

Entire U.S. declared disaster area

Temperatures over 130 degrees reported in the Southwest, while storms batter the coasts.

Mudslides wipe out California towns

Storms wash away dried out hillsides, burying cities. I-5 closed



117°

This year is the 60th consecutive year of record weather. Scientists warn of

State broke, all schools to close next year

worsening conditions in the foreseeable future. No end in sight.

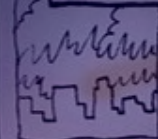
Highway and welfare budgets also slashed.

WARNING FROM MY FUTURE SELF

Conflict rages on over water sources across the world

Food shortage: Climate change blamed

As harvests fail for the third year in a row, experts blame drought, heatwaves, and other climate change induced weather for the continuing crisis.



FIRE HITS L.A.

Firefighters overwhelmed, millions forced to evacuate in worst fire ever

Deaths reported in homes and hospitals as power grid fails and remains down for entire week. Full extent of disaster will not be known for months.

More businesses leave the area as water supply becomes unreliable.

4,000 die in SoCal heat wave

Port of Oakland to remain closed for at least another month while repairs continue from Great Storm. Bad weather in Asia delays replacement

Bay Area food rationing continues

Limit of 5 pounds of produce per person per week

Study: Over 4 million jobs at risk from permadrought

Story by Jean Tepperman
Art by Alfred Twu





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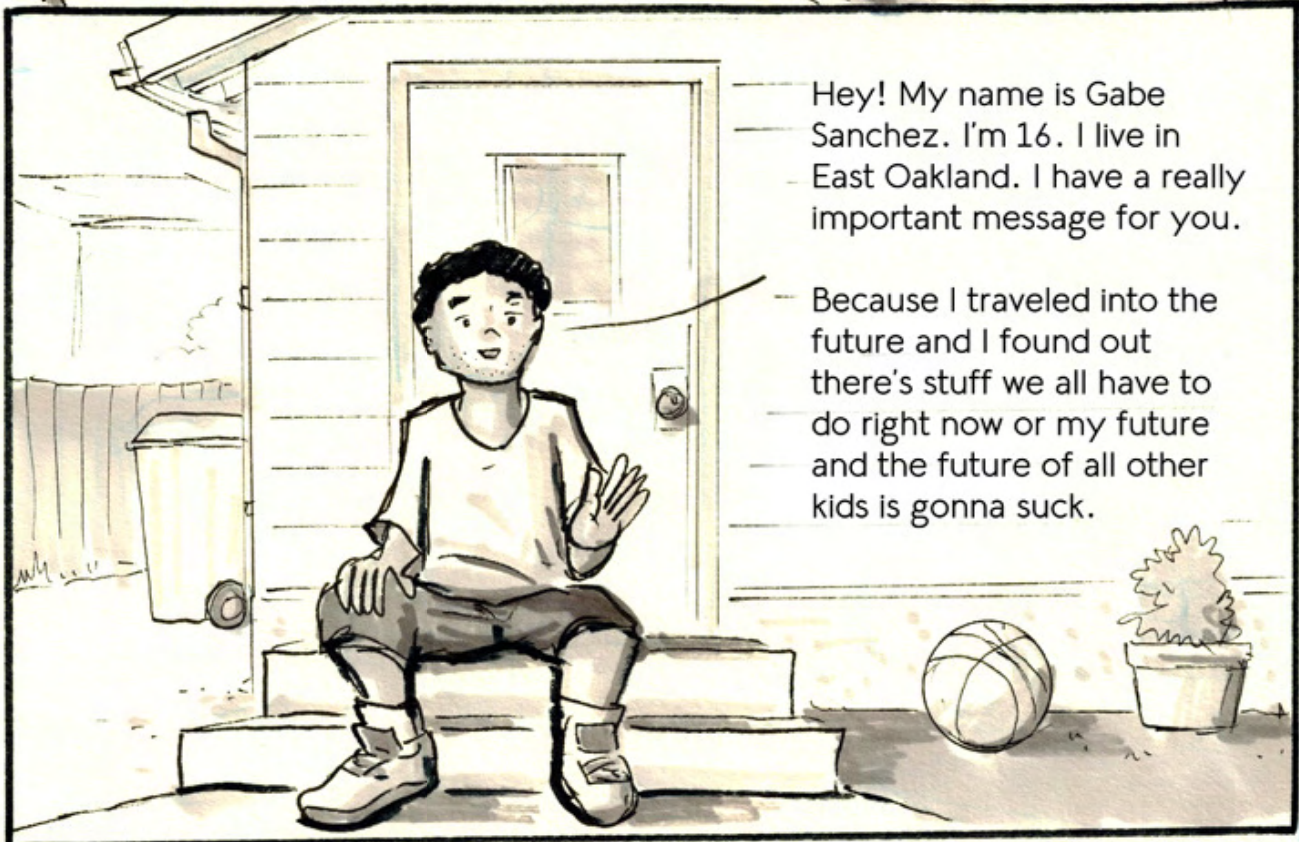
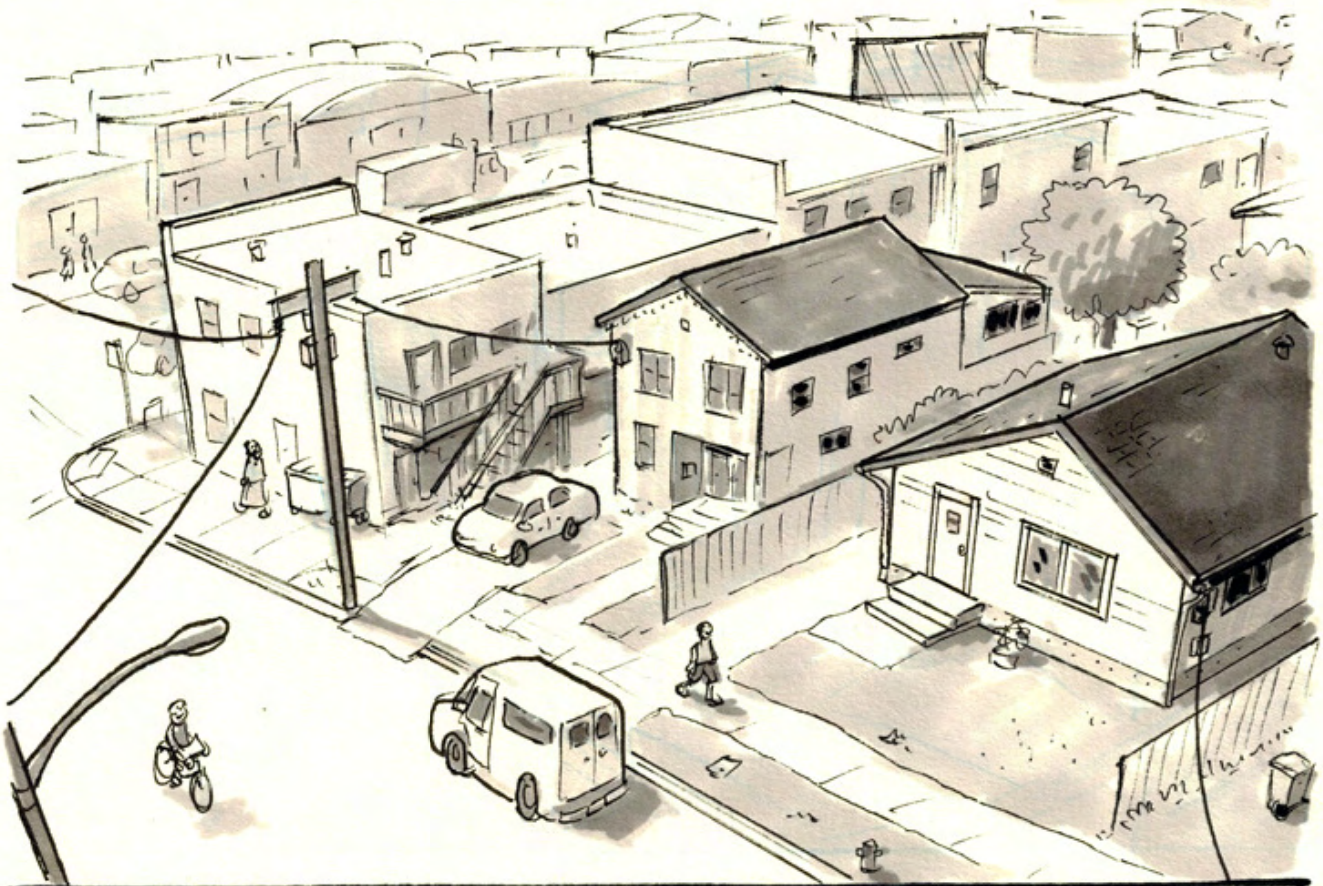
This book is available online at
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email jeantepper@gmail.com

Second Edition, September 2017

Warning From My Future Self

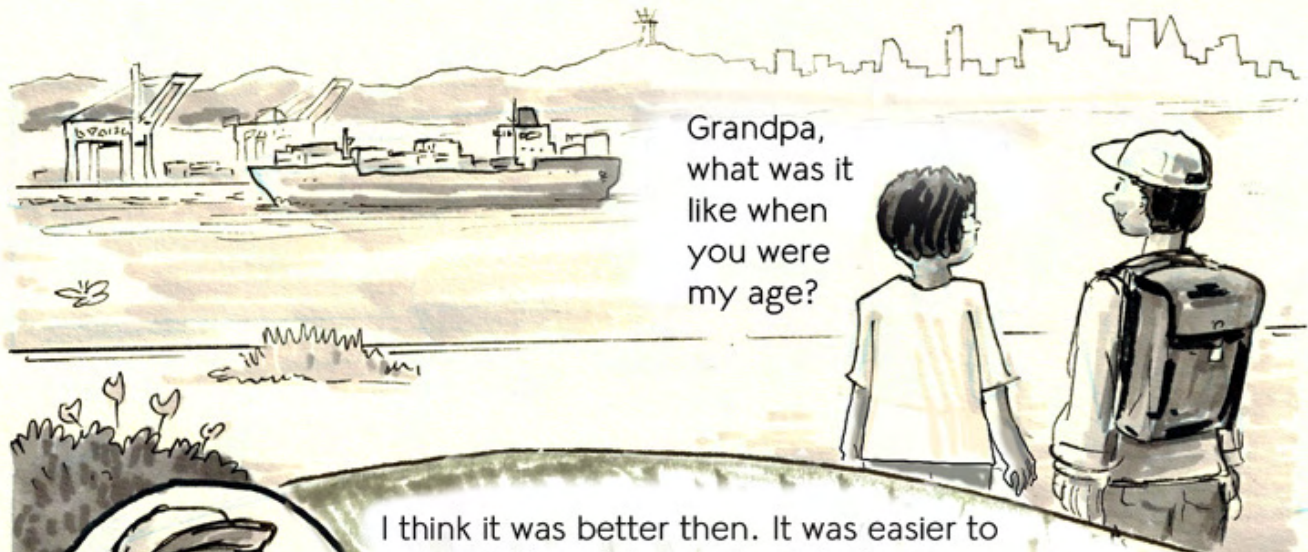
Story by Jean Tepperman
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Hey! My name is Gabe Sanchez. I'm 16. I live in East Oakland. I have a really important message for you.

Because I traveled into the future and I found out there's stuff we all have to do right now or my future and the future of all other kids is gonna suck.

Here's how it happened. My parents both work all the time and my older brother and sister are always out with their friends, so I spend a lot of time with my grandparents. My grandfather likes to take me fishing at the pier. One day we were out there and it was sunny and warm - for a change.



Grandpa,
what was it
like when
you were
my age?

I think it was better then. It was easier to
get part-time jobs. And a lot of us were
pretty excited about Cesar Chavez
and the La Raza movement.



Grandpa, what do
you think things will
be like when I'm
your age?



I have no idea.
But this nice warm
sun is making me
sleepy.

So of course he took a nap. And it was all so
calm and sunny, pretty soon I also fell asleep.



The next thing I knew there was another old man standing there - not Grandpa. He wore weird, raggedy clothes.



Hi - who are you? You look familiar.

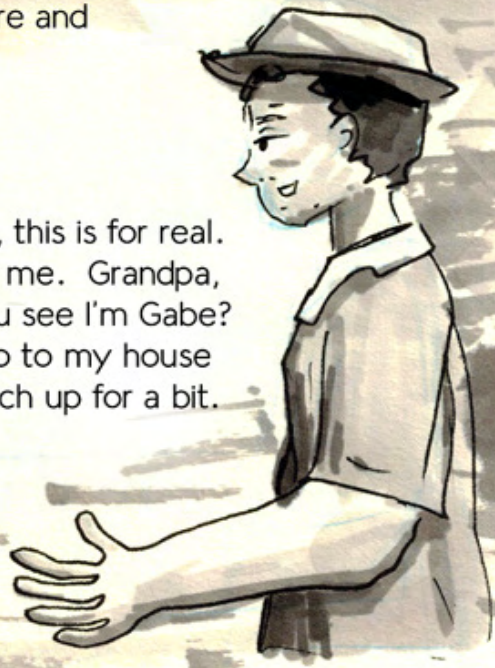


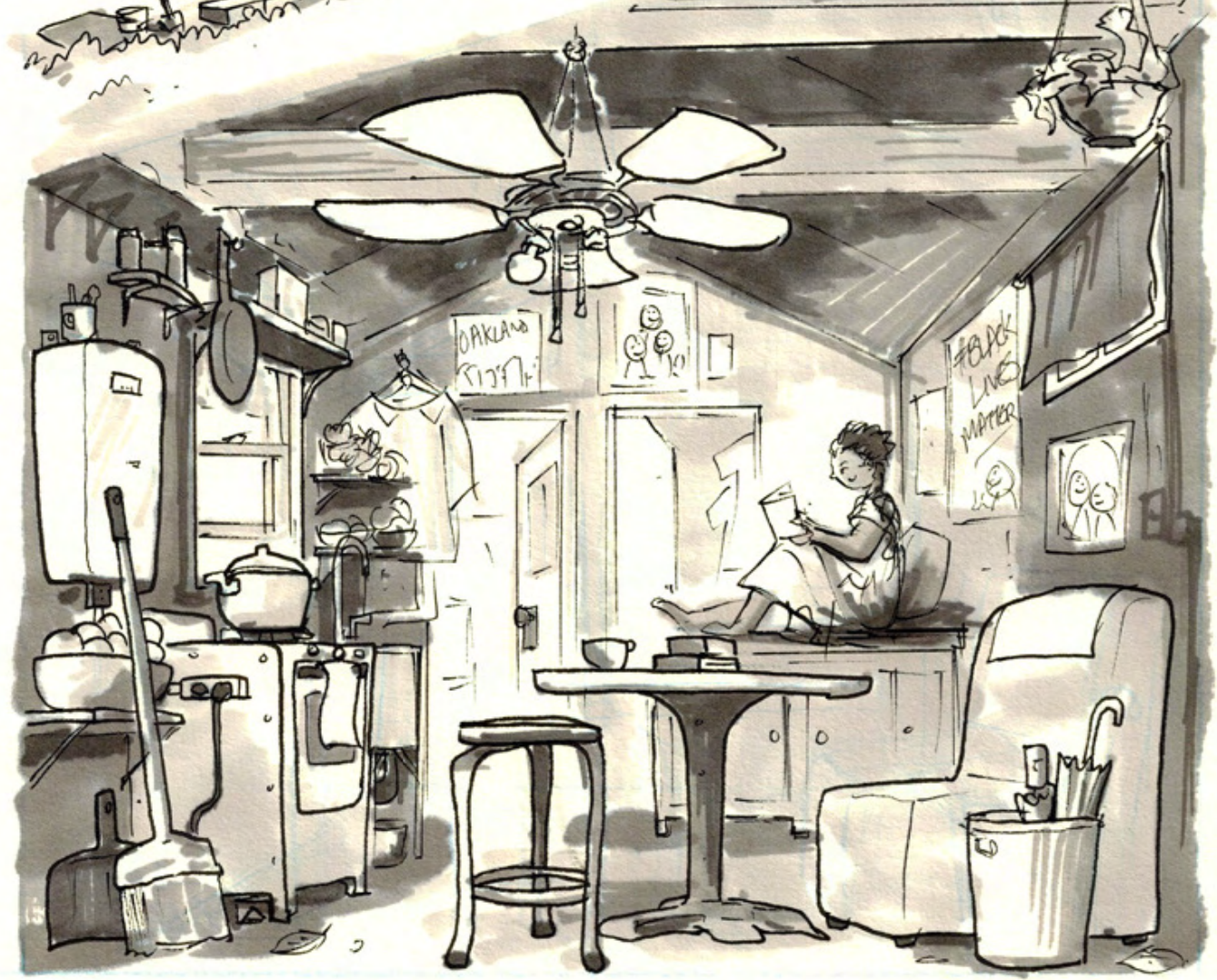
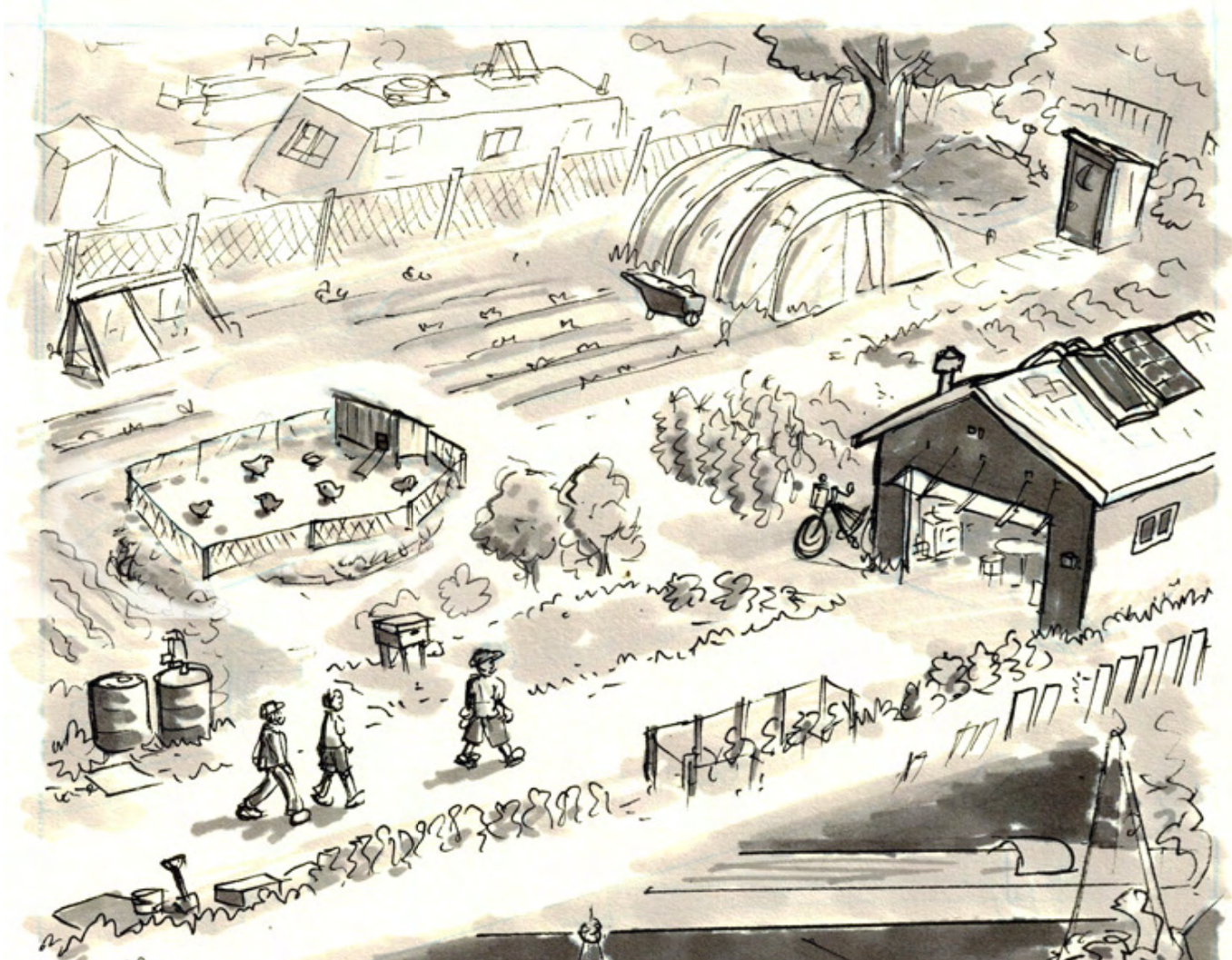
I should. I'm you, 60 years old. You wanted to know what things would be like when you're your grandpa's age.

So I thought I'd take you both into the future and show you.



No wait, this is for real. Look at me. Grandpa, can't you see I'm Gabe? Let's go to my house and catch up for a bit.





Welcome to my humble abode.
This is Tanya, my wife.



Pleased to meet
you, Tanya.



Wait - isn't this my old garage?



Well actually,
yes.



But where's
the house?



That's a
long story.

But it's part of what I
came to tell you
about.



Back in 2046, when I was 45 years old, the weather had been getting strange for a long time - winters when it stayed warm and didn't rain, and summers when it never got hot. We also started having hurricanes, like they used to only have on the East Coast.



In 2046 we had a superstorm that was like 2017's Hurricane Harvey - but way worse.

At that time I was a truck driver taking loads to and from the port - I'd been doing that for 20 years. We knew it was coming and tried to get ready.

Don't you dare go to work in this storm! It's not safe!



I gotta go. You gotta show up to keep getting work.



Weather aside, things had just gotten good. Fixed up my truck and was getting good jobs.

Me and my neighbors had finally bought the houses we used to rent.



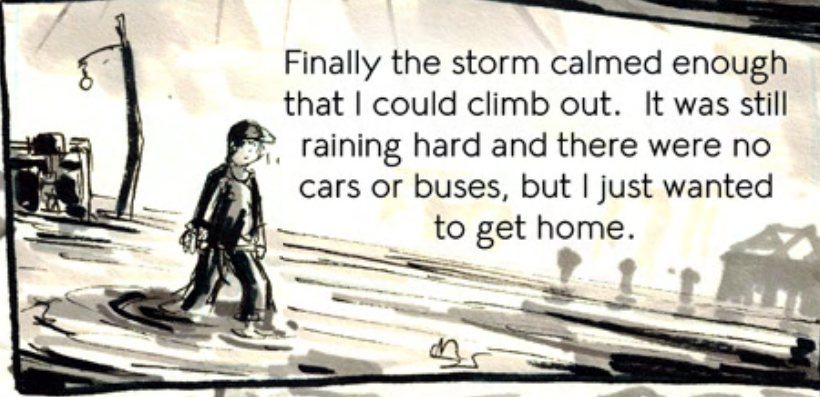
I was almost out to the port terminals when the storm hit the coast.



Then a huge wave came and my truck got smashed up. I was stuck for almost a whole day watching the water and listening to the wind.



Finally the storm calmed enough that I could climb out. It was still raining hard and there were no cars or buses, but I just wanted to get home.



Finally I got home - just so glad to be there. Went to bed.



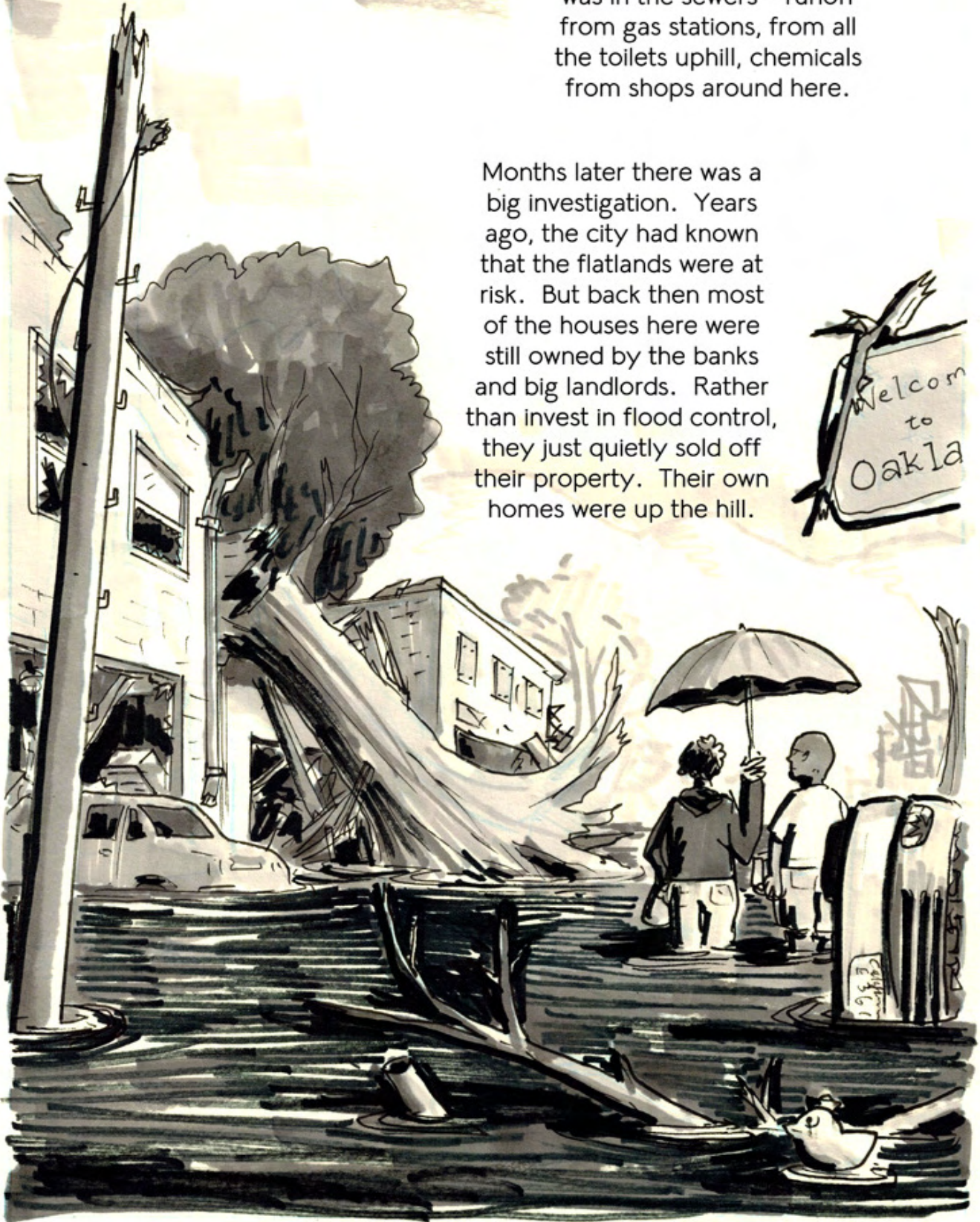
Then that night we started hearing more water rushing. There was a smell like a lot of toilets overflowing mixed with chemicals.

Turned out that the tons of water pouring down the hills overflowed the sewer system, and here in the flatlands water came up from the storm drains. Our whole neighborhood was flooded.

Next morning, there was a couple feet of water in our street - and in our house.

Mixed with whatever else was in the sewers - runoff from gas stations, from all the toilets uphill, chemicals from shops around here.

Months later there was a big investigation. Years ago, the city had known that the flatlands were at risk. But back then most of the houses here were still owned by the banks and big landlords. Rather than invest in flood control, they just quietly sold off their property. Their own homes were up the hill.





So in a couple days, when the water went down our house was pretty much wrecked. All that stuff just soaked in since the wind had torn parts of the roof and porch off.

My truck was wrecked, and the roads to the port were out anyway. The hurricane destroyed a lot of the stuff at the port - it was years before the port was back in business and even then it wasn't what it was. So no truck, no job, no money. There was no way we could fix the house.

Anyway, by then we were having trouble getting food.



Food?

It's OK.
Here's fruit and
lemonade from
our garden.

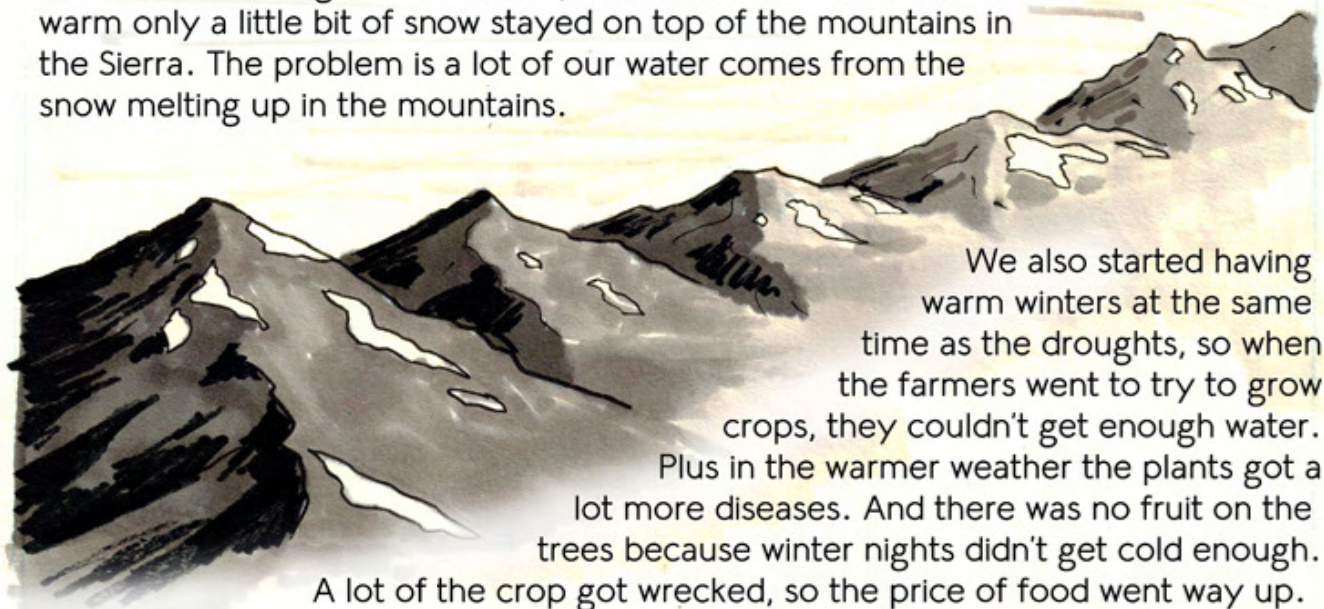


Well, I told you the
weather was strange -
droughts, storms, getting
hotter - global warming.
You heard of it?



Yeah, but I thought
it was OK. I like
warm weather.

Yeah, well. There got to be more years when the winter was so warm only a little bit of snow stayed on top of the mountains in the Sierra. The problem is a lot of our water comes from the snow melting up in the mountains.



We also started having warm winters at the same time as the droughts, so when the farmers went to try to grow crops, they couldn't get enough water.

Plus in the warmer weather the plants got a lot more diseases. And there was no fruit on the trees because winter nights didn't get cold enough.

A lot of the crop got wrecked, so the price of food went way up.

Already back in your time plenty of people were hungry cause they couldn't afford food. The drought made it worse.



— So anyways, Grandma always had a garden — we ate all summer from her garden.

Sure, I help her a lot!



It was lucky you learned! He — you — were feeding our family from that garden while all this was happening. By that time we had three kids.

Malcolm — after my brother, Joe, and Alicia.



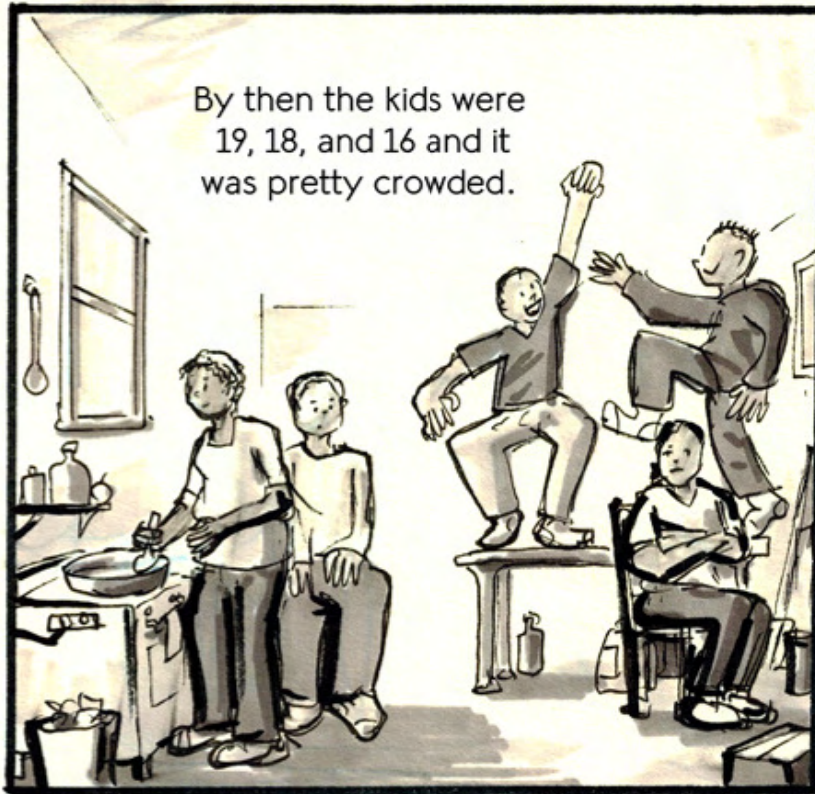
It was hard to keep it watered, especially recently — we've only been getting water from the pipes about half the day. But we saved the water from our showers, washing dishes, everything — even got a big barrel to catch rain.



But every year there was less stuff we could afford to buy, and sometimes we couldn't get the basics, like beans and cornmeal. So we were thinking about how could we grow that stuff too but we didn't have enough land. So when the house got wrecked, we decided to tear it down and use that land to make a bigger garden and move in here. We were lucky. Not many houses around here have garages.



By then the kids were 19, 18, and 16 and it was pretty crowded.



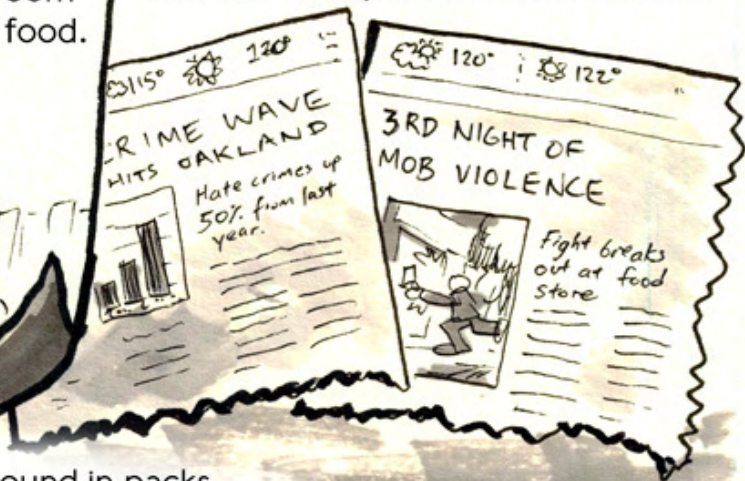
Plus it turned out that hotter weather made pollution worse. Even in your day pollution was worse here than in other neighborhoods. Back then half the kids around here had asthma. Now they mostly all do. We made a lot of runs to the emergency room. And we were lucky. Some kids around here didn't make it.



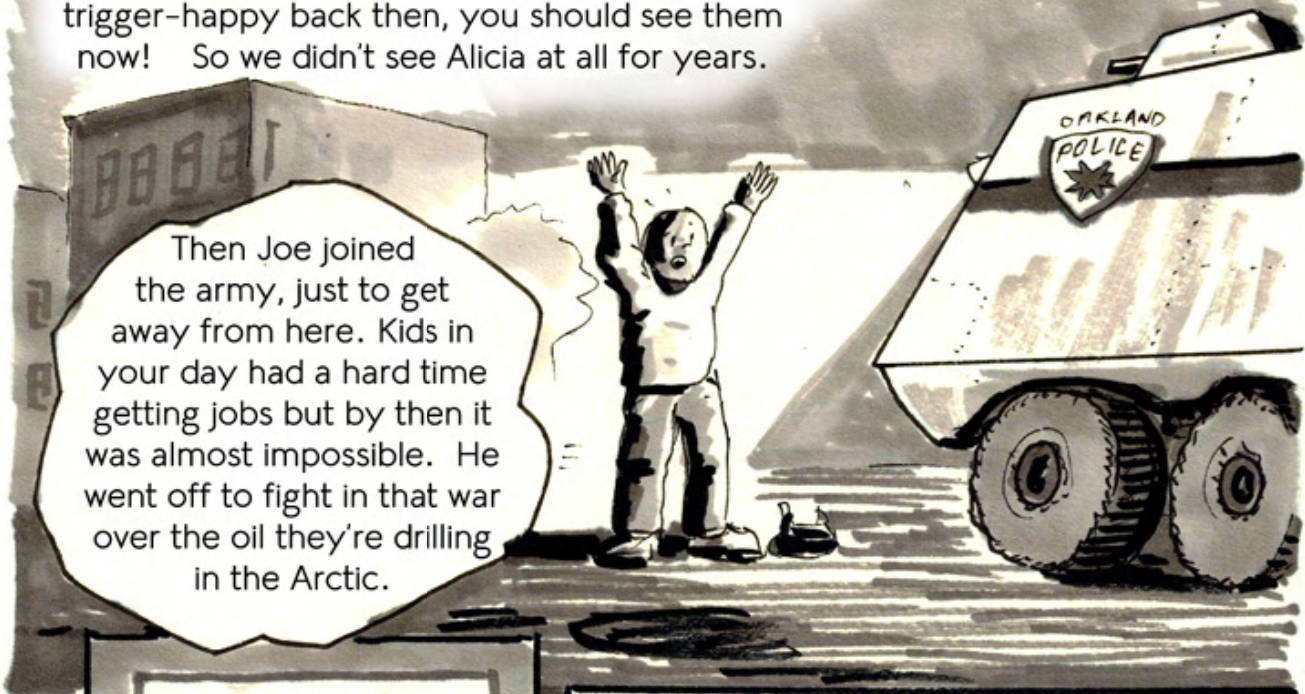
The boys got on Alicia's nerves in such a small space, so she started staying over at her girlfriend's house. They had more room and more food.



Then the streets got so dangerous she was afraid to come home. Lots of racism, random violence, blaming other people for the shortages. The media only added fuel to the fire.



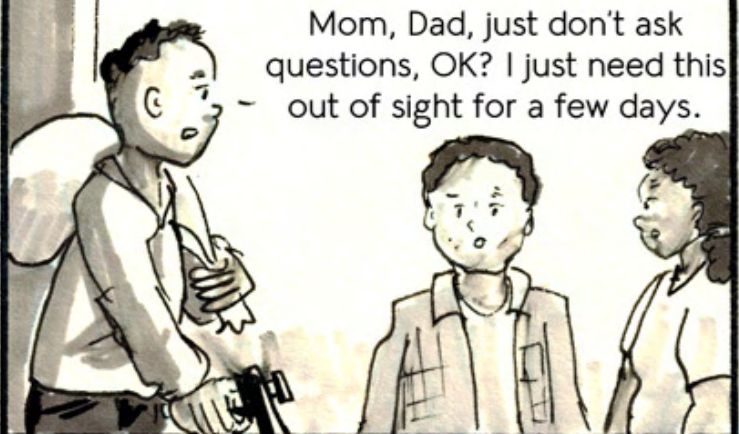
Then the police started going around in packs too. If you think cops in this neighborhood were trigger-happy back then, you should see them now! So we didn't see Alicia at all for years.



Then Joe joined the army, just to get away from here. Kids in your day had a hard time getting jobs but by then it was almost impossible. He went off to fight in that war over the oil they're drilling in the Arctic.



Then Malcolm, our oldest, went off. We never knew where he was or what he was doing but he was into some dangerous stuff.

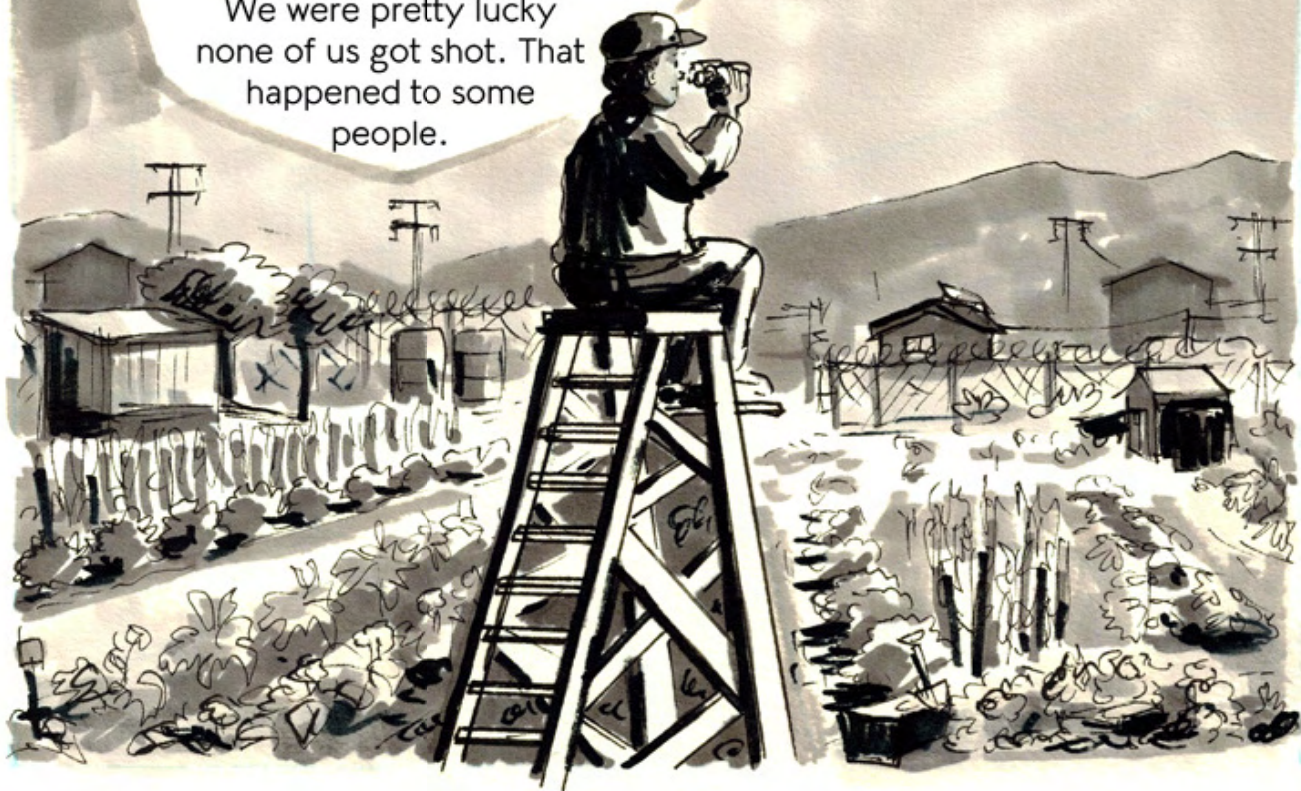


There were so many people who couldn't get work – when agriculture went down the whole state sorta went down. People were desperate. Crime was up, and people would steal stuff out of our garden.



It got really bad when the city went bankrupt and couldn't pay the cops. Some of them started taking food from the neighborhoods. Our street put barbwire fence around the block, and we took turns guarding the gardens.

We were pretty lucky none of us got shot. That happened to some people.





Did you get another job?

Well, there really weren't that many jobs. I got a little money fixing people's cars.

But as things got worse, not that many people even had cars, let alone the money to fix them, so I just got into fixing every little machine people still had.



As for me, for a while I was making some money taking care of sick rich folks.

You know how in your time there were rich people taking over neighborhoods and pushing regular people out? Well after the big flood in '46, when a lot of people's houses got wrecked, developers bought up big chunks of land and turned them into gated communities.



But as time went on they put private armed guards and weapons around their blocks, so it got dangerous for anyone with a black or brown face to get too close. Those guards are pretty jumpy.



There's not so much money around these days. Mostly we trade with people for stuff. I went to school for nursing for a while but I couldn't finish - that's another story. So I take care of sick people in the neighborhood and they pay me in food or rides or whatever. Gabe too - sometimes it's money, mostly it's trading stuff.

And Malcolm brings us stuff.

Son, where did you get that?

Don't ask questions, Pop. Don't you want regular electricity? Power was off again most of yesterday, right?



So what's the story about why you couldn't finish nursing school?

Well, I grew up in LA, South Central. I kind of messed around when I was a teenager

Gabe - you don't need to know any more about that.

Then around 20, I saw the light and started going to LA City College for my degree. But then when I was 22, we had one of those extreme heat waves where it was over 110 for four days.

We had gotten priced out of LA and were living in another city further inland, where it was the hottest.

There were hardly any shade trees and no parks, and all the pavement heated up the air.

A monster forest fire started in the mountains around LA. My little brother - he was just 19 - was in prison. For having a seriously small amount of drugs on him when a cop was having a bad day. So he ended up being one of the prisoners they sent out to fight fires. They got some training but obviously had no experience.



Two days later, he was killed, along
with three of his best buddies.



But at least my mother never knew
about it because the heat killed her
first. She had a heart condition and
we had no air conditioner -
our neighborhood was one
of those "urban hot spots".
Not like it would have
helped though --
the power grid
went down.



So there I
was, with
my family
gone in
three days.

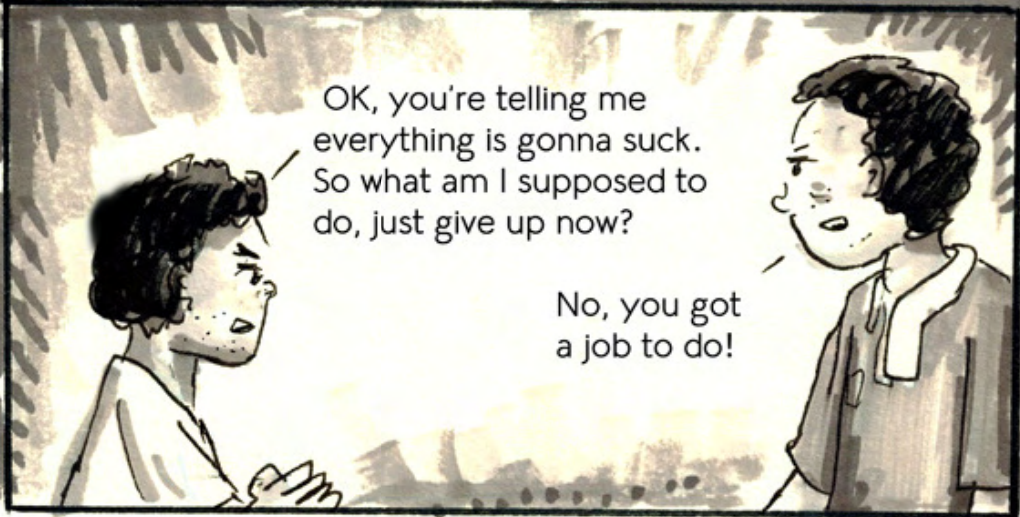


I just sat
in the
apartment.
Couldn't
move.



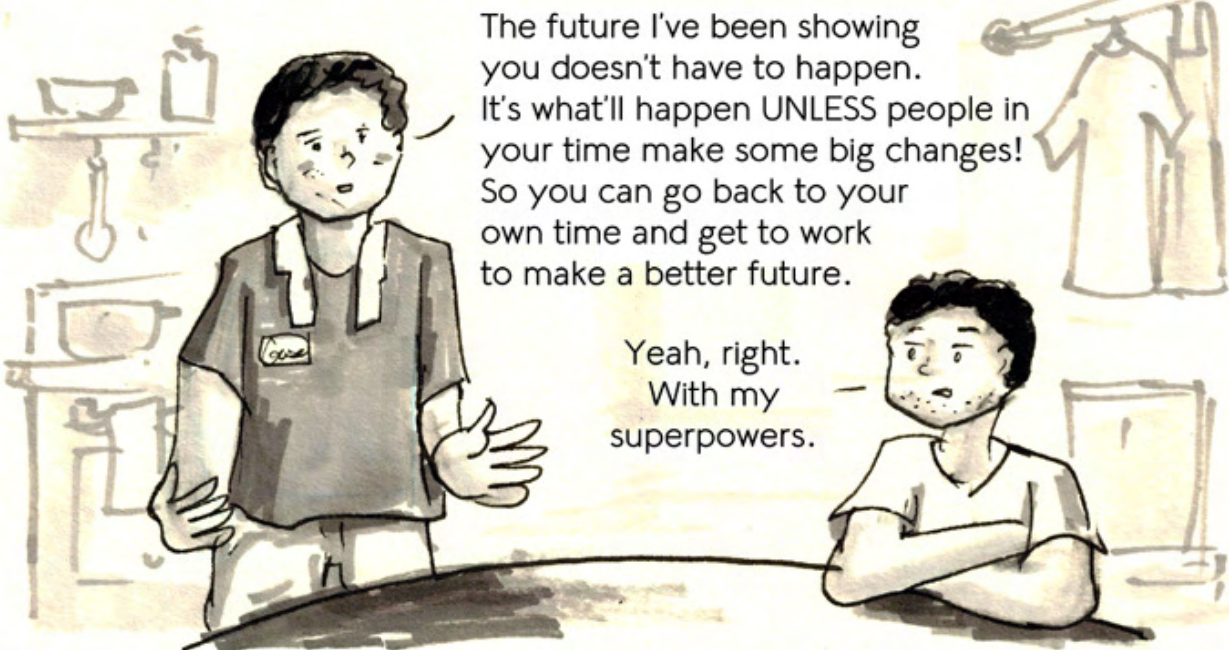
But Auntie Michelle...

You think I'm going to let my niece just sit there? I'm bringing you back up to Oakland.



OK, you're telling me everything is gonna suck. So what am I supposed to do, just give up now?

No, you got a job to do!



The future I've been showing you doesn't have to happen. It's what'll happen UNLESS people in your time make some big changes! So you can go back to your own time and get to work to make a better future.

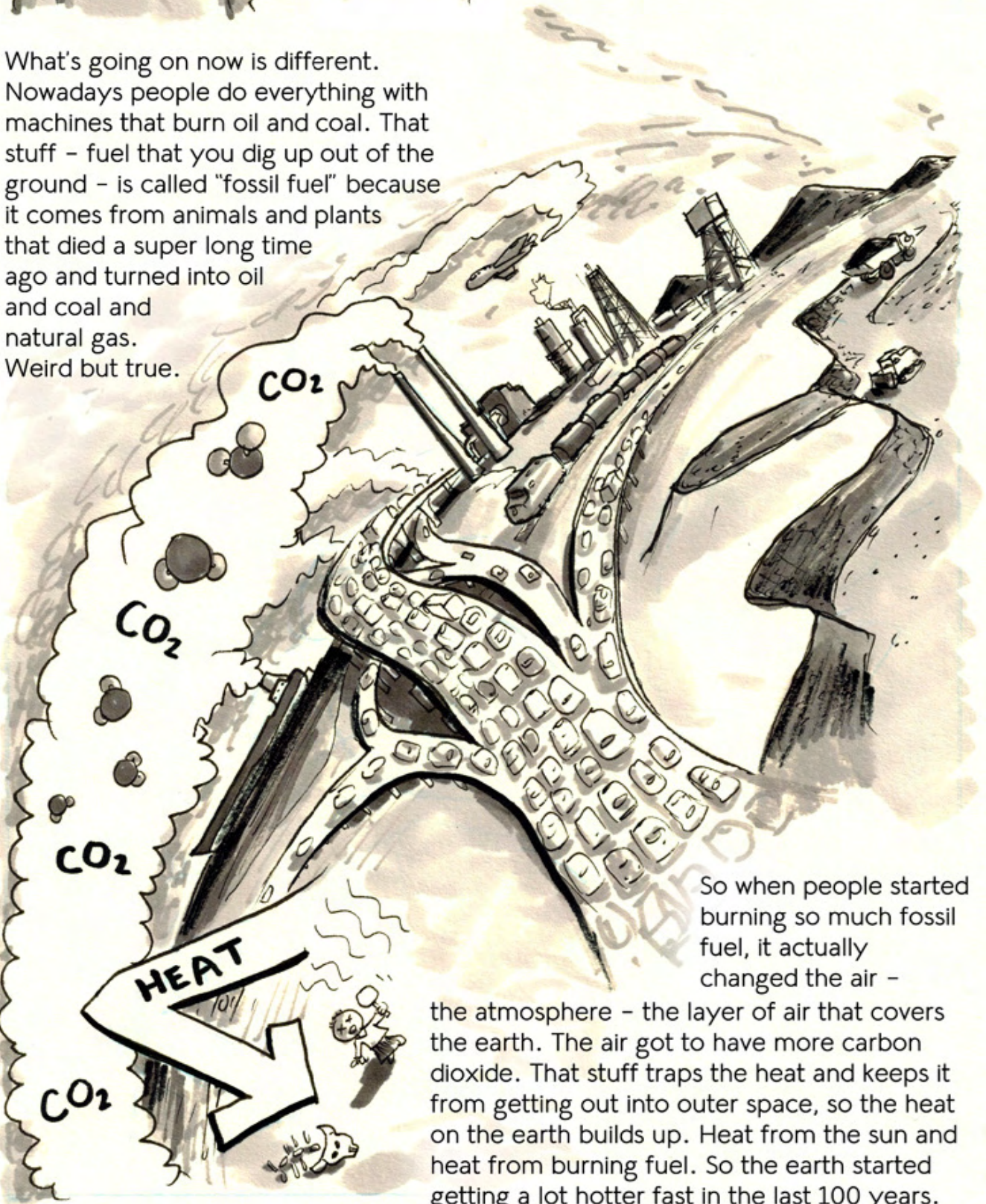
Yeah, right. With my superpowers.

No, with your friends and neighbors and people all over the world who are getting together to fight climate change and take care of each other.



You're saying all this evil stuff is gonna happen because of the weather? Weather's just weather, man!

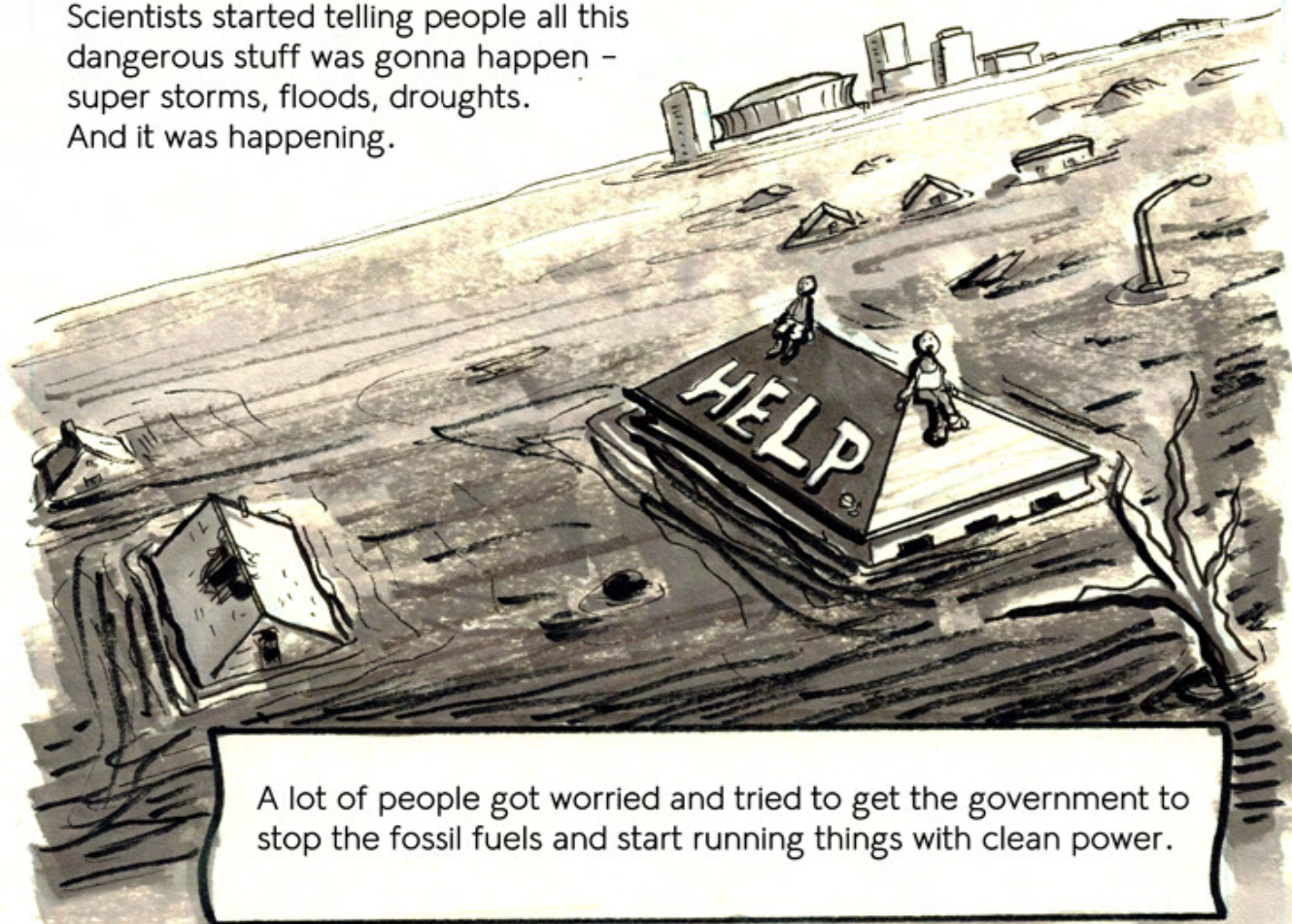
What's going on now is different. Nowadays people do everything with machines that burn oil and coal. That stuff – fuel that you dig up out of the ground – is called “fossil fuel” because it comes from animals and plants that died a super long time ago and turned into oil and coal and natural gas. Weird but true.



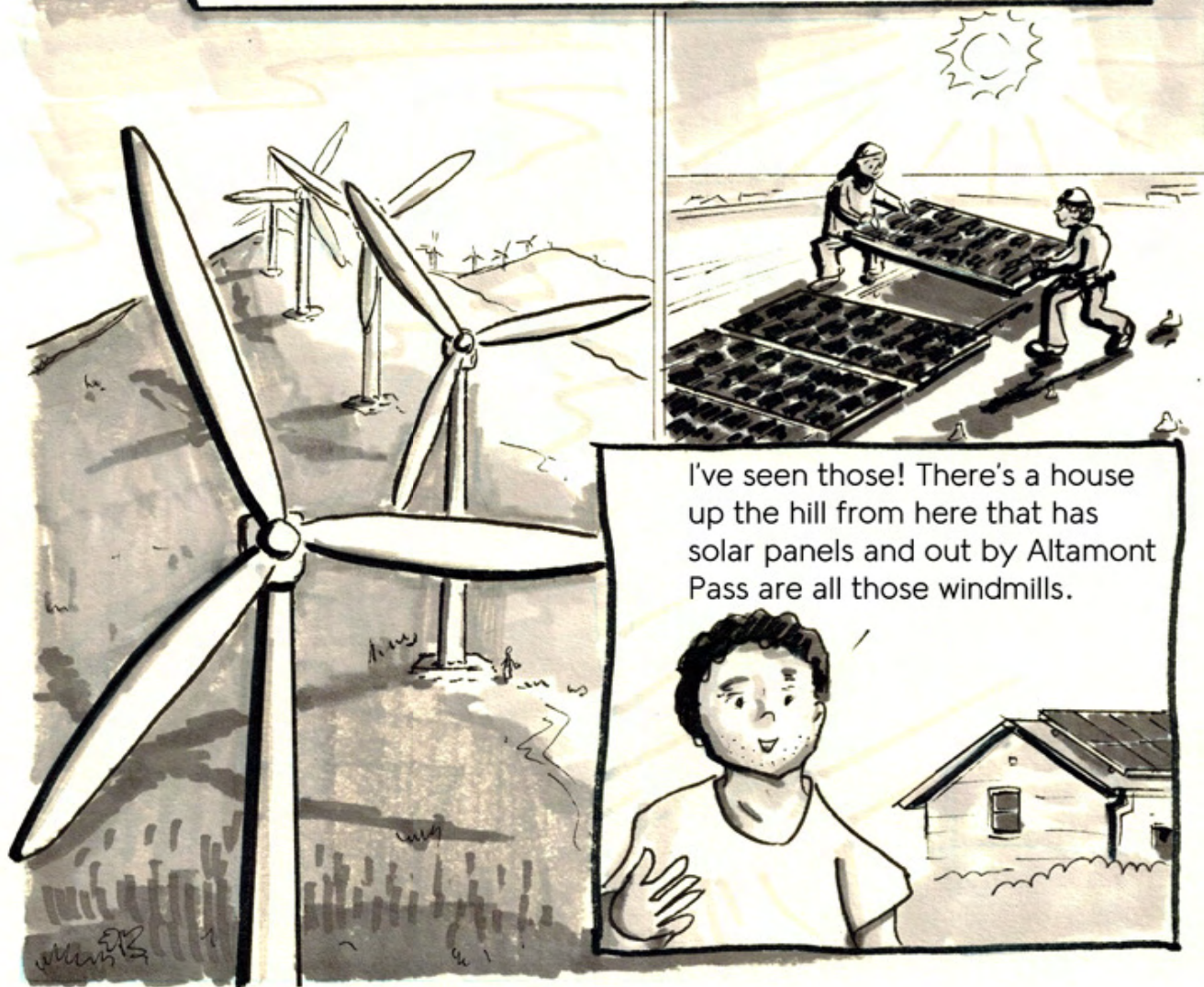
So when people started burning so much fossil fuel, it actually changed the air –

the atmosphere – the layer of air that covers the earth. The air got to have more carbon dioxide. That stuff traps the heat and keeps it from getting out into outer space, so the heat on the earth builds up. Heat from the sun and heat from burning fuel. So the earth started getting a lot hotter fast in the last 100 years.

Scientists started telling people all this dangerous stuff was gonna happen - super storms, floods, droughts. And it was happening.



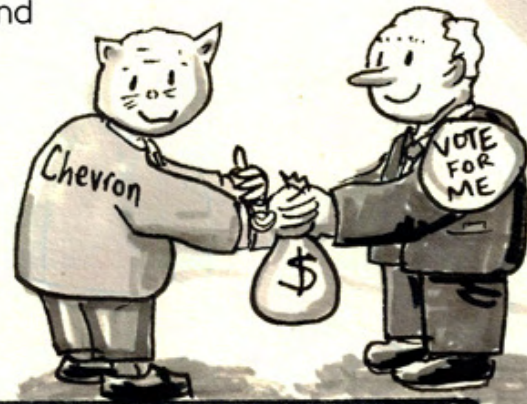
A lot of people got worried and tried to get the government to stop the fossil fuels and start running things with clean power.



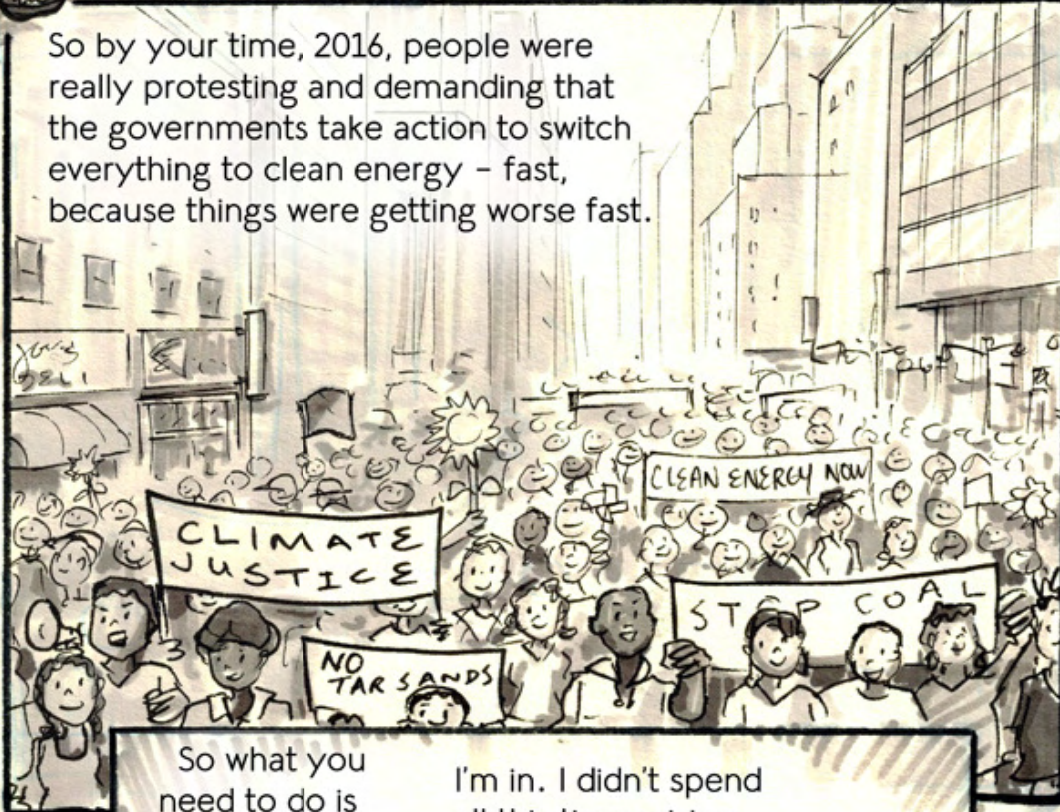
I've seen those! There's a house up the hill from here that has solar panels and out by Altamont Pass are all those windmills.

Yeah, a lot of people started doing all those little things but it wasn't enough.

And the government wouldn't do much because the coal and oil companies just basically bought all the politicians.



So by your time, 2016, people were really protesting and demanding that the governments take action to switch everything to clean energy - fast, because things were getting worse fast.



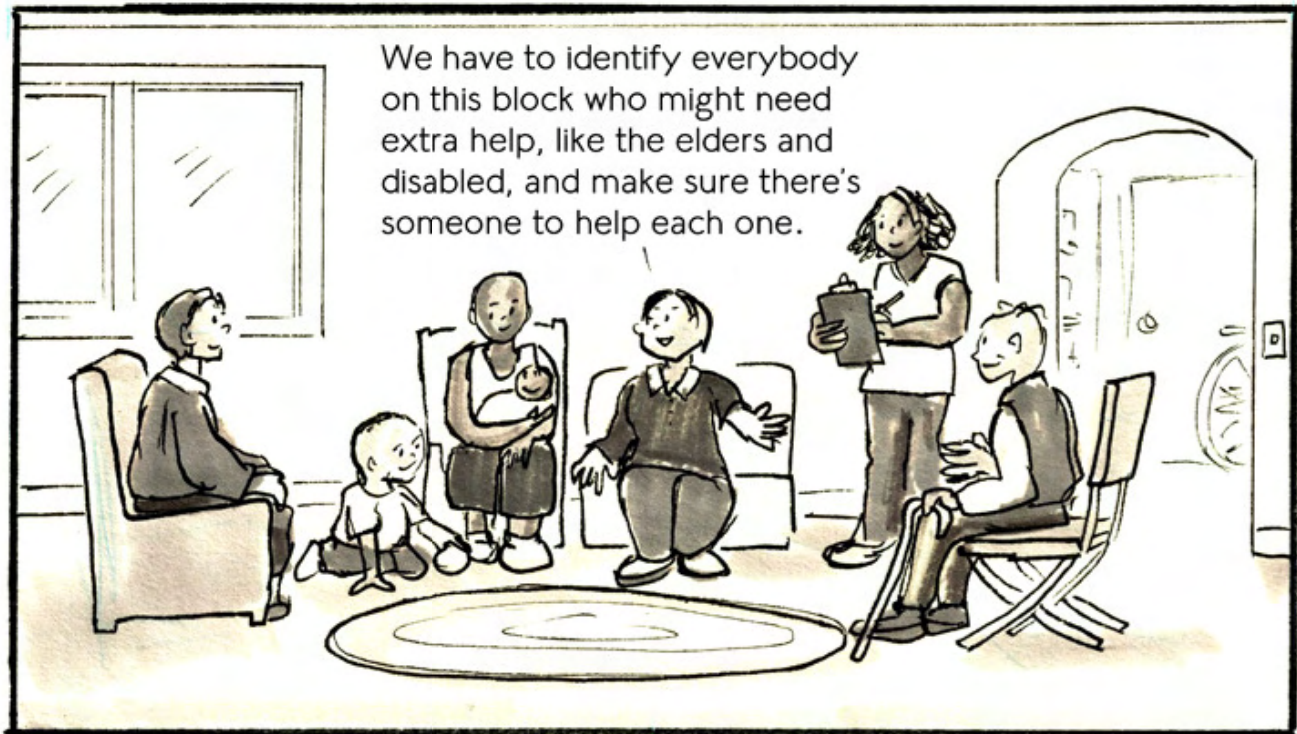
So what you need to do is join in - and get your friends and family to join in too.

I'm in. I didn't spend all this time raising this boy to have his life go up in flames.

What do we have to do?



First, there's things you can do right in your own neighborhood. Climate change is already happening, and people in communities around the world are getting ready to take care of each other when there's storms and heat waves.



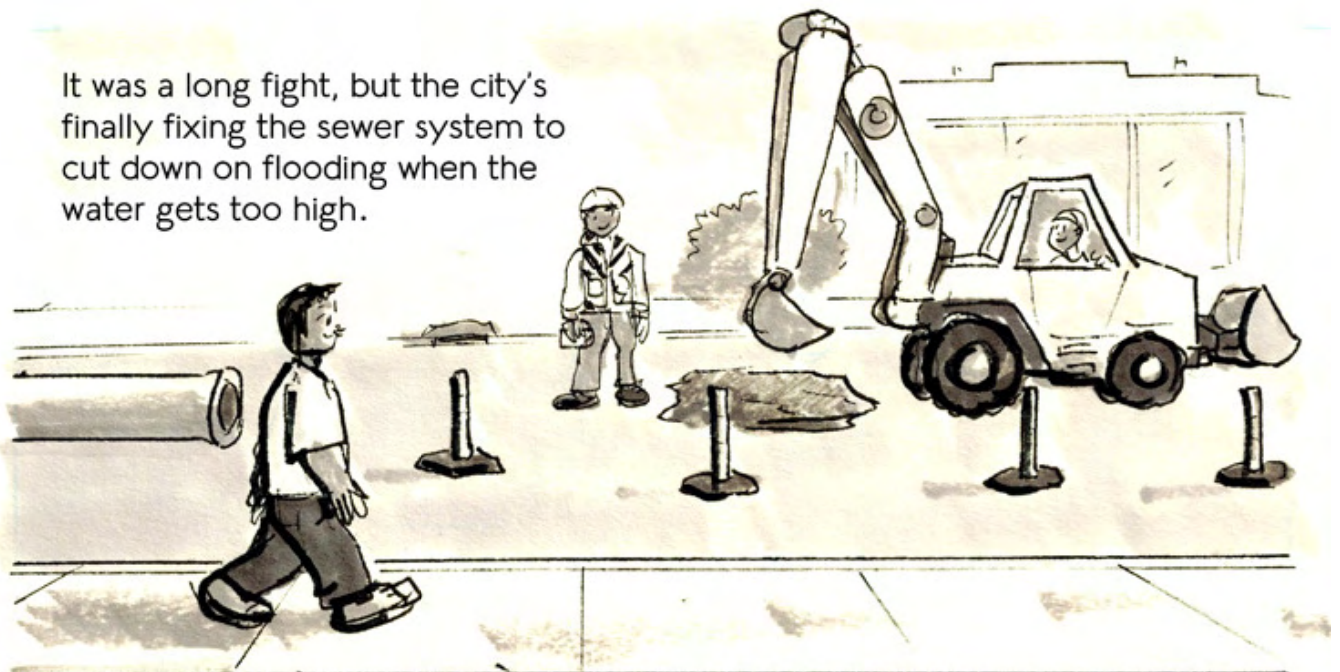
So when the heat wave comes, these six buildings have said they'll stay open as cooling-center shelters.



Planting trees, gardens and parks will help cool down the neighborhood



It was a long fight, but the city's finally fixing the sewer system to cut down on flooding when the water gets too high.



Now we've also got more marshland between us and the Bay - that keeps down flooding.



The city finally agreed to include people from the neighborhood whenever they make decisions about what's built here.



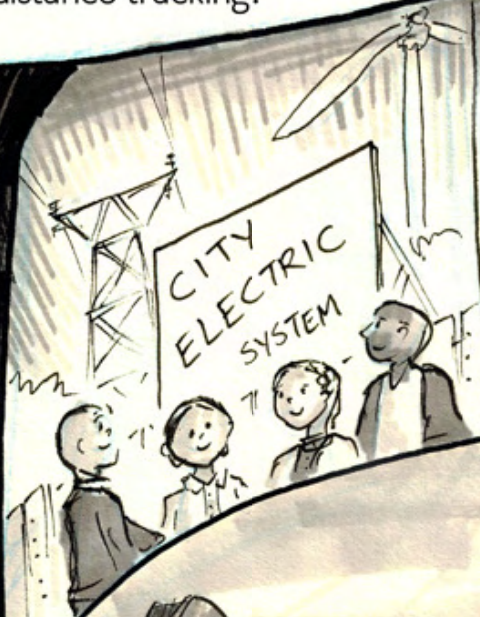
Communities are making changes that make life better now and also cut down on climate pollution.



With our community gardens we can feed ourselves – and cut down on the climate change produced by factory farms and long-distance trucking.



With better, affordable bus service, we can get around without cars.

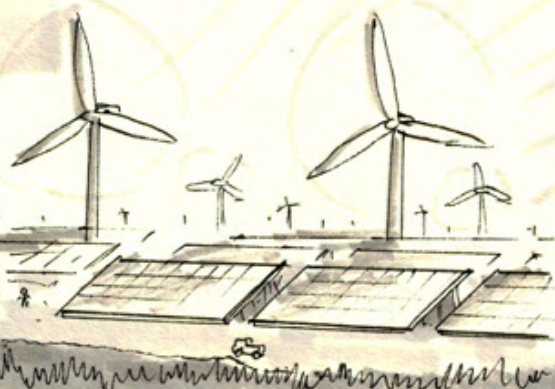


With community-owned utilities, we can take control from corporate utilities and keep our money to generate clean electricity right here, instead of adding to their profits.

With all this – resisting dirty energy companies and creating alternatives, communities build power.

CLOSED

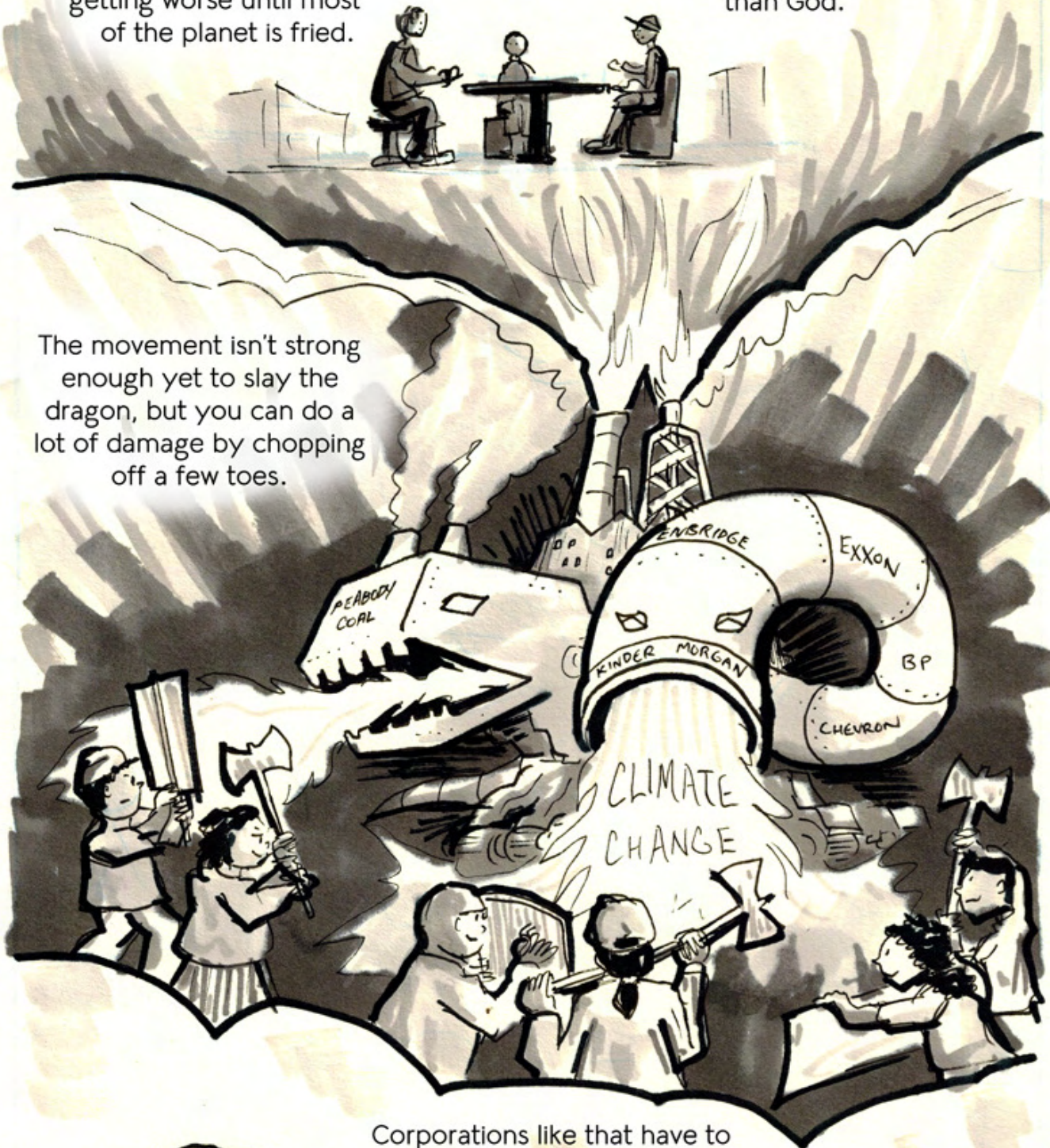
Power to stop the federal government from supporting fossil fuel companies and switch that support to a new, clean, energy system that provides good jobs.



But none of that will be enough unless we fight the companies making mega-profits selling oil, coal, and gas. Unless that stuff stays in the ground, things will keep getting worse until most of the planet is fried.

You can't fight those guys. They have more money than God.

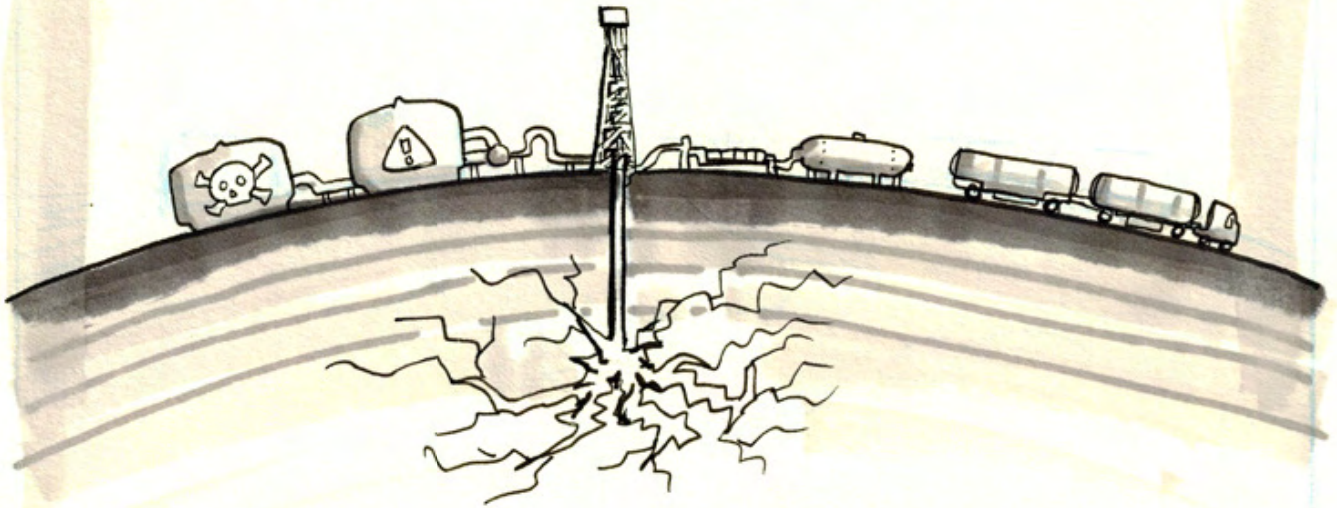
The movement isn't strong enough yet to slay the dragon, but you can do a lot of damage by chopping off a few toes.



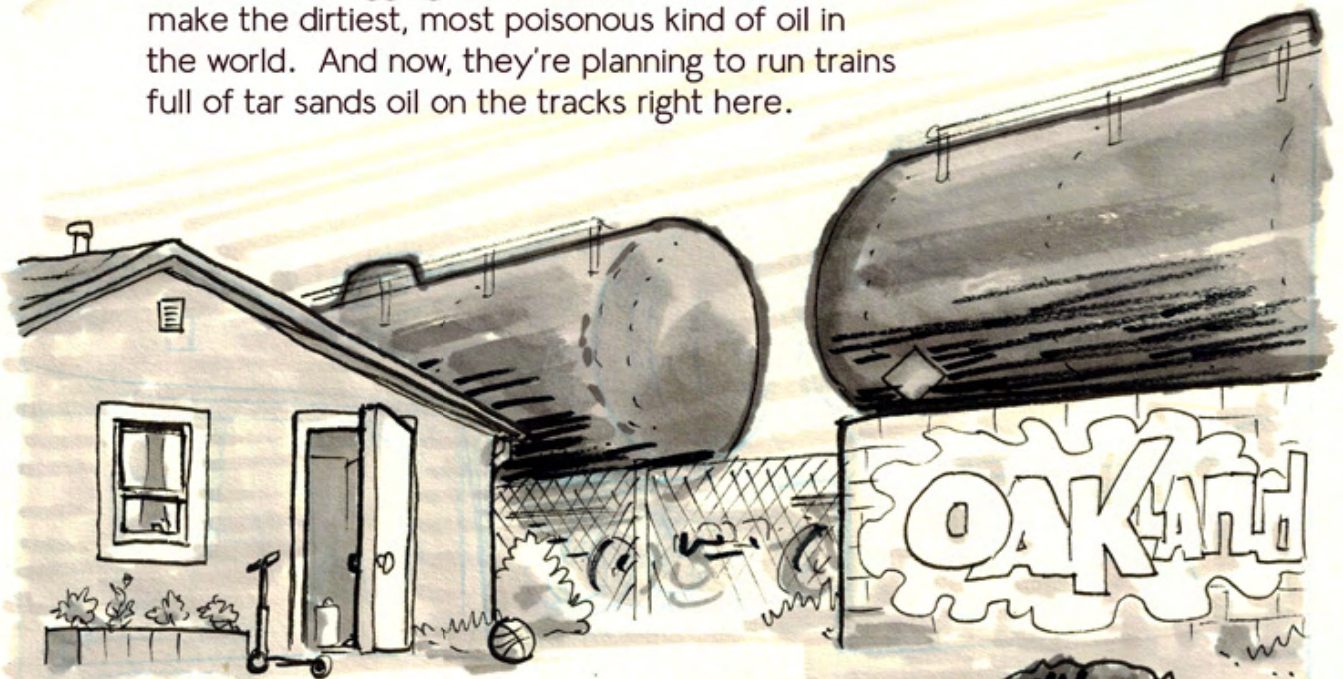
Corporations like that have to expand or die. They have to keep digging up new fossil fuel and build new ways to get it to market. You've heard of fracking, right?

Yeah, but I don't know what it is.

Fracking is where they take thousands of gallons of water and mix it with a lot of poisonous chemicals, and then blast it into the ground to smash up rocks and get to the oil and gas.

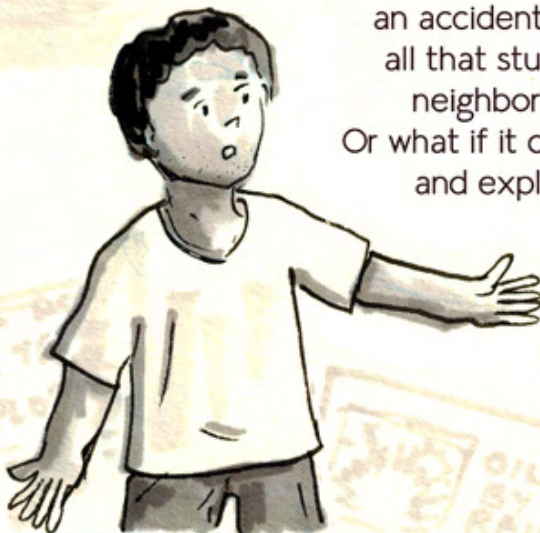


They're also digging up tar sands in Canada to make the dirtiest, most poisonous kind of oil in the world. And now, they're planning to run trains full of tar sands oil on the tracks right here.



What if they have an accident and spill all that stuff in the neighborhood? Or what if it catches fire and explodes?

Exactly.



But every place fossil fuel corporations are trying to expand, the people who live there are fighting to stop them. And sometimes they're winning.



After a big grassroots campaign, Oakland City Council banned a coal export terminal.



Cheyenne people in Montana stopped a coal mine that was to be built on their land.



People from all over the country fought for years and finally stopped the Keystone XL pipeline.



In the Bay Area, the people of Pittsburg and Benicia stopped plans to bring oil trains into their communities.



And when enough local communities take action they can force state and federal governments to act. More than 100 towns in New York State banned fracking, and then in 2015...

As governor of New York, I've decided not to allow fracking anywhere in the state!

State of New York
Governor Cuomo

People all over the world are fighting fossil fuel companies when they try to expand.

ECUADOR

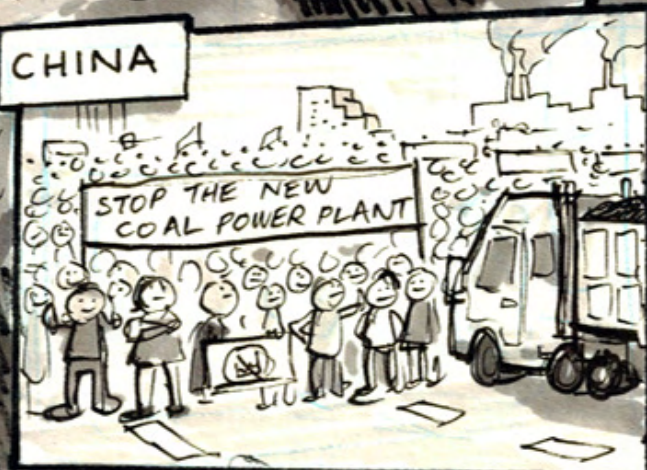
STOP CHEVRON
THIS IS OUR LAND

NIGERIA



CHINA

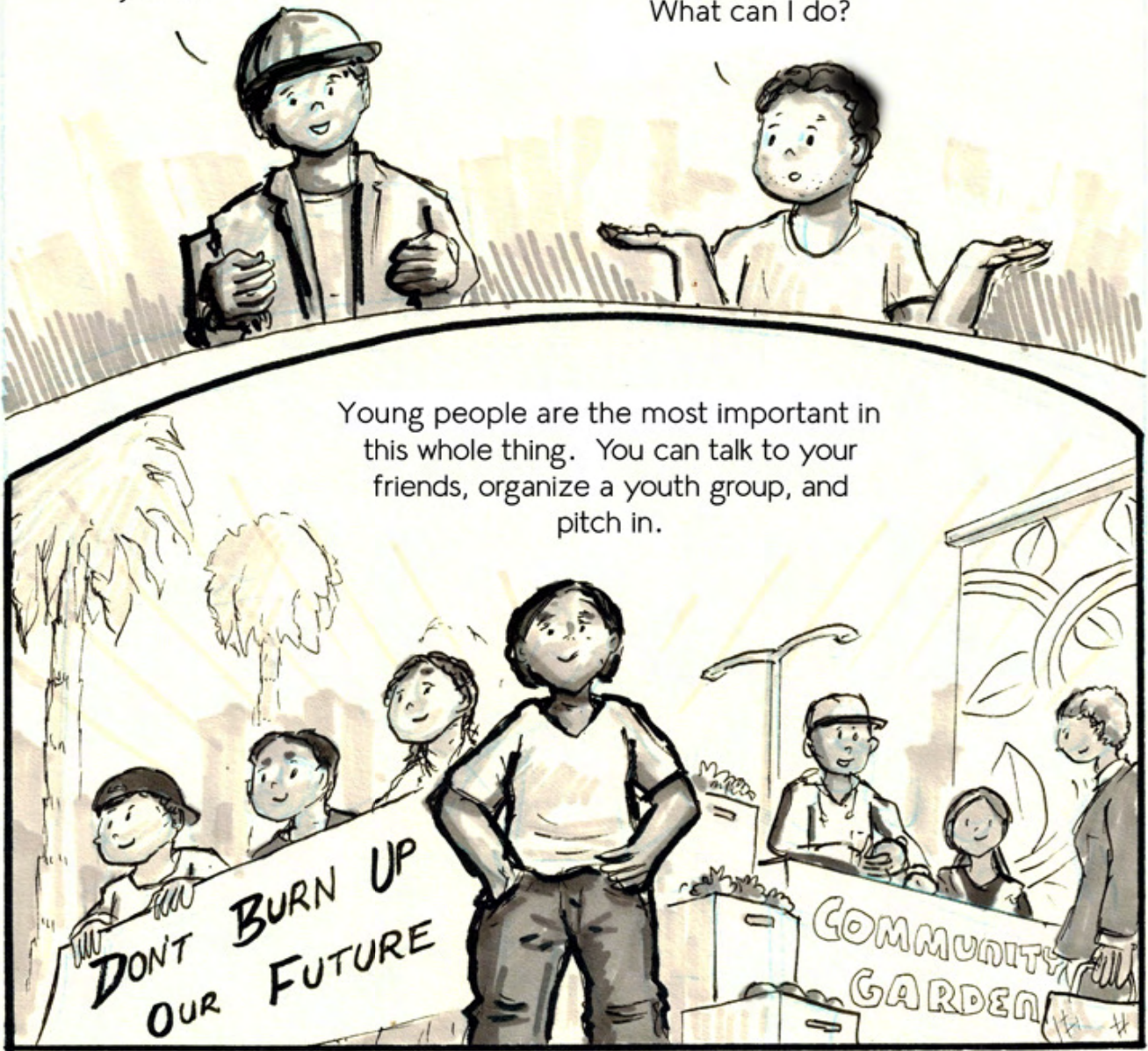
STOP THE NEW
COAL POWER PLANT



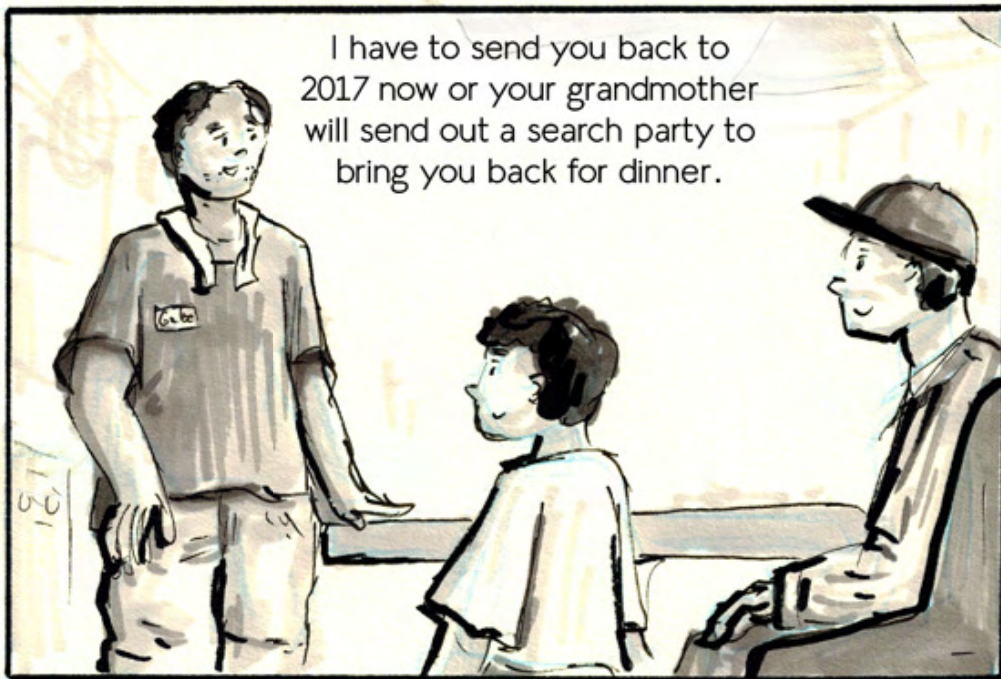
I'm ready to
join in!

But I'm just 16!
What can I do?

Young people are the most important in
this whole thing. You can talk to your
friends, organize a youth group, and
pitch in.



I have to send you back to
2017 now or your grandmother
will send out a search party to
bring you back for dinner.



Wow, I had the weirdest dream.

Me too.

I dreamed I met a guy who was me 50 years from now. He took us to his house, which was really a garage - actually our garage - and he was telling us...

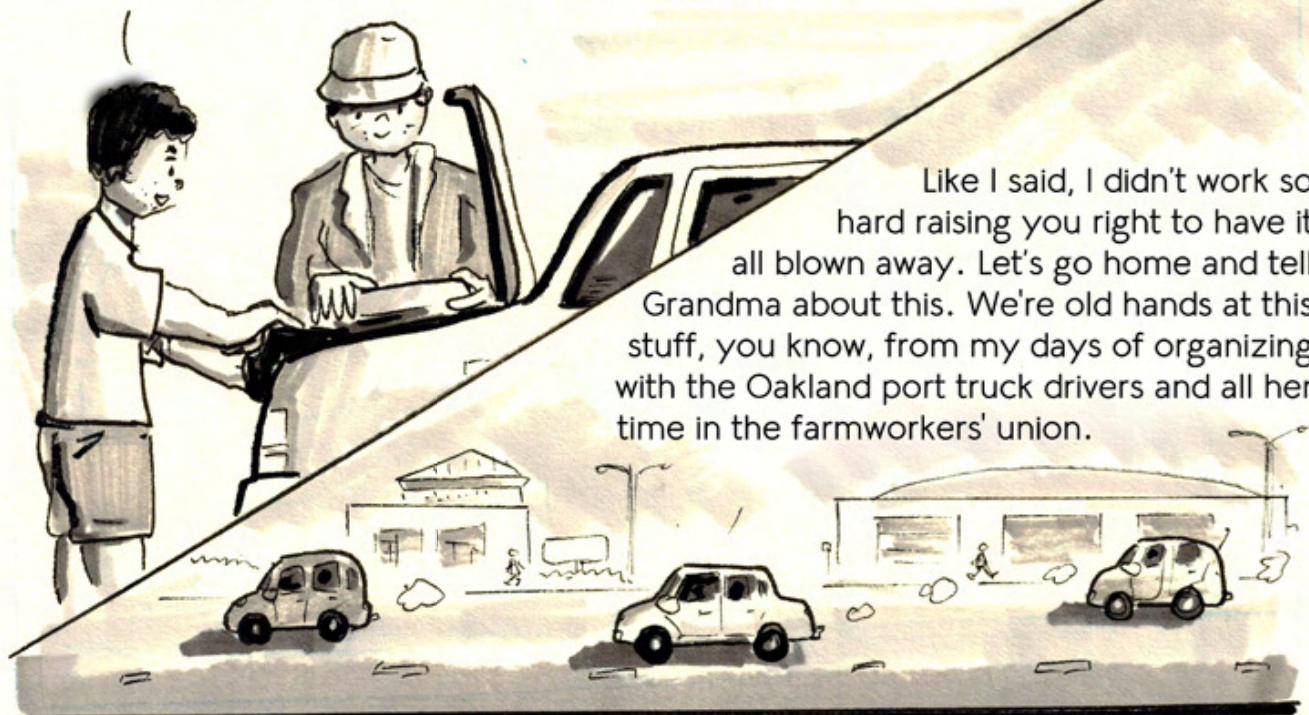
How climate change was going to mess everything up?

Yeah.

I was there too, right? Listen, I don't think it was a dream. From what I've heard, all that stuff could happen during your lifetime.



But he - I - told us lots of things we can do to make the future better. I got kind of excited about it, actually. A lot of it sounded pretty cool.



Like I said, I didn't work so hard raising you right to have it all blown away. Let's go home and tell Grandma about this. We're old hands at this stuff, you know, from my days of organizing with the Oakland port truck drivers and all her time in the farmworkers' union.



That's why I'm telling you about this. Because the only way we can change that future is if tons more people get involved, the whole community. So YOU need to do some of this stuff too. There's so much to do, everybody can figure out a way they can plug in.

Here's a list of some of the stuff already going on around here.

350 Bay Area

Building a grassroots climate movement working for deep reductions in carbon pollution in the Bay Area and beyond.
www.350bayarea.org
PO Box 18762, Oakland, CA 94619

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Advocacy for environmental, social, and economic justice based in Asian and Pacific Islander communities.
<http://apen4ej.org>
426 17th St., Suite 500, Oakland, CA 94612
510-834-8920

Communities for a Better Environment

Organizing to empower communities of color and low-income communities to prevent and reduce pollution and build green, healthy, and sustainable communities.
www.cbecal.org
120 Broadway Ave, Suite 2
Richmond, CA, 94804
510-302-0430

More on next page

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JFC
2005

Community gardens: We couldn't find a list of all the community gardens in the Bay Area. Here are some places to start with, but please don't limit yourself to these – look around!
–Bay Area: www.gardenfortheenvironment.org
–East Bay: growyouroakland.org
–Richmond: www.urbantilth.org

Ditching Dirty Diesel

A coalition of environmental justice and health affected groups working to reduce diesel pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area while educating and building an informed constituency for change.
www.ditchingdirtydiesel.org

Ecology Center

Runs farmers markets and other community food programs, provides many informational and education resources, and coordinates coalitions on food policy and climate change
www.ecologycenter.org
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite H
Berkeley, CA 94702
510-548-2220

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

A multiracial grassroots organization fighting for environmental justice and a clean, healthy, and just future for all.
www.greenaction.org 415-447-3904
559 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Interfaith Power and Light

A faith-based organization responding to global warming by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.
www.interfaithpowerandlight.org
369 Pine Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94104 415-561-4891

Local Clean Energy Alliance

Advocates for equitable programs for energy conservation, local renewable energy, and community choice energy programs (local control of energy).
www.localcleanenergy.org
436 14th St., #1216, Oakland, CA 94612
510-834-0420

Movement Generation

Inspires and engages low-income communities and communities of color to build a just transition away from profit and pollution and toward healthy, resilient, and life-affirming local economies.
www.movementgeneration.org
510-649-1475

Network of Bay Area Worker Cooperatives

A grassroots organization of democratic workplaces, mostly worker cooperatives, dedicated to building workplace democracy in the San Francisco Bay Area.
<http://nobawc.org>

Rooted in Resilience

A nonprofit working at the intersection of racial, economic, and environmental justice to catalyze a movement for equity and community resilience.
www.rootedinresilience.org
436 14th Street, Suite 1216 Oakland, CA 94612

Sierra Club

Fights sources of pollution and climate change, leads outings for exploring natural areas.
www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Berkeley, CA 94702
510-848-0800

Sunflower Alliance

Resists the expansion of fossil fuel extraction, processing, and transportation in the Bay Area. Works for climate justice
www.sunflower-alliance.org

Transportation: Advocacy for public transportation:

–Genesis: www.genesisca.org
2501 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612
–Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
www.calorganize.org/chapter/903/home
2501 International Blvd., Suite D, Oakland, CA
510-269-4692

Urban Habitat

Works for environmental, economic, and social justice in the Bay Area by building power in low-income communities and communities of color.
www.urbanhabitat.org
1212 Broadway, Suite 500 Oakland, CA 94612
510-839-9510

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

A resident-led community-based environmental justice organization working for healthy jobs, homes, and neighborhood for West Oakland.
www.woeip.org
349 Mandela Pkwy, Oakland, CA 94607
510-257-5640

We consulted many sources before creating this book. Here's a list of some of the clearest and most informative documents:

California Climate Action Team, *Biennial Report*, April 2010

California Climate Change Center, *The Impacts of Sea Level Rise on the San Francisco Bay*, July 2012

California Climate Change Center, *Our Changing Climate*, 2012

California Energy Commission and California Environmental Protection Agency, *Our Changing Climate*, July 2006

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and California Environmental Protection Agency, *Indicators of Climate Change in California*, August 2013

Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*, Simon and Schuster, 2014

Oakland Local, "When the Sea Levels Rise in the Bay, Where Will it Hurt in Oakland?" June 12, 2014

Bryan C. Weare, "How Will Changes in Global Climate Influence California?" in *California Agriculture Review*, 63:2, November 2013

WARNING FROM MY FUTURE SELF

Within the next 40 years,
climate change will have huge
impacts on Oakland.
Find out how you can help your
community survive, and how
you can fight to keep it from
getting worse.

SAVE
OAKLAND

Worst effects of climate change yet to come

Scientists predict riots, war,
collapse of businesses and
government services.

Low income areas at greatest risk

Climate impacts in next half
century may shorten life
expectancy by over 15 years
in certain areas.

warns that "whole cities will be abandoned"

Over 100,000 to
be evacuated in
the Bay Area
alone in next

Alarm raised in Oakland over future super storm

East and West
Oakland unprepared
for flooding.

COMMUNITY MEETING

GREEN
JOBS



STOP

THE
COAL TERMINAL
PROTECT CLEAN AIR

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DAY



YOUTH
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