

## University of Dundee

### The Gift

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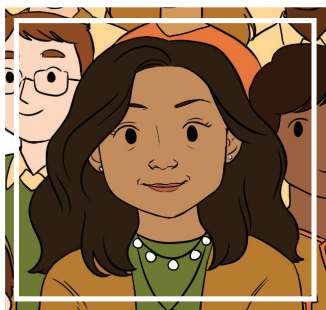
# THE GIFT

*Transforming Lives through  
Organ and Tissue Donation*



# The Gift: Transforming Lives Through Organ and Tissue Donation

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It is my great pleasure to introduce this comic. Our project originated from an honest conversation with my friend and colleague Prof Chris Murray: how to communicate complex issues surrounding the issue of organ donation? Over the last ten years I have had the honour of being an ambassador for the organ and tissue donation campaign by telling my son, Andrew's, story.

Through my role as an organ and tissue donation ambassador I meet courageous and selfless people. Some are in desperate need of hope, some are in the position to provide hope, and those who, through their professionalism and dedication, transform lives.

Our sincere thanks for the support of the following organisations: University of Dundee; the NHS Blood and Transplant Specialist Nurses in Organ Donation; Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service Tissue Donor Coordinators; Dundee Comics Creative Space; Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief, and the Organ Donation Comics team. It is only through their support that this project came to fruition.

In the following pages we share heartfelt stories and life experiences related to organ and tissue donation. By doing so we hope to bring awareness to a wider audience and prompt honest conversations about organ donation.

Finally, I would like to thank my sons Andrew and Stuart for warming my heart. Through tears and laughter we present to you... **The Gift**.

**Mayra Crowe** - Senior Lecturer, Spanish Organiser, University of Dundee and International Projects Development Coordinator for The Scottish Centre For Comics Studies.

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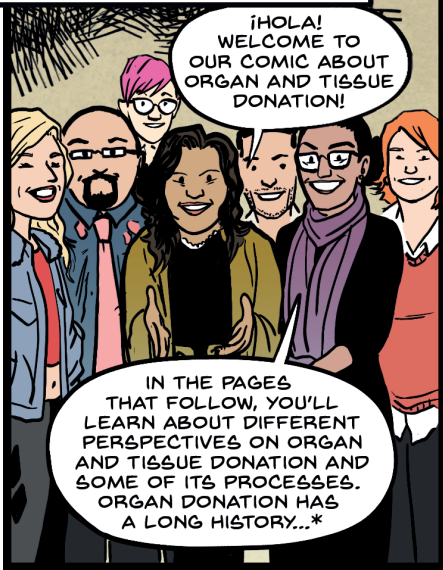
**Story:** Laura Findlay **Art:** Catriona Laird  
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**Scripts** by Mayra Crowe, Damon Herd, Rebecca Horner, Laura Findlay, Chris Murray, Golnar Nabizadeh, Megan Sinclair & Phillip Vaughan. **Front Cover:** Ink by Norrie Millar, colouring by Rebecca Horner.

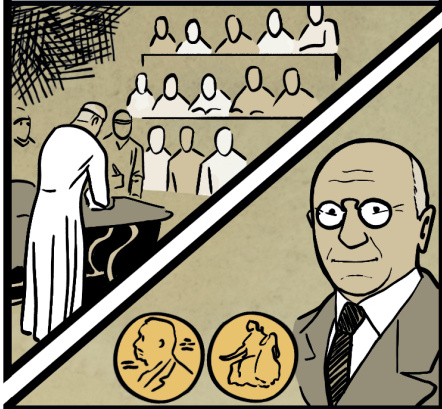
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# ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION: AN OVERVIEW



1902; THE FRENCH DOCTOR ALEXIS CARREL PIONEERS THE SURGICAL JOINING OF BLOOD VESSELS, WHICH LAID MUCH OF THE GROUNDWORK FOR LATER SUCCESSFUL TRANSPLANTS.



IN RECOGNITION OF HIS WORK, CARREL WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE IN 1912.

1905, MORAVIA (NOW PART OF THE MODERN-DAY CZECH REPUBLIC); DR EDUARD ZIRM CARRIED OUT THE WORLD'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL CORNEA TRANSPLANT, RESTORING THE SIGHT OF A LABOURER BLINDED IN AN ACCIDENT A YEAR EARLIER.



SOON AFTER THE OPERATION, THE PATIENT WAS ABLE TO SEE, AND RETAINED HIS EYESIGHT FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

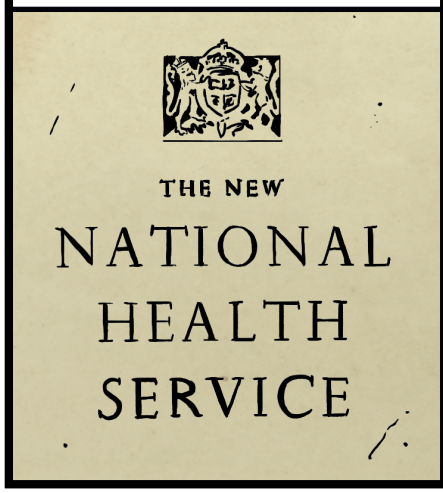
THE CORNEA IS UNIQUE IN THE HUMAN BODY AS IT DOES NOT REQUIRE A BLOOD SUPPLY TO SURVIVE AND AS SUCH IT CAN BE DONATED UP TO 24 HOURS AFTER DEATH.

1918; DURING WORLD WAR I, THE BRITISH ARMY CREATED A 'BLOOD DEPOT' FOR WOUNDED TROOPS, USING ADVANCES IN ANTI-COAGULANTS AND BLOOD-TYPING TO STORE BLOOD FOR TRANSFUSION.

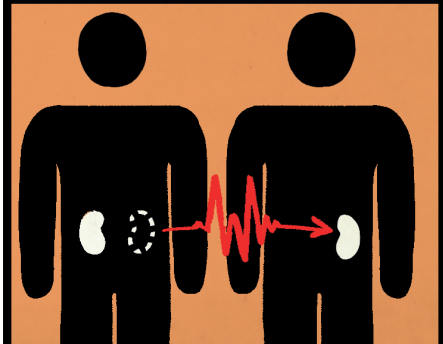


THIS WAS THE PREDECESSOR OF MODERN BLOOD BANKS.

1948; THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) IS ESTABLISHED IN THE UK TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE, AND WILL GO ON TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF DEVELOPING ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION TECHNOLOGY.



1954; DR JOSEPH MURRAY PERFORMS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL KIDNEY TRANSPLANT IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. HE AND HIS TEAM SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPLANT A KIDNEY FROM RONALD HERRICK TO HIS DYING TWIN BROTHER, RICHARD, SAVING HIS LIFE.



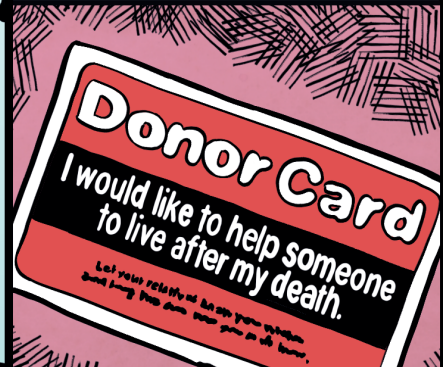
6 YEARS LATER, SIR MICHAEL WOODRUFF PERFORMS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL KIDNEY TRANSPLANT IN THE UK.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

IN THE UK, ONE THIRD OF TRANSPLANTED KIDNEYS ARE FROM LIVING DONORS, WHO CAN CONTINUE TO LEAD NORMAL HEALTHY LIVES WITH THE USE OF ONE KIDNEY.

BETWEEN 1960 AND 1989, SUCCESSFUL KIDNEY, HEART, LIVER, COMBINED HEART AND LUNG, AND LUNG-ONLY TRANSPLANTS ARE CARRIED OUT IN THE UK. CARDS FOR KIDNEY DONORS ARE INTRODUCED IN 1971.



\*HISTORICAL INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THE NHS' 'HISTORY OF DONATION', AVAILABLE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.NHS.UK/TOOLS/DOCUMENTS/TRANSPLANT.HTML](https://www.nhs.uk/tools/documents/transplant.html)

1994: THE NHS ORGAN DONOR REGISTER IS ESTABLISHED TO IDENTIFY DONORS' WISHES AND TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO SIGN UP AS ORGAN AND/OR TISSUE DONORS IN NEW WAYS, SUCH AS IN DRIVING LICENCE APPLICATIONS.



PREVIOUSLY IN THE UK INDIVIDUALS WHO WISHED TO BECOME AN ORGAN OR TISSUE DONOR HAD TO SIGN UP TO THE ORGAN DONOR REGISTER. THIS WAS KNOWN AS AN 'OPT-IN' SYSTEM.



## Rhoi Organau Cymru

### Organ Donation Wales

IN 2015, WALES CHANGED ITS ORGAN DONATION LAWS TO AN 'OPT-OUT' OR 'DEEMED CONSENT' SYSTEM. THIS MEANS THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO DON'T WANT TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR NEED TO SAY SO VIA THE NHS ORGAN DONOR REGISTER.

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE REST OF THE UK HAS ALSO MOVED TOWARDS A 'DEEMED CONSENT/AUTHORISATION' SYSTEM



FOR MANY PEOPLE, ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION, AND END OF LIFE WISHES CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS AND NEED TO BE TREATED WITH CARE AND SENSITIVITY.



WHEREVER YOU LIVE IN THE UK, IT'S WORTH DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION, AND ADDRESSING SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS THAT SURROUND THIS PROCESS -- **ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CAN TRANSFORM OR SAVE LIVES.**

FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE WORKED WITH ORGAN RECIPIENTS, DONORS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO SPECIALISE IN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTS, TO BRING YOU THEIR STORIES.



THESE STORIES COME FROM MAYRA CROWE, THE MOTHER OF A DONOR, A SPECIALIST NURSE IN THE NHS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION TEAM, AND A RECIPIENT.



A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THIS, AND TO YOU FOR PICKING UP THIS COMIC!

WE HOPE YOU LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION, AND JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT CAUSE!

**END**

# ANDREW'S STORY



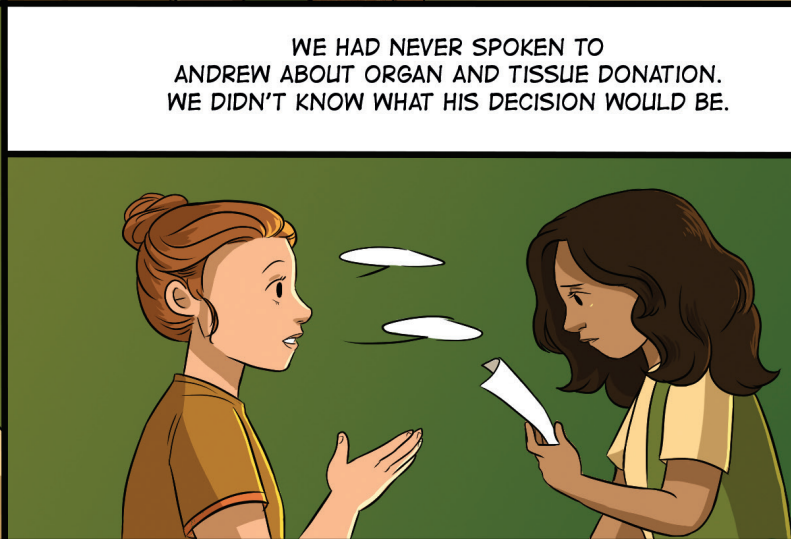
FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS I HAVE BEEN AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AMBASSADOR, NATIONWIDE AND IN SCOTLAND.

FOR ME, BEING AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AMBASSADOR PROVIDES A PLATFORM TO TELL MY SON'S STORY...



ANDREW DIED SUDDENLY FROM A BRAIN ANEURISM. MY FAMILY AND I WERE FACED WITH A CHALLENGING DECISION.

WE HAD NEVER SPOKEN TO ANDREW ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIS DECISION WOULD BE.



WE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT THE PERSON HE WAS...



the  
Cadets Andrew Crowe  
promise to honour my  
God, my Queen and my  
country, and to do my  
best, to serve them  
loyally and honourably,  
through the Brechin  
Black Watch Detachment  
of the Argyll and Dundee  
Cavalry (The Army  
Cadet Force), to which  
I now belong.

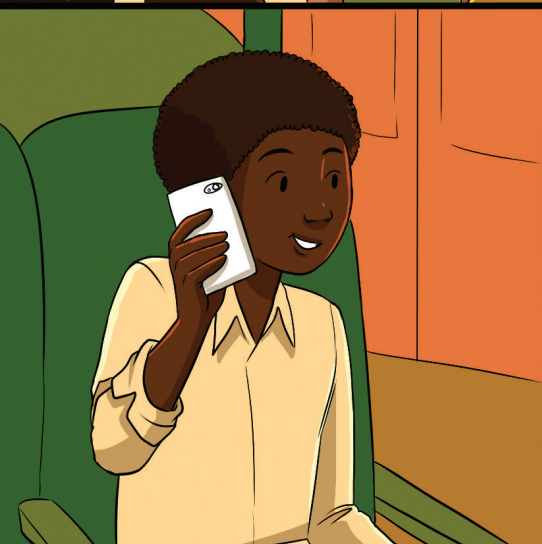
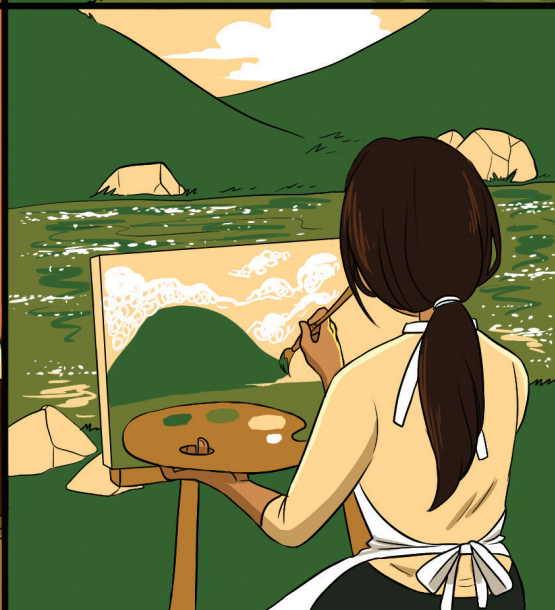
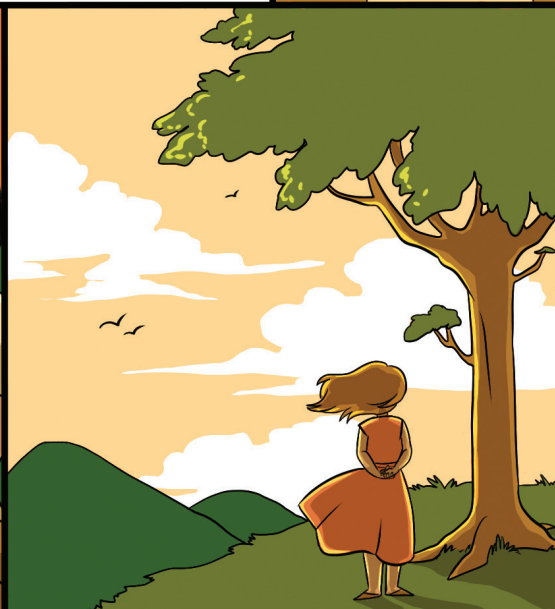
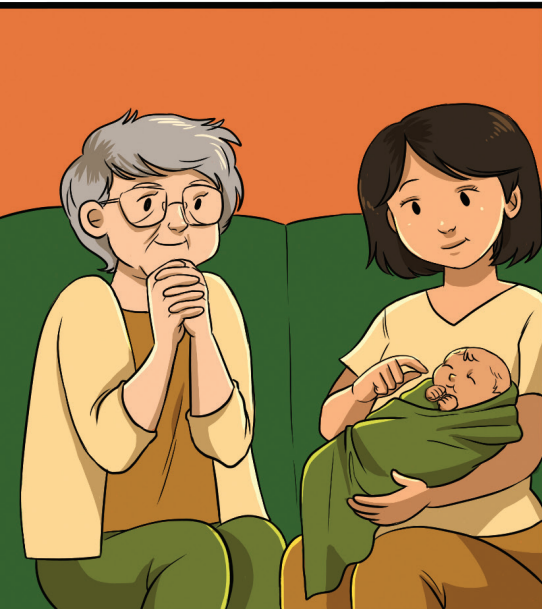




IN THE END  
IT WAS CLEAR  
WHAT ANDREW  
WOULD HAVE  
WANTED.



THANKS  
TO ANDREW,  
NINE PEOPLE  
NOW ENJOY  
A RENEWED  
QUALITY OF  
LIFE.



INSPIRED  
BY HELPING  
OTHERS, I FELT  
IT IMPORTANT  
TO SHARE OUR  
STORY...



BEING AN AMBASSADOR HAS GIVEN ME OPPORTUNITIES TO GO TO NEW PLACES AND TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES.

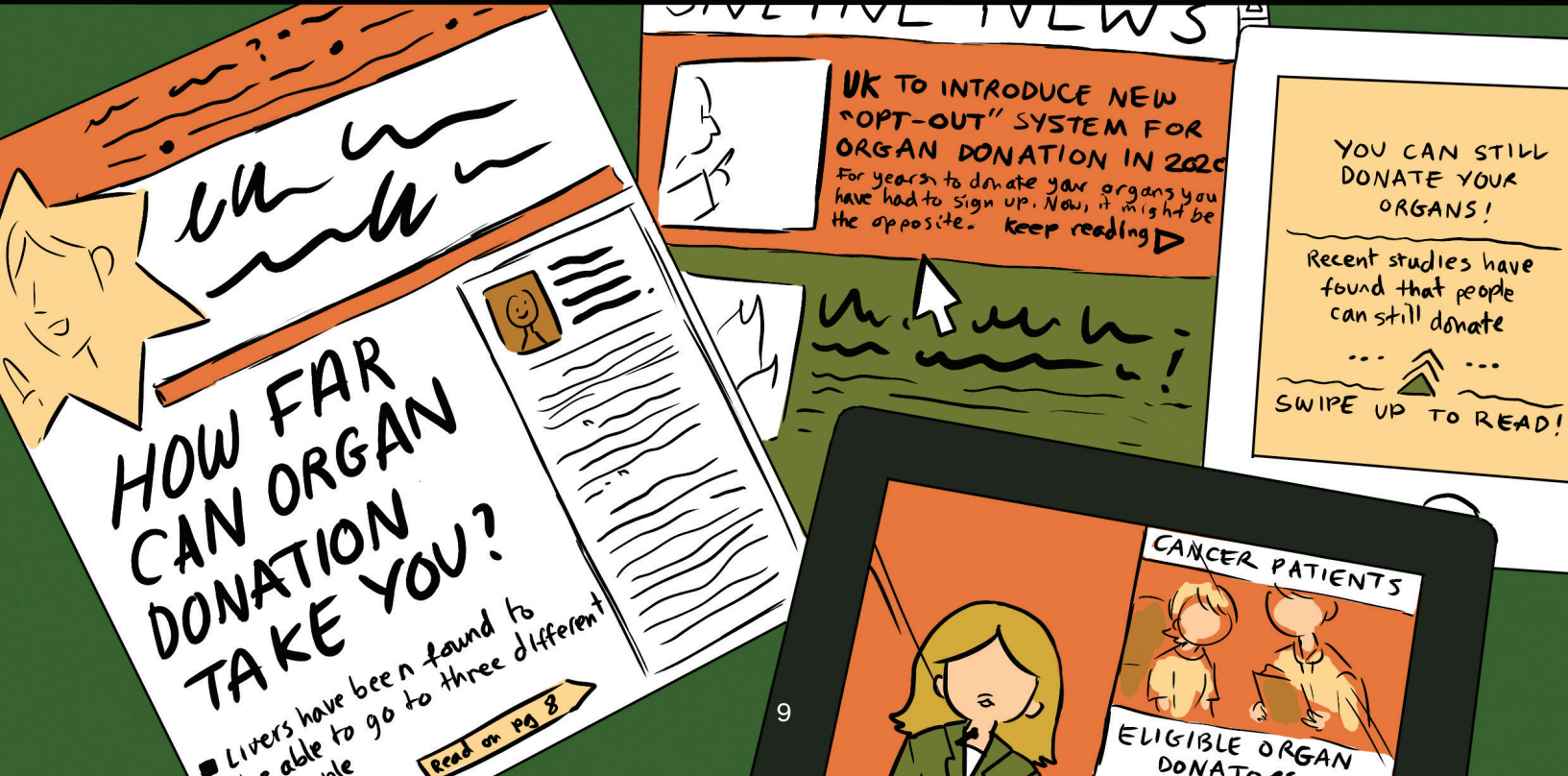


MY AIM IS NOT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT TO DO, BUT TO INFORM THEM OF THEIR OPTIONS AND TO MAKE SURE THEY TELL THEIR RELATIVES IF THEY WANT TO DONATE.

I WAS INVITED TO TELL MY STORY AS PART OF A PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY FOR THE 'OPT OUT' BILL.



RECENTLY, MEDIA COVERAGE HAS SHED LIGHT ON THE NEW LAW, WHICH WILL APPLY TO MOST ADULTS WHO ARE RESIDENT IN SCOTLAND.



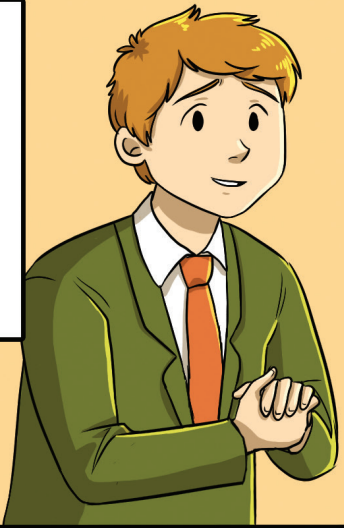
**HOW FAR CAN ORGAN DONATION TAKE YOU?**  
 Livers have been found to be able to go to three different people  
 Read on Pg 8

**UK TO INTRODUCE NEW "OPT-OUT" SYSTEM FOR ORGAN DONATION IN 2020**  
 For years to donate your organs you have had to sign up. Now, it might be the opposite. Keep reading!

**YOU CAN STILL DONATE YOUR ORGANS!**  
 Recent studies have found that people can still donate  
 ...  
 SWIPE UP TO READ!

**CANCER PATIENTS**  
**ELIGIBLE ORGAN DONATORS**

I RECALL THE FIRST RECIPIENT I EVER MET. WE WERE AT AN ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY ORGAN DONATION.



AFTERWARDS, HE TALKED TO ME ABOUT HIS GUILT AT RECEIVING A DONATION.

HE WAS COMFORTED TO HEAR MY STORY...



...AND LEARN OF A RELATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION HAS GIVEN ME A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, ENABLING ME TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES.



THEY LIVE IT DAY IN AND DAY OUT - THEY ARE SUPERHEROES.



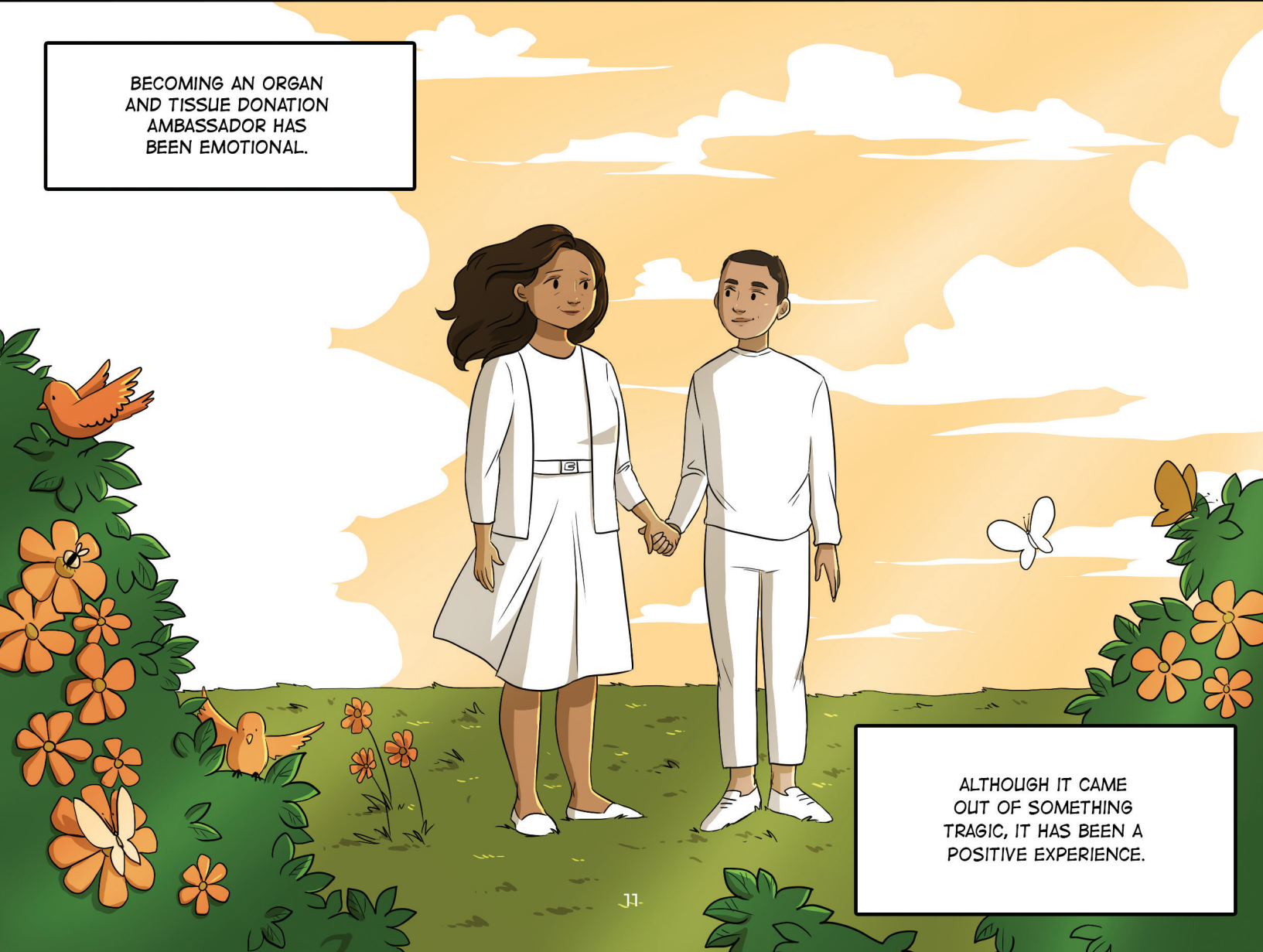
ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS THAT SURPRISED ME THROUGHOUT MY WORK WITH ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION IS WHEN A 15-YEAR OLD CONTACTED ME, SAYING HE HAD SEEN ME ON TV AND PUT HIS NAME ON THE ORGAN DONOR REGISTER.



TO ME, ORGAN DONATION IS A CONTINUATION OF LIFE. IT IS A PRICELESS GIFT.



BECOMING AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN EMOTIONAL.

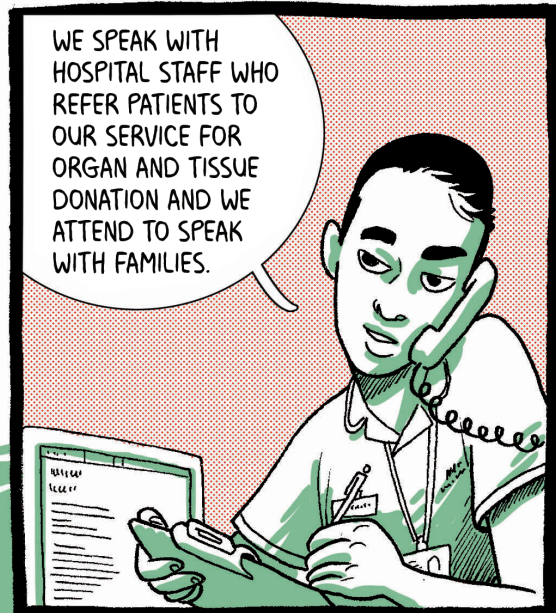


ALTHOUGH IT CAME OUT OF SOMETHING TRAGIC, IT HAS BEEN A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE.

# THE PROCESS OF ORGAN DONATION



I AM A SPECIALIST NURSE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WITHIN A TEAM THAT COVERS THE WHOLE OF SCOTLAND.



WE SPEAK WITH HOSPITAL STAFF WHO REFER PATIENTS TO OUR SERVICE FOR ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND WE ATTEND TO SPEAK WITH FAMILIES.

ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS WE DO IS TO SPEAK WITH FAMILIES ABOUT THEIR LOVED ONES' DECISIONS



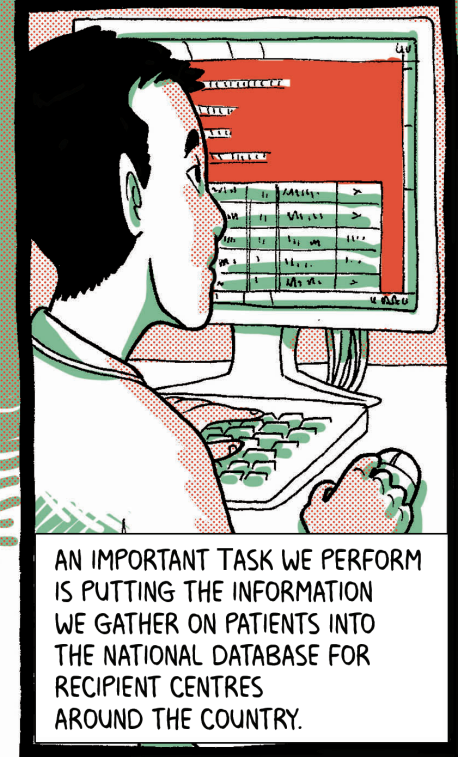
WE ARE MEETING THE FAMILIES AT AN EMOTIONAL TIME FOR THEM WHATEVER HAPPENS.



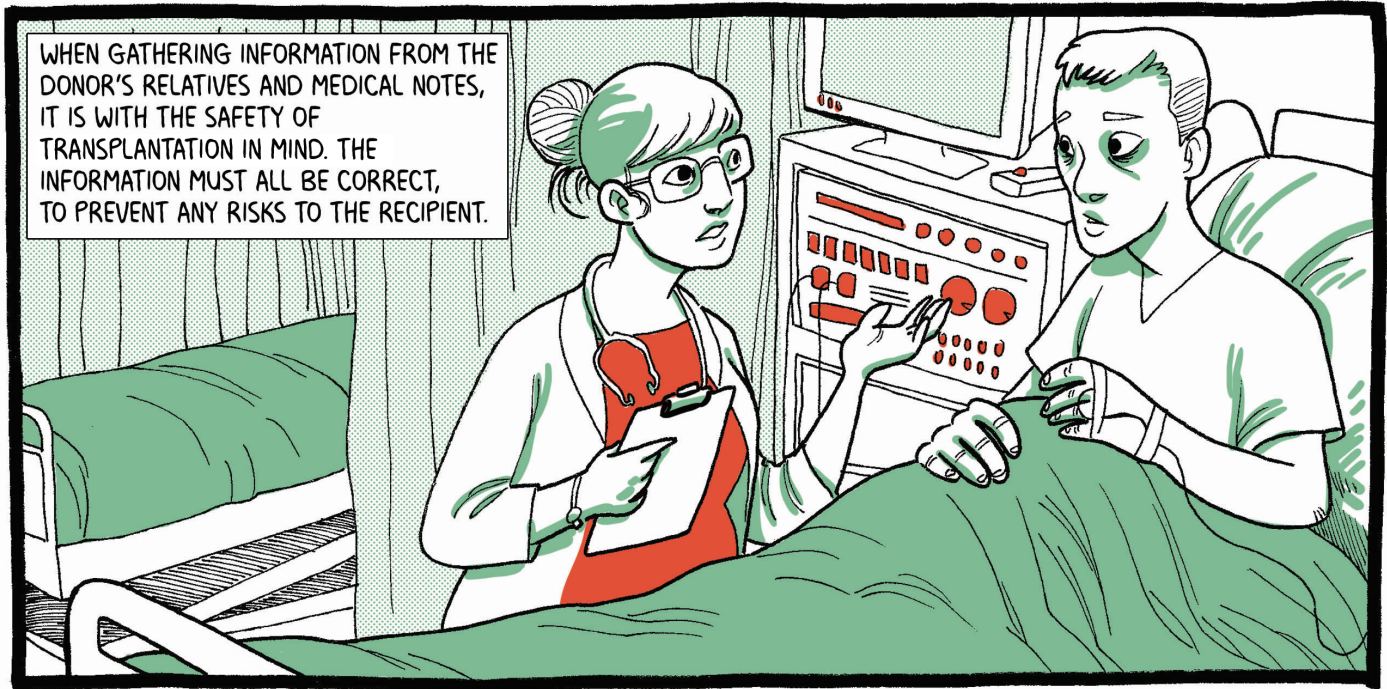
WE ARE AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE PROCESS FOR BOTH RELATIVES AND STAFF.



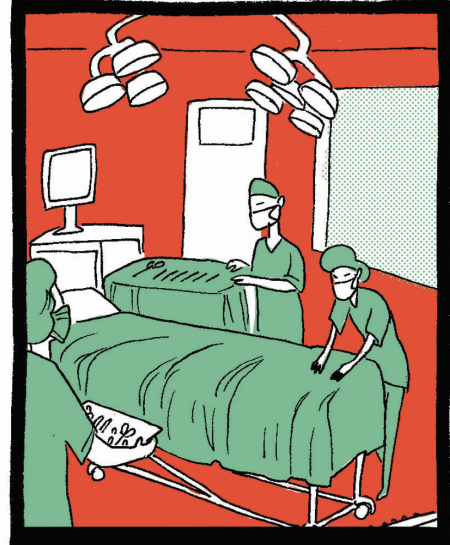
IN SOME CASES IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE FOR ORGAN DONATION TO GO AHEAD BUT TISSUE DONATION MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE. WE TRY TO MANAGE RELATIVES' EXPECTATIONS HONESTLY.



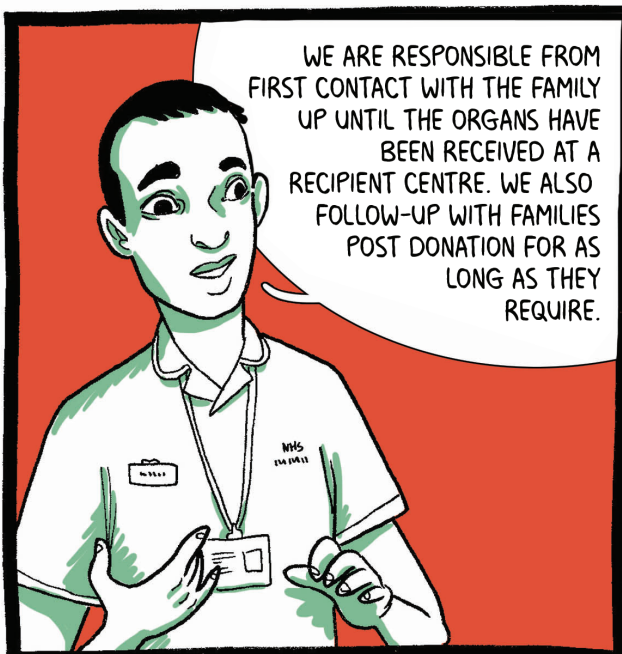
AN IMPORTANT TASK WE PERFORM IS PUTTING THE INFORMATION WE GATHER ON PATIENTS INTO THE NATIONAL DATABASE FOR RECIPIENT CENTRES AROUND THE COUNTRY.



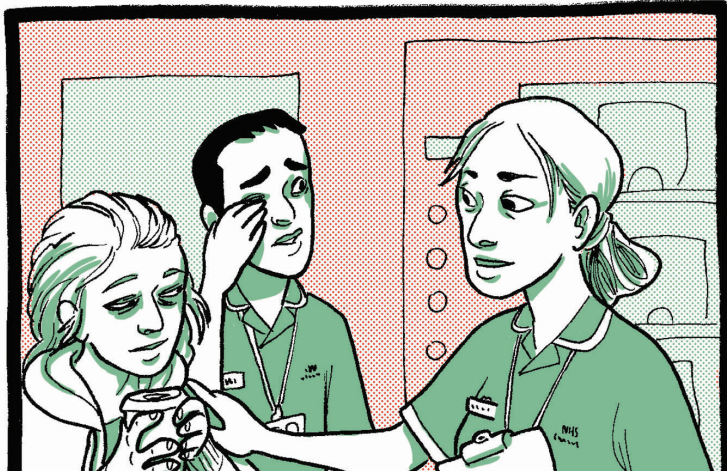
WHEN GATHERING INFORMATION FROM THE DONOR'S RELATIVES AND MEDICAL NOTES, IT IS WITH THE SAFETY OF TRANSPLANTATION IN MIND. THE INFORMATION MUST ALL BE CORRECT, TO PREVENT ANY RISKS TO THE RECIPIENT.



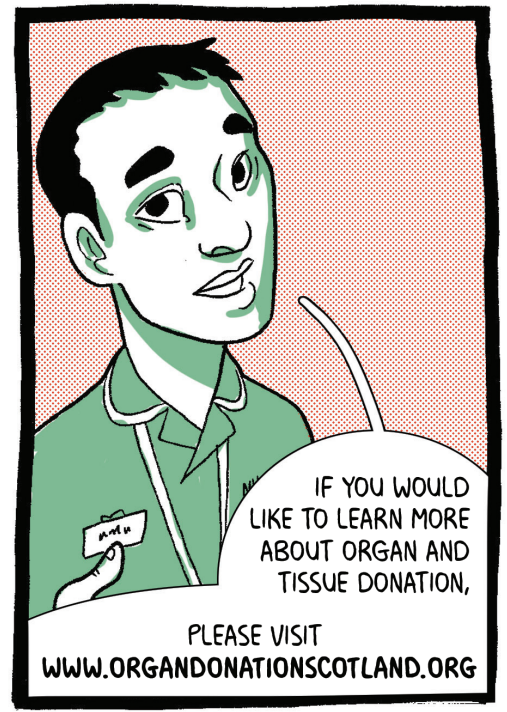
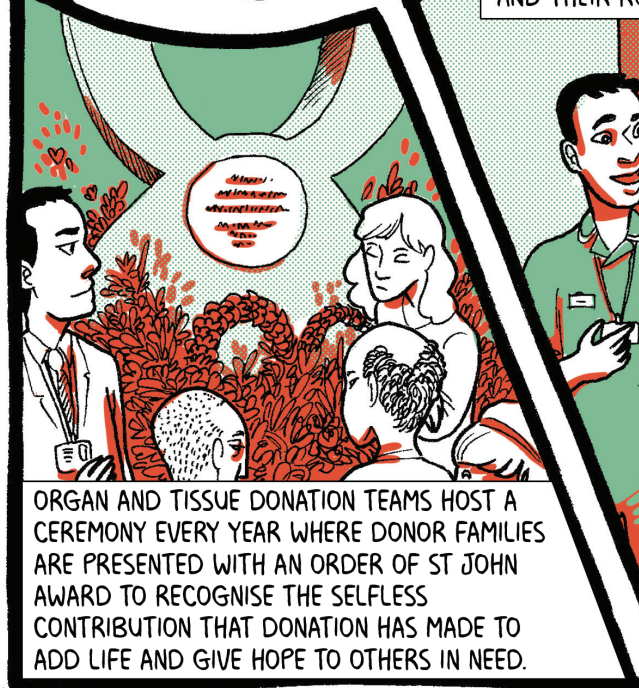
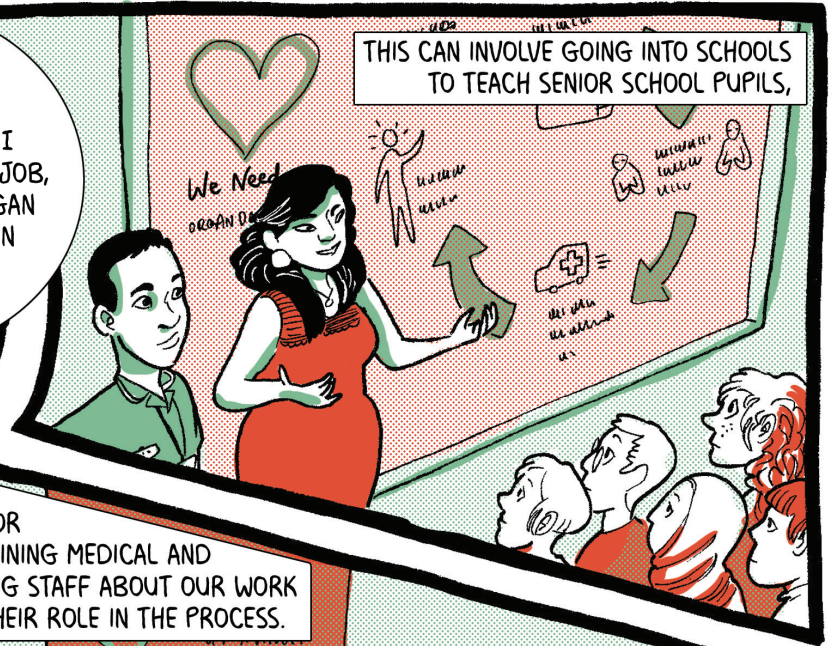
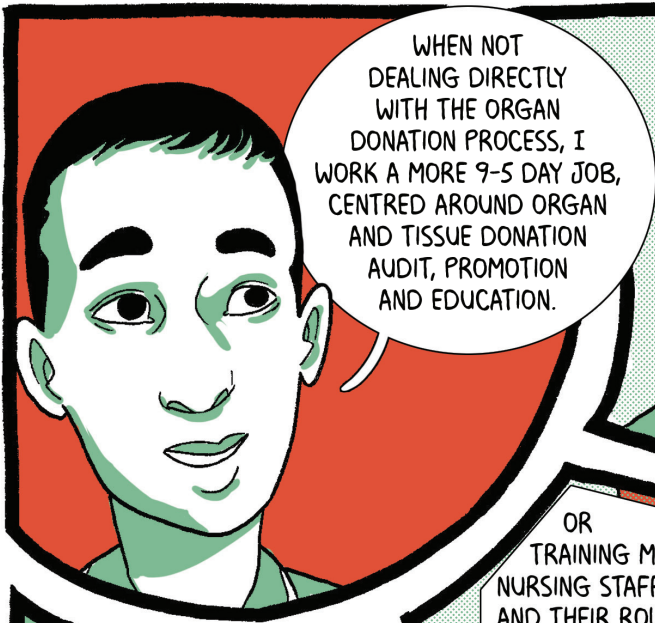
ONCE WE MATCH THE ORGANS WITH A RECIPIENT, WE MOBILISE A SPECIALIST SURGICAL TEAM TO THE HOSPITAL AND FACILITATE THE THEATRE PROCESS.



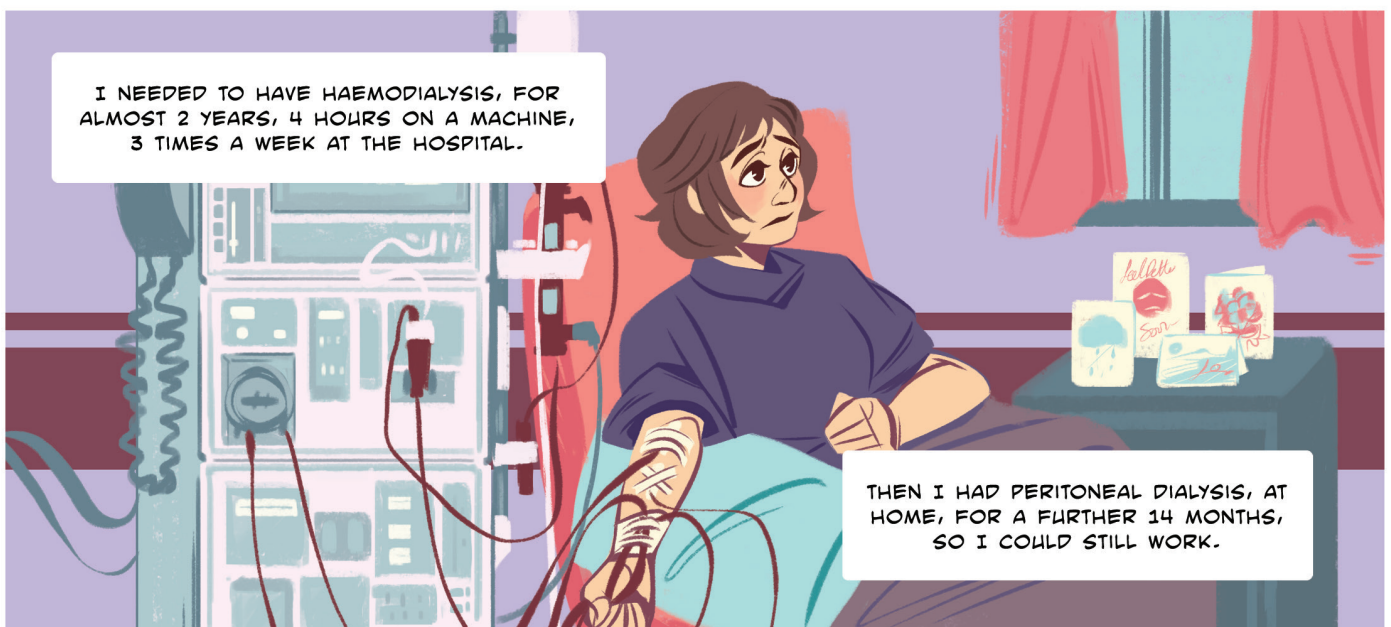
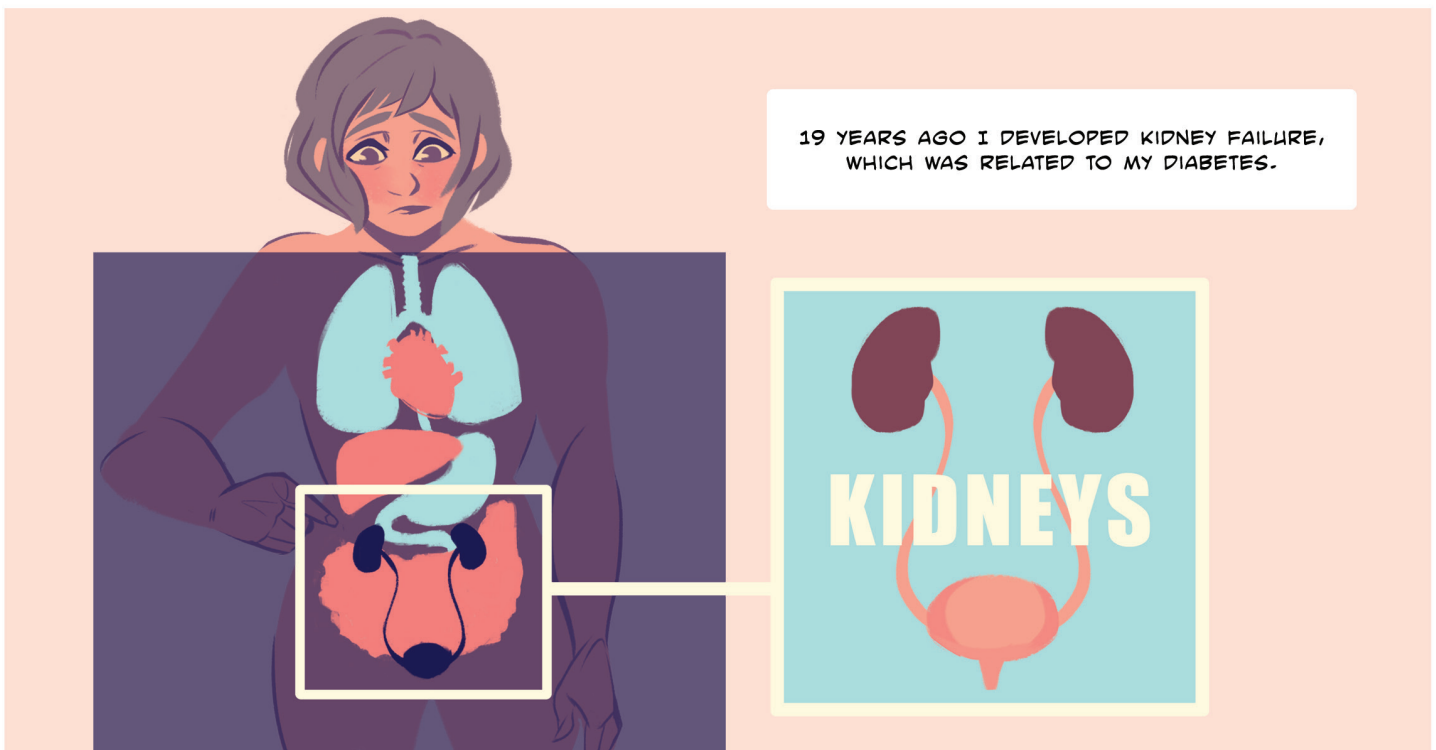
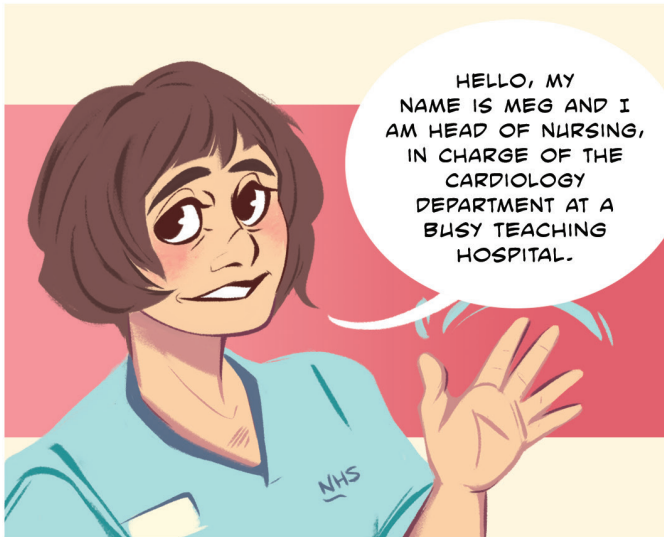
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FROM FIRST CONTACT WITH THE FAMILY UP UNTIL THE ORGANS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT A RECIPIENT CENTRE. WE ALSO FOLLOW-UP WITH FAMILIES POST DONATION FOR AS LONG AS THEY REQUIRE.



THE DONATION PROCESS TAKES AROUND 24 HOURS OR SO, BUT EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT. THIS CAN FEEL MUCH LONGER FOR THE RELATIVES AND STAFF INVOLVED, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE BEDSIDE FOR MANY DAYS PRIOR TO END OF LIFE CARE PLANNING.



# A RECIPIENT'S STORY







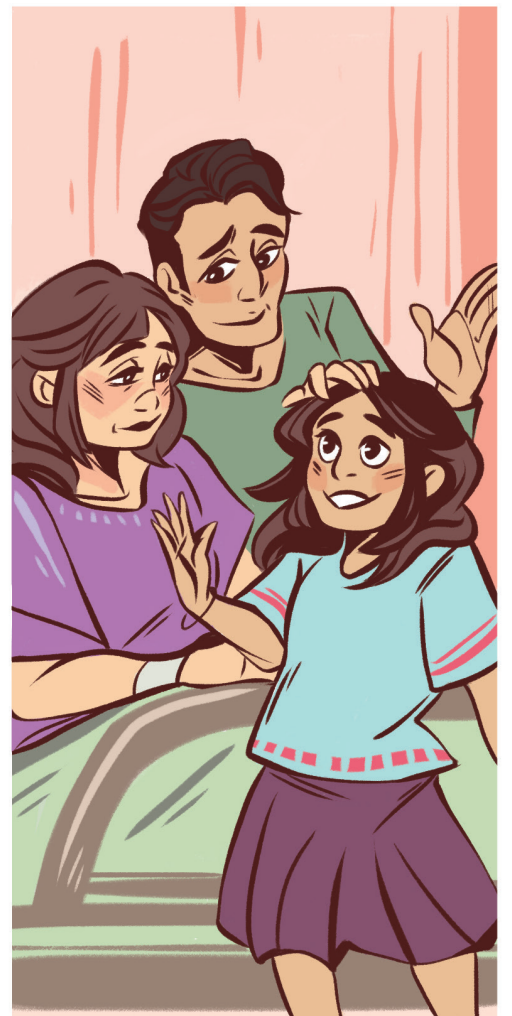
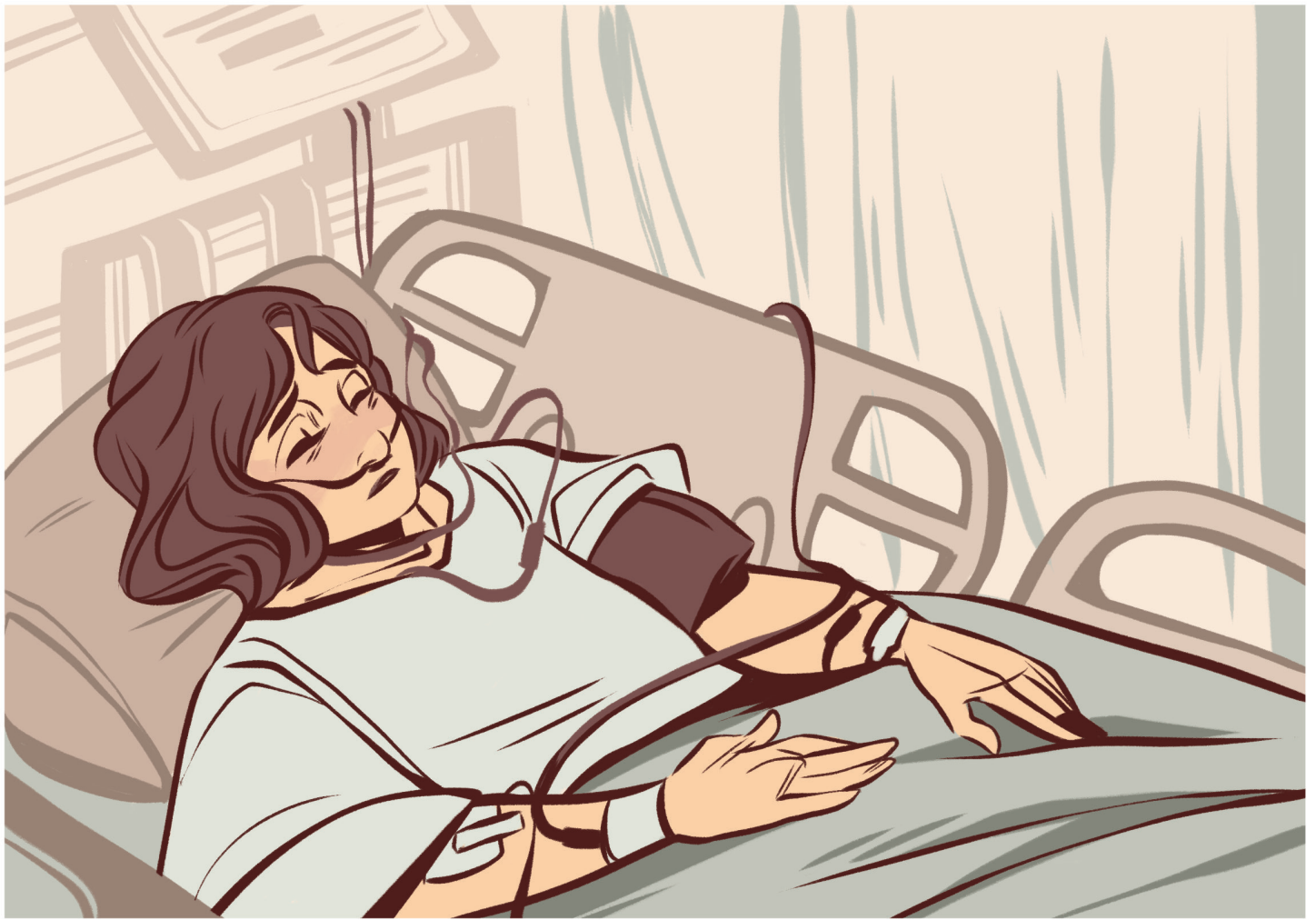


I CONTINUED TO WORK...

...AND TRIED TO KEEP FAMILY LIFE AS NORMAL AS POSSIBLE.

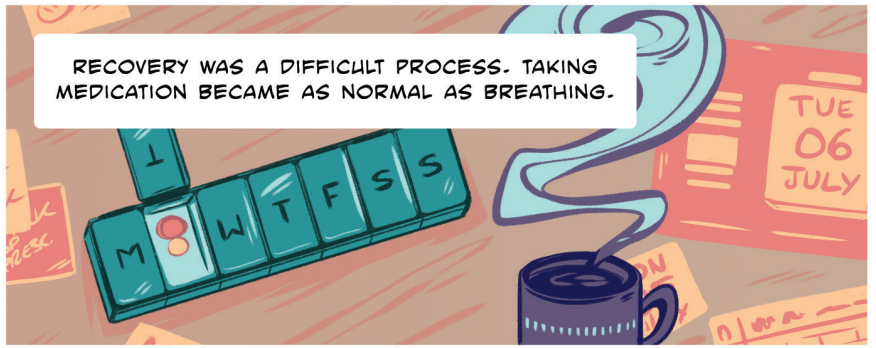
WAITING ON THE TRANSPLANT MADE ME REALISE THAT I'D NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT ORGAN DONATION BEFORE.



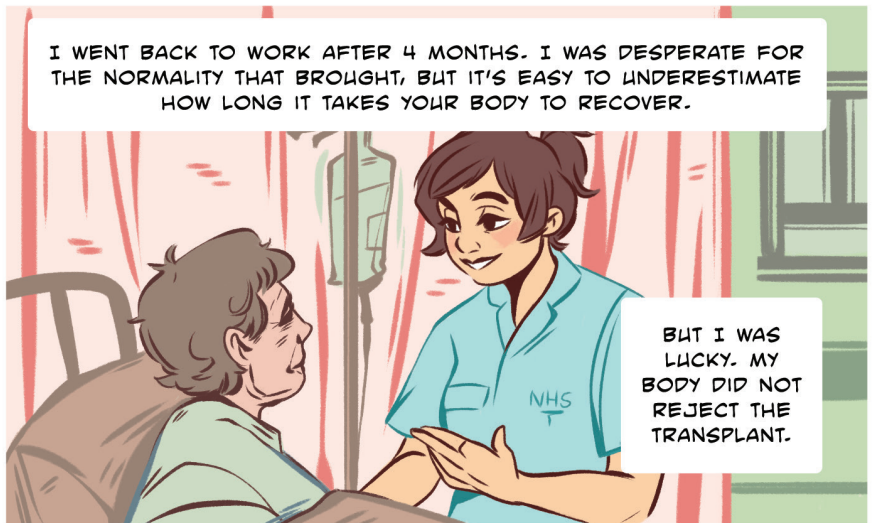




MY LIFE HAS CHANGED HUGELY. IT PROBABLY TOOK ABOUT A YEAR OR SO TO FEEL REALLY WELL.



RECOVERY WAS A DIFFICULT PROCESS. TAKING MEDICATION BECAME AS NORMAL AS BREATHING.



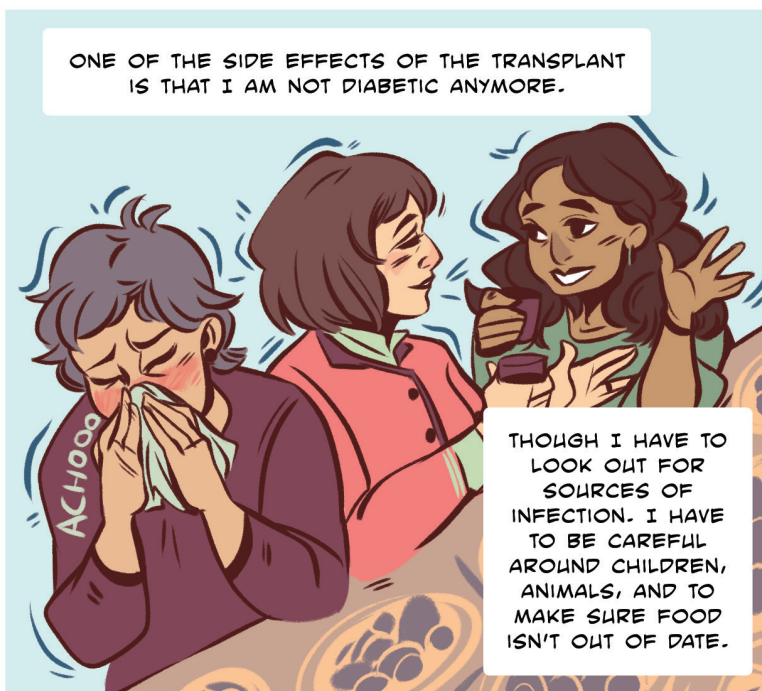
I WENT BACK TO WORK AFTER 4 MONTHS. I WAS DESPERATE FOR THE NORMALITY THAT BROUGHT, BUT IT'S EASY TO UNDERESTIMATE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOUR BODY TO RECOVER.

BUT I WAS LUCKY. MY BODY DID NOT REJECT THE TRANSPLANT.



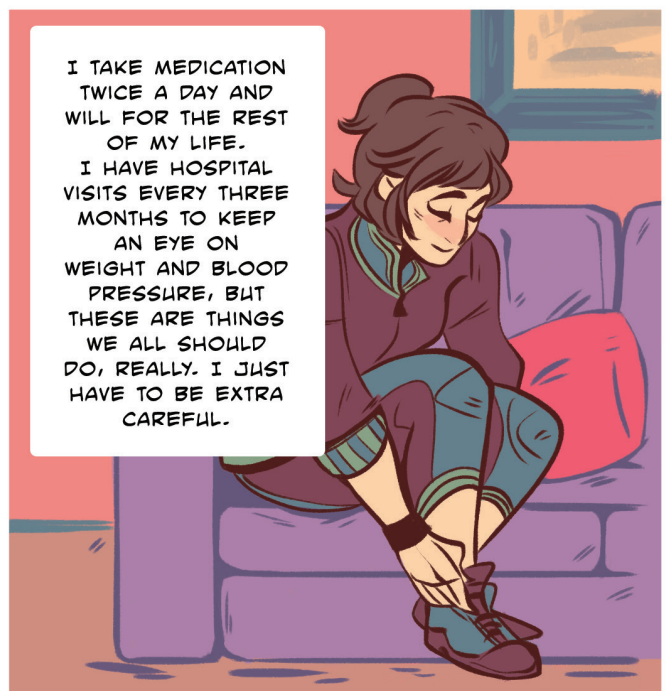
STILL, SIMPLE THINGS LIKE TAKING A HOLIDAY AND GETTING INSURANCE WERE NOW BIG PROBLEMS.

I DIDN'T GO ABROAD FOR MANY YEARS.



ONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE TRANSPLANT IS THAT I AM NOT DIABETIC ANYMORE.

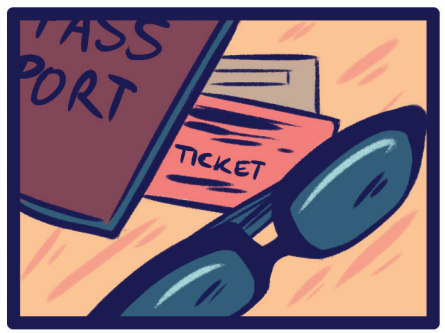
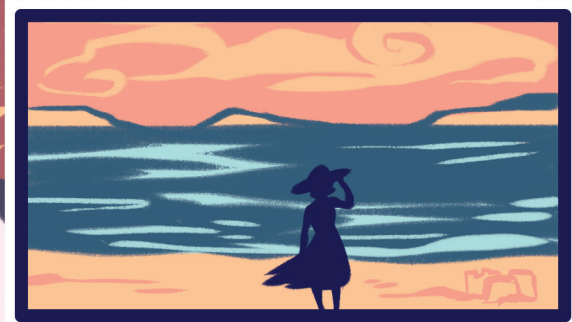
THOUGH I HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR SOURCES OF INFECTION. I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AROUND CHILDREN, ANIMALS, AND TO MAKE SURE FOOD ISN'T OUT OF DATE.



I TAKE MEDICATION TWICE A DAY AND WILL FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I HAVE HOSPITAL VISITS EVERY THREE MONTHS TO KEEP AN EYE ON WEIGHT AND BLOOD PRESSURE, BUT THESE ARE THINGS WE ALL SHOULD DO, REALLY. I JUST HAVE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL.



THINGS HAVE REALLY CHANGED SINCE THE TRANSPLANT. I DO MORE EXERCISE NOW, I HAVE BEEN ON HOLIDAY, I HAVE BOUNDLESS ENERGY FOR MY AGE!



I FEEL LIKE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN'T DO ANYMORE.



16 YEARS DOWN THE LINE, IT IS HARD TO REMEMBER I HAVE HAD A TRANSPLANT, OTHER THAN THE SCARS ON MY STOMACH.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO REMIND YOURSELF YOU AREN'T SUPERHUMAN.



THE MEDICATION CAN HAVE SIDE-EFFECTS. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE MORE PHOTOSENSITIVE AFTER A TRANSPLANT, AND THERE'S MORE CHANCE OF SKIN CANCER.

THERE ARE RISKS OF CERVICAL CANCER, AND IN GENERAL THE RISK OF CANCER IS HIGHER. BUT THOSE RISKS ARE THERE WHETHER YOU ARE A TRANSPLANT PATIENT OR NOT.



I NEVER THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT IT BEFORE I NEEDED A TRANSPLANT.

I HAVE BEEN TO MY NEPHEW'S SCHOOL AND TALKED TO KIDS AND VARIOUS GROUPS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE AND RETURN TO THESE DISCUSSIONS. YOUR FAMILY SHOULD KNOW YOUR MOST RECENT VIEWS, ESPECIALLY IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.



I FIND IT HARD TO SPEAK ABOUT THE DONOR. IT'S TOO EMOTIVE. HOW COULD A FAMILY SUPPORT THAT DECISION WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH SORROW AND EMOTION GOING ON?

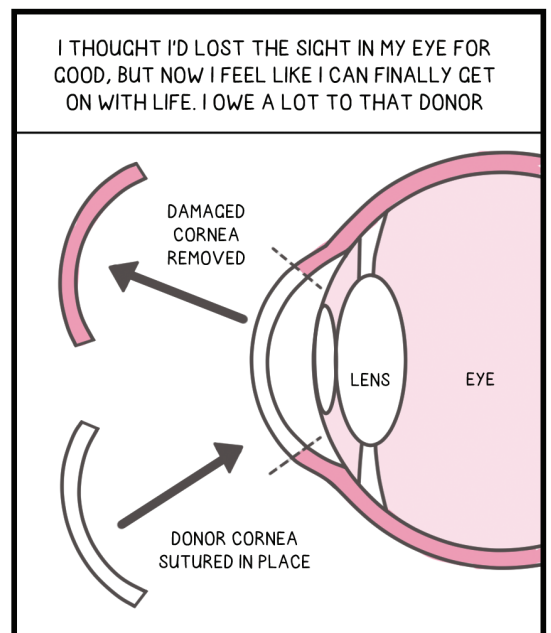
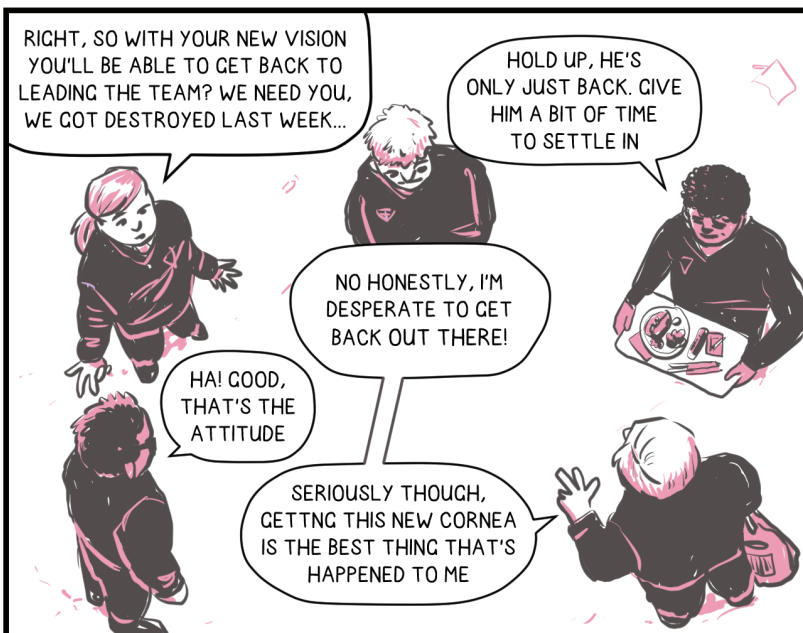
THEY TELL YOU LITTLE ABOUT YOUR DONOR, BUT IT IS HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT. THEY MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. IT IS A PRETTY SPECIAL THING HAVING SOMEONE LOSE THEIR NEAREST AND DEAREST AND DONATE THEIR ORGANS AND TISSUES.



IF YOU THINK ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT LIFE IS FOR PEOPLE PRIOR TO GETTING A TRANSPLANT, AND THEN HOW TRANSFORMED THEIR LIVES ARE AFTERWARDS, IT IS TRULY PHENOMENAL.

A TRANSPLANT IS A GIFT, AND ONE THAT MAKES AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES!

# LEARNING MORE ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

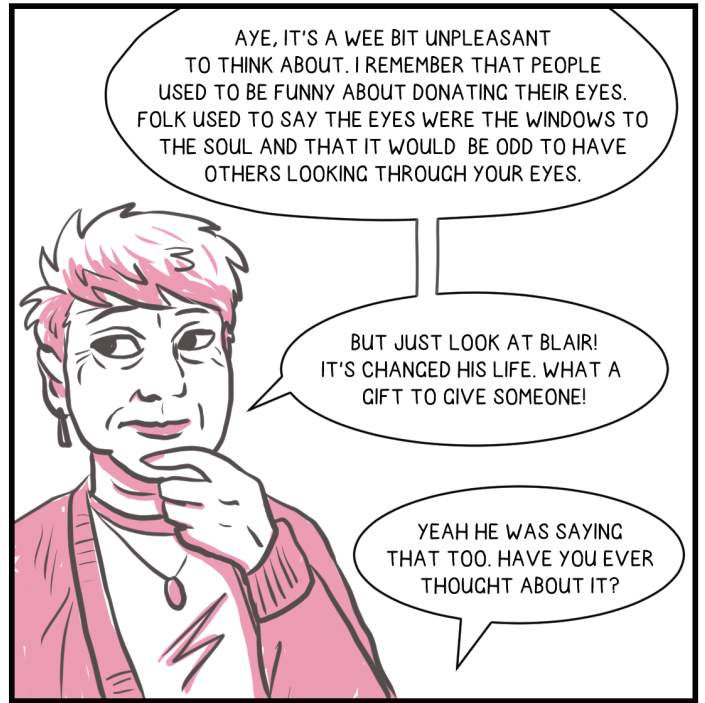






THAT'S AMAZING THE THINGS THEY CAN DO NOW EH?!

I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT IT STILL MAKES ME FEEL QUITE SQUEAMISH. HIS EYE DOESN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S A STRANGE THOUGHT THAT HE HAS A NEW CORNEA



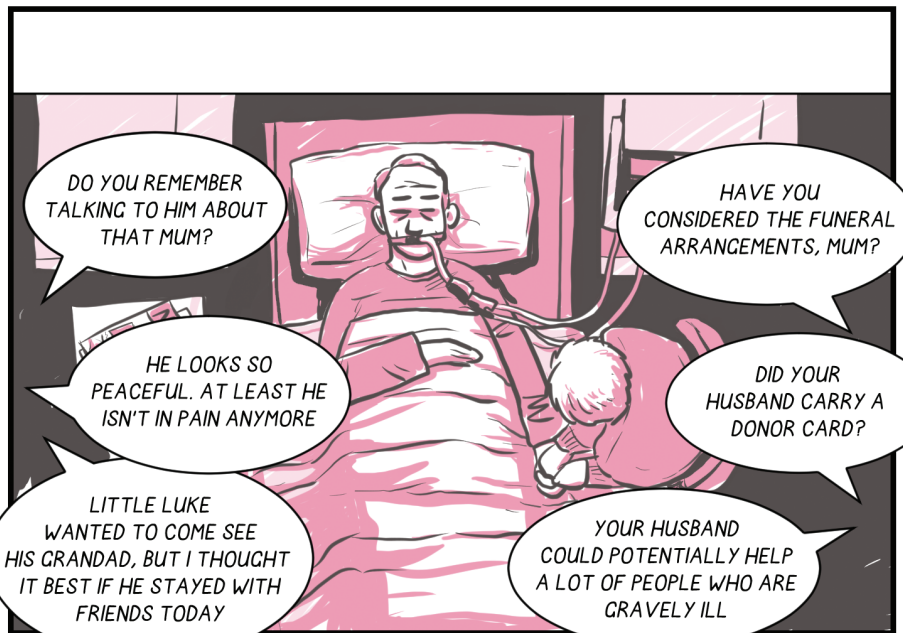
AYE, IT'S A WEE BIT UNPLEASANT TO THINK ABOUT. I REMEMBER THAT PEOPLE USED TO BE FUNNY ABOUT DONATING THEIR EYES. FOLK USED TO SAY THE EYES WERE THE WINDOWS TO THE SOUL AND THAT IT WOULD BE ODD TO HAVE OTHERS LOOKING THROUGH YOUR EYES.

BUT JUST LOOK AT BLAIR! IT'S CHANGED HIS LIFE. WHAT A GIFT TO GIVE SOMEONE!

YEAH HE WAS SAYING THAT TOO. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT?



WHEN GRANDAD DIED, THEY ASKED ME ABOUT DONATION. IT WAS A CONFUSING TIME AND WE HAD NEVER DISCUSSED WHAT HE WANTED



DO YOU REMEMBER TALKING TO HIM ABOUT THAT MUM?

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS, MUM?

HE LOOKS SO PEACEFUL. AT LEAST HE ISN'T IN PAIN ANYMORE

DID YOUR HUSBAND CARRY A DONOR CARD?

LITTLE LUKE WANTED TO COME SEE HIS GRANDAD, BUT I THOUGHT IT BEST IF HE STAYED WITH FRIENDS TODAY

YOUR HUSBAND COULD POTENTIALLY HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE GRAVELY ILL

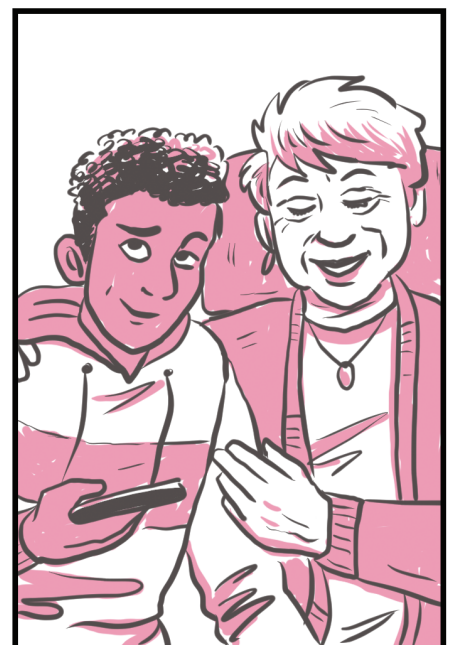


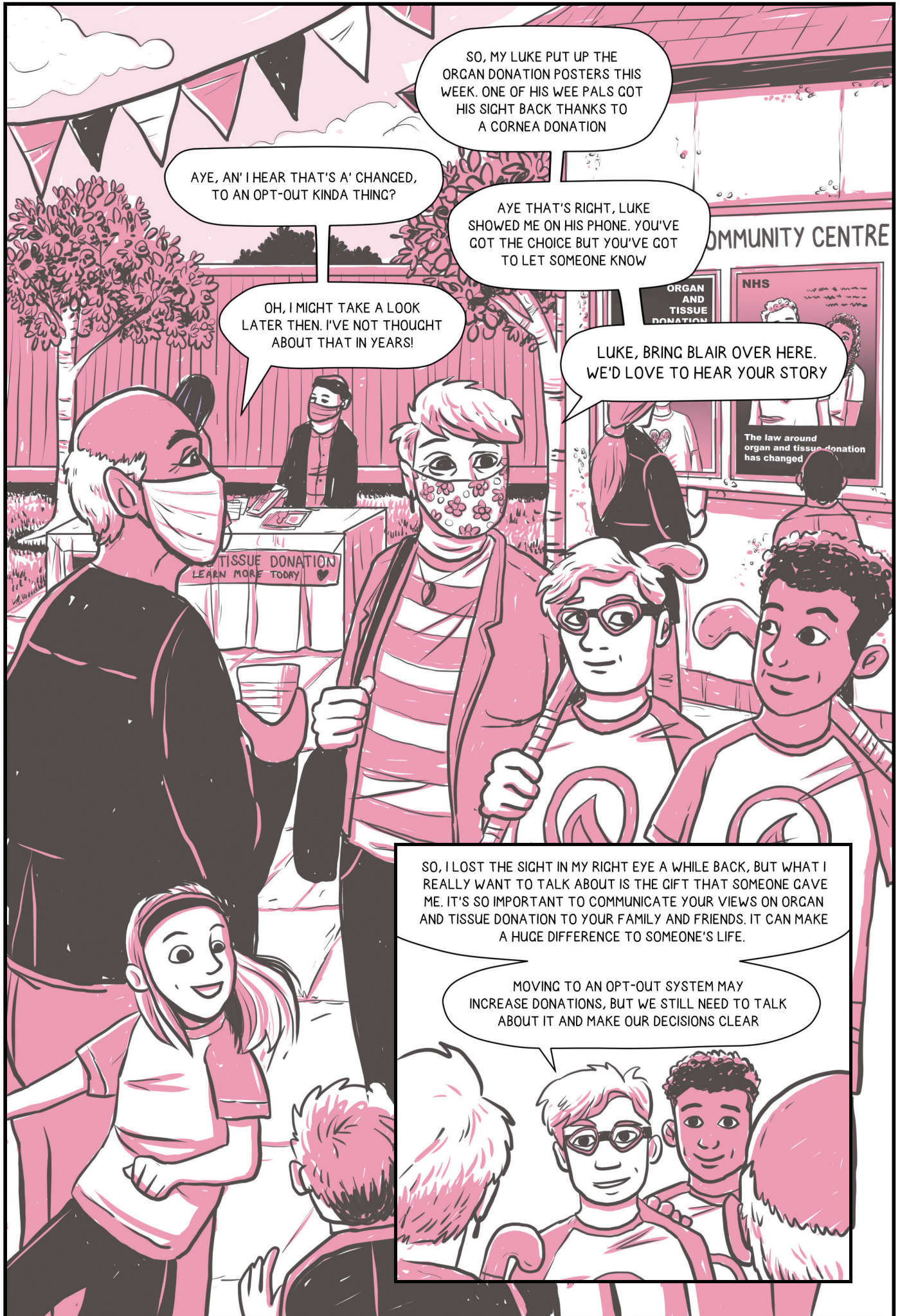
BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL DIFFERENT NOW

YEAH, IT'S AN OPT-OUT SYSTEM NOW. YOU CAN REGISTER A DECISION ONLINE



WOW, THEY CAN USE ALL THAT? MIND YOU, I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE OF USE TO ANYONE. I'M FALLING TO BITS!





SO, MY LUKE PUT UP THE ORGAN DONATION POSTERS THIS WEEK. ONE OF HIS WEE PALS GOT HIS SIGHT BACK THANKS TO A CORNEA DONATION

AYE, AN' I HEAR THAT'S A' CHANGED, TO AN OPT-OUT KINDA THING?

AYE THAT'S RIGHT, LUKE SHOWED ME ON HIS PHONE. YOU'VE GOT THE CHOICE BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LET SOMEONE KNOW

OH, I MIGHT TAKE A LOOK LATER THEN. I'VE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT THAT IN YEARS!

LUKE, BRING BLAIR OVER HERE. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION  
LEARN MORE TODAY

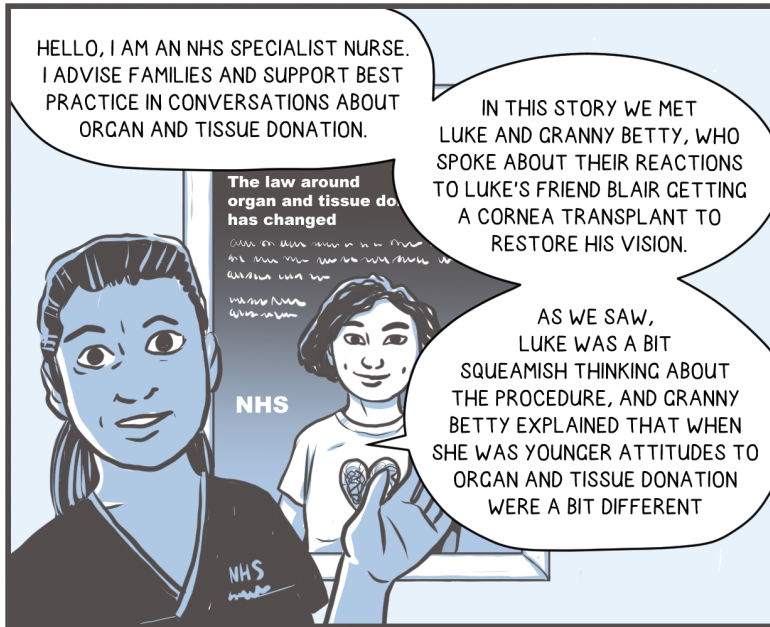
COMMUNITY CENTRE

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

NHS  
The law around organ and tissue donation has changed

SO, I LOST THE SIGHT IN MY RIGHT EYE A WHILE BACK, BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS THE GIFT THAT SOMEONE GAVE ME. IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE YOUR VIEWS ON ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. IT CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE'S LIFE.

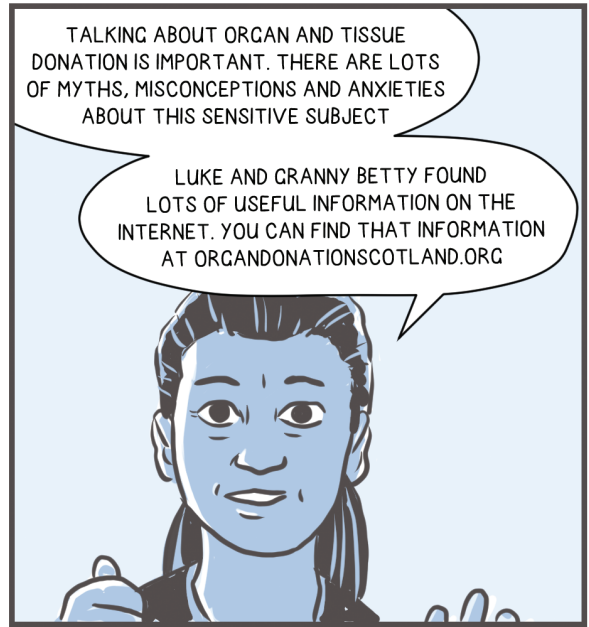
MOVING TO AN OPT-OUT SYSTEM MAY INCREASE DONATIONS, BUT WE STILL NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT AND MAKE OUR DECISIONS CLEAR



HELLO, I AM AN NHS SPECIALIST NURSE. I ADVISE FAMILIES AND SUPPORT BEST PRACTICE IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION.

IN THIS STORY WE MET LUKE AND GRANNY BETTY, WHO SPOKE ABOUT THEIR REACTIONS TO LUKE'S FRIEND BLAIR GETTING A CORNEA TRANSPLANT TO RESTORE HIS VISION.

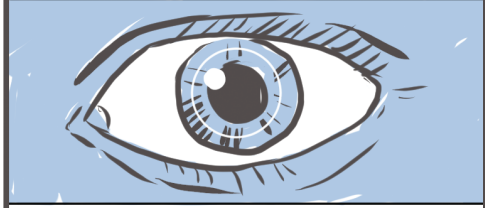
AS WE SAW, LUKE WAS A BIT SQUEAMISH THINKING ABOUT THE PROCEDURE, AND GRANNY BETTY EXPLAINED THAT WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER ATTITUDES TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WERE A BIT DIFFERENT



TALKING ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION IS IMPORTANT. THERE ARE LOTS OF MYTHS, MISCONCEPTIONS AND ANXIETIES ABOUT THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT

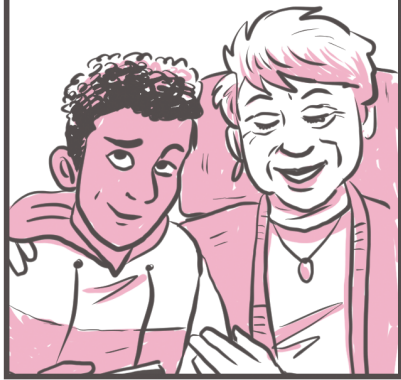
LUKE AND GRANNY BETTY FOUND LOTS OF USEFUL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET. YOU CAN FIND THAT INFORMATION AT [ORGANDONATIONSCOTLAND.ORG](http://ORGANDONATIONSCOTLAND.ORG)

AS GRANNY BETTY SAID, MANY FAMILIES WORRY ABOUT THEIR FAMILY MEMBER'S EYES BEING TRANSPLANTED INTO OTHERS, AND LITERALLY SEEING PEOPLE WALKING PAST IN THE STREET WITH THEIR LOVED ONES EYES.

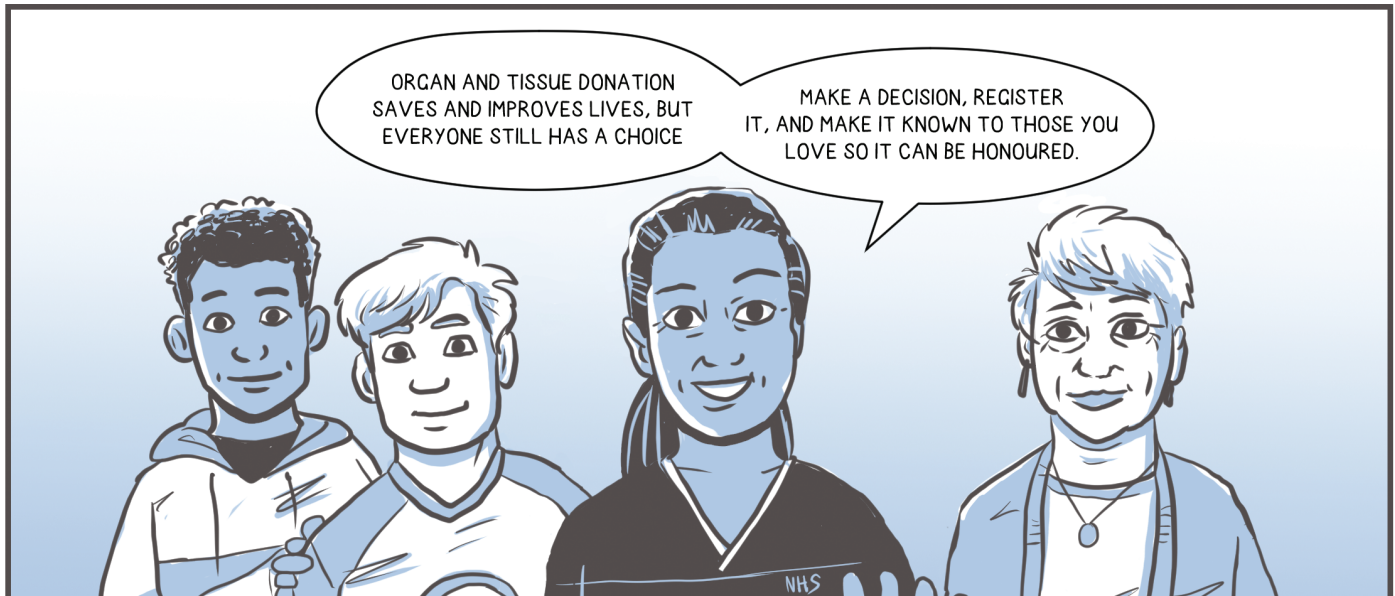


EVEN THOUGH THE WHOLE EYE IS RETRIEVED IT IS TO PROTECT THE DELICATE TISSUES AND IT'S ACTUALLY ONLY THE CORNEAS AND SCLERA THAT ARE USED. A RECIPIENT'S EYES DON'T PHYSICALLY LOOK ANY DIFFERENT, UNLESS YOU SEE THE SUTURE LINE AROUND THE CORNEAS UNDER A MICROSCOPE

GRANNY BETTY JOKED THAT BEING A BIT OLDER THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING SHE COULD DONATE, BUT IN FACT EVERYONE IS ASSESSED USING THE SAME CRITERIA, REGARDLESS OF AGE, GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND HEALTH.



THE TRANSPLANT MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO BLAIR'S LIFE. IT IS VITAL THAT WE ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS EDUCATED ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION, AND THAT THEY MAKE THEIR DECISIONS CLEAR TO THEIR FAMILIES.



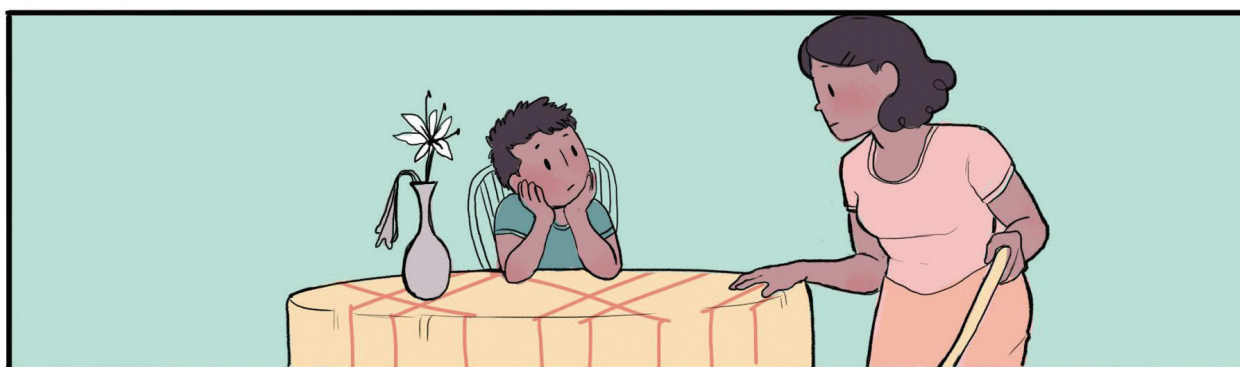
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION SAVES AND IMPROVES LIVES, BUT EVERYONE STILL HAS A CHOICE

MAKE A DECISION, REGISTER IT, AND MAKE IT KNOWN TO THOSE YOU LOVE SO IT CAN BE HONOURED.

WRITTEN BY ROSIE BAILEY, LISA BRADLEY, CAITLIN MACINNES, CHARLANNE REID AND CHRIS MURRAY.  
 ARTWORK AND LETTERING BY JULIE CAMPBELL ([WWW.JULIECAMPBELLDRAW.COM](http://WWW.JULIECAMPBELLDRAW.COM)).  
 THANKS TO MAYRA CROWE, LYNNE MALLEY, DAMON HERD, GOLNAR NABIZADEH, NEIL HEALY, DR NAINGLATT TINT AND FIONA WISHART

# Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief: An Introduction

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Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief is an alliance of organisations and individuals working to raise public awareness of ways of dealing with death, dying and bereavement. The alliance aims to make Scotland a place where there is more openness about these issues so that people are better equipped to support each other through the difficult times that can come with loss.

## The alliance is working towards a Scotland where:

- People are **well-informed** about the practical, legal, medical, financial and emotional issues associated with death, dying and bereavement;
- There are **adequate opportunities** for discussion of these issues, and it is normal to plan for the future;
- **Public policies** acknowledge and incorporate death and dying;
- **Health and social care services** support planning ahead and enable choice and control in care towards the end of life;
- Where **communities and individuals are better equipped** to help each other through the hard times which can come with death, dying and bereavement.

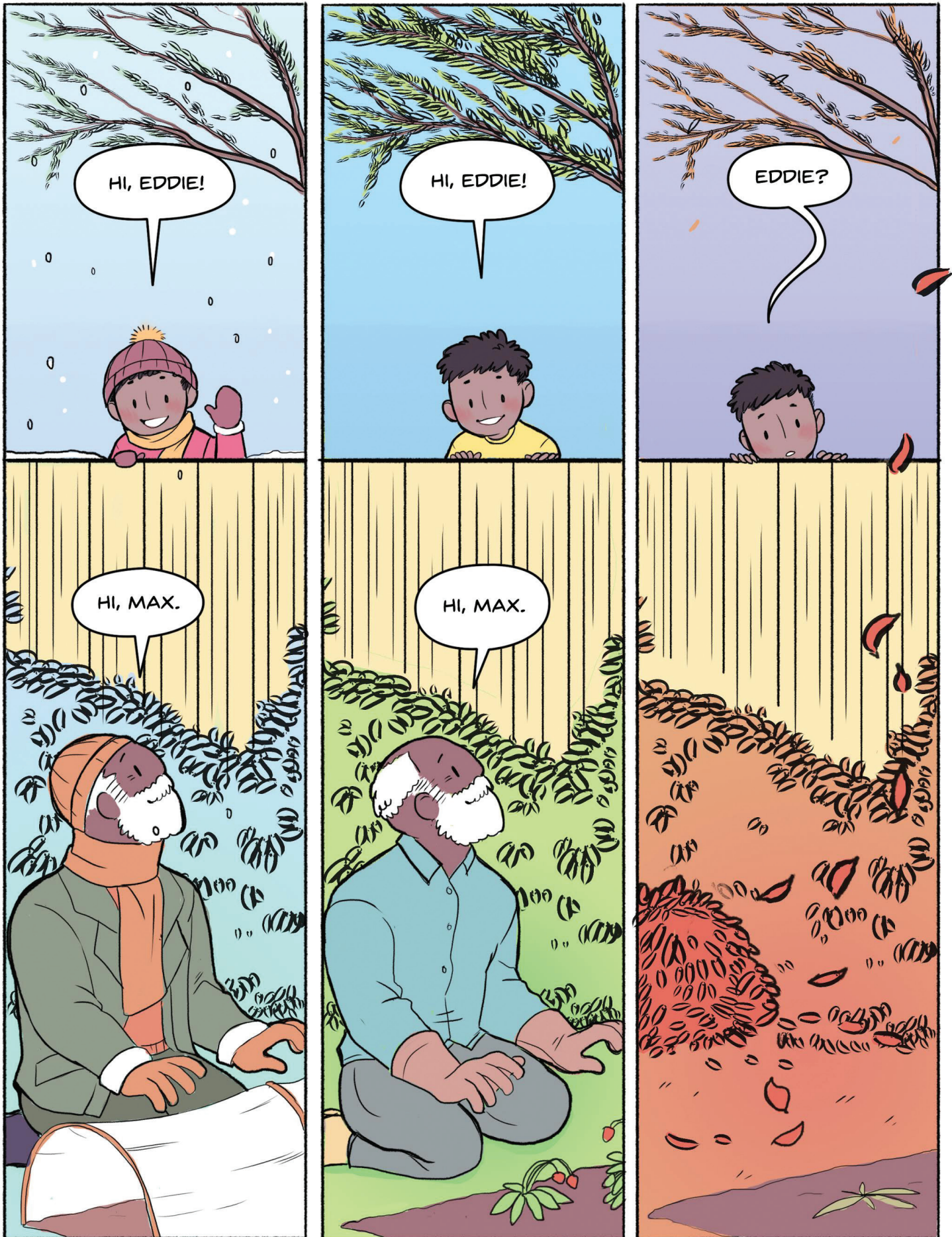
## Some statistics to consider...

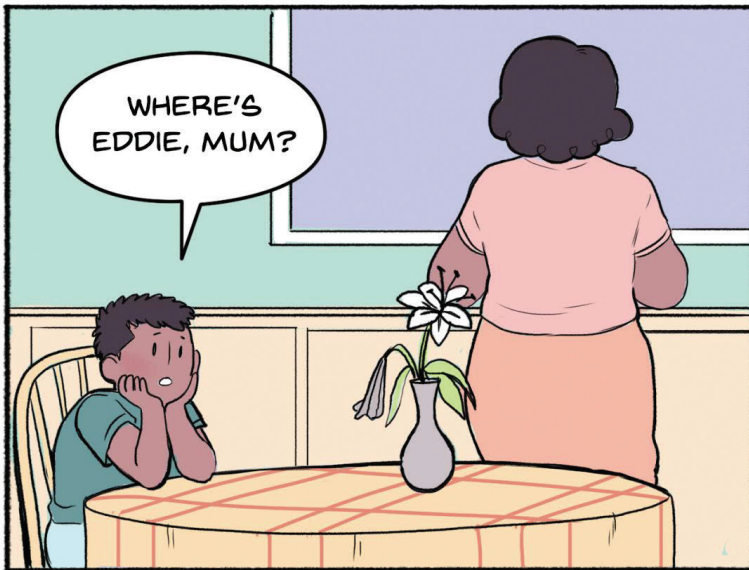
- 74% of people have not discussed what their wishes would be if they did not have long to live.
- For 61% of these people, this is because they feel 'too young' to discuss death, or because death 'feels a long way off'.
- 79% of people don't have any written plans for their end of life care, financial wishes or funeral plans.
- Only 35% of people have written a Will.

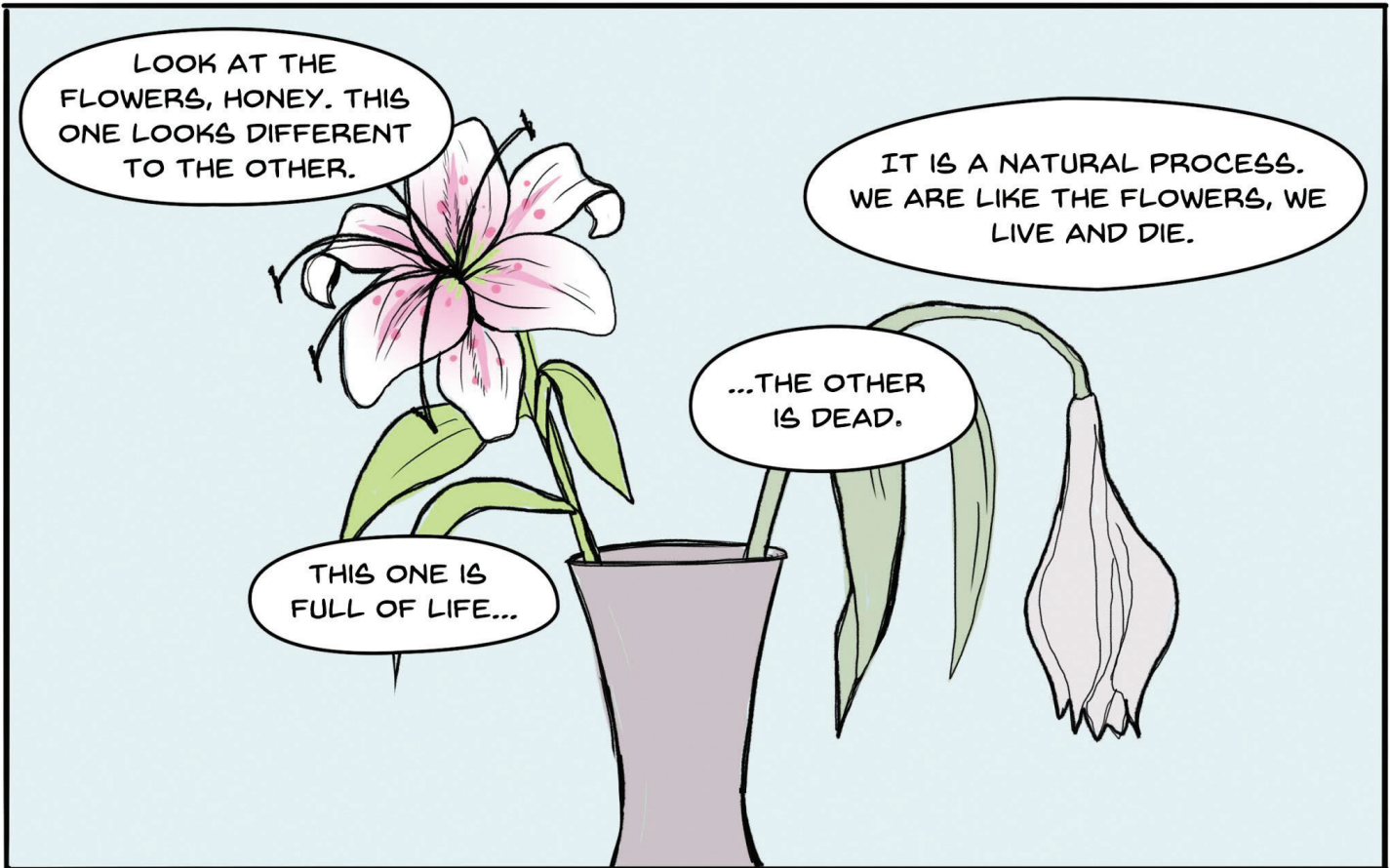
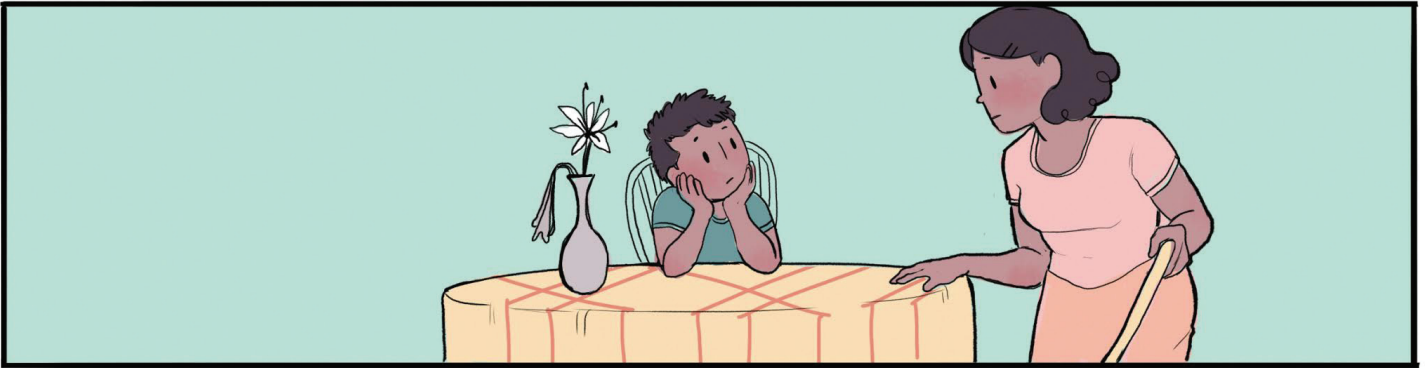
Any person or organisation interested in furthering the aims of Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief is welcome to join for free. Members are encouraged to develop activities that are in keeping with the aims of the alliance, and to find ways of undertaking and sustaining these initiatives.

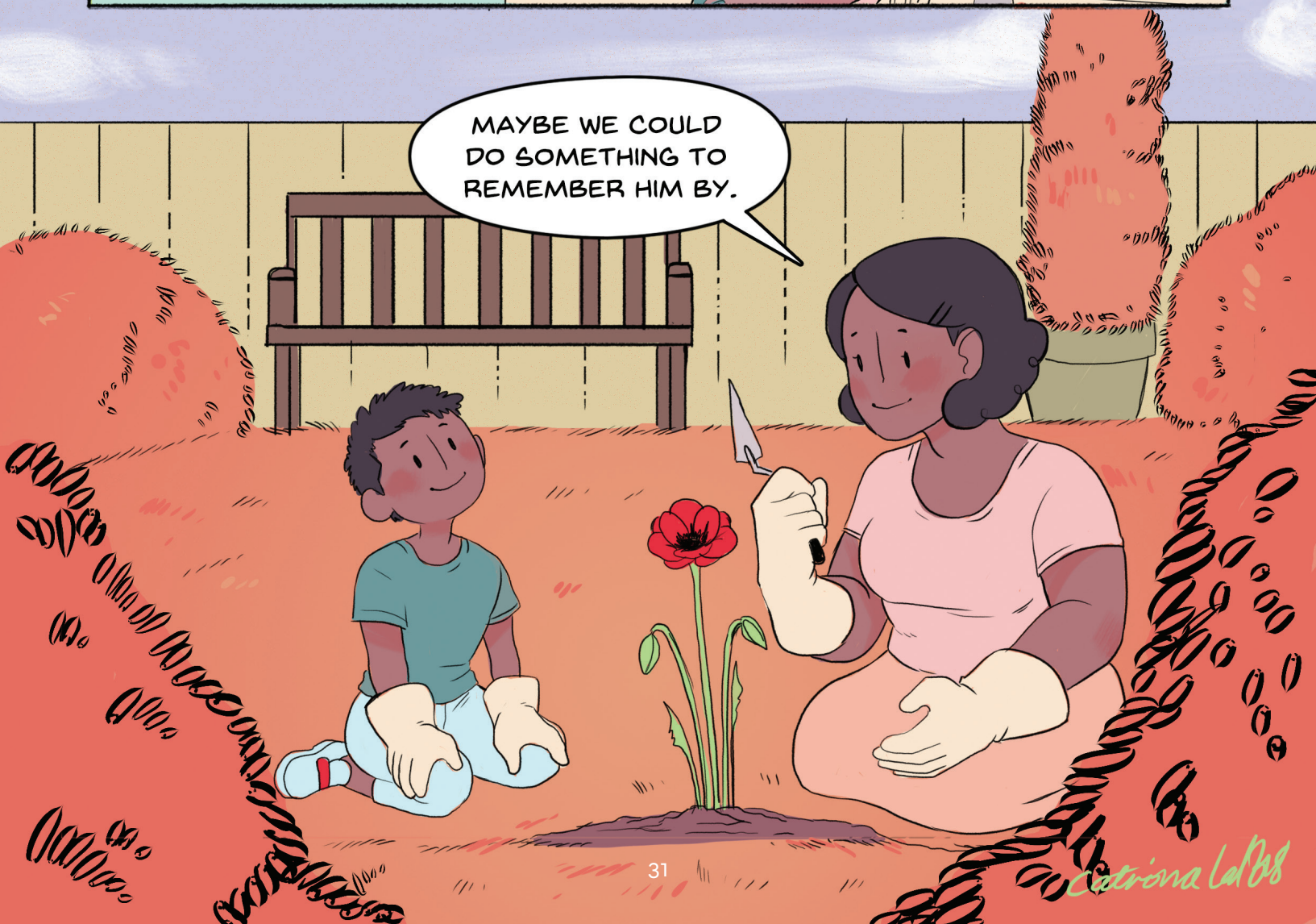
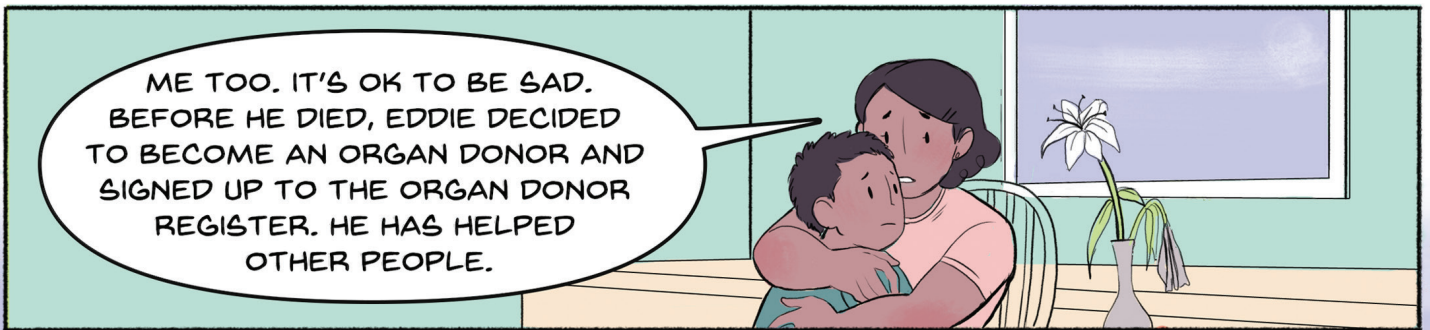
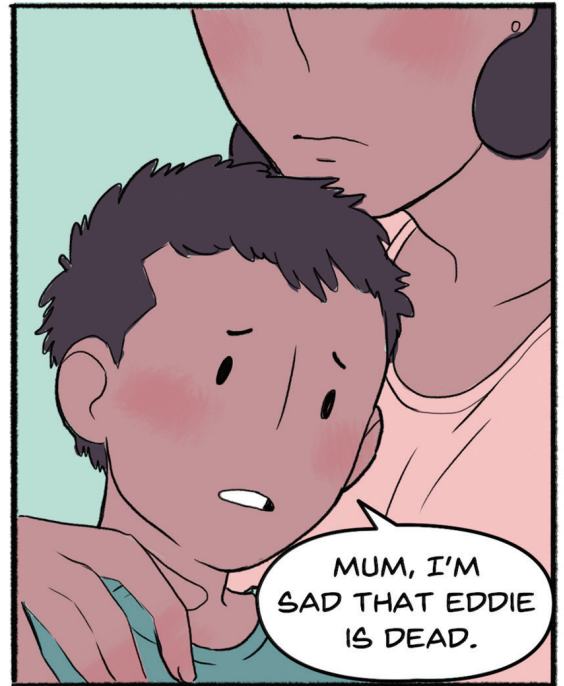
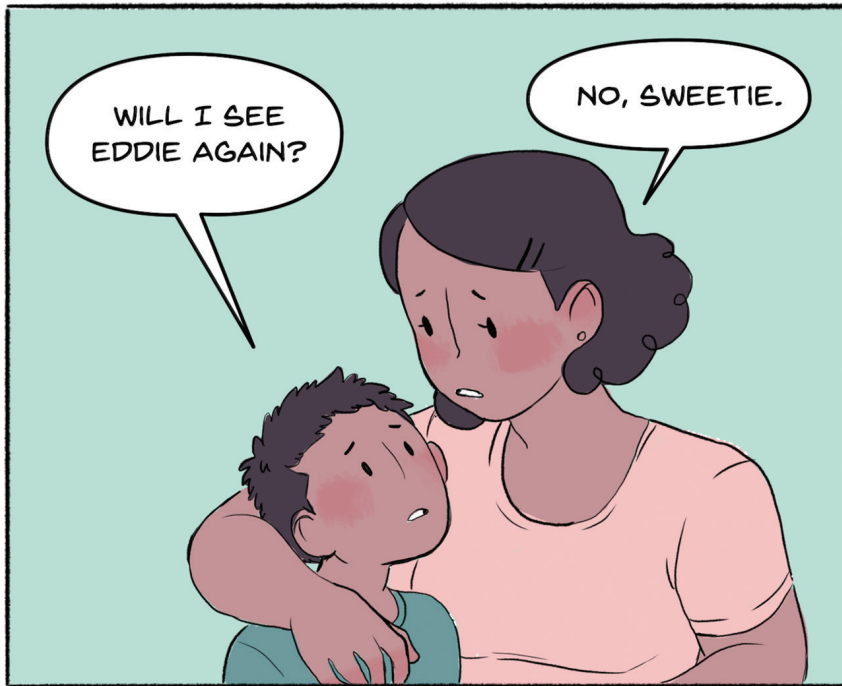
For more information please go to [www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk](http://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk)

# Max Plants a Flower for Old Eddie





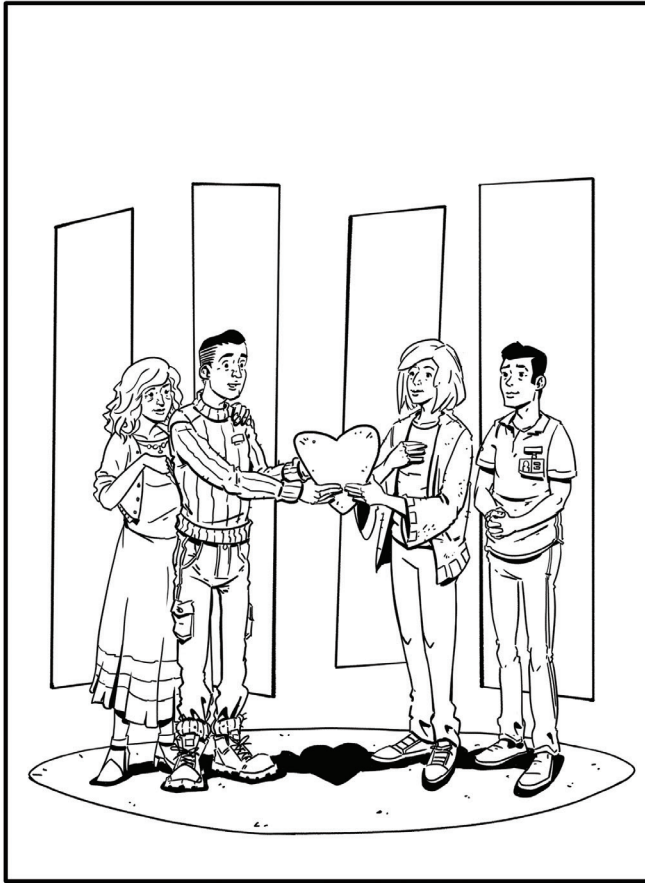






# Process Work

Front Cover - Ink by Norrie Millar

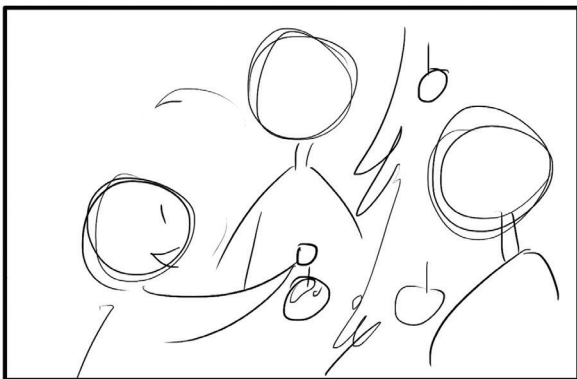


Colour by Rebecca Horner

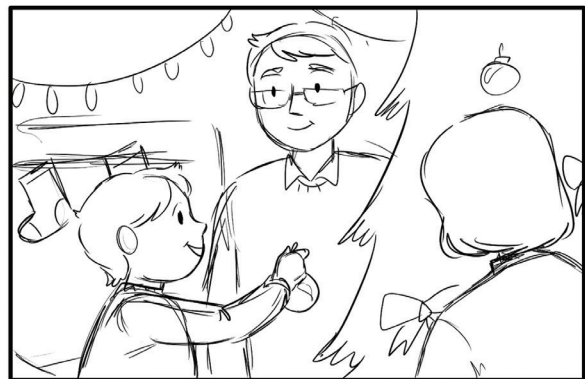


Andrew's Story - step by step process by Ashling Larkin

Thumbnail



Rough



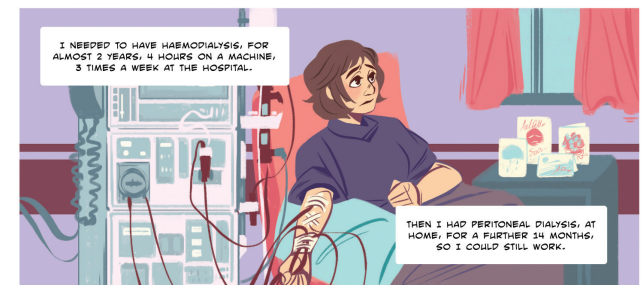
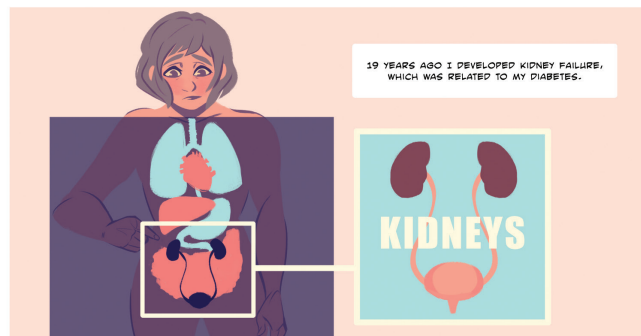
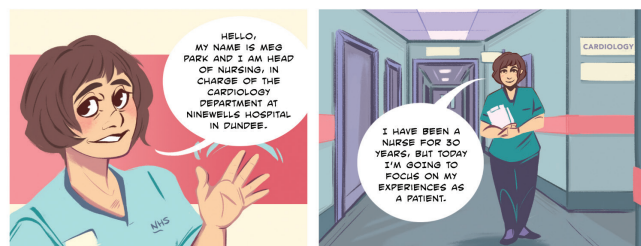
Ink



Colour



# A Recipient's Story - Layouts vs. finished artwork by Helen Robinson



## The Gift project

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The project was initiated by a local donor family member in association with the University of Dundee. The aim of the project was to create an illustrated comic for use a resources that can be used in a variety of settings including school education, hospital waiting rooms, and medical/ nursing student education.



The University of Dundee team: Golnar Nabizadeh, Mayra Crowe, Damon Herd (back), Chris Murray, Phillip Vaughan, Laura Findlay & Megan Sinclair.



Chris Murray, Mayra Crowe, and Golnar Nabizadeh with Andrew's artwork and notebooks, which helped to inspire the development of this project.

## Contributor Bios

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**Elliot Balson** is a Dundee-based comic artist. His work can be found in various UniVerse publications, Comichaus, and the anthology called *Masks*. He is currently working on, *Untethered*, with writer Umar Ditta.

**Julie Campbell** is a Scottish illustrator and comic creator. She loves to draw animals, landscapes and make comics from ideas that won't leave her alone.

**Magnus Corkish** is a Generic Neurology Nurse in the Neurology Department of NHS Forth Valley. For several years he was a Specialist Nurse with NHS Scotland's Organ Donation Team.

**Mayra Crowe** is a Senior Lecturer and Spanish Organiser at the University of Dundee, and International Projects Development Coordinator for the Scottish Centre For Comics Studies. She is involved in the Organ and Tissue Donation campaign in Scotland and the Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief charity and the To Absent Friends festival.

**Dr. Laura Findlay** is a Research Assistant at the University of Dundee. She is currently writing a monograph on the representation of true crime in popular culture with a particular focus on comics and podcasts. She has co-written comics on graphic justice and graphic medicine and has authored a comic essay on trauma, entitled *Closure*.

**Dr. Damon Herd** is Lecturer in Comics Studies. He is also an artist and researcher with a PhD in Comics from DJCAD and the University of Dundee. His research area is autobiographical comics, and performance.

**Rebecca Horner** is a cartoonist and colourist based in Ink Pot Studio, and is Workshop Coordinator at DCCS. She self-publishes her own work online, has been published in many anthologies, and has done production on various books, including this one.

**Catriona Laird** is a Scottish illustrator and comic artist based in Ink Pot Studio in Dundee. She was the winner of the SICBA award for Up and Coming Talent 2017 and was nominated for Best Artist for her ongoing webcomic *Chimerical* in 2018. Catriona is currently working on the upcoming graphic novel *Nasty Girls* with writer Erin Keepers and publisher George Lennox.

**Ashling Larkin** is a Dundee-based comic artist working at Ink Pot within DCCS. In 2017 she completed her autobiographical comic *Fundee*, and her current ongoing personal project is *The Enchanted Book*.

**Norrie Millar** is a Scottish comics artist based in Dundee. He self-publishes his own work and is also a freelance illustrator, providing work for numerous companies and publishers.

**Professor Chris Murray** is Chair of Comics Studies at the School of Humanities, University of Dundee. and he leads the MLitt in Comics and Graphic Novels course. He is Director of the Scottish Centre for Comics Studies and DCCS, co-editor of *Studies in Comics* (Intellect) and UniVerse Comics, and has produced several public information comics for research and engagement purposes.

**Dr. Golnar Nabizadeh** is Lecturer in Comics Studies at The University of Dundee. Her research focuses on comics and visual studies, particularly on representations of trauma, migration, and memory in these fields. She has published a monograph with Routledge titled *Representation and Memory in Graphic Novels*.

**Meg Park** is a 49-year old lady, diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 15. She developed kidney failure in 1998, commencing on dialysis in late 1999, and received a combined kidney pancreas transplant in October 2001. She currently works as Head of Nursing in Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

**Helen Robinson** is a comic artist and illustrator from Northern Ireland. She has a degree in animation and has worked on some cool comics such as *The Light Thief*, *Low Tide*, and *Cosmos in Blue*.

**Dr. Megan Sinclair** has a PhD in comics from the University of Dundee. Her research focuses on 'Genre and Healthcare in Comics' where she examines the ways the superhero and autobiography can be used to promote information about health and wellbeing.

**Phillip Vaughan** is a Lecturer in Comics and Animation & VFX.

**Letty Wilson** is the artist on award-winning sci-fi series *Cosmic*, written by Erin Keepers. She has contributed to various anthologies and has several other books published with Panels, a collaborative group based in Glasgow, Scotland, including the SICBA award-winning graphic novel *A Stranger Came to Town*.

**Rosie Bailey, Lisa Bradley, Caitlin MacInnes, and Charlene Reid** were students on the inaugural Creating Public Information Comics module at University of Dundee. They worked on the script for *Learning More About Organ and Tissue Donation*, as well as creating their own Public Information Comics.

