

New Rites of Transition

GABRIELLE GAMBOA



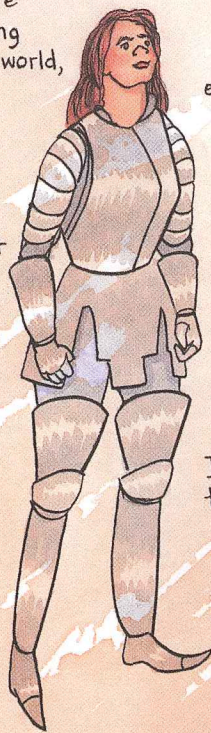
Gabrielle Gamboa is a visual artist and arts educator who lives in Santa Rosa, California. Her comics and illustrations have appeared in print and online publications such as Salon, BUST, and Truthout. She is currently working on a graphic novel set in postwar Los Angeles.

B

efore
going
out into the world,

each young woman
is fitted with a
suit of armor.

This shields
her from
the judgement
of those
who believe
her intrinsic
value is
her looks.



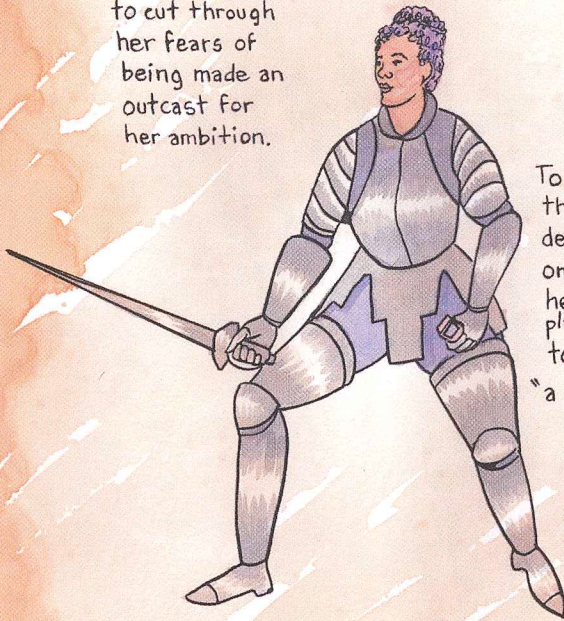
It renders her immune
to those who wish
to control her body.

This armor grows and changes with her.

S

he is given a sharp, quick sword,

to cut through
her fears of
being made an
outcast for
her ambition.



To banish
the inner
demons who
only want
her to
placate,
to just be
"a good sport."

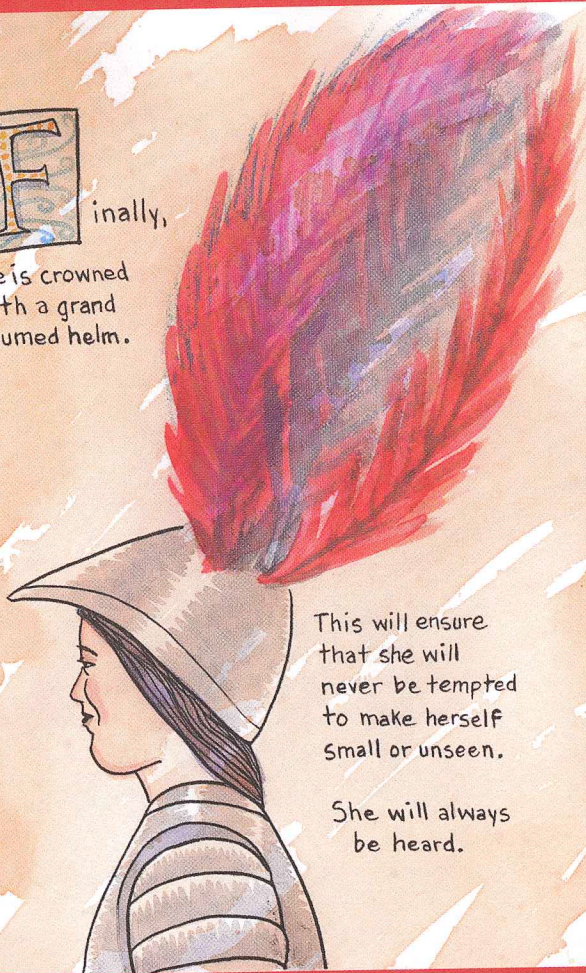
She is also given a cell phone containing the numbers
of marvelous mentors she can call at any time.



F

inally,

She is crowned
with a grand
plumed helm.

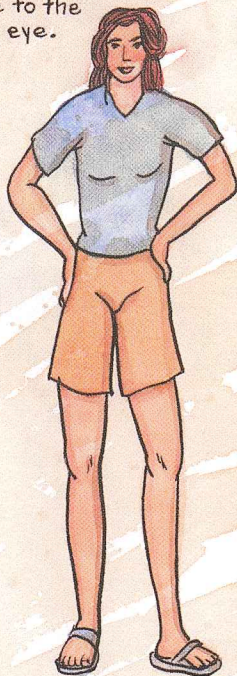
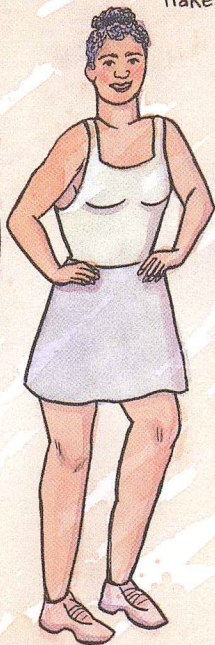
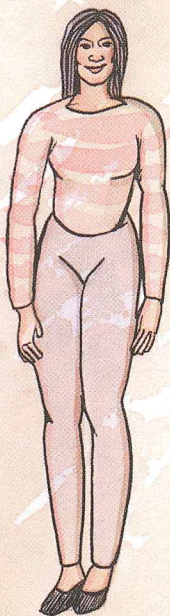


This will ensure
that she will
never be tempted
to make herself
small or unseen.

She will always
be heard.



All of these tools, once mastered,
shall become invisible to the
naked eye.



But with her always.

