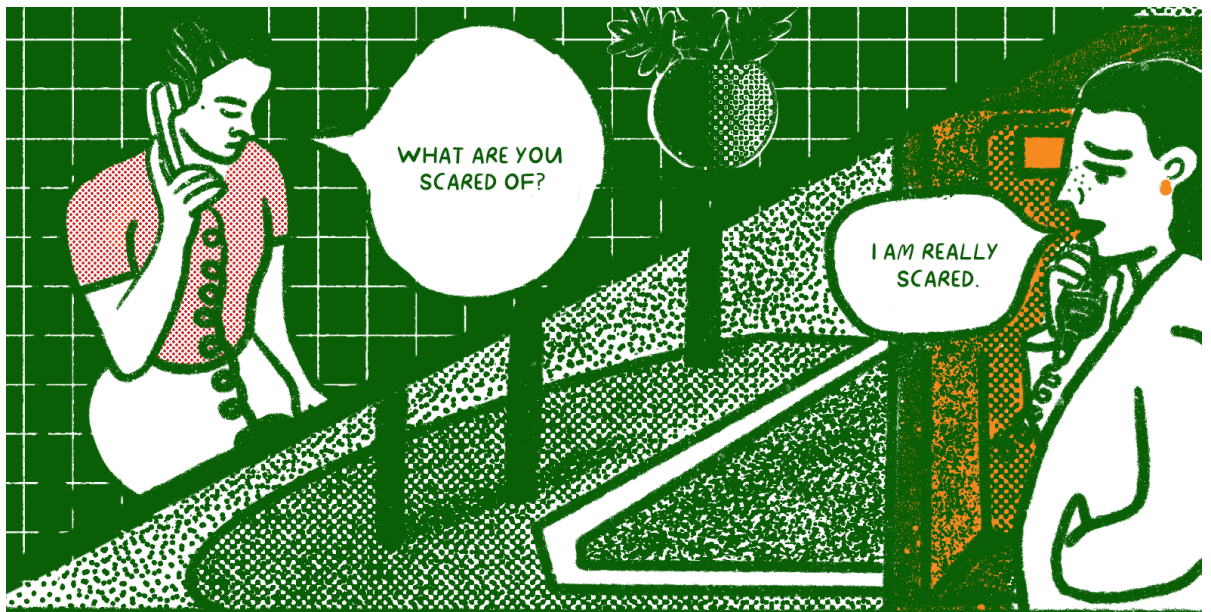
EVERYTHING IS
PERFECT.
BOTH YOU
AND YOUR BABY
ARE DOING
REALLY WELL.



IT'S ALL
DONE.

IN THE
YEAR
2000





WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

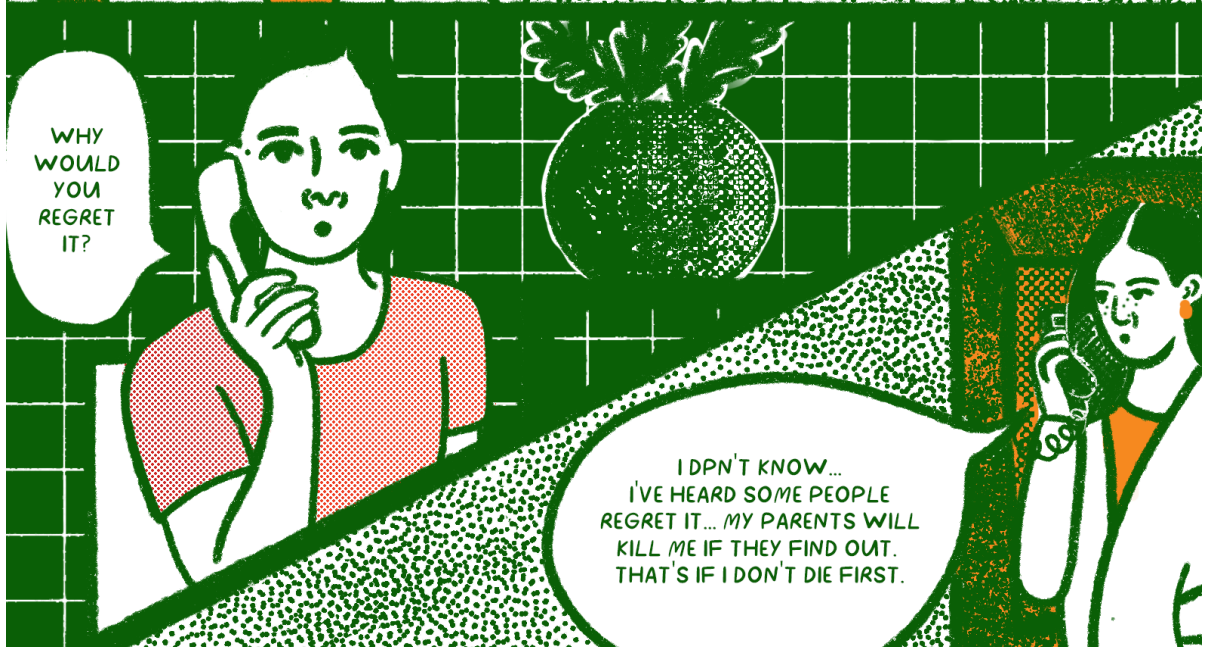
I AM REALLY SCARED.



FEAR ISN'T A BAD THING. IT HELPS US STAY ALERT. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DIE. THIS DOCTOR ISN'T GOING TO PUT YOU AT RISK AND NO-ONE IS GOING TO FIND OUT.

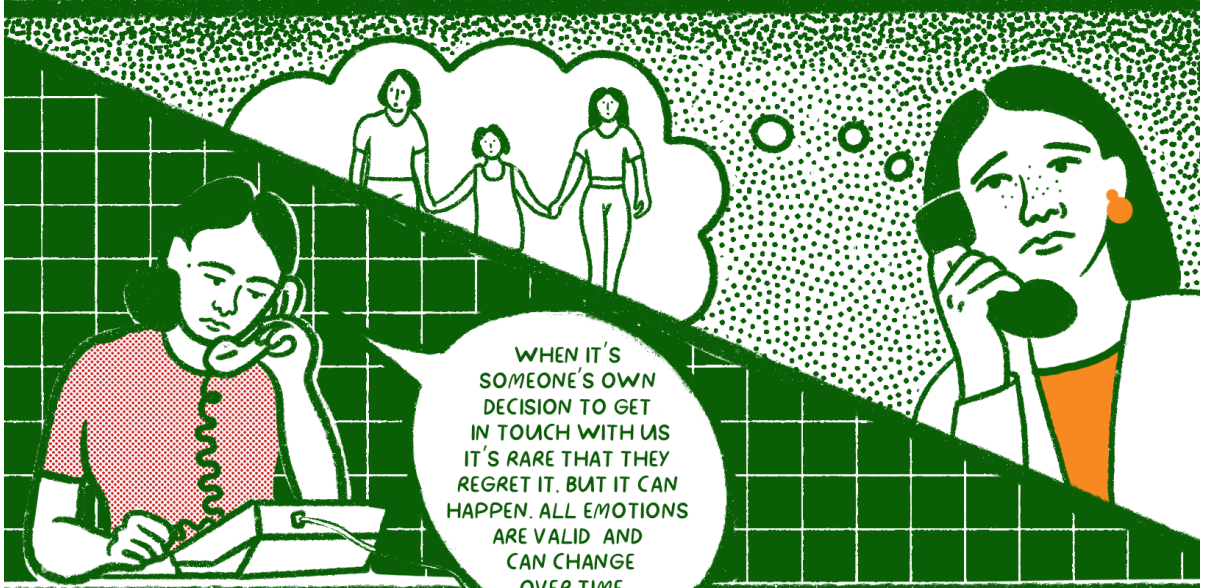
OF DYING. OF MY FAMILY FINDING OUT.

BUT WHAT IF I REGRET IT?



WHY WOULD YOU REGRET IT?

I DPN'T KNOW... I'VE HEARD SOME PEOPLE REGRET IT... MY PARENTS WILL KILL ME IF THEY FIND OUT. THAT'S IF I DON'T DIE FIRST.





MY NAME'S GLORIA. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY NUMBER. HAVE YOU GOT SOMEWHERE TO WRITE IT DOWN? YOU CAN CALL ME WHEN YOU HAVE THE APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED IF YOU WANT. AND WHEN IT'S ALL OVER TOO. WE CAN HAVE A CHAT ABOUT HOW YOU'RE FEELING. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I'M HERE WHEN YOU NEED ME.

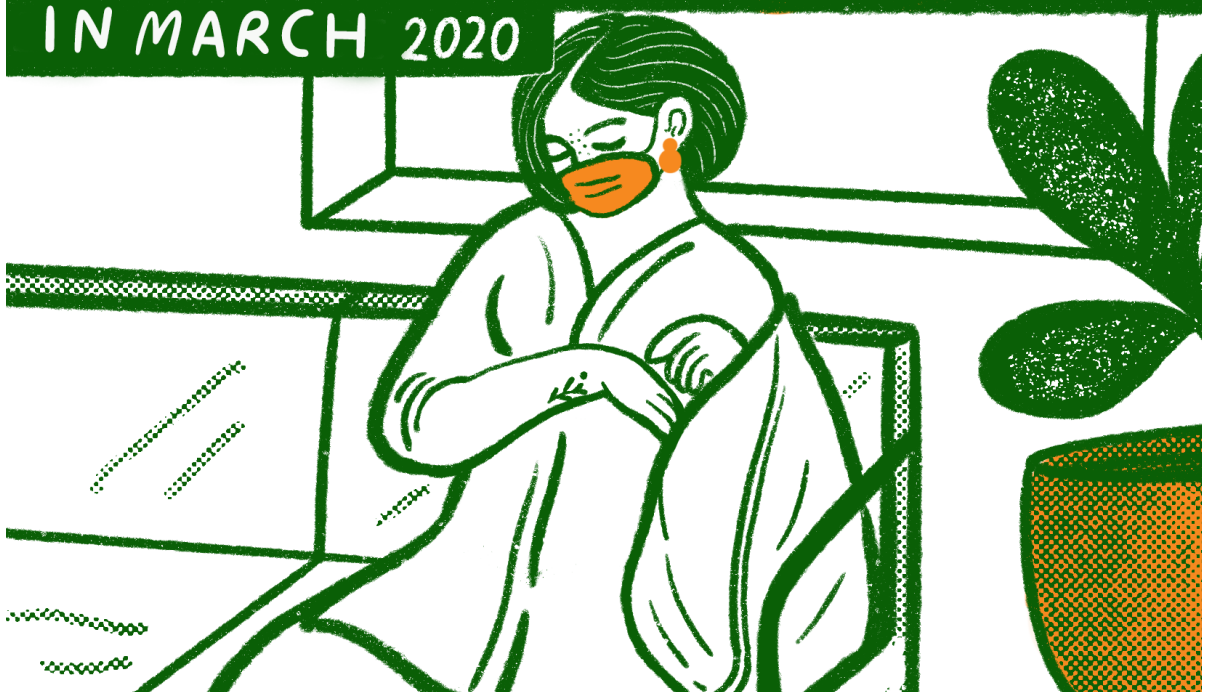


~~Santi~~
Pendientes
Gloria





IN MARCH 2020





FICHA MÉDICA

IDENTIFICACIÓN PERSONAL:
 NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS: GLORIA MARTINEZ
 EDAD: _____ NAC: 201478
 DISTRICCIÓN: Tapachula, CA, PNG
 D.M.P. _____

TELÉFONO DE LA MÉDICA: _____ TELÉFONO CEL: 5534
 EMERGENCIAS: ORH+

ESTADO CIVIL: SI NO
 TIPO DE LA OPCIÓN QUE DEPENDE SU SITUACIÓN:
 CASADA DIVORCIADA VIUDA SOLTERA O
 MEDICACIÓN INTERVENCIÓN QUIRÚRGICA

ABORTOS: PREVIOS: SI NO
 INDUCIDOS, ESPONTÁNEOS:
 ESPECIAL DEL PARADIGMA: _____
 EL EVENTO: _____

ALGO QUE DESEE AGREGAR: _____



SO MARIA, YOU'RE PREGNANT WHEN WAS YOUR LAST PERIOD?



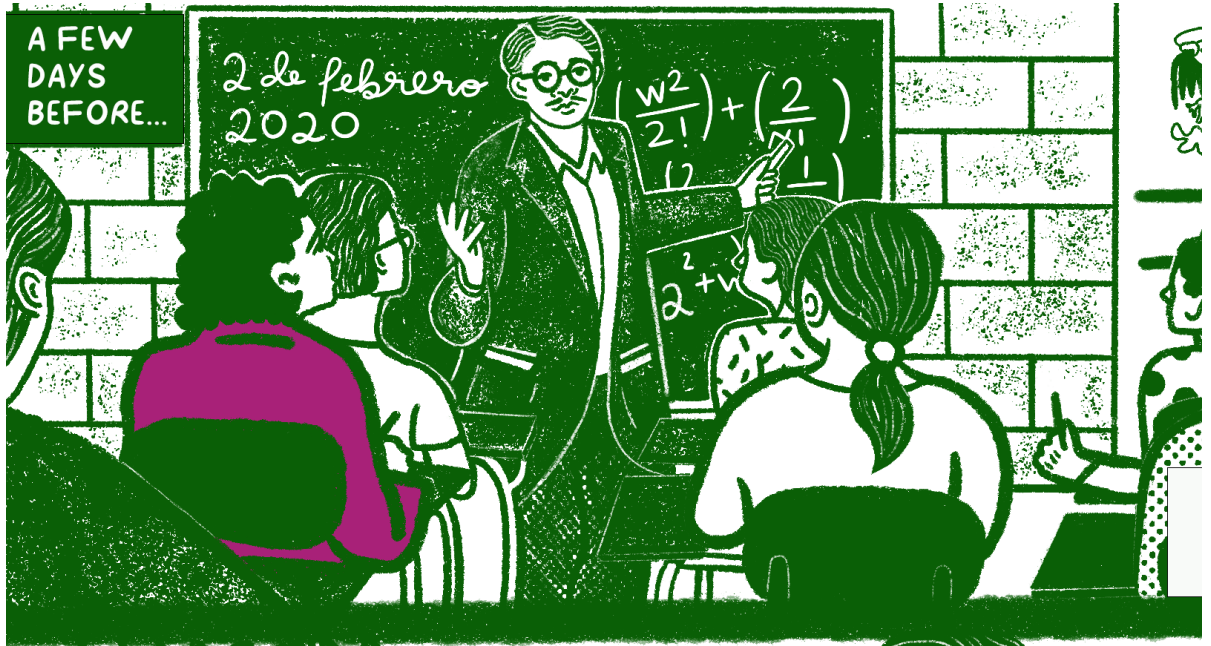
WELL I HAVE IRREGULAR PERIODS SO I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DATE BUT IT WAS A WHILE AGO... MAYBE THREE MONTHS?

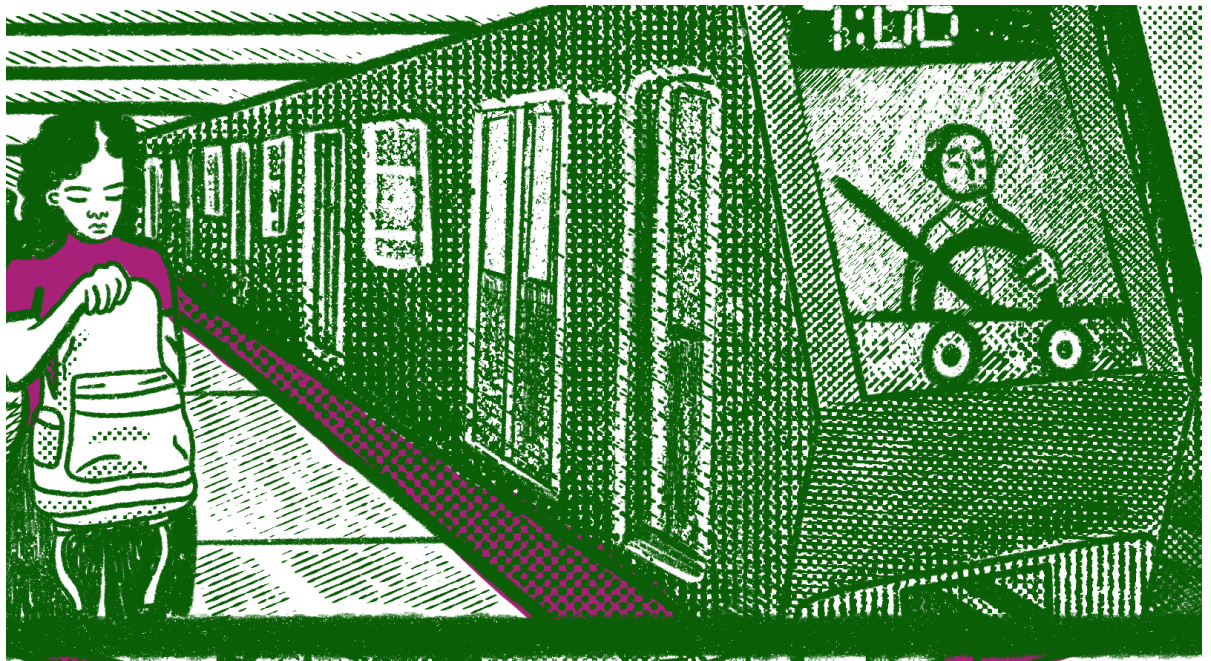
WITH IRREGULAR PERIODS THE CALCULATIONS CAN BE A BIT MORE COMPLICATED. BUT YOUR BLOOD TEST DOES CONFIRM THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT. I'M GOING TO DO AN ULTRASOUND TO SEE HOW FAR ALONG YOU ARE SO THAT YOU KNOW WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DECISION FROM THERE

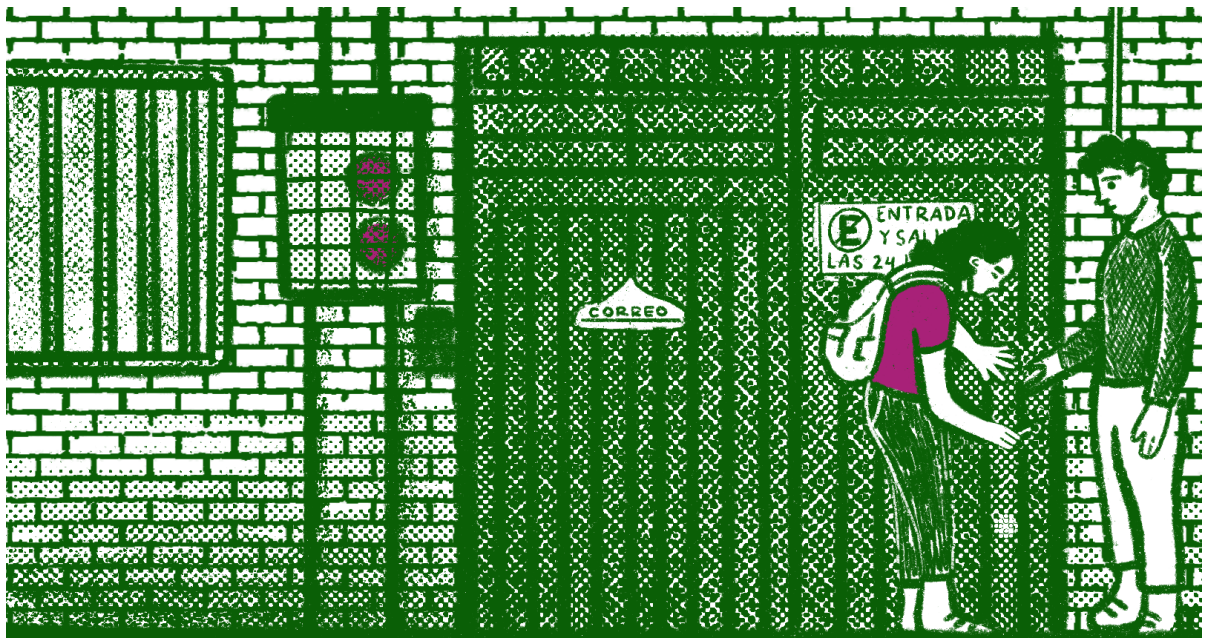


PERFECT. LET'S HAVE A LOOK... CAN YOU JUST LEAN BACK A LITTLE MORE? THAT'S IT

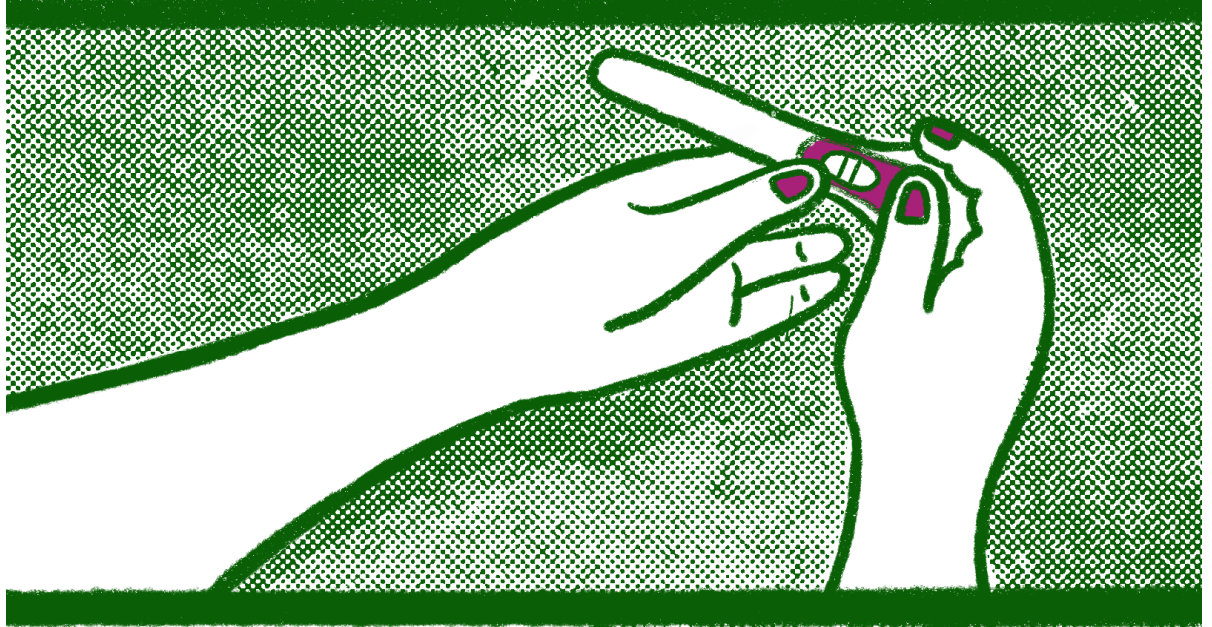
YES. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT THE BEST WAY TO HAVE AN ABORTION THIS FAR ALONG IS. IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO HAVE A BABY. I KNOW THAT FOR SURE

















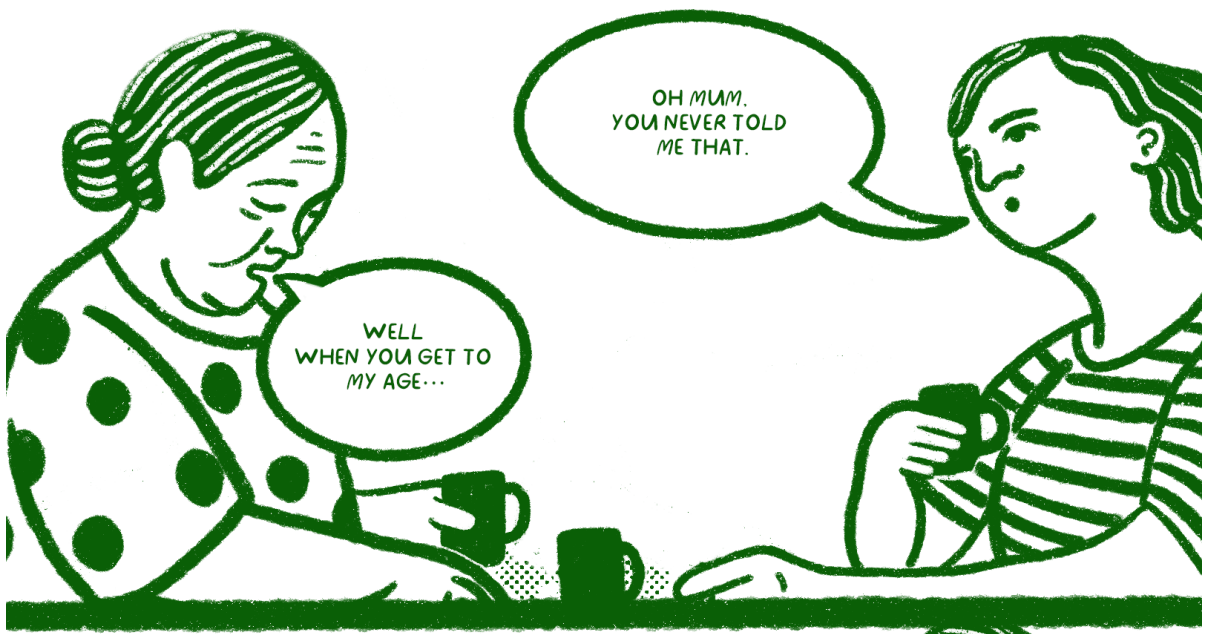
OH EMILIO,
WHY DO YOU
LOOK LIKE
THAT?

IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE
WE WOULD USE HERBS
TO BRING ON OUR PERIODS.
BUT YOU HAVE *MANY*
MORE OPTIONS
NOWADAYS.

AND ANYWAY,
WE DON'T HAVE FORESTS
WHERE WE CAN GO LOOKING
FOR HERBS HERE. OTHERWISE
WE COULD GO
TOGETHER.

IF ONLY YOU KNEW
HOW *MANY* TIMES
WE WENT WITH MY SISTER MARTA.
AND FOR JUANA. AND FOR CHANA.
AND EVEN FOR ME.
OUR PERIODS WERE BACK
BEFORE YOU
KNEW IT.









SO I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TEN WEEKS PREGNANT. THAT MEANS YOU CAN TAKE THE ABORTION PILL MISOPROSTOL AT HOME OR WE COULD DO AN MVA RIGHT HERE. THAT'S A TYPE OF SURGICAL ABORTION.




THEY ARE THE TWO RECOMMENDED METHODS AND YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICHEVER ONE YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH. YOU CAN HAVE A SURGICAL ABORTION HERE BUT TAKING PILLS AT HOME IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE EVEN UP TO 12 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY.



I WANT TO DO IT AT HOME. THAT FEELS RIGHT FOR ME.

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. I'M RIGHT HERE.



TAKE THIS BOOKLET THAT HAS THE INSTRUCTIONS. I HAVE TO GIVE YOU THIS PILL, MIFEPRISTONE, WHICH YOU NEED TO TAKE HERE BUT THE OTHERS WORK DIFFERENTLY. SO YOU WILL NEED TO BUY THEM AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS I'VE GIVEN YOU THERE.



COME BACK IN A FORTNIGHT FOR A CHECK-UP.

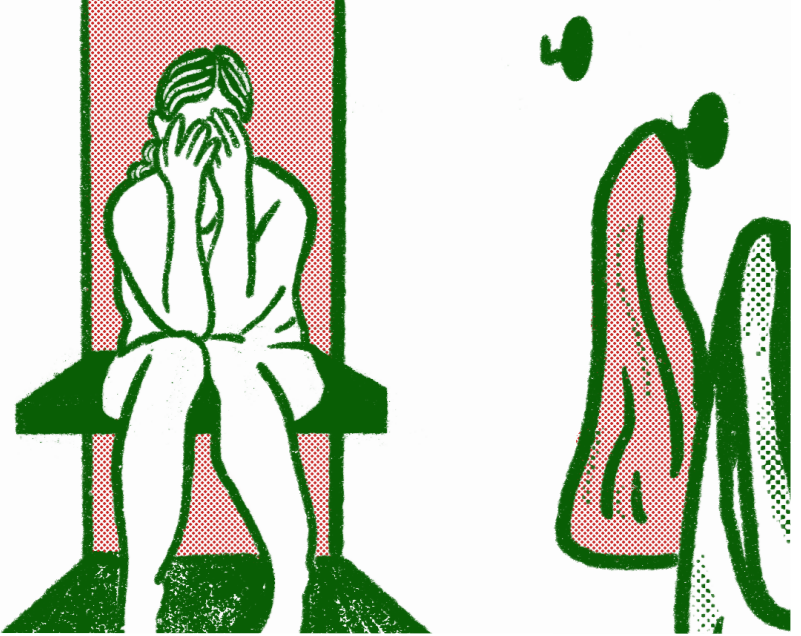
THANK YOU.

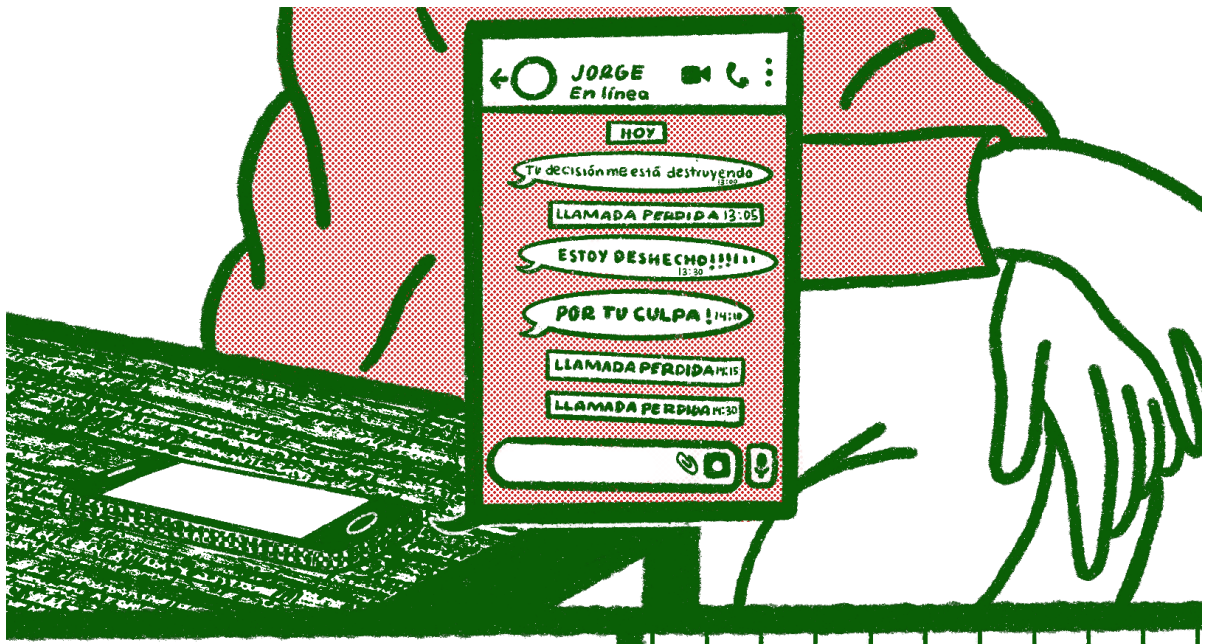


GOOD AFTERNOON



ABORTO SEGURO









HOW LONG
HAVE WE KNOWN
EACH OTHER?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?



I DON'T
WANT TO
HAVE IT BUT JORGE THINKS
I'M MAKING A MISTAKE AND
THAT HE GETS A SAY TOO.
I'M 42 YEARS OLD AND WHEN
I WAS 20 I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED
THAT I WOULD END UP IN THIS
SITUATION. ALL THOSE CERTANTIES
AND IDEALS I FELT IN MY TWENTIES
HAVE CRUMBLLED.
I FELT SO FREE BACK THEN AND
I THOUGHT I HAD FOUND A MAN
WHO TRULY SHARED MY
PRINCIPLES...



...AND
IT TURNS OUT
I WAS WRONG.
WE'RE NOT EVEN ON
THE SAME PAGE
WITH THE MOST BASIC
THINGS.
IT WAS ALL
JUST AN ILLUSION...
FIFTEEN YEARS
OF ILLUSION.




DURING A MARCH IN 1999...






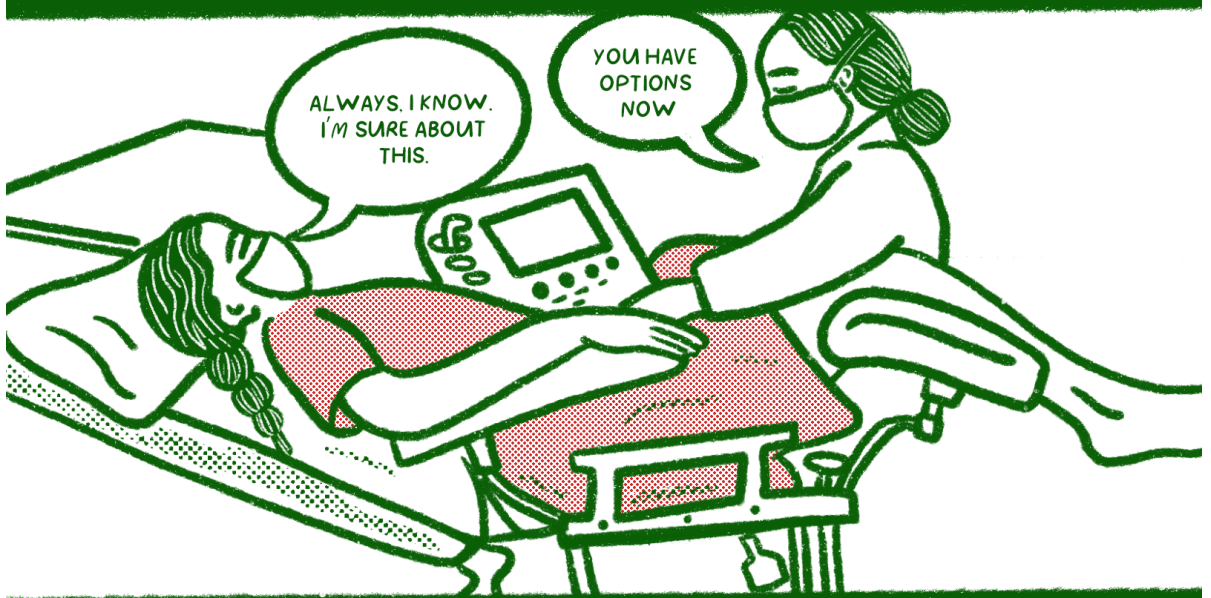
I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU THIS BUT DO YOU REMEMBER MY FRIEND PATRICIA?



SHE WAS SO YOUNG. AND SHE FOUGHT SO HARD AGAINST THAT INFECTION. WHEN SHE DIED I WAS SO ANGRY WITH HER FOR HAVING AN ABORTION. BUT THEN I MET THE GIRLS FROM THE COLLECTIVE AND THEY HELPED ME TO REALISE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO PATRICIA DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN. THEY MADE ME SEE THAT IT WASN'T THE ABORTION THAT KILLED HER. IT WAS THE LACK OF PROTECTION AND THE STIGMA.



I NEVER TOLD YOU BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER AND BECAUSE OF MEETING YOU GIRLS THAT I DECIDED TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THIS.



FARMACIA







+ farmacia +



THE END

Si quieres y/o necesitas abortar, puedes llenar una solicitud de apoyo en www.fondomaria.org/apoyo o llamar por teléfono al 800 832 73 11 si vives en el interior de la República o al 55 52 43 50 54 si estás en CDMX y Área Metropolitana.



Balance is a feminist organization that works towards building an environment where everyone gets to make their own decisions about sexuality. We contribute to the transformation of policies, programs and actions that guarantee sexual rights. We provide the tools and support to women* and adolescents to trigger processes of critical reflection that helps them recognise sexuality as integral to well-being. We believe in the power of the collective to transform our world.



@balance.ac



@balanceac



@balancejoven

www.balance.mx.com



Fondo MARIA (Women*, Abortion, Reproduction, Information and Accompaniment), one of Balance's programs, operates on a national scale in Mexico, supporting women* throughout the country to access safe and legal abortions. We work to create a legal and social context in Mexico that allows, respects and promotes the right to choose abortion as a legitimate result of an unwanted or uncontinuable pregnancy, taking advantage of the legal framework that exists in Mexico City to address inequalities.



@fondomARIAmx



@fondomARIAmx



@fondomARIAmx

www.fondomaria.org



We want everyone to have the pregnancies that they desire, abortions that are well-supported, and the lives that we dream of. May this graphic novel reach those who have had one or many abortions, those who are currently having abortions, those who at some point in their lives could have abortions, and those who have accompanied or could accompany someone who has decided to have an abortion, as a reminder that our decisions are valid and that we are not alone.



@fondoMARIAmx



@fondoMARIAmx



@fondoMARIAmx

www.fondomaria.org