

OP-ART

Things I Thought Made Sense Just Don't Anymore

Dec. 28, 2023, 5:03 a.m. ET

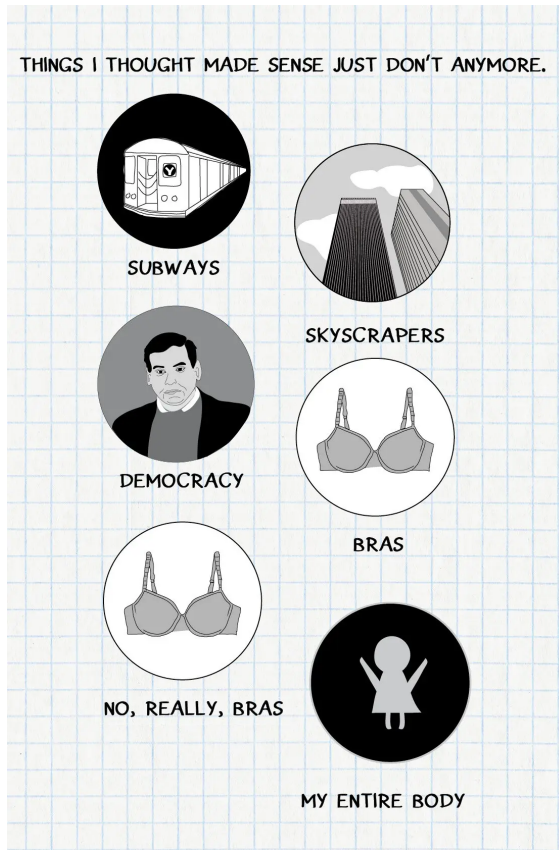
By Mira Jacob

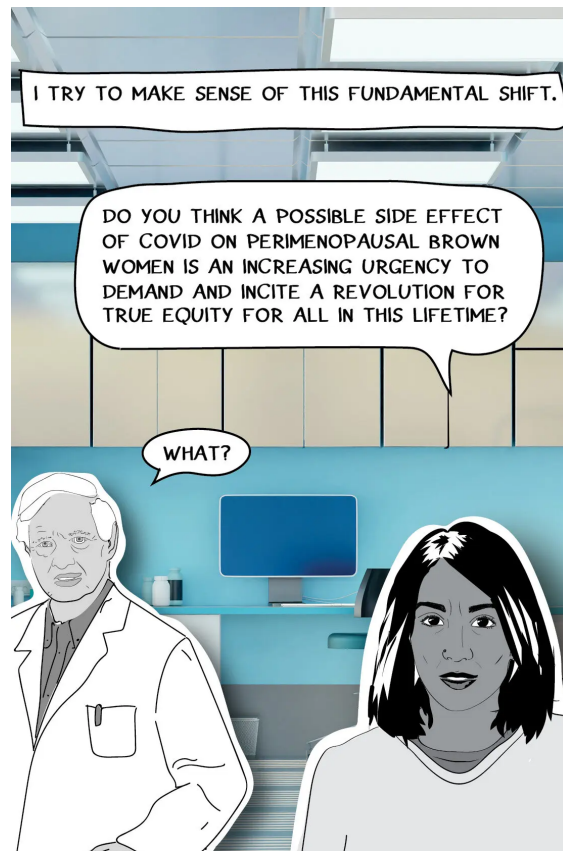
Ms. Jacob is the author and illustrator of "Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations."

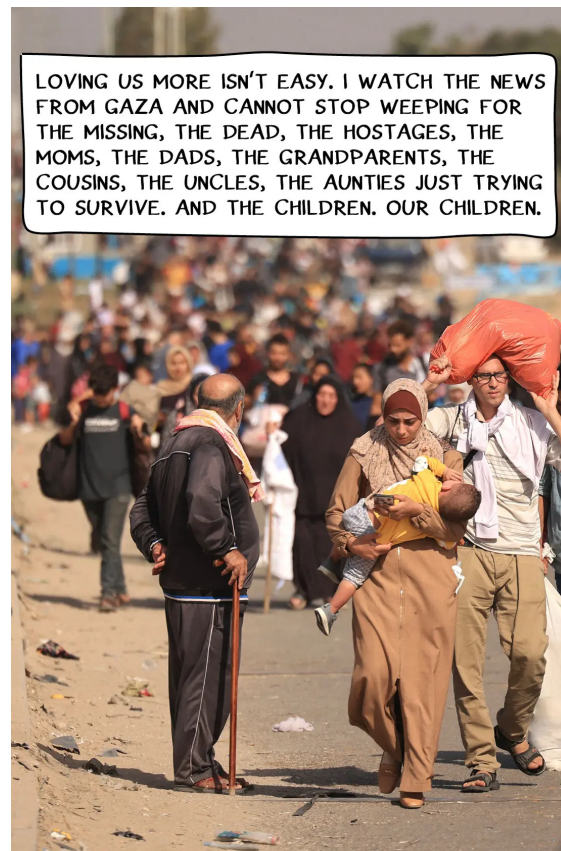
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EVOLUTION HAS WORKED OUT WELL FOR OTHER INHABITANTS OF EARTH.



IN ELEPHANTS, THEIR TRUNKS — WHICH CAN UPROOT WHOLE TREES OR PICK UP A SINGLE LEAF OR SOOTHE THEIR YOUNG — STARTED AS SNORKELS FOR THEIR SEMI-AQUATIC ANCESTORS.



IN GIRAFFES, THEIR BLUE TONGUES ARE BELIEVED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO EAT LEAVES FROM THE TOPS OF SUN-SCORCHED TREES.

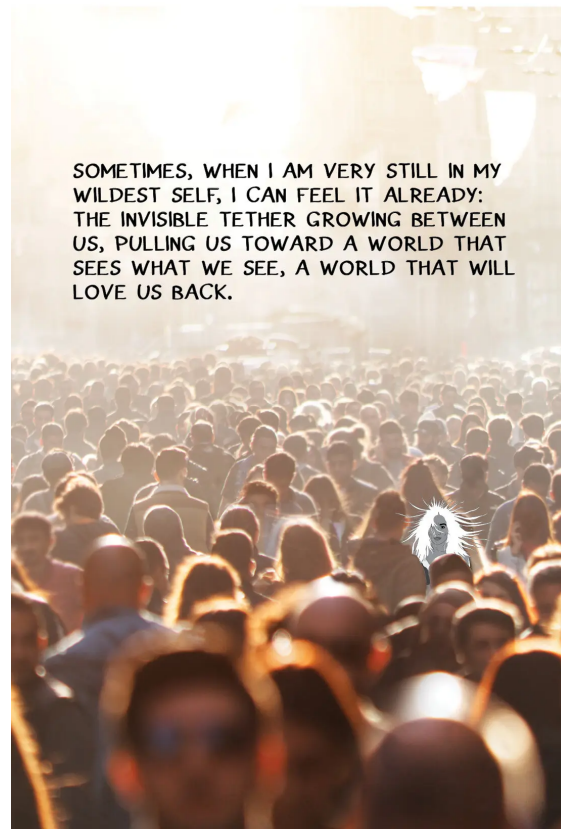


THE WOOD FROG SURVIVES TEMPERATURES BELOW -18°C BY LETTING 60 PERCENT OF ITS BODY FREEZE AND THEN THAW WHEN SPRING RETURNS.



IN RESPONSE TO PHYSICAL DAMAGE OR STARVATION, THE IMMORTAL JELLYFISH TRANSFORMS INTO A POLYP AND STARTS ITS LIFE ALL OVER AGAIN.





Mira Jacob is the author and illustrator of "Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations."

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