

★ FEMALE ★ FORCE ★

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy



AND WITH THE LADY BEING ITALIAN BY BIRTH IT IS AS MUCH ALSO A STORY OF PASSIONS.

STARTING WITH THE ITALIAN PASSION FOR FAST AUTOMOBILES.

BACK IN THE TWENTIES, CARLA'S GRANDFATHER, VIRGINIO, FOUNDED THE CEAT TIRE COMPANY.

THIS WAS A SUCCESS, AND EARNED THE FAMILY FORTUNE TO WHICH CARLA IS AN HEIRESS.

VIRGINIO'S SON ALBERTO BECAME A COMPOSER, SO PERHAPS IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT HE WOULD MARRY A MUSICIAN.

A CONCERT PIANIST BY THE NAME OF MARISA BORINI.

TOGETHER THEY HAD ALREADY HAD TWO CHILDREN, VALERIA AND VIRGINIO, BEFORE LITTLE CARLA CAME ALONG.

VALERIA'S AN ACTRESS NOW, YOU KNOW. MAYBE YOU SAW HER IN MUNICH OR A GOOD YEAR.

CARLA WAS VERY MUCH A CHRISTMAS GIFT, BORN THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE.

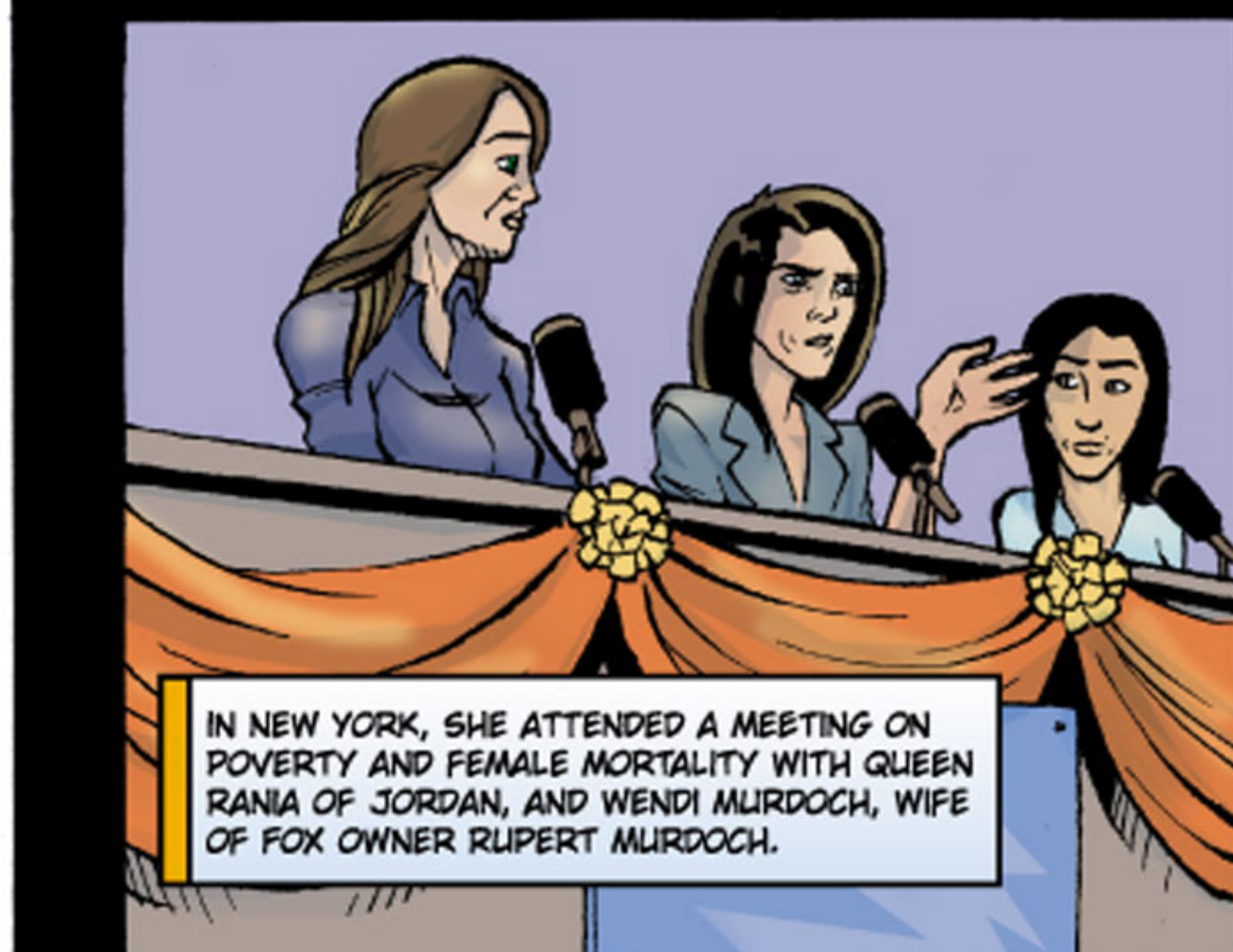
DECEMBER 23RD, 1967



ONE OF FRANCE'S OLDER FIRST LADIES WELCOMED THE CURRENT ONE IN SEPTEMBER 2008.

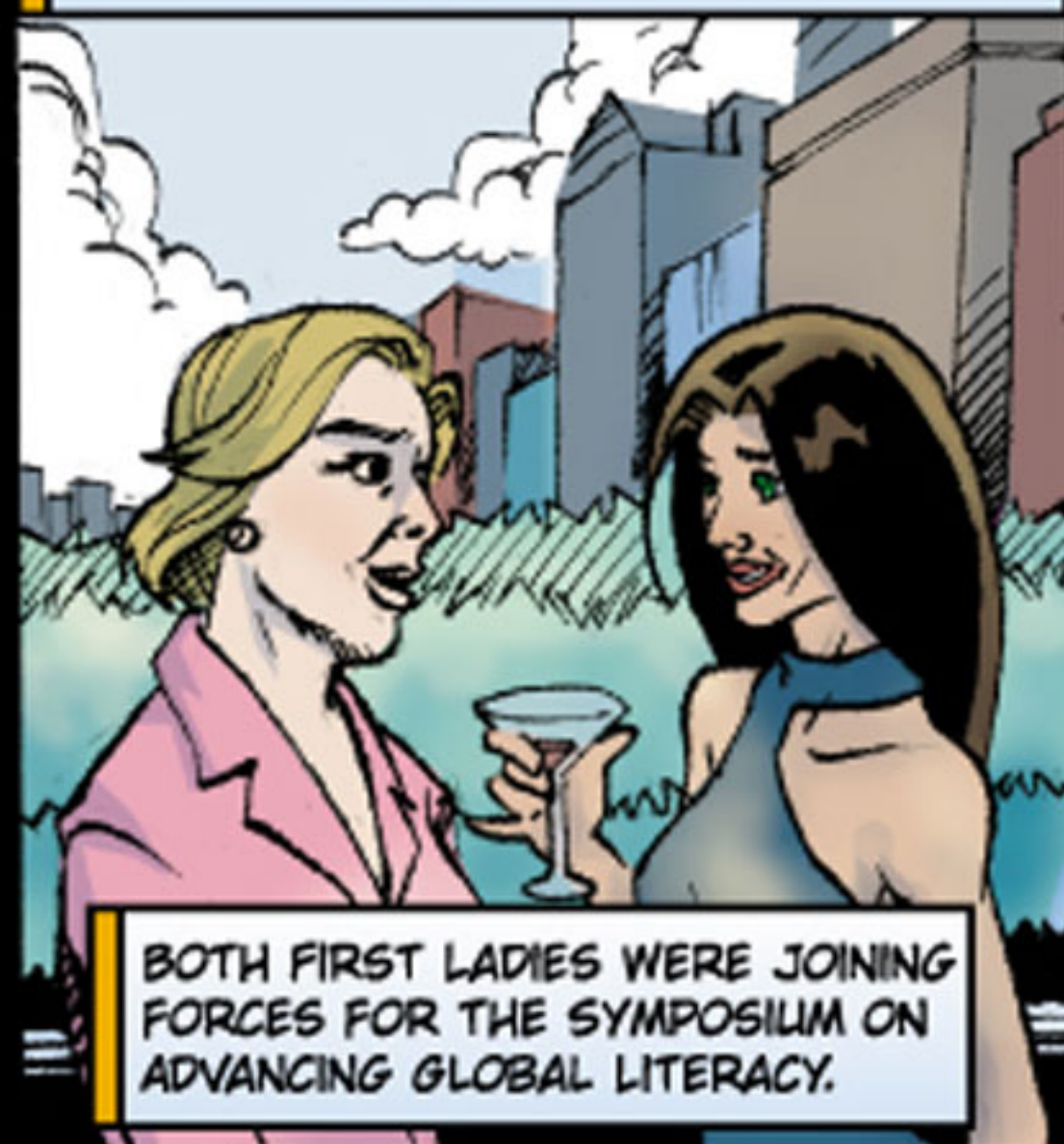
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY MAY HAVE LIVED IN AMERICAN FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, BUT SHE'S FRENCH, OF COURSE.

SHE'S A FINE LADY TO GREET THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT SARKOZY AND CARLA.



IN NEW YORK, SHE ATTENDED A MEETING ON POVERTY AND FEMALE MORTALITY WITH QUEEN RANIA OF JORDAN, AND WENDI MURDOCH, WIFE OF FOX OWNER RUPERT MURDOCH.

FRANCE'S FIRST LADY ALSO MET FOR LUNCH WITH FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.



BOTH FIRST LADIES WERE JOINING FORCES FOR THE SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCING GLOBAL LITERACY.



SHE EVEN ATTENDED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE UN WITH HER HUSBAND.



OH, AND, REMEMBER THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA, THAT I MENTIONED EARLIER?

THEY NAMED HER AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

SHE HAS BEEN, SHALL WE SAY, CRITICAL OF THE POPE'S STANCE ON AIDS, AND ON RELIGION'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROBLEM OF AIDS WORLDWIDE.

AIDS IS, OBVIOUSLY, A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH SHE FEELS STRONGLY, ON ACCOUNT OF VIRGINIO.

I WISH I'D BEEN ON MONITORING DUTY THAT DAY. I'LL BET IT WAS A CONVERSATION WORTH HEARING.

I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH IMAGINATION BUT I CAN FEEL IT RUNNING FOR THAT.

IF NOTHING ELSE, I CAN ALWAYS IMAGINE HOW MUSIC, OPERA, MIGHT BRING US WHAT DIPLOMACY AND MODELING CAN'T.

THERE WAS CONTROVERSY ON THE EVE OF THE STATE VISIT TO THE UK IN THE SPRING OF 2008.

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION HOUSE IN LONDON LISTED A NUDE PHOTOGRAPH OF BRUNI TAKEN DURING HER CAREER AS A MODEL, IN 1993.

THE PHOTOGRAPH SOLD ON APRIL 11 2008, AT AUCTION FOR 65,093 EURO - MORE THAN 60 TIMES THE EXPECTED PRICE.

CARLA'S WARDROBE, WAS ITSELF A DIPLOMATIC CHALLENGE.

THAT'S 691,000 IN US TERMS.

THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED BY USING A FRENCH DESIGN HOUSE, CHRISTIAN DIOR, WITH A BRITISH DESIGNER, JOHN GALLIANO.



2008 WAS ALSO A LITIGIOUS YEAR FOR CARLA AND SARKOZY, WITH TWO MAJOR LEGAL ACTIONS.



THE FIRST CASE WAS ABOUT A PHOTO OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND BRUNI, USED IN ADS BY IRISH BUDGET AIRLINE RYANAIR.



THE COUPLE WAS AWARDED DAMAGES BY A FRENCH COURT WHICH THEY DONATED TO LES RESTOS DU COEUR.

AN ORGANISATION WHICH PROVIDES MEALS TO THE HOMELESS.



THIS IS CARLA BRUNI'S FIRST ACTUAL MARRIAGE, AND SARKOZY'S THIRD.

CARLA, NOW CARLA BRUNI-SARKOZY, OBTAINED FRENCH NATIONALITY NOT LONG AFTERWARDS.

AFTER ALL, SHE IS NOW OUR FIRST LADY.

HAVING SAID THAT, IT'S HARD TO TELL WHETHER SHE STILL HOLDS ITALIAN NATIONALITY AS WELL.

SHE ALSO NOW HAS AN OFFICE AND STAFF AT HER DISPOSAL IN THE EAST WING OF THE ÉLYSÉE PALACE.



SHE'S MADE SOMEWHAT... CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS. NOT THAT IT MATTERS; LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE DUAL NATIONALITY.

