

GREAT IMMIGRANTS

GREAT AMERICANS

FEATURING DR. MONA HANNA

OKAY KIDDO...

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE BIT OF BLOOD NOW.

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ILLUSTRATED BY CHUAN MING ONG

Comique

WHEN I'VE GOT A BABY IN MY ARMS AND THEY'RE STARING AT ME ALL WIDE-EYED AND OPEN WITH POTENTIAL, THEY'RE SAYING: DO BETTER.

YOU PROBABLY WANT TO BE WITH MAMA, HMM?

FLINT, MICHIGAN 2015

SO WHEN I'M MIXING THIS FORMULA, DO I USE BOTTLED WATER OR TAP?

TAP IS FINE.

YOU SURE?

YES.

WHEN FLINT STOPPED GETTING WATER FROM DETROIT AND SWITCHED OVER TO THE FLINT RIVER IN 2014, IT BARELY MADE THE NEWS.

THEN A YEAR LATER MY FRIEND ELIN, A WATER EXPERT, GOT HOLD OF A LEAKED MEMO FROM THE EPA.

MONA, THE WATER IN FLINT ISN'T BEING TREATED PROPERLY. IT'S MISSING SOMETHING CALLED CORROSION CONTROL.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS THE WATER IS EATING AWAY AT THE PIPES.

AND THE LEAD IN THOSE PIPES IS GOING TO END UP IN THE DRINKING WATER.

SHE WAS RIGHT.

THE WATER FROM THE FLINT RIVER WAS SO CORROSIVE THAT GM WOULDN'T EVEN USE IT TO CLEAN THEIR ENGINE PARTS ...

... SO THE STATE SWITCHED THEIR FACTORIES BACK TO THE DETROIT SUPPLY.

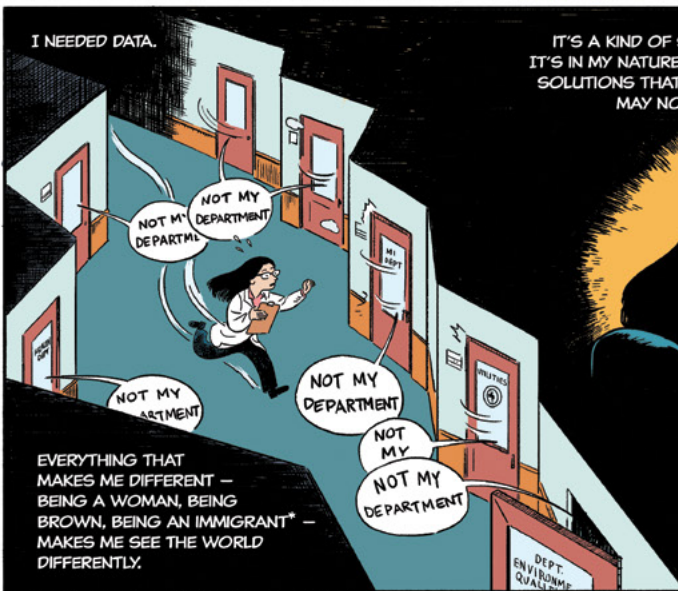


BUT THE PEOPLE OF FLINT WERE TOLD TO RELAX. EVERYTHING WAS FINE!



I GREW UP PINCHING MYSELF, GRATEFUL TO HAVE IMMIGRATED TO THIS COUNTRY WHILE MY COUSINS IN IRAQ GREW UP IN AIR RAID SHELTERS, AFRAID OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

NOW, 30 YEARS LATER, MY GOVERNMENT WAS FAILING TO PROTECT ITS MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, AND IT MADE NO SENSE. THIS WAS AMERICA. THIS WAS THE 21ST CENTURY.



I NEEDED DATA.

NOT MY DEPARTMENT

NOT MY DEPARTMENT

NOT MY DEPARTMENT

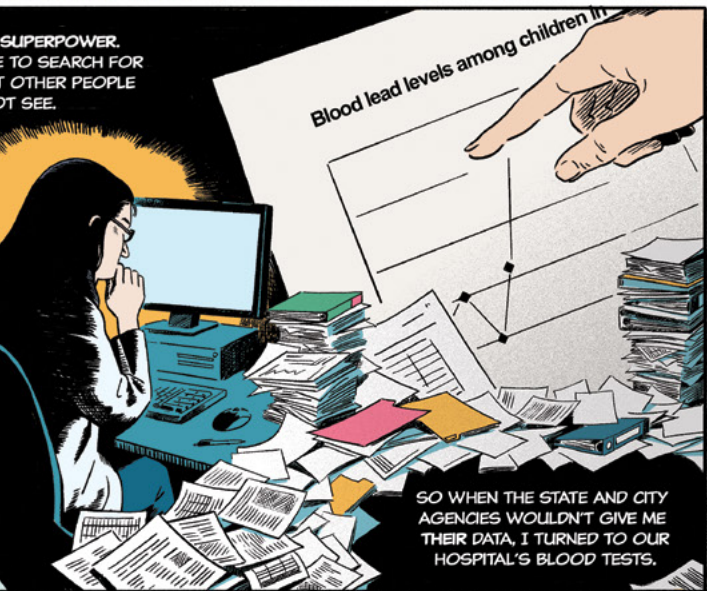
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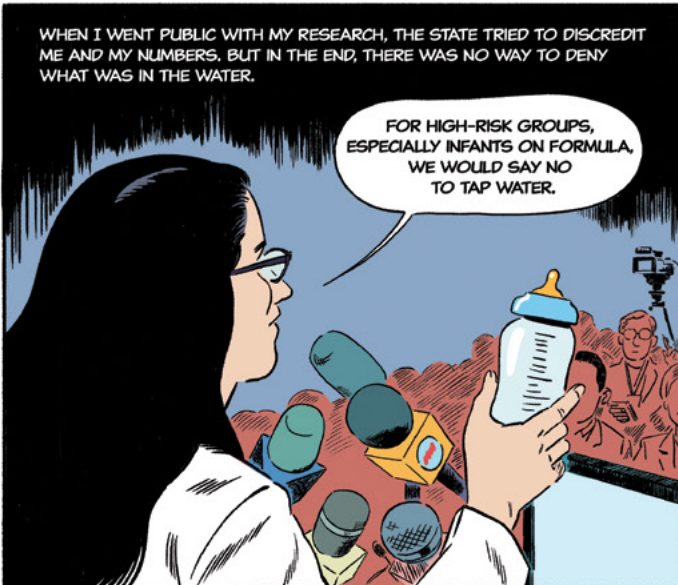
EVERYTHING THAT MAKES ME DIFFERENT — BEING A WOMAN, BEING BROWN, BEING AN IMMIGRANT* — MAKES ME SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY.

IT'S A KIND OF SUPERPOWER. IT'S IN MY NATURE TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS THAT OTHER PEOPLE MAY NOT SEE.



Blood lead levels among children in

SO WHEN THE STATE AND CITY AGENCIES WOULDN'T GIVE ME THEIR DATA, I TURNED TO OUR HOSPITAL'S BLOOD TESTS.



WHEN I WENT PUBLIC WITH MY RESEARCH, THE STATE TRIED TO DISCREDIT ME AND MY NUMBERS. BUT IN THE END, THERE WAS NO WAY TO DENY WHAT WAS IN THE WATER.

FOR HIGH-RISK GROUPS, ESPECIALLY INFANTS ON FORMULA, WE WOULD SAY NO TO TAP WATER.



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE ME FROM MY BACKGROUND.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SHAPED ME LED ME TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN.

MY STORY IS AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY.

FLINT STOPPED USING FLINT RIVER WATER IN 2015. FOR HER ACTIONS, MONA HANNA RECEIVED MANY AWARDS AND WAS NAMED ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE. SHE CONTINUES TO SPEARHEAD INITIATIVES TO HEAL YOUTH POVERTY AND ITS EFFECTS. FIND MORE INSPIRING STORIES AT CARNEGIE.ORG/IMMIGRANTSTORIES

*26% OF PRACTICING PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE FOREIGN-BORN. SOURCE: IMMIGRANT HEALTH-CARE WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES, MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE, APRIL 2023