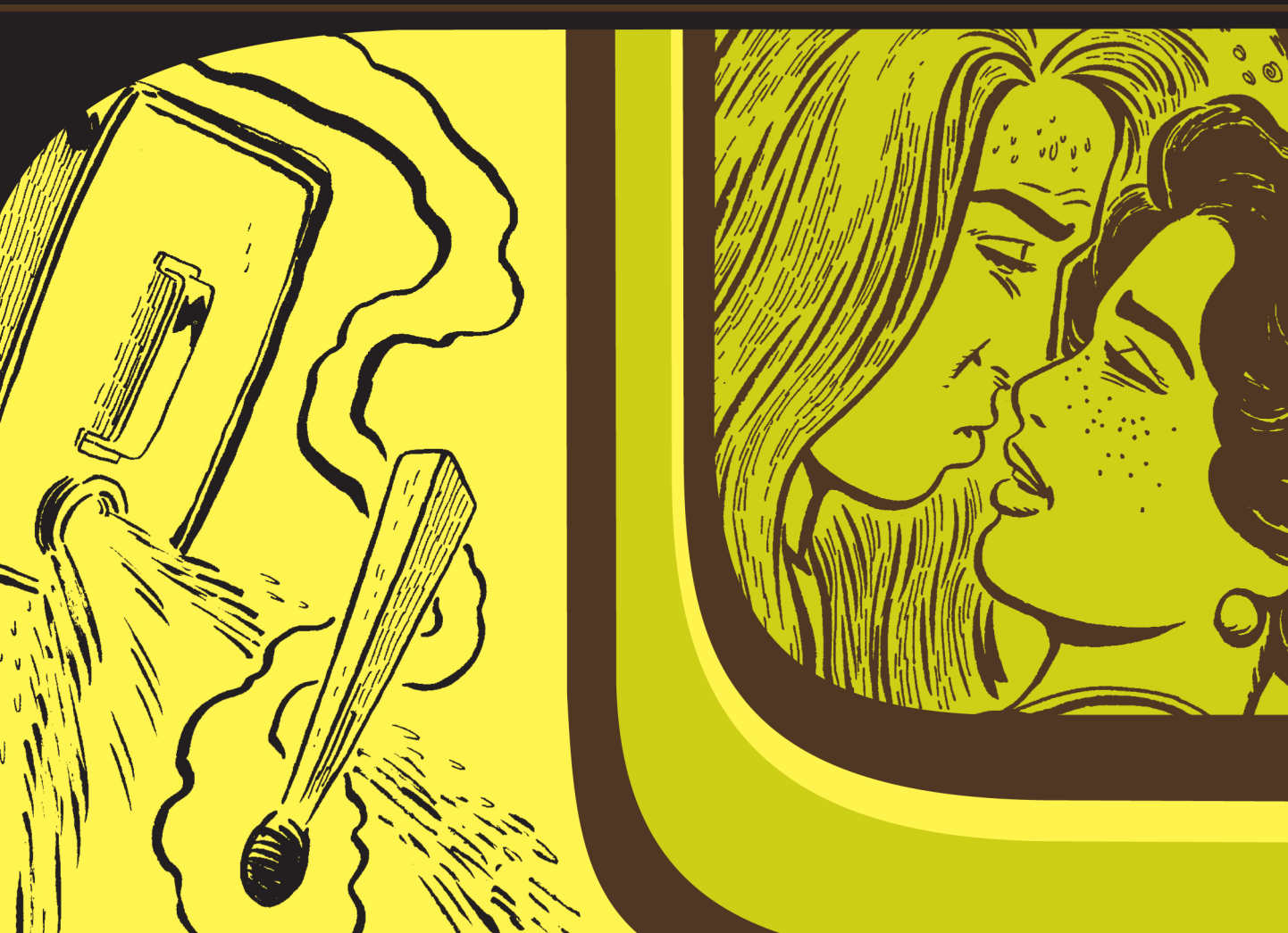
Gilbert Hernandez

BEYOND PALOMAR

A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK



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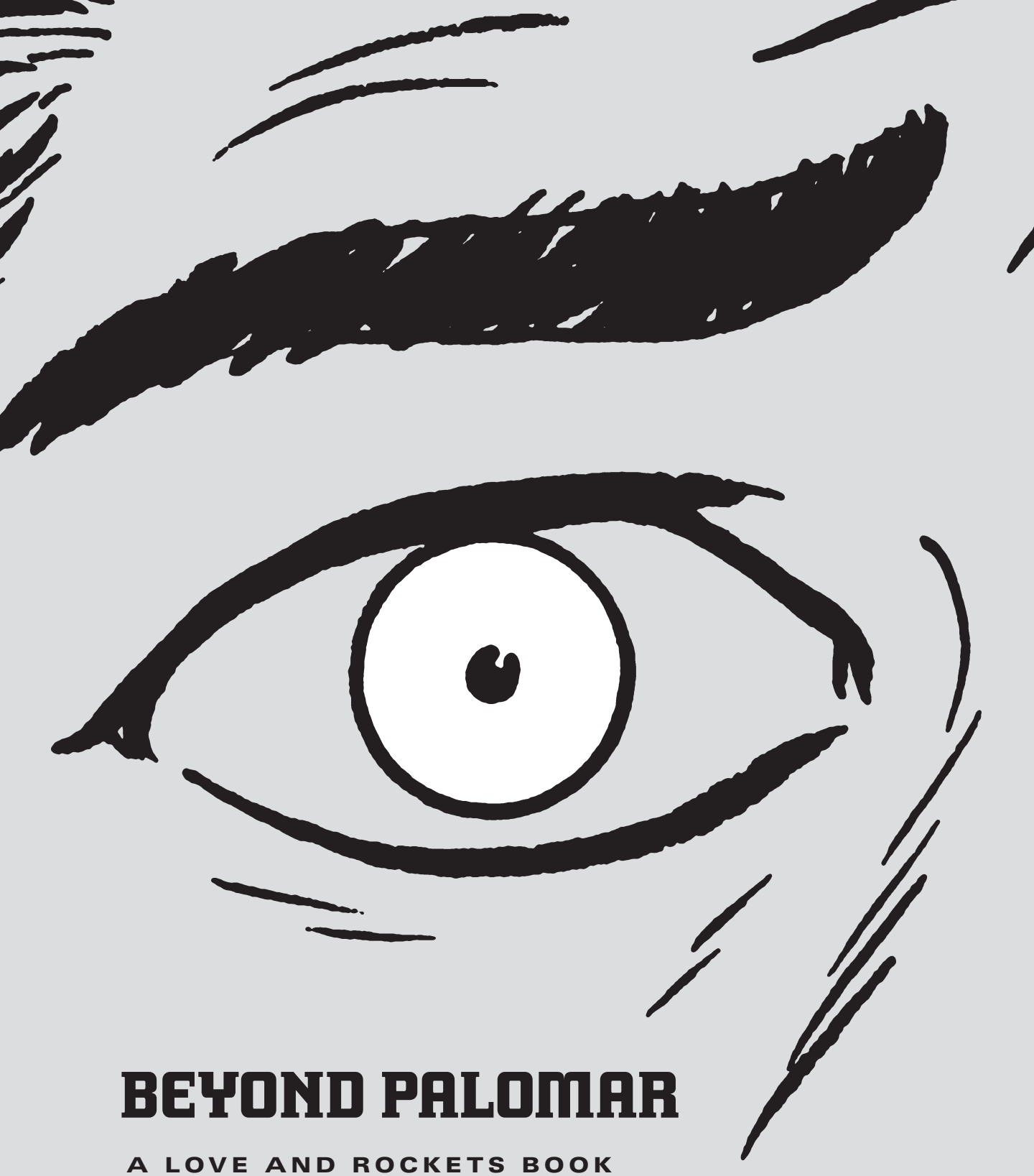

BEYOND PALOMAR

A LOVE AND ROCKETS BOOK

BEYOND PALOMAR

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Seattle WA 98115

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at www.fantagraphics.com

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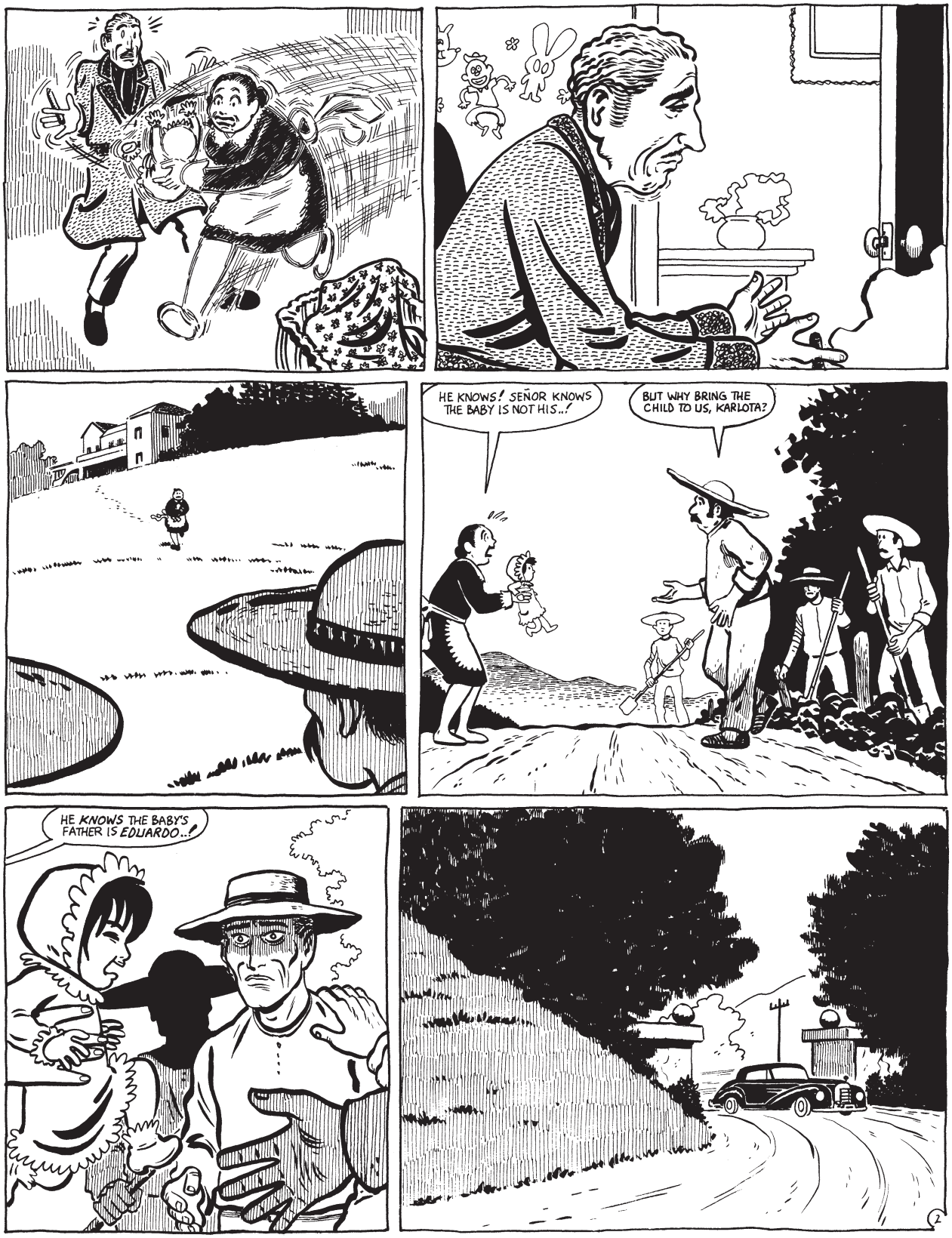
7 POISON RIVER

191 LOVE AND ROCKETS X

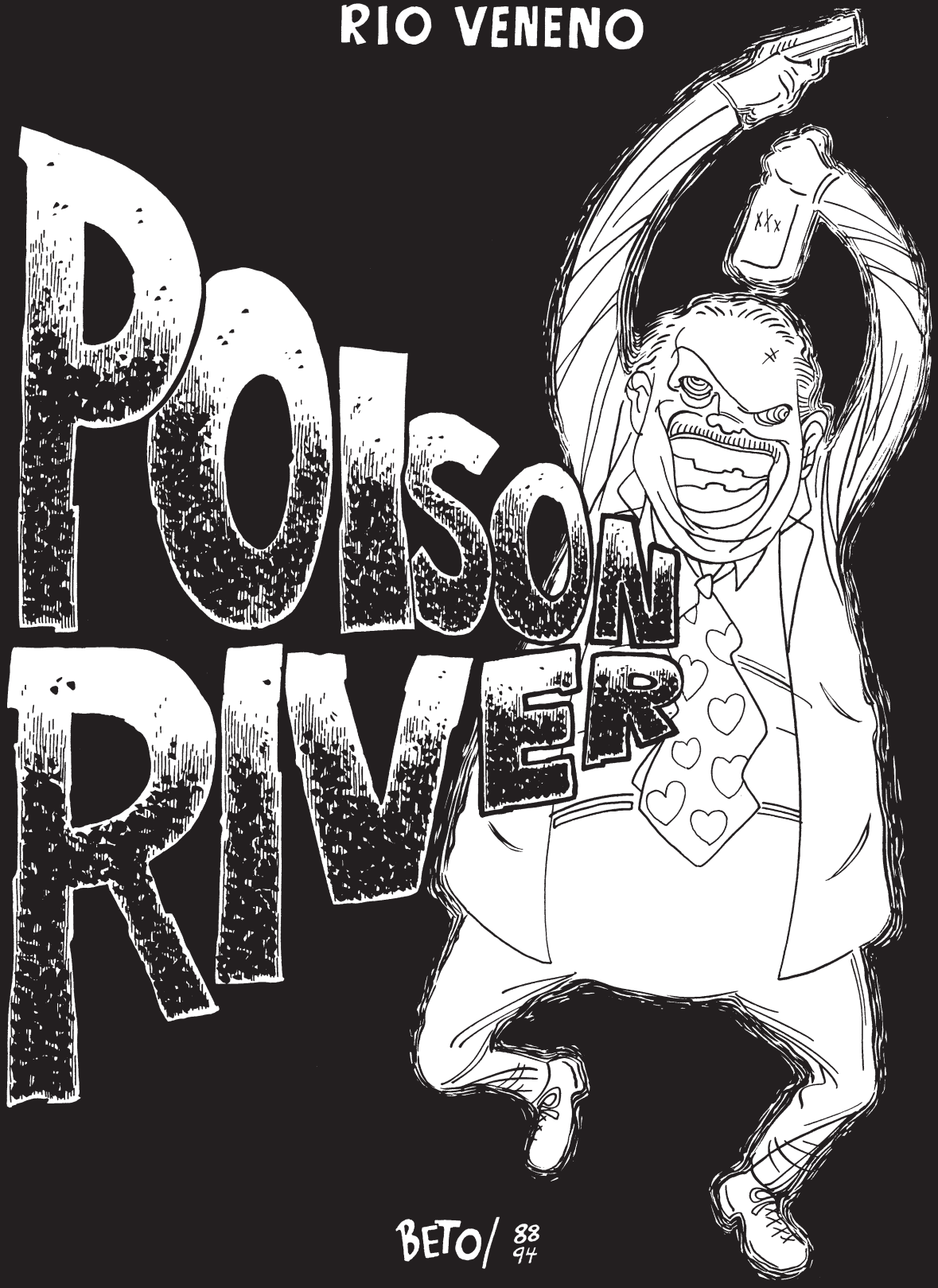
252 Cast of characters

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE U.S. BORDER...


HE KNOWS! SEÑOR KNOWS THE BABY IS NOT HIS...!
BUT WHY BRING THE CHILD TO US, KARLOTA?
HE KNOWS THE BABY'S FATHER IS EDUARDO...!

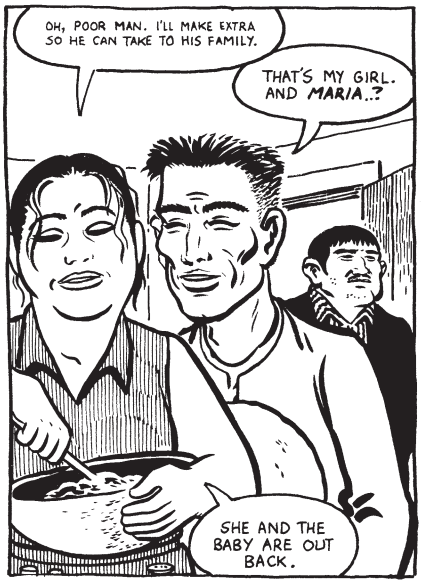
TAKE *YOUR* DAUGHTER AND *HER* FATHER AND YOUR MAID, MARIA... AND GET OUT.
3

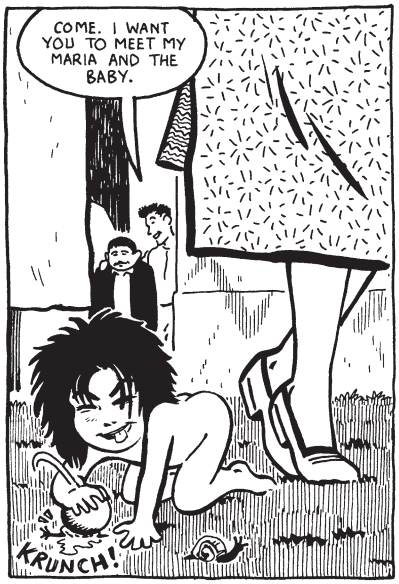
RIO VENENO



IT'S LIFE.
TO HELL WITH IT THEN..!
DAMN...
5

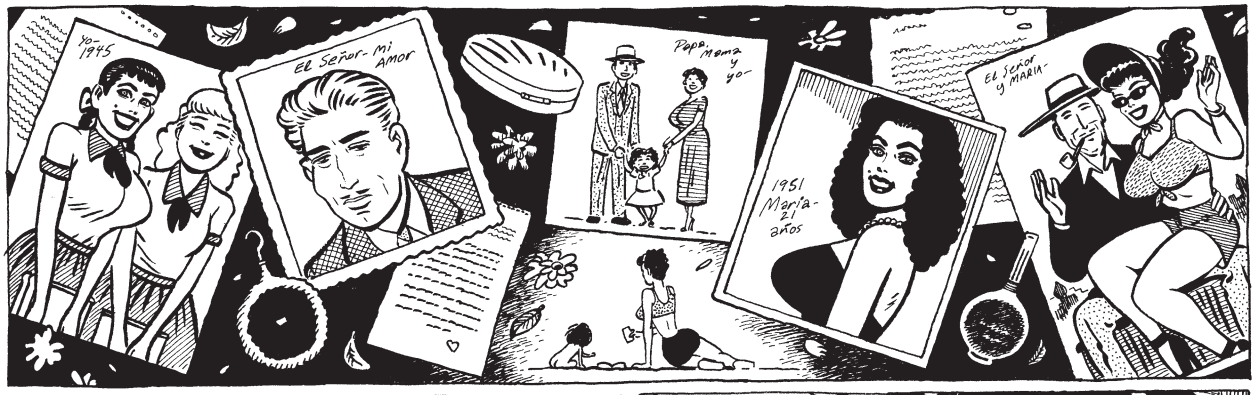
SHIT, HERE IT COMES...
I'D BETTER NOT BE ON THAT GOD DAMN LIST..!
MIRELES...
NUÑEZ.
OROZCO.
SHIT...
VALENZUELA.
THE REST OF YOU COME BACK TOMORROW!
GRACIAS A DIOS...
THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE.. LET ME SEE THAT LIST..! LET ME..PLEASE..
SORRY, NUÑEZ...
AHHHHHHH..
HEY..!
HEY!
AH, I'M ALL RIGHT... THOSE HEARTLESS BASTARDS. THEY.. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE..
WHEN DID YOU LAST EAT, GUY? YOUR STOMACH SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A TIGER INSIDE!
COME WITH ME TO MY HOME NOW. WE'VE PLENTY TO EAT.
I..I COULDN'T... MY FAMILY... I'VE GOT FIVE LITTLE ONES.. IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT.
YOU'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH TO FIND NEW WORK. THEY WON'T HIRE A WEAKLING!
COME, IT'S NOT FAR. I LIVE JUST OVER IN COLONIA.
I KNOW MY NAME WILL BE ON THAT LIST SOONER OR LATER...
6

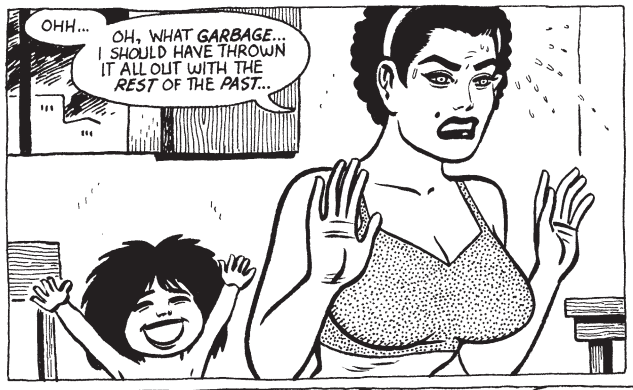




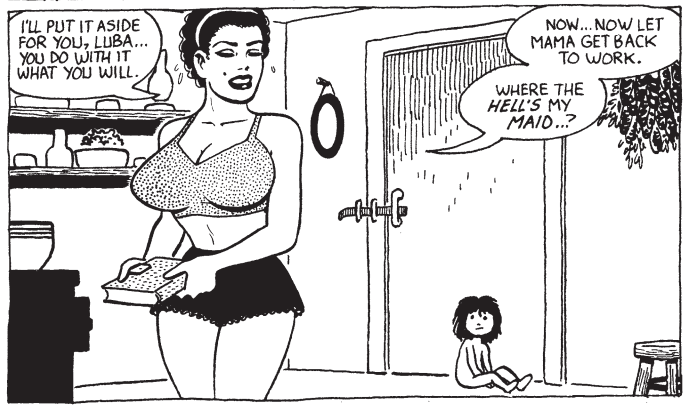
MARIPOSA/BUTTERFLY

WHY ARE MEN SO PROUD?
GRUNT
SINCE WHEN DO YOU CALL HER YOUR LITTLE MARIPOSA?
DON'T BOTHER YOUR FATHER..!
SIXTY-TWO.. FOO.. SIXTY..
LUBA, WHAT'VE YOU GOT THERE NOW? FOO..
OH...KARLOTA MUST'VE BROUGHT THAT...
BOM!
KRAK KRAK
NOW YOU'VE RUINED THE LOCK, GIRL! THIS WAS GOING TO BE YOURS WHEN.. WELL...
I'VE HAD THIS THING SINCE I WAS TWELVE, LUBA...
HMMM...


yo- 1945
El Señor- Mi Amor
Papa, mama y yo-
1951 Maria- 21 años
El Señor y MARIA-


OHH...
OH, WHAT GARBAGE... I SHOULD HAVE THROWN IT ALL OUT WITH THE REST OF THE PAST...

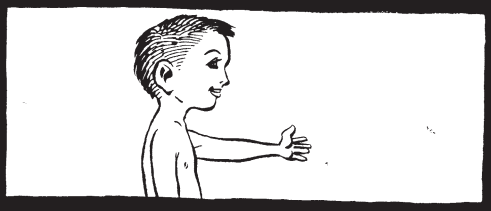
THIS IS MY LIFE NOW, LUBA...THE LIFE I DESERVE. I BELONG HERE...
I CHEATED ON THE OLD MAN TO SPITE HIM, AND NOW--IT IS A MAN'S RIGHT TO HAVE A MISTRESS..?


I'LL PUT IT ASIDE FOR YOU, LUBA... YOU DO WITH IT WHAT YOU WILL.
NOW...NOW LET MAMA GET BACK TO WORK.
WHERE THE HELL'S MY MAID...?

--I WAS TAKING CARE OF MARIA LONG BEFORE SHE WAS MARRIED TO THAT SLUG WHO THREW HER OUT. SHE'S GOT NO FAMILY LEFT TO SPEAK OF, NO OTHER PLACE TO GO...SHE'S THE REASON I STAY...
--AND THEN THERE'S EDUARDO! SAD EXCUSE FOR A BREADWINNER, BUT WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A POOR, DUMB INDIAN..?

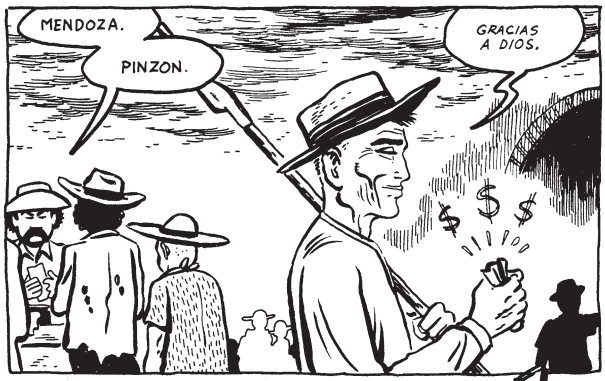
...I GUESS EDUARDO THINKS HE'S PROTECTING MARIA AND THE BABY BY KEEPING THEM--HERE IN COLONIA, SO FAR FROM--WELL, THE WORLD..!
TSK. MARIA JUST SHOULD HAVE NEVER GONE INTO THAT TOOL SHED WITH HIM...

...YOUR HUSBAND...?
ARE YOU KIDDING!
I DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS!
REAL MEN THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL, YOU KNOW!
I'M TOO YOUNG TO BE STUCK IN THIS--THIS PRISON!
I'VE GOT CLASS!
I'M SPECIAL!
I CAN COME AND GO ANYTIME I PLEASE! AND I DON'T WANT ANYBODY FOLLOWING ME!!
GNRR...
SHE'S JUST OUTSIDE HAVING A CIGARETTE.
DAH!
OH, KARLOTA...
I KNOW, SWEETHEART...
I KNOW...
10



TWO

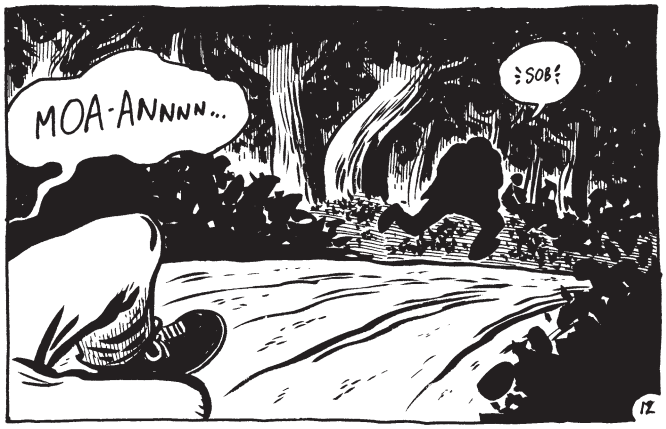
EDUARDO


MENDOZA.
PINZON.
GRACIAS A DIOS.
$ $ $

SMAK
AYYY..

I'VE GOT FIVE BRATS TO FEED.. FIVE, GOD DAMN YOU!!!
GOD DAMN YOU!!!
AYYYYYYY...

LOOK AGAIN AT WHAT YOU'VE GOT AT HOME, INDIO, AND THEN ASK YOURSELF WHAT'S FAIR!!!
NGH=NGH=NGH...


MOA-ANNNN...
SOB

AHHH...
GRACIAS... A DIOS...
HEY, TONTO! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH?
BRAA-AACK..
HE'S COMING.
I THINK HE'S DRUNK!
MMHM.
MARIA...

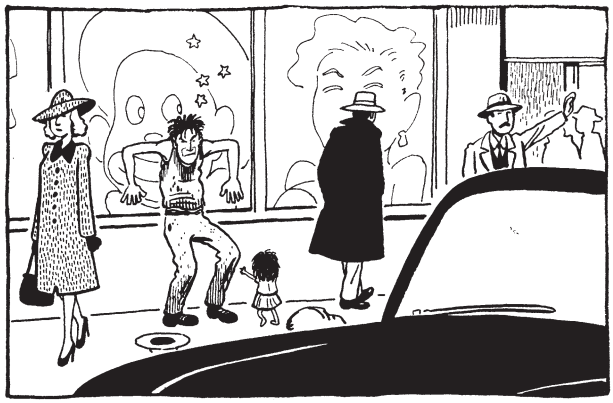
JUST EAT HALF A CAKE OF SOAP AND RECITE THE LORD'S PRAYER SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES BEFORE RETIRING TO BED AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
"JUAN NUÑEZ JUST PACKED UP HIS FAMILY AND LEFT TOWN. INDIO EDUARDO SAYS HE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT IT...
SO WHAT ABOUT ME AND KARLOTA, HUH? WHEN DO WE GET TO GET DRUNK AND HAVE FUN, EDUARDO? HAH ?!?
WA-HOO
WHY, YES, SEÑOR... I WOULD LOVE TO DANCE...
Z

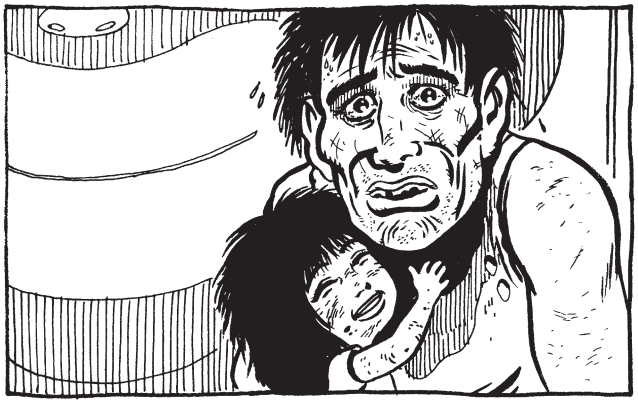
Z
SHE'LL COME BACK...
YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK.
15

SO WHERE'S THAT EDUARDO TODAY?
NEVER SHOWED UP.
TOO BAD.
WELL, IF JUAN NUÑEZ EVER COMES BACK HE'S GOT A JOB.
THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD IS NO PLACE TO SLEEP, MI AMIGO.
WHAT..?
SLEE..?
BUT I WASN'T.. I WAS.. WHAT TIME IS IT?
EDUARDO, DON'T WORRY... THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MORE HOLES TO DIG...
WAAA
WAAAA
AAAA
AA
KARLOT..
HEY!
AA
HAAAAAAA
VROOM
AAAAAA
16

AWAAAA AWAAAA
C'MON, C'MON! YOU CAN'T BRING A KID IN HERE!
WE'RE IN GOD'S HANDS NOW, LUBA.
BLIB...
17

AURORA
TEATRO
ROYAL
KOVINICK
ROBO!
¡Pedro!
MAR..
LUBA... LUBA..!



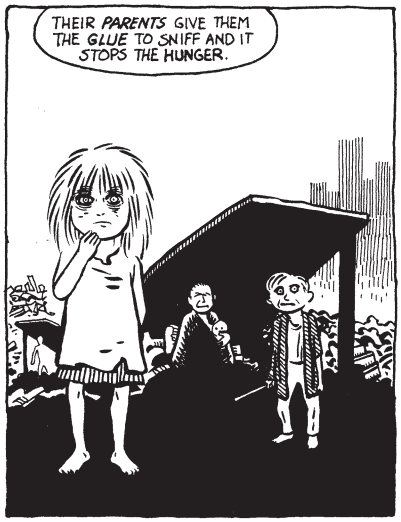


FOR THE CHILD...
GRUNT..

FOR THE CHILD...
GOD BE WITH YOU.

FOR THE..
GO TO HELL...

19


THEIR PARENTS GIVE THEM THE GLUE TO SNIFF AND IT STOPS THE HUNGER.

DAMNING THE CHILDREN TO A HARD BUT SHORT LIFE, IF THEY'RE LUCKY...
THINGS ARE CHANGING NOW THAT THE REBELS ARE RISING TO OUR FAVOR...
EH, THAT'S WHAT I'VE, EH, HEARD...

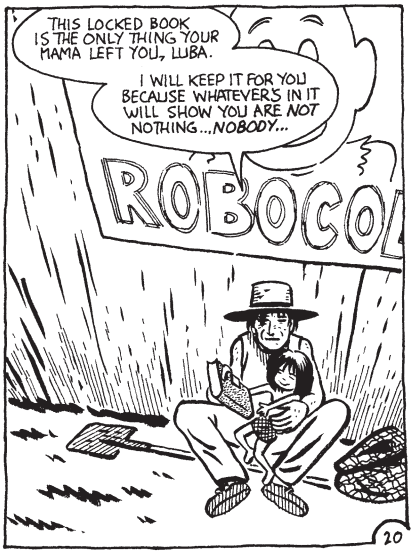
I WILL NOT BE SUCH A PARENT TO MY CHILDREN, EDUARDO. THEY WILL LIVE LONG AND STRONG AND BUY ME A HOUSE.
YES, CHELA.

EDUARDO! WHERE IS YOUR CHILD..?!
LUBA'S WITH CHELA AND HER CHILDREN.
I WAS ACROSS TOWN ALL DAY TRYING TO GET IN THAT CONSTRUCTION DIG. WHY; WHAT..?

..SHE THREW HER CHILDREN INTO TRAFFIC...! ONE BY ONE, LIKE DOLLS! LIKE RAG DOLLS, LIKE NOTHING..
ALL THREE.. CHILDREN..?
LIKE NOTHING..!

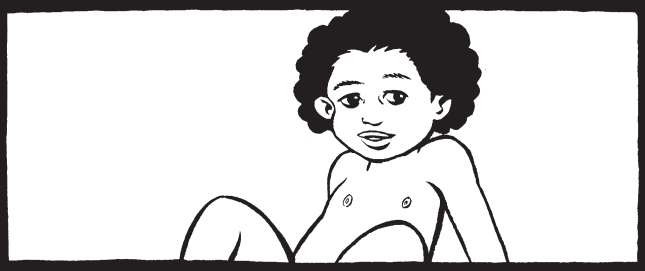
AND THEN HERSELF.

PAPA..!


THIS LOCKED BOOK IS THE ONLY THING YOUR MAMA LEFT YOU, LUBA.
I WILL KEEP IT FOR YOU BECAUSE WHATEVER'S IN IT WILL SHOW YOU ARE NOT NOTHING...NOBODY...
ROBOCOP
20

WA-WA, PAPA...!
WA-WA...
OCEAN, LUBA...
O-CEAN...
JOSÉ, GET OVER HERE!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE ONE DAY AND YOU'LL LIE STINKING LIKE SHIT IN THE GROUND JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE!
GRACIAS...
ISLETA? ~SO WHERE'S THAT?
ABOUT, OH, NINE HUNDRED KILOMETERS SOUTH. GUESS HE'S GONNA WALK IT...
YEAH? WITH A KID? HM. YOU NEVER KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH AT A GUY LIKE THAT...OR ENVY HIM.
21

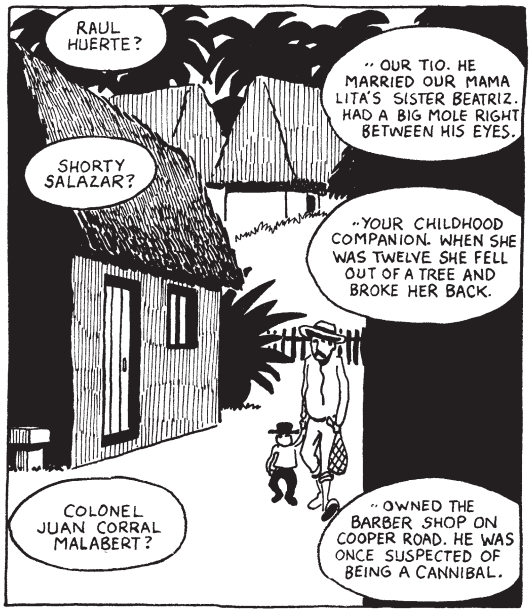
22



OFELIA

THREE

TIO-TEE'OH - UNCLE



..I'M JUST GOING OVER TO GINA'S, MAMA.. GRUNT. OK.. I'LL TAKE LUBA WITH ME...
...IF I CAN FIND HER...

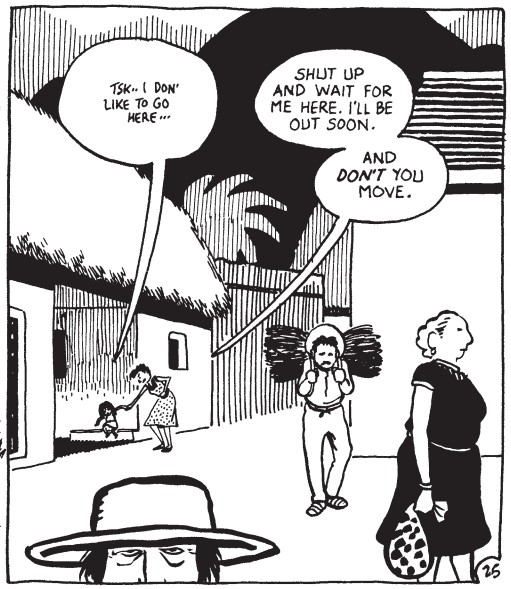
ZUMM
ZUMM
ZUMM

ZUMM ZUMM

THERE YOU ARE! WHAT ARE YOU.. ARRRGH! GET THOSE THINGS OFF YOUR.. HAAUGH!
OW! FELIA, NO..!

SHAKY
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

C'MON, C'MON, WE'RE LATE ALREADY!
DISGUSTING HABIT YOU'VE GOT THERE WITH SNAILS, LUBA. FOY!
SO WHEN ARE YOU AND YOUR PAPA MOVING ON? IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR! I WANT MY OWN ROOM AGAIN!
HURRY UP!


TSK.. I DON' LIKE TO GO HERE...
SHUT UP AND WAIT FOR ME HERE. I'LL BE OUT SOON.
AND DON'T YOU MOVE.

OFELIA.
COME IN.
"AND THOSE FIVE MURDERED STUDENTS FOUND BURIED UP NORTH..?
LAST ANYBODY SAW OF THEM ALIVE WAS LAST MONTH WHEN THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR HANDING OUT LEAFLETS THAT MERELY QUESTIONED THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOMOZA REGIME...
ONLY THREE OF THOSE KIDS WERE COMMUNISTS! THE OTHER TWO WERE JUST FRIENDS! APOLITICAL EVEN!
AND THE WORD IS THAT IT WAS ONE OF THEIR TEACHERS WHO TURNED THEM IN!
"IF 'THEY' THINK 'THEIR' CRIMES ARE GOING TO QUELL ANY MORE OF OUR PEOPLE'S NON-VIOLENT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, 'THEY'RE..'
"THOSE STUDENTS WERE REPORTEDLY PACIFISTS! WELL, IF IT'S A FIGHT 'THEY' WANT, 'THEY'..
"THEY.."
"'THEY' COULD BE ANYBODY THESE DAYS SO WE OUGHT TO BE CAREFUL WITH WHOM WE VOICE OUR POLITICS. I SAY OUR FAMILIES' SAFETY COMES FIRST...
OK OK, SO WHAT ABOUT THE BIG WING DING OVER IN GOBOS? THINK THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE..?
JUST SOMEBODY TRY AND STOP ME FROM ATTENDING! I'M GOING WITH OR WITHOUT..
ALL RIGHT, GINA...WE'RE ALL GOING..
YEAH, YEAH, I'M GOING, EVEN THOUGH IT'S GONNA MOSTLY BE A BUNCH OF EXTREMIST BONEHEADS PATHETICALLY DEFENDING STALIN AND HIS 'PROGRESSIVE' BUTCHERING..
BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.
UNTIL NEXT TIME, GANG.. C'MON, RUBEN.
SEE YOU BEGGARS TOMORROW. YEAH, YEAH, YOU TOO...
AND ME, TOO?
26

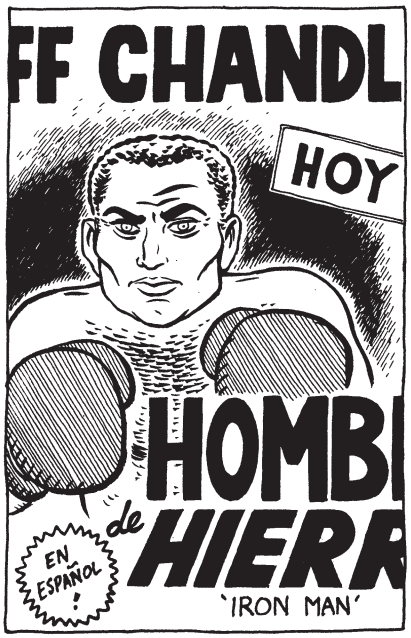
RICO...
OFELIA, LOOK..
NO, YOU LOOK, RICO..
¡TOOMP!
..I'LL BE HELPING TO BUILD A HOSPITAL, OFELIA! A GOVERNMENT FUNDED ONE, YES, BUT..
..A HOSPITAL WHERE THOSE WHO BREAK THEIR BACKS BUILDING IT WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ENTER..!
OFELIA, LISTEN..!
DAMN! YOU AND GINA TALK LIKE YOU'RE STILL WIDE-EYED STUDENTS! LOOK AT US, OFELIA! YOU WORK HERE IN TOWN IN A TOBACCO SHOP! I WORK IN THE CITY UNCLOGGING GOD DAMN SEWERS!
I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS, BUT WHEN I RIDE HOME FROM WORK I SIT IN THE BACK OF THE BUS AS LONG AS I CAN UNTIL I'M KICKED OFF BECAUSE I STINK SO BADLY!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ASHAMED OF THE WORK YOU DO, RICO..!
..AFTER THE HOSPITAL, THEN A SCHOOL, OFELIA, WHERE ANY CHILD MAY ATTEND; THEN, ANOTHER SCHOOL...
I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN MY UNCLE...
SIGH..
...YOU'LL BE SO FAR...SO FAR...
..AH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HAVING NEVER MET MY UNCLE AND HIS BRAT.. HE'S JUST A POOR, WORN OUT INDIAN AND SHE'S JUST ANOTHER KID.. EXCEPT THAT LUBA NEVER SEEMS TO CRY.. IT'S ODD... SHE HOWLS AND SHRIEKS PLENTY, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER SHED A TEAR...
GUESS YOU'VE GOT HER PRETTY WELL TRAINED...THOUGH THERE WILL BE THE DAY SHE TATTLES, YOU KNOW...
NO, NEVER. LUBA AND I HAVE A SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING...
27

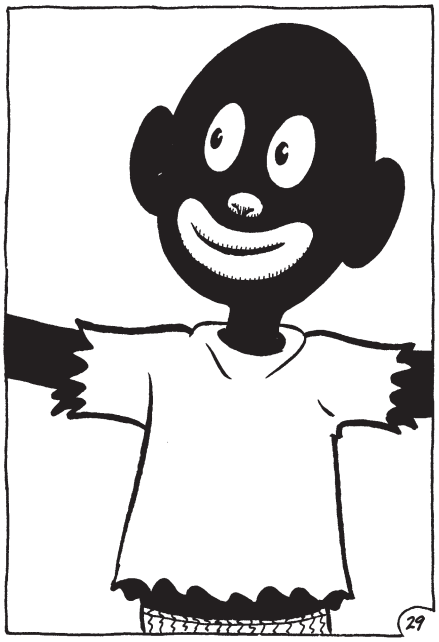
I HATE YOU.
MMHMM.
HAVE TO GO CACA?
PEE PEE.
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING.
FWSSS
TEE HEE..
DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE PICTURES, LUBA!
READ!
¡COME CACA PLACA LACA!
¡NO ME ALCANSAS!
GNNNRRR...
"...IF JUST ONE OF THEM BELIEVED IN MEDICAL SCIENCE MAYBE WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO HEAR THAT EVERY OTHER NIGHT.
OK, LUBA; AGAIN: FIRST PICTURE: "HELLO, PEDRO. IS THAT YOUR PUPPY?"
"HEL-LO, PE-DRO..."
PEDRO
GNNYAAGG...
'...AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS...'
28

OH, YOU MIGHT NOT SEE THE RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEGLECT OF THE COMMON PEOPLE'S BASIC NEEDS SO MUCH HERE, TIO EDUARDO; BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU IT'S THERE.
AND I DON'T NEED TO LIVE IN DIRE POVERTY TO KNOW THAT THE SYSTEMATIC REPRESSION OF THE DEFENSELESS IS EVIL.
MAMA OFELIA... MAMA OFELIA...
TABACO

YAKETY YAK YAK..
ZUMM ZUMM

THE FOREST PEOPLE ALMOST NEVER COME THIS CLOSE INTO TOWN UNLESS FOOD IS BECOMING SCARCE FOR THEM. TCH.
SHE COULDN'T SCOOP AWAY HER LITTLE ANGEL FAST ENOUGH, FROM THE SAVAGES, EH?


FF CHANDL
HOY
HOMBI
de HIERR
EN ESPAÑOL!
'IRON MAN'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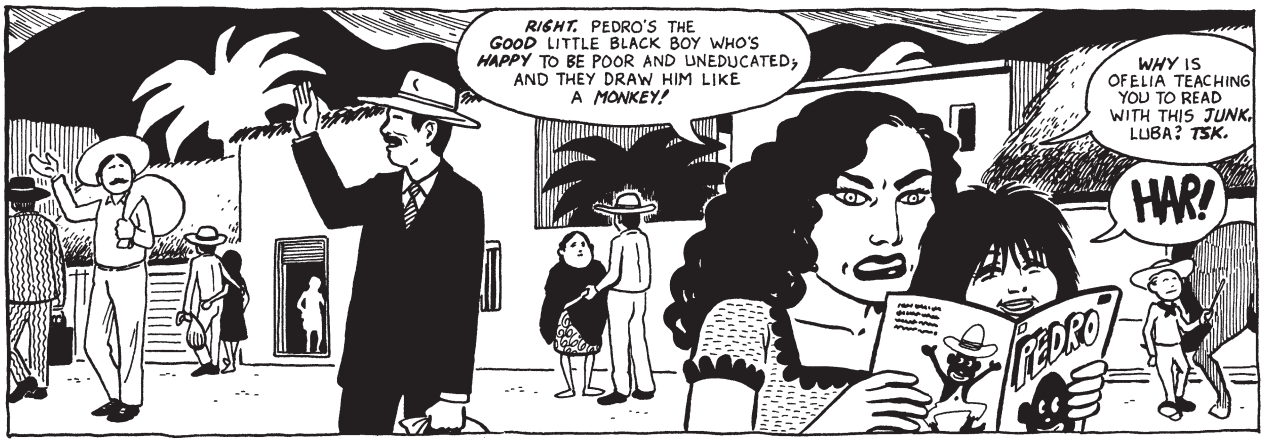
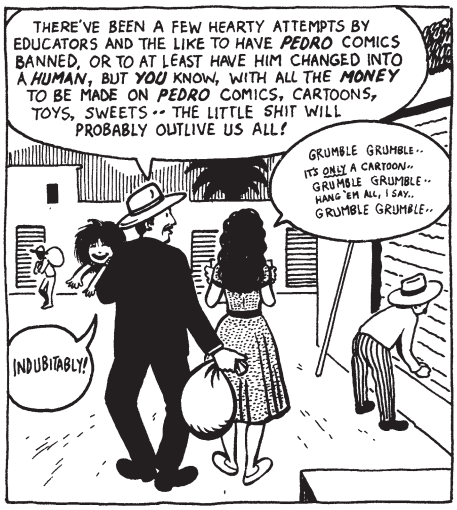
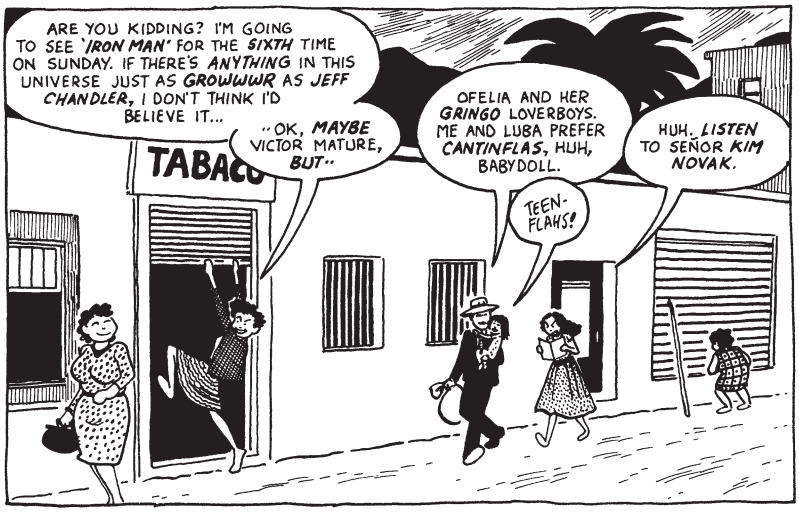

RIGHT. PEDRO'S THE GOOD LITTLE BLACK BOY WHO'S HAPPY TO BE POOR AND UNEDUCATED; AND THEY DRAW HIM LIKE A MONKEY!
WHY IS OFELIA TEACHING YOU TO READ WITH THIS JUNK, LUBA? TSK.
HAR!
PEDRO

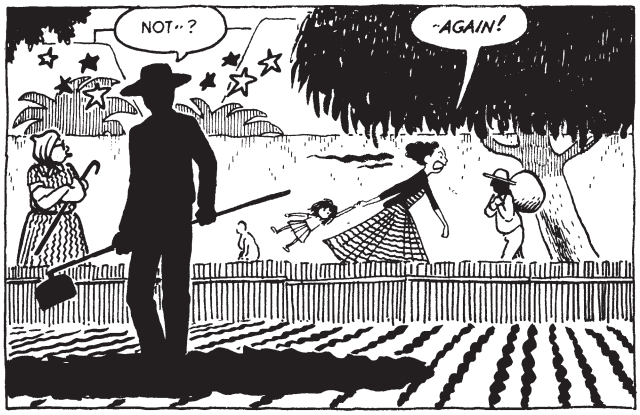

THERE'VE BEEN A FEW HEARTY ATTEMPTS BY EDUCATORS AND THE LIKE TO HAVE PEDRO COMICS BANNED, OR TO AT LEAST HAVE HIM CHANGED INTO A HUMAN, BUT YOU KNOW, WITH ALL THE MONEY TO BE MADE ON PEDRO COMICS, CARTOONS, TOYS, SWEETS -- THE LITTLE SHIT WILL PROBABLY OUTLIVE US ALL!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE.. IT'S ONLY A CARTOON.. GRUMBLE GRUMBLE.. HANG 'EM ALL, I SAY.. GRUMBLE GRUMBLE..
INDUBITABLY!


ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M GOING TO SEE 'IRON MAN' FOR THE SIXTH TIME ON SUNDAY. IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE JUST AS GROWWWR AS JEFF CHANDLER, I DON'T THINK I'D BELIEVE IT...
..OK, MAYBE VICTOR MATURE, BUT..
OFELIA AND HER GRINGO LOVERBOYS. ME AND LUBA PREFER CANTINFLAS, HUH, BABYDOLL.
HUH. LISTEN TO SEÑOR KIM NOVAK.
TEEN-FLAKS!
TABACO

OFELIA, I THINK IT'S TIME LUBA MOVED ON TO MORE ENLIGHTENED READING!
WELL, I TRIED SARTRE ON HER, BUT SHE FELT THERE JUST WEREN'T ENOUGH CAR CHASES IN 'NAUSEA' FOR HER TASTES!
PEDRO

OK, OK..! THEN HOW ABOUT REAL PICTURE ART, LIKE..WELL, LIKE OUR ROLE MODEL FRIDA KAHLO'S WORK?
LUBA TOOK ONE LOOK AT A PRINT OF ONE OF FRIDA'S SELF-PORTRAITS AND SHIT IN HER..
..LIKE SHE'S DONE JUST NOW..! ARRRGH..
NO!
AWW...

SHE'S ONLY GETTING RID OF ALL THE CRAP THIS FUNNYBOOK'S SOILED HER MIND WITH!
30


NOT..?
..AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, YOU'VE ALREADY SHIT UP THE JOINT.. NOW WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT SOME FRIDA PRINTS WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTIONS, OK?
PRINCE..? AN' A PRINCESS, TOO?

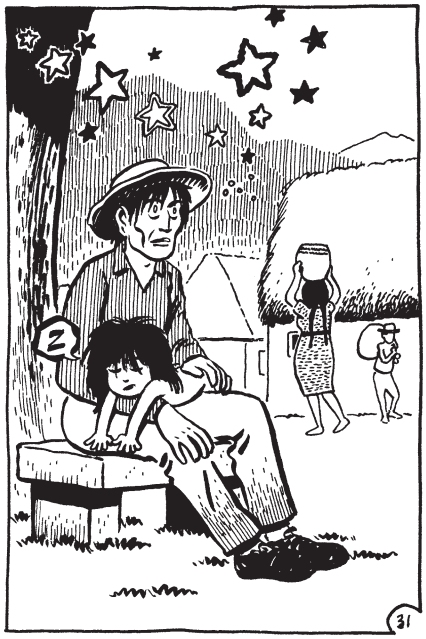
N-NO, FELIA...
SCARY...
LUBA...LUBA, THIS IS BEAUTY. THIS IS PROGRESSIVE ART, LUBA...
LUBA, DON'T LOOK AWAY..
LOOK..

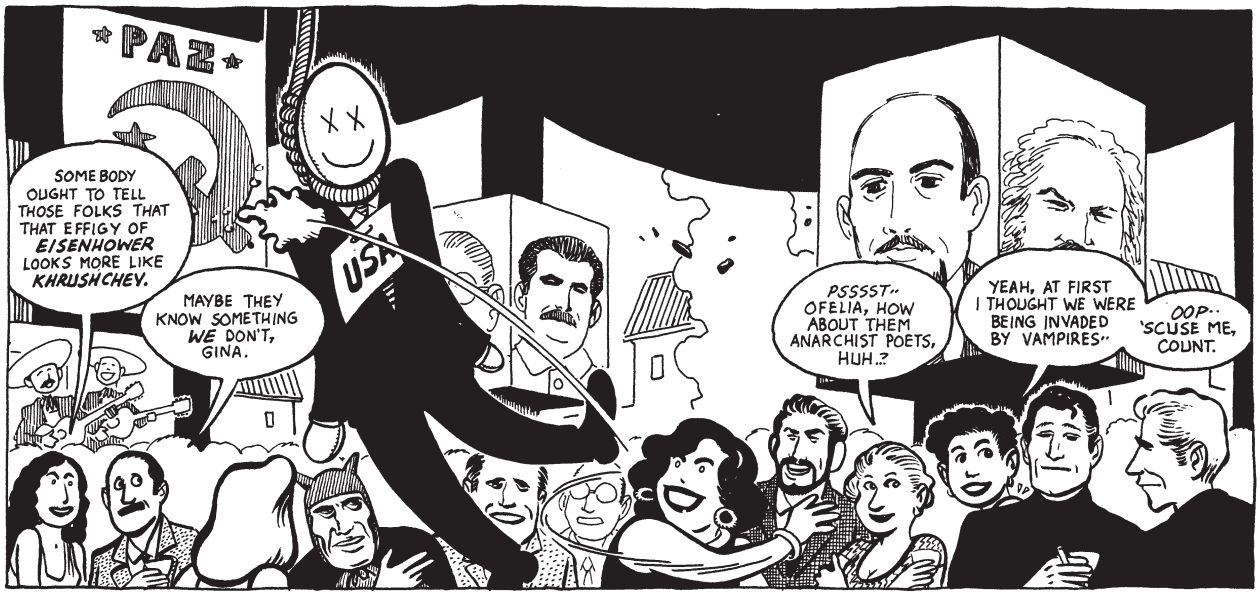
LUBA, LOOK..
EEEEE! NO! NO! PAPA!!
HEY!

..FILLING HER HEAD UP WITH YOUR..
..I WANT TO TEACH HER THINGS SO SHE WON'T GROW UP STUPID AND POOR AND..
OFELIA..

..I DREAMED OF YOUR MOTHER AGAIN, LUBA...
MAMA...
SHE WAS ALL DRESSED UP LIKE SHE WAS GOING TO A DANCE, BUT SHE WASN'T, BECAUSE SHE WAS DRESSED UP JUST FOR US! AND..AND KARLOTA WAS THERE...

..AND MY HEAD DIDN'T HURT AND WE WERE ALL TOGETHER... BUT THIS TIME WE WEREN'T SO POOR AND WE WERE ALL HAPPY... JUST LIKE IN A STORY...





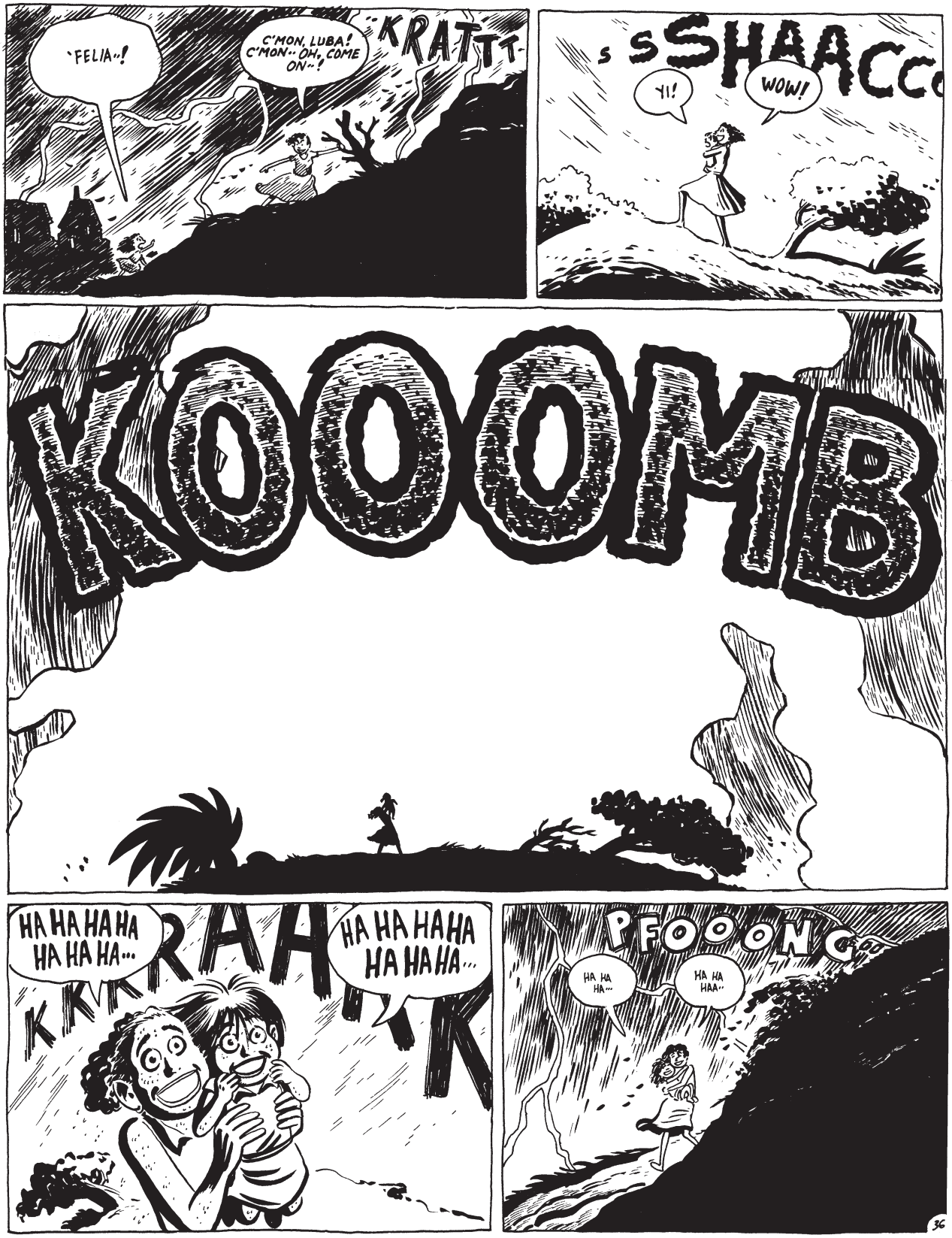
CAMPESINO - RUSTIC, COUNTRY DWELLER, FARMER

WHAT I WANT IS NOTHING NEW.. I WANT THE HUNGRY FED, I WANT THE END OF MILITARY OPPRESSION EVERYWHERE, I WANT RACISM TO GO THE ROUTE OF THE STEGOSAURUS, I WANT.. I WANT IT ALL, SEÑOR...
SILLY, WIDE-EYED ME...
.. I KNOW SOCIALISM IS LIMITED TO BRINGING ONLY ECONOMIC EQUALITY, BUT I BELIEVE IT'S A SOLID FOUNDATION TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD ON.. THOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE SURE MADE A LOUSY EXAMPLE OF IT, EH?
STILL, NOBODY CAN CONVINCE ME IT CAN NEVER WORK, THAT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN, NOBODY..
.. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, OFELIA, BUT RUBEN AND I SPOKE TO A FEW PEOPLE WHO SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.. THEY'LL BE KEEPING US ABREAST NOW AND THEN OF ANY DEVELOPING PARTY ACTIVITIES...
.. BUT WHAT GOT ME WAS ALL THOSE CRAZY ARGUMENTS OF THE PLACE OF ART IN ALL THIS...
I MEAN, I REALIZE A HUNGRY FAMILY CAN'T EAT A DEGAS, BUT THINK OF THE BANQUET IF THEY SOLD ONE, HUH?
SO WHAT HUNGRY FAMILY EVER HAD A DEGAS TO SELL, GINA?! .. ART DOES NOTHING TO IMPROVE LIFE ON THIS WORLD EXCEPT FOR THE OPPORTUNISTS WHO BUY AND SELL..
NOW WHAT'S THIS..?
OH...I KNOW A COUPLE OF THESE GUYS...
RUBEN, YOU KNOW I WASN'T SERIOUS AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE, EITHER..!
OK, GINA, SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE...
HEY, GOMEZ. YOU GUYS HAVE A FLAT..?
HEAR ABOUT THAT COMMUNIST MEETING UP IN GOBOS?
HUH..? NO, UH.. WE WERE AT THE MOVIES IN TOWN.. PICTURE FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK.. 'IRON MAN'.. SEEN IT..?
ALL RIGHT...WE'LL SEE YOU AROUND THEN, RUBEN...
..RUBEN, YOU TOLD ME YOURSELF LOVE AND ART ARE WHAT MAKE LIFE BEARABLE.. SO IF YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON ART, THEN WHEN DOES LOVE GO..?
ALL RIGHT, GINA...I WASN'T.. I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET ALL..
SIGH.. WHEN IT'S GUYS YOU'VE KNOWN MOST YOUR LIFE...
33

I WAS TOLD HE HAD HIS BAG AND SHOVEL WITH HIM, MAMA. HE'S PROBABLY GONE TO FIND WORK THAT PAYS DECENTLY...
LAST FEW DAYS HE'D BEEN MUMBLING ABOUT GOING BACK TO FIND HIS WOMAN... ALL THE WAY BACK TO WHERE SHE LEFT HIM... PTCH..
AND JUST LIKE BEFORE, NO GOODBYE..
...GUESS HE LEFT ONE THING FOR LUBA; OR DID HE JUST FORGET IT..?
NAW... HE'S A HOBO, FOOL! HE'S JUST SLEEPING.
BULLSHIT! I'LL BET YOU HE'S DEAD!
WHOA...
TAKE OFF HIS HAT, THEN.
I AIN'T SCARED.
TABACO
34

GINA Y RUBEN

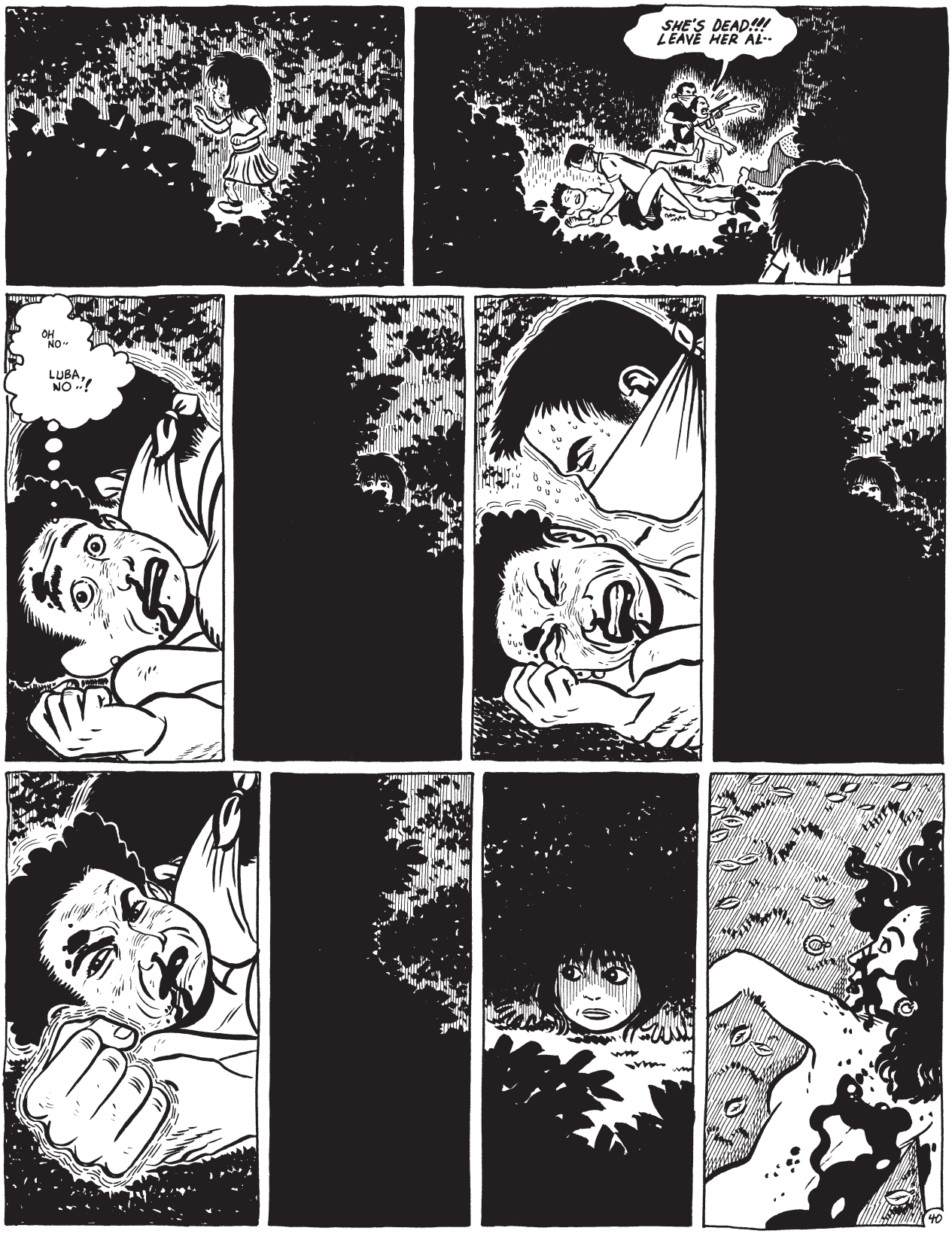
FOUR

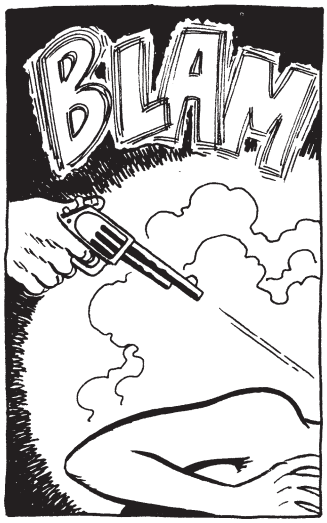

FELIA..!
C'MON, LUBA! C'MON.. OH, COME ON..!
KRATTT
s s SHAACC
YI!
WOW!
KOOOMB
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA...
RAH
K K K
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA...
PFOOONG
HA HA HA...
HA HA HAA..
36

LIFE IS ALL SET UP FOR YOU FROM THE DAY YOU ARE BORN, LUBITA.
A BOY GROWS UP TO FIND A WIFE AND TO HAVE A FAMILY AND TO WORK HARD TO SUPPORT THAT FAMILY...
A GIRL GROWS UP TO BE A WIFE AND TO GIVE HER MAN A FAMILY AND TO CARE FOR HIM AND THOSE KIDS...
MY MAMA TOLD ME THAT WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE AND HER MAMA TOLD HER AND ON AND ON...
WHAT SHE DIDN'T TELL ME THEN WAS THAT SOMETIMES PEOPLE MAKE UP SECRET WISHES OF WHAT THEY REALLY WANT WHEN THEY GROW UP...
I FIGURED THAT OUT MYSELF WHEN I WAS STILL PRETTY YOUNG, BELIEVE IT OR NOT... NOW YOU KNOW WHERE OFELIA GOT HER BRAINS. HARMF..
EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG GIRL I WANTED TO BE A SECRET AGENT!
I NEVER TOLD NOBODY. NOT MY PARENTS, NOT MY LATE HUSBAND PITO, NOT YOUR FATHER, NOT OFELIA..
I WOULD HAVE SHOWN THAT MATA HARI A THING OR TWO ABOUT SPYING AND DANCING AND SEDUCING MEN! TAN-TAN-TAN..
NOW YOU KNOW MY SECRET WISH, BABY. DO YOU HAVE A WISH OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE..?
A PUPPY!
LUBITA, YOU CAN'T BE A PUPPY. A PUPPY'S A BABY DOG AND WHEN YOU GROW UP YOU HAVE TO BE A LADY..!
A LADY PUPPY!
MM.
YOU KEEP MY WISH A SECRET AND I'LL KEEP YOURS, LUBA. NO SENSE IN THE BOTH OF US HAVING OUR FUN SPOILED.
HERE'S ONE THING HER PAPA LEFT; ONE OF THOSE FAKE HOLLOWED-OUT BOOKS... HM. DIDN'T NOTICE THIS LOCK BEFORE...
WELL, IT'S NOTHING A HAIRPIN CAN'T TAKE CARE OF.
GAW, OFELIA!! HE PROBABLY LEFT IT FOR LUBA! PUT IT AWAY!
OH, DON'T WORRY, MAMA AND LUBA ARE OUT SOMEWHERE.. PHEW! HOW ABOUT THAT PERFUME? GUESS THIS MUST HAVE BELONGED TO LUBA'S MOTHER...
OFELIA, YOU ARE TERRIBLE...! I CAN'T BELIEVE .. HEY! ARE THOSE EARRINGS?
37

IONOSFERA·IONOSPHERE

POW
POW
POW
SHHHHH.. YOU'RE GONNA HIDE, OK? NO NOISE. QUIET AS A MOUSE, OK? OK? STAY PUT UNDER THIS BUSH UNTIL I COME GET YOU, OK? SHHHH..
GINA..
37


SHE'S DEAD!!! LEAVE HER AL--
OH NO..
LUBA, NO..!
40


BLAM

BLAM!
BLAM!

..DIG!
TAKE ME TO GINA...

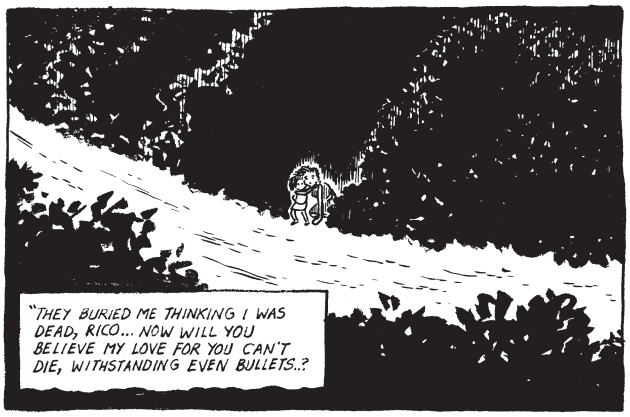
BLAM BLAM

YAWN
OFELIA...

UP..!

THEY'RE GONE... WE CAN GO HOME NOW, BABY...
OFELIA.?!

41



"OUR DEAR, DEAR FRIENDS WERE MURDERED MONTHS AGO, AND I'M NOT SURE WE'LL EVER KNOW WHO THE GARBAGE WAS RESPONSIBLE. MY FAMILY AND I WERE LONG GONE BEFORE THE POLICE FINALLY GOT AROUND TO CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION, BUT I'M TOLD IT WAS BRIEF AND VERY SUPERFICIAL, A LITTLE ACT TO ENSURE THE TOWNFOLKS' TRUST IN LAW AND ORDER. NOW, YOU DIDN'T **REALLY** EXPECT THEM TO **FIND** ANY SUSPECTS, DID YOU?

"EIGHT MORE ATTACKS SIMILAR TO OURS HAVE SINCE BEEN REVEALED. SOME SURVIVE, SOME DON'T. DON'T **'THEY'** KNOW WHAT DOESN'T KILL US ONLY MAKES US STRONGER? MAYBE IN SCHOOL **'THEY'** PREFERRED **PEDRO PACOTILLA** OVER **NIETSCHE.**

PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT I MAKE LIGHT OF ALL THIS, RICO; ON THE CONTRARY..

"I KNOW, IF THEY WERE ALIVE, OUR BELOVED FRIENDS WOULD BE INSPIRED WITH THE WAY THE GEARS ARE TURNING THESE DAYS; PARTICULARLY WITH THAT **CASTRO** AND HIS GORILLAS (SIC) BOUNCING BATISTA'S ASS ALL OVER AND OUT OF **HAVANA**.. REVOLUTION IS AT ONCE BOTH HORRIBLE (VIOLENCE, KILLING) AND BEAUTIFUL (DIGNITY, FREEDOM), AND IN OUR PEOPLE'S REALITY OF LIFE PERENNIALLY UNDER THE BOOT, INEVITABLE.

AS FOR MY LOT, HERE AWAY FROM THE NOISE OF THE WORLD, I FOLLOW GOD'S WORK BY TEACHING THE WEE INHERITORS OF THE EARTH TO READ AND WRITE; AND I'M NOT ABOVE SNEAKING IN A PERSONAL (MARXIST) OPINION OR TWO.

"OH, RICO; HAVING TO LIVE SO FAR FROM YOU ON ONE SIDE AND MAMA AND THE LITTLE ONE NOW MOVED AWAY, AND SAFE ON THE OTHER, WELL, MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S BEING TUGGED AND WRENCHED LIKE TAFFY IN THIS DIRECTION AND THAT EVERYDAY.. I'M SORE! WISH THEY HAD SOME CRAZY MACHINE THAT COULD MAKE ME BE IN THREE PLACES AT ONCE.. BUT IF BEING SO FAR AWAY WILL PREVENT YOU THREE FROM HARM, THEN MAY I NEVER SEE ANY OF YOU AGAIN.

FROM THE GIRL
WITH THE BIG
TEETH WHO
ADORES YOU

XXXX

P.S. YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND ME EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO. THE POST MARK WON'T HELP EITHER."

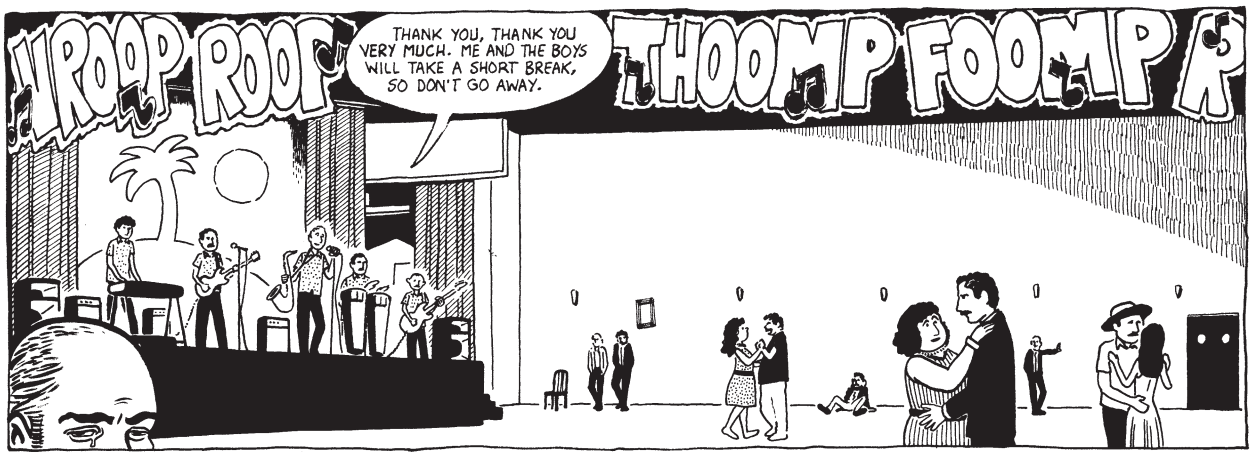
42

YOU'RE EVEN LATER THAN USUAL! NEXT TIME I WON'T PAY AS MUCH!
YES, SEÑORA. I'LL TRY TO BE SOONER.
WE'RE GOING INTO TOWN TO HEAR AMERICAN MUSIC, LUBA. C'MON!
CAN'T.
AHHHHH...NOTHING LIKE FRESH.. BUT WON'T YOU COME INSIDE FOR A DRINK, LITTLE ONE?
NO THANK YOU, SEÑOR.
PTCH...
AH, YEZ, DAHLINK.. PLEAZE TO POOT HARE INTO DE CHICHEN.
YES, SEÑORA.
OFELIA.. OFELIA...
COMING, TIA HILDA.
GRUNT
43

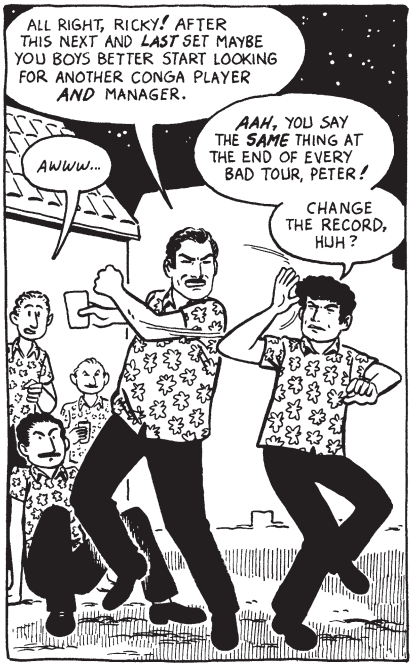
DEBEH DEBEH DEBEH...OFELIA, PACH! GOLO META POAT! OCA, OFELIA...
YES, TIA.
AHHH...PEELY, OH... MUA MUA... GOLO META. AHHHH. OFELIA...
GOOD NIGHT, TIA.
SETA MOTCH O KAFTE MUA MUA.. OFELIA...AHHH...
YES, TIA.
..HNNG HNNG... OFELIA OFELIA OFELIA...
ECCH...
HHHHHNGG..
DIRTY DOG DIRTY DOG DIRTY DOG...
GET TO BED, LUBA. YOU'VE A LONG WORK DAY AHEAD...
YES, ALICIA.
44

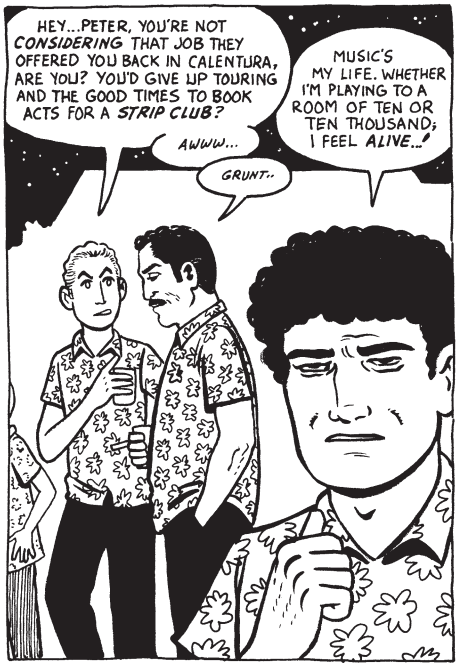
PETER FIVE

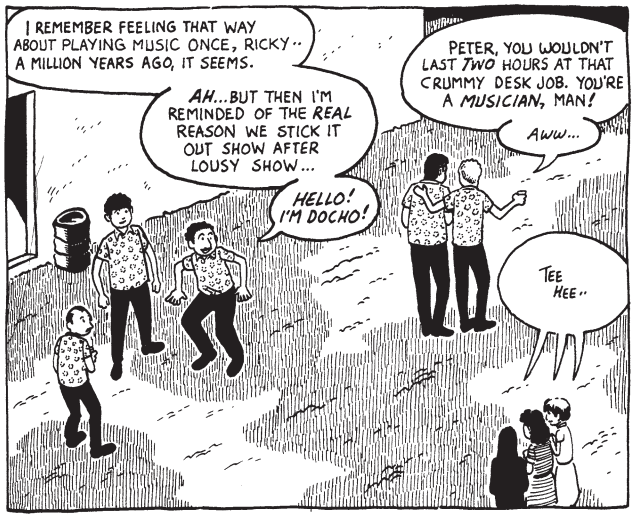
CHALANG..
ON ELECTRIC GUITAR..
DOCHO..!
DOOMP..
FOOMP..
ON BASS GUITAR..
FABIO!
ZWRRREEE..
ON ORGAN..
RICKY BOY..!
BOMPITY BOMP..
ON CONGAS..
PETER RIO..!
AND I'M BLAS, YOUR SAXOMAN..
WE ARE THE UNIQUE MODERN SOUNDS OF LOS FRITOS..!

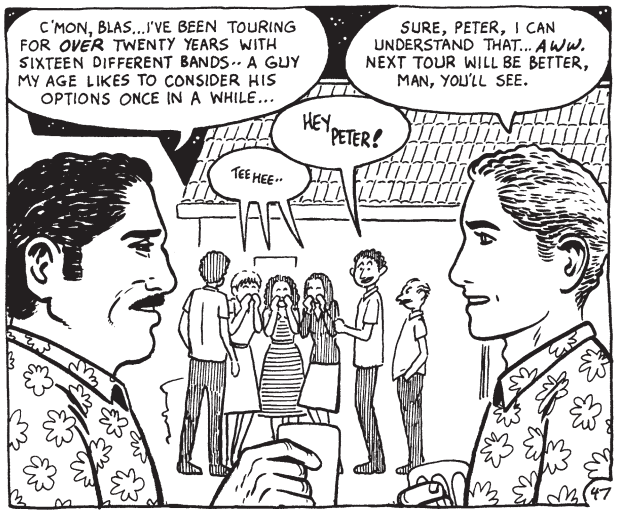

ROOP ROOP
THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. ME AND THE BOYS WILL TAKE A SHORT BREAK, SO DON'T GO AWAY.
THOOMP FOOMP

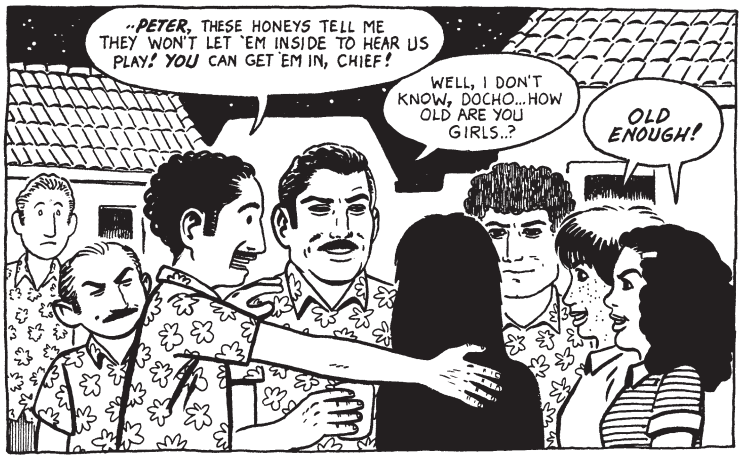
PEDRO
YOU'D BETTER STRAIGHTEN THAT OUT IN TEN MINUTES, OR..
TEN MINUTES UP YOUR ASS! TWENTY!
DOCHO, YOU SON OF A..
HEY!


ALL RIGHT, RICKY! AFTER THIS NEXT AND LAST SET MAYBE YOU BOYS BETTER START LOOKING FOR ANOTHER CONGA PLAYER AND MANAGER.
AWWW...
AAH, YOU SAY THE SAME THING AT THE END OF EVERY BAD TOUR, PETER!
CHANGE THE RECORD, HUH?


HEY...PETER, YOU'RE NOT CONSIDERING THAT JOB THEY OFFERED YOU BACK IN CALENTURA, ARE YOU? YOU'D GIVE UP TOURING AND THE GOOD TIMES TO BOOK ACTS FOR A STRIP CLUB?
AWWW...
GRUNT..
MUSIC'S MY LIFE. WHETHER I'M PLAYING TO A ROOM OF TEN OR TEN THOUSAND; I FEEL ALIVE..!


I REMEMBER FEELING THAT WAY ABOUT PLAYING MUSIC ONCE, RICKY.. A MILLION YEARS AGO, IT SEEMS.
AH...BUT THEN I'M REMINDED OF THE REAL REASON WE STICK IT OUT SHOW AFTER LOUSY SHOW...
HELLO! I'M DOCHO!
PETER, YOU WOULDN'T LAST TWO HOURS AT THAT CRUMMY DESK JOB. YOU'RE A MUSICIAN, MAN!
AWW...
TEE HEE..


C'MON, BLAS...I'VE BEEN TOURING FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS WITH SIXTEEN DIFFERENT BANDS.. A GUY MY AGE LIKES TO CONSIDER HIS OPTIONS ONCE IN A WHILE...
SURE, PETER, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT... AWW. NEXT TOUR WILL BE BETTER, MAN, YOU'LL SEE.
HEY PETER!
TEE HEE..


..PETER, THESE HONEYS TELL ME THEY WON'T LET 'EM INSIDE TO HEAR US PLAY! YOU CAN GET 'EM IN, CHIEF!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW, DOCHO...HOW OLD ARE YOU GIRLS..?
OLD ENOUGH!

...AND YOU? ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH..?

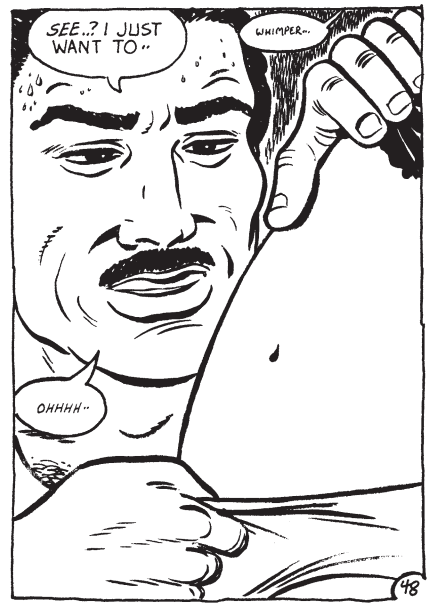
RAPPA-RAPPA-BLAAA
THOOMPA-FOOP

AA-OOGAAAA
RIPPITY
BLAT

WHO TAUGHT YOU TO DANCE LIKE THAT, LUBA..?
HA HA HAA
YOU GET YOUR OWN ROOM, AND THOSE OTHER GUYS, THEY GOTTA SHARE, HUH..?
WHAT OPTIONS? WAGES OR...FREEDOM...

I DOUBLE AS CONGA PLAYER AND MANAGER, SO SINCE I DO TWICE THE WORK, I NEED TWICE THE RELAXATION. PLUS I GET MY OWN CAR.
NGH..
NOW, NOW... DON'T BE LIKE THAT. DON'T..

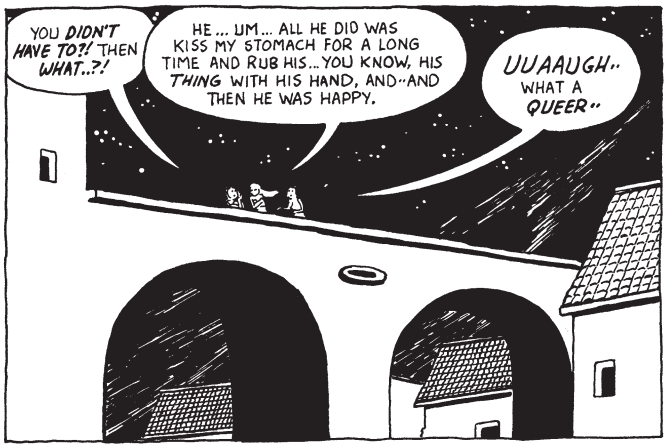
C'MON, C'MON! YOU'VE BEEN WITH GUYS BEFORE OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THIS FAR NOW...
LOOK...OK, I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TAKE OFF YOUR BRASSIERE OR YOUR PANTIES...JUST RELAX...
THAT'S IT...


SEE..? I JUST WANT TO..
WHIMPER..
OHHHH..
48

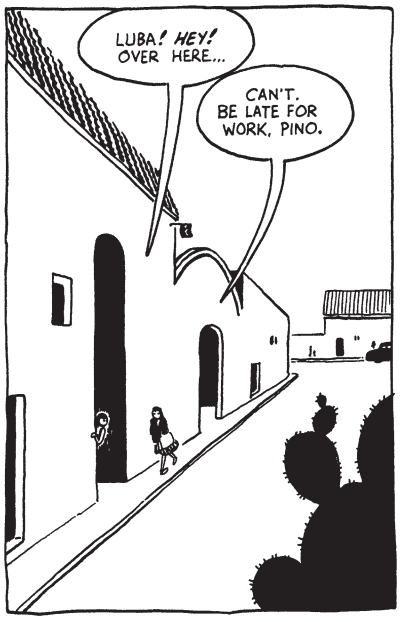
C'MON! YOU CAN STAY LONGER!
NO! OUR PARENTS WILL KILL US IF THEY KNEW WE SNUCK OUT.
LET'S GO, KATY! WE CAN'T WAIT FOR LUBA..
MUSIC'S MY LIFE...
BZAWW...

OH, GOOD. SHE'S COMING OUT...
IT'S LATE. LET ME WALK YOU GIRLS HOME.
NO! WE SNUCK OUT OF OUR BEDS. SOMEONE MIGHT SEE US WITH YOU!

..OH, BIGGER THAN THAT.. OOG, I'LL BE WALKING LIKE THAT JOHN WAYNE FOR A WEEK...
I KNOW, I.. HEY, LUBA... WERE YOU SCARED IN THERE ALONE WITH THAT GUY? WAS HE..
HE... WAS NICE TO ME.
HE WAS..?

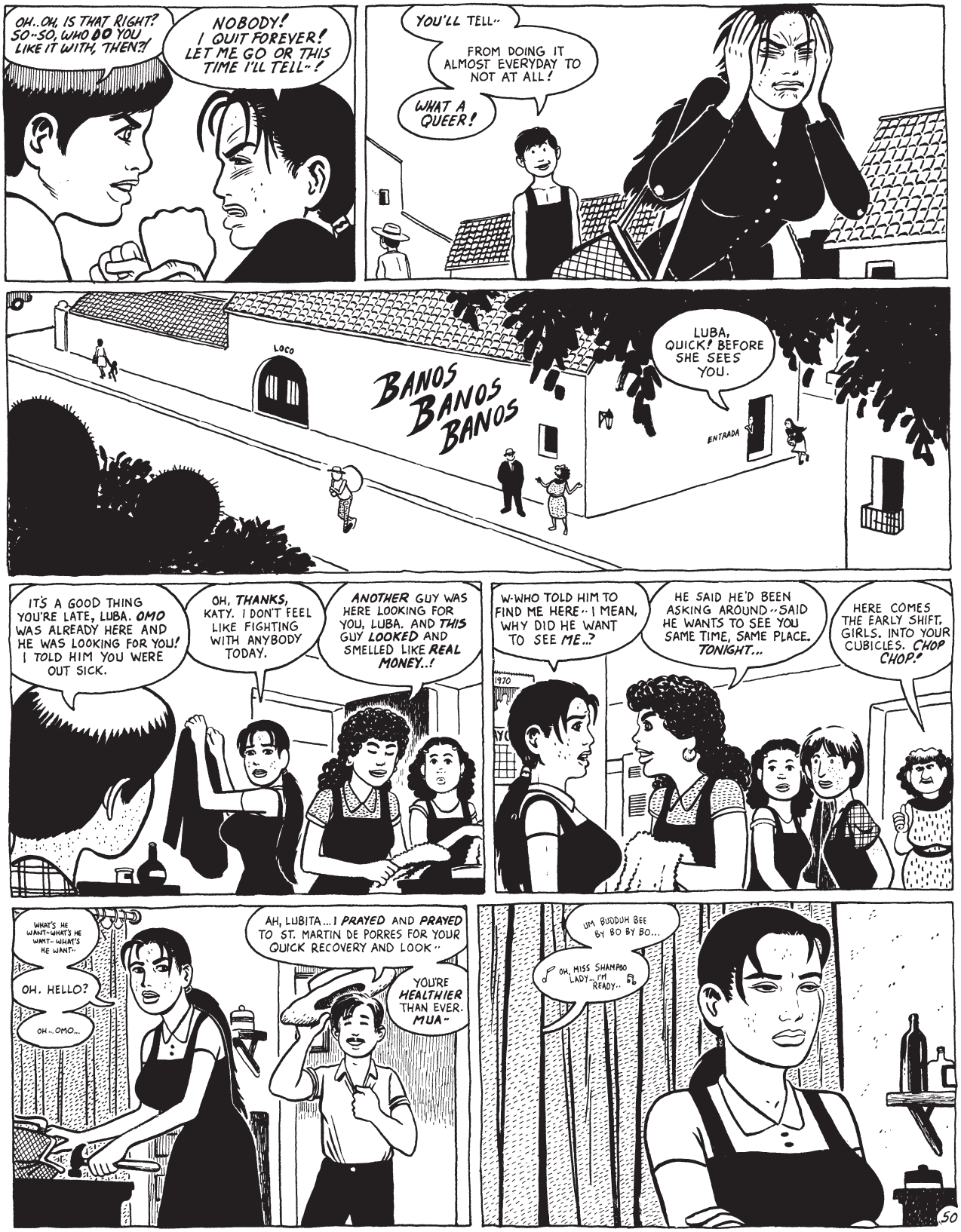

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO?! THEN WHAT..?!
HE... UM... ALL HE DID WAS KISS MY STOMACH FOR A LONG TIME AND RUB HIS... YOU KNOW, HIS THING WITH HIS HAND, AND..AND THEN HE WAS HAPPY.
UUAAUGH.. WHAT A QUEER..

YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK, LUBA.
PELET TOOP!


LUBA! HEY! OVER HERE...
CAN'T. BE LATE FOR WORK, PINO.

WE CAN BE ALONE IN THE BACK ROOM, LUBA...PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE WE GOTTA GET TO OUR STUPID JOBS...
PINO, I SAID NO..!

HEY... I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR DAYS... I HARDLY EVER GET TO SEE YOU NOWADAYS...
LUBA, YOU'RE MY GIRL! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO..
NOT NO MORE! I-I DON'T LIKE IT WITH YOU...
49


OH..OH, IS THAT RIGHT? SO..SO, WHO DO YOU LIKE IT WITH, THEN?!
NOBODY! I QUIT FOREVER! LET ME GO OR THIS TIME I'LL TELL..!
YOU'LL TELL..
FROM DOING IT ALMOST EVERYDAY TO NOT AT ALL!
WHAT A QUEER!
LOCO
BANOS BANOS BANOS
LUBA, QUICK! BEFORE SHE SEES YOU.
ENTRADA
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE LATE, LUBA. OMO WAS ALREADY HERE AND HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! I TOLD HIM YOU WERE OUT SICK.
OH, THANKS, KATY. I DON'T FEEL LIKE FIGHTING WITH ANYBODY TODAY.
ANOTHER GUY WAS HERE LOOKING FOR YOU, LUBA. AND THIS GUY LOOKED AND SMELLED LIKE REAL MONEY..!
W-WHO TOLD HIM TO FIND ME HERE.. I MEAN, WHY DID HE WANT TO SEE ME..?
HE SAID HE'D BEEN ASKING AROUND..SAID HE WANTS TO SEE YOU SAME TIME, SAME PLACE. TONIGHT...
HERE COMES THE EARLY SHIFT, GIRLS. INTO YOUR CUBICLES. CHOP CHOP!
1970
WHAT'S HE WANT-WHAT'S HE WANT-WHAT'S HE WANT..
OH. HELLO?
OH...OMO...
AH, LUBITA...I PRAYED AND PRAYED TO ST. MARTIN DE PORRES FOR YOUR QUICK RECOVERY AND LOOK..
YOU'RE HEALTHIER THAN EVER. MUA~
UM, BUDDUH BEE BY BO BY BO...
OH, MISS SHAMPOO LADY...I'M READY..
50

YOU KNOW, LUBA... IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY A GUY GETS HIS WHOLE BODY WASHED.
YOU COULD ALWAYS MOVE, OMO.

MAYBE IF WE WERE MARRIED YOU'D FEEL DIFFERENT...
YOU BETTER LET GO...

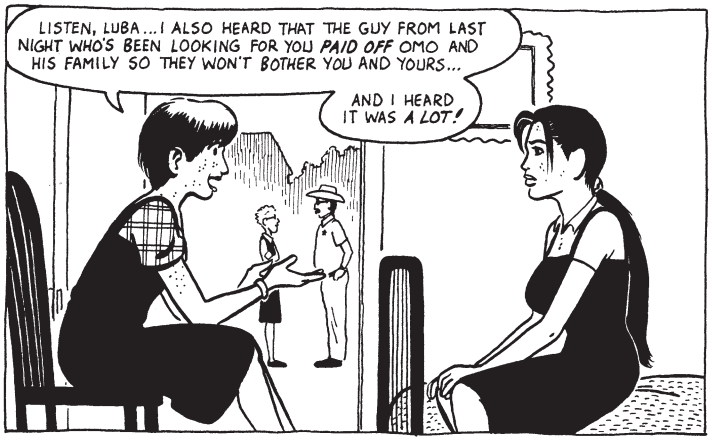
SO YOU'RE NOT GONNA LET GO?
WHY WILL YOU DO IT WITH EVERYBODY BUT ME, LUBA?
WHAT IS IT? MONEY..?

STOP!!
GAAAAA

GNNNNGGGH..

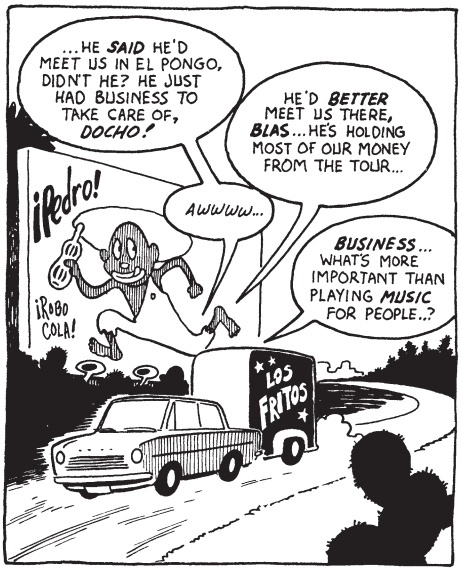
KRHAAA!

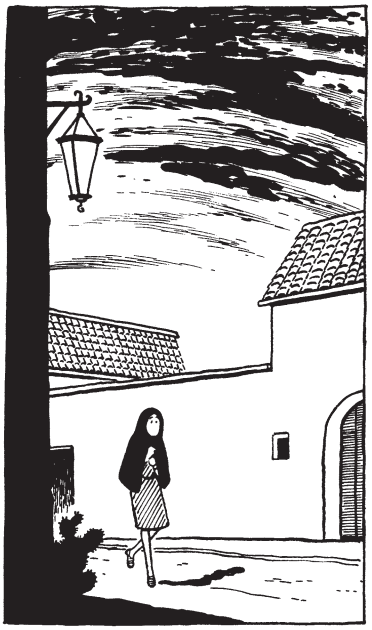
I DON'T CARE IF HE DIES...
OMO'S LEFT EYE MIGHT LOOK UP ALL THE TIME FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA DIE...

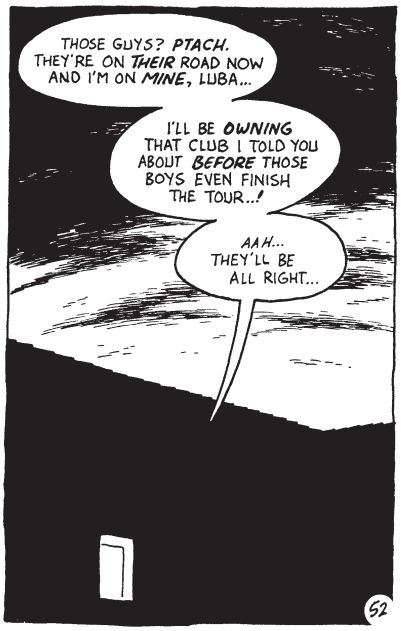

LISTEN, LUBA...I ALSO HEARD THAT THE GUY FROM LAST NIGHT WHO'S BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU PAID OFF OMO AND HIS FAMILY SO THEY WON'T BOTHER YOU AND YOURS...
AND I HEARD IT WAS A LOT!

TIME TO GO, KATY. LUBA NEEDS HER REST.
BYE, LUBA...

YOU WILL STAY IN THAT BED UNTIL I SAY OTHERWISE, LUBA...AND YOU WILL THINK AND THINK ABOUT GOD AND LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE...
AND YOU WILL BECOME SO FRIGHTENED THAT YOU WILL GET WELL...


...HE SAID HE'D MEET US IN EL PONGO, DIDN'T HE? HE JUST HAD BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF, DOCHO!
HE'D BETTER MEET US THERE, BLAS...HE'S HOLDING MOST OF OUR MONEY FROM THE TOUR...
¡Pedro!
AWWWW...
¡ROBO COLA!
BUSINESS... WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN PLAYING MUSIC FOR PEOPLE...?
LOS FRITOS




THOSE GUYS? PTACH. THEY'RE ON THEIR ROAD NOW AND I'M ON MINE, LUBA...
I'LL BE OWNING THAT CLUB I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE THOSE BOYS EVEN FINISH THE TOUR...!
AAH... THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

NOW TELL ME, LUBA; WHO TAUGHT YOU TO DANCE REALLY? EH?
NOBODY, SEÑOR... I JUST ALWAYS LIKED TO... I JUST HEAR THE MUSIC AND MOVE... S'ALL...
SEÑOR.. WHAT AM I? YOUR OL' PAPA? HUH? CALL ME PETER.
IT'S A LITTLE LIKE PEDRO, BUT IT'S PETER! OK?
I NEVER HEARD OF THAT NAME PEE-TER BEFORE...
OK...
PEDRO IS THE NAME OF THAT SHIT LITTLE.. MONKEY CHARACTER IN THE FUNNYBOOKS AND EVERYWHERE ELSE.
EVERYBODY WHO'S BEEN DEGRADED WITH THE NAME PEDRO OUGHT TO SUE OR SOMETHING...
NOW PETER...
..PETER RIO IS A NAME TO REMEMBER, LUBA..IT'S AN IMPORTANT NAME, A BIG NAME.. A NAME WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DRY THE PACIFIC, TO FLOOD THE SAHARA, TO..TO..
HM. EL PRESIDENTE RIO. NICE RING TO IT.
NOW LUBA... LUBA'S A NAME LIKE.. LIKE...
LIKE..?
TUBA.
OH..!
HIIYAAA!
¡THUNK!
53

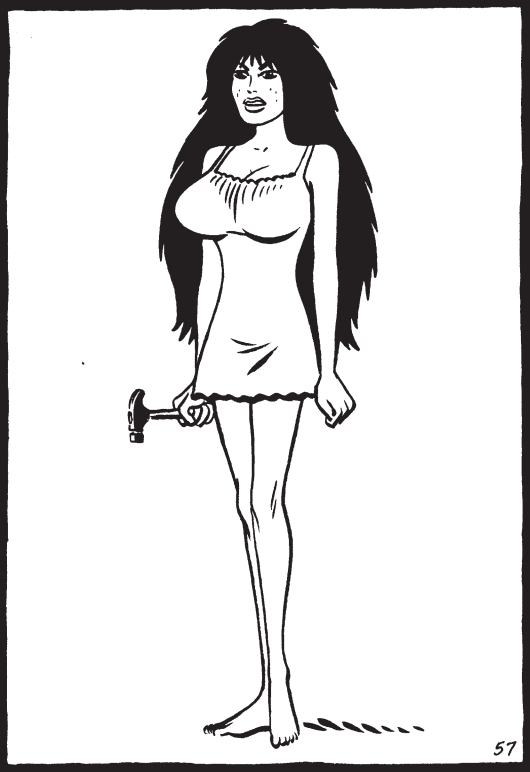
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME..?
I'M GOING TO SPEAK TO YOUR AUNT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...
NO... PLEASE JUST GO AWAY...
LUBA.
OOP..! I'M AWAKE, ALICIA...I WON'T BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN, I PROMISE...
WHAT WORK? YOU WERE FIRED YESTERDAY, REMEMBER? COME NOW AND GET DRESSED, GIRL...
IT'S YOUR WEDDING DAY...
..THIS IS FROM YOUR MOTHER, I BELIEVE, LUBA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN IT AND THERE'S NO KEY...
HE'S GONNA TAKE CARE OF US ALL, ALICIA...HE'S GOT MONEY...
HUH. WE'LL SEE, GIRL...WE'LL SEE.
ERT.
I WISH I COULD TELL TIA HILDA...
SHE KNOWS, GIRL...
C'MON, NOW. BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND...
BLIVITZ..
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, GIRL... IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY YOU CAN WRITE TO US.
GOODBYE, LUBA...
54

OK, STOP, NOW!
STOP!!
STOP THE CAR!!
GAAA..
SCREEEE
LUBA, WHAT THE HELL'S GOT INTO..
LUBA!
LUBA!
IT'S OK, YOU CAN GO NOW! JUST LEAVE ME HERE, OK? NOBODY WILL KNOW! IT'S OK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN LEAVE YOU.. WHY ARE YOU SO CRAZY NOW?!!
NOBODY WILL KNOW! JUST GO AND YOU CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT ME! PLEASE!! IT'S OK!! GO!
DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU BACK?! HAH?!
NO..!! I'M GOING TO BE ALONE..! GO!
LUBA, I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU IF IT KILLS ME!
55

I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK... YOU'RE COMING AWAY WITH ME TO BE MY WIFE, LUBA... NOW, DON'T RUN...
DON'T RUN...
COME ON... I'M NOT GOING TO HIT YOU...
I'M NOT GOING TO HIT YOU...
OK, NOW...
THE DOG WENT AND MARRIED THE LITTLE COW, THAT'S WHAT!
THAT'S IT! NO CONGA PLAYER, NO MANAGER, NO SHOW; WE'RE FINISHED...!
I'LL PLAY THE CONGAS, OK? WE DON'T NEED THE ORGAN. DON'T GIVE UP YET...!
"OUR MONEY! THE DOG'S GOING TO SPEND ALL OUR MONEY ON HIS GODDAMN HONEYMOON!!"
OH, HE'S NOT GOING TO... "TSK, AWWWW, DOCHO...
GIVE ME THE MESSAGE, BLAS."
RELAX, BOYS. IF THE DOG'S GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO LET US KNOW WHERE HE'S STAYING, I THINK WE SHOULD SEND HIM A WEDDING PRESENT; HEH HEH...
LET ME USE THE PHONE... "I'LL PAY, I'LL PAY!"
HE SAID IN THE MESSAGE HE WAS SORRY, OK?
CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S A MATTER OF LOVE..?
DOCHO? YOU'RE DRUNK! WHERE ARE Y... PETER? HE'S NOT HERE; HE'S COMING NEXT WEEK FOR ARJELIA'S BIRTHD... WHAT...?
OH, HE WOULDN'T MISS HIS DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY, HE...
HE WHAT...?
KOOMB!
56

LUBITA

SIX



LUBA..
PHONE FOR SEÑOR RIO.
LUBA, EVERYBODY'S GOT A SWIMSUIT ON! NOBODY WILL EVEN NOTICE YOU..
LUBA, GET IN THE WATER..!
SEÑOR RIO? PHONE...
SEÑOR R..
WHOOPSY!
YI!
SPLOOSH
..QUITE REPREHENSIBLE, SEÑOR.
HELLO?!
HUH..?
GASP
NAUGHTY BOY; DITCHING THE GROUP LIKE THAT FOR A VACATION. TSK TSK...
ISOBEL..? HOW.. HOW'D YOU FIND ME..?
THAT'S MY SECRET. I KNOW YOUR EVERY MOVE, PETER DEAR...
SO YOU'LL BE HERE FOR ARJELIA'S BIRTHDAY NEXT WEEK?
DAMN..! ISOBEL, I CAN'T MAKE IT. I'M ON A BUSINESS DEAL...I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT WHEN I CAN...
SB

YOUR DAUGHTER HASN'T SEEN YOU IN OVER A MONTH, PETER! AND I..
GOD DAMN IT, ISOBEL; DON'T TRY TO MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY.. I'M ON IMPORTANT BUSINESS, ALL RIGHT..?
PETER, I..I HEARD..
..THAT YOU GOT MARRIED! HEH, I MEAN, I LAUGHED WHEN DOCHO..
FROM WHO? DOCHO? RICKY?
ISOBEL, DON'T LISTEN TO ANY OF HIS OR ANYBODY'S BULLSHIT..YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT! THOSE GUYS ARE ALWAYS PULLING.. I'M ON BUSINESS, ISOBEL, BUSINESS..
YOU'D BETTER BE HERE NEXT WEEK.
CLICK..
SIX YEARS MANAGING THAT BAND AND THIS IS THE RESPECT I GET! THAT DOCHO'S GONNA..
ALL RIGHT, THEN WAS THAT SO BAD?
YOUR DAUGHTER, SEÑOR..?
MY WIFE, YOU NOSY OLD BAT...
ON BASS GUITAR, FABIO LUNA..
ON THE ORGAN AND RHYTHM BOX, RICKY BOY..
ON GUITAR, DOCHO THE BLABBERMOUTH..
AND I'M BLAS, YOUR SAXOMAN..
LOS FRITOS
Z
LUBA, IT'S BURNING UP OUTSIDE! YOU'RE NOT WEARING THAT LONG COAT..
LUBA, THAT DRESS COST ME..LOOK, ALL THE GIRLS WEAR THEIR SKIRTS THAT SHORT. IT'S THE FASHION..!
LUBA, GIVE ME THE COAT..GIVE ME..IN FACT, GIVE ME YOUR BAG...
FINE, FINE. WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL.
59

YOU OUGHT TO SMILE MORE ON YOUR HONEYMOON, LUBA...
PETER...WHAT IF ALL YOUR MONEY RUNS OUT..?
IT'S NOT GOING TO RUN OUT, BABY...
IT RAN OUT FOR THEM...
AH... IF THEY EVER HAD IT TO BEGIN WITH. POVERTY IS SIMPLY THE MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS, LUBA; PUBLIC AND PRIVATE... GOES WAY BACK. TOO MUCH HERE, NOT ENOUGH THERE; THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY, BUT.. LIFE IS LIFE...
I HAPPEN TO BE VERY GOOD AT MANAGEMENT, LUBITA...THAT JOB I'VE GOT WAITING FOR ME IN CALENTURA IS ONLY THE.. HELL, I'VE GOT BUSINESS DEALS LINED UP THAT YOU WOULDN'T B..AH! I'LL JUST HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND...
SO DON'T WORRY. WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF DOUGH TO SEND TO YOUR TIA HILDA AND HER..
JUST TO TIA HILDA AND NOBODY ELSE!
DONE.
PETER, I CAN'T DANCE IN THIS DRESS! IT'S TOO SHORT.. IT'LL GO UP..!
YOU'LL DANCE FOR ME OR I'LL MAKE YOU DANCE; UNDERSTAND?
HEY YOU!
NOW GET IN THERE AND MOVE!
I'M GOING TO BE ON THE PHONE BUT I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU.
..JUST THE MAN I WANTED TO HEAR FROM, PETER. HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT RUNNING MY CLUB FOR ME NOW, HAVE YOU? GOOD, GOOD; I NEED A MAN WHO CAN HANDLE SEVERAL SERIOUS SITUATIONS AT ONCE WITHOUT..
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
..A SHIPMENT IS COMING MY WAY NEXT FRIDAY AT NOON... WILL YOU BE THERE?
FINE, FINE... OK, I'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU THEN, SEÑOR SALAS. 'BYE.

NOW WHAT..
C-COULD WE GO BACK TO THE HOTEL NOW, PETER? I'M TIRED...
...WHAT HAPPENED..?
TSK, NOTHING. HE JUST...TSK. I JUST DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...
TSK

SIGH! ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
JUST LET ME DO THIS ONE THING BEFORE WE GO, OK?

SO..SO, WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU BACK HOME? BACK TO THAT SHITHOLE OF A TOWN YOU LEFT? WHY? SO YOU CAN BE TREATED LIKE A DOG BY EVERYBODY AGAIN? GIVING BATHS TO THOSE PIGS AND..
...

GOOD. BECAUSE I'M NOT TAKING YOU BACK. YOU ARE MY WIFE! I DECIDE WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE BOTH OF US..
THE WORLD JUST TAKES GETTING USED TO, BABY... THEN YOU CAN USE IT...

OHHHHH..LOOK AT THIS, LOOK AT THIS..
PETER...

LET'S...LET'S DO IT NORMAL THIS TIME... WE HARDLY NEVER DO IT THAT WAY...
YOU SAYING THE WAY I LIKE IT ISN'T NORMAL? EH? LIKE IT'S QUEER OR SOMETHING..?
PETER...
61

I'LL GIVE YOU NORMAL, THEN! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU NORMAL..
NOT SO ROUGH!
DON'T GET SO MAD...
IT'S NICER.. WHEN IT'S NICE... AND...
SO...ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE NOT SO SHY...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, LUBA..?
YOOP..!
YOOOGGNNGH THAT'S HOT HOOOONGH
SIII,
..I SAID DON'T CALL ME! DON'T CALL ME ANYMORE! STOP CALLING ME!! YOU COULD SPOIL A MAJOR BUSINESS DEAL!! I'LL SEE YOU TWO WHEN I CAN!!
STOP CALLING M..
¡AWK!
I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU, SEÑOR SALAS.
¡Pedro!
62

WELL, I THINK THE NEW BOSS IS CUTE!
YEAH, BUT HE'S MARRIED!
TO A GIRL MORE THAN THREE TIMES YOUNGER.
SAY HELLO TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, KIDS.
HELLO, DREAMGIRL! LET'S SEE WHAT THERE IS TO DREAM ABOUT.
YEAH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE ALL YOUR GOODS FROM US, HONEY; SO DROP 'EM.
DON'T MIND THEM, HONEY. THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME.
BUT THEY'RE ALL SO--SO BEAUTIFUL! GOSH...!
ONLY THE LOVELIEST HAVE BEEN ALLOWED THROUGH THESE DOORS SINCE NINETEEN TWENTY-SEVEN, HONEY. YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF THE BOSS THOUGHT YOU LOOK ANYTHING LIKE A BOY; SO YOU CAN RELAX.
HE'S NICE. I NEVER HAD A NICE BOSS BEFORE.
NO, IT'S NOT TOO BIG...
BUT SHE'LL HAVE A HARD TIME HIDING IT ALL THE SAME.
63

GUM, SEÑOR? GUM..?
GET LOST...
CLUB
¡WONK!
AH!
..AND I TOLD DOCHO NOT TO CALL ISOBEL, BUT, SHIT, PETER, WHEN YOU TOOK OFF WITH THE BAND'S EARNINGS...
AH, BUT YOU GUYS DID GET THOSE CHECKS I SENT SOON AFTER..!
WELL, SURE...
GOOD, GOOD; DAMN, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, BLAS!
..I'LL TELL YOU, BLAS; I MISS THE MUSIC SO MUCH AT TIMES I JUST WANT TO DROP ALL THIS SHIT AND REJOIN YOU GUYS.. JUST TO GET BEHIND THE CONGAS AGAIN WITH YOU ON SAX TO MY RIGHT..
AWWWW.. I'LL BE HONEST, PETER; THE BAND WAS FINISHED AFTER YOU LEFT...
A COUPLE OF THE GUYS ARE TRYING TO START UP A NEW GROUP, BUT.. IT'S THE TIMES, Y'KNOW?
AND YOU?
AH.
OH, NOW THAT'S... HUM. IT'S A SHAME, BLAS. THE WORLD NEEDS MUSIC AS MUCH AS IT NEEDS..
BLAS, DO YOU NEED A JOB? IS THAT..
WELL... PETER, YOU DON'T JUST MANAGE THIS CLUB, DO YOU?
IT'S NO SECRET HOW YOUR BOSS SALAS GOT SO GOD DAMN RICH..!
AWWW...
WHAT ABOUT THE COPS, PETER?
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE COPS, BLAS. THEY'RE INVOLVED IN BUSINESS AS MUCH AS ANYBODY...
I DEAL IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. IT COMES THROUGH THE IN DOOR AND IT GOES THROUGH THE OUT DOOR. SIMPLE. AND CLEAN.
SHOULD ANY ONE INVOLVED GET THEMSELVES HURT SOMEHOW.. WELL, AS THE YANKS SAY: IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE FIRE, GET OUT OF THE HEAT..
I CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO WORK FOR SALAS...
OK?
HEH... IT'S AS SIMPLE AS EATING AND SHITTING, HUH?
HEH HEH... SIMPLE AS... HEM. SO... DO YOU WANT A JOB, BLAS?
PETER, DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED A..
DONE.

JUDGE RAMIREZ. SEÑOR SALAS WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU...
HE'D BETTER BE HAPPY SINCE I'VE KEPT HIM OUT OF JAIL THIS LONG...

SO...SO, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PETER, LUBA? YOU TWO GOT MARRIED A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER YOU MET...
..WHAT COULD YOU TWO POSSIBLY HAVE IN COMMON..?
BOTH OUR PARENTS LEFT US WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
WE BOTH LIKE DANCING.
MORE?

..AND..AND YOU'VE NEVER VISITED HIM AT THE CLUB? AREN'T YOU...THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS..? I MEAN...
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO THERE...AND NO, I DON'T CARE TO KNOW WHAT I'M MISSING, BLAS... NOT THERE.
AWWWW...

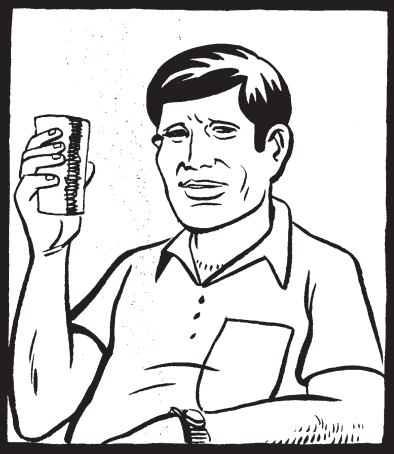
LUBA...LUBA, SO IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND MIGHT BE WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO DEAL IN..WELL, ILLEGAL BUSINESS PRACTICES? NOT..NOT THAT I'M SAYING PETER IS INVOLVED IN ANYTHING..UH...
BUSINESS IS...BUSINESS, BLAS. YOU SURE ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS. YOU'RE WORKING WITH PETER NOW, RIGHT?
AWWWW...
AWWWW..!
SEÑOR SALAS IS ABOUT TO MAKE A SPEECH!

YEAH... I'M WORKING WITH PETER AGAIN...JUST LIKE OLD TIMES...
.. WORD JUST CAME IN THAT THE MILITARY HAS PUSHED BACK THE REBELS IN THE NORTH AND THE WEST!
TO THE END OF THE COMMUNIST DISEASE!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

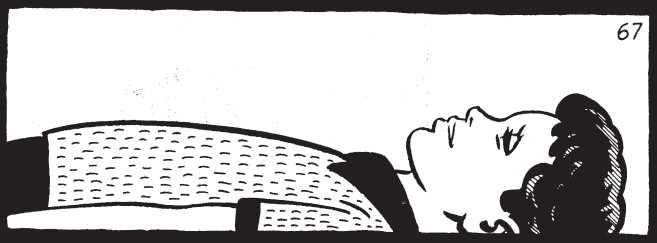
DON'T BE SHY!
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEAUTIES LIKE THESE BEFORE!

..THIS, THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEEN-SEVENTIES, PROMISES AN END TO THE PLAGUE AGAINST DEMOCRACY ALL OVER THE WORLD..
ACH. DOESN'T ANYBODY PLAY MUSIC ANY MORE..?
I'LL GET IT, SERAFINA.
BRING BRING
GRUNT..
MAY I SPEAK TO PETER..? PLEASE?
HE'S NOT HOME. HE WON'T BE HOME UNTIL THE MORNING.
PLEASE TELL HIM...ISOBEL CALLED.
MAY I ASK WHY YOU'RE.. HELLO?
ACH..
DING DONG
SERAFINA, WHEN SOMEBODY CALLS FOR SEÑOR RIO ASK THEM IF IT'S FOR BUSINESS OR NOT. AND ASK THEIR NAME..
OH, I'LL GET THAT.
YES, MADAM.
DING DONG
NO, MY HUSBAND WON'T BE HOME TILL.. ¡SIGH! WHO MAY I ASK IS CALLING..?
OH... UM. CAN YOU GIVE HIM THIS NOTE? THANK YOU, MY DEAR.
MM.
WAIT...
ARE YOU... PETER'S FATHER..?
66

SEVEN

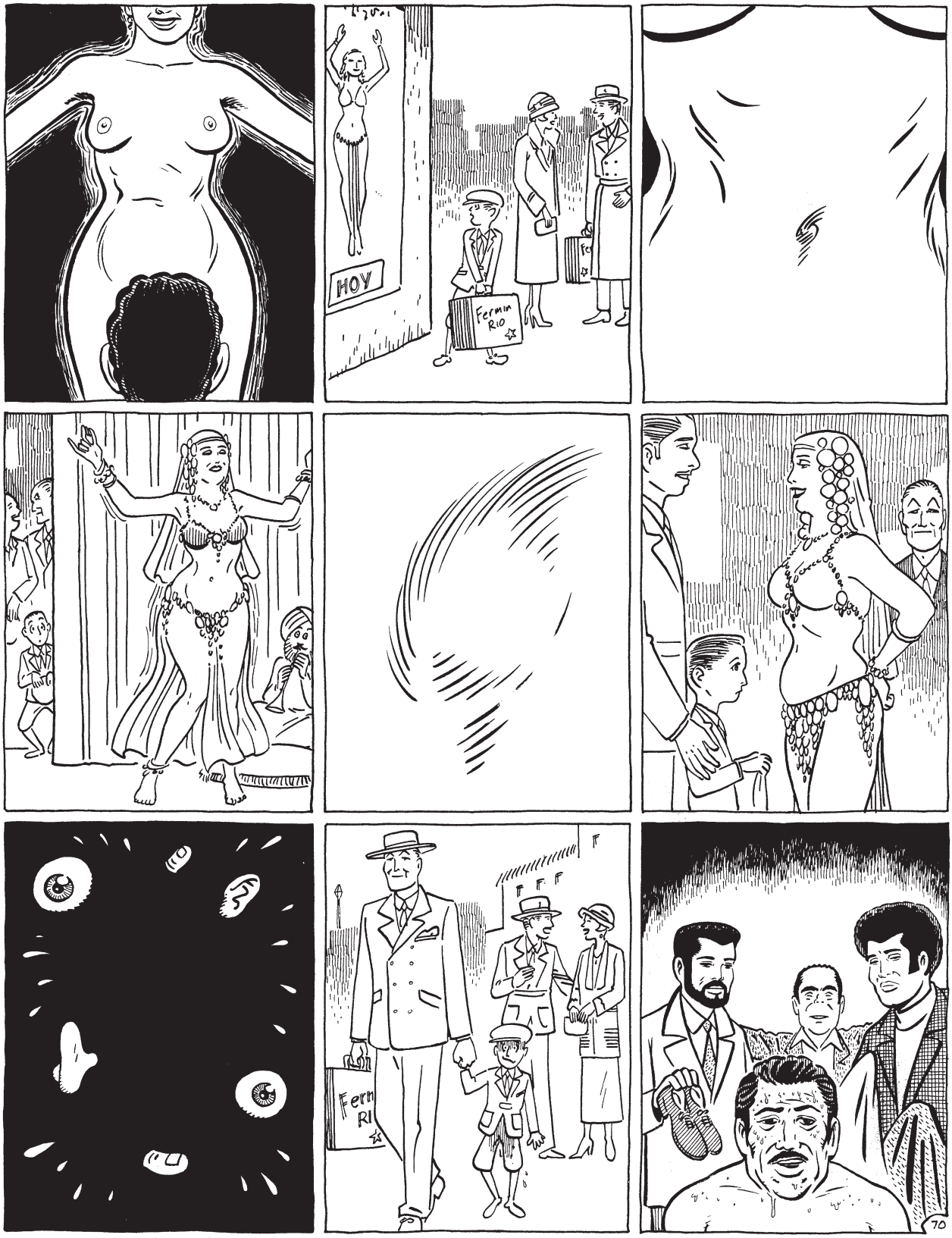


SALAS

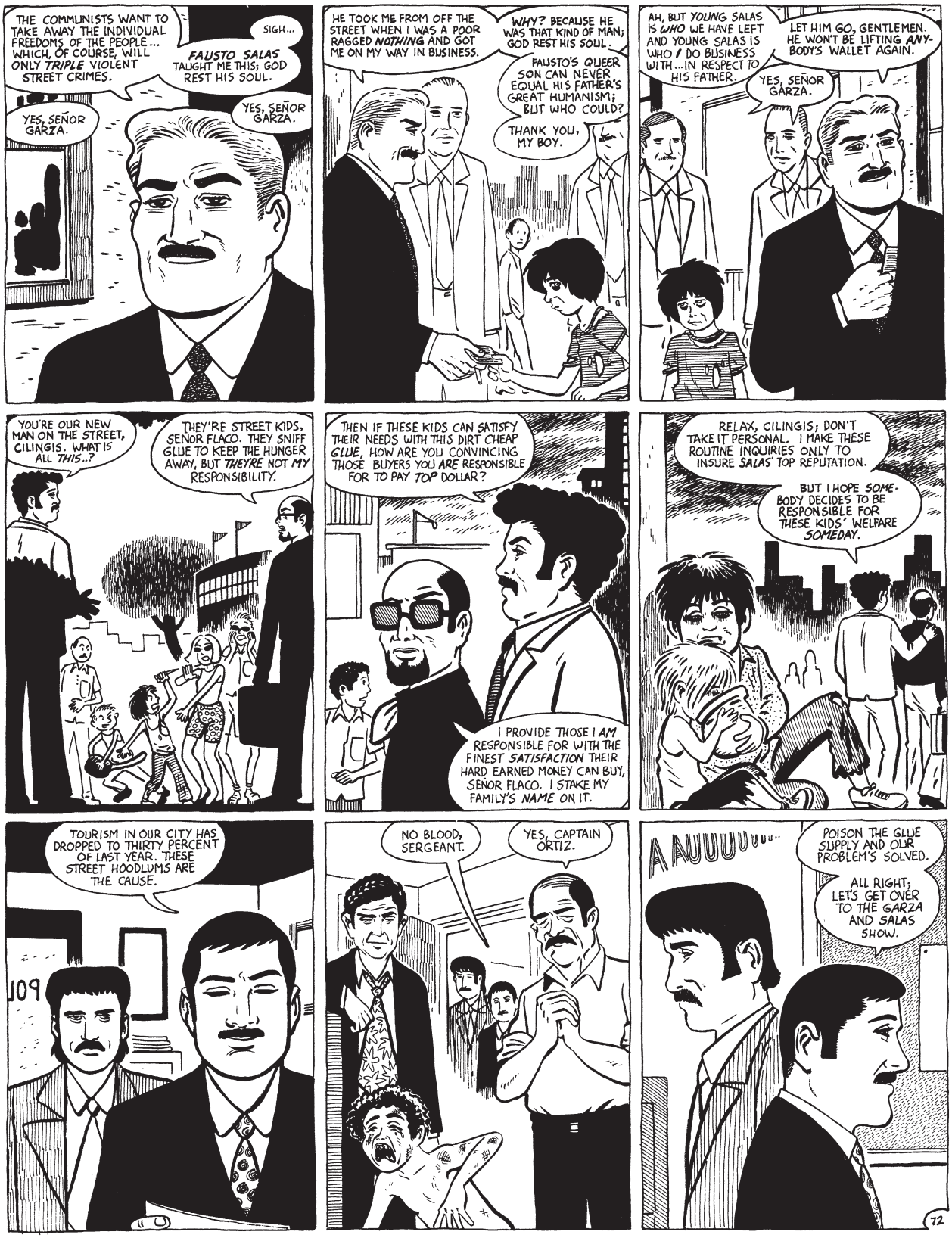


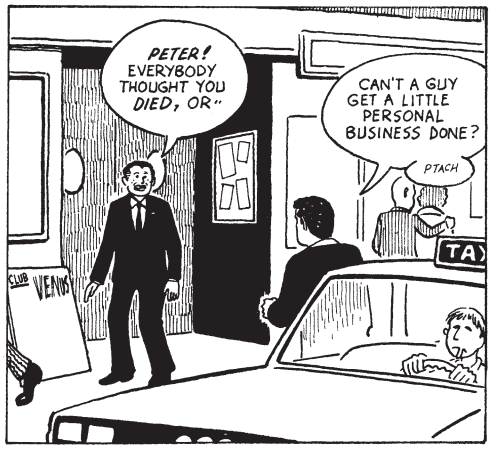
I-I'M GOING TO TELL HER, PETER..
AR-JEL-IA...
AH-HEL-A..
I MEAN IT, PETER.
WHAT, ISOBEL? WHO ARE YOU GOING TO TELL WHAT?
HOOLY..
HOOLY..
YOUR...WIFE, OR WHATEVER SHE IS..!
I'LL TELL HER ABOUT ME AND YOUR DAUGHTER AND YOUR REAL BUSINESS AND EVERYTHING..!
I'M..I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU, PETER...!
SEÑOR RIO HASN'T SEEN HIS PAPA IN MANY YEARS, SERAFINA! WHEN I TELL HIM HE WAS HERE..
I'LL GET THAT!
¡WRING!
HELLO?
HEL-LO?
HELLO, BABYGIRL. NO, NO, EVERYTHING IS FINE. I JUST CALLED TO KNOW HOW YOU ARE AND TELL YOU THAT I WON'T BE HOME FOR..
OH..? WHO? OH, DON'T MAKE ME GUESS; YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE GAMES...
A-ALL RIGHT. OK. WHEN I CAN. OK. OK. BYE BYE.
DA!
68

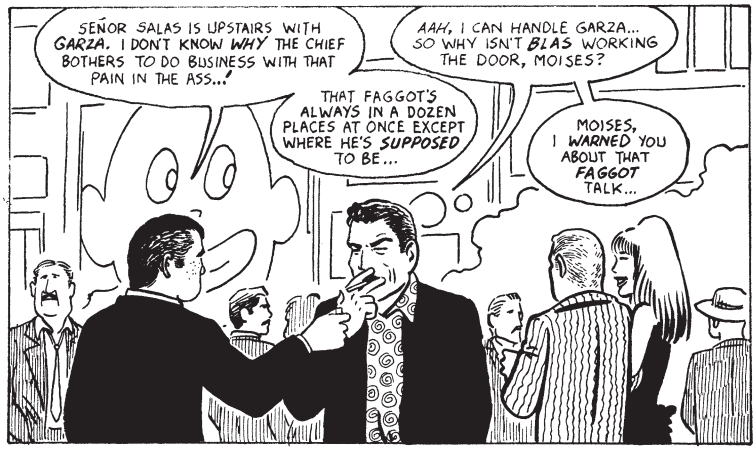
YOU'VE KNOWN FROM THE START HOW IT WORKS, ISOBEL. THIS IS PART OF THE POLITICS OF BUSINESS. ARJELIA, THIS HOME ARE ONE PART; MY NEW WIFE, ANOTHER. BUSINESS.
NOW...MY WIFE WON'T BE GETTING ANY MORE PHONE CALLS FROM YOU, WILL SHE, ISOBEL?
WILL SHE?
....
TAXI
YES...
I WILL... COOPERATE WITH YOU NOW...
COFFEE SEÑOR..?
THE GARDEN OF PEACE ON SEVENTH AND BLIVITZ.
ZZZA AANNG ZONG
NOTICE, PETER, DESPITE THE FLATNESS OF THE SURFACE THE PROFUNDITY OF THE CHASM...
YES, YES.. OF COURSE..


HOY
Fermin RIO
Fern RI
70

EVERYBODY KNOWS ALL ABOUT HER AND HER MONEY, ALICIA! SHE OWES MY SON FOR ALMOST KNOCKING HIS EYEBALL OUT...!
THIS ONE..
LUBA ONLY SENDS ENOUGH TO CARE FOR HER TIA HILDA, SEÑORA OMO...
THAT MONEY'S WASTED ON THAT OLD WOMAN! SHE'S ALREADY BLIND AND DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH BRAINS LEFT TO.. MY BOY CAN AT LEAST STILL APPRECIATE THAT MONEY WITH WHAT LITTLE WITS HE'S GOT LEFT AFTER THE ATTACK.
AS I UNDERSTAND IT YOUR SON DESERVED A LOT WORSE, SEÑORA...
..BUT NOW I'M HERE TO EVEN THINGS UP FOR MY COUSIN. SORRY, BUT I DECIDED TO MAKE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HAMMER...
OH..! SEÑORITA OFELIA.. WE WERE JUST LEAVING.. SAY GOODBYE, SON..
OK, OK, LET'S GO, C'MON.. OK OK...
COME ON..!
HELL WITH THE MONEY.. WHERE'S LUBA?
I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO STAY, OFELIA...
I'LL NEVER LEAVE MY MAMA AGAIN, ALICIA.
... BESIDES, THOSE OMOS DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY...
..AND NEITHER DO WE, HUH, MAMA?
.. NEER DO WE, HUH..
YEP, YOU'LL BE RECITING BORGES BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH...


THE COMMUNISTS WANT TO TAKE AWAY THE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE... WHICH, OF COURSE, WILL ONLY TRIPLE VIOLENT STREET CRIMES.
SIGH...
FAUSTO SALAS TAUGHT ME THIS; GOD REST HIS SOUL.
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
HE TOOK ME FROM OFF THE STREET WHEN I WAS A POOR RAGGED NOTHING AND GOT ME ON MY WAY IN BUSINESS.
WHY? BECAUSE HE WAS THAT KIND OF MAN; GOD REST HIS SOUL.
FAUSTO'S QUEER SON CAN NEVER EQUAL HIS FATHER'S GREAT HUMANISM; BUT WHO COULD?
THANK YOU, MY BOY.
AH, BUT YOUNG SALAS IS WHO WE HAVE LEFT AND YOUNG SALAS IS WHO I DO BUSINESS WITH...IN RESPECT TO HIS FATHER.
LET HIM GO, GENTLEMEN. HE WON'T BE LIFTING ANYBODY'S WALLET AGAIN.
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
YOU'RE OUR NEW MAN ON THE STREET, CILINGIS. WHAT IS ALL THIS...?
THEY'RE STREET KIDS, SEÑOR FLACO. THEY SNIFF GLUE TO KEEP THE HUNGER AWAY, BUT THEY'RE NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY.
THEN IF THESE KIDS CAN SATISFY THEIR NEEDS WITH THIS DIRT CHEAP GLUE, HOW ARE YOU CONVINCING THOSE BUYERS YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TO PAY TOP DOLLAR?
I PROVIDE THOSE I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR WITH THE FINEST SATISFACTION THEIR HARD EARNED MONEY CAN BUY, SEÑOR FLACO. I STAKE MY FAMILY'S NAME ON IT.
RELAX, CILINGIS; DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL. I MAKE THESE ROUTINE INQUIRIES ONLY TO INSURE SALAS' TOP REPUTATION.
BUT I HOPE SOMEBODY DECIDES TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE KIDS' WELFARE SOMEDAY.
TOURISM IN OUR CITY HAS DROPPED TO THIRTY PERCENT OF LAST YEAR. THESE STREET HOODLUMS ARE THE CAUSE.
NO BLOOD, SERGEANT.
YES, CAPTAIN ORTIZ.
AAUUUUUUUU...
POISON THE GLUE SUPPLY AND OUR PROBLEM'S SOLVED.
ALL RIGHT; LET'S GET OVER TO THE GARZA AND SALAS SHOW.
72


PETER! EVERYBODY THOUGHT YOU DIED, OR..
CAN'T A GUY GET A LITTLE PERSONAL BUSINESS DONE?
PTACH
TAX
CLUB VENUS


SEÑOR SALAS IS UPSTAIRS WITH GARZA. I DON'T KNOW WHY THE CHIEF BOTHERS TO DO BUSINESS WITH THAT PAIN IN THE ASS...!
AAH, I CAN HANDLE GARZA... SO WHY ISN'T BLAS WORKING THE DOOR, MOISES?
THAT FAGGOT'S ALWAYS IN A DOZEN PLACES AT ONCE EXCEPT WHERE HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE...
MOISES, I WARNED YOU ABOUT THAT FAGGOT TALK...

I DON'T TRUST THAT BLAS GUY, PETER. HE'S ALWAYS SNOOPING AROUND, LISTENS IN ON CONVERSATIONS; HELL, ASK THE OTHER GUYS, THEY'LL TELL YOU..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT BLAS, MOISES. HE'S JUST NOSY..
GOOD EVENING, CAPTAIN ORTIZ.. PLEASE! COME IN AND ENJOY THE SHOW!
ROBO

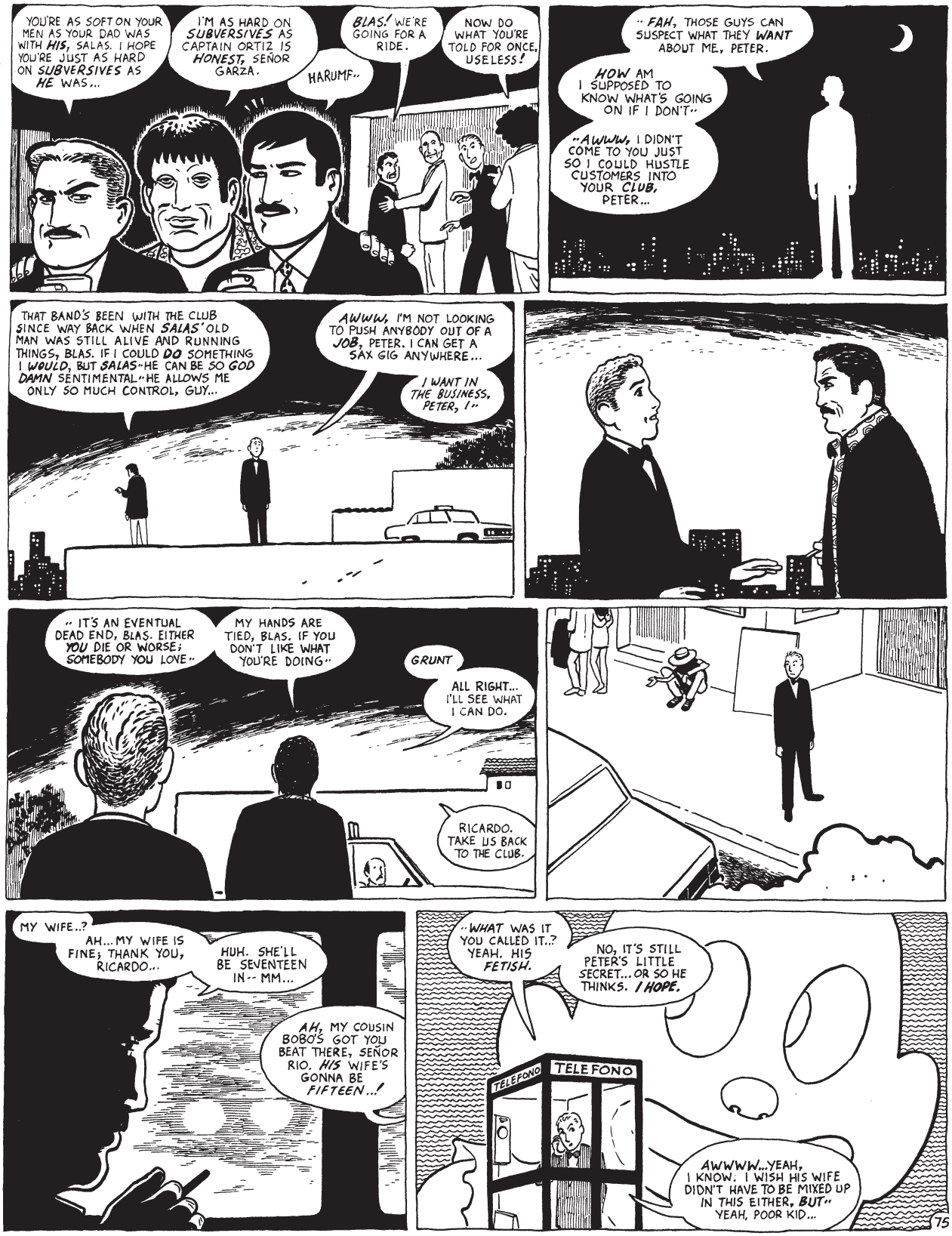
BLAS, IF WE'RE CAUGHT IN HERE..LOOK, I STRIP FOR A LIVING BECAUSE MEN LIKE TO LOOK AT ME AND I GOT KIDS TO SUPPORT, OK? THERE'S NOTHING EXOTIC OR ROMANTIC ABOUT IT..
.. BUT DOESN'T PETER LOOK AT YOU DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY THE CUSTOMERS DO..?
DON'T I WISH! HE'S IGNORED EVERY PASS I'VE.. IF PETER WASN'T MARRIED, ME AND THE GIRLS'D SWEAR HE WAS QUEER..
GOOD, GOOD... GLAD TO KNOW MY OLD FRIENDS EVER THE MODEL HUSBAND.

..TRUST IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS BUSINESS, SEÑOR GARZA. IF YOU'RE WORRIED THAT WE'RE HERE ONLY TO BACKSTAB YOU; WELL, YOU'D BETTER..
PETER..
SEÑOR GARZA, TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS DEAL I WILL PERSONALLY BE ON HAND TO RECEIVE THE SHIPMENT.
SURE, SALAS, I CAN COUNT ON YOU AND ORTIZ AND HIS MEN TO COOPERATE BUT THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF HONEST COPS OUT THERE WHO CAN GIVE US REAL TROUBLE...
HO! SO NOW I'M NOT HONEST, AM I, GARZA ?! WELL, LET ME TELL YOU..

DOINK!

..TROUBLE UP FRONT!
ARE YOU CRAZY BARGING IN HERE WHEN..
BUT SOME GUY HIT CHATA WITH A GLASS..
HOLD HIM.
73

FUCKING BITCH..! YOU'RE ALL NO GOOD ROTTEN BITCHES..
BRING HIM BACK HERE!
AW, I'VE BEEN CLOBBERED BY EXPERTS...
WHOP!
HOONG..
GRUNCH
DON'T-YOU-EVER-HIT-ANY-OF-MY-GIRLS.. DON'T-YOU-EVER-HIT-ANY-WOMAN-EVER.. DON'T-YOU..
KWHOCK!
POW!
..YOU DON'T HIT A WOMAN! YOU NEVER EVER EVER STRIKE A WOMAN! YOU DO NOT..
ALL RIGHT, SHOW'S OVER. GET THAT BUM OUT OF HERE.
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU; INTERRUPTING A SERIOUS BUSINESS MEETING JUST TO.. IN FRONT OF ORTIZ, OF ALL..
..FLACO!
THERE'S A CAB OUT FRONT FOR YOU, PETER. NOW I WANT YOU TO GO HOME FOR A WHILE. YOU'VE GOT A LOVELY WIFE WHO PROBABLY HASN'T SEEN YOU IN DAYS.
AFFRRAM..
74

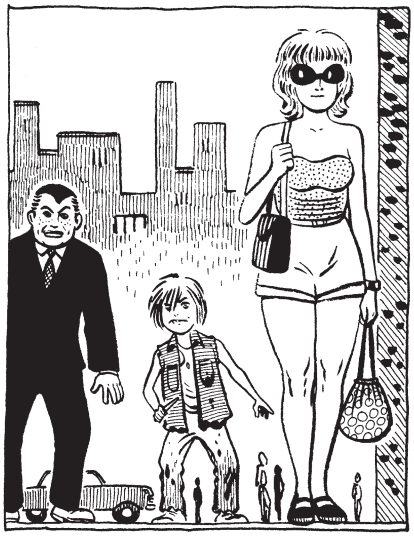

YOU'RE AS SOFT ON YOUR MEN AS YOUR DAD WAS WITH HIS, SALAS. I HOPE YOU'RE JUST AS HARD ON SUBVERSIVES AS HE WAS...
I'M AS HARD ON SUBVERSIVES AS CAPTAIN ORTIZ IS HONEST, SEÑOR GARZA.
HARUMF..
BLAS! WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE.
NOW DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD FOR ONCE, USELESS!
..FAH, THOSE GUYS CAN SUSPECT WHAT THEY WANT ABOUT ME, PETER.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IF I DON'T..
..AWWW, I DIDN'T COME TO YOU JUST SO I COULD HUSTLE CUSTOMERS INTO YOUR CLUB, PETER...
THAT BAND'S BEEN WITH THE CLUB SINCE WAY BACK WHEN SALAS' OLD MAN WAS STILL ALIVE AND RUNNING THINGS, BLAS. IF I COULD DO SOMETHING I WOULD, BUT SALAS..HE CAN BE SO GOD DAMN SENTIMENTAL..HE ALLOWS ME ONLY SO MUCH CONTROL, GUY...
AWWW, I'M NOT LOOKING TO PUSH ANYBODY OUT OF A JOB, PETER. I CAN GET A SAX GIG ANYWHERE...
I WANT IN THE BUSINESS, PETER, I..
.. IT'S AN EVENTUAL DEAD END, BLAS. EITHER YOU DIE OR WORSE; SOMEBODY YOU LOVE..
MY HANDS ARE TIED, BLAS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING..
GRUNT
ALL RIGHT... I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
RICARDO. TAKE US BACK TO THE CLUB.
MY WIFE..?
AH... MY WIFE IS FINE; THANK YOU, RICARDO...
HUH. SHE'LL BE SEVENTEEN IN-- MM...
AH, MY COUSIN BOBO'S GOT YOU BEAT THERE, SEÑOR RIO. HIS WIFE'S GONNA BE FIFTEEN...!
..WHAT WAS IT YOU CALLED IT..? YEAH. HIS FETISH.
NO, IT'S STILL PETER'S LITTLE SECRET... OR SO HE THINKS. I HOPE.
TELEFONO
TELEFONO
AWWWW...YEAH, I KNOW. I WISH HIS WIFE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE MIXED UP IN THIS EITHER, BUT.. YEAH, POOR KID...
75

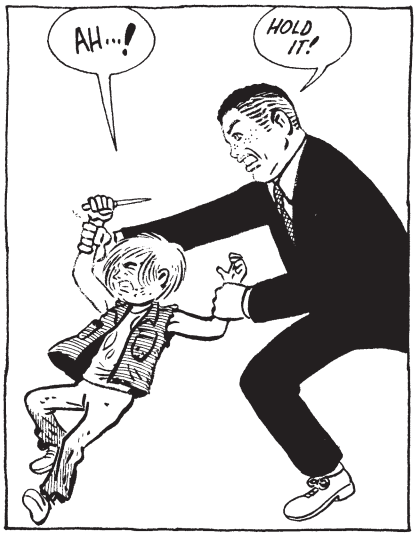
YOU SMELL LIKE A NEWBORN BABE...
OOHH... WHAT'S THIS WHAT'S THIS..? DAMN, THAT'S HOT.. DOESN'T THIS PUSSY EVER COOL DOWN..?
NOT WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, DADDY.
EEP..
OH, I MISSED YOU SO MUCH, DADDY...!
OOOOOH... MY LOVELY LOVELY WIFE...
SWALLOW ME UP, LUBA... SHOW ME YOUR WAY...
TAKE ME HOME...
OOP..
OOP..
SH-SHOULDN'T HAVE LET ME S-SEE THAT.. SH-SHOULDN'T HAVE...
I TRIED.. I TRIED..
GOD DAMN..!
OK, OK, BUT DON'T GO YET.. WAIT TO GO IN ME..
DON'T GO YET..!
OOOWWAAA..
PEE-TERR.. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO WAIT AND GO INSIDE ME...! TSK, OH..!
..YOU!
ZZZ
..IF HE WAS MY FATHER, WHY IS HE HERE NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN, LUBA? EH?
HE LOOKED SO SAD... LIKE YOU LOOK SOMETIMES, PETER. SAME FACE...
FEPHF!
76

GARZA

EIGHT

DOCTOR.
DOCTOR.
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE...AND MY GRANDSON'S.
SHE MIGHT HAVE DIED DELIVERING HIM IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
BLESS YOU, DOCTOR.
THANK YOU.
ZENEN. I'M LEAVING RIGHT NOW. THE USUAL PLACE. RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT THEN, DOCTOR. YES.
BUT CHIEF, I-- I--
WAIT FOR ME OUT THERE, ZENEN.
YES, CHIEF.
WOP
THOP
78




AH...!
HOLD IT!

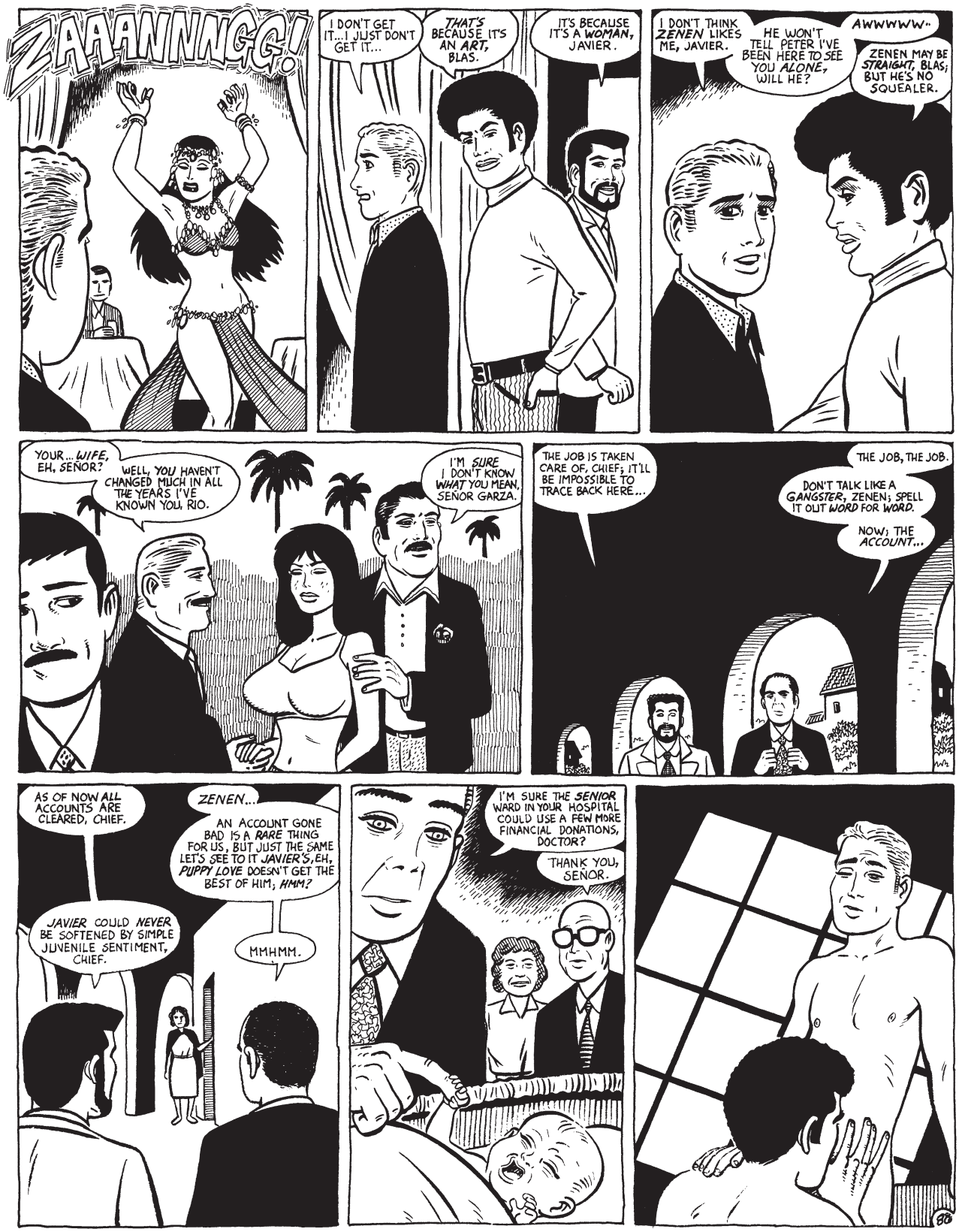
HE'LL ONLY USE IT TO BUY *MORE* GLUE FOR HIS TRIBE, MOISES.

AH... IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYBODY ELSE GIVES A SHIT ABOUT THOSE KIDS.
NOW YOU'RE GONNA *BLAB* IT ALL OVER OR WHAT, FLACO?

UP, UP, UP. HE'LL BE HERE IN A LITTLE BIT, SO, UP, UP.

YOU'RE ALWAYS *BROODING* AT ANY GIVEN HOUR.
WHAT'S A HIGHLY PAID *DOCTOR* LIKE YOURSELF HAVE TO BE *DEPRESSED* ABOUT?

I'LL BE TAKING OFF WITH THE CHIEF IN A FEW MINUTES, JAVIER.
YOU CAN BE *ALONE* WITH YOUR *GIRL-FRIEND*.
YEAH, HE'S WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE...


ZAAANNNGG!
I DON'T GET IT...I JUST DON'T GET IT...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S AN ART, BLAS.
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S A WOMAN, JAVIER.
I DON'T THINK ZENEN LIKES ME, JAVIER.
HE WON'T TELL PETER I'VE BEEN HERE TO SEE YOU ALONE, WILL HE?
AWWWWW..
ZENEN MAY BE STRAIGHT, BLAS; BUT HE'S NO SQUEALER.
YOUR... WIFE, EH, SEÑOR?
WELL, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE KNOWN YOU, RIO.
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, SEÑOR GARZA.
THE JOB IS TAKEN CARE OF, CHIEF; IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE BACK HERE...
THE JOB, THE JOB.
DON'T TALK LIKE A GANGSTER, ZENEN; SPELL IT OUT WORD FOR WORD.
NOW; THE ACCOUNT...
AS OF NOW ALL ACCOUNTS ARE CLEARED, CHIEF.
ZENEN...
AN ACCOUNT GONE BAD IS A RARE THING FOR US, BUT JUST THE SAME LET'S SEE TO IT JAVIER'S, EH, PUPPY LOVE DOESN'T GET THE BEST OF HIM; HMM?
JAVIER COULD NEVER BE SOFTENED BY SIMPLE JUVENILE SENTIMENT, CHIEF.
MMHMM.
I'M SURE THE SENIOR WARD IN YOUR HOSPITAL COULD USE A FEW MORE FINANCIAL DONATIONS, DOCTOR?
THANK YOU, SEÑOR.

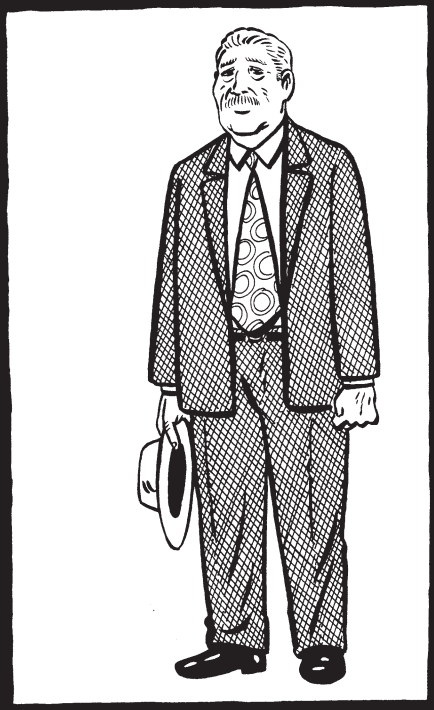
WHEN, PETER?! WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME?!
..AND NOW MY MEN IN THE U.S. TELL ME THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH THE CHANGING MARKET WE'VE GOT TO DO BUSINESS WITH SOME COMMUNIST GROUP THERE; THE.. THE HAPPIES, THE..
THE HEEPIES, SEÑOR CORTEZ. THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR A FEW YEARS, BUT IT'S ONLY RECENTLY THAT THEY'VE ACQUIRED SUCH A SIGNIFICANT POSITION IN THE TRADE...
MERCENARY COMMUNISTS. ONLY IN THE U.S.
NOT ONLY THERE ANYMORE! I'VE SEEN 'EM HERE ON THE STREET NOW AND THEN. THE MEN GROW THEIR HAIR LONG LIKE WOMEN AND THE WOMEN GO TO BED WITH WHOMEVER THEY WISH; THE SAVAGES!
WERE THEY ONLY MERCENARY, GENTLEMEN. THE HEEPIES ARE A YOUNG AND VERY INFLUENTIAL FORCE IN THE U.S.. AND IT'S LIKELY THEY'RE USING THEIR GROWING PROFITS TO HELP FORTIFY THEIR POLITICAL CREDIBILITY...
BECAUSE OF US, THE U.S. COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A SOVIET ALLY..?!?
BUT WE STILL NEED THAT U.S. MARKET.
THE HEEPIES MUST BE DISCREDITED SOMEHOW SO WE CAN GET THIS BUSINESS CLEAN AGAIN...
HOW? POISON THE GOODS BUT MAKE SURE THE BLAME FALLS ON THOSE APES?
..MANY OF THE HEEPIES' CLIENTS ARE YOUNG KIDS.. BUT IF THE POISON ONLY MAKES THEM ILL FOR A BIT...
HEY, NOW; I WASN'T..
IF MY BALTAZAR WAS NEVER HOME BECAUSE HE WAS WORKING WE COULD PROBABLY AFFORD A HOUSE IN PARIS BY NOW.
HERE, LUBA. THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF ANY LONELINESS OR BOREDOM...
YEEP...
DON'T WASTE IT ON ME, PEPA...
AAHH..
WELL... OK, BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I'VE DONE THIS NOTHING EVER HAPPENS. SLEEPING PILLS, ASPIRIN, TEQUILA.. NOTHING WORKS ON ME...
YOU COULD BE LIKE MY COUSIN MONA, LUBA. SHE TOOK EVERY KIND OF BIRTH CONTROL PILL KNOWN TO MAN, USED A DIAPHRAGM AND AN I.U.D. AND STILL WOUND UP WITH NINE BRATS.
WATCH IT, LUCY!
I USED TO BE SO SCARED OF NEEDLES...
MAYBE YOU'RE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN ONLY DO IT IN YOUR ARM, LUBA...
NO! IF PETER EVER SAW A..A HOLE, OR..OR.. NO..!
TAP TAP..
MADAM, A GENTLEMAN HERE TO SEE YOU...

OH, I-- I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT UNLESS YOU COME IN, SEÑOR RIO... PLEASE, YOU ARE WELCOME, SEÑOR...
BUT I MUST GO. PLEASE, SEÑORITA. I WANT YOU TO HAVE THESE.
--DON'T ASK ME. NEITHER OF THEM WILL TALK ABOUT THE OTHER; WELL, I SAY TO HELL WITH 'EM BOTH--
A PERFECT FIT!
--SO WHERE THE HELL DOES HE THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR IDIOTIC SHOES LIKE THAT..?
PEPA SAYS THOSE KIND OF SHOES ARE ALL THE WAY FROM HOLLAND!
HE...DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD, PETER...
ZZZ
I NEED A MAN...
DON'T GET ME WRONG... A FETISH CAN MAKE A PERSON STRONG IN SOME WAYS...ONE CAN MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF SEXUALLY INSPIRED ENERGY FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME, ENERGY WHICH CAN BE CHANNELED INTO MEANINGFUL LABOR...
--BUT, EVENTUALLY; IN TIME A FETISH USUALLY RENDERS ONE STUPID AND FEEBLE...
82

FERMIN- FAIR MEAN'

HERE AT THE SCENE OF THE LATEST DRUG BUST LED BY CAPTAIN JOSE ORTIZ; IT IS THE THIRD MAJOR ARREST OF AMERICAN HEROIN SMUGGLERS...
I'VE NEVER LOVED ANY ONE MORE THAN YOU, MY BELOVED; BEFORE OR SINCE.
RAMONA GARZA
1914-1967
CAW.. CAW..
FAUSTO SALAS STYLE!
GARZA SHOOTING STYLE, NOW.
YOU WENT TO HER GRAVE AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, I'M YOUR WIFE NOW AND I WON'T DIE OF ANY LEUKEMIA; NO SEÑOR!
OF COURSE NOT, YOLIE.
PAPA! WHATS A COMMINUS?
OH..! FOR A MOMENT THERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO JUMP, SEÑOR.
NOT ME, SEÑOR. I'M A DOCTOR. I'M NEEDED IN THIS WORLD.
84

NINE



FERMIN

"BUT IT'S ONLY A ROUTINE ACCOUNT. WHO'S HOLDING UP THE"?
AHHH...
THAT'S A VERY SERIOUS ACCUSATION. IF GARZA THINKS HE CAN" WAIT A MINUTE"
BLAS. OUT OF THE ROOM. NOW.
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME GARZA'S SUSPECTED SOMEBODY OF BEING A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER...
SURE, I REMEMBER. OLD MATAPOLAS DIED A RUINED MAN. DENIED IT TO THE END. DID THEY EVER FIND OUT IF HE KILLED HIMSELF, OR" MMMMM...
ALL RIGHT; KEEP ME INFORMED. THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD.
CAPITAN ORTIZ
IT GIVES ME NO PLEASURE TO PURSUE THIS; BUT IT IS ABOVE PERSONAL FEELINGS. IT IS POLITICS. IT IS BUSINESS.
YES, SEÑOR, GARZA.
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
"GARZA SUSPECTS PETER OF HAVING TIES WITH LEFTIST SUBVERSIVES. YES, OUR PETER RIO!
I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S ALL I KNOW! LOOK, I CAN ONLY OFFER YOU INFORMATION AS I GET IT, OK? DON'T"
AWWWW OK, OK...
"JUST HOPE EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
NO... THIS BIG GARZA STINK SHOULDN'T SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC MUCH, CILINGIS...
86

THEY'RE HOUSEWIVES, SEÑOR CILINGIS; I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE THEY CAN PAY FOR SO LITTLE.
BOXEO
THEY'RE REGULAR USERS, CHATO. THEY'LL PAY; OR THEIR HUSBANDS WILL KNOW WHAT THEY'VE BEEN UP TO ALL THIS TIME...
WHY DON'T YOU PEOPLE ALL JUST DIE AND LET DECENT PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE?!
AH, PEPA... THE DISTANCES I TRAVEL FOR YOU, MY DEAR.
OK, CHATO, OK; NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
THEN I SHALL REMAIN IN SPIRIT, DEAR PEPA; YOUR UBIQUITOUS GUARDIAN ANGEL.
C'MON, LUBA...WHEN ARE WE GOING TO BUST OPEN THIS OLD JEWELRY BOX YOUR MOTHER LEFT YOU, HUH?
HEY! WHERE DID YOU FIND TH.. GIVE IT HERE!
RATTLE RATTLE
...OK, NOW PETER'S FATHER IS LIVING WITH YOU TWO...SO WHERE'S YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW?
SHE RAN AWAY A LONG TIME AGO, OK, LUCY? THAT'S ALL I'M ALLOWED TO KNOW...
ALL I CARE TO KNOW, REALLY.
HEY, LOOK WHO'S HERE..
PETER REFUSES TO BE ALONE WITH HIM AT ANY TIME..
PTCH. AND WHO CARES? NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, THE HAPPIER OUR LIVES WILL BE.
ZUMM ZUMM..
SIT DOWN PETER.
87

PETER, I THINK IT'S A FINE THING THAT YOU'VE BEEN TAKING OFF SO MUCH TIME TO GET RE-ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR OLD MAN. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME THAT HE AND MY POP ONCE WORKED TOGETHER.
..THEN PERHAPS THE REAL REASON I'M BEING ASKED TO BACK OUT OF THE GARZA ACCOUNT IS TO ALLOW BLAS HERE ROOM IN THE SANDBOX?
AWWWWWWW.. PETER, I'M NOT HERE TO.. GARZA IS CALLING YOU A-A SUBVERSIVE, PETER! YOU'LL NEED ALL THE SUPPORT YOU CAN GET!
BLAS. OUT OF THE ROOM. NOW.
BUT.. BUT..
BLAS.
AWWW...
..DON'T INVOLVE BLAS IN THE BUSINESS, SEÑOR SALAS. I IMPLORE YOU; HE DOESN'T BELONG...DON'T..
SLAM..
PTECH...DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, PETER; HE'S INVOLVED IN ALL THIS AS MUCH AS YOUR WIFE IS...OK?
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T SUCK HIS DICK JUST RIGHT, FAGGOT...?
AWWW...
YOU'LL BE INVESTIGATED, PETER; IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG...AND WHEN YOU'RE FOUND INNOCENT.. WELL, GARZA'S HEAD WILL ROLL...
BUT YOUR WIFE AND YOUR FATHER WILL HAVE TO BE QUESTIONED; HIDING THEM AWAY WILL ONLY CONFIRM YOUR GUILT.. AND THEIRS..
..FLACO, IF THERE IS ONE TINY CUT ON MY WIFE'S BODY THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE; ONE BRUISE, JUST ONE TEAR FROM HER EYES...
NEITHER YOUR WIFE NOR YOUR FATHER WILL BE HARMED, PETER; UNLESS GARZA WANTS HIS WIFE'S AND KID'S EYEBALLS STUFFED INTO THEIR OWN MOUTHS...
...AND YOU WILL BE FOUND INNOCENT..?
..I TOLD YOU, GETTING THE INFORMATION YOU NEED WILL TAKE TIME! JUST BECAUSE SALAS FANCIES ME DOESN'T M.. YOU'RE RISKING WHAT?! YOUR JOB?!
.. I'M RISKING MY LIFE HERE!!!
..OH, NOW YOU'RE THREATENING ME, EH?! WELL, I COULD ALWAYS TELL SALAS AND RIO AND EVERYBODY EVERYTHING! YOU'D BE A POPULAR PERSON VERY QUICKLY..!
..HAH!
'88

..YOU FUCKING STUPID BROAD..! YOU THINK ALL IT TAKES IS SUCKING THE BOSS'S COCK?!?
..I TOLD YOU I WANTED IN AND NOW THAT I AM YOU'LL SEE HOW BUSINESS GETS DONE!
I INHERITED THIS BUSINESS FROM MY FATHER. HIS GOOD REPUTATION SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. I ALSO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS AS A DEFENDER OF FREEDOM BESTOWING AS MUCH TIME AND MONEY AS I CAN TO HELP RID OUR COUNTRY OF SUBVERSIVES AND THEIR ILK.
...SO WHEN SEÑOR GARZA SUSPECTS ONE OF MY MEN OF TREASON, HE INSULTS MY FATHER'S NAME AS WELL..!
YEARS AGO, SALAS' FATHER TOOK ME IN AND GOT ME STARTED IN THE BUSINESS THAT HAS SINCE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME AND MINE. I AM FOREVER INDEBTED TO HIM.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE DILIGENT IN THE PURSUIT OF WEEDING OUT THIS EVER GROWING CRIMINAL ELEMENT. THE FAUSTO SALAS I KNEW WOULD HAVE WANTED IT SO.
MY CHILD IS SAFELY HIDDEN FAR FROM THIS PLACE. I'VE NOTHING TO FEAR.
I'M HERE TO MAKE SURE PETER RIO IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...
89

AMPA

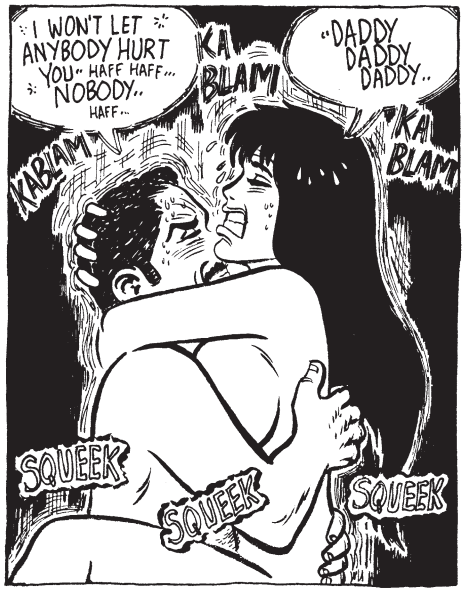
¡AI! MADAM!
PEPA, DON'T WASTE ANY ON HER..
LUCY, PUT THAT DOWN..!
HA HA HAAA..
AMOR Y PAZ..
pepa
peter
LUBA
AMOR Y COHETES

HE'S GONNA WAKE UP AND DIE OF A HEART ATTACK...
HE WILL IF LUBA DOESN'T LET ME OPEN THIS THING!
LUCY.. THAT THING IS NONE OF YOUR..
HERE KITTY..
MEOW?
LUBA
Z..

OH, SURE, LUBA; AS IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LEAVING IT LAYING AROUND ON PURPOSE JUST SO SOMEBODY MIGHT HAPPEN TO CRACK IT OPEN FOR YOU! FACE IT, YOU'RE AFRAID OF MEETING YOUR MOTHER AND YOU'RE AFRAID NOT TO..
OWWWW.. LUBA..!
I WARNED YOU, LUCY..
OWW..
Z
AMOR Y PAZ..
YOURRRR..

AHHHHHH... I DREAMED I WAS SURROUNDED BY PALPITATING SIRENS...
SERAFINA... I WARNED YOU NOT TO TOUCH THAT...
YES, MADAM.

YOUR WIFE, EH..? MM. I'LL STICK TO HER LIKE A BARNACLE TO A SHIP'S HULL, SENOR RIO... SHE'LL BE SAFE.
THANK YOU, GORGO.


I WON'T LET ANYBODY HURT YOU.. HAFF HAFF... NOBODY.. HAFF..
KA BLAM!
"DADDY DADDY DADDY..
KABLAM!
KA BLAM!
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK

KA BLAM!
SQUEEK
DADDY
SQUEEK
DADDY..
KABLAM
KABLAM!

THIS STUPID OLD THING KEEPS POPPING UP LIKE A BAD ZIT.
IT'S TIME THIS FINALLY WENT INTO THE TRASH WHERE IT BELONGS.
PANT..
HELLO!
PANT..
RATTLE RATTLE
THIS WILL HELP KILL SOME OF YOUR BOREDOM, LUBA; AS WELL AS EDUCATE YOU A LITTLE...
I CAN ALREADY READ AND WRITE.
JUST A HALF HOUR OF NEWS A DAY AND THE INFORMATION OF THE WORLD IS YOURS..
LUBITA..?
CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S FAVORITE COMIC ACTOR CANTINFLAS IN..
LUBITA..
LUBITA.
DADDY, I NEVER SAW A MOVIE BEFORE AND I WATCHED THREE TODAY. GANGSTERS AND MURDER AND MEN CHEATING ON THEIR WIVES..!
THEY'RE ONLY STORIES WITH ACTORS, LUBA...YOU KNOW THAT. I WAS HOPING TO SPARE YOUR MIND SUCH NONSENSE.
WHO BROUGHT IN THE SET?
PAPA.
MOVIES ARE THE LOWEST AND SILLIEST WAY OF TELLING STORIES...ALMOST AS LOW AS PEDRO PACOTILLA CARTOONS.
AND PERHAPS AS BAD IS THE NEWS. SIMPLISTIC AND BIASED VIEWS ON POLITICS AND ANY SENSATIONAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SUFFERING THAT MIGHT TITILLATE.
I KNOW! I DIDN'T KNOW THE WORLD HAD SO MANY WARS AND KILLING! AND ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE KILL! PETER, THEY EVEN KNOW HOW TO KILL YOU BEFORE YOU'RE BORN..!
AH...YOU SPEAK OF THE ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL CONTROVERSY...WELL, SUCH MATTERS SHOULD NEVER EVEN BE DISCUSSED IN FRONT OF SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS YOU, MUCH LESS IN THE HOUSE, LUBA.
THIS...TELEVISION SET DOES NOT BELONG IN MY HOUSE...
LUBA..?
MOGAMBO, STARRING CLARK GABLE, GRACE KELLY AND AVA GARDNER...
NO! IT'S MINE!
ALL RIGHT! ROT YOUR BRAIN THEN!
97

...NO, THE LOCK'S BEEN MANGLED SO BADLY IT'LL HAVE TO BE TAKEN APART STITCH BY STITCH TO GET INSIDE...SHAME, BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A NICE LITTLE PACKAGE...HMMM...
I COULD GIVE YOU A GOOD PRICE.
GIVE IT HERE...!
OK. I TRIED TO GET IT OPEN, PEPA. LUCY CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY!
LUBA, THAT FRANKENSTEIN GUY'S STILL FOLLOWING US..
I'LL BET PETER SENT HIM TO FOLLOW ME AROUND. DON'T WORRY, PEPA. I GOT MY HAMMER WITH ME. IF HE'S GOT BALLS, THEY CAN BE SQUISHED.
LUBA, I THINK HE'S A POLICEMAN!
PEPA...YOU'RE NOT CARRYING THE STUFF WITH YOU, ARE YOU?
I'M SCARED TO LEAVE IT AT HOME; MY HUSBAND MIGHT.. LUBA, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE..!
TAXI!
OK OK, CALM DOWN. THIS IS A BAD SPOT FOR CABS. LET'S WALK DOWN TO THE CORNER LIKE NORMAL...
OK..OK..OK.. OK..OK..OK..OK.. OK..OK..OK...
SEÑORA RIO?
POLICE CAPTAIN ORTIZ. WE WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
SCREEEEEE
...THIS SHOULD TAKE ONLY A LITTLE WHILE, SEÑORA RIO. THEN WE'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOU BOTH HOME...
.. LOOKS LIKE OLD GORGO'S ON HIS TOES. THAT BASTARD NEVER SLOWS DOWN...
~ WAREHOUSE BELONGS TO THAT CROOK GARZA, I THINK, I'LL BET SIX DIFFERENT LEFTIST GROUPS ARE ALREADY CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY...
92

AWWWWWW...
CLICK
RISK MY NECK COMING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE AND I GET A GUN PULLED ON ME..!
YOU NEVER KNOW THESE DAYS...
PETER ABANDONED YOU GUYS AND NONE OF YOUR MUSICAL CAREERS HAS RECOVERED SINCE..!
ISOBEL, THOSE GUYS THAT'LL BE INVESTIGATING PETER FOR HAVING COMMIE TIES WON'T BE PLAYING GAMES! THEY MAY TORTURE YOU HORRIBLY FOR INFORMATION AND THEN COME AFTER US..!
YOU'RE ALL SAFE, DOCHO! I'VE ALREADY VOLUNTEERED TO OFFER THEM ANY INFORMATION THEY NEED TO RUIN PETER.
..B-BUT, WHAT IF YOUR TESTIMONY SOMEHOW DOESN'T STICK AND PETER GETS THROUGH THIS OK.. THEN HE'LL COME AFTER US AND WE'RE ALL DEADDEADDEAD!
THIS IS BASED ON HIS JILTING ME, OK? NONE OF YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN ANY..TCH. ...WAS YOUR IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE, DOCHO!
I SUGGESTED SIMPLY RUINING HIS MARRIAGE, NOT.. WELL, NOW I SAY WE ALL VOTE TO CALLING IT OFF! ALL IN FAVOR?
FABIO?
EH.
BLAS?
UH... YEH.
RICKY?
RICKY!
GRUNT...
THEN IT'S AGREED, ISOBEL; YOU'LL TELL THOSE GUYS YOU JUST WENT CRAZY JEALOUS AND PETER'S ACTUALLY INNOCENT.
IT WARMS MY HEART TO KNOW YOU'RE ALL SUCH FORGIVING SOULS. MAYBE YOU CAN LIVE WITH THE FACT PETER SHIT ON US ALL, BUT I CAN'T!
ALLRIGHT, DOCHO... LET ME TALK TO HER...I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER...
DON'T FORGET A FIST SPEAKS AS WELL AS A CLEVER TONGUE, BLAS.
SIGH..
WOMAN... HAVE YOU GOT BALLS...
..USED TO, ANY WAY...
FUCK GARZA, FUCK THAT COP ORTIZ, FUCK EVERYBODY, PETER! TREATING YOU LIKE SOME.. WE OUGHT TO GET OUT OF THIS DIRTY BUSINESS AND START UP OUR OWN! A CLEAN SLATE...
GIRLS! PETER DOESN'T WANT ANY UNNECESSARY BULGES OUT THERE TONIGHT, EH?
93

THE WOMAN IN THESE PHOTOS...IS YOUR MOTHER..?
SHE...LIVE AROUND HERE?
SHE'S DEAD.
AND AGAIN I STRESS IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO TELL YOUR HUSBANDS WE EVEN HAD THIS MEETING, LADIES..UNDERSTAND?
PUT THAT STUFF BACK INTO THE JEWELRY BOX, MEN, AND RETURN IT TO SEÑORITA LUBA SO WE CAN TAKE THEM HOME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION, LADIES; AND I DO REGRET WE CANNOT TELL YOU WHY YOU WERE BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING.
GRUNT..
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION, SEÑORITA RIO?
YEAH...
"SO, IS THAT FRANKENSTEIN GUY GOING TO KEEP FOLLOWING US AROUND?" THEN HE SAYS..
"YOU GIRLS ARE TOO OLD TO BELIEVE IN MONSTERS BUT MAYBE A GUARDIAN ANGEL WILL MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER..." LIKE WE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW THAT GOON WAS JUST A COP..!
..BEEN WAITING TO GET INTO THIS THING SINCE.. AHHHH!
GRUNT.. WHO'S TELLING THIS STORY ANY WAY, PEPA...
THEY WENT THROUGH LUBA'S MOTHER'S JEWELRY BOX BUT THEY DIDN'T EVEN LOOK IN MY PURSE WHERE THEY COULD HAVE FOUND OUR DRUGS, LUCY; AND..
THESE EARRINGS! AND THERE'S BLOOD-STAINS ON 'EM...
HEY...IF I CAN CLEAN 'EM UP NICE... WELL...SINCE YOU NEVER WEAR ANY MAKE-UP OR JEWELRY, LUBA...
YEAH, YEAH...GO AHEAD AND TAKE ANY OF THAT JUNK YOU WANT, GIRLS...
PTCH. WHO CARES?
WE FOOLED THOSE DUMB COPS GOOD, ALL RIGHT! THEY TRIED TO CATCH US WITH DRUGS AND WE JUST WALKED OUT OF THERE FREE AS BIRDS!
THAT'S..
..YOUR MOTHER?
WELL, THE BOSS COP WASN'T SO DUMB, BUT THEY JUST ASKED ABOUT OUR HUSBANDS AND THEIR JOBS AND FRIENDS TO FOOL US.. HA! I JUST TOLD 'EM THE TRUTH; I DON'T CARE IF MY HUSBAND KILLS PUPPIES FOR A LIVING, ...STUPID IDIOT COPS...
..SO THEY CAN SEND UGLY FRANKENSTEIN TO FOLLOW US ANYTIME, BECAUSE WE'LL FOOL 'EM EVERYTIME, GIRLS; EVEN OUR HUSBANDS!
HARUMF!
MY HUSBAND WILL NEVER SEE THESE PICTURES AS LONG AS I LIVE...'
OHHH.. THIS PERFUME
RELAX, RIO...YOUR WIFE WAS A MODEL INTERVIEW, BUT I DO HAVE TO QUESTION HER A FEW MORE TIMES..ONLY TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD TO GARZA, OF COURSE. AND I WILL BE SPEAKING TO YOUR FATHER, AS WELL.
YOUR WIFE APPEARS TO RESPECT YOU QUITE A BIT, RIO; YOU WON'T BE HEARING A THING OF THE INTERROGATION FROM HER.
HEH...SHE THOUGHT OLD GODZILLA HERE WAS ONE OF MY MEN, AS IF I'D EVER STOOP SO LOW.
THAT'S GORGO, ORTIZ, AND ALONE I'M TWICE THE POLICE FORCE YOU'LL EVER RUN..
LUBITA...
94

MY PARTNER WATCHES ME VERY CLOSELY THESE DAYS. HE SAYS IT SHOWS ON MY FACE THAT I'M HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT OUR WORK FOR THE CHIEF.
I TELL HIM A MAN HAS TO QUESTION HIMSELF NOW AND AGAIN.
I'VE NEVER LET EITHER OF THEM DOWN...
I'M SURE YOU GET THE SAME SUSPICIONS FROM YOUR PEOPLE.
OH, BUT YOU'VE NEVER APPROVED OF MY WORK, LOVER...
PUPPY LOVER...
JUNK...
ALL OF IT...
JUNK...
95

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, BLAS?
SEÑOR SALAS MAY NEED ME NOW, SHITHEAD!
SALAS GAVE US SCRICT ORDERS TO KEEP YOUR FAGGOTY ASS AWAY FROM HERE, SO BEAT IT!
..THEN PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL ME WHY SUBVERSIVE PIGS BOMBED ONE OF MY GARMENT BUILDINGS AND NOT ONE OF YOUR CLUBS, SALAS..?
YEAH, YEAH... FRIED FAGGOTS EVERYWHERE...
I SIMPLY FIND IT... INTERESTING THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED AROUND THE SAME TIME I'M HAVING YOUR MAN PETER RIO INVESTIGATED FOR SUBVERSION...
THIS NEW LEFT MAY NOT BE AS BARBARIC AS WE PAINT THEM, GARZA...AFTER ALL, NOBODY WAS HURT IN THE BLAST...NOW, IF ONE NIGHT A CLUB OF MINE WENT UP..?
SEÑOR GARZA, I AM ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BEHIND YOU SHOULD THIS BECOME A FULL SCALE WAR AGAINST THE LEFT; YOU HAVE MY WORD ON MY FATHER'S GRAVE.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO HEAR, SALAS...THOUGH THE INVESTIGATION OF RIO CONTINUES UNTIL I AM SATISFIED...
AS YOU WISH, SEÑOR GARZA...AND YOUR DECISION NOT TO INVOLVE THE MILITARY IN ALL THIS IS A VERY WISE ONE...
THEN IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL BETWEEN YOU AND ME SEÑOR SALAS...
SALUD!
¡©#*@!?
TELEFONO
TELEFONO
MAMA... PLEASE...
MAMA...
MAMA.. PLEASE.. MAMA..
THIS WOMAN CAN'T BE YOUR MOTHER, LUBA; SHE'S BEAUTIFUL..
MMMMMM.. MMMUAAA-?
OHKKHH.. TSK...
WELL..IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS IN THE FIRST PLACE, PETER! SHE'S NO RELATION TO ANYBODY, OK?!
IT SAYS RIGHT HERE; BABY LUBA WITH PROUD PARENTS...
THERE! SEE? THAT WHITE MAN ISN'T MY FATHER BECAUSE I KNOW MY FATHER WAS INDIAN.. ALL THE WAY INDIAN..!
MMHMM. THEN THESE LETTERS COULD TELL US SOMETHING..?
..NO, IT'S JUST DRIBBLING AND DROOLING FROM HER SECRET ADMIRERS...
OH...OH, WHO CARES WHO SHE IS?! NONE OF IT MATTERS NOW, OK?!
IF..IF I CAN'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY OR-OR OF YOUR BUSINESS.. EVEN IF IT INCLUDES ME..! IF YOU CAN FORGET ON PURPOSE ABOUT EVERYTHING BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED..!
VERY WELL, LUBITA...
WE'LL DESTROY IT ALL, AND NOTHING MORE WILL BE SAID OF IT EVER AGAIN.

ISOBEL

TEN

OH, DON'T STOP...
YOU DO PLAY BEAUTIFULLY...
SURE...BUT THE COURT JESTER DOESN'T FEEL VERY BEAUTIFUL... EVERYTIME SOMETHING SERIOUS COMES UP IT'S 'OUT OF THE ROOM, BLAS; OUT OF THE ROOM'.
IT'S BUSINESS, BLAS...IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU...
NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT...IT WOULDN'T CONCERN A...A DOG..
LOVER...
DON'T YOU LOVER ME, YOU.. I'M NOT SOME WHORE YOU CAN JUST..JUST..
I..I DESERVE RESPECT.. I DEMAND RESPECT, DAMN IT..! DAMN YOU..!!
STILL, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO ROMANTIC TO BE A POPULAR MUSICIAN BACK THEN, SEÑOR RIO...SIGH!
YES, PEPA, I HAVE A FEW GOOD MEMORIES OF THOSE DAYS, BUT.. THE PAST IS THE PAST AND I LOOK FORWARD EVERYDAY TO THE RICHES THE FUTURE HOLDS...
GET YOUR BUTTS OFF THE FLOOR AND GRAB YOUR COATS, GIRLS! WE'RE GOING OUT DANCING TILL OUR FEET CRACK AND BLEED!
AND OUR HUSBANDS WILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT; WILL THEY, PAPA FERMIN?!
HAH?!
AH...WELL, I WAS WAITING FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY TO GIVE YOU THIS, LUBA; BUT I THINK YOU'RE READY FOR IT ON THIS NIGHT OF NIGHTS...
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE STUCK AT HOME EVERY NIGHT WITH YOUR OLD FATHER-IN-LAW...YOU MUST GO OUT AND LIVE!
WOW! JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S CLOTHES IN THE PICTURES, LUBA!
I AM QUITE FOND OF FIFTIES STYLE CLOTHES AND SUCH..
OH, PAPA FERMIN..!
NOW IF PETER CALLS OR COMES HOME I'LL COVER FOR YOU, SWEETHEART...
SAME WITH YOU GIRLS..
LUCY! MY MOTHER'S GOT SOME OLD CLOTHES I CAN WORK INTO SOMETHING FOR US! JUST GIVE ME AN HOUR!
I DO MISS THE STAGE SOMETIMES..

I'VE GIVEN YOU A CHILD... AND A HOME...AND SECURITY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE... AND YET YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO COME HERE, ISOBEL; AND--AND--
DON'T WORRY, PETER; I'M ONLY HERE FOR THE LATEST GOSSIP, LIKE, WELL, THE NEWS OF YOUR POLITICAL STANDING WHICH HAS LEFT YOU OUT OF AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS DEAL...
THEN... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO-- TELL ME; IS GARZA'S COCK BIG ENOUGH FOR YOUR MOUTH..?
YOU NEVER COULD FEIGN SURPRISE, PETER...AND YOU TELL ME; HOW BIG IS GARZA'S PRICK, CONSIDERING HOW DEEP IT IS UP YOUR ASS?
YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN AFTER TODAY, PETER...I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE ONCE MORE... BEFORE THEY BEGIN TO SLOWLY PULL YOUR WIFE'S FINGERNAILS OFF...
ONE BY ONE...
IF MY WIFE HAPPENS TO TELL ME SHE MET A LADY WITH A HEART OF VOMIT, ISOBEL-- EVEN GARZA WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU, BITCH...
HE DOESN'T LIKE TO SEE A BULGING CROTCH ON STAGE, SUGAR...

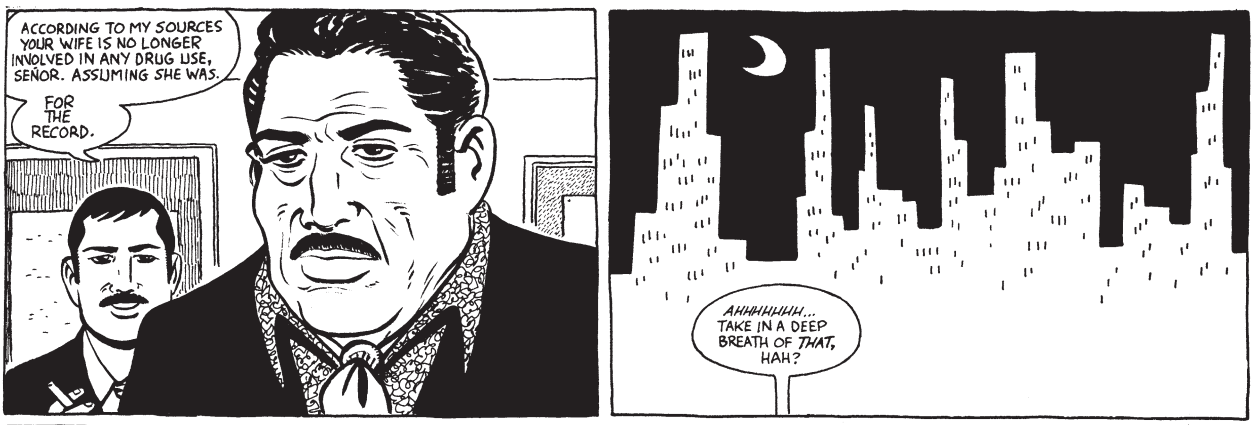
HA HA HAAAA
QUIET..! SOMEONE WILL HEAR..!
GOOD!
AH HA HAAAA
WHAT IF WE CAN'T GET INTO ANY CLUBS? NOT THAT I CAN DANCE IN THESE CRAZY SHOES...
IT'S NOT GETTING INTO THE CLUBS, HONEY; ITS GETTING OUT--
DON'T WORRY, GIRLS; WE HAVE OUR TRUSTED FRANKENSTEIN FOLLOWING TO PROTECT US FROM MONSTERS!
MY WELL-PAID BACK-UP IS ALWAYS AT THE READY, SEÑOR RIO...NO, NO, SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M TALKING TO YOU, DON'T WORRY...ITS A LOVELY NIGHT FOR DANCING.
NICE DRESS, BY THE WAY...

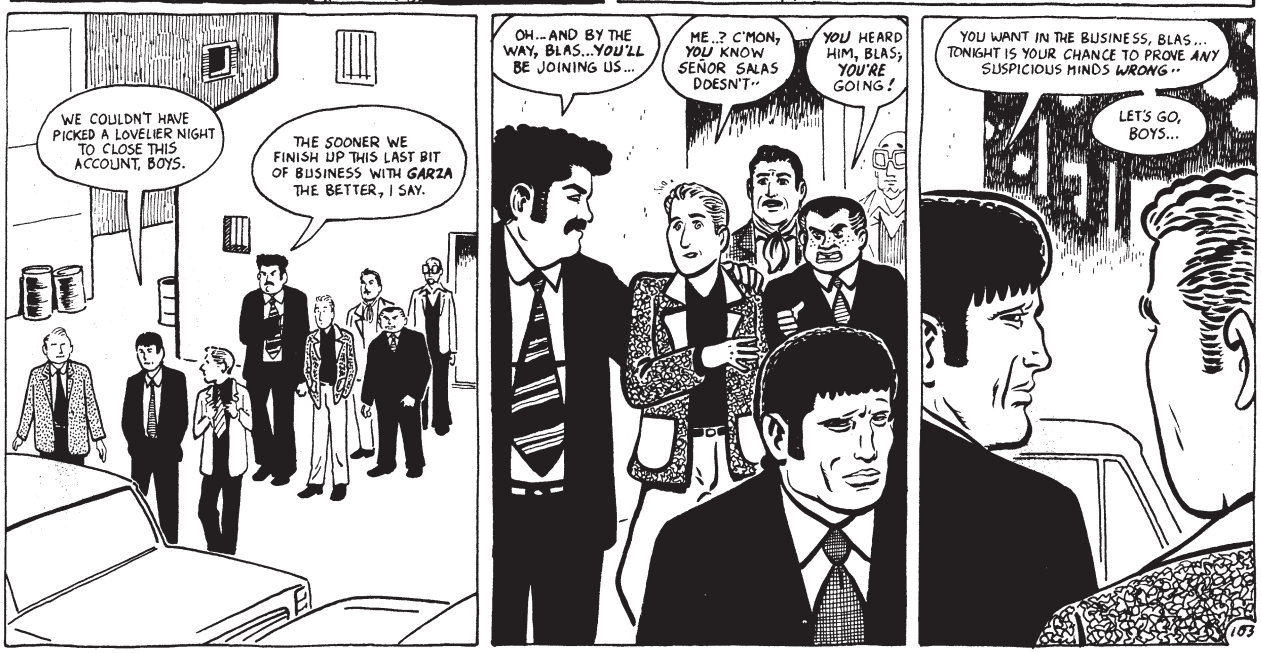
JUST MAKING SURE IF YOU REALLY ARE QUEER, BLAS.
SO I SNUCK OUT WITHOUT TELLING PETER. I'LL DO IT AGAIN.
HA!
LUBA, IS THIS WHY YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
NO! I NEED QUEER ADVICE!
IS THAT HANDSOME SEÑOR GARZA QUEER OR NORMAL?
NOW I KNOW I BETTER GET GOING.
C'MON! I KNOW THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME HE WANTS ME AND THAT DRIVES ALL YOU QUEERS CRAZY FRUSTRATED!
I GET IT...
LUBA, FORGET TRYING TO MAKE PETER JEALOUS, OK? I CAN SWEAR TO YOU YOU'RE THE ONLY WOMAN LEFT FOR HIM, I PROMISE.
NOW, IF THAT'S ALL.
LET'S... JUST SIT, BLAS...
YOU'RE QUEER SO I KNOW NOTHING WILL HAPPEN...
JUST... SIT WITH ME...
THIS IS POINTLESS; PETER RIO'S CLEAN AS A SHEET.
BESIDES THIS FETISH OF HIS, THE ONLY OTHER FUNNY THING ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE CHANGED HIS NAME FROM PEDRO TO PETER SUPPOSEDLY AS A PROTEST AGAINST THAT CARTOON CHARACTER HE FEELS DEGRADES BLACKS.
SENSITIVE, SENSITIVE... HE SOUNDS LIKE A COMMIE TO ME.
CHANGED HIS NAME AFTER HIS MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE...
NO, NO... I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY MET FERMIN RIO, ODDLY ENOUGH. AND I DEFINITELY CAN'T NOW...
IT MIGHT MAKE ME GO EASIER ON HIS SON IF I DID.
FERMIN RIO ONCE HEADED ONE HELL OF A MUSICAL COMBO, ALL RIGHT...
FERMIN RIO
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
MUSICA L
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
100

HAPPY SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY, LUBITA!
NICE DRESSES, FATHER; WHERE'S THE TIME MACHINE TO TAKE HER BACK TO WHEN THEY WERE IN FASHION?
...UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE LEFTISTS ONCE LINKED WITH PETER HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY UPON LEARNING OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN HIS INVESTIGATION, SEÑOR GARZA...
JUST RAN INTO THE STREET SCREAMING LIKE IDIOTS, EH?
SO, I NO LONGER HAVE REAL PROOF OF PETER'S COMPLICITY IN SUCH CRIMINAL POLITICS...
YOUR GENUINE CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN YOUR COUNTRY IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL US PATRIOTS, I'M SURE, M'DEAR.
SHOULD ANY REAL EVIDENCE OF PETER'S TREACHERY COME MY WAY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO DELIVER IT TO YOU, SEÑOR.
THIS ENDS IT NOW, OK, ISOBEL? YOU'VE RUINED PETER'S REPUTATION, SO NOW YOU CAN GO AWAY AND START A NEW LIFE IN PEACE, OK? OK?
I DON'T KNOW, BLAS. I'VE STILL GOT A COUPLE OF DAYS...HEAR THIS TOWN SWINGS AT NIGHT.
AWWWWW... YOU NEVER DID KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, GIRL...!
I WON'T BE ALONE, DON'T WORRY! I GOT A DATE...
NOW CAN WE DROP THIS FARCE, GARZA? NOTHING SHE HAS SAID OR WILL SAY AGAINST PETER RIO WILL STAND UP IN COURT. SHE'LL BE RIGHTLY DISMISSED AS A JILTED LOVER AND YOUR OWN REPUTATION COULD BE SEVERLY DAMAGED.
AS IF I LISTENED TO HER SHIT IN THE FIRST PLACE..
OVER THE YEARS MY REPUTATION HAS CONSISTENTLY THWARTED SLANDER AND SHOOT-OUTS, ORTIZ; YOU GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE THE RIO INVESTIGATION AND-- JUST REMEMBER...NOT TO GET SO TOUGH WITH HIS FATHER...
QUITE THE LITTLE SCARECROW RIO'S WIFE, EH?
LUBITA...SOME MEN WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU...
YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S SAFE WITH ORTIZ, SEÑOR RIO; HE'S WITH US, TO AN EXTENT...EVEN IF HE IS A LOW-CRAWLING DUNG SUCKING COP...
PETER CAN TRY TO SHUT ME OUT OF HIS LIFE AND BUSINESS...BUT, THIS ACCUSATION AGAINST MY BOY IS TOO BIG FOR HIM TO HANDLE ALONE...
I CAN GET YOU ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED...
UM-HE HARDLY NEVER COMES HOME FOR DAYS SOMETIMES...HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIS--HIS BUSINESS...EVERYTHING'S STILL THE SAME AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, CAPITAN ORTIZ--
PLEASE... CALL ME... JOSELITO...

HAFF! YOUR EBONY MANE LONG AND THICK.. HAFF! SOFT AND BLACK AND HAFF! FRAGRANT AND THICK AND LONG.. HAFF!
WELL...THEN, IF MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IS SAFE WITH YOU AND YOU WON'T BE TORTURING ME FOR INFORMATION AGAINST MY SON...WHY DON'T YOU AMUSE YOURSELF BY ORDERING MORE MURDERS OF STREET CHILDREN WHO PESTER TOURISTS..?
SIGH... THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION, SEÑOR RIO.
W-WOW, LUBA...YOU MOVE SO P-PRETTY...I'VE NEVER MET A NICER GIRL THAN YOU..? ULPS
.. HA HA HA HA HAA ... ARCHIE, NICE GIRLS ARE AS DULL AS NICE BOYS, Y'KNOW..
GOD, WHY'S THE MUSIC SO SLOW..?!
ZUMM ZUMM..
FERMIN? GORGO.
HAD LUNCH WITH A COUPLE OF GARZA'S MEN TODAY.
OUR RAT IS ISOBEL, WITH AN O...
ISO..
SORRY. WE'RE NOT BUYING ANY.
NOW, MONSIGNOR DIAZ; THESE ARE PHOTOS OF A SIX MONTH OLD FETUS ABORTED BY BAD BIRTH CONTROL, OR VOLUNTARY ABORTION..?
I REMEMBER ALICIA... THE LADY WHO TOOK ME AND MY TIA IN ? I REMEMBER SHE TOLD ME WHAT BIRTH CONTROL DOES TO A BABY... LIKE POURING SALT ON A SNAIL...GUESS THESE PICTURES PROVE THAT...
THERE IS NO GOOD BIRTH CONTROL OR ABORTION; BOTH ARE THE WORK OF SATAN...
MAYBE PETER'S WAY OF DOING...IT IS THE RIGHT WAY OF DOING IT.
LUBA, WHAT SUPERSTITIOUS HORSESHIT HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO? IT IS A WOMEN'S GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO CONTROL OVER HER OWN BODY. ABORTION INCLUDED! OFF THE RECORD, AH, AS IT WERE...
HA HA...DID YOU THINK I WAS SERIOUS, SILLY? I WAS JUST FOOLING; TSK!
SILLY...
IS...THIS BELIEF WHAT MAKES YOU SO NERVOUS, LUBA? YOU KNOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, SO..
NERVOUS? ME..?
102

LUBA, MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GET A DIFFERENT SIZE SHOE FROM NOW ON. THESE BRUISES BETWEEN YOUR TOES ARE QUITE UNBECOMING A LADY.
AND WOULD YOU STOP ABOUT THIS BIRTH CONTROL NONSENSE? IT IS...EVIL AND THAT'S THAT.
I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT··BUSINESS ON MY MIND.
WHAT ARE YOU FEELING SO GUILTY ABOUT, ANY WAY?
GOD...
I KNOW WHAT THOSE BRUISES BETWEEN YOUR TOES ARE, LUBA.
I COULD THROW YOU IN JAIL AND LOSE THE KEY AND NOBODY COULD STOP ME.
NOBODY.
YOU DON'T WANT ANY? WHAT'S WITH YOU LATELY ANY WAY, LUBA?
LIKE YOU NEED TO ASK...
I...JUST DON'T WANT TO GET HOOKED...SCARED PETER WILL FIND OUT.
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD...


ACCORDING TO MY SOURCES YOUR WIFE IS NO LONGER INVOLVED IN ANY DRUG USE, SEÑOR. ASSUMING SHE WAS.
FOR THE RECORD.
AHHHHHHH... TAKE IN A DEEP BREATH OF THAT, HAH?


WE COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A LOVELIER NIGHT TO CLOSE THIS ACCOUNT, BOYS.
THE SOONER WE FINISH UP THIS LAST BIT OF BUSINESS WITH GARZA THE BETTER, I SAY.
OH...AND BY THE WAY, BLAS...YOU'LL BE JOINING US...
ME..? C'MON, YOU KNOW SEÑOR SALAS DOESN'T··
YOU HEARD HIM, BLAS; YOU'RE GOING!
YOU WANT IN THE BUSINESS, BLAS... TONIGHT IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE ANY SUSPICIOUS MINDS WRONG··
LET'S GO, BOYS...

SONG BY THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE'

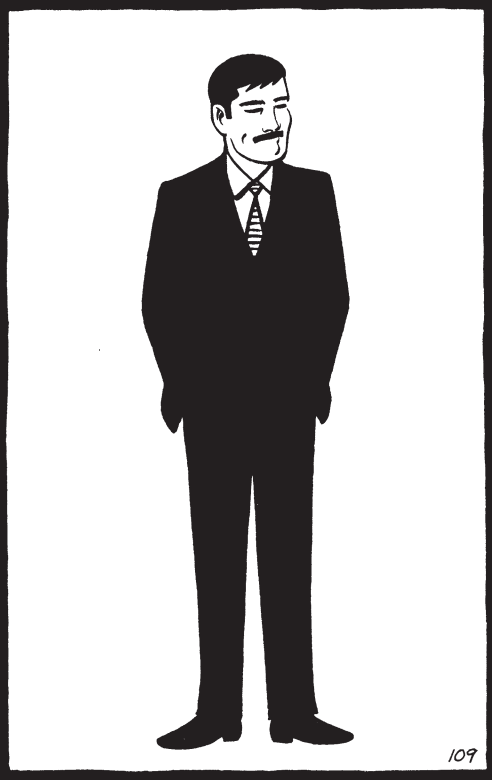
AS I SAID, BLAS; THERE IS THE TALK THAT YOU MAY HAVE LEFTIST TIES...
YOUR MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALLS...
BLAS, THIS THING COULD HURT ME BADLY IF IT'S PROVEN TRUE. EVEN IF IT'S NOT, ALMOST NO ONE RECOVERS COMPLETELY FROM SUCH A STIGMA...
PERSONALLY, I LIKE TO THINK YOU'RE CALLING A BOYFRIEND.
SHIT. EVER SINCE PAPA DIED GARZA HASN'T BEEN THE SAME...WRECKING A DECENT MAN'S LIFE LIKE PETER'S WAS NEVER HIS STYLE BEFORE...
FEELS ODD. I HAVEN'T DRIVEN MYSELF IN YEARS...
I'M SAVING YOUR NECK, BLAS. I'LL SHOW YOU THE RESPECT YOU WANT IN THE BEST WAY I POSSIBLY CAN AFTER TONIGHT.
BY TOMORROW MORNING YOU'LL BE ON A PLANE TO THE U.S., AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT IT.
THEN YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN AFTER THAT..
GOT THAT FAGGOT RIO WHERE I WANT HIM, BOYS; HE'S...THROUGH!
HE CAN RETIRE WITH HIS LITTLE COW AND LIVE MISERABLY EVER AFTER...
TEACH HIM TO TRY AND MAKE A FOOL OF ME...
HEM.
OK. LET'S GET THIS ACCOUNT OVER AND DONE WITH.
PETER RIO IS HERE TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN. WE HAVE TO GET GOING.
SALAS' AND GARZA'S MEETING SHOULD TAKE A LITTLE WHILE...
I'LL SEE HIM.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, FERMIN.
ISOBEL, ONLY YOU CAN HELP FREE MY SON OF THIS TERRIBLE ACCUSATION.
WON'T YOU?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
ISOBEL, PLEASE...
WELL, CAPTAIN ORTIZ; SINCE YOU'VE BEEN FUCKING MY WIFE, YOU WILL SUBMIT TO A BLOOD TEST IF SHE GETS PREGNANT, OF COURSE?
SEÑOR RIO, FOR ME TO SUBMIT TO SOME SUCH TEST WOULD BE AN ADMISSION OF GUILT, YOU UNDERSTAND.
ALL YOUR WIFE IS TO ME IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION.
FOR THE RECORD.
AH, AH...CAPTAIN JOSE ORTIZ; EVER THE HONEST COP.
FOR THE RECORD.
I'VE GOT TO GO.
105

Y-YOU'RE LYING..! YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE A MESSAGE FOR PETER! I-I DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU...
YOU'LL COME WITH ME UNLESS YOU WANT PETER TO KNOW YOU'RE A SPEED FREAK!
COLA
TAXI
I'LL TAKE THAT, GORGO... NICE AND SLOW...
C'MON. INTO THE ALLEY...OR I'LL BLOW YOUR UGLY ASS OFF...
GOOD BOY...
YOU'RE UGLIER THAN I REMEMBERED, GORGO... WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO FIX YOU UP A LITTLE, HUH?
YOU'RE NOT SO PRETTY...NOT ENOUGH TO RUIN A BAND'S CAREER...NOT EVEN ENOUGH TO..TO.. YEAH...I'VE GOT A REAL MESSAGE FOR PETER...BUT IF YOU TELL HIM; SAY GOODBYE TO ALL THAT FANCY LIVING AND NICE CLOTHES AND CRAP..
OH, GOD...
JUST...JUST DON'T SPOIL THE DRESS...
SEÑOR GARZA...
SEÑOR SALAS...
TAXI
:OWWF:
GOOD AND TIGHT..
:OWF:
HGNNGH..
:OWF: BUT YOUR FAGGOT HUSBAND PETER WOULDN'T KNOW, WOULD HE? HE'S TOO BUSY WITH BELLY BUTTONS..
:OWF:
..MUSIC IS MY LIFE :HOOOWF:.. MY LIFE..!
:OWWF..:
J-JUST FINISH... FINISH... ...
106

SCARE CROW...
AH HA HA HAAA..
THAT BASTARD FUCKER RIO! THAT SNEAKING SON OF A CUNT PETER RIO! HIS SCARE CROW..! AND I THOUGHT HE MARRIED THE LITTLE COW ONLY BECAUSE HE.. BECAUSE HE..
HA HA HAAAA
HE KNEW ALL ALONG! THAT BASTARD FUCKER KNEW WHO HIS SCARE-CROW WIFE WAS THE WHOLE TIME!!
I'M GOING TO KILL THE BASTARD!!
107

MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE ⟨HIC⟩ I DON'T KNOW...
BUT IT'S ALL BECAUSE I LOVED HIM SO ⟨HIC⟩ AND NOW IT'S ALL OVER... ⟨SOB⟩
SEÑOR RIO..? ⟨HIC⟩ IT'S SO DARK HERE... WHY ARE WE..
JUST.. DROP HER OFF WHERE WE PICKED HER UP...
OH, LUBA...! I THOUGHT YOU HAD LEFT WITH SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING..
DON'T BE SILLY, PEPA; I RISK MY MARRIAGE TO COME HERE TO DANCE!
CINE
TAXI
GOGO
CLUB
108

ELEVEN



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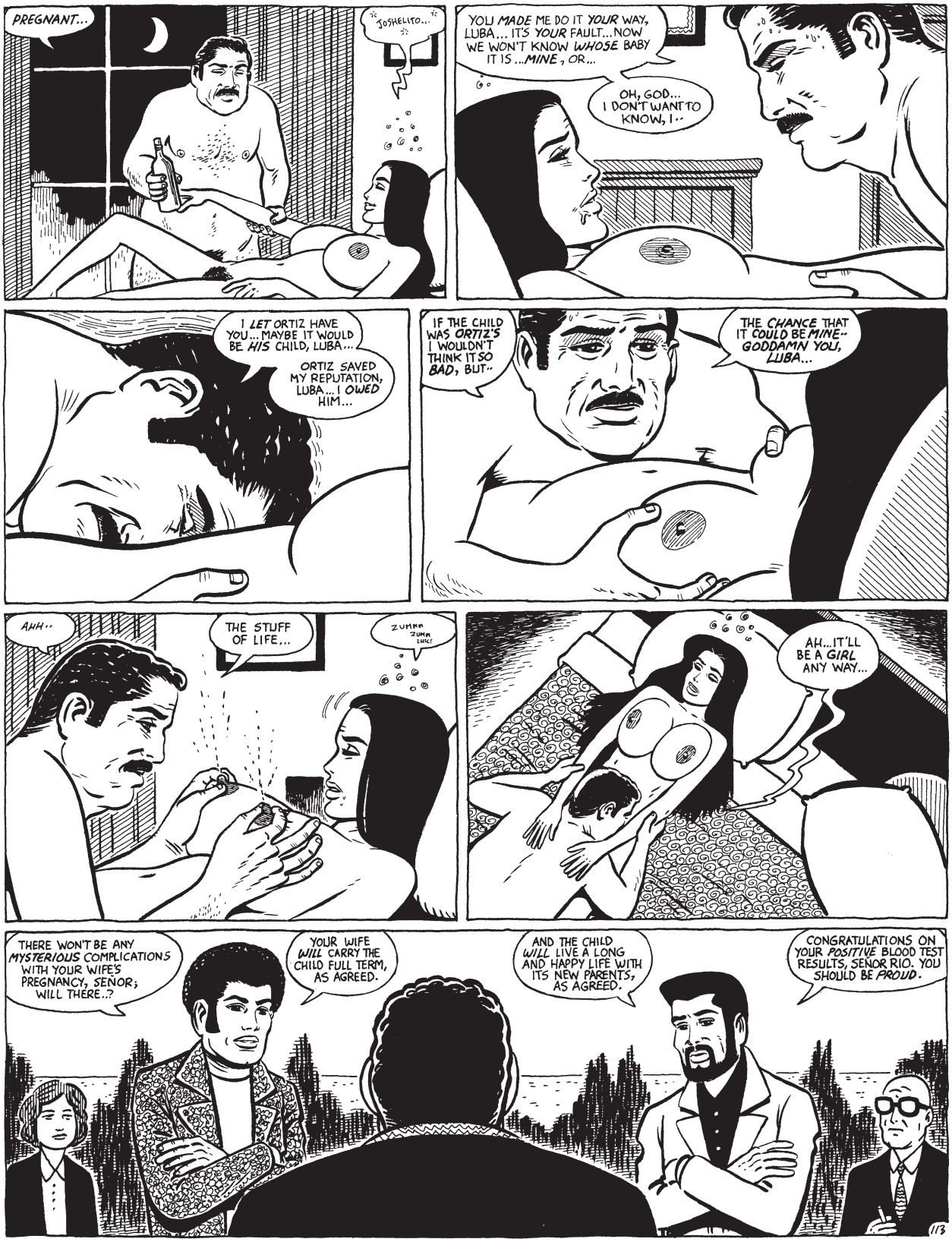
"JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU A DOZEN TIMES, CAPTAIN ORTIZ...
"BUSINESS AS USUAL, NOTHING SUSPICIOUS...
ALL OF A SUDDEN GARZA'S FACE LIGHTS UP, LIKE HE JUST GOT A JOKE HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND BEFORE...
AWWWW...
THEN" GARZA SHOUTS OUT" 'SCARECROW...'
"EVERYBODY... PULLS OUT THEIR GUN FROM NERVOUS CONFUSION AND IT'S INDEPENDENCE DAY...'
YEAH... SALAS JUMPED IN FRONT OF ME TAKING ALL THE BULLETS HIMSELF" GOD, AND I WAS SO "ANGRY WITH HIM UP TILL THAT MOMENT, CAPTAIN ORTIZ...
AWWW...
SCARE CROW...
I CAN GET YOU SAFELY OUT OF TOWN, BLAS, BUT THEN YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN; RIGHT, SEÑOR RIO..?
ISOBEL...
" STRANGLED IN A STREET ROBBERY...
" WILL NEVER FIND WHO DID IT...STREET ROBBERY...
"DIDN'T DESERVE THAT, NOT THAT...
ANY IDEA WHO TRIED TO HAVE YOU KILLED THAT SAME NIGHT, GORGO?
FEW! OLD ENEMIES, NEW ENEMIES, LEFT, RIGHT, I DON'T CARE, ORTIZ; BRING 'EM ALL ON.
GORGO WON'T BE FOLLOWING MY WIFE ANY MORE, ORTIZ; NOT IF HE'S SOMEBODY'S TARGET NOW.
I WANT MY WIFE TO HAVE OFFICIAL POLICE PROTECTION OUTSIDE MY HOME, ORTIZ...
MY...FATHER WILL BE FINE.
OF COURSE, SEÑOR RIO; THINGS ARE TOUCHY NOW...I'LL SEE TO YOUR WIFE'S SAFETY WITH GREAT CARE.
"SALAS AND GARZA WILL PROBABLY BE REMEMBERED AS GREAT PATRIOTS... INDEED; SENTINELS OF LIBERTY"
"THE STRANGLED GIRL, ANOTHER STATISTIC...
PETER RIO...A PRIME SUSPECT..?
NO...HE WAS MONITORED THAT NIGHT...
BLAS AND FLACO... THE ONLY SURVIVORS OF THE MASSACRE...
GOD DAMN! BUSINESS HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER SINCE FLACO AND PETER RIO HAD TO TAKE OVER, SO CILINGIS AND ME WERE GIVEN THE GO AHEAD TO START UP OUR OWN BRANCH OF OPERATIONS" AND THE LESS WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH FAGS AND FREAKS THE BETTER!
I KNOW YOU AND MOISES WON'T DISAPPOINT ME, CILINGIS...
YES, WE CAN ATTRIBUTE MUCH OF OUR SUCCESS TO PETER; IT WAS HIS SMOOTH TONGUE THAT CONVINCED GARZA'S PEOPLE A GANG WAR WOULD ONLY RUIN OPERATIONS FOR EVERYBODY.
AH, FLACO...I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE SO CLOSELY INVOLVED IF IT WEREN'T FOR CAPTAIN ORTIZ CLEARING ME OF THAT PHONEY COMMIE ACCUSATION...
WELL, I HAVE TO KEEP YOU HOODS OFF MY STREETS SOMEHOW!
PETER GAVE ISOBEL A BEAUTIFUL CHILD...
SEÑOR RIO...
PETER AND ISOBEL WERE IN LOVE...
SCARE CROW...
110

SEÑOR RIO...SOME GENTLEMEN TO..
JUAN, I TOLD YOU, I..
HAH..?
DOCHO, FABIO, RICKYBOY AND BLAS... THE DREAMS, THE NIGHTMARES OF YOUR PAST..
BLAS.!! HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU FIND..
LUBA!
...I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTINUE SEEING THAT CAPTAIN ORTIZ BEFORE YOUR HUSBAND PETER FINDS OUT!
LUBA, YOUR JOSELITO'S THE CHIEF OF POLICE!
HA HA HAA.. LUBA..! HA HAA..
HOW LONG BEFORE HE DECIDES YOU'RE TOO BIG OF A RISK TO HIS REPUTATION AND DROPS YOU HARD?
FORGET IT, LUCY; THIS IS TRUE LOVE HERE. LUBA QUIT THE DRUG BEFORE SHE COULD GET HOOKED AND QUIT SNEAKING OUT WITH US AT NIGHT IN CASE HER COP FOUND OUT AND DIDN'T LIKE IT.
HA! SOUNDS LIKE FEAR OF GETTING DUMPED TO ME, PEPA.
YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY!
LUBA!
TSK, OH..NOW WHAT?
LUBA HAS BEEN BLOATING UP LIKE A BALLOON THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, PEPA. WONDER WHO'S THE FATHER; PETER OR HER CAPTAIN JOSELITO?
I WOULDN'T GIVE UP USING THE DRUG FOR ANYBODY, LUCY; I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER WITH MY LIFE.
HA HA
HA HAA
YOU REMEMBER BLAS AND ME WERE IN A MUSICAL GROUP THE NIGHT WE MET, BABY? HERE IS THE REST OF LOS FRITOS!
HELLO..
REMEMBER FABIO? RICKY BOY? DOCHO?
GRUNT
HEP.
HELLO AGAIN!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DRINKS, JUAN.
..AND NOW YOU GUYS ARE THE HOTTEST COMBO TOURING! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW :CHOKE: PROUD I AM OF YOU! AND GREEN WITH ENVY!
IT'S ALL RICKY BOY'S DOING, PETER!
HE NEVER LET US GIVE UP; HE NEVER LOST FAITH!
MUSIC IS MY LIFE, PETER... MY LIFE --

HA HA HAA..
LOOKS LIKE PETER'S TAKING BETTER CARE OF YOU THAN EVEN HE PROBABLY EXPECTED...WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT YOU, EH?
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL NOW, WOMAN.
I GUESS WE BOTH DO...
HA HA HA HA A
HA HA...
..WELL, IT'S LATE AND WE'VE GOT TO BE IN FELIX BY TOMORROW.
FELIX IS NEAR THAT TOWN PALOMAR WHERE THEY COOK SOME CRAZY SOUP THAT CAN CURE A BROKEN HEART.
OHHH...WELL, I HATE THAT YOU HAVE TO GO SO SOON; ALL OF YOU...
YOU MIGHT NAME IT JOSELITOLITO IF IT'S A BOY, LUBA.
ALL RIGHT, PEPA; THAT'S ENOUGH..
...WE COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE IN THE BEGINNING, PETER.
WELL, THAT'S NICE, DOCHO; CHOKE I MEAN IT.
..I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN FOR AWHILE, BLAS; BUT IT STILL MIGHT BE A BIT DANGEROUS FOR YOU, SO I'VE GIVEN THE OFFICIAL WORD THAT YOU ARE NOT TO BE TOUCHED, OR..
AWWWWWW..
LUBA...IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU LOOKED..
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT.
YOU CAN'T BE PREGNANT, LUBA..
YOU CAN'T BE PREGNANT, LUBA..
YOU CAN'T BE.. YOU CAN'T BE..
HIC
JOSHELITO ZUMM ZUMM JOSHELITO ZUMM
HIC
NOT NOW! NOT..


PREGNANT...
JOSHELITO...
YOU MADE ME DO IT YOUR WAY, LUBA... IT'S YOUR FAULT...NOW WE WON'T KNOW WHOSE BABY IT IS...MINE, OR...
OH, GOD... I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, I..
I LET ORTIZ HAVE YOU...MAYBE IT WOULD BE HIS CHILD, LUBA...
ORTIZ SAVED MY REPUTATION, LUBA...I OWED HIM...
IF THE CHILD WAS ORTIZ'S I WOULDN'T THINK IT SO BAD, BUT..
THE CHANCE THAT IT COULD BE MINE.. GODDAMN YOU, LUBA...
AHH..
THE STUFF OF LIFE...
ZUMMM ZUMM ZUMM
AH...IT'LL BE A GIRL ANY WAY...
THERE WON'T BE ANY MYSTERIOUS COMPLICATIONS WITH YOUR WIFE'S PREGNANCY, SEÑOR; WILL THERE..?
YOUR WIFE WILL CARRY THE CHILD FULL TERM, AS AGREED.
AND THE CHILD WILL LIVE A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE WITH ITS NEW PARENTS, AS AGREED.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR POSITIVE BLOOD TEST RESULTS, SEÑOR RIO. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.

SALAS..DIDN'T ALWAYS SHOW YOU MUCH RESPECT IN PUBLIC, BLAS...BUT THAT NIGHT HE PROVED HIS LOVE FOR YOU...SACRIFICING HIS LIFE...
ISOBEL... GOD, HOW SHE MUST HAVE HATED ME... SHE WITH GARZA OUT FOR MY BLOOD...
ISOBEL LOVED YOU, PETER! SHE JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE WAS DOING ANY MORE...
HER MURDER...WAS A STREET ROBBERY THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SHOOT-OUT, OR..
AWWWW..
SO THE POLICE REPORT SAYS...
AND NOW THIS...EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE TAKEN AWAY.. ONE BY ONE..?
OH, DON'T YOU START FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF NOW, PETER; DON'T YOU..!
AS IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL SUFFER THE WORST OF IT!
YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE GETTING INTO FROM THE MOMENT YOU GOT ISOBEL THAT BABY..!
YOU DON'T EVEN CARE WHERE ISOBEL HID OUT THE CHILD BEFORE SHE CAME TO SEE GARZA...
GARZA YELLED... SCARECROW...
MY GOD, PETER..! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR YOUR WIFE..?
WHAT..? OF COURSE, I.. LUBA CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT A COP TRAILING HER, I'VE SEEN TO THAT..!
I DON'T MEAN LIKE A PIECE OF PROPERTY, MAN; I MEAN AS A PERSON, A..A..
I LOVE YOU, PETER... AND I KNOW YOU LOVED ISOBEL. DOESN'T LUBA DESERVE A LITTLE OF YOUR.. YOUR..
AWWW..
BUT, OF COURSE..! I.. WELL, SHE'S MY WIFE; OF COURSE I.. I.. LOVE..?
GLUG..
SCARECROW...GOD DAMN SCRAWNY LITTLE SCARECROW...
GURGLE..
OF ALL PEOPLE... RIO'S WIFE...RIO'S LITTLE SCARECROW.. THAT LITTLE...
GLETCH..
RIO'S WIFE.. GARZA; YOU BLIND SON OF A.. LITTLE SCARECROW..
RAPUNZEL RAPUNZEL.. LET DOWN YOUR THICK LONG RAVEN HAIR.. THAT I MAY CLIMB IT LIKE A STAIR..
PREGNANT..FEH!
WHAT DO LUCY AND PEPA KNOW? PREGNANT...
HIC!
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL THING TO BE HAVING A CHILD, LUBITA.
WHUFF- LONG AND BLACK AND THICK- WHUFF..
IT'S JUST TOO BAD I'M NOT HIC! EXPECTING ONE, ISN'T IT, JOSELITO? TCH..GIRL PUTS ON A FEW POUNDS...
STINKING SCREAMING LITTLE LEECH GOOD FOR NOTHING EXCEPT DRAINING A GIRL'S LIFE AWAY...
HIC!
HOTE
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, PETER'S ENTRUSTING OF ME TO SEE TO YOUR SAFETY HAS PROVEN HIS LOVE FOR YOU, LUBITA.. HAVING HIS CHILD WILL PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR HIM.
ALL THE HAIR OF YOUR BODY...THICK AND BLACK AND WONDERFUL...
WHUFF WHUFF
LOVE..? BUT, I.. WELL, I.. UH...
HIC!
LOVE..?
LUBA, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THOSE COPS PETER'S GOT FOLLOWING YOU AROUND AREN'T REALLY THERE TO SPY ON YOU AND YOUR POLICE CAPTAIN?
LUCY, THAT DRUG'S GOT YOU AS SILLY AS IT'S GOT PEPA! I'M SURE GLAD I QUIT WHEN I DID.
HIC!
WONDER WHAT-EVER HAPPENED TO MY PERSONAL GUARDIAN FRANKENSTEIN?
HIC!
114

COME TO WRING MY NECK NOW, GORGO? OR DO YOU LEAVE ALL OF THAT TO THE ELDER RIO?
EVERBODY'S AS FUNNY AS GARZA WAS THESE DAYS, CAPTAIN ORTIZ.
INCREDIBLE HOW FERMIN RIO HAS KEPT HIS NECK-SNAPPING HISTORY A SECRET FROM HIS SON AFTER ALL THESE YEARS; THEN, I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYONE MORE IN A STATE OF DENIAL THAN PETER RIO.
OF COURSE, YOU'RE JOKING CAPTAIN ORTIZ, OR YOU WOULD HAVE HAD FERMIN LOCKED UP YEARS AGO.
IF YOU MEAN DO I THINK FERMIN DID IN THE FAGGOT ISOBEL..? STREET ROBBERIES OFTEN END IN TRAGEDY, GORGO.
I PITY PETER RIO. ALWAYS LAST TO KNOW...
I WOULD SAY THAT WILL APPLY MORE TO HIS WIFE, CAPTAIN.
YES...MY LUBITA...
YOU'RE USUALLY THE FIRST TO KNOW EVERYTHING, GORGO; BUT NOT THIS TIME...
THAT I'VE BEEN SEEING HER...THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HER...
AND BEFORE YOU DO FIND OUT ABOUT IT ALL; THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE HER UP.
"AND THAT BASTARD GARZA WITH HIS TWO GUNS JUST THE WAY FAUSTO SALAS TAUGHT HIM; SPRAYING LEAD PISS ALL OVER.
DEAD BASTARD GARZA.
THE SAME TWO GUN STYLE THAT KILLED SALAS' OWN SON... A KIND OF IRONY THAT WILL BE AVERTED FROM NOW ON, SEÑOR FLACO.
YEAH...YOU JOINING UP WITH MOISES' AND CILINGIS' PEOPLE WILL HELP KEEP SUCH IRONIES FROM STINKING UPWARD, SEÑOR RIO...
SO WHO AM I, YOU ASK?
MAYBE THE WORST OF ALL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
GO AHEAD. THINK OF THE WORST, BUT KNOW THAT I AM WELL BEYOND IT, THANK YOU.
BECAUSE WHAT I DO IS VIOLATE WHAT IS MOST SACRED FOR MY REASONS; HOWEVER ALTRUISTIC!
MY REASONS SAVE LIVES AND FEED THE HUNGRY, HEAL THE SICK...MY CHRIST-LIKE REASONS.
ONE DAY I WILL DIE AND PROBABLY SUFFER ETERNAL HORROR FOR MY VIOLATIONS UNLESS I REPENT.
THEREFORE TO EVADE THE INFERNO'S STING, I WILL DISGUISE MYSELF AND CONFESS ALL TO THE PROPER EARS AND SQUEEZE MYSELF INTO HEAVEN...
AS IF A SIMPLE DISGUISE MIGHT FOOL THE LORD..? HELL, IT WORKS FOR SATAN!
WE ALL HAVE OUR CONFESSIONS AND DISGUISES, DOC.
MY FATHER IS DOING WHAT?
115

I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, SEÑOR RIO; BUT I FEEL IT'S A SHAME YOUR SON STILL WON'T ALLOW YOU INTO THE BUSINESS DESPITE ITS GREAT FLOWERING.
AAAH, FORGET THAT, CILINGIS! SEÑOR RIO'S WITH US NOW AND THAT RIO LUCK'S GOING TO HELP US MATCH THEIR SUCCESS IN NO TIME.
OLE
WELL THEN, SEÑOR BIG STUFF! IF YOU'LL BE WORKING OUT OF TOWN, THEN YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR NEW ACCOMMODATIONS, WON'T YOU?!
PETER..! HE'S YOUR FATHER..! PAPA FERMIN, YOU CAN'T GO..!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LUBA. I'LL COME SEE YOU OFTEN...
YOU KNOW THIS DECISION IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS ALL ABOUND, PETER.
AH...PETER NEEDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THE ONE TO GET RID OF ISOBEL, SEÑOR RIO. SHE WAS WITH GARZA...AND A BIG MOUTH ALWAYS GETS SHUT SOONER OR LATER.
ANYBODY..WHO TRYS TO HARM MY BOY OR MY BABY GIRL LUBITA..THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH PAPA, GORGO.
GARZA'S FATE WAS A SIMPLE ACT OF PROVIDENCE.
STILL, I WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IF PETER ALLOWED ME TO MONITOR HIS WIFE'S SAFETY AGAIN. SHE'S JUST A CHILD...
LEAVE ALL THAT TO THE POLICE, GORGO. COPS SHOULD BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING. ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT.
AND I DON'T NEED A GOD DAMN NURSE BECAUSE I'M NOT PREGNANT!!! GET HER THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!
MADAM..!
THE HELL WITH HER! YOUR HOUSEKEEPER WILL DO FINE WATCHING OVER YOUR WIFE, SEÑOR RIO.
JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.
HEH...I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO CUT OFF THAT MUCH, JOSELITO.. HOPE MY HUSBAND DOESN'T GET SUSPICIOUS...
I WANTED SOMETHING TO REMEMBER OUR TIMES TOGETHER, LUBITA...IT HAS BECOME TOO DANGEROUS FOR US TO CONTINUE MEETING...
YOU...KNEW THIS WAS COMING SOMEDAY, LUBITA...
B-BUT, WHY CAN'T WE SEE EACH OTHER ANY MORE? I'M NOT SCARED OF.. YOU'RE A COP! YOU COULD JUST SHOOT ANYBODY WHO..
YOU'LL BE HAVING A FAMILY NOW, LUBITA... LIVE YOUR LIFE IN HAPPINESS WITHOUT SECRETS, SUSPICION OR GUILT...
AH.. THE FUTURE SEÑORA ORTIZ...
116

SO...JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A FEW HUNDRED MILES AWAY YOU SOMEHOW FORGOT HOW TO PICK UP A PHONE, BLAS?
ZOING ZANG
BUT I'M HERE NOW, JAVIER. ISN'T THAT WHAT'S IMPORTANT?
HEY...DON'T BE SO STINGY WITH THAT STUFF, PEPA... HOW ABOUT A LITTLE LIFT FOR THIS ONE?
OH, SURE, LUBA; YOU ALREADY QUIT! IF YOU DO IT AGAIN YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO QUIT SO EASY NEXT TIME! BESIDES, YOUR BABY...
HA! LUBA CARES AS MUCH ABOUT HER BABY AS HER JOSELITO CARED ABOUT HER!
GIVE ME THAT, LUCY! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO CAN HANDLE WHAT!
LUBA, PEPA'S RIGHT! YOUR BABY COULD TURN OUT DEAD, OR... LIKE A FREAK OR SOMETHING!
TSK! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO, LUBA!
OWW...!
AH, SEE? YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WITH THAT FROM NOW ON, LUBA! I WON'T HELP YOU WITH IT EVER AGAIN!
ME, NEITHER; YOU'RE CRABBY ENOUGH WITHOUT IT!
LET'S GO, LUCY!
A DISGUISED VOICE... LIKE IN THE MOVIES...
SAID CAPTAIN ORTIZ HAS BEEN SECRETLY FORCING LUBA TO SEE HIM FOR MONTHS NOW, SEÑOR RIO...
AND...ONE OF CILINGIS' MEN HAS BEEN SUPPLYING LUBA AND HER FRIENDS WITH DRUGS FOR EVEN LONGER...
JUST WHEN YOU THINK NOTHING CAN GET PAST YOU ANYMORE.
NEVER MIND, GORGO.
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO GET THEIRS BEGINNING NOW, BLAS.
MADAM HAS BEEN SO QUIET FOR THE LONGEST TIME, SERAFINA.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, JUAN.
MADAM?
117

L-LUCY..?
PEPA...
OH SHIT
SERAFINA..!
OH, SHIT..! I-I DID IT WRONG.. I DID IT.. I-I..
BLURRRPP..! GODDAMN SON OF A..
OH, GOD.. OH, GOD.. OH, GOD.. BLURPPT.. D-DON'T YOU TELL PETER, SERAF.. DON'T YOU TELL MY HUSB.. OH, GOD.. BLURRPPT.. OH SHIT.. SON OF A..
OH SHIT..
OH SHIT..
HHGGGNGH.. DON'T CALL NO DOCTOR.. DON'T CALL PETER.. DON'T.. OH, GOD.. VSSHH.. YOU LITTLE LEECH.. TAKE THAT, YOU LITTLE.. LITTLE.. HA HA HA..
OH, GOD.. WHAT HAVE I DONE.. WHAT HAVE I..
SOB:
BLATCH..
SNORRT!
IT'LL PASS.. IT'LL PASS.. OH SHIT.. OH SHIT.. SOB.. PETERR.. SOB.. OH, DADDY!
NO HOSPITAL.. AAUUGH.. LITTLE SHIT LEECH.. AAUUUGH.. I'LL KILL YOU ALL.. NO HOSPITAL.. AAAAGGH.. NO HOSPITAL.. I'LL KILL YOU ALL..!!
TO THE HOSPITAL, DRIVER!
TAXI
YOU FUCKERS, YOU DIRTY FAGGOTS..!
SEÑORA RIO'S HERE, DOCTOR.
I'M SORRY, SEÑOR RIO...
118

OH, YEAH...THOSE THREE HOUSEWIVES? SURE... I WOULDN'T SELL THEM BAD DOPE FOR THE WORLD; NO SIR.
THAT PEPA...
FUNNY HOW YOU'RE WORKING WITH US NOW AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO KNOW THEM LOVELIES FROM BEFORE.
I NEVER MET THE OTHER TWO. NICE?
THE CHILD WILL ENJOY A LIFE FAR MORE PRIVILEGED THAN ONE THE RIOS COULD EVER PROVIDE, DOC... A FUTURE IN HONEST POLITICS OR IN THE CLERGY AWAIT HIS CHOOSING...
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW HOSPITAL WING YOU WERE PROMISED ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY...
SHHH... SHHHH...
OLD QUEEQUEG...
GOOD OLD QUEE..
THUMP
....
NO, IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU HAD IT IN A HOSPITAL, LUBA; MAYBE IF YOU'D WANTED THE BABY... SIGH..
LUBA, THEY DIDN'T LET ME SEE HIM EITHER... HE'S GONE.
PETER...IF MY LITTLE ARMANDO JOSE REALLY IS.. DEAD...WHY DIDN'T THEY LET ME SEE HIM..?
GRUNT...
GODDAMN ORTIZ... RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES.. NOW I KNOW HE WAS THE SWINE WHO WANTED ME OUT OF THE PICTURE...!
NEVER MIND...
AS LONG AS HE DIDN'T HURT HER... WEAKEST NECK I'VE EVER THROTTLED...
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
..AND IT IS MY PERSONAL PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE FOR THE FIRST TIME TOGETHER ON ANY STAGE..
119

..AND IT IS MY PERSONAL PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE FOR THE FIRST TIME TOGETHER ON ANY STAGE; TO WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR NINETEEN-FIFTY SEVEN..
..FERMIN RIO AND HIS SON PETER!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
TALK TO HIM, SEÑOR SALAS; HE'S GETTING TO BE SUCH AN OLD WOMAN..!
I-I JUST DON'T FEEL SAFE IN THE BUSINESS ANY MORE, SEÑOR SALAS...DEALING IN CONTRABAND HAS GOTTEN SO DANGEROUS.. I-I'VE GOT A FAMILY...
PLEASE, SEÑOR PAZ; MY CLUB IS YOUR SANCTUARY FROM THE DARK SIDE OF THE BUSINESS WORLD. PLEASE RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELF...AT LEAST FOR ME.
THERE'S GARZA WITH HIS NEWEST FLOWER.. GOOD GOD, BUT SHE'S A LOT OF WOMAN FOR JUST ONE GUY..!
MARIA'S A LOT OF WOMAN FOR A LOT OF GUYS, BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THAT FERMIN RIO LEADS THE BEST COMBO IN TOWN!
YES, SEÑOR GARZA.
SEÑOR SALAS, THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, LEFTIST ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH HAS WANED CONSIDERABLY; ESPECIALLY AFTER THE EXAMPLE THAT WAS MADE LAST MONTH..
OH, I CAN'T TAKE ANY CREDIT FOR THAT EPISODE, SEÑOR GARZA...IT'S STILL UNCLEAR WHO CONTRIVED SUCH A BRUTAL.. DIDN'T ONE OF THE WOMEN ESCAPE ALIVE..?
SHE'LL BE FOUND SOON ENOUGH, SEÑOR; I GUARANTEE..
EH..
PERHAPS THIS ISN'T THE PLACE TO DISCUSS IT, SEÑOR...
I HAVE TO TALK WITH SEÑOR SALAS ABOUT SOME BUSINESS, MARIA; GRAB YOURSELF A COUPLE OF STIFF ONES...AND I DO MEAN DRINKS.
ZUMM ZUMM
WONDERFUL, SEÑOR RIO; YOU AND YOUR PAPA WORKING TOGETHER LIKE THAT...
THANK YOU, SEÑOR SALAS...
AND WHEN WILL WE FINALLY SEE YOU WORKING WITH YOUR FATHER, SALAS?
EH...THERE ARE THE SUPERFICIAL MOTIONS OF BIG BUSINESS THAT I'VE STILL GOT TO GET USED TO, RIO.
AH...WELL, IF I CAN PRETEND TO LIKE PLAYING MUSIC WITH MY FATHER, YOU CAN PRETEND TO FIND WOMEN ATTRACTIVE.
126

TWELVE

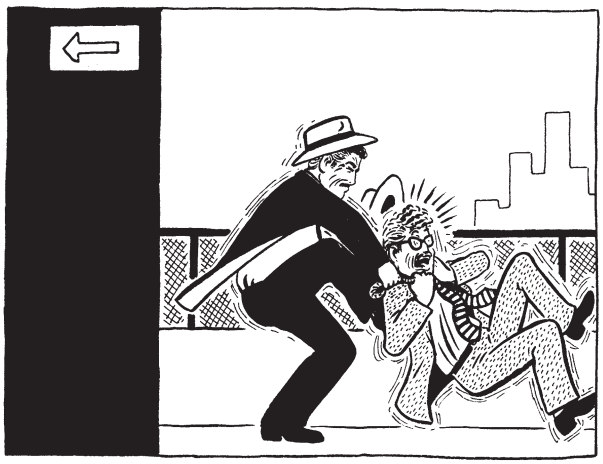
MARIA

..YOU MAY NOT BE IN TOWN LONG?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO JOIN YOUR FATHER'S COMBO! PETER, I THOUGHT..
I NEVER SAID I WOULD; EVERYBODY ELSE SAID SO...I'LL BE HITTING THE ROAD WITH MY OWN GROUP...AS SOON AS I CAN GET ONE TOGETHER.
OH, PETER... THAT AGAIN..? FORTY-THREE YEARS OLD GOING ON SIXTEEN! WHAT A WASTE...GLAD I DIDN'T LEAVE GARZA FOR YOU...!
AS IF YOU WERE GOING TO IN THE FIRST PLACE, RAMONA.
MAKE SURE MY FATHER DOESN'T SEE YOU ON THE WAY OUT, HM?
HOTEL
BUMP
TEE HEE
SHHHH
BUMP BUMP
ZZZZ
HUH.?
AH..
PAPA..?
HOTEL
HERE..RIGHT HERE IN THE HALL..
HEH HEH HEH...
PAPA, SHE'S GARZA'S GIRL! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUT..
SHE'S WHO'S EVER GIRL SHE WANTS TO BE, BOY. AND WHO'S GONNA TELL HIM?
SURE, THAT WORM PAZ DOESN'T FOOL ME; HE'S TRYING TO BACK OUT OF THE BUSINESS BEFORE HIS LEFTIST SYMPATHIES CAN BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT.
122

GARZA'S CRAZY! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY COMMUNIST THIS OR THAT -- I JUST WANT OUT FOR MY FAMILY'S SAKE, SEÑOR SALAS! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME--!
RELAX SEÑOR PAZ... I REALIZE SEÑOR GARZA IS --WELL...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, PAZ...

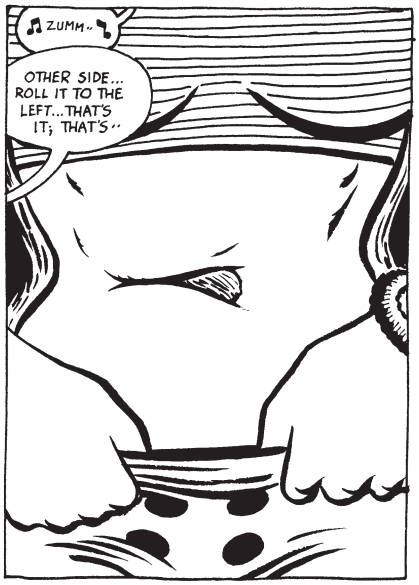
HAPPY, SEÑORA GARZA?
AS A CLAM, SEÑOR GARZA.
BORGES

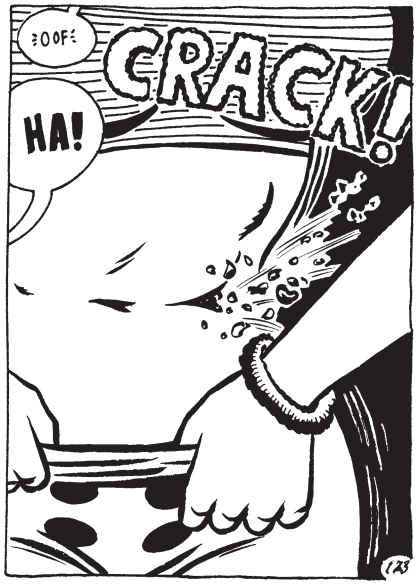
SEÑOR GARZA'S GOT A PROBLEM THAT COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME EVERYONE'S, FERMIN.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF GARZA'S ITCH, SEÑOR SALAS...
IF YOU CAN MAKE SURE NOBODY KNOWS WHO DID IT...



TO GOD-- WHO MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...
TO DEMOCRACY AND A POLITICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS...
TOODLE-OO TO POOR OL' SEÑOR PAZ.

AH...!
AH!
NO GRABBING!

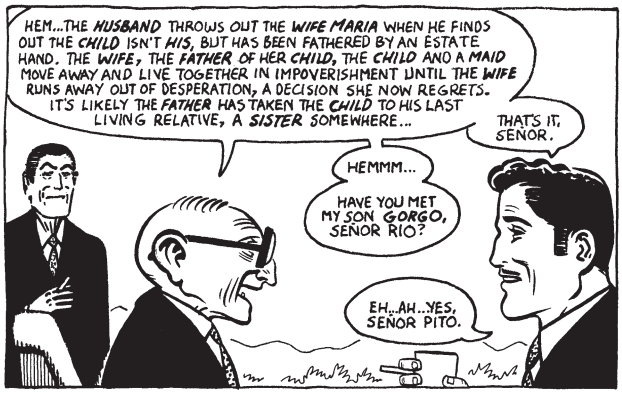

ZUMM..
OTHER SIDE... ROLL IT TO THE LEFT... THAT'S IT; THAT'S..

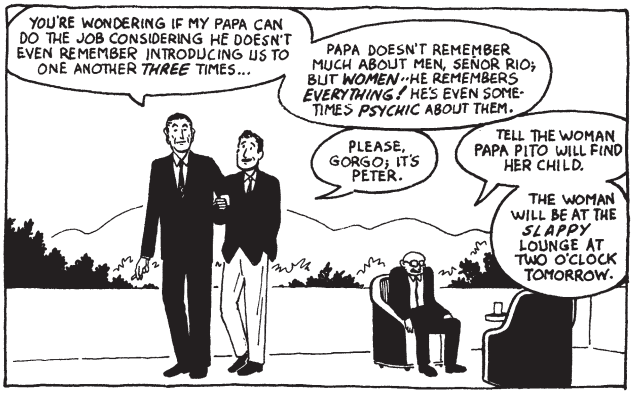

OOF
CRACK!
HA!

IS THAT TALENT OR WHAT, BOY? GOT HER EIGHTH PLACE IN THE MISS IONOSFERA BEAUTY PAGEANT OF NINETEEN FORTY-EIGHT!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
I WAS SIXTEEN.
..COULD'VE EASILY PLACED AT LEAST THIRD HAD I IGNORED ADVICE TO BE MORE DEMURE IN THE JUDGE'S EYES.
I REGRET..
IN HAVING CRACKED ONLY TWO WALNUTS AT ONCE INSTEAD OF THE FIVE AS PLANNED..
..THEREFORE I AM...
WHAT'S WRONG, PETER? YOU STILL WORRIED GARZA'S GOING TO CATCH ME AND FERMIN TOGETHER?
ANYBODY WHO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME LOOKING UNDER EVERY ROCK FOR SPIES CAN'T BE TOO ALERT, SON.
OH, NO, IT'S NOT THAT, IT'S.. HEH.. WELL, HEH...
OH, DON'T TALK ABOUT GARZA LIKE THAT, FERMIN; HE RESPECTS YOU SO MUCH AS AN ARTIST...
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! SHE FANCIES THAT CROOK! SHE FANCIES HIM, YET SHE DOESN'T CALL HIM BY HIS FIRST NAME EITHER! WHAT A ROMANCE!
PETER...
OH, GOD...
I..I KNOW I DON'T KNOW YOU, MARIA, BUT I KNOW THAT.. I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU..
WHINE..
...WONDERFUL WOMAN THOUGH MY WIFE IS, MARIA; SHE IS BARREN.
YOU ARE SO FINE AND STRONG, MARIA...YOU COULD GIVE ME AN ARMY OF GARZA'S TO LEAD THE WAR AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS OF FREEDOM.
CHILDREN..?
MARIA..!
MARIA, IT DOESN'T MATTER! I LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT..
OH, GOD..PETER, WHAT HAVE I DONE.. WHAT HAVE I..
OH GOD..
LOOK.. WE'LL FIND YOUR DAUGHTER, AND AND WE'LL HAVE A FAMILY AND AND..
SHE CAN'T BE SO HARD TO FIND, MARIA... HOW MANY THREE YEAR OLD GIRLS NAMED LUBA CAN THERE BE IN THIS COUNTRY?
MARIA...
:SOB:
124

FERMIN, THERE IS NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU AND GARZA, I SWEAR..!
OWW..!
LYING BITCH..! THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHO, MARIA; OR..

EH...SEÑOR PITO..?
HEMMMM.
HE'S STILL WITH YOU, SEÑOR RIO.


HEM...THE HUSBAND THROWS OUT THE WIFE MARIA WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE CHILD ISN'T HIS, BUT HAS BEEN FATHERED BY AN ESTATE HAND. THE WIFE, THE FATHER OF HER CHILD, THE CHILD AND A MAID MOVE AWAY AND LIVE TOGETHER IN IMPOVERISHMENT UNTIL THE WIFE RUNS AWAY OUT OF DESPERATION, A DECISION SHE NOW REGRETS. IT'S LIKELY THE FATHER HAS TAKEN THE CHILD TO HIS LAST LIVING RELATIVE, A SISTER SOMEWHERE...
THAT'S IT, SEÑOR.
HEMMM...
HAVE YOU MET MY SON GORGO, SEÑOR RIO?
EH..AH..YES, SEÑOR PITO.


YOU'RE WONDERING IF MY PAPA CAN DO THE JOB CONSIDERING HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER INTRODUCING US TO ONE ANOTHER THREE TIMES...
PAPA DOESN'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MEN, SEÑOR RIO; BUT WOMEN..HE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING! HE'S EVEN SOMETIMES PSYCHIC ABOUT THEM.
PLEASE, GORGO; IT'S PETER.
TELL THE WOMAN PAPA PITO WILL FIND HER CHILD.
THE WOMAN WILL BE AT THE SLAPPY LOUNGE AT TWO O'CLOCK TOMORROW.

BLAM..BLAM..BLAM

HAH?! WHO DID THAT TO YOU, MARIA..?! HAH?! WHO HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING THAT WOULD DO THAT TO YOU?!!
IT WASH NOBODY, GARZA...
I WALKED INTO A DOOR...
I FELL DOWN THE SHTAIRSH.
MY PARACHUTE WOULDN'T OPEN..

SEÑOR GARZA! WHAT IS IT..?!
YOU IDIOT! CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S NOT DRESSED..?! UNLESS YOU'VE SEEN HER LIKE THIS BEFORE..?!!

WAS IT YOU ?!! HAH?!! WAS IT..?!
AND NOW YOU'VE COME TO RESCUE YOUR CHEATING SLUT..!!
GARZA, SHTOP IT..! HE DION'T DO ANYTHING! SHTOP!!
125

GET-GET-GET OUT, MARIA··GET YOUR THINGS AND GET··OUT··!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT··GET OUT OF MY LIFE ··!
PETER, HOW DID YOU KNOW TO FIND ME HERE? WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER IN PUBLIC! YOU BETTER GO BEFORE YOUR PAPA··
OH, PETER··
I DON'T CARE IF HE·· MARIA, SEÑOR PITO WILL FIND YOUR DAUGHTER IN NO TIME··!
SEÑOR PITO IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO YOUR HUSBAND'S ESTATE TO TALK TO THE HANDS THERE ABOUT WHERE YOUR DAUGHTER'S FATHER'S SISTER LIVES, AND··AND··
PETER, I WASHN'T IN THE BESHT OF SHAPE WHEN I TOLD YOU ALL THAT ABOUT··JUSHT FORGET IT, OK? IT'SH ALL OUT OF MY LIFE FOR GOOD NOW, ALL RIGHT?
MARIA···WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO·· MARIA, ARE YOU HURT?
PETER, IT'SH NOTHING. PLEASHE GO! I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER··!
WELL··· THIS IS·· I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WHO, MARIA···
OH, GOD···
HHUUUUHHH···
GARZA SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT HIMSELF.
AHH, WHY NOT? WHATEVER IS MINE IS YOURS, PETER.
ONLY A PUNCH OR TWO···IT'S NOTHING, EH, PAPA? LIKE IT WAS NOTHING TO MAMA, EITHER, WAS IT, PAPA? NOTHING··
AUGH··!
YOU WANT TO SHOW DISRESPECT TO ME, HAH?! I HAVE CARRIED YOUR LAZY, WORTHLESS ASS THROUGH LIFE AND YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, SOME SELF-MADE MAN··
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON BETWEEN YOU AND PETER, MARIA···
TAXI
126

..GARZA AND HIS WIFE..!
THE BASTARD'LL RECOGNIZE MARIA FOR SURE..!
OH, PLEASE DON'T GO AWAY MAD, LOVER! AFTER WE'RE MARRIED THINGS'LL BE DIFFERENT..!
HELLO..?
DID YOU...KNOW THAT WOMAN..?
DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUNGER MAN?
NO!
THEN WHY DID YOU MAKE THAT FACE?
WHAT FACE?
I'M TAKING MARIA FAR AWAY FROM HERE, PAPA; SHE WON'T BE ABUSED BY ANYBODY EVER AGAIN.
THEN GOOD RIDDANCE TO THE BOTH OF YOU..!
WHAT? AND LEAVE ALL THIS EXCITEMENT AND ROMANCE BEHIND?
I SAW YOUR FACE WHEN THAT MAN CAME OUT..!
MY FACE WAS LIKE THAT BECAUSE OF YOUR FACE WHEN THAT WOMAN WALKED OUT..!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU LEFT BEHIND THE JEWELRY BOX FOR YOUR DAUGHTER, OR IF YOU SIMPLY FORGOT IT WHEN YOU LEFT HER, MARIA; IF THE CHILD STILL HAS IT WHEN WE FIND HER AND IT'S STILL FILLED WITH PHOTOS OF THE BOTH OF YOU...
NOW IF IT WAS HIS OLD MAN THEY WERE BOTH SEEING... HIM AT LEAST I CAN RESPECT, BUT HIS WHELP..?
OH, BUT YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT PETER RIO, SEÑOR GARZA... HE IS A TRUSTWORTHY..
FEH... WELL, I AM RELIEVED OF ONE BURDEN, SALAS; NOW HE'S GOT TO SUFFER MARIA AND HER WHINING ABOUT HER LONG LOST BRAT...
127

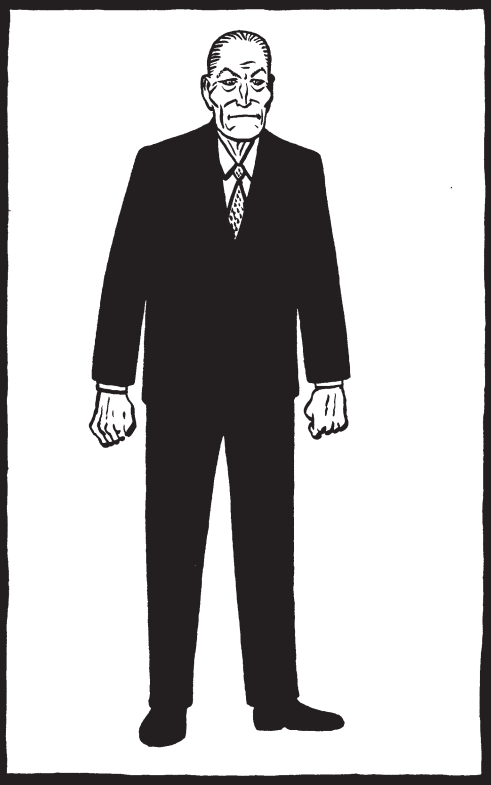
NO, NO; I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WAITING FOR YOU.
YES, PETER. BYE BYE.
THIS BUS WILL GET YOU TO CHILO WHERE YOU'LL CATCH THE TRAIN TO ALAMEN, THEN...
GOOD. JUST GET ME THE HELL OUT OF...
MARIA...
STAY WITH ME, MARIA.
I PROMISE NEVER TO HIT YOU AGAIN...
WE'LL GET MARRIED...
ALL RIGHT, FERMIN.
I NEED THE BUS TO CHILO AND THEN CATCH THE TRAIN TO...
MARIA...
I...FORGIVE YOU, MARIA.
I'LL DIVORCE MY WIFE...
WE'LL GET MARRIED...
ALL RIGHT, GARZA.
HA!
THOSE PEOPLE CAN SAY THEY ALWAYS SLEEP WELL BECAUSE THEY GO TO BED WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, BUT I SAY IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THEY'VE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THEIR CRIMES ARE JUSTIFIED.
MARIA..?
MAR..?
M..?
128

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, GORGO. SHE JUST... LEFT WITHOUT A WORD.. SHE MUST HAVE GOT SCARED...
PAPA'S ALREADY ON THE TRAIL OF THE DAUGHTER, PETER; HE CAN'T JUST DROP IT AND GO AFTER THE MOTHER.
I CAN DO THAT.
I-I'LL GET THE EXTRA MONEY, GORGO...
HAH! SEÑOR BIG STUFF LOVERBOY! COW RAN OUT ON YOU, EH? WELL, BETTER YOU THAN ME!
AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK TO PLAY IN MY COMBO AGAIN AFTER..
GET OUT!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP..
WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER PERCUSSIONIST, SEÑOR RIO; BUT YOUR WELL-KNOWN MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE SORELY MISSING FROM THIS COMBO.
TOURING MANAGER, EH...
SO THAT'S THE GUY WHO'S BEEN FOLLOWING YOU, EH, MARIA?
OK, BABY; I'LL HAVE HIM TAKEN CARE OF..
PETER, YOU CAN'T CONTINUE PINING AWAY FOR THAT WOMAN FOREVER.. LOOK, I CAN CONNECT YOU WITH PEOPLE WHO'VE ACCESS TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD; IN ANY AND ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.. ACROBATS, CHEMISTS, BANKERS, FEMINISTS, POETS, CHANGELINGS...
SIGH... IF IT PLEASES YOU SO, SEÑOR SALAS...
DEAR GOD...
WELL..!
IF YOU WANTED ME THAT BAD, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK...
129

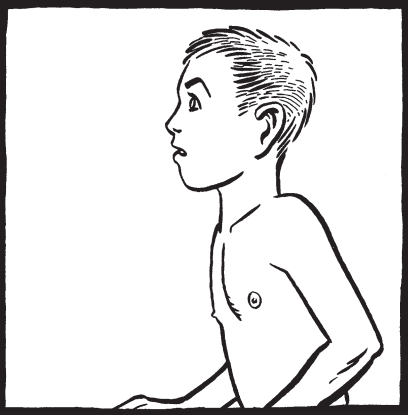
NO..? MM.
SIGH... ALL RIGHT THEN...TAKE ME BACK TO WHOEVER SENT YOU.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE..?
HOW ARE THE PEAS?
F-FINE...
IF I EVER SEE YOU BACK IN THIS COUNTRY...
..FLIGHT 206
DON'T WORRY, I HEAR CALIFORNIA WEATHER'S LIKE OURS ALL YEAR ROUND.
I'LL SEND YOU A CARD.
NO, GORGO...IF YOU HAVEN'T FOUND HER BY NOW...
AHH...IF SHE WANTED TO COME BACK TO ME SHE'D COME BACK.
LIKE THIS?
NO! DON'T BOUNCE THEM! TRY TO CRACK THEM! CRACK THEM!
THAP!
I DO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, GORGO; BUT NOW I THINK IT'S TIME TO GET ON WITH OUR LIVES.
HEMM...AS IT HAPPENS, THE FATHER RUNS AWAY HIMSELF LEAVING HIS CHILD WITH HIS SISTER AND NIECE!
IN TURN, THE SISTER, THE NIECE AND THE CHILD SNEAK OUT OF TOWN AFTER THE NIECE'S FRIENDS ARE MYSTERIOUSLY MURDERED. NOW, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY RAN OFF TO, AND WHO, IF ANYBODY, HELPED THEM GET OUT, SEÑOR RIO.
OH, BUT I AM GREATLY INTERESTED, BOY. FORGET THE MONEY. THIS IS MY CHALLENGE NOW.
HEMM.
SEÑOR PITO, THERE'S NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS. THERE'S NO POINT.
PLEASE, SEÑOR PITO, I HAVE LITTLE MONEY OR INTEREST IN THIS ANY~
SIGH...AS YOU WISH, SEÑOR.
..SPOKE TO PAPA ON THE PHONE LAST NIGHT, SEÑOR RIO. SAYS TO SAY HELLO AND WISHES WE WERE THERE.
MY GOD, HE'S BEEN AT IT FOR AS MANY YEARS AS THE NUMBER OF COMBOS I'VE GONE THROUGH, GORGO.
THIS IS THE PLACE, GORGO. PAPA'S BEEN HERE FOR A FEW MONTHS.
I'M WARNING YOU, GENTLEMEN. YOU DON'T WANT TO GO IN THERE..!
CLUB
..AND PLEASE WELCOME OUR STAR ATTRACTION; ISOBEL..
130

AHH, WHEN YOUNG SALAS TOOK OVER AFTER HIS OLD MAN PASSED ON IT JUST WASN'T THE SAME...I WON'T WORK FOR A KID, PETER...SO HERE I AM...
YOUNG SALAS ISN'T THE WORST BOSS TO HAVE, PAPA. I'M TOLD THE OTHER YOUNGER CLUB OWNERS ARE STARTING TO SOLICIT THAT DISPICABLE BEATLE SWILL.
NOW IT TURNS OUT YOUNG SALAS MAY BE BUYING THESE PEOPLE OUT AS WELL...
HEH, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, THOUGH; I WON'T WORRY ABOUT YOU STEALING MY WOMAN THIS TIME, BOY. ISOBEL'S CHARMS AREN'T FOR EVERYBODY, I CAN ASSURE YOU.
I KNEW YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU, PETER... I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE LIKE YOUR FATHER...
GRRNR..
I MUST BE INSANE... I MUST BE INSANE...
EPH..
HA HA HAAAA!
HELL; AGAIN! HAD ISOBEL TOLD ME YOU WERE THE ONE SHE HAD BEEN SEEING ON THE SLY I MIGHT HAVE SPARED HER A FEW LUMPS, SON!
HA HA HAA..!
AHH... IT WAS NOTHING, EH, PAPA..?
PETER, LET'S FORGET IT...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH THAT..!! LEAVE YOUR POOR MOTHER ALONE, FOR GOD'S SAKE!! SHE'S..SHE'S..
WELL, BE MY GUEST, BOY! BUT THIS TIME YOU BETTER PUT A LEASH ON HER!
I'M TAKING ISOBEL AWAY FROM HERE, PAPA...
..OK OK, SO THE GROUP'S NEVER DONE BETTER SINCE PETER JOINED UP; BUT DOES HE HAVE TO KEEP THAT.. PERSON AROUND ALL THE TIME, BLAS?
AWWWW..
ISOBEL'S ALL RIGHT, DOCHO. SHE'S PROBABLY THE REASON PETER DOES HIS WORK SO WELL...DON'T KNOCK IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR ME BY LETTING ME STICK IT INTO YOU FOR A CHANGE, PETER...BUT YOU SAID..
I..I DO LOVE YOU, ISOBEL...ALL RIGHT, MAYBE I CAN GET YOU THE HOME YOU WANT..
YOU SAID YOU HAVE THE MEANS, PETER... I WANT A NORMAL LIFE SO MUCH... A BABY...
OH, WHY DID I TELL YOU THAT? GOD, I WAS DRUNK AND BOASTING.
IF YOU TRULY LOVED ME...
FGGN..
131

DON'T STOP...
PLAY, DOCHO...
CHALANG... ZAANG...
YOU TOO, RICKY BOY.
PLAY...
ZEEEEEEEEEEE...
VOX
STRANGE...YOUR MUSIC IS STRANGE AND MAKES ME NERVOUS. WHO'S IT FOR..?
THUMPA THUMP..
THE SOUNDS OF LOS FRITOS IS UNIQUE AND MODERN, ISOBEL; WE COMBINE TRADITIONAL LATIN RHYTHMS LAYERED WITH CONTEMPORARY PSYCHEDELIC EFFECTS. OUR AUDIENCE IS ANYONE WITH ADVENTURE IN THEIR SOUL AND SOUL IN THEIR FEET.
ZAANG...
AN UNEASY MIX OF THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW.
A LITTLE BIT, LIKE ME, EH..?
THERE'LL BE NO SELF-PITY WHILE I'M AROUND, GIRL.
LET'S HIT IT, BOYS.
ADVENTURE IN THEIR SOUL AND SOUL IN THEIR FEET.
HOO-CHA!
YEAH!
GROOVY!
SOCK IT TO ME!
WHEN I GREW UP AS A BOY I SAW THE PROMISE OF EARNING THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM...
NOW I SEE ALL A GIRL CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IS A LIFE AS A SLAVE OR A PET OR GARBAGE...
I'M A VERY LUCKY PERSON, PETER...
ISOBEL...
OH, IT'S NOTHING, PETER.
REALLY.
ISOBEL, IT'S ALL ARRANGED...
ALL OF IT.
132



GORGO



THIRTEEN

YOU KNOW...I GOT TOGETHER WITH ISOBEL TO SPITE MY FATHER AGAIN.. TO HURT HIM...BUT I NEVER EXPECTED...
I SUPPOSE I LOVED MARIA TO SOME DEGREE, BLAS; BUT I'M SURE I WAS MOSTLY DUMBSTRUCK BY HER IMPOSSIBLE BEAUTY...YOU KNOW, LIKE A KID.
..BUT ISOBEL! MY GOD ISOBEL! SHE MAKES ME FORGET EVEN THE CURVIEST WOMAN'S BELLY, THE DEEPEST OF NAVELS.
THE HOME, THE SEX CHANGE; MAYBE, PETER; BUT A BABY! I KNOW YOU'VE GOT THE CONNECTIONS, BUT...
AWWWW..
YOUR ISOBEL WILL GET HER CHILD, SEÑOR RIO.
AND ONE DAY WE WILL CONSUMMATE THIS TRANSACTION.
THE OLD GUY GAVE ME A HUNDRED JUST TO MAIL THIS LETTER.
WANTED; MORE CUSTOMERS LIKE..
TINKLE..
WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT, PETER?! WITH A "A" WOMAN?!!
THAT'S RIGHT..! A REAL WOMAN, ISOBEL! A REAL WOMAN..
OHH..!
WAAAA
...HE FOUND THE CHILD, SEÑOR RIO; SHE'S ALIVE AND WELL AND FAIRLY EASY TO LOCATE.
PAPA...DIED A SATISFIED MAN. WE SHOULD ALL BE SO LUCKY...
ALL RIGHT, GORGO.
MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL.
134

PETER, SINCE WITH ALL YOUR TRAVELLING AND HAVING LITTLE TIME TO SEE ME AND ARJELIA, YOU COULD TRY TO DISPLAY A BETTER ATTITUDE IN FRONT OF YOUR DAUGHTER.
MAYBE I WILL WHEN YOU THROW THAT HORRID PEDRO PACOTILLA DOLL INTO THE TRASH WHERE IT BELONGS, ISOBEL.
PEDRO
ALL RIGHT, GORGO... I THINK I CAN WORK IT THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOUR WE CAN PLAY THAT VILLAGE AND THOSE SURROUNDING IT.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR ENTHUSIASM MAY HAVE DIMINISHED A LITTLE THROUGHOUT THE TWELVE ODD YEARS SINCE PAPA BEGAN HIS MISSION, SEÑOR RIO, BUT..
(SIGH)
..BUT HIS MISSION IS INCOMPLETE UNLESS I FOLLOW IT THROUGH, RIGHT?
THANK YOU, SEÑOR.
PERHAPS WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AGAIN SOMETIME.
THESE TOWNS HAVE GOT TO BE THE WORST DUMPS PETER'S EVER BOOKED US YET! IT'S NO WONDER WE'RE LOSING MONEY BY THE TONS!
C'MON, DOCHO, DO IT FOR THE MUSIC; ALWAYS FOR THE MUSIC!
AWWWWW, LISTEN TO RICKY BOY, DOCHO. AND HAVE SOME FAITH IN THE CHIEF!
PLEASE... I ONLY WANT TO KNOW IF A TEENAGED GIRL NAMED LUBA LIVES HERE..
WELL, I..
SO WHO WANTS TO KNOW?!
WELL YOURSELF!
GET LOST OR I'LL CALL A COP!!
SLAMPO
I KNOW WHERE THAT UGLY GIRL WHO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS, SEÑOR! SHE'S ON HER LUNCH BREAK RIGHT NOW!
JUST DON'T MAKE THAT UGLY LUBA MAD, AND SHE WON'T HIT YOU, SEÑOR. THAT'S HER; THE UGLY ONE.
HARUMF...WELL, I'VE COME THIS FAR. THANKS, KID.
YEAH, THAT'S ME...
AND IF YOU SAY HOW FUNNY A NAME IT IS..!
LUBA ISN'T A FUNNY NAME AT ALL...IT'S QUITE LOVELY ACTUALLY...
DO...YOU GIRLS LIKE MUSIC..?
I DO! I DO!
135

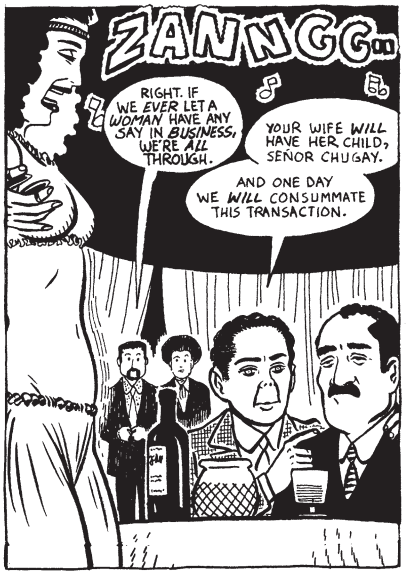
I MANAGE A COMBO THAT'LL BE PLAYING TONIGHT AT THE BLAH BLAH BLAH..
IF YOU GIRLS'D LIKE TO GO BLAH BLAH..
...IT WON'T CRACK ANYTHING BUT IT'S GOOD...VERY GOOD INDEED...AND IT'S DEEP AND GOOD...LIKE HERS..
SO VERY DEEP...
MARIA..
LUBA..
MARIA..
LUBAAAA..
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZ...
THE LOCK SEEMS BROKEN AND THERE'S NO KEY.
AH..!
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM, SENORA ALICIA...
OF COURSE; I'M SORRY. ONE HUNDRED.
YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH IT ALL YOU WANT, SENOR; BUT IF I FIND OUT YOU STOLE SOMETHING..POW!
I PROMISE TO PUT EVERYTHING BACK IN ITS PLACE, SENORA.
KRACK..
..BEEN CARING FOR LUBA AND HER INVALID AUNT FOR YEARS NOW, SENOR RIO. LUBA CAN BE ONE PAIN IN THE..
..SHE JUST TURNED FIFTEEN, SENOR; YOU SURE YOU WANT TO MARRY HER?
DEAR GOD...
PANT!
MARIA..
136

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE...
SURE... I REMEMBER PETER RIO, SEÑOR SALAS; HIS OLD MAN'S COMBO USED TO FREQUENT YOUR OLD MAN'S CLUB WAY BACK WHEN...
HEAR YOU'RE QUITE THE LADY KILLER, RIO... HEH, WELL, JUST KEEP YOUR PAWS OFF MY GOODS AND WE'LL GET ALONG FINE.
NOT TO WORRY SEÑOR GARZA; ASSUMING YOU'VE EVER OWNED ANY GOODS I'D BE AT ALL INTERESTED IN PAWING...
NOW, GENTLEMEN...!
I··I CAN PROVE TO YOU IT'S DIFFERENT NOW, PETER... I DON'T DRINK ANYMORE, I DON'T··CHASE WOMEN, I··I·· JUST LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOUR WIFE··LET HER BE MY BABY GIRL...
MY HOUSEKEEPER WILL BE THERE...
JUST ONE BRUISE, PAPA...JUST ONE TINY CUT ON HER BODY... JUST ONE TEAR FROM HER EYES...
NO MORE TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER··! SHE LEFT ME··! SHE'S DEAD! DEAD··! :SOB: NO MORE NO MORE :SOB:
I PROMISE, LUBITA·· NO MORE ABOUT HER EVER AGAIN··
SALAS, GARZA KILLED IN SHOOT-OUT...TRAGIC.
ISOBEL STRANGLED IN STREET ROBBERY...TSK.
ARMANDO JOSE STILLBORN, LUBA...
··A LIE.
YOUR NEWBORN SON ARMANDO JOSE WHO THEY TOLD YOU WAS DEAD, LUBA...ALIVE. AND PETER KNOWS...
WUHHHH...
PTCHH...STILL IN THIS GODDAMN HOSPITAL...
PETER..?
PETER!
PETER!
PETER··!
SOMEBODY HELP!! MY HUSBAND, HE'S·· HELP!! SOMEBODY PLEASE··!!
PETER!
BLEH...FOUT... DEBEH...OFEL DOOP...
137

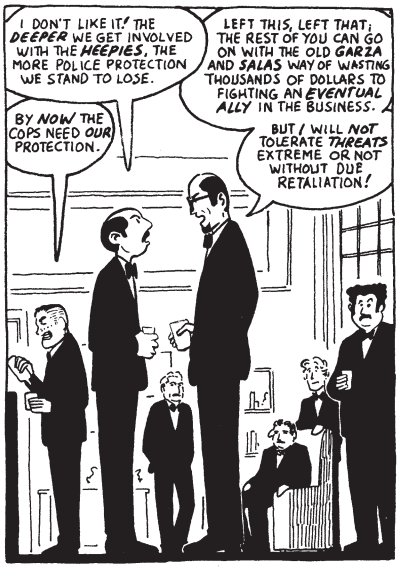
WHOOP!
CAN IT BE THAT HER FERAL MAJESTY HAS AGAIN FALLEN FROM OLYMPUS TO EARTH WITHOUT A DATE?
YOU'RE A FUNNY ONE, ARCHIE... BUT I THINK I LIKE YOU...YOU'RE ONE OF THE ONLY MEN I'VE EVER MET WHO LOOKS ME IN THE EYE THE WHOLE TIME WE'RE TALKING.
WHAT'S FERAL?
LUBA...HOW CAN ANY SANE MAN RESIST THE SLOW EXQUISITE DEATH OF GAZING INTO THE DARK, SAVAGE TEMPEST RAGING WITHIN YOUR UNTAMABLE SOUL.
ARCHIE!
CUCA..! I-I WAS JUST GETTING A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR BABY'S NAME..!
HA!
THAT ARCHIE TALKS LIKE A FOOL, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THERE..HEY, YOU AND LUCY LEAVING SO SOON, PEPA?
LUCY'S GOING TO NEED A NICE LONG WALK BEFORE I TAKE HER HOME TO HER HUSBAND, LUBA.
ALONE AGAIN..SO HOW COME ARCHIE'S THE ONLY GUY TO ASK ME TO DANCE ANY MORE? WHAT'S A GIRL HAVE TO DO TO GET SOME ATTENTION AROUND HERE?
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT IT WHILE YOU'RE SEEING TO YOUR HUSBAND'S CARE, SEÑORA RIO..?
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? ANOTHER FUCKING SNOOPING COP?! MY HUSBAND'S SAFE AT HOME, YOU DIRTY FUCKING STUPID IDIOT!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
AFTER ALL, POLICE CAPTAIN ORTIZ WAS STRANGLED TO DEATH IN THE SAFETY OF HIS OWN HOME, SEÑORA.
WE ALL MISS OUR JOSELITO, I SUPPOSE...
SEÑORA RIO KNOWS ALL ABOUT CAPTAIN ORTIZ'S DEATH, PIG.
NOW, UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN HIM...
HEY...
MY PERSONAL GUARDIAN FRANKENSTEIN HAS COME BACK TO MAMA!
AND YOU TALK, TOO!
COME TO CHECK MY ARMS FOR TRACKS, DRACULA? HOW ABOUT THE REST OF ME..?
TIME TO GO HOME AND STAY THERE, SEÑORA RIO; UNDERSTAND?
I DON'T NEED ANY FUCKING POLICE PROTECTION OR GANGSTER PROTECTION OR ANY.. DID MY FATHER-IN-LAW SEND YOU?! I BET HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD EVERYBODY NOT TO TALK TO ME, THAT DIRTY..
YOUR PLACE IS BY YOUR HUSBAND'S SIDE, SEÑORA RIO.
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME GO..! I'M EIGHTEEN NOW! I CAN DO ANYTH..
OW!
TAX!
138

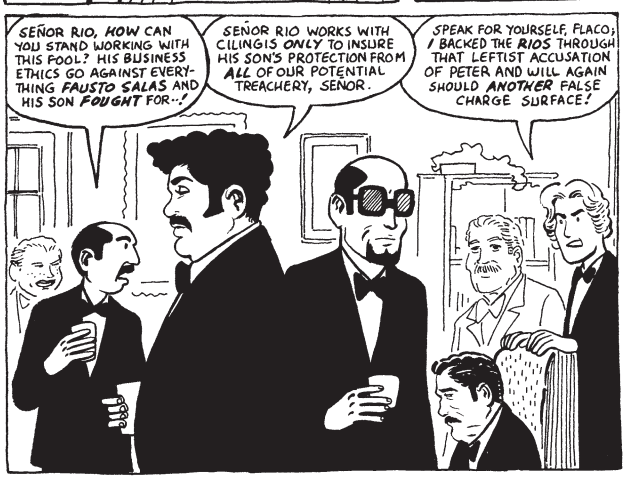
TAKE HER STRAIGHT HOME AND MAKE SURE SHE'S INSIDE BEFORE YOU LEAVE OR I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU.
JOSELITO...
POOR ARMANDO JOSELITO.
POOR BABY.
THE RIO CHILD DIED OF HEART FAILURE. WHAT WERE WE TO DO? THE MOTHER WAS A DRUG ABUSER.
AND THE AMERICANS UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND HAVE HAPPILY ACCEPTED THE SECOND CHILD WE DELIVERED.
SO WHY DOES HE WANT TO SEE US NOW?
HERE HE COMES...
YOU'RE HERE, SO YOU MUST BE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING OUT, DOCTOR.
GETTING OUT..?
THE HOSPITAL IS NOW THE BEST RUN IN THE STATE. I'VE ACCOMPLISHED MY DREAM OF DREAMS.
WAIT, WHAT..?
SHE AND I ARE FINISHED, SEÑOR. IT'S ALL FINISHED.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE EVERYTHING CLEARED UP BEFORE IT'S TIME TO GET OUT.
I CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE, SEÑORITA? NAME IT! NO CHARGE!
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, FOOL?
I'M HELPING YOU TO ESCAPE! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THAT GUY IS? HE'S A KILLER! HE..
WILL YOU JUST GET ME HOME?
GOD.
POW
POW
POW
POW...
YOU WATCH TOO MUCH AMERICAN T.V., BOY.
I'LL...BE ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.
TAXI
139

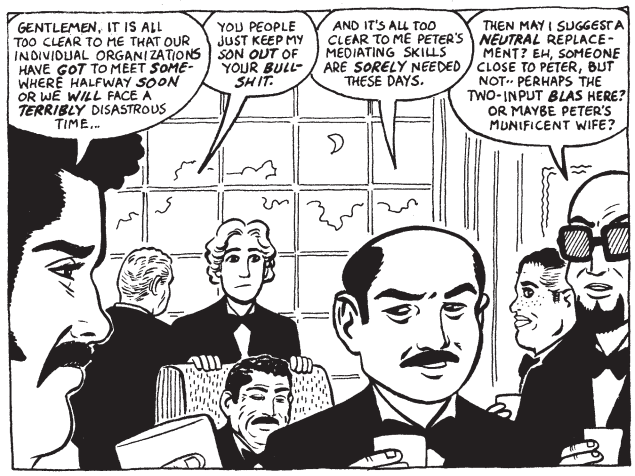
I'M HERE, PETER. I WON'T LEAVE YOU. I'M HERE.
AWWWW..
THAT WILL BE THE LITTLE..
WE'LL DISCUSS THIS LATER, BLAS.
HUH...YOU HERE AGAIN, BLAS? YOU MAY AS WELL MOVE IN; THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM.
PETER, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WAITED UP FOR ME; YOU NEED YOUR REST.
AND I GUESS YOU'RE HERE, PAPA FERMIN, TO TRY AND CONTROL MY LIFE IN MY HOME AS WELL AS OUTSIDE IT, EH?
WE'RE ALL ONLY CONCERNED WITH YOUR SAFETY, LUBITA.
OH, YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO CATCH ME WITH DRUGS BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE I EVER DID ANY! PREGNANT OR NOT! THAT NEEDLE YOU FOUND WAS PETER'S AND WAS WHAT MADE HIM HAVE THAT STROKE, I BET!
YOU TALK.. YOUR LYING GARBAGE IN FRONT OF MY BOY LIKE THAT-
WELL...IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.. ASK HIM.
AND IF WANT TO DO DRUGS IN MY OWN HOUSE I WILL, PAPA FERMIN! JUAN, SHOW HIM OUT AND DON'T LET HIM BACK IN UNLESS I SAY!
BELF..LETK.. GNNEL.. KNP..
PETER, YOU KNOW I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU..!
BLEH..BLEH.. BLEEEHH..
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE BABBLES ON SO... IT'S ONLY BABY TALK. I'M NOT SURE HE'S GOT ANY BRAINS LEFT WORKING IN HIS HEAD.
:HIC:
HEY! HOW ABOUT JOINING ME IN A DRINK TO THE LATE CAPTAIN JOSELITO ORTIZ, BLAS; HUH?
BLEH.. BLEHH..
:HIC:
BLE-E-EHH..
AND..?
JARDIN DE PAZ
THE DOCTOR AND THE NURSE ARE BOTH GONE.
GOOD AND GONE, TOO; JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
JAVIER, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY DOUBTED YOUR LOYALTY TO US; BUT..
THEN THERE'S ALWAYS THAT BUT..
BUT THE WAY SUSPICIONS AND ALLEGATIONS FLY AROUND THESE DAYS A MAN'S GOT TO PROVE HIMSELF, ZENEN! AND IF ANY NEW DOCTOR WE WORK WITH BUCKLES UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HIS OWN GUILT, TOO--WELL...
IF THAT HAPPENS I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF, JAVIER.
I'M NOT SO CLEAR ON THE NURSE, THOUGH; WAS SHE AWARE OF THE DOCTOR'S DECISION..?
AHH, SHE WAS PART OF THE WHOLE THING.
AS IF HER SAY COULD EVER MATTER.
140


ZANNGG...
RIGHT. IF WE EVER LET A WOMAN HAVE ANY SAY IN BUSINESS, WE'RE ALL THROUGH.
YOUR WIFE WILL HAVE HER CHILD, SEÑOR CHUGAY.
AND ONE DAY WE WILL CONSUMMATE THIS TRANSACTION.

POLICE CAPTAIN ORTIZ AND MY MAN CHATO BOTH STRANGLED AND ROBBED AND THE POLICE STILL HAVE NO LEADS?!
CHATO WAS WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING! WE STARTED OUT TOGETHER PUSHING ON PLAYGROUNDS AND WORKED OUR WAY UP TO..
..SEÑOR CILINGIS IS CONVINCED HIS MAN WAS MURDERED AS A CRUDE WARNING FOR US TO STOP DOING BUSINESS WITH THE AMERICAN HEEPIES.
NOT ALL HEEPIES ARE LEFTISTS, MOISES! MOST ARE AS GREEDY AS ANY ONE!


I DON'T LIKE IT! THE DEEPER WE GET INVOLVED WITH THE HEEPIES, THE MORE POLICE PROTECTION WE STAND TO LOSE.
LEFT THIS, LEFT THAT; THE REST OF YOU CAN GO ON WITH THE OLD GARZA AND SALAS WAY OF WASTING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO FIGHTING AN EVENTUAL ALLY IN THE BUSINESS.
BY NOW THE COPS NEED OUR PROTECTION.
BUT I WILL NOT TOLERATE THREATS EXTREME OR NOT WITHOUT DUE RETALIATION!


SEÑOR RIO, HOW CAN YOU STAND WORKING WITH THIS POOL? HIS BUSINESS ETHICS GO AGAINST EVERYTHING FAUSTO SALAS AND HIS SON FOUGHT FOR..!
SEÑOR RIO WORKS WITH CILINGIS ONLY TO INSURE HIS SON'S PROTECTION FROM ALL OF OUR POTENTIAL TREACHERY, SEÑOR.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, FLACO; I BACKED THE RIOS THROUGH THAT LEFTIST ACCUSATION OF PETER AND WILL AGAIN SHOULD ANOTHER FALSE CHARGE SURFACE!


GENTLEMEN, IT IS ALL TOO CLEAR TO ME THAT OUR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GOT TO MEET SOMEWHERE HALFWAY SOON OR WE WILL FACE A TERRIBLY DISASTROUS TIME...
YOU PEOPLE JUST KEEP MY SON OUT OF YOUR BULLSHIT.
AND IT'S ALL TOO CLEAR TO ME PETER'S MEDIATING SKILLS ARE SORELY NEEDED THESE DAYS.
THEN MAY I SUGGEST A NEUTRAL REPLACEMENT? EH, SOMEONE CLOSE TO PETER, BUT NOT.. PERHAPS THE TWO-INPUT BLAS HERE? OR MAYBE PETER'S MUNIFICENT WIFE?

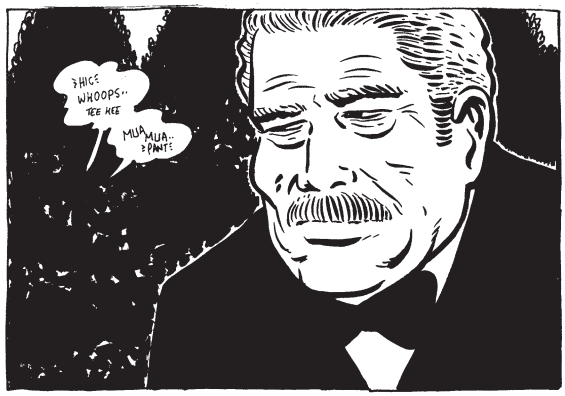
SEÑORA RIO..!
HEH, SHE JUST SLIPPED PAST ME BEFORE I COULD..
OH, SHUT UP, IDIOT! IT'S MY HOUSE INCLUDING THIS ROOM!
SO, BOYS; WHOSE INNOCENT LIFE ARE YOU PLANNING TO RUIN NOW..?
HIC

GUESSPH... OOTAH...
PETER, HIC! HOW CAN YOUR FRIENDS UNDERSTAND YOU WHEN YOU KEEP BABBLING IN TONGUES? HERE..THIS'LL HELP PUT GOOD OLD SPANISH BACK ON YOUR LIPS, BABY..HIC!
THAT'S ENOUGH, LUBA...

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT; YOU BOYS GET BACK TO WHATEVER BULLSHIT YOU WERE UP TO; I'LL TELL MY GUESTS TO PUT THEIR MONEY INTO THE BLACK MARKET BABY STOCK. I FEEL ITS GOING PLACES.
OO-BAH...
HIC!

I VOTE FOR MADAM LUBA; SHE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON BETTER THAN ANYBODY WHO DOES KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO FUNNY, CILINGIS, BUT YOU'RE NOT AS FUNNY AS GARZA WAS AND NOW HE'S DEAD. AND ANOTHER THING..
I'M GOING TO SEE IF LUBA'S ALL RIGHT, BLAS...I'LL SEE YOU AND PETER... A LITTLE BIT LATER.
GRUNT...HOPE THERE'S SOME FOOD LEFT...
HAVE TO TAKE A SHIT...
142

HIC!
NOW I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ENJOY MY PRIVATE ROSE GARDEN, SEÑOR.
HIC!


HIC! WHOOPS..
TEE HEE
MUA MUA..
PANT!

HEY... LOOKS LIKE THE FAGGOT'S SLIPPING OUT WITH RIO.
I GUESS EVEN THE WALKING DEAD COULD USE A PRIVATE BLOW JOB EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
ARE YOU GUYS COPS?
CAN YOU GET ME SOME DECENT HEROIN?

HAW HAH..
SNORT!
HIC!
HEY...
WHERE'D YOU GO...? HEY... SNORT..
EPHF EPHF EPHF..

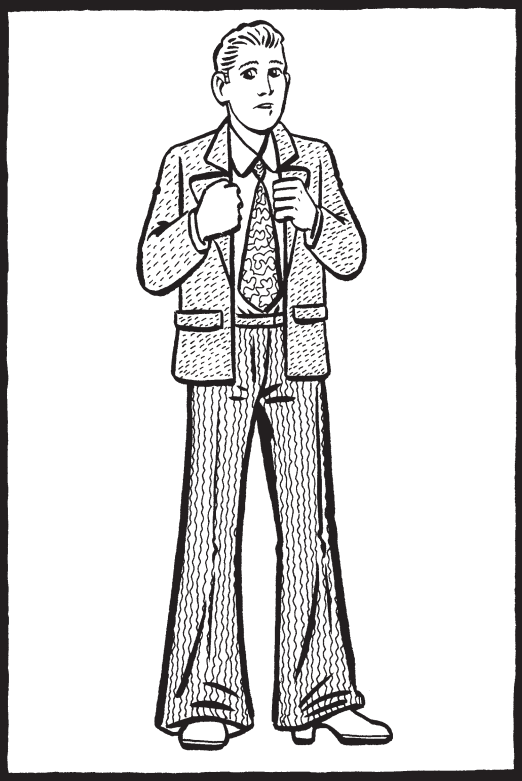
!
...

GOODNIGHT.. GOODNIGHT.. GOODNIGHT.. OK OK OK..

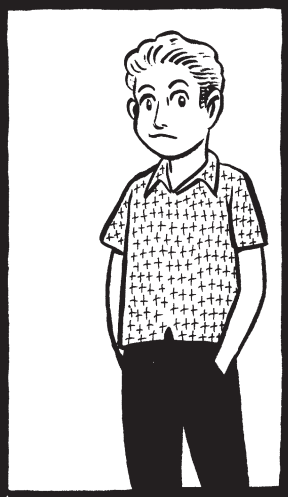
143

AND YOU DID PUT THE MONEY INTO THE BAG?
I STUFFED IT INTO THE LINING IN CASE HER HOUSEKEEPERS GET CURIOUS; SHE'LL FIND IT EASILY, I'M SURE.
PETER...
GOODBYE, LUBA. GOD BLESS YOU.
HERE COMES YOUR PAPA, PETER. HE'S GOING TO BE DRIVING US...
OOBAH...
I LOVE YOU, LUBITA.
144

BLAS



FOURTEEN



DON'T WORRY, NOBODY KNOWS WE'VE HAD THESE PHONE CALLS... AND THIS IS THE LAST CALL..?
YEAH, PETER AND FERMIN ARE ALL RIGHT; NOBODY WILL FIND US HERE. PETER'S HEALTH SEEMS FINE; FERMIN'S AT HIS SIDE NOW CONSTANTLY.
ALL RIGHT THEN; WE'LL MEET...THIS LAST TIME. THEN FERMIN AND ME ARE GOING AWAY WITH PETER FOR GOOD. NO, AWAY..!
ALL RIGHT THEN.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF NOBODY, BLAS; IF YOUR LEFTIST TRASH WANT MY BALLS, YOU TELL 'EM THEY BETTER COME WITH ALL THEY GOT! I'LL BE DAMNED IF CILINGIS THINKS I'M GOING TO FORGET WHAT THE SALAS' HAVE DONE FOR ME.. FOR PROMOTING WORLD PEACE!
I'M JUST SORRY I DIDN'T GET TO SAY GOODBYE TO PETER...SO YOU GIVE HIM ALL MY LOVE, HM?
THAT FAT FUCK FLACO'S FINISHED! I'VE GOT THE BIGGEST DICK NOW AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET BIGGER, BLAS! YOU GET PETER AND FERMIN OUT OF HERE AND SHOULD YOU EVER DECIDE TO RETURN YOU'LL FIND CHATO'S DEATH AVENGED .. BUT I CAN'T PROMISE FLACO STILL BEING AROUND.
OK?
OK.
C'MON, BLAS; ALL THAT FAG TALK WAS JUST A COVER! I HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU AND ME DIDN'T GET ALONG! YOU TELL YOUR-YOUR FRIENDS I ALWAYS TRUSTED YOU, HUH? SURE.. I CAN MAKE ANY NEW DEALS WITH YOUR FRIENDS, PERMISSION FROM CILINGIS OR NOT.
YOU'LL TELL THEM, HUH, BLAS? YOU'LL TELL THEM MOISES MORAGA IS READY TO DEAL! OK, BLAS? MOISES MORAGA! M-O..
146

I'M NOT SCARED.. WHAT COULD ANYBODY DO TO US? ME AND LUCY ONLY WATCHED OVER LUBA WHEN WE COULD; AND MOST OF THE TIME IT SURE WASN'T EASY...STILL, I'LL MISS HER SO TERRIBLY...
IF THE LEFT COME AFTER US, WE'LL JUST TELL THE TRUTH! WHO GETS TORTURED FOR WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW ANYWAY?
SO, BLAS...YOU GOT THAT SPEED YOU PROMISED ME AND PEPA..?
KAFF..
OH, GOD... TAKE IT ALL AWAY.
I NEED A DRINK.
KAFF..
JAVIER...I KNOW ABOUT THE DEAL THAT PETER OWED HIS CHILD TO YOUR BOSS... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS ABOUT..THE CHILD IS...DEAD?
TRUST ME, BLAS; THE CHILD DIED THROUGH NOBODY ELSE'S DOING BUT THE LORD'S.
THE LORD WHO BROUGHT YOU AND ME TOGETHER, LOVER.
IS MY... HUSBAND.. DEAD..?
NO.
MY FATHER-IN-LAW?
NO.
MY FRIENDS LUCY AND PEPA..?
DON'T BE SILLY.
ISOBEL...CAPTAIN ORTIZ... CILINGIS' DOPE PUSHER..?
ISOBEL...
THEN...YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO PETER AND LUBA'S SON ARMANDO JOSE, SEÑOR RIO..?
ANY AND ALL THREATS TO MY SON'S LIFE, BLAS..GONE, WITH A TWIST AND A..GONE.
I'VE TOLD YOU THIS, BLAS, BECAUSE IF WE'RE BOTH TO TAKE CARE OF PETER YOU'LL KNOW HOW FAR BULLSHIT GETS WITH ME...BUT, I CAN'T IMAGINE THERE'S ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO REVEAL THAT I MIGHT CARE ABOUT.
ARMANDO JOSE WAS STILLBORN.
SEÑOR RIO...
POLICE CAPTAIN JOSE ORTIZ...WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY...WASN'T HE? NOT BECAUSE OF..
A POLICEMAN'S LIFE IS A SELFLESS ONE, MADAM RIO.
CONTR
CAST
TAX
...HAD PETER TOLD ME HE HAD TO GIVE HIS.. CHILD AWAY TO SOME BLOODSUCKING..AND BECAUSE OF ISOBEL?
AND NOW THE CHILD IS...DEAD..? FROM NATURAL CAUSES..?
I'LL GIVE THE LYING MURDERING SWINE NATURAL CAUSES..
PETER MUST NEVER KNOW ABOUT HIS SON, BLAS; IT MAY BRING ON A MORE SERIOUS STROKE.
I AGREE, SEÑOR.
I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU SEE YOUR SON, MADAM, I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT HOSPITAL POLICIES.
FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR LIFE WITH SEÑOR RIO; MADAM. FORGET IT AND LIVE.
AHH...I SUSPECTED FROM THE BEGINNING YOU NEVER ACTUALLY HAD ANY LEFTIST TIES.. YOU JUST LET EVERYONE THINK YOU DID!
NOW WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T TELL THE OTHERS ABOUT YOUR DECEIVING THEM ALL, YOU BITCH..?
I CAN'T BE SURE OF ANYTHING MYSELF, SEÑOR; EXCEPT OF YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR SON...
147

THIS AWFUL COAT.
THIS IS WHERE WE PART, MADAM RIO. YOU'LL GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL UNTIL YOU COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE.
ARE...YOU GOING TO...KILL ME..?
DON'T BE SILLY.
GO AHEAD.
SIGH...
I SUPPOSE...I KNEW IT ALL HAD TO COME TO AN END SOONER OR LATER...
WHAT...WILL HAPPEN TO PETER..?
HE WILL BE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF, CHILD. I PROMISE.
AS YOU WILL BE.
GO ON AHEAD.
DON'T LOOK BACK.
I WORE A DISGUISE..! AS OF NOW, NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU AND ME KNOW WHO ENDED MY BOSS'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILD BLACK MARKET.
YOU MEAN--JAVIER, YOU MEAN EVEN ZENEN? WHO YOU'VE WORKED WITH SO CLOSELY FOR SO MANY YEARS..?
ZENEN...HE WAS PART OF THE WHOLE HORRIBLE RACKET, BLAS. IT HAD TO BE FINISHED THAT WAY; ALL THE WAY.
"ZAINNG" & "ZOING"..!
HAFF HAFF HAFF...
TO BEGIN ANEW..TO BEGIN ANEW..
THE LORD FORGIVES..THE LORD FORGIVES..
HAFF HAFF HAFF...
LUBA
LUBA
LUBA
148

SERAFINA!
JUAN!
QUICK, MADAM LUBA! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
ERRGH HEGN..
I DON'T SEE WHY WE COULDN'T JUST STAY AT THE HOUSE INSTEAD OF THIS CIGAR BOX, BLAS.
THIS IS THE SAFEST PLACE FOR PETER RIGHT NOW, SEÑOR RIO.
OO-BAH..
AH...STILL WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD BRIDE, EH, SON?
I'VE GOT ONE LAST PHONE CALL TO MAKE AND THEN WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE FOR GOOD.
THE CONSTANT BATTLE BETWEEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT IS THE LEAST OF THE WORLD'S WORRIES, EH, SON? IT'S THE WAR OF THE SEXES THATS ALWAYS BEEN LIFES TRUE HEADACHE.
HEH HEH..
BUT WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT A WORTHY STRUGGLE, EH? WITHOUT A STRONG WOMAN TO FIGHT WITH FROM TIME TO TIME.
YOUR MOTHER.. SHE WASN'T MUCH OF A FIGHTER...YOU WERE LUCKIER WITH YOUR LITTLE FIRE BRAND LUBITA.
MARIA... ISOBEL... LUBA...
LUBA ALMOST LOOKED LIKE HER MOTHER WHEN I GOT HER THOSE NINETEEN-FIFTIES DRESSES, EH?
SURE, I'VE KNOWN THAT LUBITA WAS MARIA'S DAUGHTER FOR AWHILE, BOY...AS I UNDERSTAND GARZA DID BEFORE HE DIED.
DON'T WORRY, I KEPT MY PROMISE AND DIDN'T TOUCH LUBA...THOUGH SHE SOMETIMES COULD HAVE USED A..
FEH, IT'S GOOD THEY'RE ALL OUT OF OUR LIVES NOW, PETER. OF COURSE, THAT ISOBEL WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF THE LOT.
NEITHER A MAN NOR A WOMAN, THE..THE THING COULD ONLY BE A SOURCE OF PAIN AND CONFUSION TO NORMAL MEN LIKE US. I'M NOT SORRY HE..SHE..IT'S GONE.
WONDER IF IT AND GARZA..?
REE-AH..
OO-BAH..
SO-BELL..
SO-BELL..
AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO ADMIT THAT I'M THE ONE TO RID US OF ITS TREACHEROUS WAYS.
BUT, MARIA...SIGH! THAT SUPERHUMAN BITCH COULD PROBABLY SURVIVE A THOUSAND THROTTLINGS.
NOW THERE WAS A WOMAN WORTH EVERY..
GRUNT..
SO-BELL
..AND STRANGE MEN COMING AND GOING FROM THE HOUSE AND BOTH SEÑOR RIOS GONE..THEN THAT BIG UGLY MONSTER MAN CAME AND PACKED A FEW THINGS OF YOURS IN THIS BAG HE BROUGHT WITH HIM AND TOLD US WHERE TO FIND YOU..
..CAN'T SAY I REMEMBER A THING AFTER I LEFT PETER WITH HIS BUSINESS PARTNERS...AND I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO FIND OUT WHAT I MISSED!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US, MADAM..?
I..I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD US NOT KNOWING WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON, SERAFINA, BUT AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER..
PEPA..!
LUCY..!
THANK GOD! GET IN THE CAR, YOU THREE, BEFORE FRANKENSTEIN CHANGES HIS MIND!
149

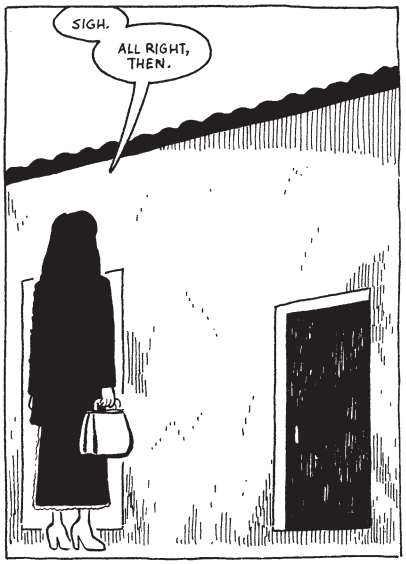
BLAS..
BLAS..
BLAS..
BLAS...
ISOBEL'S KID IS FINE. JUST LIKE YOU SAID SHE'D BE. YEH, YEH..A SWEET KID LIKE ARJELIA SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM GETTING ADOPTED BY A GOOD FAMILY.
IT SURE HAS BEEN AN ADVENTURE EH? YEAH...I'LL TELL THE OTHER GUYS, BLAS...ME,TOO..
YOU TAKE CARE OF PETER...
AWWWW...
AWWWWWW..
THAT'S IT, THEN; WE'RE ON OUR OWN NOW...ALL TIES ARE SEVERED...MAY GOD HAVE MERCY...ON...US...?
.....?
ALL RIGHT, PETER...
THAT'S ENOUGH, PETER...ALL RIGHT...
LET'S GET UP NOW...
UP..
HURRRGGHH..
YOU SIT DOWN NOW AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, OK?
AWWWW..
BLEEEEEEE...
BLEEEEEEEEEEEEE...
PETER, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THIS WAS ALL GOING, BUT IT'S ALWAYS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME WHEN THE TRUTH COMES OUT...AND WE MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR DECISIONS. THE HEEPIES CALL IT KARMA.
OOBAH...
LUBA'S SAFE, PETER. GORGO PACKED HER MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY TO GET HER HOME SAFELY.
AWWW... YOUR PAPA MUST HAVE HURT YOU SO BADLY.
150

OoBAH...
I TELL YOU LUBA'S GONE, PETER. BUT SHE'LL BE FINE, I PROMISE. LUBA'S SAFE FOR LIFE!
AND WE'RE HOME FREE! WE CAN HEAD FOR THE STATES AND FIND YOUR SON! THAT'S RIGHT; WE'LL FIND YOUR SON AND...IF YOU WANT, WE'LL GET LUBA...

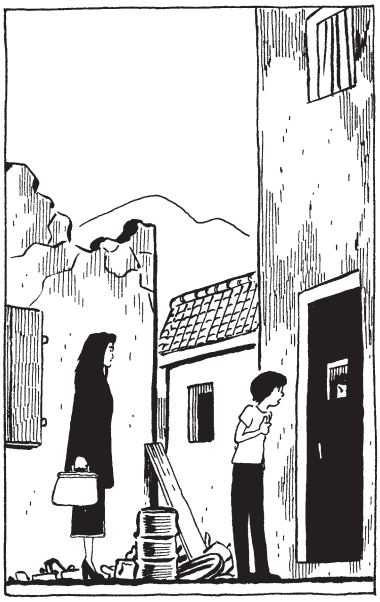
...ANDO OSE...
SURE! IT WON'T BE EASY; IT MIGHT TAKE YEARS, SINCE YOU WERE DENIED INFORMATION ON WHO THE NEW PARENTS WERE TO BE, BUT WE WON'T QUIT, WILL WE, PETER? WE'LL FIND ARMANDO JOSE IF IT TAKES THE REST OF OUR LIVES...!

AW, IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD, PETER; I PROMISE.
IT'LL BE SO GOOD...
AWWWW...

NO, NO, MADAM. STOP IT. YOU GO ON HOME NOW.
SERAFINA
MADAM, DONT. YOU WRITE TO US WHEN YOU ARE SO FAR FAR AWAY AND SO SAFE.
WEEP
151


SIGH.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

WELL.
WHERE'S MY FAMILY? MY TIA HILDA BELTRAN? MY COUSIN OFELIA? THIS IS THEIR HOME!
AND YOUR NAME IS..? NO. WHAT IS YOUR FATHER'S NAME?
SON OF A.. EDUARDO. SO WHO ARE YOU?
I'LL TAKE HER, MAMA.



YOUR COUSIN OFELIA MUST LAY IN BED FOR DAYS AT A TIME DUE TO HER BACK INJURY.
LUBA! YOU SOUND SAME VOICE!
OFELIA..?
TIA HILDA..?

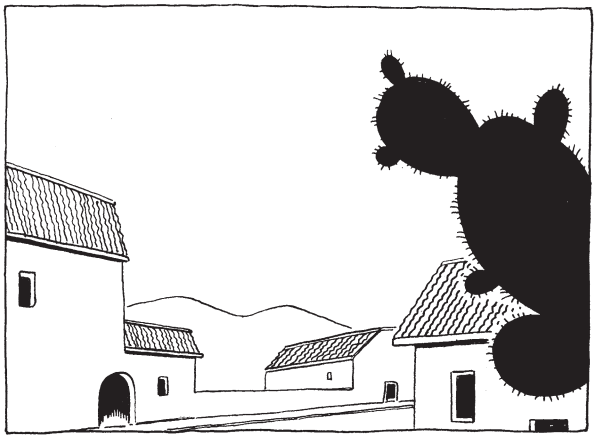
YUP! SAME FACE! ONLY SO BIGGER! YUP! LUBA!
OFELIA TAUGHT YOUR TIA HILDA TO SPEAK AGAIN AND NOW NOBODY CAN SHUT HER UP.
IF YOU AND OFELIA HAVEN'T SEEN ONE ANOTHER SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD, LUBA, NOW YOU TWO CAN BE RE-ACQUAINTED.
LUBA..?
LUBA..?

MY GOD.. WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?
HOPE YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO MOVE, OFELIA, BECAUSE WE'RE GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
152

FIFTEEN

HILDA

THAT·· FUCKING LITTLE FAGGOT... THAT LITTLE...
NEVER HAD ANY LEFTIST FRIENDS, NEVER WAS A THREAT TO ANYBODY··
FROM THE BEGINNING, BLAS DID WHAT HE DID JUST TO WIN PETER FOR HIMSELF, THE SLUT··
FOR LOVE...
BUT WHY NOT DO IT FOR LOVE, EH, GORGO?
IF EVERYBODY DID EVERYTHING FOR LOVE...?
HA HAA··
WE'D ALL BE LOVED TO DEATH; RIGHT, MOISES?
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE SATISFIED, SEÑOR CILINGIS...
UH, I AM SATISFIED MY MAN CHATO'S DEATH HAS BEEN AVENGED, GORGOSITO, BUT PERHAPS I WOULD HAVE LIKED BLAS TO ALLOW ME THE HONOR OF DOING THE JOB ON FERMIN MYSELF.
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY BEACH, GORGO? GOT IT FOR MY GRANDKIDS; YOU KNOW HOW PUBLIC BEACHES ARE SO AWFUL THESE DAYS...MIGHT CALL IT CHATO SHORES. MMMM...
I'M THINKING OF RETIRING IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, GORGO... GO OUT LIKE A LAMB...YOU COULD DO THE SAME, SEÑOR...
BEHAVE NOW, KIDS.
I DON'T FEEL BLAS DID ANY OF US SO WRONG, GORGO. MAYBE WE ALL DESERVED TO BE DECEIVED LIKE THAT.
AND MAYBE FERMIN DESERVED TO END UP THE WAY HE DID, FLACO..?
YOU TELL ME...
THE GIRLS AT THE CLUB SURE DO MISS OLD PETER...HE TREATED THEM LIKE A LOVING FATHER TREATS HIS OWN...
I'M SURE THEY DON'T MISS HIM ANYMORE THAN WE DO, FLACO.
I PACKED QUITE A BIT OF MONEY IN THE LINING OF LUBA'S BAG. SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM IN FINDING IT RIGHT AWAY.
MY SUGGESTION TO YOU TWO IS THAT YOU STOP WITH THE DRUGS AND YOU'LL LIVE LONGER, EH...
LUCY.
PEPA.
LUCY... PEPA...
AS FOR OLD GORGO··
I HEAR THAT CALIFORNIA WEATHER'S LIKE OURS ALL YEAR ROUND.
154

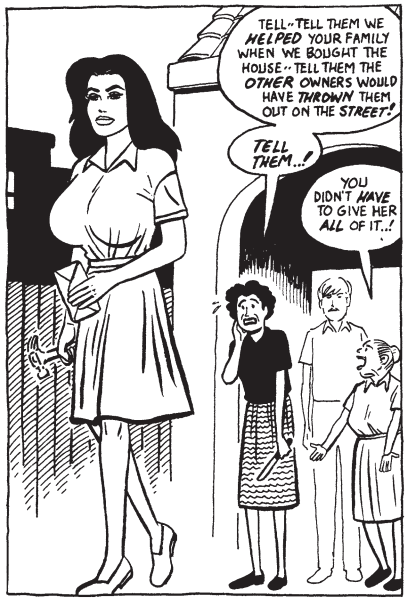


IT'S HER! DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!
WE HAVE TO TALK TO HER! YOU KNOW WHAT HER HUSBAND'S THUGS COULD DO TO US.
THOSE ARE JUST STORIES, MAMA. RUMORS ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S BUSINESS THAT CAN'T BE PROVED...
URP..

WHAT..WHAT DO YOU WANT? TO HIT MY BOY'S OTHER EYE WITH YOUR HAMMER, LUBA?
ACTUALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND GIVING EACH OF YOU OMOS A GOOD SWAT OR TWO.
YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOUR TIA AND COUSIN HAD TO MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE WE NOW OWN! BUT DID THEY TELL YOU IT WAS BECAUSE THEY FELL SO FAR BEHIND ON THEIR PAYMENTS AND TAXES..I'LL BET THEY DIDN'T...!

THEY HAD LITTLE MONEY BECAUSE YOU TOOK IT FROM THEM! YOU FIGURED OUT SOME CROOKED SCHEME.. AND ONCE A MONTH I SENT MY TIA HILDA ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THIS SHIT TOWN TWICE OVER!
THE MONEY WAS COMPENSATION FOR WHEN YOU HIT HIS POOR EYE OUT! IT'S ALL ON PAPER AND ALL LEGAL, LUBA; BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING LEGAL, WOULD YOU..?
EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT YOUR..LIFE!

ALL RIGHT, THEN...THEN IF YOU KNOW MY HUSBAND CAN HAVE THE BLOOD SUCKED OUT OF YOUR EARS WITH ONE PHONE CALL, I THINK YOU'D BETTER HAND OVER THAT MONEY NOW!
WE'RE NOT SCARED, LUBA...WE HAVE THE LAW ON OUR SIDE! WHO DO YOU HAVE? MURDERERS? CHILD STEALERS?
THEN YOUR LAW BETTER GET OVER HERE FAST..!
THERE'S... NOT MUCH LEFT...

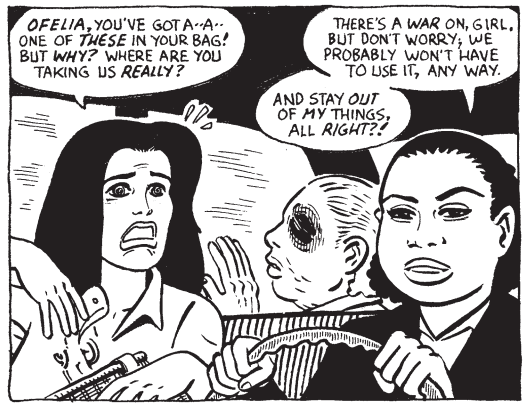

TELL..TELL THEM WE HELPED YOUR FAMILY WHEN WE BOUGHT THE HOUSE..TELL THEM THE OTHER OWNERS WOULD HAVE THROWN THEM OUT ON THE STREET!
TELL THEM..!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE HER ALL OF IT..!

YOU SAID ONE HUNDRED!
THIS CAR IS WORTH THREE, SENORITA.
YOU REALIZE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IF I HAVE TO CALL MY HUSBAND?
I'M A BACHELOR. AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE MARRIED OR NOT; YOUR MONEY'S GOOD.

155

LUBA..?
:SNIFF?:
IT IS YOU! I HEARD YOU WERE BACK, LUBA.. IT'S PINO!
PINO?
NAW, I DIDN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THOSE RUMORS ABOUT YOU AND GANGSTERS, LUBA. HEH HEH, AND NOBODY BELIEVED ME THAT I WAS YOUR FIRST BOYFRIEND!
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D MARRY ANYBODY; ESPECIALLY ROSA GARCIA.. SHE'S EXPECTING YOUR SECOND BOY ALREADY, HUH, PINO..?
OF COURSE, IF YOUR HUSBAND EVER NEEDS A HAND WITH HIS BUSINESS, I THINK I CAN BE OF SOME SERVICE, HEH...I'M QUICK ON MY FEET, Y'KNOW.
BE BOP A LUBA!
HEY, YOU GUYS..!
POOR LUBITA...ALL SHE HAD ON WAS THIS SKINNY LITTLE DRESS AND THIS PRETTY COAT.
WE'LL NEED THE COAT, BUT BURN THE DRESS; I NEVER WANT TO SEE HER IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
GUAH, THAT'S LUBA'S, OFELIA! YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH HER PRIVATE THINGS!
HAASH! IF I'M THE ONE DRIVING WHATEVER I SAY GOES; OK?
MUST HAVE BEEN A HASTY RETREAT, ALL RIGHT. ALL SHE'S GOT IN HERE IS SOME NICE EXPENSIVE SILK PANTIES, A COUPLE OF BRAS, A PAIR OF AUTHENTIC DUTCH WOODEN SHOES OF ALL..A DEAD MOTH, A LIVE MOTH...
HO..AND HIDDEN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LINING...
(DOES SHE EVEN KNOW THIS IS IN HERE?)
SHE'S BACK WITH THE CAR!
WASTE OF MONEY. COULD HAVE TAKEN THE BUS.
BUS TOO SLOW, LUBA TOLD. BUS STINKY. TOO MANY CHICKENS. CAR OUR HOUSE.
EVERYBODY PACKED UP? THE CAR'S ALL READY. I WANT TO SEE ALICIA BEFORE IT'S DARK.
OK...DO YOU WANT ME TO PACK YOUR THINGS WITH OURS, LUBA? YOUR BAG IS PRETTY BEAT UP... THE LINING'S...SPILLING OUT..EVERYTHING..?
SO THROW IT OUT. THERE'S ONLY MY SHOES AND UNDERWEAR IN IT TO SAVE ANYWAY, RIGHT?
WE'RE HEADING TO ISLETA WHERE TIA HILDA AND OFELIA WERE BORN...MAYBE I'LL STAY WITH THEM FOR AWHILE, MAYBE I'LL GO MY WAY SOONER...BUT WHEN I SEE MY HUSBAND AGAIN I'LL TALK TO HIM ABOUT YOU, PINO. I REMEMBER YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD WITH A KNIFE...
THANKS FOR DRIVING THE CAR FOR ME...
OK...
ALICIA...
156

I DO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT NOT COMING TO ALICIA'S FUNERAL AND ALL.
EVEN IF WE WEREN'T SO CLOSE.
SNORT...


OFELIA, YOU'VE GOT A--A-- ONE OF THESE IN YOUR BAG! BUT WHY? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US REALLY?
THERE'S A WAR ON, GIRL, BUT DON'T WORRY; WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE TO USE IT, ANY WAY.
AND STAY OUT OF MY THINGS, ALL RIGHT?!

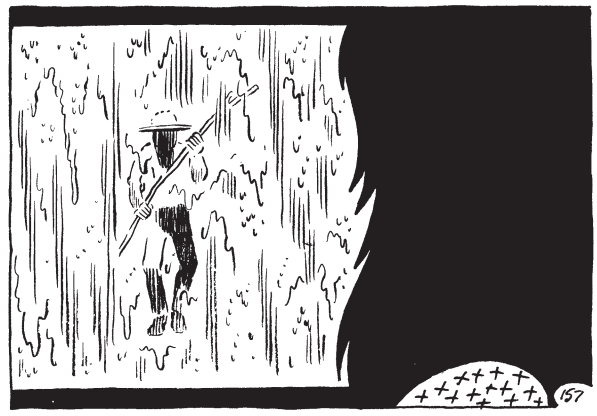
GOOM!

RRRRRR

BZZZAAWWW!
AI, MAMA; WE'RE STUCK IN THE MUD AND WE CAN'T EVEN HEAR IF THE ENGINE'S GOING WITH YOUR SNORING--
AH...I KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THIS.

RRRRRR...
I DON'T REMEMBER HOW OR WHEN I FIGURED OUT THIS WORKED, BUT IT ALWAYS DID WITH MY HUSBAND.
JUST ROCK HER LIKE A BABY, BUT JUST RIGHT...JUST RIGHT.
MY FATHER IN LAW SNORED TOO, BUT THIS DIDN'T WORK ON HIM SO I'D JUST SMACK HIM.
YESS...

SO WHY DO YOU KEEP BRINGING UP THAT BEAT UP OLD BAG? IT WASN'T MINE AND I HAD YOU THROW IT OUT, OK?
BZZZZZ--
I JUST THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE MORE TO THAT BAG THAN YOUR SHOES AND... BUT IF NOT, WELL--
?

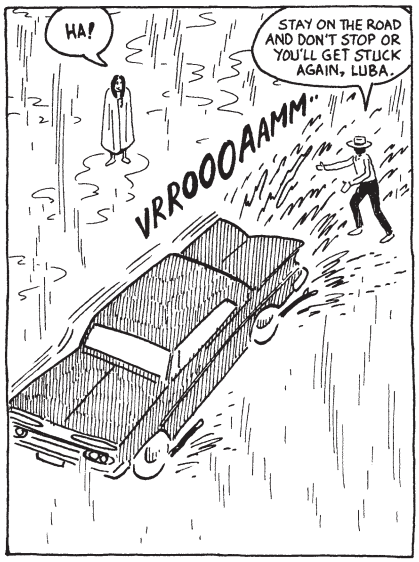

157

LUBA.. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
GET THAT DAMN GUN OF YOURS OUT, OFELIA. I MAY NEED YOU BEHIND ME...

PINO..?
PINO, ARE YOU CRAZY?

KOOMB..
OMO..?

YOU'LL ONLY GET DEEPER INTO THE MUD THAT WAY, LUBA.
THIS WILL HELP YOU GET OUT...


HA!
STAY ON THE ROAD AND DON'T STOP OR YOU'LL GET STUCK AGAIN, LUBA.
VRROOOAAMM..

NOW YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND WATCH OVER YOUR FAMILY, OMO.

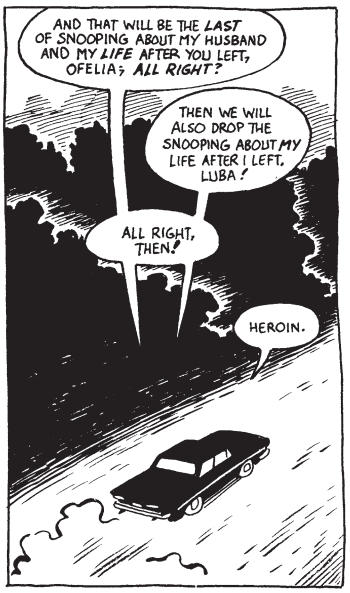
LET'S GET THE HELL AWAY FROM THAT FUCKING TOWN FOREVER, OFELIA...!
TILL THEY'RE ALL DEAD AND ROTTING IF I CAN HELP IT.
LUBA...! HEARD THE RUMORS OF YOUR HUSBAND'S INFLUENCE? HOW SERIOUS SHOULD THE OMOS WORRY..?
THAT'S MY GIRL...
zzzzzzzzz..
158

I LEFT YOU AND MAMA WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE FOR A TEACHING JOB ACROSS THE COUNTRY, LUBA; I'M SURE ALICIA TOLD YOU.
YEAH... ALICIA TOLD ME A LOT OF THINGS.. BUT I NEVER LISTENED TO HER MUCH.
GOD, IT'S A MIRACLE HOW YOU GOT TIA HILDA TO TALK NORMAL AGAIN... FOR AS LONG AS I REMEMER I THOUGHT SHE WAS..WELL, WE ALL THOUGHT..YOU KNOW...
ZEPPELIN.

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE HOW BADLY MAMA'S STROKE HURT HER MIND, LUBA. WHEN I CAME BACK AND SAW HER, AND HEARD HER...
DID SHE AT ALL UNDERSTAND ANYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON AROUND HER, BUT WAS UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE?
OR WAS SHE IN SOME DEEP OBLIVIOUS FOG WHILE I WAS GONE? AH... SHE WON'T SAY BUT I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER.. I THINK SHE WAS ALWAYS AWARE.
YOUR HUSBAND.. SUFFERED A STROKE TOO..?
HE'S DEAD.
YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT, OFELIA.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
I WAS ALONE IN A CHURCH PRAYING.. WELL, THE CHURCH WAS OLD AND EVEN THE SLIGHTEST EARTH TREMOR COULD.. AND APPARENTLY DID...
LUBA, ARE YOU SURE THAT OLD DRESS OF MAMA'S I ALTERED FOR YOU FITS ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, YEAH; BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO BUY SOMETHING THAT'S A LITTLE MORE ME.
PTCH. YEAH, WITH WHAT MONEY?
GO AHEAD.

THAT CHURCH CAME DOWN ON ME SO FAST I THOUGHT I WAS OUT FOR MAYBE A MINUTE? THEY TOLD ME I WAS UNDER THERE FOR THREE DAYS AND UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWELVE. THE FIRST NEWS I GOT WHEN I WOKE UP WAS THAT YOU GOT MARRIED TO A A CONGA PLAYER AND LEFT MAMA ALONE WITH HER COUSIN ALICIA... I WANTED TO KILL YOU SO BAD...
LUBA, SOME OF THE RUMORS ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND WERE FRIGHTENING! HOW MUCH WAS TRUE..?
YOU SEEM TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN I EVER DID, OFELIA...
JAVELIN.


AND THAT WILL BE THE LAST OF SNOOPING ABOUT MY HUSBAND AND MY LIFE AFTER YOU LEFT, OFELIA; ALL RIGHT?
THEN WE WILL ALSO DROP THE SNOOPING ABOUT MY LIFE AFTER I LEFT, LUBA!
ALL RIGHT, THEN!
HEROIN.

BZAAW!
GROAN
AI, MAMA! YOU'LL WAKE UP THE WHOLE HOTEL WITH YOUR THUNDER!
LUBA.
LUBA!
LUBA, WILL YOU MOVE YOUR BUTT AND HELP STOP MAMA'S SNORING?

LUBA...
ROMPEL-KNURR..
HM.

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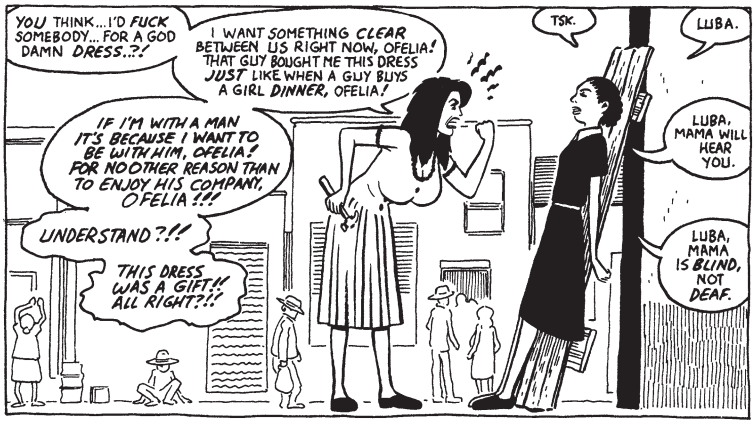
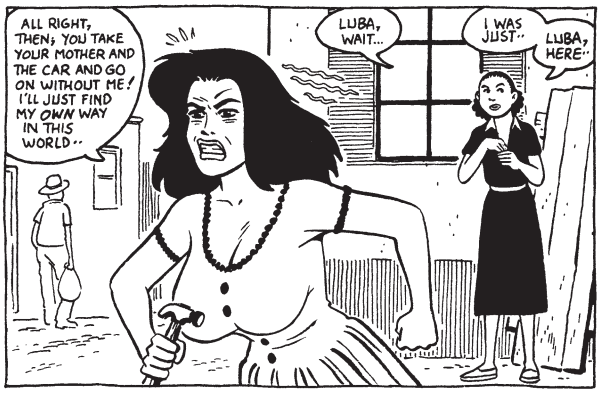
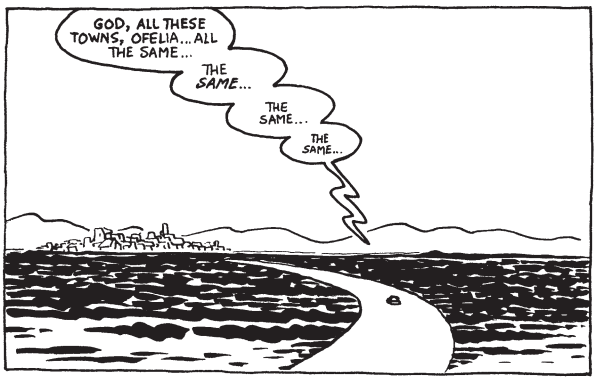

YOU THINK...I'D FUCK SOMEBODY... FOR A GOD DAMN DRESS..?!
I WANT SOMETHING CLEAR BETWEEN US RIGHT NOW, OFELIA! THAT GUY BOUGHT ME THIS DRESS JUST LIKE WHEN A GUY BUYS A GIRL DINNER, OFELIA!
IF I'M WITH A MAN IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO BE WITH HIM, OFELIA! FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO ENJOY HIS COMPANY, OFELIA!!!
UNDERSTAND?!!
THIS DRESS WAS A GIFT!! ALL RIGHT?!!
TSK.
LUBA.
LUBA, MAMA WILL HEAR YOU.
LUBA, MAMA IS BLIND, NOT DEAF.


ALL RIGHT, THEN; YOU TAKE YOUR MOTHER AND THE CAR AND GO ON WITHOUT ME! I'LL JUST FIND MY OWN WAY IN THIS WORLD..
LUBA, WAIT...
I WAS JUST..
LUBA, HERE..

I'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT EXTRA OF MY PRIVATE SAVINGS, GIRL. YOU GET YOURSELF A COUPLE OF PRETTY DRESSES.
OH...
WELL...IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I HAVE NICE CLOTHES FOR WHEN WE GET TO ISLETA...

DON'T HAVE TO GO TO ISLETA, OFELIA. YOU DON'T WANT TO GO. MAMA DON'T WANT TO GO, LUBA DON'T WANT TO GO.
NO, MAMA; WE'RE GOING HOME. EVERYTHING IS FINE.
I SAID NICE DRESSES, LUBA.

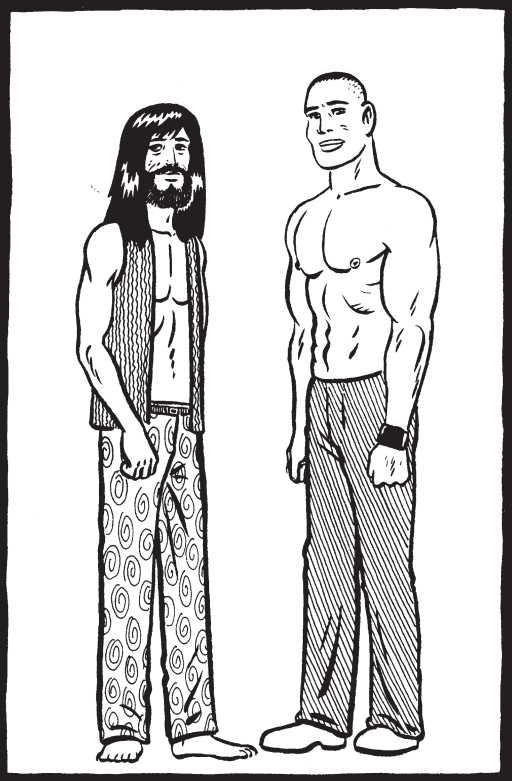

GOD, ALL THESE TOWNS, OFELIA...ALL THE SAME...
THE SAME...
THE SAME...
THE SAME...

AHH, IT ALL WENT TO SHIT WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE ALLOWED IN TO BACK THE REBELS!
THAT ONLY GAVE THE U.S. ENOUGH REASON TO BUTT INTO OUR AFFAIRS AND NOW WE'LL NEVER BE RID OF 'EM!
ASSUMING THE REBELS LOSE, SEÑOR...

GRUNT
CAN'T SAY POLITICS EVER INTERESTED ME.
IT'S CLEAR TO EVERYONE BUT THE U.S. THAT THEY'RE LOSING THE WAR IN VIETNAM SO PATHETICALLY.
OH, THANK YOU, BOY; THAT'S FOR MAMA.
160

SO THE REBELS WIN AND THINGS CHANGE FOR A WHILE, MAYBE EVEN FOR BETTER; ALL REVOLUTIONS ARE DOOMED TO MOVE TO THE RIGHT, WOMAN!
THEN WE GET UP OFF OUR BIG FAT BUTTS AND START ALL OVER AGAIN...AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...
AS IF YOU'D KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTING IN A REBELLION, WOMAN. PHEH!
SIXTEEN...
PANT PANT...
YOU'RE NOT A DAY OVER FOURTEEN...
PANT..
HAFF
HAFF
I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE TO LUBA ABOUT HOW I GOT MY BACK HURT, MAMA.
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF LUBA REMEMBERS THAT NIGHT WHEN SHE SAW ME...ATTACKED...
IF SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER I WON'T LET HER REMEMBER...
A CHURCH FALL DOWN ON TOP OF YOU.
ZUMM ZUMM
OFELIA, THE CLOSER WE GET TO ISLETA THE MORE NERVOUS YOU GET... WE DON'T HAVE TO GO THERE, Y'KNOW.
I'M FINE, LUBA...DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...
GRUNT
SO WHAT'S ALL THIS SHIT ABOUT A WAR AND ALL? I MEAN, WHO'S FIGHTING? THE LEFT, THE RIGHT, THE THIS, THE THAT...
I THINK IF WAR DIDN'T EXIST SOMEBODY WOULD CREATE IT!
161

PECCARY-PIGLIKE HOOFED MAMMAL



SIXTEEN

ANTONINO Y SEBASTIAN

OFELIA, LET'S GO··! IT'S STILL TWO DAYS TILL WE GET TO ISLETA.
GOD, WHY'S IT STINK LIKE HELL SHIT HERE?
YES, LUBA...
LET'S...
GET OUT AND WALK.
ISLETA
NO...NO, MAMA... THE HOUSE IS GONE... ALL GONE, MAMA...
THE STATE CLAIMS THE MORTARS WERE FIRED BY REBELS BECAUSE ONLY REBELS WOULD FIRE UPON INNOCENT CIVILIANS...
I QUESTIONED THIS, OF COURSE, AND AS A RESULT I NO LONGER QUESTION AUTHORITY...
OH, HILDA AND HER NIECE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BIG MOUTH, FOOL!
HILDA, TELL US ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER OFELIA AND HER GANGSTER HUSBAND..?
THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS OF YOUR MAMA, I GUESS...WE'RE STAYING WITH THEM UNTIL WE FIND OUR OWN PLACE.
YES...THE GAMBOAS... THEY LOST THEIR SON A MONTH AFTER HE JOINED THE MILITARY...
SO..! HERE WE ARE...
HERE WE ARE.
164

I COULD PROVE IT WAS THE MILITARY WHO SHELLED ISLETA THE NIGHT OF THE MORTARS, SEÑORITA; I GOT A SHELL.
AMERICAN MADE. I COULD TELL. I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. I COULD DIE FOR HAVING THIS SHELL, BUT I'M NOT AFRAID.
TARAG
I GOT A SHELL. PROOF.
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? TELL THE POLICE? THEY'LL JUST SAY THE REBELS STOLE THOSE WEAPONS AND.. THAT'S ALL...
JUDGING FROM YOUR WALK, SEÑORITA, I WOULD SAY YOU SUFFER A SERIOUS BACK PROBLEM. ALLOW ME TO APPLY THE ANCIENT TECHNIQUE THAT WILL GUARANTEE RELIEF OF YOUR PAIN.
MY PAIN IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS I HAVE LEFT, TARZAN.
I GOT A SHELL. AMERICAN MADE. PROOF.
I LIVE IN THIS TOWN ISLETA MOSTLY OF MY LIFE HERE AND I KNOW PEOPLE HERE BUT ALONE ALWAYS MY OWN WAY AND NO CRYING, LUBITA!
I'M WITH YOU, TIA HILDA, BUT ONCE IN A WHILE IT'S NICE TO HAVE A GOOD LOOKING MAN'S BODY TO STRAP YOURSELF ONTO.
LUBA, PUT YOUR BLOUSE ON, FOR GOD'S SAKE.
GRUNT...I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS POOR OLD TOWN...
I...THINK WE SHOULD GET GOING FOR GOOD...
WHY? SCARED THE FIGHTING'S COMING BACK, OFELIA? WHAT ABOUT WHAT ME AND YOUR MAMA THINK? HUH?
NO MORE HOME...NO MORE NOTHING...WE GO...FOR GOOD.
UUAAGH
DAMN...NOT EVEN THIS HELPS, LUBA...PANT.. I NEED SERIOUS HELP.. PANT.. GROAN...
NO, NO...PANT...I TOLD YOU I'VE SEEN HALF A DOZEN DOCTORS AND THEY COULDN'T DO A GODDAMN THING..PANT PANT..BUT THERE'S A MAN IN TOWN..PANT..WITH LONG RED HAIR AND A BEARD WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP..
FIRST YOU CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF THAT TOWN AND NOW WE'RE NOT EVEN A MILE AWAY FROM IT AND YOU WANT ME TO GET A DOCTOR?
A MAN IN TOWN, EH? WITH LONG RED HAIR AND A BEARD?
A MAN IN TOWN WITH LONG RED HAIR AND A BEARD. AND I'M SUPPOSED TO GO INTO TOWN AND FIND THIS MAN WHO HAS MAGIC POWERS?
WE HEARD YOUR PAIN. WE'RE HERE TO DO WHAT WE CAN, LADIES.
165

CHURCH...FELL ON ME...YEARS AGO... CHURCH FELL...
:PANT:
YOU BETTER TAKE CARE OF OFELIA'S BACK ONLY, SEBASTIAN, OR I'LL BURN DOWN THIS WHOLE VILLAGE AND BRAIN ALL THE THE SURVIVORS TO DEATH!
OFELIA SLEEPS GOOD LIKE A SOCK TO HER HEAD, LUBA.
NOT BAD, SEÑOR. YOU DID WHAT HALF A DOZEN DOCTORS COULDN'T.
OH, NO MONEY, SEÑORITA. TO RELIEVE OTHERS OF THEIR SUFFERING IS ITS OWN REWARD.
YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL PERSON.
YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL.
CAN I TELL YOU YOUR FORTUNE?
YOU'LL LIVE A LONG AND BEAUTIFUL LIFE AND YOU'LL HAVE SO MANY BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.
YUGH.. NO BEAUTIFUL KIDS FOR ME, THANKS. I'LL TAKE UGLY MONEY ANYTIME.
YOU'LL FEEL DIFFERENTLY AFTER YOU'VE LIVED AMONG THE FOREST PEOPLE A BIT, AS WE HAVE, SEÑORITA.
ANTONINO WAS LIKE YOU, BUT HE'S NEVER BEEN HAPPIER. NOW HE'S JOINED OUR FAMILY. HAPPY TO LEAVE THE OUTSIDE WORLD OF POLITICAL STRIFE AND RACIAL HATRED.
HERE WE ARE ALL EQUAL, AND EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL AS WELL...
SOME BEING MORE EQUALLY BEAUTIFUL THAN OTHERS; I SEE.
AHHHHHH.. TO HELL WITH MEDICAL SCIENCE, LUBA. WHATEVER THAT SEBASTIAN'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE MUST BE OF DIVINE ORIGIN.
SO WE'LL TAKE HIM WITH US, GIRL. THAT MAGIC TOUCH MIGHT WORK ON FLAT TIRES, TOO.
GOOD MORNING, SEÑORITA LUBA!
OFELIA'S BACK CONDITION MUST HAVE CONSTANT ATTENTION IF SHE'S TO BE CURED.
TCUC HERE CAN SHOW YOU WHERE, SEÑORITA.
GNNRRR... SHE'S ALL YOURS, SEBASTIAN.
HEY, WHERE CAN A GIRL GET A NICE BATH, HUH?
166

YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL PERSON.
CONUNDRUM.
BEAUTIFUL.

HEY, TCUC; YOU FOLKS DON'T USE THIS LAKE FOR A *TOILET* AS WELL, DO YOU? *HEH*...

WHOOP..!

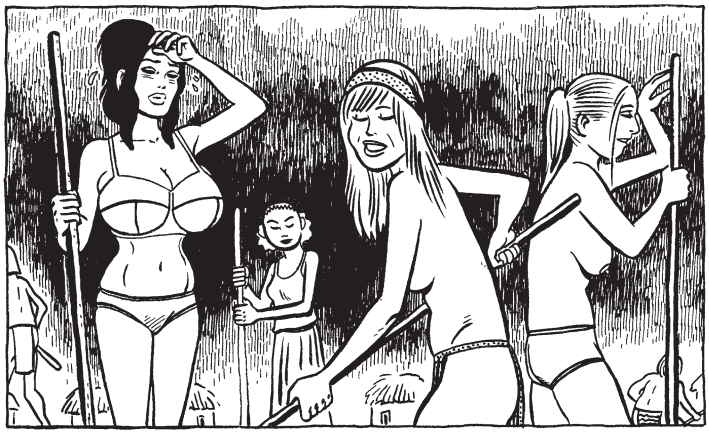
DON'T BE SHY, LUBA.
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
WE'RE *ALL* BEAUTIFUL IN OUR OWN WAY.

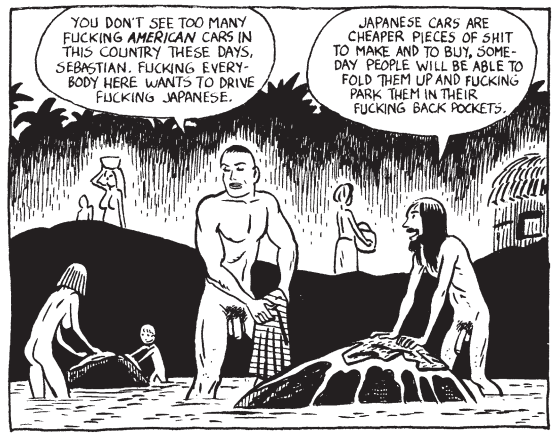
WOULD ONE OF YOU BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE GET MY BEAUTIFUL TIA HILDA?
WE'RE GOING TO WHERE WE CAN GO BACK TO BEING AVERAGE!

THE LIGHT IT *SO* BRIGHT AND I FALL DOWN ALL DARK AND NIGHT AND EYES BURNING BURNING..
TO WAKE UP EYES CLOSED BURNED UP SHUT DARK.
AND THE PEOPLE GO UP HOME IN THE LIGHT SO BIG AND HOT THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE HOME IN SKY.
WOW.
BEAUTIFUL.
SO BEAUTIFUL.
WOW.
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL.

AHHHHH...
DON'T BE SHY.
167

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
I'M FREEZING!
HA HA HAAA...
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
I'M : GASP: DREAMING...
CLACKETY CLACK CLACK
IT'S NOT HEALTHY TO KEEP SECRETS, OFELIA; ESPECIALLY FROM YOUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER.
IF MY MOTHER FINDS OUT ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY BATHING THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY, SEBASTIAN.
OFELIA, TRUE POSITIVE CHANGE CAN'T BE ACHIEVED BY FIGHTING AGGRESSION WITH AGGRESSION! IT MUST COME FROM THE SPIRITUALITY THAT IS WITHIN US ALL!
"SO WHEN HAS ANY SPIRITUAL FAITH EVER STOPPED A KNIFE OR A BULLET OR-OR TORTURE, OR PREVENTED THE DEATHS OF LOVED ONES, SEBASTIAN?!
GROAN.. ALL THIS TALK ABOUT WAR AND KILLING...HOW ABOUT TALK OF LOVE...
HER STRIDE, HER EVERY MOVEMENT SO GRACEFUL AND DIGNIFIED; SOMETIMES ALMOST IN A DELICATE SLOW MOTION.
I'VE NEVER MET ANOTHER WOMAN WHO CARRIED HERSELF AS PROUDLY; OFELIA...
BEAUTIFUL.
YEAH, LUBA'S QUITE A CONFLUENCE OF FELINE ELEGANCE AND PHYSICAL CONTUMACITY.
INTERESTING HOW A BOY OF YOUR BACKGROUND RECOGNIZES SUCH POETIC PULCHRITUDE.
OH..? WHAT BACK GROUND OF MINE IS THAT, SEÑORITA?
MMM...A BOY DOESN'T GET A BODY LIKE YOURS FROM LIFTING UP HEFTY VOLUMES OF VICTOR HUGO TO READ ALL DAY...THE QUIXOTIC FARM BOY IS GENERALLY THE STUFF OF ROMANTIC NOVELS; OR IS THAT THE SWEET, SOFT-HEARTED SOLDIER I'M THINKING OF..?
THEN YOU'D BE THE CYNICALLY CURIOUS CAT IN ALL THIS, OFELIA?
ZUMM ZUMM ZUMM..
IF ANYONE COULD MAKE THOSE SHOES LOOK LIKE THEY BELONG IN THE WORLD OF HIGH FASHION, LUBA.
IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?
168




YOU DON'T SEE TOO MANY FUCKING AMERICAN CARS IN THIS COUNTRY THESE DAYS, SEBASTIAN. FUCKING EVERYBODY HERE WANTS TO DRIVE FUCKING JAPANESE.
JAPANESE CARS ARE CHEAPER PIECES OF SHIT TO MAKE AND TO BUY, SOMEDAY PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO FOLD THEM UP AND FUCKING PARK THEM IN THEIR FUCKING BACK POCKETS.

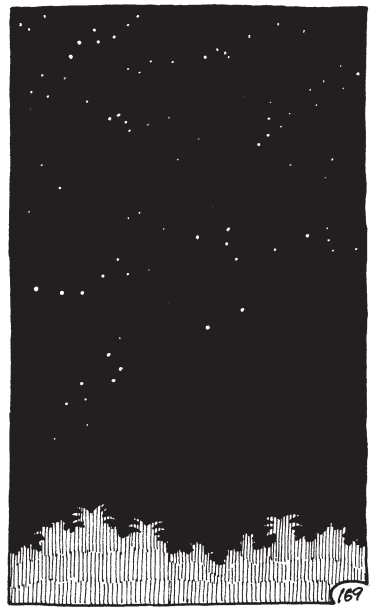
FUCK YES, I DROVE A CHERRY SIXTIE-FIVE MUSTANG THAT PUT THE LOCAL COMPETITION TO SHIT. FUCKING HAD TO SELL IT WHEN I JOINED UP AND SHIT.
BITCH.
I HAD A SIXTY-FOUR IMPALA. FUCKING TWELVE OF US WOULD STUFF OURSELVES IN IT, DROP ACID AND DRIVE AT FUCKING TOP SPEED UP AND DOWN BUSY STREETS. FUCKING COPS NEVER ONCE STOPPED US.

I KNEW IT WAS TIME TO DO SOMETHING ELSE WITH MY LIFE WHEN I WOKE UP AFTER A NIGHT OF COCAINE AND POT SOAKED IN FORMALDEHYDE FOUR DAYS LATER; THERE I WAS ON TOP OF A HELI-PORT IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S CLOTHES, MY ELEVEN BUDDIES EITHER IN JAIL OR LOST AND MY FUCKING IMPALA FUCKING GONE FOREVER.
I'LL NEVER USE THE STUFF I SELL AGAIN, ANTONINO.

SEBASTIAN...
YOU KNOW OFELIA BETTER THAN I DO.
SHE SEEMS TO BE...I DON'T KNOW...I GET A FEELING SHE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
YES...I GET THAT FEELING MYSELF, ANTONINO. IT MIGHT BE SHE SUSPECTS THE TRUTH THAT WE DON'T REALLY SUPPORT OUR FAMILY SELLING BEADS AND POTTERY.
I'LL TELL HER EVERYTHING ABOUT IT RIGHT AWAY.

I'M TRULY SORRY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER, BUT WE HAD TO GET TO KNOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY BETTER FIRST, OFELIA. PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY.
DRUGS...MMII. DON'T WORRY, SEBASTIAN; I'M NO COP.
SEBASTIAN, YOU'VE USED THESE ON ME, HUH..? PUT THEM IN MY DRINK OR SOMETHING. MY MOTHER... SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN MEDICINE...
WELL...
YOU TOLD ME WHAT YOU FELT I SHOULD KNOW, SEBASTIAN. NOW I'LL TELL YOU WHY I WANTED TO RETURN HERE TO ISLETA.

YOW!
MY TIA HILDA'S HEALTH SURE HAS IMPROVED SINCE THAT SEBASTIAN'S BEEN LOOKING AFTER HER!
ALL THIS HEALTHINESS IS GONNA KILL ME!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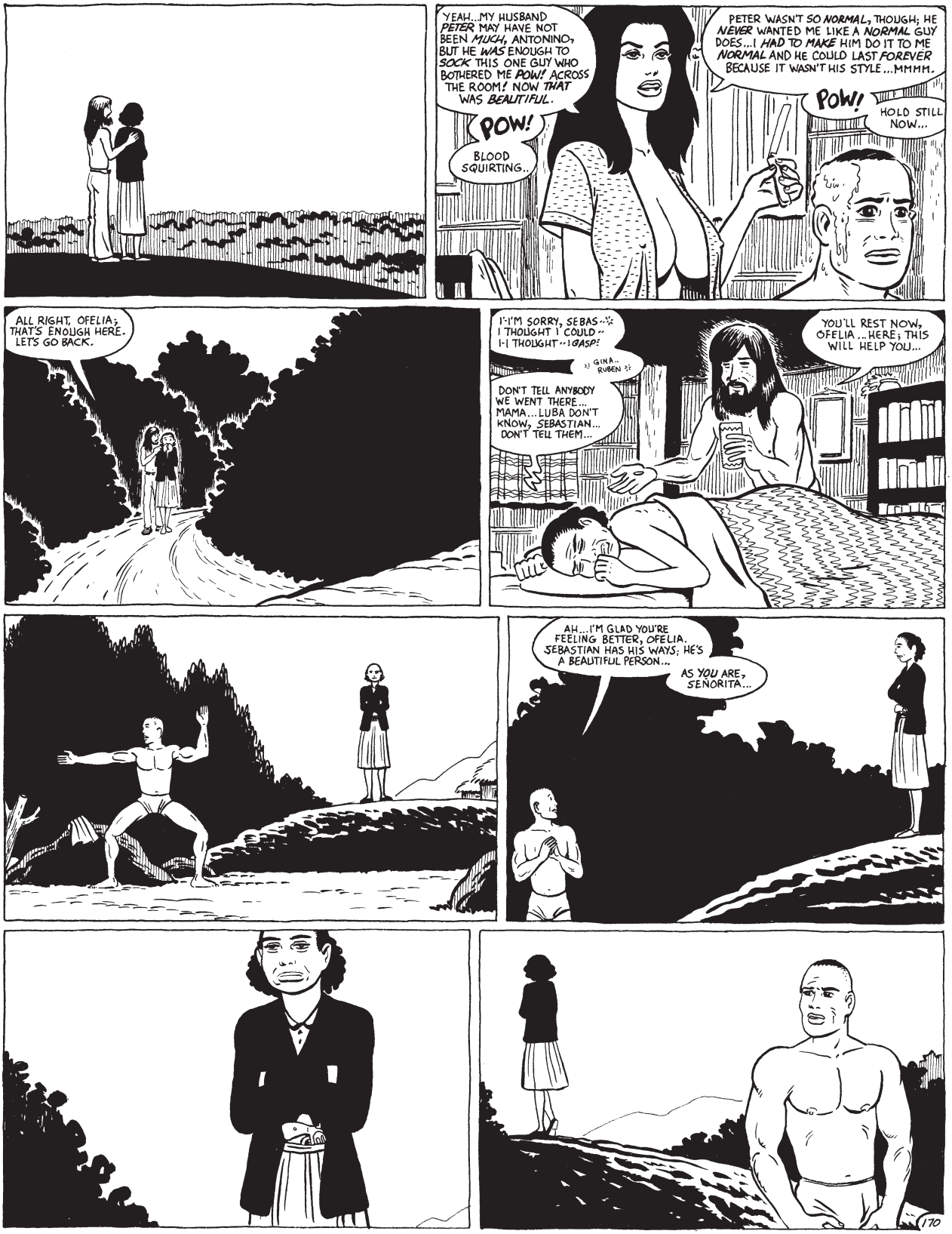
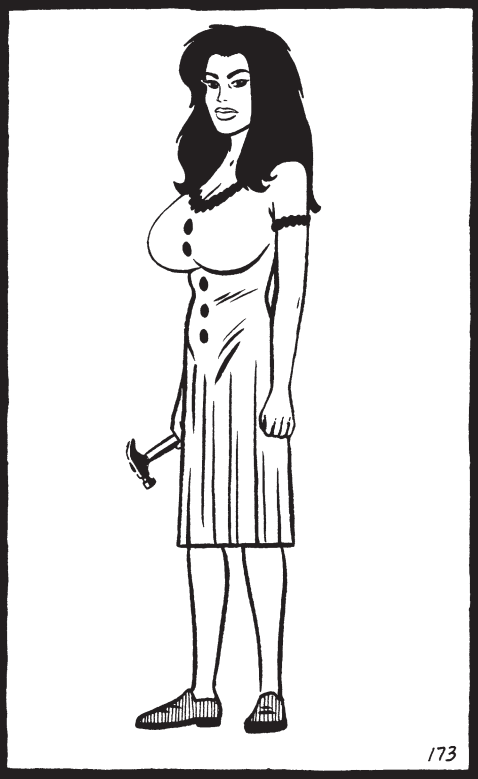

YEAH...MY HUSBAND PETER MAY HAVE NOT BEEN MUCH, ANTONINO, BUT HE WAS ENOUGH TO SOCK THIS ONE GUY WHO BOTHERED ME POW! ACROSS THE ROOM! NOW THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL.
POW!
BLOOD SQUIRTING...
PETER WASN'T SO NORMAL, THOUGH; HE NEVER WANTED ME LIKE A NORMAL GUY DOES...I HAD TO MAKE HIM DO IT TO ME NORMAL AND HE COULD LAST FOREVER BECAUSE IT WASN'T HIS STYLE...MMMM.
POW!
HOLD STILL NOW...
ALL RIGHT, OFELIA; THAT'S ENOUGH HERE. LET'S GO BACK.
I-I'M SORRY, SEBAS-- I THOUGHT I COULD-- I-I THOUGHT--GASP!
GINA.. RUBEN
DON'T TELL ANYBODY WE WENT THERE... MAMA... LUBA DON'T KNOW, SEBASTIAN... DON'T TELL THEM...
YOU'LL REST NOW, OFELIA...HERE; THIS WILL HELP YOU...
AH...I'M GLAD YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, OFELIA. SEBASTIAN HAS HIS WAYS; HE'S A BEAUTIFUL PERSON...
AS YOU ARE, SEÑORITA...
170

YOU WON'T BE THROWING YOUR SAVINGS AWAY, OFELIA. THIS LAST DEAL WILL TRIPLE WHAT MONEY YOU PUT TOWARD IT; I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE INVOLVED WITH THIS SORT OF THING AGAIN.
SEBASTIAN, I SAID YES... THAT MONEY ISN'T DOING ANY GOOD SITTING AT THE BOTTOM OF MY BAG. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR MY FAMILY.
HEY, BEAUTIFUL!
YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL.
WELL, HE IS.
STOP IT, LUBA. DON'T TEASE.
WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE'RE LEAVING THIS PLACE.
OH, YEAH? ALL OF A SUDDEN WE HAVE SOMEPLACE ELSE TO GO, OFELIA? WHERE? INTO THAT BOMBED OUT PIGSTY OF A TOWN? EH? WHERE?
I LIKE IT HERE FINE; I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT A DRINK FOR DAYS! YOUR MAMA LIKES IT HERE AND I KNOW YOU...
BECAUSE WE DON'T BELONG WITH THESE PEOPLE, LUBA! BECAUSE THEY··
HOW MANY OF THESE KIDS FULL OR HALFBREED ARE FATHERED BY··BY SEBASTIAN, OR··OR ANTONINO..?
NOW YOU'RE BEING SILLY, OFELIA.
THESE KIDS AREN'T...
THESE KIDS ARE...
...I HEAR THE FIGHTING IS MOVING RAPIDLY BACK THIS WAY AGAIN AND IT WILL BE BAD··
AH... I'M SURE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME OR MY PEOPLE; SO I THANK YOU.
GOOD DAY, SEÑOR.
WE COME ALL THIS WAY, SO DANGEROUS, HERE SAFE NOW TO GO YOU WANT, OFELIA...
YES, MAMA.
WHERE TO GO IN THIS WORLD SO DANGEROUS, OFELIA... YOU TAKE US SAFE... LUBITA FIND MAN SOMEWHERE ELSE SAFE... YOU, TOO... SAFE...
YES, MAMA.
171

LUBA, SEBASTIAN AND I ARE GOING INTO TOWN FOR SUPPLIES... ANTONINO'S COMING TOO AND I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING BACK.
PFOY... I'VE HAD ENOUGH GOODBYES, OFELIA.
JUST DON'T FORGET THE BOOZE AND CIGARETTES, HUH?
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG, OFELIA. WE'LL MEET BACK HERE IN ONE HOUR.
IF YOU THINK I'M LEAVING FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN TO GET AWAY FROM YOUR CRAZY PARANOID COUSIN-- AND I'M STILL WONDERING WHERE LUBA GOT THE IDEA I'VE FATHERED HALF THIS COUNTRY..?
THEY HAVE THEM TRAPPED IN A HOUSE JUST UP CALIBRE ROAD; TWO OR THREE SOLDIERS.
THESE SOLDIERS... ARE THEY MILITARY OR REBELS..?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT IT WON'T MATTER LONG BECAUSE THE COPS CAN'T HOLD BACK THAT ANGRY MOB FOREVER.
I HOPE THEY'RE MILITARY, TO BE HONEST! I LOST MY NEPHEW TO ONE OF THEIR CRUEL INTERROGATIONS! AND HE WAS INNOCENT!
JUST UP CALIBRE ROAD...
..AND I HOPE TO GOD THEY'RE REBEL PIGS! I'VE KNOWN MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE TORTURED AND KILLED BY THE MILITARY BECAUSE THE REBELS DON'T REVEAL THEMSELVES WHEN THE ARMY SEARCHES THEM OUT!
LET THE REBEL COWARDS FRY!!
172

LUBA



SEVENTEEN

I SAID COME HERE AND HELP ME WITH MY CLOTHES, PLEASE?
WHY ARE THE POLICE PROTECTING THOSE REBEL SOLDIERS!
THEY'RE MILITARY!
BURN THE REBELS!
BURN THE TORTURERS!
HROARR
174

HOOOOO..
175

LISTEN, EVERYONE, IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY HERE.
WH..
WHAT IS IT..?
LUBA? MAMA? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
YOU TOO! GO! GET OUT..!
SHE DID IT!! SHE SEDUCED MY BOY ALFREDO; THE FILTHY BITCH!!
LUBA...
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, OFELIA.
176

LISTEN, IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY HERE ANYMORE; SEBASTIAN WAS CAUGHT BY THE POLICE AND THEY'RE SEARCHING OUT THIS AREA FOR REBELS AND RUNAWAY SOLDIERS..
GET OUT!
I WON'T RUN AGAIN...I'LL STAY HERE OUTSIDE ISLETA WITH THE FOREST PEOPLE...AND LUBA. I'M...READY TO STAY.
WHAT...DO YOU MEAN SHE'S GONE..?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TRUSTED SEBASTIAN WITH MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS...BET HE'S RUN OFF WITH THAT..ANTONINO...
DID YOU AT LEAST GET THE BOOZE BEFORE HE TOOK OFF?
PTCH. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE BOY HE DIDN'T WANT TO DO HIMSELF! STUPID.. WONDER WHY HE TOLD..?
SCREEECH..
AHH, WE CAN GET BOOZE LATER; WHEN WE'RE FAR FAR FROM HERE.
YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL...
HEEYUGH...
OXNARD
EL PUEBLO DE KOVINICK
POBLACION 1402
PALOMAR
BAÑOS DE LUBA
FANTAGRAPHICS
BAÑOS de LUBA
BAÑOS de LUBA
177

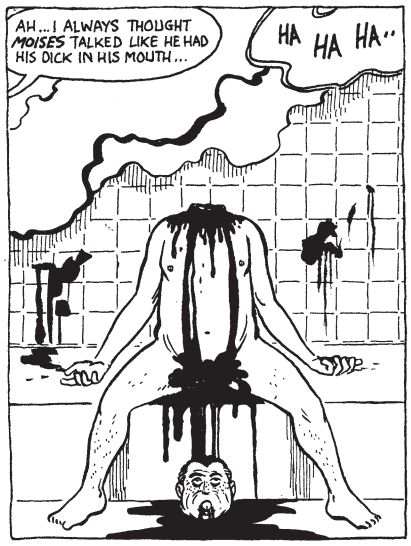
GOD, IF I THOUGHT I'D BE BATHING MEN FOR A LIVING AGAIN...
SO HOW COME A GUY JUST LOOKS AT ME I GET PREGNANT, AND YOU.. I KNOW YOU AND SEBASTIAN.. I NEVER USED BIRTH CONTROL BECAUSE..OFELIA, DO YOU USE ANY..?
LUBA, PULL DOWN YOUR DRESS...
SIGH... I HAD AN OPERATION AFTER..THAT CHURCH FELL ON ME. NO KIDS FOR ME IN THIS FOUL, ROTTEN WORLD.
YEAH? MAYBE I SHOULD..
IT'S NOTHING YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR, LUBA...
HUH. THEY GOT AN OPERATION THAT TAKES OUT ALL THE BABY STUFF FOR GOOD, BUT THEY CAN'T EVEN FIX YOUR BACK FOR A WHILE...
FORGET IT! YOU COULDN'T GET ME NEAR A HOSPITAL EVER AGAIN ANY WAY.
LET'S JUST HAVE THIS BABY AND LATER DECIDE WHAT TO DO, LUBITA...
OUR BABY...
WELL... I WAS HOPING TO MAIL IT TO ANTONINO WHEREEVER HE IS.
HWAAAUGH
MARICELA...
AFTER MY GRANDMA...
LOOK AT HER! ALREADY I CAN SEE MARICELA'S GOING TO BE ALL BIG AND MUSCLEBOUND LIKE HER PAPA... AND MAYBE AS BALD IF HER HAIR DOESN'T GROW SOON.
LUBA, MAMA'S GETTING WORSE! I'M GOING TO GET A DOCTOR!
BAÑOS
OFELIA...
DEBEH FWOOL..
OFELIA, THE PILLS... FWAH... THE PILLS...
DNNG..
IN THE BAG... THE PILLS..
CHEAL DLUPT..
PLEASE...
178

NO WONDER YOUR BACK HASN'T HURT YOU FOR SO LONG, OFELIA! AND YOU'VE BEEN GIVING YOUR MAMA THESE PILLS TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHERE DID YOU GET.. HOW DARE YOU GO THROUGH MY THINGS, LUBA?!
IS THIS WHY THE COPS GOT SEBASTIAN? THESE WERE HIS MIRACLE BACK CURE ALL ALONG, WEREN'T THEY, OFELIA?
GNNR
...I DIDN'T KNOW AT FIRST; BUT I NEVER USE THEM A LOT AND THEY DO HELP MOTHER SO MUCH WITH HER PAIN...
OFELIA, THIS GARBAGE IS SO EXPENSIVE AND DANGEROUS.. YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE THESE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND THE MORE YOU HAVE TO TAKE, THE MORE EXPENSIVE IT GETS..
THAT IS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE SAME BATCH OF PILLS SEBASTIAN LEFT WITH ME BEFORE HE WAS.. WHEN HE LEFT. NOT ONE PESO OF THE SAVINGS WENT TO BUYING THOSE PILLS!
SO DOES THAT MAKE IT ALL RIGHT, OFELIA?! IT IS WRONG! LIKE, LIKE PROSTITUTION, OR..OR BIRTH CONTROL!
THEY HELPED MOTHER WITH HER PAIN, LUBA. IT'S MORE THAN GOD EVER DID FOR HER!
OFELIA, DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK MAYBE IT WAS THIS SHIT THAT HELPED MAKE YOUR MAMA WORSE..?
...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D GO THROUGH SOMEONE'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS LIKE THAT, LUBA.
FWUHH..TMU..
FELIA.. DBTL... OLPLT... PALPZ.. NMT...
LUBA...
STSHAASH!
179

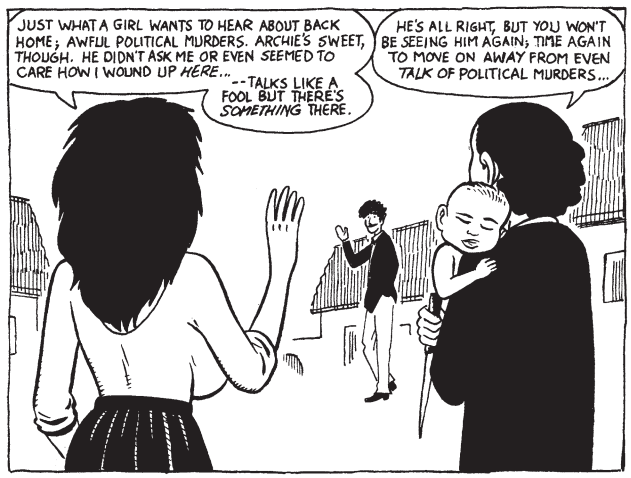
SICK OF THAT SHIT LITTLE TOWN ANY WAY...
STUPID FUCKING HAGS! AS IF I'M AT ALL INTERESTED IN THEIR MEN.
AND THE COWARDS WAITED UNTIL YOUR MA DIED BEFORE THEY CAN YOU BELIEVE THE WAY THE FUCKING COPS TOOK THEIR SIDE?!
I SUPPOSE WE CAN ONLY EXPECT AS MUCH FROM MOST SMALL TOWNS, GIRL.
YOU'RE THINKING OF THE RENT WE'LL SAVE, OFELIA. I'M THINKING THAT NOW IF SOMEBODY TRIES TO KICK US OUT OF THEIR TOWN WE CAN JUST RUN 'EM OVER.
HA!
BAÑOS DE LUBA
CHANGO
CHANGO
180

GOODBYE, GRIGORYEVICH ARTZYBASCHEV OF THE SOVIET NAVY.
GOODBYE, CHANGO PONGO OF THE PLANET MONGO.
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY, BOYS. MADAM LUBA SAYS IF SHE SCRUBS ONE MORE DIRTY TRAPEZIUS, JUST ONE MORE OILY LATISSIMUS DORSI...
YOU MUST BE EITHER DEAF OR TIRED OF LIVING, SENOR.
WHAT SANE MAN WOULDN'T RISK LIFE AND LIMB TO BE IN THE MAGNANIMOUS PRESENCE OF HER FERAL HIGHNESS, SENORITA?
ARCHIE..?
SO YOU DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THE GANGSTER ROUT AFTER YOU LEFT, LUBA? A FEW PROMINENT CRIME LORDS GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO THEM IN THE MOST GRUESOME POLITICAL BLOODBATH SINCE..
I MEANT DO YOU HAVE NEWS ABOUT MY FRIENDS LUCY AND PEPA, ARCHIE; IF YOU'VE SEEN THEM?
NO, YOUR FRIENDS DISAPPEARED AFTER YOU LEFT, LUBA. LOTS OF PEOPLE DID DISAPPEAR AFTER THE BIG SLAUGHTER.
I WAS WORRIED SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU..
EVEN SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD LITTLE OR NO APPARENT CONNECTIONS WITH THE GANGSTERS WERE FOUND DEAD IN CAR TRUNKS OR SHOWER STALLS, EYES METHODICALLY GOUGED OUT...
AH WELL, NOW YOU KNOW MY EYEBALLS ARE STILL SITTING NICE AND COZY INSIDE MY HEAD, ARCHIE; SWEET OF YOU TO BE SO CONCERNED, THOUGH.
181

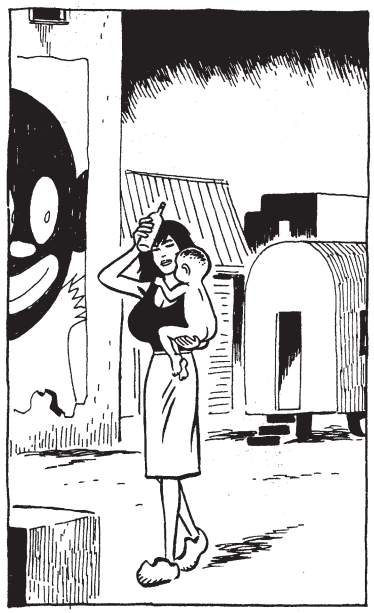
AND THE LEFTISTS CALL US VICIOUS, SERGEANT.
WELL; THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LEAVE CILINGIS HIS GLASSES FOR AN OPEN CASKET CEREMONY.
HEH HEH..


AH...I ALWAYS THOUGHT MOISES TALKED LIKE HE HAD HIS DICK IN HIS MOUTH...
HA HA HA..

DON'T BE TOO MAD THAT THAT BLAS REALLY DID HAVE LEFTIST FRIENDS, FLACO; YOU DID LOSE SOME OF THAT WEIGHT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO.
BWAAA HAAA

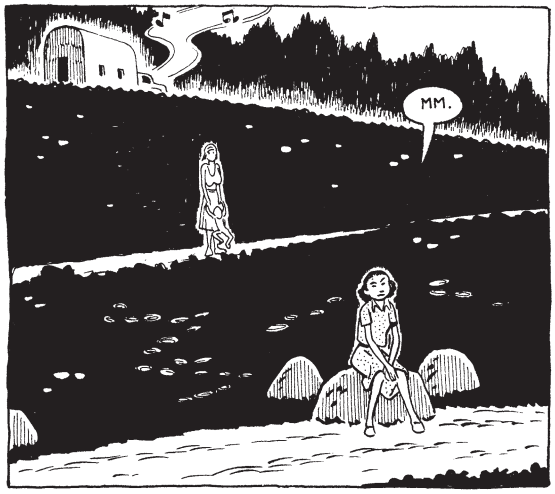

JUST WHAT A GIRL WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT BACK HOME; AWFUL POLITICAL MURDERS. ARCHIE'S SWEET, THOUGH. HE DIDN'T ASK ME OR EVEN SEEMED TO CARE HOW I WOUND UP HERE...
--TALKS LIKE A FOOL BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THERE.
HE'S ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU WON'T BE SEEING HIM AGAIN; TIME AGAIN TO MOVE ON AWAY FROM EVEN TALK OF POLITICAL MURDERS...

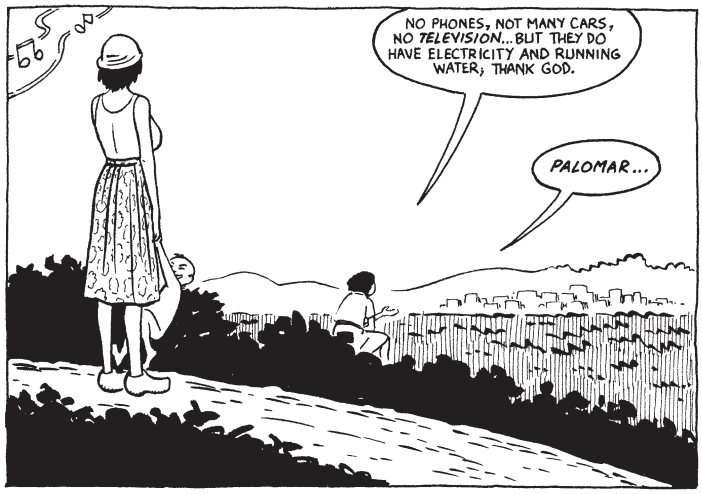
OFELIA, THERE'S STILL SOME OF THESE PILLS LEFT; TAKE SOME, PLEASE?
NO...:HAFF: THEY'RE NO GOOD.. GRUNT.. GET HOOKED..:HAFF: WRONG LIKE.. LIKE BIRTH CONTROL..
OFELIA, I WANT TO GET SOME GOD DAMN SLEEP!
IT'LL PASS.. IT'LL PASS.. :HAFF:



MAMA...PAPA...JOSELITO... PETER...ANTONINO...
DIRTY FUCKERS!
:SOB: PETER...
DEAR GOD.. :SOB: ARMANDO JOSE.. MY BABY...MY BABY BOY.. :SOB: GOD...
YOU DIRTY ROTTEN FUCKERS.. WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BABY BOY, YOU DIRTY.. YOU :SOB:
OH, PETER...
:SOB:
GO AHEAD..RUN AWAY, ALL YOU DIRTY FUCKERS.. I'VE GOT MY MARICELA NOW...MY OFELIA...MY FAMILY AND WE'RE TOGETHER FOR GOOD, YOU DIRTY FUCKERS!!
:SOB:

AHH...
YOU'LL LEAVE ME ONE DAY, MARICELA... JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS...
THEN, WHEN YOU DO PROMISE ME YOU'LL GO THROUGH LIFE LEAVING WRECKAGE AND FLAMES BEHIND YOU...

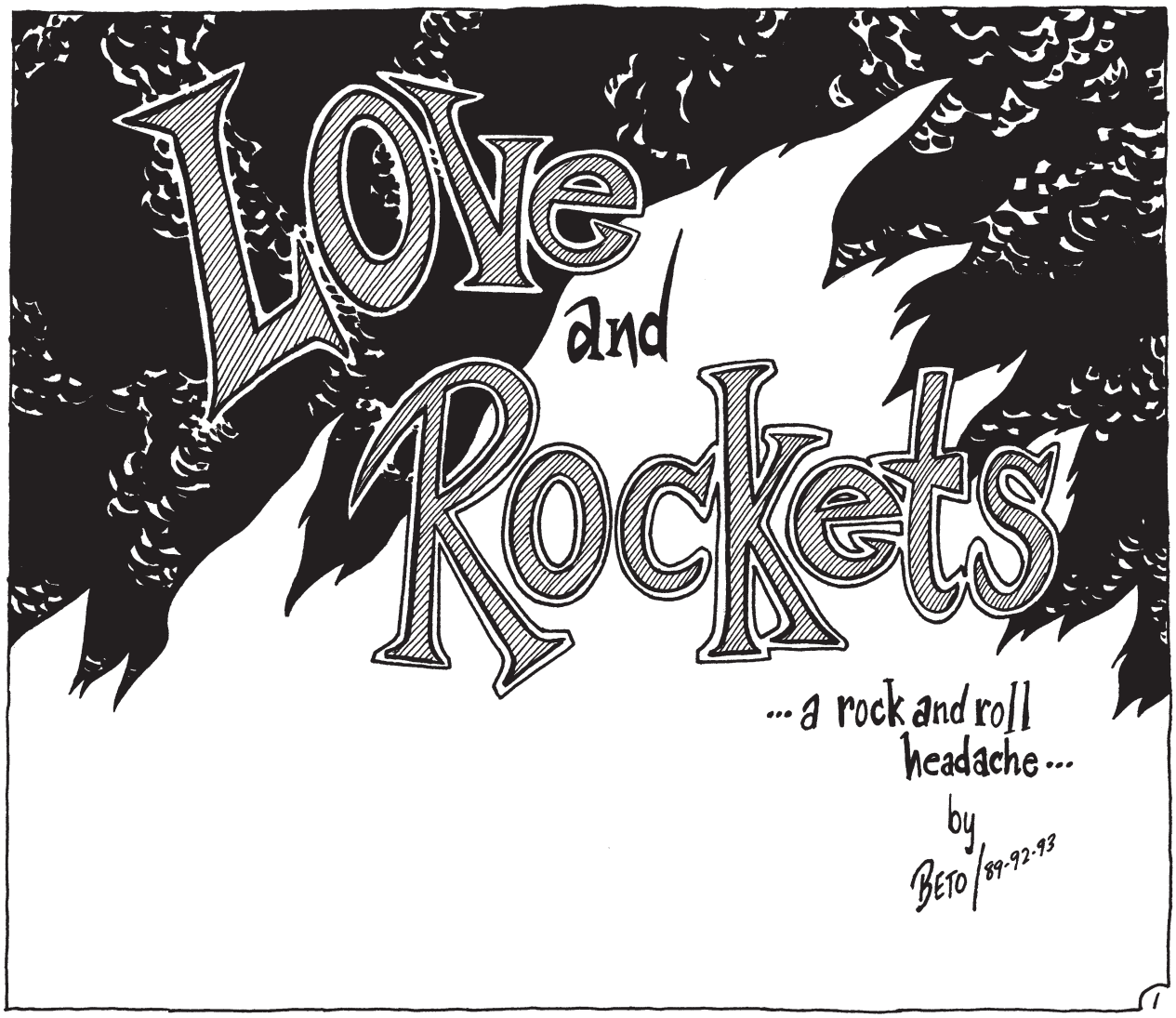

MM.


NO PHONES, NOT MANY CARS, NO TELEVISION... BUT THEY DO HAVE ELECTRICITY AND RUNNING WATER, THANK GOD.
PALOMAR...

YOU SAY THESE PEOPLE COOK UP SOME CRAZY SOUP THAT'S SUPPOSE TO CURE A BROKEN HEART?
HUH.
PALOMAR... I'M NOT SURE MAMA WOULD HAVE CARED TO LIVE IN A TOWN WHERE THE NAME MEANS PIGEON COOP.
FUCKIN' TOCO. TELL YOUR DUMB BROTHER TO SHUT UP, JESUS.
HYAK!
YOU SHUT UP, SATCH!
YOU TOO, TOCO!

HEY, I LIKE THIS SONG. SHALL WE DANCE, MADAM MARICELA?

REMEMBER, LUBA; WE'RE NOT TO MINGLE TOO MUCH WITH THE LOCALS. IF FOR ANY REASON WE HAVE TO PACK UP AND GET OUT OF TOWN RIGHT AWAY, IT WON'T DO US ANY GOOD TO..
LUBA, YOU'RE GOING TO RUN DOWN THAT BATTERY AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN OR OUT OF TOWN!
LUBA...
LOO-BUH..!


Love and Rockets
... a rock and roll headache ...
by
BETO/89-92-93
1

'717 IS' BY LOVE 'LOVE ME LIKE A REPTILE' BY MOTORHEAD

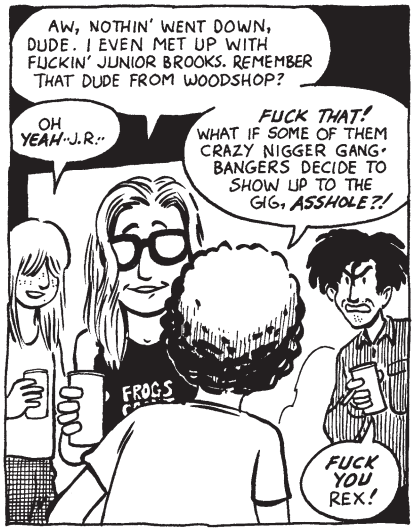
'I'M ALIVE' BY LOVE AND ROCKETS 1.1.K

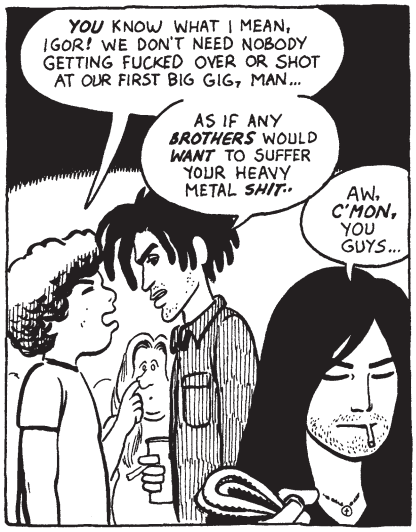
OH, THEY'VE STOPPED! DO I HEAR THOSE CUTE ENGLISH ACCENTS OF THEIRS?
ENGLISH ACCENTS? SHIT, NONE OF THOSE GUYS EVER GOT OVER A C MINUS IN ENGLISH!
HEY! OPEN UP, YOU FUCKIN' ANIMALS!
GO THE FUCK AROUND!
OH, MY GOD, THAT WAS DANIEL ASH! I'D KNOW THAT DREAMY ENGLISH ACCENT ANYWHERE! I HEARD HIM TALK ON M.T.V. ONCE!
HUH... JUST SOUNDED LIKE SCOTT THE HOG TO ME.
OH, OH, BE COOL. THIS GUY MAY BITE...
IGOR SAYS YOU HAVE TO NAME THE BAND PAUL McCARTNEY WAS IN BEFORE WINGS.
PAUL McWHO?
GO IN. YOU ALL DESERVE EACH ANOTHER.
HEY, IGOR. SO WHO'S WINGS..?
HEY, SO WHERES..
1-2-3-4..
BRROORRRR
RRRRRRR..
..WHY'D YOU STOP, REX?
BROKE A FUCKIN' BASS STRING, SEAN. SHIT..
YOU GUYS ARE TOTALLY BOGUS!
BY...
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU..
YOU STOLE THE NAME FROM A WORLD FAMOUS NEW MUSIC BAND!
WE HAD IT FIRST! A COUPLE OF MEXICAN GUYS TURNED US ON TO THE NAME, TUNA!
4

I'M GONNA TELL RICHARD FROM BE BOP RECORDS! HE'LL TELL THE REAL LOVE AND ROCKETS ABOUT YOU FAKES AND THEY'LL SUE YOU TO DEATH! RICHARD KNOWS 'EM!
..ER, EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT YOUR SHORTS ARE RIDING UP DEEP INTO THE CRACK OF YOUR BRAIN...

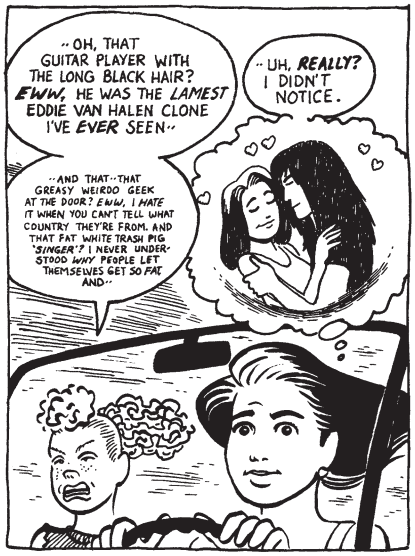
C'MON. WE CAN GET IN A COUPLE MORE SONGS WITHOUT THAT STRING, REX..
HOLD IT UP, SEAN. MY ARMS ARE TIRED...
LOVE and Rockets
YEAH, EL FONTANEL NEEDS HIS GERITOL BREAK...
FUCK IT, THEN. LET'S CALL IT TILL NEXT THURSDAY. MY MOM'LL BE HOME SOON ANY WAY...

SO'D YOU UNLOAD MOST OF THOSE FLYERS, DUDE?
FUCK YEAH, SCOTT! PUT 'EM UP ALL OVER NORTHSIDE, EASTSIDE..
EASTSIDE? ARE YOU NUTS?!


AW, NOTHIN' WENT DOWN, DUDE. I EVEN MET UP WITH FUCKIN' JUNIOR BROOKS. REMEMBER THAT DUDE FROM WOODSHOP?
OH YEAH..J.R..
FUCK THAT! WHAT IF SOME OF THEM CRAZY NIGGER GANG-BANGERS DECIDE TO SHOW UP TO THE GIG, ASSHOLE?!
FROGS
FUCK YOU REX!


YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, IGOR! WE DON'T NEED NOBODY GETTING FUCKED OVER OR SHOT AT OUR FIRST BIG GIG, MAN...
AS IF ANY BROTHERS WOULD WANT TO SUFFER YOUR HEAVY METAL SHIT..
AW, C'MON, YOU GUYS...

HEY, REX! I, UH, GOTTA USE THE SHITTER, OK?
NO FUCKIN' LONG DISTANCE CALLS LIKE THE LAST TIME, FUCKER!
AND DON'T GO PLAYING WITH MY MOM'S BUSINESS PHONE!

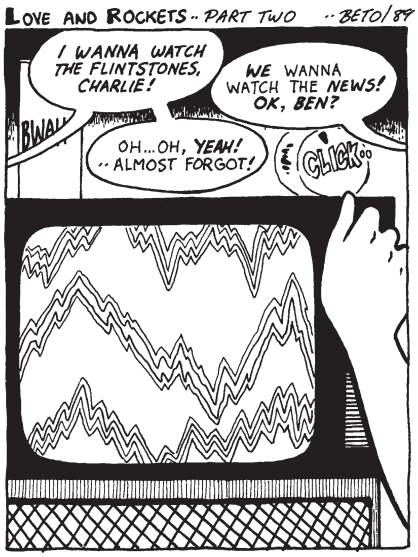

..OH, THAT GUITAR PLAYER WITH THE LONG BLACK HAIR? EWW, HE WAS THE LAMEST EDDIE VAN HALEN CLONE I'VE EVER SEEN..
..UH, REALLY? I DIDN'T NOTICE.
..AND THAT..THAT GREASY WEIRDO GEEK AT THE DOOR? EWW, I HATE IT WHEN YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT COUNTRY THEY'RE FROM. AND THAT FAT WHITE TRASH PIG 'SINGER'? I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY PEOPLE LET THEMSELVES GET SO FAT AND..

REX'S MOM WORKS WITH A LOT OF THEM HOLLYWOOD FARTBAGS. WONDER IF THIS IS THE HOT LINE TO SPIELBERG'S PAD AND HE'S TAKING LONG TO ANSWER 'CAUSE HE WAS TAKING A SHIT AND HE NEEDS A STUD-LIKE SURFER FOR HIS NEXT..
WHOOP.. FEEL A MAJOR BLAST COMING ON...
BRRING..
FROGS CAN'T ROCK

CONT!
AI!
BRING..
FROGS CAN'T ROCK

IMMIGRANT SONG BY LED ZEP

<ESPANOL> LA MIGRA - IMMIGRATION POLICE 'BLACK STEEL IN THE HOUR OF CHAOS' BY PUBLIC ENEMY


I WANNA WATCH THE FLINTSTONES, CHARLIE!
WE WANNA WATCH THE NEWS! OK, BEN?
OH...OH, YEAH! ..ALMOST FORGOT!
CLICK

YOU GUYS.. ARE WATCHING THE NEWS?! FIRST THING IN THE MORNING YET?! I MUST STILL BE ASLEEP...
SECOND THING.
SHUDDUP BAMBI! I WANNA HEAR..
..SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, A HOUSEKEEPER AND HER DAUGHTER WERE MURDERED..
JACKSON BROWNE
OZZY

AW, IT'S THAT SAME OL' BORING EL SALVADOR BULLSHIT! PUT ON THE CARTOONS, MAN!
..TORTURED AND MUTILATED..
GOD... WHO'D DO THAT TO A PRIEST?
I SAY KILL 'EM ALL! KILL ALL THEM BEANERS.
JACKSON BROWNE
OZZY

OH, YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN ALL THE LITTLE KIDS AND SHIT, HUH, CHARLIE? GOD, YOU GUYS..
ESPECIALLY THE LITTLE BEANERS. SO THEY WON'T GROW UP TO BE BIG BEANERS!
SHUDDUP! IT'S ON..!

..ALLEGES THAT THREE YOUNG SKINHEAD MALES ASSAULTED SIXTY-YEAR OLD MALVINA WILSON IN FRONT OF A VON'S SUPERMAR..
FUCK...
WHAT..?

..WILSON REMAINS UNCONSCIOUS IN CRITICAL CONDITION HAVING SUFFERED SEVERE..
OH, BIG TOUGH GUYS BEATING UP ON LITTLE OLD BLACK LADIES NOW, HUH? GREAT...
LET'S GO, BAMBI.
JACKSON BROWNE
OZZY

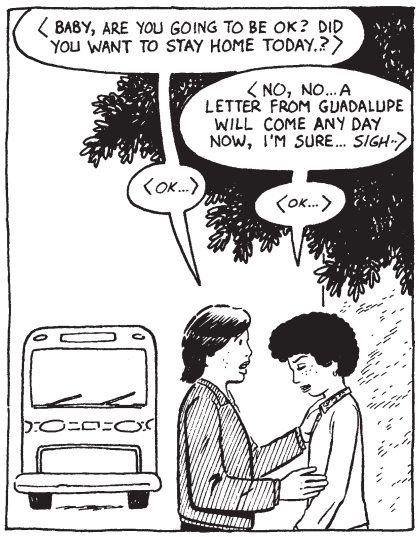
SHE COULD'VE STARTED IT! PEOPLE ALWAYS GIVE ME SHIT THE WAY I LOOK! SHE PROBABLY SAID THE WRONG THING TO THE WRONG DUDE, BAMBI!
C'MON, BAMBI. I GOTTA GET TO WORK.

BAMBI, IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY TO GET ALONG WITH MY ROOM MATES.. SHIT, I'M NOT GIVING YOU A RIDE TO SCHOOL NO MORE!
I'M NOT RIDING THAT SCHOOL BUS EVER AGAIN, CARL! THEM MEXICAN GIRLS STILL WANT ME DEAD, AND I..
CARL... DO YOU THINK BEN AND CHARLIE KNOW WHO BEAT UP THAT OLD LADY..?
BAMBI, I'M NOT EVEN GONNA DIGNIFY THAT WITH AN ANSWER...

〈..LEFTISTS ARE CLAIMING IT WAS THE WORK OF THE RIGHT-WING DEATHSQUADS..〉
〈RIRI, HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH THAT REPORT? YOU'RE GONNA MISS THE BUS, HONEY...〉

〈MARICELA, GUADALUPE HASN'T WRITTEN IN A LONG TIME! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BACK HOME..?〉
CLICK
〈LOOK; IF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN SAN SALVADOR IS ALSO HAPPENING IN PALOMAR IT'D BE ON THE NEWS TOO, OK?〉

〈..LAST TIME YOUR SISTER WROTE, SHE SAID TROOPS WERE COMING AND GOING IN FELIX AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW IF PALOMAR WAS NEXT OR NOT, MARICELA!〉
〈RIRI, PALOMAR HAS NEVER BEEN OF MUCH INTEREST TO ANY GOVERNMENT BEFORE, SO WHY WORRY NOW? GUADALUPE WILL WRITE, OK?〉


〈BABY, ARE YOU GOING TO BE OK? DID YOU WANT TO STAY HOME TODAY.?〉
〈NO, NO...A LETTER FROM GUADALUPE WILL COME ANY DAY NOW, I'M SURE... SIGH..〉
〈OK...〉
〈OK...〉

..YEAH... SAW IT ON LAST NIGHT'S LATE NEWS...GOD, IT'S HORRIBLE... I JUST WANT TO JUMP ON A PLANE AND GET DOWN THERE..OH, OK... OK, JIM. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
FLOOSH

KRISTEN, ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN THERE ALL DAY OR WHAT, HUH?
COMING RIGHT OUT, DADDY!
COUGH
SSHOOOOOSH

YOU'VE MISSED THE SCHOOL BUS ALREADY, Y'KNOW. WHAT DO YOU GIRLS DO IN THERE SO DAMN LONG, ANY WAY?
I'M SORRY DADDY...
HERE. TAKE MY CAR TODAY. BUT IF YOU MISS THE BUS AGAIN..

I'LL.. COME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL, DADDY...
..AND I'M SORRY ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE IN SAN SALVADOR, TOO.
OK, KRIS...
DRIVE SAFELY.

JESUS CHRIST...
SALV

〈ESPAÑOL〉

IGOR! SCOTT! CAN YOU HEAR ME OR WHAT?
JESUS, WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE TEN MINUTES AND ALREADY THE OLD MAN IS..
COMING, MR. PEKARMAN!
WHAT'S.. AW, MAN...
JESUS ARE NIGGARS
GET ME THE COPS.
FUCK
THESE NAZIS ARE POPPING UP LIKE ROACHES THESE DAYS.
TSK, TSK.
YEAH.
FUCK YOU
VZZZZZ
<.. SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, A HOUSEKEEPER AND HER DAUGHTER WERE TORTURED, KILLED AND MUTILATED.. >
BETTER NOT LET MY MOM CATCH YOU WATCHING T.V.
OH..! OH, I WASN'T.. PLEASE, I..I..
FORGET IT.
HEY MOM!
EVIL DEAD II
OK, MOM, I PASSED MY ALGEBRA TEST. NOW CAN MY HOT ROCKIN' BAND PLAY YOUR BIG HOLLYWOOD PARTY NEXT WEEK?
HMMMM... YOU NEVER LIKED MY PARTIES BEFORE, REX...
NEVER GOT TO PLAY ONE BEFORE.
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY ONE NOW?
BECAUSE IF I DON'T I'LL TAKE A MILLION DRUGS AND TAKE THE CAR AND AT NINETY PER PLOW INTO A BUSLOAD OF KIDS ON THEIR WAY TO SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN.
HA HA HAA.. YOU'VE SUCH A CREATIVE IMAGINATION, REX! YOU'LL HAVE TO SIT DOWN ONE DAY AND WRITE A SCRIPT, HONEY. I GUARANTEE YOU IT'LL GET READ. WHY, JUST THE OTHER DAY..
MOM.. I WANNA ROCK!
YOU REALLY DO, DON'T YOU?
10

YOU KNOW, HONEY; LIFE IS TAKING RISKS. HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF IF WE DON'T GET OUT THERE AND DO IT!
NOW, I HAVEN'T LISTENED TOO CLOSELY TO YOUR MUSIC LATELY.. CAN I DO THE LAMBADA TO IT?
MOM, WORRY NOT. YOUR PARTY WILL ROCK.
BRIINGG
HEY WANDA, REMIND ME TO STICK MY FINGERS DOWN MY THROAT AFTER I PIG OUT. THEN WHEN I'M DOWN TO SIXTY-FOUR POUNDS I CAN SUFFER A HEARTATTACK WHICH'LL GET ME ON OPRAH.
TSK, GIRL..
OZZY
C'MON, WANDA. IF I DIDN'T BUG DORK NIZNICK AT LEAST ONCE A DAY WHAT ELSE WOULD SHE LOOK FORWARD TO IN HER WORTHLESS, DISMAL VALLEY GIRL LIFE?
WELL, JUST WATCH OUT FOR THEM QUIET ONES...
GUNS N' ROSES
OZZY
HEY HEY HEY...
HEY, SEAN! YOU PERVERT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? SCOPING OUT THE FRESHMEN?
HEY, SEAN..
SO...WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING, SEAN? EVER GET THAT PART-TIME JOB AT MUSIC PUS?
HEY, WANDA; COULD YOU TELL IGOR I WON'T NEED A RIDE TO PRACTICE TOMORROW?
ME? OH, WELL, I GREW SMALL CHILD-LIKE SNAILS BETWEEN MY TOES LAST WEEK...
COOL, BAMBI.
...YEAH, MY DAD TAKES THAT STUFF PRETTY HARD, GA GA. WHEN HE WAS STILL GETTING FUNDING ALL HE DID WAS MAKE SHORT DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA; NOW THAT NOBODY WANTS TO BACK HIM ANY MORE HE'S BEEN WORKING ON A DRAMA ABOUT THAT STUFF AND...
..DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT BLACK LADY WHO WAS ATTACKED..
OH... SHIT..!
TCH. IT'S ONLY BAMBI DIBBLE LEANING ON YOUR DAD'S CAR, KRIS. I CAN TAKE CARE OF HER...
NOT HER! HIM! IT'S ..HIM! OH SHIT, OH SHIT...
..SO FUCKIN' HUNG-OVER THAT I BARFED ON THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN..
..WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT, NIZNICK?
THAT'S.. MY DAD'S CAR...
OZZY

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO GIVE ME A RIDE TO WORK, 'HONEY.'
OZZY
SURE. LET'S GO. C'MON, GA GA.
THAT·· LITTLE·· FUCKING·· SHIT··! DID YOU SEE THE WAY SHE·· SHE'S DEAD WANDA, SHE··
WHAT'RE YOU CRYIN' ABOUT, GIRL? YOU GOT A BOY-FRIEND ALREADY!
SO WHAT, WANDA? SO WHAT?!
··NAW, NO WAY! MY BAND HAD THE NAME LOVE AND ROCKETS WAY BEFORE THEM ENGLISH GUYS STOLE IT··
WELL, ANY WAY... YEAH, ME AND BAMB' USED TO GO OUT, I GUESS·· I DUNNO, SHE JUST ISN'T EXACTLY MY TYPE; KNOWWHUTIMEAN, VERN?
TELL ME SOMETHING, LADIES; WHY IS IT SOME GIRLS JUST DON'T GET THE MESSAGE, HUH?
SOME GUYS DON'T EITHER...
MOST GUYS...
FEH
STIPPY ESTATES
VROOM
ZOOM
ROAR
VOOM
12

MI HIJO · MEE EE' HOEH "MY SON

THEY COME INTO THE STATION WITH THEIR VALDEEZ JOKES, AND I TELL 'EM, 'WHAT'S WITH THIS VALDEEZ SHIT; MY NAME IS JOSE VALDEZ AND I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT GODDAMN OIL SPILL AND
YATATA YATATA YATATA
THEY'RE JERKS, POP, THAT'S ALL..
HELP ME WITH DINNER, WANDA?
BATHUMPA THUMPA THUMP
DAMN, LETICIA! DOES YOUR SISTER ALWAYS PLAY HER STEREO FOR THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD?
VERETTA'S NOT HOME, TYRONE. THAT'S OUTSIDE.
SOCIOLOGY
OH, IT'S JUST J.R. BROOKS AND HIS BOYS AGAIN. PROBABLY LOOKING TO BULLY SOMEBODY AS USUAL... SOME PEOPLE JUST WON'T GROW UP...
AW, THOSE HOMEBOYS ARE ALL RIGHT... JUST LOUD, THAT'S ALL...
BA THUMPA
KRIS?
YOU HOME ALREADY?
KRIS..?
AW... SH..
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, SO YOUR DAD'S A CRANKY OLD COOT... THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL, HONEY.
SO..! I'M COOKING DINNER TONIGHT, KRIS. WHAT SOUNDS GOOD?
SICILIAN STYLE PIZZA AT GIORGIO'S?
AGAIN? OK, BUT, MAN, WHERE DO YOU PUT IT ALL?
'CORE, DUDE!
AWRIGHT, FONTANEL! I'LL TELL GERRY AND.. AWRIGHT, THEN; LATER!
LOU'S LIQUOR
FUCK YEAH, ABU! LOVE AND ROCKETS WILL ROCK REX'S MOM'S PAR-TAY, DUDE! COKE, GIRLS, COKE, BABES, COKE, WOMEN..
HEY!
DING DING
JUNIOR BROOKS AND HIS POSSE! WHAT'S THE HAPS, DUDES? WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR? COUPLE OF CASES OF THUNDERBIRD? HYUK!
WE NEED TO SPEAK TO Y'ALL FOR A MINUTE, STRANSKY. OUSSIDE.
14

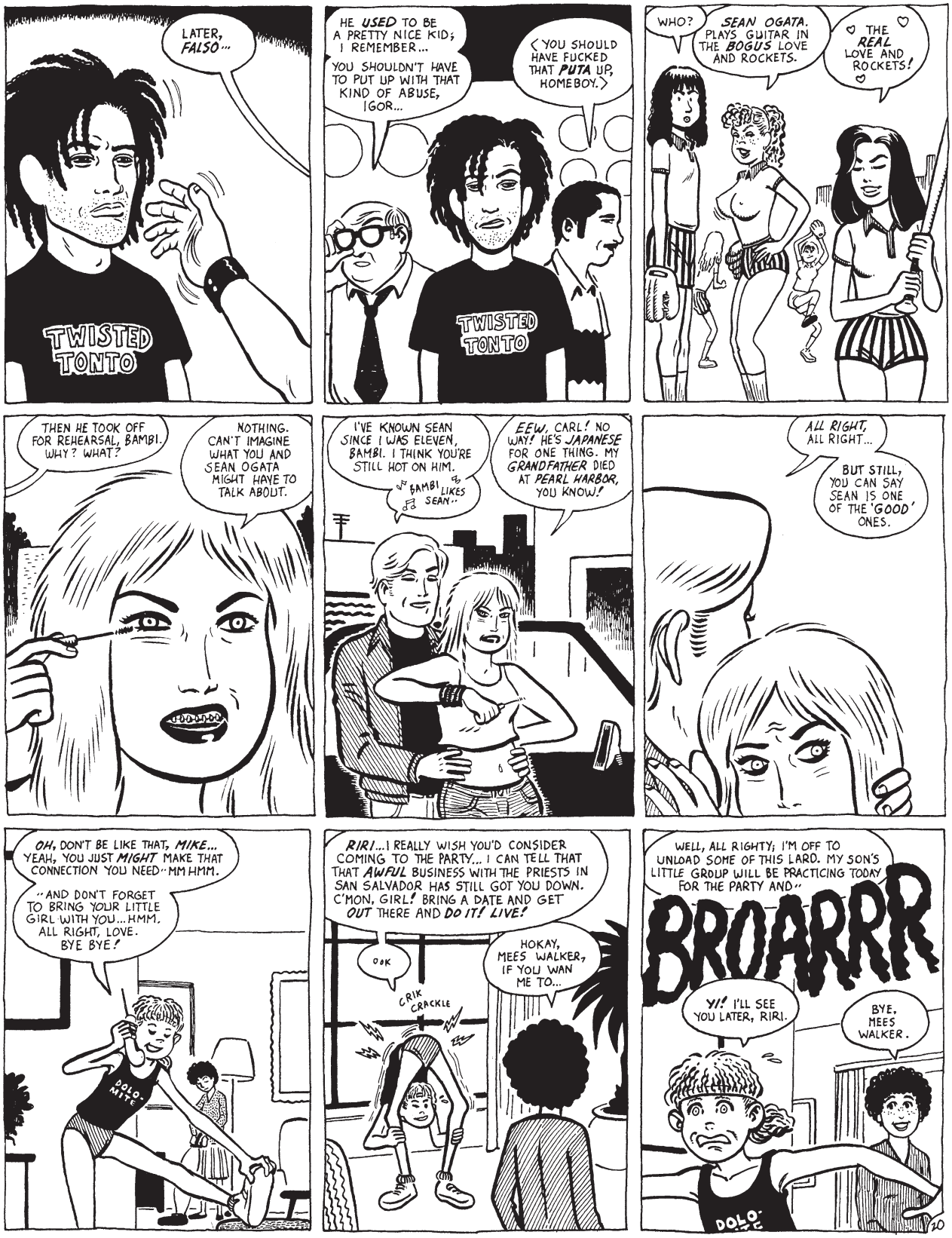
FUNKY STUFF(?) BY KOOL AND THE GANG

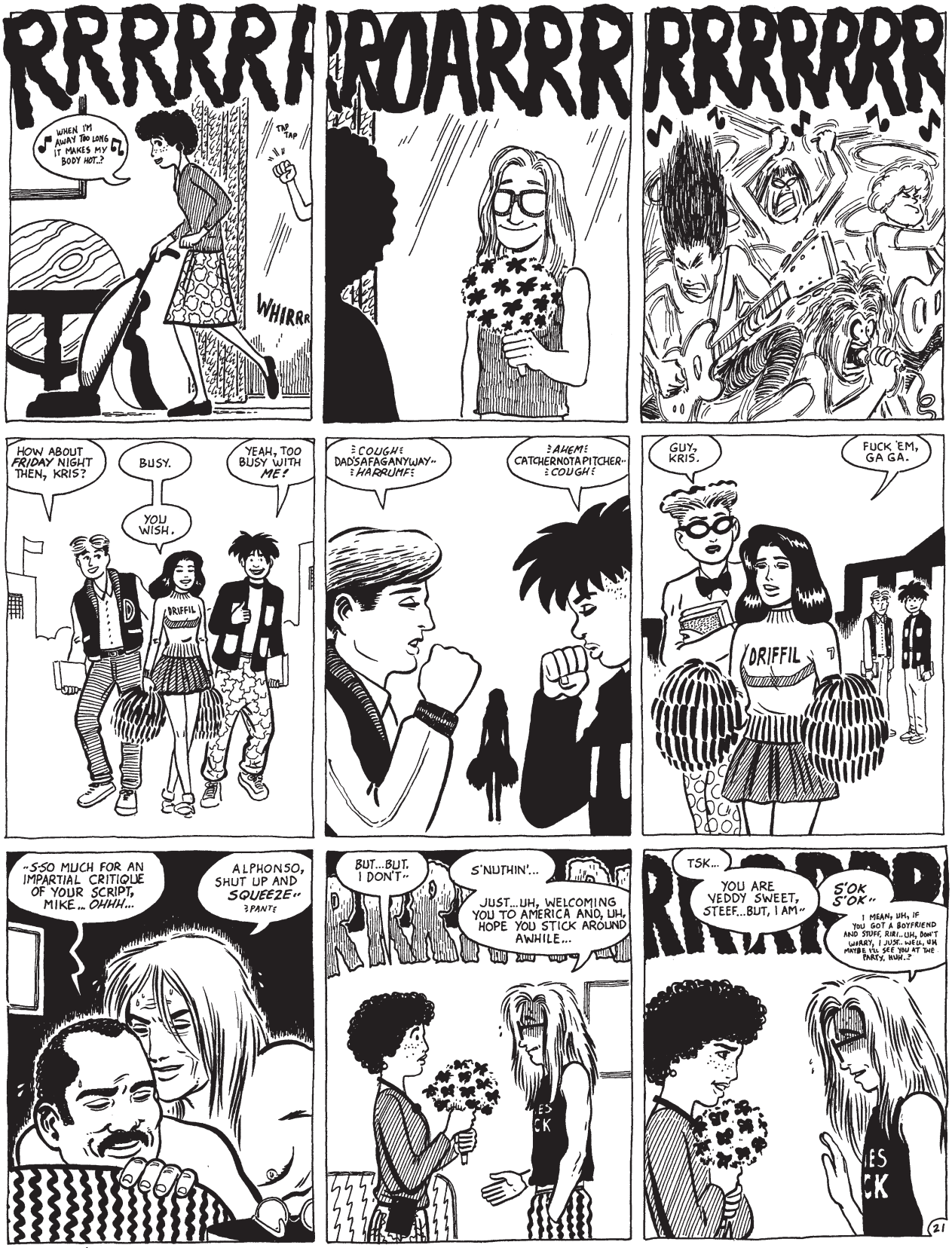
DADDY...
ARRH...
I PROMISED NOT IN THE HOUSE ONLY, KRIS...
IN FRONT OF ME IS THE SAME THING, DADDY.
GUY...
OK, KRIS, OK...HAD ONE GLASS OF WINE TOO MANY TONIGHT, HONEY...OK, I PROMISE.
HOW COME STEVE'S NOT OUT HERE WITH YOU, GERRY?
I DON'T KNOW. HE'S BEEN OVER-SLEEPING A LOT LATELY, PAM.
MUST BE LOVE.
TOP O' THE MORNING TO YA, MR. OGATA! IS YOUR DEADBEAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON UP YET?
YOU'VE MY PERMISSION TO JUMP UP AND DOWN ON HIS HEAD TO FIND OUT, SCOTTY BOY. I'VE GOT SOME CLEATS YOU CAN BORROW.
ARE YOU SLEEPING, ARE YOU SLEEPING, PIN-DICK BUGFUCKER SEAN, PIN-DICK BUGFUCKER SEAN..?
YOUR MOTHER WAS A JACKAL AND YOU ARE HER WHELP. RAK! BUNDOLO!
HENDRIX
GOOD MORNING, MY LOVE; I COUNT THE DAYS WHEN SOMEDAY I SHALL BE MR. BUSTY DUSTY.
PLANT ONE ON LETHA WEAPONS FOR ME, DUDE.
16

WELL... GETTIN' THERE, ANYWAY.
HUH? WHAZZAT? MORNING YET, KRIS.. HEY..
LATE FOR THE BUS AGAIN..
DADDY, FORGET THAT SCRIPT FOR AWHILE AND GET SOME SLEEP!
IT'S MIKE.
MIKE NIZNICK.
YEAH, YEAH, YOU'RE A RIOT, ALFONSO.. C'MON OVER; I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT I'VE GOT SO FAR ON THE SCRIPT...
MANAGUA
ANAMA
OH, IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, I'VE ALSO GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO SHOW YOU AND IT MEANS BUSINESS.
'NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK' ARE THE BEST FUCKIN' MUSIC IN THE WORLD EVER!
I HEARD THAT, BUBBA.
NO FUCKIN' SHIT, GIRL.
GOT ANY FUCKIN' PROBLEMS WITH THAT, MARICELA?!
NO...I LIKE DERE SONGS, TOO...
HERE. A FLOWER FOR YOUR TEACHERS EACH.
THANKS, MARICELA. MAYBE I CAN WRANGLE A B PLUS IN MATH WITH THIS BABY, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THAT FUCKIN' UNGRATEFUL SHIT-BAG MISS BAXLEY.
17

CACHUNG-
SSSSSSH
HEY YOU MARICELA GIRL!!
WHAT YOU DO? SIT ALL DAY LONG NOT WORK?!! STAND UP ALL DAY WORK!! AND YOU NO SMOKE MARICELA GIRL!!
I CHECK YOU AGAIN SOON! YOU STAND UP ALL DAY WORK OR YOU NO WORK!!

ESE (ESS'EH) THAT ONE (SLANG: CALLING SOMEONE THAT) / RAZA (RAH'SAH) RACE (SLANG: OF OUR RACE) / CHICANO (CHEE CON'OH) MEXICAN AMERICAN / FALSO (FALL'SO) FALSE ONE (SLANG: MEXICAN-AMERICAN WHO ACTS 'WHITE') / PURO RAZA (POOR'OH RAH'SAH) PURE RACE


LATER, FALSO...
TWISTED TONTO
HE USED TO BE A PRETTY NICE KID; I REMEMBER...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THAT KIND OF ABUSE, IGOR...
<YOU SHOULD HAVE FUCKED THAT PUTA UP, HOMEBOY.>
TWISTED TONTO
WHO?
SEAN OGATA. PLAYS GUITAR IN THE BOGUS LOVE AND ROCKETS.
THE REAL LOVE AND ROCKETS!
THEN HE TOOK OFF FOR REHEARSAL, BAMBI. WHY? WHAT?
NOTHING. CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU AND SEAN OGATA MIGHT HAVE TO TALK ABOUT.
I'VE KNOWN SEAN SINCE I WAS ELEVEN, BAMBI. I THINK YOU'RE STILL HOT ON HIM.
BAMBI LIKES SEAN...
EEW, CARL! NO WAY! HE'S JAPANESE FOR ONE THING. MY GRANDFATHER DIED AT PEARL HARBOR, YOU KNOW!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
BUT STILL, YOU CAN SAY SEAN IS ONE OF THE 'GOOD' ONES.
OH, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MIKE... YEAH, YOU JUST MIGHT MAKE THAT CONNECTION YOU NEED...MM HMM.
...AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LITTLE GIRL WITH YOU...HMM. ALL RIGHT, LOVE. BYE BYE!
DOLO-MITE
RIRI...I REALLY WISH YOU'D CONSIDER COMING TO THE PARTY... I CAN TELL THAT THAT AWFUL BUSINESS WITH THE PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR HAS STILL GOT YOU DOWN. C'MON, GIRL! BRING A DATE AND GET OUT THERE AND DO IT! LIVE!
OOK
CRIK CRACKLE
HOKAY, MEES WALKER, IF YOU WAN ME TO...
WELL, ALL RIGHTY; I'M OFF TO UNLOAD SOME OF THIS LARD. MY SON'S LITTLE GROUP WILL BE PRACTICING TODAY FOR THE PARTY AND...
BROARRR
YI! I'LL SEE YOU LATER, RIRI.
BYE, MEES WALKER.
DOLO-MITE



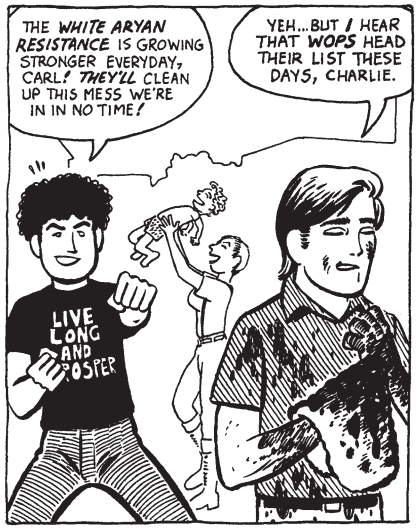
MISS YOU MUCH-JANET JACKSON

BYE...
POGUES SUCK
RIRI'S GOT A BOYFRIEND, RIRI'S GOT A BOYFRIEND
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MARICELA, BUT HE'S NICE AND I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET HURT! TSK, HE WAS SO CUTE...
...HE'S GOING TO BE AT THAT BIG PARTY...
DON QUIXOTE
TEATRO de BRECHT
FUENTES GRINGO VIEJO
PABLO NERUDA
OH, YEAH...YOUR BIG HOLLYWEIRD PARTY...AND YOU REALLY WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU, HUH..?
OF COURSE I WANT YOU TO GO, MARICELA! I WANT EVERYBODY TO SEE MY GORGEOUS LOVER ALL DRESSED UP FOR ONCE.
WE'RE NOT BUYING ME NO DRESS FOR THIS, RIRI, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO SQUEEZE MYSELF INTO ONE OF YOURS!
THERE'S ALWAYS THIS DRESS...
GNNNNR..
I WAS HOPING YOU'D HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT OLD..
ALL RIGHT, THEN, LET ME TRY IT ON..
MARICELA, HOW COME WHEN YOU THREW OUT ALL YOUR DRESSES YOU KEPT THIS ONE..?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? THIS IS THE DRESS OFELIA WAS SUPPOSED TO FIX BECAUSE MY MOM GOT ALL CRAZY WHEN.. WELL...
I GUESS I KEPT IT HOPING MAYBE...OFELIA STILL MIGHT FIX IT... SOMEDAY...
OH, SHOOT..! I WASN'T GOING TO THINK ABOUT OFELIA AND.. AND HOME AND.. DAMN IT, NOT TODAY...
OH, BABY...
RIRI...
WE CAN HAVE A BABY TOGETHER WITHOUT A MAN... ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IS SAFE AND..
UURRHH... MARICELA, I SAW THAT ON T.V.; IT'S SO AWFUL! I WANT A BABY, NOT A..A..A FRANKENSTEIN!
I WANT MY BABY REAL EVEN IF I HAVE TO..BE WITH A GUY FOR..HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES..!
I'LL HAVE THE BABY, RIRI. I'VE BEEN WITH A GUY BEFORE...
ONLY IF IT HAPPENS BY CHANCE TO EITHER OF US, MARICELA; SO I DON'T WANT YOU..
PTCH... DON'T WORRY...
IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE, ANY WAY.
HEH...
22

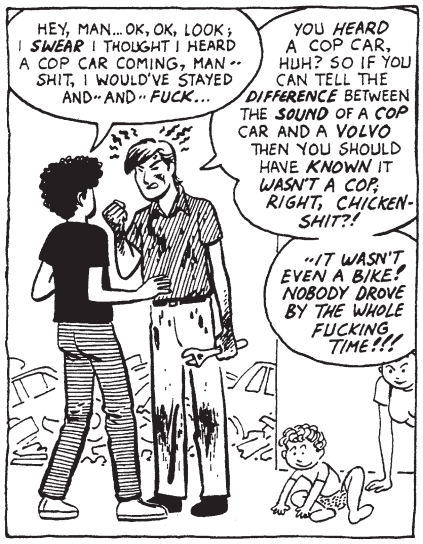
< WELL... IF YOU'RE FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO GO TO A PARTY, I GUESS I COULD AT LEAST BE THERE WITH YOU... HEY, WE'LL MAKE IT MY UNOFFICIAL SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY FIESTA.>
< MMMMMM... YOU WERE ALL OF THIRTEEN WHEN I FELL FOR YOU...WE PLANNED FOR OUR OWN FAMILY WAY BACK THEN... >
¿DONDE ESTA DIOS?
<...AS FOR MY BOYFRIEND...>
<WHAT..?>
<OH.. N-NOTHING! NOTH..>
BAM BAM
<TSK, OH, IT'S THAT ROMERO HERE FOR HIS MONEY.. HE'S NOT COMING IN THIS TIME!>
BAM BAM
<WELL? AREN'T YOU GOING TO INVITE ME IN FOR ONE OF YOUR SPECIAL ENCHILADA DINNERS?>
< NO..! UH, MARICELA'S NOT WELL...NEXT TIME, ROMERO.
HERE. I HAVE TO GO..>
<...YOU'RE STARTING TO GET ARROGANT, RIRI. UNLESS YOU WANT LA MIGRA KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR, YOU'LL BE NICER, HUH?>
<I-I'M SORRY, SEÑOR ROMERO... WE BOTH DO SO APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US, BUT.. BUT I MUST SEE TO MARICELA'S NEEDS. PLEASE..>
GNH...
< GOD IN HEAVEN, I HATE THAT.. THAT..!>
SLAM..
<I LOVE YOU, RIRI!
I LOVE YOU..>
<...I LOVE YOU TOO, HONEY, BUT WHAT..?>
<N-NOTHING... I JUST DO...>
23

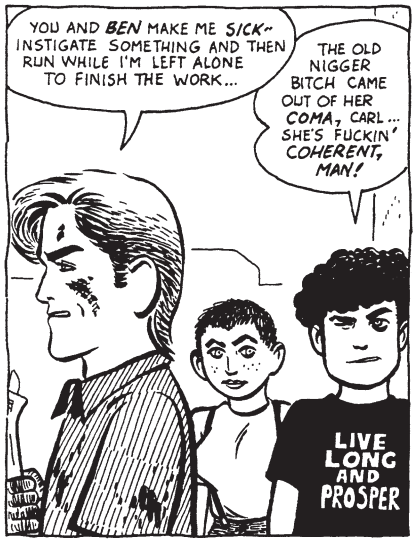
BIG PARTY, HUH? WELL, I MIGHT BE BUSY THAT NIGHT, BUT I'LL SEE...
C'MON, KRIS! YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME FACE THAT BUNCH OF NO TALENTS WHO'VE ACCESS TO HEAPS OF MONEY ALONE, ARE YOU?
I GUARANTEE THERE'LL BE A LOT OF BEAUTIFUL MALE AIRHEADS THERE...
PIXOTE
BUSTER EATON FESTIVAL
CAN
IT'S GONNA BE A PRETTY BIG DEAL FOR YOU, HUH, DADDY?
A BLISSFUL NIGHT OF BOOTLICKING AND GROVELING BECKONS.
I NEED YOU TO STOP ME WHEN I'M DOWN TO MY LAST OUNCE OF DIGNITY.
IT WON'T BE TOO BORING FOR YOU, HONEY. HER SON'S ROCK N' ROLL BAND WILL BE PLAYING AND..
HEY, ISN'T THERE ALREADY A BIG M.T.V. BAND CALLED LOVE AND ROCKETS..?
LOVE AND.. THE LOCAL BAND? IS THAT WHO..?
EEYEEHAAAAAAH..
CAN
WHEW! ..LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER.
LAST TIME I EVER GOT THAT EXCITED ABOUT ROCK N ROLL WAS WHEN I SAW HENDRIX SPLIT HIS PANTS AS HE FAKE FUCKED HIS AXE; AMPS WAILING..
WANDA, I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD AT THAT SHITTY YUPPY SCUMHOLE PARTY..
THEN I'M GOING WITHOUT YOU, IGOR!
GUY, IGOR; I'D GO IF I COULD..
FOX
99¢ VIDEO
50% OFF ALL BUD CANS
THEN YOU GO IN MY PLACE, BAMBI. THAT WAY YOU CAN KEEP YOUR EYE ON Sean
FUCKYOU..
I'M GOING!
FOX
OW OW OWWWW.. AAAAAH! MAD BIKER CHICK GONE BERSERK!
BAMBI, WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL ..YOU BROKE UP WITH SEAN SIX MONTHS AGO!
SHIT, WANDA; YOU CAN COME TO THE GIG WITH ME AND MY POSSE! FUCK YEAH! ME AND JUNIOR BROOKS AND E.T. AND ERFQUAKE; WE SHRED!
YOU'RE GONNA GO TO THE PARTY WITH THEM BROTHERS, STEVE..?
FUCK YEAH! I'M THEIR LINK TO THE HONKY MO' FO' WORLD!
I'LL BE GLAD TO JOIN YOUR POSSE!
WANDA; BAMBI: NOW I WOULDN'T MISS THAT PARTY FOR ANYTHING!
YAY!
I THINK IT'LL BE COOL WITH REX, BAMBI.
WE WILL ROCK.
24

NAW, BAMBI'S GOING OUT WITH HER BUDDY WANDA TO SOME PARTY, SO I'LL BE HERE AT THIS SHIT ALL NIGHT.
TSSHH... BAMBI AND HER NIGGERS.
NIGGERS.
BEANERS.
HEEBS...
FAGS.
AND THE SHIT KEEPS RISING.

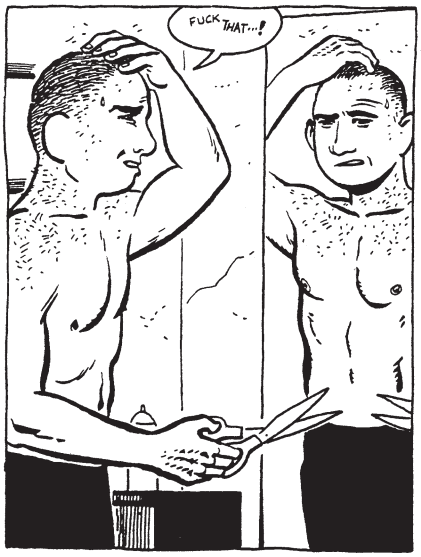

THE WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE IS GROWING STRONGER EVERYDAY, CARL! THEY'LL CLEAN UP THIS MESS WE'RE IN IN NO TIME!
YEH...BUT I HEAR THAT WOPS HEAD THEIR LIST THESE DAYS, CHARLIE.
LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

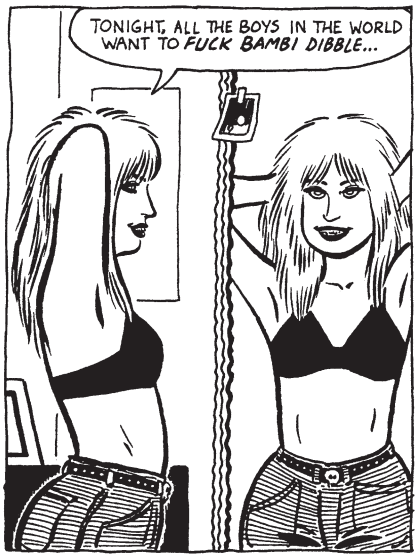
HEY--MAN! JUST BECAUSE MY FOLKS ARE-- I'M WHITE, CARL! I'M WHITER'N YOU, MOTHERFUCKER!!
YEAH? YOU HAD A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE TO PROVE IT RECENTLY, BUT I DUNNO, MAN.

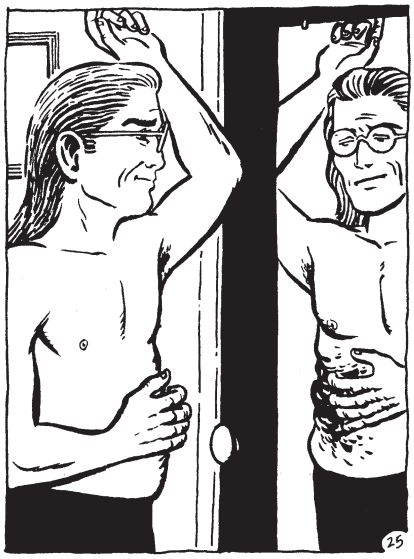

HEY, MAN...OK, OK, LOOK; I SWEAR I THOUGHT I HEARD A COP CAR COMING, MAN-- SHIT, I WOULD'VE STAYED AND-- AND-- FUCK...
YOU HEARD A COP CAR, HUH? SO IF YOU CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUND OF A COP CAR AND A VOLVO THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WASN'T A COP, RIGHT, CHICKEN-SHIT?!
--IT WASN'T EVEN A BIKE! NOBODY DROVE BY THE WHOLE FUCKING TIME!!!


YOU AND BEN MAKE ME SICK-- INSTIGATE SOMETHING AND THEN RUN WHILE I'M LEFT ALONE TO FINISH THE WORK...
THE OLD NIGGER BITCH CAME OUT OF HER COMA, CARL... SHE'S FUCKIN' COHERENT, MAN!
LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

YEH...
BUT SINCE WE ALL LOOK THE SAME TO A NIGGER, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO INDENTIFY US...EXCEPT MAYBE DUMBFUCK BEN!
DUMBSHIT GOING AROUND WITH A MOHAWK IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
BEN'S GOT NOTHING TO HIDE, MAN.
GRACELAND


FUCK THAT...!


TONIGHT, ALL THE BOYS IN THE WORLD WANT TO FUCK BAMBI DIBBLE...


25

'LETHAL WEAPON' BY ICE T

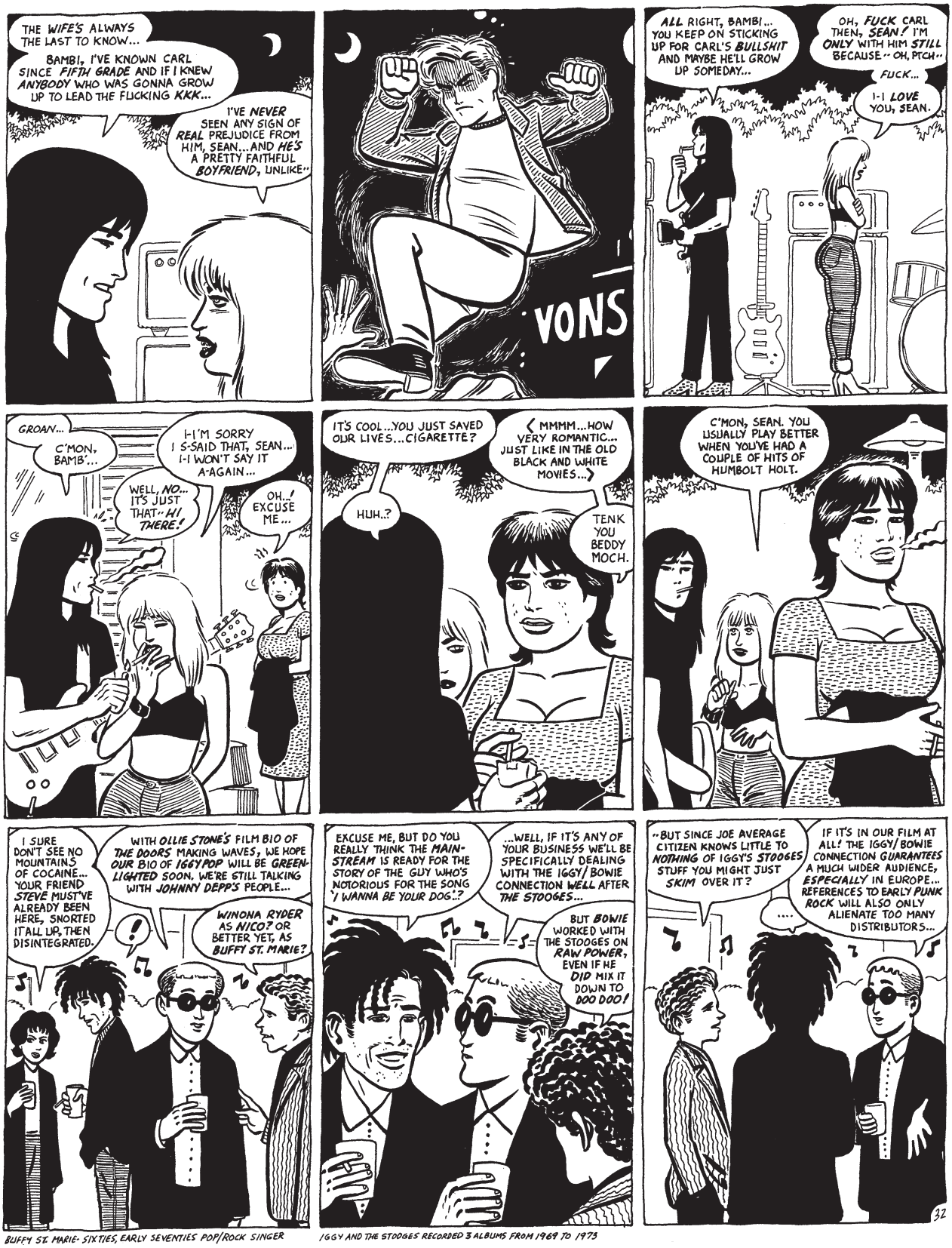
WHAT YOU SMELLIN', MY MAN QUAKE, IS D'MANLY SCENT O'BOSS COLOGNE. BE DRIVIN' D' WHITE BITCHES WILD THANG WILD.
I DON'T NEED NO PERFUME TO GET THE BITCHES' THANG STINKIN'. JUS' NEED ME!
THERE YOU NIGGAHS GOIN' AGAIN WIT THAT BITCH SHIT..!
THEY AIN'T BITCHES AND THEY AIN'T HO'S! THEY LADIES, THEY WOMEN, EVEN GIRLS! A BITCH IS A MUTHUHFUCKIN' GIRL DOG! STOP FUCKIN' DISSIN' THE LADIES!
A BITCH IS A BITCH IS A BITCH!
BULL SHIT!
WHY, ELVIN...HAD WE KNOWN YOU WERE SO SENSITIVE.
MRS. WILSON! THAT OL' LADY WHO GOT JUMPED BY THEM SKINHEAD MUTHUHFUCKUHS! IS SHE A BITCH, QUAKE?
DON'T BE DISSIN' MRS. WILSON, E.T.! DON'T BE SAYIN' SHIT I NEVER SAID!
A BITCH JUS' WANTS THE MONEY AND A LADY JUS' WANTS HER MAN! SO CHILL!
WHA'S A GIRL DOG GONNA WANT W'MONEY, QUAKE?
E.T.! QUAKE! SHUT THE FUCK UP!
GODDAMN MUTHUHFUCKUHS ALWAYS BITCHIN' LIKE BITCHES ALL D'TIME! SHEE-IT!
GODDAMN SMELL LIKE PEE, TOO..
HERE'S MY POSSE NOW, GERRY; ERF'QUAKE, E.T. AND JUNIOR BROOKS IN FULL EFFECT!
AWRIGHT, STEVE. I'M OUTTA HERE THEN. SEE YOU LATER AT THE GIG.
SMOKE. DRINK. TAKE DRUGS WEAR FUR. FUCK.
BEER
AW...YOU DUDES SEEM A LITTLE UPTIGHT! WHAT YOU DUDES NEED IS A COUPLE O'BONG LOADS TO RELAX! YOU DUDES DO PARTAKE FROM TIME TO TIME, DON'T YOU? I HOPE.
WEED? YEH. SOUN'S GOOD. GOT SUM, STRANSKY?
NAW, BUT I CAN SCORE SOME PRONTO! QUAKE, HANG A LEFT, M'MAN.
QUAKE, GO LEF'! WE STOPPIN' FO' SUM WEED..!
FUCK DAT SHIT! BULLSHIT WEED! BULLSHIT FREE COKE! BULLSHIT PARTY!! BULLSHIT..
AWW.. NAW, DUDE, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A SEC. MEGA PRIMO BODACIOUS RIP-SNORTIN' HOME-GROWN MUMBO HUMBOLT. YOU WON'T BE SORRY.
QUAKE; CHILL!
WE SHOULD BE LOOKIN' FO' DEM MUTHUHFUCKIN' SKINHEAD MUTHUHFUCKUHS WHO ALMOS' KILLED DAT MIZ WILSON. POLICE AIN'T DOIN' SHIT, AS USUAL.
MAYBE DEY'LL BE AT DAT PARTY OR SUMPIN; QUAKE. CHILL! DAMN.
BACK IN A FLASH!
HEY TRIX! WHERE'S MOM? HEY, JO JO! HOW'S IT ROCKIN'?
SLAM..
STEVIE! I NEED YOUR HELP..!
SCARED? A WHUT?
AIN'T SCARED O'NO SHEE-IT..
YOU NIGGAHS BEEN CRYIN' ALL MUTHUHFUCKIN' NIGHT, AND ISS CUZ YOU BOFE SCARED OF ALL DEM WHITE MUTHUHFUCKUHS GONNA BE AT DAT PARTY!
HEY...UH, COULD ONE OF YOU DUDES HELP WITH SOMETHING IN THE BACK ROOM?
27

I AIN'T LIFTIN' NO HEAVY SHIT...
MR. KANG..? IT'S ME; STEVE! I'M COMIN' IN, OK? IT'S STEVE!
OK, MR. KANG. IT'S COOL...
HERE. JUST HELP ME PUT HIM UP ON THE BED.
OK, MR. KANG?
WATCH IT... HE'S SLIPPING..
OK, MR. KANG; BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME YOU REACH FOR YOUR CRUTCHES, HUH?
SMOKE. DRINK. TAKE DRUGS. WEAR FUR. FUCK.
UH...CAN'T AFFORD A WHEELCHAIR.
I'LL SEE IF MY MOM'S GOT ANY REEF STASHED IN THE HOUSE.
SMOKE. DRINK. TAKE DRUGS.
STEVIE! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE! WHERE'S YOUR SISTER AT?
HIDING, PROBABLY. MOM, THIS IS MY BRO QUAKE. QUAKE; MOM.
HEY MOM; GOT ANY EXTRA REEF IF YOU CAN SPARE?
YAWNS
JUST SAY YES!
I GAVE YOU AN OUNCE LAST WEEK, STEVIE! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO.. TRIXIE! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG HE WAS JUST LAYIN' THERE, TRIX! AT LEAST YOU COULD'VE..I DUNNO, SOMETHIN'...
BUT IT'S SO YECH AND STINKING IN THERE!
STRANSKY, LE'S GET GOIN'!
STIPPLE
TRIXIE! HE PAYS HIS RENT! SINCE YOU DON'T, IT'S YOUR JOB TO..
FUCK THAT..
I KNOW!
BAW; IT'S AWFUL..!
BE VEWY VEWY QUIET...
28

YEAH, HERE WE GO. ALL WE NEED IS A COUPLE OF BUDS AND WE'RE READY TO ROCK!
BZAW..
HE'S MY MOM'S BOYFRIEND CLAY. HE JUST GOT OUT FROM PRISON ON GOOD BEHAVIOR AFTER SERVING EIGHT YEARS ON A TEN YEAR SENTENCE! DUDE, IF THE COPS ONLY KNEW HOW BIG A COKE DEALER HE REALLY WAS; FUCK, HE'D BE A MILLION YEARS OLD BEFORE THEY LET 'IM OUT!
EIGHT YEARS? THE BRUTHUH SHOULDA KILLED SOMEBODY OR A'LEAST CUT OFF DEY ARMS; DEN HE WOULDA GOT OUT IN TWO.
SMOKE. DRINK. E DRUGS. R FUR. UCK.
I HEARD THAT, M'MAN!
GLAD TO KNOW :KAFF: THAT YOU GUYS :KAFF: KEEP AWAY FROM CRACK AND SHIT! SHIT'LL FUCK YOU UP BUT GOOD! :KAFF: JUST SAY NO!
SAY NOPE TO DOPE AN' UGH TO DRUGS. :KAFF:
E.T., QUIT CHANGIN' THE MUTHUHFUCKIN' RADIO, OR I'LL..
WELL, IF YOU EVER GET YO' TAPE DECK FIXED, QUAKE..
JESUS IS COMING
BRZZP
WAIT, WAIT..! HOLD THAT STATION THERE! LISTEN TO THIS COMMERCIAL! CHECK IT OUT...!
..NO DISCO, NO METAL, NO RAP..JUST YOUR FAVORITE ALTERNATIVE ROCK N ROLL ON YOUR ONLY NEW MUSIC STATION K-ROT..
THAT'S RIGHT; NO DISCO EXCEPT WHITE EUROPEAN DISCO, AND NO RAP UNLESS IT'S FROM A WHITE JOKE BAND! HAW!
FUCK, IT'S PUNK ROCK ALL OVER AGAIN WITH RAP. EXCEPT IT'S WORSE 'CAUSE THIS TIME EVEN A LOTTA PEOPLE WHO WERE HIP TO PUNK ARE SAYIN' RAP AIN'T MUSIC, IT'S REPETITIOUS, IT ALL SOUNDS THE SAME, IT'S JUST NOISE..BLAH BLAH BLAAH.. I MEAN, I EXPECT THAT SHIT FROM CRETINS WHO LIKE KENNY G, OR EVEN DAVID BYRNE FANS...
FUCK 'EM ALL!
..AND THEN THERE'S THESE FUCKIN' RACIST SKINHEADS CRAWLIN' EVERYWHERE IT SEEMS... OR MAYBE I JUST NOTICE 'EM MORE, 'CAUSE, FUCK, WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH ME AN' MY BUDDIES WERE SKINHEADS, BUT ALL WE WANTED TO DO WAS ROCK, DUDE, AND WE WERE TOTALLY AGAINST RACISM AN' SHIT, AND..WELL, YEAH, WE DID SOME DUMB STUFF, LIKE PICK FIGHTS WITH LONG HAIRS AND SHIT, BUT..WELL, YEAH...
CHORTLE
WELL, ONE TIME HOW I MET MY BUD GERRY...IT WAS ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO WHEN ANY LONGHAIRED DUDE AT A PUNK GIG GOT HIS ASS KICKED? WELL... GERRY AND HIS BUDDIES BRAVED A GIG ONCE, AND I WAS THIS SLAMMIN' SKINHEAD PUNKER AND SHIT, AND SO, LIKE, I STARTED SHIT WITH HIM 'CAUSE HE WAS MY SIZE..? FUCK, I COULD SEE HE WAS SO FUCKIN' SCARED, BUT, SO I WAILED INTO HIM ANY WAY..? 'CAUSE I KNEW I HAD TOTAL FUCKIN' BACK UP..?
..HIS FRIENDS RAN SCARED LIKE..SO THEN MY BUDDIES JUMPED IN AND STARTED KICKING GERRY WITH THEIR STEEL-TOED BOOTS AND HE WENT DOWN AND... I FUCKIN'...HATE MY OWN FUCKIN' GUTS WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
UM, SINCE THEN, SOMEHOW ME AND HIM BECAME TOTALLY BEST FRIENDS AND.. TO THIS DAY HE'S NEVER MENTIONED THAT TIME...EVER...
..FUCKER DIDN'T FIGHT BACK...FUCK, WHY DIDN'T HE HIT ME BACK..?
LET'S FUCK..! I'LL FUCK ANYTHING THAT MOVES.. HA HA HAAAAA..
REX
29

SONG: 'FALLING' BY JULEE CRUISE AND ANGELO BADALAMENTI

HEY...
HEY.
WHEEEE..
GONNA STICK AROUND TO HEAR US BLOW EVERYBODY'S BRAINS OUT OF THEIR EARS?
I WOULDN'T MISS ALL THOSE BRAINS FLYING AROUND FOR THE WORLD.
I...REALLY HATE THAT ENGLISH BAND LOVE AND ROCKETS...
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...
VOMP VOMP..
HEY...THANKS FOR THE RIDE TO WORK THE OTHER DAY...UH..?
KRIS.
THANKS, KRIS... I OWE YOU ONE...
YEAH, A BIG ONE...
UH...AND I'M SEAN, BY THE WAY...
I KNOW!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT FUCKING LITTLE SHIT KRIS NIZNICK IS HERE! I CAN NOT BELIEVE..
DON'T YOU START ANYTHING, BAMBI! IF YOU GET THROWN OUT YOU'RE WAITIN' IN THE CAR, FOR US.
YEAH, AFTER WE SPLIT UP MY EX WENT BACK HOME TO IRAQ...WAS FOR THE BEST, I GUESS; I GOT TO KEEP KRIS AND I DO HAVE SOME FOND MEMORIES OF" HEH, MY FOLKS ARE JEWISH AND MY EX'S ARE MUSLIM. Y'SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO THE WEDDING PARTY..!
HEH...
< WELL, IF THIS IS HOW YOU'RE GONNA ACT ON MY SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY, RIRI... I'M GONNA HAVE SOME FUN OF MY OWN..>
< JUST A CLOSER LOOK, LOVER...?HIC! PROMISE NOT TO T-TOUCH...>
SO, MIKE...YOU ARE GOING TO STICK AROUND AFTERWARDS AND WE WILL FUCK OURSELVES INTO SUBMISSION, HUH?
MAYBE IF YOU'RE SOMEHOW TRANSMOGRIFIED INTO BO JACKSON BY THEN, CINDY...
..IS THAT JOE MONTANA..?
< OH, FORGET IT... ♡ IF I GET ANY CLOSER TO HER OR STAY IN THIS OVEN ANOTHER MINUTE I'LL BE ARRESTED FOR THROWING TABLES...>
I'M WITH YOU, HONEY; IT'S THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT, YOU KNOW. WHY DON'T THEY PUT ON THE AIR-CONDITIONER IN HERE! PHEW!
I'M ALWAYS LOOKING TO BACK A GOOD PRO-LEFTIST POLITICAL THRILLER, MIKE; BUT DON'T FORGET THAT IN YOUR SCRIPT THE WOMEN HAVE TO BE EITHER NAKED, DEAD OR AT LEAST HUMILIATED.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, TODD.
I'M SERIOUS, MIKE.
I'M SURE YOU ARE, TODD...
I AM SERIOUS, MIKE.
I KNOW YOU ARE, TODD.
YOU WRETCHED PIG...
C'MON, BAMBI...
MAN; WHERE'S YOUR REDNECK BOYFRIEND NOW WHEN I NEED HIM...
WHY ARE PEOPLE ALWAYS CALLING CARL A REDNECK? HE WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE, SEAN!
...LIKE I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU SAY NIGGER OR WETBACK WHEN YOU WERE MAD...
31



BUFFY ST. MARIE- SIXTIES, EARLY SEVENTIES POP/ROCK SINGER

IGGY AND THE STOOGES RECORDED 3 ALBUMS FROM 1969 TO 1973

"YOUR PRETTY FACE ETC"-IGGY & THE STOOGES "MY WAY"-SID VICIOUS

*BRIDES OF ETC.-1970'S EXTENSION OF PARLIAMENT/FUNKADELIC

AMY GRANT - CHRISTIAN POP SINGER

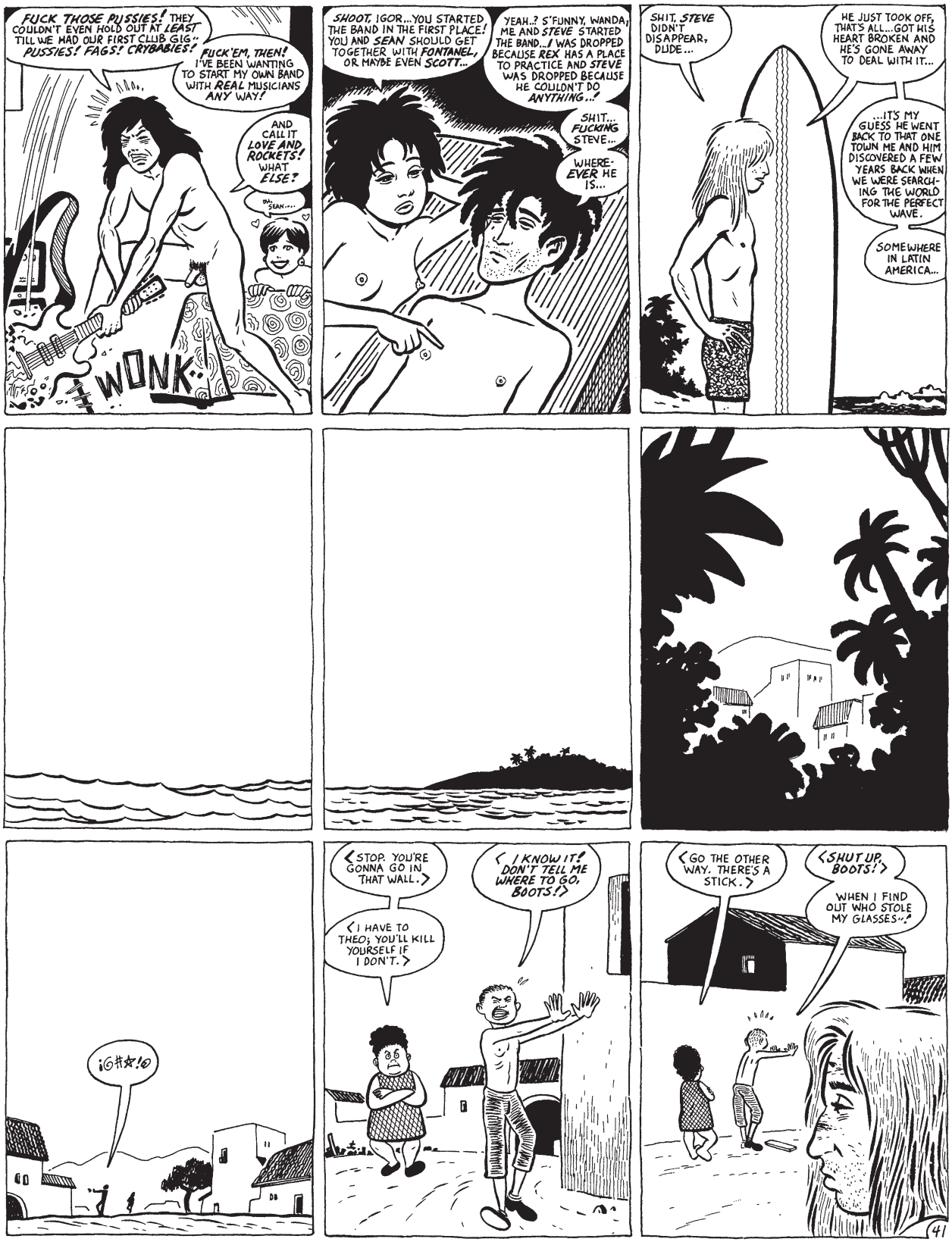
THEY WEREN'T INVITED!
DEATH TO ALL WHITE INFIDEL DOGS!
KILL WHITEY!
THEY WEREN'T INVITED!
SO WHAT'S THE BIG THING..?
WHO GOT SHOT? WAS IT A DRIVE-BY?! WHO..?
WHAT..? OF COURSE, THOSE BOYS ARE WELCOME IN MY HOUSE.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND.. WHERE'S MY SON? WHERE'S REX?
GERRY..GERRY, YOU GOTTA LET ME BORROW YOUR CAR, DUDE! YOU GOTTA LET ME TAKE RIRI HOME IN YOUR ROCKIN' RIDE, DUDE!
AW, DUDE; YOU STILL GOIN' NUTS OVER THAT CHICK, HUH? AW, MAN STEVE...
YOU GOT YOUR CHOICE OF ANY SIXTEEN YEAR OLD BABE ON THE BEACH, AND HERE YOU ARE FLIPPIN' OUT OVER..
FUCK THAT, GERRY... RIRI'S SOMEONE SPECIAL, DUDE...NO OTHER GIRL EVER MADE MY LEGS WIBBLE ALL GUMBY AND SHIT BEFORE... SHE'S THE ONE, DUDE.
I'M JUST SHITTIN' YOU, MAN. AND MAY YOUR FIRST CHILD LOOK LIKE HER, AND NOT YOU!
HA..AWW... FUCK... HUH...
<I'VE GOT A RIDE HOME, MARICELA ;HIC; YOU HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN, GIRL!>
..HA HA ;HIC;
<RIRI, LET'S FORGET IT AND GO HOME TOGETHER..!>
HEY, MY SPANISH IS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT... WE COULD GIVE YOU A RIDE, BABE..
SEAN..
THE N.. BLACK GUYS ARE LEAVING!
LET'S FUCKING GO, SEAN! BAMBI! ..NOW!
MAJOR FUCK UP, REX! MAJOR..!
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO, HUH? FUCK IT, MAN..!
COME ON, KRIS! LET'S GET THE HELL HOME!
MAJOR FUCK UP; REX..!
IGOR...
DON'T BE SHY, HONEY...
SEAN..
DADDY..
VROOOOM
..SO WHAT D'FUCK DID DAT MUTHUHFUCKUH HAVE ON HIS FACE..?
HA HA HAAA..
DIS ISS YOUR CAR, STEEF..? ;HIC;
NAW, BELONGS TO OL' GERRY. DON'T WORRY, IT'S SAFE. THIS RIDE IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE INFINITE PERMUTATIONS MODEL, RIRI!
HEY, WE'LL SEE YOU AT PRACTICE ON TUESDAY, OK, REX?
GRUNT..
OLD SKULL
VROOM!
SO YOU RIDICULE THAT BROTHER AT THE PARTY FOR HIS STUPID MEXICAN JOKE, BUT WHAT WAS ALL THAT WHITE DEVIL SHIT YOU AND BAMBI WERE YELLING?
FUCKING STEVE INVITING JR AND THEM TO A PARTY OF YUPPIE SWINE AND THEN HE SPLITS ON THEM WITHOUT A WORD...MAJOR FUCK-UP, STEVE...MAJOR..
INNOCENT FUN, IGOR?
¡GRAC!
THAT'S RIGHT..! YOU'RE THE FLOWER GIRL ON THE CORNER OF..
UH...ISS OK TO STOP ME OFF HERE, PLEASE! TENK YOU FOR DE RIDE..!
HEY-HEY-HEY... YOU CAN'T GO WALKING AROUND THIS 'HOOD BY YOURSELF, WOMAN...LET ME WALK YOU...
SEAN..!
SEAN! C'MON, MAN! I GOTTA GET WANDA HOME BEFORE ONE!
NO! ISS OK!
SLAM!
36

SEAN, YOU KNOW HOW WANDA'S FOLKS ARE, MAN! LET'S FUCKIN' GO!
I'M NOT GONNA LET HER WALK AROUND HERE BY HERSELF, ALL RIGHT?!
S-SEAN--!
DON'T GET OUT OF THE CAR, BAMBI!
GO, IGOR!
SO WHEN'S SEAN EVER BEEN THE GOOD SAMARITAN..?
FUCK YOU, IGOR! FUCK YOU--!!!
JESUS...
IT'S COOL...I CAN WALK YOU HOME... S'NO BIG DEAL... I MEAN, IF YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND, HE SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT YOU'RE GETTING HOME SAFELY...
I THINK YOU MAKE YOUR GIRLFREN' BEDDY UPSET...
OH, M-- LOOK, BAMBI'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND, OK?
OK!
COME SIT NEXT TO ME, STEEF...
HIC!
SMOKE. DRINK. TAKE DRUGS. EAR FUR. FUCK.
PABLO NERUDA
KAFKA
VIOLETA PARRA
ZE DO CAIXÃO
ARTE LATINO AMERICANO
HUH... YOU SURE READ A LOT OF BOOKS AND STUFF...
OH...DOSE ARE MARICELA'S...
CHEE'S MY ROOMMATE...
I DON' UNNERSTAND DOSE KIND OF BOOKS SO I LIKE DE MOVIES ON DE T.V.
AT LEAST DE PEOPLE ARE ALIVE ON DE T.V.
I BELIEVE IN LIFE... IN BABIES... I WANT... A BABY THE MOST OF EVERYTEENG IN DE WORLD...
HUH...YEAH...I GUESS KIDS ARE PRETTY COOL... I SURE HAVE PRETTY COOL MEMORIES OF, LIKE, UH, WHEN I COULD GET RIPPED ON JUST ONE BONG HIT...
SMOKE. DRINK. TAKE DRUGS. EAR FUR. FUCK.
37

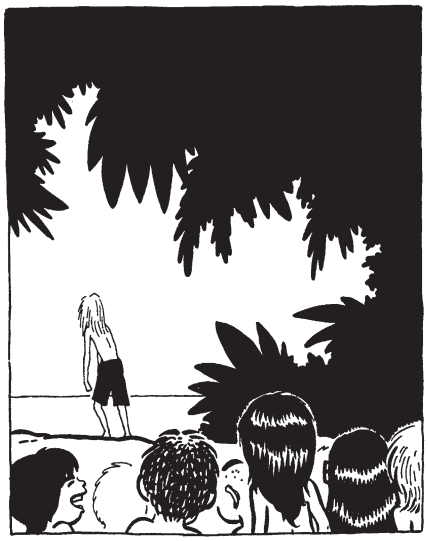
COME ON, COME ON...
LET'S DO IT; NOW!
MUAA MUAA MUAAA...
AHHAHAAAAA..!
SMOKE. DRUNK. TAKE DRUGS. WEAR FUR. FUCK!
WHAT..? YOU..YOU.. CAN'T..?!
SHIT... HEH.. BAMBI MUSTA SUCKED UP ALL MY MANLY MANHOOD...
HEH HEH..
VROOOOOMMM..
C'MON...YOU DON'T REALLY LIVE AROUND HERE...THERE'S A HOTEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PARK; I CAN GET US A TAXI THERE...
STOP
HEY...I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GUY, OK?
LET ME CALL YOU OR SOMETHING, OK? REALLY!
GRUNT..
ALL RIGHT, THEN; BUT I WILL SEE YOU LATER, WOMAN.
TAXI
...BOB SPREEN CADILLAC; WHERE THE FREEWAYS MEET IN DOWNY...
38

I DIDN'T... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW... HE LEFT...
WELL... NEITHER DID I.. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE WITH A..A BOY JUST TO..EVEN FOR FIVE MINUTES.
I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT YOU, AMOR..
SIGH... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO HAVE A BABY...OUR OWN LITTLE BABY...
SCREEEE
FUMP
SHIT..!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SCOTT?
JESUS FUCKING..!! WHY'D YOU STOP LIKE THAT FOR?! FUCKING LOCKING YOUR BRAKES WITHOUT ANY WARNING!!!
I GOT THE FLATH-LIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU NEED A FLASHLIGHT FOR? WHA'D YOU SEE? A UFO..?
HOLY SHIT! THAT'S GERRY'S CAR!! HOLY..
WAI-WAI-WAIT! GERRY LEFT THE PARTY WITH FONTANEL! HE WASN'T DRIVING HIS CAR! BUT IT IS HIS CAR; THE LICENSE PLATE..
SOB OH, SHIT.. SOB OH, SHIT..
THCOTT; THCOTT, LITHEN...
THERE ITH NO ONE IN THE CAR, THCOTT; NOBODY ITH IN THE CAR, OK? WHOEVER WATH IN THE CAR GOT OUT, OK..?
SOB OK.. SOB
39

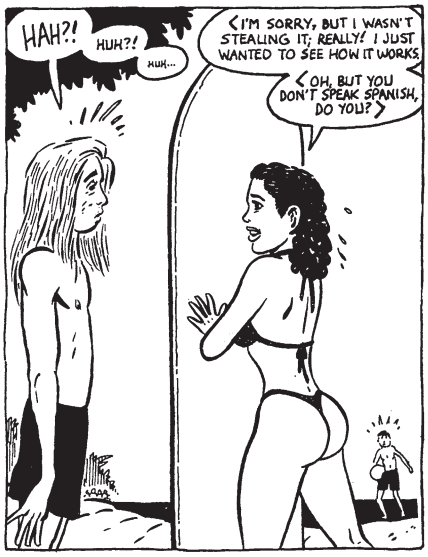
FUCK SEAN AND HIS SHITTY GUITAR PLAYING!
FUCK SCOTT THE HOG AND HIS SHITTY VOCALS...!
FUCK REX AND HIS SHITTY BASS PLAYING AND HIS MUCH NEEDED PLACE TO PRACTICE!
IF THEY'RE GONNA BE THAT WAY... FUCK IT; I'M STARTING MY OWN BAND CALLED LOVE AND ROCKETS!
I CAME UP WITH THE NAME IN THE FIRST PLACE!
FONTANEL, TSK.
KLAK
BIG DEAL, MOM!
THOSE JERKS KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND A DECENT PLACE TO PRACTICE...!
WELL, IT WON'T TAKE ME A WEEK TO ROUND UP A NEW BAND, AND I'M CALLING US LOVE AND ROCKETS, TOO!
NOBODY'S BAND PRACTICES HERE TILL YOU INVITE THOSE THREE BLACK BOYS YOU THREW OUT OF MY PARTY OVER FOR DECAF-CAPPUCCINO, REX.
WHINE... MY OWN MOM...
VARIETY
BULLSHIT, BAMBI! YOU KEPT CALLING ME SEAN ALL NIGHT! DON'T DENY IT!
CARL, I DID NOT! GUYY, YOU'RE SO GOD DAMN PARANOID!
THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA
METALLICA
MITCHELL + PETRILLO PIZZA
MITCHELL + PETRILLO PIZZA
NO, NO...I'M MARRIED TO A WELL-RESPECTED SHRINK NOW...I DON'T KNOW...IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, AFTER STEVE'S DISAPPEARANCE AND ALL...SHIT...
SO...I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE LATER I'LL START MY OWN BAND OR SOMETHING...
CALL IT LOVE AND ROCKETS, I GUESS...SINCE I DID COME UP WITH THE NAME...
WELL, I DID.
PLEATHE DON'T THWEAR, THCOTT THWEETHEART.
<AND SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET SO INTERESTED IN THIS JUNK, RIRI?
<MY SISTER'S COMING TO VISIT SOON, RIRI, AND I DON'T WANT IT IN THE HOUSE!>
<YOU'RE VERY UGLY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY, MARICELA.>
MUSCLE
40


FUCK THOSE PUSSIES! THEY COULDN'T EVEN HOLD OUT AT LEAST TILL WE HAD OUR FIRST CLUB GIG.. PUSSIES! FAGS! CRYBABIES!
FUCK'EM, THEN! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO START MY OWN BAND WITH REAL MUSICIANS ANY WAY!
AND CALL IT LOVE AND ROCKETS! WHAT ELSE?
OH, SEAN....
WONK
SHOOT, IGOR...YOU STARTED THE BAND IN THE FIRST PLACE! YOU AND SEAN SHOULD GET TOGETHER WITH FONTANEL, OR MAYBE EVEN SCOTT...
YEAH..? S'FUNNY, WANDA, ME AND STEVE STARTED THE BAND...I WAS DROPPED BECAUSE REX HAS A PLACE TO PRACTICE AND STEVE WAS DROPPED BECAUSE HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...!
SHIT... FUCKING STEVE...
WHERE-EVER HE IS...
SHIT, STEVE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR, DUDE...
HE JUST TOOK OFF, THAT'S ALL...GOT HIS HEART BROKEN AND HE'S GONE AWAY TO DEAL WITH IT...
...IT'S MY GUESS HE WENT BACK TO THAT ONE TOWN ME AND HIM DISCOVERED A FEW YEARS BACK WHEN WE WERE SEARCHING THE WORLD FOR THE PERFECT WAVE.
SOMEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA...
¡©#☆!©
<STOP. YOU'RE GONNA GO IN THAT WALL.>
<I HAVE TO THEO; YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF IF I DON'T.>
<I KNOW IT! DON'T TELL ME WHERE TO GO, BOOTS!>
<GO THE OTHER WAY. THERE'S A STICK.>
<SHUT UP, BOOTS!>
WHEN I FIND OUT WHO STOLE MY GLASSES...!
41

HA HA HAA!
TEE HEE!
?
AW... I CAN KINDA SEE OUT OF ONE OF THE LENSES, BUT THE OTHER ONE.. I DUNNO, KIDS.. I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, THOUGH...THANKS A LOT...
AWW...
THANKS, BUT... IT'S COOL... THANKS, REALLY...
UH...WORK. I CAN WORK FOR FOOD...
NO. NO WORK. NO.
< BESIDES, NOBODY WANTS TO LISTEN TO YOUR BARBARIC TONGUE WAGGING ALL DAY, GRINGO. >
HEY! C'MON, YOU GUYS..!
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO BE ACCUSED OF BEING A CHILD PERVERT, OR..
GO AWAY!
GO AWAY!
42



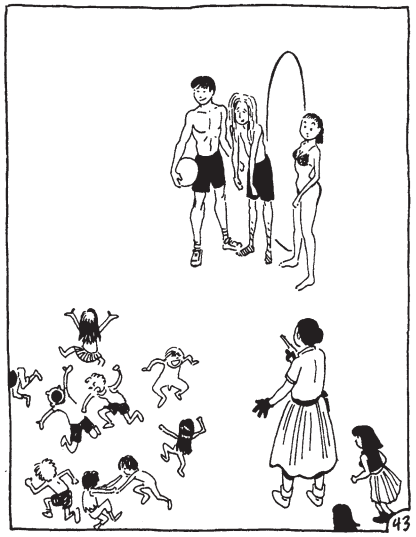
HEY...
HEY, WHERE'S MY BOARD?! MY SURFBOARD! WHAT THE FUCK...?!
IT'S ALL I HAD LEFT!
FUCKIN' THIEVES!
FUCK..
<HELLO!>


HAH?!
HUH?!
HUH...
<I'M SORRY, BUT I WASN'T STEALING IT; REALLY! I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW IT WORKS
<OH, BUT YOU DON'T SPEAK SPANISH, DO YOU?>

<MAMA!>
<DON'T GET EXCITED, SERGIO. I REMEMBER HIM FROM WHEN HE WAS HERE A FEW YEARS AGO HELPING WITH THE MONKEY PLAGUE.>
<EXCEPT HE DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD THIS TIME; TSK...>
FUCK..

<HE'S GOING TO LOOK A LOT WORSE IF HE KEEPS LOOKING AT YOU LIKE THAT, MAMA..>
<SERGIO, WILL YOU BEHAVE? IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE CAN SEE ANYTHING..>
<THERE THEY ARE..!>
DOCTOR, I'M CURED! I CAN SEE! I CAN SEE..!

<STAND ASIDE, PIPO! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!>
<SHERIFF CHELO; WAIT! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?>
<ALL KIDNAPPERS LOOK THE SAME TO ME, PIPO!>
<WHAT?>
<TURN AROUND!>



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< IT WASN'T ANY OF THAT BOYS DOING, SHERIFF; I SAW THE WHOLE THING! IT WAS THOSE DEMON KIDS OF THE MAYOR'S AGAIN..>
< HMM...WELL, THEY HAVE DONE SIMILAR MISCHIEF BEFORE...BUT I STILL HAVE TO TAKE HIM INTO TOWN.>
< JOSELITO, SOCORRO; WHEN I GET YOU TWO HOME TO MAMA..>
AW, THOSE KIDS WERE ONLY TRYING TO HELP ME OUT...
HEY! YOU SPEAK D'ENGLISH?!
UH...YEAH, SURE...AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...
I HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH HOPING TO PRACTICE MY ENGLISH ON A REAL NORTH AMERICAN AND HERE YOU ARE NOW!
< YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR MONKEY CHATTER WITH HIM ON THE WAY TO YOUR MOTHER'S, GUADALUPE.>
I NEED TO SPEAK MY ENGLISH VERY MUCH MORE BETTER BECAUSE I WILL BE EXCHANGE STUDENT TO UNITED STATES NEXT MONTH, STEEF; BUT FOR REAL I AM MORE HAPPY TO VISIT MY SISTER MARICELA WHO LIVES UP THERE!
MARICELA..? HUH...GUESS THAT'S A PRETTY POPULAR NAME NOWADAYS, GUADALUPE...
LIKE HEATHER, OR SOMETHING.
< WATCH THE SHINS; WATCH..>
AW, IT WAS JUST SOME GIRL...SHE WASN'T INTERESTED, AND I.. WELL...HERE I AM...
A GIRL?! IS THAT ALL? FEH! BROKE UP HEARTS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!
< CASIMIRA; YOU PUT THAT ARM BACK ON! IT COST MOTHER A LOT!>
ARRRFFF GNNAR UENH...
< PAPA SAYS I DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THIS STUPID MONSTER ARM, GUADALUPE!>
< LIAR! I'LL BET YOUR PAPA NEVER SAYS ALL THOSE THINGS YOU SAY HE SAYS, CASIMIRA! LIKE WHEN YOU SAID HE SAID I HAD TO DO ALL YOUR CHORES AND HOMEWORK FOR YOU!>
< HEH, ALMOST GOT YOU THAT TIME...>
UH...EH, NO THANKS, DUDE...
<CHELO..?>
<I'LL BE INSIDE IN A MOMENT, PIPO...>
< LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT, CASIMIRA.>
ARRGH..
< MY PAPA DOESN'T WANT YOU TO, SHERIFF CHELO...
< SINCE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SHOT MY ARM... THEN IT FELL OFF...
< BY ACCIDENT.>
< THAT WAS COLD BLOODED, YOU LITTLE..>
ARRRGH...
< DON'T, PAPA. I HAVE TO MARRY SERGIO SOMEDAY.>
ALCALDESA
44
AIL CALL'DESS'AH-LADY-MAYOR

NO, CHELO; CAN'T SAY I REMEMBER HIM AT ALL... I'VE GOT OVER HALF A TOWN OF PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH LIFE TO WORRY ABOUT FIRST.
WELL, PIPO AND GUADALUPE SEEM TO HAVE PLANS FOR HIM ALREADY; THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT..
HE'S GOING TO HELP GUADALUPE WITH HER ENGLISH AND ME WITH MY SURFING IN EXCHANGE FOR A GOOD DOSE OF HEARTBREAK SOUP.
HUH... I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU SPOKE BETTER ENGLISH FOR YOUR STAY IN THE STATES, GUADALUPE; BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE CAN HELP HIMSELF!
IF A BROKEN HEART'S HIS ONLY PROBLEM, THEN PIPO'S SPECIAL RECIPE WILL FIX HIM UP, MOTHER.
TOO BAD YOUR SPECIAL RECIPE CAN'T ALSO CURE HIS AWFUL TASTE IN HAIRSTYLES, PIPO.
AND YOU, KHAMO! IF YOU DON'T STOP ENCOURAGING CASIMIRA TO DEFY ME, I'LL MAKE YOU HAVE TO WEAR A PLASTIC ARM!
AWWFFF UURRGAHH GNNRL AGH..
PAPA SAYS EVEN IF YOU MADE HIM HAVE TO HAVE A PLASTIC HEART, IT WOULD ONLY BEAT FOR YOU, MAMA.
UGH. THERE MAMA AND PAPA GO AGAIN IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY. TCH, MARICELA WAS SMART TO RUN AWAY...
AND YOU'RE SMART TO HAVE SAID THAT OUT OF THEIR EARSHOT, DORALIS.
COME NOW, CHILDREN.
I'LL BE HOME IN A LITTLE BIT, SERGIO. YOU BETTER WORK ON YOUR LATERAL KICKING.
OK, MAMA; IT'LL COME IN HANDY IF IN CASE THAT GUY TRIES TO LAY A HAND ON YOU.
HA!
HEY! C'MON, THEO! BRING THAT BACK!
NO! NOT UNTIL WHOEVER STOLE MY GLASSES GIVES THEM BACK!!
OH! ARE THESE YOURS, THEO? WOW, I'LL BET YOU COULD SEE ALL THE WAY TO PLUTO WITH THESE.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO STEAL, GUADALUPE.
JOSELITO AND SOCORRO TOOK THEM TO HELP STEEF SEE, THEO. CAN'T GET TOO MAD AT THEM FOR THAT.
IS THAT WHAT THEY STOLE 'EM FOR?
WHOA!
THESE ARE PERFECT!
FOR I AM THE MAN OF TOMORROW TODAY, FOLKS.
CHELO... GUADALUPE WILL BE ALL RIGHT GOING TO SCHOOL IN THE STATES, WON'T SHE...? THAT AWFUL PLACE...
OF COURSE, SWEETHEART... MARICELA WILL BE-- EH, PIPO WILL LOOK OUT FOR HER, LUBA...
45

SEE, TITO? IN TIME ALL NORTH AMERICANS WILL BE IN HIS SORRY SHAPE AND THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BULLY OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND ANY MORE.
CARMEN, YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN YOUR POOR SON'S MIND BEFORE HE GETS A CHANCE FOR IT TO BE RUINED WHEN HE BEGINS SCHOOL.
AS A TEACHER OF SOCIAL STUDIES, I RESENT THAT, PIPO. CARMEN, TELL YOUR SISTER THAT WE ALL CAN'T HAVE THE DEEP SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS TO START UP OUR OWN SPORTS-WEAR BUSINESS.
HA HA. CARMEN, TELL YOUR HUSBAND THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE MONEY MY BUSINESS GENERATES GOES TO DEALING DIRECTLY WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF ONLY GENERATING MORE WHINING.
HERACLIO, PIPO SAYS YOU HAVE A PRETTY BIG NOSE.
TSK. NOW YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF THE FACT MY SISTER HAS TO TRANSLATE HER PAPA'S WORDS FOR EVERYBODY. MAKING FUN...
NOT FOR THE WORLD, BABY; EVERYBODY IN YOUR FAMILY EARNS AN HONEST LIVING.
HERACLIO, I'M ONLY EXPANDING MY BUSINESS TO THE STATES; THOSE GRAPES SHOULDN'T BE THAT SOUR.
HEH HEH HEH HEH
SLURP SLURP
SEE, TITO? SEE YANKEE ETIQUETTE?
GUADALUPE, I CAN'T KEEP YOU FROM SEEING YOUR BIG SISTER IN THE STATES, SO YOU TELL MARICELA BECAUSE SHE RAN AWAY WITH THAT-- GIRL, SHE IS NOT WELCOME BACK IN THIS TOWN...!
SIGH...YES, MOTHER...
I HOPE STEEF DOESN'T GET TOO COLD SLEEPING IN CHELO'S STINKY JAIL...
CARCE
STEE-EE--EEF!
CASIMIRA!
HEY, STEEF! WHEN I GO TO THE UNITED STATES I'LL FIND THAT GIRL WHO BROKE UP YOUR HEART OPEN AND TRIP HER DOWN THE STAIRS FOR YOU!
CASIMIRA, YOUR ARM--!
MEANWHILE...BACK IN THE STATES--!
WE LOVE YOU, SEAN!
FAG!
BABY, BABY, LET'S MAKE ROMANCE--!
SH'BOP SHOO BOP, SHOO BOP SH' BOP..
HAWKWIND!
SELL OUT!
YOU SUCK!
WHIPPING POST!
46
"STRANDED IN THE JUNGLE"

I REPORT YOU TO IMMIGRATION YOU NO WORK RIGHT, MARICELA GIRL!
YOU WORK RIGHT!
NO SIT! NO SCOWL! WORK RIGHT, OR IMMIGRATION!
GOD, WHAT A BITCH...!
.....
UH..
WAS SHE THREATENING YOU WITH IMMIGRATION?
I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT HAVE YOU TRIED TO APPLY FOR AMNESTY?
UH..
WELL, IF YOU HAVEN'T, MY DAD CAN HELP YOU WITH WHATEVER YOU NEED TO KNOW.
HUH?
OH, I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARRASS YOU.
GOD, I'M SO FORWARD...
LOOK, HOW ABOUT IF I PICK YOU UP LATER AND WE GO TO MY HOUSE AND MY DAD CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU...?
HUH?
OH, I'M KRIS, BY THE WAY!
< OH, BABY...AND I'M THE KEY WHO'S GOING TO SET YOU FREE. >
WHAT.
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW PAD, BEN? WE MISS YOU. WELL, YOUR MONEY.
I JUST LIKE LIVING ALONE, CHARLIE. DON'T HAVE TO SMELL YOUR FUCKING SMELLY SOCKS NO MORE.
CUTE FUCKING HAIRDO, BEN. WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM? THE MOHAWK TOO RADICAL FOR THE NEW YOU?
HAD TO GROW IT OUT FOR THE JOB, CARL. BIG FUCKING DEAL.
YOU GREW YOUR HAIR OUT BECAUSE THAT OLD NIGGER BITCH IS OUT OF HER COMA AND AWARE ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY HER ASSAILANTS. PLURAL.
I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK.
YOU FUCKING CHICKENSHIT PIECE OF--
YAWN--
C'MON, CARL.
47

DON'T YOU SEE, RIRI? WE HAVE A CHANCE TO BE LEGAL HERE... I CAN QUIT MY STUPID FLOWER GIRL JOB, GET A LIBRARY JOB, OR ··OR··
BUT WE'VE PAID THAT PIG ROMERO ALL THAT PROTECTION MONEY ALREADY, MARICELA; AND HE'S GOING TO GET US SOME FAKE PAPERS THAT NOBODY CAN TELL FROM REAL ONES.
DOESN'T BEING LEGAL HERE MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU, RIRI? BECAUSE WE'RE NOT POLITICAL REFUGEES THIS IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO··
DOESN'T IT MEAN··ANYTHING?! I WAS WITH YOU ALL THOSE SEVEN MONTHS TO GET HERE! SEVEN GOD DAMN AWFUL MONTHS OF·· I LEFT FOR YOU, MARICELA! I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE MY FAMILY! YOU LEFT TO GET AWAY FROM YOUR HORRIBLE MOTHER!
I LEFT BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU PERIOD, RIRI!
I··I KNOW IT WAS SO MUCH WORSE FOR YOU, RIRI...I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN CROSSING THE BORDER. IT'S JUST THAT MY SISTER WILL BE LIVING CLOSE BY HERE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT, I··I JUST DON'T WANT THINGS TO LOOK LIKE··LIKE··
I··KNOW IT DOESN'T SHOW, MARICELA...BUT I'M JUST AS EXCITED TO SEE GUADALUPE AS YOU ARE...SOMEBODY FROM HOME...GRUNT...
ALL RIGHT... GO TO YOUR...YOUR WHATEVER...
CARRLL...
FUCK, BAMBI! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING!
HANGOVER OR NOT, I CAN'T EVEN TAKE A NAP THINKING ABOUT YOU AND ME FIGHTING SO MUCH THESE DAYS, CARL...
I JUST...GET THIS SHITTY FEELING WHENEVER I LAY DOWN TO SLEEP THAT I WON'T WAKE UP AGAIN, LIKE I GO INTO A COMA OR AN AIRPLANE CRASHES THROUGH THE BED ROOM WALL OR THE RAPTURE COMES OR SOMETHING...
I DON'T WANT TO SLIP INTO THE VOID WHILE YOU'RE MAD AT ME.
AH, YOU ALWAYS GET LIKE THIS WHEN YOU HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD REAMING FOR A DAY OR SO.
OK, LET'S SEE...TWO GLORIOUS FLOWERS TO CHOOSE FROM...MMM ...WELL, I'D BETTER NOT TAKE A CHANCE SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP BY WALLOWING IN BOTH, BAMBI.
SIGH...YES; THAT WOULD BE THE CHRISTIAN THING TO DO, CARL...
HARUMF..
48

..ZWEEEOOOOO WEEEEOOO...
FUCK, MIKE; I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LOOKED LIKE THIS THE DAY YOU WERE DRAFTED TO GO TO VIET NAM, MAN.
YEAH, THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF US BLASTING TAPES OF THE VELVETS FROM OUR TRENCHES, IGOR. THE REST OF MY PLATOON PREFERRED TO ANNOY THE HIDDEN CONG SNIPERS WITH JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR.
ANOTHER HIT, IGOR?
AW, MAN; I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOUGHT ALL THREE BIG STAR ALBUMS WHEN THEY CAME OUT.
UH, OH, NO, MAN; THANKS... FUCK, THAT IS POWERFUL HERB, MIKE. TRANSPLENDENT INDEED; BUT I DUNNO IF I'M GONNA MAKE IT TO WORK AT FOUR AS IT IS.
EEEE"
OH...WELL, MAYBE A FEW LAPS IN THE POOL WILL HELP BRING YOU DOWN A LITTLE, IGOR.
JEEZ, IT'S BEEN OVER TWENTY YEARS SINCE I'VE GOTTEN PARANOID ABOUT HAVING TO FACE A BOSS AS I BLAZED FROM WITHIN MY CEREBRUM NOT UNLIKE A SUPERNOVA.
"ZWEEEEE
DON AND DEWEY
HUH...SO YOU THINK THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME WITH YOUR MOVIE SCRIPT, MIKE? I MEAN, WHEN I BLOW REEF FOR DAYS AT A TIME I GET ALL FUCKING PARANOID AND INSECURE AND LAZY...
IGOR, YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REAL REASON I STOPPED GETTING FUNDING FOR MY CONTROVERSIAL YET HEARTFELT DOCUMENTARY SHORTS ABOUT U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA?
HOW ABOUT BECAUSE THE FILMS WERE DREARILY DIDACTIC AND INEPTLY PUT TOGETHER FOR STARTERS?
SONG 'EDITIONS OF YOU' BY ROXY MUSIC
WELL, SHIT, MIKE...THAT ONE PART YOU SHOWED ME ON VIDEO ABOUT THE FALL OF THE SOMOZAS WAS PRETTY POWERFUL...
THE SUBJECT WAS POWERFUL; THE HANDLING OF IT WAS ARTLESS.
AAH..
SO I BULLSHIT MYSELF AND EVERYBODY ELSE WITH THIS SCRIPT THAT I HAVE NO TALENT TO PULL OFF, AND AM REALLY JUST BIDING MY TIME UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN I GROW UP.
DON AND DEWEY
I DON'T KNOW...YOU GOT THIS HOUSE WITH A POOL AND SHIT OUT OF IT, MAN. I MEAN, YOU MIGHT NOT FEEL IT'S DESERVED OR WHATEVER, BUT, HELL, AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT A START...
I GOT THIS HOUSE AND POOL FROM CO-PRODUCING TWO OF THE SIX STRAIGHT TO VIDEO CHAINSAW BLOOD PICNIC MOVIES.
THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.
BUT, YEAH...I'VE GOT MY KRIS TO TAKE CARE OF.
I MEAN, SHIT; I'M TWENTYTWO AND I WORK IN A HUBCAP STORE, MIKE. TALK ABOUT NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE, MAN.. AT LEAST YOU'RE SOMEWHERE...
FUCK, MIKE; THAT IS SOME POWERFUL DOPE!
GOT A BAND TOGETHER ALREADY, FONTANEL? NOT ME...MY MOM WON'T EVEN LET ME USE THE HOUSE TO PRACTICE UNLESS I GET SOME BLACK GUYS IN THE BAND.
PTCH. YEAH...LIKE BLACKS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ROCK AND ROLL...
CHUCK BERRY
HENDRIX LIVE AT THE EARL WARREN SHOWGROUNDS
IT'S A NUTTY WORLD, REX.
REX, FUCK IT; A GUY GETS IN A ROCK AND ROLL BAND TO MEET GIRLS, OK? I'M MARRIED NOW. DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED TO PLAY ROCK AND ROLL EVER AGAIN?
THCOTT, DON'T CURTHE IN FRONT OF MY THITHTER, PLEATHE.
YEAH...WE'RE JUST DOING A BUNCH OF WILD COVER SONGS, BUT HELL; WE GET GIGS, REX. BETTER THAN NOTHING, HUH?
I MEAN...IT'S NOT LIKE ROCK'S EVER BEEN A NOBLE ENDEAVOR, Y'KNOW?
ALL ANYBODY CARES ABOUT IS PRE-EIGHTIES CLASSIC ROCK THESE DAYS ANYWAY.
I GUESS SO, SEAN.
LOVE AND ROCKETS PLAYLIST
- MULE SKINNER BLUES
- WHIP IT
- DO YA
- COME AND GET YOUR LOVE
- YAKETY YAK
- SONIC REDUCER
- JUNGLE WOP
- SWEET LEAF
- SPEEDO
- BLUE ANGEL
- I'M NOT A JUVENILE DELINQUENT
- ROCK BOP
- THE RED AND THE BLACK
- WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?
49

< WHAT AM I DOING?
< WELL! FOR ALL I KNOW RIRI COULD BE SEEING THAT BODYBUILDER GIRL SHE MET AT THAT PARTY BEHIND MY BACK; ALL THOSE BODYBUILDER MAGAZINES SHE BRINGS HOME...
< WHAT AM I DOING?
< HA! RIRI SAYS SHE'S INTERESTED IN BODYBUILDING FOR HERSELF; THAT'S WHY SHE BRINGS THOSE MAGAZINES HOME. DOUBLE HA!
<WHAT AM I DOING?>
HELLO!
...YEAH, MY DAD'S-- WELL, HE'S NOT LIKE OTHER DADS BUT IT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN IT SINCE I CAN REMEMBER...I GUESS SINCE HE DIVORCED MY MOM, ANY WAY... I MUST HAVE BEEN SIX THEN...
MY MOM LIVES IN BAGHDAD WHERE SHE WAS RAISED, AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A GOOD EXCUSE TO GO SEE HER, BUT IRAQ?
CAN WE HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING, YOUNG MAN?
YOU...KNOW THAT BOY FROM SOME PLACE, MRS. WILSON? IS IT SOMEBODY YOU RECOGNIZE?
WHITE TRASH ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
NOW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, MALVINA.
T-DOOM
T-DOOM
T-DOOM
WHU'S DAT FOO'S PROBLEM, ERF 'QUAKE?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW, JUNIOR? NEVER SEEN'M BEFO'E.
SCREEECH--!
C'MON, MAN!
50

SONG BY THE BEATLES

C'MON, BEN!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE BULLSHIT FROM YOU AND CARL, CHARLIE.
C'MON, MAN! WE HAVE TO TALK SERIOUS, BEN!
I DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT THAT NIGGER BITCH CARL FUCKED UP! SHE DESERVED IT, CALLING US WHITE TRASH JUST BECAUSE SHE SAW YOU TAKING A LEAK BEHIND THE SUPERMARKET.
SHIT, EVER SINCE IT GOT ON THE NEWS CARL THINKS HE'S INSTIGATED THE DAWN OF THE WHITE VERSUS BLACK CIVIL WAR, OF ALL THE STUPID··
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND FUCKING UP OLD SPLIBS OR WHATEVER WITHOUT THE COPS HAVING TO TAKE THEIR SIDE EVEN IF IT'S ONLY OUT OF PUBLIC PRESSURE, CHARLIE...
SO BEING A PUSSY IS YOUR WAY OF CORRECTING THIS, EH, BENNY?
WHA··
WHA··WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU GUYS UP TO NOW..?
WE'RE UP TO GETTING DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS, BENJAMIN.
THE BIG TALK IS OVER, FUCKER.
HUH...I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU HAD A GUEST, DADDY.
DADDY.
OH..! KRIS, HONEY! IS IT THREE ALREADY?
HELLO, GA GA. THAT IS GA GA, ISN'T IT?
CAN'T SEE A THING WITHOUT MY GLASSES.
NO. THIS IS...IS...
MARICELA.
KRIS..!
YO, E.T.!
YOU BEST REMEMBER THIS, SON; A BROTHER WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET WHITE PUSSY.
FIRS; I AIN'T YO' SON··
SECON'; FUCK DAT UNCA TOM BUL'SHIT··
AN' THIRD; ISS TWEL' FITTY, FOO'!
UH...LATELY KRIS'S BEEN UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE FROM SCHOOL BLAH BLAH··
52

MUTHUHFUCKIN' UNCA TOM CAN'T EVEN SEE WHU'S IN FRONNA HIM; T.V. BRAINWASHED MUTHUHFUCKUH...
NUTHIN' FINER DEN A SISTUH; NUTHIN'! FAHN, FULL LIPS, FAHN SMOOV' BLACK SKIN, BIG FAHN BUTTS--EVEN DEM WHITE MUTHUHFUCKUHS CAN'T DENY SISTUHS GOT DEM BIG FAHN BUTTS!
FUCK DAT UNCA TOM BULLSHIT!!
KRIS, WHAT THE HELL.. OPEN UP!
YOU PROMISED! YOU PROMISED!
PROMISED WHAT? WHAT THE HELL DID YOU SEE US DOING, KRIS? HAH? WHAT?!
YOU PROMISED NEVER IN OUR HOME EVER AND YOU'VE BEEN LYING ALL THIS TIME! I KNOW IT! YOU LIED!!
KRIS, IGOR AND ME WERE NOT.. KRIS!
KRIS, GOD DAMN IT..!
BAM!
BAM!
KRIS!
«YES...
«MOTHER? MOTHER, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU! I HATE IT HERE WITH HIM! :SOB: I HATE IT!»
WHAT THE FUCK YOU DOIN'?! TRYIN' TO RUN ME OFF THE ROAD AND SHIT?!
NAW, WE JUST WANT TO TELL YOU YOUR MUFFLER'S FALLING, MAN!
YEAH, LOOK. CHECK IT OUT!
JEROME, YOUR DADDY WILL BE HOME AFTER WORK, LAMB.
JEROME...
53

«ARABIC»

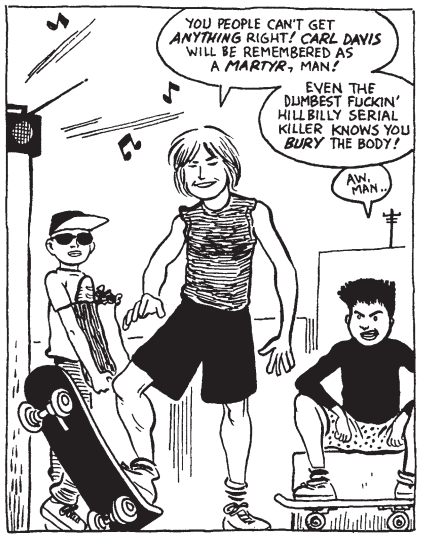
I SAID NO!
YOU WILL DO IT, PUSSY; OR IT'LL PROVE YOU'RE JUST A CHICKENSHIT READY TO RAT US OUT..
FUCK THIS SHIT, MAN!
LET ME FUCKING DO IT..
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT..
DO IT.
COME ON.. DO IT!
J2
..SNAPT
AH..!
I'M WHITER'N YOU, MOTHER FUCKER.
MR. KANG!
SO WHAT, ALL RIGHT? SO FUCKING WHAT?! JUST FUCK OFF, ALL RIGHT?!
BAMBI...
JUST FUCK OFF...!
< I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WENT TO THAT GIRL'S HOUSE BECAUSE I KNOW WHY YOU REALLY WENT...BUT YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT ME AND THAT GIRL BODYBUILDER, MARICELA. I TOLD HER I WAS SPOKEN FOR...
MY MISTAKE.>
...NO SUSPECTS YET IN THE RITUAL STYLE MURDER OF CARL DAVIS...>
<RIRI...>
< I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, MARICELA.>
54

FOR I AM EL FONTANEL.
JUEVENCIO FONTANEL SPINOZA TO BE PRECISE.
ONCE A LOWLY DRUMMER, I AM PRESENTLY VOCALIST IN THE FOURTH INCARNATION OF THE LOVE AND ROCKETS ROCK COMBO.
SEVERAL OF THE MUSICIANS OF THESE BANDS HAVE GONE OFF TO FORM THEIR OWN GROUPS CALLED LOVE AND ROCKETS.
THERE MUST BE AT LEAST TWELVE DIFFERENT LOVE AND ROCKETS BANDS IN THIS CITY ALONE.
I...STILL LIKE THE FIRST ONE BEST.
THAT IS, THE REAL FIRST ONE; THE ONE THE ENGLISH BAND SWIPED THE NAME FROM.
YES, ELVIN'S FINE, THANK YOU. NO, HE AND HIS SON WILL BE TAKING A LITTLE VACATION FOR A WHILE... YES, HE DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I'M MAKING HIM.. YES...
NO...HE NEVER SAW HIS KIDDNAPPERS... BUT WE CAN GUESS WHAT COLOR...
LOOK, I JUST WENT OVER THERE TO TAPE SOME ALBUMS AND SHIT, ALL RIGHT? I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO SOMEBODY WITH SOMETHING TO SAY FOR ONCE, WANDA?
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU NEVER HEARD ABOUT MIKE THE FAG, MAN. HE'S BEEN GETTING YOUNG GUYS OVER HIS HOUSE, DOPING 'EM UP AND..FUCK, FOR YEARS.
EVEN I HEARD ABOUT MIKE THE FAG, IGOR.
TACOS
CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN
I INSISTED MY DAUGHTER BE NAMED KRISTEN TO SPITE MY PARENTS...A JEWISH GIRL NAMED KRISTEN..? WELL, HALF.. HER MOTHER'S MUSLIM...
IF MY PARENT'S CAN'T ACCEPT MY BEING GAY, I CAN'T ACCEPT THEM BEING JEWISH...
WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT I HAD TO MAKE MY POINT SOME HOW...
NOW...KRIS IS GOING AWAY TO SCHOOL IN IRAQ...LIVE WITH HER MOTHER...
I'M...FEELING PRETTY JEWISH THESE DAYS...
FUCKIN' CARL.
DUG HIS OWN..
SO...YOU HAD A BETTER PLAN THAN CARL'S TO GET RID OF NIGGERS AND JEWS, BEN..?
C'MON, CHARLIE.
(DISNEYLAND CAN WAIT, PIPO.)
(YES, GUADALUPE; YESS...)
QUAKE! D'WHITE MUTHUHFUCKUH SHOT D'UTHUH WHITE MUTHUHFUCKUH UPSI' HIS HEAD AND LET E.T. GET AWAY SAFE! WHY YOU WANNA DRAG E.T. BACK INTO IT STARTING SHIT W'D' WHITE FOLK...
STARTIN' SHIT W'D' WHITEFOLK?! WHO BROUGHT WHOSE ANCESTORS ON SLAVE SHIPS, JUNIOR?!
DEN WHUD ABOUT D'BLACK FOLK SELLING OTHER BLACK FOLK TO D'WHITE FOLK AS SLAVES, QUAKE?
ICE T
DEN FUCK YOU TOO, UNCA TOM!
<..AND WITH YOUR LEADING ME ON AND..AND.. RUINING MY LIFE WITH MY LOVER..GO TO HELL, HOMEWRECKER! GO TO FUCKING HELL..!!>
LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER, KRIS?
PAGING JIM CORNETTE..
FLIGHT 37 TO TORONTO NOW BOARDING ROWS 10..
AWK AWK..
<CARRY YOUR BAG, SENORITA MARIA?>
55

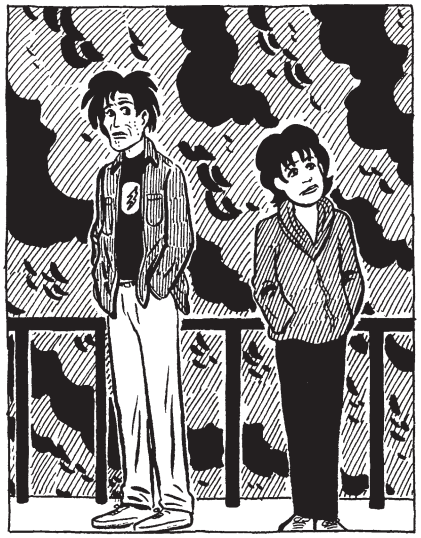
HEE HAW
..MR. KANG'S THIS SERIOUSLY DISABLED DUDE WHO RENTS OUT THE EXTRA ROOM BEHIND MY MOM'S HOUSE... I-I DON'T KNOW.. THE KOREANS AND BLACKS BACK HOME HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ALONG SO GOOD LATELY...
I-..I JUST GOTTA SEE IF HE'S OK!
I'M REX.
I COULDN'T GET A BAND TOGETHER SO I WROTE A SCRIPT ABOUT IT INSTEAD.
LOOKS LIKE UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IS INTERESTED. DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED TO PLAY ROCK EVER AGAIN?
JACKIE CHAN
Welcome Guadalupe
NO GOODBYES, NO REGRETS, MARICELA. I AM ON MY WAY HOME TO PALOMAR. IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN YOU'LL COME. IF NOT, I LEFT YOU ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY OFF ROMERO FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AT LEAST. I HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR LITTLE WHITE SHIT. RIR!.
IGOR...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT RUMORS YOU HEARD ABOUT ME, OR..
WELL, I'LL BE OUT OF EVERYBODY'S HAIR SOON ENOUGH. I'M DROPPING THE WHOLE HOLLYWOOD SCRIPT HORSESHIT AND HEADING DOWN TO PANAMA TO CHECK OUT A TIP THAT BUSH IS SENDING OUT THE TROOPS TO OUST MANUEL NORIEGA.
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO DOCUMENT THE ACCURATE NUMBER OF INNOCENT PANAMANIAN CIVILILIANS WHO WILL BE KILLED BY OUR BOYS' SLOPPY FIRE.
EL TAC
ROX
LA NEGRA

BUT KRIS...! IRAQ?! ALL THOSE.. PEOPLE THERE! YOU'LL MISS THE PROM! GRAD NIGHT! LIFE!
FUCK THE PROM, AMBER. AND I HOPE RUSSIA OR SOMEBODY BLOWS UP THIS COUNTRY ONCE AND FOR ALL, GA GA.
JUST DROP A NOTE INTO YOUR IRAQI LEADER'S SUGGESTION BOX, KRIS.
WANDA, I AM NOT HOMOPHOBIC! I JUST DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO THINK I WENT OVER TO MIKE'S TO GET FUCKED UP MY ASS, ALL RIGHT?!
IGOR, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ADMIT WHAT YOUR UNCLE DID TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE FUCKED YOU UP?!
COME ON, BENNY!
I BLEW FUCKING CARL'S HEAD OPEN FOR A REASON, MAN!
GIVE ME THE REASON, BEN!
<GUADALUPE, RELAX. GETTING TO SEE MARICELA WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME. YOU DON'T WANT YOUR MOTHER TO FIND OUT. WHY DON'T YOU ENJOY YOUR FIRST DAYS HERE IN THE U.S. BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS?>
<OH, PIPO; I DO APPRECIATE.. I MEAN THE VU'S ARE WONDERFUL, AND I.. FEH. I WON'T EVEN NOTICE ANYTHING ABOUT THE STATES TILL>
HEY! HEY!
I KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE SAYING:
'THE PUNY AMERICAN ANTS; FOR ONE DAY WE SHALL BE THE MASTERS OF THE WORLD!
SHE'S ONLY SPEAKING TO ME IN ARABIC NOW, ALPHONSO... PRETTY FUCKING CUTE, EH?
SHE SPEAKS IT SO FLUENTLY... I NEVER DID GET THE HANG OF IT...
KIDS...
I TRIED TO TALK TO BAMBI, BUT SHE WON'T EVEN...FUCK IT...
I'VE KNOWN CARL SINCE FIFTH GRADE! I MEAN, HE WAS A DICK, BUT...
PTCH..SCOTT AND FONTANEL ARE THE BIGGER DICKS, REALLY. WHO CARES ABOUT REX.
UH, PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW AND ALL, GIRLS; BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE STATES! I'LL..I'LL SAY HI TO YOUR SISTER GUADALUPE!
<CASIMIRA, MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND HE HAS TO SEE OUR MOTHER OR ELSE BEFORE HE LEAVES TOWN.>
<MOST GRINGOS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS COWARDLY LOT, DORALIS. I'LL WHIP MY PLASTIC ARM AROUND LIKE A TALISMAN AND SPOOK HIM INTO UNDERSTANDING.>
57

GROAN...
< IF SEÑORA VU EVER FOUND OUT I DROVE GUADALUPE TO SEE HER SISTER, SEÑORITA JIMENEZ. I DON'T LIKE LYING TO HER...>
WHY DID I EVER LEARN SPANISH?
< I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, SEÑOR VU.>


YOU PEOPLE CAN'T GET ANYTHING RIGHT! CARL DAVIS WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A MARTYR, MAN!
EVEN THE DUMBEST FUCKIN' HILLBILLY SERIAL KILLER KNOWS YOU BURY THE BODY!
AW, MAN..

< MY LOVE >
KRIS..



< SILLY. HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF SPANISH.
< ANYBODY CAN UNDERSTAND ANY LANGUAGE IF IT'S SPOKEN SLOWLY AND CLEARLY ENOUGH, OFELIA; EXCEPT ENGLISH.
< NOW LISTEN, BOY; I DON'T KNOW HOW BIG CALIFORNIA IS, BUT IF YOU SEE MARICELA ANYWHERE NEAR GUADALUPE, YOU REPORT BACK TO ME IMMEDIATELY. >

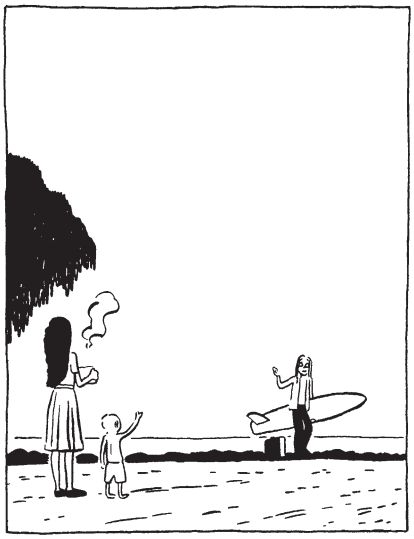
I'LL SAVE IT FOR YOU, KRIS.
<< WHATEVER.>>

< YOU WANT TO CALL IMMIGRATION, YOU FUCKIN.. I'LL GIVE YOU A REASON..>
AIEE

THCOTT..?
THCOTT, ARE YOU GOING TO COME THITH TIME?
OH...UH... I DON'T KNOW...
58

BEN...
ANSWER ME, MAN.

I-I DON'T CARE, MIKE... I WANT TO GO WITH YOU... I GOTTA DO...SOMETHING WITH MY LIFE ONE TIME...I HAVE TO...
TAKE ME WITH YOU...YOU WON'T BE SORRY...
MIKE..?



LET HIM GO, MARICELA!
<WHAT..?
<RIRI?
<IT'S ABOUT RIRI, ISN'T IT? ISN'T IT?!>

DON' F'GET T'BURY D'BODY, M'MAN.
FTOO PTOO
FUCK

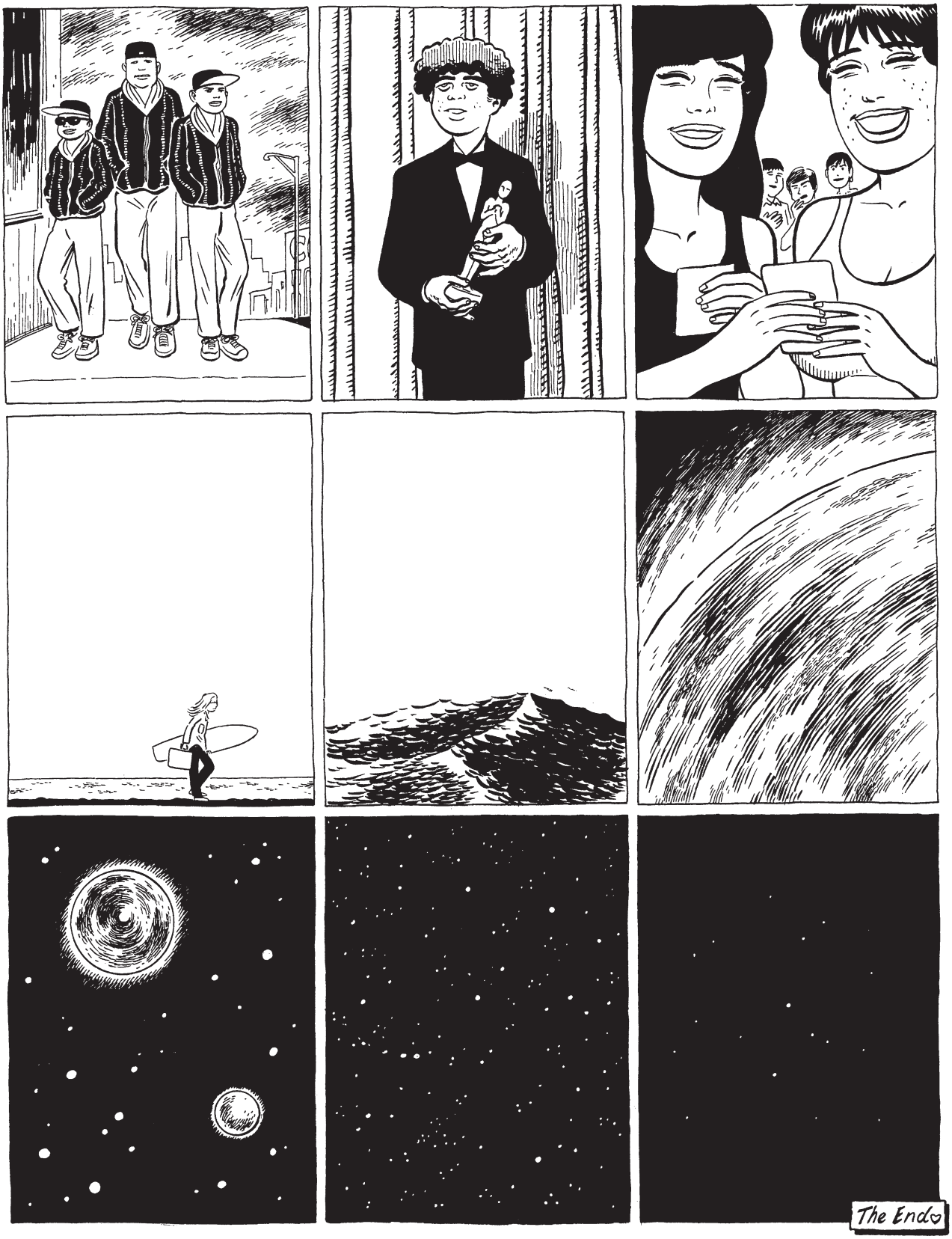
<COCK SUCKERS.. DIRTY, STINKING COCKSU..!>
<SHE TORE A JAPANESE FLOWER SHOP UP?>
<YOU BETTER NOT SAY A THING THAT WILL GET HER SENT BACK, ROMERO; OR I'LL SAY PLENTY ABOUT YOU..!>

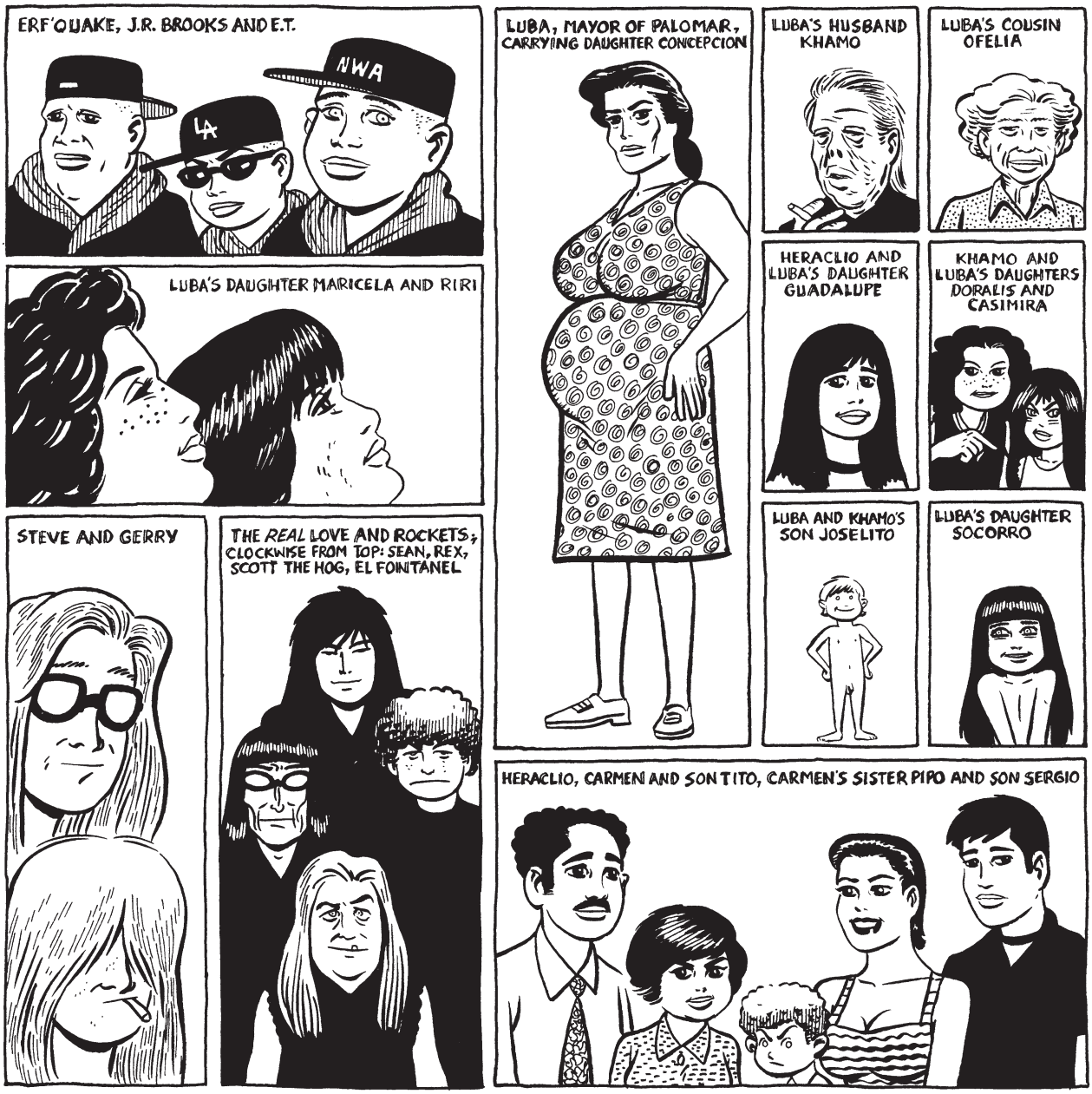
<< WHY SHOULD I CARE MY DAD'S GAY? I'VE KNOWN IT FOR AS LONG AS I REMEMBER...
<< WHY-WHY SHOULD I CARE WHO THAT SEAN OGATA LET SUCK HIS..
<<AND WHY SHOULD I BE AT ALL SCARED ABOUT SCHOOL IN IRAQ? CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THE SHIT I TOOK FROM THAT WHITE TRASH BAMBI DIBBLE...
<< AND AT LEAST NOBODY THERE'S GOING TO MISTAKE ME FOR A MEXICAN ALL THE TIME.>>

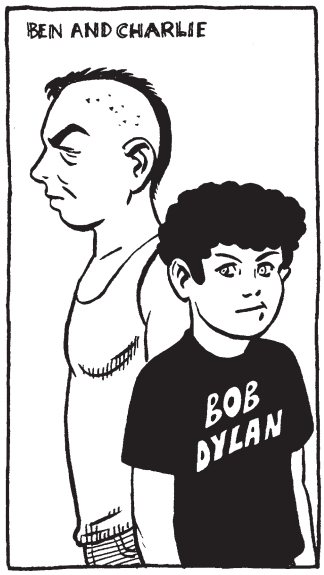
MOTHERFUCKING SLANT EYED KOREAN BITCH..! YOU DO YOUR SHOPPING AT ONE OF YOUR OWN STORES, SLANT EYED BITCH!
CAN I HELP YOU WIT YOUR SHOPPING, MR. KANG..?
1242

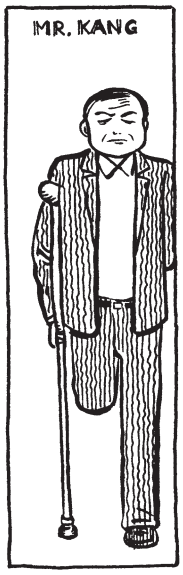
SEÑOR VU, I CANNOT TO BE THANKFUL TO YOU ENOUGH, REALLY...
I LEFT MY FOLKS BACK HOME IN CAMBODIA, GUADALUPE. I MIGHT NOT SEE THEM EVER AGAIN...I UNDERSTAND TOO WELL HOW YOU FEEL.
<OH, GOD...
<GUADALUPE..?>

AND IN THE DREAM THE BOY WITH THE LONG BLOND HAIR AND GLATHETH DETHIDETH TO RETURN HOME AND..
<YOU DIRTY FLICKERS..
<MY SISTER'S COMING.. SHE CAN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS..
<GUADALUPE CAN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS, YOU PIGS!>
BAM
BAM
BAM
E.T.
UP.
FUCK M.T.V., FUCK..
<OFELIA, LUBA DOESN'T REALLY EXPECT GUADALUPE NOT TO TRY AND SEE HER SISTER MARICELA IN THE STATES, DOES SHE?>
<WELL, SHE CAN MAKE HER FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT, CAN'T SHE, CHELO?>
IGOR'S MOM TOLD ME AND WANDA THAT HE AND MIKE THE FAG ARE NOW IN GERMANY FILMING THE BIG DEAL WITH THE BERLIN WALL ABOUT TO COME DOWN AND SHIT. SOUNDS LIKE IGOR AND MIKE THE FAG ARE HAVING TOO GOOD A TIME TO EVER COME HOME.
WOULDN'T IT BE.. WEIRD IF THE U.S. WENT TO WAR WITH IRAQ WHILE KRIS NIZNICK WAS THERE STILL AT SCHOOL, REX?
BOOM
VIP
SWEEEE..
MOTOR PSYCHO
TAXI
60


The End

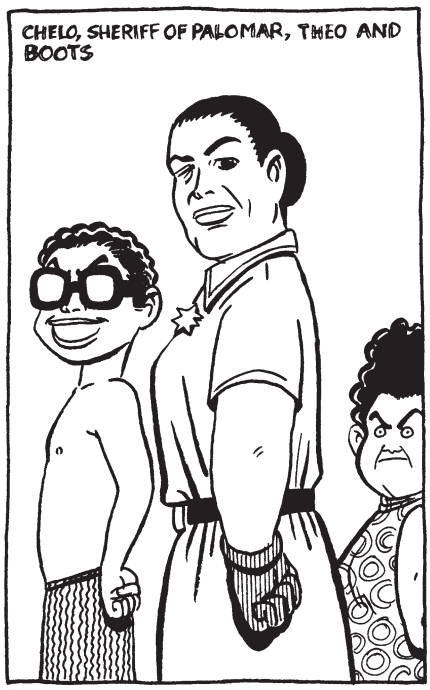

ERF'QUAKE, J.R. BROOKS AND E.T.
NWA
LA
LUBA'S DAUGHTER MARICELA AND RIRI
STEVE AND GERRY
THE *REAL* LOVE AND ROCKETS; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SEAN, REX, SCOTT THE HOG, EL FOINTANEL
LUBA, MAYOR OF PALOMAR, CARRYING DAUGHTER CONCEPCION
LUBA'S HUSBAND KHAMO
LUBA'S COUSIN OFELIA
HERACLIO AND LUBA'S DAUGHTER GUADALUPE
KHAMO AND LUBA'S DAUGHTERS DORALIS AND CASIMIRA
LUBA AND KHAMO'S SON JOSELITO
LUBA'S DAUGHTER SOCORRO
HERACLIO, CARMEN AND SON TITO, CARMEN'S SISTER PIPO AND SON SERGIO


BEN AND CHARLIE
BOB DYLAN


MR. KANG

CARL AND BAMBI

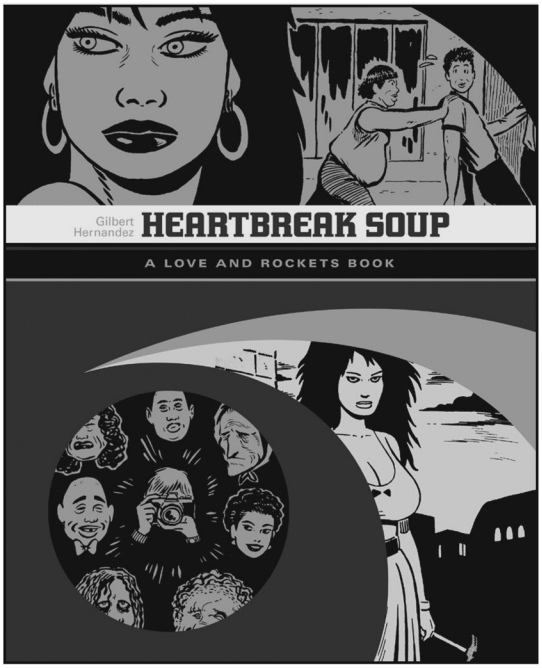
MIKE NIZNICK AND DAUGHTER KRIS
IT'S MY HAPPENING AND IT FREAKS ME OUT!

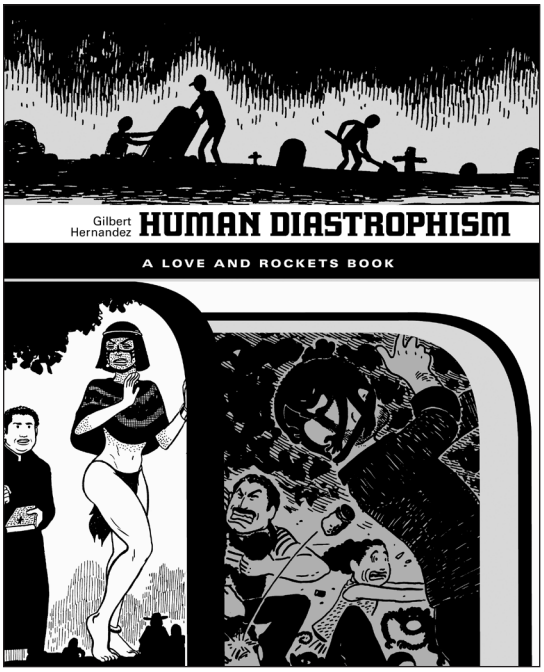

CHELO, SHERIFF OF PALOMAR, THEO AND BOOTS

IGOR AND WANDA

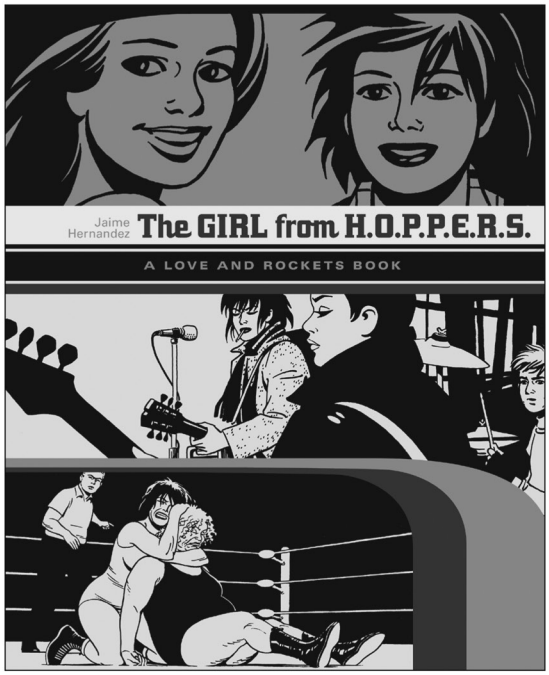
MALVINA WILSON
BETO/93

REX'S MOTHER CINDY, THE DOCTOR AND HER SISTER



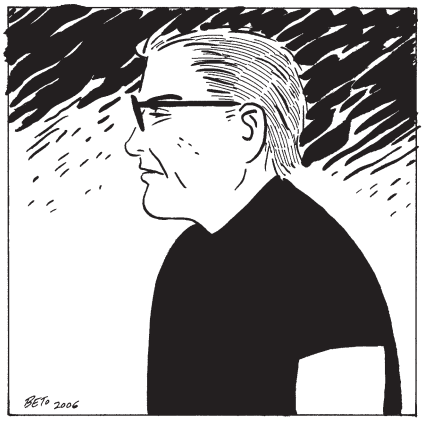


GIlbert Hernandez's "Palomar" stories appeared in *Love and Rockets* side by side with Jaime's tales of the Locas. They've now been collected into two books: *Heartbreak Soup* and *Human Diastrophism*.



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

GILBERT HERNANDEZ



Born in 1957, Gilbert Hernandez enjoyed a pleasant childhood in Oxnard, California with four brothers and one sister. The siblings were, in Gilbert's words, "born into a world with comic books in the house" — Archie, Marvel, and *Dennis the Menace*. A further strain of DNA was added later when an older brother smuggled R. Crumb's *Zap* into the house.

Gilbert's childhood enthusiasm for comics was equaled only by his teenaged appetite for rock and roll ('50s, '60s, '70s, punk). Both he and his brother Jaime created eye-catching poster art for local bands like the Angry Samoans, Agent Orange, Black Flag and others through the early '80s.

Initiated by older brother Mario and bankrolled by younger brother Ismael, Gilbert and Jaime created *Love & Rockets* #1 in 1981. It may have been a very small, black and white affair, but almost a quarter of a century later, the series is regarded as a modern classic and the Hernandez brothers continue to create some of the most startling, original, and intelligent comic art to be seen since the '60s underground boom.

Ironically, the greatest mainstream exposure for Gilbert came when a British musical group appropriated the comic's name without permission in the 1980s. Years later, the name was symbolically reclaimed by Gilbert when he gave it to a fictional and exceptionally obnoxious garage band in the storyline "Love & Rockets X." Gilbert's 13-year saga *Palomar*, as serialized in the first volume of *Love & Rockets* from 1983 to 1996, remains one of the defining bodies of work of its era.

In addition to his continuing work on *Love and Rockets*, Gilbert is the author of the original graphic novels *Sloth* and *Grip* for DC Comics, *Girl Crazy* for Dark Horse Comics, and the illustrator of Peter Bagge's *Yeah!* for DC Comics.

Gilbert lives in Las Vegas, NV, with his wife and daughter.