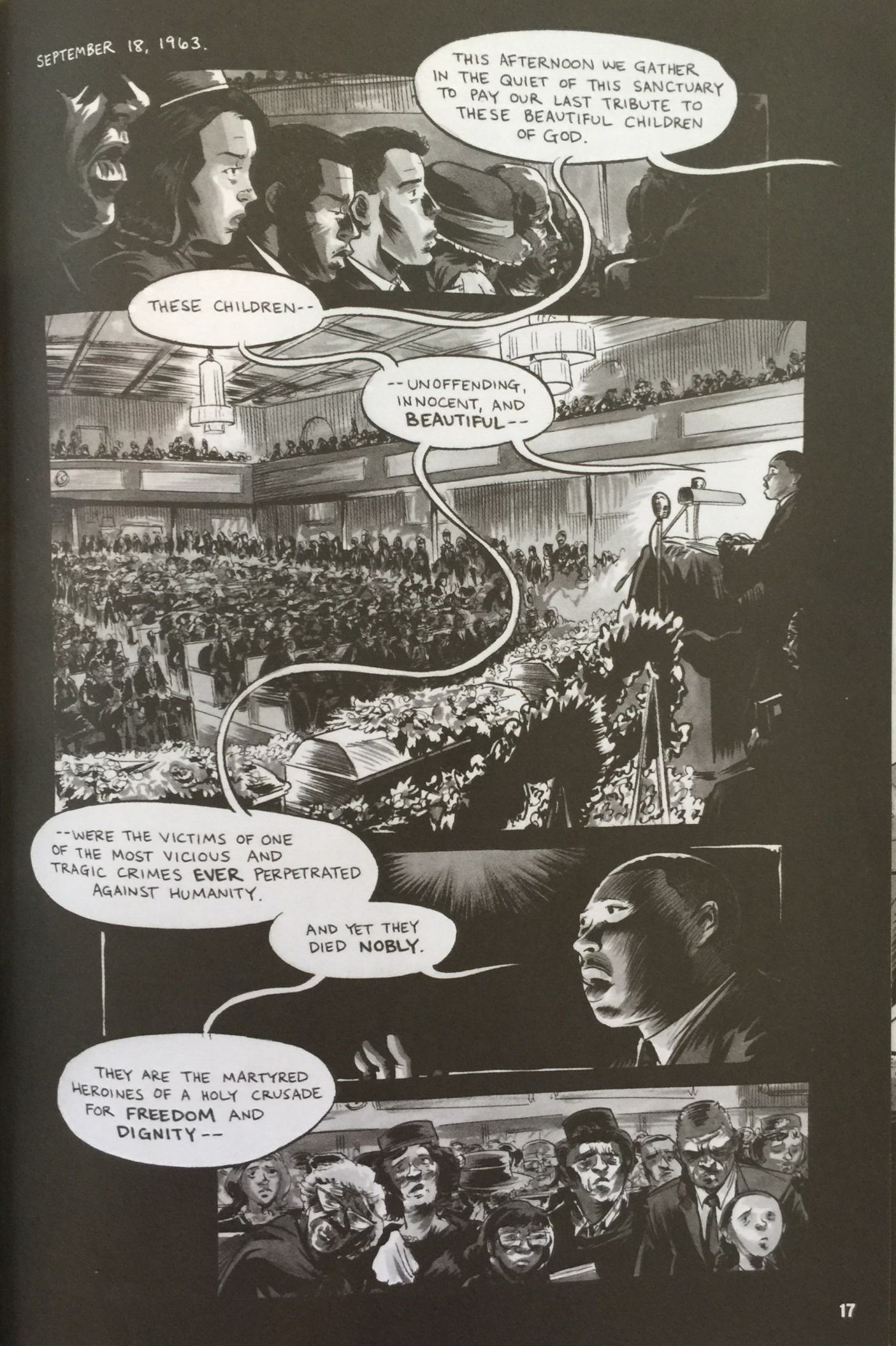


SEPTEMBER 18, 1963.



THIS AFTERNOON WE GATHER  
IN THE QUIET OF THIS SANCTUARY  
TO PAY OUR LAST TRIBUTE TO  
THESE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN  
OF GOD.

THESE CHILDREN--

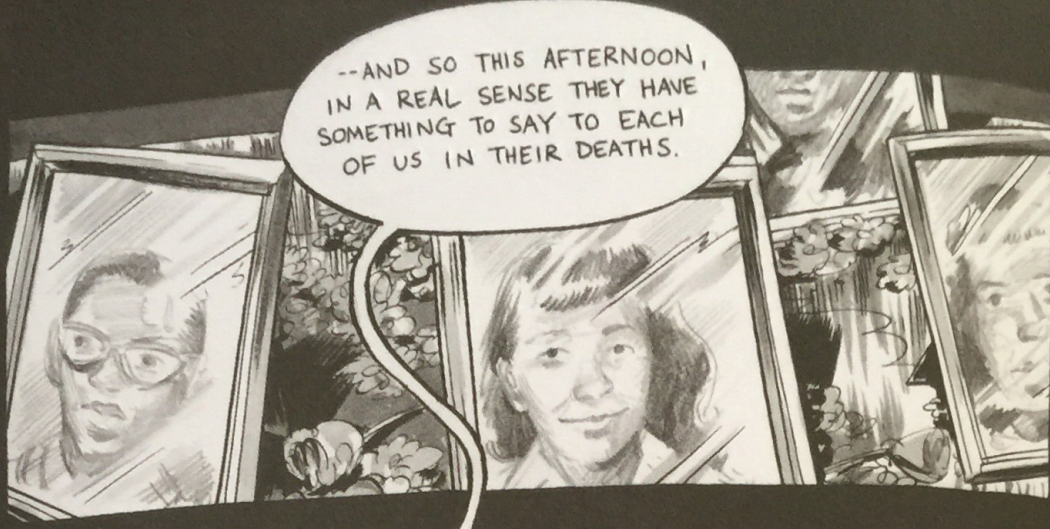
--UNOFFENDING,  
INNOCENT, AND  
BEAUTIFUL--

--WERE THE VICTIMS OF ONE  
OF THE MOST VICIOUS AND  
TRAGIC CRIMES EVER PERPETRATED  
AGAINST HUMANITY.

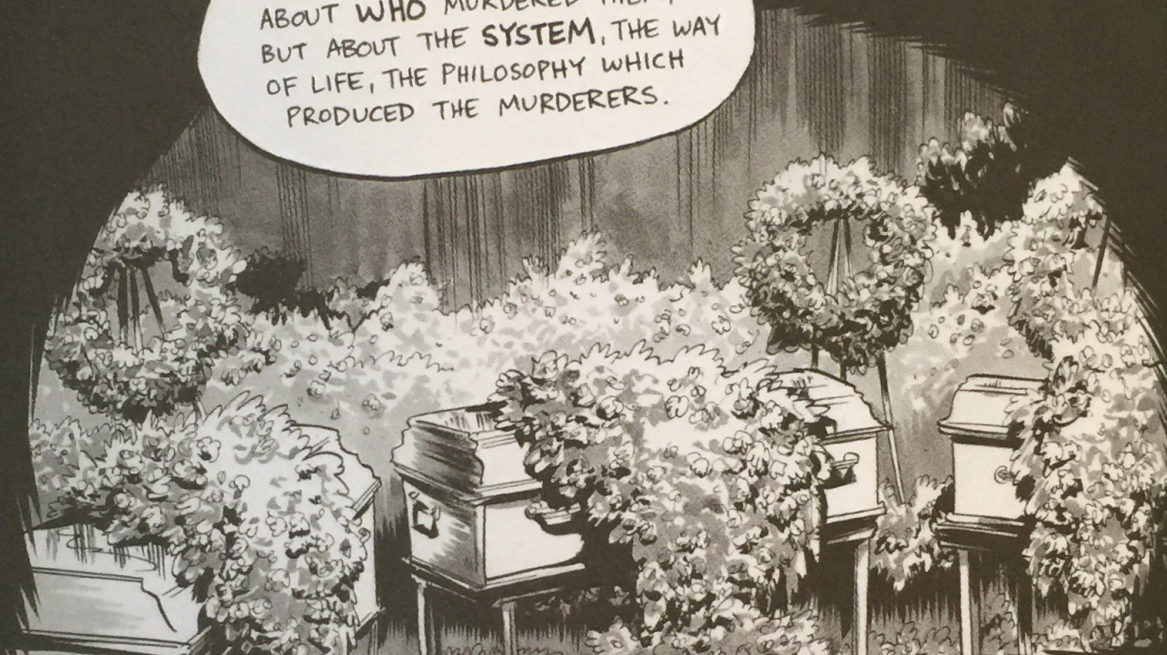
AND YET THEY  
DIED NOBLY.

THEY ARE THE MARTYRED  
HEROINES OF A HOLY CRUSADE  
FOR FREEDOM AND  
DIGNITY--

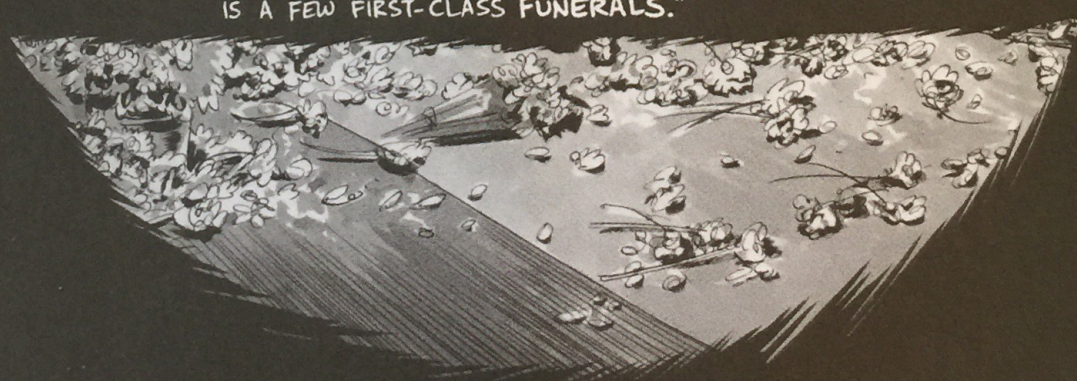




--AND SO THIS AFTERNOON,  
IN A REAL SENSE THEY HAVE  
SOMETHING TO SAY TO EACH  
OF US IN THEIR DEATHS.



THEY SAY TO US THAT WE  
MUST BE CONCERNED NOT MERELY  
ABOUT WHO MURDERED THEM,  
BUT ABOUT THE SYSTEM, THE WAY  
OF LIFE, THE PHILOSOPHY WHICH  
PRODUCED THE MURDERERS.



WE ALL KNEW WHAT DR. KING MEANT. GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE HAD STARTED  
HIS TERM DECLARING "SEGREGATION FOREVER," AND TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE  
BOMBING, HE WAS QUOTED IN THE PAPER SAYING, "WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS  
IS A FEW FIRST-CLASS FUNERALS."

UNLESS WE COULD GIVE ALL ITS CITIZENS A POLITICAL VOICE,  
ALABAMA WOULD CONTINUE TO ELECT PEOPLE LIKE WALLACE.



THAT EVENING AFTER THE FUNERAL, DIANE NASH AND I MET WITH DR. KING TO PRESENT A PLAN.

SHE AND JAMES BEVEL WERE NOW MARRIED AND RAISING A LITTLE GIRL OF THEIR OWN. NEWS OF THE BOMBING HAD SHAKEN THEM UP SO BADLY THAT SHE CAME TO BIRMINGHAM TO PROPOSE AN ALL-OUT REVOLUTION.

DR. KING, WHEN CHILDREN ARE MURDERED...

WE CAN TELL PEOPLE NOT TO FIGHT ONLY IF WE OFFER THEM A WAY BY WHICH JUSTICE CAN BE SERVED WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

SOME IN SCLC HAD TALKED ABOUT MARCHING TO MONTGOMERY TO PLACE A FUNERAL WREATH ON THE ALABAMA STATE HOUSE,

BUT DIANE'S PLAN WENT FAR BEYOND.

HER "ACTION IN MONTGOMERY" WOULD RECRUIT A NONVIOLENT "ARMY" OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO POUR INTO THE CAPITAL CITY--

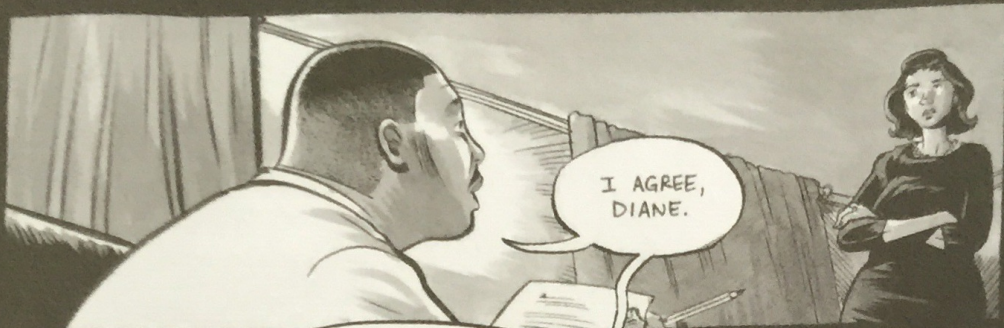
CUTTING OFF ROADS, TRAINS, AIRPORTS, PHONE LINES, ELECTRICITY, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES UNTIL THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN.

THERE WERE TWO OBJECTIVES:

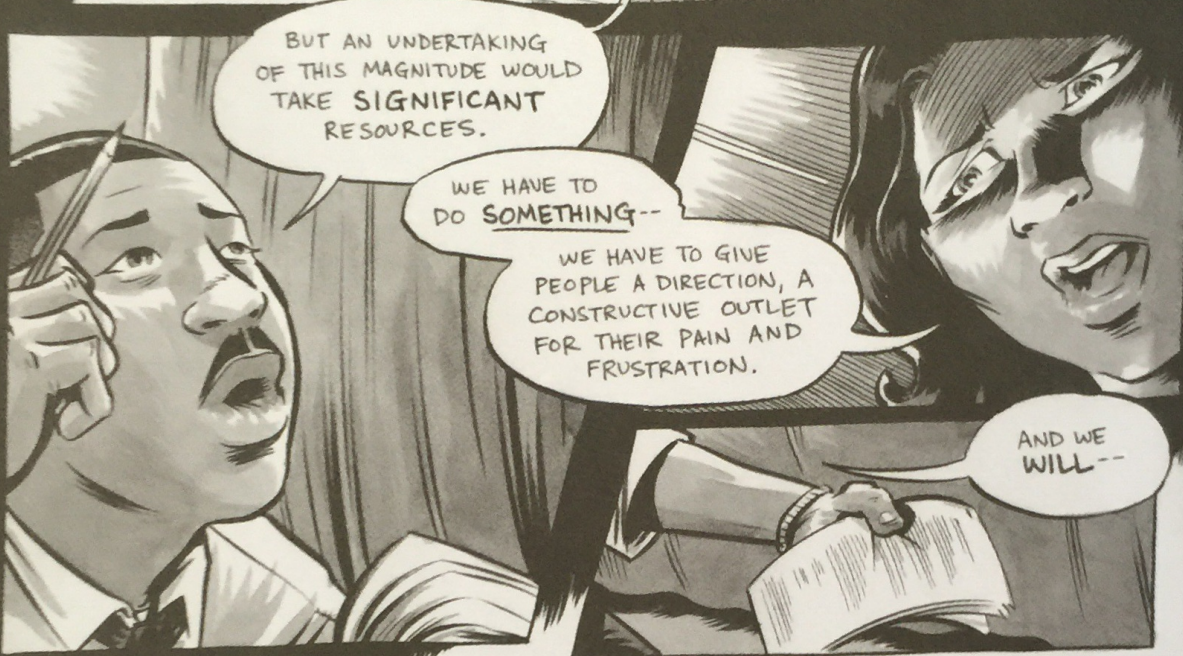
FORCE GOVERNOR WALLACE OUT OF OFFICE,

AND ALLOW EVERY ADULT IN ALABAMA TO VOTE.





I AGREE, DIANE.

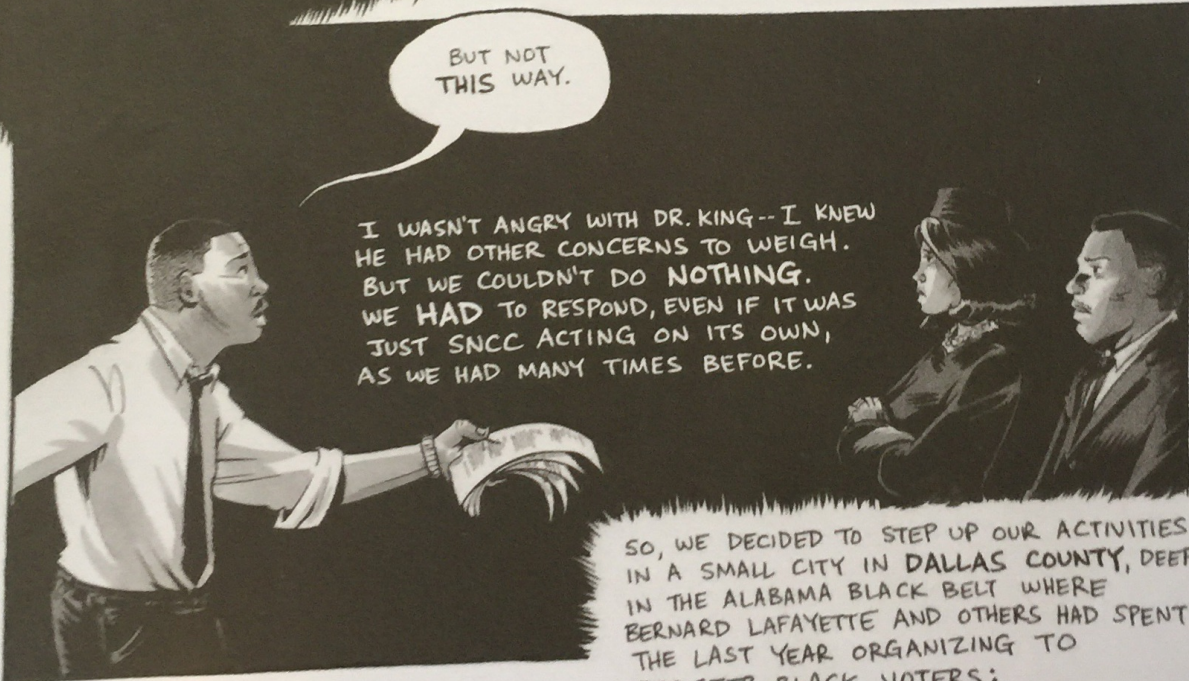


BUT AN UNDERTAKING OF THIS MAGNITUDE WOULD TAKE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING--

WE HAVE TO GIVE PEOPLE A DIRECTION, A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTLET FOR THEIR PAIN AND FRUSTRATION.

AND WE WILL--



BUT NOT THIS WAY.

I WASN'T ANGRY WITH DR. KING--I KNEW HE HAD OTHER CONCERNS TO WEIGH. BUT WE COULDN'T DO NOTHING. WE HAD TO RESPOND, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST SNCC ACTING ON ITS OWN, AS WE HAD MANY TIMES BEFORE.

SO, WE DECIDED TO STEP UP OUR ACTIVITIES IN A SMALL CITY IN DALLAS COUNTY, DEEP IN THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT WHERE BERNARD LAFAYETTE AND OTHERS HAD SPENT THE LAST YEAR ORGANIZING TO REGISTER BLACK VOTERS:

SELMA.

♪ O SAY DOES THAT STAR-SPANGLED BANNER YET WAVE--♪



JANUARY 20, 2009.

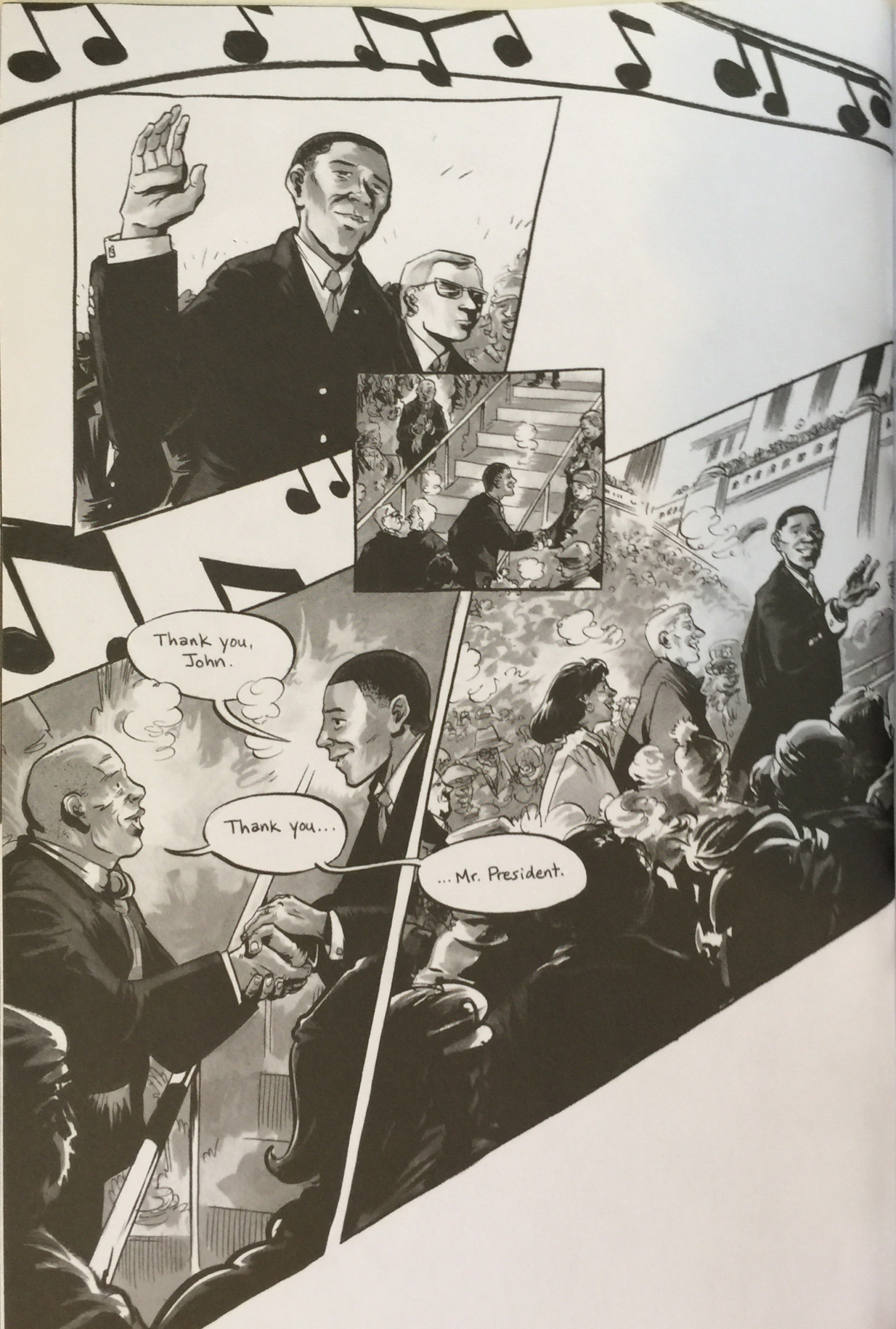
O'ER THE LAND  
OF THE FREE, ♪  
♪ ♪

AND THE ♪  
HOME

♪ OF THE ♪  
BRAVE!







Thank you,  
John.

Thank you...

... Mr. President.





Go ahead, John.  
Lead the way.

Thank you.