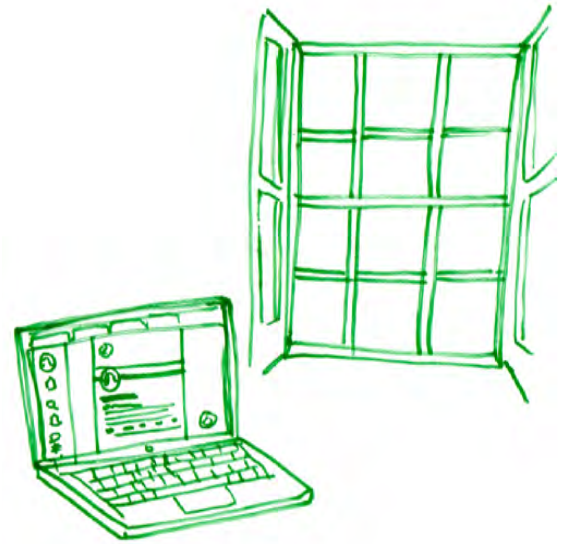




GWEN

Gwen is a female academic juggling paid work, unpaid research, and activism. She has a part-time academic job, and a number of precarious teaching jobs, alongside online clerical project work. In her own time she writes, does research, and applies for grant funding and postdocs: 'I keep applying for things, just applied for [funding scheme]... I still keep applying.'

Gwen does a large amount of unpaid 'community work' in terms of teaching and research: colleagues get in touch asking for free lectures and events on trans issues. She sees this as activism: 'all unpaid, of course.' She lectures 'completely unpaid' on a number of courses, while paid on others. She publishes regularly, articles and books. She has put together a number of research funding grants as well, in her own time. Gwen says: 'Maybe I won't get a full-time job... I'll have to make a decision at some point.'



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Like many trans people, there's a first half and a second half of my life...



learning to recognize + be unimpressed by bullying.



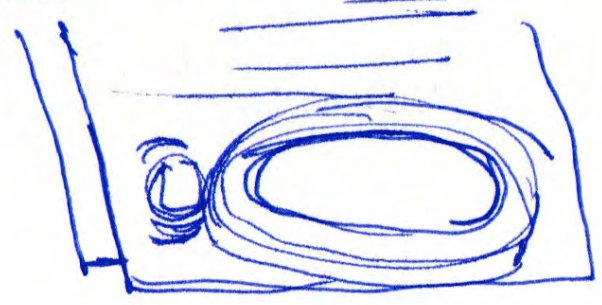
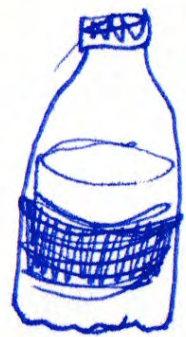
We are in her colleagues (boss's) office. This one has a heater.

the spectral wall



this side faces greenery.

office faces the university library



The Second Half of my Life

GWEN IS A TRANS ACADEMIC WORKING IN CREATIVE WRITING.



HER WORK FOCUSES ON TRANS ISSUES.



SHE WORKS ONE DAY A WEEK AT A JOB BASED ON HER PREVIOUS CAREER, WHICH IN THE SUMMER IS FULL TIME. THE REST OF HER TIME INVOLVES WRITING AND OCCASIONAL LECTURES, A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WHICH IS UNPAID.



SOMETIMES I WORK FROM THIS OFFICE OUTSIDE OF MY HOURS.

SINCE GRADUATING FROM HER PHD, GWEN HAS STRUGGLED GETTING PAID WORK AND LIVES ON A LIMITED INCOME.



Volunteer? Free talk? NO BUDGET SPEAKING OPP. (unpaid) would love your input...

STUDENTS AND STAFF REQUEST FREE LECTURES ON TRANS ISSUES. TWO OF THE FOUR COURSES SHE LECTURES ON DON'T PAY HER.



I HOPE THESE LECTURES WILL LEAD TO A JOB.

I THINK OF IT LIKE ACTIVISM...



...EDUCATIONAL EVENTS LIKE FREE LECTURES, EVENTS AND PROTESTS, ALL UNPAID OF COURSE.

TRANS LIBERATION NOW

TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

PRO TRANS KIDS

WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE

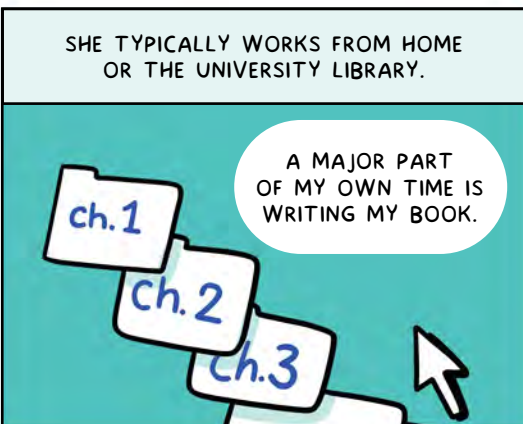
TRANS WOMEN ARE WOMEN

I USED TO HAVE MALE PRIVILEGE, A GOOD PAYING JOB. I WORKED IN COUNTRIES THAT WOULD NOW BE UNSAFE FOR ME.



NOW I MUST ALWAYS BE AWARE OF WHERE IS SAFE.

SHE TYPICALLY WORKS FROM HOME OR THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.



A MAJOR PART OF MY OWN TIME IS WRITING MY BOOK.

ch.1

ch.2

ch.3

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT 2-3 DAYS A WEEK FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.



GWEN'S BOOK IS SET TO BE PUBLISHED BY A MAJOR ACADEMIC PUBLISHER.



THEY PAID ME £400.



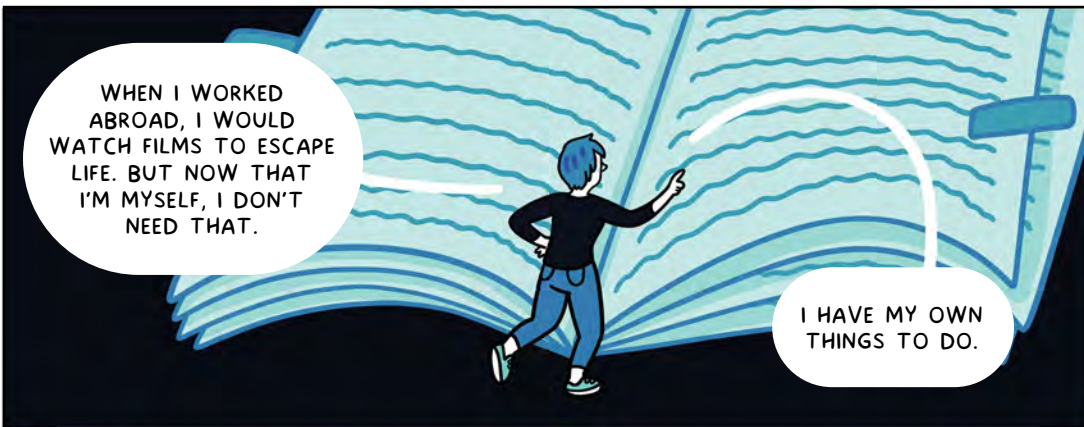
I'M STRICT ABOUT WORK. NO DISTRACTIONS AT THE LIBRARY!

I HAVE MY PREFERRED SPOTS. I KNOW WHERE ALL THE GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS ARE.



THE PAY IS LITTLE, BUT I HAVE TO DO IT. IT'S IMPORTANT.

WRITING HELPS ME UNDERSTAND WHERE THE HATRED IS COMING FROM.



WHEN I WORKED ABROAD, I WOULD WATCH FILMS TO ESCAPE LIFE. BUT NOW THAT I'M MYSELF, I DON'T NEED THAT.

I HAVE MY OWN THINGS TO DO.

TRANS PEOPLE ARE GETTING CRUSHED BY THE ATTACKS ON TRANS RIGHTS.



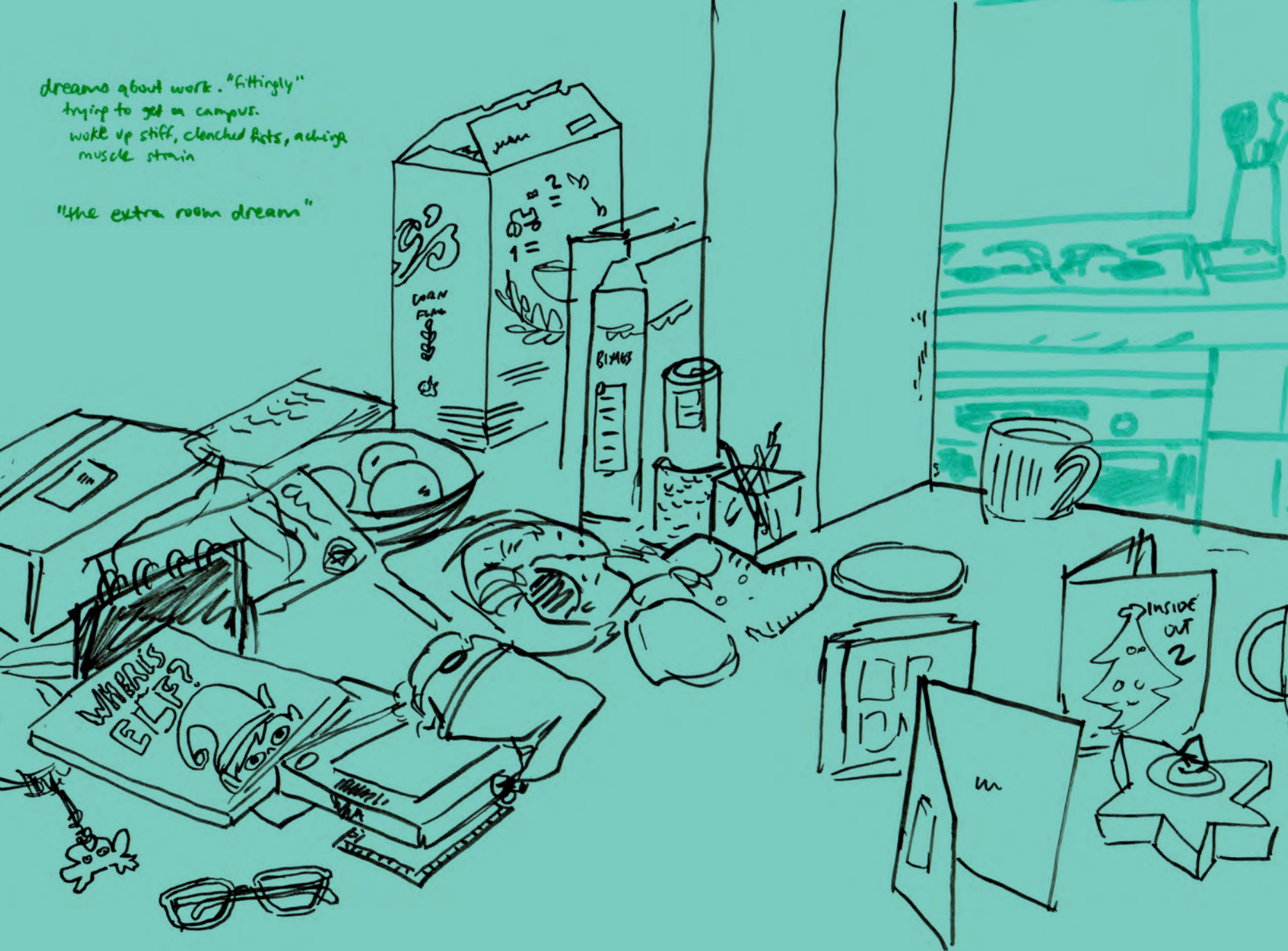
WHEN I CAME OUT IN 2016, THERE WAS HOPE. THE EQUALITY ACT, END OF SECTION 28, TRANS HEALTHCARE, NO MEDIA STORMS... BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

I'M GOING TO KEEP WRITING, KEEP PUBLISHING.

NOW FEELS LIKE SUCH AN URGENT TIME.

dreams about work. "fittingly"
trying to get on campus.
wake up stiff, clenched fists, aching
muscle strain

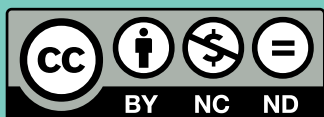
"the extra room dream"



IN THEIR OWN TIME

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Illustrations and comics by Maria Stoian.
Website text by Dr Cécile Ménard, Dr Lena
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Every year I panic – will
I have a job next year?