

caringkind chronicles

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Episode 3 Previous episodes: caringkindnyc.org/comic

CRISTINA



Mom

ROBERT



Dad

ANGIE



Daughter

MICHAEL



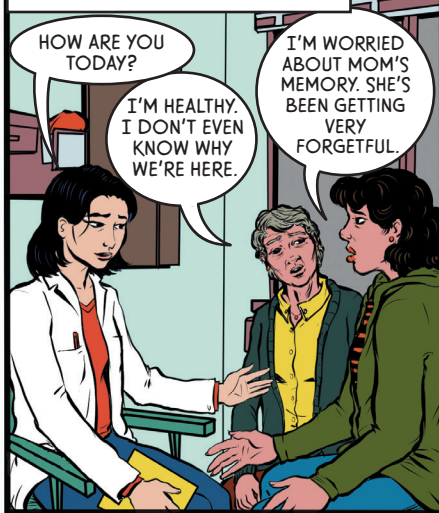
Son

ESTELLA



Grandmother

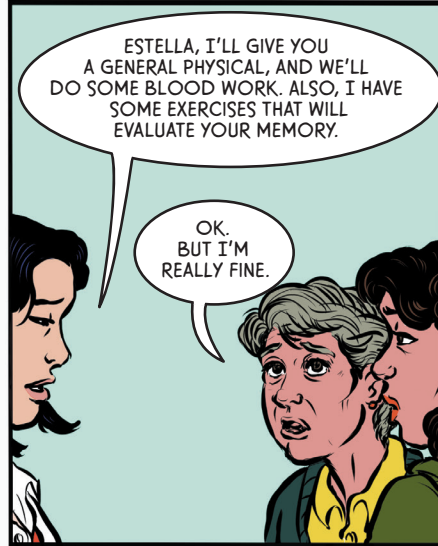
TINA TAKES ESTELLA TO THE DOCTOR.



HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

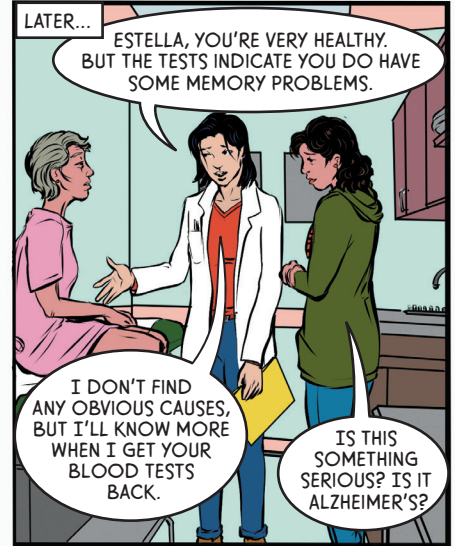
I'M HEALTHY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT MOM'S MEMORY. SHE'S BEEN GETTING VERY FORGETFUL.



ESTELLA, I'LL GIVE YOU A GENERAL PHYSICAL, AND WE'LL DO SOME BLOOD WORK. ALSO, I HAVE SOME EXERCISES THAT WILL EVALUATE YOUR MEMORY.

OK. BUT I'M REALLY FINE.



LATER...

ESTELLA, YOU'RE VERY HEALTHY. BUT THE TESTS INDICATE YOU DO HAVE SOME MEMORY PROBLEMS.

I DON'T FIND ANY OBVIOUS CAUSES, BUT I'LL KNOW MORE WHEN I GET YOUR BLOOD TESTS BACK.

IS THIS SOMETHING SERIOUS? IS IT ALZHEIMER'S?



IT COULD BE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, OR THERE MAY BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION. I'D LIKE ESTELLA TO SEE A NEUROLOGIST FOR MORE TESTING.

ESTELLA VISITS THE NEUROLOGIST FOR MORE TESTING.

MRI SCAN.

ONCE WE HAVE A DIAGNOSIS, WE CAN DECIDE THE BEST TREATMENT.

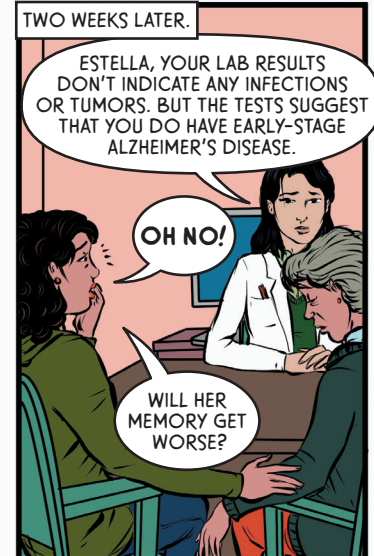
OH... OK. THANK YOU.



LONGER COGNITIVE TESTS.



MORE BLOOD TESTS.



TWO WEEKS LATER.

ESTELLA, YOUR LAB RESULTS DON'T INDICATE ANY INFECTIONS OR TUMORS. BUT THE TESTS SUGGEST THAT YOU DO HAVE EARLY-STAGE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

OH NO!

WILL HER MEMORY GET WORSE?



YES, UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS A PROGRESSIVE CONDITION. THERE'S MEDICATION THAT MIGHT HELP PRESERVE ESTELLA'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION FOR SOME TIME. WE'LL MONITOR HER, AND CAN ADJUST HER TREATMENT IF NECESSARY.

OH, MOM! I'M SO SORRY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I FEEL FINE!



I'LL SEE ESTELLA AGAIN IN SIX WEEKS. HERE'S SOME BROCHURES ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S.

GOODBYE!

THIS ORGANIZATION, CARINGKIND, OFFERS MANY FREE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN NYC. I CAN HAVE THEM CALL YOU IF YOU LIKE.

YES, THANK YOU.



SHE'S A NICE DOCTOR. LET'S GET SOME COFFEE.

OH NO!! NOW WHAT?!

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Rapid Referral Program provides a free and easy way for medical professionals to directly link patients with memory loss to a CaringKind Helpline Specialist. For information, contact Healthcare Outreach: (646) 744-2969 or NMariano@caringkindnyc.org.