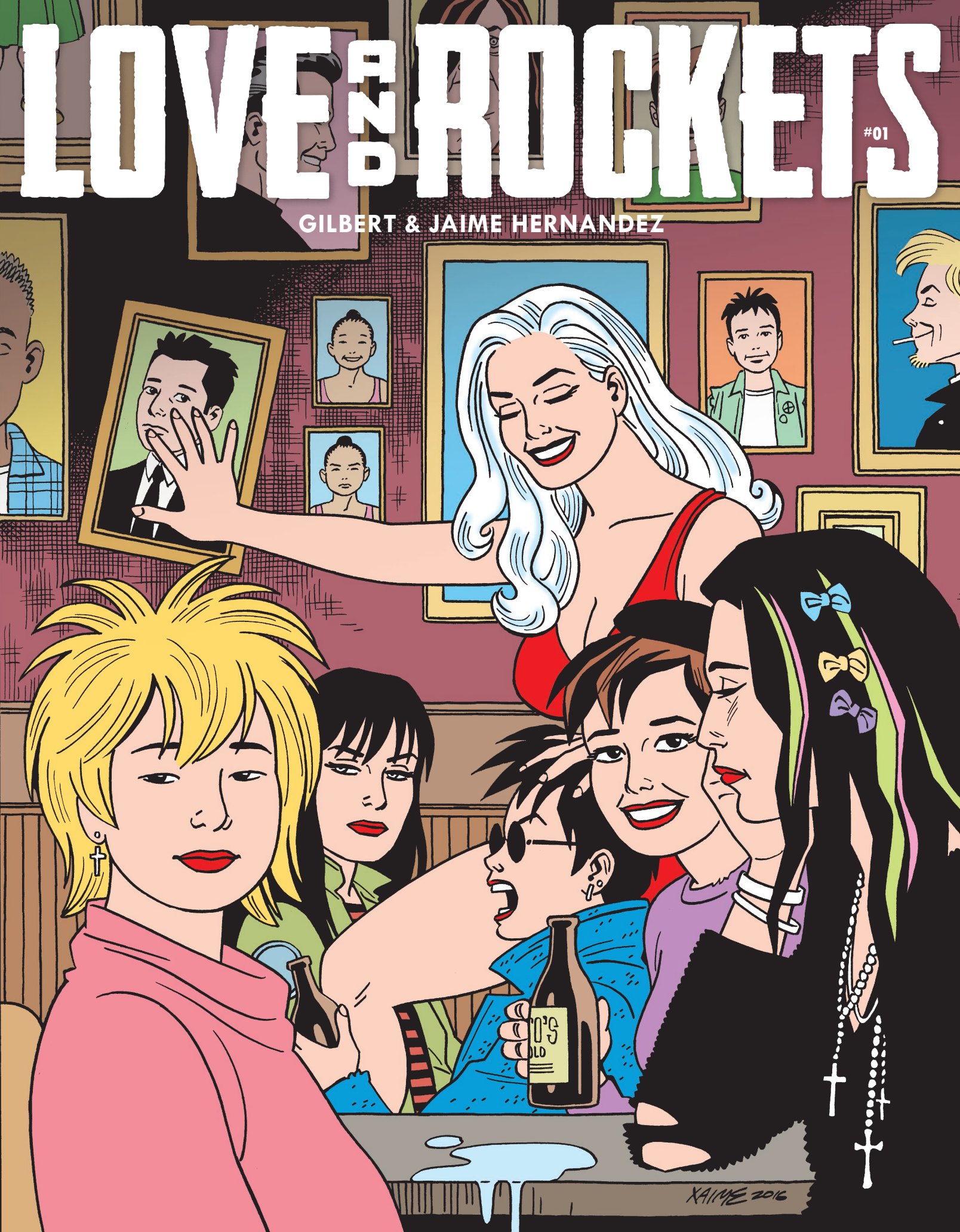


LOVE & ROCKETS

#01

GILBERT & JAIME HERNANDEZ

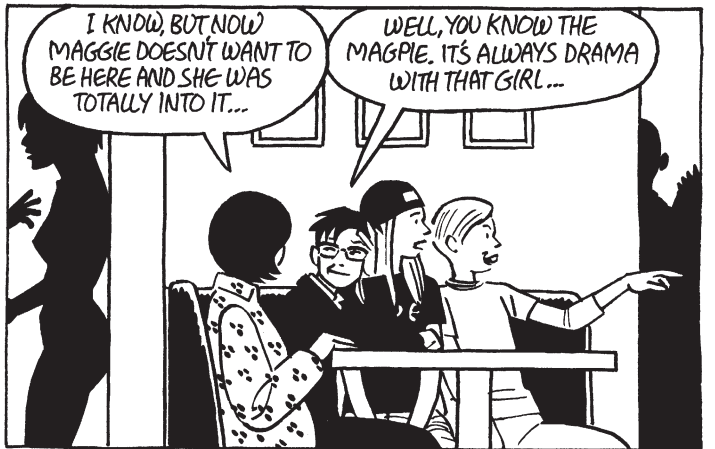
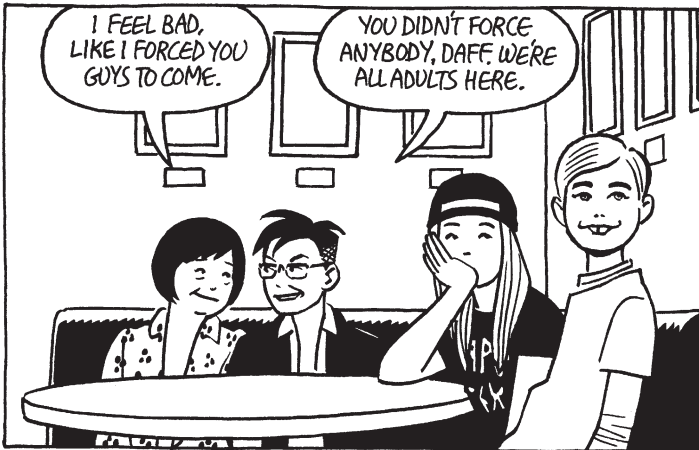
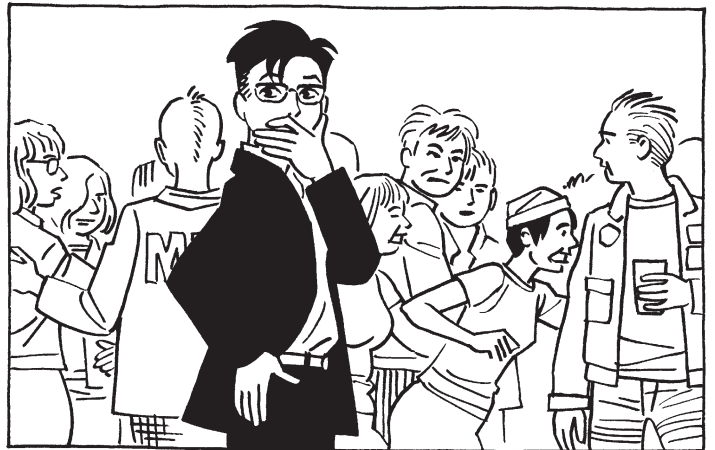
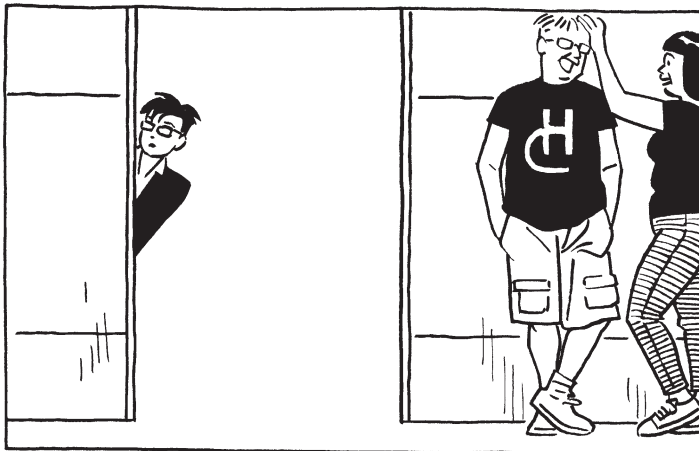


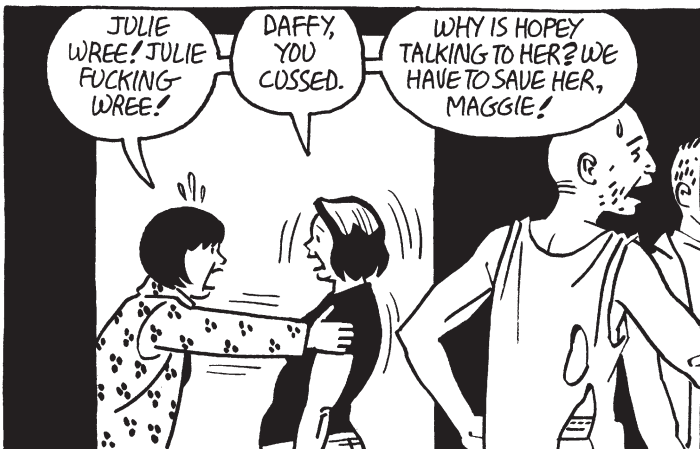
JAIME 2016

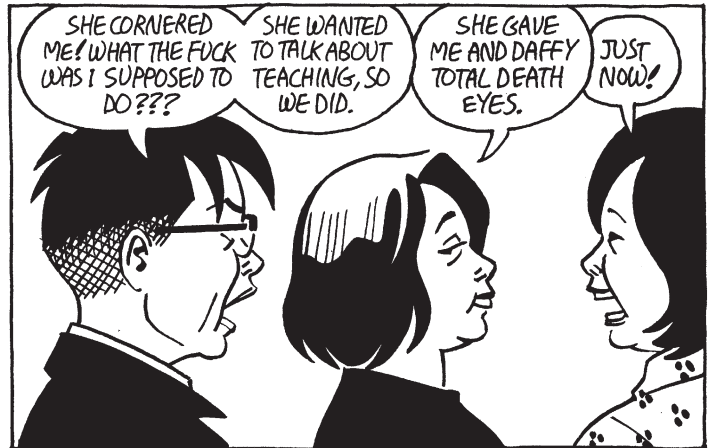
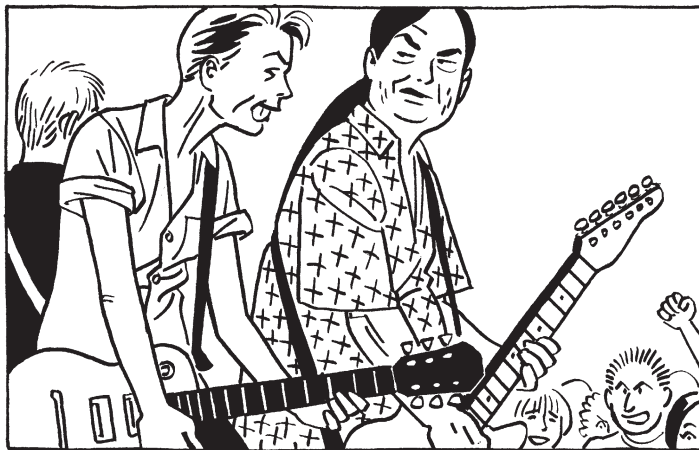
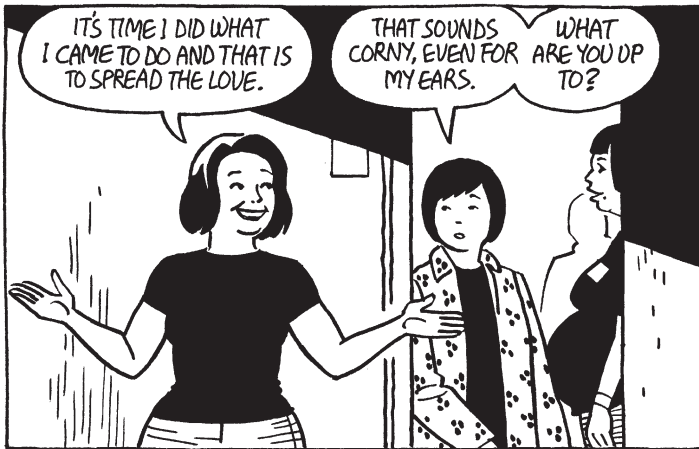
I COME FROM ABOVE TO AVOID A DOUBLE CHIN

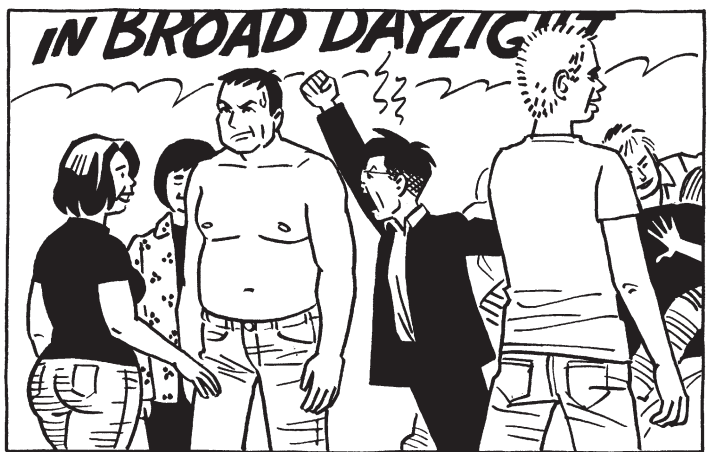


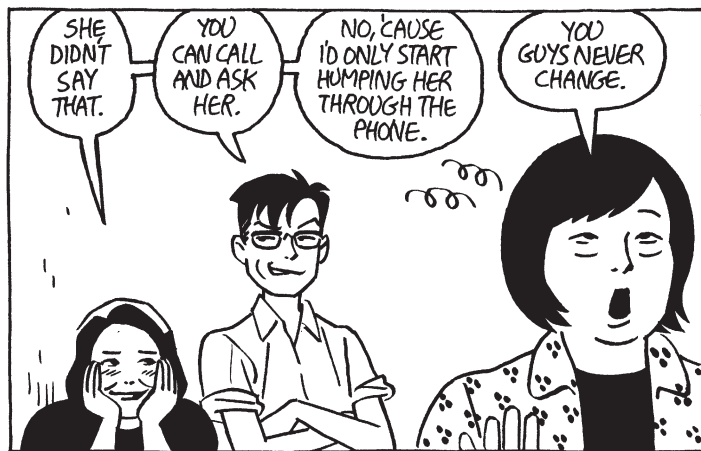
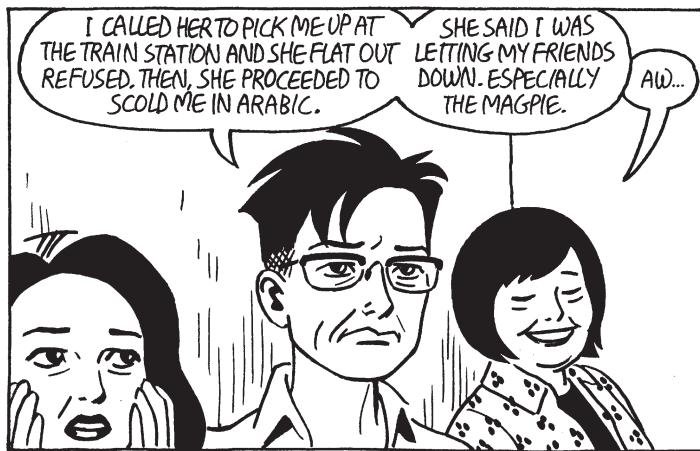
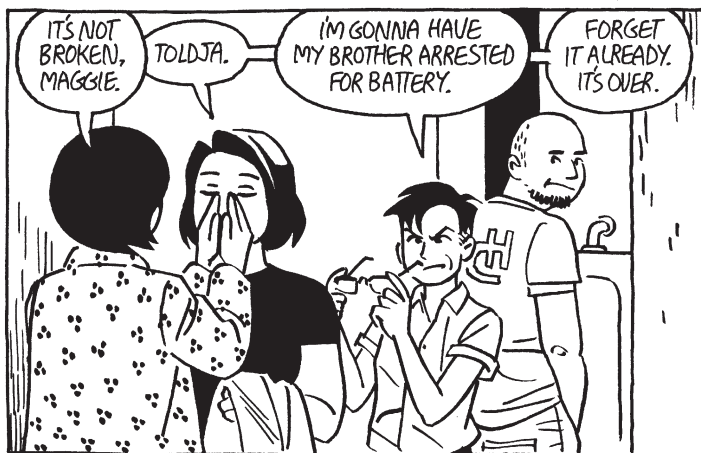
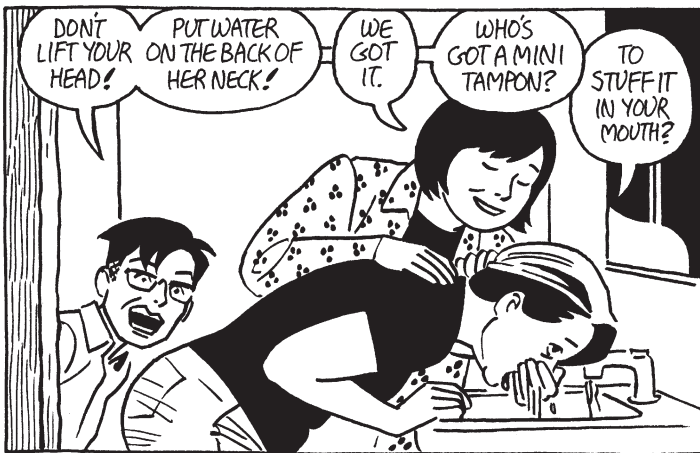
XAIMÉ 16

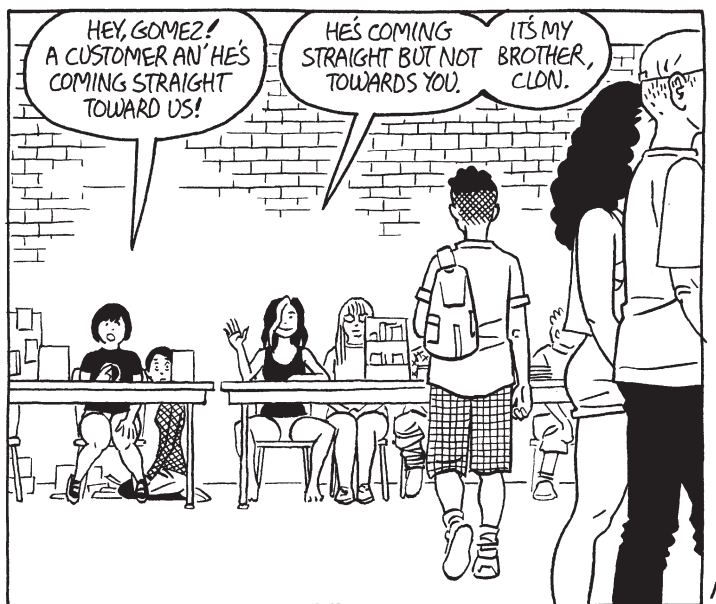
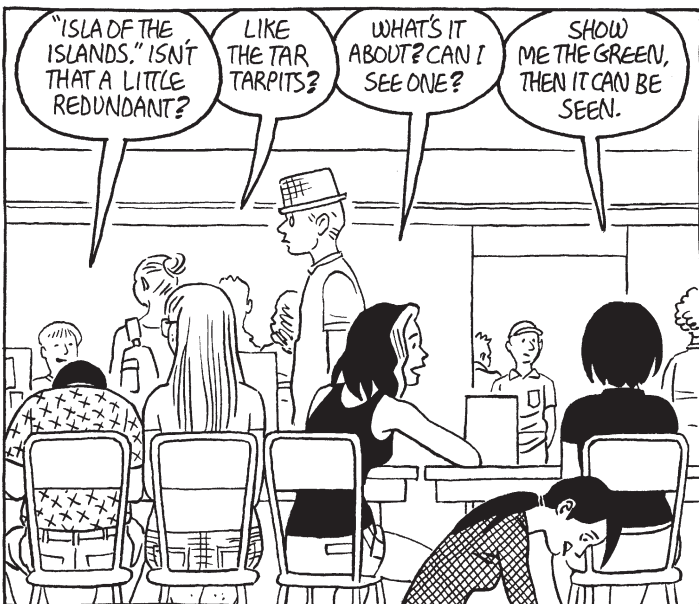
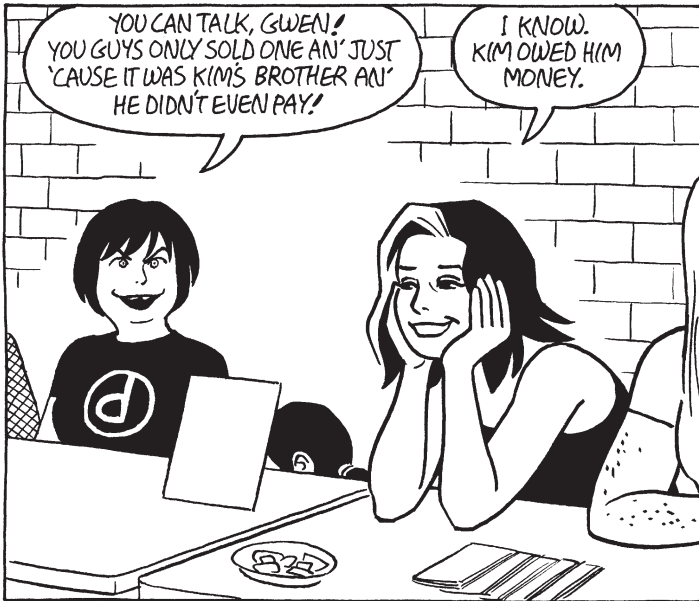
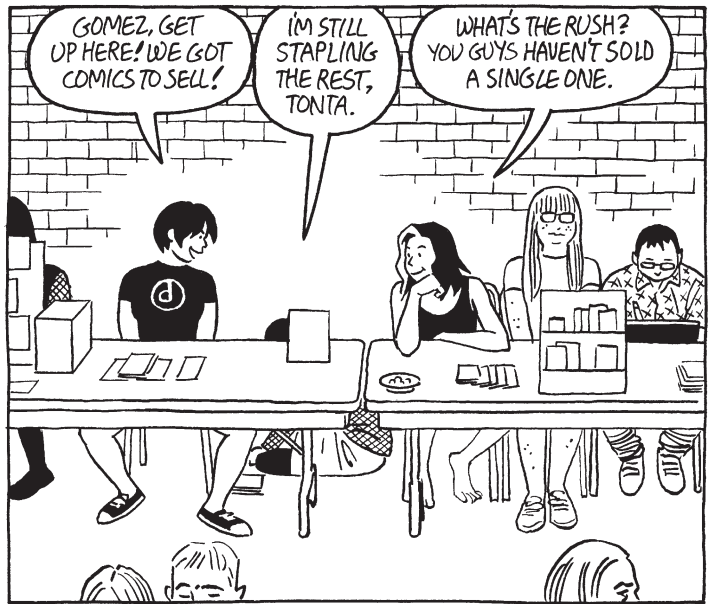


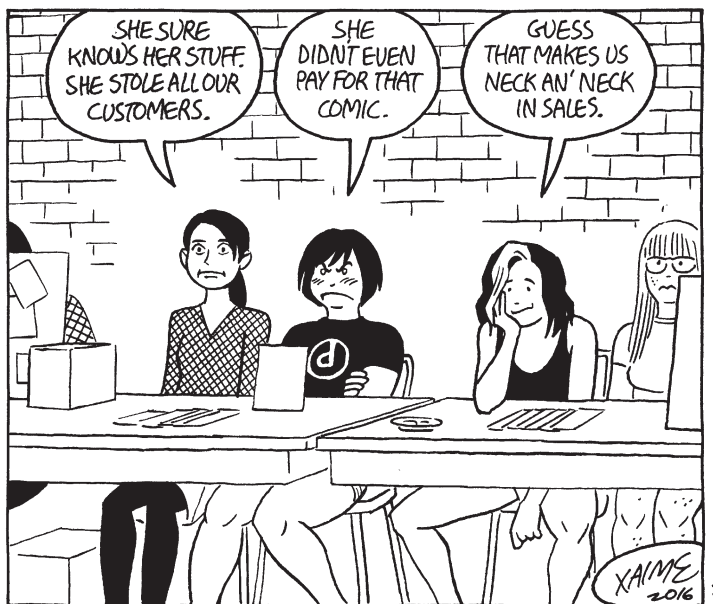
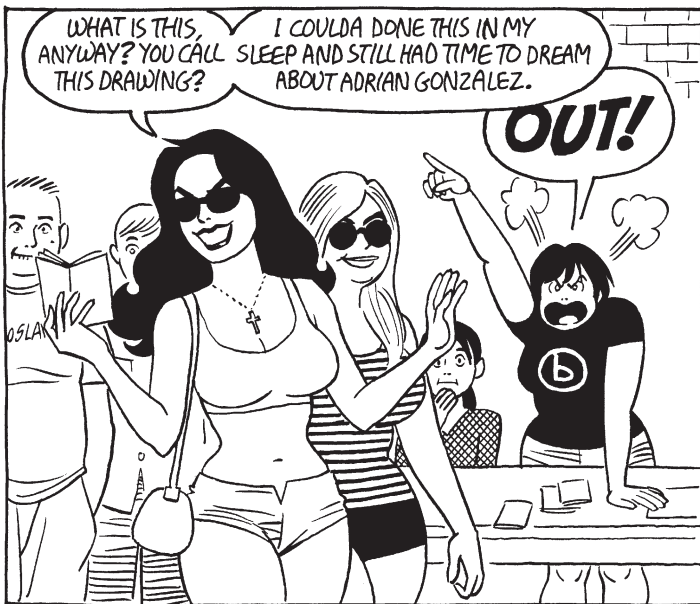
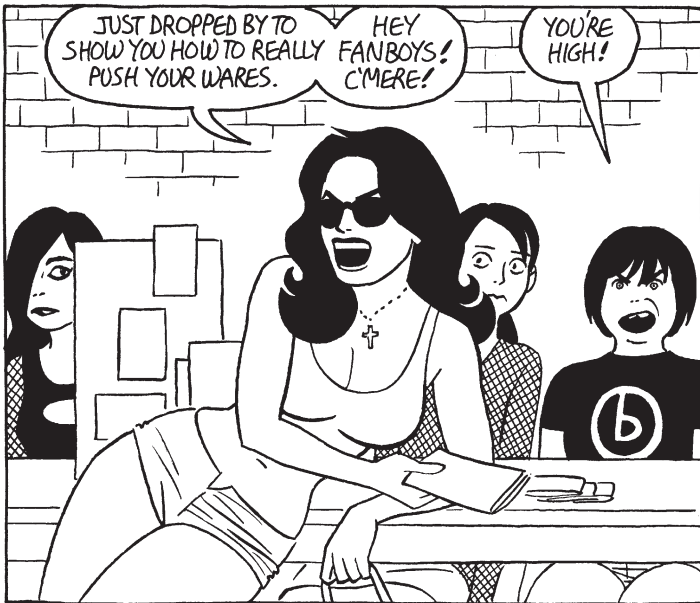












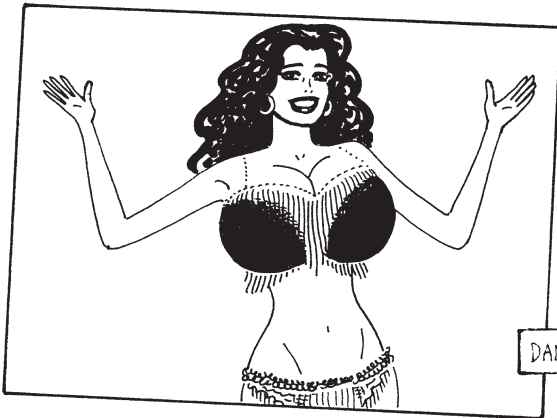
XAIMÉ 2016 2.

ROSALBA

FRITZ

MARTINEZ

ACTRESS · DIRECTOR · PRODUCER ✓



DANCE

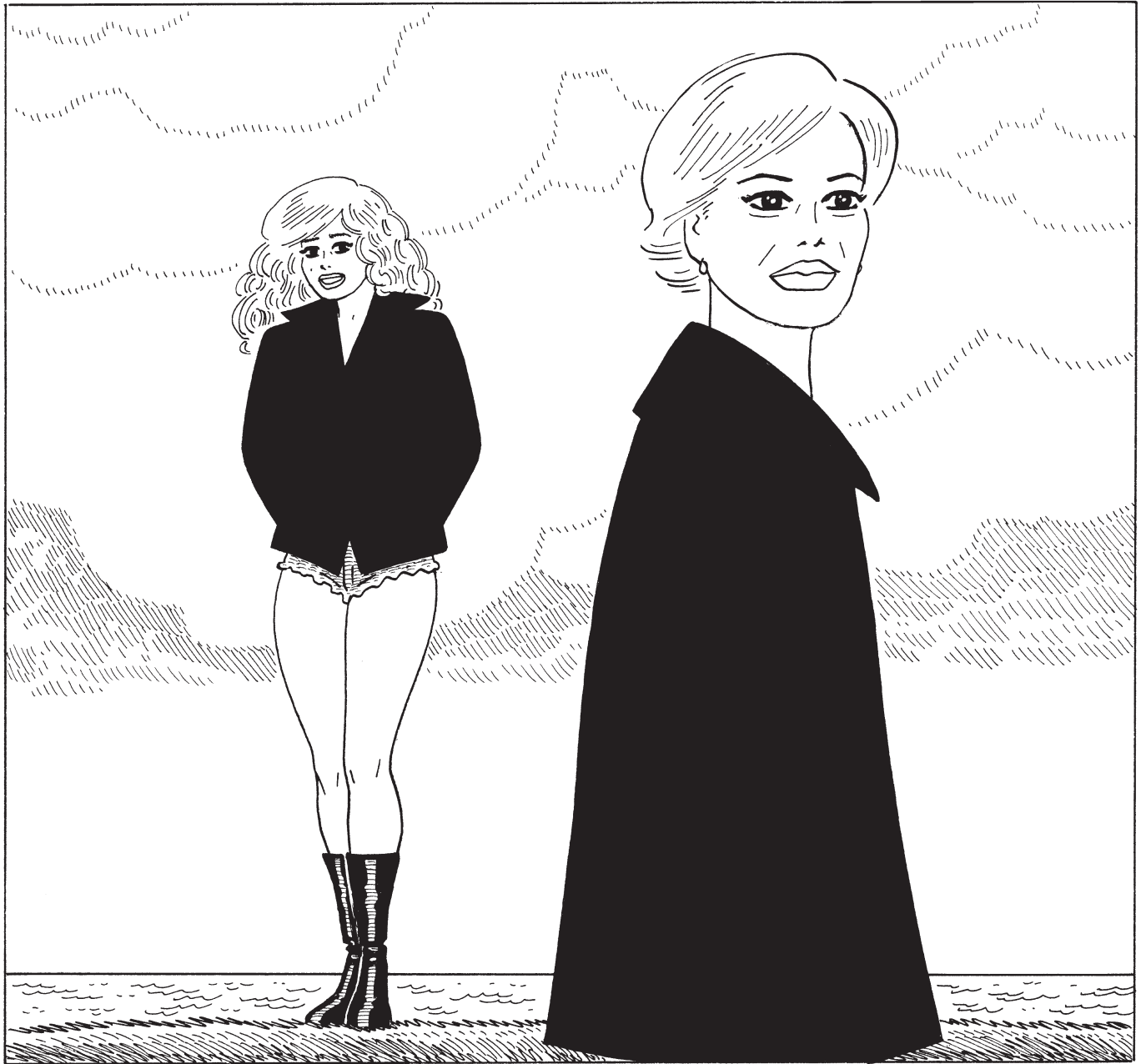


MOVIES



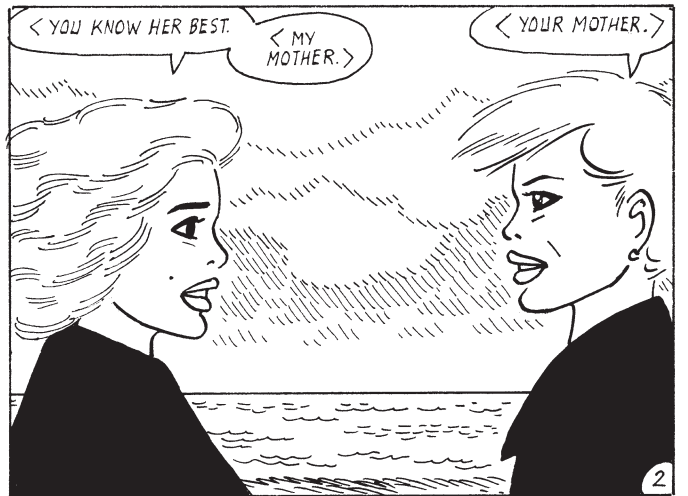
TV

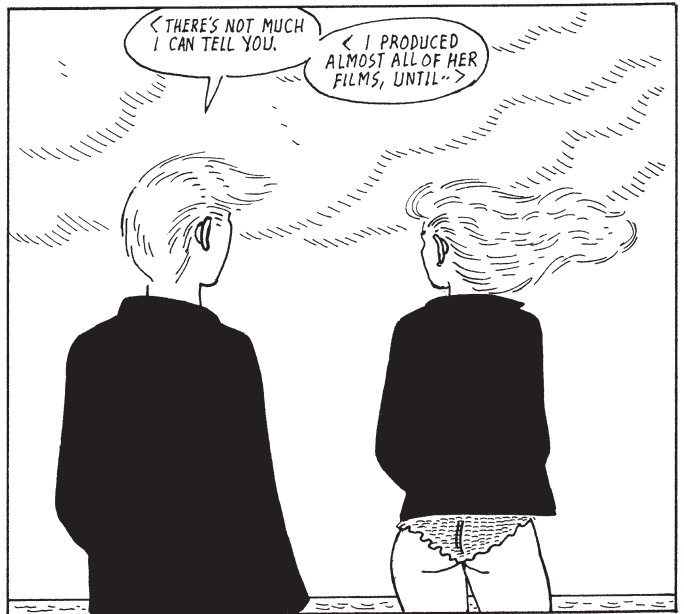
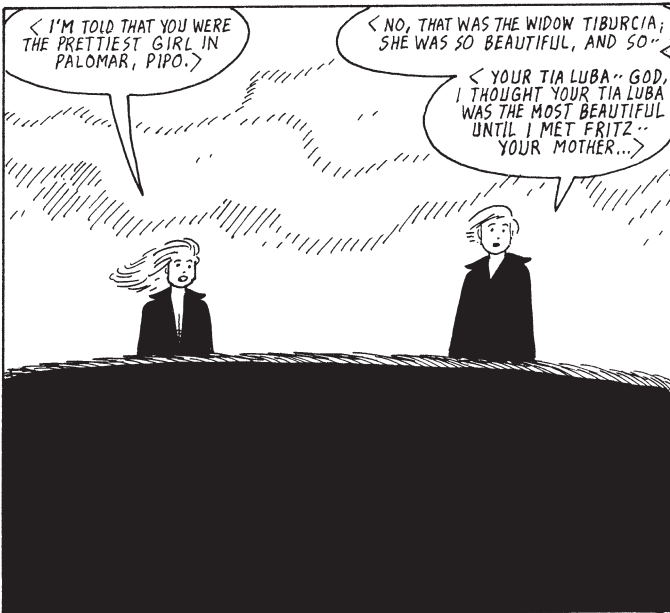
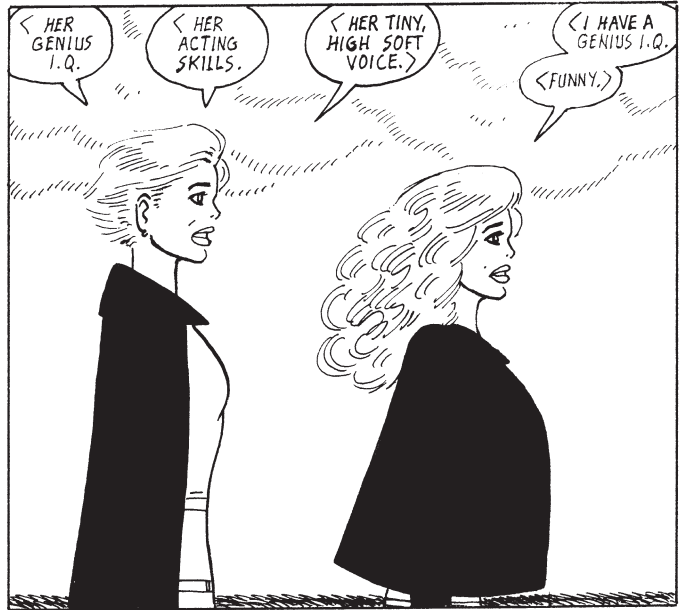
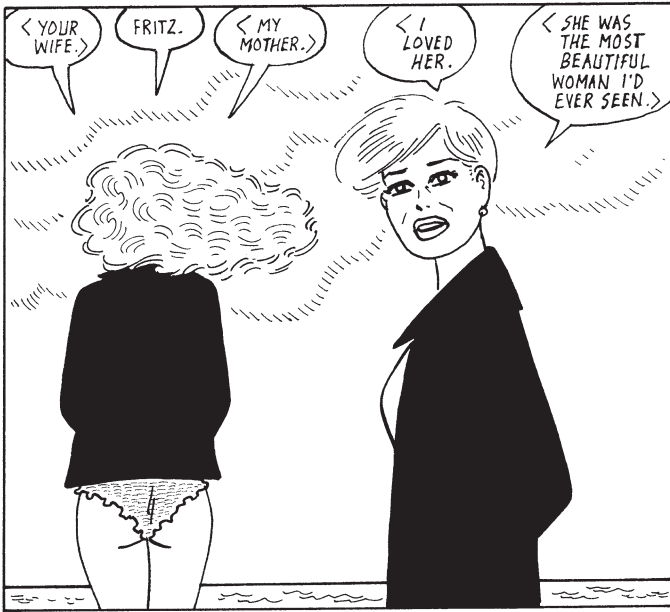


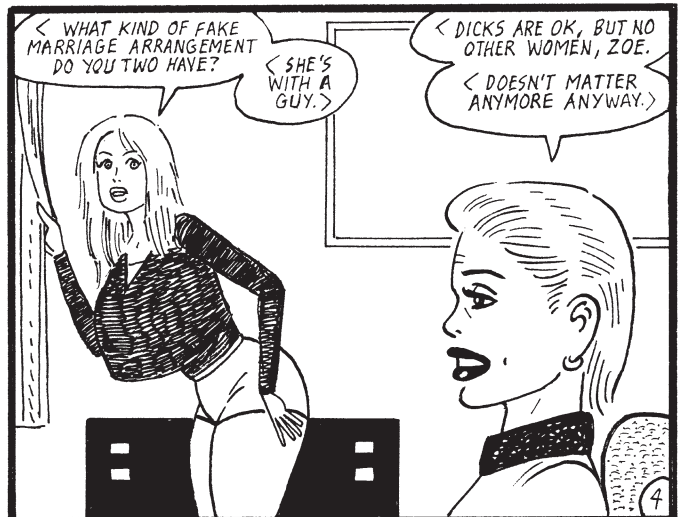
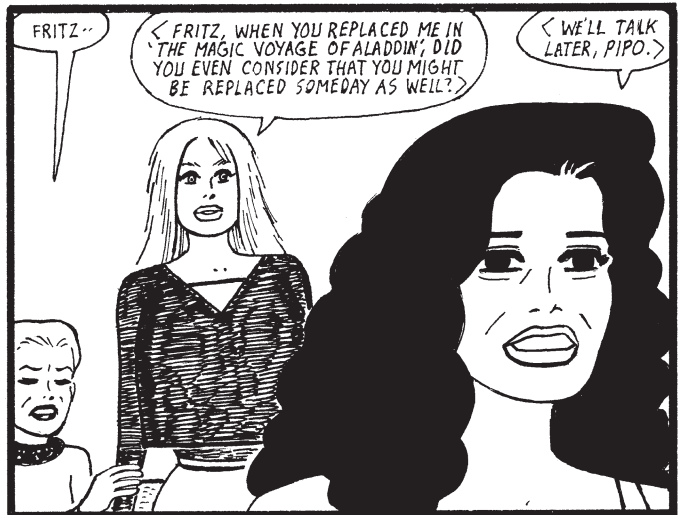
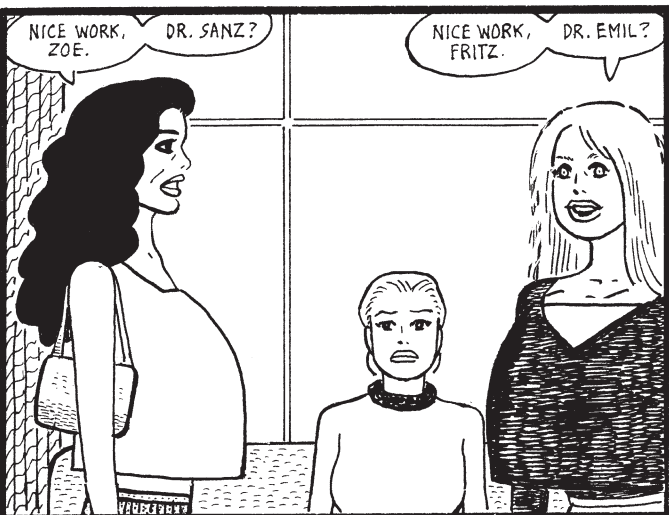
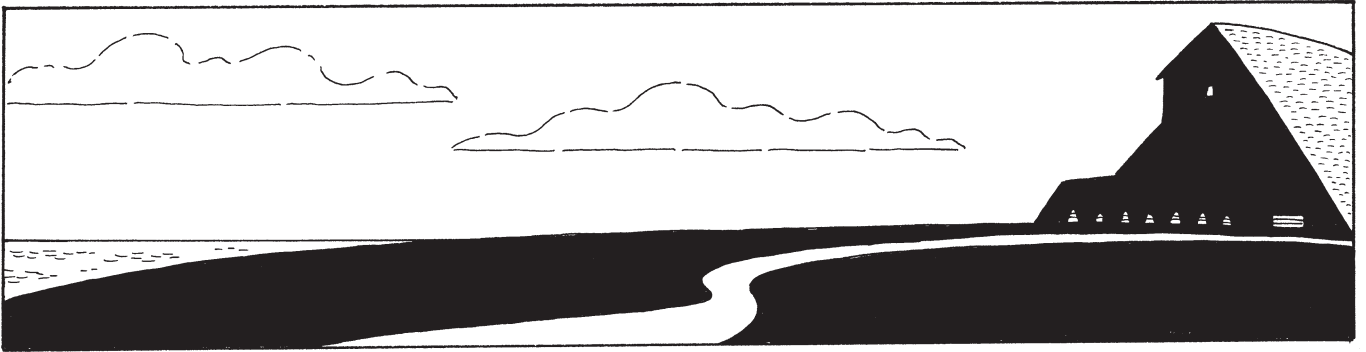


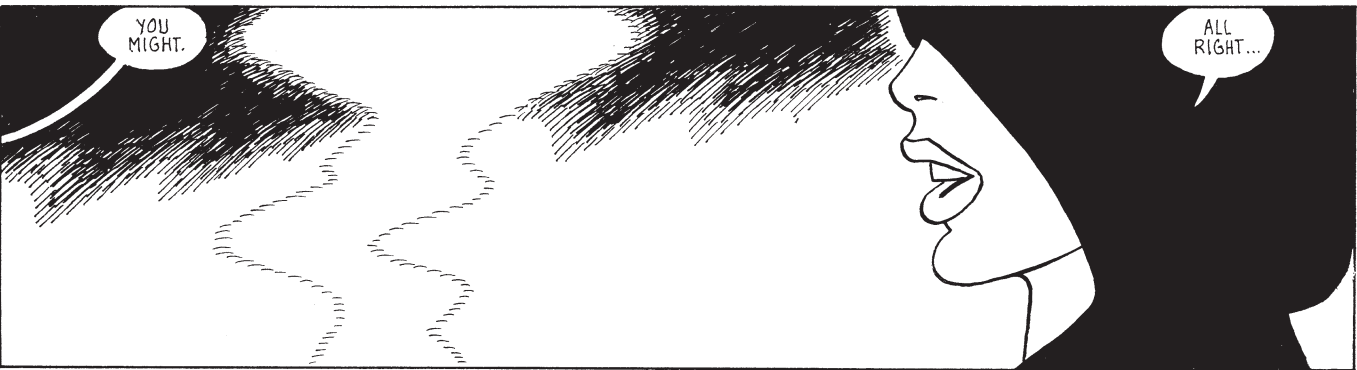
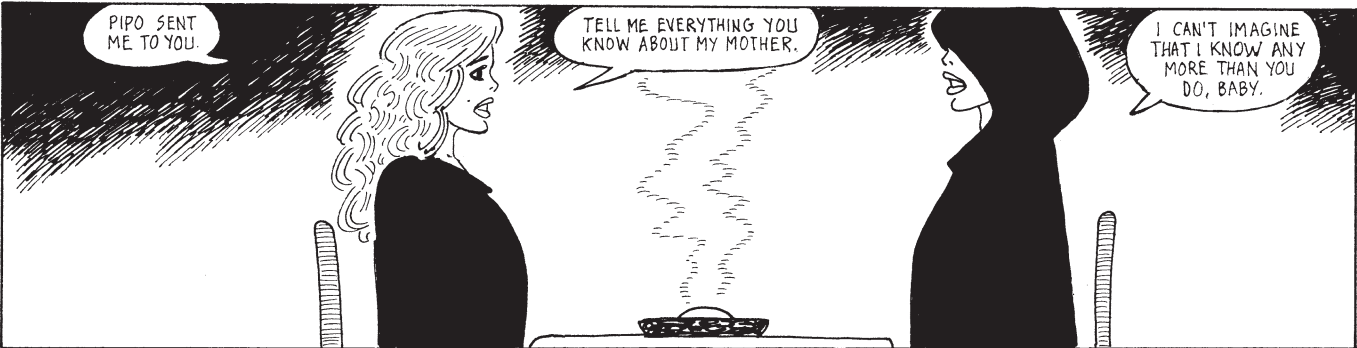
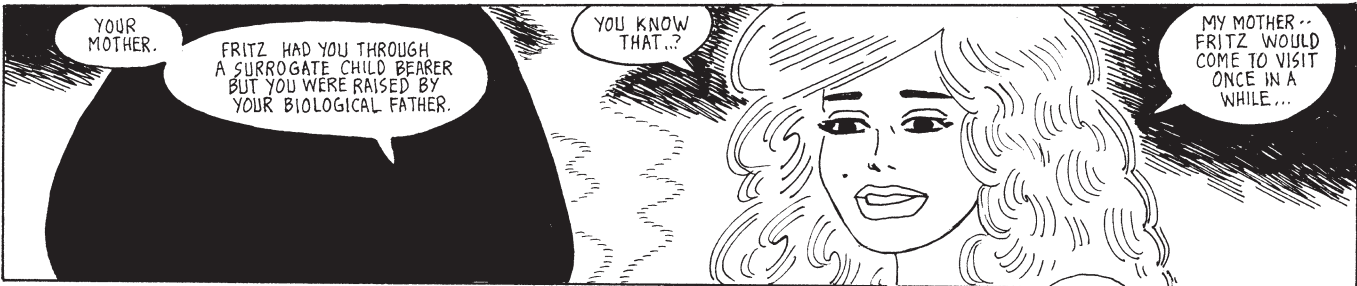
BEGIN AGAIN

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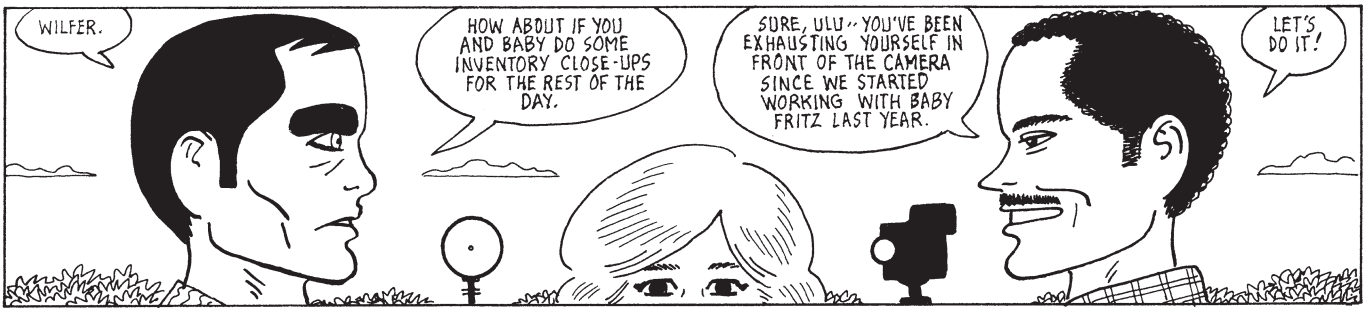




WILFER AND I ARE NOT PORNOGRAPHERS, WE ARE ARTISTIC EXPLORERS OF THE ENIGMATIC FLESH.

RIGHT, ULU.

WE VALUE YOUNG PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN THE HERE AND NOW AND OLDER PEOPLE LIVE IN THE PAST.



WILFER.

HOW ABOUT IF YOU AND BABY DO SOME INVENTORY CLOSE-UPS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

SURE, ULU-- YOU'VE BEEN EXHAUSTING YOURSELF IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA SINCE WE STARTED WORKING WITH BABY FRITZ LAST YEAR.

LET'S DO IT!



NOW, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH WEARING THE WIG FOR YOUR FIRST TIME WITH US, BABY?

YES, ULU.

READY, WILFER?

READY.



FRITZ'S WIFE IS SOME BUSINESS WOMAN-- THE LIST OF PIPO'S BUSINESS VENTURES IS A MILE LONG, BABY.

SHAME IF THEY'RE REALLY SPLITTING UP, HUH?

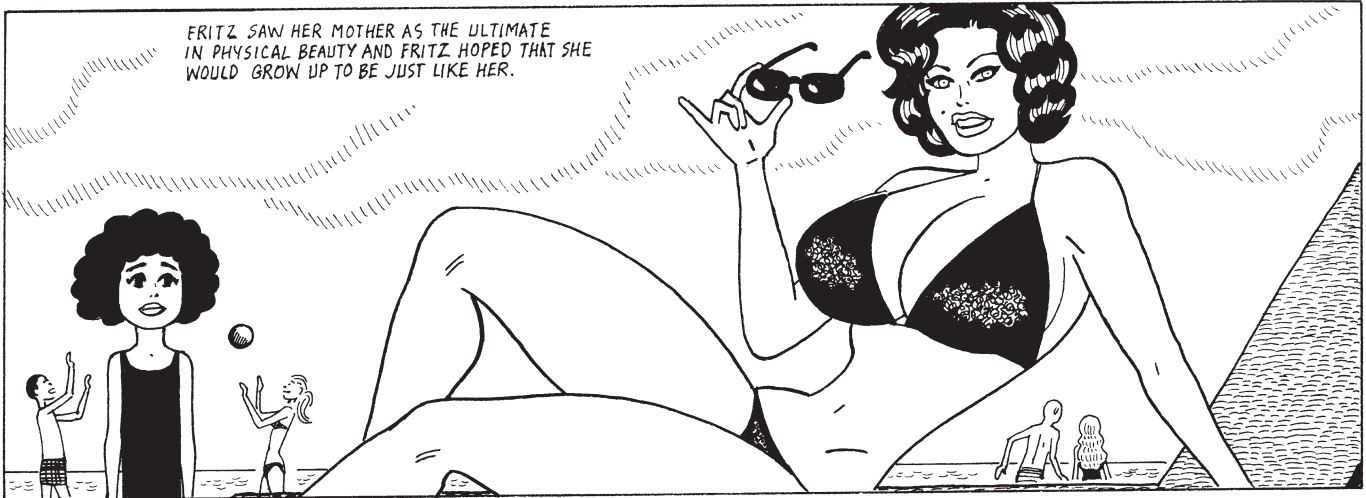
AS FAR AS I KNOW THEY ARE, CHINO-- ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE THEIR MARRIAGE WAS ALWAYS JUST A BUSINESS VENTURE, ANYWAY.



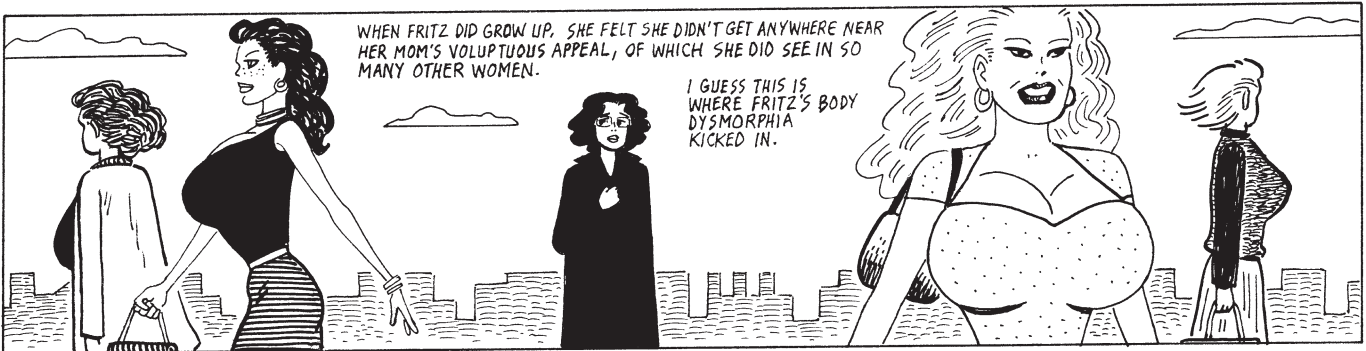
HEY-- HEY, IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AT MY STUFF, YOU'D BETTER NOT SEND IT ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE!

YOU MEAN PRIVATE STUFF LIKE A DIARY THAT YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT OTHERS TO SEE BUT SECRETLY HOPE THEY DO?

DON'T WORRY, NO ONE WILL SEE THIS BUT ME-- I JUST WANT TO CHECK OUT YOUR PERSONAL TAKE ON FRITZ'S CAREER.



FRITZ SAW HER MOTHER AS THE ULTIMATE IN PHYSICAL BEAUTY AND FRITZ HOPED THAT SHE WOULD GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE HER.



WHEN FRITZ DID GROW UP, SHE FELT SHE DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR HER MOM'S VOLUPTUOUS APPEAL, OF WHICH SHE DID SEE IN SO MANY OTHER WOMEN.

I GUESS THIS IS WHERE FRITZ'S BODY DYSMORPHIA KICKED IN.

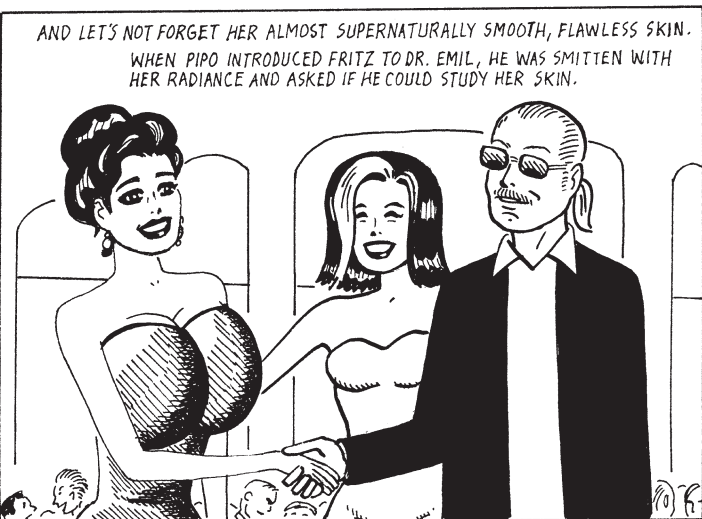


SHE GOT ADDICTED TO WATCHING PORN THAT FEATURED VOLUPTUOUS WOMEN.

CONVINCING HERSELF THAT SHE COULD NEVER HAVE ENOUGH SEXUAL APPEAL, FRITZ RESIGNED HERSELF TO FALLING BACK ON HER SCHOOLING.



HER SWEET, BABY'S SIGH MELODIC VOICE DIDN'T HURT HER WHEN SHE BECAME A HIGHLY RESPECTED PSYCHOTHERAPIST AT A RELATIVELY YOUNG AGE.



AND LET'S NOT FORGET HER ALMOST SUPERNATURALLY SMOOTH, FLAWLESS SKIN. WHEN PIPO INTRODUCED FRITZ TO DR. EMIL, HE WAS SMITTEN WITH HER RADIANCE AND ASKED IF HE COULD STUDY HER SKIN.



THIS IS WHERE THINGS GET MUDDY-ISH WITH ALL THE DNA TESTING AND STRANGE TREATMENTS AND OTHER GENETIC VOODOO DOO-DOO.

FRITZ STARTED OUT IN FILMS AS A SEXY NOVELTY, BUT SHE QUICKLY GREW INTO A GOOD, CRITICALLY ACCEPTED ACTRESS.

HER HEAVY DRINKING BEGAN WHEN SHE GOT FAMOUS FOR PLAYING HER OWN MOM IN A GANGSTER EPIC.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT SHE WAS WAY SUPER DRUNK THE ENTIRE SHOOT OF A FILM.



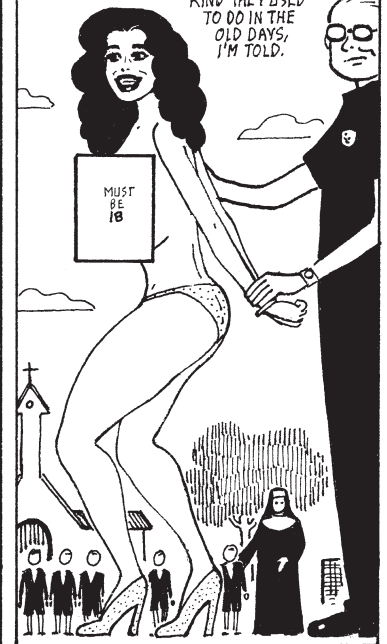
MY DAD WAS IN A COUPLE OF HER MOVIES AND HE TRIED TO HELP HER TO STOP DRINKING BUT IT ONLY GOT WORSE.



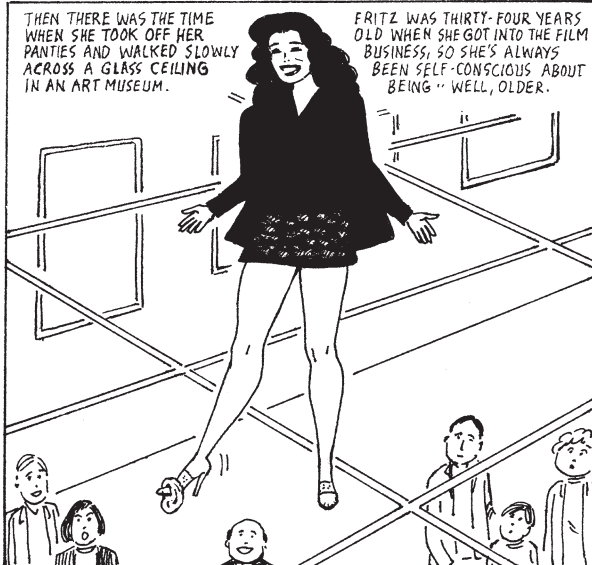
HER DRINKING INCREASED EVEN MORE WHEN THE 'FRITZ' COPYCATS CAME OUT: STARLETS AND PORN STARS THAT DON'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE HER, BUT CLAIM TO BE HER SUCCESSOR.



TO BRING THE ATTENTION BACK TO HER, FRITZ STAGED A SILLY PUBLICITY STUNT, THE KIND THEY USED TO DO IN THE OLD DAYS, I'M TOLD.

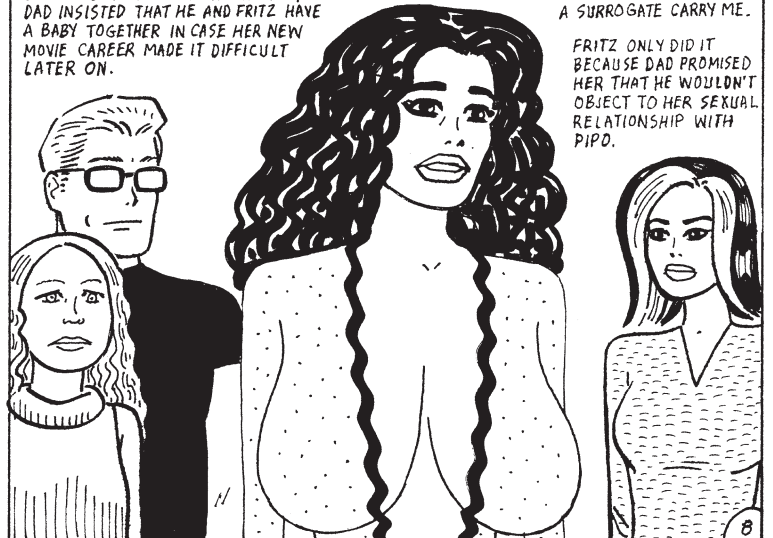


THEN THERE WAS THE TIME WHEN SHE TOOK OFF HER PANTIES AND WALKED SLOWLY ACROSS A GLASS CEILING IN AN ART MUSEUM.



FRITZ WAS THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OLD WHEN SHE GOT INTO THE FILM BUSINESS, SO SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT BEING "WELL, OLDER."

SPEAKING OF FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, MY DAD INSISTED THAT HE AND FRITZ HAVE A BABY TOGETHER IN CASE HER NEW MOVIE CAREER MADE IT DIFFICULT LATER ON.



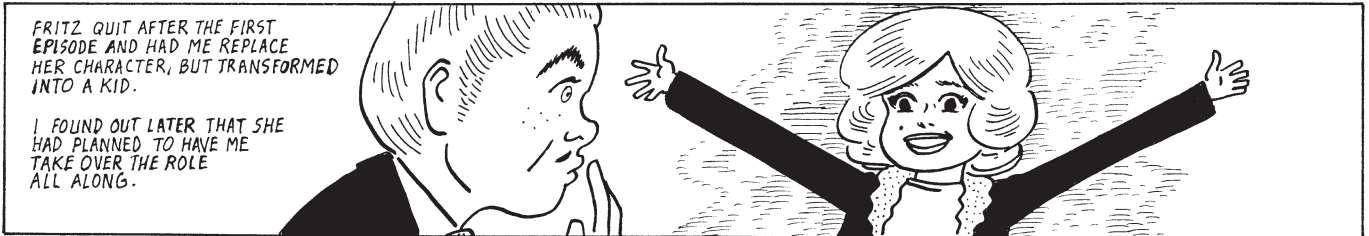
FRITZ AGREED AND HAD A SURROGATE CARRY ME.

FRITZ ONLY DID IT BECAUSE DAD PROMISED HER THAT HE WOULDN'T OBJECT TO HER SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PIPPO.



FRITZ CO-CREATED AND STARRED IN A SCI-FI SHOW CALLED "THE ADVENTURES OF PROFESSOR ENIGMA AND MISSY."

IT WAS A COPY OF THAT ALREADY FAMOUS BRITISH TV SERIES.



FRITZ QUIT AFTER THE FIRST EPISODE AND HAD ME REPLACE HER CHARACTER, BUT TRANSFORMED INTO A KID.

I FOUND OUT LATER THAT SHE HAD PLANNED TO HAVE ME TAKE OVER THE ROLE ALL ALONG.



NOTHING REALLY THAT WE ALL HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE, CHINO. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I GOT FROM HER, I WISH IT WAS THAT DREAMY, ANGELIC VOICE.

AW, YOU GOT HER SKIN, HER GINORMOUS TITS AND YOUR VOICE IS CLOSE ENOUGH. HEY, YOUR MYSTERIOUS TWIN SISTER TWEETED AGAIN. STILL CLAIMING TO BE YOUR LONG-LOST SIBLING.



OH YEAH, I SAW THAT TOO.

YEAH, SHE LOOKS LIKE ME IN THE PICTURES SHE'S SENT BUT I'LL BET YOU THEY'RE FAKED!

SHE'S GOING TO DRAW IT OUT LIKE A MYSTERY, I'LL BET... SOMETHING FRITZ DOES ALL THE TIME.

OH, YOUR FANS ARE DEMANDING THAT YOU POST NEW PHOTOS.

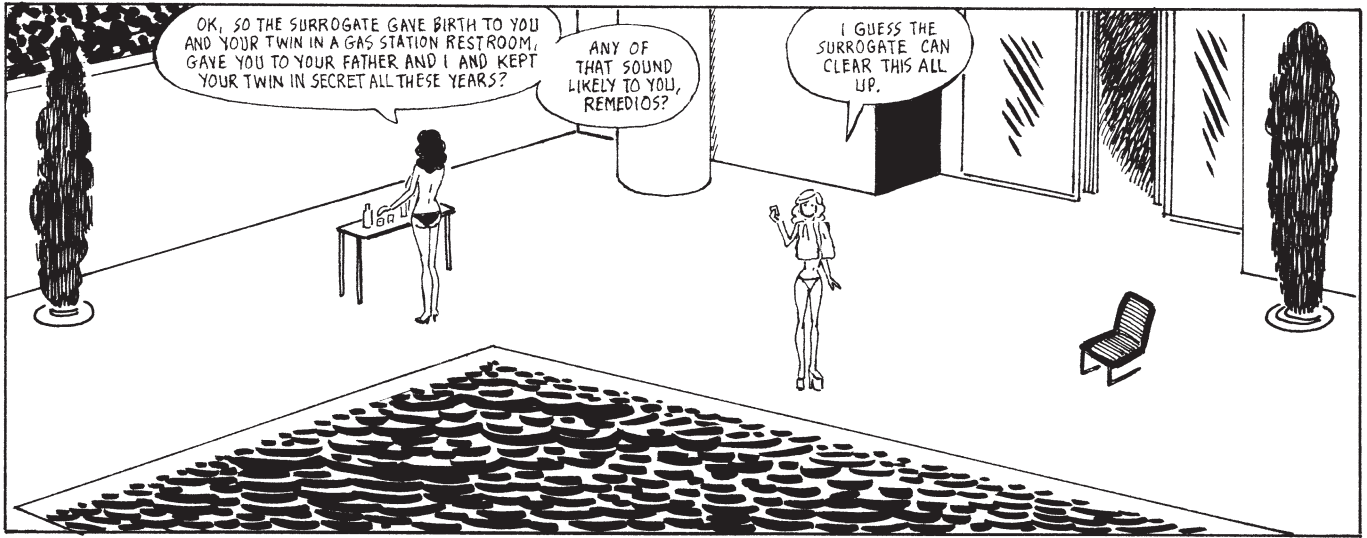


C'MON ROSARIO, IT'S YOUR LAST DAY.

CHANDLER RIGGS

I'M UP, MOM.

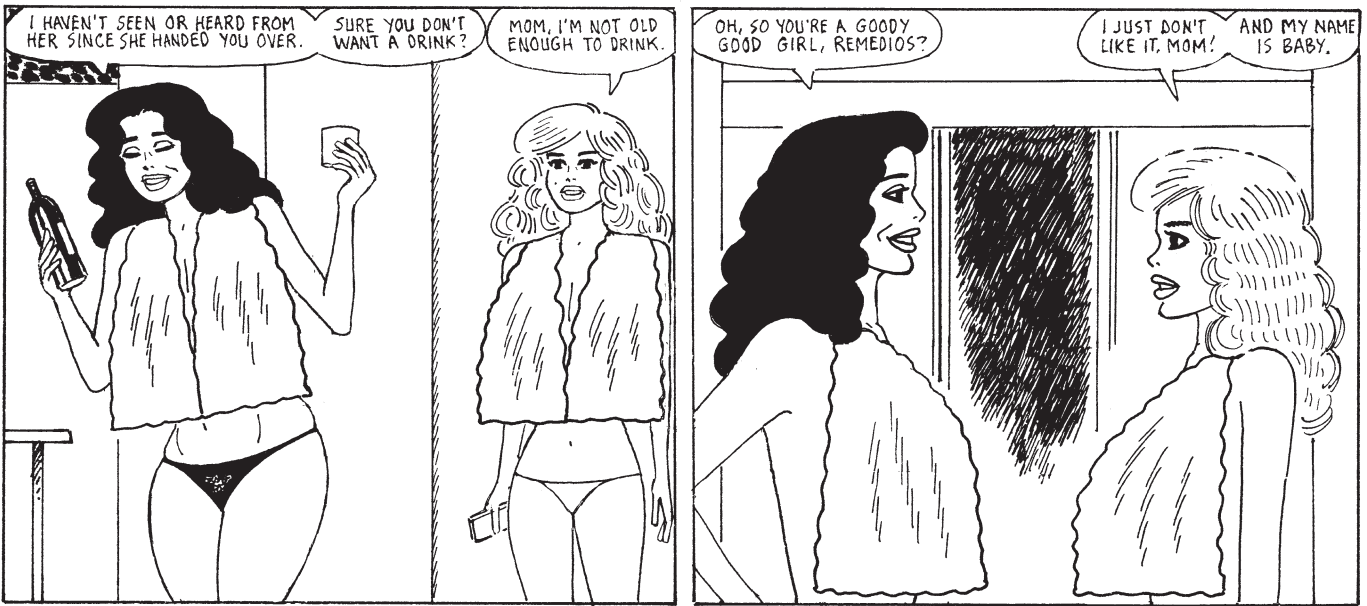
WHO'S GOT THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION..?



OK, SO THE SURROGATE GAVE BIRTH TO YOU AND YOUR TWIN IN A GAS STATION RESTROOM, GAVE YOU TO YOUR FATHER AND I AND KEPT YOUR TWIN IN SECRET ALL THESE YEARS?

ANY OF THAT SOUND LIKELY TO YOU, REMEDIOS?

I GUESS THE SURROGATE CAN CLEAR THIS ALL UP.



I HAVEN'T SEEN OR HEARD FROM HER SINCE SHE HANDED YOU OVER.

SURE YOU DON'T WANT A DRINK?

MOM, I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK.

OH, SO YOU'RE A GOODY GOOD GIRL, REMEDIOS?

I JUST DON'T LIKE IT, MOM!

AND MY NAME IS BABY.



YOU DON'T LIKE ME CALLING YOU REMEDIOS, BUT YOU STILL CALL ME MOM WHEN I'VE ASKED YOU NOT TO.

MY NAME IS BABY. BABY FRITZ.

ANOTHER TWEET FROM YOUR ALLEGED TWIN SISTER.

SHE SAYS THAT YOU'RE FIVE-SIX AND SHE AND I ARE FIVE EVEN-I'VE NEVER POSTED ANYTHING ABOUT MY HEIGHT ANYWHERE, OR...

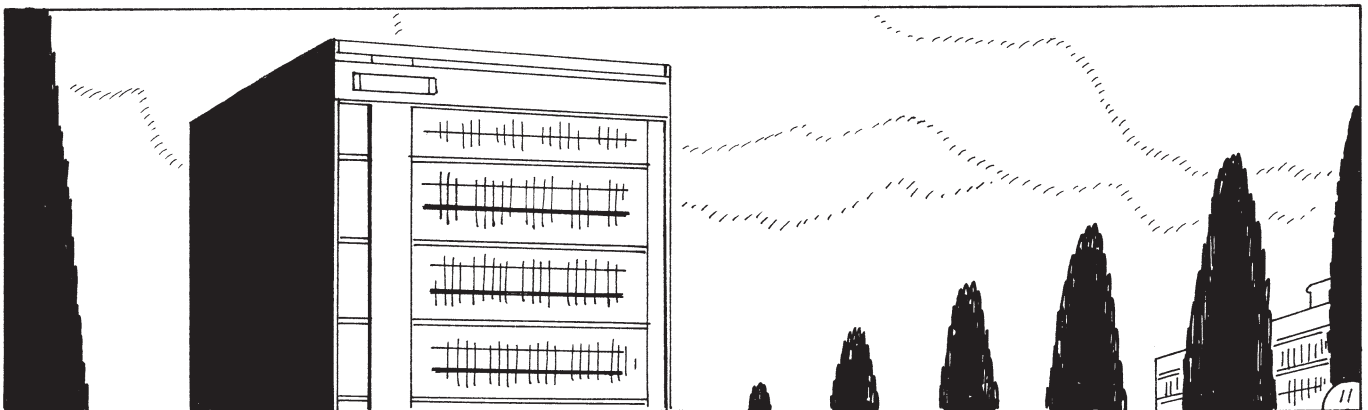
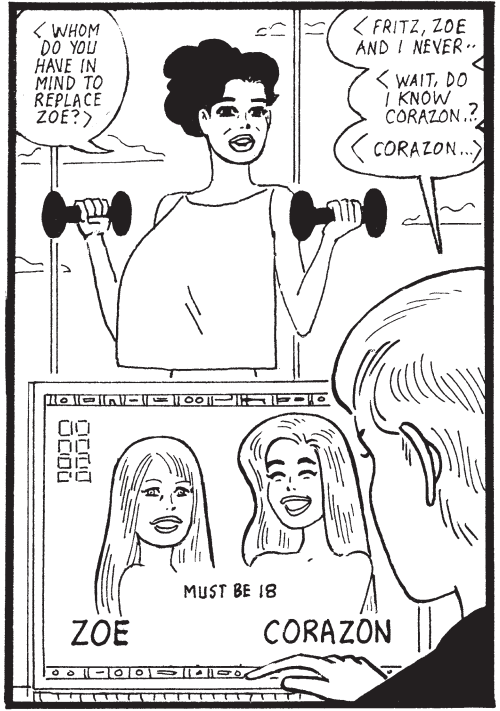
OH... SHE'S GONE AND SENT A CLEAR PICTURE OF HERSELF..

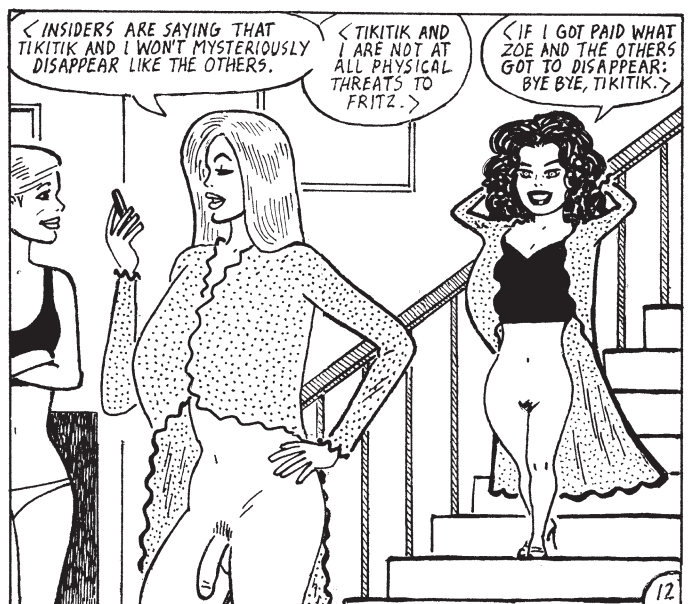
OOH, THAT'S PRETTY CLEAR, BABYGIRL. I'LL NEED ANOTHER DRINK.

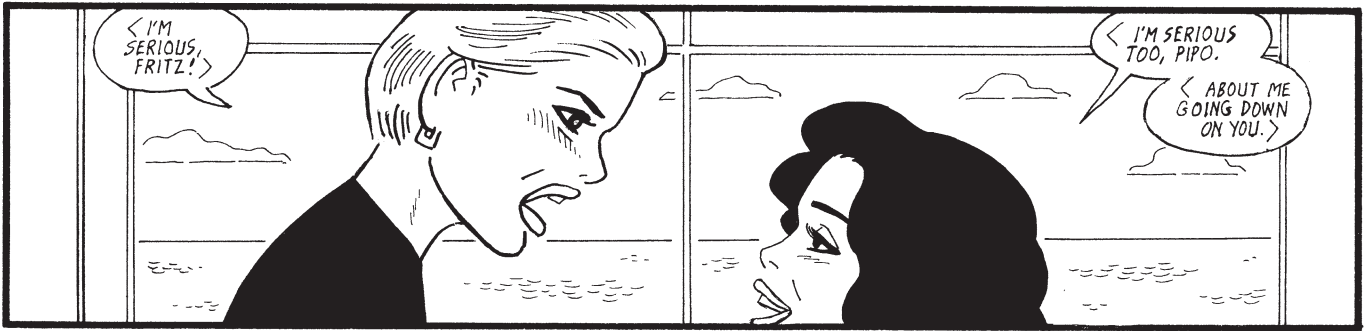
AND SUPPOSEDLY THIS.. TWIN OF MINE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT YOU AND ME UNTIL NOW, REALLY?

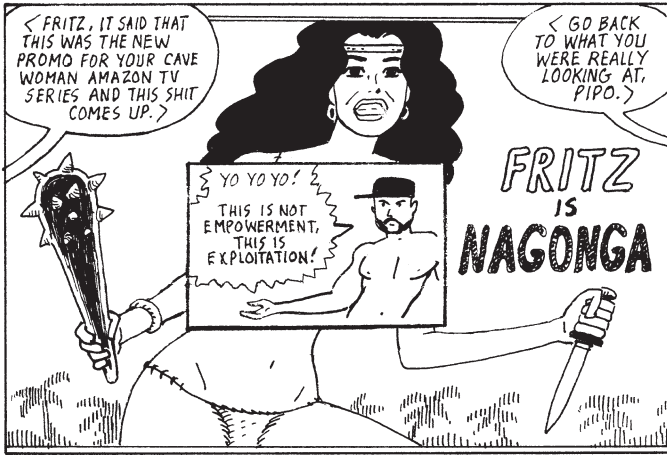
OH, BUT SHE'S ONLY ONE OF YOUR COPYCATS, I'LL BET.

OR ONE OF MINE..?









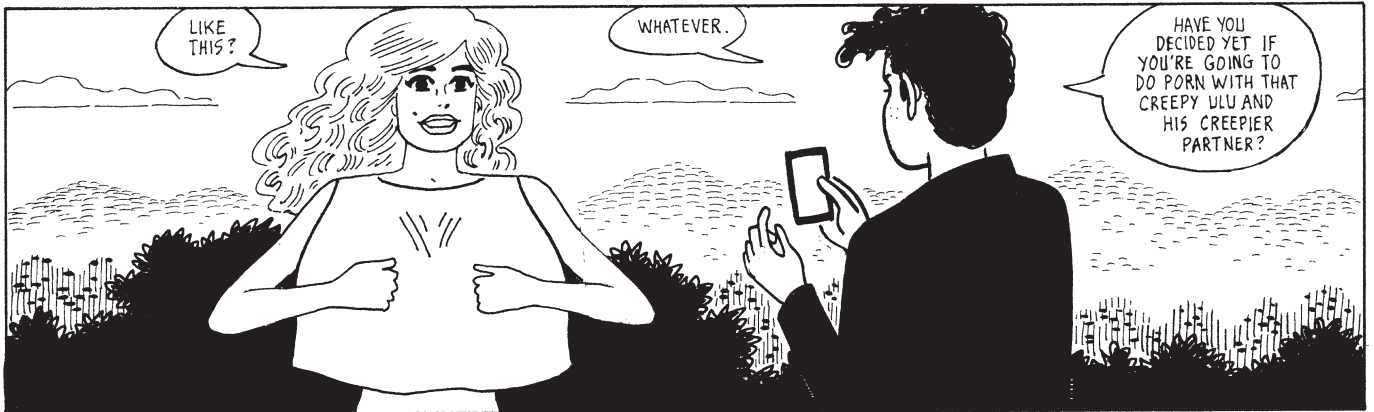


DID YOU KNOW THAT PIPO'S SUFFERED MORE THAN A FEW SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES?

IT ALL STARTED WHEN PIPO WAS DROPPED ON HER HEAD AS A BABY. FRITZ IS SO BETTER OFF WITHOUT HER.

HEY, THESE PHOTOS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE INNOCENT-LOOKING POSES, BABY.

ACT MORE LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, WHORE.



LIKE THIS?

WHATEVER.

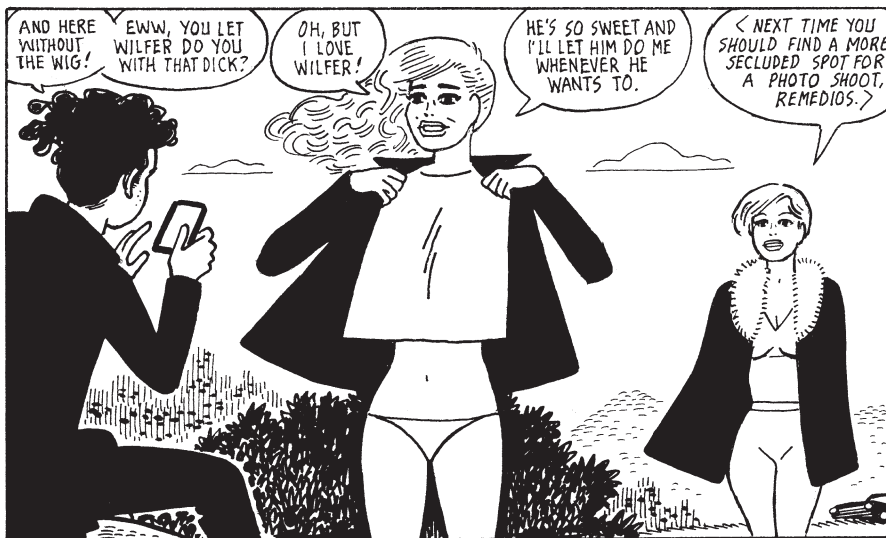
HAVE YOU DECIDED YET IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO PORN WITH THAT CREEPY ULU AND HIS CREEPIER PARTNER?



NO... WAIT! YOU ALREADY DID PORN WITH THEM WHERE YOU WERE DISGUISED AS YOUR MOM!

OH, BIG THING, CHINO.

LIKE ULU AND WILFER ARE SUCH SCARY GUYS.



AND HERE WITHOUT THE WIG! EWW, YOU LET WILFER DO YOU WITH THAT DICK?

OH, BUT I LOVE WILFER!

HE'S SO SWEET AND I'LL LET HIM DO ME WHENEVER HE WANTS TO.

< NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD FIND A MORE SECLUDED SPOT FOR A PHOTO SHOOT, REMEDIOS. >



PIPO..

< PEOPLE MIGHT MISTAKE YOU FOR AN EXHIBITIONIST, LIKE YOUR MOTHER. >

< AND WHAT WOULD YOUR TWIN SISTER THINK? >



THAT'S HER.

WITH MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER.

NO SHIT THIS GIRL IS YOUR TWIN SISTER, ROSARIO?
FUCK!

SHE AND YOUR BIOLOGICAL MOM'VE NEVER MET YOU OR EVEN TALKED TO YOU?

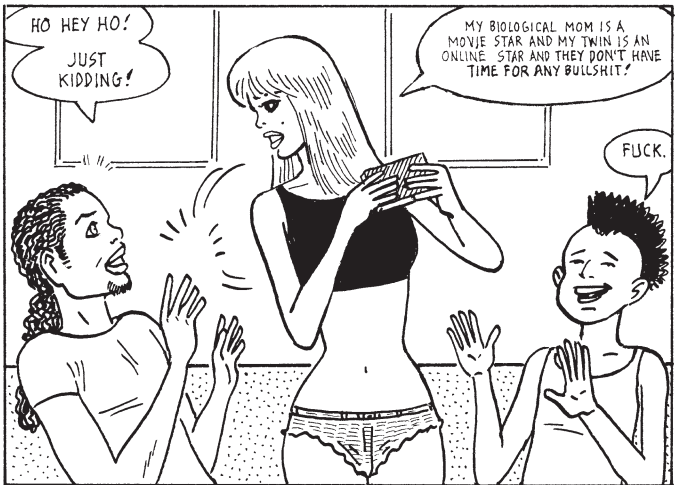
AND THAT'S YOUR BIOLOGICAL MOM IN THE PICTURE WITH HER?
FUCK!



YES, AND YOU AND SCOOTER ARE GOING TO TAKE ME TO MEET THEM, ANDRES.

OK, FIRST I'LL TAKE THE TWIN, THEN THE MOTHER, THEN THE TWIN, THEN--

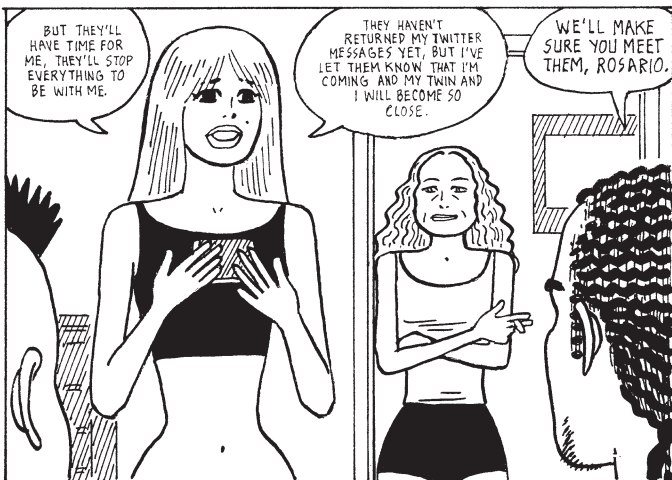
FUCK.



HO HEY HO!
JUST KIDDING!

MY BIOLOGICAL MOM IS A MOVIE STAR AND MY TWIN IS AN ONLINE STAR AND THEY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY BULLSHIT!

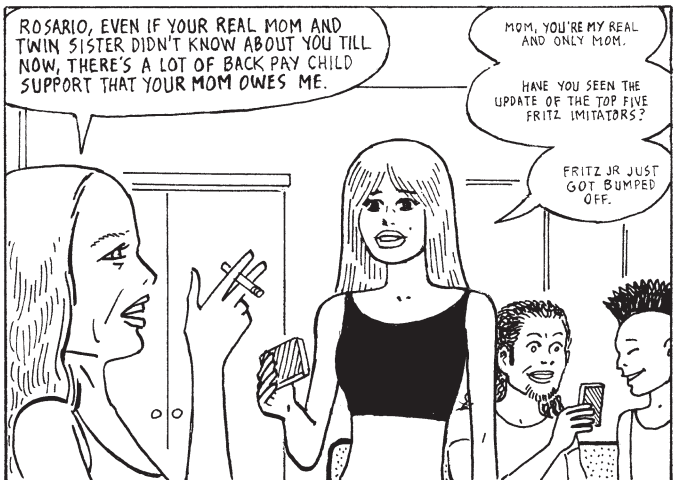
FUCK.



BUT THEY'LL HAVE TIME FOR ME, THEY'LL STOP EVERYTHING TO BE WITH ME.

THEY HAVEN'T RETURNED MY TWITTER MESSAGES YET, BUT I'VE LET THEM KNOW THAT I'M COMING AND MY TWIN AND I WILL BECOME SO CLOSE.

WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU MEET THEM, ROSARIO.



ROSARIO, EVEN IF YOUR REAL MOM AND TWIN SISTER DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOU TILL NOW, THERE'S A LOT OF BACK PAY CHILD SUPPORT THAT YOUR MOM OWES ME.

MOM, YOU'RE MY REAL AND ONLY MOM.

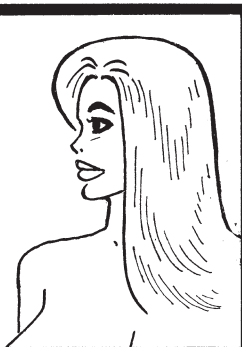
HAVE YOU SEEN THE UPDATE OF THE TOP FIVE FRITZ IMITATORS?

FRITZ JR JUST GOT BUMPED OFF.

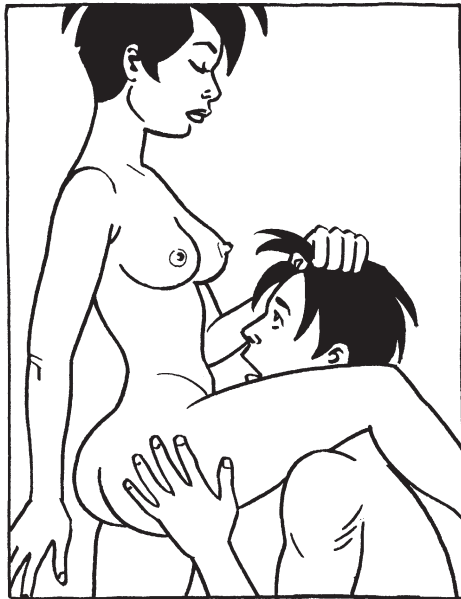
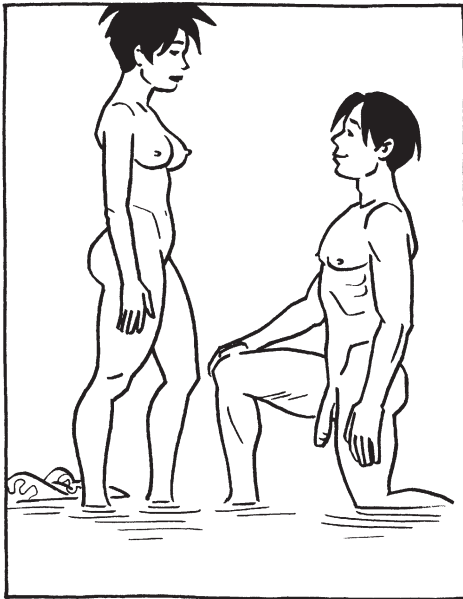
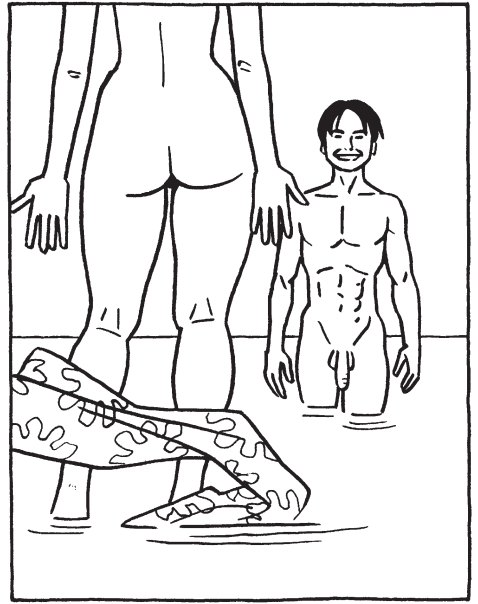
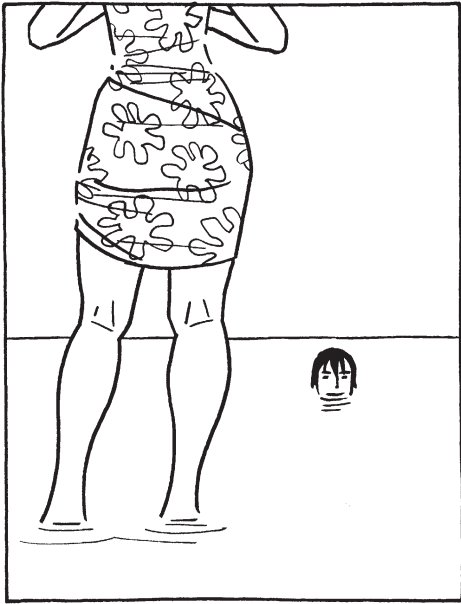


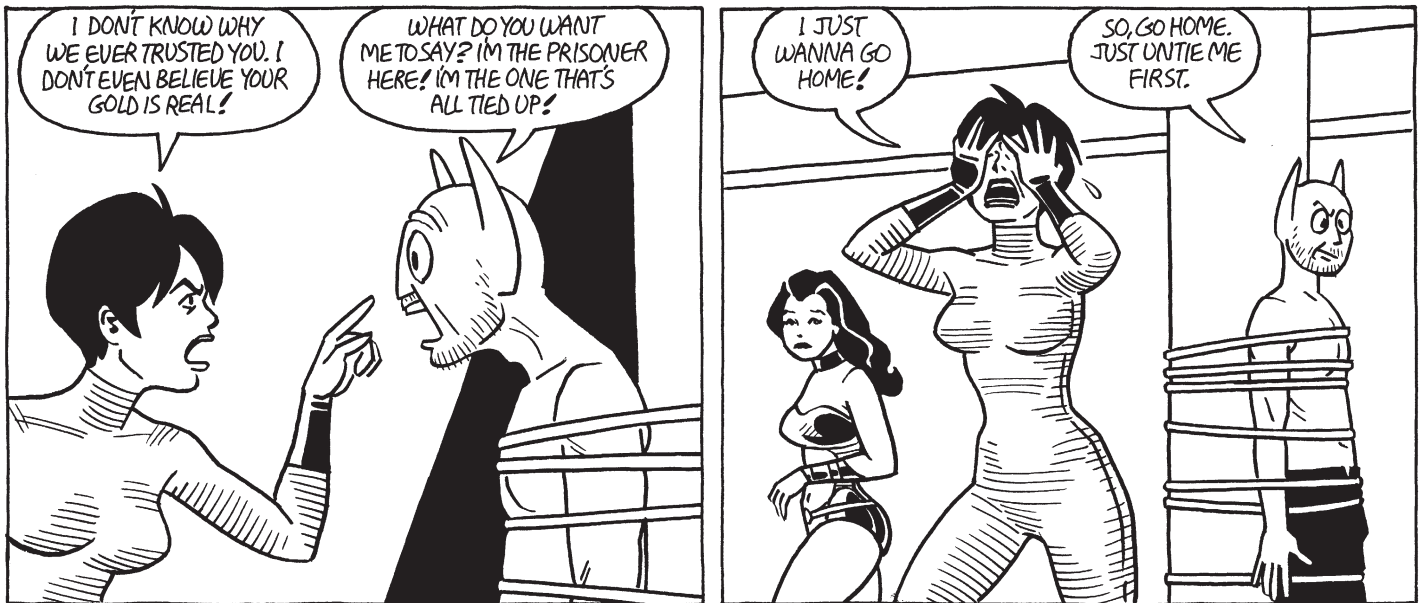
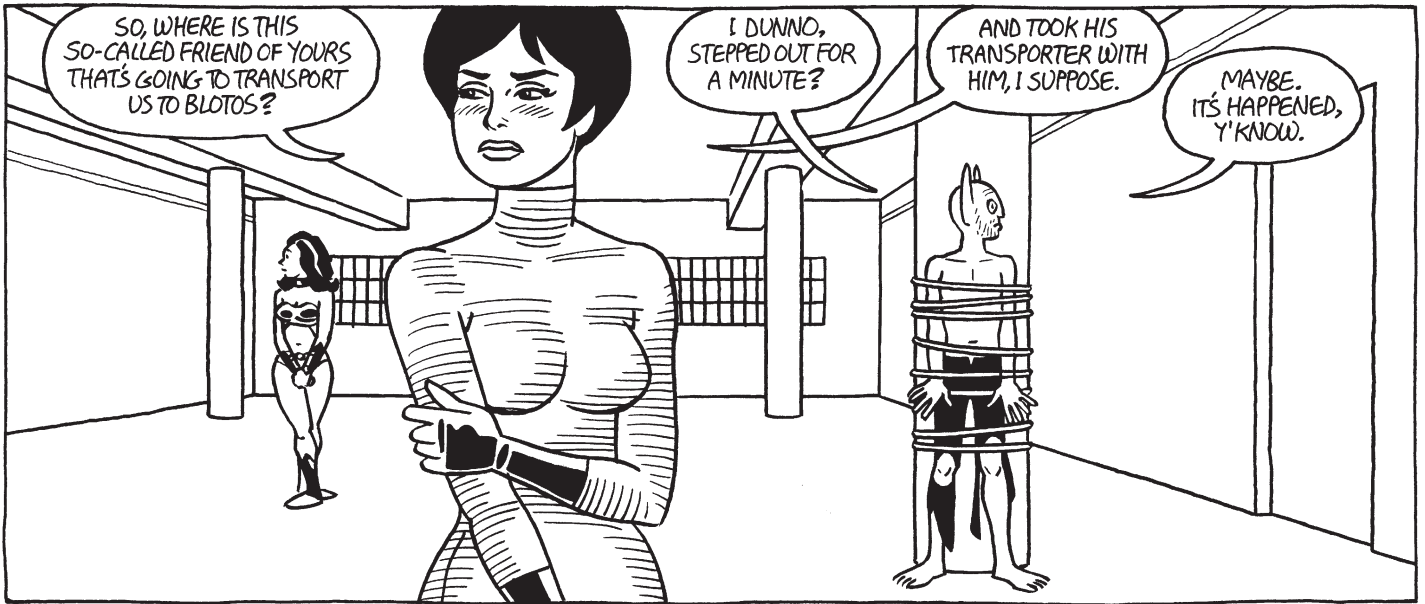
OH YEAH, YOU INSERTED YOURSELF INTO THAT GROUP OF FREAKY PORN WEIRDO GIRLS, DIDN'T YOU?
TSK!

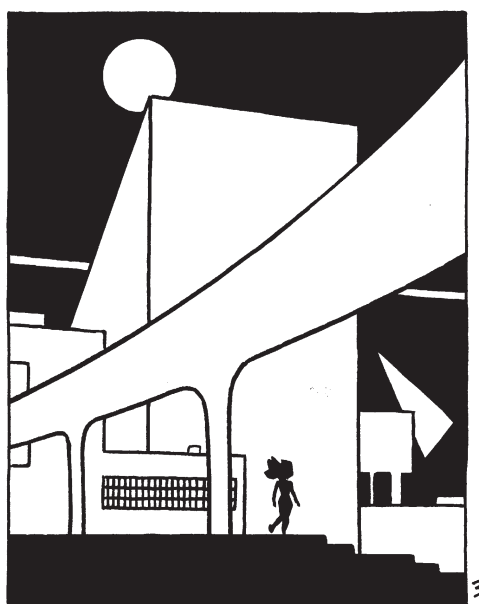
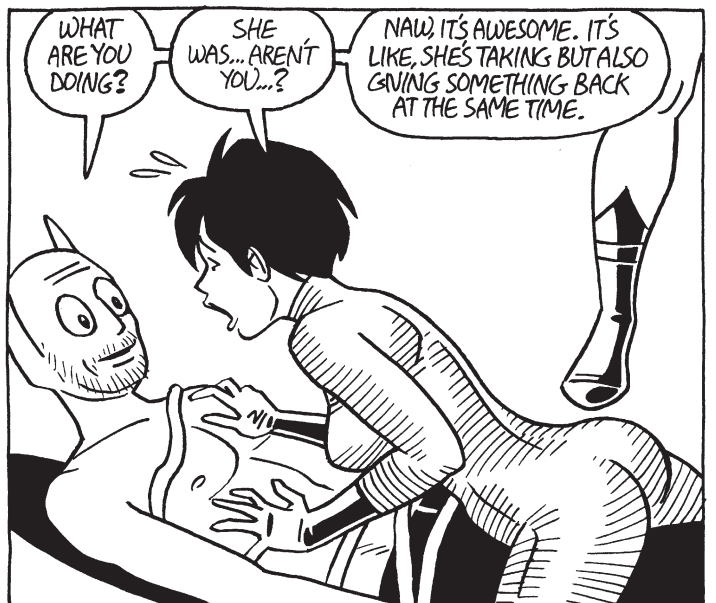
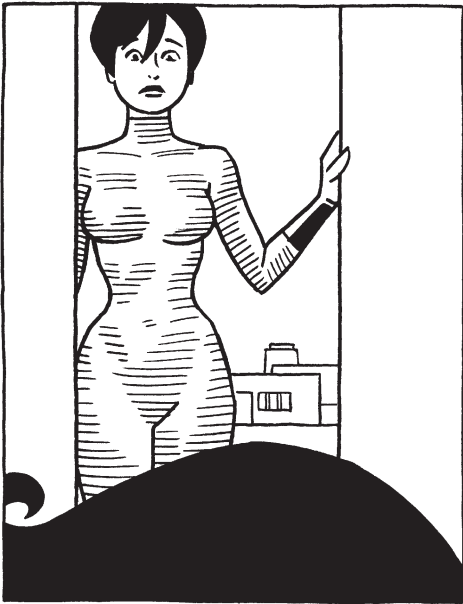
I SO BELONG.

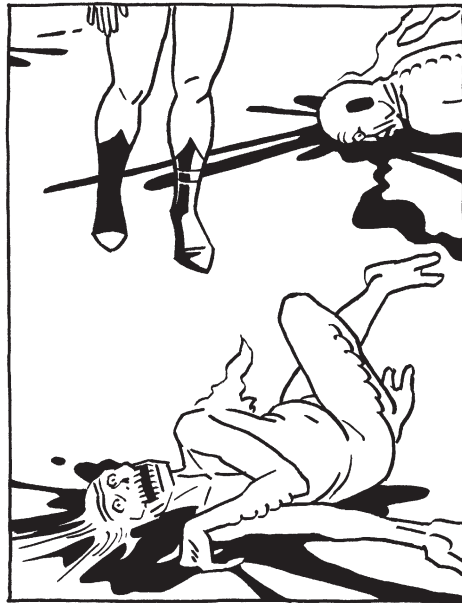
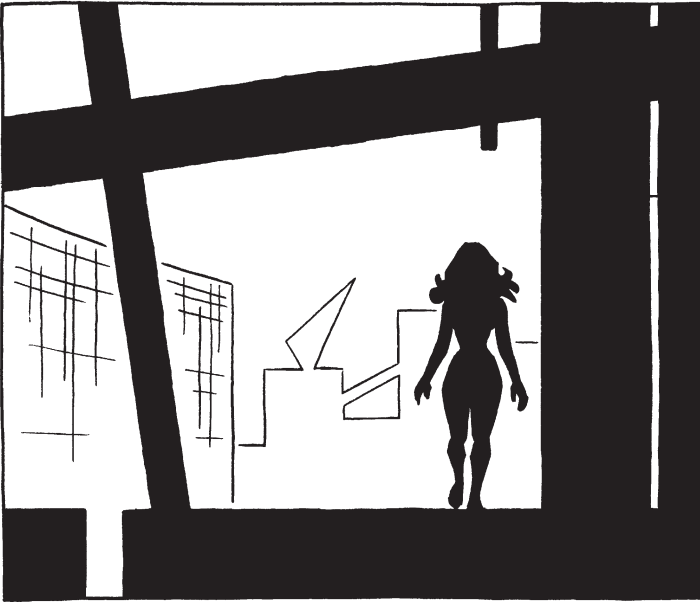


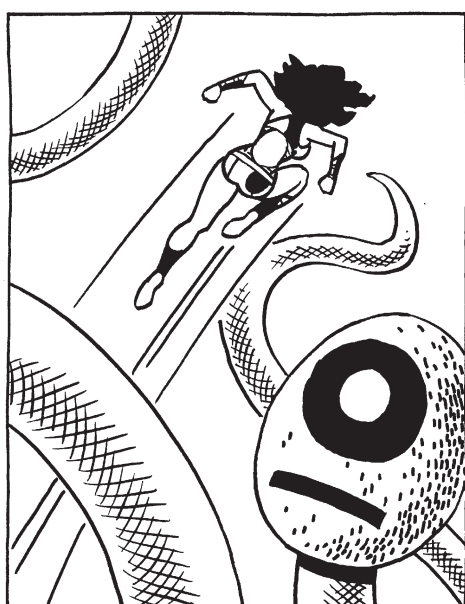
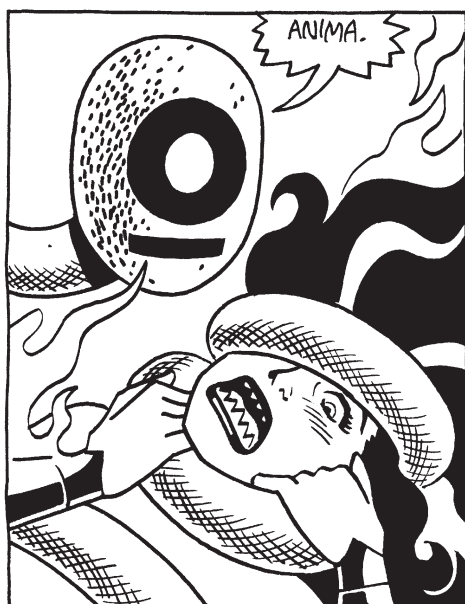
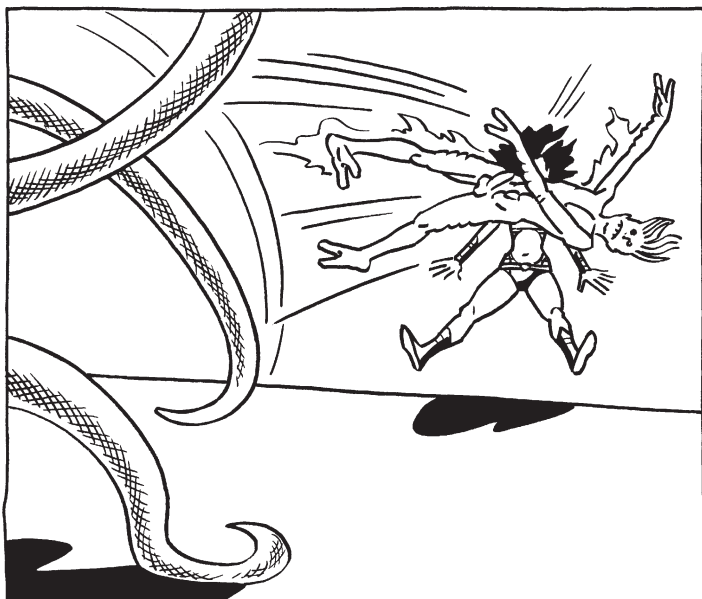
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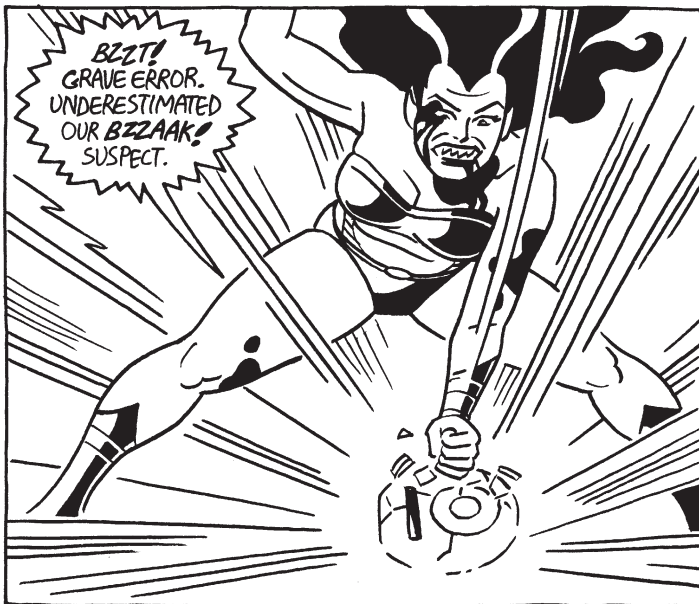
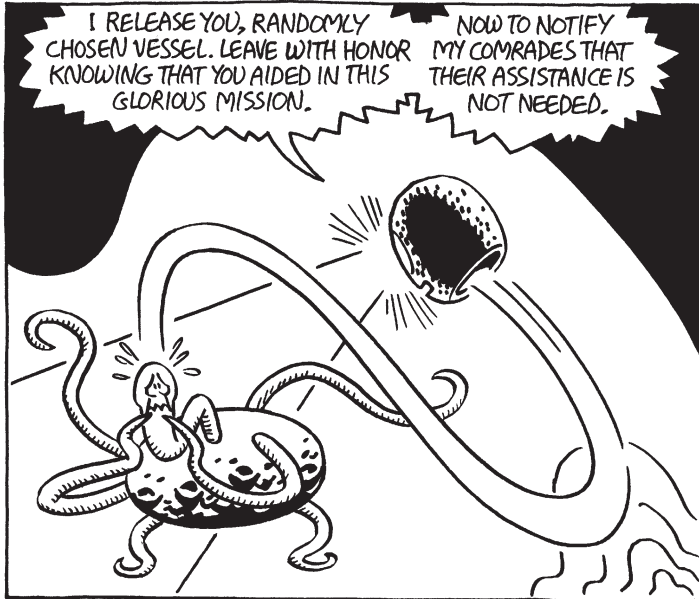
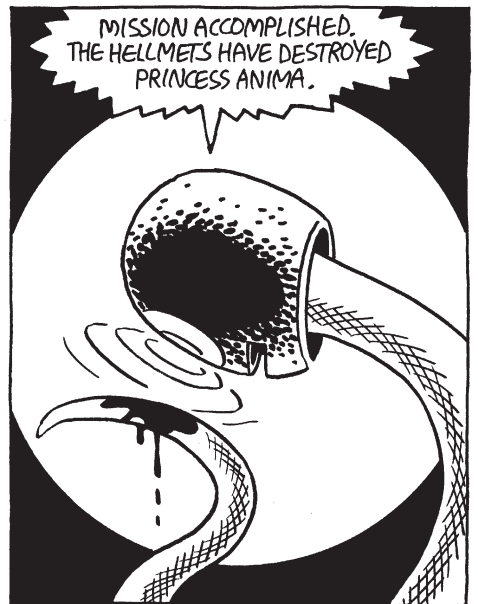
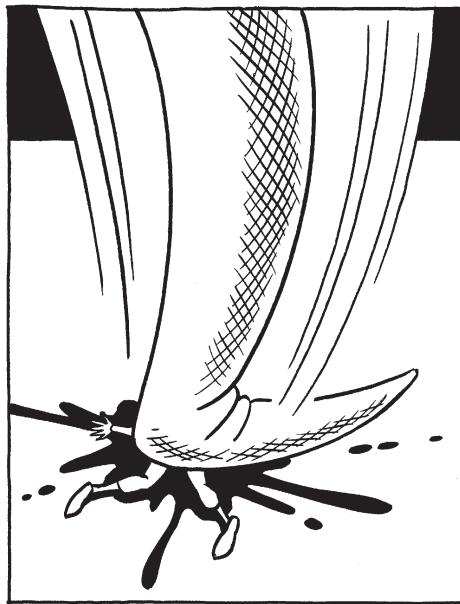
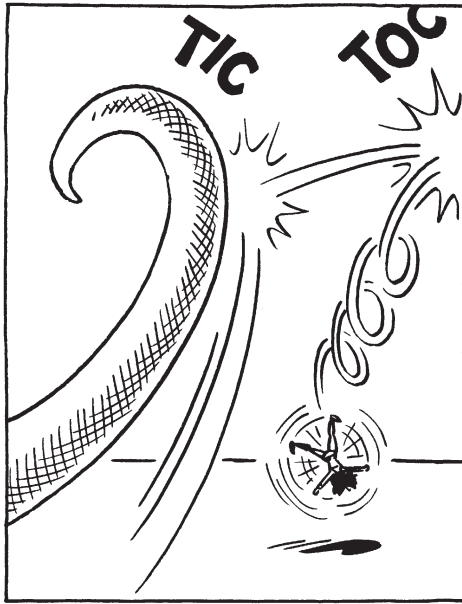


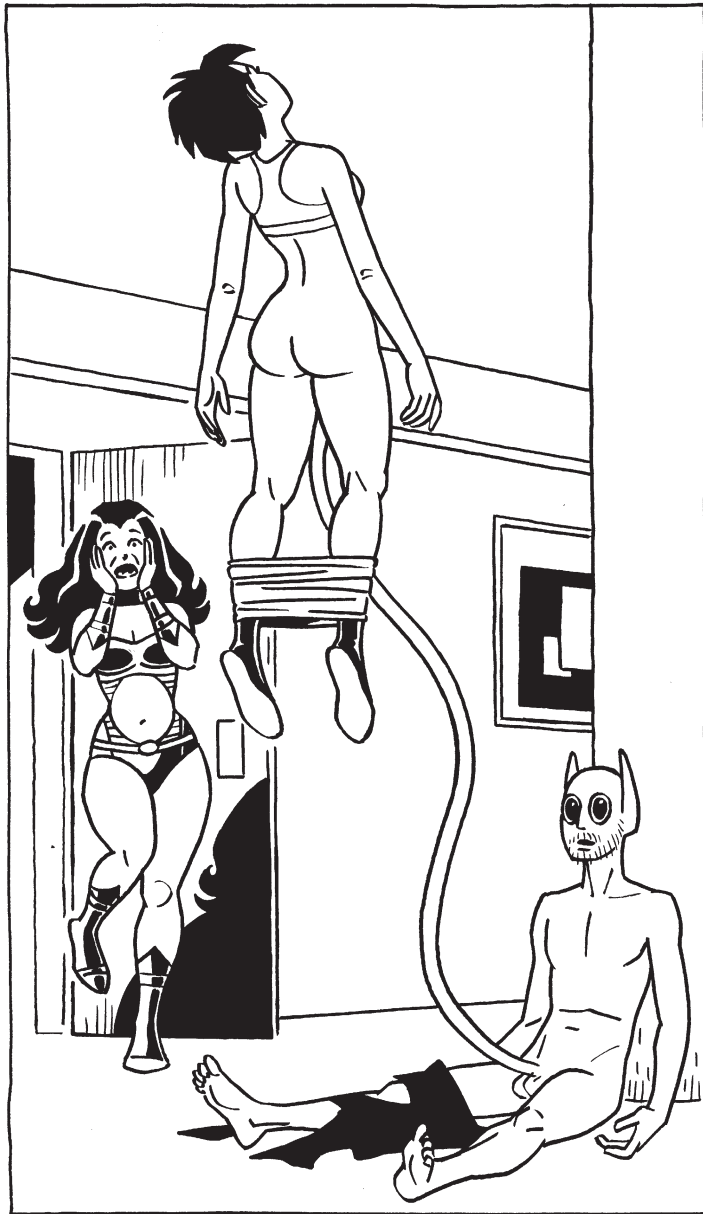
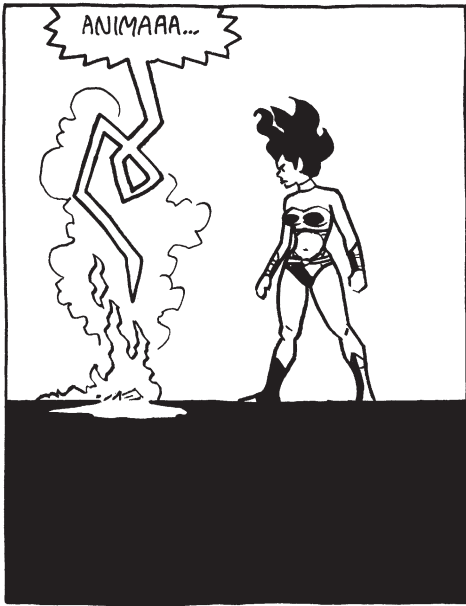


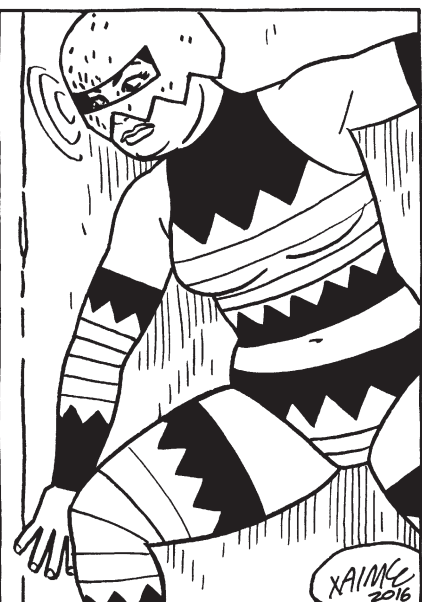
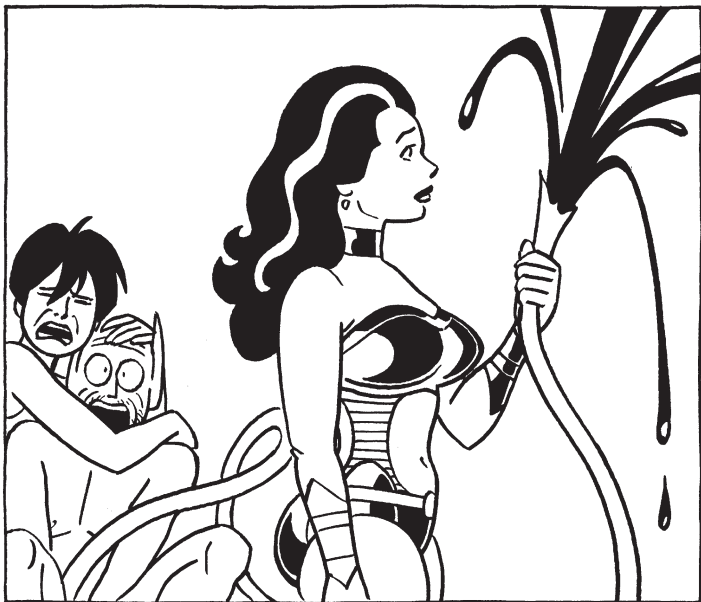














Hi Beto and Jaime!

Okay first, Beto: I am a 22 year-old high school teacher, and last year I wrote my undergrad thesis about *Human Disatrophism*. I talked about how disability can be depicted through the language of comics, and I had so much fun writing it. I am so grateful for your masterful storytelling, the lack of self-consciousness with which you create complicated and fun storylines, and for your creation of characters that will always be close to my heart, like Pipo, Venus, and Ofelia.

Second, Jaime: I just wanted to wholeheartedly thank you for your portrayal of queer, punk youth. My generation of punk, of falling in love with girls, etc. is very different in some ways than the Hoppers you portray in your series, but it has broken my heart (in a really good way) to see the way Maggie and Hopey have grown up (together and apart) in the more recent *New Stories*. It means a lot to see them, still loving each other, still complicated... it makes me excited to keep loving girls like Hopey (I'm definitely the Maggie in the equation...) and to keep writing comics about young queer women.

Okay, thanks again!

— Acacia Lasita

Acacia: Your letter means a lot, thanks. — Jaime

Jaime,

Are you ever gonna let Maggie win? Just curious. Reader for 30 years blah blah blah white russian punk rock hip hop weirdo grew up in southeast LA. When I got introduced to Maggie and Hopey

and Hoppers it was like finding home. I just don't get why you can't let Maggie win. I wish she would tell Hopey, "Hey Hopey, go fuck yourself," but for real not like a shy, flip off finger in the corner after she got moded from Hopey pulling usual guy bullshit. I am really really really disliking Hopey.

I guess you might call me Maggie and I REALLY NEED MAGGIE TO WIN.

However you end the story, you know I'm going to eat it up just like all your other fans because it's so real. How else would I be crying like the dude who mailed about the ending of *New Stories* #7? Damn, that was rough... It's not only incredible that you're able to capture the human condition, especially female human condition, but in the small number of frames... all this emotional life communicated.

And I emailed your brother about this too... I do not understand how you and your brother can write for women so beautifully... It blows my mind. I mean you must have been raised with some badass females in your lives, that's all I can say. Thank you for being female voices that I needed because I don't care if those female voices come from men I need them.

Thank you for 30 years pero como major.

— Rebecca Cherkoss

PS I totally love Ray and I love that he loves and takes care of Maggie but I want her to break Hopey's heart like Hopey's broken hers many times. I know, I know, love has no place for vengeance blah blah and yet... still ;-/

Rebecca: Finally, fan mail with fire. I love your observations and it's made me rethink the outcome of the story. It may not turn out the way you like it but it may not turn out the way I like it either. Either way, it's great food for thought. — Jaime



