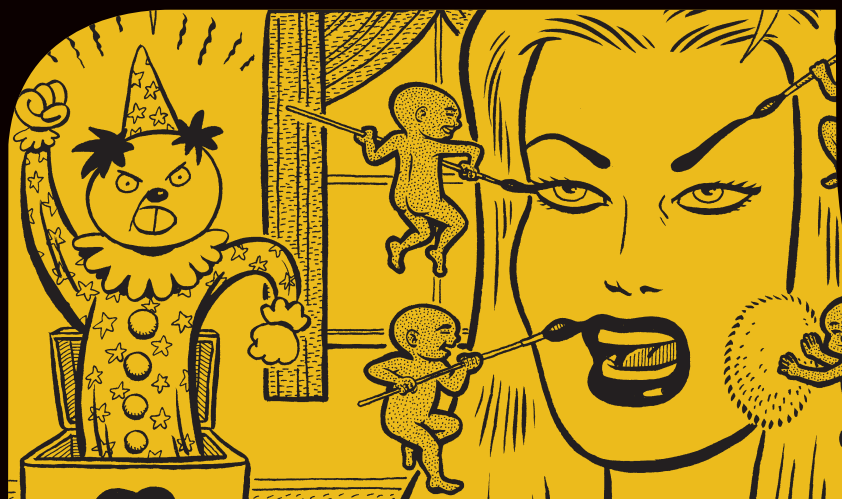
Gilbert Hernandez

COMICS DEMENTIA

A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK



COMICS DEMENTIA

Comics Dementia collects unexpected treasures, oddities, and rarities from outposts of the *Love and Rockets* galaxy, by one of Earth's greatest living cartoonists, Gilbert Hernandez. Saints, sinners, and the Candide-like Roy mingle in jungles, in fables, in outer space: in cocktail lounges and living rooms. Ditko meets Melville meets Bob Hope—but the party really starts bumping when the Alfred E. Neuman of the *L&R*-verse, Errata Stigmata, makes her entrance. Many of these stories haven't been available for decades, and some have never before been collected!

LOVE AND ROCKETS

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FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

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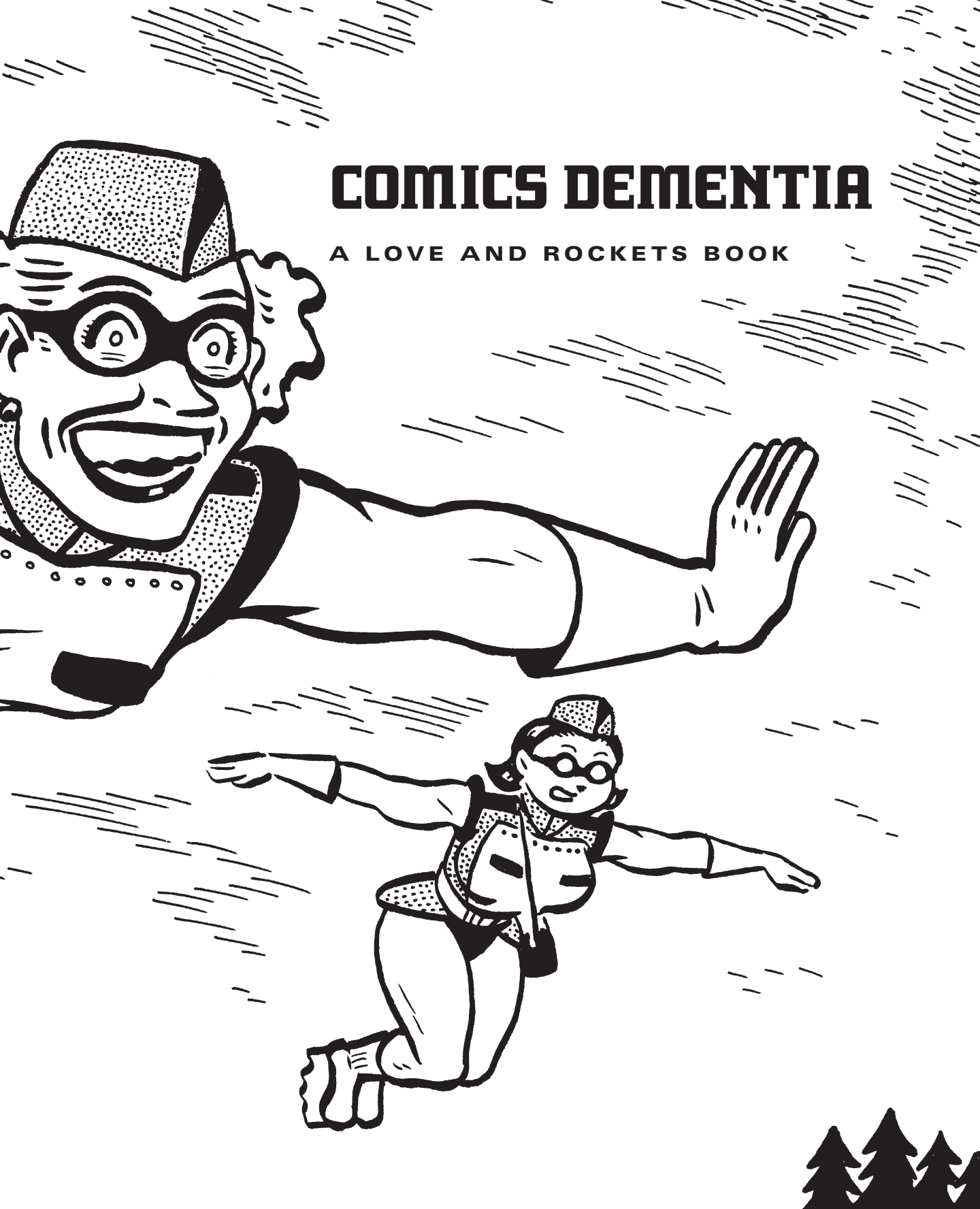

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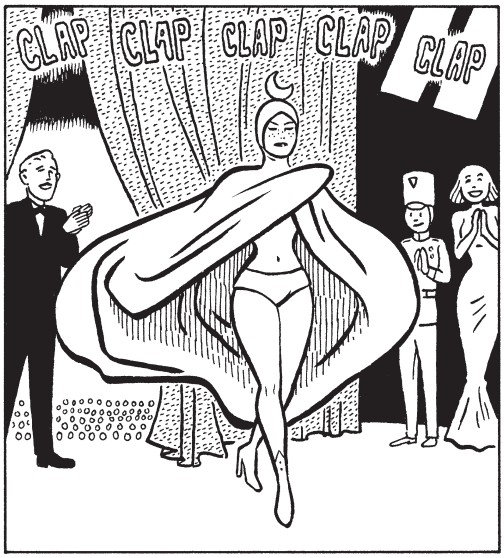
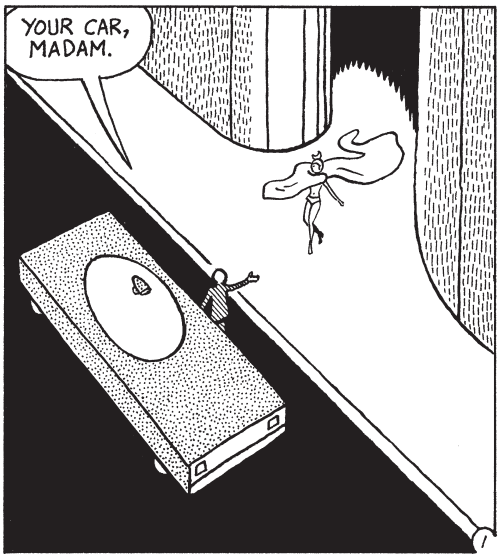
ALL WITH A BIG HELLO

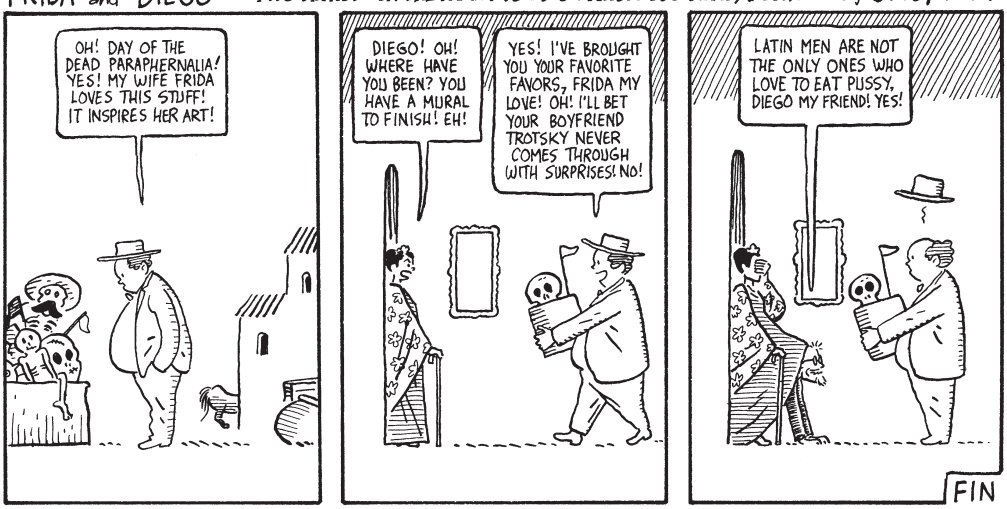
BETO96

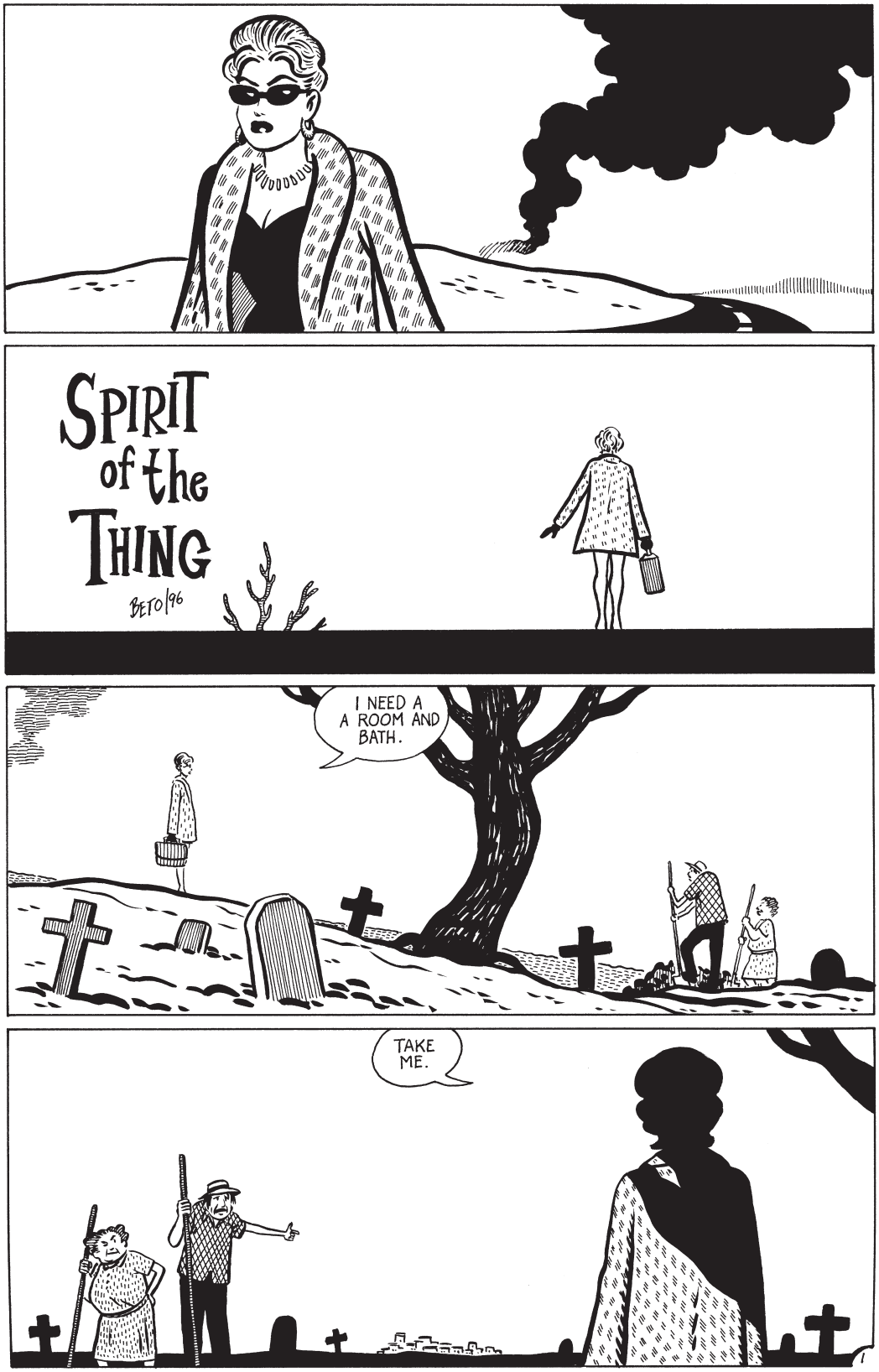




HELLO!
HELLO!
2

FRIDA and DIEGO "TWO ARTISTS IN THE FAMILY IS TWO ARTISTS TOO MANY, I SAY." by BETO/1939




SPIRIT of the THING
BETO/96
I NEED A A ROOM AND BATH.
TAKE ME.

HOTEL
WHAT..?
OH...
SIGH...
THANK YOU.
2

RUN!
THE HUNCH-BACK!
TRASH. THAT KIND OF GIRL CAN ONLY BE ONE THING. TRASH.
SHE'S A FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD FILM STAR IN HIDING.
I CAN SEE IT IN YOU ALREADY, SON.
AHH, YOU MEN FALL IN LOVE AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
HELLO!
I'M SORRY I WAS SO RUDE THE OTHER DAY. PLEASE, HAVE A DRINK WITH ME?
3

I'M-I'M SORRY... I THOUGHT I WOULD TELL YOU, BUT I CAN'T...
IT'S VERY COMPLICATED, AND YOU MUSTN'T BE BURDENED...
I CAN'T EVEN TELL YOUR SHERIFF BECAUSE THEY'LL·· I'M SORRY, IT'S TOO··
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
SIGH··
GOING TO PEE? JUST PEE BEHIND THAT TREE.
THE DEAD DON'T CARE.
4

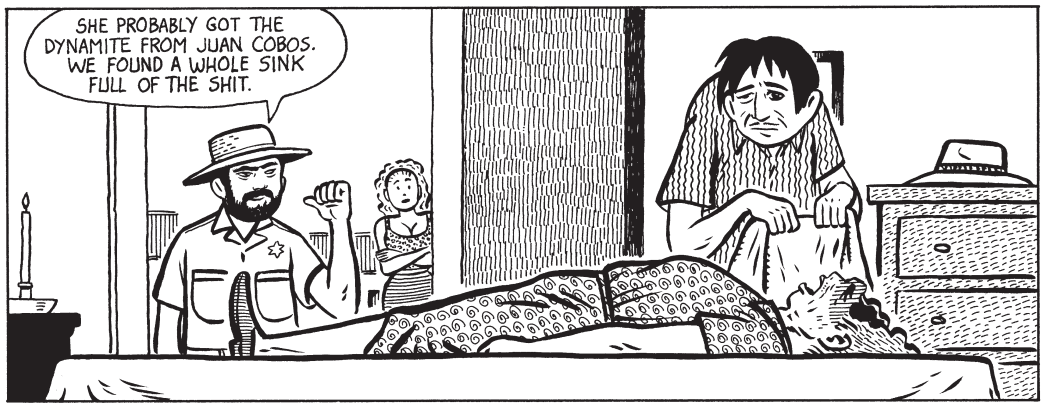
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT TROUBLES MY LOVE. I'M GOING TO HELP HER.
I'M... SORRY IF I'VE OFFENDED YOU...
PLEASE..?
5

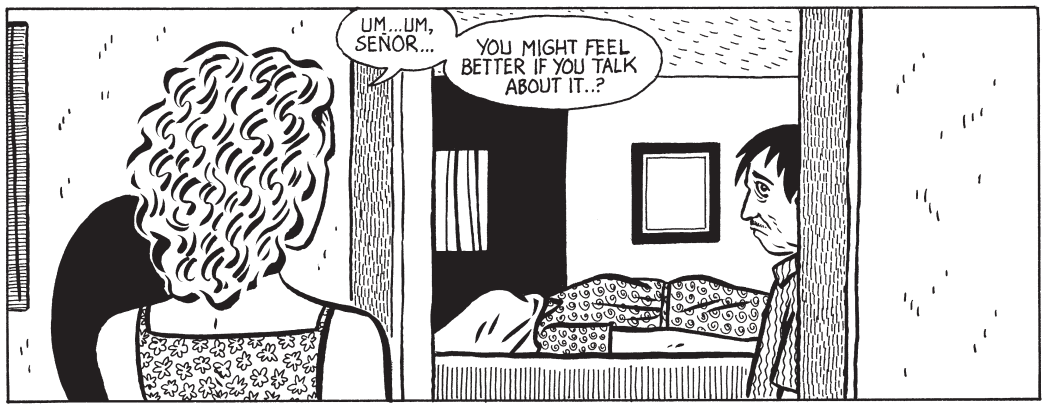
I WILL REVEAL MYSELF TO YOU.
THE LONGER YOU CAN STAND THE SIGHT, THE MORE INFORMATION I WILL OFFER YOU.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
KAFF KAFF.. HACK
SHE WAS A MOB BOSS'S MISTRESS FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS AND HIS WIFE FOUND OUT A WEEK AGO. THE WIFE THEN HIRED PROFESSIONALS TO KILL YOUR LOVE.
AS USUAL, YOU WILL SAY NOTHING OF MY EXISTENCE TO ANYONE.
HA! SEE?
SHOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND SO MUCH WITH THAT ASTHMA.
6

EEEEYAAAA
PANT··
PANT··
YOU'VE BEEN TO THE TREE, HAVEN'T YOU?
OH, YOU'LL BE HAVING THESE NIGHTMARES FOR DAYS NOW. I'LL NEVER GET ANY SLEEP.
AND YOU NEVER GET HELP FROM THE TREE FOR US. ALWAYS TO HELP SOMEBODY ELSE!
PAH!
PUPPY LOVE.
7

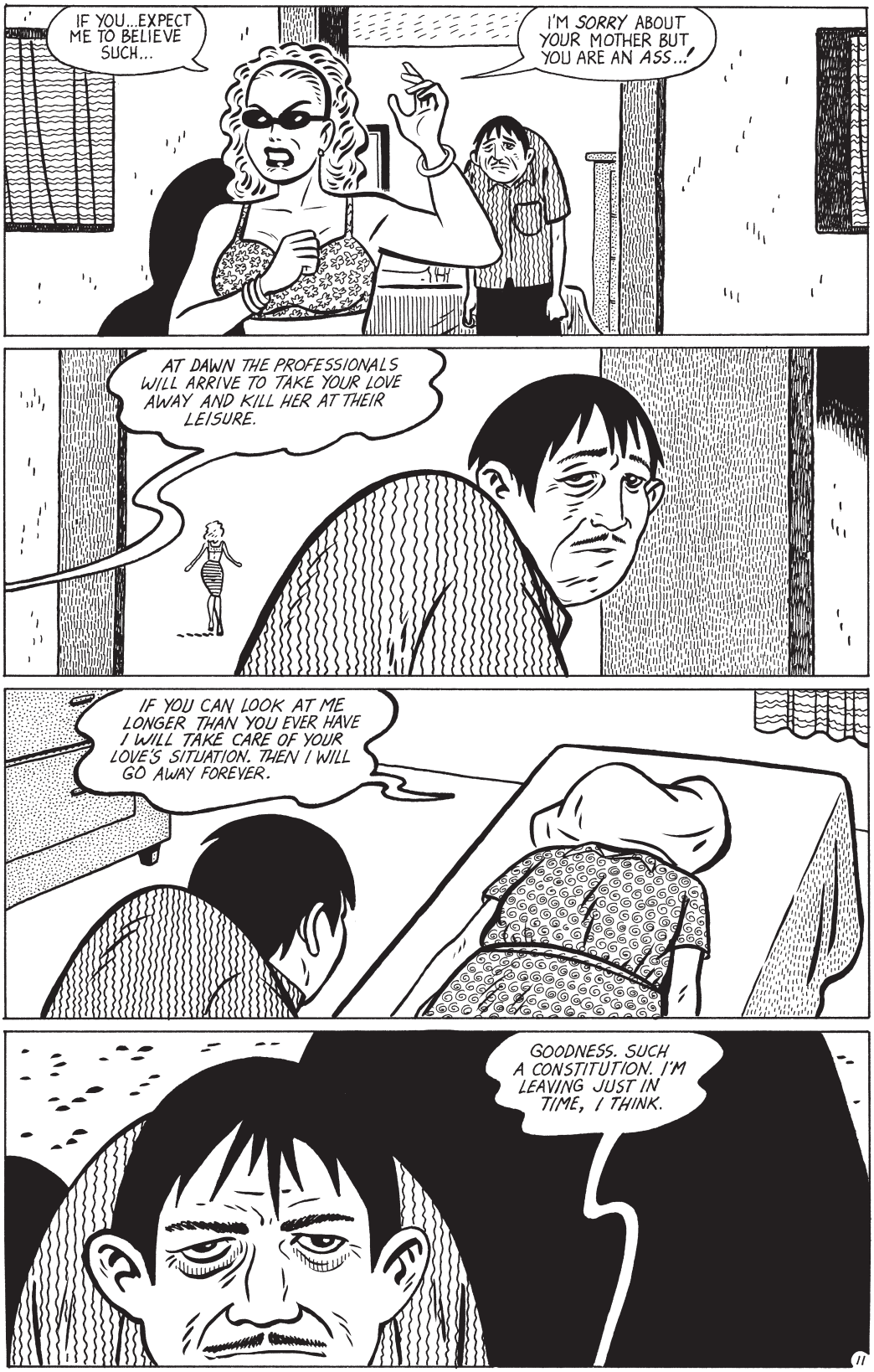
I NEED TO GET MY SLEEP.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME TO HELP GET YOUR MOTHER OUT OF JAIL YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT ME AGAIN.
LONGER THAN LAST TIME. YOU'RE GETTING PRETTY TOUGH.
GO TELL THE SHERIFF THAT IF HE DOESN'T RELEASE YOUR MOTHER IMMEDIATELY, YOU WILL REVEAL TO HIS WIFE HIS UNDISCLOSED GAMBLING LOSSES.

HA! YOU FINALLY GOT THAT THING TO HELP US OUT FOR ONCE, EH?
I'LL FIND OUT WHERE IT IS NOW AND I'LL KILL IT THIS TIME, HEAR?

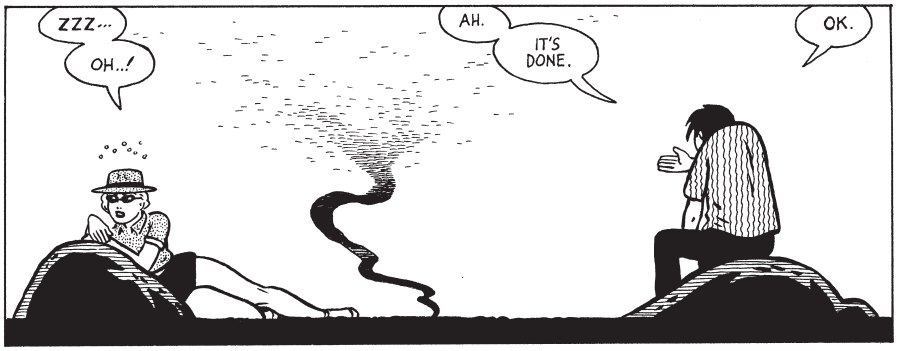

SHE PROBABLY GOT THE DYNAMITE FROM JUAN COBOS. WE FOUND A WHOLE SINK FULL OF THE SHIT.


UM...UM, SEÑOR...
YOU MIGHT FEEL BETTER IF YOU TALK ABOUT IT..?

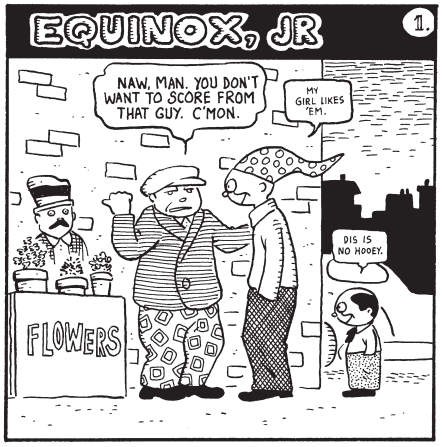
...THE SPIRIT WON'T SPEAK TO ME AGAIN NOW I'VE TOLD YOU, SEÑORITA.
I ONLY WANTED TO... HELP YOU, SEÑORITA... YOU WERE ALL ALONE... I...
10

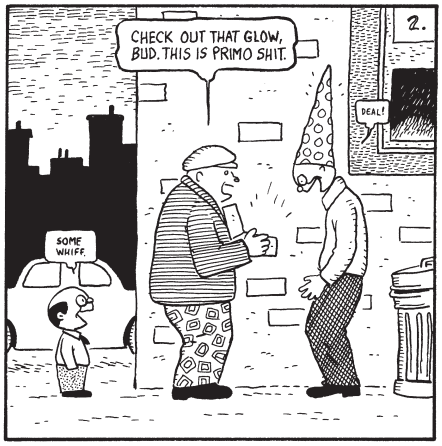

IF YOU...EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SUCH...
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR MOTHER BUT YOU ARE AN ASS...!
AT DAWN THE PROFESSIONALS WILL ARRIVE TO TAKE YOUR LOVE AWAY AND KILL HER AT THEIR LEISURE.
IF YOU CAN LOOK AT ME LONGER THAN YOU EVER HAVE I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR LOVE'S SITUATION. THEN I WILL GO AWAY FOREVER.
GOODNESS. SUCH A CONSTITUTION. I'M LEAVING JUST IN TIME, I THINK.
11

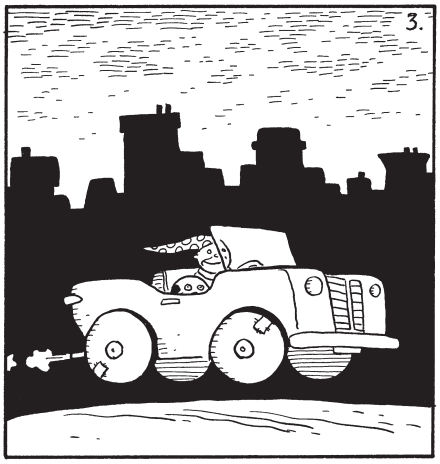
GOD DAMN RIGOR MORTIS...
ZZZZ..
EH..?
AH.
THEY ARE HERE.
OK.
AFTER I AM THROUGH COME FOR YOUR MAMA'S BODY.
SHE WANTS TO BE BURIED BY THE BURNED TREE. SHE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT.
HEY. I'M STILL MAD, BUT I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING!
IF YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME EVERYTHING I WANT YOU TO TELL ME AGAIN.
12


ZZZ...
OH..!
AH.
IT'S DONE.
OK.

I'M... COMING, TOO.
IF YOU LIKE.
End


EQUINOX, JR
1.
NAW, MAN. YOU DON'T WANT TO SCORE FROM THAT GUY. C'MON.
MY GIRL LIKES 'EM.
DIS IS NO HOOEY.
FLOWERS


2.
CHECK OUT THAT GLOW, BUD. THIS IS PRIMO SHIT.
DEAL!
SOME WHIFF.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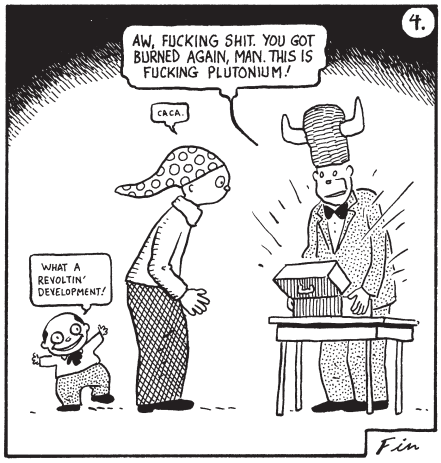
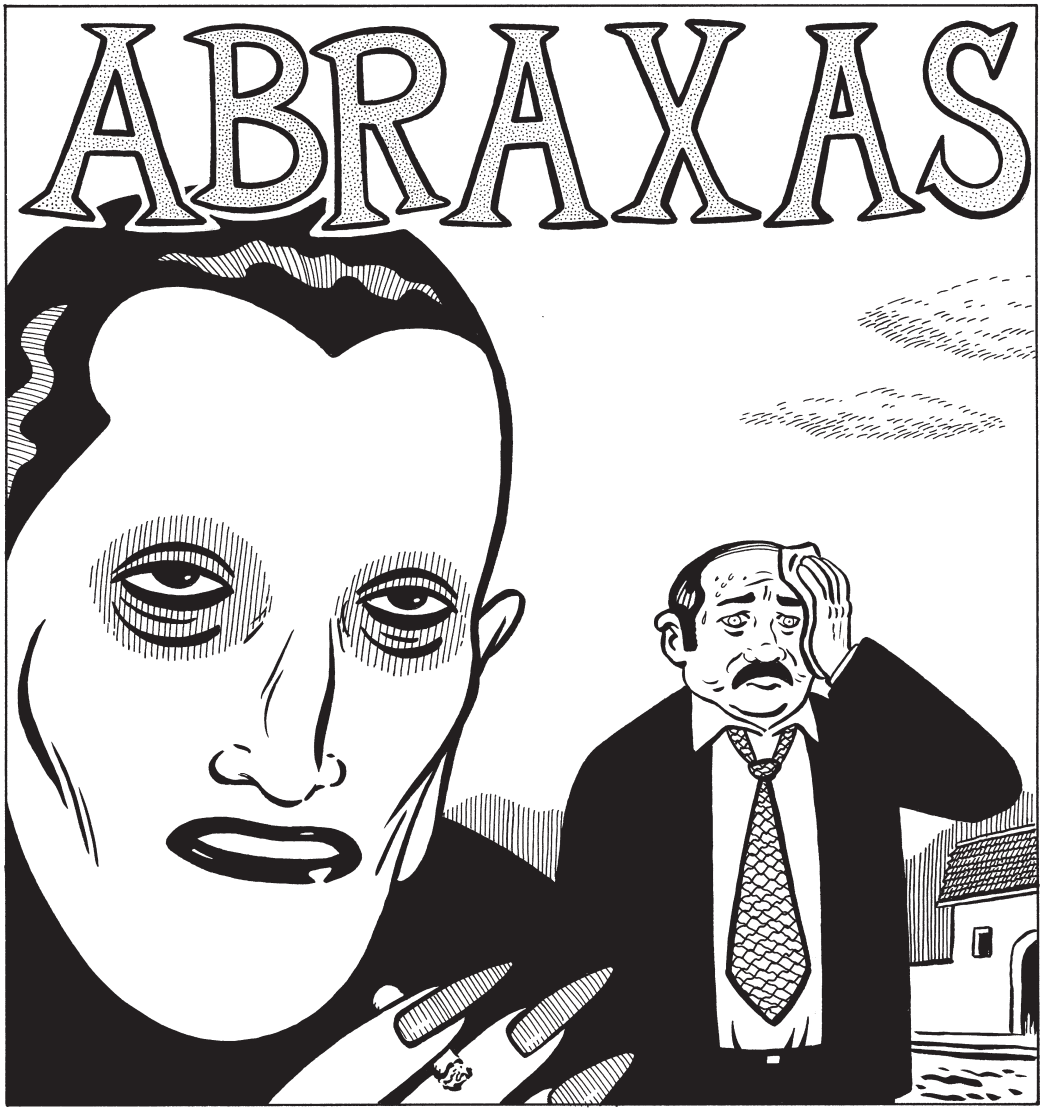
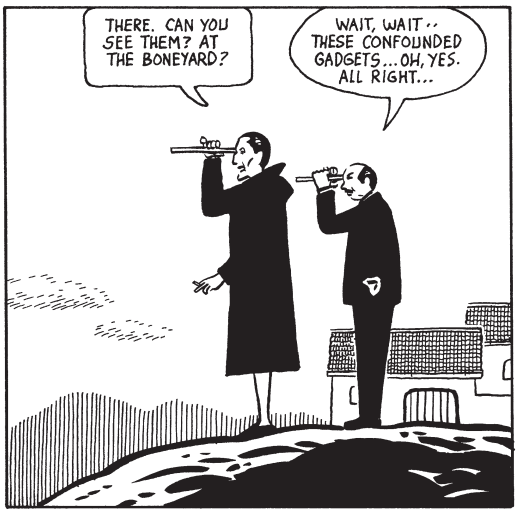

4.
AW, FUCKING SHIT. YOU GOT BURNED AGAIN, MAN. THIS IS FUCKING PLUTONIUM!
CA-CA.
WHAT A REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT!
Fin

ABRAXAS



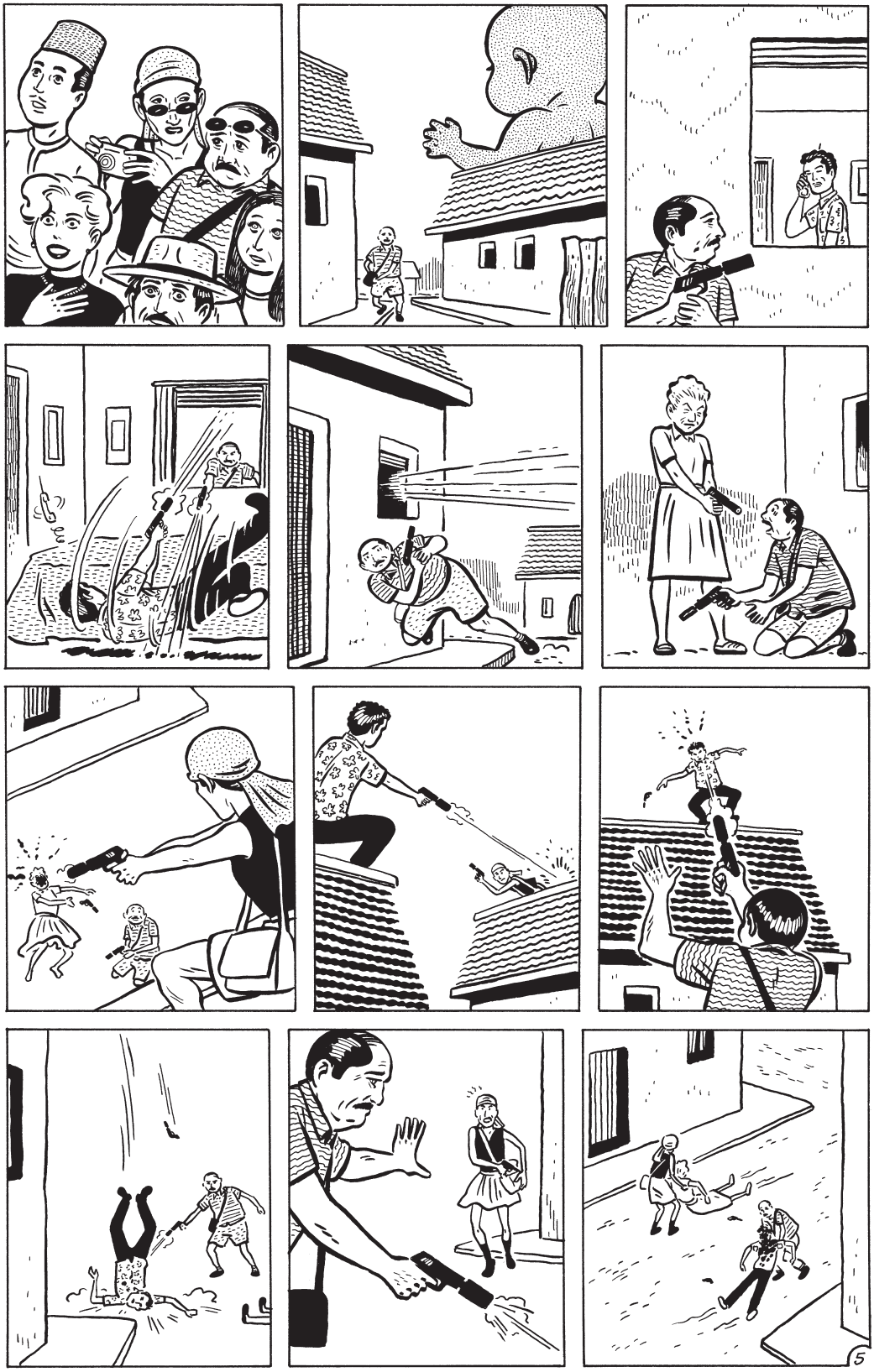

THERE. CAN YOU SEE THEM? AT THE BONEYARD?
WAIT, WAIT.. THESE CONFOUNDED GADGETS... OH, YES. ALL RIGHT...

THE HUNCHBACK AND THE LADY. AN UNLIKELY ROMANCE, BUT IT'S THAT KIND OF WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW... IT'S NOT LIKELY THEY HAVE SEX OR ANYTHING...

ROMANCE IS ROMANCE, CHUY. HE ONCE SAVED HER FROM CERTAIN DEATH.
SO SHE'S GRATEFUL. THAT ISN'T LOVE, TINA.
TCH. HOPE THIS DOESN'T TAKE LONG.
C'MON. I'LL ARM WRESTLE YOU FOR A DRINK.
TCH.
SURE! THE LADY CAME TO OUR TOWN TO ESCAPE KILLERS! SHE'S A GANGSTER'S MISTRESS!
WHEN THE GANGSTER'S WIFE FOUND OUT EVERYTHING, SHE SENT KILLERS AFTER THE LADY!
OH, DON'T LISTEN! IT'S JUST A STORY HE HEARD LIKE WE ALL DID. HE'S JUST COPYING!
HUSH! THE KILLERS DIED IN A CAR CRASH BEFORE THEY COULD GET HERE! THE HUNCHBACK PUT A SPELL ON THEM! THE EVIL EYE! BRRRRR!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME WHEN THEY SEND MORE KILLERS.
HAVE YOU TWO COME TO TOWN FOR THE BIG SIGHTING?
YES, BUT TELL ME, WHY DON'T I SEE MORE TOURISTS AROUND TOWN FOR THE SIGHTING?
PFEH! I GUESS THE SIGHTINGS ARE INTERESTING EVERYWHERE ELSE.
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE HOTEL MANAGER.
TCH.
CUTE BOY.
2

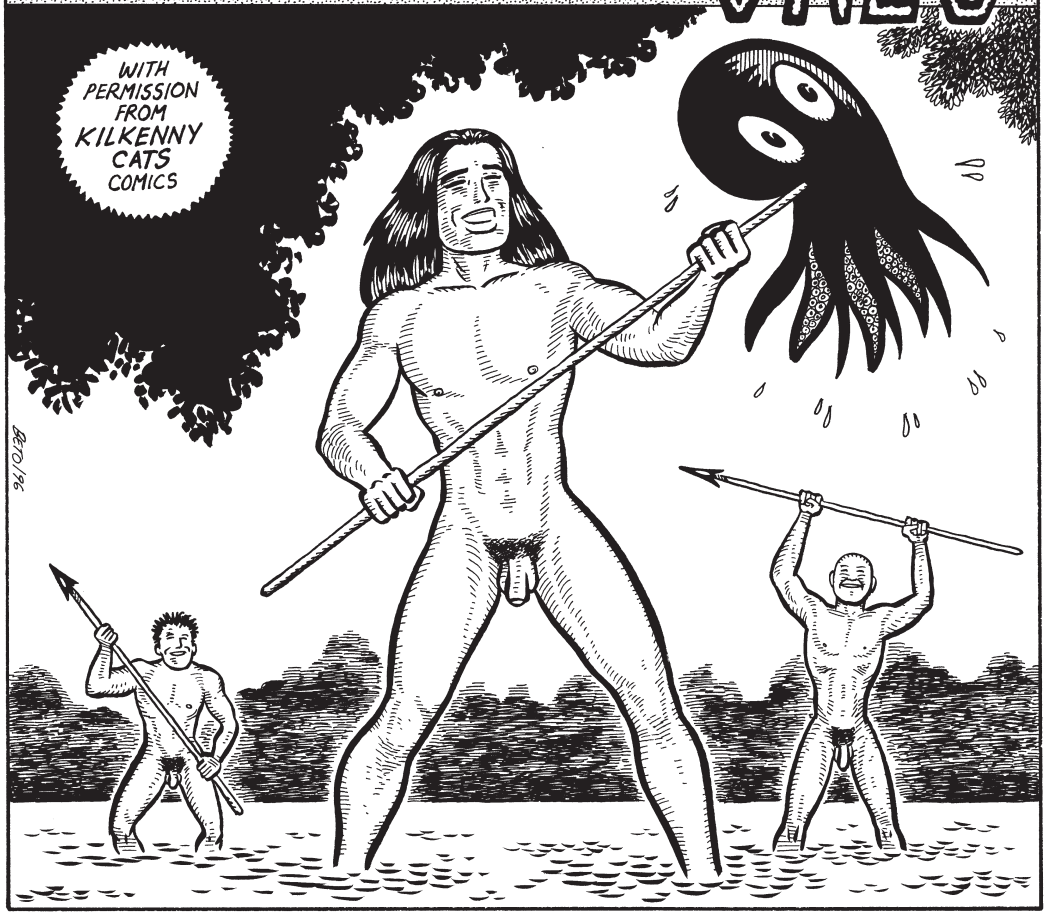
:SIGH:
SWEET LOVE.
PHOOEY!
PTCH, NO; I CAN'T SLEEP, SO I'M UP MIXING THE SHIT AND MAKING SURE IT'S EXTRA STRENGH-JUST FOR CUTE BOY.
BUT WHAT I'D RATHER BE DOING IS BENDING THE HUNCHBACK'S WIFE OVER A TABLE. NOW THAT WOULD HELP ME SLEEP, ALL RIGHT...
OK OK, SO WHO WANTS TO BE ROMANTIC?
ALL RIGHT, GOODNIGHT.
SHIT.
MY WIFE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR CAMERA, SEÑORITA.
IT BITES AND LEAVES A SCAR.
OH YES, SHE'S AN EXPERT WITH ALL CAMERAS.
OH!

YOU JUST DIDN'T LOAD THE FILM IN RIGHT. IT'S OK NOW.
THE SIMPLEST WORKINGS OF THE MODERN AGE I HAVE YET TO COMPREHEND.
SEE YOU AT THE SIGHTING.
NICE HELPLESS ACT. USE IT ON *CUTE BOY* YET?
YOUR *JEALOUS* ACT IS WEARING *THIN*, CHUY.
YOU SHOULD SEE A THERAPIST ABOUT THAT INSECURITY OF YOURS.


5

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOTEL MANAGER AND CUTE BOY. PEOPLE AND THINGS ALWAYS DISAPPEAR WHEN A *LOVE GREMLIN* PASSES.
IT'S THE SECOND HOTEL MANAGER WHO DISAPPEARED IN FOUR MONTHS.
YOU JUST *HAD* TO EMPTY YOUR GUN INTO HIS FACE.
YOU SHOULD SEE A THERAPIST ABOUT YOUR BOY CRAZINESS.
AND THE ***NEXT*** TIME WE'RE HIRED TO PROTECT SOMEBODY, ***I'M*** DOING THE NEGOTIATING.
BETO -97-

The FABULOUS ONES

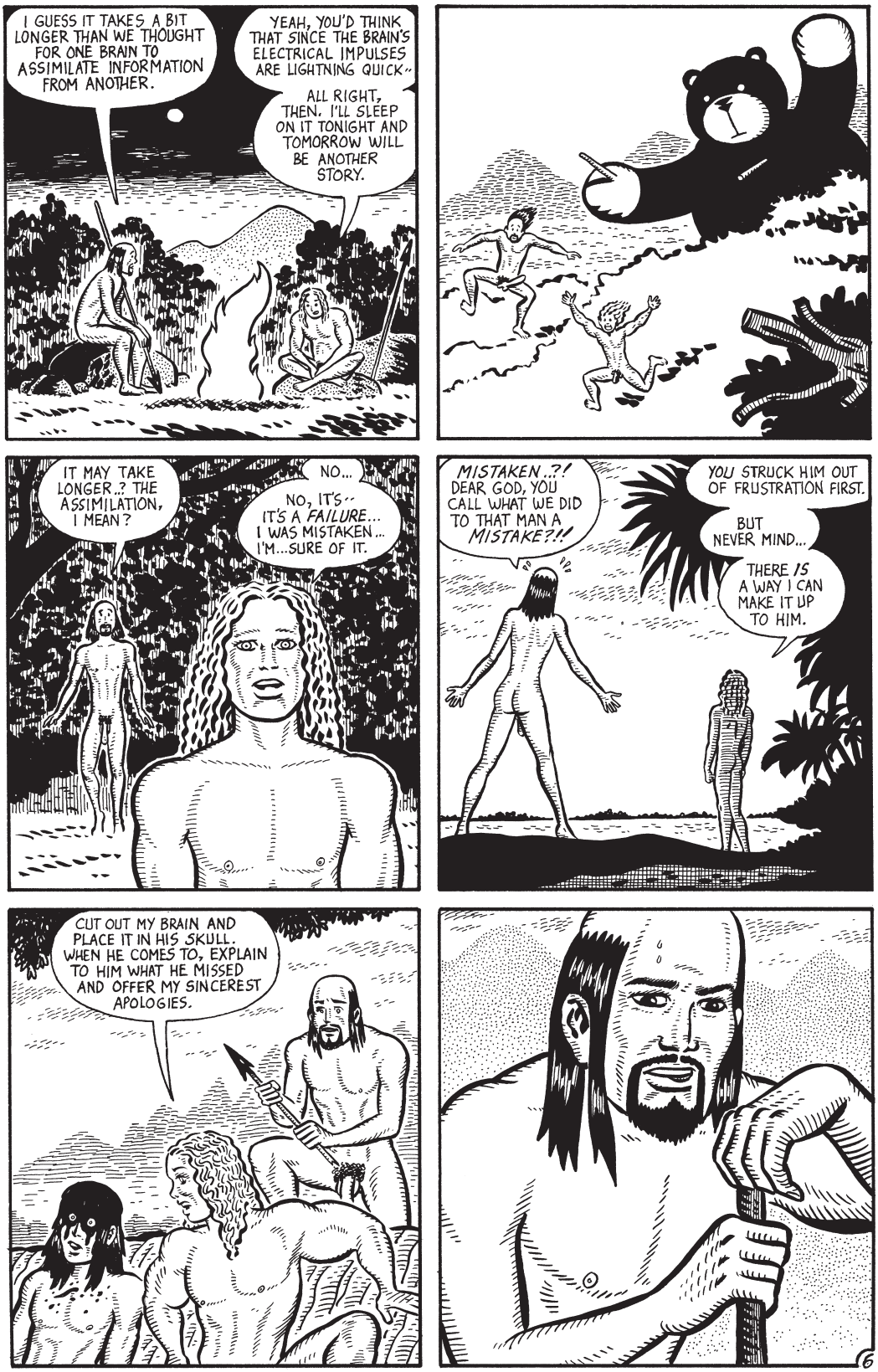


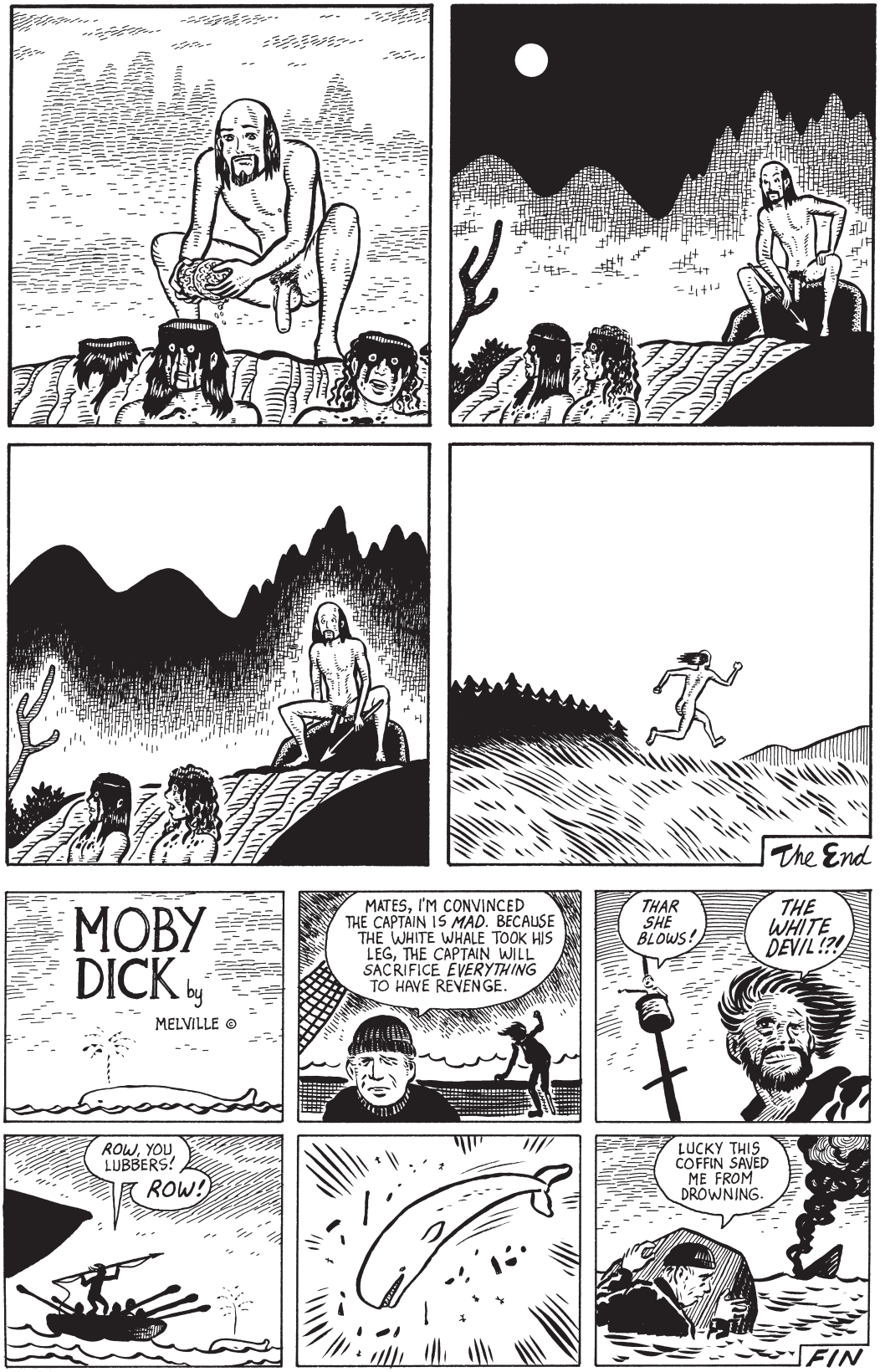
WHAT A CATCH! THE FISHING IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR THEM.
YES, BUT THAT ONE GUY SEEMS TO HAVE A FABULOUS TOUCH LIKE NO OTHER.
I'VE BEEN HANKERING FOR A DECENT FISH DINNER MYSELF LATELY...
SO WHAT SAY WE GET FISHING!
COAST CLEAR?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! NOBODY CAN OWN A FISH POND. ONLY GOD CAN AND GOD'S THINGS BELONG TO EVERYONE.
GOOD GOD, BUT IT'S THIS FISH POND WHAT'S FABULOUS!
BUT NOTHING QUITE AS FABULOUS AS THAT ONE FELLOW'S LUCK.
HO!
WOW!
2

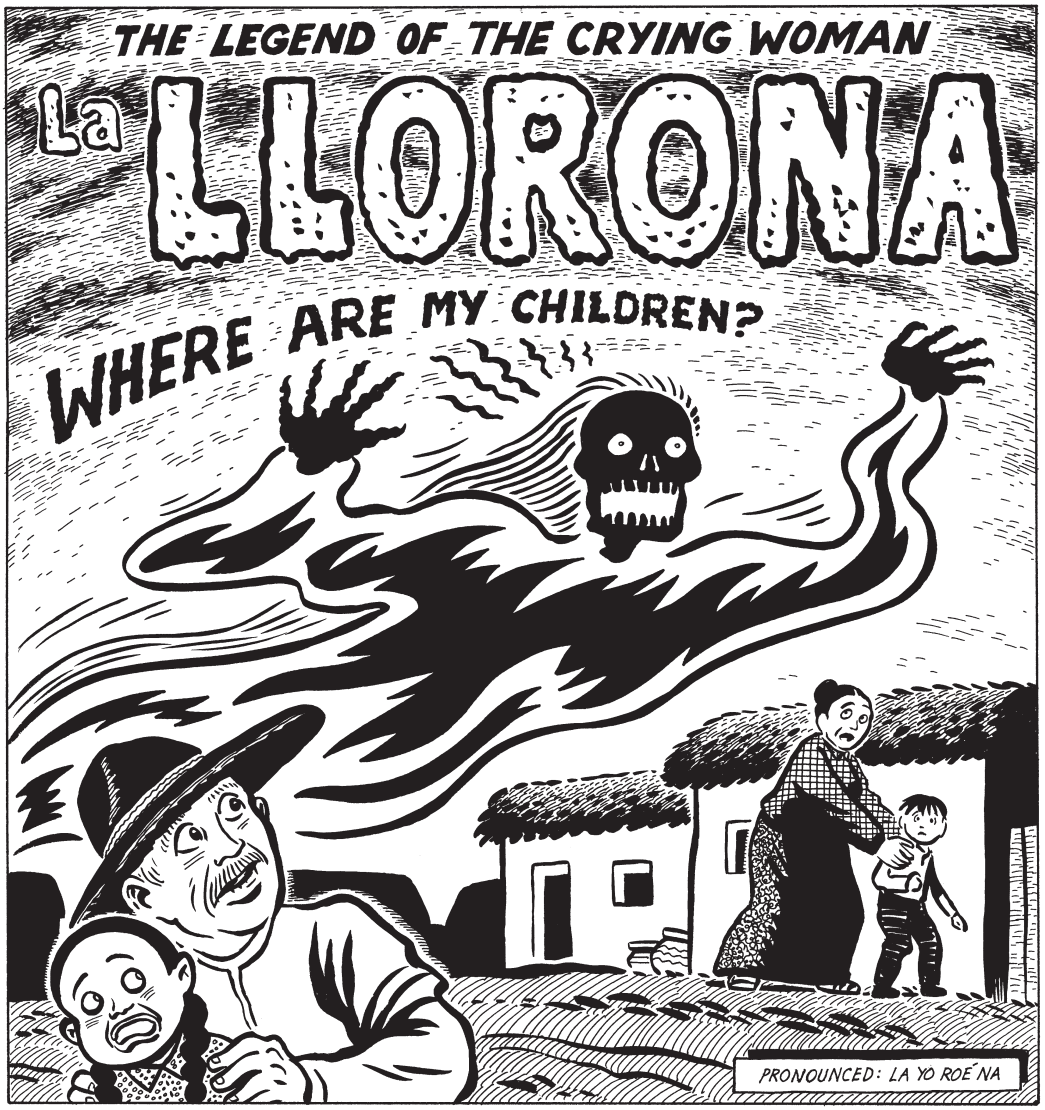
FANTASTIC!
ONLY ONE ARM CAN WIELD SUCH SKILL, SUCH ACCURACY.
HEY HEY HEY!
ISN'T SHE A BEAUTY! I'M GOING TO HAVE HER STUFFED AND MOUNTED.
NEVERMIND THAT ROC! WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE GOING ON? YOUR SKILLS ARE BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN. I MEAN, LUCK CAN ONLY LAST SO LONG, BUT YOURS NEVER SEEMS TO WANE!
IT'S ALL IN THE MIND, GUYS; ALL IN THE MIND.
EH...YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME TO FISH IN OUR POND ANY TIME.
YOUR SKILLS ARE DUE TO YOUR MENTAL STATE? SOMETHING THAT WAS LEARNED? THIS IS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WITH THE WAY THE BRAIN'S ELECTRICAL IMPULSES ARE LINKED AND NETWORKED?
SIGH... OK, WELL...
GUYS, I'LL TELL YOU. IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN. IF I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING ALONG THE WAY, I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHEN.
I'M OF THE MIND THAT ANY SKILL CAN BE TAUGHT.
AND WE WANT TO BE TAUGHT.
VERY WELL. AN EXTENUATORY LESSON IS IN ORDER AND THEN I AM OFF! WHAT'LL IT BE, BOYS? A LARGE FISH? A··A LUMBERING BEAR, A··
A ROC IN MID-FLIGHT WILL DO AS SUCH A CREATURE IS MOST ELUSIVE.
AND ALLUSIVE.
3

HUFF HUFF
BAH! NOTHING COMPARED TO YOUR GLORIOUS EFFORTS TO BE SURE!
OH, COME ON! YOU'VE NAILED MORE ROCS THAN YOUR WHOLE TRIBE COMBINED!
WELL...WELL, NOW SHOW US HOW TO FETCH--TO FETCH A GREAT, LUMBERING BEAR! NO! DRAGON!
FELLOWS, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY TRIBE...
SHOW US ONE MORE SKILL!
SAME SKILL, JUST DIFFERENT CREATURE, GUYS...OK, HOW ABOUT WILD DOGS? THEY'RE AS TOUGH AS YOU CAN GET.
ARE YOU MOCKING US, SEÑOR--SEÑOR FABULOUS SKILLS?
A GREAT, LUMBERING BEAR, SEÑOR!
A GREAT LUMBERING BEAR...
I'M OFF, FELLOWS. IF YOU'RE BOTH HERE TOMORROW, SAME TIME, WE'LL HUNT FOR BEAR. A GREAT AND LUMBERING AFFAIR, INDEED.
CIAO.
MOCK US, WILL YOU, SEÑOR FABULOUS SKILLS? SEÑOR EGOIST?
FOOL. YOU COULD HAVE DAMAGED PRECIOUS BRAIN TISSUE.
COME ON, THEN. HELP ME WITH THIS.
4

SLOWLY, SLOWLY... NOT A SCRATCH ON THE SURFACE OF THE··SLOWLY...
THEIR FISH POND... ONLY GOD CAN OWN A FISH POND.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. EAT AS MUCH BRAINS AS YOUR BELLY WILL ALLOW. OUR OWN BRAINS WILL ASSIMILATE WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW AND REFUSE THE REST.
I··I CAN'T. I'M... ALLERGIC TO THE STUFF. YOU HAVE IT ALL, THEN YOU CAN TEACH ME HIS SKILLS.
SUIT YOURSELF, BUT I MAY BECOME AS IMPATIENT AS HE WAS IN TEACHING A FEW TRICKS.
GLMP..
AW...
AW, I'LL JUST WATCH YOU PERFORM YOUR NEW GENIUS...
THAT'S IT. HIS FOLKS WILL THINK HE HAD A FALL.
OR BELIEVE HE WAS STRUCK DOWN BY A GREAT, LUMBERING BEAR!
AND SPEAKING OF...
5


I GUESS IT TAKES A BIT LONGER THAN WE THOUGHT FOR ONE BRAIN TO ASSIMILATE INFORMATION FROM ANOTHER.
YEAH, YOU'D THINK THAT SINCE THE BRAIN'S ELECTRICAL IMPULSES ARE LIGHTNING QUICK..
ALL RIGHT, THEN. I'LL SLEEP ON IT TONIGHT AND TOMORROW WILL BE ANOTHER STORY.
IT MAY TAKE LONGER..? THE ASSIMILATION, I MEAN?
NO...
NO, IT'S.. IT'S A *FAILURE*... I WAS MISTAKEN... I'M...SURE OF IT.
MISTAKEN..?! DEAR GOD, YOU CALL WHAT WE DID TO THAT MAN A *MISTAKE?!!*
YOU STRUCK HIM OUT OF FRUSTRATION FIRST.
BUT NEVER MIND...
THERE *IS* A WAY I CAN MAKE IT UP TO HIM.
CUT OUT MY BRAIN AND PLACE IT IN HIS SKULL. WHEN HE COMES TO, EXPLAIN TO HIM WHAT HE MISSED AND OFFER MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
6


The End
MOBY DICK by MELVILLE ©
MATES, I'M CONVINCED THE CAPTAIN IS MAD. BECAUSE THE WHITE WHALE TOOK HIS LEG, THE CAPTAIN WILL SACRIFICE EVERYTHING TO HAVE REVENGE.
THAR SHE BLOWS!
THE WHITE DEVIL!?!
ROW, YOU LUBBERS!
ROW!
LUCKY THIS COFFIN SAVED ME FROM DROWNING.
FIN


THE LEGEND OF THE CRYING WOMAN
La LLORONA
WHERE ARE MY CHILDREN?
PRONOUNCED: LA YO ROE´NA

ONE DAY...
FUCKER BASTARD!
YOU GO AND DIE LEAVING ME WITH HUNGRY KIDS AND NO MONEY!

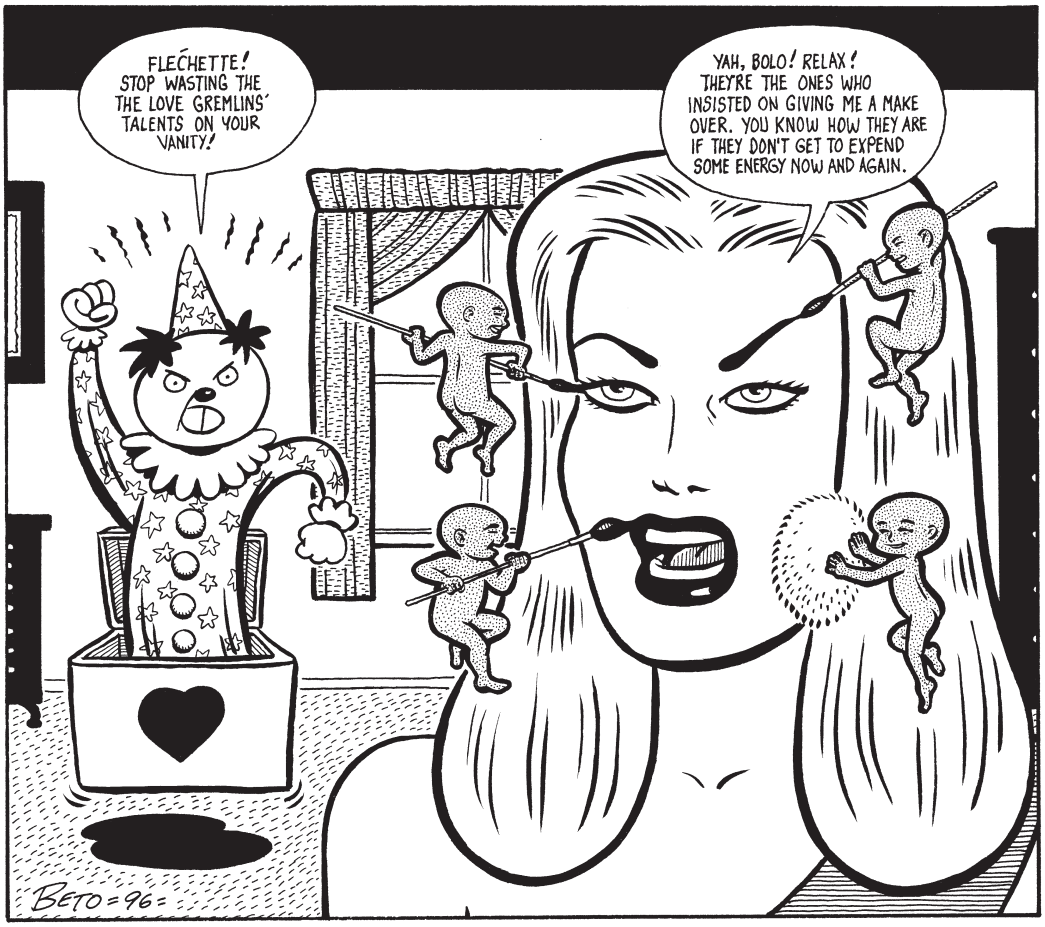
PLEASE, SEÑOR. I NEED TO WORK.
YOU'D BE NO GOOD AT THIS JOB.. BUT YOU AREN'T HALF-BAD LOOKING...

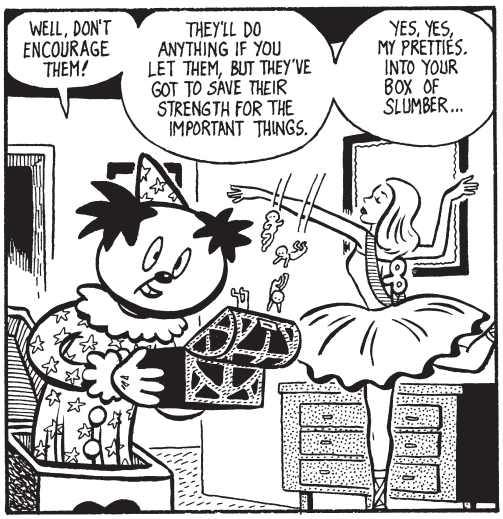
MAMA, I'M HUNGRY!!
I WANT BEANS!
EAT STRAW. I'M GOING OUT.
KAFF KAFF
KAFF
KAFF
SOB
KAFF
SOB
HAUGH
KAFF KAFF
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?
WAITING FOR YOU.
MAMA! THE STRAW MAKES US SICK..!
MAMA..
DON'T YOU BRATS EVER SHUT UP..?!?
YOU HEARD ME. DO SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE BRATS AND MAYBE WE'LL TALK.

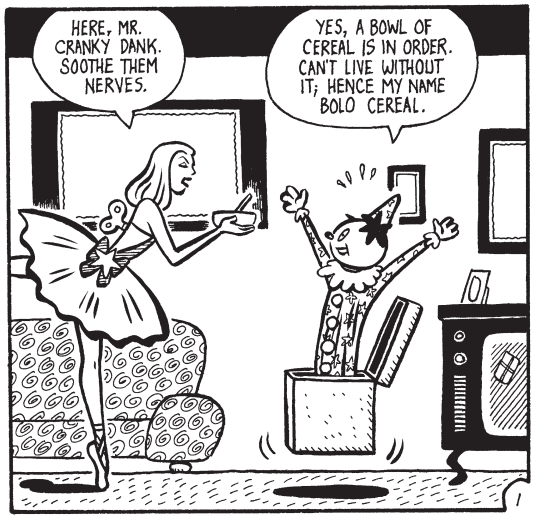
MAMA..!
GET IN THERE..!
MAMA..!
GET..
WAW!
MAMA..!
BOO HOO!
AAA..!
EEEEEAAAAAA!
MAMA!
BAW!
3

SHE WAS SO GOOD...SO FULL OF LIFE...AN INSPIRATION... NOW SHE'S GONE...
WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?
THEY ARE HERE WITH YOU, MY LORD.
THEY ARE NOT. YOU WILL WANDER THE EARTH UNTIL YOU FIND THEM.
SHE APPEARS ON THE EDGE OF A LAKE OR STREAM. HIDE YOUR CHILDREN WHEN YOU HEAR HER CRIES, FOR SHE WILL TAKE ANY CHILD TO REPLACE HERS. LISTEN! IS IT THE WIND, OR..?!
AYYYYYYYY-- ¿DONDE ESTAN MIS HIJOS--?
FIN
BETO/97

PERIPETEIA

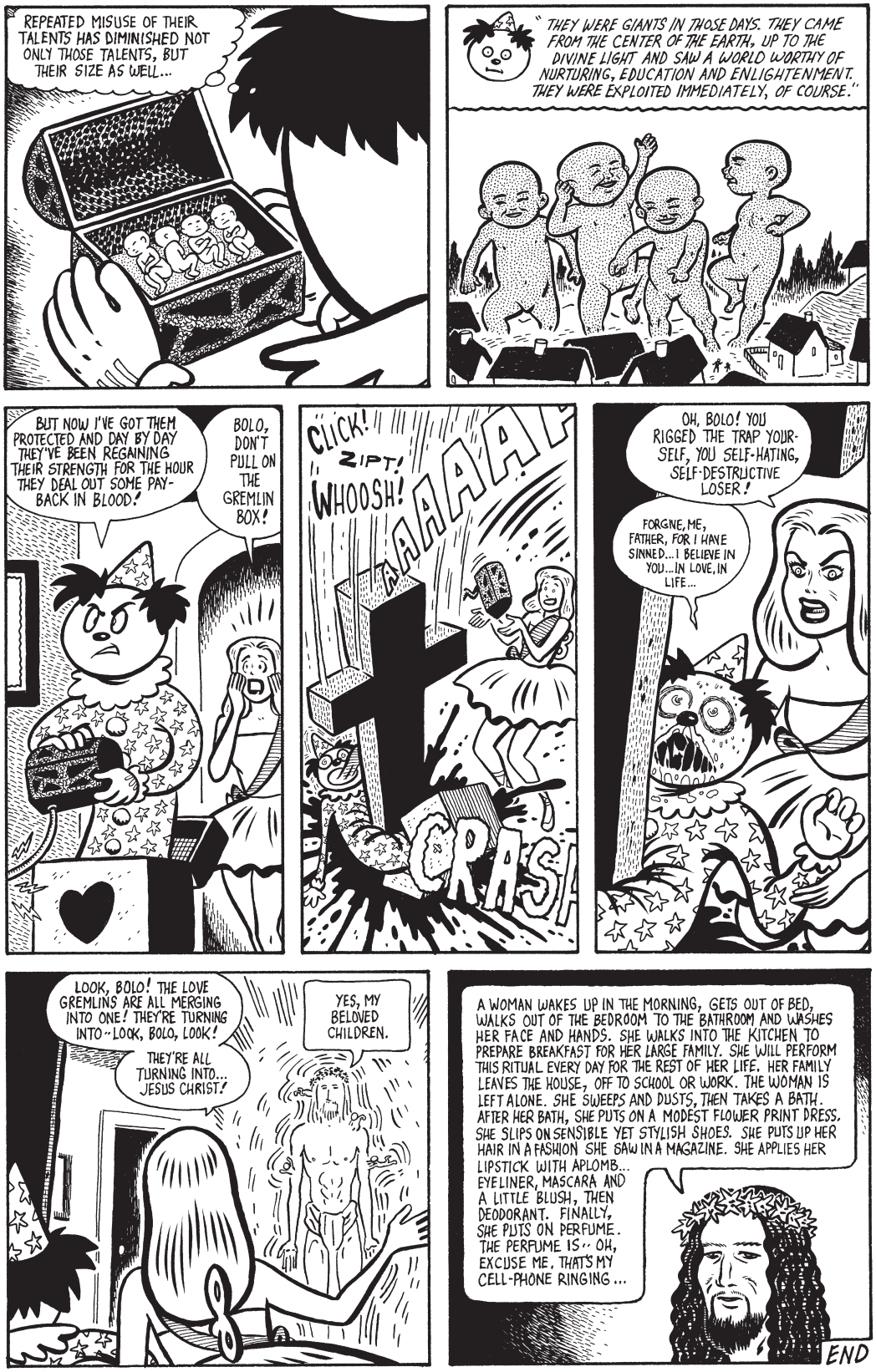

FLECHETTE! STOP WASTING THE THE LOVE GREMLINS' TALENTS ON YOUR VANITY!
YAH, BOLO! RELAX! THEY'RE THE ONES WHO INSISTED ON GIVING ME A MAKE OVER. YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE IF THEY DON'T GET TO EXPEND SOME ENERGY NOW AND AGAIN.
BETO=96=


WELL, DON'T ENCOURAGE THEM!
THEY'LL DO ANYTHING IF YOU LET THEM, BUT THEY'VE GOT TO SAVE THEIR STRENGTH FOR THE IMPORTANT THINGS.
YES, YES, MY PRETTIES. INTO YOUR BOX OF SLUMBER...


HERE, MR. CRANKY DANK. SOOTHE THEM NERVES.
YES, A BOWL OF CEREAL IS IN ORDER. CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT; HENCE MY NAME BOLO CEREAL.

YUMMSKI YUMMOWSKI!
DON'T YOU WANT SOME?
NO THANKS, I'VE HAD MY LUNCH. BESIDES, I LOATHE THAT CARDBOARD TASTING CRAP, HENCE MY GROOVY NAME FLÉCHETTE INDIGO.
PH··PH··PH··
JESUS WAS A FAILURE!
THAT'S BULLSHIT, BOLO. HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR HIS LEGIONS OF FOLLOWERS?
HE HAS FAILED BECAUSE ONLY A VERY FEW OF HIS FLOCK FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS! MOST BELIEVE THAT BELIEF IN HIS EXISTENCE IS ENOUGH! IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE RACIST AND MISOGYNIST AND A REPUBLICAN AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS BECAUSE HE WILL FORGIVE!
AH...IF MY THUMBS COULD ONLY FIND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEIR EYE-SOCKETS...
OH, YOU'RE JUST REBELLING AGAINST YOUR RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING AGAIN.
YOU'RE RIGHT··I·· YOU'RE RIGHT, I'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN, NOT GET ALL NUTS AND SHIT...I'M THINKING LIKE A FUCKING SERIAL KILLER THESE DAYS...
KILL'EM ALL...FUCK'EM IN THE BUTT... SURE...
HEH... RELAX...
I'M THINKING REALLY BAD BAD SHIT LATELY, FLETCHETTE! REALLY BAD BAD FUCKING SHIT AND IT'S SO FUCKING WRONG...!
COME INTO THE CHURCH WITH ME AND PRAY. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
YES...THIS USED TO WORK WHEN I WAS A KID... ALWAYS FELT BETTER FOR A BIT AFTERWARDS BEFORE THE HORROR RENEWED IT-SELF FROM WITHIN--TO BE PURGED ONCE MORE.
DEAR GOD, HELP ME TO RELAX AND TO MAKE PEACE WITH MY INNER DEMONS. I WANT TO HAVE THE INNER PEACE OTHERS SEEM TO ENJOY NOW AND AGAIN.
AM I NOT ENTITLED?

STEP INTO A CONFESSIONAL AND HAVE A PRIEST LISTEN TO YOUR TROUBLES.
THAT I WILL NOT DO!
GOD SUCKS!
THAT'S IT! TAKE YOUR SELF-PITYING, YOUR SELF-LOATHING, YOUR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BULLSHIT AND SHOVE IT, BOLO!
GO THEN! GO AND LIVE IN QUIVERING, SNIVELING FEAR OF A PATRIARCH WHO ONLY EXISTS TO SUPPRESS MANKIND'S DEVELOPMENT AS A HIGHER ORDER!
I'M NOT TURNING AROUND THIS TIME. I'M NOT APOLOGIZING THIS TIME. THIS TIME I KEEP WALKING FORWARD!
THAT'S IT, BOLO; FORWARD! NOT BACKWARD OR SITTING IN THE MIDDLE LIKE SOME ACCURSED PETRIFIED BOWEL MOVEMENT!
FORWARD··! TOWARD THE LIGHT OF··OF FREEDOM!
TO ANOTHER BOWL O' CEREAL!
THANK YOU, MY DEAR. NOW STAND BACK AND WATCH THE MASTER!
SHIT.
FLÉCHETTE'S GOT THE LOVE GREMLINS BACK AT THE HOUSE.
THEIR POWER IS MUCH TOO GREAT FOR ANY ONE PERSON TO CONTROL. ESPECIALLY A FLAKE LIKE FLÉCHETTE INDIGO.
INDIGO. WHAT IS IT WITH WOMEN AND THE COLOR INDIGO?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S HOME. SHE'S PROBABLY OUT THINKING UP NEW IDEAS FOR WASTING THE LOVE GREMLINS' POWERS, LIKE WASTING IT ON HELPING THE HOMELESS, WHEN THE HOMELESS WILL ONLY GET BACK ON THEIR FEET IF LEFT ALONE TO DO IT THEMSELVES!
WAIT. THAT DIDN'T COME OUT RIGHT.


REPEATED MISUSE OF THEIR TALENTS HAS DIMINISHED NOT ONLY THOSE TALENTS, BUT THEIR SIZE AS WELL...
"THEY WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS. THEY CAME FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, UP TO THE DIVINE LIGHT AND SAW A WORLD WORTHY OF NURTURING, EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT. THEY WERE EXPLOITED IMMEDIATELY, OF COURSE."
BUT NOW I'VE GOT THEM PROTECTED AND DAY BY DAY THEY'VE BEEN REGAINING THEIR STRENGTH FOR THE HOUR THEY DEAL OUT SOME PAY-BACK IN BLOOD!
BOLO, DON'T PULL ON THE GREMLIN BOX!
CLICK!
ZIPT!
WHOOSH!
AAAAAA
CRASH
OH, BOLO! YOU RIGGED THE TRAP YOUR-SELF, YOU SELF-HATING, SELF-DESTRUCTIVE LOSER!
FORGIVE, ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED...I BELIEVE IN YOU...IN LOVE, IN LIFE...
LOOK, BOLO! THE LOVE GREMLINS ARE ALL MERGING INTO ONE! THEY'RE TURNING INTO--LOOK, BOLO, LOOK!
THEY'RE ALL TURNING INTO... JESUS CHRIST!
YES, MY BELOVED CHILDREN.
A WOMAN WAKES UP IN THE MORNING, GETS OUT OF BED, WALKS OUT OF THE BEDROOM TO THE BATHROOM AND WASHES HER FACE AND HANDS. SHE WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN TO PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR HER LARGE FAMILY. SHE WILL PERFORM THIS RITUAL EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE. HER FAMILY LEAVES THE HOUSE, OFF TO SCHOOL OR WORK. THE WOMAN IS LEFT ALONE. SHE SWEEPS AND DUSTS, THEN TAKES A BATH. AFTER HER BATH, SHE PUTS ON A MODEST FLOWER PRINT DRESS. SHE SLIPS ON SENSIBLE YET STYLISH SHOES. SHE PUTS UP HER HAIR IN A FASHION SHE SAW IN A MAGAZINE. SHE APPLIES HER LIPSTICK WITH APLOMB... EYELINER, MASCARA AND A LITTLE BLUSH, THEN DEODORANT. FINALLY, SHE PUTS ON PERFUME. THE PERFUME IS-- OH, EXCUSE ME, THAT'S MY CELL-PHONE RINGING...
END

SAINT LUCY

PATRON SAINT OF

BLINDNESS

DIED C. 304

LUCY, THE DAUGHTER OF WEALTHY AND NOBLE PARENTS, WAS A DEDICATED VIRGIN WHO REFUSED ALL OFFERS OF MARRIAGE AND GAVE AWAY HER MATERIAL GOODS TO FEED THE POOR. LEGEND HAS IT THAT LUCY ONCE TORE OUT HER EYES TO DISCOURAGE AN ADMIRER, BUT THEY WERE MIRACULOUSLY RESTORED TO HER. THEN SHE WAS DENOUNCED AS A CHRISTIAN BY A PAGAN SUITOR SHE HAD REJECTED AND WAS SENTENCED TO PROSTITUTION IN A BROTHEL--BUT BY A MIRACLE SHE WAS IMMOVABLE AND THE GUARDS COULD NOT TAKE HER THERE. DIVINE INTERVENTION ALSO SAVED HER FROM BEING BURNED TO DEATH. FINALLY HER THROAT WAS CUT BY A SWORD. LUCY IS WIDELY INVOKED FOR EYE DISEASE, HEMORRHAGE, AND THROAT INFECTIONS.

ST MARTIN DE PORRES

PATRON SAINT OF

RACIAL HARMONY

1579-1639

MARTIN DE PORRES WAS BORN IN LIMA, PERU TO JOHN DE PORRES, A SPANISH KNIGHT, AND ANNA VELASQUEZ, A PANAMANIAN OF AFRICAN DESCENT. JOHN WAS EMBARRASSED BY THE BOY'S DARK COMPLEXION AND LEFT HIM TO ANNA'S CARE. AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN MARTIN JOINED THE DOMINICANS. AS A LAY BROTHER HE WORKED AS A GARDENER, BARBER, AND A FARM LABORER. HE ESTABLISHED AN ORPHANAGE AND NURSED THE CITY'S SICK, CARING FOR THE PLAGUE-STRICKEN AND THE POOR WHATEVER THEIR RACE OR COLOR. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF BLACK SLAVES WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO PERU FROM AFRICA. ANIMALS ALSO BENEFITED FROM HIS CHARITY: HE FORGAVE RATS AND MICE FOR THE DAMAGE THEY DID AND KEPT A HOME FOR ABANDONED CATS AND DOGS IN HIS SISTER'S HOUSE. MARTIN WAS CREDITED WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS DURING HIS LIFE AND MIRACULOUS CURES WERE REPORTED AT HIS TOMB. HE IS RECOGNIZED AS THE PATRON SAINT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, TELEVISION, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PEOPLE OF MIXED RACE.

BETO/96

A GALLERY OF HUMANITARIANS AND BELOVED MARTYRS

SAINT ZITA

PATRON SAINT FOR

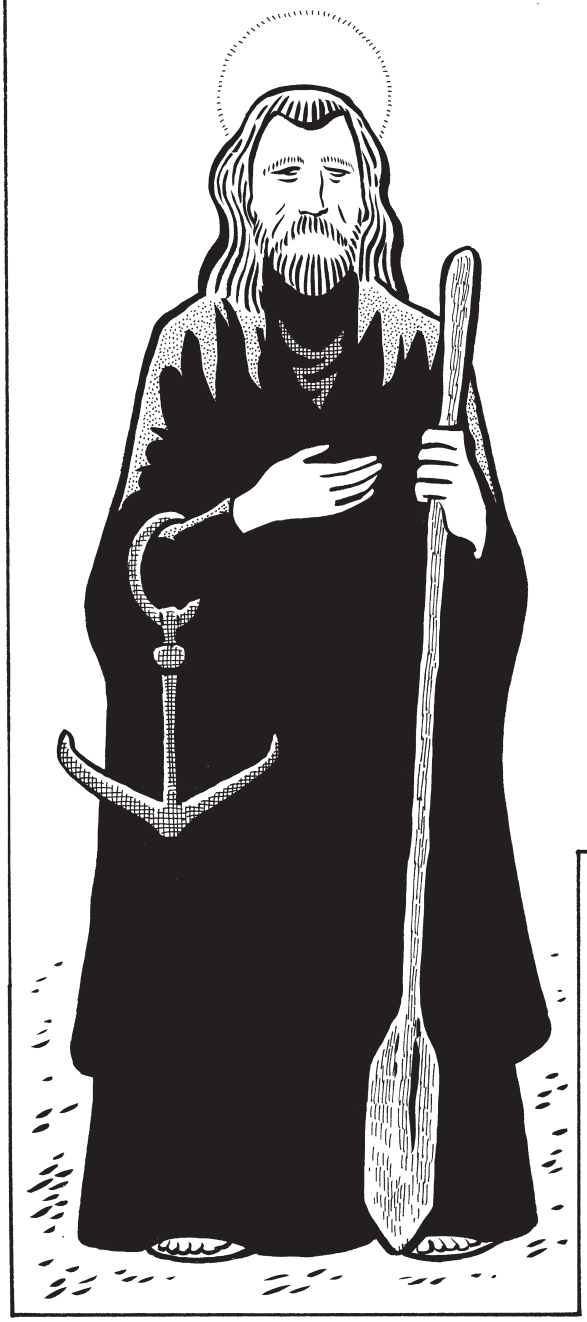
LOSING KEYS

1218 - 1278

ZITA WAS BORN INTO A DEVOUTLY CHRISTIAN FAMILY. SHE BECAME A SERVANT AT THE AGE OF TWELVE AND REMAINED IN THAT HOUSEHOLD UNTIL HER DEATH FORTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER. ZITA'S FELLOW WORKERS RESENTED HER DUE TO HER PUNCTILIOUS DEDICATION TO HER DUTIES. SHE INFURIATED HER MASTER WITH HER LAVISH GENEROSITY TO THE POOR: SHE GAVE HER OWN FOOD TO THEM AND OFTEN GAVE HER BED TO A BEGGAR AND SPENT THE NIGHT SLEEPING ON THE GROUND. EVENTUALLY, SHE WON THE CONFIDENCE OF SERVANTS AND EMPLOYER ALIKE. ZITA WAS FREED FROM MUCH OF HER DOMESTIC WORK SO THAT SHE COULD DEVOTE HERSELF TO CARING FOR THE SICK AND POOR AND MINISTERING TO PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH. MIRACLES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO HER DURING HER LIFE: ONCE ANGELS BAKED BREAD ON HER BEHALF WHILE SHE PRAYED. BECAUSE HER WORK WAS PART OF HER RELIGION SHE IS INVOKED BY HOUSEWIVES AND MAIDSERVANTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY LOSE THEIR KEYS.

A GALLERY OF HUMANITARIANS AND BELOVED MARTYRS

SAINT JUDE



PATRON SAINT OF

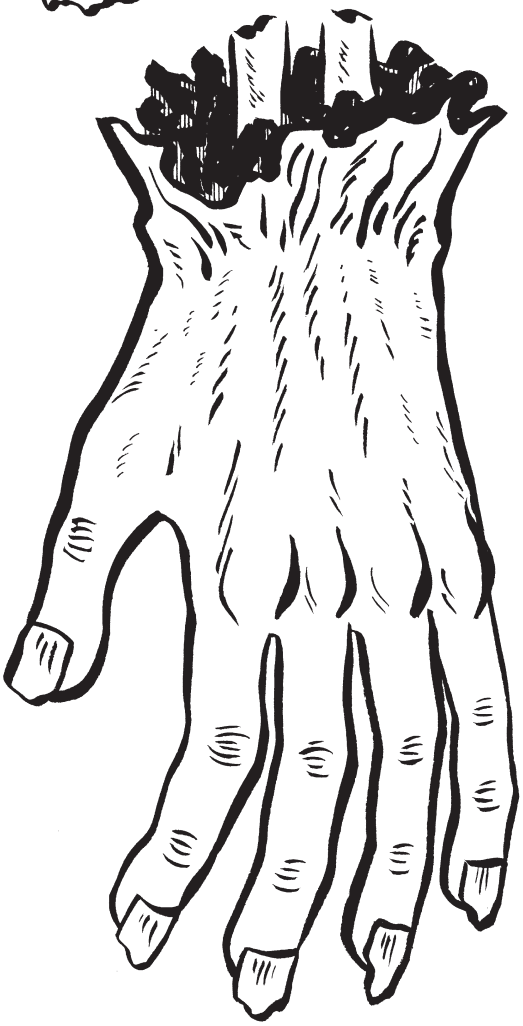
LOST CAUSES

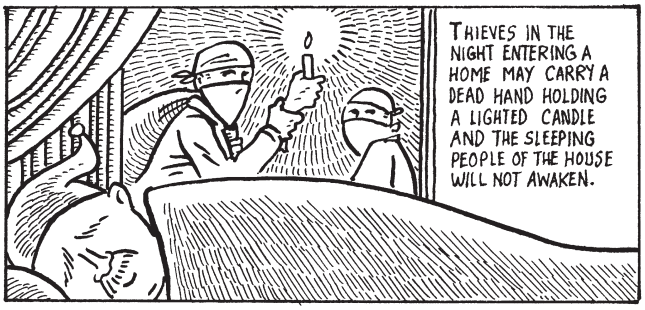
FIRST CENTURY ••

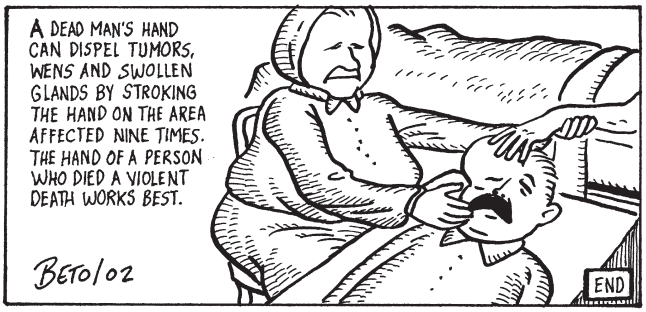
JUDE WAS ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES. ALSO CALLED *THADDEUS*, HE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE AUTHOR OF THE EPISTLE OF JUDE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. HE WAS VENERATED IN THE MIDDLE AGES, BUT HIS CULT SUFFERED AS HIS NAME BECAME CONFUSED WITH THAT OF *JUDAS ISCARIOT*, CHRIST'S BETRAYER. FOR CENTURIES NO ONE WOULD INVOKE HIM FOR ANYTHING -- HENCE HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP PEOPLE EVEN IN THE MOST DESPERATE SITUATIONS. JUDE WAS MARTYRED WITH ARROWS, OR JAVELINS, OR ON A CROSS.

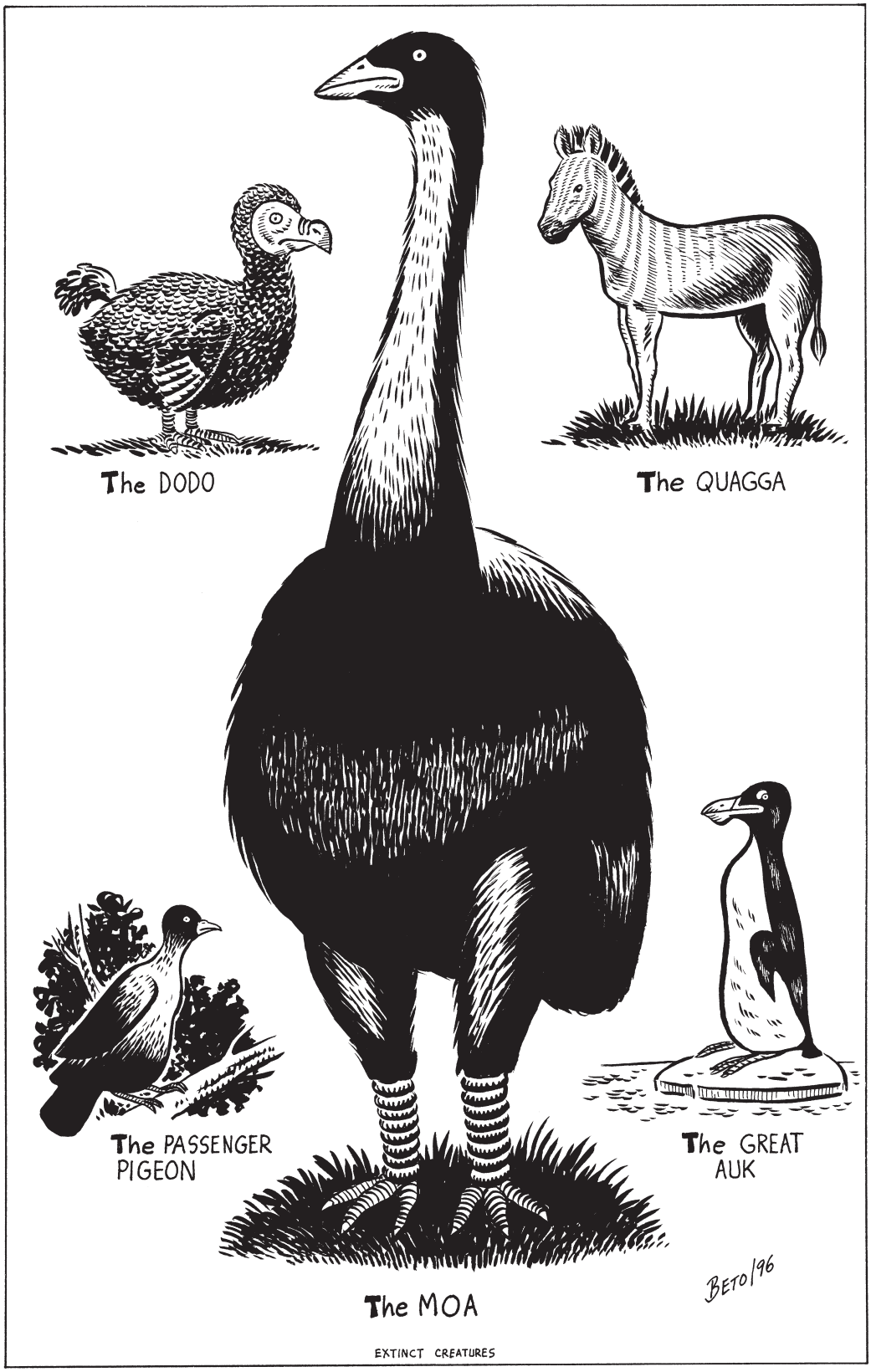
BETO/96

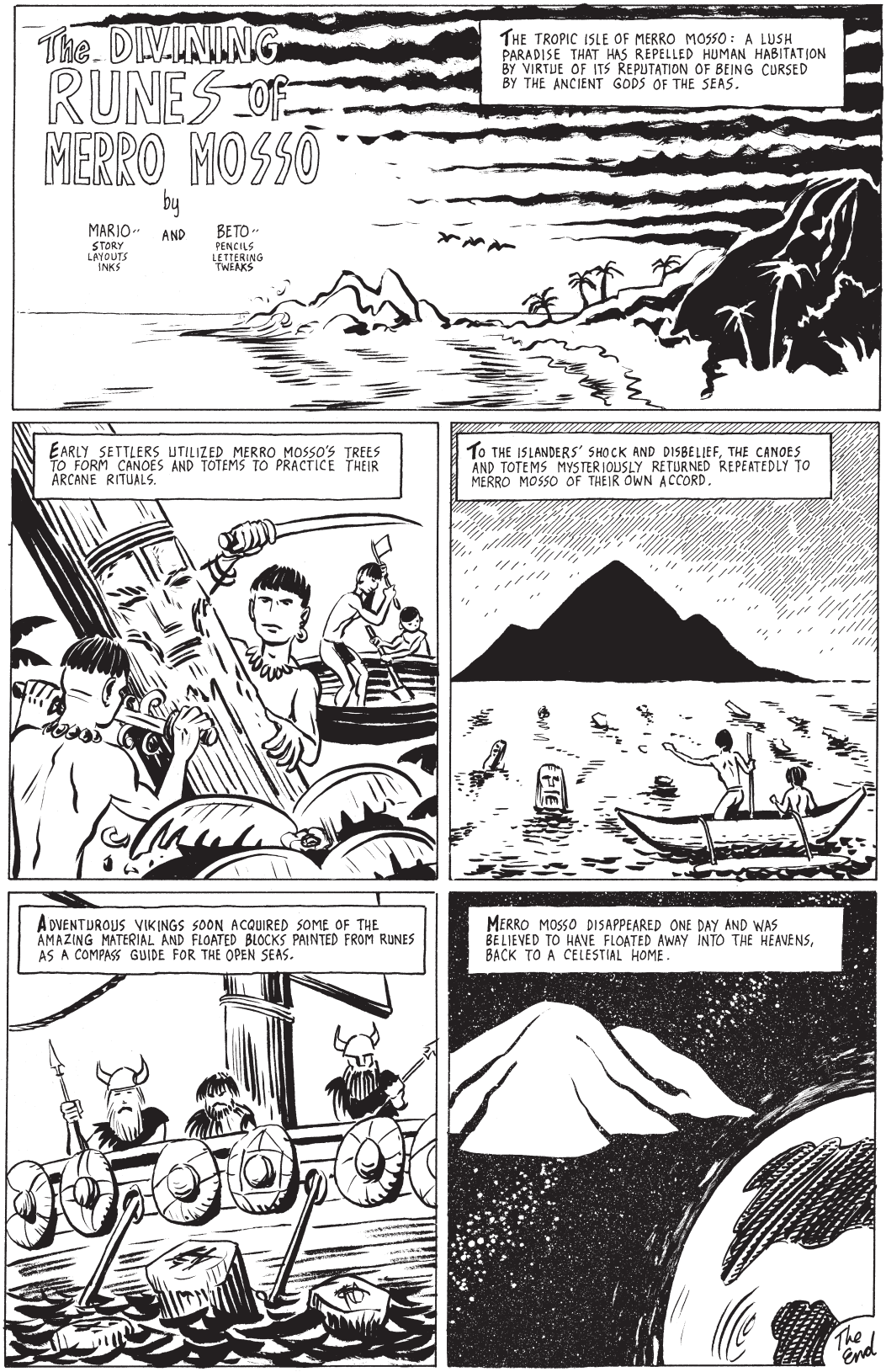
PRESENTS TRADITIONAL USES FOR A CORPSE'S HAND








The DODO
The QUAGGA
The PASSENGER PIGEON
The GREAT AUK
The MOA
BETO/96
EXTINCT CREATURES


The DIVINING RUNES OF MERRO MOSSO
by
MARIO
STORY
LAYOUTS
INKS
AND
BETO
PENCILS
LETTERING
TWEAKS
THE TROPIC ISLE OF MERRO MOSSO: A LUSH PARADISE THAT HAS REPELLED HUMAN HABITATION BY VIRTUE OF ITS REPUTATION OF BEING CURSED BY THE ANCIENT GODS OF THE SEAS.
EARLY SETTLERS UTILIZED MERRO MOSSO'S TREES TO FORM CANOES AND TOTEMS TO PRACTICE THEIR ARCANE RITUALS.
TO THE ISLANDERS' SHOCK AND DISBELIEF, THE CANOES AND TOTEMS MYSTERIOUSLY RETURNED REPEATEDLY TO MERRO MOSSO OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.
ADVENTUROUS VIKINGS SOON ACQUIRED SOME OF THE AMAZING MATERIAL AND FLOATED BLOCKS PAINTED FROM RUNES AS A COMPASS GUIDE FOR THE OPEN SEAS.
MERRO MOSSO DISAPPEARED ONE DAY AND WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FLOATED AWAY INTO THE HEAVENS, BACK TO A CELESTIAL HOME.
The end

GLORIFIED MAGNIFIED

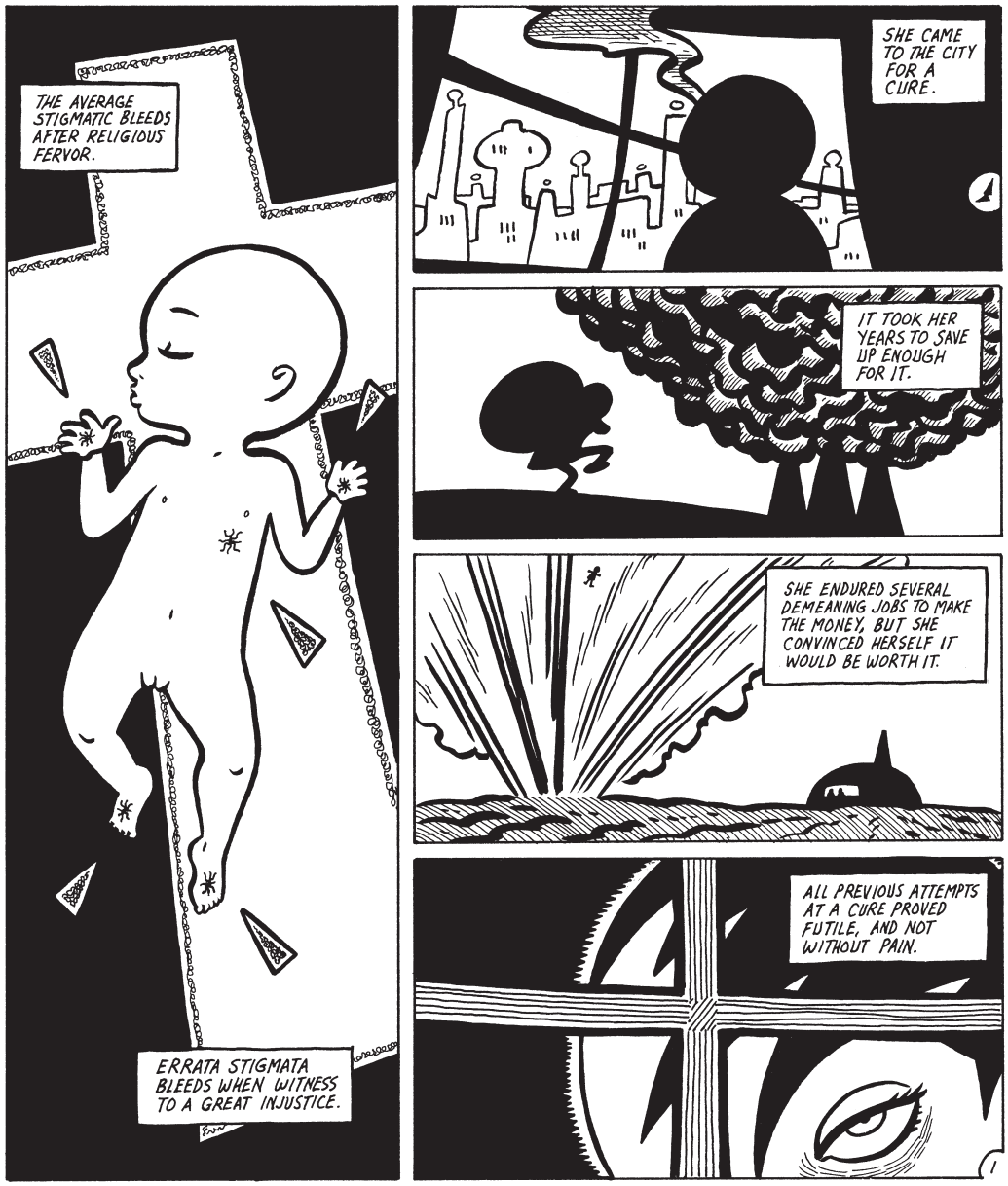
Y'KNOW, GANSO? I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE SUN...
OPEN YOUR EYES!
OPEN YOUR EYES!
OPEN...
WELL HI YA, TOPO OL' PAL!
OH..!
THE LIGHT! THE LIGHT!
PSSST.
THANK YOU, OSO. PLEASE LEAVE US NOW...
OH, TOPO! I TRIED TO WARN YOU...
COME HOME NOW. HOME TO STAY.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID IT... JUST CAN'T SAY NO TO A PRETTY FACE, I GUESS...
HUH...
BETO/97
The END

BOY CHICK
HA HA
HAHAHA!
in "TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS!" by BETO-95
THE EARTH IS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE. I'D SAY I DID A BANG-UP JOB OF IT.
THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO MAKE SURE I HAVEN'T LEFT ANYTHING OUT.
GOD, WHAT A BUNCH OF SORRY SAD SACKS! MAYBE I DID TOO WELL.
NOT!
HI, I'M YOUR HOST KENNEDY AND I AM MTV'S RESIDENT PUSTULANT, RUNNING SORE.
HEY, MAN! I WAS ONLY WALKING HERE!
INTO THE CAR, NIGGER!
HA HA HAA!
GOOD SHOW!
COOLIO
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRAY WITH ME IN PRIVATE, MY BOY?
OK!
YES!
BEFORE I ATTEND THE ANTI-CHOICE RALLY, I'LL CHECK OUT THE LOCAL AIDS HOSPICE.
HEY MEPHISTO! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY AND TAKE CREDIT FOR AIDS, ARE YOU?
THAT'S GOD'S WILL!
END
©1995 GILBERT HERNANDEZ

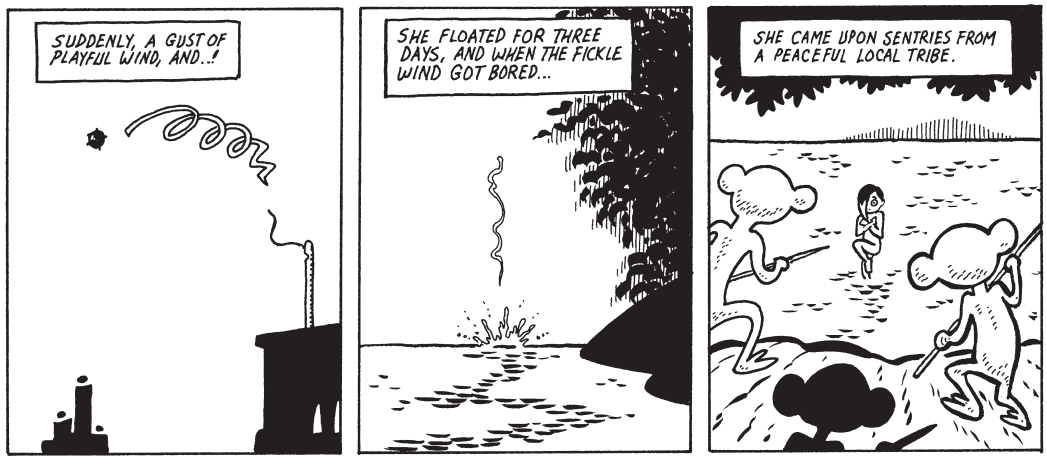
MOSQUITO
BETO/96
AH HA HA HA HAA
I STOLE ALL THEIR BLOOD!
HA HA HEEE
SISSYS! I'VE BEEN KILLING BEFORE I LEARNED TO WALK!
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO KILL ME?
HEE HEE HAAA
HURRY, FLAMES! I CAN'T WAIT TO DO MORE HARM!
HA HA HAA!
AND SO THE MOSQUITO IS BORN TO STEAL ALL THE BLOOD IN THE WORLD.
The End

ERRATIC STIGMATIC

STIGMATA: OPEN SORES CORRESPONDING IDENTICALLY TO THE WOUNDS SUFFERED ON THE CRUCIFIED BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

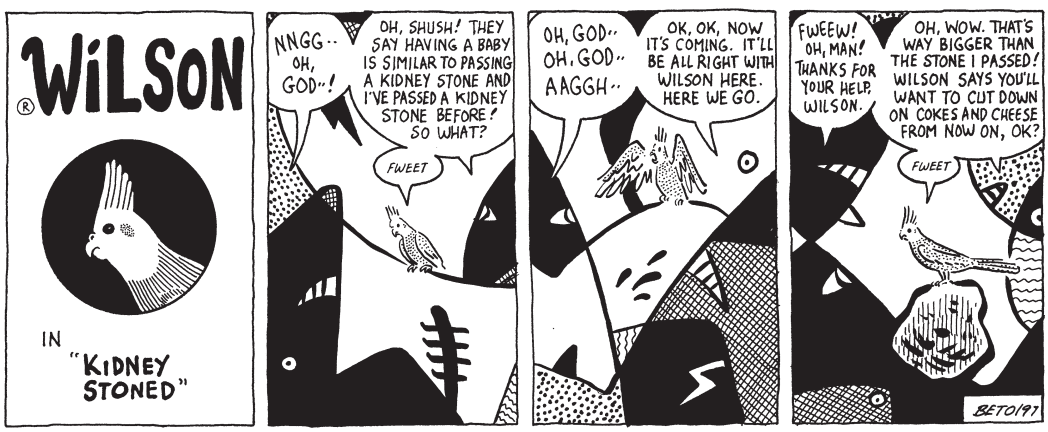


DR. ZANDER DADDIE APPLIED THE CATWALADER METHOD ONLY TO BE ARRESTED FOR SOLICITING.
WHEN DR. SIGMUND ZIF PULLED THE SWITCH, WHO COULD PREDICT THE HOSTILE REACTION FROM THE I.R.S?
THE OLD TECHNIQUES ARE STILL BEST, ACCORDING TO DR. OOT, YET SHE USED ALL NEW DEVICES.
THE MOMENT ERRATA STEPPED AWAY FROM THE CONCLUSION OF A TREATMENT, SOME INJUSTICE WOULD SHOW ITSELF AND ALL BETS WERE OFF.
NOW AND AGAIN A TREATMENT WOULD DELIVER A BELATED EFFECT.
ONCE SHE COULD HOLD HER BREATH FOR NINE AND A HALF HOURS.
SHE MET THE SHY DR. PUPUFFNIC IN AN ELEVATOR AND HE RECOGNIZED HER AFFLICTION SIMPLY BY LOOKING INTO HER EYE.
UNDER SEDATION SHE HAD SWEET DREAMS OF SMOKING AGAIN.
DR PUPUFFNIC SET ERRATA OUT TO DRY BEFORE HE TOOK OFF FOR HAWAII.
SHE DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP BUT SHE WAS HOPEFUL.
2


SUDDENLY, A GUST OF PLAYFUL WIND, AND..!
SHE FLOATED FOR THREE DAYS, AND WHEN THE FICKLE WIND GOT BORED...
SHE CAME UPON SENTRIES FROM A PEACEFUL LOCAL TRIBE.

IT WAS A RACE OF STIGMATICS LIVING THERE. ERRATA HAD FOUND A PLACE SHE COULD BELONG. VERY CLEVER OF DR. PUPUFFNIC, SHE THOUGHT.
AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF LIVING WITH THE KIND STIGMATICS, ERRATA GREW WEARY AND IRRITATED: HER ONUS WAS NO LONGER UNIQUE.

SHE CONTINUES HER SEARCH FOR A CURE...
BETO -01-


WILSON®
IN "KIDNEY STONED"
NNGG.. OH, GOD..!
OH, SHUSH! THEY SAY HAVING A BABY IS SIMILAR TO PASSING A KIDNEY STONE AND I'VE PASSED A KIDNEY STONE BEFORE! SO WHAT?
FWEET
OH, GOD.. OH, GOD.. AAGGH..
OK, OK, NOW IT'S COMING. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT WITH WILSON HERE. HERE WE GO.
FWEEW! OH, MAN! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, WILSON.
OH, WOW. THAT'S WAY BIGGER THAN THE STONE I PASSED! WILSON SAYS YOU'LL WANT TO CUT DOWN ON COKES AND CHEESE FROM NOW ON, OK?
FWEET
BETO/97

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO..?

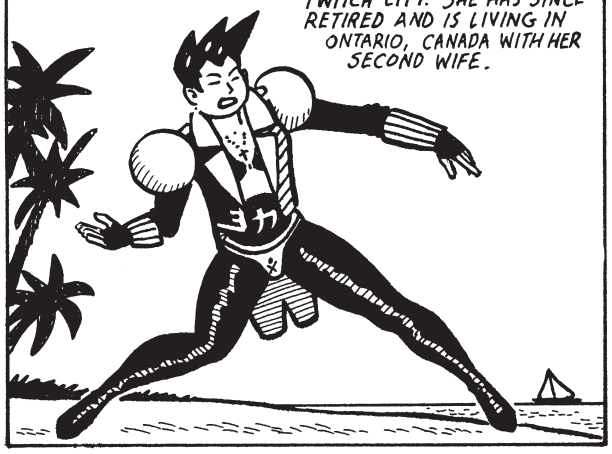
BETO/04

CASTLE RADIUM: THE SUPERHERO DETECTIVE TRIED TO GET INTO THE MAINSTREAM, EVEN HUMILIATING HIMSELF BY AUDITIONING IN A COLORFUL, SPANDEX OUTFIT. HE WAS REJECTED AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE.

INEZ AND BANG BANG: THE TWO ADVENTURESSES WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST IN A MINESHAFT DISASTER IN JALISCO, MEXICO. DON'T BELIEVE IT.

ERRATA STIGMATA: OUR STIGMATIC SIREN FAILED AT SEVERAL COMEBACKS. SHE GOT WISE, QUIT COMICS AND IS NOW HAPPY LIVING IN OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, USA, WITH HER HUSBAND AND FIVE CHILDREN.

EMICO: THE SCIENCE POLICEWOMAN WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF AFTER CLEANING UP MUCH OF THE GRAFT IN NEW TWITCH CITY. SHE HAS SINCE RETIRED AND IS LIVING IN ONTARIO, CANADA WITH HER SECOND WIFE.



LEONOR AND BABE: THE COUPLE ARE RUMORED TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF CASTLE RADIUM, INEZ AND BANG BANG. THEY ASSURE US THAT EVERYBODY'S DOING WELL AND TO THANK ALL YOU READERS FOR YOUR CONCERN.

ROY

BETO/97

ROY, WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT PICTURE UP?

SO THAT EVERYDAY I'M REMINDED OF THE SANCTITY OF OUR INDIVIDUALITY, JUDITH.

SHE IS PRETTY UGLY, ROY.

BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, JUDITH.

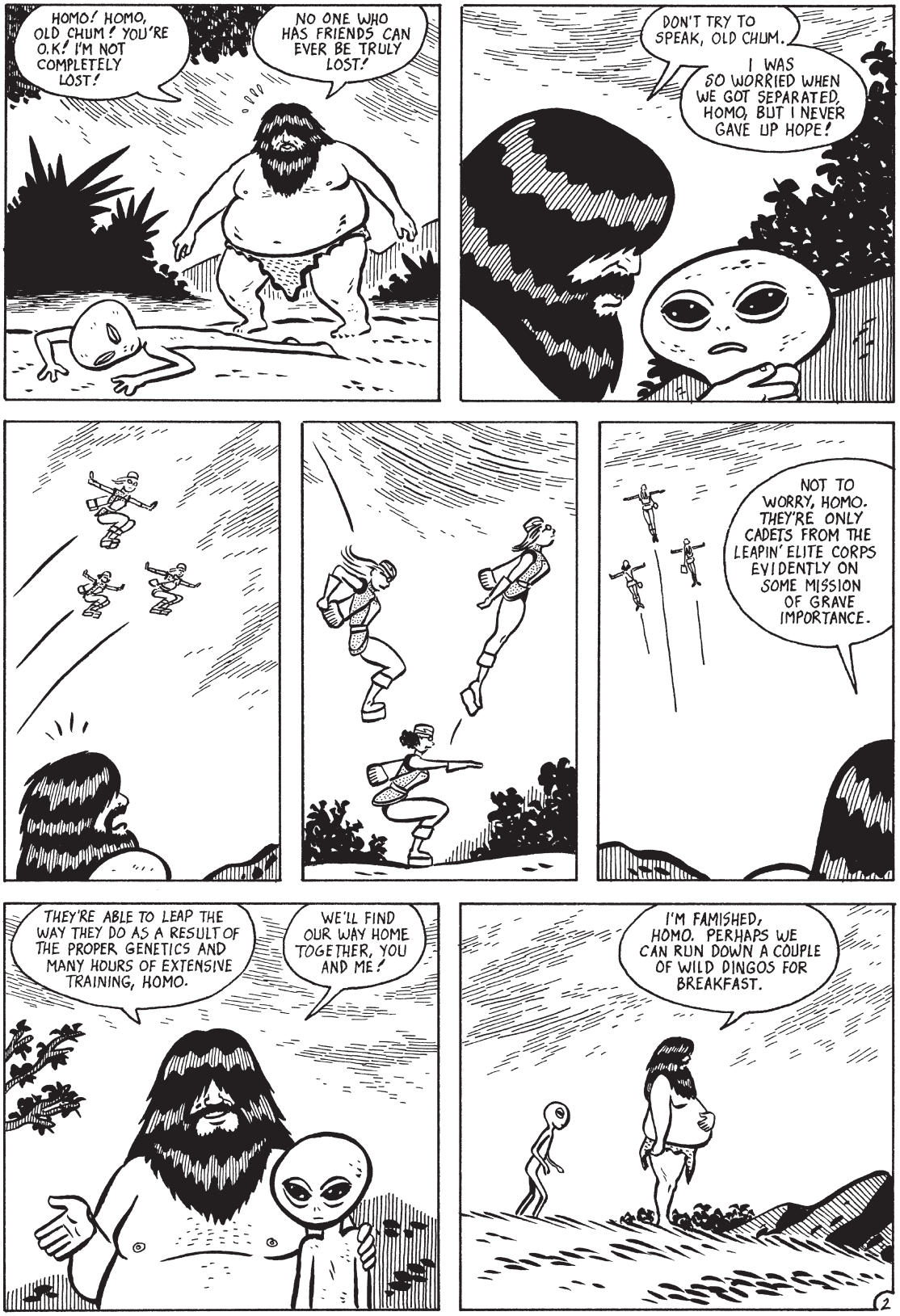
C'MON. WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE SHOW, ROY.

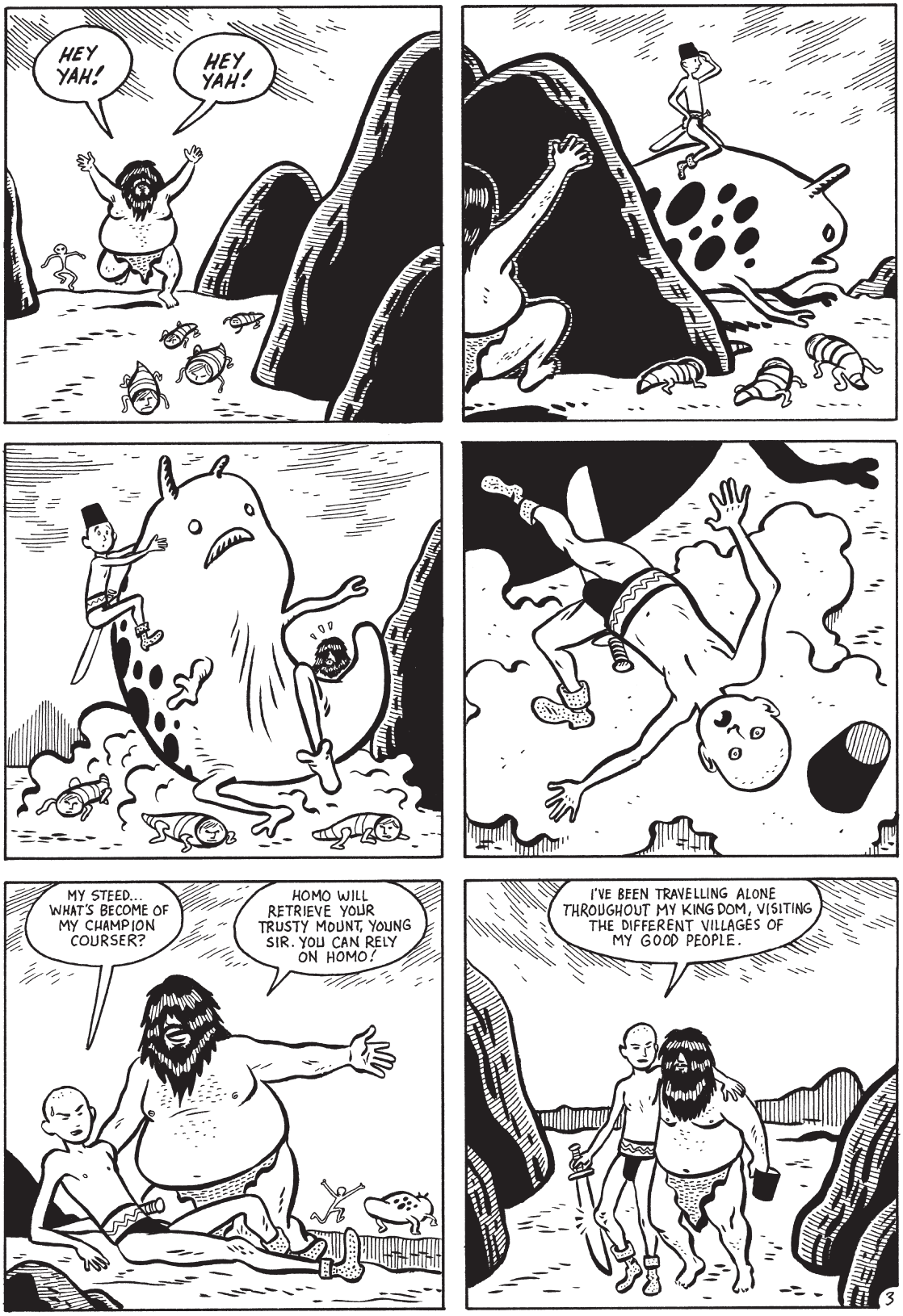
THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW IT. THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW SHIRLEY TEMPLE TO GROW UP. THEY WANTED HER TO BE LITTLE ALWAYS. SHE REFUSED THEM AND GREW UP AND THEY DUMPED HER, LIKE SO MUCH REFUSE.
AND THEN HER TWIN CAME RIGHT ALONG AND GREW UP AND THEY LET HER. THEY LET MARILYN MONROE GROW UP BUT NOT TO GET OLD. SO THEY KILLED HER AS NOT TO GET OLD, BUT THEY STILL FUCK HER IN HER BEAUTIFUL DEATH.
FUCK A DUCK.
WAIT, JUST A MINUTE, JUDITH.
OH, NO, ROY! DON'T GIVE ANY MORE MONEY! THAT'S THE THIRD PERSON TODAY!
WHAT IF THE MONEY'S ONLY USED TO BUY DRUGS?
THAT'S JUST A CHANCE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE, JUDITH.
HERE YOU GO...
TEN DOLLARS?! THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE ON YOU, ROY! WHAT ABOUT OUR SHOW?
WELL...I'D PREFER A NICE WALK ANYHOW. I WOULD'VE ONLY GOT POPCORN AND A COKE AND CANDY ANYWAY, OK?
IT'S ONE THING IF A PERSON LOSES HIS JOB OR HIS HOME, BUT WHEN A PERSON LOSES HIS SPIRIT·· THEN IT'S AKIN TO LOSING ONE'S MIND AND THAT CAN BE THE LOWEST DEPTH TO CRAWL FROM, JUDITH.
TO LOSE YOUR SPIRIT IS TO LOSE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.
PFFFFFT.
OH, WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE··!!
AW, Y'BIG GOOFY.
HEH HEH.
2

ROY, THEY ARE REALLY HAPPY UPSTAIRS WITH THE RESULTS OF YOUR THEORY ON THE TEMPLE/ MONROE LINEAGE. WE'RE TALKING MAJOR UPGRADING OF ALL THE SALARIES IN OUR DEPARTMENT!
WELL--
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, ROY. THIS PUTS US WITH THE TOP FIVE OUTFITS IN THE U.S.!
WHAT THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW NEXT IS, WHO TOOK IT UP AFTER MONROE!
TOOK IT UP WHAT?
HUH HUH HUH!
BUT WHO? WHO CAME AFTER MONROE? AND I DON'T MEAN THE UMPTEENTH PALE IMITATION OF HER; THE-THE TRUE NEW ICON OF OUR SHARED DREAMS, OUR--
OH, WHERE ARE THE WORDS..?!
LISTEN.
FUCK POSTMODERNISM OR POSTMODERN MODERNISM OR POST POSTMODERNISM--WHATEVER THEY'RE CALLING IT NOW, OK?
DO NOT MIX POP AND ART IF YOU WANT TO TRULY PROGRESS. ONE OR THE OTHER, BUT NOT BOTH. IT IS SURE DEATH TO CONTINUE.
LET ME UNDERSTAND THIS, NUMBER SIXTY. YOU APPROPRIATED OUR BILLION AND A HALF DOLLAR A YEAR TEMPLE/ MONROE THEORY FROM A HOMELESS PERSON?
YOU HIRE THIS ONE PERSON YOU CAN REPLACE THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, SIR.
WHAT WAS HE THINKING? MY GOD, WHAT POSSESSED HIM?
POOR ROY.
POOR ROY? FUCK HIM! IF HE HAD KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT--
AT LEAST HE MAINTAINED HIS INTEGRITY! HIS DIGNITY! HIS INDIVIDUALITY!
...AT LEAST HE MAINTAINED HIS SPIRIT, WHEREVER HE IS.
THE END

EXTEND THE HAND OF LOVE TO ALL WHO CAN USE IT

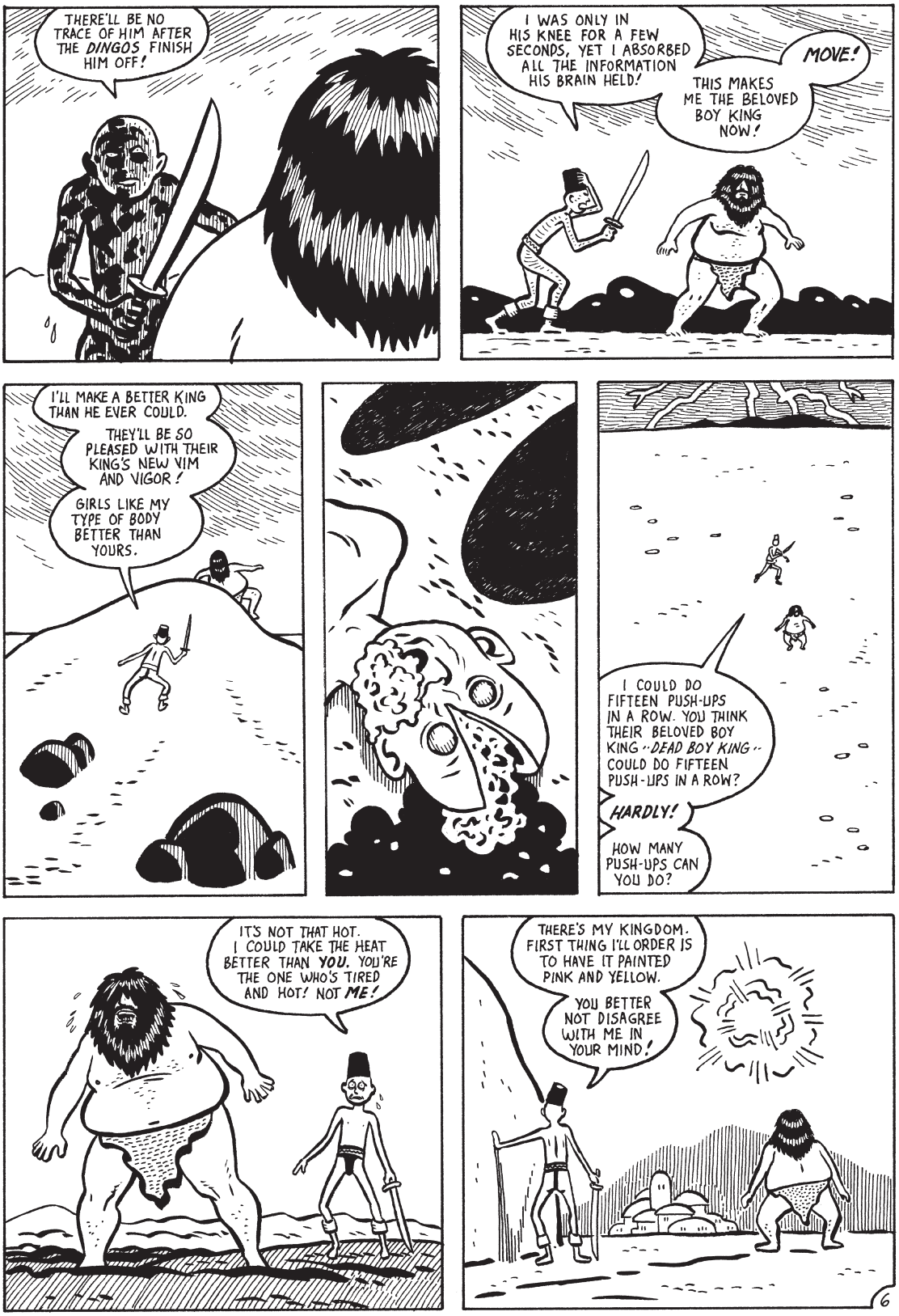
BY BETO 00


HOMO! HOMO, OLD CHUM! YOU'RE O.K! I'M NOT COMPLETELY LOST!
NO ONE WHO HAS FRIENDS CAN EVER BE TRULY LOST!
DON'T TRY TO SPEAK, OLD CHUM.
I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN WE GOT SEPARATED, HOMO, BUT I NEVER GAVE UP HOPE!
NOT TO WORRY, HOMO. THEY'RE ONLY CADETS FROM THE LEAPIN' ELITE CORPS EVIDENTLY ON SOME MISSION OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE.
THEY'RE ABLE TO LEAP THE WAY THEY DO AS A RESULT OF THE PROPER GENETICS AND MANY HOURS OF EXTENSIVE TRAINING, HOMO.
WE'LL FIND OUR WAY HOME TOGETHER, YOU AND ME!
I'M FAMISHED, HOMO. PERHAPS WE CAN RUN DOWN A COUPLE OF WILD DINGOS FOR BREAKFAST.


HEY YAH!
HEY YAH!
MY STEED... WHAT'S BECOME OF MY CHAMPION COURSER?
HOMO WILL RETRIEVE YOUR TRUSTY MOUNT, YOUNG SIR. YOU CAN RELY ON HOMO!
I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING ALONE THROUGHOUT MY KINGDOM, VISITING THE DIFFERENT VILLAGES OF MY GOOD PEOPLE.
3

I'VE LEARNED FIRST HAND THAT THE TRANQUILITY IN THEIR LIVES IS TRULY SOMETHING TO CHERISH, KIND ACOLYTE.
WHAT A NICE FELLOW. WERE EVERY POTENTATE AS LOVING OF HIS SUBJECTS.
HE'S FAST ASLEEP.
THE STRESS OF OVERSEEING NINETY THOUSAND PLUS ACRES CAN WEAR ON SUCH A YOUNG DESPOT'S CONSTITUTION.
HOMO!
HOMO!
DID MY COMMON SHOUTS DISTURB HIS ROYAL SLUMBER?
BY THE BELLS OF OLD BOWIE!
A PAINFUL TURN OF EVENTS TO BE SURE, MY FERAL FRIEND.
4

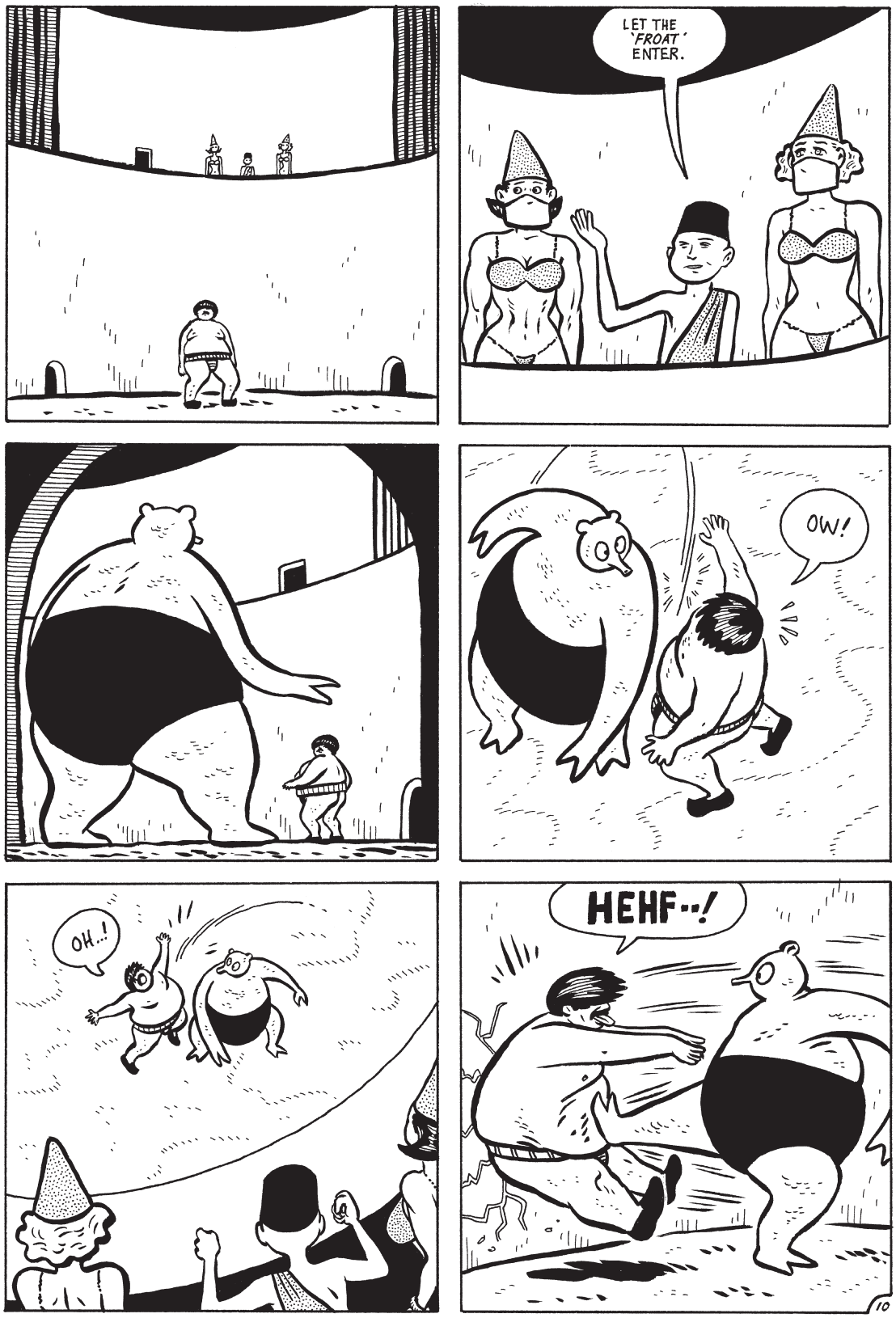
QUICKLY!
STEP BACK AROUND AND PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR MONARCH..!
MOTHER OF GOD!
MUDE
FREE!
HA!
HEE HEE!
5


THERE'LL BE NO TRACE OF HIM AFTER THE DINGOS FINISH HIM OFF!
I WAS ONLY IN HIS KNEE FOR A FEW SECONDS, YET I ABSORBED ALL THE INFORMATION HIS BRAIN HELD!
MOVE!
THIS MAKES ME THE BELOVED BOY KING NOW!
I'LL MAKE A BETTER KING THAN HE EVER COULD.
THEY'LL BE SO PLEASED WITH THEIR KING'S NEW VIM AND VIGOR!
GIRLS LIKE MY TYPE OF BODY BETTER THAN YOURS.
I COULD DO FIFTEEN PUSH-UPS IN A ROW. YOU THINK THEIR BELOVED BOY KING "DEAD BOY KING" COULD DO FIFTEEN PUSH-UPS IN A ROW?
HARDLY!
HOW MANY PUSH-UPS CAN YOU DO?
IT'S NOT THAT HOT. I COULD TAKE THE HEAT BETTER THAN YOU. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TIRED AND HOT! NOT ME!
THERE'S MY KINGDOM. FIRST THING I'LL ORDER IS TO HAVE IT PAINTED PINK AND YELLOW.
YOU BETTER NOT DISAGREE WITH ME IN YOUR MIND!
6

CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY OR I'LL TORTURE AND KILL AN INNOCENT OF MY CHOICE.
REMEMBER, I AM THE KING.
MY NAME IS ROY, FAIR MAIDENS. USUALLY I'M A JOVIAL SORT, BUT RECENT EVENTS HAVE PUT A DAMPER ON MY NORMAL GOOD CHEER.
WE THOUGHT THIS LOOK MIGHT SUIT YOU BEST, OH, PRODIGIOUS ONE.
AND SO IT DOES, FAIR ONE! IT'S LIKE THE TWO OF YOU KNEW ME IN A PREVIOUS LIFE, INDEED!
WAIT... I RECOGNIZE YOU GIRLS...YOU'RE SHOUT RAMIREZ AND DINKY DIAZ FROM THE CATHOLIC ORDER OF THE LEAPING ELITE!
UH, ER NO, HONEY; Y'ALL GOT US MIXED UP FER SOMEBODY ELSE!
SOMEBODY ELSE ALSO VERY LOVELY AND HEROIC, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE JUST THE SAME.
WELL, IF YOU WERE SHOUT RAMIREZ AND HER VERY BEST FRIEND DINKY I'D TELL YOU HOW THE BOY KING ISN'T THE BOY KING AT ALL, BUT AN EVIL MURDEROUS CLONE IN HIS PLACE!
7

WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT, OK? NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WALK TOWARD THE 'LIGHT.'
WE'LL MEET AGAIN ON THE 'OTHER' SIDE, OK?
THE 'OTHER' SIDE.
THOSE TWO SURE ARE RINGERS FOR MY OLD FRIENDS FROM THE LEAPIN' ELITE CORPS, WITH THEIR SWEET DISPOSITIONS AND MASSIVE, ROCK HARD MUSCULAR THIGHS.
LEGEND HAS IT THAT OVERTRAINING CAUSED ONE LEAPIN' ELITE CADET'S THIGHS TO BLOW UP SO HUGE SHE WAS UNABLE TO STRADDLE A TOILET SEAT TO ANY GOOD EFFECT.
HELLO?
WHA-WHY, IT'S YOUNG ROY ON CHRISTMAS DAY...! AND MY FOLKS··! MY FOLKS ARE TOGETHER!
:CHOKE!:
THAT WAS THE HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS OF MY LIFE!
I MUST SEE MORE!
8

ANOTHER LIGHTED LETTERBOX?
ANOTHER SWEET MEMORY OF LOST YOUTH, PERHAPS?
DEAR GOD..!
:GASP:
IN PERSON
JACK KIRBY
WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOK ARTIST
COMICS
AND YET ANOTHER?!
WHAT?
WHAT?!
JU-JUDITH!
MY ONE AND ONLY TRUE LOVE..!
AND I'M NOT THERE WITH HER.
WHY...WHY DID I LEAVE IT ALL...ALL BEHIND..? EVERYTHING SO DEAR TO ME..?
I WAS A COWARD, THAT'S WHY. I COULDN'T LIVE IN MY OWN SKIN..!
I SHALL RETURN HOME AND NEVER AGAIN FLEE FROM MY FEARS AND RESPONSIBILITIES!
THIS, I VOW!
THE LIGHT!
TOWARD THE LIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS..!
9

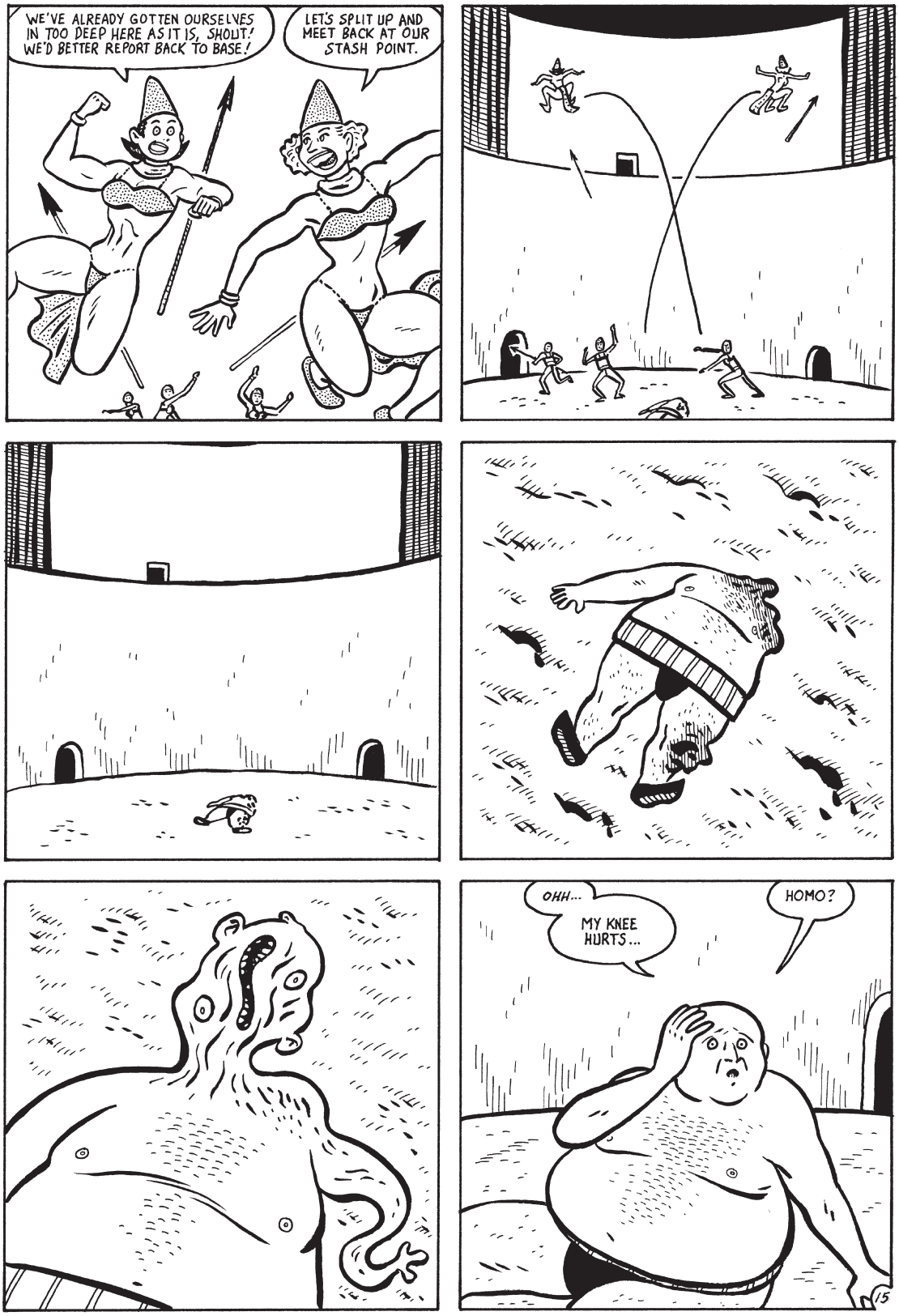

LET THE 'FROAT' ENTER.
OW!
OH..!
HEHF..!
10

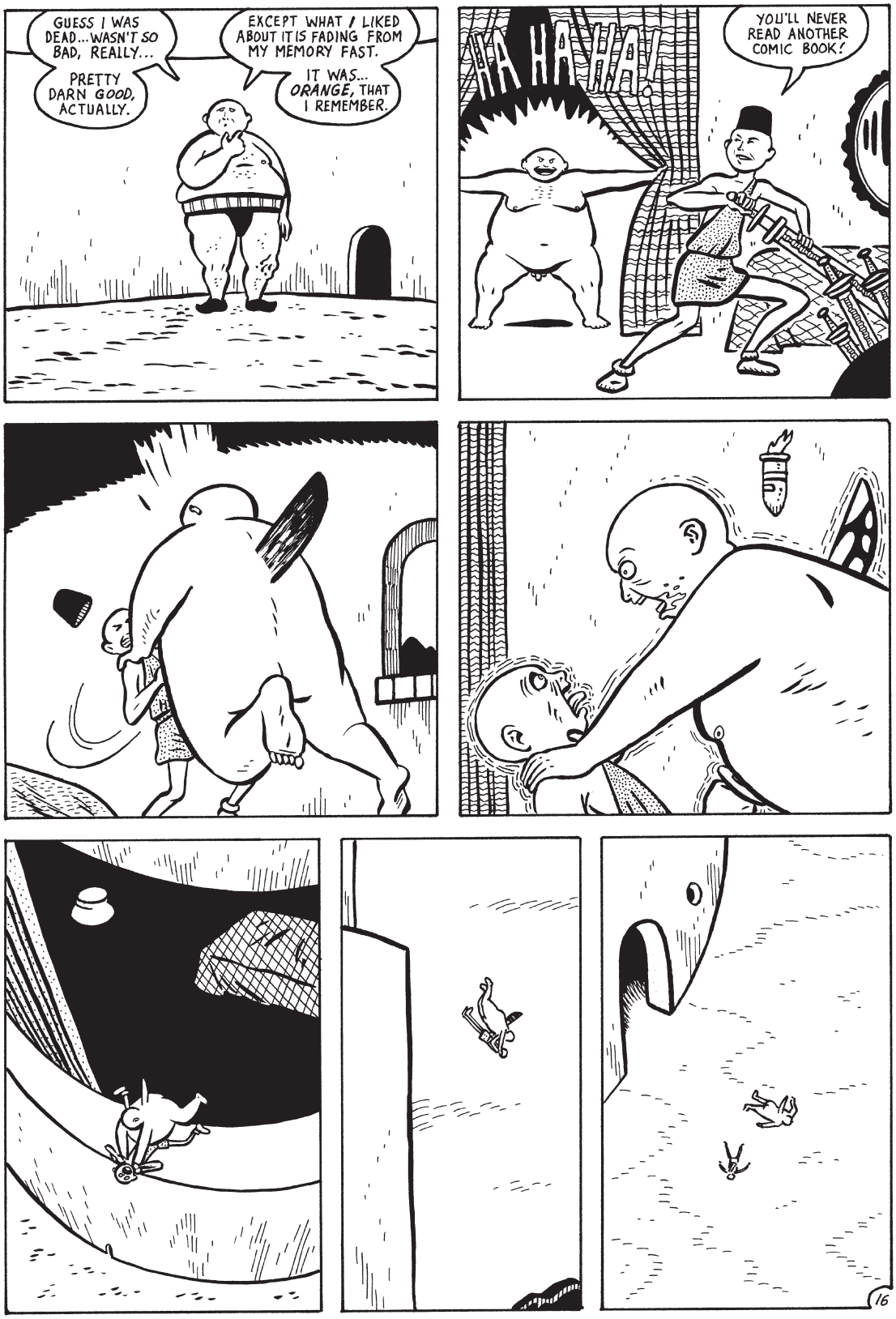
HEAD TWIST BACK..
BACK..
BRAIN SUCK!
HEYAAAAEEEEAA..
SSSUCK..
SIGH..
TIME FOR A MANICURE, I THINK.

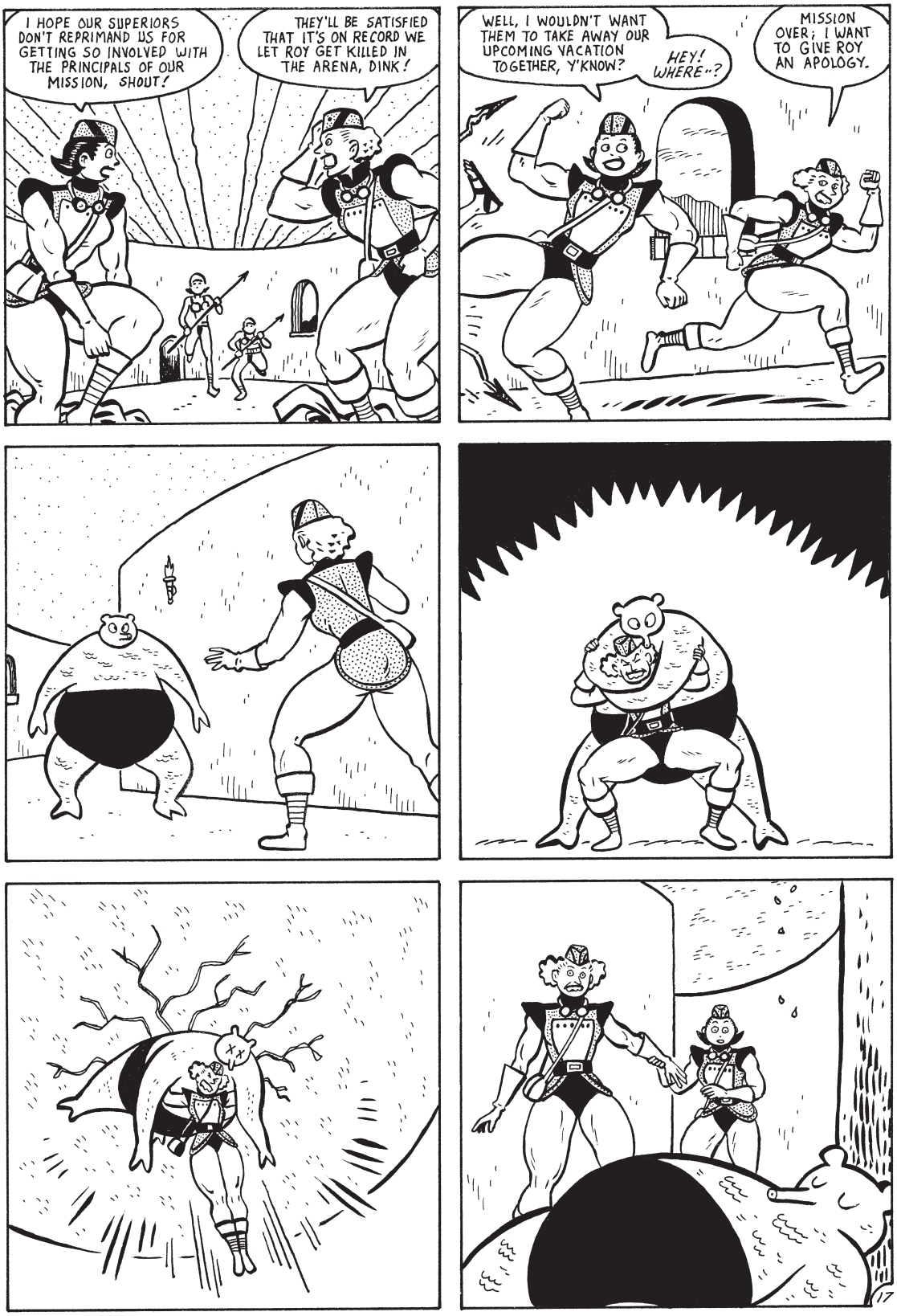
GO AND DRAW MY BATH, GIRL, AND IF THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER IS NOT EXACTLY HOW I LIKE IT, I'LL HAVE *YOU* IN THE ARENA WITH THE *FROAT*!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT, Y'ALL!
YOU AND WHAT ARMY, GIRLIE? I EAT YOUR KIND FOR SNACKS!
12

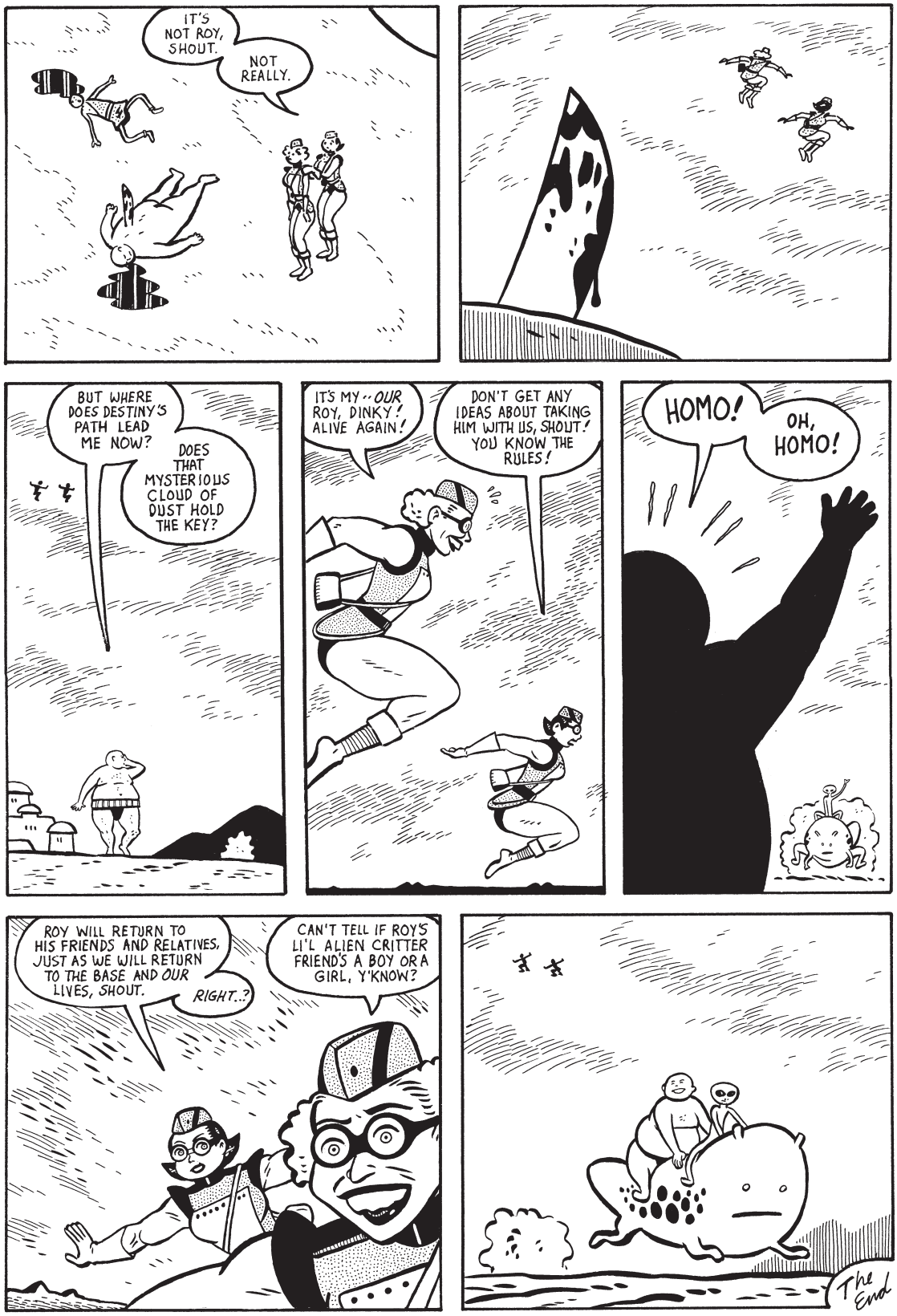
AM I IN TIME?
AS LONG AS Y'ALL GOT ONE OF HIS NAILS, HONEYCHILE.
HELP ME TURN HIM OVER. WORKS BEST WITH THE KNEE.
DON'T CUT YOURSELF WITH IT!
HUSH!
THIS IS TOTALLY AGAINST REGULATIONS, SHOUT!
ROY'S WORTH THE RISK, DINKY.
WE'RE UNDER STRICT ORDERS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LIFE OR DEATH OF ANY CIVILIAN.
THEY DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN' ABOUT NOT BRINGIN' ONE BACK TO LIFE, THOUGH!
SHOUT, IF THIS IS YOUR WAY TO WIN ROY'S HEART...
YOUR ACTIN' THE JEALOUS FOO', DINK.
HOLD HIM.
13

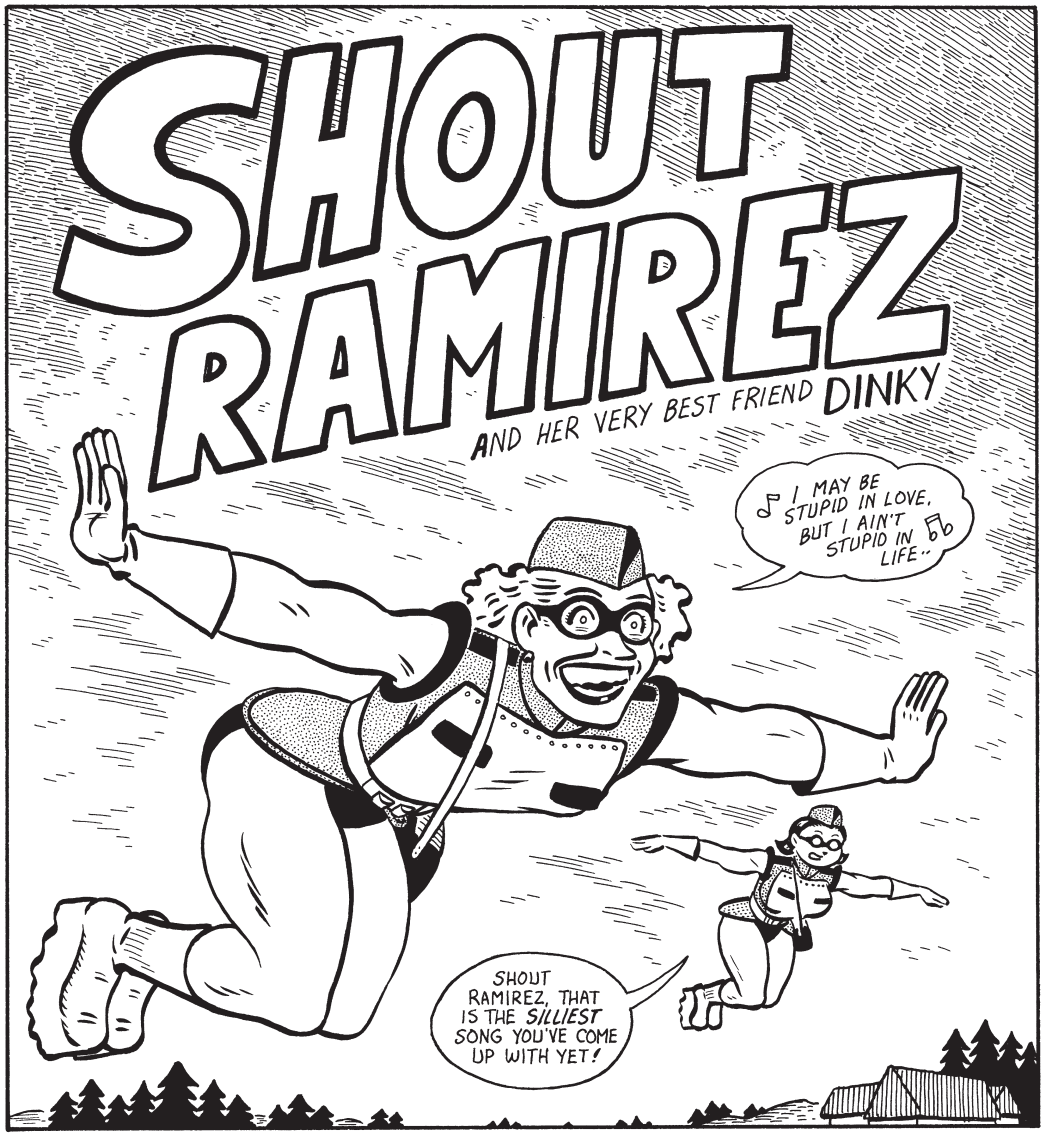
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT YOU LOVE HIM, SHOUT!?
NOW YOU HUSH!
GLAD TO HAVE Y'ALL BACK, ROY!
WELL, AS MUCH ROY AS YOU CAN GET UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS, SHOUT.
THE AIR OF FREEDOM STIRS ME AS I RE-ENTER THE WORLD READY TO DO GOD'S WORK!
SEIZE THEM!
OH WELL, THERE GOES YOUR REASONABLE FACSIMILE DREAMBOAT RUSHING HEADLONG TOWARD CERTAIN DEATH, SHOUT.
NOT IF WE CAN DISTRACT THE GUARDS OURSELVES, DINK!
C'MON!
14


WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN OURSELVES IN TOO DEEP HERE AS IT IS, SHOUT! WE'D BETTER REPORT BACK TO BASE!
LET'S SPLIT UP AND MEET BACK AT OUR STASH POINT.
OHH...
MY KNEE HURTS...
HOMO?
15

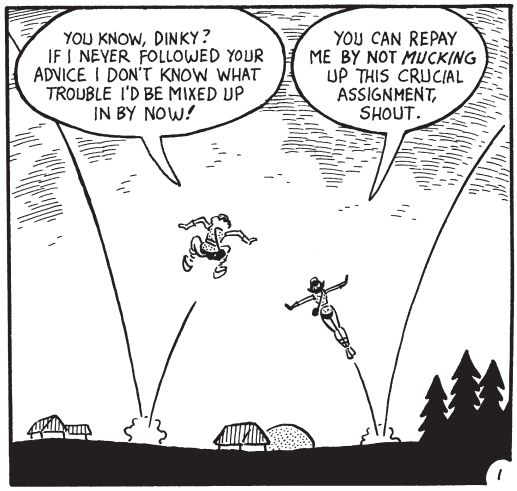

GUESS I WAS DEAD...WASN'T SO BAD, REALLY...
PRETTY DARN GOOD, ACTUALLY.
EXCEPT WHAT I LIKED ABOUT IT IS FADING FROM MY MEMORY FAST.
IT WAS... ORANGE, THAT I REMEMBER.
HA HA HA!
YOU'LL NEVER READ ANOTHER COMIC BOOK!
16


I HOPE OUR SUPERIORS DON'T REPRIMAND US FOR GETTING SO INVOLVED WITH THE PRINCIPALS OF OUR MISSION, SHOUT!
THEY'LL BE SATISFIED THAT IT'S ON RECORD WE LET ROY GET KILLED IN THE ARENA, DINK!
WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO TAKE AWAY OUR UPCOMING VACATION TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?
HEY! WHERE..?
MISSION OVER; I WANT TO GIVE ROY AN APOLOGY.


IT'S NOT ROY, SHOUT.
NOT REALLY.
BUT WHERE DOES DESTINY'S PATH LEAD ME NOW?
DOES THAT MYSTERIOUS CLOUD OF DUST HOLD THE KEY?
IT'S MY ·· OUR ROY, DINKY! ALIVE AGAIN!
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT TAKING HIM WITH US, SHOUT! YOU KNOW THE RULES!
HOMO!
OH, HOMO!
ROY WILL RETURN TO HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, JUST AS WE WILL RETURN TO THE BASE AND OUR LIVES, SHOUT.
RIGHT..?
CAN'T TELL IF ROY'S LI'L ALIEN CRITTER FRIEND'S A BOY OR A GIRL, Y'KNOW?
The End

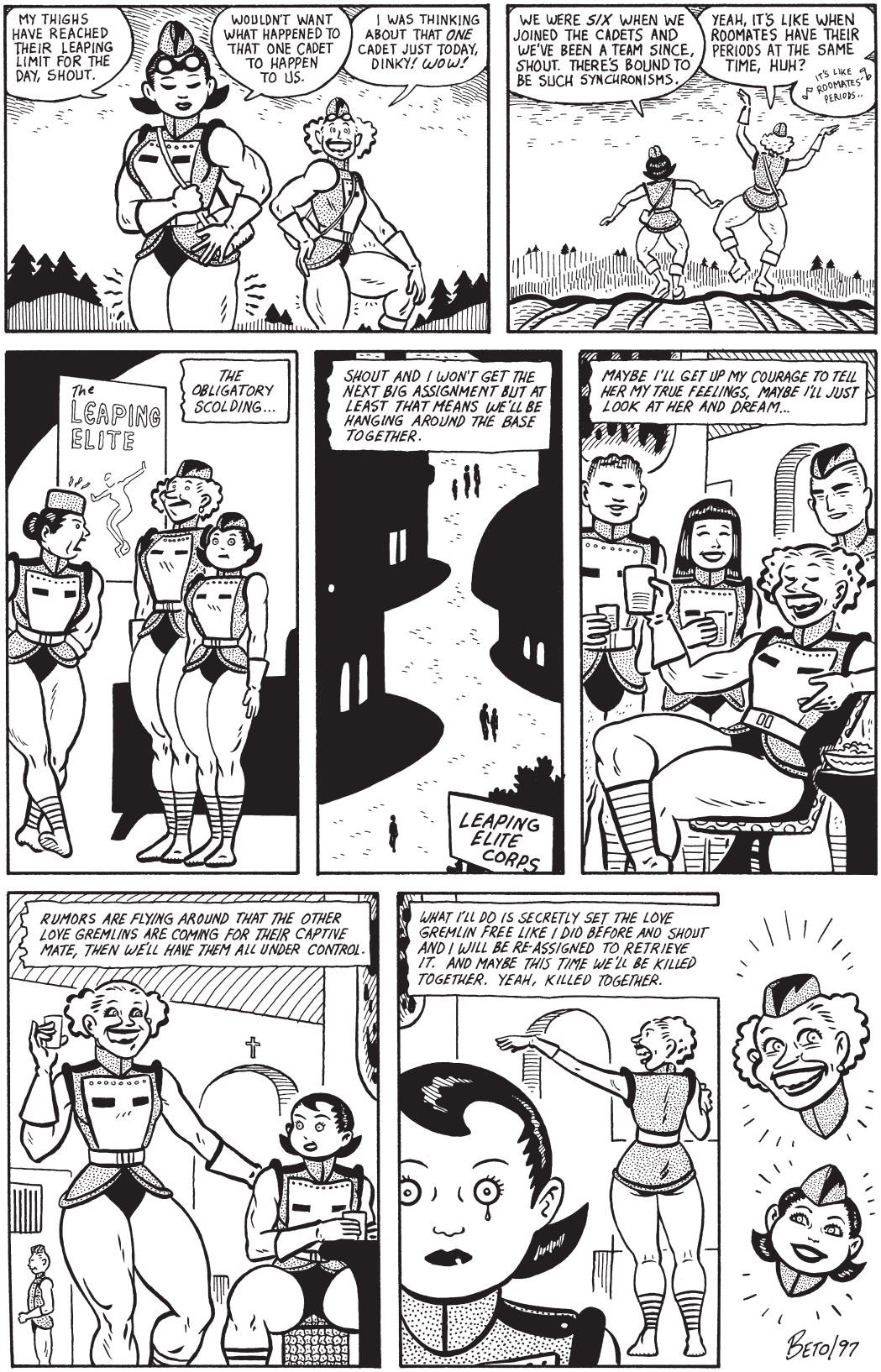

SHOUT RAMIREZ
AND HER VERY BEST FRIEND DINKY
♪ I MAY BE STUPID IN LOVE, BUT I AIN'T STUPID IN LIFE.. ♫
SHOUT RAMIREZ, THAT IS THE SILLIEST SONG YOU'VE COME UP WITH YET!

YEAH, WELL, YOU'LL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW I CALLED OFF THE WEDDING LIKE YOU SUGGESTED, DINKY. I CRIED LIKE A BABY.
BELIEVE ME, YOU SAVED YOURSELF FROM A MESS OF HEARTACHE DOWN THE ROAD!


YOU KNOW, DINKY? IF I NEVER FOLLOWED YOUR ADVICE I DON'T KNOW WHAT TROUBLE I'D BE MIXED UP IN BY NOW!
YOU CAN REPAY ME BY NOT MUCKING UP THIS CRUCIAL ASSIGNMENT, SHOUT.

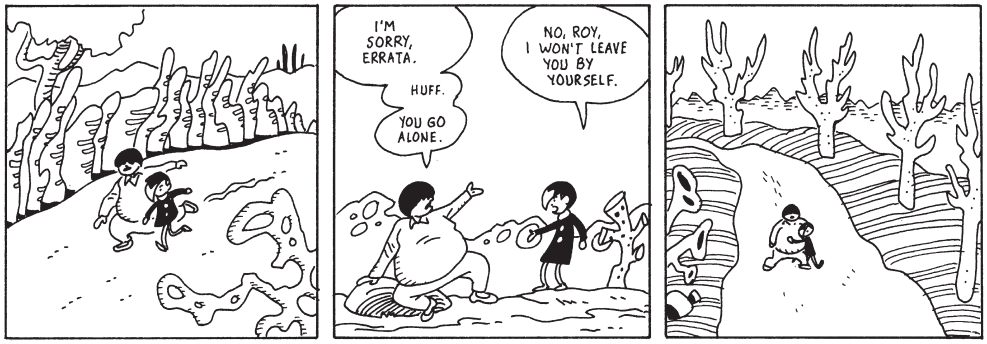
SHOUT, DON'T GET COCKY!
PFOO
AW, IT'S TICKLED, DINKY!
PFOO
WATCH IT, SHOUT! IT'S IMITATING US!
MY SWEET PRECIOUS SHOUT IS IN DANGER! OH, GOD, MY ONE AND ONLY TRUE LOVE...!
IF YOU'VE HURT HER, YOU...
DINKY!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
WHOOP!
PWOOMB!
DINKY!
KA-POW!
NO MERE BLOCK OF IRON CAN WITHSTAND THE FLEXINGS OF MY THEANTHROPIC THIGHS!

OH, MIGHTY THIGHS, PROPEL ME THROUGH THE SKIES..
IT TAKES BOTH THE PROPER GENETICS AND EXTENSIVE TRAINING TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE LEAPIN' ELITE!
OVERTRAINING CAUSED ONE CADET'S THIGHS TO BLOW UP SO HUGE SHE WAS UNABLE TO SIT ON A TOILET SEAT TO ANY GOOD EFFECT.
COME TO ME, MY HEART OF HEARTS. TOGETHER LET US LEAP INTO ADVENTURE AND ROMANCE, THE TWO OF US THE VERY ESSENCE OF TRUE LOVE.
HEY, GIRL!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO LOSE YOUR TEMPER LIKE THAT, DINKY. I SURE HOPE THINGS ARE OK AT HOME.
I SIMPLY WILL NOT TOLERATE THAT KIND OF DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR EVEN FROM AN INFANT, SHOUT.
WHY DON'T YOU PEOPLE LET THE LOVE GREMLINS ALONE! ALL THEY DO IS SPREAD JOY AND INSPIRATION!
WE CAN'T VERY WELL LET JOY AND INSPIRATION FLOW ABOUT UNCHECKED, CAN WE?
YOU HANDLED THAT CIVILIAN WELL, SHOUT. I MAY NOT REPORT YOUR EARLIER BLUNDER AFTER ALL.
GOSH, THANKS, DINKY! I PROMISE NO MORE MUCK UPS!
AW! THAT'S CUTE!
HUSH!
LET IT SHRINK.
3


MY THIGHS HAVE REACHED THEIR LEAPING LIMIT FOR THE DAY, SHOUT.
WOULDN'T WANT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT ONE CADET TO HAPPEN TO US.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT ONE CADET JUST TODAY, DINKY! WOW!
WE WERE SIX WHEN WE JOINED THE CADETS AND WE'VE BEEN A TEAM SINCE, SHOUT. THERE'S BOUND TO BE SUCH SYNCHRONISMS.
YEAH, IT'S LIKE WHEN ROOMATES HAVE THEIR PERIODS AT THE SAME TIME, HUH?
IT'S LIKE ROOMATES' PERIODS..
The LEAPING ELITE
THE OBLIGATORY SCOLDING...
SHOUT AND I WON'T GET THE NEXT BIG ASSIGNMENT BUT AT LEAST THAT MEANS WE'LL BE HANGING AROUND THE BASE TOGETHER.
LEAPING ELITE CORPS
MAYBE I'LL GET UP MY COURAGE TO TELL HER MY TRUE FEELINGS, MAYBE I'LL JUST LOOK AT HER AND DREAM...
RUMORS ARE FLYING AROUND THAT THE OTHER LOVE GREMLINS ARE COMING FOR THEIR CAPTIVE MATE, THEN WE'LL HAVE THEM ALL UNDER CONTROL.
WHAT I'LL DO IS SECRETLY SET THE LOVE GREMLIN FREE LIKE I DID BEFORE AND SHOUT AND I WILL BE RE-ASSIGNED TO RETRIEVE IT. AND MAYBE THIS TIME WE'LL BE KILLED TOGETHER. YEAH, KILLED TOGETHER.
BETO/97

ROY
in "SERIOUS FUCKIN'!"
YEAH!
ZEEEEE!
ROCK AND ROLL!
C'MON, BABY.. C'MON..
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
TEE HEE!
HEH HEH.
BETO/97

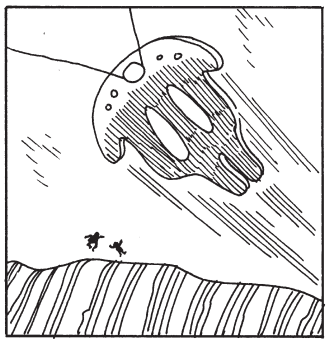
The NEUTERBRANK PRIMER

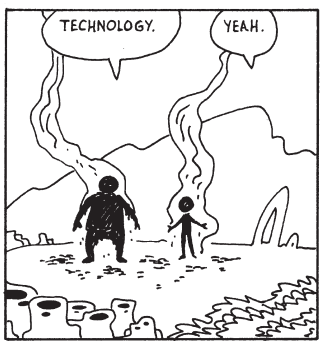


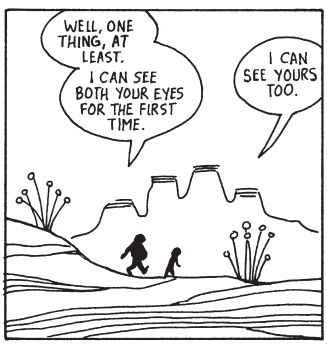
I'M SORRY, ERRATA.
HUFF.
YOU GO ALONE.
NO, ROY, I WON'T LEAVE YOU BY YOURSELF.

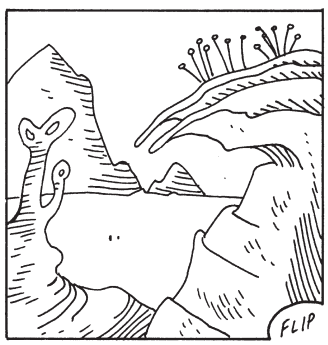
WE MUST HAVE MISSED OUR APPOINTMENT BY NOW, ERRATA.
WE'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE.

SO LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.

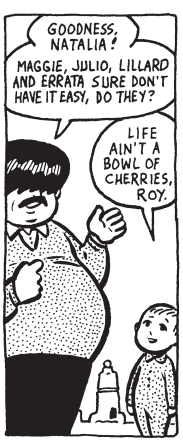


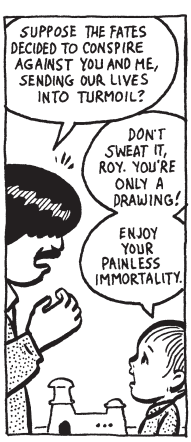

TECHNOLOGY.
YEAH.

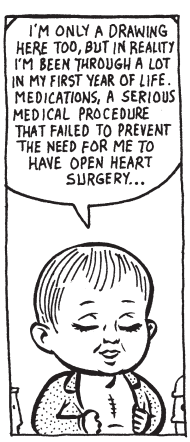

WELL, ONE THING, AT LEAST. I CAN SEE BOTH YOUR EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I CAN SEE YOURS TOO.


FLIP

CLIP art
by
BETO

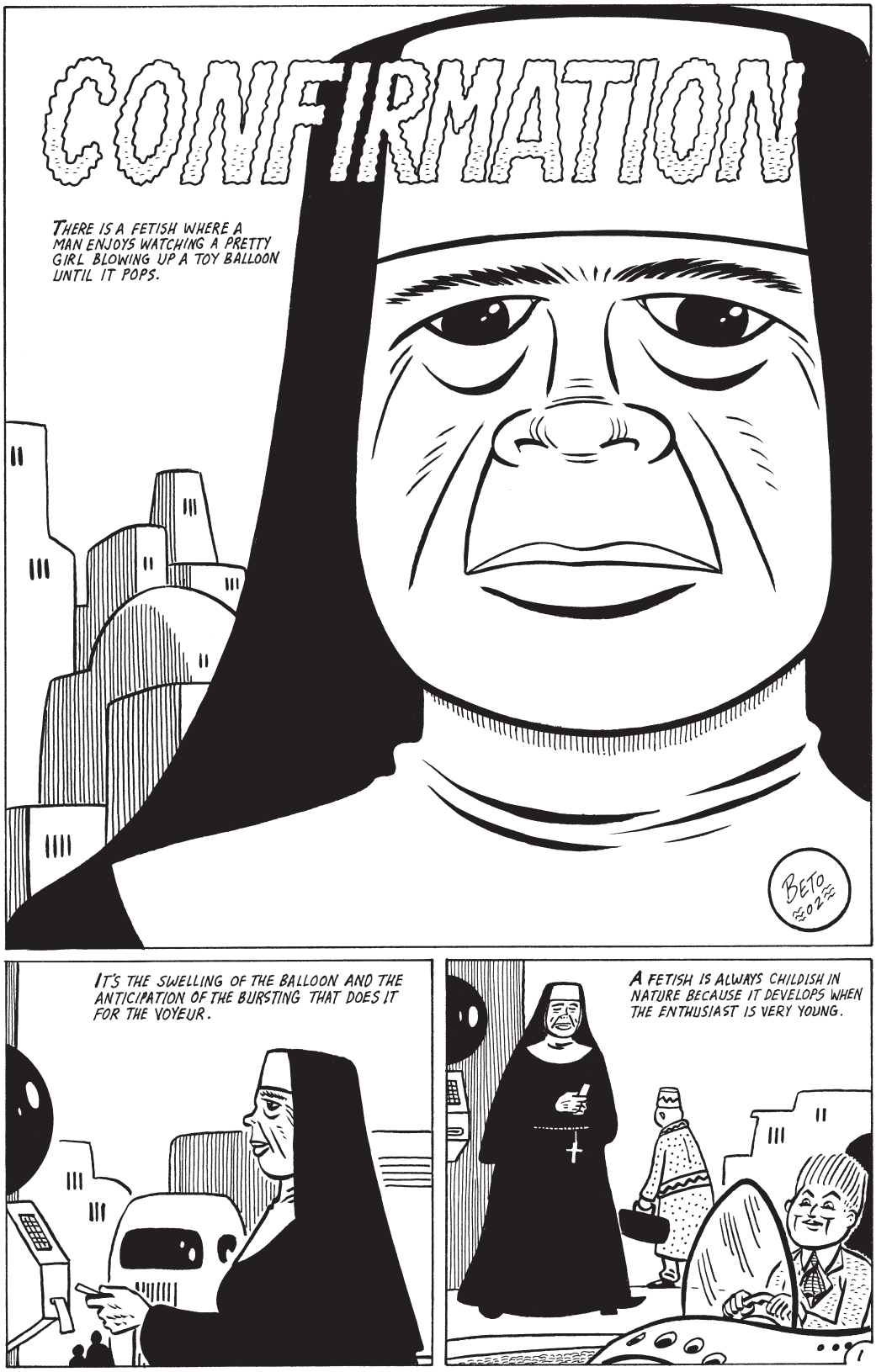

GOODNESS, NATALIA!
MAGGIE, JULIO, LILLARD AND ERRATA SURE DON'T HAVE IT EASY, DO THEY?
LIFE AIN'T A BOWL OF CHERRIES, ROY.

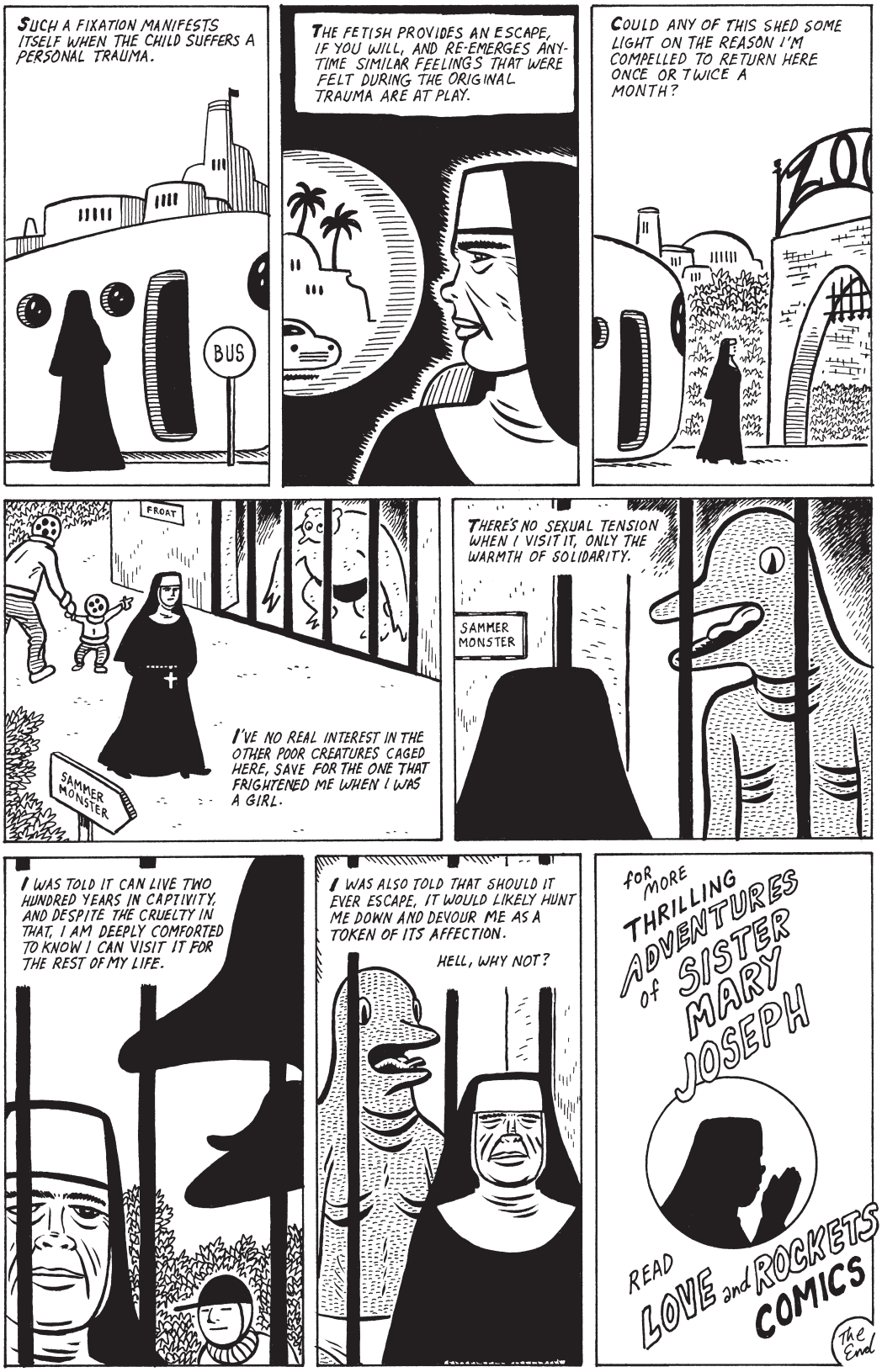

SUPPOSE THE FATES DECIDED TO CONSPIRE AGAINST YOU AND ME, SENDING OUR LIVES INTO TURMOIL?
DON'T SWEAT IT, ROY. YOU'RE ONLY A DRAWING!
ENJOY YOUR PAINLESS IMMORTALITY.


I'M ONLY A DRAWING HERE TOO, BUT IN REALITY I'M BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN MY FIRST YEAR OF LIFE. MEDICATIONS, A SERIOUS MEDICAL PROCEDURE THAT FAILED TO PREVENT THE NEED FOR ME TO HAVE OPEN HEART SURGERY...

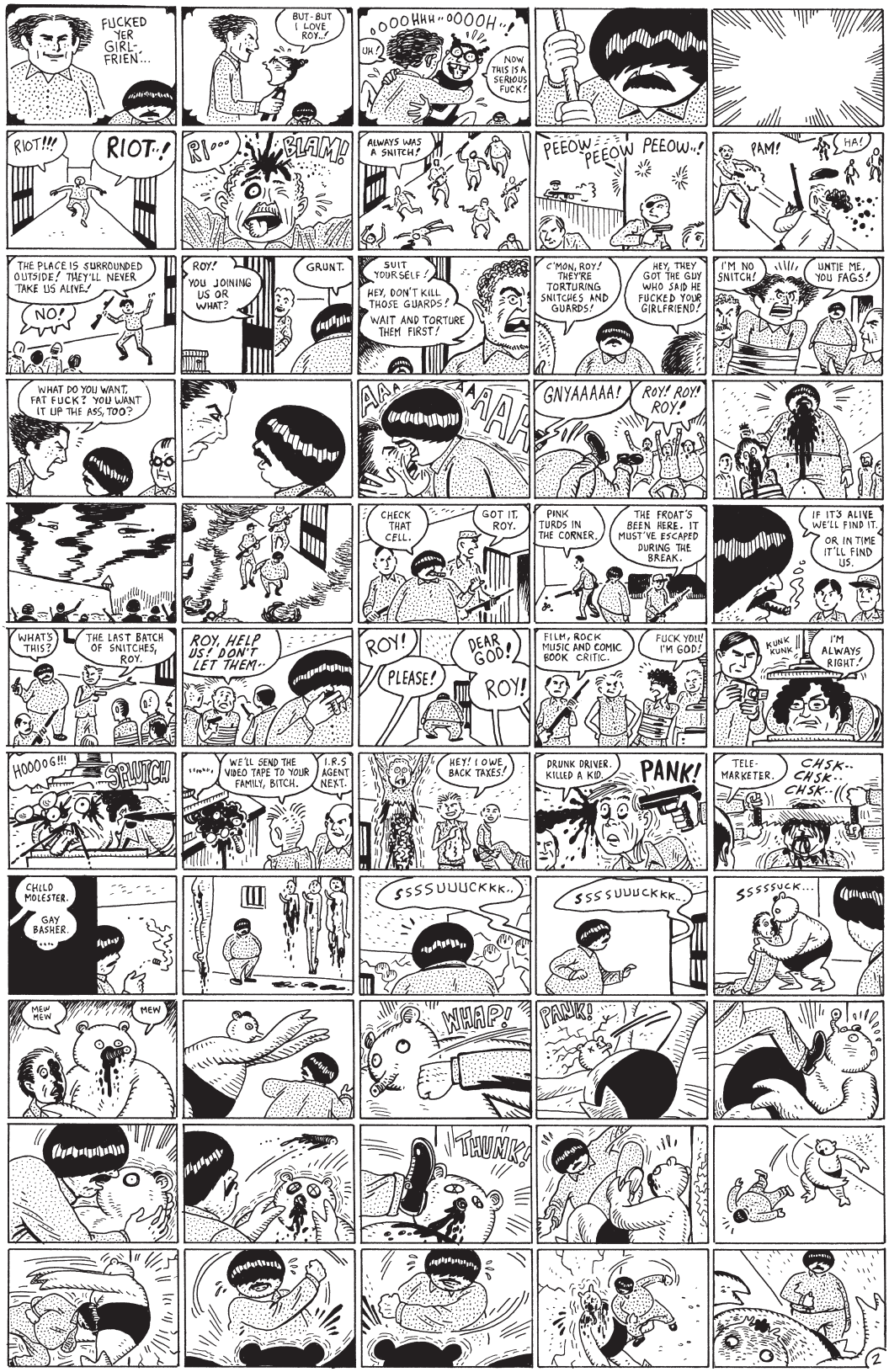
ROY WAS AMUSED THAT NATALIA WOULD EVEN SUGGEST HE WASN'T REAL, ONLY A DRAWING, BUT HE DID HAVE SOME TROUBLE SLEEPING THAT NIGHT.
ZUM

ROY AND JUDITH
BETO/2002
WHERE IS THE LOVE?
IT USED TO BE ABOUT LOVE.
NOW ALL IT'S ABOUT IS EXPOSING CRUELTY AND STUPIDITY.
ART IS MOTIVATED MOSTLY BY LUST AND REVENGE.
RIGHT. BUT NOW THE LUST AND REVENGE ARE ONE. THE LUST FOR BEAUTY IS GONE.
YOU FEEL LUST CAN LEAD TO LOVE.
YES, NOT ALWAYS, OF COURSE, BUT ITS IN THE SAME BALLPARK.
OH, WHAT WAS I TALKING ABOUT BEFORE...?
GOD.
AND THE DEVIL.
OH YES, OF COURSE...
ONE MUST BELIEVE IN GOD TO BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL, BUT ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL TO BELIEVE IN GOD.
A LITTLE WORDY FOR A BUMPER STICKER, THOUGH.
SIGH.
OK, OK, NOW I WANT MY OPINIONS COMING FROM ME AGAIN.
AND VICE VERSA.
'YOU' ASKED WHERE THE LOVE IS, JUDITH?
OH, ROY!
FIN

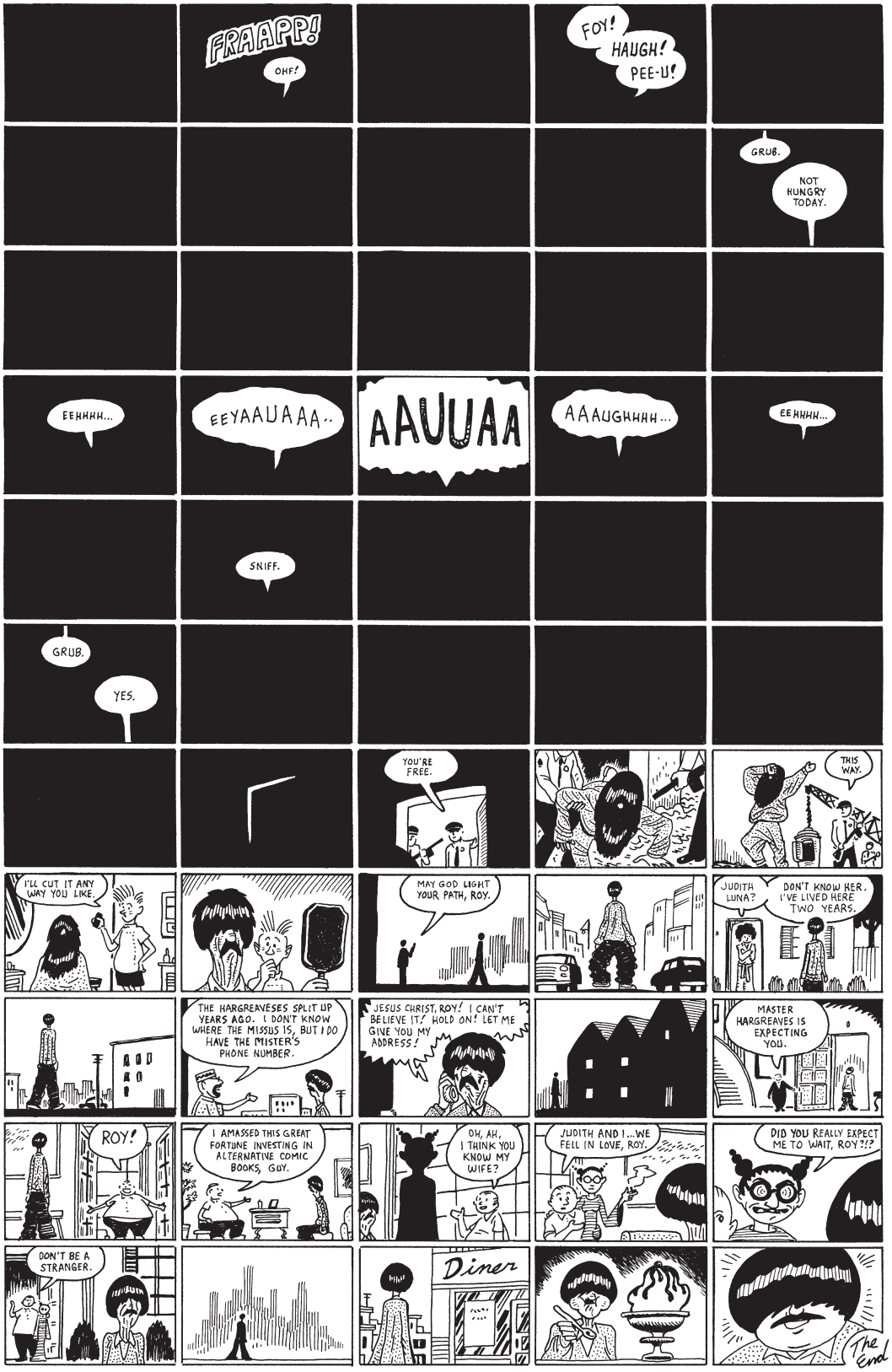

CONFIRMATION
THERE IS A FETISH WHERE A MAN ENJOYS WATCHING A PRETTY GIRL BLOWING UP A TOY BALLOON UNTIL IT POPS.
BETO 02
IT'S THE SWELLING OF THE BALLOON AND THE ANTICIPATION OF THE BURSTING THAT DOES IT FOR THE VOYEUR.
A FETISH IS ALWAYS CHILDISH IN NATURE BECAUSE IT DEVELOPS WHEN THE ENTHUSIAST IS VERY YOUNG.


SUCH A FIXATION MANIFESTS ITSELF WHEN THE CHILD SUFFERS A PERSONAL TRAUMA.
BUS
THE FETISH PROVIDES AN ESCAPE, IF YOU WILL, AND RE-EMERGES ANYTIME SIMILAR FEELINGS THAT WERE FELT DURING THE ORIGINAL TRAUMA ARE AT PLAY.
COULD ANY OF THIS SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE REASON I'M COMPELLED TO RETURN HERE ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH?
FROAT
SAMMER MONSTER
I'VE NO REAL INTEREST IN THE OTHER POOR CREATURES CAGED HERE, SAVE FOR THE ONE THAT FRIGHTENED ME WHEN I WAS A GIRL.
THERE'S NO SEXUAL TENSION WHEN I VISIT IT, ONLY THE WARMTH OF SOLIDARITY.
SAMMER MONSTER
I WAS TOLD IT CAN LIVE TWO HUNDRED YEARS IN CAPTIVITY, AND DESPITE THE CRUELTY IN THAT, I AM DEEPLY COMFORTED TO KNOW I CAN VISIT IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I WAS ALSO TOLD THAT SHOULD IT EVER ESCAPE, IT WOULD LIKELY HUNT ME DOWN AND DEVOUR ME AS A TOKEN OF ITS AFFECTION.
HELL, WHY NOT?
for MORE THRILLING ADVENTURES of SISTER MARY JOSEPH
READ LOVE and ROCKETS COMICS
The End

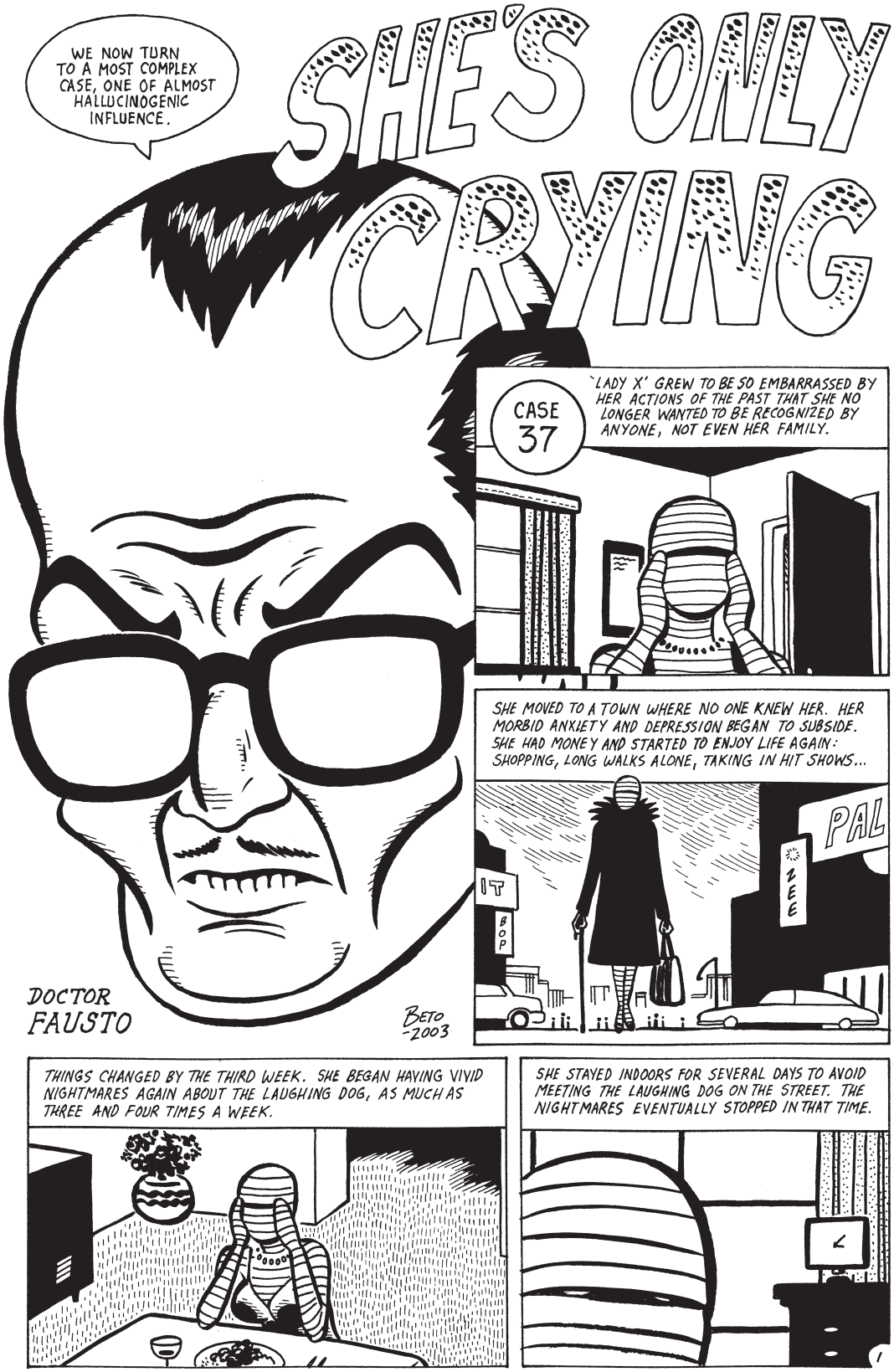
30,000 HOURS TO KILL
BETO 02
COLE BUILDING
YOU, HARGREAVES?
Y-YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WITH THE FIRM LONG, ROY.
IT'S TRUE I'VE BEEN AWAY, HARGREAVES, BUT I HAVEN'T NOTICED THINGS SO MUCH WORSE, OLD FRIEND.
IS IT ENOUGH TO RISK YOUR FAMILY'S WELFARE?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M HERE FOR YOU.
IT'S ROY, JANET. I'M CALLING FOR BILL. YEAH, HEH; HE'S SO SWAMPED HERE HE CAN'T EVEN COME TO THE PHONE! YEAH. HE'LL BE HOME SOON.
BUT I NEED A DRINK!
OH, NO. ALCOHOL'S NO GOOD. YOU NEED A CLEAR HEAD TONIGHT, OLD CHUM.
GIRLS
C'MON, HARGREAVES! YOU KNOW YOU LOVE IT!
OH NO, NOT.. MY STOMACH HURTS, ROY. I-I'D BETTER GET HOME NOW.
YOU WANTED TO SEE GIRLS, RIGHT?
MIDNI ROCK HORR
LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN..!
THERE'S A LOT OF NEGATIVITY IN THE WORLD, HARGREAVES, BUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY AREN'T DEAD, I CAN ASSURE YOU.
RUN, HARGREAVES, RUN!
MY FRIEND'S ON HIS WAY TO THE POLICE, PAL.
SOME JAIL TIME MIGHT HELP YOU TO RE-THINK YOUR LIFE, EH?
COLE BUILDING
IT'S GETTING LATE. I DO HOPE HARGREAVES DIDN'T GET LOST.
HERE. NOW MARCH YOURSELF STRAIGHT TO THE POLICE STATION AND TELL THEM EVERYTHING.
SIGH:
BWEE BOOP
AH! HARGREAVES DIDN'T GET LOST FINDING YOU. BUT WHERE IS HE?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...
WHAT..?
YOU ARE INNOCENT OF THE CRIME OF GRAND LARCENY BUT YOU REFUSE TO INDENTIFY THE TRUE CULPRIT.
A NICE STAY IN THE PEN MIGHT HELP LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE.
I'LL FIGHT, ROY! I'LL FIGHT FOR YOUR RELEASE UNTIL YOU'RE FREE!
OK, ROY. LET'S GO.
GET TO WORK.
DON'T EVEN FUCKING LOOK AT ME.
HEY, PUSS PUSS PUSS.
FUCKED YER GIRL-FRIEN!
I DIDN'T SNITCH!! I SWEAR!
DON'T!
AAAAAAAAA!
SHUT UP!
WHA..?
GO AWAY! YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
GO AWAY!
I KNOW YOU ONLY WANTED TO HELP, BUT IT'S BEST YOU JUST TURN AWAY, ROY.
JUST TURN AWAY.
CLANG CLANG
THEY'RE BRINGING IN A SPECIAL NEW PRISONER.
IT'S A FROAT!
FROAT... FROAT... FROAT..?!
FROAT!! FROAT!!!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
HEE HEE HA HAAA.
FROATS, I GUESS.
DON'T WORRY, THEY GOT THAT FROAT LOCKED UP AT THE OTHER END, ROY.
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO SEE THAT FROAT AGAIN.
WHIMPER.
WHIMPER.
OW!
EEEEEEEEAA
SSSSLUURRPP!!!


FUCKED YER GIRL-FRIEN...
BUT-BUT I LOVE ROY..!
OOOOHHH..OOOOH..!
UH!
NOW THIS IS A SERIOUS FUCK!
RIOT!!!
RIOT..!
RI...
BLAM!
ALWAYS WAS A SNITCH!
PEEOW PEEOW PEEOW..!
PAM!
HA!
THE PLACE IS SURROUNDED OUTSIDE! THEY'LL NEVER TAKE US ALIVE!
NO!
ROY! YOU JOINING US OR WHAT?
GRUNT.
SUIT YOURSELF!
HEY, DON'T KILL THOSE GUARDS! WAIT AND TORTURE THEM FIRST!
C'MON, ROY! THEY'RE TORTURING SNITCHES AND GUARDS!
HEY, THEY GOT THE GUY WHO SAID HE FUCKED YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
I'M NO SNITCH!
UNTIE ME, YOU FAGS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, FAT FUCK? YOU WANT IT UP THE ASS, TOO?
AAA
AAAA
GNYAAAAA!
ROY! ROY! ROY!
CHECK THAT CELL.
GOT IT, ROY.
PINK TURDS IN THE CORNER.
THE FROAT'S BEEN HERE. IT MUST'VE ESCAPED DURING THE BREAK.
IF IT'S ALIVE WE'LL FIND IT.
OR IN TIME IT'LL FIND US.
WHAT'S THIS?
THE LAST BATCH OF SNITCHES, ROY.
ROY, HELP US! DON'T LET THEM..
ROY!
PLEASE!
DEAR GOD!
ROY!
FILM, ROCK MUSIC AND COMIC BOOK CRITIC.
FUCK YOU! I'M GOD!
KUNK KUNK
I'M ALWAYS RIGHT!
HOOOOG!!!
SPLUTCH
WE'LL SEND THE VIDEO TAPE TO YOUR FAMILY, BITCH.
I.R.S AGENT NEXT.
HEY! I OWE BACK TAXES!
DRUNK DRIVER. KILLED A KID.
PANK!
TELE-MARKETER.
CHSK.. CHSK.. CHSK..
CHILD MOLESTER.
GAY BASHER.
SSSSUUUCKKK..
SSSSUUUCKKK..
SSSSSUCK...
MEW MEW
MEW
WHAP!
PANK!
THUNK!
2

REE-EEE-EEE..!
CHUK CHUCK
CHUK CHUK CHUK
HERE'S ONE THAT'S ALIVE.
YOU WERE SMART TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE FESTIVITIES.
ONLY TWO OF YOU LEFT.
LISTEN. ONE BULL DRIVING, ANOTHER IN THE BACK WITH A RIFLE.
TWO OF US.
WHEN I SAY GO, YOU GO!
GO!!!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
AAY!
ROY, YOU FUCK, GRAB THE FUCKING WHEEL!
BAM!
BAM!
BLAM.. BLAM..
SCREEEEEEEECH!
FTOOM!
NGGGH...
I-I'M ALIVE.
BUT I'M SLIPPING.
I CAN'T..
C-CAN'T HOLD..
ON..
THE OTHERS?
IN THE BUS.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
THE GOVERNOR WILL KNOW OF THIS.
YOUR SENTENCE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO SIX YEARS.
NEXT.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING MORE YOU CAN DO, JUDGE? HE WASN'T PART OF THE BUS ESCAPE.
THERE IS ONE THING YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR SENTENCE, ROY.
YOU'RE EITHER VERY BRAVE OR VERY STUPID.
GOOD LUCK, ROY.
LOWER.
LOWER.
DEAR GOD.
GRUB.
THANK YOU.
3


FRAAPP!
OHF!
FOY!
HAUGH!
PEE-U!
GRUB.
NOT HUNGRY TODAY.
EEHHHH...
EEYAAUAAA..
AAUUAA
AAAUGHHHH...
EEHHHH...
SNIFF.
GRUB.
YES.
YOU'RE FREE.
THIS WAY.
I'LL CUT IT ANY WAY YOU LIKE.
MAY GOD LIGHT YOUR PATH, ROY.
JUDITH LUNA?
DON'T KNOW HER. I'VE LIVED HERE TWO YEARS.
THE HARGREAVESES SPLIT UP YEARS AGO. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MISSUS IS, BUT I DO HAVE THE MISTER'S PHONE NUMBER.
JESUS CHRIST, ROY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOLD ON! LET ME GIVE YOU MY ADDRESS!
MASTER HARGREAVES IS EXPECTING YOU.
ROY!
I AMASSED THIS GREAT FORTUNE INVESTING IN ALTERNATIVE COMIC BOOKS, GUY.
OH, AH, I THINK YOU KNOW MY WIFE?
JUDITH AND I...WE FELL IN LOVE, ROY.
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO WAIT, ROY?!?
DON'T BE A STRANGER.
Diner
The End

SHE'S ONLY CRYING

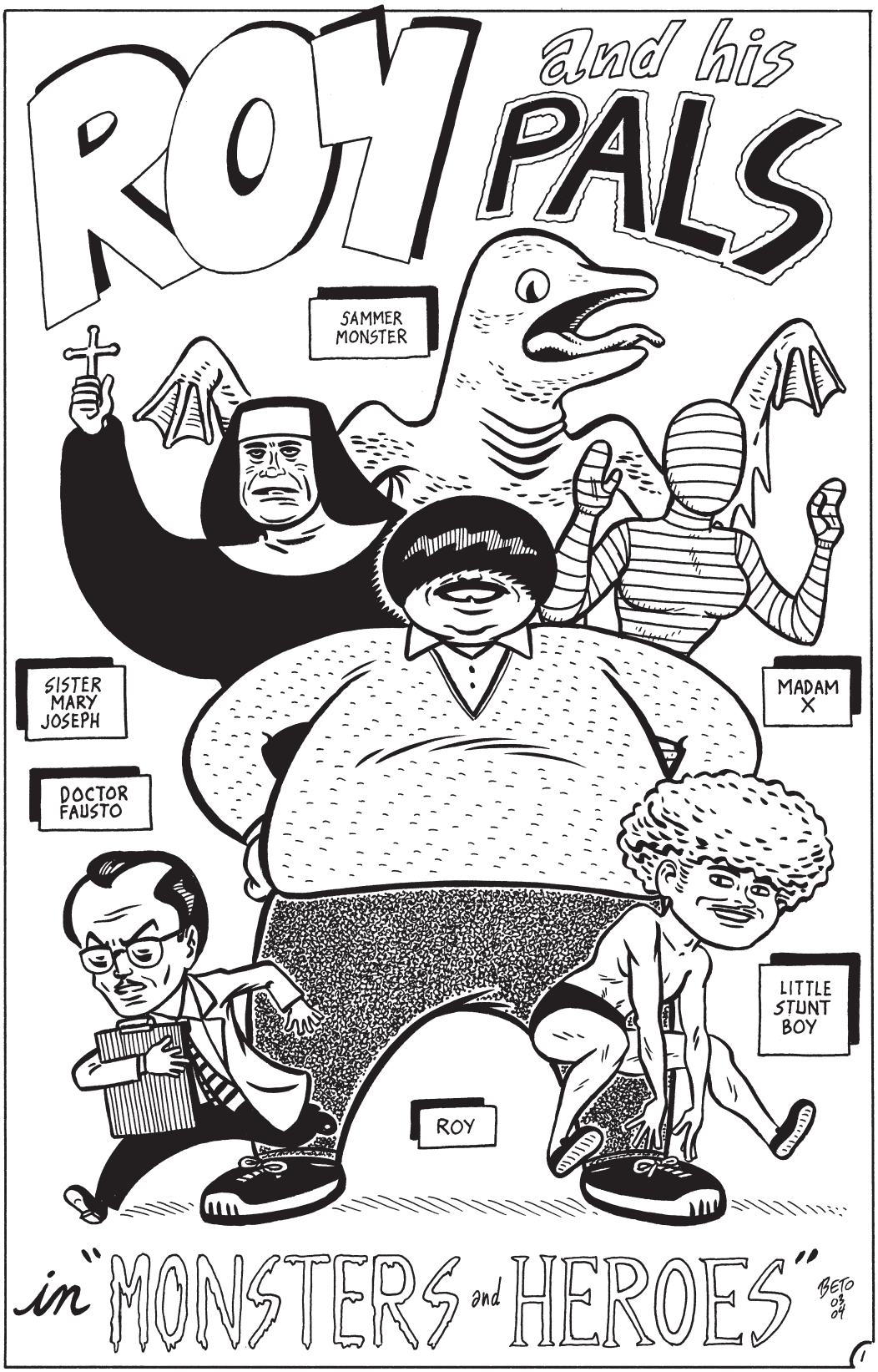


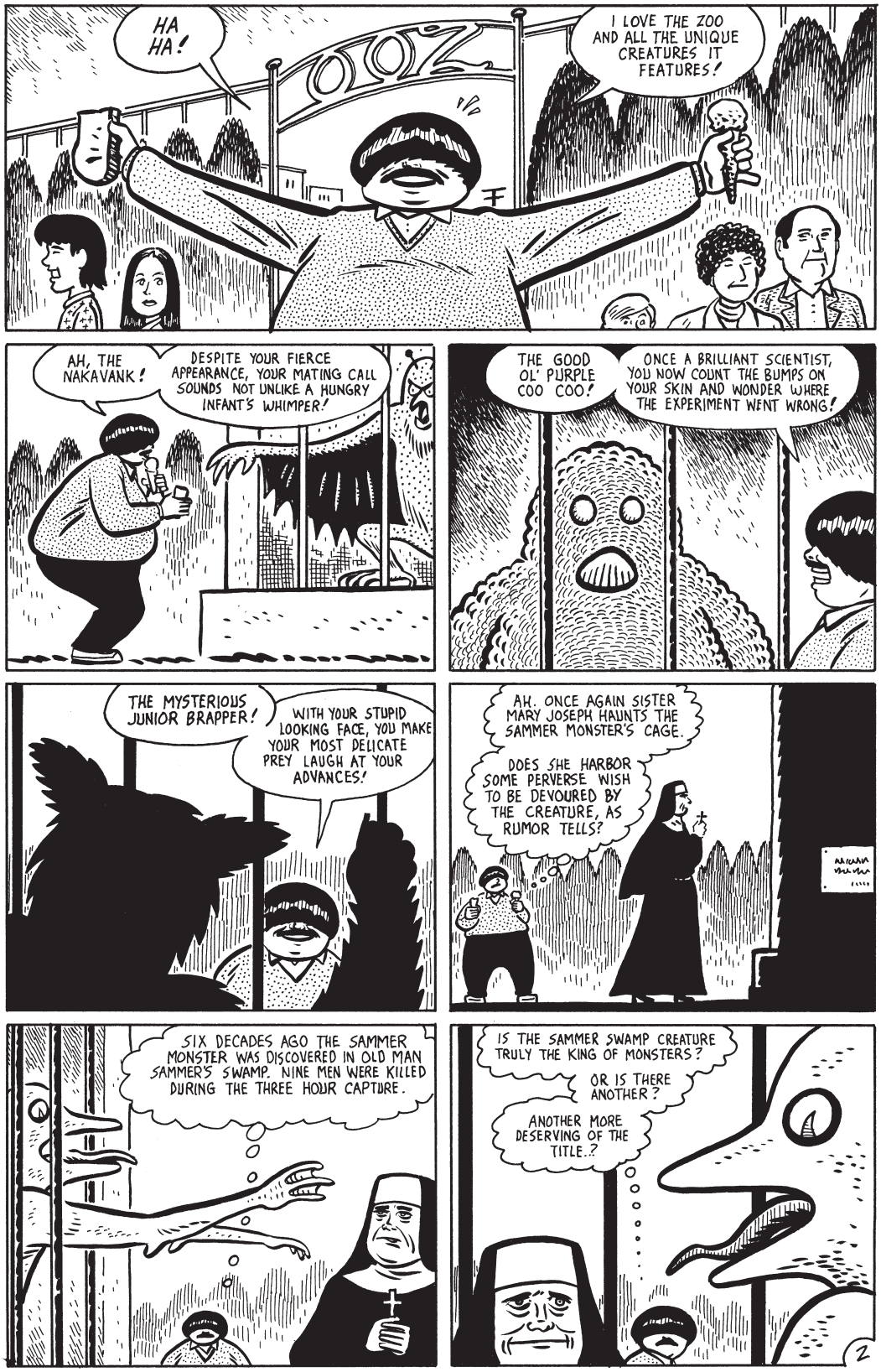
SHE VENTURED ON A DATE, BUT WHEN SHE DISCOVERED HE HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN A FELLOW STUDENT IN HER KINDERGARTEN CLASS WAY BACK WHEN, SHE SPENT ANOTHER WEEK IN SECLUSION.
HER VANITY CONSUMED HER LIFE. TOO GOOD FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SHE CURSED FATE FOR MAKING HER THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY TALKING TO HER. SHE CONTRADICTED ALL MY THEORIES, ALL MY ADVICE; I TOLD HER NOT TO COME BACK UNLESS SHE WAS WILLING TO ADMIT SHE HAD A PROBLEM.
AFTER SHE WITNESSED WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A LOVERS' SPAT BETWEEN FATHER SANDOVAL AND SISTER MARY JOSEPH, 'LADY X' SAID AS LONG AS THE LAUGHING DOG STALKED HER, HER LIFE WOULD CONTINUE UNMOLESTED ON ITS PRESENT COURSE.
WHAT? THIS COURSE OF DESCENDING INTO IDIOCY? SHE ENJOYS WALLOWING IN HER SELF-IMPOSED, HAUNTED LITTLE WORLD, THE NARCISSISTIC TWIT! I COULD HELP HER! ADVANCES IN PSYCHIATRY ARE SUCH THAT-- PHAH! BUT WHY BOTHER? TO HELL WITH HER!
SHE'S INCAPABLE OF ANY MATURE REASONING, SHE--
SHE'LL BE BACK...
SHE MUST...
ZANG
The End

The LITTLE STUNT BOY in "The ART of the DEAL"
BETO/03
LOOK!
UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A PLANE!
IT'S THE LITTLE STUNT BOY!
HERE I AM AGAIN TO PERSONALLY TAKE THE EDGE OFF YOUR BUSY DAY!
CLAP CLAP
BOUND!
GASP
WHOAH!
YOU'RE JUST AN X-TREME STUNTING FOOL, LITTLE STUNT BOY!
BAH!
WE'VE ALL SEEN THESE TRICKS BEFORE.
ANY STUNT YOU CAN DREAM UP, I CAN DO!
OH, I BELIEVE YOU, MISTER.
I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A CANDY REWARD FOR YOU.
CANDY?
LEAD THE WAY, CANDYGIRL.
I WASN'T SO BAD ON THE TRAMPOLINE IN MY DAY.
HERE?
IS THE CANDY YOU PROMISED ME HERE?
Y-YEAH...
I HAD TO HIDE IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT IT STOLEN.

IN HERE?
I'LL BET YOU HID THE CANDY IN HERE!
WHONG!
HEGH HEGH HEGH..
HI, HONEY.
DINNER WILL BE READY IN A MINUTE!
HAVE A BEER.

OH GOD, THOSE HORRIBLE FUCKERS AT WORK...
I HAND IN MY BEST STUFF AND THEY HAND IT BACK WANTING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
I ASK THEM WHAT THEY WANT SPECIFICALLY AND THEY'RE NOT TOO SURE WHAT, ONLY WHAT I'VE GIVEN THEM IS NOT WHAT THEY WANTED. THEY'RE NOT SURE WHAT THEY WANT, BUT THEY KNOW WHAT THEY DON'T WANT.
IT'S THE USUAL PROCESS AND AFTER TWENTY YEARS I SHOULD BE USED TO IT, EVEN SHOULD HAVE MASTERED IT BY NOW, BUT I-I--
TWENTY YEARS...
I THOUGHT BY NOW I'D BE AHEAD, DOING SOMETHING MORE REWARDING, SOMETHING -- THEY SAY WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING FOR A LIVING AT THIRTY-THREE IS WHAT YOU'LL STILL BE DOING UNTIL YOU RETIRE.
I'LL BE THIRTY-EIGHT IN JUNE.
BUT NOT TONIGHT...TONIGHT IS FULL OF THE MOON AND INFINITE LOVE AND WISDOM AND GOOD FAITH...
THERE WAS N-NO CANDY AT-AT THE BOTTOM OF TH-THAT TRASH C-CAN AFTER ALL, C-C-CANDYGIRL.
HA HA HA!
I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF WORSE FIXES THAN THAT, FOLKS, OR MY NAME ISN'T THE LITTLE STUNT BOY!
MM-BOY! GOOD CANDY!
LET US NOW KNEEL AND PRAY, MY FRIENDS; PRAY AND THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSING OF A NEW DAY.
The End


ROY and his PALS
SAMMER MONSTER
SISTER MARY JOSEPH
MADAM X
DOCTOR FAUSTO
LITTLE STUNT BOY
ROY
in "MONSTERS and HEROES"
BETO 08 09


HA HA!
I LOVE THE ZOO AND ALL THE UNIQUE CREATURES IT FEATURES!
AH, THE NAKAVANK!
DESPITE YOUR FIERCE APPEARANCE, YOUR MATING CALL SOUNDS NOT UNLIKE A HUNGRY INFANT'S WHIMPER!
THE GOOD OL' PURPLE COO COO!
ONCE A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, YOU NOW COUNT THE BUMPS ON YOUR SKIN AND WONDER WHERE THE EXPERIMENT WENT WRONG!
THE MYSTERIOUS JUNIOR BRAPPER!
WITH YOUR STUPID LOOKING FACE, YOU MAKE YOUR MOST DELICATE PREY LAUGH AT YOUR ADVANCES!
AH. ONCE AGAIN SISTER MARY JOSEPH HAUNTS THE SAMMER MONSTER'S CAGE.
DOES SHE HARBOR SOME PERVERSE WISH TO BE DEVOURED BY THE CREATURE, AS RUMOR TELLS?
SIX DECADES AGO THE SAMMER MONSTER WAS DISCOVERED IN OLD MAN SAMMER'S SWAMP. NINE MEN WERE KILLED DURING THE THREE HOUR CAPTURE.
IS THE SAMMER SWAMP CREATURE TRULY THE KING OF MONSTERS?
OR IS THERE ANOTHER?
ANOTHER MORE DESERVING OF THE TITLE..?
2

AH...
THE ANTICIPATION IS UNBEARABLE..!
WARNING
APPROACH AT YOUR OWN RISK
THE BRAIN THIEF OF DELAWARE!
LAST OF ITS KIND, HERE IN HAPPY CITY!
THE FROAT!
AH!
AH!
AH!
WOULDN'T YOU JUST LOVE TO STICK YOUR SNOUT INTO MY EYE AND SUCK OUT MY BRAIN, FROATY?
LOOK AT ME!
SLURP SLURP
I'M EATING ICE-CREAM!
CHOMP CHOMP
HOT ROASTED PEANUTS!
REEEEEEEEEEE..
WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!
BLAM!
!!!
THE FROAT IS LOOSE!!!
RUN!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
3

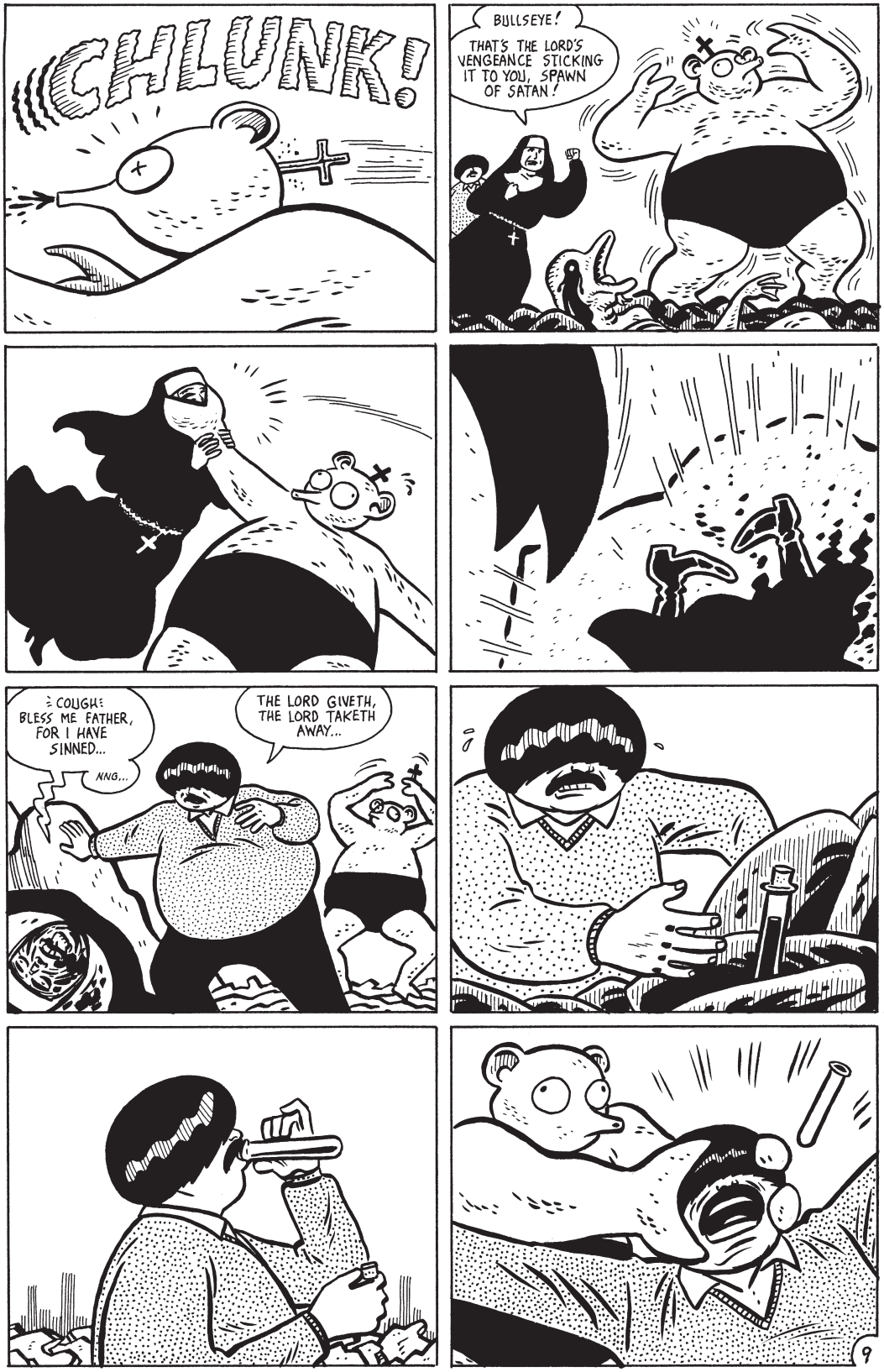
IT'S WELL DOCUMENTED THAT A FROAT IS UNABLE TO CLIMB A TREE!
TROUBLE IS, THERE'S NO REAL WAY OF KNOWING HOW LONG IT WILL STALK ITS PREY.
AAAA!
THE FROAT HAS ESCAPED!
HURRY! UP INTO A TREE BEFORE IT CAN STRIKE!
REEEEE-REEEE
DEAR GOD, NO..!
GET OUT OF THE WAY, LADY! I'LL BLAST HIM! I..
AAAAAAA
AAAAAAA!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
SOB...
RUN..!
BLAM!
BLAM!
THREE AND A HALF HOURS LATER...
ALL CLEAR..?
DID THE SECURITY GUARDS' BULLETS END THE CARNAGE ONCE AND FOR ALL?
ROY!
AAAAAAYAAHEEEEOOA
SISTER MARY JOSEPH, YOU HAVE TO GET UP INTO A TREE, OR..
THE FROAT IS GONE, ROY. PROBABLY IN THE CITY BY NOW.
4

YOU'LL NOTICE THE FROAT ONLY SUCKS OUT THE BRAINS OF MEN, ROY.
MOTHER OF GOD.
NO ONE IS SURE WHY IT DOESN'T SUCK OUT THE BRAIN OF A WOMAN BUT KILLS HER JUST THE SAME.
THIS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT IN STOPPING THE CREATURE'S BLOOD LUST.
DEAR GOD, I DO HOPE!
MEEP.. MEEP..
MEEP..
MADAM X!
DR. FAUSTO!
THE LITTLE STUNT BOY!
HAVE YOU LOCATED THE WAYWARD BEAST, DR. FAUSTO?
BULLETS, BOMBS, NOTHING HAS STOPPED THE ELUSIVE CREATURE FROM ITS QUEST TO EMPTY THE BRAINS OF ALL MEN ON EARTH.
PERHAPS THEN THE UNITED HEROES OF EARTH CAN DO WHAT THE MILITARY COULD NOT!
POW!
BAM!
ZOWIE!
5

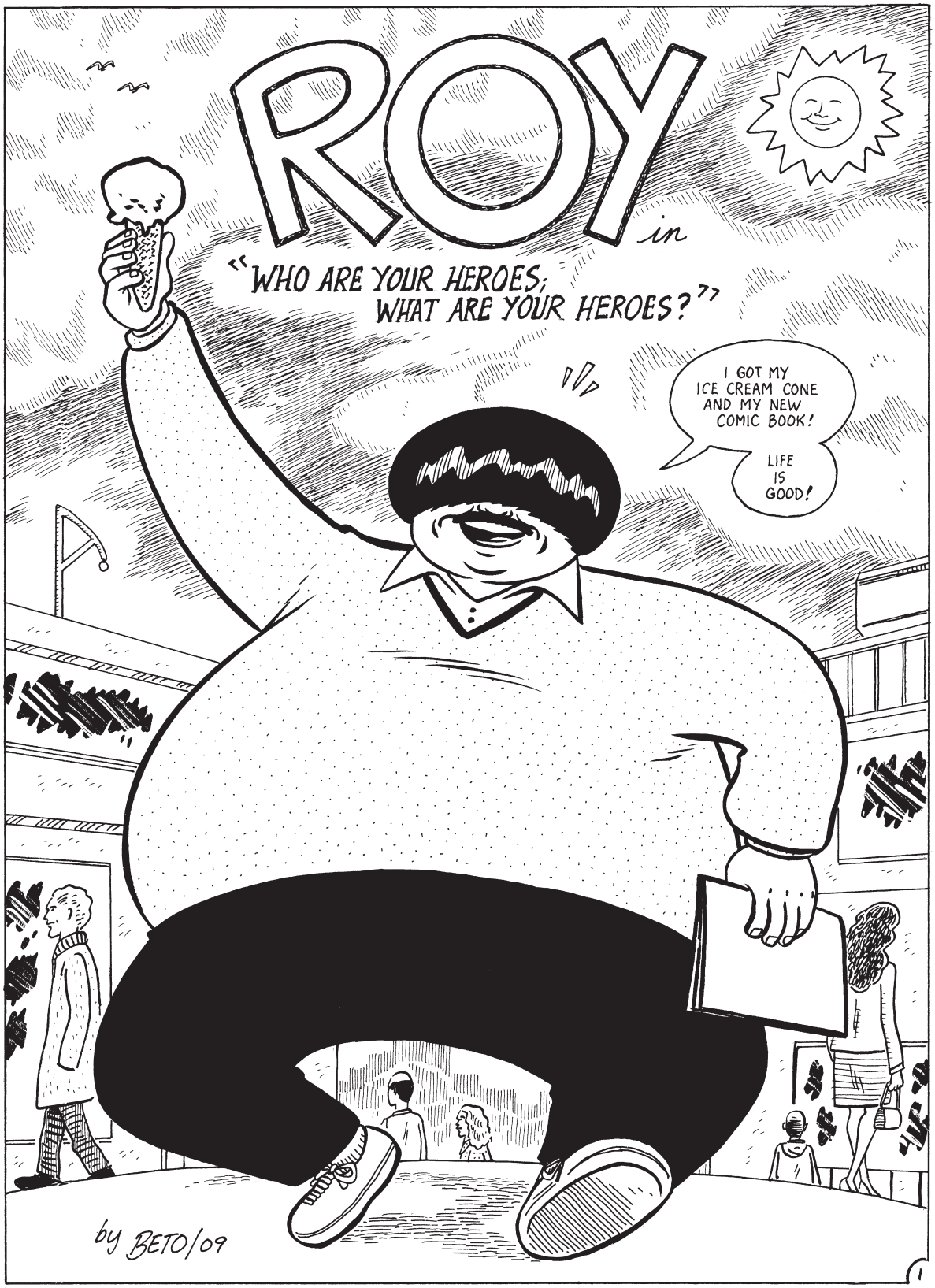
ROY AND HIS PALS IN "MONSTERS AND HEROES" | 103

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT FIRST, MADAM X!
SEE HOW THE FROAT DEGRADES OUR MILITARY WORSE THAN EVEN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT!
SLURP..
WHOK!
SLURRP.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR GETTING MADAM X KILLED, LITTLE STUNT BOY!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO THAT OTHERS COULD NOT, SISTER MARY JOSEPH?
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN MEASURES TO INSURE OUR SUCCESS, ROY!
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
REGA FLEXIS MUR!

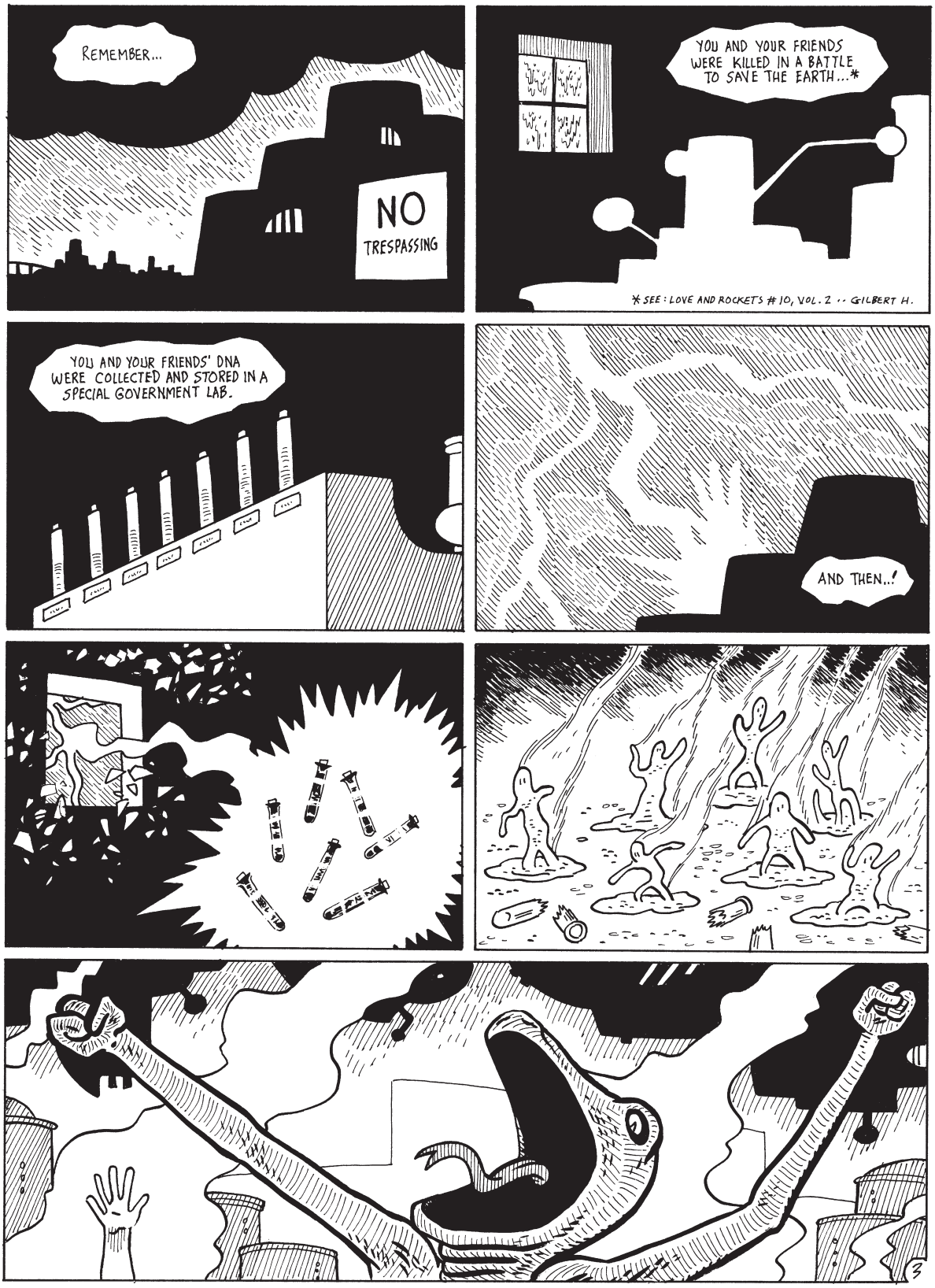
THE CALL FOR THE SAMMER MONSTER TO ATTACK:
REGA FLEXIS MUR!
OWW-- OOO..!
8


CHLUNK!
BULLSEYE!
THAT'S THE LORD'S VENGEANCE STICKING IT TO YOU, SPAWN OF SATAN!
COUGH
BLESS ME FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED...
NNG...
THE LORD GIVETH, THE LORD TAKETH AWAY...
9

KAFF...
KAFF...
SO ENDS MY FIRST AND LAST ADVENTURE AS PART OF *THE UNITED HEROES OF EARTH*... MY DREAM COME TRUE...
KAFF.
The End


ROY in
"WHO ARE YOUR HEROES; WHAT ARE YOUR HEROES?"
I GOT MY ICE CREAM CONE AND MY NEW COMIC BOOK!
LIFE IS GOOD!
by BETO/09

NOTHING CAN RUIN MY PERFECT DAY!
♪ LA LAAA ♪
MEEP MEEP
LOOK OUT!
SCREEEEEEEE
WHUMP..
HEYYAAAA
DUDE, HE WRECKED YOUR FRONT END!
HE STEPPED RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CAR!
HE FLEW LIKE A BIG SACK OF MANURE!
AW, I MISSED IT!
I-I'M OK; REALLY.
:WHEW:
HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S SWELLING...
J-JUST NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR A BIT...
G'DAY, FOLKS.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST YOU'RE OK, MAN.
SURE, A LITTLE REST IS ALL I NEED, JAMAL.
13
SCREEEEEEEE
LOOK OUT
SCREEE
WHUMP
LOOK OUT
WHUMP
REMEMBER, ROY... REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE DEAD?
2

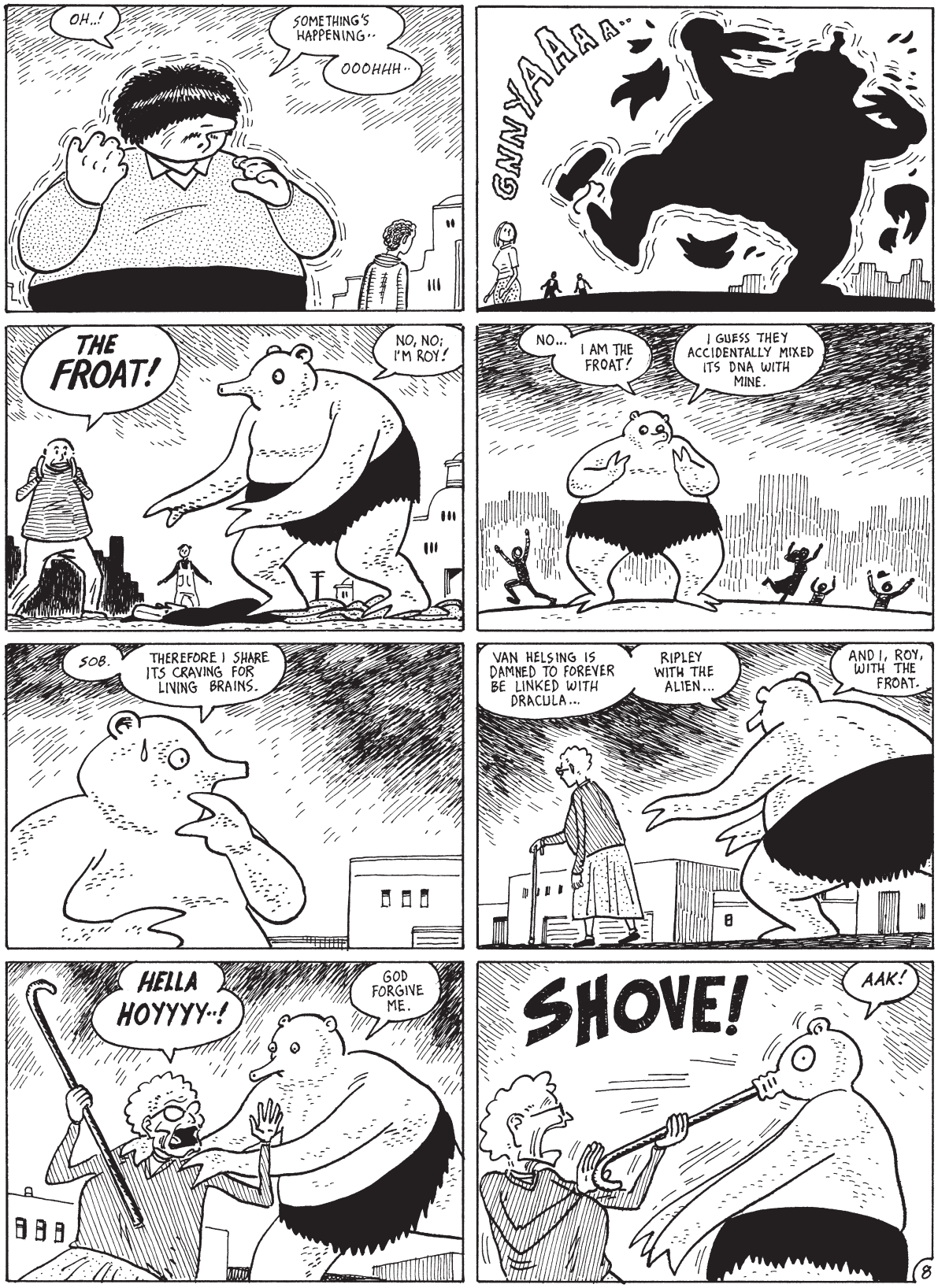

REMEMBER...
NO TRESPASSING
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WERE KILLED IN A BATTLE TO SAVE THE EARTH...*
* SEE: LOVE AND ROCKETS #10, VOL. 2 .. GILBERT H.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS' DNA WERE COLLECTED AND STORED IN A SPECIAL GOVERNMENT LAB.
AND THEN..!

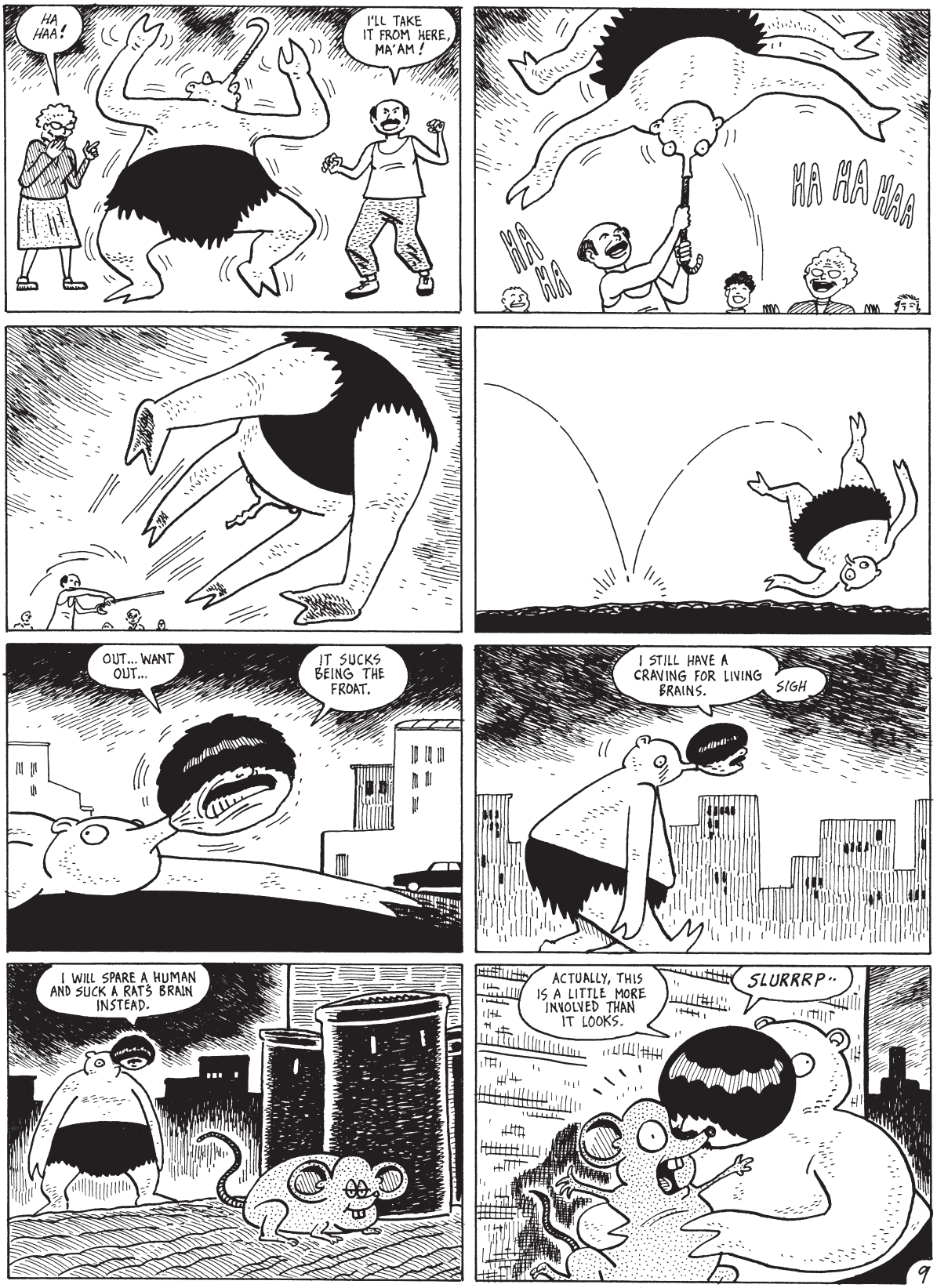
ROY IN "WHO ARE YOUR HEROES; WHAT ARE YOUR HEROES?" | 111

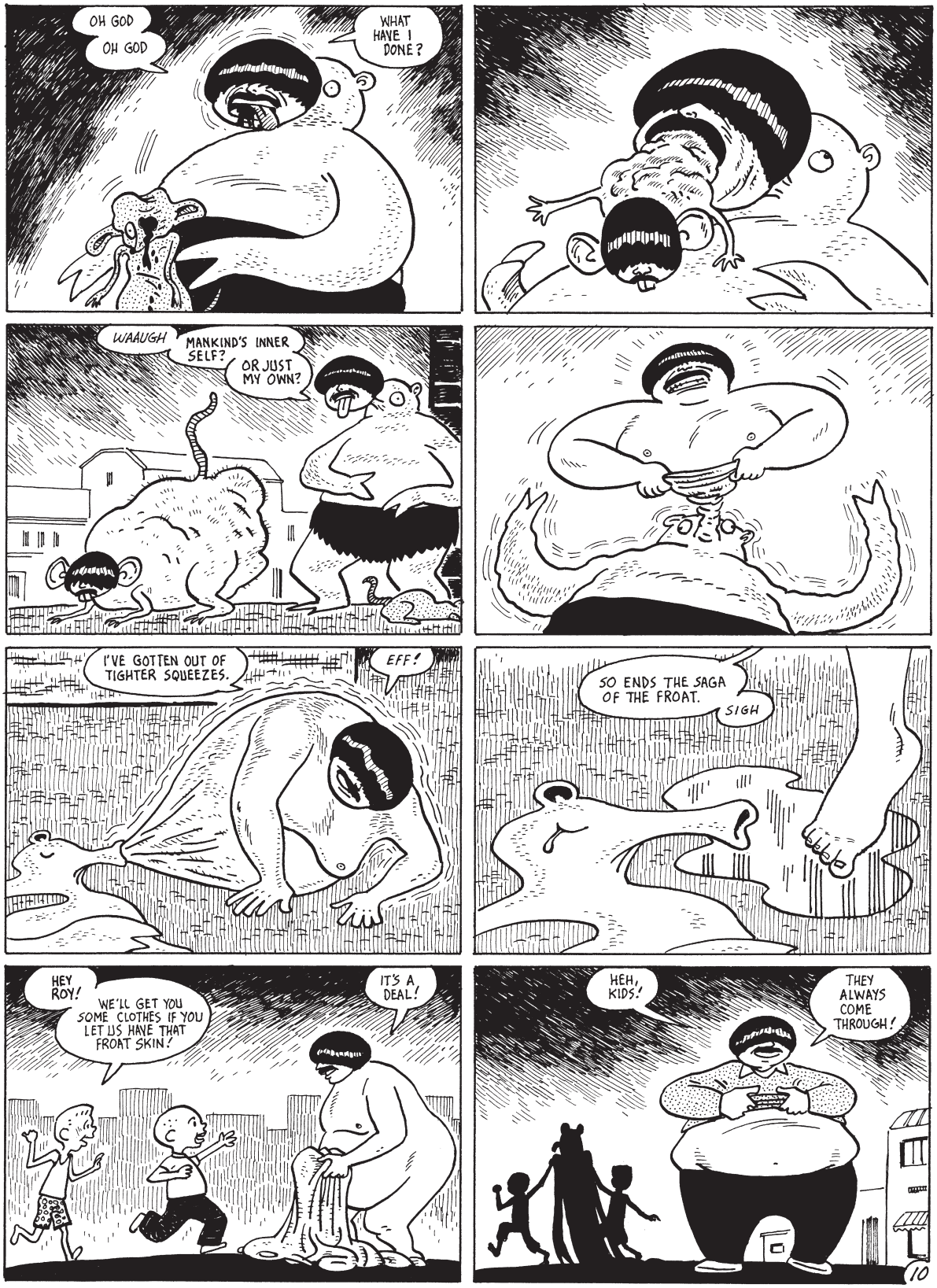
I SHOULD LIKE TO START A NEW CHURCH.
ONE FOR THOSE THAT'VE DIED AND RETURNED TO LIFE.
WILL YOU FOLLOW ME?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME MADAM X AND I GOT BACK TO THE FREE CLINIC.
THE SAMMER MONSTER IS BEHIND ON HIS CHORES AT THE CONVENT.
I'VE GOT STUNTS TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC FOR CHARITY.
I'M SCARED OF LIGHTNING SO I'LL STICK AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.
SEE YOU IN THE COMICS!
OH!
YOU MEAN THE FOOLS COLLECTED THE FROAT'S REMAINS AS WELL?
BUT WHERE?!
FROAT
5

MEWWW MEWWW!
THE FROAT!
THE BRAIN SUCKER OF DELAWARE!
HELP!
DOOR'S JAMMED!
I'M TRAPPED!!
NO!
SHLOOP!
SSSSSSS
SSSUUUUU
HE'S SUCKING HIS OWN BRAINS OUT OF HIS HEAD!
UUUUUUKKK
6

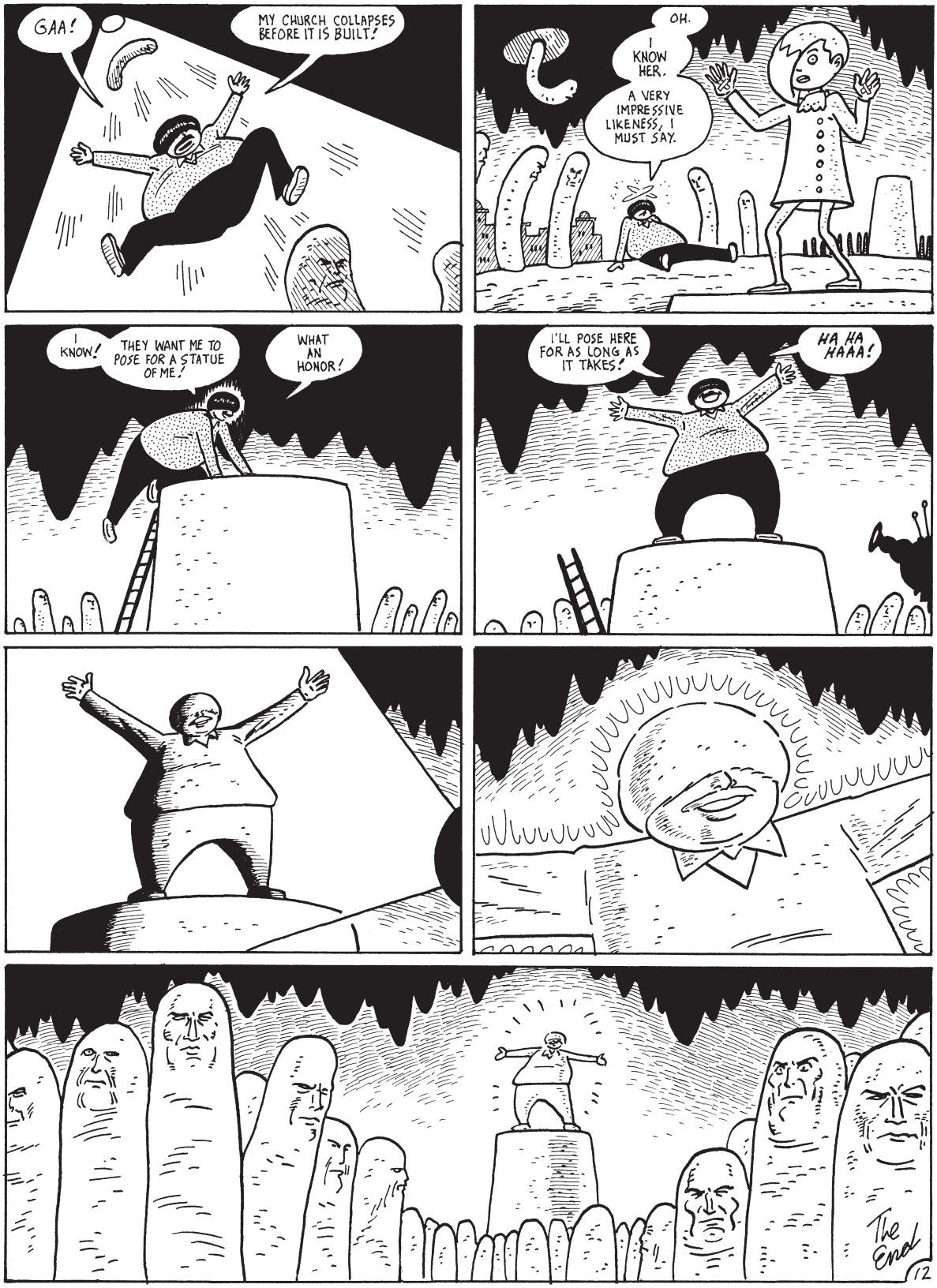
NOT SO FAST, FROATY! SMELLS LIKE TRIPE!
HAW!
MEWW MEWW
DUM DE DUM
A LITTLE SULFURIC ACID:
AND AWAY GO TROUBLES DOWN THE DRAIN
REEEEEE REEEE REEE
FZZOOOO
SONG - ROTO ROOTER JINGLE
AH, I SEE.
THE LOCK IS JUST BROKEN.
DID SOMEONE WANT ME STUCK IN HERE WITH MY ARCH NEMESIS THE FROAT?
NO MATTER, BECAUSE NOW I AM FREE!
I'M ALIVE!
NOW ALL I NEED IS MY OWN THEME SONG!
A SONG ABOUT ME!
SAB LABS
BE-YOND THE RIM OF THE STAR-LIGHT
MY LOVE IS WAN-DRING IN STAR FLIGHT
I KNOW HE'LL FIND IN STAR CLUSTER REACHES,
LOVE, STRANGE LOVE A STAR-WO-MAN TEACH-ES
I KNOW HIS JOUR-NEY NEVER ENDS NEV-ER
HIS STAR TREK WILL GO ON FOR-EV-ER.
BUT TELL HIM WHILE HE WANDERS HIS STAR-RY SEA
REMEMBER, REMEMBER ME
SONG - ORIGINAL STAR TREK THEME
THAT WASN'T EVEN MY OWN THEME SONG.
AND IT HAS TO BE SUNG BY A GIRL ABOUT ME ANYWAY.
HULLY GEE.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL SORRY FOR THE FROAT.
OOH, MY HEAD!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO FALL ASLEEP AFTER GETTING HIT BY A CAR.
7


OH..!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING..
OOOHHH..
GNNYAAAA..
THE FROAT!
NO, NO; I'M ROY!
NO...
I AM THE FROAT!
I GUESS THEY ACCIDENTALLY MIXED ITS DNA WITH MINE.
SOB.
THEREFORE I SHARE ITS CRAVING FOR LIVING BRAINS.
VAN HELSING IS DAMNED TO FOREVER BE LINKED WITH DRACULA...
RIPLEY WITH THE ALIEN...
AND I, ROY, WITH THE FROAT.
HELLA HOYYYY..!
GOD FORGIVE ME.
SHOVE!
AAK!
8


HA HAA!
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, MA'AM!
HA HA HA
HA HA HAA
OUT... WANT OUT...
IT SUCKS BEING THE FROAT.
I STILL HAVE A CRAVING FOR LIVING BRAINS.
SIGH
I WILL SPARE A HUMAN AND SUCK A RAT'S BRAIN INSTEAD.
ACTUALLY, THIS IS A LITTLE MORE INVOLVED THAN IT LOOKS.
SLURRRP..
9


OH GOD
OH GOD
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WAAUGH
MANKIND'S INNER SELF?
OR JUST MY OWN?
I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF TIGHTER SQUEEZES.
EFF!
SO ENDS THE SAGA OF THE FROAT.
SIGH
HEY ROY!
WE'LL GET YOU SOME CLOTHES IF YOU LET US HAVE THAT FROAT SKIN!
IT'S A DEAL!
HEH, KIDS!
THEY ALWAYS COME THROUGH!
10

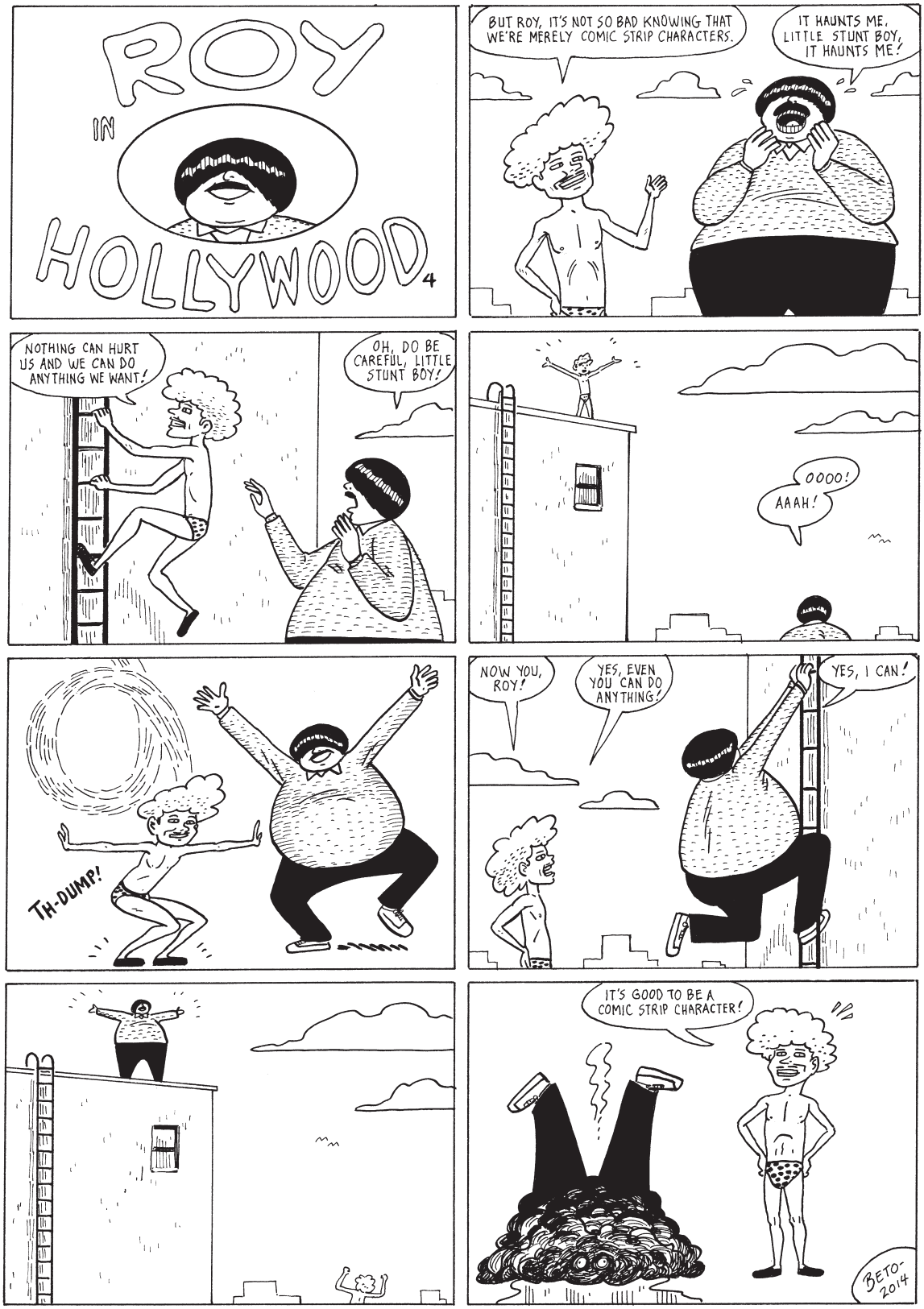
PERHAPS THE ONLY FOLLOWERS IN MY CHURCH SHOULD BE CHILDREN, AS THEY UNDERSTAND AND ABIDE.
TONIGHT ONLY
CHILDREN OFTEN FOLLOW A POP IDOL'S PHILOSOPHY IMPLICITLY.
PERHAPS HERE I CAN GET SOME INSPIRATION.
AND I COULDN'T LEARN FROM A BETTER SOURCE.
YAH YAH YAH!
The NUTTY FRUIT CAKES
SEE HOW THEIR FOLLOWERS WORSHIP MERE MORTALS AS IF THEY ARE GODS.
EEE
EEE
EEE
DEMI-GODHOOD ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE, ROY.
AND YOU WOULD KNOW FIRST HAND, BINGO.
I WILL SUCCEED WHERE THE FLOP TOPS FAILED.
FIRST, I WILL CONTACT PATTY HEARST FOR ADVICE.
LIVE TONIGHT
UH OH.
A TERRORIST ATTACK FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH?
CALLED BY THE DICK HEADS!
AND WHEN THEY COME CALLING, ONE MUST LISTEN!


GAA!
MY CHURCH COLLAPSES BEFORE IT IS BUILT!
OH.
I KNOW HER.
A VERY IMPRESSIVE LIKENESS, I MUST SAY.
I KNOW!
THEY WANT ME TO POSE FOR A STATUE OF ME!
WHAT AN HONOR!
I'LL POSE HERE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES!
HA HA HAAA!
The End
12

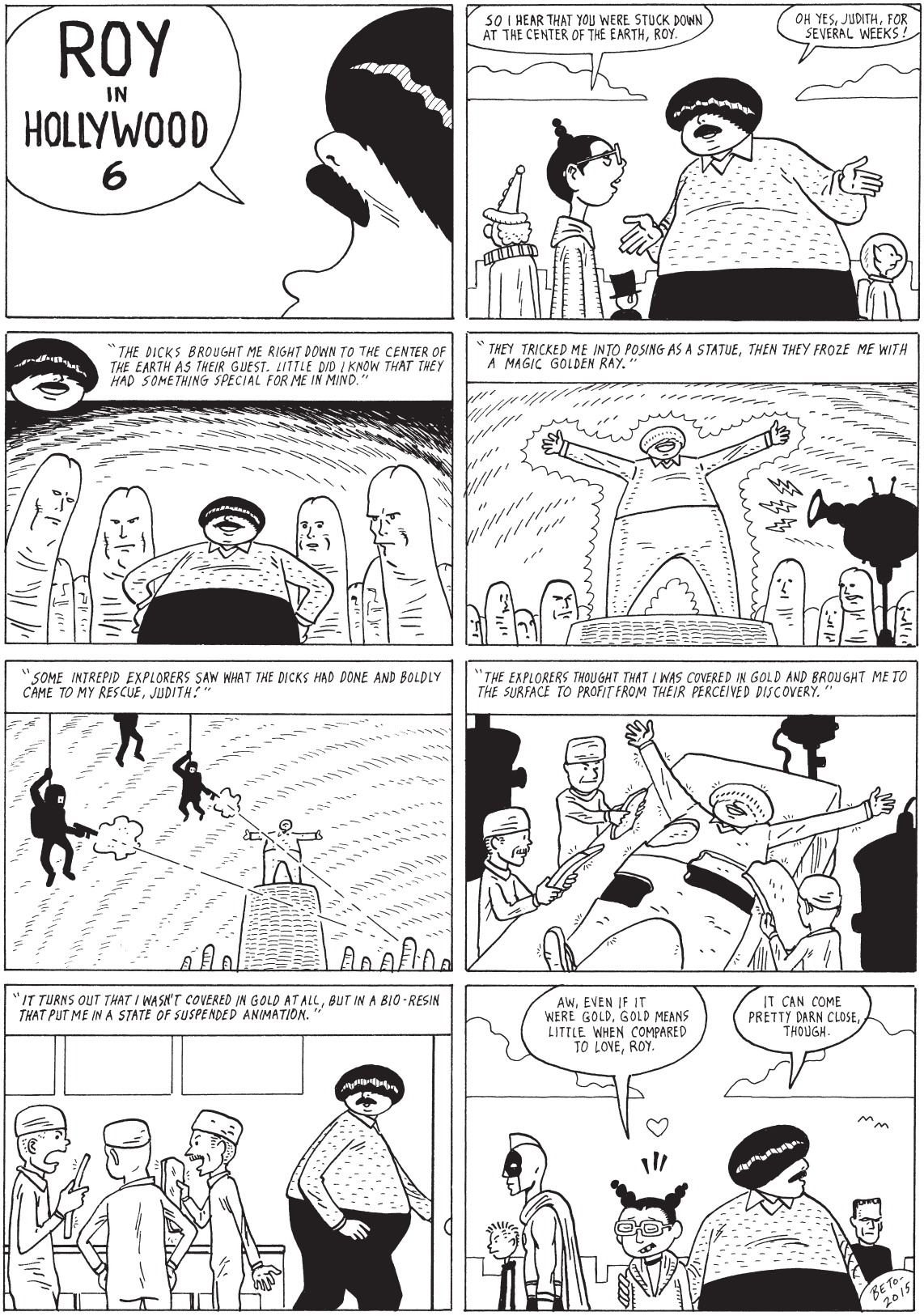
ROY IN HOLLYWOOD
by BETO 2014
WELL, FATHER SANDOVAL? HOW DO YOU LIKE HOLLYWOOD?
I FUCKING HATE FAMOUS PEOPLE, ROY.
OH, THERE'S CLOOMEY MARU! SHE'S SO TINY AND WRINKLED IN PERSON AND SHE'S ONLY TWENTY-THREE!
DID SHE GIVE YOU THE FAMOUS PERSON SCOWL/FROWN AS SHE WALKED BY, OR WAS IT THE STRAIGHT AHEAD STARE AS IF WARNING YOU NOT TO FUCKING TALK TO HER?
UH, WELL, SHE··
THERE'S BRAD BLIVITZ!
I CAN SMELL HIS B.O. FROM HERE.
YES, THEY OFTEN ENJOY THE SMELL OF THEIR OWN B.O., IT'S TRUE.
HEY, HOW'RE YOU DOIN', FATHER?
THAT WAS JEREMY BUTTLICKER! SEE? HE WAS NICE!
IT'S AN ACT. WHENEVER THEY ACT NICE, IT'S ACTING. ONCE THEY GET FAMOUS, THEY CAN NO LONGER RELATE TO NORMAL PEOPLE.
OH, EXCUSE ME!
FUCK OFF!
CAFE
FATHER SANDOVAL IS RIGHT!
FAMOUS PEOPLE DO SUCK!
BEVERLY
ROBERTSON
The End

ROY in HOLLYWOOD 2
BETO-2014
WAIT-- GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ PUTS HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH AGAIN!
IT'S HERE IN THIS SHORT INTERVIEW FOR VICE.
OH YES, HE'S GOT A NEW COMIC STRIP IN VICE.
VICE
HE SAYS THAT MOST 'INDY' CARTOONISTS ARE WIMPY AND SELF-IMPORTANT!
HE'S THE MOST SELF-IMPORTANT HACK THERE IS!
WELL, WE CAN'T BE TOO SURE, BOYCHICK.
I'M CALLING HIM!
GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ?
YES! COME TO HOLLYWOOD AND VINE.
OH, MY GOODNESS!
I'LL GIVE HIM A GOOD SCOLDING!
THE NERVE OF THAT NO TALENT HACK!
8 HOURS LATER...
AW, HE ISN'T GOING TO SHOW UP, ROY.
HE'S CHICKEN!
HOLLYWOOD BLVD
VINE ST
SEE YOU AT THE NEXT SUPERHERO MOVIE RELEASE!
SEE YOU, BOYCHICK!
GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ?!
WHO'S YOUR DADDY?
The End

Roy in Hollywood 3
WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS 'INDY' COMICS, NOTED CARTOONIST GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ?
ROY, THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE ARE MANY TALENTED 'INDY' COMICS CREATORS MAKING GOOD COMICS AS ALWAYS.
I'M JUST GETTING OLD AND CRANKY, I GUESS.
PROJECTING MY WEARY HOSTILITY UPON THOSE THAT DON'T DESERVE IT.
I GUESS I JUST ENVY THEM THEIR YOUTH, THEIR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERING NEW THINGS, OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF UNTOLD RICHES.
I'VE NEVER SOLD A MOVIE SCRIPT, ROY!
REJECTION IS NO PROPER WAY TO MEASURE A PERSON'S WORTH.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST BEING A COMIC STRIP CHARACTER, ROY.
HEH HEH.
I'M JUST A COMIC STRIP CHARACTER?
OH, SURE!
I'M...?
I...?
BETO 2014


ROY IN HOLLYWOOD 4
BUT ROY, IT'S NOT SO BAD KNOWING THAT WE'RE MERELY COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS.
IT HAUNTS ME, LITTLE STUNT BOY, IT HAUNTS ME!
NOTHING CAN HURT US AND WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT!
OH, DO BE CAREFUL, LITTLE STUNT BOY!
OOOO!
AAAH!
TH-DUMP!
NOW YOU, ROY!
YES, EVEN YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
YES, I CAN!
IT'S GOOD TO BE A COMIC STRIP CHARACTER!
BETO-2014

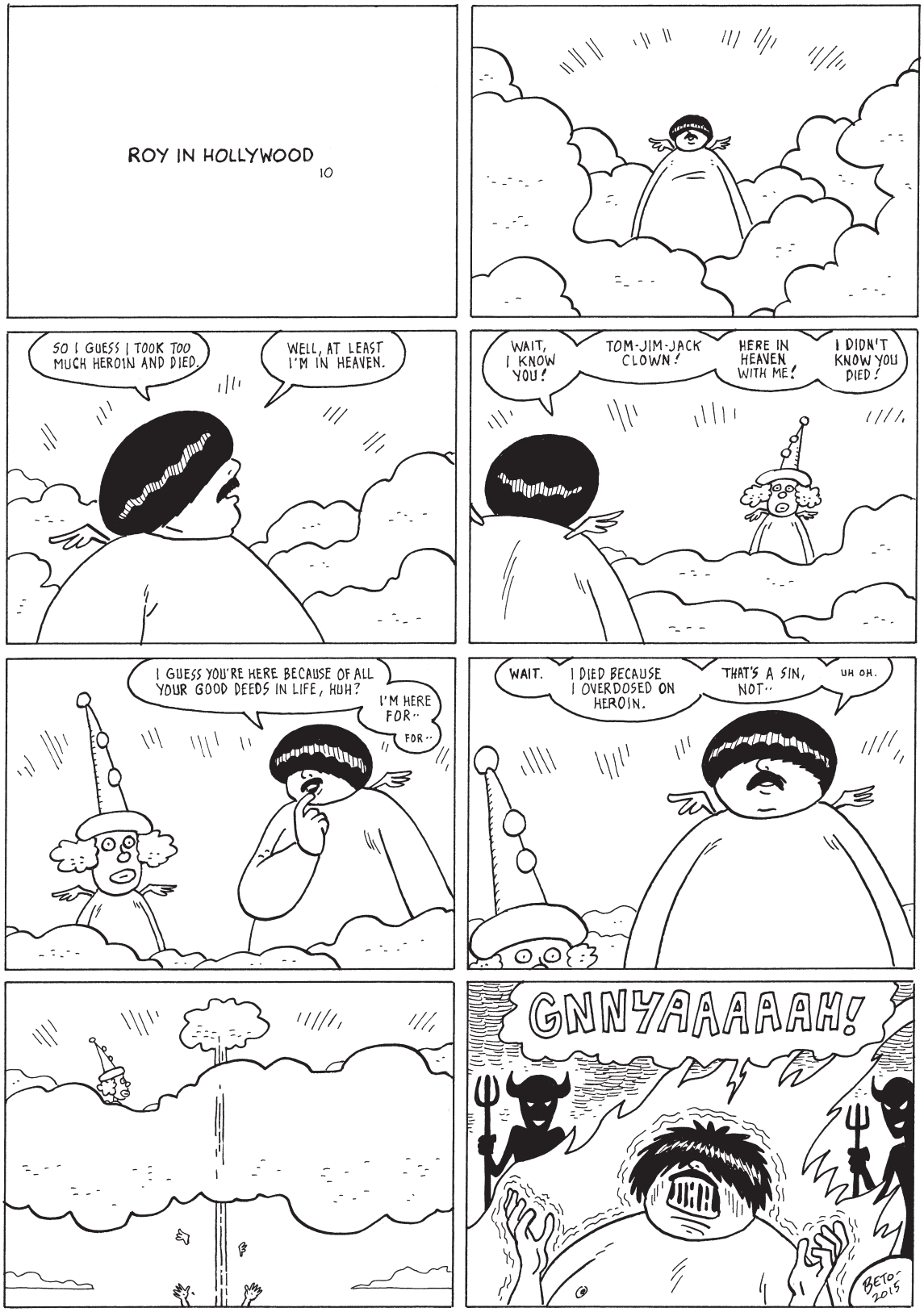
ROY IN HOLLYWOOD
5
ROY.
JUDITH?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, ROY.
YOU LOOK GOOD.
YOU LOOK AS RAVISHING AS EVER, JUDITH.
I LEFT HIM, ROY.
HE WAS NO GOOD, ROY, HE...
SAY NO MORE.
WE CAN START OVER, JUDITH.
HOLLYWOOD IS THE LAND OF MAGICAL CREATIVITY AND ENDLESS FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE MADE HIS FORTUNE PUBLISHING 'INDY' COMICS BUT HE DID NOT KNOW LOVE, ROY!
I WILL SHOW YOU THAT LOVE.
BETO-2014

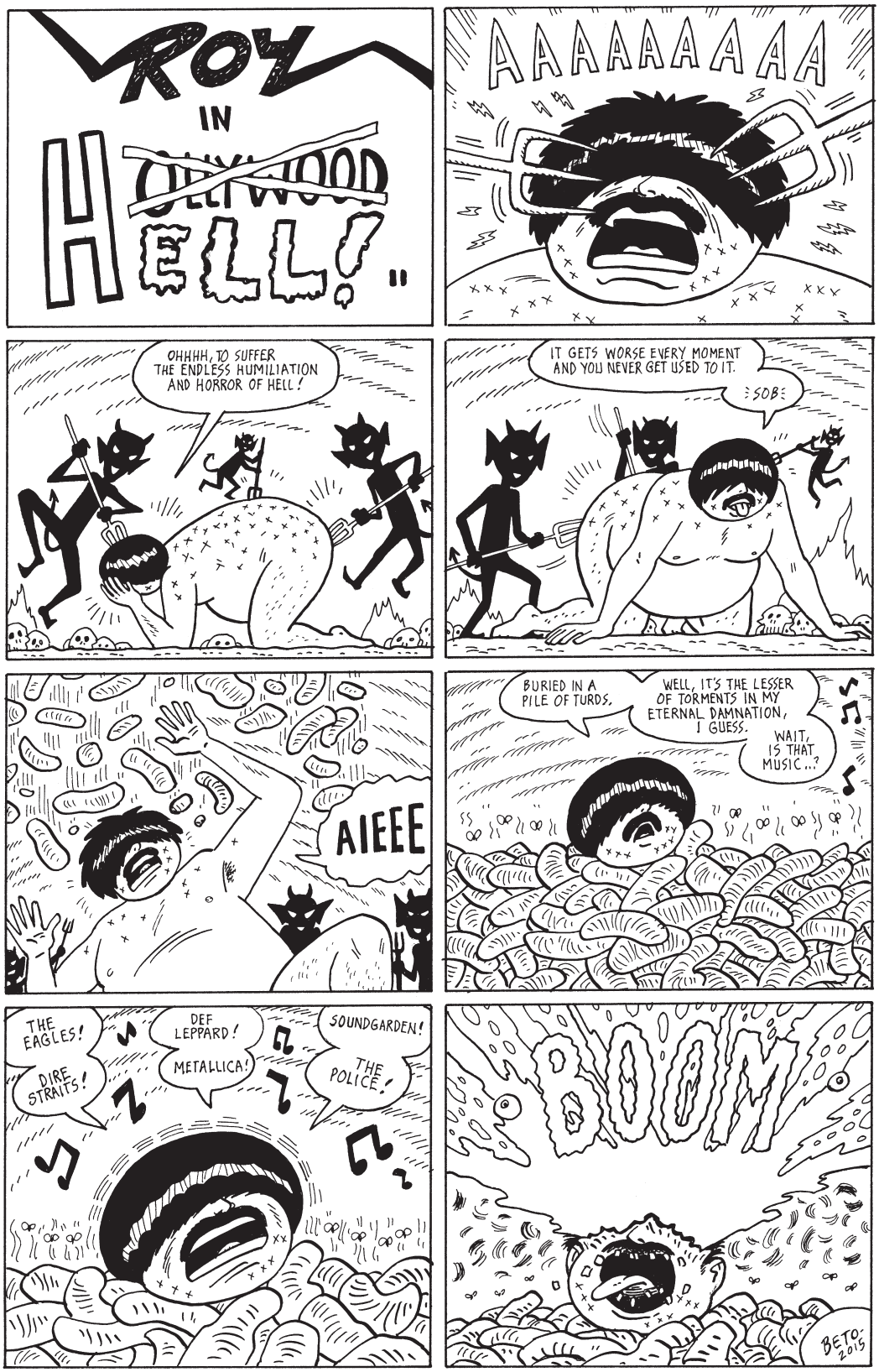

ROY IN HOLLYWOOD 6
SO I HEAR THAT YOU WERE STUCK DOWN AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, ROY.
OH YES, JUDITH, FOR SEVERAL WEEKS!
"THE DICKS BROUGHT ME RIGHT DOWN TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH AS THEIR GUEST. LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR ME IN MIND."
"THEY TRICKED ME INTO POSING AS A STATUE, THEN THEY FROZE ME WITH A MAGIC GOLDEN RAY."
"SOME INTREPID EXPLORERS SAW WHAT THE DICKS HAD DONE AND BOLDLY CAME TO MY RESCUE, JUDITH!"
"THE EXPLORERS THOUGHT THAT I WAS COVERED IN GOLD AND BROUGHT ME TO THE SURFACE TO PROFIT FROM THEIR PERCEIVED DISCOVERY."
"IT TURNS OUT THAT I WASN'T COVERED IN GOLD AT ALL, BUT IN A BIO-RESIN THAT PUT ME IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION."
AW, EVEN IF IT WERE GOLD, GOLD MEANS LITTLE WHEN COMPARED TO LOVE, ROY.
IT CAN COME PRETTY DARN CLOSE, THOUGH.
BETO-2015

ROY IN HOLLYWOOD 7
HOLLYWOOD IS SUCH A MAGICAL PLACE!
YOU CAN'T FILM ON HOLLYWOOD BLVD. WITHOUT A PERMIT.
OH, SORRY. MY MISTAKE.
OH, GO AHEAD AND FILM, ROY!
IT'S ONLY FOR OUR OWN HOME MOVIES!
WELL, ALL RIGHT, JUDITH.
YOU CAN'T FILM HERE!
WHAT?! SHOW ME YOUR FUCKING BADGE, PHONY PUSSY COP!
COME ALONG, JUDITH.
HERE! I'LL FILM AND THE NEXT BUTT LICKER THAT TELLS US··
YOU CAN'T FILM HERE.
DICK
WHAM!
DICK
JUDITH..!
SORRY ABOUT YOUR CAMERA, ROY.
CK
NEXT TIME WE'LL FILM IN SECRET WITH A CELL PHONE.
THAT WON'T DO MUCH TO AN ASSHOLE'S SKULL.
BETO -2015

Roy in Hollywood
SORRY THAT YOUR UGLY GIRLFRIEND IS IN JAIL, ROY!
JUDITH IS NOT UGLY!
NOT MUCH! HAW HAW!
C'MON, ROY! TAKE A PUFF OF REEFER! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!
BUT IT'S A GATEWAY DRUG!
IT'S NOT A DRUG AND YOU'LL FEEL LESS LONELY!
YEEAAHHH...
SSSSFFFFF··
YEEAAHHH...
OH FUCK, NOW I NEED A SNORT OF COKE !!!
WHIFFFFFFFFFFFF··
GAH, NOW HEROIN!
ONE OF US, ONE OF US...
GOOBLE GOBBLE, GOOBLE GOBBLE··
ONE OF US, ONE OF US...
BETO 2015

ROY
IN HOLLYWOOD 9
FUCKING SHIT!
GLOBAL TERRORISM!
COPS THAT ARE POORLY TRAINED!
BATH-SALT ZOMBIES!
GOTTA FUCKIN' MAINTAIN.
THE WORLD HAS GONE TO SHIT AND HERE I AM OUT OF REEFER!
FUCK YOU, WORLD!
I WAS SAVING THIS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION, LIKE WHEN I BINGE-WATCH THE ENTIRE SERIES OF "TRAILER PARK BOYS" AGAIN.
FUCKIN' LOVE THIS BUT IT'S REAL EXPENSIVE!
I MAY HAVE TO ROB TO GET MORE, PERHAPS EVEN KILL!
YEAH...
I-I...
OH... SHIT.
BETO 2015


ROY IN HOLLYWOOD
10
SO I GUESS I TOOK TOO MUCH HEROIN AND DIED.
WELL, AT LEAST I'M IN HEAVEN.
WAIT, I KNOW YOU!
TOM-JIM-JACK CLOWN!
HERE IN HEAVEN WITH ME!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DIED!
I GUESS YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE OF ALL YOUR GOOD DEEDS IN LIFE, HUH?
I'M HERE FOR··
FOR··
WAIT.
I DIED BECAUSE I OVERDOSED ON HEROIN.
THAT'S A SIN, NOT··
UH OH.
GNNYAAAAAH!
BETO 2015


ROY IN HELL!
AAAAAAAAAA
OHHHH, TO SUFFER THE ENDLESS HUMILIATION AND HORROR OF HELL!
IT GETS WORSE EVERY MOMENT AND YOU NEVER GET USED TO IT.
:SOB:
AIEEE
BURIED IN A PILE OF TURDS.
WELL, IT'S THE LESSER OF TORMENTS IN MY ETERNAL DAMNATION, I GUESS.
WAIT, IS THAT MUSIC...?
THE EAGLES!
DIRE STRAITS!
DEF LEPPARD!
METALLICA!
SOUNDGARDEN!
THE POLICE!
BOOM
BETO 2015

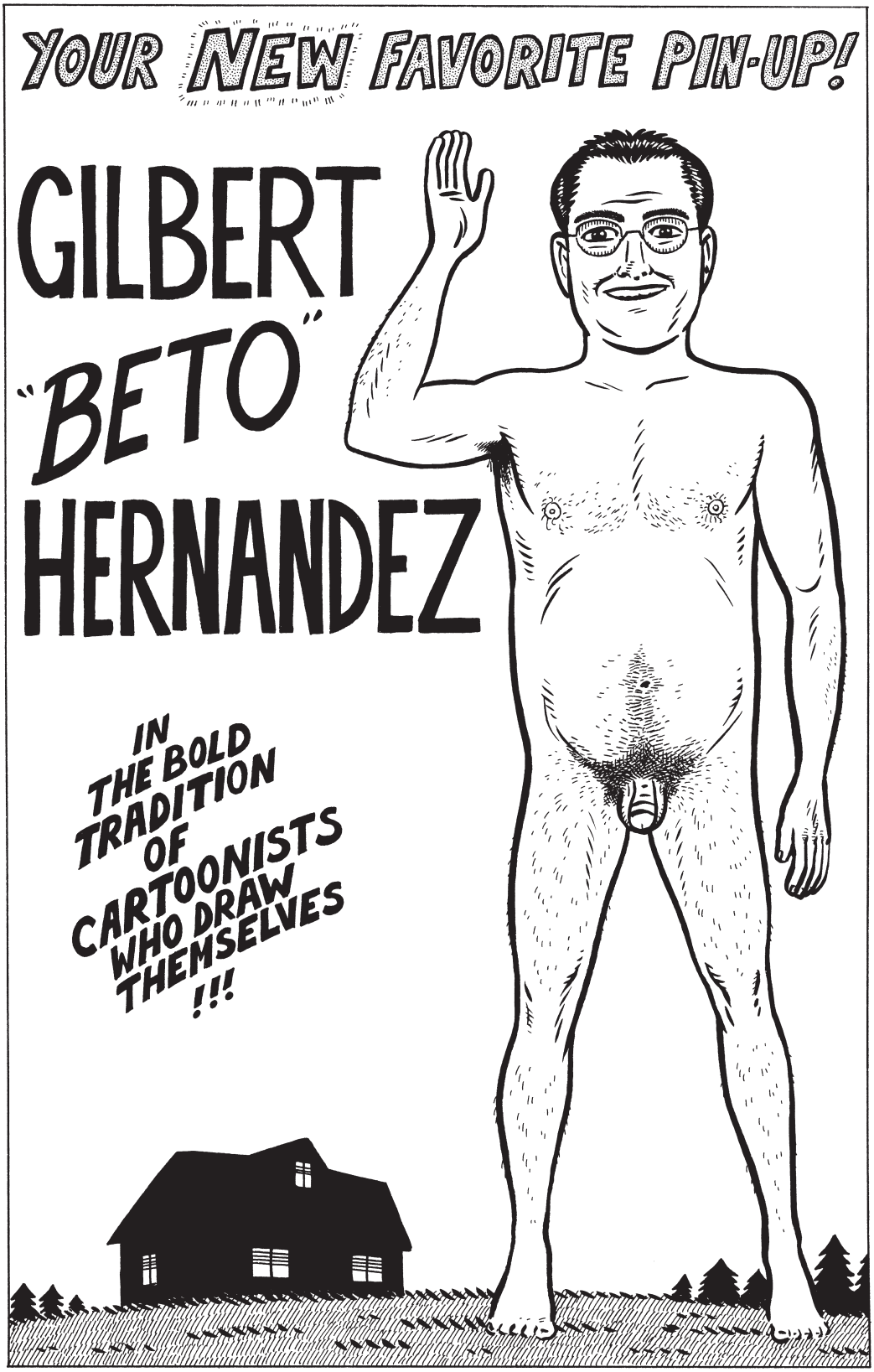
*ROY: IN ~~HOLLYWOOD~~
HELL
12
OH!
HAVE I ESCAPED THE BOWELS OF HELL?
DID GOD GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE?
NO, YOU'RE STILL IN HELL, ROY.
NOTED CARTOONIST GILBERT 'BETO' HERNANDEZ!
DON'T TELL ME YOU~
OH, I'M STILL ALIVE, BUT I JUST LIKE HANGING AROUND HERE ONCE IN A WHILE.
I HAVEN'T DECIDED IF I'M GOING TO HEAVEN OR HELL WHEN IT'S MY TIME, Y'KNOW?
HELL SEEMS TO SUCK AS BAD AS PEOPLE HAVE WARNED US ABOUT, BUT HEAVEN SEEMS TERRIBLY BORING.
WHICH ETERNITY WILL CHALLENGE ME MORE?
WHERE WILL MY BRILLIANT CREATIVITY BE INSPIRED BEST?
I MUST ENGAGE MY CREATIVITY AT ALL TIMES!
I AM EVER THE ARTIST, THE POET, THE BELIEVER...
THE WONDERFULNESS OF ME IS UNBEARABLY WONDERFUL!
OH, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME AND ME!
I WILL CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE TO HEAVEN AND HELL!
MORE HEAVENLY THAN HEAVEN!
MORE INTENSE THAN HELL!
I GIVE YOU:
GILBERT!
THE ETERNITY OF ME!
ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME...
BETO 2015

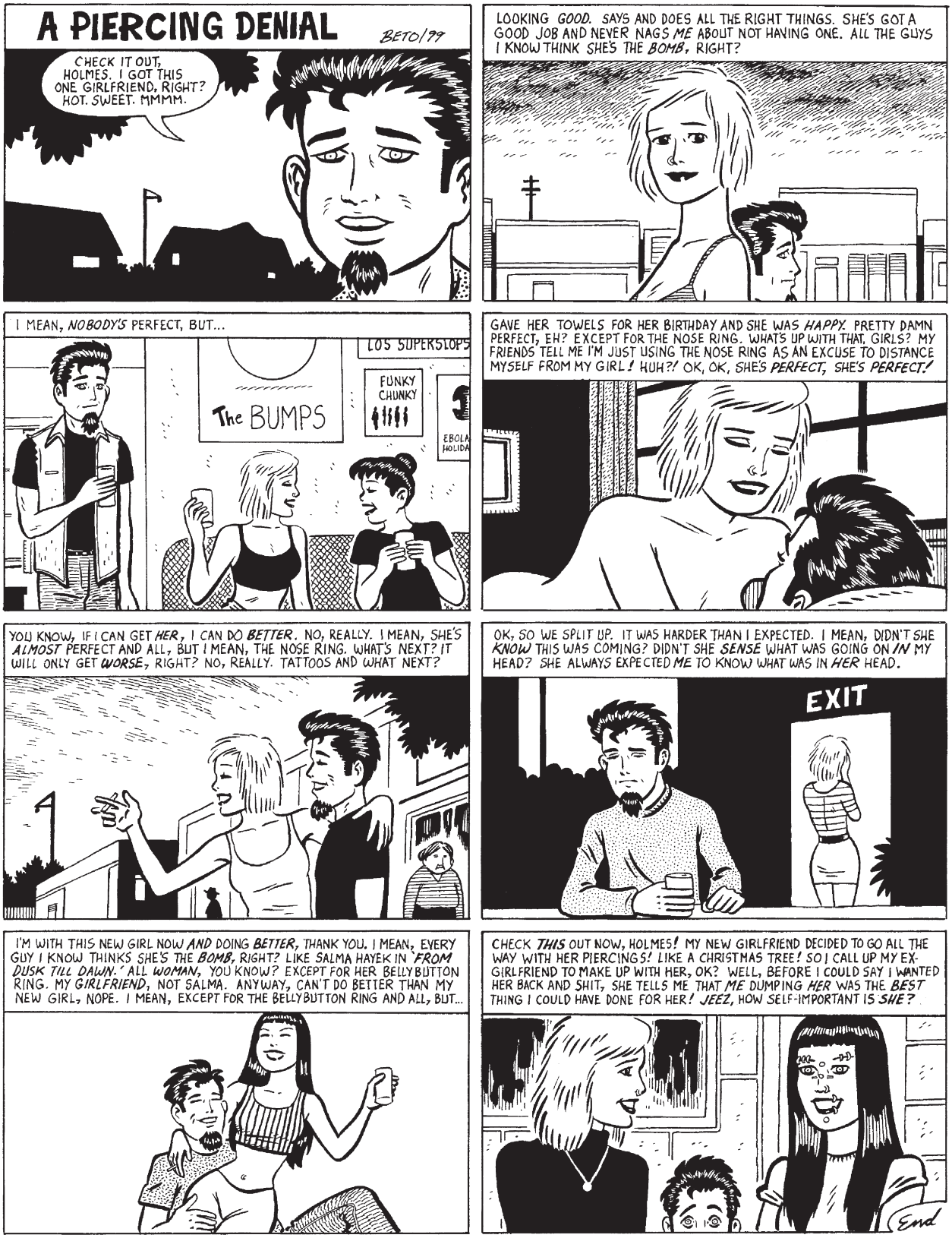
ROY
IN HOLLYWOOD
13
BAW!
I'M IN HELL FOR ALL OF ETERNITY!
ROY, RELAX.
YOU'LL BE FINE.
HITLER?!
I'M IN THE SAME HELL AS HITLER?!
HELL'S HELL, ROY.
IT'S NOT SO BAD.
PLENTY OF TORTURE, ENDLESS DEGRADATION, HUMILIATION...
BILLIONS OF HOT CHICKS AND DUDES BUT YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH 'EM.
CHECK IT OUT, ROY.
HOMICIDAL SCUMBAG RICHARD SPECK TOOK HORMONE TABLETS.
SWEET, HUH?
NICE TO MEET YOU, ROY.
OH, COME ON, ROY, YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT!
OH, IT'S NOT THAT, HITLER.
LOTS OF NICE PEOPLE TAKE HORMONES, I GUESS.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU AND RICHARD SPECK WERE VILE, HORRIBLE PEOPLE.
IF YOU THINK WE WERE BAD, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET.
OH, I CAN IMAGINE THAT THERE ARE BILLONS OF EVIL PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
AND WE KEEP COMING, WORSE AND WORSE!
?
YOU'RE EARLY.
I'LL BE IN HERE LONGER NOW BECAUSE I STUCK A SHIV INTO BOTH BALLS OF A SCREW AFTER I FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS SEXUALLY HARRASSING SOME OF THE GIRLS LOCKED UP IN THIS JOINT.
BETO 2015

ROY in
HOLLYWOOD 14
OH, I MISS JUDITH.
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG SHE'LL BE IN JAIL.
DIS IS A STICK UP, SEE?
HAND OVER THE DOUGH!
A HOLD-UP IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
THOK!
TOM-JIM-JACK-CLOWN!
HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST SUPER-HERO!
ALIVE AGAIN!
FOOT!
BUT NOW YOU MUST FLEE!
WA-HOO!
YOU ARE AN OUTLAW NOT UNLIKE ROBIN HOOD!
POOT!
ROY, YOU'VE CAPTURED MUGSY MALONE, THE WESTSIDE BANDIT!
THUMBS UP TO ROY!
AH, OH, IT WAS NOTHING!
TOM-JIM-JACK CLOWN IS ALIVE AND TAKING NAMES!
HE WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE AND SO HAVE I!
I WAS RELEASED FROM THE BOWELS OF HELL FOR A REASON!
ROY MUST LIVE AGAIN!
BETO-2015

ROY
(BACK) IN HOLLYWOOD
15
JUDITH!
JUDITH!
JUDITH!
OH, J--J--
JAMAL?
WHA..?
YOU OVERDOSED ON HEROIN AGAIN, ROY!
YOU ALMOST DIED AND WENT BACK TO HELL!
I CAN'T STAND IT THAT MY BELOVED JUDITH IS STILL IN JAIL, JAMAL!
WELL, IF YOU WANT TO STAY OUT OF HELL, STAY OFF THIS SHIT!
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER THAT YOU'VE AGREED TO HELP ME TO BUST JUDITH OUT OF SHIT-ASS JAIL, TOM-JIM-JACK CLOWN!
ONLY A LOVING REUNION WITH JUDITH WILL HELP ME TO GET OFF DRUGS FOR GOOD!
I AM VERY MUCH HOOKED ON JUDITH, THAT'S TRUE!
POLICE STATI
LET'S DO IT!!!
CRASH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
EAT LEAD, COPPERS!
NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL, YOU'LL WAIT FOR ME, WON'T YOU JUDITH, MY LOVE?
SUCK IT UP, ROY.
OOH, THAT'S SOME COLD SHIT RIGHT THERE.
BETO-2015

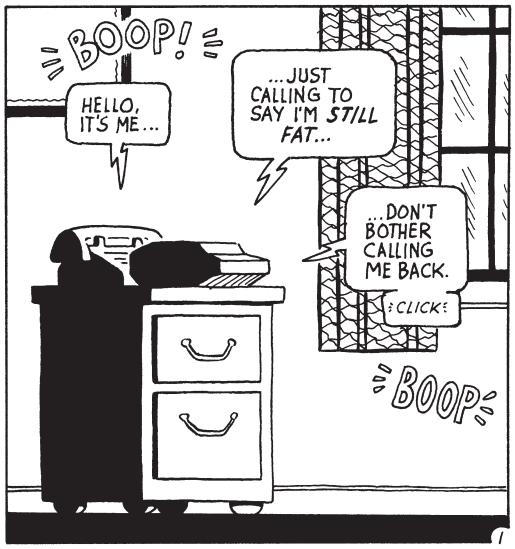
ROY in FUCKING HOLLYWOOD 16
OH WOE.
OH, WOE IS ME.
I HATE PRISON, TOM-JIM-JACK CLOWN.
AND THERE'S NO TELLING IF MY LOVE WILL BE WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GET OUT.
OH WOE!
WAIT, WHAT'S THIS..?
THE DICKS!
THEY'VE COME UP FROM THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH TO BREAK US OUT OF HERE, TOM-JIM-JACK CLOWN!
BUT THEY'RE NOT TAKING US BACK DOWN TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH WITH THEM!
THEY'RE TAKING US WHERE..?
WHERE?
PUSH, HONEY PUSH.
GGGGG..
FFUCKK!
BABY ROY IS BORN!
The End

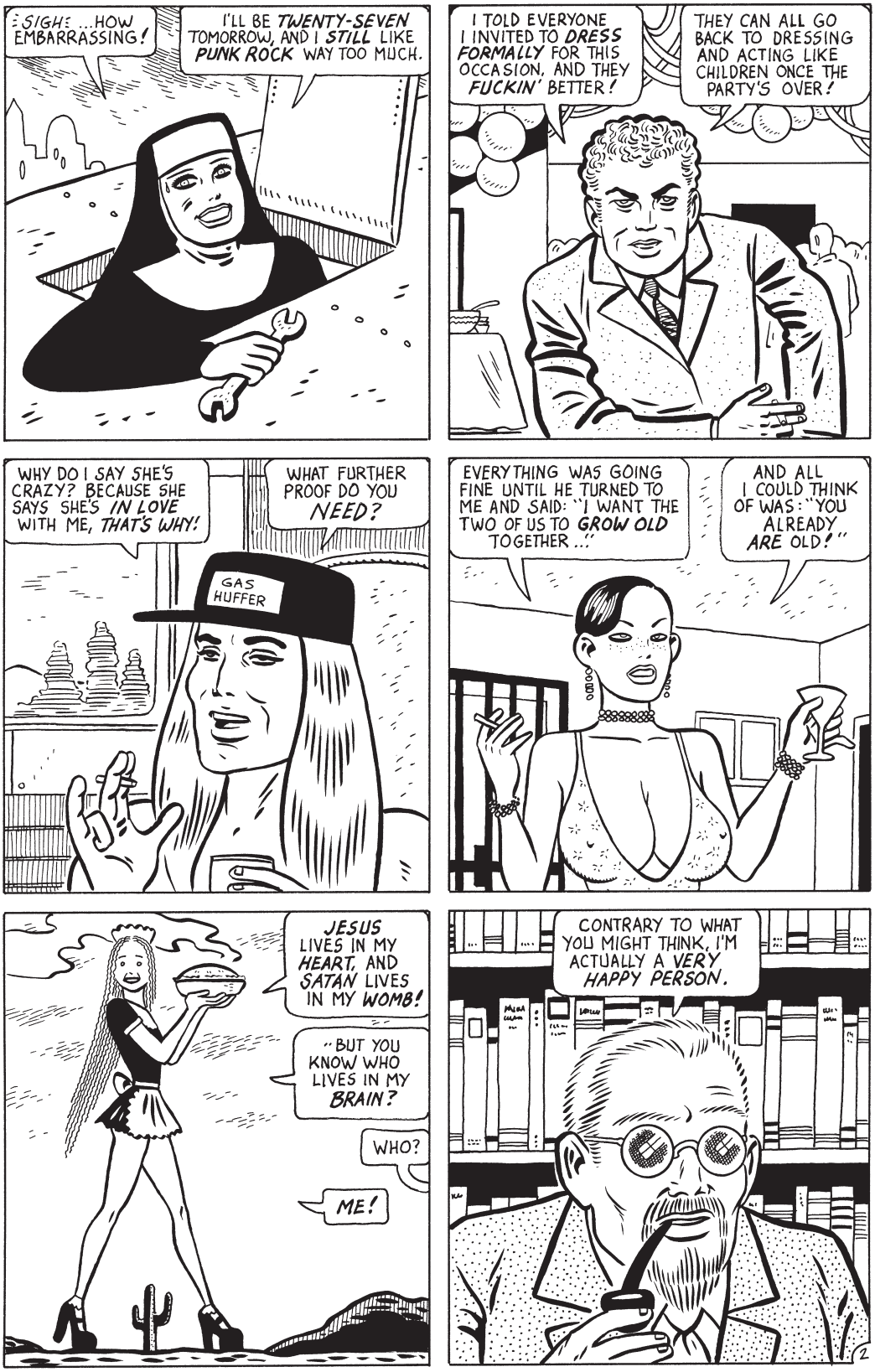

YOUR NEW FAVORITE PIN-UP!
GILBERT "BETO" HERNANDEZ
IN THE BOLD TRADITION OF CARTOONISTS WHO DRAW THEMSELVES !!!


A PIERCING DENIAL
BETO/99
CHECK IT OUT, HOLMES. I GOT THIS ONE GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT? HOT. SWEET. MMMM.
LOOKING GOOD. SAYS AND DOES ALL THE RIGHT THINGS. SHE'S GOT A GOOD JOB AND NEVER NAGS ME ABOUT NOT HAVING ONE. ALL THE GUYS I KNOW THINK SHE'S THE BOMB, RIGHT?
I MEAN, NOBODY'S PERFECT, BUT...
LOS SUPERSLOPS
The BUMPS
FUNKY CHUNKY
EBOLA HOLIDA
GAVE HER TOWELS FOR HER BIRTHDAY AND SHE WAS HAPPY. PRETTY DAMN PERFECT, EH? EXCEPT FOR THE NOSE RING. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, GIRLS? MY FRIENDS TELL ME I'M JUST USING THE NOSE RING AS AN EXCUSE TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM MY GIRL! HUH?! OK, OK, SHE'S PERFECT, SHE'S PERFECT!
YOU KNOW, IF I CAN GET HER, I CAN DO BETTER. NO, REALLY. I MEAN, SHE'S ALMOST PERFECT AND ALL, BUT I MEAN, THE NOSE RING. WHAT'S NEXT? IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE, RIGHT? NO, REALLY. TATTOOS AND WHAT NEXT?
OK, SO WE SPLIT UP. IT WAS HARDER THAN I EXPECTED. I MEAN, DIDN'T SHE KNOW THIS WAS COMING? DIDN'T SHE SENSE WHAT WAS GOING ON IN MY HEAD? SHE ALWAYS EXPECTED ME TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN HER HEAD.
EXIT
I'M WITH THIS NEW GIRL NOW AND DOING BETTER, THANK YOU. I MEAN, EVERY GUY I KNOW THINKS SHE'S THE BOMB, RIGHT? LIKE SALMA HAYEK IN 'FROM DUSK TILL DAWN.' ALL WOMAN, YOU KNOW? EXCEPT FOR HER BELLYBUTTON RING. MY GIRLFRIEND, NOT SALMA. ANYWAY, CAN'T DO BETTER THAN MY NEW GIRL, NOPE. I MEAN, EXCEPT FOR THE BELLYBUTTON RING AND ALL, BUT...
CHECK THIS OUT NOW, HOLMES! MY NEW GIRLFRIEND DECIDED TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH HER PIERCINGS! LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE! SO I CALL UP MY EX-GIRLFRIEND TO MAKE UP WITH HER, OK? WELL, BEFORE I COULD SAY I WANTED HER BACK AND SHIT, SHE TELLS ME THAT ME DUMPING HER WAS THE BEST THING I COULD HAVE DONE FOR HER! JEEZ, HOW SELF-IMPORTANT IS SHE?
End

PARANOIA PHOLLIES PROUDLY PRESENTS:
"ME"
AND YES, THIS COMIC IS ALL ABOUT YOU!
"I CAN'T STAND THE PERSON I SEE IN THE MIRROR...
...BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM LOOKING!"
ALL QUOTES INACCURATELY RECALLED BY PETER BAGGE © 1996 ART BY: GILBERT HERNANDEZ

I'M GONNA PUT OUT A ZINE CALLED "KICK ASS" IN WHICH I'M TAKING ALL OF YOU SUCKERS DOWN!
NO ONE WILL BE SPARED! NO ONE!
BUT FIRST, I THINK I'LL TAKE A LITTLE NAP!
ZZZ


BOOP!
HELLO, IT'S ME...
...JUST CALLING TO SAY I'M STILL FAT...
...DON'T BOTHER CALLING ME BACK.
:CLICK:
BOOP!


SIGH: ...HOW EMBARRASSING!
I'LL BE TWENTY-SEVEN TOMORROW, AND I STILL LIKE PUNK ROCK WAY TOO MUCH.
I TOLD EVERYONE I INVITED TO DRESS FORMALLY FOR THIS OCCASION, AND THEY FUCKIN' BETTER!
THEY CAN ALL GO BACK TO DRESSING AND ACTING LIKE CHILDREN ONCE THE PARTY'S OVER!
WHY DO I SAY SHE'S CRAZY? BECAUSE SHE SAYS SHE'S IN LOVE WITH ME, THAT'S WHY!
WHAT FURTHER PROOF DO YOU NEED?
GAS HUFFER
EVERYTHING WAS GOING FINE UNTIL HE TURNED TO ME AND SAID: "I WANT THE TWO OF US TO GROW OLD TOGETHER..."
AND ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS: "YOU ALREADY ARE OLD!"
JESUS LIVES IN MY HEART, AND SATAN LIVES IN MY WOMB!
"BUT YOU KNOW WHO LIVES IN MY BRAIN?
WHO?
ME!
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK, I'M ACTUALLY A VERY HAPPY PERSON.

I TRY TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF BEING JUST YOUR AVERAGE RUN-OF-THE-MILL "MAN OF THE PEOPLE."
IT HELPS TO HIDE THE FACT THAT I'VE GOT AN EGO THE SIZE OF MOUNT EVEREST.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GONNA WRITE A BOOK CALLED "REASONS NOT TO GO INTO THE CARTOONING BUSINESS..."
I FIGURE IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST FAVOR I COULD POSSIBLY DO FOR HUMANITY.
SIGH
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY FOR ME TO MAKE MORE MONEY OFF OF THIS SHTICK!
YOU THINK WHAT I DO IS SICK?!
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: ONCE THE FASCISTS TAKE OVER, YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ONE IN LINE FOR THE DEATH CAMPS!
THE FIRST ONE IN LINE!
WELCOME TO THE ABA
PEDOPHILES I'VE KNOWN AND LOVED
TAKE ONE
IN YOUR FACE, BAGGE! IN YOUR FACE!
...I JUST FELT LIKE SAYING THAT...
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING ABOUT ME IN HERE SOMEWHERE!
THERE'S GOT TO BE!
HATE!
The End

~ for CAROL ~
BUZZIN'
by BETO-01-
SNUCK OUT OF YOUR HOUSE AGAIN, HUH, NATALIA?
DAD WAS SNORING AGAIN.
I THOUGHT HE STOPPED DRINKING.
YEAH, BUT HE PROBABLY SNORES NOW BECAUSE HE'S FAT. TOO MUCH SALTY FOODS AND STUFF.
HE USED TO BE PRETTY SKINNY AS A KID, I DO RECALL.
HE CALLS IT 'DRAWING BOARD BELLY.'
HEY, SHOULD YOU BE WALKING AT SIX MONTHS? THAT COULD RUIN YOUR LEGS, GIRL.
HOW DO YOU GUYS AND SNAKES GET AROUND WITHOUT ARMS OR LEGS?
OH, IT'S CALLED A 'FOOT,' BUT IT'S REALLY MUSCLE CONTROL.
SLOWLY BUT SURELY. NOT A BAD WAY TO LIVE LIFE IN GENERAL.
YEAH...YOU'LL BE EATING REGULAR FOOD SOON. PROBABLY SALTY STUFF, HUH?
I GUESS. KIDS LOVE FRENCH FRIES, ETC...
LET ME KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.
ZIP.

'PETERSON' WAS PORTRAYED BY BELOVED DANISH COMEDIAN DIRCH PASSER IN THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE 'REPTILICUS', 1961

REFLECTIONS The DAY AFTER

IT WAS A FREEWAY MISHAP THAT TOOK HIM FROM US.

BETO 4/7/04

STEPHAN DE LEON LOVED COMIC BOOKS, PUNK ROCK, STAR WARS, WRESTLING AND SHEMP.

HEE BEE BEE BEE BEE ...

SIMPLY LIKING WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR STEPHAN. HE PUT EVERYTHING HE HAD INTO WHAT HE LOVED.

THAT INCLUDED HIS UNWAVERING GENEROSITY AND LOVING DEVOTION AS A FRIEND.

CLUB LINGERIE, HOLLYWOOD!

STEPHAN DE LEON VS. TIM TALLTREES!

THE BELL IS RUNG! A WILD, FEROCIOUSLY ENTERTAINING MATCH!

IT WAS TIME FOR THE FINALE! IT WAS TIME TO JUICE!

'JUICING' IS A WRESTLING TERM FOR GETTING BLOODY TO END A MATCH. THE 'JUICER' OR OPPONENT HAS A RAZOR-BLADE HIDDEN IN HIS WRISTBAND OR WAISTBAND. THE 'JUICER' IS CUT ON THE FOREHEAD, THE BLOOD FLOWS, THEN POURING SWEAT DOES THE REST.

THE BLOOD IN WRESTLING IS ALWAYS REAL.

TALLTREES CUT TOO DEEPLY INTO STEPHAN'S FOREHEAD AND HIT AN ARTERY. SPLOOSH!

THEY CONTINUED THE MATCH IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A BLOODY HORROR.

THE MATCH WAS FINALLY STOPPED AND STEPHAN RECIEVED SEVERAL STITCHES. HE WAS TOUCHED THAT WE WERE ALL SO CONCERNED FOR HIS WELL-BEING.

HE WENT ON TO WRESTLE FOR THE WWF (NOW WWE) FULFILLING HIS CHILDHOOD DREAM.

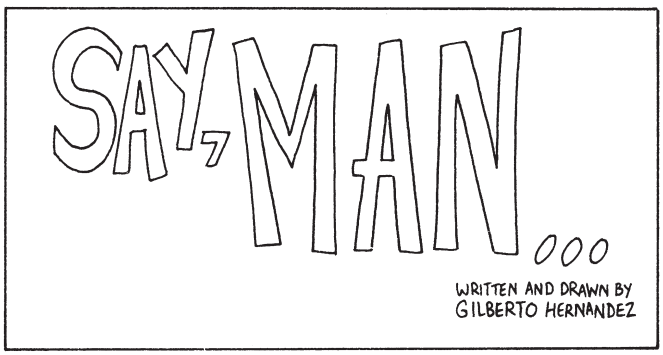
WRESTLING EVENTUALLY WORE HIM DOWN AND HE DECIDED THAT SINGING IN A PUNK BAND WAS EASIER. THAT, AND BECOMING A CARTOONIST!

HE WANTED SO MUCH TO BE A GOOD CARTOONIST AND HE WORKED HARD TO ACCOMPLISH THAT. HE NEVER GAVE UP.

STEPHAN WAS A STRIDENT ROMANTIC. HE NEVER OUTGREW HIS INDULGING OF CHILDISH THINGS AND I'M GLAD OF IT. HE MADE MY WORLD THAT MUCH BRIGHTER. HIS LIGHT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

GEORGE BUSH...
TV

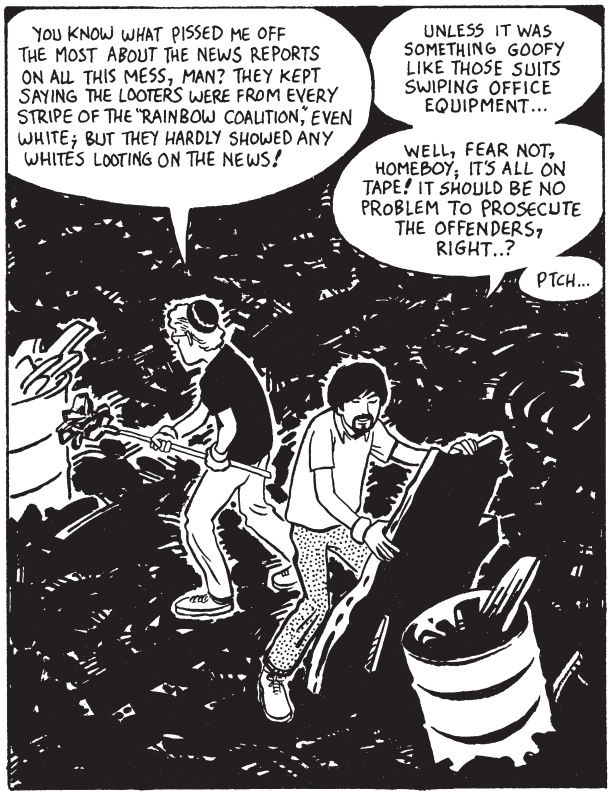
YEAH... HE CAME THROUGH HERE WITH HIS PAINED LOOK; OH, SO DISMAYED BY THE HORROR OF IT ALL...
THOSE JERKS WILL USE ANY HUMAN SUFFERING TO HELP GET THEMSELVES REELECTED!
UH HUH, UH HUH... THIS FROM THE GUY WHO VOTED FOR REAGAN TWICE.

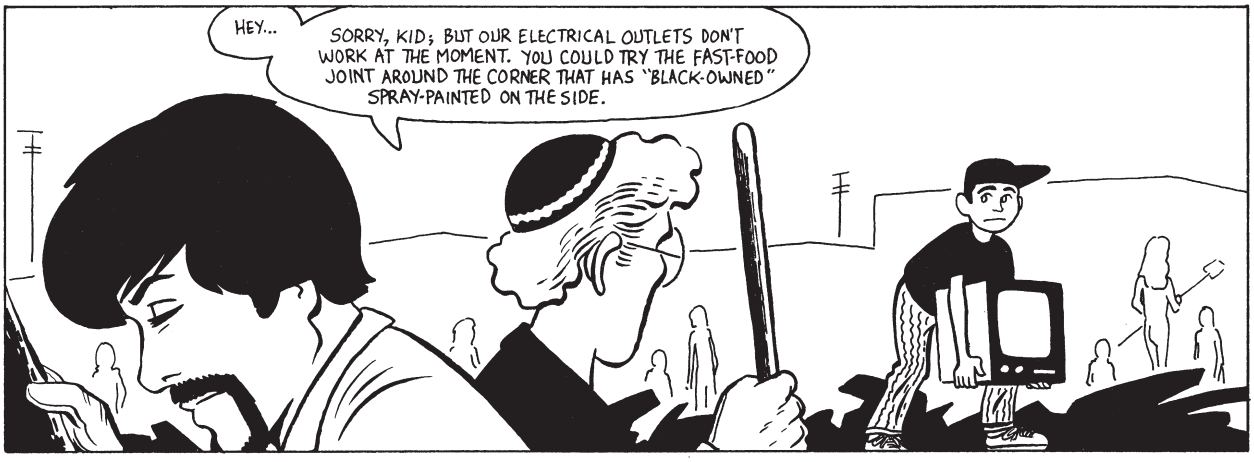

SAY, MAN...
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY GILBERTO HERNANDEZ

HEY! WE NEEDED OLD GUMBY HAIRDO TO GET THIS COUNTRY BACK INTO SOME SHAPE, BUT NOW I SEE WE NEED A CHANGE AWAY FROM BOTH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS! A MAJOR CHANGE, MAN! GORBACHEV'S LOOKING FOR WORK...
WE NEEDED REAGAN..?!
THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION KNEW ABOUT AIDS BUT NEVER LIFTED A FINGER TO- NOT A PEEP ABOUT—!

YOU-YOU THINK SOME DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE DONE ANY DIFFERENT?! THEY'RE ALL THE SAME NOW! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S VOTED IN ANYMORE, MAN! IT'S OVER! KAPUT! WE'RE ALL FINISHED! IT'S THE END OF THE CENTURY! THERE'S GOT TO BE A NEW WAY OF-OF-WE'LL ALL BE DEAD BY THE TIME-BY THE TIME-
LOOK AT ALL THIS CRAP-!

I-UH, HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE JOEY IN THE HOSPITAL WITH ALL THIS CRAP TO DEAL WITH EITHER, MAN. YOU TELL HIM THAT I'LL COME BY AS SOON AS I CAN...
I-I DON'T KNOW, MAN...
I HAVEN'T BEEN BY AT ALL, MAN.
I DON'T KNOW...I'LL-I'LL JUST START CRYING OR-OR FLIPPING OUT OR SOMETHING...


YOU KNOW WHAT PISSED ME OFF THE MOST ABOUT THE NEWS REPORTS ON ALL THIS MESS, MAN? THEY KEPT SAYING THE LOOTERS WERE FROM EVERY STRIPE OF THE "RAINBOW COALITION," EVEN WHITE; BUT THEY HARDLY SHOWED ANY WHITES LOOTING ON THE NEWS!
UNLESS IT WAS SOMETHING GOOFY LIKE THOSE SUITS SWIPING OFFICE EQUIPMENT...
WELL, FEAR NOT, HOMEBOY; IT'S ALL ON TAPE! IT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM TO PROSECUTE THE OFFENDERS, RIGHT..?
PTCH...


HEY...
SORRY, KID; BUT OUR ELECTRICAL OUTLETS DON'T WORK AT THE MOMENT. YOU COULD TRY THE FAST-FOOD JOINT AROUND THE CORNER THAT HAS "BLACK-OWNED" SPRAY-PAINTED ON THE SIDE.

WAIT A MINUTE... THAT'S ONE OF MY TV SETS!
A-A MAN MADE ME BRING IT BACK FOR HIM...! HONEST!
I'LL BET HE SWIPED IT FROM YOUR SHOP AND HIS PARENTS MADE HIM BRING IT BACK WHEN THEY NOTICED IT WAS A BLACK-AND-WHITE SET!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT; HOLD IT!
YOU KNOW, IN SOME PLACES LOOTERS ARE SHOT ON SIGHT, KID! BUT SINCE WE CAN'T PROVE YOU DID ANYTHING...
START CLEANING!

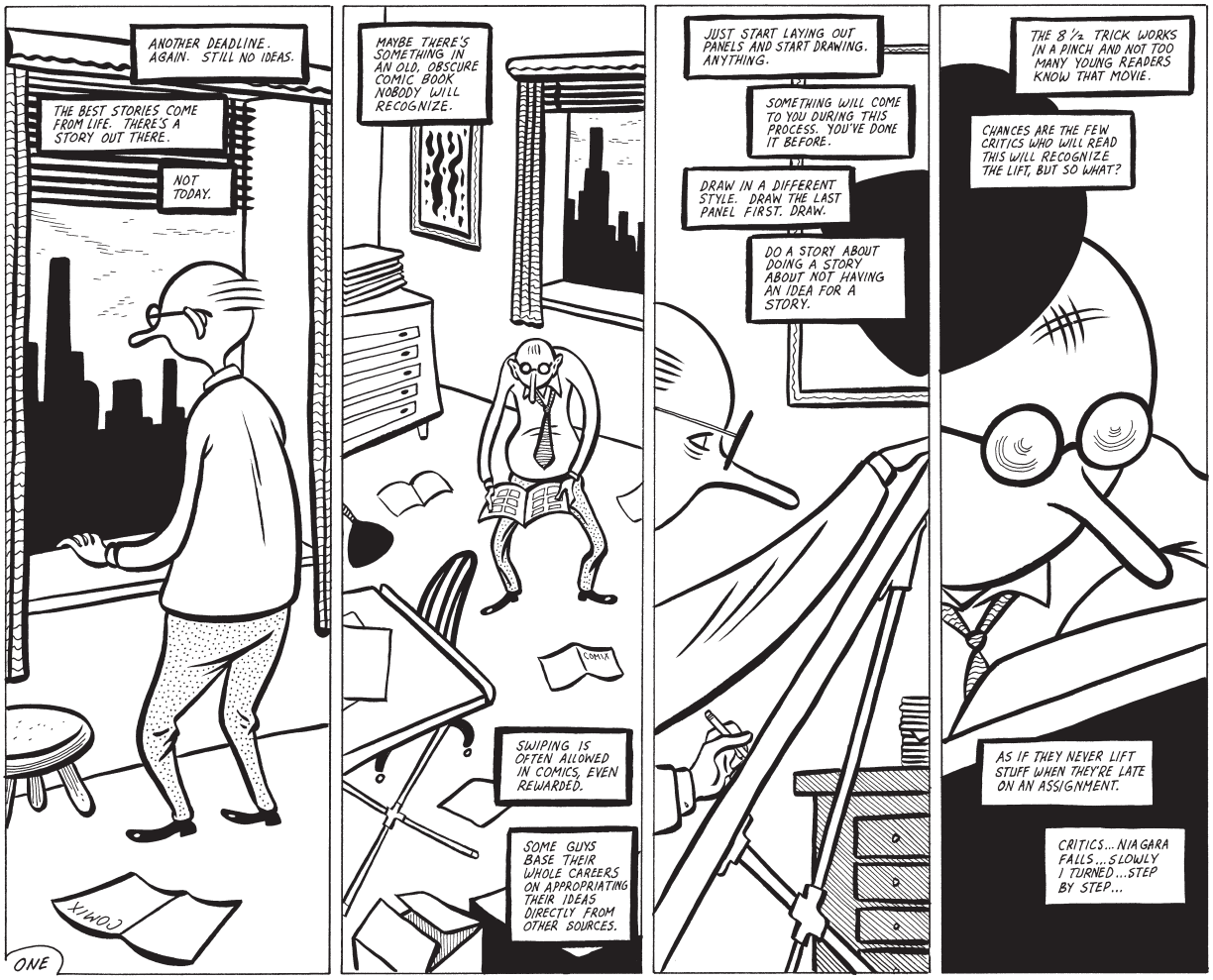
TELL YOU WHAT, MAN. I-I'LL GO WITH YOU TO SEE JOEY IN THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW, O.K?
HELL, I CAN HANDLE IT...
THE END

CAUTION: THE STORY YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ WAS COMPLETED IN ***EARLY*** 1966, ***LONG*** BEFORE ROBERT CRUMB AND ALINE KOMINSKY-CRUMB BEGAN THEIR CONTROVERSIAL TAG TEAM COMIX SERIES. DID THE CRUMBS SOMEHOW LIFT THIS BILLION DOLLAR IDEA FROM THE HUMBLE AND HARD WORKING HERNANDEZES? THE SIMILARITIES ***ARE*** REMARKABLE, BUT THE HERNANDEZES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO SUE. THIS STORY WAS FIRST PRINTED IN ***SNOOTCH COMIX*** # 3, MARCH 1967.

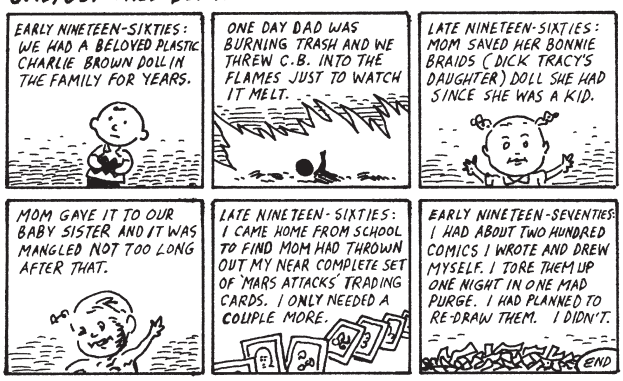
AW, I'M... I'M SORRY BABE... GOSH, MAYBE WE'RE IN A RUT COOPED UP IN THIS TINY APARTMENT ALL THE TIME... FUCK IT! LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT, BABE! LET'S GO NUTS! HUH?
YAY!
I'M GONNA DRESS UP AND EVERYTHING..!
Later...
GRUNT...
SIGH
REMIND ME TO TAKE OUT MONEY FROM THE READYTELLER TOMORROW, BABE. I'M BROKE AGAIN.
GOD, DIDN'T YOU JUST TAKE OUT MONEY THE OTHER DAY?
WHERE DOES IT GO?
TSK
WELL. TONIGHT ABOUT FORTY BUCKS WENT TO A DINNER THAT WAS SO-SO, TWELVE BUCKS WENT TO A TYPICAL MIND-NUMBING 'HIT' HOLLYWOOD MOVIE DIRECTED BY 'NEVER-WAS' ARTEESI MIKE NICHOLS... UH, SIX BUCKS WENT TO COLD POPCORN AND COKE, SIX BUCKS TO GAS...
... AND THIRTY BUCKS TO VALET PARKING, CLUB COVER CHARGE, WATERED DOWN DRINKS AND A "HOT, NEW, BREAK-THROUGH" BAND THAT, IN REALITY, PUTS THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF 'NEW MUSIC'!
AND DID YOU SEE HOW MANY HOMELESS PEOPLE WERE OUTSIDE BOTH THE THEATER AND THE CLUB? AND HERE I AM BITCHING. I'M PRACTICALLY THROWING MONEY AWAY ON HALF-ASSED DIVERSIONS, WHILE THEY... GRUNT.
WELL, ON THAT HAPPY NOTE...
OOPS! LOOKS LIKE THE RUSSIANS GOT US FIRST!
OH WELL! AT LEAST WE KNOW THE MAIL WILL GET THROUGH!
ORIGINAL USE OF FINALE LATER DONE TO DEATH BY CARTOONISTS TOO LAZY TO THINK OF A DECENT ENDING.
END

FUNNYBOOK FOLLY

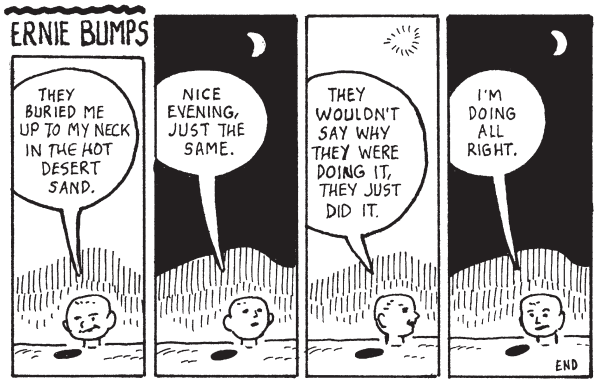
By GILBERT "BETO" HERNANDEZ 2001

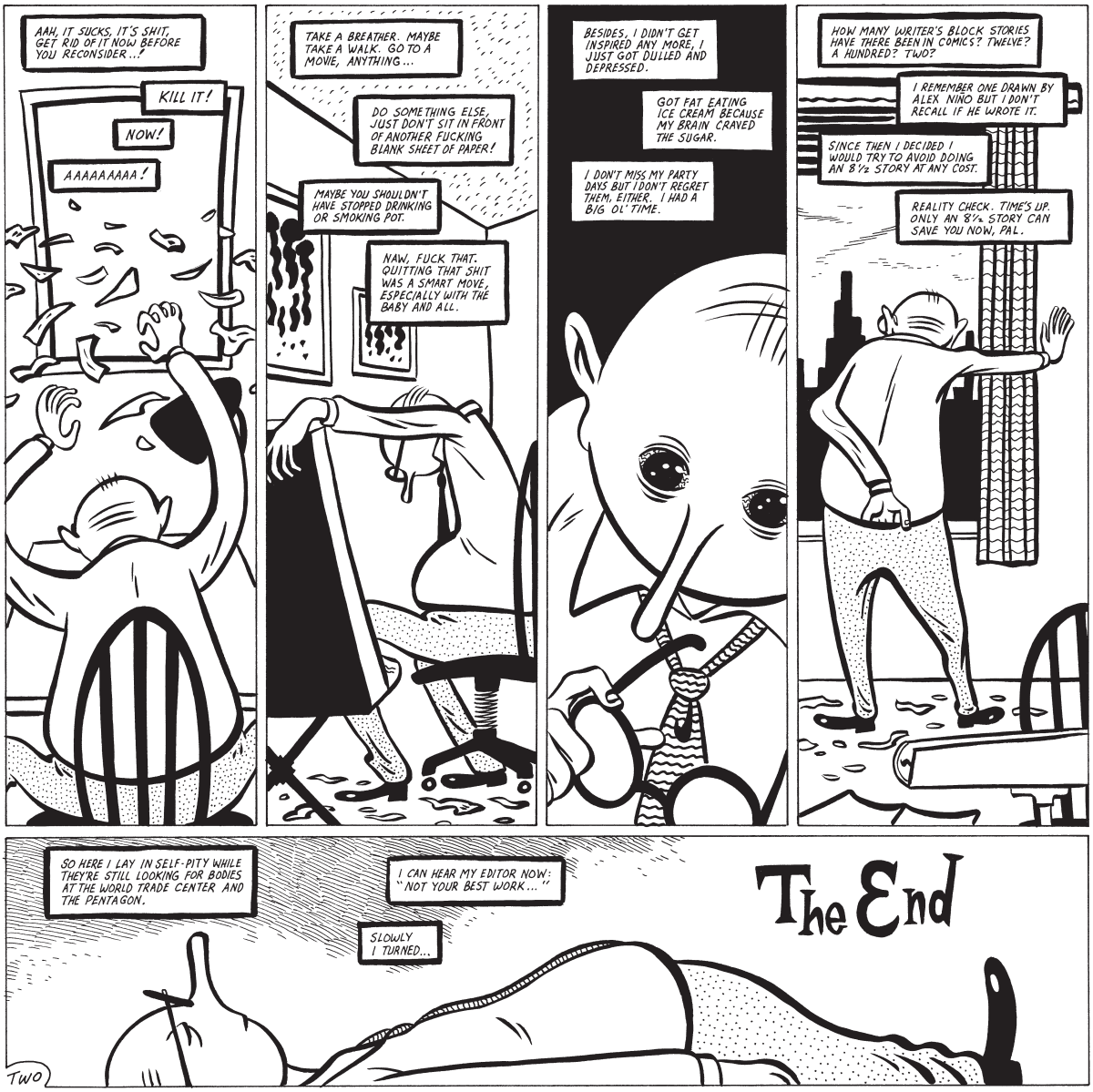


SAD, BUT TRUE DEPT.



ERNIE BUMPS





DUBS

BETO 2001

ALL ABOUT ME AGAIN DEPT.

THEY LAUGHED WHEN I TOLD THEM I WANTED TO ROCK

THE STONES · THE BEATLES · T.REX · ALICE COOPER · YES · IGGY AND THE STOOGES · THE WHO · BETO = 02 = · E.L.P. · ROXY MUSIC · NEW YORK DOLLS · B.Ó.C. · ZEP · BEACH BOYS · MC5 · JOHNNY CASH · VELVETS · E.L.O. · THREE DOG NIGHT · JACKSON 5 · THE KINKS · SLADE · MOTT THE HOOPLE · DAVID BOWIE AND THE SPIDERS · URIAH HEEP · SLY AND THE FAMILY STONE · STEPPENWOLF · DEEP PURPLE · BLACK SABBATH · ROY ORBISON · LITTLE RICHARD · MANFRED MANN'S EARTH BAND · ELVIS PRESLEY · JIMI HENDRIX · KISS

BY THE BELLS OF OLD BOWIE

Me, Myself and I

WHEN WAS THE MOMENT I DECIDED I WANTED TO BECOME A "SERIOUS" CARTOONIST?

WELL... LET ME SEE...

WHEN MY OLDER BROTHER MARIO BROUGHT HOME 'THE FANTASTIC FOUR' NUMBER ONE?

SEE, ONE OF THEM'S A MONSTER, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY.

WHEN DAD WAS FED UP WITH OUR RUNNING AROUND IN THE HOUSE AND ORDERED US TO SIT ON THE FLOOR AND DRAW?

WHEN MOM SHOWED US THE PORTRAITS SHE COPIED FROM OLD COMIC BOOKS?

AND THIS IS 'CAPTAIN TRIUMPH.' I WAS FOURTEEN WHEN I DREW THIS.

WHEN I BEGAN COUNTING THE DAYS WHERE I WOULD BE OLD ENOUGH TO LAY DOWN WITH A WOMAN?

GIRLS!

LIVE!

HOT!

WHEN I WAS HUMILIATED IN PUBLIC FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME?

FUCKIN' BEANER!

OH, JEFF!

WHEN I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO BRING HOME AN 'F' ON MY REPORT CARD?

OR WAS IT WHEN JAIME'S WORK IN LOVE AND ROCKETS GOT INSTANT PRAISE AND I WAS MERELY CONSIDERED AN 'ALSO RAN'?

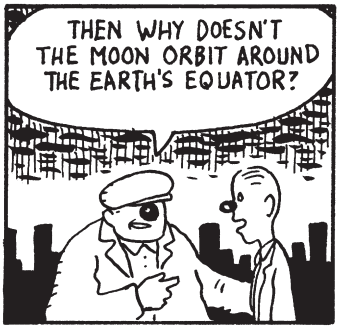
OH YEAH, THAT WAS IT.

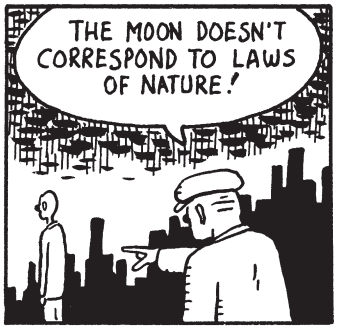
LUST AND REVENGE ARE THE DRIVING FORCES BEHIND CREATING ART.

BETO/03

WITHIN REASON

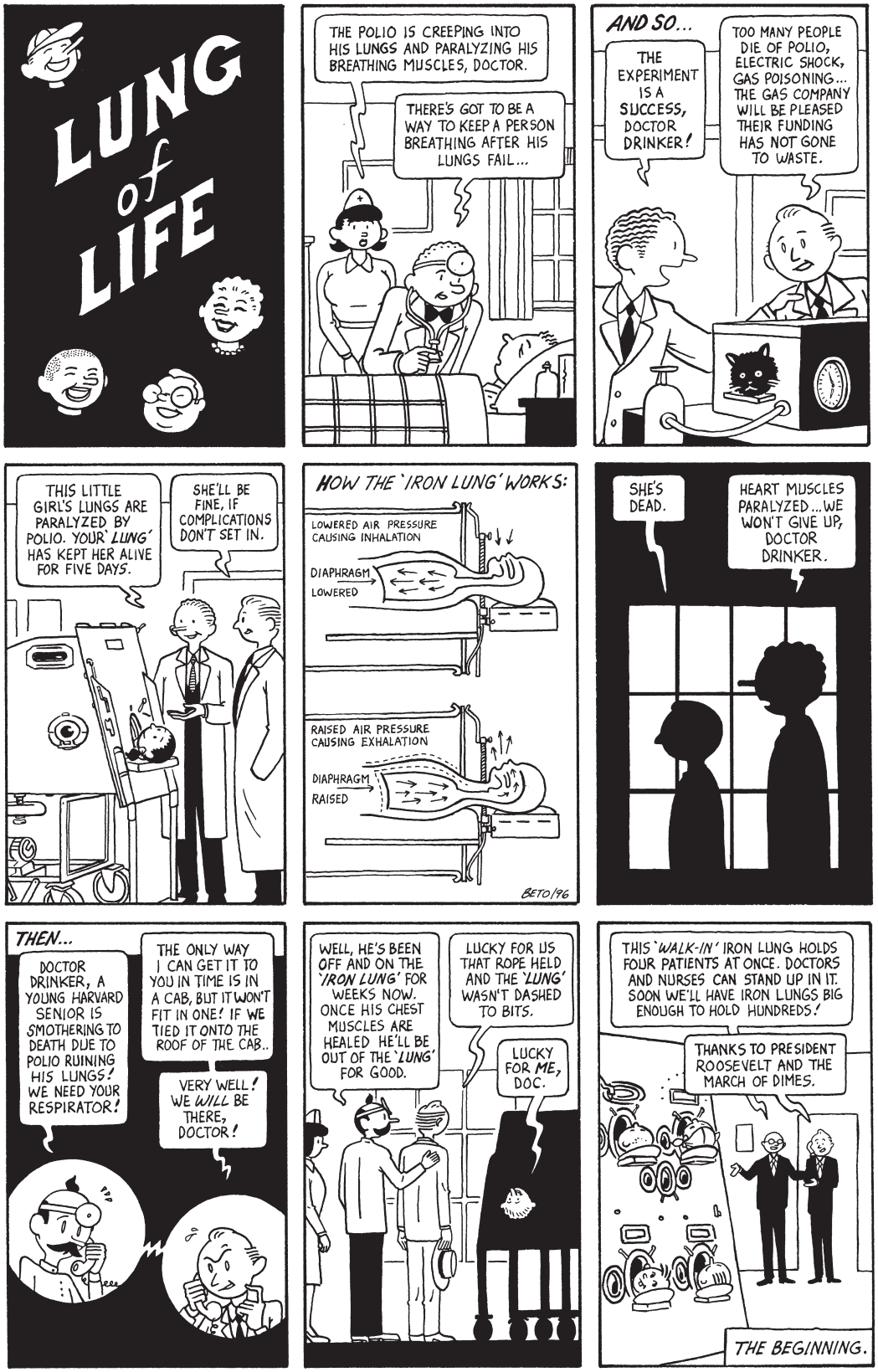
BETO/97





TONY
BETO 88
C'MON IN. I DON'T BITE.
GREAT. HAVEN'T HAD ONE OF THESE BURRITOS FOR WEEKS. HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
TWELVE SIXTY-SEVEN.
HEY, WHERE ARE THE CIGS MAN?
OH.. I MUST HAVE FORGOT.. I'LL GO GET 'EM IF YOU WANT..
FORGET IT. DOCTOR TOLD ME TO KEEP AWAY FROM 'EM ANY WAY...
AS IF THAT WOULD MATTER...
WELL... IT MIGHT...
NO CURE, MAN. AT LEAST NOT IN MY LIFETIME, DUDE... WHICH IS ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS...
HEY...THAT ONE PORN ACTOR DIED... YOU KNOW, JOHNNY WADD.. WOW... HE WAS MY IDOL WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...
HO... AND JUST GUESS WHAT HE DIED FROM...
OPINION
SHIT.
NOW I NEED A CIG, MAN.
ME TOO... HERE; NON-FILTER OK?
AH, IT'S YOUR LAST ONE.. I'M NOT GONNA TAKE YOUR LAST CIG, MAN. YOU GO AHEAD...
OK..

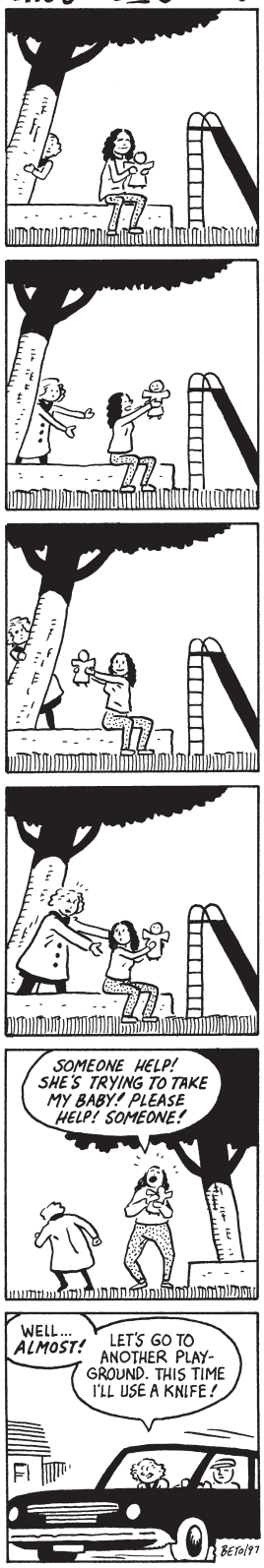
OH, SO NOW SHE'S ON BROADWAY NOW, HUH? CHRIST, WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY SHOOT HER AND PUT US OUT OF OUR MISERY?
WANNA HIT?
YEAH, THANKS...
..ON MUSIC NEWS...
LA OPINION
MAN, I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THE THEORY THAT ROCK AND ROLL CROAKED IN SIXTY-SEVEN. MTV'S GOT TO BE THE WORST THING THAT EVER--HEY. THAT JODY WATLEY'S GOT HERSELF A SERIOUS LOVE BUCKET ON HER, EH..? MAN!
THERE'S SOME PRETTY GOOD ROCK OUT THERE STILL...
SO THEY TELL ME...WELL, IT'S GONNA TAKE A MIGHTY GREAT BAND TO FILL THE STONES' SHOES, AND IT SURE AIN'T AEROJONES!
CHECK IT OUT...THEY GOT THAT FAT CHICK FROM HEART'S IMAGE STRETCHED OUT TO MAKE HER LOOK SKINNY, PTCH--
R.E.M.'S PRETTY HOT...THE REPLACEMENTS.. EVEN AC DC'S NEW SONG SHREDS, MAN..
HEY, HEY. DON'T TAKE A HIT, MAN! DON'T--!! WASN'T EVEN THINKING.. SHIT--
IT'S ONLY A CIG, MAN...I WON'T WORRY ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T...
WELL... I DON'T KNOW...IT'S STILL NOT A GOOD IDEA, MAN...
THEY STILL HAVEN'T PROVED THAT YOU CAN'T GET IT FROM SALIVA...
STILL HAVEN'T PROVED THAT YOU CAN...
OH, I HATE THIS BAND...
YEAH...THE REPLACEMENTS ARE PRETTY DAMN GREAT...THIS ROCK VIDEO CRAP CAN MAKE YOU PRETTY DAMN CYNICAL, THOUGH, Y'KNOW...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MAN...
FIN
2


LUNG of LIFE
THE POLIO IS CREEPING INTO HIS LUNGS AND PARALYZING HIS BREATHING MUSCLES, DOCTOR.
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO KEEP A PERSON BREATHING AFTER HIS LUNGS FAIL...
AND SO...
THE EXPERIMENT IS A SUCCESS, DOCTOR DRINKER!
TOO MANY PEOPLE DIE OF POLIO, ELECTRIC SHOCK, GAS POISONING... THE GAS COMPANY WILL BE PLEASED THEIR FUNDING HAS NOT GONE TO WASTE.
THIS LITTLE GIRL'S LUNGS ARE PARALYZED BY POLIO. YOUR 'LUNG' HAS KEPT HER ALIVE FOR FIVE DAYS.
SHE'LL BE FINE, IF COMPLICATIONS DON'T SET IN.
HOW THE 'IRON LUNG' WORKS:
LOWERED AIR PRESSURE CAUSING INHALATION
DIAPHRAGM LOWERED
RAISED AIR PRESSURE CAUSING EXHALATION
DIAPHRAGM RAISED
BETO/96
SHE'S DEAD.
HEART MUSCLES PARALYZED... WE WON'T GIVE UP, DOCTOR DRINKER.
THEN...
DOCTOR DRINKER, A YOUNG HARVARD SENIOR IS SMOTHERING TO DEATH DUE TO POLIO RUINING HIS LUNGS! WE NEED YOUR RESPIRATOR!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET IT TO YOU IN TIME IS IN A CAB, BUT IT WON'T FIT IN ONE! IF WE TIED IT ONTO THE ROOF OF THE CAB..
VERY WELL! WE WILL BE THERE, DOCTOR!
WELL, HE'S BEEN OFF AND ON THE 'IRON LUNG' FOR WEEKS NOW. ONCE HIS CHEST MUSCLES ARE HEALED HE'LL BE OUT OF THE 'LUNG' FOR GOOD.
LUCKY FOR US THAT ROPE HELD AND THE 'LUNG' WASN'T DASHED TO BITS.
LUCKY FOR ME, DOC.
THIS 'WALK-IN' IRON LUNG HOLDS FOUR PATIENTS AT ONCE. DOCTORS AND NURSES CAN STAND UP IN IT. SOON WE'LL HAVE IRON LUNGS BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD HUNDREDS!
THANKS TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE MARCH OF DIMES.
THE BEGINNING.

TWELVE·FORTY·TWO

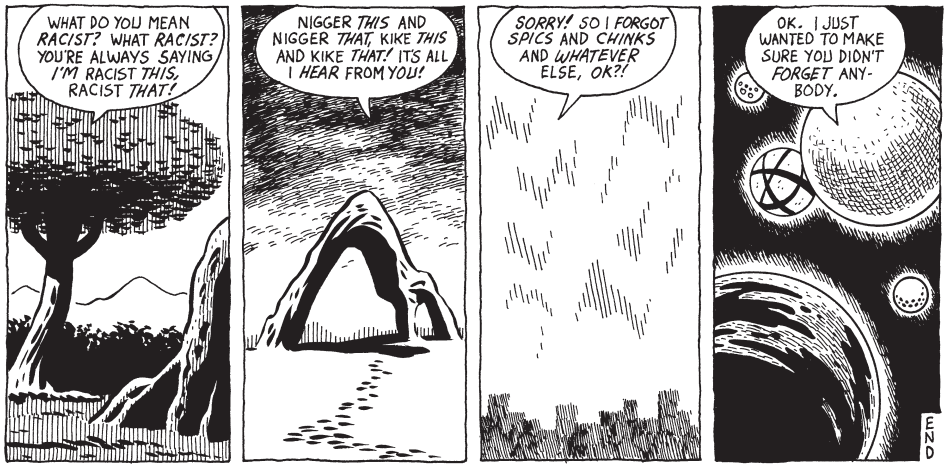
TODAY'S EPISODE: ***THE FIGHTS***

The Love Swine:



YOU DON'T CHANGE A PERSON'S MIND, HE JUST STOPS ARGUING

BETO/97



ARE THE KIDS ALL RIGHT?

WRITTEN BY SETH AND GARY GROTH — EDITED BY GARY GROTH AND COPY-EDITED BY SETH

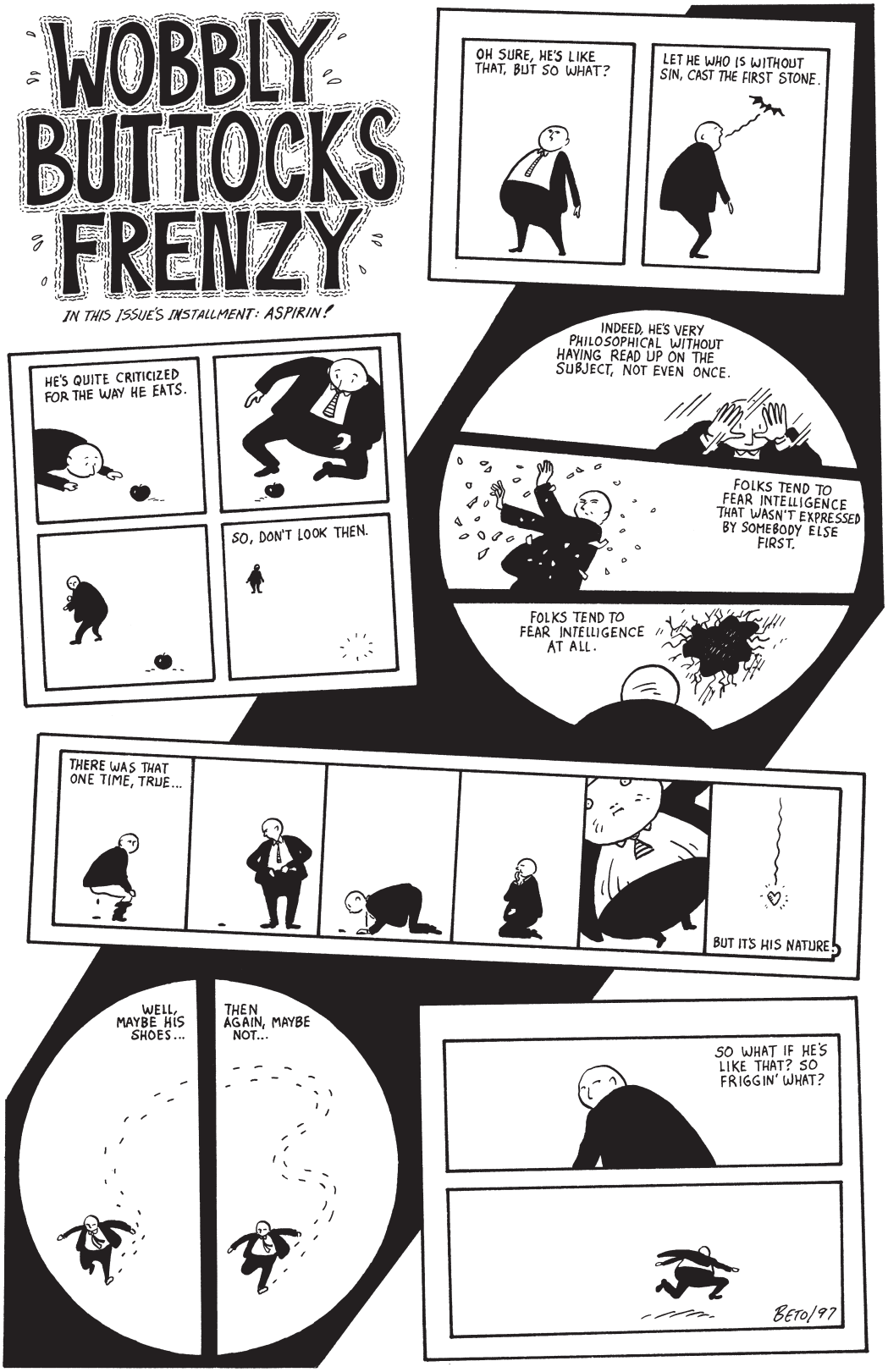
I'M GOING OUT.
BE HOME BY MIDNIGHT.
SLAM!
WELL, AT LEAST THIS TIME SHE TOLD US SHE WAS GOING OUT.
GRUNT.
FATHER'S DAY
BETO/96-97
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
WARNUTS
DON'T FEEL GUILTY FOR FOLLOWING YOUR DAUGHTER! JESUS, AT LEAST YOU SHOW YOU CARE, MAN!
IT ISN'T THE KIDS THESE DAYS. IT'S THE FUCKING PARENTS!
AH...WHAT DO I KNOW...ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE DRUGS ARE WORSE, THE BOYS ARE WORSE, MORE AGGRESSIVE...AND THE DISEASES...OH, MY GOD..!
WARNUTS

SHE'S OVER AT... LISA'S HOUSE... UH, YEAH...
YOU'RE HER DAD? CAN I SEE SOME I.D., PLEASE?
I KNOW WHERE SHE IS, MISTER. I CAN SHOW YOU.
TAKE A LEFT AFTER THE SHELL STATION.
DADDY!
LET'S GO!
MAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUCKING EMBARRASS HER IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.
WHEN YOU HAVE A TEEN AGE DAUGHTER THEN YOU CAN TELL ME!
OH, DADDY!
I SWEAR TO GOD YOUR DAD WAS TOTALLY COMING ONTO ME! YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY! YOU HAVE TO!
2

LET'S GET HIM INTO THE TRUNK.
COME ON!
YOU DIDN'T SEE YOUR FATHER?
OH.
SHHHHH.
The End

WOBBLY BUTTOCKS FRENZY

IN THIS ISSUE'S INSTALLMENT: ASPIRIN!



The SHIT Eaters
by BETO/95
LET'S GO THROUGH THE SECRET SHORT-CUT WAY!
OK!
LA LA LAA...
I HAVE SIX GIRLFRIENDS IN SCHOOL! SUZY, KEBRA, JOLIE..
EW, I HATE GIRLS! I LIKE COMIC BOOKS.
MY MOMMY SAYS COMIC BOOKS ARE MADE BY DIRTY MEN! GIRLS ARE MADE BY GOD!
COMICS ARE GOOD! GIRLS ARE..
GIRLS ARE..
SUZY..
KEBRA..
JOLIE..
I-I HAVE TO GO HOME..
LA LA LAA..
..NOT GUILTY OF THE CRIME OF MURDER..
COMICS WIN AGAIN!
End
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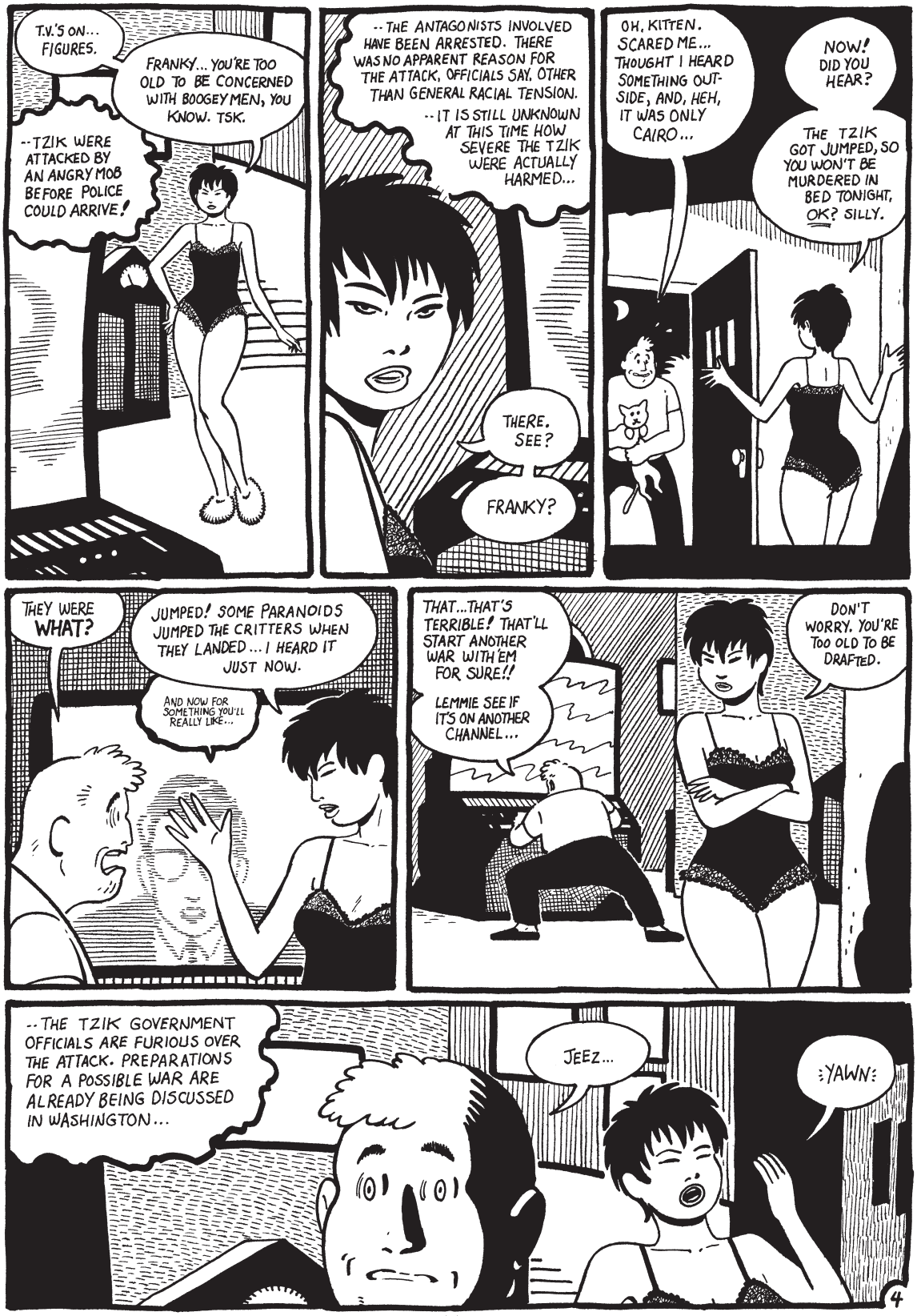
A BETO CLASSIC

RETURN of the TZIK

BETO 83/84

--THE TZIK ARE EXPECTED IN OUR ATMOSPHERE ANY MOMENT NOW, AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PREPARE TO GREET THEM--
OH, FER-- FRANKY, TURN IT TO ANOTHER STATION OR TURN IT OFF ALTOGETHER!
AW, KITTEN, I WANNA HEAR-- OH...OH, OK.
IT'S ALL I'VE BEEN HEARING FOR THE PAST SIX WEEKS! SO WHAT IF THOSE GOONS ARE RETURNING? THEY'RE ONLY COMING ON BUSINESS, RIGHT? IF THEY TRY ANYTHING DUMB, THE ARMY'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM!
WELL, IT IS KINDA SCARY, Y'KNOW... THEY ARE LANDING ONLY THIRTY MILES FROM OUR HOUSE.
MY GRANDFATHER'S TOLD ME SOME GRUESOME STORIES ABOUT THAT WAR, LET ME TELL YOU...
EVER HEAR OF A WAR THAT WASN'T GRUESOME?
TSK. I TOLD THE PAPER BOY NOT TO THROW IT IN MY FLOWERS, DAMN HIM!
HOW ABOUT A NIGHTCAP, KIT?
NO...THANKS, I'M TIRED. YOU COMING UP?
IN A MINUTE...
victrola
2

BOINK...!
--MISCALCULATED AND APPARENTLY HAVE LANDED SEVERAL MILES AWAY FROM THE DESIGNATED LANDING AREA. PRESIDENT SHEILDS ASSURES NO SERIOUS CAUSE FOR ALARM. SUNSPOTS ARE BEING BLAMED FOR--
FRANKY...
KITTEN, DID YOU HEAR? THE TZIK! THEY MISSED THE LANDING SPOT! IT COULD BE A SNEAK ATTACK--
WELL...IT COULD..!
FRANKY..!
BUT KITTEN! THE TZIK! THEY--
THEY MAY BE--
OK.
YOU CAN HEAR ALL ABOUT IT TOMORROW AT WORK...WHERE I CAN'T!
GOOD NIGHT!
OK OK...
GOOD NIGHT...
MMMM...
FRANKY..?
OH, TSK. THAT GUY, I SWEAR...
3


T.V.'S ON... FIGURES.
FRANKY... YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE CONCERNED WITH BOOGEYMEN, YOU KNOW. TSK.
--TZIK WERE ATTACKED BY AN ANGRY MOB BEFORE POLICE COULD ARRIVE!
--THE ANTAGONISTS INVOLVED HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THERE WAS NO APPARENT REASON FOR THE ATTACK, OFFICIALS SAY, OTHER THAN GENERAL RACIAL TENSION.
--IT IS STILL UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME HOW SEVERE THE TZIK WERE ACTUALLY HARMED...
THERE. SEE?
FRANKY?
OH, KITTEN. SCARED ME... THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE, AND, HEH, IT WAS ONLY CAIRO...
NOW! DID YOU HEAR?
THE TZIK GOT JUMPED, SO YOU WON'T BE MURDERED IN BED TONIGHT, OK? SILLY.
THEY WERE WHAT?
JUMPED! SOME PARANOIDS JUMPED THE CRITTERS WHEN THEY LANDED... I HEARD IT JUST NOW.
AND NOW FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL REALLY LIKE...
THAT...THAT'S TERRIBLE! THAT'LL START ANOTHER WAR WITH 'EM FOR SURE!!
LEMMIE SEE IF IT'S ON ANOTHER CHANNEL...
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE DRAFTED.
--THE TZIK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE FURIOUS OVER THE ATTACK. PREPARATIONS FOR A POSSIBLE WAR ARE ALREADY BEING DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON...
JEEZ...
:YAWN:
4

WOW. WE REALLY DID IT NOW...NO TELLING HOW ADVANCED THEIR WEAPONS HAVE GOTTEN...WE'RE FINISHED...
OH, YOU'LL NEVER GET TO SLEEP NOW. I'LL FIX YOU A SNACK... THAT ALWAYS HELPS YOU RELAX...
FOOLS...
FRANKY.
FRANKY. C'MERE, PLEASE..?
I'LL BET IT WAS A PLAN ALL ALONG...I'M NOT SURPRISED AT ANYTHING THE GOVERNMENT PULLS ANYMORE..
FRANKY. NOW.
OHHHH-- WHAT IS IT..?
GUESS IT GOT AWAY FROM THAT LYNCH MOB SOMEHOW... DRAGGED ITSELF HERE ... LOOKS LIKE ITS STILL BREATHING, AT LEAST...
I DON'T KNOW... I ALWAYS PICTURED 'EM HEAVIER...
GUESS I'D BETTER CALL THE COPS, HUH?
UH...YEAH, THE COPS... GOD, WHY ME-- I MEAN, US?
5

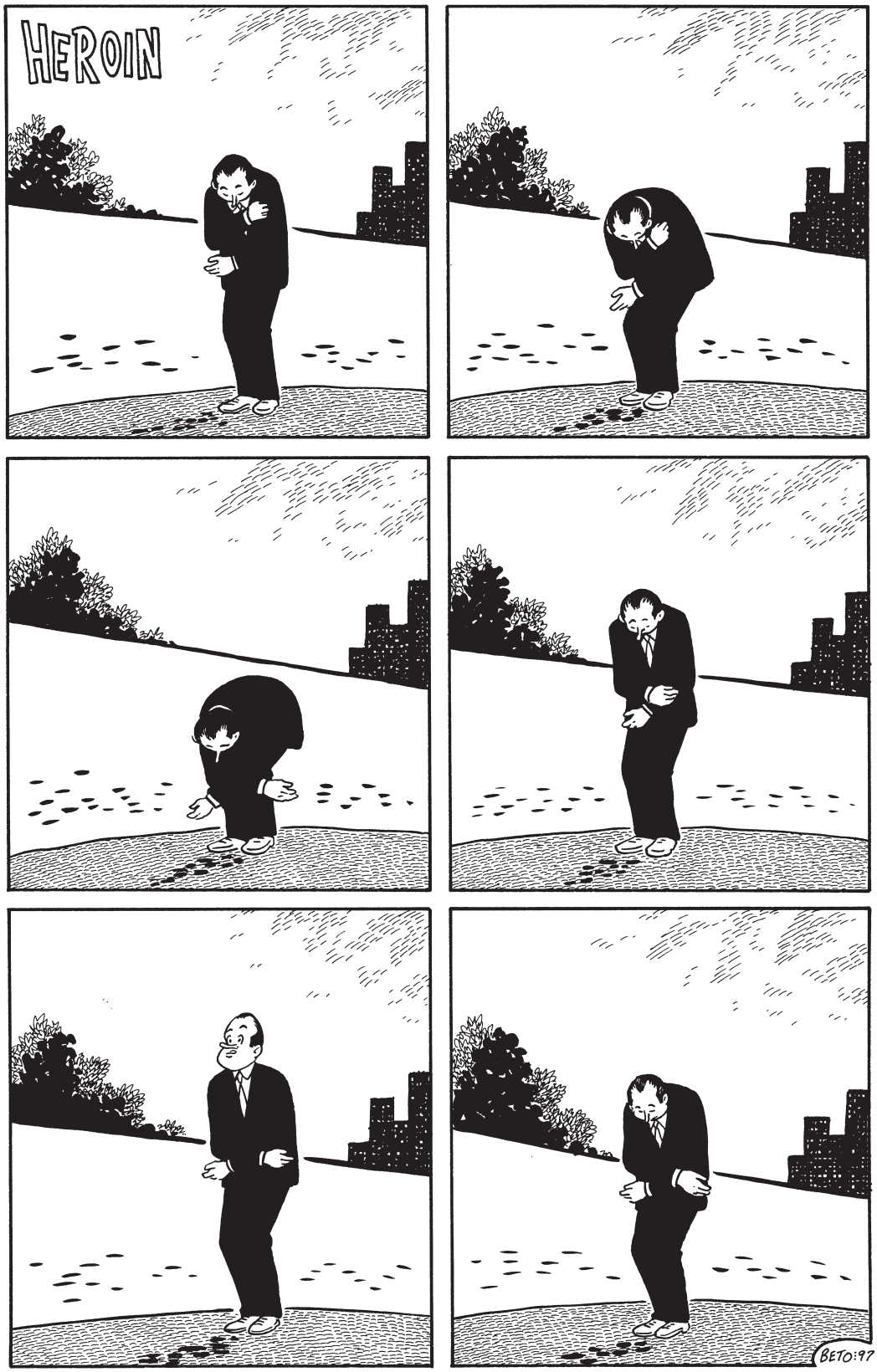
HELLO, POLICE DEPARTMENT? OH, SURE ...YES. HELLO?
...NO, IT SEEMS TO BE BREATHING... YES ... I THINK WE COULD DO THAT...NO, NO, WE'RE FINE. YES...UH HUH.
HHHHHHH
HEY! IT'S TRYING TO TALK...TO ME! LIKE I DID SOMETHING, OR --
YES. THE PORCH LIGHT WILL BE ON. YES. THANK YOU.
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY. WE'VE GOT TO GET IT INTO THE TUB, FRANKY. THEY TOLD ME ITS GOTTA BE PACKED IN ICE TO KEEP ITS TEMPERATURE DOWN OR THERE COULD BE TROUBLE ...
TOUCH...THAT? WITH WHAT? OUR HANDS? WITH WHAT, KITTEN?
I DIDN'T ASK. HM. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH ICE... YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE LIQUOR STORE TO GET SOME.
B-BUT THE COPS'LL BE HERE BEFORE I GET BACK, KIT! AND I'M NOT LEAVING YOU ALONE WITH... THAT!
6

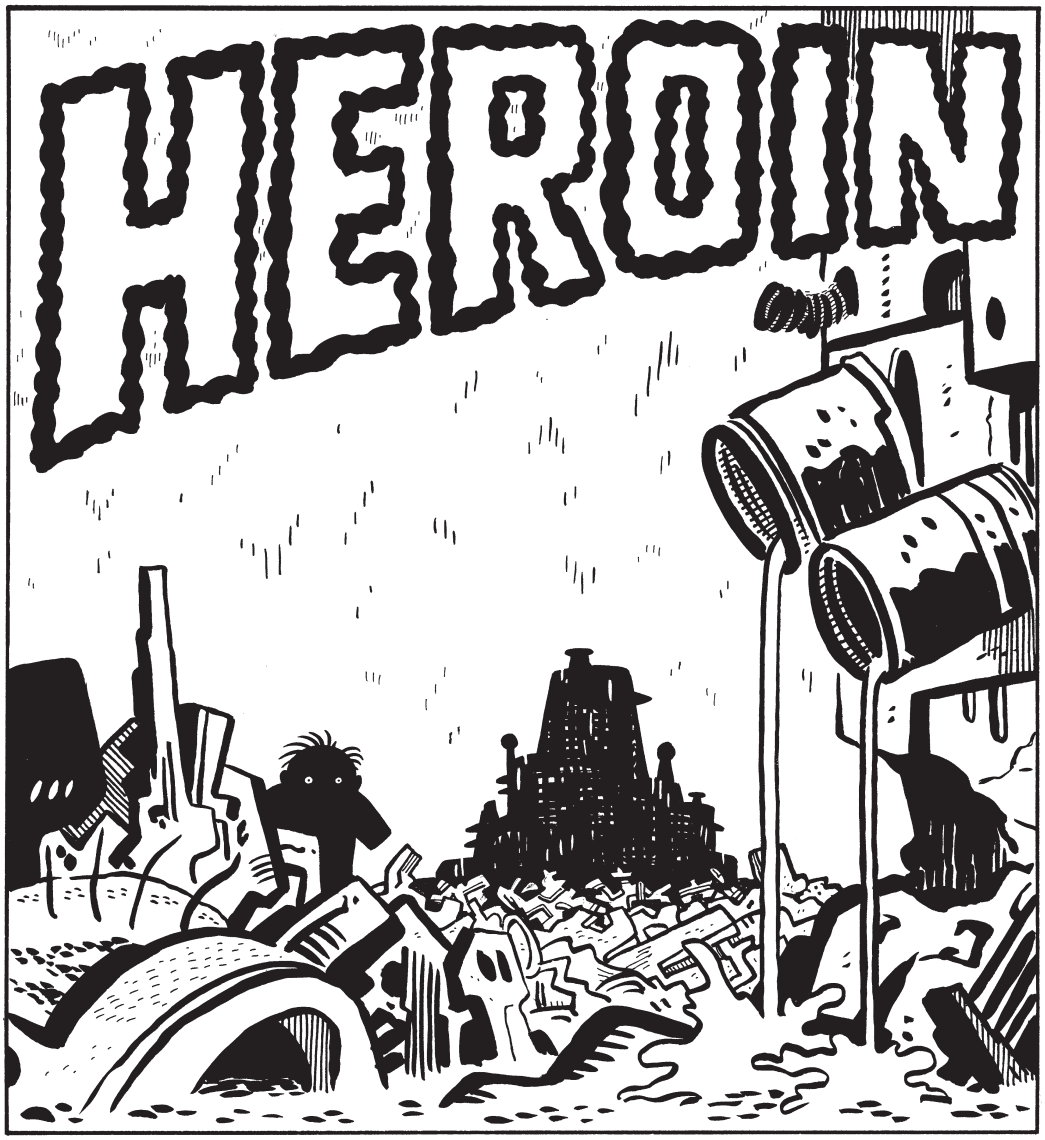
THEN BUG THE NEIGHBORS FOR SOME ICE! OR DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?
AHHH... YOU GO. I'LL.. I'LL GET JUNIOR IN THE TUB... SOMEHOW...
HHHH
YOU GONNA BE OK, FRANKY?
YEAH... HURRY BACK.
DAMN COPS. WHAT TAKES 'EM SO LONG?
OK, JUNIOR, LET'S GO. HUH...! YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME... YEAH, GRAMPS TOLD ME PLENTY ABOUT YOU GUYS...!
HM! AIN'T SO TOUGH WITHOUT YOUR 'OOH-AAH' SPACESHIPS AND FANCY DEATH-RAYS, HUH?
YEAH, NONE OF YOU GUYS COULD LAST ONE ROUND WITH ONE OF US, MAN TO MAN, NO SIR!
HHHHHH
NOW HOW TO GET IT IN THE TUB WITHOUT LOSING MY DINNER.. YECCH...
SCREW THAT! LET THEM MESS WITH IT... I'VE ALWAYS HEARD YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE AN ACCIDENT VICTIM ANY WAY...
I WON'T BE THE ONE TO INSURE AN INTERPLANETARY INCIDENT...
AW. I CAN'T HAVE THIS THING DIE ON ME... WHAT IF IT'S GOT KIDS BACK HOME OR SOMETHING..?
MOAN... OK OK...
7

WHOOP-- HOPE I'M NOT HOLDING YOU IN ANY EMBARRASSING PLACE, BUDDY...
BUDDY?
MA'AM?
I'LL BET YOU'VE GOT SOME STORIES TO TELL...
AND SO IT CAME TO PASS:
DAILY MOCO
WAR AVERTE
COUPLE SAVE TZIK PIL
LIFE AND YOU DIDN'T, CH
MONTHS LATER, WE FIND KITTEN AND FRANKY LIVING A MORE, AH, MODEST LIFESTYLE...
FRANKY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY NAIL POLISH?
SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR MR. AND MRS. OCHOA..?
THAT'S US, GUY.
OHH...WHO FOUND OUT WE WERE HERE?
WHO'S IT FROM, FRANKY?
DUNNO, BABE. HERE, YOU OPEN IT...
HEY...YOU'RE THE GUY WHO SAVED THAT--THAT PILOT'S LIFE, HUH?
YEAH, WELL, THE NEIGHBORS REFUSED TO HELP, SO IF IT WASN'T FOR MY WIFE HELPING ME STICK THE FELLER IN THE FRIDGE TILL THE AUTHORITIES COULD ARRIVE, WELL, HEH...
YEAH?
HUH!
WILD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN STAMPS LIKE THESE BEFORE...
HEY! YOU'RE A COUPLE OF @#★$% TZIKR LOVERS!
8

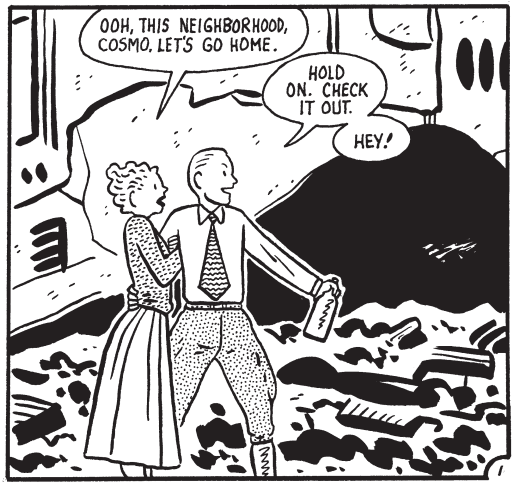
WHY-THAT-LITTLE--
AW, FORGET IT, KITTEN...I GET THAT CRAP ALL THE TIME... I JUST DO MY BEST NOT TO LET IT GET TO ME...
WELL, I GET IT TOO, AND I'M DAMN SICK OF IT! WE'VE HAD TO MOVE FROM THREE PLACES BECAUSE OF CRETINS LIKE--
HONEY..! FORGET IT, HUH? C'MON, OPEN 'ER UP. MAY BE A MILLION BUCKS...
I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT THE THREATS I'VE GOTTEN AT WORK! SIGH...WHAT'S WITH PEOPLE? YOU TRY AND DO SOMETHING RIGHT FOR A CHANGE AND--AW, NUTS!
FRANKY...
"GREETINGS FROM TZIK, KITTEN AND FRANKLIN OCHOA. PLEASE ACCEPT THE PLAQUE ENCLOSED AS A TOKEN OF OUR ESTEEM. IN YOUR LANGUAGE, IT READS: "TO KITTEN AND FRANKLIN, TWO COMPASSIONATE AND COURAGEOUS HUMAN BEINGS..." OH... I-I CAN'T READ ANYMORE...WAIT!
AWW... THAT'S-THAT'S NICE...GOSH... WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS...
--"AND PLEASE ALSO ACCEPT THIS AS AN INVITATION TO VISIT OUR PLANET. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS..."
HO..!
AND SO, FRANKY AND KITTEN ARE THE FIRST EARTHIANS TO VISIT THE TZIK'S WORLD... THEY HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, WE HEAR...
Kitten
Efreeth (THE PILOT AND HIS FAMILY)
Franky
YEAH, A FEW PEOPLE STILL GIVE OUR HEROIC LOVERS A HARD TIME ONCE IN A WHILE...BUT BETWEEN ME AND YOU, KITTEN AND FRANKY REALLY DON'T CARE...
END

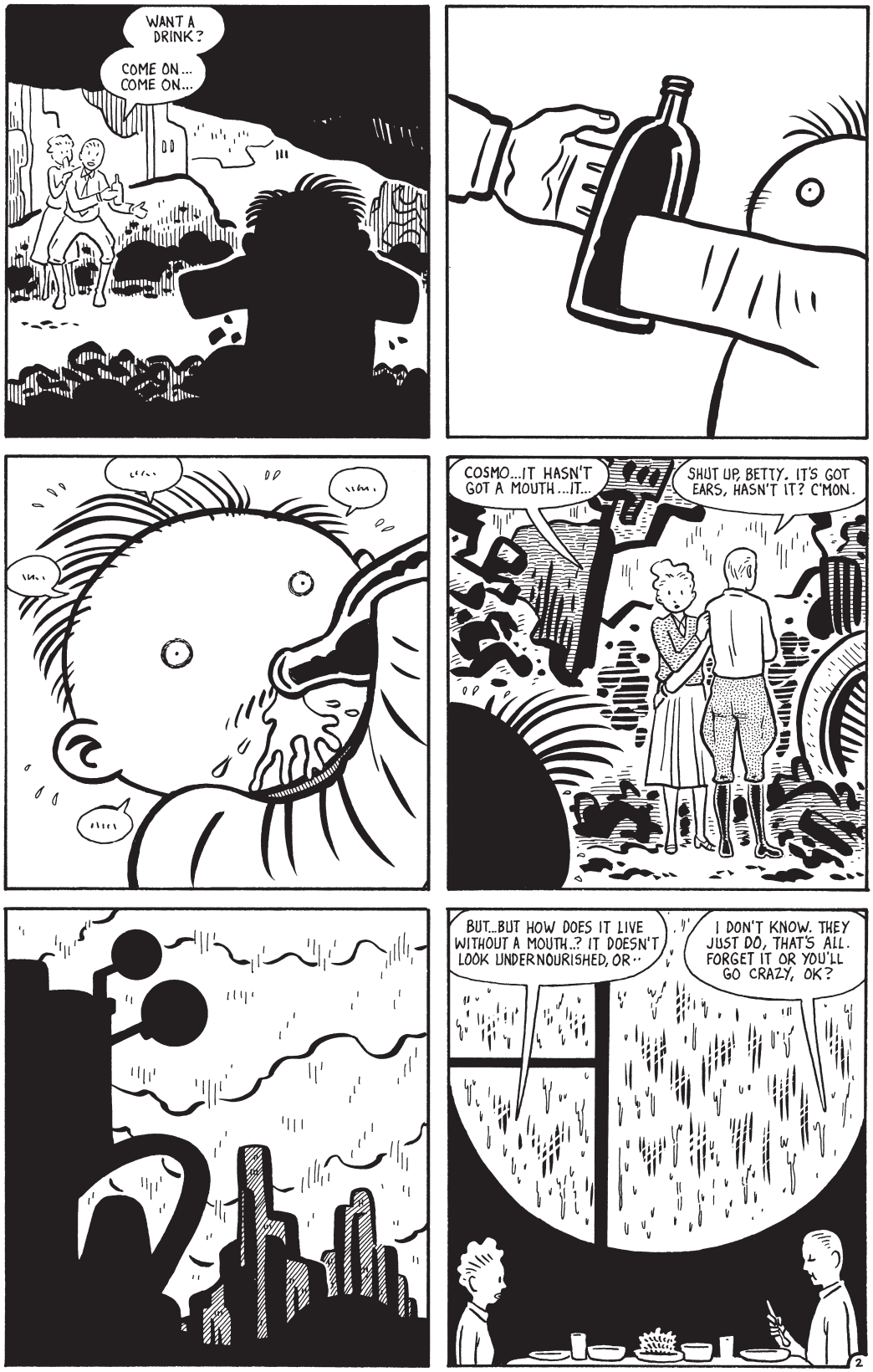
Heroin
I HAVEN'T SEEN OR SPOKEN TO MY LOVE IN A LONG TIME.
NOT SEEING ME STANDING THERE AT FIRST, MY LOVE WALKS UP TO TALK TO A COUPLE OF PEOPLE. MY LOVE IS ABOUT TO STEP OUT FOR A BIT AND ONE OF THE COUPLE SUGGESTS IT'S FOR A QUICKIE. MY LOVE BEGINS TO ANSWER, BUT THEN NOTICES ME STANDING BY IN ALL MY NERVE-WRACKED HUMILITY.
GOOD LORD, MY LOVE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, ALMOST UNBEARABLY SO. THE GOOD LORD BLESSES OUR LIVES WITH SUCH SUBLIME CREATURES NOW AND AGAIN AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO APPRECIATE THIS WHEN IT HAPPENS. BY CONTRAST, MY LOVE MUST SEE ME AS I SEE MYSELF-LIKE A HAPLESS SLUG.
MY LOVE SHOOTS ME A LOOK OF UTTER DISGUST, YET SOMEHOW I MANAGE A HELLO, AND ONLY OUT OF DECORUM, I'M SURE, MY LOVE RELUCTANTLY SAYS HELLO BACK. ONE OF THE OTHER TWO ASKS ME IF I NEED ANY HELP AND I MUMBLE NO, THANK YOU.
THEN MY LOVE TURNS AWAY, DEFIANTLY IT LOOKS LIKE, AND DISAPPEARS FROM MY LIFE ONCE MORE. I TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND I EXIT THE WAY I CAME. TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS, I'M FEELING I FULLY DESERVED WHAT I GOT.
MY LOVE HATES MY FUCKING GUTS, YET I'M IN LOVE ALL THE MORE. MIGHT THIS MEAN I CAN ONLY LOVE WHEN I'M NOT LOVED IN RETURN? WHO KNOWS? WHO CARES? I'M FEELING ALIVE AGAIN; LIKE DICKENS'S OLD FEZZIWIG, I'M ALIVE AGAIN.
BETO:97

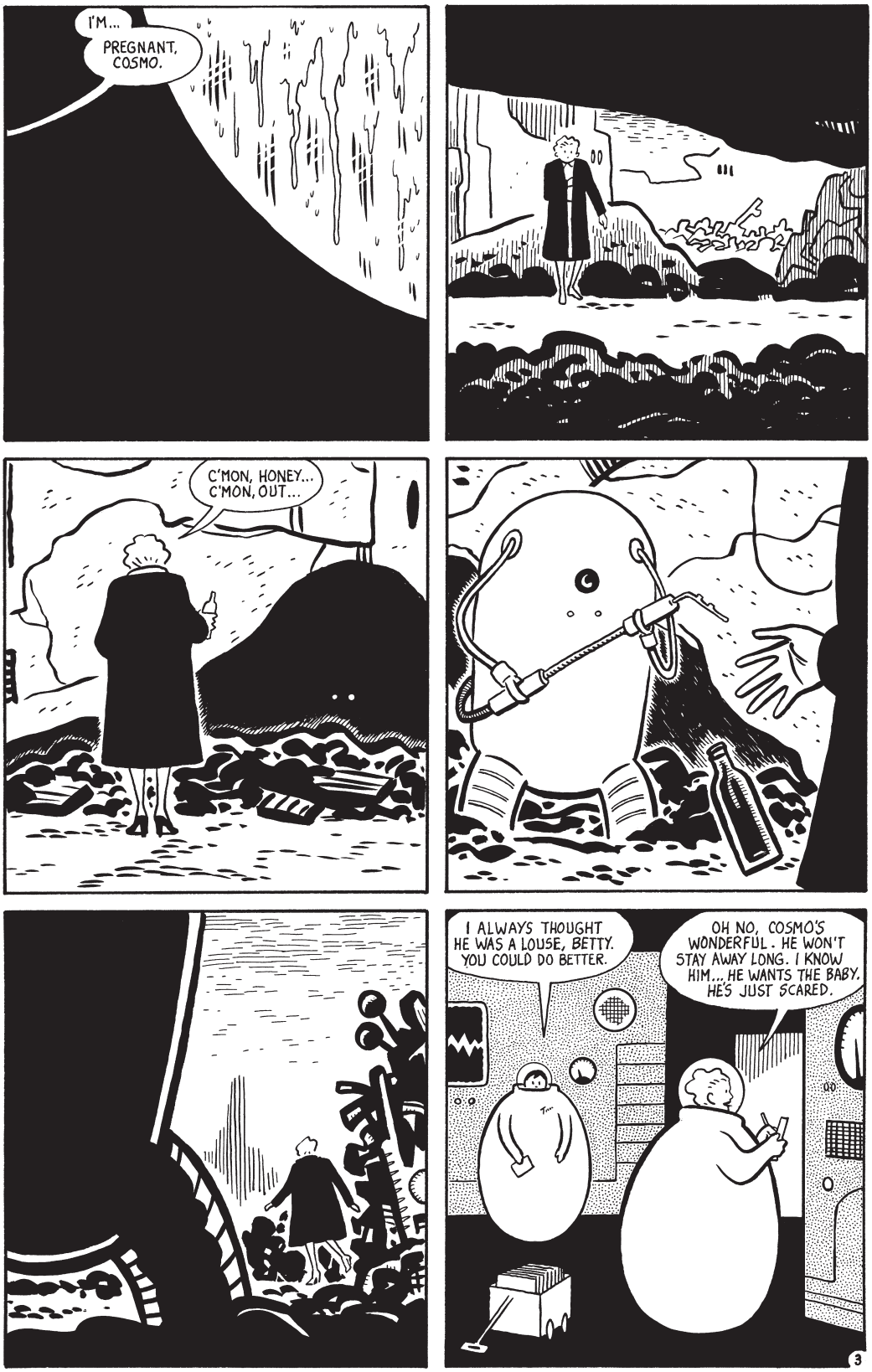

HEROIN
BETO:97


HEROIN

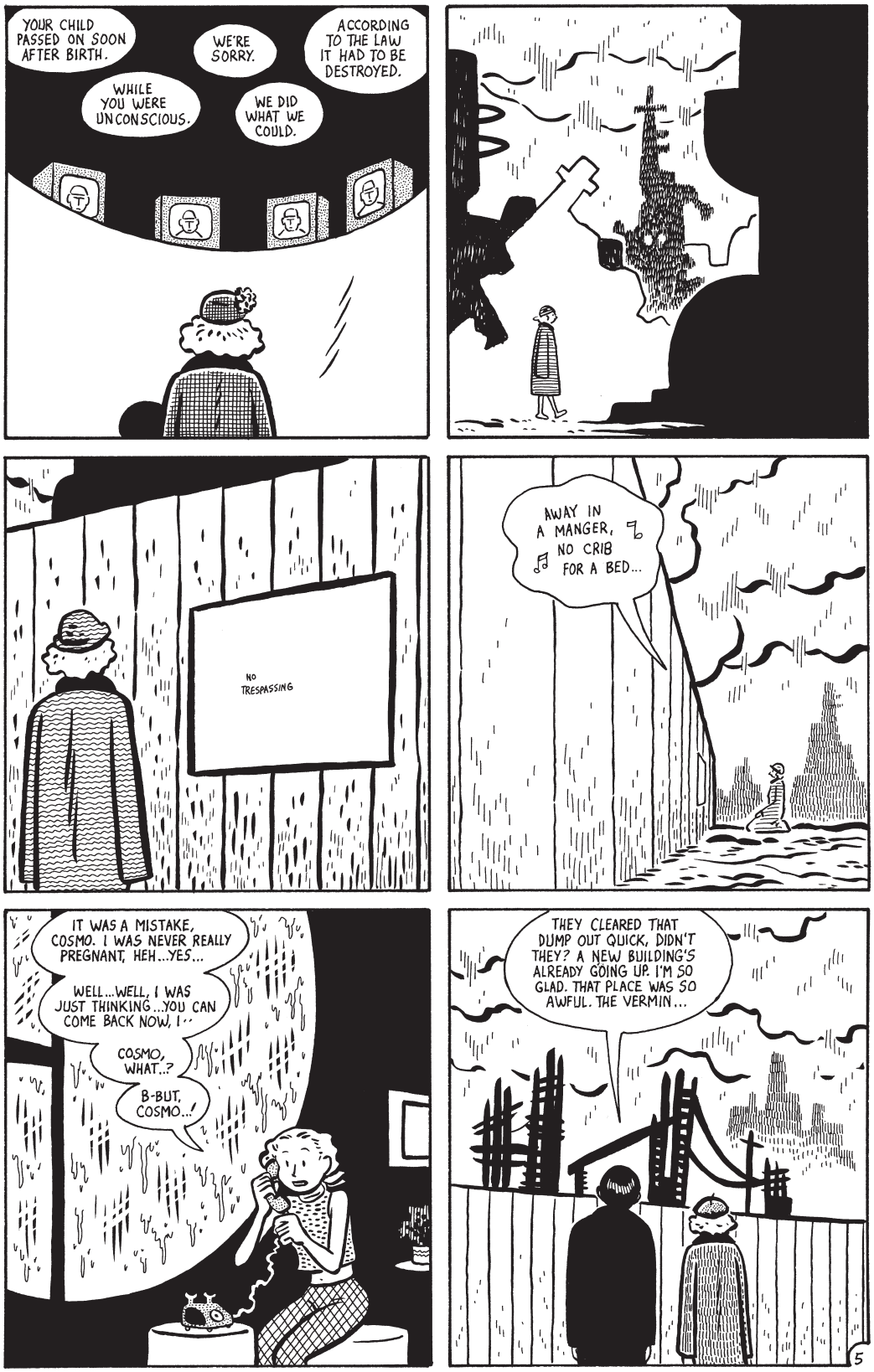
HA HA HAAAA

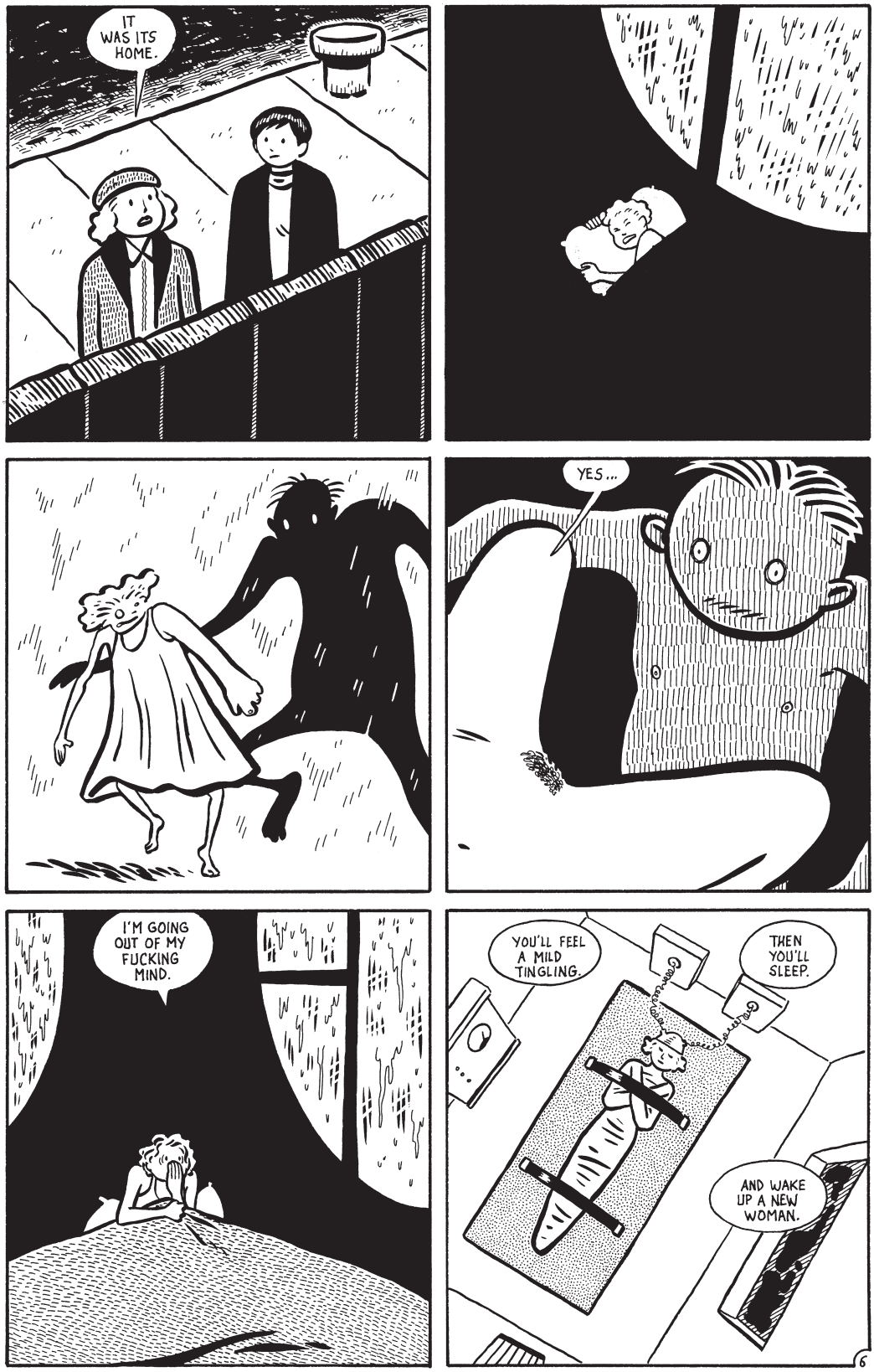

OOH, THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, COSMO, LET'S GO HOME.
HOLD ON. CHECK IT OUT.
HEY!


WANT A DRINK?
COME ON... COME ON...
COSMO...IT HASN'T GOT A MOUTH...IT...
SHUT UP, BETTY. IT'S GOT EARS, HASN'T IT? C'MON.
BUT...BUT HOW DOES IT LIVE WITHOUT A MOUTH..? IT DOESN'T LOOK UNDERNOURISHED, OR··
I DON'T KNOW. THEY JUST DO, THAT'S ALL. FORGET IT OR YOU'LL GO CRAZY, OK?
2

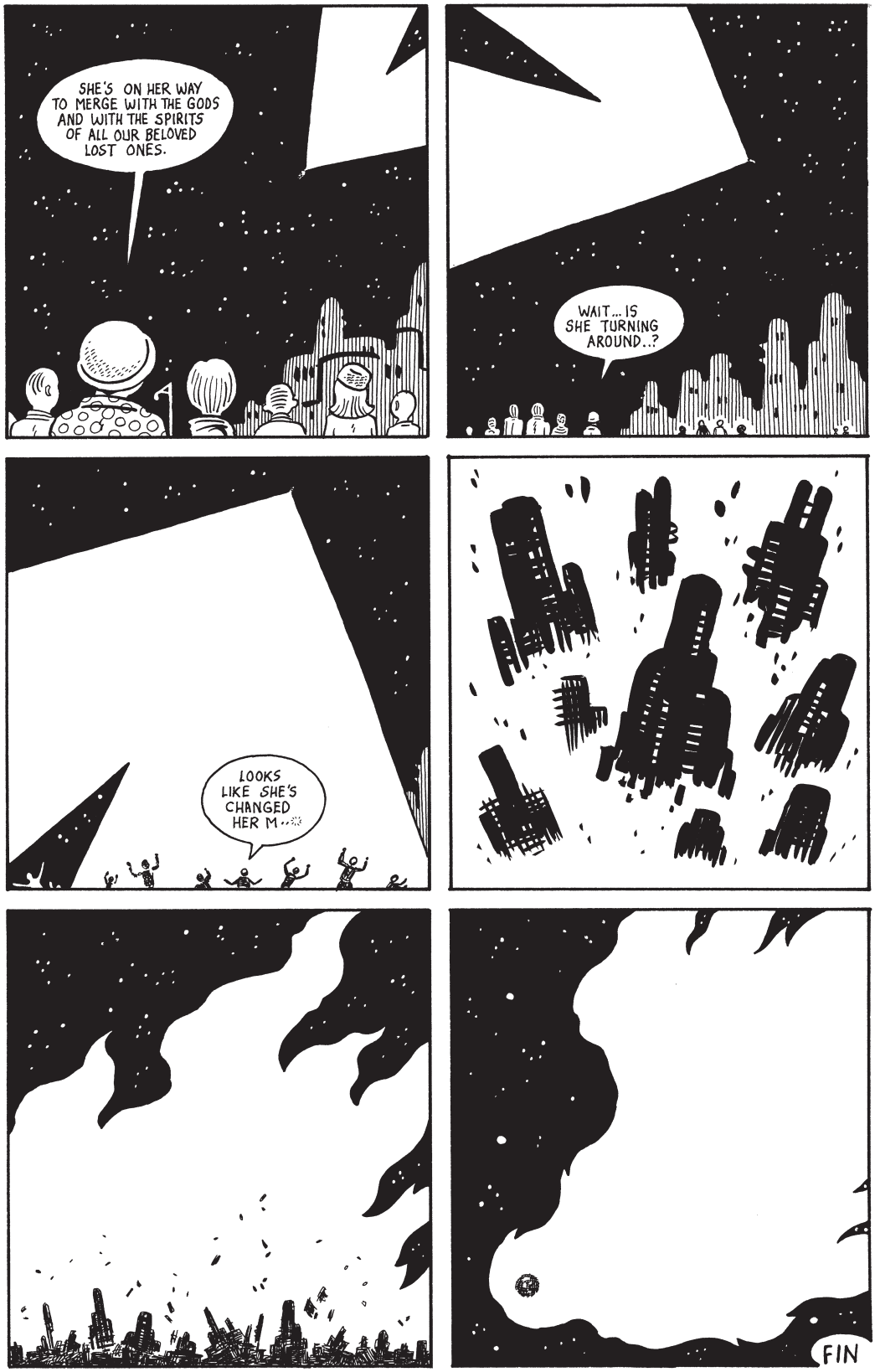

I'M...
PREGNANT, COSMO.
C'MON, HONEY... C'MON, OUT...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS A LOUSE, BETTY. YOU COULD DO BETTER.
OH NO, COSMO'S WONDERFUL. HE WON'T STAY AWAY LONG. I KNOW HIM... HE WANTS THE BABY. HE'S JUST SCARED.
3

Betty
OW.
D-DOES IT HAVE A MOUTH?!

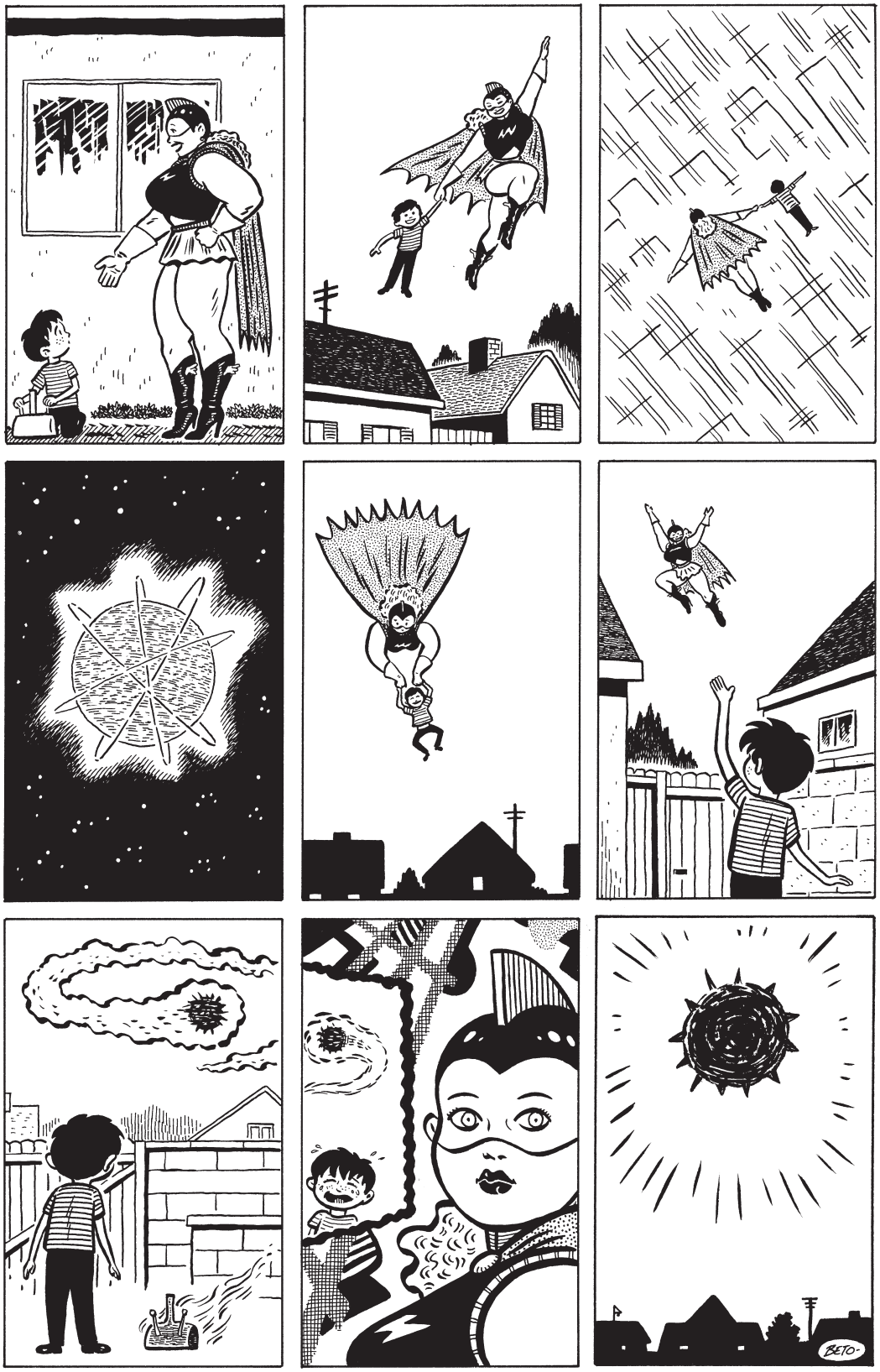

YOUR CHILD PASSED ON SOON AFTER BIRTH.
WE'RE SORRY.
ACCORDING TO THE LAW IT HAD TO BE DESTROYED.
WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.
WE DID WHAT WE COULD.
NO TRESPASSING
AWAY IN A MANGER, NO CRIB FOR A BED...
IT WAS A MISTAKE, COSMO. I WAS NEVER REALLY PREGNANT, HEH...YES...
WELL...WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING...YOU CAN COME BACK NOW, I...
COSMO, WHAT...?
B-BUT, COSMO...!
THEY CLEARED THAT DUMP OUT QUICK, DIDN'T THEY? A NEW BUILDING'S ALREADY GOING UP. I'M SO GLAD. THAT PLACE WAS SO AWFUL. THE VERMIN...
5

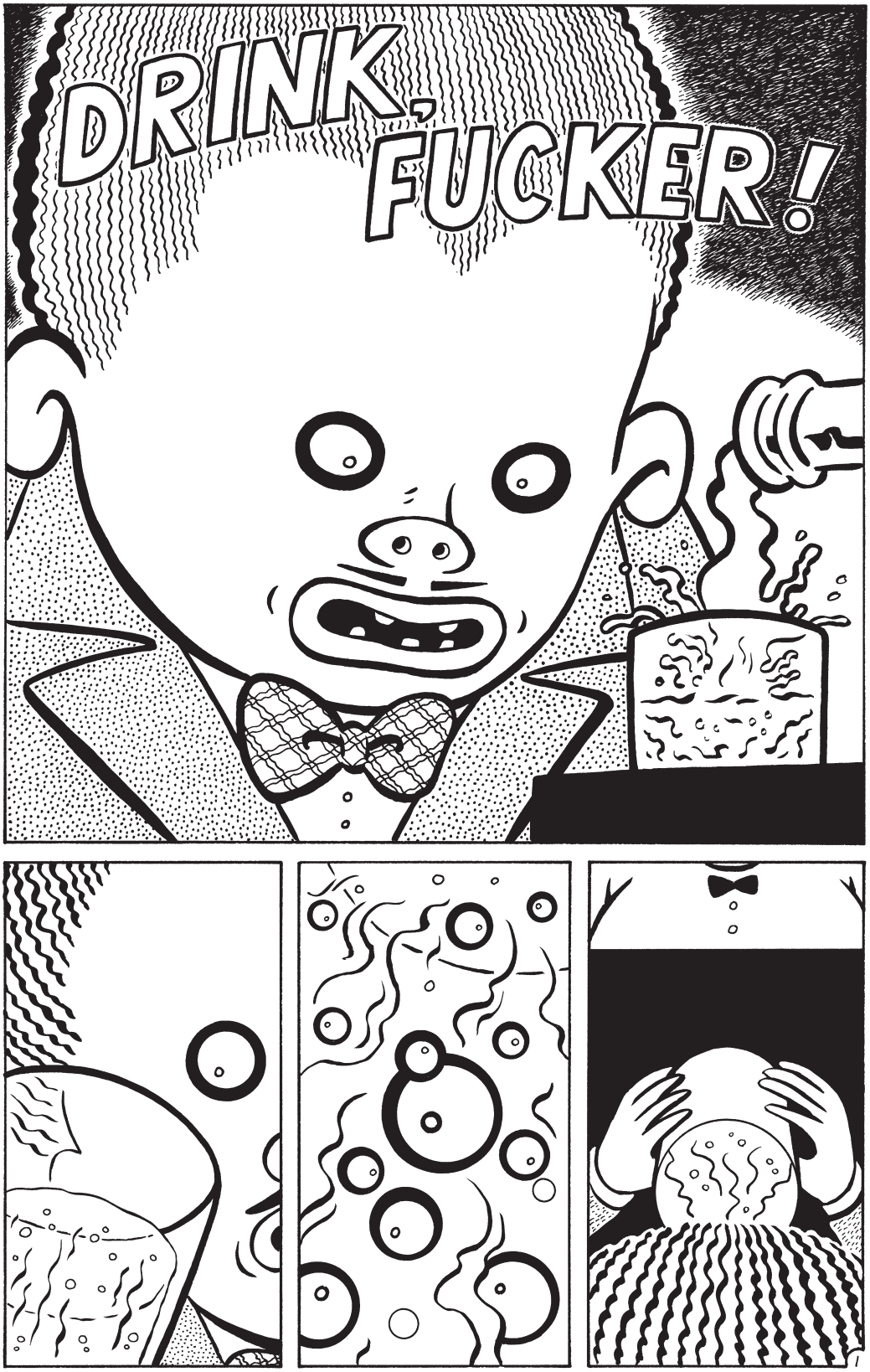

IT WAS ITS HOME.
YES...
I'M GOING OUT OF MY FUCKING MIND.
YOU'LL FEEL A MILD TINGLING.
THEN YOU'LL SLEEP.
AND WAKE UP A NEW WOMAN.
6

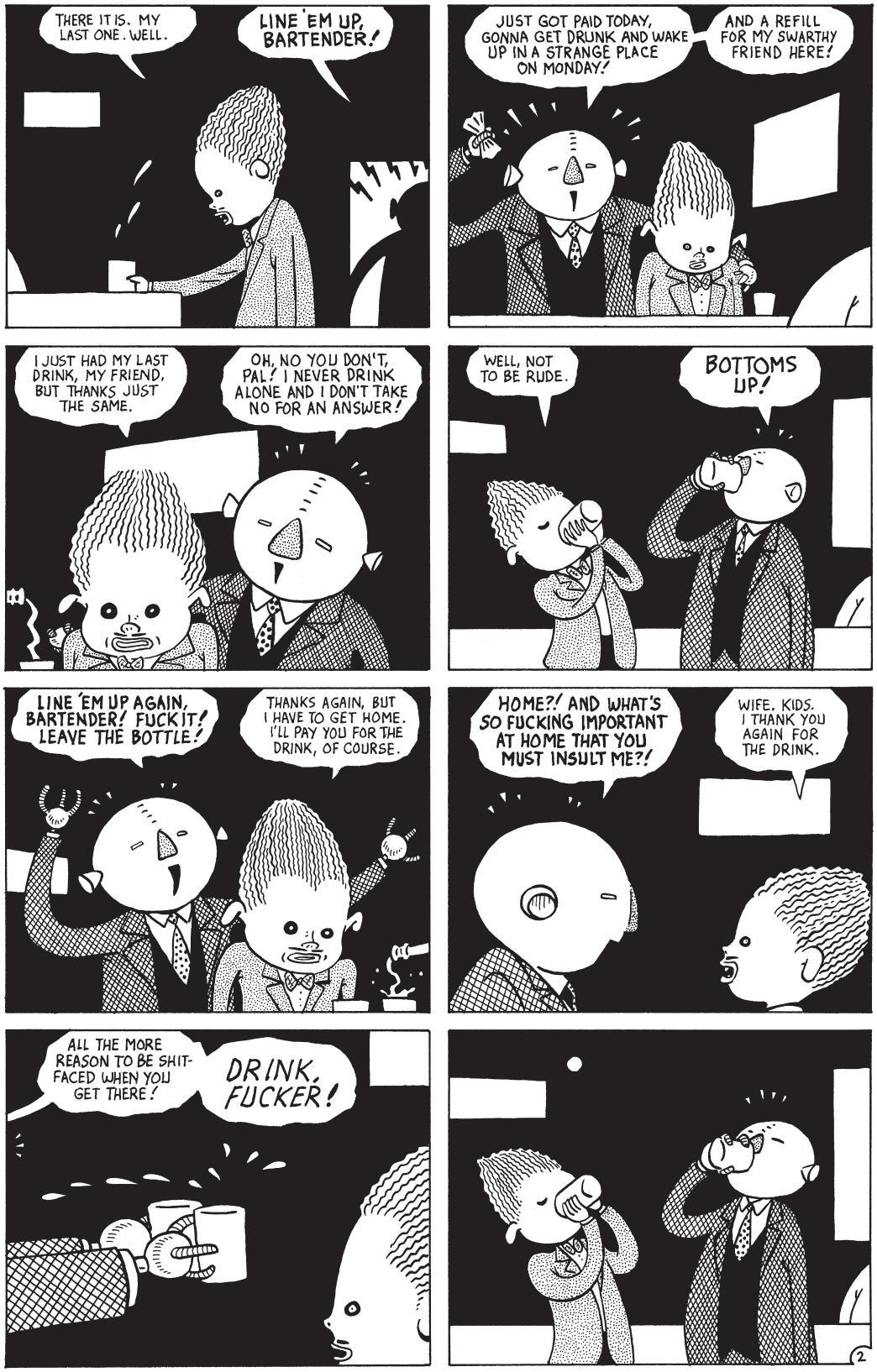
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
SHE'LL BE KILLED.
CUT THE POWER.
NO, WAIT. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED.
TESTS SHOW YOU'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH.
YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
IT WAS ENOUGH TO KILL A HUNDRED MEN.
THERE'S A REASON YOU SURVIVED SUCH A DEADLY OCCURRENCE, BETTY.
I THINK YOU'VE CROSSED OVER.
BUT WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVE AND OBSESSION, BETTY?
IT'S OBSESSION WHEN IT'S FROM SOMEBODY ELSE AND IT'S LOVE WHEN IT'S FROM YOU.
7

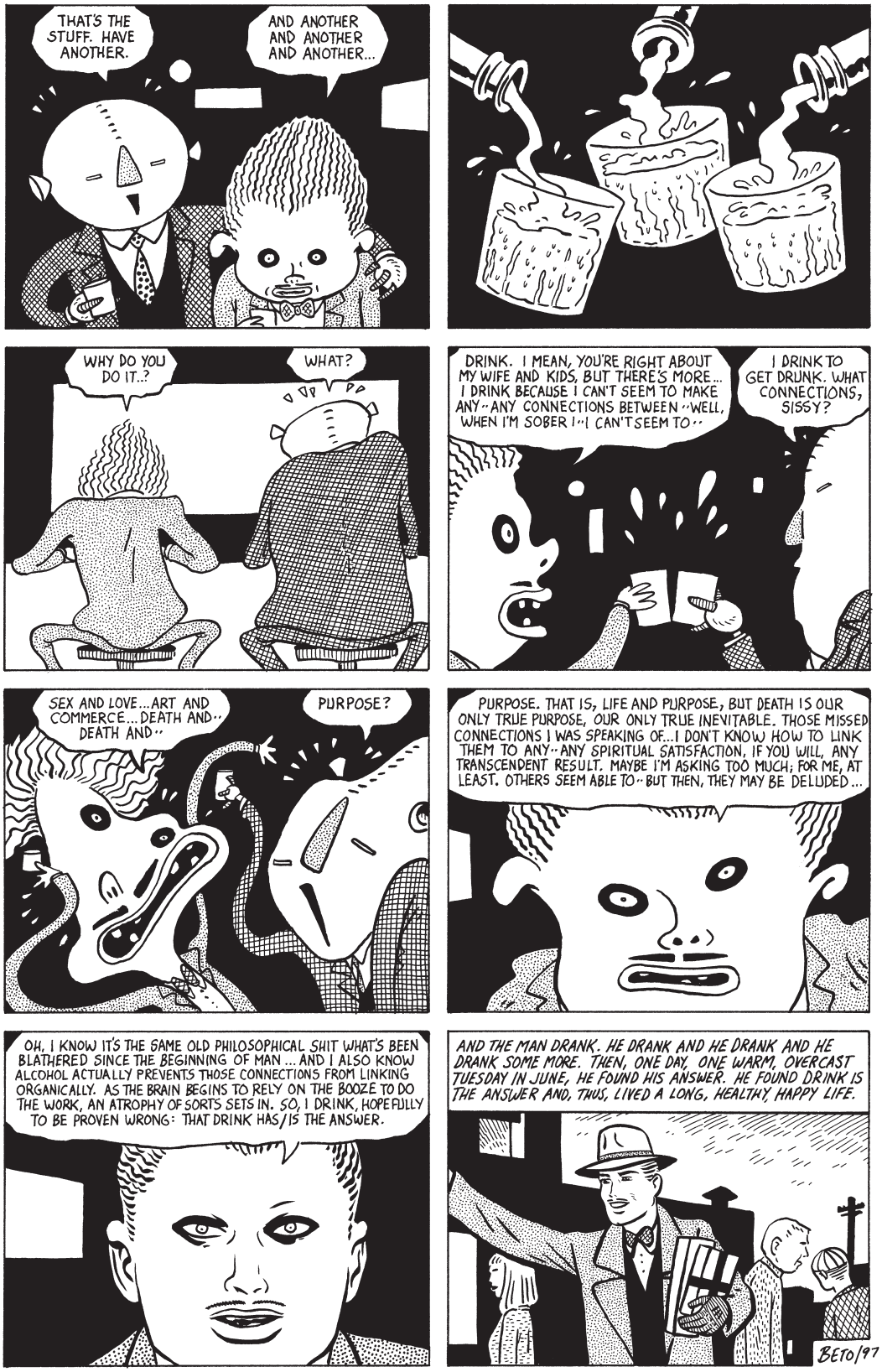

SHE'S ON HER WAY TO MERGE WITH THE GODS AND WITH THE SPIRITS OF ALL OUR BELOVED LOST ONES.
WAIT... IS SHE TURNING AROUND..?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CHANGED HER M...
FIN

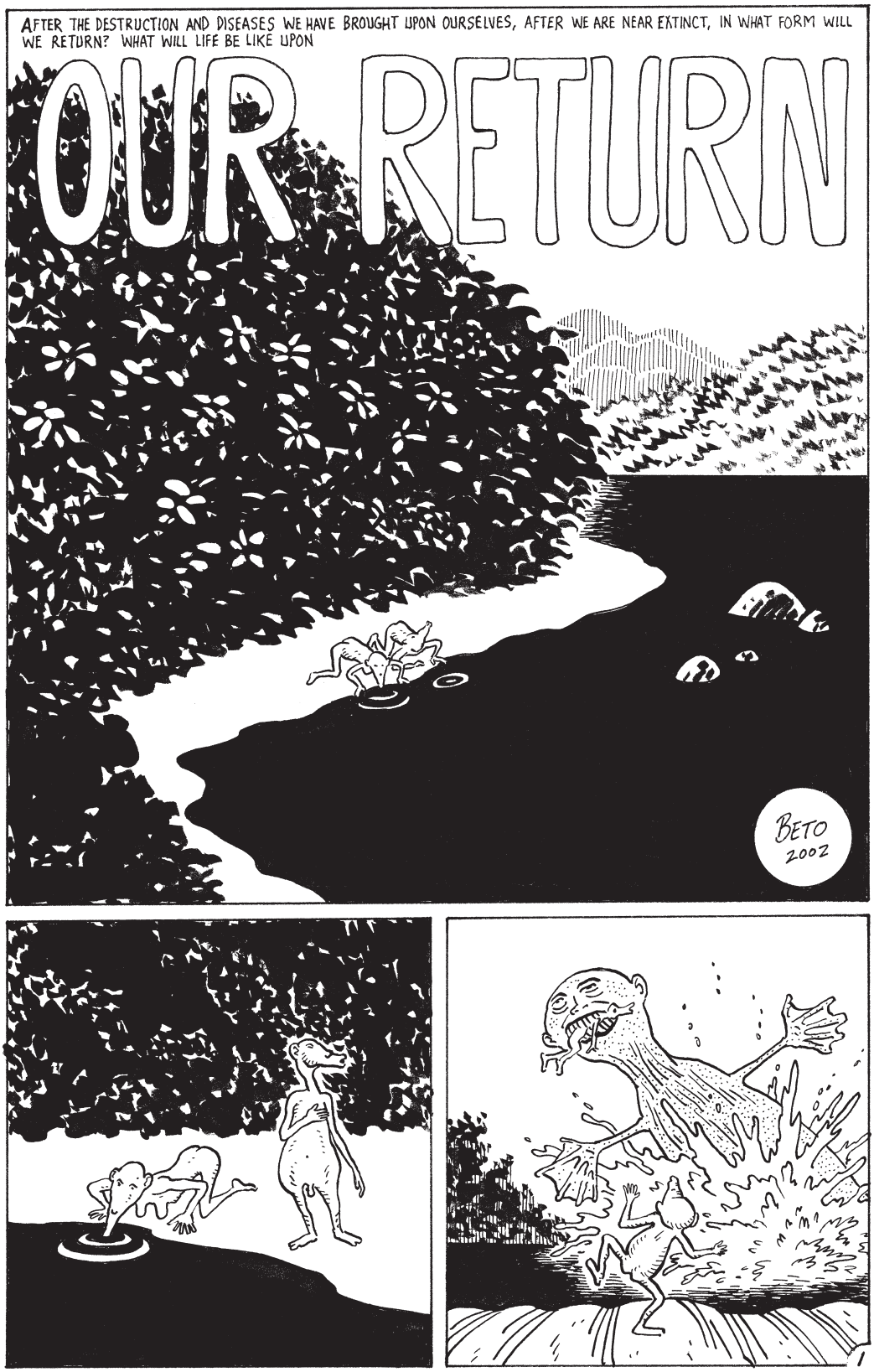
She Sleeps with Anybody but Me®

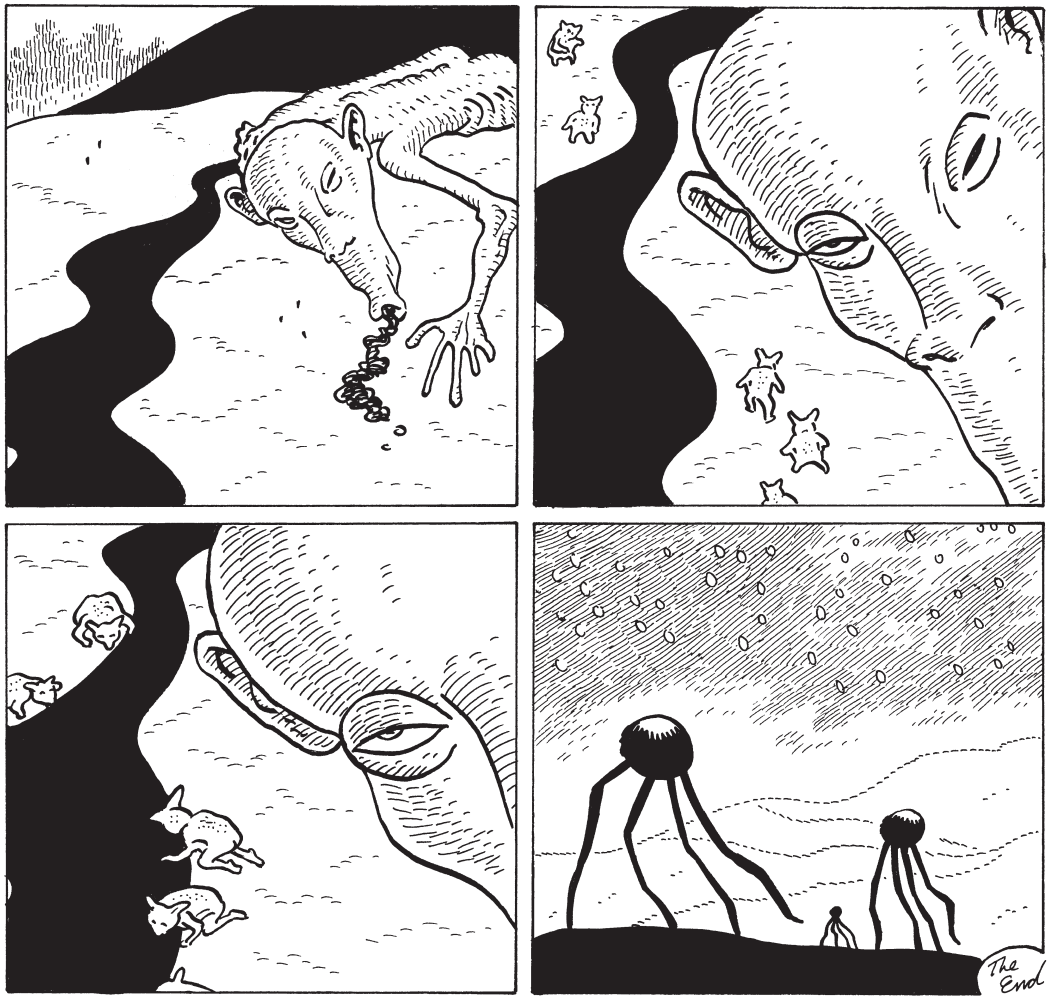

BETO-

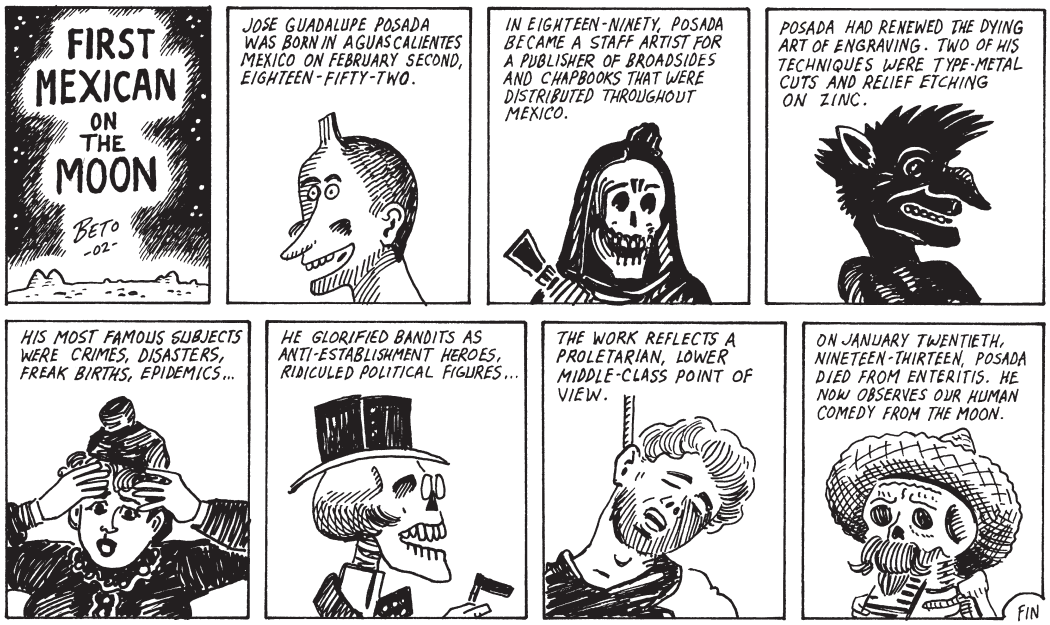

DRINK, FUCKER!

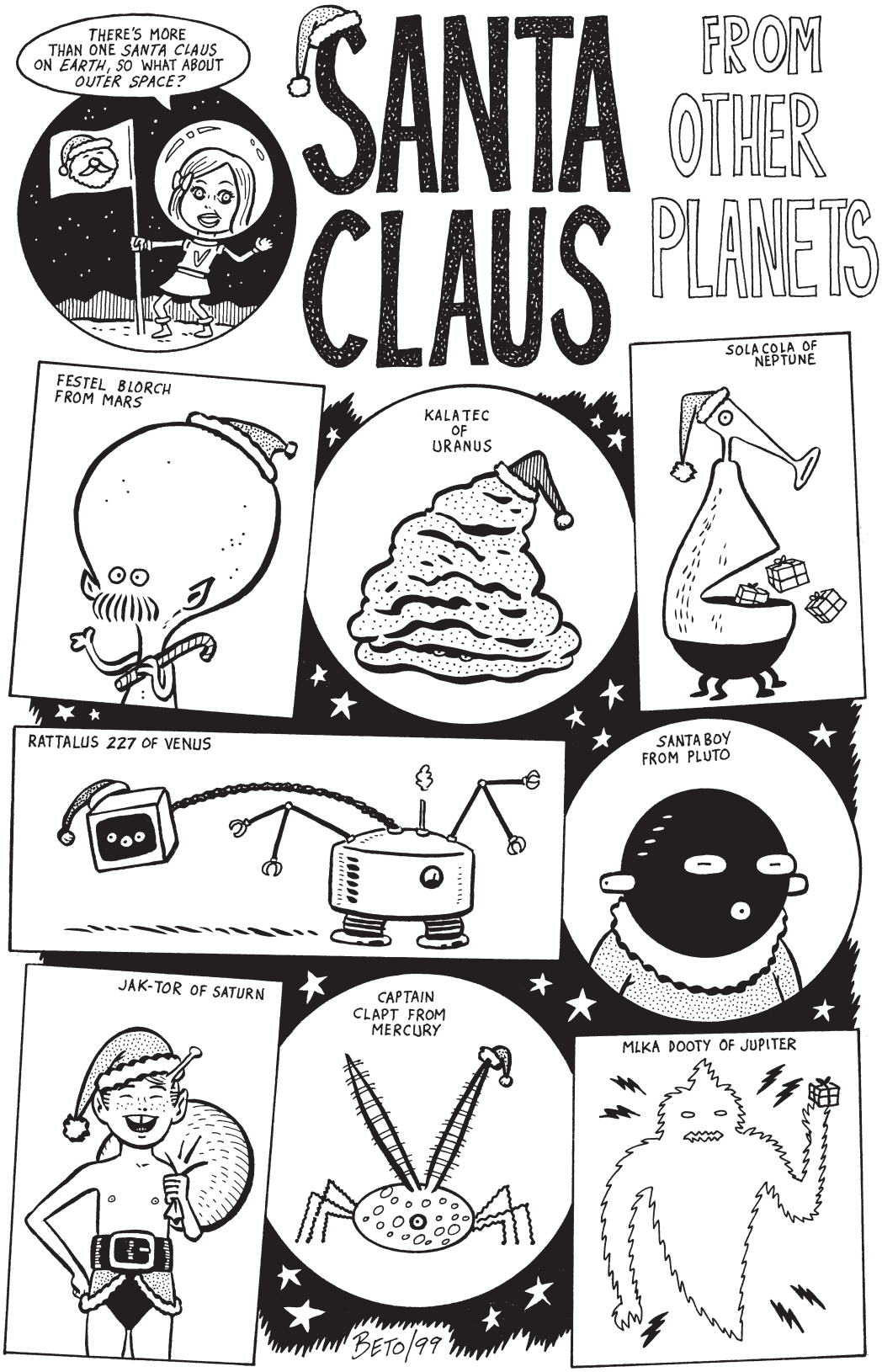

THERE IT IS. MY LAST ONE. WELL.
LINE 'EM UP, BARTENDER!
JUST GOT PAID TODAY, GONNA GET DRUNK AND WAKE UP IN A STRANGE PLACE ON MONDAY!
AND A REFILL FOR MY SWARTHY FRIEND HERE!
I JUST HAD MY LAST DRINK, MY FRIEND, BUT THANKS JUST THE SAME.
OH, NO YOU DON'T, PAL! I NEVER DRINK ALONE AND I DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!
WELL, NOT TO BE RUDE.
BOTTOMS UP!
LINE 'EM UP AGAIN, BARTENDER! FUCK IT! LEAVE THE BOTTLE!
THANKS AGAIN, BUT I HAVE TO GET HOME. I'LL PAY YOU FOR THE DRINK, OF COURSE.
HOME?! AND WHAT'S SO FUCKING IMPORTANT AT HOME THAT YOU MUST INSULT ME?!
WIFE. KIDS. I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE DRINK.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE SHIT-FACED WHEN YOU GET THERE!
DRINK, FUCKER!
2


THAT'S THE STUFF. HAVE ANOTHER.
AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER...
WHY DO YOU DO IT..?
WHAT?
DRINK. I MEAN, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT MY WIFE AND KIDS, BUT THERE'S MORE... I DRINK BECAUSE I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE ANY·· ANY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ··WELL, WHEN I'M SOBER I··I CAN'T SEEM TO··
I DRINK TO GET DRUNK. WHAT CONNECTIONS, SISSY?
SEX AND LOVE...ART AND COMMERCE...DEATH AND·· DEATH AND··
PURPOSE?
PURPOSE. THAT IS, LIFE AND PURPOSE, BUT DEATH IS OUR ONLY TRUE PURPOSE, OUR ONLY TRUE INEVITABLE. THOSE MISSED CONNECTIONS I WAS SPEAKING OF...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LINK THEM TO ANY··ANY SPIRITUAL SATISFACTION, IF YOU WILL, ANY TRANSCENDENT RESULT. MAYBE I'M ASKING TOO MUCH; FOR ME, AT LEAST. OTHERS SEEM ABLE TO··BUT THEN, THEY MAY BE DELUDED...
OH, I KNOW IT'S THE SAME OLD PHILOSOPHICAL SHIT WHAT'S BEEN BLATHERED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAN ... AND I ALSO KNOW ALCOHOL ACTUALLY PREVENTS THOSE CONNECTIONS FROM LINKING ORGANICALLY. AS THE BRAIN BEGINS TO RELY ON THE BOOZE TO DO THE WORK, AN ATROPHY OF SORTS SETS IN. SO, I DRINK, HOPEFULLY TO BE PROVEN WRONG: THAT DRINK HAS/IS THE ANSWER.
AND THE MAN DRANK. HE DRANK AND HE DRANK AND HE DRANK SOME MORE. THEN, ONE DAY, ONE WARM, OVERCAST TUESDAY IN JUNE, HE FOUND HIS ANSWER. HE FOUND DRINK IS THE ANSWER AND, THUS, LIVED A LONG, HEALTHY, HAPPY LIFE.
BETO/97


AFTER THE DESTRUCTION AND DISEASES WE HAVE BROUGHT UPON OURSELVES, AFTER WE ARE NEAR EXTINCT, IN WHAT FORM WILL WE RETURN? WHAT WILL LIFE BE LIKE UPON
OUR RETURN
BETO
2002


The End

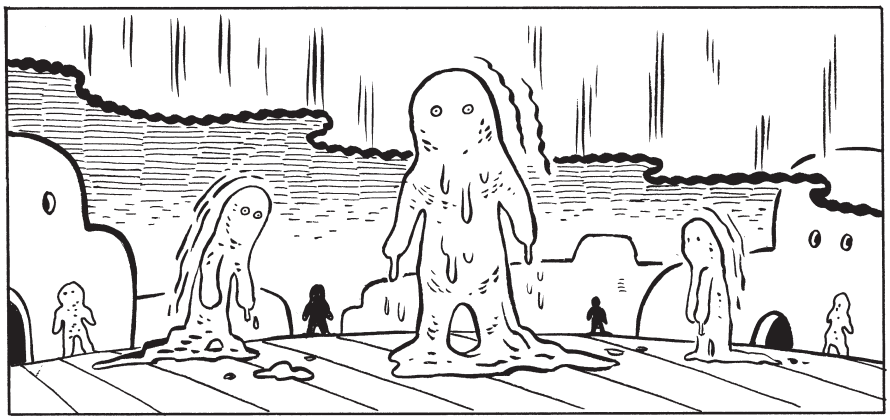

FIRST MEXICAN ON THE MOON
BETO -02-
JOSE GUADALUPE POSADA WAS BORN IN AGUASCALIENTES MEXICO ON FEBRUARY SECOND, EIGHTEEN-FIFTY-TWO.
IN EIGHTEEN-NINETY, POSADA BECAME A STAFF ARTIST FOR A PUBLISHER OF BROADSIDES AND CHAPBOOKS THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT MEXICO.
POSADA HAD RENEWED THE DYING ART OF ENGRAVING. TWO OF HIS TECHNIQUES WERE TYPE-METAL CUTS AND RELIEF ETCHING ON ZINC.
HIS MOST FAMOUS SUBJECTS WERE CRIMES, DISASTERS, FREAK BIRTHS, EPIDEMICS...
HE GLORIFIED BANDITS AS ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT HEROES, RIDICULED POLITICAL FIGURES...
THE WORK REFLECTS A PROLETARIAN, LOWER MIDDLE-CLASS POINT OF VIEW.
ON JANUARY TWENTIETH, NINETEEN-THIRTEEN, POSADA DIED FROM ENTERITIS. HE NOW OBSERVES OUR HUMAN COMEDY FROM THE MOON.
FIN

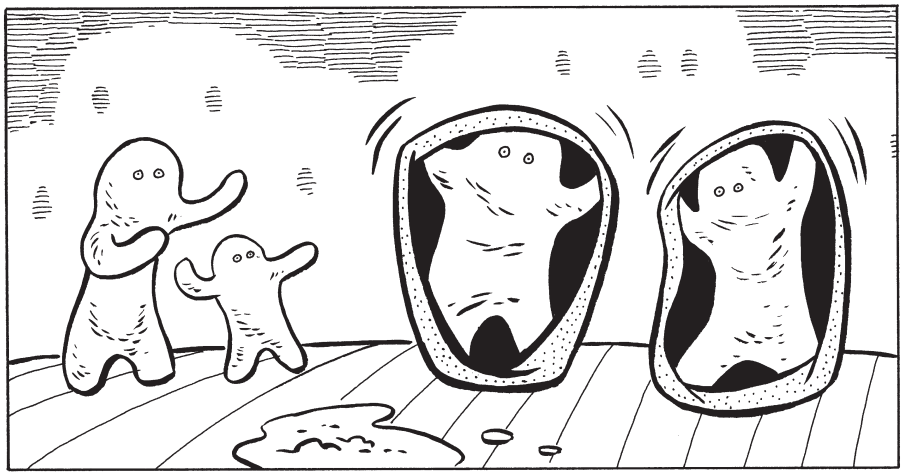

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE SANTA CLAUS ON EARTH, SO WHAT ABOUT OUTER SPACE?
SANTA CLAUS FROM OTHER PLANETS
FESTEL BLORCH FROM MARS
KALATEC OF URANUS
SOLACOLA OF NEPTUNE
RATTALUS 227 OF VENUS
SANTA BOY FROM PLUTO
JAK-TOR OF SATURN
CAPTAIN CLAPT FROM MERCURY
MLKA DOOTY OF JUPITER
BETO/99

SHINDLERIA·PRAEMATURUS

BY MARIO and BETO ··2004

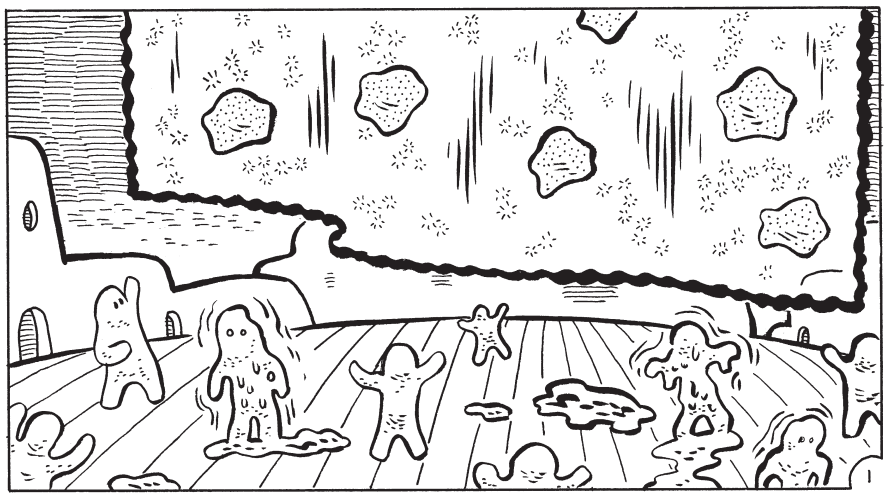
THE MAKING SEASON WAS HERE. MANY ALREADY HAD THE GLOW AND WERE JITTERING, LEAVING THEIR SLIMEY SPOE TRAILING BEHIND.



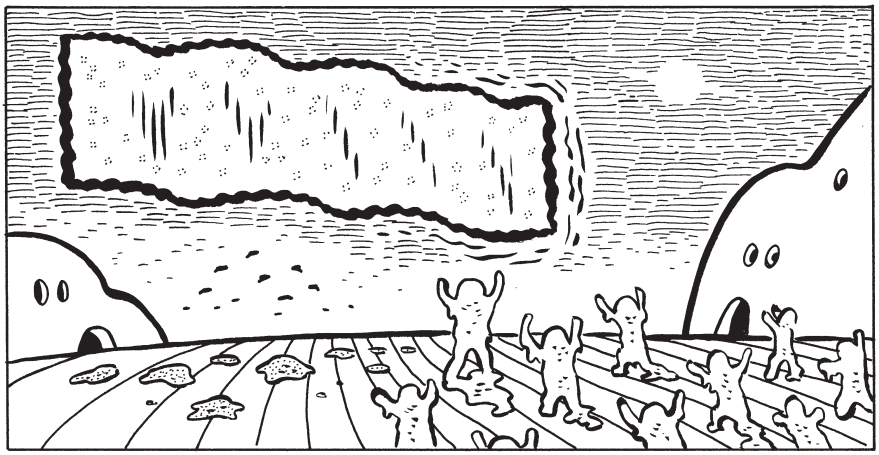


ELDERS WERE QUICK TO ADORN, DRAWING GLEEFUL DERISION FROM YOUNGERS TOO CLEVER.

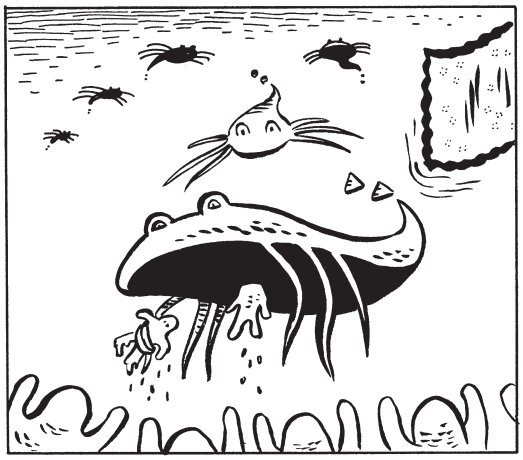
THE REST, SURVIVORS OF THE PAST SEASON, PARADED BY THE SPEAKING WALLS. ARTISANS SKITTERED, SPEWING PATTERNS, SMEARING SAGAS.



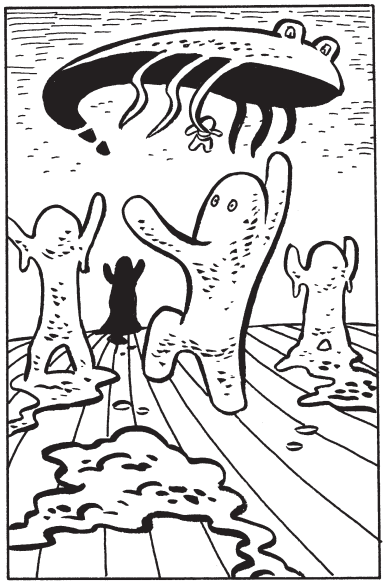
ALL FACES AND PALMS TURNED TOWARDS THE GLITTERING DISPLAY, ALL MINDS CHANGING LIGHT TOGETHER, SWAYING TO THE RUMBLE OF THE RHEEG'S APPROACH.



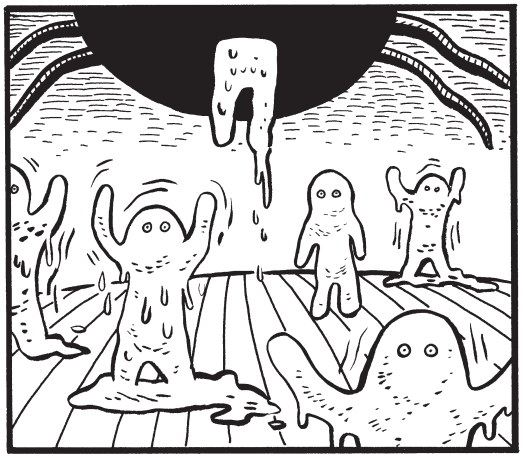
THE RHEEG APPEARED, DRIFTING ABOVE, PLUCKING AND ABSORBING THOSE THRASHING IN SPOE.



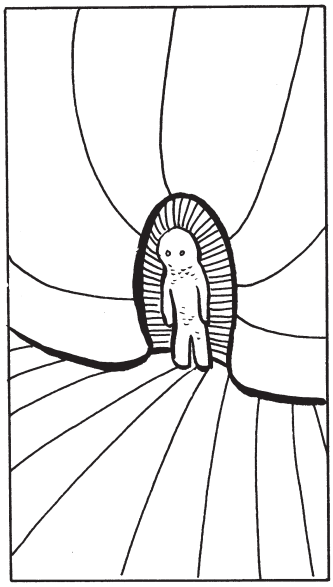
THIS FRIGHTENED ME. I BACKPEDALED FIERCELY, AVOIDING PUDDLES OF SPOE, MY THOUGHTS CALCULATING WILDLY.



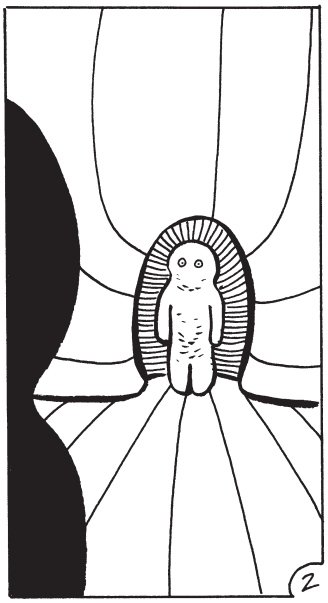
I STOOD AND DID NOT SWAY. I LOOKED DOWN. I WASN'T IN SPOE, AND NEITHER WAS I ONE WITH THE OTHERS.



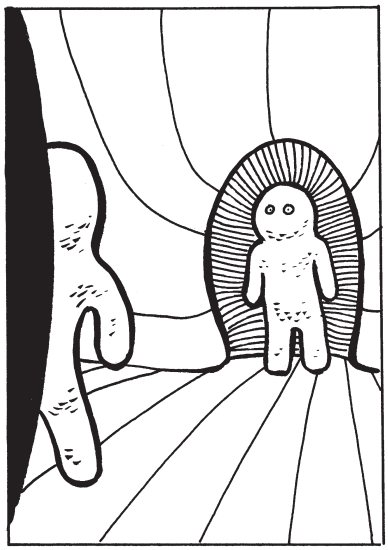
I CUPPED INTO A COWL NICHE TO SORT OUT MY THOUGHTS. NONE WOULD DISTURB ME HERE.



I PEEKED OUT AND NOTICED ANOTHER ENCUPPED, FACING ME.



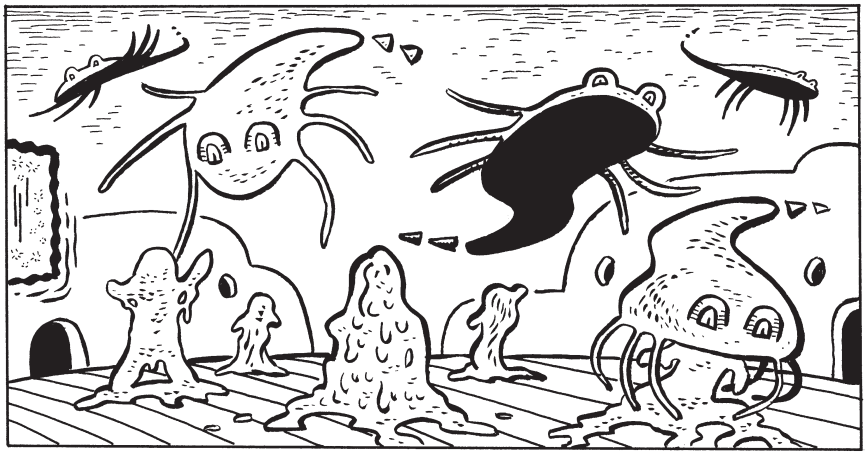
A HAUNTING SELF-AWARENESS COMPELLED ME TO DISENCUP AND VENTURE TOWARDS THE OTHER NICHE.



OUR GAZE COMPREHENDED, A SEETHING ERUPTED.

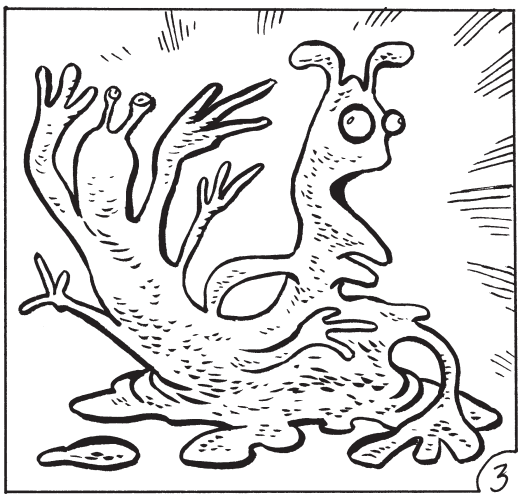
WE ENTANGLED AND MUTATED, FORCING SENSATIONS AT A BLINK.

MAKING WAS IN FULL SWING, RHEEGS WHEELING AND ZIPPING BETWEEN THE NOW RISING INCHOATE BLOBS SOON TO BURST AND SCATTER, ENTERING US INTO THE TRIBULATION OF ELATION.

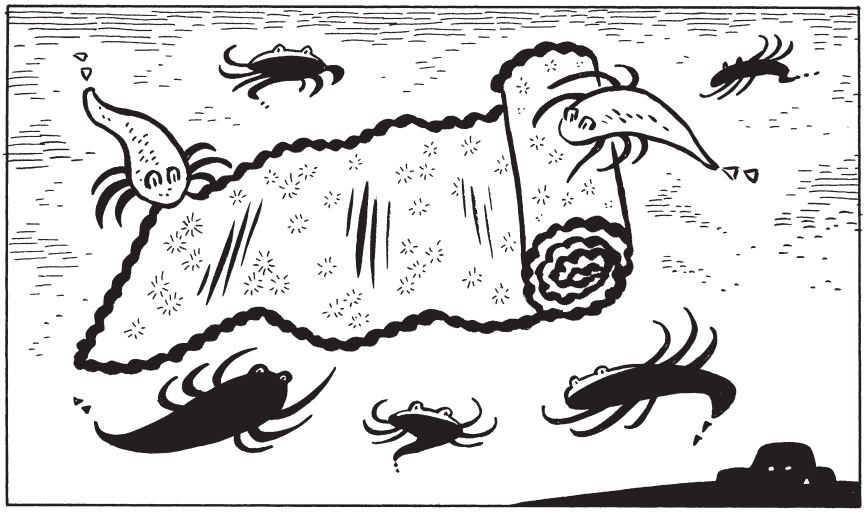


MY MUTATED MATE AND I LAY STUNTED, OUR MUTATIONS TAKING ROOT, FLAVORING TO A FLOATING PUDDLE.

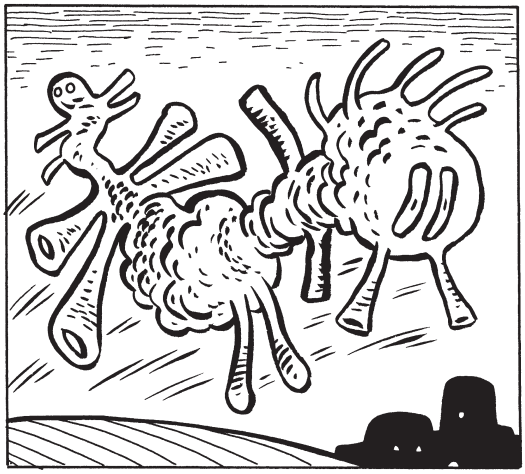
A RATCHETY DIALOGUE SPED BETWEEN US, MINCING AND PUCKERING AS COMING TO A BOIL.



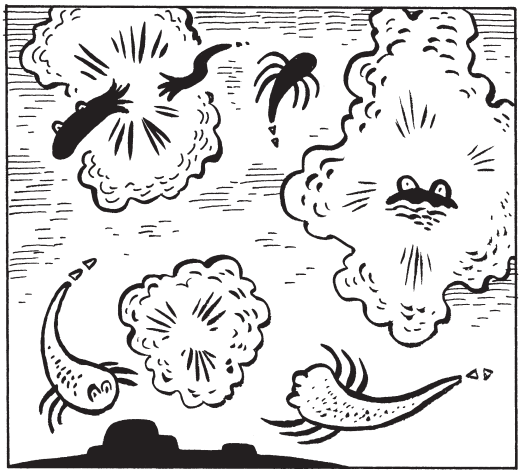
THE RHEEGS CEASED THEIR PRANCING AND DIALATED INTO THE SPEAKING WALL. IT PINCHED, ROLLED AND TOTTERED.

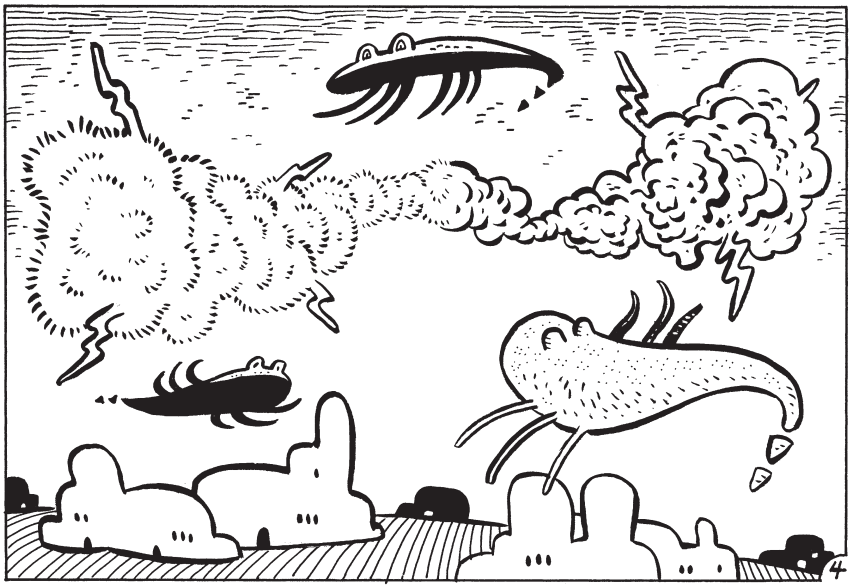


MY COMPÈRE AND MY NEW SELF SPASMED INTO A LASH, DARTING AND PASTING AT NOTHING.



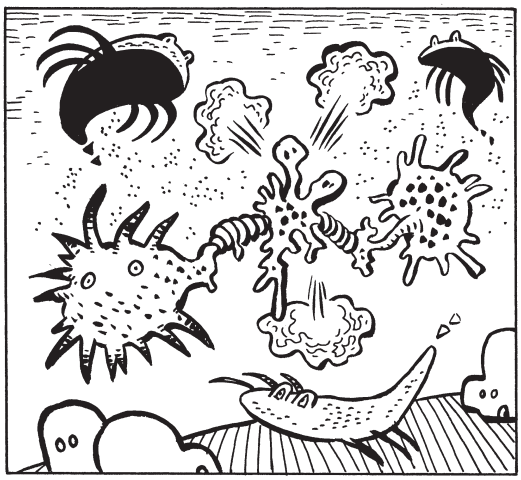
THE RHEEGS SLOWED THEIR WORK. SOME HARDENED, THEN COUGHED INTO POWDER.



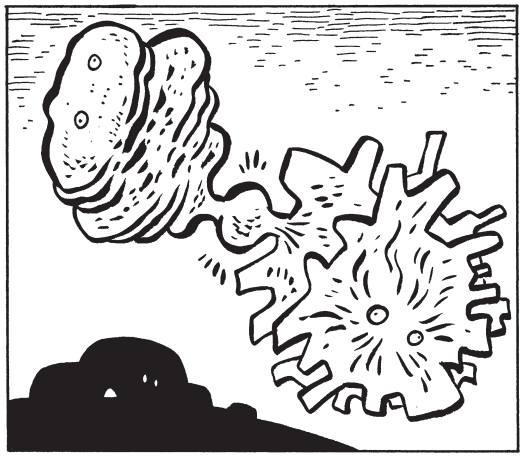


WE FEARED AS ONE, YET FELT SEPARATE. SHAPES CAME FASTER, SO TO DRAW NEARER THE CURIOSITY OF THE RHEEG.

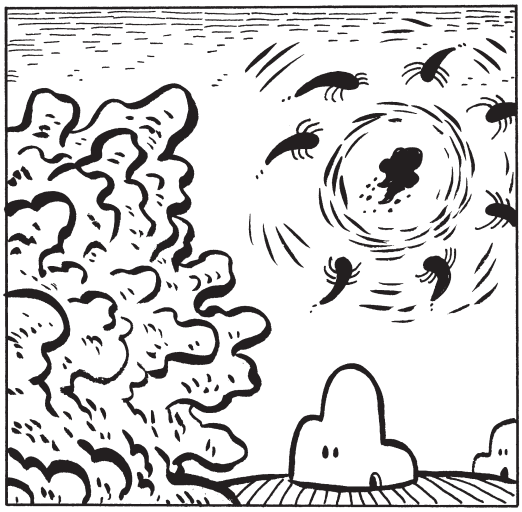
RHEEG DUST CLUSTERED ON US AS IT WAFTED IN DARTING PUFFS.



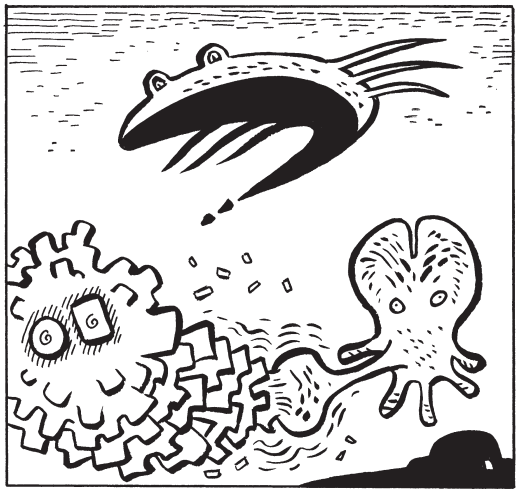
A TERSE UNRAVELLING SWOONED ME AS I BUCKLED, WHILE THE OTHER CURDLED.



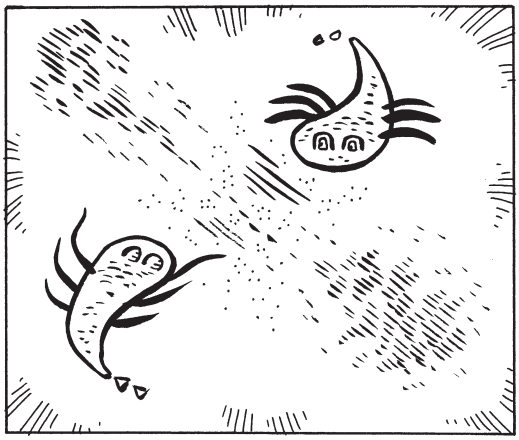
I SENSED MY DOPPELGÄNGER ENGULFED IN A SHROUD OF RHEEGS, A BADGERING CACOPHONY OF DANK REBUKE, WILTING MY OTHER, CHIDED INTO OBLIVION.



WE SENSED QUESTIONS, BUT COULD TRANSMIT NO REPLY.



I STILL SENSED THE OTHER'S THOUGHTS AS WE SEPARATED, SHOOTING AWAY IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, AT BLINDING SPEED.



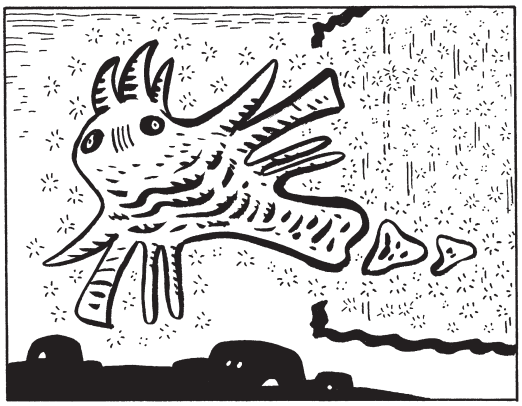
I, STILL AWARE, TOOK STOCK TUMBLING SLOWLY, ADMIRING SENSATIONS OF ADORNMENT.

5

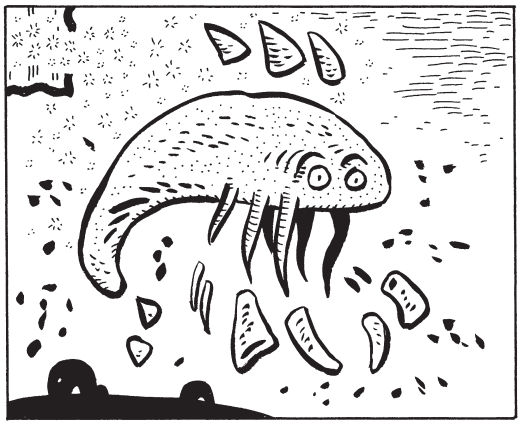
DID I BURROW? WAS I ENGULFED? I SEEPED IN NO DISCERNABLE DIRECTION, BUT SENSED WHOLENESS.

JOLTS OF MY OTHER'S WANING TRANCE, FEBRILE TWINGES, ALIGHTING AND FADING.

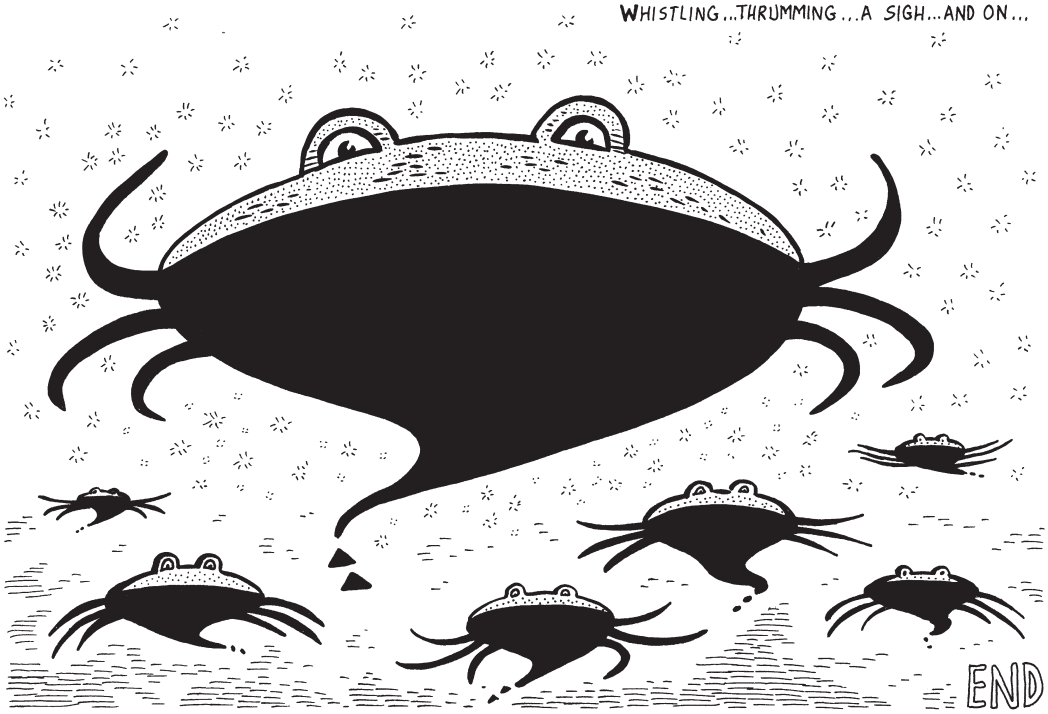
MY SURROUNDINGS RIPPLED ENTICINGLY, TENDRILS SNAPPING IN TIME, STOKED IN TUNE.



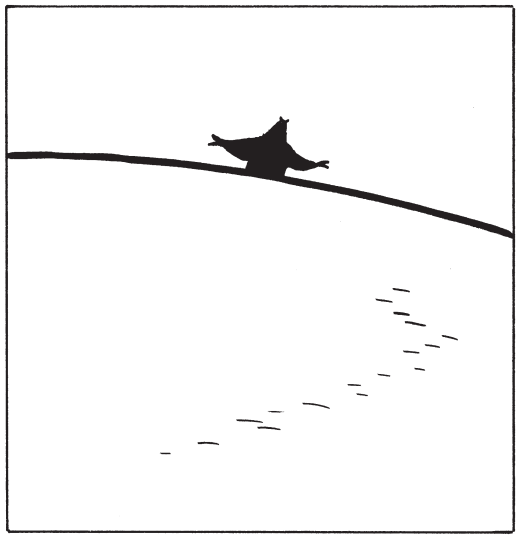
A LILTING, A GURGLE...A GROAN...

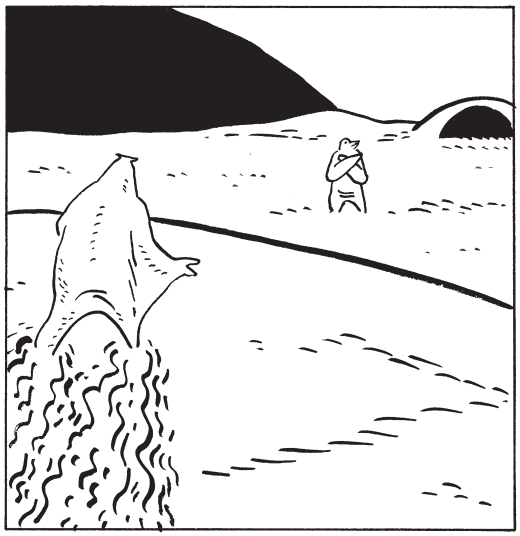


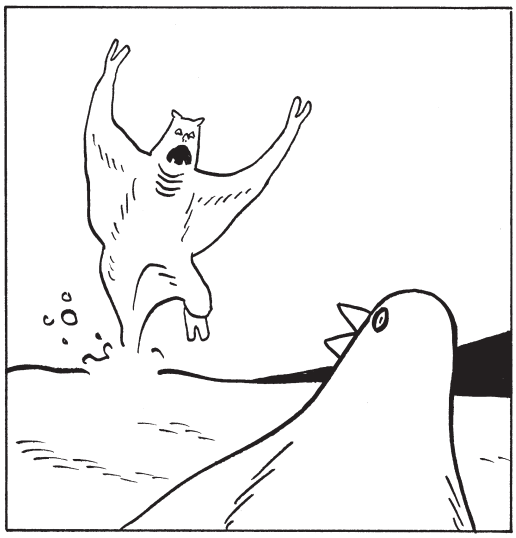
WHISTLING...THRUMMING...A SIGH...AND ON...

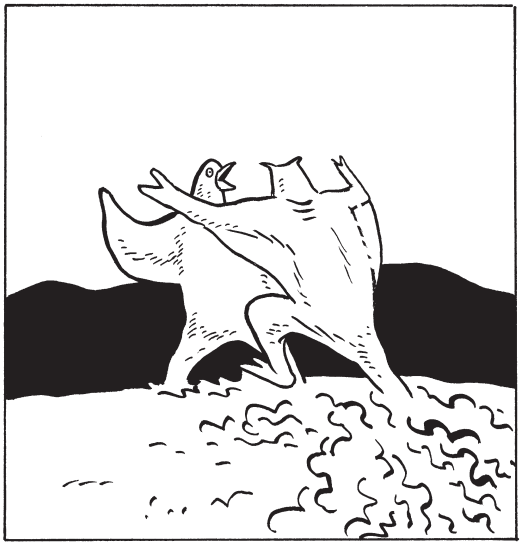


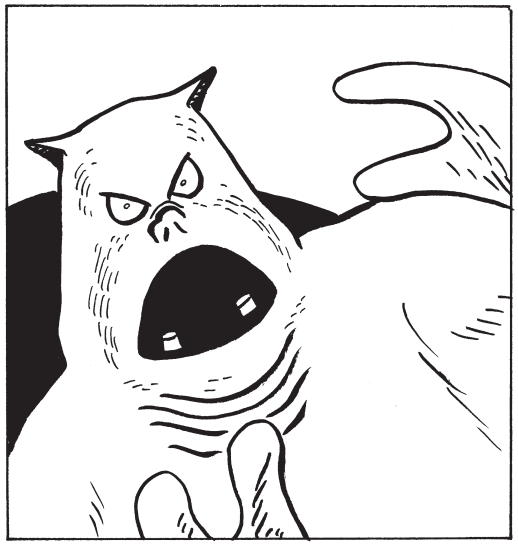
EMANON

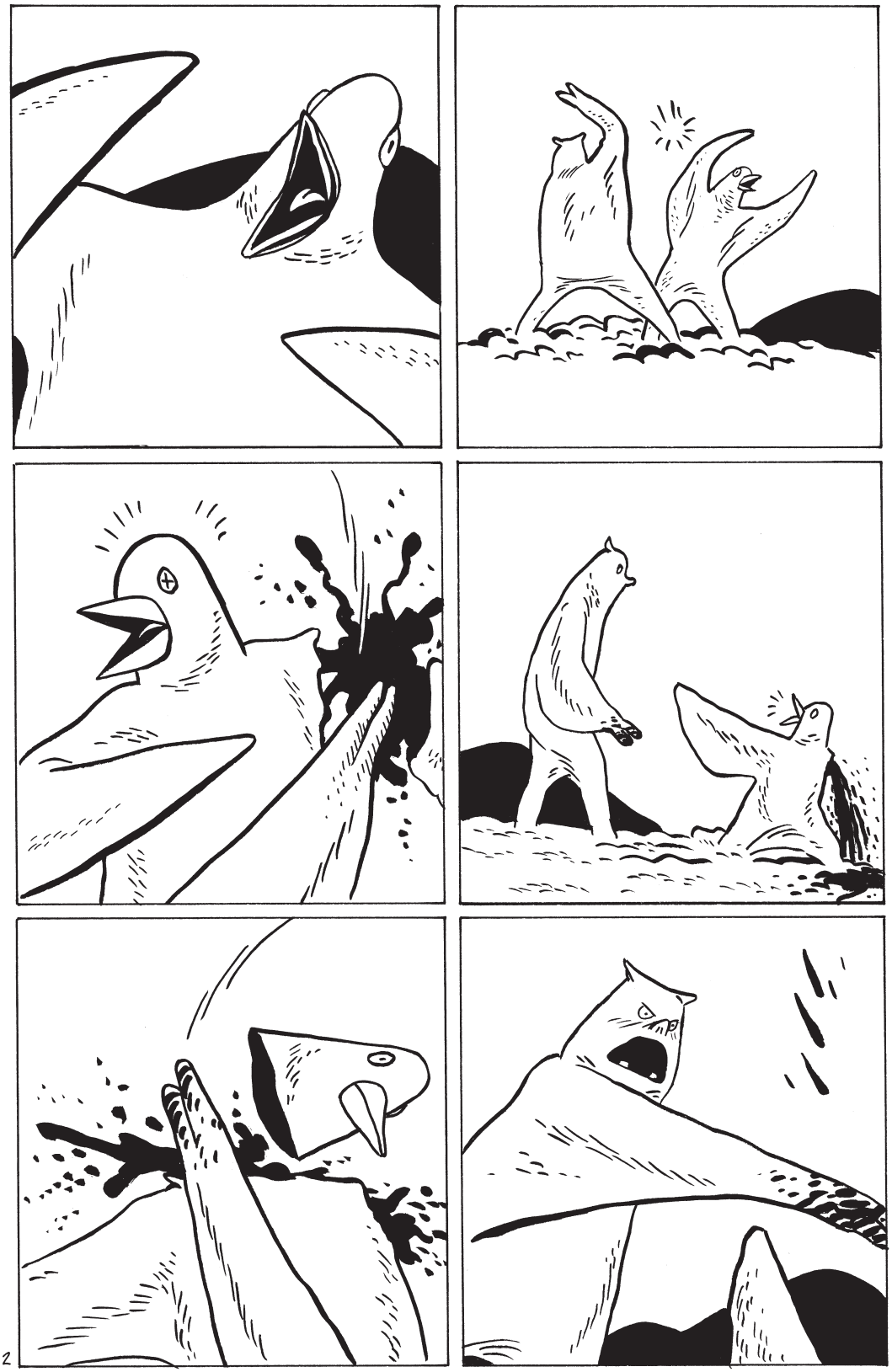








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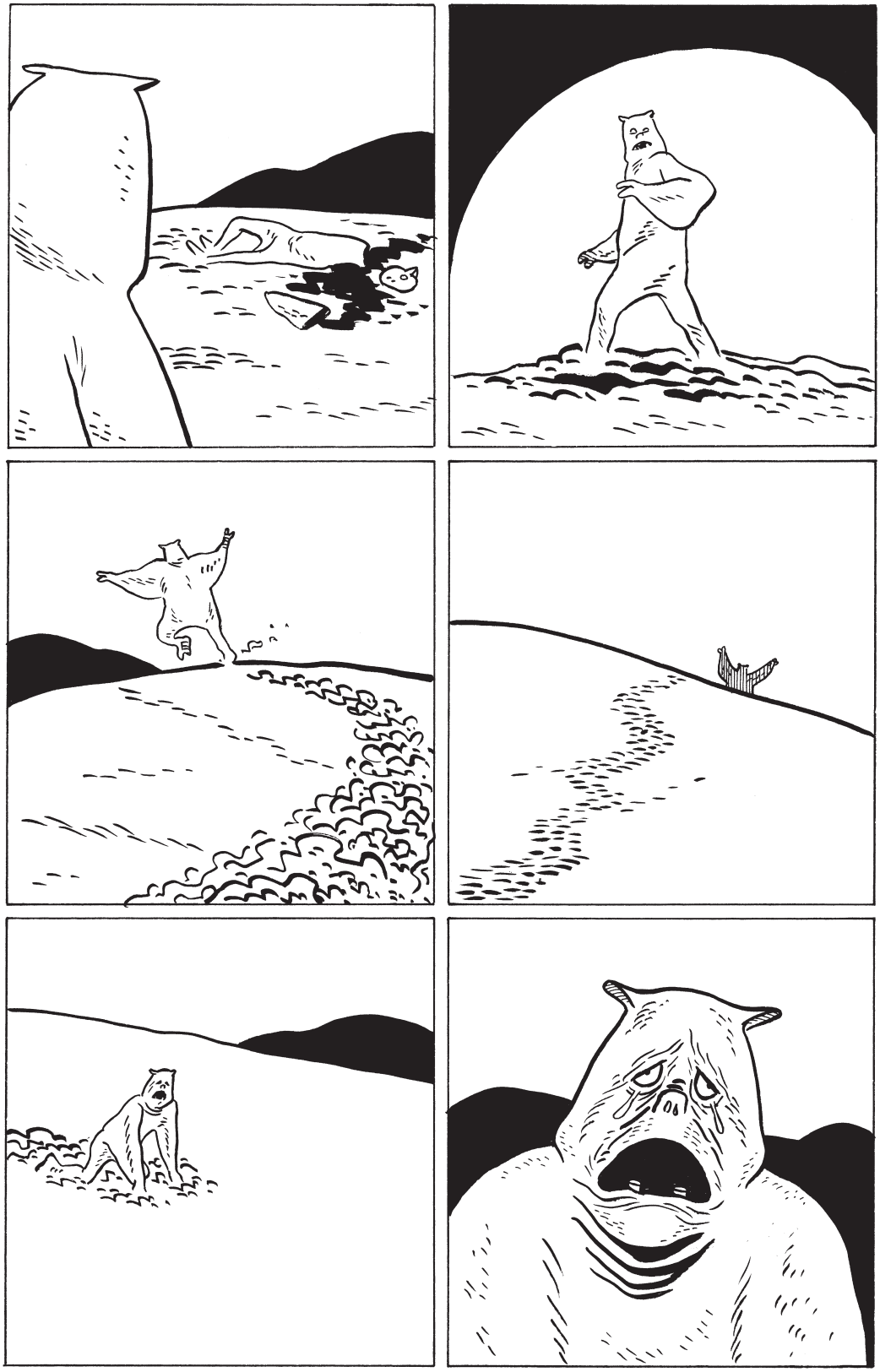
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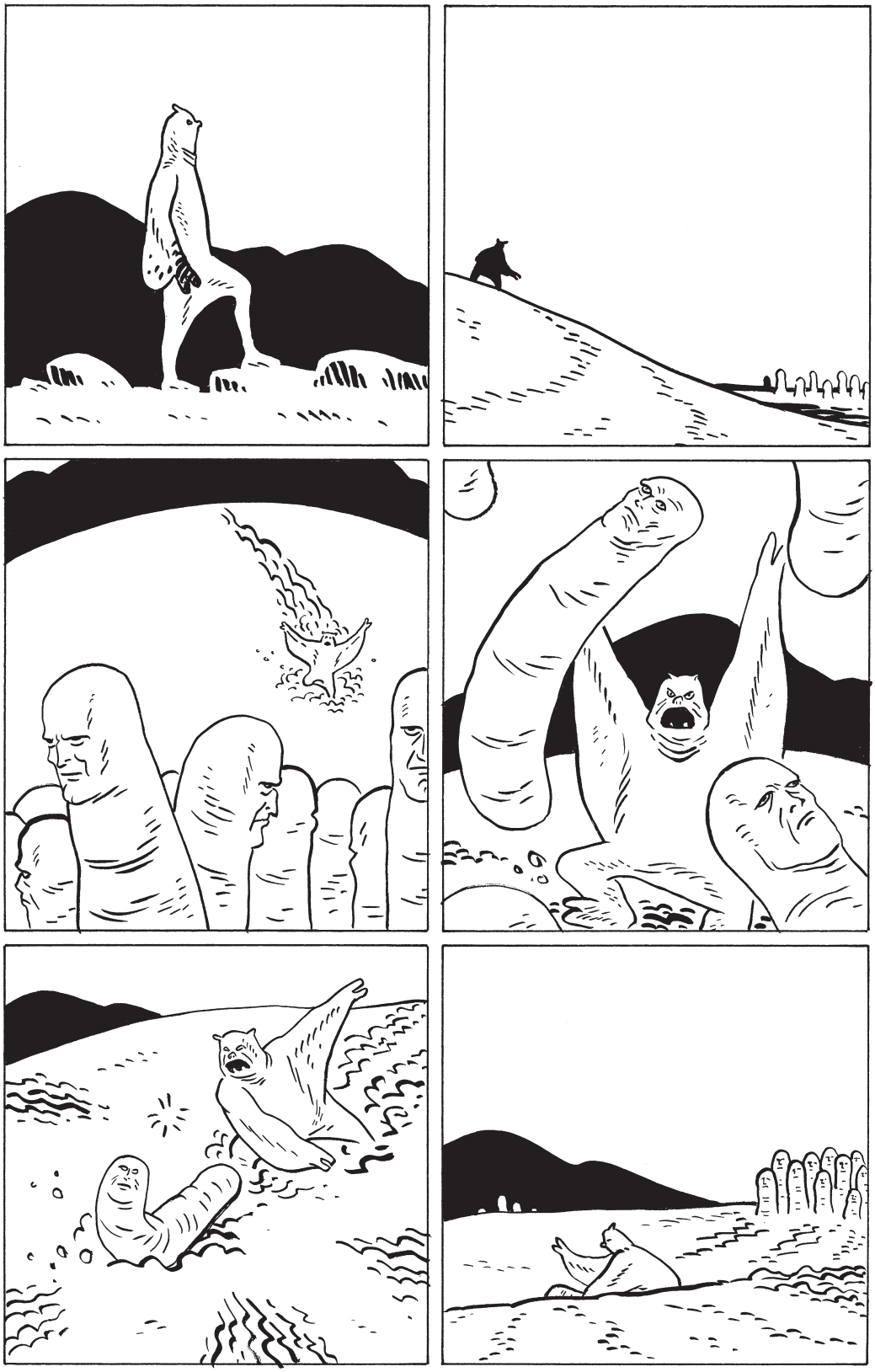

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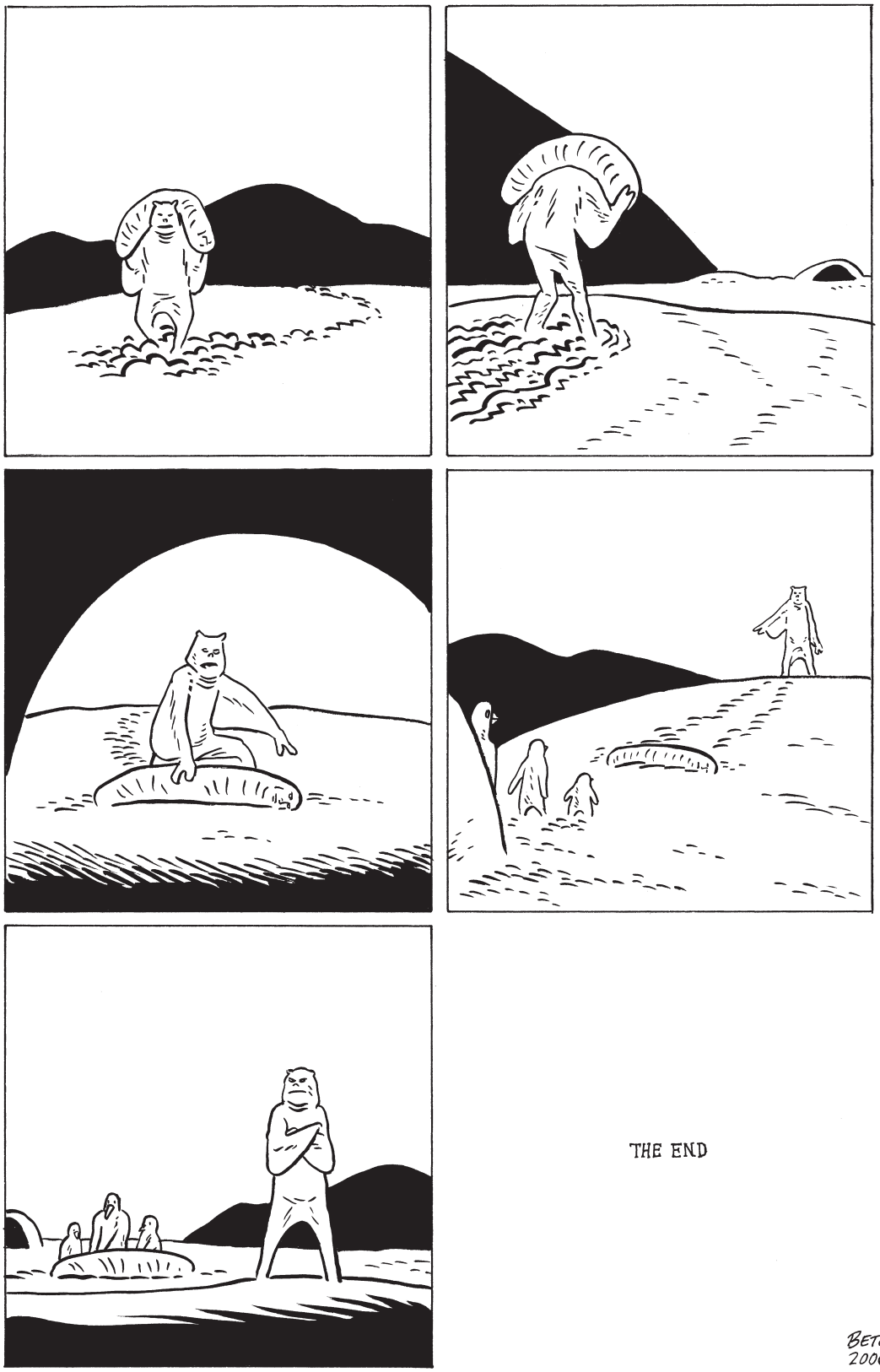
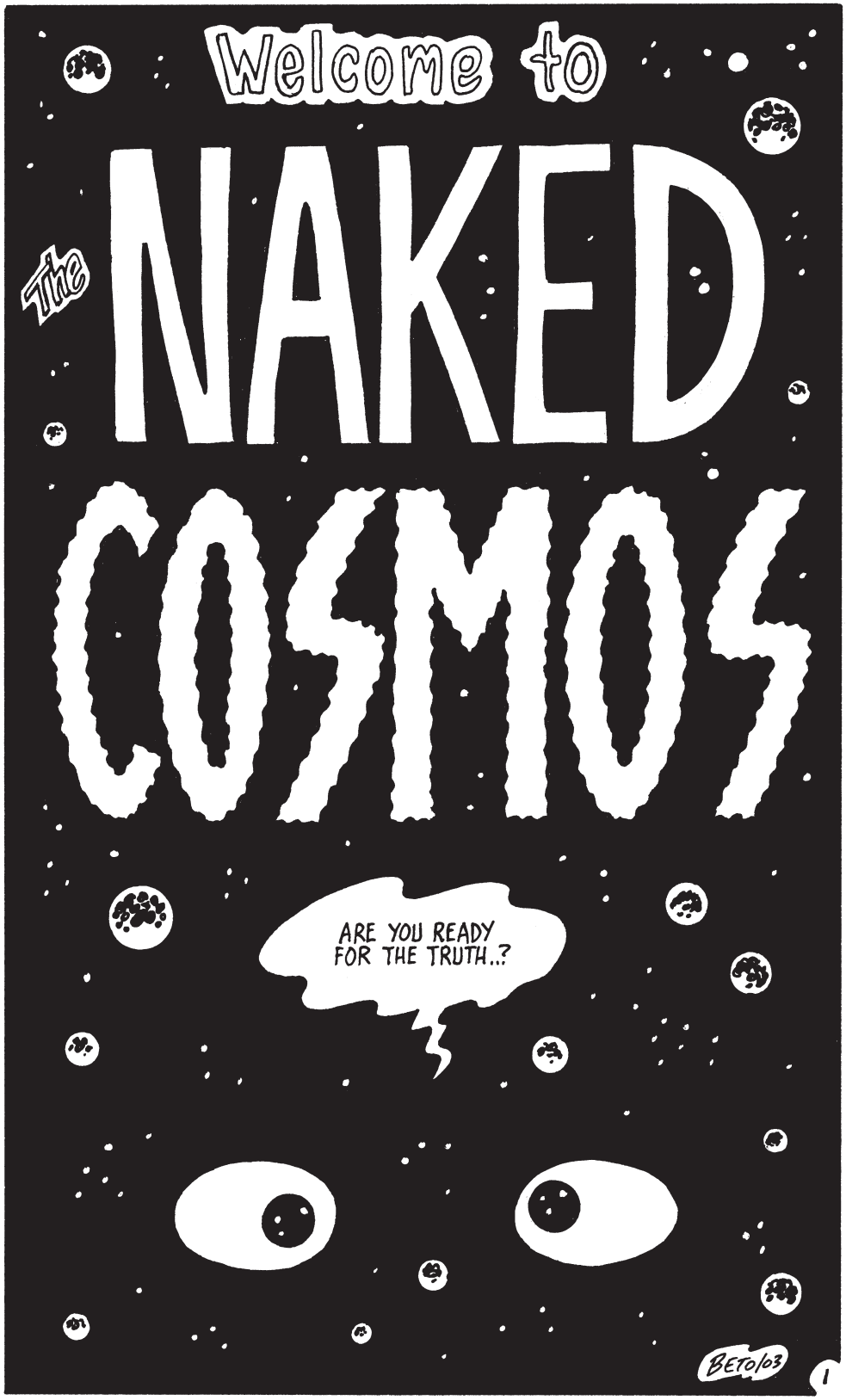

THE END
BETO
2006
6

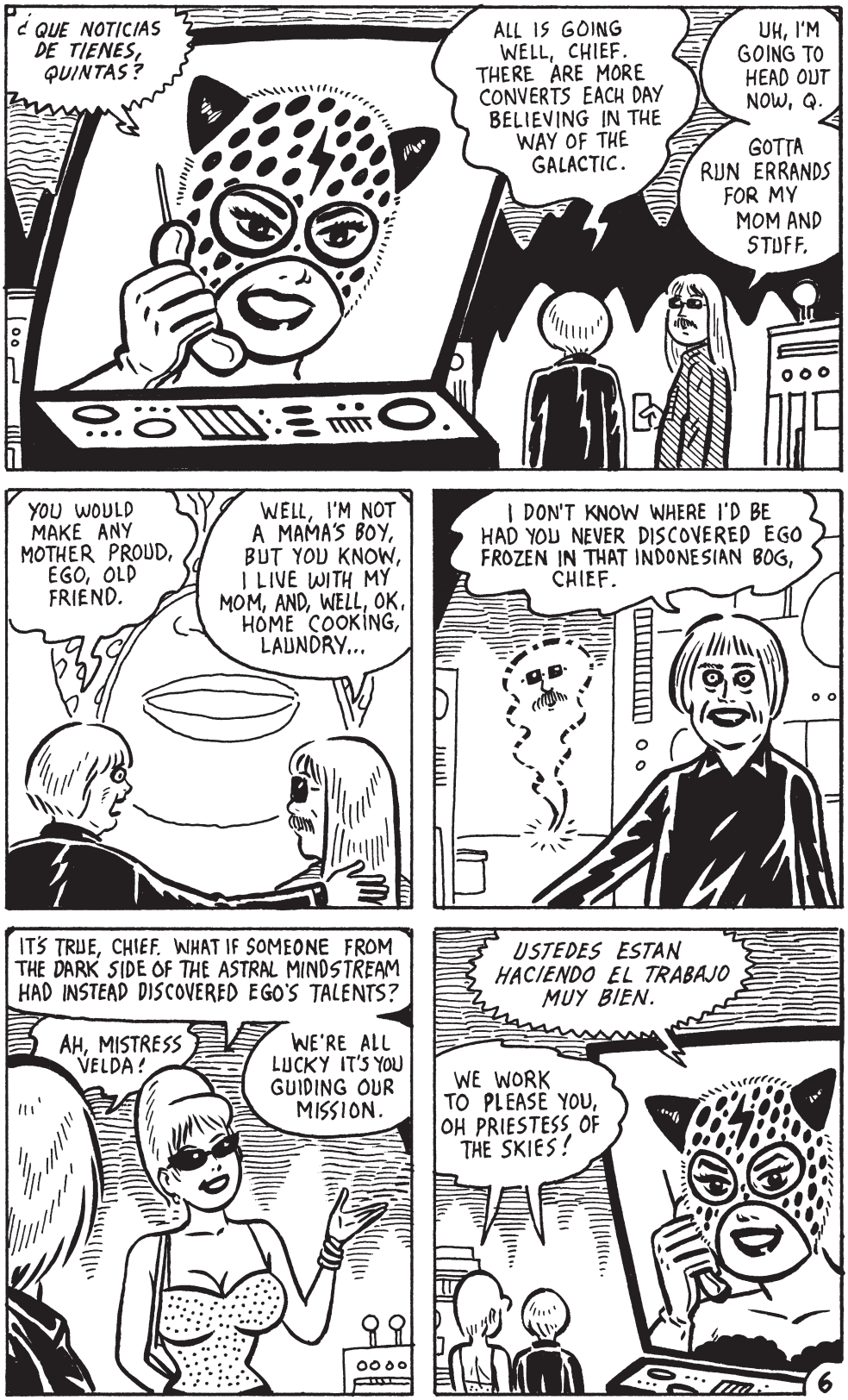

Welcome to
The NAKED COSMOS
ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRUTH..?
BETO/03
1

THE DAY OF COSMIC RECKONING IS NIGH, DEAR CHILDREN OF THE COSMOS..!
TOGETHER WE WILL EXPOSE THE LIES THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN PROMOTING FOR SO MANY YEARS:
THE LIES THAT THERE ARE NO CELESTIAL LINKS TO OUR COLLECTIVE SOULS!
COSMIC TRUTH IS OUR ENTITLED SALVATION AND WE CAN BRING IT TO INCANDESCENT LIGHT, BUT ONLY IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER!
LOOK TO THE SKIES, FELLOW CHILDREN OF THE COSMOS; LOOK TO THE SKIES!
TV
TV
TV
YES!
PLEASE THANK QUINTAS FOR SHARING WITH US HIS SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO THE COSMIC MINDSTREAM!
TV
CLAP CLAP CLAP
2

THERE HE IS!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
QUINTAS!
QUINTAS!
ER, I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT, LADIES, BUT I'M OFF TO SPREAD MORE COSMIC LOVE TO THE WORLD!
I'LL HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS I CAN, COSMIC SEER!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
AH, THE EVER LOYAL MR. MIMS TO THE RESCUE!
AAAAIE!
AND MR. MIMS'S PATHETIC SHRIEKS ARE ALWAYS FOND REMINDERS OF HIS TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY!
BZING!
EGO AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. COSMIC DUDE!
EGO! MASTER OF COSMIC TELEPORTATION!
I WAS KICKING BACK, SUCKING DOWN SOME BREWS, WATCHING A HIGH SPEED CHASE ON CNN, WHEN I SENSED YOUR NEED!
RAPTURE!
PHIZZZZZZ
3

GONE!
THERE SEEMS NO END TO QUINTAS'S COSMIC TALENTS.
SIGH
JOIN US NEXT TIME FOR MORE CELESTIAL INSPIRATION ON 'THE NAKED COSMOS.'
BAH!
I THINK MR. MIMS GETS LITTLE RESPECT FOR HIS EFFORTS, KALISTO.
THAT MILKTOAST MR. MIMS IS JUST ANOTHER SHILL FOR THAT FRAUD QUINTAS, MISTRESS VELDA!
A FINE THING TO SAY ABOUT QUINTAS, KALISTO; CONSIDERING YOU ARE QUINTAS'S CLONE!
QUINTAS IS MY CLONE, MISTRESS. I'M THE ORIGINAL AND I CAN PROVE IT TO YOU·· IF YOU'D ONLY LET ME...
4

HOLD YOUR HORSES, MYSTERY MAN! I'M NOT EXACTLY IN THE MARKET FOR A SCHOOLYARD ROMANCE!
I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT A REAL MAN'S LOVE IS, MISTRESS.
I'VE GOT SIX TRILLION NEWBORN DWARF NEBULAE TO CATALOGUE BEFORE THE MOON IS IN THE SEVENTH HOUSE!
THAT AND A LUNCH DATE WITH QUINTAS I'M ALREADY LATE FOR.
GNNYAAAAAA!
MOAN
I RUIN MORE SANCTUM SANCTORUMS THAT WAY.
WHENEVER I RROFESS MY LOVE TO MISTRESS VELDA, SHE THROWS QUINTAS IN MY FACE!
...BUT IF HE SHOULD MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR...?
5


¿QUE NOTICIAS DE TIENES, QUINTAS?
ALL IS GOING WELL, CHIEF. THERE ARE MORE CONVERTS EACH DAY BELIEVING IN THE WAY OF THE GALACTIC.
UH, I'M GOING TO HEAD OUT NOW, Q.
GOTTA RUN ERRANDS FOR MY MOM AND STUFF.
YOU WOULD MAKE ANY MOTHER PROUD, EGO, OLD FRIEND.
WELL, I'M NOT A MAMA'S BOY, BUT YOU KNOW, I LIVE WITH MY MOM, AND, WELL, OK, HOME COOKING, LAUNDRY...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE HAD YOU NEVER DISCOVERED EGO FROZEN IN THAT INDONESIAN BOG, CHIEF.
IT'S TRUE, CHIEF. WHAT IF SOMEONE FROM THE DARK SIDE OF THE ASTRAL MINDSTREAM HAD INSTEAD DISCOVERED EGO'S TALENTS?
AH, MISTRESS VELDA!
WE'RE ALL LUCKY IT'S YOU GUIDING OUR MISSION.
USTEDES ESTAN HACIENDO EL TRABAJO MUY BIEN.
WE WORK TO PLEASE YOU, OH PRIESTESS OF THE SKIES!
6

KALISTO HAS BEEN CONSORTING WITH FAIRLY SHADY TYPES LATELY, MISTRESS VELDA.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, QUINTAS. KALISTO CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
KALISTO COULD BE A FORMIDABLE ALLY IN OUR QUEST FOR GLOBAL CONVERSION, BUT HE'S SIMPLY TOO COMBATIVE, TOO..
HE'S GOT A BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC MIND, QUINTAS. ANXIETY COMES WITH THE TERRITORY.
SEE THE WAY QUINTAS LEERS AT HER, THE BOWL-HAIRED TWIT?
HE HAS THE MIND OF A CHILD!
KALISTO...
PATIENCE, DEAR KALISTO. VERY SOON QUINTAS WILL NO LONGER BE STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND MISTRESS VELDA.
7

QUINTAS, OH, QUINTAS!
IT'S US AGAIN!
AND ONCE AGAIN I MUST RETREAT WITH ALL POSSIBLE DISPATCH!
ALTHOUGH IT IS ALWAYS FLATTERING TO HAVE SUCH DEDICATED FOLLOWERS!
LIKE THE MONKEY SISTERS OF IOWA...
THE SKULL BUSTERS OF MONTANA...
QUINTAS! UP HERE!
AH! COULD IT BE A BENEVOLENT CITIZEN HAS COME TO MY AID?
THE ANGELS OF THE ORB WATCH OVER ME, TO BE SURE!
8

THE ANGELS OF THE ORB HAVE ALWAYS WATCHED OVER YOU, QUINTAS, IT'S TRUE...
AT THIRTEEN WHEN YOU ESCAPED A BURNING BUILDING, AT SEVEN WHEN THEY SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED A RAILROAD SPIKE FROM YOUR HEAD...
THE NIGHT YOU WERE BORN DURING INTENSE SOLAR FLARING, YOU AND THE OTHER CLONES...

YOU AND KALISTO WERE THE ONLY CLONES THAT THE SCIENTISTS AT 'MYSTERY LABS' WERE SATISFIED WITH. THE TWO DOZEN REJECT-CLONES WERE LOCKED AWAY, THEIR FATES TO BE DECIDED AT A LATER DATE.

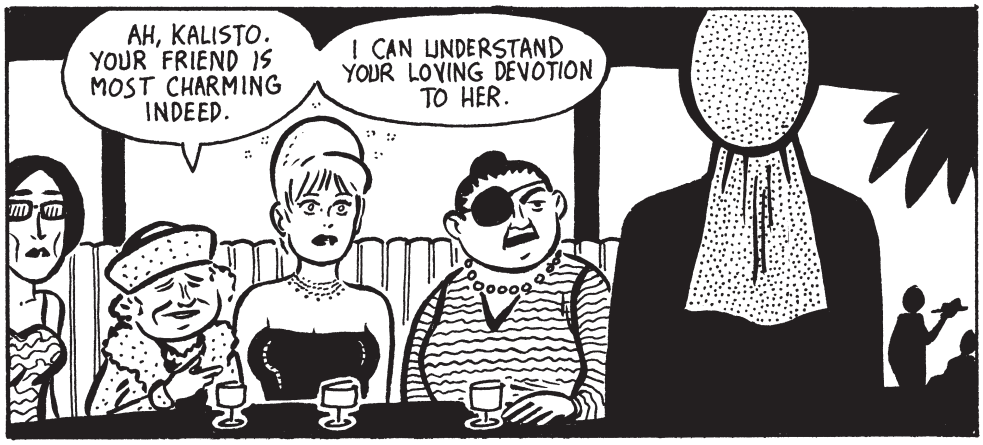
THEN CAME THE
CLONE REVOLT!
10

THE POOR REJECT-CLONES THAT WERE LOCKED AWAY CHANCED A BOLD BREAKOUT, BUT YOU AND KALISTO MANAGED TO RESTORE ORDER!
THE REMAINING REJECTS WERE ALL DESTROYED THE NEXT MORNING!

SOON AFTER 'MYSTERY LABS' WENT OUT OF BUSINESS, KALISTO CONTINUED HIS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND YOU YOUR COSMIC PHILOSOPHY STUDIES.
THEN CAME MISTRESS VELDA.
ONE DAY..
KALISTO! JOIN ME!
MISTRESS VELDA'S CONCLUSIONS ON QUANTUMATICS MAKES HER INDISPENSIBLE TO OUR COSMIC CRUSADE!
THE REJECT-CLONES WEREN'T SO INDISPENSIBLE THOUGH, EH QUINTAS? YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY SHED TEARS FOR THEM THE DAY THEY WERE ALL ELIMINATED, DID YOU..?
YOU'RE GLAD THEY'RE GONE! AND YOU WISH I WENT WITH THEM, BUT YOU CAN WISH ALL YOU WANT..!
YOU HAVE THE MIND OF A CHILD!
YOU'RE CONVINCED KALISTO'S MIND SNAPPED THE DAY THE REJECT-CLONES WERE DISPOSED OF. AFTER ALL, HE HELPED FOIL THEIR ESCAPE, THUS INDIRECTLY INSURING THEIR DOOM.
BUT KALISTO'S ACCUSATIONS OF YOU WANTING TO BE THE LAST STANDING CLONE STILL DO HAUNT YOU, DON'T THEY, QUINTAS?
DON'T THEY..?
12

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, KIND CITIZEN...!
QUINTAS WARNED ME ABOUT YOU HANGING AROUND WITH THE WRONG CROWD, KALISTO!
BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH QUINTAS'S DISAPPEARANCE.
IF I FIND OUT YOU WERE INVOLVED SOME-HOW, KALISTO, I'LL MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR!
B-B-BUT, I HAVEN'T, I..
WELL, I'VE ARRANGED A MEETING WITH THE BOSS OF YOUR SHIFTY-EYED PALS, KALISTO, AND I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
GREY
13

YOUR JEALOUSY OF QUINTAS HAS FINALLY GOTTEN THE BEST OF YOU, EH, KALISTO?
ZANSKY!
ALL THE WAY FROM THE NINTH DIMENSION!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH WHEN TWO CLONES DON'T GET ALONG, BUT IT'S DISASTROUS WHEN ONE TRIES TO COMPETE WITH THE OTHER!
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK MISTRESS VELDA WILL LOVE YOU JUST BECAUSE QUINTAS MIGHT GO AWAY..?
SHE SUMMONS YOU FROM INSIDE THE RESTAURANT NOW, KALISTO...
ZANSKY'S RIGHT! NOW QUINTAS IS GONE, I STILL MUST EARN MISTRESS VELDA'S LOVE!
AH, KALISTO.
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU...
14

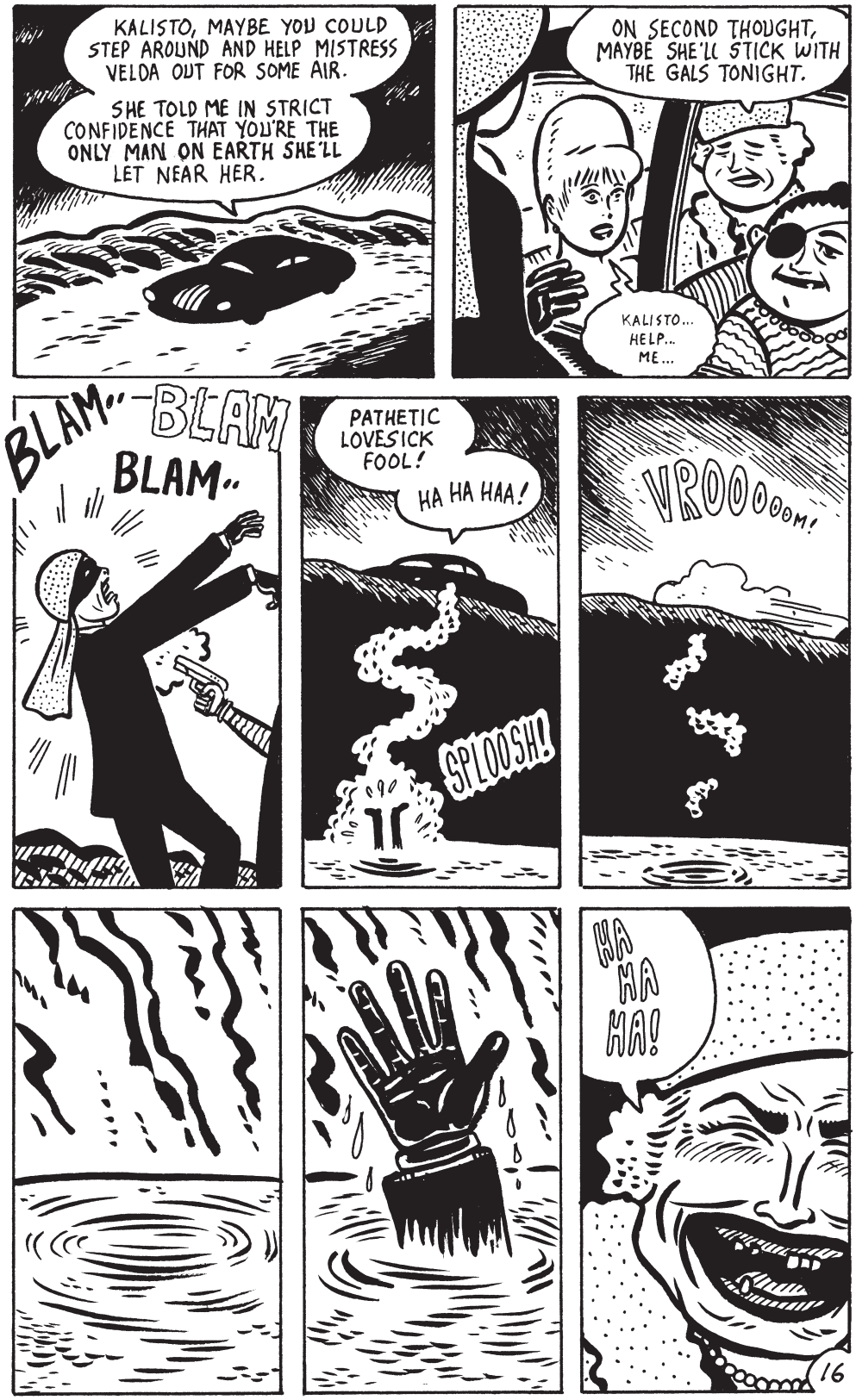

AH, KALISTO. YOUR FRIEND IS MOST CHARMING INDEED.
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR LOVING DEVOTION TO HER.

SHE SPOKE SO HIGHLY OF YOUR VIRILITY, YOUR GREAT PASSION FOR ALL THINGS EXPERIMENTAL, YOUR ROMANTIC SOUL...

BUT IT'S CLEAR SHE'S BEEN WORKING TOO HARD LATELY AND NEEDS SOME QUIET TIME, KALISTO.

SHE LOOKS... DRUGGED...
SHE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE REST.
YOU DRIVE.

QUINTAS HAS ALWAYS WORKED HER TOO HARD, LIKE SOME BEAST OF BURDEN...!
SHAME, SHAME...
15

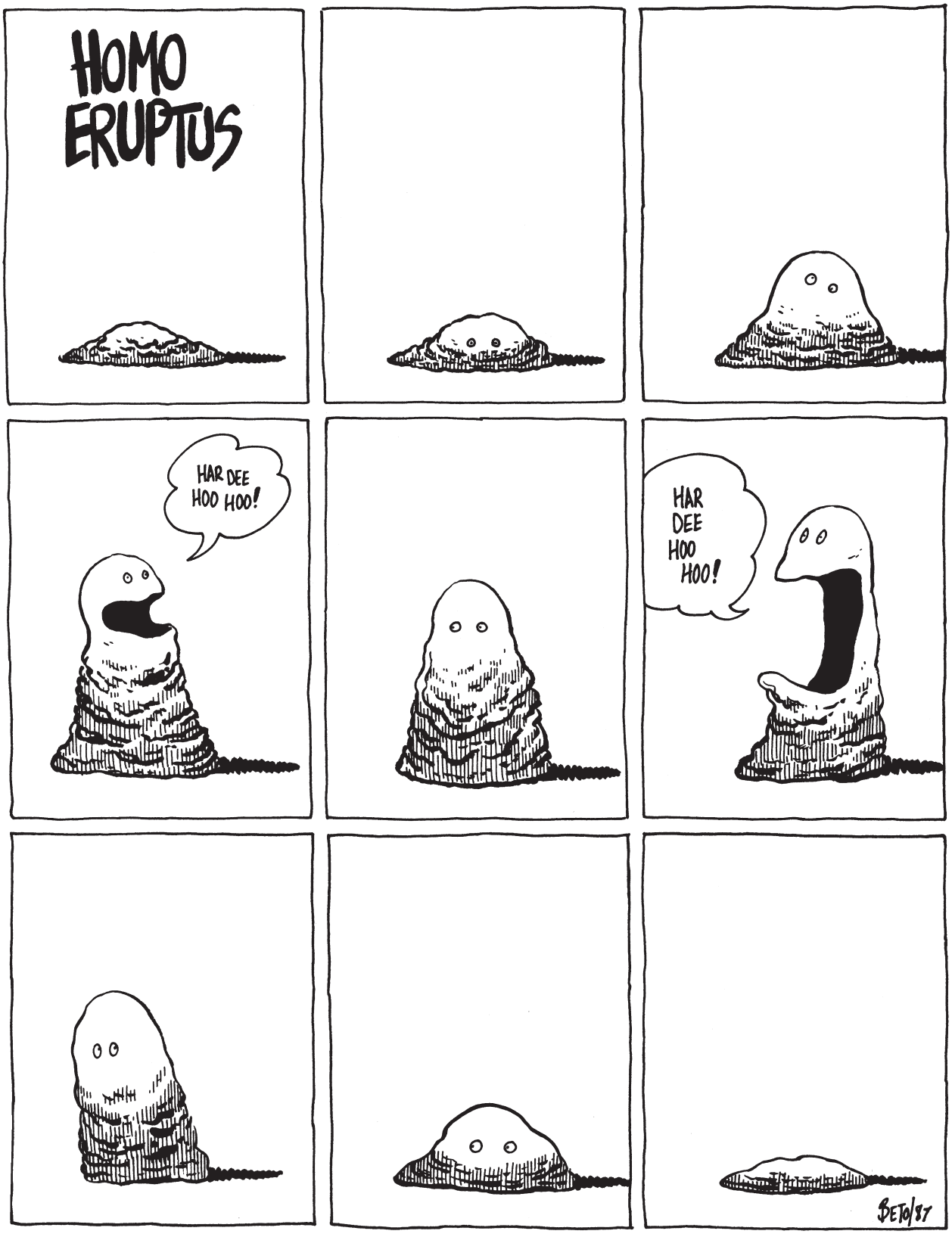

KALISTO, MAYBE YOU COULD STEP AROUND AND HELP MISTRESS VELDA OUT FOR SOME AIR.
SHE TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN ON EARTH SHE'LL LET NEAR HER.
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE SHE'LL STICK WITH THE GALS TONIGHT.
KALISTO... HELP... ME...
BLAM.. BLAM BLAM..
PATHETIC LOVESICK FOOL!
HA HA HAA!
SPLOOSH!
VROOOOOOM!
HA HA HA!
16

WITH QUINTAS'S COSMIC EMPATHY AND MISTRESS VELDA'S BEAUTY AND INTELLIGENCE ADDED TO MY BRAIN AND BODY, I'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!
QUINTAS ACTUALLY BELIEVED MY SISTERS AND I WERE INFATUATED WITH HIM!
HA HA!
OF COURSE, ADDING PORTIONS OF THEIR BRAINS TO MINE WILL MAKE MY OWN HEAD QUITE LARGE AND UNWEILDY, BUT A WORTHY TRADE-OFF NONETHELESS.
THAT POOR SENTIMENTAL SAP KALISTO!
A MAN IN LOVE IS ALWAYS THE EASIEST TO DUPE!
ME, I DON'T CARE TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING BEHIND THAT LABORATORY DOOR.
ONE DAY I'LL BE MASTER OF THE WORLD.
WAIT! WAS THAT THE BACK WINDOW?
17

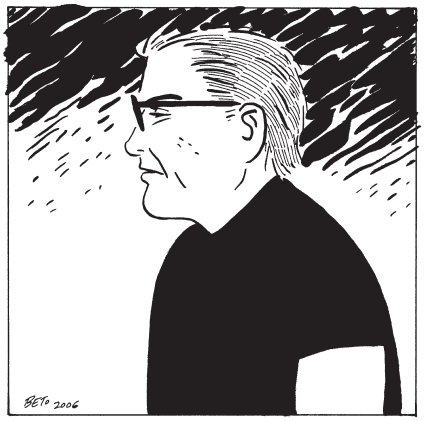
WHAT WAS THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE GUNFIRE!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, MADAM!
KRA-AK!
BANG! BANG!
AAIIEE!
SLAM!
BACK! BACK!
YOU'LL RUIN DECADES OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES IN MEDICINE, YOU FOOL!
18

BANG!
BANG!
CRASH!
AAAA
HSSSSS!
CHUK!
HAUGK!
HAUGK!
SPLAM!
BZAAAAP
YOU TRAITOR!!! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!!!
THUNK!
19

THUNK!
THUNK!
OHH.. MY HEAD POUNDS LIKE THE SURF ON JUPITER...
OH,OH.
WHA..?
THUMP THUMP THUMP
WHOA.
HUH.
MM.
The End


HOMO ERUPTUS
HAR DEE HOO HOO!
HAR DEE HOO HOO!
BETO/87

GILBERT HERNANDEZ



Born in 1957, Gilbert Hernandez enjoyed a pleasant childhood in Oxnard, California, with four brothers and one sister. The siblings were, in Gilbert's words, "born into a world with comic books in the house" — Archie, Marvel, and *Dennis the Menace*. A further strain of comics DNA was added later when an older brother smuggled R. Crumb's *Zap* into the house.

Gilbert's childhood enthusiasm for comics was equaled only by his teenage appetite for rock and roll ('50s, '60s, '70s, punk). Both he and his brother Jaime created eye-catching poster art for local bands like the Angry Samoans, Agent Orange, Black Flag, and others through the early '80s.

Initiated by older brother Mario and bankrolled by younger brother Ismael, Gilbert and Jaime created *Love and Rockets* #1 in 1981. It may have been a very small, black-and-white affair, but almost a quarter of a century later, the series is regarded as a modern classic and the Hernandez brothers continue to create some of the most startling, original, and intelligent comic art to be seen since the '60s underground boom.

Ironically, the greatest mainstream exposure for Gilbert came when a British musical group appropriated the comic's name without permission in the 1980s. Years later, the name was symbolically reclaimed by Gilbert when he gave it to a fictional and exceptionally obnoxious garage band in the storyline "Love and Rockets X."

Gilbert lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with his wife and daughter.