

# CHANCE IN HELL

Gilbert Hernandez





**CHANCE IN HELL**

A Love and Rockets Book

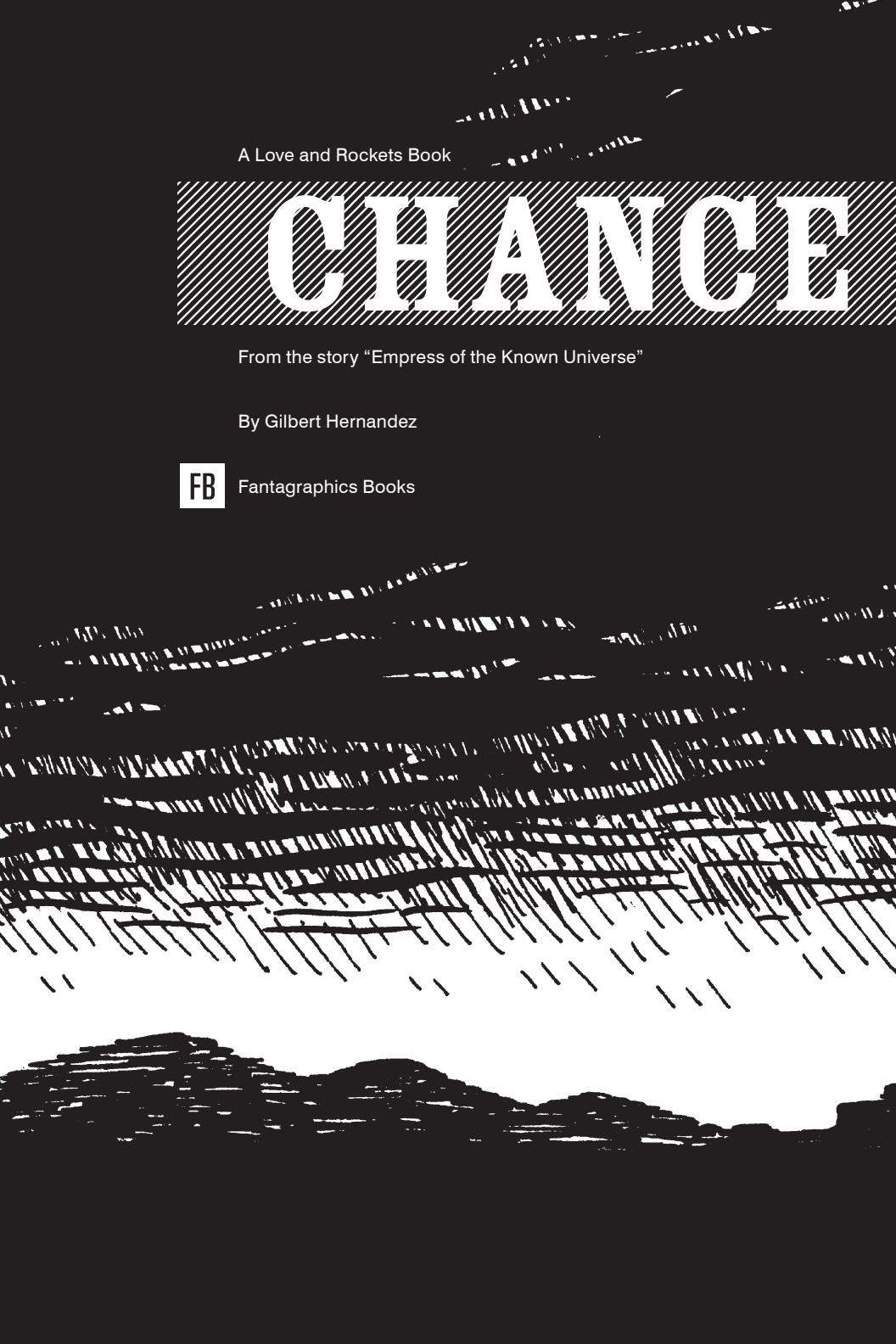
# CHANCE

From the story "Empress of the Known Universe"

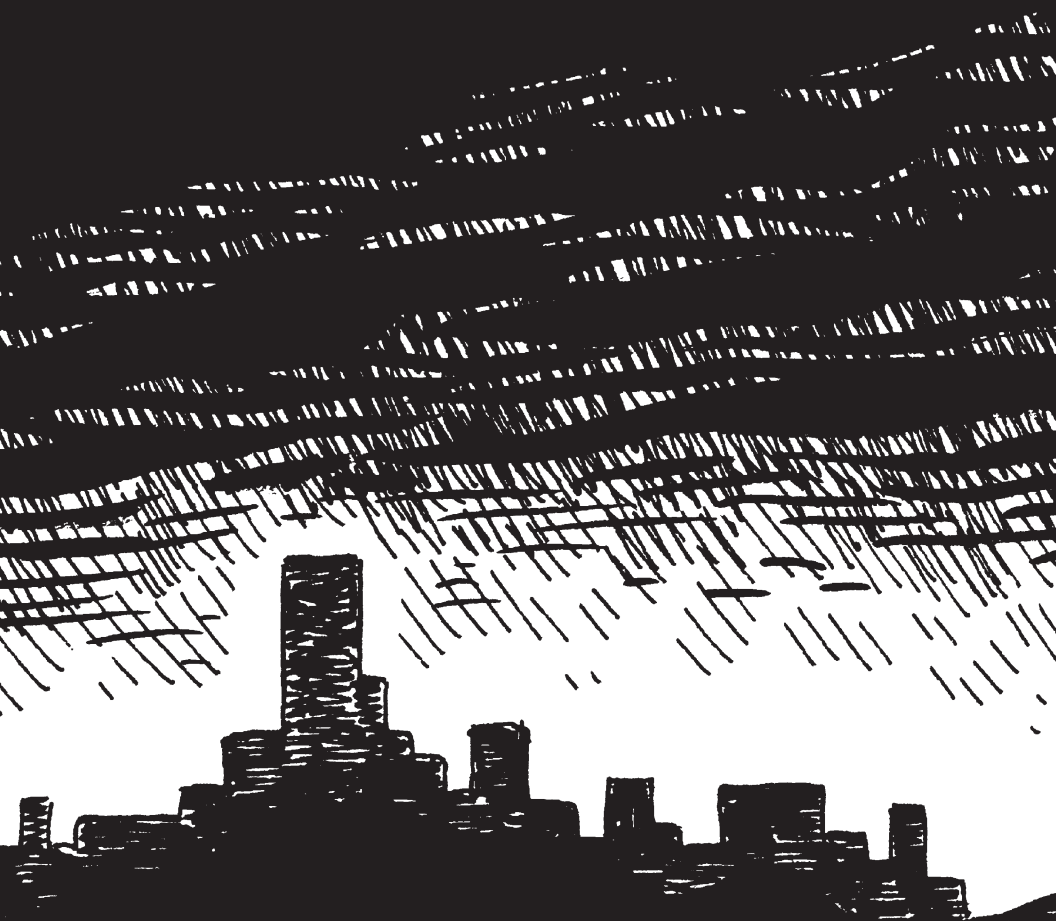
By Gilbert Hernandez

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Fantagraphics Books



# IN HELL





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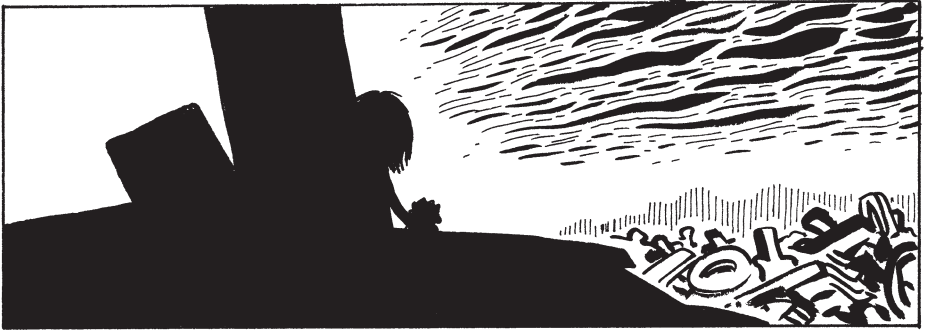
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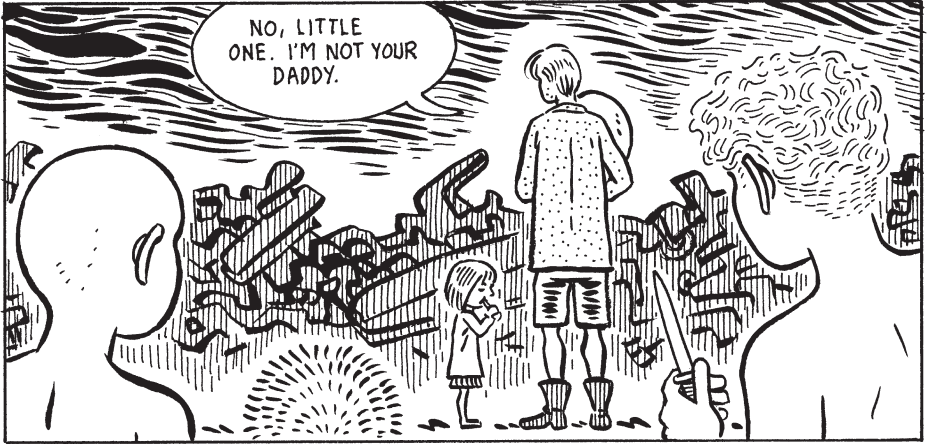
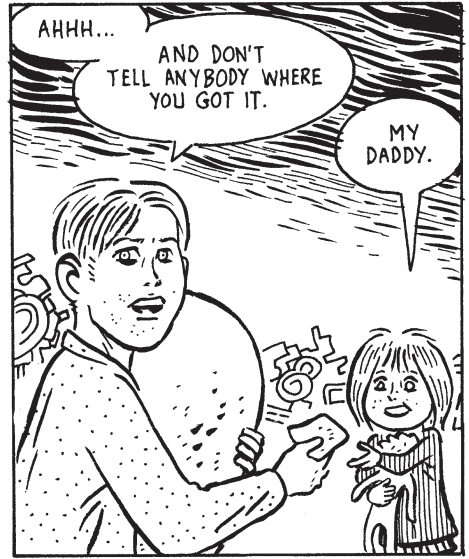
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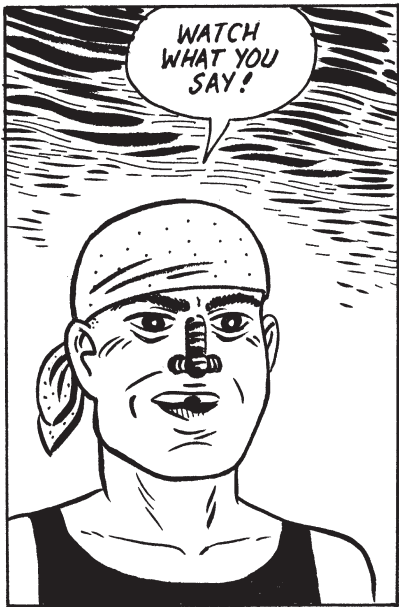
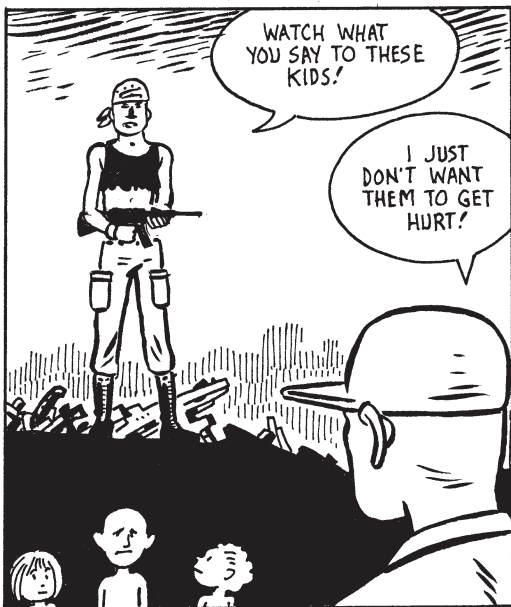
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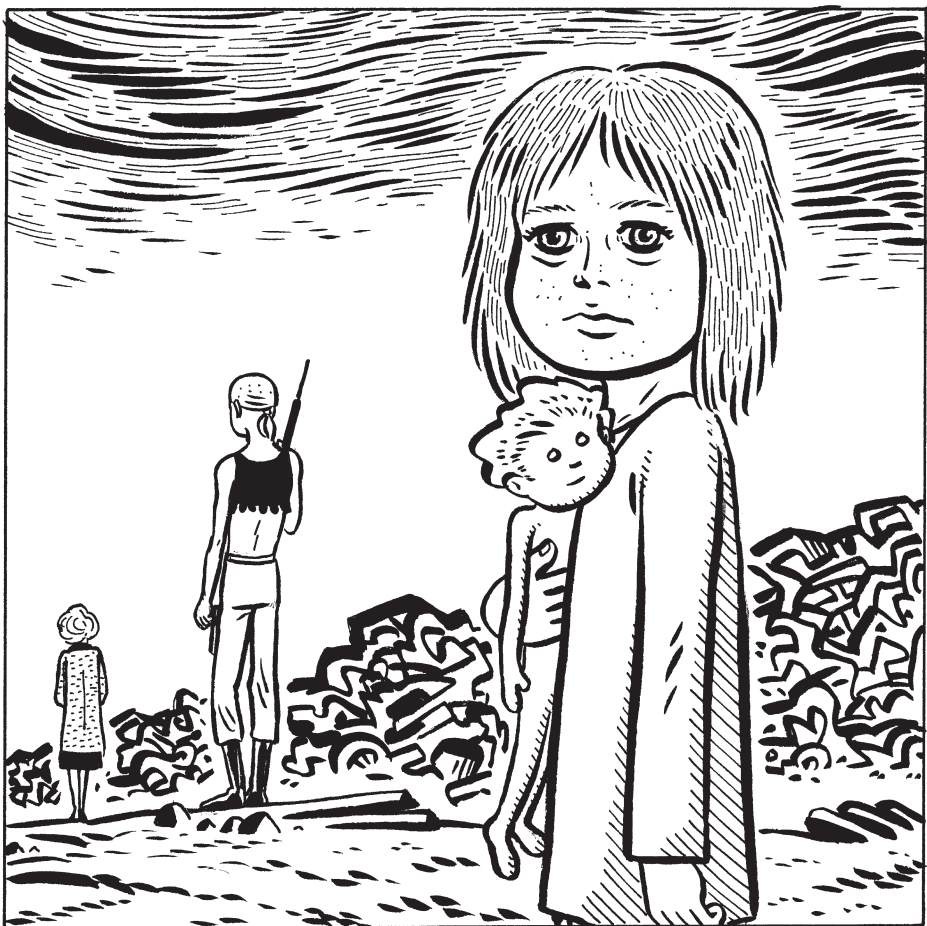




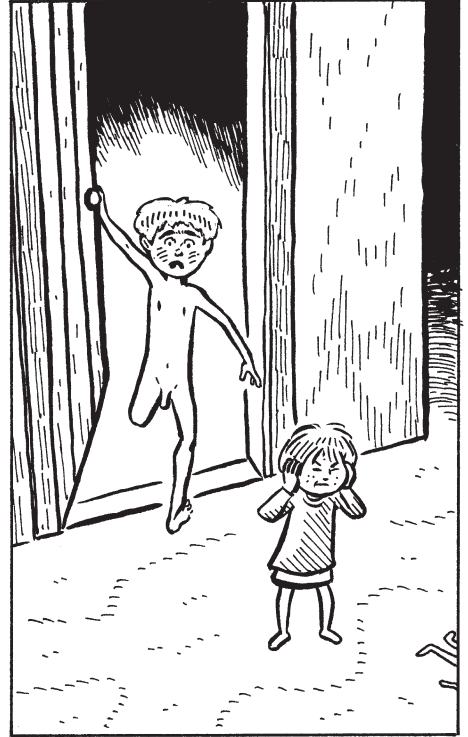
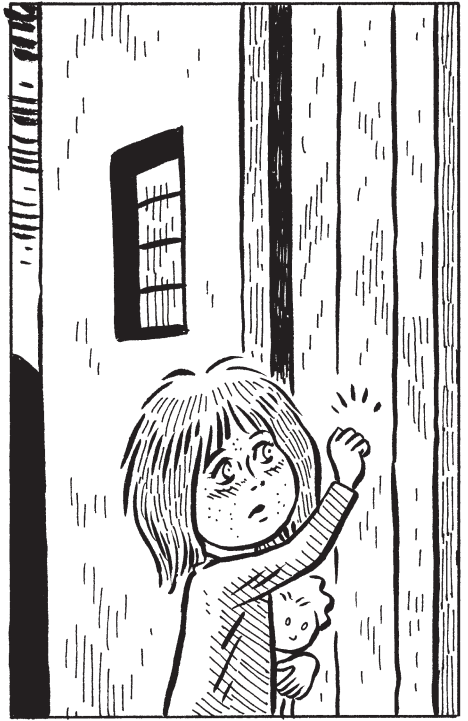


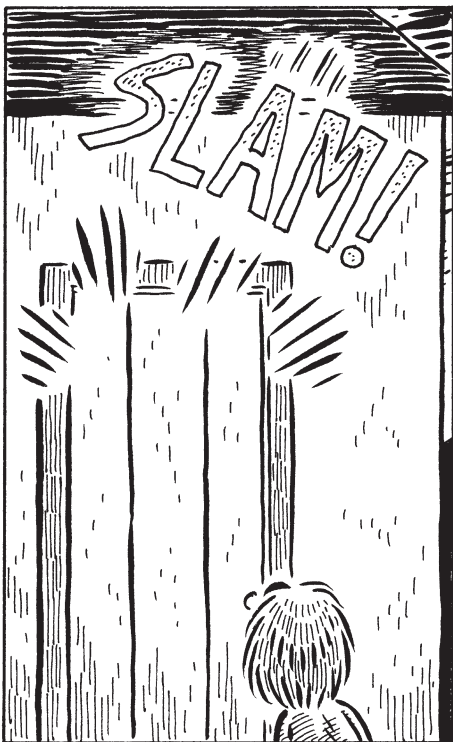
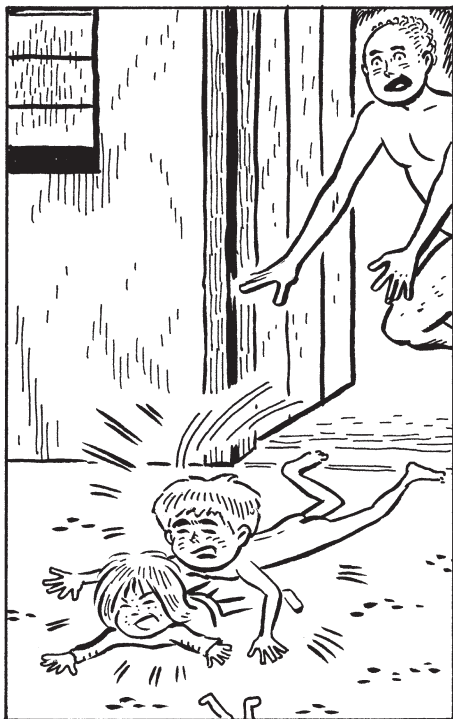


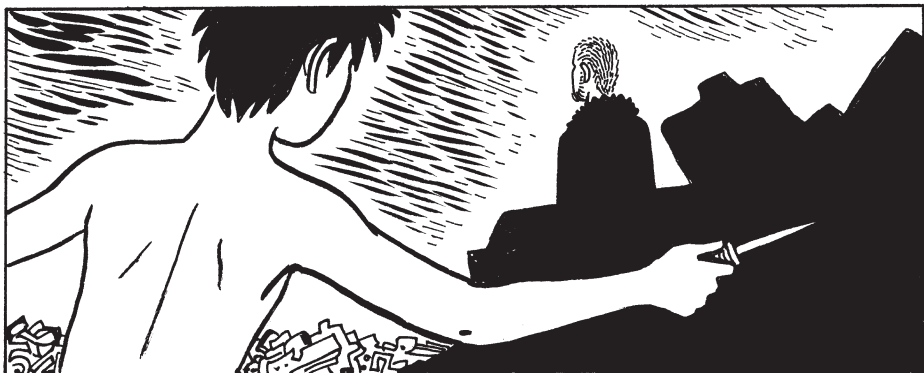
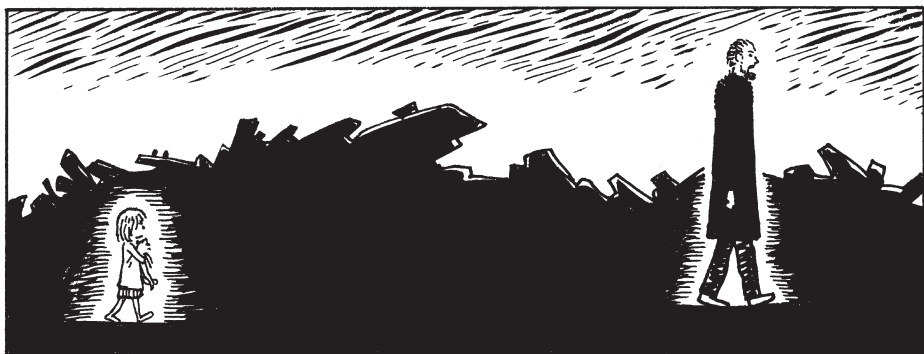


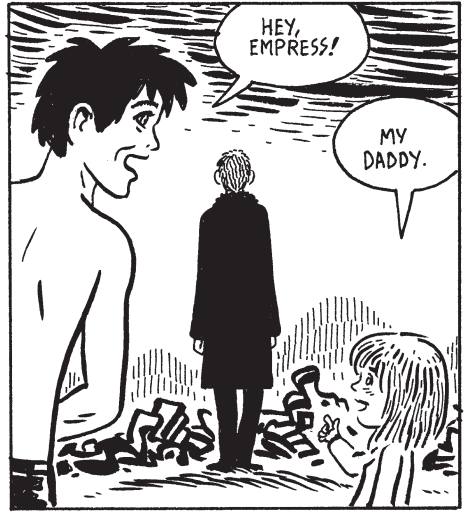
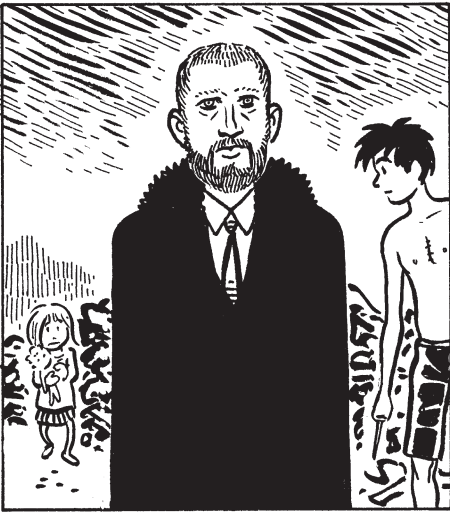






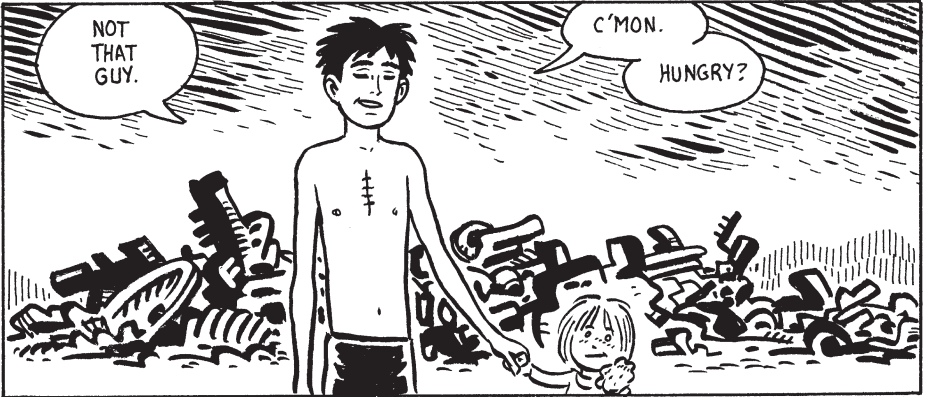






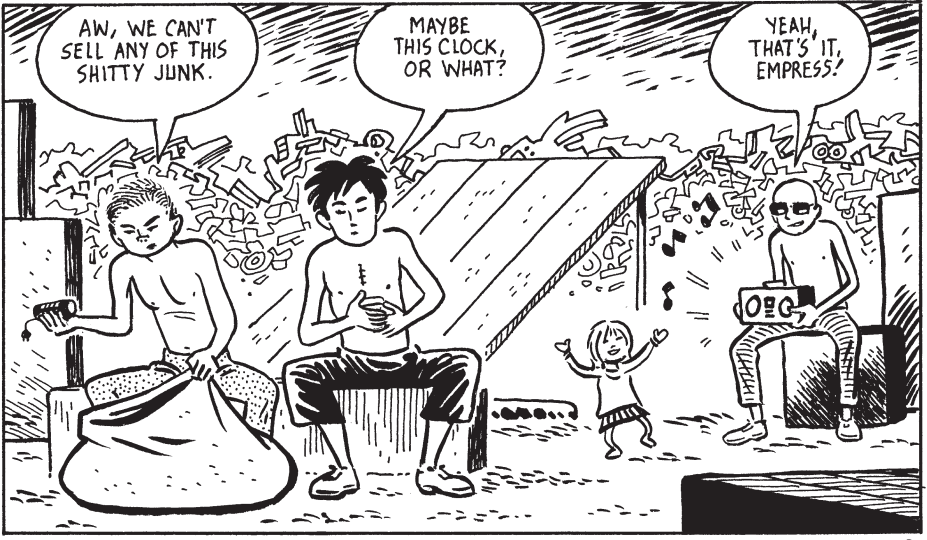
HEY, EMPRESS!

MY DADDY.



NOT THAT GUY.

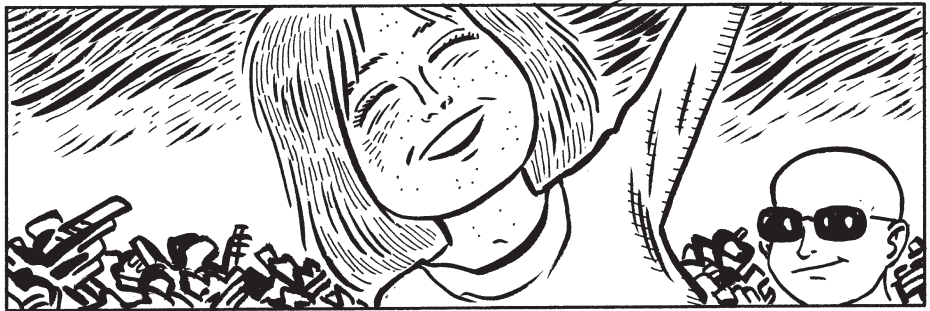
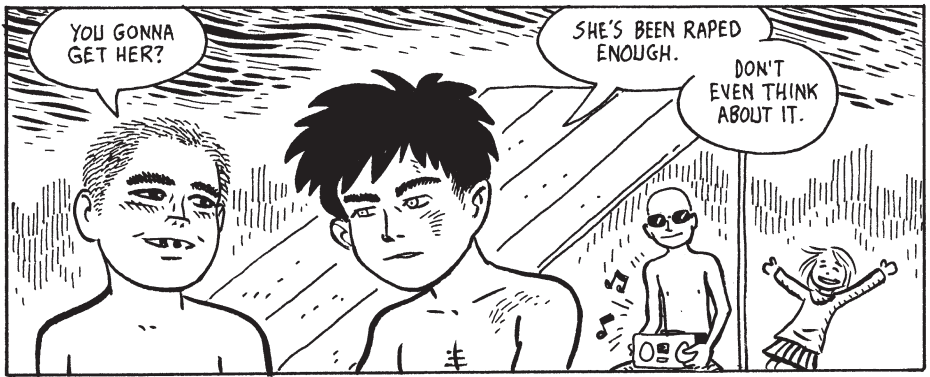
C'MON.  
HUNGRY?

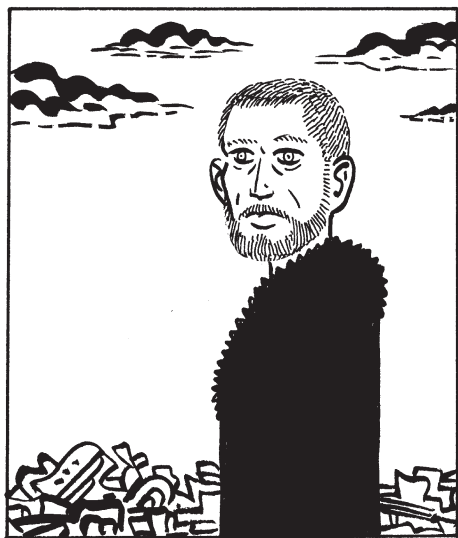
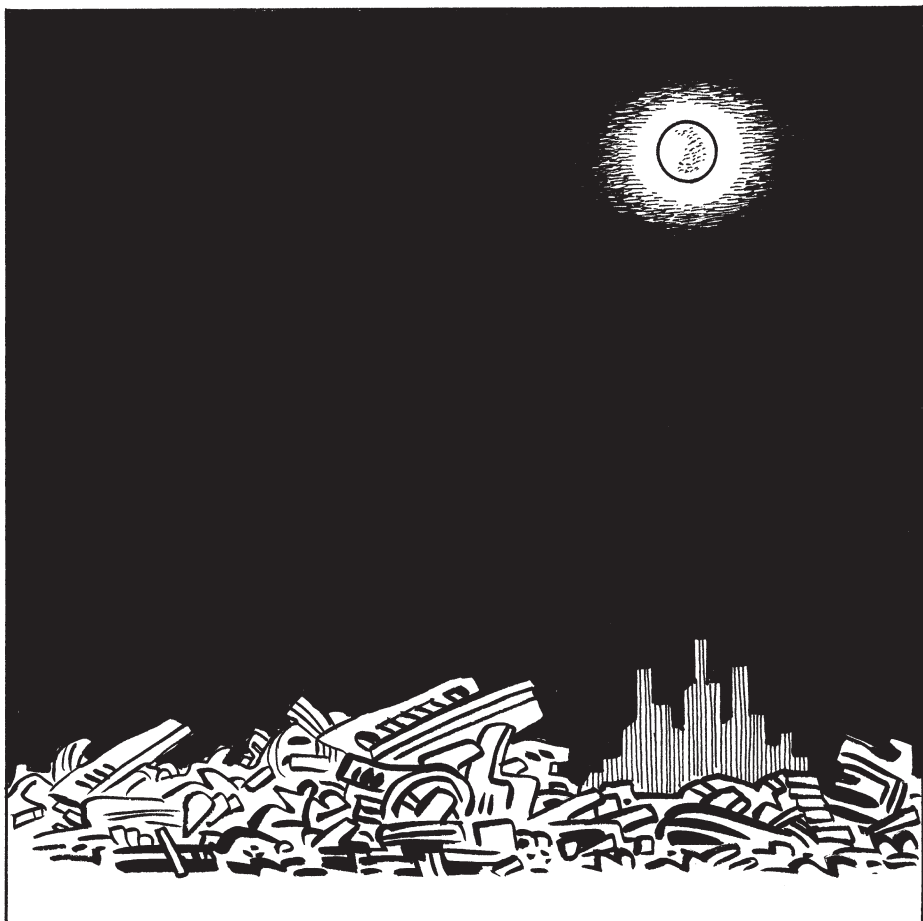


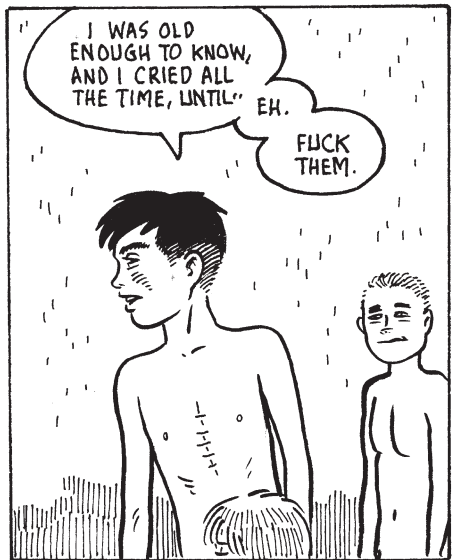
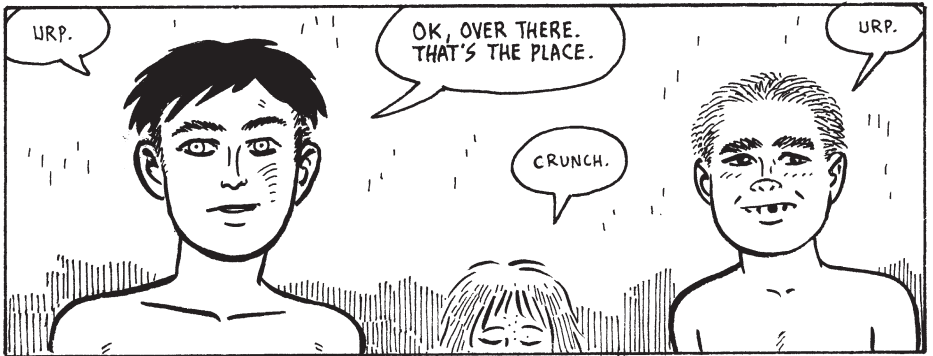
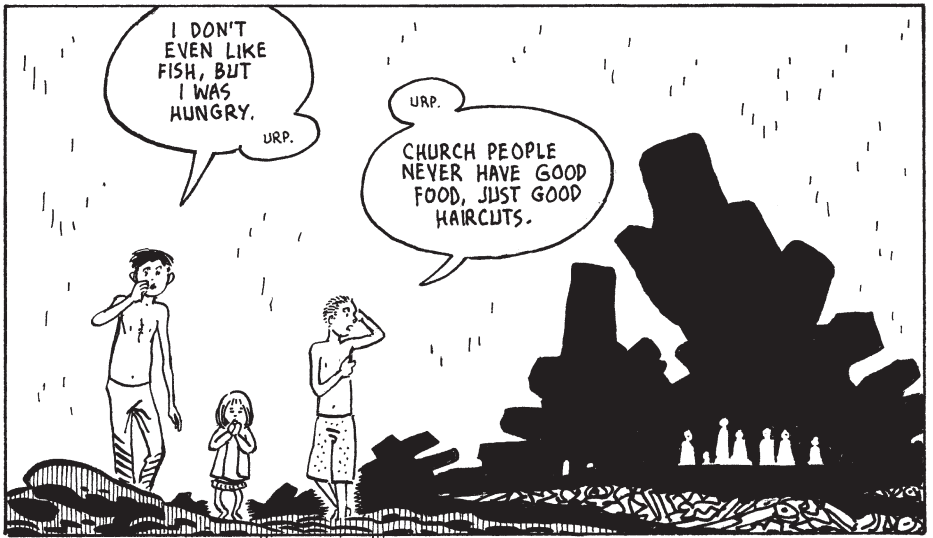
AW, WE CAN'T SELL ANY OF THIS SHITTY JUNK.

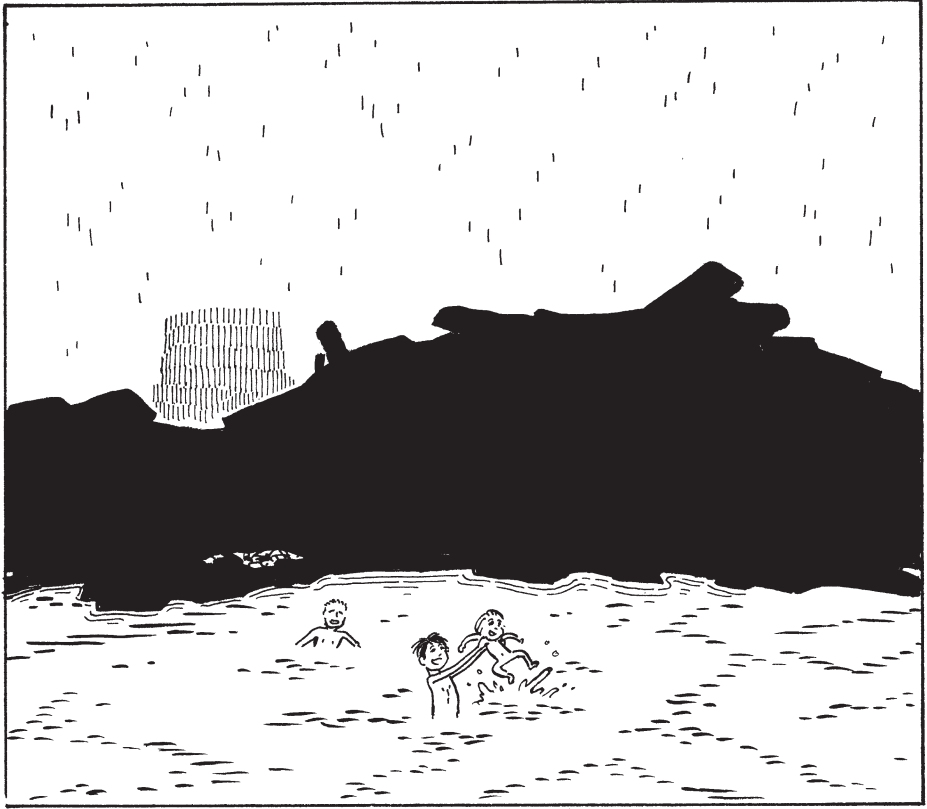
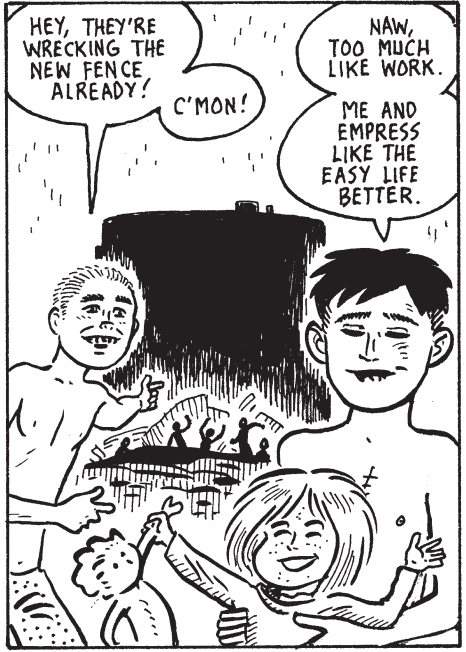
MAYBE THIS CLOCK, OR WHAT?

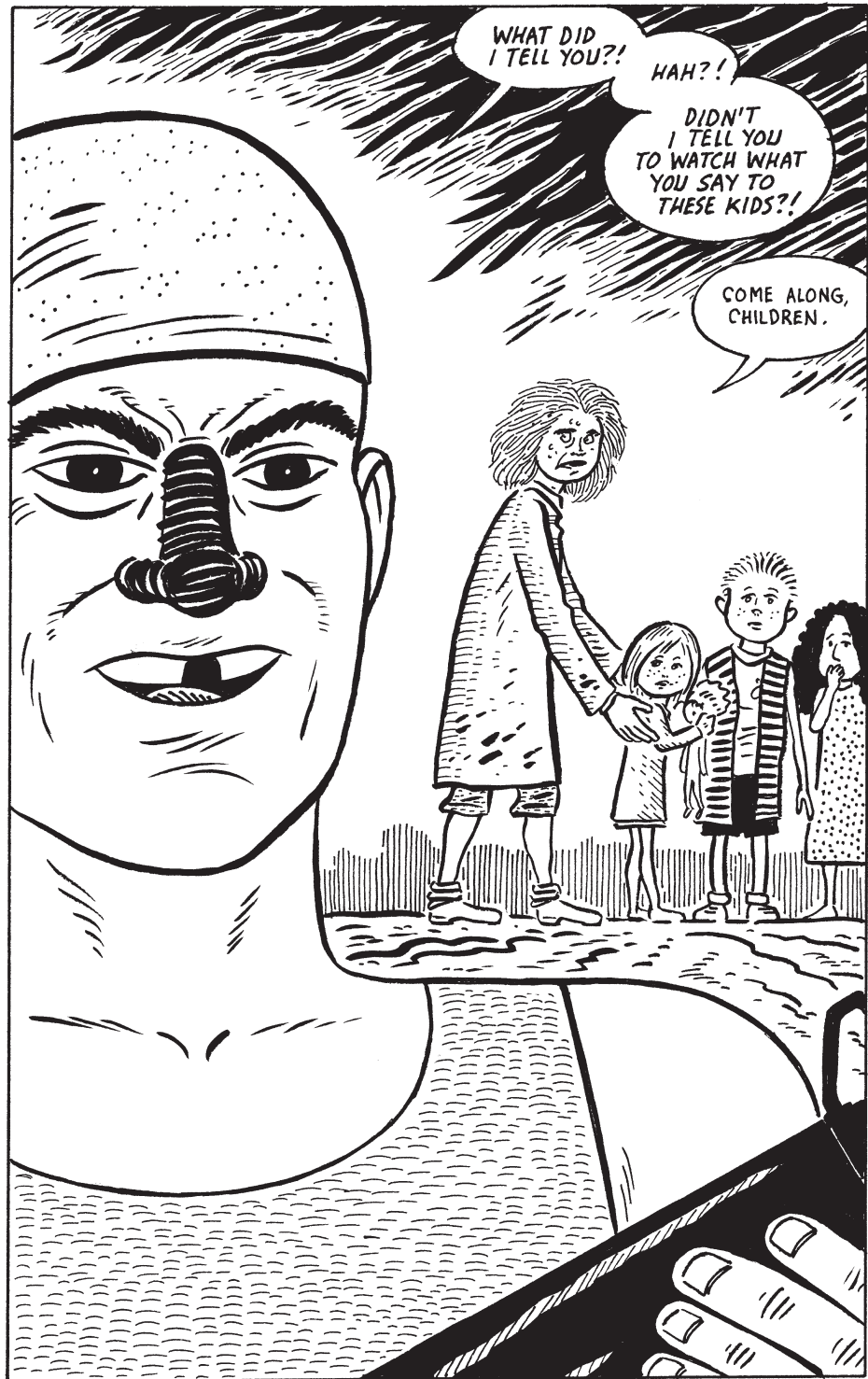
YEAH, THAT'S IT, EMPRESS!









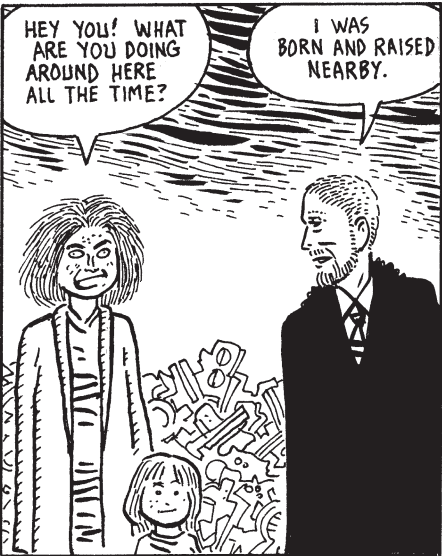
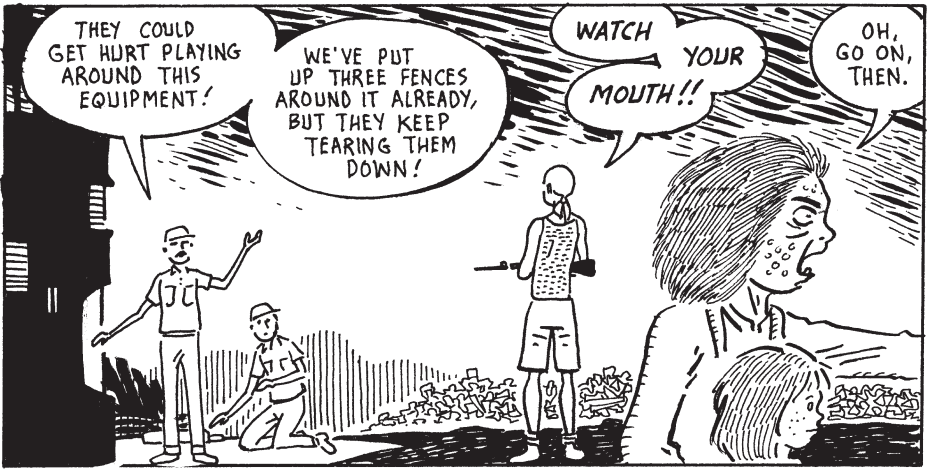


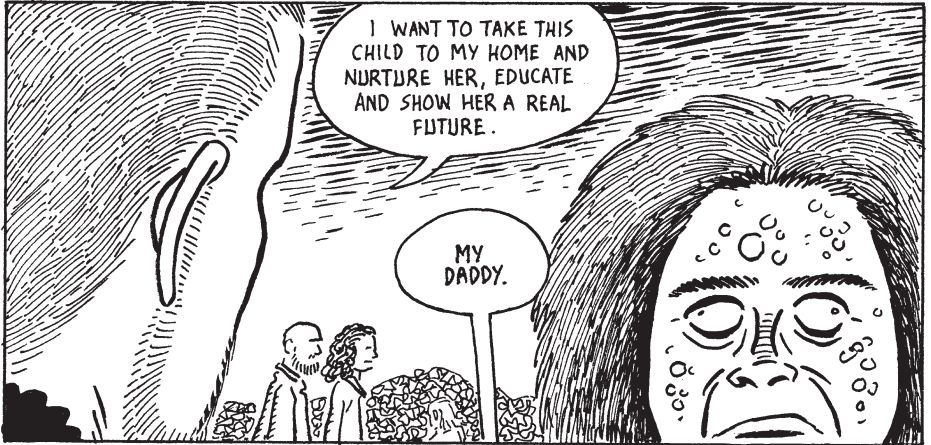
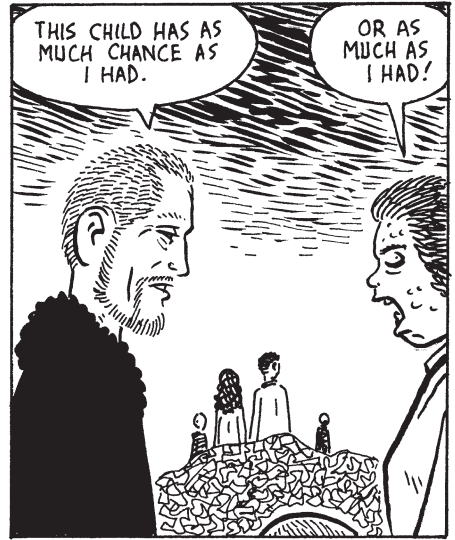
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!

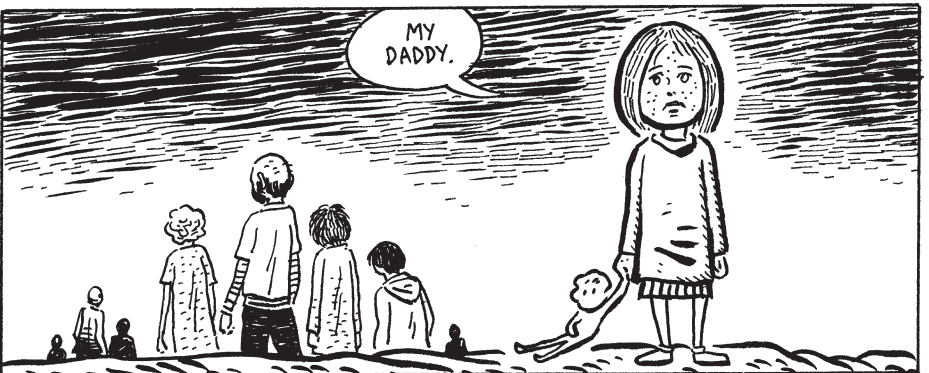
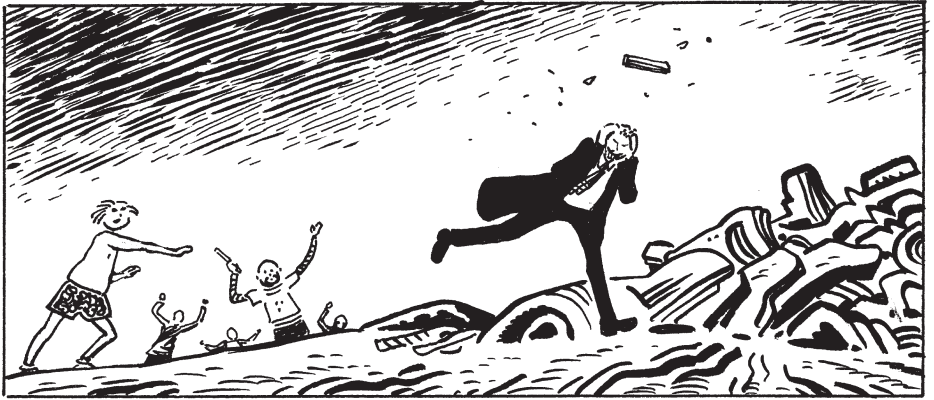
HAH?!!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO THESE KIDS?!

COME ALONG, CHILDREN.









SOMETIMES  
I HEAR MUSIC  
AT NIGHT.

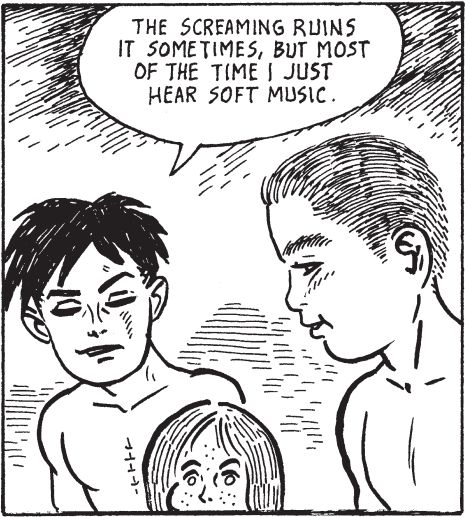
FAR  
AWAY.

I DON'T  
HEAR ANY  
THING AT  
NIGHT.



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU  
SLEEP THROUGH ANY-  
THING, EVEN  
SCREAMS.

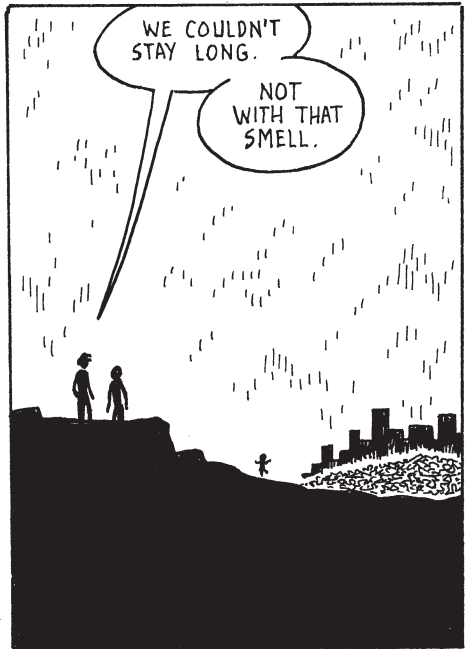
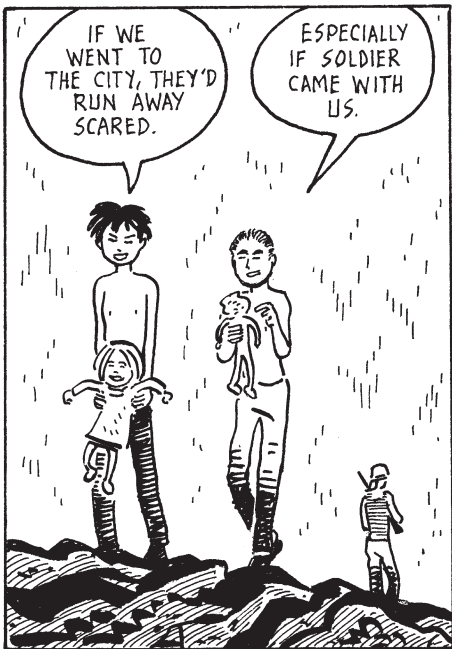
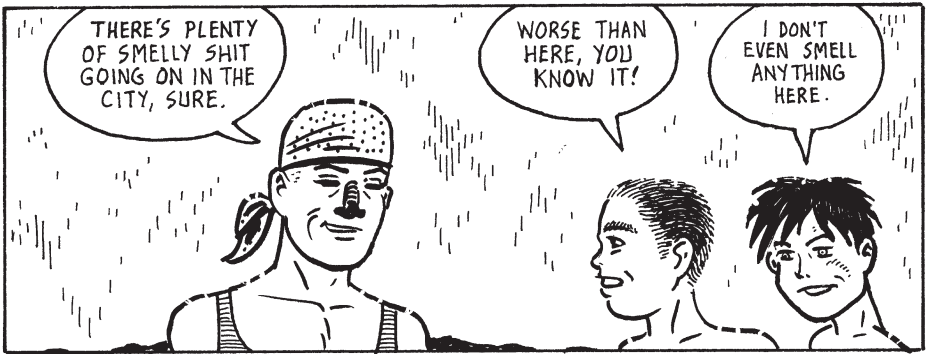
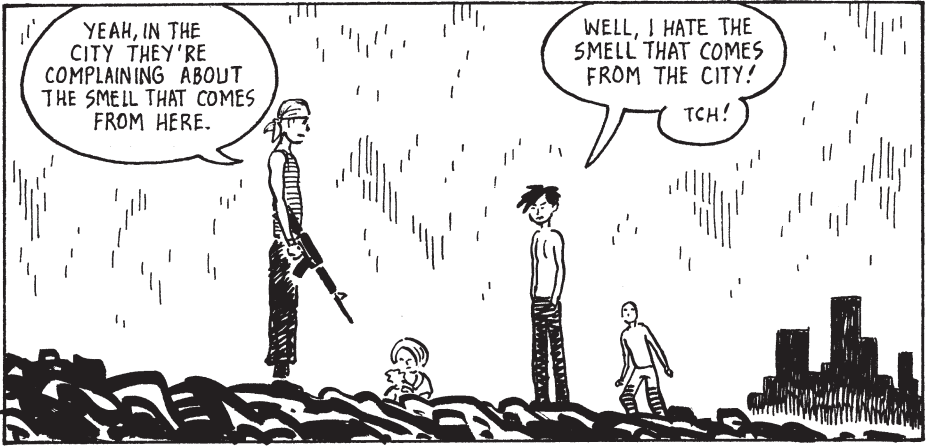
NONE  
OF MY  
BUSINESS.

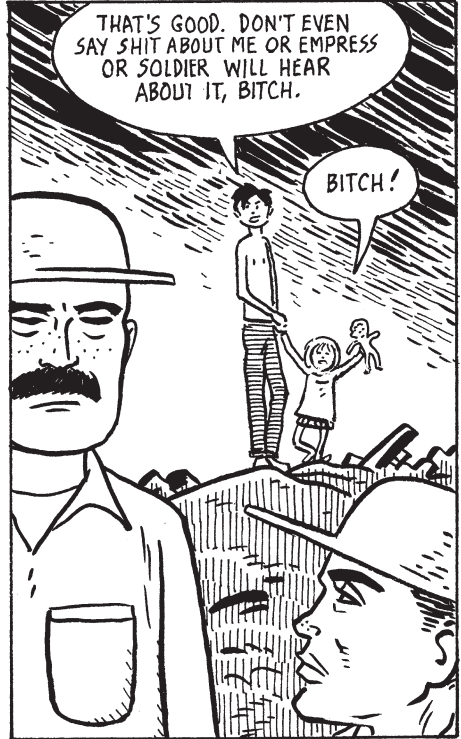


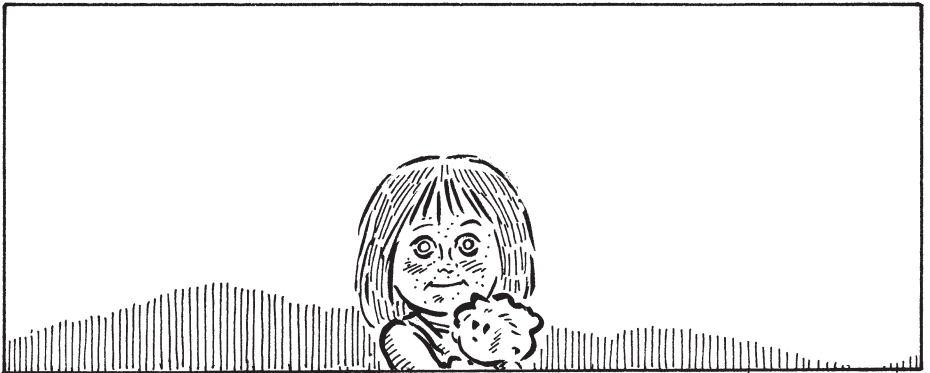
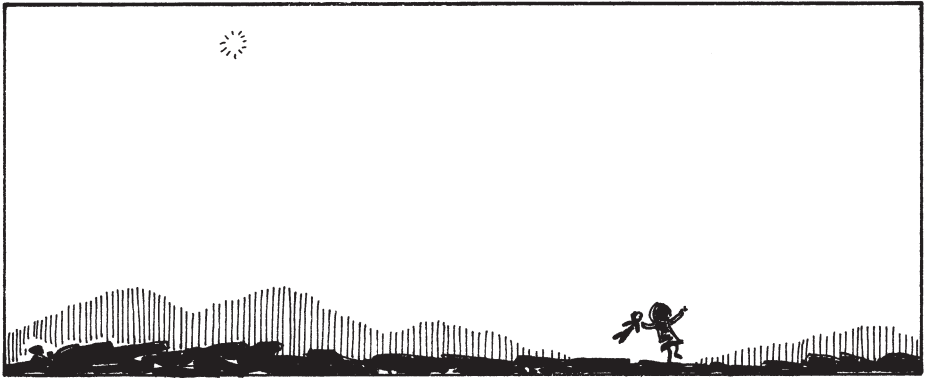
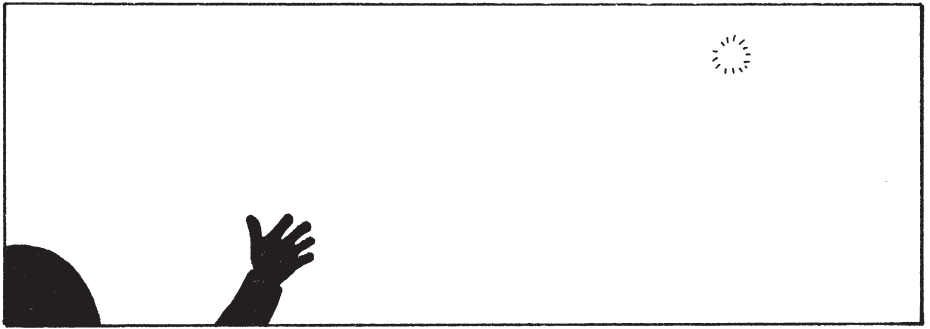
THE SCREAMING RUINS  
IT SOMETIMES, BUT MOST  
OF THE TIME I JUST  
HEAR SOFT MUSIC.



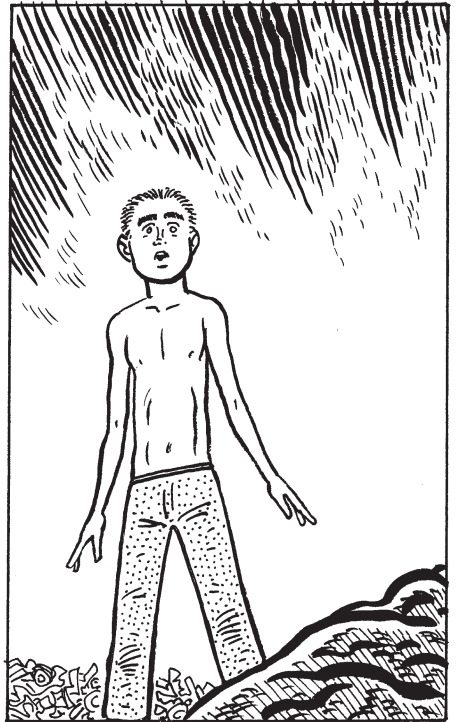
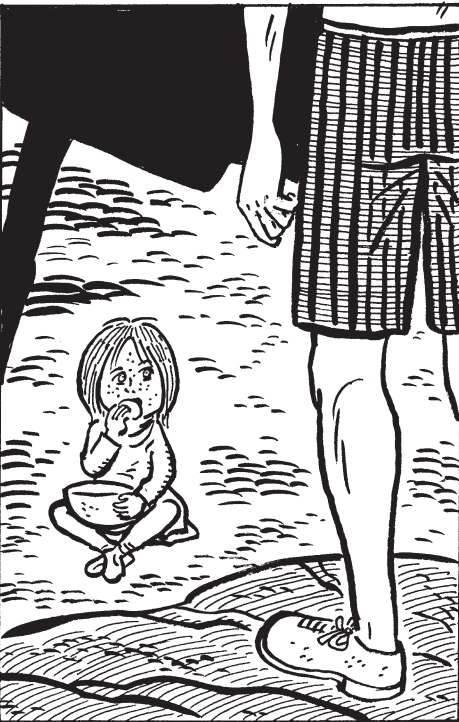
EMPRESS  
JUST STARES  
WHEN THERE'S  
SCREAMING  
AT NIGHT.

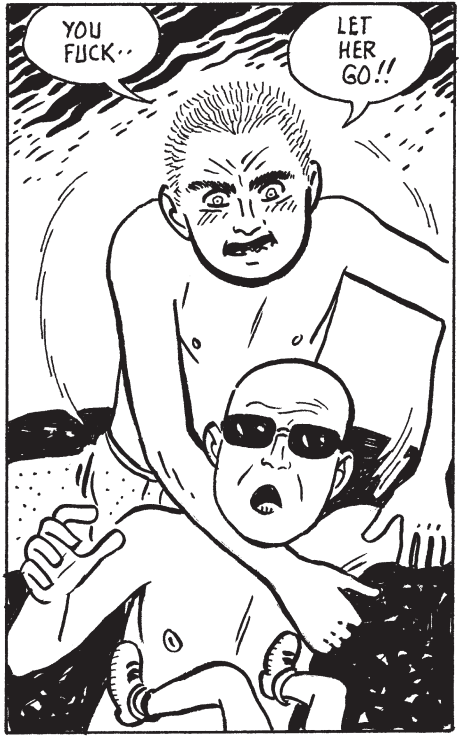
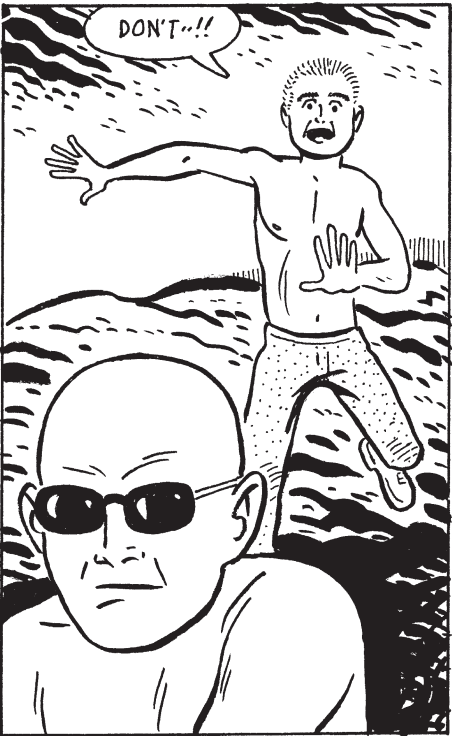


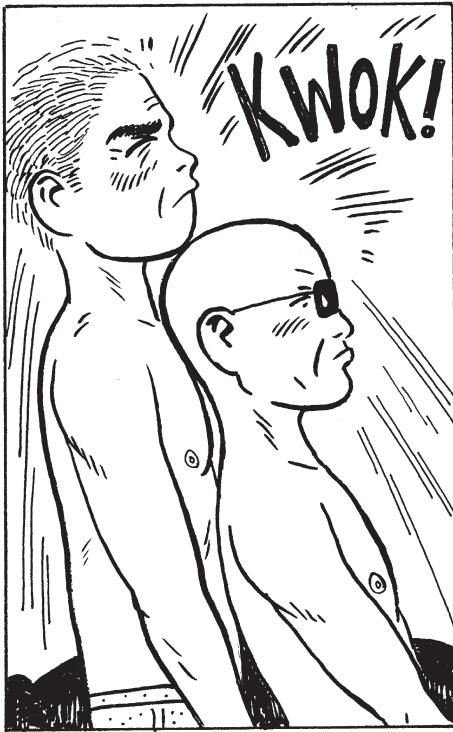


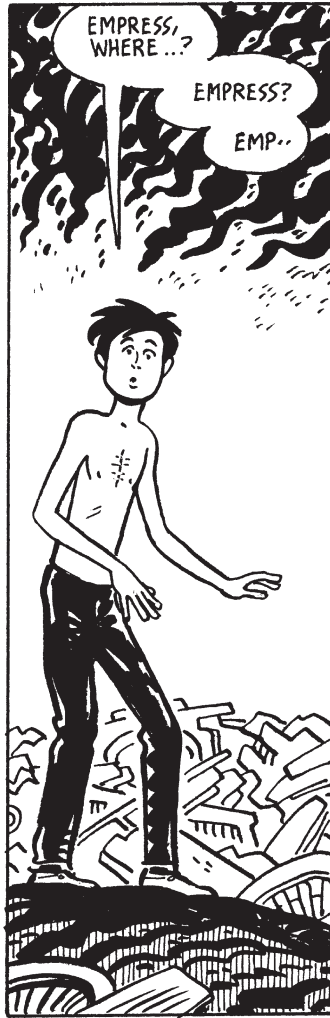
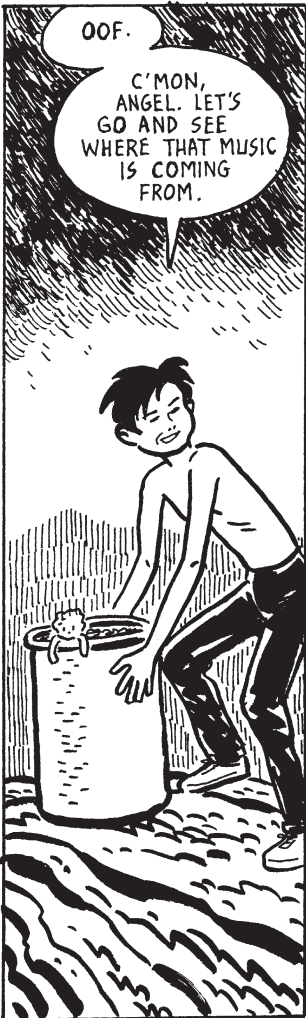




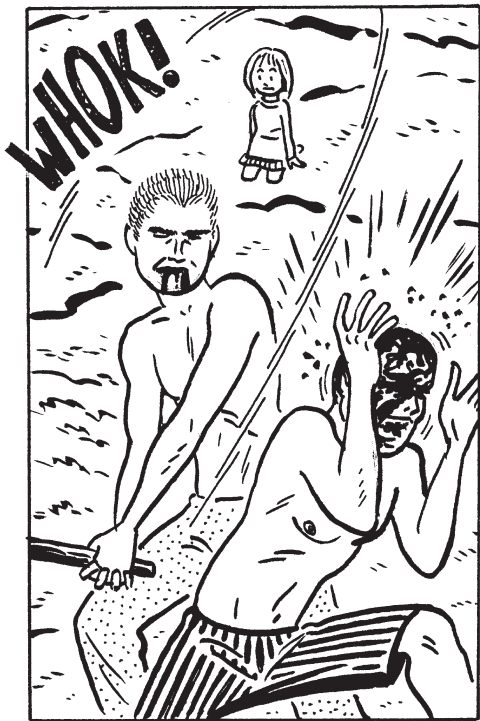




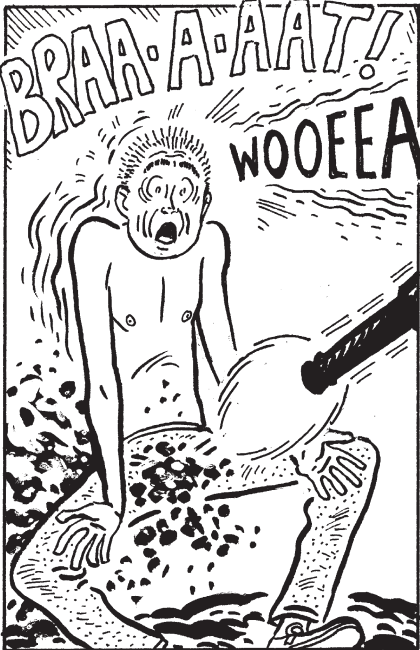
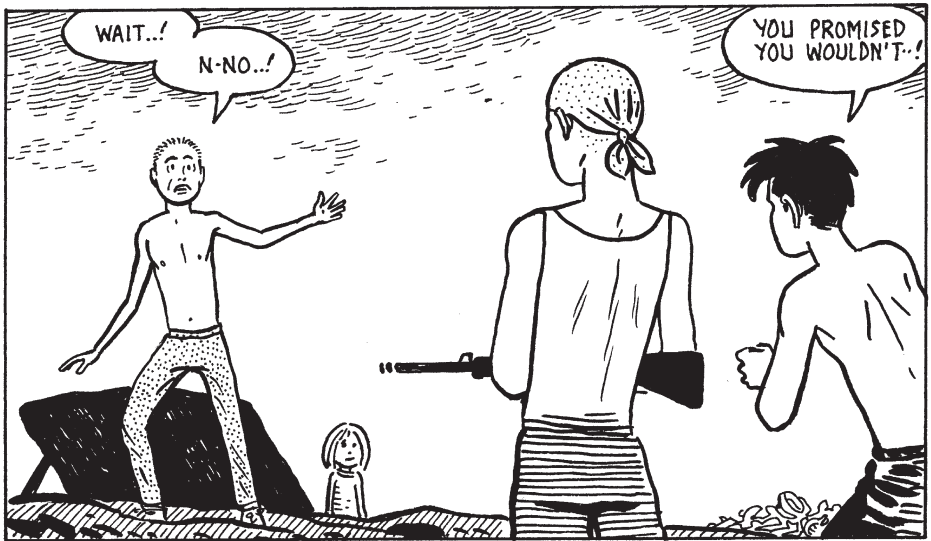




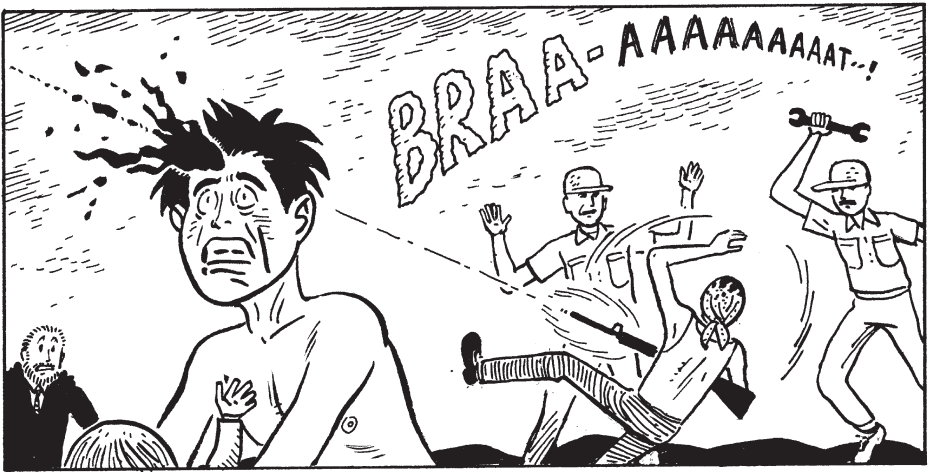


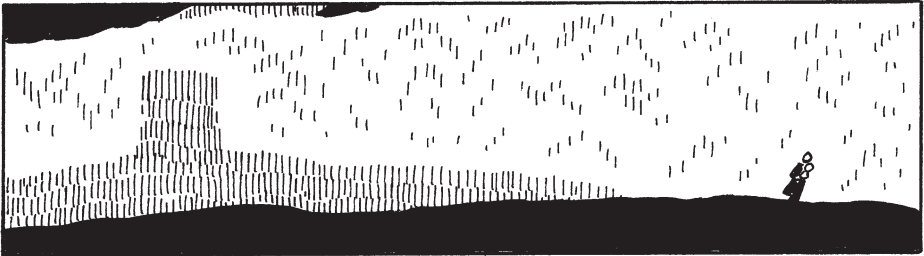




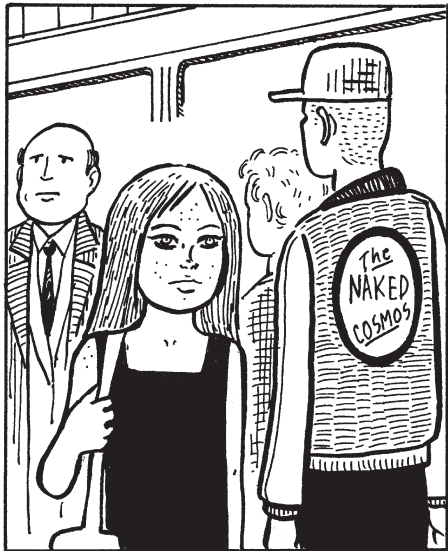
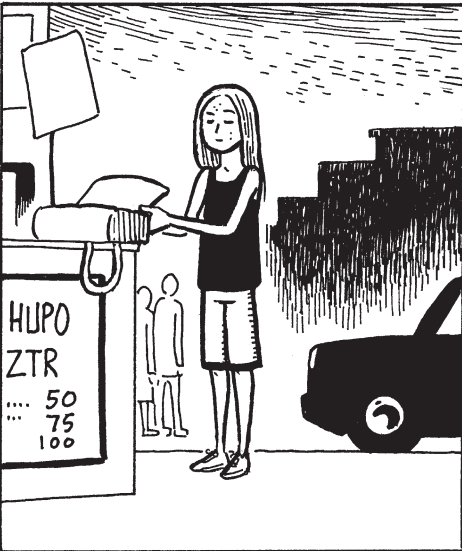


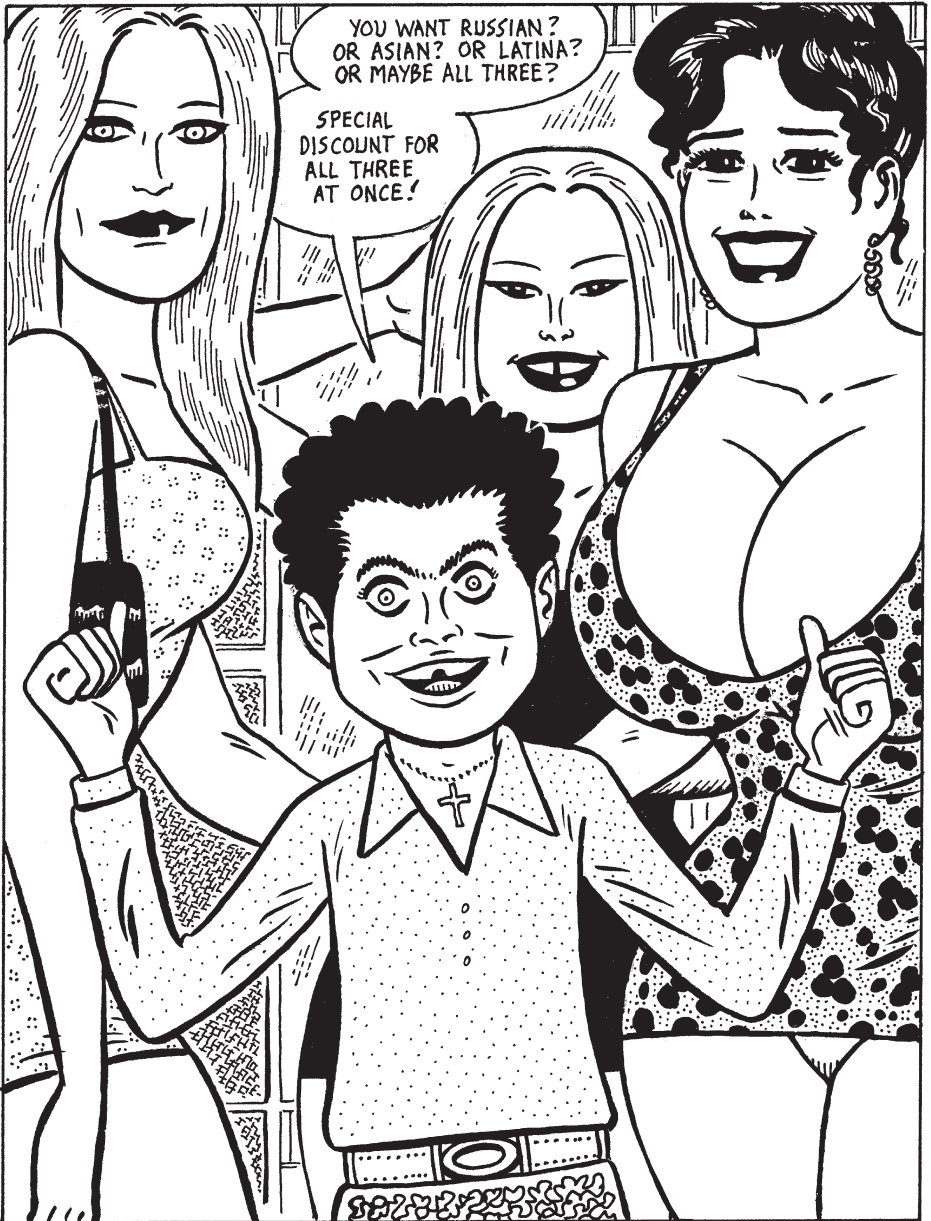


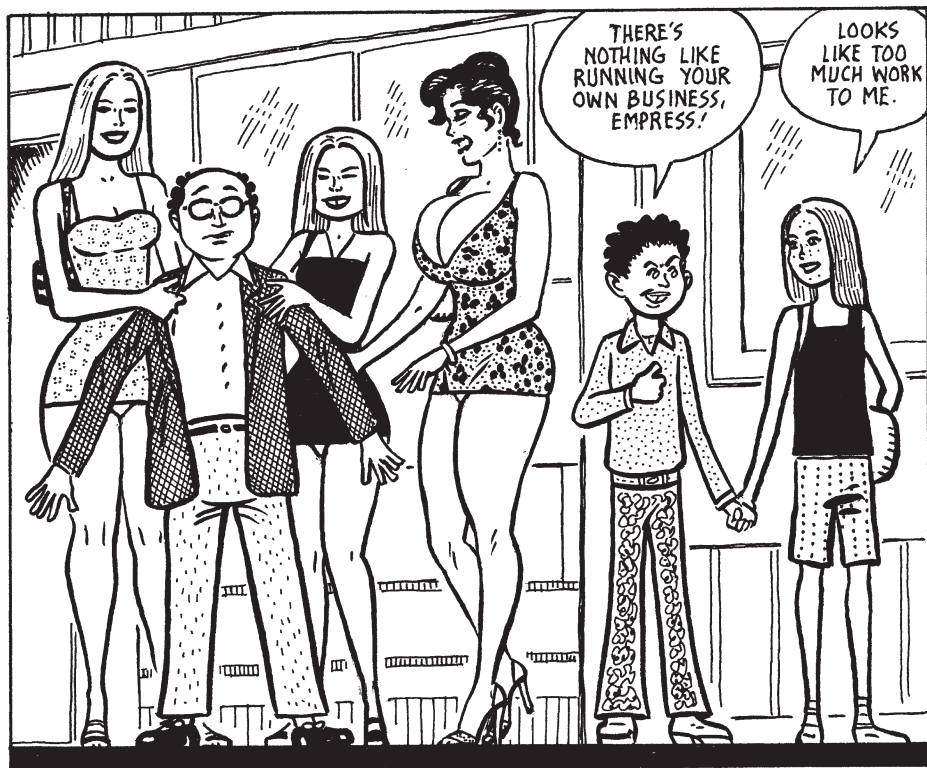


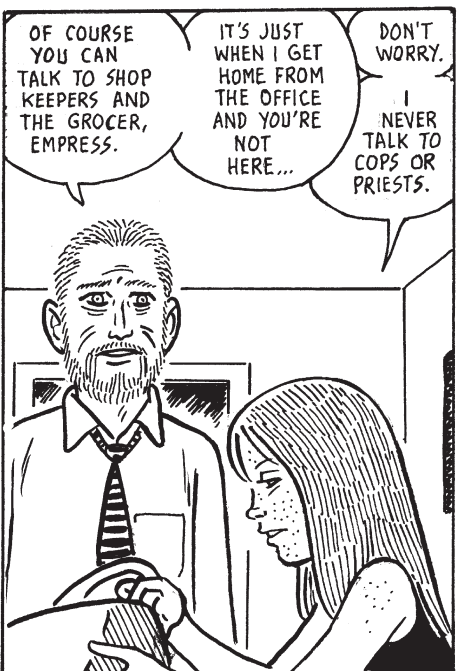
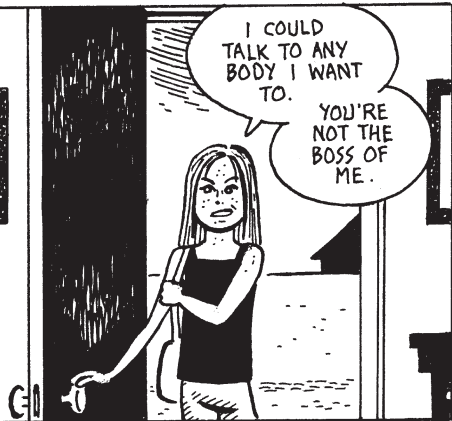
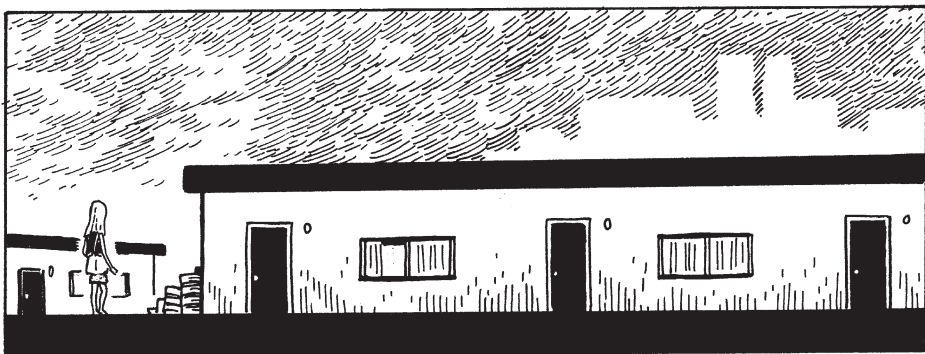


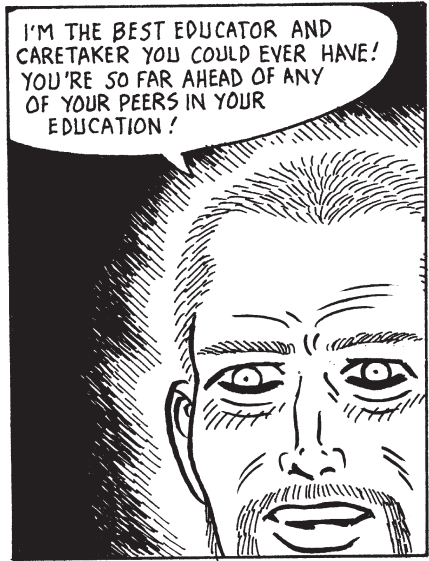


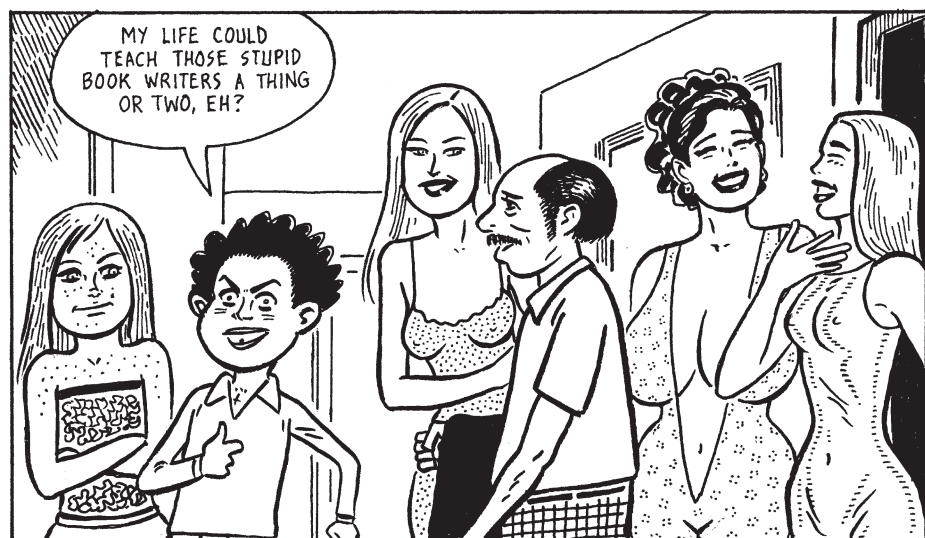
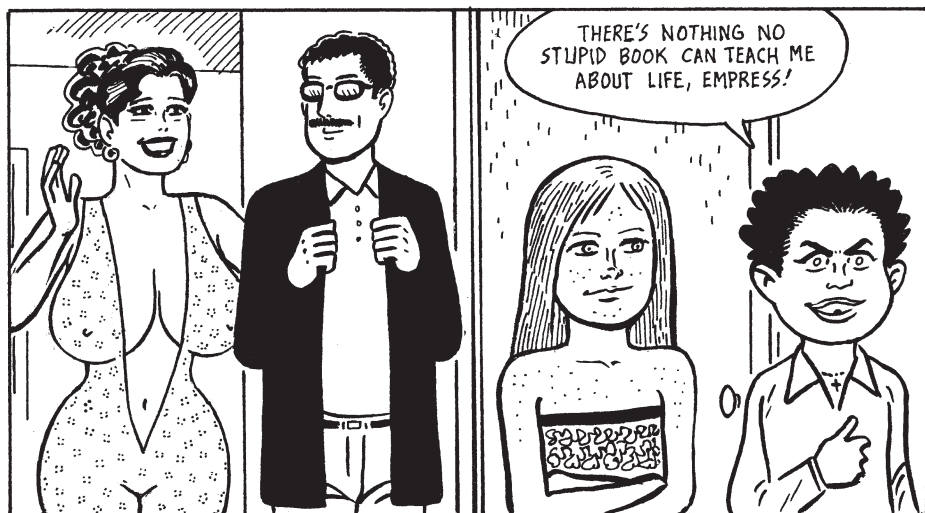


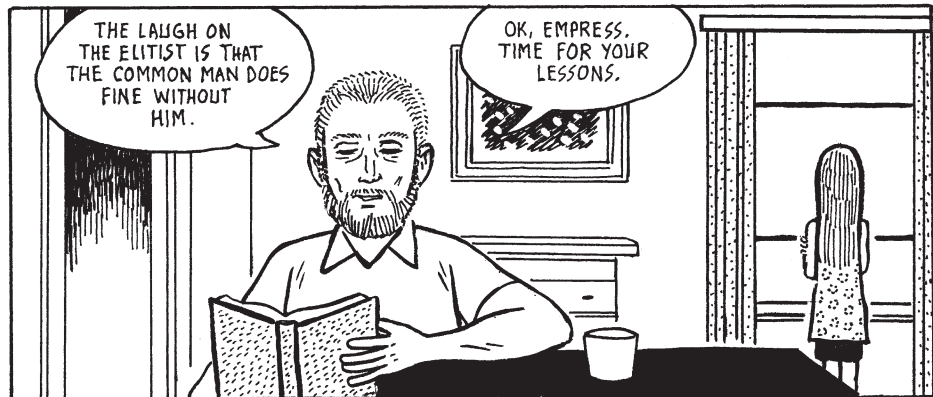


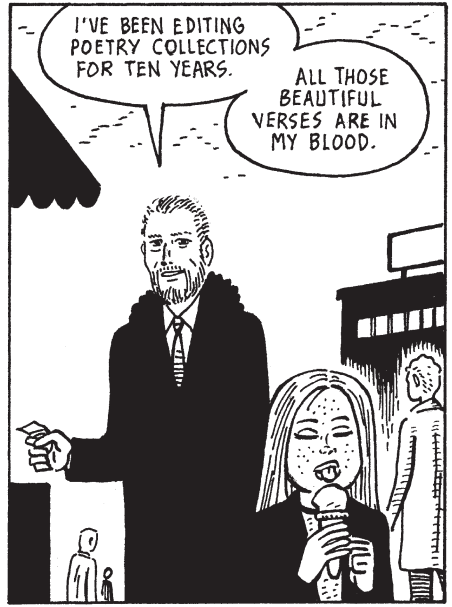
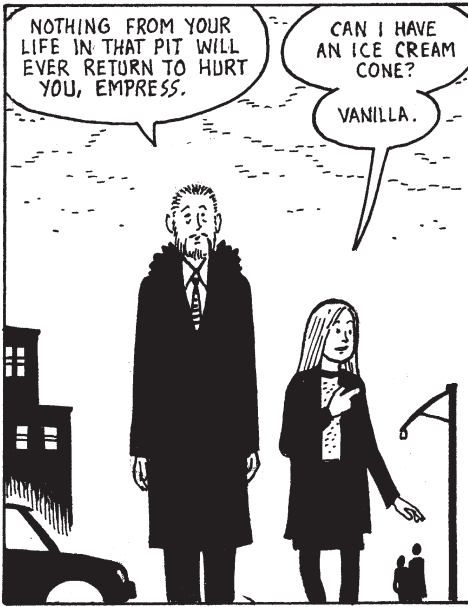




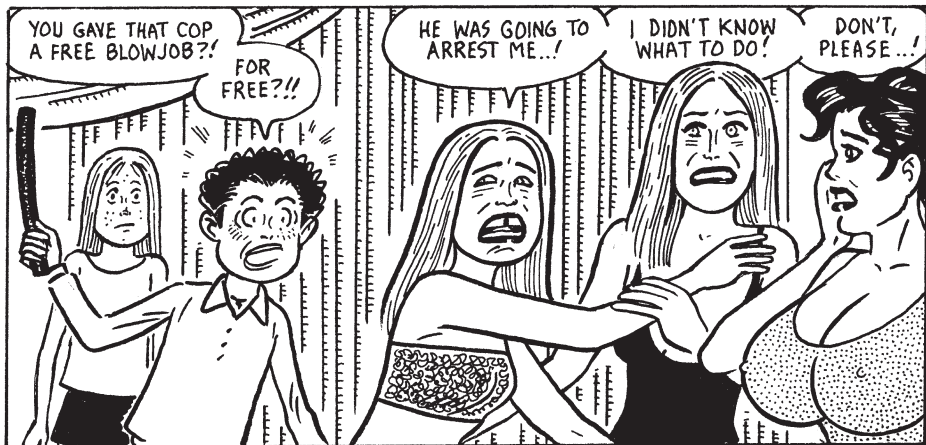


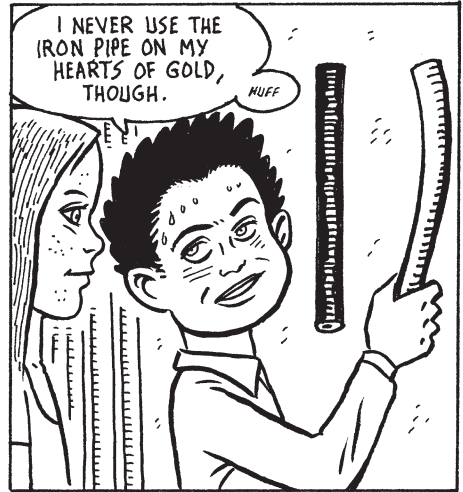
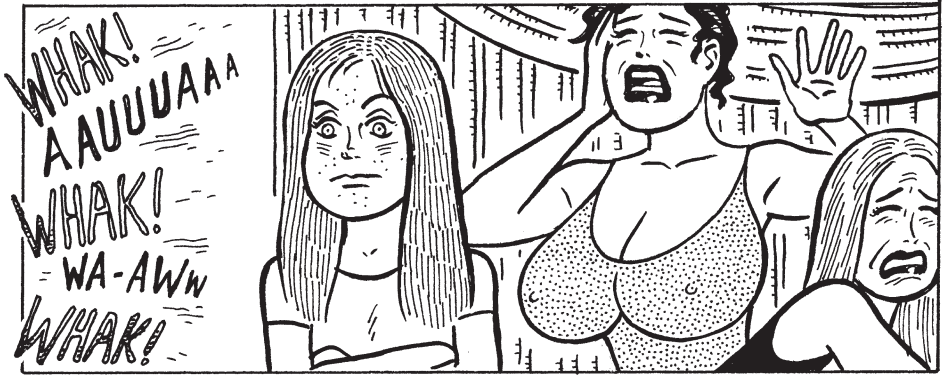






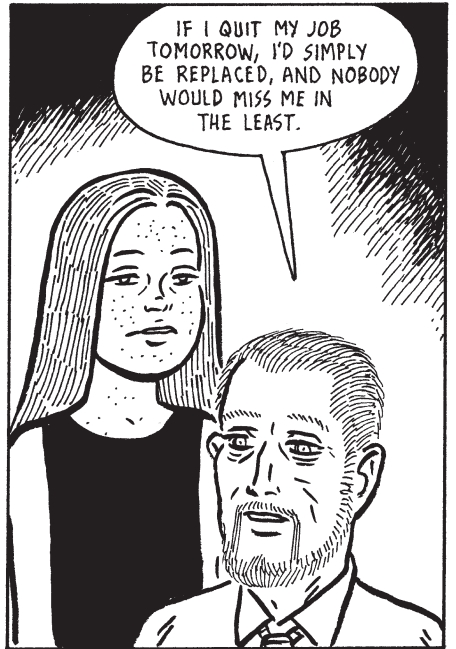


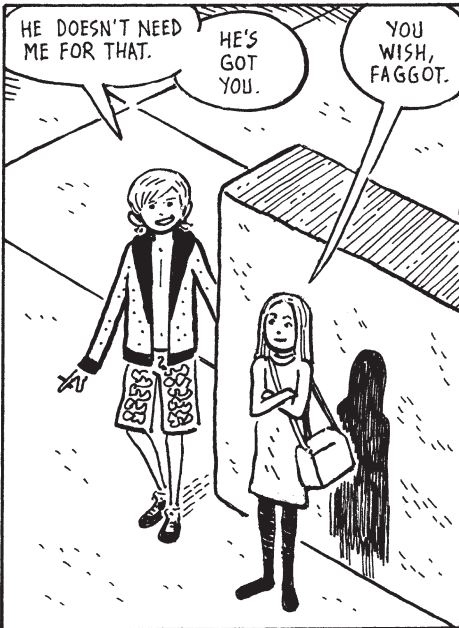


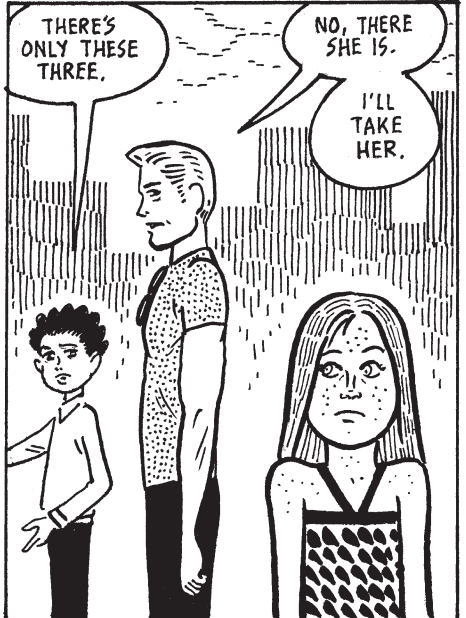
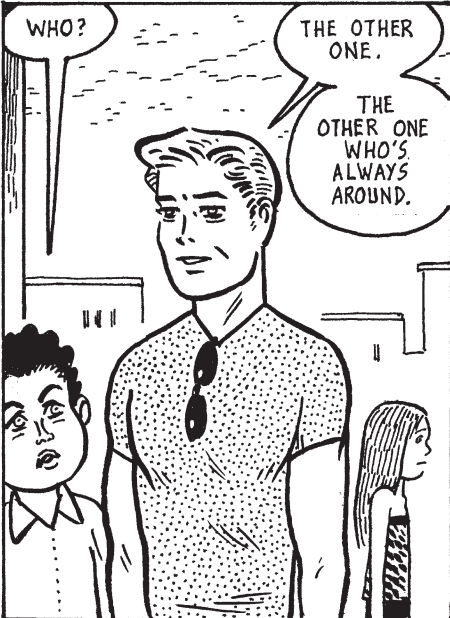
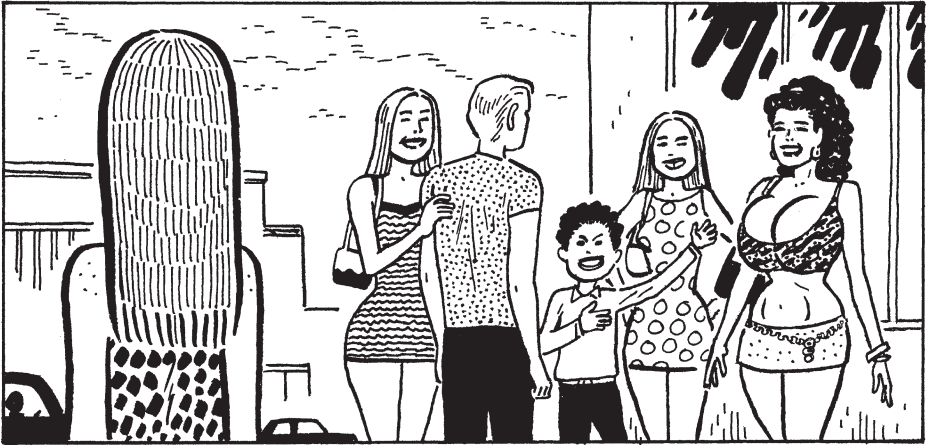


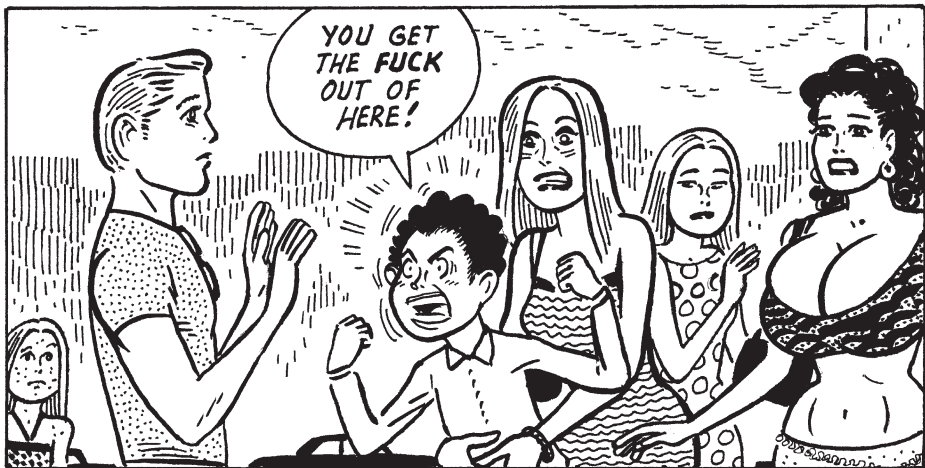


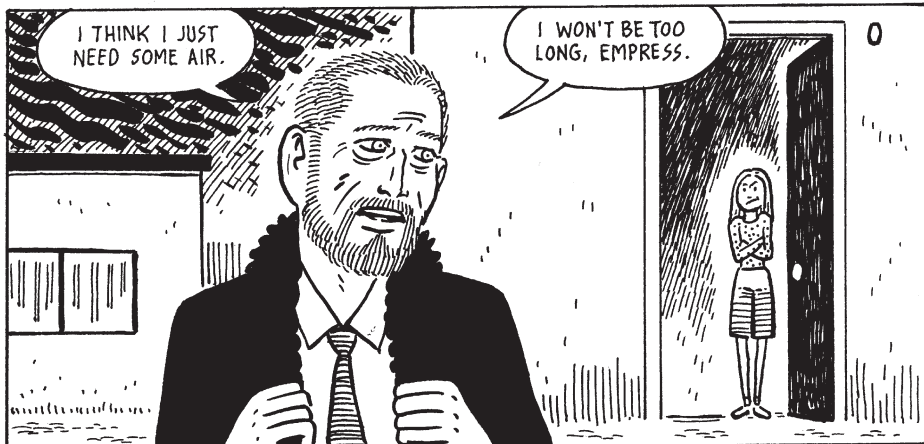
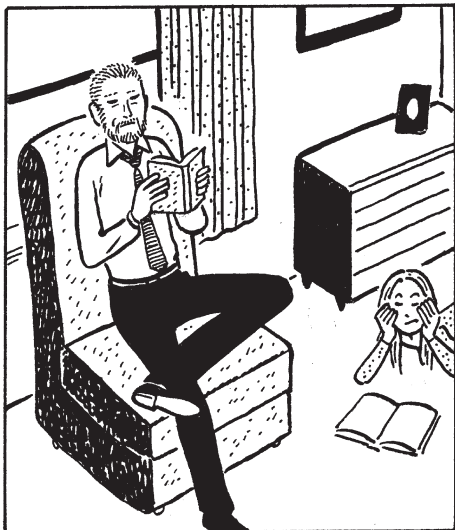


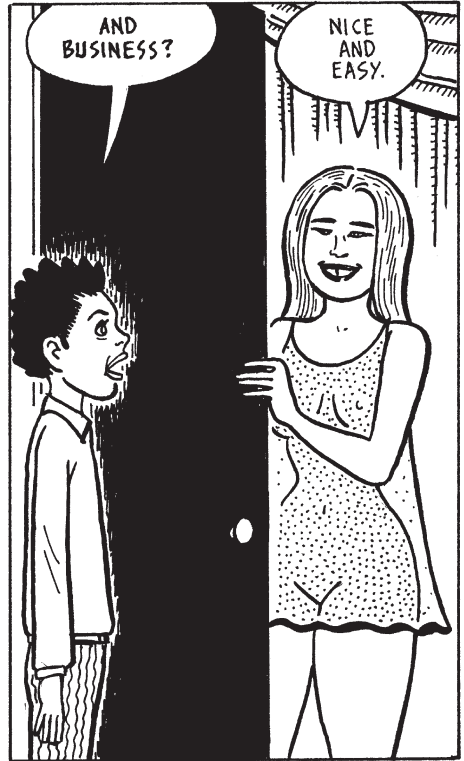
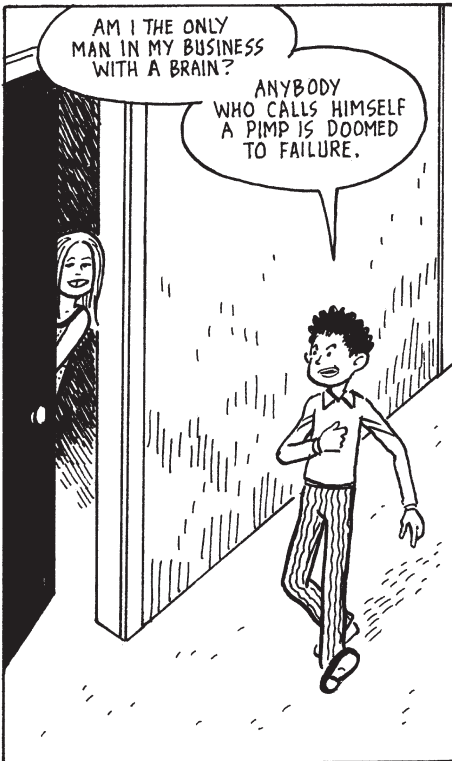


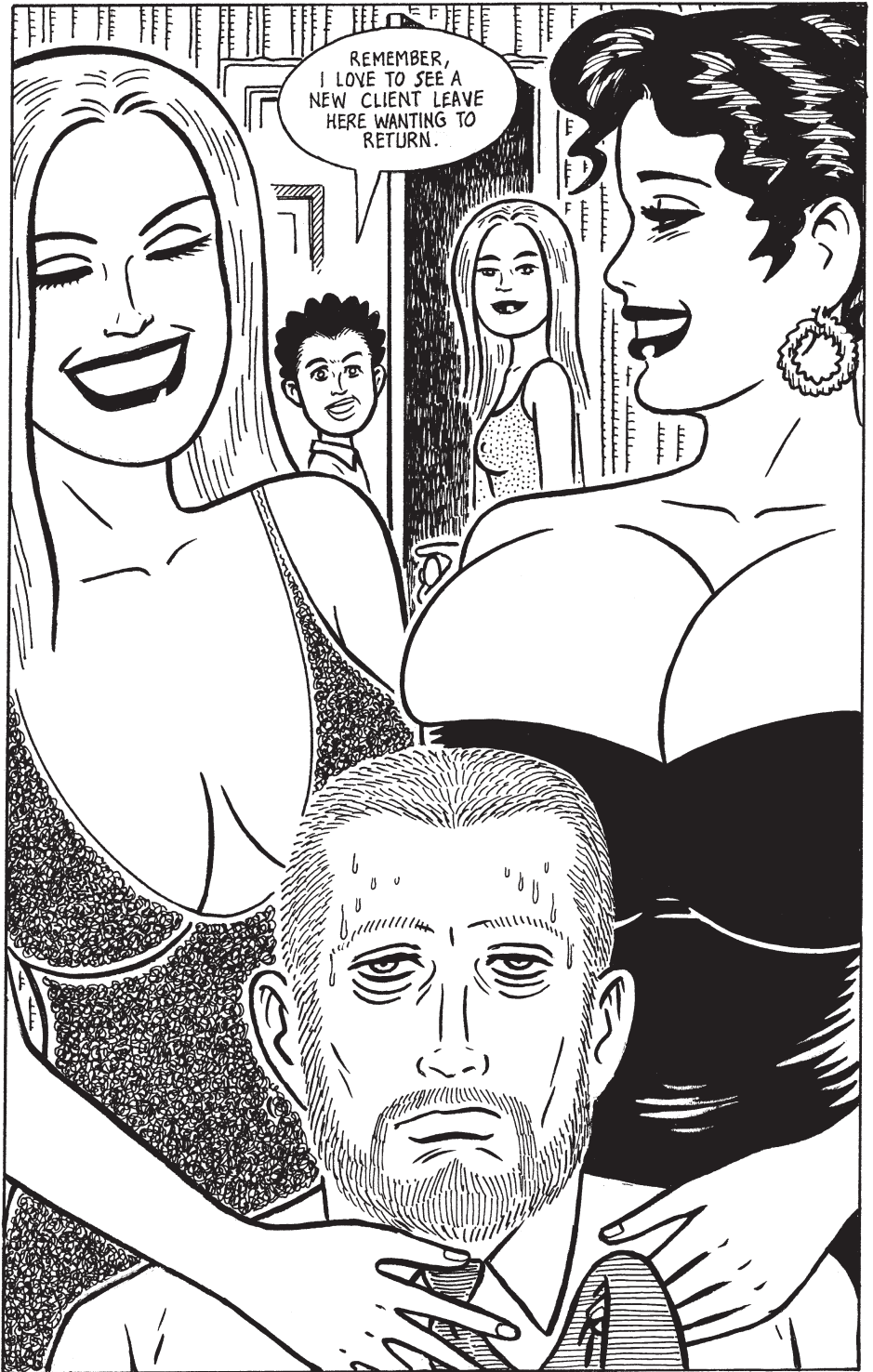


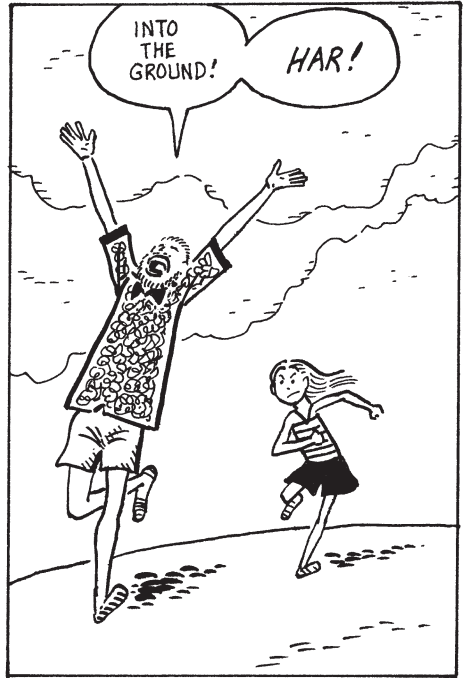
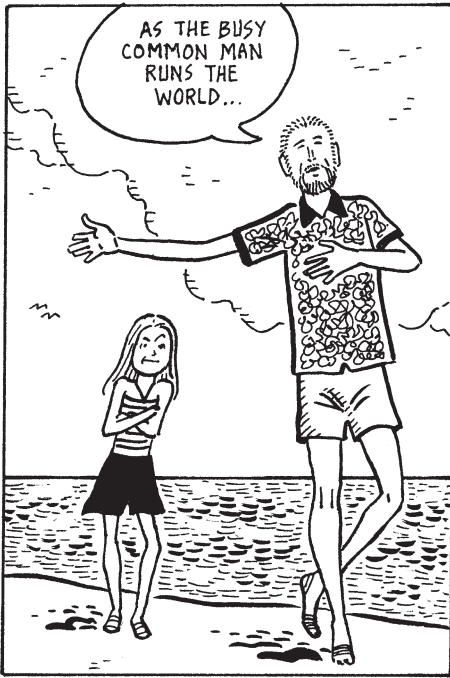


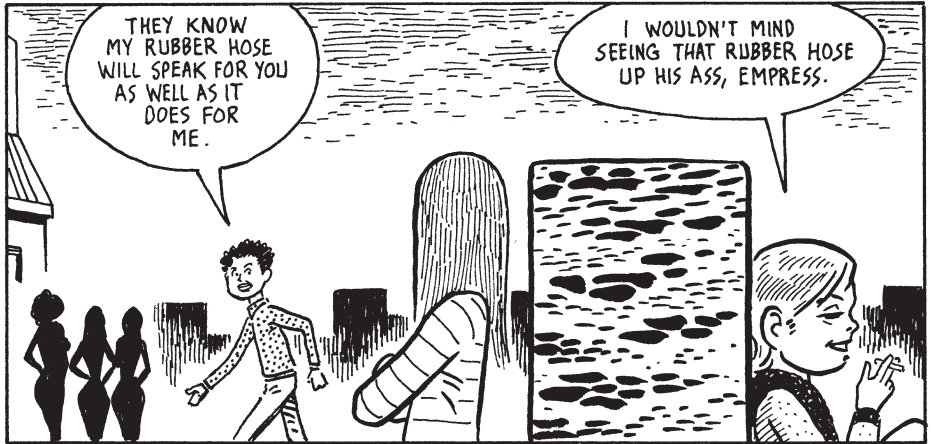
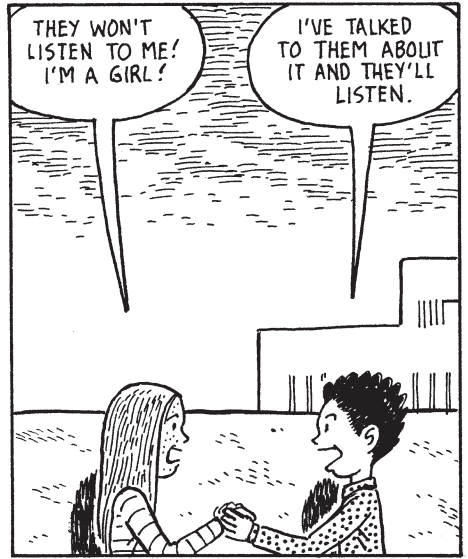
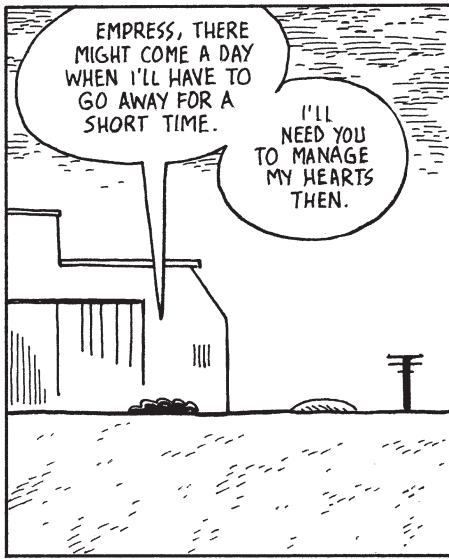


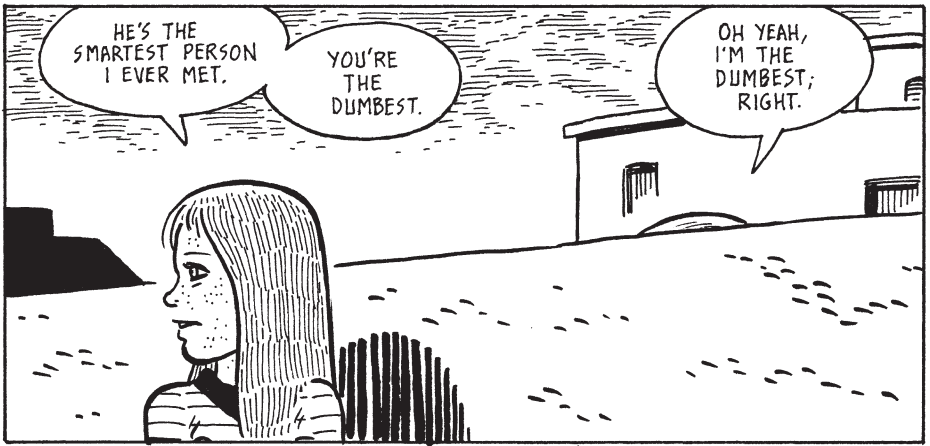








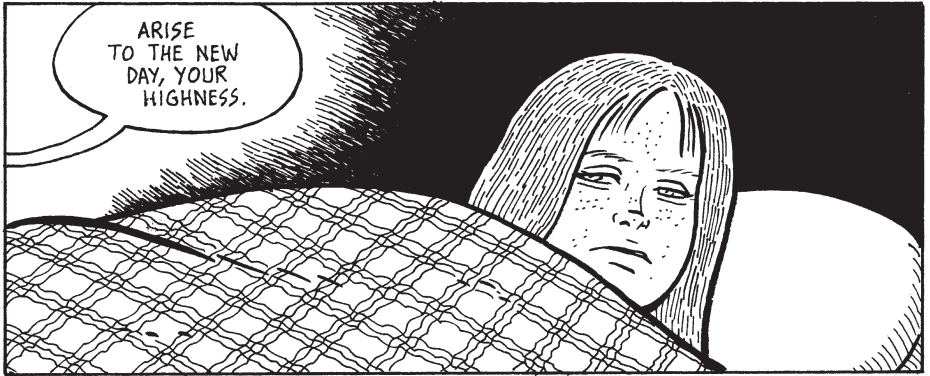




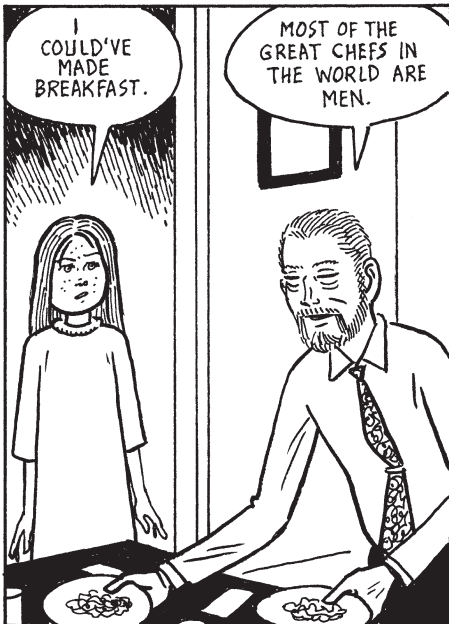
HE'S THE  
SMARTEST PERSON  
I EVER MET.

YOU'RE  
THE  
DUMBEST.

OH YEAH,  
I'M THE  
DUMBEST;  
RIGHT.



ARISE  
TO THE NEW  
DAY, YOUR  
HIGHNESS.



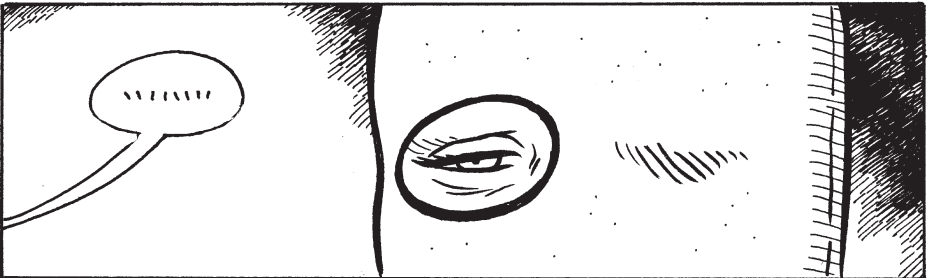
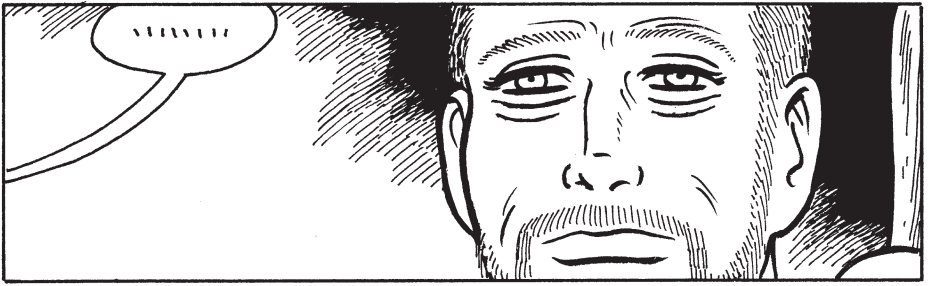
I  
COULD'VE  
MADE  
BREAKFAST.

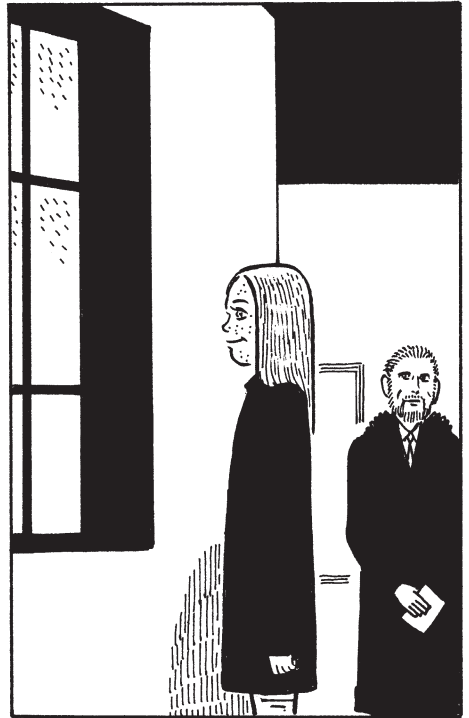
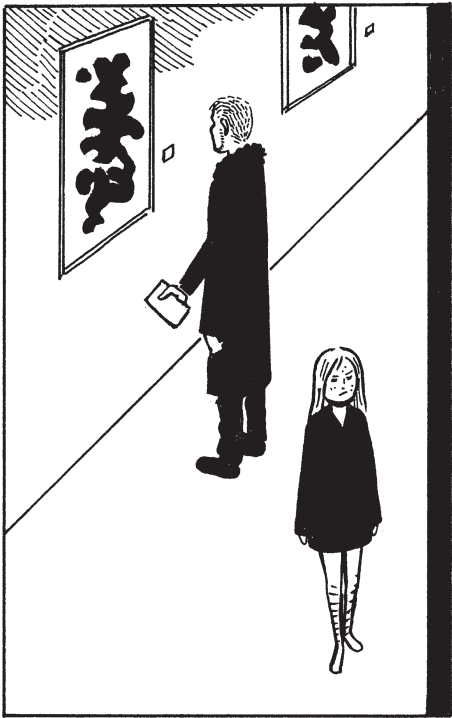
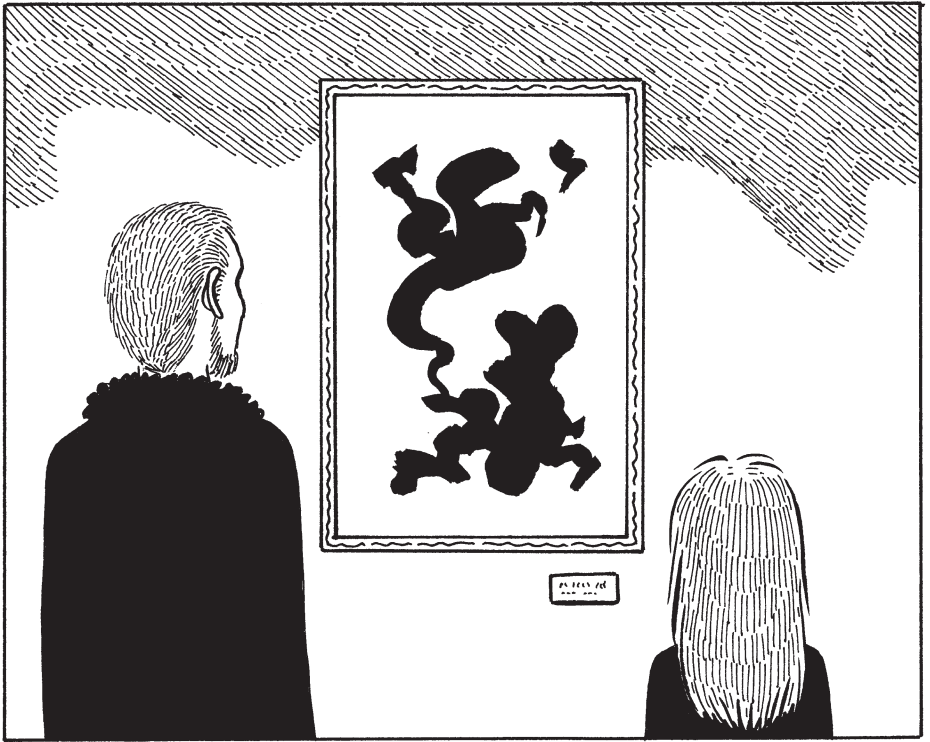
MOST OF THE  
GREAT CHEFS IN  
THE WORLD ARE  
MEN.

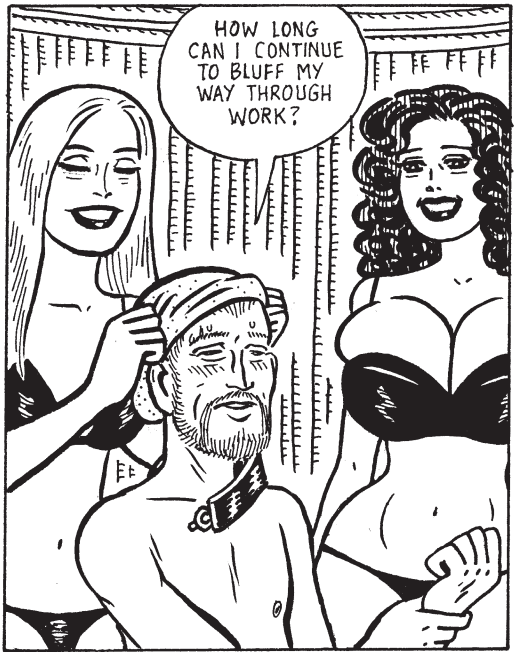
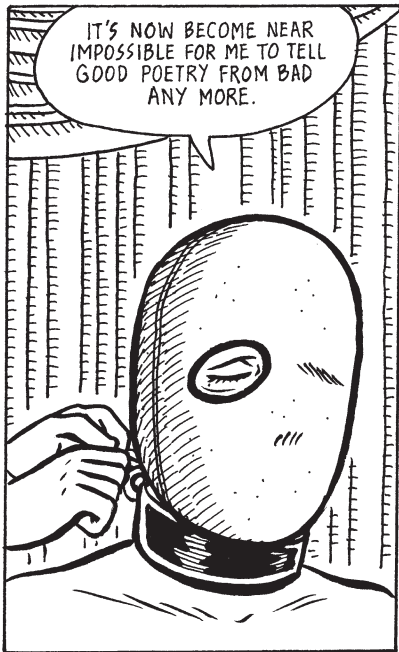


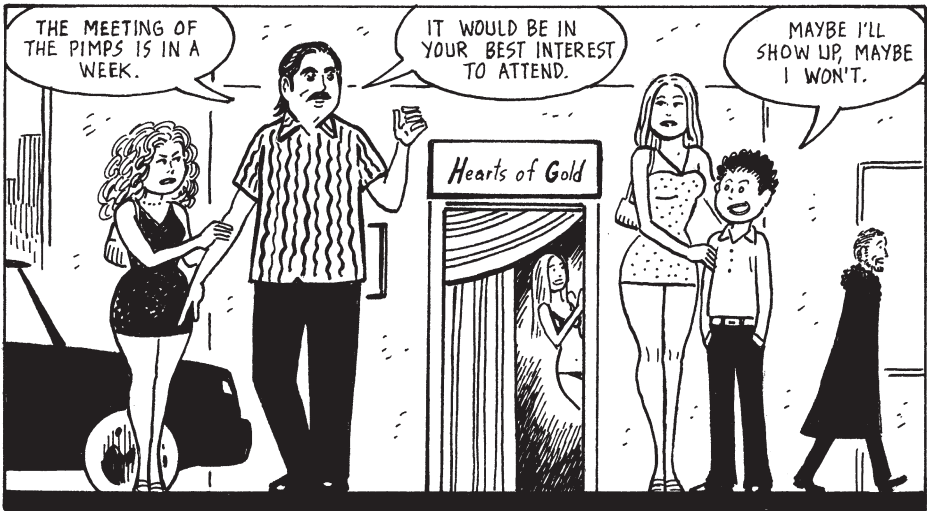
THE SAME GOES  
FOR POETS.

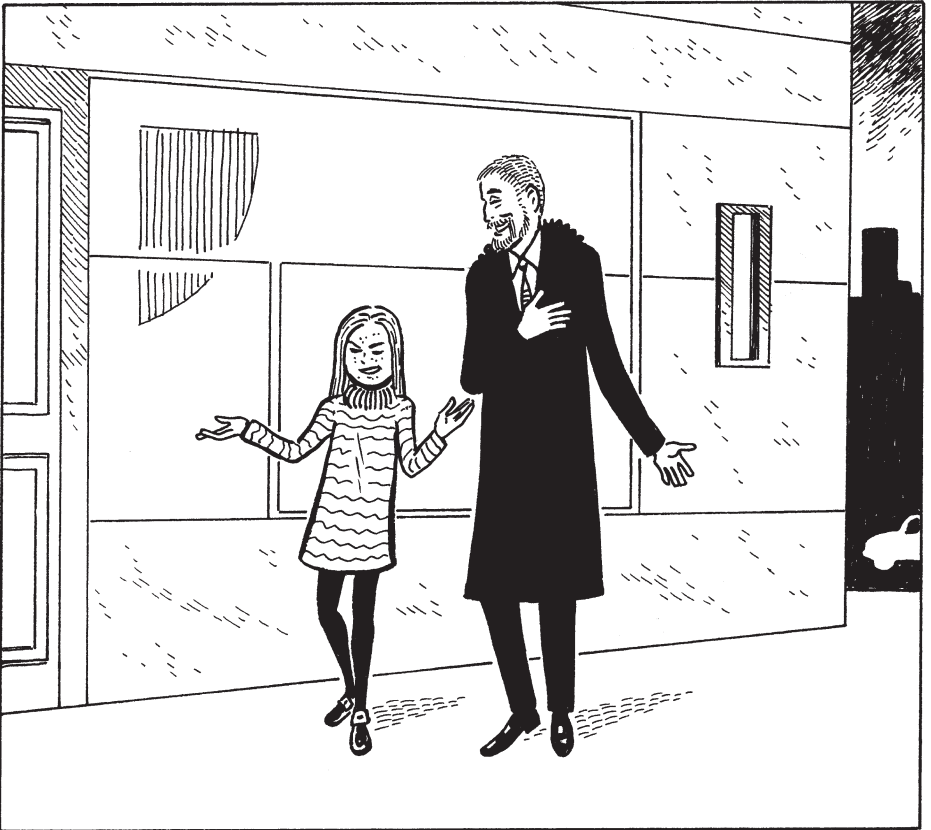
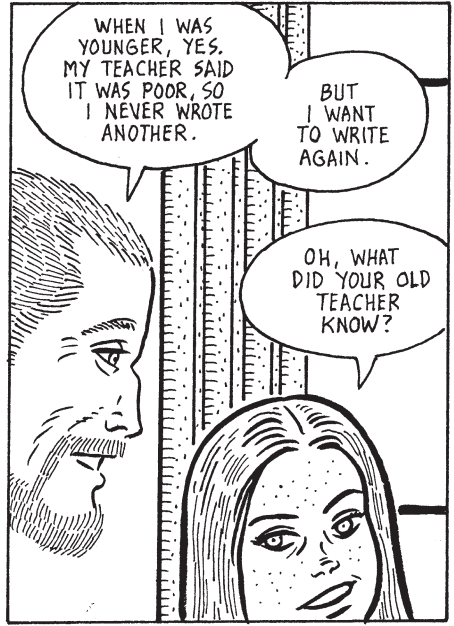
THESE  
EGGS ARE  
RUNNY.

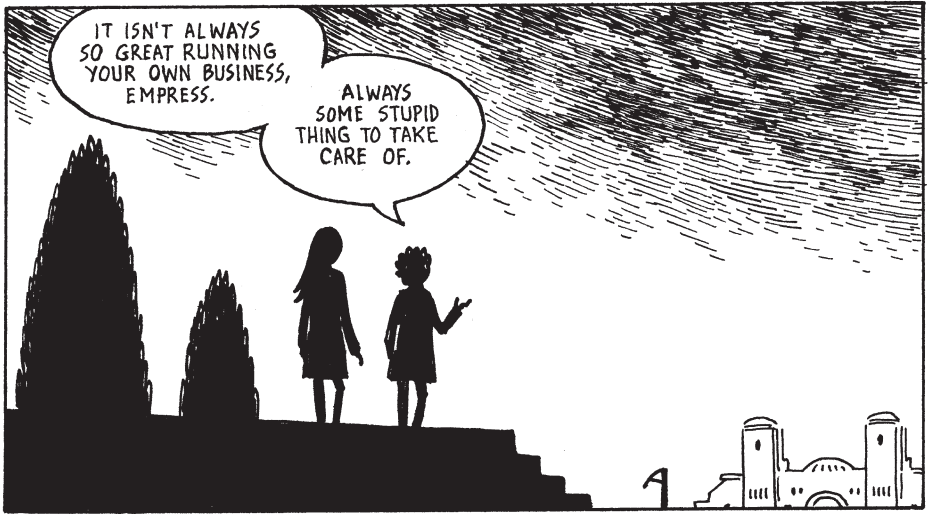












IT ISN'T ALWAYS SO GREAT RUNNING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, EMPRESS.

ALWAYS SOME STUPID THING TO TAKE CARE OF.



AT LEAST THE OLD RUBBER HOSE CAN CLEAR UP THINGS A LOT QUICKER THAN ANY WORDS.



DON'T WORRY. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR HEARTS UNTIL YOU RETURN.



YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN REALLY TRUST, EMPRESS.

I PROMISE I WON'T BE TOO LONG.

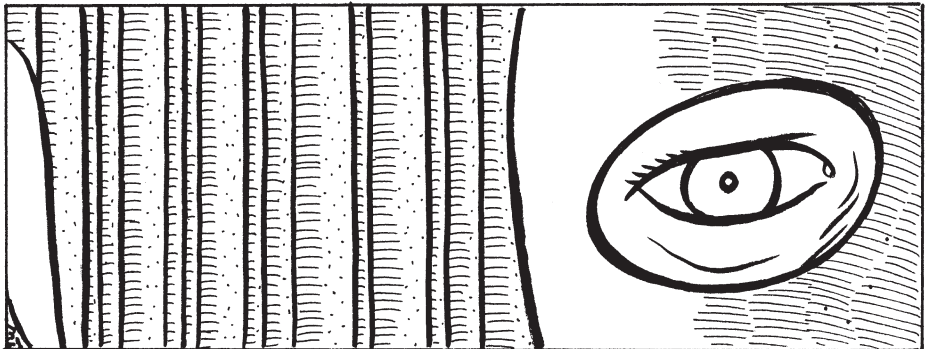
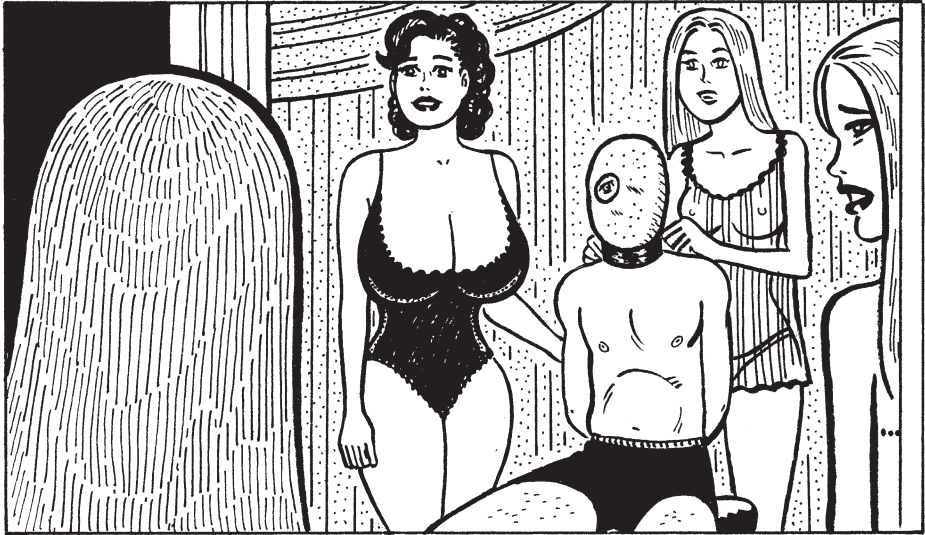
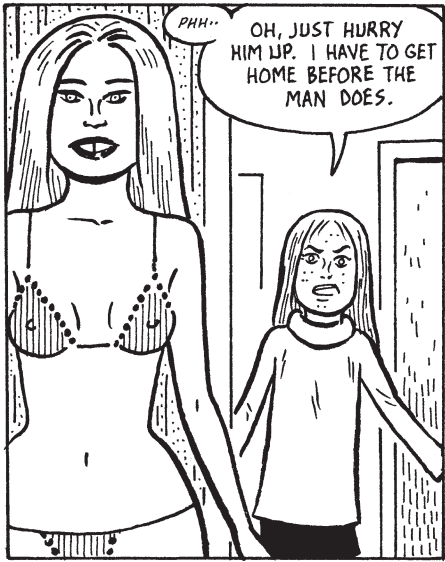
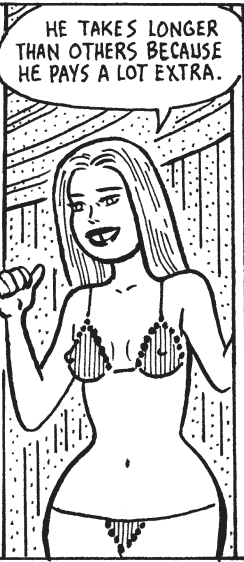
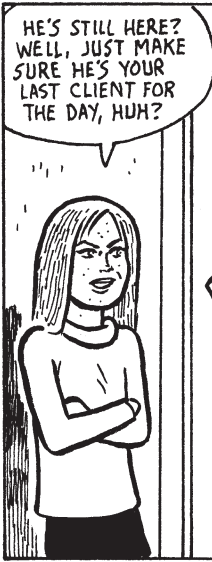
WE'LL BE FINE.

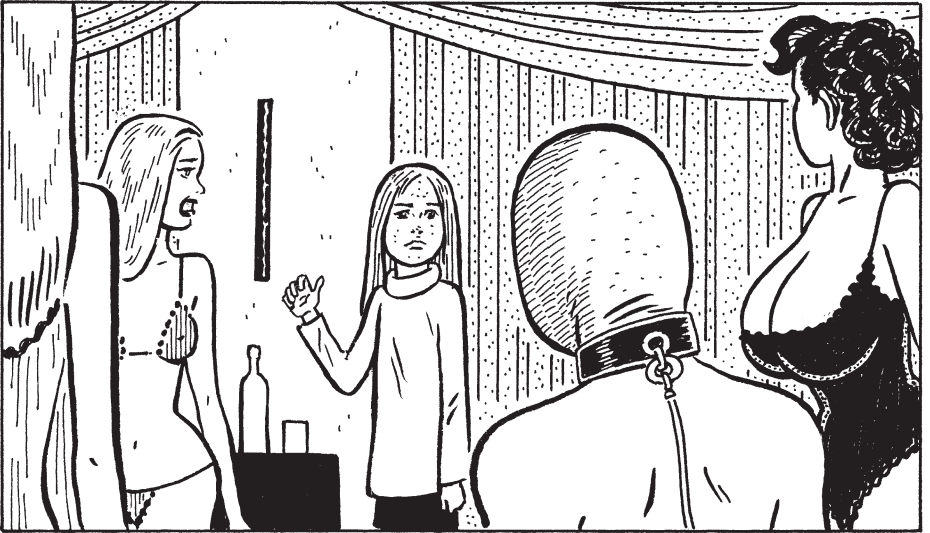
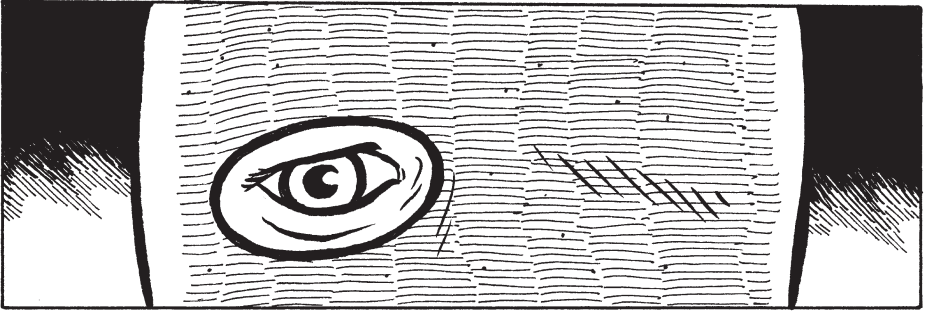


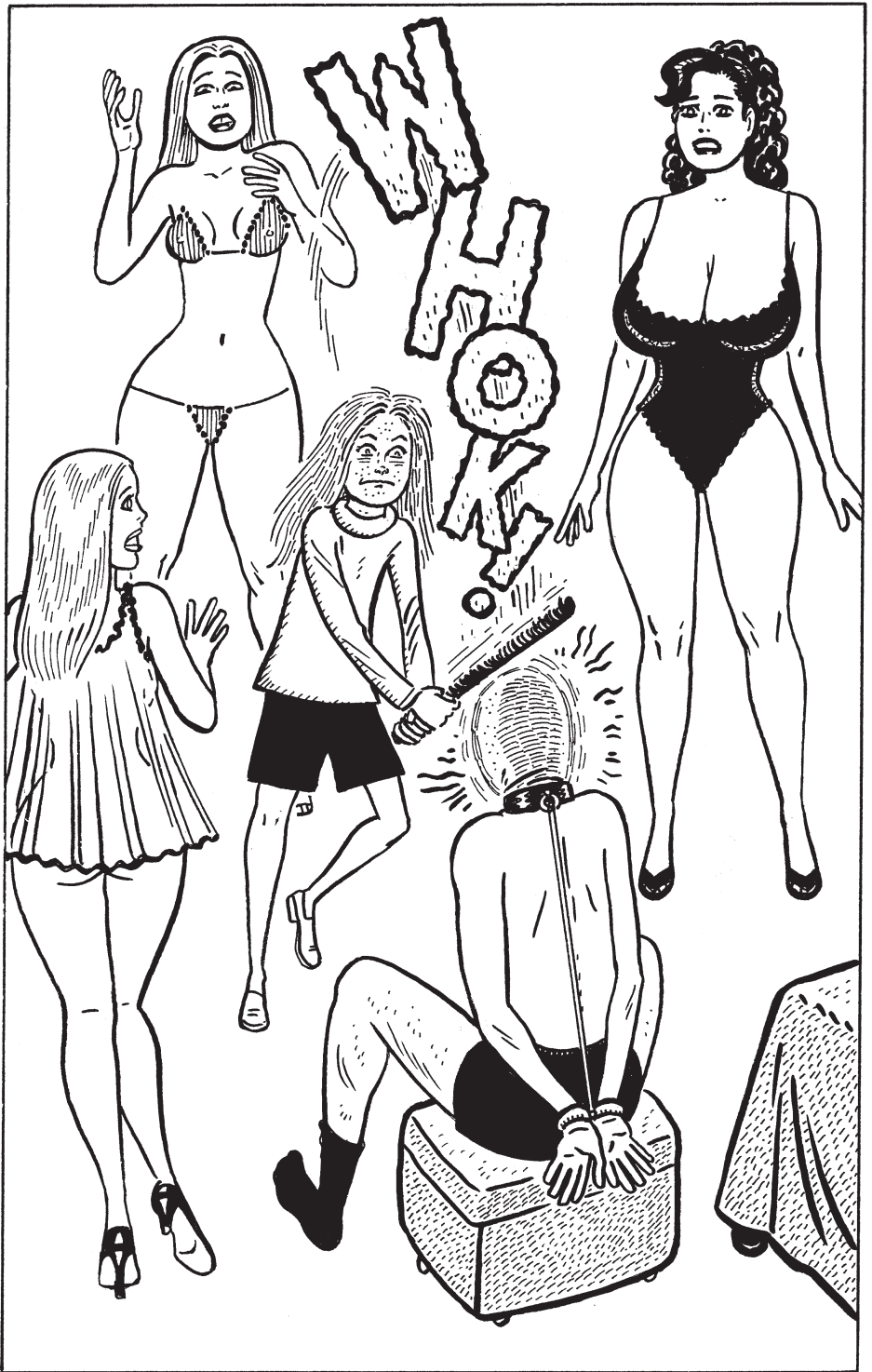
HEY.

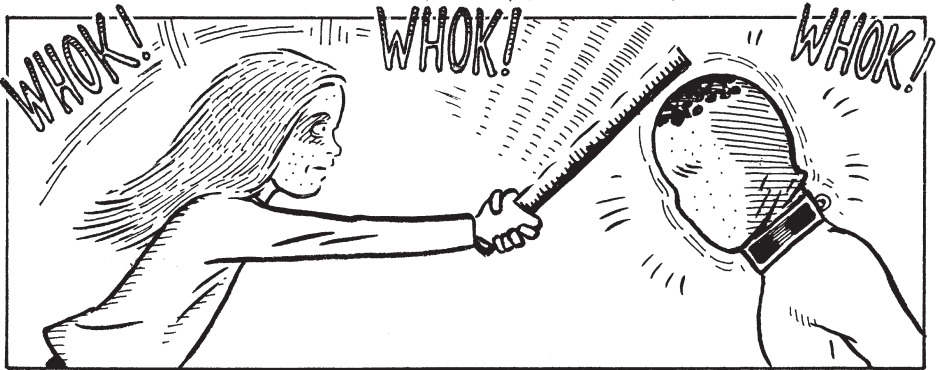
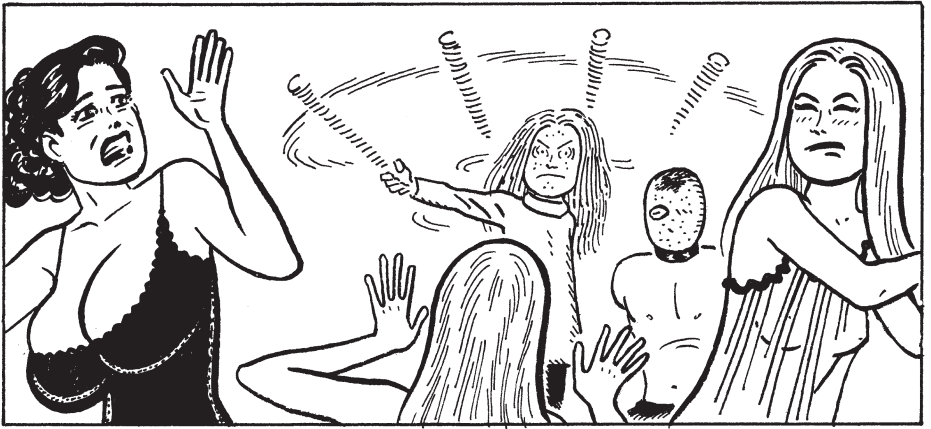
I'M GIVING YOU THREE THE NIGHT OFF, OK?

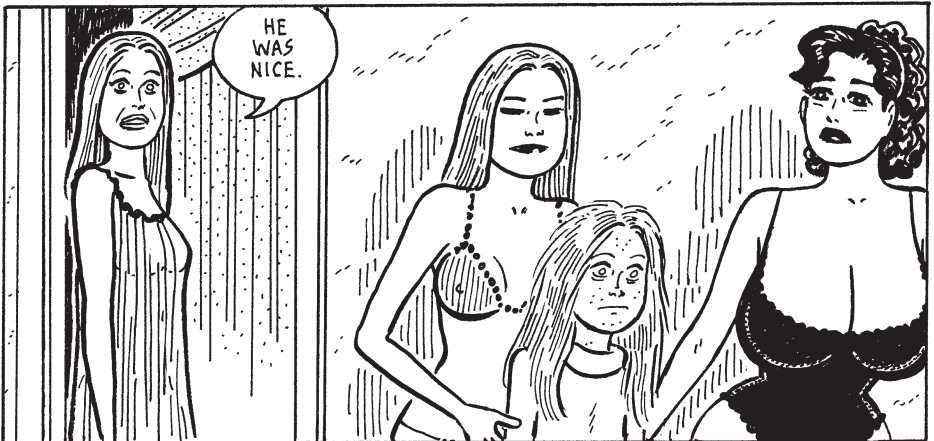
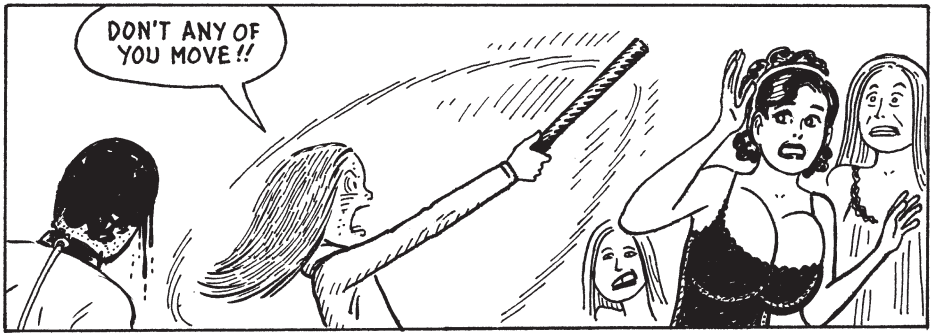
GREAT! WE'LL BE DONE WITH OUR CLIENT IN A LITTLE BIT.

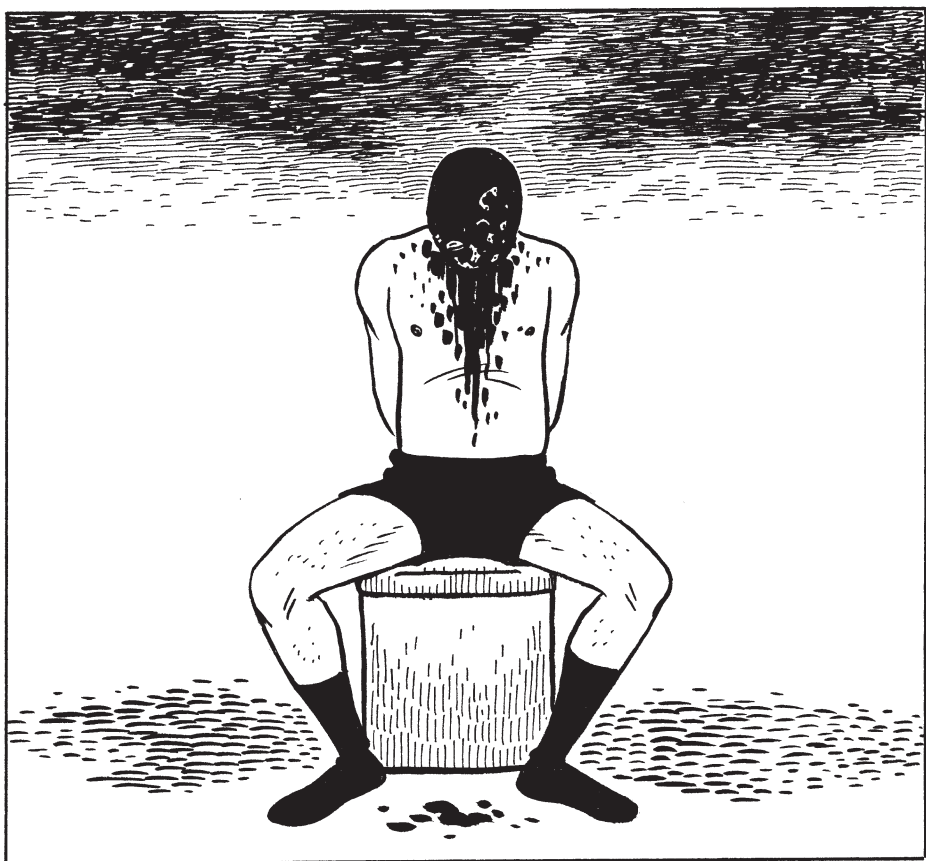


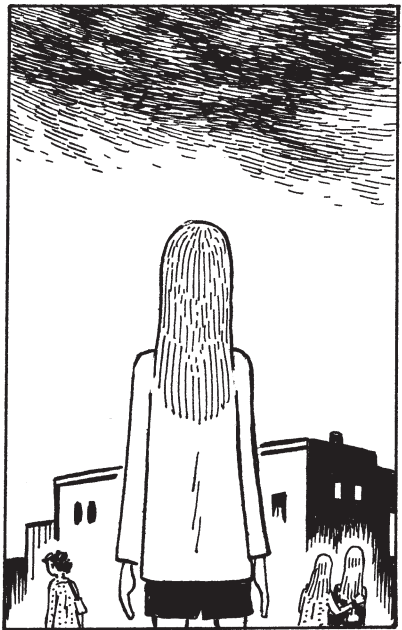


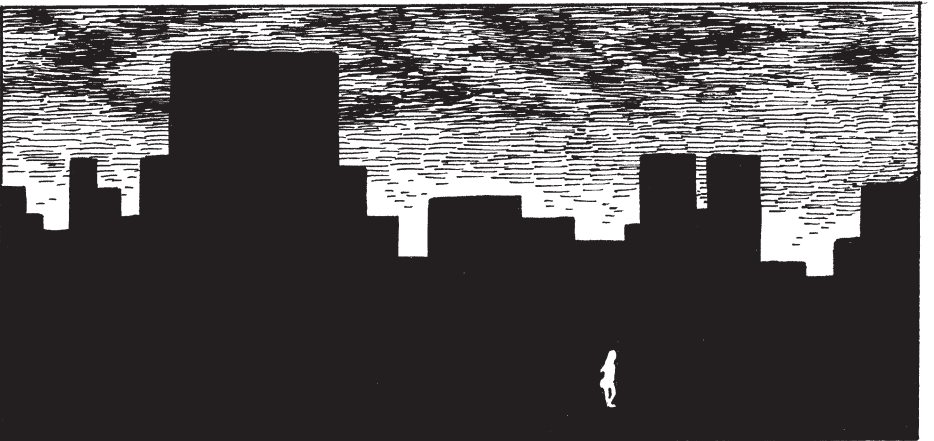
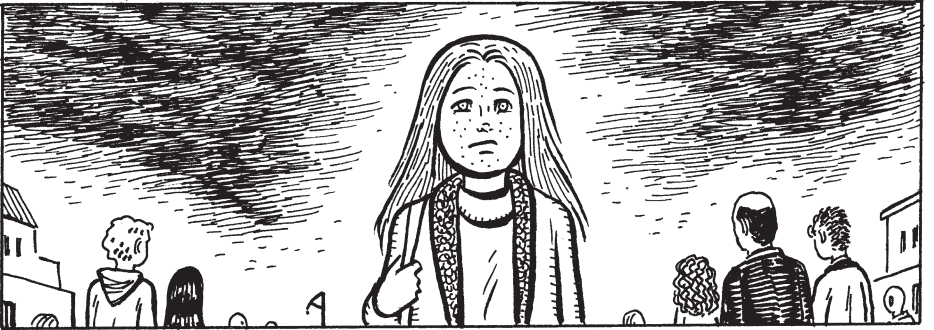
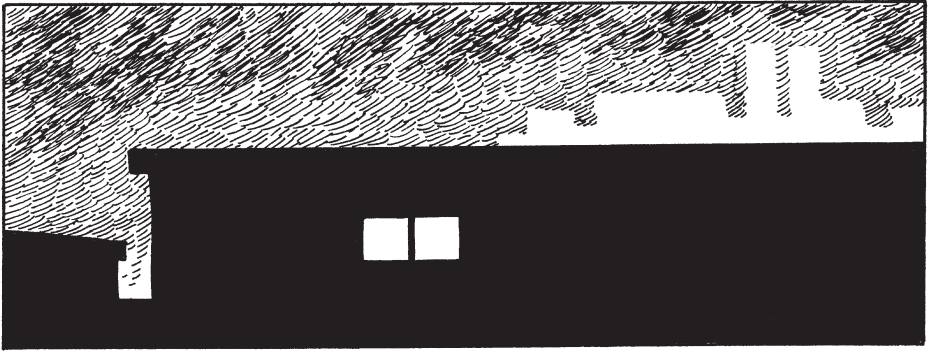


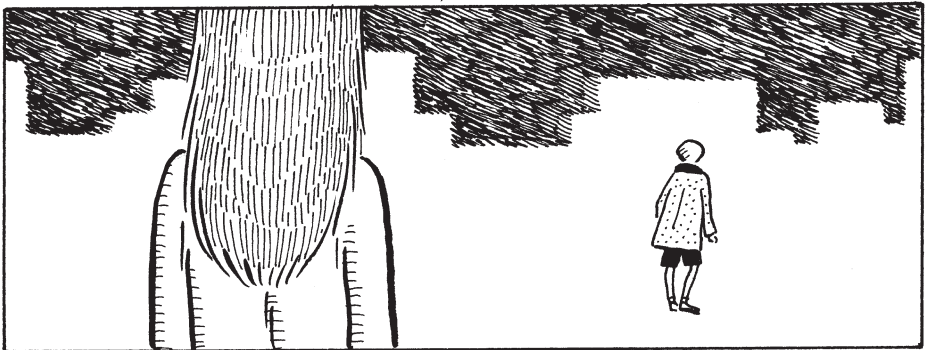


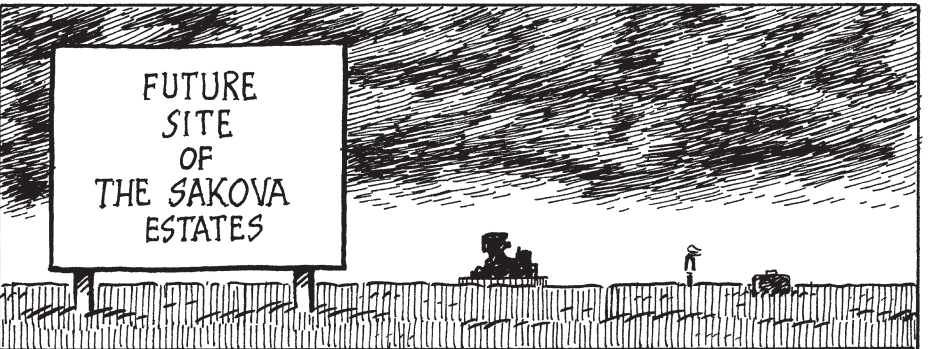
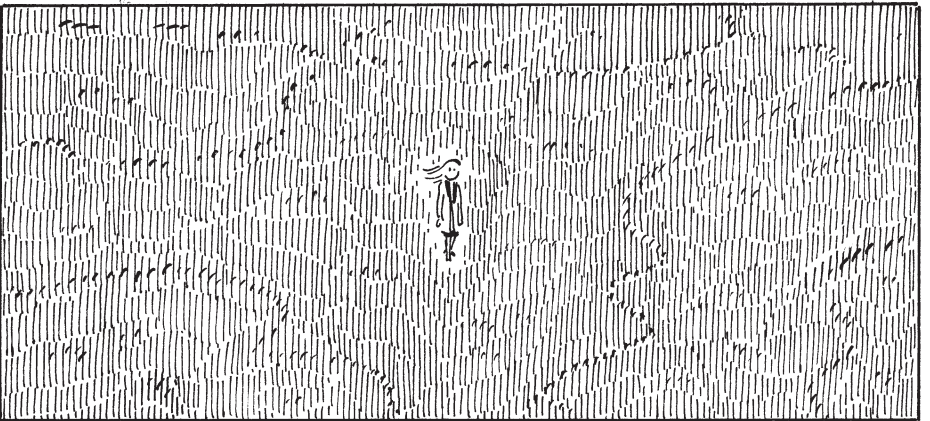
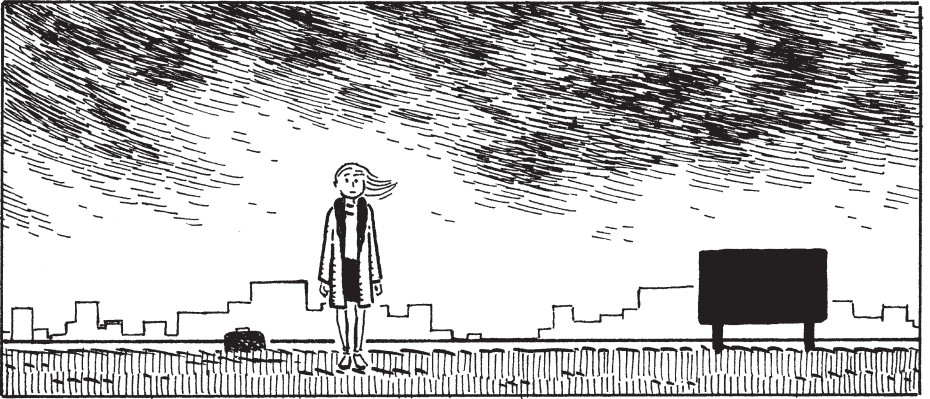
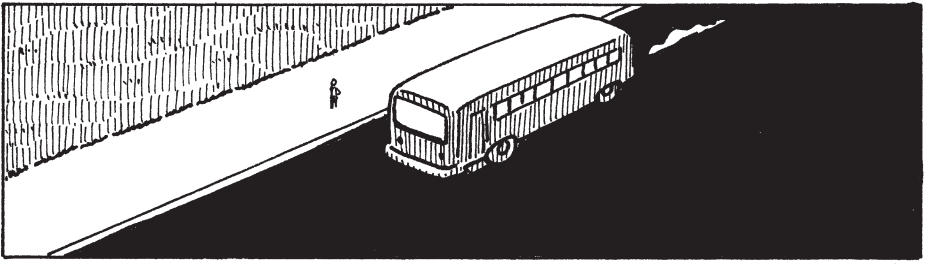


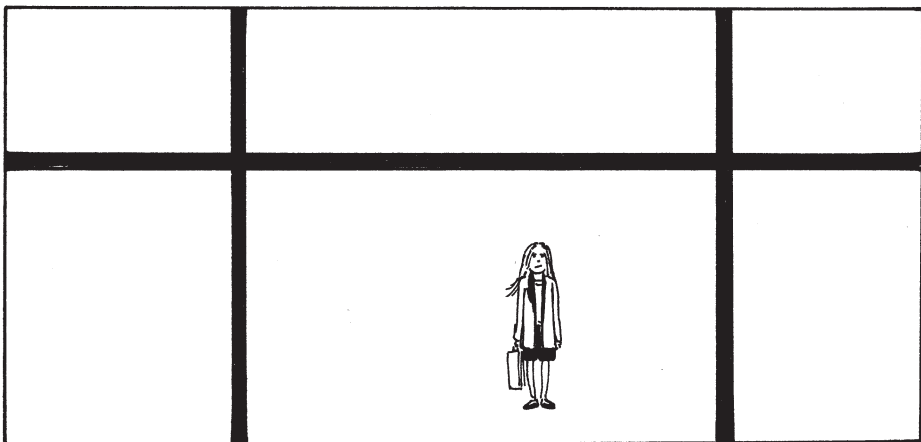


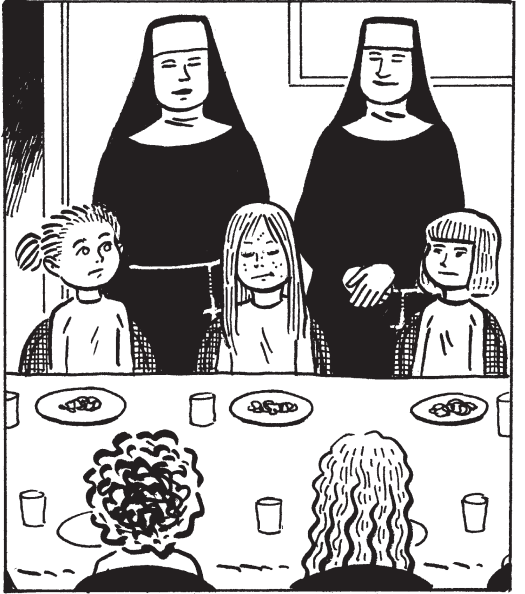
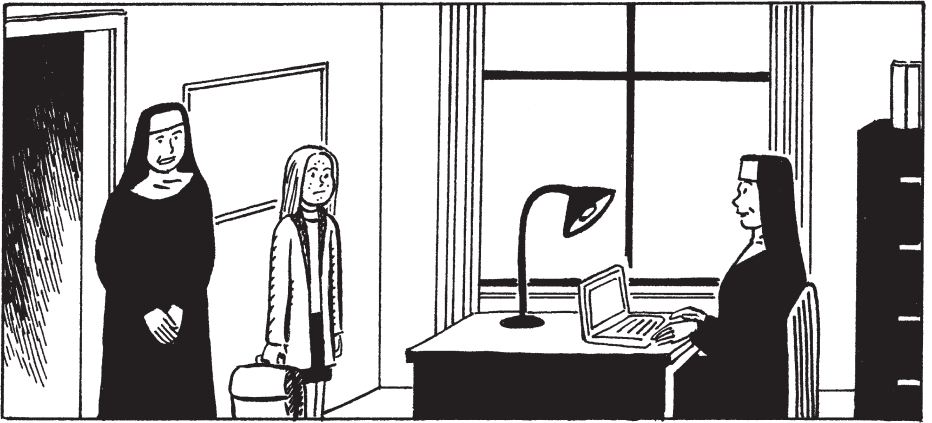


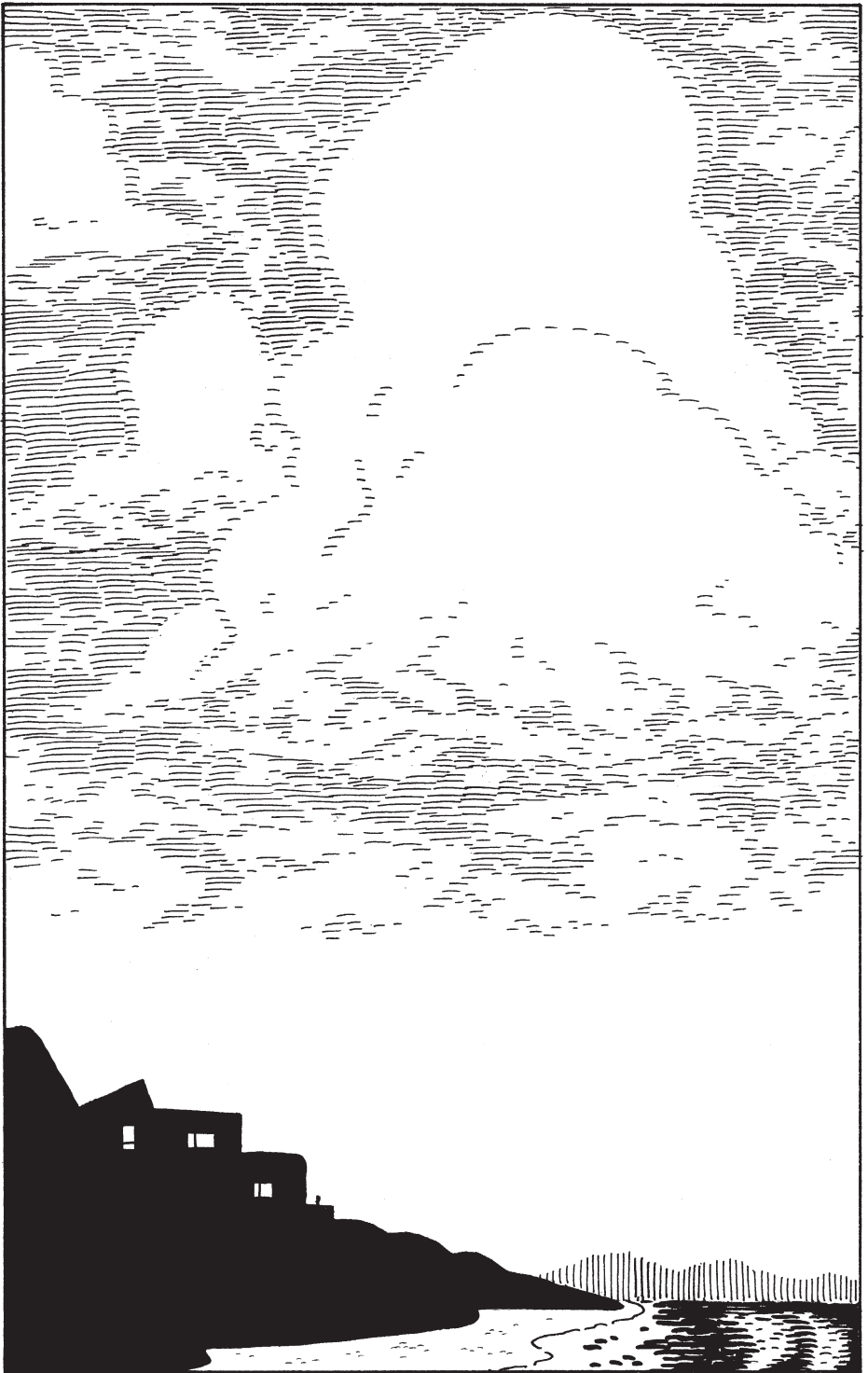


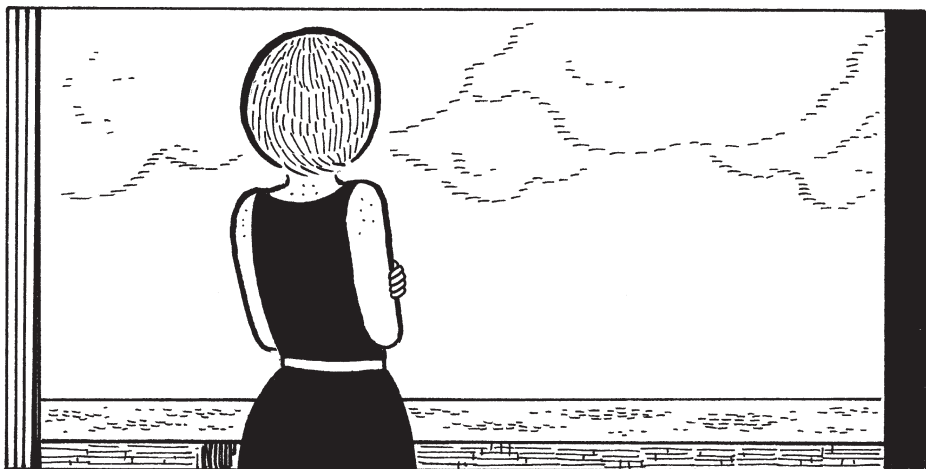


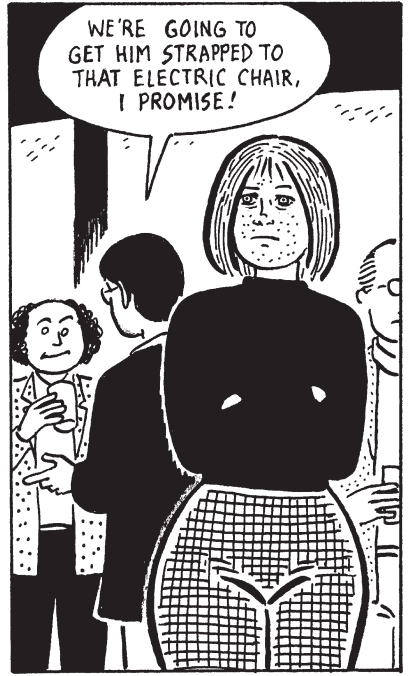


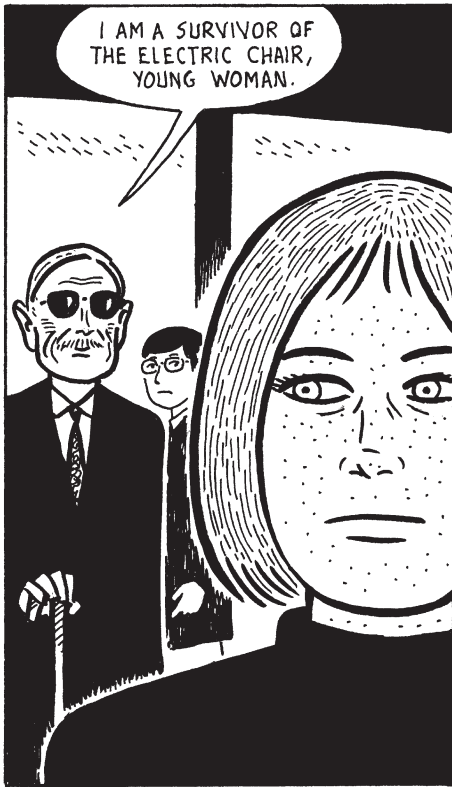


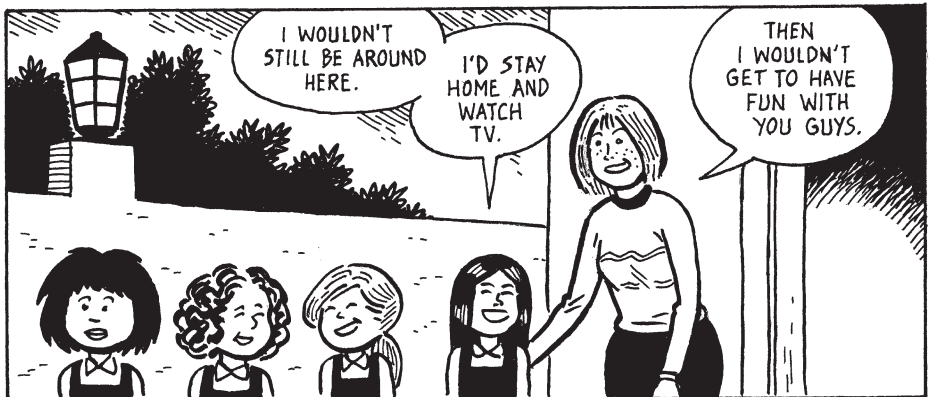
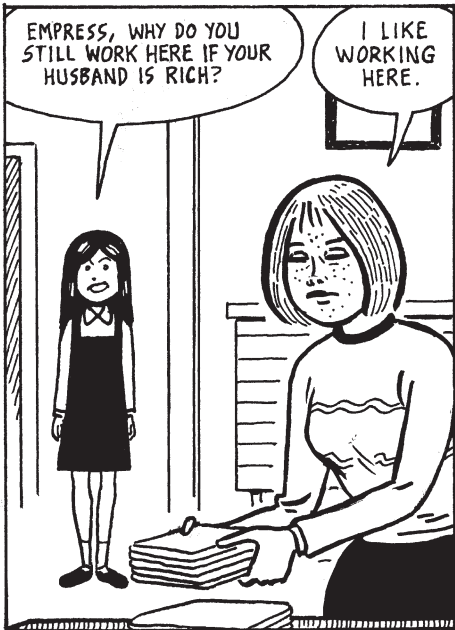
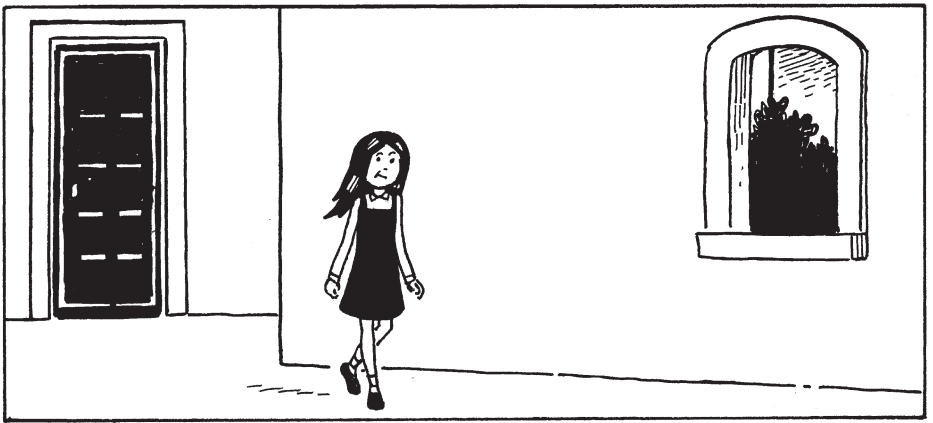


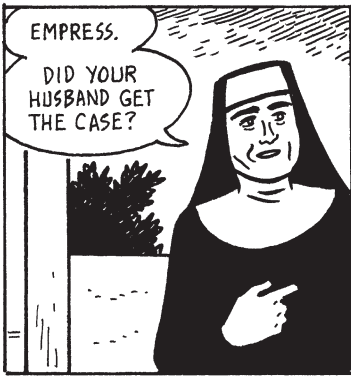






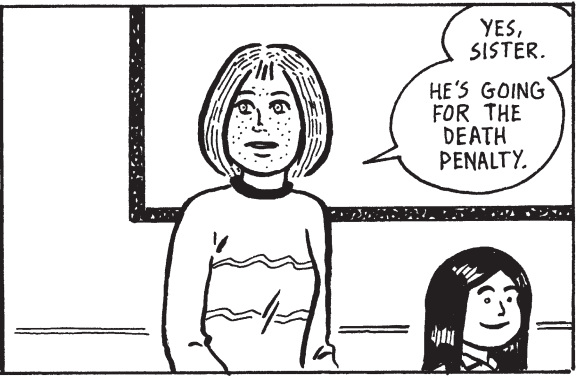






EMPRESS.

DID YOUR HUSBAND GET THE CASE?

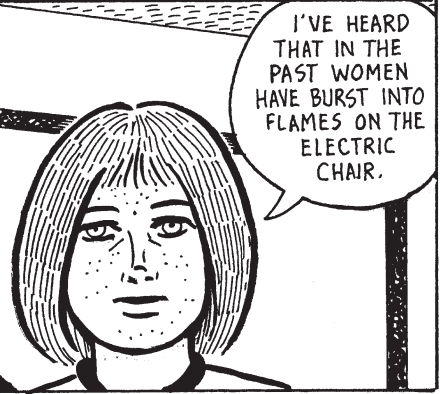


YES, SISTER.

HE'S GOING FOR THE DEATH PENALTY.



I'D LOVE TO BE THERE, JUST TO SMELL THAT BABYKILLER'S FLESH FRY.



I'VE HEARD THAT IN THE PAST WOMEN HAVE BURST INTO FLAMES ON THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.



SURE, THE EXTRA LAYER OF FAT ON THE AVERAGE WOMAN'S BODY.

TOO BAD THE BABY-KILLER'S A SKINNY MALE RUNT.



THAT EMPRESS IS A HARD ONE TO READ.

THE GIRLS MAKE FUN OF HER.



BUT IT LOOKS HORRID!

MOM, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN REALLY DO!



LOOK, YOU CAN BARELY SEE IT FROM HERE!

IT'S ALL I CAN SEE FROM HERE.



THE FENCE POTENTIALLY SAVES LIVES, MOM! THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT!

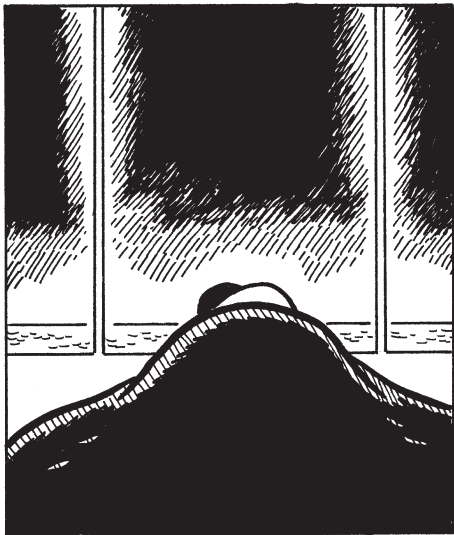
DANGER  
QUICKSAND

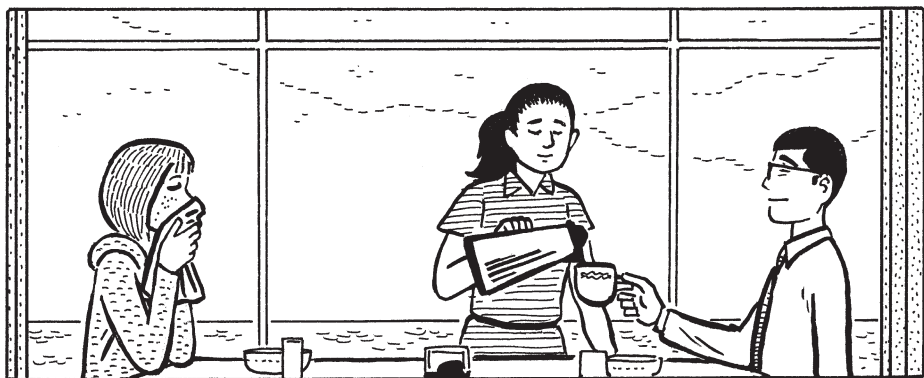


AND WITH ALL YOUR SAVVY FOR TWISTING THE LAW, YOU CAN'T FIGURE A WAY AROUND THIS ONE THING?

MOM.









BETTER?

OR WAS  
I STILL TOO  
ROUGH?



WHY ARE YOU  
TALKING LIKE  
THAT?

YOU ACTUALLY DID  
SHOW EMOTION FOR  
A SECOND THERE,  
THAT'S ALL.

I'M JUST  
A LITTLE  
SHOCKED.



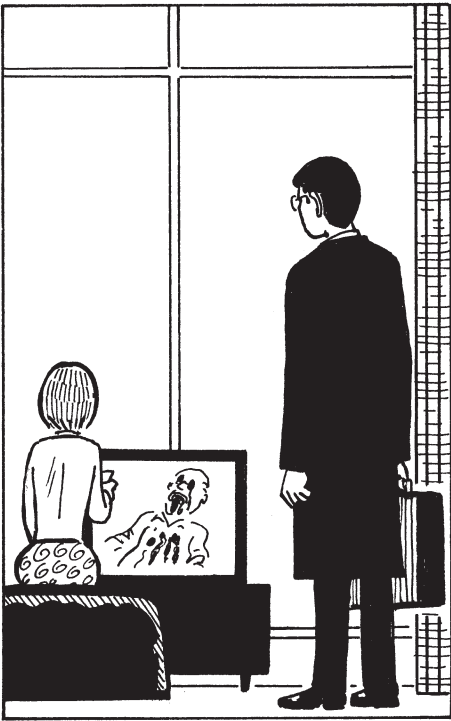
YOU'RE  
DRUNK.

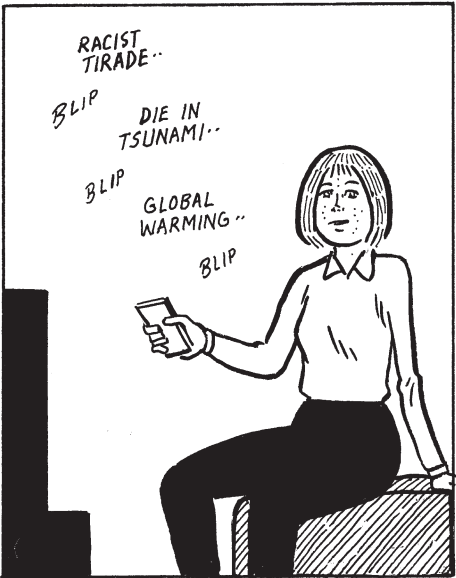
NO, EMPRESS,  
I'M JUST RIGHT.  
I JUST HAPPEN  
TO BE ABLE TO  
FEEL, OK?

I  
FEEL!

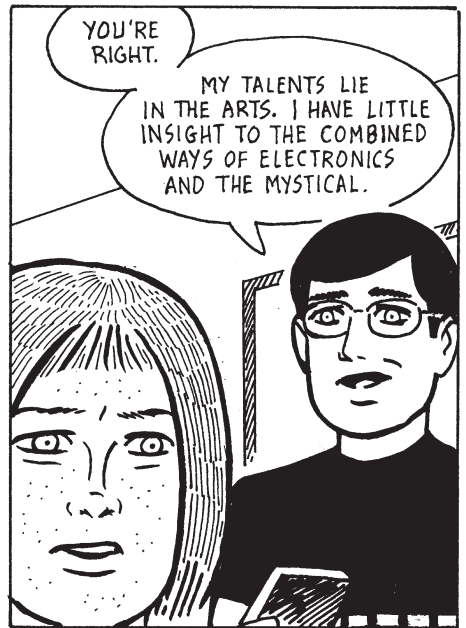


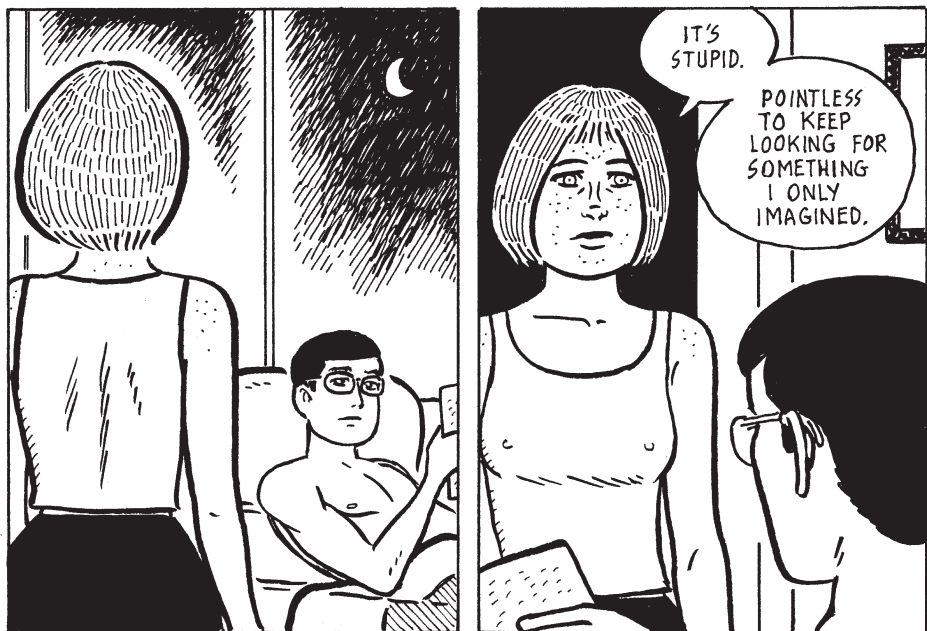
WHAT-  
EVER.

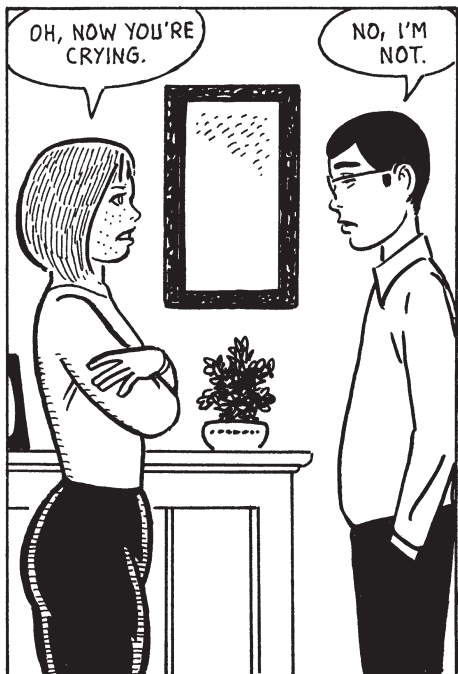














YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT SORT OF BEHAVIOR SO PERSONAL, HONEY.

SHE'S A DEEPLY TROUBLED GIRL.



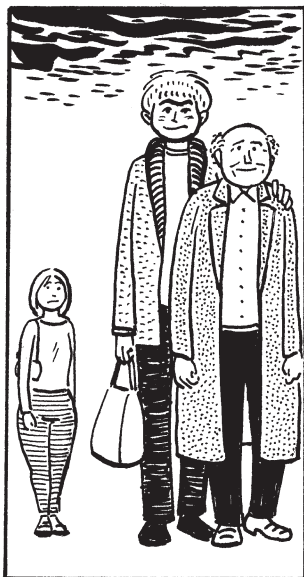
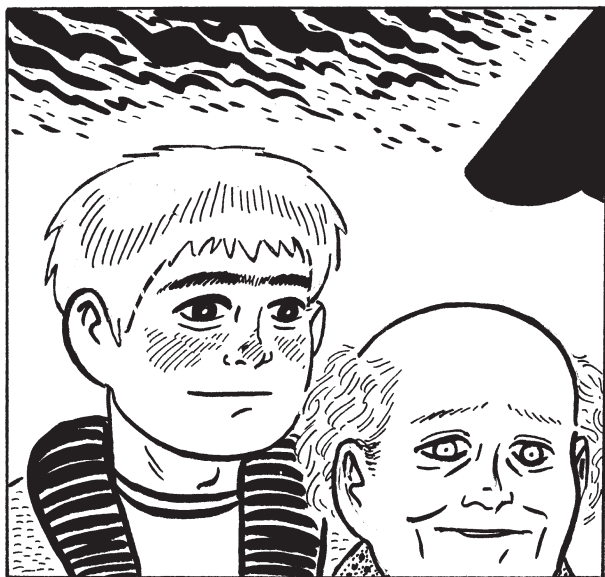
SHE MAY OR MAY NOT EVER OUTGROW IT AND I HATE TO SEE YOU SUFFER OVER IT.

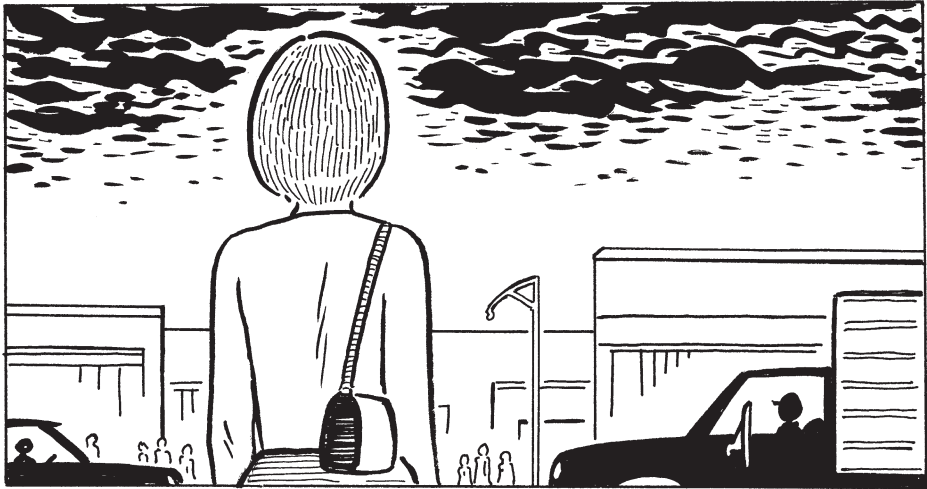
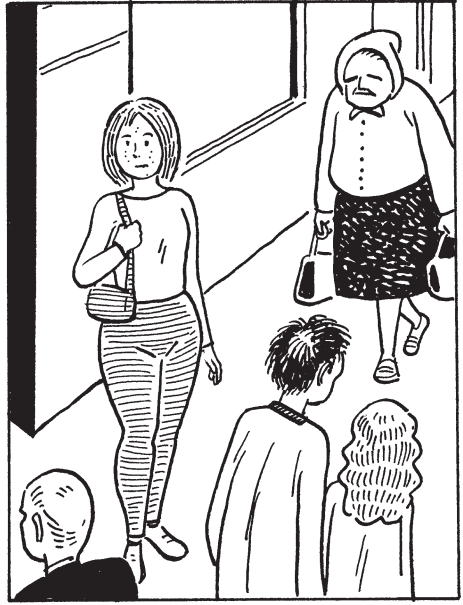


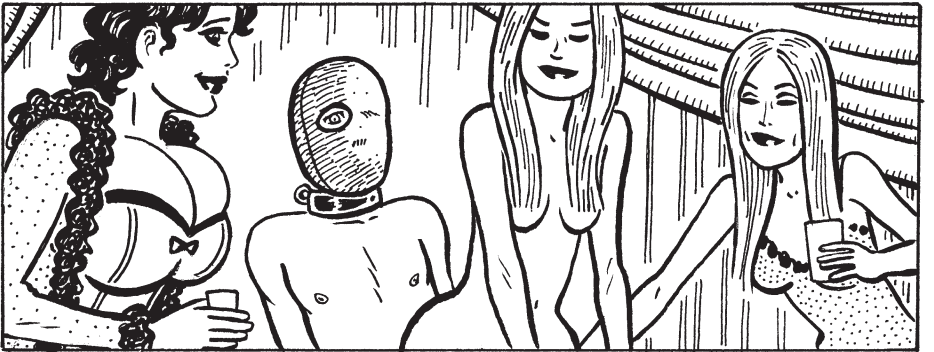
I NEVER DID SEE THE TWO OF YOU MAKING IT TO THE END.

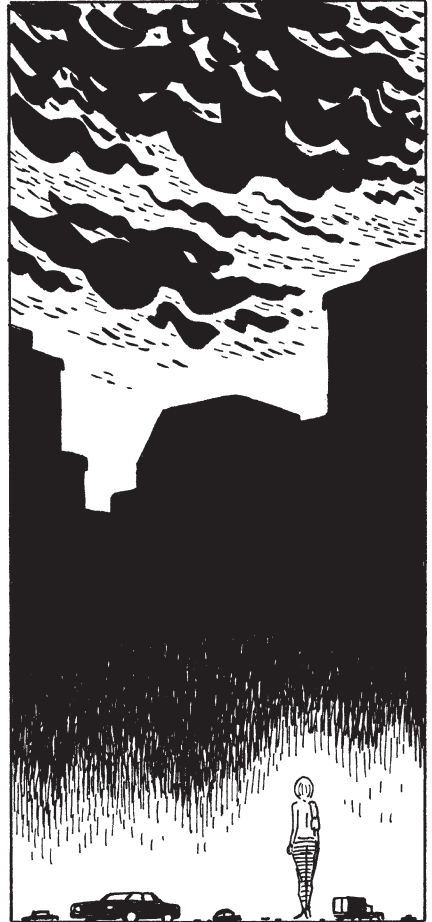
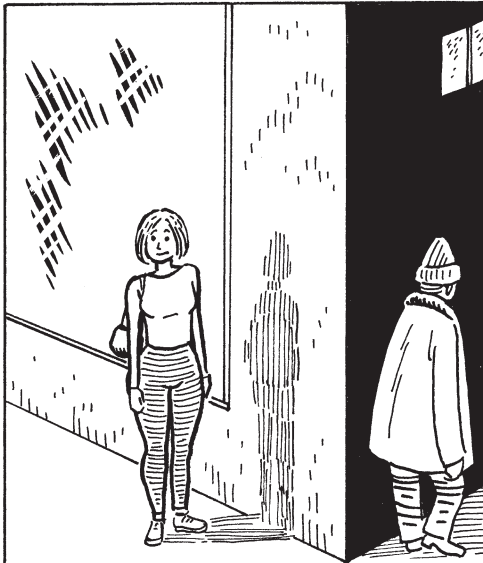
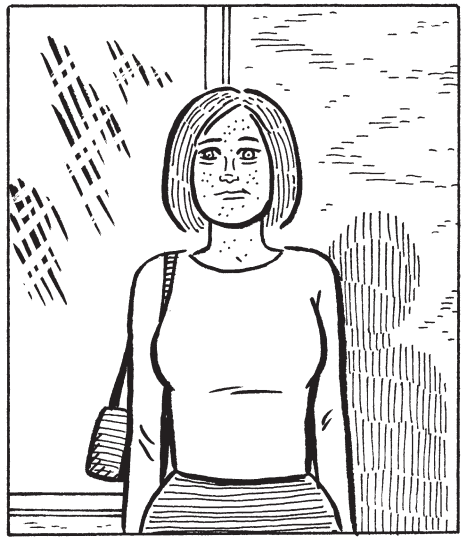
NOT EVEN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE QUICKSAND, MOM?

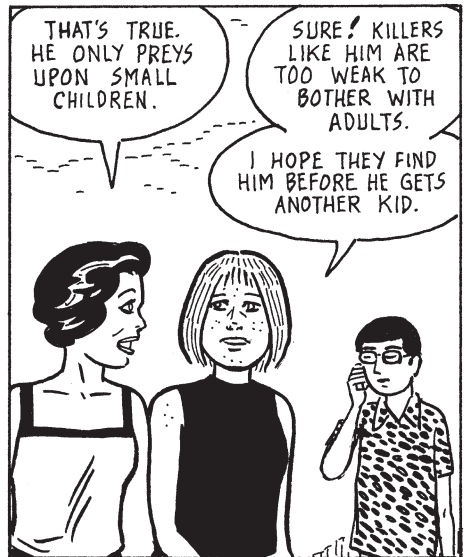
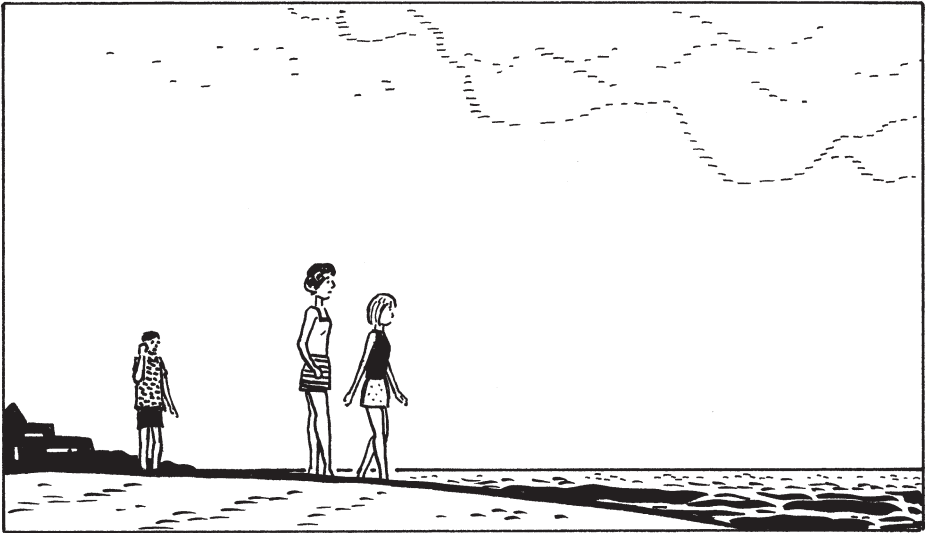


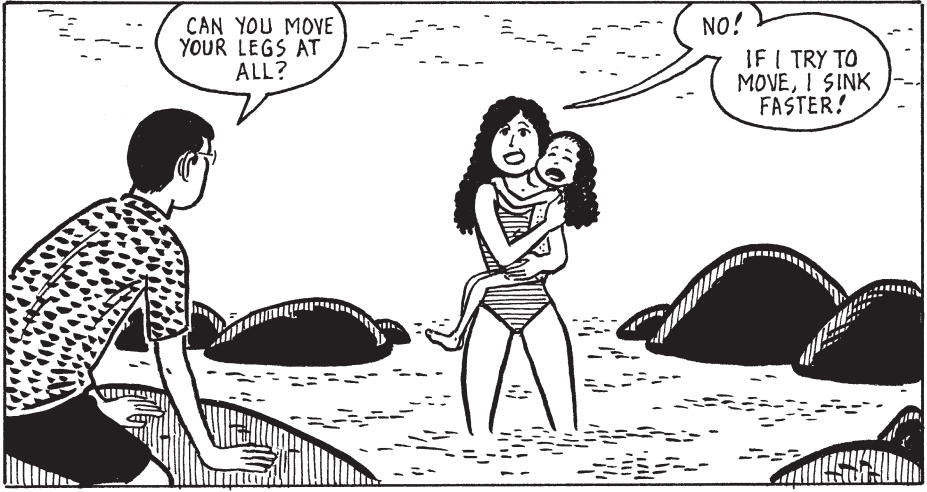


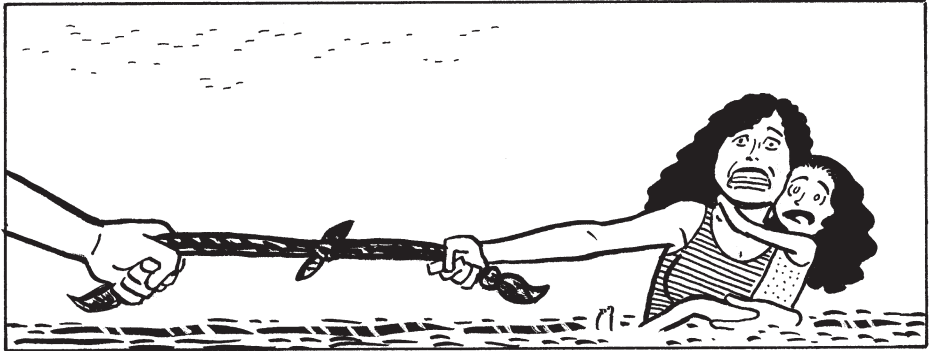
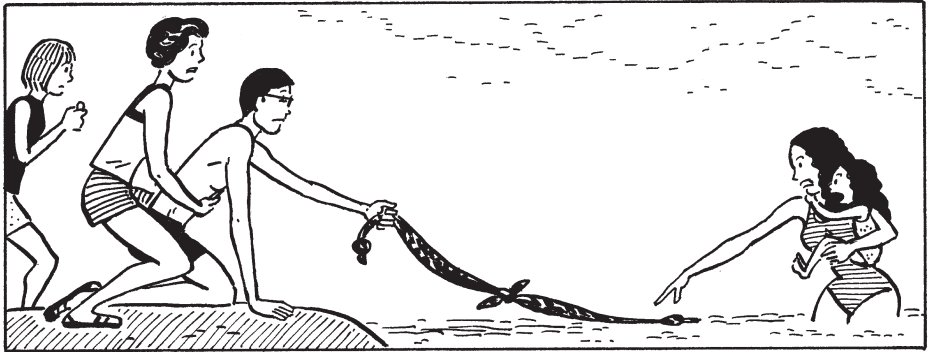


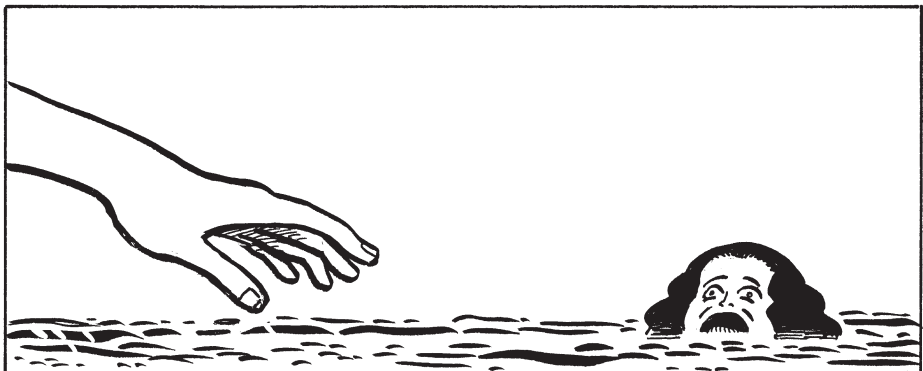
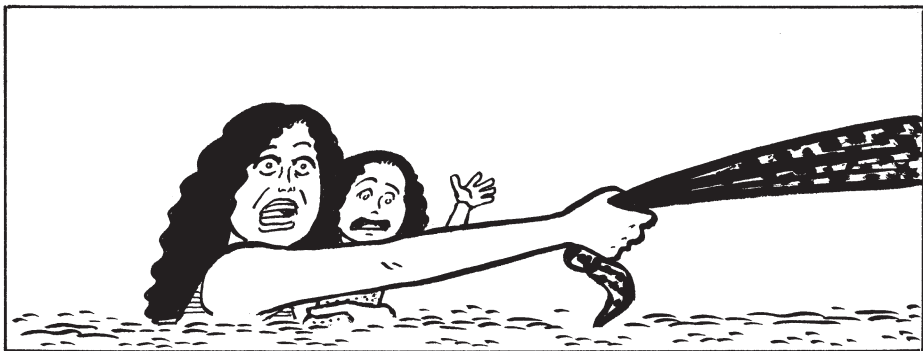


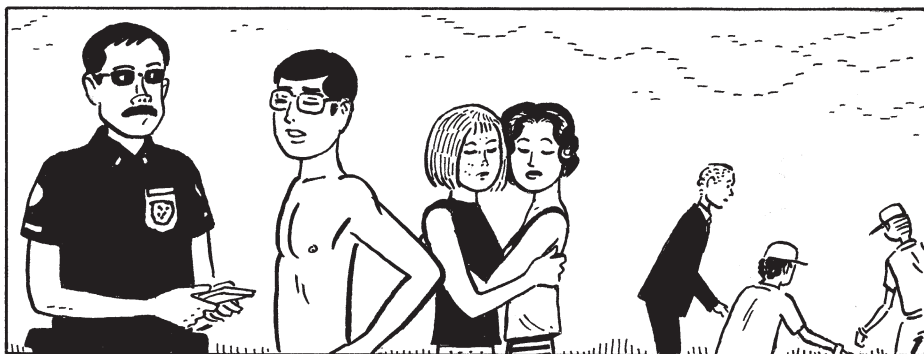
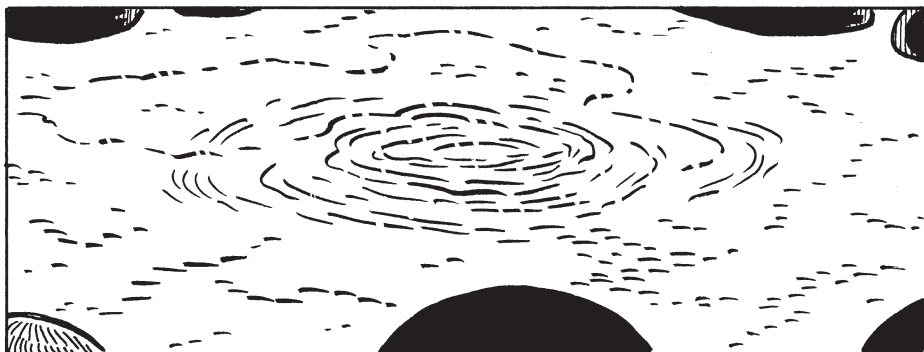
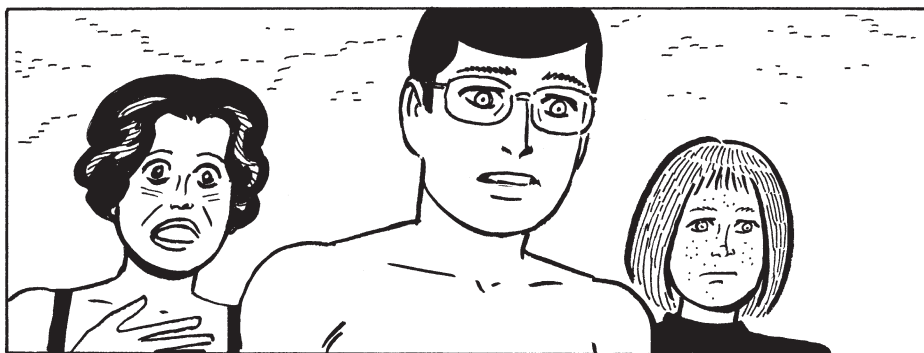


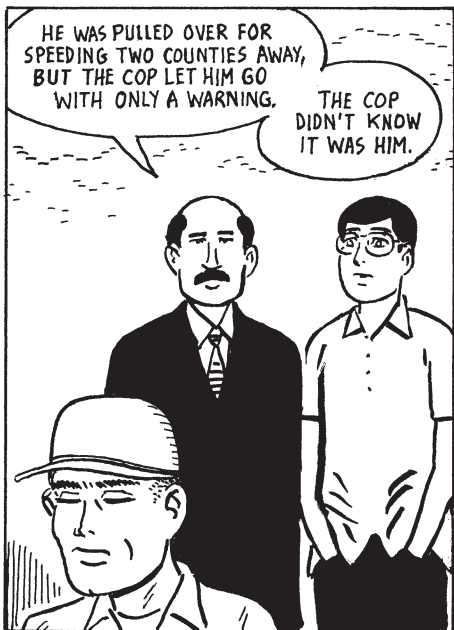
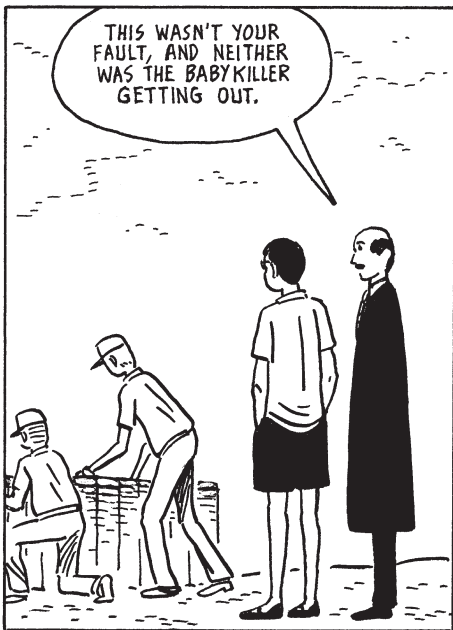
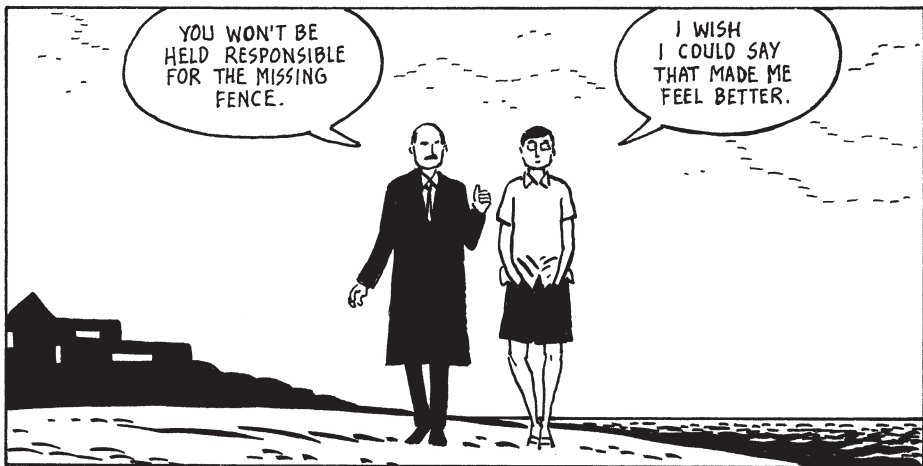




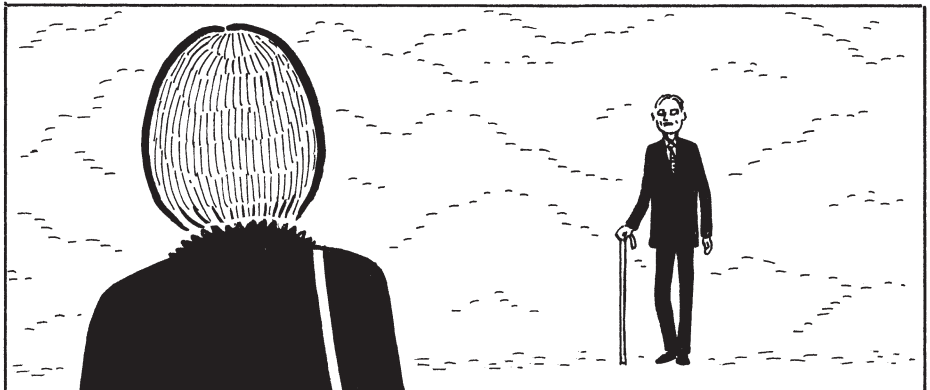
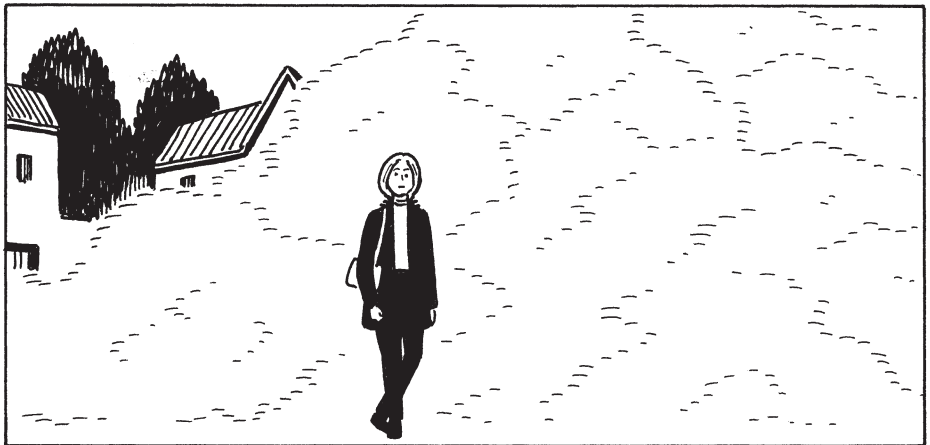


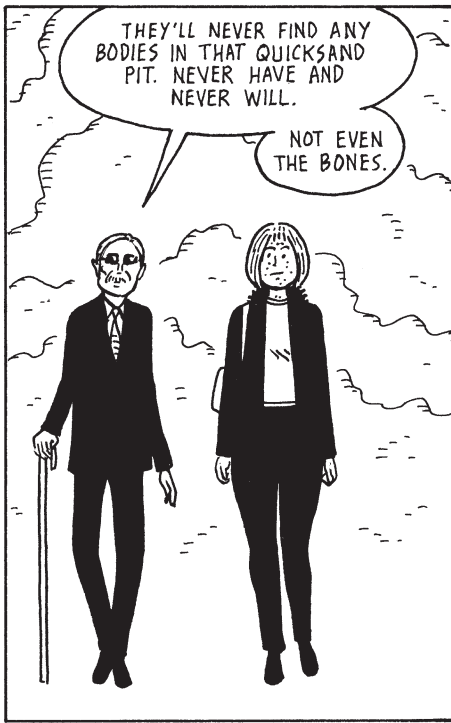






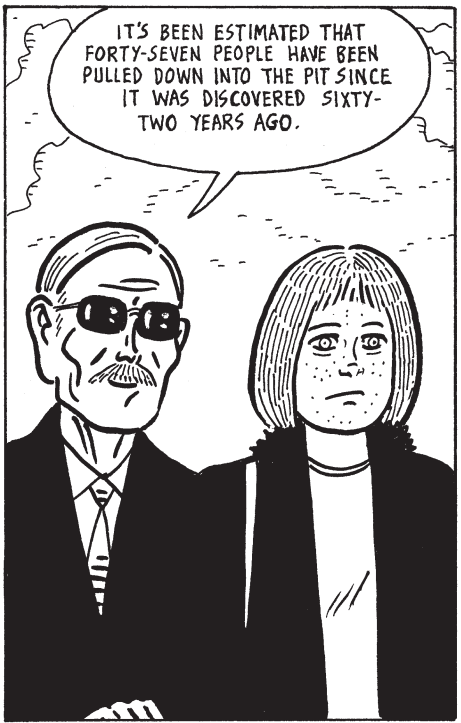






THEY'LL NEVER FIND ANY BODIES IN THAT QUICKSAND PIT. NEVER HAVE AND NEVER WILL.

NOT EVEN THE BONES.



IT'S BEEN ESTIMATED THAT FORTY-SEVEN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PULLED DOWN INTO THE PIT SINCE IT WAS DISCOVERED SIXTY-TWO YEARS AGO.



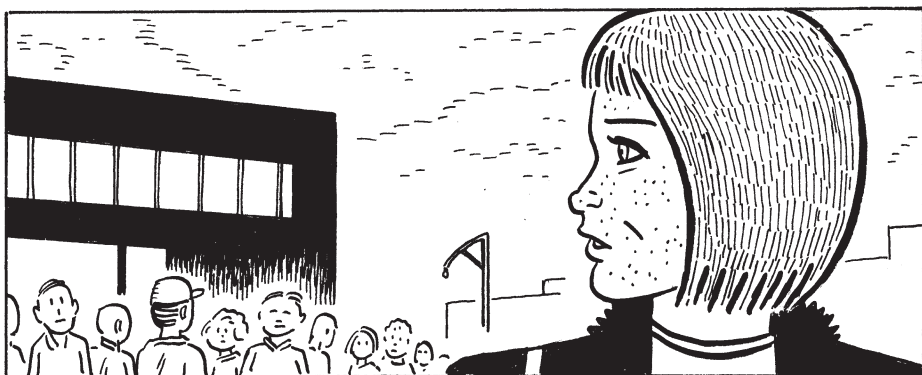
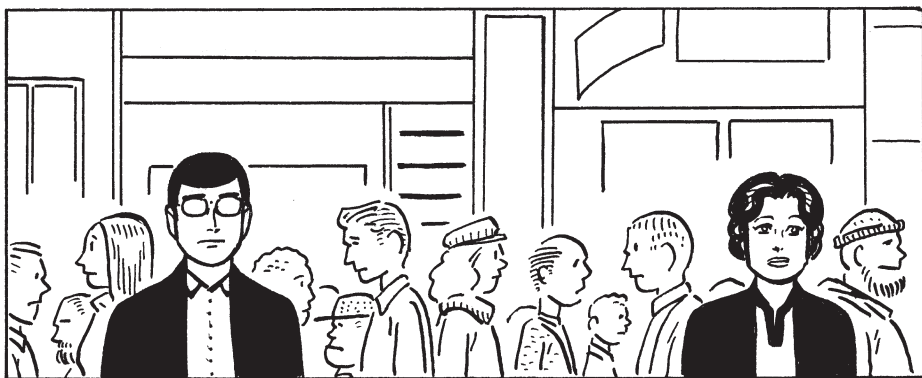
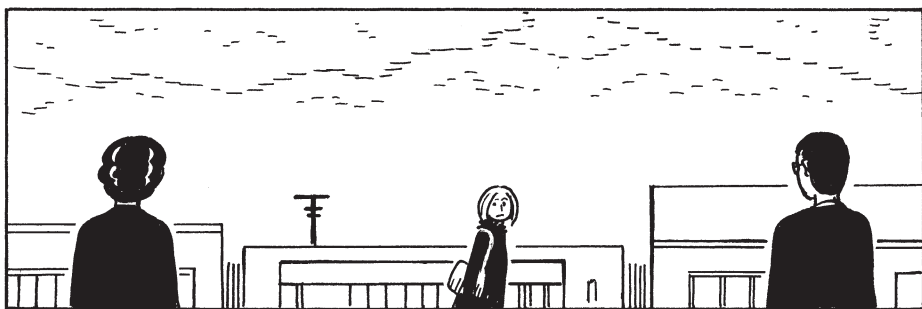
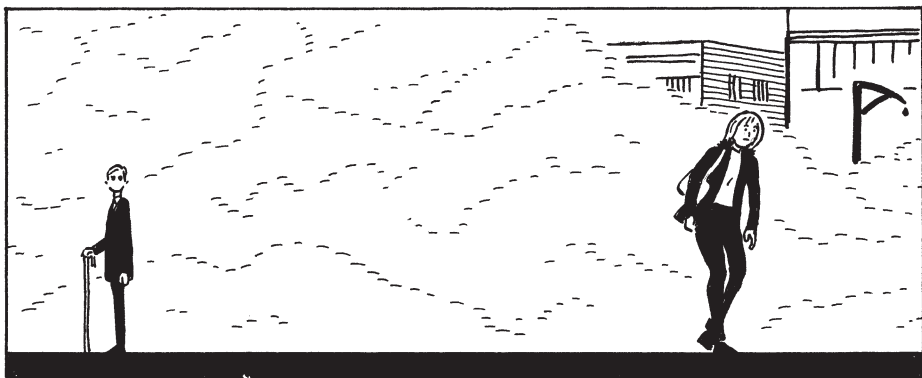
THERE'VE BEEN PEOPLE WHO'VE SURVIVED, BUT EACH HAS CARRIED WITH HIM A DISTINCT ODOR FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

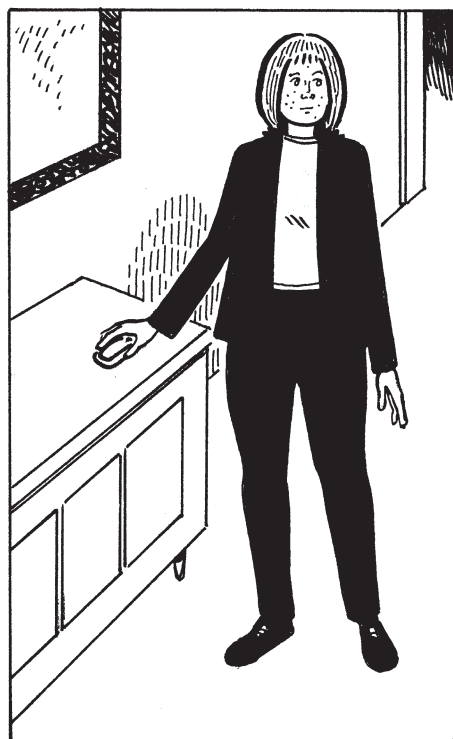
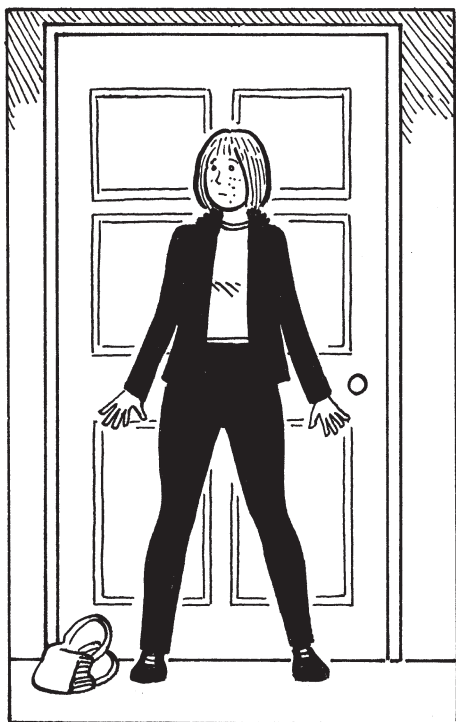
A UNIQUE SMELL THAT HE COULD NEVER REMOVE.

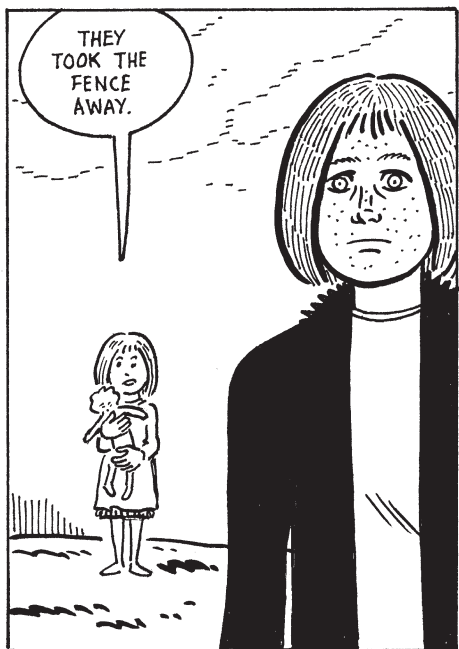
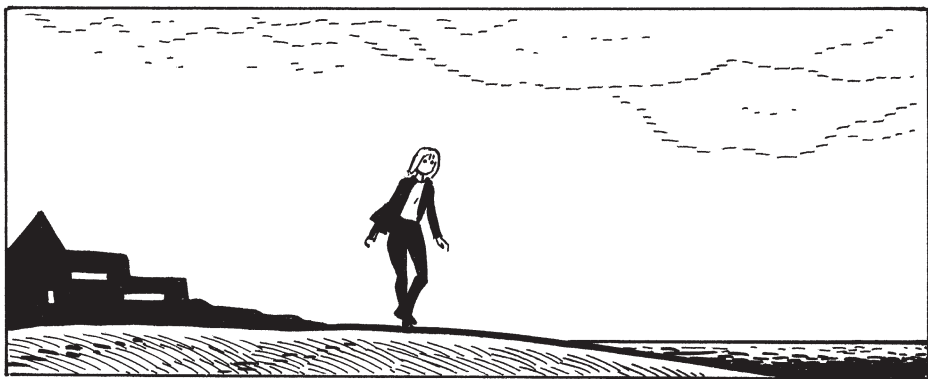


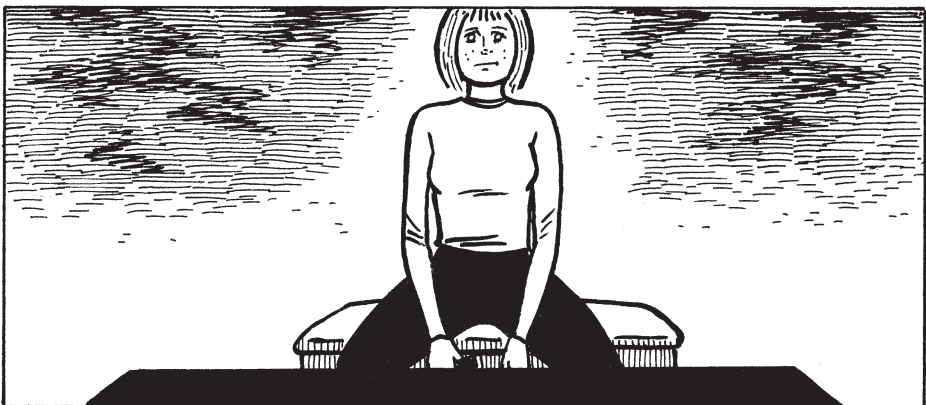
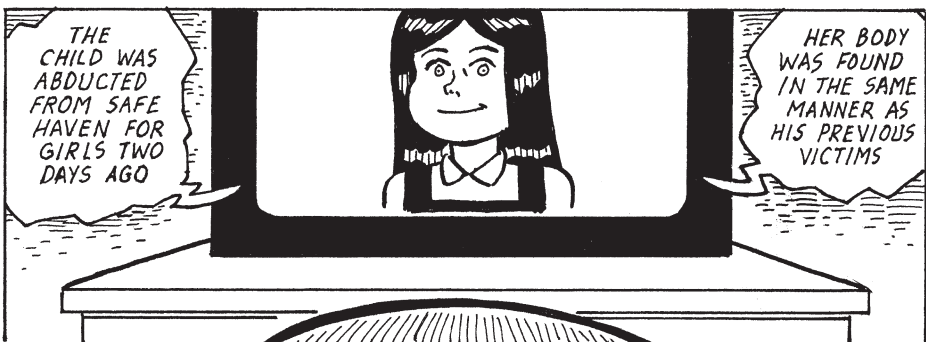
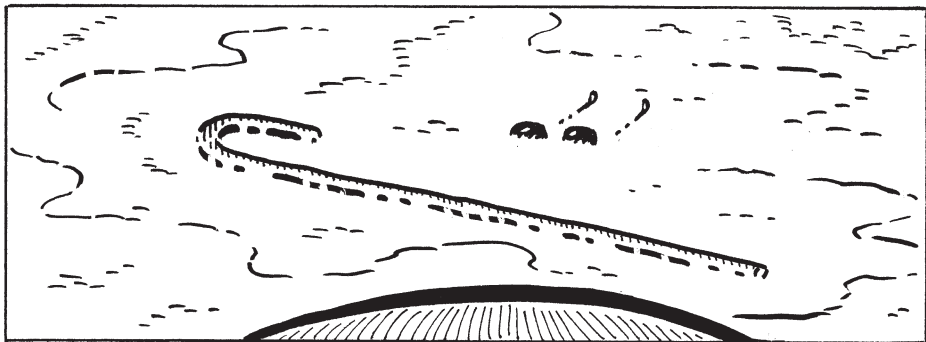
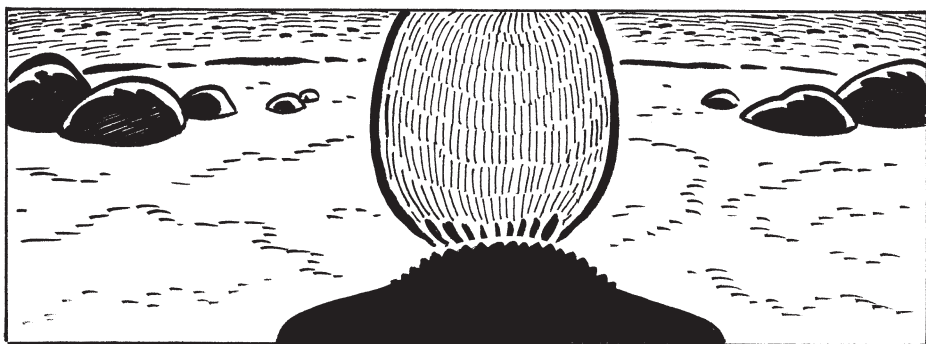
LIKE MINE. LIKE THE SMELL I CARRY AND MUST MASK WITH A SPECIAL COLOGNE OF MY OWN DESIGN.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU MUST MASK?

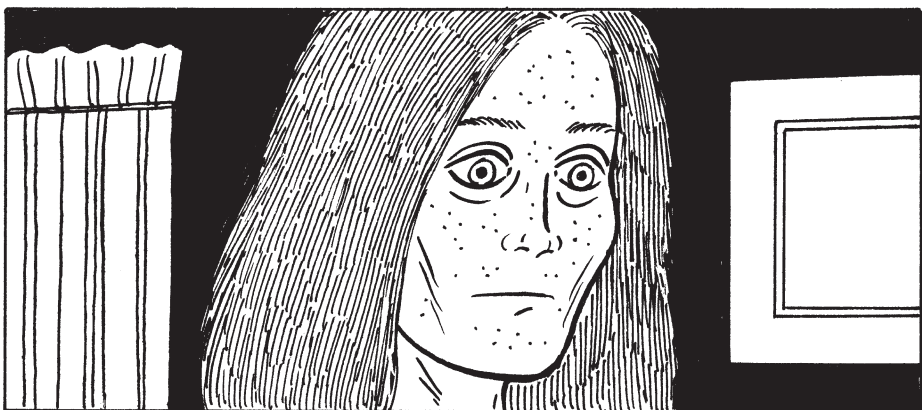


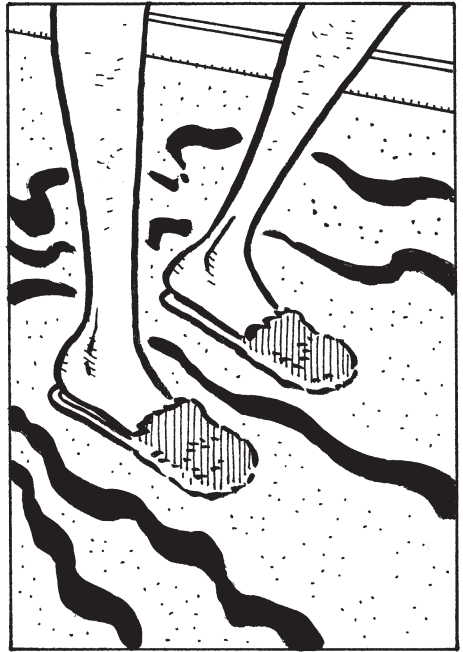


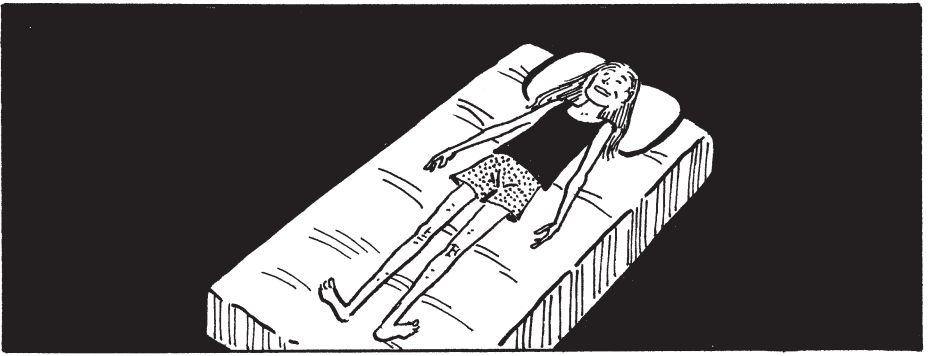




OUT OF SERVICE

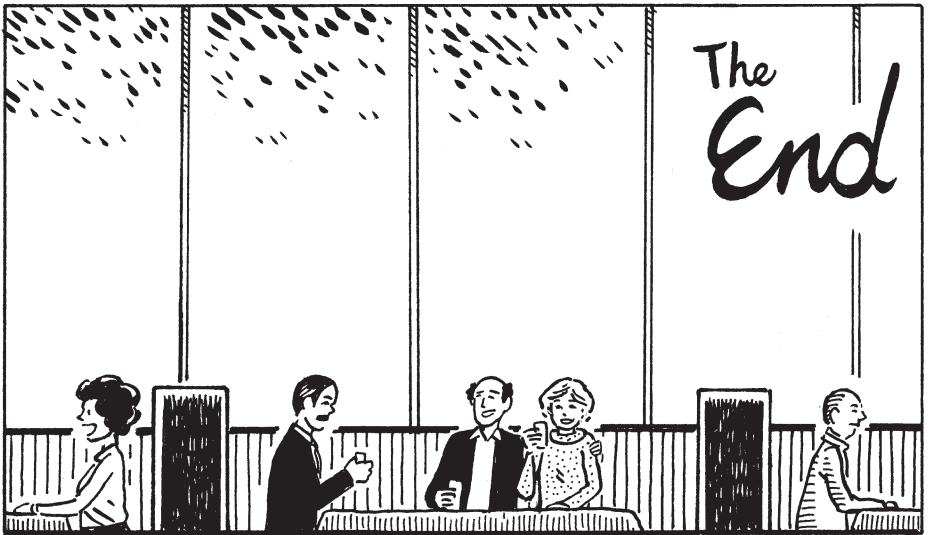
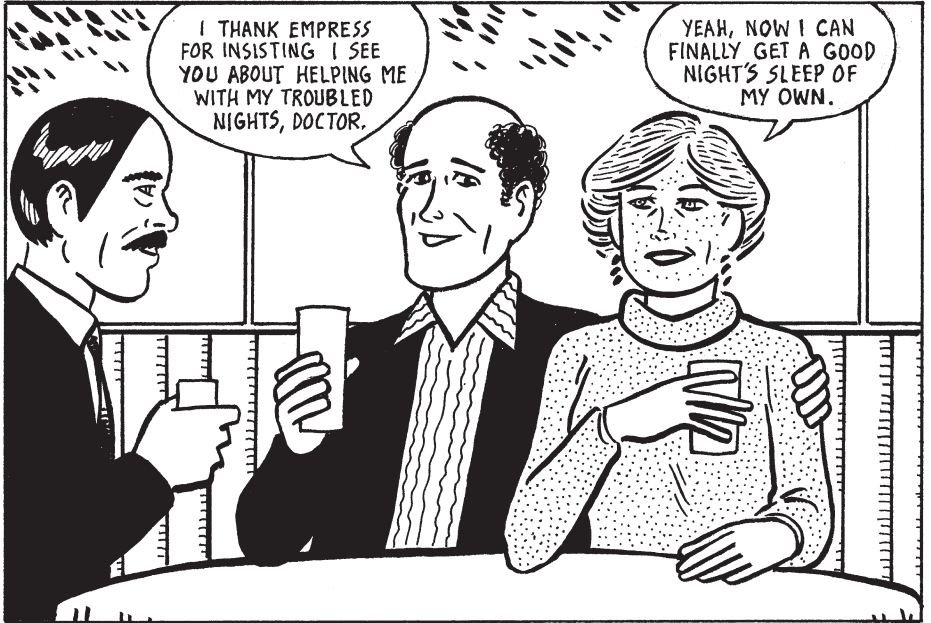
















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— **PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

Gilbert Hernandez's direct, charming cartooning style is unaffected by pretensions and allows the inner lives of his characters to surface in all their troubled glory.

— **LA WEEKLY**

Gilbert Hernandez has created some of the most memorable characters in popular fiction.

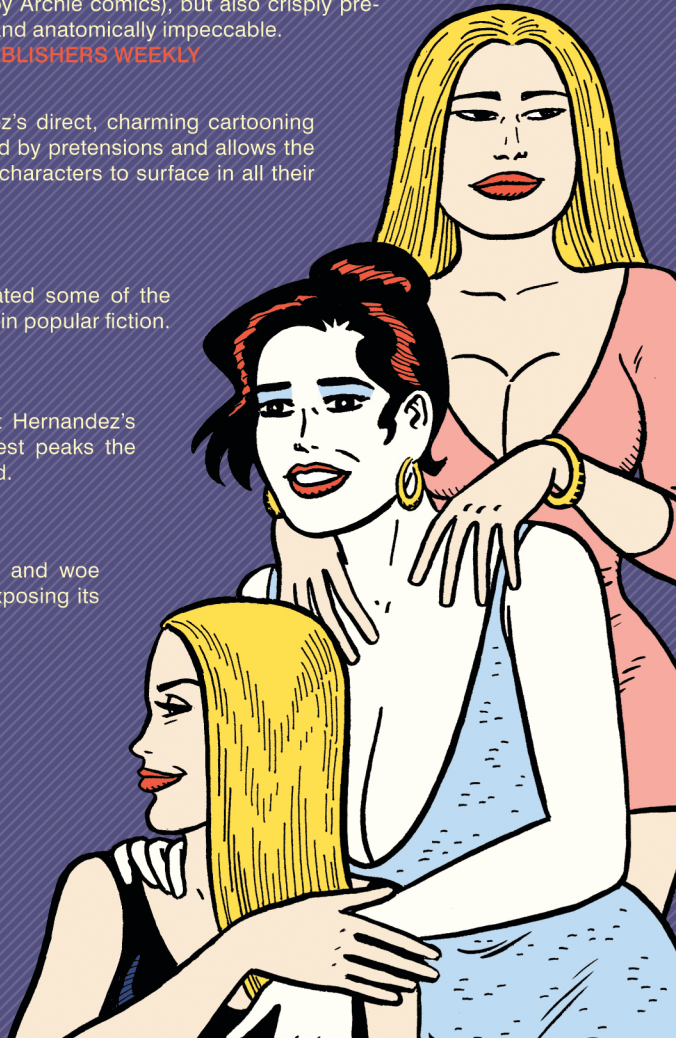
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There's no denying that Gilbert Hernandez's comics reflect one of the highest peaks the comics medium has yet achieved.

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