



....In The Meantime

With



24 hour confidential hotline: 1-800-537-6066 or 874-1973

Mini-Mag #46: March 29, 2021

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-WEAX-0016 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Hello,

It's 1964 and President Lyndon Johnson has just signed the *Civil Rights Act* in Sue Monk Kidd's "The Secret Life of Bees" (2002). Female protagonist, Lily, is 14 years old, and she and her housekeeper, Rosaleen, have fled their hometown of Syland, South Carolina, after Rosaleen is beaten-up enroute to register to vote. In addition to wanting to get Rosaleen out of town, Lily is fleeing her abusive father, T-Ray, and simultaneously on a quest to find the origins of a *Black Madonna* photo that belonged to her deceased mother. Their journey takes them 93 miles to the town of Tiburon (SC), to the "Pepto-Bismol" pink house of beekeeper-sisters, August, May, and June Boatwright, whose famous *Black Madonna Honey*, is affixed with the very sticker-photo of the *Black Mary* Lily has been carrying with her.

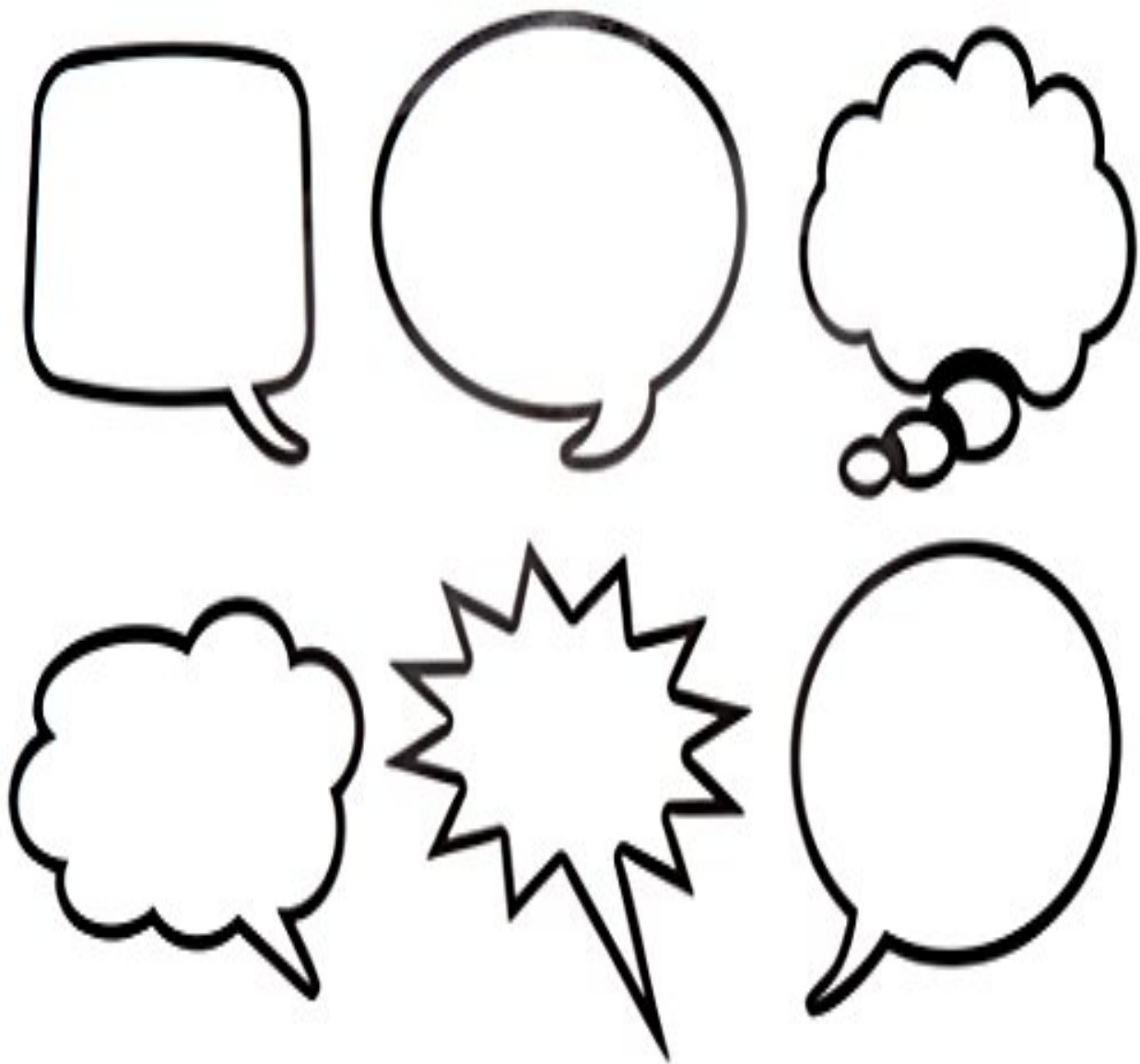
Under the guise of heading to Lily's aunt's home in Virginia, but giving said aunt time to recover from a recent surgery while also awaiting money (to help with traveling expenses) from the same fictional-aunt, the two settle into life with the Boatwright sisters. Rosaleen takes up cooking and other house duties, while Lily learns the art of beekeeping, and meets August's 'right-hand-man', Zach Taylor, a football player and soon-to-be junior at the local Black High School. One day while sitting outside on a lunch break, Zach and Lily share their career aspirations with each other. And while Lily shares that her goal of being a writer and English teacher is probably now impossible given her 'orphan' status, Zach shares that he wants to be a lawyer...to which Lily, expressing doubt at the possibility, responds: "I've just never heard of a Negro lawyer. You've got to hear of these things before you can imagine them" (121). Undeterred, Zach responds, "Bullshit. You've got to imagine what's never been" (121).

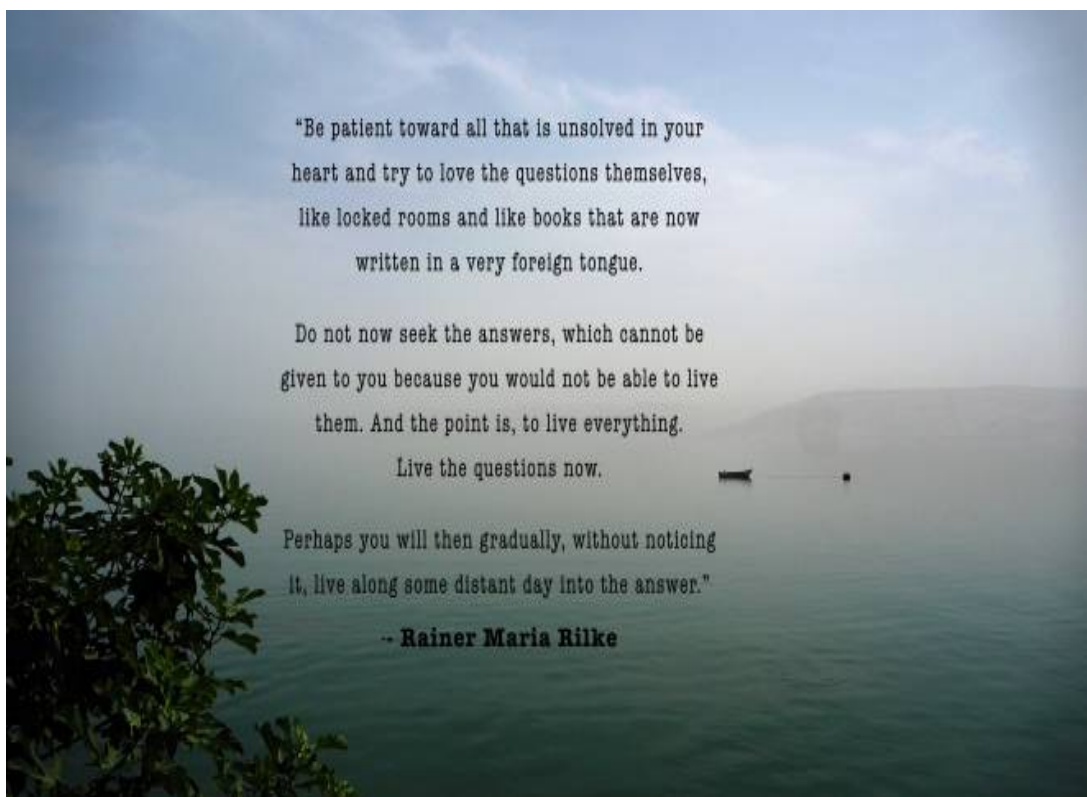
And herein lies an interesting dichotomy, perhaps even a paradox, in schools of thought re: what is possible in terms of life goals, plans, choices, and possibilities. Can we only become what we can first imagine for ourselves? And if so, what if we haven't had the luxury to while-away our days, or the role models in our lives, to reflect on an array of possible realities for ourselves? How then might we get there...from where we are now, to where we want to be? But if Zach is to be believed, perhaps it is the *imaging* that comes 1st. The 'future seeing' of ourselves in a specific light, living out the goals and dreams we have secretly longed for and imagined. So maybe it is the *imagining* which comes 1st and that leads to the *questioning*, as poet Rainer Maria Rilke believes, that makes way for us to live our way into the future we have envision for ourselves.

Best,
Monique
&
Nicolle



What 'imaginings' might you begin to entertain for your future?





WRITING PROMPT

When you were a child, what kinds of things did you image for your future self?





©Marty Safir

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Secret Life of Bees

J N L D D D F E B W R U L D Z P P A T D P L Y H
 S Q C Y S X P P X R G N E E L A S O R K O P A F
 P J Z R R W I J O Z I A R V Y N D F L I R P A M
 V P V X U C M A A N I L O R A C H T U O S Y W E
 I G S P C L W L T X C M P Q C J I D X Y U T B H
 Q M A X W T K A L Q O L Z A C H J N C A Y K W J
 U B O U A K M A N N O D A M K C A L B M P C A U
 N C T I B U R O N H O N E Y N O Y Y Q E K O O A
 D A U G H T E R S O F M A R Y T Y F U N A D O B
 G P U W D C K X B O N W M X O E A K Q J G C K P
 Y K B Q E D A C Q O J H J O J R A D C X G K D G
 L R P D B L P U K S R U T C E R G M L G Z W U L
 I P Z C O I E G M H X Y W T G A H C H G Y K J R
 L U E L R E B L F K F Y J I L N Q J I N F G E Y
 R K W R A N W E N U J K K S N C B Z V Y H X F B
 G S C H H H J I N Y O L P E G E D Y T A S G Z V
 L D B P M K T S U G U A O E L R L M E D P D H A
 T T B G L A A R J R J H B B R A S D Z Y L T A V
 D J F T Q M B V G Z W X H H E Y K I C R R L Q L
 K N R K L S F U O K Y T I O B E T R W A A C U G
 D H I C D I J Z F X M G A K O L O K S M E G K E
 M K T Q J C N G A E Z Z Z B T B D F O K A T C N
 W E U L B A H R O F M X L F C Y U X N I Y G G V
 X P P I N R Z I G R P K I G O S N K H Y J O G S

Terrance Ray	Racism	May	June
Daughters of Mary	Bees	Zach	South Carolina
October	Mary Day	Honey	Blue
August	Tiburon	Rosaleen	Neil
Lily	Deborah	Black Madonna	April



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Signs and Tactics of an Abuser

While they may appear charming, attentive, and super 'into you' when you 1st meet, an abuser's true nature will eventually come out:

They...

- never accept blame
- never apologize...except in a sarcastic tone
- 'guilt-trip' & 'gaslight' you
- are controlling and monitor or restrict your comings and goings
- make fun of you and judge you, sometimes in front of friends/family
- ignore your feelings, preferences, opinions
- isolate you
- control your finances and access to money
- make disparaging comments about your friends and/or family
- accuse you of things you're not actually doing
- uses the silent treatment to get their own way
- their abusive tactics can include a range of verbal, emotional, physical abuse
- their promises to 'change' never come to pass



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MOMS HELPING MOMS

WHEN WE **OWN OUR MISTAKES** KIDS LEARN

"Mistakes are opportunities for growth and change."



"Just because we've always done things a certain way doesn't mean it's the best way."



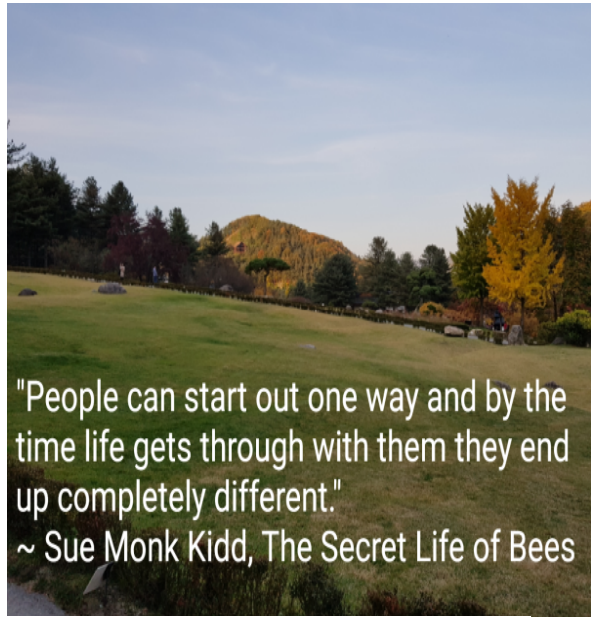
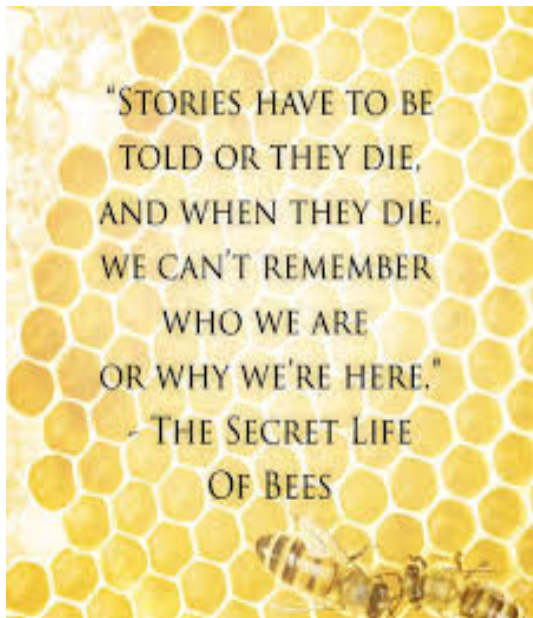
"Everyone can make mistakes, including people in charge."



"Leadership means continually finding new ways to meet everyone's needs."

CURIOUS
parenting

QUOTES



When it's time to die, go ahead and die, and when it's time to live, live. Don't sort-of-maybe live, but live like you're going all out, like you're not afraid.

-Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*





MCEDV.

The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

Help is just a call away.

24 Hour • Toll Free • Confidential

1-866-834-HELP (4357)

Maine Telecommunications Relay Service:
1-800-437-1220

MCEDV MEMBERS:

AROOSTOOK

Hope and Justice Project

PENOBSCOT & PISCATAQUIS

Partners for Peace

KENNEBEC & SOMERSET

Family Violence Project

HANCOCK & WASHINGTON

Next Step Domestic Violence Project

ANDROSCOGGIN,

FRANKLIN & OXFORD

Safe Voices

KNOX, LINCOLN,

SAGadahoc & WALDO

New Hope for Women

CUMBERLAND

Through These Doors

YORK

Caring Unlimited

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES

Immigrant Resource Center of Maine



mcedv.org

MCEdV MEMBERS

Aroostook County
Hope and Justice Project
www.hopeandjusticeproject.org
P.O. Box 148, Presque Isle, ME 04769
Admin: 207-764-2977 Helpline: 1-800-439-2323

Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties
Partners for Peace
www.partnersforpeaceme.org
P.O. Box 653, Bangor, ME 04402
Admin: 207-945-5102 Helpline: 1-800-863-9909

Kennebec & Somerset Counties
Family Violence Project
www.familyviolenceproject.org
P.O. Box 304, Augusta, ME 04332
Admin: 207-623-8637 Helpline: 1-877-890-7788

Cumberland County
Through These Doors
www.familycrisis.org
P.O. Box 704, Portland, ME 04104
Admin: 207-767-4952 Helpline: 1-800-537-6066

Hancock & Washington Counties
Next Step Domestic Violence Project
www.nextstepdvproject.org
P.O. Box 1466, Ellsworth, ME 04605
Admin: 207-667-0176 Helpline: 1-800-315-5579

Androscoggin, Franklin & Oxford Counties
Safe Voices
www.safevoices.org
P.O. Box 713, Auburn, ME 04212
Admin: 207-795-6744 Helpline: 1-800-559-2927

Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo Counties
New Hope for Women
www.newhopeforwomen.org
P.O. Box A, Rockland, ME 04841-0733
Admin: 207-594-2128 Helpline: 1-800-522-3304

York County
Caring Unlimited
www.caring-unlimited.org
P.O. Box 590, Sanford, ME 04073
Admin: 207-490-3227 Helpline: 1-800-239-7298

Serving Refugee and Immigrant Communities
Through Culturally and Linguistically Sensitive Services
Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
www.ircofmaine.org
PO Box 397 Lewiston, ME 04243
207-753-0061



Member Programs of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition

Tribal Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition
www.wabanakiwomenscoalition.org

**Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
www.micmac-nsn.gov
7 Northern Rd., Presque Isle, ME 04769
Admin: 207-760-0570 Hotline: 207-551-3639

**Houlton Band of Maliseets
Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
www.maliseets.com
690 Foxcroft Rd., Houlton, ME 04730
Admin: 207-532-3000 Hotline: 207-532-6401

**Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy
Peaceful Relations Domestic & Sexual
Violence Advocacy Center**
www.wabanaki.com
P.O. Box 343, Perry, ME 04467
Admin: 207-853-0092 Hotline: 1-877-853-2613

**Penobscot Indian Nation
Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
www.penobscotnation.org
2 Down St., Indian Island ME, 04468
Admin: 207-817-3164 x2 Hotline: 207-631-4886

**Indian Township Passamaquoddy
Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
P.O. Box 301, Princeton, ME 04668
Admin: 207-796-6106 Hotline: 207-214-1917



The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

Connecting people,
creating frameworks for change.
mcedv.org