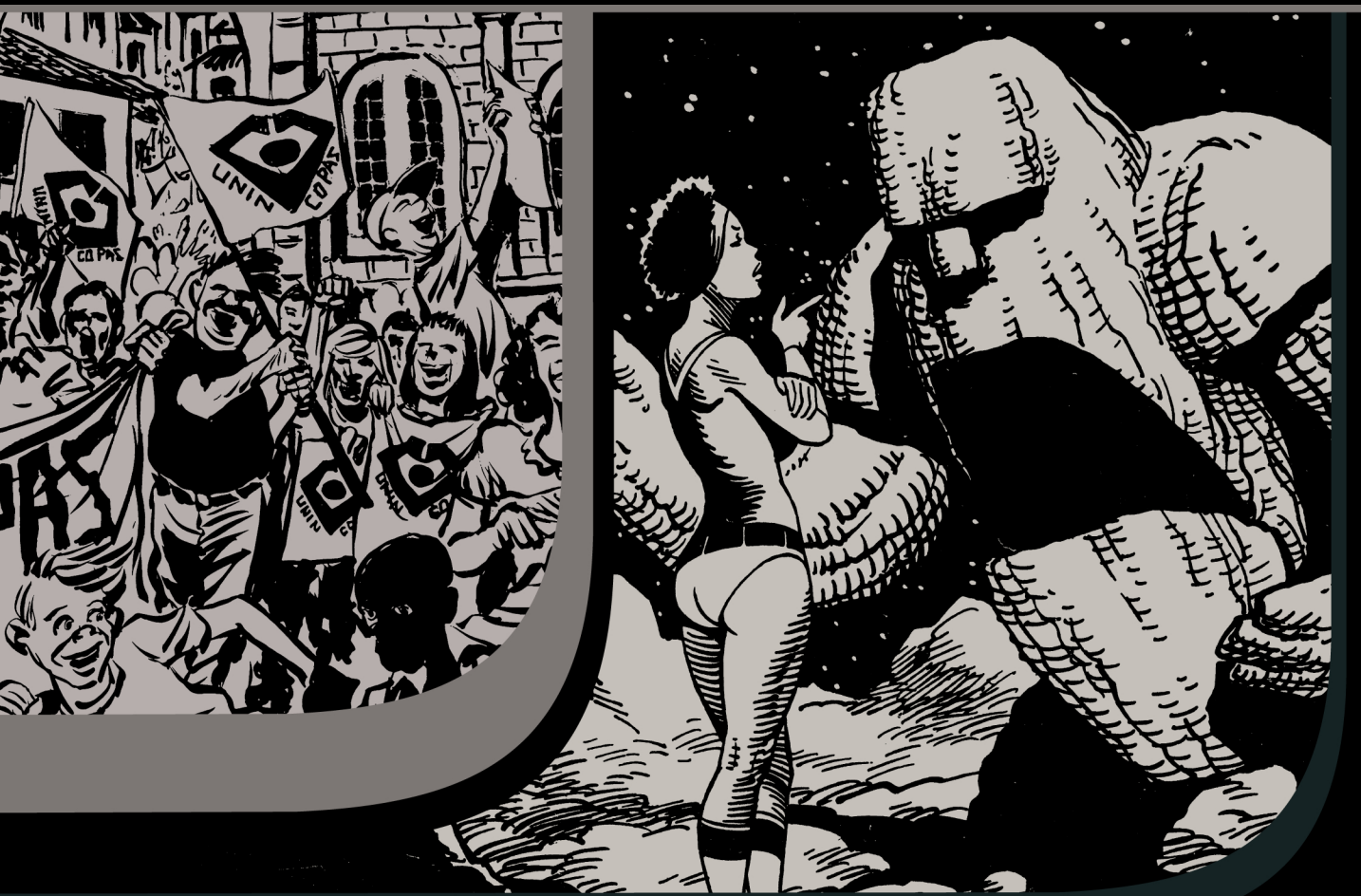


Los Bros Hernandez

AMOR Y COHETES

A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK



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FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS


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SIXTO THE DINOSAUR

JAIME 86

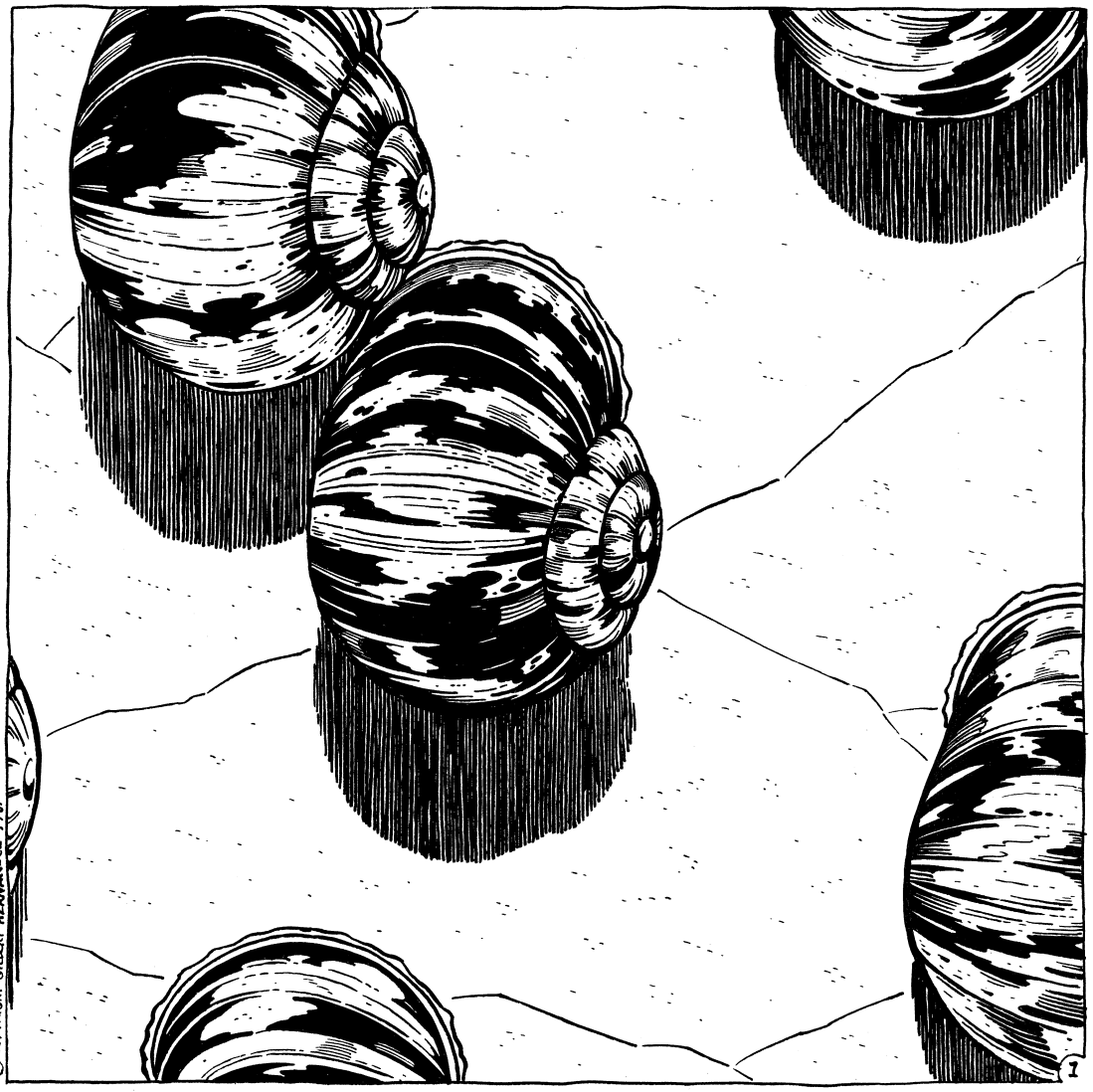


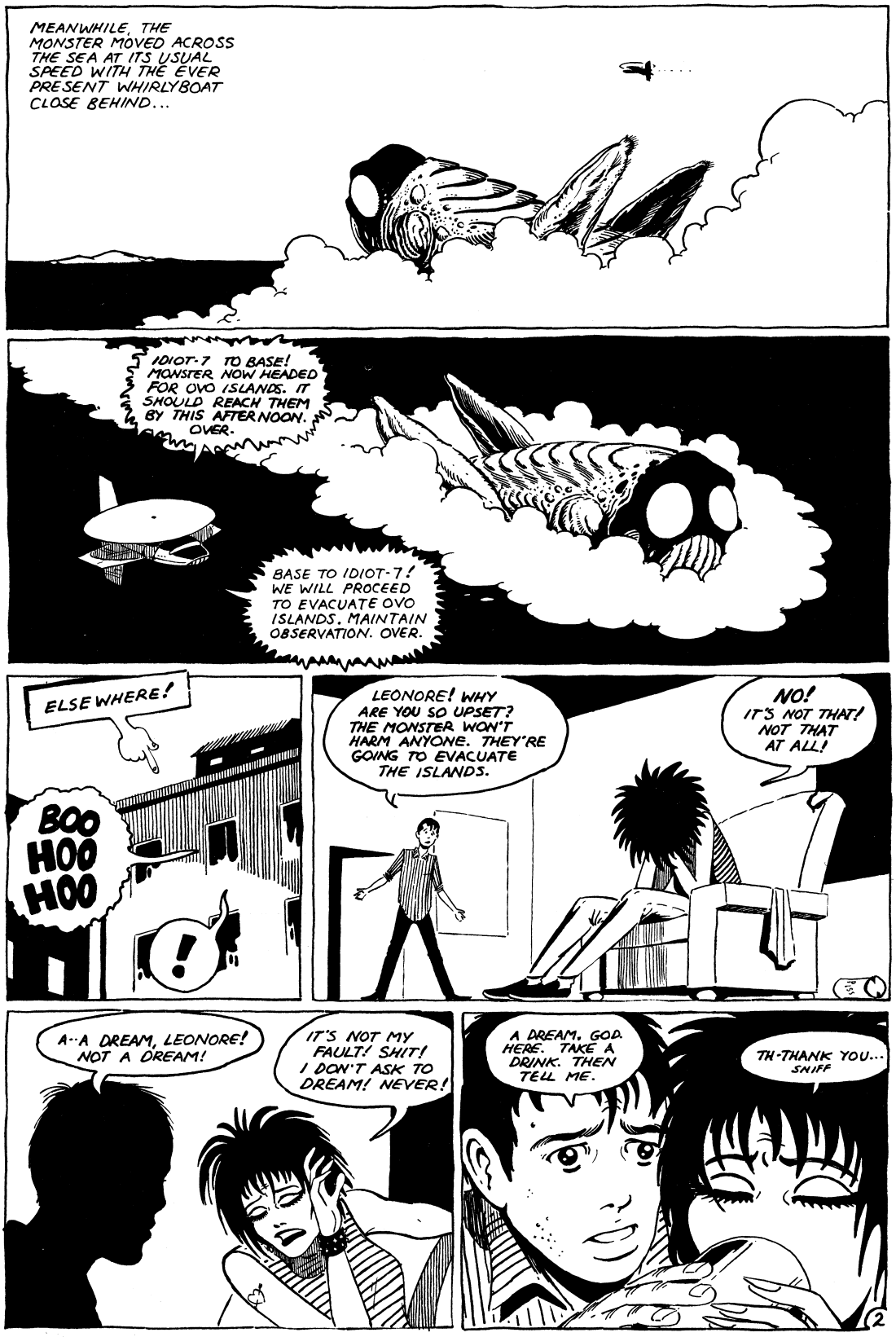

LOVE and ROCKETS
I LOVED YOU...
JAIME 83
BUT, YOU DIDN'T LOVE ME...
"YOU USED TO FLY BY MY WINDOW ALMOST EVERY DAY. BUT YOU NEVER WAVED...
"SOMETIMES I EVEN SAW YOU ON THE STREET. YOU NEVER SAW ME...
HENG PENG TENG
"ONE DAY I EVEN TOLD YOU WHICH WAY HE WENT...
"YOU NEVER EVEN SAID 'THANKS.'"
OH, I LOVED YOU SO MUCH. BUT YOU ACTED AS THOUGH I WASN'T EVEN THERE.
SO, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT TRUE...
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WE'LL MAKE IT LIKE I NEVER WAS HERE. I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANY MORE...
THAT LIGHT...
YOU'RE EARLY. OK, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH...
TOOOOT
WE'VE BEEN CRYING NOW FOR MUCH TOO LONG...
NOW WE'RE GONNA DANCE TO A DIFFERENT SONG...
THE TRAIN MISSED ME...
TOOT
TOOT
TO
WAIT. THE CAR WAS NOT IN REVERSE. IT WAS PULLED BACK...
RND L
COULD IT BE...?
COULD IT...?
MAYBE YOU DO LOVE ME AFTER ALL, ATOMA...?
tin

BEM

'BERT '80/'81




MEANWHILE, THE MONSTER MOVED ACROSS THE SEA AT ITS USUAL SPEED WITH THE EVER PRESENT WHIRLYBOAT CLOSE BEHIND...
IDIOT-7 TO BASE! MONSTER NOW HEADED FOR OVO ISLANDS. IT SHOULD REACH THEM BY THIS AFTERNOON. OVER.
BASE TO IDIOT-7! WE WILL PROCEED TO EVACUATE OVO ISLANDS. MAINTAIN OBSERVATION. OVER.
ELSEWHERE!
BOO HOO HOO
!
LEONORE! WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET? THE MONSTER WON'T HARM ANYONE. THEY'RE GOING TO EVACUATE THE ISLANDS.
NO! IT'S NOT THAT! NOT THAT AT ALL!
A..A DREAM, LEONORE! NOT A DREAM!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! SHIT! I DON'T ASK TO DREAM! NEVER!
A DREAM. GOD. HERE. TAKE A DRINK. THEN TELL ME.
TH-THANK YOU... SNIFF
2

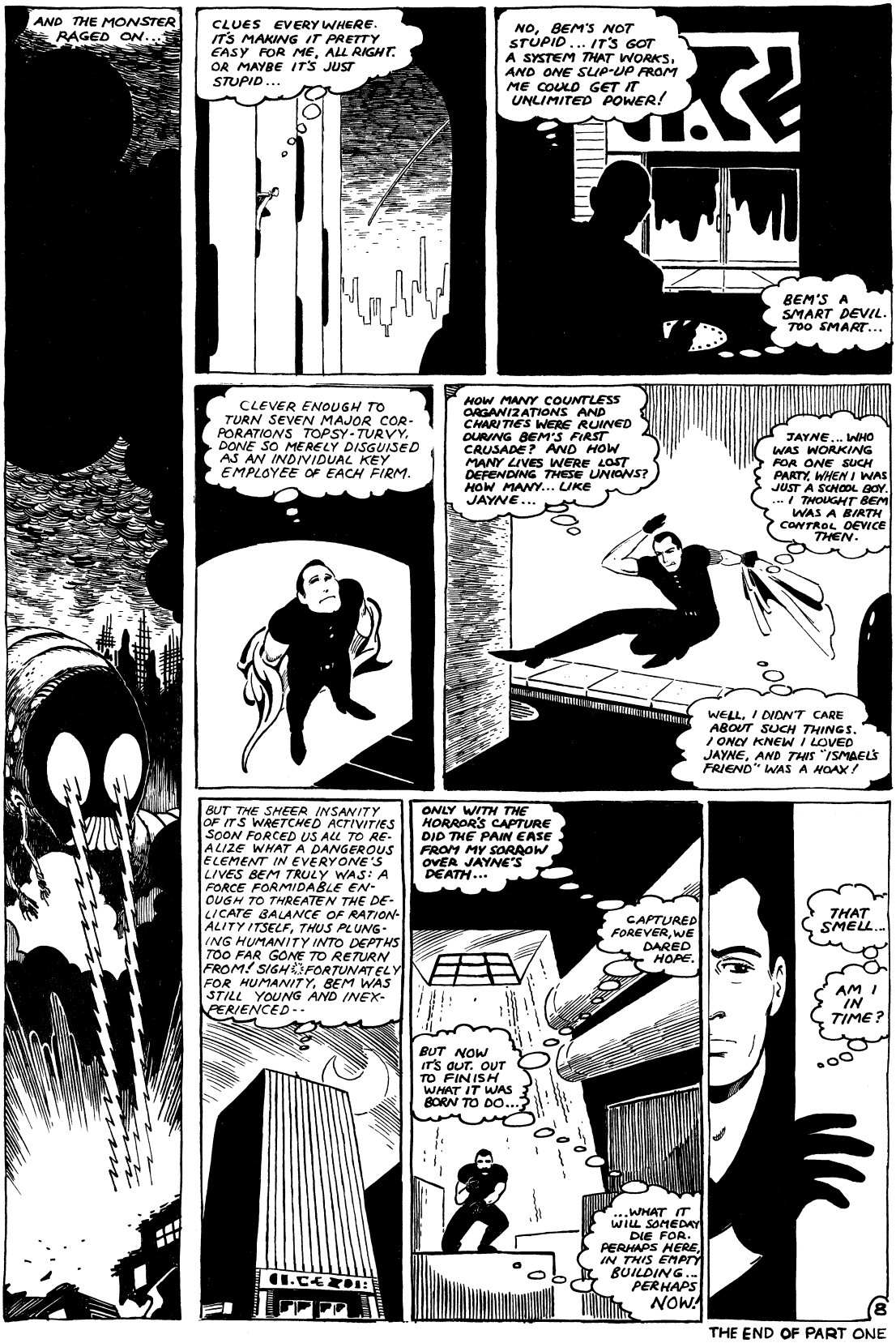

BEM!
FLASH BULLETIN!
THE RUMORS ARE OFFICIALLY VERIFIED! BEM, A.K.A. 'ISMAEL'S FRIEND,' HAS ESCAPED FROM ITS ISLAND PRISON LATE LAST EVENING! OFFICIALS IN THE MATTER HAVE STATED THAT IT TOOK THE LIVES OF SEVERAL GUARDS AND INMATES BEFORE ITS GLIDE INTO FREEDOM. IT WAS REPORTED LAST SEEN HIGHBALLING IT NORTH TOWARD CAPE KITSCH!
THE JUDGE AND JURY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONVICTING THE HORROR HAVE BEEN ALREADY FLOWN TO A SECRET HIDEAWAY FOR THEIR ASSURED SAFETY.
REWARDS FOR CAPTURING THE HORROR ARE BEING NEGOTIATED AT THIS TIME. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF BEM, KEEP IT TO YOURSELF IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU...
AND NOW FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL REALLY LIKE...
BEM!
SHIT!
HOLY COW... BEM. IT ESCAPED...
WHAT A FRIGHTENING-- CONCEPT. ESCAPED...
GULP!
I SURE HOPE THAT BASTARD'S CAUGHT BEFORE IT DECIDES TO COME AROUND HERE!
3


...BUT SOME HAD BEEN PREPARED LONG BEFORE THE NEWS OF THE NOTORIOUS ESCAPE...
BEM...
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY, BEM. A LONG TIME...
A BUTTINSKI BLASTER! TRULY THERE WAS NEVER A MORE DEVASTATING MODERN WEAPON AT SUCH A LOW COST. MRS. GIDEON WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED...
SIGH...
JAYNE...
APRIL
1964
... HAROLD PENIS KNEW HE WOULD NEVER RETURN...
...AND THE MONSTER MOVED ON.
ELSEWHERE!
YOW!
BEM IS OUT!
BOB ZITZ HIMSELF!
BEM...OUT!
THINGS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE!
FAST!
BUT NOT BY BOB ZITZ!! I'M GETTING THE HELL OUT!
BEM IS OUT!
4


THE OVO ISLANDS...
YOYO ISLAND IN PARTICULAR-
ANYTHING ELSE, BOBO?
NOPE. I THINK WE GOT ENOUGH ALL RIGHT.
WELL, WE'D BETTER GET THE HELL OFF. I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND WHEN THE MONSTER COMES FARTIN' THROUGH.
YEAH. I WANT TO GET HOME AND WATCH IT ON THE NEWS.
I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE...
WELL, THEY'RE GONE, LUBA. YOU GOT YOUR WISH. WE ARE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE LEFT ON ALL THE OVO ISLANDS. THE ONLY TWO WHO WILL WITNESS THE CARNAGE THE MONSTER WILL WREAK WHILE UNDER THE LAND DEVELOPER'S INFLUENCE.
MY WISH... HA! MY WISH.
MY WISH, YOU FUCKHEAD, IS TO LOOK DOWN ON THE PEOPLE'S FACES WHO RETURN TO REBUILD, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT I WILL BE RUNNING THINGS, AS LUBA, QUEEN OF THE OVO ISLANDS!
MOAN...
THE MONSTER THAT COMES THIS VERY MOMENT TO OBLITERATE EVERYTHING THAT TOOK MEN DECADES TO ACHIEVE WILL BE COME MY RIGHT HAND TO RULE THE SOMEDAY RETURNING IDIOTS. THE IDIOTS WHO WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE ABOUT BEM!
5


AND SOMETHING WOULD FINALLY BE DONE... BY ONE, AND THE ONLY ONE, WHO COULD FIND BEM AND CATCH HIM; WITH HIS BARE HANDS...
BEM
CASTLE RADIUM!
MR. RADIUM!! MR. RADIUM!!!
PIL
WHAT IS IT, ECHO?
IS IT FOR TRULY TRUE THAT YOU'RE A GONNA CATCH THAT OL' BEM BY TOMORROW NIGHT?! IT'S IN ALL THE PAPERS?!! ARE YA, HUH?! HAH?!?
OH, THOSE AAPERS LIKE TO MAKE UP STORIES LIKE THAT TO SELL MORE COPIES, SON. I'LL GET THAT OLD BEM BEFORE THEN EVEN!
WOW! WAT'LL I TELL THE GANG!
HEY GANG!!! OL' DETECTIVE RADIUM SAYS HE'S SCARED SHITLESS OF OL' BEM!!! I TOLD YA SO!!! BWA HAA HAAAAA
WHAT... HAVE YOU DREAMED, LEONORE?
BEM... IT WAS CRAWLING... CRAWLING... IT CRAWLED FOR SO LONG WITHOUT FOOD OR SLEEP. AND WHEN IT STOPPED... IT WAITED. IT WAITED FOR THE TALL THIN MAN WITH THE BLASTER TO LIGHT HIS CIGARETTE... THEN TO DROP HIS MATCHES-- IT... IT KILLED HIM INSTANTLY!
SIGH...
THEN IT CRAWLED BACK UP TO WAIT FOR THE DETECTIVE... AND...
6

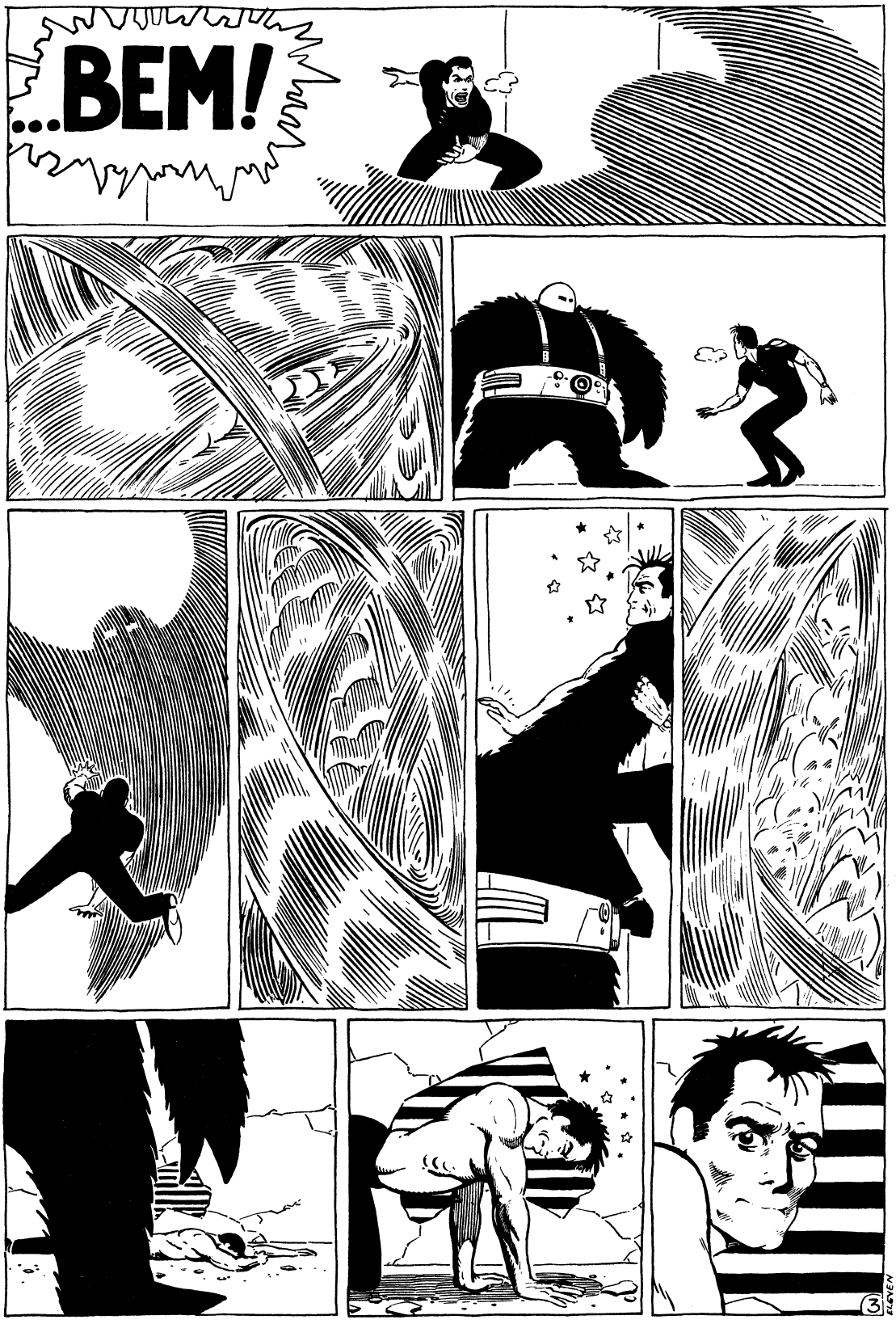

LOOK, PETER, LOOK! THE EXPLOSIONS! MY LIEGE HAS REACHED GO-GO ISLAND! THE MONSTER IS HERE!
... SO SOON? WHERE? I--
IT...MUST BE HUGE--I DIDN'T REALIZE...
HUGE?! COLOSSAL!! LEVIATHAN!! IMMENSIVE! FUCKING BIG!!!
AND NOW, PETER, WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES TO GREET OUR BIG ASS GUEST!
LUBA--LUBA, I DON'T KNOW... WHAT ABOUT THE WHIRLYBCAT THAT FOLLOWS THE MONSTER? I MEAN, IT'S FILMING THE WHOLE THING! WHAT IF...
FOOL! THEN THAT MEANS EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO WITNESS LUBA'S TRIUMPHANT ENSLAVING OF THE MONSTER ON TV! DON'T KNOCK FREE PUBLICITY, DIPSHIT!
... OR TO WITNESS OUR MUCH DESERVED DEMISE.
OH, YOU PUSS!
BUT UNBEKNOWN TO LOCA LUBA AND HER QUIVERING COMPANION IS--
HA! I WAS WONDERING WHEN THAT TIRESOME ROBOT TV 'COPTER WAS GOING TO GET TOO CLOSE--
ROXANNE! YOU MUST SEE THIS!
NO, PAULO. I DON'T CARE TO SEE.
OH, BUT IT'S SUCH A MAGNIFICENT BEAST, ROXANNE. YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO... AH. YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
LET'S HOPE NOT TOO DELICIOUS. PAULO, I FEEL SILLY. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO SUBDUE THE MONSTER? I DON'T KNOW...
NOW ROXANNE, WE'VE GONE THRU THIS A DOZEN TIMES. WE MUST FOLLOW THE SCRIPTURES AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO SECURE THE SEDUCTION OF THE MONSTER.
ALL RIGHT, PAULO. I TRUST YOU. BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S A VEGETARIAN?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE MONSTER. AND ONCE I.-ER, WE HAVE IT UNDER OUR CONTROL, YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR AT ALL... NOT EVEN BEM.
7



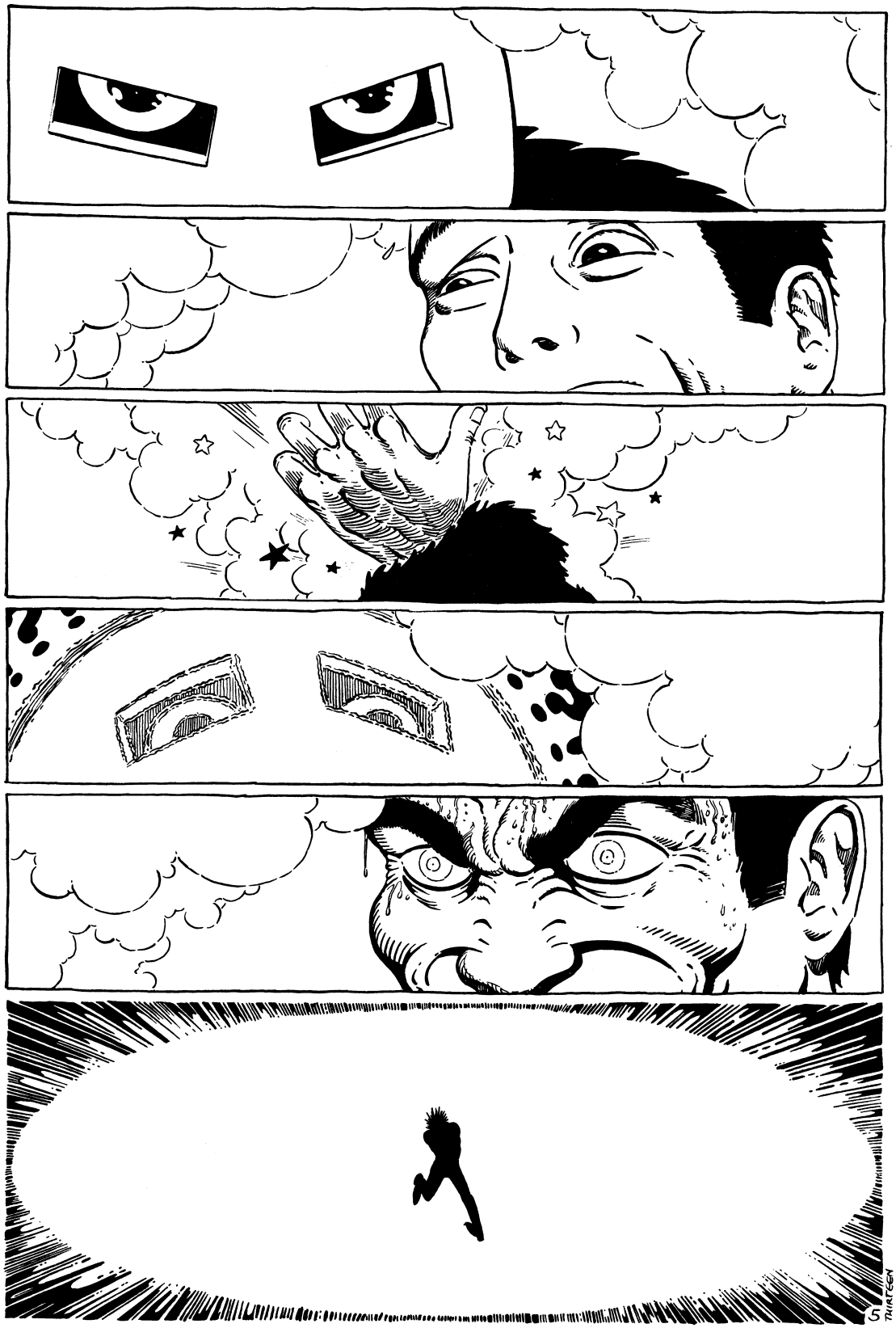
THE END OF PART ONE


2
BEM
BERT 80/81
SOMETHING ...IS WRONG!
WHAT?
NOW I KNOW... IT'S ALL WRONG! THE DETECTIVE... HE'S WRONG!
IT'S HERE...
...THE ELECTRICAL IMPULSES-
BEM!
I DON'T KNOW... HE'S USING HIS INSTINCTS INSTEAD OF COMMON SENSE- IF HE DOESN'T FIGURE IT OUT DURING THE BATTLE, IT MAY BE TOO LATE!
--BATTLE?
THE SMELL.
THIS ...WAS ONCE...
...A WOMAN.
FIVE FOOT TWO... HUNDRED EIGHT, HUNDRED NINE POUNDS-
PRETTY BLOND, I THINK...
NINE
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BEM'S KILLING TECHNIQUES HAVE CHANGED RADICALLY! WHO'S IT TRYING TO IMPRESS WITH SUCH OSTENTATIOUS BULLSHIT?
— TEMPERATURE MUST BE AT LEAST 20° BELOW. I COULD POSSIBLY BE DEALING WITH A COMPLETELY ALTERED MODUS OPERANDI IN THE HORROR'S DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR. COULD BE BAD NEWS FOR CASTLE RADIUM, TO BE SURE.
HOW TIME CAN CHANGE THINGS. I REMEMBER THE OLD BEM, A TROPICAL CREATURE, FAVORING A HUMID ENVIRONMENT...
BUT I WAS INFORMED THAT DUE TO MASSIVE CHANGES IN ITS CHEMICAL MAKEUP DURING ITS PRISON STAY, THE PRESENT DAY HORROR IS AN UNRECOGNIZABLE NEW ENTITY, ALTHOUGH STILL OBSESSED WITH ITS PREVIOUS GOALS. I CAN ONLY EXPECT ANYTHING...EVERYTHING - AT ANY TIME...
THEN...
AT LAST!
I'M COMING FOR YOU, BASTARD!
TOO LATE!
THE VICTIM.
SIGH-
HA HA HAAAA LOOK! HA HA-- LOOK! TURNED ME INTO HA-A WEENY-- HA HAAAA
QUITE A SENSE OF HUMOR THAT BEM HAS...
THAT IS, IF WHAT I'VE BEEN TRAILING IS INDEED THE HO-
!
2
TEN


...BEM!
3
ELGVEN


YOU'RE A PATHETIC FIGHTER! I'VE ENDURED WORSE ABUSE FROM MY WIFE DURING A QUARREL! WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS AND PROVE TO ME ONCE AND FOR ALL YOU'RE THE HORROR!
COME ON!
FINISH ME OFF!
JUST LIKE THE OTHERS!
A GIRAFFE, MAYBE? OR A BOWLING BALL? HOW ABOUT A TOOTHBRUSH?
YOU'RE NO HORROR...
I'VE BEEN STUDYING YOU, YOUR MOVES, YOUR TECHNIQUES...YOU'RE A BUM! OH, YOU MIGHT SHOCK SOME LITTLE OLD LADY WITH YOUR GORILLA SUIT, BUT YOU'RE NO HORROR...
COMMIT A FEW PULP FICTION MURDERS TO GET YOUR VICTIMS' PICTURES ON THE COVERS OF THE SUPERMARKET RAGS AND YOU'RE READY FOR THE HALL OF SHAME, EH? PHAH—
I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT I BELIEVED YOU TO BE AN ACTUAL THREAT TO THE GOOD OF HUMANITY. MUCH LESS TO A HANDFUL OF PARANOID RELIGIOUS GROUPS!
TWELVE

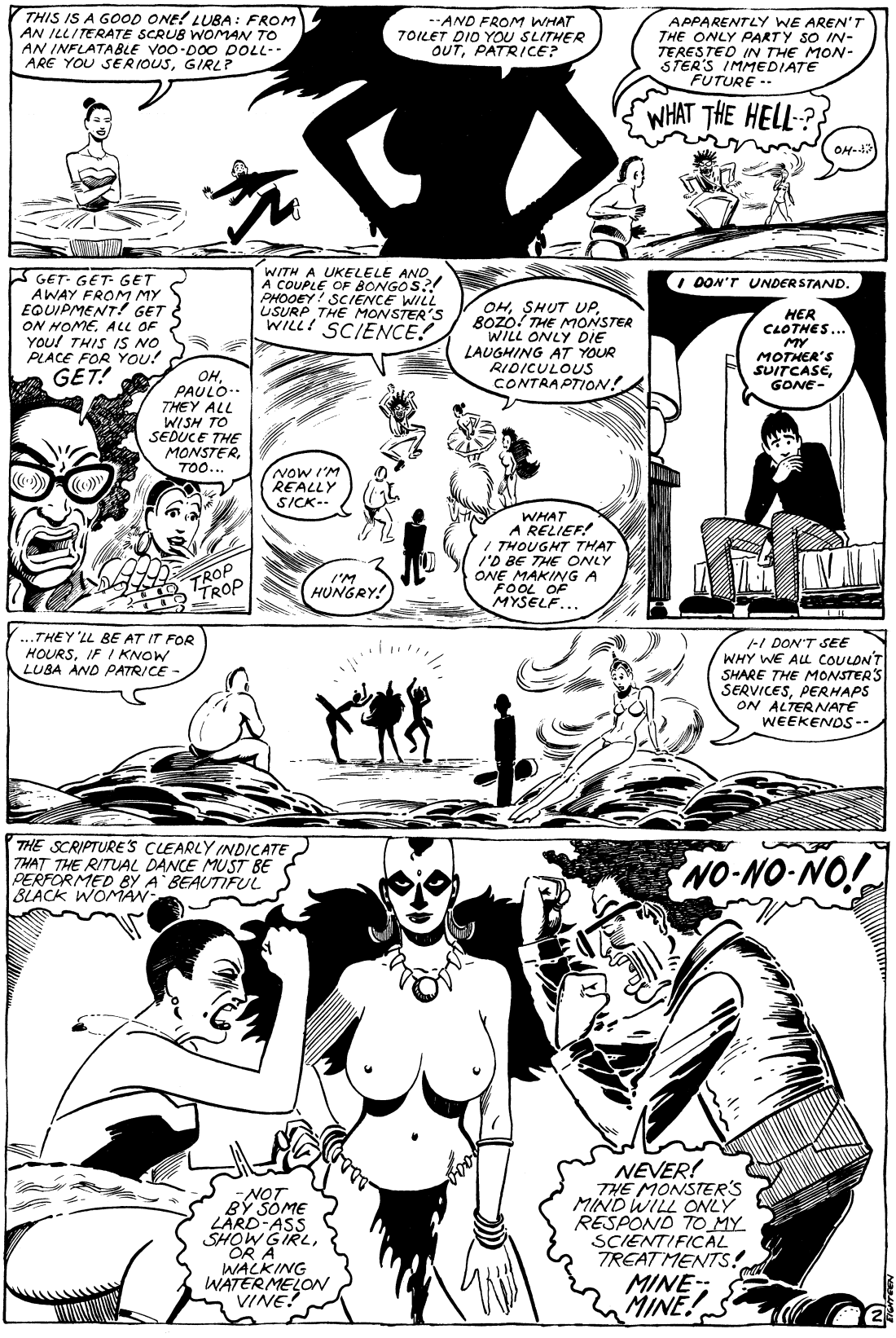

5
THIRTEEN


SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR ONE NASTY THUNDERSTORM.
DO YOU MEAN THE BOOM FROM THE ENERGY FEEDBACK OR MY EMPTY STOMACH?
GET UP, YOU MISERABLE PHONEY. YOU AREN'T BEM. THE TRUE HORROR WOULD'VE NEVER BEEN SUCKERED INTO A SIMPLE STUNT LIKE THAT! UP, YOU LOUSY THIRD RATE B-MOVIE HOAX! IT'S ALL OVER FOR YOU...
YOU ASSHOLE... SHIT... OOOOOHHH... I DON' FEEL SO GOOD...
DON'T DO IT! DON'T DO IT! YOU'LL BE SORRY! DON'T-
CHA CHA CHARLIE!
HEE HEE! IN DA FLETCH, COPPER!
CHA CHA CHARLIE, TWO BIT STOOGE TURNED GONZO KILLER. THE BLONDE, HAROLD PENIS... WHY, CHARLIE?
THEM? THEY WERE JUST JERKS THAT MADE UP THE STUDENT BODY WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL. YOU KNOW, CHEERLEADERS, JOCKS FRENCH CLUB...HEE! I GOT MY REVENGE!
BEM KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE SNOOPER SHARP ENOUGH TO FIND ITS HIDEOUT QUICK ALLRIGHT, SO HE GAVE ME THE GOLEM SUIT TO THROW YOU OFF THE TRACK. IT NEEDED ENOUGH TIME TO REGAIN THE CONNECTIONS IT LOST DURING IT'S PRISON STAY. BEING A PRISONER THAT LONG WASN'T TO GOOD FOR ITS HEALTH. NEITHER, 'CAUSE IT'S--HEE HEE-I GOT SUZY NIZNICK GOOD, DIDN'T I? HEE- FORGET IT, RADIUM! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH BEM NOW-- NEVER—
LET'S GO, CHARLIE. THE FEDERALES SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE TO CHECK OUT OUR MODEST THUNDERCLAP-
HEE HEE... HAD YOU ALL GOIN', DIDN'T I? YEAH...
6
FOURTEEN


THIRD RATE B-MOVIE HOKEY!?
KRAK!
YEEOUGF
FORGET IT, CHARLIE! THAT SUIT'S NO GOOD! LISTEN! THE FEDERALES! YOU WON'T GET FAR-
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, FLATFOOT! BEM PREPARED FOR ME AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN CASE OF SUCH A PREDICAMENT!
GOOD 'BYE, SNOOPER! HEE HEE-
CLICK
CHARLIE, DON'T! YOU CAN'T TRUST B--
BOOM
EEEEE
BOOBY TRAP..!
CHARLIE! BEM DID THIS TO YOU! HELP ME FIND IT! WHERE IS IT HIDING OUT?
GONE. GONE LIKE HIS OWN PITIFUL VICTIMS. BEM MUST BE HAVING THE LAUGH OF ITS LIFE...
KAFFEEN


I WAS FOOLED - DAMN YOU, BEM! (THAT GOLEM SUIT WAS ONE REMARKABLE PIECE OF ENGINEERING.) EVEN AS CHARLIE TRIED TO FRY ME, I STILL HOPED THAT THIS THING WAS BEM I HAD IN MY GRASP. THAT IT WOULD BE THIS EASY TO DEFEAT IT... BUT, OF COURSE, IT WASN'T TRUE... NOT IN A COMMON BRAWL... NOT BEM.
AND WHO KNOWS WHAT PLANS IT HAS FOR HUMANITY THIS TIME AROUND? WILL IT CONTINUE ITS PREVIOUS CRUSADE OF ANARCHIC MEDIA BLITZ, OR SIMPLY CARRY OUT A MINDLESS VENDETTA LIKE CHARLIE'S? ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THE BIZARRE WORKINGS OF THE DERANGED GENIUS THAT IS BEM'S!
AND SOMEWHERE IT'S OUT THERE, LURKING, PLOTTING... DISGUISED AS A PRIEST LEARNING TECHNIQUES FROM THE CONFESSIONS OF A GUILT RIDDEN EMBEZZLER, OR UNDER SOMEONE'S BED, READY TO GRAB AN ANKLE···
THE HORROR - STILL AT LARGE -
- BEM!
WHAT'S NEW?
ISMAEL, THE HORROR'S ONLY FRIEND, DIED IN MEXICO YESTERDAY. HE WAS SEVENTY-SIX.
AND THE DETECTIVE?
OH, TYPICAL CASTLE RADIUM BULLSHIT. HE'S GOING TO BOW OUT OF THE SCENE FOR A WHILE TO RENEW HIS STRATEGY.
THIS IS SO FUCKING STUPID, I SWEAR! I COULD FIND BEM MYSELF WITH A COUPLE OF BEERS AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, NO SWEAT!
LEONORE... MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL- I MEAN...
FORGET IT.
LET'S GET A PIZZA.
END OF PART 2
SIXTEEN

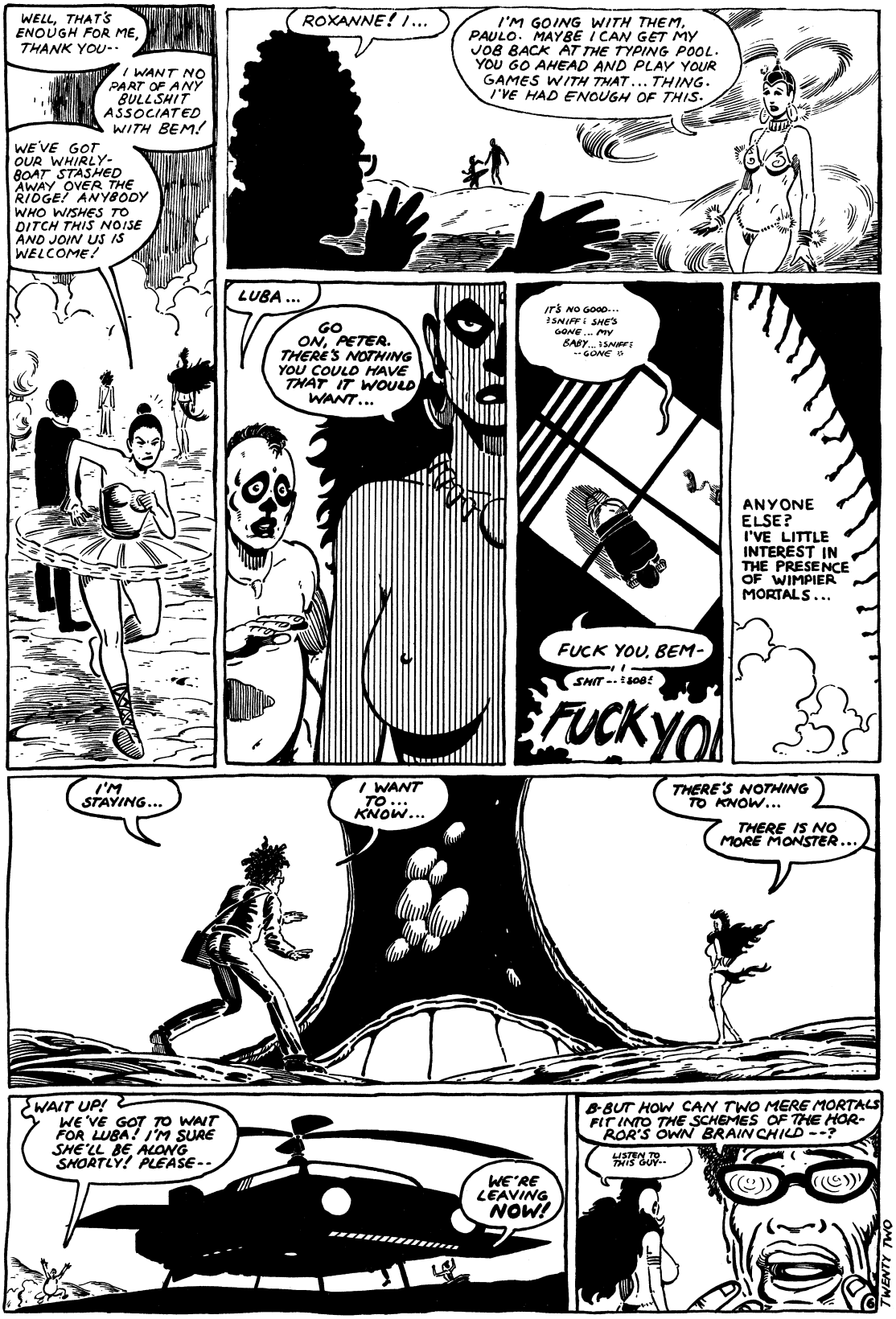

N-NO, REALLY. LUBA... I-I THINK I'M SICK...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT NOW, PETER! IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT-
HELL, THAT MONSTER CAN SURE KICK UP SUDS, EH?
BEM 3
LEONORE?
LUBA, LISTEN TO REASON! THE MONSTER'S ALREADY BEEN DRUGGED AND CONDITIONED TO DO THE LAND DEVELOPER'S WORK--
OUR INTERVENTION MAY ONLY PROVOKE IT'S WRATH UPON US, OR WORSE--!
LUBA?
OH, SHUT UP! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M MAJESTIC!?
FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO(WHEN IN POWER) IS REFUSE PLAYBUCKS MAGAZINE AN INTERVIEW. THEN...
UH, DON'T LOOK NOW, LUBA, BUT FATE HAS JUST CHUCKED A MONKEY-WRENCH INTO THE MECHANISM OF YOUR PLANS!
PLUMBING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY PLA--
GET-YOUR-FILTHY SCUMMY-PAWS-OFF OF-MY-CONGAS!!!
`BERT/81
I'LL TEACH YOU TO SNOOP AROUND MY ISLAND, YOU--
COM'ERE--!
YOW! I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'-- I DIDN'T--
THIS IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED BY THE SECOND. OH, WHY DIDN'T I STAY IN THE ELECTRIC PUMICE BUSINESS?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, BEAT HIM TO DEATH WITH THOSE ELEPHANT LUNGS OF YOURS?
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW WHO WOULD DARE TALK THAT KIND OF SHIT TO ME--
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SEVENTEEN


THIS IS A GOOD ONE! LUBA: FROM AN ILLITERATE SCRUB WOMAN TO AN INFLATABLE YOO-DOO DOLL-- ARE YOU SERIOUS, GIRL?
--AND FROM WHAT TOILET DID YOU SLITHER OUT, PATRICE?
APPARENTLY WE AREN'T THE ONLY PARTY SO INTERESTED IN THE MONSTER'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE--
WHAT THE HELL--?
OH--!
GET- GET- GET AWAY FROM MY EQUIPMENT! GET ON HOME, ALL OF YOU! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU! GET!
OH, PAULO-- THEY ALL WISH TO SEDUCE THE MONSTER, TOO...
TROP TROP
WITH A UKELELE AND A COUPLE OF BONGOS?! PHOOEY! SCIENCE WILL USURP THE MONSTER'S WILL! SCIENCE!
OH, SHUT UP, BOZO! THE MONSTER WILL ONLY DIE LAUGHING AT YOUR RIDICULOUS CONTRAPTION!
NOW I'M REALLY SICK--
I'M HUNGRY!
WHAT A RELIEF! I THOUGHT THAT I'D BE THE ONLY ONE MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HER CLOTHES... MY MOTHER'S SUITCASE, GONE-
...THEY'LL BE AT IT FOR HOURS, IF I KNOW LUBA AND PATRICE-
I-I DON'T SEE WHY WE ALL COULDN'T SHARE THE MONSTER'S SERVICES, PERHAPS ON ALTERNATE WEEKENDS--
THE SCRIPTURE'S CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE RITUAL DANCE MUST BE PERFORMED BY A BEAUTIFUL BLACK WOMAN-
NO-NO-NO!
-NOT BY SOME LARD-ASS SHOW GIRL, OR A WALKING WATERMELON VINE!
NEVER! THE MONSTER'S MIND WILL ONLY RESPOND TO MY SCIENTIFICAL TREATMENTS! MINE-- MINE!
EIGHTEEN
2


!?
--AND THEN, THE MONSTER WAS UPON THE ISLAND...
NINETEEN

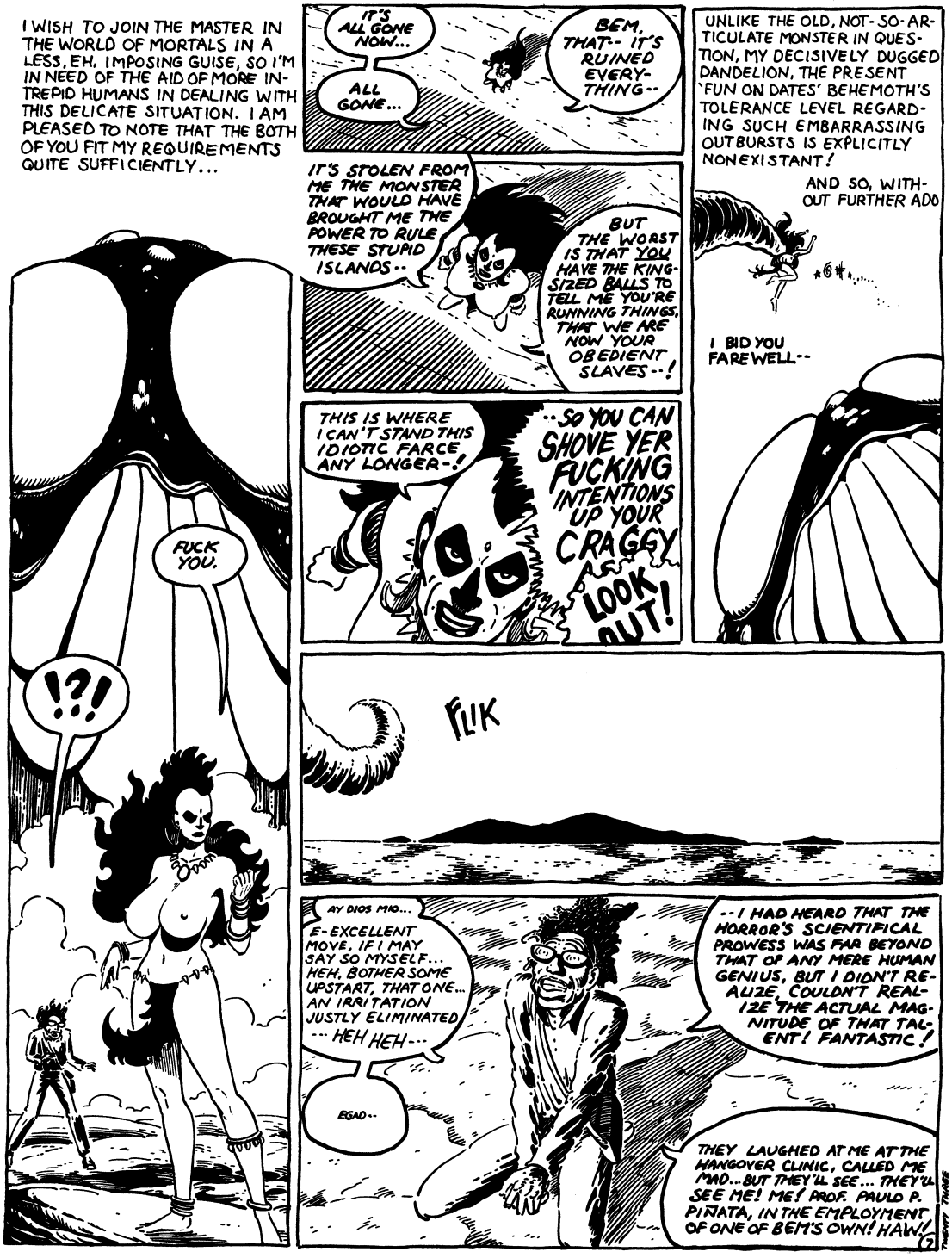

BOY!
YOUR VIOLA!
QUICKLY!
BEAT, PETER! BEAT THOSE SKINS LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BEAT 'EM BEFORE!
ROXANNE! NO ESTES DE BOBA, LOCA! VEN ACA'! I WANT THAT MONSTER! --- NOW!
JEEZ! HER HANDWRITING IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO --
...DON'T COME LOOKING FOR ME. I PROBABLY WON'T RETURN. NOT ALIVE ANYWAY..
BIPPITY BOP BOP
BIPPITY BIPPITY BIPPITY
FIDDLA BOOP FIDDLA BIP FIDDLA BOP
SCREEE
PING PING
VOOP VOOP
ZIIIINGG
TIKA TIKA TIKA TIKA TIKA TIKA
4
TWENTY

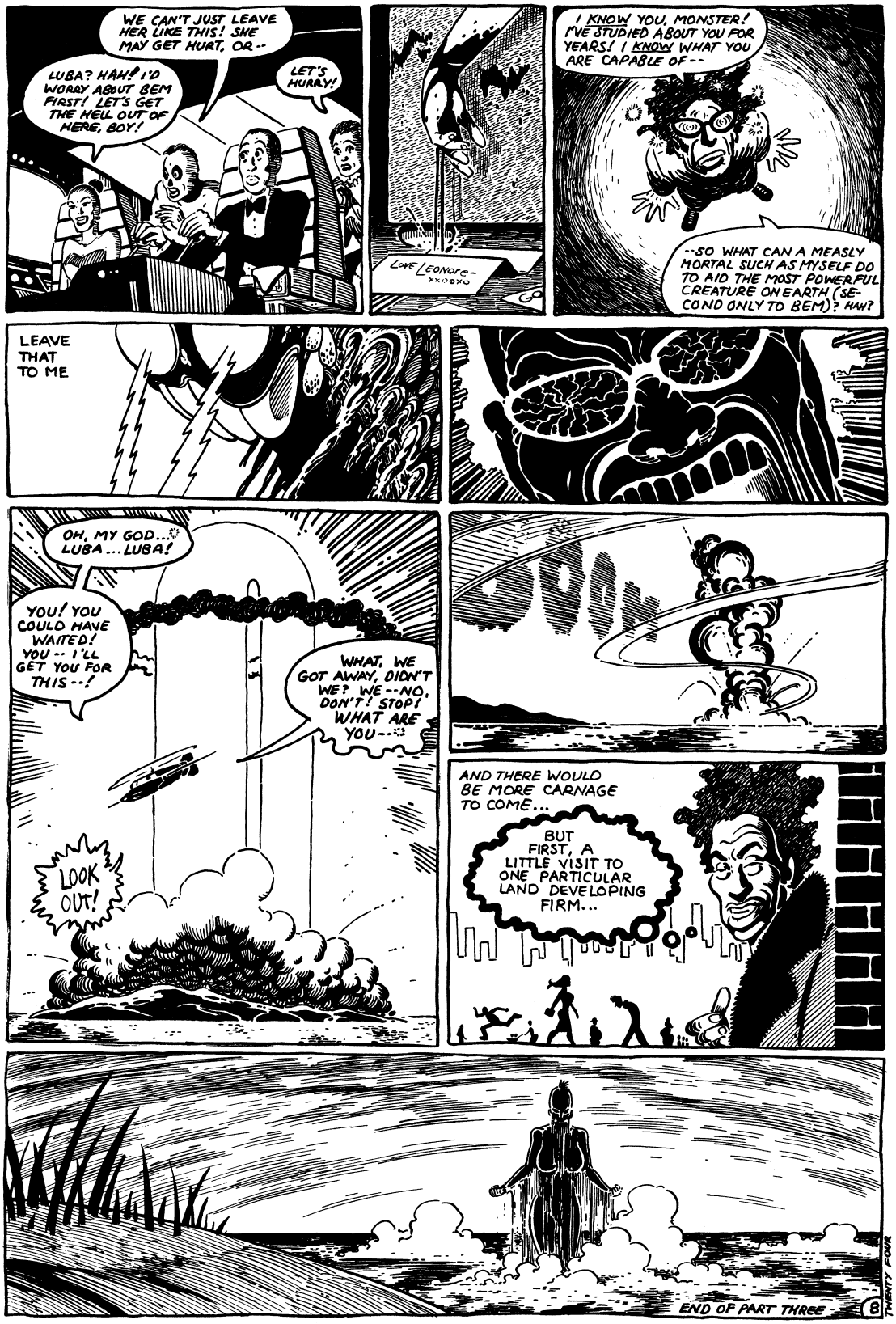

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
RADIUM. CASTLE RADIUM. YES, PLEASE--
RADIUM? IT'S ABOUT... OH.
WHAT? WHY NOT?
!
WHAT- THE- HELL--
THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN -- HIS GODDAMN ANSWERING SERVICE WOULDN'T EVEN--
P-PAULO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND... YOU SAID...
IMPOSSIBLE!
ITS BRAIN IS BARELY THE SIZE OF A MILKDUD! IT COULDN'T...IT-BUT-- I DON'T... UNLESS...?!?
UNLESS...
YOU ARE MOST ASTUTE IN YOUR OBSERVATIONS. TRUE, I AM NO LONGER THE SAME MONSTER YOU HAD ALL HOPED TO SEDUCE WITH YOUR COMEDY ROUTINES. WHAT DOES ACTUALLY TOWER BEFORE YOU NOW, MORTALS, IS A PRODUCT OF THE RELENTLESS GENIUS (OR DEMENTIA) DEPENDING) THAT HAS BEEN PERSONIFIED AS AN ENTITY NOTORIOUSLY REFERRED TO AS BEING QUITE A HORROR--
A...HORROR... THE-- OH GOD
SHIT!
WHAT? WHAT IS IT? I-I DON'T... PLEASE, SOME ONE TELL ME...
SIGH--
BEM.
THE MASTER ITSELF! AND WITH YOURS TRULY AT IT'S SIDE, THE GREAT GAME OF TURNING THE PARANOIDS INTO PROPHETS CAN CONTINUE ONCE AGAIN...
TWENTY ONE


WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME, THANK YOU--
I WANT NO PART OF ANY BULLSHIT ASSOCIATED WITH BEM!
WE'VE GOT OUR WHIRLY-BOAT STASHED AWAY OVER THE RIDGE! ANYBODY WHO WISHES TO DITCH THIS NOISE AND JOIN US IS WELCOME!
ROXANNE! I...
I'M GOING WITH THEM, PAULO. MAYBE I CAN GET MY JOB BACK AT THE TYPING POOL. YOU GO AHEAD AND PLAY YOUR GAMES WITH THAT... THING. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
LUBA...
GO ON, PETER. THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE THAT IT WOULD WANT...
IT'S NO GOOD... :SNIFF: SHE'S GONE... MY BABY... :SNIFF: -- GONE :'(
FUCK YOU, BEM-
! !
SHIT -- :SOB:
FUCK YOU
ANYONE ELSE? I'VE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PRESENCE OF WIMPIER MORTALS...
I'M STAYING...
I WANT TO... KNOW...
THERE'S NOTHING TO KNOW...
THERE IS NO MORE MONSTER...
WAIT UP! WE'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR LUBA! I'M SURE SHE'LL BE ALONG SHORTLY! PLEASE--
WE'RE LEAVING NOW!
B-BUT HOW CAN TWO MERE MORTALS FIT INTO THE SCHEMES OF THE HOR-ROR'S OWN BRAIN CHILD --?
LISTEN TO THIS GUY--
TWENTY TWO

THE MASTER HAS ALLOWED ME (THROUGH ADVANCED SURGICAL SCIENCE) THE MENTAL CAPACITY TO EXPLOIT THE DORMANT CAPABILITIES I POSSESS (ABILITIES TOO POWERFUL, TOO COMPLEX FOR MY (FORMER) MINUSCULE MIND TO COMPREHEND AND UTILIZE ACCORDINGLY) TO AID IT IN ITS GLORIOUS WORK IN THIS REALM. (THE VERY ABILITIES YOU WISHED TO MANIPULATE TO GAIN YOUR OWN ENDS!) BUT ALAS, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE MASTER WAS CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED BEFORE IT COULD SUMMON ME FROM MY SLUMBER AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH. THEN CAME THE LAND DEVELOPERS (WITH THEIR RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR THE CHEAPEST LABOR THEY COULD OBTAIN. ME). NOT EVEN POSSESSING ENOUGH BRAINS TO RESIST, I WAS DISCOVERED, CONSIDERED, PROCURED, AND THEN DRUGGED TO DO THEIR WORK. AND SO, THUS UPON THRASHING GO-GO ISLAND, I SNAPPED OUT OF MY TRANCE, BLASTED THAT PESKY TV'COPTER OUT OF PURE ENTERTAINMENT (AND SPITE), AND MADE MY WAY HERE. HERE TO MAKE A LITTLE BUSINESS TRANSACTION WITH SUCH AN INVITING PAIR OF -- ADVENTUROUS MORTALS...

I WISH TO JOIN THE MASTER IN THE WORLD OF MORTALS IN A LESS, EH, IMPOSING GUISE, SO I'M IN NEED OF THE AID OF MORE INTREPID HUMANS IN DEALING WITH THIS DELICATE SITUATION. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE BOTH OF YOU FIT MY REQUIREMENTS QUITE SUFFICIENTLY...

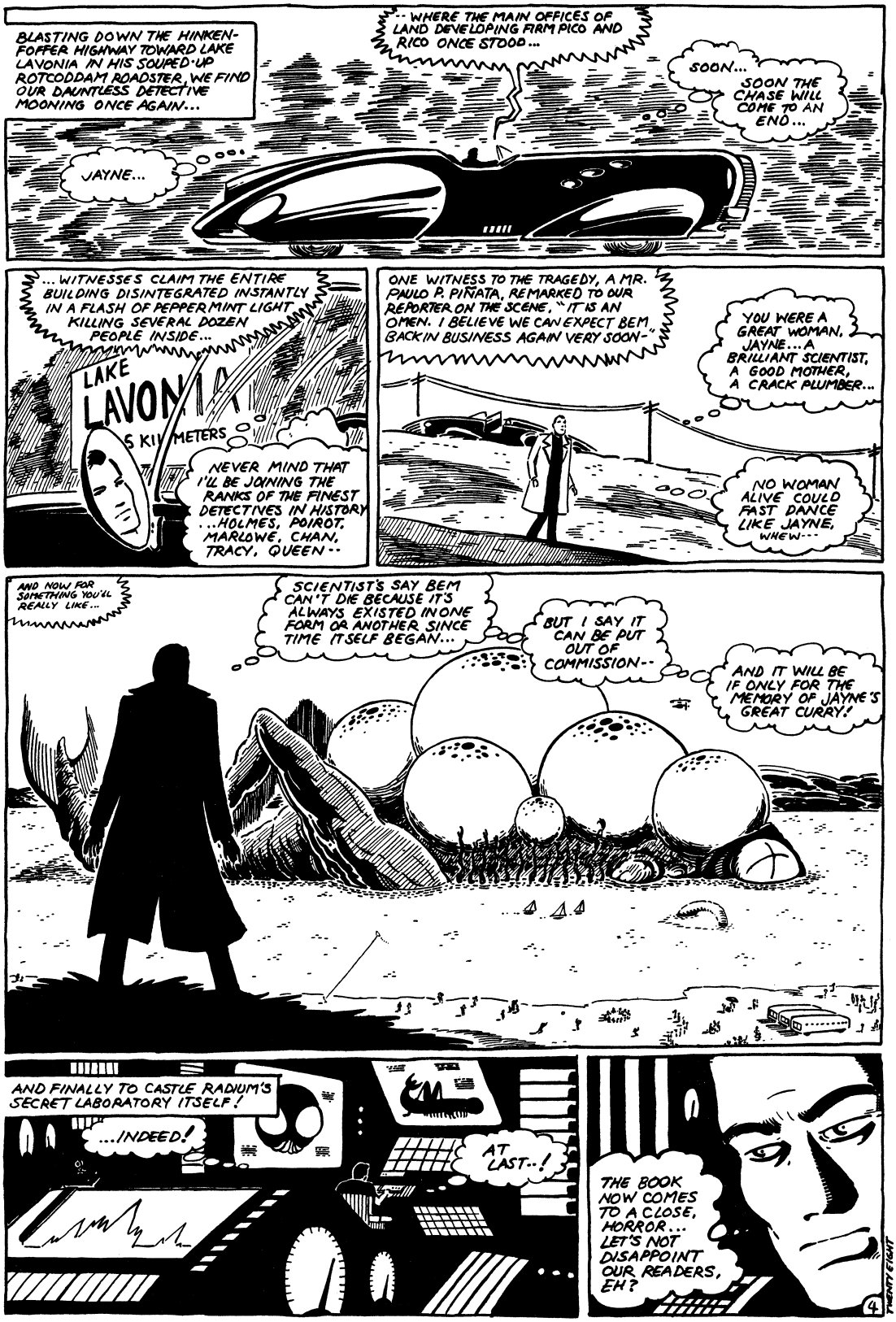



WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER LIKE THIS! SHE MAY GET HURT, OR--
LUBA? HAH! I'D WORRY ABOUT BEM FIRST! LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, BOY!
LET'S HURRY!
LOVE LEONORE-
XXOOXO
I KNOW YOU, MONSTER! I'VE STUDIED ABOUT YOU FOR YEARS! I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF--
--SO WHAT CAN A MEASLY MORTAL SUCH AS MYSELF DO TO AID THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE ON EARTH (SECOND ONLY TO BEM)? HAH?
LEAVE THAT TO ME
OH, MY GOD... LUBA... LUBA!
YOU! YOU COULD HAVE WAITED! YOU -- I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS --!
WHAT, WE GOT AWAY, DIDN'T WE? WE--NO, DON'T! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU--?
LOOK OUT!
AND THERE WOULD BE MORE CARNAGE TO COME...
BUT FIRST, A LITTLE VISIT TO ONE PARTICULAR LAND DEVELOPING FIRM...
END OF PART THREE
8
TWENTY FOUR


What..?
...OH. I'M STILL HERE...
IT WAS ONLY A DREAM--
--I DREAMED THAT THE HORROR WAS CAUGHT... AND I WENT HOME TO MY BABY... MY POOR BABY...
THE FIRST REAL DREAM I'VE HAD SINCE THE BREAKOUT...
SIGH-
BABE... HE WOULDN'T LIKE IT HERE. NO, TOO HOT... TSK. S'FUNNY... I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE STATES BEFORE THIS...
SO HERE I AM...
...HELLO, MR. BEM. MY NAME IS LENORE AND I'VE COME ALL THE WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD TO MEET YOU--" MR. BEM? MS. BEM? MRS. BEM..?
SHIT-
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AND ACROSS THE OCEAN WE FIND ANOTHER 'GIFTED' BEING NOT AT ALL PLEASED WITH HIS OWN PREDICAMENT EITHER...
1
TWENTY FIVE


AND YET ANOTHER OF BEM'S LESS SOPHISTICATED AUSPICES...
I SHOULD BE MORE GRATIFIED THAT I'M AT LEAST PUTTING AN END TO MOST OF THESE DANGEROUS ORGANIZATIONS CORRUPTED BY BEM'S DISTINGUISHED INFLUENCES...
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH..!
--I WANT BEM!
DAMN! NOT EVEN THE HORROR'S 'CLOSER' CRONIES ARE AWARE OF ITS WHEREABOUTS OR OF ITS PLANS OF ACTION ANY MORE! BUT THEY HAVE ALL AGREED ON ONE THING: BEM IS SOMEHOW ILL, (DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF ITS IMPRISONMENT) AND MUST SOON RESURFACE TO ACQUIRE THE PROPER AID. BUT WHERE WILL THAT BE-- WHERE--?
FIESTA DAYS
IN SAN SASSAFRAS WAS ALWAYS A TERRIFIC TOURIST ATTRACTION, YOU SEE. YOU NEVER KNEW WHO WOULD SHOW UP...
AND THUS, THE MASTER WAS BORN UNTO THIS REALM AS AN ANTITHESIS TO THE MORTALS' COMMON DREAM...
EMPHASIZING THEIR EXISTENCE ON THE PETTY PURSUIT OF PLEASURE (WHETHER IT IS SUPERFLUOUS SEX, OR INEFFECTUAL VIOLENCE), THE HUMANS ARE INDEED AN INFANTILE LOT IN NEED OF A GOOD THROTTLING...
THE MASTER ITSELF WAS/IS JUST THE ENIGMA TO 'RANKLE THE ASS' OF HUMANITY... EVEN AT THE COST OF SOME OF THEIR IMPOTENT LIVES. (WHICH IS WHY THE HUMANS HAVE CONDEMNED THE MASTER AS A MERE HOMICIDAL THUG) HAR!
TWENTY SIX


IT SEEMS THEIR INHERENT NATURE TO DISDAIN THEIR FUTURE SAVIOURS... AT FIRST!
BUT NOW I'M HERE--
HERE TO CLOSE THIS GAP BETWEEN THE HUMANS TRUST AND THE MASTER'S RECONDITE METHODS--NOT THAT I THINK IT'S WORTH THE TROUBLE...
STILL, AS HAPLESS AS THEY ARE, SOME ARE NOT WITHOUT WINSOME ALLUREMENT... AND 'WHEN IN ROME...'
TSK-- OH BABY... WHY..?
...WHY'D YOU GO AND HURT YOURSELF LIKE THAT..?
AND THE RELENTLESS SEARCH CONTINUES: FROM CAPE KOO KOO TO WEST WIBBLE, FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, BEM'S MORE DEADLY APPENDAGES ARE ROUTED--BY ONE MAN!
HE WAS CLOSE--SO CLOSE THAT HE COULD ALMOST FEEL BEM'S NAKED THROAT BETWEEN HIS HANDS. A FEELING, HE'S CONVINCED, THAT WILL BECOME A CLINICAL REALITY IN A SHORT TIME (THAT IS, IF BEM HAS GOT A THROAT)...
3
TWENTY SEVEN


BLASTING DOWN THE HINKEN-FOFFER HIGHWAY TOWARD LAKE LAVONIA IN HIS SOUPED-UP ROTCODDAM ROADSTER, WE FIND OUR DAUNTLESS DETECTIVE MOONING ONCE AGAIN...
...WHERE THE MAIN OFFICES OF LAND DEVELOPING FIRM PICO AND RICO ONCE STOOD...
SOON... SOON THE CHASE WILL COME TO AN END...
JAYNE...
...WITNESSES CLAIM THE ENTIRE BUILDING DISINTEGRATED INSTANTLY IN A FLASH OF PEPPERMINT LIGHT KILLING SEVERAL DOZEN PEOPLE INSIDE...
LAKE
5 KILOMETERS
NEVER MIND THAT I'LL BE JOINING THE RANKS OF THE FINEST DETECTIVES IN HISTORY ...HOLMES, POIROT, MARLOWE, CHAN, TRACY, QUEEN--
ONE WITNESS TO THE TRAGEDY, A MR. PAULO P. PIÑATA, REMARKED TO OUR REPORTER ON THE SCENE, "IT IS AN OMEN. I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT BEM, BACK IN BUSINESS AGAIN VERY SOON-"
YOU WERE A GREAT WOMAN, JAYNE... A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, A GOOD MOTHER, A CRACK PLUMBER...
NO WOMAN ALIVE COULD FAST DANCE LIKE JAYNE, WHEW---
AND NOW FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL REALLY LIKE...
SCIENTIST'S SAY BEM CAN'T DIE BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS EXISTED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER SINCE TIME ITSELF BEGAN...
BUT I SAY IT CAN BE PUT OUT OF COMMISSION--
AND IT WILL BE IF ONLY FOR THE MEMORY OF JAYNE'S GREAT CURRY!
AND FINALLY TO CASTLE RADIUM'S SECRET LABORATORY ITSELF!
...INDEED!
AT LAST--!
THE BOOK NOW COMES TO A CLOSE, HORROR... LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT OUR READERS, EH?
4
TWENTY EIGHT

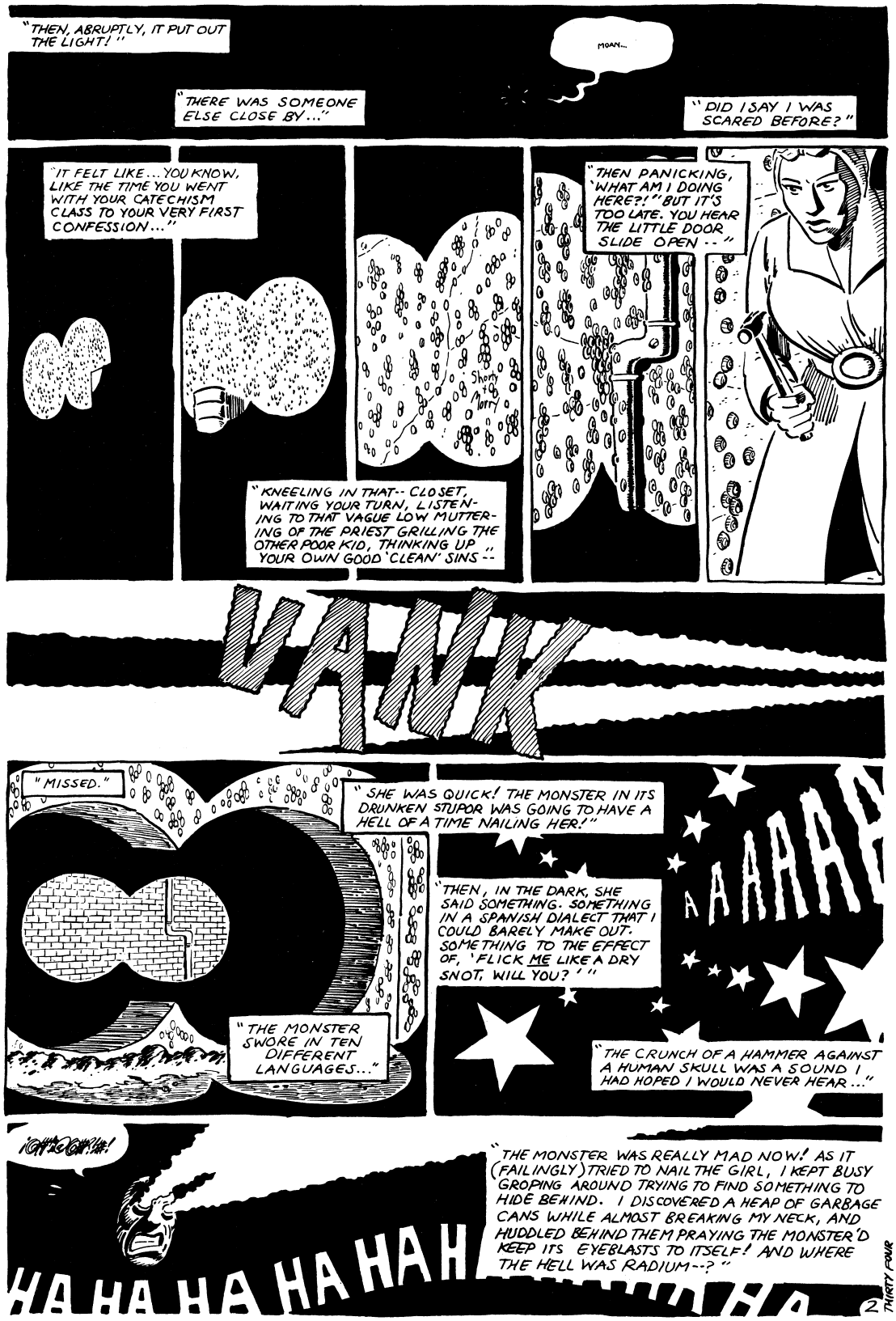

PISS TALL
FIESTA DAYS WERE A RARE OCCASION INDEED, FOR THEY WERE HELD ONLY ON THE EVENT OF THE GREAT ECLIPSE (GREAT BECAUSE IT WAS THE LONGEST TOTAL ECLIPSE THIS WORLD HAD TO OFFER). BUT WHAT REALLY BROUGHT IN THE CROWDS WAS THAT ALL THE BEER WAS FREE (EVEN THE DARK)! CONNOISSEURS AND CASUAL DRINKERS ALIKE FROM ALL OVER COME TO INDULGE IN THIS NECTAR OF THE GODS. BUT, IT WAS ALWAYS MORE INTERESTING WHEN THE MERELY CURIOUS PARTOOK...
WHAT?! YOU DON'BLEEV-HIC- I'M TH' WUN AN': BURP: ONLEGE MONGSTER DAT LAID WASTE T' ALL TREEE 'OBO' ISLANDSSS...? (NOT T' MENSHUN OBLITZERATING UH WUNZZ PROM'NINT LAND DEL-- BEVEL--DELEY-- HOUSE WRECKERS.) WAL--! : BURP: LEMMIE SHAY DISH ABOUT TH'AT--!
*ME-MOHSALF, AN' I, LIVED DOWN IN TH'CENNER UV TH' ERRRRRF FER TREE *FOURR GODZILLION :URP: 'EARS, WE DID! --- SHLEEEPIN'! :HIC: NOBUDDY :BLUP: COULD SHNORRR LOUDER'N YERS TROOLIEST! NOBUDDY! AN' LEMMIE TELL YUH SUMTIN', MY LI'L CHUBCAKE- ...ISS GODDAM HOT DOWN THER!... :WHUURROOP:
..SSSO THER'I WUZ, COUNTEENG SHTEGGO-SARRUSSUS, WHIN-- WHIN--- *HAH? VAT ISS DAS?
TWENTY NINE


!?
HAR!
DAS A GOOD 'UN! THIS I WUZ UN-UHWARE DAT WHIN I TOOOK DIS MOR-TUL FORMN, I'D BE-UUP: SUBJEKT TO HOOMAN HALLOOCINASHUNS ALLSSSO...JCE AH'M DEFINETTLEE UH-MUSED..!
SOO I GOTTA PROOVE T' YOOD MY POWURFULL 'NUFF T' CON-VINSSS TH' GENERALL PUB-LIK TH'AT BEMZ UH LUJITUMITT CUM-ODDITY, HAH? VURY WAL...
...YOU FORCE ME TOOO REE-SORT TUH UN-SUFISSTICATUD MEH-SSURR ZZZ.... STAN' BAKKK
CERVEZA
¡ANDALE, CHICHA...VAMOS A BAILAR! SMILK SMAK
NO--! GO AWAY--! STOP FOLLOWING ME!
¿AH, CON QUE QUIERES JUGAR PRIMERO, EH? ¡JA, JA, JA! ¡CORRE PUES, MI TUBO DE PASTA DEL LOS DIENTES! ♡
NO--!
TU PIEL ES TAN BLANCA COMO LAS SABANAS LIMPEAS QUE ASOLEA MI MADRE. TUS OJOS...
YES, WELL, I LOVE YOU TOO, ROMEO, BUT WHAT 'LL THE NEIGHBORS THINK? THEY DON'T CALL ME HERPES HILDA FOR NOTHING--YIKE--!
6
THIRTY


THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, CASANOVA--
!?!
¡AWK!
¿Q-QUE ES ESTO--?
ESTE BAILE ESTA TOMADO, CUATE. LA SEÑORITA Y YO TENEMOS COSAS QUE DISCUTIR, ASI QUE TE LARGAS.
!
¡AH, YA VEZ LO QUE HAS HECHO! ¡NO LA VOY A HALLAR EN ESTE ENREDO!
--THAT GIRL! MY SENSES LED ME TO HER, I'M SURE OF IT, BUT--
THERE WAS NO TELLING WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON INSIDE THE DETECTIVE'S SKULL THIS TIME --
!
¡PUTO!
SHE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR, BUT SHE CAN LOSE ME, WHAT WITH THE IMPULSES DANCING IN MY HEAD SO THRILLINGLY, SO INTOXICATING
OOOOGH... NEVER DRINK WARM BEER ON AN EMPTY STOMACH IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE THAT DAY... PANT PANT
T-REX
MEANWHILE--
AN' FURTHUR MORRRA CHURGLE CHURGLE MOS' DEFINITELY--- KA-CHUNG KA-CHUNG INDUBITABLY MAYBE- BLURRP
NOTE: NOT EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING CREATURE ON EARTH (NEXT TO BEM) COULD HANDLE 257 BOTTLES OF SAN SASSAFRASS (DARK!) BEER... IN A ROW! HELL, THE STUFF IS ILLEGAL IN 809 COUNTRIES... (OR COULD IT?)
THIRTY ONE


... IT COULD.
I WILL DRINK THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD IF THE MASTER SO DESIRES!!!
I WILL WATCH "I LOVE LIZZY" FOR A THOUSAND HOURS STRAIGHT WITHOUT ONCE GOING TO THE RESTROOM, IF IT SO COMMANDS!!!
..BUT, THE MASTER HAS MORE STIMULATING PROJECTS FOR ME, I KNOW!!! LIKE... LIKE...
LIKE ...WELL, THE MASTER'LL TELL ME... I'M SURE THESE PROJECTS ARE QUITE MIND-BOGGLING TO COMPREHEND, REALLY... I... HAH?
GHOST! SPECTER! PHANTOM! BOOGY WOMAN! SPOOK!
SO A DUNK IN THE OCEAN WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU, HAH? HAH?!
AAAA


"GOD, I HADN'T RUN LIKE THAT SINCE THE EIGHTH GRADE... I WAS SO SCARED AND CONFUSED... I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I WAS RUNNING FROM..."
"THEN, GRADUALLY, IT BEGAN TO GET DARK. I THOUGHT, 'OH, HELL, I'M BLACKING OUT'... BUT THEN I REMEMBERED--!"
"THE ECLIPSE!"
"IN A MOMENT IT WOULD BE BLACKER'N BEM'S OWN HEART."
"COULDN'T SEE A THING, NOT A DAMN THING..."
"BUT I KEPT ON RUNNING..."
"AND RUNNING..."
"AND RUNNING..."
YOW!
"MY FACE WAS RUDELY ACQUAINTED WITH WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE END OF A CUL-DE-SAC. AND TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, THE ENTIRE WALLS WERE COVERED WITH BLUE SNAILS (A DELICACY IN NEW OXNARD, I HEAR)! YECCH--"
SON OF A BITCH... SNIFF
"I COULDN'T DECIDE WHICH WAS MORE NAUSEATING... THE SICKLY PISS-YELLOW LIGHT THE MONSTER SO GRACIOUSLY BLINDED ME WITH, OR ITS DISGUSTING SPILLED-BONG-WATER-LIKE BREATH--"
"THE MONSTER, REALIZING I WASN'T THE ONE IT WAS LOOKING FOR, BEGAN TO CURSE AT ME IN A BAD SLUR (LIKE A 45 RECORD AT 33)..."
"IT BECAME SILENT FOR A MOMENT (GOD, THAT LIGHT). THEN, ITS VOICE, CLEAR AS A HIGH 'E', POPPED INTO MY HEAD (FIRST RATE TELEPATHY AT WORK HERE NOW)..."
"IT BEGAN TO INSULT ME, THE FOLK OF SAN SASSAFRASS, THE REST OF THE HUMAN RACE, ETC. ETC.. YOU KNOW, 'THE FUTILITY OF HUMAN ASPIRATION, (WE'RE JUST) WORTHLESS CATTLE, THE DEVIL'S JUNK FOOD,' BLAH BLAH..."
"WELL, I WAS STILL TOO SCARED SHITLESS TO ARGUE, SO I JUST STOOD THERE (HEY, I'M SURPRISED I'M NOT BLIND, I SWEAR) AND WINCED AT ITS MONO (TONOUS) LOGUE...
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THIRTY THREE

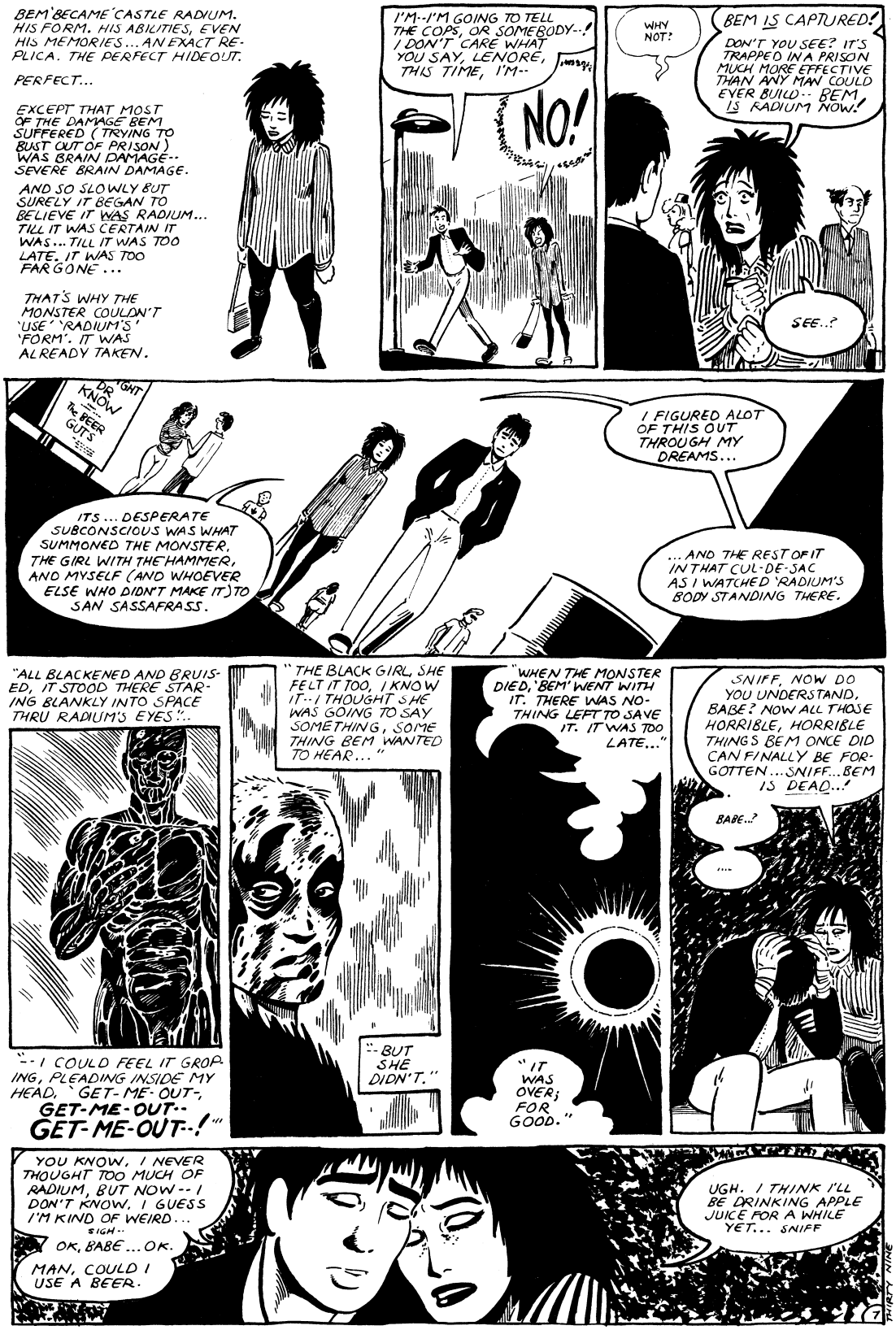

"THEN, ABRUPTLY, IT PUT OUT THE LIGHT!"
MOAN...
"THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE CLOSE BY..."
"DID I SAY I WAS SCARED BEFORE?"
"IT FELT LIKE... YOU KNOW, LIKE THE TIME YOU WENT WITH YOUR CATECHISM CLASS TO YOUR VERY FIRST CONFESSION..."
"KNEELING IN THAT-- CLOSET, WAITING YOUR TURN, LISTENING TO THAT VAGUE LOW MUTTERING OF THE PRIEST GRILLING THE OTHER POOR KID, THINKING UP YOUR OWN GOOD 'CLEAN' SINS --"
"THEN PANICKING, 'WHAT AM I DOING HERE?!' BUT IT'S TOO LATE. YOU HEAR THE LITTLE DOOR SLIDE OPEN --"
VANK
"MISSED."
"SHE WAS QUICK! THE MONSTER IN ITS DRUNKEN STUPOR WAS GOING TO HAVE A HELL OF A TIME NAILING HER!"
"THEN, IN THE DARK, SHE SAID SOMETHING. SOMETHING IN A SPANISH DIALECT THAT I COULD BARELY MAKE OUT. SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT OF, 'FLICK ME LIKE A DRY SNOT, WILL YOU?'"
AAAAA
"THE MONSTER SWORE IN TEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES..."
"THE CRUNCH OF A HAMMER AGAINST A HUMAN SKULL WAS A SOUND I HAD HOPED I WOULD NEVER HEAR..."
HA HA HA HA HA
"THE MONSTER WAS REALLY MAD NOW! AS IT (FAILINGLY) TRIED TO NAIL THE GIRL, I KEPT BUSY GROPING AROUND TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING TO HIDE BEHIND. I DISCOVERED A HEAP OF GARBAGE CANS WHILE ALMOST BREAKING MY NECK, AND HUDDLED BEHIND THEM PRAYING THE MONSTER'D KEEP ITS EYEBLASTS TO ITSELF! AND WHERE THE HELL WAS RADIUM--?"
THIRTY FOUR
2

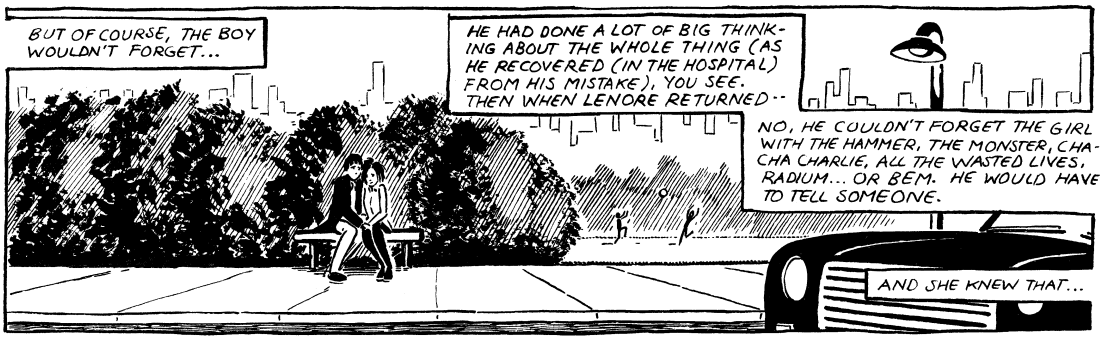

WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
BIFF
EEYO
THUD
BLUGE
PANT PANT PANT
OOF!
HA HA
KRAK
ZZZZZZ
OH YEAH?
OW!
" THE LIGHTS CAME ON AND I COULD BARELY BELIEVE I WAS STILL ALIVE! ALIVE TO SEE THE 3 OF THEM GOING AT IT LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE POSSIBLE! I GOT DIZZY JUST WATCHING! THEN--
THIRTY FIVE

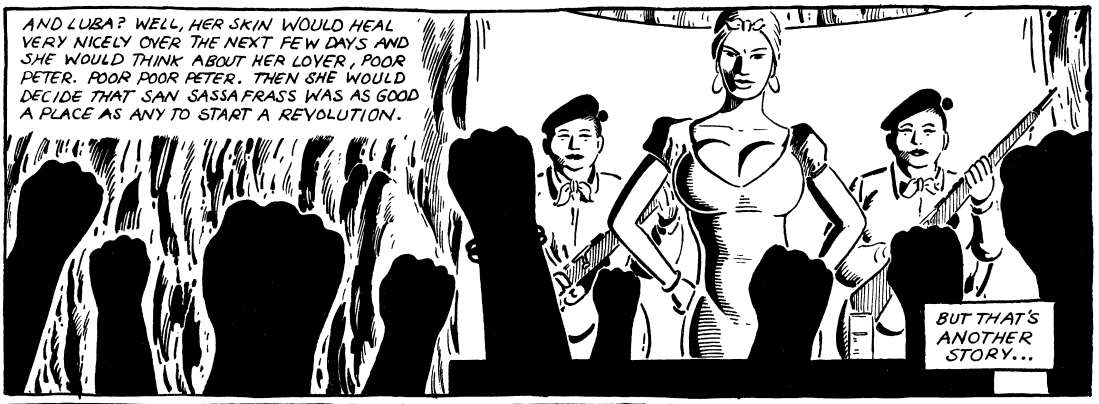

"THE OLD RADIUM FEEDBACK TRICK"..
..."FAILED MISERABLY THIS TIME. RADIUM AND THE GIRL DIDN'T LOOK SO GOOD. AND THE MONSTER JUST STOOD THERE GRINNING; HEAD BASHED IN, SOBER AS A JUDGE. IT WAS DEFINITELY AMUSED..."
"THE SNAILS WERE NOW A NICE CHARCOAL GREY. THEY SMELLED LIKE TOASTED TORTILLAS. (I HADN'T EATEN ALL DAY)..."
"IT THEN SPOKE. SAID IT HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE GIRL'S VALID INTREPIDNESS (OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT), BUT WAS REALLY JAZZED ABOUT RADIUM'S SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES. THEN IT SAID IT SHOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE MASTER (IT CALLED IT) IN A MORE PRESTIGIOUS FORM (SUCH AS RADIUM'S). SO, THE MONSTER DECIDED IT WOULD TAKE IT. THE DETECTIVE WAS IN NO CONDITION TO RESIST--"
"AND WITH THAT, IT LET HIM HAVE IT! IT WAS HARD TO MAKE OUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING, BUT I GOT THE GENERAL IDEA-"
"THAT SCREAM. THAT GODDAMNED GOD AWFUL SCREAM--"
"-ALMOST AS TERRIFYING, AS BEM'S OWN"
4
THIRTY SIX

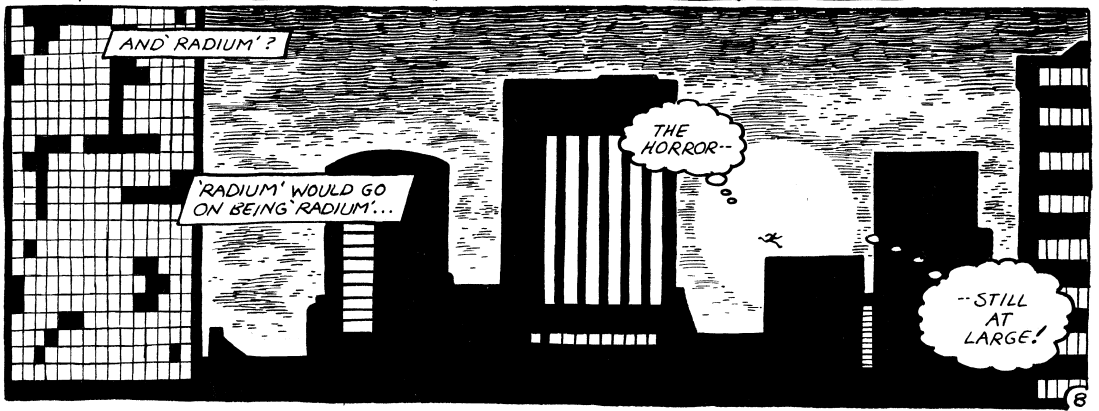

"WHAT WAS LEFT LOOKED WORSE THAN THE MORNING AFTER A PARTY AT ART'S 'N' JOEY'S..."
"NO ONE SPOKE A WORD..."
"THE MONSTER LOOKED SO CONFUSED RIGHT BEFORE IT CROAKED... I FELT KIND OF SORRY FOR IT, Y'KNOW? I MEAN, I KNOW IT WAS A KILLER, BUT, BUT IT REMINDED ME OF THE DOG THAT ATE ITS MASTER'S BABY 'CAUSE IT WAS STARVED AND NEGLECTED -- I DUNNO, I GUESS I'M KIND OF WEIRD..."
"THEN, FINALLY, AFTER A LONG IRRITATING SILENCE..."
--NOT IN A COMMON BRAWL, NO--
NOT BEM -- NO... IT... BEM -- IT... OF COURSE! -- I SHOULD HAVE - YES... IT'S DONE IT AGAIN! IT -- NOW I -- YES -- YES!
I'LL FIND YOU, HORROR...
I'LL FIND YOU--
AND I'LL CATCH YOU--
WITH MY BARE HANDS
"AND IN A SINGLE BOUND..."
"HE WAS GONE."
"THE GIRL WITH THE HAMMER, SHE JUST SNORTED IN DISGUST AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE MAZE..."
"...WITH MY GOOD COAT-"
"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I STOOD THERE BEFORE THE FEDERALES FOUND ME..."
"THEY WERE VERY SWEET CONSIDERING THEY'D BEEN HASSLING WITH DRUNKS ALL WEEK. THEY LIKED MY HAIR-DO."
THIRTY SEVEN


THAT'S ... IT?
I MEAN... JUST LIKE THAT? LIKE...
LIKE A BAD CAR WRECK, YEAH...
SCREECH, BOOM, TINKLE TINKLE, IT'S OVER--
RADIUM'S FIGHTS WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
HOSPITAL VISITORS PARKING
801
WHOA ---
I-I'M REALLY MIXED UP...
DON'T RACK YOUR BRAINS OVER IT.
BAR
BUT--BUT, YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME EVERYTHING-- I MEAN--BEM NEVER SHOWED! I THOUGHT--
OH, BEM WAS THERE ALL RIGHT... BEM WAS ALWAYS THERE...
!
REMEMBER I TOLD YOU THAT BEM REALLY RACKED ITSELF UP TRYING TO BUST OUT OF PRISON ALL THOSE YEARS..?
WELL, IT WAS IN ALOT WORSE SHAPE THAN I HAD DREAMED--
IT WAS IN SUCH A BAD STATE THAT WHEN IT DID FINALLY ESCAPE, IT IMMEDIATELY BEGAN A MANIC SEARCH FOR THE IDEAL HIDEOUT, A HIDEOUT WHERE IT COULD BEGIN TO HEAL ITSELF AND PLAN NEW EXPERIMENTS (IT WAS IN NO CONDITION TO PROPERLY DEFEND ITSELF FROM BEING CAPTURED AGAIN)
-THAT'S WHEN IT HEARD ABOUT RADIUM. (HE WAS STILL RECEIVING A LOT OF PUBLICITY FROM 'THE CAVORITE CASE'). BEM WAS REMOTELY IMPRESSED--THEN-
IT... IT DISCOVERED THE WHEREABOUTS OF RADIUM'S SECRET LAB... AND STOLE INTO IT... AND IT... UM--
... AND THEN IT MURDERED THE DETECTIVE AND PROCEEDED TO ASSUME HIS 'FORM'.
NK
La Noda
6
THIRTY EIGHT


BEM BECAME CASTLE RADIUM. HIS FORM. HIS ABILITIES, EVEN HIS MEMORIES... AN EXACT REPLICA. THE PERFECT HIDEOUT.
PERFECT...
EXCEPT THAT MOST OF THE DAMAGE BEM SUFFERED (TRYING TO BUST OUT OF PRISON) WAS BRAIN DAMAGE-- SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE.
AND SO SLOWLY BUT SURELY IT BEGAN TO BELIEVE IT WAS RADIUM... TILL IT WAS CERTAIN IT WAS... TILL IT WAS TOO LATE. IT WAS TOO FAR GONE...
THAT'S WHY THE MONSTER COULDN'T 'USE' 'RADIUM'S' 'FORM'. IT WAS ALREADY TAKEN.
I'M--I'M GOING TO TELL THE COPS, OR SOMEBODY--! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, LENORE, THIS TIME, I'M--
NO!
WHY NOT?
BEM IS CAPTURED!
DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S TRAPPED IN A PRISON MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANY MAN COULD EVER BUILD-- BEM, IS RADIUM NOW!
SEE..?
DR GHT KNOW THE BEER GUTS
I FIGURED ALOT OF THIS OUT THROUGH MY DREAMS...
ITS... DESPERATE SUBCONSCIOUS WAS WHAT SUMMONED THE MONSTER, THE GIRL WITH THE HAMMER, AND MYSELF (AND WHOEVER ELSE WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT) TO SAN SASSAFRASS.
...AND THE REST OF IT IN THAT CUL-DE-SAC AS I WATCHED 'RADIUM'S BODY STANDING THERE.
"ALL BLACKENED AND BRUISED, IT STOOD THERE STARING BLANKLY INTO SPACE THRU RADIUM'S EYES!"...
"--I COULD FEEL IT GROPING, PLEADING INSIDE MY HEAD, 'GET-ME-OUT-, GET-ME-OUT--!'"
"THE BLACK GIRL, SHE FELT IT TOO, I KNOW IT--I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING, SOMETHING BEM WANTED TO HEAR..."
"--BUT SHE DIDN'T."
"WHEN THE MONSTER DIED, 'BEM' WENT WITH IT. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE IT. IT WAS TOO LATE..."
"IT WAS OVER; FOR GOOD."
SNIFF, NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, BABE? NOW ALL THOSE HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE THINGS BEM ONCE DID CAN FINALLY BE FORGOTTEN... SNIFF... BEM IS DEAD..!
BABE..?
....
YOU KNOW, I NEVER THOUGHT TOO MUCH OF RADIUM, BUT NOW--I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS I'M KIND OF WEIRD...
SIGH--
OK, BABE... OK.
MAN, COULD I USE A BEER.
UGH. I THINK I'LL BE DRINKING APPLE JUICE FOR A WHILE YET... SNIFF
THIRTY NINE
7







BEM

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND LETTERED BY GILBERT HERNANDEZ '79/80/81

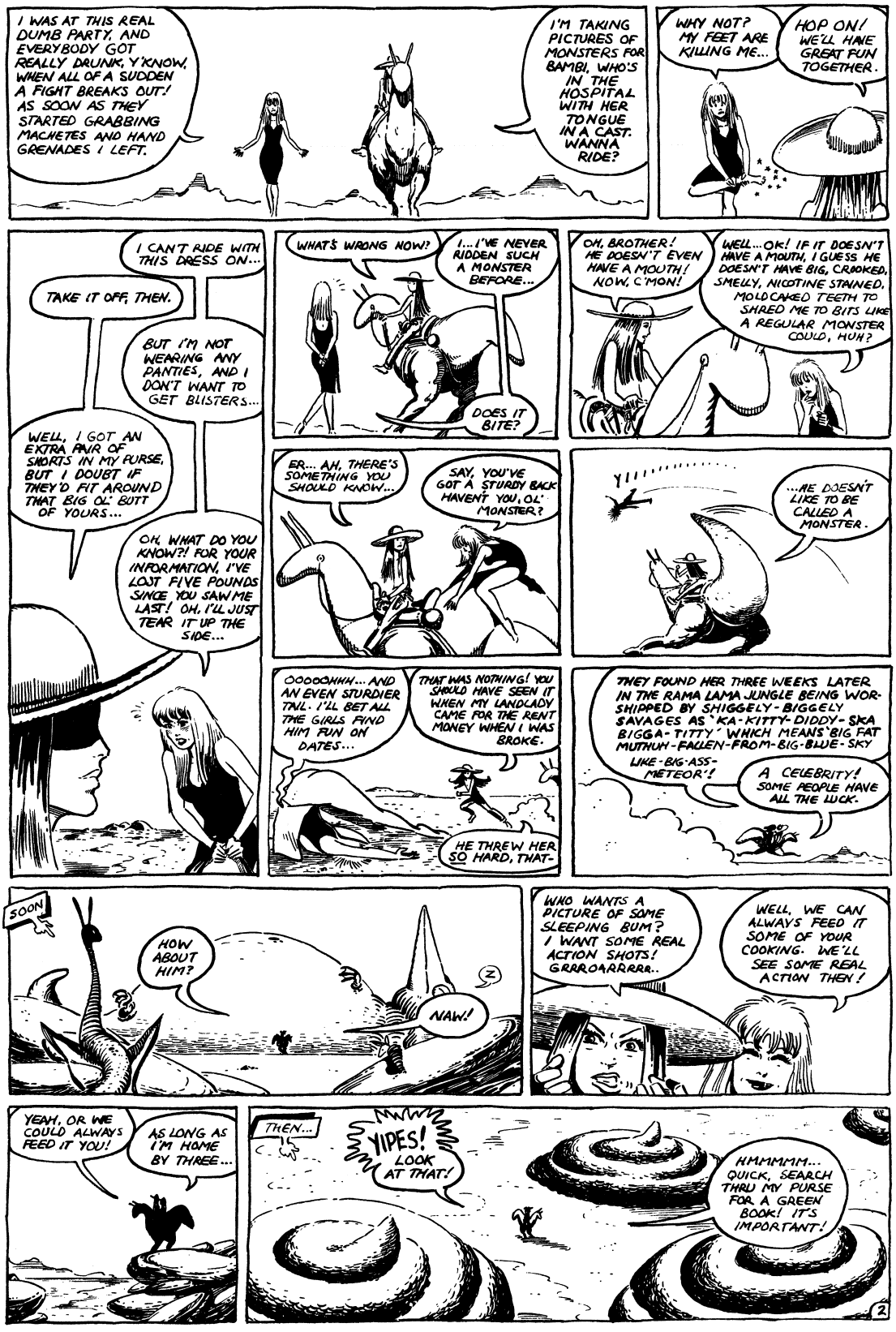
BARRIO HUERTA

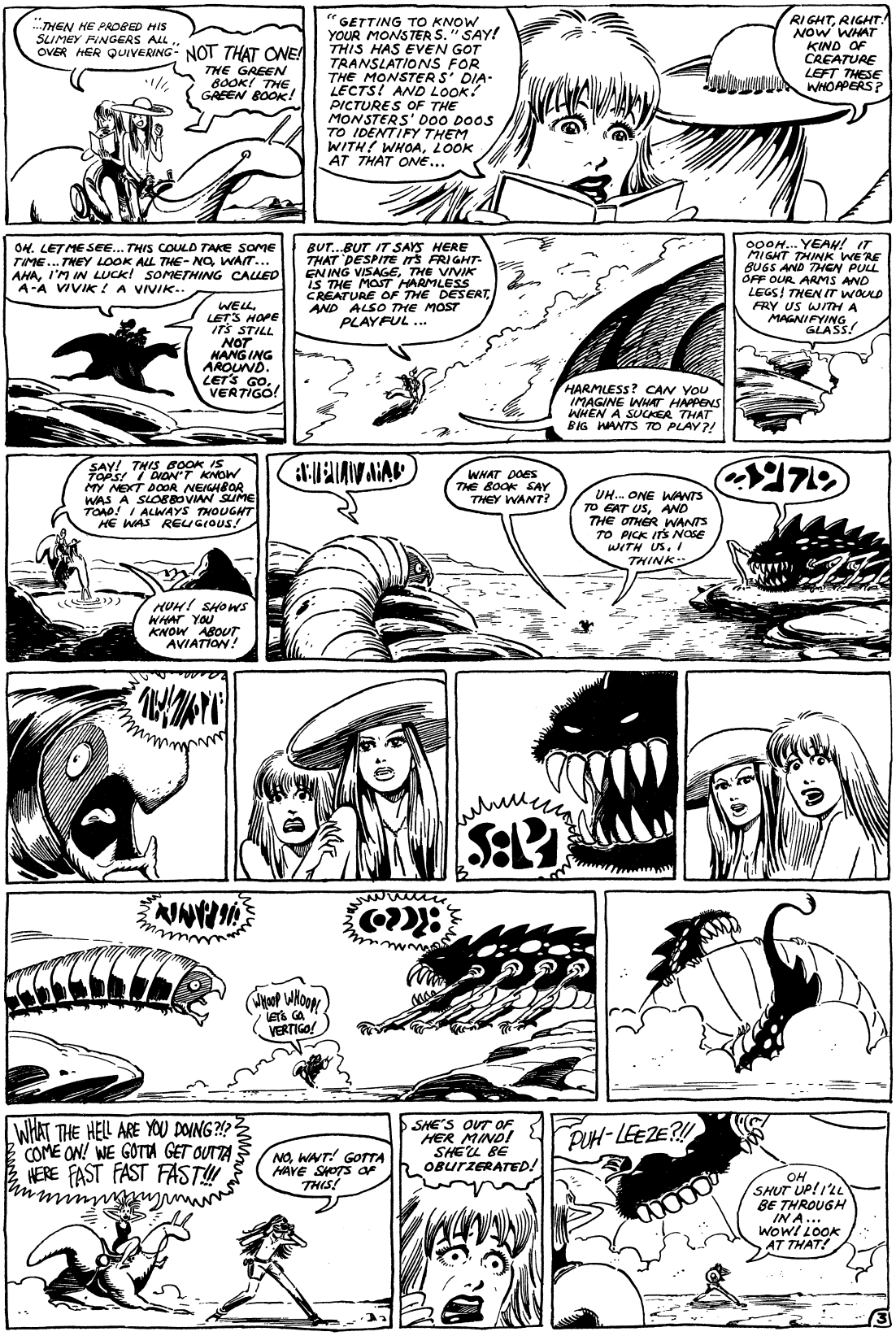
HOPPERS 13

BY JAIME 81



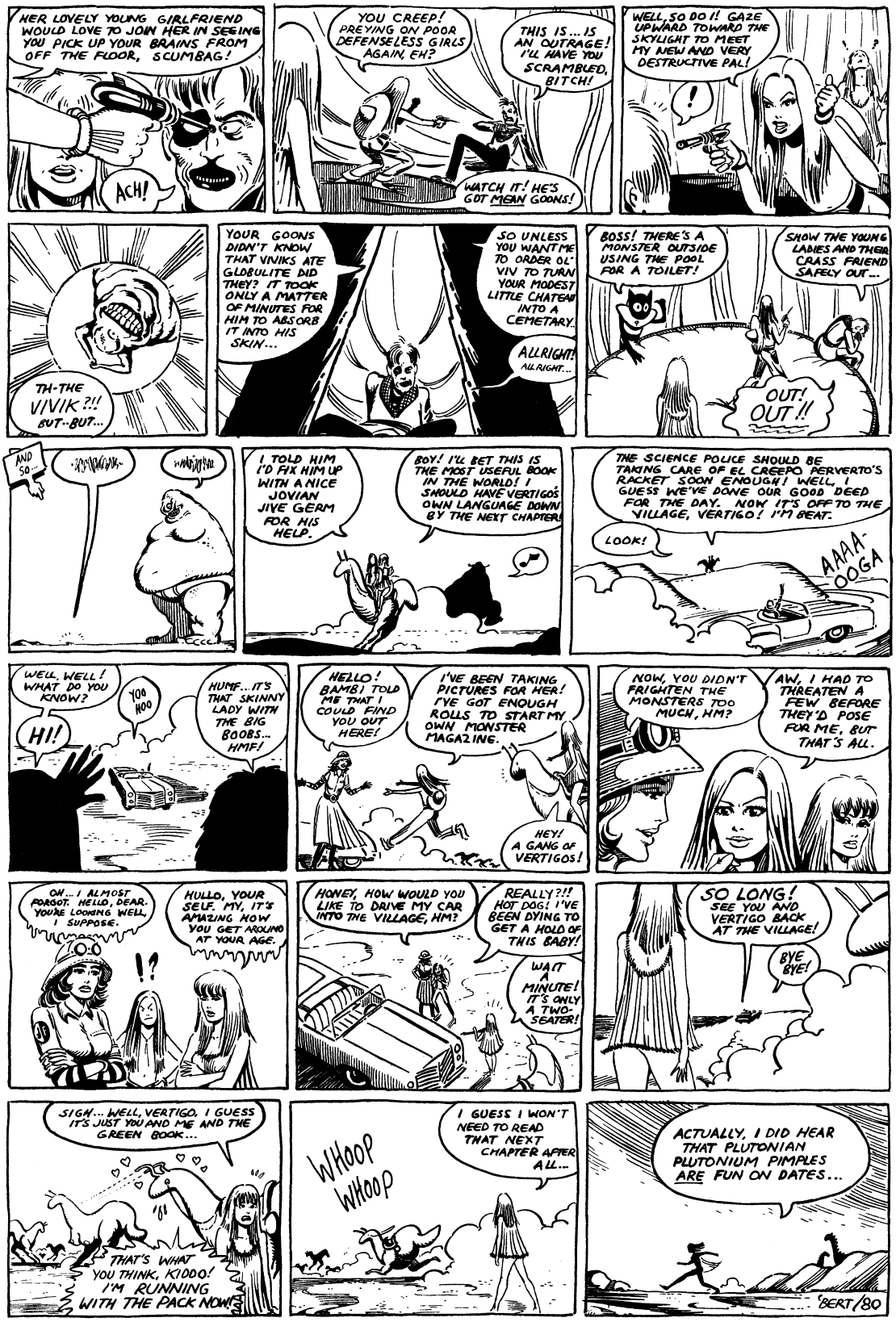

CLIPTK!
BLAT!
BLAT!
LET'S GO, VERTIGO!
GIDDYAP!
WHAT A CREEP! IMAGINE THAT GHOUL WANTING ME TO ACT IN STAG FILMS WITH A PLUTONIAN PLUTONIUM PIMPLE!
NOW, HAD IT BEEN WITH A MARTIAN MERETRICIOUS MUEZZIN, MAYBE, BUT A—
THEY SAY PEOPLE WHO TALK TO THEMSELVES WET THE BED.
AND THEY SAY PEOPLE WHO SNEAK UP ON OTHERS ARE NO GOOD STINKERS!
YOU'RE MAD. WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
ANYWHERE! I DON'T KNOW... I JUST STARTED WALKING...
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I WAS AT THIS REAL DUMB PARTY, AND EVERYBODY GOT REALLY DRUNK, Y'KNOW. WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT! AS SOON AS THEY STARTED GRABBING MACHETES AND HAND GRENADES I LEFT.
I'M TAKING PICTURES OF MONSTERS FOR BAMBI, WHO'S IN THE HOSPITAL WITH HER TONGUE IN A CAST. WANNA RIDE?
WHY NOT? MY FEET ARE KILLING ME...
HOP ON! WE'LL HAVE GREAT FUN TOGETHER.
I CAN'T RIDE WITH THIS DRESS ON...
TAKE IT OFF, THEN.
BUT I'M NOT WEARING ANY PANTIES, AND I DON'T WANT TO GET BLISTERS...
WELL, I GOT AN EXTRA PAIR OF SHORTS IN MY PURSE, BUT I DOUBT IF THEY'D FIT AROUND THAT BIG OL' BUTT OF YOURS...
OH, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?! FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'VE LOST FIVE POUNDS SINCE YOU SAW ME LAST! OH, I'LL JUST TEAR IT UP THE SIDE...
WHAT'S WRONG NOW?
I...I'VE NEVER RIDDEN SUCH A MONSTER BEFORE...
DOES IT BITE?
OH, BROTHER! HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A MOUTH! NOW, C'MON!
WELL...OK! IF IT DOESN'T HAVE A MOUTH, I GUESS HE DOESN'T HAVE BIG, CROOKED, SMELLY, NICOTINE STAINED, MOLD CAKED TEETH TO SHRED ME TO BITS LIKE A REGULAR MONSTER COULD, HUH?
ER... AH, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
SAY, YOU'VE GOT A STURDY BACK HAVEN'T YOU, OL' MONSTER?
YIII


...THEN HE PROBED HIS SLIMEY FINGERS ALL... OVER HER QUIVERING-
NOT THAT ONE! THE GREEN BOOK! THE GREEN BOOK!
"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR MONSTERS." SAY! THIS HAS EVEN GOT TRANSLATIONS FOR THE MONSTERS' DIALECTS! AND LOOK! PICTURES OF THE MONSTERS' DOO DOOS TO IDENTIFY THEM WITH! WHOA, LOOK AT THAT ONE...
RIGHT, RIGHT! NOW WHAT KIND OF CREATURE LEFT THESE WHOPPERS?
OH. LET ME SEE... THIS COULD TAKE SOME TIME... THEY LOOK ALL THE- NO, WAIT... AHA, I'M IN LUCK! SOMETHING CALLED A-A VIVIK! A VIVIK...
WELL, LET'S HOPE IT'S STILL NOT HANGING AROUND. LET'S GO, VERTIGO!
BUT...BUT IT SAYS HERE THAT DESPITE IT'S FRIGHTENING VISAGE, THE VIVIK IS THE MOST HARMLESS CREATURE OF THE DESERT, AND ALSO THE MOST PLAYFUL...
HARMLESS? CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SUCKER THAT BIG WANTS TO PLAY?!
OOOH... YEAH! IT MIGHT THINK WE'RE BUGS AND THEN PULL OFF OUR ARMS AND LEGS! THEN IT WOULD FRY US WITH A MAGNIFYING GLASS!
SAY! THIS BOOK IS TOPS! I DIDN'T KNOW MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR WAS A SLOBBOVIAN SLIME TOAD! I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS RELIGIOUS!
HUH! SHOWS WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT AVIATION!
WHAT DOES THE BOOK SAY THEY WANT?
UH... ONE WANTS TO EAT US, AND THE OTHER WANTS TO PICK ITS NOSE WITH US, I THINK...
WHOOP WHOOP! LET'S GO VERTIGO!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!? COME ON! WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE FAST FAST FAST!!!
NO, WAIT! GOTTA HAVE SHOTS OF THIS!
SHE'S OUT OF HER MIND! SHE'LL BE OBLITZERATED!
PUH-LEEZE?!!
OH SHUT UP! I'LL BE THROUGH IN A... WOW! LOOK AT THAT!
3

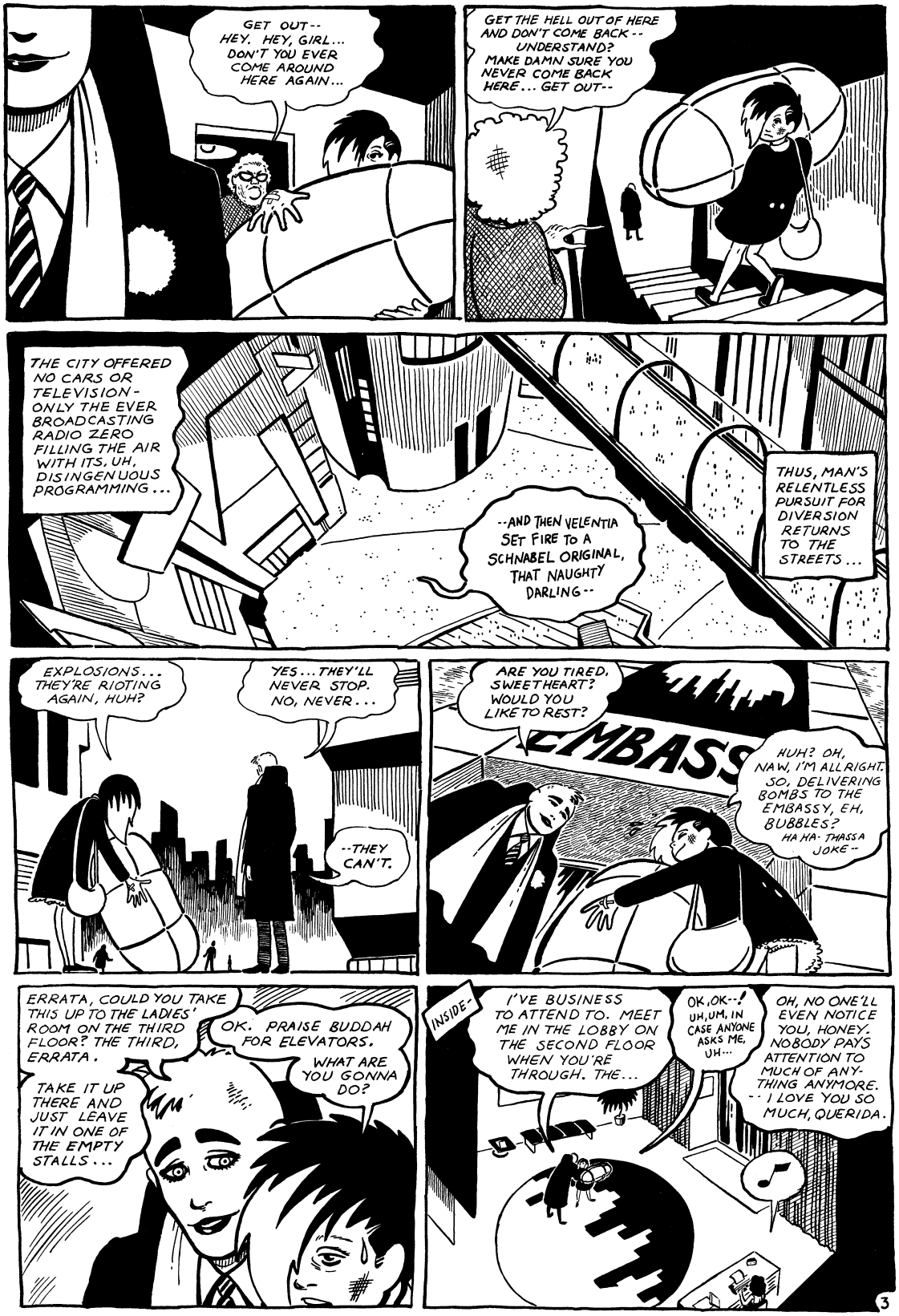

WELL, I GUESS THAT'LL BE ENOUGH FOR NOW. BAMBI WILL BE...
OH OH!
RUN!
RUN!
RUN!
OUCH! GOT'CHA!
WHOOP! WATCH THE HAT!
YOU SCARED ME TO DEATH AND BACK ALIVE AGAIN!
IF THOSE STUPID MONSTERS GOT DUST ON THE LENS, I'LL...
LATER...
LOOKS TO ME LIKE VERTIGO'S HAD IT...
POOR BABY... WE'LL REST UP AT THAT OASIS, OK? I NEED A MAP, ANYWAY...
OOH, AND I'VE GOT TO GET TO A REST ROOM FAST!
I'VE BEEN DYING FOR A THREE MUSKET-TEERS!
HELLO?
YOO HOO?
GREAT! IT'S EMPTY... WE'VE GOT IT ALL TO OURSELVES. WHERE'S THAT STUPID LIGHT SWITCH?
HURRY! I'VE GOT TO USE THE REST ROOM!
WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT? THIS OASIS HASN'T BEEN ATTENDED TO IN MONTHS! I'VE GOT ALL THESE COMICS.
REST ROOM REST ROOM WHERE'S THE REST ROOM
AHHHHHH...
I'M A NEW WOMAN...
NOW BRING ON THE QUARTS OF BEER, HA!
BOY, THIS PLACE IS PRETTY SHABBY! THE ONLY THING THAT ISN'T SPOILED IS THE FUNGUS!
WELL, WE'LL BE HITTING THE ROAD AGAIN AS SOON AS OL' VERTIGO EATS AND RESTS UP. Y'KNOW, THE GUY THAT DRAWS YOU IN THESE COMICS REALLY DRAWS YOU FAT!
SHOOT... THE CANDY MACHINE'S BROKEN DOWN, THE JACUZZI'S DRY... THEY CALL THESE THINGS OASIS? PHOOEY! EVEN THE COCKROACHES LEFT MONTH'S AGO. FEH!
HMMM... OL' VERTIGO MAY BE A SWELL CRITTER, BUT MY BUTT SAYS THAT IT'LL TAKE A LIGHT BLUE VOLKS-WAGON ANY DAY...
OK...
OH, OH!...
I DON'T NEED THE GREEN BOOK TO TELL ME THAT THIS FELLA IS OUR FRIEND, THE VIVIK...
HEE HEE HEE HEE
HELP!!! LET ME DOWN OH, GOD!!! PLEEZE!
I'LL GET A NOSE BLEED AT THIS HEIGHT!
THE BOOK SAYS THIS GUY IS A VEGETARIAN!
HOW DARE HE THINK OF ME AS JUST ANOTHER ROOT!
4

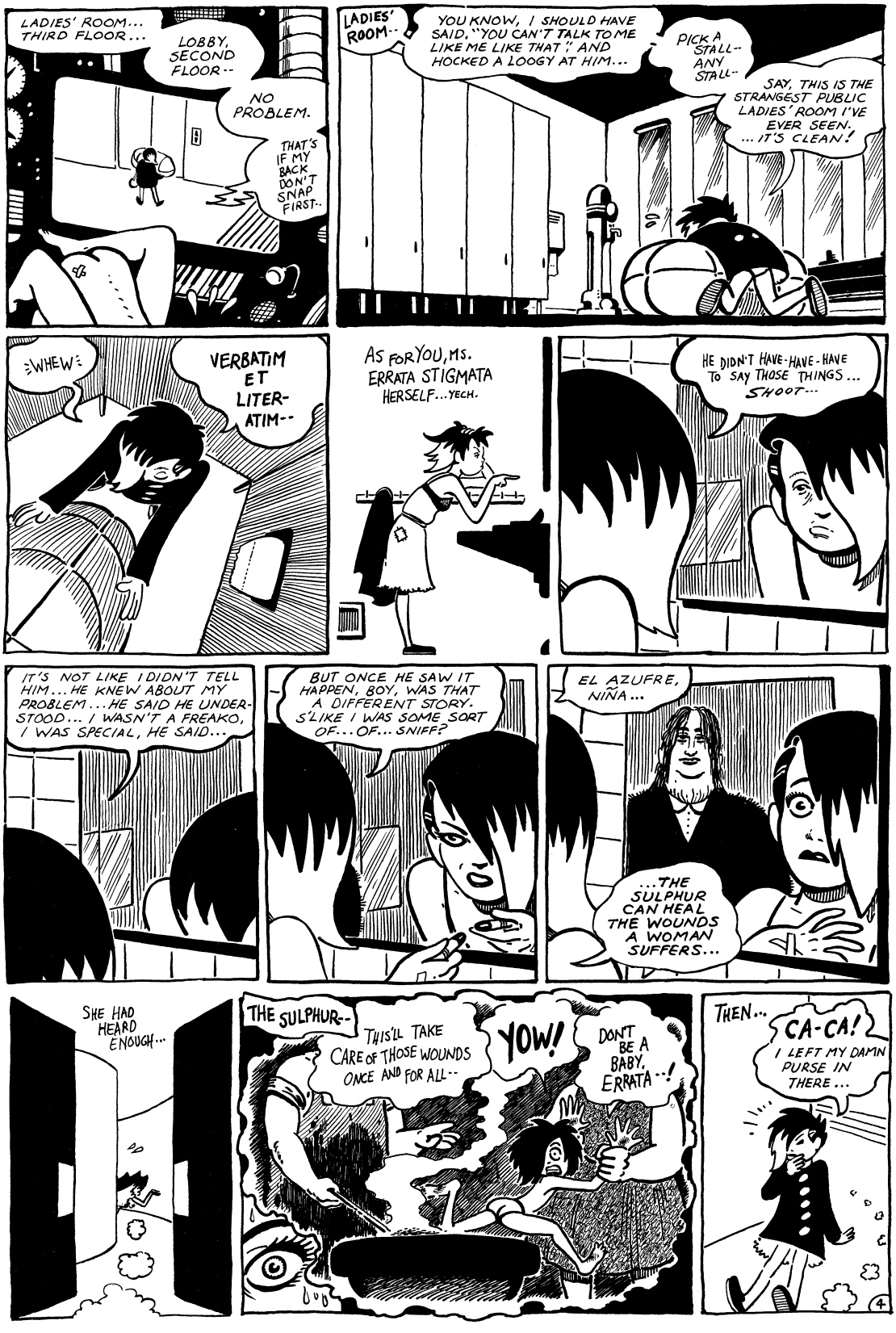

NO NO NO STOP... HEE HEE HEE DON'T...DON' OUCH! PLEASE! YOU'RE... OOOOOH... STOP... STOP...
THAT..THAT WASN'T EVEN MY DRESS...
ULP... THAT LOOK IN HIS EYE... HERE IT COMES! HERE GOES THE ARMS AND LEGS...
A GOOD DOSE OF GLOBULITE WILL TAKE CARE OF LARD ASS!
CAREFUL OF THE GIRL!
YIPES! WE'RE BEING UNDER ATTACK BY FLY BALLS!
SPLOTCH!
YI...
SLOBS! YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN TOO MUCH GUNK ON THE GIRL! IF SHE DOESN'T SURVIVE THE REMOVAL PROCESS, THE BOSS'LL HAVE OUR BUTTS!
SNIFF...
EASY... EASY...
STAND BACK...THIS STUFF IS NASTY...
SSSSSSST
AH... DISSOLVING VERY NICELY...
OHHH...
THAT WAS SOME NIGHTMARE! I DREAMED THAT...
OH OH!
I THINK I'D PREFER THE NIGHTMARE TO WHERE I THINK THIS DUMP IS...
BECAUSE AT LEAST THE NIGHTMARE CONTAINED UNSPEAKABLE HORRORS FAR MORE DESIRABLE THAN-
...YOU!
ME.
IT WAS VERY RUDE OF YOU TO LEAVE MY PARTY THAT WAY!
YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT HANGING AROUND PEOPLE WHO SACRIFICE DEAF PORPOISES TO WATERMELONS.
AH, BUT IT ISN'T MY FRIENDS WHO YOU DISAPPROVE OF..
OH NO? WELL, I'M NOT EXACTLY VOLCANIC ABOUT THEM.
LISSEN, BULBOUS BUNS! IF YOU'RE NOT TOO KEEN ON MAKIN' IT WITH THE PIMPLE, MAYBE YOU COULD PERHAPS PERSUADE YOUR LOVELY YOUNG GIRLFRIEND TO JOIN YOU-
6

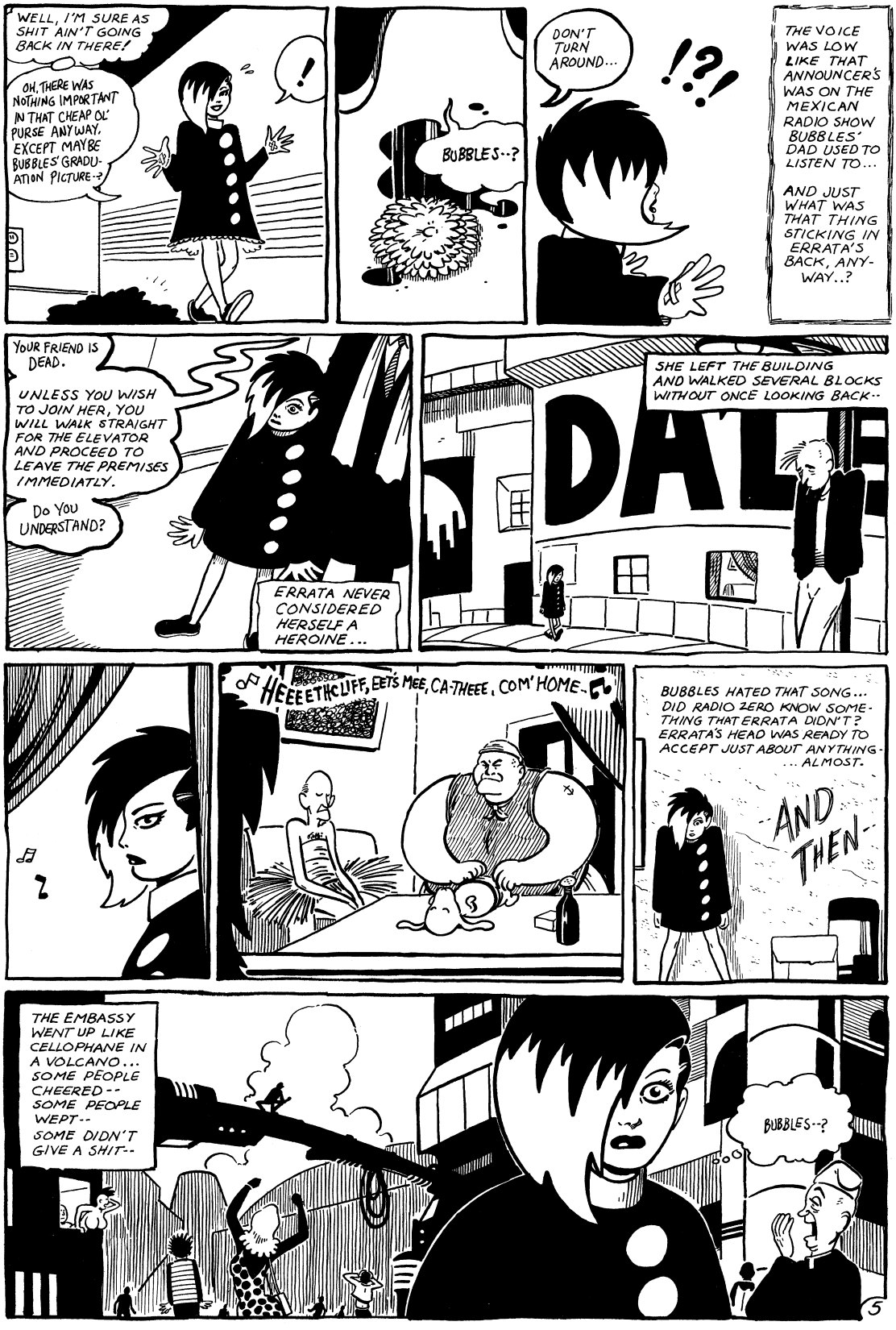

HER LOVELY YOUNG GIRLFRIEND WOULD LOVE TO JOIN HER IN SEEING YOU PICK UP YOUR BRAINS FROM OFF THE FLOOR, SCUMBAG!
ACH!
YOU CREEP! PREYING ON POOR DEFENSELESS GIRLS AGAIN, EH?
THIS IS... IS AN OUTRAGE! I'LL HAVE YOU SCRAMBLED, BITCH!
WATCH IT! HE'S GOT MEAN GOONS!
WELL, SO DO I! GAZE UPWARD TOWARD THE SKYLIGHT TO MEET MY NEW AND VERY DESTRUCTIVE PAL!
TH-THE VIVIK?!! BUT--BUT...
YOUR GOONS DIDN'T KNOW THAT VINIKS ATE GLOBULITE DID THEY? IT TOOK ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES FOR HIM TO ABSORB IT INTO HIS SKIN...
SO UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO ORDER OL' VIV TO TURN YOUR MODEST LITTLE CHATEAU INTO A CEMETARY...
ALLRIGHT! ALL RIGHT...
BOSS! THERE'S A MONSTER OUTSIDE USING THE POOL FOR A TOILET!
SHOW THE YOUNG LADIES AND THEIR CRASS FRIEND SAFELY OUT...
OUT! OUT!!
AND SO...
I TOLD HIM I'D FIX HIM UP WITH A NICE JOVIAN JIVE GERM FOR HIS HELP.
BOY! I'LL BET THIS IS THE MOST USEFUL BOOK IN THE WORLD! I SHOULD HAVE VERTIGOS OWN LANGUAGE DOWN BY THE NEXT CHAPTER!
THE SCIENCE POLICE SHOULD BE TAKING CARE OF EL CREEPO PERVERTO'S RACKET SOON ENOUGH! WELL, I GUESS WE'VE DONE OUR GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY. NOW IT'S OFF TO THE VILLAGE, VERTIGO! I'M BEAT.
LOOK!
AAAA-OOGA
WELL, WELL! WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
HI!
YOO HOO
HUMF... IT'S THAT SKINNY LADY WITH THE BIG BOOBS... HMF!
HELLO! BAMBI TOLD ME THAT I COULD FIND YOU OUT HERE!
I'VE BEEN TAKING PICTURES FOR HER! I'VE GOT ENOUGH ROLLS TO START MY OWN MONSTER MAGAZINE.
HEY! A GANG OF VERTIGOS!
NOW, YOU DIDN'T FRIGHTEN THE MONSTERS TOO MUCH, HM?
AW, I HAD TO THREATEN A FEW BEFORE THEY'D POSE FOR ME, BUT THAT'S ALL.
OH... I ALMOST FORGOT. HELLO, DEAR. YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, I SUPPOSE.
HULLO, YOURSELF. MY, IT'S AMAZING HOW YOU GET AROUND AT YOUR AGE.
!?
HONEY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRIVE MY CAR INTO THE VILLAGE, HM?
REALLY?!! HOT DOG! I'VE BEEN DYING TO GET A HOLD OF THIS BABY!
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S ONLY A TWO-SEATER!
SO LONG! SEE YOU AND VERTIGO BACK AT THE VILLAGE!
BYE BYE!
SIGH... WELL, VERTIGO, I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME AND THE GREEN BOOK...
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, KIDDO! I'M RUNNING WITH THE PACK NOW!
WHOOP WHOOP
I GUESS I WON'T NEED TO READ THAT NEXT CHAPTER AFTER ALL...
ACTUALLY, I DID HEAR THAT PLUTONIAN PLUTONIUM PIMPLES ARE FUN ON DATES...
'BERT/80

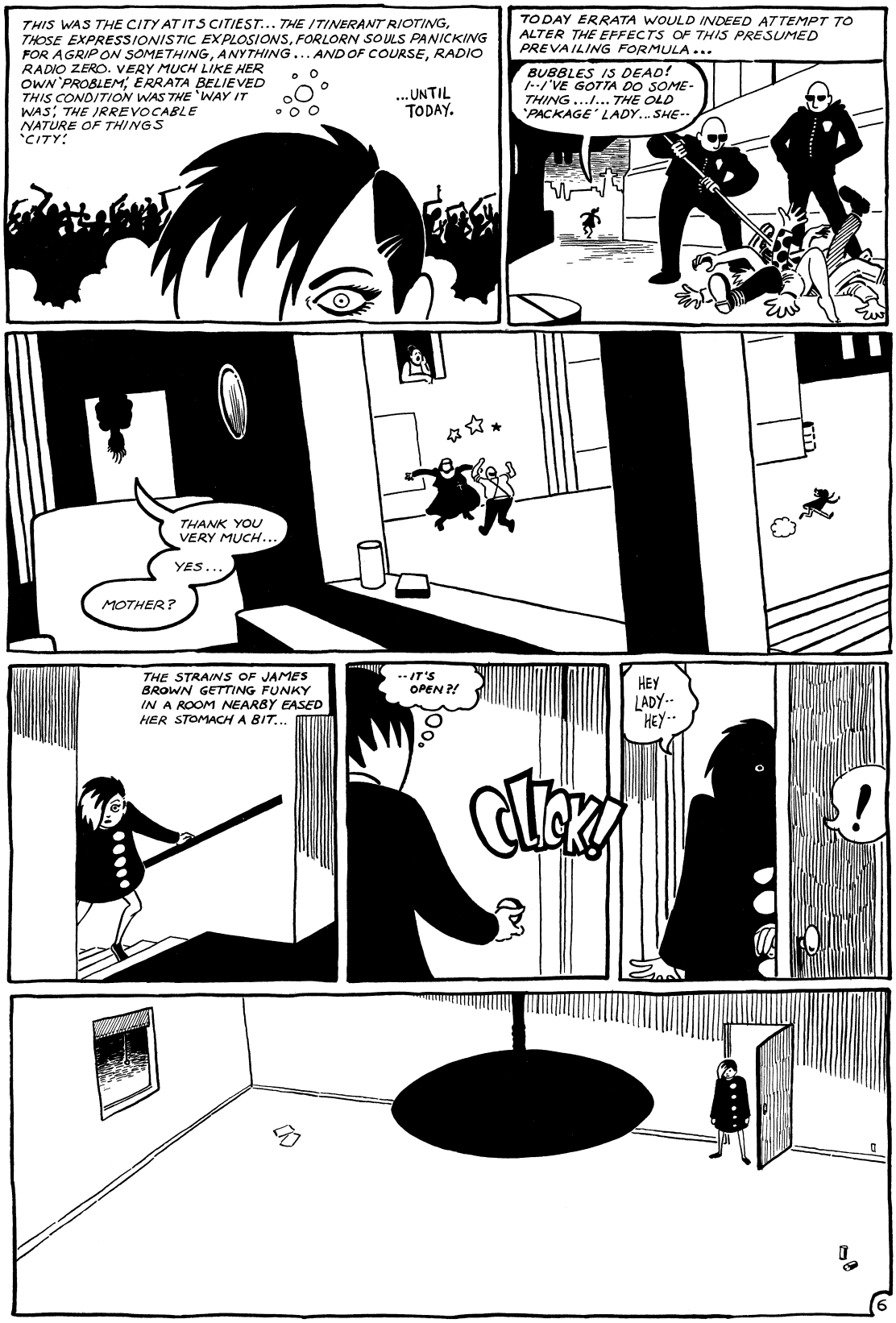

Radio Zero
IN THE CASE of ERRATA STIGMATA--
YEAH, WELL--
PLOT GERM: MARIO
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE: ~BERT
RADIO ZERO KNEW... RIGHT AFTER HE LEFT, OUR SONG PLAYED OVER THE AIR AND IT SKIPPED ON THE BEST PART... I DON'T NEED HIM... NOPE...
SHOOT--
I'D NEVER SEEN HIS FACE LIKE THAT BEFORE...
YEAH, OK... SO I HAVE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM...
I TOLD HIM IT GOES AWAY AFTER AWHILE, SHIT---
LOST MY JOB AT THE PACKING HOUSE TOO... I GUESS BLOODY LETTUCE ISN'T MUCH OF A DELICACY THESE DAYS, HUH?
HAR HAR THASSA JOKE--
YEAH...OK--
GOD, IT'S SO EMBARRASSING... WELL, HE'S GONE FOR GOOD NOW...
WHAT TIME IS IT, ANYWAY..?
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ERRATA, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP ME WITH A LITTLE ERRAND?
SURE, WHO DO I SHOOT? HAR HAR, THASSA JOKE--
--I HEARD IT HAPPENS TO SOME REALLY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE... HELL, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN APOSTLE AND A HELL'S ANGEL, Y'KNOW?
SIGH-- BUBBLES, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU--
ERRATA DIDN'T LIKE MANY PEOPLE IN THE CITY. IN FACT, BUBBLES WAS THE ONE PERSON SHE DIDN'T DOWNRIGHT DISDAIN. THIS WEEK, ANYWAY...
--I BOUGHT VELENTIA THE CUTEST CHAMBRAY CHAINSAW FROM SEARS YESTERDAY---
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE--
BUBBLES AND ERRATA WENT BACK A WAYS. TOGETHER THEY WERE BOOTED FROM MRS. GIDEON'S ACADEMY FOR RAGING YOUNG WOMEN...
I JUST LOVE SHOPPING...
GET OUT-- GET---
THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU HERE... GO AWAY. DO YOU HEAR ME? GET OUT--
MMMMMMMMM...
--I KNOW JUST WHAT TO GET VELENTIA FOR HER BIRTHDAY... VVVVELENTIA.
BUT NOT TODAY... ERRATA, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CARRY THIS?
I GOT IT-- OOF
OUT...
2


GET OUT-- HEY. HEY, GIRL... DON'T YOU EVER COME AROUND HERE AGAIN...
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND DON'T COME BACK-- UNDERSTAND? MAKE DAMN SURE YOU NEVER COME BACK HERE... GET OUT--
THE CITY OFFERED NO CARS OR TELEVISION- ONLY THE EVER BROADCASTING RADIO ZERO FILLING THE AIR WITH ITS, UH, DISINGENUOUS PROGRAMMING...
--AND THEN VELENTIA SET FIRE TO A SCHNABEL ORIGINAL, THAT NAUGHTY DARLING--
THUS, MAN'S RELENTLESS PURSUIT FOR DIVERSION RETURNS TO THE STREETS...
EXPLOSIONS... THEY'RE RIOTING AGAIN, HUH?
YES...THEY'LL NEVER STOP. NO, NEVER...
--THEY CAN'T.
ARE YOU TIRED, SWEETHEART? WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST?
EMBASS
HUH? OH, NAW, I'M ALLRIGHT. SO, DELIVERING BOMBS TO THE EMBASSY, EH, BUBBLES? HA HA- THASSA JOKE--
ERRATA, COULD YOU TAKE THIS UP TO THE LADIES' ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR? THE THIRD, ERRATA.
OK. PRAISE BUDDAH FOR ELEVATORS. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
TAKE IT UP THERE AND JUST LEAVE IT IN ONE OF THE EMPTY STALLS...
INSIDE-
I'VE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. MEET ME IN THE LOBBY ON THE SECOND FLOOR WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH. THE...
OK, OK--! UH, UM, IN CASE ANYONE ASKS ME, UH...
OH, NO ONE'LL EVEN NOTICE YOU, HONEY. NOBODY PAYS ATTENTION TO MUCH OF ANYTHING ANYMORE. -- I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, QUERIDA.
3

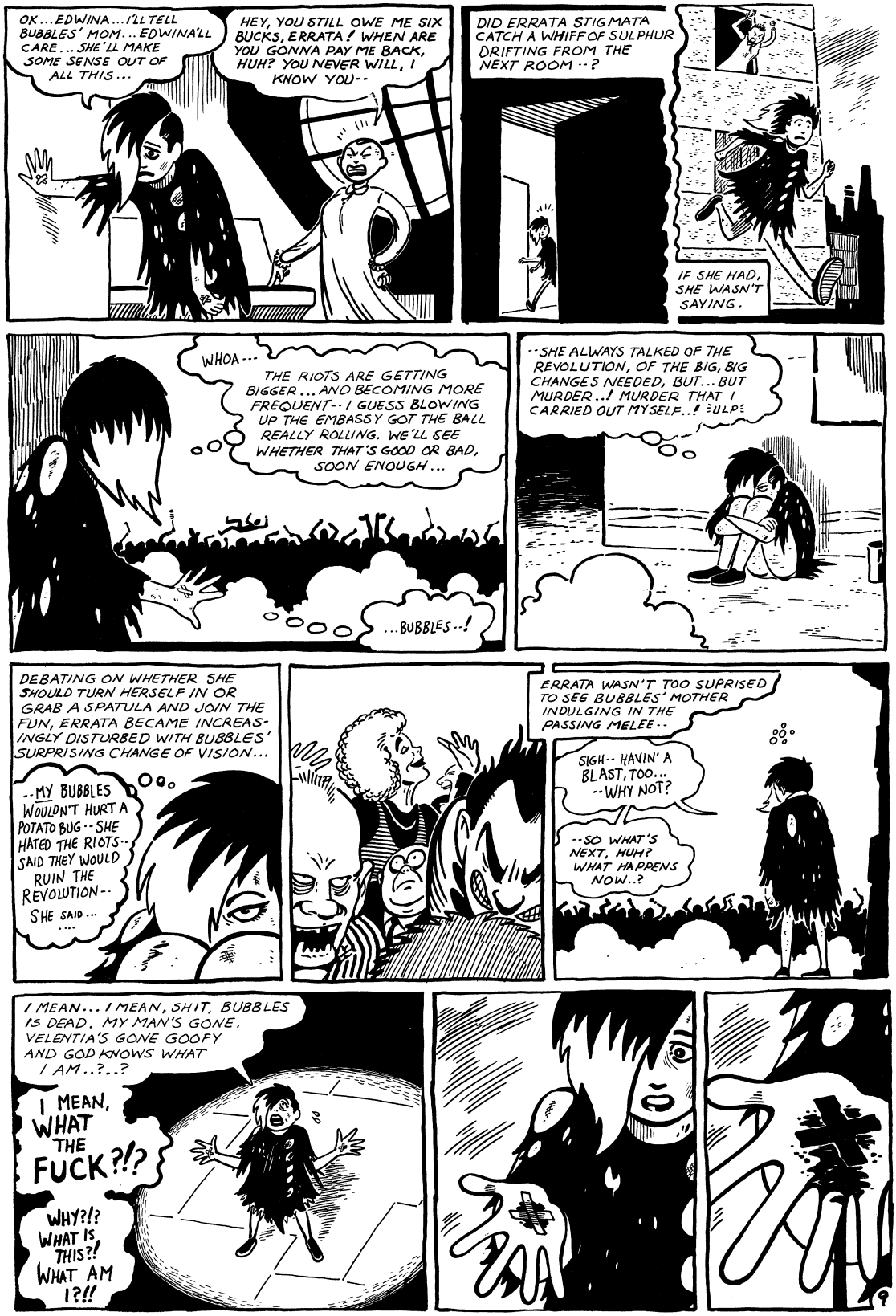

LADIES' ROOM... THIRD FLOOR...
LOBBY, SECOND FLOOR--
NO PROBLEM.
THAT'S IF MY BACK DON'T SNAP FIRST..
LADIES' ROOM--
YOU KNOW, I SHOULD HAVE SAID, "YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME LIKE ME LIKE THAT", AND HOCKED A LOOGY AT HIM...
PICK A STALL-- ANY STALL--
SAY, THIS IS THE STRANGEST PUBLIC LADIES' ROOM I'VE EVER SEEN. ...IT'S CLEAN!
=WHEW=
VERBATIM ET LITER-ATIM--
AS FOR YOU, MS. ERRATA STIGMATA HERSELF... YECH.
HE DIDN'T HAVE-HAVE-HAVE TO SAY THOSE THINGS... SHOOT...
IT'S NOT LIKE I DIDN'T TELL HIM... HE KNEW ABOUT MY PROBLEM... HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD... I WASN'T A FREAKO, I WAS SPECIAL, HE SAID...
BUT ONCE HE SAW IT HAPPEN, BOY, WAS THAT A DIFFERENT STORY. S'LIKE I WAS SOME SORT OF... OF... SNIFF?
EL AZUFRE, NIÑA...
...THE SULPHUR CAN HEAL THE WOUNDS A WOMAN SUFFERS...
SHE HAD HEARD ENOUGH...
THE SULPHUR--
THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE WOUNDS ONCE AND FOR ALL--
YOW!
DON'T BE A BABY, ERRATA--!
THEN...
CA-CA!
I LEFT MY DAMN PURSE IN THERE...
4


WELL, I'M SURE AS SHIT AIN'T GOING BACK IN THERE!
OH, THERE WAS NOTHING IMPORTANT IN THAT CHEAP OL' PURSE ANYWAY, EXCEPT MAYBE BUBBLES' GRADUATION PICTURE--?
!
BUBBLES--?
DON'T TURN AROUND...
!?!
THE VOICE WAS LOW LIKE THAT ANNOUNCER'S WAS ON THE MEXICAN RADIO SHOW BUBBLES' DAD USED TO LISTEN TO...
AND JUST WHAT WAS THAT THING STICKING IN ERRATA'S BACK, ANYWAY..?
YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD.
UNLESS YOU WISH TO JOIN HER, YOU WILL WALK STRAIGHT FOR THE ELEVATOR AND PROCEED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATLY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
ERRATA NEVER CONSIDERED HERSELF A HEROINE...
SHE LEFT THE BUILDING AND WALKED SEVERAL BLOCKS WITHOUT ONCE LOOKING BACK..
DALE
HEEEETHCLIFF, EET'S MEE, CA-THEEE, COM' HOME-
BUBBLES HATED THAT SONG... DID RADIO ZERO KNOW SOMETHING THAT ERRATA DIDN'T? ERRATA'S HEAD WAS READY TO ACCEPT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING- ...ALMOST.
-AND THEN-
THE EMBASSY WENT UP LIKE CELLOPHANE IN A VOLCANO... SOME PEOPLE CHEERED-- SOME PEOPLE WEPT-- SOME DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT--
BUBBLES--?
5

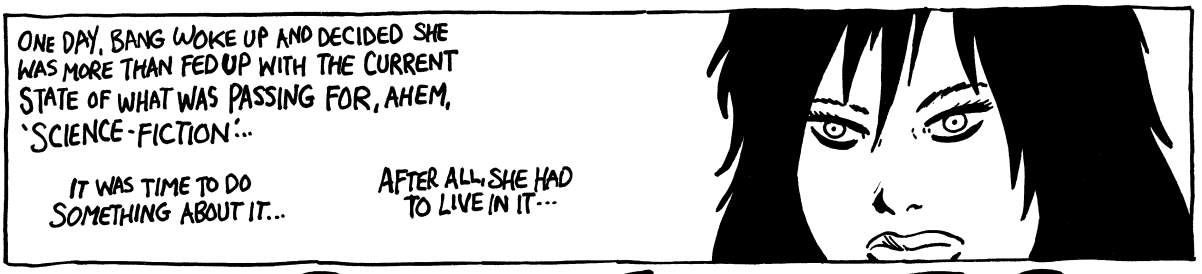

THIS WAS THE CITY AT ITS CITIEST... THE ITINERANT RIOTING, THOSE EXPRESSIONISTIC EXPLOSIONS, FORLORN SOULS PANICKING FOR A GRIP ON SOMETHING, ANYTHING... AND OF COURSE, RADIO RADIO ZERO. VERY MUCH LIKE HER OWN 'PROBLEM,' ERRATA BELIEVED THIS CONDITION WAS THE 'WAY IT WAS,' THE IRREVOCABLE NATURE OF THINGS 'CITY.'
...UNTIL TODAY.
TODAY ERRATA WOULD INDEED ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE EFFECTS OF THIS PRESUMED PREVAILING FORMULA...
BUBBLES IS DEAD! I--I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING...I... THE OLD 'PACKAGE' LADY... SHE--
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
YES...
MOTHER?
THE STRAINS OF JAMES BROWN GETTING FUNKY IN A ROOM NEARBY EASED HER STOMACH A BIT...
--IT'S OPEN?!
CLICK!
HEY LADY-- HEY--
!
6


THINGS ALWAYS TEND TO GET CONFUSING IN ERRATA'S LIFE...
SNIFF-- SULPHUR?
SLAM!
MOTHER ALWAYS DID SAY ERRATA HAD A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC--
HEY--
?
HEY-- IS SHE HOME? --HEY!
THE LADY-- IS SHE HOME?
UH... NO. NO, SHE'S GONE.
OH SHIT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, YOU GUYS! HEY--
YOW!
WAIT--
THUD!
WAIT A MINUTE--! WAIT--
OH--
RIOT!
CONSIDERING THE SOBRIETY OF THE SITUATION, ERRATA WAS CONVINCED SHE WAS A GONER...
BUT THE FATES HAD OTHER PLANS FOR OUR DARLING PROTAGONIST---
7


YOU SADISTS OUT THERE'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE SHIT ERRATA HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PUT UP WITH IN HER BRIEF LIFETIME...
BUT ALTRUISTS DEMANDING EQUAL TIME, RELAX: -- SHE BOASTS THE CONSTITUTION OF A SOVIET ZULU "V" CLASS BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE...
VELENTIA...
NOW, ME, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ERRATA'S STORY SINCE I WAS A BABY, AND IT IS EVIDENT SHE SUFFERS FROM ALL (DICTIONARY) DEFINITIONS OF STIGMA (PL. STIGMATA) ALMOST LITERALLY. WELL, GOD, ANYONE CAN SEE THAT HER LIPSTICK IS TEN YEARS OUT OF DATE...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH---
ERRRRATA---
ERRATA... IT'S BEEN SO LONG. WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO, HUH?
VELENTIA... I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GONNA... THIS IS SO...
IT'S ABOUT BUBBLES- SHE--
GOD--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER-- SHE NEVER COMES HOME ANYMORE. WE'LL BE ALONE--
WHAT..?
VELENTIA-- BUBBLES IS DEAD! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ABOUT THE EMBASSY GOING UP LIKE CELLOPHANE IN A VOLCANO?!
SO, YOU DON'T WANNA MESS AROUND-- I THOUGHT YOU WANTED--
VELENTIA!! YOU'RE A WIDOW! BUBBLES IS DEAD! DEAD, LIKE--
--LIKE CELLOPHANE IN A VOLCANO, I KNOW, I KNOW! I'M NOT SURPRISED!! SHE WAS ALWAYS FUCKING AROUND ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE RIOTS! I TOLD HER THIS WOULD HAPPEN, BUT SHE NEVER LISTENED TO ME, NO, SHE--
SHE LOVED YOU, REALLY...
SO, YOU DON'T WANT TO FUCK, OR WHAT?
8

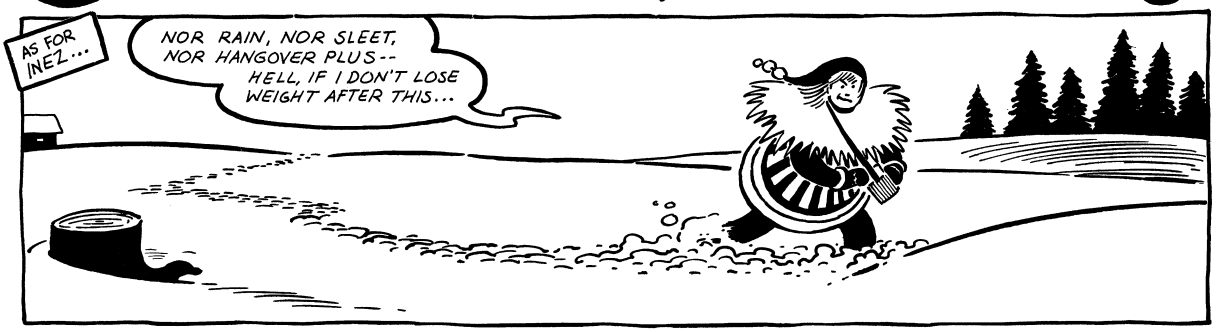

OK... EDWINA... I'LL TELL BUBBLES' MOM... EDWINA'LL CARE... SHE'LL MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF ALL THIS...
HEY, YOU STILL OWE ME SIX BUCKS, ERRATA! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA PAY ME BACK, HUH? YOU NEVER WILL, I KNOW YOU--
DID ERRATA STIGMATA CATCH A WHIFF OF SULPHUR DRIFTING FROM THE NEXT ROOM--?
IF SHE HAD, SHE WASN'T SAYING.
WHOA...
THE RIOTS ARE GETTING BIGGER... AND BECOMING MORE FREQUENT-- I GUESS BLOWING UP THE EMBASSY GOT THE BALL REALLY ROLLING. WE'LL SEE WHETHER THAT'S GOOD OR BAD, SOON ENOUGH...
...BUBBLES--!
--SHE ALWAYS TALKED OF THE REVOLUTION, OF THE BIG, BIG CHANGES NEEDED, BUT... BUT MURDER..! MURDER THAT I CARRIED OUT MYSELF..! ULP
DEBATING ON WHETHER SHE SHOULD TURN HERSELF IN OR GRAB A SPATULA AND JOIN THE FUN, ERRATA BECAME INCREASINGLY DISTURBED WITH BUBBLES' SURPRISING CHANGE OF VISION...
--MY BUBBLES WOULDN'T HURT A POTATO BUG-- SHE HATED THE RIOTS-- SAID THEY WOULD RUIN THE REVOLUTION-- SHE SAID... ....
ERRATA WASN'T TOO SUPRISED TO SEE BUBBLES' MOTHER INDULGING IN THE PASSING MELEE--
SIGH-- HAVIN' A BLAST, TOO... --WHY NOT?
--SO WHAT'S NEXT, HUH? WHAT HAPPENS NOW..?
I MEAN... I MEAN, SHIT, BUBBLES IS DEAD. MY MAN'S GONE, VELENTIA'S GONE GOOFY AND GOD KNOWS WHAT I AM..?..?
I MEAN, WHAT THE FUCK?!?
WHY?!? WHAT IS THIS?! WHAT AM I?!!


BAW
WAH
ERRATA WAS TOUGH, REALLY. SHE WAS A BIG GIRL, YES, BUT, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, Y'KNOW..?
SHE WAS CAPABLE OF BAWLING FOR HOURS, IF LET BE...
WAAUUUHUHH.. I-I I WANT B-BUBBLES.. OUUUUHH.. SLURP... I WAN-WAN-WAN-BUBBLESSSS...
BONK BONK BONK
ERRATA...
OH!
IT.. IT'S NOTHING, REALLY... I-SNIFF.. I'M JUST PISSED OFF.. SNIFF.. THAT'S ALL; REALLY...
SNIFF..
..I JUST GET SICK OF..SNIFF- EVERYTHING S-SOMETIMES...
YOUR PURSE. YOU LEFT IT BEHIND. IN THE LADIES' ROOM...
OH..I THANK YOU.. I..I...
OH, SHOOT... I'VE USED UP ALL MY BANDAGES.
DO YOU HAVE ANY TISSUE OR ANYTHING..? SOMETHING...
HEY... I THOUGHT I HAD LOST THIS MONTHS AGO.. WHOA...
..TOO BAD ABOUT BUBBLES -- THAT PACKAGE SHE CHOSE WAS A DUD AND DIDN'T PREVENT THE OBLITERATION OF THE EMBASSY AS SHE HAD HOPED... WELL, SHE TRIED... ERRATA?
OF COURSE, ERRATA WAS MUCH TOO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH RE-DISCOVERING THE UNIVERSE IN HER PURSE TO REALIZE OF BUBBLES' (AND OF HER OWN) INNOCENCE IN THE EMBASSY INCIDENT...
I WONDER IF THESE 'E' TICKETS ARE STILL ANY GOOD...
ERRATA DID EVENTUALLY BECOME AWARE OF THAT FACT, AND SIX WEEKS LATER (ON HER TWENTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY), LED A FOUR HOUR RIOT IN CELEBRATION...
RADIO ZERO
...IN THE CASE OF ERRATA STIGMATA, WELL, YOU READ THE STORY.
FIN

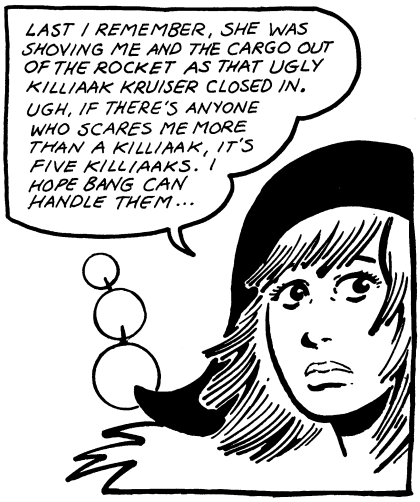


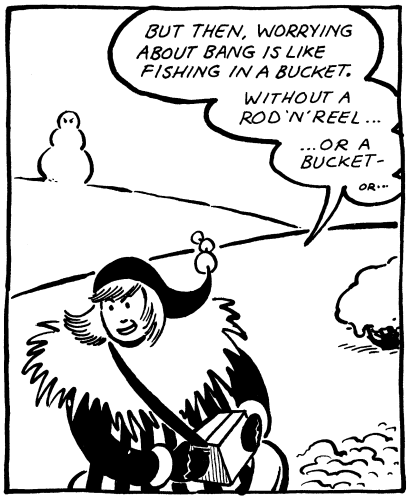
¿MUSIC for MONSTERS?

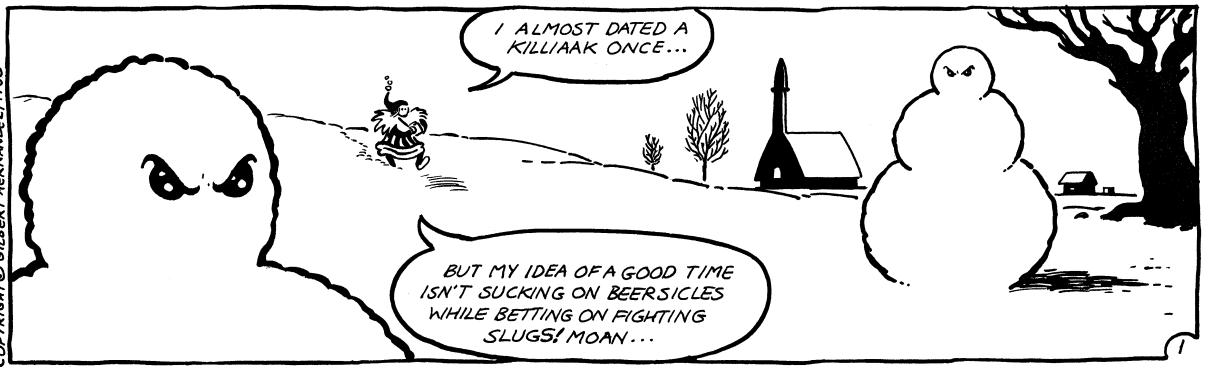
by BERT '82







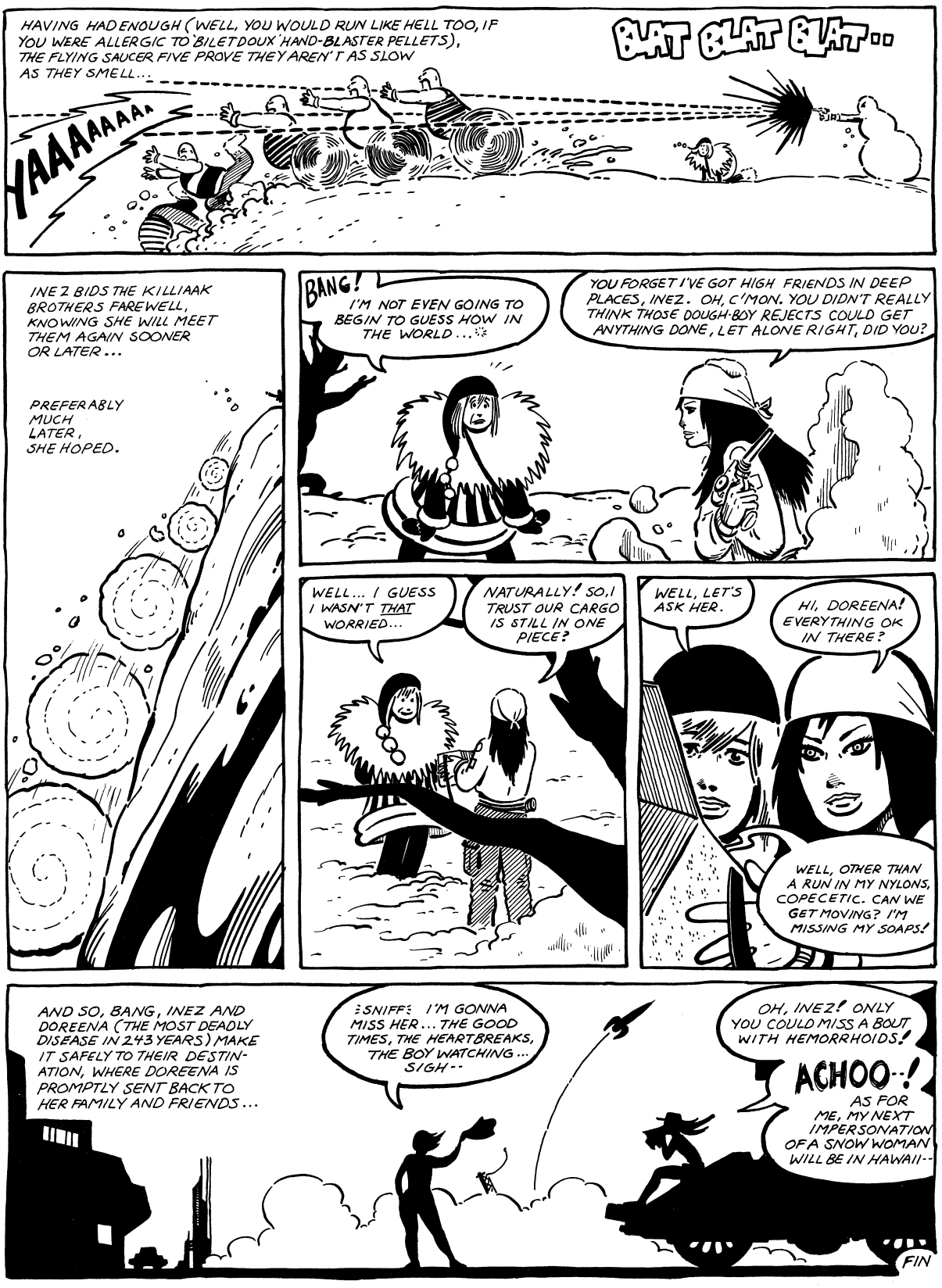




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WHICH REMINDS ME, IF I'M NOT HOME BY DINNERTIME, MOTHER'S GOING TO LOCK ME OUT OF THE HOUSE AND I'LL HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE ROCKET TERMINAL TONIGHT--
OH, WELL, AT LEAST THAT DUMP HAS BETTER MAGAZINES THAN I HAVE...
... SO I MAY AS WELL ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL SUMMER MORNING WHILE I CAN...
HMMM... I NEVER COULD BUILD A HALF-WAY DECENT SNOWMAN...
--BUT WHEN IT CAME TO KNOCKING 'EM DOWN... MOO HOO HA HAAA--
HEY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY USED FOR EYEBALLS, BUT I COULD SURE USE A COUPLE OF NEW EARRINGS...
YI!
HAR HAR HA
HAR!
BUT-- BUT BANG GOT RID OF YOU! SHE-- SHE--
2


THAT TWERP? WE TOOK GOOD CARE OF HER, NO SWEAT!
SHE'S FOOD FOR THE FISHIES, NOW!
SHE'S IN A BOX A GOOD HUNDRED FATHOMS UNDER THE KOVINICK SEA!
HAR!
SHE--SHE WAS ONLY FIFTEEN--
NO! KEEP AWAY!
C'MON, C'MON! HAND OVER THE BUG AND WE WON'T MOLEST YOU TOO MUCH...
BUT--BUT W-WHAT COULD YOU GUYS WANT WITH A DEADLY DISEASE? I--I MEAN WOULDN'T A NICE LITTLE THREE DAY COLD DO?
OH, THERE ARE ENOUGH SCREWBALL GOVERNMENTS WILLING TO PAY APLENTY FOR SUCH A PARTY FAVOR. NOW...
LET'S HAVE IT, OR...
WAIT! THERE ARE ONLY FIVE OF THEM AND THERE WERE SIX SNOWMEN--!
THEN--
EEYOWW!
?
!
OH, SO YA WANNA GET INTIMATE, EH?
POW
OBOY! A FIGHT!
F-F-FIGHT--?
AS EVERYONE KNOWS, A KILLIAAK IS A HUMANOID GENETICALLY ALTERED FOR COMBAT PURPOSES, THUS WHEN PROPERLY INSPIRED, MUST AND WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH UNTIL THEIR ATTENTION IS OTHERWISE DIVERTED...
YOWF!
HEY! WHO'S THE EXTRA SNOWMAN--?
BLAT BLAT BLAT
YOW! THOSE PELLETS STING!
THE SIXTH 'SNOWMAN' DISARMED THE LONE 'PACKING' KILLIAAK WITH ALARMING SKILL, GIVING INEZ HOPE OF HEARING HER RECORD COLLECTION ONCE MORE...
ZANG!
OW!
..WELL WELL,
3

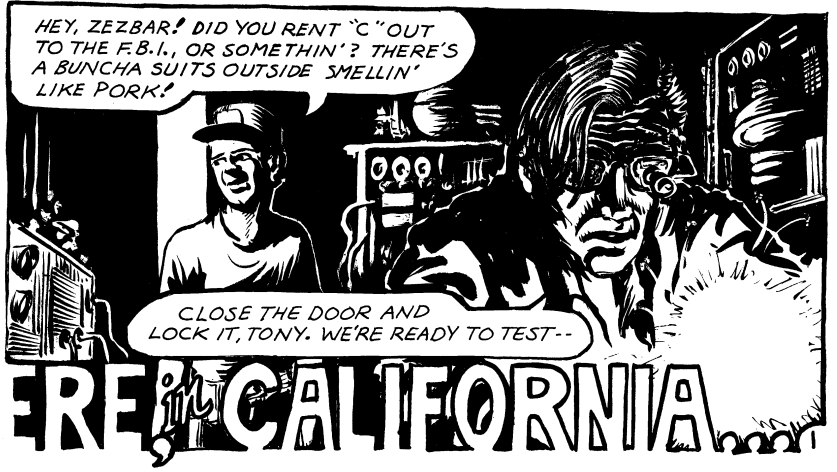

HAVING HAD ENOUGH (WELL, YOU WOULD RUN LIKE HELL TOO, IF YOU WERE ALLERGIC TO 'BILET DOUX' HAND-BLASTER PELLETS), THE FLYING SAUCER FIVE PROVE THEY AREN'T AS SLOW AS THEY SMELL...
BLAT BLAT BLAT...
YAAAAAAA
INEZ BIDS THE KILLIAAK BROTHERS FAREWELL, KNOWING SHE WILL MEET THEM AGAIN SOONER OR LATER...
PREFERABLY MUCH LATER, SHE HOPED.
BANG!
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO BEGIN TO GUESS HOW IN THE WORLD...
YOU FORGET I'VE GOT HIGH FRIENDS IN DEEP PLACES, INEZ. OH, C'MON. YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK THOSE DOUGH-BOY REJECTS COULD GET ANYTHING DONE, LET ALONE RIGHT, DID YOU?
WELL... I GUESS I WASN'T THAT WORRIED...
NATURALLY! SO, I TRUST OUR CARGO IS STILL IN ONE PIECE?
WELL, LET'S ASK HER.
HI, DOREENA! EVERYTHING OK IN THERE?
WELL, OTHER THAN A RUN IN MY NYLONS, COPECETIC. CAN WE GET MOVING? I'M MISSING MY SOAPS!
AND SO, BANG, INEZ AND DOREENA (THE MOST DEADLY DISEASE IN 243 YEARS) MAKE IT SAFELY TO THEIR DESTINATION, WHERE DOREENA IS PROMPTLY SENT BACK TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS...
SNIFF! I'M GONNA MISS HER... THE GOOD TIMES, THE HEARTBREAKS, THE BOY WATCHING... SIGH--
OH, INEZ! ONLY YOU COULD MISS A BOUT WITH HEMORRHOIDS!
ACHOO--!
AS FOR ME, MY NEXT IMPERSONATION OF A SNOW WOMAN WILL BE IN HAWAII--
FIN











SOMEWHERE, in CALIFORNIA

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WOW! Y'KNOW, ZEZBAR, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD ALL THIS STUFF -- I BET YOU COULD PICK UP THE CHINESE THREE STOOGES!
GOOD. HE STILL BELIEVES I'M TRYING TO GET FREE CABLE TELEVISION...
DON'T-- ...TOUCH ANY-THING.
AFTER THE TEST, I CAN FINALLY ESCAPE THESE IMBECILES AND GET BACK TO MY OWN DIMENSION...
IN APARTMENT `C'--
-THEY'RE HERE! REMEMBER, NOALDA, WE MUST DO NOTHING TO AROUSE HIS SUSPICION!
YOU MAY BE HIS CLOSEST ADVISOR, KURDIK, BUT HE'S IN LOVE WITH ME! I'LL BE HANDLING MY PART...
KNOCK KNOCK--!
YOU JUST KEEP THAT JEALOUS HEAD OF YOURS-- YOUR HIGHNESS--! INSIDE, QUICKLY!
AH, NOALDA! KURDIK! MY DEAR FRIENDS, THIS COUNTRY IS INSANE!
IT'S ... GOOD TO SEE YOU WELL, SVEDOR. THE NEWS IS ON IN THE BEDROOM...
...HOTEL WHERE THE OUSTED KING SVEDOR OF MARZIPAN WAS BELIEVED TO BE IN HIDING. WE ARE NOW WITNESSING ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT SHOOTOUTS BETWEEN POLICE AND TERRORISTS SINCE THE SYMBIONESE--
MY GOD! I GOT OUT JUST IN TIME! THEY'RE CREMATING THE HOTEL TRYING TO SAVE ME!
YOU'RE OVERWROUGHT, DARLING. HERE IS SOMETHING FOR YOUR NERVES. WE HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS. TAKE A HOT SHOWER AND RELAX...
Y-YES... YOU...YOU'RE RIGHT... MY NERVES ARE ABOUT GONE...
DID YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT THE LAND LEASES YET?
SHH! NOT SO LOUD, IDIOT! IF HE HEARS YOU-- I WILL PERSUADE HIM IN MY OWN TIME, SO QUIT SHOVING ME AROUND!
OOOOOWWOOO
GOOD GOD! WHAT IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT HIS HIGHNESS IS SCREAMING!
SHITTY PLUMBING, I'D SAY. XED, GO COMPLAIN TO THE MANAGER!
2


--WOW! THAT WAS THE GNARLIEST FEED BACK ...HEY, WHO'S IN THE NEXT ROOM?
ZIZBAH! MROO YDK LNEZIK ZIZ?
SOMEONE'S BANDED THROUGH THE TRANSPORTER, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE GOT TO GET TONY OUT OF HERE!
SLAM!
HEY, WELL, THANKS FOR THE BUM'S RUSH, ASSHOLE! AFRAID I'LL RIP HER OFF YA ..?
RIP WHO OFF, TONY? WHO? RIP WHO OFF? HUH? WHO?
AGER
--KATIE! HI! Y'SEE, WE WERE TESTIN' ZEZBAR'S T.V., AND, UH--
SO WHERE'S THE MONEY HE OWES YOU? I'VE GOTTA PAY FOR ALL THIS DOPE I JUST SCORED!
DOPE? OH, M'GOD!
HOLY SHIT, KATIE! WE GOTTA GET RID OF IT, QUICK! ZEZBAR RENTED 'C'OUT TO A BUNCH OF NARCS, AND--
YEAH, BULL...
EXCUSE ME, IS THIS THE MANAGER'S APARTMENT, PLEASE?
S'MATTER? CAN'T YOU READ ENGLISH, OR SOMETHING?
IXNAY, KATIE. THAT'S ONE OF 'EM. LET'S GO TO THE PAD.
STUPID AMERICAN HIPPIES--!
THEN--
--CLUZIA!
YES, ZIZBAH... SUPRISED TO SEE ME?
3


HELLO? ...HELLO!
JMMM! WHAT'S ALL THIS? ...MY GOD!
KURDIK WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS...
MAGER
-- CLUZIAH! YOU'RE HARDLY WHAT I EXPECTED FOR A RESCUE...
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY A RESCUE, ZIZBAH! I'VE BEEN SENT BY THE SCIENCE COMMISSION-
SCIENCE COMMISSION? SO, YOU'VE SOLD OUT TO THOSE THIEVING HACKS! WHAT ABOUT THE TRANSPORTER? IF THEY GET A HOLD OF IT, I'M RUINED!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, ZIZ-BAH. THE COMMISSION FOUND YOU GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE WHEN YOU FAILED TO REPORT YOUR DATA ON THE TRANSPORTER. THEN WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED...
THEY STARTED THE BALL ROLLING ON AC-QUIRING THE RIGHTS TO REPRODUCE IT FOR OUR EXPANSION PROJECT. THEY WOULD LIKE YOU TO RETURN TO CLARIFY SOME OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPERS... I BARELY MANAGED TO MAKE IT HERE IN ONE PIECE WITH WHAT LITTLE INFORMA-TION YOU LEFT US...
HMM... PRETTY WEIRD DISGUISE...
YOU AND YOUR SCIENCE COMMISSION CAN GO JUMP! CLUZIAH, I'M NOT GOING BACK TO PERFECT MY TRANS-PORTER FOR THEM OR YOU OR ANYONE!
THEY HAVE OFFERED YOU SOME GOOD CONCESSIONS...
DO YOU THINK I CREATED INTER-DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL FOR LAUGHS? I KNOW WHAT I'M WORTH, CLUZIAH.
MONTHS... ... IT'S TAKEN ME MONTHS TO BUILD THIS CRUDE VERSION OF THE TRANSPORTER OUT OF THE MOST EMBARRASSING OF EQUIPMENT...
WE'RE TALKING REAL GENIUS!
OY VEY!
WHEN I FIRST TRANSPORTED MYSELF HERE (A CLOTHES DRYER IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A PROPER RECIEV-ING APPARATUS, BUT IT WORKED...) I FELT LIKE... LIKE AN EXPLORER, A GREAT DISCOVERER, A... I CAN'T GO WITH YOU, NOT NOW, NOT...
YOU HAVE BEEN HERE TOO LONG--
4

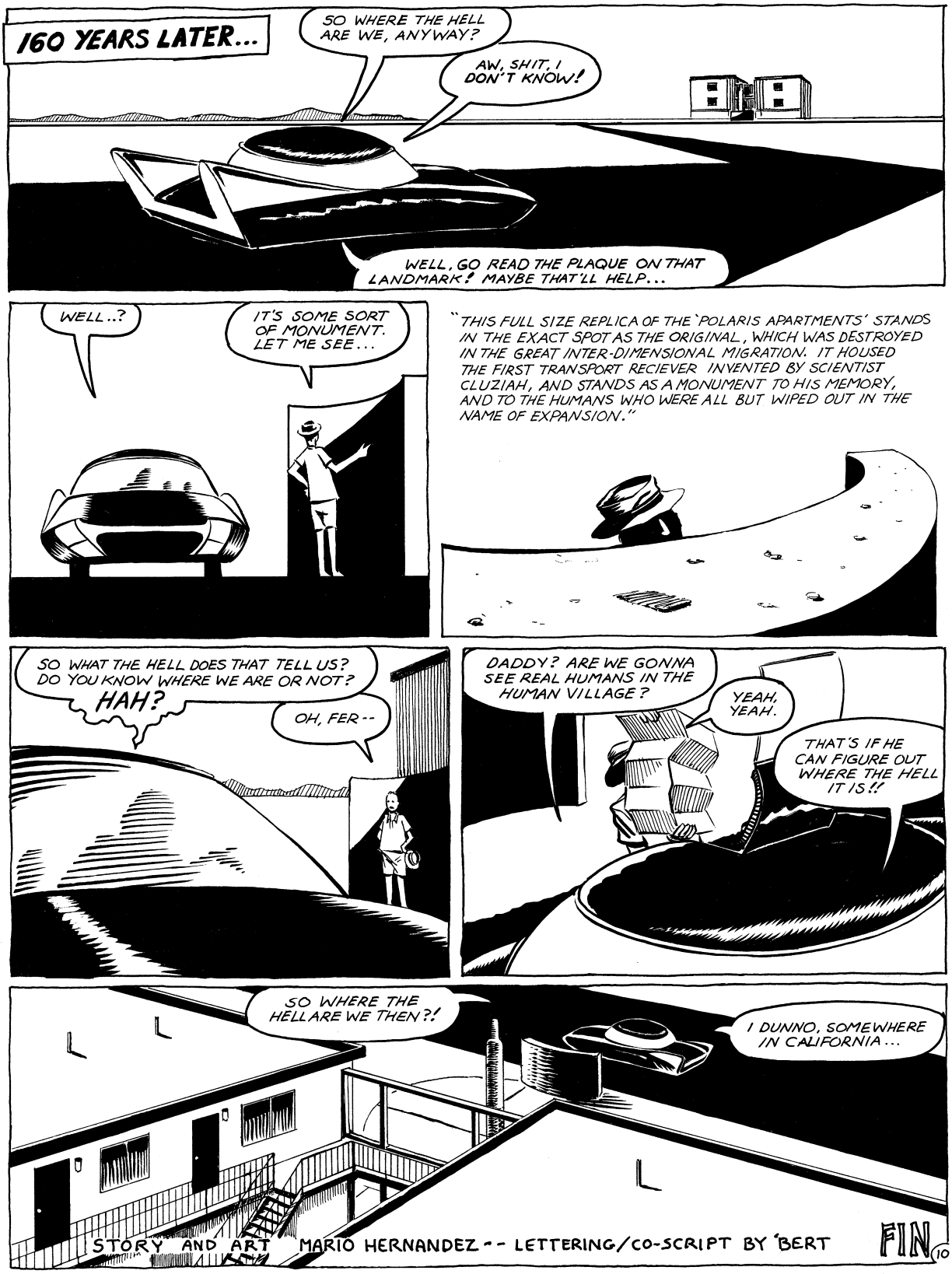

SO! NOW YOU SUSPECT CIA SATELLITE JAMMERS-- IN THE MANAGERS APARTMENT YET--!
WELL... WELL, THE EQUIPMENT IS VERY SOPHISTICATED! OUR PRESENCE HERE ITSELF, I THINK, WARRENTS INVESTIGATION...
YOUR JOB IS TO GUARD, NOT TO THINK!
OH, SHUT UP, BOTH OF YOU! XED IS RIGHT. WE'VE BOTH BEEN INVOLVED MORE THAN ONCE WITH THE CIA...
...AND THOSE BOYS AREN'T TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY! OK, GET THE LAND LEASES TOGETHER FOR HIM TO SIGN. WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY BEFORE OUR FRIEND FROM THE HOTEL ARRIVES...
OH--MY--GOD... NOALDA, YOU'VE BROKEN MY HEART, YOU CUNT! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...
LISTEN, I'LL BE BACK IN AWHILE. DON'T MAKE ANY MORE BRILLIANT DEALS WHILE I'M GONE!
RAGING PUCK
STUFF IT, ASSHOLE! YOU KNOW I CAN BREAK YOU IN HALF.
ACROSS THE WAY...
QUIT BEING SO GODDAMN PARANOID! YOU'D THINK THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE DOOR!
HEY, I'M ON PROBATION! I DON'T NEED TO BE DEALIN' WITH THE HEAT JUST ACROSS THE WAY!
OK, OK. LET ME PINCH SOME MORE FROM THIS BATCH.
WOW! ONE OF THE NARCS IS SNEAKIN' OUT OF THE BACK WINDOW! I'D BETTER JET--
STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
C'MON, I JUST GOT THE CALL. HE'S UP TWO BLOCKS. LET'S ROLL!
...OH, AND DON'T GO AWAY, BAD BOY! WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
HEY, HOT SHOT! SEE ANYONE RUN BY HERE? FATIGUES? GREASY LOOKING?
ULP! N-NO--
5


OFF LIKE A SHOT! WONDER WHO THEY WERE LOOKING FOR?
SLEEP TIGHT, YANKEE JERK. MOSCA COMMENDS YOUR POLICE FORCE ON THEIR INCOMPETENCE, AS IT WAS A LAUGHING MATTER ESCAPING THE MESS AT THE HOTEL...
I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT. KILLING KING SVEDOR WILL ASSURE ME A PLACE IN HISTORY AS A HERO!
BUT RIDDING OF KURDIK AND HIS GANG WILL GIVE ME PERSONAL SATISFACTION--
THE CIA SIMPLY CANNOT REFUSE ME ASYLUM. THEY OWE ME A LOT OF FAVORS. I'VE GOT MORE ON THEM THAN THEY HAVE ON ME... I'LL HAVE TO BE RUTHLESS...
OH, NO! SOMEONE IS COMING--
OH, THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED
GER
I'M GOING TO SET THE TRANSPORTER FOR YOU. AND...WHAT IS ALL THIS? HEY, UH, I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG ROOM, MISTER...
LISTEN TO ME! I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHO I AM! I DEMAND ASYLUM! I HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY--!
HM? DO ALL THE NATIVES BABBLE SO?
COME ON, NOALDA. I WANT THIS SIGNING BUSINESS OVER WITH! WE... NOALDA! HE'S GONE--!
JESUS, AM I RIPPED -- WHAT THE HELL? WHAT'S TONY DOIN' BACK SO SOON? AND HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR THE NARC'S PLACE! I NEVER KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN THAT JERK'S HEAD--
6

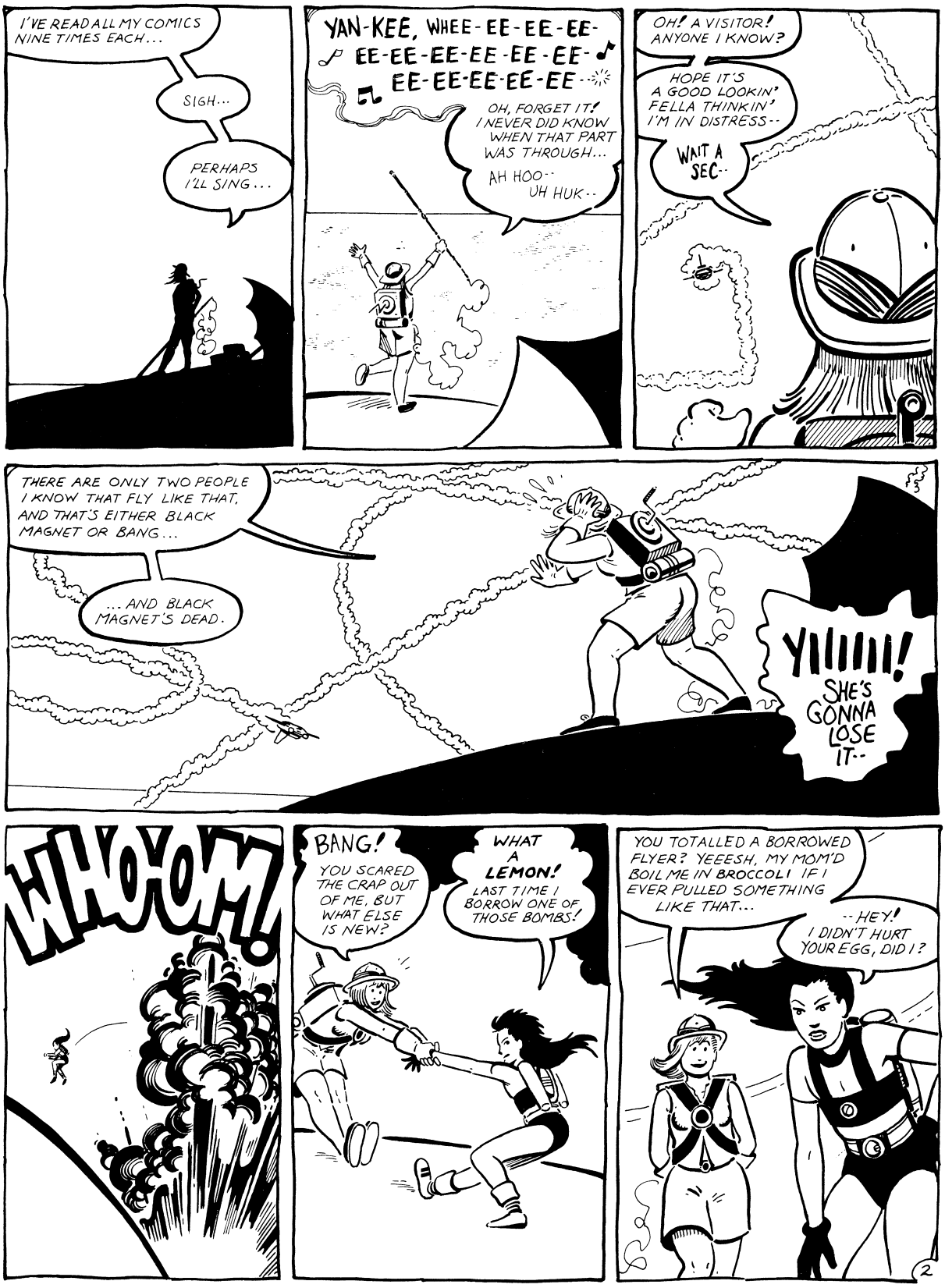

KURDIK! LET ME GO FOR HIM! YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FLASHING GUNS AROUND!
SHUTUP! YOU'VE RUN THIS CHARADE LONG ENOUGH! IF HE'S NEXT DOOR OUR LIVES AREN'T WORTH SHIT!
YOU STILL THINK THERE'S CIA NEXT DOOR? YOU DOPE--!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET THE LEASES READY! YOU TWO GO TO THE ALLEY AND SPLIT UP! I'M GOING NEXT DOOR!
READY, XED? LET'S GO!
DIE! EATER OF SNAIL TRAILS!
MOSCA..? WHAT...DON'T CLOSE TH---!
BBRRAP!
HEAR THAT? YOU SEE? PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO KILL ME!
I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED!
WAIT! YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME WITH...HIM, ARE YOU..?
TONEEEEEEEEEEEEE
KATIE! WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
THE THE THE NARCS... THEY THEY THEY KILLED TO-TONY! HE HE HE DIDN'T D-D-DO NOTHIN---!
OH, NO! I CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN THIS! LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE WITH CLUZIA AFTER ALL!
7


KURDIK-- WERE YOU HIT..?
YES...BUT NOT BAD! HELP ME UP...
XED AND YOUR BROTHER VODOR ARE DEAD...BUT THEY GOT MOSCA FIRST..!
KURDIK, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT! I'LL GET THE CAR READY...
ALLRIGHT, AL CAPONE, WE SAID WE'D BE BACK. SLEEPIN' OFF SOME LUDES. EH? YOU--
DON, THIS GUY IS BLEEDING. YOU RADIO IN. I'LL CHECK OUT THAT COMMOTION.
KURDIK, MOSCA'S BODY IS INSIDE! THIS WAY TO THE CAR--!
GO AHEAD, I'LL JOIN YOU LATER. I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH HIS HIGHNESS! ...IT WON'T TAKE LONG!
CLUZIA! HELP ME SET UP THE TRANSPORTER. IT WILL TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO WARM UP WITH THIS ARCHAIC EQUIPMENT--!
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES! WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE, UH, NATIVE?
--I'LL TAKE HIM! IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE! MOVE INTO THE OTHER ROOM AND YOU WON'T BE HURT! NOW MOVE! NOW!
KURDIK-!
WELL, I CAN SEE THAT THE MANAGER AND HIS UNFORTUNATE LOOKING FRIEND ARE NOT CIA, OTHERWISE I'D HAVE JOINED VODOR BY NOW...
AND AS FOR YOU, MY DEAR KING SVEDOR OF MARZIPAN, THERE IS THE MATTER OF SIGNING SOME IMPORTANT LAND LEASES...
DON'T MOVE!
PUT THE GUN DOWN, AND LET'S TALK. YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY...
AH, SVEDOR, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DYING HERE AFTER ALL! OFFICER, DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS BLOB OF DUNG HAPPENS TO BE? THE MAN, WHO SINGLE HANDEDLY SENT 5,000 PEOPLE TO THEIR GRAVES AS HE CELEBRATED HIS DAUGHTER'S CONFIRMATION!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, PIG! I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE -- NOW!
8

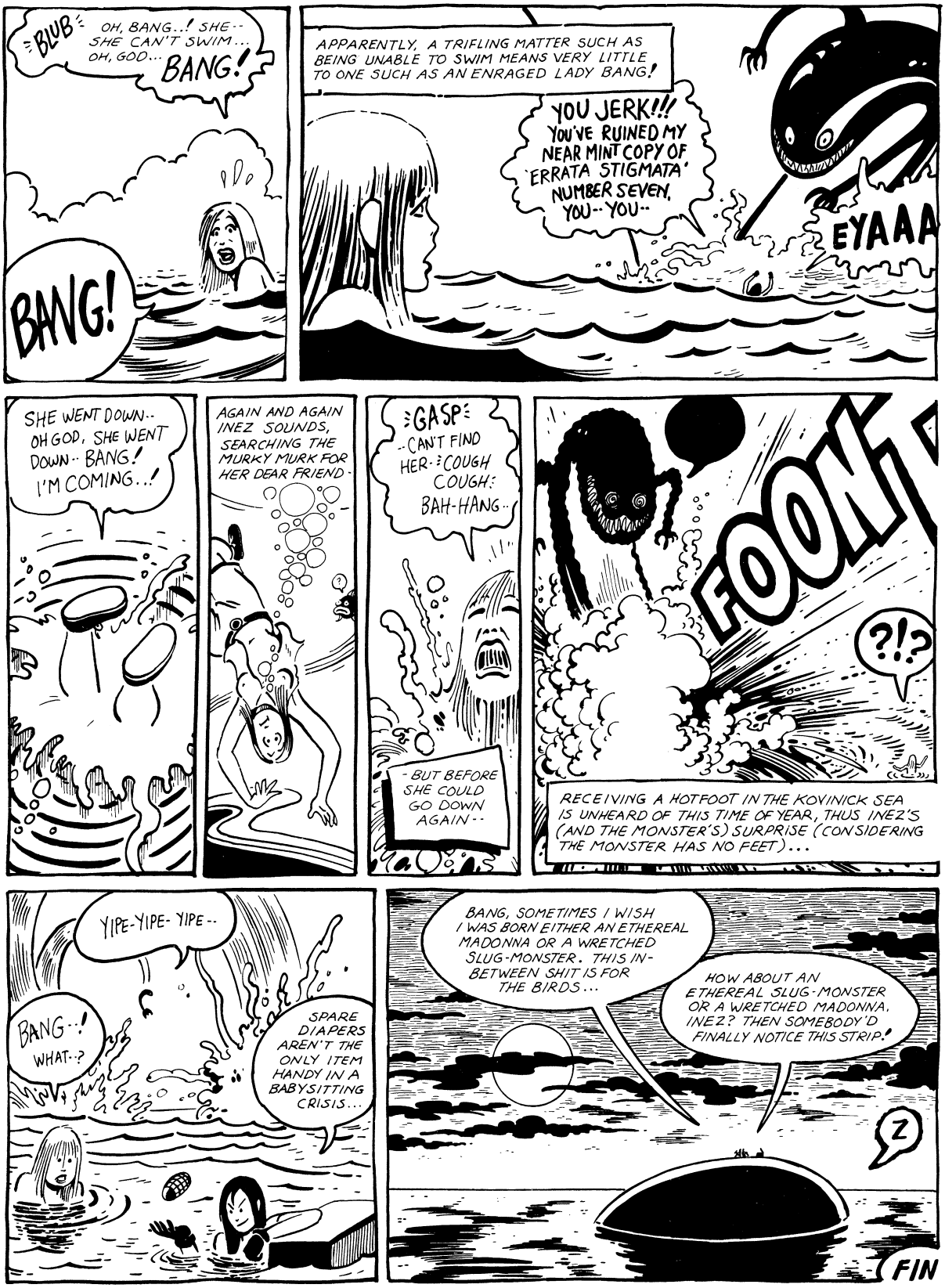

THAT'S RIGHT! RUN, YOU MURDERING BASTARD--!
-EEEEEEEK--
BYOO!
NO, HALT! DON'T-- AGGH--
POW!
DAMN! THEY'VE SHOT UP THE FILTERS IN THE NEXT ROOM--!
WHAT NOW?
Y'GONNA HELP TONY?
THE AUXILIARIES WILL GIVE USENOUGH BANDING POWER FOR ONE PASS ONLY. GET READY TO PASS THROUGH TOGETHER.
COME ON, COWARD! LET'S JOIN YOUR FRIENDS IN THE NEXT ROOM! WE'LL ALL WELCOME THE POLICE TOGETHER--
KURDIK-- OW!
WHAM! BAM!
THEY'RE BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR!
THE BANDING SEQUENCE IS READY! GET SET, JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS--
WHUDDABOUT TONEEEE..?
SMASH!
AFTER YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS--!
AAAAARRGH--!
NO, NO! N--
BAM!
--NOOOOOOOOOOOO--!
OOOWWOOO!
HEY, NO--! C'MON, D--
DAMN!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SHIT?
TONY?
9

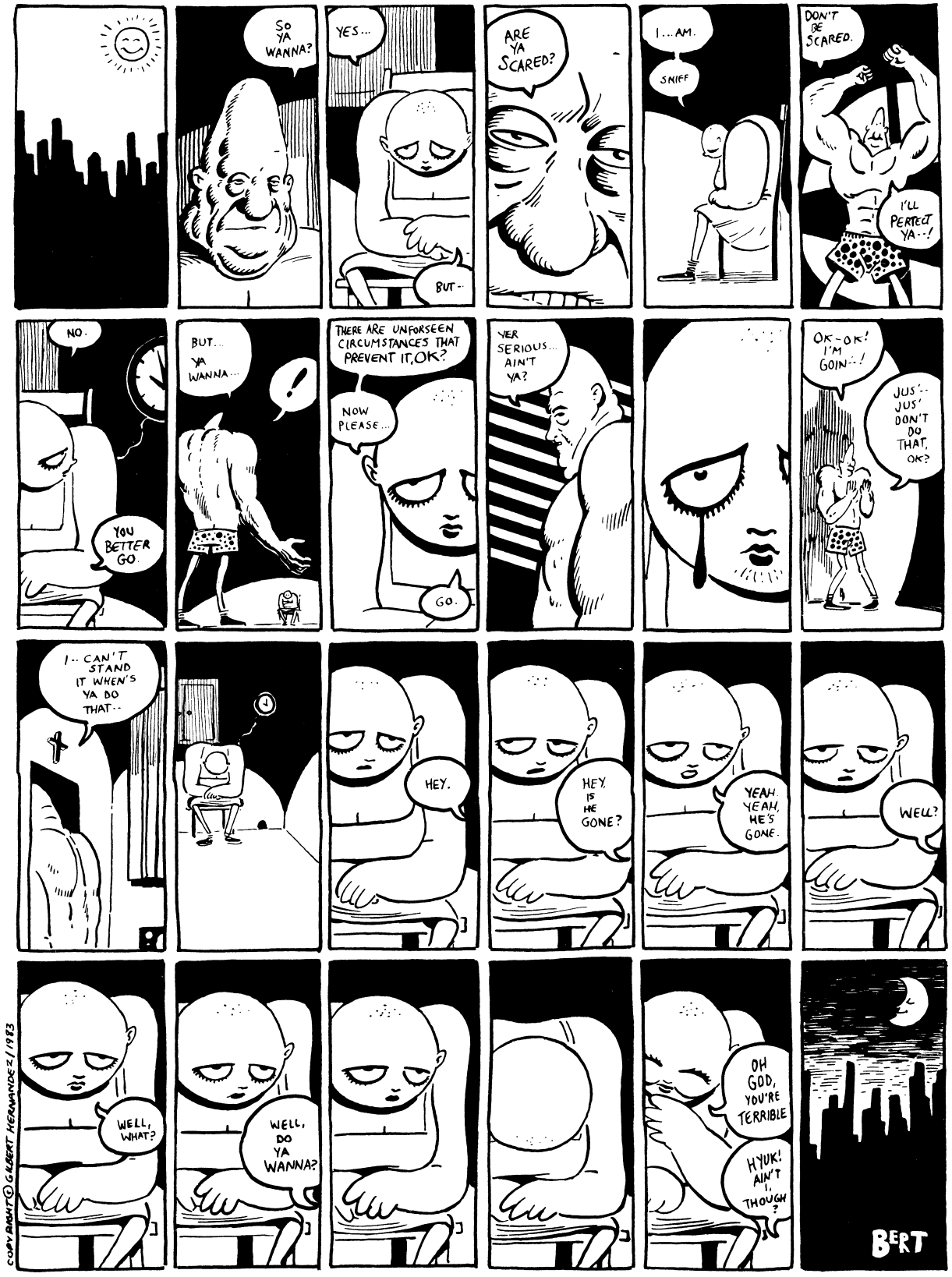

160 YEARS LATER...
SO WHERE THE HELL ARE WE, ANYWAY?
AW, SHIT, I DON'T KNOW!
WELL, GO READ THE PLAQUE ON THAT LANDMARK! MAYBE THAT'LL HELP...
WELL..?
IT'S SOME SORT OF MONUMENT. LET ME SEE...
"THIS FULL SIZE REPLICA OF THE 'POLARIS APARTMENTS' STANDS IN THE EXACT SPOT AS THE ORIGINAL, WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN THE GREAT INTER-DIMENSIONAL MIGRATION. IT HOUSED THE FIRST TRANSPORT RECIEVER INVENTED BY SCIENTIST CLUZIAH, AND STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO HIS MEMORY, AND TO THE HUMANS WHO WERE ALL BUT WIPED OUT IN THE NAME OF EXPANSION."
SO WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT TELL US? DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE OR NOT? HAH?
OH, FER--
DADDY? ARE WE GONNA SEE REAL HUMANS IN THE HUMAN VILLAGE?
YEAH, YEAH.
THAT'S IF HE CAN FIGURE OUT WHERE THE HELL IT IS!!
SO WHERE THE HELL ARE WE THEN?!
I DUNNO, SOMEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA...
STORY AND ART MARIO HERNANDEZ -- LETTERING/CO-SCRIPT BY 'BERT
FIN 10

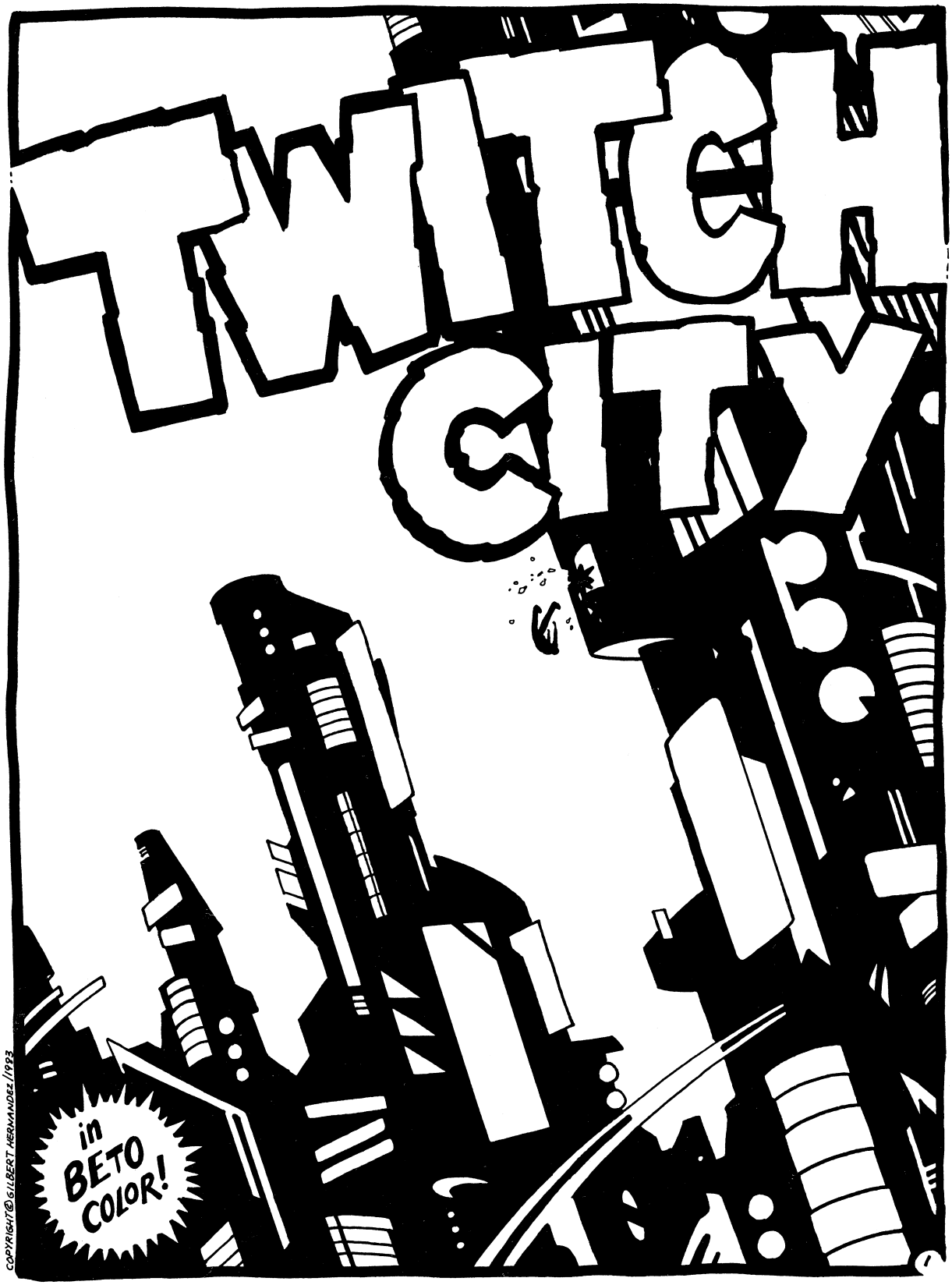

MORE MUSIC for MONSTERS by BERTO '82-'83
THE KOVINICK SEA IS CALM...
...FOR ONCE.
WELL, OK. IT WAS FOR ALMOST ELEVEN MINUTES, ANYWAY.
FOR INEZ, BABYSITTING HAS TRANSCENDED ITS FORMER STATUS AS AN ARTFORM AND HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO EXCITING NEW LEVELS OF EMBARRASSMENT...
KRAK!
MOTHER WARNED ME ABOUT DAYS LIKE THIS... I WONDER IF ALL THE GALS IN FUNNYBOOKS HAVE TO START THIS WAY? YI--!
KRAK
WHEW! THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR AWHILE, AT LEAST--
FOR THIS I GET FOUR FIFTY AN HOUR...
I MEAN, DO ALL COMICS GALS HAVE TO BE RAPED OR HAVE THEIR HUSBANDS KILLED OR CARRY BOWLING BALLS ON THEIR CHESTS TO GET ANYWHERE? I BROKE A FINGERNAIL ONCE...
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I USED TO WISH I APPEARED IN MY VERY OWN COMIX, DRAWN BY A 'GOOD GIRL' ARTIST, BUT NOW I'LL SETTLE FOR ANYBODY WHO'LL DRAW ME TEN POUNDS SLIMMER!
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I'VE READ ALL MY COMICS NINE TIMES EACH...
SIGH...
PERHAPS I'LL SING...
YAN-KEE, WHEE-EE-EE-E


NAW, THIS KID'S TOUGH! A REGULAR ERRANTA STIGMANTA!
THE SHELL'S SURFACE IS ROUGH ENOUGH SO I DON'T NEED TO WEAR SPECIAL GRIP SHOES OR NOTHING--
I'VE BEEN GOING BANANAS WITH BOREDOM SINCE THE BABY KICKED AND THE TAPE PLAYER (WHICH I BORROWED FROM YOU) SLID OVER THE SIDE. I MANAGED TO SAVE MY EIGHT BY TEN GLOSSIES OF BILLY ZOOM, THOUGH...
HEY! THIS IS MY COMIC, YOU CROOK!
YOU!
ERRATA
THE LADY WHO HIRED ME SHOULD BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, BANG, SO I'LL BE ABLE TO GET YOU ANOTHER TAPE PLAYER REAL SOON. REALLY!
--THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU. SHE WON'T BE BACK FOR A COUPLE OF MORE DAYS, INEZ. --BUSINESS OR SOMETHING...
SHE WON'T BE BACK FOR--! --BUT, BUT I'VE RUN OUT OF FOOD AND CIGARETTES AND ASPIRIN AND TAMPONS--
LOOK, SILLY! THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME! BESIDES, I BROUGHT ENOUGH EXTRA STUFF FOR THE BOTH OF US...
GOOD. WHERE IS IT?
IN A TRUNK IN THE FLYER.
WE'RE DOOMED...
AH, DON'T WORRY. NOTHING CAN HURT THAT TRUNK. WE'LL JUST FISH IT OUT OF THE WATER.
ER, ANY UNDESIRABLE MONSTERS HANGING AROUND, BY CHANCE?
WELL, THERE'S THIS ONE GOON WHO SEEMS TO THINK THE KID IS THE TASTIEST MEAL IN TOWN, BUT I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP HIM AWAY WITH THIS ELECTRO-PROD I GOT AT A THRIFT STORE...
I THINK NOW WOULD BE AN IDEAL TIME TO GIVE A DEMONSTRATION, QUERIDA...
YI! QUICK! CRANK UP THE GENERATOR!
OOF! AN UNOPENED JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER WOULD BE EASIER...
SPUT
THE MONSTER, RECOGNIZING THIS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO STRIKE, DOES JUST THAT--
SPLOOSH!
AAA!
WHY. YOU--!
3


BLUB
OH, BANG..! SHE-- SHE CAN'T SWIM... OH, GOD... BANG!
BANG!
APPARENTLY, A TRIFLING MATTER SUCH AS BEING UNABLE TO SWIM MEANS VERY LITTLE TO ONE SUCH AS AN ENRAGED LADY BANG!
YOU JERK!!! YOU'VE RUINED MY NEAR MINT COPY OF 'ERRATA STIGMATA' NUMBER SEVEN, YOU-- YOU--
EYAAA
SHE WENT DOWN-- OH GOD, SHE WENT DOWN-- BANG! I'M COMING..!
AGAIN AND AGAIN INEZ SOUNDS, SEARCHING THE MURKY MURK FOR HER DEAR FRIEND.
GASP -- CAN'T FIND HER-- COUGH COUGH: BAH-HANG--
- BUT BEFORE SHE COULD GO DOWN AGAIN--
FOOM
?!?
RECEIVING A HOTFOOT IN THE KOVINICK SEA IS UNHEARD OF THIS TIME OF YEAR, THUS INEZ'S (AND THE MONSTER'S) SURPRISE (CONSIDERING THE MONSTER HAS NO FEET)...
YIPE-YIPE- YIPE--
BANG--! WHAT--?
SPARE DIAPERS AREN'T THE ONLY ITEM HANDY IN A BABYSITTING CRISIS...
BANG, SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS BORN EITHER AN ETHEREAL MADONNA OR A WRETCHED SLUG-MONSTER. THIS IN-BETWEEN SHIT IS FOR THE BIRDS...
HOW ABOUT AN ETHEREAL SLUG-MONSTER OR A WRETCHED MADONNA, INEZ? THEN SOMEBODY'D FINALLY NOTICE THIS STRIP!
Z
FIN


SO YA WANNA?
YES...
BUT--
ARE YA SCARED?
I...AM.
SNIFF
DON'T BE SCARED.
I'LL PERTECT YA--!
NO.
YOU BETTER GO.
BUT... YA WANNA...
!
THERE ARE UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PREVENT IT, OK?
NOW PLEASE...
GO.
YER SERIOUS... AIN'T YA?
OK-OK! I'M GOIN--!
JUS'-- JUS' DON'T DO THAT, OK?
I-- CAN'T STAND IT WHEN'S YA DO THAT--
HEY.
HEY. IS HE GONE?
YEAH. YEAH, HE'S GONE.
WELL?
WELL, WHAT?
WELL, DO YA WANNA?
OH GOD, YOU'RE TERRIBLE
HYUK! AIN'T I, THOUGH?
BERT
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TWITCH CITY
in BETO COLOR!
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MY NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN PRETTY QUIET LATELY... I LIKE IT THAT WAY...
UUUAAAAAGGHH...
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOME SMART-ASS OR TWO...
THIS TIME, A COUPLE OF HUNGRY LOOKING OVER-BOYS DOING WHAT HUNGRY LOOKING OVER-BOYS DO BEST...
AAAAAA


THE WOULD-BE VICTIM IS ONLY 'ETERNALLY GRATEFUL', AS THEY ALWAYS ARE... NOW TO GET RID OF HIM WITHOUT KNOCKING HIS TEETH OUT...
BAW--! MAMA--!
AAAAAAA-- MY FACE-- MY FACE--!
MY NAME IS EMICO... I'LL BE SEVENTEEN IN FOUR MONTHS... I'VE STILL GOT A GOOD BODY FOR AN OLDER WOMAN, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF...
MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS KNOWN AS TWITCH CITY... THE WEST END SECTION OF NEW HIROSHIMA, A METROPOLIS LOCATED IN THE SOUTH OF OREGON, U.S.A...
LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE... SEEN IT ALL, I'M TELLING YOU...
E.G.
SHOW OFF KID GOING 'THERMO' TO IMPRESS THE GIRLS...
OOOH, LOOKY...
OH, THAT'S GETTING SO OLD...
INDEED..
3


DEAD...DIDN'T 'DOUSE' IN TIME, TSK-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S DUMBER: 'THERMO; OR THE CHURCH SPONSORED ORGIES/PICNICS, OR PERHAPS THE UNDERGROUND BLUEBIRD CANNIBAL SORORITES IN FLORIDA -- YEAH, THAT WAS MY REACTION, TOO--
IT'S ALL GETTING SO OLD... ALL THAT SHIT PEOPLE DO FOR KICKS NOWADAYS... IT'S GETTING WORSE. OF COURSE... THAT IS, MORE BORING THAN EVER...
Z
PARTICULARLY THOSE DOPEY OVER-BOYS, WHO STILL GET OFF ON THE OLD--
ONE..
TWO..
GOOD NIGHT...
I'M... SOMEWHERE WITH FRIDA KAHLO, WHO APPEARS VERY MUCH ALIVE, AND SEEMS QUITE IMPATIENT WITH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING...
IF I'M DEAD, I LIKE IT...
4


BUT I'M NOT, OF COURSE...
AND APPARENTLY THE 'ETERNALLY GRATEFUL' ONE WISHES TO KEEP IT THAT WAY...
WELL, I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE ANYWAY... THOSE OVER-BOYS ARE LOSING IT. ANY OTHER TIME THEY WOULD HAVE LEFT ME GROUND ROUND... BUT THEN AGAIN I DID HAVE MY BIO-REGENERATIVE BOOSTER SHOTS LAST WEEK...
CHECKING OUT, EMICO?
YEAH... AFTER I CLEAN UP A BIT...
WELL, DON'T GET ANY BLOOD ON THE RUG... THE CHIEF'LL SHIT...
THE PAIN IS ALMOST GONE... SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE BOYS WERE GOING TO RETALIATE... SHOULD HAVE FINISHED 'EM OFF LIKE I WAS SUPPOSED TO... I GUESS I'M THE ONE THAT'S LOSING IT...
POLICIA
5


--TONIGHT PRESIDENT (BROOKE) SHIELDS WILL DISCUSS THE INSURRECTION GROWING IN POUGHKEEPSIE...
EMICO? THAT YOU, BABY?
Z
YEAH, MOM... THERE ANY COTTAGE CHEESE LEFT?
IN THE FRIDGE.
HAVE A ROUGH DAY, DEAR?
NO.. YEAH. NO... KINDA DULL... FEET HURT A LITTLE, S'BOUT IT...
OH, MEG CALLED RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT... SHE JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE STILL GOING TO HER NAZI PARTY THIS FRIDAY...
OH, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT... I'LL CALL HER IN THE MORNING... G'NIGHT MOM...
GOOD NIGHT, BABY.
FOLLOW ME PLEASE, SEÑOR ITO.
WHEN I JOINED THE FORCE TWO YEARS AGO, SOMEHOW I THOUGHT-- IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT...
BETO '82


Somewhere, in California...
STORY AND ART BY MARIO - LETTERING BY BETO (EXCEPT PGS 7+13 BY JAIME)
WELL, BRIAN, YOU WERE RIGHT. THE PLACE STILL LOOKS LIKE A SLUM. KEEN HOUSE, THOUGH...
YOU LIKE IT? IT BELONGS TO AFA RIENGOLD, THE FAMOUS FILM DIRECTOR. SOME LOWLIFES BROKE IN RECENTLY AND TRASHED THE PLACE...
DAMN IT! TONY SHOULD'VE BEEN DONE IN THIS ROOM, ALREADY. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU STAND THIS CLEANING STUFF, JOLEEN.
HEY, IT PAYS THE BILLS FOR NOW. WHY DO YOU DO IT? DIDN'T YOU USE TO WRITE FOR TELE-VISION OR SOMETHING..?
YEAH, WELL, AFTER MY WIFE JAN LEFT, THE IDEAS JUST WOULDN'T COME AS EASY ANY MORE. -- WENT THROUGH THE WHOLE SORDID TRIP AND ALL...
... SO YOU RUN A CLEANING CREW DURING THE DAY AND HACK OUT THE PORNO AT NIGHT, HUH, BRIAN?
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE PORNO?
UH...TONY!
FIGURES. NOW I'M REALLY GONNA KILL HIM! C'MON, LET'S TAKE A LOOK UPSTAIRS.
Y'KNOW, THIS OLD HOUSE REMINDS ME OF THAT PART IN 'SALEM'S LOT', WHEN THE KID GOES TO THE CLOSET, AND --
AWP!
NNMMBGH!
EEEET!
TONY, YOU STUPID BASTARD!
1
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HAW HAW! YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? THERE'S LOTS OF WORK WE'VE GOT TO GET DONE!
A GUY SENT BY THE OWNER SHOWED UP A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO, DUDE...
HE TOLD ME HE NEEDED ALL THESE FREAKY BOXES MOVED OUT OF THAT CRAWL SPACE I JUST GOT DONE.
WELL, PUT ALL THAT STUFF BACK IN THE BOXES. THE OWNER COULD HAVE US ALL THROWN IN JAIL IF HE CARED TO!
AND, GET BACK TO WORK! THIS JOB IS SUPPOSED TO BE DONE BY TOMORROW!
OK OK! I CAN BE DONE BY THIS AFTERNOON. --HEY! CHECK OUT WHAT I FOUND IN THE BEDROOM!
HMPH. PICTURES OF JAN WITH SOME GREASY CREEP. YOU SAY YOU FOUND THESE UPSTAIRS?
FREAKY, HUH? WEIRD FINDING A PICTURE OF YOUR EX IN A STRANGE HOUSE. CHECK OUT THIS GUYS GUN! NO SHIT...
ACROSS TOWN...
NEFAR! SOME OF MY PHOTOS ARE MISSING! HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?
SHIT! WHAT WOULD I DO WITH YOUR STUPID PICTURES? WE LEFT THE FARM HOUSE SO QUICKLY YOU MOST LIKELY LEFT THEM BEHIND.
DON'T WORRY, OMOR, THEY WERE ONLY PICTURES OF YOUR AMERICAN GIRLFRIEND. WHAT, HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE..?
DO NOT JEST ABOUT MY BELOVED JAN, NEFAR! SHE HAS KEPT US SAFE FROM THE POLICE THUS FAR..!
SO NOW HE'S IN LOVE! LIKE KLED IS IN LOVE WITH THAT NEWS-PAPER HE KEEPS READING.
NEWS IN REVIEW
TERRORISTS ESCAPE
MASSIVE MANHUNT UNDERWAY
MONARCH DISAPPEARS FROM DECOY HIDEAWAY
IT ISN'T EVERY DAY WE MAKE FRONT PAGE NEWS, SEDRIK.
2


YOU'VE ALL BEEN AGAINST JAN AND I SINCE THE FARM HOUSE... YOU'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS...!
LISTEN, OMAR! THIS GIRL FRIEND OF YOURS IS GETTING TO BE A REAL PAIN! WE SENT HER OUT TWO HOURS AGO FOR FOOD AND SHE ISN'T BACK YET!
FOR ALL WE KNOW, SHE COULD BE SPILLING HER BOURGEOIS GUTS TO THE POLICE RIGHT NOW!
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT! SHE HAS SWORN TO THE CAUSE OF THE BLACK SUNSET!
OMOR, YOU ARE A GOOD SOLDIER OF THE PEOPLE, BUT YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO THINK WITH YOUR GROIN...
THE HOME OF FOUR TIME OSCAR WINNER, DIRECTOR AFA RIENGOLD --
MR. RIENGOLD, I, AH, HAVE DISTURBING NEWS... ONE OF THE BOXES IS MISSING FROM THE FARMHOUSE.
THE VANDALS, YOU SUPPOSE?
NO, THE COLLECTION WAS INTACT THE OTHER DAY... I WOULD GUESS ONE OF THE CLEANING CREW.
DAMN! DOCTOR, YOU ASSURED ME THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN! WELL-- GET IT BACK ANY WAY YOU CAN, I GUESS... WE STILL HAVE THE RUG, DON'T WE?
YES SIR.
THAT EVENING...
OK, JUST UNLOAD THE VAN, AND JOLEEN? YOU TAKE IT HOME AND PICK ME UP IN THE... WHAT'S THIS--?
OH YEAH! UH, THERE WERE SO MANY BOXES, I, UH, DIDN'T THINK THEY'D MISS THIS ONE...
GET IT INSIDE, JERK! ONE OF THESE DAYS..!
CHECK IT OUT, BRO'! IT'S FULL OF GOBLETS AND BEAKERS OF STUFF... HMMM. ANY DRUGS?
PUT IT BACK--!
ER... C'MON, TONY, YOU'D BETTER QUIT WHILE YOU CAN. I'LL DROP YOU OFF. 'BYE BRI'.!
3


THAT NIGHT, IN BRIAN'S PLACE...
HM. THIS STUFF IS PRETTY WEIRD. NO ANSWER AT REINGOLD'S...DAMN, GONNA HAVE TO CALL BACK IN THE MORNING. HELL, I'M GONNA GET DRUNK!
LATE...
TSK..JAN! WHAT'VE YOU GOTTEN INTO NOW... SIGH...
...NOT WITH JERKS LIKE THIS...GOD... HAND GRENADES AND--
OOP!
CRASH!
--THA'S RIGHT, FUCKHEAD. BUST IT ALL UP...UHH, TOO DRUNK...I'LL JUST CLEAN IT UP IN THE MORNING...
JOLEEN'S APARTMENT, FOUR A.M...
H-HELLO..? BRIAN? IT'S FOUR IN THE MORNING! YEAH, SURE...I CAN PICK YOU UP, EMERGENCY WARD? OK, I'LL BE THERE..!
SOON...
MY GOD, BRIAN..! YOU LOOK HORRIBLE! WHA... WHAT HAPPENED..?
RGENCY
JUST GET ME HOME. I NEED SOME REST BEFORE WORK... SHEESH, WHAT A NIGHT!
I WOKE UP AROUND TWO WITH A CRIPPLING COTTON MOUTH... COULD HARDLY SWALLOW. I WENT TO SLUG SOME WINE BY THE COUCH...IT WAS PRETTY DARK AND I COULD HAVE SWORN THERE WAS--SOMETHING IN THE ROOM WITH ME...THEN SOMETHING WITH CLAWS, OR FEET: GAK: SLITHERED DOWN MY THROAT--
HEY, C'MON, DON'T GET SICK IN THE VAN!
FUCK YOU, IT'S MY VAN! BESIDES, WE'RE IN THE CLEANING BUSINESS, REMEMBER? OOG-- I CAN FEEL IT CRAWLING AROUND...UGH...
SO WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
ENEMAS! THEY ONLY MADE ME PUKE. NONE OF 'EM WORKED, BUT THEY EXPECT ME TO SHIT IT OUT.
4

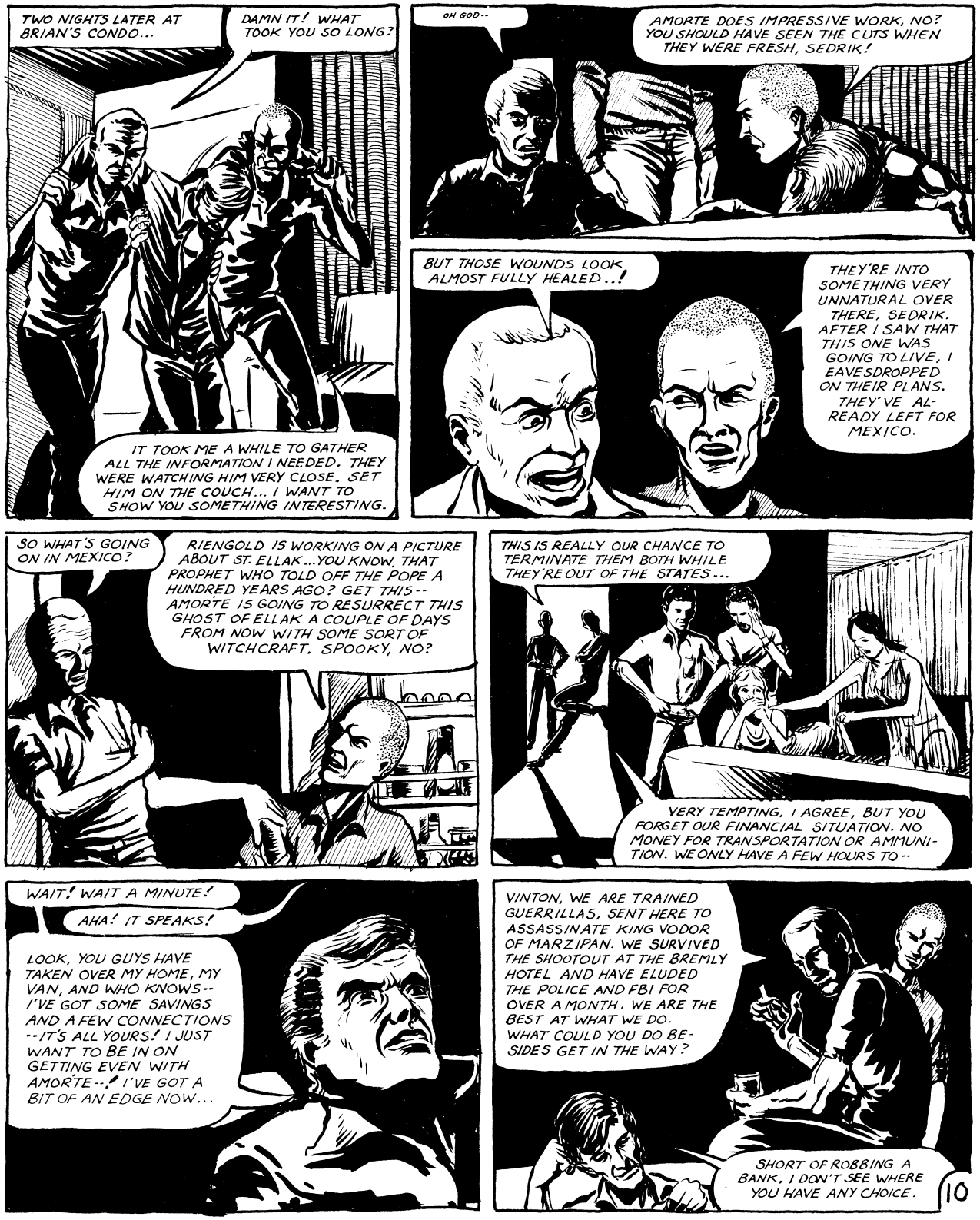

THEY TOLD ME TO TAKE AN ASPIRIN AND CALL IN THE MORNING...
TYPICAL. WHAT DID THEY-- UH OH! YOUR FRONT DOOR IS WIDE OPEN, BRIAN...!
SO NOW I'VE BEEN ROBBED, HUH?
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING MISSING OR MESSED UP!
YEAH, BUT THE GOBLETS AND THE BOX ARE GONE! SHIT...
HOO BOY! TONY'S GOT YOU IN THE DEEP SHIT NOW, BRIAN.
YEAH! LET'S GO WAKE HIS ASS UP! IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK!
AYE AYE, SIR!
SURE YOU WANT TO WORK WITH THAT...THING INSIDE YOU?
BLURP...DON'T REMIND ME!
SOON...
THEY'VE BEEN HERE AND GONE!
SO WHERE WERE YOU?
I...FELL ASLEEP.
YOU LET THEM GO, IDIOT! YOU'LL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY!
RELAX, DOCTOR! HE'S OBVIOUSLY GONE TO WORK ON MY OTHER HOUSE. WE HAVE THE BOX. IT'S ALL INTACT EXCEPT FOR ONE VESSEL. FORGET IT. LET'S GET SOME BREAKFAST!
5


THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE CONTENTS OF THAT VESSEL. IT'S AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT OF OUR RECIPE. THE CONTAINER'S CONTENTS HAS MOST LIKELY TAKEN REFUGE INSIDE OUR YOUNG FRIEND AND IS LOSING ITS POTENCY REGARDING OUR INTERESTS.
H.M.M.
--AND AFTER I'M THROUGH BRANDING TONY'S NUTS WITH A SOLDERING IRON, I'LL-- HEY! THERE'S JAN, MY EX--! WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD..? PULL OVER, JOLEEN --
TSK.
NEARBY--
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, AUNT VERLIKA. WE HAVE TO BE ON OUR WAY TO MARZIPAN. I'LL SAY HELLO TO MIRDA AND YOUR SISTER IN ROZNEK CITY. TELL UNCLE GINKSLER THE KIFTS WERE DELICIOUS.
AH. YOU ARE GOOD BOY, YES.
I HOPE OMOR'S BELOVED FOUND A CAR LIKE SHE PROMISED -- OR BIP! SHE GOES...
HEY OMOR! IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR AMERICAN GIRLFRIEND HAS A BLOND ADMIRER.
THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
JAN! HEY, WAIT UP! CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?
LIQUOR
TONY'S LIQUOR
WHAT IS IT, BRIAN? I'M IN A HURRY!
SO, BABE, HOW'VE YOU BEEN? I, UH, WELL, I'VE BEEN KINDA CONCERNED ABOUT YOU LATELY, YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT WITH, AND, WELL...
WHAT? HAVE YOU BEEN SPYING ON ME? IT'S NONE OF --
JAN, LOOK! THESE PEOPLE COULD BE REAL DANGEROUS! YOU COULD GET KILLED -- I KNOW YOU! THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR..YOUR REVOLUTIONARY FANTASIES--
FUCK OFF!
THAT'S ENOUGH FROM YOU, YANKEE PIG DOG PIG --!
6


LOOK! THERE THEY ARE UP AHEAD! PULL UP ALONG SIDE AND GET SET TO DRIVE OFF VERY QUICKLY!
CHECK, DOCTOR.
JELIK, YOU TAKE OUT THE BALD ONE. I'LL TAKE THE BLOND.
HOLD TIGHT!
OOG!
HEY!
COME, MR. VINTON. DON'T BE DIFFICULT AND YOU'LL KEEP YOUR ARM!
WHUMP!
OW! DAMNED IF THAT WASN'T DALVOR AMORTE, AND AFA RIENGOLD RIGHT ALONGSIDE! WHAT LUCK! BUT I MUST CATCH UP TO THEM!
OMOR--! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HELP ME UP--!
OMOR--! OMOR, WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TO CATCH THAT CAR! I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE IT'S GOING! YOU! MOVE!
OW! HEY! THIS ISN'T MY VAN!
DON'T PANIC -- I'M NOT GOING TO HARM YOU. I JUST NEED YOUR VEHICLE TEMPORARILY...
DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?
YES! THEY ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE BLACK SUNSET!
THE ONE WITH THE HAT IS DR. AMORTE, KING VODOR OF MARZIPAN'S SECRET ADVISOR. ATROCITIES BELIEVED DONE BY KURDICK WERE ACTUALLY DONE BY AMORTE. THE MAN IN THE BACK WAS NONE OTHER THAN AFA RIENGOLD...
THE DIRECTOR, RIGHT? HE DID THAT DOCUMENTARY DENOUNCING THE BLACK SUNSET. TALK ABOUT PROPAGANDA!


WHY WOULD A FAMOUS DIRECTOR AND A CREEPY DOCTOR KIDNAP BRIAN? HE'S NOT WORTH ANY MONEY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, Y'KNOW...!
OH MY GOD!
WE WERE CLEANING MR. RIENGOLD'S HOUSE AND TONY LIFTED SOME STUFF! THEY EVEN BROKE INTO BRIAN'S PLACE TO GET IT BACK!
IT MUST BE SOMETHING SHADY... IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WANTED HIM PRETTY BAD.
THE FARMHOUSE, HM? I'VE GOT TO CALL MY COMRADES NOW...
DO YOU THINK BRIAN WILL BE ALL RIGHT?
MISS, DR. AMORTE IS A VERY DEADLY PERSON TO RECKON WITH. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU ARMORTE AND RIENGOLD ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD...
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND BEING FILMED, MR. VINTON. I'M DOING MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY ON VIDEO TAPE AND YOU'LL BE SIGNING RELEASE FORMS AFTER THE DOCTOR IS THROUGH WITH YOU.
MR. RIENGOLD, THERE'S REALLY AN EASIER WAY OF RESOLVING THIS! I CAN REPLACE ANY DAMAGED OBJECTS THAT-- DOCTOR..?
LISTEN, YOU LOOK LIKE A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN. I KNOW THIS LOOKS PRETTY DESPERATE TO YOU. SNATCHING YOU OFF THE STREET AND ALL. I CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT MYSELF. BUT I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL BE RETURNING WHAT YOU'VE TAKEN FROM MY HOME WITH NO HASSLES, EH?
I THOUGHT YOU GOT ALL THAT STUFF BACK! MR. RIENGOLD... WHAT DOCTOR?
THAT'S ENOUGH FILMING FOR TODAY, FRED. YOU CAN GO.
OK, MR. RIENGOLD.
W-WAIT! IS THIS ABOUT WHAT I SWALLOWED? OW!
DON'T WORRY, MR. VINTON. I'VE GIVEN YOU A SEDATIVE FOR YOUR NERVES. WE'VE A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US AND I'D LIKE TO GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY...
8


SOON---
MMM... WHERE IS THIS PLACE..? WHAT IS THIS PLACE..? SOOO TIRED, BUT I CAN'T SLEEP...
WE'RE GOING TO DO A LITTLE MINOR SURGERY TO REMOVE THE SMALL CREATURE THAT HAS APPARENTLY CHOSEN TO MAKE YOUR BODY ITS HOME, VINTON.
SURGERY? HO...! WAIT A MINUTE NOW!
FOR YOUR OWN PEACE OF MIND, SIR, I AM A LICENSED DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND CHIEF SURGEON IN MY NATIVE MARZIPAN. I WAS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO THE KING HIMSELF. AH, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT..?
WHAT COULD IT BE I HAVE SWALLOWED THAT IS MAKING ME SO MISERABLE, EH?
'THE 'CREATURE' IN QUESTION, IS CALLED 'EL OFRE.' 'OFREXINCLNAUCUNCAN' TO BE PRECISE. AN EXTINCT 'REPTILE,' FOR LACK OF A CLOSER DESCRIPTION; IT WAS ONCE USED IN ANCIENT RITUALS FOR REVIVING SPIRITS AND AURAS OF THE DEAD. IT IS A POWERFUL 'CREATURE, INDEED..:
'THE ONE YOU SWALLOWED HAS BEEN PRESERVED SINCE 1600 AND WAS A COSTLY ITEM TO PROCURE...'
YOU'VE PROBABLY FELT SOME OF ITS MORE OBVIOUS SIDE EFFECTS: NAUSEA, FATIGUE, NOT UNLIKE A MILD FLU. BUT SOON AFTER THE VENOM HAS SETTLED INTO YOUR METABOLISM. YOUR BODY WILL BE ABLE TO HEAL WITH AMAZING SPEED, YOUR COLORING WILL CHANGE QUITE FREQUENTLY...
H-HEY! THIS IS AN AUTOPSY TABLE! ISN'T THERE AN EASIER WAY TO DO THIS..?
NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG 'EL OFRE' HAS EXISTED, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF IT PREDATING THE DINOSAUR! SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE AND TEMPERAMENT WILL BE HARD TO EVICT, MR. VINTON. FEW HAVE INJESTED 'EL OFRE' AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT. YOU SHOULD FEEL PROUD, SIR, ALTHOUGH I DO NOT ENVY YOU...
OK, OK! SO WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?
THE ANESTHETIC WE'LL BE USING IS STANDARD FOR THIS PROCEDURE, BUT DON'T EXPECT TOTAL UNCONSCIOUSNESS. ANOTHER EFFECT OF 'EL OFRE'S VENOM IS THAT IT'S RENDERED THE SLEEP CENTER OF YOUR BRAIN ALL BUT USELESS. SIMPLY PUT, MR. VINTON, YOU CAN NEVER SLEEP AGAIN. UNTIL YOU DIE, OF COURSE.
SO BECAUSE OF THIS, YOU WILL BE BLINDFOLDED. 'EL OFRE' IS NEVER EVICTED WITHOUT A BIT OF A FIGHT. GOOD LUCK, MR. VINTON. THIS IS GOING TO BE VERY MESSY...
9


TWO NIGHTS LATER AT BRIAN'S CONDO...
DAMN IT! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GATHER ALL THE INFORMATION I NEEDED. THEY WERE WATCHING HIM VERY CLOSE. SET HIM ON THE COUCH... I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
OH GOD--
AMORTE DOES IMPRESSIVE WORK, NO? YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE CUTS WHEN THEY WERE FRESH, SEDRIK!
BUT THOSE WOUNDS LOOK ALMOST FULLY HEALED..!
THEY'RE INTO SOMETHING VERY UNNATURAL OVER THERE, SEDRIK. AFTER I SAW THAT THIS ONE WAS GOING TO LIVE, I EAVESDROPPED ON THEIR PLANS. THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT FOR MEXICO.
SO WHAT'S GOING ON IN MEXICO?
RIENGOLD IS WORKING ON A PICTURE ABOUT ST. ELLAK...YOU KNOW, THAT PROPHET WHO TOLD OFF THE POPE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO? GET THIS-- AMORTE IS GOING TO RESURRECT THIS GHOST OF ELLAK A COUPLE OF DAYS FROM NOW WITH SOME SORT OF WITCHCRAFT. SPOOKY, NO?
THIS IS REALLY OUR CHANCE TO TERMINATE THEM BOTH WHILE THEY'RE OUT OF THE STATES...
VERY TEMPTING, I AGREE, BUT YOU FORGET OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION. NO MONEY FOR TRANSPORTATION OR AMMUNITION. WE ONLY HAVE A FEW HOURS TO--
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE!
AHA! IT SPEAKS!
LOOK, YOU GUYS HAVE TAKEN OVER MY HOME, MY VAN, AND WHO KNOWS-- I'VE GOT SOME SAVINGS AND A FEW CONNECTIONS --IT'S ALL YOURS! I JUST WANT TO BE IN ON GETTING EVEN WITH AMORTE--! I'VE GOT A BIT OF AN EDGE NOW...
VINTON, WE ARE TRAINED GUERRILLAS, SENT HERE TO ASSASSINATE KING VODOR OF MARZIPAN. WE SURVIVED THE SHOOTOUT AT THE BREMLY HOTEL AND HAVE ELUDED THE POLICE AND FBI FOR OVER A MONTH. WE ARE THE BEST AT WHAT WE DO. WHAT COULD YOU DO BESIDES GET IN THE WAY?
SHORT OF ROBBING A BANK, I DON'T SEE WHERE YOU HAVE ANY CHOICE.
10


PATA LARGA, MEXICO...
Y'KNOW, FOR ALL THE MONEY I GAVE YOU GUYS, WE COULD HAVE RENTED A WINNEBAGO! I'M ROASTING BACK HERE!
THERE IS THE GRAINERY. SLOW DOWN AND PARK ON THE FAR SIDE. PERHAPS MR. VINTON WOULD PREFER TO WALK--!
ALL RIGHT! I GET THE MESSAGE! DO I GET A GUN OR NOT?
THE WEAPONS ARE FOR PROTECTION ONLY. THE PLAN IS TO KIDNAP RIENGOLD AND TRY TO GET AMORTE, ALSO. BUT HE'S A SNAKE, REMEMBER!
YOU AND OMOR WILL BE GOING IN FIRST. FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND YOU MAY SURVIVE THIS.
GREAT!
I KNOW I'D FEEL SAFER WITH A COUPLE OF GRENADES ON ME.
AT THE GRAINERY...
SO THE GUY'S IN A BIG RUSH! SO DOES THAT MEAN I'VE GOT TO SKIP LUNCH FOR HIM..?
QUIT JERKING OFF AND LOAD! I'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THAT PRICK, NOT YOU!
GOTTA KEEP MY EYE ON THIS GUY--
TOO MUCH GOING ON HERE. LET'S HEAD FOR THE OTHER SIDE...
NEARBY...
SEÑOR, YOU PROMISED TO BE GONE 20 MINUTES AGO. I'VE GOT A SCHEDULE TO KEEP AND I DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING!
WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE AFTER THIS LOAD, NO SWEAT.
WE'RE READY FOR YOU, MR. RIENGOLD.
YOU KNOW, IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU ARE TRUSTING AMORTE WITH THIS CERTAIN SEGMENT... HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE WITH FILM!
THE MAN IS A FIEND! WE'RE LUCKY WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR WITHOUT THE POLICE OR FBI ON OUR BACKS. I'LL BE GLAD TO BE RID OF HIM. OK, BOYS...!


OK, PEOPLE, LISTEN UP! OUR FIRST SHOT IS GOING TO BE OUR ONLY SHOT! WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS AND I TRUST ALL OF YOU WILL HELP MAKE THIS OUR BEST YET! TO HELL WITH THE OSCARS! TODAY, WE MAKE HISTORY!
UCLA
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE GOING TO TEST THE LIGHTS AGAIN. HEY, DRAPE THAT WINDOW BETTER!
HM. HOW'D THAT DOOR GET OPEN?
HEY, THIS GUY'S GOT A GUN ON! MAYBE I SHOULD GO WAIT IN THE VAN. I COULD DRIVE, AND--
THIS IS NO TIME TO BECOME USELESS! WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO! GRAB HIS COAT AND HAT!
DR. AMORTE, ARE WE REALLY GOING TO RESURRECT A DEAD MAN? THAT IS, UH, PRETTY HARD TO TAKE...
ONLY HIS SPIRIT, RALPH, ALTHOUGH WE WILL BE ABLE TO RECORD HIM SPEAKING, ALSO...
IF RIENGOLD FOLLOWS MY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER, THIS WILL BE HIS FINEST FILM, BELIEVE ME!
NOW, HELP ME TAKE DOWN THE TAPESTRY AND GET THE JARS STRAIGHTENED UP...
OK, PLACES EVERYBODY! WE GOTTA MAKE THIS A GOOD ONE!
QUIET ON THE SET!
I'LL BE UP ON THE SCAFFOLDING IN A FEW MINUTES. HMMM...
--I DON'T REMEMBER HIRING THAT GUARD... A REPORTER PERHAPS?
12


REMEMBER! WAIT FOR MR. RIENGOLD'S SIGNAL! LIGHTS! SOUND! SPEED! WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL... WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL...
NOW!
HIGH ATOP THE SCAFFOLDING, AMORTE TRAINS THE SPECIAL PRISMS ON EACH OF THE JARS. THE ELLAK TAPESTRY BEGINS TO SMOLDER WITH THE PRESENSE OF ELLAK, WHERE UPON YEARS AGO HE STOOD AND SAID TO THE POPE, "TAKE A MUDDY, BLOODY DUMP."
ANYTHING...? YES! YES! THERE HE IS! MOTHER OF GOD... IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING! HE'S ABOUT TO SPEAK---!
WAIT, THAT'S VINTON DOWN THERE! MUSN'T LET HIM SEE ME! AH, TOO LATE...!
THERE'S AMORTE! UP THERE! CUT ME UP, HAH, FUCKER? HAH!?!
BRIAN, NO! IDIOT...!
DAMN, HE'S CUT ME OFF FROM THE LADDER. WAIT! THE WINDOW!
EEYOW! MY FEET, MY FEET!
POK! POK! POK! POK!
BRAP!
HA! I KNEW YOU'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, VINTON! GIVES ME AN EXCUSE FOR THIS--!
THWAK
OOGH!
WHAT THE SAM HILL IS GOING ON? DID WE GET THE SHOT? THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING-- NOT NOW--!
13


HEY CRUZ! FORGET THE LOAD! THEY'RE SHOOTING UP THE PLACE IN THERE! AND IT DON'T LOOK LIKE NO GODDAMN MOVIE TO ME! LET'S MOVE--!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, SUCKER!
CRATTLE CRATTLE
TOO HIGH TO JUMP FROM--AH! THAT TRUCK SHOULD BREAK MY FALL. HAVE TO TIME IT RIGHT SO I LAND ON THE BED AND NOT ON MY HEAD...
HEAD FOR THE VAN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE!
WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH HIM, SEE IF THE OTHERS ARE ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO QUIET THIS ONE!
POW! POW!
AAAAA! DON'T SHOOT!! STOP SHOOTING, YOU ASSHOLES!! STOP!
LOOK OUT FOR THE VAN--!
--SHIT--!
NO! DON'T STOP!
YAAA
NNNGGAAARGHH!
14

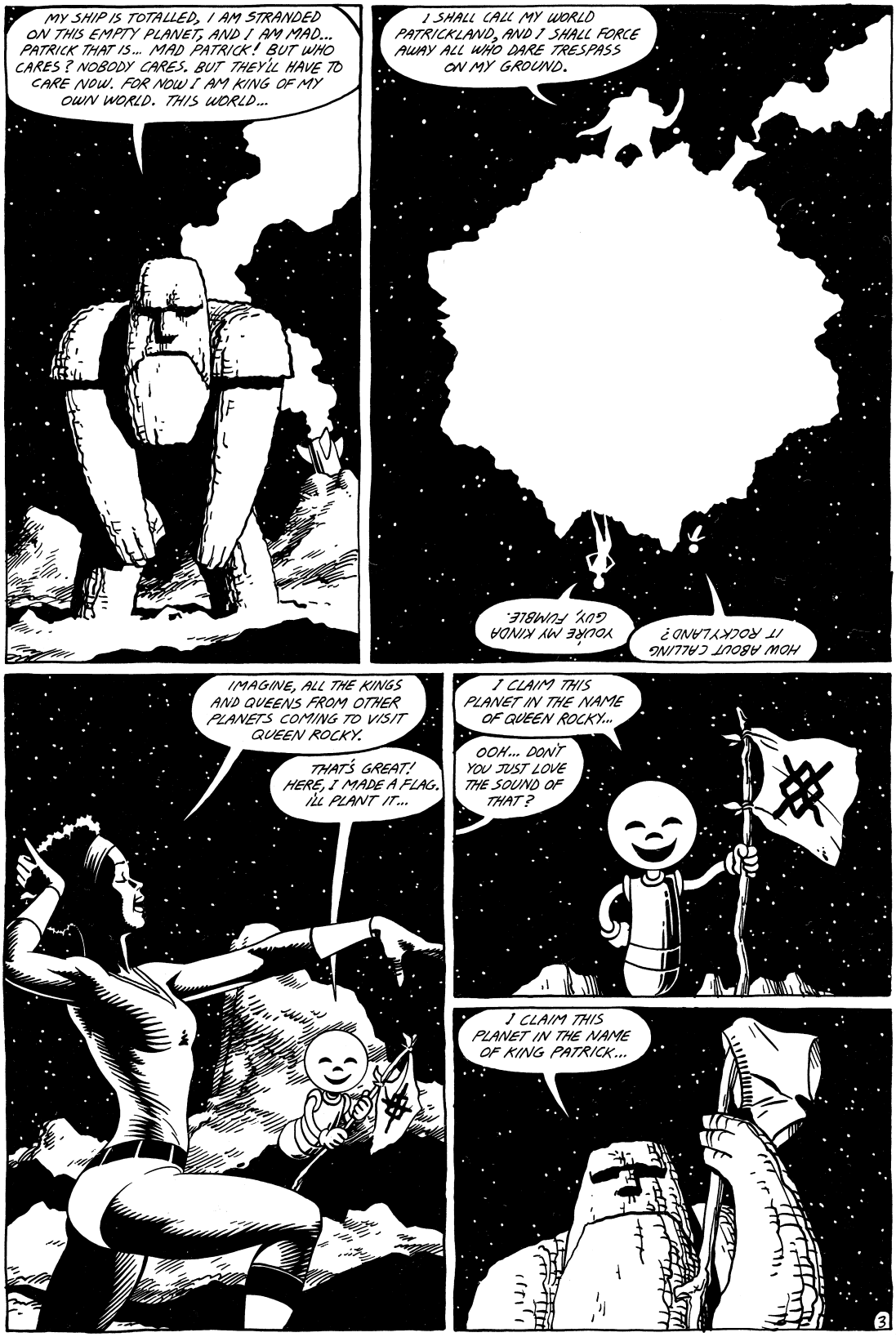

FIVE YEARS LATER...
NAME?
BRIAN VINTON.
STEP THROUGH.
I SINCERELY HOPE WE WON'T BE SEEING YOU AGAIN VERY SOON, MR. VINTON...
THANKS, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
BRIAN! OVER HERE!
WELL, HELL! SHE SAID SHE'D WAIT. DAMN. SHE LOOKS GOOD.
JOLEEN!
HEY, NICE CAR. I SEE SHE'S BEEN SPENDING MY MONEY WITH NO PROBLEMS.
WOW, BRIAN! THOSE GOLD EYE-BALLS OF YOURS MAKE YOU LOOK-- MAKE YOU LOOK KINDA MARTIAN!
IF I KEEP CHANGING AT THIS RATE I HAVE BEEN, I'LL BE A MARTIAN IN A WEEK. ALTHOUGH PRISON MAKES ONE FEEL GREEK.
YOU'RE REALLY WARPED, YOU KNOW THAT?
THANKS...
WELL, EVERYTHING LOOKS ABOUT THE SAME ON THE OUTSIDE. THE OTHERS, JOLEEN. ARE THEY OUT YET?
SEDRIK AND OMOR HAVE ALREADY GONE BACK TO MARZIPAN. THE OTHERS GOT A COUPLE OF MONTHS TO GO YET. HEY, DID I TELL YOU? JAN HAD ANOTHER GIRL. POOR OMOR.
U
E
OSCAR WINNER, BEST PICTURE
THE SPIRIT OF ELLAK
COLOR
DEREK CINEMA
BEST DIRECTOR
AFA RIENGOLD
CHICHA OOF
BEST SCREENPLAY
BRIAN VINTON
VOGUE THEATRE
NAW, THE LINE'S TOO LONG. I JUST WANT TO STAND AND LOOK FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
HEY, NOT TOO BAD FOR A FORMER TERRORIST AND PORNO WRITER, EH? WANT TO GO INSIDE? I GOT SOME FREE PASSES.
FIN
15

OUT O' SPACE

BY JAIME '83




... BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT US LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE! SO, YOU BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING BEFORE I HAVE MY DADDY TAKE YOU APART AND TURN YOU INTO A LAWN MOWER AGAIN!
NO! PLEASE! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
(SHUDDER) LET'S SEE... MAYBE I COULD...
MAYBE YOU COULD USE YOUR BUILT-IN TRACKER TO FIND US SOMEPLACE ELSE TO RELAX. THIS HUNK OF ROCK IS ALMOST GONE.
NOW, WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT? OK... I'VE ALREADY PICKED A SMALL PLANET ONLY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED KILOMETERS AWAY FROM HERE.
FUMBLE BABY, I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.
SEE? IT'S KIND OF SMALL, BUT AT LEAST YOU CAN REST YOUR BEAUTIFUL SELF ON IT.
IT'S PERFECT, FRESH GUY. IT'S UNINHABITED, TOO. YOU JUST DISCOVERED YOUR VERY OWN PLANET!
YOU MEAN YOUR VERY OWN PLANET. I WOULDN'T HAVE FOUND IT IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU. BESIDES, WHERE I COME FROM, ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO OWN ANYTHING. THAT'S THE LAW.
YOU'RE SO SWEET.
WHILE I LOOK FOR MATERIALS TO MAKE A FLAG, YOU TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO CALL YOUR NEW PLANET, OK?
GROOVY.
2


MY SHIP IS TOTALLED, I AM STRANDED ON THIS EMPTY PLANET, AND I AM MAD... PATRICK THAT IS... MAD PATRICK! BUT WHO CARES? NOBODY CARES. BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO CARE NOW. FOR NOW I AM KING OF MY OWN WORLD. THIS WORLD...
I SHALL CALL MY WORLD PATRICKLAND, AND I SHALL FORCE AWAY ALL WHO DARE TRESPASS ON MY GROUND.
HOW ABOUT CALLING IT ROCKYLAND?
YOU'RE MY KINDA GUY, FUMBLE.
IMAGINE, ALL THE KINGS AND QUEENS FROM OTHER PLANETS COMING TO VISIT QUEEN ROCKY.
THAT'S GREAT! HERE, I MADE A FLAG. I'LL PLANT IT...
I CLAIM THIS PLANET IN THE NAME OF QUEEN ROCKY...
OOH... DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE SOUND OF THAT?
I CLAIM THIS PLANET IN THE NAME OF KING PATRICK...
3


NOW I MUST PROBE THE REST OF MY KINGDOM. A KING MUST KNOW HIS LAND. BUT WAIT... WHO'S THAT?!
LET'S SEE NOW... WE'LL PUT A POOL HALL OVER THERE, OVER THERE WE'LL INSTALL A SWIMMING POOL... THERE WE'LL PUT UP A...
HEY!
ROCKY! LOOK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY PLANET? AWAY WITH YOU! NO ROOM! GO AWAY!
YOUR PLANET?! HA! THAT'S A LAUGH AND A HALF!
WHAT? NOBODY TALKS TO A KING THAT WAY!
UH... ROCKY? YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT THIS PLANET, DID YOU? WHY NOT GIVE IT UP TO THIS NICE GENTLEMAN. PLEEZE...?
HECK NO, WE WON'T GO! LOOK, MONSTER MAN. IF YOU WANT THIS PLANET SO BAD, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT. ¿COMPRENDE?
OH, YEAH? LISTEN, BITCH! IF YOU DON'T GET OFF MY PLANET RIGHT NOW I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOUR BRAINS!
4


THAT TEARS IT, BRUTE! NOBODY CALLS ME A BITCH AND GETS AWAY WITH IT! IF YOU WEREN'T SO UGLY, I'D PUNCH YOU IN THE NOSE!
ARGHHH! YOU MAKE ME MEAN!
F-FUMBLE!
ROCKY
OH, FUMBLE. POOR, SWEET, LOVABLE FUMBLE. YOU SMASHED HIM TO... OH, BOY...
RRRAA
STAND STILL, BITCH!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, CALLING ME NAMES! NOW I'M REALLY FIRED!
WHAT ARE YOU... OHO! NOW I SEE YOUR PLAN! BUT YOU BETTER QUIT IT RIGHT NOW!
GRUNT!
5


HEY! STOP, HUH? I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, NOW, CUT IT OUT!
STAND STILL!
ROCKY! I'M OK! LET'S SPLIT THIS JIVE SCENE, EH? ¡PRONTO!
OH, THANK GOODNESS! BUT, LOOK WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO!
NO TIME! LET'S GO, NOW!
HMF! MIGHT AS WELL. WOULD YOU LOOK AT WHAT HE DID, THOUGH? GUYYY... HOW SELFISH CAN YOU GET?
?
WELL, I KNOW YOU'RE HAPPY, MONSTER MAN. YOU MOLD MY PLANET SO ONLY YOU CAN FIT ON IT. SNEAKY, MONSTER, REAL SNEAKY. LET'S GO, FUMBLE.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, ROCKY. =WHEW=
=SOB=
BOY, ARE YOU IN TROUBLE WHEN YOU GET HOME.
PLEASE...
KIN


LOCKER ROOM
interviews
by and by
...BETO IN 1983, IN THE GOOD MONTH OF APRIL, DURING A STRANGE, AND VERY OBNOXIOUS THROAT AILMENT.
DR. SMITH FREQUENTED THE LOWER SIDE...
HEY MISTER--
I'LL LIFT UP MY DRESS FOR A NICKEL...
DONE.
FOR THE TOURISTS OF THE LOWER SIDE, A CHANCE TO GAIN GREAT CULTURAL INSIGHT - FOR THE NATIVES, A CHANCE TO SURVIVE--
MMHMM--
VERY NICE.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
BY SIX FORTY SEVEN THE LOWER SIDE WAS GONE, BUT AT LEAST ONE FAMILY SLEPT WITH FULL BELLIES--
DER ENG
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a Fan Letter...

BOLO AND KK AREN'T DOING SO HOT AS A BAND NOWADAYS... MATTER OF FACT, THEY'RE ALL WHAT'S LEFT OF 'TWITCH CITY'...

BUT '77 WAS ANOTHER STORY. HELL, THE ORIGINAL LINE UP OF 'TWITCH CITY' OOZED, WAY BEFORE IT WAS HIP TO PLAY THAT KINDA 'GLOOM DOOM' STUFF... ALL THE NEW BANDS WERE PLAYING LIKE THEY WERE IN A RACE OR SOMETHING, BUT NOT T.C... THEY PERFECTED THE 'CHINESE WATER TORTURE' BEAT...

THEY DID THESE GREAT ANTI-SEXISM ANTI-RACISM ANTI-CAPITALISM RAVERS... NO GLIB LYRICS FROM THIS BAND...

THEY HAD THIS ONE CHICK ON GUITAR, JULIE, WHO WAS REALLY SOMETHING ON GUITAR, I MEAN.

GOOD BAND...

THEY SIGNED TO MASTER PLAN RECORDS* IN MARCH '78, AND CUT THREE 45'S THAT DID REALLY WELL IN AUSTRALIA(?)...

MOST EVERYBODY (EXCEPT '70'S ROCK' CHAUVINISTS) FELT 'TWITCH CITY' WAS GONNA DO IT. THE WORLD WAS GONNA FORGET THE STONES, ZEP, THE WHO, ALL THOSE GUYS ... GONNA BURY THE DINOSAURS ONCE AND FOR ALL, Y'KNOW?

NEW & USED

TWITCH CITY

WARPUPPETS

U.K.

CUT-OUTS

*WHICH WAS REALLY THIS SAMOAN GUY'S LIVING ROOM.

ASSHOLE CHUCK (THEIR SO-SO DUMMER) QUIT IN JAN OF '79 TO JOIN A HEAVY METAL BAND FROM OUT OF TEXAS, BUT ALL HE WOUND UP DOING REALLY WAS SMOKING TOO MUCH DOPE AND WATCHING T.V. HE WAS REPLACED WITH THIS GOOFY CANADIAN GUY WHO WASN'T AS GOOD A DRUMMER AS CHUCK, BUT HE HAD THE RIGHT ATTITUDE...

YOU SIT INSIDE A BOTTLE AND PRETEND YOU'RE IN A CAN

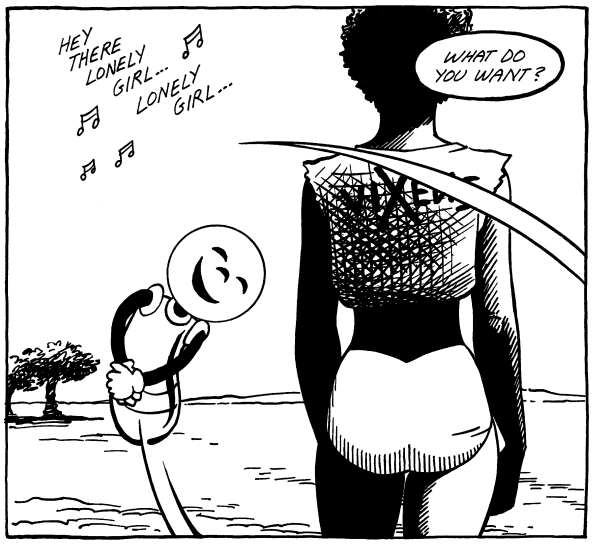
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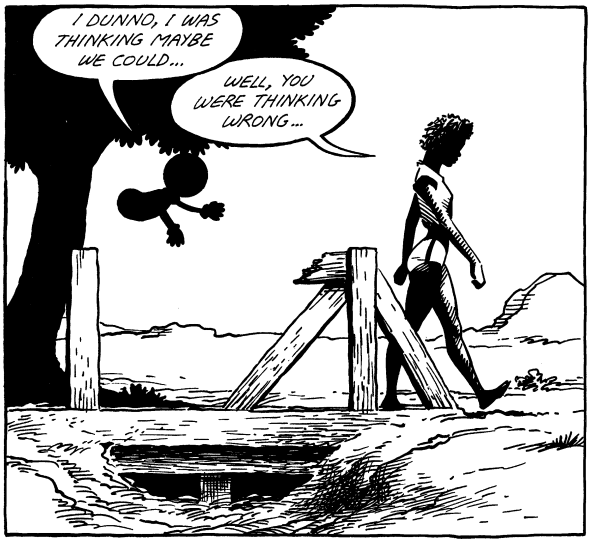
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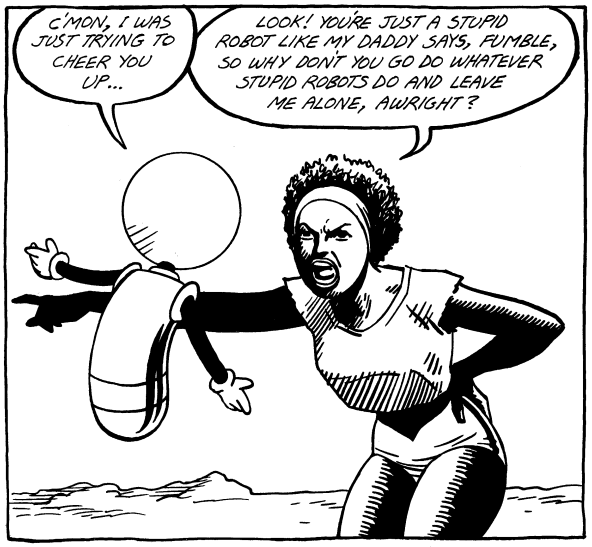

BOLO, THE SINGER, STARTED GETTING A SWELLED HEAD. HIS UGLY MUG WAS FEATURED ON ALL THE FANZINES AND A FEW U.K. ROCK PAPERS BY '79... THEY EVEN SHOWED A QUICK CLIP OF 'EM ON A LATE NIGHT NEWS SHOW ABOUT 'PUNK VIOLENCE'...
FUNNY, 'CAUSE T.C. NEVER CONSIDERED THEMSELVES A 'PUNK' BAND, BUT YOU KNOW HOW THE PRESS LIKES TO STICK LABELS ON EVERYTHING... FANS CAN BE AS BAD...
WELL, TO BE FAIR, THE 'TIMES' WAS REAL SUPPORTIVE OF THE LOCAL CLUB SCENE, T.C. BEING A PARTICULAR FAVORITE...
BOLO CAME BACK TO EARTH AFTER SID (VICIOUS) DIED... THEY MET ONCE IN N.Y. AND BOLO REALLY LIKED HIM, I GUESS... ANYWAY, BOLO DIDN'T WANT TO WIND UP THAT WAY AND CLEANED UP HIS ACT A BIT. WENT TO COLORADO TO SEE HIS MOM. THE REST OF THE BAND KINDA HUNG AROUND 'TILL HE CAME BACK...
I SAW KK AT A 7-11 WITH SOME GUYS. SHE LIKED HANGING OUT WITH TEEN-AGED GUYS...
THEN AROUND THIS TIME SOME FOOL TELLS ME T.C. HAS BROKEN UP, SO I GET UP THE COURAGE TO ASK KK...
"FUCK NO, WE'VE BEEN IN THE STUDIO THESE PAST FEW WEEKS..."
I SHOULD HAVE NAILED THAT FOOL..
THEY DID A FIVE SONG E.P. OF ALL NEW STUFF FOR TOXIC RECORDS WHICH GOT MIXED REVIEWS. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT'S ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVORITE RECORDS...
THEN, THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE GROUP AFTER THE E.P. CAME OUT, I WAS MORTIFIED. THEY PLAYED ALL NEW STUFF THAT WAS... AMAZING.
THE NEW STUFF WAS SO GOOD IT WAS... PENETRATING--
REAL--
YEAH, I KNOW EVERYBODY THINKS THEIR OWN FAVE BANDS ARE 'REAL' TOO, BUT T.C. WERE... IT, MAN.
'ROCK' FANS AND THE BIG RECORD COMPANIES CONTINUED TO IGNORE 'EM... THE NEW 'SKINHEAD' PUNKS DIDN'T LIKE 'EM EITHER 'CAUSE THEY DIDN'T THRASH...
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE AND ALL THAT...
SUSPICION
TWITCH CITY
IN THE SUMMER OF '82 KK WAS HANGING OUT WITH SOME O.C. SKINHEADS IN THE PARKING LOT OF A PIL GIG WHEN SOME COPS CAME AND BEAT UP ON 'EM... THE END OF THE 'COPS V.S. PUNKS' THING DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN SIGHT TO THIS DAY...
SIXTEEN STITCHES AND A FRACTURED ELBOW RESULTED IN A CANCELLED MINI TOUR OF THE NORTH.
EMERGENC
2


THEN, THAT SAME SUMMER, THEIR GUITARIST JULIE LEFT FOR ENGLAND ON VACATION AND NEVER CAME BACK. NOW SHE'S IN SOME WEIRD 'PROGRESSIVE POP-DUB' TYPE BAND CALLED YAK YAK...
I HEARD THEIR SINGLE AT A RECORD STORE ONCE. I DUNNO, BUT I COULDN'T HEAR A GUITAR NOWHERE IN THAT SONG... MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE MIX...
YAK-YAK
SUBMERGE
TOO BAD, 'CAUSE JULIE WAS GOOD... 'SPECIALLY ON THOSE FIRST 45'S... MAN, SHE RIPPED... ON GUITAR, I MEAN.
1999
WE'RE DESPERATE.. GET USED TO IT
JOE SUCKS
SUSPICION
SHIT
-13-
WOOLY BULLY
SHEMP
ISIDRO
WELL, THE CLUB SCENE HAS DIED DOWN QUITE A BIT (AGAIN)... NO PLACE FOR NEW LOCAL BANDS TO PLAY ANY MORE... T.C.'S DRUMMER FOUND JESUS OR SOMETHING AND SPLIT BACK UP TO CANADA. SHIT, WHY NOT GO ALL THE WAY AND GO TO BETHLEHEM THEN?!
I DON'T LIKE THE NEW MUSIC MUCH... A LOT OF IT HAS REGRESSED TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE IT IMPROVED IN '76, '77... IT'S BACK TO THE GOOD OL' INDULGENT/SEXIST/REACTIONARY CRAP IT'S ALWAYS MADE THE MOST MONEY AT... BUT FOR A MINUTE THERE, FOR A BLINK--
BOLO AND KK HAVE DONE A COUPLE OF DEMOS TOGETHER UNDER THE NAME 'THE RECONDITES'... THIS WAS LAST YEAR..
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY OF THAT STUFF, BUT A FRIEND TELLS ME IT ISN'T THE SAME. AND THIS FRIEND WOULD KNOW...
STALAG 13
I GUESS JULIE HAD MORE OF AN IN-FLUENCE IN THEIR SONGWRITING THAN WE HAD IMAGINED...
AH, WELL... NOTHING GOOD LASTS FOR VERY LONG, ANYWAY...
LAST TIME I EVER SAW EITHER OF 'EM, THEY WERE OUTSIDE A CITY BUILDING HANDING OUT FLYERS. SOMETHING ABOUT LATIN AMERICA, I THINK... THEY ALWAYS WERE POLITICALLY MINDED...
MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF 'EM... TWITCH CITY... GOOD BAND... I MEAN, I HATE SAYING YOU HAD TO BE THERE... SOUNDS KINDA WHINY, I KNOW, BUT... THOSE OLD 45'S STILL SOUND GOOD TO ME, EVEN THOUGH I CAN TELL THE PRODUCTION DIDN'T HOLD UP TOO WELL... BUT THE SONGS ARE STILL THERE... YEAH, THEY'LL BE BACK, YOU'LL SEE... DIFFERENT BAND, MAYBE, BUT THEY CAN DO IT... THEY WROTE SONGS, MAN, SONGS...
BETO 83


THAT'S IT! THAT'S REALLY IT!
FRET ALL YOU WANT, YOUNG LADY. YOU STILL CAN'T COME INTO TOWN WITH US.
SO, WHO CARES? I HATE YOU ANYWAY!
JOHN, MAYBE WE COULD LET IT GO JUST THIS ONCE. ROCKY HASN'T SEEN HER FRIENDS FOR A WEEK NOW, AND...
NO WAY! SHE DISOBEYED YOU, HER MOTHER BY NOT COMING STRAIGHT HOME FROM SCHOOL.
MAYBE THIS WILL SHOW HER WHO'S BOSS AROUND HERE. BESIDES, SHE'S GOT THAT STUPID ROBOT TO KEEP HER COMPANY.
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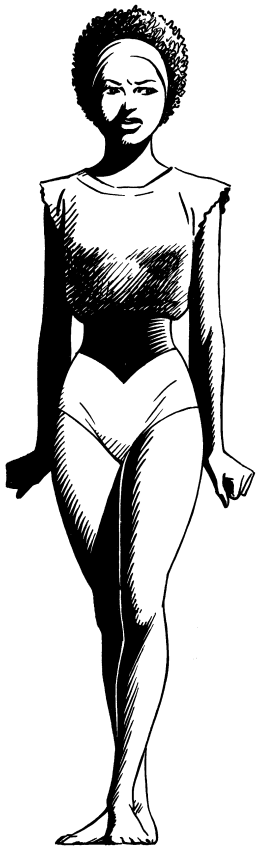




WHY ME? WHY ALWAYS ME? EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE -- "WE'RE GOING TO THE CARNIVAL, BUT YOU CAN'T GO 'CAUSE YOU'RE TOO LITTLE. BLABLABLAH..."

MY NAME IS ROCKY... THAT'S SHORT FOR ROCKET. MY DADDY NAMED ME THAT BECAUSE LIKE HE SAID, WHEN I WAS BORN I LOOKED LIKE THAT SQUIRREL IN THE CARTOONS...

AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER I'VE BEEN LONELY. SURE, I'VE HAD NINE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BUT BY THE TIME I LEARNED TO WALK THE YOUNGEST NEXT TO ME WAS THIRTEEN AND PREGNANT...



RETRO ROCKY

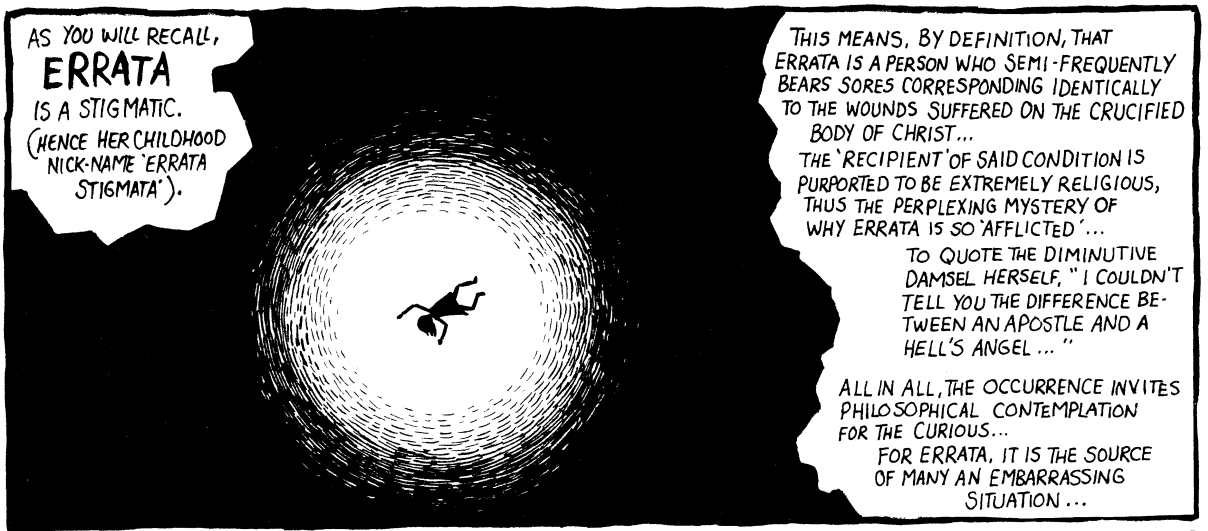
BY JAIME 83 (2)


IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME THING, "NO! YOU CAN'T! GO HOME! YOU'RE TOO LITTLE!"
BEING ALONE A LOT I USED TO FIND THINGS TO DO TO PASS THE TIME, LIKE ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS...
HERE COME THE TRASH MEN!
RAYMOND THE GARBAGE MAN WAS PROBABLY MY ONLY FRIEND IN THOSE DAYS. HE USED TO ALWAYS GIVE ME NEAT STUFF HE'D FIND IN OTHER PEOPLE'S TRASH. ONE TIME HE EVEN GAVE ME A COPY OF "DENNIS THE MENACE IN MEXICO."
SHECK A LEG...
GARCIA
HI, RAYMON'! GOT ANYTHING NEW FOR ME TODAY?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, ROCKY, I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU SINCE TODAY IS MY LAST DAY.
WOW! A DOLL! BIG AS ME! BUT HE AIN'T GOT A FACE.
I NEVER SAW RAYMOND AGAIN BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER MUCH BECAUSE I HAD FOUND MY NEW FRIEND WHO I NAMED FUMBLE.
(SIGH) IF YOU COULD ONLY TALK.
3

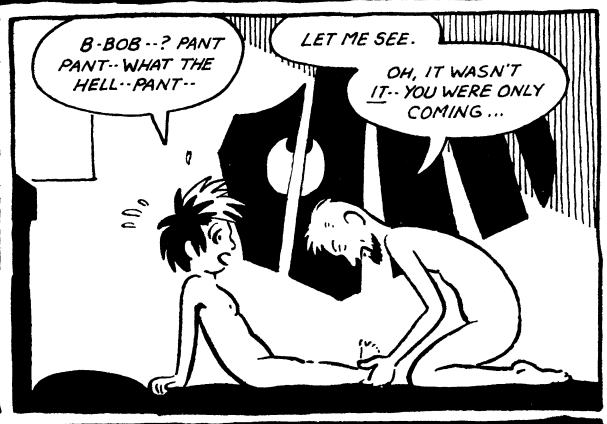

THEN ONE DAY WHEN MY DADDY CAME HOME FROM A MONTH LONG WORK TRIP...
THIS IS NO DOLL, ROCKY. THIS IS A RADARON ROBOT.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANT, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT MY DADDY DID TO HIM, BUT...
...WAS I EVER SURPRISED...
CLICK
... WHEN FUMBLE...
A...A...
...CAME TO LIFE!
HELLO.
AAAA
IT TOOK ME A FEW DAYS TO GET USED TO THE IDEA OF FUMBLE BEING ALIVE...
I JUST WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
WAAAAAAA
AND WHEN I DID FINALLY GET USED TO IT I WAS THE HAPPIEST LITTLE GIRL IN THE UNIVERSE. I HAD FINALLY FOUND MY FRIEND.


AS I STARTED GROWING UP, WE DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER. I EVEN TOOK HIM TO SCHOOL WITH ME SOMETIMES.
SO, WHENEVER I WAS LONELY FUMBLE WOULD BE THERE...
WOULD BE THERE...
WOULD BE THERE...?
♫ WHAT I DID ON MY VACATION... ♫
:SIGH: IF WE ONLY HAD STRINGS ON THAT THING...
KIM

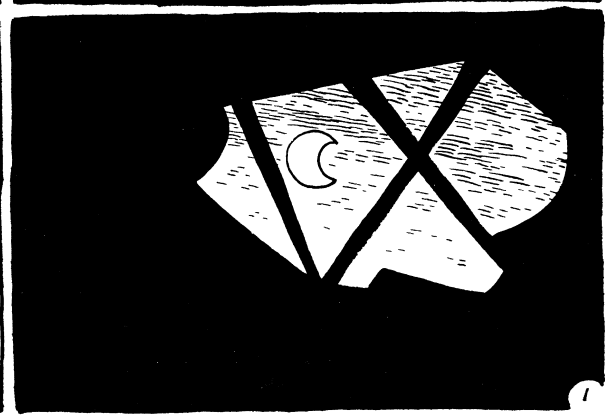
LE CON-TRE-TEMPS



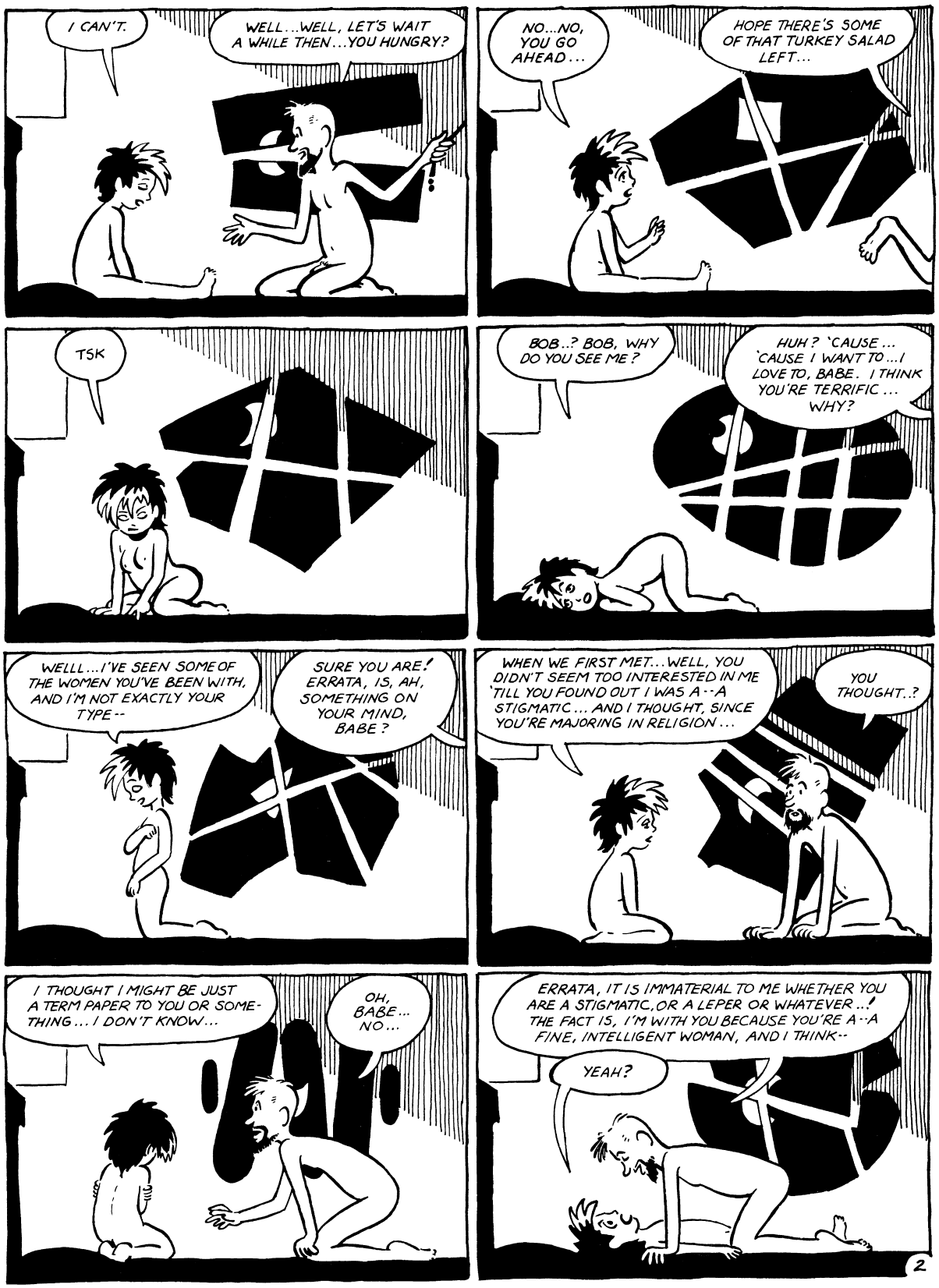








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I CAN'T.
WELL...WELL, LET'S WAIT A WHILE THEN...YOU HUNGRY?
NO...NO, YOU GO AHEAD...
HOPE THERE'S SOME OF THAT TURKEY SALAD LEFT...
TSK
BOB..? BOB, WHY DO YOU SEE ME?
HUH? 'CAUSE... 'CAUSE I WANT TO...I LOVE TO, BABE. I THINK YOU'RE TERRIFIC... WHY?
WELLL...I'VE SEEN SOME OF THE WOMEN YOU'VE BEEN WITH, AND I'M NOT EXACTLY YOUR TYPE--
SURE YOU ARE! ERRATA, IS, AH, SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, BABE?
WHEN WE FIRST MET...WELL, YOU DIDN'T SEEM TOO INTERESTED IN ME 'TILL YOU FOUND OUT I WAS A--A STIGMATIC... AND I THOUGHT, SINCE YOU'RE MAJORING IN RELIGION...
YOU THOUGHT..?
I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE JUST A TERM PAPER TO YOU OR SOMETHING... I DON'T KNOW...
OH, BABE... NO...
ERRATA, IT IS IMMATERIAL TO ME WHETHER YOU ARE A STIGMATIC, OR A LEPER OR WHATEVER..! THE FACT IS, I'M WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A--A FINE, INTELLIGENT WOMAN, AND I THINK--
YEAH?
2


SO BEING A STIGMATIC IS THE SAME AS BEING A LEPER, OR WHATEVER, HUH?! OH, GREAT, FINE!
OHHHH...
LOOK, I JUST...
YOU FIRST.
NO, YOU GO...
ERRATA... BABE... YOU'RE TOO UPTIGHT... YOU'VE GOT--TO--B-BABE..?
OH, SHIT, ON MY NEW SHEETS, TOO, TSK...
THAT--THAT'S REALLY HAPPENING ISN'T IT..?! YOU--OH MY GOD..!
IT'LL STOP... I JUST HOPE I CAN GET IT OUT OF THE SHEETS...
OUR-OUR-OUR-FA-FA-FA-FATHER---
OH, KNOCK IT OFF, BOB! GET ME A TOWEL OR SOMETHING...
ERRATA AND BOB NEVER DID FINISH THEIR LOVE MAKING THAT NIGHT. ERRATA THREW HIM OUT AFTER HE TRIED TO INTERVIEW HER FOR HIS TERM PAPER.
BETO '83


THE ADVENTURES OF ROCKY AND HER ROBOT FUMBLE
JAIME 84
OH BOY! DAT'S ME!
YOO HOO! ROCKY! ARE YOU STILL HERE?
NOT SO LOUD, STUPID! YES, I'M STILL HERE!
ARE YOU HUNGRY? I BROUGHT YOU SOME LUNCH.
NEVER MIND THAT! WHAT DID THEY SAY?
WELL, YOUR MOM'S SORTA CONCERNED, BUT YOUR DADDY'S JUST SITTING IN HIS CHAIR READING HIS PAPER.
HMF! HE WOULD.
1


ROCKY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO INSIDE? IT'S GONNA BE DARK SOON AND...
WHEN ARE YOU PEOPLE GONNA REALIZE THAT I'M NOT A KID ANY MORE? I'M ALMOST SIXTEEN, YOU KNOW...
WELL, JEEZ... YOU'RE SURE ACTING LIKE A KID RIGHT NOW.
I HEARD THAT, FUMBLE! COME ON, HELP ME WITH THE BOAT.
ROCKY! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME JUST LIKE THAT!
OH NO? JUST WATCH ME! I'LL SHOW THEM!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHO CARES? WHEREVER THE RIVER TAKES US. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE TO SATURN? TO CHINA? HOW ABOUT OXNARD? THE NEAREST 7-11?
OH, ROCKY! ROCKEEEE!
JOHN, IT'S GETTING DARK AND ROCKY'S NOT HOME YET. I'M FRIGHTENED. WHAT IF SHE DID RUN AWAY LIKE SHE SAID SHE WOULD?
RELAX, MELBA! SHE'S ONLY TRYING TO PUT A SCARE ON US.
OK, WE'LL GIVE HER ANOTHER HOUR, THEN I'LL GO AFTER HER... WITH BELT IN HAND, READY TO BEAT THE HELL OUT OF THAT GIRL.
DON'T YOU DARE RAISE YOUR HAND TO THAT CHILD, JOHN RHODES! THAT'S WHAT MADE HER RUN OUT THE FIRST TIME!
2


YOU'VE GOT TO STOP TREATING ROCKY AS IF SHE WERE STILL A CHILD! SHE HAS TO HAVE MORE FREEDOM! SHE WOULDN'T ALWAYS THREATEN TO RUN AWAY IF SHE WASN'T KEPT ON THIS FARM TWELVE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR!
SHE HAS TO GET OUT ONCE IN A WHILE AND SEE HER FRIENDS, MEET BOYS...
FIRST BOY WHO TRIES TO GET MY DAUGHTER PREGNANT IS A DEAD MAN.
ROCKY, IT'S DARK, AND I'M SCARED.
ME, TOO. I'VE NEVER GONE THIS FAR DOWN THE RIVER BEFORE.
HOW ABOUT IF WE TURN BACK AND GO HOME, HUH?
AND LET MY DADDY WHIP ME AS IF I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD? NOT ON YOUR LIFE! BUT, IF YOU'RE AFRAID, YOU CAN GO. GO AHEAD, HE'LL ONLY TURN YOU INTO A STEERING WHEEL.
WHO, ME? FEARLESS FUMBLE? AFRAID? IF YOU CAN STICK IT OUT, SO CAN I. I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU, REMEMBER?
VERY COMFORTING. SHHH...
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
SHHH... LISTEN. DID YOU HEAR THAT?
N-NO. NOT ME. NO, NO. I DIDN'T...
WHO'S OUT THERE IN THE RIVER?
EEP!
I THINK I'M GONNA SCREAM.
SHHH... DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE...
3

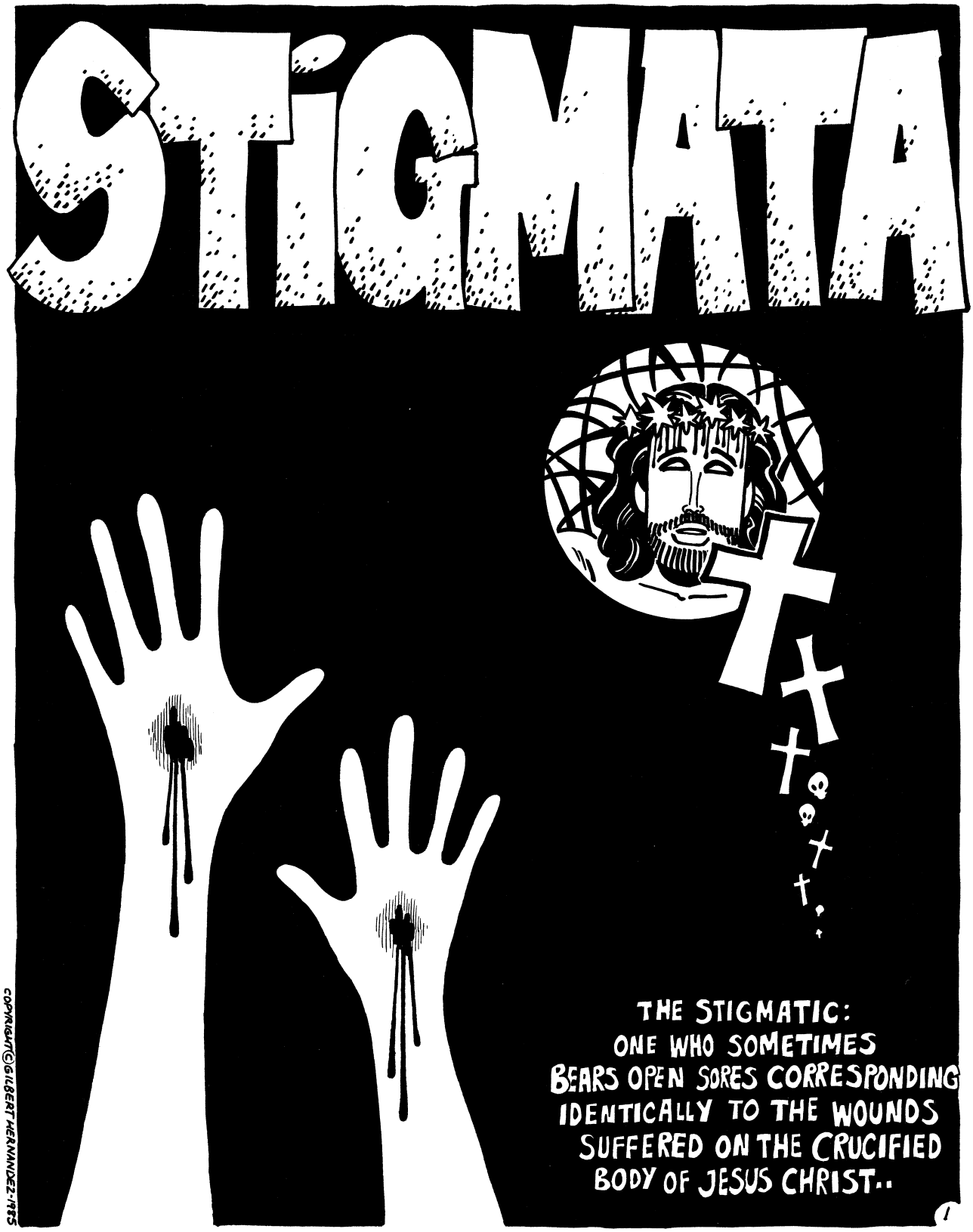

... SO YOU BETTER ANSWER ME, OR I'LL SIC MY KILLER CRAWDADS ON YOU! Y'HEAR?
GULP
QUIET. HE'S BLUFFING.
THEY'RE AWFUL HUNGRY, YOU KNOW! HAVEN'T FED 'EM IN WEEKS, SO YOU BETTER SPEAK UP!
HUNGRY, NO LESS...
FUMBLE... I'M WARNING YOU...
TELL YA WHAT! I'LL COUNT UP TO THREE! ONE...
FUMBLE...
TWO...
DON'T-YOU-DARE...
...
IT'S ME! I MEAN, IT'S US! HELLO!
GREAT. NOW I'M GONNA BE RAPED BY HILLBILLIES...
KNOCK OFF ALL THAT RACKET! I GOT SOME KIDS THAT GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING!
AH, YOUR MOTHER FARTS DYNAMITE!
?
?
THAT TEARS IT, SHERMY EGGY! I'M GONNA TELL YOUR WIFE YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING AGAIN!
OH YEAH? YOU DO AND I'LL...
QUIET!
SHHH...
I THINK NOW'S THE RIGHT TIME. LET'S GO.
I'M WITCHOO.
JOHN! IT'S FOUR A.M. AND SHE'S STILL NOT HOME! GET YOUR BUTT IN THAT TRUCK AND FIND YOUR DAUGHTER!
OK, OK! CHEEZ LOUISE! I MUST'VE DOZED OFF!
4


SHEESH! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET OUT MORE.
NOW WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU LEARN TO STEER A BOAT, FOOL?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ROCKY. WHERE DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
DON'T ASK ME. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE BUILT-IN TRACKER. ≡YAWN≡
SORRY, IT ONLY WORKS FOR PLANETS. YOU TIRED?
A LITTLE. LET'S STOP A WHILE AND HAVE A SHORT REST IN THAT ABANDONED SHACK OVER THERE.
OK, ROCKY.
I'LL JUST CLOSE MY EYES FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE WE GO ON... ZZZZZZ
I MIGHT AS WELL RECHARGE IN THE MEAN-TIME.
CLICK!
SAY, JOHN! WHY THE LAND TRUCK? WHERE'S THE OL' FANCY FLYER?
IT'S IN THE GARAGE, WISE ASS! YOU SEEN MY LITTLE GIRL AROUND? SHE DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.
RAN AWAY 'GAIN, DID SHE?
YEAH, I SAW HER YESTERDAY GOING DOWN RIVER 'BOUT DUSK.
IF SHE WAS MY DAUGHTER, JOHN, I'D PUT HER ON A LEASH!
WELL, SHE AIN'T YOUR DAUGHTER, SO SHUT UP!
K'S
KET
COLA LOCO
49¢
5


YEAH, STRANGER. SHE WAS WITH A ROBOT WALKIN' TOWARDS THE HIGHWAY JUST ABOUT A HALF HOUR AGO.
THANKS, STRANGER.
NOWHERE 'ROUND HERE. MAYBE SHE MADE IT INTO TOWN.
ROCKY? HEY, ROCKY! WAKE UP!
WHA... WHAT TIME IS IT?
NINE O'CLOCK? I SLEPT FOUR HOURS? WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME, STUPID?
I-I DUNNO. YOU LOOKED KINDA PEACEFUL LYING THERE. I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME SLEEP TWENTY-FOUR HOURS? FORTY-EIGHT HOURS! WHY DID YOU WAKE ME JUST NOW?
WELL, Y'SEE, YOUR DAD JUST DROVE BY, AND...
MY DADDY?! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY, AREN'T YOU? I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO FIND YOU.
AARGHHHH! THAT WAS YESTERDAY! I WANNA GO HOME NOW! C'MON! MAYBE WE CAN FIND HIM IN TOWN!
OK, OK! SHEESH!
YOU'RE IN LUCK, PAL. I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE AN EXTRA FAN BELT SOMEWHERE. I'LL GO LOOK FOR IT.
THANKS. IS THERE A SODA MACHINE AROUND... NEVER MIND. I SEE IT. I'LL BE BACK.
Joe's GARAGE
6


I DON'T KNOW, FUMBLE. SOMETIMES I JUST WANT TO BLAST OFF. BLAST OFF AND NEVER COME BACK. GO PLACES MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEVER EVER SEEN...
I WANT TO GO TO PLACES WHERE PEOPLE DRIVE BUILDINGS. WHERE THEY SLEEP ON TOP OF TREES AND WALK AMONG THE STARS. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, FUMBLE?
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN FIND THAT IS INSIDE YOUR DREAMS.
NO! I KNOW IT'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE! IT HAS TO BE! HASN'T IT? ISN'T IT? COULDN'T IT?
I THINK WE SHOULD START LOOKING FOR YOUR DAD, ROCKY.
DON'T LOOK NOW BUT THAT COP'S BEEN WATCHING US EVER SINCE WE CAME INTO TOWN.
AND NOW HE'S COMING THIS WAY. WHAT'LL WE DO?
EXCUSE ME, BUT CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU...?
RVN!
YOW
HEY!
C'MON, ROCKY! THIS WAY!
SHRIEK!
BEEP! BEEP!
JOHN'S TRUCK! BUT IS ROCKY WITH HIM??
7


ROCKY! MY BABY!
HELLO, MOMMA.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I'M OK, MOMMA. CAN I GO UP TO MY ROOM?
I WANT YOU STAYING UP THERE AND DON'T WANT YOU COMING OUT OF THERE FOR ANOTHER WEEK, Y'HEAR?
NOW, JOHN...
VIXENS
I'M TELLING YOU, MELBA. THAT DAUGHTER OF OURS IS SOMETHIN' ELSE!
THE POOR THING. SHE'S SO CONFUSED AT THIS AGE. ALWAYS REACHING FOR THAT STAR AND ALWAYS FALLING SHORT.
WELL, ONE OF THESE DAYS SHE'S GONNA REACH FAR ENOUGH AND SHE'LL GRAB THAT STAR AND THERE'LL BE NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT'S EVER GONNA BRING HER BACK...
...SO I GUESS WE SHOULD BE HAPPY WITH WHAT WE GOT WHILE WE GOT IT, HUH?
THE END


STIGMATA
THE STIGMATIC:
ONE WHO SOMETIMES
BEARS OPEN SORES CORRESPONDING
IDENTICALLY TO THE WOUNDS
SUFFERED ON THE CRUCIFIED
BODY OF JESUS CHRIST..
1
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Tears from Heaven



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ERRATA STIGMATA

BY GILBERT HERNANDEZ ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY MARIO FEB 85





AS TIME PASSED, UNCLE IRA DID HIS BEST TO SHOW US ALL JUST HOW MUCH HE GREW TO ADORE HIS LITTLE POOCHKA...





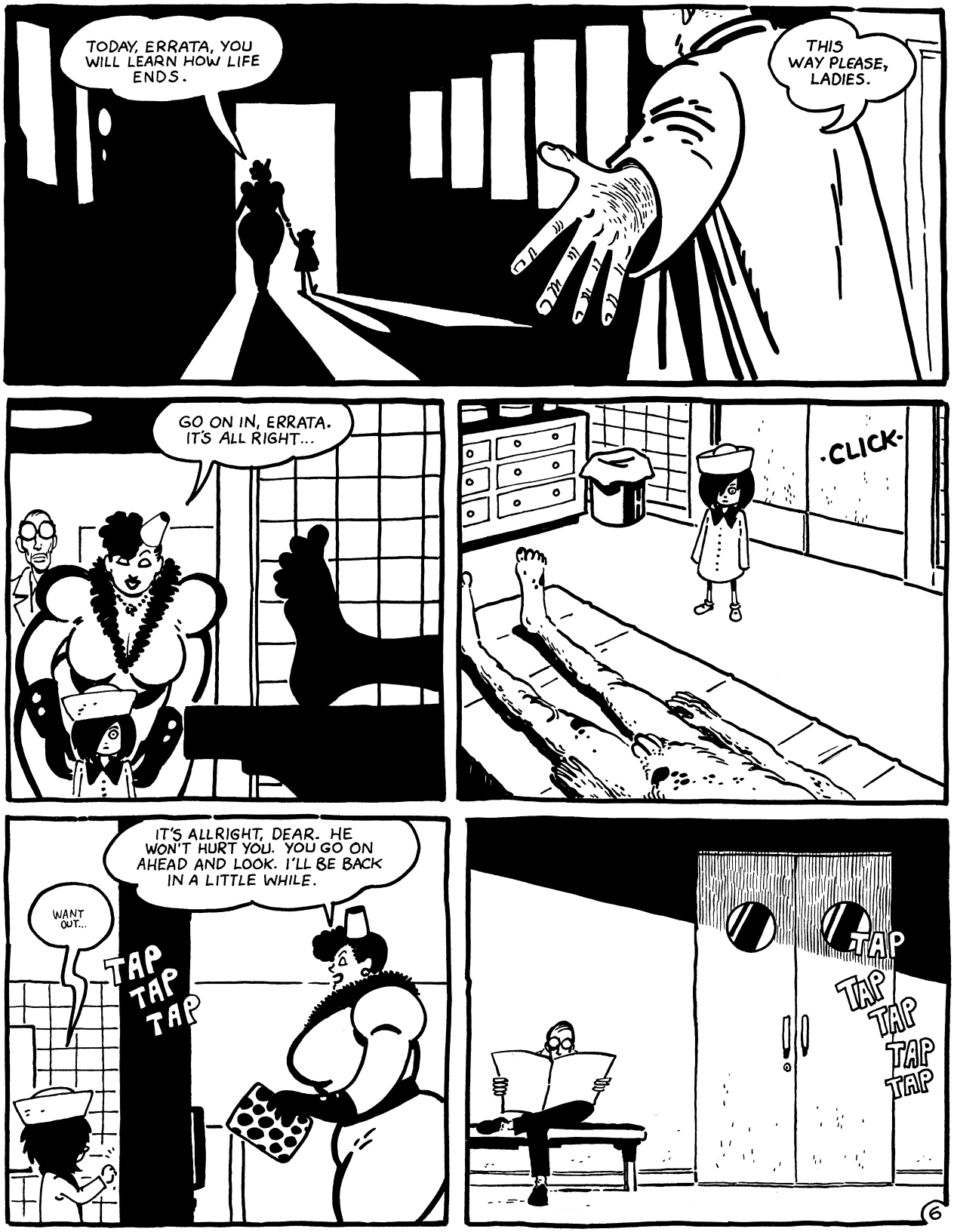



YOU MUST SIT STILL AND WATCH AUNTIE, ERRATA.


IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU LEARN ABOUT HOW LIFE BEGINS, CHILD, SO THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE CONFUSED.


AHHHH...UH...AH-AH--OW!
OW! OOHHH...SEE, ERRATA? UGH...
MM--MM...OHHH...UGNH...OW..OW!
OH! OH! OW!


LATER THAT NIGHT, AS SHE SLEPT, ERRATA DID NOT DREAM...
5

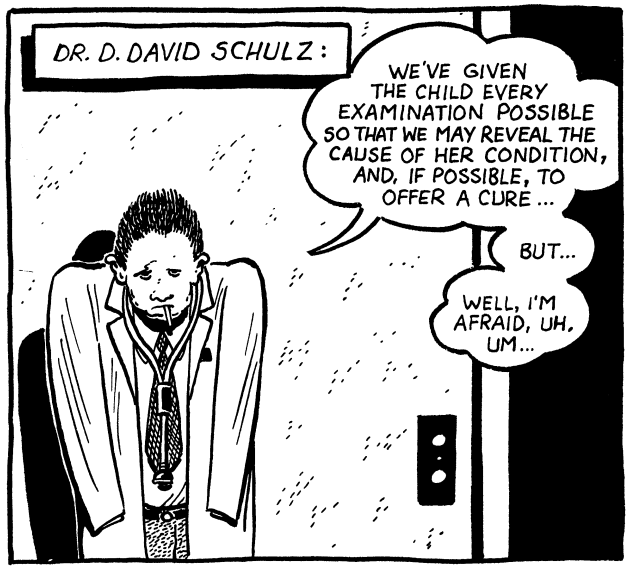

TODAY, ERRATA, YOU WILL LEARN HOW LIFE ENDS.
THIS WAY PLEASE, LADIES.
GO ON IN, ERRATA. IT'S ALL RIGHT...
·CLICK·
IT'S ALLRIGHT, DEAR. HE WON'T HURT YOU. YOU GO ON AHEAD AND LOOK. I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE.
WANT OUT...
TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
!!
6

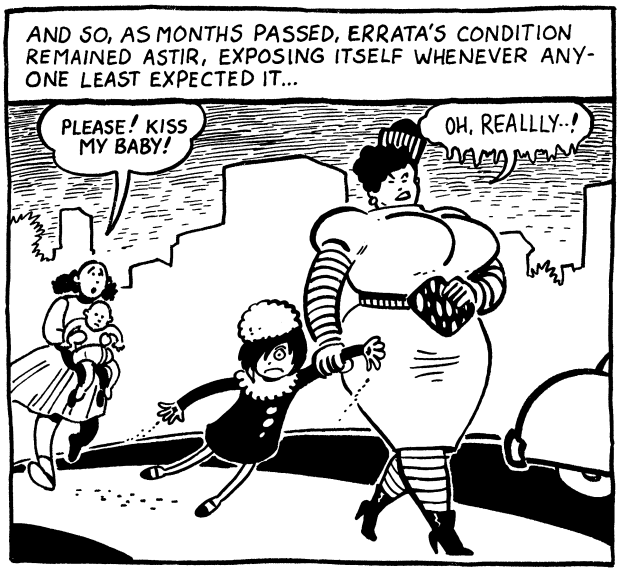

AND WHEN AUNTIE ZEPHIE WASN'T SHOWING ERRATA WHAT LIFE WAS ABOUT, THE CHILD LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES...
ERRATA, DEAR. TIME FOR YOUR PIANO LESSONS.
PLINK PLINK PLONK
NO, NO, CHILD. TRY IT AGAIN.
PLINK PLINK PLONK
NO-NO-NO!
THE NOTE IS A!
A!
A!
WHOK
TEACHER GETS VERY IMPATIENT WITH TALENTLESS SWINE WHO BUTCHER THAT WHAT IS MEANT TO BE HEARD IN HEAVEN...

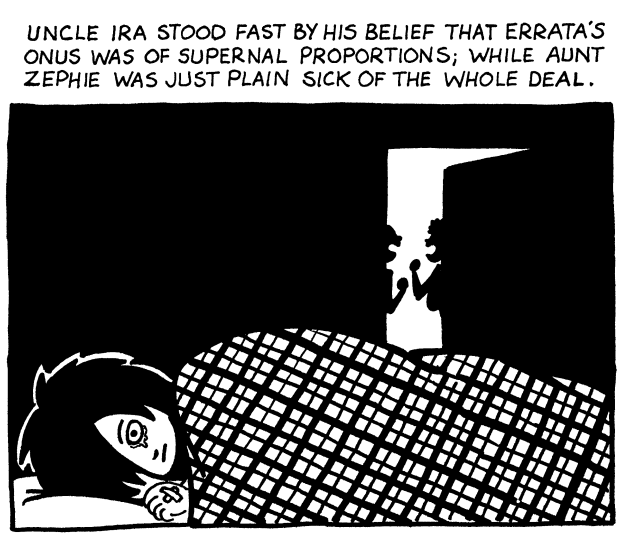

..PAIN, CHILD! IT IS PAIN THAT INSPIRES US TO CREATE! THE MORE PAIN IN THE WORLD, THE GREATER THE ART..
SANGRE DE DIOS!!!
WAAAAAAAAHHHHH
!?!
IT WAS UNCLE IRA WHO RUSHED ERRATA TO THE HOSPITAL (AFTER HE DECKED THE PIANO TEACHER)...
I THINK PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEE THIS FOR YOURSELF, SIR.
?!
8


...A REVELATION. MY LITTLE GIRL HAS NO BACKGROUND IN RELIGION WHAT SOEVER, YET SHE OFFERS US A VIVID REMINDER OF CHRIST'S DIVINE MISSION ON EARTH.


...A LOAD OF RUBBISH. SHE IS SIMPLY A VERY SICK CHILD IN NEED OF THE PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION.

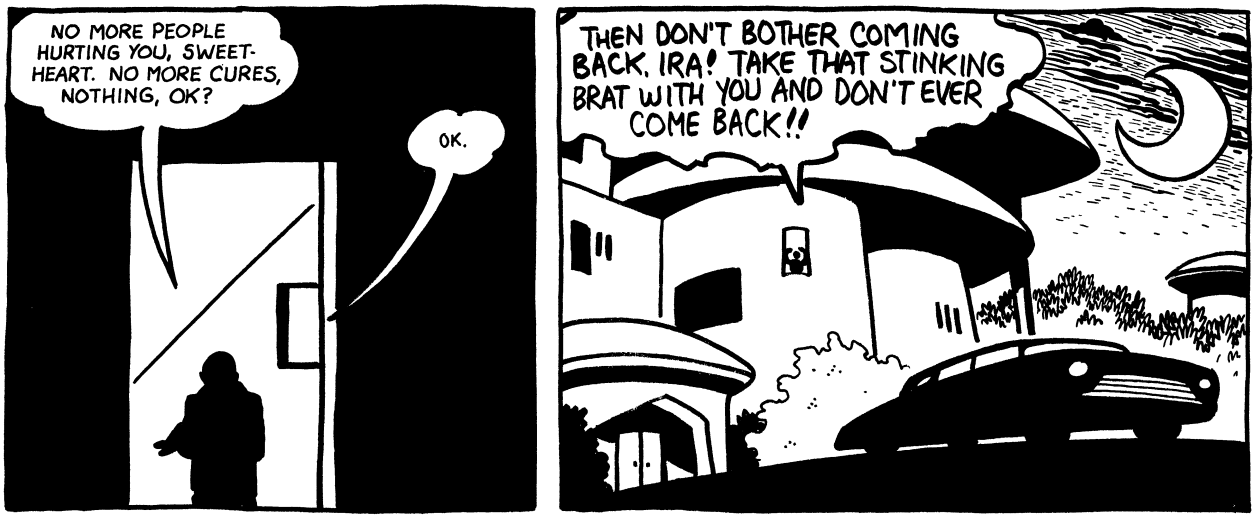

DR. D. DAVID SCHULZ:
WE'VE GIVEN THE CHILD EVERY EXAMINATION POSSIBLE SO THAT WE MAY REVEAL THE CAUSE OF HER CONDITION, AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO OFFER A CURE ...
BUT...
WELL, I'M AFRAID, UH, UM...

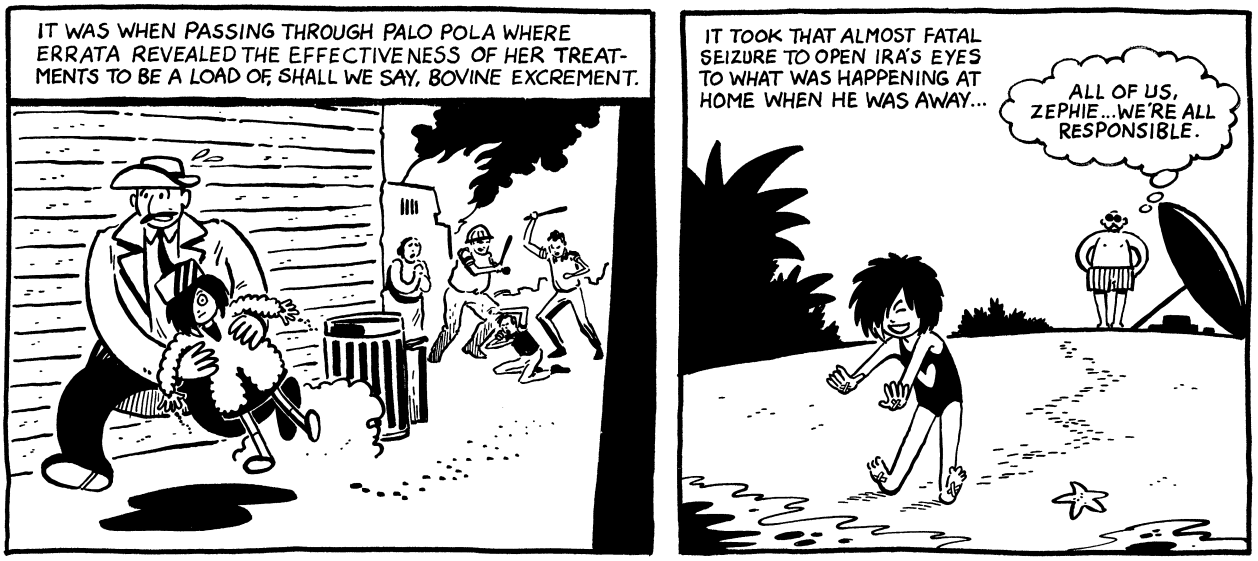

AND SO, AS MONTHS PASSED, ERRATA'S CONDITION REMAINED ASTIR, EXPOSING ITSELF WHENEVER ANYONE LEAST EXPECTED IT...
PLEASE! KISS MY BABY!
OH, REALLLY...!


UNCLE IRA STOOD FAST BY HIS BELIEF THAT ERRATA'S ONUS WAS OF SUPERNAL PROPORTIONS; WHILE AUNT ZEPHIE WAS JUST PLAIN SICK OF THE WHOLE DEAL.


NO-NO-NO! NO MORE DEAD, AUNTIE! NO...!
NO, ERRATA. NO MORE DEAD. TODAY YOU WILL BE CURED OF YOUR BLEEDING FOR GOOD.
9


ERRATA BECAME OPTIMISTIC. IF SHE COULD BE CURED, PERHAPS THEN UNCLE IRA AND AUNTIE ZEPHIE WOULD STOP FIGHTING...
STRIP 'ER DOWN TO HER CHONERS. THIS WON'T TAKE TOO LONG.
BE STILL, CHILD.
I'M GONNA BE CURED.. I'M GONNA BE CURED.. I'M GONNA BE CURED..
WHAT'S THAT STINK, AUNTIE?
IT'S CALLED SULFUR, CHILD. IT'S YOUR VERY OWN SPECIAL MEDICINE.
ENTER, LADIES.
DON'T BE SHY, ERRATA. IT WON'T HURT A BIT.
FOUR THOUSAND KILOMETERS AWAY, AT THE VERY SAME MOMENT OF ERRATA'S FIRST TREATMENT, UNCLE IRA SUFFERED A MYSTERIOUS SEIZURE...
UUUUGGGGHHAAAHH...
ERRATA, SWEETHEART? ARE YOU AWAKE?
YES, UNCA IRA.
COME ON. YOU AND I ARE GOING AWAY, DEAR. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
NO MORE DEAD? NO MORE CURE? NO MORE..?
10


NO MORE PEOPLE HURTING YOU, SWEETHEART. NO MORE CURES, NOTHING, OK?
OK.
THEN DON'T BOTHER COMING BACK, IRA! TAKE THAT STINKING BRAT WITH YOU AND DON'T EVER COME BACK!!


IT WAS WHEN PASSING THROUGH PALO POLA WHERE ERRATA REVEALED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HER TREATMENTS TO BE A LOAD OF, SHALL WE SAY, BOVINE EXCREMENT.
IT TOOK THAT ALMOST FATAL SEIZURE TO OPEN IRA'S EYES TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT HOME WHEN HE WAS AWAY...
ALL OF US, ZEPHIE...WE'RE ALL RESPONSIBLE.

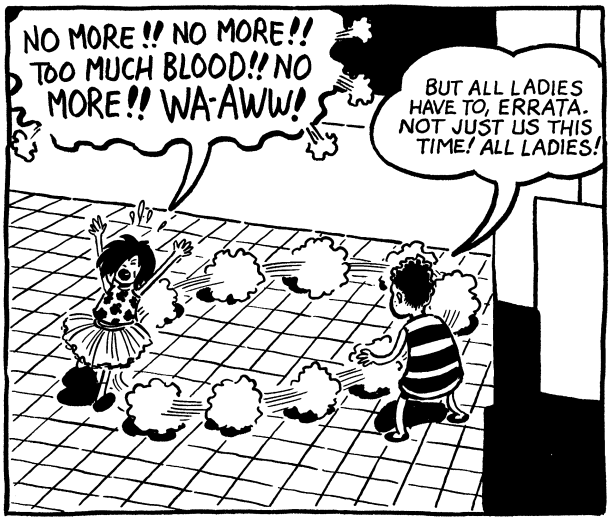

STIGMATICON


SEE THE BLOOD..? SEE...WAIT, SEE IT NOW? NO, WAIT...SEE?
GET A GOOD SHOT OF HER CLEAVAGE, MIKE! GET THE CLEAVAGE!
THAT'S MY DAD! HE'S SPEAKING IN TONGUES NOW. HE'S NOT A REAL STIGMATIC BUT THEY ALWAYS INVITE US ANYWAY.
RRRETCHH-AARRGHSHITTT.. FUKKN--SHITTTRRRR.. YAWR-OWR.. GDDAMN SHHHHH..
FRAP POP
12


..THE BLEEDING BEGINS AFTER SHE'S WITNESSED OR EXPERIENCED SOMETHING FRIGHTENING TO HER MIND. SOMETHING OF TERRIBLE INJUSTICE OR OF INHUMAN CRUELTY. OR EVEN SOMETIMES IF SHE'S SIMPLY SEEN A CAR RUN OVER A DOGGIE...
YES, WELL, MY AMBROSE YAK YAK BLAH BLAH...
YAK YAK YAK
CONVENTION
ERRATA HAD NEVER BEEN HAPPIER. TO MEET SOMEONE LIKE OONA WAS BEYOND HER WILDEST DREAMS...
I WISH WE COULD BE SISTERS AND PLAY WITH EACH OTHER FOREVER AND EVER...
ME TOO. I GOT A LOT OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS BUT NOBODY LIKE ME.
MY MOMMY SAYS I'M SPECIAL 'CAUSE GOD PICKED ME.
CONVENTIO
ME TOO, THEN! I'M SPECIAL TOO 'CAUSE GOD PICKED ME, TOO!
EXCEPT MY AUNTIE GETS MAD WHEN I GET MY DRESS ALL DIRTY WITH BLOOD.
WANNA HEAR A BIG FAT SECRET? I KNOW ABOUT ANOTHER PLACE ON US WHERE ME AND YOU WILL HAVE BLOOD WHEN WE'RE BIGGER...
13

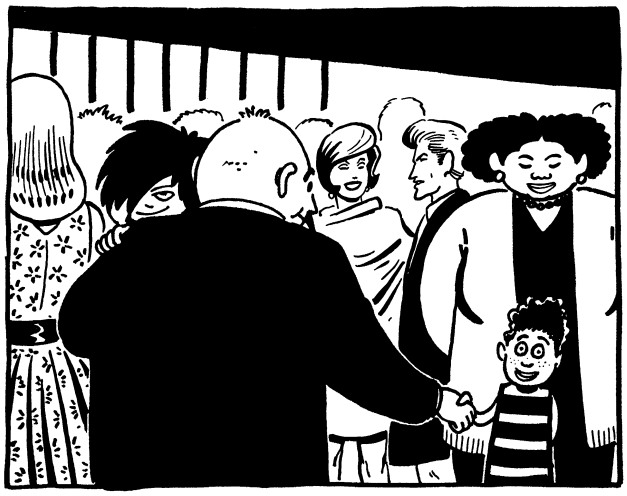








NOW ERRATA WAS PLEASED. AS LONG AS AUNTIE ZEPHIE BLED TOO, ERRATA WOULD BE GRATIFIED...





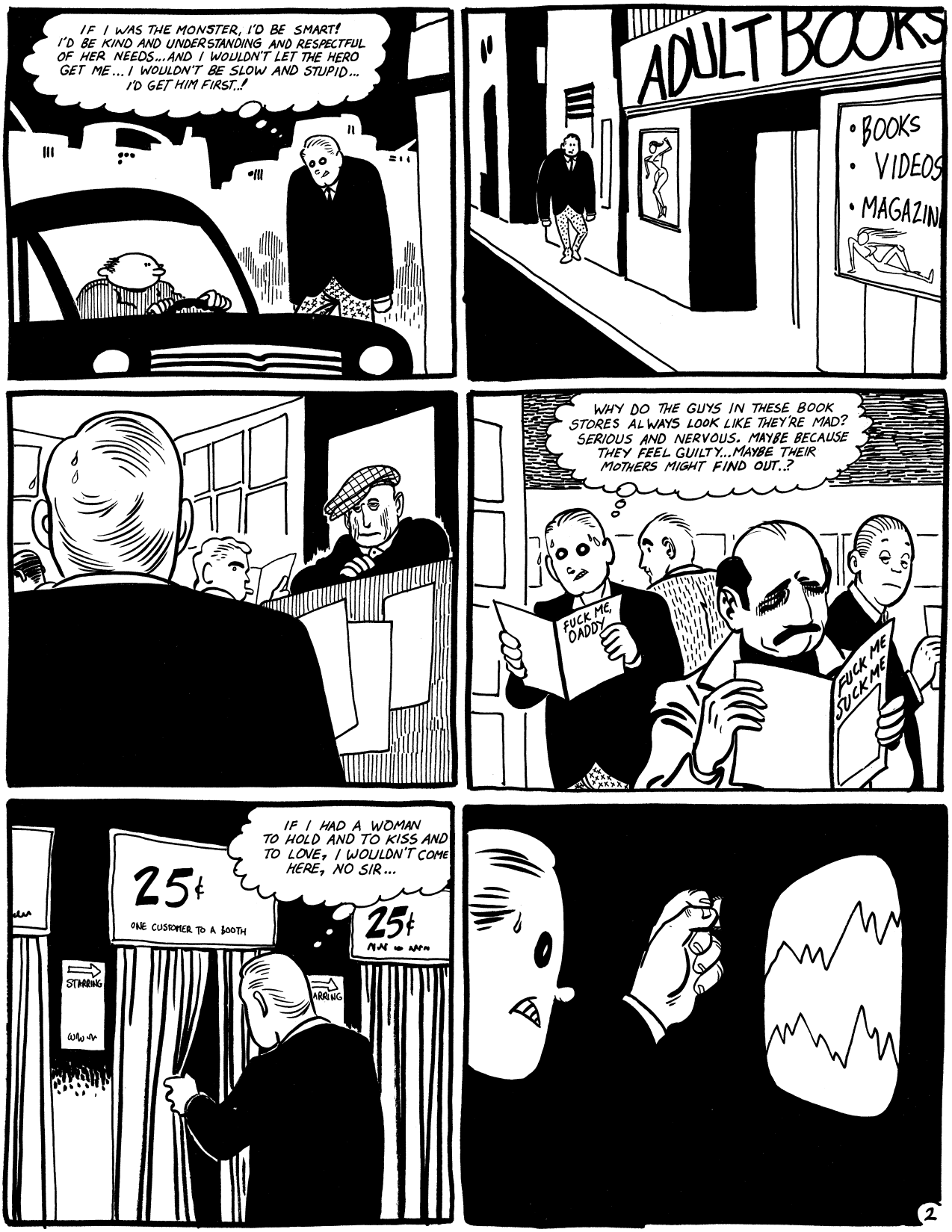

ERRATA, I'VE EXPLAINED IT TO YOU. I'M GOING BACK HOME. IF YOU COME WITH ME, THERE WILL BE MORE CURES, MORE DEAD, MORE AWFUL THINGS TO SEE...
YOUR TEACHERS AT SCHOOL WILL BE NICE, BECAUSE THEY'LL UNDERSTAND YOU...
SNIFF SNIFF
TOOT
THEN, AFTER PURCHASING A FORTY-FIVE PISTOL, UNCLE IRA WENT HOME AND PROCEEDED TO EMPTY THE GUNS CONTENTS INTO HIS WIFE ZEPHIE, HER TWO LOVERS, AND THEN HIMSELF...
POW POW POW POW POW...

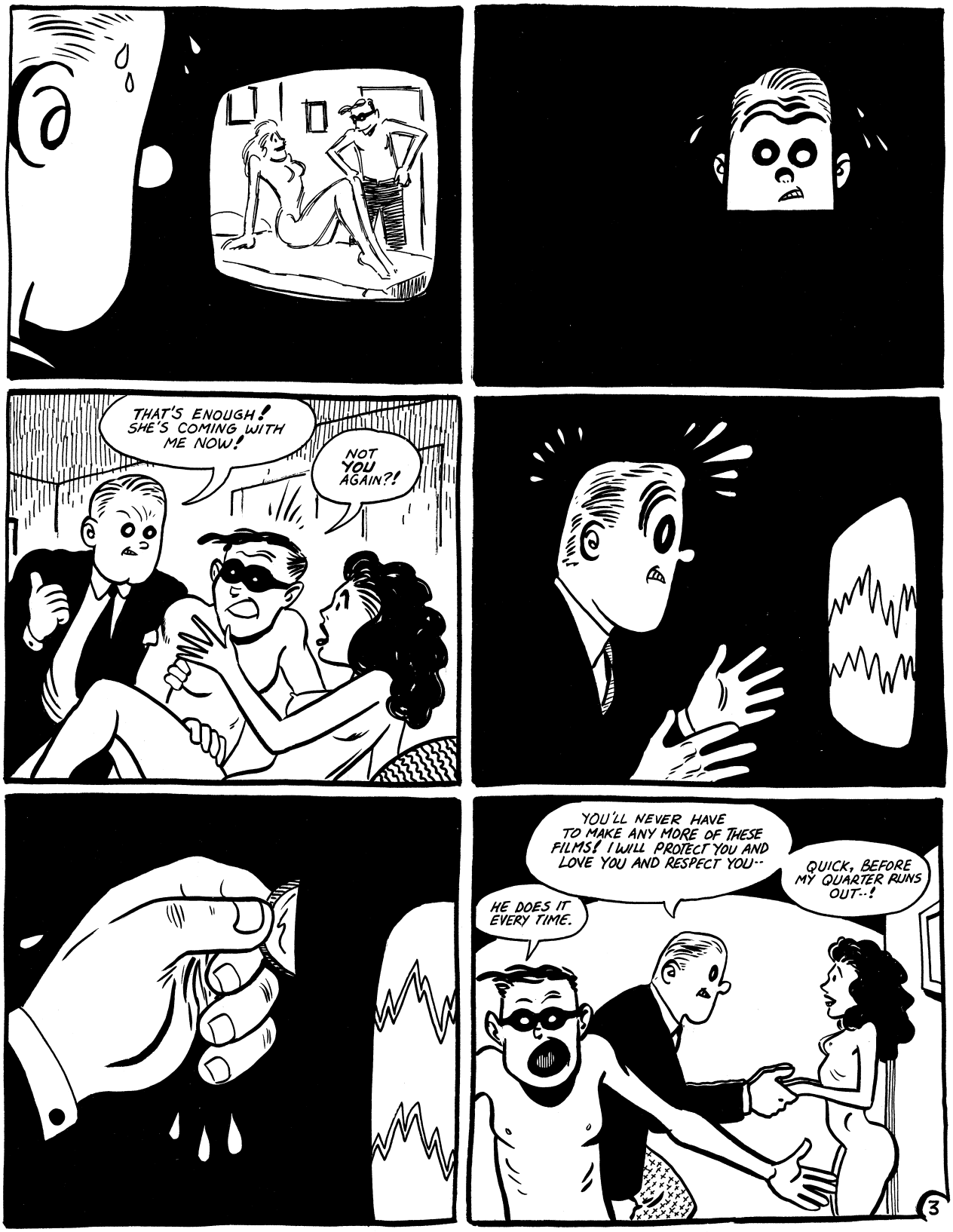

AVAST YE, MATIES! BATTEN DOWN THEM HATCHES! SWAB THOSE DECKS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY! WHAT? WHY, THAT'S MUTINY!
ROCKY...
HEY ROCKY!
WHERE ARE WE?
JAIME 85
QUIT ROCKING THE BOAT! I DON'T ROW TOO GOOD. OH, AND BY THE WAY...
APE SEX
WE'VE BEEN ROWING FOR HOURS AND STILL NO ISLAND! ARE YOU SURE THAT TREASURE MAP'S NOT A FAKE?
'COURSE NOT! ARE YOU CALLING MY UNCLE BLASTO A LIAR?
HMF! I'D HARDLY CALL HIM YOUR UNCLE! DO YOU SEE AN ISLAND ANYWHERE?
WELL, ACCORDING TO THE MAP, WISE ASS, THE ISLAND SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOUT...
APE SEX
1

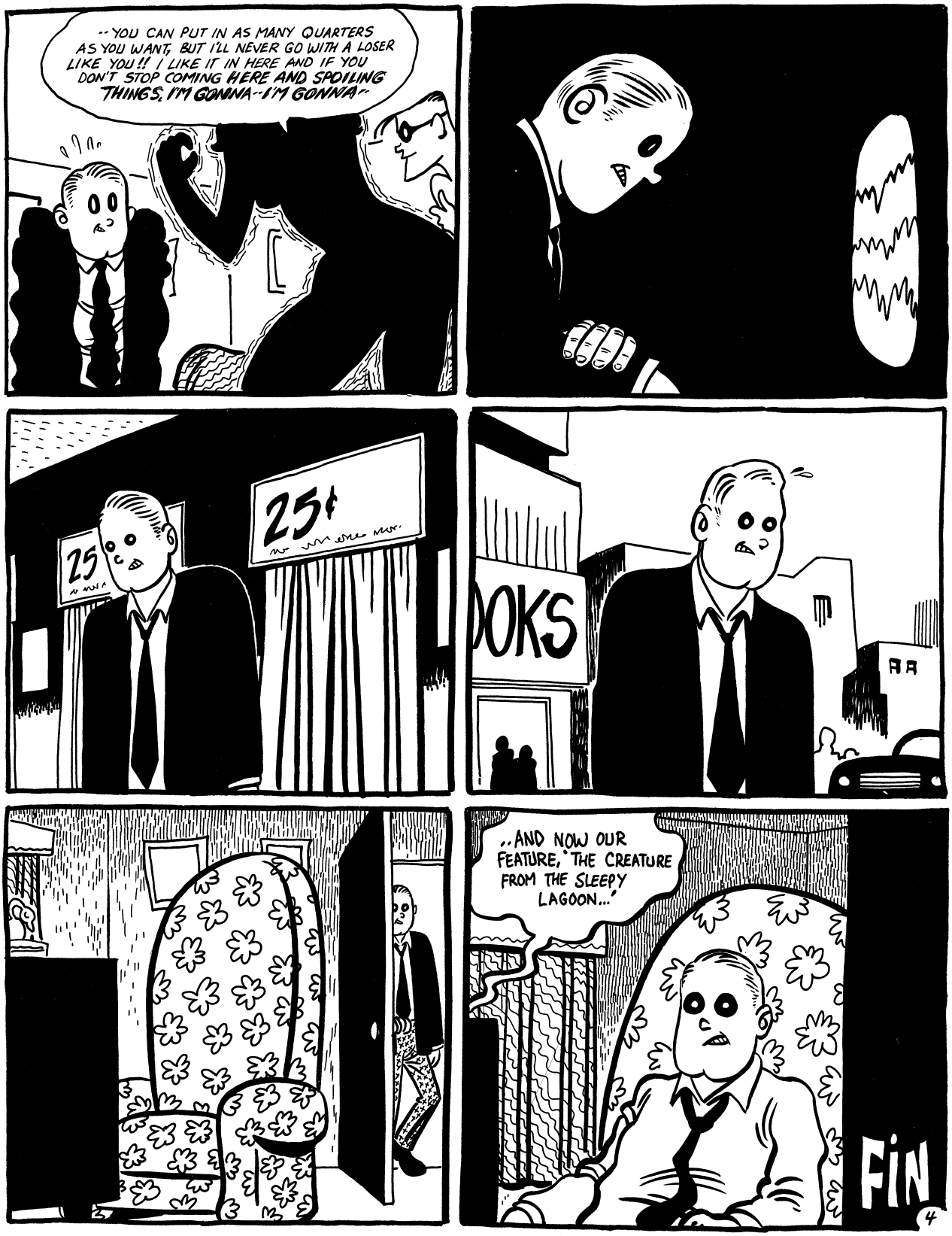

WHOA!
EEEK!
HELP! ROCKY! WHERE... OH, THERE YOU ARE.
GLUB!
WHY DON'T WE FORGET ABOUT THIS STUPID ISLAND AND GO HOME, OK?
FORGET IT?! I'M STANDING ON IT!
OK, I TAKE IT BACK ABOUT YOUR UNCLE. BUT I GUESS THIS ENDS OUR ADVENTURE, HUH?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
LAND HO!
B-BUT, WHAT IF THERE ARE CANNIBALS OR LEPERS ON THIS ISLAND, ROCKY?
FUMBLE! YOU'VE EXPLORED HUNDREDS OF STRANGE WORLDS BUT YOU'RE AFRAID OF ONE LITTLE ISLAND ON YOUR OWN PLANET!
RELAX, FUMBLE, M'BOY! I'LL BET WE'RE THE FIRST ONES EVER TO SET FOOT ON THIS HUNK OF ROCK.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FEET, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE CAN MAKE A YEAR IF WE TURN IT INTO A TOURIST TRAP?
WAIT, ROCKY! LOOK!
2


OMIGOSH! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE NATIVE FOOTPRINTS!
HMM... WAIT, THERE'S ONLY ONE BOOT THAT BIG AND I'VE BEEN KICKED BY IT PLENTY OF TIMES.
LEGGO FUMBLE! I DON'T WANNA BE EATEN BY CANNIBALS! HA HA! I DON'T WANNA DIE! WAH!
HOLD IT, ROCKY! I THINK I KNOW...
THERE'S ONE NOW! SCREAM!
OOF!
SO THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, GIRL!
DADDY?!
SEE? TOLD YOU... NOW WE'RE REALLY DEAD.
AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! AT LEAST WE'RE NOT ALONE ON THIS ISLAND!
WHAT ISLAND? THIS IS SUNOVA BEACH! THE HIGHWAY'S JUST PAST THOSE TREES!
KINDER
WASN'T IT A SCARY ADVENTURE, ANYWAY?
NOT AS SCARY AS IT'S GONNA GET! (SIGH)
LT
END


THE MANY FACES of
BIG
DANNY CHESTERFIELD
by MR. BI-COASTAL HIMSELF, GILBERTO H! 1987
EEEEEEEEEE
WHY DO THEY ALWAYS KILL THE MONSTER? ALL HE EVER WANTS IS THE GIRL. HE'S LONELY.
THE END


IF I WAS THE MONSTER, I'D BE SMART! I'D BE KIND AND UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTFUL OF HER NEEDS... AND I WOULDN'T LET THE HERO GET ME... I WOULDN'T BE SLOW AND STUPID... I'D GET HIM FIRST..!
ADULT BOOKS
• BOOKS
• VIDEOS
• MAGAZIN
WHY DO THE GUYS IN THESE BOOK STORES ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE MAD? SERIOUS AND NERVOUS. MAYBE BECAUSE THEY FEEL GUILTY... MAYBE THEIR MOTHERS MIGHT FIND OUT..?
FUCK ME, DADDY
FUCK ME SUCK ME
IF I HAD A WOMAN TO HOLD AND TO KISS AND TO LOVE, I WOULDN'T COME HERE, NO SIR...
25¢
ONE CUSTOMER TO A BOOTH
STARRING
25¢
2


THAT'S ENOUGH! SHE'S COMING WITH ME NOW!
NOT YOU AGAIN?!
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO MAKE ANY MORE OF THESE FILMS! I WILL PROTECT YOU AND LOVE YOU AND RESPECT YOU--
QUICK, BEFORE MY QUARTER RUNS OUT--!
HE DOES IT EVERY TIME.
3


--YOU CAN PUT IN AS MANY QUARTERS AS YOU WANT, BUT I'LL NEVER GO WITH A LOSER LIKE YOU!! I LIKE IT IN HERE AND IF YOU DON'T STOP COMING HERE AND SPOILING THINGS, I'M GONNA--I'M GONNA--
25
25¢
OOKS
..AND NOW OUR FEATURE, 'THE CREATURE FROM THE SLEEPY LAGOON...'
FIN
4

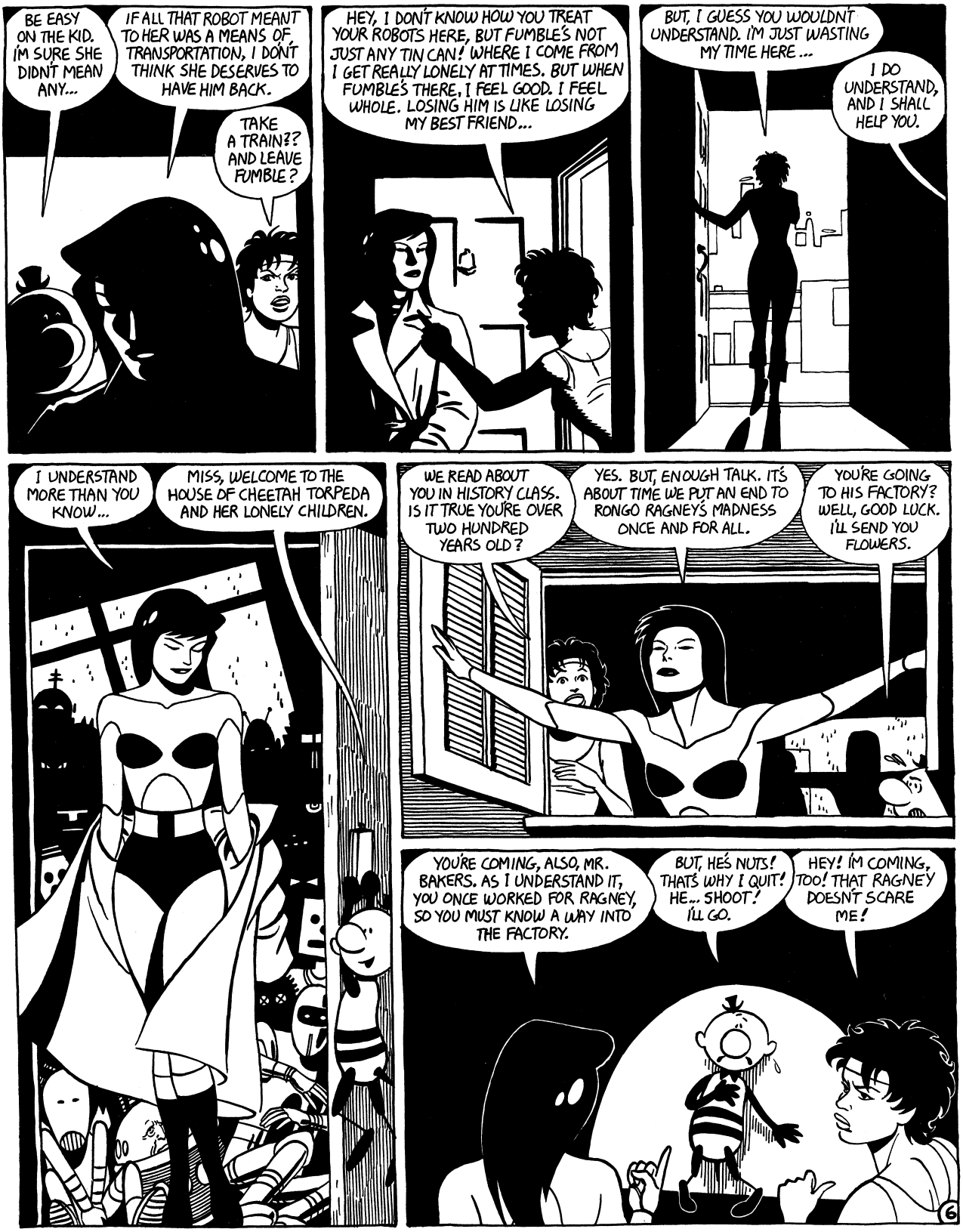

SURE, MA! WE'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE ROCKY SPEND THE WEEKEND WITH US. SHE HASN'T SEEN NEEDRA SINCE THEY WERE TOTS. THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A BALL TOGETHER!
SOME SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, HUH, FUMBLE? OH WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S PEOPLE IN THE CITY. WE WON'T BE TOO LONESOME.
FOR SHAME, GIRL. STILL HOLDING ONTO THAT TEDDY BEAR, ARE YA? YOU SHOULDA LEFT HIM HOME. YOU AIN'T GONNA NEED HIM HERE.
BUS
ROCKY, YOU REMEMBER YOUR NIECE NEEDRA. YOU TWO USED TO PLAY TOGETHER WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.
I REMEMBER, RHODA. HI, NEEDRA.
H-HI, AUNT ROCKY.
ROCKY'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE
BY JAIME "SHEMP" HERNANDEZ 85


OOH... MAMA! WOULDJA LOOK A DAT?
JUST IGNORE THEM, AUNT ROCKY. THEY GO TO MY SCHOOL.
IGNORE 'EM? I'M HOPING ONE OF THEM WILL COME OVER AND TALK TO US!
SO, NEEDRA. IS THERE A PLACE WHERE ALL THE KIDS HANG OUT? MAYBE WE CAN...
GEE, I DUNNO. I DON'T GET OUT TOO OFTEN. I HANG OUT WITH MY MAMA MOSTLY.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING FOR US TO DO IN THIS BIG OL' CITY. SOMETHING SORTA INTERESTING?
WELL, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MIGHT FIND SORTA INTERESTING, I GUESS.
HOOV 69
OLD MEXICO RESTAURANT
ANGELIQUE P
IT'S OVER IN OUR BACK-YARD.
BACKYARD?? I WAS SORTA HOPING FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE FURTHER FROM HOME.
WOW!
2


IT'S SOME SORT OF FREAK MISHAP OR SOMETHING. WE'VE HAD HUNDREDS OF SCIENTISTS OVER, BUT EVEN THEY CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.
YOU HAVE THE UNIVERSE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!
MMM... I JUST LOVE THE SMELL OF OUTER SPACE. DO YOU OFTEN GO OUT THERE AND LOOK AROUND?
NO WAY! THAT'S OUTER SPACE! THEY SAY IF WE JUST LEAVE IT ALONE MAYBE SOMEDAY, IT'LL GO AWAY!
YOU MEAN YOU NEVER EVEN TRIED...?
YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU CAN'T GO OUT THERE WITHOUT A SPACE SUIT! EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!
YOU CAN IF YOU HAVE A RADARON ROBOT WITH YOU, SEE?
AUNT ROCKY! GET DOWN FROM THERE! ARE YOU CRAZY?
LET'S GO DO A LITTLE EXPLORING, NEEDRA.
W-WHO, ME? NAW... BESIDES, MAMA'S TAKING US OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT, REMEMBER?
AW, THAT'S NOT FOR A FEW HOURS. C'MON...
GEE, I REALLY DON'T THINK WE CAN...
OK, THEN WE'LL SEE YOU AT DINNERTIME. COME ON FUMBLE.
AUNT ROCKY! YOU BETTER NOT... AUNT ROCKY?


NEEDRA! ROCKY! WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS UP TO?
N-NOTHING, MAMA! J-JUST TALKING!
WELL, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THAT OUTERSPACE, Y'HEAR? YOU WOULDN'T WANNA GET SUCKED UP NOW.
NO, MAMA. YES, MAMA. HOO BOY.
YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA, ROCKY?
NOT YOU, TOO! IT'S GONNA BE FUN! C'MON, FIND US A PLANET.
HOW'S THIS ONE? THE PLANET BLOTOS!
SOUNDS LIKE A CARNIVAL! LET'S GET DOWN THERE!
HEY! I THINK I KINDA LIKE THIS PLACE...
WHEW! ALL THAT TRAVELING WORE ME OUT. I THINK I BETTER RECHARGE.
LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN-TOWN!
WAIT, ROCKY! I GOTTA...
4


WHAD YOU SAY, FUM... HEY! COME BACK WITH THAT ROBOT! STOP! THIEF!
HEE HEE
SOMETHING WRONG, MISS? MAY I BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE?
SOMEONE JUST KIDNAPPED MY ROBOT!
TSK TSK! OH, WELL. LIFE'S TOUGH, KID.
POOR CHILD.
NICE DAY, ISN'T IT?
?!
HEY, KID! YOU MUST BE NEW AROUND HERE. YOU DON'T BRING YOUR ROBOT OUT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. NOT IN THIS TOWN, YOU DON'T.
WHY? IS IT A LAW? LOOK, I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW...
BELIEVE ME, YOU DID NOTHING AGAINST THE LAW, CHILD...
THE POLICE DIDN'T TAKE YOUR ROBOT AWAY FROM YOU. RONGO RAGNEY DID.
WHAT'S A WRONG RAG MAN?
RONGO RAGNEY IS BILLED AS THE MAN WHO HATES ROBOTS. HE'S OUT TO DESTROY EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.
DESTROY? BUT, HE CAN'T! NOT FUMBLE! I MEAN, HE'S A RADARON AND... I GOTTA GET HOME.
TAKE A TRAIN, THEN. WE CANNOT HELP YOU.
AW, COME ON, CHEETAH! WAIT A MINUTE...
5


BE EASY ON THE KID. I'M SURE SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANY...
IF ALL THAT ROBOT MEANT TO HER WAS A MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, I DON'T THINK SHE DESERVES TO HAVE HIM BACK.
TAKE A TRAIN?? AND LEAVE FUMBLE?
HEY, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TREAT YOUR ROBOTS HERE, BUT FUMBLE'S NOT JUST ANY TIN CAN! WHERE I COME FROM I GET REALLY LONELY AT TIMES. BUT WHEN FUMBLE'S THERE, I FEEL GOOD. I FEEL WHOLE. LOSING HIM IS LIKE LOSING MY BEST FRIEND...
BUT, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. I'M JUST WASTING MY TIME HERE...
I DO UNDERSTAND, AND I SHALL HELP YOU.
I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN YOU KNOW...
MISS, WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF CHEETAH TORPEDA AND HER LONELY CHILDREN.
WE READ ABOUT YOU IN HISTORY CLASS. IS IT TRUE YOU'RE OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD?
YES. BUT, ENOUGH TALK. IT'S ABOUT TIME WE PUT AN END TO RONGO RAGNEY'S MADNESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
YOU'RE GOING TO HIS FACTORY? WELL, GOOD LUCK. I'LL SEND YOU FLOWERS.
YOU'RE COMING, ALSO, MR. BAKERS. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU ONCE WORKED FOR RAGNEY, SO YOU MUST KNOW A WAY INTO THE FACTORY.
BUT, HE'S NUTS! THAT'S WHY I QUIT! HE... SHOOT! I'LL GO.
HEY! I'M COMING, TOO! THAT RAGNEY DOESN'T SCARE ME!
6


THERE'S THE FACTORY. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO FURTHER? NOT MANY EVER MAKE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT TURNING YELLOW.
I DON'T GET IT. IF IT'S ONLY ONE MAN DOING ALL THIS, WHY IS EVERYONE AFRAID TO...
KEEP OUT
SCRAM!
EEP!
THAT'S WHY!
WAHOO!
WHAT HAPPENED? MR. BAKERS! WHERE'S CHEETAH...?
HALP! I CAN'T SWIM!
I TOLD YOU THAT RAGNEY'S WISE. WE MAY NEVER REACH THE FACTORY.
WE CAN'T FOR SURE, NOW THAT THAT RAY OF HIS FINISHED OFF CHEETAH TORPEDA.
NOT QUITE...
THAT RAY MEANT TO KILL ME, BUT IT ONLY ZAPPED OUT MY FLYING ABILITY TEMPORARILY. I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT.
HE'S GONE, I TELL YA! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO ON, ROCKY?
YES!
7


... BUT IF IT MEANS ENDANGERING ANY OF YOUR LIVES, I THINK WE SHOULD TURN BACK.
YOU ARE VERY NOBLE, BUT I'M ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO ON IF YOU STILL WANT.
THAT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A LONG WALK NOW.
WE CAN STILL RUN!
YOW!
NOT SO FAST!
HOT DAMN, I WAS RIGHT! IT IS CHEETAH TORPEDA, AND SHE'S COMING TO ME! ONCE I HAVE HER OUT OF THE WAY, NO ONE COULD STOP ME!
SO, THAT'S THE FACTORY. BUT WHAT'S THAT??
NOW I KNOW WHY HE WANTED US ON THE GROUND!
RUN!
SO, RONGO RAGNEY! WE FINALLY MEET FACE TO FACE!
DIE, ROBOT. DIE!
STOP THIS NONSENSE BEFORE I HAVE TO...
OOPS!
DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT THING JUST SUCKED HER RIGHT UP!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE GOT HER! THAT'S ALL FOR US.
WE MAY AS WELL GO HOME. SORRY YOU HAD TO COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING.
YOU MEAN THAT'S IT? WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE THOSE ROBOTS IN THERE TO DIE JUST LIKE THAT?
8


THERE AIN'T NOTHING WE CAN DO! IT AIN'T WORTH RISKING OUR LIVES OVER THOSE ROBOTS ANYWAY. NOW, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF THEY WERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME. ROBOTS CAN AT LEAST BE REPLACED.
REPLACED?! WHY YOU...
AW, C'MON, KID! YOU AIN'T GONNA TELL ME THAT LINE YOU HANDED TORPEDA ABOUT THAT ROBOT BEING YOUR FRIEND WASN'T JUST TO GET HER TO HELP YOU.
HAVE YOU EVER OWNED A ROBOT?
WELL... YEAH. IT WAS A SECRETARY. BUT, THAT'S...
DID IT HAVE A NAME, MR. BAKERS?
YEAH, I CALLED HER MARIA. AFTER MY WIFE WHO... LEFT ME...
WAS SHE A GOOD SECRETARY?
YOU KIDDING? SHE WAS MORE THAN THAT! SHE WAS... SHE... SHE DIED...
MARIA... SNIFF
PLEASE, NOT THAT MACHINE! THAT'S THE ONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO KILL YOU OFF!
GO CHEETAH GO!
DO IT CHEETAH, DO IT!
THAT'LL SHOW HIM!
YAY!
WE'RE THAWED!
9


NOW WILL YOU GIVE MY CHILDREN BACK TO ME, RONGO RAGNEY?
YAY!
WELL, SHIT! I MIGHT AS WELL! I GOT NOTHING ELSE, DO I?
YES! TAKE THEM ALL AWAY! EVERYTHING ELSE IS RUINED! EXCEPT MAYBE YOU WANT TO BUST ME INTO A MILLION PIECES! WHY NOT? EVERYTHING MY LIFE STOOD FOR IS OVER! SO, GO AHEAD! KILL ME!
I WILL NOT KILL YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T WALK AWAY! IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! MY LIFE'S WORK CAN'T END IN A LOUSY TEN MINUTES, WHILE YOU ALL GO HOME AND SLEEP SWEET DREAMS! C'MON, WHAT ABOUT ME?
:SOB: YOU'RE ALL GOING TO RUIN EVERYTHING. ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS SAVE THIS WORLD FROM THE MACHINES. THE MACHINES THAT WILL TAKE ALL OUR JOBS... OUR... OUR WOMEN... OH, EVELYN...
...EVER SINCE YOU RAN AWAY WITH MOTORR, THE ROBOT WHO REPLACED ME AT MY JOB, I HAD TO... I... OH, EVELYN! HOW COULD YOU? I'M NOT BAD, I'M JUST... A LITTLE MAN, LIKE YOU SAID...
I BELIEVE LEAVING HIM AS HE IS IS PUNISHMENT ENOUGH.
UH, ROCKY? SORRY, YOUR BIRTHDAY DIDN'T QUITE TURN OUT LIKE YOU WANTED IT.
YOU KIDDING, FUM?
IT TURNED OUT JUST FINE. I GOT ME THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE RIGHT HERE!
AW, ROCKY...
10


HO HUM...
NEEDRA! ROCKY!
Y-YES, MAMA?
IT'S TIME TO GO OUT TO DINNER NOW. WHERE'S ROCKY?
HUH? WELL, SHE... WELL, I-I TOLD HER...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? WHERE'S ROCKY, NEEDRA?
I SWEAR, MAMA! I TOLD HER NOT TO...
HEY, RHODA! DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A LOTTA SNAILS IN YOUR GARDEN?
SO, ARE WE GOING TO DINNER NOW, OR WHAT? I'M STARVED.
HA HA! JUST LIKE ROCKY! YEAH, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS PLACE. THEY COOK UP GREAT SNAILS. COMING, NEEDRA HONEY?
YES, MAMA.
FIVE MONTHS LATER...
IS MY PRETTY PLAYGROUND STILL UP? I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT. I'LL BE COMING OVER AGAIN THIS WEEKEND, AND THIS TIME YOU'RE COMING WITH US.
I DUNNO, AUNT ROCKY. JUST 'CAUSE MAMA HASN'T CAUGHT YOU THE LAST SIX TIMES DOESN'T MEAN SHE WON'T CATCH YOU THIS TIME.
SHE WON'T FIND OUT IF WE DON'T LET HER. COME ON WITH US THIS TIME, NEE! IT'S BETTER THAN SITTING ON YOUR FAT BUTT WORRYING THE WHOLE TIME.
LEAVE MY FIGURE OUT OF THIS!
11


I'LL BE GONE TILL LATE TONIGHT, GIRLS, SO YOU HAVE THE HOUSE ALL TO YOURSELVES. HELP YOURSELF TO ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE... EXCEPT THE PIE, NEEDRA!
YES, MAMA.
HAVE A GOOD TIME, RHODA.
NOW, SEE WHAT A CINCH THIS WILL BE? READY, NEEDRA?
I DON'T THINK SO. MAYBE NEXT TIME, AUNT ROCKY.
YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME, NEE! YOU JUST GOTTA CHECK OUT THE PLACES ME AN' FUMBLE GO! 'SPECIALLY BLOTOS, WHERE CHEETAH TORPEDA LIVES.
I SAID NO! YOU'RE GONNA GET INTO A LOTTA TROUBLE!
OK, SISSY BONES! THEN JUST SIT THERE AND ROT! WE'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT!
I'M GONNA TELL MY MAMA, AUNT ROCKY! I MEAN IT!
SO, TELL HER THEN! SEE IF I CARE. ON TO BLOTOS, FUMBLE, M'BOY!
I WILL! AND THEN YOU'LL BE SORRY! YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU WERE NEVER BORN! DO YOU HEAR ME??
SHE WOULDN'T DARE TELL ON US! 'CAUSE I'LL TELL RHODA HOW NEE ATE THAT PIE AND JUST BOUGHT A NEW ONE TO REPLACE IT.
ROCKY! FUMBLE!
HUH? IT'S CHEETAH! SHE'S SENDING SOME KINDA MESSAGE FROM BLOTOS TO THE INSIDE OF MY HEAD!
12

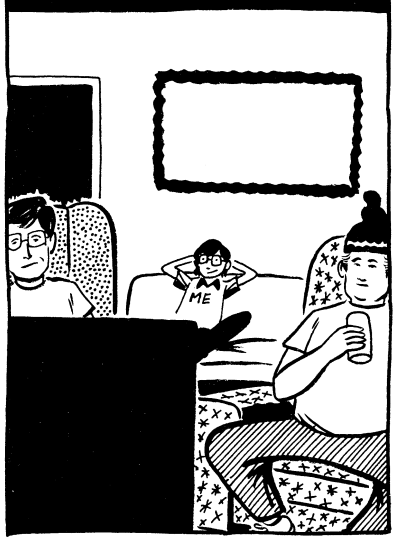

DO NOT COME TO BLOTOS. RONGO RAGNEY'S BACK AND HAS STARTED A NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED THE ANTI ROBOT KILL SQUAD AND THERE HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE RIOTS. I'D ADVISE YOU TO STAY AWAY TILL ALL IS CALM.
AWW...
WELL, THAT ENDS THAT TRIP. WHAT NOW?
FIND ANOTHER PLANET! THE NIGHT IS YOUNG!
"SO, TELL HER THEN! SEE IF I CARE!" HMF! I WILL TELL MAMA. AND WHEN HER DADDY FINDS OUT, SHE'LL REALLY BE SORRY!
THEN SHE'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT...
HAH?
NO! DON'T CLOSE UP! NOT YET!
AUNT ROCKY! WHERE ARE YOU? HALP!
NEEDRA? WHY ARE YOU BABBLING LIKE AN IDIOT?
M-MAMA?
MAMA!
I FORGOT MY... OH, HOW NICE. THE OUTER SPACE FINALLY WENT AWAY. WHERE'S ROCKY?
WAAAAAAA
13


NEEDRA'S GOTTA COME WITH US NEXT TIME. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S MISSING.
HM... DID WE TAKE A WRONG TURN AT THAT LAST ASTEROID?
NO, THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY. WHY? WHAT'S WRONG?
:GULP: I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT... I THINK THE HOLE CLOSED UP. IT'S NOT HERE...
WE'RE LOST FOREVER, ROCKY.
EEEEEEEE
FOR SALE
WHA...?
WAKE UP, ROCKY! IT'S ME FUMBLE!
OH, WHAT A DREAM. WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S NO DREAM. WE'RE ON BLOTOS, IN CHEETAH'S HOME.
OH, FUMBLE. WHAT HAVE I DONE?
END

A TRUE STORY

BY BETO JAN-FEB 86

THIS WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO. A FRIEND OF MINE AND I ARE SITTING AROUND AT A TEACHER FRIEND'S HOUSE WATCHING T.V. WHEN WRESTLING COMES ON.



I HADN'T WATCHED WRESTLING SINCE I WAS A KID. THIS ONE GUY COMES ON AND HE'S FLIPPING ABOUT PUTTING ON A SHOW WORTHY OF THE VETERAN GRAPPLERS OF MY YOUTH.



I'M REMINDED OF GREATS LIKE BOBO BRAZIL, MAGNIFICENT MAURICE, THE DESTROYER AND THE FABULOUS MOOLAH! MOOLAH JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE AT THIS MOMENT THE WOMEN'S CHAMPION. SHE ORIGINALLY WON THE TITLE IN 1956! WOTTA GAL!



MONTHS LATER, WRESTLING COMES TO MY TOWN EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT. MY YOUNGER BROTHER ATTENDS AND LATER TELLS ME OF THIS ONE GUY HE SAW WHO FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GUY I SAW ON T.V.. TURNS OUT HIS NAME IS GORGEOUS KEITH FRANKS.



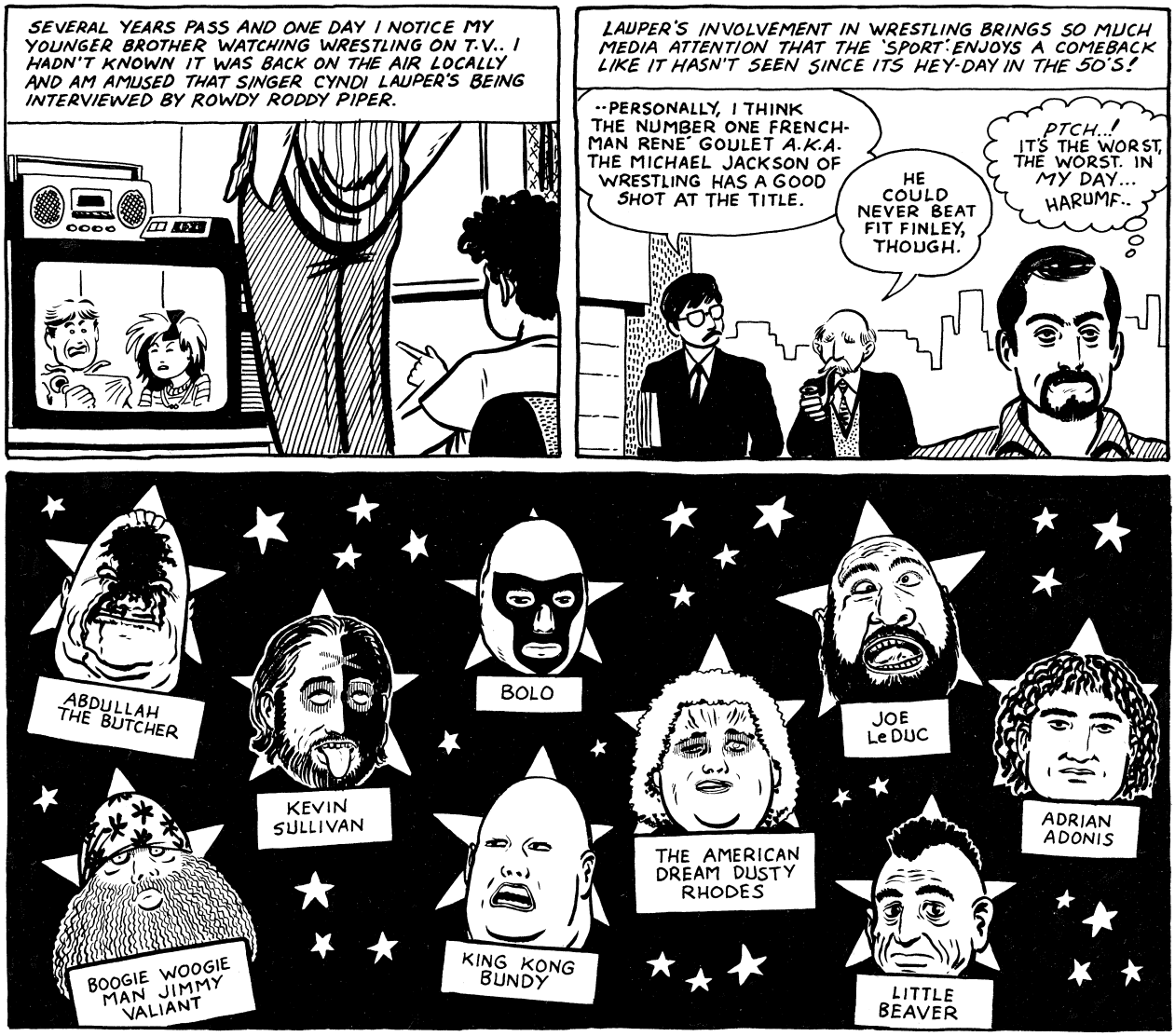
I MYSELF BRAVE THE LOCAL MATCHES AND WITNESS THE MAN AT WORK MYSELF. I AM NOT DISAPPOINTED.



LATER, POP SINGER DEBBIE HARRY IS FEATURED ON THE COVER OF A WRESTLING MAGAZINE. I ALWAYS DID THINK ROCK 'N' ROLL AND WRESTLING WERE A LOT ALIKE. ANYWAY, THE LOCAL GIGS COME TO A CLOSE AND AS LIFE GOES ON GRAPPLING AND GORGEOUS KEITH FRANKS FADE FROM OUR LOCAL T.V. STATION, AND MY MIND AS WELL.



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SEVERAL YEARS PASS AND ONE DAY I NOTICE MY YOUNGER BROTHER WATCHING WRESTLING ON T.V.. I HADN'T KNOWN IT WAS BACK ON THE AIR LOCALLY AND AM AMUSED THAT SINGER CYNDI LAUPER'S BEING INTERVIEWED BY ROWDY RODDY PIPER.
LAUPER'S INVOLVEMENT IN WRESTLING BRINGS SO MUCH MEDIA ATTENTION THAT THE 'SPORT' ENJOYS A COMEBACK LIKE IT HASN'T SEEN SINCE ITS HEY-DAY IN THE 50'S!
--PERSONALLY, I THINK THE NUMBER ONE FRENCHMAN RENE' GOULET A.K.A. THE MICHAEL JACKSON OF WRESTLING HAS A GOOD SHOT AT THE TITLE.
HE COULD NEVER BEAT FIT FINLEY, THOUGH.
PTCH..! IT'S THE WORST, THE WORST. IN MY DAY... HARUMF..
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
KEVIN SULLIVAN
BOLO
BOOGIE WOOGIE MAN JIMMY VALIANT
KING KONG BUNDY
THE AMERICAN DREAM DUSTY RHODES
JOE LeDUC
ADRIAN ADONIS
LITTLE BEAVER
THAT'S RIGHT! GORGEOUS KEITH FRANKS IS BACK WITH A BRAND NEW IDENTITY! MY GIRLFRIEND AND SOME FRIENDS ATTEND A WRESTLING GIG IN L.A. WHERE ADRIAN ADONIS APPEARS, BUT HE IS NOT WELL RECIEVED BY THE AUDIENCE.
BOO FATSO LARDBUTT
HAR BOO BOO
AAH" SHADDAP !!!!!!
THEN, THE FATEFUL NIGHT: MY GIRLFRIEND AND I SHOW UP AT A GIG WHERE ADONIS IS TO APPEAR. MY GIRLFRIEND IS A PHOTOGRAPHER AND WANTS TO GET SHOTS OF SOME OF THE GRAPPLERS AS THEY ENTER THE BUILDING.
DO YOU THINK ADONIS WILL GET MAD IF I TAKE HIS PICTURE WHEN HE COMES IN?
NAW! I'M SURE HE'LL BE COOL! GO AHEAD!
2


LOOK! THERE HE IS IN THE PHONE BOOTH.
HE'S STICKING HIS TONGUE OUT AT US. WHAT A CARD! WE'LL GET THE SHOT WHEN HE'S DONE.
WE WAIT FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES, WHEN FINALLY...
OH, I'M SCARED. MAYBE I SHOULDN'T...
AW, GO AHEAD!
HEY... HE LOOKS KINDA MAD OR SOMETHING.
H-HI. CAN I TAKE YOUR PICTURE?
@#*@ MUMBLE MUMBLE... FREE ENTERPRISE, RIGHT..?
i#*@$ FUKN.. @#*%$ ... BULL SHIT...
HEY... HEY, HE YOUR BOYFRIEND? HEY...!
IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
YEAH...
FUCKN!... @#*%$... PEE WEE HERMAN...
WE DECIDE TO SIT DOWN AND REFLECT UPON WHAT THE HELL HAD JUST HAPPENED. A POPCORN VENDOR WALKS UP TO TALK TO A NEARBY SECURITY GUARD...
EXIT
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
COULDN'T UNDERSTAND A GODDAMN WORD HE SAID...
HE SAID ONE OF THE WRESTLERS ORDERED A BUNCH OF FOOD FROM THE CONCESSION STAND AND TOOK IT WITHOUT PAYING! THEN HE THREATENED THE LADIES BEHIND THE COUNTER TILL THEY HAD TO CALL SECURITY! I'LL BET IT WAS ADONIS!
3


WE THEN HEAR STORIES ABOUT A WRESTLER WHO'D BEEN PICKING FIGHTS AND STUFF WITH FANS ALL NIGHT..!
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID ABOUT MY MOTHER? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE KNEW HIM!
THE MATCHES GET UNDERWAY AND WE'RE SURE ADONIS WON'T WRESTLE, NOT IN HIS 'CONDITION'. THE FIRST MATCH IS WITH S.D. JONES AND IRON MIKE SHARPE. IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE SHARPE EXITS THE RING TO ESCAPE TO THE LOCKER ROOM, BUT INSTEAD HEADS OUR WAY --
GRRAURR...
AW, SHIT, HERE WE GO AGAIN...
BUT TO MY SURPRISE, SHARPE IS A REAL GENTLEMAN! AS HE'S ABOUT TO WIPE HIS SOPPING BROW HE NOTICES ME IN THE AISLE SEAT AND STOPS HIMSELF IN MID-MOTION AS NOT TO DRIP SWEAT IN MY BEER. MY FAITH IN HUMANITY IS RESTORED...FOR THE MOMENT.
THEN, AFTER A COUPLE OF MORE MATCHES...
--ADRIAN ADONIS!
BOO
BOO
BOO
BOO
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!? THEY'RE GONNA LET HIM..?!
THE MAN IS OBVIOUSLY OUT OF IT. HE'S STAGGERING AND STRUTTING ALL OVER THE RING MAKING LEWD GESTURES TO THE AUDIENCE. AT WOMEN AND KIDS, TOO! THEN, ALL WITHIN TWO MINUTES, WITHOUT EVEN REMOVING HIS JACKET:
HE DEMOLISHES HIS OPPONENT IN SECONDS FLAT (AND IT LOOKED LIKE FOR REAL, TOO!). THE REFEREE LOOKS GENUINELY CONCERNED!
ADONIS THEN PRETENDS TO SNORT LINES OF COKE FROM OFF THE TOP ROPE!
GRABS THE MIKE AND SHOUTS:
I THINK YOU ALL SUCK!
THROWS A CHAIR INTO THE RING AT THE ANNOUNCER!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
4

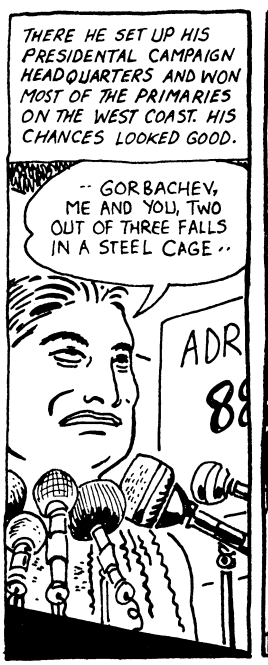






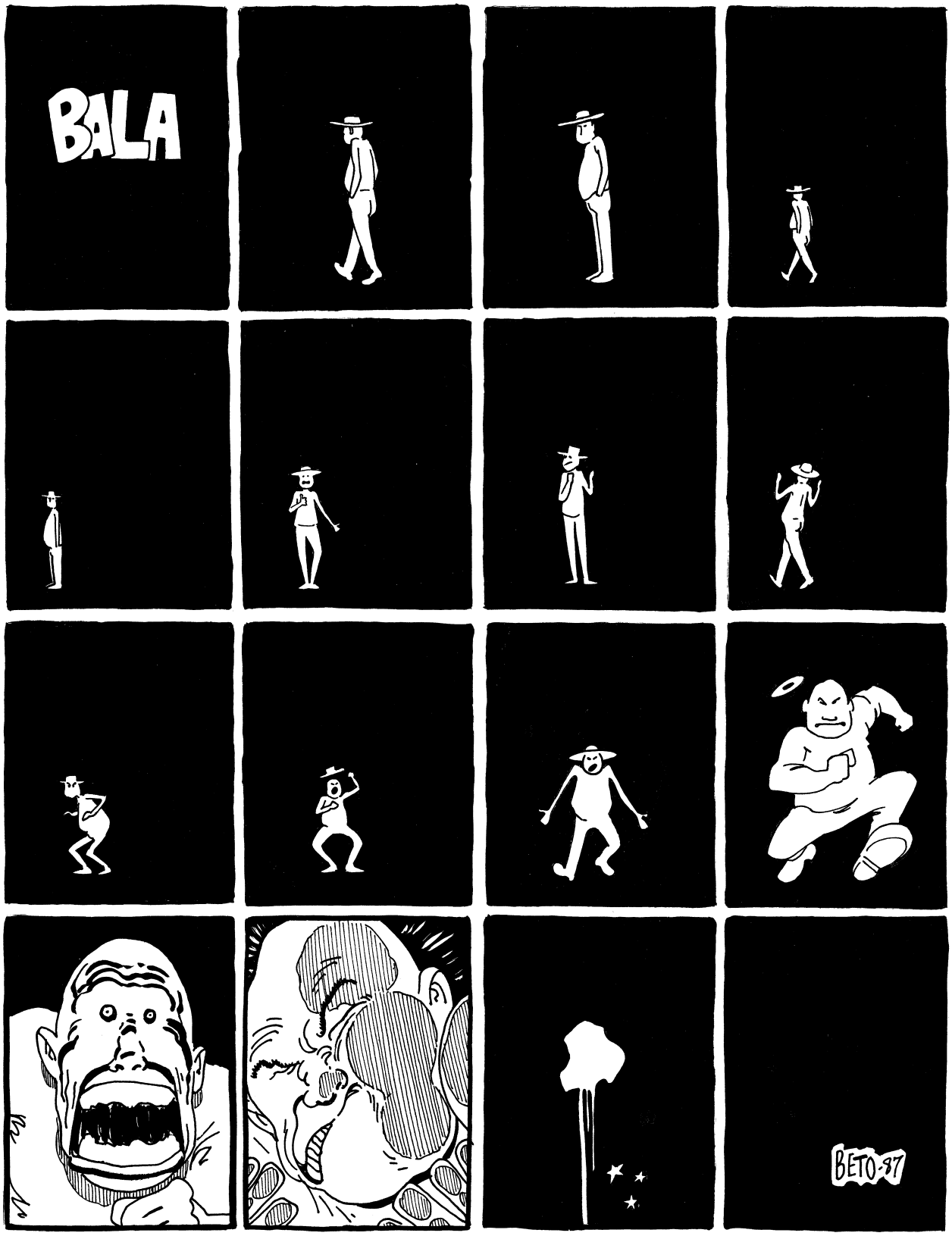
EPILOGUE: A TRUER STORY





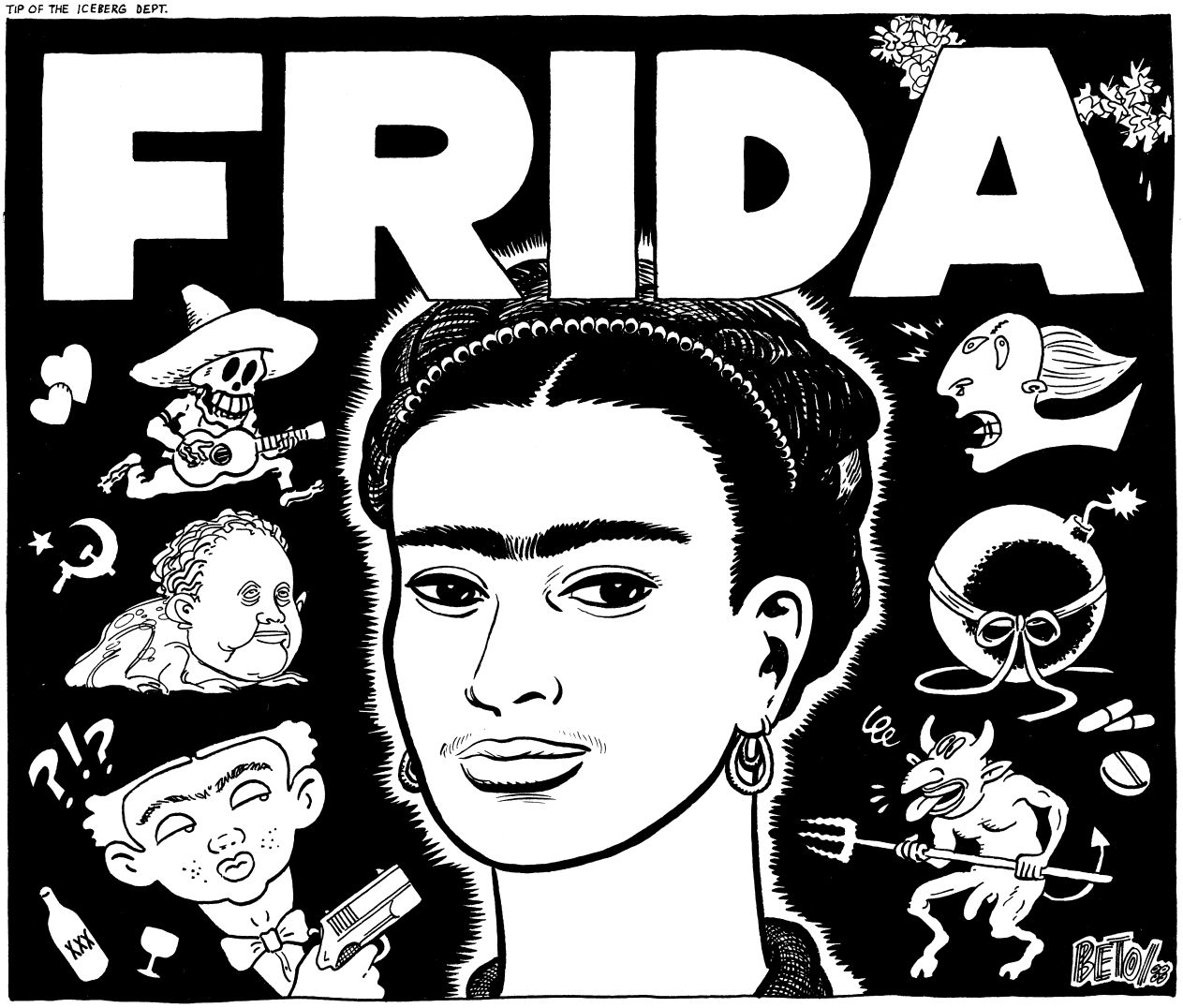




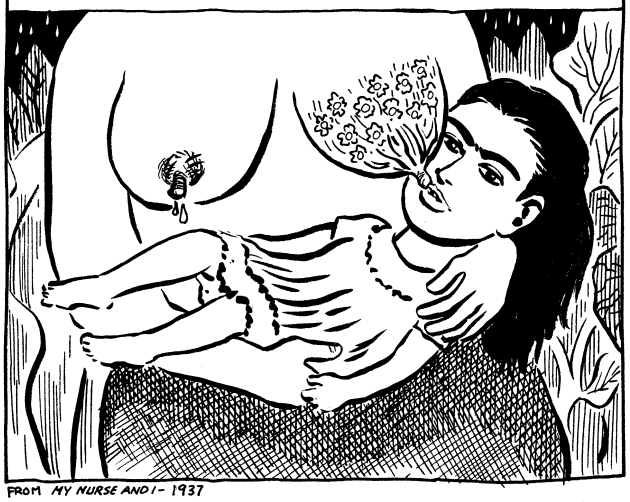

BALA
BETO-87


the Goat
I'M SITTING AT THE BAR, RIGHT? SO IN COMES THIS GIRL I HADN'T SEEN SINCE JUNIOR HIGH...
BECKY SNYDER WALKED RIGHT PASS ME AND SAT A COUPLE OF STOOLS DOWN. SHE LOOKED BEAT.
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO REMEMBER ME BUT I RECOGNIZED HER FROM THAT BIRTHMARK ON HER CHEEK.
BECKY SNYDER. YEAH, SHE WAS ONE OF THOSE KIDS WHO CRIED IN CLASS A LOT.
SHE WAS ALWAYS IN TROUBLE EVEN IF SHE NEVER REALLY BOTHERED ANYONE.
KIDS CALLED HER "THE GOAT". SHE FLUNKED TWICE, I THINK.
LAST TIME I SAW HER WAS ONE OF THE MANY TIMES I WAS CALLED INTO THE OFFICE FOR DITCHING.
IT LOOKED LIKE THE COPS WERE TAKING HER AWAY. I NEVER KNEW WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT.
SO THERE SHE WAS, JUST TWO STOOLS AWAY. WHAT THE HELL, I THOUGHT. I DECIDED I WAS GONNA BUY HER A DRINK. I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT BIG GIRL COME INTO THE PLACE.
LIGHT BEER
THE BIG GIRL QUIETLY WALKS OVER TO SNYDER AND PROCEEDS TO PUMMEL THE HELL OUT OF HER.
THE BIG GIRL LEFT AS QUIETLY AS SHE CAME IN. BECKY JUST SAT THERE ALL BEAT TO HELL, RED AS A BEET, ALL EMBARRASSED AND KIND OF GRINNING...
THE ENTIRE JOINT WAS STILL AS A TOMB.
BECKY GOT UP AND LEFT AFTER A FEW MINUTES. I SAT ALONE ON MY STOOL LISTENING TO THE OTHERS IN THE BAR TRYING TO TOP EACH OTHER WITH THEIR OWN REACTIONS...
...AND I WAS JUST STANDING BACK HERE, AND...
...AND I WAS, AND I WAS...
BETO '99 + XAIME
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TIP OF THE ICEBERG DEPT.



1907- IN COYOACAN, MEXICO, ON JULY 6, MATILDE CALDERON GONZALEZ AND HER HUSBAND GUILLERMO KAHLO, A GERMAN BORN PHOTOGRAPHER, ARE BLESSED WITH A DAUGHTER. THEY NAME HER FRIDA.

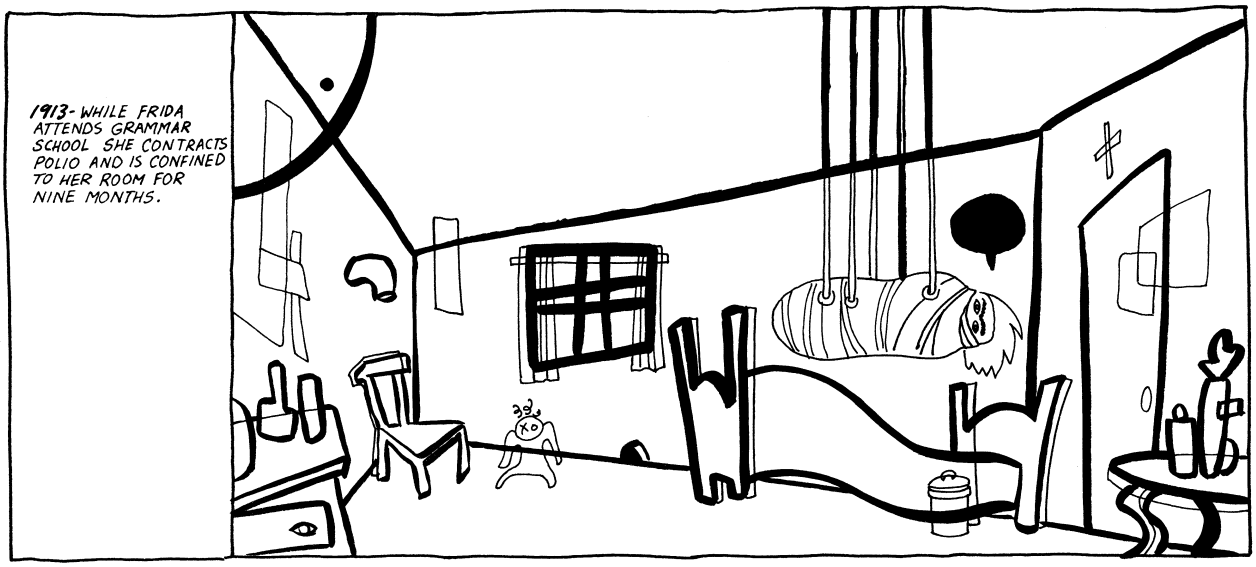


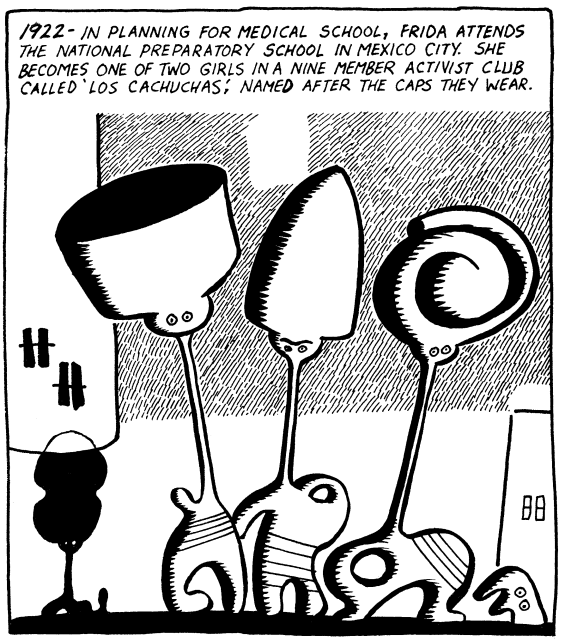
FROM MY NURSE AND I- 1937

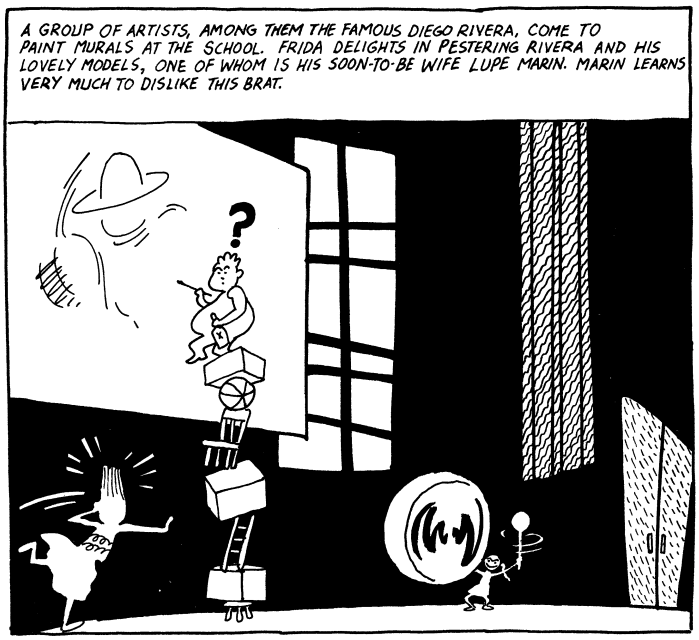
WHEN THE CHILD IS THREE YEARS OLD THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION ERUPTS. A YEAR LATER MEXICAN DICTATOR PORFIRIO DIAZ ESCAPES TO EUROPE.



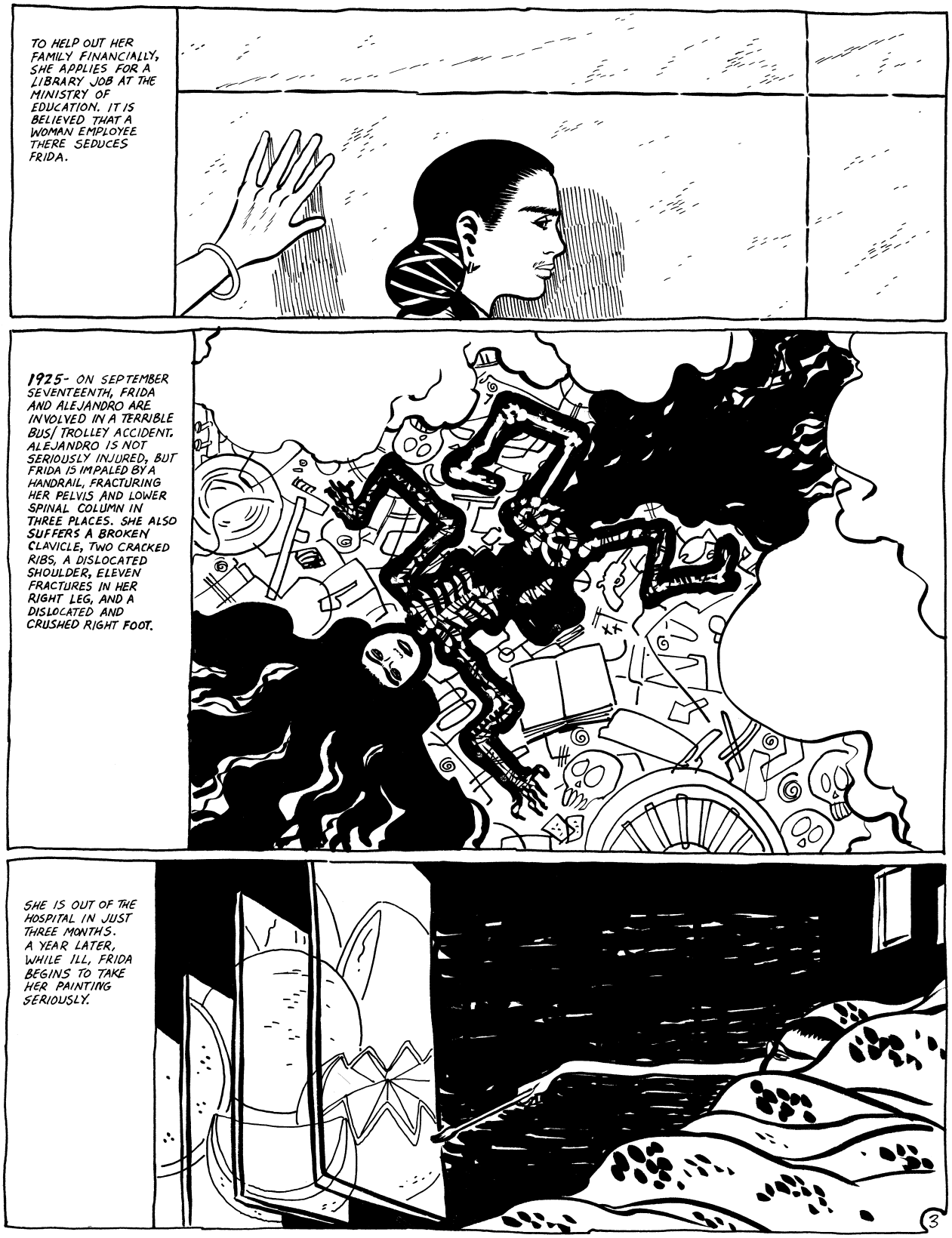
FRIDA- FREE' DAH


1913- WHILE FRIDA ATTENDS GRAMMAR SCHOOL SHE CONTRACTS POLIO AND IS CONFINED TO HER ROOM FOR NINE MONTHS.


1922- IN PLANNING FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL, FRIDA ATTENDS THE NATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN MEXICO CITY. SHE BECOMES ONE OF TWO GIRLS IN A NINE MEMBER ACTIVIST CLUB CALLED 'LOS CACHUCHAS,' NAMED AFTER THE CAPS THEY WEAR.


A GROUP OF ARTISTS, AMONG THEM THE FAMOUS DIEGO RIVERA, COME TO PAINT MURALS AT THE SCHOOL. FRIDA DELIGHTS IN PESTERING RIVERA AND HIS LOVELY MODELS, ONE OF WHOM IS HIS SOON-TO-BE WIFE LUPE MARIN. MARIN LEARNS VERY MUCH TO DISLIKE THIS BRAT.
?


1923- HER FIRST LOVE IS FELLOW 'CACHUCHA' ALEJANDRO GOMEZ ARIAS, WHO LATER BECOMES AN INFLUENTIAL LAWYER AND POLITICAL JOURNALIST. THEIRS IS A LIFE LONG FRIENDSHIP.
2


TO HELP OUT HER FAMILY FINANCIALLY, SHE APPLIES FOR A LIBRARY JOB AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT A WOMAN EMPLOYEE THERE SEDUCES FRIDA.
1925- ON SEPTEMBER SEVENTEENTH, FRIDA AND ALEJANDRO ARE INVOLVED IN A TERRIBLE BUS/ TROLLEY ACCIDENT. ALEJANDRO IS NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED, BUT FRIDA IS IMPALED BY A HANDRAIL, FRACTURING HER PELVIS AND LOWER SPINAL COLUMN IN THREE PLACES. SHE ALSO SUFFERS A BROKEN CLAVICLE, TWO CRACKED RIBS, A DISLOCATED SHOULDER, ELEVEN FRACTURES IN HER RIGHT LEG, AND A DISLOCATED AND CRUSHED RIGHT FOOT.
SHE IS OUT OF THE HOSPITAL IN JUST THREE MONTHS. A YEAR LATER, WHILE ILL, FRIDA BEGINS TO TAKE HER PAINTING SERIOUSLY.
3

1928- FRIDA JOINS THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY. HER FRIEND PHOTOGRAPHER TINA MODOTTI HOSTS A PARTY WHERE FRIDA AND DIEGO RIVERA MEET. HE ENCOURAGES HER TO CONTINUE PAINTING; THUS BEGIN THEIR RAGING YEARS TOGETHER.



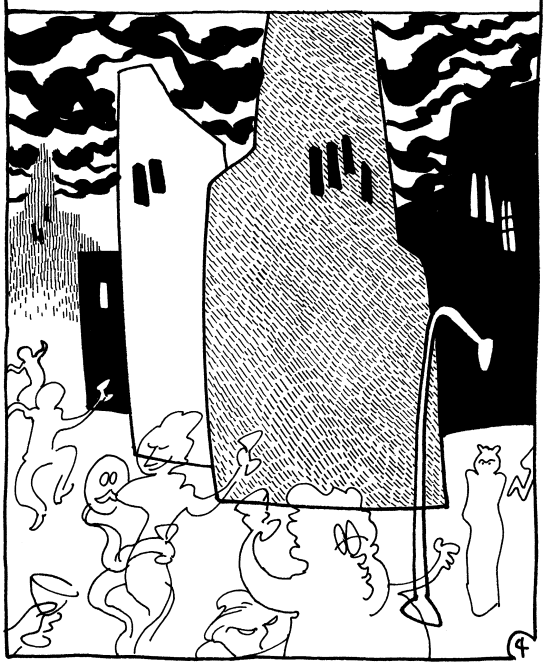
1929- FRIDA AND DIEGO ARE MARRIED ON AUGUST TWENTY-FIRST. LUPE MARIN ATTENDS THE WEDDING PARTY, AND EVEN THOUGH DIVORCED FROM RIVERA, SHE JEALOULY INSULTS FRIDA AND STORMS OUT THE HOUSE IN TRIUMPH. THE LOVE-BIRDS MAKE THEIR HOME IN CUERNAVACA WHILE DIEGO COMPLETES A COMMISSION. FRIDA'S HANDS ARE FULL IN KEEPING HOUSE AND NURSING DIEGO WHEN HE OFTEN FALLS ILL FROM OVERWORK. FRIDA BEGINS TO DRESS REGULARLY IN HER TEHUANA COSTUMES TO PROVE HER ALLEGIANCE TO HER HERITAGE AND PROCEEDS TO MASTER THAT ZANY PAINTING STYLE FOR WHICH SHE IS KNOWN.



1930- FRIDA AND DIEGO ARE IN SAN FRANCISCO WHERE HE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO PAINT MURALS AT THE LUNCHEON CLUB OF THE SAN FRANCISCO STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF ARTS. UNLIKE DIEGO, FRIDA IS UNCOMFORTABLE IN THIS NEW PLACE AND DISDAINS MOST OF THE PEOPLE SHE MEETS. DIEGO SEES SAN FRANCISCO AS THE CITY OF THE WORLD. FRIDA THINKS GRINGOS ARE BORING AND HAVE FACES LIKE UNBAKED ROLLS.

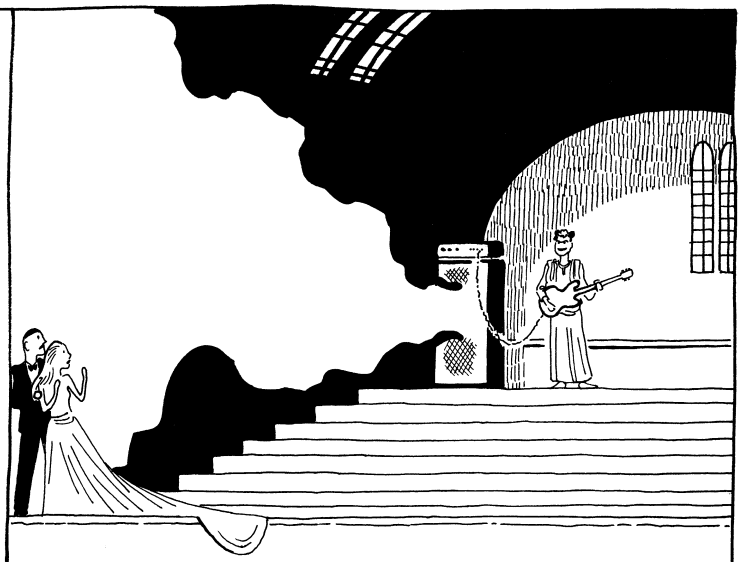


1931- DIEGO HAS A ONE MAN SHOW AT THE NEW YORK CITY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. FRIDA WRITES DR. ELOSSER THAT ALTHOUGH NEW YORK HIGH SOCIETY WELCOMES HER AND DIEGO WITH OPEN ARMS, SHE FEELS AMERICANS HAVE LITTLE SENSE OF REALITY AND EVEN LESS TASTE. YEARS LATER THIS ATTITUDE WILL NOT PREVENT HER FROM DEVELOPING AN APPRECIATION FOR THE ABSURDITY IN TARZAN FILMS AND THREE STOOGES TWO-REELERS.

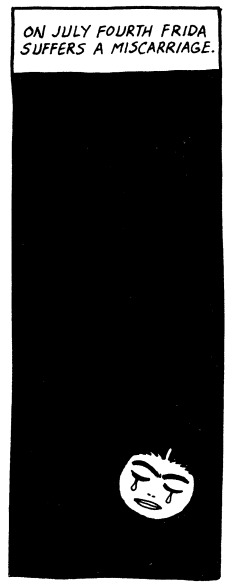


THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF ARTS IS NOW THE SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE.

1932- THE HAPPY COUPLE IS OFF TO DETROIT WHERE DIEGO IS COMMISSIONED BY EDSEL FORD TO PAINT A MURAL FOR THE INSTITUTE OF ART. THIS TIME THE SOCIAL ELITE ARE NOT AS KIND AS THEIR NEW YORK COUNTERPARTS. THEY CONSIDER FRIDA AND HER COSTUMES BIZARRE, SO IN RETALIATION FRIDA SPEAKS SPIRITEDLY ABOUT COMMUNISM AND USES EXPRESSIONS LIKE 'SHIT ON YOU,' PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW THEIR MEANING. AT A DINNER SHE SARCASTICALLY ASKS THE AVOWEDLY ANTI-SEMITIC HENRY FORD IF HE IS JEWISH.



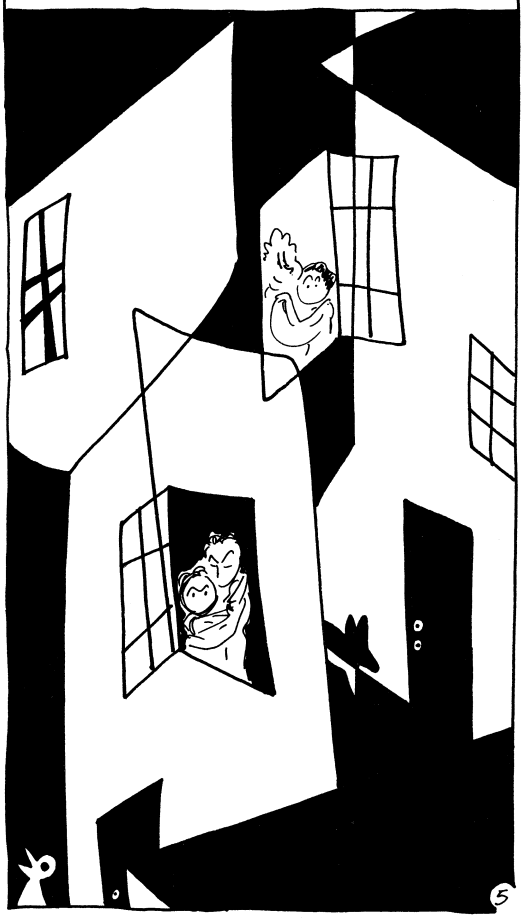
ON JULY FOURTH FRIDA SUFFERS A MISCARRIAGE.



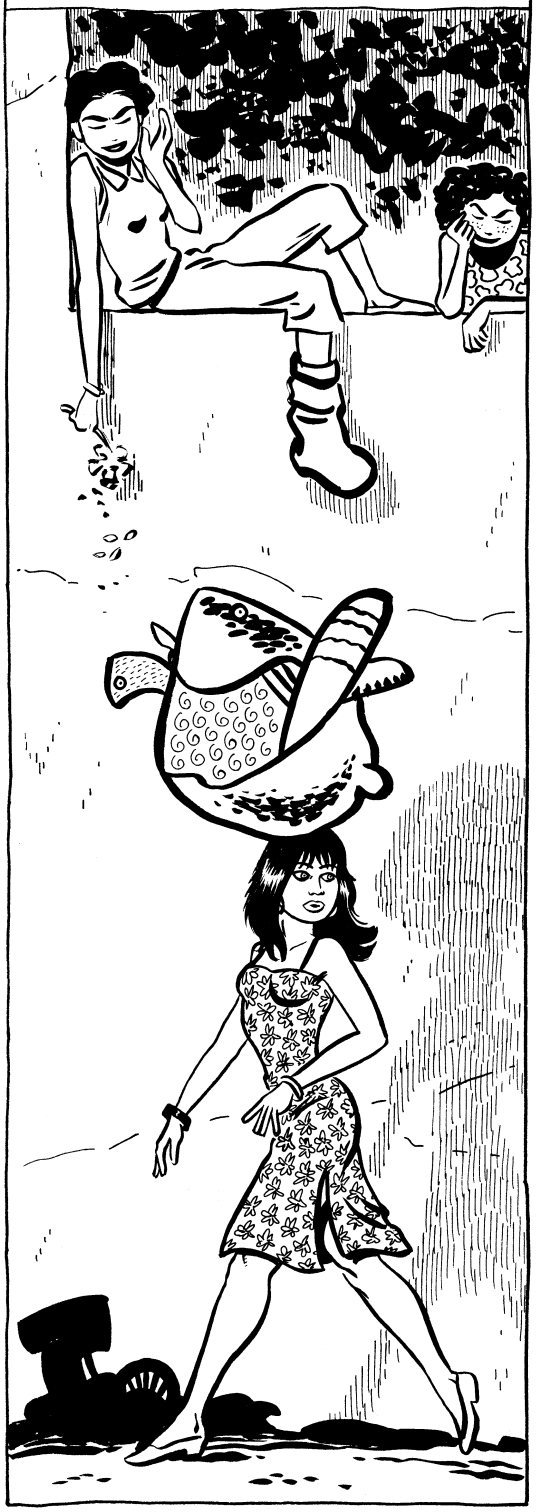
BACK TO NEW YORK CITY WHERE DIEGO PAINTS HIS FAMOUS MURAL AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER. A CONTROVERSY RAGES WHEN DIEGO PAINTS SOVIET LEADER VLADIMIR I. LENIN'S LIKENESS ON THE MURAL WHICH HAPPENS TO FACE OPPOSITE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE RCA BUILDING. RIVERA HAS MANY DEFENDERS, INCLUDING H.L. MENCKEN AND E.B. WHITE, BUT EVENTUALLY JOHN D. AND HIS MUGS PAY DIEGO AND HAVE THE WORK COVERED UP. DIEGO IS STUNNED. FRIDA IS MOSTLY IRRITATED. AFTER THE TWO RETURN TO MEXICO THE MURAL IS ELIMINATED. DIEGO WOULD LATER REPAINT THE PIECE AT THE FINE ARTS PALACE IN MEXICO CITY.



1934- FRIDA AND DIEGO SETTLE DOWN IN SAN ANGEL WHERE THEY OCCUPY LINKED HOUSES DESIGNED BY MEXICAN PAINTER AND ARCHITECT JUAN O'GORMAN. DIEGO HAS AN AFFAIR WITH FRIDA'S SISTER CRISTINA AND LATER FRIDA ENJOYS A LIAISON WITH JAPANESE-AMERICAN SCULPTOR ISAMU NOGUCHI.



FRIDA HAS AN ABORTION AND UNDERGOES FOOT SURGERY. SHE BEGINS TO DRINK TOO MUCH AND MAKES NO EFFORT TO HIDE HER BI-SEXUALITY. SHE AND DIEGO SEPARATE BUT REMAIN IN CONTACT. TWO YEARS LATER FRIDA UNDERGOES ANOTHER GRUELING SPINAL OPERATION.



1937- FLEEING FROM STALIN, LEON TROTSKY AND HIS ENTOURAGE ARE GRANTED ASYLUM IN MEXICO UNDER THE CONDITION THAT HE DOES NOT INTERFERE IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE RE-UNITED FRIDA AND DIEGO WELCOME THEM AS THEIR GUESTS. FRIDA HAS AN AFFAIR WITH TROTSKY, PERHAPS IN RETALIATION FOR DIEGO MESSING AROUND WITH HER SISTER.



1938- AND ANOTHER MISCARRIAGE. SHE IS HEARTBROKEN OVER HER INABILITY TO BEAR CHILDREN AND IT SHOWS IN HER WORK. THE 'POPE OF SURREALISM' ANDRE BRETON ARRIVES IN MEXICO CITY, AND ALTHOUGH FRIDA MAKES IT CLEAR TO HIM THE FACT SHE CONSIDERS HIM TO BE A POMPOUS ASS, BRETON NEVERTHELESS CALLS FRIDA THE ONLY SURREALIST PAINTER IN MEXICO. FRIDA'S FIRST MAJOR SALE IS FOUR PAINTINGS PURCHASED BY FILM STAR EDWARD G. ROBINSON.



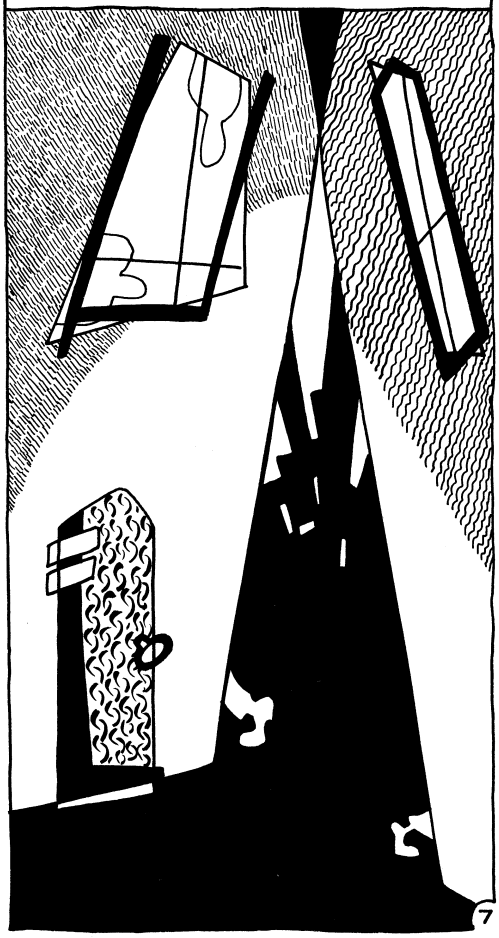
FRIDA IS INVITED TO NEW YORK CITY TO HAVE A ONE WOMAN SHOW AT THE JULIAN LEVY GALLERY. IT OPENS ON OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH TO GENERALLY GOOD REVIEWS. CLAIRE BOOTHE LUCE COMMISSIONS FROM FRIDA A PAINTING OF ACTRESS DOROTHY HALE WHO HAD RECENTLY COMMITTED SUICIDE. BY NOW FRIDA IS FAIRLY COMFORTABLE ON HER VISITS TO AMERICA AND INCIDENTALLY HAS A HOT AND COLD AFFAIR WITH PHOTOGRAPHER NICKOLAS MURAY.



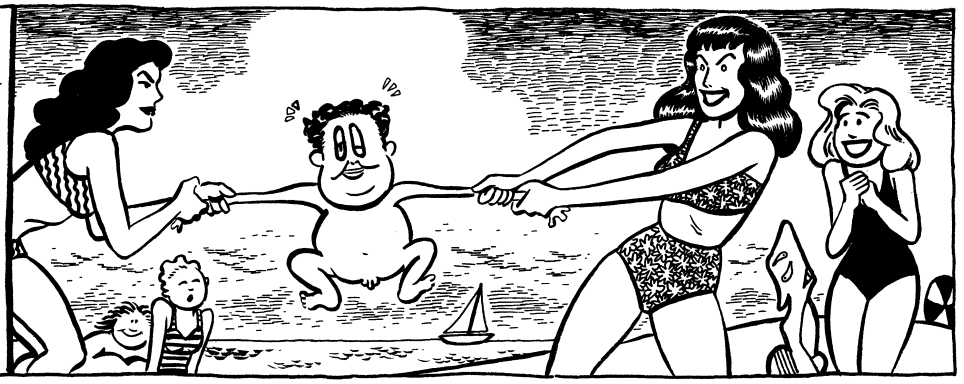
1939- BRETON RETURNS TO PARIS AND ARRANGES FOR FRIDA TO PARTICIPATE IN A SHOW OF MEXICAN FOLK ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE RENOU AND CALLE GALLERY. HER WORK IS WELL RECIEVED AND SHE MEETS DUCHAMP, MIRO, MAX ERNST, KANDINSKY AND THIS FUNNY GUY NAMED PICASSO. PICASSO PRESENTS FRIDA WITH A PAIR OF EARRINGS IN THE FORM OF TINY HANDS. HE WOULD LATER TELL DIEGO THAT NO ONE CAN MATCH FRIDA IN PAINTING EYES. AS FOR PARIS, FRIDA THINKS THE FRENCH ARE THE BIGGEST BLOWHARDS YET. MEANWHILE, BACK IN MEXICO, DIEGO AND TROTSKY ARE GETTING ON EACH OTHER'S NERVES.



1940- THE GALERIA DE ARTE MEXICANO WELOMES FRIDA TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF SURREALISM IN MEXICO CITY. FRIDA NEVER CONSIDERS HERSELF A SURREALIST, BUT A PAINTER OF HER OWN REALITY. DIEGO, AS ALWAYS, SUPPORTS FRIDA IN THIS AND ALL HER ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS; BUT DESPITE IT ALL, THE TWO DECIDE TO DIVORCE. DIEGO CLAIMS IT IS A DIVORCE OF CONVENIENCE TO IMPROVE FRIDA'S LEGAL POSITION.



MARRIED TO FRIDA OR NOT, DIEGO WAS NEVER WITHOUT A PARAMOUR OR TWELVE. AMONG HIS MANY LOVERS WERE FILM STARS MARIA FELIX AND PAULETTE GODDARD, BOTH OF WHOM LATER BECOME FRIENDS WITH FRIDA. IT WILL NEVER BE KNOWN JUST HOW MANY AFFAIRS DIEGO HAS AS HE IS A COMPULSIVE FIBBER.



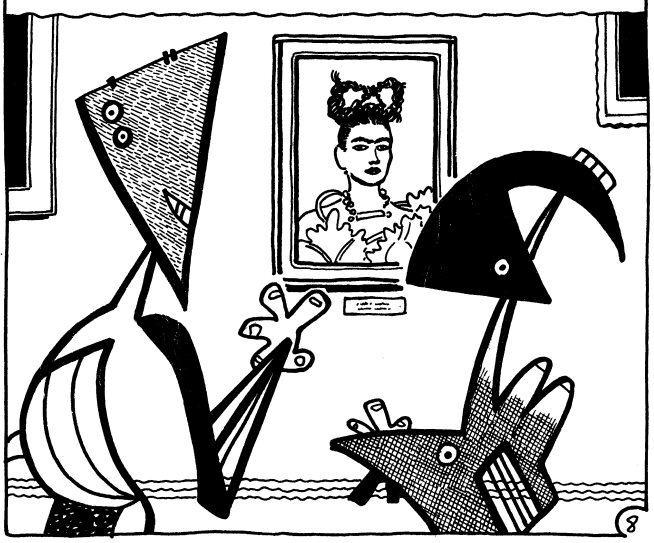
RAMON MERCADER MURDERS TROTSKY WITH AN ICE AX ON AUGUST TWENTY-FIRST. FRIDA IS UNDER SUSPICION BECAUSE SHE WAS BRIEFLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE ASSASSIN. THE POLICE INTERROGATE HER FOR TWELVE HOURS. FRIDA MAINTAINS HER INNOCENCE AND BECOMES SEVERELY ILL. FINALLY, SHE IS EXONERATED OF ANY CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN THE CRIME. DIEGO, ALL THE WHILE IN SAN FRANCISCO, HAS DR. ELOSSER CONVINCE FRIDA TO FLY UP FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. HER REUNION WITH DIEGO IS A TEARFUL ONE.



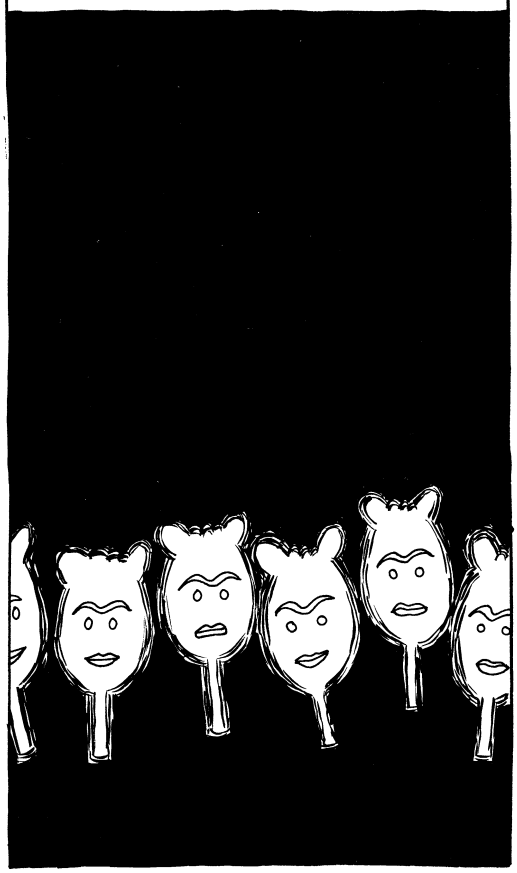
FRIDA FLIES TO NEW YORK AND HAS AN AFFAIR WITH HEINZ BERGGRUEN, WHO LATER BECOMES A SUCCESSFUL ART DEALER AND COLLECTOR. SHE PARTICIPATES IN THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ARTS EXHIBITION 'TWENTY YEARS OF MEXICAN ART.' HEINZ IS MAD ABOUT HER BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT SHE AND DIEGO NEED ONE ANOTHER TO SIMPLY EXIST PROPERLY, SO HE AND FRIDA SEPARATE FOR GOOD. ON DECEMBER EIGHTH, FRIDA AND DIEGO REMARRY IN SAN FRANCISCO.



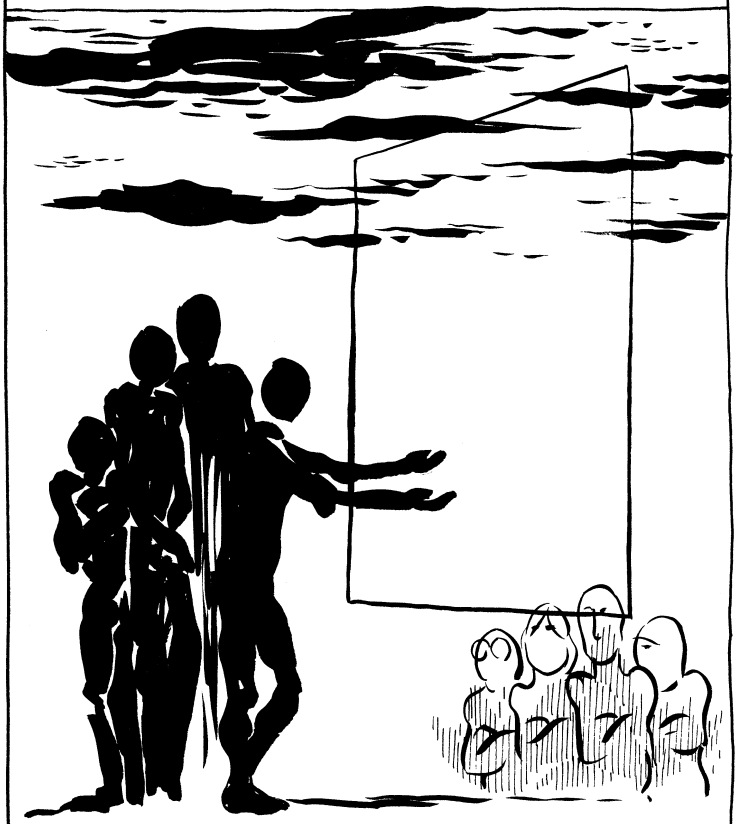
1942- FRIDA IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SEMINARO DE CULTURA MEXICANA. ALEJANDRO GOMEZ ARIAS IS CONVINCED FRIDA IS DENIED MEMBERSHIP IN THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS COLEGIO NACIONAL FOR THE SIMPLE FACT THAT SHE IS A WOMAN. FRIDA BEGINS WORK ON HER ILLUSTRATED DIARY. ONE OF HER MANY SELF-PORTRAITS IS PART OF THE EXHIBITION 'TWENTIETH CENTURY PORTRAITS' AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN NEW YORK. NO LONGER IN HER HUSBANDS CONSIDERABLE SHADOW, THE WOMAN IS HOT.



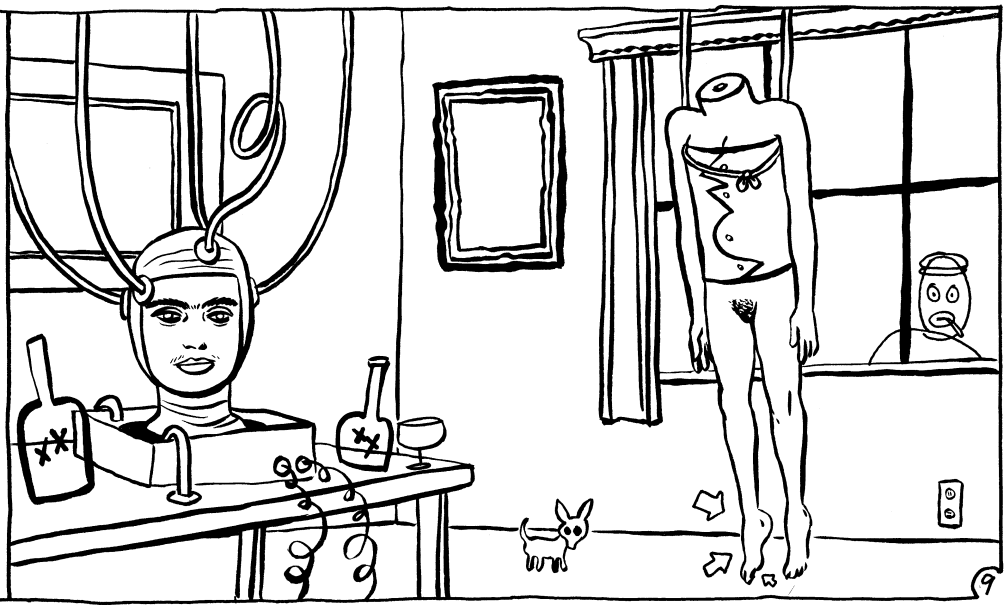
1943- MANY MORE OF FRIDA'S WORKS ARE IN SHOWINGS THROUGHOUT MEXICO AND THE U.S. FRIDA BEGINS TEACHING AT 'LA ESMERALDA,' THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION SCHOOL OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. AN ACTIVIST GROUP OF HER STUDENTS ADORE HER HUMOR AND LOVE FOR LIFE AND CALL THEMSELVES 'LOS FRIDOS.'

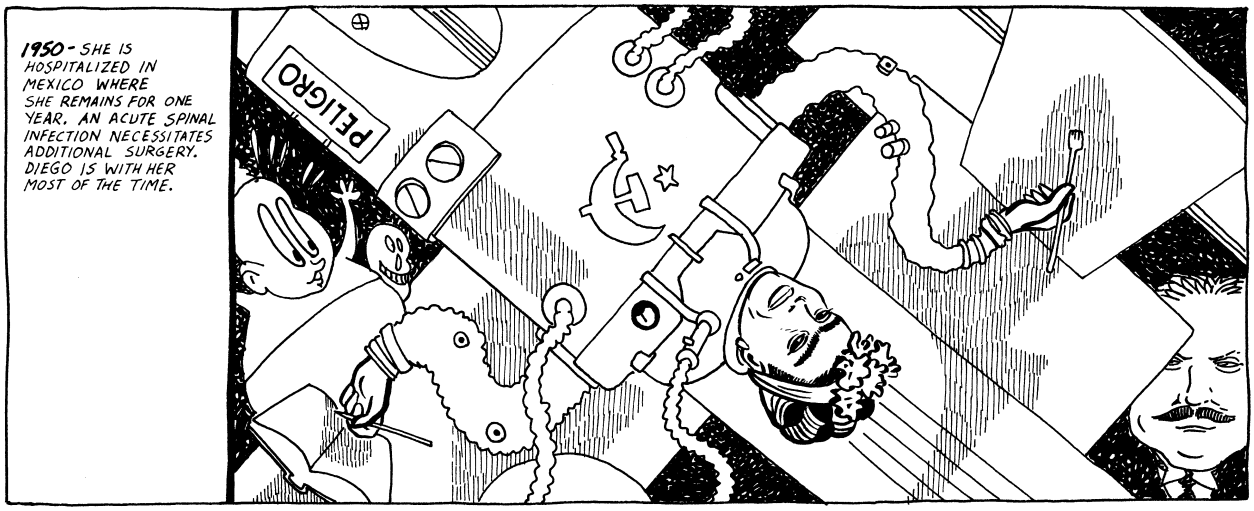


1945- IN COYOACAN, LOS FRIDOS PAINT MURALS ON NEW PUBLIC LAUNDRIES THAT WERE SPONSORED BY PRESIDENT CARDENAS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS. THE STUDENTS USE THE POOR, OVERWORKED LAUNDRESSES AS MODELS, AND THE WOMEN ARE DEEPLY MOVED BY THE FINISHED PAINTINGS. LATER, LOS FRIDOS CAUSE A FLURRY OF CONTROVERSY WHEN THEY EXHIBIT A PIECE THEY CALL 'WHO EXPLOITS US AND HOW THEY EXPLOIT US!'

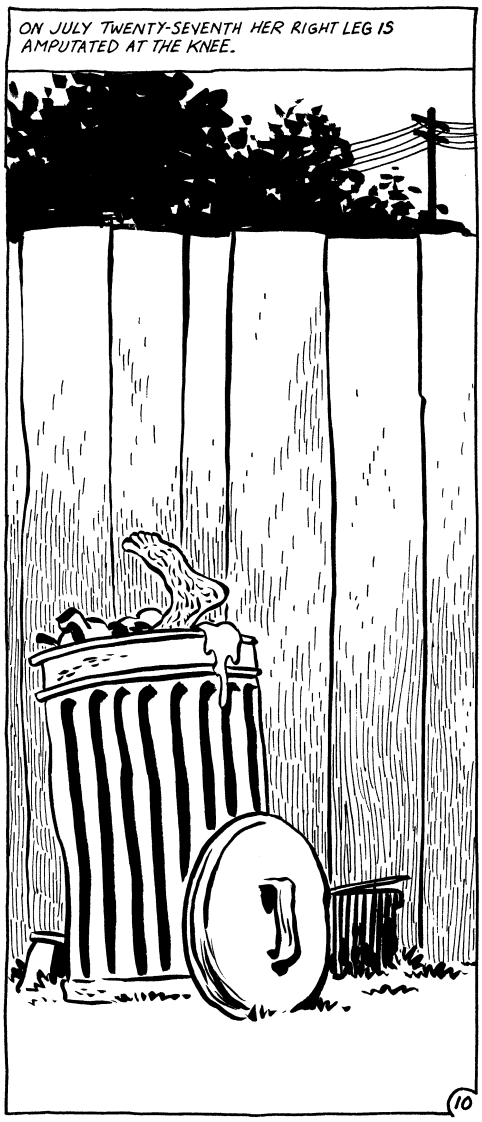


1946- AS HER POPULARITY INCREASES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, HER HEALTH DWINDLES AS DRAMATICALLY. FRIDA UNDERGOES SPINAL SURGERY IN NEW YORK. BACK IN MEXICO SHE IS FIRST BEDRIDDEN AND THEN ENCLOSED IN A STEEL CORSET FOR EIGHT MONTHS.




1950- SHE IS HOSPITALIZED IN MEXICO WHERE SHE REMAINS FOR ONE YEAR. AN ACUTE SPINAL INFECTION NECESSITATES ADDITIONAL SURGERY. DIEGO IS WITH HER MOST OF THE TIME.
PELIGRO


1953- SUPERVISED BY DIEGO, FRIDA HAS A ONE WOMAN SHOW AT THE LOLA ALVAREZ BRAVO GALERIA DE ARTE CONTEMPORANEO IN MEXICO CITY. IT IS FRIDA'S FIRST MAJOR SHOW IN HER NATIVE LAND. SHE IS IN SUCH A PHYSICAL STATE THAT SHE ARRIVES TO THE OPENING IN AN AMBULANCE AND IS PLACED ON HER FOUR-POSTER BED IN THE CENTER OF THE EXHIBIT. THE EVENT, WHICH CULMINATES IN A DRUNKEN FIESTA, IS A SUCCESS.


ON JULY TWENTY-SEVENTH HER RIGHT LEG IS AMPUTATED AT THE KNEE.
10

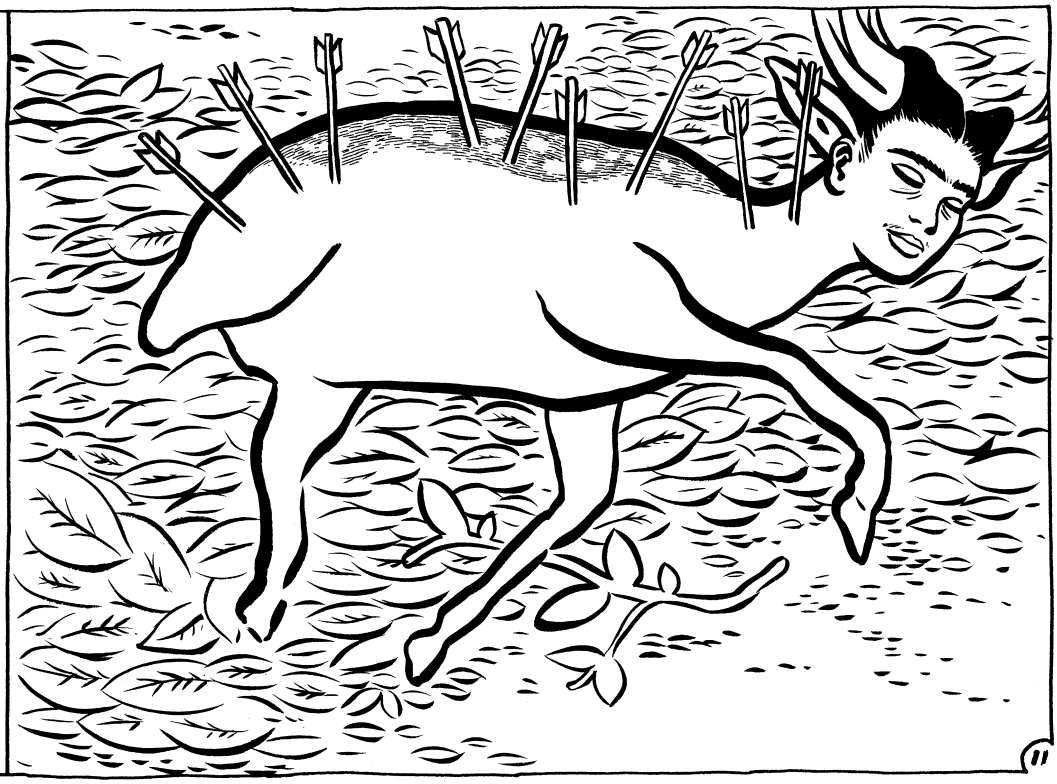
1954 - FRIDA IS CARED FOR BY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS. SHE IS FILLED WITH A DOZEN COMBINATIONS OF DRUGS AND GETS PRETTY DANGEROUS WITH A CANE. DIEGO DOES HIS BEST TO TOLERATE HIS WIFE'S UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOR. HE WONDERS IF HE SHOULD KILL HER.



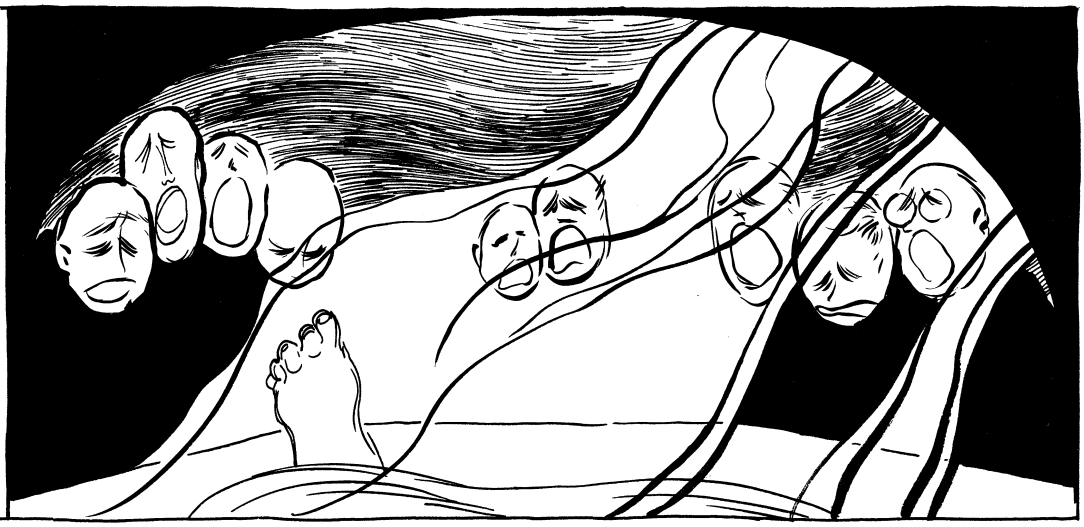
SHE DISREGARDS MEDICAL ADVICE AND ATTENDS A RALLY IN MEXICO CITY PROTESTING THE OUSTER OF LEFT-LEANING GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT JACOBO ARBENZ.



FRIDA DIES ON JULY THIRTEENTH AT AGE FORTY-SEVEN OF ACUTE PNEUMONIA IN THE SAME HOUSE IN WHICH SHE WAS BORN.



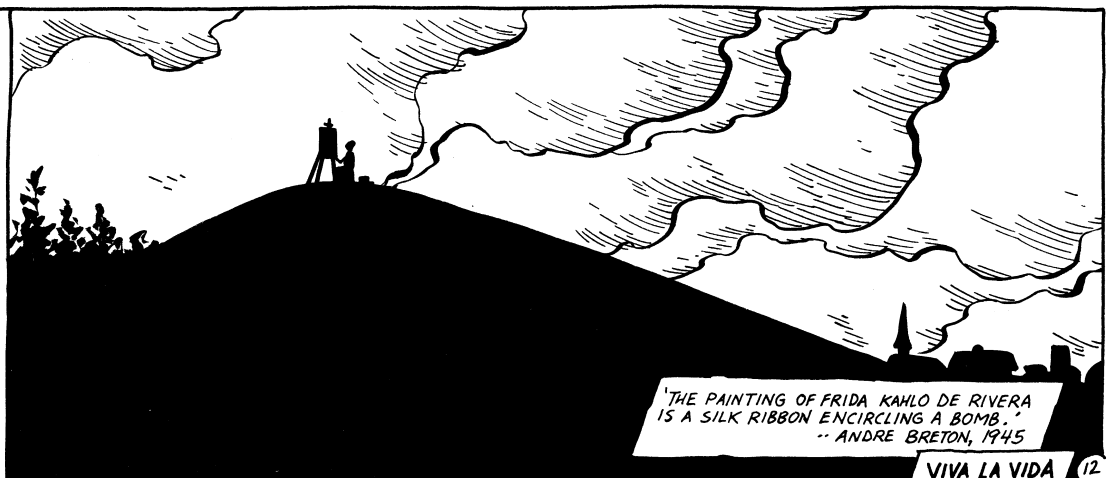
HER FUNERAL IS AN AFFAIR OF QUESTIONABLE TASTE, AS DIEGO INVITES THE GRIEVING TO WITNESS THE CREMATION OF FRIDA'S REMAINS.



ACCORDING TO THE ARTIST SIQUEIROS, WHEN FRIDA'S RECUMBENT CORPSE ENTERED THE FLAMES SHE ABRUPTLY SAT UP, AND THE LIGHT FROM HER BLAZING HAIR MADE IT APPEAR AS IF SHE WERE SMILING.



AND THEN SHE WAS GONE.

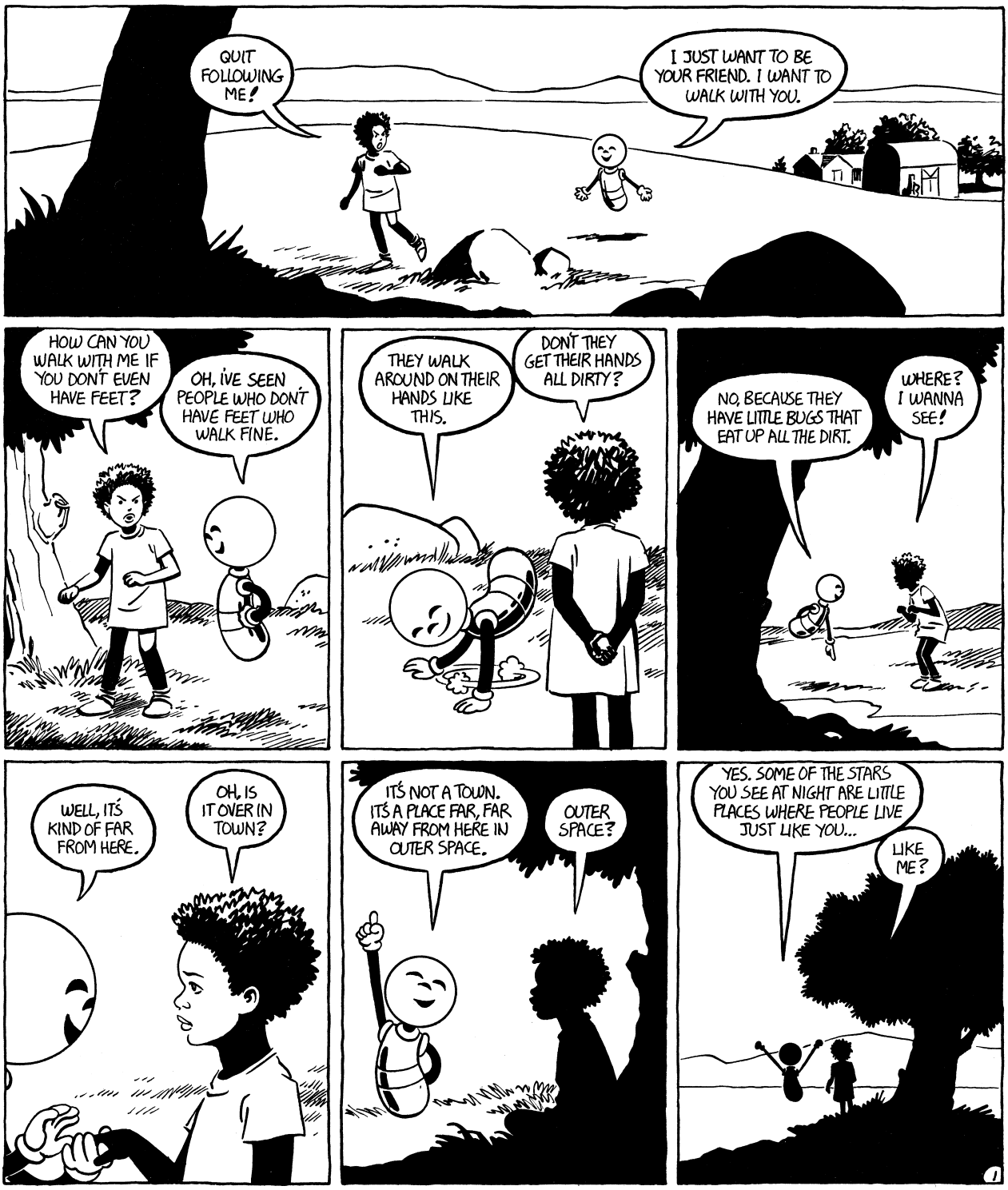


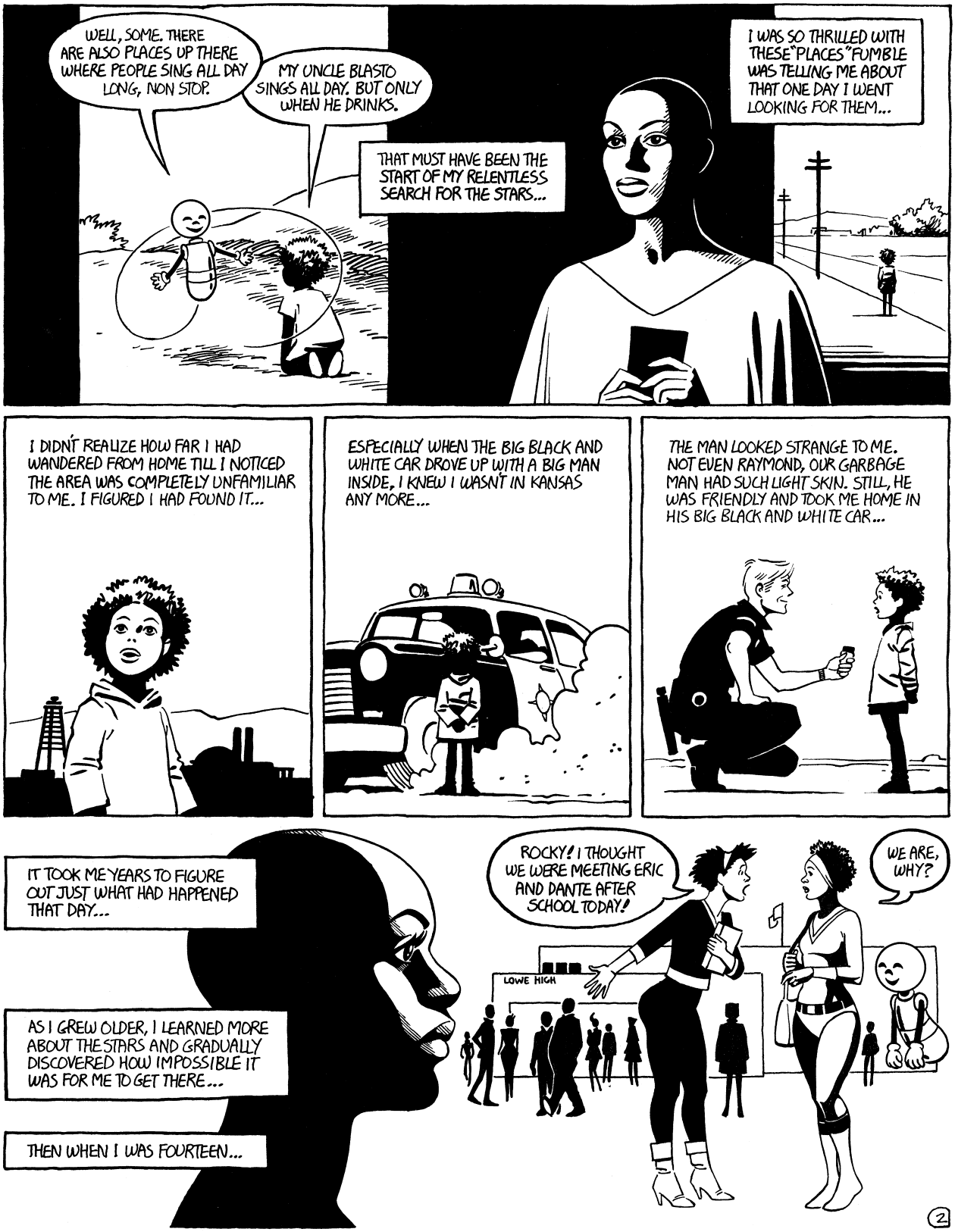
'THE PAINTING OF FRIDA KAHLO DE RIVERA IS A SILK RIBBON ENCIRCLING A BOMB.'
-- ANDRE BRETON, 1945

VIVA LA VIDA 12

FACTS PROVIDED BY 'FRIDA, A BIOGRAPHY OF FRIDA KAHLO' BY HAYDEN HERRERA - HARPER AND ROW, AND THE CATALOGUE EDITED BY ANTONIO GONZALEZ REYNOSO FOR THE 1987 FRIDA KAHLO EXHIBITION AT LA CASA DE LA RAZA IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. MANY THANKS TO BOTH SOURCES. SPECIAL THANKS TO KIM "THE IG" THOMPSON.

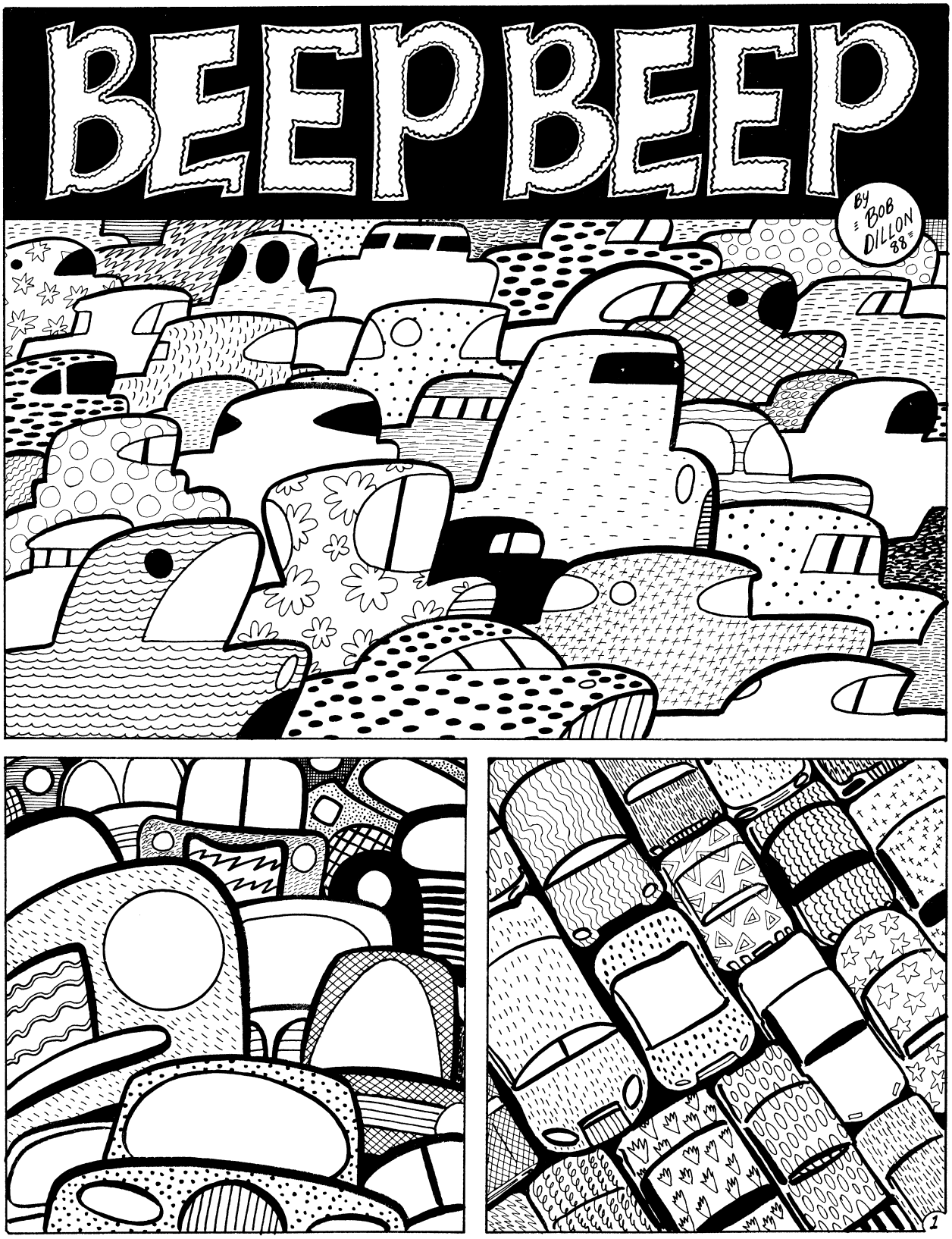
ROCKET RHODES

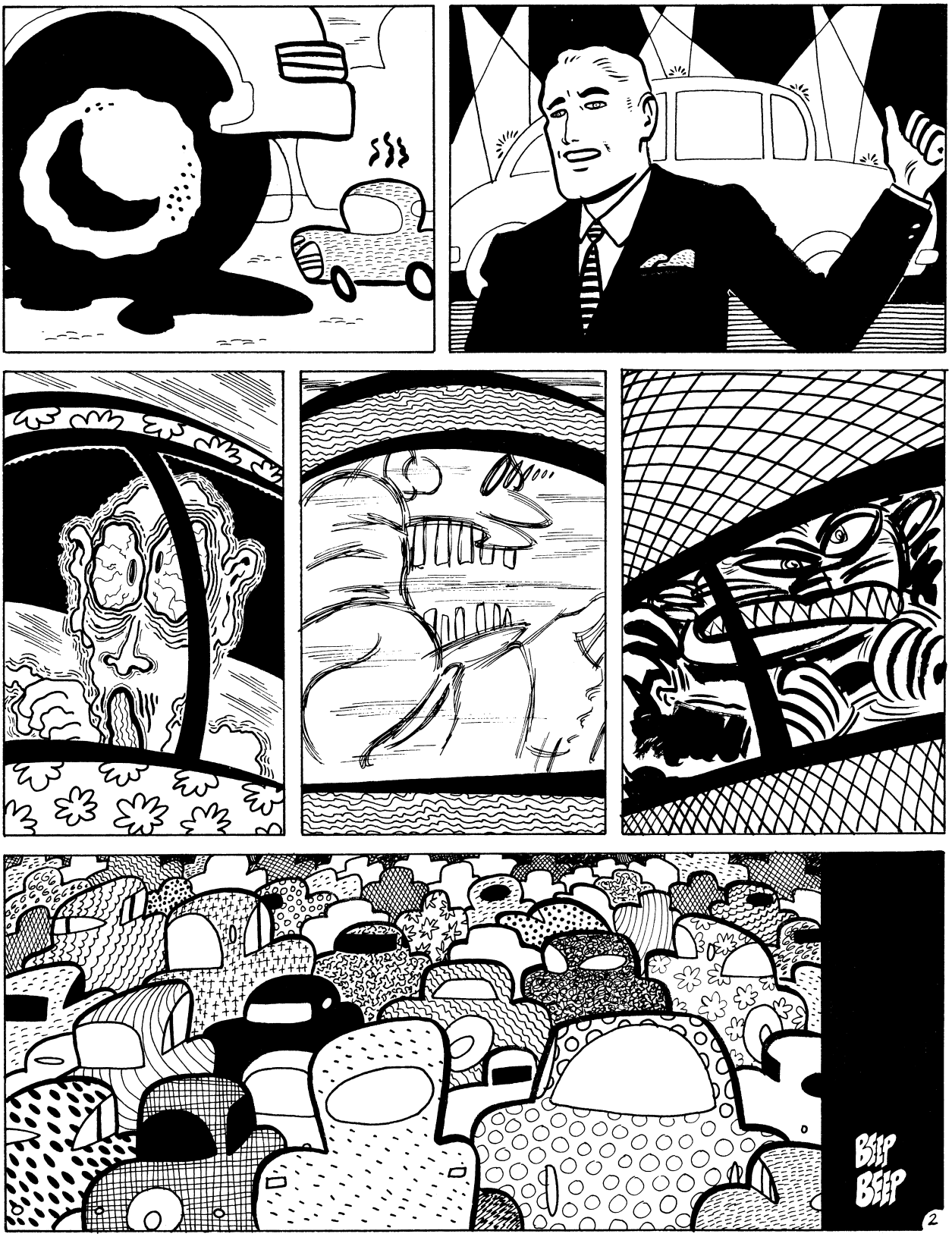



WELL, SOME. THERE ARE ALSO PLACES UP THERE WHERE PEOPLE SING ALL DAY LONG, NON STOP.
MY UNCLE BLASTO SINGS ALL DAY. BUT ONLY WHEN HE DRINKS.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE START OF MY RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR THE STARS...
I WAS SO THRILLED WITH THESE "PLACES" FUMBLE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT THAT ONE DAY I WENT LOOKING FOR THEM...
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FAR I HAD WANDERED FROM HOME TILL I NOTICED THE AREA WAS COMPLETELY UNFAMILIAR TO ME. I FIGURED I HAD FOUND IT...
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BIG BLACK AND WHITE CAR DROVE UP WITH A BIG MAN INSIDE, I KNEW I WASN'T IN KANSAS ANY MORE...
THE MAN LOOKED STRANGE TO ME. NOT EVEN RAYMOND, OUR GARBAGE MAN HAD SUCH LIGHT SKIN. STILL, HE WAS FRIENDLY AND TOOK ME HOME IN HIS BIG BLACK AND WHITE CAR...
IT TOOK ME YEARS TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT HAD HAPPENED THAT DAY...
AS I GREW OLDER, I LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE STARS AND GRADUALLY DISCOVERED HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT WAS FOR ME TO GET THERE...
THEN WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN...
ROCKY! I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING ERIC AND DANTE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY!
WE ARE, WHY?
LOWE HIGH
2


GIRL, ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT...
♫ HI, DANTE! ♫
HI! ĊMON THIS WAY! WE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THAT ALONG. HOW'S IT GONNA LOOK?
ARE YOU READY?
CHECK IT OUT!
SO? WHAT IS IT?
WE DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKS LIKE OUTER SPACE IN MINIATURE.
OH, COME ON! YOU MEAN TO TELL ME...
FEEL FOR YOURSELF! IT'S REAL SPACE ALL RIGHT!
HAVE YOU TRIED GOING IN THERE...?
YOU CRAZY, ROCKY? YOU'D DIE OUT THERE FAST! EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT, WOMAN!
?
SURE. YOU'D NEED A SPACE SUIT OR SOMETHIN'!
OH, NOT NECESSARILY...
HUH?
...THAT IS, NOT IF YOU HAVE YOURSELF A RADARON ROBOT TO TAKE YOU ALONG.
YOU MEAN... LET'S GO!
FUMBLE! YOU NEVER TOLD ME...
I KNOW, ROCKY, BUT I COULDN'T TILL NOW. THESE DIMENSIONAL HOLES DON'T POP UP TOO OFTEN. THEY'RE A LOT EASIER FOR SPACE EXPLORATION THAN ROCKET SHIPS, BUT ALSO A LOT MORE DANGEROUS BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY'LL CLOSE UP AND SWALLOW YOU FOREVER.
=ULP=
NOW, WHO WANTS TO GO FOR A SPIN?
OH, NOW WAIT A SEC! I THINK I'LL PASS...
DITTO, BROTHER!
...
ROCKY?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
3


THERE I TOOK MY FIRST TRIP INTO SPACE. FUMBLE AND I RAN INTO A FEW PROBLEMS BUT STILL HAD A SWINGING TIME...
WHEN WE RETURNED HOME I WAS GROUNDED A WEEK. (FOR BEING LATE FOR SUPPER, THAT IS. MY PARENTS NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE HOLE.)
THE NEXT DAY AFTER SCHOOL WE CHECKED ON THE HOLE AND IT HAD CLOSED UP. THAT WAS THAT.
A COUPLE OF BORING YEARS PASSED AND ON MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY A SPACE HOLE POPPED UP IN MY SISTER RHODA'S BACKYARD...
NATURALLY, FUMBLE AND I INVESTIGATED...
ONCE AGAIN FUMBLE AND I RAN INTO A FEW PROBLEMS AND ON THE PLANET BLOTOS IS WHERE WE MET OUR CLOSE FRIEND CHEETAH TORPEDA...
AFTER SEVERAL VISITS TO CHEETAH'S HOME PLANET VIA RHODA'S SPACE HOLE, FUMBLE AND I RAN INTO A MOST UNEXPECTED SITUATION...
THE HOLE CLOSED UP BEFORE WE COULD REACH HOME.
IT'S BEEN TWELVE YEARS SINCE THAT INCIDENT, AND SEVEN YEARS SINCE I GAVE UP TRYING TO GET HOME...
I LOST FUMBLE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO. CHEETAH'S BEEN GONE ABOUT SIX MONTHS LOOKING FOR HIM...
I'VE DECIDED TO SETTLE DOWN ON THIS PLANET CALLED MAKO MATO. NOT BECAUSE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT BECAUSE I FEEL MY TRAVELING DAYS HAVE ENDED. I'VE LOST THE NEED TO EXPLORE...
BESIDES, IT'S SO QUIET AND PEACEFUL ON MAKO MATO...
SO NICE...
SO CALM...
I SURE WISH FUMBLE AND CHEETAH WOULD HURRY BACK SO I CAN GET THE HELL OFF THIS ROCK.
END


BEEP BEEP
BY BOB DILLON 88
1


BEEP
BEEP
2

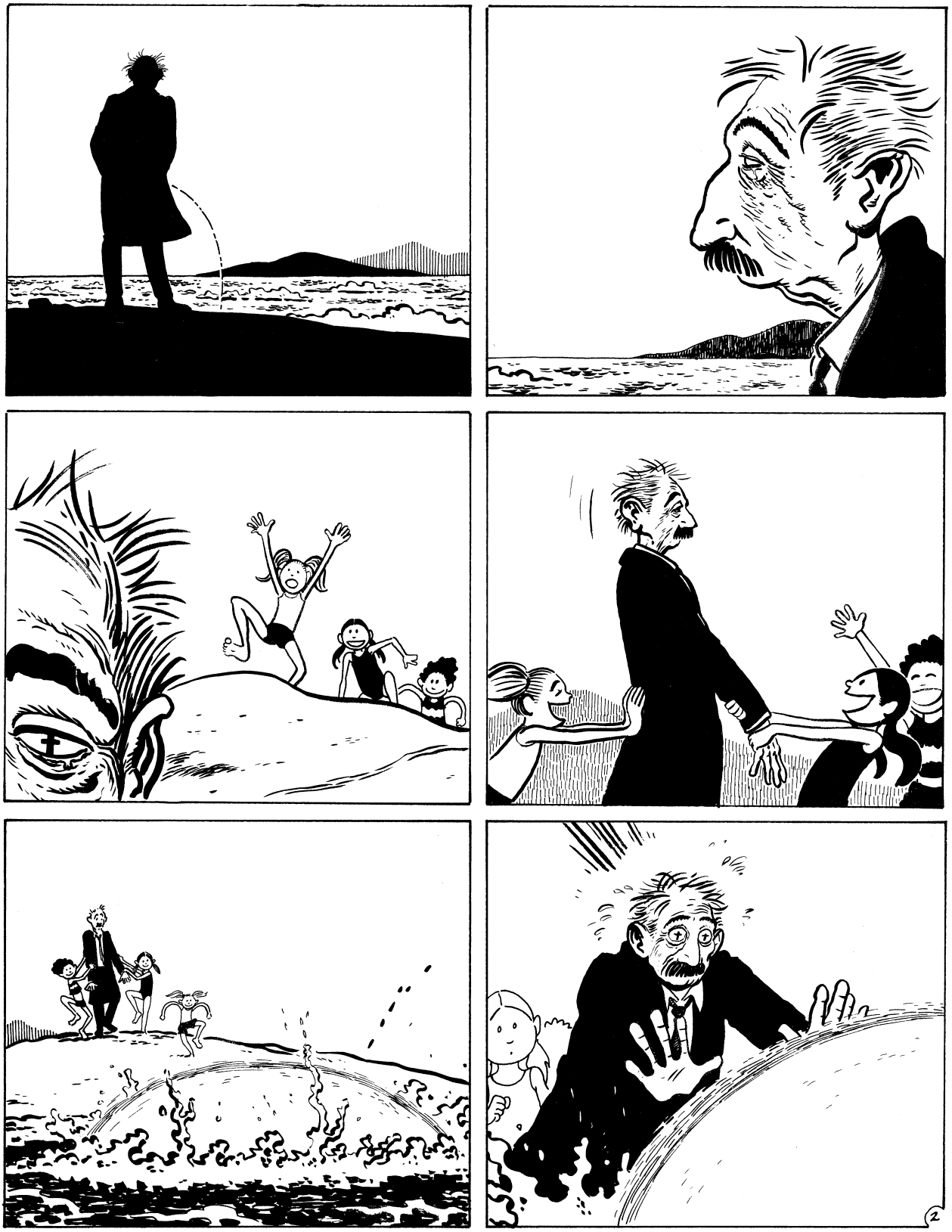


MOJADO/WETBACK

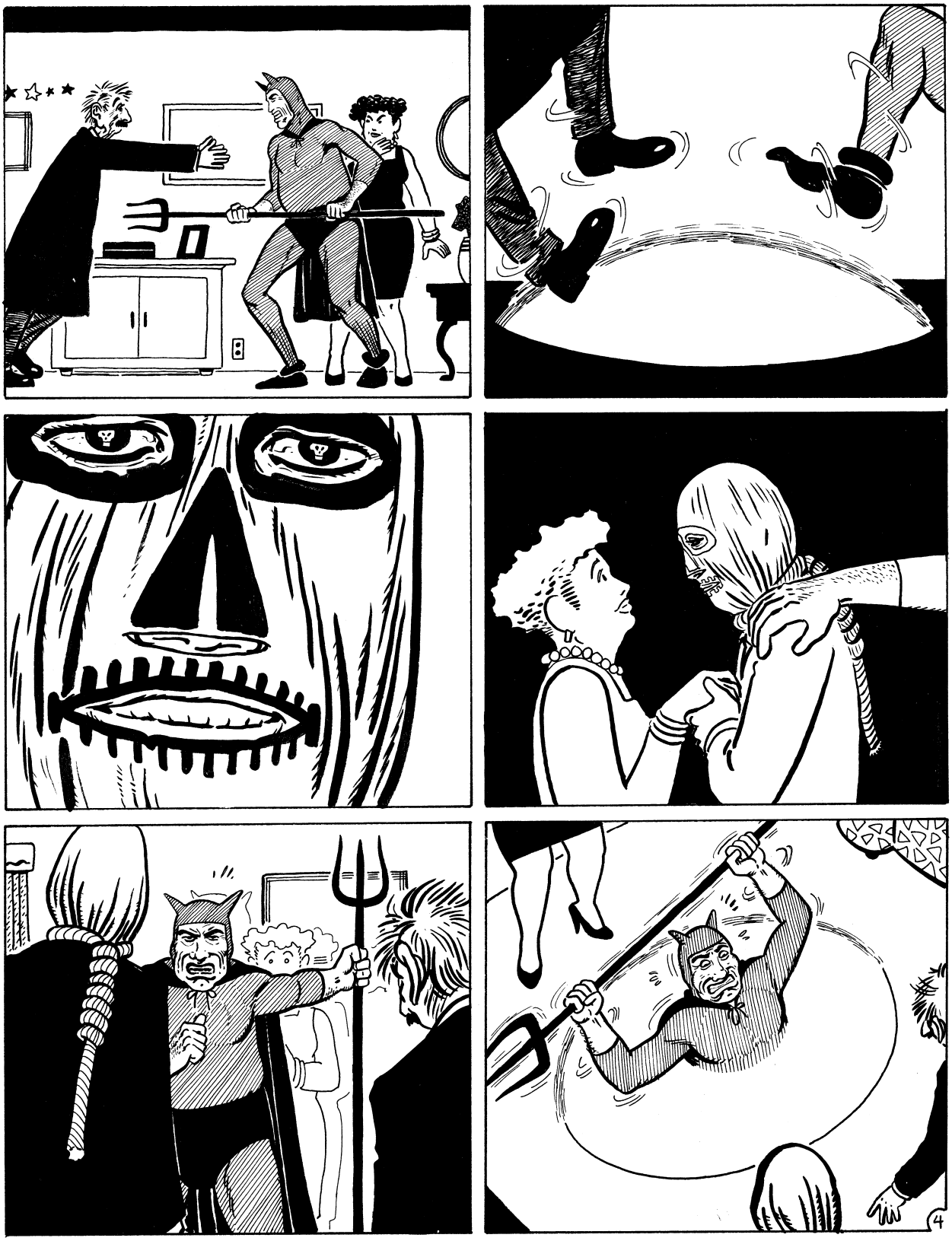


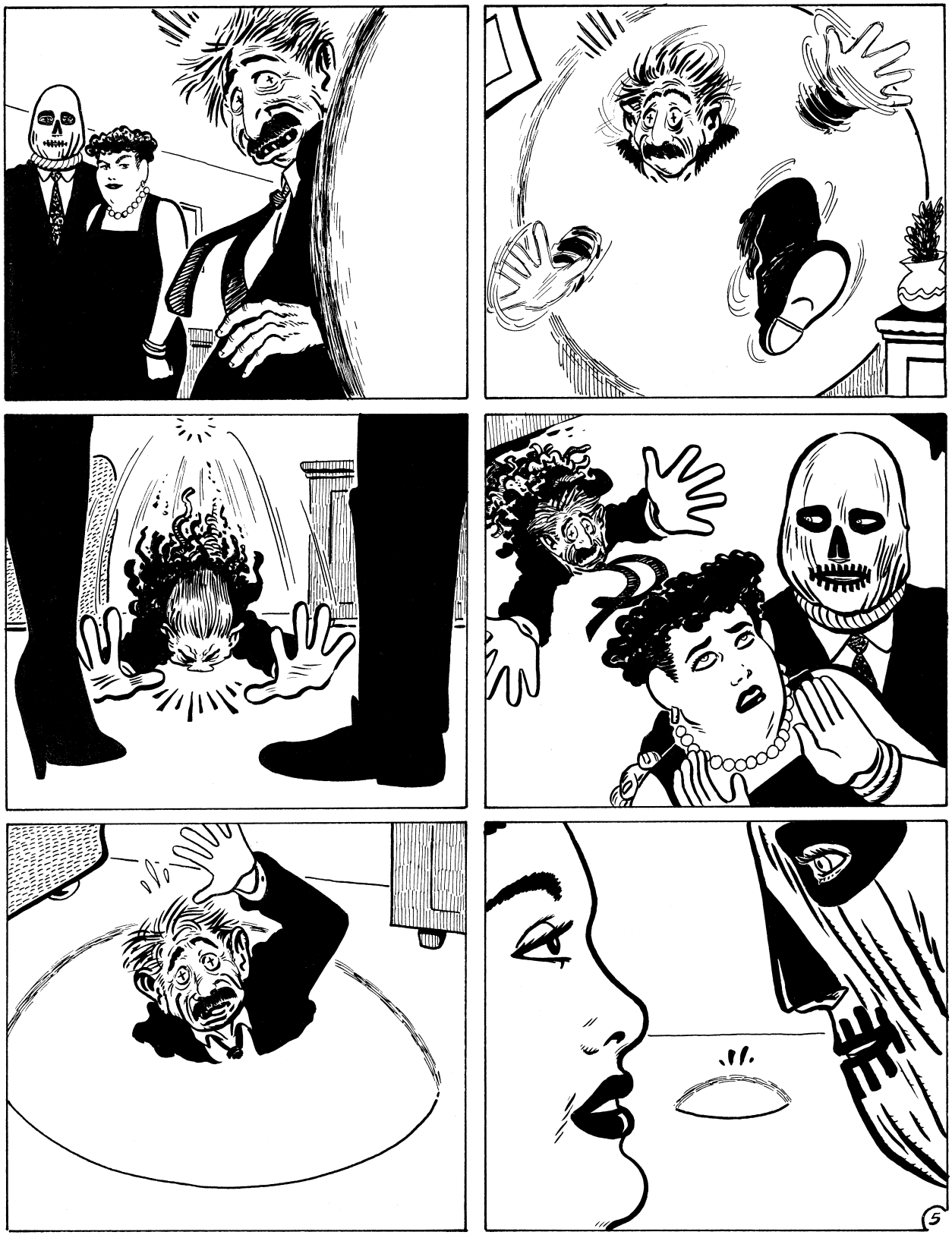
POCHO/MEXICAN AMERICAN


A
Folktale
by
Loup
Garou
88.
TIC
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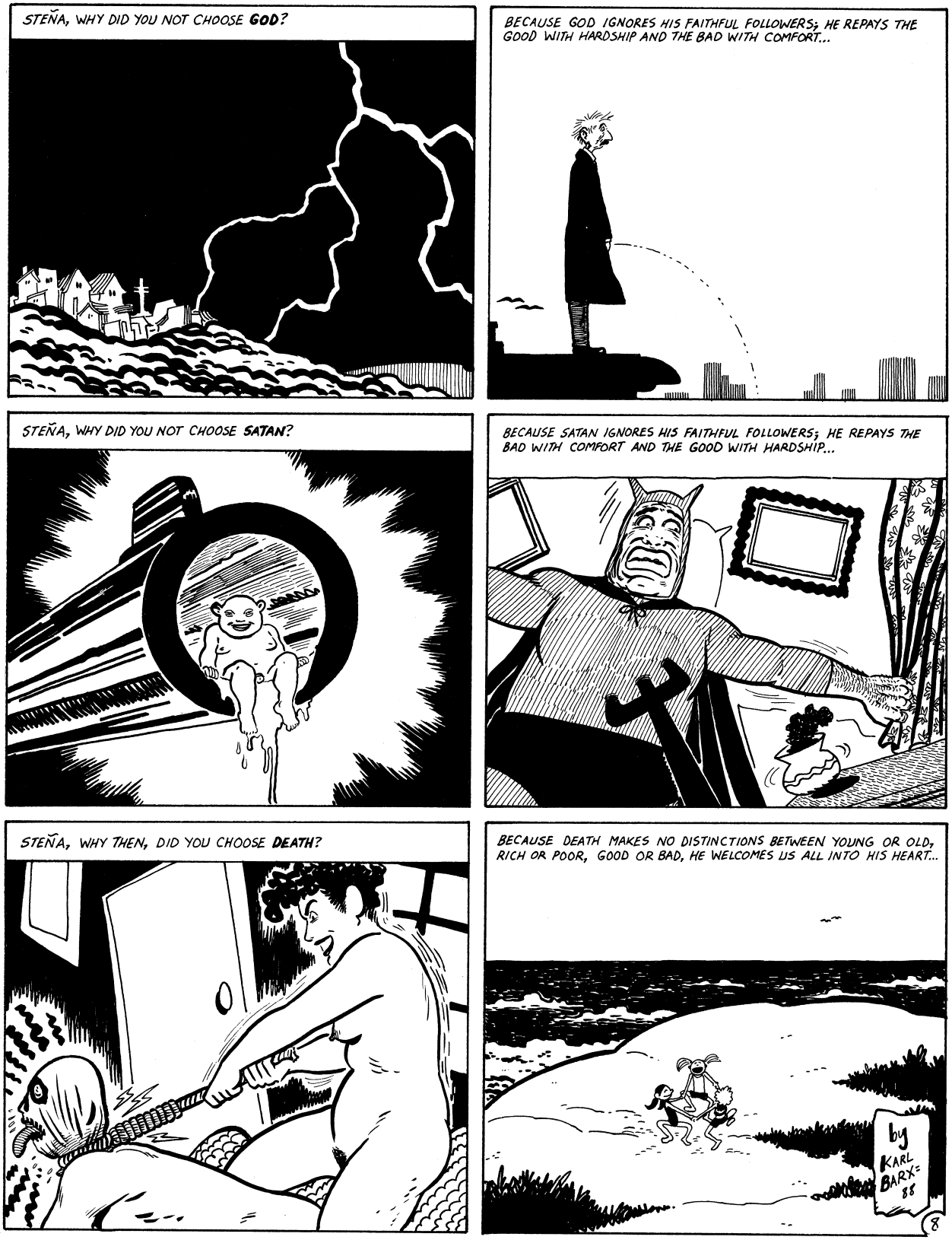

3






KINK
KINK
KINK
6

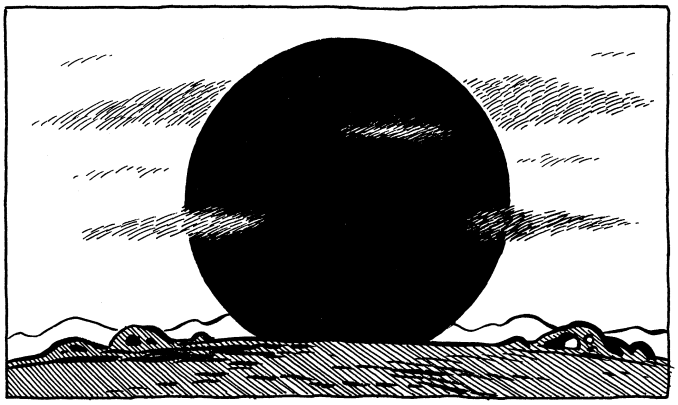

POLICIA
DE
OTA
DIOS?
TO HELL→
7


STEÑA, WHY DID YOU NOT CHOOSE GOD?
BECAUSE GOD IGNORES HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS; HE REPAYS THE GOOD WITH HARDSHIP AND THE BAD WITH COMFORT...
STEÑA, WHY DID YOU NOT CHOOSE SATAN?
BECAUSE SATAN IGNORES HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS; HE REPAYS THE BAD WITH COMFORT AND THE GOOD WITH HARDSHIP...
STEÑA, WHY THEN, DID YOU CHOOSE DEATH?
BECAUSE DEATH MAKES NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN YOUNG OR OLD, RICH OR POOR, GOOD OR BAD, HE WELCOMES US ALL INTO HIS HEART...
by KARL BARX 88
8

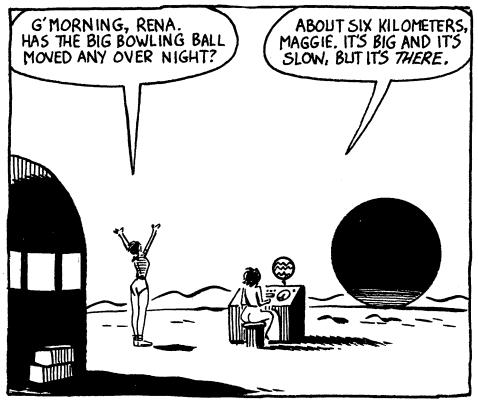

EL SHOW DE Chota
HIPPIE 88
ZIMBA ZAMBA
BOM
BIM BAM
ZIMBLE
¡SHWIT! ¡SHWIT!
¡WERV A LAN MALAK VERNDOR! ¿BIKO BEKK?
¡WIPI!
MAGSTAD VANE BIRDSTAIN...
¡PWET!
MOCO JOCO...
PRISS... MAK GIONS.
ZIMBA ZAMBA ZIMBLE...
¿DER TAVOS QUALVIDA?
DER ENG

HERNANDEZ SATYRICON

BETO/94





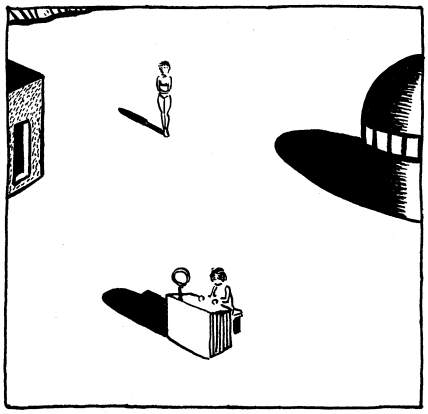


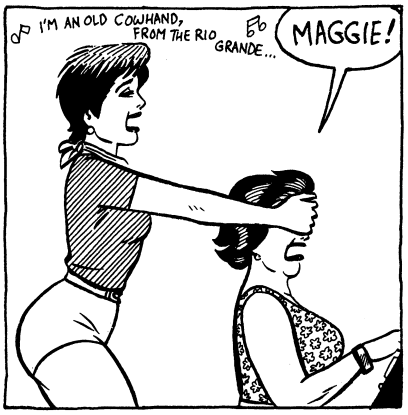










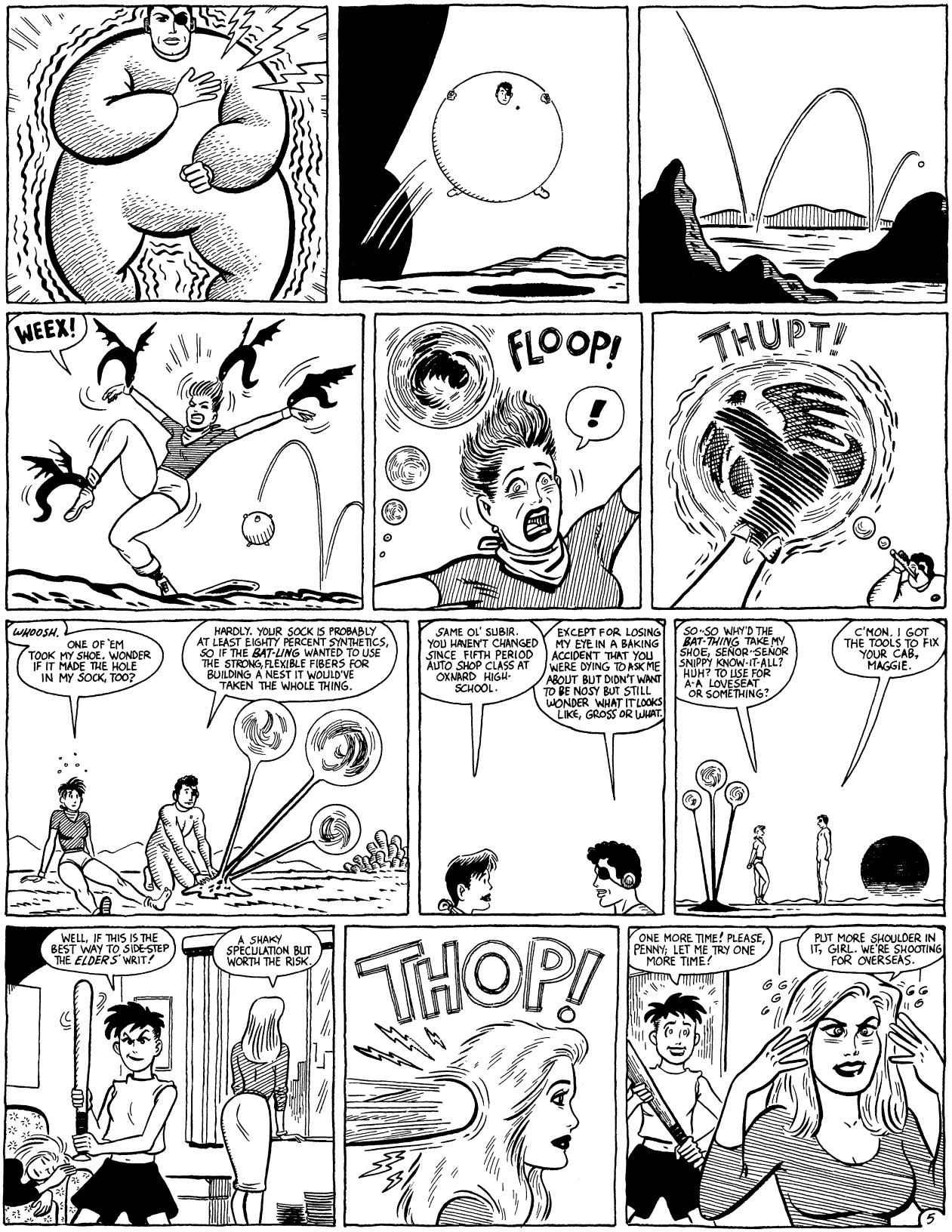




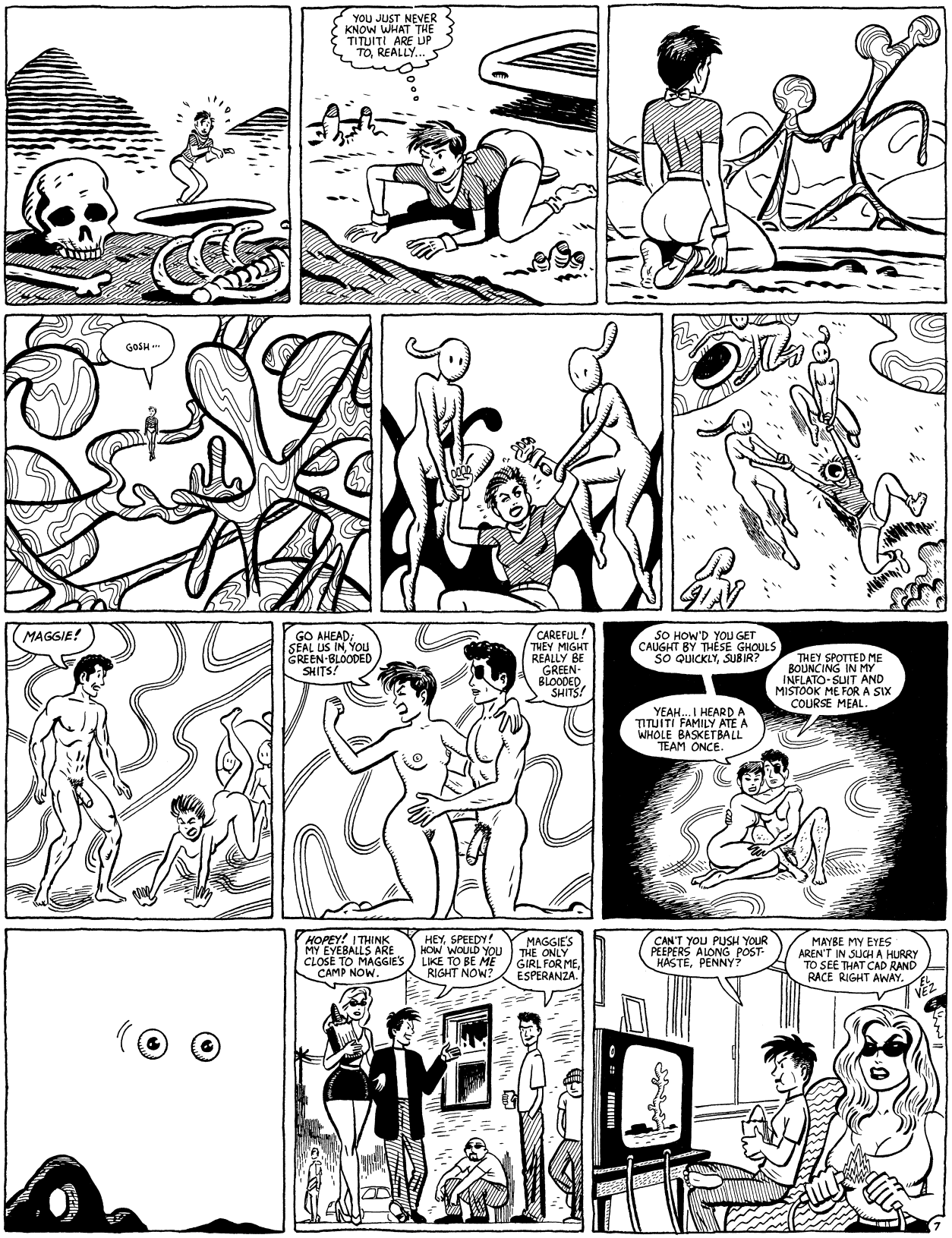

PRETTY.
DITKOESQUE.
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THIS SHOULD BE THE CAMP OF DER HINKENFOFFER PEOPLE.
?
WHIRRRR
SHIT.
AND ME WITHOUT MY SWISS ARMY KNIFE.
2


TV
WHIRRR GRRRRR
YOU MEAN THE ONLY STATION LICENSED TO TELECAST THIS IS THE HUNGARIAN CHANNEL?
I CAN UNDERSTAND EVERY LANGUAGE ON EARTH EXCEPT HUNGARIAN! I SUSPECT A BIT OF F.C.C. SHENANIGANS!
AH, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETELY AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS, BUT AS USUAL THEY'RE FEIGNING INNOCENCE.
GOD KNOWS.
..AND HE AIN'T TELLING!
PUNK ROCK ISN'T DEAD
PENNY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST FLY OVER THERE AND GET THE STRAIGHT DOPE YOURSELF? MAYBE YOU'LL GET TO SLAM A FEW DESERVING HEADS TOGETHER?
YOU KNOW PENNY IS FORBIDDEN TO USE HER SUPER POWERS UNLESS IT'S TO STOP A THREAT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HUMANS TO HANDLE, HOPEY.
IZZY'S RIGHT; CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE ELDERS OF THE UNIVERSE IF I WANT TO KEEP MY POWERS!
JUST IN TIME, DAFFY! WE NEED YOUR SUPER-TRANSLATION POWERS TO LAY BARE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE SECRETS OF LIFE AND DEATH AND IN-BETWEEN.
WELL..?
SHH!
PUNK ROCK ISN'T DEAD
IT IS NOT HUNGARIAN THEY ARE SPEAKING, BUT IT IS SOMETHING FROM DICKENS, I DO BELIEVE. SOMETHING OVER AND OVER...
'GOD BLESS US, ALL; EVERYONE.'
WHIRRRRRR
OH, OH..! THE X/X TEAM. I MAY NEVER GET OUT OF HERE IF I'M SPOTTED..!
JUST A LITTLE CAR TROUBLE S'ALL FOLKS.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE A MONKEYWRENCH LAYING AROUND MAYBE.
EAT..? BUT I'M NOT HUNGRY, REALLY.
OH... SHOOT... OK...
3


IF ONE OF THE RESEARCH TEAMS YOU COME ACROSS IS A X/X TEAM, WHATEVER YOU DO *DON'T* REFUSE THEM IF THEY OFFER YOU A MEAL.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOUGH, *DON'T* PURGE AFTERWARDS NO MATTER *HOW* STUFFED YOU GET, MAGGIE.
HOLY *SHIT*, I FEEL LIKE I SWALLOWED A SIXTY-ONE SKYBLUE VOLKSWAGEN.
OH, OH! I KNOW WHAT COMES AFTER *LUNCH* FOR THESE GUYS!
EXIT! STAGE LEFT!
WHIRRR RRRRRRRR
WHAT IS IT? A NATIVE?
ALL THE NATIVE VILLAGES IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN EVACUATED. IT MUST BE SOMEBODY FROM ONE OF THE OTHER RESEARCH TEAMS.
I'M GOING TO BREAK THE RULES FOR A MINUTE AND GET A CLOSE UP.
SUBIR, *NO!* IF THE *ELDERS* FIND OUT THE CAMERA HAS AT ALL STRAYED FROM *LEVIATHAN* FOR EVEN A *MOMENT...!*
BUT I TRUST *YOU* WON'T SAY A WORD, LIMA.
WELL, NOW.
THE WHOLE THING WILL BE ON TAPE..!
OH; NOW *THERE'S* A *LOVELY* SIGHT.
SHE MUST HAVE EATEN WITH THE X/X TEAM. SHE'LL *REGRET* THAT PURGING...
SUBIR, THAT'S ENOUGH. I'M *ERASING* THAT BIT AND GETTING BACK TO *LEVIATHAN!* IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GO BREAK THE RULES YOU CAN RESCUE DREAMGIRL!
WAIT!
OH SHIT!
4

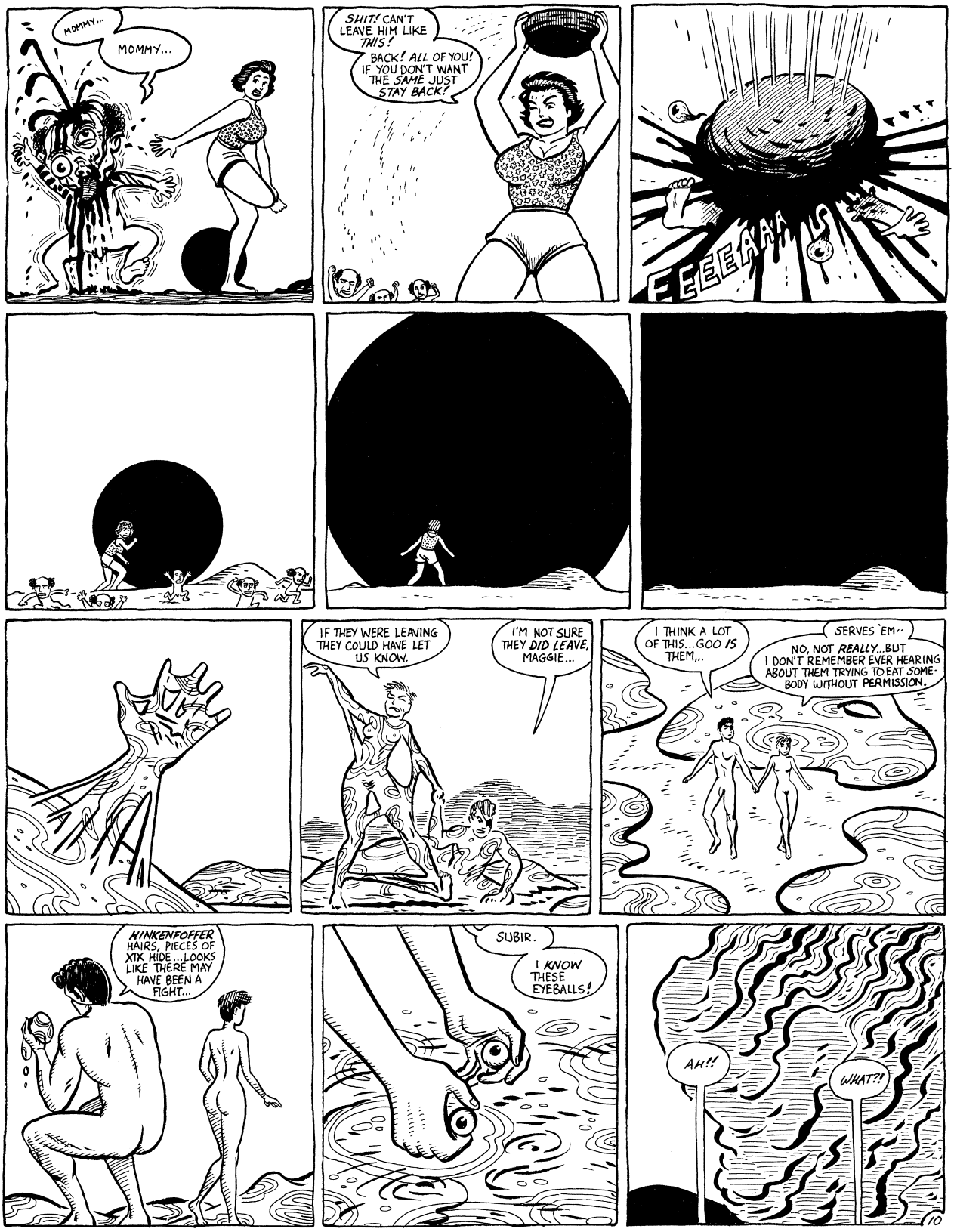

WEEX!
FLOOP!
!
THUPT!
WHOOSH.
ONE OF 'EM TOOK MY SHOE. WONDER IF IT MADE THE HOLE IN MY SOCK, TOO?
HARDLY. YOUR SOCK IS PROBABLY AT LEAST EIGHTY PERCENT SYNTHETICS, SO IF THE BAT-LING WANTED TO USE THE STRONG, FLEXIBLE FIBERS FOR BUILDING A NEST IT WOULD'VE TAKEN THE WHOLE THING.
SAME OL' SUBIR. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE FIFTH PERIOD AUTO SHOP CLASS AT OXNARD HIGH-SCHOOL.
EXCEPT FOR LOSING MY EYE IN A BAKING ACCIDENT THAT YOU WERE DYING TO ASK ME ABOUT BUT DIDN'T WANT TO BE NOSY BUT STILL WONDER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, GROSS OR WHAT.
SO--SO WHY'D THE BAT-THING TAKE MY SHOE, SEÑOR--SEÑOR SNIPPY KNOW-IT-ALL? HUH? TO USE FOR A-A LOVESEAT OR SOMETHING?
C'MON. I GOT THE TOOLS TO FIX YOUR CAB, MAGGIE.
WELL, IF THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO SIDE-STEP THE ELDERS' WRIT!
A SHAKY SPECULATION BUT WORTH THE RISK.
THOP!
ONE MORE TIME! PLEASE, PENNY; LET ME TRY ONE MORE TIME!
PUT MORE SHOULDER IN IT, GIRL. WE'RE SHOOTING FOR OVERSEAS.
5


NOT UNLIKE A SLURPEE HEADACHE.
WELL, NO SENSE IN RUINING ANY MORE LOUISVILLE SLUGGERS.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR..
I LOVE TO FLY WHEN IT'S OVERCAST.
AM I AT ALL WORRIED ABOUT OFFENDING THE ELDERS?
OIT!
I'LL BE PRETTY DISAPPOINTED IF WE DON'T OFFEND THE FASCISTIC OLD FARTS!
PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW.
IF THINE EYE OFFENDS THEE..!
WAHOOo!
IS IT JUST ME OR DID SUBIR TURN OUT TO BE A LIVING DOLL?
HO!
NOW I KNOW BETTER THAN TO GET NEAR THE YITUITI CAMP!
6


YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHAT THE TITUITI ARE UP TO, REALLY...
GOSH...
MAGGIE!
GO AHEAD; SEAL US IN YOU GREEN-BLOODED SHITS!
CAREFUL! THEY MIGHT REALLY BE GREEN-BLOODED SHITS!
SO HOW'D YOU GET CAUGHT BY THESE GHOULS SO QUICKLY, SUBIR?
THEY SPOTTED ME BOUNCING IN MY INFLATO-SUIT AND MISTOOK ME FOR A SIX COURSE MEAL.
YEAH... I HEARD A TITUITI FAMILY ATE A WHOLE BASKETBALL TEAM ONCE.
HOPEY! I THINK MY EYEBALLS ARE CLOSE TO MAGGIE'S CAMP NOW.
HEY, SPEEDY! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ME RIGHT NOW?
MAGGIE'S THE ONLY GIRL FOR ME, ESPERANZA.
CAN'T YOU PUSH YOUR PEEPERS ALONG POST-HASTE, PENNY?
MAYBE MY EYES AREN'T IN SUCH A HURRY TO SEE THAT CAD RAND RACE RIGHT AWAY.
EL VEZ
7


SPEAK OF THE DEVIL; I DON'T REMEMBER THAT TATTOO OF BLOOD ON HIS FACE, THOUGH. THAT'S PRETTY MACHO, ALL RIGHT.
PRETTY REALISTIC, TOO.
WHOA!
WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS..?
AW! EITHER SOMETHING WENT WRONG OVER THERE OR MAGGIE FORGOT TO PAY THE CABLE BILL.
BUT THEN WE DON'T HAVE CABLE.
UP.. UP.. AND AWAAAAYY..
YOU MEAN WHEN SOMEBODY READS A GREAT BOOK AND THEY JUST SHRUG BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT BUT THEY STILL CONTINUE TO TRY AND IMPRESS PEOPLE THAT THEY READ IT LIKE IT'S SOME NOTCH IN THEIR CULTURAL BELT OF MIDDLE-BROW ACHIEVEMENTS.
NO; WHEN THEY DO UNDERSTAND IT AND AGREE WITH IT BUT SHRUG ALL THE SAME BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.


WOMYN WOMAN! I KNEW THOSE EYEBALLS HAD TO BE YOURS!
THE ONLY OTHER WOMAN WITH EYES AS BEAUTIFUL IS A WOMAN NAMED PENNY..
ER.. WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THE X/X, THE TITUITI, THE HINKENFOFFERS... THEY ATTACKED US LIKE.. OHH... I DON'T FEEL SO.. OHHHHHH...
YOU'RE DYING, MISTER RACE, BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO FIX THAT.
SHAZZAM!
FRISKY AS A COLT AND EAGER TO PLEASE.
DON'T WORRY, PENNY, YOUR SECRET IDENTITY IS SAFE WITH ME! MAN, IF THIS IS WHAT YOUR KISS CAN DO, I CAN IMAGINE.. YOU KNOW..
YOU'LL LIVE, BUT YOU'LL FORGET MY IDENTITY AFTER A FEW HOURS.
HMMM. I WAS HOPING I'D FIND MY EYEBALLS LAYING AROUND HERE SOMEPLACE.
THE OTHER TEAMS CAME UPON US LIKE CRAZED MARAUDERS! LIKE THEY WERE HIGH ON CRACK! POSSESSED! BEFORE I BLACKED OUT RENA YELLED OUT "IT'S THE BOWLING BALL!"


MOMMY...
MOMMY...
SHIT! CAN'T LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS!
BACK! ALL OF YOU! IF YOU DON'T WANT THE SAME JUST STAY BACK!
EEEEAAA
IF THEY WERE LEAVING THEY COULD HAVE LET US KNOW.
I'M NOT SURE THEY DID LEAVE, MAGGIE...
I THINK A LOT OF THIS...GOO IS THEM,..
SERVES 'EM..
NO, NOT REALLY...BUT I DON'T REMEMBER EVER HEARING ABOUT THEM TRYING TO EAT SOMEBODY WITHOUT PERMISSION.
HINKENFOFFER HAIRS, PIECES OF XIX HIDE...LOOKS LIKE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A FIGHT...
SUBIR.
I KNOW THESE EYEBALLS!
AH!!
WHAT?!
10


CACA"
SOMEBODY FOUND MY EYEBALLS BUT ALL I SEE IS BLACK AGAIN!
OOOH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT!
AND TO THINK I ALMOST MARRIED A XIX ONCE.
YAAAAAH!
WH..?
HEY!
UMA MUKERJI, MAJOR FIRST CLASS, SEVEN, SEVEN, SEVEN SEVEN, SEV..SEV..
SHE PASSED OUT! SHE MUST'VE COME FROM THE BIG BURNING SHIP!
PENNY..!
SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING..
GODDAMN ELDERS...
LOOKS LIKE I'M FUCKED, LOVER. I'LL BET THE ELDERS VOIDED MY INVULNERABILITY WHEN I BENT THE RULES.
HOW ABOUT... A KISS...FOR THE ROAD..?
OH, MY GOD..PENNY! PENNY..!
ARE YOU O.K., MAGGIE? I MEAN, AFTER HIDING THE EYEBALLS AND ALL?
THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO WRECK EVERYTHING...
MAYBE THEY ALL GOT AWAY, MAGGIE. I DON'T SEE ANY CORPSES...
DOESN'T MATTER WHICH RESEARCH TEAM DID THIS, SUBIR. I KNOW WHAT'S CAUSED THIS SHIT AND IT AIN'T THE DEVIL OR ANYBODY'S SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR THIS TIME.


HOW CLOSE OR FAR IS THIS GOD DAMN THING?!
MAKING ME DIZZY..!
OF COURSE, IT COULD BE PENNY'S EYEBALLS MAKING ME NAUSEOUS.
QUEEREST THING IS THAT THEY BOTH TASTED LIKE EYEBALLS.
HUFF HUFF
12


WHEN YOU GONNA BUY ME A CANNED HAM..?
WHEN YOU GONNA BUY ME.
WHEN YOU GONNA SATISFY ME..?
YOU GUYS MUST BE THE ELDERS PENNY'S ALWAYS BITCHING ABOUT. GUESS YOU WANT HER EYEBALLS, HUH?
WELL, TORTURE AWAY, YOU, BOOGERHEADS! YOU WON'T FIND OUT WHERE I HID 'EM FROM ME!
SONG: CANNED HAM BY NORMAN GREENBAUM (?)
OH...
SHIT.
GUESS YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE I HID 'EM; HUH, GUY?
YUCK!
WOULDN'T A SIMPLE ENEMA DO THE TRICK?
EEP...
AND AFTER ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GAG 'EM DOWN.
SIZZLE
WOW!
SO WHERE WAS THIS POWER WHEN THE BOY WHO TOOK MY VIRGINITY DID IT AND RAN?
SSSSS
FINGER IN THE DYKE. OR MORE ACCURATELY FINGER IN THE BI!
OR IS IT BIKE?
I'LL BET BEHIND ONE OF THESE DOORS IS WHERE MY LOVED ONES ARE BEING KEPT PRISONER! BUT WHICH?
I REMEMBER IN THE WIZARD OF OZ WHEN DOROTHY MEETS THE SCARECROW IT'S AT A THREEWAY FORK IN THE ROAD? AND THEY PICK ONE OF THE ROADS TO FOLLOW AT RANDOM?
WHY THAT PARTICULAR ROUTE? DID THE SCARECROW KNOW SOMETHING? WHERE'D THOSE OTHER ROADS GO?
THEN I FIGURED IT MEANT ALL YELLOWBRICK ROADS LEAD TO THE EMERALD CITY.
BACK JUST IN TIME TO FIX THE TRACKING ON THE V.C.R.!
BIRDLAND
THEY JUST HAD ALL THOSE SPACE ALIEN PEOPLE ON THE NEWS SAYING YOU'RE A HERO BECAUSE YOU SAVED EVERYBODY FROM THAT MARBLE OR WHATEVER IT WAS, MAGGIE!
HELL YES, HOPEY! AND THOSE TITUITI PEOPLE BETTER THINK TWICE ABOUT WHO THEY'RE SAVING FOR DINNER!
MI VIDA LOCA
13


THEIR BEDSPRINGS WILL GET A WORKOUT TONIGHT, DAFFY.
OH, IZZY; JUST BE HAPPY THAT MAGGIE'S HOME!
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.. NO PLACE LIKE HOME..
ISABEL! DAPHNE! ISN'T THERE AN APARTMENT YOU TWO OUGHT TO BE GETTING THE FUCK OUT OF BY NOW?
WHEN YOU GONNA BUY ME, WHEN YOU GONNA SATISFY ME?
DON'T EVER LEAVE FOR SO LONG AGAIN...
AHH, THAT WAS THE LAST TIME, LOVER. I'M DONE WITH OVERSEAS SCIENCE FICTION. THERE IS PLENTY OF IT HERE TO DEAL WITH.
HEY, MAGGIE! WHEN YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO STOP FAGGING AROUND YOU COME SEE ME!
I'LL BE THERE THE DAY YOU GROW AN EIGHT INCH LIMP CHOAD, SPEEDY.
CACHUNG!
SHHHHH..
MORNING, MAGGIE.
MORNING, PINKY.
CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOOR AND GETTING US ALL OUT OF THE BIG BOWLING BALL, MARGIE.
JUST USIN' MY OLD FEMININE INTUITION THERE, RACE.
RACE! LITTLE BOY! LET'S HOP TO IT!
THE ZUTNIDDLES NEED NEW PARGOTHOTS AND THE CALLOW KAVIDAKS HAVE TO BE RE-ADJUSTED.
BY MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.
DUKE MUST THINK WE'VE GOT SUPERNESS LIKE WOMYN WOMAN IF SHE WANTS THIS JOB DONE THAT QUICKLY!
I WONDER WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO WOMYN WOMAN..?
STORY I HEARD IS THAT SHE TOOK OFF INTO OUTER SPACE NEVER TO RETURN.
YEAH, I GUESS THERE'S JUST NO ROOM FOR A REAL SUPER HERO IN OUR WORLD.
I MEAN, WITH HER ABILITIES SHE COULD'VE WHIPPED THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO SHAPE WITHIN A YEAR; SOME EXPERT CALCULATED.
NO, HER SUPERIORS HAD HER HANDS TIED.
NOW SHE WON'T COME BACK. TOO FRUSTRATING; TOO BIG A WASTE.
SUDDENLY, QUICK AS A BOLT OF PUNCTILIOUS LIGHTNING..!
ZING..!
ZOING!
14



MODEL- JAIME PHOTOGRAPHY- CAROL


WAR PAINT
XAIME 94
HEY, MARICELA!
LENTE
1958
LOOK, RIRI...
DON'T WAVE IT AROUND IN THE OPEN, DUMMY!
IS YOUR MOM TAKING A NAP YET?
YES. OFELIA SAYS SHE WOULD SLEEP ALL DAY IF WE LET HER.
LOOKIT, WE'RE ALL SET. LIPSTICK... EYE SHADOW...
OK, BUT YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME HOW TO PUT IT...


SEE? THE WIDOW TIBURCIA MAKES IT LOOK EASY.
RIRI, I DON'T WANNA DO THIS NO MORE...
DON'T YOU WANNA SEE YOUR MOM LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE MOVIE LADIES THAT SHE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT?
I DO, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU SAY SHE'D NEVER DO IT HERSELF?
YES, BUT...
THEN, GO! I NEARLY GOT KILLED SNEAKING OUT ALL THIS STUFF, SO IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW!
GO!
I AM.
...AMBA ZIMBLE...
MARICELA.
YOU'RE NOT DISTURBING YOUR MOTHER'S NAP, ARE YOU?
NO.
2


COWARD.
SO?
LOOK! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
SHE'S GONNA WOOP ME.
NO, SHE WON'T. MOTHERS GET NICE WHEN THEY LOOK LIKE LADIES.
NGHHHHHH...
OH NO, YOU DON'T! GET BACK IN THERE BEFORE...
BUT BUT...
OFELIA?
3


WHERE IS EVERY-BODY?
SEE?
OH, WELL. WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.
MARICELA!
COMING, MAMA.
HEY, RITA HAYWORTH. WHERE'D YOU GET THAT DONE?
RIRI.
WELL, CLEAN IT OFF BEFORE SOMEONE MISTAKES YOU FOR MARIA ANTIONETA PONS. IM GOING OVER TO SEE COLOMBIA CHACON. YOU DONT GIVE OFELIA A HARD TIME, OK?
I WILL, MAMA.
I WONT, MAMA.
ALL RIGHT, YOU LITTLE SHIT! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY MAKE UP? HAH?
WHERE THE @#@ IS MY ★@#!?@#!! HAMMER?
END


SOMEWHERE IN THE TROPICS
By MARIO, '92
© 1992 MARIO HERNANDEZ
THE EVE OF UNION ELECTIONS IN COMPRACHICO... THE FIRST STEP, MANY HOPE, TOWARD LOOSENING THE HEAVY GRIP OF NEIGHBORING MARZIPAN, ITSELF DEPENDENT ON COMPRACHICO FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ITS OFFICIAL STATE SOFT DRINK, BLIK!...
DRIK BLIK
KLUB MARZ PAN · DRIK · DINE ·
UNAN
CO PAS
OWEN! MARY! WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE! ISN'T IT EXCITING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRAGGED ME THIS FAR, ANNINA!
MAC DADDY
HELLO? WE'RE THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS? FROM THE U.S.?
VUT
GOOD! ONE OF YOU GRAB A BROOM AND THE REST CAN HELP SORT AND STUFF ENVELOPES!
BALLOTS
1


AREN'T YOU KIDS KIND OF YOUNG TO BE TRAVELING ABOUT BY YOURSELVES?
WE'RE DOING A TERM PAPER ON THE ELECTION! I'M ANNINA, I'M DOING THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH...
AND HIM?
OH, THAT'S OWEN! HE'S MMM, HERE TO HELP!
I'M MARY, I HOPE TO DO INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE PARTICULARS INVOLVED, YOU KNOW... THE PICKERS AND LIKE... THE BOTTLERS...
WE'D KIND OF LIKE TO GO TO THE RALLY IF YOU DIDN'T MIND...
I WANTED TO RECORD UNION LEADER, SPUDO'S SPEACH ON MY LITTLE TAPE RECORDER!
THIS IS MY SON ACHILLE! HE'LL GO WITH YOU TO SEE YOU DON'T GET LOST...
HEY...
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE RALLY...
...THE DEAL WAS, YOU WERE TO DENOUNCE THE DAMN BOTTLERS IN THIS @*//#$!! SPEECH! YOU PROMISED! AND WE BACKED YOU!
THE BOTTLERS AND I MADE A LITTLE DEAL, OK.? THE UNION IS A SHOE-IN, SO EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE...
O.K. BACK OFF! SPUDO HAS A SPEECH TO MAKE...
SPU-DO! UNIN! SPUDO! UNIN!
YOU'RE HOLDING OUT ON US SPUDO! YOU'VE PISSED YOUR LAST IN THIS TOWN!
GET THIS VILLAGE TRASH OFF THE STAGE! NOW!
HE'S SOLD US OUT FOR THE LAST TIME!
NOW WHAT?
2


BISCUIT MENDICANT, BBC RADIO HERE... THE CROWDS ARE ENORMOUS TODAY, OUT TO HEAR **SPUDO**, HEAD OF THE VERY POPULAR COPAS UNION FRONT, GIVE A LAST SPEECH BEFORE THE UNION ELECTIONS! TENSIONS HAVE BEEN HIGH BETWEEN THE PICKERS, WHO HARVEST THE PRECIOUS FLOWER WHOSE ESSENCE IS THE MAIN INGREDIENT OF THE POPULAR SOFT DRINK BLIK! AND THE MARZIPANIAN BOTTLERS WHO HAVE MANAGED TO QUASH ANY UNION IN THE PAST...
VUT
UNIN COPA
...THERE SEEMS TO BE A DISTURBANCE ON STAGE! BY THE LOOKS OF IT, SOMEONE HAS STRUCK SPUDO SQUARE IN THE FACE WITH WHAT LOOKS TO BE A CHILDS NAPPY FILLED WITH EXCREMENT! IT'S PANDEMONIUM!
AHH, DR ASSIS, AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR MR. SPUDO IS NOT AS POPULAR AS HE THINKS, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEE THAT HE IS REPLACED, VERY SOON...
...I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE CLOSE TO FINDING OUR ROYAL HEIR... BEST OF LUCK TO YOU!
VUT!
A SMALL RIOT ENSUES AND ACHILLE TRIES HARD TO GET THE AMERICAN STUDENTS BACK TO SAFETY...
HEY ACHILLE! WHY D'YOU FOOL 'ROUND DAT MESS OV'THERE!
HEY, YOU GUYS! YOU GOTTA HELP ME AND MY THREE FRIENDS GET BACK TO MY HOUSE!
HEY, NO SWEAT ACHILLE, COME ON BOYS!
CRUZ! HERE'S THE CASH THE BOTTLER'S "DONATED" TO THE UNION!
GOOD WORK! WE CAN USE IT TO NEGOTIATE FOR MORE WEAPONS... IS EVERYTHING SET UP HEIMDAHL?
THE WEAPONS ARE WAITING FOR US AT THE LAGOON...


BLIK! BLIK! BLEAH! DON'T CHA HAVE ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES BLIK!? PEPSI OR EVEN JOLT!
AW, HELL, OWEN! IT'S TOO HOT FOR THAT CRAP!
YOU'RE IN TOTAL BLIK! COUNTRY NOW, MAN...
SO, ACHILLE, ARE YOU A NATIVE?
YEAH, BUT I GO TO SCHOOL IN THE STATES, LIKE YOU GUYS, I'M ON BREAK. BUT I COULDN'T MISS THIS ELECTION FOR ANYTHING! THESE PEOPLE HAVE WAITED YEARS FOR THIS...
BLIK
THAT'S RIGHT, MARZIPAN HAS EXPLOITED US FOR TOO LONG! THIS IS REALLY SHAKING THEM UP!
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN MARZIPAN IS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE BECAUSE OF THE LOUSY ECONOMY! NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO BOOST IT BY HAVING BLIK! GO INTERNATIONAL...
...WELL, THESE GOOD COMPRACHICAN FOLKS ARE GONNA GET A NICE PIECE OF THAT GLOBAL PIE, BY AND BY, WITH ICE CREAM...
AREN'T THERE RADICALS WHO WANT MARZIPAN OUT, PERIOD?
MMM...THEY AREN'T ORGANIZED ENOUGH TO CAUSE MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE MISCHIEF. I MEAN, LOOK AROUND, JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY HAS A JOB WITH BLIK! CORP. IT FLOATS THE ECONOMIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES... TREE SHAKERS JUST AREN'T ALL THAT POPULAR... OH, WELL, BACK TO WORK...
BLIK
COUNT ME OUT! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M WASTING MY SPRING BREAK ON THIS! I SAY WE GO TO THE CITY TO PARTY!
C'MON OWEN! WE ALL AGREED TO DO THIS, YOU CAN'T BACK OUT!
YEAH!
OH? DUH! HIDE AND WATCH ME, MARY! WE ALL GOT HERE ON MY CREDIT CARD, 'MEMBER?
I'M GOIN' BACK TO THE CITY ON THE OTHER SIDE AND HAVE SOME FUN! Y'ALL CAN SIT HERE, SWAT BUGS AND SUCK BLIK!
OWEN, DON'T GO, OK?
I SWEAR, OWEN! YOU ARE SO FUCKIN' RUDE! TSK!
OWEN!
LET HIM GO. WHEN HE FINDS OUT THERE'S NO MORE FERRIES BACK TO THE CITY TONIGHT... HE'LL BE BACK...
C'MON, ANNINA, FORGET IT!
4


ACHILLE! I'M TAKING MALACHI BACK TO THE HOUSE. MAKE SURE YOU'RE BACK FROM DELIVERING THOSE BALLOTS BEFORE DARK! LOOKS LIKE BIG RAIN!
OK. MAMA, I'M TAKING ANNINA WITH ME. MARY'S NOT FEELING WELL. I THINK SHE'S SLEEPING... WE SHOULD BE BACK SHORTLY.
UNIN
...AT THE U.N. AS AN ASSISTANT TRANSLATOR IN MY DAD'S OFFICE... SO, AFTER I GRADUATE, I'M DOING TWO YEARS IN THE PEACE CORP, I'VE TRAVELED JUST ABOUT ALL OVER WITH MY DAD... HE SUGGESTED COMING HERE, Y'KNOW? I HAD THIS BIG CRUSH ON OWEN, Y'KNOW? BUT, HE'S SUCH A BUTT!...
THAT SO?
...AND WITH THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT READY TO FALL IN MARZIPAN, THE PROFIT LOSS COULD HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS. ERGO, BLIK! MUST GO GLOBAL, HEAD TO HEAD WITH THE ESTABLISHED MARKET, UNION OR NO--
...AND IF THE PICKERS DECIDE TO STRIKE AT A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE? FOR ANY FRIVOLOUS REASON? WE GO BELLY UP! AND--
THE ONLY WAY TO STABILIZE THIS SITUATION IS... TAKE CONTROL OF THE FLOWER FIELDS BY FORCE! AND SQUASH THIS UNION BEFORE IT HAS A CHANCE TO TAKE FIRM ROOT!
MARZ PAN N VUDNOL
THAT WOULD ONLY BRING NEGATIVE ATTENTION FROM EUROPE OR THE U.S....THIS UNION HAS WORLD OPINION ON ITS SIDE, A PERFECT TIME TO ENTER THE GLOBAL SOFT DRINK MARKET! MY INSIDE SOURCES ASSURE ME THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CAN HANG ON AT LEAST UNTIL THEN...
BLIK!
WE'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THE UNION'S HANDS! THEY'RE HOLDING SOME BIG CARDS AT THIS MOMENT, ENOUGH TO COMPROMISE A VERY DELICATE GLOBAL MOVE!
THE UNION IS GOING TO HAVE ITS HANDS FULL KEEPING THE RADICAL SEPARATISTS FROM OVERPLAYING THOSE CARDS! I'VE SEEN TO THAT! THE ANTI-MARZIPANIAN FACTION OF THE UNION, WITH HELP FROM AN "ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR", IS KEEPING EVERYTHING OFF BALANCE FOR US...


THOSE STUPID BOTTLERS WILL SURE BE SURPRISED WITH WHAT WE DO WITH THEIR MONEY... IF THEY THINK WE'RE TAKING IT OVER TO SPUDO AND HIS GODDAMNED UNION...
YEAH, SPUDO'S BEEN SECRETLY ON THEIR PAYROLL LONG ENOUGH... THIS LITTLE PURCHASE SHOULD GET US SOME ATTENTION!
YO, DARIO!
POSNEY BRIRI
PCCH! COULDN'T YOU BE ANY **LOUDER**? CAREFUL! DON'T JOSTLE THAT!
THAT'S IT? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET **GUNS**! HEIMDAHL! THIS GUY IS TRYING TO SC--
HEY! SHUT UP! HEY, TELL YOUR WOMAN TO BE QUIET!
DAMN, CRUZ! YOU WANT THE COPS DOWN ON OUR NECKS?
PHAH! I'M NOT **STUPID** ENOUGH TO SELL ANY OF YOU PEOPLE ANY GUNS! NOT YET! BELIEVE ME, THAT STUFF RIGHT THERE IS GONNA DO **PLENTY** FOR YOU GUYS... COME BACK AND VISIT SOMETIME, HEIMDAHL... **ALONE**!
HEY, FRODO! HOW MUCH LONGER 'R' WE GONNA SIT HERE? I WANNA BE BACK IN THE CITY BEFORE DARK...
RAIN IS COMING! IS TOO DENGEROUS! TOO TROUBLE!
MAC DADDY
AFRAID OF RAIN? WHAT ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT? IT'S JUST A LITTLE BREEZY...
MAC DADDY
HEY AMERICAN... GIVE MONEY TO US, O.K.?
SSSHIT...
MAC
ACHILLE! ARE YOU O.K.? YOU HIT THE WHEEL KINDA HARD!
IT'S NOTHING! C'MON, LET'S GET UP TO THAT EMPTY HOUSE! THIS RAIN IS GONNA GET WORSE IN A MINUTE!
6


...THE ELECTION'S BEEN POSTPONED FOR ANOTHER DAY... AND BOY, ARE THESE PEOPLE PISSED! MULU, THE WOMAN THAT WE'RE HELPING OUT, STORMED OUT OF HERE TO GO RAISE HELL AT UNION HEADQUARTERS...
...I WOKE UP WITH A BAD STOMACH ACHE, SO I STAYED BEHIND... MULU PRESCRIBED HOT BLIK! IT WORKED! AND IT SURE BUZZES YOU OUT...
...NO WONDER IT'S THE NATIONAL SOFT DRINK OF MARZIPAN... THEY PROBABLY GIVE IT TO PREGNANT WOMEN, ETC. ETC....
"...MADE FROM THE EMBULA FLOWER OF COMPRACHICO, GINGERLY HAND PICKED, AND STEAMED IN ANCIENT GEYSERS DEEP IN THE JUNGLE..."
SIGH! IT'S GETTING DARK, ANNINA AND ACHILLE STILL AREN'T BACK YET... I HOPE THEY'RE ALL RIGHT...
COME ON IN HERE, ANNINA! IT'S EMPTY, AND DRY...
...SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SPUDO FINDS OUT WE'RE STARTING OUR OWN REBEL FACTION?
WHO GIVES A SHIT WHAT SPUDO DOES? THE BOTTLERS ARE REALLY IN FOR IT NOW! WE ARE THE ONES WHO'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
...AND IF ANY OF YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT JOINING WITH US, GO NOW! SPUDO AND HIS LEGAL TRICKS HAVE SCREWED THE ELECTION! TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW!
CRUZ! ENOUGH! COME INSIDE, AND PROVE YOURSELVES WORTHY TO FOLLOW!
WHY KURDIK PREFERS TO LIVE WAY OUT IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN JUNGLE I'LL NEVER KNOW...
7


ASSIS IS GORGEOUS, ISN'T HE?
I DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT, KURDIK, WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
YOUR SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT WE'VE TRACKED DOWN KING SVEDOR'S HEIR...
SIGH! WHY DO I FIND THAT HARD TO SWALLOW...
I KNOW, I KNOW, KING SVEDOR'S FAMILY... ER, "ACCIDENTALLY" BURNED TO DEATH DURING THE COUP.. THAT MUCH IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE!
ONE CHILD WAS SMUGGLED OUT BY AN AMERICAN RED CROSS WORKER AND TAKEN TO THE U.S. AND NO, I DON'T KNOW WHICH CHILD...
MY PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS PERSON NOW...
MARVELOUS! THIS IS THE MIRACLE BREAK WE NEED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT! I WANT NO PRESS LEAKS UNTIL WE CAN GET CONFIRMATION!
YES, YES... WE'RE KEEPING THIS VERY QUIET...
NOW... PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
I'M COLD, CAN'T WE BUILD A FIRE OR SOMETHING?
EVERYTHING IS TOO DAMP, I-- SHH-- LISTEN... SOMEONE'S COMING!
WHO IS THAT?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT WE'D BEST GET OUT OF SIGHT...
SOMETIMES BANDITS USE THESE ABANDONED HOUSES.., THIS WAY!
I'M NOT GETTIN' IN THERE!
THEN STAY OUT, BUT DON'T TELL THEM I'M UP HERE! GOOD LUCK!
ALLRIGHT, ALL RIGHT! HELP ME IN...
8


YOU TWO! HELP CHACUN WITH HER THINGS! HEIMDAHL! WHAT ARE IN THOSE BOXES FROM THE WRECKED JEEP?
WHAT LUCK! BALLOTS! WE'LL BE ABLE TO PUT THEM TO GOOD USE, EH?
...AND WHAT ABOUT THESE WET CHICKENS... WHAT DO THEY WANT?
WE CAUGHT THEM ROBBING TOURISTS IN THE BUSH... THEY WANT TO JOIN UP WITH US!
CAREFUL CRUZ... THEY MAY BE SPYING FOR THE CONSTABLE... OR MAYBE STRIKE BREAKERS!
WELL? THEN? WHAT?
WE WANT TO JOIN WIT' YOU! WE HATE THE FOREIGNERS, TOO! THAT'S WHY WE ROB THEM!
THESE TWO LOWLIFES ARE PERFECT FOR ANY MISCHIEF THE BOTTLERS NEED FROM US! SIC CHACUN ON THEM!
GET ON YOUR KNEES, YOU CHICKENS! DO YOU THINK JUST ANYBODY CAN FIGHT FOR US?
WE DON'T LET JUST ANYONE JOIN OUR BAND! ONLY THE MOST BRAVE AND LOYAL! YOU! BALDY CHICKEN! WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN SURVIVE OUR INITIATION! OUR SHAMAN CHACUN AWAITS!
EMBULA, PRECIOUS SYMBOL OF COMPRACHICO, THE BLOSSOM FOR ALL TIME! AND THE TAGUL SPIDER, JEALOUS GUARDIAN OF EMBULA! INDELIBLY MARKING OUR COMMITMENT TO DRIVE MARZIPAN FROM OUR SOIL!
THE TAGUL, DRUNK WITH THE DYE OF EMBULA ON ITS FEET, UNDULATES, WRITHING WITH PLEASURE...
...LIKE US, TAGUL MUST GIVE ITS LIFE FOR THE STRUGGLE...
SYK!
...AND IN ITS DANCE OF DEATH, IT FORMS THE PRECIOUS BLOSSOM THAT GIVES IT LIFE...
9


ACHILLE! WE'VE GOT TO GO TO THE POLICE!
FOR WHAT, PEOPLE TATTOOING WITH SPIDERS?
NO...NO, LISTEN! ONE OF THOSE GUYS IS WEARING OWEN'S PANTS!
EEEEEEE
KRAK!
ASSIS! MAKE THEM STOP POUNDING! WHO EVER IT IS, SEND THEM PACKING! DON'T THEY KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!!
FUMP! FUMP!
FUMP!
WHO IS IT, ASSIS?
ASSIS!
OK, GOT EVERYTHING? REMEMBER, SHOOT ANYONE WHO COMES NEAR THE TRUCK...
AYE, SIR!
READY?
AYE!
AYE!
LET'S GO!
BONK!
SHMOKK!
KLISH
10


HEY CRUZ! THE CONSTABLE AND A COUPLE OF HIS GOONS ARE BANGING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE VILLAGE LOOKING FOR YOU!
HURRY, TAKE THOSE KIDS TO THE DOCTOR HUT AND KEEP THEM QUIET!
HEY, WHEN YOU DRUGGED US, YOU MADE MY FRIEND SICK!
DON'T WORRY, DR. ASSIS WILL HELP HER! JUST STAY INSIDE AND KEEP QUIET!
I--I'M COLD, I CAN'T FIND MY GLASSES, I NEED MY SWEATER!
HEY MISSUS! WE COME TO HELP WITH THE VOTING! WHERE'S ACHILLE?
I'M GETTING WORRIED ABOUT HIM AND ANINNA BEING GONE SO LONG... PROBABLY GOT CAUGHT IN THE STORM!
POLLING
VOTE
HO! WE FIND HIM THEN WE COME AND HELP!
MARY, BETWEEN THE CONSTABLE AND THOSE THREE, SOMEONE'S BOUND TO COME ACROSS THOSE TWO KIDS... DON'T FRET...
JEEZUS! LOOK! THAT COWARD IS DRIVING OFF WITHOUT US!
SHAT! DON'T PANIC ON ME NOW! HEY! HEEY! CRUZ!
CONSTABLE... YOU'RE IN THE WROOONG NEIGBORHOOD!
DUCK AND COVER!
11


THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, CONSTABLE! JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
RUMOR HAS IT YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF SOME MISSING STUDENTS... TWO AMERICANS AND A NATIVE KID, LOST SINCE YESTERDAY...
JUST HAND THEM OVER, NO QUESTIONS ASKED, NO CHARGES BROUGHT! ONE'S THE KID OF AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WHO WISHES TO KEEP THIS QUIET! O.K.?
FAH! HE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NO KIDS! HE'S HEARD ABOUT OUR PURCHASE AND WANTS TO SNOOP AROUND!
CALM DOWN, WE'RE CALLING THE SHOTS AROUND HERE! ROUND THEM UP!
CRUZ, DAMN IT! YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR! CUT US DOWN AND I'LL SEE YOU GET LENIENCY, I PROMISE...
AS OF TODAY, WE MAKE OUR OWN LAW... YOU ARE TRESPASSING AND WILL BE PUNISHED...
...UNLESS YOU'D CARE TO JOIN WITH US TO BLOW UP FOREIGNERS!
DOCTOR ASSIS! ARE YOU DONE? WE GOTTA VACATE, REAL QUICK!
YOU'RE LETTING US GO?
THESE TWO WILL SEE YOU BACK TO TOWN! DON'T GIVE THEM TROUBLE, AND DON'T TALK TO THE POLICE...
SURE, SURE...
...WHY DID HE TAKE MY FINGERPRINTS? WHERE ARE MY GLASSES?
NEVER MIND, C'MON!
OH MAN... I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD, COUSIN...
THAT TATTOO! IT'S STARTING TO STINK, MAN... SHIT, IT DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE NO FLOWER...
12

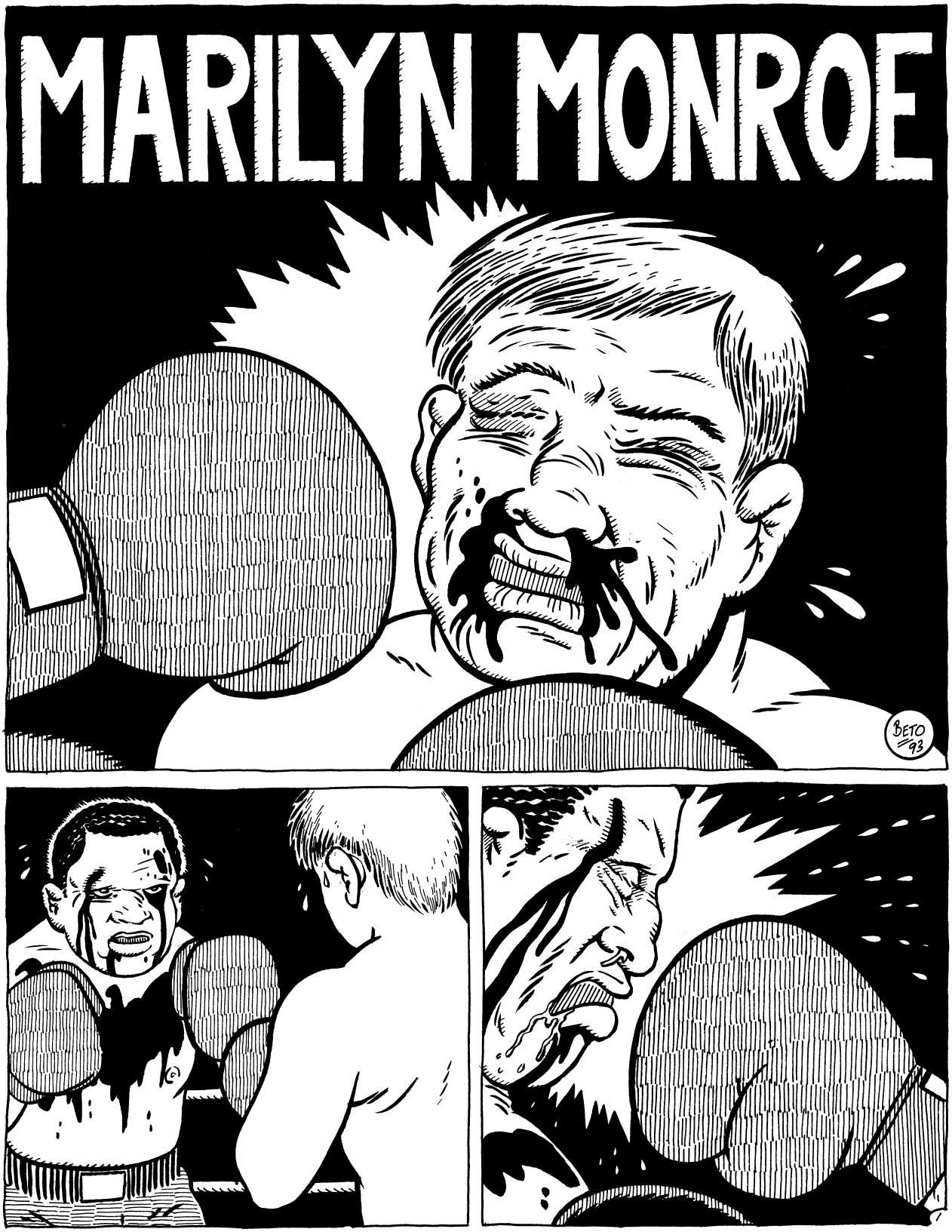

...DEEPEST SYMPATHIES GO TO THE FAMILY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MARZIPAN WHO REGRETTABLY TOOK HIS OWN LIFE... BUT! THE UNION ELECTION IS IN FULL SWING HERE, AND THE GOOD PEOPLE OF COMPRA-CHICO ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO ....
DAMN, KURDIK! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO RESIGN, NOT CROAK! WE STILL DON'T HAVE A LEGITIMATE HEIR!
"HELL, YOU KNOW HOW SHAKEY HE WAS... NEVER COULD KEEP SECRETS... LISTEN, WE FOUND THE RED CROSS WORKER, HE'S WITH THE UN. NOW, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF HOURS...
... AND WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT SPUDO AND HIS UNION?
ASSIS IS TAKING HIM A FAREWELL GIFT AS WE SPEAK... SEE YOU IN MARZIPAN, O.K.?
ANY NEWS?
THE CONSTABLE HAS NOT RETURNED YET, MARY, DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE WE'LL GET SOME NEWS SOON...
... WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP AT THE POLLS... ARE YOU UP FOR IT? COME HELP...
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN THESE ARE USELESS?
A LAUNCHER! THESE ARE NO GOOD WITHOUT A LAUNCHER TO SHOOT THEM WITH...
MAYBE IF I PUT A CURSE ON THEM?
I HAVE AN IDEA WHO'S BEHIND THIS... COME ON, WE DON'T NEED THIS JUNK!
OH! COUSIN! I BEEN POISONED, MAN... I NOT GONNA MAKE IT!
DON'T DIE ON ME, COUSIN! HEY, COME AND HELP ME CARRY-- HEY!
GO... GO!
RUN, ANNINA! GO TO THE COPS! I'LL-- AAII!
HEY, LOOK! D'ERE IS ACHILLE! WE FIND HIM! C'MON!
13

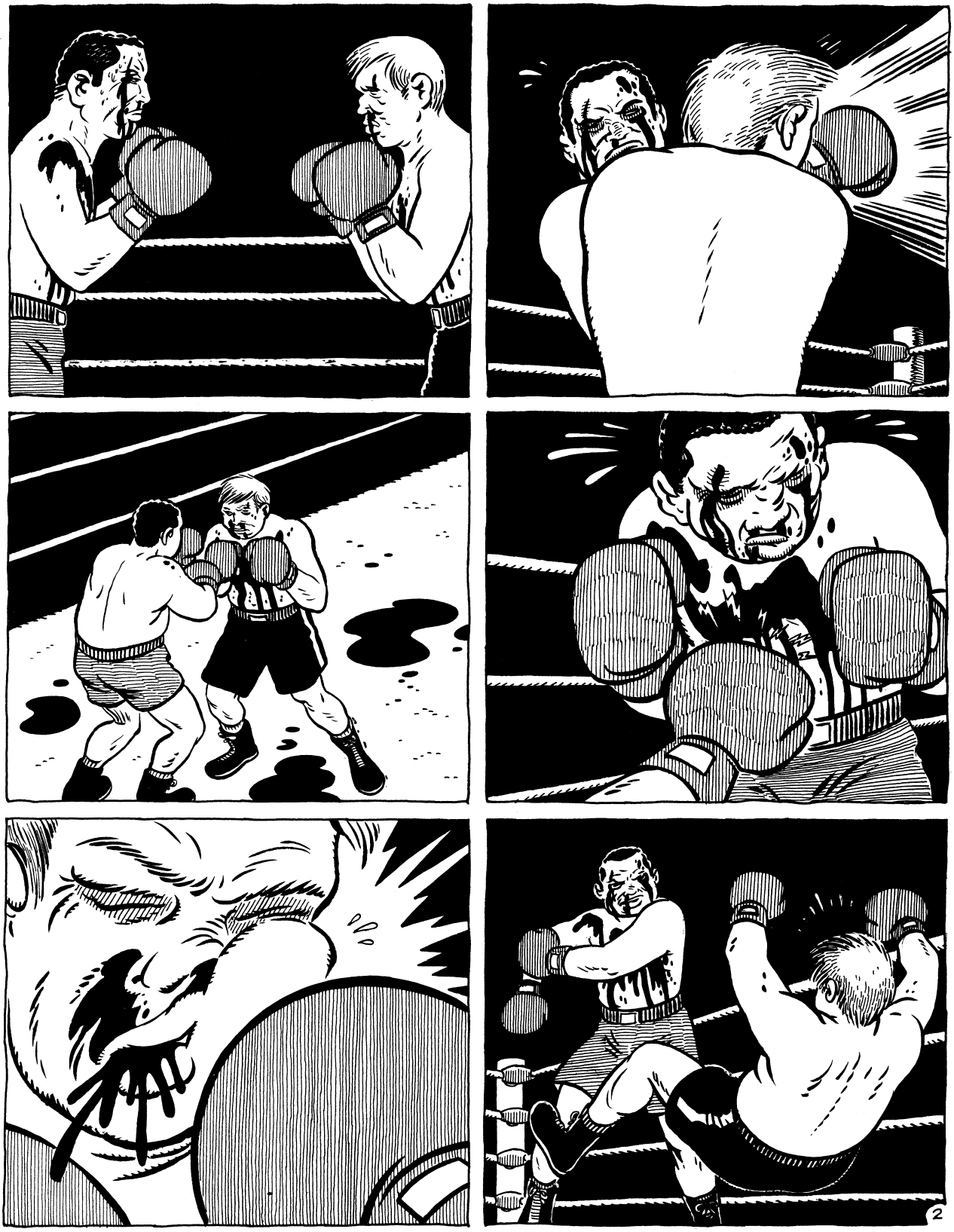

HEY, ACHILLE! YOU'MAMA LOOKIN' ALL OVER FO' YOU! SHOULD WE KILL DIS GUY?
NO! NO, I DON'T... THINK--
LEAVE THAT TRASH MAN WE GOTTA GET ACHILLE BACK TO HIS MAMA, AN' TO THE VOTING!
WERE ON OUR WAY THERE NOW TO SEE THAT THERE'S NO VOTING FRAUD...
...YOU WERE LEFT ON SOMEONES DOORSTEP...LIKE A BABY! TEE-HEE! UUMMM...CAN I HAVE YOUR SHIRT?
EXCUSE ME.. I'M LOST.. WHERE DO I FIND THE POLICE? EXCUSE ME!
HEY! DID YOU HEAR? THEY'VE ARRESTED THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BLIK! CORP.! WORKERS ARE RIOTING ON THE DOCKS!
VUT!
JEEZ! SHOULD WE STILL GO AND VOTE?
I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK AT THIS RATE... OH! IT'S THAT WEIRD WOMAN! I'D KNOW HER ANYWHERE EVEN WITHOUT MY GLASSES...
OH NO! I THINK THEY SAW ME!
SO WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WHAT'S ALL THIS?
WE'RE HERE TO GUARD THE VOTING BOXES!
WHERE'S ANNINA?
ER... SHE'S NOT HERE?
PSST...ASSIS? IT'S ME, SPUDO!... OVER HERE!
AH! HERE YOU ARE! OH! IS THIS FOR ME? WELL... HEH, HEH... OOH!
HEY! THAT'S... THAT DOCTOR WHO TOOK MY FINGERPRINTS!
14

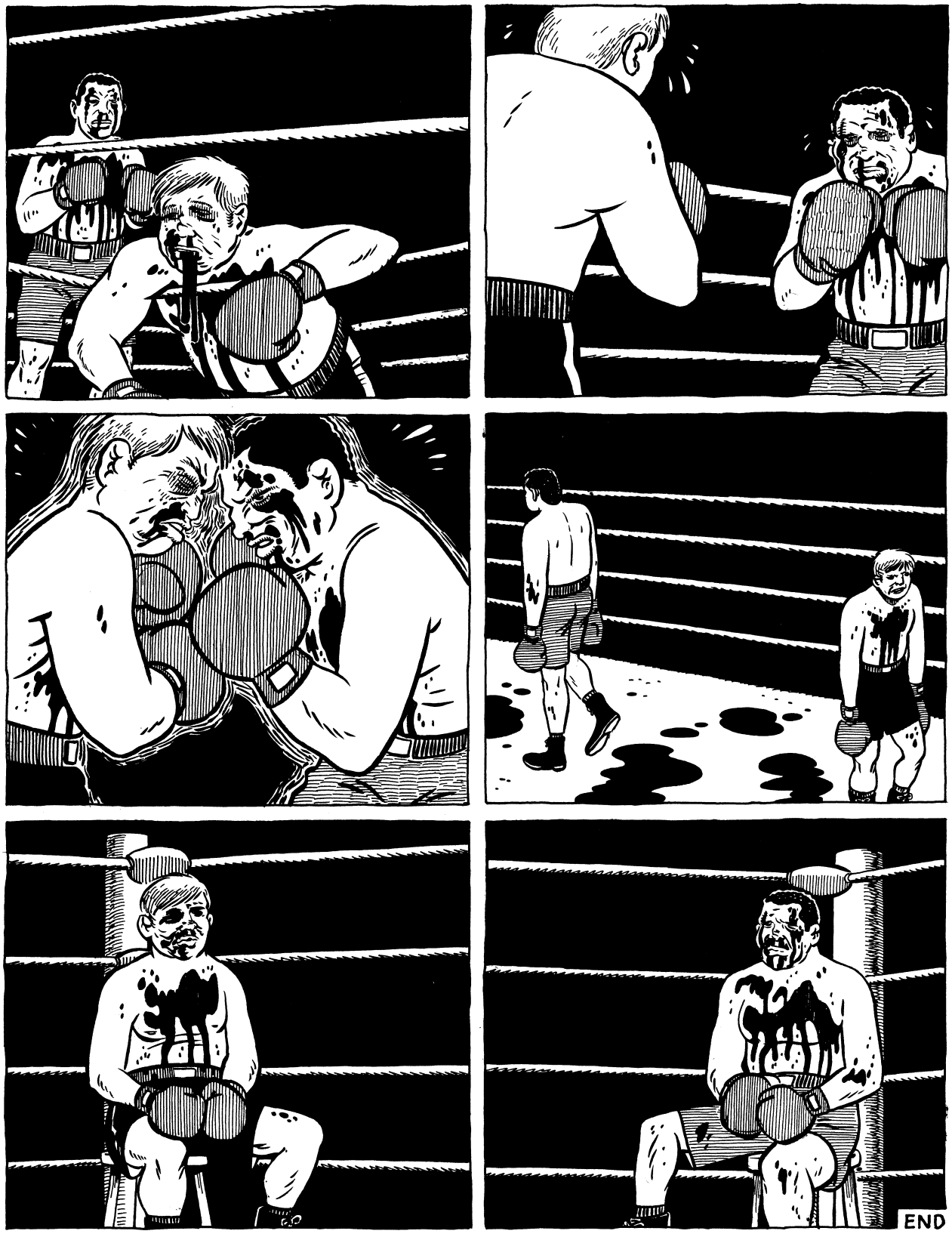

AAH, YES! NICE AND HEAVY, TELL OUR BOTTLER FRIENDS IT IS MONEY WELL SPENT...
AS UNION LEADER, I CAN DO--
GONE! HEH, HEH... ASSIS, EVER THE STOIC... SPUDO...
TAKING BOTTLERS MONEY? TSK, TSK... WHATEVER... HAPPENED TO THE CAUSE SPUDO?
DON'T START WITH YOUR "CAUSE" BULLSHIT, CRUZ! I KNOW YOU'VE TAKEN BOTTLER'S MONEY! VERY RECENTLY, TOO!
...TO BUY EXPLOSIVES! HAH!... NONE OF YOU HAS HALF THE BR--
OOOH! AAAH!
!
EEEEEX
YOU AGAIN! THIS TIME YOU'RE STICKING CLOSE TO ME! I KNEW YOU WERE A SPY!
YOU'RE ALL MURDERERS! YOU PROBABLY KILLED OWEN, YOU BITCH!
LET ME THROUGH! YOU PEOPLE GO HOME! IF YOU'RE FINISHED VOTING, GO HOME!
UNIN
CO PAS
WELL, WHEREVER ANNINA IS NOW IS PROBABLY SAFER THAN HERE... HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
I CAN BARELY BREATHE! THIS IS INSANE!
BAU
15

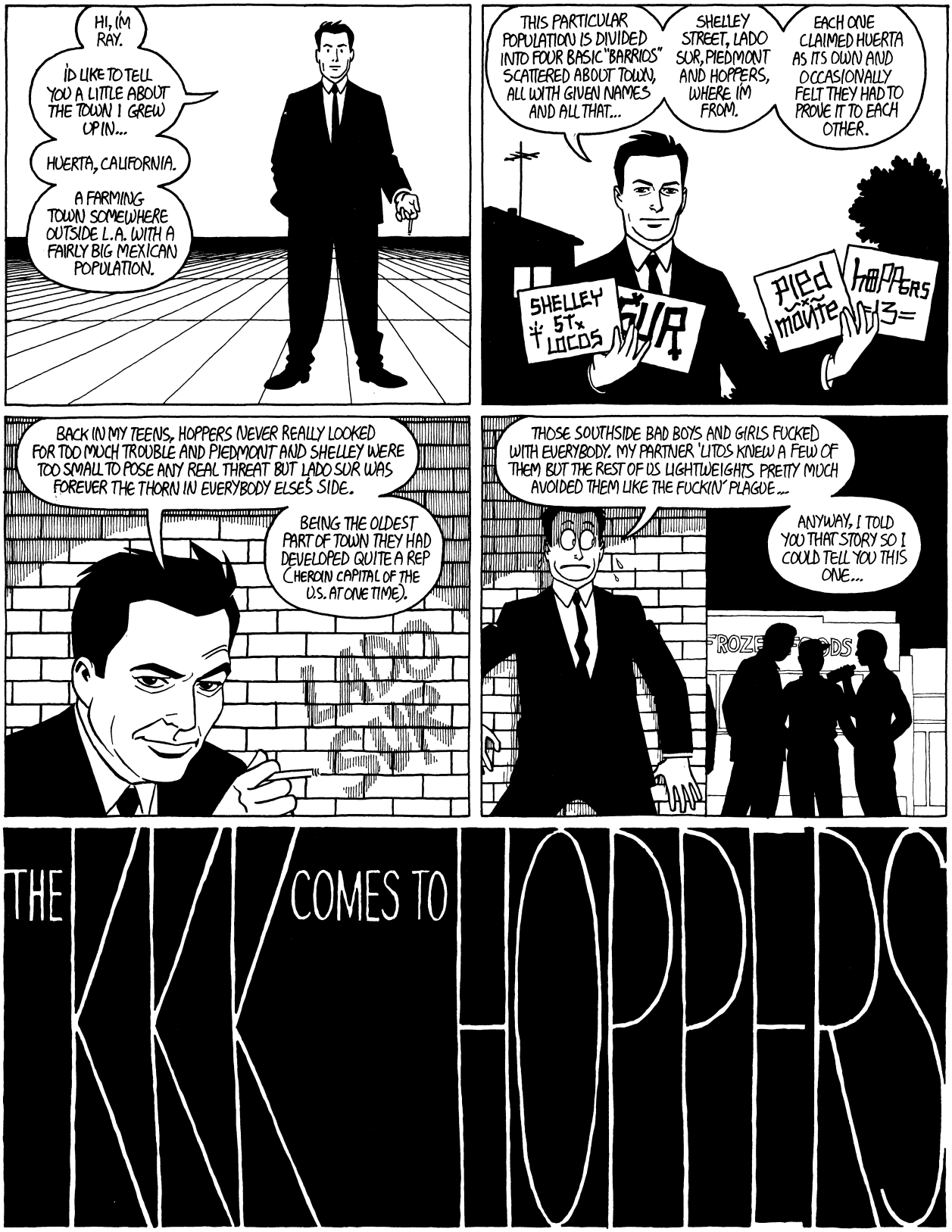

HEY, CRUZ! YOU'RE LETTING HER GET AWAY!
AWP! AW, THE HELL WITH HER! WE'LL CATCH UP WITH HER SOON ENOUGH!
...BUT LET'S TAKE A PEEK AT SPUDO'S BRIBE, SHALL WE?
HURRY, CRUZ! OPEN IT! OPEN--
YOUCH! BURNING! YAAH!
THEY'RE BURNING IN MY ROOM! :HAUK! HELP! :COUGH!
TH--:COUGH! NO! I'M OK! PUT ME DOWN!
WHAT... AAWW...
I--I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE... :SNIFF: PLEASE LET ME GO...OK? I.... REALLY... I DON'T...
I'M NOT GOING BACK!
16


THREE MONTHS LATER...
MALACHI! GO OUTSIDE AND TURN THE DISH! I'M MISSING MY SOAP!
I TOLD YOU, DON'T TURN THE CHANNELS SO QUICK!
KLIKLIKLIK KLIKLIK... KLIKLIKLIK
NO... ONE... EXPEC... TED... THE TRANSITION TO TAKE... PLACE... SO QUICKLY...
ALL I GET IS STUPID NEWS FROM MARZIPAN!
LUPO! STOP EATING THE SOAP! KANISHA! WHY AREN'T YOU WATCHING LUPO IN THE TUB?
MAMA! IT'S ACHILLE! HE BACK FROM THE ACADEMY! COME SEE HOW HANDSOME HE LOOKS IN HIS UNIFORM!
...SINCE THE COUP... RUMORS HAD KEPT THE POPULACE IN A STATE OF ANTICIPATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE INTERIM GOV...
AWW... I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU, MAMA!
SO WHAT TORTURE TECHNIQUES DID THEY TEACH YOU?
ONLY THE FINEST, MAMA...
MAMA, I COULDN'T STAY IN THAT SCHOOL PUTTING BALLS IN A HOOP... I THINK I CAN HELP US MORE--
WELL, YOU CAN START BY HELPING MALACHI WITH THAT SATELLITE DISH...
MAMA! LUPO GOT OUT OF THE TUB AND RAN OUT THE FRONT DOOR!
...BLESSED MARZIPANIAN PEOPLE! WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT TO THE WORLD...
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELF, CONSTABLE...
LIVE FROM MARZIPAN
...HER HIGHNESS, PRINCESS UMBRA ANNINA K'RK SVEDOR!
FINI


MARILYN MONROE
BETO
'93


2


END


HI, I'M RAY.
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT THE TOWN I GREW UP IN...
HUERTA, CALIFORNIA.
A FARMING TOWN SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE L.A. WITH A FAIRLY BIG MEXICAN POPULATION.
THIS PARTICULAR POPULATION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR BASIC "BARRIOS" SCATTERED ABOUT TOWN, ALL WITH GIVEN NAMES AND ALL THAT...
SHELLEY STREET, LADO SUR, PIEDMONT AND HOPPERS, WHERE I'M FROM.
EACH ONE CLAIMED HUERTA AS ITS OWN AND OCCASIONALLY FELT THEY HAD TO PROVE IT TO EACH OTHER.
SHELLEY ST LOCOS
SUR
PIED MONTE
HOPPERS
BACK IN MY TEENS, HOPPERS NEVER REALLY LOOKED FOR TOO MUCH TROUBLE AND PIEDMONT AND SHELLEY WERE TOO SMALL TO POSE ANY REAL THREAT BUT LADO SUR WAS FOREVER THE THORN IN EVERYBODY ELSE'S SIDE.
BEING THE OLDEST PART OF TOWN THEY HAD DEVELOPED QUITE A REP (HEROIN CAPITAL OF THE U.S. AT ONE TIME).
THOSE SOUTHSIDE BAD BOYS AND GIRLS FUCKED WITH EVERYBODY. MY PARTNER 'LITOS KNEW A FEW OF THEM BUT THE REST OF US LIGHTWEIGHTS PRETTY MUCH AVOIDED THEM LIKE THE FUCKIN' PLAGUE...
ANYWAY, I TOLD YOU THAT STORY SO I COULD TELL YOU THIS ONE...
THE KKK COMES TO HOPPERS


IT WAS A TYPICAL LAZY SUMMER DAY IN HOPPERS. IT WAS ME, MANDO AND IGNACIO. I WOULD BE A SENIOR COME SEPTEMBER.
A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER'S CAME BY...
THEY'RE DOWN AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.
THE K.K.K. HERE? WHAT DO THEY WANT?
LET'S GO!
WHEN WE GOT THERE, THERE WAS A HUGE ANGRY MOB OF ALL SIZES AND COLORS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTER AUDITORIUM...
I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. A NEWS CREW FROM L.A. WAS THERE. THE RIOT POLICE WERE THERE. IT WAS LIKE A BIG PARTY.
AFTER A WHILE, WE FOUND OUT THE KLAN RENTED OUT THE AUDITORIUM TO SCREEN "THE BIRTH OF A NATION." I WAS KIND OF INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT MOVIE MYSELF BUT I WOULDN'T DARE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE K.K.K. WERE RAISING MONEY FOR A WHITE FAMILY WHOSE SON WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED BY THREE MEXICAN TEENAGERS EARLIER IN THE YEAR (WHICH IS A WHOLE OTHER STORY BY ITSELF.) IT TURNED OUT THE FAMILY REFUSED THE KLAN'S CHARITY.
THERE WAS THIS COMMUNIST GROUP THAT CAME UP FROM SAN DIEGO WHO WERE TRYING TO UNITE EVERYBODY...
WE'VE ALL GOT TO STICK TOGETHER! WE CAN DEFEAT THEM! ALL OF US!
ASIAN, LATIN, BLACK OR WHITE! TO BEAT THE KLAN WE MUST UNITE!
PIPE HIDDEN IN PAPER
THESE PEOPLE WEREN'T FOOLING AROUND AND SOON STARTED TO GET REAL HYPER AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY BROKE...
THE RIOT POLICE STARTED AFTER THE CROWD AND THE PLACE WENT NUTS AND WE RAN LIKE FUCK.
2

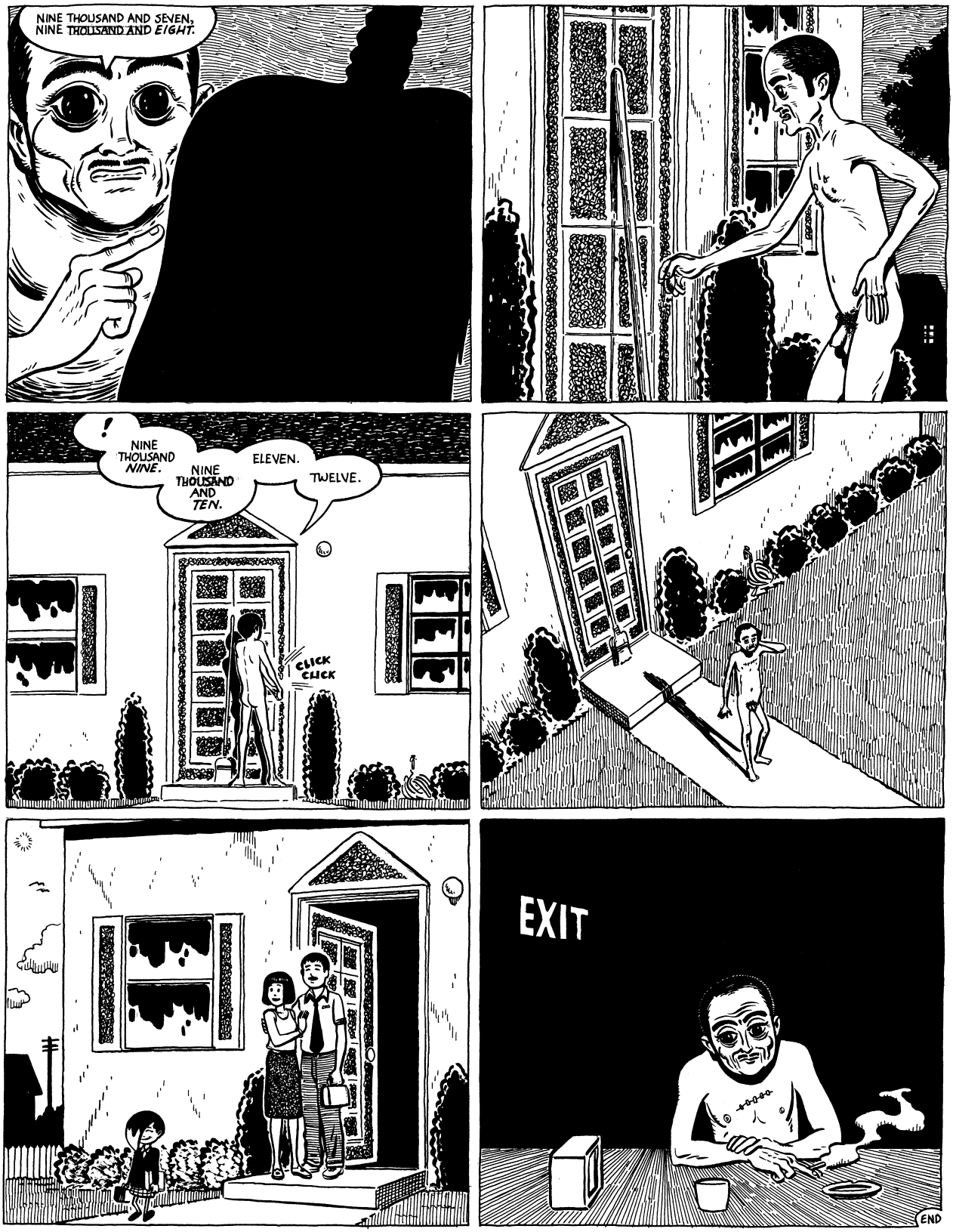

MANDO AND I AND A FEW OTHERS HOPPED SOMEBODY'S FENCE AND CUT THROUGH THEIR YARD. WE REALLY RAN MORE OUT OF EXCITEMENT THAN FEAR...
IGNACIO STOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, WATCHING PEOPLE GET THEIR HEADS BUSTED IN AND THEIR ASSES ARRESTED.
THINGS DIED DOWN AND THE COPS STARTED TO BLOCK OFF WHOLE STREETS. "HANDSOME" GUERRA'S GRANDMA TRIED TO SHOO EVERYBODY OFF HER PROPERTY WITH A FLY SWATTER.
WE'RE GOING TO REGROUP AND MEET AT THAT BIG PARK! WE CAN DO IT!
ASIAN, LATIN, BLACK OR WHITE! TO BEAT THE KLAN WE MUST UNITE!
WE DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT REGROUPING TO BEAT THE KLAN. WE JUST HEADED HOME TO EAT DINNER.
DID YOU SEE ME? I JUST HOPPED THAT FENCE AND I WAS GONE!
AND THEN I WAS...
I DIDN'T RUN. THEY WEREN'T GONNA GET ME.
A FEW NEIGHBORS HAD A FEW OPINIONS ABOUT IT ALL. LIKE THE VIET (NAM) VET WHO LIVED ACROSS THE STREET...
YOU GONNA GO WITH THOSE GOD DAMN COMMIES?
A LOT OF THIS DIDN'T SINK IN TILL I WAS OLDER. THEN I WAS ONLY EXCITED THAT SOMETHING WAS FINALLY HAPPENING IN HOPPERS. AFTER DINNER...
MANDO! LET'S GO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE KLAN THING!
BY NOW, THE NEWS MUST HAVE SPREAD ALL OVER TOWN, BECAUSE ON THE WAY...
ARE THEY THE K.K.K.? AW, THEY AIN'T THE K.K.K.
ARE YOU GUYS THE K.K.K.?
DO WE LOOK LIKE THE K.K.K.?
NAW, WE AIN'T THE K.K.K.
3


THINGS WERE PRETTY MELLOW WHEN WE GOT THERE. THE PEOPLE THAT REMAINED WERE JUST WAITING TO SEE THE KLAN COME OUT (IF THEY HADN'T ALREADY).
WE HAD HEARD HOW PEOPLE BUSTED EVERY WINDOW ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CENTER, AND HOW A POPULAR CHEERLEADER FROM SCHOOL WAS THROWN INTO THE PADDY WAGON FOR CAUSING A RUCKUS (SHE NOW DOES MAKE UP FOR A POPULAR T.V. TALK SHOW HOST).
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT AS MINORITIES WE WERE JUST ITCHING TO SEE WHAT THIS TYPE OF PEOPLE LOOKED LIKE. I MEAN, I KNOW THEY LOOKED LIKE PEOPLE, BUT DID THEY REALLY? SUPPOSE THEY REALLY HAD POINTY HEADS.
ANYWAY, ALL WE SAW WAS A RENT-A-TRUCK ZOOM OUT OF THE BACK WAY OF THE AUDITORIUM AND ALMOST TIP OVER CUTTING THE CORNER. WE DIDN'T KNOW IF "THEY" WERE EVEN IN IT.
THAT WAS THAT. WE ACTUALLY STARTED TO FEEL LIKE WE WERE PART OF THIS CAUSE, SET OUT TO DESTROY THE EVIL IN THIS WORLD THAT IS RACISM AND IT FELT GOOD.
THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN AND AS WE ALL STARTED TO LEAVE, A LOW AN' SLOW VEHICLE CAME UP THE STREET...
LADO SUR!
WE STOOD DUMBFOUNDED. IT WAS THE PERFECT BIT OF IRONY TO FINISH OFF AN ALREADY CRAZY DAY. WE WALKED HOME KINDA CONFUSED AND VERY DISILLUSIONED.
the end
XXXNIME 1994
EVERY EVENT IN THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE NAMES WERE CHANGED BECAUSE I FELT LIKE IT.


MORPHO
MORPH

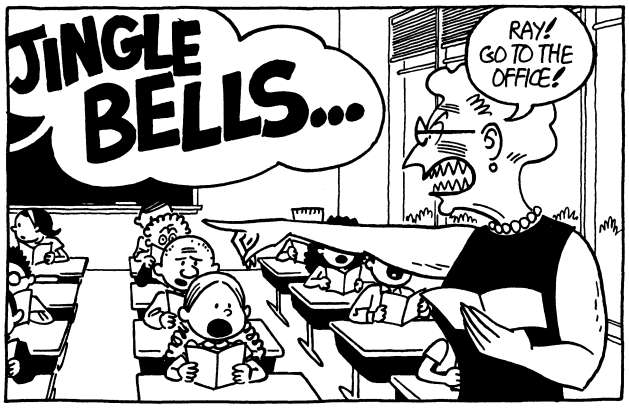

Death, God and the Devil are one
BEH 93
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING IN CALLING ME. SHE WOULD NOT HAVE LASTED THE MORNING.
THIS BROOM HASN'T ENOUGH BRISTLES. IT WON'T DO.
I'VE GOT ANOTHER ONE WITH LOTS MORE.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
GO TO SLEEP. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART.
HE'S GOT TO FINISH COUNTING ALL THE BRISTLES BEFORE HE CAN ENTER.
2

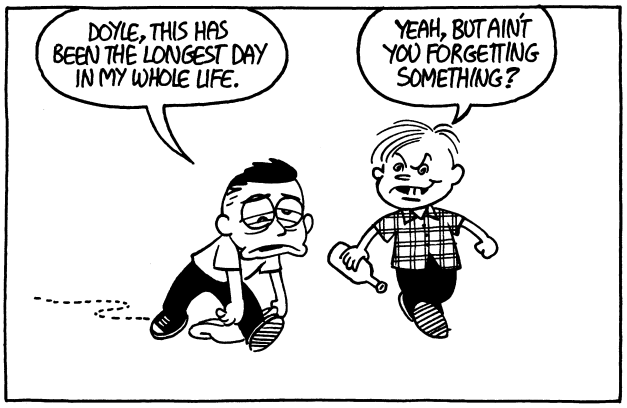

SIX.
SEVEN.
EIGHT.
NINE.
TEN.
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN, ONE HUNDRED *FIFTEEN*...
YOU ALWAYS LOSE COUNT.
FORGET IT, MUERTA. YOU *NEVER* FINISH.
YOU CAN'T EVEN COUNT THAT HIGH.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY, ONE HUNDRED..
?
3


NINE THOUSAND AND SEVEN, NINE THOUSAND AND EIGHT.
!
NINE THOUSAND NINE.
NINE THOUSAND AND TEN.
ELEVEN.
TWELVE.
CLICK CLICK
EXIT
END

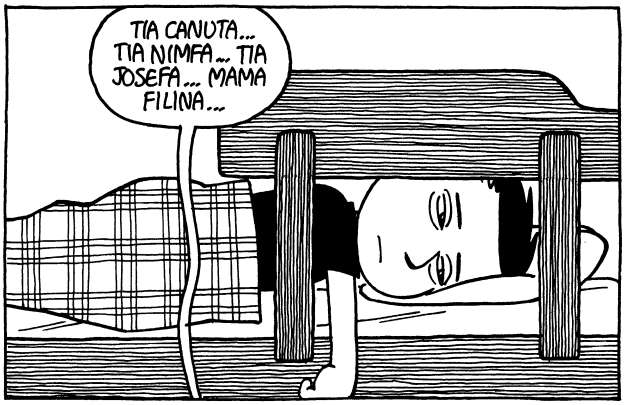

OUR CHRISTMAS!!!
BENNY! RAY! LOOK WHAT WE GOT!
CHRISTMAS BOOK!
I PICK FIRST!
SECOND!
SEARS WISH BOOK 1967
I GOT THAT!
I GOT THAT!
I GOT THAT!
OK. NEXT PAGE...
I GOT THAT!
I GOT THAT!
I GOT THAT!
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE CHRISTMAS VACATION!!!
HEY! LOOK! SNOW!
THAT AIN'T SNOW! THAT'S JUST ICE!
HOW CAN YA TELL?
LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE SNOW.
IS IT GONNA SNOW?
IT NEVER SNOWS HERE, BLANDINA. YOU KNOW THAT.
MOM SAID IT SNOWED IN NINETEEN FORTY-SIX!

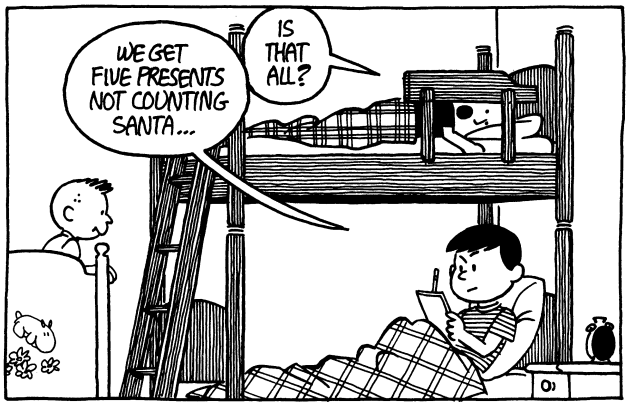


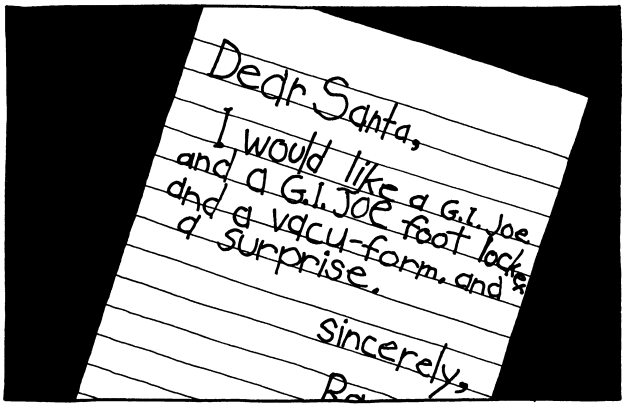


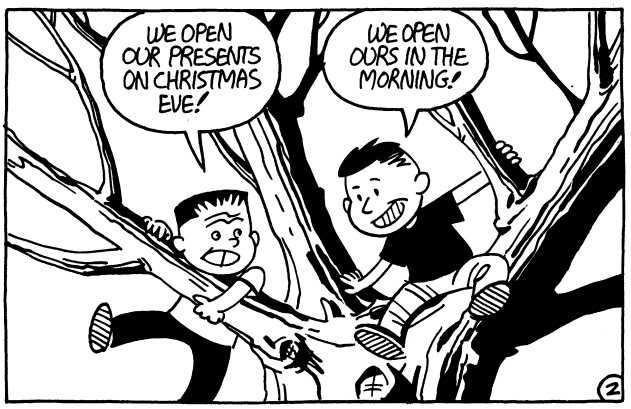


Christmas Vacation!

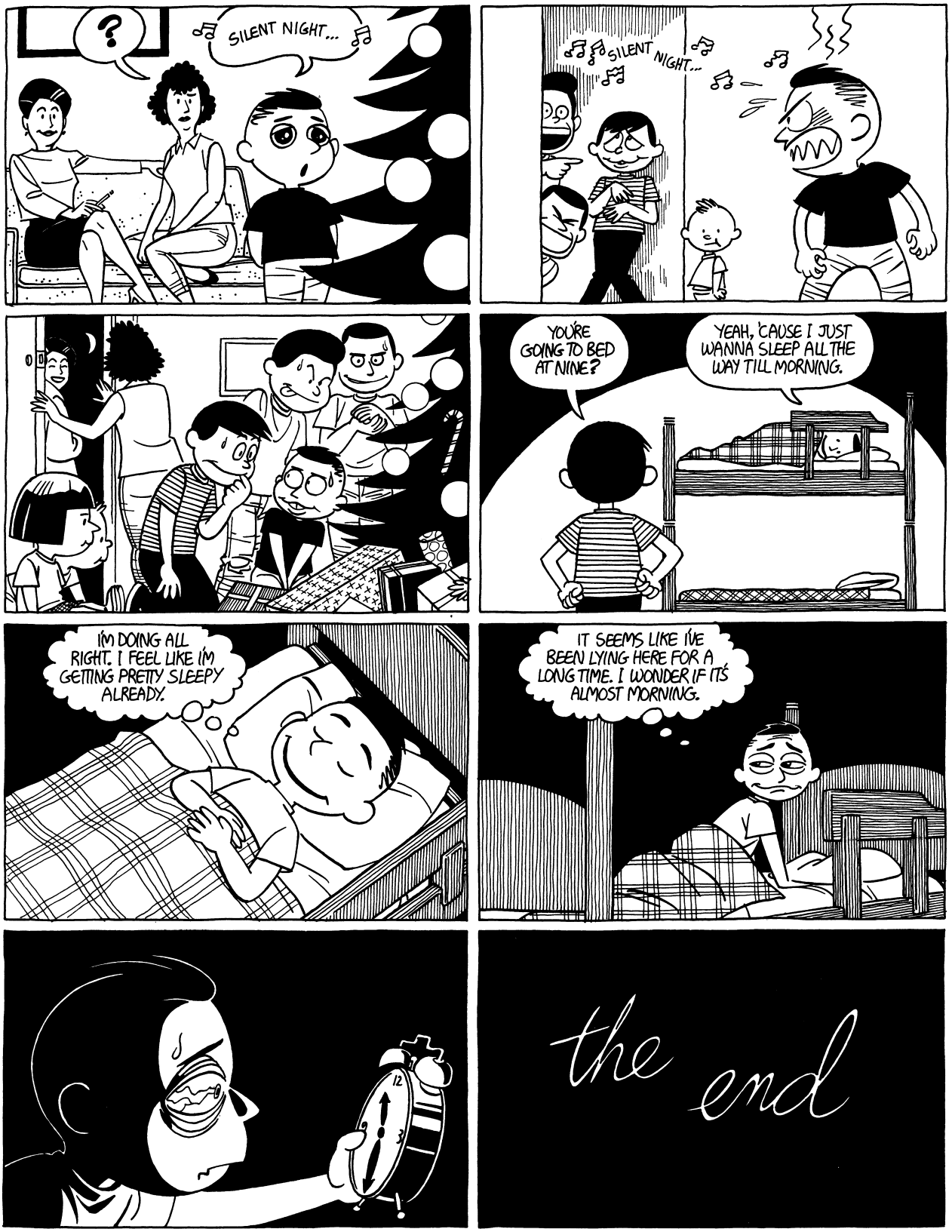









HOW DO YOU SLEEP THE NIGHT BEFORE?
IT'S ROUGH, BUT IT'S WORTH IT. SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD JUST GO TO SLEEP RIGHT NOW AND NOT WAKE UP TILL CHRISTMAS MORNING.
¡YA!
LET'S SEE... LEGO... G.I. JOE... MONOPOLY... TSK! BARBIE...
GET AWAY FROM THAT TREE!
CHRISTMAS EVE!
HERE COMES TÍA CANUTA WITH THE PRESENTS...
WHERE?
3


?
SILENT NIGHT...
SILENT NIGHT...
YOU'RE GOING TO BED AT NINE?
YEAH, 'CAUSE I JUST WANNA SLEEP ALL THE WAY TILL MORNING.
I'M DOING ALL RIGHT. I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING PRETTY SLEEPY ALREADY.
IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN LYING HERE FOR A LONG TIME. I WONDER IF IT'S ALMOST MORNING.
the end


PROLOGUE...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
ANOTHER 'N'... I HOPE YOU KIN DO SUMPIN' 'BOUT THIS...
YES 'M
DAMN THING'S 'BOUT TA DRIVE US BOTH CRAZY... I'M NOT PAYIN' NO MO' RENT 'TIL Y'ALL DO SUMPIN'!
...YOU EYE-TALIAN?
MMHM... 'S ALL YER'N...
MEXICAN... IS THIS THE ROOM?
DAMN THING KEEPS US UP..
...MEEP...PEEP..MEEP...PEEP... MEEP..PEEP... MEEP...PEEP..MEEP...PEEP...MEEP..
IS THIS A GOOD START?
TRY AGAIN...


LIFE AND ROCKETS ...WHEN THE MUSE IS NOT AMUSED
YEAH! PUSH 'M OFF!
...BASTARD BIT ME!
RUM MY GIT!
ZAMPANO
MARIO '96
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY AGAIN...
HEY, C'MON! THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD! GIMME A CHANCE!


DOWNSTREAM...
...THIS CHOSEN ONE WILL COME OUT OF THE SWAMPS TO HELP US DRIVE OUT THE MARZIPANIAN DEVILS! WE WILL BURN OUR WAY TO THE CITY AND THEN WE'LL BURN THE CITY!
CHACUN! WE FOUND THIS ONE IN THE SWAMP! COULD HE BE THE CHOSEN?
HE MUST BE TESTED BEFORE OUR ICON! TO THE HUT WITH HIM!
HOURS LATER...
...HE'S NOT RESPONDING TO ANY OF OUR TESTS... BUT HE KEEPS STARING AT THE ICON, CHACUN!
SHOULD I FEED HIM MORE SPIDERS?
LET HIM APPROACH THE ICON... WATCH FOR SIGNS... OMENS...
WHATS HE--?
WAIT...
"ENOUGH!"


..."WHY DID YOU STOP ME AGAIN?"
YOU DID THAT SAME STORY LAST TIME WITH THE SAME OLD WEIRD FOR WEIRDNESS SAKE SEQUENCE...
THAT'S THE KIND OF STUFF I DO BEST! EVERYMAN! THROWN INTO A SITUATION, OVER WHICH HE HAS NO CONTROL...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE BEST I CAN INSPIRE, I'M DOING A CRAPPY JOB... SIGH...
...AND LOOK AT YOU! DREAD-LOCKS... TSK!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN YOUR STORIES, DO SOMETHING MORE REAL, MORE TRUE TO LIFE...
I DID, AND IT JUST DEPRESSED ME... I WANT TO WRITE... SCREWBALL COMEDY... CRIME FICTION, I DUNNO...
CRUMB-LIKE WEEPINESS
AND WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO SERIOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN? MY MUSE! PHEH! DOUBLE PHEH! GO 'WAY! I'M THE TALENT HERE!
OH MY, SUCH A MIGHTY EGO! YOU'LL WANT ME BACK YOU'LL SEE! BYE! AU REVOIR, MON CHERI! AU REVOIR!
...SO SHE GOT ME OUT OF A COUPLE SCRAPES! PUH! I'VE GOT A LOT OF GREAT STUFF LEFT IN ME! HAARUMPH!
MMPH... GRUNT! SNIFF! MMM... MMMYEZZZ...
SCRIPTS
DEAD-LINES ARE FOR PUSSIES


AND Sooo...
Yours, MARIO
MARIO! BRILLIANT SHOW!
YOU WERE GREAT!
NO MORE PICTURES, PLEASE!
LET US THROUGH!
GET ME A CIGAR!
MARIO, WE NEED TO TALK!
...LISTEN, WE HAVE TO DO S
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THE LIGHTING! THAT IDIOT SCREWED UP TWO CUES! AND I WANT A WHOLE NEW PROJECTOR PODIUM, THAT ONE IS IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY'VE CANCELLED THE TOUR!
THEY WHAT! I-- WHY?
THEY SAID THEY WANT NEW MATERIAL!
N...NEW MATERIAL? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE OLD?
FACE IT! YOU HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NEW IDEA IN A LONG TIME! HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GOING BACK TO...UH, COMICS?
GULP! COMICS?

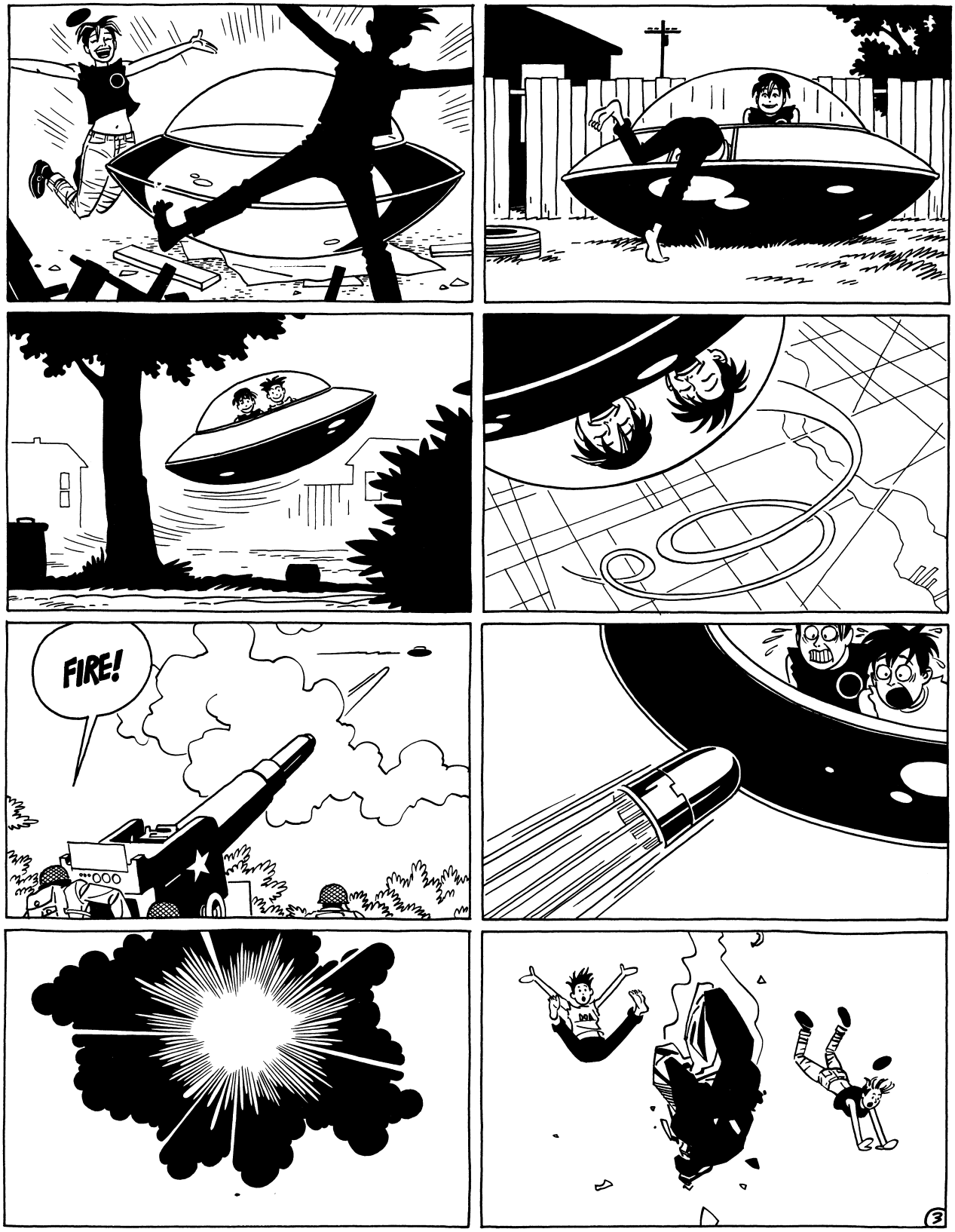

AND SOOoo...
YEAH...THERE'S A GUY IN THERE THAT PAYS FOR STORIES! HE'S CRAZY, AND HE STINKS!
THE MELANGE RUNE
EL MENSO? THE STORY GUY?
I DON'T PAY FOR DIRTY JOKES OR RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES... PLUS, YOU BUY YOUR OWN DRINKS... SO SI'DOWN, WHAT'CHA GOT?
WOW! THESE ARE GOOD! REAL GOOD! YOURS?
NO... A FRIEND'S... UH, DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE MARIO... THE CARTOONIST?
STILL AM
RIGHT... SORRY
ER...WHAT, UH... HAPPENED... TO YOU...
LOST MY MUSE... PITY... LONG SAD STORY... CAN I MEET THIS FRIEND OF YOURS?
HE'S AT A NEARBY HOTEL... NEARBY... UM, DO YOU HAVE ANY BACK ISSUES OF BRAIN CAPERS?
NO! LET'S GO
SAY, THIS ISN'T SOME SORTA TRICK TO LURE ME INTO SOME KIND OF MUGGING OR SOMETHING, IS IT?
WULL... YEAH!
PIFF!
GRONCH

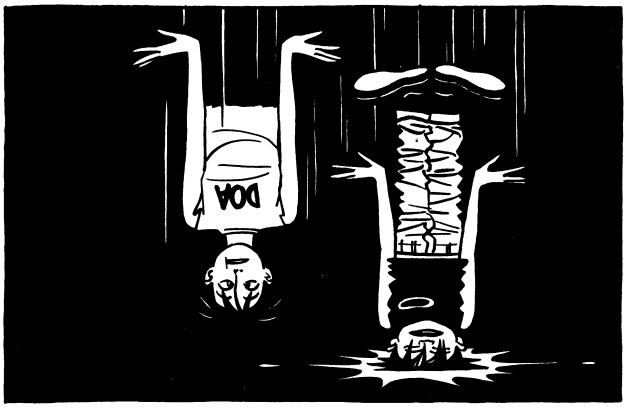

YEAH, WELL...
SIGH... THOSE TWO PYGMIES ALWAYS DO THIS TO ME... I HATE THOSE LITTLE RUNTS...
HELLO... MR. HERNANDEZ... ARE YOU THERE? BISQUIT MENDICANT, BBC RADIO HERE! THESE TWO CHARMING CHAPPIES GRANTED ME AN INTERVIEW WITH YOU...
HULLOooo!
THANK YOU SIR! MAY I HAVE ANOTHER, SIR!
THONK! THONK! THONK! THON! THO
RUMOR HAS IT YOU'VE GONE TO BARREL FOR TAX PURPOSES... WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON IMPROPRIETIES PERTAINING TO
CREATIVITY PUT ME IN HERE! I HAD THE GALL... THE SHEER AUDACITY TO CHALLENGE MY MUSE! DON'T EVER CHALLENGE YER MUSE, M'MAN!
DEAR BOY, I'M A JOURNALIST... I HAVE NO MUSE... TOO MUCH BOTHER... ALTHOUGH, ONE HAS A TIME THINKING UP NEW PHRASES FOR FORNICATION, I DARESAY...
...THE TRICK IS TO NEVER GIVE IN TO YOUR MUSE UNTIL YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY-- OOP! TIME T'GO!
...ALTHOUGH... IT ISN'T POLITE TO IGNORE SOMEONE WHEN THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE ACTING IN YOUR BEST INTEREST...
AWRIGHT! OK! I GIVE... CAN WE-- OW! ...TALK? OY! AI! EY! THAT ONE HURT!
HAAAAALP!
MAAA!
SKREEE
HELLO, DARLINK!
Studebaker

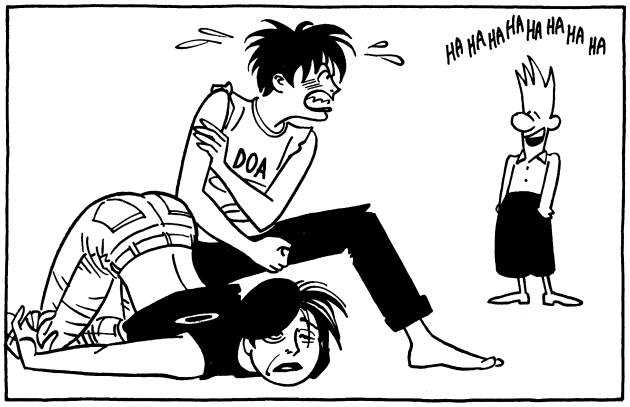

HELLO DARLING...CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING FOR YOUR HEADACHE?
COULDN'T YOU JUST PHONE WHEN YOU WANT TO SEE ME? THOSE PYGMIES OF YOURS PLAY FOR KEEPSIES!
SILLY, YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO CALL ON ME...
I KNOW THIS WAS A DISASTER FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT HEY... I'M STARTING OVER...
NOT STARTING OVER, CONTINUING... EXPANDING... DEVELOPING, EVOLVING... UNFOLDING... CREATING...
YOU'LL FLUB A FEW, FLOP LIKE A SOGGY FISH... SO WHAT... DON'T FIGHT IT, I WONT LET YOU DOWN...
BUT, WILL YOU LET ME KNOW WHEN TO FINISH IT?
TSK... YOU EITHER BLOW IT UP, OR SAY, "IT WAS JUST A DREAM!
HA HA HA HA HA HAAAA!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
NEVER THE END

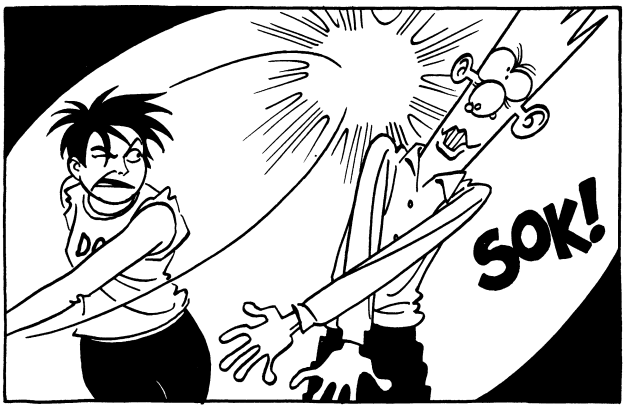

EASTER HUNT
XAIME 93
HI.
HI.
DOA
A MAP!
OH!
APRUL FOOL! HAR! HAR!
APRIL 1
CALENDAR
THERE'S HOOK!
YEAH, DE BUM!
DOA
FIRE ONE!
DOA


WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY SON?
WHAP!
DOA
LET'S BUILD SOMETHING!
DOA
DOA
2


FIRE!

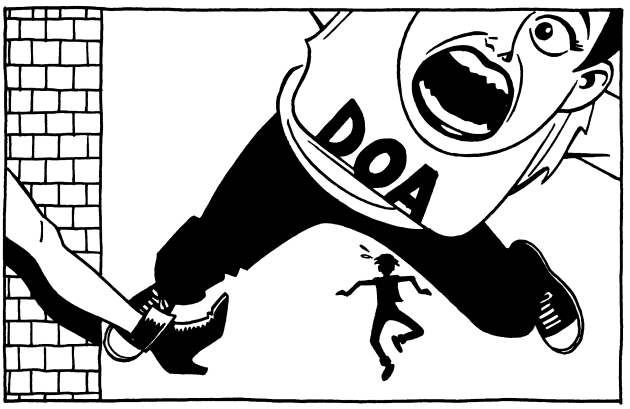

DOA

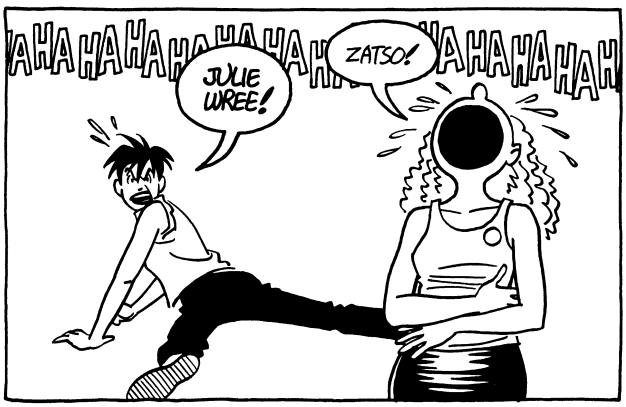

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
DOA

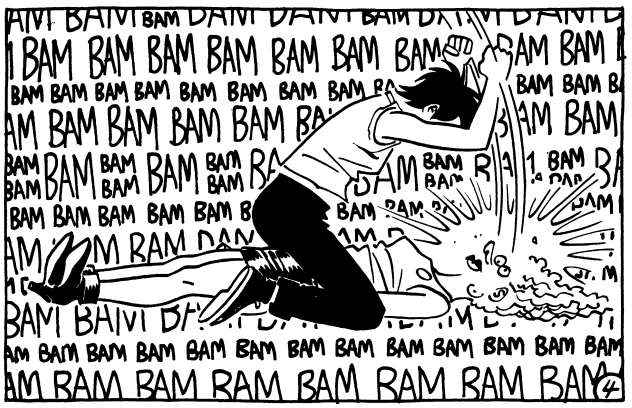

SOK!


SCHOOL DAY...


R-RING!
DOA

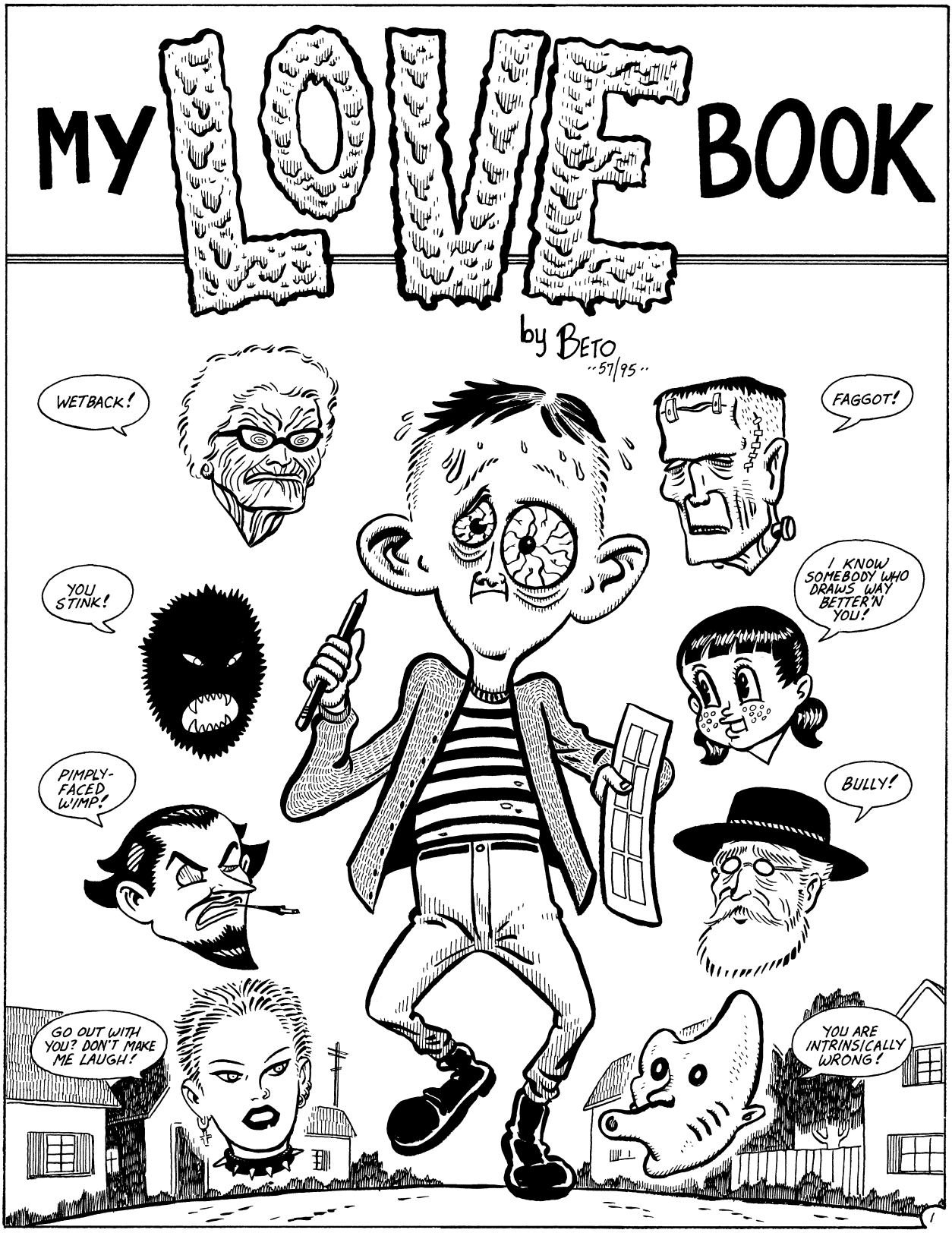

DOA


JULIE WREE!
ZATSO!


BAM

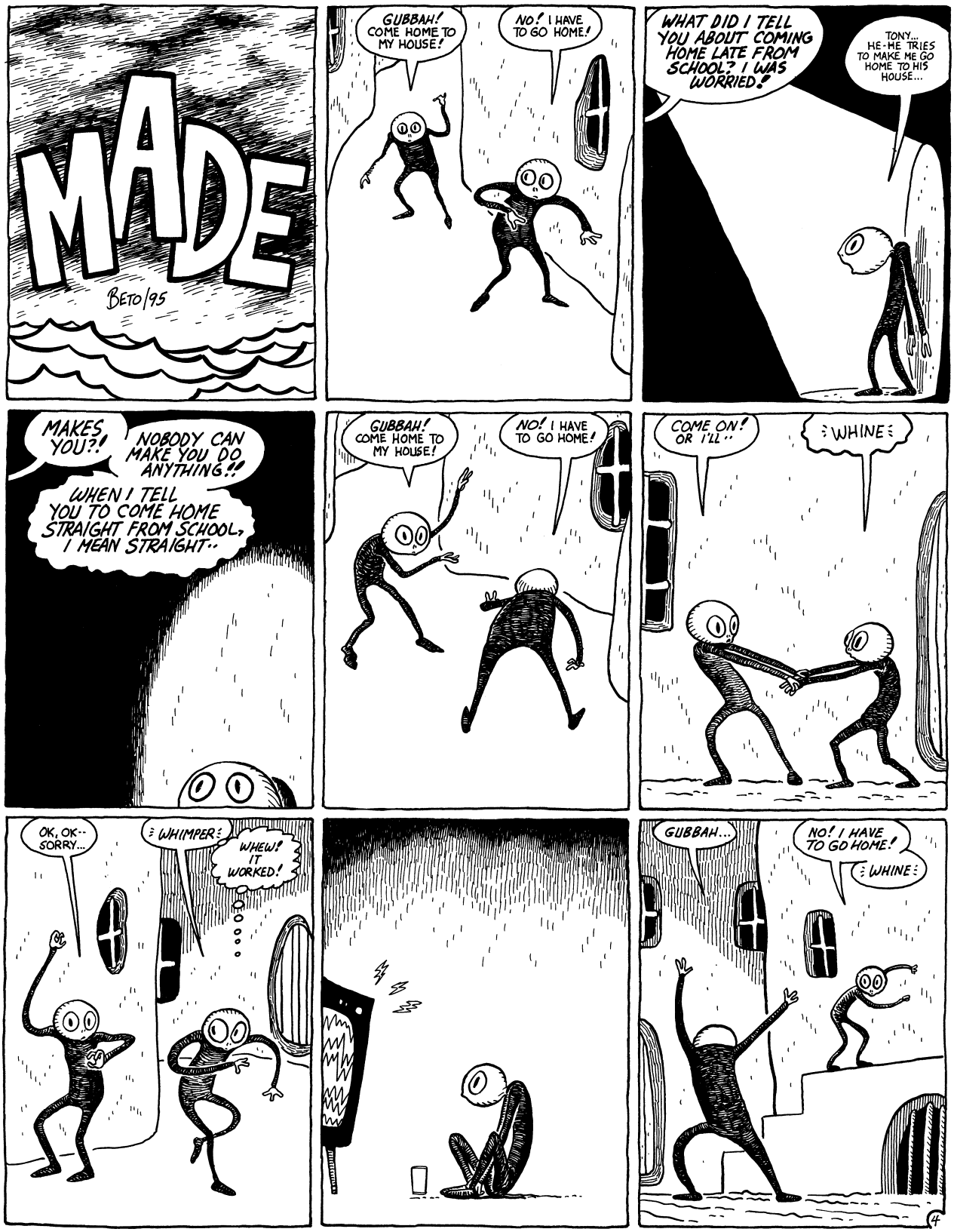

DOA
MPHGHHH!
DOA
DOA
CHILINDRINA
HELP!
CHOMP!
HEE HEE!
LET'S GO ON AN EASTER HUNT!


WE GOT A LOT!
YES!
Let's Eat!
AHH...
YES, AHH...
DOA
HI!
HI!
DOA
DOA
THE END
WRITTEN AND ORIGINALLY DRAWN BY BEFD SOMETIME AROUND 1967
DRAWN BY XAIME IN 1993

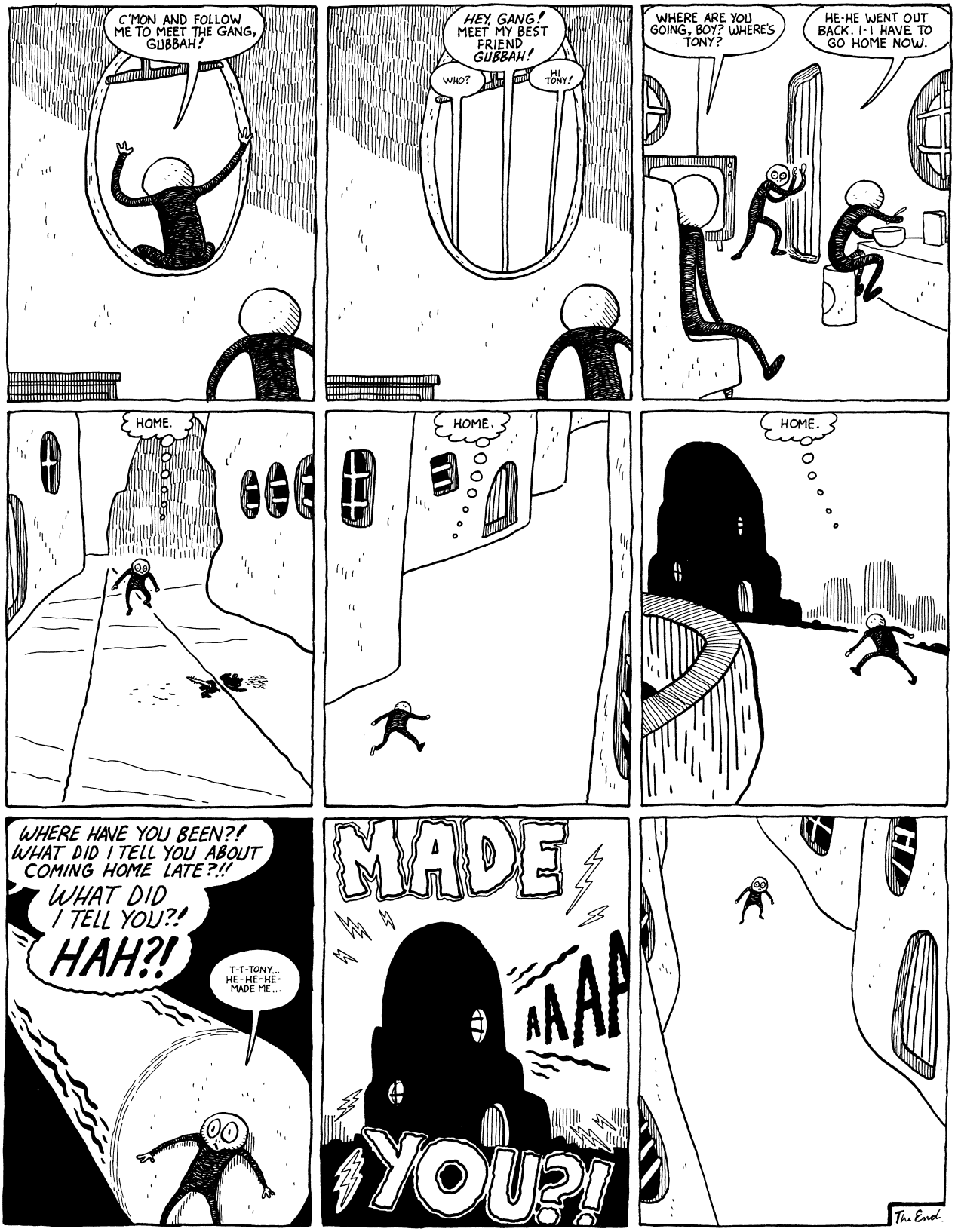

MY LOVE BOOK
by BETO
"57/95"
WETBACK!
FAGGOT!
YOU STINK!
I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DRAWS WAY BETTER'N YOU!
PIMPLY-FACED WIMP!
BULLY!
GO OUT WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
YOU ARE INTRINSICALLY WRONG!


THE CITY.
THE BUILDING.
WELL, THIS IS IT, OLD CHUM.
IN EVERY-ONE'S LIFE: A MOMENT OF TRUTH.
THE ARTISTS.
I WOULDN'T CALL IT AN END BY ANY STRETCH OF THE WORD.
A GRAND NEW BEGINNING IS MORE LIKE IT.
BUT WILL THEY SEE? WILL THEY UNDERSTAND?
THEY MUST! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
MEN WILL COWER! WOMEN WILL SWOON!
THE WOMEN-- OH, GOD, YES THE WOMEN!
UNTIL TOMORROW THEN!
AND ALL TOMORROWS!


THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM.
I MUST BUILD MYSELF AN EFFIGY IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE AN ACCURATE PORTRAIT OF MY LIFE.
GO GET 'EM, CHIEF!
SKIN
NIXON!
THE PENIS, NIXON!
GOT IT, CHIEF!
NORMAL PENIS
ABNOR PENI
CRACK!
OOPS!
PUCKLE!
NIXON ?!
COMING, CHIEF!
SOMEHOW I REMEMBER IT LOOKED" WELL...
AW, IT'S NOT THE MEAT, IT'S THE MOTION, CHIEF.
ALL RIGHT, NIXON. GET ME-I MEAN IT INTO POSITION.
LET'S GET ON WITH IT.
3


MADE
BETO/95
GUBBAH! COME HOME TO MY HOUSE!
NO! I HAVE TO GO HOME!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT COMING HOME LATE FROM SCHOOL? I WAS WORRIED!
TONY... HE-ME TRIES TO MAKE ME GO HOME TO HIS HOUSE...
MAKES YOU?!
NOBODY CAN MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING!!
WHEN I TELL YOU TO COME HOME STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL, I MEAN STRAIGHT..
GUBBAH! COME HOME TO MY HOUSE!
NO! I HAVE TO GO HOME!
COME ON! OR I'LL..
:WHINE:
OK, OK-- SORRY...
:WHIMPER:
WHEW! IT WORKED!
GUBBAH...
NO! I HAVE TO GO HOME!
:WHINE:
4


YOU BETTER COME WITH ME AND DON'T CRY OR I'LL--!
D-D-DON'T..! I-I'LL GO..!
:WHINE:
:WHIMPER:
GUBBAH, LOOK! A CAT GOT RUNNED OVER BY THE TRAIN, GUBBAH!
WATCH ME SWING IT!
BUH HUH HUH
MY HOUSE!
I WANNA GO HOME TO MY HOUSE!
MOM, THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND FROM SCHOOL: GUBBAH!
HIS BROTHER'S EATING CHERRIOS IN THE AFTER-NOON?!
C'MON WITH ME TO MY ROOM, GUBBAH!
I WANNA GO HOME.
HEY, THE GANG'S ALL OUTSIDE PLAYING, GUBBAH!
HEY TONY!
C'MON OUT!


C'MON AND FOLLOW ME TO MEET THE GANG, GUBBAH!
HEY, GANG! MEET MY BEST FRIEND GUBBAH!
WHO?
HI TONY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BOY? WHERE'S TONY?
HE-HE WENT OUT BACK. I-I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW.
HOME.
HOME.
HOME.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT COMING HOME LATE?!!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!
HAH?!
T-T-TONY... HE-HE-HE-MADE ME...
MADE
AAAH
YOU?!
The End

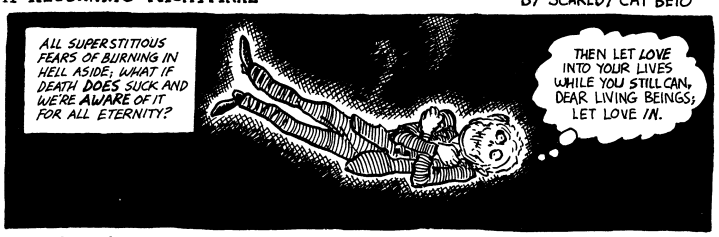

BULLY
BETO/95
YOU WET THE BED AGAIN?!
SQUEEK
PIG!
SMACK SMACK SMACK
YIIII!
I HEARD YOU WERE DANCING WHEN YOUR MOM WAS WHIPPING YOU FOR PEEING IN BED!
D..NO, I WASN'T! I WASN'T..
YES YOU WERE! DANCING AND JUMPING UP AND DOWN ALL WIGGLY!
HAHA HAA!
I SAID C'MON!
NO, DON'T!
I AM YOUR OLDER BROTHER AND YOU MUST DO AS I SAY!
OW! OW! OW!
IT DOESN'T HURT!
COME BACK HERE! YOU'RE NEXT!
NO! MOM!
FAT HEAD!
STOP THAT!
THOK!
ARRG!
ALWAYS PICKING ON YOUR BROTHERS!
WHAT MAKES YOU SUCH A BULLY?!
WHA'D I DO?


SISSY!
YEOR!
WETBACK!
BEANER!
THERE'S LI'L PUMPKIN LAD! I'LL MAKE THE GANG PROUD OF ME BY KICKING HIS ASS!
HEY, PUMPKIN!
HEY!
HOW ARE YOU DOING? MY FAMILY MOVED FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO..
SHADDAP!
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
PTSH. I DON'T KNOW.
FUCK YOU, PUSSY!
THAT WENT WELL.
TOMORROW I'LL KICK HIS ASS INSIDE OUT.
PATHETIC SWINE.
HEY PUMP!!
WHAT.
GREAT! I HAVE AN AUDIENCE.
THIS IS IT, PUSSY! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
Y-YOU'RE A PUSSY...
YOU.. YOU'RE..
THAT'S YOU!
THAT'S YOU!



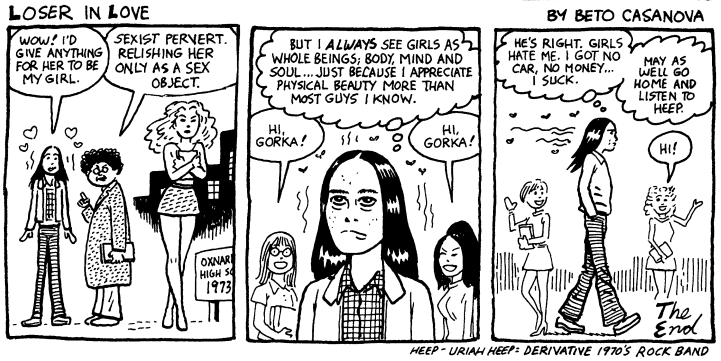
A RECURRING NIGHTMARE

BY SCAREDY CAT BETO



LOSER IN LOVE

BY BETO CASANOVA



HEEP - URIAH HEEP: DERIVATIVE 1970'S ROCK BAND

THE ARTIST

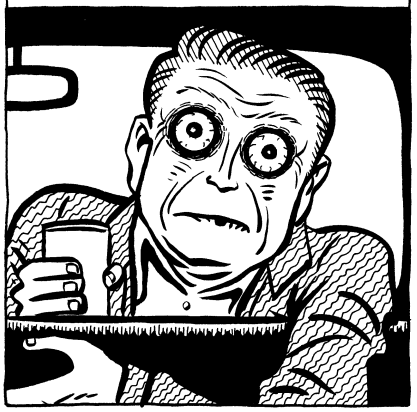
BY GILBERTO REX



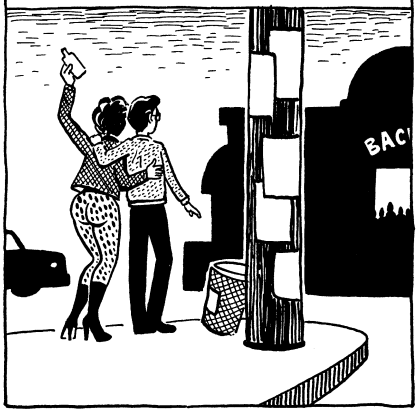
THE GERMS WERE PLAYING BACE'S HALL IN HOLLYWOOD. WE PILED INTO STEVE'S CAR AND PROCEEDED TO DRINK OURSELVES STUPID. I HAD ONLY MET CAROL A COUPLE OF MONTHS BEFORE. TONIGHT MAYBE I'D GET LUCKY.



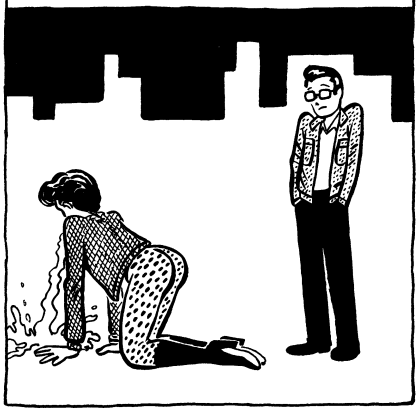
STEVE'S FRIEND SEAN, A FORTYISH ALCOHOLIC WRITER, COULD NO LONGER STOMACH OUR GIGGLING AND SQUIRRELING AROUND, SO HE THREATENED TO PISS OUT THE WINDOW 'JUST LIKE SID' WOULD. WE PRETENDED TO BE IMPRESSED.



WHEN WE GOT TO BACE'S HALL THE GERMS GIG WAS CANCELLED. EXCEPT FOR STEVE, THE REST OF US WERE PRETTY FUCKED UP AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW GOOD IT FELT TO HAVE A GIRL NEXT TO ME AGAIN. A GIRL I WANTED NEXT TO ME.



CAROL GOT SICK. I FIGURED SHE'D PUKE A FEW TIMES AND THEN WE'D GET ON WITH FINDING SOMEPLACE ELSE TO GO, BUT SHE WAS SICK FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS. SHE'D STOP AND CATCH HER BREATH FOR A SECOND, THEN START ALL OVER.





* APPROVED BY THE CAROL SEAL OF VERACITY *

THE MASQUE WAS THE ORIGINAL PUNK CLUB IN HOLLYWOOD BUT BANDS WERE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO PLAY THERE. STEVE HAD NEVER SEEN THE LEGENDARY BASEMENT SO WE STOPPED BY. CAROL STAYED IN THE PARKING LOT THROWING UP.



WHEN IT WAS TIME TO GO I FOUND CAROL STILL SICK AND ROWLFING IN THE PARKING LOT. EVENTUALLY, SHE MANAGED TO STOP HURLING AND WE WERE OFF. CAROL HAD SOBERED UP BY NOW AND KEPT INSISTING ON GOING BACK; ANY WHERE BUT HOME. I WANTED THOSE BIG, FAT LUSCIOUS LIPS ON MINE DESPITE HER VOMITING JAG.



CAROL WAS SEVENTEEN AND I WAS TWENTY-TWO. ALL THE WAY HOME I HUNGERED FOR THAT JAILBAIT PUSSY PRETTY BADLY, BUT AS IT TURNED OUT, WE DIDN'T GET TOGETHER UNTIL SHE WAS EIGHTEEN. CAROL WAS THE FIRST GIRL I WANTED WHO DIDN'T TAKE TOO LONG TO DECIDE IF SHE LIKED ME OR NOT.



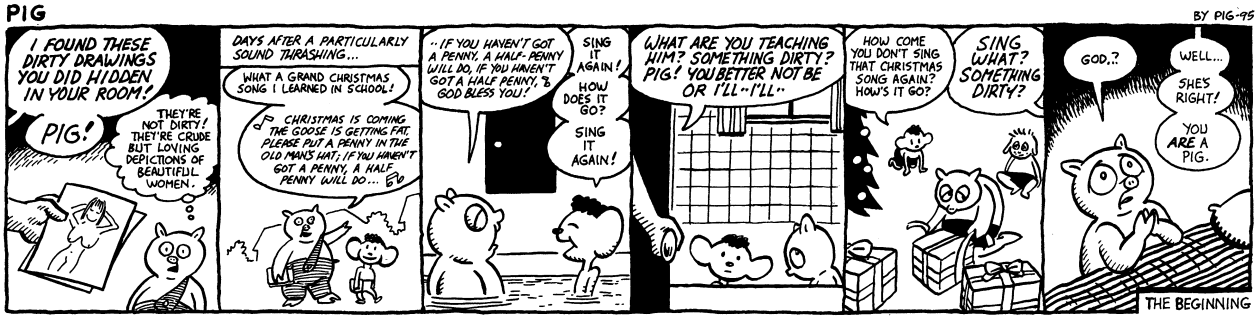
CAROL AND I ARE TOGETHER STILL. I HOPE TO GOD SHE NEVER SEES THE HORROR IN ME THAT I CLEARLY SEE IN MYSELF EVERYDAY.

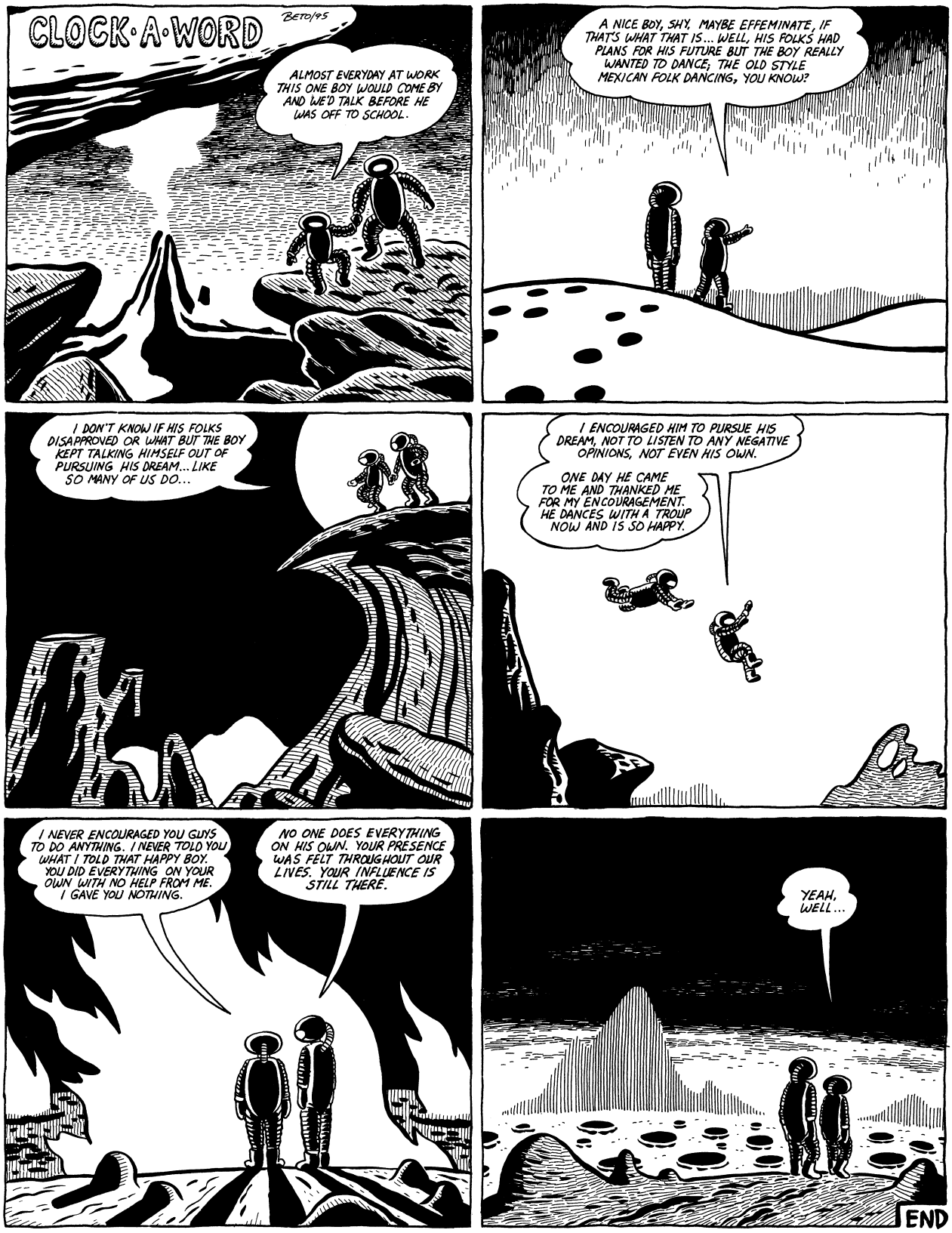



Too Fucking Bad
BETO/95
THE END

PIG

BY PIG-95


I FOUND THESE DIRTY DRAWINGS YOU DID HIDDEN IN YOUR ROOM!
PIG!
THEY'RE NOT DIRTY! THEY'RE CRUDE BUT LOVING DEPICTIONS OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
DAYS AFTER A PARTICULARLY SOUND THRASHING...
WHAT A GRAND CHRISTMAS SONG I LEARNED IN SCHOOL!
♪ CHRISTMAS IS COMING. THE GOOSE IS GETTING FAT. PLEASE PUT A PENNY IN THE OLD MAN'S HAT; IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY, A HALF PENNY WILL DO... ♪
..IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY, A HALF-PENNY WILL DO, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A HALF PENNY, ♪ GOD BLESS YOU! ♪
SING IT AGAIN!
HOW DOES IT GO?
SING IT AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU TEACHING HIM? SOMETHING DIRTY? PIG! YOU BETTER NOT BE OR I'LL-I'LL-
HOW COME YOU DON'T SING THAT CHRISTMAS SONG AGAIN? HOW'S IT GO?
SING WHAT? SOMETHING DIRTY?
GOD..?
WELL... SHE'S RIGHT! YOU ARE A PIG.
THE BEGINNING


CLOCK·A·WORD
BETO/95
ALMOST EVERYDAY AT WORK THIS ONE BOY WOULD COME BY AND WE'D TALK BEFORE HE WAS OFF TO SCHOOL.
A NICE BOY, SHY. MAYBE EFFEMINATE, IF THAT'S WHAT THAT IS... WELL, HIS FOLKS HAD PLANS FOR HIS FUTURE BUT THE BOY REALLY WANTED TO DANCE, THE OLD STYLE MEXICAN FOLK DANCING, YOU KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW IF HIS FOLKS DISAPPROVED OR WHAT BUT THE BOY KEPT TALKING HIMSELF OUT OF PURSUING HIS DREAM... LIKE SO MANY OF US DO...
I ENCOURAGED HIM TO PURSUE HIS DREAM, NOT TO LISTEN TO ANY NEGATIVE OPINIONS, NOT EVEN HIS OWN.
ONE DAY HE CAME TO ME AND THANKED ME FOR MY ENCOURAGEMENT. HE DANCES WITH A TROUP NOW AND IS SO HAPPY.
I NEVER ENCOURAGED YOU GUYS TO DO ANYTHING. I NEVER TOLD YOU WHAT I TOLD THAT HAPPY BOY. YOU DID EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN WITH NO HELP FROM ME. I GAVE YOU NOTHING.
NO ONE DOES EVERYTHING ON HIS OWN. YOUR PRESENCE WAS FELT THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES. YOUR INFLUENCE IS STILL THERE.
YEAH, WELL...
END

AND SO IT WAS...

BETO/95



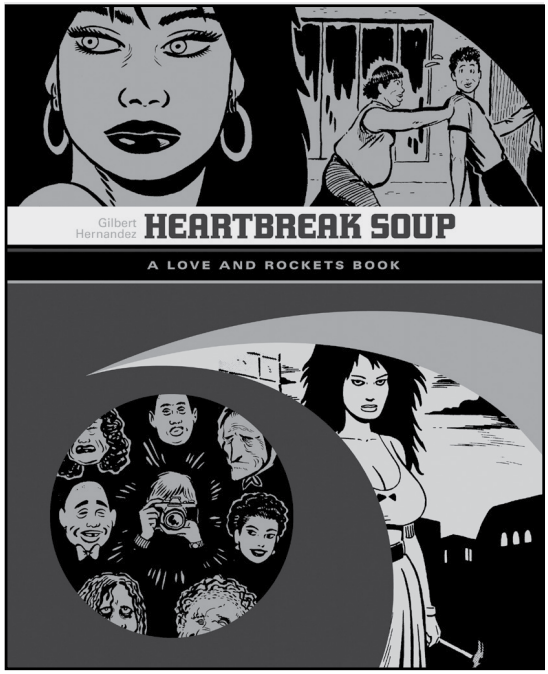
MI HIJO - MEE EEHOE// MY SON

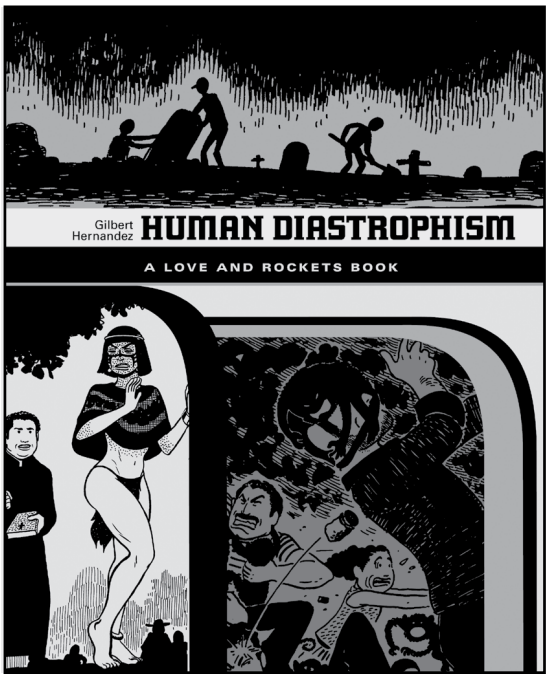

YEAH...
SIGH...
OH, WELL...
IT WASN'T SUCH A BAD GIG, WAS IT? DRAWING COMIC BOOKS FOR A LIVING IS A KID'S DREAM, ISN'T IT.?
FUCK...
JACK KIRBY'S DEAD, MAN...
WOMEN..
TAXES...
ART...
SUCCESS...
FAILURE...
I HAD IT EASY COMPARED TO SOME OTHERS.
HEH...CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER WROTE THIS SHIT...
WONDER IF I EVER REALLY BELIEVED IT?
ART IS BRIEF, MONEY IS FOREVER
TOTAL HONESTY ~~LOVE~~ WILL TEAR US APART
WOMEN ARE GOOD FOR EVERYTHING EXCEPT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH
POOR ME!
KURT COBAIN WAS RIGHT.
FUCK YOU.
FUCK ME.
FUCK IT.
POW
THE END

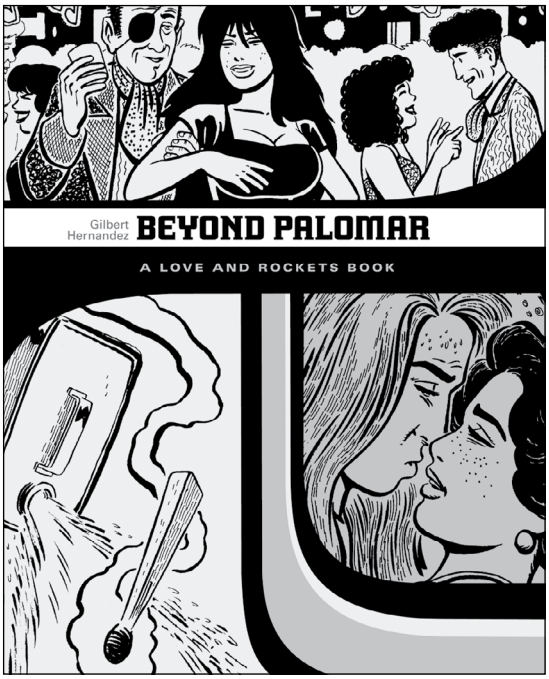

IS IT 10 YEARS ALREADY?
HOO BOY!
WHEN'S MAGGIE GETTING SKINNY AGAIN?
IS EVERYBODY GONNA GET FAT?
HOW COME IT'S CALLED LOVE & ROCKETS BUT THERE ARE NO ROCKETS?
BRING BACK THE ROCKETS.
DID YOU GET THE NAME FROM THE BAND?
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR NOT SUEING THEM.
YOU COULD WORK FOR DISNEY.
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING FOR MARVEL OR DC, JUST TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR.
HOPEY WOULDN'T DO THAT.
LESBIANS DON'T DO IT THAT WAY.
TOO CUTE!
TOTALLY IDEALIZED!
I THINK I HAVE A CRUSH ON MAGGIE.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH A COMIC BOOK CHARACTER.
SMOOCH!
WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN...
XOXOXAIME
92







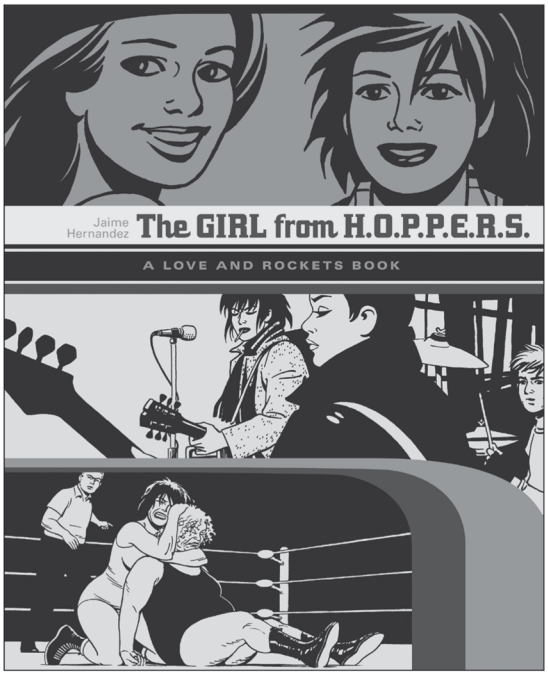






Gilbert Hernandez's "Palomar" stories appeared in *Love and Rockets* side by side with Jaime's tales of the Locas. They've now been collected into two books: *Heartbreak Soup* and *Human Diastrophism*— as well as *Beyond Palomar*, which chronicles tales set outside the village.









Jaime Hernandez's "Locas" stories appeared in *Love and Rockets* side by side with Gilbert's tales of Palomar. They're now collected into three books: *Maggie the Mechanic*, *The Girl from H.O.P.P.E.R.S*, and *Perla La Loca*.

LOS BROS. HERNANDEZ



Raised by a comics-reading single mom in Oxnard, California from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s, Los Bros. Hernandez converted their pop-culture obsessions (movies, rock 'n' roll, and the aforementioned comics) into the comic magazine *Love and Rockets*. Mario, Gilbert and Jaime accounted for only half the Hernandez brood, but the other three siblings stayed out of comics, at least as a vocation — with the exception of one brother, Ismael, who bankrolled the printing of the first, self-published issue.

After that single issue, Fantagraphics Books took over the publication of *Love and Rockets*. Jaime and Gilbert immediately began to introduce more sophisticated influences into their work (replacing the sci-fi wackiness of the earliest issues with sharply-observed day-to-day travails of Maggie and Hopey and the evocative magic-realism stories of Palomar); as a result, *Love and Rockets* matured into one of the most acclaimed comics of the 1980s and 1990s, published around the world in over a dozen languages.

In addition to his work on *Love and Rockets,* Gilbert has released a prodigious series of original graphic novels and mini-series for a variety of publishers including *Birdland, Girl Grazy, Grip, New Love, Sloth, Speak of the Devil, Yeah!* (written by Peter Bagge), and an ongoing series of L&R spin-offs including two different *Luba* comics and the "Ignatz" mini-series *New Tales of Old Palomar*, as well as the graphic novels Chance in Hell and The Troublemakers — and a DVD of his self-produced TV series Naked Cosmos. While the majority of Jaime's comics work continues to appear in *Love and Rockets*, he also created the serial "Maggie La Loca" for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* and contributes illustrations to magazines ranging from *Hustler* to *The New Yorker*. In addition to his work on *Love and Rockets*, Mario has published work in anthologies such as *Buzzard* and *Measles* and released his own comic, *Brain Capers*.

As they approach their 30th year as professional cartoonists, all three Hernandez Brothers are collaborating on the new "Volume III" of *Love and Rockets* beginning in August 2008.