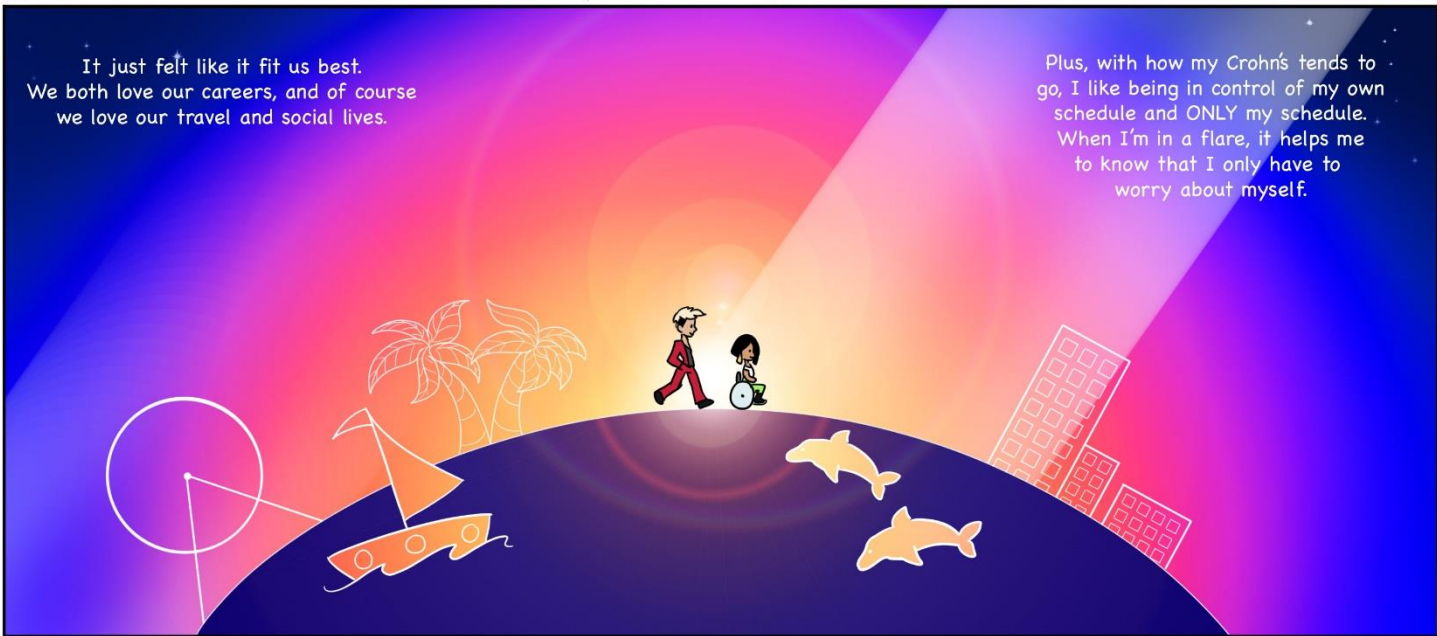


Oh wow!
That's a big decision, Edna.
When did you two decide
this?



It was after the promotion. With both of us
bringing in income, we figured we should decide
if we wanted to grow our family, and the
more we talked about it, the more we felt
we were happy with the family we'd
already built.

Me, them, the dogs, and of course our
extended families and friends.



It just felt like it fit us best.
We both love our careers, and of course
we love our travel and social lives.

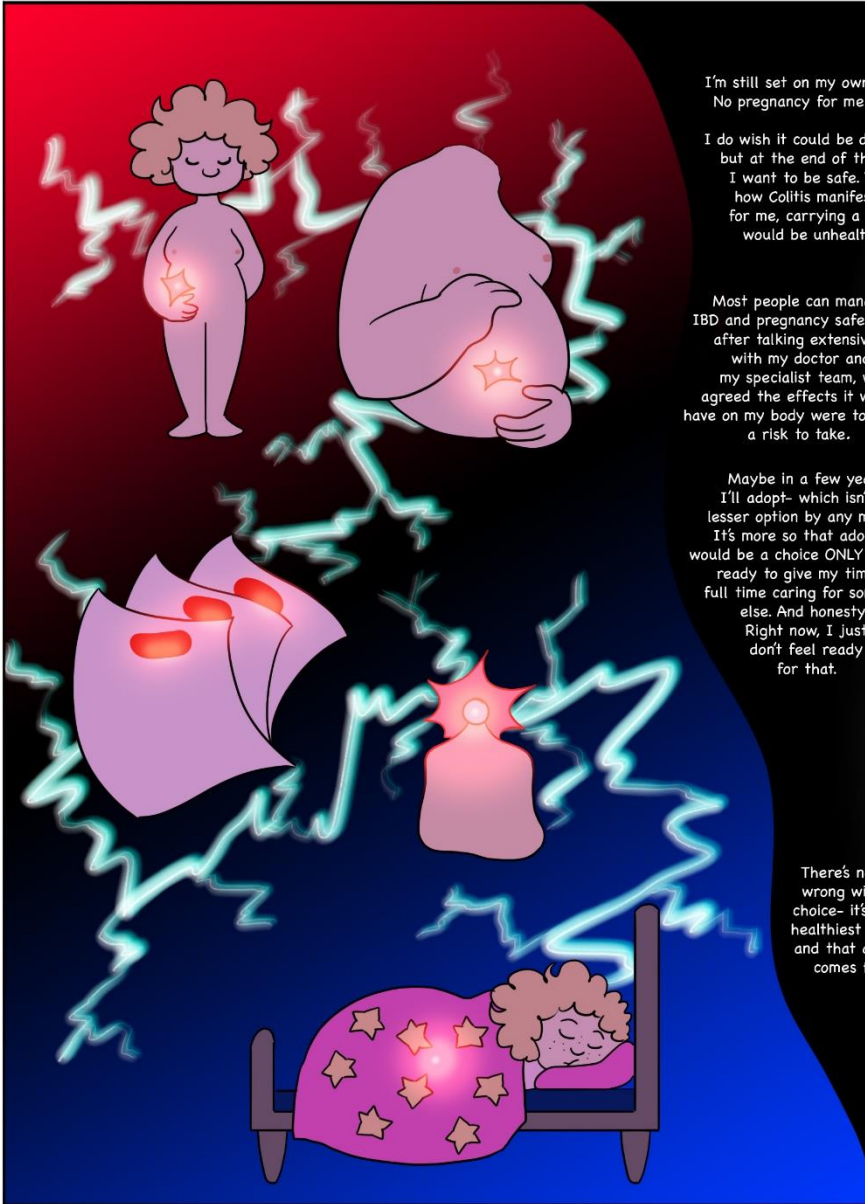
Plus, with how my Crohn's tends to
go, I like being in control of my own
schedule and ONLY my schedule.
When I'm in a flare, it helps me
to know that I only have to
worry about myself.

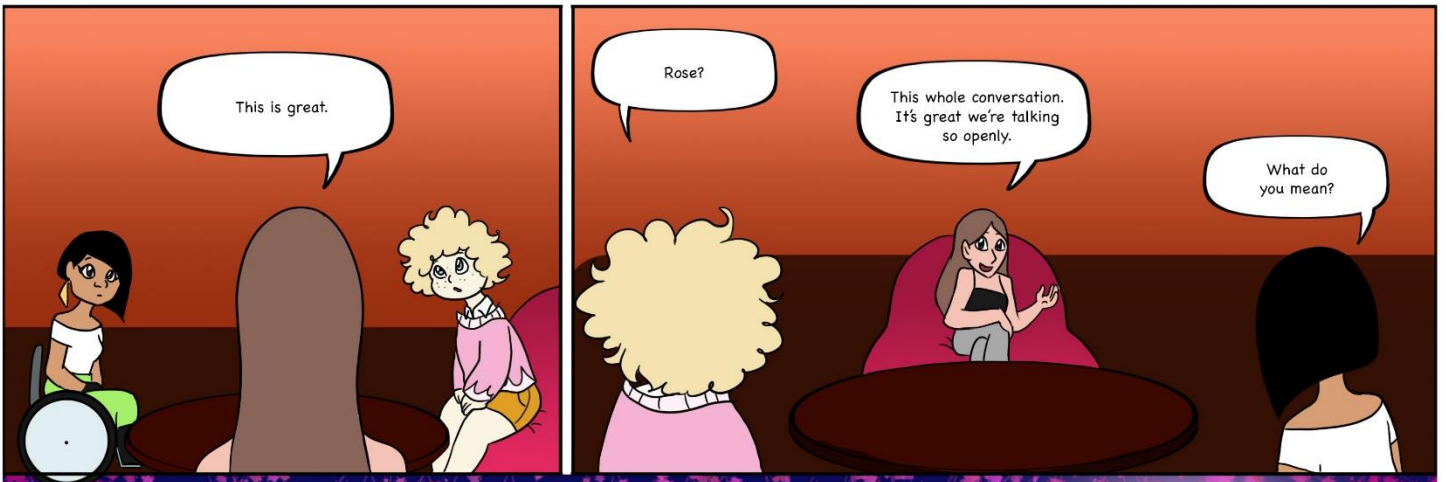


And it's not that we don't like kids- my nieces
are positively angelic! But we just felt that a child
deserves to be brought into a home where people are
able and willing to sacrifice a lot for their
upbringing.



And that's just-
not something we wanted to do.
It felt sort of selfish, if we weren't
committed to raising a baby full time.
I like giving my career all my attention
and being an aunt- and I
like it ending there.





This is great.

Rose?

This whole conversation. It's great we're talking so openly.

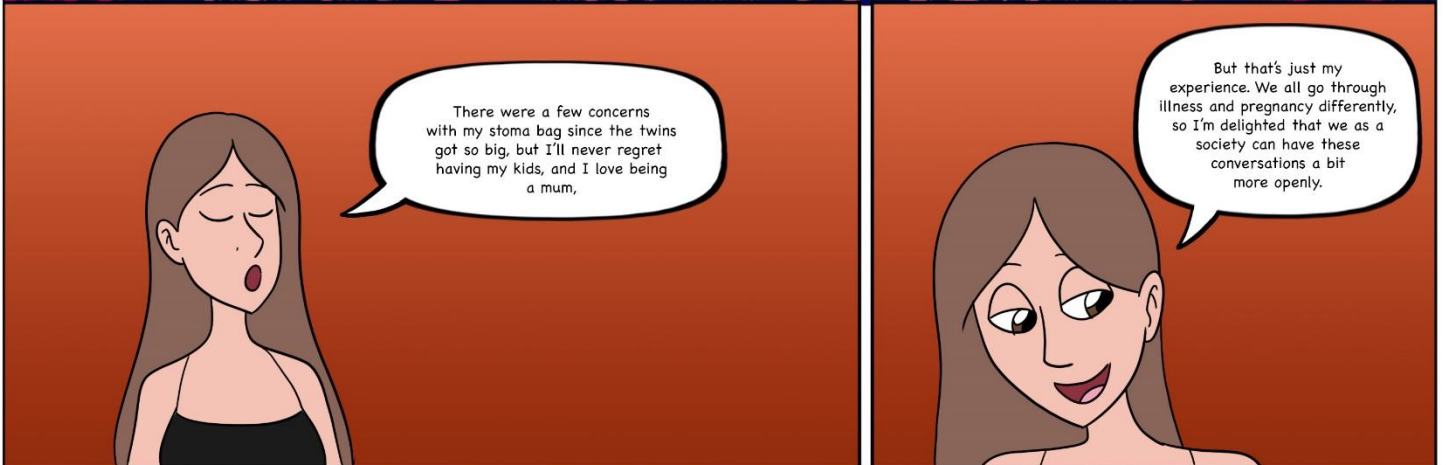
What do you mean?



You know what it's like, people are always afraid to talk about being childless as a woman, like it's some taboo choice when it's not! Like you said Marisha, it's not our or anyone's JOB, it's our decision.

This is doubly true for people like us with chronic illness. It's a conversation my partner and I had many times before our twins were born.

My IBD team and I worked really hard to get me into remission, keep me healthy and carry my kids to term with minimal pain. It's not uncommon for people with IBD to have pregnancies like mine, and I'm thankful I had such great help and advice throughout.



There were a few concerns with my stoma bag since the twins got so big, but I'll never regret having my kids, and I love being a mum,

But that's just my experience. We all go through illness and pregnancy differently, so I'm delighted that we as a society can have these conversations a bit more openly.

