

FOR THOSE OF US WHO WENT  
TO ART SCHOOL, I'M SURE THAT  
A LOT OF US CAN REMEMBER  
"THE TALK"

THE ONE THAT YOU HAD  
TO HAVE WITH YOUR  
PARENTS WHEN YOU TOLD  
THEM THAT YOU WANTED  
TO GO TO ART SCHOOL



MY CITY IS MADE UP  
OF IMMIGRANTS FROM  
THE MIDDLE EAST

I GET IT. IT COMES FROM A PLACE OF LOVE

MANY OF THEM-LIKE MY  
FAMILY-CAME FROM  
LEBANON, FLEEING FROM  
CIVIL WAR



TEACHERS  
FRIENDS, FAMILY...  
ALL TELLING YOU  
THAT YOU THAT  
YOUR ONLY  
OPTIONS WERE:  
DOCTOR, LAWYER,  
OR ENGINEER  
(THE BIG 3!)

MANY OF THEM CAME TO  
THE U.S WITH NOTHING,  
AND KNOW WHAT IT FEELS  
LIKE TO NOT HAVE  
FINANCIAL STABILITY



IT PROBABLY WENT  
DOWN A LITTLE  
DIFFERENTLY FOR  
EVERYONE-BUT FOR  
THOSE OF US WHO  
COME FROM ARAB  
AMERICAN MUSLIM  
COMMUNITIES, IT  
PROBABLY DIDN'T  
GO DOWN TOO  
WELL.



AND WANT THEIR KIDS TO BE COMFORTABLE. BUT CAN  
YOU IMAGINE IT...





# ME, A DOCTOR?!?!?!?!?

EEEEEEK... YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THAT, IT LOOKS REALLLYY BAD!!!

SO I'VE GOT THIS CUT ON MY FINGER-

GOSH I CAN'T EVEN LOOK...

I KNEW I COULD NEVER BE THAT

MY MOM ALWAYS SAID I WOULD MAKE A GREAT LAWYER BECAUSE

"I'M SO GOOD AT ARGUING WITH HER".

IT TAKES A LITTLE MORE THAN THAT...

PLUS I WOULD DEFINITELY TAKE EVERY CASE PERSONALLY.

"WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME, OMG-

-I LITERALLY JUST MADE LIKE A WHOLE CASE FOR THIS, YOUR HONOR"

An engineer was just completely out of the question because well, to put it plainly...



I SUCK AT MATH... ALL OF IT.

MY YOUNGER SISTER IS IN COLLEGE FOR ENGINEERING RIGHT NOW

I WAS A TEACHER'S ASSISTANT FOR 1ST GRADERS FOR A YEAR AND I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKED THAT, BUT I DIDN'T LIKE HAVING TO TAKE MOTRIN THE SECOND I GOT IN MY CAR AFTER SCHOOL.

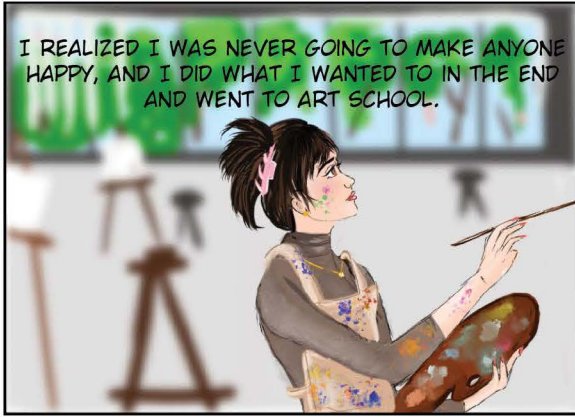
I USED TO BEG HER TO DO MY MATH HOMEWORK IN HIGH SCHOOL...

IN EXCHANGE FOR DOING HER ART WORK OF COURSE

PEOPLE ALSO GAVE ME A HARD TIME FOR THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T GET PAID WELL (ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER CAREER CHOICES.)



I REALIZED I WAS NEVER GOING TO MAKE ANYONE HAPPY, AND I DID WHAT I WANTED TO IN THE END AND WENT TO ART SCHOOL.



PEOPLE SEEMED TO QUIET DOWN A BIT WHEN THEY REALIZED THAT IT WOULD BE AT A GOOD UNIVERSITY.



BUT EVERYTIME I COME HOME I STILL GET COMMENTS.

"YOU KNOW...YOU COULD ALWAYS JUST HANG UP YOUR PAINTINGS IN YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE!..."



...YOU GET TO DO YOUR LITTLE HOBBY ON THE SIDE AND HAVE A REAL JOB!"

"I WISH I COULD JUST COLOR FOR MY HOMEWORK...SO RELAXING!!"

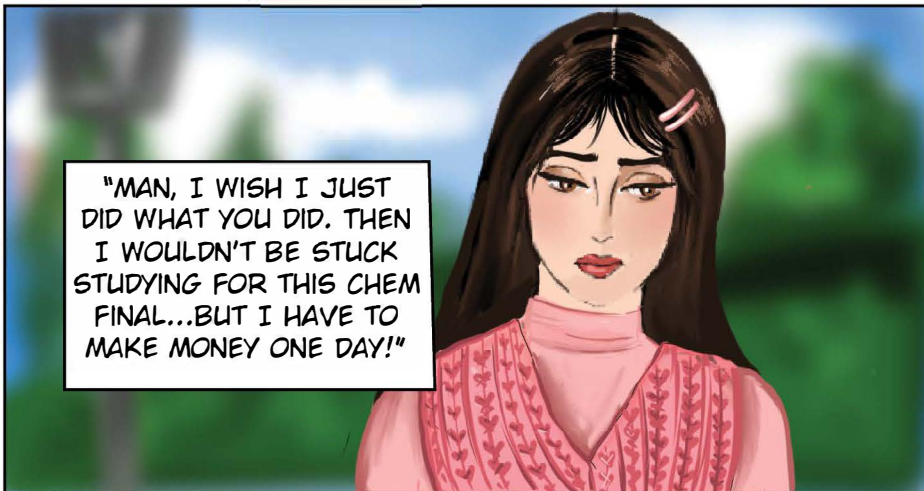


IT STILL STINGS A LITTLE...BUT I STILL OFTEN FIND MYSELF HOME ON THE WEEKENDS



BECAUSE, WELL...

"MAN, I WISH I JUST DID WHAT YOU DID. THEN I WOULDN'T BE STUCK STUDYING FOR THIS CHEM FINAL...BUT I HAVE TO MAKE MONEY ONE DAY!"



IT'S ONLY AN HOUR AWAY...

...AND MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE THERE...

...AND BECAUSE ITS KIND OF HARD BEING MUSLIM IN COLLEGE.





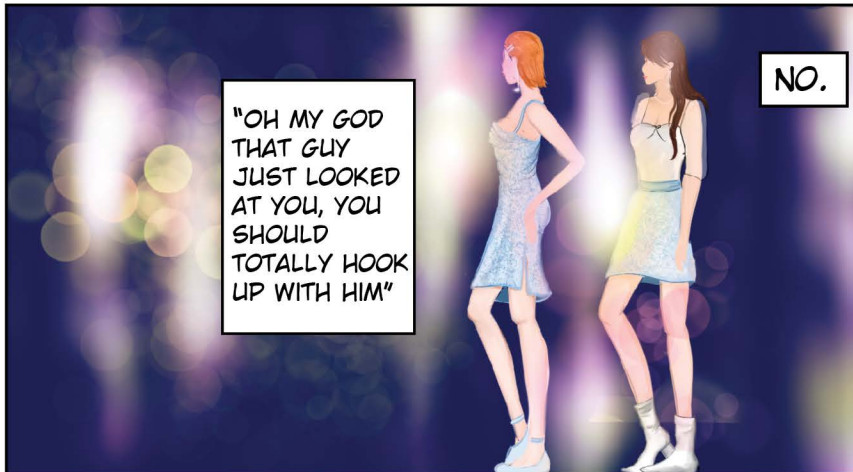
A LOT OF POPULAR COLLEGE CULTURE IN AMERICA IS CENTERED AROUND ALCOHOL, HOOKUPS, DRUGS...THE WORKS-ALL THINGS THAT WE WOULD CALL "HARAM" OR FORBIDDEN IN ISLAM.

MOST PEOPLE ARE UNDERSTANDING... BUT I OFTEN STILL GET WEIRD REACTIONS FROM PEOPLE FOR NOT PARTICIPATING.



BEING THE ONLY SOBER PERSON IN THE ROOM IS NOT FUN, I PROMISE.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK JUST COME, IT'LL BE FUN!-"



"OH MY GOD THAT GUY JUST LOOKED AT YOU, YOU SHOULD TOTALLY HOOK UP WITH HIM"

NO.

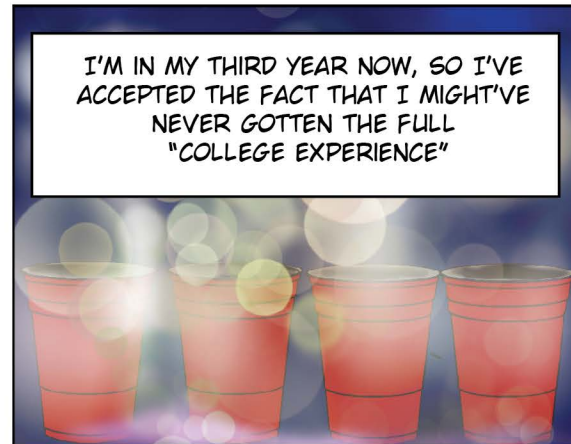
I ALWAYS GET THE SAME WEIRD STARES, SO I'VE LEARNED TO JUST LIE INSTEAD.



"HEY, YOU WANT A HIT?"

-NO THANKS, JUST DID A LINE IN THE BATHROOM

"COOL"



I'M IN MY THIRD YEAR NOW, SO I'VE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I MIGHT'VE NEVER GOTTEN THE FULL "COLLEGE EXPERIENCE"



BUT I'M OKAY WITH THAT.



I'M JUST GLAD TO BE HERE, LEARNING WHAT I LOVE.

\*(AND HAVING HALAL FUN...IT'S A THING, I PROMISE.)