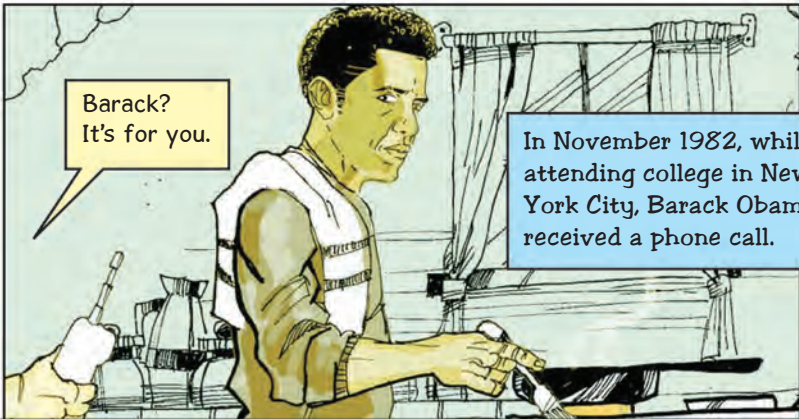


**GRAPHIC
BIOGRAPHY**

BARACK OBAMA



Before Barack Obama was president, he lived in many different places and met many different kinds of people. Growing up, Barack had to work hard to understand himself and the world around him.

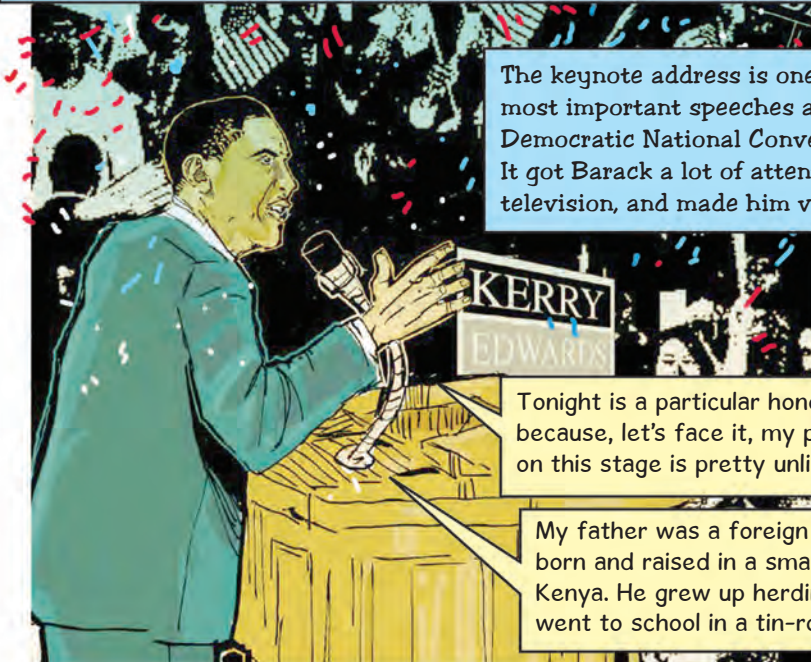


Barack?
It's for you.

In November 1982, while attending college in New York City, Barack Obama received a phone call.

A few months after his twenty-first birthday, the future president found out his father had died in a car accident. He had only met his father once, when he was ten years old.

At the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, Illinois State Senator Barack Obama gave the keynote address.



The keynote address is one of the most important speeches at the Democratic National Convention. It got Barack a lot of attention on television, and made him very famous.

Tonight is a particular honor for me because, let's face it, my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely.

My father was a foreign student, born and raised in a small village in Kenya. He grew up herding goats, went to school in a tin-roof shack.

Barack told different stories about his father in Honolulu, Hawaii, in December 1971.



My grandfather, see, he's a chief. It's sort of like the king of the tribe. So that makes my father a prince. He'll take over when my grandfather dies.

None of the stories Barack told his classmates were true. Barack's grandfather, Onyangō Obama, was a farmer and a cook.



What about after that? I mean, will you go back and be a prince?

Well, if I want to I could.

But to be fair, when Barack was ten and everyone called him Barry, he didn't know much about his father's family, or even the country that they came from.

Barack's father, Barack Obama Sr., was born in Kenya. He did well in school and was invited to study in the United States.



While he was at the University of Hawaii, he met Barack's mother, Ann.

Ann Dunham met Barack Sr. in a Russian language class. They were married February 2, 1961. In 1961 interracial marriage was rare. Barack Sr.'s father and Ann's parents were not happy with their children.



When Barack was two years old, his father finished studying at the University of Hawaii. Barack Sr. received two offers to continue his studies: one came from the New School in New York City, the other from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



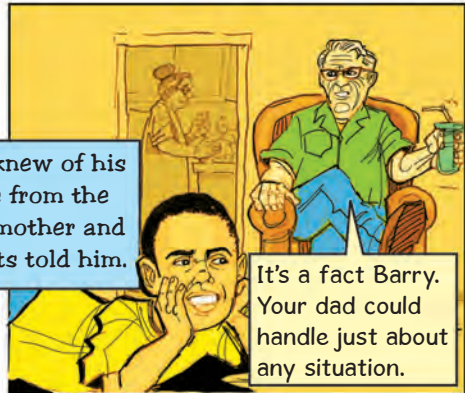
Why do you have to go to Harvard? If you choose New York, you'll have enough money to take us with you!

How can I refuse the best school?

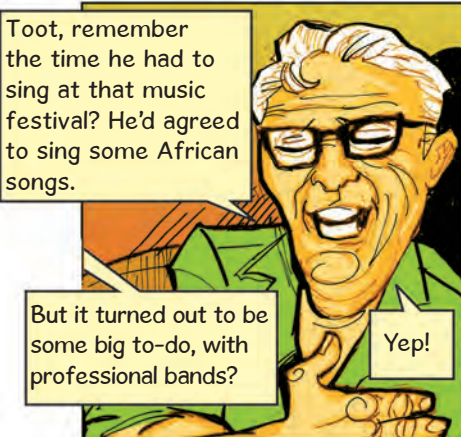


Barack's parents split up soon after his father left for Massachusetts.

All Barack knew of his father came from the stories his mother and grandparents told him.



It's a fact Barry. Your dad could handle just about any situation.



Toot, remember the time he had to sing at that music festival? He'd agreed to sing some African songs.

But it turned out to be some big to-do, with professional bands?

Yep!



But your dad sang by himself in front of this big crowd anyway.

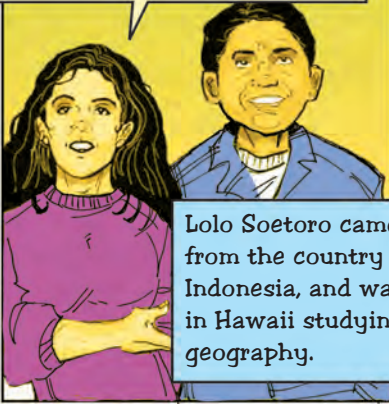
And he wasn't great.

Barack called his grandparents Gramps and Toot, which came from tutu, the Hawaiian word for "grandmother."



No, but he was so sure of himself that the crowd loved him. There's something you can learn from your dad. Confidence. The secret to success.

Barry, come here! I have someone I want you to meet. This is Lolo, Mommy's friend from the university.



Lolo Soetoro came from the country of Indonesia, and was in Hawaii studying geography.



Ann and Lolo married when Barack was six years old. Soon after, Lolo had to return home to Indonesia. Ann decided that she and Barack would join him.

Barack's grandparents responded to the news in their own ways.

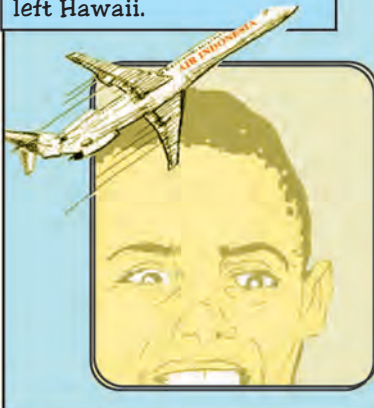
I better pack you some more canned food.



Here we go. Indonesia. It's a chain of islands, like Hawaii. Says here they got tigers over there. And apes!



Ann and Barack moved to Indonesia a year after Lolo left Hawaii.



Lolo had changed during that year, starting with a new mustache.

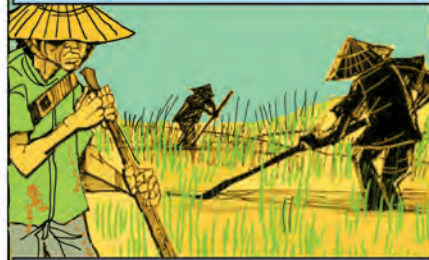


Later, Ann would find out that Lolo was forced to return to Indonesia to serve in the army.

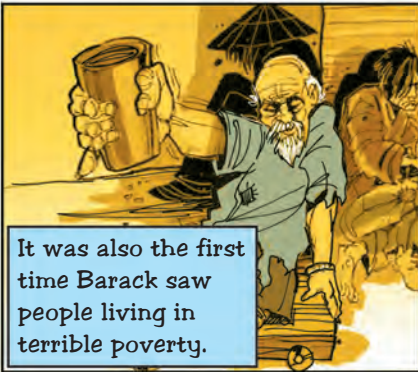
Barack lived in Indonesia for four years, from ages six to ten. Life was different in Indonesia.



Barry ate things that most people in the United States do not eat.



He ate dog meat, snake meat, and roasted grasshopper; the meat was tough, the grasshopper crunchy.

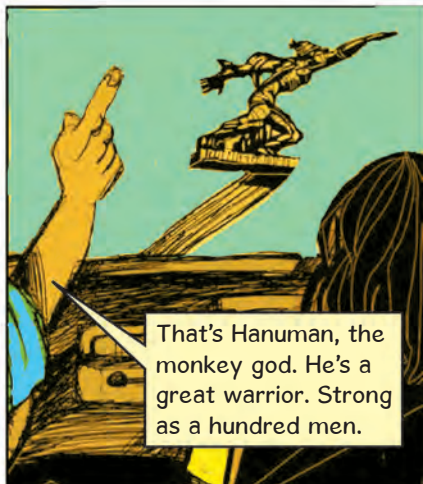


It was also the first time Barack saw people living in terrible poverty.



In Indonesia, Barack and his mother saw poverty unlike anything they had experienced in the United States.

That is the Hotel Indonesia. Very modern. And Barry! Look!



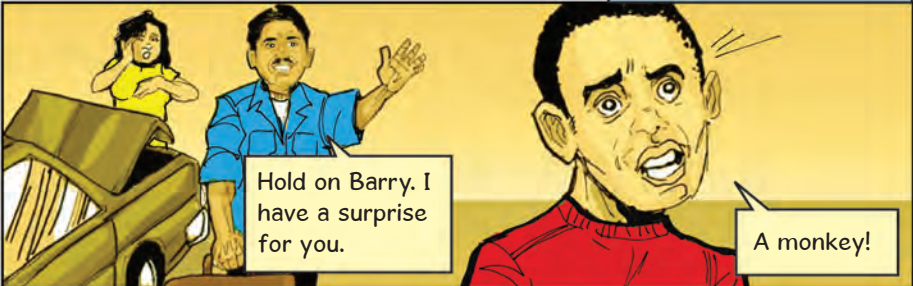
That's Hanuman, the monkey god. He's a great warrior. Strong as a hundred men.

Ann would give Indonesian money, rupiah, to poor people whenever she could. Lolo encouraged Barack to keep his money for himself.

The house Lolo had bought for them in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, was not very big. Lolo was working for the army, which didn't pay a lot.



Later, Lolo got a new job, working for an American oil company.



With the new job came a bigger house with a television, a radio, and servants.



Barack had many difficulties. He not only had to learn a new language, he had to learn a new way of life, with different rules and values. Later, teachers would remember him as a quiet boy who sat in the back of the room, sometimes teased for being the only foreigner in the class.



At first, Ann wanted her son to get used to Indonesia.

... and my friend and I, we thought it would be fun to mudslide, and I didn't even see the barbed wire ...

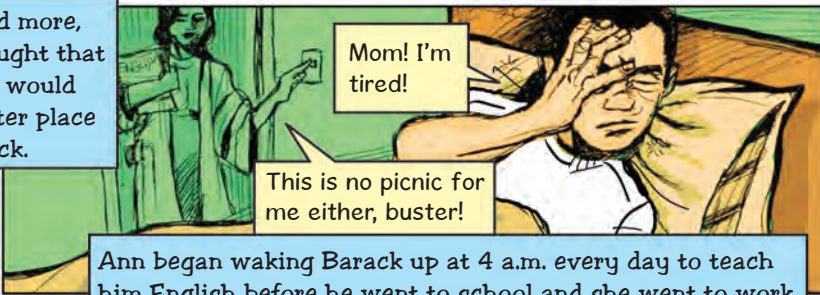
We have to get him to the hospital!



It's too late now. We can take him to get stitches in the morning.

Ann had a neighbor drive her and Barack to the hospital. There were only two doctors there. They would not give Barack stitches until they finished their game of dominoes.

More and more, Ann thought that America would be a better place for Barack.



Mom! I'm tired!

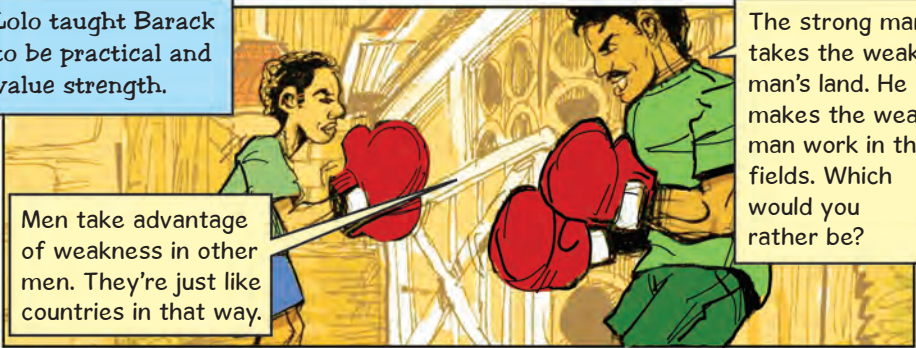
This is no picnic for me either, buster!

Ann began waking Barack up at 4 a.m. every day to teach him English before he went to school and she went to work.



And she would tell him that he got his intelligence from his father.

Lolo taught Barack to be practical and value strength.



The strong man takes the weak man's land. He makes the weak man work in the fields. Which would you rather be?

Men take advantage of weakness in other men. They're just like countries in that way.

Meanwhile, Ann taught Barack to be fair, value honesty, and think for himself.



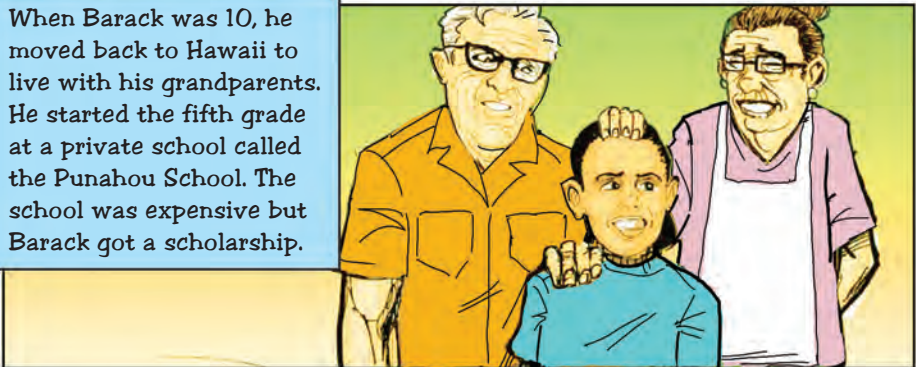
If you want to grow into a human being, you're going to need some values!



In 1970, Ann gave birth to Maya Soetoro, Barack's half-sister.

Lolo had not been talking to Ann much, but they seemed closer after Maya was born, at least for a while.

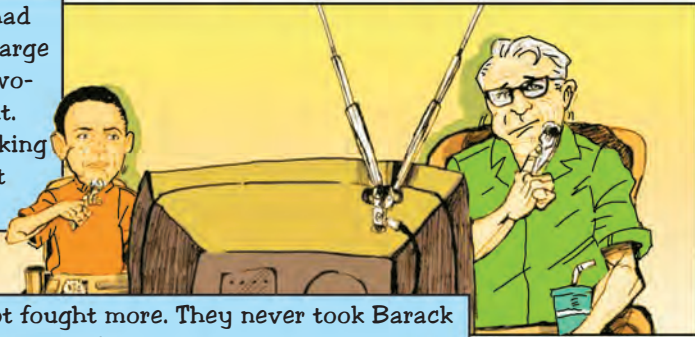
When Barack was 10, he moved back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents. He started the fifth grade at a private school called the Punahou School. The school was expensive but Barack got a scholarship.



Back in America, Barack was feeling lonely. There weren't many black students at the Punahou School. Just like in Indonesia, Barack didn't look like most of his classmates.



Gramps and Toot had moved from their large house to a small two-bedroom apartment. Gramps wasn't making much money and it bothered him.



Gramps and Toot fought more. They never took Barack to the beach as they had when he was younger.



It's a telegram from your mother. She's coming to visit for Christmas. And, Barry, it looks like your father is coming to visit too.

Should be one heck of a Christmas.

