

Martin Luther King Jr. loved to listen to his father preach. His father told the people to hold their heads high and always walk with God.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged by their character—not by the color of their skin.

Some day I'm going to have some big words too!

Martin Luther King Jr. did learn big and powerful words. He spoke before two hundred thousand people in Washington, D.C. Millions saw and heard him on television.

Martin was six when learned about prejudice. His mother comforted him.

Always remember you are as good as anyone.



His white friend's mother had told Martin that he was no longer welcome because he was an African American.

Martin's mother told him about slavery and how hard life had always been for black people in this country.

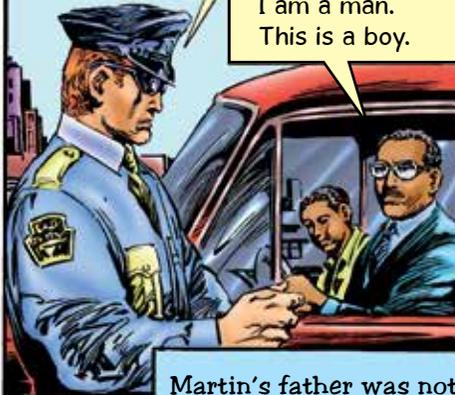
Martin's father had worked in the fields with his family.



At sixteen he went to Atlanta to work in a railroad yard. For years he worked during the day and went to school at night. He finally became a minister.

Let's see your license, boy.

I am a man. This is a boy.



You must sit in the back.

If you cannot wait on us here, we do not want to buy.



Martin's father was not afraid to speak up.

Martin went to a public speaking contest. Because the bus was crowded he was ordered to give up his seat. At first Martin didn't budge.

Move back or I'll call the police.

Martin had to stand for almost two hours. He felt it was unfair.

At fifteen, he entered Morehouse College.

At seventeen, Martin preached his first sermon. At eighteen he was made assistant pastor. At nineteen he graduated from college.

In 1948 Martin went to Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. There were only six African Americans in a class of one hundred.

This is hard to believe—eating in a white restaurant!

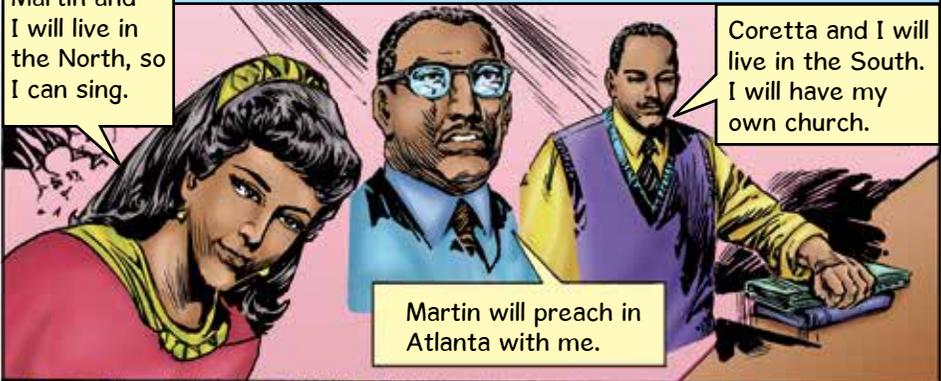
Not all places in the North admit African Americans.

But now ... three people had different dreams of the future.

Martin and I will live in the North, so I can sing.

Coretta and I will live in the South. I will have my own church.

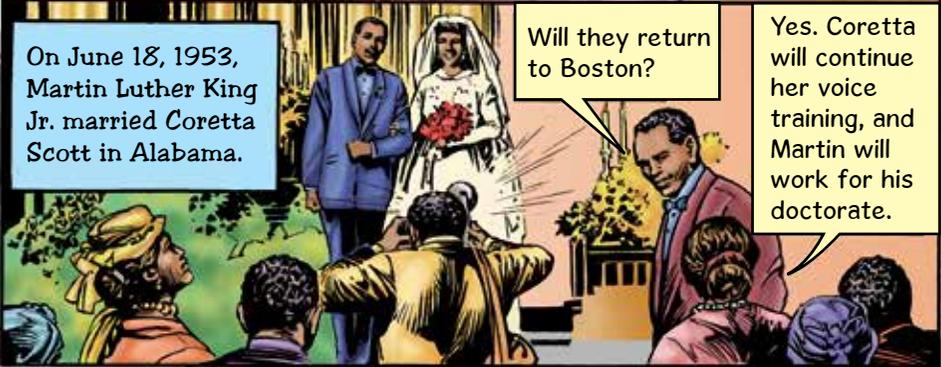
Martin will preach in Atlanta with me.



On June 18, 1953, Martin Luther King Jr. married Coretta Scott in Alabama.

Will they return to Boston?

Yes. Coretta will continue her voice training, and Martin will work for his doctorate.



When he was twenty-five, Martin became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

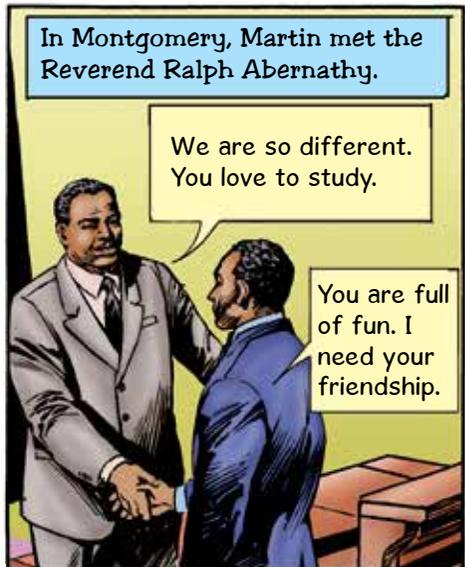
In Montgomery, Martin met the Reverend Ralph Abernathy.

We are so different. You love to study.

You are full of fun. I need your friendship.

I'm proud that you have your own church.

I'll be proud when you sing solos here.



Chapter II The Bus Boycott

To segregate means to separate, like keeping white sheep away from black sheep in a flock. When Dr. King went to Alabama, there were rules about segregating.

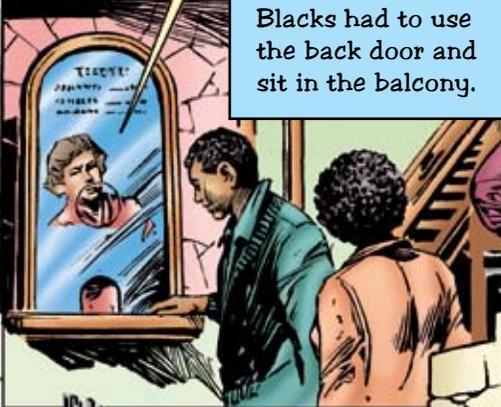


No blacks allowed here.



Black children can't go to parks for whites.

No blacks allowed through the front entrance.



Blacks had to use the back door and sit in the balcony.

This school is for whites only.



We only serve white people. Servants traveling with white customers are fed in the kitchen.



Some white people called black people "Jim Crows." The Jim Crow Laws covered drinking fountains, bathrooms, buses, etc. It was the way segregation and discrimination* was kept alive.

* prejudiced outlook, action, or treatment