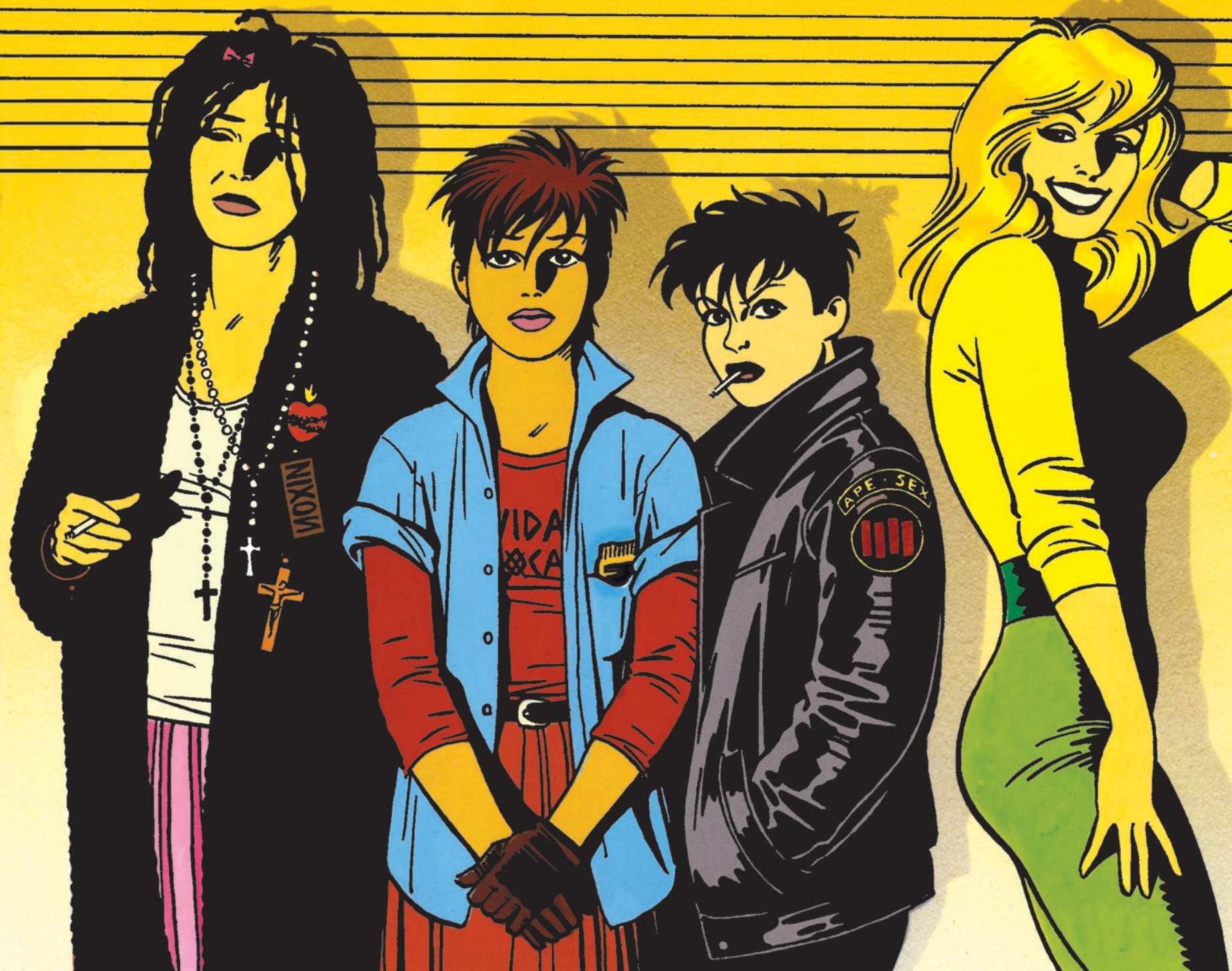


# LOVE AND ROCKETS THE COVERS











No. 1

Recommended  
For Mature  
Readers

\$4<sup>95</sup>

\$6.50 in  
Canada

# Love AND ROCKETS



Editor and Associate Publisher:

**Eric Reynolds**

Book Design:

**Jacob Covey**

Editorial assistance:

**Jason T. Miles**

and **Ben Horak**

Production and restoration:

**Paul Baresh**

Restored color:

**Rich Tommaso**

Published by

**Gary Groth**

and **Kim Thompson**

Special thanks to

**Glenn Bray,**

**Todd Hignite,**

**Jaime Hernandez,**

**Gary Groth**

and **Kim Thompson**

for loaning original artwork

from their collections,

and to **Carol Kovinick-Hernandez**

for use of the photograph

on pages 8-9

**FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, INC.**

Seattle, Washington, USA

*Love and Rockets: The Covers*

and all images are copyright © 2013

**Gilbert, Jaime** and **Mario Hernandez**

Permission to reproduce content

must be obtained from

the authors or publisher.

For a full-color catalog of

*Love and Rockets* comics

as well as hundreds of other comics

and cartooning-related books,

call 1-800-657-1100 in North America,

email us at [fbicomix@fantagraphics.com](mailto:fbicomix@fantagraphics.com),

or write Fantagraphics Books,

7563 Lake City Way NE,

Seattle, WA 98115, USA

ISBN 978-1-60699-598-3

First Printing: July, 2013

Printed in China

# LOVE ROCKETS THE COVERS

by **Gilbert,  
HERNANDEZ**

**Oxnard | Studio City | Las Vegas | San Francisco**

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

HEAD  
KETS  
COVERS

**Jaime** and **Mario**  
**NANDEZ**

**Francisco | Pasadena | Altadena | Seattle**

PHICS BOOKS



1984 **JAI ME GI**



**LBERT MARIO**



ND

**KVET**





## EDITOR'S NOTE

***Love and Rockets: The Covers* includes all of the original covers created by Gilbert, Jaime and Mario Hernandez for the original, 50-issue run of the *Love and Rockets* comic book series (1982-1996, also known as *Love and Rockets* Vol. I) and the collected editions that were released concurrently throughout the series' run. Along the way, we've included scans of original art, production ephemera and actual magazine scans to showcase the stages of creation that went into creating and publishing these iconic comic book covers.**

**For this special edition, every effort was made to restore the work in such a way as to showcase the artwork itself, "de-cluttering" the pieces of extraneous elements — logos, bar codes, issue numbers, prices, etc. — that often obfuscated details, so that the artwork could be newly viewed as the potent images that they are. Also, virtually every cover herein was newly recolored to the original specifications to improve fidelity.\***

**While firmly riffing on comic book traditions, the Hernandez brothers created some of the most provocative, original and progressive covers of their era, as this book so acutely makes clear.**

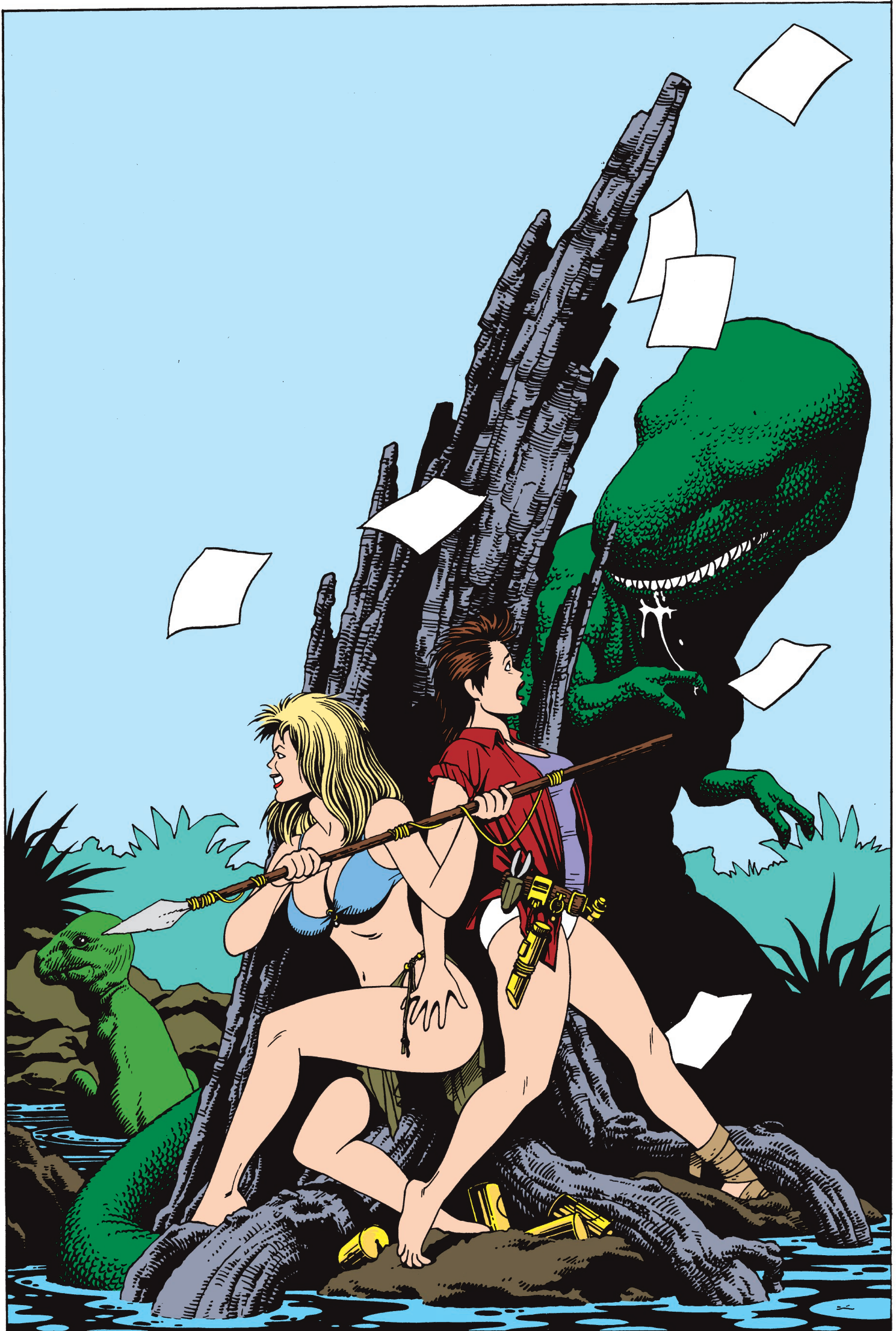
—ER

\* The few exceptions to these objectives were the result of either the logos being embedded into the original design in such a way that removing them proved illogical, or no original files existed that would allow us to replace the information underneath the logos. In the few exceptions where the original color is used, it's because a quality black-and-white file to recolor proved too difficult to find.

The images in this book originally appeared in the following publications:

*Love and Rockets* #1 (self-published, 1981)  
*Love and Rockets* Vol. I, #s 1-50 (Fantagraphics, 1982-1996)  
*The Collected Love and Rockets* Vols. 1-15 (Fantagraphics, 1985-1997)  
*Love and Rockets Short Stories* (Fantagraphics, 1987)  
*Heartbreak Soup and Other Stories* (Fantagraphics, 1987)  
*The Lost Women and Other Stories* (Fantagraphics, 1988)  
*The Reticent Heart and Other Stories* (Fantagraphics, 1988)

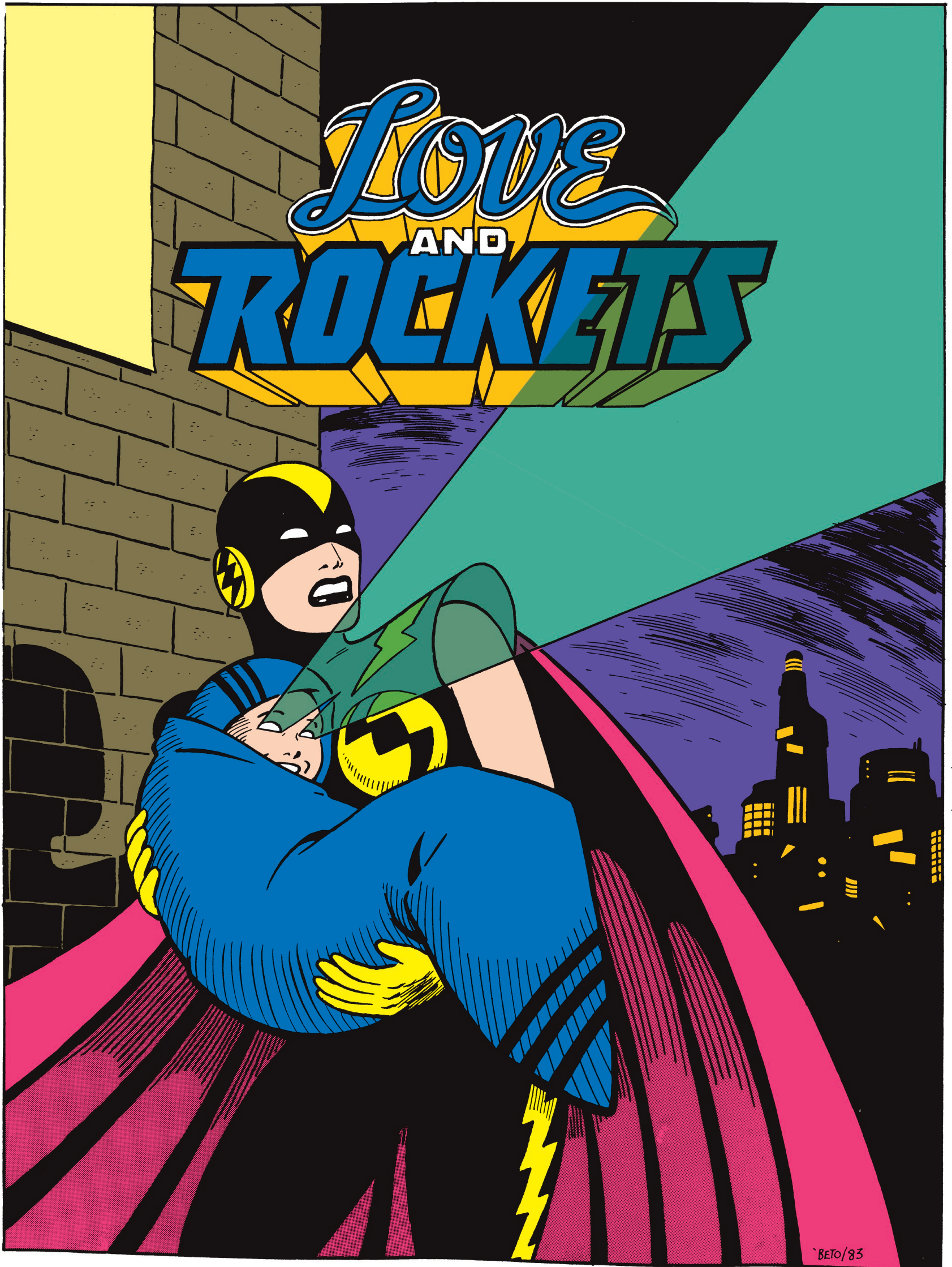








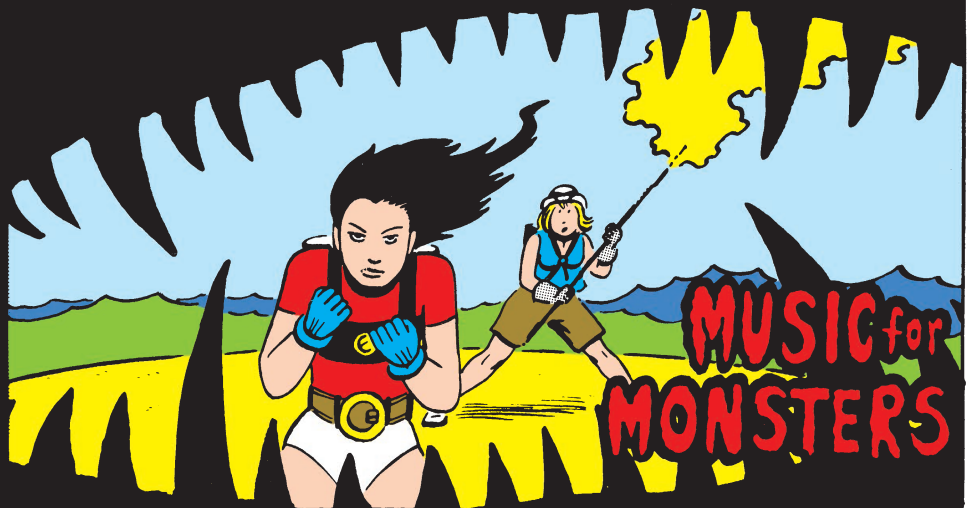
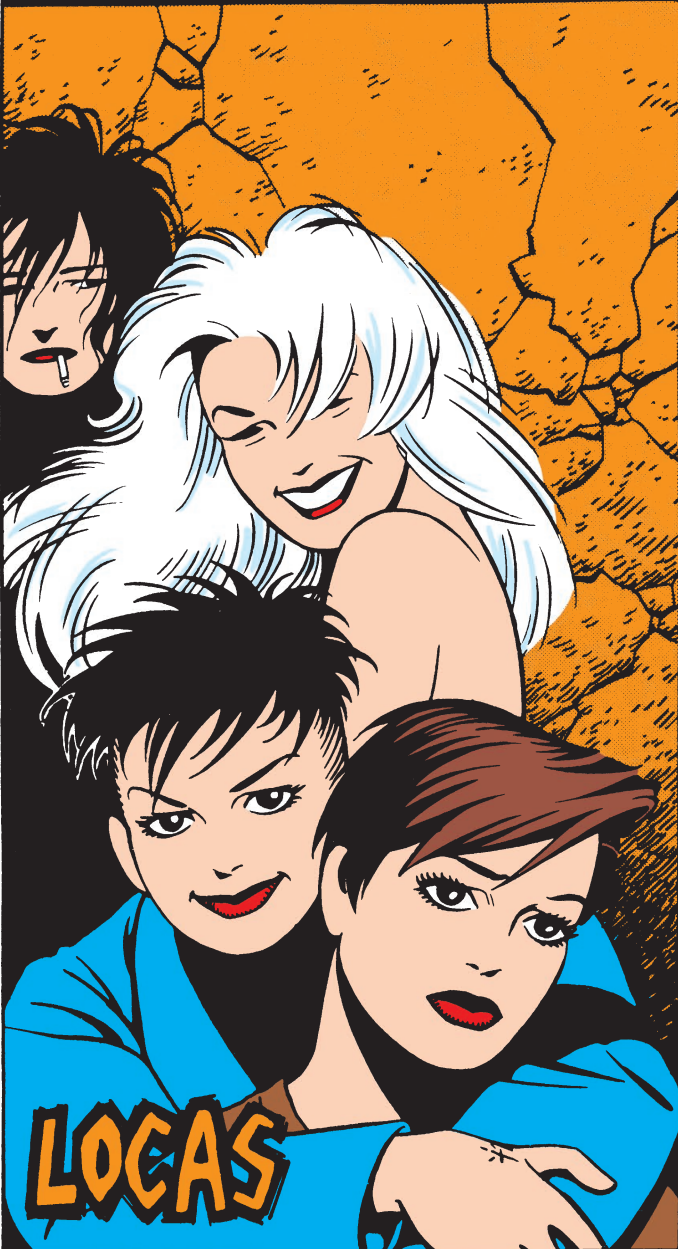






MARIG '83

# Love AND ROCKETS





'BERT!?'  
BERT!?' 82



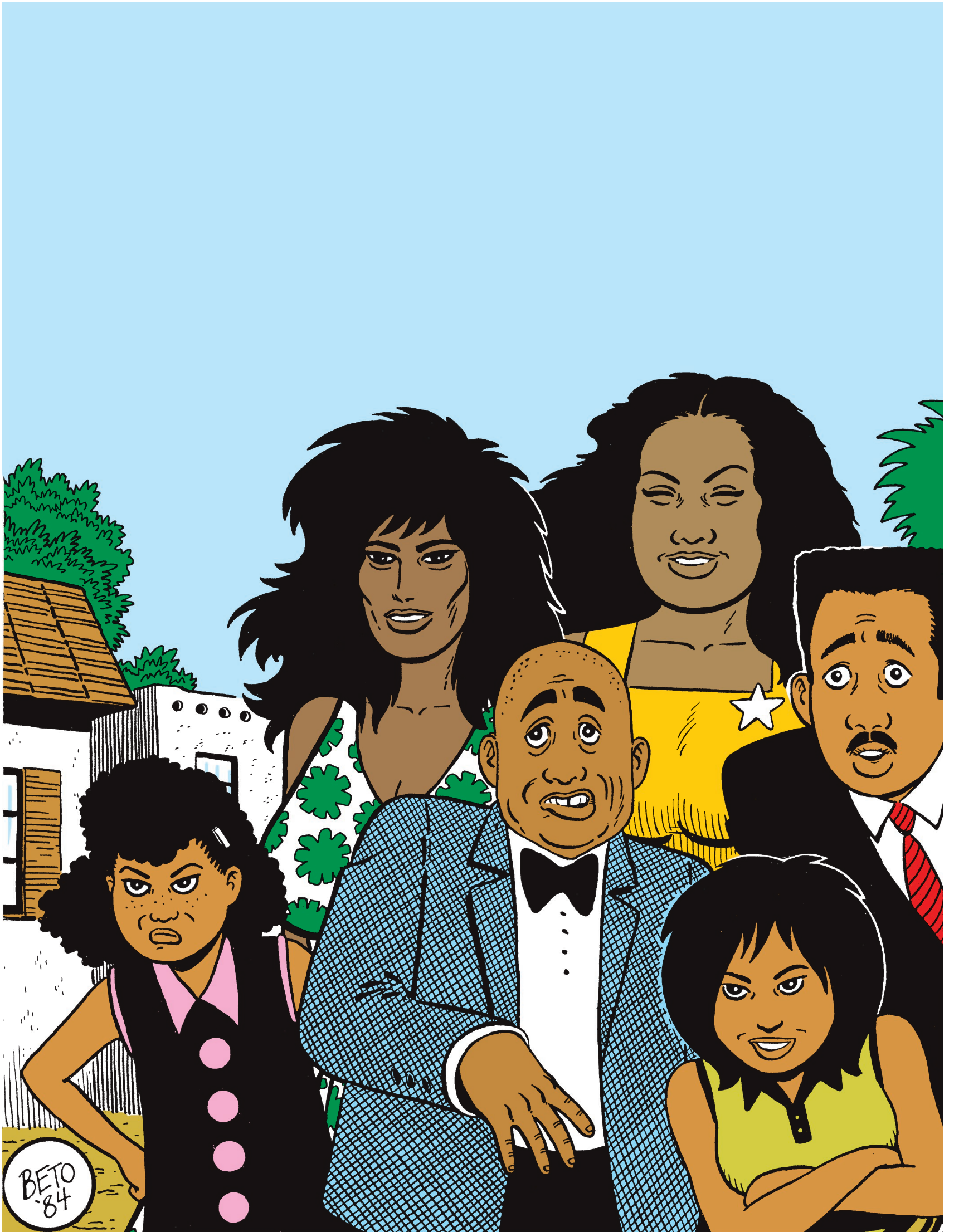




# ACT of CONTRITION Part 2

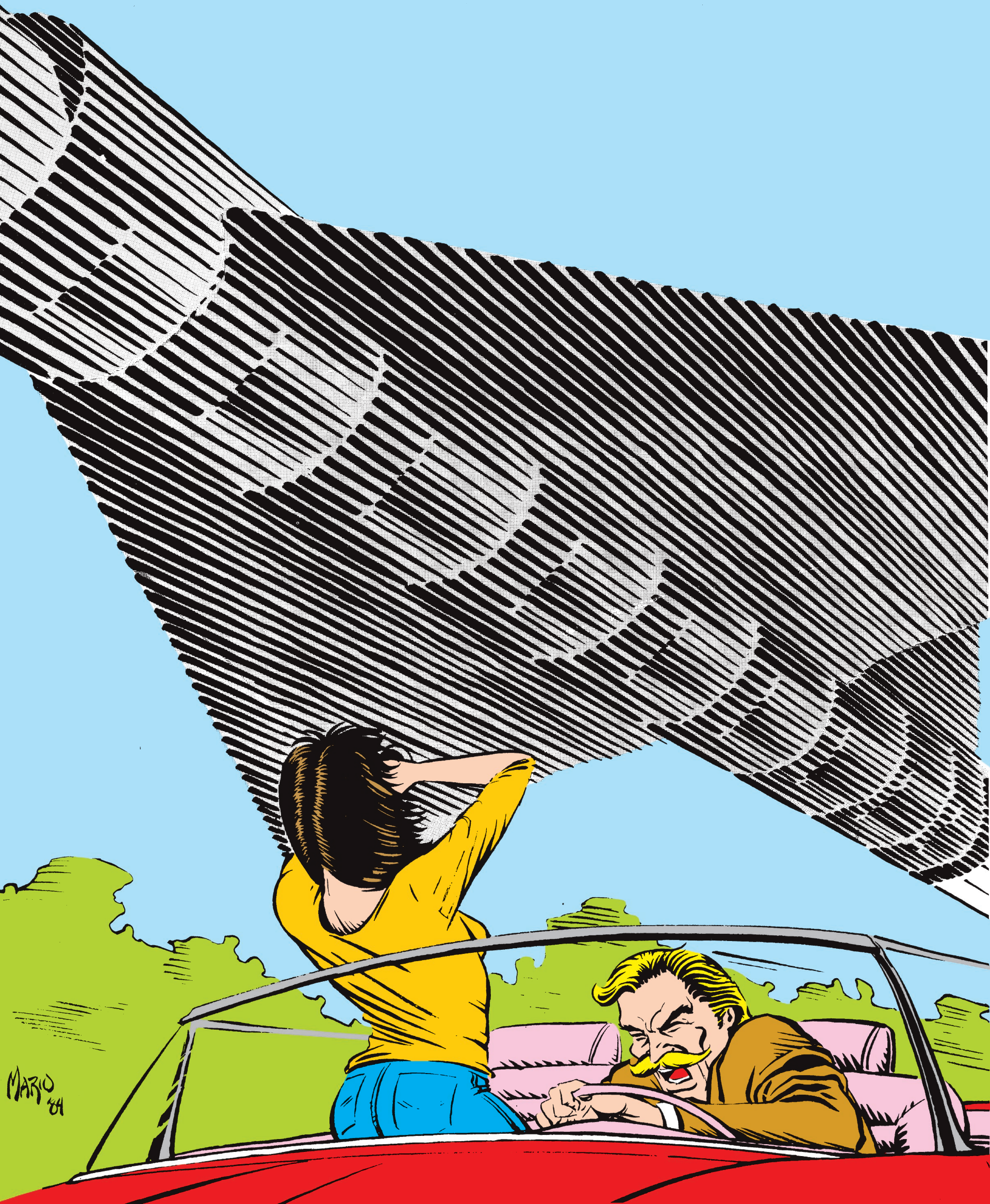






# Love AND ROCKETS™





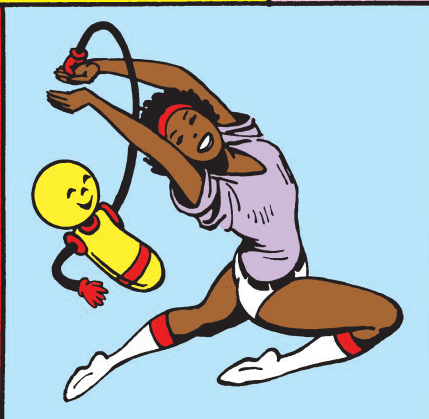
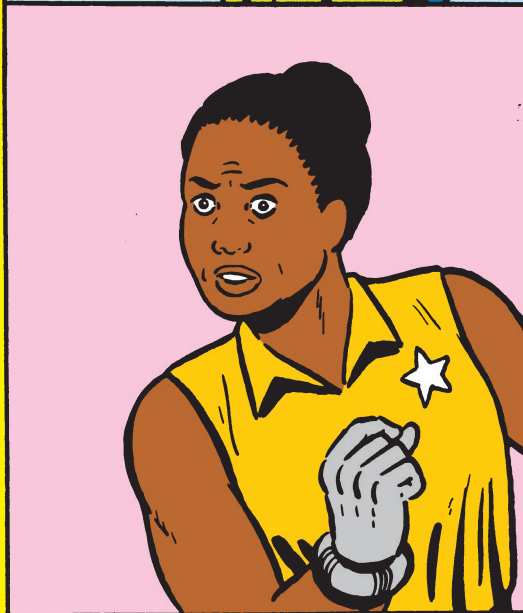
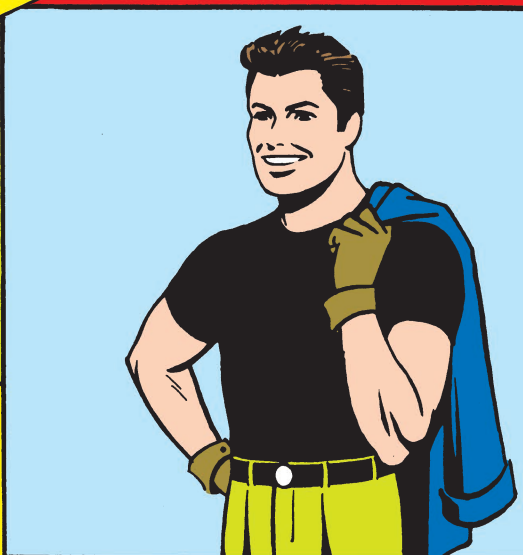
MARIO '84



1/18/84



# Love AND ROCKETS



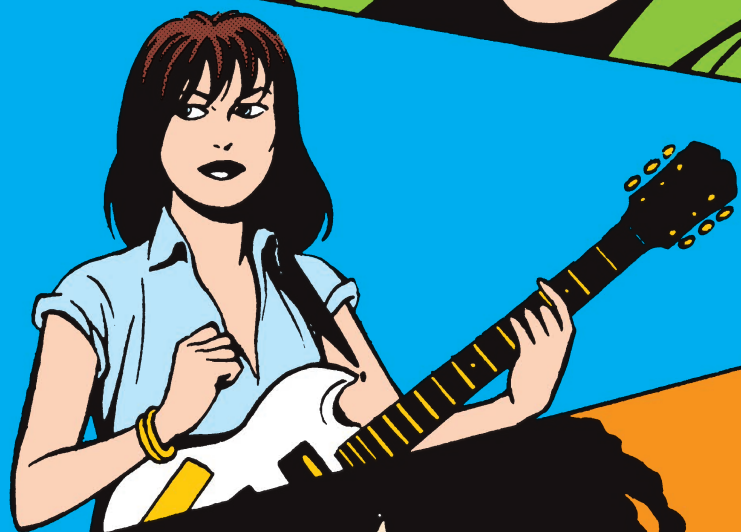
# Love AND ROCKETS





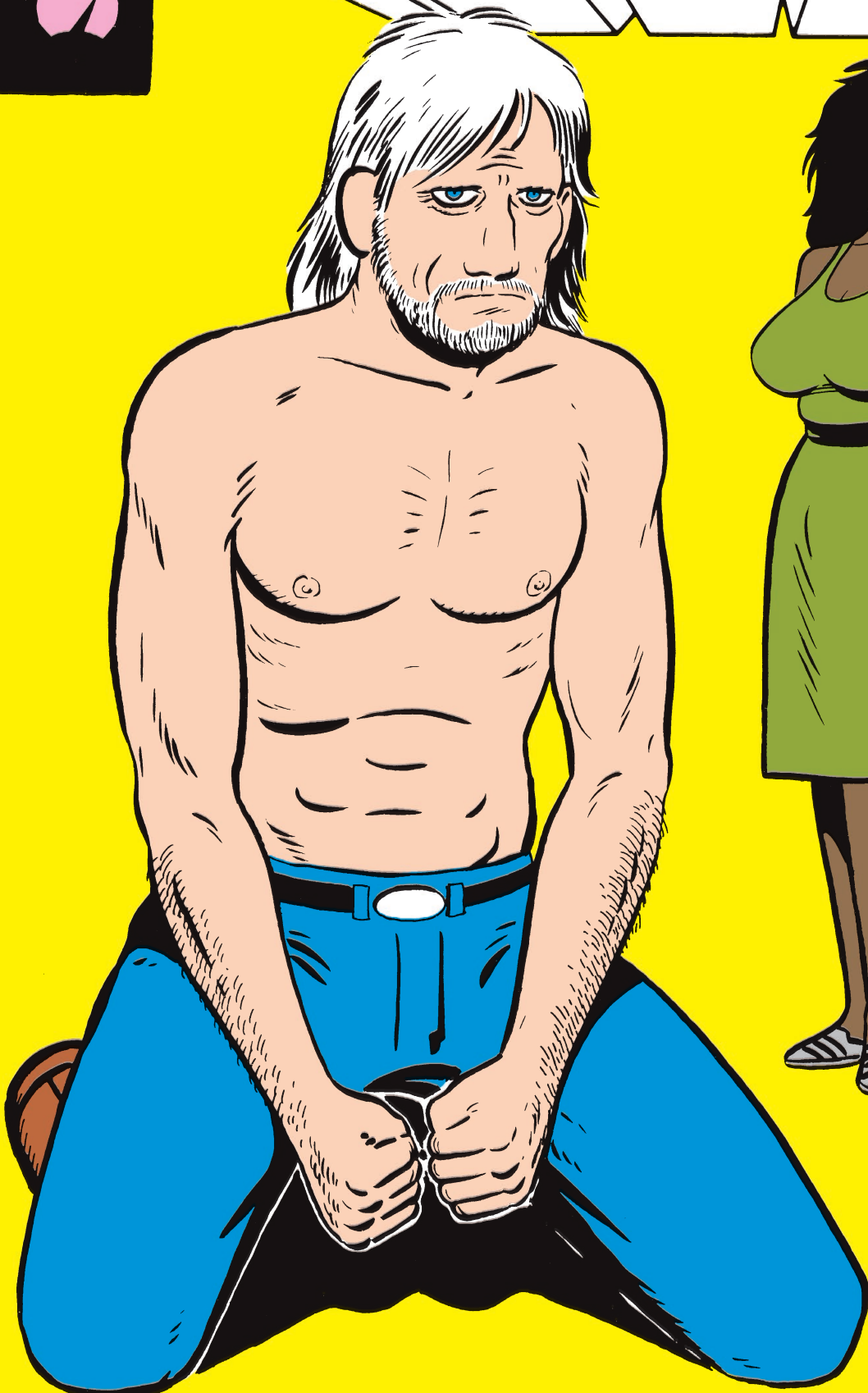
BETO  
-DEC  
84

LAKE



JAMES  
84.85

# Love AND ROCKETS



BETO/85-88

AN  
**AMERICAN**  
IN Palomar





**RENA**  
JAIME 84





BETO  
=85

# Love AND ROCKETS





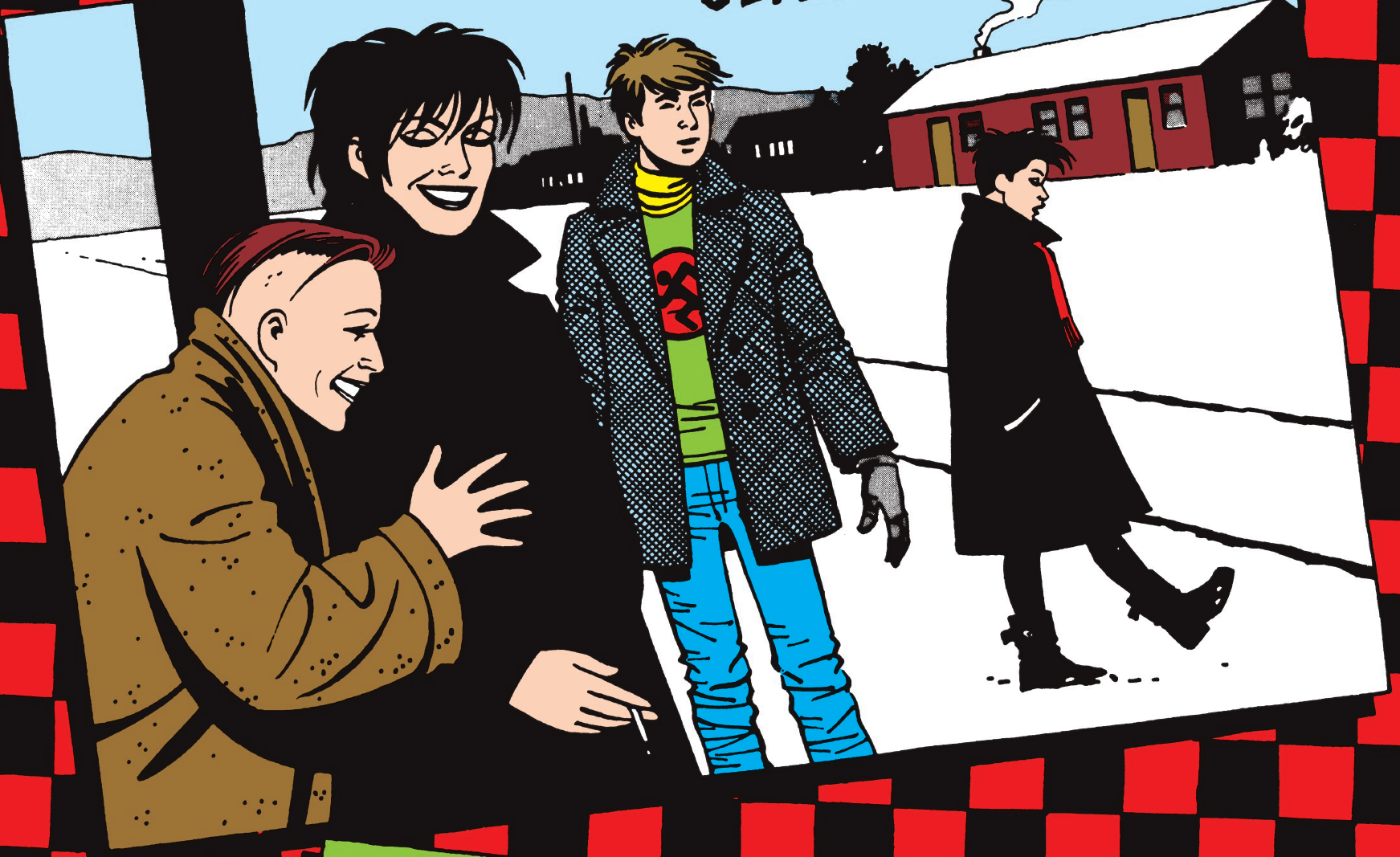
BETO  
-86-







# JERUSALEM CRICKETS



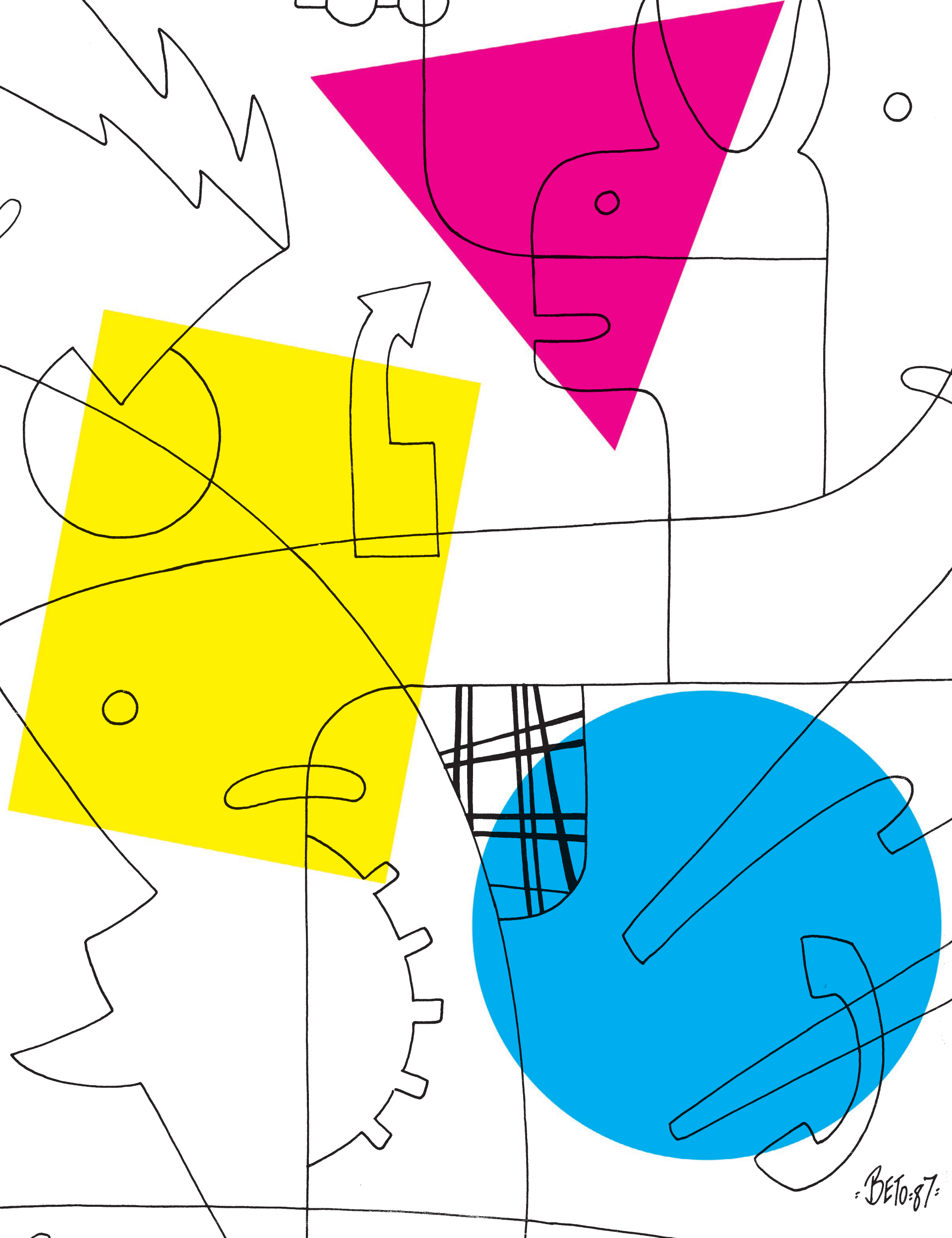
# VIDA LOKA



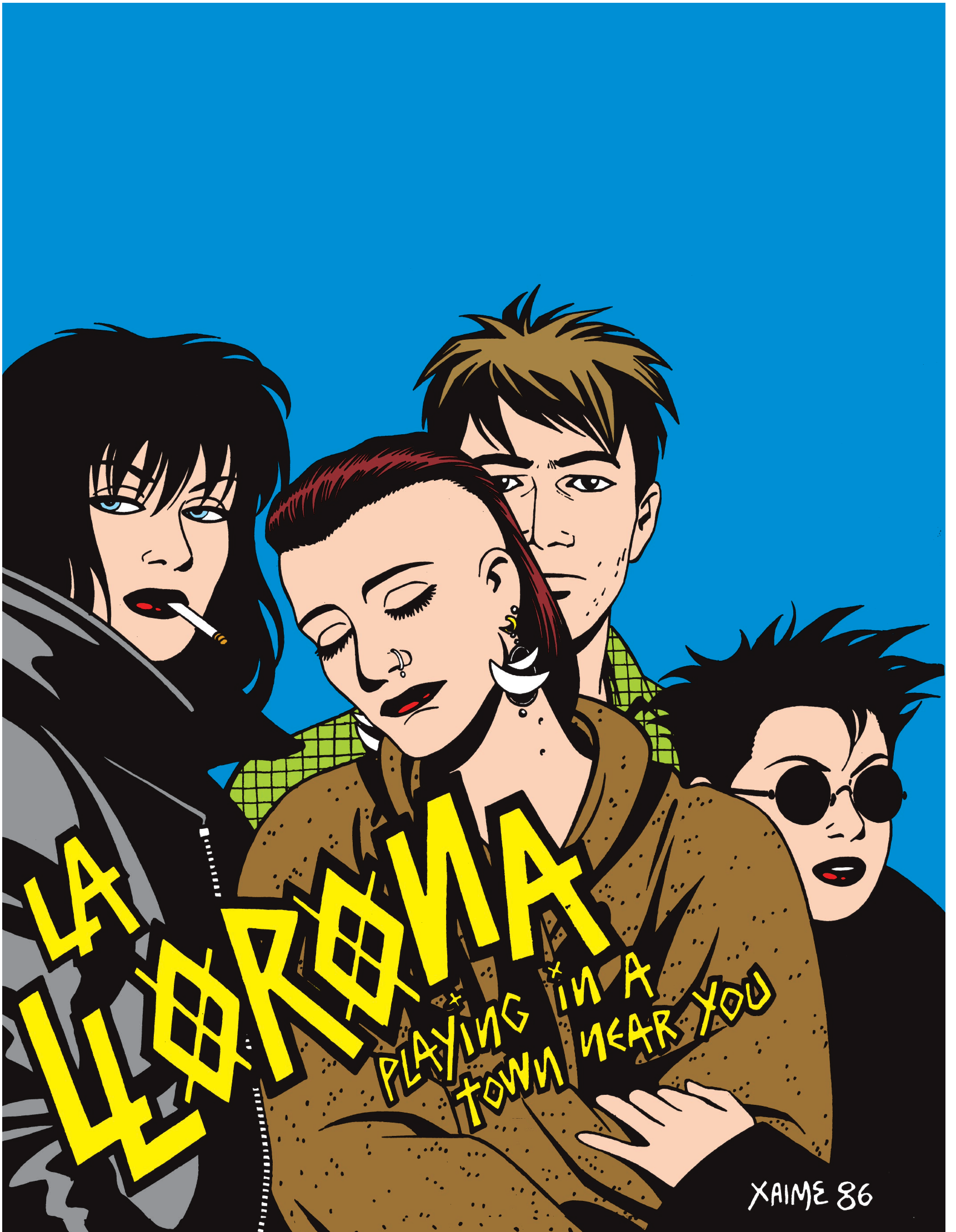
JAME 87



BETO  
86



:BETO:87:



**WILD  
WILD**

**\* COLONEL LEWIS \* VICKI GLORI \* ROYAL DON RAINS \***

# WRESTLING

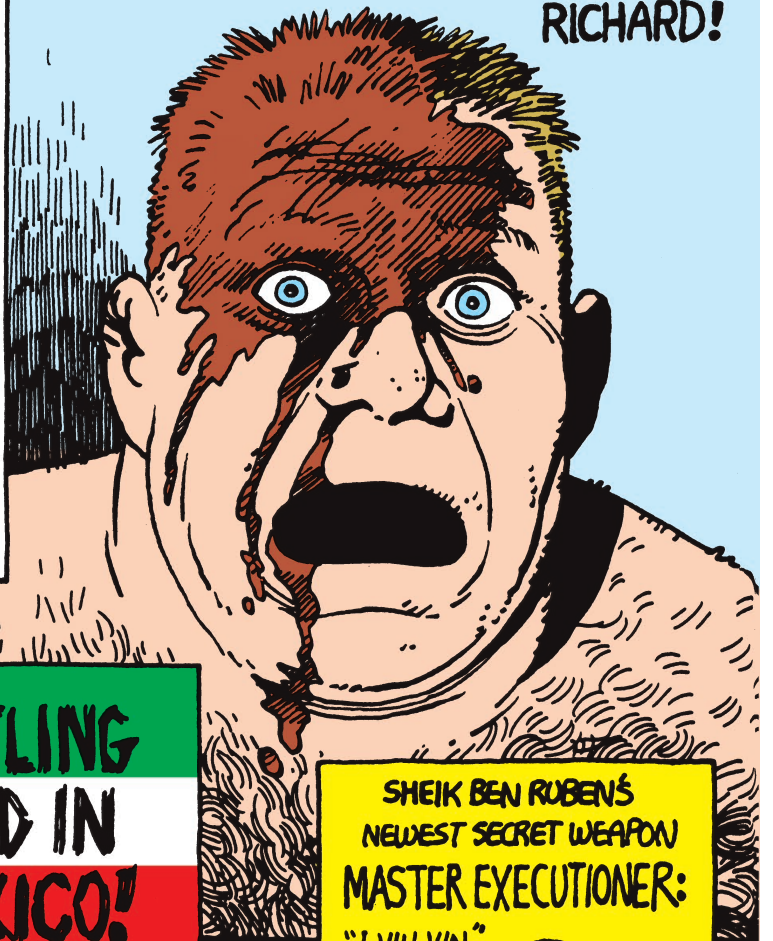
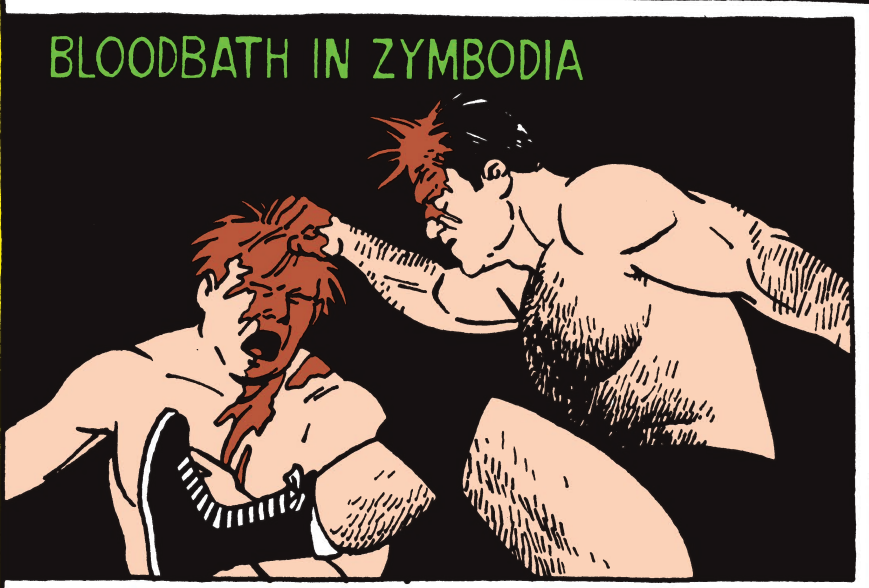
SEXY  
SPORTS  
INC.

JULY STILL 50¢

## 'CRUSHER HAS GONE TOO FAR!'

SEZ UFWA PREZ ZACK  
RICHARD!

BLOODBATH IN ZYMBODIA



**WRESTLING  
BANNED IN  
CARAXICO!**

SHEIK BEN RUBEN'S  
NEWEST SECRET WEAPON  
MASTER EXECUTIONER:  
"I VILL VIN."



EXPERTS ASK:

## ARE THESE RENA'S FINAL DAYS?

WILD WILD WRESTLING

JULY 50¢

SEXY SPORTS INC.





**BETO<sup>87</sup>**

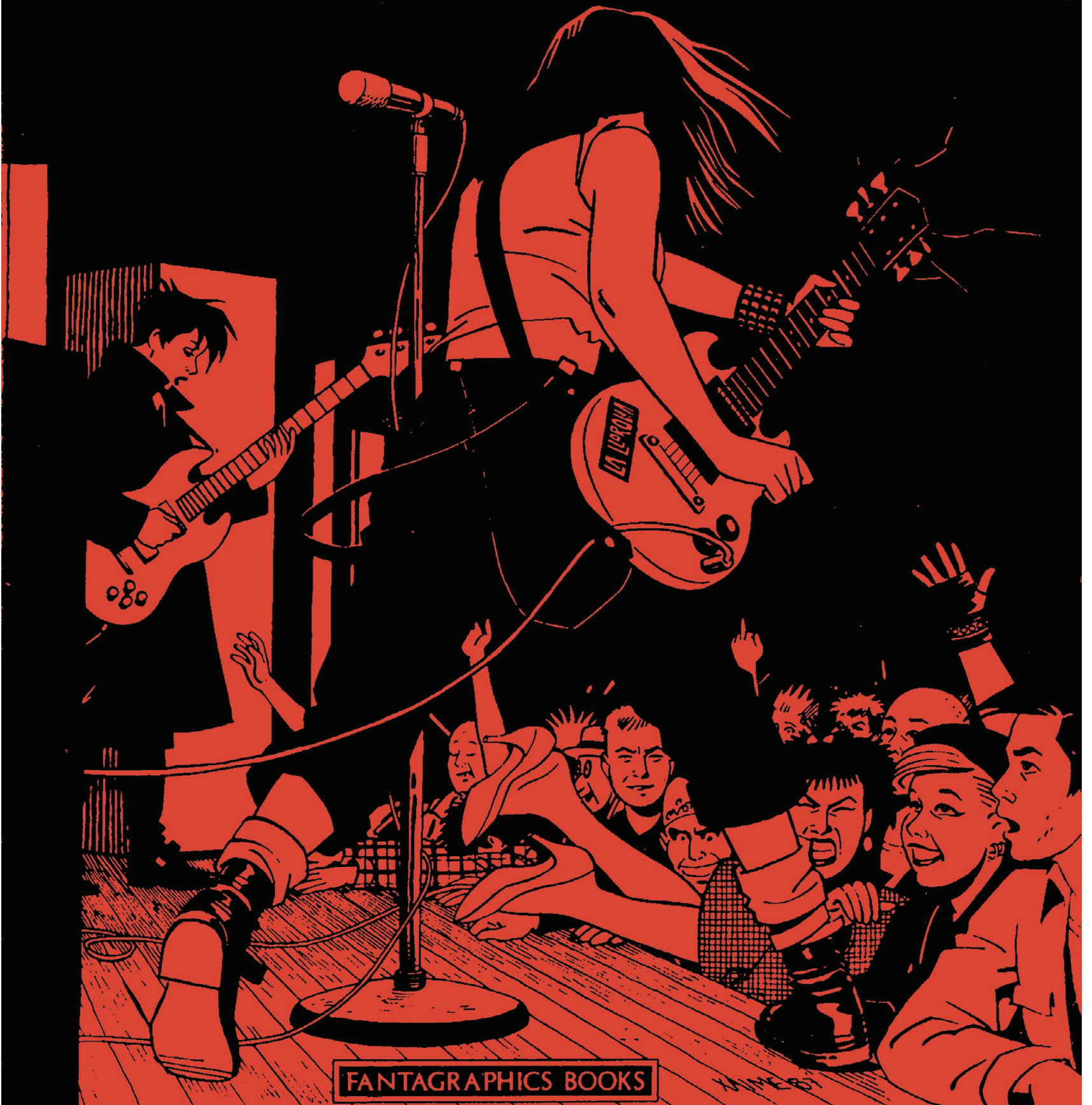




# LOVE & ROCKETS

Number 24 • \$2.25 (\$3.40 in Canada)

Recommended for Mature Readers



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

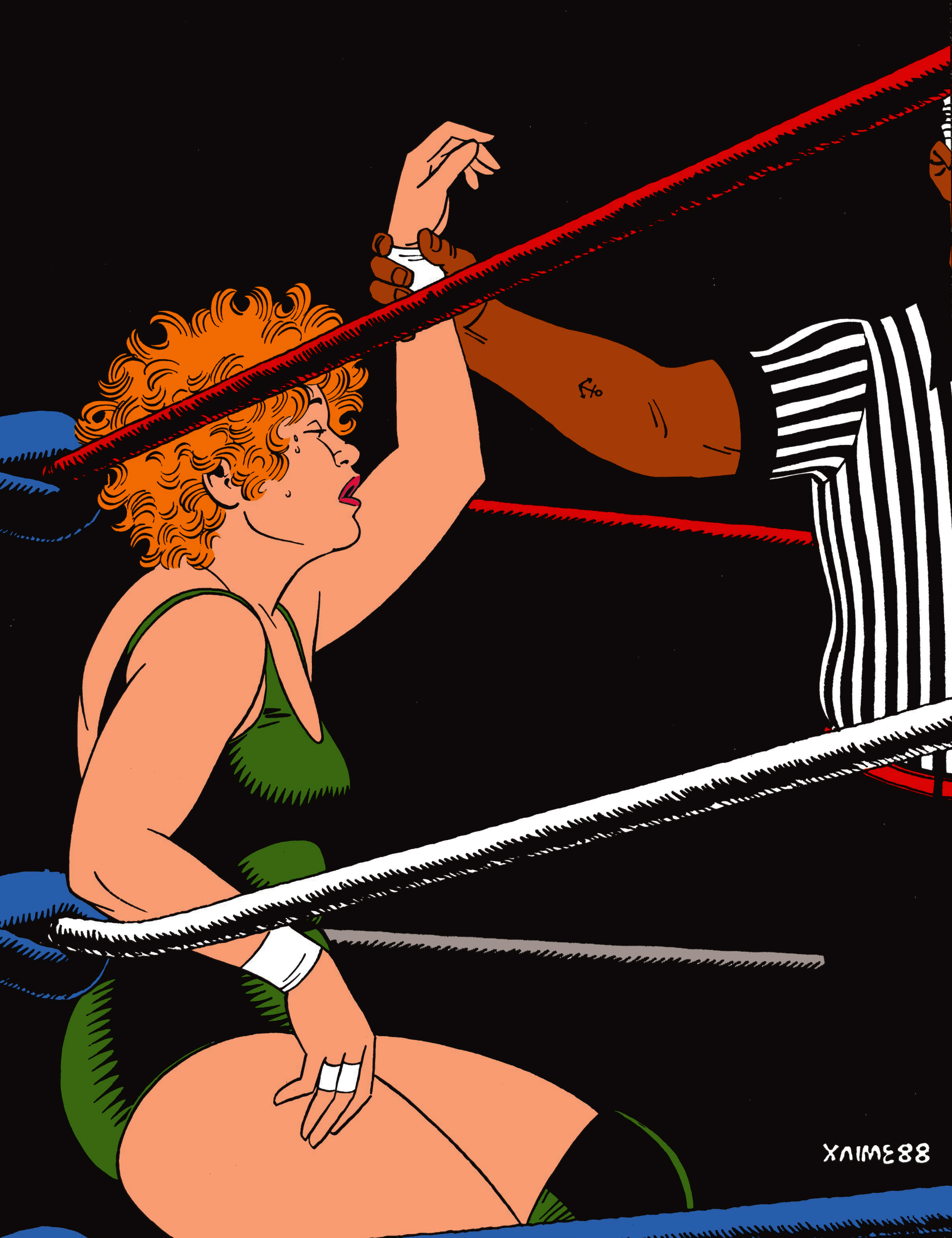


*Xaime 87*











BETO 87



BETO/89



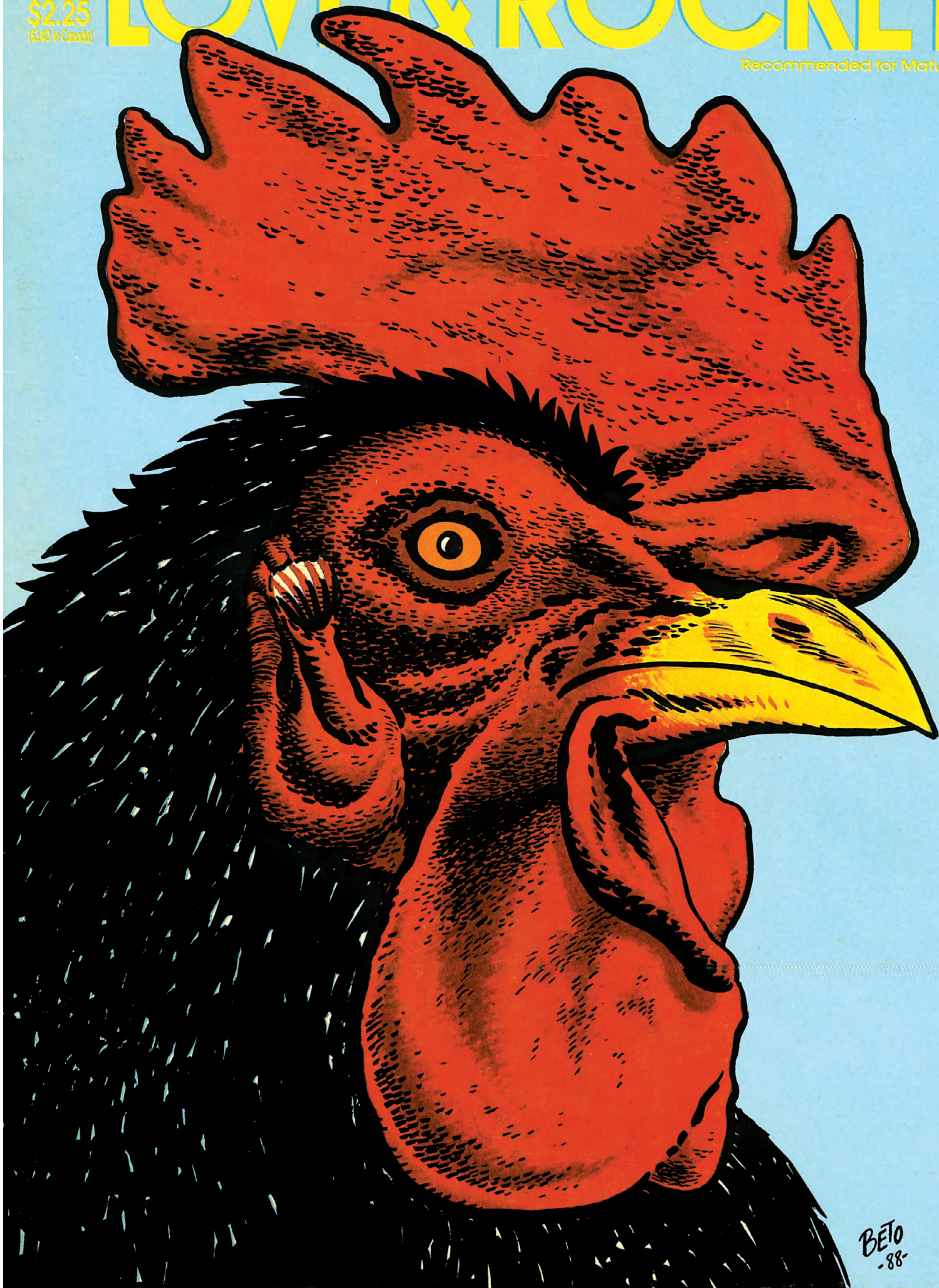


No. 29

\$2.25  
(\$3.40 in Canada)

# LOVE & ROCKETS

Recommended for Mature Readers.



BETO  
-88-

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS



REFLECTIONS  
IN A GOLDEN EYE  
CARSON  
McCULLERS

PISC

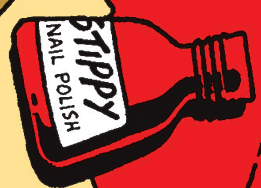
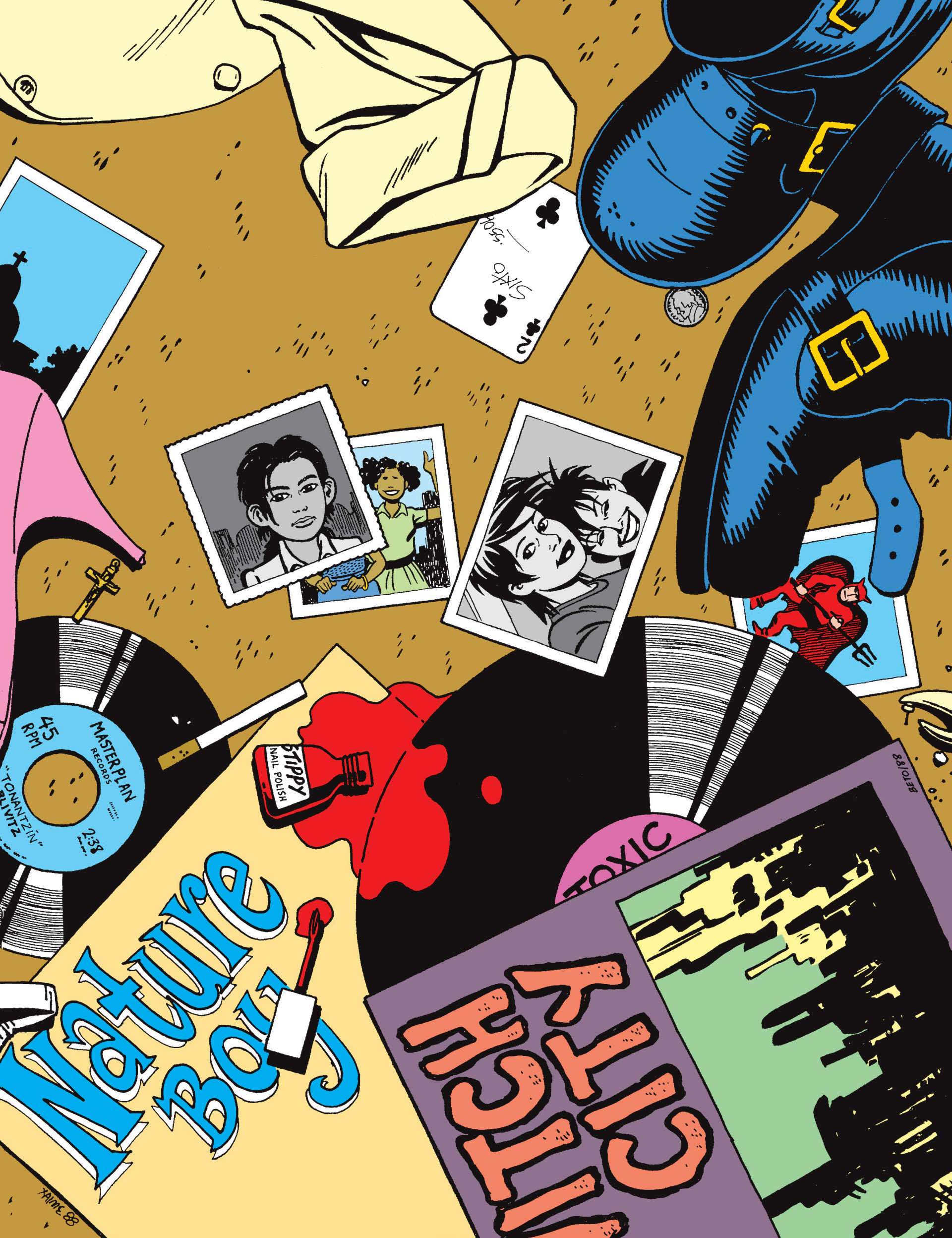
KEY

DRY ROT  
COMICS  
SERIES  
MOTEL  
8

21

DECEMBER 1988

ALTA LORONA LIVE BOOTLEG



**Nature Boys**

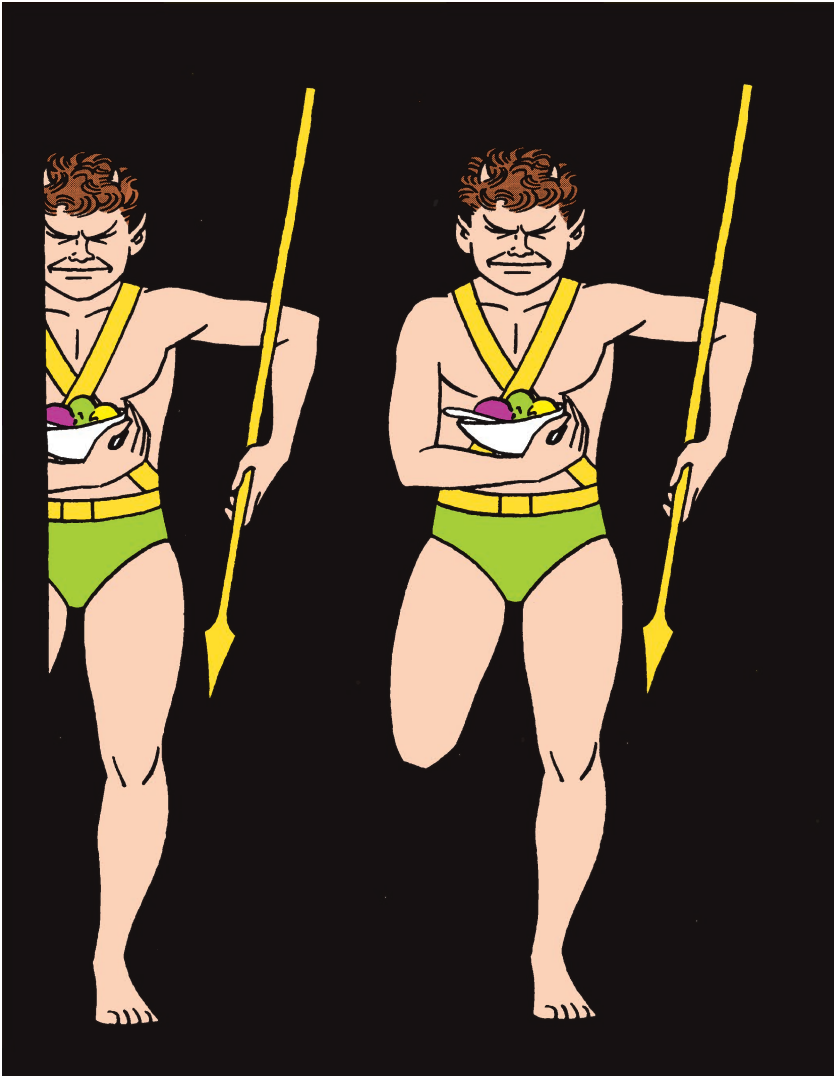




B.T.O/89



XAIME 89



SUCK ME  
FUCK ME

WESTSIDE  
HOMEBOYS  
SUCK

RUN,  
METZGER,  
RUN

POLICE

NO FOOLIN

NO  
PRISONERS

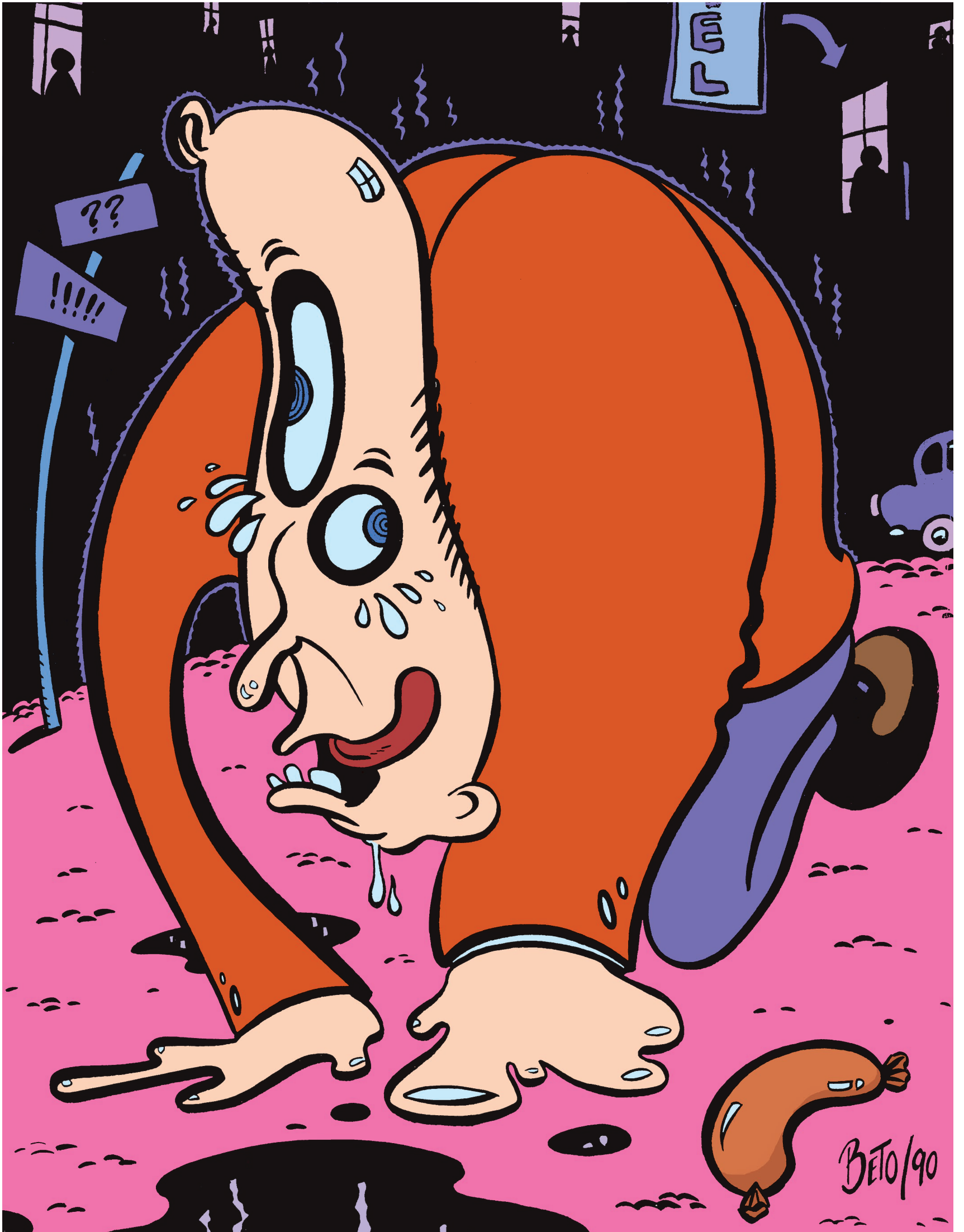
FUCK

VAM  
ROO

IGHT  
THE  
OWER

Belo 89

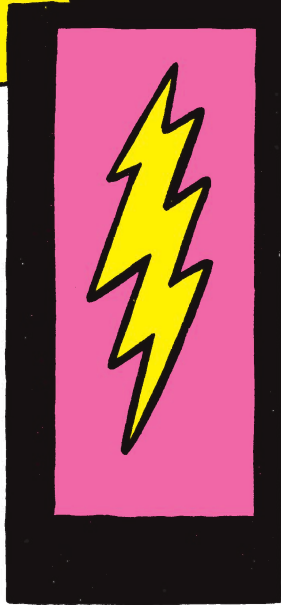
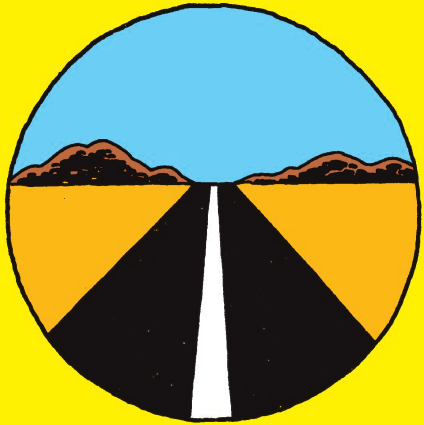






=XAME 89=





BETO/80









BETO/91

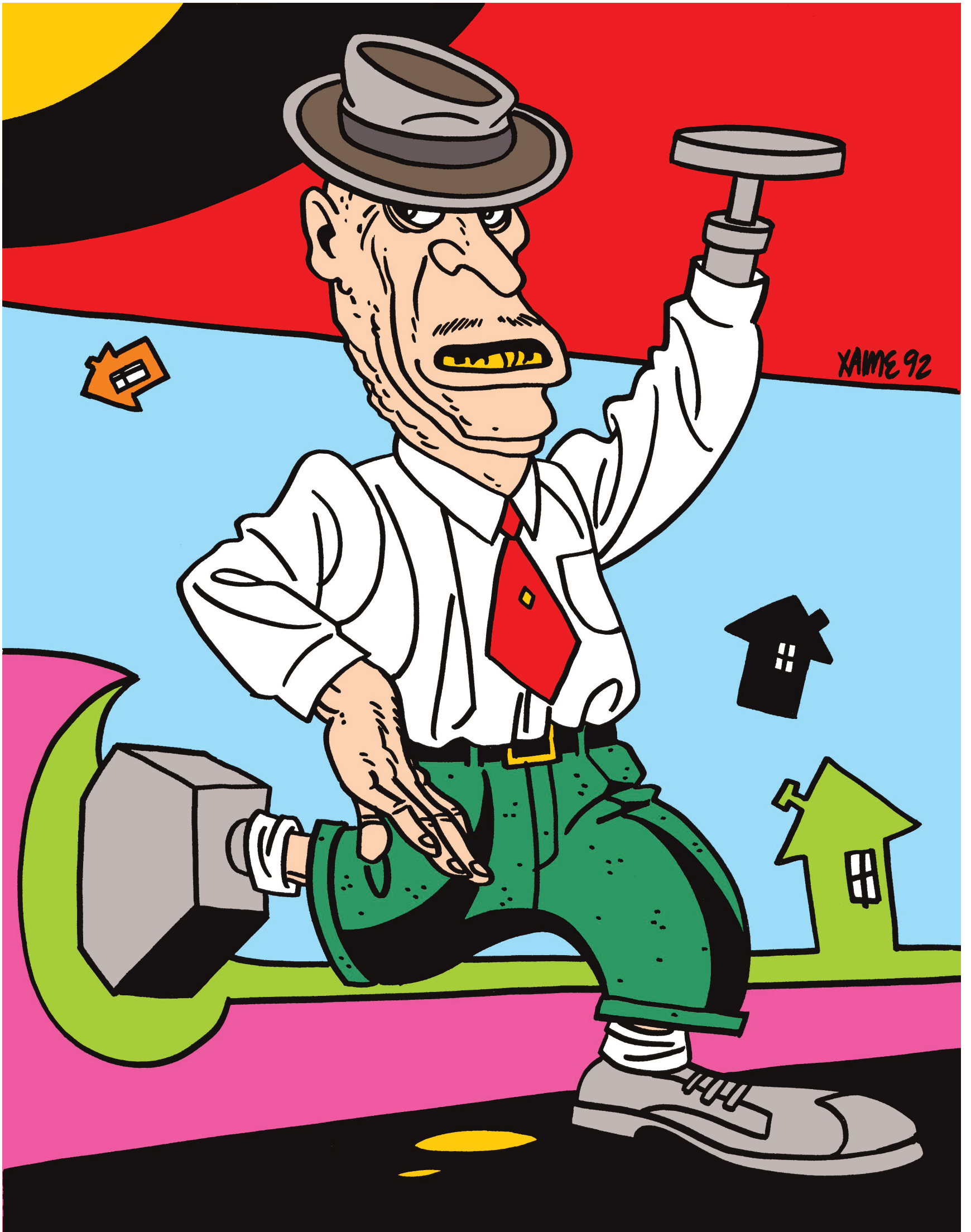
PRO  
CHOICE!

WHY  
DO YOU  
ASK?



BETO/91



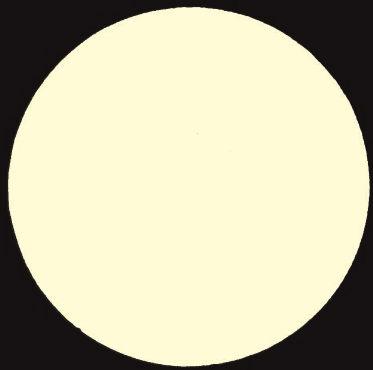






BETO192

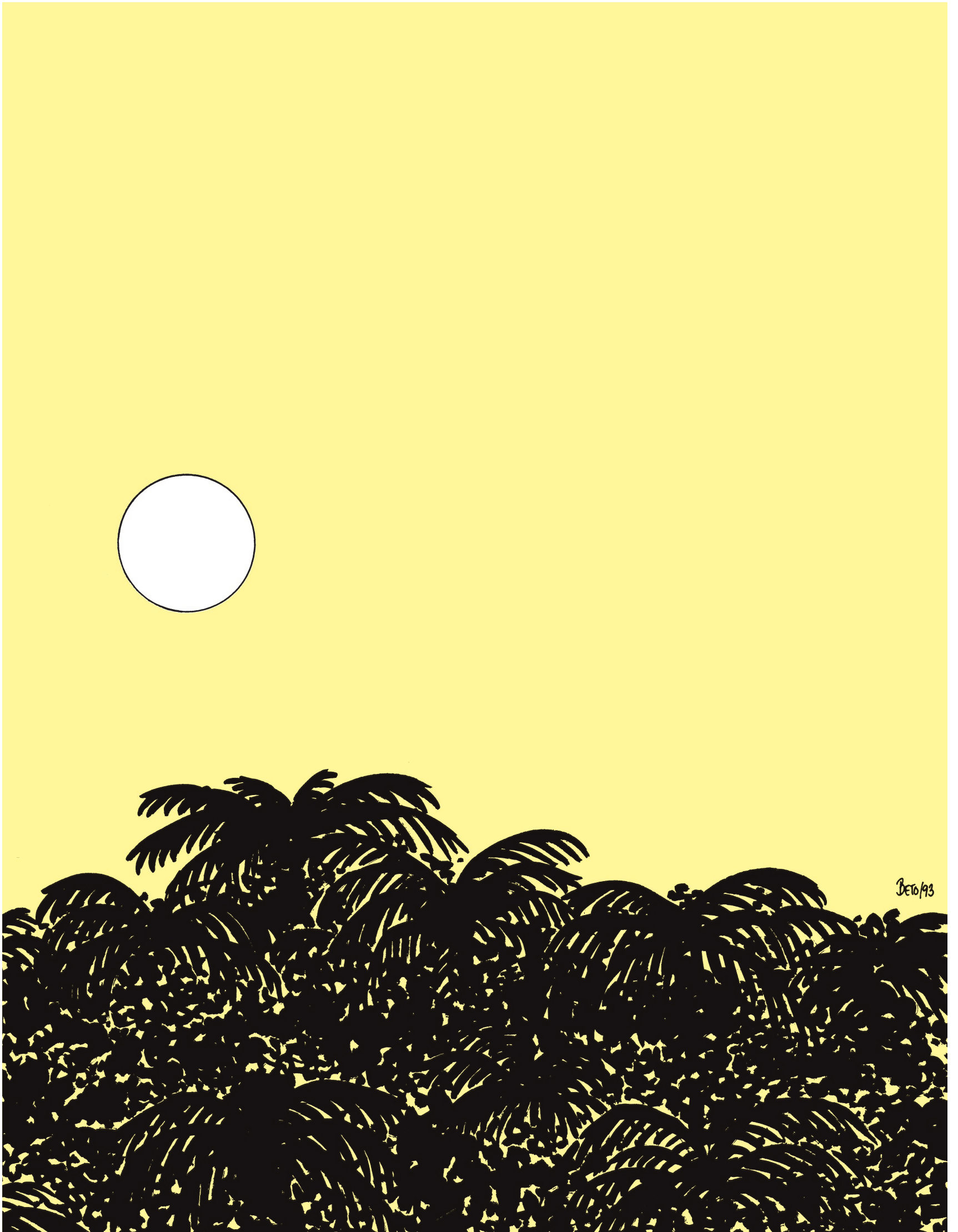




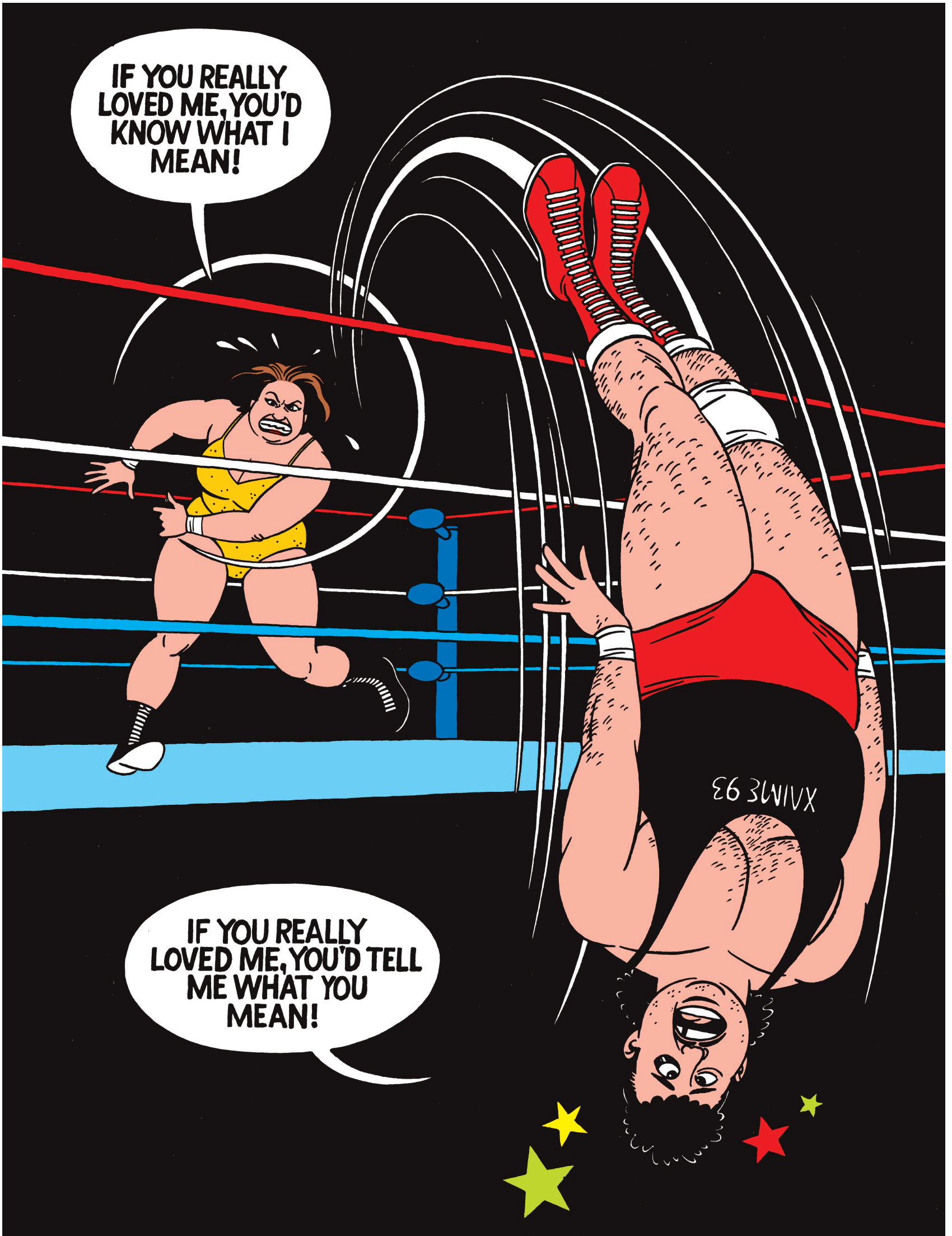




















BETO/94

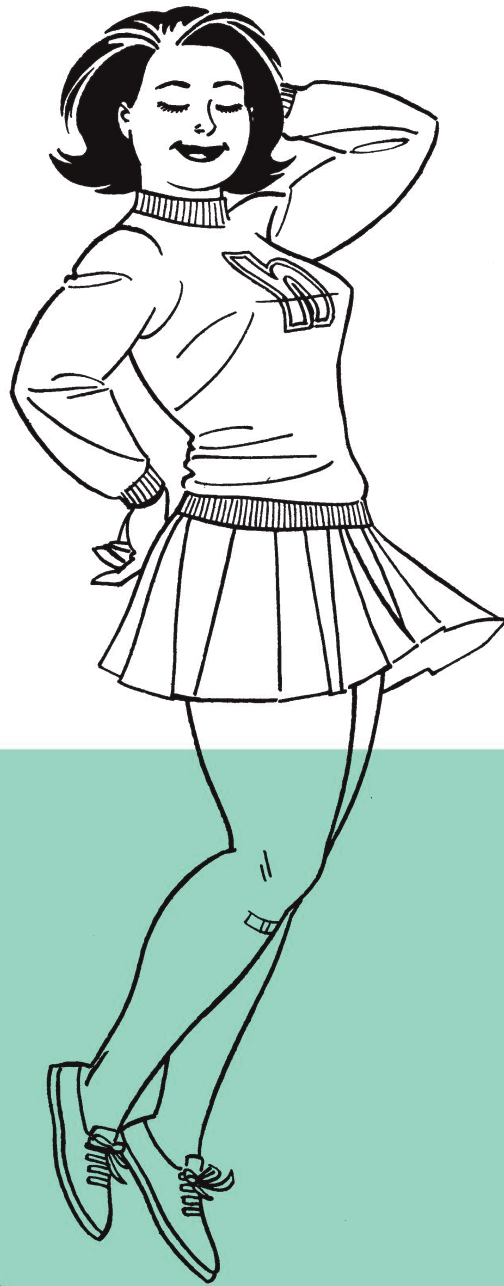


LOS RUDOS  
LOS RUDOS  
LOS RUDITOS

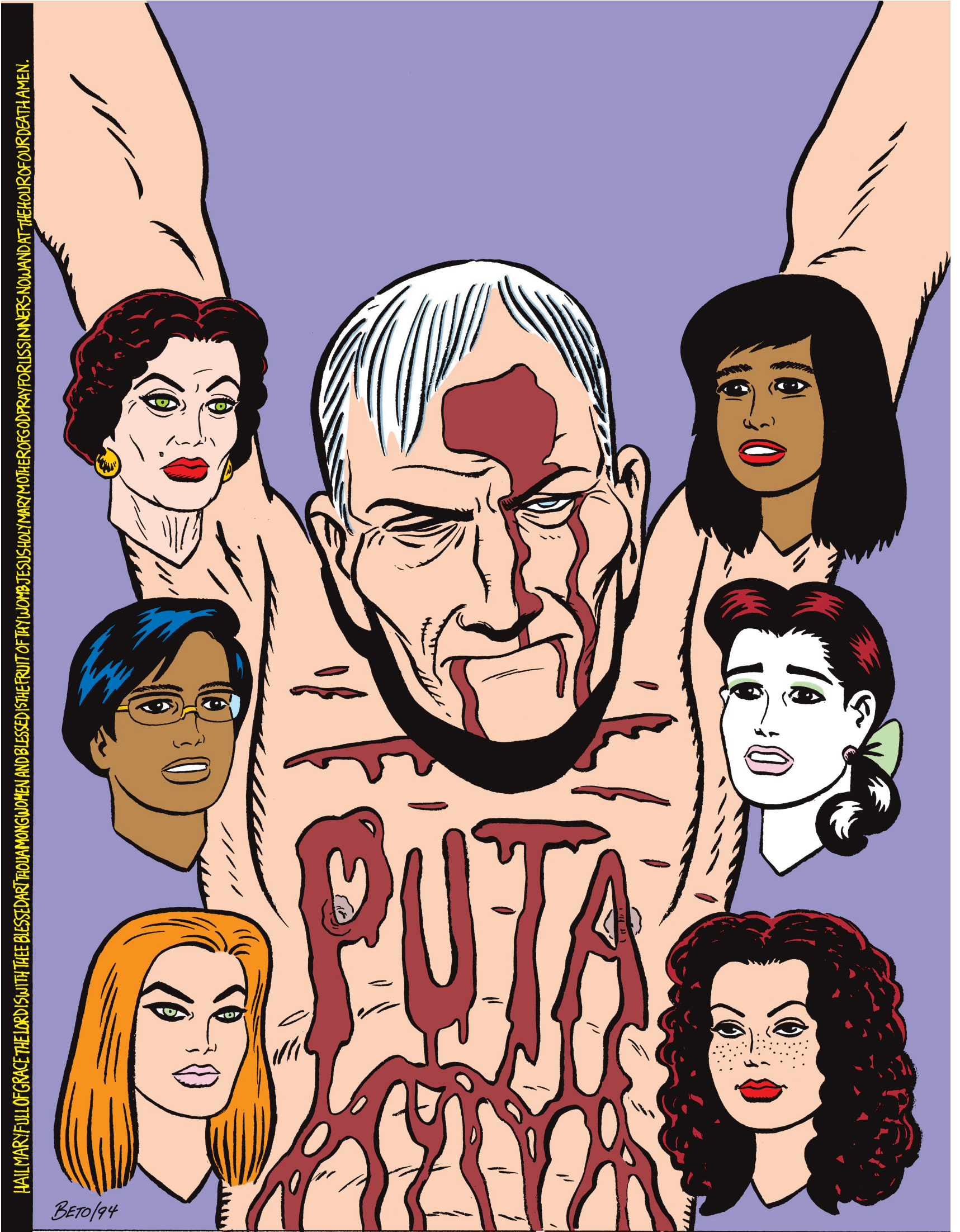
ARRIBA LOS TÉCNICOS

RUDOS

XAVIER  
94



HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE THE LORD IS WITH THEE BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB JESUS HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAY FOR US SINNERS NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH AMEN.



BETO/94



BETO/94







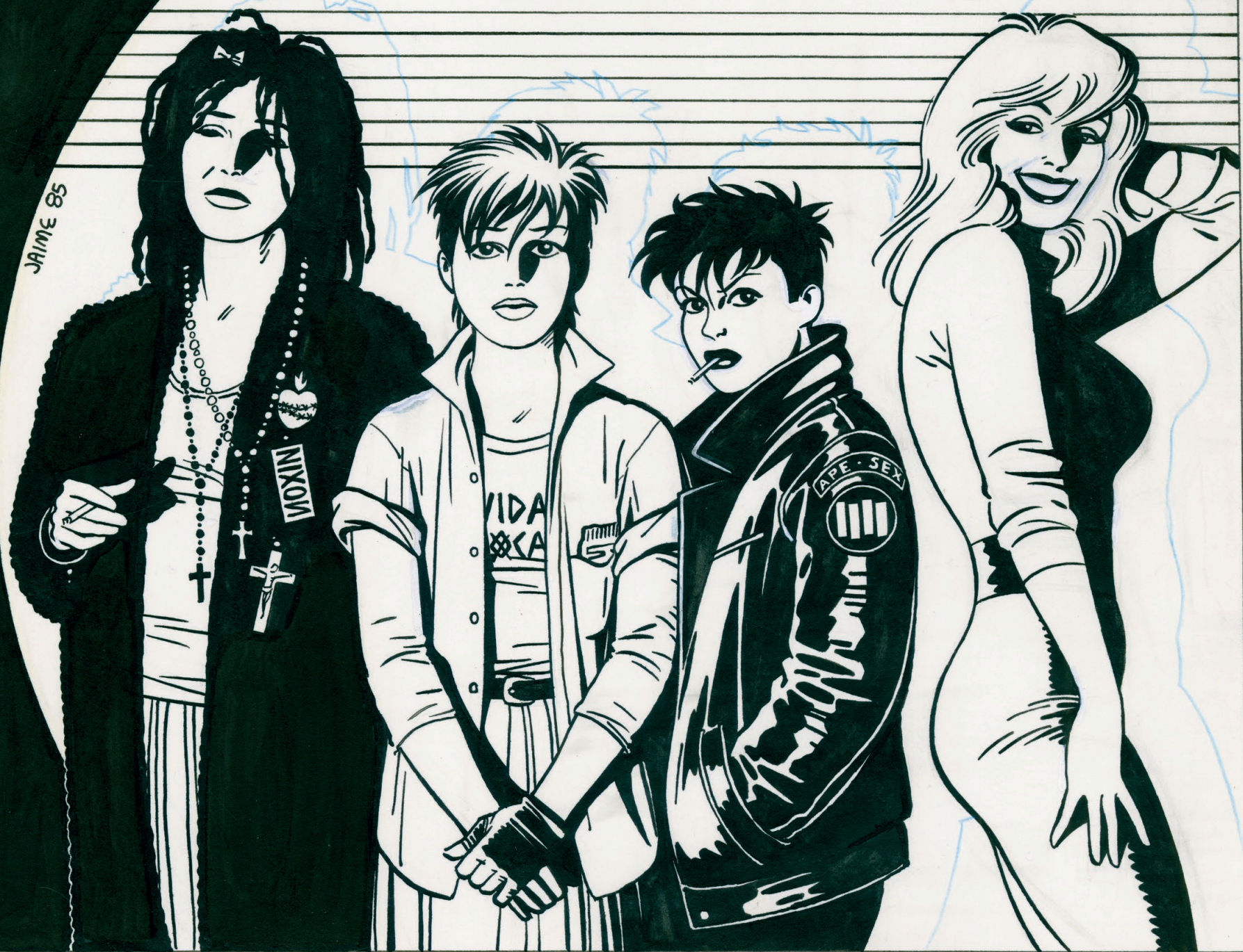








JRIME 85



LOS BROS HERNANDEZ

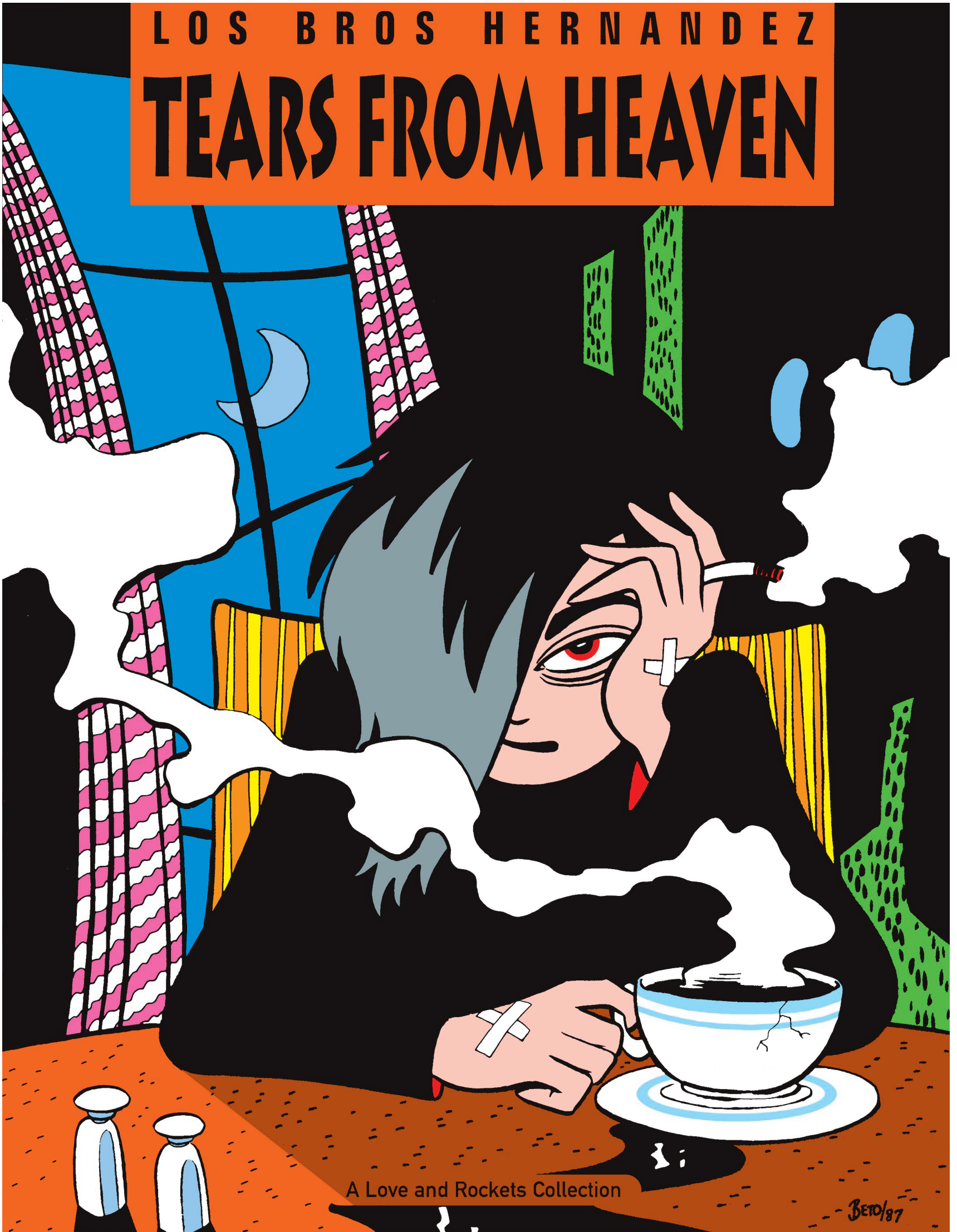
# MUSIC FOR MECHANICS







LOS BROS HERNANDEZ  
**TEARS FROM HEAVEN**



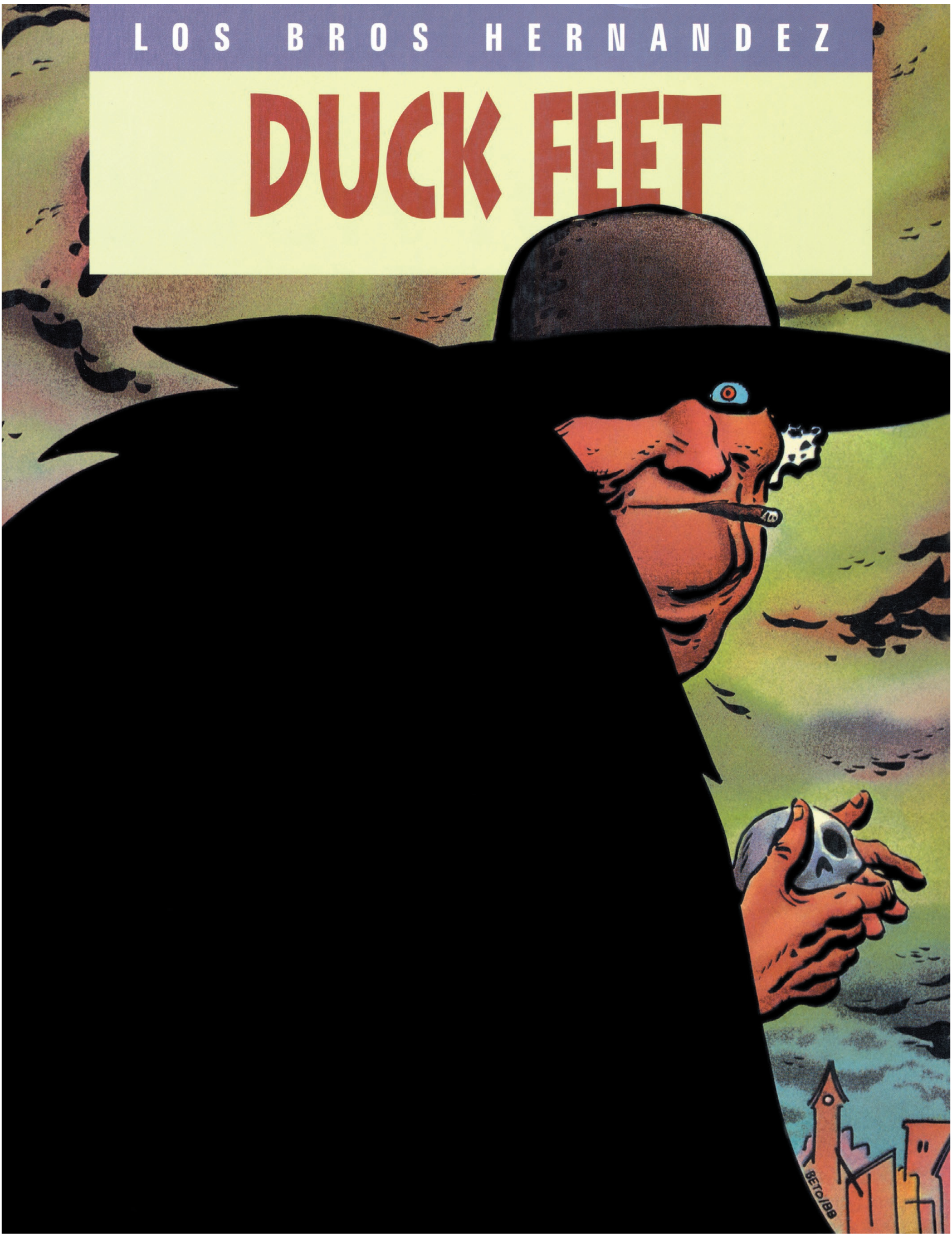
A Love and Rockets Collection

BETO/87



LOS BROS HERNANDEZ

# DUCK FEET



BETO/BB



GILBERT HERNANDEZ

# BLOOD OF PALOMAR



BETO/89





BETD/92







BETO/94



Chester  
SQUARE

BE R  
WINE

MOTEL

XAIMÉ 96

J A I M E H E R N A N D E Z

# CHESTER SQUARE



A Love and Rockets Collection

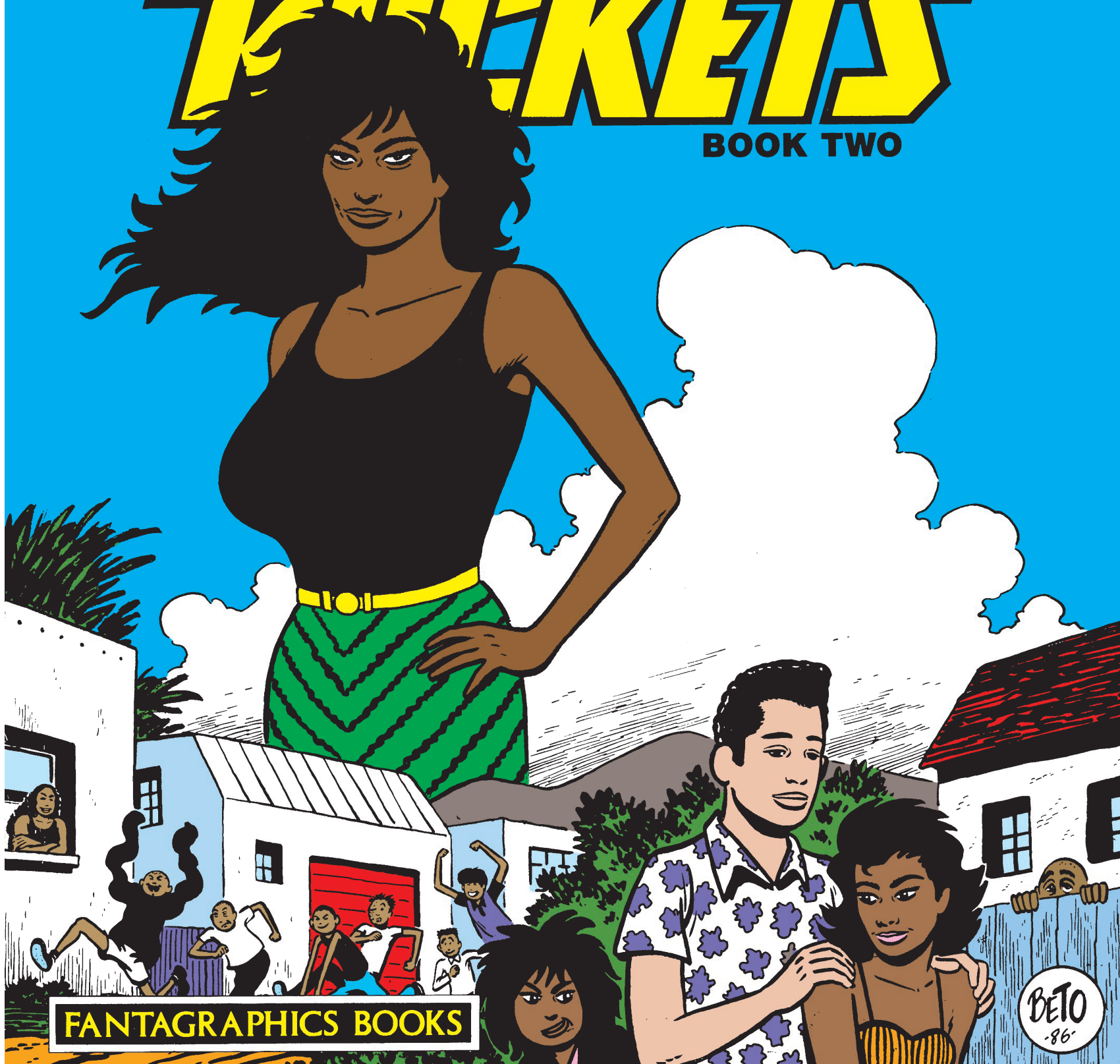




LOS BROTHERS HERNANDEZ

# Love AND TRICKETS

BOOK TWO

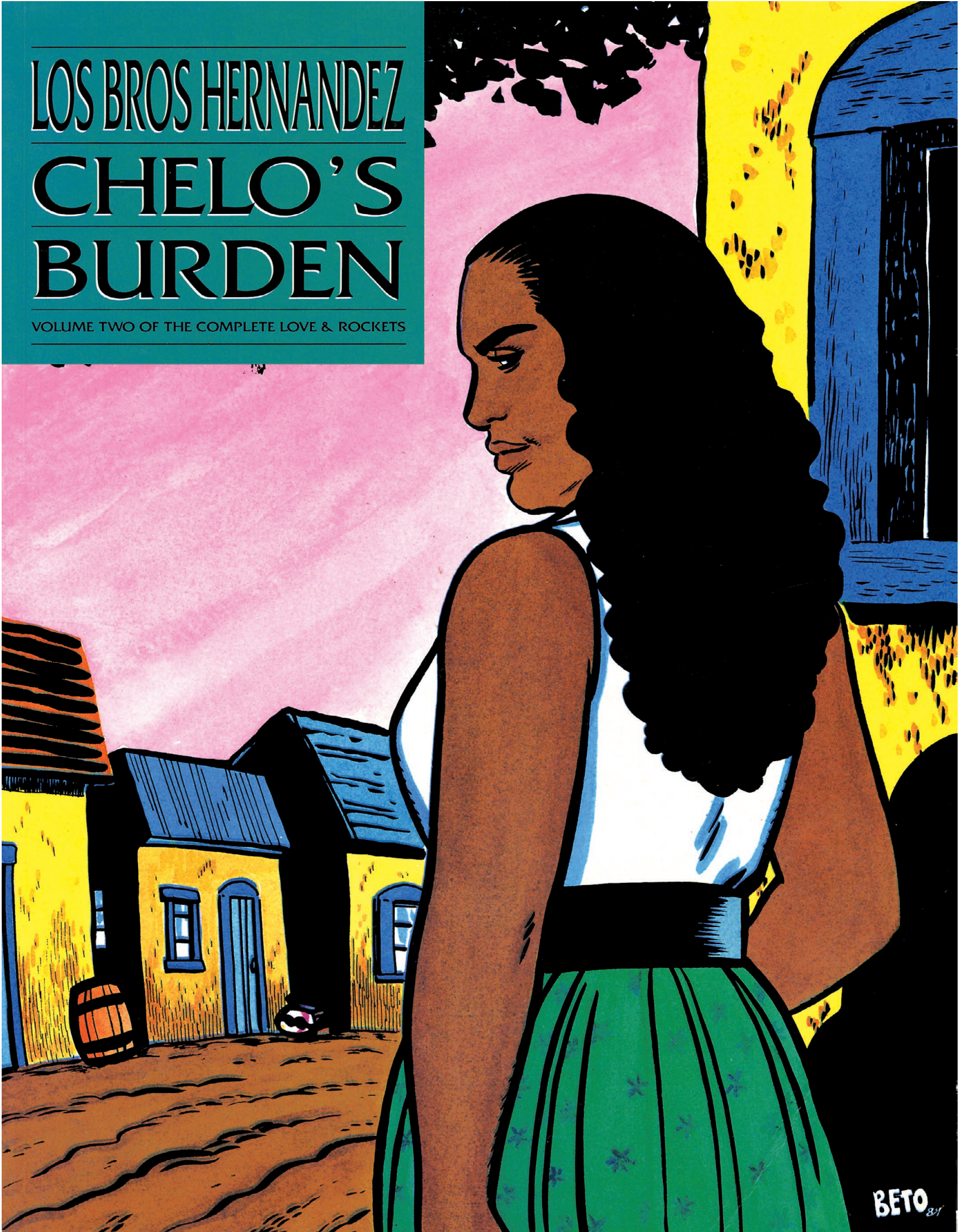


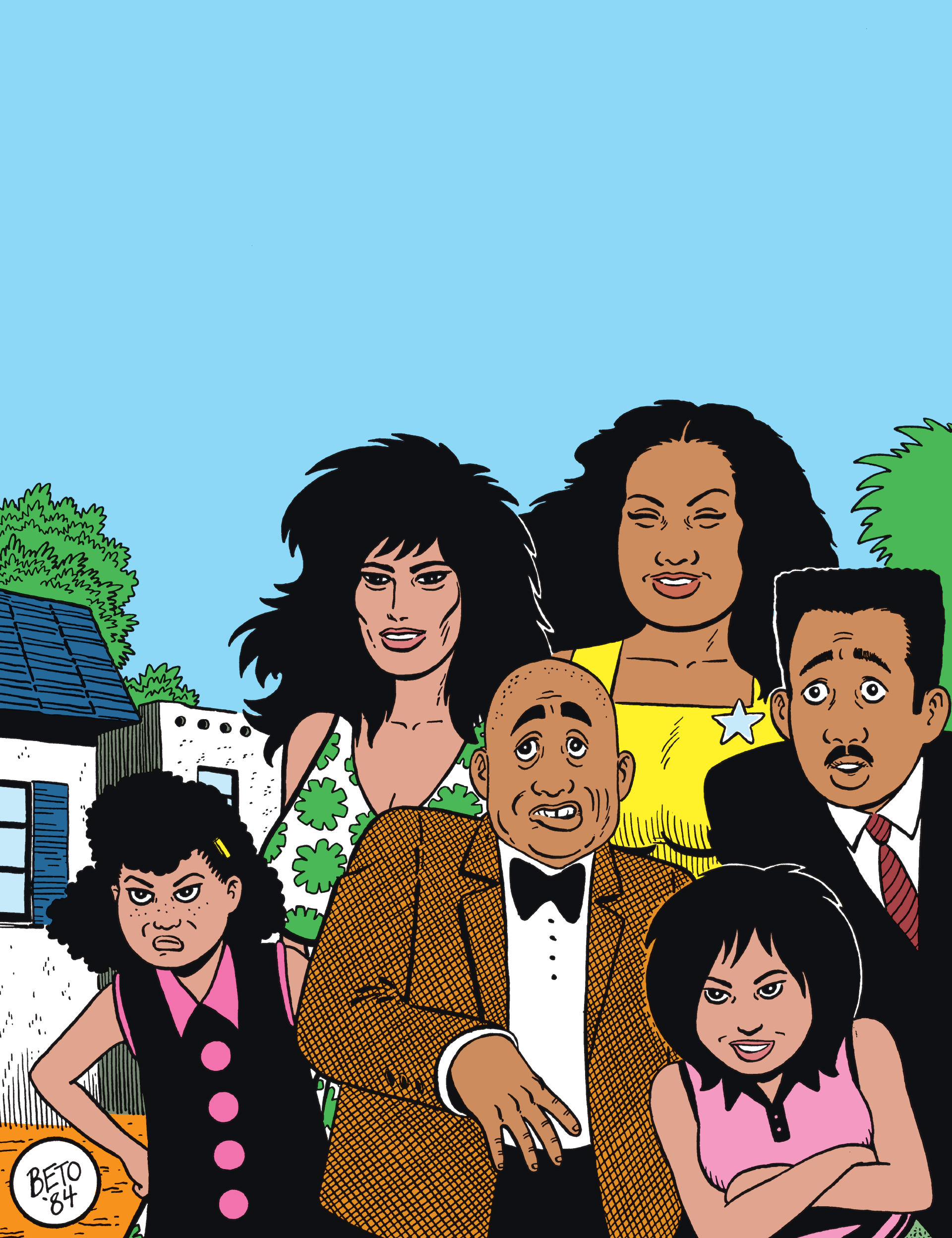
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

BETO  
'86

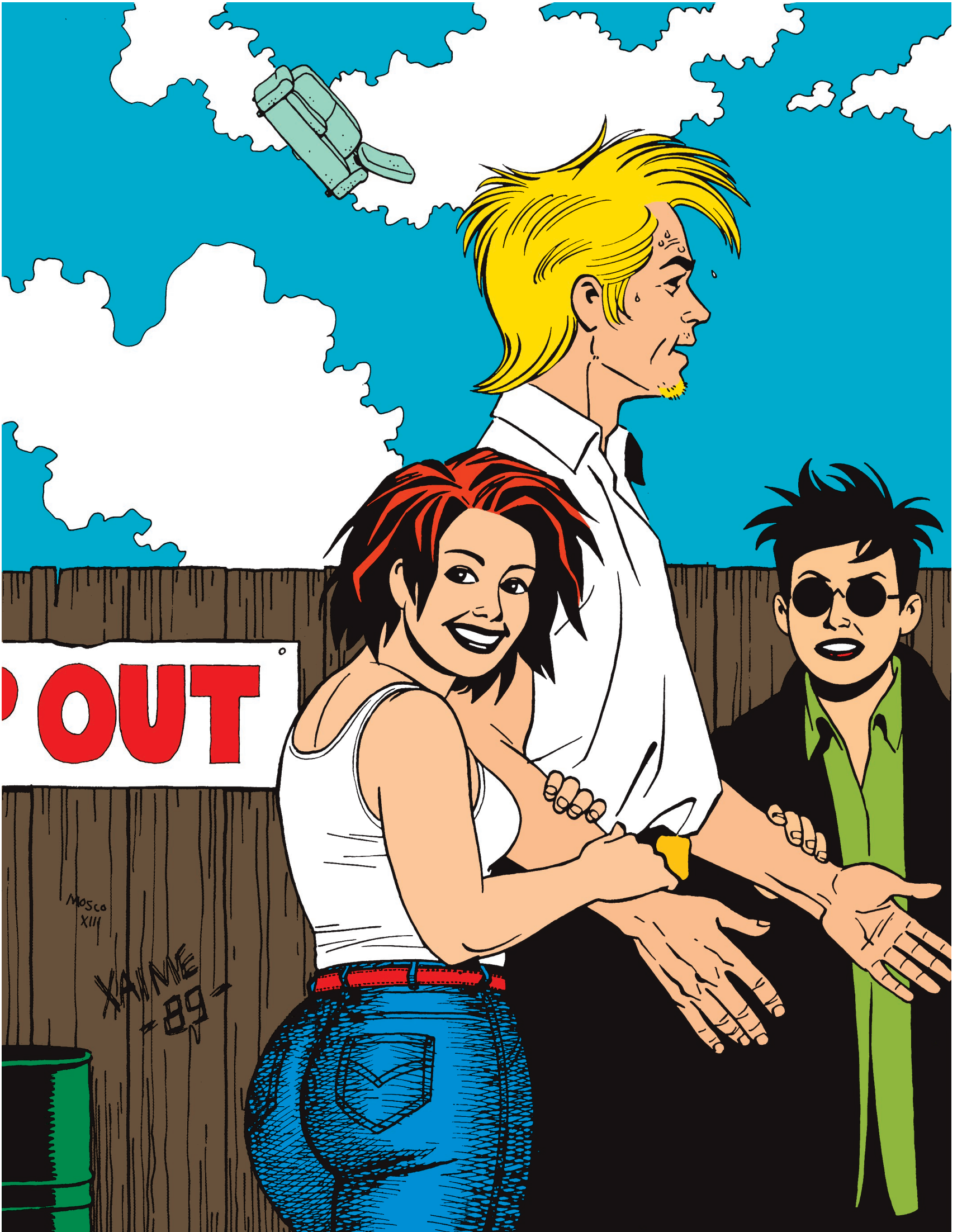
LOS BROS HERNANDEZ  
CHELO'S  
BURDEN

VOLUME TWO OF THE COMPLETE LOVE & ROCKETS





BETO '84



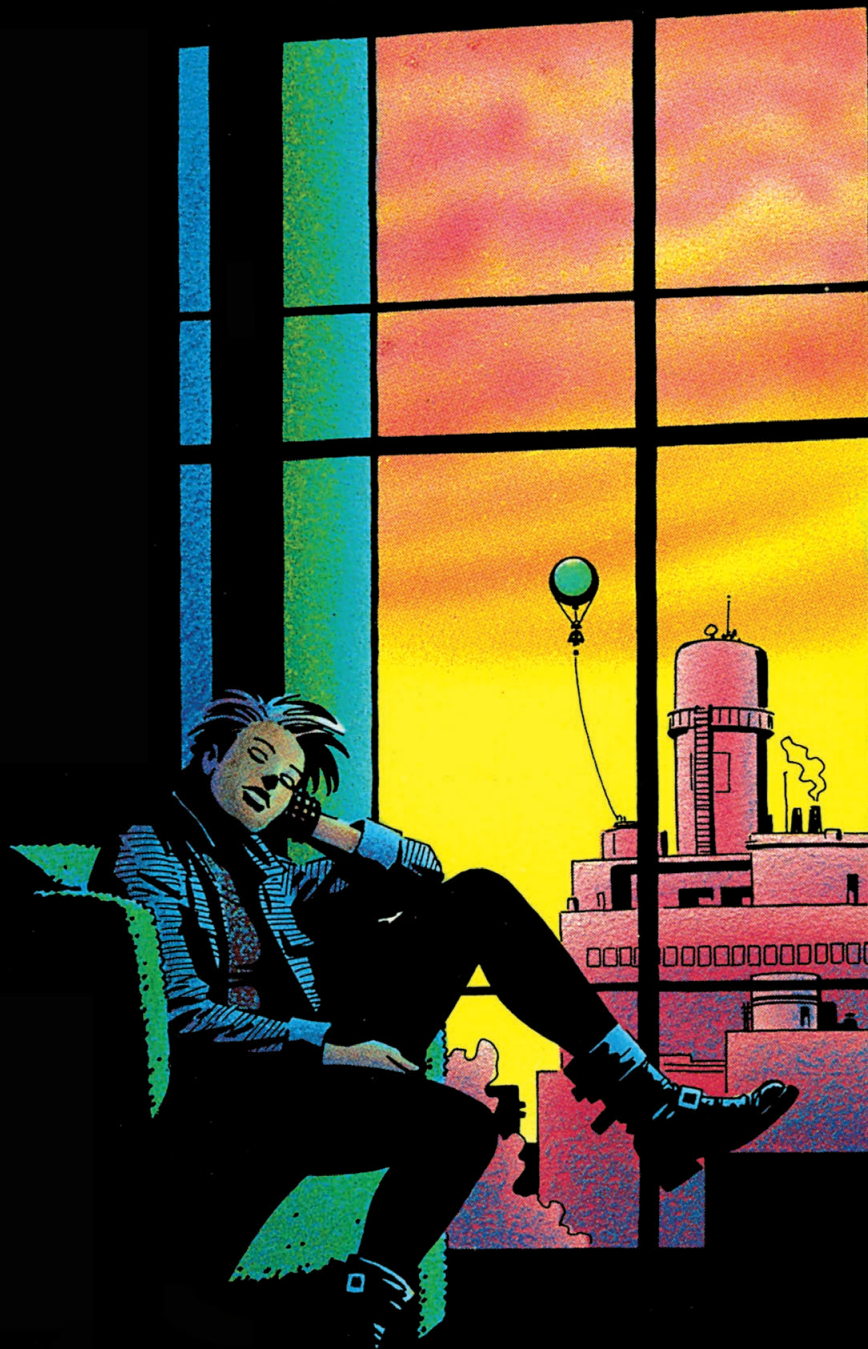


BETO/99



BETO/94

# LOVE & ROCKETS



SHORT STORIES

# JAIME HERNANDEZ

# HEARTBREAK SOUP

AND OTHER STORIES



BETO-17

# GILBERT HERNANDEZ

# THE LOST WOMEN

AND OTHER STORIES



JAIME HERNANDEZ

# THE RETICENT HEART

## AND OTHER STORIES



# GILBERT HERNANDEZ

# AUTHORS' NOTES

## GILBERT AND JAIME HERNANDEZ





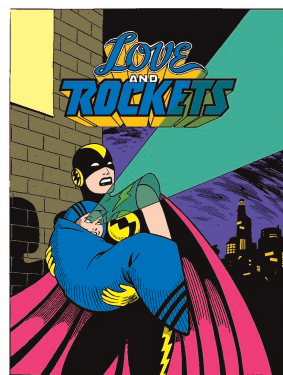
#1 FC This cover was loosely based on the back cover of Black Flag's first single. We thought it would be a good way to show the different kinds of women splattered all over comics. The barbarian woman has an Ape Sex tattoo on her thigh. JH



#1 BC Mr. New Wave sci-fi at work here. GH



#2 BC I could never come up with too many stories to go with this style of art. GH



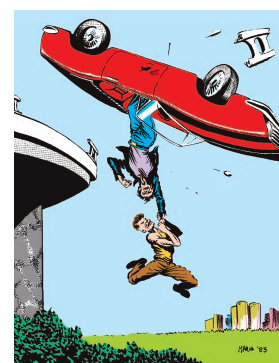
#3 FC I liked doing a cover with a mysterious back story, but I got too many complaints that either I was pandering to the mainstream or people wanted the story within the book's pages. GH



#3 BC The Ape Sex tattoo shows up again. I inked part of this cover blind stinkin' sloshed. I originally planned it to be a front cover, I think. I copied the machine gun from a Sgt. Rock cover. JH



#4 FC Remember when everybody thought Luba's breasts were too big? These days you see teen girls at the mall that look like her on this cover. GH



#4 BC When I did the first of my three covers, we were so full of ourselves, me mostly. I wanted to be the one that did completely different, genre related stuff. Crime, terrorists, political intrigue, pulp adventure. I figured to do an illo that would capture the new readers' attention, like, "Hey this is what you're gonna get from me, so, look out!" MH



#5 BC Popsicle sticks are more dangerous than knives, you know. GH



#6 FC I love Mexican artist Posada's demons, so I used them here. Remember when everybody thought that Luba's breasts were...? GH



#6 BC I drew this on my 24th birthday, I believe. Terry's hat was inspired by one Pat Smear wore on stage when he was in The Adolescents. JH

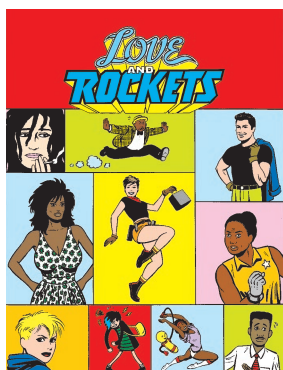


**#7 BC** This and my next back cover (for #9) were from a long saga that never made the cut. It was a convoluted treasure hunt adventure that was a little too ambitious in hindsight. MH

Looks like this was originally done for a front cover, with all that space on top. GH



**#15 FC** I put Rena's name on the cover at the last minute fearing someone might think she was another one of my hot characters and some readers went ahead and thought she was Hopey. Oh, well. JH

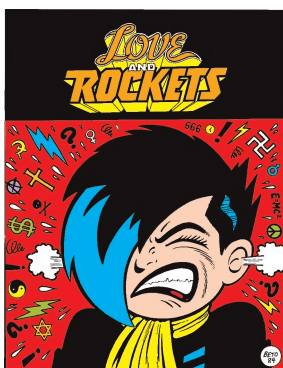


**#10** Old-fashioned jam cover, 1960s comic book style. GH

The second jam cover. At first, I think it was a just a goof between Beto and I, but every tenth issue through #50 has one. JH



**#16 FC** A chance to do a classic-style romance cover. GH



**#11 FC** R. Crumb influence here. GH



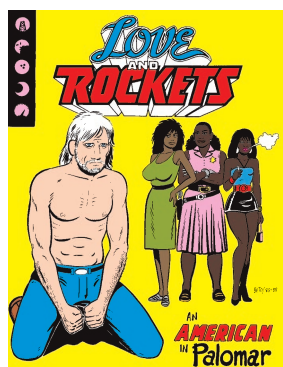
**#18 FC** The first of my covers that contradicted people's expectations. GH



**#12 FC** I could never get that lighting effect on the trees again. Hem. GH



**#20** It was hard to scale my characters with Jaime's. GH

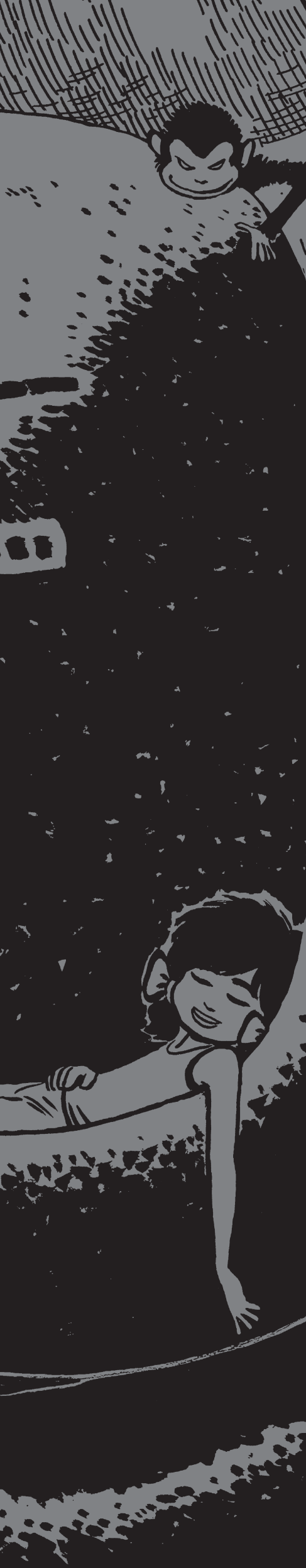


**#14 FC** How did Howard Miller hear with that ear? Remember when everybody thought that Luba's...? GH



**#21 FC** Probably the most fun I had with a cover. GH

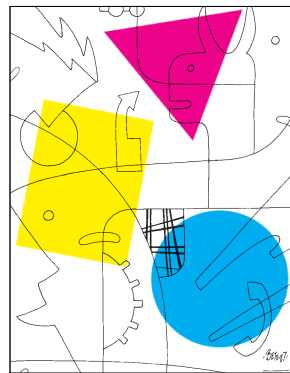




#21 BC The image of the band was inspired by the movie *Stranger Than Paradise*. JH



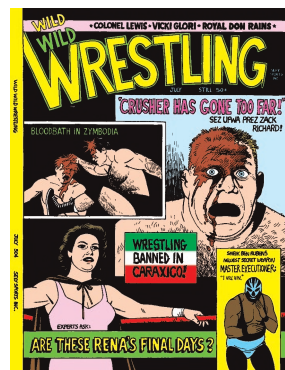
#22 FC Monica's head was originally tilting the opposite way but it looked like the whole image was falling to the right so this one ended up having a big ol' paste up in the center. JH



#22 BC Did I get complaints with this one. The philistine came out in some readers. GH



#23 FC A chance to have a Jack Kirby-type monster image. GH



#23 BC Some thought that Crusher guy was the real wrestler Crusher Lisowski but, no, it was just my own Crusher. JH



#24 FC Just one of those "happy accidents" that I had to turn in real quick for a deadline. I think I remember starting with Terry's left foot. If you'll notice in the original, I straightened Terry's guitar neck and shortened Hopey's bass neck. JH



#24 BC More complaints. Wish it was a front cover. GH



#25 FC Old-fashioned character guide cover. A comic book cover from my childhood that made a great impression on me was *Our Army At War* #112, which depicted Sgt. Rock's Easy Co. in a similar way. GH



#25 BC That's Rena's old boyfriend Bernie Carbo, whose name I stole from a ballplayer. Shortly after it was printed I wished it was a portrait of H. R. Costigan instead. Don't remember why, though. JH



#26 FC I drew this in an old apartment that I copied in detail. Yes, the wallpaper says "This Comic has Nothing to do with The Band." JH



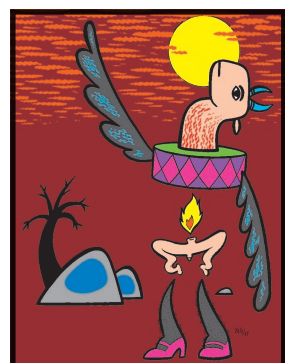
#26 BC Tonantzin's farewell. GH



#27 FC R. Fiore said it looked like a UPA cartoon-style drawing, which I'm happy to cop to. GH



#28 FC Wasn't happy with this one 'til a reader told me it was their favorite cover. Then naturally it was like "Harumph! But of course..." JH



#28 BC What an arty artist, huh? What ever happened to him? GH



#29 FC In Mexico, a black chicken is like a black cat in the U.S.; don't let it cross your path. GH



#30 Another jam. Most of the stuff I got from around the house and scaled to size for authenticity. Gilbert added the pencil, which I felt was way too big. The bra was the only thing I had to improvise on even though I was married at the time (could not find one for some reason). That's why it looks like a moon training bra. JH

It was the floor of a punk girl's bedroom. GH



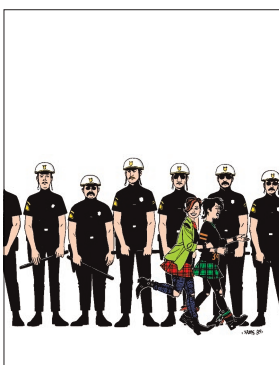
#31 BC Maria's head is pretty big here; something I did all the time during this period but didn't notice. GH



#32 FC An image that provoked some; it was business as usual to me. GH

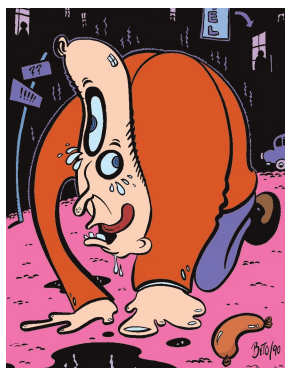


#32 BC These were images from dreams I had as a child. I tried to get them as close as I could remember. JH



#33 FC I went to the Oxnard Public Library looking for riot gear reference and couldn't find a damn thing. One of the few times I actually tried to research something and I totally bombed. JH





#33 BC My idea of an 'arty' image. GH



#37 BC Again, no message. The words were an afterthought to fill up space. GH



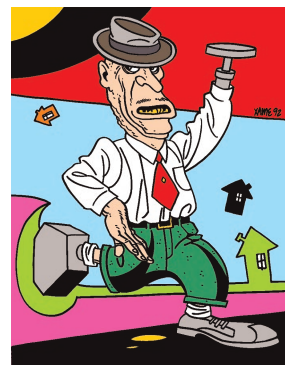
#34 FC This was the last time I painted the colors myself. Never again! GH



#38 FC My second romance cover; a little naughty this time. GH



#35 FC One of the few times a cover came out exactly as I pictured it. JH



#38 BC Another one needed real fast. First and last cover ever drawn completely with a Sharpie. JH



#35 BC I just felt like doing another "mysterious" image again; people love 'em or hate 'em. GH



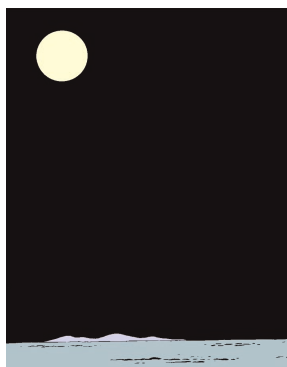
#39 FC Because this idea has been copied since the dawn of comics, I didn't feel too much like a thief. JH



#36 FC Just to be provocative. No message. GH



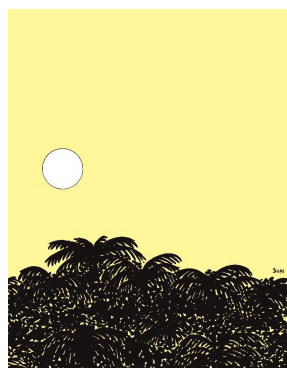
#39 BC An image that might be welcomed in another comic, but if we weren't featuring Hoppers or Palomar on covers, an irritant to some readers. GH



#40 The back cover was either hated as a rip off or loved as a bold statement. GH



#41 FC Another cover hated by fans of hyper-detailed art. The simpler the image for me, the better. Stands out. GH



#42 BC Simple; effective. GH



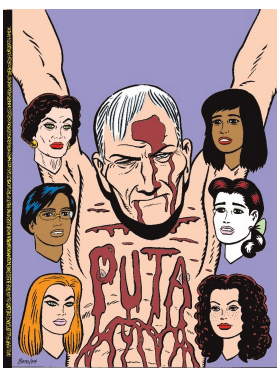
#43 FC I got a lot of complaints that I'm into old ladies. Only a person afraid of getting old would say that. GH



#44 BC I forgot to give Casimira almond-shaped cat eyes; she looks like Jack Nicholson here. GH



#45 FC That's my lovely wife Carol here beating Maria in a swimsuit contest. GH



#47 FC Just being provocative again here, gang. GH



#48 FC I must have whited out that face 600 times. JH



#48 BC Fritz sure has changed, eh? GH



#49 FC No pencilling, just straight onto the page using a rapidograph pen. No R. Crumb influence here; pen lines tend to "hug" the image when you don't use pencil guide lines. GH





#49 BC Need a cover quick #748. That's supposed to be Lee J. Cobb. JH



#50 Again, pretty hard to scale the characters with one another. GH



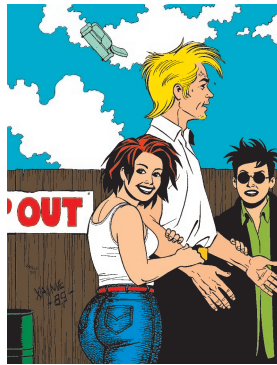
Vol. 2 FC Classic-style Palomar image. Fun to do. GH



Vol. 4 FC One of my personal favorites of mine. Doesn't go with any story, though. GH



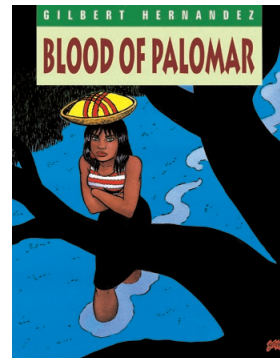
Vol. 6 FC The "Noddy Holder" witch! GH



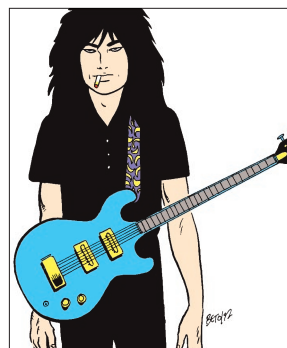
Vol. 6 BC Of course the jeans were the funnest part to draw! JH



Vol. 7 FC I whited out Maggie sitting in the car at the last minute. JH



Vol. 8 FC Great Jim Woodring coloring! GH

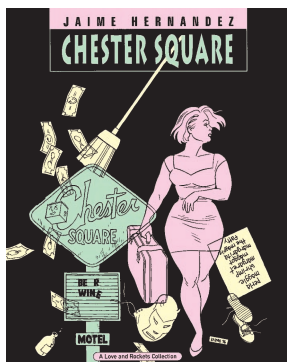


Vol. 10.1 FC My first Asian character on a cover. GH

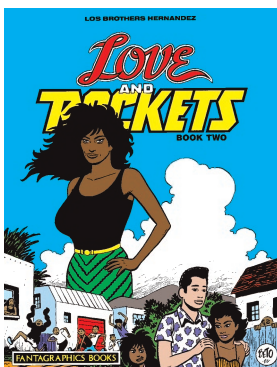


Vol. 10.2 FC We used these types of "posed" images from the beginning, some folks complaining that there was no action, no sense of movement. Now everybody does covers like this. GH

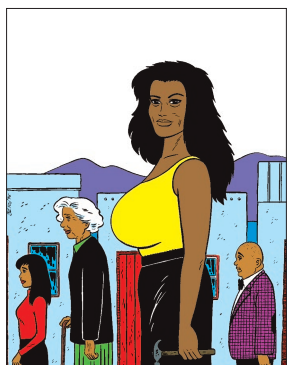




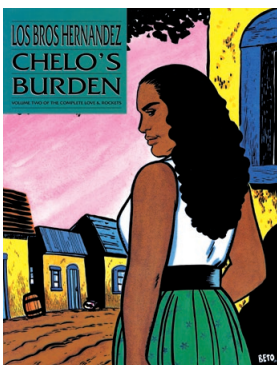
**Vol. 13 FC** I took the photo of Hopey's mom out because I wanted to save that photo for a later story, which turned up in *Maggie and Hopey Color Fun*. JH



**Original Vol. 2 FC** Yes, I was asked if Luba was a giant in the story. Sigh, ok. GH



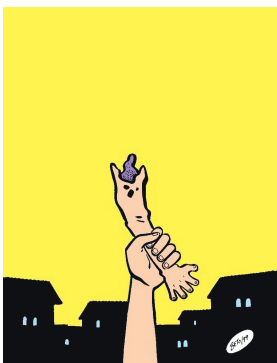
**Vol. 14 FC** A couple of twits at Wonder Con giggled uncontrollably at this cover, and I called them immature, which outraged them. GH



**Second Vol. 2 FC** Safe; the less sexiness on a cover the more it's liked. GH



**Vol. 15 FC** No problem with scaling here! GH



**Vol. 10 BC** A fave iconic image. GH



**Vol. 12 FC** A weary Luba. How I felt after I finished *Poison River*. GH



**Vol. 12 BC** Big-head Maria, but at least I'm getting the breasts right at this time. GH





ONLY  
\$1.00

FAIR  
WARNING:  
THIS COMIC  
CONTAINS  
RAW  
LANGUAGE,  
VIOLENCE,  
AND  
NUDITY

# LOVE *and* ROCKETS

NO 1

inside:

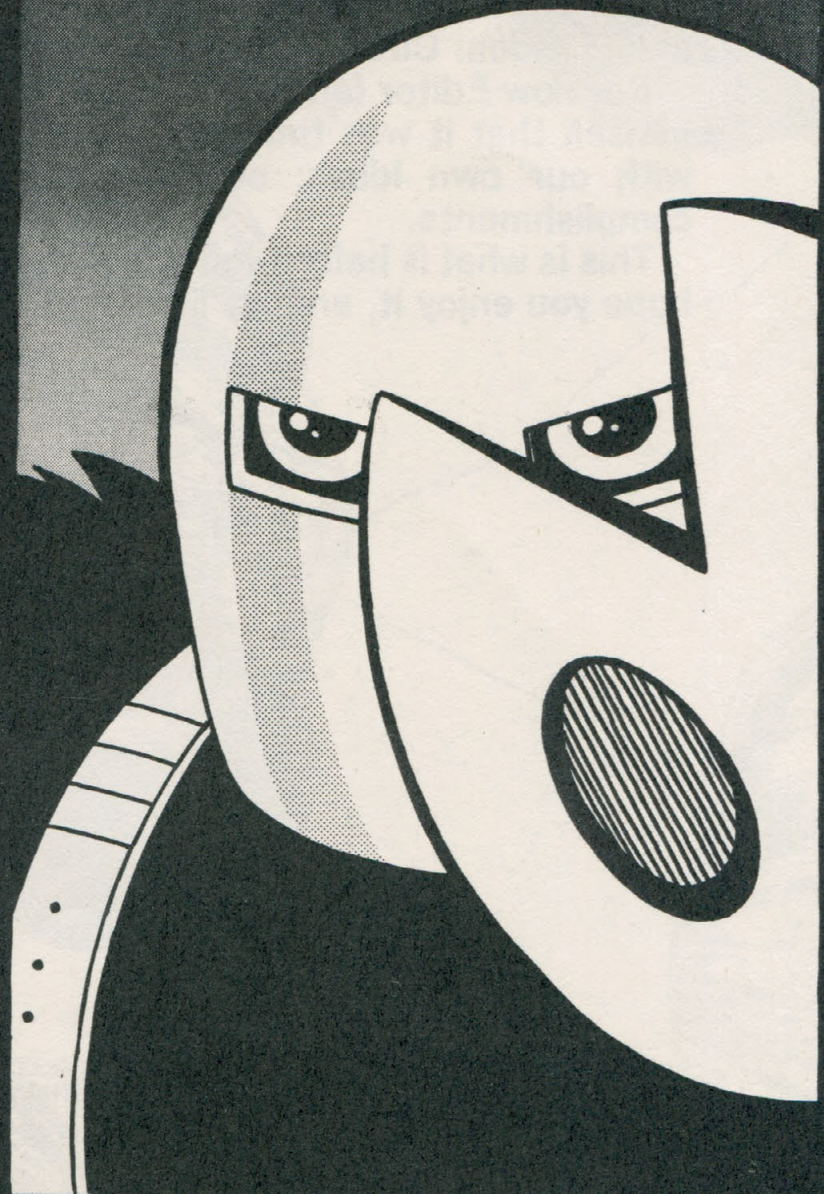
**HOW  
TO KILL A...**  
BY ISABEL RUEBENS

**MUSIC FOR  
MONSTERS**

**MECHAN-X**

**BEM**

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTIONS



**“Love and  
Rockets #1  
is marvelous.  
I hope one day  
to attain  
the level of the  
cover drawing  
myself...  
it is a perfect  
drawing.”**

**—MOEBIUS 1982**

Five women stand in a police lineup; four of them are garishly dressed superwomen — perfectly normal, because this is, after all, the cover of a comic book.

A closer look, however, reveals a fifth woman who seems thoroughly out of place — mousy, in a bathrobe and curlers, smoking a cigarette. Surely she’s here by mistake — or is she?

From this very first cover of the very first issue of *Love and Rockets* in 1982, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez (along with their brother, Mario) have created artwork that has subverted, contradicted and celebrated the history of comics while making it their own.

For the first time, these iconic comic book covers from the original *Love and Rockets* comic book series (and the earliest trade paperbacks) have been restored and collected.

