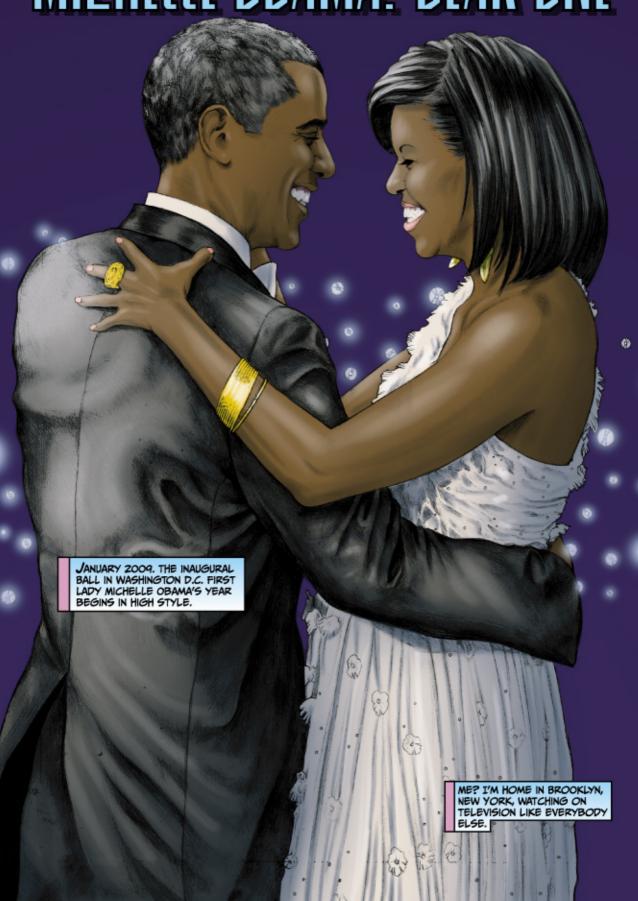
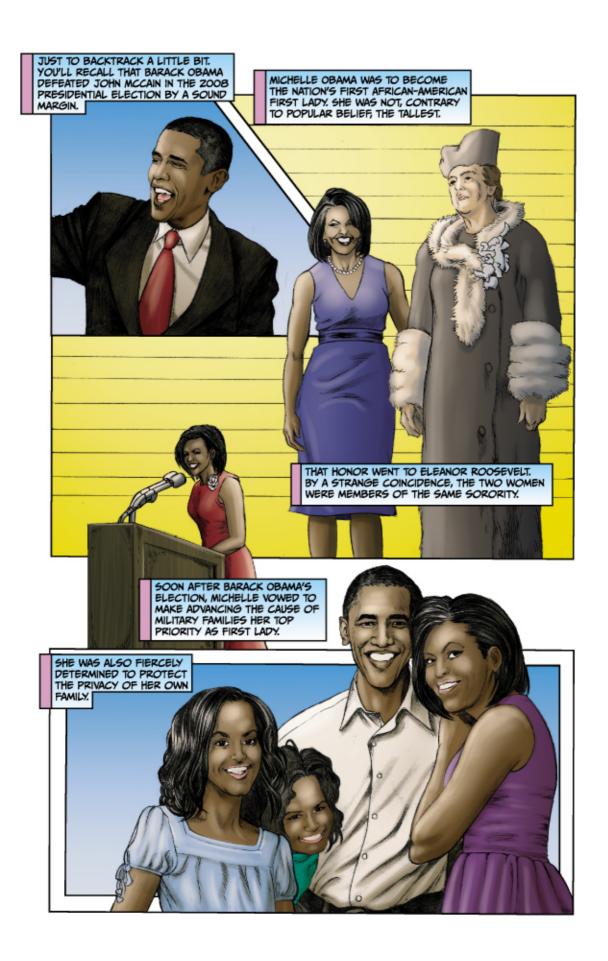
MICHELLE DBAMA: YEAR ONE





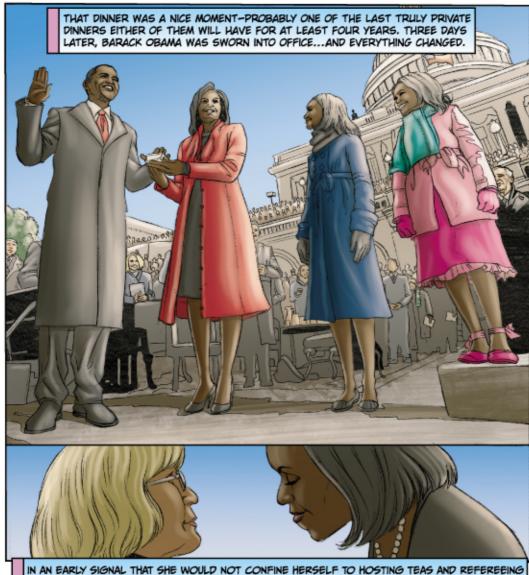




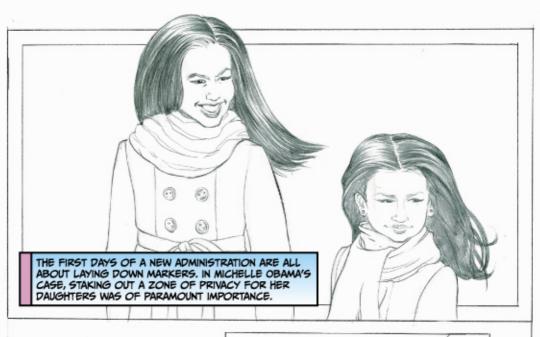


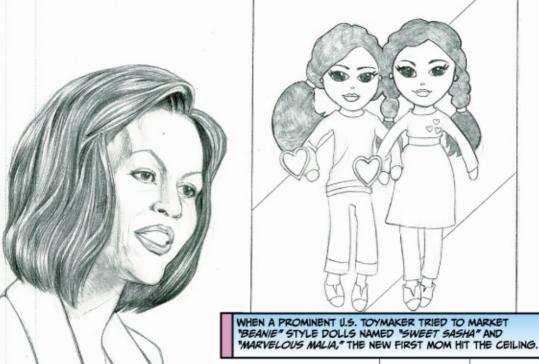






IN AN EARLY SIGNAL THAT SHE WOULD NOT CONFINE HERSELF TO HOSTING TEAS AND REFEREDING AT EASTER EGG ROLLS, THE FIRST LADY WELCOMED LILLY LEDBETTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO COMMEMORATE THE SIGNING OF THE LANDMARK EQUAL PAY LEGISLATION NAMED IN HER HONOR.



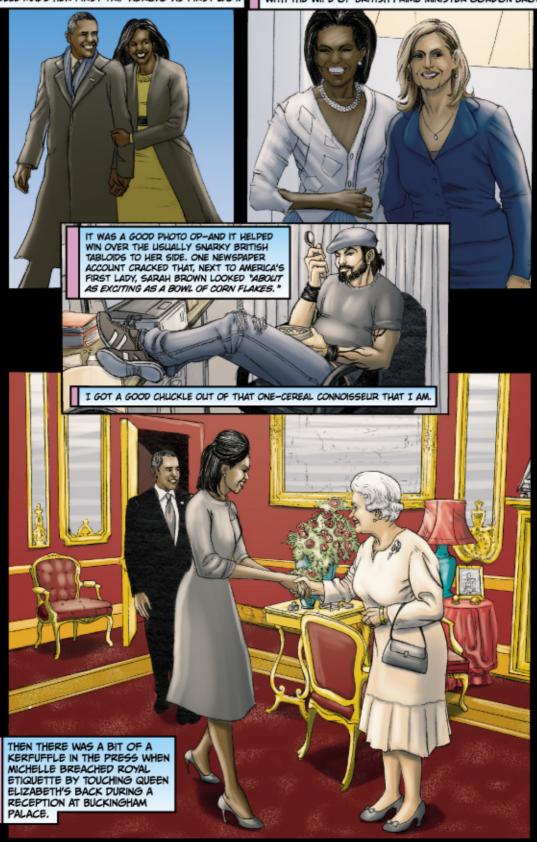


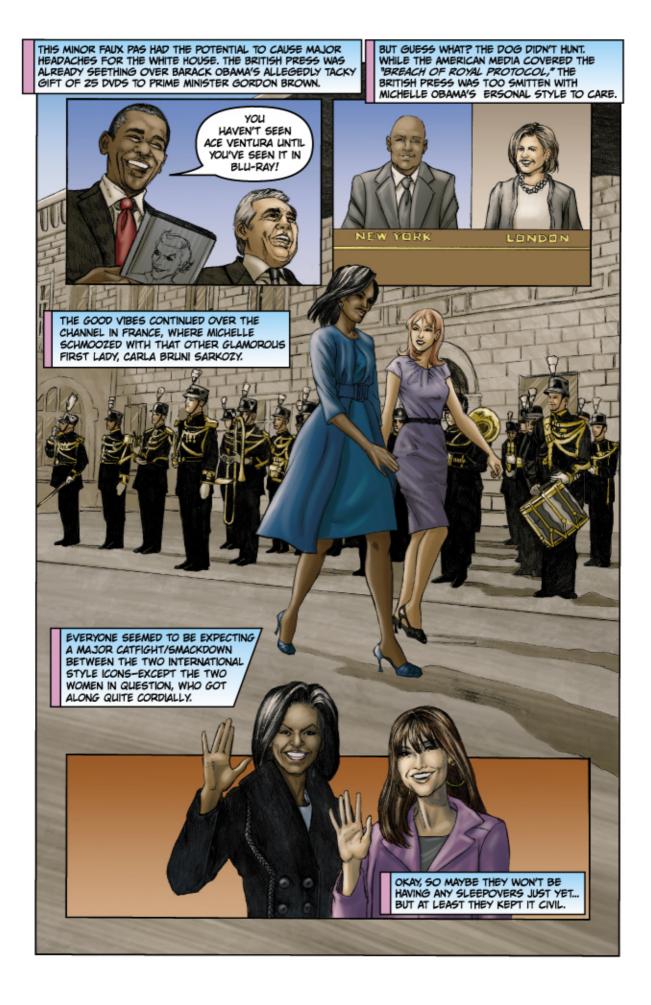
"WE BELIEVE IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO USE YOUNG PRIVATE CITIZENS FOR MARKETING PURPOSES," SHE SAID THROUGH A SPOKESWOMAN. AND THE DOLLS WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN OFF THE MARKET.

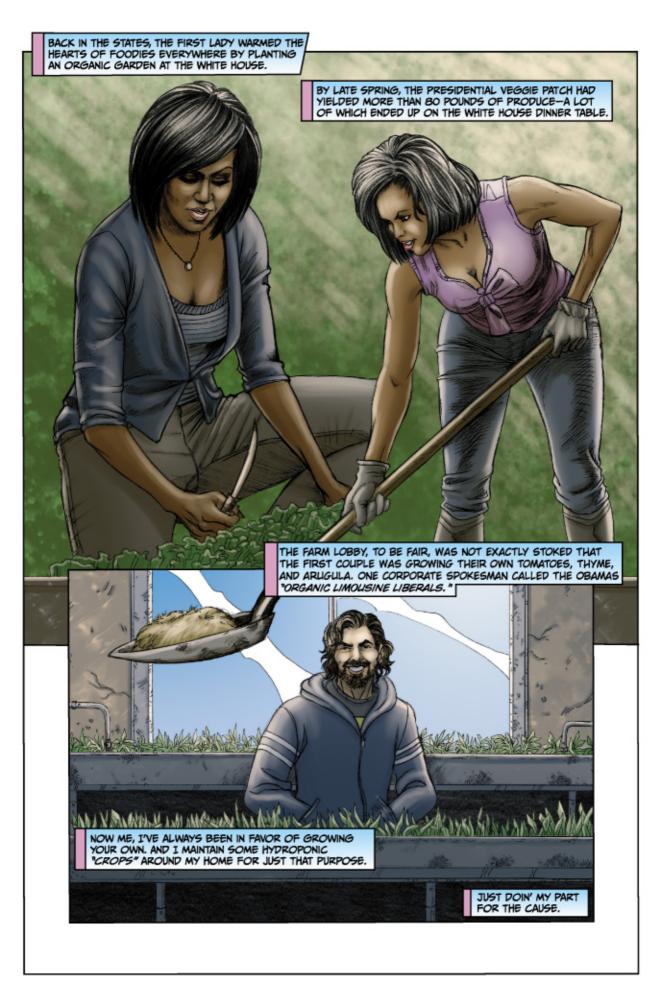


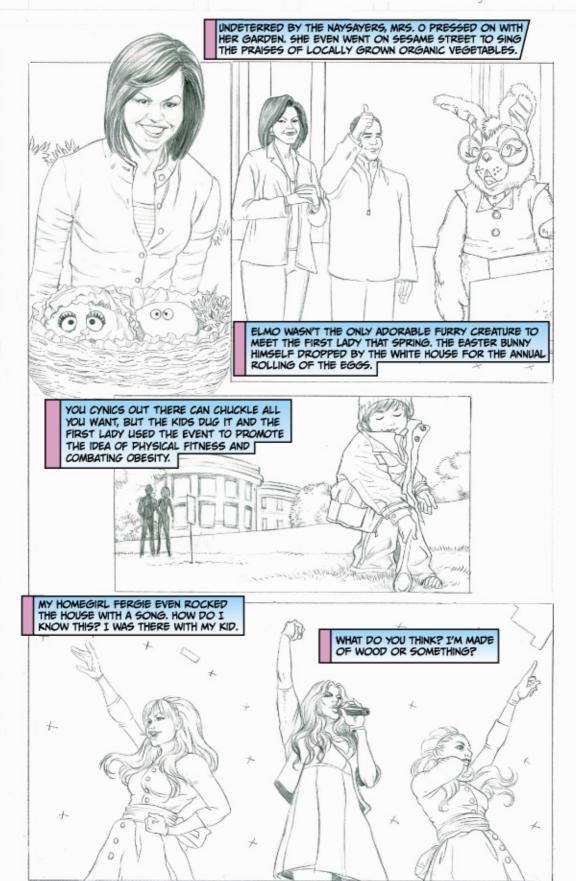


IF THERE WERE PITFALLS TO BEING AN INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY, THERE WERE PERKS AS WELL. IN APRIL, MICHELLE MADE HER FIRST TRIP ABROAD AS FIRST LADY. THE EUROPEAN TOUR WAS A MIX OF STYLE, SUBSTANCE... AND SLAPSTICK. IN ENGLAND, SHE VISITED A CANCER WARD WITH THE WIFE OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN.



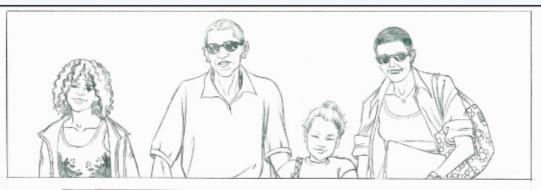






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SORRY, HATERS, BUT THERE WERE MORE TRIPS TO COME AS SPRING GAVE WAY TO SUMMER. LIKE MOST AMERICAN FAMILIES, THE FIRST FAMILY SCHEDULED THEIR VACATIONS AROUND THE KIDS' SCHOOL SCHEDULES.

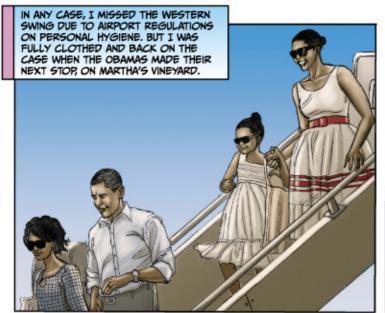




AND THEY TOOK IN THE MAJESTIC GRAND CANYON.

> NATURALLY THERE HAD TO BE SOME KIND OF MEDIA-GENERATED HOO-HA ABOUT MICHELLE'S APPEARANCE. THIS TIME IT WAS ALL ABOUT HER SHORTS—AND WHETHER IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR HER TO BE SHOWING SO MUCH LEG IN THE 120-DEGREE ARIZONA HEAT.

> > ME, I GET AROUND THAT PROBLEM BY LIVING A FULL-ON NUDIST LIFESTYLE THROUGHOUT THE WARM WEATHER MONTHS. BUT MAYBE I SHOULD SPARE YOU THAT PANEL.





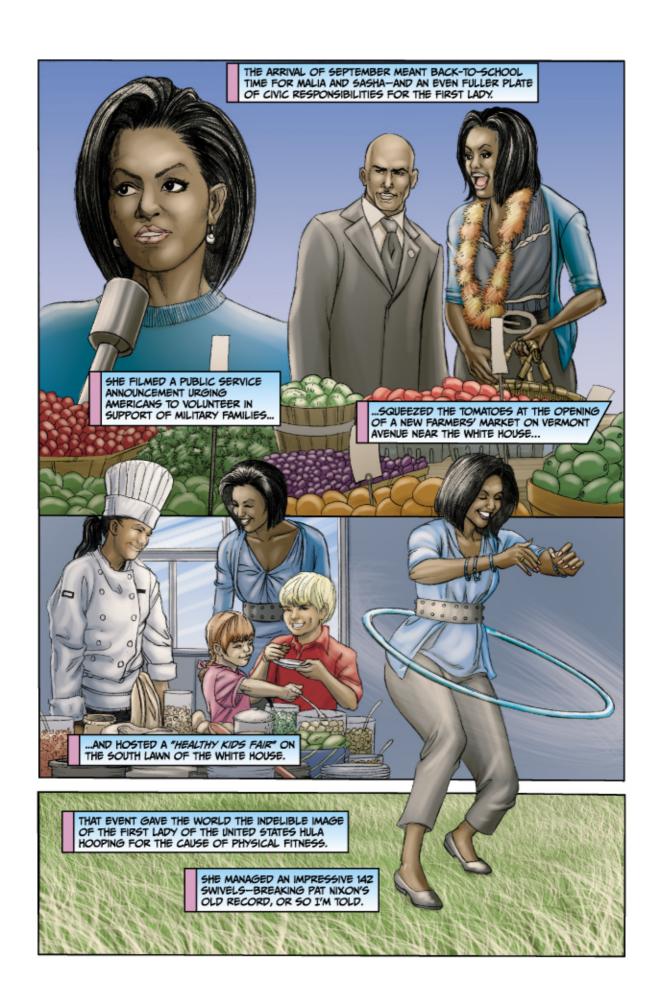
NICE PLACE, THE VINEYARD.
JAMES TAYLOR AND I HAVE
A HOUSE UP THERE. FOR
THE FIRST FAMILY, IT WAS
A CHANCE TO DO SOME
SLUMMING, EAT CRUMMY
TAKEOUT FOOD LIKE THE
REST OF US FOR A
CHANGE.



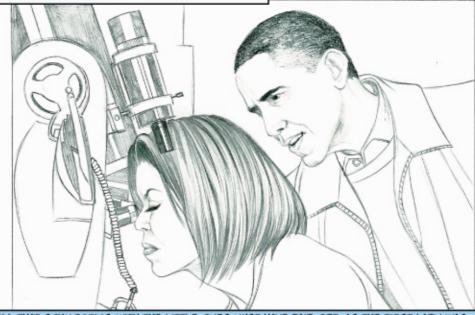




UNFORTUNATELY, SUMMER VACATION WRAPPED UP ON A SAD NOTE WITH NEWS OF THE PASSING OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S POLITICAL PADRONES. THE FIRST COUPLE HEADED TO MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE FUNERAL. ATTENDING FUNERALS IS ONE OF THE LEAST GLAMOROUS, MOST UNHERALDED ASPECTS OF BEING FIRST LADY. YOU DON'T READ ABOUT THIS PART OF THE GIG IN THE STYLE PAGES, BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. YOU TAKE THE CRUNCHY WITH THE SWEET, I GUESS.



A SEPTEMBER WING DING HELD IN HONOR OF WORLD SPACE WEEK BROUGHT 150 SCHOOL KIDS TO THE WHITE HOUSE SOUTH LAWN FOR AN EVENING OF STAR GAZING.



ALL THAT SCHMOOZING WITH THE LITTLE ONES MUST HAVE PAID OFF, AS THE FIRST LADY WAS NAMED THE HONORARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA. AS A FORMER SCOUT MYSELF, I CAN REPORT THERE IS NO HIGHER HONOR THAN THIS.

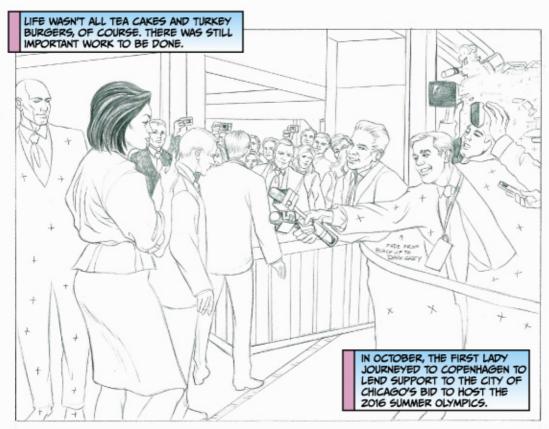


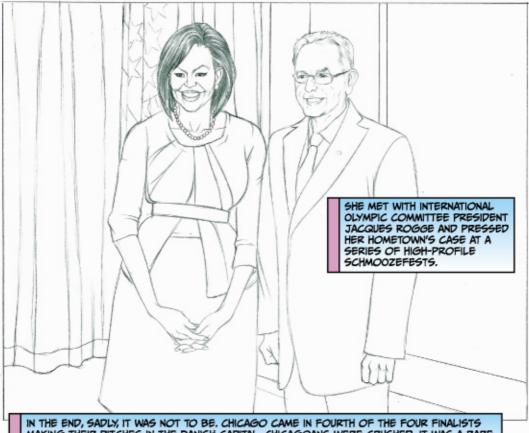
BACK IN THE LAND OF GROWN-UPS, MICHELLE WORKED WITH AMERICA'S MUSEUM CURATORS ON A SELECTION OF 45 PIECES OF ART TO HANG ON THE WALLS OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRIVATE RESIDENCE AND OFFICES.

USE DAN LACEY OBAMA PORTRAIT FROM SCRIPT

> SHE MADE SOME BOLD CHOICES. NOT THIS BOLD, THOUGH. A PORTRAIT OF THE PRESIDENT WITH A SLICE OF COCONUT CREAM PIE ON HIS HEAD DID NOT MAKE THE CUT.







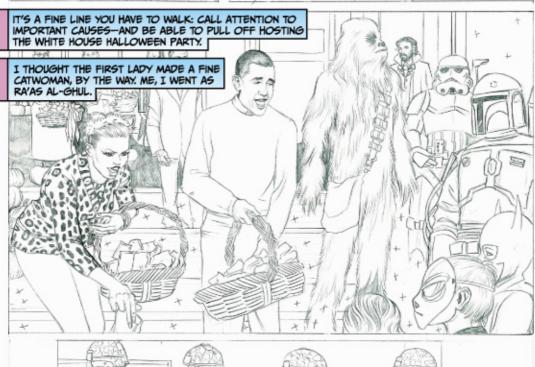
IN THE END, SADLY, IT WAS NOT TO BE. CHICAGO CAME IN FOURTH OF THE FOUR FINALISTS MAKING THEIR PITCHES IN THE DANISH CAPITAL. CHICAGOANS WERE CRUSHED. IT WAS A RARE MOMENT OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN AN OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FIRST LADY.

AFTER THE STING OF THE OLYMPIC REJECTION WORE OFF, MICHELLE RETURNED TO OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MEDIA REMAINED OBSESSED WITH TRIVIALITIES THE FIRST LADY GAVE A SPEECH ON WOMEN AND HEALTH CARE AT THE EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING IN WASHINGTON. BUT ALL THE PRESS WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS THE LARGE BELT SHE WORE FOR THE OCCASION.





ADMITTEDLY, MICHELLE ALSO EXPLOITED HER CELEBRITY CACHET WHEN IT SUITED HER PURPOSES, SHE USED THE FORUM OF A PRIME TIME JAY LENO SHOW APPEARANCE IN OCTOBER TO RENEW HER CALL FOR AMERICANS TO SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES.





AND WHEN TRAUMATIC REAL-LIFE EVENTS INTERVENE--LIKE THE FUNERALS OF SLAIN SOLDIERS AT FORT HOOD-WELL, YOU HAVE TO SWITCH GEARS AND HANDLE THAT TOO.

