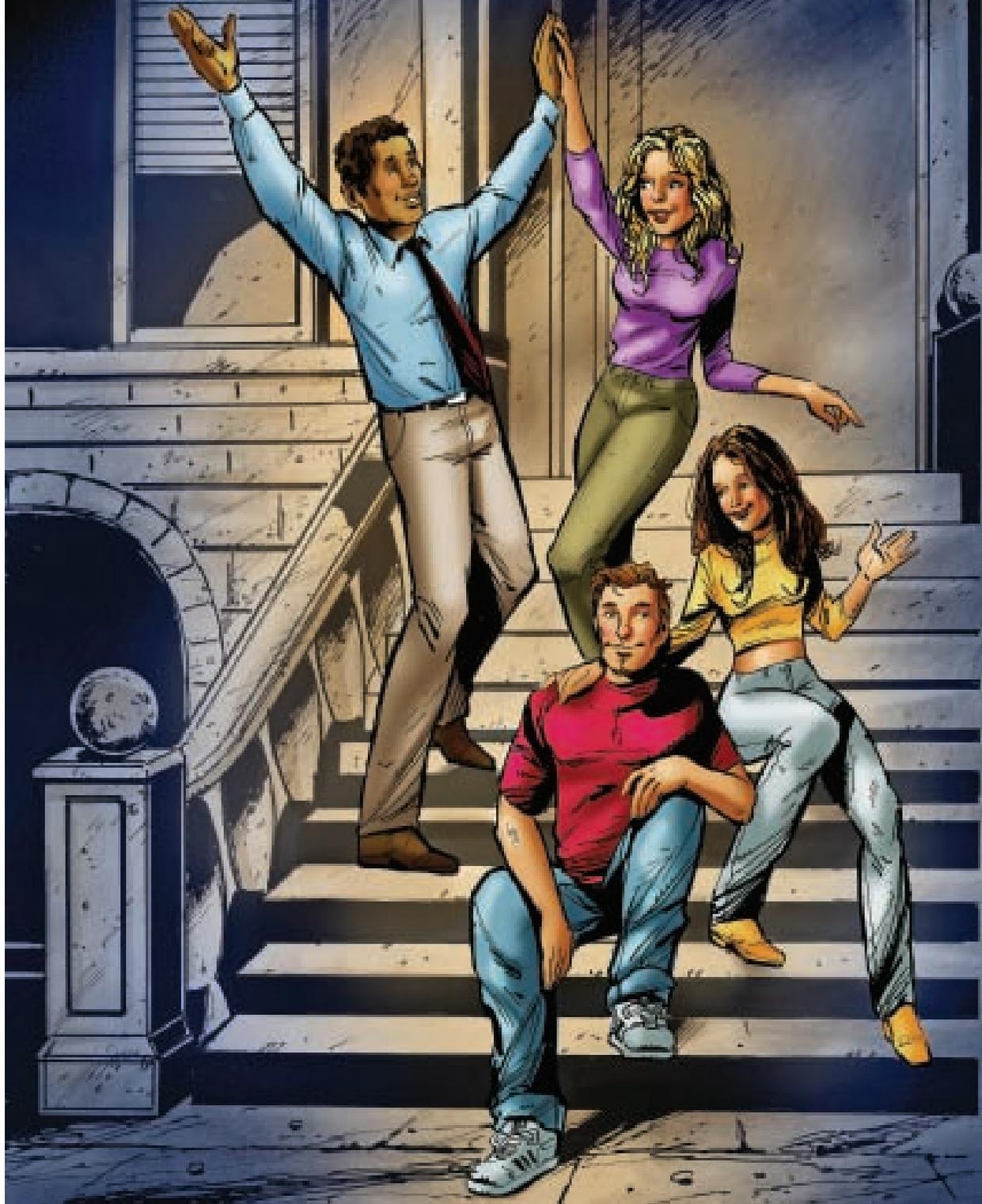


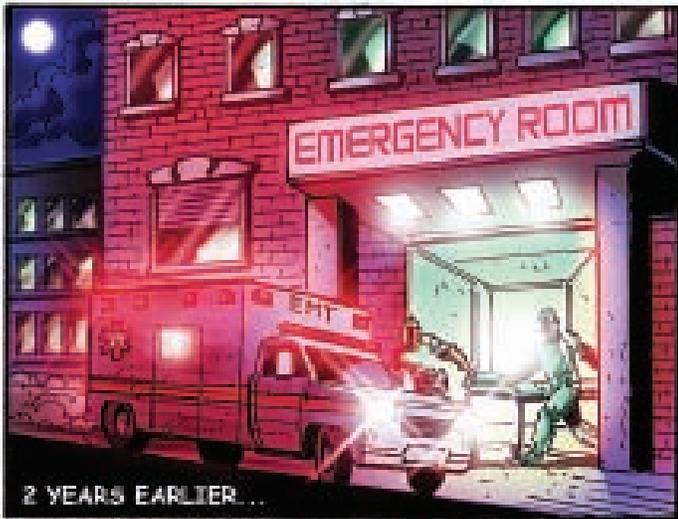
FRIENDS

FOREVER

A TRIUMPH OVER TB







2 YEARS EARLIER...



JOE! IS LAURA OKAY? I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD!

SHE'S SLEEPING NOW...

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

SHE WAS COUGHING UP BLOOD.

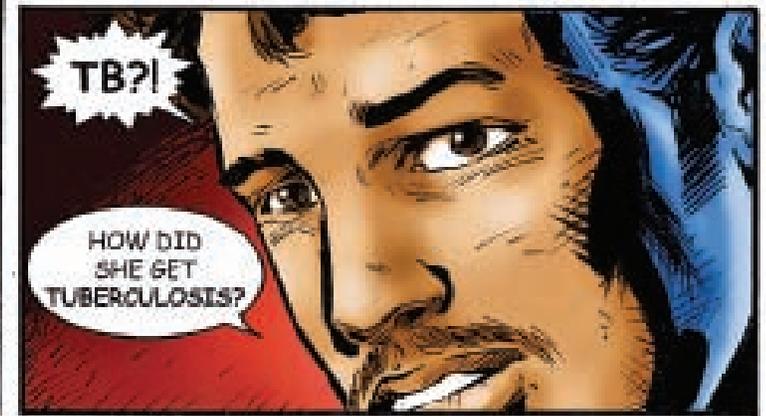


WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER, JOE?

WHAT IS IT?

LAURA HAS TB..

...AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT!



TB?!

HOW DID SHE GET TUBERCULOSIS?



I DON'T KNOW. THE PHYSICIAN SAYS SHE COULD'VE GOTTEN IT FROM BEING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAD ACTIVE TB DISEASE.

WELL... IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?

SHE'LL BE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE. JEEZ... WHY DIDN'T I FIGURE OUT SHE WAS SICK?



ARE YOU KIDDING, JOE?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. SHE LOOKED FINE.



BUT, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

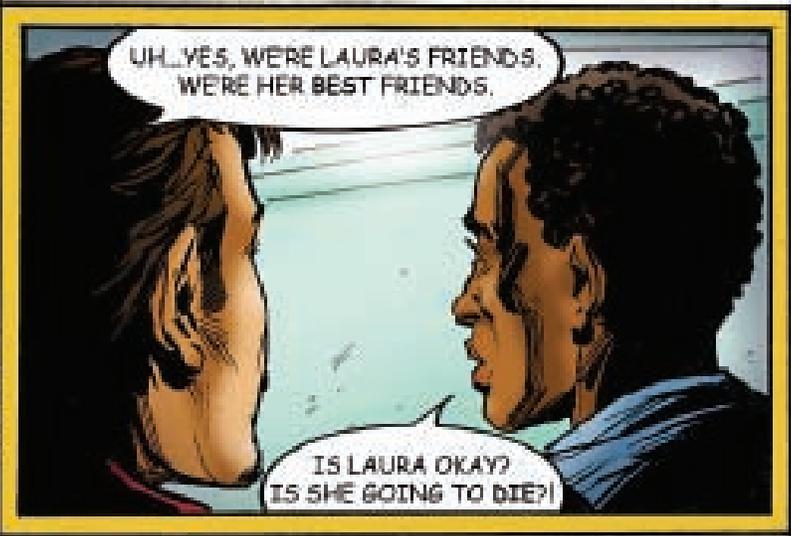
SHE WAS COUGHING A LOT AND COMPLAINING ABOUT FEVERS.

SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS TIRED ALL THE TIME AND SHE DID LOOK LIKE SHE WAS LOSING WEIGHT.

BUT HOW WERE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THOSE WERE THE SIGNS OF TB?



HI. I'M ANNIE, A PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AND THIS IS DR. JOHNSON. ARE YOU FAMILY? FRIENDS?



UH... YES, WE'RE LAURA'S FRIENDS. WE'RE HER BEST FRIENDS.

IS LAURA OKAY? IS SHE GOING TO DIE?!



LAURA HAS A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF HER, BUT SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE. WE CAUGHT IT JUST IN TIME.



LAURA HAS ACTIVE TB DISEASE. SHE HAS TO TAKE MEDICINE FOR 6 MONTHS TO CURE HER TB AND PREVENT SPREADING IT TO OTHERS.



LIKE US??!!



YES... SO I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE TWO OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES GET TESTED FOR TB RIGHT AWAY.

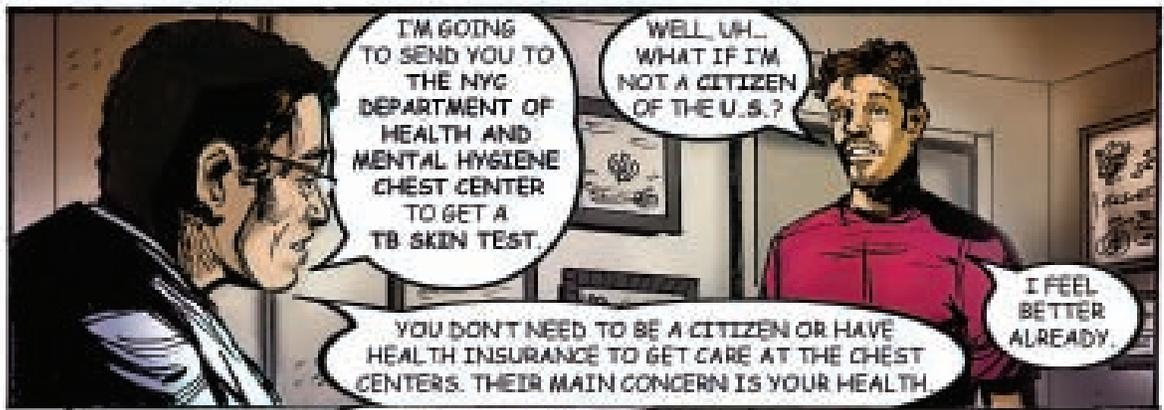


HOW?

DOES IT HURT? HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?



IT'S A SIMPLE TEST... YOU'LL GET THE RESULTS IN 2 TO 3 DAYS.



I'M GOING TO SEND YOU TO THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE CHEST CENTER TO GET A TB SKIN TEST.

WELL, UH... WHAT IF I'M NOT A CITIZEN OF THE U.S.?

I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A CITIZEN OR HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE TO GET CARE AT THE CHEST CENTERS. THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS YOUR HEALTH.

THE NEXT DAY AT THE CHEST CENTER...

I WILL USE A SMALL NEEDLE AND INJECT A SUBSTANCE CALLED PPD UNDERNEATH YOUR SKIN.

I DON'T REALLY LIKE NEEDLES. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?



WHAT?!

DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST A LITTLE PIN-PRICK. YOU MUST COME BACK IN 2 TO 3 DAYS TO READ THE RESULT OF THE TB SKIN TEST.



LAURA'S ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL...

I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE OKAY...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!



OH, JOE... JUAN, I'M SO SORRY THAT I MAY HAVE INFECTED YOU WITH TB.

THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS GETTING BETTER, LAURA.



I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU GUYS.

THREE DAYS LATER AT THE CHEST CENTER...

JOE.. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE POSITIVE. YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH THE TB GERM.

DON'T GET UPSET, IN FACT.. IT'S A GOOD THING YOU GOT TESTED.



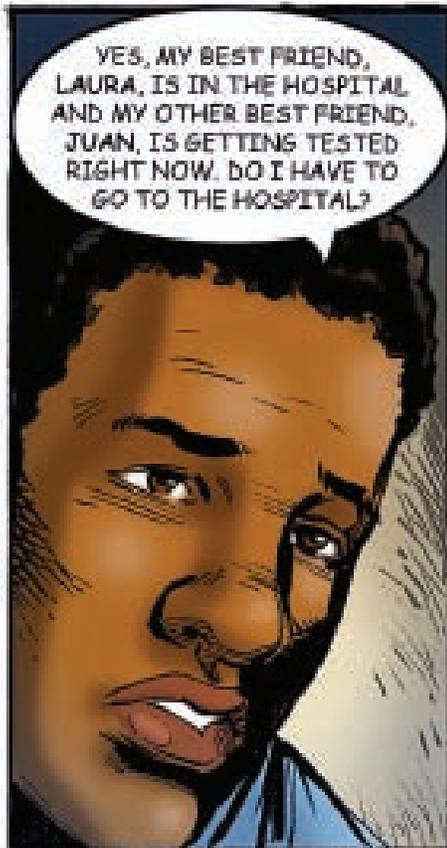
OH, NO...



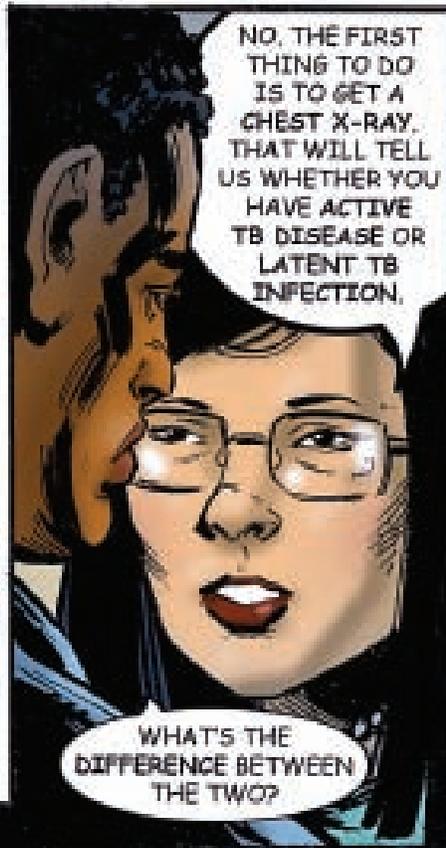
WHY?

BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A GOOD FRIEND WHO HAS TB DISEASE.



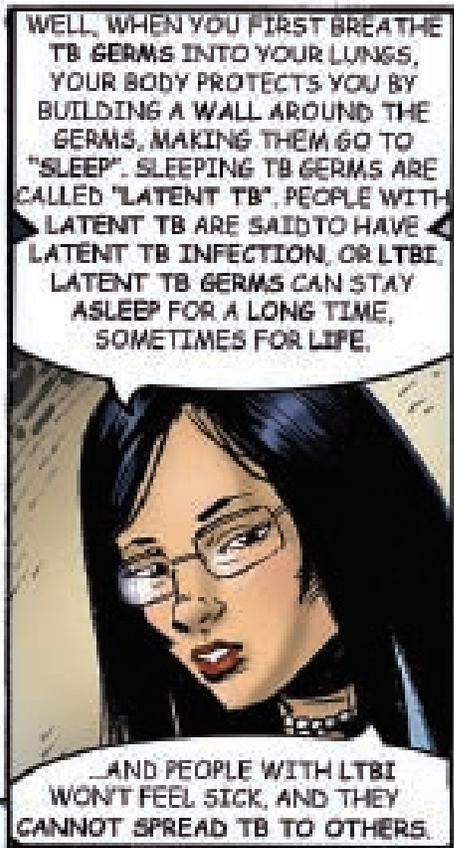


YES, MY BEST FRIEND, LAURA, IS IN THE HOSPITAL AND MY OTHER BEST FRIEND, JUAN, IS GETTING TESTED RIGHT NOW. DO I HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?



NO, THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO GET A CHEST X-RAY. THAT WILL TELL US WHETHER YOU HAVE ACTIVE TB DISEASE OR LATENT TB INFECTION.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO?



WELL, WHEN YOU FIRST BREATHE TB GERMS INTO YOUR LUNGS, YOUR BODY PROTECTS YOU BY BUILDING A WALL AROUND THE GERMS, MAKING THEM GO TO "SLEEP". SLEEPING TB GERMS ARE CALLED "LATENT TB". PEOPLE WITH LATENT TB ARE SAID TO HAVE LATENT TB INFECTION, OR LTBI. LATENT TB GERMS CAN STAY ASLEEP FOR A LONG TIME, SOMETIMES FOR LIFE.

...AND PEOPLE WITH LTBI WON'T FEEL SICK, AND THEY CANNOT SPREAD TB TO OTHERS.



HOWEVER, SOMETIMES THE TB GERMS "WAKE UP" AND YOUR BODY CANNOT PROTECT YOU, WHEN THIS HAPPENS, YOU HAVE ACTIVE TB DISEASE. YOU WILL FEEL VERY SICK, WITH SYMPTOMS LIKE COUGHING, FEVERS, FATIGUE, NIGHT SWEATS, WEIGHT LOSS, AND LOSS OF APPETITE. YOU CAN SPREAD TB GERMS TO OTHERS. TB IS CONTAGIOUS AND CAN CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO LUNGS.



OH MY GOD... LAURA...

IS THERE A CURE?



THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS! TB DISEASE CAN BE CURED. TB CAN ALSO BE PREVENTED BY TAKING A SINGLE DRUG FOR 9 MONTHS. IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR MEDICINE FOR LTBI NOW, YOU'LL RISK DEVELOPING ACTIVE TB DISEASE LATER IN LIFE.



POOR LAURA... ALL OF THIS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED...



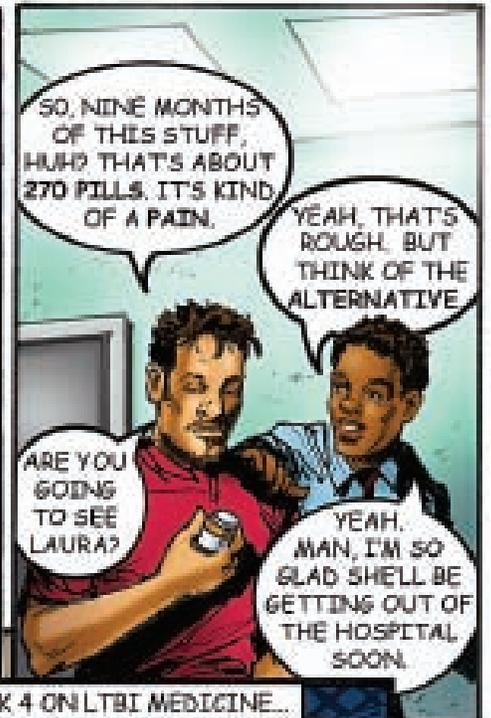
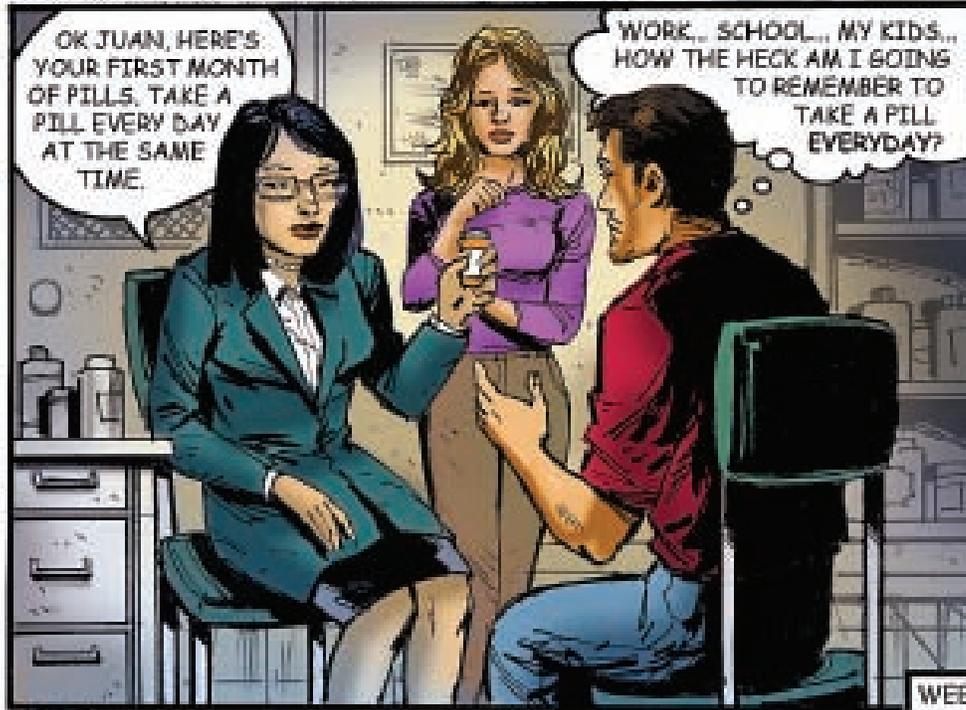
LATER THAT DAY IN THE CHEST CENTER.



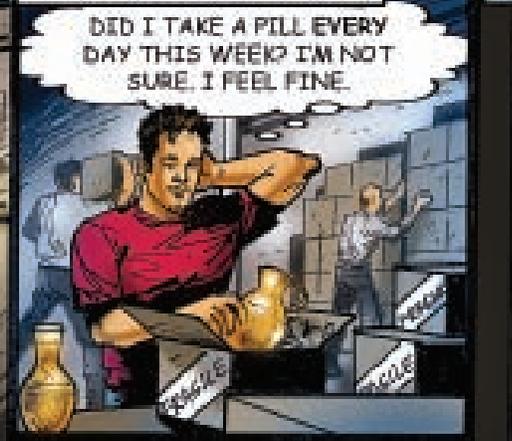
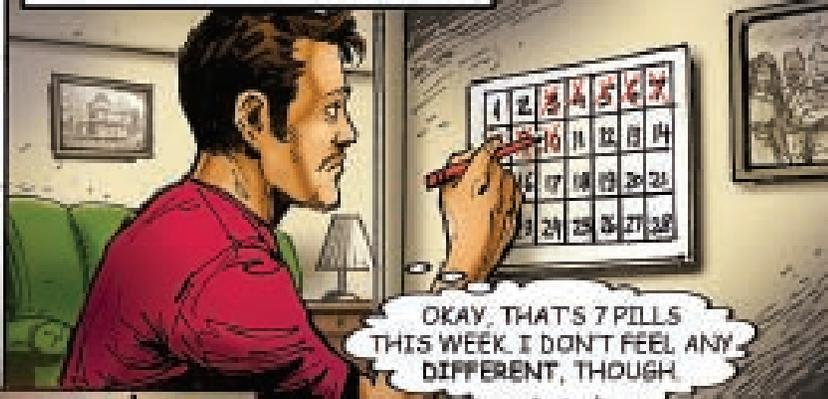
LOOK, JUAN. THERE'S STILL ALOT TO BE DONE. YOU MUST TAKE THE MEDICINE FOR A FULL 9 MONTHS. IF YOU DONT, YOU COULD DEVELOP ACTIVE TB DISEASE.



THE NEXT DAY, AT THE NYC DOHMH CHEST CENTER...



END OF WEEK 1 ON LTBI MEDICINE...



WEEK 6 ON LTBI MEDICINE...





JUAN'S HOUSE...

LAURA! YOU LOOK GREAT! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU OUT OF THE HOSPITAL!

LISTEN, JUAN...



I STOPPED BY BECAUSE JOE TOLD ME YOU WERENT TAKING YOUR TB MEDICINE EVERYDAY.



WHA-?? WHY ARE YOU BOTH ON MY BACK?



JUAN, WE JUST WANT TO HELP YOU! I KNOW WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF YOU DONT TAKE YOUR TB MEDICINE PROPERLY!

I'VE GOT A LOT OF STUFF ON MY MIND! WORK, PROVIDING FOR MY KIDS...

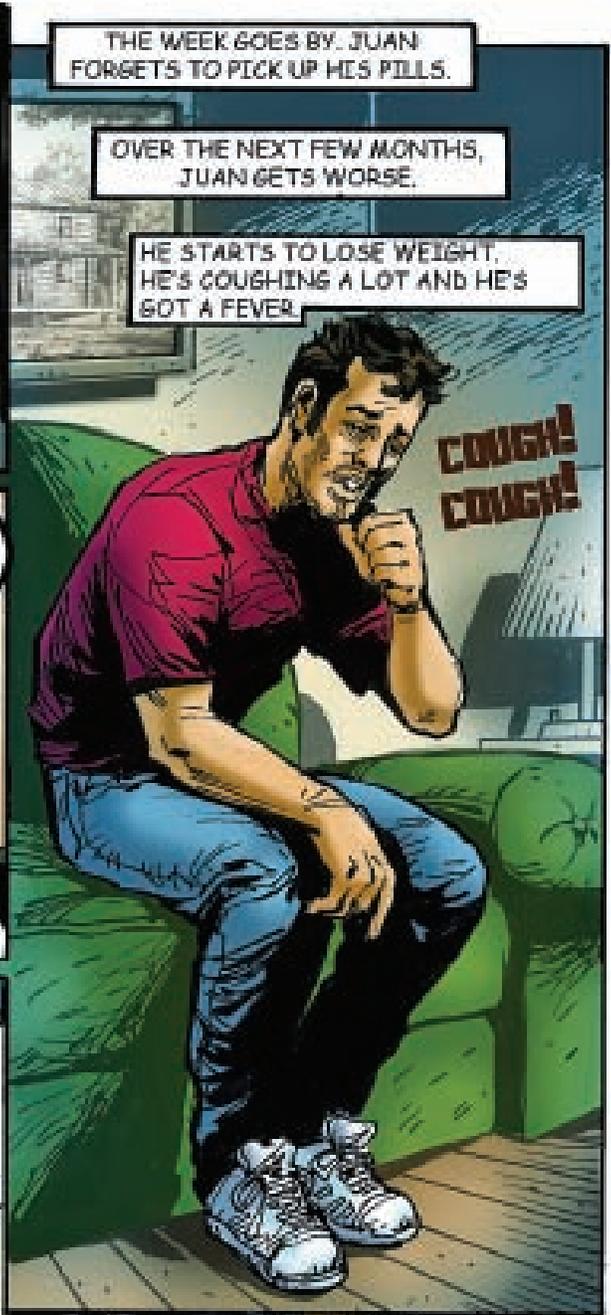
WHO CARES IF I SKIP A FEW TB PILLS?!



SO ENDS LAURA AND JUAN'S "TALK"...

WHY CANT HE UNDERSTAND THAT JOE AND I ARE JUST TRYING TO HELP?

HE MIGHT PUT HIS FAMILY AT RISK IF HE DEVELOPS TB.



LAURA AND JOE MEET JUAN FOR DINNER.



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, JUAN IS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL.



WELL JUAN, YOU'RE LUCKY WE CAUGHT THIS BEFORE IT GOT ANY WORSE.



YOU HAVE TO START MANY TB MEDICATIONS.



JUST THINK... I COULD HAVE BEEN WHERE JUAN IS HAD I NOT TAKEN MY MEDICATION PROPERLY...



SHOULD MY KIDS AND I GET TESTED AGAIN, DOCTOR?

YES.



AFTER NINE MONTHS OF TREATMENT. BACK TO PRESENT DAY AT JUAN'S HOUSE FOR BRUNCH.

SO ANYWAY, LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES TO JUAN, LAURA, AND JOE... CHEERS!

WE'RE ALL LIVING PROOF THAT TB CAN BE DETECTED, PREVENTED, AND CURED..

THANK GOODNESS I DIDN'T INFECT MY FAMILY.

THE END

Department of Health Chest Centers provide free and confidential evaluation and treatment for tuberculosis (TB). Chest Centers provide a complete range of state-of-the-art TB services all under one roof. For your convenience, Chest Centers are open some evenings and Saturdays.

Chest Center Services include:

- Tuberculin Skin Testing
- Medical Evaluation
- Professional Medical Consultation
- Treatment TB for Disease
- Treatment for Latent TB Infection
- Chest X-rays
- Sputum Induction
- HIV Counseling & Testing
- Multi-Lingual Assistance
- Directly Observed Therapy
- Patient Education
- Social Services and Referrals

Chest Center Locations:

Bronx

Morrisania Chest Center
1309 Fulton Avenue, First Floor
Bronx, NY 10456

Brooklyn

Bedford Chest Center
485 Throop Avenue, Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11221

Brownsville Chest Center
259 Bristol Street, Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11212

Note: As of March 2006, this clinic will be operated by the Brownsville Family Health Center as a general medical health clinic, but will offer free TB services under an agreement with the Department of Health.

Bushwick Chest Center
335 Central Avenue, Second Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11212

Fort Greene Chest Center
295 Flatbush Ave., Ext., Fourth Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Manhattan

Chelsea Chest Center
303 9th Avenue, Third Floor
New York, NY 10031

Washington Heights Chest Center
600 West 168th Street, Third Floor
New York, NY 10032

Queens

Corona Chest Center
34-33 Junction Blvd., Second Floor
Queens, NY 11372

Jamaica Chest Center
90-37 Parsons Blvd., Fourth Floor
Jamaica, NY 11432

Staten Island

Richmond Chest Center
51 Stuyvesant Place, Room 415
Staten Island, NY 10301

Please call 311 to make an appointment and verify clinic hours of operation.