SERÁ DESEADA

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SERÁ DESEADA

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Prologue

Abortions have always taken place. For generations, women and people who can become pregnant have shared knowledge of herbs, drugs, strategies, and the names of traditional or biomedical abortionists with each other in order to terminate unwanted pregnancies. In the context of illegality these strategies have come with great costs. As a result of these unsafe abortions, many women have been prosecuted, had their health severely affected, and have even died.

The situation took a turn in 2007, when Mexico City legalized abortion up to the twelfth week of pregnancy. For those in the capital or for those who could easily travel there, this was a huge step forward for dignity and choice.

But the vast majority of Mexicans did not directly benefit from this development and in other parts of the country women and pregnant people have had to continue with unwanted pregnancies or find their own methods of ending the pregnancy. The tireless efforts of activists, including Fondo MARIA, have been crucial in facilitating access to the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol or safe surgical abortions, to navigate the complex laws around legal access to abortion, and to support women to travel to Mexico City.

In September 2021 the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation issued a historic decision that will ensure that women and pregnant people enjoy the constitutional right to freedom and reproductive autonomy, including the right to interrupt
an unwanted pregnancy without facing criminal consequences. Although this does not mean the immediate elimination of barriers to access safe abortions, there is no doubt that this landmark ruling will pave the way for the transformation of the legal landscape of abortion in Mexico.

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This graphic novel is a meeting place. The protagonists, Victoria, María and Gloria, all find themselves in a gynecological clinic and, even while they do not talk to each other, their stories intertwine. These three stories connect different trajectories, decisions, and emotional ties, but they are linked because something in common unites them: experiencing an unwanted pregnancy and deciding to end it. Through these interwoven individual, but also collective, experiences this novel asks the reader to consider the complexity of the stories of women who have abortions, and also the everyday lives in which they travel, make decisions, and inhabit. In this way it is also a meeting place with ourselves as readers.

Although they are fictionalized stories, each one draws on the experiences of women and pregnant people with whom Fondo MARIA has worked over the years. This graphic novel is dedicated to them. And to all those who came before them. And to those who will go through similar situations – but which we hope will be radically different now that the laws that criminalize abortion have been declared unconstitutional.

Será deseada o no será. [It will be wanted or it will not be].

Cordelia Freeman & Sandra Rodríguez

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FICHA MEDICA

IDENTIFICACIÓN PERSONAL:
NOMBRE: [Nombre]
APellido: [Apellido]
SEXO: [Sexo]
EDAD: [Edad]
F.M.A: [Fecha de Nacimiento]
DIRECCIÓN: [Dirección]
COD. FAMILIA: [Código Familia]
APROXIMA Dicha FAMILIA: [Aproxima a la Familia]
NOMBRE DE LA MATERNAL: [Nombre de la Materna]
NÚMERO DE TELÉFONO: [Número de Teléfono]

ANTECEDENTES:
ALLERGIA: [Alergias]
FAMILIARES: [Familiares] (Alergias)
SINTOMAS: [Síntomas]
TRAUMAS: [Trasuras]
DÉFICIT: [Déficits]
ANOMALÍAS: [Anomalías]

EMBARAZOS PREVIO:
1. [Embarazo 1]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
2. [Embarazo 2]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
3. [Embarazo 3]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
4. [Embarazo 4]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
5. [Embarazo 5]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
6. [Embarazo 6]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
7. [Embarazo 7]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
8. [Embarazo 8]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
9. [Embarazo 9]: [Fecha Nacimiento]
10. [Embarazo 10]: [Fecha Nacimiento]

Desea agregar:

[Nombre y firma]
FECHA: [Fecha]

MRS GLORIA ANCIRA

I'VE GOT TO GO. THE RECEPCIONIST JUST CALLED MY NAME

SORRY FOR THE BoThER MRS ANCIRA BuT AS YOU HA DN’T VISITED OVER A YEAR WE’RE GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO FILL THIS FORM AGAIN SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE YOUR FILE

IT’S BEEN THAT LONG? WHAT A WEIRD YEAR. SO FAST IN SOME WAYS AND SLOW IN OTHERS
WHEN WAS MY LAST PERIOD?
THE PREVIOUS EVENING...

GLORIA: I can't believe you don't appreciate what a gift this is at our age.

...it's my decision too, my legacy to my child.

JORGE: We were on the same page about having kids. You always said you didn't want them and I've got so much going on between looking after myself, my job, our relationship. I'm overwhelmed with it all. Anyway, you said yourself you couldn't afford it.
OK VICTORIA. WE'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO THE HEARTBEAT.
SO THERE ISN’T ANY RISK BECAUSE OF... BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID YEARSAGO?

EVERYTHING IS PERFECT. BOTH YOU AND YOUR BABY ARE DOING REALLY WELL.

IT’S ALL DONE.

IN THE YEAR 2000
YES. THANK YOU

THE PROCEDURE WAS SUCCESSFUL.

VICTORIA

ON YOUR FORM YOU DIDN'T SAY HOW YOU HEARD ABOUT US...

FROM A...
FROM A FRIEND.

¿PRUEBA POSITIVA? TE AYUDAMOS
WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

I AM REALLY SCARED.

FEAR ISN'T A BAD THING. IT HELPS US STAY ALERT. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DIE. THIS DOCTOR ISN'T GOING TO PUT YOU AT RISK AND NO-ONE IS GOING TO FIND OUT.

OF DYING. OF MY FAMILY FINDING OUT.

But what if I regret it?

Why would you regret it?

I don't know... I've heard some people regret it... my parents will kill me if they find out. That's if I don't die first.
IS SOMEONE PRESSURING YOU INTO THIS?

SO IT WAS YOUR DECISION TO CALL?

I'M STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. HOW COULD I HAVE A BABY?

WHEN IT'S SOMEONE'S OWN DECISION TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US IT'S RARE THAT THEY REGRET IT, BUT IT CAN HAPPEN. ALL EMOTIONS ARE VALID AND CAN CHANGE OVER TIME.

I'M GOING ALONE.

OKAY.
MY NAME'S GLORIA. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY NUMBER. HAVE YOU GOT SOMEWHERE TO WRITE IT DOWN? YOU CAN CALL ME WHEN YOU HAVE THE APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED IF YOU WANT, AND WHEN IT'S ALL OVER TOO. WE CAN HAVE A CHAT ABOUT HOW YOU'RE FEELING. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I'M HERE WHEN YOU NEED ME.
MARIA, WE'RE READY FOR YOU.

HERE'S MY FORM. CAN I BORROW THE KEY FOR THE LOO. PLEASE?
SO MARIA, YOU'RE PREGNANT WHEN WAS YOUR LAST PERIOD?

WELL I HAVE IRREGULAR PERIODS SO I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DATE BUT IT WAS A WHILE AGO... MAYBE THREE MONTHS?

WITH IRREGULAR PERIODS THE CALCULATIONS CAN BE A BIT MORE COMPLICATED. BUT YOUR BLOOD TEST DOES CONFIRM THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT. I'M GOING TO DO AN ULTRASOUND TO SEE HOW FAR ALONG YOU ARE SO THAT YOU KNOW WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU AND YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DECISION FROM THERE.

PERFECT. LET'S HAVE A LOOK... CAN YOU JUST LEAN BACK A LITTLE MORE? THAT'S IT.

YES, WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT THE BEST WAY TO HAVE AN ABORTION THIS FAR ALONG IS. IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO HAVE A BABY. I KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
YOU'RE SO BRAVE, MARIA.

THANK YOU.

WE LOVE YOU.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.
HI
GRANNY
HOW ARE
YOU?

COME THROUGH, MY DARLINGS.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN...
IT RAINS CATS AND DOGS THIS TIME OF YEAR.
THOSE CLOUDS EVEN LOOK LIKE HAIL.
I MIGHT NEED TO GET THE CAGES IN SOON

GOOD EVENING
YOU ARE STAYING FOR DINNER, AREN'T YOU?

YES MUM

IT SMELLS EVEN MORE DELICIOUS THAN LAST TIME

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
BON APPETIT

BON APPETIT

BON APPETIT

MARIA MY LOVE YOU HAVE OUTDONE YOURSELF. THAT WAS LOVELY.

WELL IT WAS YOU WHO TAUGHT ME WASN'T IT?
SO, I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT I WANT TO TELL YOU.

I'M PREGNANT BUT I'M NOT READY TO BE A MAMA YET... SO I'VE DECIDED I'M GOING TO END IT.
OH EMILIO, WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WE WOULD USE HERBS TO BRING ON OUR PERIODS. BUT YOU HAVE MANY MORE OPTIONS NOWADAYS.

AND ANYWAY, WE DON'T HAVE FORESTS WHERE WE CAN GO LOOKING FOR HERBS HERE. OTHERWISE WE COULD GO TOGETHER.

IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW MANY TIMES WE WENT WITH MY SISTER MARTA, AND FOR JUANA, AND FOR CHANA. AND EVEN FOR ME OUR PERIODS WERE BACK BEFORE YOU KNEW IT.
OH MUM, YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT.

WELL WHEN YOU GET TO MY AGE...

WELL DONE ON YOUR DECISION SWEETHEART. YOU STILL HAVE A LOT OF LIFE TO LIVE.

AND YOU EMILIO, HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT IT ALL?

WELL I'M RELIEVED. I CAN'T PRETEND OTHERWISE...
YOU SILLY THING

WELL, WELL. LOOK AT THESE TWO NOW.

WELL IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN GET PREGNANT TWICE.

SO, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?

I DON'T KNOW YET. I HEARD ABOUT A DOCTOR WHO HAS A CLINIC WHERE THEY HELP WOMEN...
So I can see that you're ten weeks pregnant. That means you can take the abortion pill, misoprostol, at home or we could do an MVA right here. That's a type of surgical abortion.

They are the two recommended methods and you can choose whichever one you feel more comfortable with. You can have a surgical abortion here but taking pills at home is safe and effective even up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.

I want to do it at home. That feels right for me.

If you need anything or have any questions, I'm right here.
TAKING THIS BOOKLET THAT HAS THE INSTRUCTIONS. I HAVE TO GIVE YOU THIS PILL, MIFEPRISTONE, WHICH YOU NEED TO TAKE HERE BUT THE OTHERS WORK DIFFERENTLY. SO YOU WILL NEED TO BUY THEM AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS I'VE GIVEN YOU THERE.

COME BACK IN A FORTNIGHT FOR A CHECK-UP.

THANK YOU.

GOOD AFTERNOON
GLORIA, HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO SEE YOU!

HOW IS EVERYTHING?

OH. FINE...

HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY? IT MUST BE ONE OF THE FEW CLINICS OPEN DURING THE PANDEMIC.

I KNOW I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE AND WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC BUT STILL... SOMETHING SEEMS UP...

OH MYRNA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I'M NOT DOING TOO GREAT...
I don’t want to have it but Jorge thinks I’m making a mistake and that he gets a say too. I’m 42 years old and when I was 20 I never could have imagined that I would end up in this situation. All those certainties and ideals I felt in my twenties have crumbled. I felt so free back then and I thought I had found a man who truly shared my principles...

...and it turns out I was wrong. We’re not even on the same page with the most basic things. It was all just an illusion... fifteen years of illusion.
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE MET?

DURING A MARCH IN 1999...

MATERNIDADES LIBRES

I LOOK AT YOU NOW AND I STILL SEE THAT SAME GLORIA. YOU'RE STILL FIGHTING FOR WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT.
I'VE NEVER TOLD YOU THIS BUT DO YOU REMEMBER MY FRIEND PATRICIA?

SHE WAS SO YOUNG AND SHE FOUGHT SO HARD AGAINST THAT INFECTION. WHEN SHE DIED, I WAS SO ANGRY WITH HER FOR HAVING AN ABORTION. BUT THEN I MET THE GIRLS FROM THE COLLECTIVE AND THEY HELPED ME TO REALISE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO PATRICIA DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN. THEY MADE ME SEE THAT IT WASN'T THE ABORTION THAT KILLED HER, IT WAS THE LACK OF PROTECTION AND THE STIGMA.

I NEVER TOLD YOU BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER AND BECAUSE OF MEETING YOU GIRLS THAT I DECIDED TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THIS.
I NEVER KNEW.

ALWAYS, I KNOW. I'M SURE ABOUT THIS.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS NOW.
ONE BOX OF MISOPROSTOL OF 200mcg PLEASE.

HAVE YOU GOT A PRESCRIPTION?

NO, BUT…
BUT NOTHING.
I CAN'T SELL THEM
WITHOUT A
PRESCRIPTION.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU TODAY?

GOOD AFTERNOON YOUNG MAN

THE BOX COMES WITH 28 TABLETS.

A BOX OF MISOPROSTOL PLEASE IN 200 mcg.

THAT'S FINE.
THE END
Si quieres y/o necesitas abortar, puedes llenar una solicitud de apoyo en www.fondomaria.org/apoyo o llamar por teléfono al 800 832 73 11 si vives en el interior de la República o al 55 52 43 50 54 si estás en CDMX y Área Metropolitana.
Balance is a feminist organization that works towards building an environment where everyone gets to make their own decisions about sexuality. We contribute to the transformation of policies, programs and actions that guarantee sexual rights. We provide the tools and support to women* and adolescents to trigger processes of critical reflection that helps them recognise sexuality as integral to well-being. We believe in the power of the collective to transform our world.

Fondo MARIA (Women*, Abortion, Reproduction, Information and Accompaniment), one of Balance’s programs, operates on a national scale in Mexico, supporting women* throughout the country to access safe and legal abortions. We work to create a legal and social context in Mexico that allows, respects and promotes the right to choose abortion as a legitimate result of an unwanted or uncontinuable pregnancy, taking advantage of the legal framework that exists in Mexico City to address inequalities.
We want everyone to have the pregnancies that they desire, abortions that are well-supported, and the lives that we dream of. May this graphic novel reach those who have had one or many abortions, those who are currently having abortions, those who at some point in their lives could have abortions, and those who have accompanied or could accompany someone who has decided to have an abortion, as a reminder that our decisions are valid and that we are not alone.

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www.fondomaria.org