

BEE

THE BRAVE UPSTANDER

HAWT ISSUE #4

FALL 2021



“This series inspires each child to become an everyday hero. We have to imagine before we can become.”

Gloria Steinem

A Have Art: Will Travel! Production

With HAWT intern Connor Imes

Edited by Linda Stein

Foreword by Dr. Alice Wexler

FRONT COVER

BEE

THE BRAVE UPSTANDER

HAWT ISSUE 4
Fall 2023

TO SUBMIT A COMIC/GRAPHIC NARRATIVE,
GO TO [HTTPS://WWW.HAVEARTWILLTRAVEL.ORG](https://www.haveartwilltravel.org)



FOREWORD

THE DR. ALICE WEXLER UPSTANDER STORY

Even though I'm not on the autism spectrum, I've written a book on the subject and share many qualities with people who are. I don't make friends easily, I'm not good at small talk and get bored quickly when others do. My mind drifts when others are speaking because they'll say a word that I associate with another subject and I need to consciously pull myself back to the speaker.

However, my husband is on the autism spectrum. And like many on the spectrum, he excels in certain subjects. For example, he has never studied physics but he understands the most complex theories that others have to study for years to understand. I encourage him to write about his unique theory of gravity and I have edited all his work, although now I only need to make minimal comments.

He tells me that when he was a young boy he didn't like sports, although he was good at all of them. Everyone wanted him on their team, but he preferred to watch birds and catch butterflies.

Nature is very important to him, and it makes him happy. I love and

appreciate his love of nature. However, a terrible incident happened at summer camp. Since his interests didn't align with the other boys, he created his own projects and activities. Some of the boys would start fist fights with him because he was different, especially one older boy who was much bigger than him.

One summer he started a nature room that was filled with many kinds of live creatures he found in the camp. One day he returned to find that someone had killed all his frogs, toads, bats, and salamanders. He never found out who did it. It was a devastating event that had a life-long impact. When he told me I was also devastated since I also have a love of all living things. Like many autists, he is extremely sensitive, caring, and loving. I brought him to Costa Rica in 2007, knowing he would fall in love with it. We bought property overlooking the ocean that year and moved to the jungles four years ago to live in nature, surrounded by monkeys, birds, flowers and palm trees.

Dr. Alice Wexler, MFA, Ed.D.

Alice Wexler, author of *Autism in a Decentered World* (2016) and co-editor of *Contemporary Art and Disability Studies* (2020), received a BFA at Boston University and an MFA from the Royal College of Art, London, UK, where she graduated with distinction. Wexler received her EdD in Arts and Humanities from Columbia University, Teachers College. She was Professor of Art Education at SUNY New Paltz from 1999-2015, specializing in disability studies, and continues to teach as an invited lecturer.

NOTE: THE C-TEAM IS AVAILABLE TO HELP TEACHERS
INCORPORATE THIS COMIC INTO THEIR CLASS LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
PLEASE CONTACT HAWT@HAVEARTWILLTRAVEL.ORG



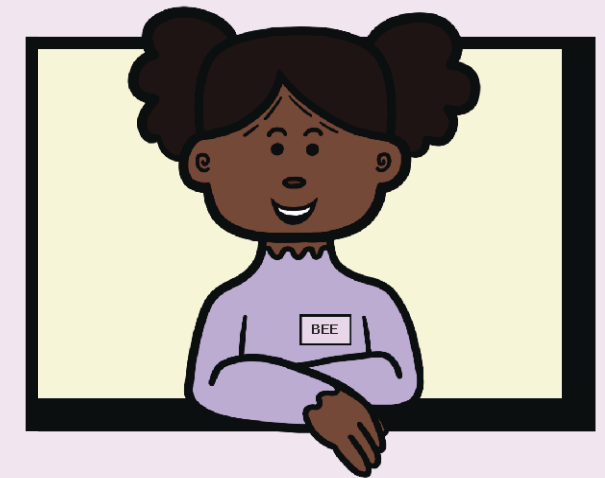
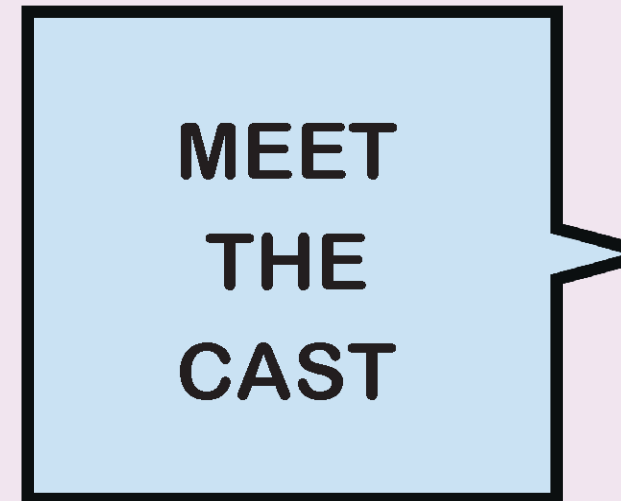
PREFACE

“BEE THE BRAVE UPSTANDER”
A NEW EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE
OF THE NON-PROFIT
HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL (HAWT) FOR JUSTICE,
INVITES SUBMISSIONS OF COMIC
OR GRAPHIC NARRATIVES FOR PUBLICATION
AS PART OF HAWT’S SERIES ADDRESSING
BECOMING A COURAGEOUS UPSTANDER.

THIS PROJECT STARTED WHEN HAWT/STEIN’S
COLLEGE INTERNS (WORKING EITHER AT TRIBECA NY STUDIO
OR REMOTELY DURING COVID) SUGGESTED
THEY WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE A STORY BASED ON THE
ARTIST’S ART AND UPSTANDER MISSION
OF THE NON-PROFIT.

THE STORIES IN THIS SERIES FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES
OF A YOUNGSTER NAMED BEE
WHO PERSONALLY EXPERIENCES OR WITNESSES VICTIMIZATION,
FINDING THE POWER OF ART HELPS TO INSPIRE
THE BULLIED, BULLY, BYSTANDER AND BRAVE UPSTANDER (4 B’S)
TO DISPLAY COURAGEOUS KINDNESS
IN BECOMING AN EVERYDAY HERO.

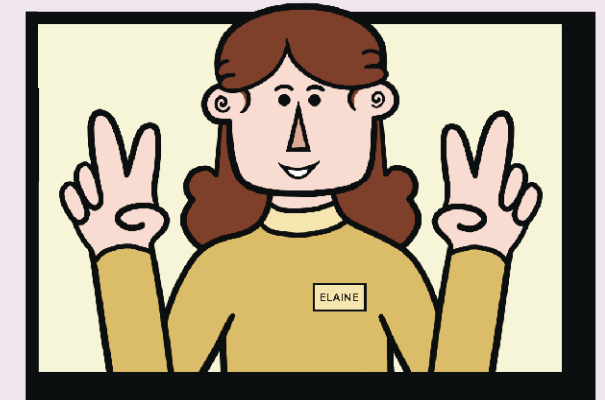
IN ISSUE #4, DELILAH IS BEING BULLIED BECAUSE
SHE IS AUTISTIC AND HAS SOME BODILY AND VERBAL TRAITS
THAT THE BULLIES AND BYSTANDERS THINK IS “WEIRD.”
HOW DOES BEE START BEING AN UPSTANDER?
SHE STARTS BY JUST LISTENING TO DELILAH,
AND THEN “STICKS UP” FOR HER TO VICTIMIZERS.



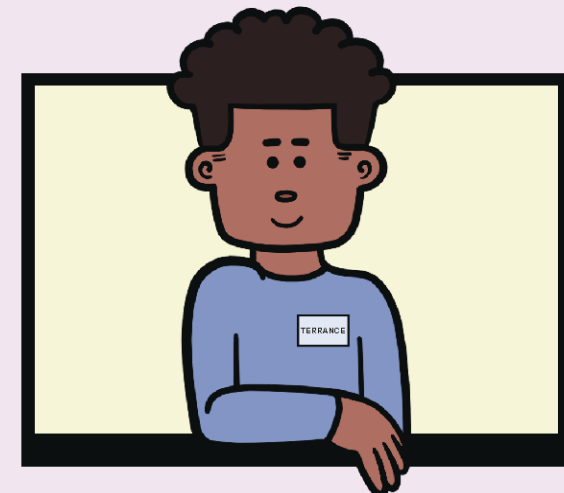
BEE



DELILAH



ELAINE



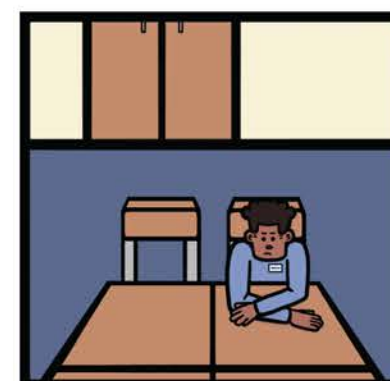
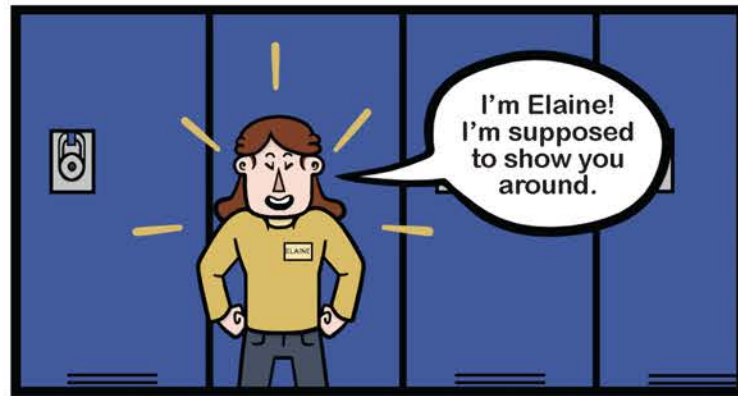
TERRANCE



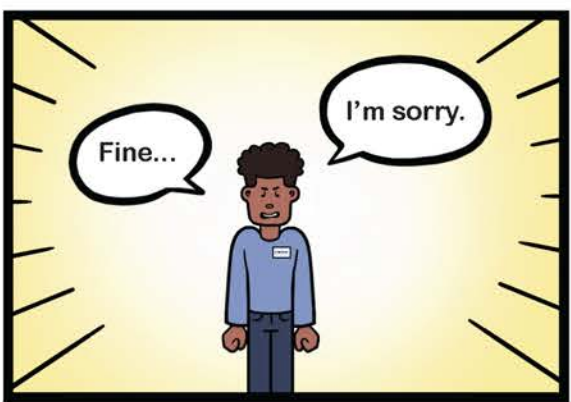
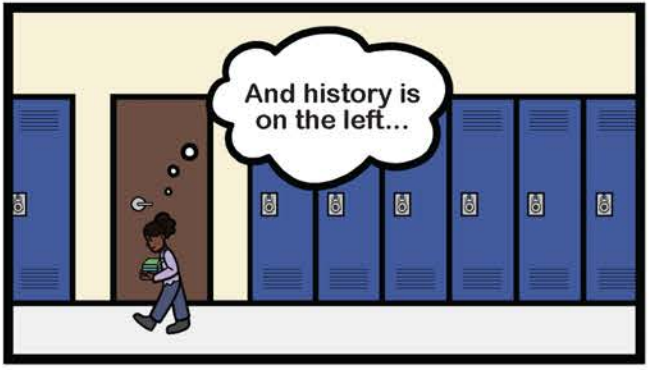
MRS. LI



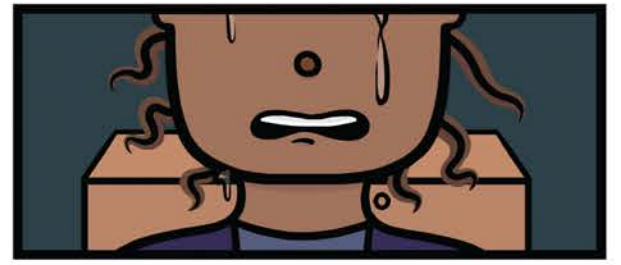


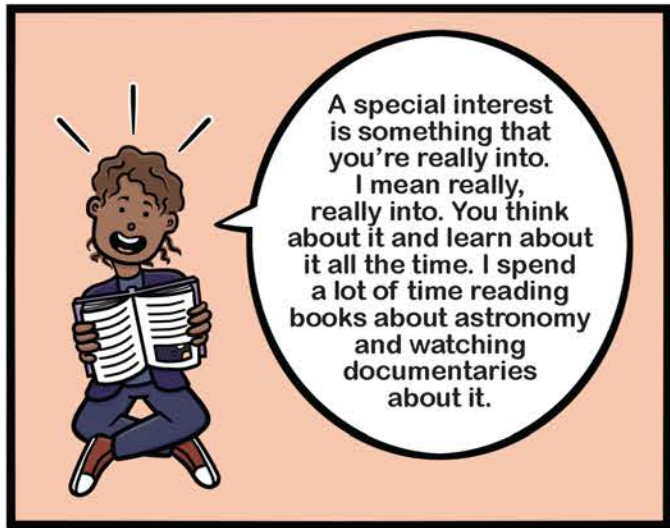


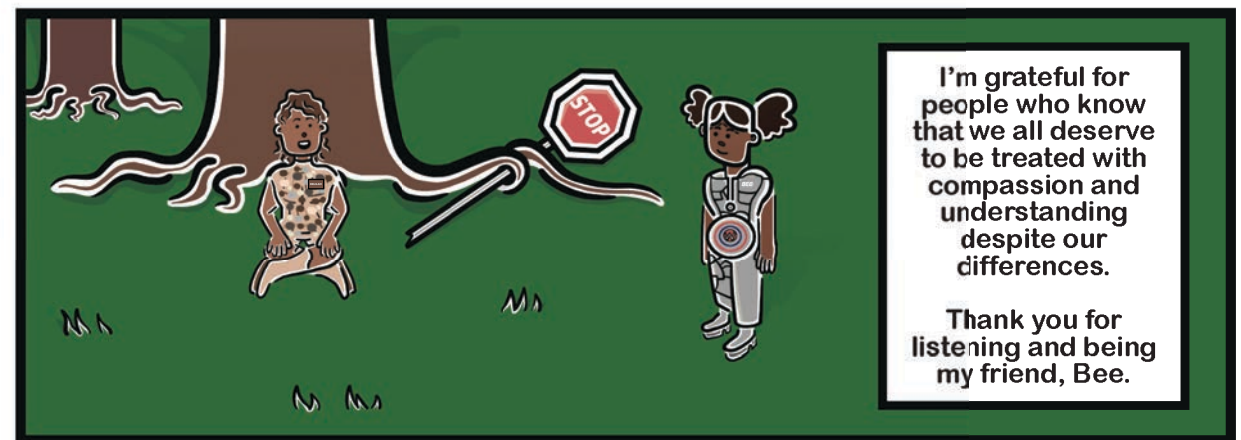
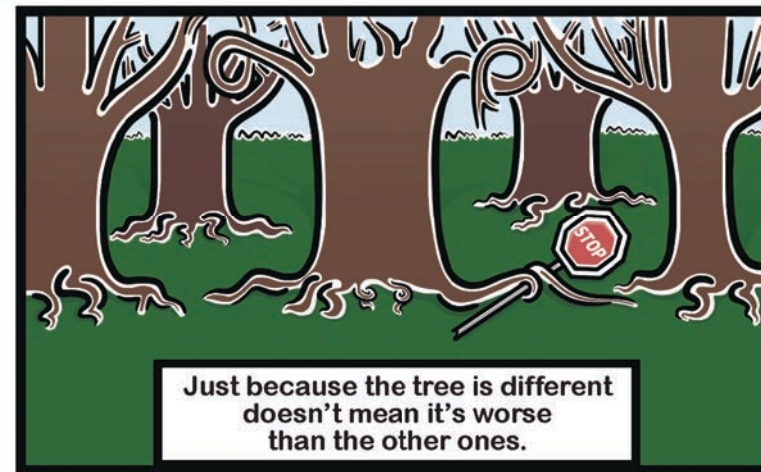
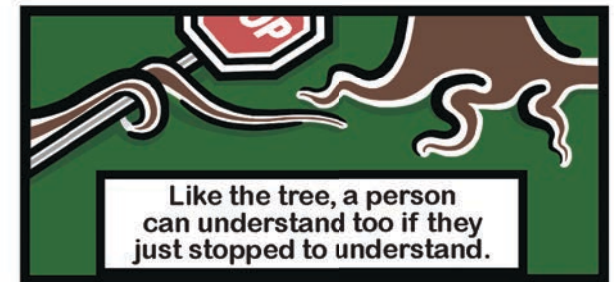
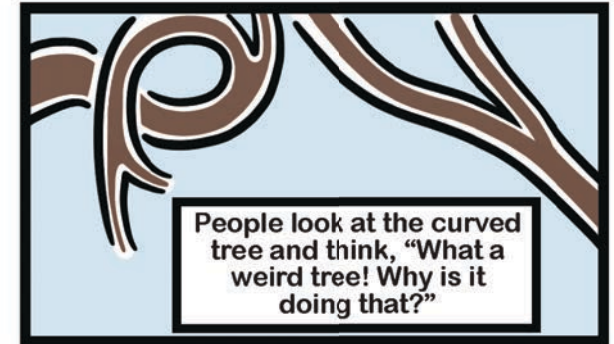
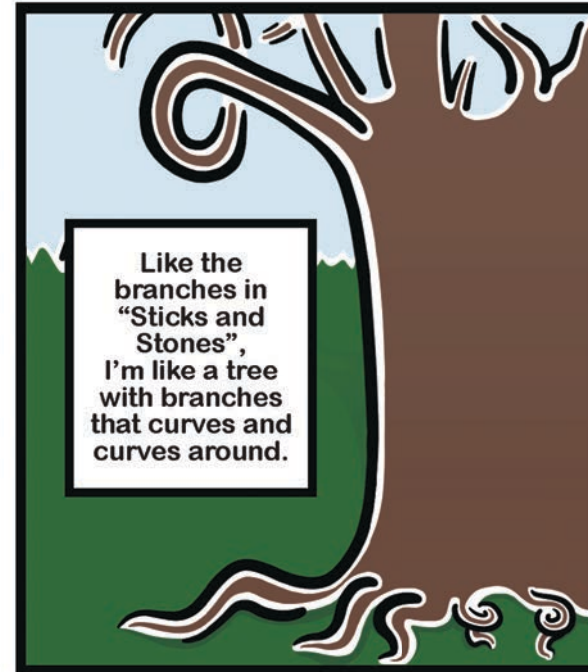
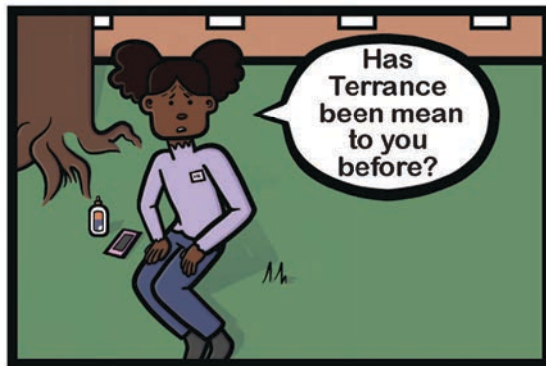
AFTER HOMEROOM...

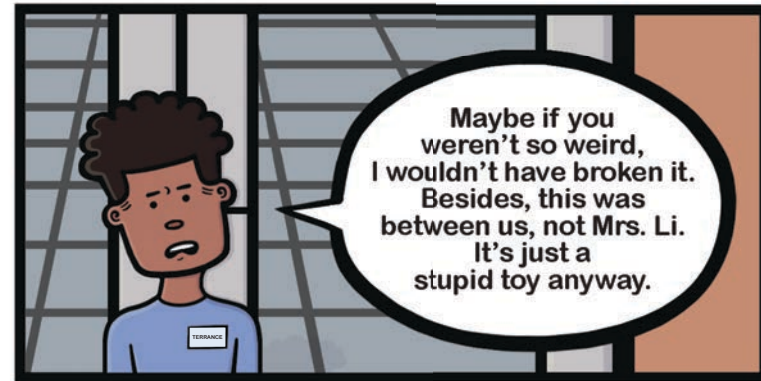
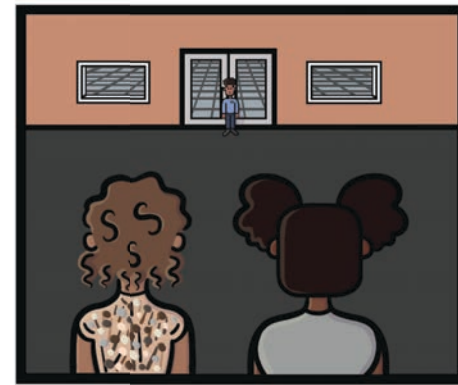
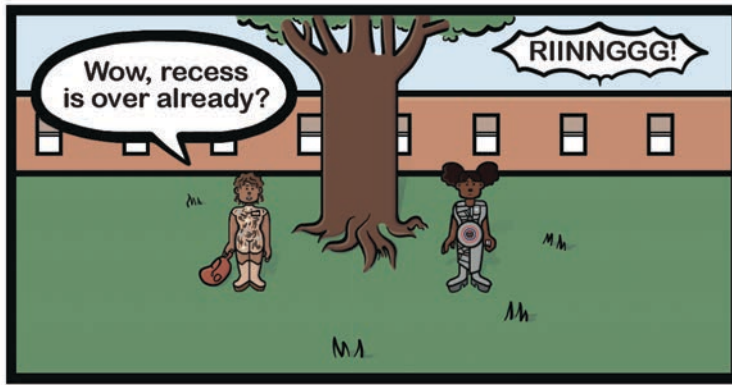


IN MRS. LI'S CLASS...

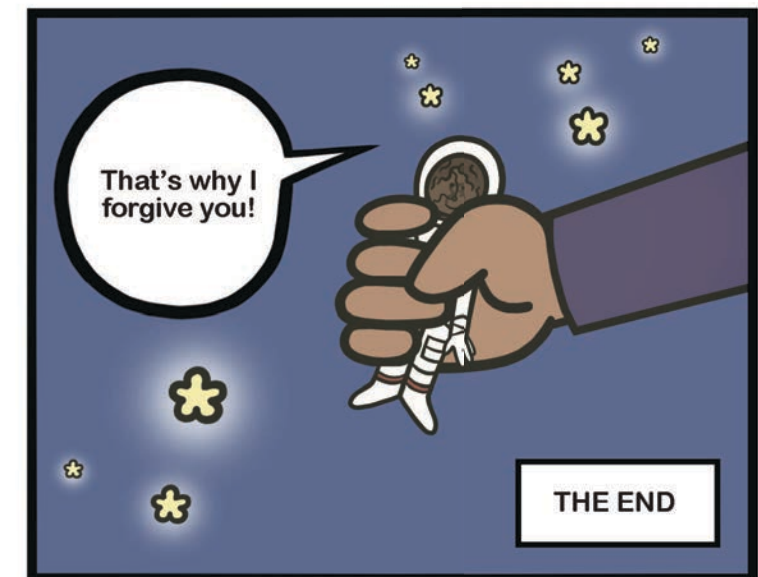
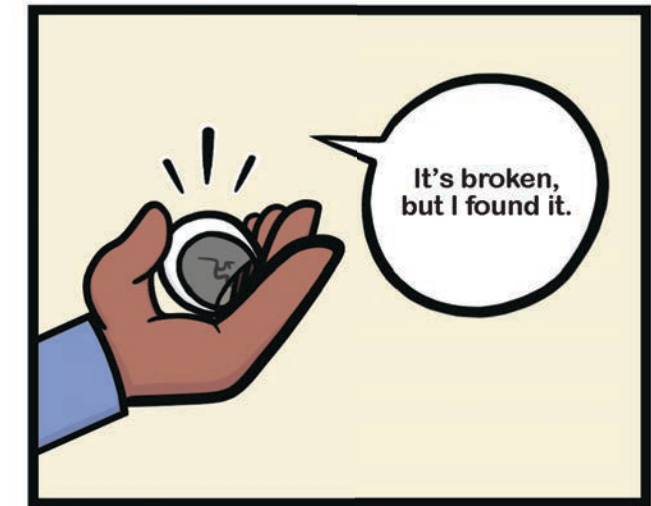








THE NEXT DAY...



THE END

FINAL WORDS FROM THE ARTIST CONNOR IMES

When I was a child, I felt I was very ordinary.

I rode my bike around the neighborhood
in search of things to do and people to play with,
I went to school, I loved to watch cartoons, and I would beg
my mother to buy whatever candy was near the register
almost every time we went to the grocery store.

I was confused to find that I had trouble making friends
and fitting in at school. Even worse was that my classmates
would take advantage of my difficulty understanding social situations
and sarcasm to make fun of me. I spent my entire childhood wondering
why the other children treated me like I was different from them.
I got an answer after getting diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
in the fall of 2020. I'm still an ordinary person with hopes, dreams,
and loved ones despite being autistic. People don't realize this
because they can't get past my autistic traits that impact how
I interact with people and the world around me.

I took inspiration from my experiences and looked back on
these memories with deep reflection while creating the story of Delilah
and her friend Bee, who extended kindness and understanding
when nobody else would.



The word “disability” describes conditions that
affect learning, language, the physical body, or behavior,
with autism falling under this category. Being disabled is hard
because of the world trying to make it that way.
This is because of ableism, which is the act of being mean to people
only because of their disability.
I experienced ableism due to being autistic throughout my life,
but I wasn't diagnosed until recently.

How did this happen?

Children are much smarter than adults think they are.
It's so interesting how children can spot characteristics
of a disability in a child before adults can.
From what I've seen, it's usually not the knowledge of the disability
that causes bullying in school but the behaviors
that come with being disabled. It's the mindset of “Let's bully the weird kid
who can't understand jokes, makes noises for seemingly no reason,
and flaps their hands!” rather than “Let's bully the disabled kid!”
This ableist bullying can make children feel very sad and lonely,
but it doesn't have to be this way.

It's very easy to do acts of kindness every day.
As if there were a stop sign in front of us all,
take a moment to think instead of using hurtful words.
The world for disabled students will be a much happier place
both in and out of the classroom because of it.

Thank you so much for reading my comic
and taking a moment to learn about disabilities and ableism!



CREDITS

COMPLETED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
LINDA STEIN AND HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL INC.
DURING A SUMMER 2021 INTERNSHIP.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

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CURRICULAR TEAM CHAIR

KAREN KEIFER-BOYD

EDITED BY

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NOTE: THE C-TEAM IS AVAILABLE TO HELP TEACHERS
INCORPORATE THIS COMIC INTO THEIR CLASS LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
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THE MISSION OF HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL! (HAWT) IS TO:

TOUCH AND BE TOUCHED

ART CAN BE A CATALYST
FOR DIALOGUE, EMPATHY,
AND UPSTANDER ACTION.

USING ART AS A STARTING POINT

HAWT INVISIONS JUSTICE
BY ADDRESSING ISSUES OF
POWER/VULNERABILITY,
MASCULINITY/FEMININITY,
WARMAKER/PEACEMAKER

THROUGH THE LENS OF POWER AND OPRESSION,
INCLUDING RACISM, SEXISM, ABLEISM,
CLASSISM AND TRANS/HOMOPHOBIA.

WITH EXHIBITS, LECTURES, WORKSHOPS,
PERFORMANCES, BOOKS, ESSAYS,
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WEBSITES,

HAWT INSPIRES THE **BULLIED, BULLY, AND BYSTANDER**
TO BECOME THE **BRAVE UPSTANDER**
AND EVERYDAY HERO.



**FOR THIS ISSUE,
IMES CHOSE FROM
THE ARTIST'S WORK, INCLUDING:**

**FROM BODY-SWAPPING
ARMOR SERIES, 2008**



IN THIS ISSUE,
BEE MAGICALLY TRANSFORMS
INTO THE SCULPTURE SEEN ABOVE
AFTER BEING INSPIRED BY IT
TO BECOME AN UPSTANDING ALLY.

**FROM I AM THE ENVIRONMENT
SERIES, 2008**



IN THIS ISSUE,
DELILAH MAGICALLY TRANSFORMS
INTO THE SCULPTURE SEEN ABOVE
AFTER BEING INSPIRED BY IT
TO BE KIND TO HERSELF.

HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL!

**BE AN UPSTANDER!
BE CONFIDENT!
BE KIND!
BE YOURSELF!
BE BRAVE!
BEE BRAVE!**

**P.S. GRADUALLY, BEING AN UPSTANDER
WILL BECOME A HABIT,
AND YOU WON'T EVEN NEED
EXTRA ARMOR.
YOUR OWN BODY AND MIND
ARE ENOUGH
TO PRACITCE KINDNESS.**

HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL! INC.

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“Magnatio dolut pre liquo tem etur? Nem ut peliqui reic temqui
dolut et faccae opta verfera et volori officidebist ea ilite.”

SOCIAL ACTIVIST

PLACEHOLDER FOR TITLE

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SOCIAL ACTIVIST

PLACEHOLDER FOR TITLE

COMICS/GRAPHIC NARRATIVES

CREATED BY PASSIONATE YOUNG ADULTS FOR AGES 7-10 (PLUS COMPASSIONATE ELDERS)
PRODUCED BY THE NON-PROFIT HAVE ART: WILL TRAVEL! INC FOR COURAGEOUS KINDNESS