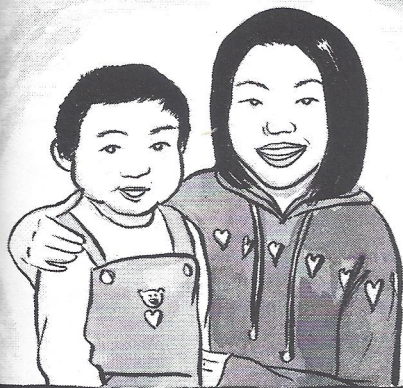


*Rice noodle roll

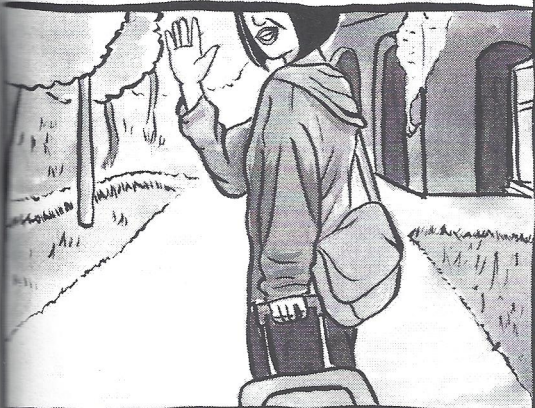




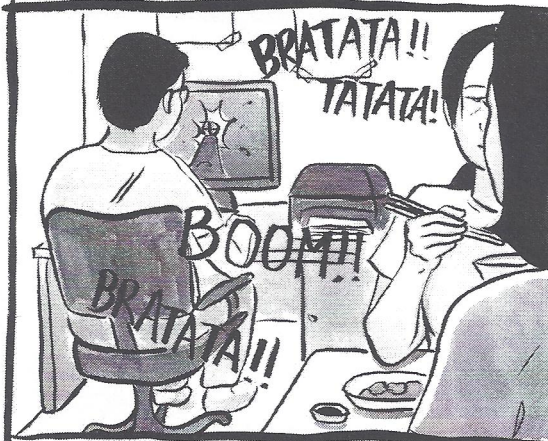
Things were simple back then. Just a playful older sister and her adorable little brother inventing games to keep boredom at bay.



Play helped distract us from other things too. Our parents working 10-hour days for less than minimum wage. Living in a Chinatown apartment with rats and broken floor tiles. Our father.



When you were eight and I was eighteen, I left for college with excitement and joy. My newfound freedom. I never looked back. But I never stopped feeling guilty.



When I came home during breaks, I noticed you stopped asking me to play video games with you.

And the yelling no longer came from our father alone.



After our sister and I left home, it was your turn to deal with our father by yourself.



Just remember that you'll be going to college soon.

When you told me you had joined ROTC and were thinking of enlisting, I got worried. I realized we had become very different people.



Look, why don't you at least talk to a veteran...

Where did you learn that violence and aggression could solve anything?



I found a vet we can talk to...



It won't matter. I don't want to meet him.

When did you start to believe that men abroad are bigger threats to us than the powerful of this country who dictate our fates?

I blamed myself for not being there to guide you. I didn't want my persistence to push you away.

But my stubbornness paid off. Through these struggles our relationship was allowed to grow and transform, despite my absence during your teenage years.



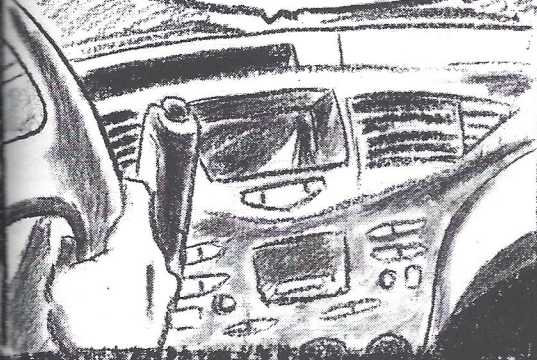
You want to do WHAT after college?

But I think our relationship might change again.



Even after Michael Brown and Eric Garner and Akai Gurley?

THISSHIG RRRERRK...AN UNARMED
17-YEAR-OLD BLACK TRANSGENDER YOUTH
WAS KILLED IN THE BRONX TODAY.
ESPERANZA JACKSON WAS WALKING HOME
WHEN A NYPD POLICE OFFICER ALLEGEDLY...



...SHOT HER FIVE TIMES. THE OFFICER
WHO ALLEGEDLY SHOT HER CLAIMS THAT
HE THOUGHT SHE WAS PULLING OUT A GUN
WHEN SHE REACHED INTO HER PURSE
FOR HER ID CARD.



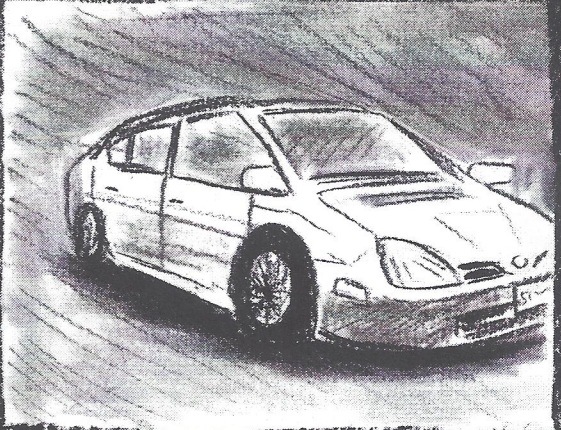
Please don't let it be an Asian cop,
please don't let it be an Asian cop.
Black and Asian relations do not need this.



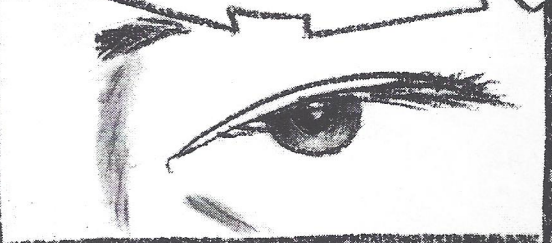
GOD. Another one.



It's only January and this is the third one I've
heard so far. Innocent people killed and racist
killer cops going off scot-free. It's no longer news.



THE OFFICER WHO FIRED THE SHOTS,
CHIM-WAI CHEUNG, IS A 25-YEAR-OLD CHINESE
AMERICAN AND A NATIVE OF QUEENS, NEW YORK.
HE CLAIMS THAT HE FIRED OUT OF FEAR, OUT OF
SELF-DEFENSE: SHE...IS SO TALL, YOU KNOW.
I REALLY FEARED FOR MY LIFE.



Wait. What.

That's my brother.

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO



Why does it have to be my brother?

Everything will be ok... right?



We shattered the hearts of

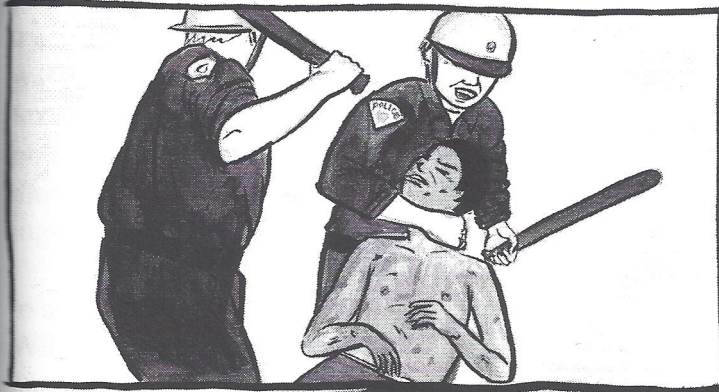


two mothers with five bullets. One lost her daughter forever.



I know, honey. I'm so sorry. I promise I'll make things right. I promise to make a better world for you.

I want a different future for my brother.



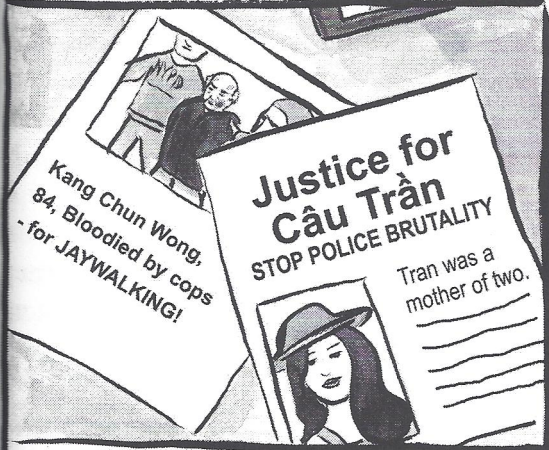
As Asian Americans, we enjoy rights that we didn't have before. These rights were fought for with the blood and bodies of those who came before us - those in the civil rights and black power movements.

Our liberation and freedom are tied to those of black folks and other oppressed peoples.

February 21, 1965
Madison Ballroom, NYC.

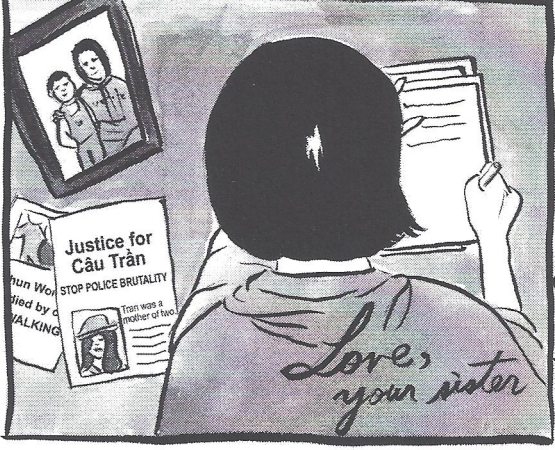


Which side of history will you choose to be on?



I watched a fun-loving boy grow up. I want him to become a happy man who is defined by the size of her heart, and not by his rank and uniform. A man whose strength comes from his character and not from his fist.

I want him to find joy in serving people, the marginalized and the oppressed, because he loves them despite their flaws, and sees their potential and light. Just like I haven't given up on you.



Love,
your sister

Kayan Cheung TUMBLR.COM
Thank you Bo Luengsurawat, Calvin Miami, Ed Luce.
Kayan Cheung