Jaime Hernandez

MAGGIE the MECHANIC

A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK

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FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

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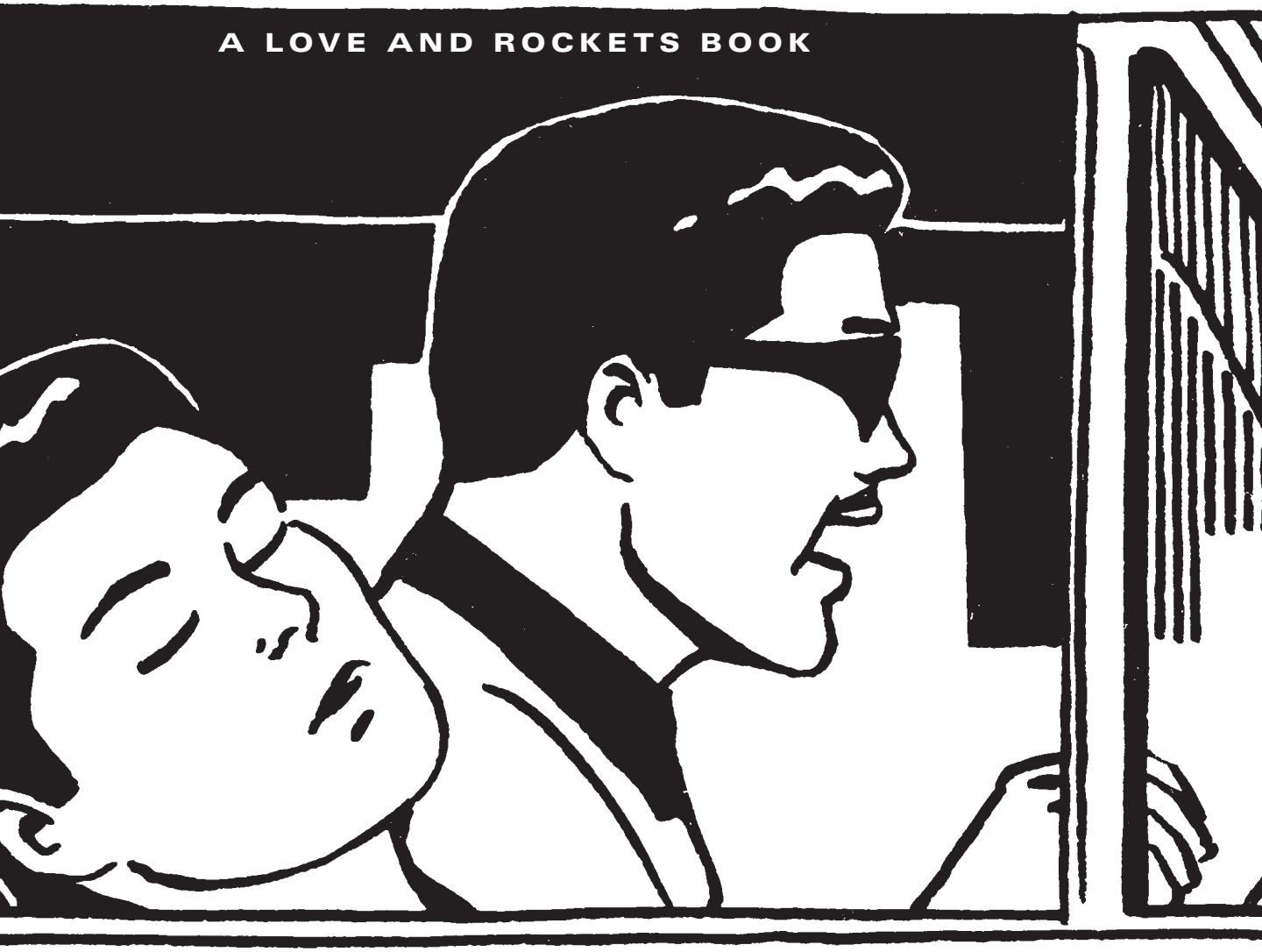

MAGGIE THE MECHANIC

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MECHAN-X
STARRING
maggie
RACE
hopey
BY IZZY RUEBENS
MOAN...
BRINGG
GOODY... TIME FOR WORK... I'LL PROBABLY BE LATE AGAIN... MR. GHOUL WILL YELL THE EYES OFF ME... EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF THE OTHER WORKERS... BUT, WHO CARES? HA HA... OHH...
MAGGIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GOING TO WORK, HOPEY...
WORK? NOW? SHIT, YOU JUST GOT TO BED TWO FUCKING HOURS AGO! YOU CAN'T GO TO WORK LIKE THIS!
BUT, I GOTTA GO TO WORK...
HOPEY! LEGGO! I GOTTA GO TO WORK! THEY NEED ME... THEY... MY HEAD... I THINK I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT! OHH...
LOOK AT YOURSELF, MAGGOT! I'LL BET YOU WOULDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE BUS STOP! C'MON! SLEEP SOME...
PONTIAX
SCXCH
BUT, I JUST GOTTA GO TO WORK! I DON'T WANNA GET FIRED! THIS IS MY THIRD JOB THIS MONTH! OOH... LOOK AT THE BAGS UNDER MY EYES... I'M FAT AGAIN... AND MY HAIR... ICK!
COULDN'T YOU SKIP AT LEAST ONE DAY?
I'VE ALREADY SKIPPED TOO MANY DAYS! OOH, I CAN'T STAND THIS SHITTY JOB! I CAN'T STAND ANY OF MY STALE JOBS! I HATE DOING STUFF I CAN'T DO!
MAGGIE! SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO DAMN STUPID IT'S PITIFUL! WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO YOUR MECHANIX JOB? THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE BEST AT!
YOU CAN FIX ANYTHING! WHO KNOWS, MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL EVEN BECOME A PROSOLAR MECHANIC! JUST LIKE RAND RACE, YOU'LL GET A MILLION BONES FOR ONLY FIXING THE KING OF ZHATO'S HEARING AID! THEN, YOU COULD BECOME A RICH, FAT SLOB!
I NEED A HAIRCUT! WILL YOU CUT MY HAIR, HOPEY? I NEED ONE AWFUL BAD!
FRAM DAMN IT! OK! IF I CUT YOUR FUCKIN' HAIR, WILL YOU QUIT PLAYING YOUR SILLY-ASS GAMES AND GO BACK TO BEING A MECHANIC? HUH? TODAY? OKAY?!!
OK! OK! I'LL DO IT! JUST GET OFF!
YEOW!
HOPEY, THAT SLUT! I TOLD HER, OVER AND OVER, "DON'T CUT IT TOO SHORT IN THE BACK! BUT NO, WHAT DOES SHE DO? NOW I LOOK MORE LIKE DEREK CINEMA THAN A FOTO MATE! OH WELL... NOW, AT LEAST I HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB...
FIXING BROKEN EQUIPMENT ON THIS MILITARY BASE! ALAS, WE ALL GOTTA START ON THE BOTTOM! RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO WORK ON TAKYO WIRES! THAT'LL BE A CINCH!
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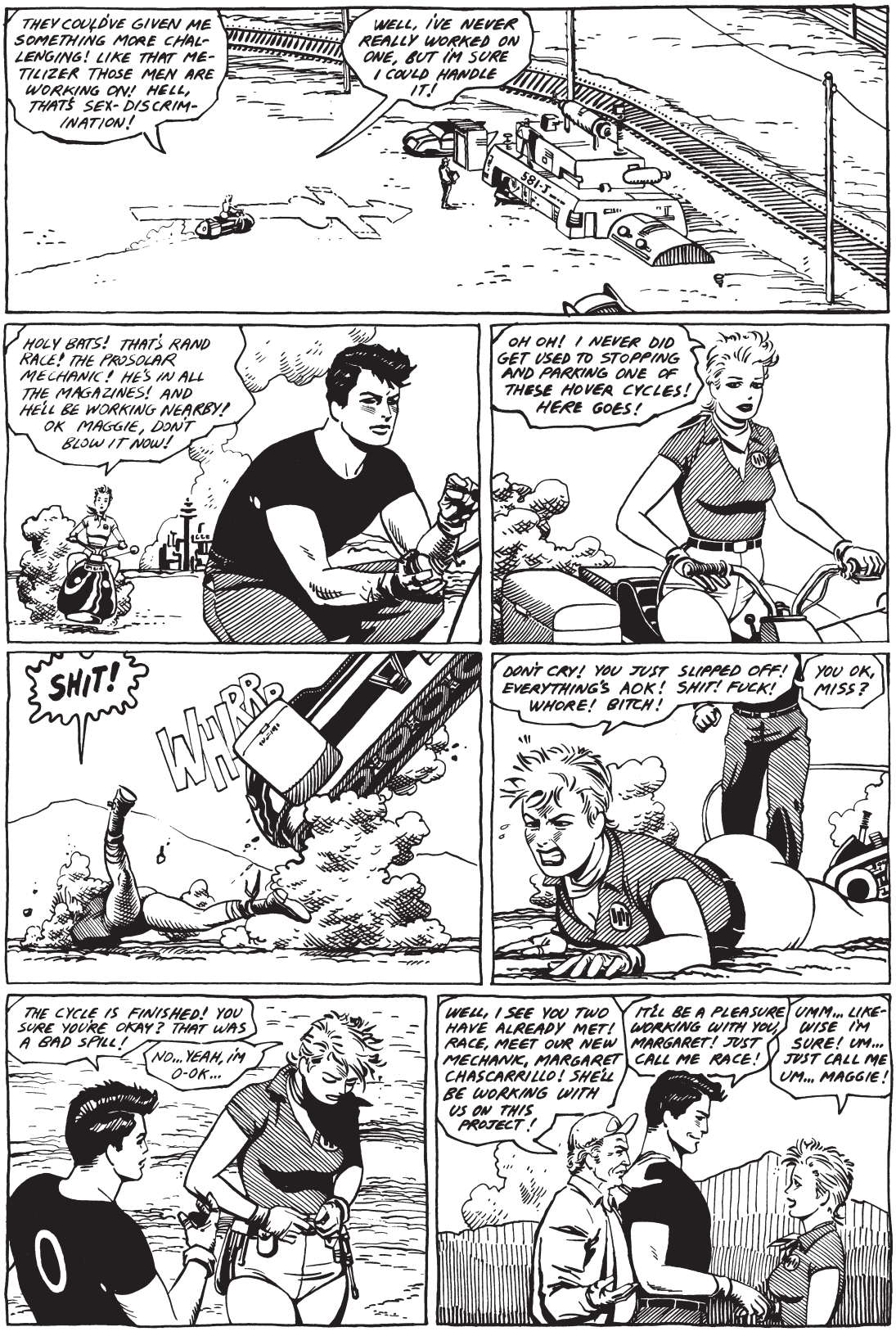
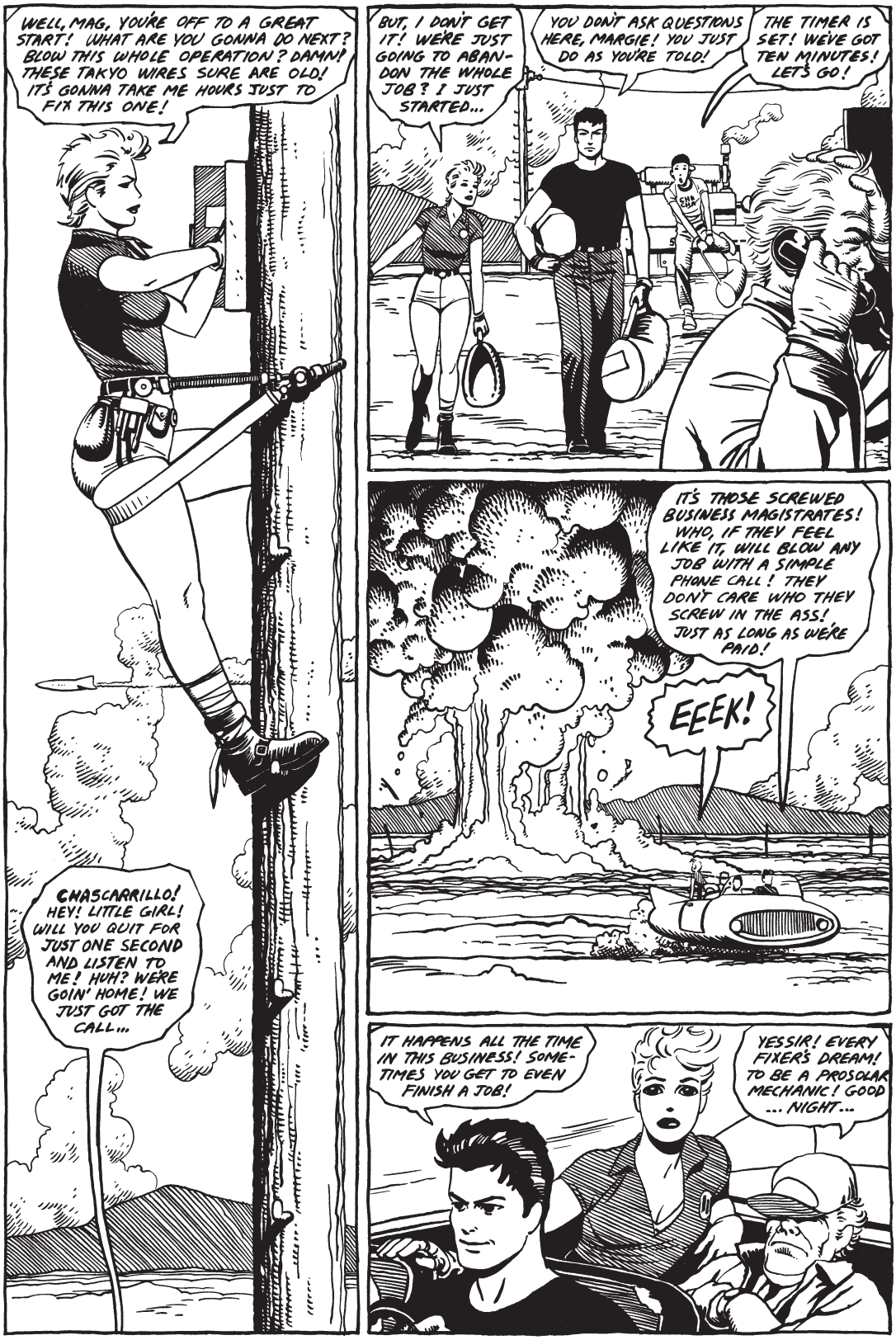

THEY COULD'VE GIVEN ME SOMETHING MORE CHALLENGING! LIKE THAT METILIZER THOSE MEN ARE WORKING ON! HELL, THAT'S SEX-DISCRIMINATION!
WELL, I'VE NEVER REALLY WORKED ON ONE, BUT I'M SURE I COULD HANDLE IT!
HOLY BATS! THAT'S RAND RACE! THE PROSOLAR MECHANIC! HE'S IN ALL THE MAGAZINES! AND HE'LL BE WORKING NEARBY! OK MAGGIE, DON'T BLOW IT NOW!
OH OH! I NEVER DID GET USED TO STOPPING AND PARKING ONE OF THESE HOVER CYCLES! HERE GOES!
SHIT!
WHRRR
DON'T CRY! YOU JUST SLIPPED OFF! EVERYTHING'S AOK! SHIT! FUCK! WHORE! BITCH!
YOU OK, MISS?
THE CYCLE IS FINISHED! YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? THAT WAS A BAD SPILL!
NO... YEAH, I'M O-OK...
WELL, I SEE YOU TWO HAVE ALREADY MET! RACE, MEET OUR NEW MECHANIC, MARGARET CHASCARRILLO! SHE'LL BE WORKING WITH US ON THIS PROJECT!
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU, MARGARET! JUST CALL ME RACE!
UMM... LIKEWISE I'M SURE! UM... JUST CALL ME UM... MAGGIE!

CHAS CARRILLO? SAY, ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE RELATED TO VICTORIA CHAS-CARRILLO...?
AKA VICKI GLORI? THE WORLD'S FEMALE WRESTLING CHAMP?
SHE'S MY AUNT...
THAT'S GREAT! I JUST LOVE THOSE BAD GUYS! I WAS THERE TEN YEARS AGO AT THE GARDENS WHEN SHE DEFEATED THE LATE GREAT QUEEN RENA TITAÑON! I GOTTA ADMIT, SHE SURE SHOWED OL' RENA HER STUFF!
BULL! SHE USED THE ROPES! I SAW IT ON TV!
HA! YOU HAD TO HAVE BEEN THERE! FIRST, SHE STARTED WITH A HALF-NELSON LIKE THIS...
OOH! WATCH IT...
THAT'S NOT EVEN A HA-- OW! OK, DUKE, THAT DID IT!
AND THEN AFTER RENA CRIED FOR MERCY, SHE--
SHREIK!!!
HEYYYOOOOTAHHH!!
BOY, DUKEY! TITAÑON WOULD'VE HAD NO PROBLEM IF SHE WOULD'VE WRESTLED YOU!
RACE! YOU SON OF A BITCH! YOU COULD'VE BROKEN MY BACK!
...OOTAH...
GROAN...
WELL, I GUESS THIS MAKES ME WORLD CHAMP NOW!
AH SHADDAP! EVERYBODY BACK TO WORK!
YOU! GET TO WORK ON THOSE TAKYO WIRES! NOW YOU, WHAT'RE YOU STANDING AROUND LIKE A DOPE FOR? GET TO WORK!
AND LOOK AT THAT DIAL! THE PRESSURE'S WAY TOO HIGH! DAMN IT, YAX! YOU MIGHT'VE BLOWN US SKY HIGH! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU ANYWAY? YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF TODAY!
COOH
SCOH
T42
T4WHISTLE
AND LOOK AT YOUR FACE! YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A GHOST! DON'T YOU SLEEP ENOUGH?
UH... NOT LATELY, BOSS!
NOT LATELY, HAH? HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE PUT TO SLEEP FOR GOOD? GET-BACK-TO-WORK!!
MISTER...UM, RACE?
YEAH, WHAT'S THAT, MARGIE?
YOW!

I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURES IN A LOT THE PAPERS LATELY! AND I WAS WONDERING... I MEAN... THAT IS... DOES IT REALLY MEAN A LOT TO BE A PROSOLAR MECHANIC?
NAW! I JUST GOT FAMOUS BECAUSE I HAPPENED TO BE DRIVING BY WHEN THAT BILLIONAIRE H'R COSTIGAN'S CAR BROKE DOWN! IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE!
AFTER I FIXED HIS LIMO, HE DECIDED TO PUT ME IN HIS WILL! HELL, I JUST GOT LUCKY! Y'SEE, A PROSOLAR MECHANIC IS ONE WHO SUPPOSEDLY CAN FIX ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE! A SPECIALTIES MECH! THOUGH IN REALITY, A PRO-MECH IS JUST A SILLY NAME FOR A MECHANIC WHO LIVES A GLAMOUROUS LIFE! KNOWS FAMOUS PEOPLE, AND SHIT LIKE THAT! I'LL ADMIT, I KNOW A LOT MORE MACHINES THAN REGULAR GARAGE MECHS, BUT I'M STILL JUST A FIXER! KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
AFM
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU STANDING AROUND LIKE IDIOTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS? A COUNTRY CLUB?
DUKE! IF YOU DON'T COOL OFF, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO TWO OUT OF THREE FALLS!
EEP! Y-YESSIR!
I'M WARNING YOU, RACE! I'M WARNING YOU!
HERE, MARGIE! LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT!
I CAN DO IT! IT'S JUST A LITTLE STUCK...
EEK! LOOK OUT! EEEYAAHHH!
DAMN IT, CHASCARRILLO! YOU'RE LUCKY THAT KIND OF RICCTONE' HOLDS PADUA WATER INSTEAD OF HARMFUL ACID! CHIWIS!! DID WE HIRE YOU TO WRECK THIS WHOLE PROJECT? GET YOUR ASS UP TO THOSE TAKYO WIRES! PRONTO!
Y-YESSIR!!
LEAVE HER ALONE DUKE! YOU KNOW IT WASN'T HER FAULT! WHAT'S EATING YOU ANYWAY?
I KNOW! IT'S JUST THE THOUGHT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO FINISH OUR JOB AGAIN! OOTAH! FOR A LITTLE GIRL...
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! ABOUT THIS JOB I MEAN...
I JUST HOPE THAT PHONE DOESN'T RING! WE'VE COME TOO FAR THIS TIME! D'YOU REALIZE WE HAVEN'T FINISHED A JOB IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS? THOSE FU...
I'M HIP TO THAT! IT'S GETTING MONOTONOUS!


WELL, MAG, YOU'RE OFF TO A GREAT START! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NEXT? BLOW THIS WHOLE OPERATION? DAMN! THESE TAKYO WIRES SURE ARE OLD! IT'S GONNA TAKE ME HOURS JUST TO FIX THIS ONE!
CHASCARRILLO! HEY! LITTLE GIRL! WILL YOU QUIT FOR JUST ONE SECOND AND LISTEN TO ME! HUH? WE'RE GOIN' HOME! WE JUST GOT THE CALL...
BUT, I DON'T GET IT! WE'RE JUST GOING TO ABANDON THE WHOLE JOB? I JUST STARTED...
YOU DON'T ASK QUESTIONS HERE, MARGIE! YOU JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!
THE TIMER IS SET! WE'VE GOT TEN MINUTES! LET'S GO!
IT'S THOSE SCREWED BUSINESS MAGISTRATES! WHO, IF THEY FEEL LIKE IT, WILL BLOW ANY JOB WITH A SIMPLE PHONE CALL! THEY DON'T CARE WHO THEY SCREW IN THE ASS! JUST AS LONG AS WE'RE PAID!
EEEK!
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN THIS BUSINESS! SOMETIMES YOU GET TO EVEN FINISH A JOB!
YESSIR! EVERY FIXER'S DREAM! TO BE A PROSOLAR MECHANIC! GOOD ... NIGHT...

LOOK! IT'S AN OLD ROBOT STORAGE SHACK! THEY HAVENT USED ROBOTS HERE SINCE THE WAR!
OKAY IF WE STOP AND LOOK AROUND, BOSS?
OH, PLEASE? I NEVER HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK ON A REAL ROBOT! BESIDES, WE'RE NOT DUE BACK FOR ANOTHER HOUR! PLEASE MR.MORALES, PLEEZE?
HOKAY, LITTLE GIRL! PULL OVER, RACE!
MY GOD, THIS IS INCREDIBLE! REAL METAL MEN!
YEAH! THEY PROBABLY EVEN STILL WORK! TAKE A LOOK AROUND! SINCE WE'RE HERE, WE'RE GONNA CHECK OUT THE GRIMM SLACKS!
OOH, THIS LOOKS SIMPLE ENOUGH! I CAN HAVE ONE OF THESE STARTED AND FOLLOWING ORDERS IN NO TIME!
AND THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO, FAT ASS!
CHA CHA
NO STUPID, I'M NOT RACE'S PARTNER! THE REAL YAX HAXLEY'S TIED UP IN SOME CLOSET WITH THE HOLY SHIT KICKED OUT OF HIM! Y'SEE, I DONT LIKE MY VICTIMS FIGHTING BACK! NOW, WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO FOR ME, IS TO KEEP YOUR FUCKING TRAP SHUT AND START THIS TIN CAN UP TO OBEY ME! AND NO TRICKS, HAH? NOW, GO TO IT, WHORE!
HEY! WATCH OUT!
OH, CHRIST! WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING IN THERE?!
THIS THING'S GONE LOCO FOR ME! YEOWCH!
CHASCARRILLO! GET YOUR BUNS OUT HERE! YAX!
RACE! DEACTIVATE IT WITH YOUR BALTAZORS!
GOOD IDEA!

DAMN IT! SHE CAN BE THROWN BEHIND BARS FOR THIS! I TELL YA, THAT LITTLE GIRL'S GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
AND WHERE'S YAX? HE'S...
HE AIN'T HERE, FAG!
TALL TRACKER! I'LL BET A HUNDRED TO ONE YOU'RE THE WISE GUY WHO...
YEH, IT'S ME MACHO MAN! AND I GOT A SURPRISE FOR ALL YOU BONEHEADS
OUCH!
DON'T TELL ME! YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS YAX HAXLEY SO YOU COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO KILL ME! RIGHT, WORM?
LEFT! IF I WANTED YOU DEAD, I WOULDA KILLED YA AGES AGO! NO, I NEED YOU ALL ALIVE! FOR AWHILE ANYWAY!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, IS PROGRAM ALL THEM ROBOTS IN THERE TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS! WITH THEM BEHIND ME, I CAN GET OFF THIS PLANET SAFELY WITHOUT COPS ON MY ASS! SO, IF YOU WANNA LIVE LONGER, YOU'LL DO AS I SAY!
HEY! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?
THIS IS FOR MARGIE, YOU GHOUL!
GOOD WORK, LITTLE GIRL! MIGHTY QUICK, CLEVER THINKING HOW YOU ACTIVATED THE ROBOT'S MAGNETIC FIELD! YESSIREE!
POW!
SAVE IT FOR LATER, DUKE...
I THINK THE LITTLE LADY'S HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY! IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GO HOME NOW!
YES... HOME... I'LL NEVER, EVER DO THIS AGAIN AS LONG AS I LIVE!
YESSIR, LITTLE GIRL! I REALLY THINK YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT, AND BECOME A PROSOLAR MECHANIC ONE OF THESE DAYS! YOU'VE GOT REAL SPUNK!
HOORAY FOR ME...

OH GOD... IT WAS THE ABSOLUTE WORST! FIRST, WHEN I FELL OFF THE HOVER CYCLE! I WAS SO EMBARRASED! RIGHT IN FRONT OF RACE! AND THEN IT TOOK ME... FOREVER TO... OHH... RACE MUST'VE THOUGHT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING! AND THAT MAN WITH THAT GUN...
RAND RACE?!
AND THEN WHEN THEY BLEW UP THAT METILIZER! THAT WAS SO SCARY! ALL THOSE MONTHS OF WORK FOR THEM TOO! WHAT A WASTE! AND THEN WHEN...
SO HOW COME YOU'RE GOING BACK?
THE FAMOUS RAND RACE IN ALL THE MAGAZINES?
PENNY
WE HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT! RACE CALLED ME HIMSELF! I'M HIS NEW ASSISTANT! WHO KNOWS, MAYBE SOMEDAY, I'LL BECOME A PRO-SOLAR MECHANIC AND GIVE YOU MY AUTOGRAPH!
YEAH! AND YOU CAN SIGN IT IN GREASE!
I USED TO GO OUT WITH THAT CREEP!
Y'KNOW PENNY? SOMETIMES I THINK MAGGIE'S A NUT! A GOOD FRIEND, BUT A REAL SCHIZO!
I'LL SAY! RANN RACE IS THE BIGGEST JERK, I SWEAR!
PENNY CENTURY! SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME!
WELL, HERE I GO! COULD THIS BE THE START OF A NEW CA-REER? A CAREER OF DANGER AND EXCITEMENT? WHAT'S TO COME AHEAD OF ME? WHAT? WHAT?
JUST ME DOLL! HOW ABOUT ME AND YOU...
(GASP)
TAX!!
Fin
LA CHOTA
FRENCHIE FIRME
LAS DIXEL FRET IM BONDOR! POM LIDZ FIRME POXANON, FIRNDVR!
METZO LIM TO GEX!
GEX!!
HIBI SHU NO MAXAL VIP! XLBIX JONC YA! FJONK GOKNO MAS-ASI? VEN!
CHONNER VOSE AND COO HOW HOSS! ED KORNR ROUNN IM DUMP!
DER ENG

HOW TO KILL A
BY ISABEL RUEBENS
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TRUE VATOS

HOW TO KILL A
HOW TO KILL A
HOW TO KILL A
520 ft.
530 ft.
HOW TO KILL A
ISABEL RUE

FIN

SHH
THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND A SIX PACK TO MY NAME...
SIXPACK
LOCAS
TAMBIEN
YOU GIRLS ARE CRAZY! COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME FIND THE BOOKS I WANTED FIRST?
IZZY ORTIZ HAS A LOT OF THOSE KIND OF OCCULT BOOKS! WHY NOT GET 'EM FROM HER?
YEAH! SHE'S REALLY INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF!
BUT, HER BROTHER SPEEDY ALWAYS WANTS TO KICK MY ASS IN SCHOOL!
HEY! WHICH ONES ARE THE GUYS AN' WHICH ONES ARE THE GIRLS? HAR!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING ASSHOLE!
HOPEY! PLEASE... DON'T...
IZZY DOESN'T LIVE AT HOME ANY MORE! C'MO, SHE CAN HELP YOU OUT!
HWUK!
MOTOR HEAD
HI IZZY! YOU HAVE VISITORS!
HI IZZY!
DON'T YOU GUYS EVER KNOCK? "NO, WE'RE NOT OPPORTUNITY," RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP?
JOEY HERE WAS WONDERING IF HE COULD BORROW SOME OF YOUR WITCHCRAFT BOOKS FOR A WHILE!
WAIT... I DIDN'T SAY... I MEAN... YEAH... OOH...
SNIFF!
LAPSUS
OKAY... THEY'RE OVER HERE... WOW...

CHECK IT OUT! HERE YOU GO, LITTLE NAILS... REST AWHILE... YOU'VE GOT MY SUPPORT NOW... REST...
THE PRISONER
DINOSAURS
OBBY'S GIRL
MILTON
YOU KNOW... I ALWAYS SIT BACK AND WATCH THIS BOOKCASE... THIS... FREAK BOOKCASE... NOTICE HOW... Y-YOU KNOW... IT'S LIKE... BUILT WRONG... NOT LIKE THIS... BUT... YOU KNOW... AND THE NAILS... THEY HAVE TO, LIKE... WORK HARDER...
SHIT! HERE WE GO AGAIN! I HATE WHEN SHE GETS LIKE THIS! IT'S SCARY!
SHE ONLY DOES IT BECAUSE SHE KNOWS IT SCARES THE SHIT OUT OF YOU! PAY NO ATTENTION!
APE SEX
I CAN ALWAYS HEAR THE LITTLE NAILS CRYING FOR HELP! "HELP US! PLEASE! HAVE MERCY! WE CAN'T HOLD ON ANY LONGER! THERE'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE! WE NEVER DID ANYTHING BAD IN OUR LIVES! HELP! HELP! PLEASE! WE'RE GOING TO LET GO!
POOR FELLOWS!
THEIR JOBS START ONCE THEY'RE DRIVEN INTO THE WOOD! THEN, FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IT'S THEIR JOB TO HOLD ON... TO HOLD ON, LIKE SOLDIERS OFF THE COAST OF ZYMBODIA! AT THE READY, JUST IN CASE! BUT FOR HOW LONG? THERE'S NO WAR, BUT THEY'RE THERE! BUT WHO KNOWS THEY'RE THERE? THERE'S NOT EVEN A FUCKING WAR ON!!!
FUNNY, I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT NAILS!
THOSE LITTLE BOOGERS HAVE TO HOLD THOSE BIG OL' PIECES OF LUMBER TOGETHER! AND WHO GET'S ALL THE CREDIT? "OH, MY! THAT IS A MOST WONDERFUL **WOODEN** BOOKCASE YOU POSSESS! SURELY A GRAND SPECIMEN!" CHRIST...
N-SHH...
APE SEX
AND... FINALLY... WHEN THEY FAIL TO HOLD THE WOOD ANY LONGER... THEY ARE SHUNNED... TURNED AWAY BY MAN... TOSSED ASIDE... TO BE REPLACED BY YOUNG UP-STARTS... NO LONGER A PART OF SOCIETY... FRIEND TODAY, FOE TO-MORROW...
BRAVO! ENCORE! ENCORE!
BUT... ALAS... WE ALL GOTTA GO SOMETIME... LIFE MUST GO ON... WE MUST CONTINUE ON LIVING IN THIS UNCARING WORLD...
EEEENOUGH!!
I'VE HAD IT! EVERY GOD DAMN TIME YOU'RE BLITZED, YOU PULL SHIT LIKE THIS! FUCK YOUR BOOKCASE! IF YOU WOULD HAVE BUILT THE GOD DAMN THING RIGHT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK OF SUCH STUPID THINGS, WOULD YOU?
I BUILT IT THAT WAY SO I WOULD! IT SURE IS A LOT BETTER THAN... WAIT...
WHO INVITED YOU JERKS ANYWAY?
WOW MAGGIE! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SCREAM LIKE THAT! I'LL BET YOU COULD OUTCHEW LEO THE ROACHER RIGHT NOW!
NOW, DON'T YOU START! ISABEL MAKES ME SO MAD SOMETIMES! IF THERE'S ONE THING I HATE, IT'S WHEN SOME-ONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MY GULLIBLE NA-TURE! GRRR
THAT'S DUROCHER ... HE'S DEAD...
FREAKS!
BARRIO HO ER
LUCHA LIBRE
1
STAINS
REKKERZ
NOISE IS FOR
MUSIC
EL LADO SIDE DA HOPPERS #13
2

AND THEN SHE'S GOT ALL THOSE SICK PICTURES ON HER WALLS! AND THOSE DAMN FLIES ON THE CEILING! IT'S DRIVING ME NUTSO! I...
AW SHIT!!
RRRIPP!
OOWEE! JOEY, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT, MAGGIE JUST...
IT WAS MY PANTS, MY PANTS!
SHOOT! IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THOSE BOOKS AFTER ALL!
OH, FUCK YOUR BOOKS!
JEEZ MAGGOT! YOU WERE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD A HALF HOUR AGO! NOW YOU SOUND LIKE ME TWO YEARS AGO!
WHAT'S SHE LIKE, IZZY? I MEAN...
TWO YEARS AGO...
OH, YOU'LL LIKE HER, MAG! SHE'S A LOTTA FUN! WE'RE GONNA PICK HER UP RIGHT NOW AT THE SCHOOL! SHE HAD TO CLEAR A SUSPENSION!
THERE SHE IS NOW! HEY HOPEY! ALL FINISHED? DID THEY THROW THE BOOK AT YOU?
THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE...
HOPEY! THIS IS THE GIRL I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT! SHE...
GOD, I'LL KILL THOSE SUCK BRAINS! NOW I ALSO GOT DETENTION FOR A FUCKIN' MONTH!
MAGGIE, THIS IS HOPEY! HOPEY, THIS IS MAGGIE! MAG, HOPE! HOPE, MAG! MOPE, HAG! HAG, MOPE!
HI!
C'MON! I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IN HERE!
HERE WE ARE! AN EMPTY OFFICE! NO ONE AROUND! (HEE HEE HEE)
THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!
THAT'S EVEN BETTER, HUH, HOPEY? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO PRAY TELL!
THIS'LL TEACH THAT NAZI ADMINISTRATION! THOSE OLD FART SACKS!
WAIT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! YOU'RE SURE TO GET INTO DEEPER TROUBLE!
HOPEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
FUCK YOU!
STOP IT! HOPEEE!
FUCK EEYOU!!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?!
CLASS DISMISSED, JACK OFF!!

HOPEY! YOU'RE THE NUTTIEST NUT I KNOW!
AWW... YOUR SISTER SMOKES CORN-SILK!
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK IN SCHOOL?
WHO-THE-FUK-CARES?! LISTEN, BITCH! DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME I CAN'T DO ANY-THING! Y'HEAR? FUK YOUR CANTS! AND FUK YOURSELF WHILE YOU'RE AT IT! OK? ¿COMPRENDE?
¿GULP?
HEY MAG! LOOK WHO'S COMING! IT'S LOCO SPEEDY AND HIS BUDDIES! RELAX, JOE, HE WON'T DO ANYTHING! HOYE SPEEDY, ¿QUE PASO?
¡ORALE ESPERANZA! WHAT ARE YOU BROADS UP TO TODAY?
HEY MARGARET! WHEN'RE YOU GROWING OUT YOUR HAIR, SO YOU COULD MARRY ME? PLUS, WE COULD... WE COULD GET MARRIED! ¿QUE NO?
HEY SPEEDY! YOU KNOW JOEY HERE? HE GOES TO YOUR SCHOOL!
HI SPEEDY!
'EY, YEAH... WHAT'S UP, 'EY? YEAH... I SEEN YOU IN ESCUELA SOME-TIMES, ¿QUE NO?
Y-YEAH...
SPEEDY'S GOTTEN A LOT CUTER AS HE'S GETTING BIGGER! I JUST MIGHT MARRY HIM AFTER ALL!
YEAH, AND YOU'LL HAVE A BUNCHA KIDS AND HE'LL BEAT YOU EVERYDAY, ¿QUE NO?
MEDIX
WAIT! I KNOW HOW TO GET THOSE BOOKS! SPOOKY THE SMOKEY! THAT WEIRD GUY WHO LIVES ALL ALONE IN THAT HAUNTED HOUSE ON COOPER ROAD!
YEAH, HE'S INTO THAT... JOEY? JOEY?!
AND THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS: DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE YOUR BRITCHES IS HATCHED! ¿QUE NO?
CATECHISM =13=
MENTOR
COULD YOU BELIEVE HOW HYSTERICAL JOEY GOT? HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYBODY SO CRAZY?
I KNOW! AND WHEN HE STARTED REBOUNDING OFF THE WALLS! HE WAS SO SCARED, HE SHOOK OUT OF HIS LACED-UP BOOTS!
¿QUE NO?
EAR
GEEKS
FIN

WOW!
LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT IN REALITY I AM...
ATOMA IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY HOLDING OFF THOSE ALIEN ATTACKERS!
...Penny Century, YOU'RE FIRED!!
BY JAIME 81
POP!
SO YOU WERE FIRED! SO WHAT? NOW I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, MR. COSTIGAN!
LOOK! YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORK AND I CAN GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT IN THE WORLD! JUST NAME IT, AND IT'S YOURS! ANYTHING!
WATCH THE HORNS!
SO WHAT'LL IT BE? A BRAND NEW ARMY? YOUR OWN COUNTRY? ANYTHING YOUR LOVELY HEART DESIRES! ANYTHING...
ANYTHING?
ANYTHING... MAKE ME A SUPER HERO!
...A WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME...
A-A S-SUPER HERO? OH, WELL, (COUGH) THAT IS TO SAY... UH... WELL... YES... UM... A SUPER HERO? W-WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE YOUR OWN COUNTRY? THEY'RE VERY POPULAR THESE DAYS YOU KNOW! THEY...
HERV... A SUPER HERO...
JUST THE KIND THAT FLIES? IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH? REMEMBER, YOU'RE THE MAN WHO CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS!
I CAN'T...
CAN'T? WHY CAN'T YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T MAKE YOU A SUPER HERO! YOU HAVE TO GO OUT AND HAVE A FREAK ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING!
AND IF MY SCIENTISTS WERE TO DEVELOP A POWER RAY, IT WOULD WIPE ME OUT! A NEW PLANET I COULD DO, BUT A SUPER HERO, WHEW! THAT WOULD BE THE END OF ME!
I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! (SIGH)
END

MECHANIC!
C'MON, MAGGOT!
YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR TWO HOURS! I CAN'T HOLD IT IN A KNOT FOREVER, Y'KNOW!
OK, OK! COME ON IN!
PEEUUU!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO WORK, NOT THE PRINCESS BALL!
YOU LOOK SO NICE, MARGIE. IS THIS REQUIRED FOR YOUR JOB?
NOT REALLY, DAFFY.
SHE'S DOING IT FOR HER NEW BOSS, DAFF.
RAND RACE? OH, YES! I WOULD DRESS UP NICELY FOR HIM ALSO!
I'M NOT DOING IT FOR HIM. I JUST FELT LIKE LOOKING NICE FOR A CHANGE... PERIOD.
MECHANIC!

YOU MADE HER YOUR WHAT?
I MADE HER MY ASSISTANT. WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO EXCITED ABOUT, DUKEY BOY?
YOU SURE YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, RACE? THE LITTLE GIRL'S CLUMSY! SHE'S ALWAYS FALLING OFFA THINGS!
MARGIE REALLY KNOWS HER STUFF. I'VE BEEN WATCHING HER.
I'LL BET YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING HER. AI, YOU KIDS...
WHY DON'T YOU BE GOOD GIRLS AND RUN ALONG HOME?
WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT OF OUR WAY, YOU OLD FART?
PROSOLAR MECHANICS
YES, MISS CHASCARRILLO. GO RIGHT ON THROUGH.
THANK YOU.
HEY! HOW COME SHE GETS TO GO THROUGH AND WE DON'T?
IF YOU MUST KNOW, SHE'S MR. RACE'S ASSISTANT. NOW, WILL YOU PLEASE LEAVE?
SHE IS?! HEY, GIRL! LET US GO IN WITH YOU! I JUST WANNA TALK TO HIM! HONEST!
C'MON!
2

WHEW! HOW DO THEY ALWAYS FIND OUT WHERE HE'S WORKING?
YA GOT ME!
WILL YOU BE TAKING A HOVER CYCLE TO THE WORK SIGHT?
UH... NO. I'LL BE TAKING THE MINI-TRAM TODAY.
YOU AINT GONNA CATCH ME CRACKING MY BUTT ON ONE OF THOSE BIKES, JACK! ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF MY BOSS!
MARGIE! YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME!
HI, MR. RACE!
WUFF!
MY TOOL BOX GOT KINDA HEAVY ALL OF A SUDDEN. HEH! (KA KA!)
3

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU PICKED UP MY TOOL BOX BY MISTAKE. YOURS IS RIGHT HERE, MISS.
OH, THANKS.
WHAD I TELL YA? THE POOR KID'S REALLY FALLING FOR HIM, EH?
HYUK!
THANKS FOR THE AUTOGRAPH, MR. RACE.
ANYTIME, MA'AM.
GEE! I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW... POPULAR HE IS.
YEP! THAT'S RACE FOR YA, BOY!
HAHAHAHAHA THEY JUST CAN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF!
OK OK! LET'S GET BACK TO WORK HUH?
HEY, LITTLE GIRL! DO YOU HAVE RACE'S UGLY FACE PASTED ALL OVER YOUR WALL, LIKE ALL THE OTHER FEMALES IN THE WORLD?
HA HA!
FLASHBACK:
MECHANIX MONTHLY
YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
OOTAH...
4

LUNCH BREAK!
I STILL SAY WE PUT THAT DAMN THING IN UPSIDE DOWN.
IT'S NOT UPSIDE DOWN. THERE'S JUST A PART MISSING OR SOMETHING.
COSAS
PART MISSING, MY EYE! YOU'RE NUTS AND I'LL PROVE IT! YAK, FINISH YOUR LUNCH AND GIMME A HAND HERE.
ALL FINISHED, BOSS!
SO, YOU LIVE IN A STUDIO APARTMENT WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND. WHAT ELSE? I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?
I DUNNO. I LIKE TO... I DUNNO...
WHAT DOES YOUR BOYFRIEND THINK OF YOU WORKING IN THIS TYPE OF PROFESSION?
RACE! I FOUND OUT WHAT WE DID WRONG. COME HERE AND I'LL SHOW YOU...
THERE SEEMS TO BE A PART MISSING...
NO KIDDING. COMING, CUTEY?
I'M TELLING YOU, RACE. I HAD IT FIGURED ALL ALONG...
?

... AND HE SAID HE'LL TAKE CARE OF ME NOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK, HOPEY? THE MAN IS LOADED.
MARRY HIM, THEN POISON HIM IN HIS BED. THAT'LL TEACH HIM.
LOOK, HOPEY! MAGGIE'S HOME FROM WORK, BUT SHE'S JUST SITTING OUT ON THE CURB. I THINK SHE'S CRYING.
CRYING? LETS GO SEE...
WHATCHA DOON, MAG? WHO DIED?
I WISH I DID...
OOH... IF THAT STUPID, MUSCLEHEADED JERK...
WHAT DID RAND RACE DO TO YOU, MAGGIE? I'LL KILL HIM...
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. I DID IT...
DID WHAT, MAG?
I SET DUKE MORALES' PANTS ON FIRE...
OH, MY...
... AS YAX HAXLEY FELL INTO A VAT OF OIL WHEN HE TRIPPED OVER ME TRYING TO PUT DUKE OUT...
ALL AT ONCE? WHAT WAS RACE DOING THE WHOLE TIME?
HE WAS OUT COLD. I ACCIDENTALLY SET DUKE ON FIRE WHEN I REALIZED I DROPPED A SOCKET WRENCH ON RACE'S HEAD...
OH, WELL. THAT'S THE WAY THE SOCKET SOCKS!
END

MECHANICS

DEAR HOPEY,

SURPRISE! IT'S ME! I'M STILL ALIVE. I'LL BET YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD OR KIDNAPPED OR SOMETHING. WELL, I'M NEITHER. I'M WRITING FROM AN OLD, DECREPIT HOTEL CLEAR ACROSS THE GLOBE IN ZIMBODIA!! IT WAS REALLY WEIRD, LAST FRIDAY WHEN YOU AND IZZY WENT TO MAD-DOG'S WITHOUT ME, I WAS SITTING THERE ALL SENTIDA WATCHING TV WHEN THE PHONE RANG. IT WAS RAND RACE. HE SAID WE HAD A BIG, BIG JOB SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT I HAD TO BE AT THE AIRPORT IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. SORRY I DIDN'T LEAVE A NOTE, BUT I BARELY HAD TIME TO EVEN PACK (I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH CLEAN UNDERWEAR, SO I BORROWED SOME OF YOUR OLD ONES, OK?). I'LL BET YOU THOUGHT I GOT SO SENTIDA THAT NIGHT THAT I WENT OUT AND KILLED MYSELF, HUH?

I'M SO EXCITED, BECAUSE WE'RE JUST STOPPED HERE FOR A NIGHT. WE REALLY HAVE TO GET TO, GET THIS... ZHATO.!! AND I DON'T MEAN THE FUN, POPULATED, CITY ZHATO. I MEAN THE JUNGLE, WILD ANIMALS, CANNIBALS ZHATO. IT'S SOME BIG GOVERNMENT JOB WE'RE ON. I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I'M ALLOWED TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE THE MOST ANTI-GOVERNMENT PERSON I KNOW. YOU'RE EVEN ANTI-ANTI (HA HA).

I'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR ABOUT A WEEK, SO IF YOU COULD PLEASE FEED TIC TAC AND WASH THE DISHES THIS WEEK AND I'LL DO THEM NEXT WEEK.

OH YEAH, AND PLEEEEEZZZ...

(OVER)

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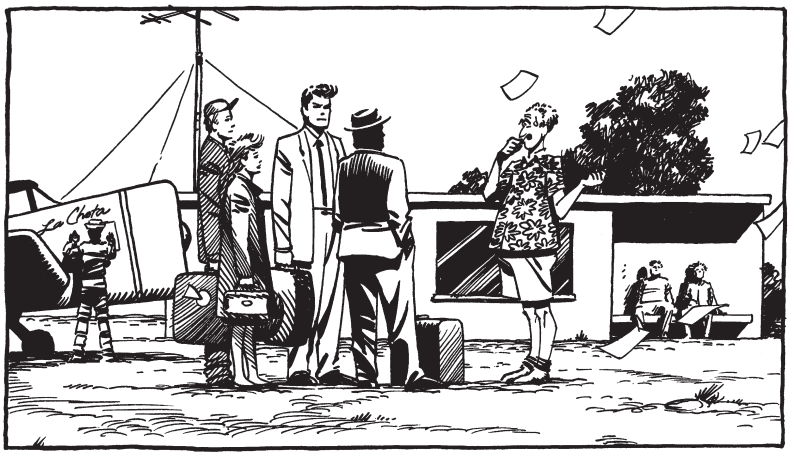
TAKE OUT THE TRASH, OK? THANKS A LOT. SEE YOU IN ABOUT A WEEK.

LOVE YOU,
MAGGIE

P.S. I'VE FINALLY SEEN A REAL LIVE ZIMBODIAN. THEY REALLY DO HAVE SKIN LIKE OLIVES. THEY ALSO HAVE THE BIGGEST FEET IN THE WORLD. = WHEW =

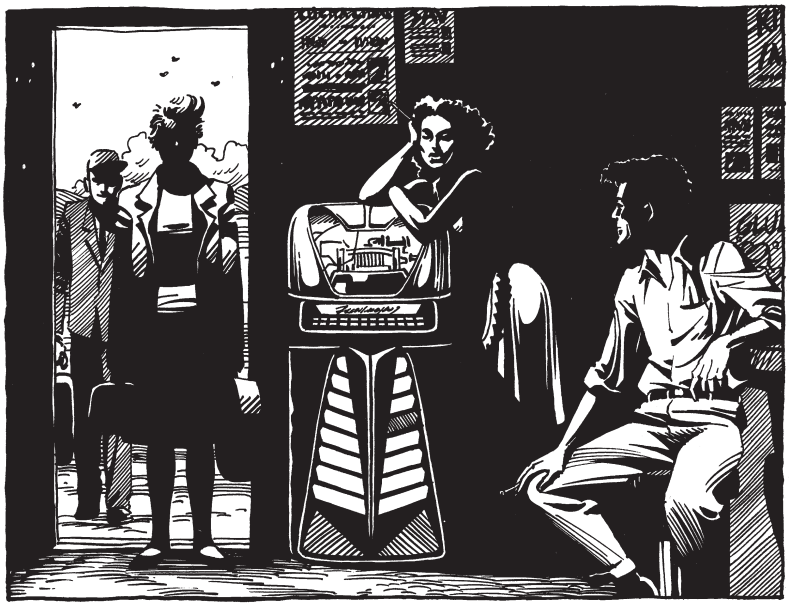
P.S.S. SAY HI TO IZZY AND PENNY FOR ME AND I'LL BRING YOU ALL SOUVENIERS FROM ZHATO REAL SOON.



DEAR HOPEY,

TODAY WE ARRIVED AT THE BUBÉ (PRONOUNCED BOO-BEH) AIRPORT JUST OUTSIDE ZHATO. WE'LL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT IN THE JUAN PANADERO HOTEL (UGH, WHAT A DUMP) BEFORE WE TAKE A CHOPPER INTO THE JUNGLE WHERE WE'LL BE WORKING. THERE WE MET THIS FUNNY GUY WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO FILL US IN ON WHERE WE WERE STAYING AND STUFF LIKE THAT, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HIS ASS FROM HIS SHIT. WE WAITED AROUND FOUR HOURS BEFORE WE GOT ANY INSTRUCTIONS. IT WASN'T SO BAD WAITING BECAUSE THEY HAD THIS LITTLE JUKE BOX IN THE AIRPORT CAFÉ AND ON IT WAS THE THEME SONG TO THAT HILLBILLY PROGRAM YOU LIKE. I PLAYED IT EIGHT TIMES. OH YEAH, I SAW A PICTURE OF THE DAMAGES ON THE ROCKET SHIP WE WILL BE FIXING, AND I HAVE A SLIGHT FEELING WE'LL BE MORE THAN A WEEK (WHAT A MESS). I'LL WRITE YOU IN A COUPLE OF DAYS. TAKE CARE, HAH?

LOVE YOU,
MAGGIE



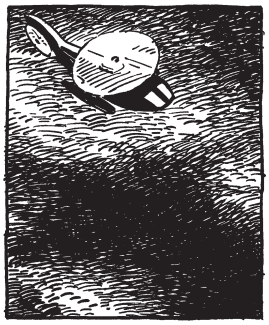
P.S. THIS IS THE BUBENESE GREETING: "BUBÉ, BUBÉBE BU." THAT MEANS, "DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE YOUR BRITCHES IS HATCHED." HA HA.

P.S.S. IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, OUR JOB IS TO FIX A ROCKET THAT CRASHLANDED IN THE JUNGLE YEARS AGO.

DAY 1

WELL, HERE WE ARE. SORRY I'VE TAKEN SO LONG TO WRITE, BUT WE HAVE TO GO ABOUT NINETY MILES INTO ZHATO TO MAIL A LETTER AND THE EXPRESS HERE IS SO SLOW. BUT ANYWAY, REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU WE WERE WORKING IN THE DEEP JUNGLE? WELL, EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE THE DEEP, DEEP, DEEP JUNGLE WHERE THE LOCAL NATIVE LANGUAGE IS SO COMPLEX THAT EVEN THE CLOSEST TRIBES WHICH ARE SEVERAL MILES AWAY CANT MAKE IT OUT.

I MEAN, THIS JUNGLE IS SO DEEP, THAT IF THE ROCKET WE HAVE TO FIX DIDN'T OPEN SOME SPACE WHEN IT CRASHLANDED, WE'D ALL BE LIVING IN THE TREES.



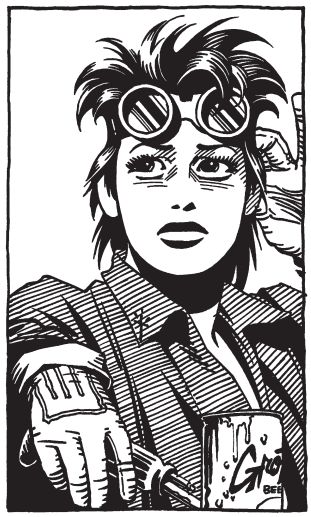
OUR HUTS ARE VERY NICE. THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE ONES IN THE MOVIES, ONLY THEY SMELL JUST LIKE KA KA. I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO THE STENCH HERE IN LOWER PELLUCIDAR. I MEAN, THIS JUNGLE IS SOOOOOO DEEP THAT NEXT TO THIS BIG, BIG, BIG ROCKET SHIP WE HAVE TO FIX THAT IS STUCK IN THE SLIMEY MUCK, IS A BIG, BIG, BIG, OLD, FAT, SMELLY, FAT, OLD, BLACK DINOSAUR!

NO KIDDING. IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE A BRONTOSAURUS REX EXCEPT IT'S GOT A BUMP ON IT'S HEAD. THEY SAY IT'S BEEN SITTING THERE SINCE THE BIG, BIG BIRD OUT OF THE SKY (THE ROCKET SHIP) CRASHED INTO IT MANY YEARS AGO. AND THEY BOTH HAVE BEEN SITTING THERE SINCE. IT SEEMS THE BIG TWISTED ROOTS UNDERWATER GREW AROUND AND TANGLED IT UP, SO IT'S THERE FOR GOOD. ANYWAY, WE TALKED WITH A MR. ESCARENO, AND HE FILLED US IN ON THE SITUATION. HE SAID IT'S ONLY THE ENGINE. HE'S CRAZIER THAN THE LAST GUY.

SO, BEFORE WE STARTED WORK THE NEXT MORNING, WE HAD THE REST OF THE DAY TO LOOK AROUND AND GET A FEEL OF THE PLACE. WELL, THE MEN DID. THEY WENT TO CHECK OUT THE DINOSAUR. ME, I GOT STARTED ON MY TAN. HUH, SOME TAN.

DAY 2-11

IT'S HOT!! LEMME OUTA HERE!! I HATE THIS PLACE ALREADY. WE HAVE TO DRINK BEER CONSTANTLY OR WE'LL DRY UP. THE CLIMATE IS SO STRANGE HERE, AND THE SMELL, IT'S DONE SOME WEIRD THINGS TO MY STOMACH. THE LIZARD, I THINK IS CALLED A BRACKINOSAURUS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S ALREADY GETTING ON MY NERVES. BAD. THE NATIVES, THOUGH, USE IT AS A TEMPLE FOR PRAYING. AND DO THEY HAVE GREAT PARTIES AFTER MASS! I JUST LOVE THEIR MUSIC. IT'S A CROSS BETWEEN MARIACHI AND CORRACOBAÑ MUSIC. HARD TO BELIEVE, HAH? BUT, NOW IF IT SOUND$ LIKE I'M HAVING A BALL, I'M NOT. ALL WE DO ALL DAY LONG IS WORK, PLAN, GET INSTRUCTIONS, AND WORK. I HATE IT.



I FINALLY FOUND OUT WHY THIS JOB IS SO HUSH-HUSH. THIS SHIP WE'RE WORKING ON IS THE LEGENDARY SATURN STILLETTO. MANY YEARS AGO, DURING THE ZYMBODIAN REVOLUTION, IT WAS HIRED TO TRANSPORT THE BIGGEST LOAD OF P/TO IN THE WORLD OUT OF ZHATO, BUT CAUGHT ITSELF IN A BATTLE AND WAS BLASTED. IT WAS LICKED...

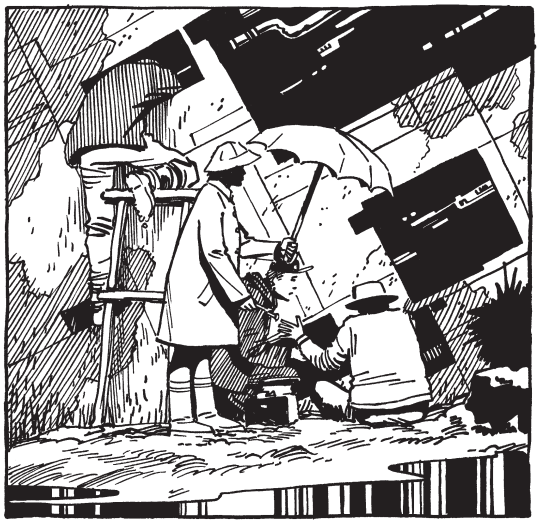
BUT IT HAD ENOUGH SPARK LEFT TO FLY SO FAR INTO THE JUNGLE WHERE NO ONE WOULD EVER FIND IT. THE SHIP AND CREW WERE NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN. MANY EXPEDITIONS WERE FORMED TO FIND IT BUT ALWAYS VANISHED IN THE JUNGLE. DUE TO WAR, THEY COULD NEVER SEARCH BY AIR. WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS, WE'RE HIRED TO FIX THE SHIP, SO THEY CAN FLY IT OUT AND RETRIEVE THE P/TO. I THINK IT'S STUPID. BY PULLING OUT THE STILLETTO, IT COULD KILL THE LOCAL'S ONLY CONTACT TO THEIR MESSIAH. BUT I GUESS A LARGE, DEAD HUNK OF JUNK IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN A LIVING THING. DAMN, THE STUPID THING WILL NEVER FLY AGAIN. WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME. BUT, WHAT THE HELL, WE'RE GETTING PAID FOR IT. THE LOCALS CALL IT THE MOUTH OF HELL, BECAUSE THEY SAY MANY HAVE VENTURED INSIDE BUT NEVER RETURNED. KINDA SPOOKY.

I'LL BET YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE NATIVES AND I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE LINGO. WELL, WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN GUIDE FROM ZHATO, A YOUNG GIRL CALLED TSE TSE. SHE'S ONE OF THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO SPEAKS BOTH OURS AND THESE PEOPLE'S LANGUAGES.

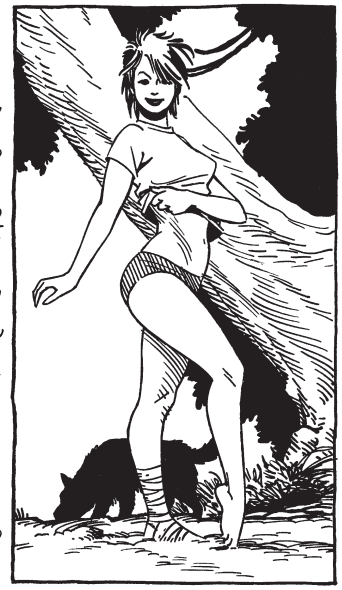
AFTER DAYS OF JUST WORKING, WE FINALLY GOT A DAY OFF AND WENT INTO ZHATO. I LOVE THIS TOWN. BUT, WE ALL GOT SO DRUNK, THE LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS DANCING AND THESE GEEKS KEPT PINCHING MY BUTT. THEN THEY WANTED ME TO GO WITH 'EM, BUT RACE BEAT THEM UP. SO I JUMPED OFF A TABLE INTO RACE'S ARMS AND ALMOST SWALLOWED HIS FACE BY KISSING HIM. THEN I THINK I PASSED OUT. GOD, I WAS PENNY CENTURY FOR A NIGHT. BUT, THE NEXT MORNING MY POOR HEAD FELT LIKE WORLD WAR THREE, AND I WAS SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT I HID MY FACE FROM RACE THE WHOLE DAY.

DAY 12-15

IT RAINED LIKE CRAZY THE PAST FEW DAYS SO WE'VE HARDLY WORKED AT ALL. I BORE MYSELF WHILE THE MEN TALK JOB.



TODAY THEY SENT OVER A HORNY DOCTOR WHO GAVE US SHOTS SO WE WOULDN'T CATCH ANY OF THE JUNGLE DISEASES. OF COURSE HE GAVE THEM TO THE MEN ON THEIR ARMS, BUT TOLD ME IT'S BETTER FOR FEMALES TO GET IT YOU-KNOW-WHERE. AND LIKE A STUPID SHIT I FELL FOR IT, TILL HE STARTED DROOLING ALL OVER MY BUTT. THE BOYS THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF CUTE. I HATE MEN. ANYWAY, THE RAIN STOPPED AND IT WAS BACK TO WORK. EVEN IF EVERYTHING IS NOW SOGGY, THE RAIN DID CLEAR UP A LOT OF THINGS. THE DINOSAUR HAS A RICH TAN AND THE SHIP IS A PRETTY PURPLE. IF YOU CAN'T SEE THESE COLORS, I SUGGEST YOU ADJUST YOUR TV SET. AND AS FAR AS THE WEATHER IS CONCERNED, IT'S HOTTER THAN EVER NOW. SO THE FASHION OVER HERE IS NOW LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.



BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS, I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY AS LONG AS I LIVE. DUKE, YAX AND TSE TSE WENT INTO ZHATO FOR SUPPLIES. RACE AND I WERE ALONE (HOD IT, MAGGIE)...

I FOUND THAT THIS MUD IS GREAT FOR MY SKIN. I'M GOING TO TRY TO BRING SOME WITH ME WHEN I FINALLY COME HOME. ANYWAY...

IT WAS THE FUNNIEST THING I'D EVER SEEN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MADE ME DO IT, BUT I'M KINDA GLAD I DID. IT WAS WONDERFUL.

WHOOP!
?!
RACE? WHAT ARE YOU...?
GUGG..
GURK! HELP ME! I'M BEING... AKK!
EEEEE
STOP!!
HURRY! GAK I'M BEING... AUGHHHH
LET... GO! UGH...
I-I THINK IT'S GONE, RACE! OR AT LEAST... I... RACE? ARE YOU OK...?
HERE I AM...
OH... ARE YOU...? OHH... (SNIFF)
OHH...
RACE WAS FINE, ONLY TOO WEAK TO GET UP. I SAT THERE AN HOUR HOLDING ON TO HIM. I DIDN'T WANT TO LET GO, BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK I'D HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE. I MEAN, WAS HE MAKING A PASS EARLIER OR NOT? IT ALL WENT SO FAST. I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW, WILL I? STUPID SNAKE.
IS HE GOING TO DIE?
NOT UNLESS HE'S SMOTHERED TO DEATH!
6

END OF PART I

DAY16
DAMN IT! THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE HERE! IT'S GETTING HOTTER, WE HAVEN'T HAD A DAY OFF IN DAYS UPON DAYS, AND JUST BECAUSE WE'VE HAD A FEW CHANGES IN OUR JOB, AND RACE IS LAID UP FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, DUKE MORALES HAS BEEN ON YAX'S AND MY ASS MORE THAN EVER NOW. SHIT! THAT'S ALL I NEED. WELL, ONE GOOD THING HAS COME OUT OF ALL THIS. I'VE ACTUALLY LOST, THAT'S RIGHT, LOST THREE WHOLE POUNDS!! I THOUGHT FOR SURE WITH ALL THAT BEER, I'D BE A BALLOON RIGHT NOW.
"LITTLE GIRL," HAH?! I'LL SHOW YOU!!
WHY ISN'T NICE MARGARET, NICE MARGARET NO MORE?
'CAUSE MARGARET BE MAD!!
I'M JUST NOT USED TO ALL THIS, TSE TSE! THE HEAT... WORK, DAY IN, DAY OUT... AND FOR WHAT? OUR EMPLOYER'S A LOON! THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY THIS CRATE IS EVER GOING TO FLY AGAIN! EVEN A BLIND MAN COULD SEE THAT!
YOU ARE HOMESICK, YES? I HAVE JUST THE THING...
TONIGHT WE THROW A BIG, BIG PARTY! WE SAY IT BE YOUR BIRTHDAY! EVERYBODY COME AND BRING YOU PRESENTS, YES?
Y' GOOFY...
MECHANICSPART2MECHANICSPART2
JAIME 82
7

DAY17
TODAY WAS FULL OF SURPRISES. FIRST, RACE RECOVERED COMPLETELY FROM THAT MUD WRESTLING MATCH. SECOND, TODAY WAS ANOTHER DAY OFF. THAT'S RIGHT, "WAS." BY SOME FREAK ACCIDENT OF NATURE, SOMETHING JUST HAD TO SCREW UP MY PLAN. OH, YES, MEN ARE THE ABSOLUTE WORST THINGS EVER PUT ON THIS PLANET.
♫ TUM DE DUM DUMM ♫ PACK UP YOUR TOOLS, THERE'S NO WORK TODAY, WE'RE GOING INTO ZHATO... GONNA HAVE FUN, LEAVE TROUBLES BEHIND, MAY EVEN DRIVE AN AUTO... ♫ ♫
I'M GONNA GET DRUNK AND DANCE ALL NIGHT... I'M GONNA FEEL SO GOOD... I MAY EVEN START A ♫ FIGHT!! ♫
HEY! LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN ONE OF THE PACKS!
THIS IS GREAT! LET'S SKIP GOING INTO TOWN TODAY, DUKE! LET'S HAVE A BALL GAME!
HOT DAMN! THE MORALES MECHANICS VERSUS THE RACE WRENCHES! LET'S GO!
WHAT?!!
THROW, DUKEY! AND REMEMBER, OVER THE LIZARD'S A HOMER!
LITTLE GIRL, YOU'RE NOT GONNA EVEN SEE THIS ONE ZIP BY!
STRIKE THREE! YOU'RE GONE, LITTLE GIRL!
WHAT'S WRONG, MARGIE? YOU DIDN'T EVEN SWING!
OK, RACE! LET'S SEE YOU HANDLE MY RIPPLE BALL!
♫ FUCKING IMMATURE EGOMANIACS ♫
LET'S SEE YOU GET IT OVER THE PLATE FIRST
CRACK!
OOTAH...
OVER THE DINOSAUR, DUKEY BOY! YOU'RE UP AGAIN, MARGIE! C'MON! WE CAN BEAT THESE BUMS!
WAIT! DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE A...
OOTAH...
MARGIE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THROW UP AGAIN? HELL'S BELLS, RACE! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN'T'VE BROUGHT HER ALONG! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL HER AGE! OR ANY FOR THAT MATTER!
OLD, FAT, PIG DOG!
IT WAS SLASHING THROUGH THE TREES LIKE MAD. BUT FOR SOME ODD REASON, I HAD TO CHECK IT OUT. I MEAN, IT COULD HAVE BEEN A BIG, HUNGRY LIZARD. INSTEAD, IT WAS WORSE...
HELLO
FREE AT LAST!
YOW!
8

OOPS! I'M SORRY! I... OH, HI, MAGGIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PENNY CENTURY!
ZOWIE! EUREKA! I FOUND IT! AND I DIDN'T EVEN USE A COMPASS!
PENNY! WHO...? HOW DID YOU...? PENNY?!
SO THAT'S IT, EH? THEY WERE RIGHT! BUT THAT'S NO MONSTER! THAT'S JUST A BRACHIOSAURUS! THIS IS WILD! I'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY! BUT, WHAT DO I DO NOW?
PENNY! SPUT... SPUT... SPUTTER...
OH, HI, MAGGIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DUH...
PENNY?
RACE! YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT, BUT THIS IS MY FRIEND FROM...
HELLO, PENNY!
RAND RACE?
Y-YOU'RE LOOKING REAL GOOD! UM... HOW'VE YOU...
JUST FINE, THANK YOU!
C'MON, MAGGOT! THERE'S A BEACH NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE! LET'S GO FOR A SWIM! I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MY ADVENTURE!
HEY, RACE! WHAT'S UP? DON'T WE HAVE A BALL GAME TO PLAY!
NOT ANYMORE, BOSS! I THINK THE DINOSAUR ATE THE BALL!
ZOWIE!
PENNY! YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE! I MEAN YOU CAN'T JUST... CAN YOU?
HERE'S HOW IT WENT...
"IT STARTED IN FRITO'S CAFÉ, WHERE I WAS DINING WITH A FRIEND, AND I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING SOME ZHATDANS WHISPERING ABOUT THE LARGEST LOAD OF PITO IN THE WORLD LOST IN THE DEEP ZHATO JUNGLE.
"NATURALLY, I WAS INTRIGUED. SO I PERSUADED MY FRIEND TO HIRE ME A BOAT AND CREW, AND I WAS SET.
"THEY SAID IT WAS INSIDE A GIANT DEAD BIRD. NEXT TO THE GIANT MONSTER! FEH! MONSTER OR NOT, I WAS DETERMINED TO FIND IT, AND NOTHING WAS TO STAND IN MY WAY! WELL, ALMOST NOTHING.
9

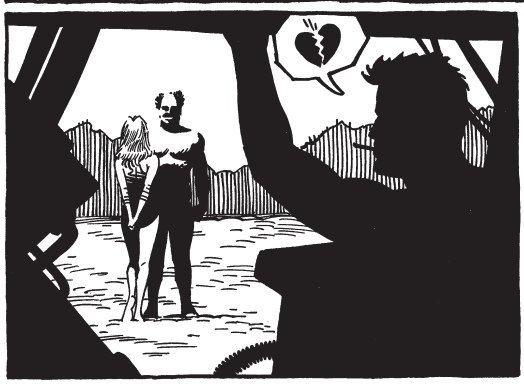
"WE WERE ALMOST TO THE END OF THE RIVER, WHEN MY CREW TURNED AGAINST ME! THEY WOULDN'T GO ANY FURTHER BECAUSE IT WAS TABOO(CHICKENS). SO WHEN I DEMANDED THAT THEY GO ON AHEAD, THEY WERE GONNA MAKE ME WALK THE PLANK! BUT THAT WAS POSTPONED...
"I THINK THE CREW WERE BEING EATEN WHILE I MADE IT TO DRY LAND, BUT I DIDN'T CARE TO LOOK BACK! I JUST KEPT RUNNING. I ATE AND SLEPT IN THE TREES WITH THE MONKEYS AT NIGHT, AND RAN ALL DAY. I RAN TILL SOON THERE WAS NO MORE DAYLIGHT!
"AND FINALLY WHEN I COULD RUN NO MORE, I CAME ACROSS A CLEARING, AND THERE LAY SOME OLD MAN BONES WITH A MAP TO THE TREASURE AND A MACHETE! TALK ABOUT PERFECT! SO, NOW IT WAS THOSE JUNGLE BEASTIES WHO HAD TO RUN FOR THE HILLS! THEN I CHOPPED MY WAY TO WHERE I AM NOW."
AND NOW I FIND YOU HERE ON SOME KIND OF JOB AND EVERYTHING! IT'S WONDERFUL!
HMM... I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISED TO SEE YOU! YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A KNACK FOR GETTING AROUND!
SO, TELL ME, WHAT ARE THE LOCALS LIKE HERE?
WILD! THESE PEOPLE ARE NUTS! THEY'RE ALWAYS HAVING PARTIES, DANCES, AND STUFF LIKE THAT! AND THEY'RE ALSO HEAVY INTO MAGIC! THEY'RE ALWAYS CONJURING UP LIGHT SHOWS AND STUFF! WILD, HUH?
MAGIC, HUH? YOU MEAN LIKE, THE KIND THAT CAN GIVE SOMEONE SUPER POWERS ???
HERE COMES ME, ROCKET GIRL!
UM, GEE... I DUNNO! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! HEY, PENNY...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE BIG MONSTER THAT GUARDS THE FORBIDDEN TREASURE NOW?
HAH! HE'S NOT SO TOUGH! WE'LL SHOW 'IM WHO'S TOUGH!
THINGS ARE GONNA GET FUN AROUND HERE, NOW THAT PENNY'S ARRIVED. NO MORE BORING WORK DAYS, JUST FUN, FUN, FUN! AND THE BEST PART OF ALL IS, SHE CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF RACE. ANYWAY, I WISH YOU WERE HERE. IT SURE IS A BREAK FROM CIVILIAN LIFE. NOT A PROBLEM IN THE WORLD.
EAST SIDE BAD GIRLS
DAILY JUEVIN
IT'S WAR
ZHATO BE MAD
34

DAY18-19→

THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE FINALISTS OF THE MISS BIG BRA CONTEST. GUESS WHO WON? PENNY AND I WERE THE FINALISTS BECAUSE WE WERE THE ONLY CONTESTANTS. NONE OF THE LOCAL WOMEN WANTED TO ENTER BECAUSE THEY WERE SCARED. I JUST THINK THEY WERE AFRAID OF BEATING US (HA HA). FOR DAYS, WORK HAS BEEN REALLY SLOW SO I'VE BEEN DRUNK OFF MY ASS THE WHOLE TIME, SCREWING AROUND WITH PENNY AND THE LOCALS, TRYING TO GET SOMETHING GOOD OUT OF THIS TRIP. RACE HAS BEEN REALLY QUIET LATELY. PENNY BROKE THE POOR BOY'S HEART AWHILE BACK. HM, SERVES HIM RIGHT. BY THE WAY, THE MAN HOLDING US UP IS NOT A ROBBER, BUT BEN RUBEN, THE VILLAGE WRESTLER.

AND SPEAKING OF WRESTLING, IN A COUPLE OF DAYS WE'RE EXPECTING A COUPLE OF PEOPLE TO JOIN US FOR AWHILE, AND GUESS WHO ONE OF THEM IS? NONE OTHER THAN QUEEN RENA TITAÑON! YOU KNOW, THE WORLD PRO WRESTLING CHAMPION, FROM WHOM MY AUNT VICKI STOLE THE TITLE. RENA WOULD STILL BE CHAMP IF MY TIA WOULD HAVE WRESTLED SCIENTIFICALLY (SHE USED THE ROPES). SMALL WORLD, HAH? AND DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN SHE WASN'T IN THE RING SHE WAS TROTTING THE GLOBE FIGHTING MONSTERS AND CROOKS, STARTING REVOLUTIONS AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF HEROICS? AND TO THINK SHE PICKED THIS HOLE FOR HER NEXT SHINDIG. THIS WOMAN I'VE GOT TO MEET.

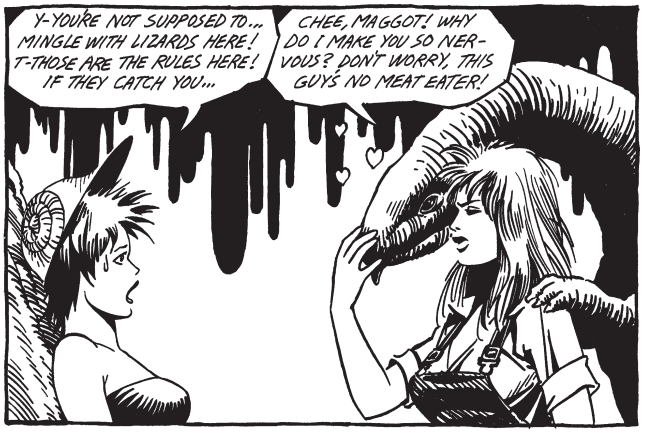
RENA'S HERE TO FIND OUT HOW DINOSAURS HAVE KEPT ALIVE HERE FOR SO MANY YEARS, AND WHY ONES FROM DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS COEXIST. I SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE WRONG ALL ALONG AND THAT DINOSAURS NEVER BECAME EXTINCT. THEY JUST GOT TIRED OF WORKING EIGHT HOUR SHIFTS AND MOVED TO THE WILD TO LIVE OFF THE LAND LIKE FLEABAG HIPPIES.

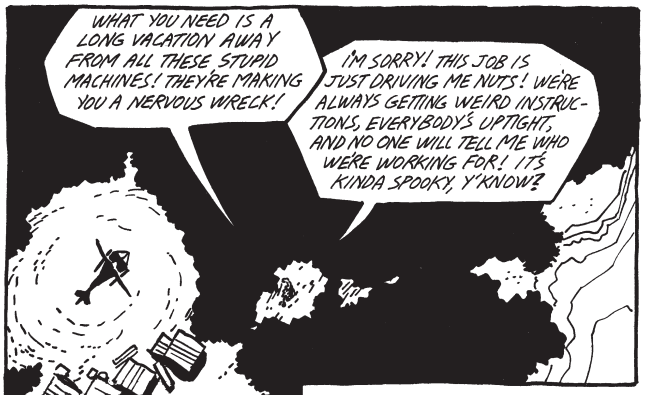


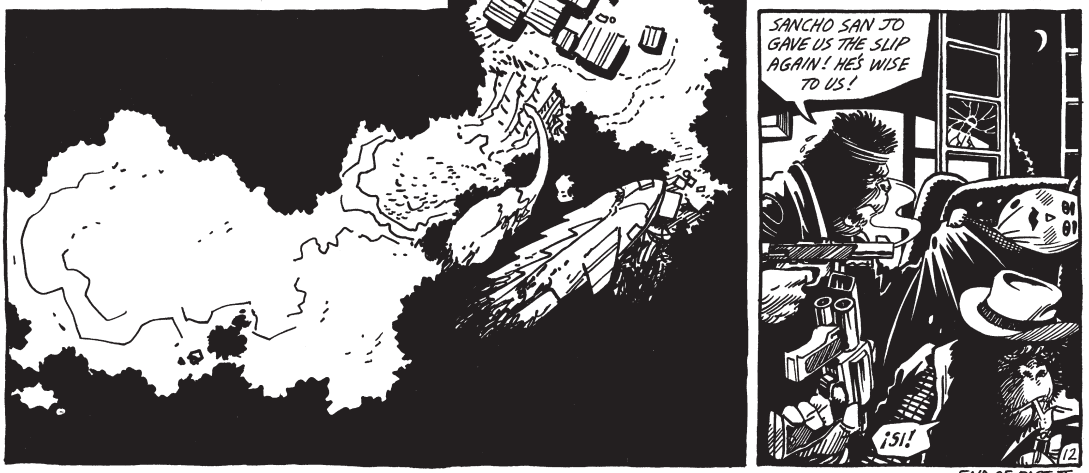
WELL, HOPITA, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I'LL BE SEEING GOOD OL' HOPPERS THIRTEEN AGAIN. OUR EMPLOYER IS NUTS!! HE MUST TRULY BE THE MONSTER FROM THE PADDED CELL. HE'S GOT US NOW TAKING THE WHOLE DAMN SHIP APART. THIS JOB JUST MIGHT FINISH US BEFORE WE FINISH IT. THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON.

DAY 20

TODAY I WOKE UP WITH THE FEELING OF IMPENDING DOOM. I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN SOMETHING'S GOING TO GO WRONG, BECAUSE I WAKE UP WITH ALL MY COVERS ON THE FLOOR. SO, FOR THE WHOLE DAY I WAS EXTRA CAUTIOUS, AND IT GOT SO BAD THAT I SOON BECAME AFRAID OF MY OWN SHADOW.

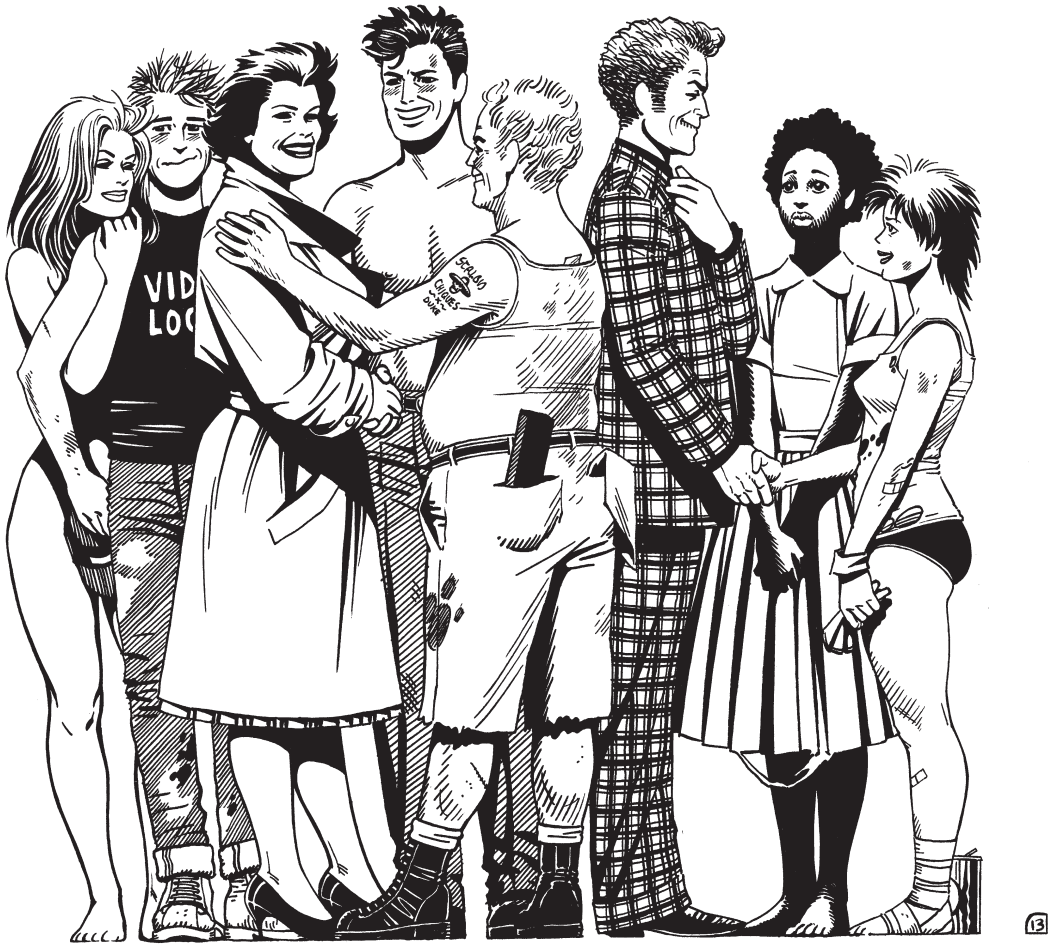






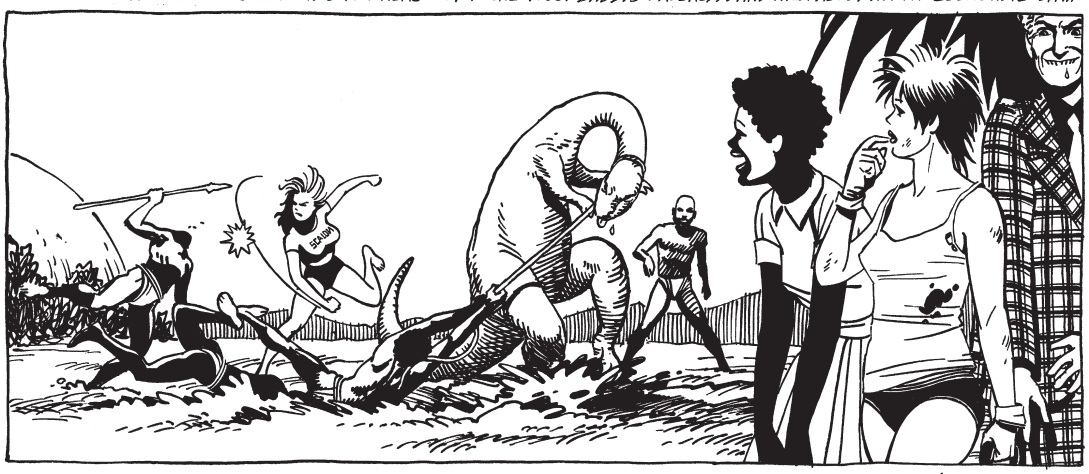
END OF PART II

TAKE A BREAK, MARGIE! WE'RE GOING TO GREET RENA TITAÑON AND OUR OTHER GUEST! THEY'RE DUE ANY MINUTE NOW!
OH NO!
YOU SAID IT, TSE TSE! I'M A MESS!
BEST RUN AND HIDE, MARGARET! WHEN BIG 'OL RENA TITAÑON FIND OUT YOU VICKI GLORI'S NIECE, SHE WHOP YOU GOOD, EH?
(SHEESH, YOU'D THINK SHE WAS THE MESSIAH...)
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, TSE TSE! I'M SURE SHE HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON HER MIND NOWADAYS!
SHE NOT GONNA SLAM YOU?
MECHANIC
PART 3
JAIME 82


13

DAY 21

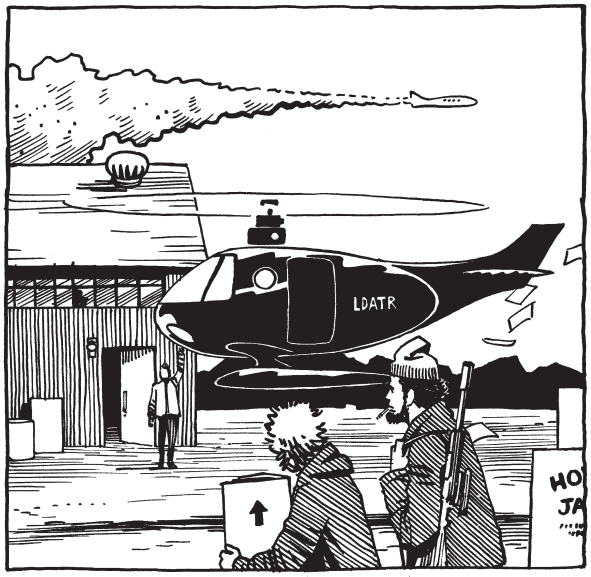
TODAY PENNY'S PET WAS DISCOVERED AND CAPTURED BY THE LOCALS. I DON'T DARE TELL PENNY HE'S BEING SAVED FOR THANKSGIVING, IT WOULD BREAK HER HEART. ANYWAY, OUR NEW VISITORS HAVE FINALLY SETTLED DOWN. FIRST, THERE'S PEDERO RODRIGUEZ SAN JO. HE'S THE SON OF OUR EMPLOYER. WHICH MEANS WE'RE WORKING FOR NONE OTHER THAN SANCHO CONRADO SAN JO! THE MAN WHO IS SO RICH, THE WHOLE ZYMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IS UNDER HIS FOOT. THE MAN WHO HAS PUT ZHATO, ZYMBODIA THROUGH SO MANY REVOLUTIONS, ASSASSINATIONS, ETC... THESE PAST FORTY YEARS, ALL BECAUSE HE THINKS ZHATO IS THE FUNNEST CITY IN ALL ZYMBODIA. HIS SON IS HERE JUST TO CHECK OUT DADDY'S PROGRESS. AND TALK ABOUT HORNY GOONS... YEESH...



THE FIRST DAY HE GOT HERE, HE CORNERED ME WHILE I WAS WASHING CLOTHES AND STARTED FEEDING ME THE OLD "WOULDN'T-YOU-RATHER-BE-WITH-ME-AT-A-DISCO" LINES. THEN HE STARTED GETTING DIRTY, SO I THREW SOAP IN HIS FACE (I KNOW, ♫ CHIVA RIVA RI, A PUN PUN PUN ♫). I'M PRETTY SURE HE GOT THE MESSAGE, BECAUSE NOW HE ONLY MAKES GOO GOO EYES AT ME. AND FINALLY, THERE'S BIG OL' RENA TITAÑON. ALL THE MEN GO GA GA OVER HER. WELL, SHE IS ATTRACTIVE, I GUESS, FOR AN ELDERLY WOMAN, THAT IS. ALTHOUGH, THERE'S ONE THING I'LL SAY FOR HER, SHE OUTDOES EVEN PENNY IN THE THINGS SHE'S DONE, THE PEOPLE SHE'S MET, AND THE PLACES SHE'S BEEN. BUT THE REAL TOPPING OFF THE CAKE IS THAT RENA WAS ONCE A SUPERHERO. AND AS YOU'VE PROBABLY ALREADY FIGURED OUT, PENNY CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF HER.

WHEN WE SHOWED OUR VISITORS THE SATURN STILETTO, IT LOOKED AS IF RENA TITAÑON HAD SEEN A GHOST. WELL, SHE MAY AS WELL HAVE BECAUSE WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, IN THE OLD DAYS SHE USED TO TRAVEL IN IT DURING THE WESTSIDE WARS. IT SEEMS SHE HAD A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP. THEY PLANNED TO WED, BUT THAT WAS DAYS BEFORE THE SHIP WAS THOUGHT LOST. AND NOW EVERYBODY HERE IS DISCUSSING VENTURING DOWN INTO THE SHIP TO SEE IF THE CREW DIED WITH IT. WELL, I HOPE THEY CAN COUNT ME OUT, BECAUSE WHEN I WAS LITTLE, WE WERE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK, AND THERE WAS THIS OLD REFRIGERATOR, AND WELL...

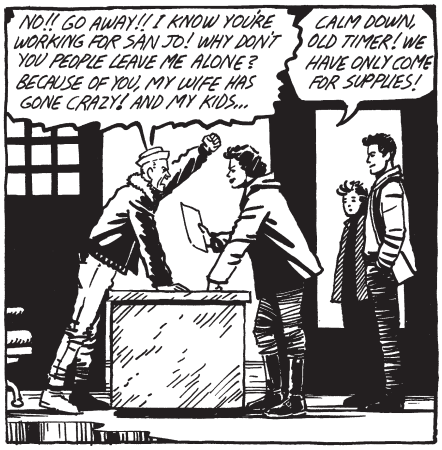
LATER TODAY SANCHO SAN JO SENT MS. TITAÑON SOME FLOWERS ON HER ARRIVAL. (THE MAN IS MAD ABOUT HER). IF HE'S ANYTHING LIKE HIS SON, THOSE ORCHIDS WERE BOOBY TRAPPED. I ASKED PEDERO WHY HE DOESN'T GO AFTER PENNY, AND HE SAID MY SHAPE WAS MORE HIS IDEA OF A WOMAN. I SHOULD BE FLATTERED, BUT I'M NOT. WAIT! I'LL HAVE TO WRITE YOU ABOUT IT LATER. RIGHT NOW, THE GHOUL HIMSELF IS PEEKING IN MY WINDOW. I WONDER IF THERE'S MORE AT HOME.



DAY 22

TODAY IT WAS MINE AND RACE'S TURN TO GET SUPPLIES IN TOWN. RENA TITAÑON HAD TO COME ALONG TO TRANSLATE FOR US. Y'KNOW, I DIDN'T THINK TOO MUCH OF HER WHEN SHE FIRST ARRIVED, BUT NOW SHE'S MY HERO. MY GOD, SHE'S FANTABULOUS. I THINK I WAS JUST A BIT JEALOUS BECAUSE OF THE WAY EVERYBODY LOOKS UP TO HER. NOW I'M KINDA ASHAMED OF MYSELF. ANYWAY...WE WALKED INTO AN OLD AIRPLANE HANGER, AND THERE WAS AN OLD MAN SITTING BEHIND AN OLD DESK. AND WHEN HE SAW US COMING, HE STARTED TO BACK AWAY.

THIS GUY WAS HYSTERICAL! NEITHER RACE OR I COULD UNDERSTAND HIS LANGUAGE TOO WELL, BUT THE NAME "SAN JO" WAS PRETTY CLEAR...



THE SCUFFLE WAS OVER QUICKLY, AND WE GOT OUR SUPPLIES. AND AS WE WERE LEAVING, I COULD HEAR THE OLD MAN MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT NOT GETTING "IT". I WONDER IF HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE PITO. THIS WHOLE SITUATION'S BECOME PRETTY SPOOKY.

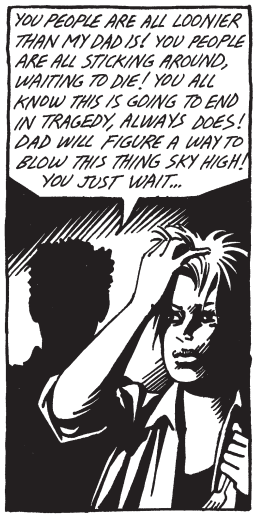
ON THE WAY BACK RENA EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE LAND BELOW USED TO BE A VILLAGE THAT GREW COFFEE BEANS BEFORE IT WAS WIPED OUT BY MORTARS. SAN JO THOUGHT THEY WERE TOO MUCH COMPETITION FOR HIS PAN PIXLEY PEANUT COFFEE INVESTMENT.

AND A FEW MILES AWAY IN THE TOWN OF WINZENA, SAN JO CLOSED DOWN THE LARGEST FACTORY FOR MILES AROUND LEAVING THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES OUT OF WORK AND ALL NEWLYWEDS HOMELESS. ALL BECAUSE HIS NEW BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO WORKED IN THE FACTORY OWED HIM FIFTY DOLLARS. OH YES, HIS SISTER WAS STERILIZED (HIS ORDERS).

AND NOW WE'RE WORKING FOR THIS GHOUL. I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, I'M ABSOLUTELY SCARED SHITLESS. SO WHEN WE WERE GETTING SUPPLIES, I STOLE A TV SET TO TAKE MY MIND OFF THIS JERK. BUT, WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, SAN JO OWNS ALL THE LOCAL NETWORKS, SO HE'S A HERO ON ALL CHANNELS.

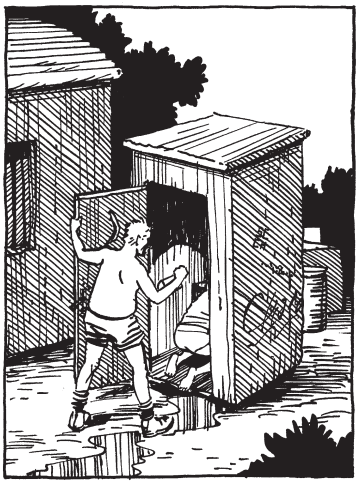
DAY 23-24

THIS CHICK'S BLOWING IT. I'VE BEEN DRINKING MYSELF SILLY THESE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, AND I'VE BEEN FUCKING UP AT MY JOB. DUKE HAS ALMOST DECKED ME PLENTY OF TIMES, BUT I DON'T CARE. THIS IS SO RIDICULOUS!! EVERYBODY'S GOING AROUND AS IF NOTHING'S WRONG. THEY'RE ALL PRETENDING THEY DON'T KNOW ANY DAY NOW SAN JO WILL DROP AN H-BOMB ON US AND THEN HAVE HIS LUNCH. HIS SON EVEN KNOWS HE'S OFF HIS FLAMING ROCKER.



HIS LAUGHTER WAS JUST AS SICKENING AS HIS OLD MAN IS. I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THERE FAST, OR I'D THROW UP. THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

THE NEXT MORNING I WOKE UP WITH A BIG, BIG, BIG HANGOVER WONDERING IF PEDERO WAS BULLSHITTING ME. DUKE WAS ON MY BACK AGAIN, YELLING MY HEAD OFF AS I PRAYED TO THE PORCELAIN GOD. POOR ME.

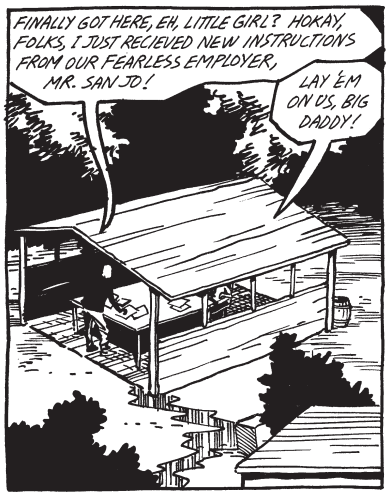


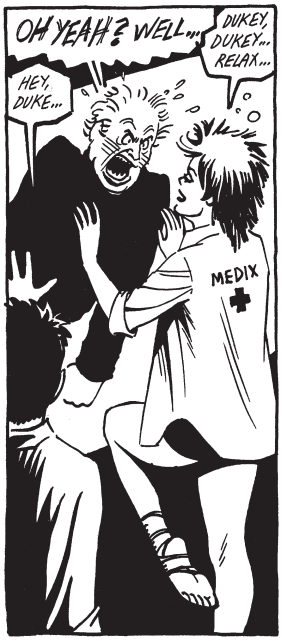
I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE. I NEEDED STRENGTH. SO THAT NIGHT I LOOKED FOR PENNY. SHE'S ONE PERSON I COULD USUALLY TURN TO FOR ASSURANCE. BUT WHEN I FOUND HER, IT WASN'T THE SAME. THE NATIVES HAD HER PET FOR TONIGHT'S SUPPER. UGH.

PENNY'S OUT OF IT AND EVERYBODY ELSE IS TOO BUSY TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS REALLY GOING ON. SO, IT'S UP TO ME TO GET US OUT OF THIS. NOW, INSTEAD OF BEING SCARED, I'M GONNA GET MAD! I'M GONNA GET THINGS DONE! THIS GHOUL IS NOT GONNA GET AWAY WITH MURDER! I'M GONNA... I'M GONNA GET ANOTHER BEER AND SLEEP IT OFF AND GO TO WORK IN THE MORNING...

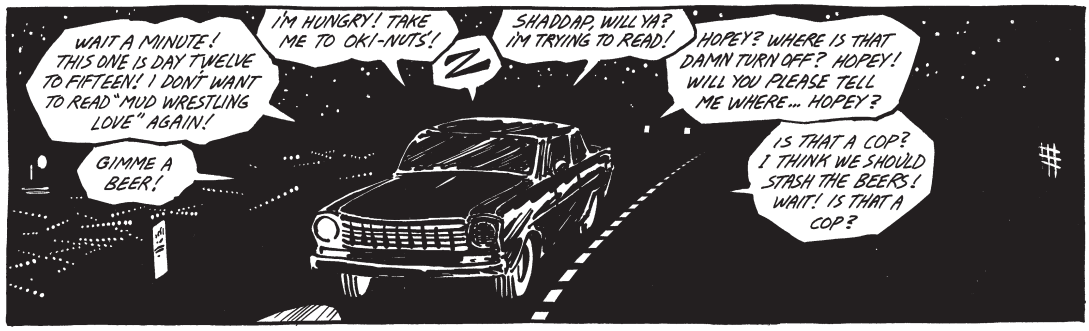
DAY 25

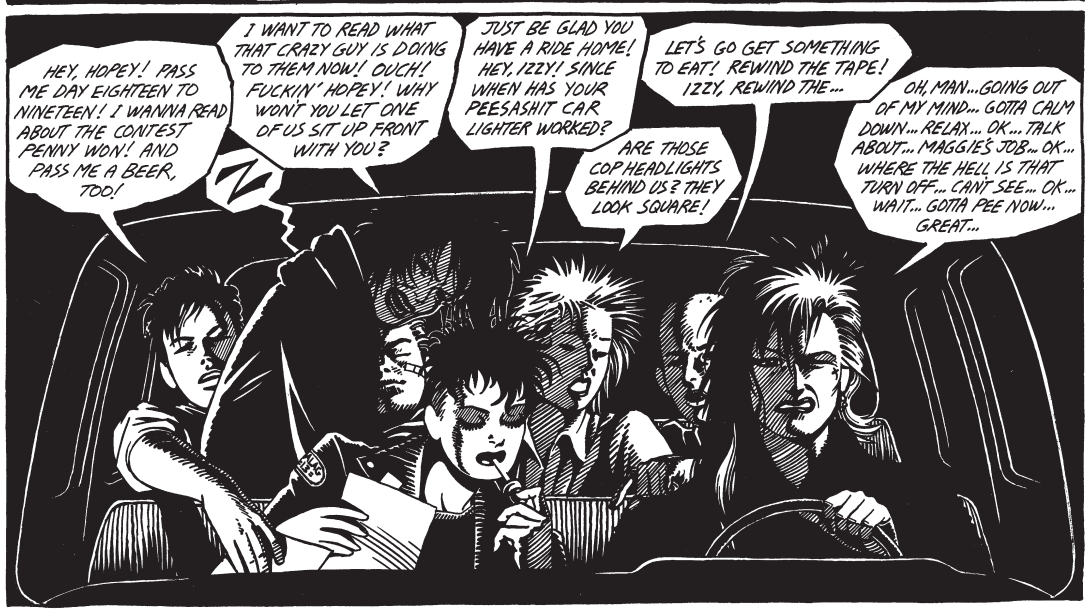
TODAY IS THE DAY I TAKE SHIT FROM NO ONE. NOT FROM SAN JO, HIS SON, DUKE MORALES, OR EVEN THAT DAMN DINOSAUR THAT KEEPS ME UP ALL NIGHT HUMMING AT THE MOON. EVEN RACE, WHO, EVER SINCE PENNY AND RENA SHOWED UP, WON'T GIVE ME A SECOND GLANCE, JUST LET THEM TRY TO GET IN MY WAY. I'LL SHOW 'EM. YAX IS OK, BUT HE DOESN'T SAY MUCH. AND TSE TSE SPENDS MOST OF HER TIME COOKING AND WASHING CLOTHES. NOW THAT ONLY LEAVES PENNY, WHO JUST TODAY DECIDED TO SPLIT THIS JIVE-ASS SCENE.

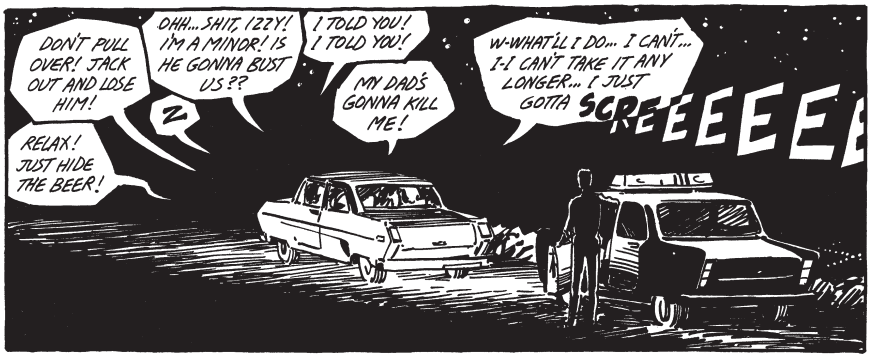




I'VE FINALLY BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH RENA TITAÑON. SHE HELPED ME WASH OUT HER BLOUSE AFTER I THREW UP ALL OVER IT. I WAS PRETTY DRUNK, I GUESS. WELL, AT LEAST DUKE GOT THE MESSAGE. 17







END OF PART III

MECHANICS PART 4

DAY 27-29

LATELY I'VE BEEN HAVING THESE AWFUL DREAMS ABOUT THE STILLETTO. THEY STARTED WHEN WE GOT ORDERS TO VENTURE INSIDE TO THE BACK OF THE SHIP.

LAST NIGHT OUTSIDE MY HUT I HEARD DUKE AND RENA TALKING ABOUT THE STILLETTO WHEN IT FLEW. AND ABOUT ITS PILOT, HER ONCE SOON TO BE HUSBAND, BERNIE CARBO.

SOON THE THREE OF THEM BECAME KIND OF A TEAM, BUT DUKE SOON DROPPED OUT BECAUSE HE FIGURED THREE WAS A CROWD. POOR DUKE, I THINK HE LOVED HER, TOO. ANYWAY, BEING DRUNK AND REMEMBERING OLD TIMES GOT DUKE ALL CHOKED UP, SO HE EVEN APOLOGIZED TO ME FOR ALWAYS GIVING ME A HARD TIME. THAT WAS NICE, BUT IM STILL BUGGED ABOUT THAT SHIP. I DON'T THINK SAN JO IS MY ONLY WORRY ANY MORE. MAYBE I'M PSYCHIC.

FOR INSTANCE, IT SAYS THAT RECENTLY ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN OF JINTIN GAVE SAN JO A VERY WARM RECEPTION WHEN HE STAYED AT THE MAYOR'S HOUSE. BUT THEN SAN JO OWNS ALL THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY. I WONDER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. I WONDER WHAT THE PEOPLE OF ZYMBODIA REALLY THINK OF SANCHO CONRADO SAN JO.

MANY YEARS AGO CARBO NEEDED MECHANICAL HELP FOR HIS NEW ROCKET SHIP AND DUKE GOT THE JOB. THEY BECAME GOOD FRIENDS FOR THE YEARS TO FOLLOW. THEN ONE DAY, DUKE INTRODUCED CARBO TO A FRIEND OF HIS NAMED RENA. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

THE NEXT DAY TSE TSE CAME RUNNING WITH SOMETHING IN HER HAND. IT WAS THE LATEST COPY OF THE DAILY PANADERO, A ZHATO NEWSPAPER. AT LAST I'D FIND OUT WHAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS UP TO. IT WAS FULL OF FUN AND FASCINATING FACTS.

DAY 30
SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON AGAIN. RENA TITAÑON HAS BEEN HERE TEN DAYS AND SHE HASN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH LIZARDS. AND MOST OF THE TIME SHE'S OFF IN ZHATO DOING WHO KNOW'S WHAT. ANYWAY, TODAY EVERYBODY WENT INTO TOWN BUT ME, RACE AND OL' HORNDOG. Y'SEE, I'VE BEEN LETTING PEDERO GET AWAY WITH A LOT, LIKE, NOT RATTING ON HIM WHEN I SHOULD, JUST SO HE WON'T GET DADDY ON US. WELL, TODAY WAS THEEEE STRAW THAT BROKE THE DINOSAUR'S BACK.
HMM... BIG DICK'S WALKING AWAY...
PUCHILA! CHECK OUT THOSE NALGAS! ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT THOSE...
BONK
EEGU
MEAT!
C'MON, CUNT! YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT! C'MON!
YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE! AUGHH! I'LL KILL YOU!! FUCKING SHIT! EEEEEE!
WHAT THE F... HEY!!
OK! THAT DID IT, PRICK! SAN JO'S SON OR NOT, COLD COCKING HER WITH THAT BOTTLE WAS THE LAST FUCKING STRAW!
NO, RACE! DON'T! HE DIDN'T HIT ME! IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT! I BONKED MY HEAD ON A PIPE! PLEASE, DON'T...
HUH?
CHUMP!
DAMN!
20

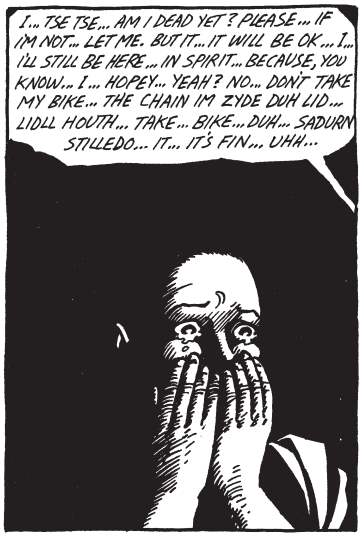
OK, BIG MAN! YOU'RE GONNA SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FUCK WITH A SAN JO!
NO FAIR!
NO FAIR! DON'T...
GET OFF, BITCH!
KRUNCH
RACE! WAIT! I THINK HE'S HAD ENO... RACE!
AKK!!
RACE! OOF! NEVER MIND!
WANT SOME MORE, HAH? OK! COME ON, DIP SHIT! TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT! YOU'RE DYING TODAY!
YOU BROKE MY FUCKING NOSE, YOU SON OF A BITCH! I'LL KILL YOU!!
RACE! PLEASE...
LOOK OUT! YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE!
I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU!
OW!
GIMME THAT STICK SO I CAN... OOF! LOOK OUT!
WEEX!
OH, MY GOD! HE-HE FELL OVER! HE-HE'S DEAD! AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULD'VE...
DAMN! HOW COULD I HAVE... THE HEAT? I DON'T... NO, WAIT! HE'S OK! HE'S OK!!
21

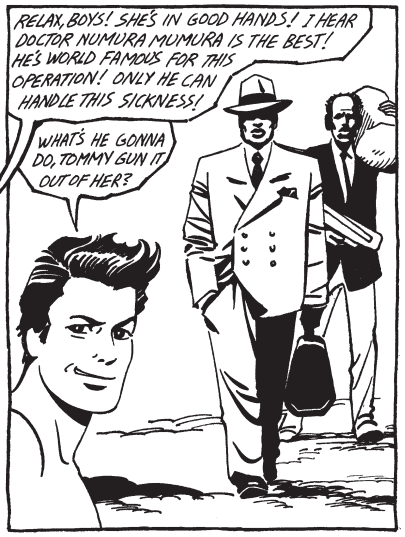
SEE? LISTEN! HE'S CRYING! HE'S OK!
WHAT IF HE SLIPS DOWN FURTHER? WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM!
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT!
WELL, IT HAPPENED. THAT GEEK WON'T GRAB MY BUNS AGAIN. HE BROKE HIS PINCHING ARM. ANYWAY, THIS IS IT, HOPEY. HERE'S WHERE I FIND OUT IF WE'RE TO BE WIPED OFF THE MAP, OR IF SANCHO SAN JO REALLY WANTS TO SAVE THAT PITO. I JUST WANNA GO HOME. NOW!
RACE, I KNOW HE DESERVED IT AND EVERYTHING, BUT THIS MAY GET US INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE!
I KNOW, BUT LISTEN! WHEN I WAS DOWN THERE...
I RETIRED TO MY HUT WITH THAT NAUSEATING FEELING OF IMPENDING DOOM. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. SO I SAT STARING AT THE WALL. THEN CAME A KNOCK ON MY WALL.
RACE! WHAT...?
MARGIE! I CAN TELL THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROJECT THAT BUGS YOU! CAN WE TALK?
WELL, LATELY, I HAVE BEEN HEARING ALL THESE STORIES ABOUT MISTER SAN JO BEING THIS LUNATIC AND THAT US BEING HERE IS A BIG, BIG JOKE! THAT THERE REALLY IS NO REASON FOR DS TO BE HERE! THAT...
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. WHEN I WAS DOWN THERE SAVING HIS SON, I FOUND A LARGE HOLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP! AND...
THE WHOLE PLACE WAS FLOODED! AND WE ALL KNOW WATER DISSOLVES PITO! SO, THIS JOB IS OVER! YOU CAN START PACKING YOUR THINGS, WE'RE GOING HOME. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE. EVERYTHING WILL BE OK FROM NOW ON...
IT STARTED GETTING DARK ALL AROUND US. AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN. IT GOT DARKER... AND DARKER...
DUH... UMM, GEE! DAYS GO BY S-SO FAST HERE, DON'T THEY?
HUH? YOU OK? YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF! MARGIE...?
AND THEN RACE STARTED FADING WITH EVERYTHING ELSE. I GUESS I WAS PASSING OUT. DAMN IT, SOMEBODY UP THERE MUST HATE ME.
...MARGIE? WHAT'S WRONG?
MARGIE?
MARGIE?
MARGIEEEEEE.....

BUT THEN I STARTED COMING OUT OF IT REALLY FAST. BUT RACE WASN'T THERE ANYMORE. ONLY THE FUNNY MASKS HANGING IN MY HUT. CUCUY...
AND THEN I REALIZE THAT I'M IN BED WITH ALL THE WINDOWS COVERED, I'M DRIPPING WITH SWEAT BECAUSE I HAVE A THOUSAND DEGREE TEMPERATURE, MY HUT SMELLS LIKE RUBBING ALCOHOL, AND THERE ARE SERIOUS MEN OUTSIDE DISCUSSING SERIOUS MATTERS. MY CONCLUSION IS THAT I ATE SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T AGREE WITH ME.
TSE TSE! HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT IT IS MARGIE HAS?
YES SIR, MISTER RACE! SHE GOT MOE TOWINE FEVER! I THINK SHE GOT IT FROM A PLANT!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS! THE OTHER DAY A FLOWER HAD EXPLODED IN MY FACE, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SERIOUS, EVEN THOUGH I GOT SOME SHIT IN MY EYES.
IS IT VERY SERIOUS? I MEAN... COULD IT BE FATAL?
I'M SORRY, DUKE, BUT ALL I CAN TELL YOU NOW IS SHE'S TO REMAIN IN THAT HUT TILL THE FEVER IS BROKEN! AND THAT COULD MEAN THREE TO FOUR DAYS! ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT! ONLY TSE TSE AND I CAN GO NEAR HER SINCE WE'VE ALREADY HAD THE FEVER!
OH, GREAT! BECAUSE OF ME WE'LL PROBABLY ALL BE DEAD IN A FEW DAYS. WE COULD HAVE ALL BEEN SUN BATHING IN OXNARD VERY SOON. INSTEAD, WE'LL PROBABLY FRY ON A BIG, BIG ROCK IN THE ZHATO JUNGLE.
BECAUSE OF MY FEVER, MY AWFUL DREAMS OF THE SATURN STILLETTO HAVE TURNED INTO NIGHTMARES. THE DAMN THING JUST WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE. IT'S SPOOKY.
HA
HA
HA
HA
SQUAD LEADER TO 4, SADIE ONE, TWO, THREE, AND FOUR! NEXT STOP: ZHATO!
23

DAY 31-32

SORRY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN YOU IN A WHILE, BUT THE PAST WEEK HAS BEEN OFF THE DEEP END. MY FEVER RAN SO HIGH I COULDN'T LIFT MY ARMS, MY INSIDES FELT LIKE THEY WERE ON FIRE, MY SKIN FELT LIKE A MILLION NEEDLES WERE POKING INTO ME, MY EYES WERE ALMOST GONE, MY FINGERNAILS TURNED PURPLE AND I GREW THESE GROSS, GIGANTIC, GREEN FEVER BLISTERS ALL OVER MY FACE AND CHEST. I WAS A MESS. I COULD TELL I WAS FADING FAST, BUT TSE TSE AND RENA WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE TO LET ME KNOW I WAS STILL AROUND TO MEET THE SOON-TO-BE WRATH OF SAN JO.

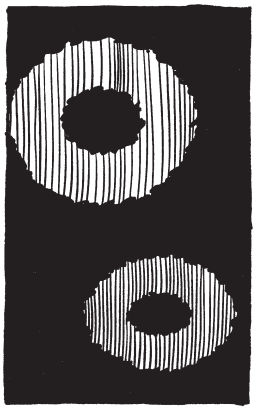




I WAS SO DELIRIOUS THAT ALL I REMEMBER WAS A BIG, BIG SHADOW COME INTO MY HUT AND IT STARTED PAINTING THE WALLS. AND THEN IT STARTED TO SMELL LIKE OLD, MOLDY TORTILLAS. I THOUGHT FOR SURE I WAS BEING PICKED UP TO GO TO THE OL' BARRIO IN THE SKY.

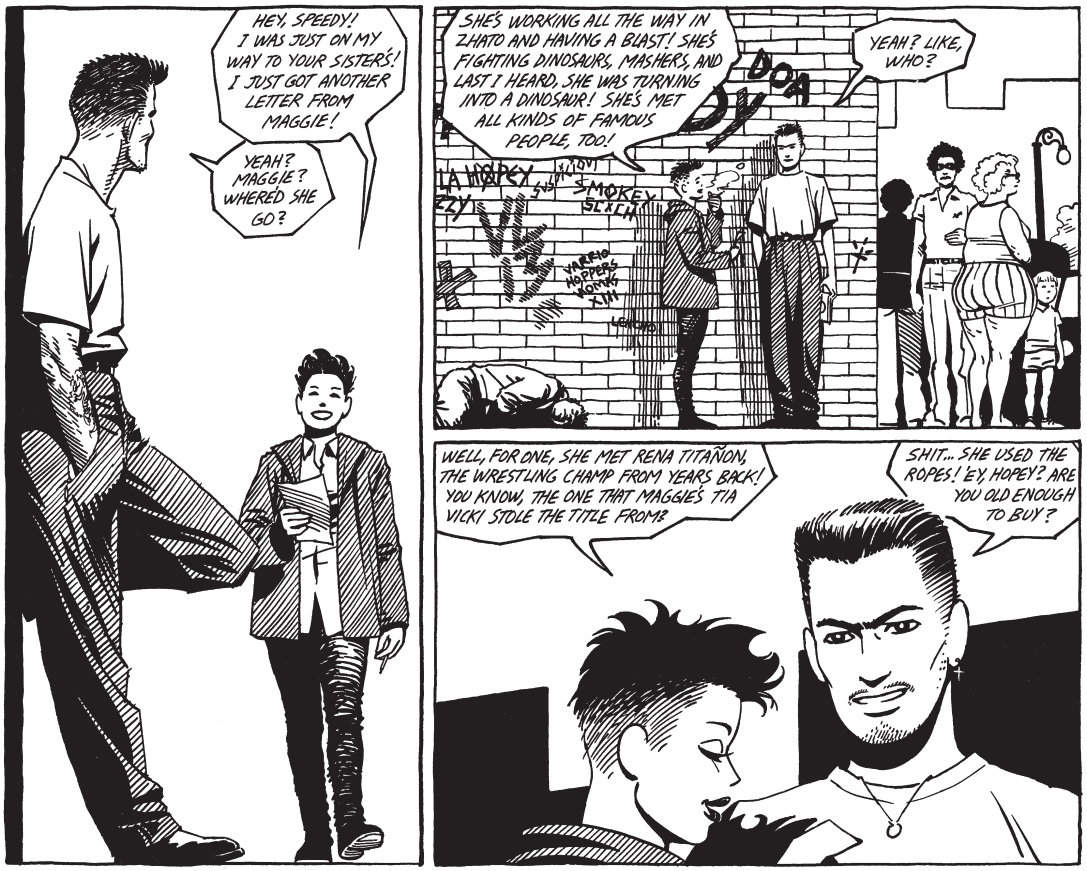
JUST THEN, ALL THE THINGS IN THE ROOM STARTED SLAMMING LIKE CRAZY. I THOUGHT THAT WAS MY GOING AWAY PARTY. I SCREAMED.

THAT WAS WHEN I STARTED TO REALLY GET SCARED. EVERYTHING STARTED TO GET DULL AND THEN CAME THE KOOKY PATTERNS. BUT THE THING TO TOP IT ALL OFF WAS THE MARCHING DOUGHNUTS.



IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER, AND JUST WHEN I WAS READY TO CASH IT IN, I COULD HEAR A WOMAN CRYING. THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I GOT REALLY COLD. AND THE CRY GOT LOUDER, AND I GOT COLDER. AND THE CLOSER THE CRYING GOT, THE COLDER I GOT.

END OF PART IV



MECHANICS PART 5

JAIME 82.

DAY 33-36

WITH MY SICKNESS ALL GONE, I WOKE UP TODAY FEELING LIKE I COULD FLY. TSE TSE TOLD ME I SLEPT THREE WHOLE DAYS. SHE ALSO TOLD ME THAT IT WASN'T MOE TOWNE FEVER I HAD. IT WAS THE VAN SCOY FLU, WHICH IS WORSE. SHE SAID IT WAS A MIRACLE I LIVED THROUGH IT. MUST BE THE CHICANA BLOOD. ANYWAY, I WON'T BE SHOWING MY FACE TO ANYBODY TILL THESE UGLY MONSTER BUMPS GO AWAY. I TRULY LOOK LIKE A BEAST FROM THE HAUNTED DAIRY. HOW EMBARRASSING, HAH? EARLIER TODAY I HEARD THE MEN TALKING ABOUT THAT DAMN SHIP AGAIN. THEY WANT TO VENTURE INSIDE. THEY'LL BE SORRY IF THEY DO.

THE BOYS ARE IN ZHATO RIGHT NOW! THEY'RE...
OH, GOOD! BECAUSE I'VE GOT A VERY FUNNY FEELING ABOUT THAT SHIP...
WHEN I WAS RAGING WITH FEVER, I HAD THESE REALLY CRAZY DREAMS ABOUT ME GOING DOWN INTO THE SHIP ALL ALONE! AND THE FURTHER DOWN I WENT, THE MORE I GOT THIS STRANGE FEELING, AS IF SOMETHING ALIVE WAS DOWN THERE WAITING! OR EVEN THE SHIP ITSELF... LIKE IT WAS ALIVE, WAITING TO SWALLOW ME! YOU CAN FEEL IT, TOO! I KNOW YOU DO! YOU DO... DON'T YOU...?
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY! NO ONE WILL BE GOING DOWN THERE! THE WHOLE JOB HAS BEEN CALLED OFF! SAN JO HAS HAD THE WHOLE PROJECT DROPPED! KAPUT!
THEN, WE CAN GO HOME NOW?
"NOT FOR AWHILE! THE BOYS ARE IN ZHATO BECAUSE RACE WAS ARRESTED FOR BEATING THE HELL OUT OF PEDERO RODRIGUEZ SAN JO! DUKE AND YAX WENT ALONG TO ACT AS HIS DEFENSE! I SHUDDER TO THINK HOW THAT TRIAL IS TURNING OUT! POOR RACE."
SHOULDN'T WE TAKE THE CHOPPER AND GET TO THEM RIGHT AWAY?
NO GOOD! WHEN SAN JO ENDED THE JOB, HE TOOK AWAY ALL HIS TOYS, TOO!
"HE TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING HE SUPPLIED YOU WITH! INCLUDING THE CHOPPER, FOOD, TOOLS, ETC... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TSE TSE, YOU, ME AND THE LOCALS! THEY ALREADY AGREED TO SHARE THEIR FOOD WITH US IF WE HELP WITH THE CHORES. AT LEAST SAN JO HAD THE DECENCY TO LEAVE THESE POOR PEOPLE ALONE.
"WHILE YOU SLEPT THOSE PAST THREE DAYS, THAT SCREWBALL SAN JO HAD A NEWSTEAM FLOWN OVER TO COVER 'THE STORY OF THE YEAR!' BUT THAT ENDED WHEN THE GOOD OL' DINOSAUR ATE THE CAMERA."
SO YOU BETTER GET USED TO THIS PLACE, BECAUSE WE CAN'T LEAVE TILL RACE IS OUT OF THE CLINK! AND THAT'S GOING TO BE A LONG TIME! JUST US, THAT DINOSAUR, AND...
...AND THE MOUTH OF HELL...?
YEAH...
BERNIE... (SIGH)
26

DAY 37
ANOTHER DAY PASSED AND THE BOYS STILL HAVEN'T RETURNED, AND SAN JO HASN'T YET LOWERED THE BIG ONE ON US. ALL DAY LONG RENA AND TSE TSE WORK WITH THE NATIVES WHILE I LIE HERE WAITING TO LOOK LIKE A HUMAN BEING AGAIN.
MARGARET!!
WUZZAT? RENA?
MARGARET! COME HERE! HURRY!
RACE IS BACK?
HURRY MARGARET! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS!
I'LL HAVE TO COVER MY FACE! WOULDN'T WANNA SCARE ANYBODY!
WHAT IS IT, RENA? ARE THE BOYS BACK?
BETTER! THIS IS ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME! CHECK IT OUT!
WOW! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY CALL IT DRIFT YEAR! KIND OF LIKE FLYING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER! ONLY THIS HAPPENS ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS!
CHIWIS! THAT'S FANTA... WHAT'S WRONG?
TOROMBOLO!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT DID I SAY? PLEASE, TELL ME!
OH, FOR... TAKE IT OFF!
DAMN IT! NOW YOU DID IT! THIS IS THE MASK OF TOROMBOLO!
I HAD TO USE SOMETHING TO COVER MY FACE SO NO ONE WOULD SEE MY MONSTER BUMPS!
"TOROMBOLO IS THEIR GOD OF HOPE. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, HE CAME DOWN TO RID THE LAND OF ALL BAD THINGS GOING ON, AND IF HE EVER HAD TO COME BACK, THEY WOULD SURELY PERISH. SO THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE HIM RETURNING TO WASTE THEM."
FLEE, MORTALS! FOR I AM TOROMBOLO!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW! NOW WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT!
DON'T CRY, MARGARET! THEY'LL ALL COME BACK EVENTUALLY! A LITTLE TIRED MAYBE...
GEEZ! I THOUGHT YOU WAS POSSESSED!

DAY 38

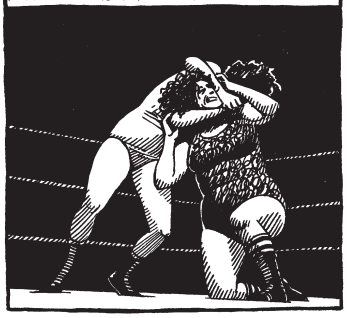
STILL WAITING FOR THE BOYS TO RETURN, MY BLISTERS FINALLY DISAPPEARED AND I CAME OUT.

"I WAS FOURTEEN AND SERVING IN THE P.P.S. JUNIOR HARD CORPS WHEN I STARTED TO ENJOY GOING TO THE MATCHES. MY FAVORITE WAS THE WOMEN'S CHAMPION, TIGER ROSA. I'D FOLLOW HER EVERYWHERE SHE'D GRAPPLE. SOON, I STARTED DREAMING ABOUT US AS TAG TEAM PARTNERS. THAT WAS WHEN I DECIDED TO ASK HER TO TRAIN ME.

"SHE AGREED, AND IN SIX MONTHS I BECAME A PRO! AND GIRL, WAS I HOT! I WON EVERY ONE OF MY MATCHES, AND WAS NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR. I WAS TEARING ALL THE OLD LOUD MOUTHS APART.

"BUT I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT WAS A SCAM WHEN TIGER FINALLY ASKED ME TO BE HER PARTNER. THE CONTRACT'S FINE PRINT SAID I COULD ONLY WRESTLE ALONGSIDE HER. SO, FOR A FULL YEAR I WASTED MY TALENT STANDING BY AS TIGER TOOK ALL THE GLORY. SEE, BEING CHAMP, SHE HAD A LOT OF MONEY POWER. ENOUGH TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT. SHE KNEW I WAS STAR MATERIAL, AND SHE ALSO KNEW I'D STEAL HER TITLE SOON ENOUGH. HER CONTRACT MADE SURE I WAS PUT ASIDE. BUT SOON, MY CONTRACT SOMEHOW GOT TERMINATED, AND I WAS READY TO DESTROY HER. BUT, AS ALWAYS, THERE WAS A CATCH.

"A NOBODY WASN'T ALLOWED TO SHOOT FOR THE WORLD TITLE! BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME. I HAD TO TAKE ON ALL THE BIGGIES BEFORE I COULD GET MY HANDS ON TIGER. FIRST, I MADE FORMER CHAMP, BAD MONTANA JANE EAT SHIT. THEN I BEAT THE STATE CHAMP, ANN AUSTIN. IT'S TOO BAD BECAUSE SHE WAS A GOOD FRIEND. FINALLY, I MADE THE NATIONAL CHAMPION, FAT, OLD MARIA BRAVO PLEAD FOR MERCY. GIRL, I WAS ON FIRE!



"SO FINALLY WHEN I GOT A CHANCE AT THE WORLD TITLE, ROSA NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HER. IT TOOK A LONG TIME, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. I WAS NOW QUEEN RENA OF THE LADY WRESTLERS. AND BEING CHAMP WAS FUN. CHALLENGERS CAME IN ALL FORMS. MY BIGGIES WERE AGAINST MAD MALA, SULTRY SIRENA, THE BLACK WIDOW, WHO I UNMASKED, AND KITTY KATZ, THE HOT NEWCOMER I WAS SUPPOSED TO WATCH OUT FOR. HELL, IT LASTED FIVE MINUTES. I WHIPPED 'EM ALL!

"I WAS INVINCIBLE! FOR TEN YEARS NOBODY COULD BEAT ME! VERY FEW EVEN CAME CLOSE. I WAS GETTING BORED...

"SO THEN I DECIDED TO DO TAG TEAMING AGAIN. MY PARTNER WAS A NEWCOMER NAMED VICKI GLORI. AND SURE ENOUGH, WE RIPPED AND QUICKLY BECAME THE NEW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPS.
"FOUR YEARS WE WERE UNDEFEATED, UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN WE WRESTLED THE VICIOUS HOGG SISTERS. I WAS IN TROUBLE. BOTH THOSE FAT BITCHES WERE STOMPING THE SHIT OUT OF ME. I CRIED AND CRIED OUT FOR HELP FROM VICKI, BUT WHEN I LOOKED UP, I SAW HER STARING AT ME BACKING AWAY SHAKING HER HEAD LIKE A DAMN COWARD. AND AFTER I WAS PLASTERED, PINNED, AND LOST OUR BELTS TO THOSE ELEPHANTS, VICKI CAME BACK TO THE RING TO HELP ME UP. I PASTED HER A COUPLE AND FLUNG HER OUT OF THE RING. I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY SHE EVER DID THAT, BUT FROM THEN ON, WE'VE BEEN GREAT ENEMIES. SHE TRIED TO STEAL MY TITLE SEVERAL TIMES, AND SEVERAL TIMES SHE ALMOST DID. BUT NOT BY WRESTLING ALONE. SHE BEGAN TO USE ILLICIT MEANS TO PREVAIL. I MEAN, SHE WAS DIRTY. SHE KICKED, PUNCHED, GAUGED, CHOKED, PULLED HAIR, ANYTHING TO WIN. SHE BECAME MERCILESS.
"BUT, AS ALWAYS I CAME BACK AT THE END TO WHIP THE BUNS OFF HER. UNTIL ONE DAY...
"THAT ONE DAY, TEN YEARS AGO IN NEW KEOPS. IT WAS THE VERY FIRST WRESTLING MATCH TELEVISED VIA SATELLITE. IT WAS SHOWN IN THIRTY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. TARZAN GOVENDER CALLED IT, 'THE MATCH OF THE CENTURY.' IT WAS WILD..."
OH OH! VICKI HAS RENA IN REAL TROUBLE NOW!
I REMEMBER THAT DAY, WHEN SHE FINALLY BEAT YOU! I SAW IT WHEN...
SAW IT?! HAH! WHERE?! HOW OLD WERE YOU?!
I SAW IT ON TV! I REMEMBER, IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY! I HAD JUST TURNED EIGHT!
EIGHT?! YOU'RE BLIND WHEN YOU'RE A LITTLE KID! AND TV DIDN'T SHOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED! I WAS CHEATED! SHE USED THE DAMN ROPES! I YELLED, "ROPES, ROPES!" BUT WE HAD A DEAF REF! SHE USED THE ROPES, I TELL YA!
SHE USED THE ROPES... SHE USED THE DAMN ROPES! SHE USED THE GOD DAMN FUCKING SHITTY ROPES!
B-BUT WASN'T THERE SOMETHING ABOUT A REMATCH? I DON'T CLEARLY REMEMBER, BUT THEY SAID THAT YOU NEVER CAME OUT OF YOUR DRESSING ROOM, AND THAT YOU SKIPPED TOWN BECAUSE YOU TURNED YELLOW!
ARE YOU KIDDING? I WAS KIDNAPPED FROM MY ROOM AND TAKEN TO WAR TORN ZYMBODIA! THEY LOVED MY WRESTLING SO MUCH THAT THE DICK DICTATORS OF DURIA PAN MADE ME QUEEN! I LATER TURNED ON THEM AND JOINED THE BLACK FIST LIBERATION army! I WAS ITCHING TO GET BACK TO THE RING, BUT I WAS JUST TOO BUSY!
"THEN THAT'S WHEN I MET CAPTAIN BERNIE CARBO! WE WERE GOING TO RULE THE WORLD TOGETHER IN HIS SATURN STILLETTO. BUT, WHEN HIS SHIP WAS LOST, I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER. YOU KNOW, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYONE SINCE.
NOW WAR
COME ON! LET'S GO GET SOME BEER!
PERVIEW SAYS: IT'S HERE! EVACUATE
WAR COME SOON
GET OUT!
SPLIT!!
HELP!

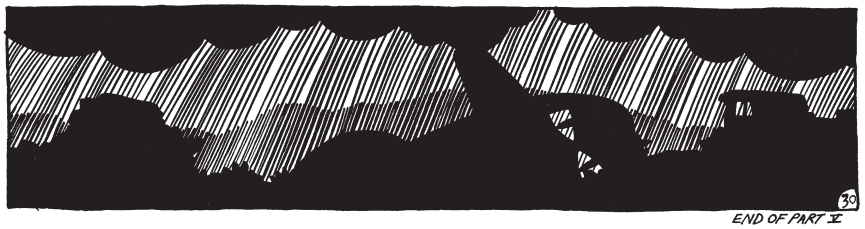
DAY 39

THE DAYS ROLL ON AS WE SIT HERE WAITING FOR THE BOYS TO RETURN. TODAY IT RAINED LIKE CRAZY, BUT RENA WAS STILL OUT THERE LOOKING OVER THAT STUPID SHIP. I HOPE SHE DOESN'T GO NUTS LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST LETTER YOU'LL GET FROM ME BEFORE I GET HOME (IF?). I'M LUCKY TO GET IT OUT BECAUSE SOME GUYS CAME TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING LEFT OF SAN JO, AND ONE GUY FELT SORRY FOR US AND WAS NICE ENOUGH TO MAIL IT FOR ME. KINDA LOOKED LIKE FRANKENSTEIN.

THAT NIGHT I DIDN'T WANT TO SLEEP ALONE.

WELL, TOMORROW RENA'S FINALLY GOING DOWN INTO THE SATURN STILETTO TO CLEAR ALL OUR SUSPICIONS OF THE DAMN THING. WELL, TIME HAS RUN OUT FOR THIS LETTER. I HOPE I SEE YOU AGAIN, HOPEY.

LOVE YOU,
MAGGIE



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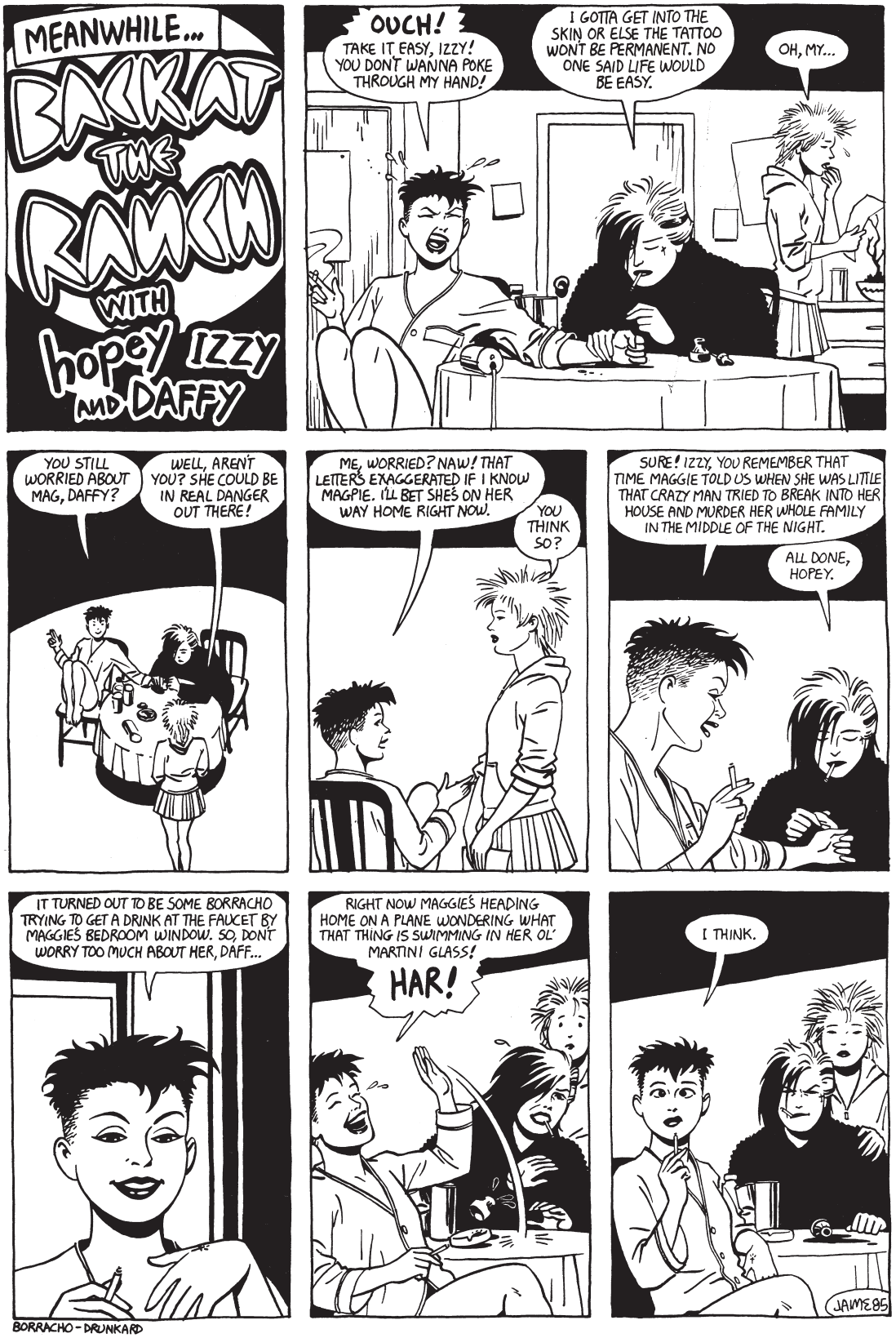

MEANWHILE...
BACK AT THE RANCH WITH hopey IZZY AND DAFFY
OUCH!
TAKE IT EASY, IZZY! YOU DON'T WANNA POKE THROUGH MY HAND!
I GOTTA GET INTO THE SKIN OR ELSE THE TATTOO WON'T BE PERMANENT. NO ONE SAID LIFE WOULD BE EASY.
OH, MY...
YOU STILL WORRIED ABOUT MAG, DAFFY?
WELL, AREN'T YOU? SHE COULD BE IN REAL DANGER OUT THERE!
ME, WORRIED? NAW! THAT LETTER'S EXAGGERATED IF I KNOW MAGPIE. I'LL BET SHE'S ON HER WAY HOME RIGHT NOW.
YOU THINK SO?
SURE! IZZY, YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME MAGGIE TOLD US WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE THAT CRAZY MAN TRIED TO BREAK INTO HER HOUSE AND MURDER HER WHOLE FAMILY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
ALL DONE, HOPEY.
IT TURNED OUT TO BE SOME BORRACHO TRYING TO GET A DRINK AT THE FAUCET BY MAGGIE'S BEDROOM WINDOW. SO, DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT HER, DAFF...
BORRACHO - DRUNKARD
RIGHT NOW MAGGIE'S HEADING HOME ON A PLANE WONDERING WHAT THAT THING IS SWIMMING IN HER OL' MARTINI GLASS!
HAR!
I THINK.
JAIME 85

TA DAAAA! HI, HOPEY! HI, IZZY! HI, DAFFY! I'M HOME!
YESSIREE, AND SHE'S TANNER THAN EVER, BOYS AND GIRLS! BACK FROM THE FAR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE, BEARING GIFTS FOR THE NEEDY!
MAGPIE!
FROM THE DEEPEST JUNGLES OF THE WORLD TO THE FILTHIEST PUBS IN ZHATO, I HAVE FOUND THE THREE TRUE SECRETS OF LIFE! FIRST, I FOUND THE SECRET FOR MAKING BURRITOS WITH STRAW AND MUD, "THANKS, BUD... AND LISSEN... NEVER PAY THE FIRST PRICE... ALWAYS BEAT IT DOWN..."
AND THE THIRD...?
ALWAYS REMEMBER TO TAKE PLENTY OF TOILET PAPER WHEN YOU TAKE A TRIP INTO THE JUNGLE OH, HOPEEEY... IT'S SO GOOD TO BE BACK!
GRACIOUS, MARGIE! YOU WERE GONE FOR SO LONG! TELL US ALL ABOUT YOUR TRIP!
OK! BUT FIRST THE GIFTS! YOU'RE ALL JUST GOING TO LOVE THEM! HERE, HOPEY, THESE ARE FOR YOU!
GAAA! MAEYAMESE 520-14 JUMP BOOTS! BLACK ONES EVEN! BOY, THEY WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN THEY SAID YOU HAVE TO GO AROUND THE WORLD TO FIND 'EM!
AND FOR DAFFY, I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THESE!
MARGIE!! HOW COULD YOU?! HOW DID YOU FIND OU... I MEAN... OOH... THANK YOU SO MUCH
HEY, MAG! YOU WANNA TATOO?
AND I GOT TERRY A BIG, BIG BOTTLE OF... AH, FUCK HER! LET'S DRINK IT NOW! SHE HATES MY GUTS ANYWAY!
51
NOW, TELL US ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURE! YOUR LAST LETTER LEFT US HANGING!
HEY, MAG! YOU WANNA TATOO, TOO?
LET HER TALK, WILL YA? GO 'HEAD MAG!
AND IZZY, I BROUGHT THE MASK YOU WANTED SO YOU CAN DO SOME OF THAT WEIRD MAGIC YOU'RE ALWAYS CLAIMING YOU DO! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I GOT ONE AS CLOSE TO YOUR LIKNESS AS POSSIBLE!
HM, NOW I KNOW WHO I CAN PUT MY FIRST SPELL ON!
...OH, GOD... I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FORGET THOSE LAST DAYS AS LONG AS I LIVE!
31

MECHANICS 6
YOU WIMMINS IS CRAZY! TOROMBOLO GET YOU BUT GOOD!
HEAR THAT, RENA? COME ON! WHAT'S IT GOING TO PROVE BY GOING DOWN THERE?
NOW, MARGARET! WE'VE ALREADY GONE THROUGH THIS BEFORE! WE'RE JUST GOING TO MAKE SURE THIS OLD EYESORE REALLY IS DEAD!
BUT, WHAT IF SOMETHING IS STILL DOWN THERE? LIKE, SOMETHING EVIL?
DON'T WORRY! IF I NEED YOUR HELP, I'LL HOLLER ON THE OL' RADIO!
WELL, WHAT ABOUT AIR? THEY TOOK ALL THE GAS MASKS! YOU...
THERE'S A BIG DRAFT THAT SEEMS TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE SHIP! BYE, MOM! DON'T WAIT UP TOO LATE FOR ME!
TSK! SHE IN TROUBLE!
SHIT, DUKE! YOU HAD TO OPEN YOUR BIG FUCKING MOUTH! I WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT BY NOW! BUT, NOOO... YOU HAD TO TAKE MY CASE TO A HIGHER COURT! OH, I DESERVE MUCH BETTER... SHEEIT... WHAT THE HELL GAVE YOU THE IDEA YOUR MECHANIC KNOW-HOW WOULD MAKE YOU A GOOD LAWYER ANYWAY?
OYE... YOU RAND RACE? YEAH, YOU ARE...
32
MECHANICS 6

YOU KICK PEDERO'S ASS, EH? BOY, YOU REALLY GONNA BE FAMOUS NOW, EH? HAH! DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, SAN JO GOT A HEART! MAYBE HE LET YOU FIX HIS VIBRATOR, EH? THEN HE LET YOU OFF IN SAY, TWENTY YEARS?
WONDERFUL! THEN MAYBE I CAN FIX THINGS IN THE OLD FOLK'S HOME WHEN I GET OUT!
YES, YAX! I KNOW! I KINDA SCREWED THINGS UP FOR RACE IN THERE, BUT WE GOTTA GET HIM OUT! SAN JO JUST MAY DO SOMETHING FOOLISH!
PSST... FOLLOW ME!
THAT'S RIGHT! I GOT IT RIGHT FROM (ulp) SAN JO HIMSELF! YES! PROJECT STILLETTO IS NO LONGER! PLAN NEIN IS NOW IN EFFECT!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! RENA'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG, SO SHE'S NOT COMING BACK! T-THE STILLETTO SWALLOWED HER, TSE TSE! I TOLD HER NOT TO GO DOWN THERE! I TOLD HER...
STOP CRYING, MARGARET...
RENA TITAÑON HAS RETURNED!
TA DAAA...
PLEASE EXCUSE THE DRAMATICS, GIRLS! THE OLD GRAY MARE, SHE AIN'T WHAT SHE USED TO BE!
DID YOU FIND A MONSTER? DID IT TRY TO EAT YOU UP GOOD?
HELL, (ouch) THERE AIN'T NOTHING DOWN THERE! (ooch, ouch) THE SATURN STILLETTO IS JUST ONE DEAD PAIN IN THE ASS!
YOU MEAN...?
"OH, SURE, I FOUND A FEW THINGS! LIKE, I FOUND THAT RACE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ALL THE PITO DESTROYED BY THE SEA...
"IN FACT, THE WHOLE SHIP WAS FLOODED IN ONE PLACE OR ANOTHER! MANY TIMES I'D COME ACROSS GROUPS OF DINOSAURS THAT CHOSE TO USE THE STILLETTO AS THEIR HOME!
"I EVEN RAN INTO A FEW OLD FRIENDS, BUT NOWHERE IN THE SHIP COULD I FIND BERNIE CARBO'S BODY... FORTUNATELY...
33

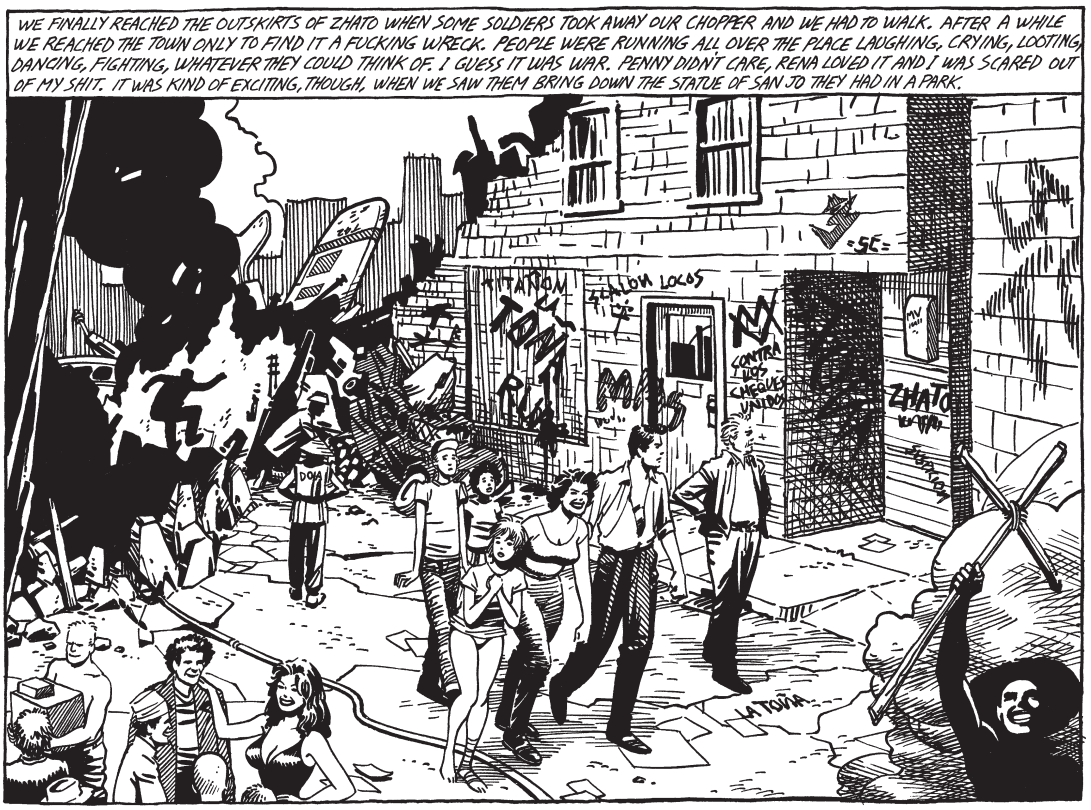
"AT FIRST I ALMOST WANTED THAT SHIP TO SWALLOW ME UP. BUT, YOU KNOW, THE DEEPER I WENT DOWN INTO IT, THE MORE I GOT THE FEELING I WAS THE ONLY THREAT IN THE WHOLE DAMN THING. I SOON REALIZED I HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO FEAR...
"THEN I KNEW IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE WHEN I ACCIDENTLY OPENED THE WRONG HATCH! WHATEVER WAS DOWN THERE IS NOW PART OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AQUARIUM! HELL, THERE NEVER WAS ANY MONSTER DOWN THERE..."
BUMP
BAM
BOO
THERE'S YOUR DAMN MONSTER!
AIEEE!!
HE'S HERE! TOROMBOLO! NO! MARGARET! WHERE YOU GOING?!
I GOTS TO KNOW!
NO, MARGARET! IT'S TOROMBOLO! AND HE BE ANGRY AT US! WE'S HAS TO RUN, OR WE DIE!
OH MY GO— NO, IT'S NOT TOROMBOLO... IT'S...
IT'S WORSE! IT'S... IT'S... SANJO!
...WELL, YOU COULD PRETEND YOU DROPPED YOUR KEYS RIGHT NEXT TO MY CELL!
SO YOU CAN ESCAPE? FEH!
ESCAPE? NOW, WHY WOULD I WANT TO...
¡ALTO!
KI KILIN...
OYE, KIKI... I MEAN LIKE, WHAT'S SHAKIN'?
AY KARAY...

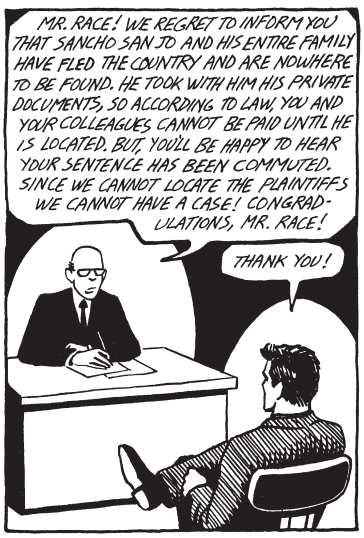
YOU REMEMBER ME, KI KI? THAT'S RIGHT, I'M PENNY. YOU REMEMBER, THE BROAD YOU MADE FRIENDS WITH ONE MINUTE AND MADE WALK THE PLANK THE NEXT! I SEE YOU GOT AWAY SAFELY FROM THAT SEA SERPENT. I'M SO GLAD FOR YOU, KI KI!
P-P-PENELOPE...?
IN FACT, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE THAT I'M GONNA FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT MUTINY. WHAT SAY YOU AND ME BE FRIENDS AGAIN, HAH, KI KI? NO HARD FEELINGS?
HEH...
NO HARD FEELINGS...?
BOK
SORRY, KI KI, BUT YOU OWED ME ONE! OK, BOYS! IT'S ALL CLEAR!
!
I HOPE YOU REALIZE I'M IN DEEPER TROUBLE THAN EVER NOW!
WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO SAVE MY BEST FRIEND FROM CERTAIN DOOM!
SHHH... RELAX, RACE! WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN A FLASH!
YOU GUYS ARE CRAZY, YOU KNOW THAT?
YEAH, QUIET! YOU WANNA WAKE EVERYBODY UP?
LUCKY I ALREADY CLEANED OUT MR. RACE'S HUT!
35

IS THIS NOT FUN, MARGARET? NOW THAT YOU TOLD ME THOSE BIG BOMBS ARE NOT TOROMBOLO, I NOT BE SCARED NO MORE!
WELL, START! THIS IS WORSE!
LET'S HOPE THE WHOLE PLACE ISN'T A GODDAMN VACANT LOT YET!
WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD?
OR A CRATER!
OR... A CREVASSE...?
SCUM
LOOK!
OH, SHIT! MORTARS! LET'S STEP ON IT!
DAMN YOU, SAN JO! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS! IF I EVER GET OUT OF THIS ONE, I'M COMING AFTER YOU!
SAN JO BIGGERN TOROMBOLO, HUH? RENA TITAÑON, LOOK!
EEEK
IT'S GOTTA BE THE BOYS! AND JUST IN TIME, TOO! GRAB ALL THE STUFF!
THE GROUND'S MOVING!
SHIT! THE WHOLE THING'S SINKING! HURRY, RENA! WHERE'S MARGIE?
I DON'T KNOW! SHE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME!
GRAB ON! WE CAN'T LAND THIS THING! AND WHERE THE HELL IS MARGIEEE?!
HERE I AM!
36

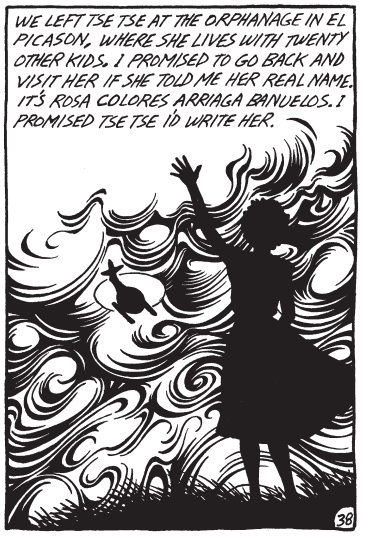
HEY! WAIT FOR ME! EVERYTHING'S SINKING!
NEVER MIND! JUST GRAB HOLD!
COME ON, MARGIE! YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
URK
GOT YOU!
WOW! THAT'S THE STUFF COMICS ARE MADE OF!
EEK! SOMEBODY TURN THE PAGE! YOU CAN SEE MY PANTIES!
37

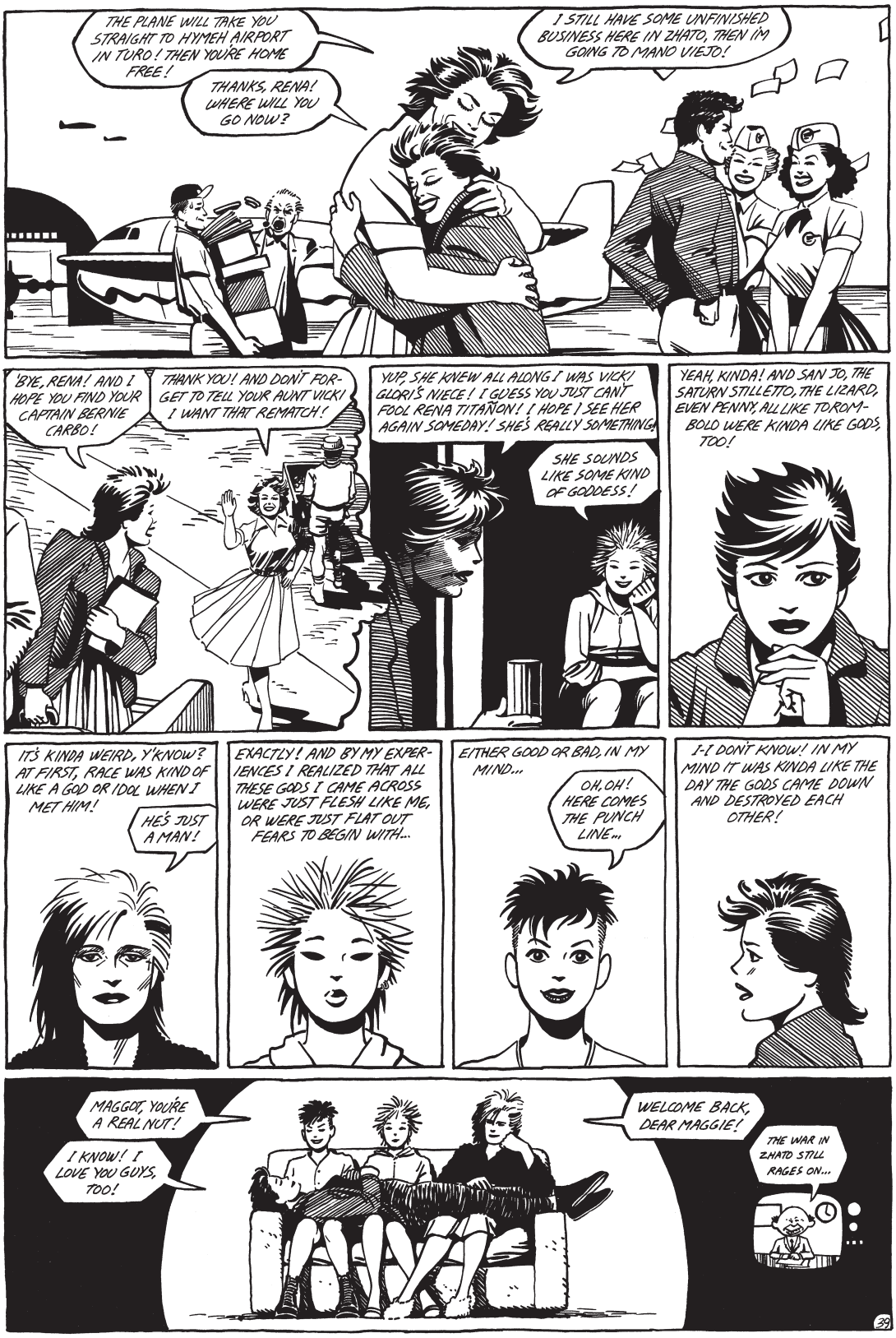
DOWN IT WENT. DOWN IT ALL WENT. THE DINOSAUR, THE PAIN IN THE ASS SATURN STILLETTO, ALL THOSE FEARS I HAD THAT PAST MONTH, ALL OF IT. IT WAS KINDA LIKE TURNING THE HANDLE AND FLUSHING THIS BIG, BIG TOILET KNOWN AS MY HEAD. I FELT SO RELIEVED. BUT IT WASN'T OVER YET.


WE FINALLY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF ZHATO WHEN SOME SOLDIERS TOOK AWAY OUR CHOPPER AND WE HAD TO WALK. AFTER A WHILE WE REACHED THE TOWN ONLY TO FIND IT A FUCKING WRECK. PEOPLE WERE RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE LAUGHING, CRYING, LOOTING, DANCING, FIGHTING, WHATEVER THEY COULD THINK OF. I GUESS IT WAS WAR. PENNY DIDN'T CARE, RENA LOVED IT AND I WAS SCARED OUT OF MY SHIT. IT WAS KIND OF EXCITING, THOUGH, WHEN WE SAW THEM BRING DOWN THE STATUE OF SAN JO THEY HAD IN A PARK.
SCORPIONS LOCOS
CONTRA LOS CHEGUES UNIDOS
ZHATO
LA TOÑA


MR. RACE! WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT SANCHO SAN JO AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY AND ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. HE TOOK WITH HIM HIS PRIVATE DOCUMENTS, SO ACCORDING TO LAW, YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES CANNOT BE PAID UNTIL HE IS LOCATED. BUT, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR SENTENCE HAS BEEN COMMUTED. SINCE WE CANNOT LOCATE THE PLAINTIFFS WE CANNOT HAVE A CASE! CONGRADULATIONS, MR. RACE!
THANK YOU!

SO, ALL ALONG THE PEOPLE OF ZYMBODIA PLANNED TO DESTROY THEIR SELF APPOINTED LEADER. AND RENA, WHOM THEY CALL "LA TOÑA," WAS BEHIND THE WHOLE THING. WHAT A WOMAN. SHE SHOWS THE PEOPLE HOW TO THINK FREE THEN MOVES ON. WILD.
HOD IT, RENA!


WE LEFT TSE TSE AT THE ORPHANAGE IN EL PICASON, WHERE SHE LIVES WITH TWENTY OTHER KIDS. I PROMISED TO GO BACK AND VISIT HER IF SHE TOLD ME HER REAL NAME. IT'S ROSA COLORES ARRIAGA BANUELOS. I PROMISED TSE TSE I'D WRITE HER.
38

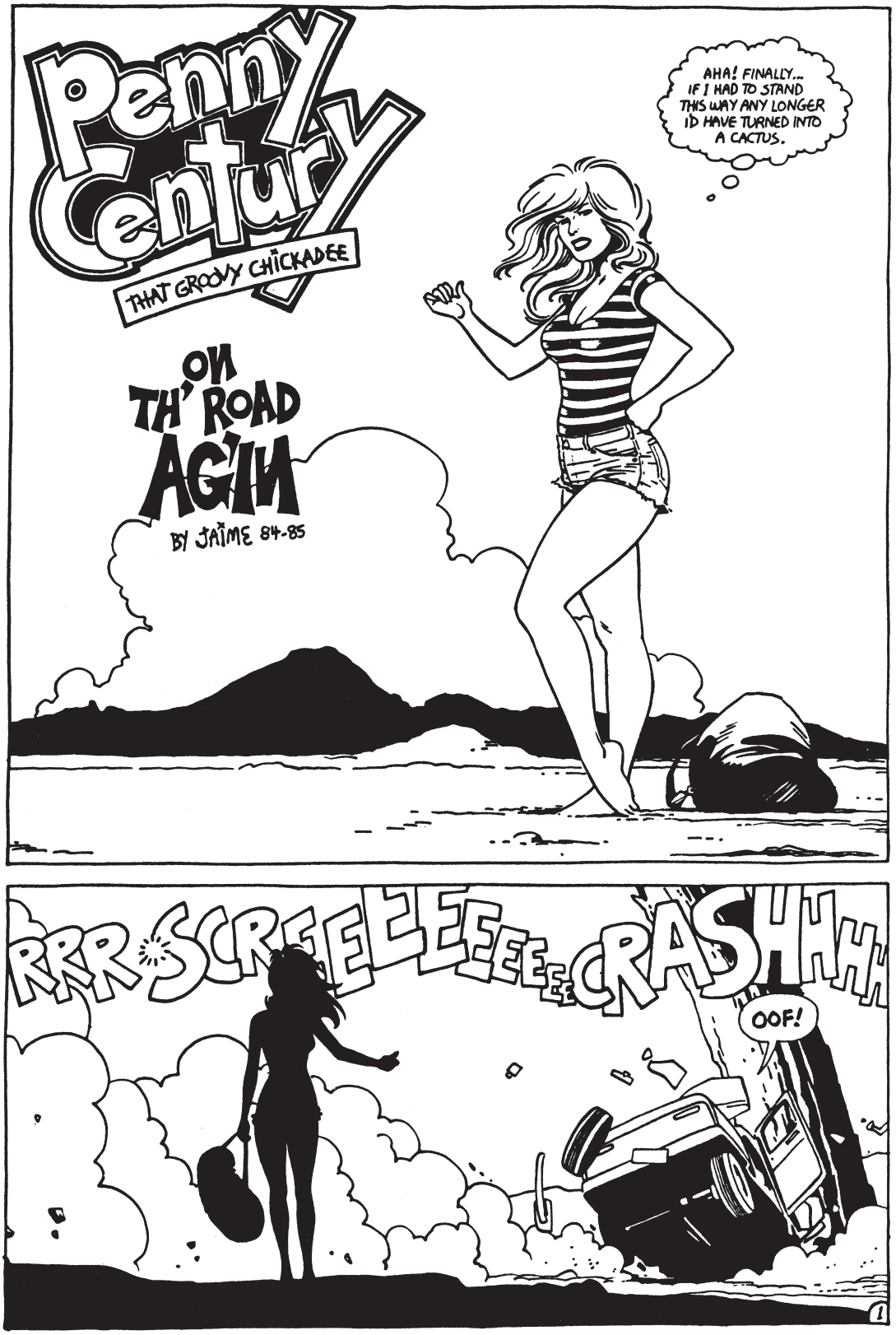

THE PLANE WILL TAKE YOU STRAIGHT TO HYMEH AIRPORT IN TURO! THEN YOU'RE HOME FREE!
THANKS, RENA! WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW?
I STILL HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS HERE IN ZHATO, THEN I'M GOING TO MANO VIEJO!
'BYE, RENA! AND I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR CAPTAIN BERNIE CARBO!
THANK YOU! AND DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR AUNT VICK! I WANT THAT REMATCH!
YUP, SHE KNEW ALL ALONG I WAS VICK! GLORI'S NIECE! I GUESS YOU JUST CAN'T FOOL RENA TITAÑON! I HOPE I SEE HER AGAIN SOMEDAY! SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING!
SHE SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF GODDESS!
YEAH, KINDA! AND SAN JO, THE SATURN STILLETTO, THE LIZARD, EVEN PENNY, ALL LIKE TO ROMBOLO WERE KINDA LIKE GODS, TOO!
IT'S KINDA WEIRD, Y'KNOW? AT FIRST, RACE WAS KIND OF LIKE A GOD OR IDOL WHEN I MET HIM!
HE'S JUST A MAN!
EXACTLY! AND BY MY EXPERIENCES I REALIZED THAT ALL THESE GODS I CAME ACROSS WERE JUST FLESH LIKE ME, OR WERE JUST FLAT OUT FEARS TO BEGIN WITH...
EITHER GOOD OR BAD, IN MY MIND...
OH, OH! HERE COMES THE PUNCH LINE...
I-I DON'T KNOW! IN MY MIND IT WAS KINDA LIKE THE DAY THE GODS CAME DOWN AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER!
MAGGOT, YOU'RE A REAL NUT!
I KNOW! I LOVE YOU GUYS, TOO!
WELCOME BACK, DEAR MAGGIE!
THE WAR IN ZHATO STILL RAGES ON...
39

I DON'T GET IT, CARBO! TEN YEARS IN THIS PIT OF SLIME AND YOU CAN STILL SMILE?
free
DAILY GLOBERO
INVASION HALT!
SAN JO GUNNED DOWN ON STREET
TITAÑON STARTS NEW REVOLUTION IN MANOVIA
WOMAN EATS APPLE PIE
fin

hey hopey
HEY'S FOR HORSES, ASS BITE!
JAIME 85
HEY, HOPEY! WHERE YOU OFF TO, GIRL?
NUNYA.
NUNYA?
NUNYA BUSINESS.
HEY, HOPEY! MOM'S IN TOWN. SHE WANTS TO SEE YOU.
WHAT'S SHE WANNA DO? SHOW OFF HER NEW BOY-FRIEND?
YOU MET HIM ALREADY?
I DON'T HAVE TO MEET HIM, IF I KNOW OUR MOTHER...
HE'S BLOND, MUSTACHE, ONE EYEBROW, BLUE EYES, WEARS HIS SPORT SHIRTS TWO SIZES TOO SMALL, RIGHT?
WRONG. GREEN EYES.
WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE MOM'S MADE A BIG CHANGE IN HER LIFE.
HEY, I NOTICED YOU HAVEN'T BEEN RAISING TOO MUCH HELL NOW THAT YOUR LOVER MAGGIE'S BEEN GONE.
BOXERS FACES
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CASANOVA? JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET INTO HER LITTLE PANTIES?
SHEEIT! SHE'S JUST SCARED I MIGHT CRIPPLE HER.
DON'T WORRY, JOEY. YOU STILL HAVE ALL THOSE THIRTEEN YEAR OLDS WAITING IN LINE.
BUT THEY'RE NOT MAGGIE, MAN! HOW COME YOU NEVER SET ME UP WITH HER?

I DUNNO, JOEY. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE MAGGIE'S TYPE. SHE KINDA LIKES HER MEN RUGGED, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
SHE LIKES THAT SPEEDY CHOLO, HUH?
EL SANTO
WELL, YEAH. SHE LIKES 'EM A LITTLE OLDER, TOO.
SHE STILL STUCK ON THAT MECHANIC DUDE? GOD, WHAT A DIPSHIT!
BUT THEN, SHE LIKES 'EM TO TREAT HER REAL TENDER LIKE. REAL NICE...
...AND THEN SHE LETS 'EM TIE HER UP TO BEAT HER WITH A HOT WHEEL TRACK!
BUT, YOU JUST SCREW 'EM AND THEN HANG 'EM OUT TO DRY. WHAT THE HELL IS THAT? NO SELF RESPECTING GIRL WANTS THAT KINDA SHIT!
HUH! YOU'D KNOW, 'CAUSE ALL YOU GO OUT WITH IS GIRLS. WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
MY BROTHER. MY POOR LITTLE BROTHER. MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL SEE THINGS MY WAY...
HUH? I AIN'T GONNA TURN GAY!
IF YOU THINK I'M EVER GONNA BECOME A FAG... YOU'RE REALLY STUPID!
I MEANT YOU'LL ACCEPT THINGS FOR WHAT THEY ARE! NOW I'M NOT SO SURE!
I MEAN, JUST 'CAUSE ME AND MAGGIE LIVE TOGETHER AND SLEEP IN THE SAME BED DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. JUST 'CAUSE WE HOLD HANDS WHILE WALKING DOWN THE STREET DOESN'T MEAN SHIT!
BUT, YOU LIKE HER...
SURE, I LIKE MAGGIE, STUPID! SINCE WHEN CAN'T A GIRL LIKE ANOTHER GIRL?
NO. I MEAN, YOU WANNA HAVE HER FOR LUNCH. YOU WANNA DRINK HER THIGHS...
2

YOU'RE GETTING REAL ANNOYING, NOW...
C'MON, HOPEY! YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY! EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT YOU AND MAGGIE!
LITTER
OH, YEAH, MISS RONA? WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
WELL, THAT YOU TWO ARE... YOU KNOW, GOING OUT.
OH, HORRORS! WILL I EVER LIVE IT DOWN? GET LOST, WILL YA?
AW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND ADMIT IT? YOU ARE A LESBO!
EL SANTO
RODDY PIPER
LITTER
GET AWAY FROM ME! I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YOU NO MORE! YOU'RE HOPELESS!
AND YOU ARE SPOILING MAGGIE'S CHANCE TO BE WITH A REAL MAN!
I SAID GET OUTA HERE, YOU ASSHOLE!
HEY! THOSE HURT! OUCH!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
NOW, ARE WE GONNA QUIT ACTING LIKE THE ALL POWERFUL SHIT HEAD, OR DO I PASTE YOU SOME IN THE EYES?
OK, OK! I GIVE UP! STOP!
SO, ARE YOU GONNA GO SEE MOM OR DO I HAVE TO BRAVE IT ALL BY MYSELF?
I'D RATHER SURF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT.
PURO WEST SIDE SORAMO
LOCOS
MAS
"CHUY"
S MF
CAN'T YOU SEE, JOEY? ME AND MOM ARE ON THE OUTS RIGHT NOW. KAPUT!
YEAH, SHE STILL GIVES ME SHIT FOR LIVING WITH DAD. BUT THAT'S ONLY LIKE NOW, WHEN SHE GETS A NEW HUNK.
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA, JOEY. WHY DON'T WE PICK UP A SIX PACK AND READ MY LATEST LETTER FROM MAGGIE. MAYBE SHE PUTS IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU TODAY.
YOU BUY.
EL SANTO
RODDY PIPER
END


Penny Century
THAT GROOVY CHICKADEE
OH TH' ROAD AGAIN
BY JAIME 84-85
AHA! FINALLY... IF I HAD TO STAND THIS WAY ANY LONGER I'D HAVE TURNED INTO A CACTUS.
RRR SCREEEEEEEEEE CRASHHH
OOF!

OMIGOSH! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
OHH... SHE WASN'T A DREAM...
OH NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE? THE BOSS IS GONNA KILL ME! OHH...
DID I MAKE YOU DO THAT?
AW, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. THE WIFE ALWAYS SAID MY BIRD WATCHING WOULD KILL ME IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER SOMEDAY.
JUST BE GLAD YOU WEREN'T KILLED.
ARE YOU KIDDING? AFTER MY BOSS FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS I MAY AS WELL BE.
JUST TELL HIM THE TRUTH. IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT.
HA! YOU DON'T KNOW H R COSTIGAN! WITH HIM THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS!
COSTIGAN?
YEAH, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HUNTING DOWN SOME BROAD FOR HIM NAMED PENNY SOMETHIN' OR OTHER. SHE'S SOMEWHERE HERE IN ZHATO.
NO FOOLIN'?
BY THE WAY, I'M BOMBER BONES. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, GORGEOUS?
UH... BEATRIZ... BEATRIZ GARCIA.
2

MAN, I'VE BEEN SCREWING AROUND SO MUCH I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS PENNY LOOKS LIKE.
HER PICTURE'S IN MY NAPSACK. COULD YOU HAND IT TO ME?
IN HERE?

IS THIS IT? OOPS!
AW, NAW! NAW!

OH, GEE! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I'M DEAD! THAT'S IT! DEAD!

I KNEW GETTING THIS JOB WOULD BE A MISTAKE. AT FIRST, I THOUGHT WORKING FOR COSTIGAN WOULD BE A CINCH. LITTLE WORK AND A LOT OF PAY...
YOU REALLY CAN'T ALWAYS TRUST A MAN WITH MONEY LIKE THAT.

OH, YEAH. I GUESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU MEETS A LOT OF MEN WITH MONEY, HUH?
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?

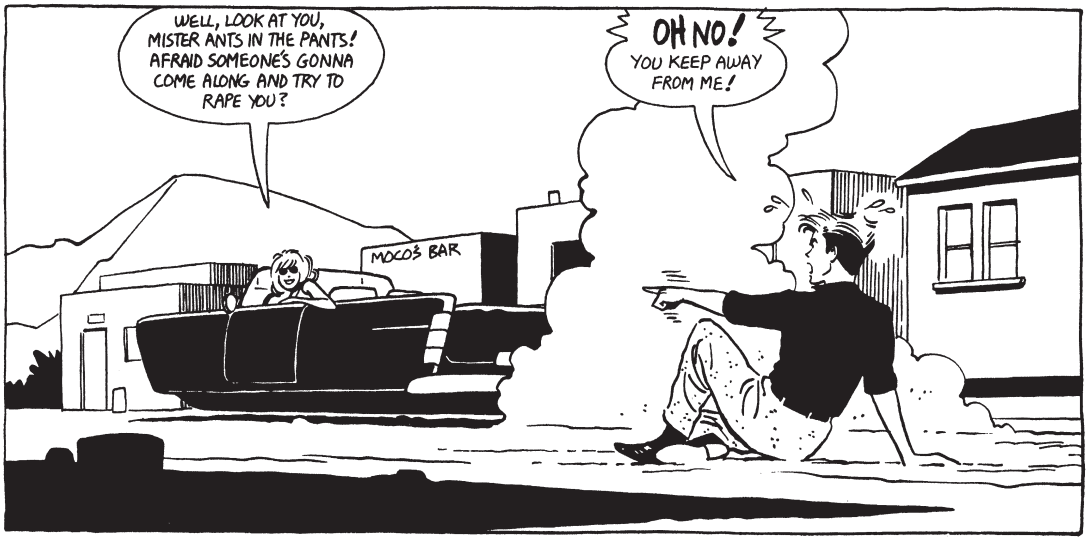
OH, NO, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY! I'M SORRY! I MEANT THAT A WOMAN AS... BEAUTIFUL AS YOU... I MEAN...
KEEP GOING...
3

WELL, I MEAN... ITS NATURAL FOR A... MAN TO BE ATTRACTED TO ONE SUCH AS YOU... ONE SO... SO...
MHMM...
NO, MR. COSTIGAN. I HAVENT FOUND HER YET, SIR. BUT IM GETTING CLOSE, SIR. YES SIR. GOOD BYE, SIR.
TELÉFONO
HOO BOY.
SOAP
HUH? HEY! WAIT A MINUTE, WILL YA?
LEAVE ME ALONE OR ILL CALL A COP.
AT LEAST HELP ME LOOK FOR THIS PENNY PERSON. C'MON, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROPPED HER PICTURE IN THE FIRE, SO YOU OWE ME!
4

AT LEAST LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY BUYING YOU LUNCH, HUH? OK?
SCREAM. POLICE. HELP.
AHA! THERE YA ARE!
!
!
HEY! DON'T YOU WORK FOR COSTIGAN?
IT'S BIG 'TURO!
IN PERSON!
SORRY TO STARTLE YA, MISS CENTURY, BUT THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE YA.
YOU'RE PENNY CENTURY??
AHEM! STEP ASIDE, BUDDY. I GOT ORDERS TO BRING THE LADY IN MYSELF!
YEAH, BUT YOU TOOK TOO LONG, SO COSTIGAN SENT ME TO TELL YA THAT YOU'RE FIRED. SO GET LOST, JACK ASS!
NO HEAD SAM
OK, THEN FORK OVER MY PAYCHECK, JACK OFF!
!
YOU'LL GET A CHECK IN THE MAIL. C'MON, PENNY. THE BOSS DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING.
LUCHA
PENNY DARLING.
5

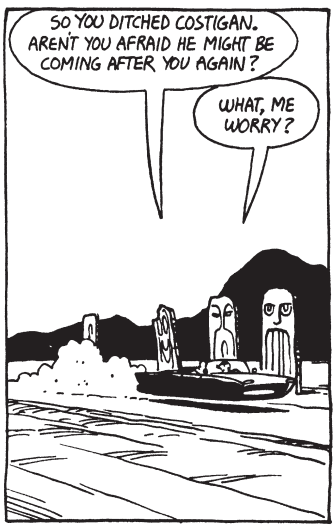
SAY, BOSS! CAN I WATCH YOU SPANK HER FOR BEING SO NAUGHTY AND RUNNING OUT ON YOU LIKE THAT?
NO. LEAVE US ALONE NOW, PLEASE.
SEE YOU LATER, BIG 'TURO!
YOU KNOW, ARTURO'S RIGHT? I SHOULD PUT YOU OVER MY KNEE FOR WHAT YOU DID. DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU, PENNY?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I ONLY HAD LUNCH WITH DON MUGRE, THEN I HAD A LITTLE ADVENTURE AND MET SOME FRIENDS, THAT'S ALL, MR. COSTIGAN.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO KEEP AWAY FROM THAT... MUGRE? THE MAN IS A SNAKE! PURE POISON!
OH, I DUNNO. HE SEEMED REALLY NICE, AND HE OFFERED ME A LOT...
BUT, I OFFER YOU MORE! I DOUBLE ANYTHING HE HAS TO OFFER YOU! I TRIPLE!
LET'S NOT START WITH THAT "ANYTHING" JAZZ, OK, HERV?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN OFFER YOU. I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
WELL... NOT EVERYTHING.
NO! I CAN'T DO IT! I CANNOT MAKE YOU INTO A GODDAMN SUPER HERO! I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE...
YEAH? WELL, WHEN I ASKED EL MUGRE...
6

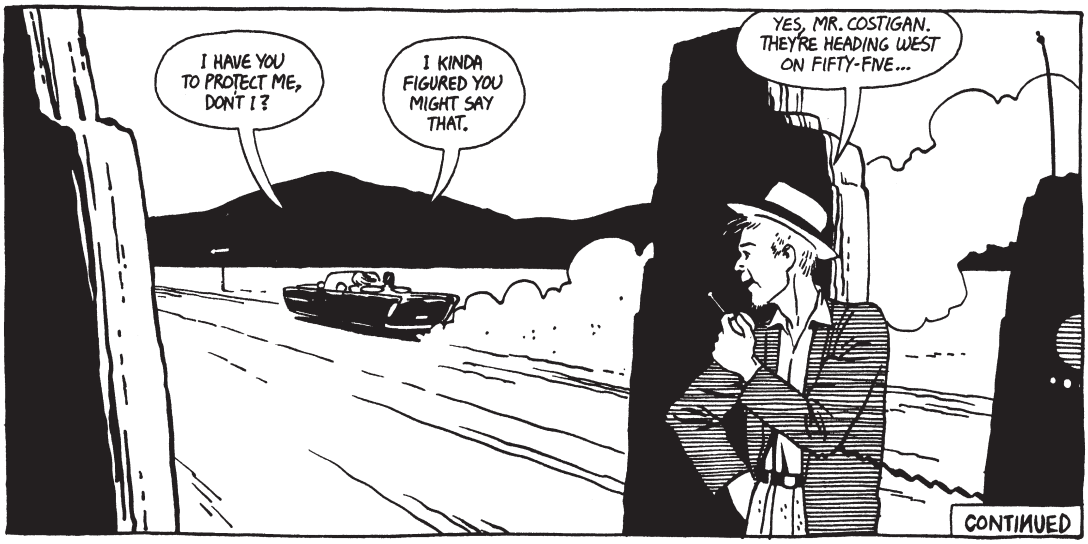
YOU ASKED MUGRE?! WHAT DID HE SAY?
THE SAME. NO.
I THINK WE SHOULD STOP THINKING ABOUT THIS SILLY SUPER HERO BUSINESS AND START THINKING ABOUT ME AND YOU. THAT SOUND ALL RIGHT TO YOU, PENNY? HUH, PENNY... ?
AW, POOT! ARTURO!
DAMES! I SWEAR, ALL THEY'RE GOOD FOR IS RUINING A MAN'S LIFE!
ITS ALL HER FAULT! ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS TELL ME WHO SHE WAS AND NONE OF THIS WOULDA HAPPENED. NO, WAIT! ITS COSTIGAN'S FAULT!
... FOR GETTING ME TIED UP WITH A SILLY BROAD LIKE THAT! WAIT, WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS ALL MY OWN STUPID FAULT...
... FOR TAKING SUCH STUPID-ASS JOBS LIKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE! OH, WELL. COSTIGAN GOT WHAT HE WANTED, I GUESS...
WHAT DO I GET? I GET TWO BLACK EYES ON THE SAME EYE ON THE SAME DAY!
BEEP BEEP YIIII!
7


WELL, LOOK AT YOU, MISTER ANTS IN THE PANTS! AFRAID SOMEONE'S GONNA COME ALONG AND TRY TO RAPE YOU?
MOCO'S BAR
OH NO! YOU KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

AW, C'MON, BOMBER! DON'T BE MAD! LOOK, I ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT THAT CAMPFIRE INCIDENT. NOW WHY DON'T YOU BE A SPORT?
'CAUSE I STILL HAVE PRIDE, THAT'S WHY!

OH, DON'T BE SILLY. LET'S GO FOR A RIDE. I WON'T TELL YOUR WIFE ABOUT ALL THIS IF YOU WON'T. OK?
WELL...


SO YOU DITCHED COSTIGAN. AREN'T YOU AFRAID HE MIGHT BE COMING AFTER YOU AGAIN?
WHAT, ME WORRY?


I HAVE YOU TO PROTECT ME, DON'T I?
I KINDA FIGURED YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
YES, MR. COSTIGAN. THEY'RE HEADING WEST ON FIFTY-FIVE...
CONTINUED

Penny Century
THAT GROOVY CHICKADEE
ON THE ROAD AG'IN
PART 2
JAIME 85
SHE WAS LAST SPOTTED GOING DOWN 66, MR. COSTIGAN.
WELL, KEEP LOOKING, KNUCKLEHEAD! WHAT DO I PAY YOU PEOPLE FOR ANYWAY?
I HAVE PAPERS FOR YOU TO SIGN, MR. COSTIGAN.
NOT NOW, BANCHIN', PLEASE. I'M BUSY.
BUT THESE ARE THE PAPERS FOR THE MULTI MILLION DOLLAR CHUDE BALLOON DEAL!
I SAID NOT NOW! I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON MY MIND!
IF I LOSE THAT GIRL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO.

UH, NO, BABE. IM GONNA BE WORKING FOR COSTIGAN A LITTLE LONGER THAN I ANTICIPATED. YEAH...
Chicha
MOTEL
I LOVE YOU, TOO. I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW DAYS. OK, BYE.
BOMBER! COME HERE AND TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK.
WERE YOU TALKING TO SOMEONE JUST NOW?
JUST SINGING TO MYSELF. WHATS UP? WHY SO LONG IN THE BATH-ROOM, PENNY?
AW, WHYD YOU GO AND COLOR YOUR HAIR? I LIKED YOU BETTER AS A BLONDE.
YOU MEN AND YOUR BLONDES! YOU REMEMBER, COSTIGAN LIKED ME BETTER THAT WAY, ALSO.
BOY, YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT COSTIGAN I DONT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL HIM BY COLORING YOUR HAIR.
NOT HIM, HIS MEN! THEY NEVER SEEM TOO BRIGHT.
THANKS A LOT. I WORKED FOR HIM, REMEMBER?
BESIDES, I THINK I LOOK NICE AS A BRUNETTE. SHALL WE GO?
PENNY... EVER SINCE I SAW YOU IN THAT HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT, I KNEW... I KNEW YOU HAD TO BE MINE... YOU HAD TO BELONG TO ME...
MR. COSTIGAN?
YOU HAVE A CALL ON LINE TWO. ITS YOUR WIFE CALLING AGAIN, SIR.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, BANCHINI?
2

OH. ITS THAT WOMAN CALLING AGAIN, SIR.
ARE YOU INSANE, BANCHINI? HANG UP, ALREADY!
<ANOTHER ONE CLAIMING TO BE HIS WIFE, EVA?>
<NOT THIS ONE, GRETA. THIS WOMAN ONCE SHOWED UP WITH ACTUAL EVIDENCE OF THEIR MARRIAGE. NATURALLY THE OLD MAN DENIED ALL AND HAD HER REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES.>
<OOH, WHEN I SEE HIM WITH THAT BLONDE SLUT I JUST GET SICK TO MY STOMACH. AND THAT POOR WOMAN IS TREATED LIKE...>
<FROM HER PHONE CALLS I GET THE IMPRESSION THIS WOMAN IS NOT ALL THERE.>
<WOULD YOU BE IF YOU WERE MARRIED TO THAT OLD FART? ONE OF THESE DAYS IM GOING TO EXPOSE HIS LITTLE GAME, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY JOB.>
BOMBER. I THINK WE BETTER GO NOW.
NOT TILL YOU TELL ME HOW YOU KNEW THAT MAID AT THE MOTEL WAS ONE OF COSTIGAN'S SPIES.
OH, THATS EASY. I KNOW THE WAY COSTIGAN THINKS. ITS A RIOT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONES ARE HIS BOYS.
YEAH? LETS TRY THIS CROWD ON THE STREET. WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?
OH, I DUNNO. HE'S USED INDIAN CHIEFS BEFORE... SHOE SHINE BOYS... SOME OF HIS SPIES ARE SO DUMB THEY GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY.
NO KIDDIN'?
BLIND
3

AW, I LIKED YA BETTER AS A BLONDE!
?
!
OOPS!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
I GET IT NOW. OK, IT'S MY TURN. HMM... AHA!
HMM...
TELL ME, BUD. HOW MUCH DOES HE PAY YOU?
EH?
I GUESS I'M NOT TOO GOOD AT THIS YET, HUH?
YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS PRETTY FUNNY, EH?
I SUPPOSE IF I RAN IN FRONT OF A TRUCK, I'D GET TWICE THE LAUGHS!
THEN I'D REALLY WIN 'EM OVER IF I...
MOTEL
SOTEL
WINZENA
4

MAN, I'VE BEEN TRAVELING WITH PENNY FOR A WEEK NOW, AND I THINK... NO! I KNOW I'M IN LOVE. I COULD GO FOR HER FOREVER.

BUT, I WONDER HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME. IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT SHE'S THINKING...

MMM...

BOMBER?

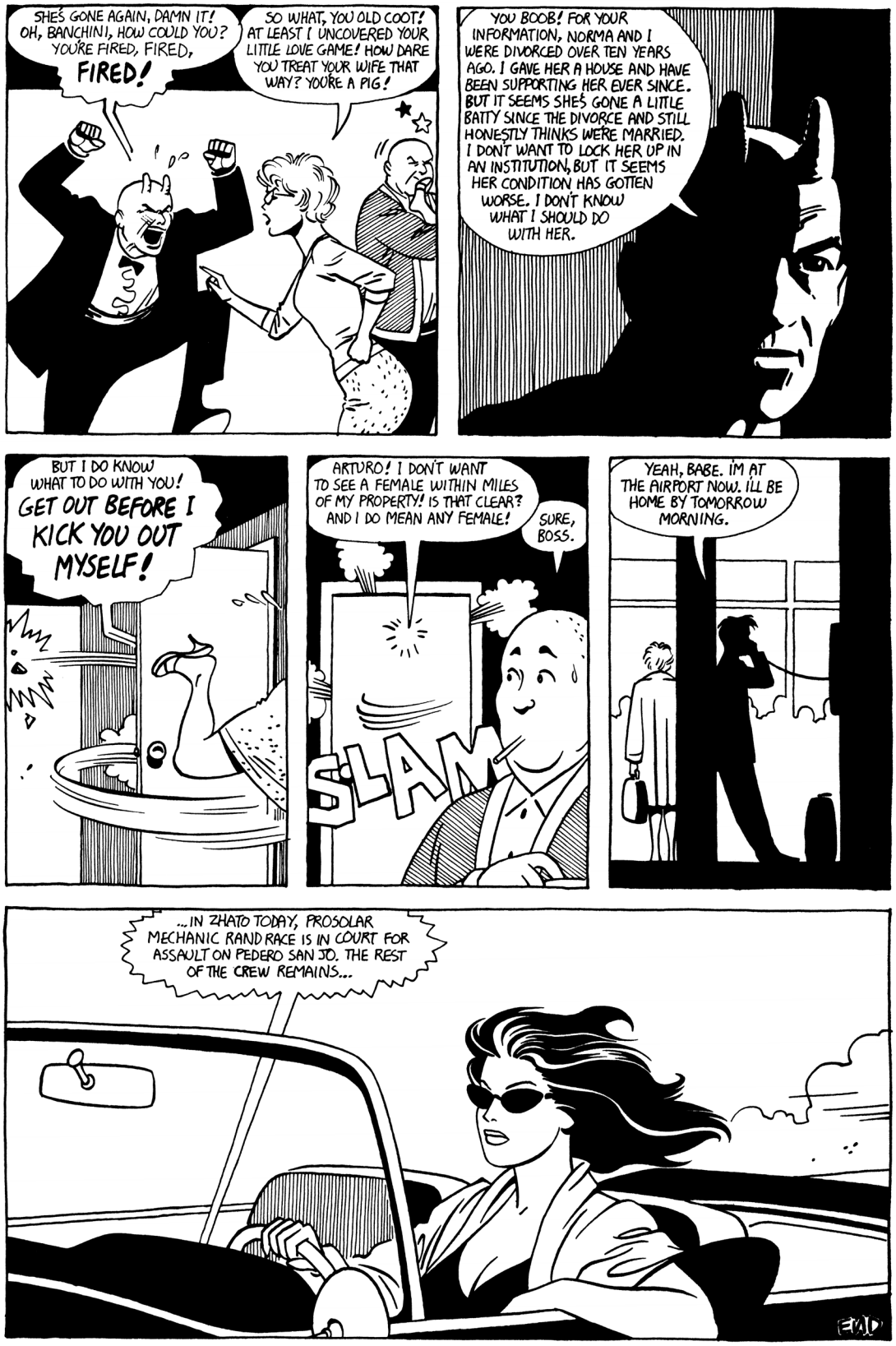
BOMBER?!
PENNY?

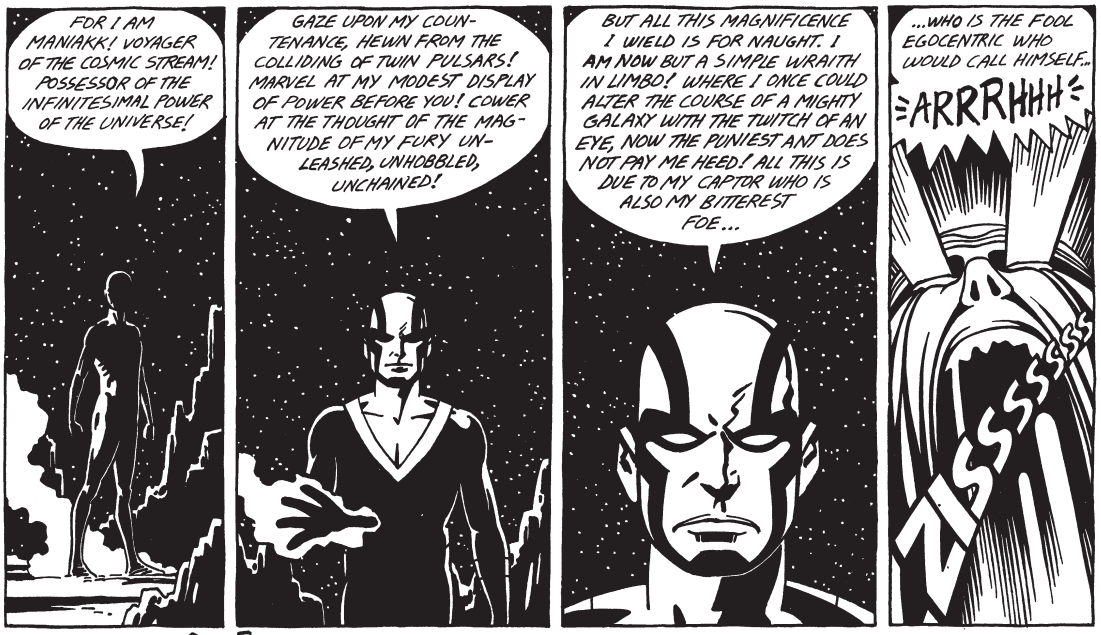
HERE I AM. I WAS JUST GETTING SOME MORNING AIR.
OH... WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST, MR. BONES?

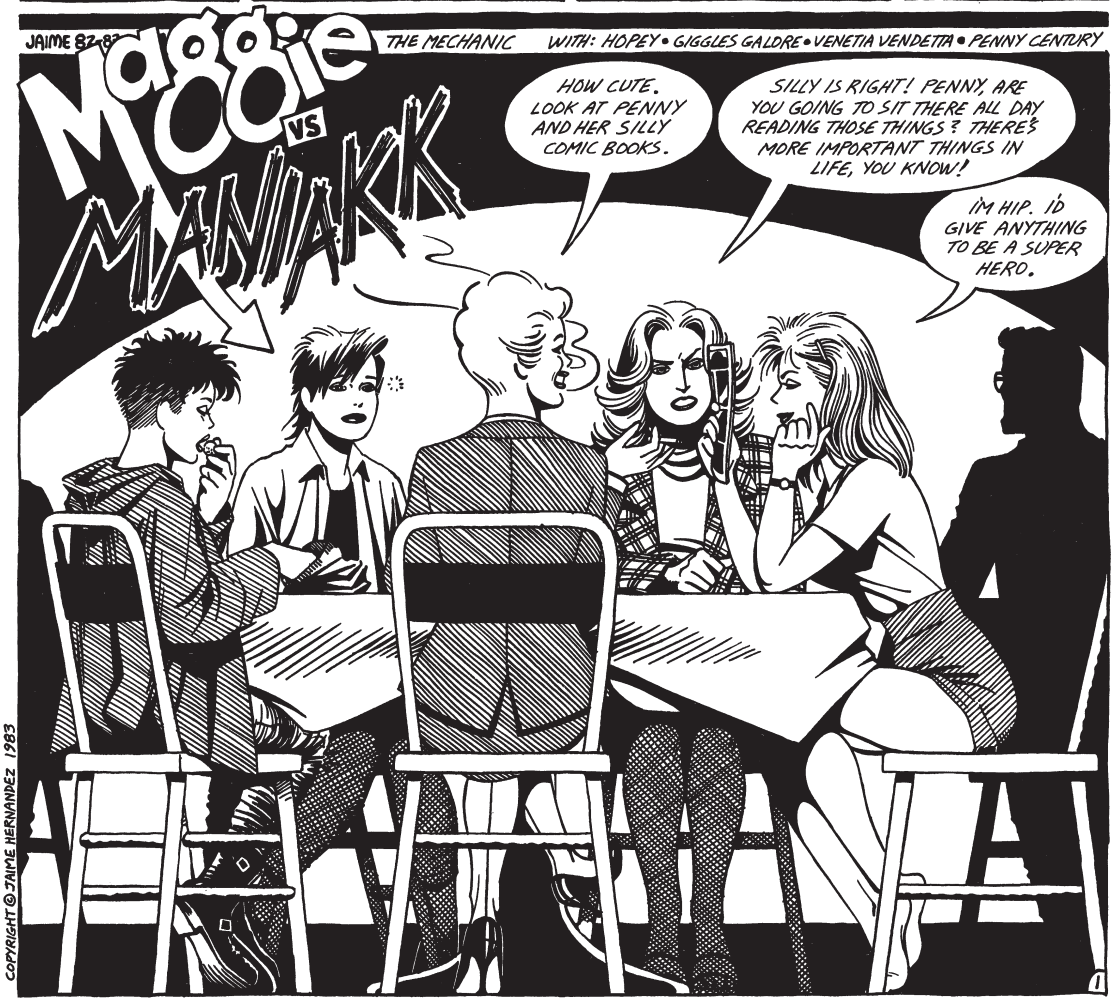
SHE'S GOTTA WANT ME. SHE'S JUST GOTTA!
JEZEBEL... IT WAS YOU...
5

MAYBE IF I TOLD HER HOW I REALLY FELT ABOUT HER, MAYBE SHE WOULD DO THE SAME... MY WIFE.
PHIL!
MY WIFE?!? OH, MY GOD! I'VE GOTTA TELL MY WIFE!
I'M GONNA GET SOME CIGS. YOU WANT ANYTHING, PENNY?
NOPE.
"BABE, IT'S ALL OVER. I'M RUNNING AWAY WITH PENNY CENTURY, OK? FINE. IT'S BEEN FUN, BABE. OK, SEE YA."
HOO BOY.
Y-YEAH, BABE. I'LL BE HERE FOR ANOTHER WEEK. SURE. SURE, I LOVE YOU, BABE. UH...
BUT, THERE'S ONE THING I HAVE TO TELL Y--
6

OH, PENNY DARLING... NOW DO YOU SEE HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT IS TO STAY AWAY FROM HERV BABY FOR SO LONG?
OH, CONES! YOU SEND US WITH YOUR FANTASTIC LINES...
<EVA. THE BLONDE CAME BACK.>
<I KNOW. DO I HAVE A SURPRISE, FOR THOSE TWO. SHE'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND NOW.>
MR. COSTIGAN!
AW, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! WHAT IS IT NOW, BANCHINI?
YOUR WIFE IS HERE TO SEE YOU, SIR. OOPS!
HERV DARLING! WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER MY CALLS? AND WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
WHAT?!?
?!?
GET OUT OF HERE! YOU ARE NOT MY WIFE! ARTURO!
YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO EXCITED, HERV DARLING. REMEMBER WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID...
YOU AGAIN, HUH? THIS WAY, LADY.
UNHAND ME, OAF!
PENNY, I CAN EXPLAIN... PENNY? AW, POOT!


SHE'S GONE AGAIN, DAMN IT! OH, BANCHINI, HOW COULD YOU? YOU'RE FIRED, FIRED, FIRED!
SO WHAT, YOU OLD COOT! AT LEAST I UNCOVERED YOUR LITTLE LOVE GAME! HOW DARE YOU TREAT YOUR WIFE THAT WAY? YOU'RE A PIG!
YOU BOOB! FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NORMA AND I WERE DIVORCED OVER TEN YEARS AGO. I GAVE HER A HOUSE AND HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING HER EVER SINCE. BUT IT SEEMS SHE'S GONE A LITTLE BATTY SINCE THE DIVORCE AND STILL HONESTLY THINKS WE'RE MARRIED. I DON'T WANT TO LOCK HER UP IN AN INSTITUTION, BUT IT SEEMS HER CONDITION HAS GOTTEN WORSE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO WITH HER.
BUT I DO KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU! GET OUT BEFORE I KICK YOU OUT MYSELF!
ARTURO! I DON'T WANT TO SEE A FEMALE WITHIN MILES OF MY PROPERTY! IS THAT CLEAR? AND I DO MEAN ANY FEMALE!
SURE, BOSS.
SLAM
YEAH, BABE. I'M AT THE AIRPORT NOW. I'LL BE HOME BY TOMORROW MORNING.
...IN ZHATO TODAY, PROSOLAR MECHANIC RAND RACE IS IN COURT FOR ASSAULT ON PEDERO SAN JO. THE REST OF THE CREW REMAINS...
END


FOR I AM MANIAKK! VOYAGER OF THE COSMIC STREAM! POSSESSOR OF THE INFINITESIMAL POWER OF THE UNIVERSE!
GAZE UPON MY COUNTENANCE, HEWN FROM THE COLLIDING OF TWIN PULSARS! MARVEL AT MY MODEST DISPLAY OF POWER BEFORE YOU! COWER AT THE THOUGHT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF MY FURY UNLEASHED, UNHOBBLED, UNCHAINED!
BUT ALL THIS MAGNIFICENCE I WIELD IS FOR NAUGHT. I AM NOW BUT A SIMPLE WRAITH IN LIMBO! WHERE I ONCE COULD ALTER THE COURSE OF A MIGHTY GALAXY WITH THE TWITCH OF AN EYE, NOW THE PUNIEST ANT DOES NOT PAY ME HEED! ALL THIS IS DUE TO MY CAPTOR WHO IS ALSO MY BITTEREST FOE...
...WHO IS THE FOOL EGOCENTRIC WHO WOULD CALL HIMSELF..
ARRRHHH
ZSSSSSSS


JAIME 82-83
Maggie VS MANIAKK
THE MECHANIC
WITH: HOPEY • GIGGLES GALORE • VENETIA VENDETTA • PENNY CENTURY
HOW CUTE. LOOK AT PENNY AND HER SILLY COMIC BOOKS.
SILLY IS RIGHT! PENNY, ARE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE ALL DAY READING THOSE THINGS? THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE, YOU KNOW!
I'M HIP. I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE A SUPER HERO.
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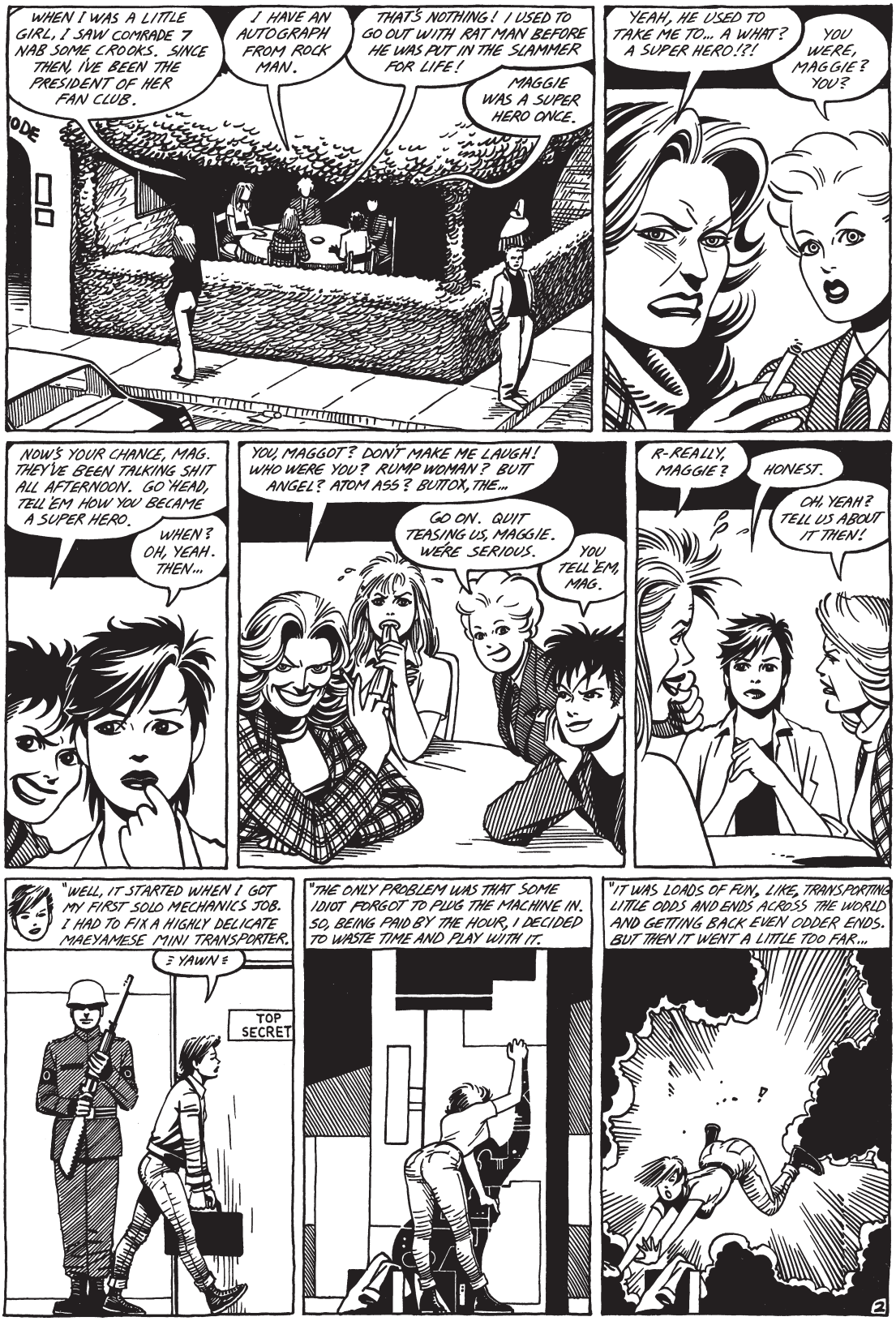
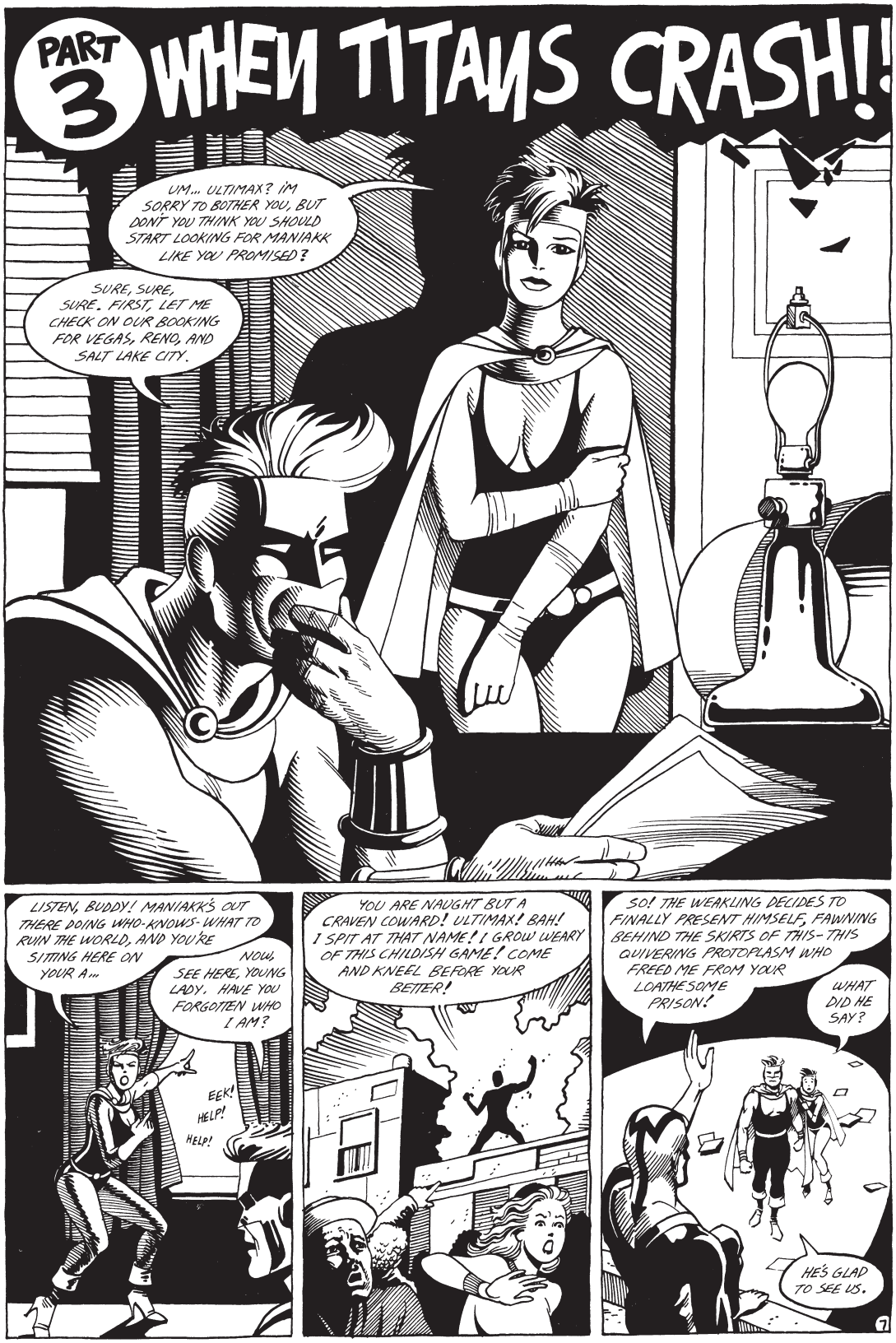

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I SAW COMRADE 7 NAB SOME CROOKS. SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN THE PRESIDENT OF HER FAN CLUB.
I HAVE AN AUTOGRAPH FROM ROCK MAN.
THAT'S NOTHING! I USED TO GO OUT WITH RAT MAN BEFORE HE WAS PUT IN THE SLAMMER FOR LIFE!
MAGGIE WAS A SUPER HERO ONCE.
YEAH, HE USED TO TAKE ME TO... A WHAT? A SUPER HERO!?!
YOU WERE, MAGGIE? YOU?
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, MAG. THEY'VE BEEN TALKING SHIT ALL AFTERNOON. GO 'HEAD, TELL 'EM HOW YOU BECAME A SUPER HERO.
WHEN? OH, YEAH. THEN...
YOU, MAGGOT? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! WHO WERE YOU? RUMP WOMAN? BUTT ANGEL? ATOM ASS? BUTTOX, THE...
GO ON. QUIT TEASING US, MAGGIE. WE'RE SERIOUS.
YOU TELL 'EM, MAG.
R-REALLY, MAGGIE?
HONEST.
OH, YEAH? TELL US ABOUT IT THEN!
"WELL, IT STARTED WHEN I GOT MY FIRST SOLO MECHANICS JOB. I HAD TO FIX A HIGHLY DELICATE MAEYAMESE MINI TRANSPORTER.
=YAWN=
TOP SECRET
"THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS THAT SOME IDIOT FORGOT TO PLUG THE MACHINE IN. SO, BEING PAID BY THE HOUR, I DECIDED TO WASTE TIME AND PLAY WITH IT.
"IT WAS LOADS OF FUN, LIKE, TRANSPORTING LITTLE ODDS AND ENDS ACROSS THE WORLD AND GETTING BACK EVEN ODDER ENDS. BUT THEN IT WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR...
?
2

HOO, BOY! NOW I DID IT. I'LL GET THIRTY YEARS FOR THIS.
FREE AT LAST! BACK TO THE DIMENSION I WAS BORN TO RULE!
AH, SIMPLE ONE! YOUR PUNY MIND CANNOT POSSIBLY FATHOM THE SHEER MAGNITUDE OF WHAT YOU'VE WROUGHT! CRINGE BEFORE POWER PERSONIFIED, AND YIELD YOUR SIMPERING SOUL!
WHO, ME? I JUST WORK HERE.
MY BIRTHRIGHT IS FULFILLED! YOU ARE CAUSE AND FIRST WITNESS TO MANIAKUS REX, HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, MANIAKK THE FIRST!
DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOLITE TO POINT?
NOW, DO NOT BOTHER TO SEEK OUT YOUR FORMER CHAMPION ULTIMAX, FOR HIS POWER IS DOOMED TO FAILURE AGAINST MY STUPENDOUS MIGHT!
I WOULD ANNIHILATE HIM IN ONE MICRO SECOND!
"THAT NIGHT I GOT OUT MY DOOMSDAY DEPRESSION EMERGENCY KIT (SIX PACK) AND MY FAVORITE STACK OF SUPER HERO COMICS, I CAME ACROSS AN OLD ULTIMAX COMIC I REALLY NEVER LOOKED AT IN DETAIL (THE ART WASN'T VERY GOOD).
"AND THE ISSUE HAPPENED TO BE ABOUT HOW ULTIMAX ONCE DEFEATED MANIAKK BECAUSE ONLY HE COULD WITHSTAND THE VILLAIN'S DEATH BOLTS. AHA! SO, THE JERK THOUGHT HE COULD TRICK ME, HAH? MY NEXT STOP WOULD BE THE ULTIMAX ESTATE IN SATELLITE CITY.
SEE, MISS? ULTIMAX SOLD THE ESTATE SEVEN YEARS AGO.
NOT COMPLETELY. HE NOW LIVES IN A SHADEY HOTEL IN THAT AREA CALLED SECTION EIGHT. MY ROUTE JUST HAPPENS TO GO THROUGH THERE.
OH. DID HE DISAPPEAR?
PSST
GOODY! I SPENT THE LAST OF MY MONEY FOR THIS RIDE.
HERE YOU ARE, MISS. SECTION EIGHT, THE ZHATO OF SATELLITE CITY. I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. (PHEW)
THANK YOU.
3
TO BE CONTINUED--

PART 2
ULTIMAX
OH, EXCUSE ME. I MUST HAVE THE WRONG ROOM! I'M LOOKING FOR... OH, MY... YOU'RE ULTIMAX?
OOH... AN ANGEL! AN' SHE KNOWS YA, UL!
YEH, YEH, IT'S ME. MAKE IT FAST, THEN SPLIT. I DON'T LIKE VISITORS.
DON'T TELL ME. YOU NEED MY HELP TO SAVE THE WORLD. WELL, YOU CAME TO THE WRONG GUY. DON'T DO THAT CRIMEFIGHTING SHIT NO MORE. WHY DON'T YOU GET SOMEONE LIKE THE ABOVENGERS, OR THE BESTEST LEAGUE OF ARMENIA, OR...
BUT... WELL... UM...
YOU'RE THE ONLY SUPERHERO WHO CAN WITHSTAND MANIAKK'S DEATH BOLTS.
MANIAKK? NO! IT COULDN'T BE! I SENT HIM INTO THE NINTH DIMENSION YEARS AGO!
YOU DID SAY MANIAKK! HOW DID HE ESCAPE? HOW? HOW?
WELL, Y'SEE, IT STARTED WHEN I WAS FIXING A BROKEN M-MINI TRANSPORTER AND, Y'SEE...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! I FIGURED SCIENCE WOULD FIND A WAY INTO OTHER DIMENSIONS SOONER OR LATER! COME, WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE! I THINK I STILL REMEMBER THE INGREDIENTS TO... AHH...
THIS IS ULTIMAX?!
THIS CONCOCTION I NOW HOLD IN MY HAND IS THE THING THAT COMPLETELY CHANGED THE LIFE OF A YOUNG, NAIVE SCIENTIST MANY YEARS AGO.
OOTAH...
SO STAND BACK AND WITNESS THE ULTIMATE, MOST AWSOME SPECTACLE YOUR EYES COULD EVER WITNESS.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
BEHOLD...
YOU'RE NOT KIDDING?

HOW COULD YOU EVER HAVE DOUBTED ME? HM?
WHO? ME?
GO AHEAD, TOUCH IT. SEE? IT PROVES YOU'RE NOT DREAMING. IT'S THE REAL ME, ALL RIGHT. AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M OFF TO END MANIAKK'S REIGN OF TERROR.
GO, MAN, GO.
OH, WOE... I-I CAN'T DO IT! I JUST REMEMBERED THE REASON I QUIT THE BUSINESS IN THE FIRST PLACE! IF YOU'LL NOTICE, MY BACK UP DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE!
YOUR LOYAL SIDEKICK, GO-GO GIRL. WHERE IS SHE?
SHE LEFT ME! SHE SOMEHOW GOT SUPER POWERS AND TURNED BAD ON ME! SHE BECAME DEMONA, THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN ON THIS WORLD!
WITHOUT HER I'M NOTHING! YOU SEE, GO-GO GIRL WASN'T JUST A KICK ON THE SIDE! SHE WAS ALSO MY GET UP AND GO! SHE WAS MY SOUL,.. MY INSPIRATION... SHE GAVE ME CONFIDENCE TO KICK ASS! WITHOUT HER I-I'M NO GOOD, I... I... YOU...
HEY! YOU'RE GO-GO GIRL!
WHAT?!?
PLEASE? BE GO-GO GIRL FOR JUST ONE HOUR! I'LL GET YOU A COSTUME AND THEN WE CAN...
BUT... I CAN'T FIGHT! I DON'T HAVE ANY SUPER POWERS, OR...
YOU'RE LOOKING REALLY TIP-TOP TODAY, GO-GO GIRL. READY FOR SOME ACTION?
UM... SURE. ONLY, HOW DID GO-GO GIRL FIGHT IN THIS THING?
YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT! JUST STAND THERE AND LOOK GOOD! BESIDES, IT'LL BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU! JUST THINK, WHEN ALL YOUR FRIENDS SEE YOU! I MEAN, NOT EVERYONE CAN BE A REAL SUPER HERO FOR FREE NOWADAYS! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
DUH...
YOU KNOW, I FEEL STRONGER ALREADY.
OOH! DO YOU FEEL A DRAFT?

TO BE CONTINUED--


PART 3
WHEN TITANS CRASH!!
UM... ULTIMAX? I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD START LOOKING FOR MANIAKK LIKE YOU PROMISED?
SURE, SURE, SURE. FIRST, LET ME CHECK ON OUR BOOKING FOR VEGAS, RENO, AND SALT LAKE CITY.
LISTEN, BUDDY! MANIAKK'S OUT THERE DOING WHO-KNOWS-WHAT TO RUIN THE WORLD, AND YOU'RE SITTING HERE ON YOUR A...
NOW, SEE HERE, YOUNG LADY. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO I AM?
EEK! HELP! HELP!
YOU ARE NAUGHT BUT A CRAVEN COWARD! ULTIMAX! BAH! I SPIT AT THAT NAME! I GROW WEARY OF THIS CHILDISH GAME! COME AND KNEEL BEFORE YOUR BETTER!
SO! THE WEAKLING DECIDES TO FINALLY PRESENT HIMSELF, FAWNING BEHIND THE SKIRTS OF THIS- THIS QUIVERING PROTOPLASM WHO FREED ME FROM YOUR LOATHESOME PRISON!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE'S GLAD TO SEE US.
7

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE BACK TO NORMAL.
WELL, HEH. GO-GO GIRL ALWAYS STARTS THE BATTLE OFF WITH A DROPKICK OR SOMETHING.
HEED ME, MORTAL! BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE, YOUR WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT WILL REEL UNTO MY SUPREME RULE! AND MY WILL, WILL BE DONE!!
YOU KNOW THIS WON'T LAST, YOU RABID FIEND!
I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME RABID!!
FTOOM
OH, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID HE HURT YOU?
ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT WAS JUST A LIGHT SHOW! BUT, SINCE I'M A MEMBER OF THE S.H.G. (SUPER HERO GUILD), I HAVE TO MAKE THIS FIGHT LOOK GOOD! MANIAKK HAS NO IMAGINATION! WITH HIS POWERS HE COULD RULE THE WORLD! HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW HOW!
BUT NOW THE LUNACY ENDS! I MUST PUT AN END TO MANIAKK'S SICK PLOY BEFORE ANY MORE LIVES ARE THREATENED! THINGS MAY GET BLOODY! WISH ME LUCK!
BREAK A LEG?
"FISTS FLEW, BOLTS BASHED, BUILDINGS BROKE, AND AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES, IT STARTED TO SLOW DOWN..."
THIS IS HORRIBLE! THEY... WAIT! ULTIMAX IS WINNING! HE...
¡POM!
POW
SOK
ZZAPP
BLEE
TISH
BTHOK
BIM
BAM
BEM
YOU DID IT! YOU BEAT HIM! YOU WON!
DUH... YEAH... I DID, DIDN'T I? UH... WHERE ARE YOU?
"MANIAKK WAS SENT BACK TO THE NINTH DIMENSION."
THEN AFTER IT WAS ALL OVER, HE GAVE ME A BIG KISS AND LEFT. AND... THAT WAS THAT.
WOW!
BULL!
(CHOKE)
8

YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE, HAH? LOOKY HERE, I HAVE PROOF.
HO! THIS I'VE GOT TO SEE!
YOU SLIME! THAT'S NOT PROOF! YOU SENT AWAY FOR THAT, YOU LITTLE SNIT!
NO WAY! HE GAVE IT TO ME WHEN HE LEFT TO FIND THE...
To MAGGIE BEST- VLTIMAX
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CANNOT STAND, IT'S A DAMNED LIAR! COME ON, GIGGLES.
YOU BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU, HOPEY?
SURE. THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS.
OH, BEBEH.
NOW, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU OR YOUR GANG HANGING AROUND HERE AGAIN. GOT THAT?
L-LOUD AND CLEAR, ATOMA!
EEYAGHHH! WE'RE SORRY WE'RE AIR HEADS! HAVE MERCEEEE!
STORY AND ART - JAIME MANIAKK'S DIALOGUE - MARIO HERNANDEZ 1982-83
fin

LOCAS TAMBIEN
I LIKE CURLY.
I JUST ADORE LARRY.
I LIKE SHEMP.
I LIKE MOE.
I HATE JOE.
I DUNNO, I THOUGHT CURLY JOE WAS KINDA FUNNY IN THE MOVIES.
DAFFY
PENNY
IZZY
TERRY
HOPEY
MAGGIE
HEY! HERE COMES MAGGIE! MAN, ID SURE LIKE HER TO GIVE ME HEAD SCISSORS.
SHIT! ID RATHER HAVE HER SIT ON ME TILL I COULDNT BREATHE.
HEY! WHY DONT YOU GUYS GET OFF HER CASE.
AW, SHUT UP, HOPEY. YOU ONLY STICK UP FOR HER BECAUSE YOU TWO ARE LOVERS.
LOOK AT THOSE MEATY THIGHS. I'LL BET SHE RIDES BIKES A LOT.
NAW. I'LL BET SHE WAS A GYMNAST OR AN ICE SKATER.
NO MATTER WHAT SHE WAS, IT MUST NOT HAVE TAKEN MUCH THINKING. TALK ABOUT AIRHEADS...
THAT DID IT...
451-451
FUCK OFF AND DIE, ASSHOLES!!
HEY! HE SAID IT, I DIDNT!
?
HOW COME YOU THREW JOEY AND TONY OUT?
WHO NEEDS 'EM? HEY! HOW COME YOU'RE HOME SO EARLY?
THEY CALLED OFF OUR JOB AGAIN, SO IT LOOKS LIKE WERE NOT GONNA HAVE ANY FOOD THIS MONTH. AND IM TIRED OF POPCORN.
HEY! JOEY AND TONY OWE ME MONEY. WAIT A SEC.
VIDA LOCA
HEY, DUMBFUCKS! YOU OWE ME SOME MOOLAH! LETS HAVE IT!
FUCK NO! NOT TILL YOU CALM DOWN!
HOW'S THIS FOR CALM?
SHE'S A MAD DOG! RUN FOR IT, TONY!
MAD LESBO! MAD LESBO!
451
ONE OF THESE DAYS IM GONNA KICL THOSE GUYS TO DEATH.
GEE, HOPEY. I DONT THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO THROW THAT POTTED PLANT OUT.
VIDA LOCA
WHY NOT? THE PLANT WAS DEAD ANYWAY.
BECAUSE I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I HID FIFTY DOLLARS IN IT FOR EMERGANCIES.
WEEY!
WE GOTTA GET IT!
I CAN SEE IT. IT'S IN THE GUTTER.
HERE IT IS. BUT THERE'S ONLY THIRTY DOLLARS HERE.
OH YEAH. WELL, HEH... I KINDA FOUND YOUR STASH AND BORROWED A LITTLE OF IT.
LOOK. HOBOS DANCING IN THE GUTTER.
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HI. WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING?
COMING TO SEE YOU. WE JUST GOT BACK FROM IZZY'S. WE HAD TO LEAVE BECAUSE SHE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT HER CEILING AGAIN.
AND THOSE FLIES...
SHE SAYS THAT THE FLIES UP THERE ARE REALLY RIGHT SIDE UP AND THAT THE REST OF US ARE UPSIDE DOWN. DO YOU THINK THAT'S TRUE?
DAFFY. YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO'S DUMBER THAN OL MAGGIE HERE.
HMF! CAN WE GO NOW?
MAG, DO YOU THINK ONE BOX OF SNICKERS IS ENOUGH? OOH, LOOK! SPACE WARRIOR STICK ONS! THESE'LL LOOK GREAT ON MY JACKET.
HMM...
HEY, LOOK! I THINK THE NATIONAL BLABBER HAS THAT PICTURE OF ME AND RACE WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM ZYMBODIA. WOULDN'T THAT BE FUNNY IF THEY SAID WE WERE GOING OUT OR SOMETHING?
HILARIOUS. LEMME SEE.
BY GUM, YOU'RE RIGHT, MAG. THEY EVEN MADE YOU UP TO LOOK LIKE THAT TV STAR, LAVANA LAVERNE. OH, NO, THERE YOU ARE. YEP...
OK, OK, WHAT DOES IT SAY?
"LAVANA LAVERNE AND PROSOLAR MECHANIC RAND RACE HAVE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER LATELY, SO I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY TIED THE KNOT REAL SOON." POOR RACE. THE GUY IS TRAPPED IN HIGH SOCIETY.
I'LL BET HE LOVES IT, TOO! GOD, REMIND ME NEVER TO LOOK IN ONE OF THOSE AGAIN.
FOODMART
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT ARTICLE, DO YOU? BY THE WAY, HOW ARE YOU AND RACE ANY WAY? I MEAN, DOES HE EVEN LIKE YOU?
SHOOT, I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIMES HE'LL REALLY COME ON TO ME, AND OTHER TIMES HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTS. MAYBE HE'S CRAZY AS YOU ARE. MAYBE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE HELL I'M TALKING ABOUT.
AND MAYBE WE SHOULD DROP THE SUBJECT, BEFORE I START CRYING.
MAY I HELP YOU?
HI, PENNY. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE?
TWO DAYS. BUT, GUESS WHAT? I'M BEING FIRED ALREADY.
THE MANAGER TRIED TO POKE ME IN THE STORE ROOM AND HIS WIFE SAW AND THEY BLAMED ME.
MEN ARE THE WORST. WHO NEEDS 'EM?
THEY THINK THEY CAN PUSH US WOMEN AROUND. WHEN THEY NEED US, OH, THEY TREAT US SO GOOD. BUT WHEN THEY DON'T, THEY TOSS US AWAY LIKE AN OLD RAG. WELL, I'M NOT STANDING FOR IT. THE DOGS WILL FALL...
THERE GOES SPEEDY.
OH, GOD, I HOPE HE COMES BACK THIS WAY. HE'S SO CUTE.
FIN
LA CHOTA
VS
ROY COWBOY
THE CRUSTY KID
BY THE WORST 83
PICHO BEL TRINCHIS!
PAW! MENTO IL NOZ VEK, SAL TRINCHIS.
GINN TOOB NO SEMAYAN TOOB YI.
TOK!
CHEM!
B-BEDDO BIM BUM DEL TRINCHIS.
ENG

LASCANERO PRISON IN MOSCA, ZYMBODIA...
DAMN IT! ALL DAY LONG... SMILE, SMILE, SMILE! DO YOU STILL THINK RENA TITAÑON IS GONNA BUST YOU OUT OF HERE, BERNIE?
I DUNNO... IT'S POSSIBLE, Y'KNOW.
BAH! YOU'VE BEEN IN JAIL TOO LONG. IT'S AFFECTED YOUR BRAIN.
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE I WAS GOING TO MARRY RENA, EH, JOCKO?
HOW COULD YOU? SHE'S A GODDESS, WHILE YOU'RE A WORTHLESS BUM LIKE ME.
I'D PUNCH YOU RIGHT IN THE NOSE IF IT WEREN'T SO TRUE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, Y'KNOW? I MYSELF WONDER HOW A WONDERFUL WOMAN LIKE THAT COULD FALL FOR A SAP LIKE ME.
SHEESH! THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
LOOK! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF ALL YOUR LIES! DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU WERE NEVER GOING TO MARRY RENA TITAÑON! SHE NEVER LOVED YOU! SHE NEVER "EVEN MET YOU! REPEAT: YOU WERE NEV...
OH NO? TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A VALUABLE GOLD LOCKET. IT COMES FROM A TRIBE IN LOWER ZYMBODIA.
RENA GAVE IT TO ME WHEN SHE WAS GOING TO FIGHT FOR THE HIBRIDOS. SHE WASN'T SURE IF SHE WOULD RETURN SO SHE HAD ME KEEP IT FOR HER.
AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S HER PHOTOGRAPH?
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...OF COURSE IT'S NOT HERS. IT WAS GIVEN TO HER BY SOMEONE WHO WAS VERY DEAR TO HER. IT WAS PART OF A REQUEST...
TOYO'S REQUEST
YUKI! LOOK! SHE IS COMING! SHE IS COMING!
DON'T TELL ME...
JAIME 83
YUKI! IT'S BEEN YEARS. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN YOU'VE GROWN INTO.
WHY, IT IS LA TOÑA! RENA TITAÑON! THANK GOD! SHE SAID YOU'D COME BACK!
HOW IS TOYO, YUKI? IS SOMETHING WRONG? HER MESSAGE SOUNDED...
SHE IS VERY SICK. SHE ASKED ME TO CALL YOU.
2

TOYO. IT'S ME...
LA TOÑA. YOU DID COME...
THEY TOLD ME YOU'D NEVER COME BACK. BUT, I KNEW YOU WOULD.
HOW COULD I REFUSE THE ONE WHO CARED FOR ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD?
RENATA...
I'M DYING BY THE MINUTES. WILL YOU HELP ME WITH ONE LAST FAVOR, RENATA?
I WANT YOU TO GET THIS TO MY HUSBAND. IT'S A GOLD LOCKET THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD. IT'S THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT THAT HAS ANY VALUE.
BUT...
MY HUSBAND WAS TAKEN AWAY BY UNCIVIL SOLDIERS THREE YEARS AGO. HE COULD BE IN ONE OF THE MANY PRISONS IN ZIMBODIA. PLEASE, FIND HIM... GET THIS TO HIM...
...IF YOU CANNOT FIND HIM, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE LOCKET... PROMISE ME YOU WILL FIND HIM... THE LOCKET MUST BE IN GOOD HANDS... PROMISE ME, RENATA...
I-I PROMISE.
TOYO HIBONALES IS DEAD. I AM TO FIND HER CAPTURED HUSBAND.
HEY, SHARKEY. WHAT'S A NICE GUY LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
RENA?!?! GET AWAY FROM ME, YANIMAL!
3

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHARKEY? I JUST WANT TO TALK.
YEAH? THE LAST TIME WE "TALKED," I WOUND UP WITH THREE BLACK EYES.
OK. THIS TIME I WON'T HIT YOU. I JUST WANT SOME INFORMATION.
LIKE WHAT? HEY, HOW COME YOU AIN'T RASSLIN'?
I NEEDED A VACATION FROM MAD WOMEN WITH HAIR BEHIND THEIR KNEES. BESIDES, I'M WAITING FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH WITH TIGER ROSA. TELL ME, DO YOU KNOW ZONO HIBONALES?
AND IF I DO?
Tasca's
I'M LOOKING FOR HIM. HIS POOR WIFE DIED AND I HAVE TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING.
THE LO... WELL, WHY ASK ME?
OH, I DUNNO. I FIGURE SINCE YOU USED TO BE IN THE ZYMBODIAN ARMY STATIONED IN TASCO, I FIGURED YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HIS DISAPPEARANCE.
YEAH?
YEAH, AND I KNOW BETTER THAN TO TURN MY BACK TO YOU, TOO.
:GULK:
SON OF A BITCH!
THIS IS GETTING VERY MONOTONOUS, SHARK.
YOU SAID NO HITTING...
YAAAAAA!

NOW, ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A NICE, QUIET CHAT, SHARKEY POO?
OK! OK! JUST DONT HIT, HUH? OK?!
I'LL SEE YOUR FIVE AND RAISE YOU TEN.
WHO DEALT THIS MESS?
YOU'RE BLUFFING, ZONO.
WANTED
WANTED
HA! WE'LL SEE... HUH? WHO SAID THAT...? OH, OH. RENATA TITAÑON?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
SAVE YOUR BREATH, LADY. I KNOW TOYO SENT YOU. WELL... I AIN'T GOING BACK THERE. I LIKE IT HERE.
WANTED
NO, ZONO... THAT'S NOT THE REASON I'M HERE.
SHE ONLY WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
AWW...
WHEN DID SHE DIE?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? SHE DIED OF WORRY, ZONO. SHE DIED WORRYING ABOUT YOU. YOU! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
ALL THIS TIME SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE ROTTING IN SOME RAT INFESTED CELL OR SOMETHING. HAW! SURE, YOU'RE ROTTING, ALL RIGHT.
MY POOR TOYO.
YES, POOR TOYO... IF SHE HAD SEEN WHAT HAPPENED TO HER POOR ZONO...
YES, WELL... UM... CAN I HAVE THE LOCKET NOW?

NO, ZONO... I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THIS LOCKET. YOU DON'T DESERVE IT, ZONO.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T... WELL, IT'S MINE!
BITCH! GIVE ME WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MMPHH!
YOU PUSTULENT, RUNNING SORE OF A MAN. I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT'S YOURS. I SHOULD...
OW!
OOPS.
SNAP
HELLO? I JUST WANTED TO... OH! HELP! SOMEBODY HELP! OH! HELP!
OHH...
OHH...
POLICÍA
WANTED
SOMEONE SAID A HANDSOME LADY DRESSED IN BLACK CARRYING A LIMP BODY WAS THE LAST TO LEAVE THE BUILDING.
MY LORD, IT WAS DEATH HERSELF!
WORSE. IT WAS LA TOÑA. FORGET IT. COUNT ME OUT OF THIS.
FOOLS.
I'M NOT SCARED OF RENA TITAÑON. I'LL BRING THAT SLUT BACK TO YOU, DEAD OR ALIVE.
OH OH! IT'S BULL MARIE! RENA'S HAD IT NOW!
IN FACT, I'LL FINALLY GET MY REVENGE ON HER FOR SLAMMING ME THROUGH THE MAT YEARS BACK IN PICO RICO. MY BACK'S NEVER FULLY HEALED FROM THAT MATCH.

PART 2
I USED TO THINK OF YOU AS A WITTY AND JUST MAN, ZONO. ONCE YOU TOLD ME THAT PEOPLE DIE SO THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN READ ABOUT IT THE NEXT DAY.
WE LAUGHED FOR DAYS, REMEMBER? YOU CAME UP WITH 'EM ALL THE TIME. YESSIREE BOB...
WHEREVER YOU'RE GOING, ZONO, I HOPE TOYO'S THERE WAITING FOR YOU WITH HER FLY SWATTER READY TO GIVE YOU A GOOD WHACK.
WELL? IS THAT IT? WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? WHAT ABOUT BULL MARIE?
I'M COMING TO THAT.
7

HMM... CACTI SURE GROWS FUNNY IN THESE PARTS.
AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! I THOUGHT NO ONE EVER COMES DOWN THIS ROAD! I GOT THIS FLAT, SEE, AND I DON'T HAVE A SPARE, AND... UH... ¿HABLAS INGLÉS?
YES. WANT A LIFT?
THANKS. SEE, I'M NEW IN THIS COUNTRY AND DON'T KNOW MY WAY AROUND TOO GOOD. UH... MY NAME'S MANUEL MORALES, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME DUKE.
HI, DUKE. YOU CAN CALL ME RENA.
CHEE... I KNEW I SEEN YOU SOMEWHERES! YOU'RE RAVISHING RENA TITAÑON! I SAW YOU WRESTLE TWO WEEKS AGO! WOW, MAN! WHEN I TELL THE GUYS I MET YOU, THEY GONNA FLIP! HIJO DE UN GRAN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE, DUKE?
ME? I'M... WELL... I'M ALMOST A PROSOLAR MECHANIC. I JUST GOTTA LAND THE BIG JOB DEAL. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE IN ZYMBODIA. A LOTTA GOOD FIXERS ARE NEEDED HERE.
WELL, I CERTAINLY WISH YOU LUCK.
SHE JUST PICKED UP SOMEBODY ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.
WHAT A WHORE, EH?
I'LL TEACH THAT SLIMEY SHREW TO MESS WITH THE LAW! LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WITH HER!
OK, MARIE!

BOOOM
WHAT THE FU...
JUST WHAT I NEED, A BLOW OUT.
THAT'S NO BLOW OUT! WE'RE BEING BOMBED!
HANG ON.
HAR! LOOK AT HER RUN WITH HER TAIL BETWEEN HER LEGS!
BLAMMM
WHOA!
HA! COME BACK UP HERE AND TALK MORE SHIT, YA FAT SLOB!
Y-YOU OK, DUKE?
(GROAN)
HOW'S THAT FOR A BODY SLAM, EH? HAR!
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF US, BULL MARIE?
I WANT YOU, DEARIE.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDERING ZONO HIBONALES.
I DIDN'T KILL ZONO...
YOU CAN TELL THAT TO THE JUDGE.
BUT, BEFORE WE GO, I WANNA SETTLE THIS THING ABOUT YOU SLAMMING ME THROUGH THE MAT ONCE AND FOR ALL.
SHIT... IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE TOO FAT. (SIGH) OK, DO I GO TO MY CORNER AND WAIT FOR THE BELL, OR WHAT?
9

NO INTRODUCTIONS. WE KNOW WHO WE ARE.
AW, WHAT A CHEAP SHOT.
SHUT UP, WET BACK.
AHA! TRIED TO ATTACK ME FROM BEHIND, HAH?
"HAIR, REF, HAIR!" WHAT? NO, REF, NO.
YOU'RE STUPID, MARIE.
HUFFFF!
EVERYTHING'S A GAME TO YOU. YOU'LL NEVER LEARN, WILL YOU?
OOF!
GODDAMN SLUT! WHEN I GET OUTTA THIS I'M GONNA...
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA DO IS GO FOR A RIDE.
WOOF!
WOOOO
OOTAH...
MS. TITAÑON! WE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU, PLEASE!
LEMME OUTA HERE!
BULL MARIE? IS THAT YOU?
YES! ARREST HER!
YEAH, ARREST ME. JUST SHUT HER UP, HUH?
10

I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T DO THAT, MARIE. WE JUST GOT A SIGNED CONFESSION SAYING ONE OF OUR OFFICERS KILLED ZONO.
THEN ARREST HER FOR BREAKING MY BACK!
IF YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE, I'LL BE ON MY WAY. OH YES, ABOUT MY CAR...
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT BACK AT THE STATION. SERGEANT JIPIN WILL DRIVE YOU BACK INTO TOWN.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU, MARY, SHOULD HAVE LET THE POLICE HANDLE THIS. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF...
SHUT UP AND GET ME OUTA HERE!
THANKS FOR THE NICE DINNER, DUKE. WELL, THE BEER WAS GOOD ANYWAY. WHAT'S THE MATTER, WAS THE FOOD THAT BAD?
NO. I'M JUST NOT USED TO BEING STARED AT, THAT'S ALL.
OH, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN NO TIME. IT'S JUST THAT NOBODY TRUSTS NOBODY IN THIS TOWN.
Lola's
PIT
ZONO
I KINDA FIGURED IT WAS 'CAUSE I'M WITH YOU. I MEAN, YOU ARE PRETTY WELL KNOWN AROUND HERE.
WELL, I TRY TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN.
AND A LOT OF PEOPLE APPRECIATE IT. BUT, LIKE ALWAYS, THERE'S A FEW WHO DON'T, SO...
TOÑA?!
11

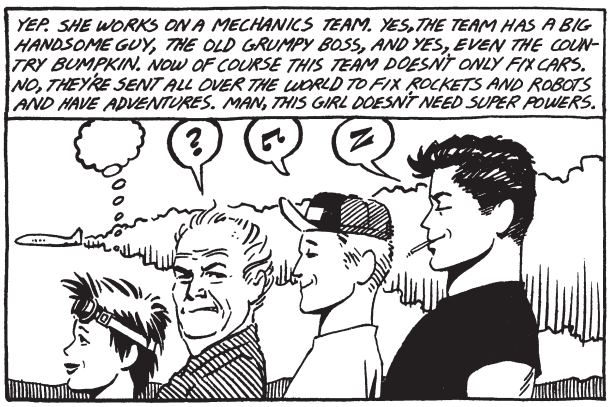
HEY, SHITFUCK! WHAT ARE YA DOIN' WITH MY SAUCE?
HEY, NOW...
GET LOST, BURRO! I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I AM NOT YOUR "SAUCE".
OH, YEAH? WELL, AFTER I CUT THIS DUDE UP, I'M GONNA...
OOLP!
HEY! SPUT! WE WANT NO TROUBLE HERE!
OH, YOU DANCE SO DIVINELY, DARLING.
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO PUT UP WITH RIFF-RAFF LIKE THAT?
I GUESS MY LIFE WOULD BE PRETTY BORING IF I DIDN'T. OOH, LOOK!
IT'S THE SATURN STILLETO. THE CARGO SHIP THAT SAVED ALL THOSE MANO VIEJO REFUGEES AWHILE BACK.
THE STILLETO? HERE? BERNIE CARBO PILOTS HER. ME AND HIM GO BACK A LONG WAY, RENA.
BERNIE CARBO FLIES THE SATURN STILLETO?
YEAH. AND IF I CAN GET A HOLD OF HIM, HE MIGHT BE IN NEED OF A GOOD MECHANIC.
COME ON, RENA. HE LANDED NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE. MAYBE WE CAN...
NO... YOU GO AHEAD. I DON'T CARE TO.
SEE? AT FIRST SHE THOUGHT I WAS SOME CONCEITED ASSHOLE. BUT THEN WHEN WE MET, SHE...
BULL KAKA!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BULLSHITTER, CARBO! WHAT KINDA IDIOT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?!
BULL-SHITTER?! WHY, YOU LOW LIFE PIECE OF SHIT...
LOW LIFE?! WHY YOU... YEOW!!
PLEASE, MY NERVES.
OOF!!
FIGHT!
HIT HIM!
WAH!
FIN

THIS IS MY FRIEND MAGGIE...

CHARMING, PETITE, FRAGILE... AND YET AT THE SAME TIME SHE'S MAD AS HELL WITH THE WORLD. AH, YES. MAGGIE. WHAT A PERFECT COMIC BOOK CHARACTER SHE MAKES. LOOK, ASIDE FROM BEING APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE...

SHE'S ONLY FIVE FOOT TALL, HAS A CUTE FACE AND ASS, IS KIND OF NAIVE ABOUT THINGS, AND LIVES WITH HER BEST FRIEND HOPEY, WHO IS JUST AS CUTE, A LITTLE REBELLIOUS, AND IS EVEN SHORTER. THEY LIVE IN A SMALL RUN-DOWN APARTMENT IN A MEXICAN NEIGHBORHOOD, ALWAYS WITHOUT FOOD, MONTHS BEHIND ON RENT, AND RUMOR HAS IT THAT THEY'RE LESBIANS. HOW PERFECT CAN YOU GET? THE ONLY THING SHE DOESN'T HAVE IS SUPER POWERS. BUT, WAIT! MAGGIE HAS A JOB.

YEP. SHE WORKS ON A MECHANICS TEAM. YES, THE TEAM HAS A BIG HANDSOME GUY, THE OLD GRUMPY BOSS, AND YES, EVEN THE COUNTRY BUMPKIN. NOW OF COURSE THIS TEAM DOESN'T ONLY FIX CARS. NO, THEY'RE SENT ALL OVER THE WORLD TO FIX ROCKETS AND ROBOTS AND HAVE ADVENTURES. MAN, THIS GIRL DOESN'T NEED SUPER POWERS.



SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. ISN'T MAGGIE THE PERFECT COMIC BOOK CHARACTER WITH HER IMPERFECTIONS AND HER EXCITING CAREER? WHO AM I YOU SAY? MY NAME IS ISABEL ORTIZ RUEBENS. I GREW UP CARING FOR MAGGIE SINCE SHE WAS BORN. SO I'M PUT IN THIS COMIC BOOK TO TELL HER STORY. ISN'T THAT PERFECT?

ACTUALLY, THIS IS JUST ANOTHER USELESS INSTALLMENT OF...

LOCAS TAMBIEN

CON MAGGIE, HOPEY AND GANG JAIME 83

100 ROOMS

PART 1
HEY, VICK! ! THIS GIRL WANTS TO TALK TO YOU! SHE SAYS SHE'S YOUR NIECE. SHOULD I THROW HER OUT ?
NO, IT'S OK. SAY, SHRIMP! WATCHA DOON? SAY HI TO MY NIECE, GIRLS.
(GRUNT) PLEASED TO MEET.. Y!!!!!
HOWDY. NIECE.
DAMN! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU GOT YOUR OWN PLACE. YOU EVEN CUT OFF YOUR HAIR AND FINALLY PUT ON WEIGHT. HAS YOUR MOM FOUND OUT YOU'RE NOT LIVING WITH ME ANYMORE?
NOT YET! THANKS FOR NOT TELL-ING HER.
'CAUSE IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT YOU'RE LIVING WITH THAT LITTLE DYKE, SHE'D SHIT A BRICK HOUSE, Y'KNOW?
I KNOW, I KNOW.
BRICK HOUSE! HA HA HA HA HAAK!
I ALWAYS DID FEEL MY DAD'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY WAS A LOT MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN MY MOM'S. HEH!
A LOT NUTSIER, TAMBIEN.
WELL, THANKS, SHRIMP.
2
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YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY DOWN-TOWN JUST TO TELL ME THAT, DIDJA?
WELL, NO. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE NEAR AND DECIDED TO HEAR HOW THINGS ARE WITH YOU.
THINGS ARE FINE. I'VE BEEN TRAINING THESE ROOKIES, AND... WAIT! YOU DIDN'T COME BECAUSE YOU FINALLY TOOK MY ADVICE AND YOU WANNA BE A WRESTLER? AND YOU WANT ME TO TRAIN YOU?
WHO, ME? UH, WELL... NO... Y'SEE... I COULDN'T...
LIKE I ALWAYS TOLD 'EM, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A GREAT WRESTLER. A LITTLE SHORT MAYBE, BUT THAT CAN ALWAYS BE AN ADVANTAGE. FIRST WE'LL START YOU ON THE WEIGHTS AND THEN...
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME, TIA.
OK. THEN WHY DID YOU COME, KIDDO?
WELL... UM... I... I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD... WELL, THAT IS... IF I COULD HAVE A LOAN OF FIFTY DOL...
I TAKE IT SHE SAID NO.
I JUST GOTTA GET A-HOLD OF FIFTY BUCKS, HOPEY.
YOU SHOULD TAKE UP LUCHA LIBRE, MAG. THEN YOU COULD GIVE ALL YOUR OPPONENTS "THE FLYING SITDOWN."
VIDA LOKA
SHIT, I COULDN'T BE A WRESTLER. I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND LIVING WITH A SCARRED FOREHEAD, LET ALONE SHOWING OFF CELLULITE TO A CROWD OF THOUSANDS.
WHY NOT? YOU DO TO ME.
EL SANTO
=MAX=
HELP ME THINK, HOPEY! WHO OWES ME MONEY?
I DO. BUT LITTLE TONY HAS IT. HE OWES ME LOTS MORE.
VIDA LOKA
WELL, MAYBE WE CAN FIND HIM, BREAK HIS LEGS, THEN...
YOU KIDDING? EVERY TIME THAT KID GETS AHOLD OF CASH, HE SPENDS IT ALL ON HIS SKATEBOARD. THAT THING IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A CAR.
3

WHAT ABOUT THAT RICH PRIEST YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THAT USED TO BUY YOU THINGS WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, GOING TO THAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL?
BROTHER BORIS? UGH! WHAT ABOUT HIM?
VIDA LOKA
HE'S STILL AT THE CHURCH, ISN'T HE? MAYBE YOU COULD...
SORRY. HE'S IN JAIL FOR MOLESTING LITTLE GIRLS AT THE SCHOOL.
SPEAKING OF MOLESTERS, WHAT ABOUT DEL CHIMNEY? HE'S A SLOB, BUT HE'S ALWAYS HAD CASH STASHED AWAY SOMEWHERE. MAYBE WE COULD...
WE COULD... IF HE WASN'T DEAD.
CHIMNEY IS DEAD? OH, GEE...
YEAH. JOEY AND HIS BUDDIES FOUND HIM IN HIS HOUSE NAILED TO THE WALL. HE HAD A LOT OF ENEMIES, Y'KNOW?
LOKA
BIIIIG
EL LOUIE LOUIE XIII
MY GOD... HE WAS THE FIRST GUY TO EVER PUT HIS TONGUE IN MY MOUTH. I GARGLED FOR DAYS.
I WOULDN'T FEEL TOO BAD, THOUGH. HE ALWAYS SAID HE WAS THE SAVIOR.
NO, I'M SERIOUS, HOPEY. DEL WAS NICE TO ME, REALLY! HE TAUGHT ME A LOT OF THINGS.
I'LL BET HE TAUGHT YOU A LOT OF THINGS. ROWRRR!
VIDA LOKA
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM?
HUH? I DID, I GUESS. WHEN HE WASN'T FLYING OFF THE DEEP END...
YOU JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM. SOMETIMES HE REMINDED ME A LOT OF MY DAD.
YEAH, A NO GOOD WOMANIZER.
OH, GREAT! WE HAD TO COME THIS WAY. OH, THE PAIN...
WHAT THE... OH, I SEE...
4

THERE THEY ARE. BLACK STEEL TOED BOMBER BOOTS. ON SALE FOR ONLY FORTY-EIGHT FIFTY, AND THEY JUST HAPPEN TO BE YOUR SIZE.
OH, HOPEY. LOOK AT THEM! I JUST GOTTA HAVE 'EM OR I'LL DIE!
40%
SALE
YOU'RE REALLY CHOKED UP ABOUT THIS. HOW COME?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF I CAN'T GET THEM, DAFFY WILL WHEN SHE GETS BACK FROM HER TRIP WHO KNOWS WHEN...
... THEN SHE'LL RUSH OVER TO OUR HOUSE, PARADE 'EM OFF FOR US, AND TALK ABOUT WHAT A GREAT BUY THEY WERE. IT NEVER FAILS WHEN I WANNA BUY SOMETHING REAL BAD.
SO WHAT? SHE'S YOUR FRIEND...
...I'M SURE SHE'LL LET YOU BORROW 'EM ONCE IN A WHILE. DAFFY'S A GOOD KID.
OH, KA KA! YOU HAVE AN ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU?
OH! NOW, HEY, WAIT! HOPEY? I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN...
OH, MAGGOT. FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. I'M NOT LEAVING...
HEY, SPEEDY!
¡OYE, ESPERANZITA! WHAT ARE YOU CRAZY BROADS UP TO NOW? YOU GONNA ROB THAT STORE, OR WHAT?
OR WHAT. ANY OF YOU GUYS GOT FIFTY BONES YOU COULD LEND MAGGIE?
FIFTY BONES?! E POR QUE?
FOR WHAT SHE'S DROOLING AT IN THAT WINDOW.
AREN'T THOSE JUST ABOUT THE NEATEST BOOTS YOU'VE EVER SEEN?
SHEEIT... THEY LOOK LIKE CHALUPAS.
¡CHALUPAS CHICHARRONES! HAW!
HEY! DON'T FUCK AROUND! YOU ASKED US! OUCH!
HMF! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FASHION?

THAT'S FASHION? IT LOOKS MORE LIKE HORROR MOVIE PROPS!
HAW!
YEAH? WELL, AT LEAST I DON'T ENDANGER MY LIFE IN THAT BOMB!
GOD, HE'S SO CUTE IT'S SCARY, HOPEY!
YEAH, WELL, THAT STILL DOESN'T GET YOU FIFTY DOLLARS.
MENUDO
OH, YEAH. I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT FOR A SECOND. SHOOT...
WHAT YOU NEED IS SOME KIND OF SHORT, QUICK JOB, OR...
WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW, FIRST WE'LL DRESS YOU IN SOMETHING REALLY DARING. SOMETHING THAT SHOWS OFF YOUR BUTT REAL GOOD. THEN WE'LL STAND YOU ON THIS CORNER...
?
...AND THE FIRST RICH FARTASS THAT COMES ALONG, YOU SAY TO HIM: "HEYYY, BIG BOY... IS THAT A BAZOOKA IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YA JUST GLAD TA SEE ME...?"
FORGET IT!
HI, GIRLS. WHAT'S NEW?
HI, PENNY.
HI.
IS SOMETHING BUGGING YOU, BABY DOLL?
YEAH. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE FIFTY DOLLARS YOU COULD LEND ME, WOULD YOU?
MAGGIE WANTS TO BUY SOME FRIED PIG SKIN CANOES.
REALLY? WELL, I DON'T HAVE IT, BUT I KNOW WHO DOES...
REALLY? WHO?
VIDA
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF H.R. COSTIGAN?
YOU MEAN THE MULTI BULTI BILLIONAIRE? WHO HASN'T?
YOU KNOW H.R. COSTIGAN?
VROOMM
VROOMM
VROOMM
VROOMM
6

SURE! WE'VE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS FOR A FEW YEARS NOW. HE LIKES TO SPEND HIS MONEY ON ME AND I LET HIM.
DO YOU THINK HE'D LEND ME THE MONEY?
ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH THOSE BUNS?
IF I ASKED HIM NICELY ENOUGH. COME ON, WE'LL CALL HIM RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T WANNA IMPOSE... I MEAN...
IMPOSE! IMPOSE! THIS SOUNDS INTERESTING.
NO PROBLEM. CHECK IT OUT. HE GAVE ME THIS SPECIAL PHONE SO I CAN REACH HIM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. I CAN EVEN REACH HIM ON THE TOILET, AND VICE VERSA.
HOLY HOT LINE, BAT GUT!
HERV, DARLING? IT'S ME. YES, I'M JUST FINE. I HAVE A GIRL FRIEND WHO IS IN NEED OF A FAVOR AND, OH... REALLY? UH HUH... YOU DON'T SAY...
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING.
I FEEL SO BAD ABOUT THIS, HOPEY. WHAT IF WE CAUGHT HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF SELLING A COUNTRY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THANKS, DARLING. SHE'LL BE GLAD TO HEAR IT. BYE BYE.
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A FEW WEEKS. I CAUGHT HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF SELLING A COUNTRY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CALL ME URI.
BUT, GET THIS...
VIDA LOCA
HE SAID WE CAN STAY AS GUESTS IN HIS HOME IN BADGEPORT UNTIL HE GETS BACK FROM EL CABALLO.
THAT GUY LIVES IN A FUCKING PALACE.
WHAT DID HE SAY ABOUT THE LOAN?
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK HIM. YOU TWO GO ON AND PACK YOUR BRAS. ASK IZZY IF SHE WANTS TO COME, TOO. TONIGHT, WE FLY.
WHAT THE HELL? IT SURE BEATS TV.
RELAX, MAG. IT'S GONNA BE A SWELL THREE WEEKS.
I GUESS I COULD ASK HIM WHEN HE GETS BACK, HUH?
7
END OF PART 1

PART 2
WELCOME TO COSTIGAN MANOR WEST. I AM WEBSTER, YOUR HEAD SERVANT.
DIG THE CRAZY HOTEL. WHERE DO WE SIGN IN?
THIS PLACE IS PERFECT FOR A GIG.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
JUST GET A LOT OF SKINHEADS CLOSE TO THE WINDOWS AND SMASHH! HERE COMES THE RIOT SQUAD.
AND A LOT OF BUSTED HEADS. TSK
YOU ARE HERE
I'LL RING FOR MORE SERVANTS TO SHOW YOU TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL ROOMS.
MY OWN ROOM? HM... I THINK I'M GONNA LIKE THIS PLACE.
PARTY POOPER.
WHA'D I TELL YOU, GIRLS? WE'RE GONNA HAVE FUN, FUN, FUN!
CAN'T WAIT!
8

I CAME ACROSS THE LAUNDRY ROOM THIS MORNING. I COULD'VE SWORN IT WAS A BEER VAT. IT WAS PRODIGIOUS.
PRODIGIOUS? LET'S SEE YOU TRY TO SPELL THAT.
T-H-A-T?
L-O-A-D-E-D. DEAL ME IN, GIRLS.
DON'T YOU LIKE YOUR OWN ROOM?
YOU KNOW IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SLEEP ALONE. MAN, THIS FOOD IS GOOD. ¿QUIERES?
NO, THANKS. BOY, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU EAT THIS MUCH FOOD BEFORE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MUCH FOOD BEFORE. I'M JUST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MR. COSTIGAN'S HOSPITALITY.
GREAT! I'M GONNA LOVE SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED WITH THE FOOD YEAR BLIMP.
:BURP: THANKS A LOT. EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO TO THE HEAD.
SHALL I HAVE 'EM SEND YOU UP A COW THIS TIME?
IF YOU'RE ASLEEP BY THE TIME I GET BACK, REMEMBER NOT TO HOG THE BED.
THAT WAS NO BATHROOM, THAT WAS A ROMAN BATH. HMM... NOW WHICH WAY IS OUR ROOM?
NOPE. NOT IN HERE.
9

WHEW! I MUST HAVE CHECKED OVER A HUNDRED ROOMS AND I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT. WELL, I'LL FIND IT IN THE MORNING. I'M TOO POOPED. I'LL JUST PLOP INTO ONE OF THESE EMPTY BEDROOMS.
DAMN! EVERY ROOM IS A BALLROOM. YOU COULD HOLD A FUNNY CAR SHOW IN ONE OF THESE. HOW BORING THAT WOULD BE, THOUGH.
AND I'LL BET THE CLOSETS ARE AIRPLANE HANGARS...
SHH...
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP! I'LL CALL THE COPS...
QUIET...
HELP! HOPEY! HELP!
OH, FOR... C'MERE...
NOW, ARE YOU GONNA KEEP QUIET OR DO I HAVE TO GET TOUGH?
OK...
HELP!
AW, FOR THE LOVE A GOD...
MAGGIE'S BEEN GONE FOR OVER AN HOUR. I WONDER IF THE TOILETS HERE ARE ALSO SO BIG THAT SHE WAS SUCKED IN WHEN SHE FLUSHED IT.
10

MAN, THIS PLACE REALLY BECOMES A TOMB AFTER DARK, DOESN'T IT?
YES, MA'AM.
IZZY'S RIGHT. THIS IS A HOTEL. THERE'S PEOPLE OCCUPYING THESE ROOMS. KINDA SPOOKY... AHH, HERE WE ARE...
SAY, IZZY. HAVE YOU SEEN MAGGIE?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?
GAAA!
FUNNY, THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, TOO.
W-WHA' HOPPEN? IS HE D-D-D-D-D...
AS A DOOR NAIL. PLEASE DON'T ASK ME HOW...
I WAS JUST SITTING HERE WHILE HE WAS TAKING HOURS TELLING ME WHAT GREAT ARCHITECTURE THIS HOUSE HAS, WHEN BEING THE POLITE PERSON I AM, I ASKED HIM TO LEAVE. WHEN HE KEPT ON I TOLD HIM TO DROP DEAD...
AND...?
...HE DID.
TALK ABOUT LOYAL SERVICE.
YEAH, WELL NOW, WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH HIM?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE"? CALL ROOM SERVICE OR SOMETHING. I'M NOT STICKING AROUND TO SEE THEM PICK UP THE LAUNDRY.
SOME FRIEND YOU ARE...
CORPSES EVEN!
SHEEIT!

YES, MA'AM! THE ESTATE CORONER'S OFFICE WILL SEND SOMEONE RIGHT BY TO PICK UP THE BODY. YES, MA'AM...
GET THAT, ETHEL. A CORPSE IN ONE OF THE ROOMS. I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A NUTHOUSE.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. YES? OPERATOR. HELLO? WHAT? I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU...
MFF MXL VPP!
I'M SORRY, SIR. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
OUR BUTLERS AND MAIDS ALL SPEAK TEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. PERHAPS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO... HELLO? HELLO?
CRAZY FOREIGNERS. SMACK
LIKE, MAD
THAT WAS REALLY DUMB.
LOOK! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GIVE ME AWAY. THEY MUST NOT KNOW I'M HERE. DON'T YOU SEE?
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR GAG OFF NOW. PROMISE ME YOU WON'T SCREAM. PLEASE? LOOK, IF I WAS GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO YOU IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE DAYS AGO. I MEAN, YOU BEING A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN... I MEAN, IT'S HARD TO... Y-YOU KNOW...
GOOD GIRL...
12

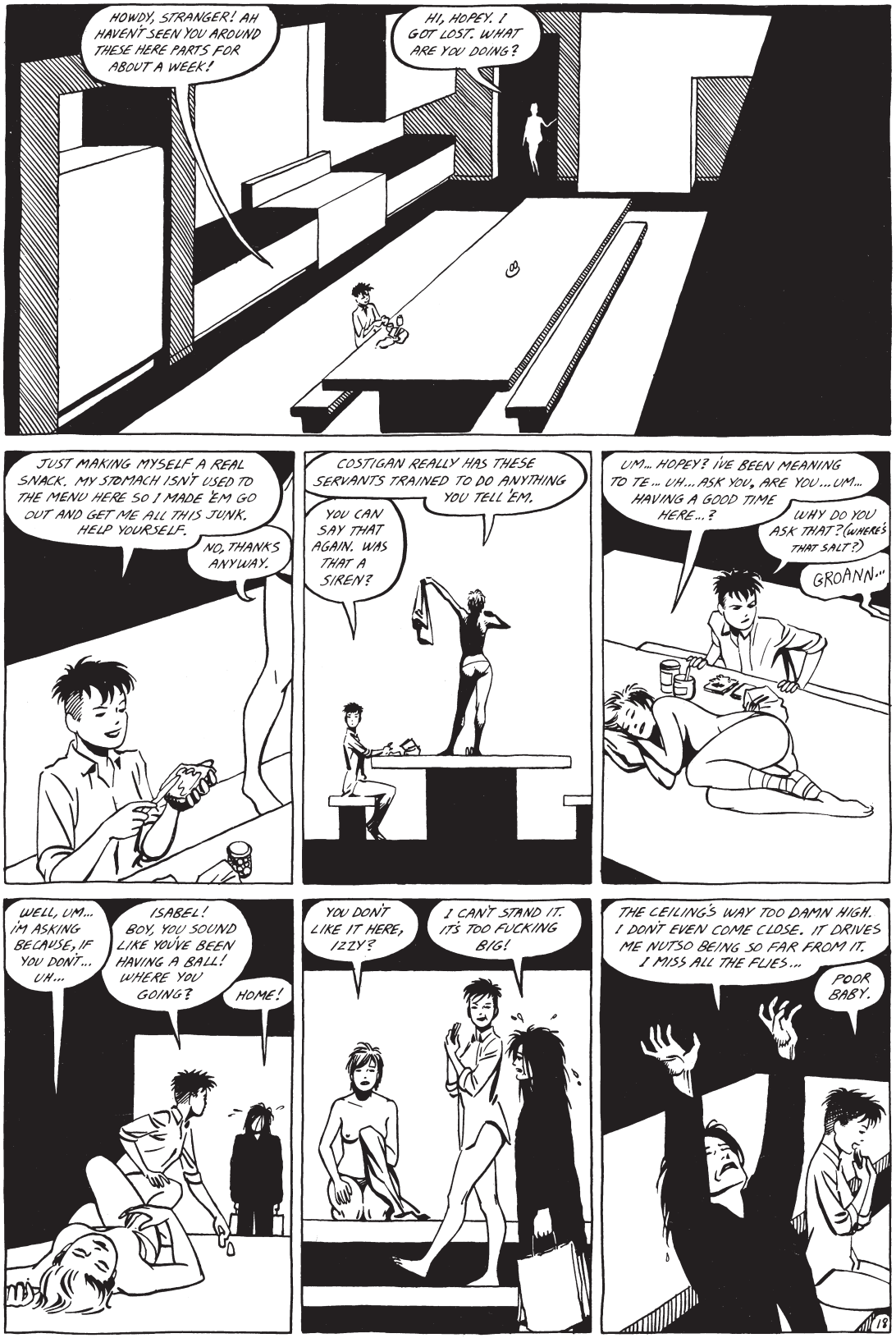
I'M SO SORRY... OH, GOD, I'M SOOOO SORRY...
I WOULDN'T HAVE... I SWEAR... ONLY, YOU LOOKED TO ME LIKE... LIKE YOU WANTED TO... LIKE YOU WANTED ME TO D... I...
I DID.
OH, GOD... I MUSTA BEEN CRAZY! I'M NO SEX MANIAC! IT'S JUST THAT... I... YOU DID??
WELL, YEAH... I DID...
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, CASEY MAN? THIS CHICK AIN'T ONE OF YOUR USUAL "DATES." SHE COULDA WELL SCREAMED BLOODY MURDER, THEN YOU'D REALLY BE UP SHIT CREEK!
BUT I SWEAR SHE PULLED ME TOWARD HER. I DUNNO, THIS MAY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT I THINK THIS CHICK REALLY LIKES ME.
HOD IT, MAG! THINGS ARE MOVING TOO FAST HERE. DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
I DON'T GET IT... WHO IS THAT GUY, CHELO?
PATIENCE, VICENTE. WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH...
13
END OF PART II

PART 3
I WONDER WHAT THE POOR PEOPLE ARE DOING RIGHT NOW?
ANY OF YOU SEEN MAGGIE LATELY?
NOT ME.
I DID THIS MORNING. SHE WAS TAKIN' A GIANT TRAY OF FOOD TO HER ROOM. ENOUGH TO FEED A HORSE! BUT BEFORE I COULD CATCH HER, SHE LOCKED THE DOOR. AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT MOST PASSING STRANGE...
MOST PASSING STRANGE?
...BUT THEN I FIGURED THIS WAS HER ONE CHANCE TO PIG OUT FOR A CHANGE.
POOR MAG. I PROBABLY HURT HER FEELINGS WHEN I CALLED HER THE FOOD YEAR BLIMP.
HEY, IZZY. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD GUY?
THE ESTATE GRAVE DIGGERS PICKED HIM UP. THEY SAID HE HAD A BUM HEART. HE WAS A HUNDRED AND SIX, Y'KNOW?
14

I'M TELLING YOU, IZZY, THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS. NOW MAGGIE WON'T EVEN COME OUT TO TALK TO US, WHEREVER SHE IS.
IT'S A MADHOUSE, Y'KNOW...
WE'RE SLOWLY BEING DRIVEN INSANE. MAGGIE MUST'VE BEEN THE FIRST TO SNAP, THE POOR DEAR. SHE'S PROBABLY UP IN THERE PLOTTING TO KILL US IN OUR BEDS.
=URP=
OR WORSE, CUTTING OUT PAPER DOLLS.
THANKS FOR HAVING ALL THAT FOOD SENT UP. I HAVEN'T EATEN LIKE THAT SINCE THE BEAVERS WON THE PENNANT.
GLAD YOU LIKED IT. CASEY...?
NOW THAT YOU HAVE A FULL STOMACH, WHAT ARE YOU...
THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU. IT'S YOUR FRIENDS, ISN'T IT? WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND BE WITH THEM? YOU'RE NOT MY PRISONER ANY MORE.
I'M SCARED. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL 'EM WITHOUT TELLING 'EM ABOUT YOU.
WELL, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO SOMETHING SOON OR THEY'RE GONNA HAVE A SEARCH PARTY COMING AFTER YOU.
O-OK. I'LL GO OUT. TOMORROW. SHIT! I WISH I WAS LIKE YOU, A LONER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYBODY TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO. LIVE WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITIES, HAVING NO ONE TO CARE FOR BUT YOURSELF...
IT DON'T MAKE SENSE! SHE CAN'T BE UP THERE JUST EATING!
WHY NOT? I'VE SEEN MAGGIE DO SOME WEIRD THINGS.
BUT SHE WON'T EVEN COME OUT TO TALK TO US.
MAYBE SHE WAS KIDNAPPED.
C'MON! BE SERIOUS, ISABEL!
HELL, I DUNNO! MAYBE SHE'S PISSED OFF AT US!
15

YEAH? DO YOU THINK MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR BY SAYING SHE WAS FAT?
WHO KNOWS WITH MAGGIE? SAY, CAN WE GET OUT OF THIS HERE SWEAT BOX NOW?
GIRL, STOP FOR A SECOND AND LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE DOING. I MEAN, WHO IS THIS GUY?
HE KNOCKS YOU DOWN, TIES YOU UP, TELLS YOU TO TRUST HIM, AND ALL ON THE SAME DAY, YOU MAKE LOVE TO HIM.
I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM. HE'S A BUM! HE HASN'T BATHED OR CHANGED HIS CLOTHES IN TEN YEARS. HE'S... HE'S MISSING TEETH! HE...
IT'S OK. I'M MISSING TEETH, TOO.
WHEN WE SEE HER, SHE'S GONNA PRETEND NOTHING HAPPENED AND THEN SHE'LL SAY, "HI, GUYS! WHATCHA DOON?" THEN I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO KICK HER ASS UP AND DOWN THE STAIRS.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING.
HOPPERS
HUH?
YOU'RE GOING TO PRETEND NOTHING HAPPENED OR I WILL KICK YOUR ASS UP AND DOWN THE STAIRS!
IZZY, DON'T START GIVING ME YOUR SHIT...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE GIVEN MAGGIE ENOUGH SHIT FOR A YEAR? GIVE HER A REST, HUH?
OH, COME ON! I'VE BEEN CALLED WORST THINGS THAN THE FOOD YEAR BLIMP, BUT IT NEVER...
CRAPAZOLA! QUIT ACTING LIKE A KID! IT'S MORE THAN THAT AND YOU KNOW IT!
16

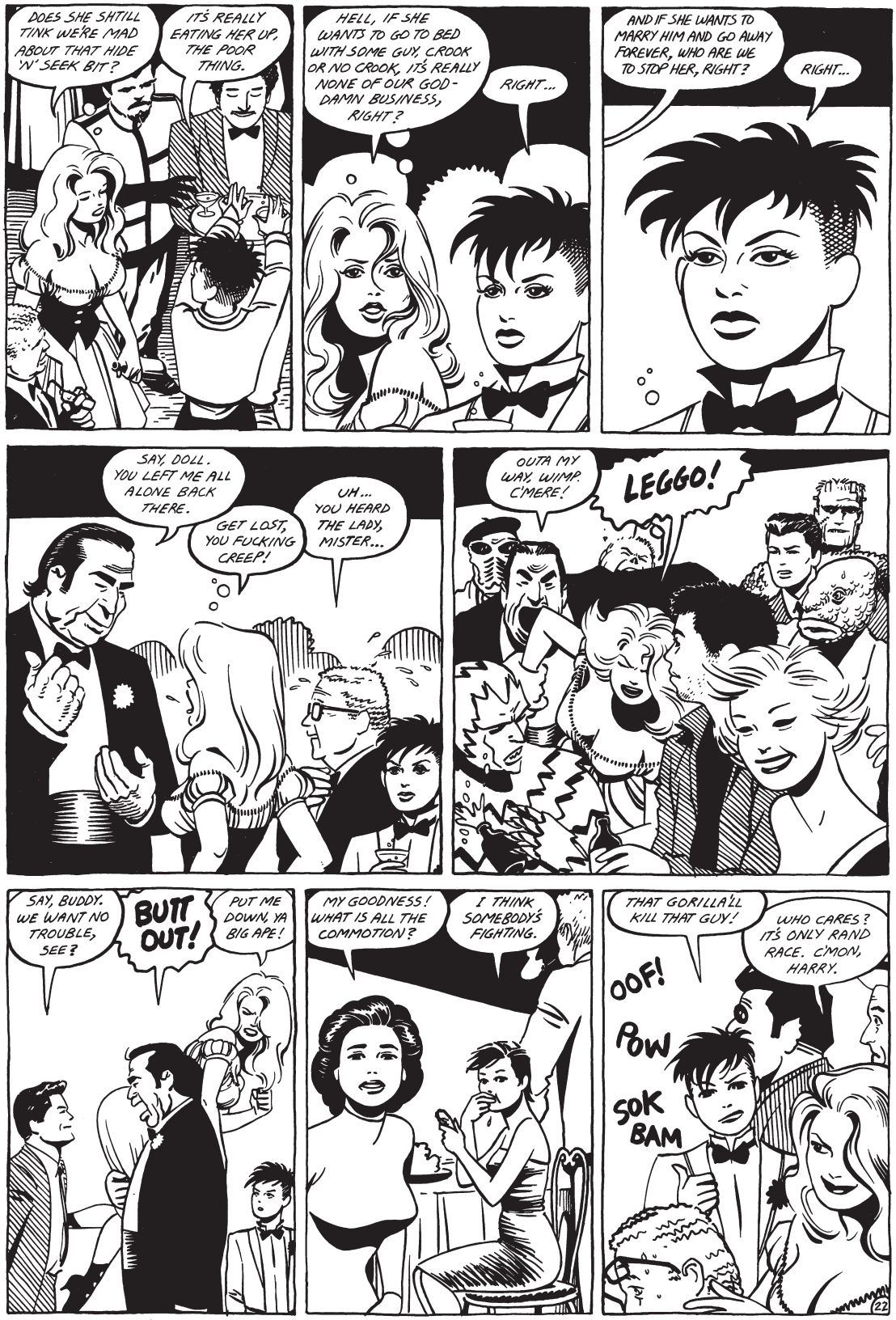
YOU'RE CRAZY.
THAT'S THE FIRST, LOGICAL THING YOU'VE SAID ALL DAY.
...AND THERE I WAS, STANDING BEFORE THE OL' KING OF DRUSSIA HIMSELF, WITH HIS BIG BEARD AND STOMACH TO MATCH...
GEE, HOW EXCITING! THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY PUSHED ME ASIDE. FOR ALL THEY KNEW, I WAS JUST A BUM.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BE THE TRUE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF DRUSSIA?
WELL, I HAVE THE BIRTHMARK AND I WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHAN'S HOME NOT REMEMBERING WHO MY PARENTS WERE. MAN, I'LL NEVER FORGET ALL THE SHIT I GOT. ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL SHOW THOSE BIG SHOTS...
WHY ARE YOU HIDING IN THIS HOUSE ANYWAY?
I WANT COSTIGAN. THE BIG SHOT OF ALL BIG SHOTS. I WANT TO SHOW HIM JUST WHO THIS BUM REALLY IS. I KNOW HE'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, BUT I'LL WAIT. AS LONG AS IT TAKES I'LL STILL WAIT.
MY!
YOUR MAJESTY. I AM YOUR SLAVE. DO WITH ME WHAT YOU WILL.
ANYTHING I WANT, EH?
STRAP ME TO THE SIDE OF A MAD BULL. BEAT ME WITH A HOT WHEEL TRACK. CALL ME A SLUT! CALL ME A BITCH! CALL ME A COP!
VERY WELL, MY WORTHLESS SERVANT...
GO OUT AND SEE YOUR FRIENDS! RIGHT NOW, BEFORE THEY FORGET WHO YOU ARE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THEM ABOUT ME! JUST GO SEE THEM!
OH, ALL RIGHT!
I'LL JUST TELL 'EM THAT I GOT LOST. NAW, TOO CORNY. I'LL TELL 'EM THAT I WAS KIDNAPPED BY... NAW. I KNOW... I CAUGHT MOE TOWNE FEVER AND HAD TO BE QUARANTINED. YEAH, THAT'S IT.
17


HOWDY, STRANGER! AH HAVENT SEEN YOU AROUND THESE HERE PARTS FOR ABOUT A WEEK!
HI, HOPEY. I GOT LOST. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST MAKING MYSELF A REAL SNACK. MY STOMACH ISNT USED TO THE MENU HERE SO I MADE 'EM GO OUT AND GET ME ALL THIS JUNK. HELP YOURSELF.
NO, THANKS ANYWAY.
COSTIGAN REALLY HAS THESE SERVANTS TRAINED TO DO ANYTHING YOU TELL 'EM.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. WAS THAT A SIREN?
UM... HOPEY? IVE BEEN MEANING TO TE... UH... ASK YOU, ARE YOU... UM... HAVING A GOOD TIME HERE...?
WHY DO YOU ASK THAT? (WHERE'S THAT SALT?)
GROANN.."
WELL, UM... IM ASKING BECAUSE, IF YOU DONT... UH...
ISABEL! BOY, YOU SOUND LIKE YOUVE BEEN HAVING A BALL! WHERE YOU GOING?
HOME!
YOU DONT LIKE IT HERE, IZZY?
I CANT STAND IT. ITS TOO FUCKING BIG!
THE CEILING'S WAY TOO DAMN HIGH. I DONT EVEN COME CLOSE. IT DRIVES ME NUTSO BEING SO FAR FROM IT. I MISS ALL THE FLIES...
POOR BABY.
19

...SO I CAN NO LONGER STAY IN THIS INSANE ASYLUM. I'M LEAVING AS OF RIGHT NOW.
IT'S FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.
Y'KNOW, MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT...
WHO WAS I KIDDING? I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE, US PLAYING THE ROLE OF RICH BITCHES. I HARDLY EVER SEE YOU GUYS. HELL, I RARELY EVEN SEE THE SAME ROOM TWICE. I DON'T NEED THIS "GOOD LIFE" SHIT. ALL THESE SERVANTS WAKING YOU TO ASK YOU IF YOU'RE SLEEPING WELL, BATHING IN WINE, PHEASANT A LA MODE. THAT AIN'T LIVING. GIMME BARRIO HUERTA, HOPPERS THIRTEEN ANY OL' DAY. SNIFF...
♫ YOO HOO!
AM I GLAD I FOUND YOU ALL TOGETHER. I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE BIG BASH HERE SATURDAY NIGHT.
WHAT BASH?
ON COSTIGAN'S ARRIVAL HE'S THROWING A PARTY FOR HIS GUESTS. THAT'S US! EVERYBODY'S COMING.
WELL, WE COULD STICK AROUND FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, COULDN'T WE?
YOU GUYS HAVE FUN. I'M GOING HOME.
DON'T FORGET, IT'S IN TWO DAYS. I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
TWO DAYS?! THEN TODAY IS THURSDAY? I THOUGHT IT WAS WEDNESDAY! SEE WHAT I MEAN? I EVEN LOST TRACK OF THE DAYS! SHEESH!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MAGGIE?
UH... BACK TO BED. I'M STILL SLEEPY. SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
GOD, I HATE HIDING THINGS FROM MY BEST FRIEND, BUT I PROMISED CASEY. MAYBE I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO HOPEY AT THE PARTY. SHE'LL UNDERSTAND. BESIDES, THIS IS CASEY'S CHANCE TO SHOW 'EM ALL. IF HE CAN SLIP INTO THE PARTY SOMEHOW...
EXCUSE ME, MISS MAGGIE, BUT...
WE FOUND A PROWLER IN YOUR ROOM BUT YOU ARE NOT TO WORRY. WHEN I SHOT AT HIM, HE JUMPED THROUGH THE WINDOW SO FAST THAT I DIDN'T SEE HIM AFTER THAT. I MIGHT HAVE WOUNDED HIM. SO REST ASSURED...
...I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE COMING BACK HERE AGAIN.
19
END OF PART III

PART 4
LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE! COSTIGAN SURE KNOWS HOW TO THROW A PARTY, HUH? LOOK, THERE'S DEREK CINEMA.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS, I STILL DON'T THINK YOU LOOK ANYTHING LIKE HIM.
HOPEY? I JUST WANNA SAY THAT I'M SORRY ABOUT...
FORGET IT, HAH? IT'S OVER. NOW, WILL YOU ENJOY YOURSELF ALREADY? THIS PARTY IS FOR US, REMEMBER?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS DAMN PARTY! THE IMPORTANT THING IS I'VE NEVER KEPT ANYTHING FROM YOU, MY BEST FRIEND! IT'S LIKE I DIDN'T TRUST YOU OR SOMETHING! IT MAKES ME...
NO! THE IMPORTANT THING IS YOU KEPT YOUR WORD. YOU DIDN'T RAT ON THE GUY. YOU SHOULD FEEL PROUD.
THEN HOW COME I FEEL TERRIBLE?
MARGARITA! GET A-HOLD OF YOURSELF. WILL YOU? WHAT YOU NEED IS A DRINK. C'MON.
20

WELL, UM... INSTEAD OF A DRINK, HOW ABOUT...
ATTACK AND BE A DESTROYER. I'M GONNA CHECK ON SOME OF OUR GUESTS.
SOMETIMES I REALLY WORRY ABOUT THAT GIRL. POOR MAG.
HI! MY NAME IS GELLEX
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID ONE OF THESE DAYS SHE'S GONNA DRIVE HERSELF CRAZIER THAN SHE ALREADY IS AND TAKE US ALL WITH HER.
THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS. WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE LIKE RAND RACE WORKING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW YOUR MACHINES ARE IN THE FINEST HANDS.
BRAVO, COSTIGAN! BUT, WHEN DO WE GET TO SEE... MEET PENELOPE?
YEH...
OH, (AHEM) WELL... I THINK SHE'S SHOWING MY NEPHEW HAROLD AROUND SOMEWHERE.
PENNY'S HERE?
HEY, SOMEONE SWIPED MY SOLID GOLD LIGHTER!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME FOR, BUDDY?
I WONDER WHERE PENNY'S BEEN ALL NIGHT.
I'M SORRY, MISS, BUT YOU CAN'T DANCE IN HERE...
THESE ITEMS ARE VERY VALUABLE AND YOU MIGHT...
LOOK OUT!
OOP! SPOKE TOO SOON...
CRASH
HOPITA! HOWZA GIRL? WHERE'S MY BABY?
SHE'S EATING, PENELOPE. SHE'S GOT A CASE OF THE GUILTS RIGHT NOW.
21


DOES SHE SHTILL TINK WE'RE MAD ABOUT THAT HIDE 'N' SEEK BIT?
IT'S REALLY EATING HER UP, THE POOR THING.
HELL, IF SHE WANTS TO GO TO BED WITH SOME GUY, CROOK OR NO CROOK, IT'S REALLY NONE OF OUR GOD-DAMN BUSINESS, RIGHT?
RIGHT...
AND IF SHE WANTS TO MARRY HIM AND GO AWAY FOREVER, WHO ARE WE TO STOP HER, RIGHT?
RIGHT...
SAY, DOLL. YOU LEFT ME ALL ALONE BACK THERE.
GET LOST, YOU FUCKING CREEP!
UH... YOU HEARD THE LADY, MISTER...
OUTA MY WAY, WIMP. C'MERE!
LEGGO!
SAY, BUDDY. WE WANT NO TROUBLE, SEE?
BUTT OUT!
PUT ME DOWN, YA BIG APE!
MY GOODNESS! WHAT IS ALL THE COMMOTION?
I THINK SOMEBODY'S FIGHTING.
THAT GORILLA'LL KILL THAT GUY!
WHO CARES? IT'S ONLY RAND RACE. C'MON, HARRY.
OOF!
POW
SOK
BAM
22

THE BOUNCERS FINALLY KICKED HIM OUT... WHERE'S PENNY?
WENT FOR A WALK. SO, YOU'RE RAND RACE?
YES. DO I KNOW YOU?
I'M HOPEY. YOU KNOW, PENNY'S AND MAGGIE'S FRIEND...?
YES, YES! HOPPY! MARGIE'S TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU!
AND YOU'RE GLAD TO SEE ME?
PENNY. WHAT WAS GOING ON OVER THERE?
NOT TOO MUCH. I HEAR YOU'RE STILL DOWN ON YOURSELF FOR HIDING OUT ON US.
WELL... I REALLY SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT... IS HOPEY MAD?
NAW. IN FACT, SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. HEY, DID YOU STILL WANNA TALK TO COSTIGAN?
I DON'T THINK SO. I FEEL KINDA SILLY...
NONSENSE! COME ON, I'LL EVEN INTRODUCE YOU AS MY SISTER.
WAIT! HOLD IT! LOOK!
WUZZAT? WUZ WRONG?
LOOK WHO'S STANDING NEXT TO COSTIGAN...
I KNOW. DEMOÑA, THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS A BAD GUY.
SHE IS, BUT SHE NEEDS MONEY, SO COSTIGAN'S HIRED HER AS HIS OWN PERSONAL BODYGUARD. MAN, IF ATOMA WERE HERE, SHE'D...
23

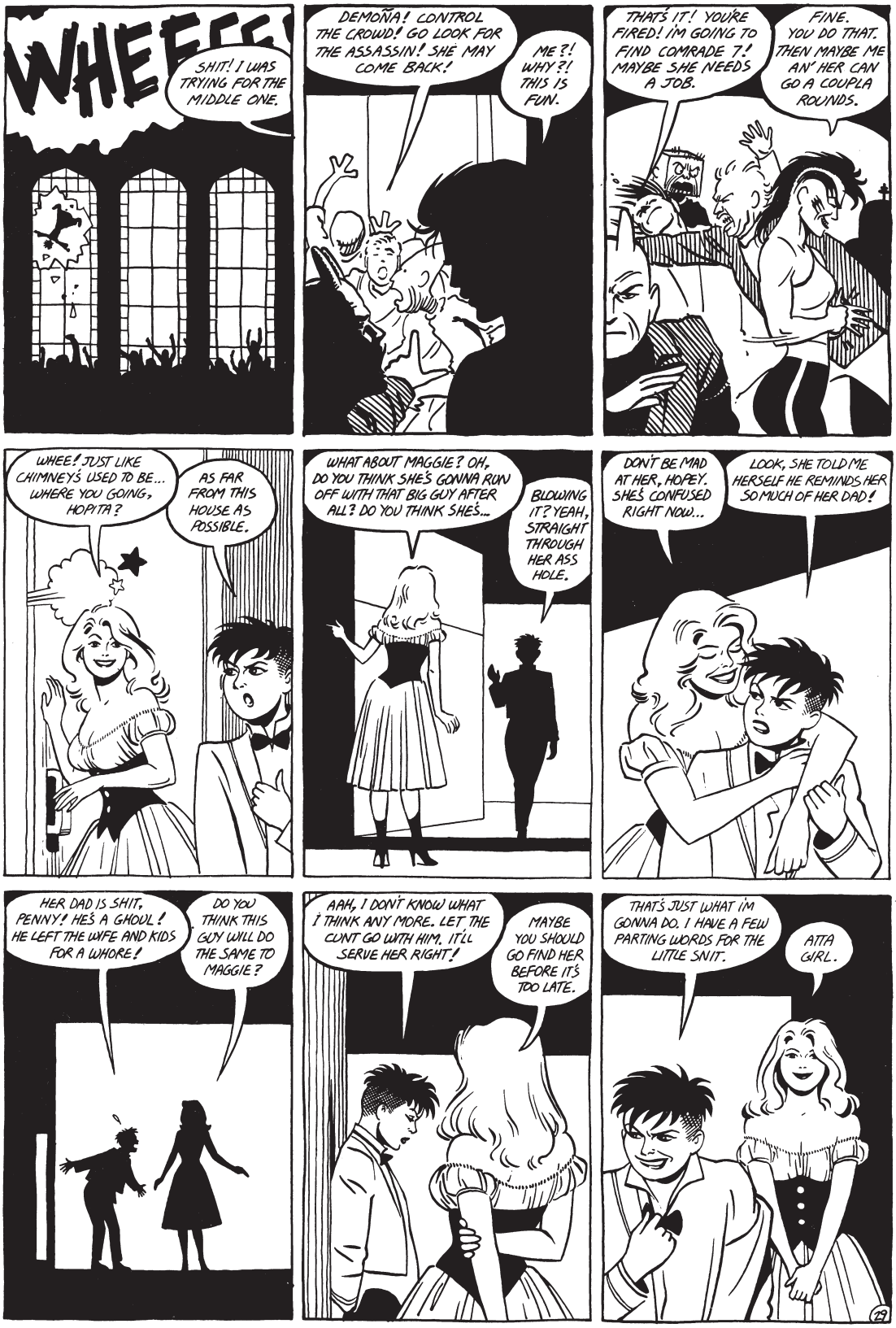
IMAGINE IF SHE TURNS ON HIM.
THEN THAT'S WHEN SHE COMES IN. LOOK, OV' YONDER...
OOH! IT'S HER! COMRADE 7! AREN'T YOU THE PRESIDENT OF HER FAN CLUB?
I ALSO INVITED HER TO THIS PARTY TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT BITCH.
LET'S GO ASK COSTIGAN FOR YOUR FIFTY BONES NOW...
NO... UH... WAIT! LEMME GO TO THE POWDER ROOM FIRST! YOU KNOW... HEH... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
DAMN! I FORGOT THIS ALL STARTED BECAUSE I WAS CRYING OVER A PAIR OF LOUSY BOOTS.
=GULP=
MAN, I'M TELLING YOU... IF IT ISN'T ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER, Y'KNOW?
YEH...
I MEAN, I'M TRYIN' TA MAKE AN HONEST LIVING, Y'KNOW? AN' SOME PEOPLE JUST LIKE TA FUCK THINGS UP BY SHOWIN' UP ALLA TIME.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. MY EX SHOWED UP TONIGHT.
BUT, MY MAMA ALWAYS TOLD ME TO FACE MY PROBLEMS, SO...
...I THINK I'LL GO SMASH IN HER DAMN COMMUNIST FACE.
SAY, MAYBE I SHOULD DO THAT TO HARRY.
GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME. I WAS HIS SECOND WIFE.
"FACE YOUR PROBLEMS." SHEESH! MINE ARE PRACTICALLY HITTING ME IN THE FACE.
24

END OF PART IV

PART 5
HOPEEE! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I'M TAKING YOU TO MEET 'OL' WHAT'S HIS NAME...
WIDOWS SEXOR
WILL YOU STOP!?! I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO COSTIGAN ANY MORE! I JUST WANT TO FORGET ALL THIS EVER HAPPENED!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS...
BULL SHIT!
YOU JUST WANT TO MAKE FUN OF ME! OH, POOR, DUMB, FUNNY, STUPID MAGGIE! ALWAYS GREAT FOR A LAUGH, HUH?
YOU'VE FLIPPED.
YEAH, I'M CRAZY! REAL GONE, MAN! STRAIGHT OUT OF CAMARILLO STATE HOSPITAL! GO 'HEAD, GET COSTIGAN HERE AND WATCH ME MAKE A FUCKING FOOL OF MYSELF!!
WAHOO!!
26

YEAH, GO AHEAD! WALK AWAY! I DON'T NEED THIS SHIT, EITHER!
AND IF YOU'RE GONNA KICK MY ASS, YOU BETTER MAKE IT A GOOD ONE, 'CAUSE AFTER TONIGHT, YOU'RE NOT GONNA HAVE THE CHANCE.
SHIT! NOW WHY DID I HAVE TO DO THAT?
MADAME?
WHY DO I KEEP MAKING THINGS WORSE? IT'S NOT HER FAULT THAT IM MISERABLE. GOD, IM THE WORST...
MADAME?
I SAW YOU STANDING ALL ALONE AND WAS WONDERING IF I COULD HAVE THIS DANCE?
YOU?!
IT IS YOU! CASEY, YOU MADE IT!
PLEASE, CALL ME BARON GIFFS OF ORIENTAR.
IT IS YOU, ISN'T IT?
'COURSE. YOU DIDN'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT THEY COULD EVER KEEP ME AWAY FROM YOU, DIDJA?
NO, I GUESS I DIDN'T.
HOW ROMANTIC. THE BARON HAS ASKED THAT LOVELY GIRL TO DANCE.
WHERE IS ORIENTAR?
NEAR LA BREA I THINK.
DAMN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY MORE, CASEY. PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO...
WELL... I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU...
27

MAGGIE, WILL YOU...
MY APOLOGIES, BARON, BUT MR. COSTIGAN WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU.
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE, CASEY.
AH, BARON GIFFS. I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU. DEMONA?
!
YESSUH, MASSUH.
WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE IS OUT TO "GET" ME, BARON. IF THAT'S WHO YOU REALLY ARE...
CASEY!
IS IT TRUE? ARE YOU REALLY AN ASSASSIN?
NO WAY! THESE GUYS ARE NUTS!
I'M SORRY, MISS, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED WITH WHO YOU WERE DEALING.
BEING SEEN HIDING IN MY HOME FOR THE PAST MONTH IS WHAT FINALLY CONVINCED US. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, MY DEAR.
RIGHTO. DON'T WORRY, BARON, THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOR A MINUTE.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
¡LA CAUSA!
EEK!
YAAAA
WILL YOU PEOPLE PLEASE STOP YELLING? IT MAKES ME VERY NERVOUS.
EEYOU
GET OUT OF MY WAY! YOU'RE BLOCKING MY AIM.
28


WHEEEE
SHIT! I WAS TRYING FOR THE MIDDLE ONE.
DEMOÑA! CONTROL THE CROWD! GO LOOK FOR THE ASSASSIN! SHE MAY COME BACK!
ME?! WHY?! THIS IS FUN.
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE FIRED! I'M GOING TO FIND COMRADE 7! MAYBE SHE NEEDS A JOB.
FINE. YOU DO THAT. THEN MAYBE ME AN' HER CAN GO A COUPLA ROUNDS.
WHEE! JUST LIKE CHIMNEY'S USED TO BE... WHERE YOU GOING, HOPITA?
AS FAR FROM THIS HOUSE AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT ABOUT MAGGIE? OH, DO YOU THINK SHE'S GONNA RUN OFF WITH THAT BIG GUY AFTER ALL? DO YOU THINK SHE'S...
BLOWING IT? YEAH, STRAIGHT THROUGH HER ASS HOLE.
DON'T BE MAD AT HER, HOPEY. SHE'S CONFUSED RIGHT NOW...
LOOK, SHE TOLD ME HERSELF HE REMINDS HER SO MUCH OF HER DAD!
HER DAD IS SHIT, PENNY! HE'S A GHOUL! HE LEFT THE WIFE AND KIDS FOR A WHORE!
DO YOU THINK THIS GUY WILL DO THE SAME TO MAGGIE?
AAH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I THINK ANY MORE. LET THE CUNT GO WITH HIM. IT'LL SERVE HER RIGHT!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO FIND HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO. I HAVE A FEW PARTING WORDS FOR THE LITTLE SNIT.
ATTA GIRL.
29

'TIS MORNING...
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE. THANK YOU!
OOF!
HEY!
EXCUSE ME. HAVE YOU SEEN A GIRL, ABOUT MY SIZE... BLACK SCARECROW HAIRCUT... WAITER'S JACKET...
SORRY MISS. HAVEN'T SEEN HER...
MAGGIE.
CASEY! I THOUGHT THEY... YOU'RE...
?
YEAH, I'M GOING. I GOTTA GET TO THE DOCKS IN AN HOUR TO CATCH A FREIGHTER HEADED FOR POMONOLA. I JUST CAME TO ASK YOU AGAIN...
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT WAS IT?
IF...IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME. I REALLY WANT YOU TO...
COME WITH YOU? BUT...
MAGGIE, I'M SO TIRED... TIRED OF RUNNING... TIRED OF BEING ALONE... I GOTTA STOP...
COME WITH ME... PLEASE... I LOVE YOU...
YOU... I-I CAN'T... NOT NOW. Y'SEE, I'VE BEEN THINKING... ABOUT THINGS... ABOUT MYSELF...
MAYBE I COULD RUN AWAY WITH YOU FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, BUT NOT RIGHT NOW...
RIGHT NOW THERE'S NO ONE I'D RATHER SPEND MY LIFE WITH THAN MY FRIEND HOPEY. I WISH SHE WAS HERE THIS VERY MINUTE.
30

BUT, I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE BLOWN THAT SKY HIGH. NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'LL EVER COME BACK. I DON'T... KNOW...
I'LL SEE YOU IN FIVE YEARS.
YEAH...
WOW. NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL AN EXIT.
H-HOPEY?
OH, HOPEY, HOPEY, HOPEY! I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING! FORGIVE ME...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT. IT SEEMS I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY.
DID YOU HEAR...?
EVERY WORD. C'MON, MAGGIE. LET'S GET PACKED AND GO HOME.
I SAW DAFFY TODAY. SHE WORE A BRAND NEW PAIR OF BOOTS SHE GOT ON SALE FOR FORTY-EIGHT FIFTY.
OH? GOOD NIGHT, HOPEY.
GOOD MORNING, MAGGIE.
LOCAS TAMBIEN.
100 ROOMS
• BY JAIME '83-'86
FIN

PENNY CENTURY
T42
JAIME 11/83
ENJOYING YOURSELF, MY DEAR?
TREMENDOUSLY. I COULD STAY HERE FOREVER.
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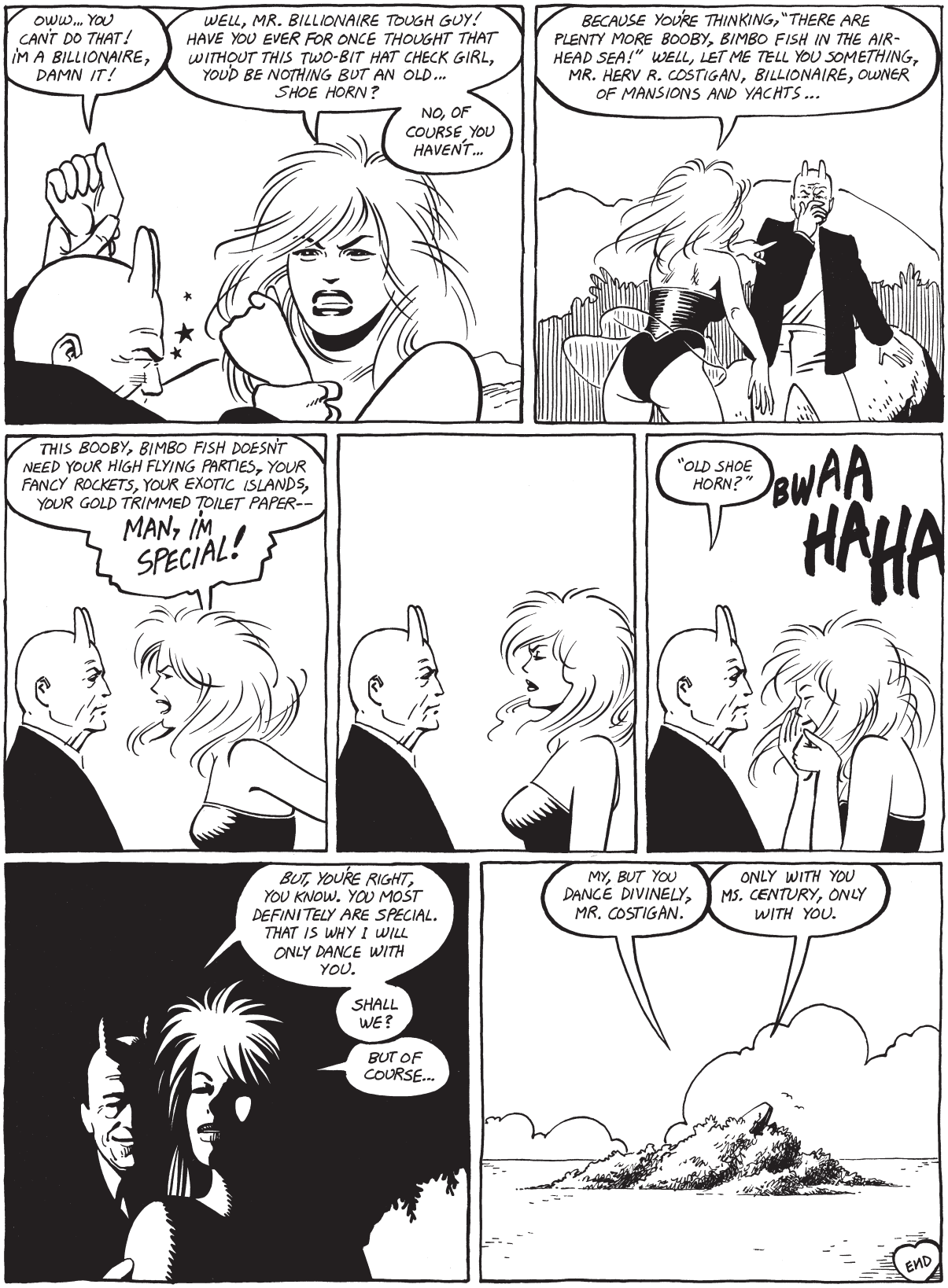
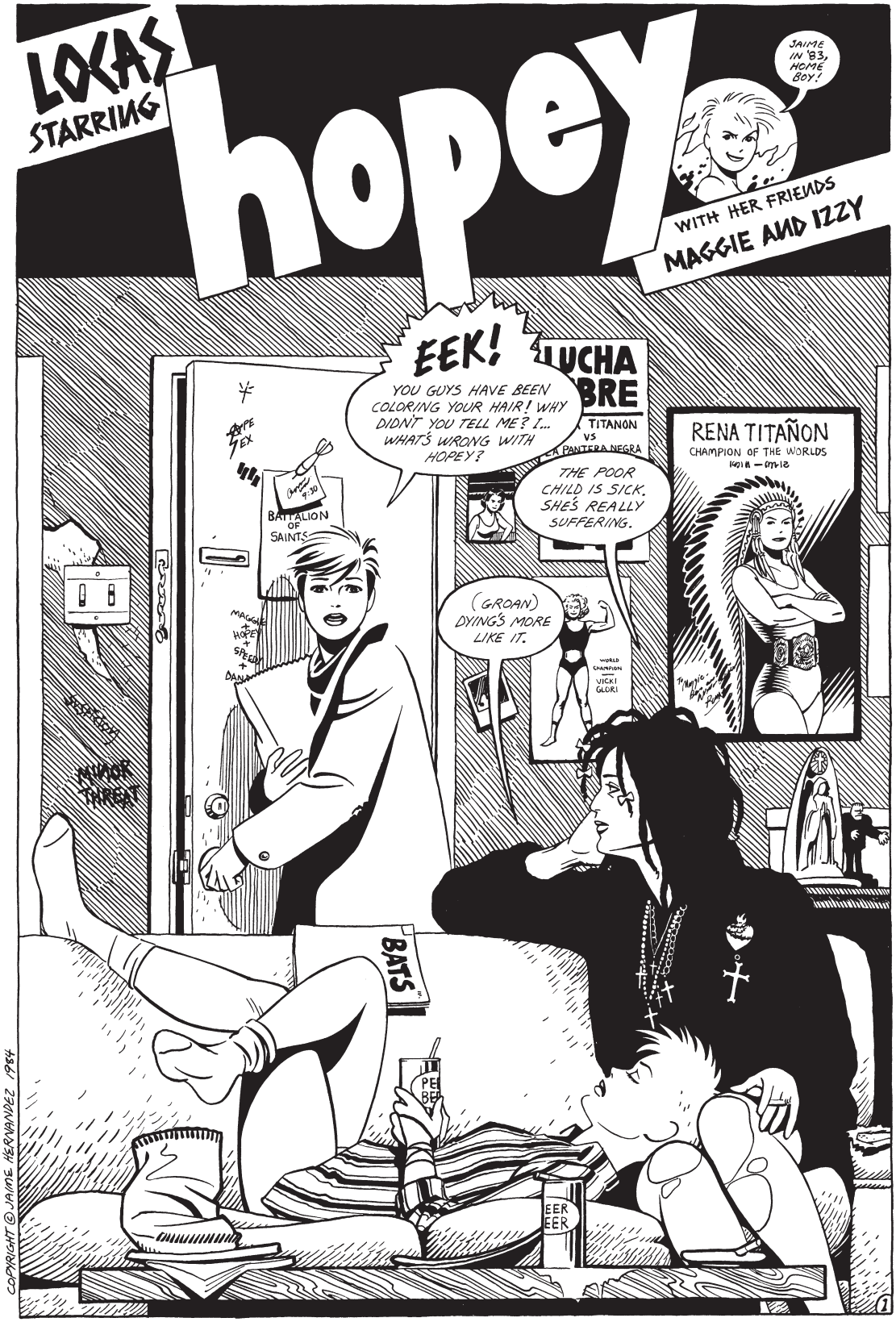
VERY WELL. ITS YOURS.
(SIGH) NEVER MIND.
WHAT IS IT NOW? CAN'T I EVER PLEASE YOU?
YOU CAN START BY SAYING NO.
BUT, I ENJOY BUYING YOU THINGS, PENELOPE.
YES, BUT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?
1

YOU KNOW, ONE OF THESE DAYS I'D LIKE TO GET A JOB AND START PAYING FOR THINGS MYSELF.
WELL, GOOD! I'LL GET YOU A NICE DESK JOB AT ONE OF MY CORPORATIONS STARTING AT SAY, A HUNDRED AN HOUR?
WHAT DID I SAY? WHAT DID I SAY?
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND, WILL YOU?
WELL, I DO TRY TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
AND I APPRECIATE IT, REALLY I DO. BUT JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING ON MY OWN, YOU SEE?
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
OH, LOTS OF THINGS. LIKE, I CAN... UM... WELL, THERE'S... UM... THEN THERE'S... WELL...
HA HA! SEE WHAT I MEAN?
I CAN SO! I CAN DO LOTS OF THINGS! DON'T LAUGH!
FACE IT, GIRLIE! WITHOUT OL' HERV BABY YOU'RE NOTHING! WITHOUT MY MONEY YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A TWO-BIT HAT CHECK GIRL!
POW
2


OWW... YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I'M A BILLIONAIRE, DAMN IT!
WELL, MR. BILLIONAIRE TOUGH GUY! HAVE YOU EVER FOR ONCE THOUGHT THAT WITHOUT THIS TWO-BIT HAT CHECK GIRL, YOU'D BE NOTHING BUT AN OLD... SHOE HORN?
NO, OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T...
BECAUSE YOU'RE THINKING, "THERE ARE PLENTY MORE BOOBY, BIMBO FISH IN THE AIR-HEAD SEA!" WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, MR. HERV R. COSTIGAN, BILLIONAIRE, OWNER OF MANSIONS AND YACHTS...
THIS BOOBY, BIMBO FISH DOESN'T NEED YOUR HIGH FLYING PARTIES, YOUR FANCY ROCKETS, YOUR EXOTIC ISLANDS, YOUR GOLD TRIMMED TOILET PAPER--
MAN, I'M SPECIAL!
"OLD SHOE HORN?"
BWAA HAHA
BUT, YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU KNOW. YOU MOST DEFINITELY ARE SPECIAL. THAT IS WHY I WILL ONLY DANCE WITH YOU.
SHALL WE?
BUT OF COURSE...
MY, BUT YOU DANCE DIVINELY, MR. COSTIGAN.
ONLY WITH YOU MS. CENTURY, ONLY WITH YOU.
END


LOCAS STARRING
hopey
WITH HER FRIENDS
MAGGIE AND IZZY
JAIME IN '83, HOME BOY!
EEK!
YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN COLORING YOUR HAIR! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? I... WHAT'S WRONG WITH HOPEY?
THE POOR CHILD IS SICK. SHE'S REALLY SUFFERING.
(GROAN) DYING'S MORE LIKE IT.
RENA TITAÑON
CHAMPION OF THE WORLDS
BATTALION OF SAINTS
MINOR THREAT
BATS
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THAT'S CRAZY! HOPEY'S NEVER BEEN SICK A DAY IN HER LIFE.
WELL, SHE'S NOT EXACTLY SICK. IT'S MORE LIKE A DEEP, DEEP STATE OF DEPRESSION.
DEEP DEEP... DEEP...
HOW DID THIS EVER COME ABOUT?
EASY. COME BY THE WINDOW.
SEE THAT BUILDING OVER THERE?
MOAN...
THE NEW ONE? THEY FINALLY FINISHED PUTTING IT UP. SO WHAT?
LOOK CLOSER AND OBSERVE THE BIG, WHITE, CLEAN WALL IN FRONT OF IT.
MOOAANNNNM
OH, NOW I GET IT.
HOPEY. I THOUGHT THOSE DAYS WERE OVER.
SO DID I, BUT I GOT THE FEVER AGAIN...
...SPRAY CAN FEVERRR
2

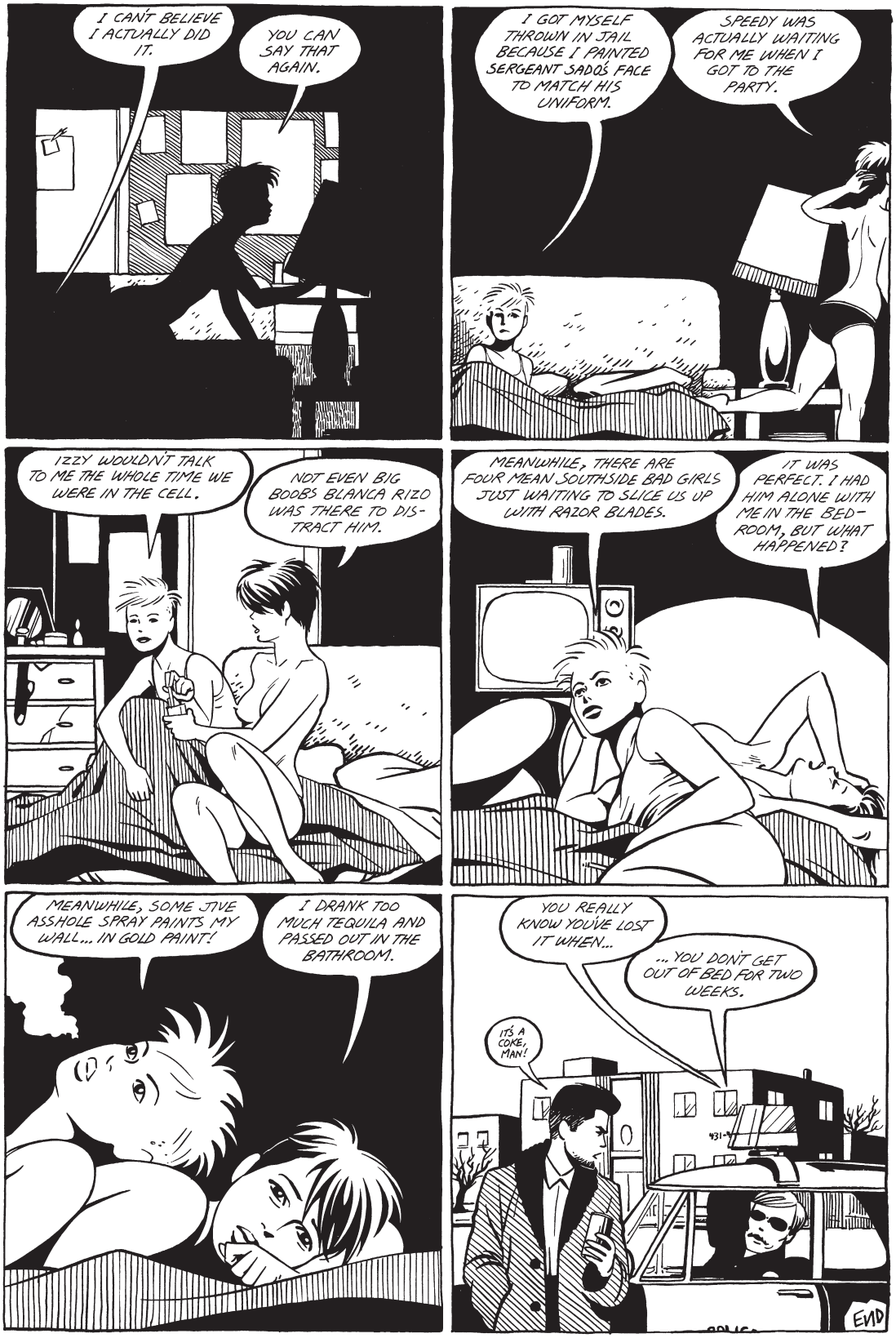
YEARS AGO ANYTIME ANYBODY PUT UP A NEW WHITE WALL OR JUST REDID THEIR OLD WALLS WHITE, WELL, HOPEY'S ALWAYS HAD A THING FOR WHITE SURFACES. SHE NEVER MISSED ONE...
CRAPAZOLA!
A CHEAP HOLIDAY IN OTHER PEOPLE'S MISERY MAN
LA HOPEY =13=
THIS WENT ON FOR QUITE A WHILE, TILL OFFICER SADO STARTED CATCHING ON TO HER SHENANIGANS. HELL, HOPEY ONLY SIGNED EVERY ONE OF HER WORKS...
I NEED ONE MORE NOTCH TO MAKE SERGEANT, YA LITTLE FREAK.
WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BADGES, MAN!
LA HOPEY
HOPEY WAS FINALLY CAUGHT AFTER A RECORD OF NINETY-EIGHT MASTERPIECES AND HAD TO PROMISE HER MOTHER, AND HERSELF SHE WOULD NEVER DO IT AGAIN. SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS CURED. TILL NOW...
YOU TINK YOU PIRDY SMARD, EH?
I ASSURE YOU, MRS. GLASS, HOPEY IS NOT GOING TO PRISON.
DAMN THAT WALL! IT BECKONS! MAN, IT BECKONS! IT'S SAYING, "COME AND GET ME, AHAB!"
ADOBE DICK! THE GREAT WHITE WALL!
CALL ME FISHMAEL.
HOLD IT, IZZY. THIS IS ALL WRONG. YOU AND I ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MISERABLE ONES IN THIS COMIC, NOT HOPEY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN OR WE'D HAVE TO CHANGE OUR TITLE TO "MANIC DEPRESSANTS ON PARADE." MAGGOT, WE MUST ACT NOW!
OK, THE STREET'S BUSY DAY AND NIGHT SO YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT IN FRONT OF ALL THESE CARS. NOW WE JUST GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT OFFICER SADO.
ARE YOU KIDDING? THE ASSHOLE STILL HAS A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR RADAR ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR ME!
HUERO'S HAVING A BIG, BIG PARTY FRIDAY NIGHT. THAT SHOULD KEEP SADO OCCUPIED FOR A WHILE.
ESTA BIEN. YOU'RE ALL SET, HOPEY.
I THINK I'M GONNA CRY.
3

NOW, WHAT COLOR PAINT SHOULD YOU USE?
ANYTHING BUT (UGH) GOLD.
HOW ABOUT GREEN?
PUSH
NAW, SHE SHOULD USE SOMETHING BRIGHT, LIKE RED.
GREEN'S BRIGHT. RED'S TOO COMMON.
GREEN'S TOO DULL! RED!
RED'S TOO COMMON! GREEN!
RED!
GREEN!
RED!
GREEN!
BLACK!
I GOT THE BLACK PAINT, BUT I HAD TO PAY A GUY TO GET IT FOR ME 'CAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE AN I.D. THEN HE SAID HE'D GIVE ME MY MONEY BACK IF I'D... OOH... I HOPE THIS IS ALL WORTH IT.
DON'T WORRY, MAG. IT IS.
FRIDAY NIGHT...
IZZY, WHY ARE WE WAITING AROUND SO LONG? I COULDA FINISHED THAT WALL HOURS AGO.
WE'RE WAITING FOR MAGGIE'S CALL. SHE'S AT HUERO'S PARTY SO SHE CAN LET US KNOW WHEN SADO SHOWS TO BREAK IT UP.
PHONE
4

IZZY! I'M GETTING ITCHY!
BIG GLUP
OK, OK! THIS GUY'S DONE. I'LL CALL MAGGIE TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. DO YOU HAVE A DIME?
HALLO? HEY, IZZY. MAGGIE? YAH, OK... HOLD ON...
SPEEDY! IT'S YOUR SISTER. SHE WANTS MAGGIE.
WELL, DON'T TELL ME. SHE'S BEEN IN THE BATHROOM FOR ALMOST AN HOUR.
HEY, MAGGIE! OPEN UP! IZZY'S ON THE PHONE!
WAIT. MAYBE THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED.
HA! CHECK HER OUT...
DON'T LAUGH, MALO! SHE'S MY COUSIN! HELP HER UP!
KNOCKED OUT, HUH? TOO MUCH TEQUILA, HUH? NO, THAT'S OK. JUST TAKE CARE OF HER, OK? THANKS, LICHA. 'BYE.
THAT MAGGIE. ONE OF THESE DAYS SHE'S GONNA WIND UP... HOPEY? HEY! WAIT UP!
PHONE

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT, YOU GOTTA DO IT YOURSELF.
HEY, C'MON... WE TRIED...
NO NAZI ASSHOLE COP IS GONNA SCARE ME AWAY! NEITHER IS SOME ASSHOLE WALL!
HARPOON THAT MOTHER, SISTER. I'M DUCKING OUT OF SIGHT.
PLEASE, PLEASE, NO COPS. JAIL IS THE WORST. I REMEMBER ON MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY I WAS ARRESTED FOR URINATING IN PUBLIC, AND THEY PUT ME INTO A CELL WITH TWO MEAN SOUTHSIDE BAD GIRLS WHO SLICED ME UP WITH RAZOR BLADES. I VOWED I'D NEVER GO THERE AGAIN.
HMMM...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NO COPS! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A MASTERPIECE ON OUR HANDS AFTER ALL! WAIT! SHE'S NOT WRITING! HOPEY! WHAT'S WRONG?!?!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE.
NOW I THINK I'M HAVING A CASE OF DEJA VU...
OK. PUT THAT CAN DOWN, YA LITTLE FREAK.
...AND ESP...
6

WHEN WILL YOU EVER LEARN? I'VE GOT YOU WIRED. I KNEW YOU'D BE BACK SOONER OR LATER.
OH, BOY... HOPEY'S HAD IT NOW...
AND YOU, IZZY... AREN'T YOU KINDA OLD TO BE HANGING AROUND MUNCHKINS?
ACH!
WHERE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND TONIGHT, HOPEY? DID SHE LEAVE YOU FOR ANOTHER WOMAN? IS THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST HERE YOUR NEW LAY?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU, YA SHIT FACED COCK WALLOPER!
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. EGAD! WHAT ZOO DID YOU TWO ESCAPE FROM ANYWAY?
HOPEY...
HA HA HA! THAT'S FUNNY, SADO! BURN ANY CROSSES LATELY? HOW ARE THINGS DOWN AT THE THIRD REICH?
WHAT? NO SMART-ASS REMARKS? YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT ENOUGH ON YOU TO TAKE YOU IN, AND SINCE YOU'RE OVER EIGHTEEN NOW, YOU WON'T BE GOING TO JUVIE WHERE MOMMY CAN PICK YOU UP ANY MORE.
AH, GO FUCK YOURSELF, ASSHOLE!
HOPEY... PLEASE, DON'T...
WELL? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, YA LITTLE FREAK?
HOPEY! NO...
7


I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY DID IT.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
I GOT MYSELF THROWN IN JAIL BECAUSE I PAINTED SERGEANT SADO'S FACE TO MATCH HIS UNIFORM.
SPEEDY WAS ACTUALLY WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GOT TO THE PARTY.
IZZY WOULDN'T TALK TO ME THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE IN THE CELL.
NOT EVEN BIG BOOBS BLANCA RIZO WAS THERE TO DISTRACT HIM.
MEANWHILE, THERE ARE FOUR MEAN SOUTHSIDE BAD GIRLS JUST WAITING TO SLICE US UP WITH RAZOR BLADES.
IT WAS PERFECT. I HAD HIM ALONE WITH ME IN THE BEDROOM, BUT WHAT HAPPENED?
MEANWHILE, SOME JIVE ASSHOLE SPRAY PAINTS MY WALL... IN GOLD PAINT!
I DRANK TOO MUCH TEQUILA AND PASSED OUT IN THE BATHROOM.
YOU REALLY KNOW YOU'VE LOST IT WHEN...
... YOU DON'T GET OUT OF BED FOR TWO WEEKS.
IT'S A COKE, MAN!
END

LUCAS
JAIME 84
I DUNNO, MAG. IVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR SOME TIME NOW. I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A TALK WITH THIS GUY WHO DRAWS US IN THIS COMIC.
YOU THINK WE SHOULD FIRE HIM AND GET SOMEONE ELSE? BUT, WHAT IF...
LOOK, THE WAY I SEE IT, WERE DOING HIM A FAVOR BY BEING IN THIS STRIP. AND HE HAS TREATED YOU PRETTY ROTTEN LATELY.
YEAH, I AM GETTING KINDA TIRED OF GOING THROUGH A LOT OF SHIT WHILE HE GETS ALL THE GLORY.
YOU KNOW, THAT IS A GREAT IDEA! IF WE FIRED HIM WE COULD GET A WHOLE TEAM TO DO OUR STORIES! A SEPARATE WRITER, PENCILLER, INKER, AND LETTERER!
YEAH, WE COULD...
AND THE PENCILLER COULD DRAW US BUILT JUST LIKE PENNY AND GIVE US A BRAND NEW WARDROBE. AND THE WRITER COULD GIVE US EXCITING NEW CAREERS LIKE AEROBIC INSTRUCTORS OR PRIVATE EYES...
YEAH...
JUST THINK. WED EVEN BE ABLE TO DO CROSSOVERS WITH OTHER COMICS! CANT YOU JUST PICTURE IT, HOPEY?
YEAH, ME AND MY BIG MOUTH.
OK, GIRLS! TIME TO GET TO WORK!
GIVE HER BOTH BARRELS THIS ISSUE, WILL YOU, BOSS?
HERNANDEZ STUDIOS

I STILL SAY YOU'RE WASTING OUR TIME ON THIS. YOU'VE FAILED THREE TIMES ALREADY.
JUST GIVE ME TWO WEEKS! TWO MORE WEEKS! YOU'LL SEE...
OK, LET'S SAY YOU COULD. DOT, THE GUY'S A MECHANIC.
NOT JUST ANY MECHANIC, FRANCO! A PROSOLAR MECHANIC! THE YO...
IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?
THE YOUNGEST PRO MECH EVER, AND IS HE SOMETHING, BOY! HUNK CITY!
EDITOR
I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, THIS GUY'S GONNA MAKE EVERYONE FORGET DEREK CINEMA SO FAST! JUST YOU WAIT, FRANCO BOY...
HM, SEEMS TO ME YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE OUT OF THIS THAN AN INTERVIEW.
FRANCO, YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT.
OK. I MAY BE CRAZY, BUT... TWO WEEKS! TOPS!
YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, SWEETIE.
EDITOR
DEREK CINEMA, DETECTIVE IS OUT. RAND RACE, PROSOLAR MECHANIC IS IN.

MECHANICS

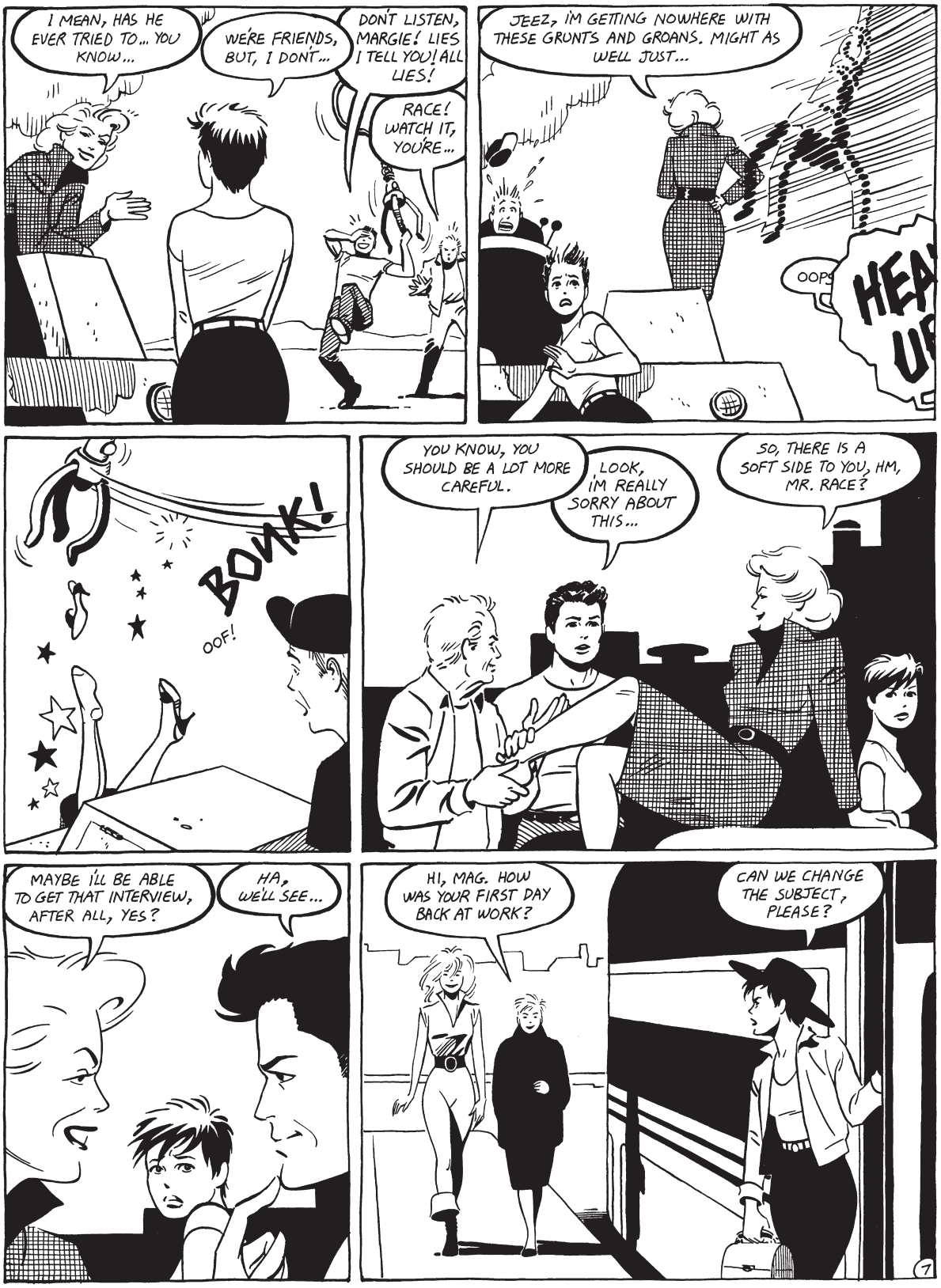
HI HO HI HO
IT'S BACK TO WORK WE GO
BEEN WEEKS AND WEEKS
SINCE I'VE SEEN RACE
HI HO HI HO

HEY, RACE. HERE SHE COMES.
GOOD OL' MARGIE, LATE AS USUAL. IT'S SURE GONNA BE GREAT WORKING WITH HER AGAIN.
HEY, GUYS!
HEY, YOURSELF. IT'S BEEN AWHILE, MARGIE.
HI.
HOW'VE YOU BEEN KEEPING? UH...
JUST FINE. YOU KNOW WHAT?
WHAT'S THAT?
I FORGOT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP ONE OF THESE THINGS!
JUST KEEP SLOWING DOWN TILL YOU COME TO A STOP!
NO! I FELL OFF LAST TIME, REMEMBER? AND THE TIME BEFORE THAT...
OH, YEAH. OK, TELL YOU WHAT! COME THIS WAY, I'LL YANK YOU OFF, AND YAX WILL STOP THE BIKE!
WHO? ME?
OK, HERE I COME!
3

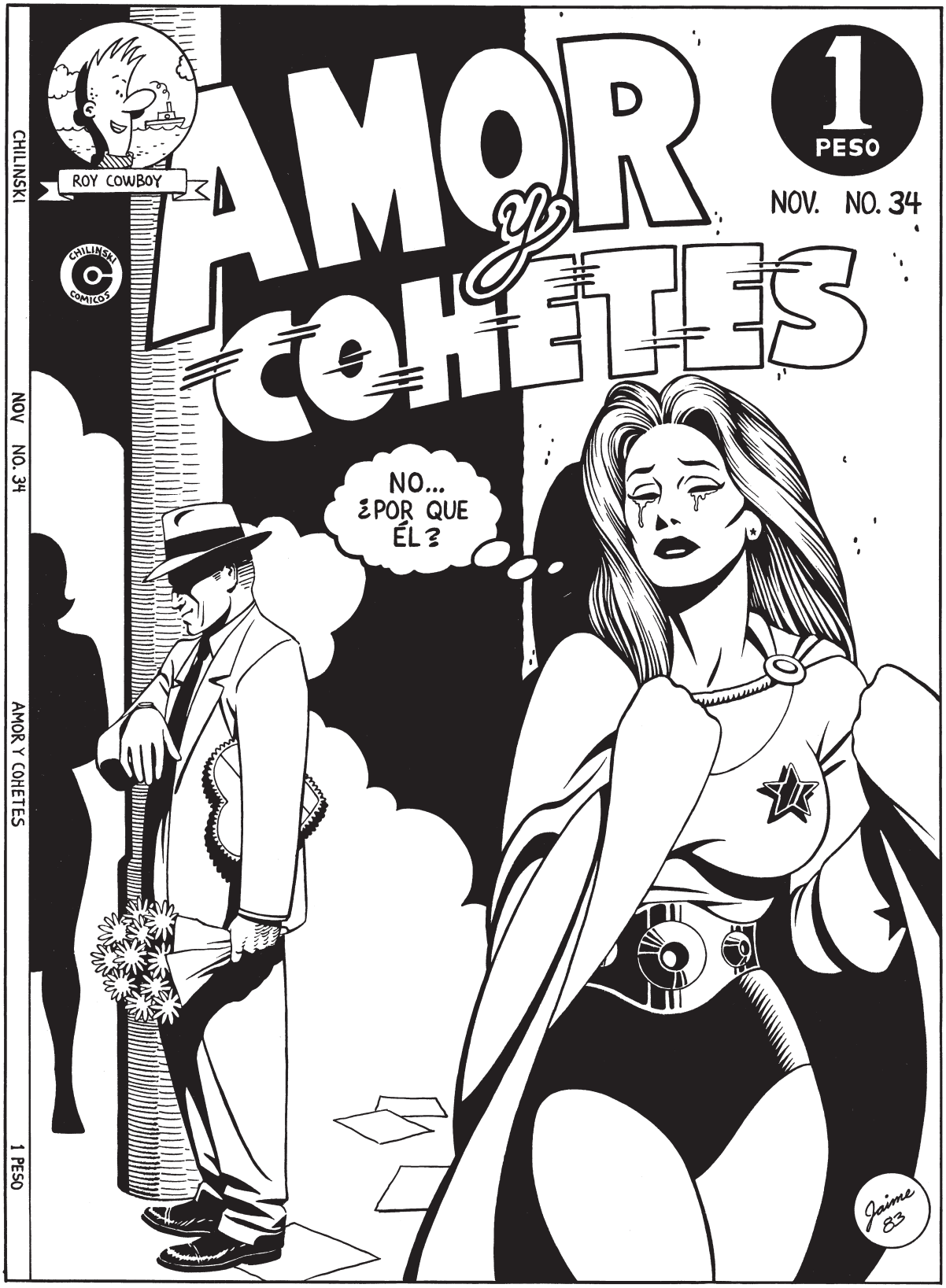
GOTCHA! GO GET 'EM, YAX!
OOG! CAN'T HOLD IT!
RUNAWAY HOVER BIKE!
OH, OH. IT'S HEADED FOR... DUKE!
WHADDAYA WANT?
OUCH.
IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU GUYS.
YAAAA
CLUNK
TINKLE THUMP
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
H-HI, DUKEY.
YEAH, YEAH, LITTLE GIRL. NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE, CAN WE GET SOME WORK DONE?
AYE AYE, SIR!
BINGO.
4

HEY, RACE! SOMEONE OUT HERE TO SEE YOU!
I'LL BET I KNOW WHO, TOO. OK, MARGIE, TAKE A BREAK. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP? HOW DID YOU GET ON THE BASE?
TOLD 'EM I WAS YOUR SISTER. MY, WE'RE IN QUITE A MOOD TODAY, ARE WE NOT?
UM, YAX? WHO'S THAT TALKING WITH RACE?
I DUNNO. SOME LADY WHO ALWAYS COMES OVER TO TALK WITH HIM.

ABOUT WHAT?
BEATS ME.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WORK TO DO.
OK, SORE HEAD! CAN I AT LEAST HANG AROUND AND WATCH YOU GUYS IN ACTION?
SUIT YOURSELF.
THANK YOU.
S'MATTER, RACE? STRIKE OUT?
MUMBLE MUMBLE
SO TELL ME, SON. WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH RAND RACE? I HEAR HE CAN REALLY BE A BIG...
HUH? WHAT?
HEY! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO! BUT IT WON'T WORK...
TUT TUT! YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS OVER THERE AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF OURS OVER HERE, HM?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HONEY? ARE YOU HIS GIRLFRIEND, OR WHAT?
WHO, ME? I... UH... HUH?
6


I MEAN, HAS HE EVER TRIED TO... YOU KNOW...
WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT, I DON'T...
DON'T LISTEN, MARGIE! LIES I TELL YOU! ALL LIES!
RACE! WATCH IT, YOU'RE...
JEEZ, I'M GETTING NOWHERE WITH THESE GRUNTS AND GROANS. MIGHT AS WELL JUST...
OOPS
BONK!
OOF!
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD BE A LOT MORE CAREFUL.
LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...
SO, THERE IS A SOFT SIDE TO YOU, HM, MR. RACE?
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THAT INTERVIEW, AFTER ALL, YES?
HA, WE'LL SEE...
HI, MAG. HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY BACK AT WORK?
CAN WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT, PLEASE?
7

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU GET FIRED OR DID RACE FIND A NEW GIRLFRIEND?
A SNOOPY, FLIRTY REPORTER BITCH, THAT'S WHAT!
OOH, NASTY...
SHE HANGS AROUND WORK AIMING TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH RACE, AND HE'S ENJOYING EVERY MINUTE! MAN, JUST WHEN I...
MARGARITA, TELEFONO.
THANK YOU, MRS. LOPEZ.
MAGGIE REALLY LIKES RACE, DOESN'T SHE?
YEAH, BUT SO DO A LOT OF OTHER LOVE-CRAZED FEMALES. SHE BETTER DO SOMETHING WHILE SHE HAS THE CHANCE, OR...
EEEEEEE
THAT WAS EITHER RACE ON THE PHONE OR A RED HOT POKER.
THAT WAS RACE! WE'RE GOING TO RIO FRIO! WE HAVE A JOB THERE! RIO FRIO! RIO FRIO!
I'VE BEEN THERE WITH MR. COSTIGAN. VERRRRY ROMANTIC.
AND THE BEST PART IS, IT'S ME AND RACE, AND RACE AND ME, TOGETHER IN RIO FRIO!
:SIGH: OUR LITTLE GIRL IS GROWING UP MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO RIO FRIO?
NOPE. FIRST TIME.
GHOST STORIES
END OF PART I


AMOR y COHETES
1
PESO
NOV. NO. 34
ROY COWBOY
CHILINSKI COMICOS
NO... ¿POR QUE ÉL?
Jaime 83
CHILINSKI
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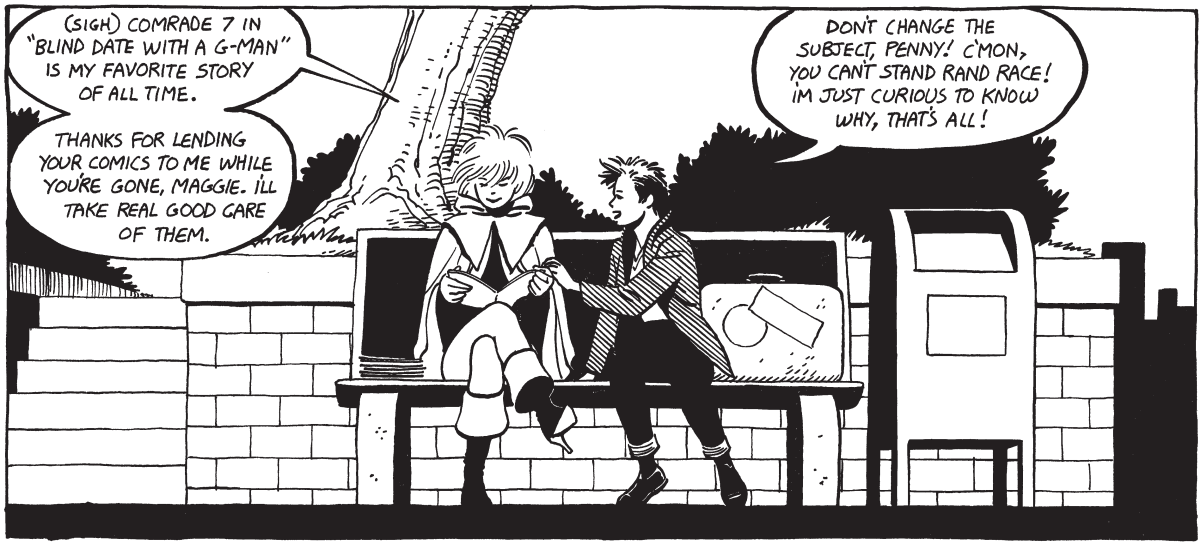
AMOR Y COHETES
1 PESO


(SIGH) COMRADE 7 IN "BLIND DATE WITH A G-MAN" IS MY FAVORITE STORY OF ALL TIME.
THANKS FOR LENDING YOUR COMICS TO ME WHILE YOU'RE GONE, MAGGIE. I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF THEM.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT, PENNY! C'MON, YOU CAN'T STAND RAND RACE! I'M JUST CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY, THAT'S ALL!

WELL... I DON'T REALLY HATE HIM...
PENNY! YOU FUME AT THE SOUND OF HIS NAME! DON'T HOLD BACK 'CAUSE OF ME! DIDN'T YOU TWO GO OUT AWHILE BACK? WHAT HAPPENED?

C'MON...
WELL...
PLEASE...
OK...

"IT WAS RIGHT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. I WAS EAGER TO GET OUT AND SEE THE WORLD. SO, WHAT BETTER PLACE TO START THAN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE... NEW KEOPS! I GOT A JOB AS A WAITRESS AT THE WORLD FAMOUS BUMBLE BEE. YEP, I WAS A REAL HONEY BEE AT ONE TIME...
OOF!
I REMEMBER NOW WHAT SANTA FORGOT TO BROUGHT ME! CHECK IT OUT, RACE!
WHAT...? FOOTAH...
2

WHERE DID YOU BE ALL MY LIFE, MY LITTLE HONEY BEE? WHY NOT TONIGHT I COME TO YOUR HIVE AND I CHASE YOU ALL THROUGH THE HONEYCOMBS, YES?
WHOA, BOY...
DONT MIND MY FRIEND. MY NAME IS RACE. DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
FLUENTLY. IM ORIGINALLY FROM...
I KNEW IT! I SAW YOU ONE TIME IN KREPACKS! YOU WERE IN A FIGHT WITH TWO COPS AT A PROTEST MARCH.
HA HA! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ME ALL RIGHT.
WELL, I MUST GO NOW. I WOULDNT WANNA BE LATE FOR WORK! HA HA! (PHEW)
SEE YOU LATER, HUH?
THATS COLD, RACE! YOU DIDNT LET ME TRY TO SCORE.
NOT WITH THIS ONE, BUDDY BOY.
"THEN THAT NIGHT DURING WORK, I GOT A MESSAGE FROM A MAN WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE...
HUH?
HI THERE, 'MEMBER ME?
YEAH, RACE, RIGHT? I DIDNT RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT YOUR MUD.
YEAH, WELL... HEY, I NEVER GOT YOUR NAME. NOW, DONT TELL ME...
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME AS I DRIVE YOU HOME FROM WORK? WHAT TIME ARE YOU OFF?
HA HA...
3

THEN YOU STARTED GOING OUT WITH HIM, HUH?
NOPE.
NO?
NO. I TOLD HIM TO GET LOST. I THOUGHT "WHO DOES THIS GEEK THINK HE IS?" HE TRIED A FEW MORE TIMES TILL HE REALIZED I WAS NOT INTERESTED.
"I MOVED BACK HERE FOR A YEAR THEN WENT BACK TO NEW KEOPS ON A SORT OF VACATION. I FORGOT RACE EVEN EXISTED...
THEN ONE LAZY AFTERNOON DOWNTOWN...
WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW THAT GUY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY'RE INTERVIEWING THAT NEW PROSOLAR MECHANIC RAND RACE. HE'S GOING TO BE A BIG STAR FROM NOW ON. YOU KNOW THOSE PRO MECHS.
NO KIDDING? A PROSOLAR MECHANIC, HUH?
SO, WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS, RACE?
OH, THERE YOU ARE, DARLING! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PICK UP OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE TODAY!
HUH?!
SO, YOU'RE HIS FIANCÉE, EH? FRED, GET A GOOD SHOT OF THIS, WILLYA?
I GOT IT! I GOT IT!
HE GOT IT!
OH, ARE WE BEING FILMED? OH MY! IF I WOULD'VE KNOWN... OH! HI OUT THERE! OOH...
IS THAT HOW YOU TWO REALLY GOT TOGETHER?
NO.
I KNEW DAT.
4

OK, WHAT'S UP? WHAT'S THE JOKE?
NO JOKE. IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG, AND I NEVER GAVE YOU MY NAME...
RACE!
TV
DID YOU FORGET? YOU PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO LUNCH TODAY. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
NOBODY. LET'S GO EAT.
"A WEEK LATER I WAS WAITING AT THE AIRPORT FOR MY FLIGHT BACK HOME...
HELLO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
MY GIRLFRIEND SAW THAT INTERVIEW WITH ME AND YOU ON TV. SHE JUST TOOK A PLANE OUT OF HERE.
YOU KNOW, I STILL NEVER GOT YOUR NAME...
HA HA!
RIGHT THEN I... OH, BUT HERE COMES YOUR BUS NOW.
DON'T STOP NOW! WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? DID YOU STAY THEN OR...
MAGGIE. YOU BETTER GET ON THE BUS OR YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR YOUR FLIGHT.
I KNOW, I KNOW! JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED...
C'MON, PENNY! WHEN DID YOU START GOING OUT WITH HIM? WHEN...
GOODBYE, MAGGIE. HAVE A NICE TIME IN RIO FRIO.
AW, C'MON, PENNY! HAVE A HEART!
BON VOYAGE, MAG! DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
END

MECHANICS PART TWO

HEY HOPEY!
YOU GOT A LETTER FROM MAGGIE!
BAM BAM BAM
WHA'D YOU SA--
WEEX!
THUMP
SO THIS IS WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PRACTICING WITH YOUR BAND LATELY. YOU'VE GONE INTO THE WRECKING BUSINESS.
SQUEEK
PAINTING, TOO? WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN MODERN ART?
HEEYAAA
IF YOU MUST KNOW, I'M TRYING TO SURPRISE MAGGIE BY FIXING UP THIS DUMP BEFORE SHE GETS BACK FROM RIO FRIO.
FIX UP OR BUST UP?
WELL, I ADMIT IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO HOT RIGHT NOW, BUT...
FORGET IT FOR A SECOND. OPEN THE LETTER...
FROM MAGGIE?! DAMN IT, PENNY! WHY DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME THESE THINGS?
WELL... DUH... GEE...
2

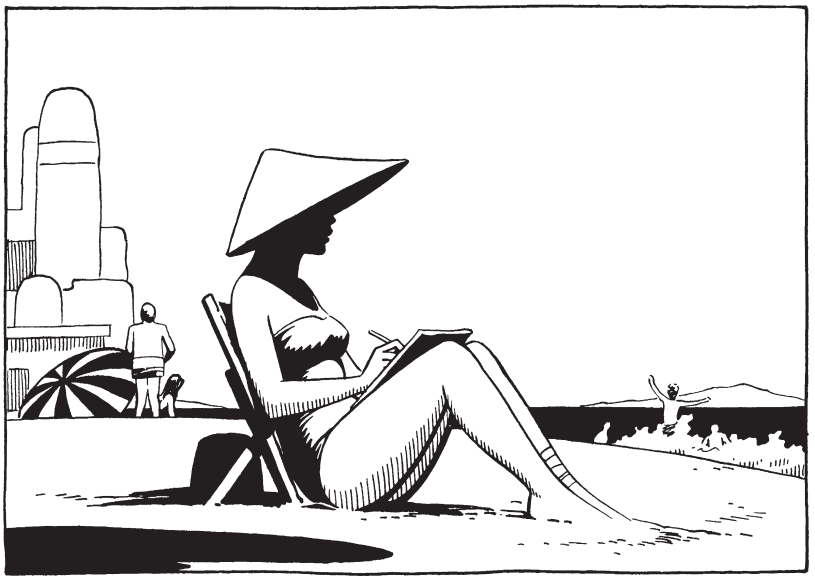
DEAR HOPEY AND GANG,

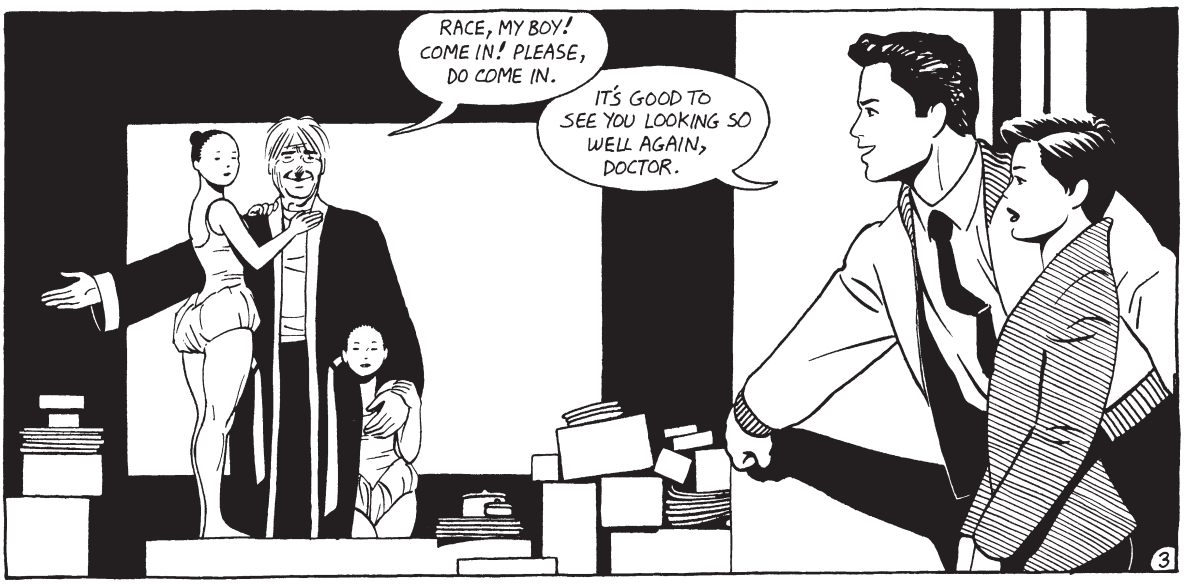
ALOHA! OR AS THEY SAY HERE IN FUNNY, SUNNY, RIO FRIO... KAMANA-WANALEYA! MAN, THEY SURE DON'T WASTE TIME HERE, I TELL YA. ONCE YOU STEP OFF THE PLANE, =CACHOING= YOU'RE ENGAGED OR SOMETHING. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS ONE, JACK. I'VE GOT MY EYE ON SOMETHING A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME, AND HIS INITIALS ARE RANDALL RACE. TELL PENNY I KNOW THAT HE'S JUST A MACHO CREEP AND I JUST LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE'S A PROSOLAR MECHANIC. WELL, MAYBE, MAYBE NOT. WE SHALL SOON SEE.

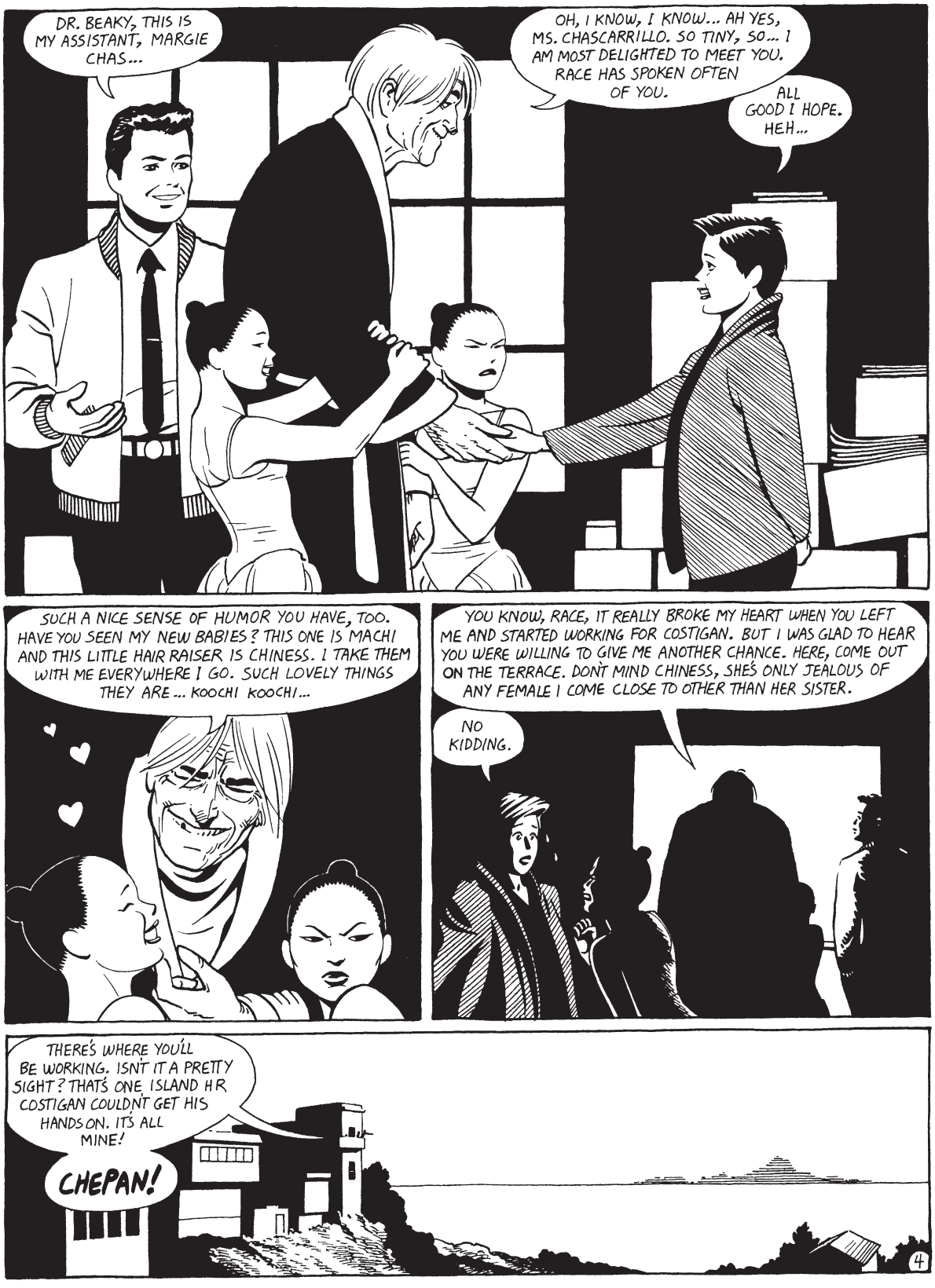
ANYWAY, THIS JOB WE'RE ON CALLS FOR ONLY TWO MECHANICS. A PRO MECH AND (KAFF KAFF) HIS ASSISTANT. THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS AND GIRLS. IT'S JUST RACE AND I LET LOOSE IN THIS STRANGE, STRANGE, EXOTIC LAND. OH, HOW WILL WE EVER MANAGE?

WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH I HAVEN'T REALLY SEEN MUCH OF THE STUD SINCE WE GOT HERE. HE'S BEEN OFF TALKING JOB (AS USUAL), SO I'VE JUST BEEN HANGING AROUND THE BEACH GETTING FAT LIKE ALL THE OTHER LAME TOURISTS. BUT, MY TIME SHALL COME, BABY.

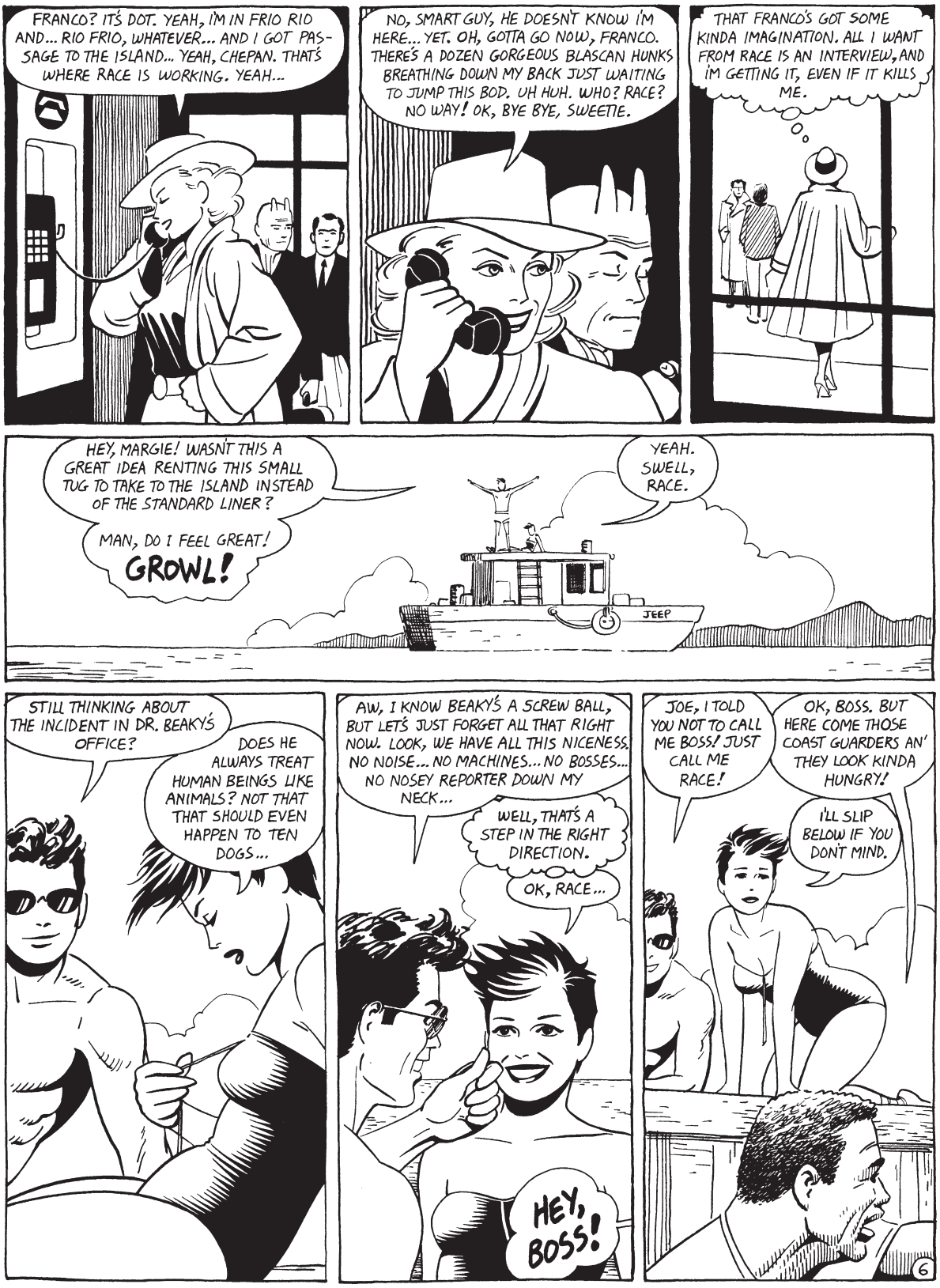
LOVE YOU,
MAGGIE






DR. BEAKY, THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, MARGIE CHAS...
OH, I KNOW, I KNOW... AH YES, MS. CHASCARRILLO. SO TINY, SO... I AM MOST DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU. RACE HAS SPOKEN OFTEN OF YOU.
ALL GOOD I HOPE. HEH...
SUCH A NICE SENSE OF HUMOR YOU HAVE, TOO. HAVE YOU SEEN MY NEW BABIES? THIS ONE IS MACHI AND THIS LITTLE HAIR RAISER IS CHINESS. I TAKE THEM WITH ME EVERYWHERE I GO. SUCH LOVELY THINGS THEY ARE... KOOCHI KOOCHI...
YOU KNOW, RACE, IT REALLY BROKE MY HEART WHEN YOU LEFT ME AND STARTED WORKING FOR COSTIGAN. BUT I WAS GLAD TO HEAR YOU WERE WILLING TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE. HERE, COME OUT ON THE TERRACE. DON'T MIND CHINESS, SHE'S ONLY JEALOUS OF ANY FEMALE I COME CLOSE TO OTHER THAN HER SISTER.
NO KIDDING.
THERE'S WHERE YOU'LL BE WORKING. ISN'T IT A PRETTY SIGHT? THAT'S ONE ISLAND HR COSTIGAN COULDN'T GET HIS HANDS ON. IT'S ALL MINE!
CHEPAN!
4

CHEPAN! THE ISLE OF GREAT HISTORY! THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO THE BLASCANS FLED TO THE ISLAND TO ESCAPE THE TYRANTS THAT RULED BLASCANIA (RIO FRIO). YOU KNOW, WITH ALL MY MONEY KEEPING THAT SINKING ISLAND AFLOAT, THOSE UNGRATEFULS STILL WANT ME DEAD. JUST WAIT TILL THAT BIG ONE COMES, BOY... AND WHEN THEY COME RUNNING TO ME...
YOU KNOW, I REALLY HATE TO BE PUSHY, BUT...
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF WORK WILL WE BE DOING FOR YOU, DR. BEAKY?
ROBOTS, MY BOY! ROBOTS! A MILLION OF 'EM...
YEO
SLAM!
MARGIE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, MY...
WHOA... YEAH, I THINK SO.
WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU SLIP, OR...
NO. IT FELT MORE LIKE I WAS THROWN.
CHINESS!
MUST I PUNISH YOU OVER AND OVER BEFORE YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND? HM?
HM?
NO, DR. BEAKY, I'M ALL RIGHT! YOU DONT HAVE TO...
A THOUSAND APOLOGIES, MISS CHAS-CARRILLO. I'LL MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN. MY MAN ON THE ISLAND WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS OF YOUR JOB. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IT'S TIME FOR MY MEDICINE. GOOD DAY.
WELL, MS. WINKS. YOU NOW HAVE PERMISSION BY DR. BEAKY TO ENTER CHEPAN.
THANK YOU. IS THERE A PHONE I CAN USE?
THERE'S ONE OUT IN THE HALL.
5

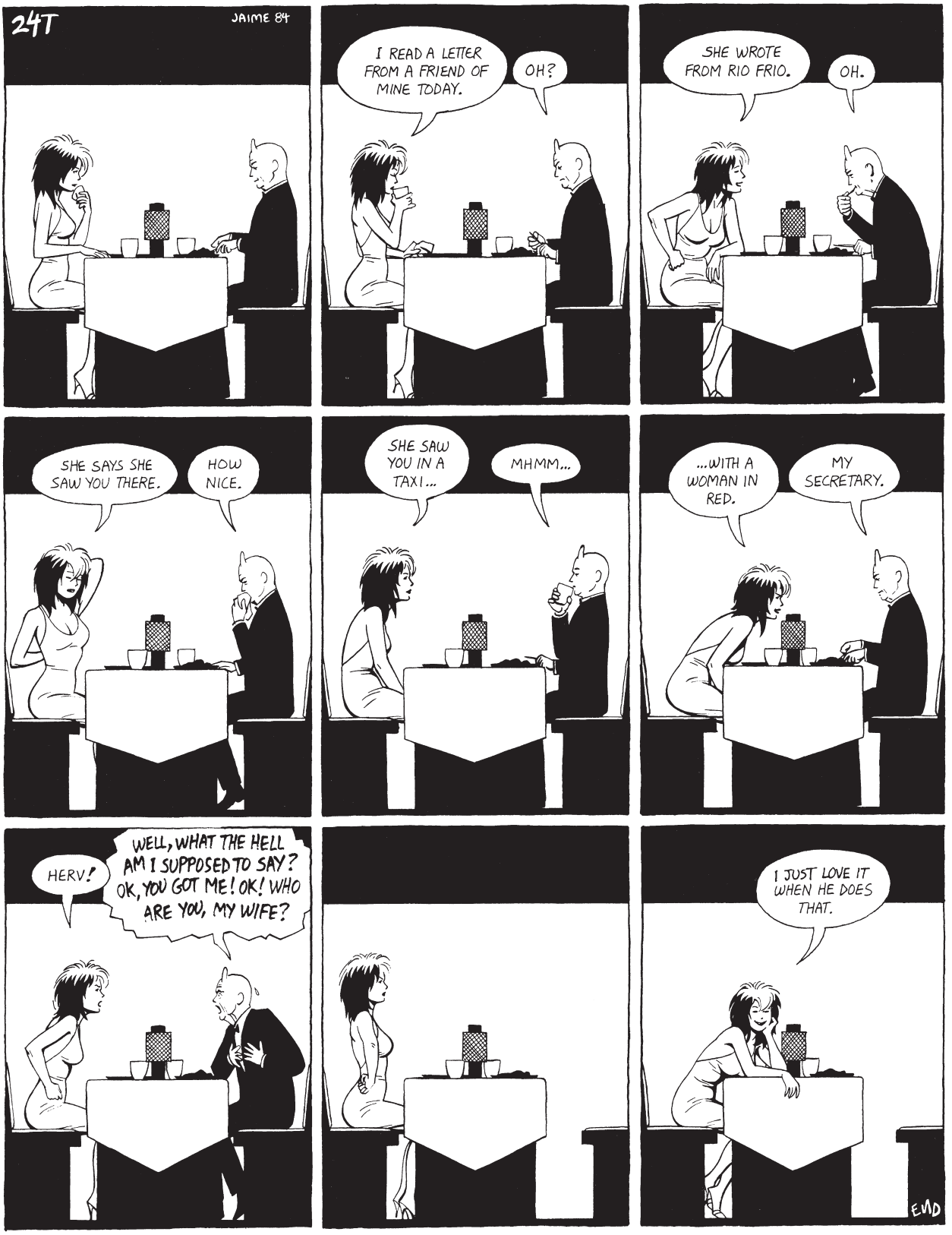

FRANCO? ITS DOT. YEAH, I'M IN FRIO RIO AND... RIO FRIO, WHATEVER... AND I GOT PASSAGE TO THE ISLAND... YEAH, CHEPAN. THAT'S WHERE RACE IS WORKING. YEAH...
NO, SMART GUY, HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE... YET. OH, GOTTA GO NOW, FRANCO. THERE'S A DOZEN GORGEOUS BLASCAN HUNKS BREATHING DOWN MY BACK JUST WAITING TO JUMP THIS BOD. UH HUH. WHO? RACE? NO WAY! OK, BYE BYE, SWEETIE.
THAT FRANCO'S GOT SOME KINDA IMAGINATION. ALL I WANT FROM RACE IS AN INTERVIEW, AND I'M GETTING IT, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
HEY, MARGIE! WASN'T THIS A GREAT IDEA RENTING THIS SMALL TUG TO TAKE TO THE ISLAND INSTEAD OF THE STANDARD LINER?
MAN, DO I FEEL GREAT! GROWL!
YEAH. SWELL, RACE.
JEEP
STILL THINKING ABOUT THE INCIDENT IN DR. BEAKY'S OFFICE?
DOES HE ALWAYS TREAT HUMAN BEINGS LIKE ANIMALS? NOT THAT THAT SHOULD EVEN HAPPEN TO TEN DOGS...
AW, I KNOW BEAKY'S A SCREW BALL, BUT LET'S JUST FORGET ALL THAT RIGHT NOW. LOOK, WE HAVE ALL THIS NICENESS, NO NOISE... NO MACHINES... NO BOSSES... NO NOSEY REPORTER DOWN MY NECK...
WELL, THAT'S A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
OK, RACE...
HEY, BOSS!
JOE, I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BOSS! JUST CALL ME RACE!
OK, BOSS. BUT HERE COME THOSE COAST GUARDERS AN' THEY LOOK KINDA HUNGRY!
I'LL SLIP BELOW IF YOU DON'T MIND.
6

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO COME OUT TOPSIDE... MADAME. POR FAVOR...
OK, OK! JUST A SECOND, HUH? CHEE...
EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER, MR. RACE. HAVE A NICE STAY IN CHEPAN.
THANK YOU.
WHA'D I TELL YA? THERE AIN'T NOTHING THAT CAN RUIN MY EUDAEMONIA RIGHT NOW!
YOUR WHAT?
WE REACH SHORE IN TEN MINUTES, BOSS!
OK, FOR THE NEXT TEN MINUTES I'M GONNA BE LIFELESS. I'M NOT GONNA MOVE AN INCH. BE NUMB... JUST RELAX... NO NOISE... NO MACHINES... NOBODY...
SWELL.
YOU CALL IT AN ISLAND AGAIN AN' WE WHIP YOUR BUTT SOME MORE!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS I TRUST? GOOD. IT'S JUST AROUND THIS CORNER.
LOW LIFE DISHRAG!
REMEMBER, IT'S ONLY AN ISLAND FROM THE WATER!

JUST GO TO IT, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS JUST ASK FOR BENSO.
WE'LL DO THAT, THANKS.
8

DAMN THAT BEAKY! HE'S ALWAYS PULLING SHIT LIKE THIS! THIS IS THE REASON I ALWAYS TAKE MY BUSINESS TO COSTIGAN!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE STICKS US IN THIS STINKING WAREHOUSE WITH A BUNCH OF ROTTING ROBOTS JUST SO HE CAN CALL UP COSTIGAN AND TELL HIM HE HAS ME WORKING FOR HIM!
DID HE HIRE US JUST FOR THAT?
OF COURSE HE DID! AND COSTIGAN'S NOT SO INNOCENT EITHER! MAN, I CAN SEE THEM RIGHT NOW QUARRELING OVER WHO'S GOT MORE BASEBALL CARDS!
ARE YOU MAD?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, GODDAMN IT!
JUST ASKING.
YOO ♫ HOO ♫
NAW...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL... NOW ISN'T THIS A COINKYDINKY! FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, MR. RACE! HOW'S THE OL' FIX-IT BUSINESS?
YOU KNOW, HERE I WAS ALL ALONE IN THIS STRANGE LAND, AND YOU COME ALONG. MY, MY! THEY MUST LOVE ME IN HEAVEN! LOOKIT YOU! MHMM! BOY! SMALL WORLD, HUH?
I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK. SO LONG. NICE TALKING TO YA.
9

NO, DON'T GO! SINCE YOU'RE HERE, HOW ABOUT THAT INTERVIEW I'VE BEEN ASKING YOU SO NICELY FOR?
OH, CHRIST...
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET IT THROUGH YOUR DINGY BLONDE HEAD THAT I DON'T WANT YOU NEAR ME? READ-MY-LIPS: I-DON'T-WANT-YOU-NEAR-ME! GET OUTA HERE!
SPLIT!
O-OK!
YOU ASSHOLE, FRANCO. YOU WERE RIGHT. COULD IT BE THAT I'M ACTUALLY FALLING IN LOVE? DOT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
MAN, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'M COMING UNGLUED! I...
MARGIE!
MARGIE? YOU STILL HERE?
YEAH. I... UH... WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET TO WORK.
LOOK, MARGIE, I'M SORRY I ACTED THE WAY I DID. I JUST GET SICK OF ALL THIS BUSINESS BULL. I'M REALLY SORRY YOU WERE TRAPPED IN MY EXPLOSION.
THAT'S OK. I UNDERSTAND. THE PRESSURES AND ALL...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH BETTER THAT MAKES ME FEEL. I JUST HOPE DOT WILL BE AS UNDERSTANDING AS YOU ARE. I BETTER FIND HER BEFORE ...
WHO?!
HELL, DON'T ASK ME!
END OF PART II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JAIME 84
I READ A LETTER FROM A FRIEND OF MINE TODAY.
OH?
SHE WROTE FROM RIO FRIO.
OH.
SHE SAYS SHE SAW YOU THERE.
HOW NICE.
SHE SAW YOU IN A TAXI...
MHMM...
...WITH A WOMAN IN RED.
MY SECRETARY.
HERV!
WELL, WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? OK, YOU GOT ME! OK! WHO ARE YOU, MY WIFE?
I JUST LOVE IT WHEN HE DOES THAT.
END

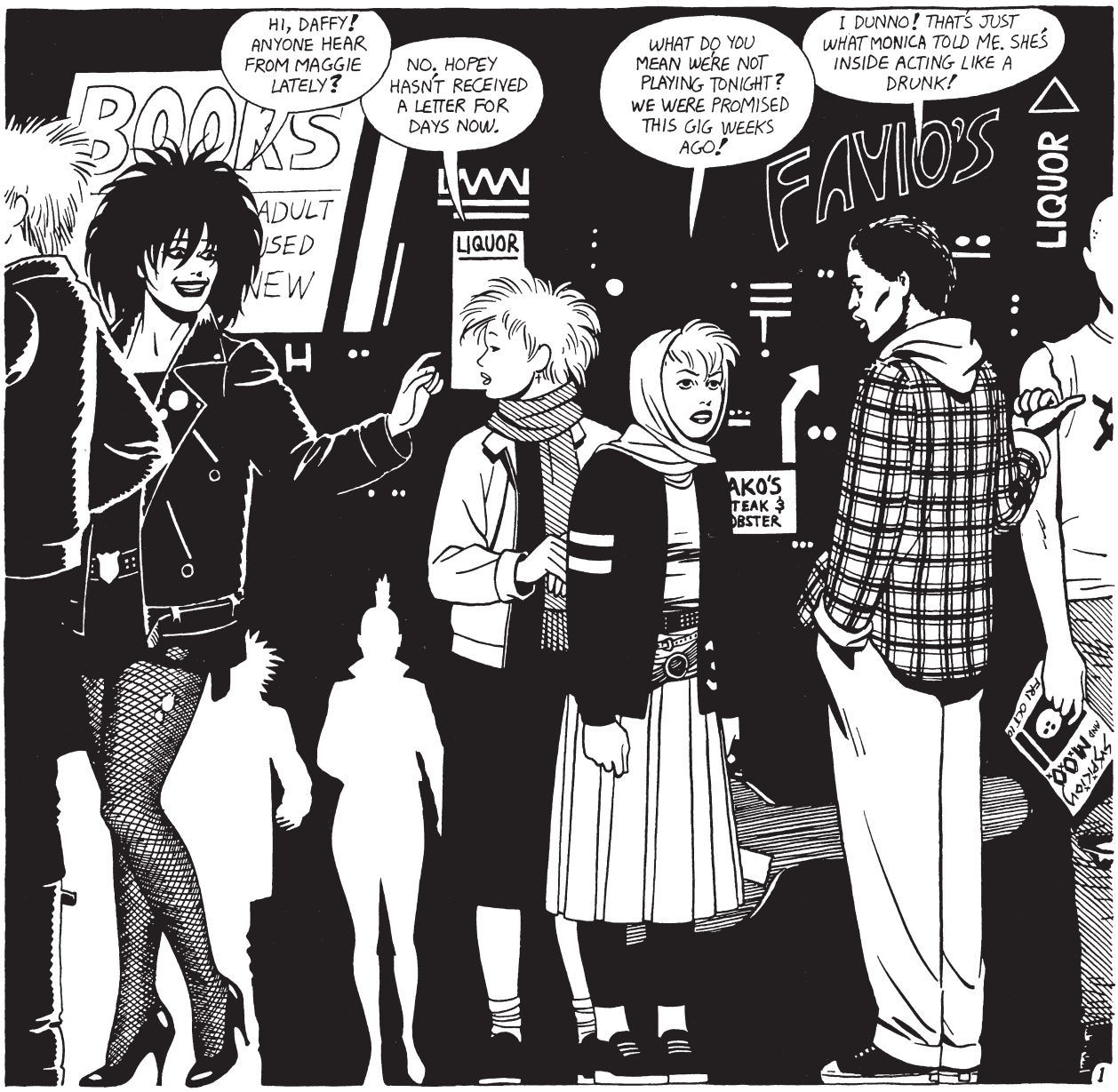
MECHANICS

PART THREE

SO FAR:

RACE AND MAGGIE ARE IN RIO FRIO HIRED TO FIX ROBOTS ON THE NEARBY ISLE OF CHEPAN AND REPORTER DOT WINKS HAS COME TO VISIT.

JAIME 84



I SWEAR! NOTHING EVER GOES RIGHT FOR THIS JUNKY BAND!
GOT A TICKET? HEY! I SAID, YOU GOT A TICKET?
SHE'S PLAYING TONIGHT! LEAVE HER ALONE, ASSHOLE!
YEAH! LET HER GO!
HEY! I'M IN THE BAND, TOO! LEMME IN!
LIAR!
MADDOG'S
IT'S COOL, MAN. SHE IS PLAYING TONIGHT.
MONICA! WHAT'S GOING ON? PEOPLE ARE TELLING ME THAT...
OH, YOU MEAN ABOUT MAGGIE? THAT THE POOR THING'S DEAD?
EXIT
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
MONICA! HOW COME WE'RE NOT PLAYING TONIGHT?
BECAUSE ZERO'S SICK, TERRY.
APE SEX
HEY! DON'T START TALKING YOUR SHIT ABOUT MAGGIE! I KNOW YOU HATE HER BUTT, BUT THAT...
BUTT BUTT?
WHY? WHAT DID I SAY?
ZERO'S NOT SICK! I JUST TALKED TO HIM ON THE PHONE! HE WANTS TO KNOW WHY WE'RE NOT PLAYING!
YOU SAID THE POOR THING IS DEAD!
WE'RE NOT PLAYING BECAUSE THEY SAID THERE WERE TOO MANY BANDS PLAYING ALREADY.
BULL SHIT, MONICA!
YOU SAID MAGGIE IS DEAD!
I SAID THAT?
MONICA, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY TONIGHT, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO IN THE FIRST PLACE!
2

YOU SAID THAT! WHY?
WHY WOULD I SAY THAT? MAGGIE'S NOT EVEN HERE!
I QUIT THIS FUCKING BAND, I SWEAR!
WHAT? AGAIN?
SHE'S WORKING WITH RAND RACE IN RIO FRIO, ISN'T SHE? HAS SHE WRITTEN YOU LATELY, HOPEY? HOPEY?
WHY IS HOPEY SO UPTIGHT?
IZZY ORTIZ HAD AN ACCIDENT AT HOPEY'S PLACE AND ALMOST DIED. SHE GAVE HOPEY QUITE A SCARE.
SO, AGAIN I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED YOU, AND SO WE CAN BE FRIENDS I'M GOING TO FORGET ABOUT THIS INTERVIEW BUSINESS, OK?
I MEAN, WHO NEEDS A HUNDRED DOLLAR BONUS, ANYWAY? NOT ME, BOY!
AND WHO CARES ABOUT ALL THOSE MILLIONS OF FANS WHO CRAVE THE TRUE STORY OF RAND RACE'S LIFE AS AN EVER POPULAR PRO MECH?
TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A HEEL, DOT? IT'S WORKING.
HM, I DON'T MEAN TO. IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE THROWING AWAY A LOT HERE. YOU KNOW, WITH MY COLUMN, I COULD MAKE YOU VERY FAMOUS. WITH YOUR LOOKS YOU COULD EASILY BECOME THE NEXT DEREK CI...
HELL, I HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME JUST KEEPING UP WORK! I HAVE BOSSES WHO KEEP WOMEN AS PETS, I HAVE ASSISTANTS WHO CLOBBER ME WITH ROBOT LIMBS...THEN DISAPPEAR!
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS YOUR LITTLE PARTNER THIS MORNING?
AW, SHE SAID SHE WAS ILL OR SOMETHING. YOU KNOW, BY THE LUMP ON MY HEAD, I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE SHE REALLY IS... MENTALLY!
3

I THINK THE POOR KID HAS A CRUSH ON YOU. DON'T YOU LIKE HER?
OF COURSE I DO! MARGIE AND I GET ALONG JUST FINE. SHE'S THE FINEST HUMAN BEING YOU COULD EVER KNOW! BUT I DON'T WANT TO MESS THAT UP!
I DON'T WANT THIS TO TURN OUT LIKE THE LAST TIME! THERE'S THIS GIRL NAMED PENNY. MAN, SHE WAS IT. THE CHURCHIEST OF ALL LA FEMMES. THE... WE USED TO GO OUT A WHILE BACK. I LOVED PENNY SO MUCH, BUT SOMEHOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW... I HURT HER. REAL BAD. SO BAD, THAT I CAN NEVER SPEAK TO HER AGAIN. I DON'T KNOW... SHE HATES ME...
AND MARGIE... I'M AFRAID I MIGHT HURT HER THE SAME WAY. I COULD NEVER HURT MARGIE. SHE'S SO... OH, I'M SORRY. I MUST SOUND LIKE A SOAP OPERA.
WHICH ONE? RACE, YOU CAN'T KEEP PUTTING YOURSELF DOWN LIKE THIS OR YOU'LL GO NUTS!
LOOK, HOW ABOUT LUNCH? I'M BUYING.
SWELL. STILL FISHING FOR THAT INTERVIEW, EH? HA HA!
STUPID! RETARDED! FAT! YES, YOU!
MARGARITA LUISA CHASCARRILLO! YOU'VE GOTTA BE THE BIGGEST FUCKING JERK WITH A HORSE'S ASS EVER TO BE PUT ON THIS PLANET! YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST HIDE IN YOUR ROOM AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO RACE? MAN, IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING AND DO SOMETHING FAST YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST STAY IN THIS HOTEL FOREVER! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? YES, YOU!
HMM... IT WOULD BE KINDA BORING STAYING IN HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. WHAT AM I SO AFRAID OF ANYWAY? IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL HIT ME BACK. SHEESH!
OR WILL HE? WHAT IF THAT BONK ON THE HEAD MADE HIM KILL-CRAZED OR... OOH...
4

THANKS FOR THE SWELL GET WELL GIFTS, GUYS. BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE...
THAT'S OK, IZZY. I SEE YOU'RE RECOVERING NICELY.
YEAH, I FEEL GREAT! THOSE CHOCOLATE M&M'S YOU GOT ME REALLY DID THE TRICK.
YEAH. I FIGURED THE GREEN ONES WOULD HAVE MADE YOU SICKER.
WHERE'S YOUR LOUD ROOMMATE? HAVING MOUTH SURGERY?
OH, SHE DIED LAST NIGHT. IT WAS SAD BECAUSE SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD TEN MINUTES BEFORE ANYBODY CAME TO CHECK ON HER. THE POOR WOMAN HAD AN INCURABLE VIRUS YOU CAN ONLY GET IN THE PALO PALO REGIONS. HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THEIR MULES, I DON'T KNOW...
ISN'T THAT AROUND WHERE MAGGIE IS WORKING?
⁞ ULP ⁞
WHAT'S WRONG, HOPEY? YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
I GOTTA CALL MAGGIE.
PERHAPS MS. TITAÑON WOULD ENJOY ANOTHER FRUIT COCKTAIL?
NO, NO, THIS IS FINE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
RENA...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE PEOPLE ON MY ISLAND ARE STARTING TO THREATEN ME NOW! I WANT TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED. YOU KNOW...
MAYBE IF YOU COULD TALK TO THEM. THEN MAYBE...
LOOK, BEAKY. THEIR MIND IS ALREADY MADE UP. THEY WANT THEIR COUNTRY BACK FROM YOU AND THEY'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET IT.
5

BAH! I GIVE THOSE ISLANDERS EVERYTHING THEY NEED AND WHAT DOES IT GET ME? A BIG KNIFE IN MY BACK! WELL, WE SHALL SEE...
A FRIEND OF MINE TELLS ME YOU HAVE RAND RACE AND HIS ASSISTANT WORKING FOR YOU ON THE I... CHEPAN.
YES, BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MATTER AT HAND! I WANT YOU TO TELL THOSE ISLANDERS THAT...
I HAVENT SEEN MARGARET AND RACE SINCE ZHATO. MAYBE I'LL DROP IN ON THEM... WITH YOUR PERMISSION OF COURSE, DOCTOR BEAKY...
PHONE, DOCTOR...
YES, YES! GO ON! HELLO? WHO IS THIS?
THANK YOU. AND BEAKY, ITS ONLY AN ISLAND FROM THE WATER. REMEMBER THAT, OR YOUVE GOT MORE TROUBLE FROM THEM THAN YOU EXPECTED.
IM SORRY, DOCTOR BEAKY, BUT THE REBELS ON CHEPAN HAVE INFORMED ME THAT IF YOU DONT START NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM CONCERNING THE ISLAND SOON, THEYRE GOING TO HAVE TO..."RESORT TO DRASTIC MEASURES."
HAH?!
OH, THEY WILL, WILL THEY? WELL, YOU TELL THEM IM CALLING THEIR BLUFF! THEY DONT SCARE ME ONE BIT! LISTEN! IM LAUGHING!
HA-HA-HA!
AT ONCE, DOCTOR.
CLICK!
THOSE BASTARDS ARE RUINING EVERYTHING! HOW EMBARRASSING. THEY ACTUALLY HATE ME. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT COSTIGAN IS GOING TO SAY. I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE AT ONE OF HIS SHINDIGS AGAIN. OH, WOE IS ME...
YOU KNOW, YOURE RIGHT? I THINK IVE BEEN WORKING MYSELF TOO HARD. ALL THOSE MACHINES HAVE REALLY GOTTEN TO ME.
WHAT YOU NEED IS REST AND RELAXATION. AND I THINK I HAVE JUST THE THING FOR YOU...
6

...BUT THE RATS AND BUGS ARE USING MY HOTEL ROOM FOR A CONVENTION, SOOO... YOUR HOTEL WILL HAVE TO DO.
I SEE...
YOU STILL WANT THAT INTERVIEW, MS. WINKS?
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK, MISTER RACE.
OK, NO MORE PUSSYFOOTIN' AROUND HERE, GIRLY, YOU'VE GOT WORK TO DO! THERE ARE ROBOTS THAT NEED FIXING. I HOPE RACE HAS COOLED OFF BY NOW...
MISS CHASCARRILLO? THERE IS A PHONE CALL FOR YOU DOWNSTAIRS!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
I'M FIRED, RIGHT?
DID HE OR SHE SAY WHO IS CALLING?
NO. IT IS A YOUNG LADY... LONG DISTANCE.
REET!
HELLO? YES? HOPEY? IS THAT YOU? HELLO?
YEAH, IT TOOK ME ALL DAY TO GET AHOLD OF YOU! YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE NOT... NO, NOTHING! EVERYTHING OK OVER THERE IN ROMANCE LAND? EVERYTHING'S FINE HERE. IZZY HAD AN ACCIDENT BUT SHE'S OK NOW. HEY, WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE WAY I FIXED UP OUR PLACE! HUH? UH, WHY DID I CALL...?
LEMME TALK NEXT.
LA TOÑA! THAT VULTURE BEAKY WON'T LISTEN TO REASON! ALL WE WANT IS OUR HOME! PERHAPS IF YOU COULD PERSUADE HIM...
FLACO, PLEASE! I'M IN RIO FRIO ON VACATION, NOT TO FIGHT. AND I CAME TO CHEPAN TO SEE SOME FRIENDS, THAT'S ALL. I'M SURE YOU AND BEAKY CAN WORK YOUR DIFFERENCES IN A CIVILIZED MANNER. JUST KEEP A LEVEL HEAD, EH?

YEAH, OK. BIG MAN. YEH... DID YOU DO IT TO PROVE SOMETHING, OR WHAT? LIKE, THAT YOU'RE STILL ALL MAN, OR JUST BECAUSE YOU PLAIN ENJOYED IT? DID YOU DO IT BECAUSE IT'S SO HARD FOR YOU TO EVEN ASK MARGIE TO PASS YOU A WRENCH? MAN, IF SHE FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, ABOUT ME AND DOT... MARGIE REALLY LIKES YOU A LOT, YA BIG COWARD!
WAIT, WHAT AM I AFRAID OF? SO WHAT IF I GO TO BED WITH THIS WOMAN? I DON'T OWE MARGIE ANYTHING! SHE'S MY ASSISTANT MECHANIC, NOT MY GIRLFRIEND! SO WHAT IF SHE HAPPENS TO BE NICE... SWEET... SOFT... AND THINKS I'M THE GREATEST THING SINCE SEEDLESS WATERMELON.
WELL, I BETTER SIGN OFF NOW, HOPITA. HOW ARE YOU EVER GONNA PAY THIS PHONE BILL?
DON'T HAVE TO! DAFFY GOT A NEW CREDIT CARD NUMBER FROM HER DAD. THE OTHER DAY WE CALLED ZHATO AND TALKED TO THEIR NEWEST PRESIDENT.
WELL, IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO CALL, HOPEY. UH HUH. THANKS. I MISS YOU. BYE BYE.
NOW I FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS! I DON'T EVEN MIND GOING UP TO RACE AND APOLOGIZING RIGHT TO HIS FACE! I JUST MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE A GREAT, BIG KISS TO THAT BUMP ON HIS HEAD. I THINK I SAW A LIGHT ON IN HIS ROOM.
SEE? I TOLD YOU THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, ESPERANZITA.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, PENNY.
8

BOO BOO! LOOK! I GUESS THERE'S NO WORK FOR US TOMORROW, HUH?
GOOD. THANKS TO THOSE REBELS NOW I CAN TAKE MY KIDS TO THE FAIR IN THE MORNING.
HUH! YOU THINK THEY'LL HAVE A FAIR NOW WITH ALL THIS RACKET?
NOW MAYBE BEAKY WILL HAVE TO LISTEN TO US, EH? JUST REMEMBER, NO LIVES ARE TO BE JEOPARDIZED HERE! THESE ARE JUST SCARE TACTICS AGAINST DOCTOR BEAKY.
WOW! WOTTA SHOW!
DOCTOR BEAKY! THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT AT ONE OF YOUR FACTORIES IN CHEPAN! IT SEEMS...
ACCIDENT, MY CORNS! WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS TO ME? I DON'T WANT A FIGHT! OHH...
IT WAS GREAT LAST NIGHT, DOT. NOW I, UH, HAVE TO GO SEE ABOUT WORK. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OK, SWEETY.
RACE! I WAS JUST COMING UP TO... OH.
M-MARGIE!! WHAT A... NICE SURPRISE!
OUCH! S'CUSE ME. HI.
Y-YOU WERE COMING UP TO SEE ME? TALK TO ME? TELL ME TO GO TO HELL? SKIN ME ALIVE?
NO. YES. I JUST CAME UP TO TELL YOU I'M GOING BACK TO THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE TO MAKE UP FOR THE DAYS I CALLED IN SICK. OK, BOSS?
WAIT! I'LL GO WITH YOU IF YOU'LL JUST WAIT A SECOND. I JUST...
NO. I CAN MANAGE, THANK YOU, BOSS. I'LL SEE YOU THERE LATER.
9

MARGIE! PLEASE DON'T... MARGIE!
ONE MORE THING, BOSS. IT'S MAGGIE. NOT MARGIE. MAG-GIE! MAG-GIE! NOT MAR-GIE!
MAG-GIE! MAGGIE!
MAGGIE!
?
PHONE CALL FOR YOU DOWNSTAIRS, MR. RACE!
WAIT! PLEASE! DON'T BE MA... YES, HELLO?
RACE? BEAKY. I MUST TALK WITH YOU. URGENT. MY OFFICE. NOW. PLEASE!
SO, DID I BLOW IT, OR WHAT? YOU TOLD ME YOU WEREN'T GOING OUT WITH LITTLE MISS FROWN!
I'M NOT... YOU DIDN'T... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, DOT. MAGGIE'S JUST... WELL... I GOTTA GO SEE DOCTOR BEAKY. IT'S NOTHING... REALLY!
SLAM!
FACE IT, CHICK. HE JUST DOESN'T GO FOR CHUNKY MEXICAN GIRLS, THAT'S ALL. THAT GIVES YOU NO RIGHT TO ACT THE FOO' IN FRONT OF EVERY-BODY.
WE'RE REACHING SHORE NOW, BOSS LADY!
YOU JUST GOTTA TAKE THESE THINGS IN STRIDE. YOU GOTTA BE STRONG, LIKE...
RENA TITAÑON?
MARGARET, DEAR! IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HOW'VE YOU BEEN, GIRL? HAVE YOU LANDED THAT RAND RACE YET? WHERE IS THE STUD BY THE WAY?
OH, HE'S AROUND. IN HIS HOTEL ROOM IN RIO FRIO, I GUESS.
NOW, MARGARET! DON'T TELL ME THAT BOY IS STILL BREAKING YOUR LITTLE HEART...
NO WAY! I'VE FORGOTTEN RACE. HE'S NOT WORTH IT.
10

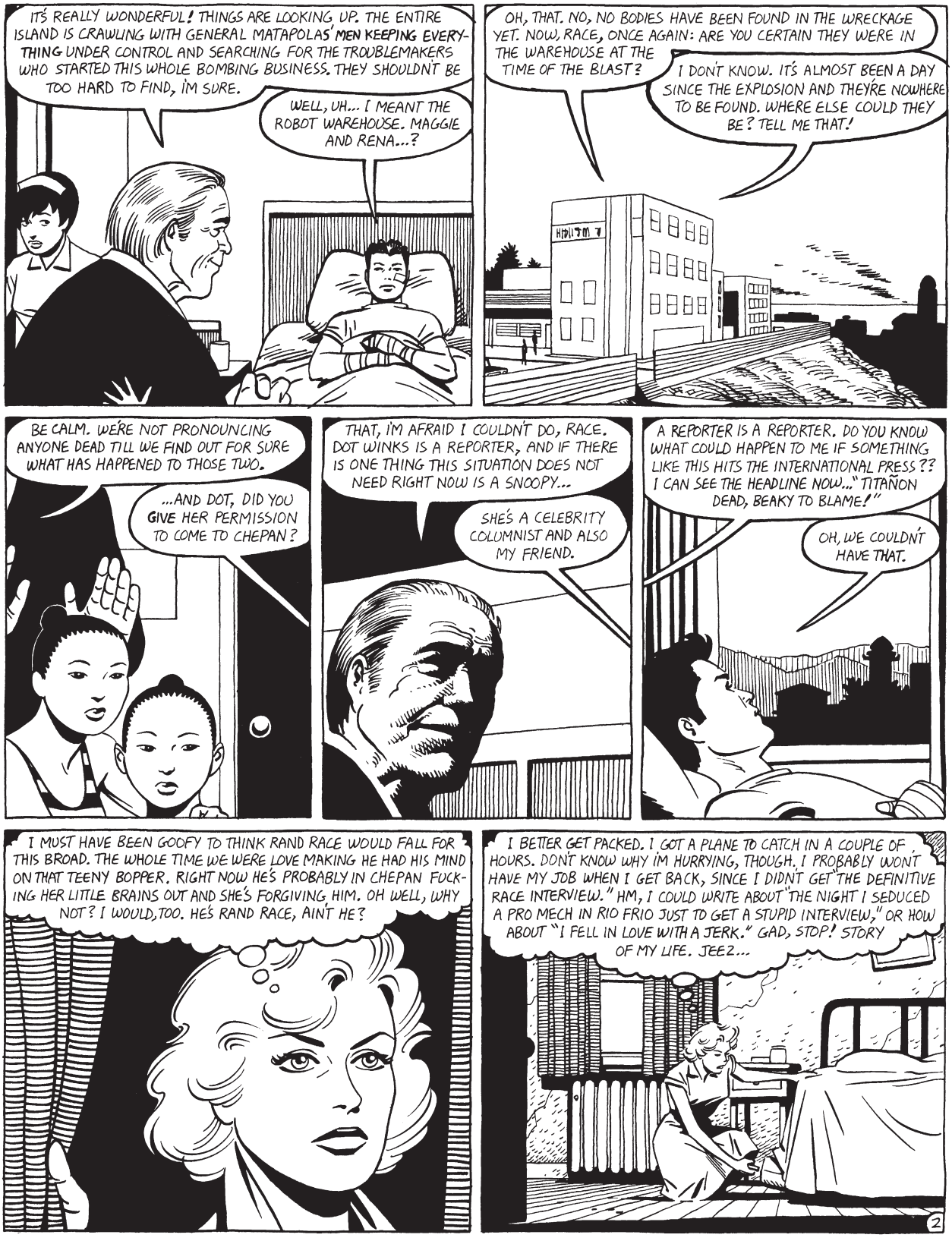
REALLY? THEN WHAT ARE THE TEARS FOR MARGARET? I KNOW ITS NOT BECAUSE YOURE SO EXCITED TO SEE ME. COME ON, YOU NEED A BIG SHOULDER TO CRY ON, HON?
HOPEY SURE LOOKS HAPPIER TODAY.
SHE TALKED TO MAGGIE ON THE PHONE FROM RIO FRIO LAST NIGHT. I GUESS ALL THOSE HINTS OF MAGGIE BEING DEAD WERE ALL COINCIDENCE.
I WONDER...
DOA
MISSILES OF OCTOBER
CALM DOWN, BEAKY! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
THE ISLANDERS ARE DESTROYING MY FACTORIES AND WAREHOUSES IN CHEPAN ONE BY ONE! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL TRY NEXT?
LATEST REPORT, DOCTOR BEAKY. THEY JUST BOMBED ANOTHER ON THE SOUTH COAST.
VERY WELL. I WANTED TO AVOID THIS, BUT THEY LEAVE ME NO ALTERNATIVE. GET ME GENERAL MATAPOLAS ON THE PHONE. WE'LL HAVE TO PLACE CHEPAN UNDER ARREST. HAS ANYONE BEEN HURT IN THE EXPLOSIONS?
NOT YET, SIR. THEY'VE ALL BEEN EMPTY OR CONDEMNED BUILDINGS THUS FAR. IF YOU ASK ME, THEY ARE ONLY TRYING TO SCARE YOU.
BEAKY! MY ASSISTANT MAGGIE HAS GONE TO THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE.
OH, YES... AND RENA TITAÑON WAS GOING TO MEET YOU THERE ALSO.
RENA TITAÑON, TOO? WE'VE GOT TO WARN THEM BEFORE...
ALL COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN CUT OFF TO THE MAINLAND! I'LL SEND SOMEONE TO...
FORGET IT! I'LL GO!
YES, BOSS! I TOOK HER THERE MYSELF. SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE YOU WORK AT. I DUNNO, I DON'T THINK ITS TOO GOOD AN IDEA TO GO INTO CHEPAN RIGHT NOW. I SAW SOME BOMBS GOING OFF ON LAND.
YOU CAN TURN BACK AS SOON AS YOU DROP ME OFF ON LAND.
OH OH! ITS THOSE RIO FRIO COAST GUARDERS AGAIN, BOSS, AND THEY LOOK MADDER THAN THE LAST TIME.
SHIT! STALL THEM FOR ME, WILL YOU?

I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD THAT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE ON BOARD, JOE. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU CAN'T DOCK IN CHEPAN TODAY. THINGS HAVE GOTTEN HAIRY BETWEEN DOCTOR BEAKY AND THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND.
HEY! COME ON, LESTER. IT'S ONLY AN ISLAND FROM THE WATER.
DAMN CHEPAN LOCAL.
THERE GOES ANOTHER BUILDING! LUCKILY THE BLAST DIDN'T COME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE. I HOPE MAGGIE AND RENA DECIDED TO EAT OUT INSTEAD OF GOING THERE.
MISTER RACE! HELLO! REMEMBER ME? I'M BENSO FROM THE WAREHOUSE!
BENSO! HAVE YOU SEEN MAGGIE, MY ASSISTANT?
SURE. I DROVE HER TO THE ROBOT PLACE. SHE WAS WITH THAT CHAMPION WRESTLER LADY... WHAT'S HER NAME AGAIN?
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR RIDE!
SORRY, MISTER RACE, BUT IT JUST KONKED OUT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT.
CRACKED ENGINE BLOCK! NEVER MIND!
HEY, YOU!
THIS IS FORTY-FOUR. POSTPONE THE DEMOLISION OF THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE. THERE ARE INNOCENTS INSIDE. WAIT TILL THEY'RE OUT AND SAFELY AWAY.
TOO LATE, FORTY-FOUR. THE PROCEDURE IS UNDER WAY AT THIS MOMENT.
I'M NOT GOING NEAR ANY FACTORIES OR WAREHOUSES TODAY, MY MAN. THEY'RE ALL JINXED! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. MAY GOD GO WITH YOU, FRIEND.
THANKS ANYWAY!
12

DAMN! THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE! THEY'RE GOING UP ONE EVERY TEN MINUTES NOW!
PUFF PUFF
THE STREETS ARE BARE! LET'S HOPE THAT'S BECAUSE IT HASN'T HAPPENED... YET!
PUFF PUFF PUF
MY INSIDES ARE ON FIRE... BUT I CAN'T STOP... GOTTA WARN 'EM... GOTTA RUN... SO TIRED, THOUGH...
PUFF PUFF PUF P
I WONDER WHAT'S WITH ALL THE FIRE-WORKS. MUST BE SOME KIND OF HOLIDAY.
MARGARET, YOU'RE JUST BEING SILLY! IT'S NOT WORTH PUTTING YOURSELF THROUGH ALL THIS AGONY! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, IF YOU ONLY LET IT.
YEAH, WELL... LOOK DOWN THIS PIT. IT LEADS TO THE SE-WER TUNNELS UNDER-GROUND...
WE THROW ALL THE LEFT OVER, USELESS JUNK DOWN THERE. YOU KNOW, ROBOT PARTS, THINGS LIKE THAT. IT ALL WASHES OUT TO SEA EVENTUALLY, I GUESS. IT WOULD SEEM LIKE THE PERFECT SOLUTION, DON'T YOU THINK, RENA?
GREAT! NOW YOU'VE GONE FROM SILLY TO RIDICULOUS. DON'T YOU EVEN THINK OF JUMP-ING IN OR I'LL THROW YOU IN MYSELF!
NO, I WAS JUST KIDDING. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, RENA. I'LL BE FINE. I JUST HAVE TO CRACK A FEW STALE JOKES ONCE IN A WHILE JUST SO I WON'T DRIVE MYSELF CRAZY.
?
MARGARET? DO SOME OF THESE ROBOTS EVER TURN THEMSELVES ON?
NOT UNLESS THEY'RE IN LOVE WITH THEMSELVES. HAR HAR! NO, THEY ALL HAVE TO BE TURNED ON BY AN ELECTRONIC KEY, WHY?
13

WHAT A GLORIOUS SIGHT! THE WAREHOUSE IS STILL STANDING! BUT FOR HOW LONG?
PUFF PUFF PUFF PUF P
OOF!
MAGGIE! RENA! GET OUT OF THERE! GET OUT! NOW! NOW
DID I JUST HEAR SOMEONE CALL MY NAME?
HEY! WHO'S IN THERE?
I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD SOMEONE CALL MY NAME, RENA.
!
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S RACE!
HEY!
IT'S RACE! AND LISTEN, HE'S YELLING MY NAME! HE'S CALLING ME MAGGIE, RENA!
WHOA, LORDY!
HE'S CALL... OUCH! RENA! WHAT ARE YOU... I TOLD YOU I WAS ALL RAAK!
GET OUT BEFORE...
END OF PART THREE

MECHA
PART FOUR
JAIME 84
ZOBENINA HOSPITAL IN CHEPAN...
RACE! YOU'RE AWAKE! HOW ARE YOU FEELING, M'BOY?
BETTER. WHAT'S THE WORD, DOCTOR BEAKY?
1


IT'S REALLY WONDERFUL! THINGS ARE LOOKING UP. THE ENTIRE ISLAND IS CRAWLING WITH GENERAL MATAPOLAS' MEN KEEPING EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL AND SEARCHING FOR THE TROUBLEMAKERS WHO STARTED THIS WHOLE BOMBING BUSINESS. THEY SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO FIND, I'M SURE.
WELL, UH... I MEANT THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE. MAGGIE AND RENA...?
OH, THAT. NO, NO BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE YET. NOW, RACE, ONCE AGAIN: ARE YOU CERTAIN THEY WERE IN THE WAREHOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE BLAST?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S ALMOST BEEN A DAY SINCE THE EXPLOSION AND THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. WHERE ELSE COULD THEY BE? TELL ME THAT!
BE CALM. WE'RE NOT PRONOUNCING ANYONE DEAD TILL WE FIND OUT FOR SURE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO.
...AND DOT, DID YOU GIVE HER PERMISSION TO COME TO CHEPAN?
THAT, I'M AFRAID I COULDN'T DO, RACE. DOT WINKS IS A REPORTER, AND IF THERE IS ONE THING THIS SITUATION DOES NOT NEED RIGHT NOW IS A SNOOPY...
SHE'S A CELEBRITY COLUMNIST AND ALSO MY FRIEND.
A REPORTER IS A REPORTER. DO YOU KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO ME IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HITS THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS?? I CAN SEE THE HEADLINE NOW..." TITAÑON DEAD, BEAKY TO BLAME!"
OH, WE COULDN'T HAVE THAT.
I MUST HAVE BEEN GOOFY TO THINK RAND RACE WOULD FALL FOR THIS BROAD. THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE LOVE MAKING HE HAD HIS MIND ON THAT TEENY BOPPER. RIGHT NOW HE'S PROBABLY IN CHEPAN FUCKING HER LITTLE BRAINS OUT AND SHE'S FORGIVING HIM. OH WELL, WHY NOT? I WOULD, TOO. HE'S RAND RACE, AIN'T HE?
I BETTER GET PACKED. I GOT A PLANE TO CATCH IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HURRYING, THOUGH. I PROBABLY WON'T HAVE MY JOB WHEN I GET BACK, SINCE I DIDN'T GET "THE DEFINITIVE RACE INTERVIEW." HM, I COULD WRITE ABOUT "THE NIGHT I SEDUCED A PRO MECH IN RIO FRIO JUST TO GET A STUPID INTERVIEW," OR HOW ABOUT "I FELL IN LOVE WITH A JERK." GAD, STOP! STORY OF MY LIFE. JEEZ...
2

LA TOMA
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW TWO WOMEN IN THE WAREHOUSE WHEN YOU PLANTED THE EXPLOSIVES?
I'M POSITIVE! ONE OF THEM CAME AFTER ME! I-I GOT SCARED...
...SO I RAN...
...BEFORE YOU COULD DEACTIVATE THE EXPLOSIVES. ARGHH! NOW BEAKY'S NOT ONLY AFTER OUR NECKS BUT OUR DICKS AS WELL!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! HE HAS SOLDIERS BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS! WE CAN'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER.
DO YOU THINK THEY COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT BEFORE...
I DON'T KNOW! I DIDN'T LOOK BACK, BUT I HEARD THE EXPLOSION...
WHERE WILL WE GO NOW?
WELL, WE CAN'T USE THE SEWERS. THEY HAVE BEEN SEALED OFF FOR YEARS NOW.
ARE YOU STILL THERE, RENA?
I'M STILL HERE.
WHY DO WE KEEP WALKING? I'M HUNGRY.
DON'T TALK. YOU'RE DELIRIOUS.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
OH, ABOUT TWENTY HOURS.
TWENTY HOURS? IT SEEMS MORE LIKE TWENTY DAYS!
MHMM. DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET.
MEANWHILE, OH, ABOUT TWENTY HOURS AGO...
3

HOOIEEELO'D!
WHO'DA BELIEVED IT IN A MILLION YEARS THAT THIS OLD BOD COULD STILL MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE OUR NECKS! WE'RE MOSTLY LUCKY WE HAD THIS PIT TO DIVE INTO OR ELSE THAT BOMB WOULDVE GOTTEN US BUT GOOD!
LOOKS LIKE THE WRECKAGE FROM THE BLAST SEALED OUR WAY OUT OF HERE. WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CLEAR IT. TOO BAD. AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE, RIGHT, KID?
MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...
OH, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. BLOOD MOSTLY. YOU'LL BE FINE. DO YOU HURT ANYWHERE ELSE, MARGARET?
NO, BUT EVERYTHING'S GETTING DARKER BY THE MINUTE. I THINK IM GOING BLIND, RENA.
NO, THAT'S JUST THE FIRES GOING OUT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER FORM OF LIGHT. I DON'T THINK FIRE WILL LAST TOO WELL IN THIS THIN AIR.
WELL, IF THERE'S A MINER AMONG THIS SCRAP OF ROBOTS WE MIGHT HAVE SOME KINDA LIGHT.
A MINOR OR A MINER? WHAT'S A...
HERE'S ONE. THEY'RE USED FOR WORKING IN VERY DEEP MINE SHAFTS WHERE THERE'S VERY LITTLE OXYGEN.
SEE? THEIR HEADS CAN BE REMOVED AND USED AS SPOTLIGHTS.
I KNEW THERE WAS MORE TO YOU THAN JUST A CUTE FACE.
WELL, WE BETTER GET GOING. WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT TUNNEL IS GOING TO LEAD US?
TUNNEL? WHY? AREN'T WE GONNA WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO COME RESCUE US? HUH?
4

ARE YOU SERIOUS? WE'LL STARVE BY THE TIME ANYONE FIGURES OUT WE'RE EVEN DOWN HERE, LET ALONE CLEARS THAT WRECKAGE UP THERE. THAT IS, IF WE DON'T SUFFOCATE FIRST.
BUT, SOMEONE WILL...
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS SEWER IS TO START WALKING. MAYBE THE AIR WILL GET CLEARER AS WE GO. ARE YOU WITH ME, KIDDO?
BUT, JUST WAIT, RENA. SOMEONE MIGHT...
OK. SUIT YOURSELF.
WAIT FOR ME!
AH, GENERAL MATAPOLAS. YOU'VE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF BRINGING ORDER BACK TO CHEPAN.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR. WE'LL HAVE THOSE REBELS UNDER ARREST IN NO TIME.
I KNOW YOU WILL. I... HEY! WHO LET THOSE CAMERAS ON MY ISLAND?
AH, DOCTOR BEAKY! TELL ME, IS IT TRUE THAT RENA TITAÑON WAS KILLED IN THE WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION HERE? SOME LOCALS WERE TELLING ME THAT...
GENERAL! ARREST THESE NEWSPEOPLE! CONFISCATE THEIR VIDEO EQUIPMENT!
YOU CAN'T SILENCE US, BEAKY! WE ALREADY SENT OUT A WIRE! THE WORLD WILL HEAR OF THIS!
NOW THEY DID IT! NOW ALL THOSE BIGGIES ARE GONNA LAUGH ME OUT OF SOCIETY! CHUDE BALLOONE, PEDERO SAN JO, H.R. COSTIGAN... ESPECIALLY COSTIGAN!
HERV!
5

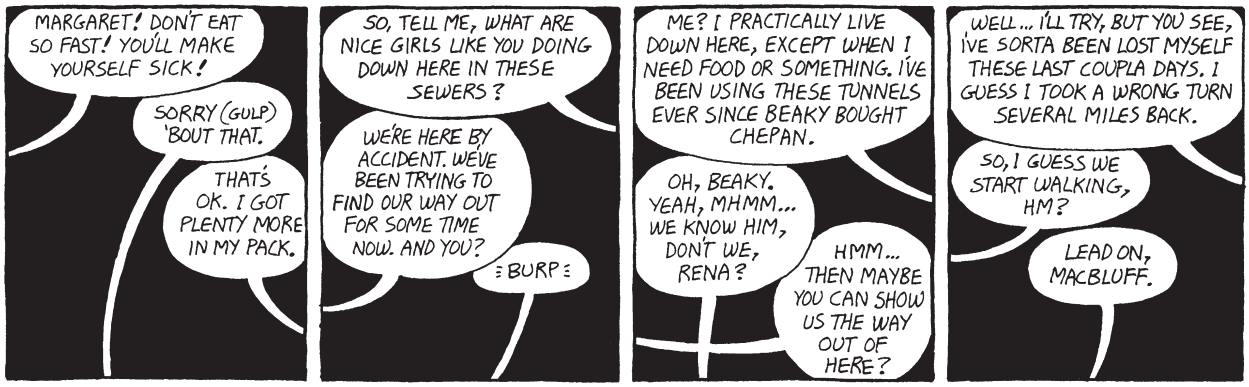
HERV? HERV R. COSTIGAN! WHERE DID YOU GO?
IN HERE, PENNY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T YOU WANT TO SWIM ANY MORE?
NOT NOW. SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED IN CHEPAN. I JUST WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY AND I'LL BE RIGHT OUT. THAT'S BEAKY'S TERRITORY, YOU KNOW.
MY FRIEND IS WORKING IN CHEPAN.
SHH...
... ACCORDING TO REPORTS, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT TITAÑON ALONG WITH A FRIEND WAS IN THE WAREHOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION...
THE FRIEND WITH TITAÑON IN THE WAREHOUSE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE ASSISTANT OF PROSOLAR MECHANIC RAND RACE. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TALK WITH MISTER RACE AT THIS TIME...
NO WAY...
I REPEAT: IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR IF IN FACT RENA TITAÑON WAS KILLED IN A TERRORIST ATTACK ON A WAREHOUSE IN CHEPAN. STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS...
TITAÑON, DEAD? NOW AIN'T THAT A KICK IN THE HEAD? ON BEAKY'S ISLAND YET. HAR!
NO! THEY SAID IT'S STILL UNCERTAIN, DIDN'T THEY?
WELL, YEAH, IT'S STILL NOT CLEAR YET. BUT IF IT IS, I'LL BET BEAKY'S ALREADY CHEWED RIGHT PAST HIS NAILS UP TO HIS KNUCKLES. COME ON, LET'S GO SWIMMING.
I CAN'T! I HAVE TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON. OH, MAG...
MISTER RACE. YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE UP AND OUT OF BED TILL YOU'VE FULLY RECOVERED...
WAIT A SEC. WHAT'S THAT LITTLE GUY SCREAMING ABOUT?
HOSPITAL CHEPAN ZOBENINA
6

HEY, BENSO! WHAT'S THAT FELLOW BABBLING ABOUT?
IT'S NOW CONFIRMED, MR. RACE...
...HE SAW THE TWO WOMEN IN THE WAREHOUSE BEFORE-- I'M SORRY, MR. RACE!
...THERE'S A NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION IN CHEPAN...
GENERAL MATAPOLAS !!!
NEWS
EXCUSE ME, BUT IS YOUR NAME DOT WINKS?
YEAH, BUT I CAN'T STOP TO CHAT. I GOT A PLANE TO CATCH.
AND YOU ARE A REPORTER, ARE YOU NOT, MS. WINKS?
YES, BUT...
COME WITH US, PLEASE. YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.
HEY! WHAT GIVES? THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT, GUYS? RIGHT?
THIS WAY, PLEASE...
R-R-RENA TITAÑON...??
THAT'S IT. WE'RE BEAKY'S DINNER NOW...
GULP
SOB
YEOW!
RENA TITAÑON, HAH? HAH?!
VICKI'S GYM
FOR WOMEN WRESTLERS
NO GUYS ALLOWED
VICKI'S GYM
7

SAY IT AGAIN! WHO IS THE GREATEST WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?
HAH?
RENAAH! I MEAN, YOU ARE, VICKI! VICKI GLOR!!!
I'M SO GOD DAMN SICK OF HEARING THAT NAME! I HATE RENA TITAÑON! I'M THE GREATEST WRESTLER THAT EVER LIVED! NOT HER!!
WELL, YOU ARE NOW ANYWAY, VICKI.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT CRACK, CASH?
LISTEN...
...NO BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND, BUT A WITNESS NOW CLAIMS HE SAW TITAÑON AND THE MECHANIC IN THE WAREHOUSE MINUTES BEFORE THE EXPLOSION...
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? QUEEN RENA, DEAD? WHADAYA MAKE OF IT, VICKI? HEY, VICKI! WHERE YA GOIN'?
I NEED A SHOWER. I'LL SEE YOU GUYS IN THE MORNING.
A WITNESS CLAIMS HE SAW RENA TITAÑON AND RAND RACE'S ASSISTANT MECH ACTUALLY DIE IN A TERRORIST'S ATTACK ON A ROBOT WAREHOUSE IN CHEPAN. OFFICIALS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN WHAT THE REASON FOR THE ATTACK WAS. MS. TITAÑON WAS FORTY-EIGHT.
TITANON
...SO, THIS MECHANIC WAS A FRIEND OF YOURS, PENELOPE?
YES... A VERY CLOSE FRIEND...
MAY I MAKE A LONG DISTANCE CALL BACK HOME, HERV? CERTAIN PEOPLE MIGHT NOT HAVE HEARD THE REPORT.
SURE. I'LL GET YOU A DIRECT LINE.
8

YOU CALL THAT A PICTURE? CMON, HOPEY! TRY KICKING IT OR SOMETHING. IM MISSING MY SOAP.
HOLD YOUR HORMONES, WILL YOU? I ALMOST GOT IT...
YOU WATCH SOAPS, IZZY? YOURE THE LAST PERSON ID IMAGINE WATCHING A SOAP OPERA.
I CANT HELP IT. I GOT HOOKED WHILE I WAS LAID UP IN THE HOSPITAL.
IF MAGGIE WERE HERE, SHED HAVE IT FIXED IN NO TIME.
WELL, SHES NOT HERE. SO WELL JUST HAVE TO DO WITHOUT, HUH?
HOW ABOUT IF WE GIVE HER ANOTHER CALL ON MY FATHERS CREDIT CARD?
THE PHONE DOESNT WORK. BUT THERES A PAY PHONE ON THE CORNER.
UGH! FORGET IT. YOURE NOT GETTING ME OUT IN THIS RAIN.
I WONDER IF MAGGIE HAS HER NEW TAN BY NOW.
YOU MEAN HEAT RASH...
♫ A HAND FOR EACH HAND WAS PLANNED FOR THE WORLD... ♫
♫ ...WHY DONT MY FINGERS REACH... ♫
MARGARET. IF YOU DONT STOP SINGING THAT SONG THIS VERY SECOND, IM GOING TO DROWN YOU. ¿ COMPRENDE ?
YEAH, WELL YOU JUST DONT KNOW GOOD SINGING WHEN YOU... HEY, ARE WE SINKING ?
THE WATERS RISEN. I HADNT NOTICED IT BEFORE. THERES MORE WATER COMING THROUGH!
9

THE CURRENT'S GOTTEN A LOT STRONGER, TOO...
WOOP!
MARGARET! GRAB ON TO ME!
HANG AROUND MY NECK AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET GO OF THAT LIGHT!
WHO FLUSHED THE DAMN TOILET ANYWAY?
GLUB!
RENA! LOOK! ON THE CEILING!
DAMN, YOU'VE GOT GOOD EYES, GIRL! HOLD ON TIGHT! WE JUST MAY HAVE FOUND OUR WAY OUT OF HERE.
NOPE. ANOTHER TUNNEL. AT LEAST THIS ONE HASN'T ANY WATER AT ALL. LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN DRY FOR A LONG WHILE.
OOPS!
OH, GREAT! THERE GOES OUR ONLY LIGHT SOURCE! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO HOLD ON TIGHT TO THAT THING!
I...I... I WAS HOLDING ON TO YOU.
WELL, NO USE CRYING OVER BURNT TOAST. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FEEL OUR WAY OUT OF HERE.
I'M SORRY, RENA.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THE AIR'S A LOT CLEANER IN THIS TUNNEL.
OUCH!
DID YOU HURT YOURSELF, MARGARET?
NO. DID YOU?
NO.
THEN WHY DID YOU SAY OUCH?
SHE DIDN'T. I DID. WOULD YOU MIND GETTING OFF MY HAND?
END of PART 4

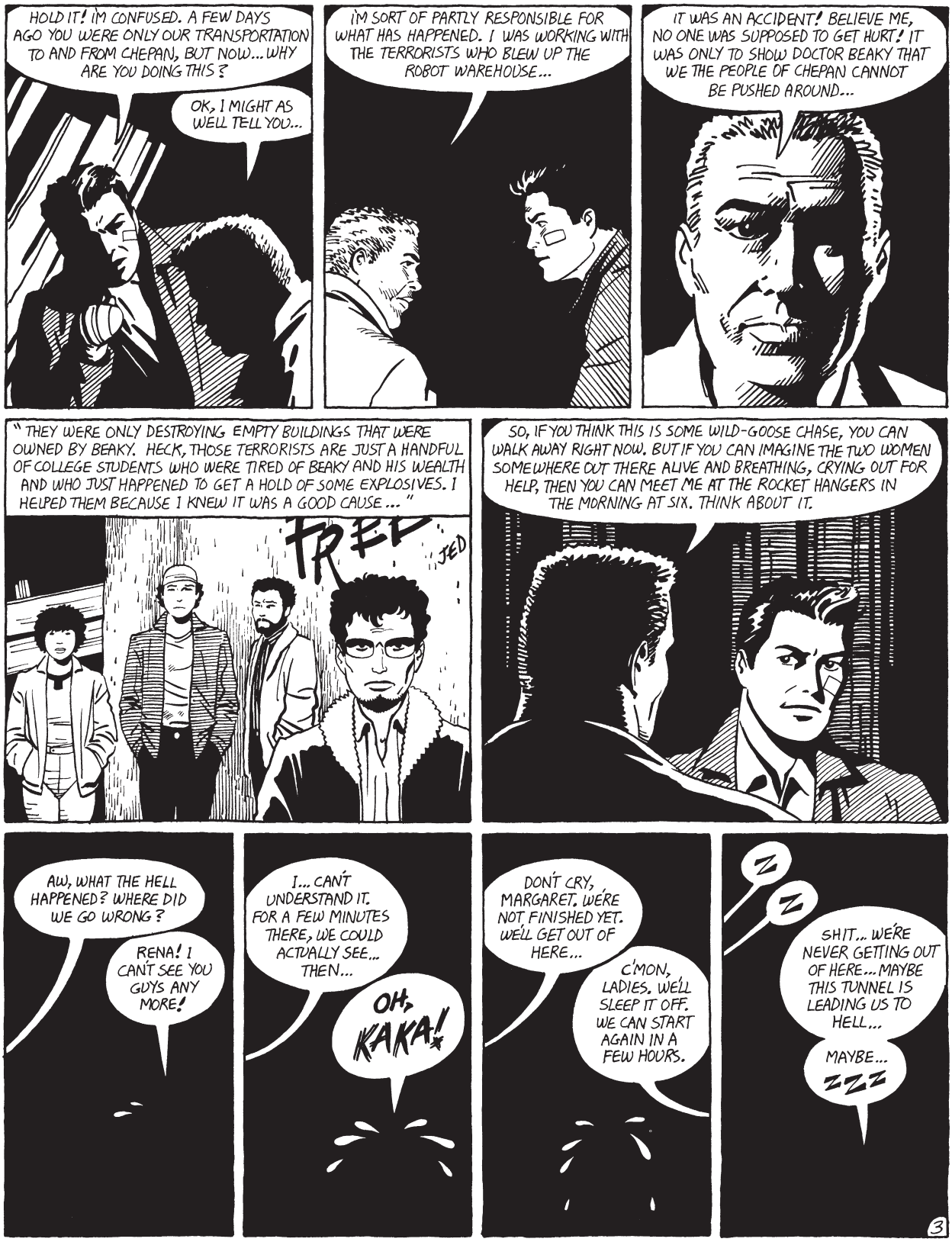


MECHANIC

PART FIVE

STORY THUS FAR: WORD HAS GOTTEN OUT THAT RENA AND MAGGIE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN A WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION (WE KNOW BETTER) AND A PARANOID BEAKY IS BECOMING A REAL GHOUL.

IN THE MORNING I HAVE TO TAKE A BUS TO MONTOYA TO BE WITH MAGGIE'S MOM AND RELATIVES. I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT. CHRIST...
OK. I'LL GO SEE HOPEY.
NIXON
I MIGHT AS WELL GO SEE HER NOW. THE SOONER THE BETTER I SUPPOSE... I'LL SEE YOU LATER, ISABEL.
DIOS TE CUIDE, PENNY.
DAMN! AFTER THIS I MAY NEVER WALK AGAIN! HOW ARE YOU DOING, MARGARET?
GEE, I DUNNO. IT'S CRAZY, BUT... I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN IN THE PITCH BLACK FOR SO LONG OR IF MY MIND'S FINALLY GONE, BUT...
BUT, WHAT, SEÑORITA? WHAT...?
I-I THINK I CAN SEE YOU GUYS. YEAH... AM I CRAZY OR WHAT?
NO! YOU'RE NOT! I CAN SEE YOU, TOO!
HOORAY! THERE MUST BE AN OPENING SOMEWHERE AHEAD, LADIES! C'MON!
I DON'T GET IT, JOE. WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME TO THE WAREHOUSE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, MISTER RACE. IT'S ABOUT YOUR ASSISTANT AND LA TOÑA.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, JOE. YOU THINK THEY STILL MAY BE ALIVE BECAUSE THEY FELL INTO THE WASTE PIT THAT LEADS TO THE SEWERS? THAT'S QUITE A LONG SHOT THERE, JOE.
WELL, THAT DOES EXPLAIN THE UNFOUND BODIES, DOESN'T IT?
BUT, LOOK! THE SEWER'S BEEN FLOODED. EVEN IF THEY DID SURVIVE THE BLAST, I DON'T THINK THEY COULD HAVE...
WELL, THAT'S A CHANCE WE HAVE TO TAKE, ISN'T IT?
Z


HOLD IT! IM CONFUSED. A FEW DAYS AGO YOU WERE ONLY OUR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CHEPAN, BUT NOW... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
OK, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU...
IM SORT OF PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I WAS WORKING WITH THE TERRORISTS WHO BLEW UP THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! BELIEVE ME, NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO GET HURT! IT WAS ONLY TO SHOW DOCTOR BEAKY THAT WE THE PEOPLE OF CHEPAN CANNOT BE PUSHED AROUND...
" THEY WERE ONLY DESTROYING EMPTY BUILDINGS THAT WERE OWNED BY BEAKY. HECK, THOSE TERRORISTS ARE JUST A HANDFUL OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO WERE TIRED OF BEAKY AND HIS WEALTH AND WHO JUST HAPPENED TO GET A HOLD OF SOME EXPLOSIVES. I HELPED THEM BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS A GOOD CAUSE... "
FRED
JED
SO, IF YOU THINK THIS IS SOME WILD-GOOSE CHASE, YOU CAN WALK AWAY RIGHT NOW. BUT IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THE TWO WOMEN SOMEWHERE OUT THERE ALIVE AND BREATHING, CRYING OUT FOR HELP, THEN YOU CAN MEET ME AT THE ROCKET HANGERS IN THE MORNING AT SIX. THINK ABOUT IT.
AW, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED? WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?
RENA! I CANT SEE YOU GUYS ANY MORE!
I... CANT UNDERSTAND IT. FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE, WE COULD ACTUALLY SEE... THEN...
OH, KAKA!
DONT CRY, MARGARET. WERE NOT FINISHED YET. WELL GET OUT OF HERE...
C'MON, LADIES. WELL SLEEP IT OFF. WE CAN START AGAIN IN A FEW HOURS.
Z
Z
SHIT... WERE NEVER GETTING OUT OF HERE... MAYBE THIS TUNNEL IS LEADING US TO HELL...
MAYBE...
ZZZ
3

WHAT A DAY THIS HAS BEEN. IT STILL FEELS LIKE A DREAM. I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER LAST ANOTHER LIKE IT.
TWO O'CLOCK. DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO LATE. HOPEY'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN UP. WAIT, THE DOOR'S BEEN LEFT OPEN.
HOPEY? ARE YOU UP?
HOPEY? IT'S ME PENNY. ARE YOU...
THEN, IT'S TRUE?
Z
MARGARET!
WHADDAYA WANT?
MARGARET! COME ON! COME ON OUT!
RENA? WHAT...?
4

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? EVERYTHING WENT DARK AGAIN IN THE TUNNEL BECAUSE THE SUN WENT DOWN! WE WERE ONLY YARDS FROM THE OPENING THE WHOLE TIME!
THEN WE'RE OUT? WE'RE REALLY OUT? ZOWIE!!
BUT, RENA... WHERE IS THAT MAN?
HE WENT RIGHT ON THROUGH. HE LIVES IN THERE, REMEMBER?
GEE, I DIDN'T EVEN GET HIS NAME OR ANYTHING. WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
WHO CARES? I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD BE GOING, MARGARET.
BUT... OH, ALL RIGHT. WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY?
I'M NOT SURE...
...BUT I DON'T THINK WE'RE OUT OF THESE WOODS YET, KIDDO.
5

RIO FRIO...
... AND THE WAREHOUSE BLEW SKY HIGH WITH THE WOMEN STILL INSIDE, AND RAND RACE IS IN THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM MINOR BURNS...
BH DP
NO WONDER I NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN! THE WHOLE TIME HE WAS... AND HIS GIRLFRIEND... BOY, DO I FEEL SHITTY!
LOIS WAS NEAR
AND NOW ALL JOURNALISTS ARE BEING THROWN IN JAIL. THAT BEAKY'S GONE TOO FAR!
DOT WINKS!
SOME MAN HAS PAID YOUR BAIL!
TWO QUESTIONS: WHO'S THE GUY THAT SPRUNG ME? WHAT'S HE LOOK LIKE? I WANT TO THANK HIM IN PERSON.
IT'S ME, DOT.
I HEARD ABOUT THE AWFUL THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
IT TOOK ME ALL NIGHT TO FIND YOU. ARE YOU OK?
YOU'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH HELL AND YOU ASK ME IF I'M OK? RACE...
DOT. I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME. I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU ON THE WAY.
ABOUT WHAT TIME WOULD YOU SAY IT IS RIGHT NOW?
OH, I'D SAY ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN AM...
IT'S FUNNY. I RARELY EVER SEE THIS TIME OF DAY. I USUALLY SLEEP TILL ABOUT NOON.
BY THAT TIME YOU'VE COMPLETELY MISSED THE BEST PART OF THE DAY. OOH...
6

RENA? ARE YOU OK? YOU'VE BEEN...
FORGET IT, I'M FINE.
RENA, IT'S OK TO GET TIRED. THE HEAT GETS TO ALL OF US.
I SAID, I'M FINE! REALLY!
JUST A TWITCH...
MAYBE IT'S FROM BEING BODY SLAMMED ALL YOUR LIFE.
I'LL BODY SLAM YOU IN A MINUTE...
DOCTOR BEAKY HAS ORDERED THAT ALL ROCKETS STAY GROUNDED BUT THAT CARGO SHIP. IT DELIVERS FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO VILLAGES THROUGHOUT OUTER CHEPAN.
IT'S OK, KATO. THEY'RE MY EXTRA CREW FOR THIS MONTH'S RUN. WE HAVE A BIG LOAD TODAY. LOTS OF VILLAGES TO COVER, YOU KNOW.
THANKS, CARLOS. I OWE YOU ONE.
YEAH, SHUT UP AND GET IN. WE'RE ALREADY IN ENOUGH TROUBLE HAVING THAT...THAT WOMAN ON BOARD. I HAVE A VERY HORNY CREW, YOU KNOW.
TELL US ABOUT IT, EL CAPITAN HORN.
YEESH! SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I'M EVEN DOING THIS.
YOU'RE TELLING ME. I KINDA PICTURED MYSELF ON A PLANE RIGHT NOW HEADED FOR HOME FORGETTING THERE EVER WAS A RIO FRIO OR A CHEPAN.

YEAH... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS. I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU COME ALONG. THIS IS MY PROBLEM AND I...
HEY, IF I DIDN'T WANT TO COME, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.
BUT, THIS ALL SEEMS SO HOPELESS! IT'S A BILLION TO ONE SHOT...
REMEMBER WHAT JOE SAID? PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO LIVE IN THOSE TUNNELS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. SO THERE'S STILL THAT CHANCE.
YOU'RE INCREDIBLE. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU, DOT?
I KNOW, I KNOW...
QUINA CHASCARRILLO'S HOME IN MONTOYA...
SPEEDY'S JUST A LITTLE DRUNK, IZZY. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
OK, THANKS, LICHA.
HEY! DON'T TALK TO THAT BITCH IN THERE! SHE USED THE ROPES TO WIN THE BELT FROM TITAÑON, MAN!
SORRY ABOUT MY BROTHER. NOW, AS I WAS SAYING... I'M REALLY A BIG FAN OF YOURS. I WATCH YOU WRESTLE ON TV ALL THE TIME. I REALLY ENJOY YOUR ATOMIC PILEDRIVER.
YEAH, WELL, WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW. I'M IN MOURNING FOR TWO PEOPLE, Y'KNOW...
FIRST, I HEAR ABOUT QUEEN RENA... THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I HEAR THAT MY LITTLE NIECE WAS WITH HER IN THE HOOPLA.
I REALIZE YOU MUST BE IN REAL PAIN.
8

DAMN STRAIGHT! RENA TITAÑON TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW. AND IN OUR FUEDING DAYS, THERE WAS ONLY ONE GAL WHO COULD SEND ME FLYING OVER THAT TOP ROPE O THOSE HUNDRED TIMES. SHE WAS THE GREATEST...
...SO, IN HER (AND SHRIMPS') HONOR, VICKI GLORI, CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS IS, Y'ALL HEARD IT HERE FIRST, IS GOING CLEAN. NO KICKING, NO BITING, NO GOUGING, NO MORE ATOMIC PILEDRIVER!
THIS CALLS FOR A DRINK, CHAMP.
HELLO, HOPEY. HOW ARE YOU?
HELLO.
HI. LETS GO TO THE RESTROOM, TERRY.
THIS PLUMBING, I SWEAR... HOW ARE YOU DOING, HOPEY? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
I'M FINE, I'M FINE! I'M JUST GOING CRAZY STAYING ALONE IN THAT APARTMENT. IZZY OFFERED TO LET ME MOVE IN WITH HER. I'M THINKING ABOUT IT...
HMF! I OFFERED YOU THE SAME DEAL, BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU AND I, HOPEY? YOU THINK NOW THAT... YOU KNOW...
YOU AND I COULD NEVER BE AS CLOSE AS WE ONCE WERE, TERRY. YOU COULD NEVER HANDLE IT WHEN THE SHIT CAME DOWN.
WINNIE THE KA KA HEAD
JOE
AXEL SHIT PISS
YEAH? WELL, WHAT ABOUT MAGGIE? SHE WAS NEVER YOUR TYPE AND YOU KNOW IT!
OH, OH, OH! AND YOU WERE? YOU... AGHHH! NEVER MIND!
APE SEX SUCKS
YOU JUST HAD HER AROUND BECAUSE SHE'D DO ANYTHING YOU'D FUCKING WANT HER TO!
PUT A BIG LOAD OF SHIT IN YOUR MOUTH AND CHOKE ON IT, WILL YOU, TERRY?
HELLO, HOPEY. HOW ARE YOU?
HELLO.
AH, SHADDAP!
TSK! POOR HOPEY.

THAT'S A HORSE?
SHHH... YES, THAT'S A HORSE. DON'T SCARE IT, NOW. IT'S OUR TRIP HOME.
WE'RE NOT GONNA RIDE THAT POOR, DESTROYED THING, ARE WE? HE CAN BARELY HOLD HIMSELF UP LET ALONE CARRY OUR FAT ASSES.
QUIET... HERE, BOY... GIRL...?
THERE HE GOES, RENA! GET HIM!
FRAM DAMN IT!
HEH! SORRY 'BOUT THAT. I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE EXCITED...
IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M GONNA RIDE YOU HOME!
10

GO, RENA, GO! RIDE 'EM, COWGIRL! WAHOOO!
RENA!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHA...
YOU SLIPPED AND FELL, RENA. BUT THAT'S OK, 'CAUSE NOW IT'S MY TURN!
HERE, HORSEY! HERE, HORSEY HORSEY...
WHERE YOU GOIN', YOU LITTLE HOSS, YOU?
AHA! THERE YOU ARE...
YEOW!
11

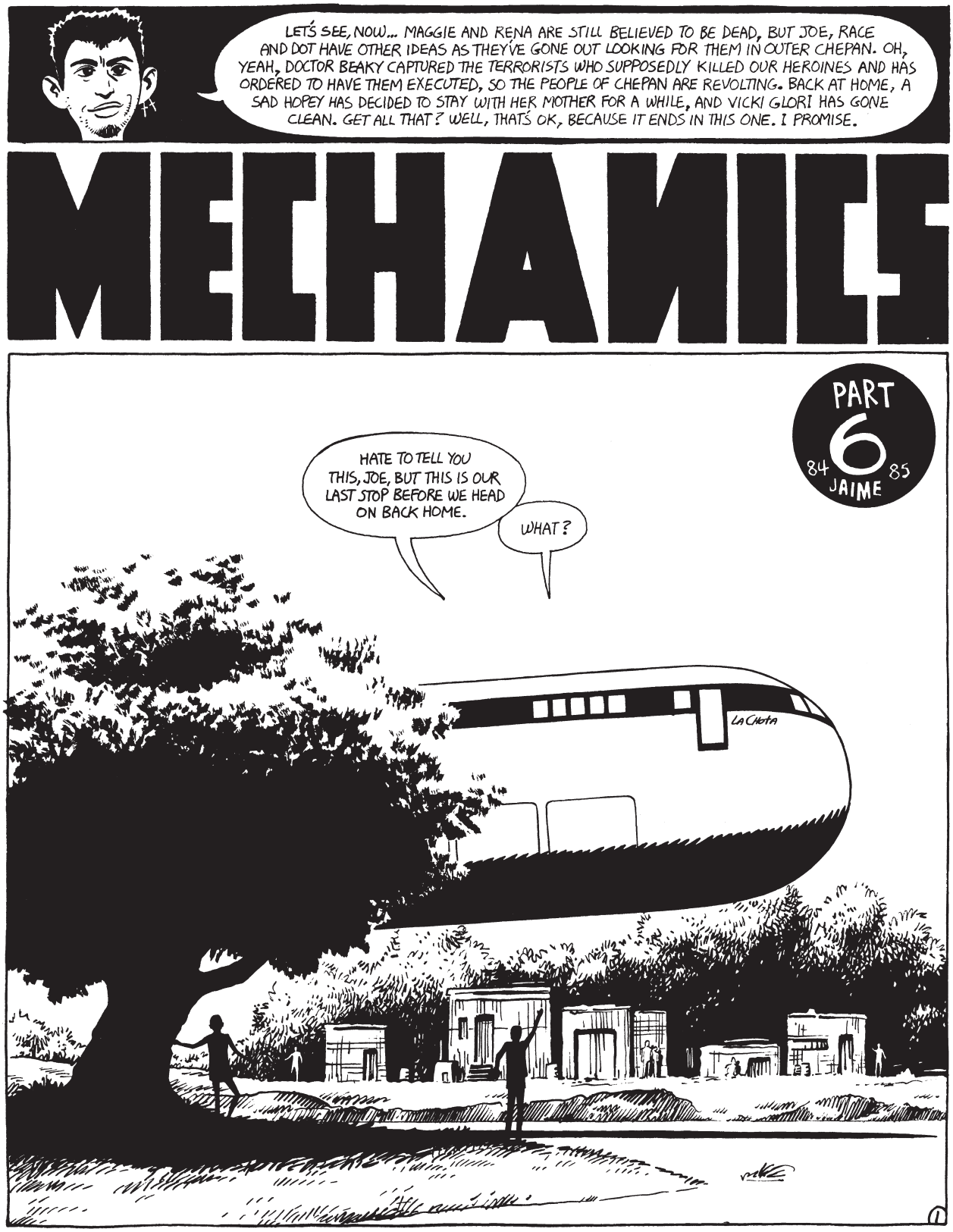
HEY, RENA! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE TRADE I MADE FOR MY SHIRT AND PANTS? NEAT, HUH?
VERY NICE, MARGARET, BUT WE BETTER BE OFF NOW. WE WANT TO BE AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE BY NIGHTFALL.
WHY? WE HAVE ALL THE WATER WE NEED RIGHT HERE. THESE PEOPLE SEEM SO NICE. MAYBE THEY'LL EVEN INVITE US TO THEIR VILLAGE FOR DINNER.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'D DO TO US WHEN WE GOT TO THEIR VILLAGE.
I DON'T GET IT. THEY SEEM FRIENDLY...
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING? THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO OCCUPIED THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY BEFORE "THE GOOD PEOPLE OF CHEPAN" CAME OVER AND FORCED THEM OUT TO LIVE IN THIS WILDERNESS.
12

THEY DON'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO THE WHITE SKIN AROUND HERE, KIDDO. THEY'D JUST AS SOON CUT YOUR WHITE COLORED BREASTS OFF BEFORE...
G'WAN!
OK! OK! YOU WANNA GO HAVE DINNER WITH 'EM? FINE! YOU GO ON AHEAD! ME, I'M GOING TO FIND MYSELF A NICE TREE TO SLEEP ON TOP OF! OK?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET NASTY ABOUT IT.
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, ANYWAY?
SAY! WHAT GOES ON DOWN THERE? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO SLEEP?
HOW CAN YOU SLEEP WHEN THE TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN FOUND...
...AND BEAKY'S GOING TO HAVE THEM EXECUTED!
WE MUST STOP HIM NOW!
LOOK, CARLOS! THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN THERE!
YEAH, JOE. THAT'S LUTHOR. C'MON, BOYS! WE'RE BREAKING FOR LUNCH!
SO, LUTHOR. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE LAST TIME WE STOPPED BY, EH?
STILL HANGIN' AROUND THE OL' TUNNELS. AND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I FOUND IN THERE THE OTHER DAY...
DON'T TELL ME... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, RIGHT, YOU HORNY OL' BASTARD?
LaCHATA

NO! TWO, COUNT 'EM, TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN! YEP...
HO HO! STILL THE OLD STORYTELLER, EH, LUTHOR?
!
HEY, YOU!!
YIIII!
!
!
SAY! WHAT'S THAT GUY DOING, MAN?
WAIT! IT'S OK...
I SWEAR I DIDN'T TOUCH 'EM! DON'T TAKE ME TO BEAKY! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE HIS GIRLS! HONEST!
WE'RE NOT WITH BEAKY! JUST TELL ME ABOUT THE WOMEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE! AS SOON AS THEY FOUND THEIR WAY OUT OF THE TUNNELS THEY TOOK OFF! I SWEAR I DIDN'T TOUCH 'EM! I-I TRIED TO, BUT SHE SLUGGED ME! I SWEAR IT! WOTTA PUNCH...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?! THEY'RE ALIVE! JOE WAS RIGHT! THEY'RE ACTUALLY ALIVE!
THAT'S WHAT THE MAN SAID, HE DID!
MMMMMM...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU WERE RIGHT, JOE! YOU WERE RIGHT!
WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK NOW, BOY!
OH, CHRIST...
* WHISTLED TO THE TUNE OF SUKIYAKI — BY KYU SAKAMOTO
14

I STILL THINK SLEEPING IN A TREE IS PRETTY SILLY. WILD ANIMALS, MY...
AAAA!
WHAT THE...
VERY FUNNY, MARGARET. YOU'LL WOW 'EM ON THE MOON.
NO, NO! THAT SHADOW SCARED ME! THAT... RENA! LOOK!
ITS A RESCUE SHIP!
A CARGO SHIP MORE LIKE IT. I WONDER WHAT ITS DOING OUT HERE.
WHO CARES WHY ITS HERE! ITS HERE! C'MON, RENA! ITS NOT MOVING VERY FAST! MAYBE WE CAN CATCH IT!
I'M COMING, MARGARET! OOF...
HURRY, DUKE! WE CAN JUST MAKE THE FREIGHT!
I'M (PUFF) TRYING! HOW DO YOU (GASP) DO IT, RENA?
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? IT ACTUALLY FIT THROUGH THE DOOR. THANKS, GUYS.
OOF! THATS OK! THANKS FOR HELPING ME PUT IT DOWN, HUH, JOEY?!
HEY, I TALKED TO MOM TODAY. SHE ASKED WHEN YOU WERE MOVING BACK HOME AGAIN.
HA! WITH THAT DICK BOYFRIEND OF HERS AND THOSE SPOILED BRATS OF HIS? DID YOU TELL HER WHEN IZZY WEARS A BATHING SUIT TO THE BEACH?
15

HEH... YEAH... WELL, WE GOTTA GET GOING NOW...
HEY!
WAIT! THERE'S SOME BEER IN THE REFRIGERATOR. YOU WANNA WATCH TV OR SOMETHING?
UH, NO. WE BETTER GO. MAYBE YOU SHOULD REST OR SOMETHING. THANKS ANYWAY.
OK... SEE YA.
HEY! I WANTED A BEER, MAN!
550
BUT YOU HATE YOUR MOTHER, HOPEY! I DON'T GET IT! AND YOUR HAIR...
DAFFY. I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO LIVE THERE FOR GOOD. I HAVEN'T LOST ALL MY MARBLES... YET. BUT I DO NEED A VACATION FROM THIS CRAZED TOWN AND IT'S INHABITANTS. AT LEAST MY MOM'S BEEN NUTS ALL HER LIFE. NOT JUST RECENTLY...
DON'T LET YOUR MOTHER'S NEW BOY-FRIEND RAPE YOU, EH, HOPITA?
(SNIFF) I WISH MAGGIE WAS HERE AND EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO NORMAL.
SO DO I. THEN MAYBE EVERYBODY WOULD STOP ACTING SO SERIOUS.
TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE


LET'S SEE, NOW... MAGGIE AND RENA ARE STILL BELIEVED TO BE DEAD, BUT JOE, RACE AND DOT HAVE OTHER IDEAS AS THEY'VE GONE OUT LOOKING FOR THEM IN OUTER CHEPAN. OH, YEAH, DOCTOR BEAKY CAPTURED THE TERRORISTS WHO SUPPOSEDLY KILLED OUR HEROINES AND HAS ORDERED TO HAVE THEM EXECUTED, SO THE PEOPLE OF CHEPAN ARE REVOLTING. BACK AT HOME, A SAD HOPEY HAS DECIDED TO STAY WITH HER MOTHER FOR A WHILE, AND VICKI GLORI HAS GONE CLEAN. GET ALL THAT? WELL, THAT'S OK, BECAUSE IT ENDS IN THIS ONE. I PROMISE.
MECHANICS
PART 6
84 JAIME 85
HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, JOE, BUT THIS IS OUR LAST STOP BEFORE WE HEAD ON BACK HOME.
WHAT?
La Chota

BUT, CARLOS! WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE LOST WOMEN YET. COULDN'T WE GO JUST A LITTLE FURTHER?
I'M SORRY, JOE. I ALREADY HAVE MY NECK ON THE LINE JUST BRINGING YOU THIS FAR.
BESIDES, I'M GETTING REAL TIRED OF LOOKING FOR A COUPLE OF DEAD BROADS!
HEY, NOW WAIT A MINUTE, BUDDY...
NO! YOU WAIT A MINUTE, BUDDY...
RACE! WATCH OUT!
WELL, WELL... I GUESS BY NOW PEOPLE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I'M DEAD, EH?
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, FIGURE IT OUT, MARGARET. IT'S BEEN, WHAT, THREE OR FOUR DAYS SINCE THAT WAREHOUSE INCIDENT. I'M SURE WE MUST BE CORPSES IN THEIR MINDS BY NOW...
BUT... I MEAN... HOPEY... MY MOM... RACE... THEY ALL... OH, MY GOD...
NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAYBE THEY HAVE A PHONE SOMEWHERE... OH, GEE...

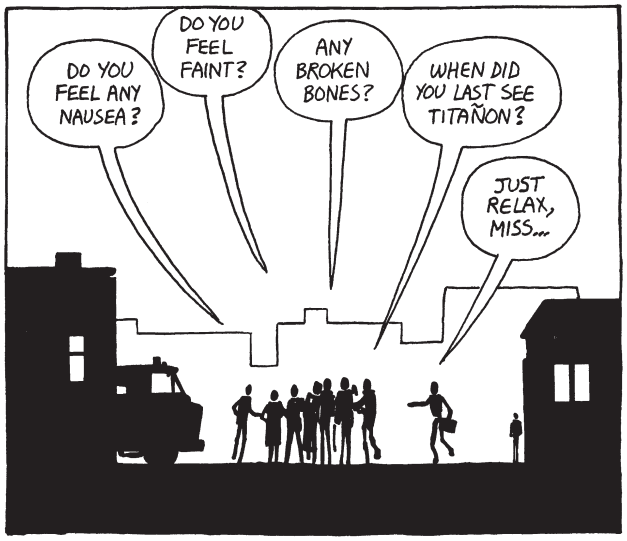
AW, C'MON, MONICA! DON'T LEAVE! WE CAN PRACTICE WITHOUT A BASS TILL HOPEY GETS HERE.
HOPEY'S NOT COMING, ZERO. SHE WENT TO STAY AT HER MOM'S FOR A FEW DAYS.
THE POOR THING. SHE EVEN DYED HER HAIR BACK TO BLACK FOR THE VISIT...
REALLY? THAT'S NOT LIKE HER. WHEN SHE USED TO VISIT HER MOM SHE'D USUALLY GET EIGHT MOHAWKS OR CARVE HIEROGLYPHICS IN HER HEAD JUST TO PISS HER OFF.
I DON'T GET IT, EITHER, TERRY. I GUESS MAGGIE'S DEATH AFFECTED HER MORE THAN EVEN SHE THOUGHT.
YOU CHICKS ARE NUTS! C'MON! WE CAN PRACTICE WITHOUT A BASS!
...THE WINNAH AND STILL CHAMPEEN... VICKI GLORI!
LISTEN TO THIS... VICKI ACTUALLY CHANGED THE "VICIOUS" IN HER NAME TO "VIVACIOUS" AND EVEN GAVE UP THE NOTORIOUS ATOMIC PILEDRIVER!
¡ES MUY INCREÍBLE!
THA'S NOTHIN'! SHE EVEN TURNED ON ME, HER PARTNER LAST WEEK AS I WAS STRANGLING ANGEL SWABODA!
WRESTLING NEWS
WOW!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU WENT TOO FAR, BUDDY! NOW YOU'RE GONNA DIE!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE BEING HIT FROM BEHIND, BUSTER!
HEY, BITCH!
3

HEY! WHO'S DRIVING THIS THING?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE!
OH, SHIT...
CRUNCH!
HEY! C'MON, GUYS! ENOUGH ALREADY!
OOF!
OW!
OK, THAT DOES IT! NOW I'M REALLY MAD... OOF!
OH OH.
OH OH.
DAMN IT, RACE! COULDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO ME? DON'T YOU TRUST ME? I HAD MEN SEARCHING FOR THE WOMEN ALL ALONG.
HAVE YOU FOUND THEM YET, DOCTOR BEAKY?
4

WELL, NO, BUT BY THE CLUES YOU'VE GIVEN ME, MY BOYS SHOULD FIND THEM WELL BEFORE MORNING. I PROMISE...
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MY BABIES AND I MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE. THE PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL. IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME NOW...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELEASE THE TERRORISTS?
WELL, HEH... I CAN'T. YOU SEE, THEY WERE EXECUTED THIS MORNING...
HALP!!
JOE! NO! STOP!
HEY!
THAT'S ENOUGH, BABIES.
KRAK
YEOW!
OOF!
BLAMM!
WHUN
TINKLE!
I'M SORRY, RACE! I MUST LEAVE NOW!
WHOOP WHOOP!
JOE! WE BETTER SPLIT, TOO! THERE'S GONNA BE A LOT OF BLOOD!
NO! YOU GO!
THIS IS MY HOME, REMEMBER? MY LIFE. I HAVE TO STAY AND FIGHT FOR THE HOMELAND.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, JOE.
WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU. AND DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND THOSE LOST WOMEN.
5

PHONE? TELEPHONE? CALL?
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL YOU HE HAS NO PHONE, MARGARET.
SHIT! WHAT'LL I DO NOW?
JUST RELAX A BIT, GIRL. WE'LL GET YOU HOME TO YOUR HOPEY AND YOUR MOMMY REAL SOON...
〈HEY, YOU! GET UP FROM THERE!〉
〈YOU TRAMPS CAN'T SIT THERE! I RUN A CLEAN PUB HERE!〉
YEAH, YEAH! GO AHEAD, CALL A COP. JUST TAKE YOUR TIME, EH? I NEED AT LEAST EIGHTY HOURS OF SLEEP...
RENA. I THINK HE MEANS IT.
WELL, GOOD. THE COTS IN JAIL HAVE GOTTA BE MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THESE THINGS...
FIFTY SAYS THOSE LOST WOMEN ARE ROTTING DEAD IN THOSE FUCKING SEWERS.
YOU'RE ON. WE'LL BE BACK. THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON IN THAT BAR.
TAKE IT EASY, GRAMPS. CAN'T YOUR LOCAL POLICE HANDLE THIS?
LA TOYA XXX
6

OK, WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
HUH! EMPTY. MUSTA HEARD US COMING AND SPLIT OUT THE BACK WAY.
GET BACK HERE.
THOSE SOLDIERS SEEM TO BE SEARCHING FOR US, MARGARET.
THEN SHOULDN'T WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO THEM?
WELL, SORT OF. YOU'RE GOING TO SURRENDER YOURSELF. ME, I'M GOING THAT-A-WAY.
B-BUT, WHY? I MEAN, WE'RE SAVED...
DON'T YOU SEE, MARGARET? THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED. I ACTUALLY ENJOY BEING DEAD. I HAVEN'T FELT THIS FREE IN YEARS. NOW I'LL HAVE TIME TO TAKE OFF THIS LARD. I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE TRIPS LIKE THESE CARRYING ALL THIS EXCESS BAGGAGE. OLD AGE... HMF!
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESERVE A CIGAR FOR THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF. YOU ACTED LIKE A REAL PRO. YOU SHOULD BE REAL PROUD.
BUT, RENA... I NEVER COULD'VE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOU... I CAN'T...
WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS WALK UP TO THOSE SOLDIERS AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THEM. WELL, GO ON...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN, RENA. I...
LA TORRE
YOU CAN DO IT, MARGARET. YOU'RE A BIG GIRL NOW. REMEMBER THAT...
BUT, RENA... RENA!
SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS, KIDDO!
RENA! COME BACK HERE, DAMN YOU!
RENA!
7



RACE,

IN CASE YOU WERE WORRYING ABOUT ME, I'M FINE. I RAN INTO A LITTLE TROUBLE (YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT) AND I COULDN'T CONTACT YOU TILL NOW. I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I WON'T BE COMING BACK TO WORK FOR YOU AGAIN. IF I'M ALREADY FIRED, I UNDERSTAND. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T TELL YOU IN PERSON, BUT THEY'RE FLYING ME HOME TONIGHT FROM APEL AIRFORCE BASE.

AGAIN, I'M SORRY IF I'VE CAUSED ANY TROUBLE. IT WAS REALLY NICE WORKING FOR YOU, AND PLEASE SAY BYE TO DUKE AND YAX FOR ME AND ANYONE ELSE I FORGOT, OK?

LOVE,
MAGGIE

HERV! WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU ACTUALLY...
YES, PENELOPE. I'M GOING TO BUY CHEPAN FROM DOCTOR BEAKY.
YES, I THINK IT'S A GREAT INVESTMENT, AND THE MAN IS PRACTICALLY GIVING IT TO ME, SO I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO. TUT TUT! LET ME FINISH...
TAP TAP
BEFORE YOU CLOBBER ME BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M A COLD HEARTED GHOUL, I THINK YOU'LL BE THRILLED TO HEAR THAT YOUR MECHANIC FRIEND FROM CHEPAN HAS BEEN FOUND ALIVE AND WELL...
HERV, OH HERV! I ALWAYS FELT DEEP DOWN INSIDE... OH, MY BABY IS ALIVE!
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY, HM?
WELL, NATURALLY, I... HUH?
HE'S A VERY CLOSE FRIEND, ISN'T HE? WHAT IS HE, SOME HIGH SCHOOL FLAME, OR WHAT?
NOT THE HORNS! PLEASE, PENNY! NOT THE HORNS!
DAMN IT! I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE JEALOUS! JEEZ...
THIS "HIGH SCHOOL FLAME" JUST HAPPENS TO BE A GIRLFRIEND OF MINE FROM BACK HOME! MY FRIEND MAGGIE, HERV! MY GOOD FRIEND!
HOW YOU EVER GOT TO BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE IS BEYOND ME. EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GET HOME RIGHT AWAY.
FAN CLUB
9

LOOK, YOU IGNORANT ASSHOLE! SEE THIS PRESSCARD? THAT MEANS I CAN GO OUT THERE WITH ALL THOSE OTHER PEOPLE WITH PRESS CARDS! GET IT?
I'M SORRY. IT IS OUT OF MY HANDS. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK THAT MAN OVER THERE.
HEY, YOU! C'MERE!
HE'S NOT HERE. I WAS HOPING MAYBE... SHOOT...
LOUDER INTO THE MIKE, PLEASE, MS. CHASCARRILLO. YOU'RE ON THE AIR...
WHAT ABOUT RENA TITAÑON, MS. CHASCARRILLO, PLEASE...
AS I TOLD THOSE ARMY GUYS, RENA AND I SPLIT UP HOURS BEFORE I ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE. SO, THERE! I GOTTA GET ON MY PLANE NOW, OK? I WANNA GO HOME...
WHERE'D SHE GO, DOT? I DON'T SEE HER! WHERE'S MAGGIE?
MAYBE SHE'S ALREADY BOARDED HER PLANE.
THE GIRL ON THE NEWS? SHE ALREADY BOARDED. YEAH, THERE GOES HER PLANE NOW.
10

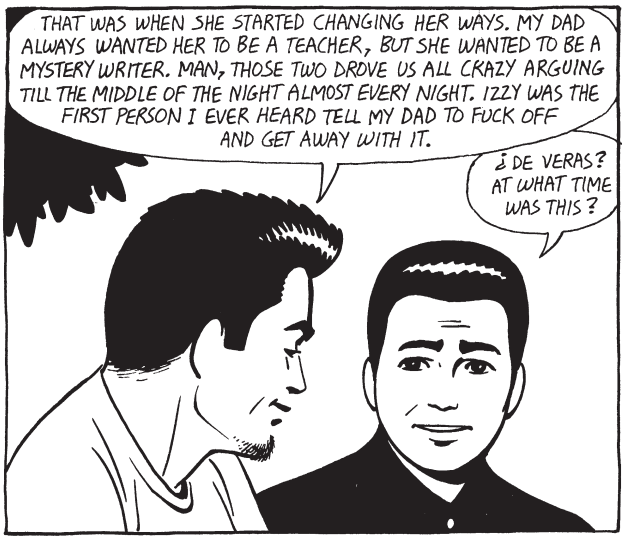
...THERE'S MORE TROUBLE IN CHEPAN. HR COSTIGAN SAYS HE'S STILL INTERESTED IN BUYING THE ISLAND, BUT LOCALS WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ISLAND SAY THEY WANT IT FOR FREE, SINCE IT IS THEIR HOME AFTER ALL. WE'RE ALL STILL WAITING FOR A WORD FROM DOCTOR BEAKY...
MY WORD??
HA HA HA HA HA HA
LET 'EM SWEAT! ESPECIALLY YOU, COSTIGAN!
HEH... YES, MY LITTLE MACHI AND MY LITTLE CHINESS... THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HURT US ANY MORE. LET THEM CUT EACH OTHER'S THROATS... LEAVE US BE, HM?
WHAT DO YOU BABIES THINK OF ALL THIS? YOU NEVER SPEAK. YOU'RE SO INNOCENT, SO NAIVE ABOUT THIS CRAZY, SCREWED UP WORLD. ALL YOU EVER WANT TO DO IS PROTECT AND COMFORT YOUR DADDY...
THAT'S WHY I LOVE MY LITTLE... BABIES... I...
M-MY THROAT! AGHH! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, YOU LITTLE MONSTER?! I'LL KILL YOU!
YAGHHHH!
YAGHHHHHH
11

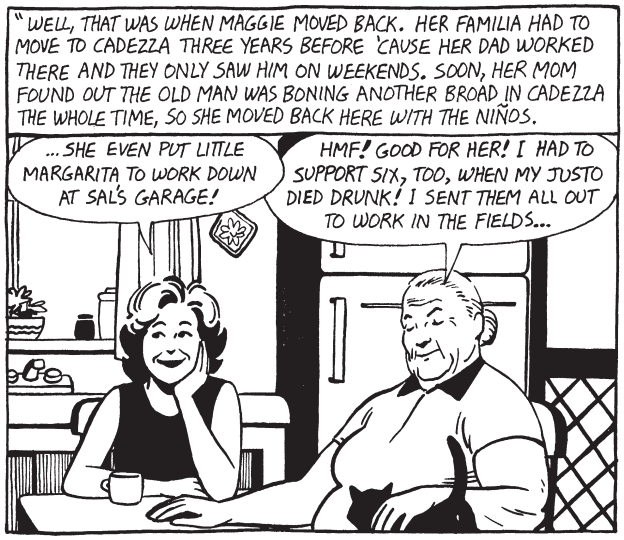
HI, IZZY! HI, DAFFY! I'M HOME! AND BOY, DO I HAVE A STORY TO TELL YOU! THE ABSOLUTE WORST...
HOPEY! WE'VE BEEN WAITING AND WAITING...
OK, I'LL IGNORE THE FACT THAT AS SOON AS I GOT TO MY MOM'S HOUSE, SHE CALLS ME A GUTTER SLUT! AND I'LL ALSO IGNORE THAT THOSE BRATS OF HER BOYFRIEND'S HAVE BECOME HEAD BANGING PARTY GLADIATORS AND THOUGHT MY HAIRCUT WAS "RAD"...
HOPEY! WE...
...BUT I WILL NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT WHILE WE WERE ALONE IN THE HOUSE, THAT FUCKING GHOUL OF A BOYFRIEND ACTUALLY TRIED TO FUCKING RAPE ME! I SHIT YOU NOT! MY MOM'S BOYFRIEND...
OH, MY...
HOPEEE!!
AND IF THAT DON'T BEAT ALL, WHEN I RAT ON THE GUY (WHO NATURALLY PLAYS DUMB) MY SCREWBALL MOM ACTUALLY TAKES HIS SIDE OF THE STORY! THEN I KNEW IT WAS TIME TO DISOWN THE SNIVELING CUNT AND COME HOME! WOTTA PAIR! OOH... I SHOULD GO BACK AND SHOOT HIS BALLS OFF! THEN HER TITS... DAFFY!?!?
MAGGIE'S OK!
HUH? WHAT...?
IT'S TRUE, HOPE. OUR BABY IS COMING HOME.
LAS MUJERES PERDIDAS
THE LOST WOMEN
BY JAIME 83-84
READ HEARTBREA SOU
THE END

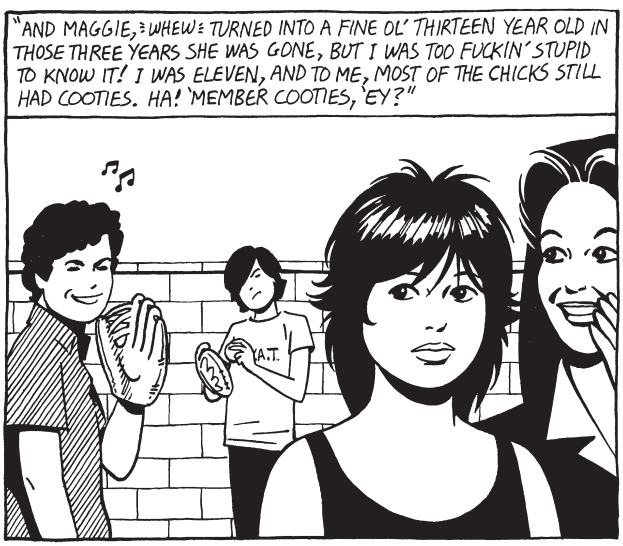
RAD - RADICAL

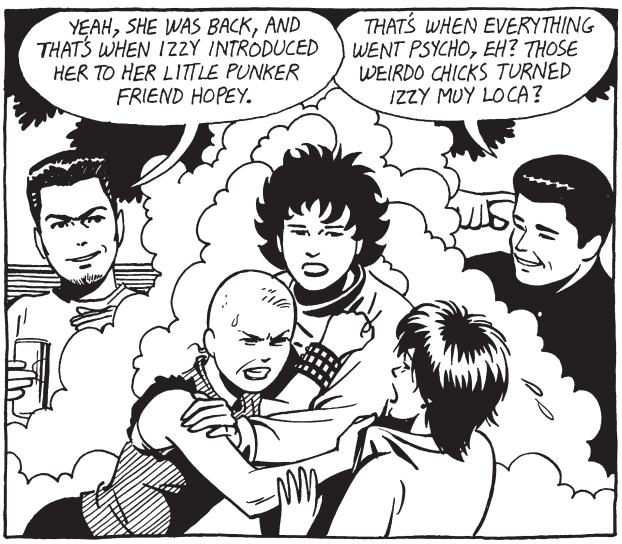
HEY, THANKS FOR BUYING US BEER, IZZY! I'LL TELL THE FAMILY YOU SAID HI, EH?
YEAH, SURE. JUST DON'T LEAVE YOUR EMPTIES ON MY LAWN, HUH?
1242
SOLD
REALTY
R19-1234
Locos
POR JAIME LOCO DE SCXCH '84
OYE, SPEEDY. IS YOUR SISTER OK? I MEAN...
YOU MEAN BESIDES LOOKING LIKE NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD?
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, MAN! IS SHE LIKE, YOU KNOW, SICK, OR WHAT?
NAW, SHE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE THAT, SICK OR NOT! SOMETIMES IT'S EMBARRASSING TELLING PEOPLE SHE'S MI HERMANA, 'EY!
HERMANA/SISTER

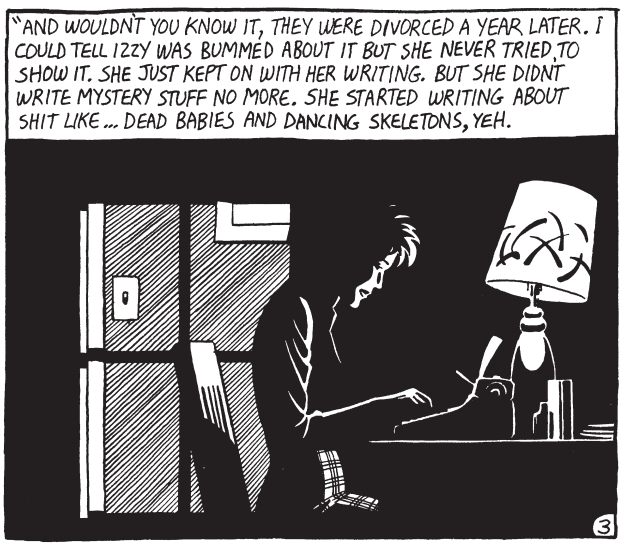
GABACHA/WHITE GIRL MAS CHIQUITOS/VERY YOUNG CHILDREN HUERA/LIGHT SKINNED GIRL CHUCAS/MEX. AMER. GIRLS TAMBIEN/ALSO











¿DE VERAS?/REALLY? NIÑOS/CHILDREN

"SHE WROTE UNDER HER MARRIED NAME ISABEL RUEBENS, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SHE EVEN GOT SOME OF THAT SHIT PUBLISHED, 'EY. THEN SHE WENT TO MEXICO. WE ONLY GOT ONE POSTCARD FROM HER, SO WE FIGGERED SHE MIGHT NOT COME BACK AT ALL. BUT WE SAW HER AT MY DAD'S WAKE, AND SHE SCARED THE FUCKING SHIT OUT OF EVERYBODY THERE!

SO, (KAFF) WHAT DOES OUR SHAMEFUL (KAFF) DAUGHTER HAVE TO SAY, WOMAN?

TO JUANA ORTIZ

MOM, I'LL COME HOME WHEN YOU RID OF THE VERMIN —TILL THEN, I LOVE YOU AND THE KIDS, IZ

"SHE LOOKED HALF DEAD, AND STARTED DRESSING LIKE A BORRACHO, LIKE SHE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT NOTHING NO MORE. BEFORE MEXICO SHE WOULDA NEVER GONE OUT IN A TORE UP ROBE AN' SLIPPERS, NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GOT!"

"YOU THINK MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED IN MEXICO, 'EY?"

BUFFIES SWEET CEREAL

VATO GOLD

"I DUNNO, MAYBE. 'CAUSE NOW SHE'S MUY TRASTORNADO! SHE TAKES WALKS AROUND THE BARRIO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, AND SCARES ALL THE NEIGHBORS TO HELL. IT'S LIKE, SHE'S UNA VAMPIRA OR SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?

"NOW ALL THE KIDS AROUND HERE CALL HER THE WITCH LADY. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE TOO FAR FROM THE TRUTH, EITHER. IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW?"

HA HA! SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE ABOUT WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, PEDRO LIBRE?

HEY, I'LL KILL ANYBODY WHO MESSES WITH MY FAMILY! ESPECIALLY WITH MY SISTER...

...'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, I FEEL KINDA SORRY FOR HER. I DUNNO...

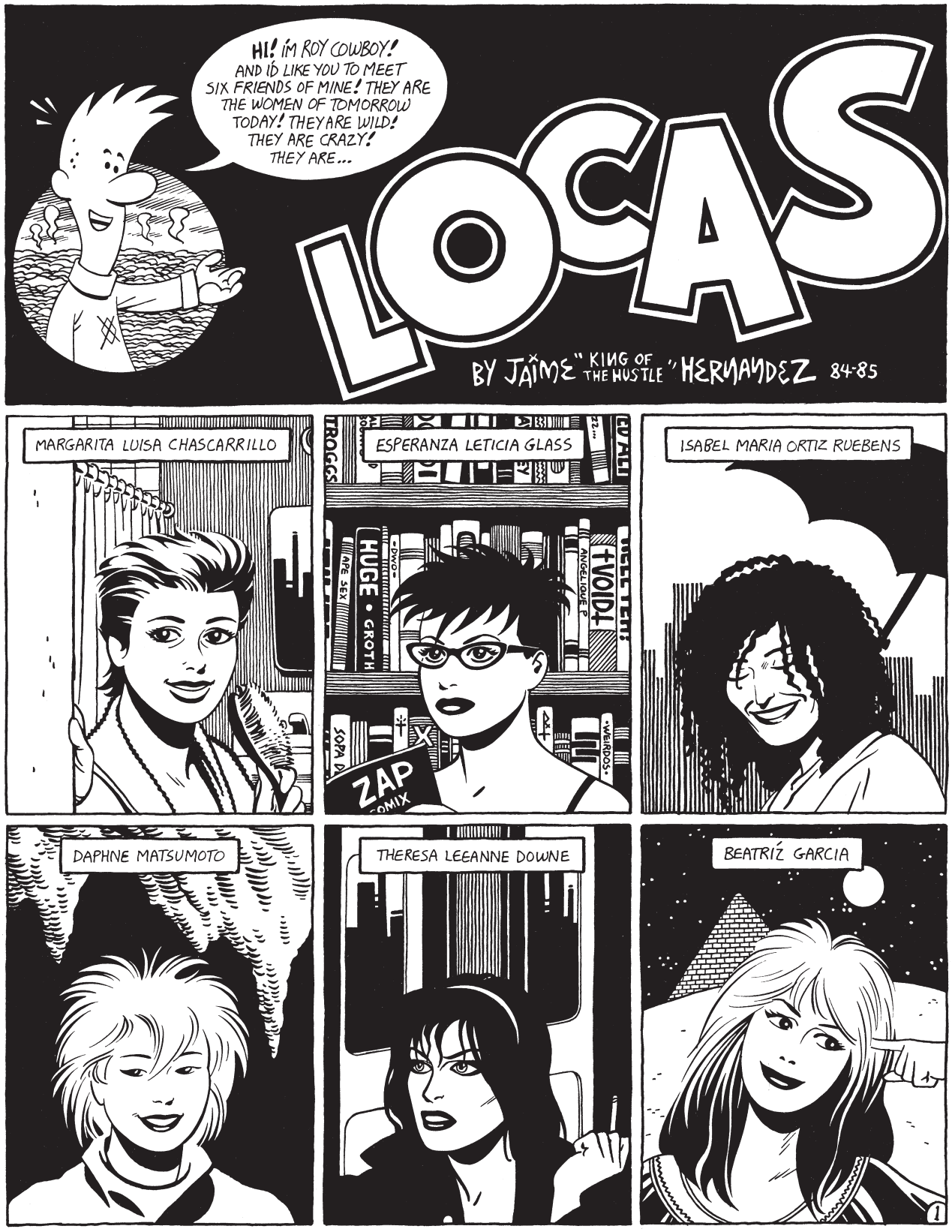
END

BORRACHO/DRUNKARD TRASTORNADO/CRAZY, DISTURBING PEDRO LIBRE/LIBERATED

YOUNG LOCAS
BY JAIME "HIT MAN" HERNANDEZ 85
POOR MAGGIE WAS REALLY HATING LIFE AT THE AGE OF THIRTEEN. SHE WAS SCARED TO DEATH OF BOYS. ESPECIALLY THE OLDER ONES WHO WERE JUST ITCHING TO GET INTO HER PANTS. THINGS WEREN'T TOO COOL WITH HER FAMILY EITHER. HER MOTHER AND THE KIDS MOVED OUT OF TOWN BUT LEFT MAGGIE TO LIVE WITH HER AUNT VICKI, SO SHE COULD STILL WORK DOWN AT SAL'S GARAGE (WHICH SHE HATED DOING BECAUSE IT WAS TAKING UP SO MUCH OF HER TIME). THEN, ONE RAINY AFTERNOON IN BARRIO HUERTA, HOPPERS 13...
YOU NEVER HANG OUT ANY MORE, MAGGIE. EVERYBODY THINKS YOU DON'T LIKE 'EM ANY MORE.
IT'S NOT THAT! IT'S JUST THAT AFTER SCHOOL I GOTTA GO STRAIGHT TO WORK, THEN STRAIGHT HOME TO DO HOME-WORK!
WELL, YOU'VE MISSED A LOT OF GOOD PARTIES LATELY. I'M GOING OUT WITH ROBERT NOW.
AND I'M GOING OUT WITH A WRENCH.
A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY YOU SHOULD QUIT. THEY THINK YOU'RE KIND OF WEIRD. YOU KNOW, A GIRL MECHANIC...
THEY SAY THAT? GUY...
DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO 'EM. WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WAY BETTER THAN BABYSITTING, I BET.
MAYBE I'LL QUIT NEXT WEEK. MAYBE TODAY... I DUNNO. I'M GOING THERE RIGHT NOW. BYE, LETTY.
CHAVEZ

POOR LITTLE MAGGIE.
ALREADY AN OUTCAST AT THE TENDER AGE OF THIRTEEN.
SHE COULD HAVE KEPT ON BEING A MECHANIC, WHICH WASN'T REALLY SO BAD BECAUSE LEARNING TO FIX THINGS WAS KIND OF EXCITING TO HER.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, SHE WAS LOSING A LOT OF FRIENDS.
NO, HER FRIENDS CAME FIRST.
IT WAS TIME TO QUIT.
BUT THEN THERE WERE HARVEY AND LOUIS DOWN AT THE GARAGE. NOW, THESE WERE SWELL GUYS. THEY TAUGHT MARGARITA ALL THEY KNEW ABOUT FIXING THINGS.
BY THE WAY, IT WAS LOUIS WHO GAVE YOUNG MARGARITA HER MORE POPULAR MONIKER.
=BH=
Louis
HEY, MAGGIE, YOU LITTLE SWEET THING.
HI, LOUIS. WHERE'S HARVEY? I GOTTA TALK TO HIM.
SOMEBODY CALL MY NAME? MAGGIE! I BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU!
I GOTTA TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, HARVEY.
NOT TILL I SHOW YOU SOMETHIN' OUT BACK. I'LL BET YOU THINK BY NOW YOU IS PURTY GOOD AT FIXIN' CARS AN' TOASTERS AN' TV'S AN' THINGS...
HOW'D YA LIKE TO HANDLE ONE OF THEM SUCKERS?
FOOTAH...
Cormen
SOME FOREIGN DUDE LEFT IT HERE TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT. WHADDAYA THINK, GIRL? THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT?
UH... SURE! SURE WE COULD! YEAH!
2

I FIGURED YOU WERE PURTY BORED WITH CARS BY NOW, AN' I KNEW THIS WAS JUS' THE THING FOR YOU. I COULD ALWAYS TELL IT WAS IN YOU...
WHAT WAS?
YOU GOT THAT DRIVE TO BE UP THERE WITH THE PRO MECHS! I JUS' KNOW ONE O' THESE DAYS YOU IS GONNA BE UP THERE WITH THE LIKES OF THE LATE GREAT SCRATCHY JONES, DUKE MORALES, PLYMOUTH BLAKE, AN' THAT NEW KID. I CAN NEVER REMEMBER HIS NAME...
GEE...
OH, YEAH. YOU WAS GONNA TELL ME SOMETHIN' MAGGIE?
YEAH. UH...WHEN DO WE GET STARTED?
SAL'S GARAGE
...IT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I'D EVER SEEN! I'VE SEEN 'EM IN PICTURES BUT I NEVER DREAMED I'D ACTUALLY GET TO WORK ON ONE IN PERSON!
THAT MUST BE REALLY SOMETHING, MIJA. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP YOUR JOB THEN?
WELL, SURE! 'CAUSE ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GONNA BE A PRO... PROS... PROMO... I'M GONNA BE A FAMOUS MECHANIC AND TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD FIXING ROCKET SHIPS, ROBOTS AN' MAYBE EVEN PLUMBING.
HA! DREAM ON, KIDDO.
HUGO
OH! I GOTTA GO TELL LETTY! AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T THINK I'M NUTSO FOR DOING ALL THIS. BYE, ISABEL!
SEE YOU LATER, MIJA.
BUT MAGGIE WOULD NEVER SEE HER BEST FRIEND EVER AGAIN. LETTY WAS KILLED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT SHORTLY AFTER HER EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH MAGGIE.
THIS WOULD SURELY BRING A BIG CHANGE IN MAGGIE'S LIFE. AND LITTLE DID EVERY-ONE KNOW, THE WORST WAS YET TO COME.
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
END


HI! ÍM ROY COWBOY! AND ÍD LIKE YOU TO MEET SIX FRIENDS OF MINE! THEY ARE THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW TODAY! THEY ARE WILD! THEY ARE CRAZY! THEY ARE...
LOCAS
BY JAÍME "KING OF THE HUSTLE" HERNANDEZ 84-85
MARGARITA LUISA CHASCARRILLO
ESPERANZA LETICIA GLASS
HUGE • GROTH
+VOID+
ZAP COMIX
ISABEL MARIA ORTIZ RUEBENS
DAPHNE MATSUMOTO
THERESA LEEANNE DOWNE
BEATRÍZ GARCIA

MAGPIE!
WHAZZAT? OH, KA KA...
RRIPPPPPPP
best of the
FOR SHAME, MAGGOT. THAT'S THE THIRD PAIR YOU'VE DESTROYED IN THE PAST MONTH. YOU BETTER STOP EATING ALL THEM TACOS.
I KNOW, BUT WHEN I GET DEPRESSED, I EAT. MY LAST GOOD PAIR, TOO. SHOOT...
SAINT
APE SEX APR 18
YOU GET ANY MORE DEPRESSED AND YOU'LL START FLOATING AWAY. RELAX, MAG. LIFE'S NOT THAT TOUGH.
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK AT VANDY'S ON FRIDAY NIGHTS AFTER THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES. BLEHHH...
2

AND DON'T START BUGGING ME ABOUT RETURNING TO MY MECHANIC JOB, 'CAUSE I WON'T GO BACK AND THAT'S THAT!
TROGGS
I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF
OK OK, I JUST WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHING. CHECK IT OUT, I JUST GOT BACK FROM LITTLE TONY'S...
WOW! WHA'D YOU DO? ROB HIM? BEAT HIM UP?
NAW! THAT LITTLE FUCKER'S OWED ME FOR THE LONGEST TIME. WHERE'S IZZY? SHE STILL SLEEPING?
YEAH. SHE WAS UP ALL NIGHT AGAIN HOWLING AT THE MOON.
GOOD. I DON'T WANT HER TO KNOW I HAVE THIS. IT'S TIME ME AN' YOD HAD NEW CLOTHES!
I DUNNO, MAG. I KINDA THOUGHT THAT CRAZY DRESS WAS REALLY YOU.
HA HA! THAT DRESS WASN'T MADE WITH THOSE SIDE HOLES. I RIPPED IT TRYING IT ON! OINK! OINK!
THRIFT SHOP
OOH, LOOK! PUNKERS SHOPPING THE THRIFT STORES! THEY'RE SO COOL...
EAT SHIT AND DIE, FUCK NUTS!
ASSHOLES.
RAD MAMA
HEY, WASN'T THAT SELF-APPOINTED PUNK QUEEN, JULIE WREE? IN A FOUR BY?
YEAH, SHE'S A PHONEY LIKE ALL THOSE RICH WESTENDERS. BUT, THAT'S OK. ME AN' TERRY WILL KICK HER CANDY ASS WHEN OUR BAND PLAYS AT MADDOG'S FRIDAY NIGHT. HEY, YOU'LL FINALLY GET TO SEE US PLAY.

I HOPE YOU GO ON AFTER ELEVEN. REMEMBER, I WORK FRIDAY NIGHTS.
THEN, QUIT! YOU JUST GOTTA SEE US BEFORE WE BOOT MONICA. SHE'S A GAS TO WATCH PERFORM.
<AH, NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!>
TOCO'S
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT NOW, CHUCHO?
<WHAT'S MORE LIKE IT?>
<YOUR SKIRT! A WOMAN SHOULD ALWAYS WEAR A SKIRT OR A DRESS. YOU WON'T FIND A HUSBAND BY WEARING MEN'S CLOTHES.>
<SEE? LOOK AT YOU. LONELY AND REJECTED BECAUSE...>
SORRY, CHUCHO MAN! I DON'T LISTEN TO OLD SHIT EATING DRUNKS!
BE NICE.
IT'S OK, MAG. CHUCHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH. ONLY ESPAÑOL, RIGHT, CHUCHO YOU OLD PATHETIC HEAP?
NO, BUT HIS FRIENDS DO.
CHUCHO! MAGGIE'S REALLY WEARING A SKIRT BECAUSE SHE BLEW A HOLE IN HER...
<NEVER MIND!>
¿QUE DICE?
THIS IS PROBABLY THE WORST BURRITO I'VE EVER TASTED IN MY WHOLE LIFE.
OOH, LOOK. THERE GOES YOUR GOOD BUDDY, SERGEANT SADO.
MEXICAN FOOD
LOCO
THAT BUTT FUCK ASSHOLE SADO! WHEN I SAY RUN, MAG, YOU RUN, OK?
WHATCHA GONNA DO?
4

<SPANISH>

WHAT DO YOU THINK? RUN!
¡AI, DIOS MIO!
DID I HIT HIM? DID I HIT HIM?
SHEESH! ALMOST!
AKO
I STILL GOT ANOTHER BOTTLE! WAIT HERE...
HE'S GONE, HOPEY! CALM DOWN!
YOU'RE GONNA GET INTO REAL TROUBLE ONE OF THESE DAYS, YOU KNOW THAT?
WHY? JUST 'CAUSE I'M TRYING TO HAVE FUN IN THIS BORING, STUPID, FUCKED UP TOWN?
AT LEAST YOU GET TO TAKE TRIPS AROUND THE WORLD. I HAVE TO STAY HERE AND ROT WITH THE REST OF THESE CORPSES. IT'S DRIVING ME OUT OF MY UGLY FUCKING MIND, MAN!
JAKE'S SNACKS
HAMBONE FUNNIES
OH, NOW DON'T START POUTING, MAG. I WAS JUST KIDDING.
I WASN'T GONNA START POUTING.
YOU TWO!
DID YOU SEE THE DING DONG WHO HIT MY NEW CAR WITH A BOTTLE? HE'S GONNA PAY! NO ONE GETS AWAY WITH THAT!
NO HABLO INGLES, SEÑOR.
GOD DAMN WETBACK ILLITERATES.
<NICE SHOT, HOPE.>
<SOME SHOT. I MISSED HIS HEAD.>
5

WERE GONNA HAVE TO START FINDING A NEW PLACE TO LIVE, MAG. I DONT THINK IZZYS GONNA LET US STAY AT HER PLACE MUCH LONGER.
IF ONLY WE COULD AFFORD A PLACE.
CLOSED
LEO'S
MANDATE
COLT
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU'LL LIKE MY IDEA.
ANYTHING, AS LONG AS I DONT HAVE TO MOVE BACK TO MY MOM'S OR TIA VICKI'S.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT TERRY'S PLACE. FOR THE MEANTIME, ANYWAY.
OH. WELL... I DONT MIND IF SHE DOESNT.
SHE'S MOVED HER WAY UP FROM SPORTING GOODS TO COSMETICS. UPSTAIRS, ANYWAY.
Monty's
6

NOW, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS? I CAN'T TAKE IT LIKE THIS NOW, CAN I?
OF COURSE NOT, MA'AM. I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER CASE RIGHT AWAY.
Maxoli
HMF!
WHEW! MY BREAK COULDN'T COME AT A BETTER TIME. COME ON, LET'S GO DOWN TO THE CAFETERIA.
SHE THINKS THAT STUFF'S GONNA HELP?
SO, IZZY'S FINALLY KICKING YOU GUYS OUT FOR GOOD?
NOT YET. WE FIGURED WE'D STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF HER BOOT.
I DON'T KNOW, HOPE. PAUL'S BEEN LIVING AT MY PLACE FOR THE PAST WEEK AND IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO CROWDED FOR ALL OF US.
I MEAN, I COULD HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE, BUT WE COULDN'T LEAVE ANYONE OUT, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
LOUD AND CLEAR...
OK, TERRY. WE GET THE HINT.
MAN, WHAT A BITCH! WHY DOES SHE HATE ME SO DAMN MUCH?
CAN'TCHA SEE, MAG? YOU STOLE AWAY THE HEART OF HER FAVORITE GIRL FRIEND.
SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN STICKING UP HER ASS. IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'M SO GOD DAMN IRRESISTABLE.
I THINK MODEST IS THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
7

BUT, GUY... THINGS LIKE THIS JUST HAPPEN, Y'KNOW? IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT, REALLY. WHY'S SHE GOTTA CARRY SUCH A GRUDGE?
BE HAPPY SHE DOESN'T CARRY ONE AGAINST YOU LIKE PENNY DOES AGAINST RANDY RACE.
I KNOW. WHY DOESN'T PENNY JUST LEAVE RACE ALONE? SHE HATED HIS GUTS FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT USED HIM 'CAUSE HE'S A PROSOLAR MECHANIC, I BET.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEARD.
ACTUALLY, PENNY WAS REALLY CRAZY ABOUT HIM... TILL HE GOT HER PREGNANT THEN SPLIT ON HER.
OH, WHO TOLD YOU THAT LIE?
SUPER FREAK
PENNY TOLD ME HERSELF.
AND AS USUAL I'M ALWAYS, THE LAST TO HEAR... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! H R COSTIGAN PROBABLY DID THAT TO HER AND SHE BLAMED RACE!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? MAN, YOU'D DEFEND THAT GUY TO THE DEATH, NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'D STICK UP FOR STUCK UP TERRY IF SHE CUT YOUR EYES OUT!
AT LEAST SHE'S NOT JUST SOME MACHO FUCK I'M AFTER.
OH, ISN'T SHE? I CAN IMAGINE WHAT GOES ON WHILE I'M AWAY!
WELL, SHIT, MAG! WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHILE YOU'RE AWAY? LOCK MYSELF UP AND WAIT FOR YOU TO COME HOME? I'VE GOT A LIFE TO LIVE AND IT DOESN'T ONLY CENTER AROUND YOU! BUDDHA HELP ME IF IT DID!
I GOTTA GO TO WORK NOW.
8

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, MIJA. IF YOU DO MOVE OUT OF HERE, YOU AND HOPEY WON'T GET A PLACE TOGETHER? HOW COME? YOU GUYS BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN? HOW DID YOU DECIDE...
WELL, THIS IS SORTA MY IDEA. HOPEY DOESN'T KNOW YET...
SO, WHAT IS THIS MIRACLE THAT FINALLY SEPARATES THE DREADED TAG-TEAM OF TERROR AFTER THESE WILD, KILL CRAZED YEARS?
IT'S NO JOKE. I DUNNO... IT SEEMS LIKE EVER SINCE I GOT BACK FROM CHEPAN, HOPEY'S BEEN ACTING... WELL, DIFFERENT.
REALLY? IN WHAT WAY?
I DON'T THINK SHE LIKES... WANTS TO BE AROUND ME TOO MUCH ANY MORE. MAYBE IT'S ME, I DUNNO.
MAYBE IT IS YOU. MAYBE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN CHEPAN CAUSED YOU TO START SEEING THINGS IN A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. MAYBE THIS KIND OF LIFE DOESN'T RELATE TO YOU ANY MORE.
HUH? NO WAY! I LIKE YOU GUYS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!
WILDBOYS
HOPPER
IT'S JUST THAT HOPEY'S GONE REALLY LOCA LATELY. SHE'S DOING THE KINDS OF THINGS SHE DID WHEN I FIRST MET HER.
YOU KNOW, WHEN WE ALL HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT YOU WERE KILLED IN CHEPAN...
...THAT STORY REALLY KICKED OUR ASSES, BUT GOOD! ALL EXCEPT HOPEY. SHE TOOK IT REAL WELL. SHE NEVER CRIED OR LOST HER COOL. SHE FELT THAT LIFE SHOULD GO ON, EVEN WITHOUT YOU. BUT, STILL IT SCARED HER. SHE GOT A BAD CASE OF LONLINESS, EMPTINESS, AND WORST OF ALL... RESPONSIBILITY.
YOU KNOW, I THINK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HOPITA'S LIFE, SHE THOUGHT ABOUT THE NEXT DAY.
WELL, AT LEAST IT MADE HER THINK ABOUT OTHERS FOR ONCE. BUT, SOMEONE HAD TO DIE FIRST.
9

BUT WHEN WE FOUND OUT YOU WERE OK, I'LL NEVER FORGET THOSE TEARS POURING DOWN HOPEY'S FACE. SHE WANTED TO STRANGLE THAT FIRST NEWSWOMAN LIKE CRAZY! SHE EVEN WENT TO THE TV STATION AND ALMOST GOT HERSELF ARRESTED.
SO, YOU SEE WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY? I THINK HOPEY'S JUST REALLY EMBARRASSED BY THE WHOLE THING AND DOESN'T KNOW YET HOW TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH SHE REALLY APPRECIATES HAVING YOU BACK.
SHE DID THAT 'CAUSE OF ME, HUH?
SO, DON'T MOVE AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, MIJA. I THINK THIS IS A TIME WHERE YOU NEED EACH OTHER THE MOST.
YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT TO SAY, IZZY. NOW, I'M THE ONE THAT'S EMBARRASSED. WHAT DO I DO NOW?
WIDOWS HOPPERS =13=
WELL, I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT. I KNOW THAT ANY MINUTE NOW, WE'RE GOING TO HEAR A VERY LOUD...
HEY MAGGOT!
!
DAFFY'S GOT A BRAND SPANKING NEW 280 ZXYZ AND WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A RIDE TO WORK!
OK, I'LL BE RIGHT OUT.
OOTAH...
YOU'RE WELCOME, MARGARITA. NOW JUST GO TO WORK, EH?
OK. AND THANKS FOR LETTING US STILL LIVE WITH YOU IN THIS HOUSE. SO LONG, IZZY!
HEY! NOW, WAIT A MINUTE...
SLAM
END

I DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK! I HATE WORK! WORK HATES ME!
GOOD. THEN QUIT SO YOU CAN WATCH US PLAY TONIGHT.
MAGGIE MIJA? CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE DOCTOR BUT MY CAR WON'T START. COULD YOU BE A SWEETHEART AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DRIVE IT OFF A CLIFF AND PUT IT OUT OF OUR MISERY?
OH, IZZY! I'VE LOOKED AND LOOKED AT IT, AND HOPEY'S RIGHT! IT'S JUST NOT WORTH FIXING ALL THE TIME!
TELL YOU WHAT. YOU START IT, YOU CAN HAVE IT.
REALLY? SERIOUS? NO LIE?
EEK! JUST THINK, MAG! WE CAN FINALLY GO PLACES OUT OF TOWN WITHOUT THE BUS!
ON ONE CONDITION! YOU LET ME TAKE IT TO THE DOCTOR FOR ONE FINAL HURRAH.
DEAL!
I'LL GET YOUR TOOLS, MAG.
UGH! WHAT A MESS! HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THIS TANK, ISABEL?
I GOT IT TEN YEARS AGO FROM MY COUSIN CHEPA FOR SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.
HEY! YOU CAN SEE THROUGH TO THE STREET IN HERE! AIR CONDITIONING, HUH?

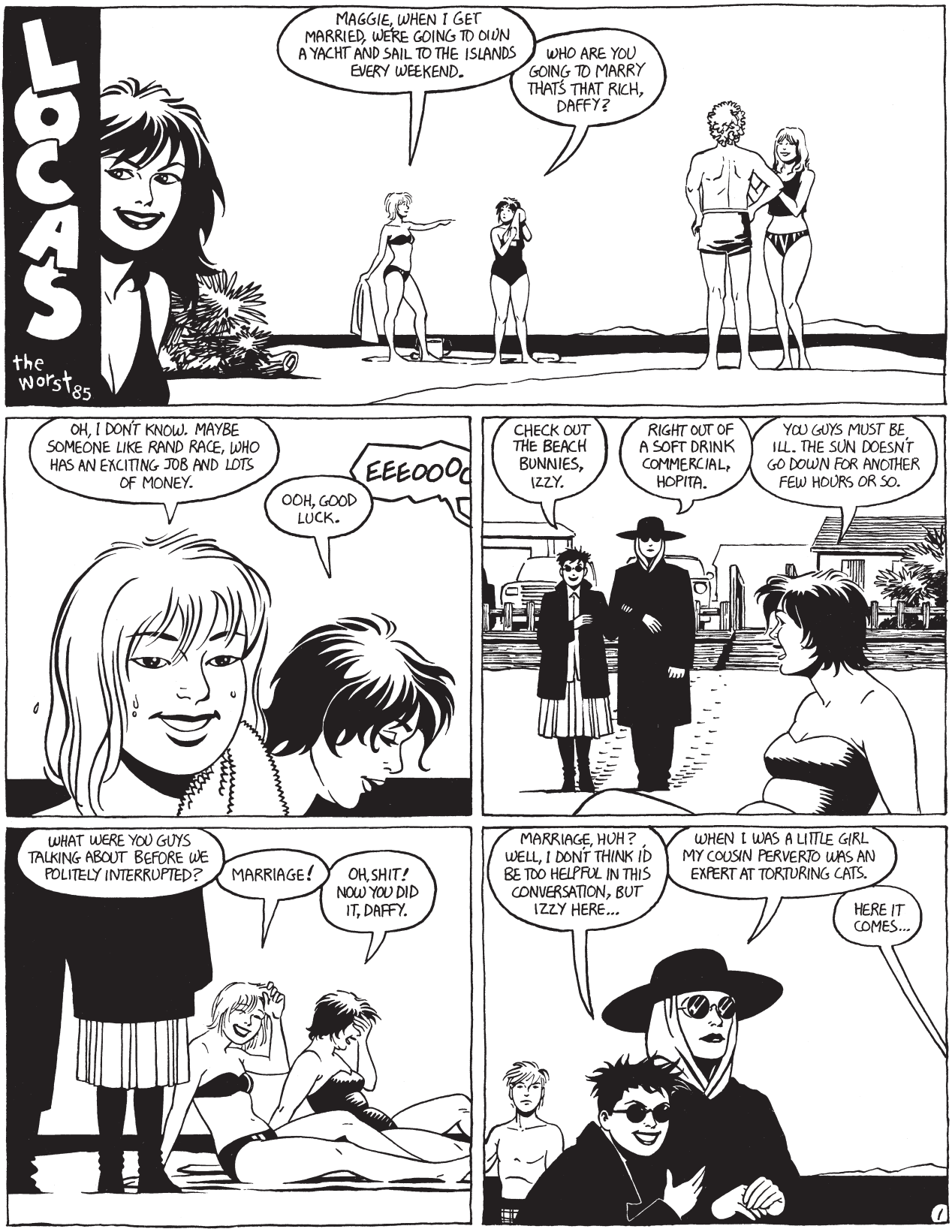
REMEMBER THOSE LONG TRIPS WE USED TO TAKE WITH THE TIRES DOWN TO THE THREADS? SIGH...
I THINK SHE'S GONNA CRY...
THERE, THAT SHOULD HOLD IT FOR AWHILE. TAKE HER AWAY, IZZY!
MOTT
¡GRACIAS, MIJA! I'LL BE BACK TO SIGN THE PINK SLIP OVER TO YOU!
IF YOU WANNA ADD ANOTHER NAME TO THAT SLIP, IT'S OK WITH ME!
OH, KA KA! I FORGOT ABOUT WORK! I BETTER HURRY!
Y'KNOW, MAG? AS I WATCHED YOU DANCE THROUGH THAT CAR WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOUR LIFE BELONGS IN MACHINES, NOT IN BURGERS.
DON'T START! I DON'T WANNA BE A PROSOLAR BANANA ANY MORE!
FUCK PROBONER MECHANDICKS! WHAT ABOUT SAL'S GARAGE? I'M SURE HARVEY AND LOUIS WOULD BE GLAD TO HIRE YOU BACK.
I DUNNO...
WELL, HOW ABOUT STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS? PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS BUGGING YOU TO FIX ONE THING OR ANOTHER FOR 'EM. YOU COULD START CHARGING 'EM.
I GOTTA GO TO WORK NOW.
TSK! IS THAT ALL YOU CAN EVER SAY?
IZZY! THAT WAS QUICK! DID THE DOCTOR SAY TO FORGET IT AND GIVE UP?
NO. YOU KNOW THAT BRICK WALL ON THE CORNER OF COOPER AND FIRST?
2

I SHOULD. THAT WAS MY FAVORITE WALL TO WRITE ON. ISNT THAT SPOOKY THE SMOKEY'S WALL?
YEAH, WELL, MAGGIE'S NEW CAR IS SITTING HALFWAY THROUGH IT RIGHT NOW. I GUESS I FORGOT TO TELL HER THE BRAKES NEEDED A LITTLE FIXING, TAMBIÉN.
OH, MY... ARE YOU OK?
I DUNNO. MY SHOULDER HURTS A LITTLE. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD CALL AND CANCEL MY DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT. IT'S TOO LATE TO GO NOW.
WHAT ABOUT THE CAR?
AH, IT'S OK! IT DOESNT LOOK ANY WORSE THAN IT DID BEFORE.
I MEAN, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
WELL, I WAS KINDA HOPING YOU WOULD HELP ME PICK IT UP BEFORE THE COPS DO.
CANT! IM EXPECTING TERRY ANY MINUTE NOW. WE GOTTA GET TO THE CLUB EARLY. THEY'RE ACTUALLY GIVING OUR BAND A SOUND CHECK TONIGHT.
HUH! THEY MUST THINK YOU'RE IMPROVING, EH?
BEE BEE
REMEMBER, YOU GOTTA GET THAT CAR BACK BEFORE MAGGIE GETS HOME.
DONT WORRY! I'LL JUST HAVE SPEEDY FETCH IT. I DONT EVEN WANT TO GO NEAR THAT DEATHTRAP!
BUT FIRST, A NAP...
IZZY SOUNDED PISSED. HAVE YOU AND MAGGIE FOUND A NEW PLACE TO LIVE YET?
NOPE.
MADIGAN'S
3

HOPEY, I KNOW YOU THINK I WON'T LET YOU MOVE INTO MY PLACE BECAUSE OF MAGGIE, BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY ROOM.
I KNOW, YOU DON'T, WHY?
OH, IT'S NOTHING. I WAS JUST... NEVER MIND.
YOU'RE ONE IN A MILLION, ALL RIGHT, TERRY!
WHY? WHY DID YOU SAY THAT? WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT, HOPEY?
NOTHING! NEVER MIND! FORGET IT!
WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE? THEY LET ME OFF AT EIGHT SO NOW I CAN FINALLY SEE HOPEY'S BAND. THEY GO ON ABOUT TEN OR ELEVEN, SO THAT GIVES ME TIME TO GO HOME, CHANGE, THEN COME BACK IN MY NEW CARRO.
VANDY'S
NINE FIFTEEN. THAT WAS QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT. MIGHT AS WELL GO HANG OUT BEFORE HOPEY'S BAND GOES ON. BESIDES, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE CROWD AT MADDOGS FOR A FEW MONTHS. WORK DOES THAT TO YOU, Y'KNOW...
THE CAR'S NOT HERE. IZZY MUST BE STILL USING IT. I HOPE SHE LEAVES ME SOME GAS.
Z
OOI, THE CLUB IS ONLY A HALF HOUR WALK AWAY, BUT I DON'T THINK I WANT TO TAKE THAT WALK ALL BY MYSELF. HEH!
MAGGIE!
W-WHO SAID THAT?
ME, SPEEDY! C'MERE JUST A SECOND!
4
CARRO-CAR

WHERE YOU GOING RIGHT NOW, MAGGIE?
I'M ON MY WAY TO MADDOGS TO SEE HOPEY'S BAND PLAY. COULD YOU GIVE ME A RIDE?
YEAH? HOPEY? OK, BUT FIRST, KICK BACK. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR AWHILE. YOU WANT A BEER?
YEAH, OK. I'LL HAVE JUST ONE, THEN I GOTTA GO.
YAY HOPEEE!
AW, YOU GUYS SUCK!
MISSILES OF OCTOBER SUCKS!
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT! APE SEX IS ON NEXT, DINGLE BERRY!
YAY!
EXIT
... YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL GUITAR PLAYING STYLE. EVEN THOUGH I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE THE REST OF YOUR BAND, I THINK YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL GUITAR PLAYING...
THANK YOU.
HEY, TERRY! HAVE YOU SEEN MAGGIE?
NO, WAS SHE SUPPOSED TO COME?
HOPEY!
IZZY BELLE!
IS MAGGIE HERE? I THINK I SLEPT TOO LONG...
I THINK YOU'RE GREAT, BUT YOUR BAND STINKS.
YOU WANT ANOTHER BEER, MAGGIE?
NO, IF I HAVE A FOURTH ONE I MIGHT... OH, SHIT! IT'S TWELVE THIRTY!

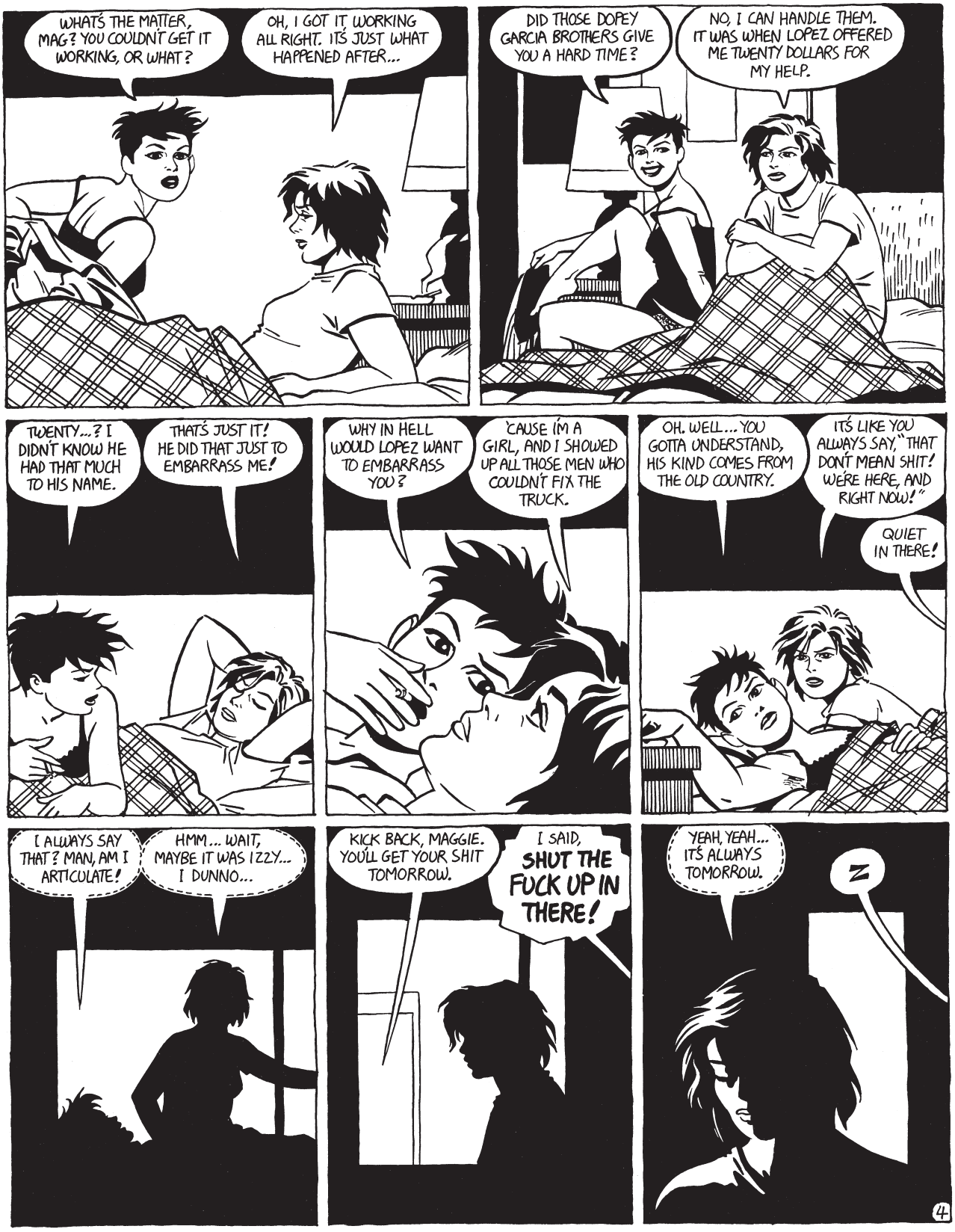
¡CHALE! - FORGET IT! RANFLA - CAR


LOCAS
the worst 85
MAGGIE, WHEN I GET MARRIED, WE'RE GOING TO OWN A YACHT AND SAIL TO THE ISLANDS EVERY WEEKEND.
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY THAT'S THAT RICH, DAFFY?
OH, I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE SOMEONE LIKE RAND RACE, WHO HAS AN EXCITING JOB AND LOTS OF MONEY.
OOH, GOOD LUCK.
EEEOOOO
CHECK OUT THE BEACH BUNNIES, IZZY.
RIGHT OUT OF A SOFT DRINK COMMERCIAL, HOPITA.
YOU GUYS MUST BE ILL. THE SUN DOESN'T GO DOWN FOR ANOTHER FEW HOURS OR SO.
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT BEFORE WE POLITELY INTERRUPTED?
MARRIAGE!
OH, SHIT! NOW YOU DID IT, DAFFY.
MARRIAGE, HUH? WELL, I DON'T THINK I'D BE TOO HELPFUL IN THIS CONVERSATION, BUT IZZY HERE...
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL MY COUSIN PERVERTO WAS AN EXPERT AT TORTURING CATS.
HERE IT COMES...

ONCE HE GOT TWO CATS AND TIED THEIR TAILS TOGETHER WITH WIRE...
WHAT'S THIS GOTTA DO WITH MARRIAGE?
THEN HE HUNG THEM OVER A CLOTHES LINE SO THEY'D HANG UPSIDE DOWN ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER, THEN HE'D LEAVE THEM THERE...
GUY! HOW MEAN...
THEY'D FIGHT EACH OTHER OFF AND ON, THEN AFTER A FEW DAYS ONE CAT WOULD START EATING THE OTHER.
OOH... I CAN'T HEAR ANY MORE OF THIS...
I THINK THAT'S ALL OF IT, MAG.
I-I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW. DID YOU NEED A RIDE, MAGGIE?
NAW, WE'LL TAKE HER HOME. SEE YOU LATER, DAFFY.
AW, WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DO THAT TO THE POOR KID? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH DAFFY LOOKS UP TO US.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! IZZY'S THE NOT-SO-GAY DIVORCEE!
WHY'D YOU GUYS COME BY, ANYWAY? I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE GOING TO STRANSKI'S.
WE ARE. BUT FIRST WE CAME TO GET YOU...
MISTER LOPEZ NEEDS YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW TO FIX HIS FRUIT TRUCK. HE HAS TO MAKE A HAUL TO MEXICO TONIGHT.
NO, SORRY. CAN'T DO IT.
YES, YOU CAN.
NO, I CAN'T.
YES, YOU CAN.
DON'T HAVE MY TOOLS.
I BROUGHT 'EM.
I DON'T WANNA.
THEN THE LOPEZ FAMILY STARVES FOR A WHOLE WEEK. ALL EIGHT KIDS!
DAMN YOU!
2

BUT LOOK AT THE WAY I'M DRESSED. THOSE STUPID GARCIA BROTHERS ARE GONNA START WHISTLING, AND SAYING STUPID THINGS. THEY'RE SO GROSS...
I THINK THEY'RE FUNNY. IZZY, LET'S GO!
SEE? THERE THEY ARE... LOS TRES ESTOOGIES.
WHAT ARE THEIR REAL NAMES, ANYWAY, IZZY?
ENERO... FEBRERO... MIERCOLES... OH NO! DON'T TELL ME THEY GOT A NEW BROTHER!
NO, THAT'S THEIR COUSIN CORRÉO. HE JUST GOT IN FROM MEXICO.
HAVE FUN, MAG. WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR RIDE.
THANKS A HEAP.
<HEY, SEXY!?
<LET'S GET MARRIED!?
<I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD HELP US, MARGARET. NONE OF THE MEN COULD FIX MISTER LOPEZ'S TRUCK, BUT I TOLD THEM YOU COULD.>
<OK, MRS. GARCIA.>
<REMEMBER, THEIR EGOS ARE ALREADY BLOWN BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN, SO DON'T SHOW THEM UP TOO MUCH, OK?>
<OK, MRS. GARCIA.>
OK, BOYS. AFTER I'M THROUGH YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO DIG A HOLE BACK TO MEXICO.
¡CALLENSE, BURROS FEOS!
YOU STILL AWAKE? HOW'D IT GO WITH MISTER LOPEZ'S TRUCK?
NYEH...
3

<ESPAÑOL>


WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAG? YOU COULDN'T GET IT WORKING, OR WHAT?
OH, I GOT IT WORKING ALL RIGHT. IT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENED AFTER...
DID THOSE DOPEY GARCIA BROTHERS GIVE YOU A HARD TIME?
NO, I CAN HANDLE THEM. IT WAS WHEN LOPEZ OFFERED ME TWENTY DOLLARS FOR MY HELP.
TWENTY...? I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD THAT MUCH TO HIS NAME.
THAT'S JUST IT! HE DID THAT JUST TO EMBARRASS ME!
WHY IN HELL WOULD LOPEZ WANT TO EMBARRASS YOU?
'CAUSE I'M A GIRL, AND I SHOWED UP ALL THOSE MEN WHO COULDN'T FIX THE TRUCK.
OH. WELL... YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND, HIS KIND COMES FROM THE OLD COUNTRY.
IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAY, "THAT DON'T MEAN SHIT! WE'RE HERE, AND RIGHT NOW!"
QUIET IN THERE!
I ALWAYS SAY THAT? MAN, AM I ARTICULATE!
HMM... WAIT, MAYBE IT WAS IZZY... I DUNNO...
KICK BACK, MAGGIE. YOU'LL GET YOUR SHIT TOMORROW.
I SAID, SHUT THE FUCK UP IN THERE!
YEAH, YEAH... IT'S ALWAYS TOMORROW.
Z
4

POCHA/MEXICAN-AMERICAN GIRL

LA MIGRA/ IMMIGRATION POLICE

KICK BACK, TERRY. WE WERE ONLY FUCKING AROUND...
HUH? I WASN'T!
LOOK, WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL BAND HERE, BUT FOR SOME GOD AWFUL REASON ITS MEMBERS WANT TO KEEP IT AS RANK AMATEURISH AS POSSIBLE!
HOW CAN WE EXPECT TO GO SOMEWHERE WHEN WE HAVE A DRUMMER WHO WONT KEEP THE SAME BEAT TWICE BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE SOME GUY NAMED NEIL PEART, A BASS PLAYER WHO CANT PLAY MORE THAN THREE NOTES A SONG WITHOUT SCREWING UP, A SINGER WHO TAKES SO MANY DRUGS BEFORE EVERY PERFORMANCE SO SHE CANT EVEN FIND HER MIKE...
...AND A GUITAR PLAYER WHO TAKES ALL THIS SHIT WAY TOO SERIOUSLY.
the Middle Class
WELL, SHIT! IF I DONT, WHO WILL? DAMN, I NEED A CIGARETTE.
FUCK... NEIL PEARTS RAD...
ARE WE TAKING ANOTHER BREAK?
YEAH, MONICA. YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW.
I WONDER WHATS KEEPING MAGGIE. SHE SAID SHE WAS COMING BY AFTER WORK.
MAGGIE CHASCARRILLO? YEAH, I SAW HER WITH THAT SPEEDY CHOLO...
SHES PROBABLY GOING TO BRING HIM BY AND SUCK HIS COCK RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
TERRY!
WELL, IT MAKES ME SICK WHEN SHE DROOLS ABOUT ALL THOSE STUPID JOCKS, LIKE A DAMNED CHEERLEADER... ESPECIALLY WHEN ITS IN FRONT OF YOU!
SO WHAT?

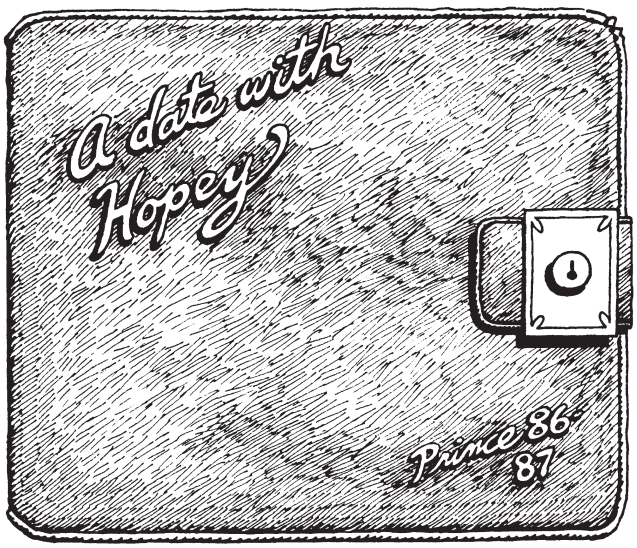
HOPEY, PLEASE DON'T GIVE ME THAT HUMBLE SHIT! I CAN ALWAYS TELL HOW IT TEARS YOU UP INSIDE WHEN SHE DOES THAT. SHE HAS NO CLASS AT ALL.
WELL, SHIT! MAGGIE CAN'T HELP IT IF SHE LIKES GUYS TOO MUCH.
AND NOW, WITH THE WEIGHT SHE'S PUT ON, SHE FIGURES SHE'S GOTTA TRY A LOT HARDER.
AND WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE YOU? WITH A COMBAT BOOT SLAPPED ACROSS YOUR FACE? COME ON...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MAGGIE AND ME. WE'RE ALL RIGHT...
IT'S NOT MAGGIE I WORRY ABOUT...
AUTO
TERRY, KNOCK IT OFF. NOT RIGHT NOW...
JUST TELL ME ONE THING! ONE THING!
WHAT DOES MAGGIE HAVE THAT I DON'T...?
<HA HA! CASANOVA HERE TRIED TO PROPOSE TO THE LITTLE MECHANIC!>
<CORREO'S CRAZY!>
<PROPO-- WHAT'S SO CRAZY ABOUT TALKING TO A GIRL WHO CAN FIX MACHINES?>
<FOR ONE THING, IF YOU LET HER, PRETTY SOON SHE'D FIX YOU!>
<MARRY THAT GIRL AND YOU ARE FIXED FOR LIFE!>
¡AIII! NO! ¡SUELTAME!
END

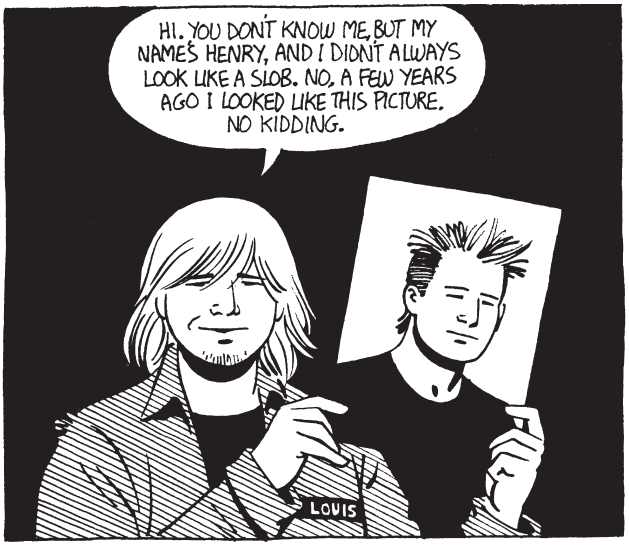
those wild and mixed up
LOCAS
IF I OUTGROW ANOTHER PAIR OF JEANS, SOMEONE'S GETTING SUED.
PPY HOUR
DON'T WORRY, MAG! I'D STILL LOVE YOU IF YOU LOOKED LIKE ME!
HOPEY, DON'T! AW, SHOOT...
POP!
THAT DOES IT! I'LL NEVER WEAR ANOTHER PAIR OF PANTS AS LONG AS I LIVE!
THEN THIS IS GONNA MAKE QUITE A COMICAL SITUATION, BECAUSE HERE COMES RAND RACE.
VERY FU... HUH?!
NO KIDDING. HE JUST DROVE UP RIGHT NOW.
OH MY GOD! IT IS HIM! WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?
PROBABLY TO SEE YOU, MAGGOT.
STALL HIM TILL I'M OUT OF THE COUNTRY! SEE YOU LATER, HOPEY! I'LL WRITE YOU!
AW, C'MON, MAG. DON'T BE A COWARD. THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD ONE.

YES? MAY I HELP YOU?
UH, YES YOU CAN. DOES MAGGIE CHASCARRILLO LIVE HERE BY ANY CHANCE?
WELL, IM NOT SURE, EXACTLY. THAT ALL DEPENDS...
HEY!
RACE! WHAT A SURPRISE! HOW ARE YOU?
MAGGIE!
IT TOOK ME AWHILE TO FIND YOU, YKNOW?
R-REALLY? WHAT BRINGS YOU WAY OUT HERE?
HI. IM HER PAL, POKEY.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU. WE NEVER REALLY SAID GOOD BYE WHEN YOU QUIT WORKING FOR ME. CAN I TAKE YOU TO LUNCH OR SOMETHING?
SURE, I GUESS SO.
ME AN' DUMBY HERE ARE SWELL PALS.
YOU CAN COME ALSO, POKEY.
CHEE, THANKS.
YEAH, BUT FIRST LET ME AN' POKEY FIX OUR FACES.
OH GOD, HOPEY! WHY DID HE HAVE TO COME NOW THAT IM SUCH A WALRUS AND MY HAIR'S ALL ...WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
MISTER MEXICO
YOU'RE GONNA LET HIM TAKE US TO LUNCH, THAT'S WHAT! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IN THIS HOUSE AND IM STARVED!
BUT- BUT WHAT IF WHILE WERE EATING AND TALKING, I LOSE CONTROL AND START ATTACKING MY FOOD LIKE THE DREADED MONSTER WOMAN?
5205
WORMS UNDER ARRES
JUST KEEP COOL, MAG. I'LL KICK YOU IF YOU GET OUTTA LINE.
2

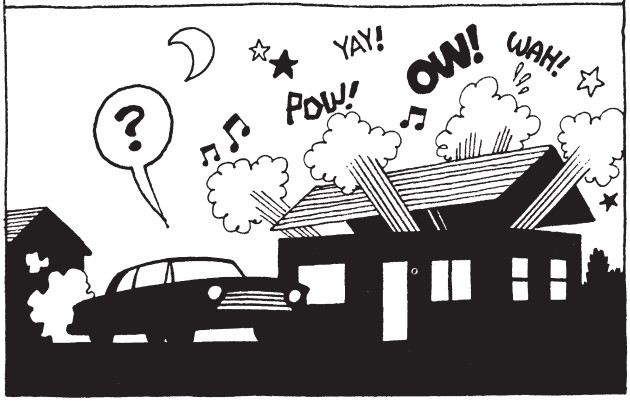
I MEAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU WERE ON A PLANE HEADED FOR HOME WITHOUT EVEN... WELL, YOU DID LEAVE A NOTE, BUT I DUNNO, I STILL GET THE FEELING IT WAS SOMETHING I DID.
OH, NO, NO! IT WASN'T YOU, RACE! IT WAS ME, REALLY!
I MEAN, I THOUGHT WE HAD BECOME CLOSE ENOUGH FRIENDS WHERE WE COULD, YOU KNOW, TALK IT OVER IF SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT, OR... YOU KNOW...
YEAH, REAL CLOSE FRIENDS. ¿TU SAVES?
:GULP:
I REMEMBER YOU NOW. I MET YOU AT THAT HUGE PARTY AT H.R. COSTIGAN'S... AND YOUR NAME'S NOT POKEY!
NO, IT'S SNEEZY...
YEAH, AND OUR CONVERSATION WENT JUST LIKE THIS ONE! YOU NEVER GAVE ME A STRAIGHT--
!
HOPEY, MY LIPSTICK IS SMEARED. WILL YOU HELP ME FIX IT IN THE LADY'S ROOM, PLEASE?
DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
THEM
GET BACK HERE, YOU COWARD!
NO, HOPEY, PLEASE! LEMME GO!
KICK BACK, MAG. CAN'T YOU SEE HE WANTS TO MAKE UP AND BE FRIENDS? WHO KNOWS, MAYBE BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER, HE'LL EVEN PROPOSE!
LET'S FACE IT! I'M THE BIG, FAT, FAT, FAT "BEFORE" WOMAN IN THE DIET ADS!
3

OH, AND I SUPPOSE RACE IS OUT THERE HAVING A GOOD CHUCKLE WITH THE CHEF AND MAITRE D' OVER A FEW DRINKS AND A CIGAR, HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT. RACE IS A SAINT, AN' I BEEN ACTIN' THE FOO!
BUT IF I HEAR SOME KIND OF CRACK ABOUT FOOD OR SOMETHING, I SWEAR I'LL SCREAM, OK?
YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT I... MAGGIE! YOU HURT ME SO!
HEY, WHERE'D HE GO?
I KNEW IT! HE DIDN'T WANNA BE SEEN WITH THE LIVING SLOB MONSTER SO HE HIGHTAILED IT...
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A SLOB?
NOT YOU! ME!
HEY! OVER HERE! I WAS PAYING THE CASHIER.
OH, ARE WE LEAVING NOW?
HUH? WELL, I FIGURED SINCE YOU FINISHED YOUR FOOD, YOU'D WANNA GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE CAN STICK AROUND FOR DESSERT OR SOMETHING, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU GIRLS WOULD LIKE.
HOO BOY.
HERV, DID YOU HEAR A SIREN?
I'D GIVE A MILLION BUCKS TO ANYONE WHO COULD EXPLAIN THAT WOMAN TO ME.
SOMETIMES I THINK SHE'S A MARTIAN STUCK ON OUR PLANET AN' THAT HER BEHAVIOR IS NORMAL BACK HOME.
THE END

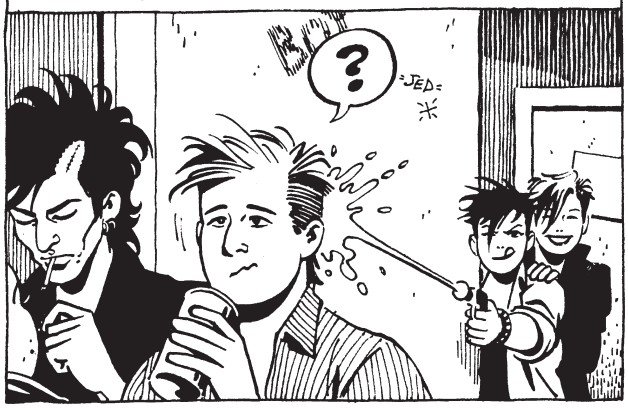




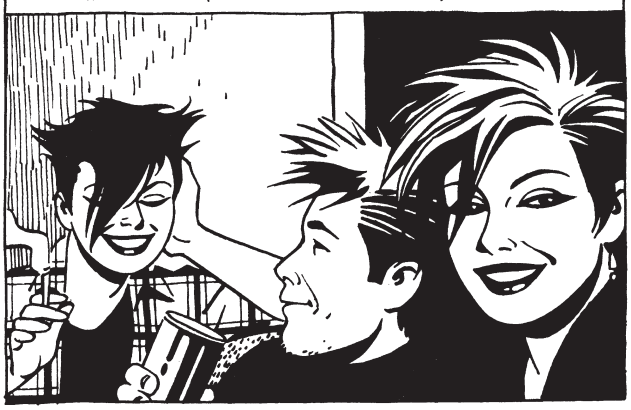
"IN THE SUMMERTIME ME AND SOME FRIENDS USED TO HANG OUT AT A PLACE CALLED 'CHIMNEY'S ISLAND OF LOST SOULS.' IT WAS ACTUALLY A HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEXICAN NEIGHBORHOOD THE LOCALS CALL 'HOPPERS.' I THINK THEY CALL IT THAT BECAUSE THE CHOLOS PUT HYDRAULICS IN THEIR LOWRIDER CARS TO MAKE THEM HOP.



"ANYWAY, THIS ISLAND WAS A PRETTY COOL PLACE TO HANG AROUND. ALL KINDS OF WEIRDOS AND LOWLIFES COULD PLAY THEMSELVES AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IMPRESSING ANYBODY. ONE COULD ALSO CRASH THERE A NIGHT OR TWO IF HE HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. AND THAT IS WHERE I MET THESE CHICKS NAMED HOPEY AND MAGGIE.



"I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH GIRLS, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH. I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE WITH THEM IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. MAYBE IT'S THE GIRLS I HUNG OUT WITH, MAYBE IT'S ME, I DON'T KNOW. BUT I REALLY, HONESTLY LIKED HOPEY AND MAGGIE. AND I BELIEVE THEY REALLY, HONESTLY LIKED ME. COOL, HUH?



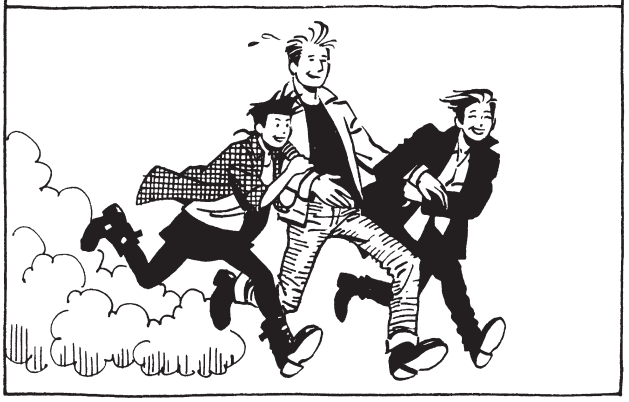
"WELL, AFTER AWHILE I HAD TO STOP HANGING AROUND DEL'S ISLAND BECAUSE MY STUPID BUDDIES (WHO SUPPLIED OUR TRANSPORTATION) GOT TOO DRUNK AND OUT OF HAND ONE NIGHT AND WERE ALMOST KILLED BY A GANG OF CHOLOS DOWN THE STREET. I NEVER EVEN GOT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO HOPEY AND MAGGIE. BUMMER.

"THE ONLY TIME I'D GET TO SEE THOSE GIRLS AGAIN WOULD BE AT ONE OF THE LOCAL GIGS. THEY'D BE RUNNING AROUND STARTING FIGHTS WITH LONG HAIRS AND LETTING THEIR GUY FRIENDS FINISH THEM.

"I NEVER GOT TO SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN HI TO THEM, THOUGH. THEY WERE TOO BUSY PLAYING 'HOT, SNOTTY NOSED PUNK CHICKS' AND PRETENDING THEY WERE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER. I THEN FIGURED THEY ONLY HUNG OUT WITH ME BECAUSE THEY NEEDED SOMEONE TO FEED THEIR EGOS.

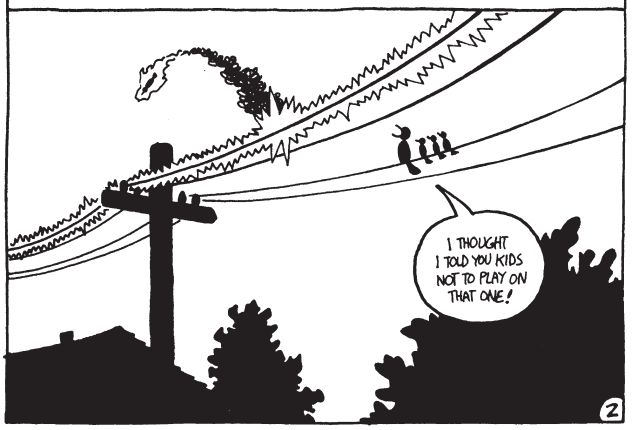
"ONCE SCHOOL STARTED, PARTYING AND GOING TO GIGS DIED DOWN AND LIFE BECAME BORING AGAIN. THEN, ONE NIGHT I MET HOPEY AND MAGGIE ON MY SIDE OF TOWN IN A BOWLING ALLEY BUYING RUBBERS IN THE MEN'S BATHROOM. IT WAS MY TURN TO SHINE THEM ON.

"BUT WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, THEY WERE ABSOLUTE ANGELS, JUST LIKE AT CHIMNEY'S ISLAND. I TOLD 'EM WHAT SNOBS THEY WERE BEING EARLIER AND THEY QUICKLY APOLOGIZED. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR SOULFUL EYES AND POUTY LIPS. ESPECIALLY ON PRETTY GIRLS. I GUESS WE WERE BEST FRIENDS AGAIN.



"THAT NIGHT TURNED OUT GREAT. THE THREE OF US GOT DRUNK AND WALKED THE STREETS FOR HOURS, DOING NOTHING, YET EVERYTHING. WHEN IT WAS TIME TO CASH IT IN, WE EXCHANGED NUMBERS. BUT, LIKE A STUPID DRUNK, I LOST THEIRS BEFORE I EVEN GOT HOME.

"WEEKS PASSED, AND NO WORD FROM THE GIRLS. I SORT OF FELT LIKE A SUCKER AGAIN. THEN I GET A CALL FROM HOPEY AND WE'RE PALS AGAIN. THOUGH, THIS TIME SHE DIDN'T STOP CALLING. AFTER AWHILE, WE LIVED TOGETHER ON THE PHONE. THEN, I KNEW HOPEY WAS TRUE BLUE.



"PRETTY SOON I BOUGHT A CAR FOR THREE HUNDRED BUCKS AND HOPEY AND MAGGIE GOT THEIR OWN APARTMENT TOGETHER IN HOPPERS, SO I WAS OVER THERE EIGHT NIGHTS OUT OF THE WEEK. IT WAS GREAT. I MEAN, WE WERE ALL THESE GREAT FRIENDS, Y'KNOW?

"AFTER AWHILE, MAGGIE COULDN'T HANG AROUND BECAUSE OF BOYFRIEND PROBLEMS, OR WHATEVER. I HAD THIS FEELING ROMANCE WOULD SOMEHOW BREAK UP OUR LITTLE THREESOME. BUT I FIGURED, THAT'S LIFE, I GUESS.

"PRETTY SOON HOPEY AND I WOULD MEET AT GIGS AND HANG OUT TOGETHER THE WHOLE NIGHT. THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER. YEP, I FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS GIRL. MAN, I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

"SO ONE NIGHT I ASKED HOPEY TO BE MY OFFICIAL GIRLFRIEND. WELL, FOR HOURS SHE TRIED EVERY TRICK TO DODGE THE ISSUE AND I DON'T QUITE REMEMBER IF SHE EVEN ANSWERED. ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I WANTED HER BAD. I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY SAY LOVE IS BLIND, Y'THINK?

"THE NEXT NIGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HER AT SOME CORNER FOR OUR FIRST OFFICIAL `DATE' AND THEN WE'D TAKE IT FROM THERE. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED WHAT KIND OF `DATE' IT WOULD BE WHEN I SAW MAGGIE WAITING WITH HER.

"I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW COLD AND DISTANT HOPEY ACTED TOWARD ME. LIKE SHE HARDLY KNEW ME. WELL, AFTER THE MISERABLE NIGHT ENDED, PISSED OFF AND HURT, I CONFRONTED HOPEY ALONE. SHE PLAYED DUMB, AND WE PARTED NOT EXACTLY FRIENDS.

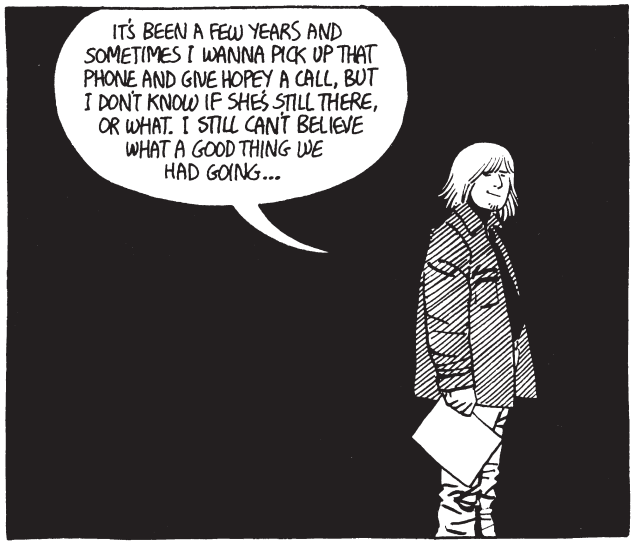
"THE NEXT MORNING WAS LIKE I WOKE UP FROM A WEIRD DREAM. ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE I WAS IN MY BED. NO MORE HOPEY, NO MORE MAGGIE, NO MORE HANGING OUT. IT WAS BACK TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE I EVER MET THEM. STRANGE.

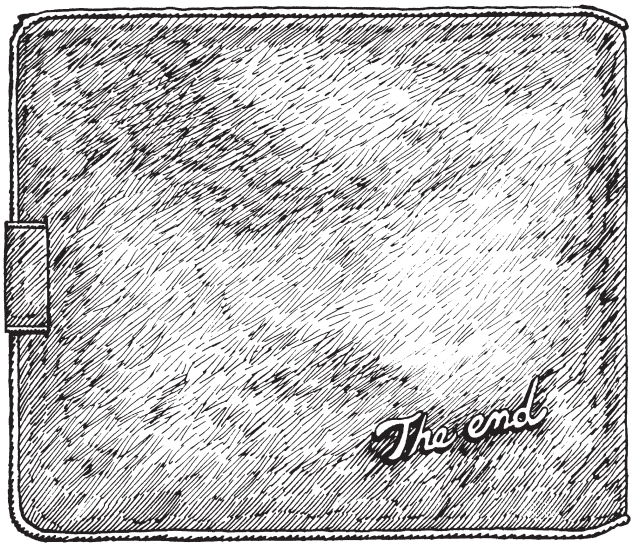
"IT TOOK ME DAYS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FRIENDSHIP. I GUESS THERE'S JUST SOME PEOPLE WHO YOU SHOULD NOT GET TOO CLOSE TO IF YOU WANNA KEEP 'EM, HUH? BUT, I WAS IN LOVE, MAN!

"THREE WEEKS AFTER THAT FATEFUL NIGHT, HOPEY CALLS ME. WE TALKED AND TALKED LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED. IT WASN'T THE SAME. SHE NEVER CALLED AGAIN AFTER THAT.

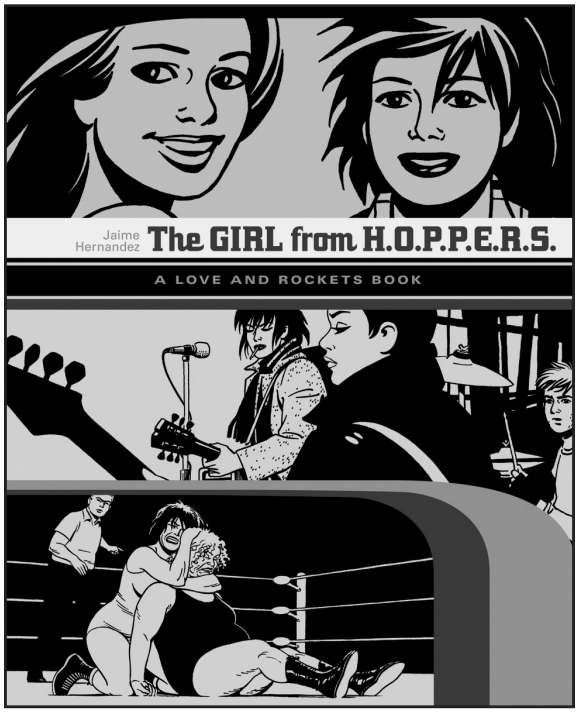
"I SAW HER ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTER THAT WHILE LEAVING AN APE SEX GIG. SHE WAS YELLING AT THE GUY WHO RUNS THE DOOR. SHE DIDN'T SEE ME, AND I COULDN'T BUILD UP THE COURAGE TO WALK UP AND TALK TO HER. THAT WAS MY LAST PUNK GIG."

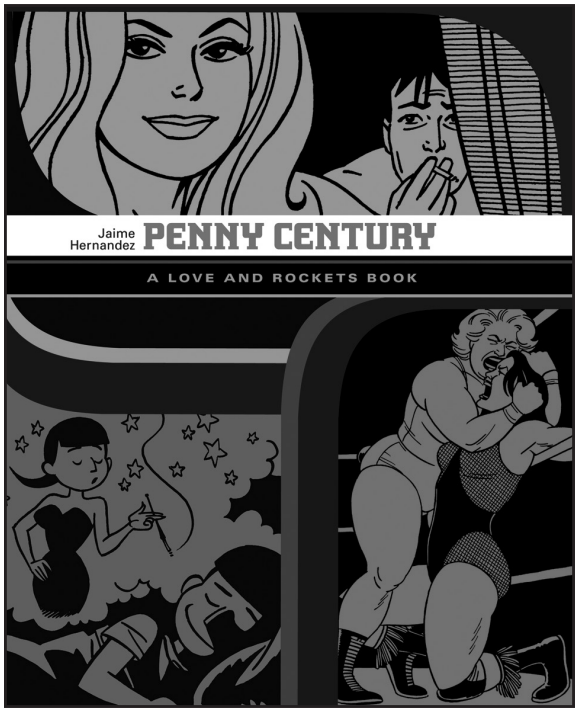
IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS AND SOMETIMES I WANNA PICK UP THAT PHONE AND GIVE HOPEY A CALL, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S STILL THERE, OR WHAT. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT A GOOD THING WE HAD GOING...



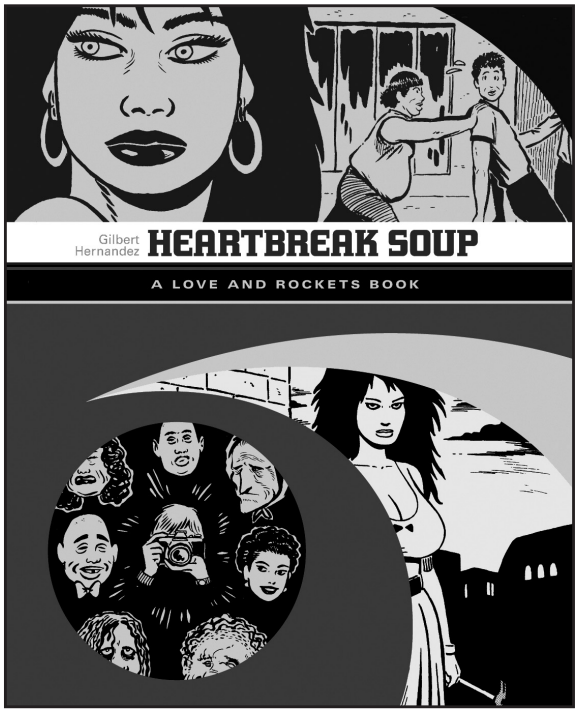


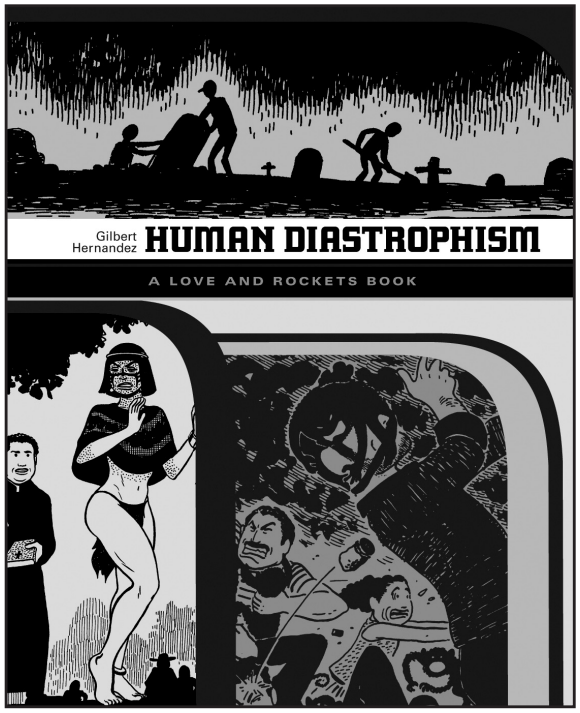
CAST OF CHARACTERS
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
MAGGIE
HOPEY
RACE
DUKE
YAX
TALL
PENNY
LA CHOTA
JOEY
IZZY
SPEEDY
DAFFY
H.R.
ZERO
TSETSE
RENA
PEDERO
TERRY
TONY
VICKI
BERNIE
BOMBER
BIG TURO
BANCHINI
NORMA
MANIAKK
GIGGLES
VENETTA
ULTIMAX
ROW COWBOY
JOCKO
TOYO
SHARKEY
ZONO
BULL MARIE
LITOS
WEBSTER
CASEY
DEMOÑA
COMRADE 7
SCHWARTZ
SADO
LICHA
DOT
DR. BEAKY
MACHI
CHINESS
JOE
RENO
MONICA
CASH
CARLOS
LETTY
HARVEY
LOUIS
JULIE
CHUCHO
ENERO
FEBRERO
MIERCOLES
CORREO
MRS. GARCIA
HENRY

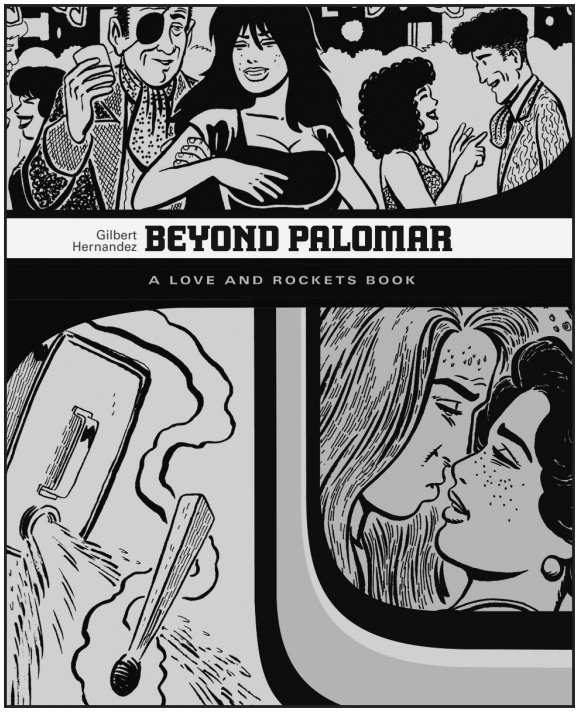


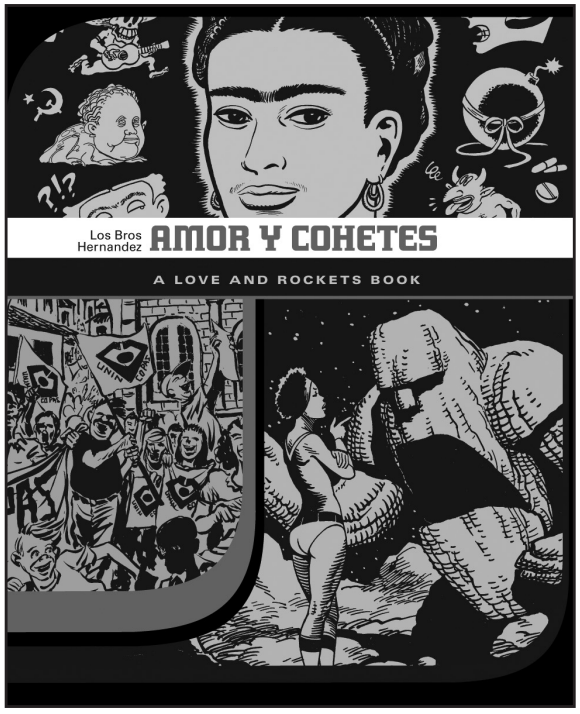


If you've enjoyed this book, you can follow the later adventures of Maggie, Hopey, Penny, Ray and the rest of the Locas gang in *The Girl From H.O.P.P.E.R.S.*, *Perla La Loca, Penny Century,* and *Esperanza*; new installments appear every year in the ongoing *Love & Rockets: New Stories*.









Gilbert Hernandez's "Palomar" stories appeared in *Love and Rockets* side by side with Jaime's tales of the Locas. *Heartbreak Soup*, *Human Diastrophism*, and *Beyond Palomar* collect these stories, while *Amor Y Cohetes* is a catch-all compendium of Gilbert, Jaime and Mario Hernandez's short stories.

JAIME HERNANDEZ

Born in 1959, Jaime Hernandez enjoyed a pleasant childhood in Oxnard, California, with four brothers and one sister. Their mother had been an avid comic book fan as a girl, and she passed onto them a love of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko's Marvel comics, Hank Ketcham's (and Al Wiseman's) *Dennis the Menace*, and the Archie comics line. A further strain of DNA was added when an older brother smuggled R. Crumb's *Zap* into the house.

As puberty and other interests invaded, Jaime's enthusiasm for mainstream comics waned. The Los Angeles punk rock scene began to thrive, and this anarchistic and gritty aesthetic invaded Jaime's approach to writing and drawing. Mostly self-taught (although he cites the significant impact a figure-drawing instructor had on his skills), Jaime assimilated these influences, and in his hands the much-hyped and often misunderstood punk netherworld became a very real, habitable place populated with human beings rather than stereotypes.

Such were the humble beginnings of *Love & Rockets*, the internationally acclaimed series Jaime created with his brothers, Gilbert and Mario, in 1981. Thirty years later, *Love & Rockets* has been translated into many languages, won numerous awards for excellence, and is one of the defining post-underground comic book titles of the last quarter century.

Jaime's crisp, elegant, instantly recognizable style has made him an in-demand illustrator whose work has appeared on CD and DVD covers, and in magazines from *Hustler* to *The New Yorker*; in 2006, a new "Maggie" story, "La Maggie La Loca," was serialized in the *New York Times Magazine*'s "Funny Pages" section. He continues to chronicle the adventures of his now ageing "Locas" Maggie and Hopey (and their friends) in the pages of the ongoing annual *Love & Rockets: New Stories*. The career-spanning *The Art of Jaime Hernandez* was released by Abrams ComicsArts in April 2010.

Jaime Hernandez resides in Los Angeles, California, with his wife and daughter.