



I WAS BORN IN
FABULOUS
COUNTRY . . .



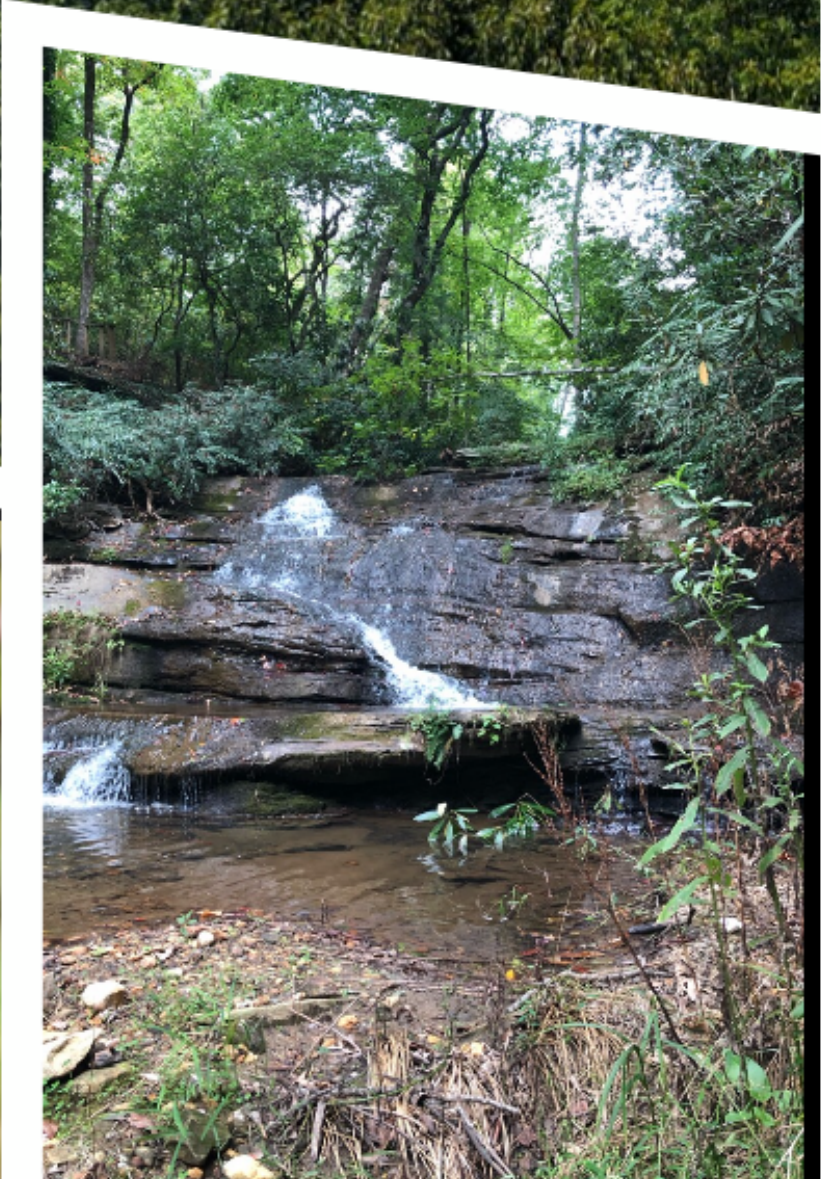
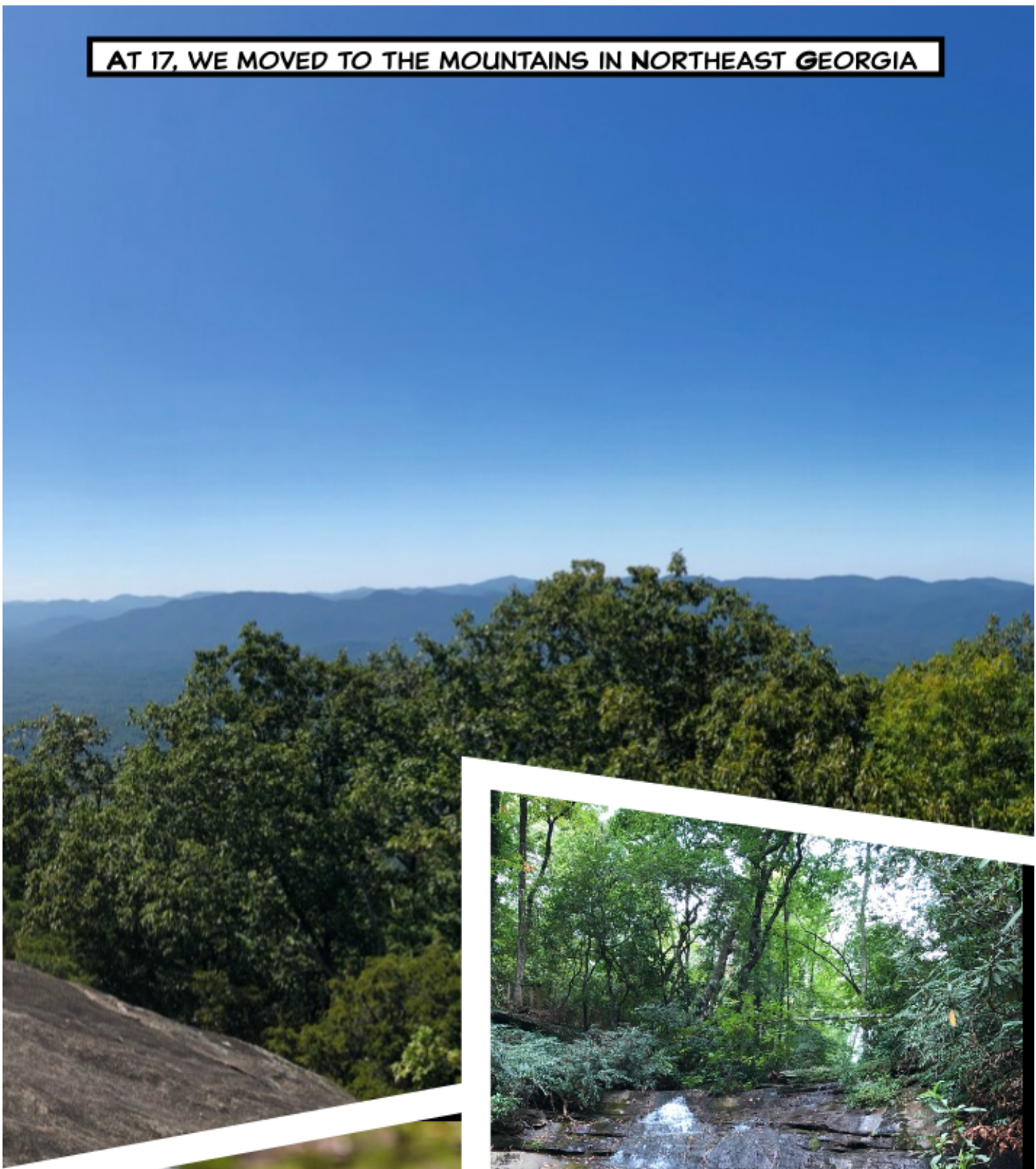
AND I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SO GLAD I
WAS . . .



ON THAT EDGE
OF FLORIDA
WHERE IT JOINS
GEORGIA.



AT 17, WE MOVED TO THE MOUNTAINS IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA





MY PARENTS STARTED
LAUREL FALLS CAMP IN
1920.

IT WAS THE FIRST PRIVATE
CAMP FOR GIRLS IN GEORGIA.




WHEN MY PARENTS GOT ILL IN 1925, I
CAME BACK FROM CHINA AND BECAME
THE CAMP DIRECTOR.



LAUREL FALLS CAMP FOR GIRLS, CLAYTON, GA.


I LEARNED MORE FROM THE CAMPERS THEMSELVES BECAUSE I TRIED NOT TO PUT BARRIERS BETWEEN ME AND THEM AND WE TALKED TOGETHER ABOUT EVERYTHING. . .



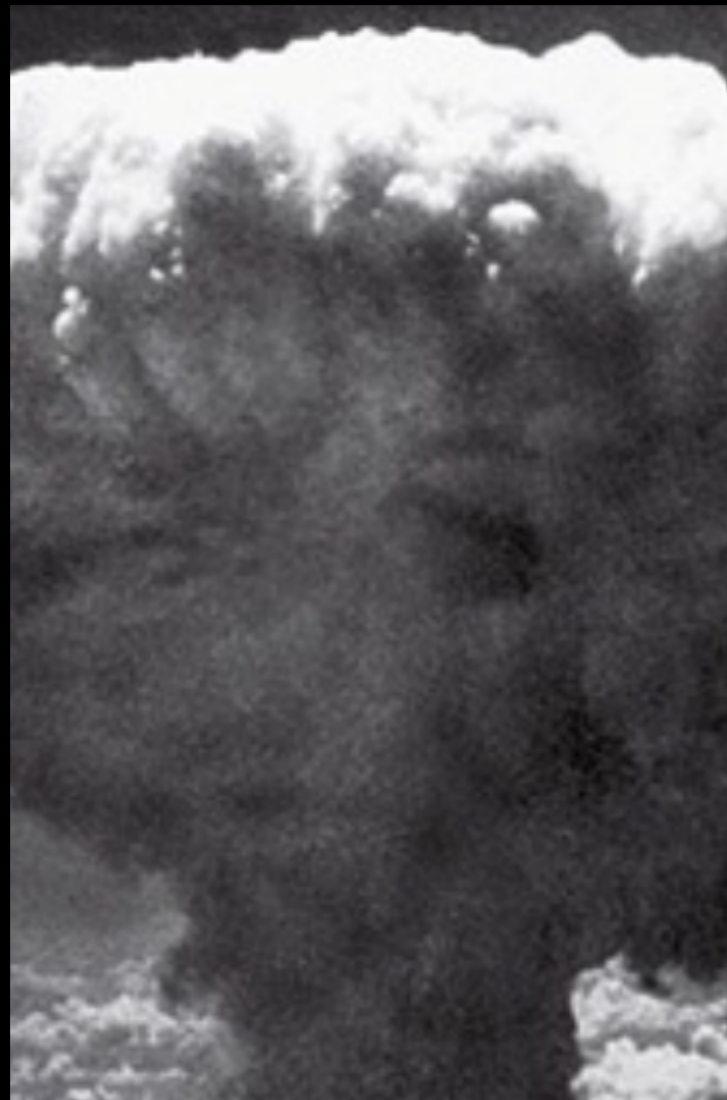


... OUR BODIES, SEX, DEATH, LIFE, GOD, OUR PARENTS,
HATE, LOVE, FEAR, ANXIETY, GUILT, AND BEAUTY.

WE TALKED MUSIC AND POETRY, WE WATCHED THE MOUNTAIN
AND ITS WILD BIRDS, WE DANCED. WE CREATED THINGS
TOGETHER.



THEY ASKED QUESTIONS,
AND THOSE QUESTIONS
REMAINED WITH ME.



"IF WE HAD BEEN IN HIROSHIMA AT A SUMMER CAMP WITH OTHER CHILDREN THAT BOMB WOULD'VE FALLEN ON US, WOULDN'T IT?"



"YET WE DIDN'T HAVE A THING TO DO WITH THIS WAR, NOR DID THOSE CHILDREN OVER THEIR EITHER."

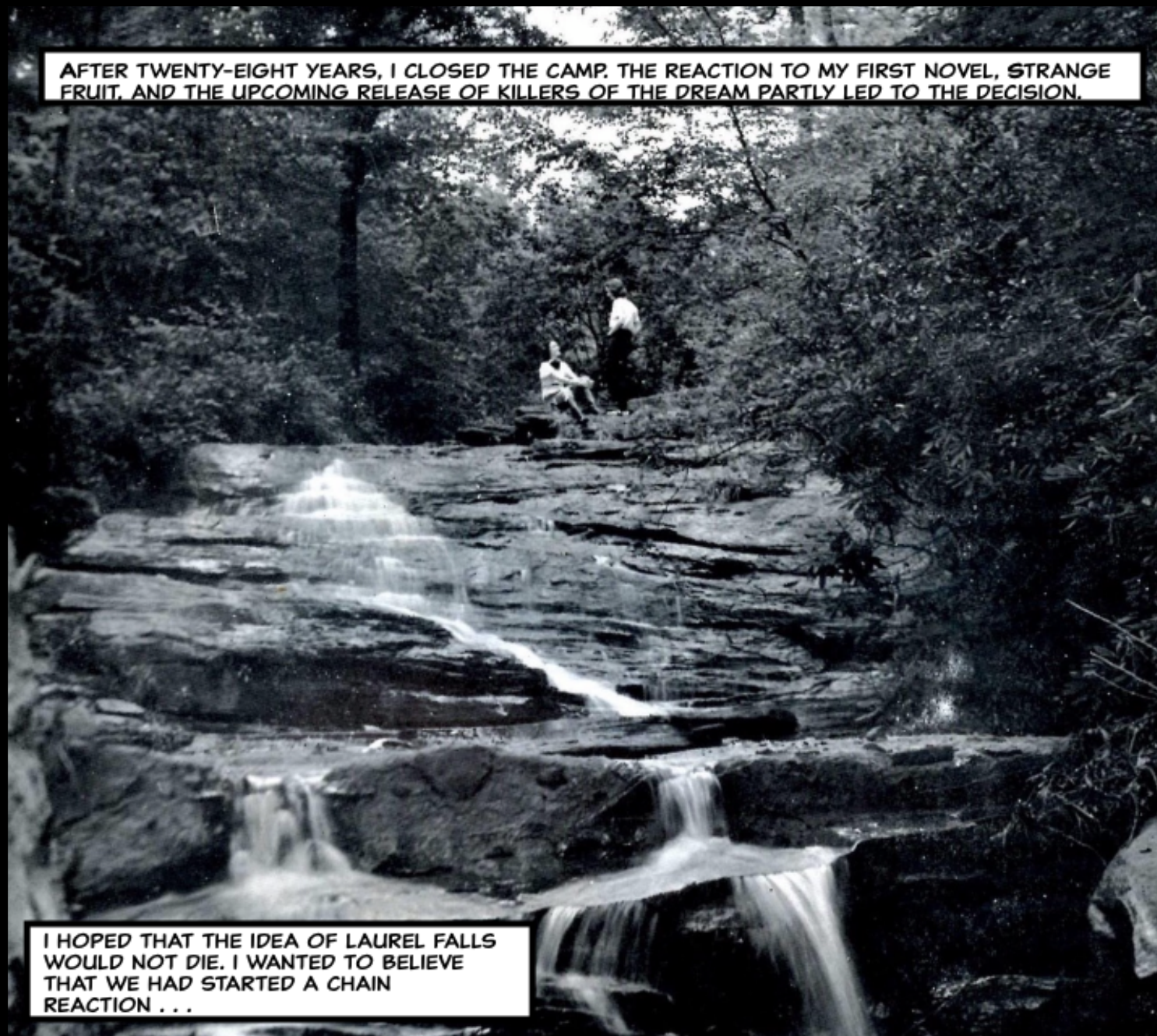


"DID THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE LYNCHED HAVE CHILDREN? HOW ARE THE CHILDREN FEELING? WHO'S LOOKING AFTER THEM?"



"WHAT CAN WE DO?"

AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS, I CLOSED THE CAMP. THE REACTION TO MY FIRST NOVEL, STRANGE FRUIT, AND THE UPCOMING RELEASE OF KILLERS OF THE DREAM PARTLY LED TO THE DECISION.



I HOPED THAT THE IDEA OF LAUREL FALLS WOULD NOT DIE. I WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT WE HAD STARTED A CHAIN REACTION . . .

. . . OF DREAMS THAT WOULD GO ON TOUCHING CHILD AFTER CHILD IN OUR SOUTH.



Killers OF THE Dream

THE BOOK MADE QUITE A BLAZE-BUT THE BLAZE PRACTICALLY DESTROYED THE AUTHOR AND HER WRITING CAREER.



"TALK ABOUT YOUR DEVIOUS DEMAGOGUERY NOT ONLY IS THIS CLAPTRAP BUT VERY BADLY DONE CLAPTRAP."-JACK TARVER

"A WOEFULLY UNSOUND BOOK. MISS SMITH IS A PRISONER IN THE MONASTERY OF HER OWN MIND."-RALPH MCGILL



UNTIL MY DEATH IN 1966, I SPOKE OUT AGAINST RACISM,
SEGREGATION, AND OPPRESSION. . . .



SPEAKING TO AUDIENCES AT MT MORIAH IN
ATLANTA. . .


This loss of one's old psychic defenses, one's old image of the self,
is the price that mankind pays and has always paid for profound cultural
change. And this loss is often the cause of the violence that change
sometimes brings forth.

KENTUCKY STATE
COLLEGE . . .



ALL SOULS IN
D.C. . . .



A black and white photograph of a woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt and a necklace with a dark pendant. She is sitting at a desk with several books in front of her. The background shows a cluttered room with shelves and various items.

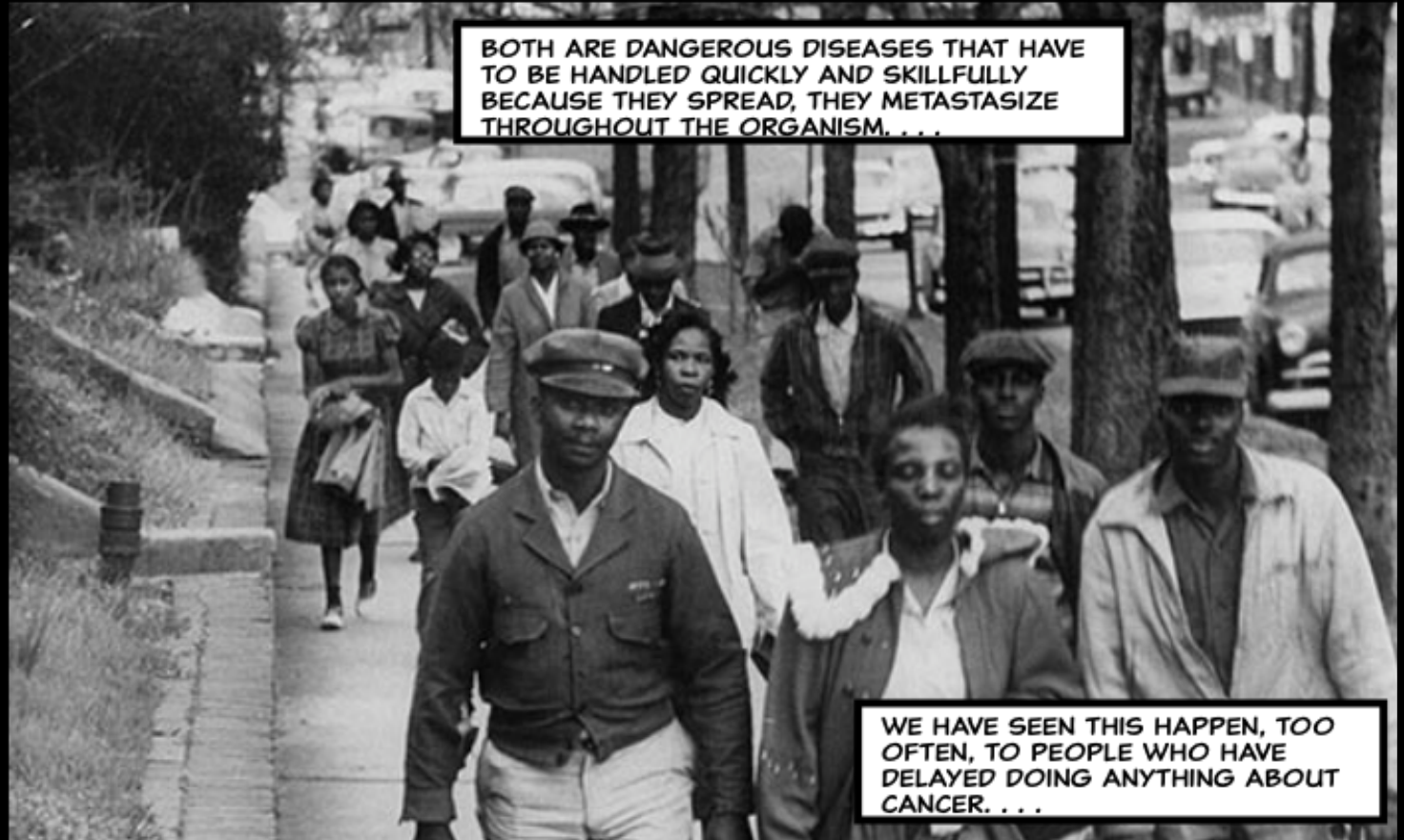
CANCER IS THE ONLY BIG FEAR I HAD EVER HAD. ALWAYS I FELT I COULD TAKE ANYTHING BUT THAT. . . .

AND THAT IS WHAT I HAD TO TAKE.





THE TRAGIC FACT IS, NEITHER CANCER
NOR SEGREGATION WILL GO AWAY
WHILE WE CLOSE OUR EYES. . . .



BOTH ARE DANGEROUS DISEASES THAT HAVE
TO BE HANDLED QUICKLY AND SKILLFULLY
BECAUSE THEY SPREAD, THEY METASTASIZE
THROUGHOUT THE ORGANISM. . . .

WE HAVE SEEN THIS HAPPEN, TOO
OFTEN, TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE
DELAYED DOING ANYTHING ABOUT
CANCER. . . .



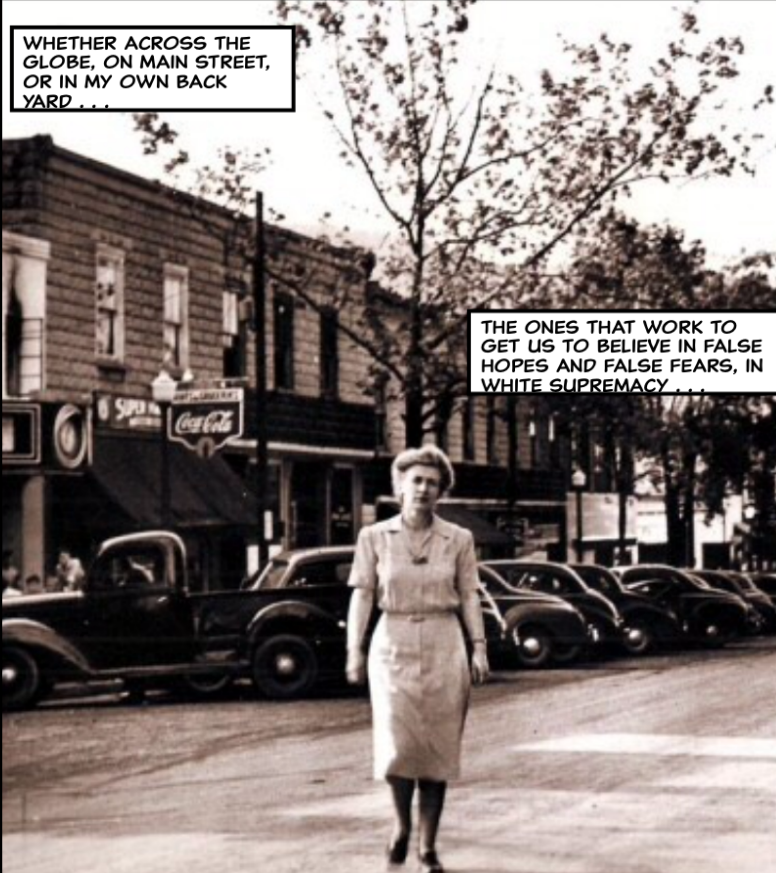
WE HAVE ALSO SEEN SICK RACE RELATIONS
METASTASIZE THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY-AND
INDEED, THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EART.

DURING MY LIFE, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TRAVELLING AND CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE . . .



BUILDING BRIDGES TO OTHER PEOPLE: TO ONE, THEN TO ONE MORE, THEN ON AND ON.

WHETHER ACROSS THE GLOBE, ON MAIN STREET, OR IN MY OWN BACK YARD . . .



THE ONES THAT WORK TO GET US TO BELIEVE IN FALSE HOPES AND FALSE FEARS, IN WHITE SUPREMACY . . .

I CONFRONTED AND WORKED TO KILL THE GIANTS AND PYGMIES OF MEMORY, OF BELIEF, PULLING US THIS WAY AND THAT . . .

THE ONES THAT HINDER US FROM CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER AND OURSELVES.



"WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE LOSS OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, LILLIAN SMITH. . . ."

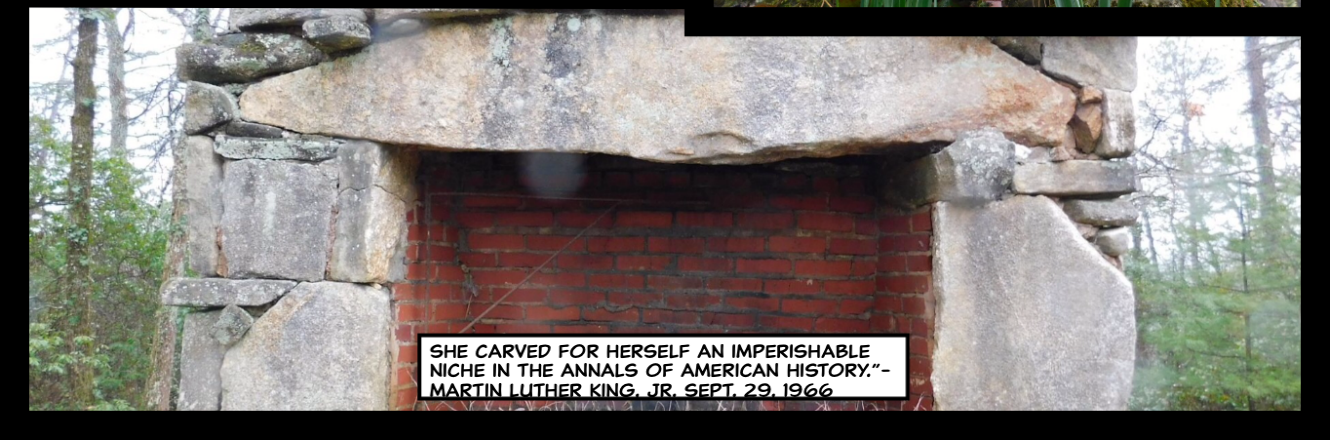
HER WRITINGS, HER EXEMPLARY LIFE AND HER COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE AND HUMANITY INSPIRED MILLIONS. . . .



SHE WAS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE HUMAN FIRMAMENT. . . .



PROBABLY NO SOUTHERNER SEARED THE CONSCIENCE OF WHITE SOUTHERNERS ON THE QUESTION OF RACIAL INJUSTICE THAN LILLIAN SMITH. . . .



SHE CARVED FOR HERSELF AN IMPERISHABLE NICHE IN THE ANNALS OF AMERICAN HISTORY."- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SEPT. 29, 1966

LILLIAN SMITH

DECEMBER 12, 1897 - SEPTEMBER 28, 1966

"DEATH CAN KILL A MAN;
THAT IS ALL IT CAN DO TO
HIM; IT CANNOT END HIS LIFE,
BECAUSE OF MEMORY-----"