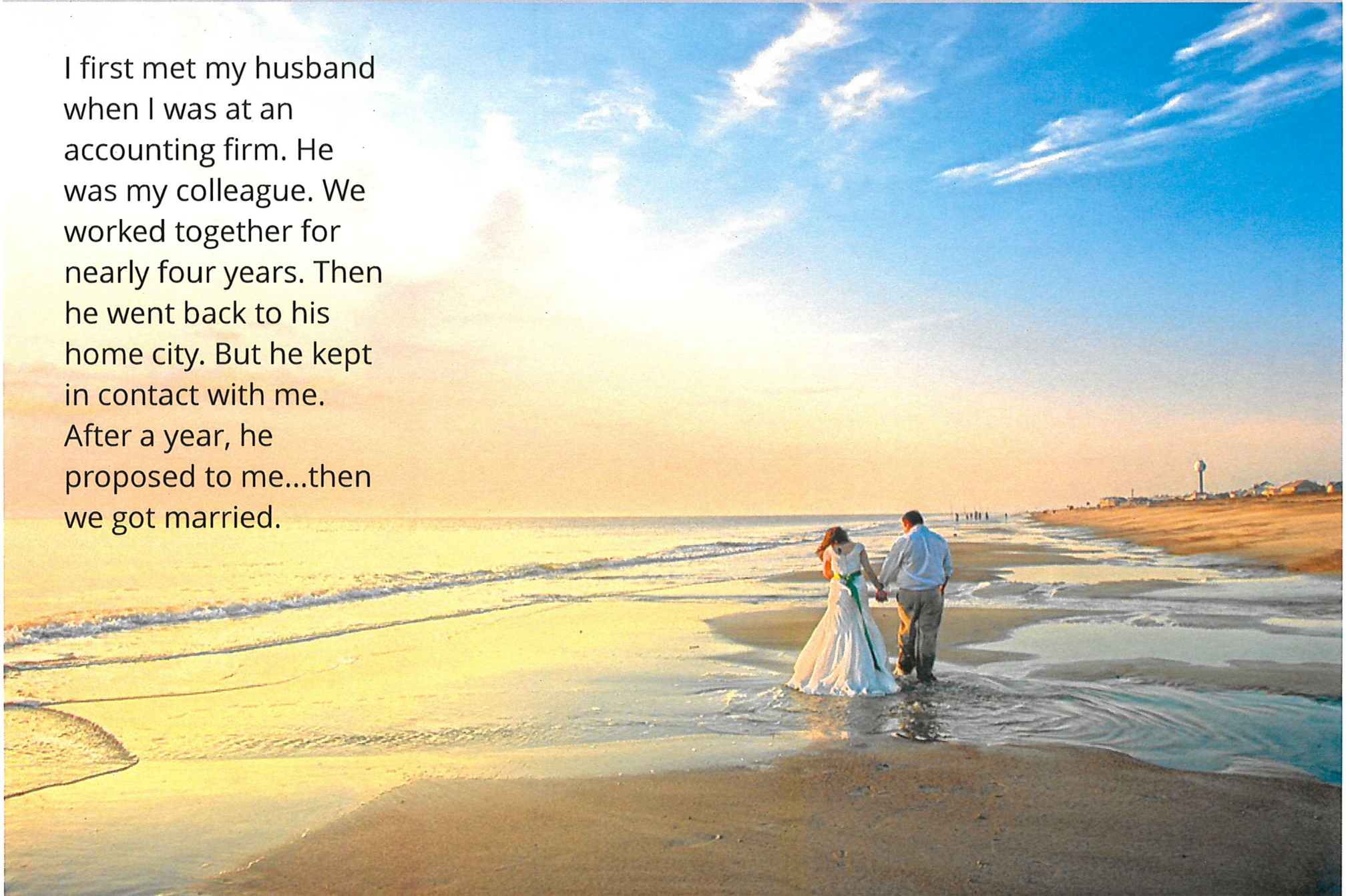
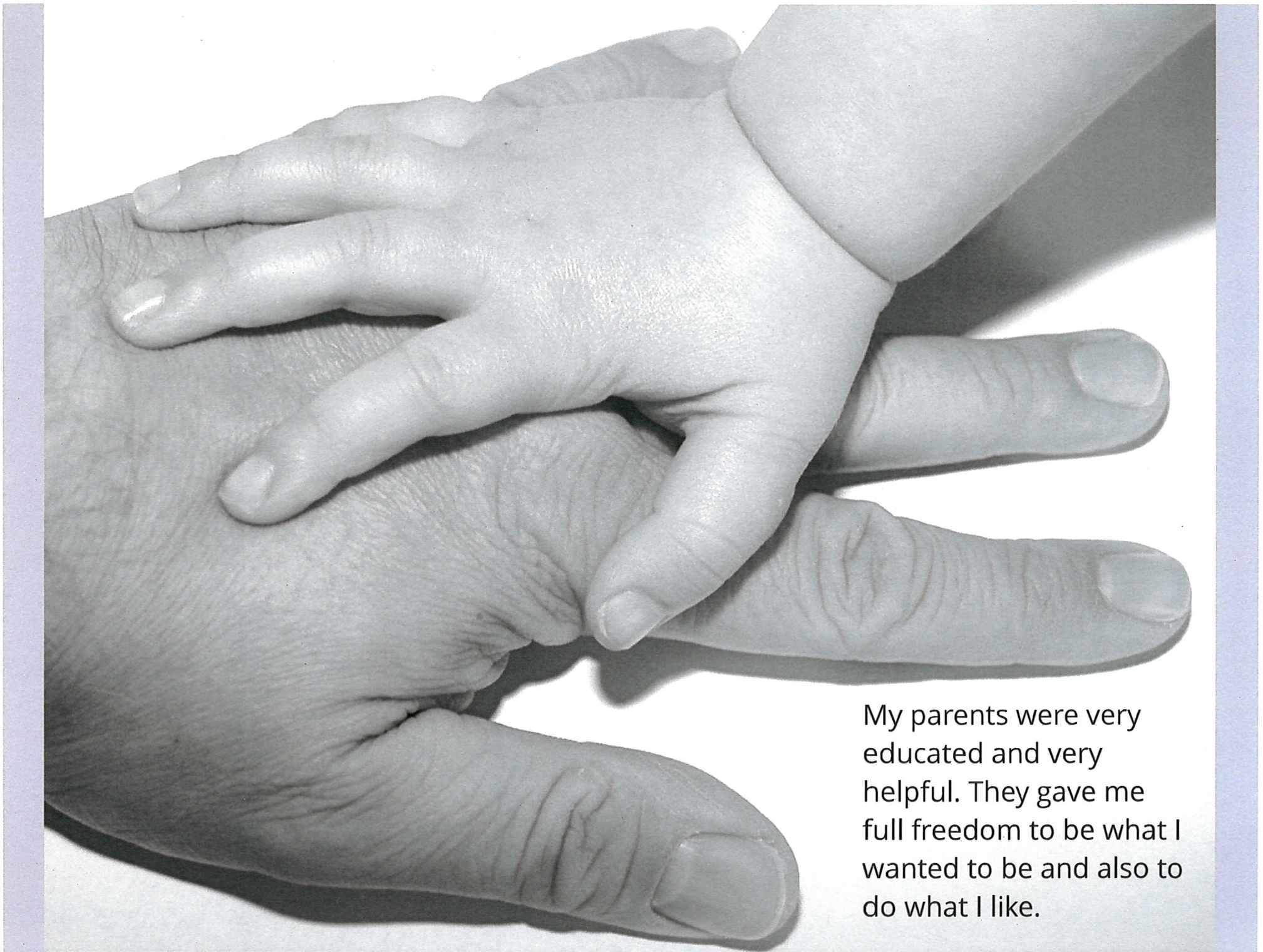




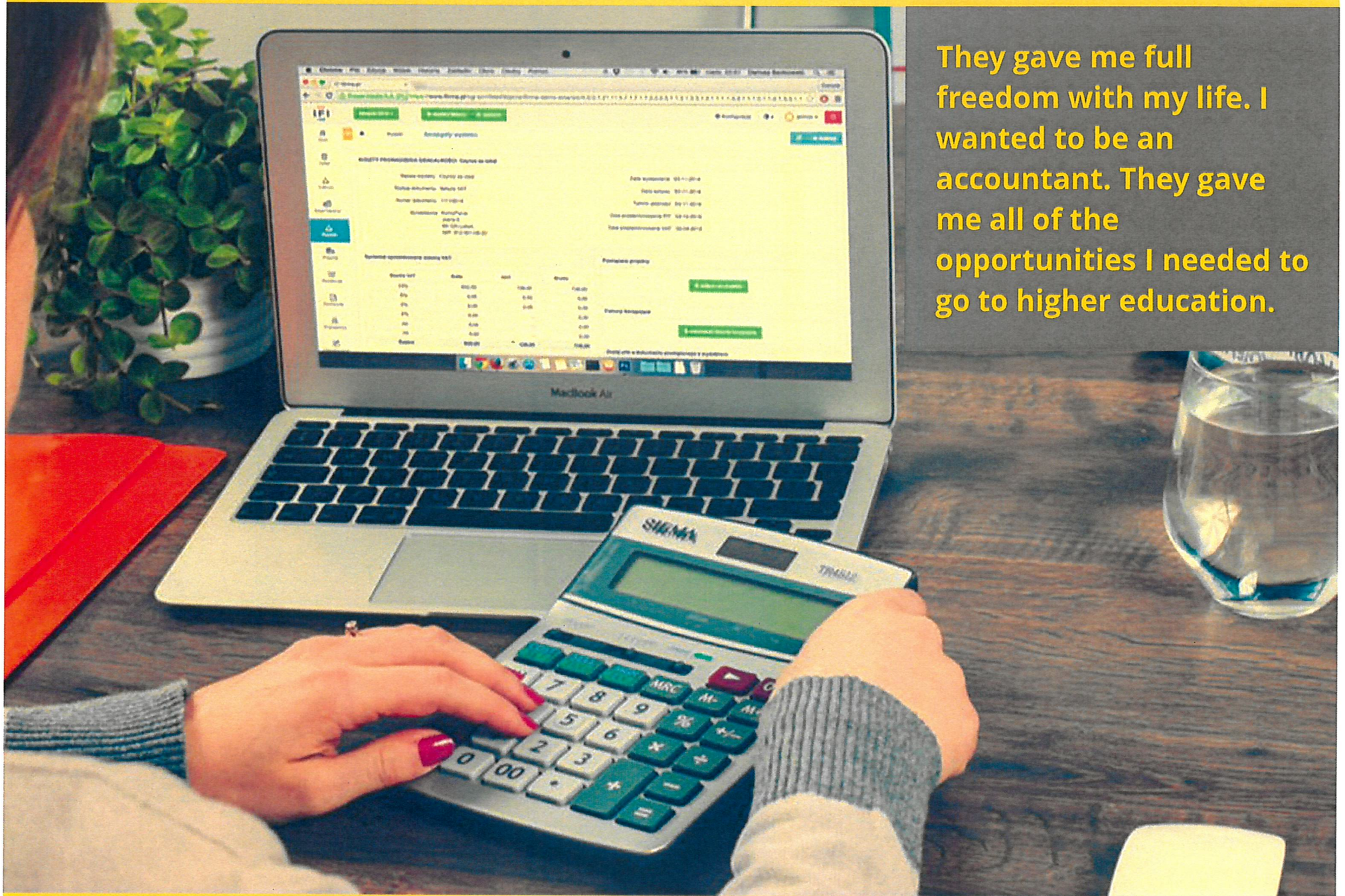
**My name is Fatima.
I was born in 1979 in Bangladesh.
I came to the UK in 2010.
This my story.**

I first met my husband when I was at an accounting firm. He was my colleague. We worked together for nearly four years. Then he went back to his home city. But he kept in contact with me. After a year, he proposed to me...then we got married.



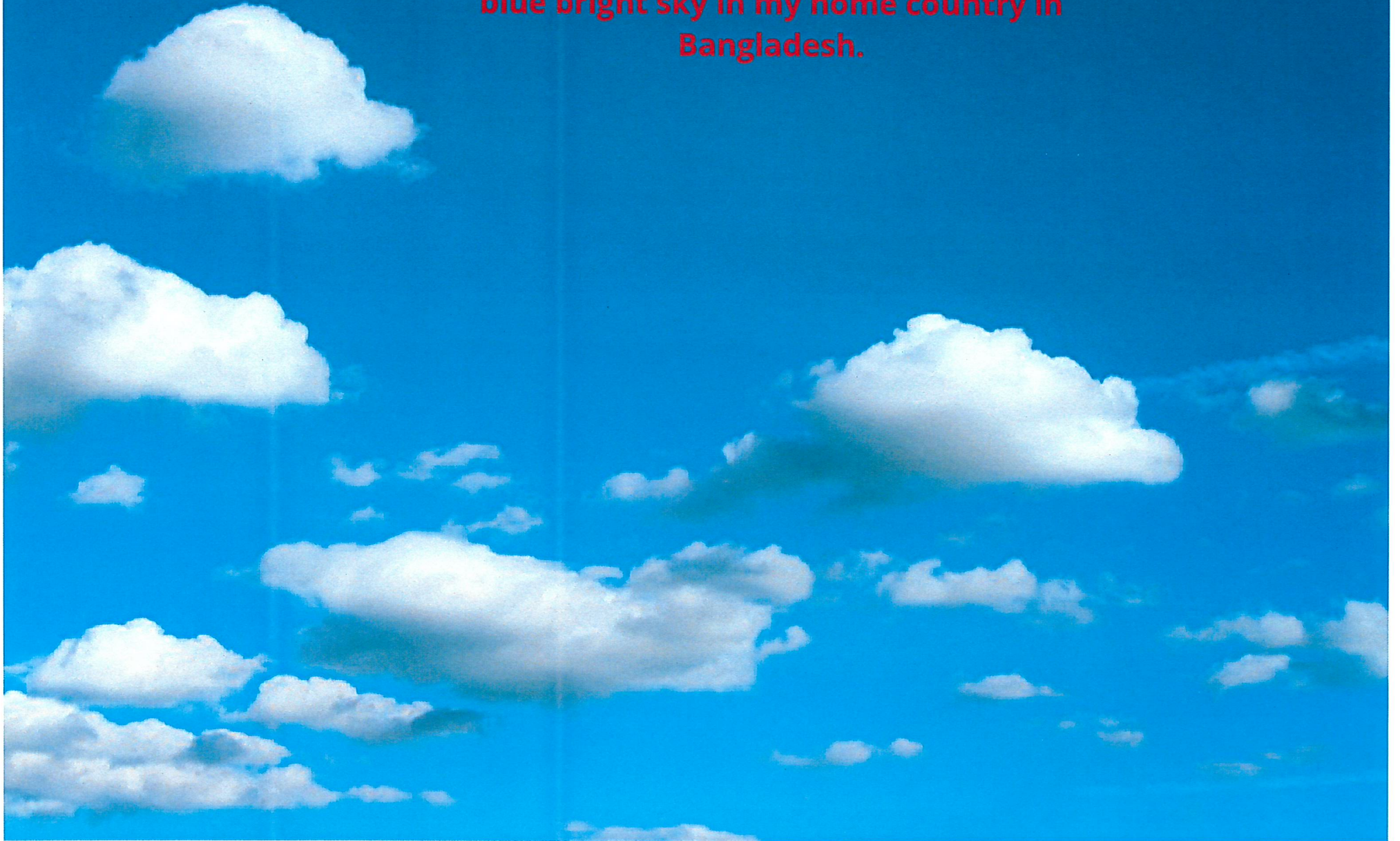


My parents were very educated and very helpful. They gave me full freedom to be what I wanted to be and also to do what I like.



They gave me full freedom with my life. I wanted to be an accountant. They gave me all of the opportunities I needed to go to higher education.

**I was so happy in my country like the
blue bright sky in my home country in
Bangladesh.**



I was an accountant; I was satisfied.





I got married, then moved to the UK.





I joined my in-law family in the UK. Me and my husband wanted to do further study here, but it became so difficult for us. There were so many problems.



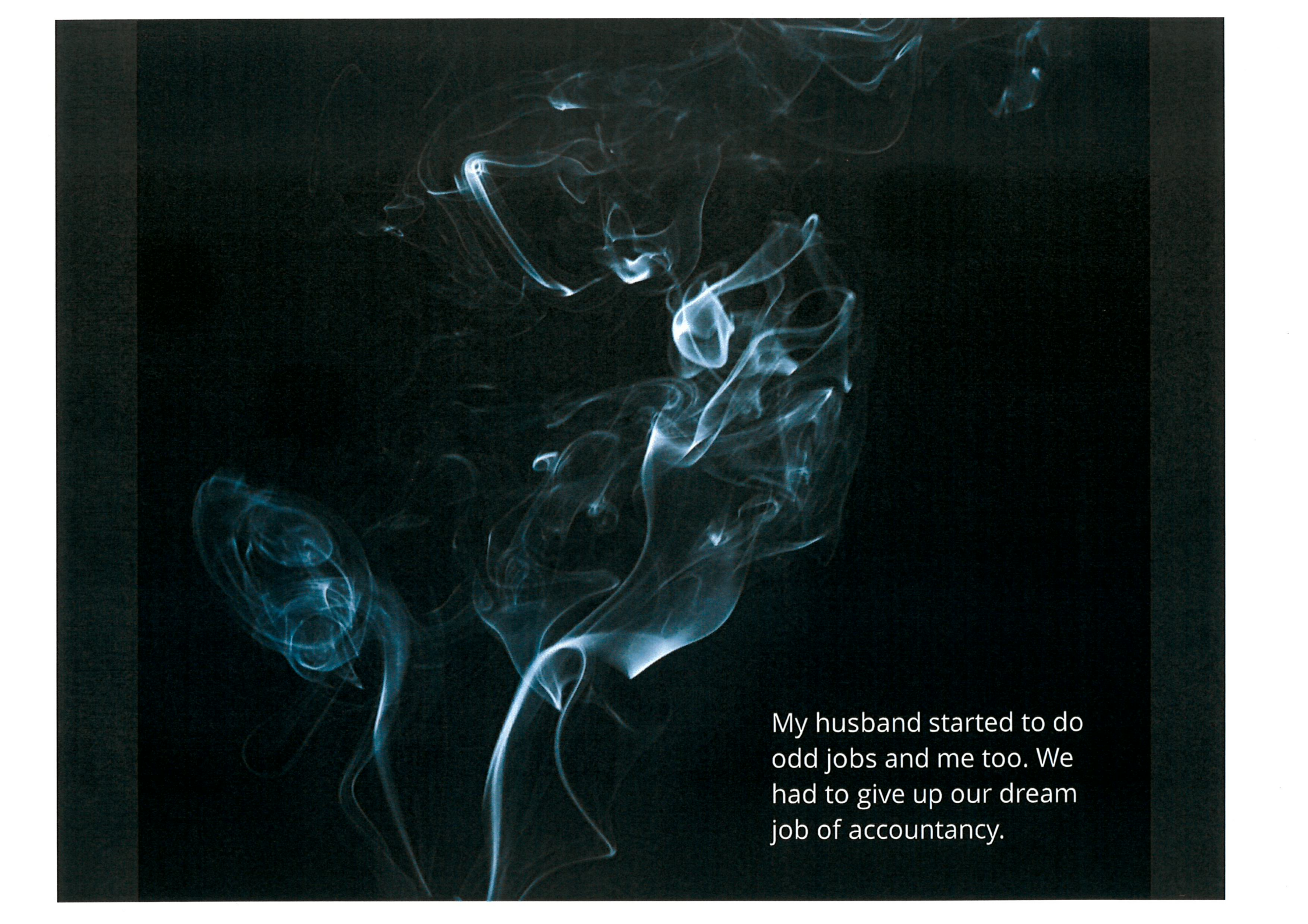
My husband was not confident and wasn't sure what to do.
People misguided him and gave us bad advice.



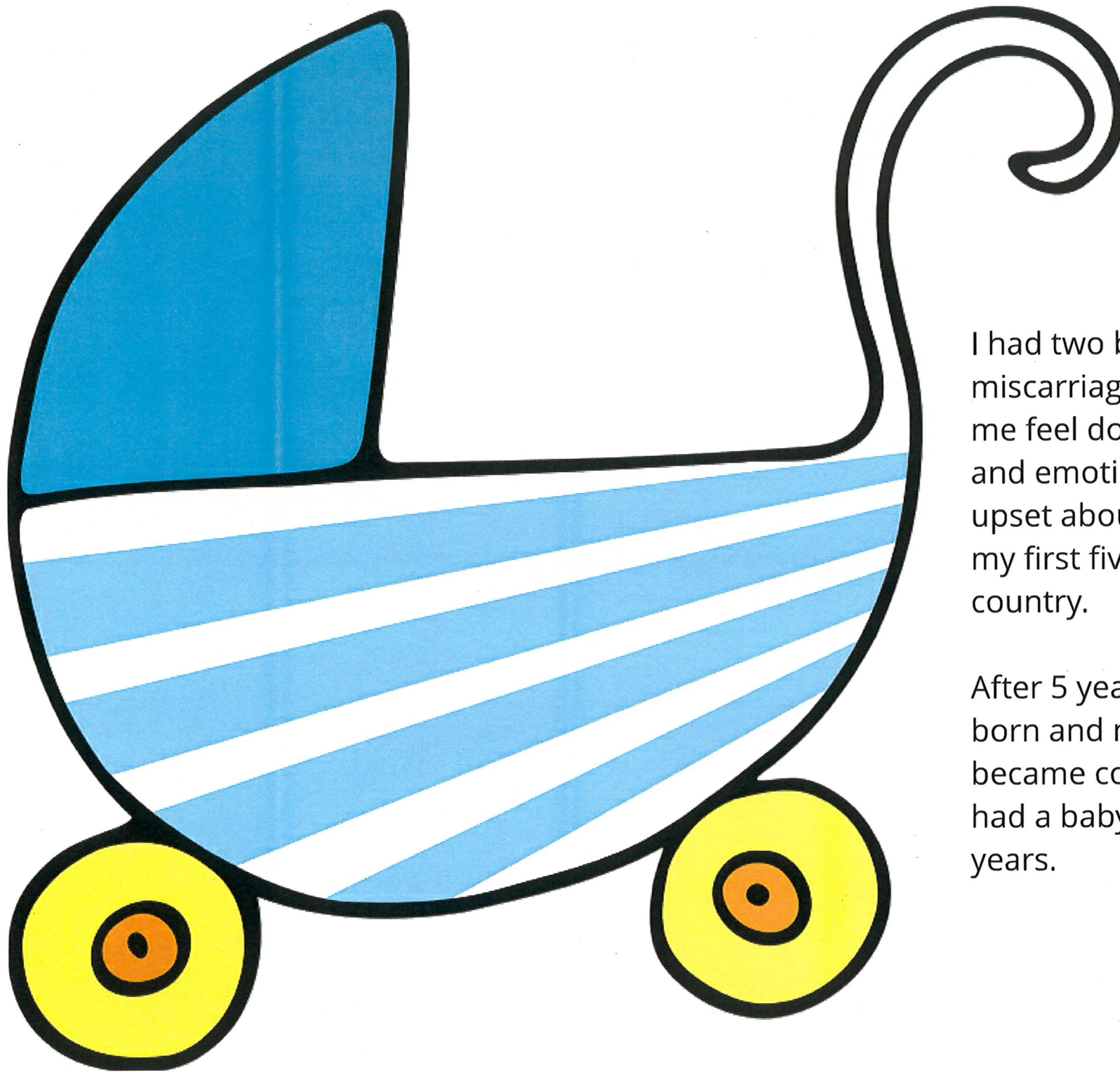
Family members didn't always help properly and sometimes misguided us. Sometimes this made barriers to us doing things.



Financial problems were another thing. To go to higher education in the UK, we needed to pay an international fee. Maintaining a household and paying university fees at the same time became very difficult for us.

The image features a dark, almost black, background. Overlaid on this are intricate, ethereal patterns of light blue and white smoke or vapor. These patterns are fluid and organic, with some areas appearing more dense and others more wispy. The smoke-like forms seem to rise and swirl, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is mysterious and artistic.

My husband started to do
odd jobs and me too. We
had to give up our dream
job of accountancy.



I had two big miscarriages, which made me feel down physically and emotionally. I was so upset about this during my first five years in this country.

After 5 years, my boy was born and my family became complete. Then I had a baby girl after 4 years.

Now I am happy about my family. But now I want to fulfil my dream: to be an accountant in this country and to learn to drive.





Created as part of ‘Graphic Lives: telling Bangladeshi migrant women's stories through graphic narratives’.

In 2017, women from the British Bangladeshi community in Hyde explored their own life stories and the history of their communities through life history, cross-cultural storytelling and digital skills, as well as visits to museums and galleries. They then created digital comics using photographs, drawings and text .

This was a joint project between Manchester Metropolitan University and Hyde Community Action, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.