



AWA UPSHOT
PRESENTS

COVID CHRONICLES

ETHAN SACKS
Writer

DALIBOR TALAJIĆ
Artist & Cover Artist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
Colorist & Cover Colorist

BOSUNG KIM
Graphic Designer & Letterer



*Dedicated to my friends, Scott Tiedke and Michael Klibaner,
gone too soon but never forgotten.*

- Ethan Sacks

*This one is for you, Dad.
Wherever you are...*

- Dalibor Talajić



CHAPTER 1
A NURSE'S ANGUISH IN THE ICU



**New York City
April 2, 2020**

I arrive at the hospital parking lot 15 minutes before the start of my night shift.

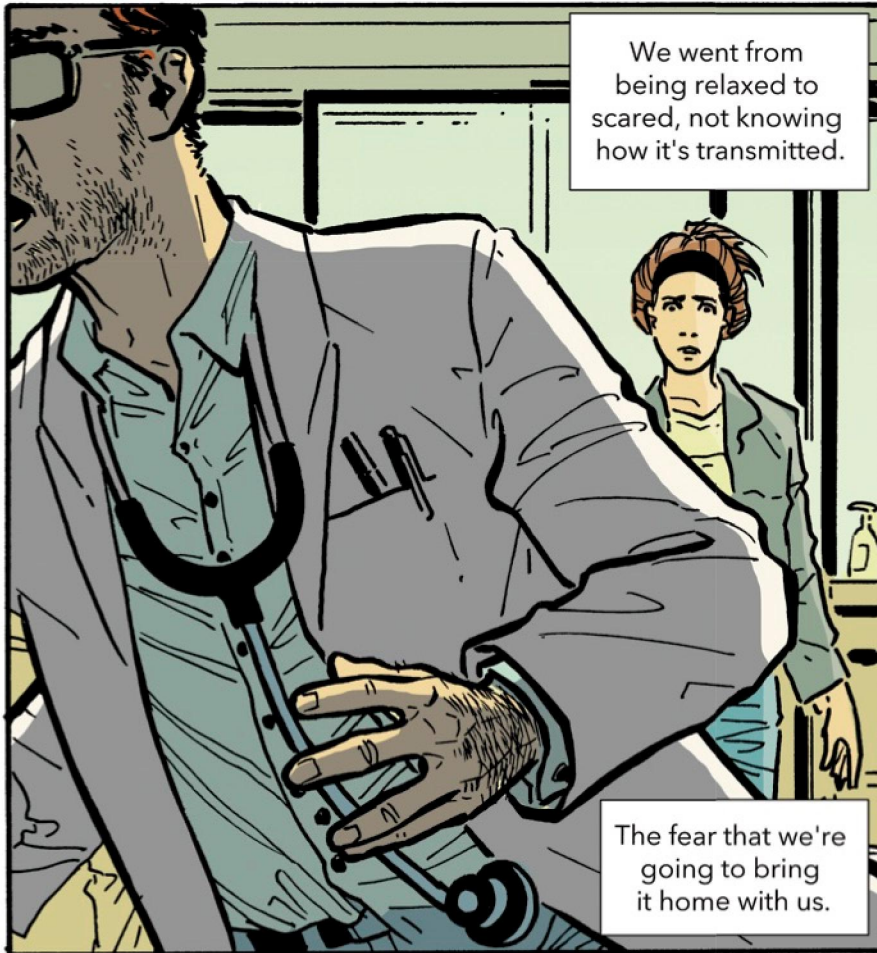
I need that time to psych myself up to leave the car.

JESSICA, 23, ICU NURSE

Everything has changed in the last 11 days... since the first COVID-19 case hit our ICU.

Now, all 20 beds in my unit are filled. Now, they're converting every ward except maternity and oncology to more ICU space.

In 11 days, our lives have been turned upside down.



We went from being relaxed to scared, not knowing how it's transmitted.

The fear that we're going to bring it home with us.



I live with my 62-year-old mom and the idea that I could infect her... I couldn't live with *that*.

And this PPE* that I've been reusing the last three days in a row is the only thing that protects both of us.
*PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

The instructions on the N95 box say we're supposed to dispose and use a new one after every interaction with a patient. I've used this three days in a row.



I'm pretty sure it's not supposed to look or *smell* like this.

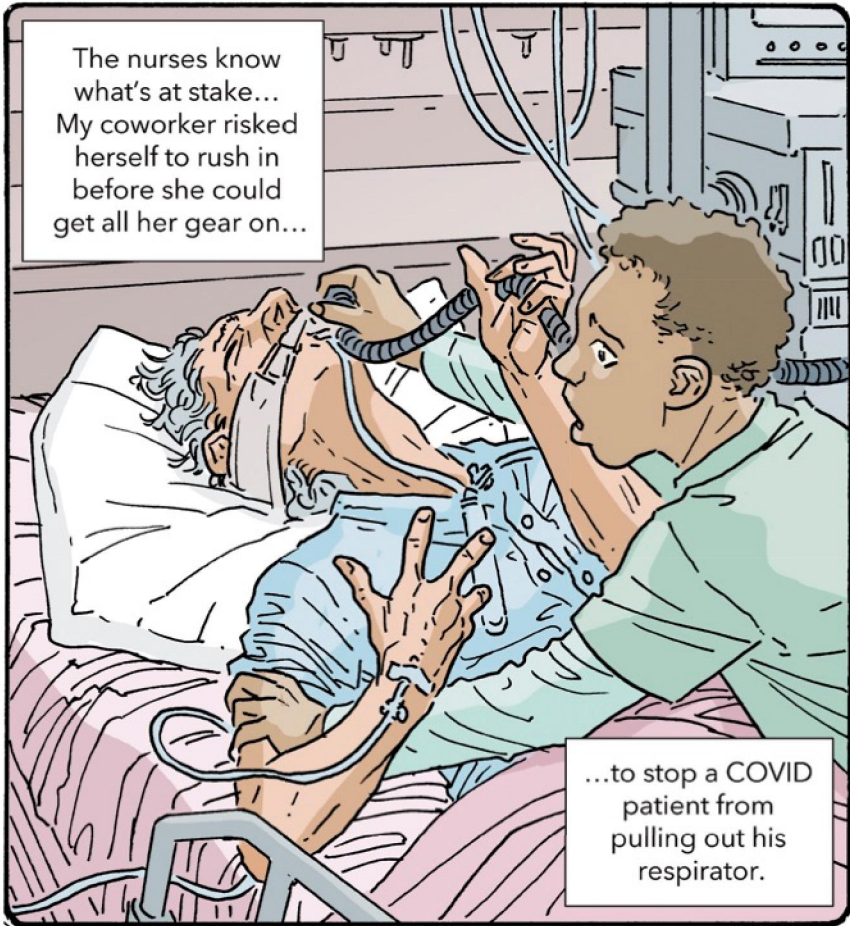
Still, every piece of PPE counts.



Every piece gives me a fighting chance of not bringing anything home.

Of not bringing anything home to my mother and sister.





The nurses know what's at stake... My coworker risked herself to rush in before she could get all her gear on...

...to stop a COVID patient from pulling out his respirator.



He died a few days later anyway.

