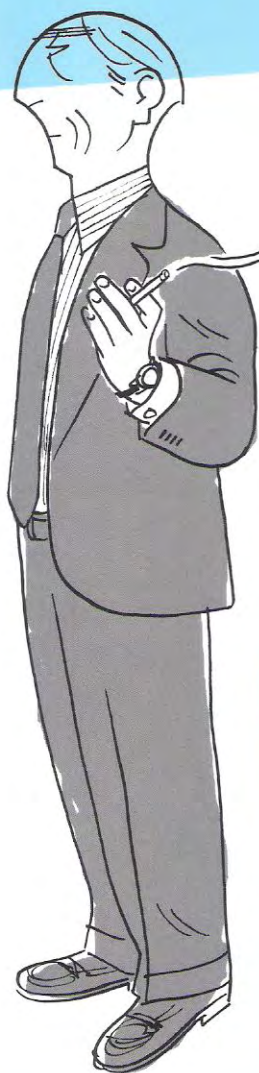


Asteros



DAVID MAZZUCHELLI

Foupp



Asterios

DAVID MAZZUCHELLI



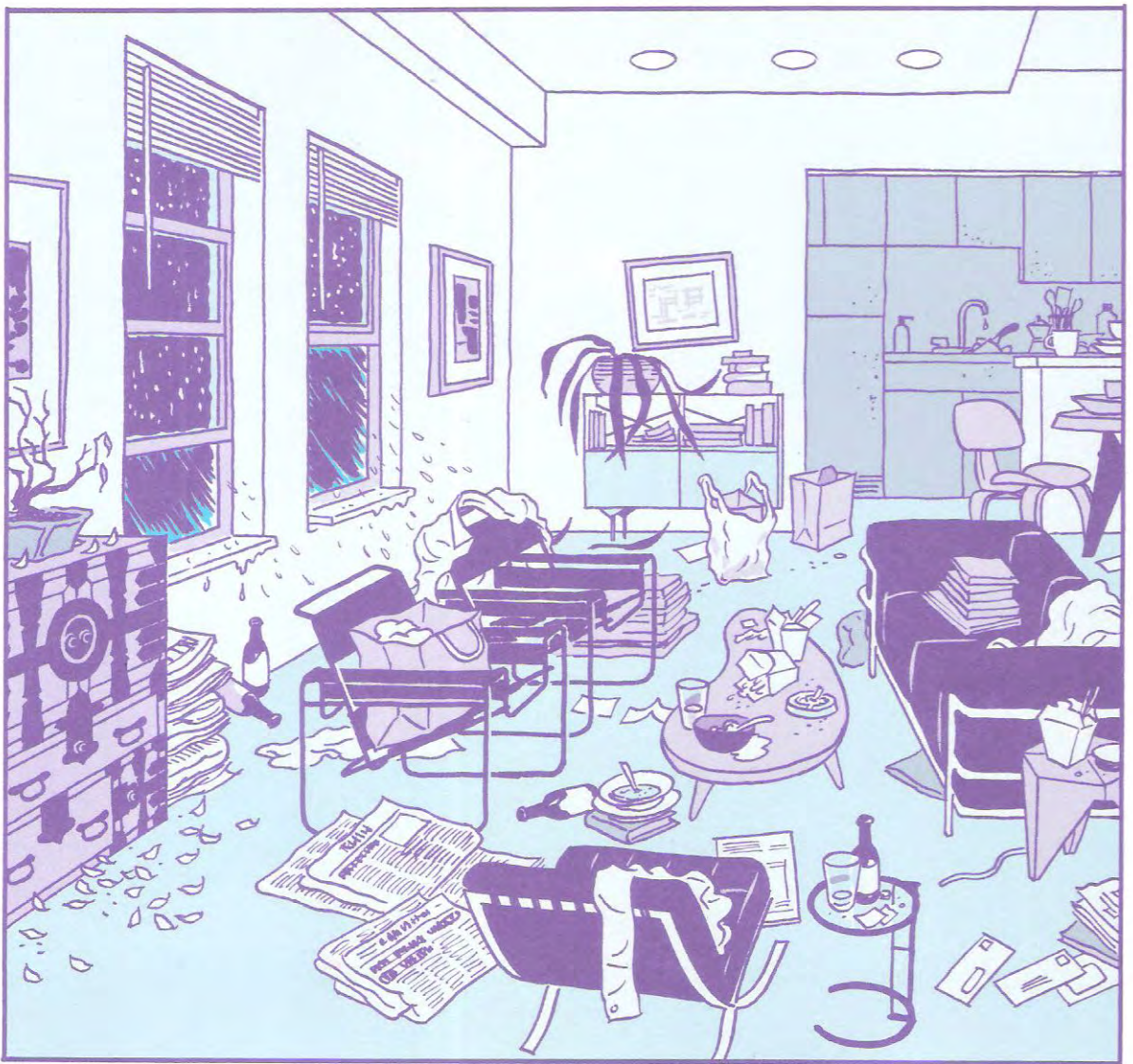
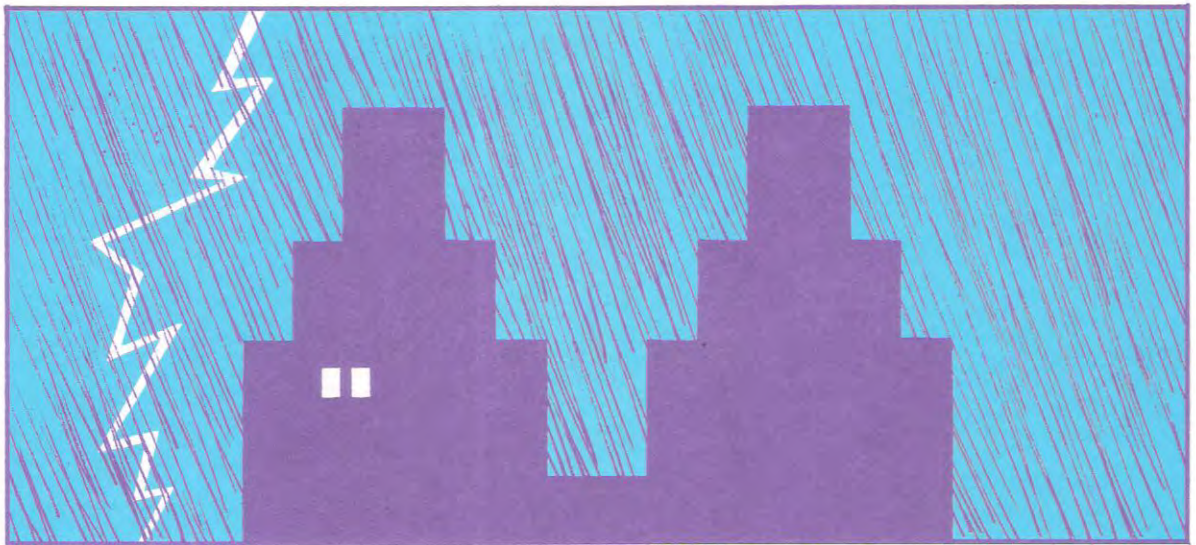
PANTHEON BOOKS
NEW YORK

Polyp







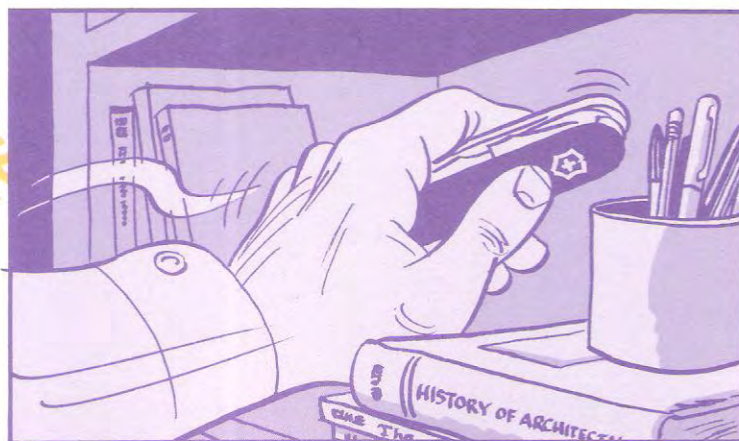
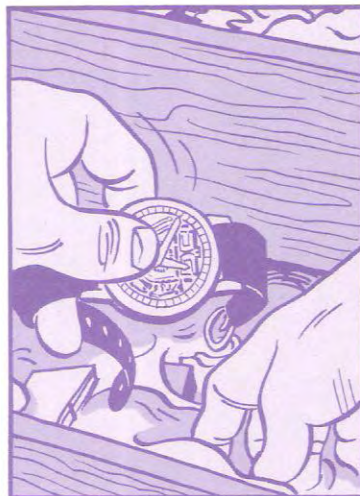
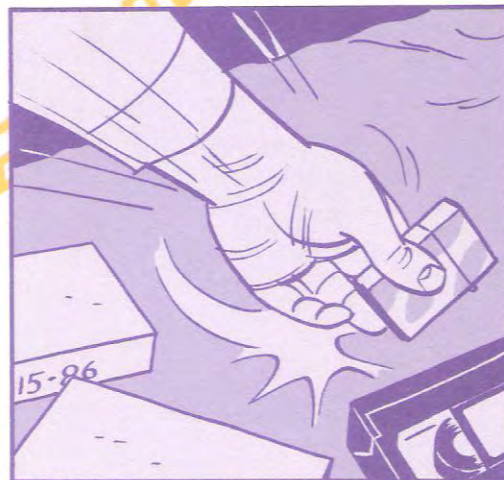


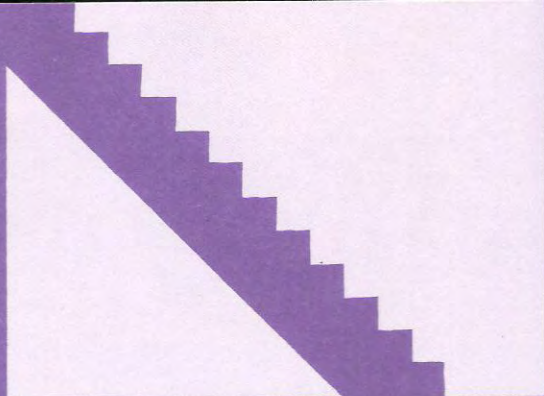






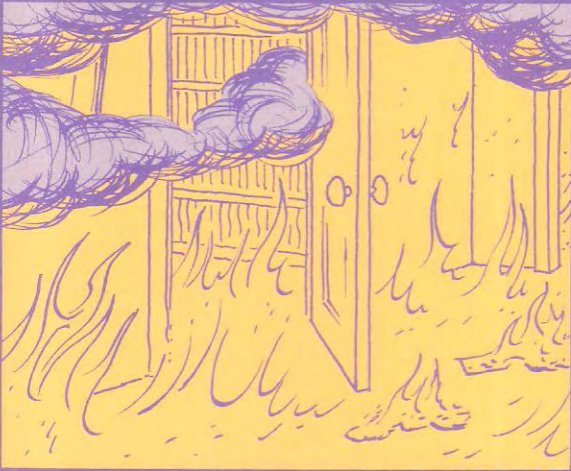














THIS

IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR
ME TO NARRATE THIS
STORY, I'D BEGIN HERE.

IS ASTERIOS POLYP.



RIGHT NOW,
HE'S WATCHING
HIS HOME
BURN UP.

TODAY — COINCIDENTALLY —
ALSO HAPPENS TO BE HIS
FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY.

ASTERIOS LIVED IN THIS
MANHATTAN APARTMENT
FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES,
BUT UNTIL SEVEN YEARS
AGO HE SPENT MOST
OF HIS TIME UPSTATE,
TEACHING AT A
UNIVERSITY IN
ITHACA.



HE WAS A
TENURED PROFESSOR
OF ARCHITECTURE - A
POSITION BUTTRESSED
BY HIS
RENOWN AS
A "PAPER
ARCHITECT."

THAT IS TO SAY,
HE WAS AN
ESTEEMED
ARCHITECT WHOSE
REPUTATION
RESTED ON HIS
DESIGNS, RATHER THAN ON THE
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED
FROM THEM.

IN FACT, NONE OF
HIS DESIGNS HAD EVER
BEEN BUILT.



NONETHELESS, HE HAD WON NUMEROUS
COMPETITIONS AND
AWARDS, ENOUGH TO HAVE
EARNED HIM A HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL
CAREER.



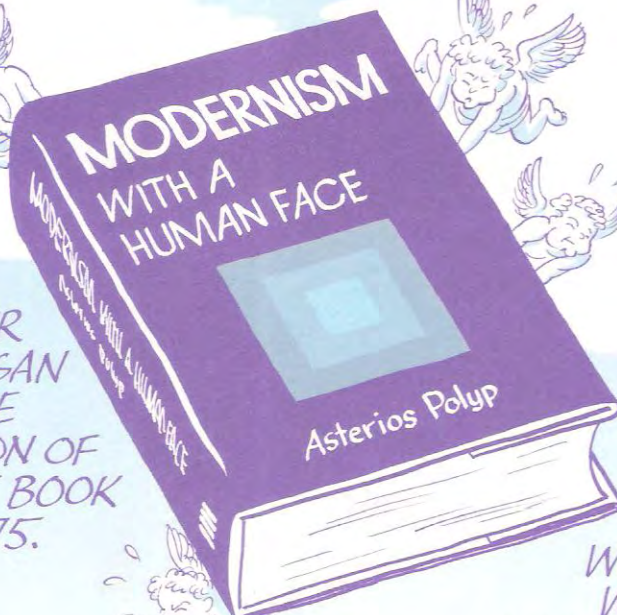
HE TAUGHT
BECAUSE HE
ENJOYED THE
INTELLECTUAL
ENVIRONMENT.



IT WAS AT THE
UNIVERSITY THAT
HE MET HIS
WIFE.

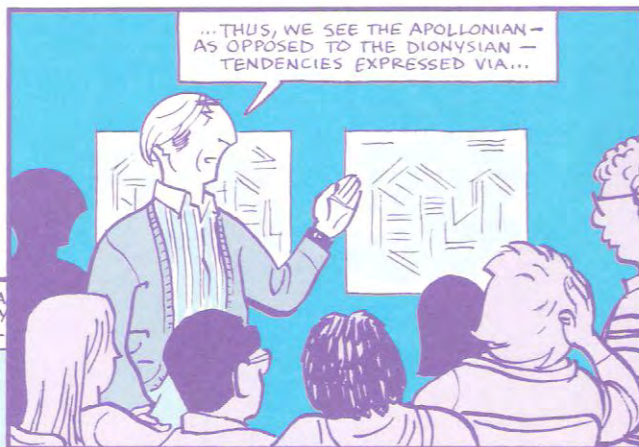


HIS CAREER
REALLY BEGAN
WITH THE
PUBLICATION OF
HIS FIRST BOOK
IN 1975.



IT WAS
BASED ON HIS
GRADUATE
WORK AT OXFORD,
WHERE HE WAS
UNIVERSALLY REGARDED
AS A BRILLIANT
STUDENT.

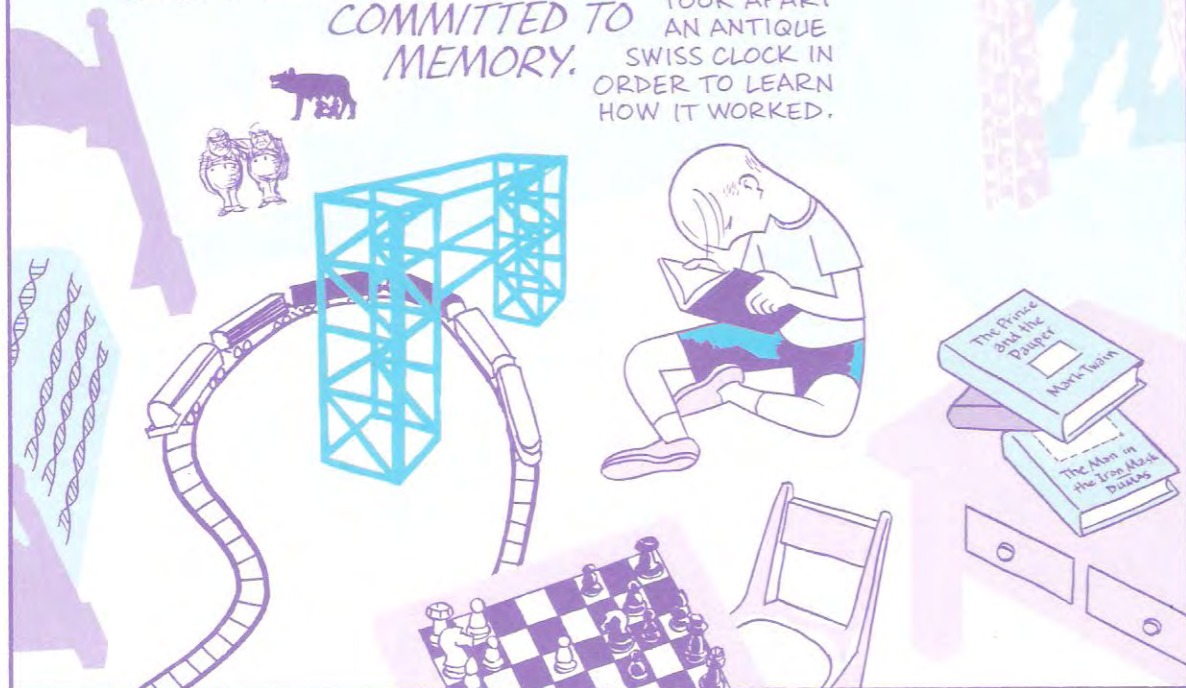
IT HAD BEEN
THE SAME
AT
HARVARD,



AND IN HIGH
SCHOOL BEFORE
THAT.

AS A BOY HE HAD A VORACIOUS
CURIOSITY, AND PRACTICALLY
EVERYTHING HE READ, HE
COMMITTED TO
MEMORY.

AT FOUR, HE
TOOK APART
AN ANTIQUE
SWISS CLOCK IN
ORDER TO LEARN
HOW IT WORKED.



HIS FATHER, DR. EUGENIOS POLYP, HAD
IMMIGRATED AS A CHILD WITH HIS
FAMILY IN 1919.

AN EXASPERATED ELLIS
ISLAND OFFICIAL HAD
CUT THE FAMILY NAME
IN HALF, LEAVING
ONLY THE FIRST
FIVE LETTERS.



EUGENIOS
MARRIED
A HOPEFUL
YOUNG GIRL
NAMED
AGLIA OLIO,
AND ON
JUNE 22, 1950,

AFTER A PAINFUL, THIRTY-THREE-
HOUR LABOR, AGLIA GAVE BIRTH BY
CESAREAN SECTION TO IDENTICAL TWINS.

HER HUSBAND DEFERRED
TO THE EXPERT IN
OBSTETRICS.

ONE WAS ALIVE,



THE OTHER DEAD.

THE LIVING ONE
WAS NAMED
ASTERIOS.

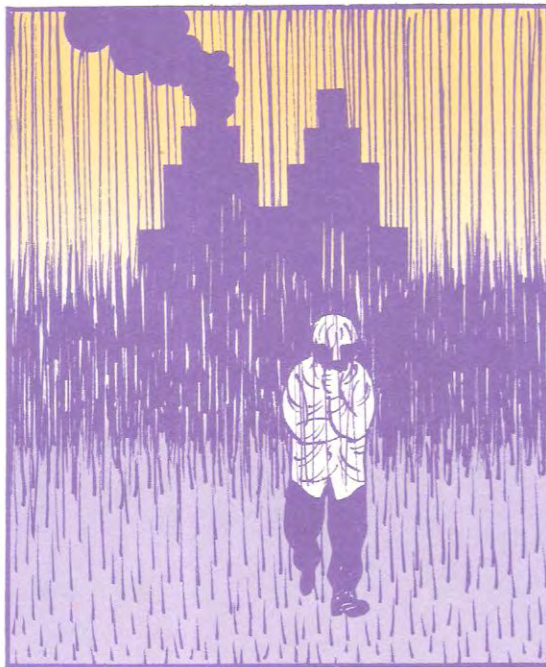
THE DEAD ONE
WOULD HAVE
BEEN CALLED
IGNAZIO.



THAT'S ME.

AND NOW
(FIFTY YEARS LATER),
ASTERIOS IS STANDING
IN THE RAIN, WATCHING HIS
HOME BURN UP,
THINKING ONE
THING:







SO I COULD
BE TO VAINO



AND THEN THEY'RE
COMPLAINING THAT NOBODY
READ THEIR MINDS
BEFORE THEY WERE BORN

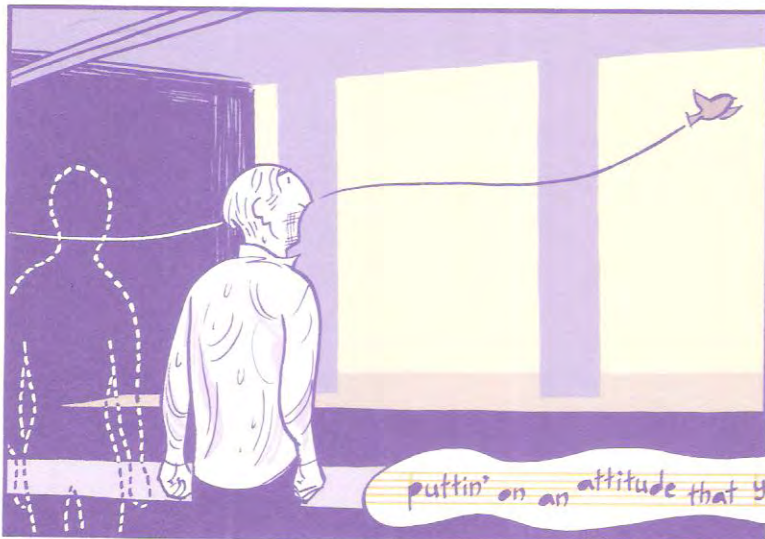








...slidin' down the aquaduct, swimmin' in the gene pool,
you wanna do the job right, get the right tool.



puttin' on an attitude that you can look pretty in.











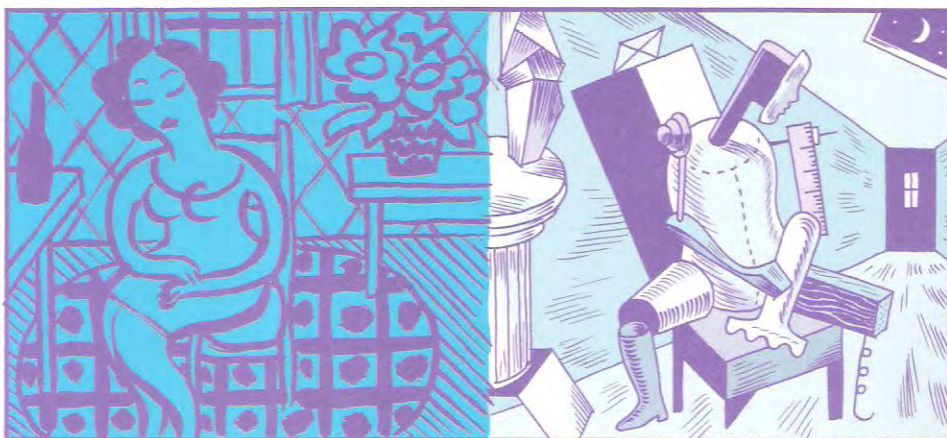
WHAT'S





THAT MIGHT
EXPLAIN WHY
SOME PEOPLE
SEEM TO GET
ALONG SO
EFFORTLESSLY,

WHILE
OTHERS
DON'T.

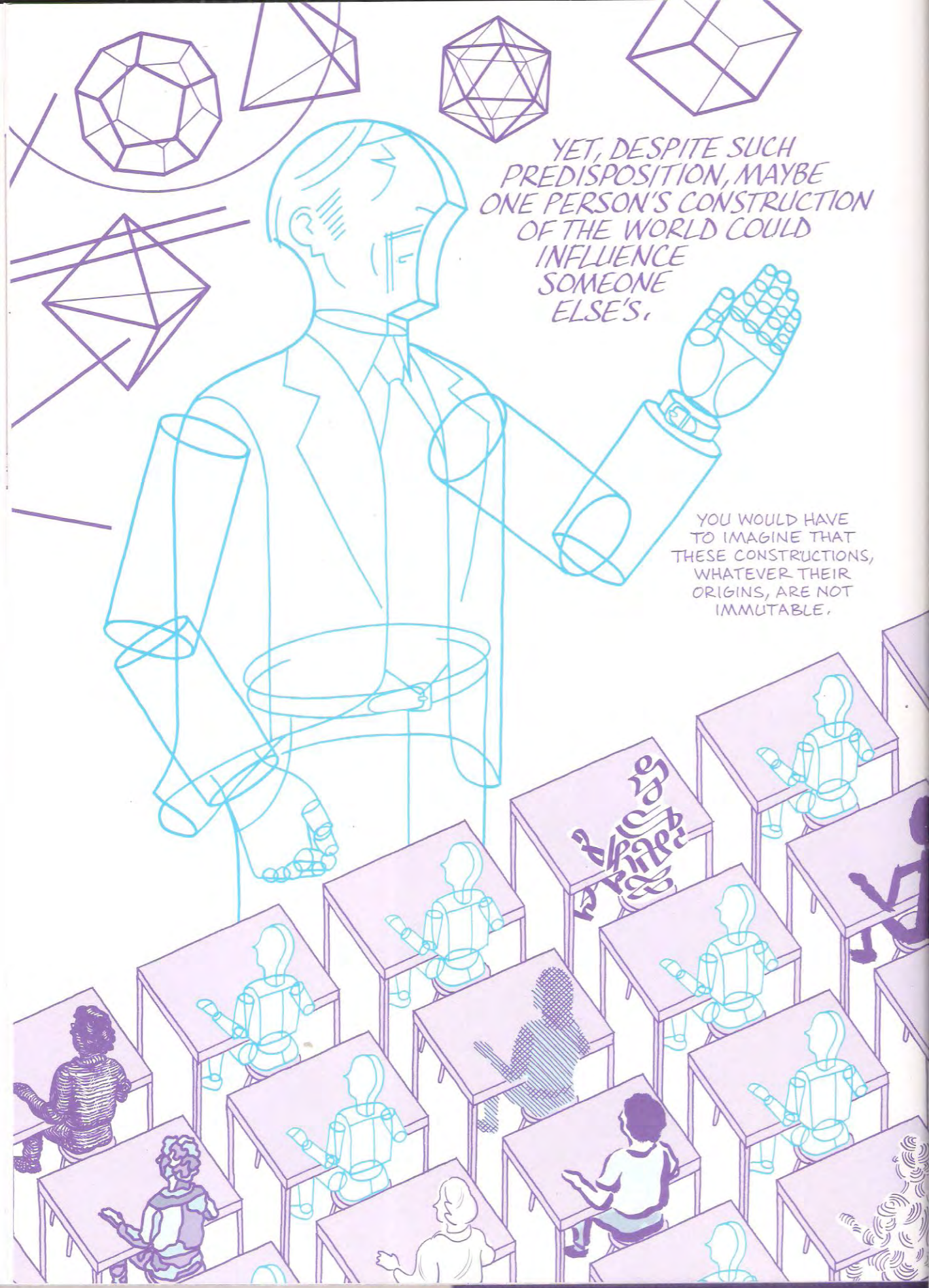


Hello
ALOHA SHALOM



ALTHOUGH
PEOPLE DO KEEP
TRYING.

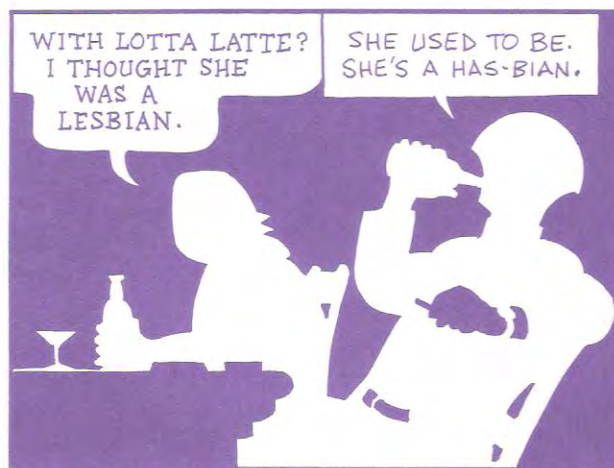


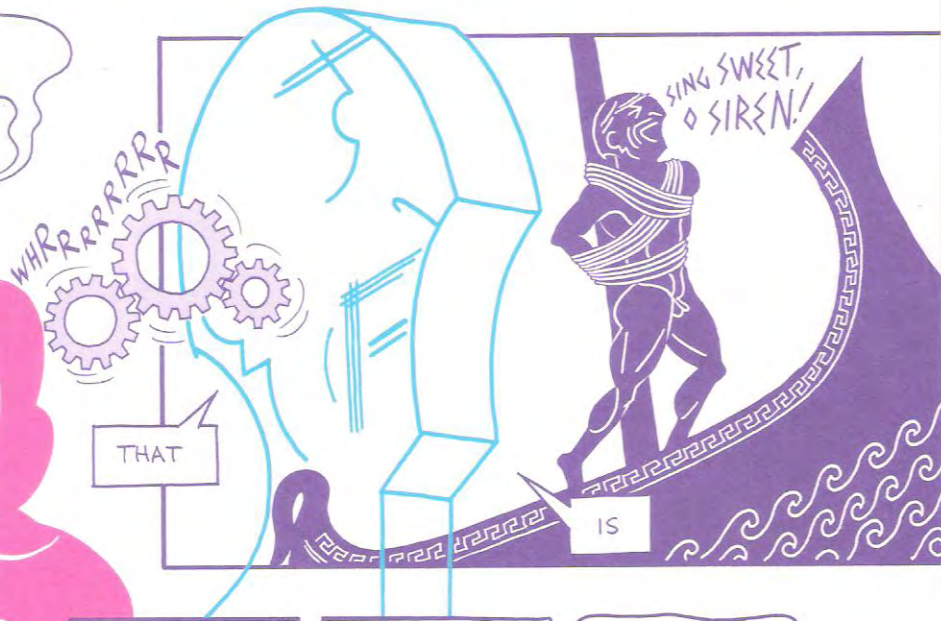


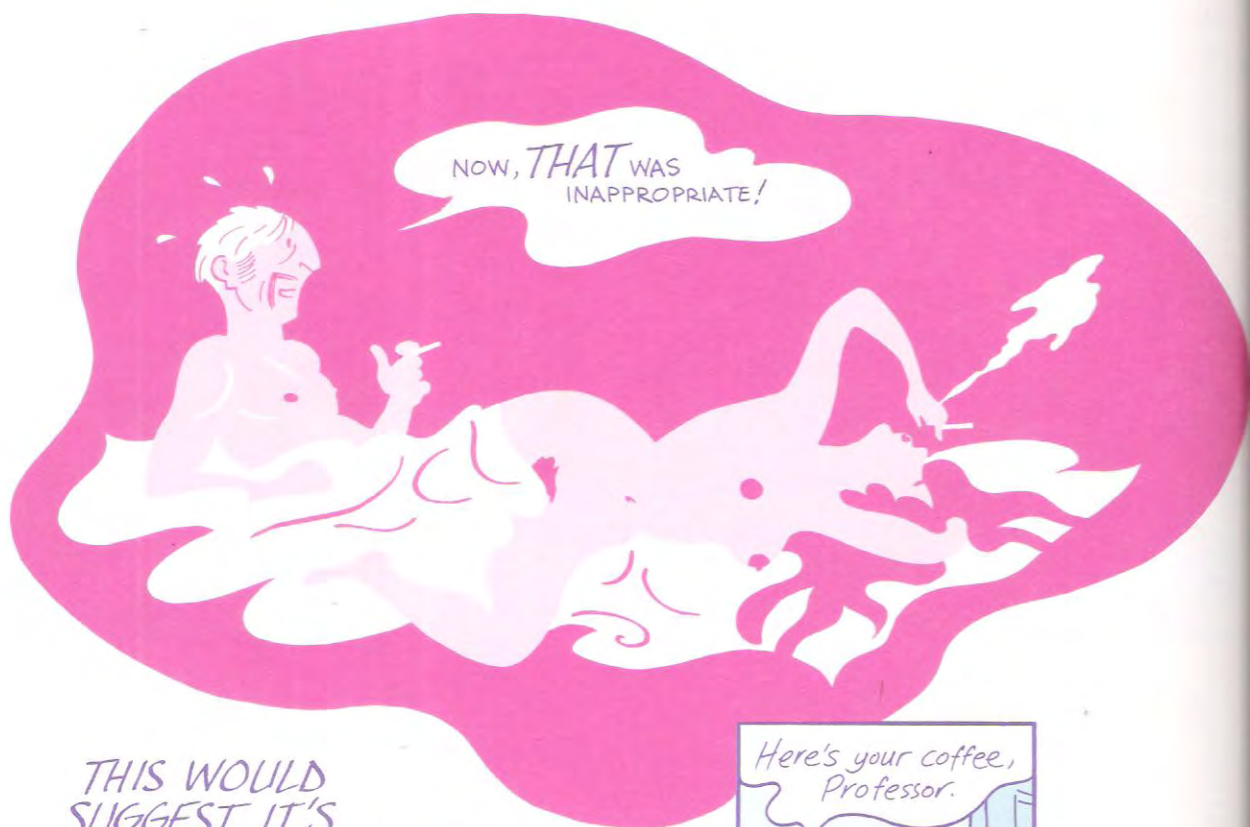
YET, DESPITE SUCH
PREDISPOSITION, MAYBE
ONE PERSON'S CONSTRUCTION
OF THE WORLD COULD
INFLUENCE
SOMEONE
ELSE'S.

YOU WOULD HAVE
TO IMAGINE THAT
THESE CONSTRUCTIONS,
WHATEVER THEIR
ORIGINS, ARE NOT
IMMUTABLE.









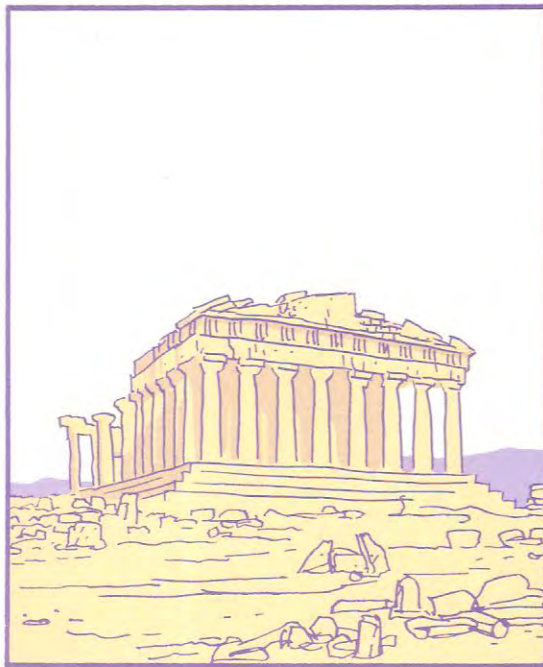
THIS WOULD
SUGGEST IT'S
POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO
FREELY ALTER HIS OWN PERCEPTION
OF REALITY IN ORDER TO OVERLAP
WITH THAT OF ANOTHER.

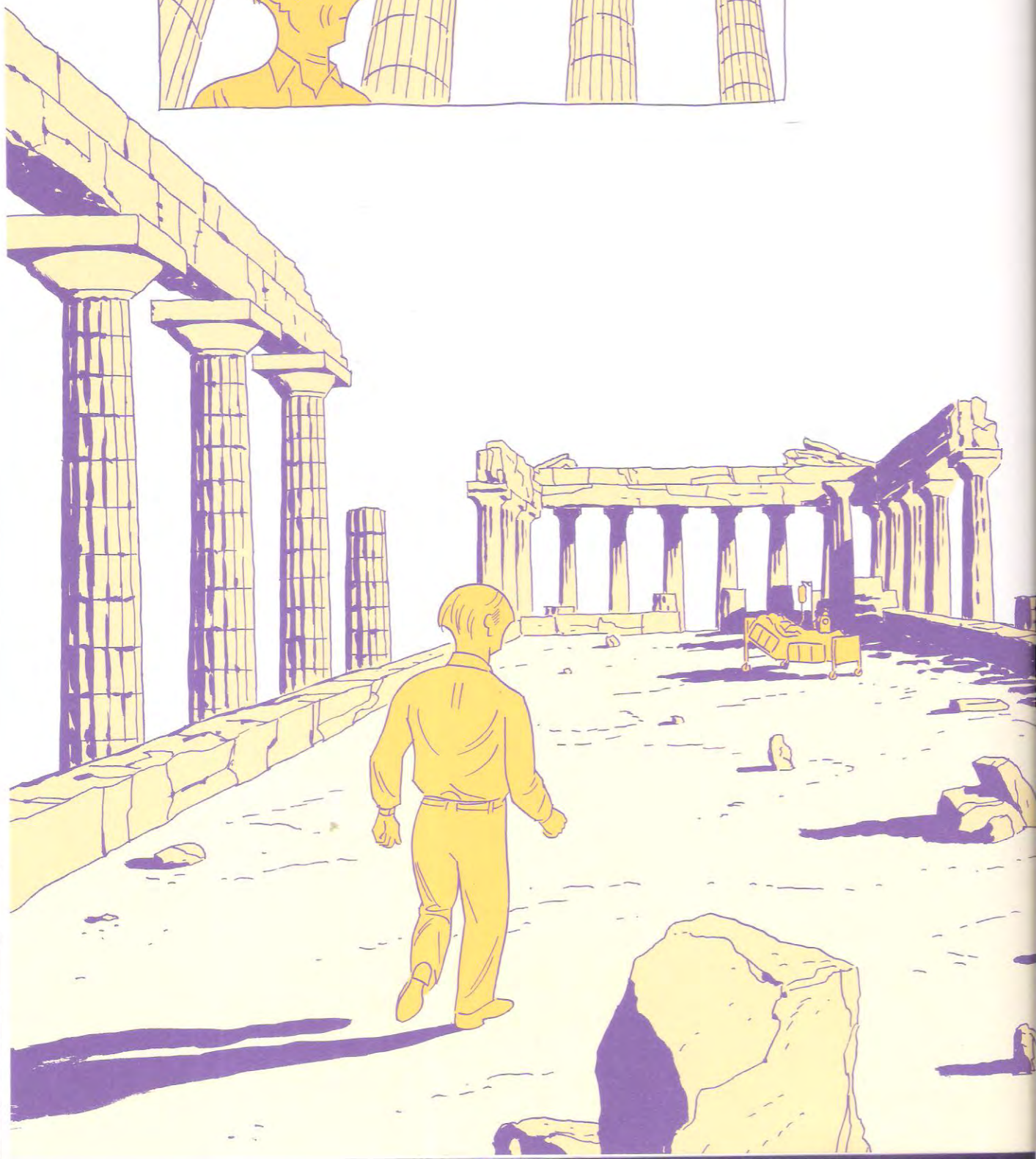
THIS CHOICE MIGHT BE SEEN AS A REFLECTION-
AND NOT NECESSARILY A RESULT- OF
ONE'S GENETIC ARCHITECTURE.





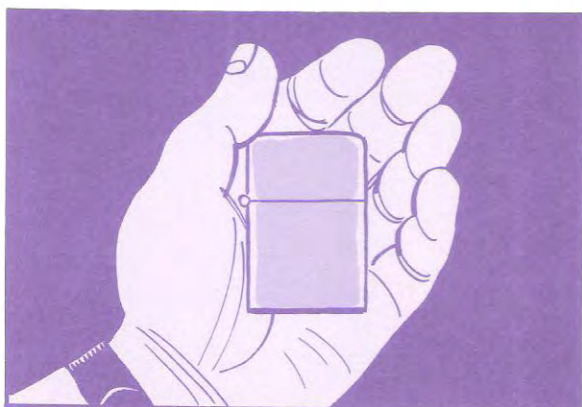
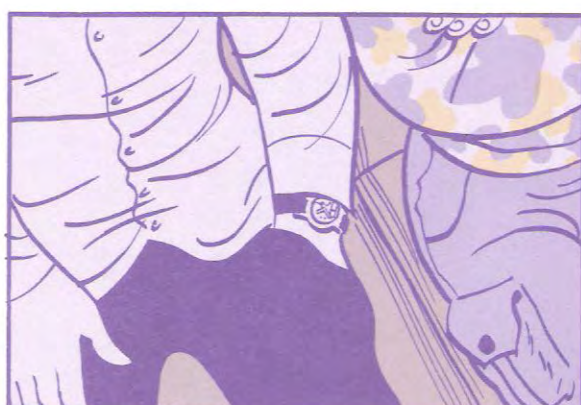
WOULDN'T
THAT BE
NICE?



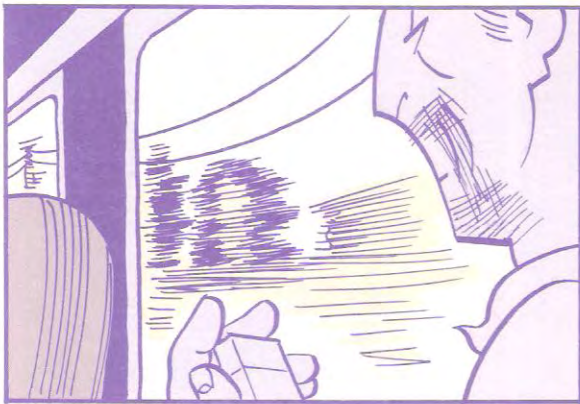


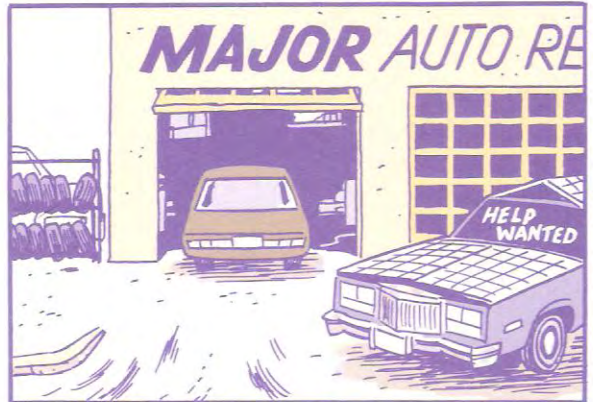
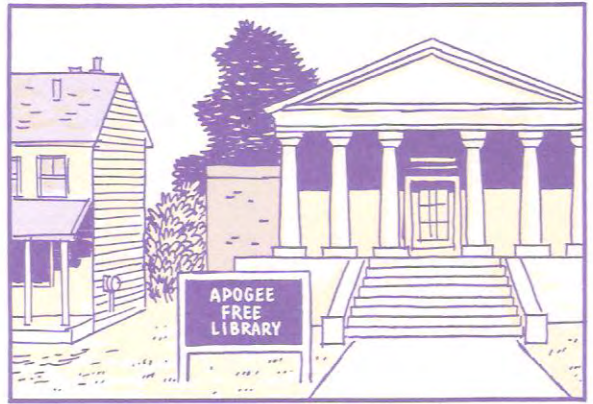


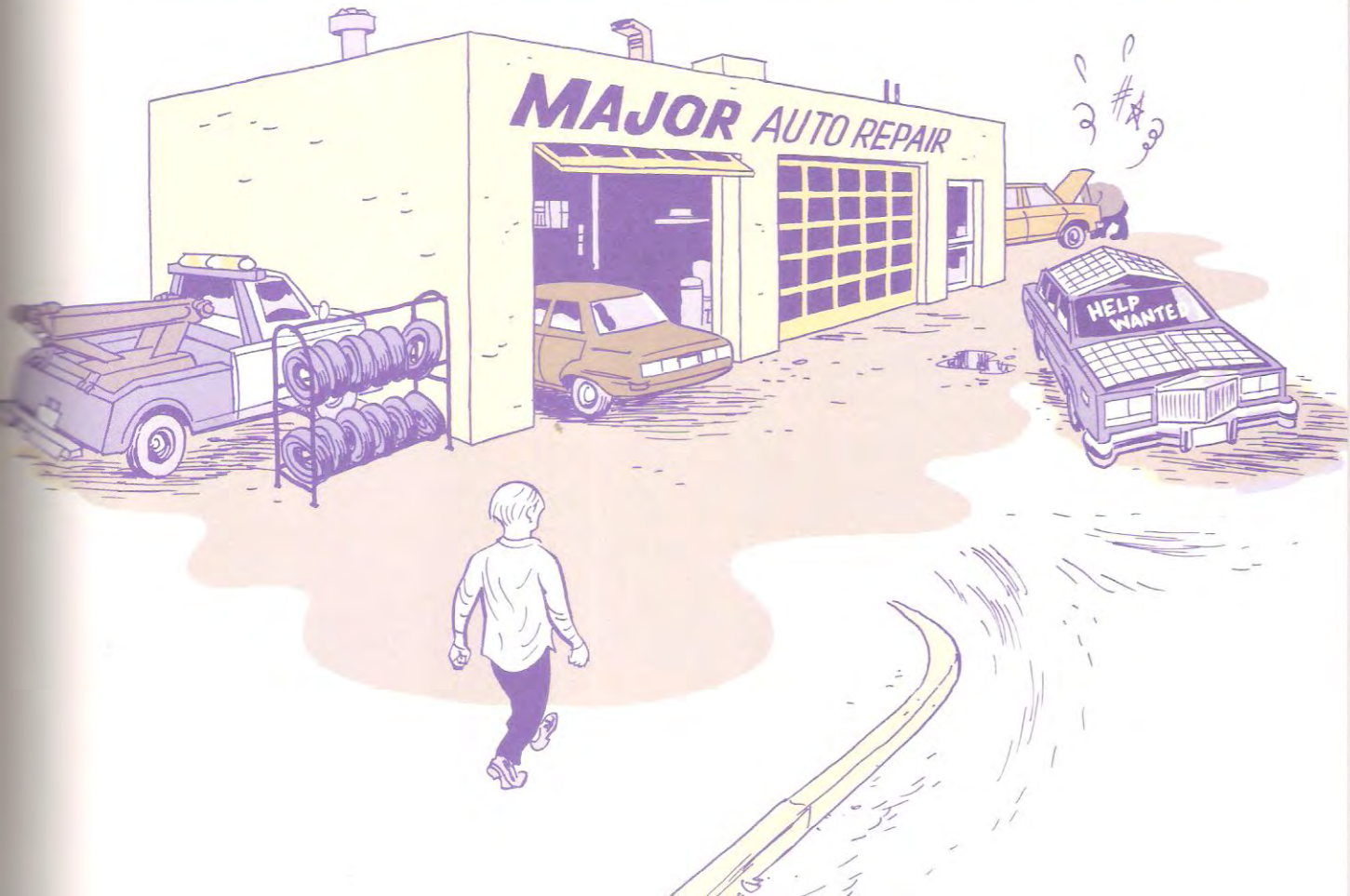


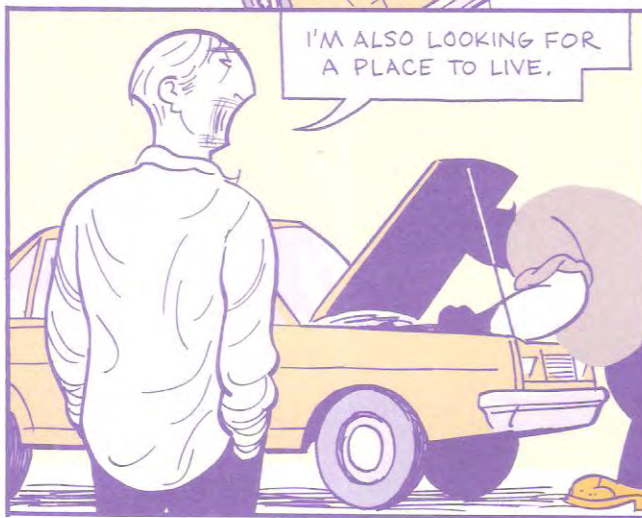


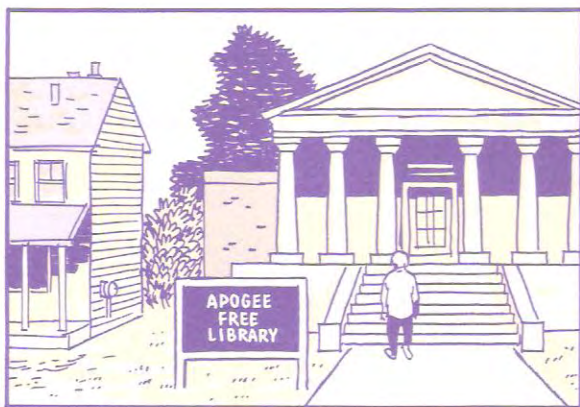
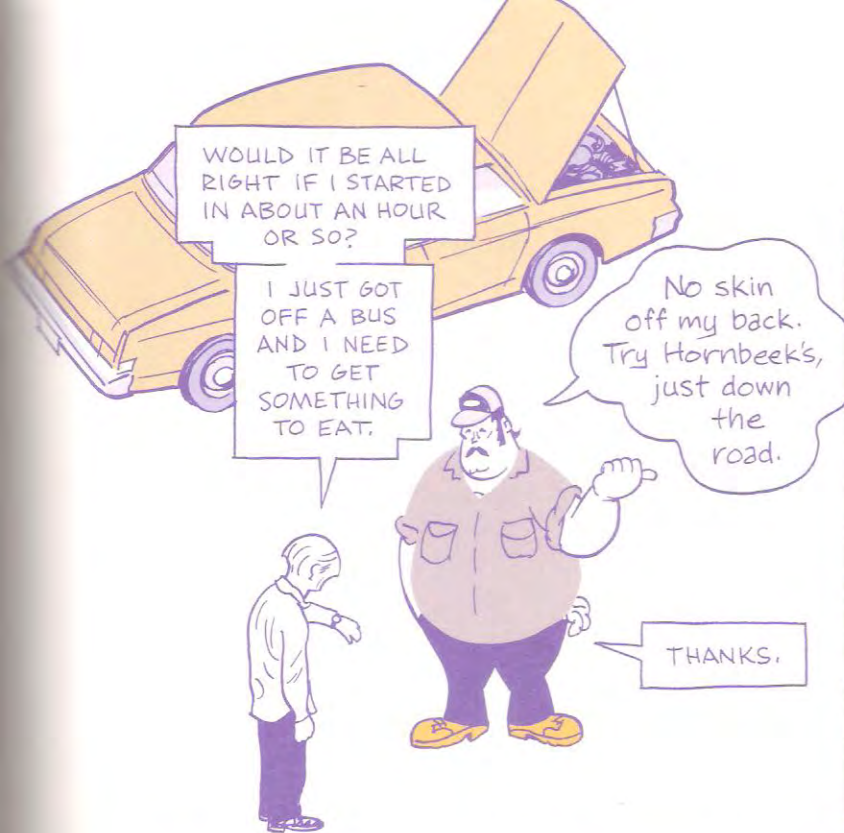














AT A FACULTY PARTY IN 1984, ASTERIOS WAS REGALING THE ASSEMBLY WITH HIS INSIGHT INTO COMMUNICATION,



HIS UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR,



AND HIS SENSITIVITY.



HE WAS QUITE CAPABLE OF HOLDING FORTH ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS.



HE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GREET THE NEW ARRIVAL,



AND TO MAKE HER FEEL WELCOME.



HANA'S FATHER, LIEUTENANT ERNST SONNENSCHNEN, WAS MARRIED WHILE STATIONED OUTSIDE TOKYO IN 1948.

HE COULDN'T SPEAK A WORD OF JAPANESE.



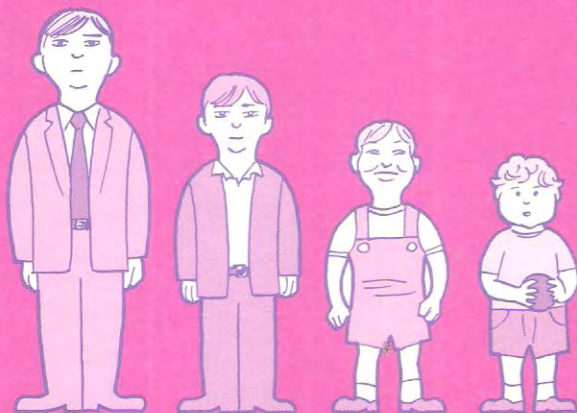
HIS WIFE, MUTSUKO, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A PROUD WAR VETERAN WHO LATER TOOK HIS OWN LIFE FOR FAILING TO PROPERLY PROTECT HIS COUNTRY.

GERMAN AND JAPANESE? WHERE DID YOUR PARENTS MEET—AT AN AXIS POWERS REUNION?

Actually, my father was born in Minnesota.



UNMARRIED AT TWENTY-SIX, SHE WAS ALREADY CONSIDERED AN OLD MAID.



MUTSUKO SONNENSCHNEN BORE FOUR SONS IN FIVE YEARS.

SHE QUICKLY MADE UP FOR LOST TIME.

IT WAS ANOTHER SIX YEARS BEFORE SHE DELIVERED HANA.

PREMATURE BY A MONTH, HER MOTHER NEVER LET HER FORGET HOW SHE HAD SPOILED AN ELABORATELY PLANNED DINNER PARTY.



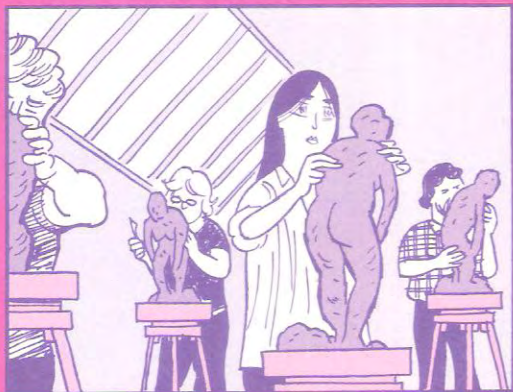
HANA WAS A HAPPY CHILD WHO
SPENT A LOT OF TIME ALONE.



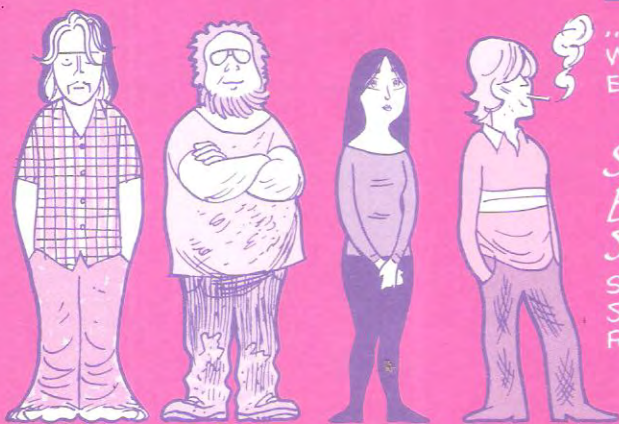
HER PARENTS SEEMED
CONTENT TO LET HER DO
WHATEVER SHE WANTED.



HANA ATTENDED A PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE OF ART IN RHODE ISLAND ON A SCHOLARSHIP. HER PARENTS, THINKING A COLLEGE FULL EDUCATION UNNECESSARY FOR A GIRL, ALLOWED ONLY THIS COURSE OF STUDY... SHIP.



ALTHOUGH SHE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT, SHE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT BEING THE WORST IN THE CLASS.



...NOT REALIZING THAT ART WAS THE ONLY THING SHE EVER WANTED TO STUDY.

SHE HAD A FEW BOYFRIENDS, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THEY SOUGHT HER OUT.

SHE WORKED SO HARD, SHE HAD LITTLE TIME FOR A SOCIAL LIFE.

AFTER FOUR OUTSTANDING YEARS, SHE WAS CHOSEN TO DELIVER THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

SHE DECLINED BECAUSE SHE WAS TOO SHY TO SPEAK IN THE CROWDED AUDITORIUM.



PROVIDENCE? THE CITY THAT ALWAYS SLEEPS?

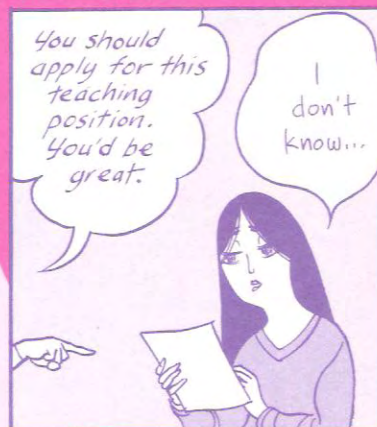
I liked it.



TO PAY FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN NEW YORK, HANA DESIGNED STORE WINDOWS.



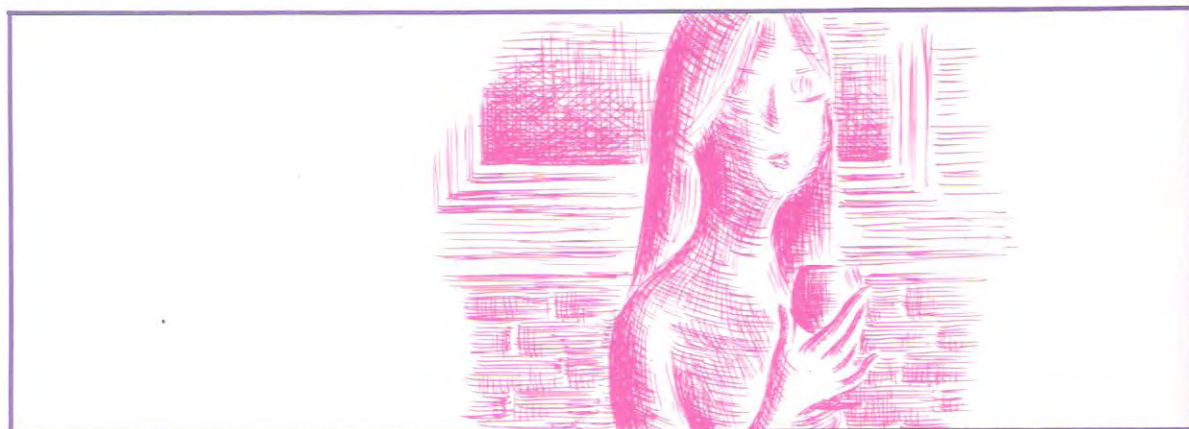
MAKING THINGS CAME EASILY, BUT SHE HAD ALMOST IMPOSSIBLY HIGH STANDARDS.



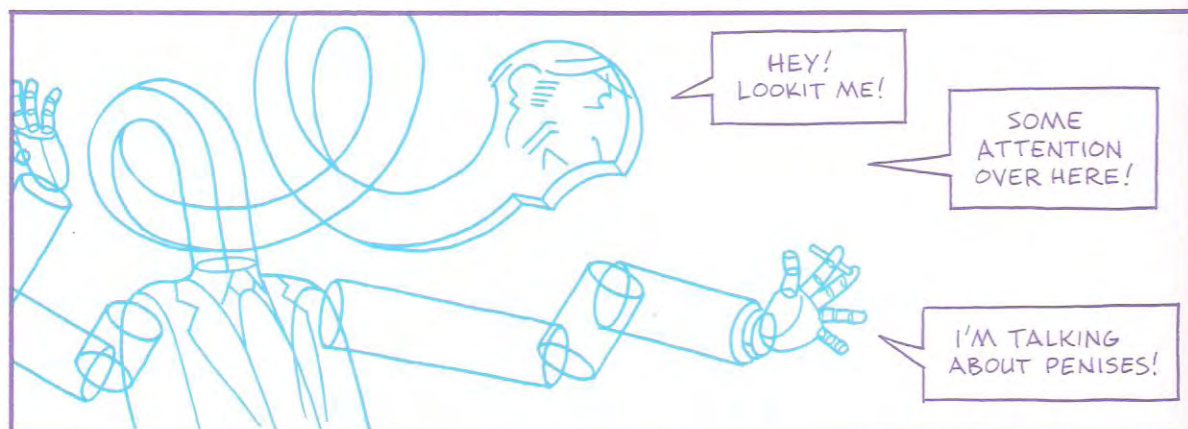
IN 1984, HANA SONNENSCHN EIN ATTENDED
HER FIRST FACULTY PARTY.



SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE THERE,



BUT ONE PERSON CAUGHT HER EYE.



DON'T ASK ME TO
EXPLAIN THESE THINGS.

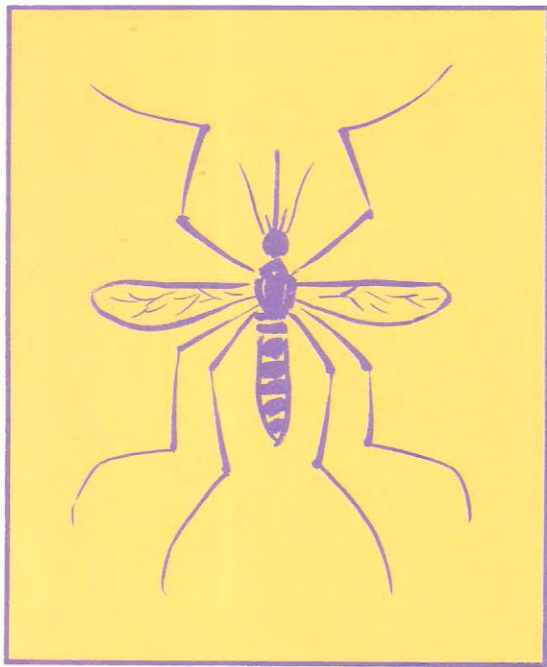


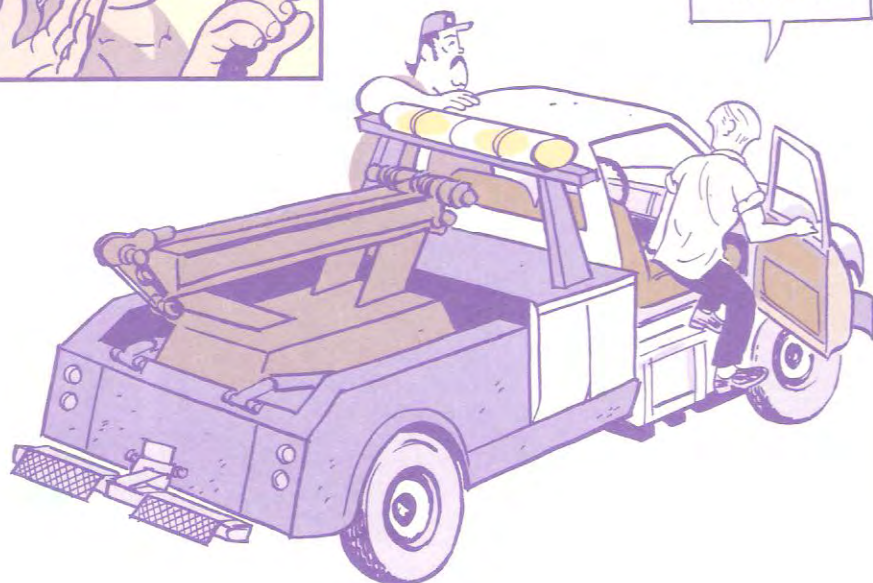
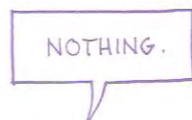
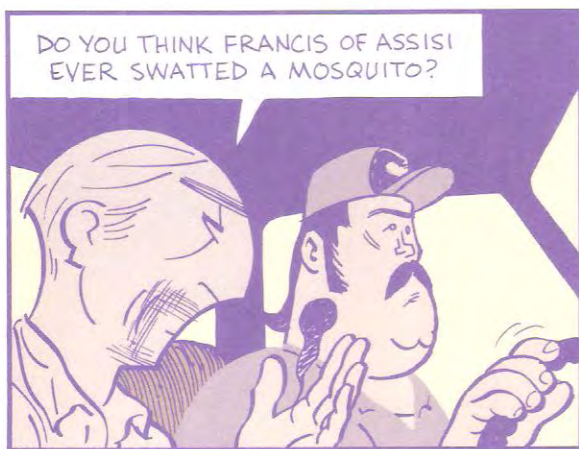
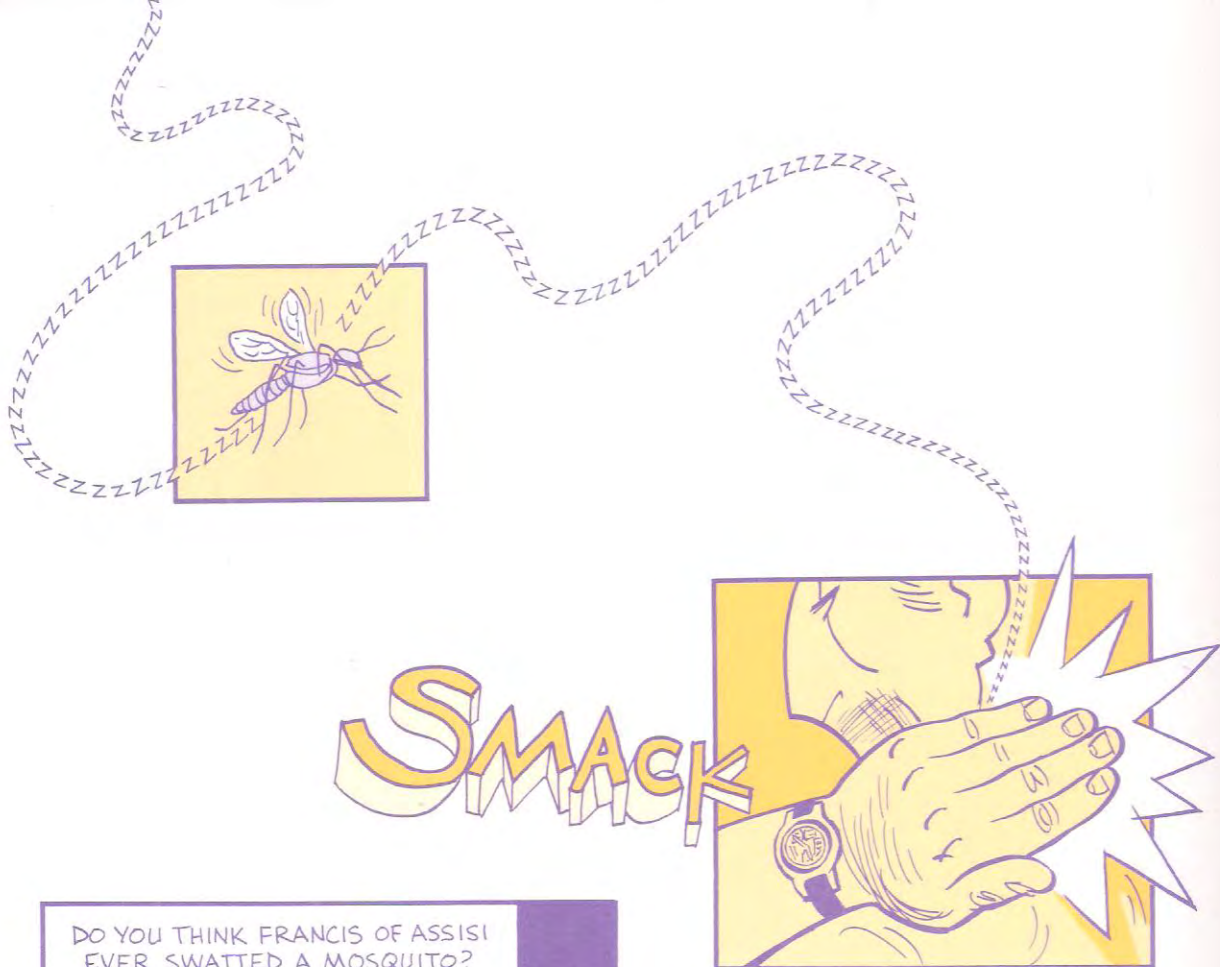
AND WHEN HE CAME
OVER TO INTRODUCE
HIMSELF,



SHE FELT SHE WAS STARING
STRAIGHT INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.



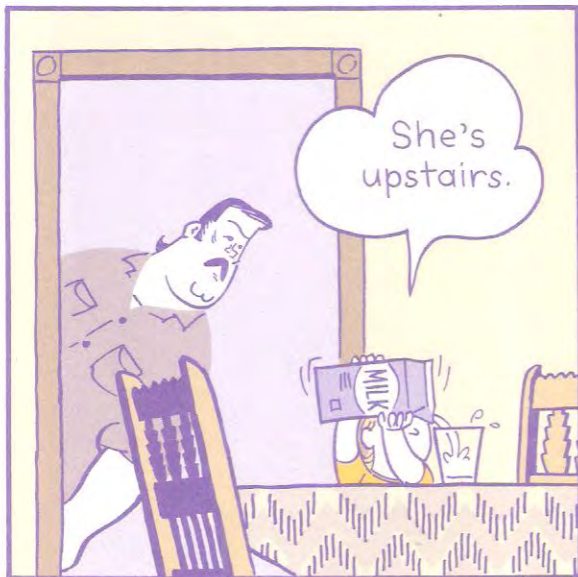






We had some
flooding.







HOW COULD YOU GO
AND RENT THAT ROOM WITHOU
DISCUSSING IT WITH ME
FIRST? DON'T YOU THIN







ALL THE OBSERVATORIES, THEY HAVE THEIR TELESCOPES FOCUSED ON DEEP SPACE - THEY'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT HERE!



SOMEBODY'S GOTTA BE PREPARED. SOMEBODY'S GOTTA BE ON THE LOOKOUT. WE DON'T WANNA END UP JUST LIKE THE DINOSAURS!



The dinosaurs?



MR. DRIZZLE IS REFERRING TO THE ALVAREZ HYPOTHESIS, FIRST PROPOSED IN 1980, AND NOW RATHER WIDELY ACCEPTED.



IT SUPPOSES THAT A COMET -OR AN ASTEROID- ABOUT FIVE MILES WIDE STRUCK NEAR YUCATÁN SIXTY-FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO.



THE EXPLOSIVE IMPACT SENT ENOUGH DUST AND SOOT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE TO BLOCK OUT THE SUN AND CREATE A TOXIC ACID RAIN...



...A DEADLY COMBINATION FOR PLANT LIFE, AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE UP THE FOOD CHAIN.

FORTUNATELY FOR US, A COMET THAT SIZE COLLIDES WITH THE EARTH MAYBE ONCE IN A HUNDRED MILLION YEARS.



BUT THE SKY IS FILLED WITH SUCH THINGS. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF SMALLER ASTEROIDS WHOSE ORBITS CROSS OURS.



IN FACT, A METEOR THE SIZE OF A GRAPEFRUIT - IF IT DOESN'T SKID OFF THE ATMOSPHERE - LANDS SOMEWHERE ON THE PLANET ALMOST EVERY DAY.



EVEN THE DUST ON THIS COUNTER CONTAINS MINUTE FRAGMENTS OF DEBRIS LEFT OVER FROM THE FORMATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

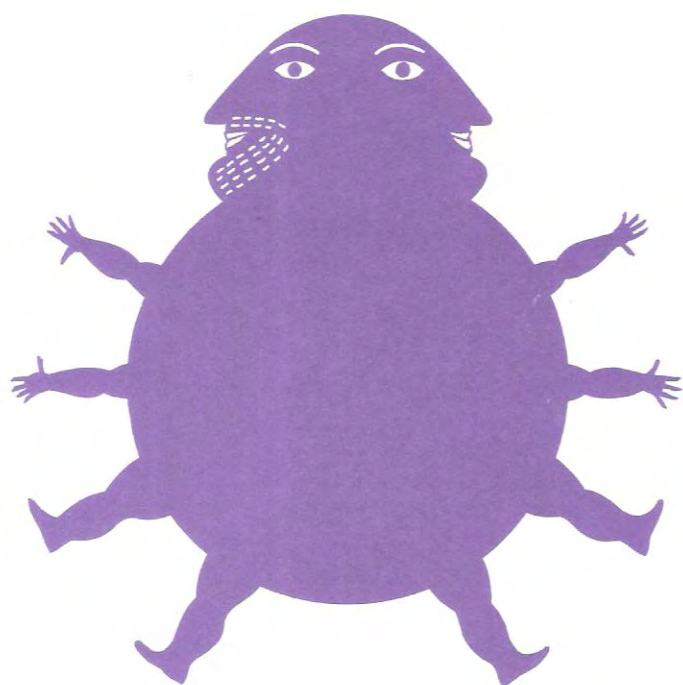


Here's your coffee, "Professor."



I GOTTA GO.

...damn flies...



ARISTOPHANES, IN PLATO'S "SYMPOSIUM," IS PURPORTED TO SUGGEST THAT HUMAN FORM WAS NOT ALWAYS AS IT IS TODAY:

ORIGINALLY, HUMANS WERE
SPHERICAL, WITH FOUR ARMS, FOUR
LEGS, AND TWO FACES ON EITHER
SIDE OF A SINGLE HEAD.



SUCH WAS THEIR HUBRIS THAT
THEY DARED TO CHALLENGE
THE GODS THEMSELVES.

CINDY, WOULD YOU GO OUT
WITH ME SATURDAY?



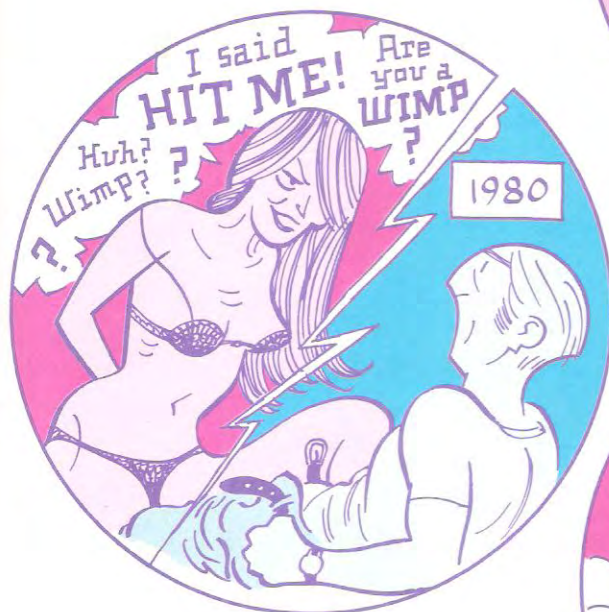
ZEUS, IN HIS WISDOM, SPLIT THE
UPSTARTS IN TWO, EACH HALF
BECOMING A DISTINCT ENTITY.

I, uh... have to
wash my hair.



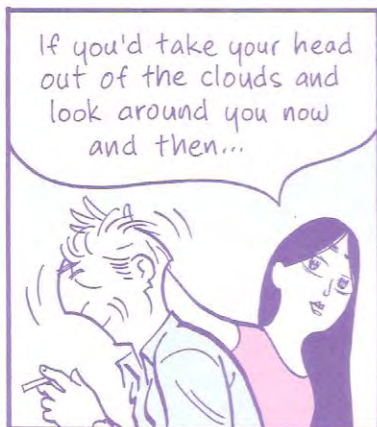
PLATO MAKES CLEAR WHAT HE THINKS OF THIS THEORY
BY HAVING SOCRATES CASUALLY DISMISS IT.

SINCE THEN, MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN
RUNNING AROUND IN A PANIC, SEARCHING
FOR THEIR LOST COUNTERPARTS,
IN A DESIRE TO BE
WHOLE AGAIN.

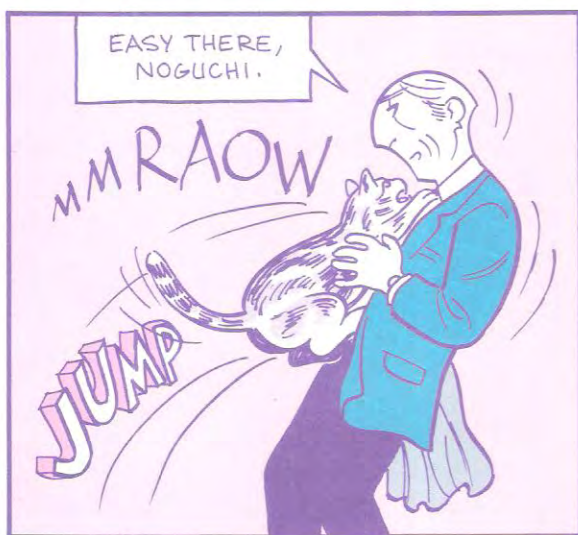
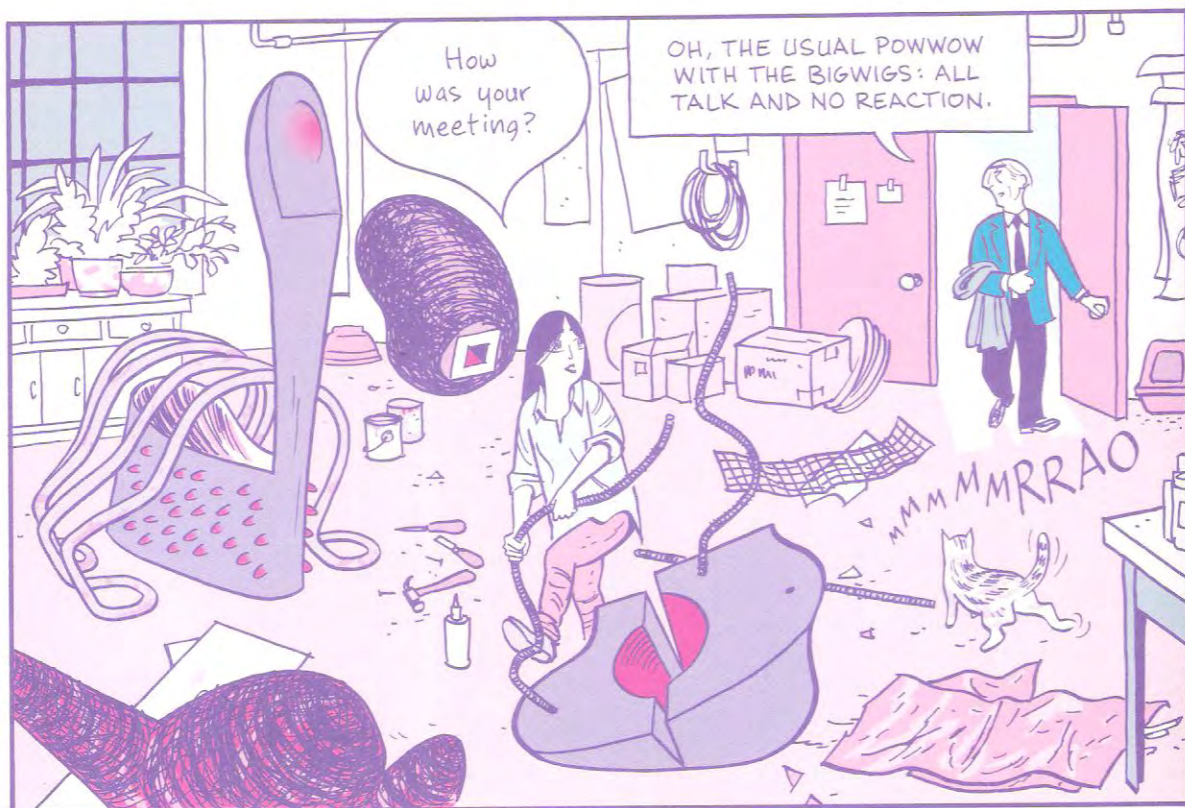


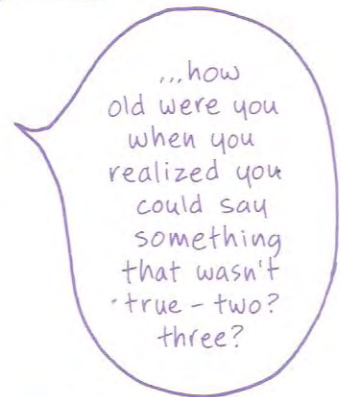
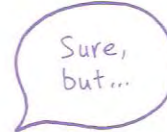
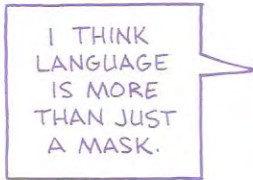
WE SHOULD AT LEAST
GIVE SOME CREDIT TO
ARISTOPHANES FOR
ORIGINALITY.





ASTERIOS' AND
HANA'S LIVES FOLDED INTO
EACH OTHER'S WITH BARELY
A WRINKLE.



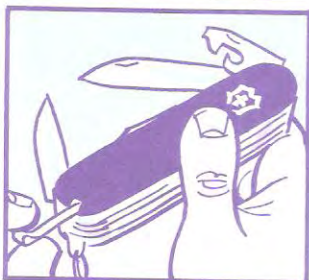
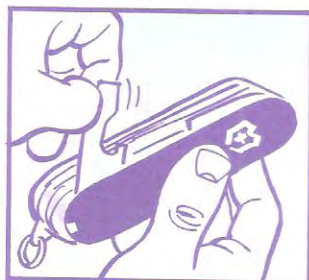
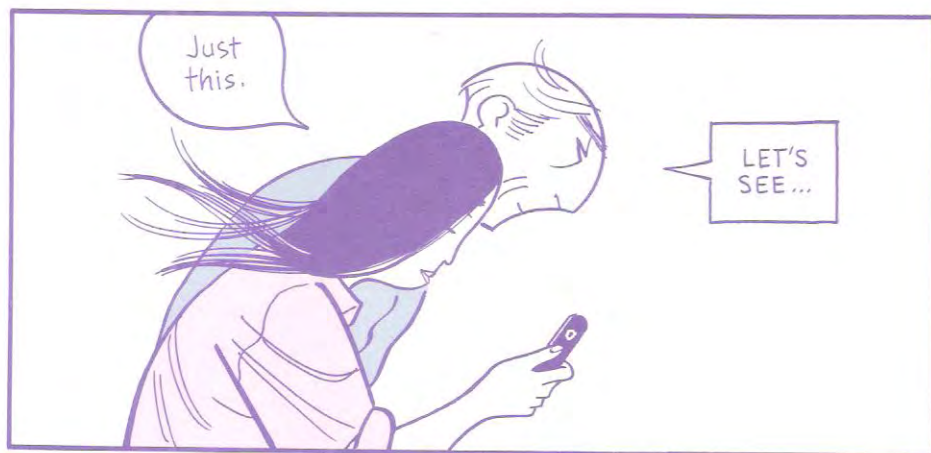
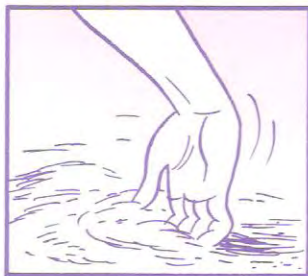
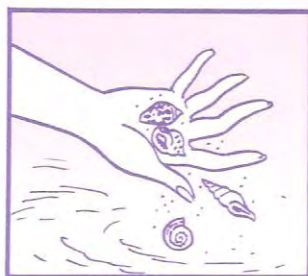


AND SO THEY WERE
MARRIED IN THE SPRING
OF 1986.

This
is
nice.

I CAN'T SEE
THE HORIZON.





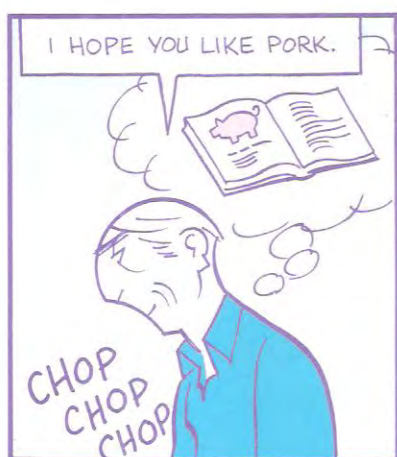


THE FIRST TIME HANA
VISITED ASTERIOS IN NEW YORK WAS
SOON AFTER THEY MET, IN 1985.

SHE HAD TO COME TO
MANHATTAN TO DISCUSS
AN EXHIBITION WITH A
SOHO GALLERY, SO HE
INVITED HER TO DINNER.



SHE WAS
SURPRISED
TO FIND
THEY
WEREN'T
GOING
OUT.



ASTERIOS TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN COOKING —
IN MAKING DINING A CELEBRATION OF HUMAN INVENTION.

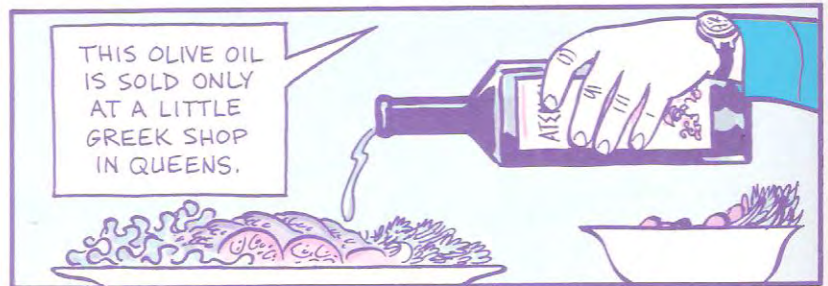


IT WAS OF A PIECE WITH HIS VIEW OF ARCHITECTURE: FOUR WALLS AND A ROOF MAKE A SHELTER, BUT EXQUISITE DESIGN IS TRANSPORTING.





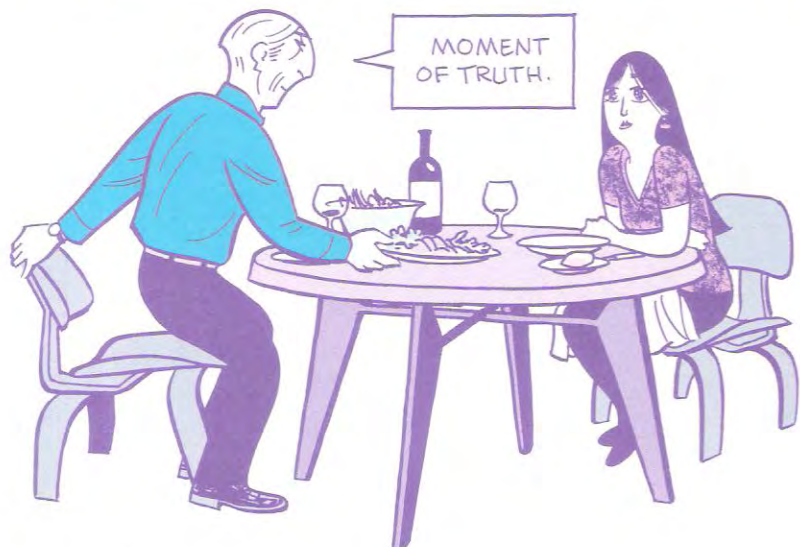
NO INGREDIENT WAS INSIGNIFICANT, AND HE WOULD TRAVEL OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROCURE THE FRESHEST PRODUCE OR THE FINEST SPICES.



TO BE HONEST, THOUGH, IN ASTERIOS' MIND THE OFFERINGS THAT EVENING WERE NOT PURELY GUSTATORY.



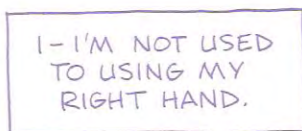
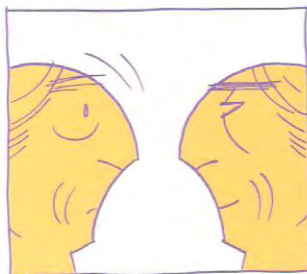
AND EVERY LAUGH HE ELICITED SEEMED LIKE A TINY PAROXYSM OF RAPTURE.



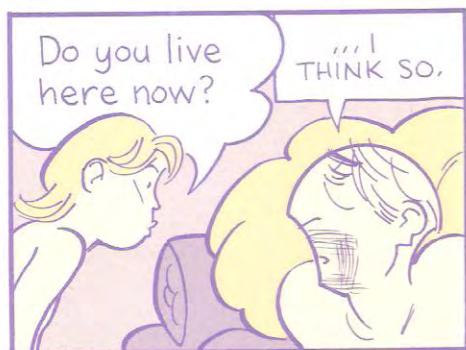


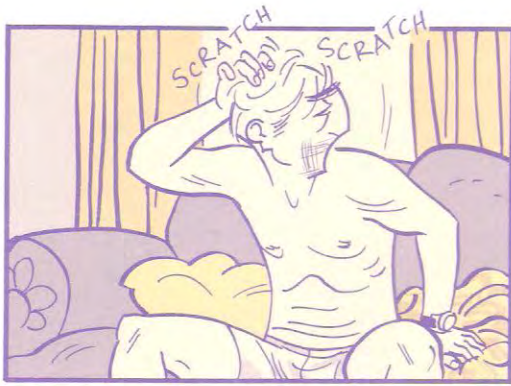
THAT WAS A NIGHT
HE WOULD NEVER
FORGET.









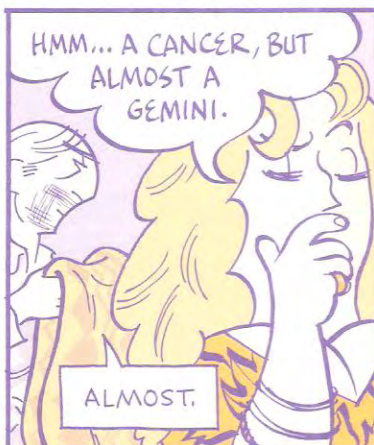


GOOD
MORNING. I'M
URSULA
MAJOR.

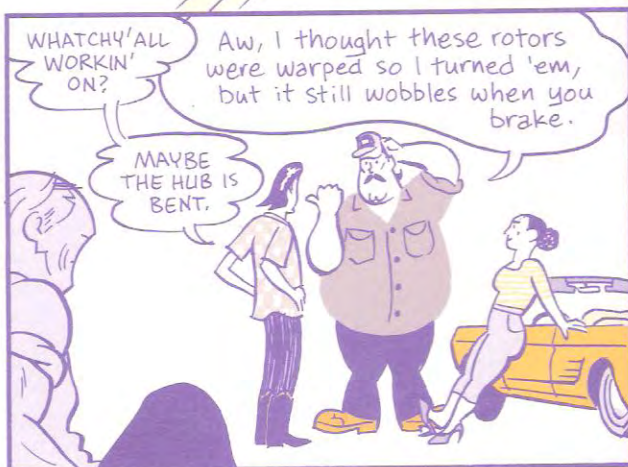
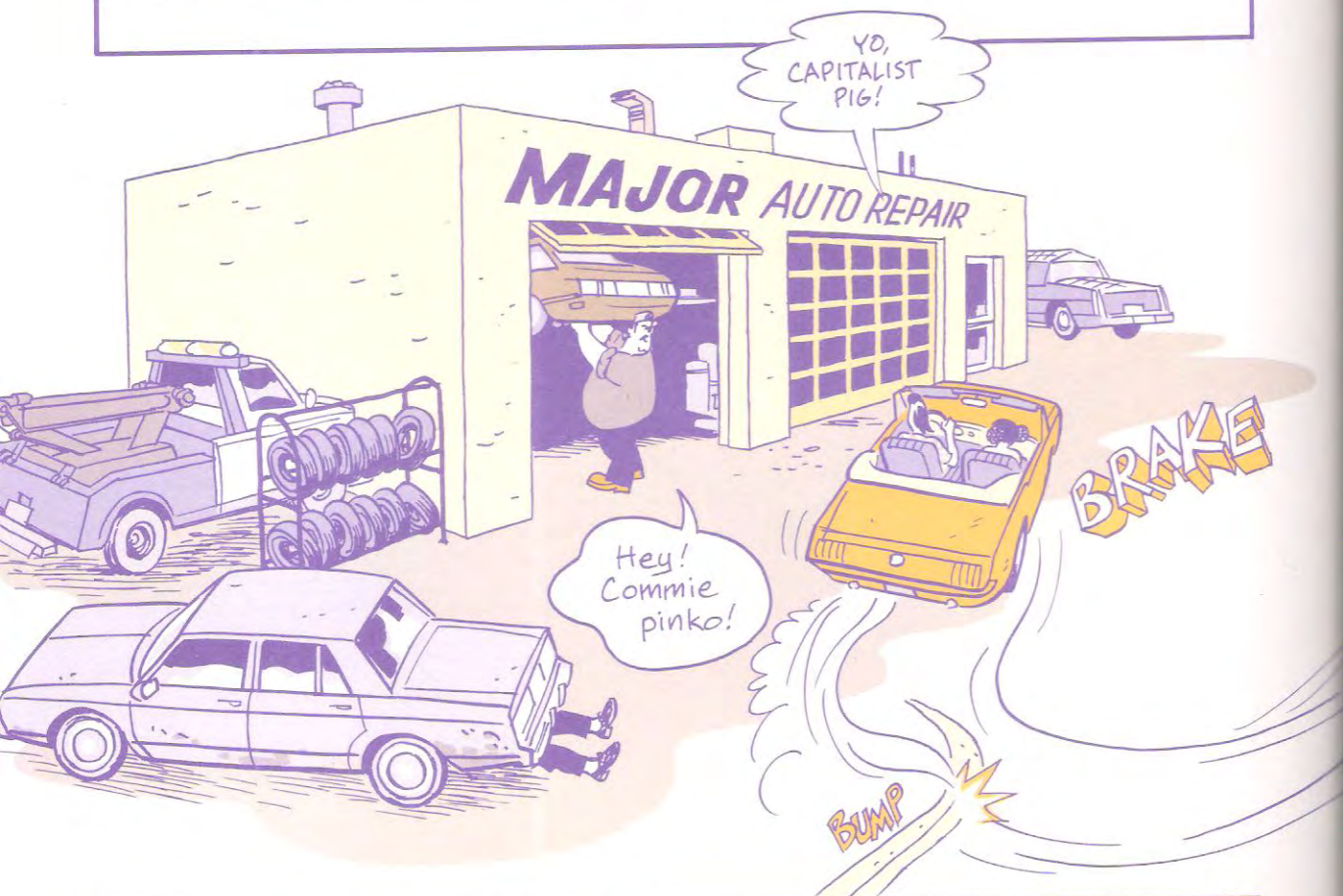
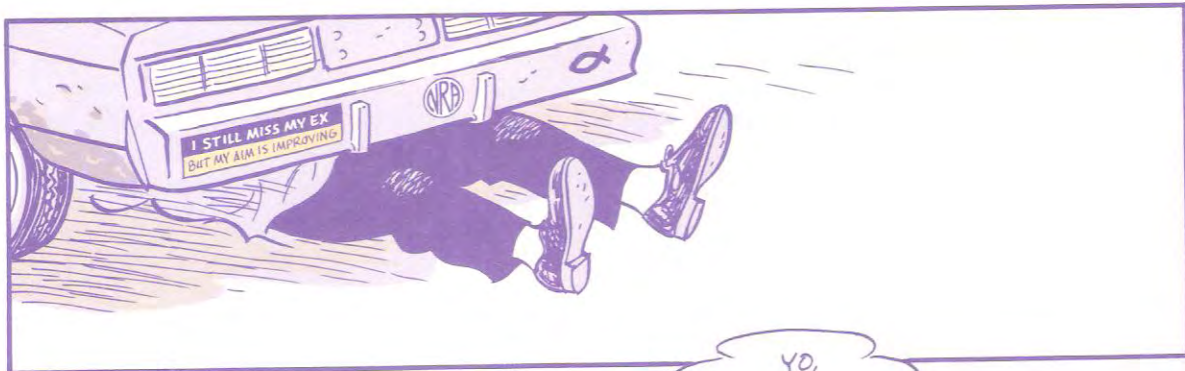


I'M SORRY YOUR ROOM WASN'T
READY LAST NIGHT, BUT, Y'KNOW,
STIFFLY SPRUNG THIS ON
ME SO SUDDENLY.

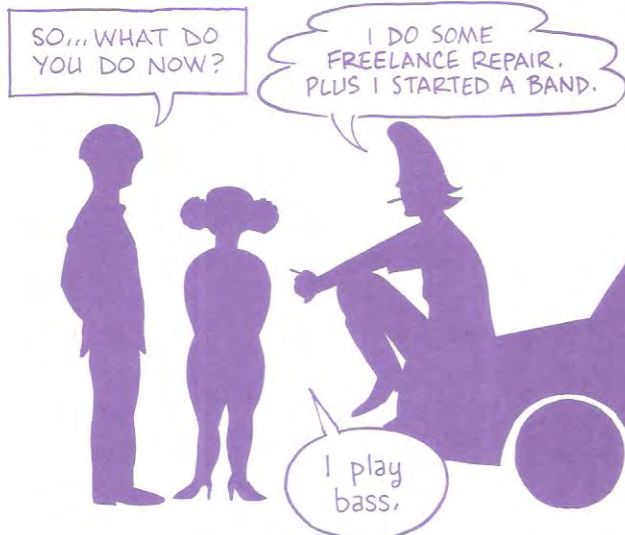


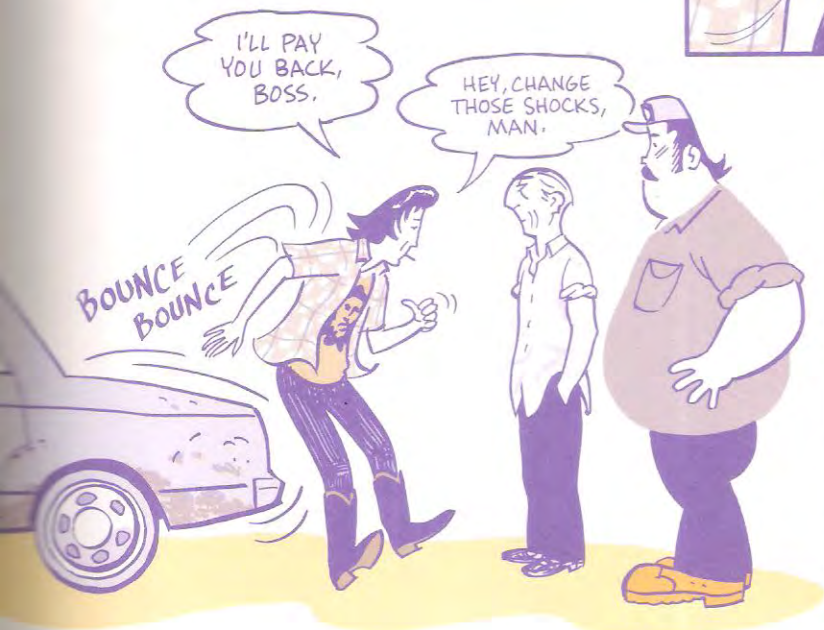
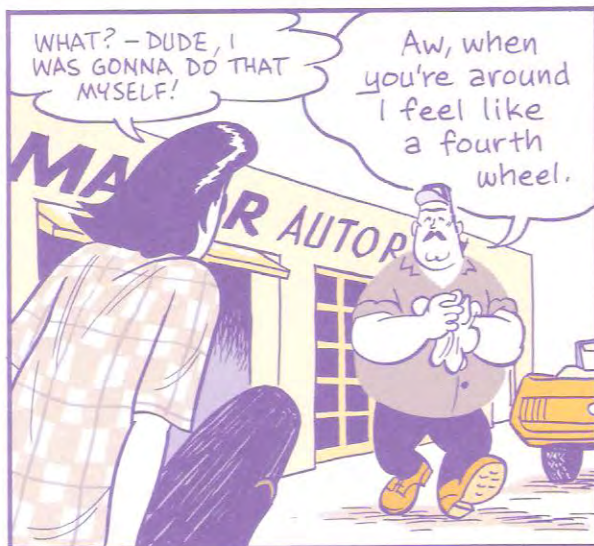


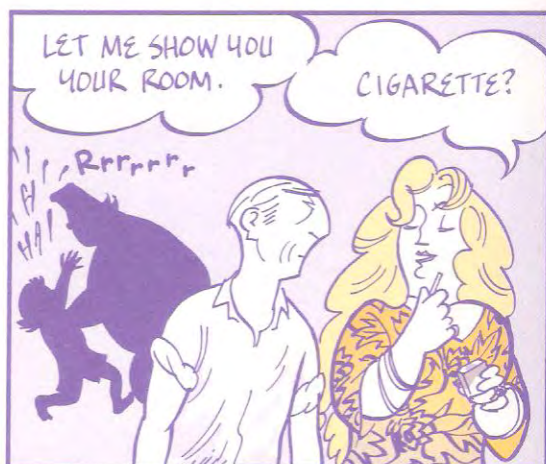




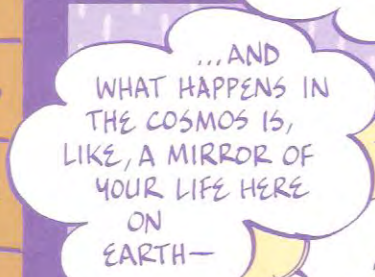








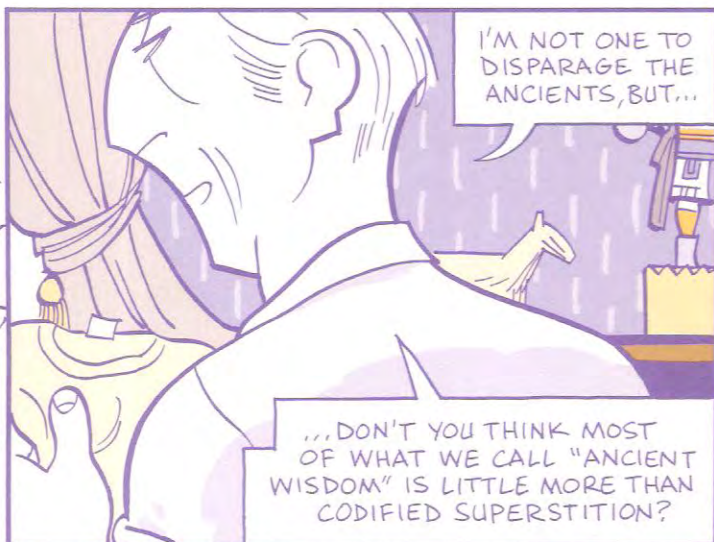






THAT'S WHAT THE
ANCIENT WISDOM
TEACHES US.

TAP
TAP



I'M NOT ONE TO
DISPARAGE THE
ANCIENTS, BUT...

...DON'T YOU THINK MOST
OF WHAT WE CALL "ANCIENT
WISDOM" IS LITTLE MORE THAN
CODIFIED SUPERSTITION?



OF COURSE! BUT WHEN YOU'VE LIVED AS
MANY TIMES AS I HAVE, YOU LEARN
TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE.

OF
COURSE.



SO, I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T BOTHER
YOU THAT, VIEWED FROM EARTH, THE
CONSTELLATIONS HAVE SHIFTED BY
ABOUT A MONTH SINCE PTOLEMY'S TIME?



NOT AT ALL. YOU SHOULDN'T
CONFUSE THE CONSTELLATIONS
WITH THE SIGNS.

BESIDES,
GAIA KNOWS WHAT SHE'S
DOING.



LOOK, Y'KNOW,
SCIENTISTS TOOK
MOLLUSKS AND FOUND THAT
EVEN IN THE LAB, THEY
ORIENT THEIR MOVEMENT
ACCORDING TO THE PHASE
OF THE LUNAR
MONTH.

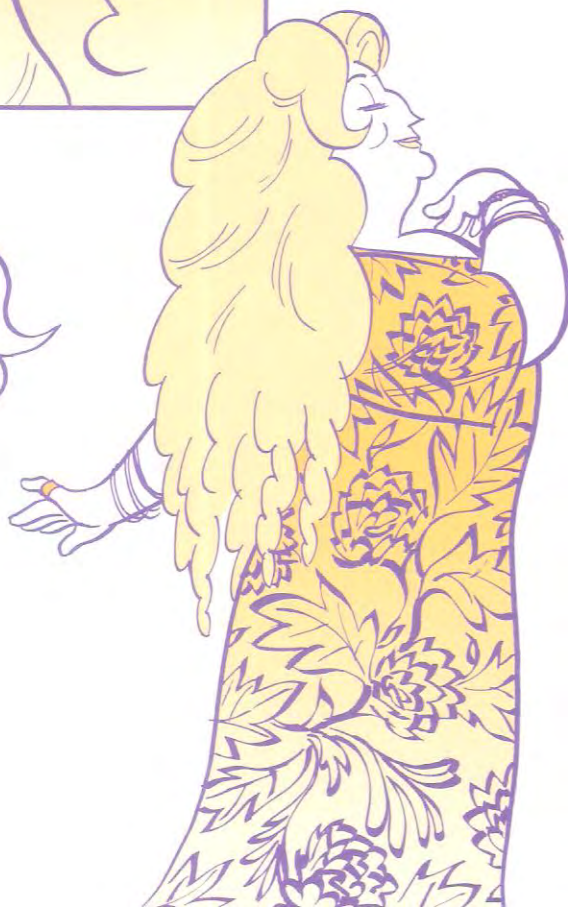
AND
OYSTERS TAKEN
FROM LONG ISLAND
AND RELOCATED
TO DARK TANKS
IN THE MIDWEST
ALTER THEIR
OPENING AND CLOSING
TO COINCIDE WITH TIDES
THAT, LIKE, COULD EXIST IN THAT
LOCATION, BUT DON'T.

SOLAR
ACTIVITY
CREATES
EXTREMELY
LOW FREQUENCY
ELECTROMAGNETIC
WAVES, AND THEY
AFFECT ALL
KINDS OF THINGS, LIKE
THE WAY WHEAT SPROUTS, AND
THE WAY BACTERIA GROWS,
AND THE WAY INSECTS
BEHAVE...

SO WITH
ALL THAT GOING
ON...

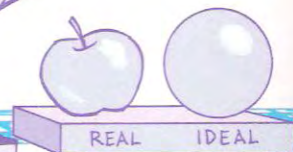
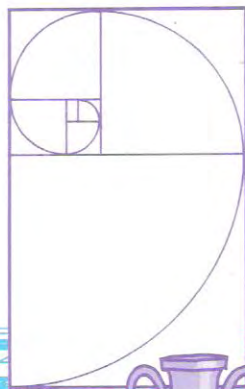
... MAYBE
THE
CHALDEANS
WERE ONTO
SOMETHING
WHEN THEY
DISCOVERED
THE ZODIAC,
Y'KNOW?

IT'S WORTH
CONSIDERING.

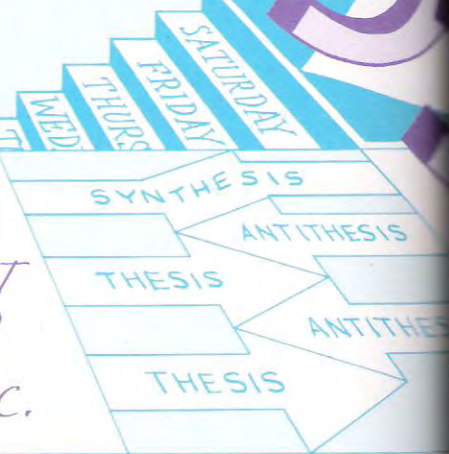




ABSTRACTIONS



—ESPECIALLY SYSTEMS AND SEQUENCES THAT ARE GOVERNED BY THEIR OWN INTERNAL LOGIC.



57
38
2
15
80

IN ADDITION, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF ANALOGUES AND METAPHORS - SUCH AS THE DIVISION OF AN HOUR INTO WEDGES OF A CIRCLE -



-AND THE MORE UNLIKELY THE CORRESPONDENCE, THE MORE HE ENJOYS IT.

• Ithaca

ONCE, ON A DRIVE FROM ITHACA TO NEW YORK, HANA WAS KNITTING IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.



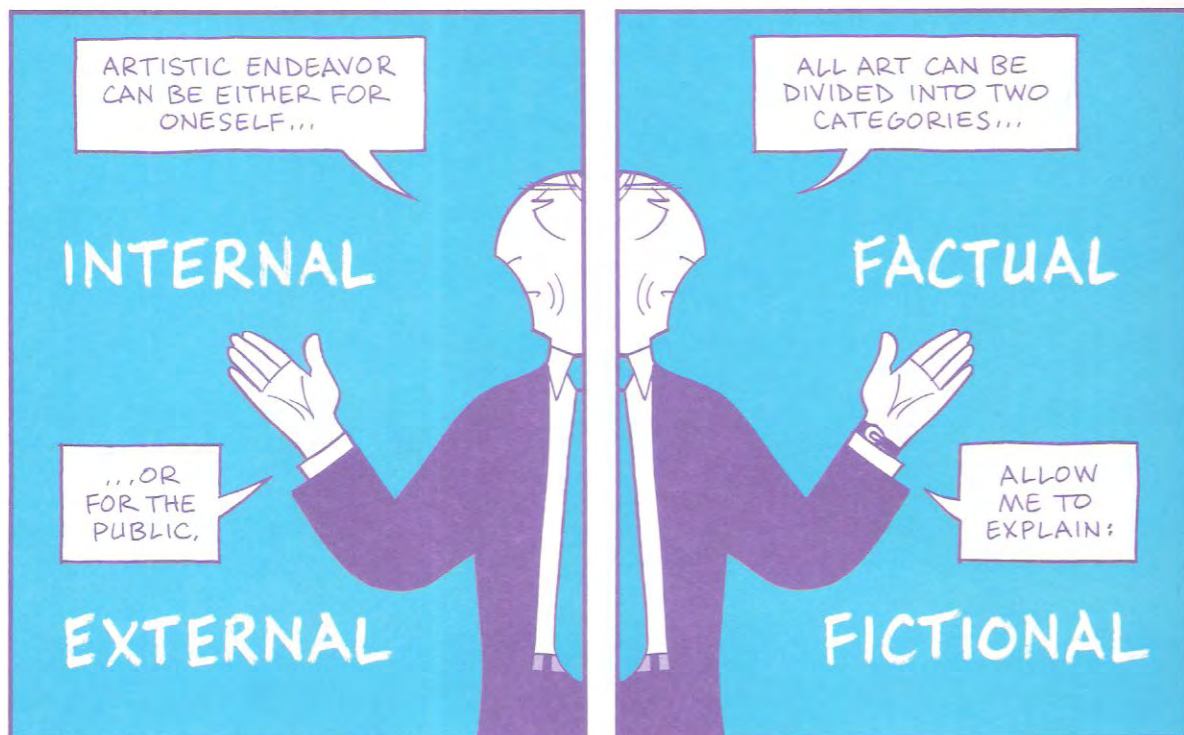
• New York

EVER SINCE, HE'S THOUGHT OF THE DISTANCE AS A MATTER OF YARN-INCHES.

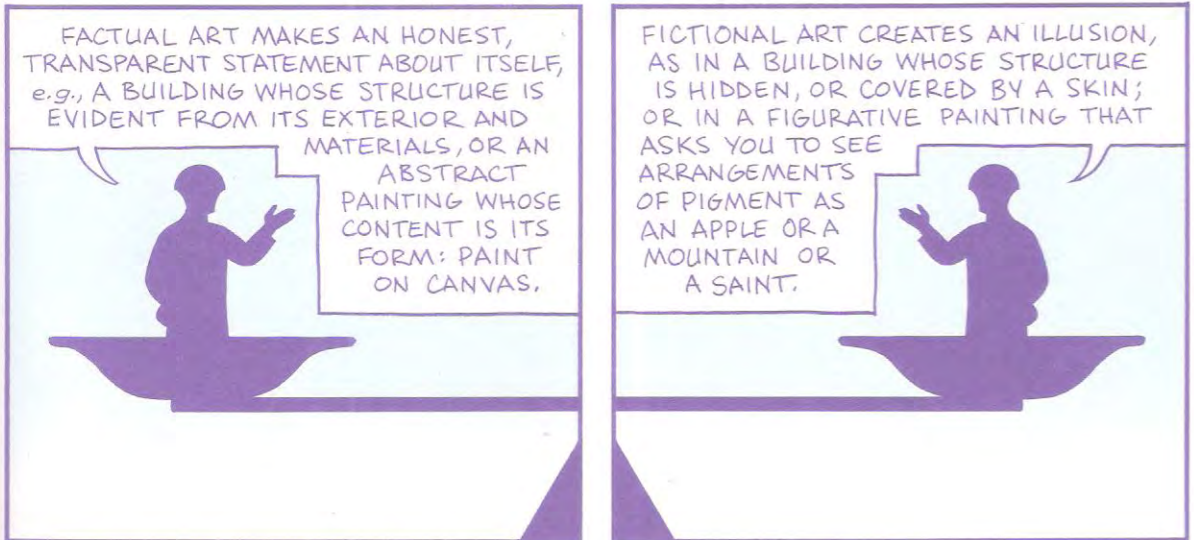
THIS DESIRE TO VIEW THE WORLD THROUGH A FILTER—TO SUPERIMPOSE A RATIONAL SYSTEM ON TO ITS SEEMING RANDOMNESS—IS REVEALED IN HIS OWN FAVORITE IDEATION.



IT IS A FORMULATION THAT IS APPLIED WITH PRISMATIC VARIETY.



THIS CONSTRUCTION APPEARS TO CONFER EQUAL CREDENCE TO BOTH SIDES.



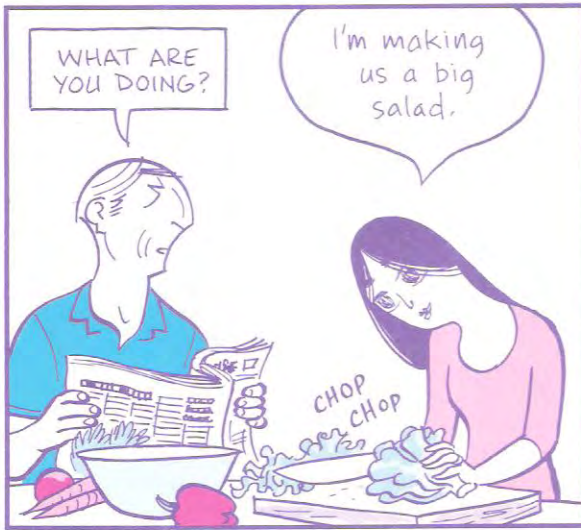
BUT ELABORATION OFTEN EXPOSES ASTERIOS' PREDILECTIONS.

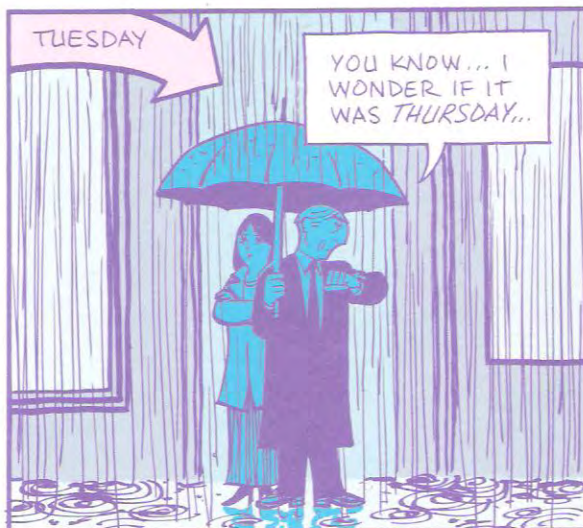
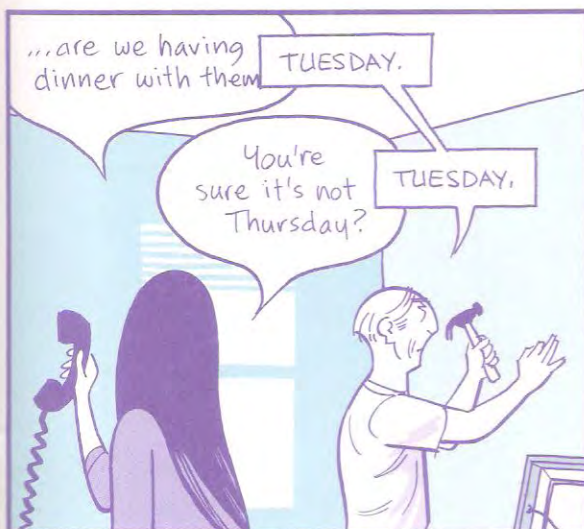


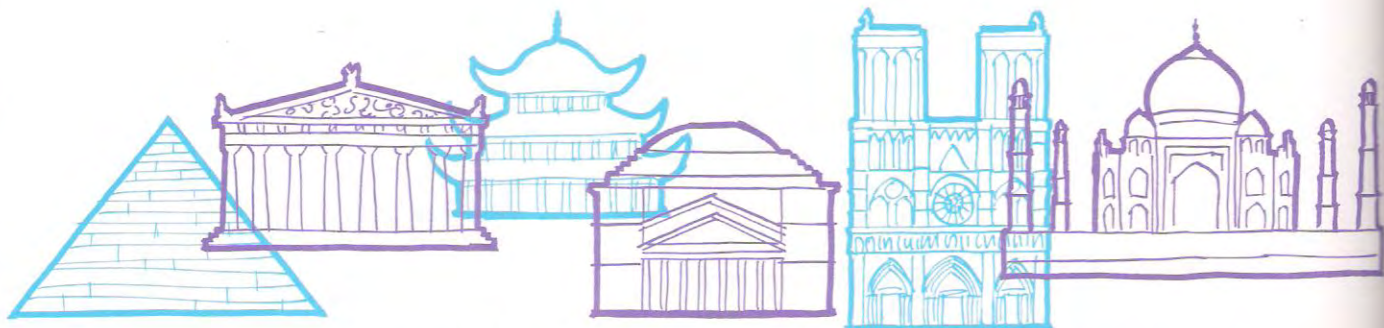
THIS, "TRUTHFULNESS" HAS BECOME HIS POLESTAR.



HIS ASPIRATION TOWARD THE TRUE MANIFESTS ITSELF IN OTHER WAYS AS WELL.





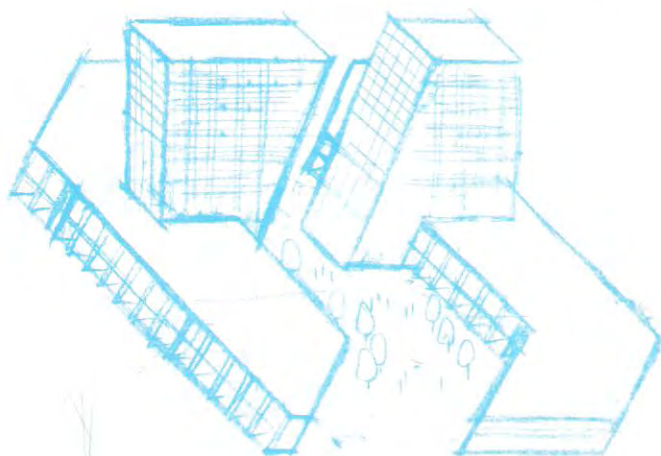


IN THE CERTITUDE OF SYMMETRY, THE CONSONANCE OF COUNTERPOISE, ASTERIOS FOUND A MEASURE OF SOLACE.

HE WAS AN
EARLY
DEFENDER
OF THE
MUCH-
MALIGNED
WORLD
TRADE
TOWERS.

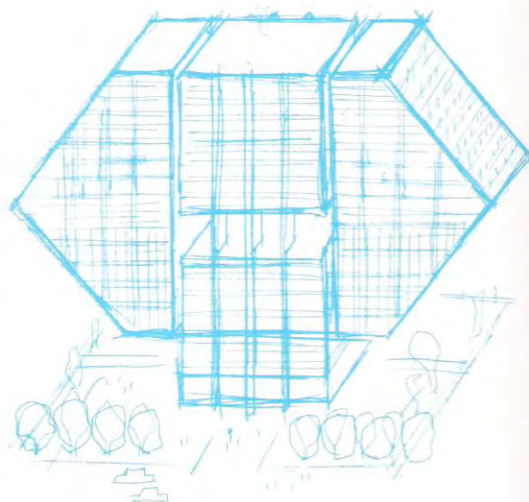


*HIS OWN DESIGNS ECHOED
THIS ELOQUENT EQUILIBRIUM.*



PARALLEL PARK
MIXED-USE COMPLEX, 1981
(FUNDING WITHDRAWN)

THE AKIMBO ARMS
APARTMENT BUILDING, 1983
(NEVER BUILT)



DUALITY IS ROOTED IN NATURE: THE BRAIN IS DIVIDED INTO RIGHT AND LEFT HEMISPHERES, ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE - OUR VERY EXISTENCE IS THE RESULT OF HUMANS BEING MALE AND FEMALE. IT'S YIN AND YANG.



I DISAGREE. DUALITY IS AN INVENTION THAT **SEEMS** TO BE TRUE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE EXAMPLES YOU CITE SHARE SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITIES THAT **APPEAR** TO BE DUALISTIC BECAUSE WE **DEFINE** THEM IN THAT WAY.



AH! BUT IT'S ONE OR THE OTHER, RIGHT?



(SIGH) I'LL GIVE YOU THIS: THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD - THOSE WHO BREAK THINGS INTO TWO KINDS AND THOSE WHO DON'T.



OF COURSE I
REALIZE THAT THINGS
AREN'T SO BLACK AND WHITE—
—THAT IN ACTUALITY
POSSIBILITIES EXIST
ALONG A CONTINUUM
BETWEEN THE EXTREMES,



BUT WHY MUST CHOICES ALWAYS
LIE ALONG A LINEAR SPECTRUM,
WITH TWO POLES, INSTEAD OF, SAY,

AMONG A
SPHERE OF
POSSIBILITIES
?

IT'S JUST A
CONVENIENT
ORGANIZING
PRINCIPLE.

BY CHOOSING
TWO ASPECTS OF
A SUBJECT THAT
APPEAR TO BE IN
OPPOSITION, EACH
CAN BE EXAMINED
IN LIGHT OF THE
OTHER IN ORDER
TO BETTER
ILLUMINATE THE
ENTIRE SUBJECT.

AS LONG AS ONE
DOESN'T MISTAKE THE
SYSTEM FOR REALITY.

EXACTLY.

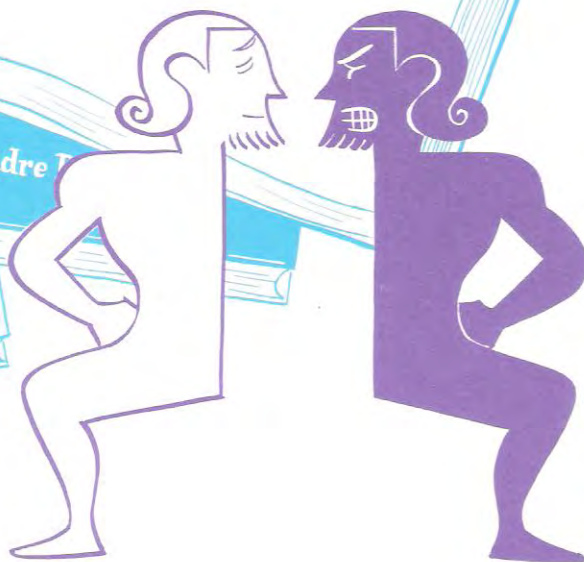


IN LITERATURE, ONE CAN
FIND SIMILAR EXAMPLES
OF DELIBERATE
EXAGGERATION.

HERMANN HESSE'S *NARCISSUS AND GOLDMUND*,
FOR INSTANCE, EXPLORES HUMAN NATURE BY
CONTRASTING THE LIFE OF A HEDONIST WITH
THAT OF AN ASCETIC.



IN *THE CLOVEN VISCOUNT*
ITALO CALVINO BISECTS
HIS CHARACTER INTO A
"KIND" HALF AND A "CRUEL"
HALF TO SHOW THE
GOOD OR ILL EFFECTS
EACH QUALITY CAN
PRODUCE UNCHECKED.

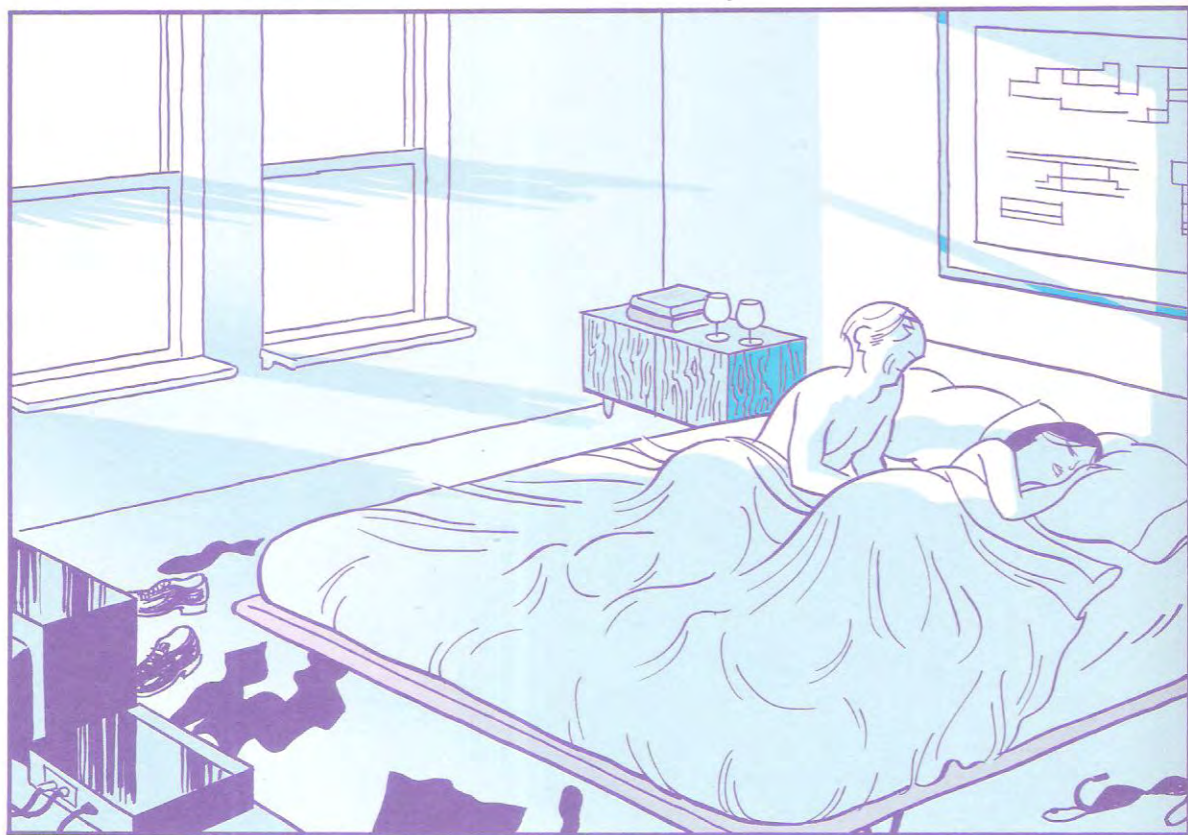


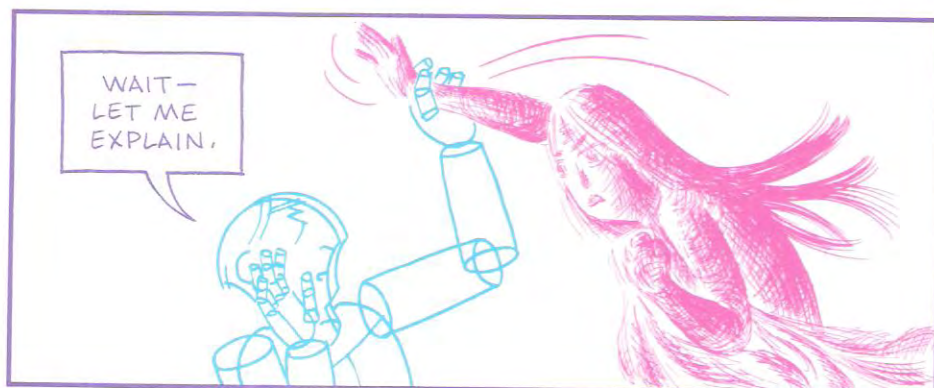
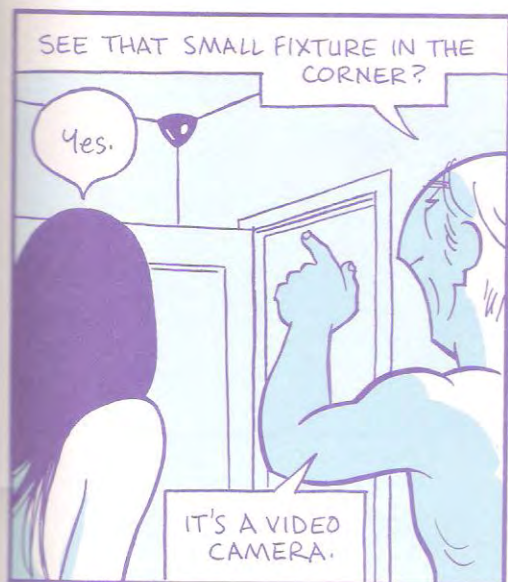
SOME MIGHT ARGUE
THAT SUCH SIMPLIFICATION
IS BEST SUITED TO CHILDREN'S
STORIES, OR COMIC BOOKS.

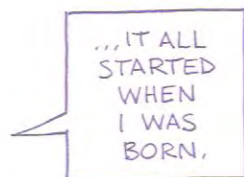
THAT'S ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT.



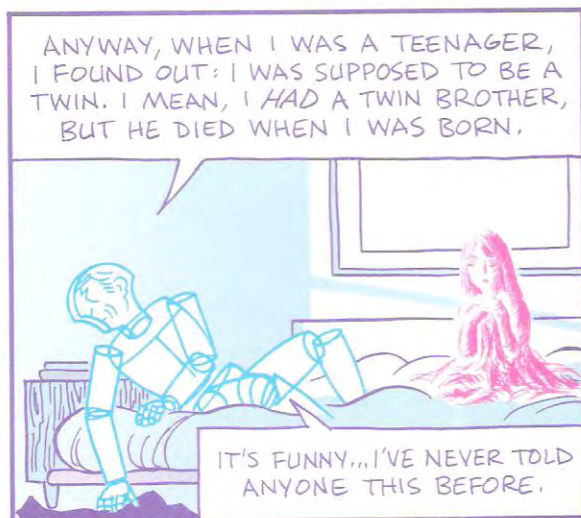
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, MAYBE ASTERIOS' PARTICULAR VISION HAS A MORE SPECIFIC SOURCE.







"IT WAS A WEIRD SENSATION... LIKE SEARCHING FOR YOUR REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR."

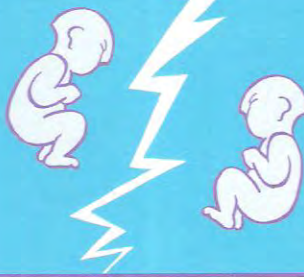


"EACH OF US HAD HAD AN EQUAL CHANCE INSIDE THE WOMB."



"WHY WAS I THE ONE TO MAKE IT OUT ALIVE?"

"WAS IT JUST MUTE LUCK? OR SOME DOCTOR'S MISTAKE?"



OR HAD I SOMEHOW SUFFOCATED THE POOR BASTARD?

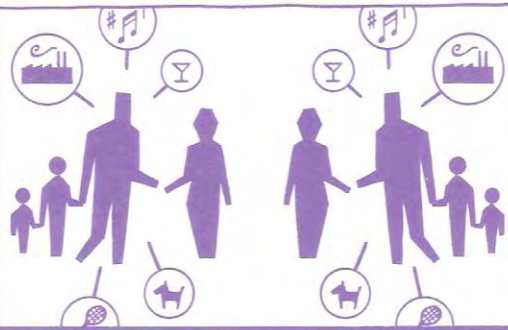
CLIK



WE WERE IDENTICAL TWINS - WHO, IT TURNS OUT, MAKE FASCINATING CASE STUDIES, BECAUSE THEY OFTEN LIVE REMARKABLY SIMILAR LIVES,



"EVEN WHEN SEPARATED AT BIRTH, AND RAISED IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY TEND TO CHOOSE THE SAME PROFESSION, GET MARRIED AT THE SAME AGE, HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF CHILDREN..."



WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE OTHER WAY AROUND? I WONDERED.

IF HE HAD BEEN THE ONE TO SURVIVE, WOULD HIS LIFE HAVE FOLLOWED EXACTLY THE PATH MINE HAS?

AM I LIVING HIS LIFE NOW?



SO, A FEW YEARS AGO, I HAD THESE
CAMERAS PUT IN. THEY RECORD
EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON HERE,
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY.



I HAVE THEM UP
IN ITHACA, TOO.



IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER WATCH
THE TAPES—I'VE NEVER SEEN
ONE MINUTE OF THEM.



IN FACT,
I CAN'T
IMAGINE
EVER
WANTING
TO WATCH
THEM.



SOMEHOW, THOUGH, IT'S COMFORTING TO
KNOW THEY'RE THERE, IN THE NEXT ROOM...

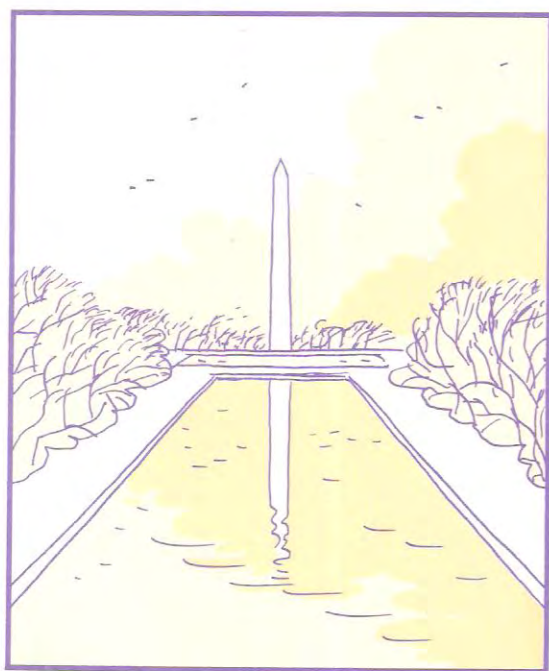


...MY OWN VIDEO
DOPPELGÄNGER.

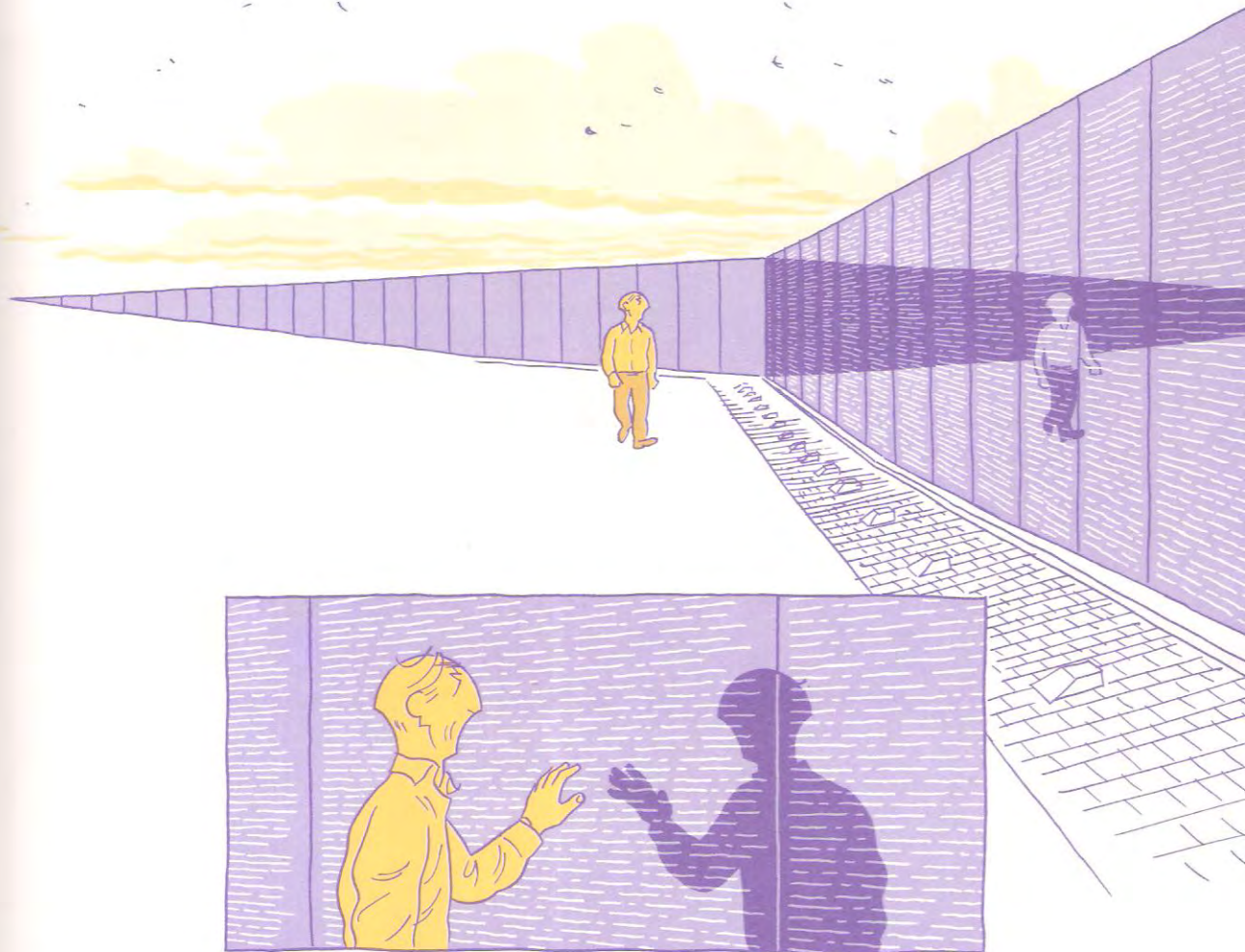


It's...





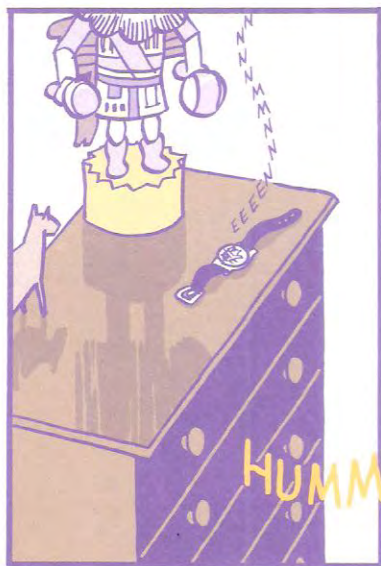
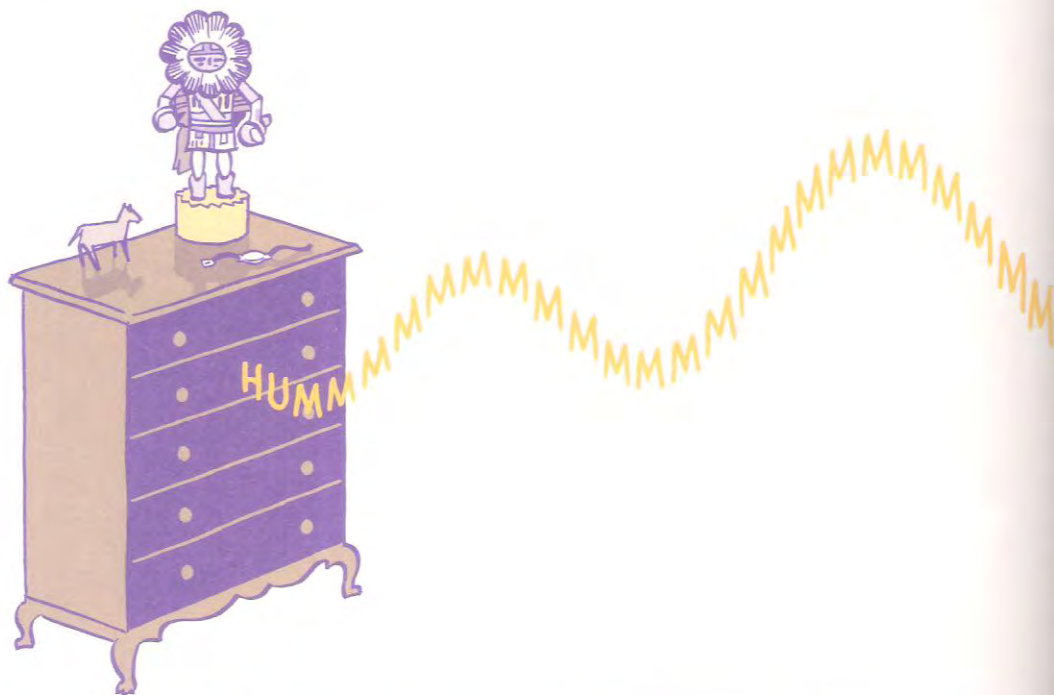


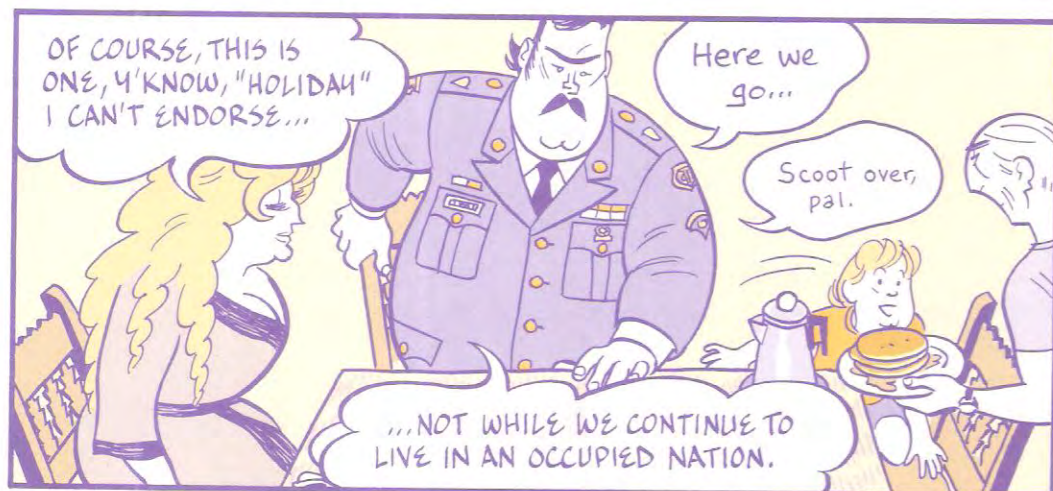


...I'M SORRY...



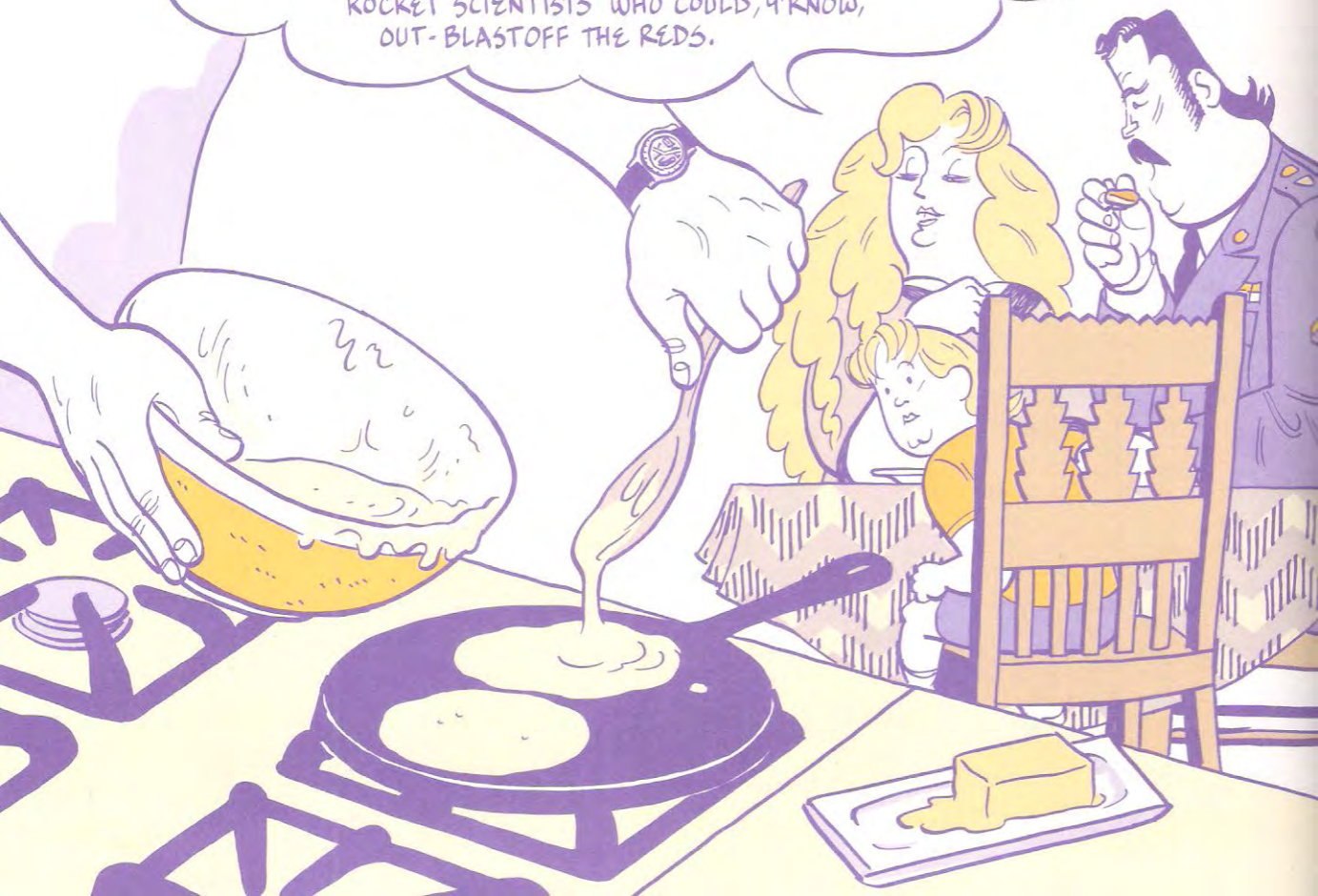
MY NUMBER
NEVER CAME UP...

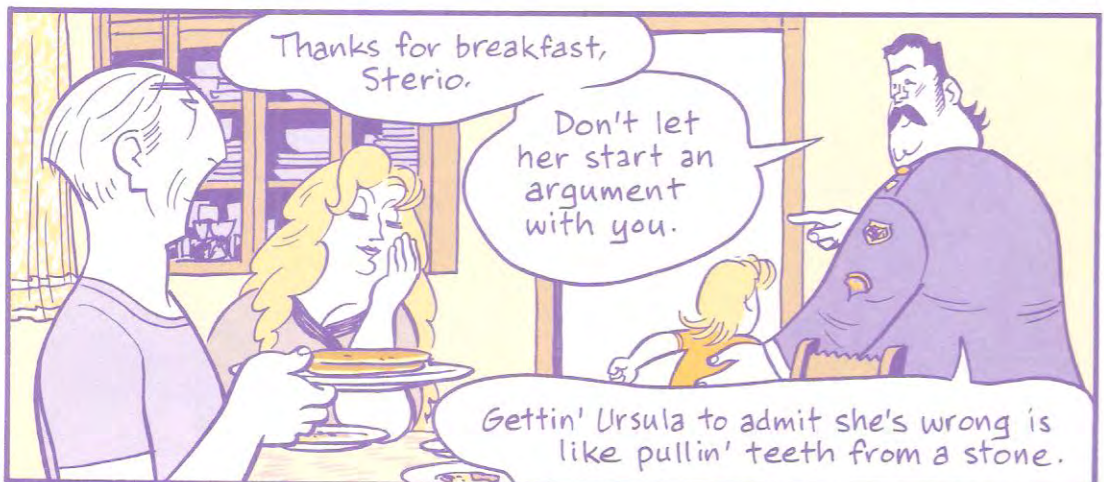
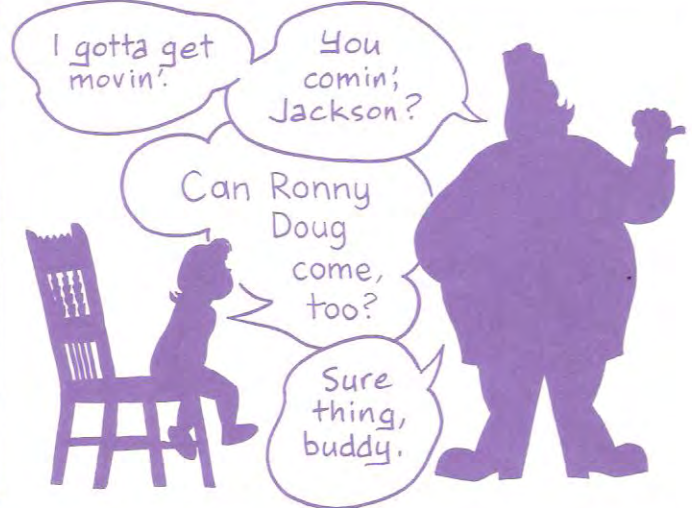


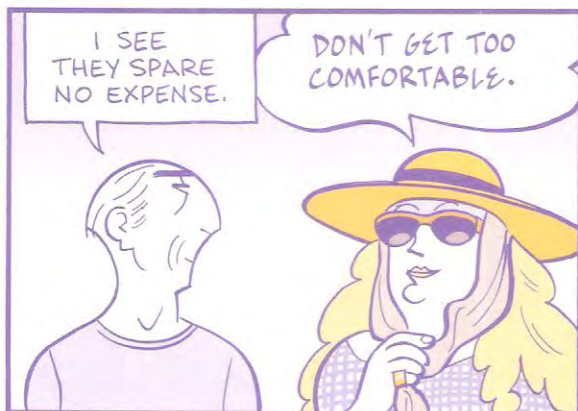




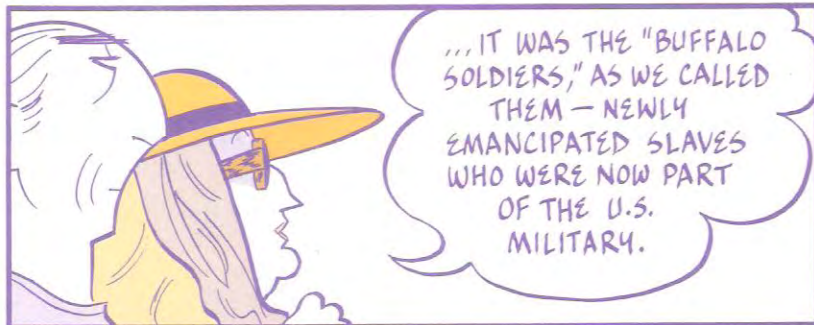
AMERICA WAS, LIKE, SO WIGGED-OUT BY THIS UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT BOOSTED PUBLIC EDUCATION SPENDING - WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING A GENERATION OF ROCKET SCIENTISTS WHO COULD, Y'KNOW, OUT-BLASTOFF THE REDS.



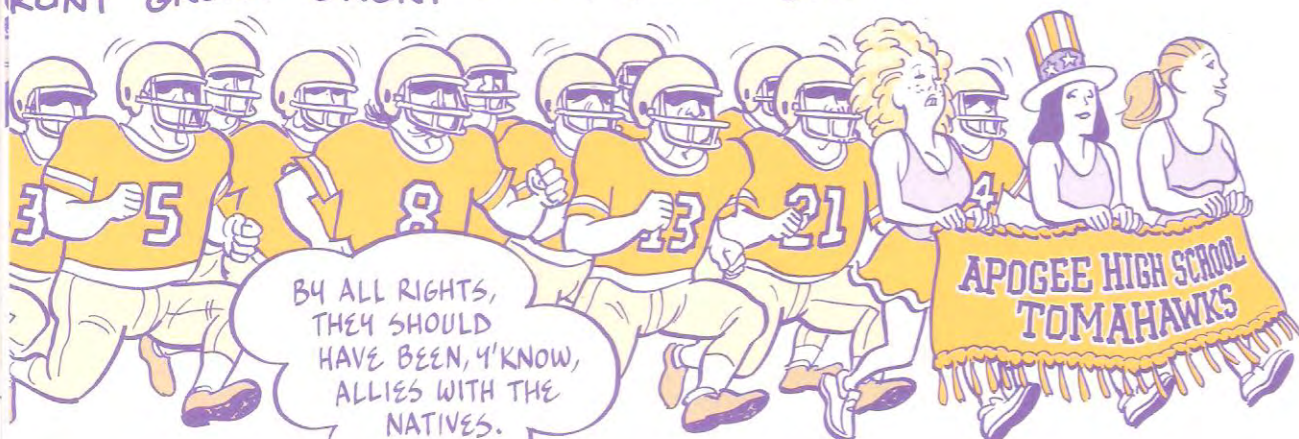


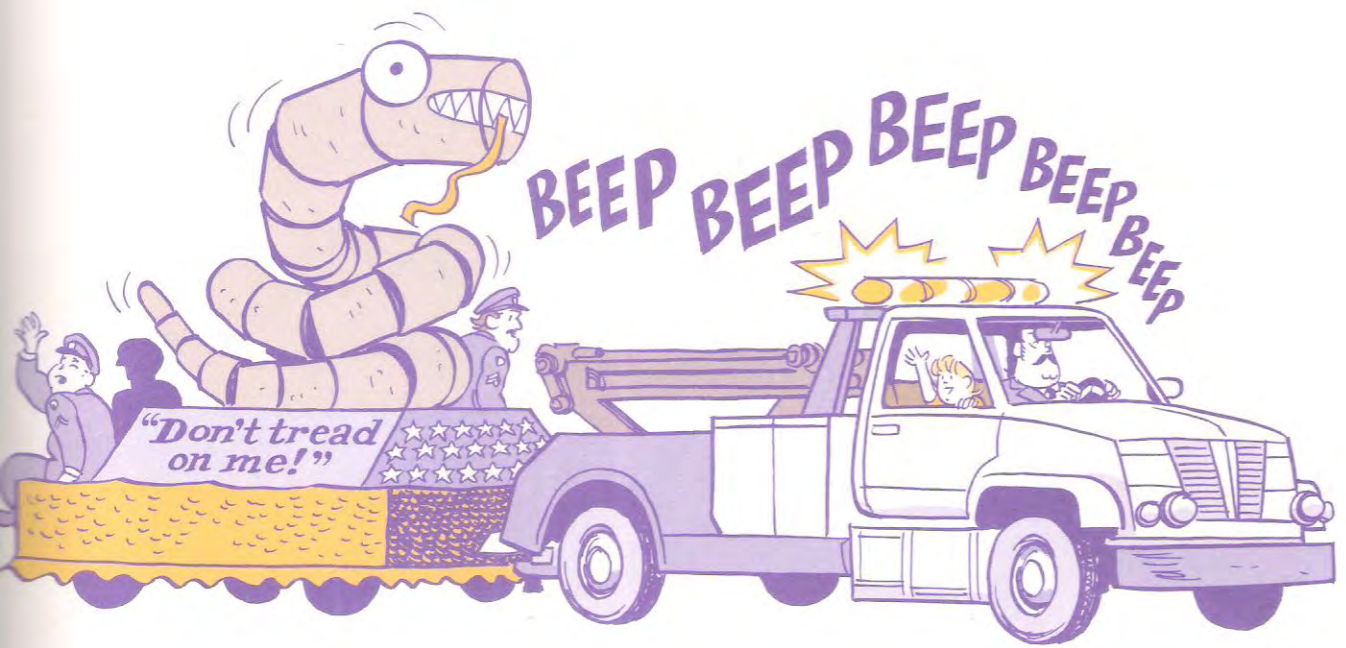




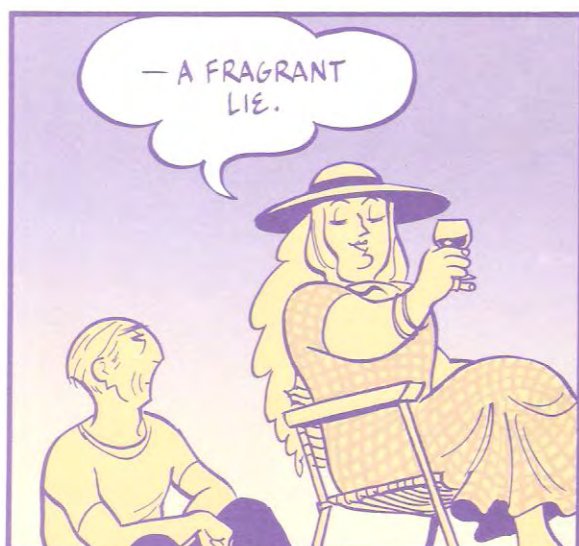
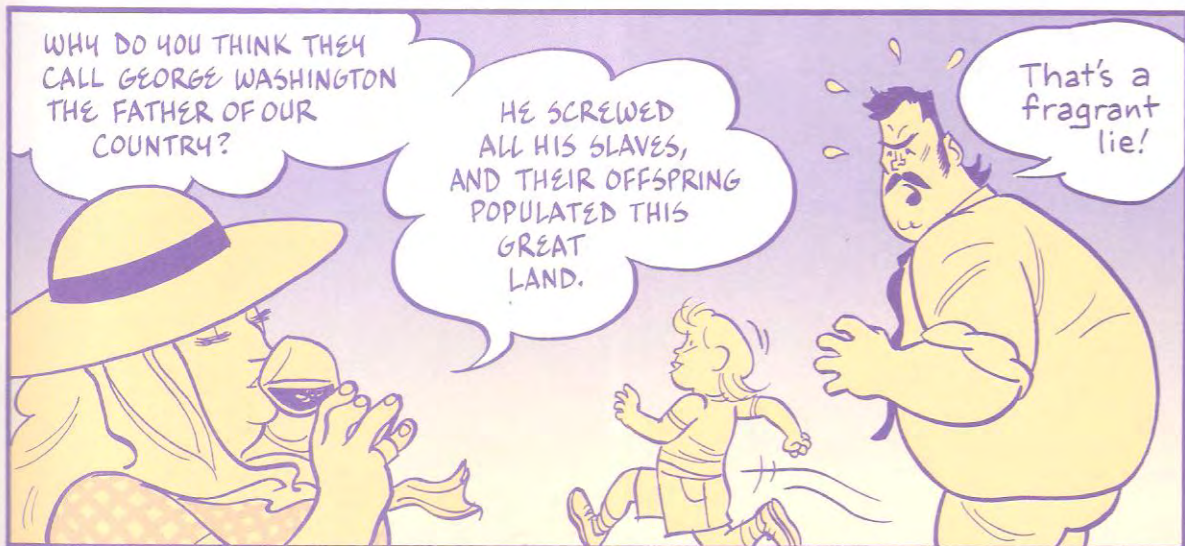


GRUNT GRUNT GRUNT GRUNT GRUNT GRUNT



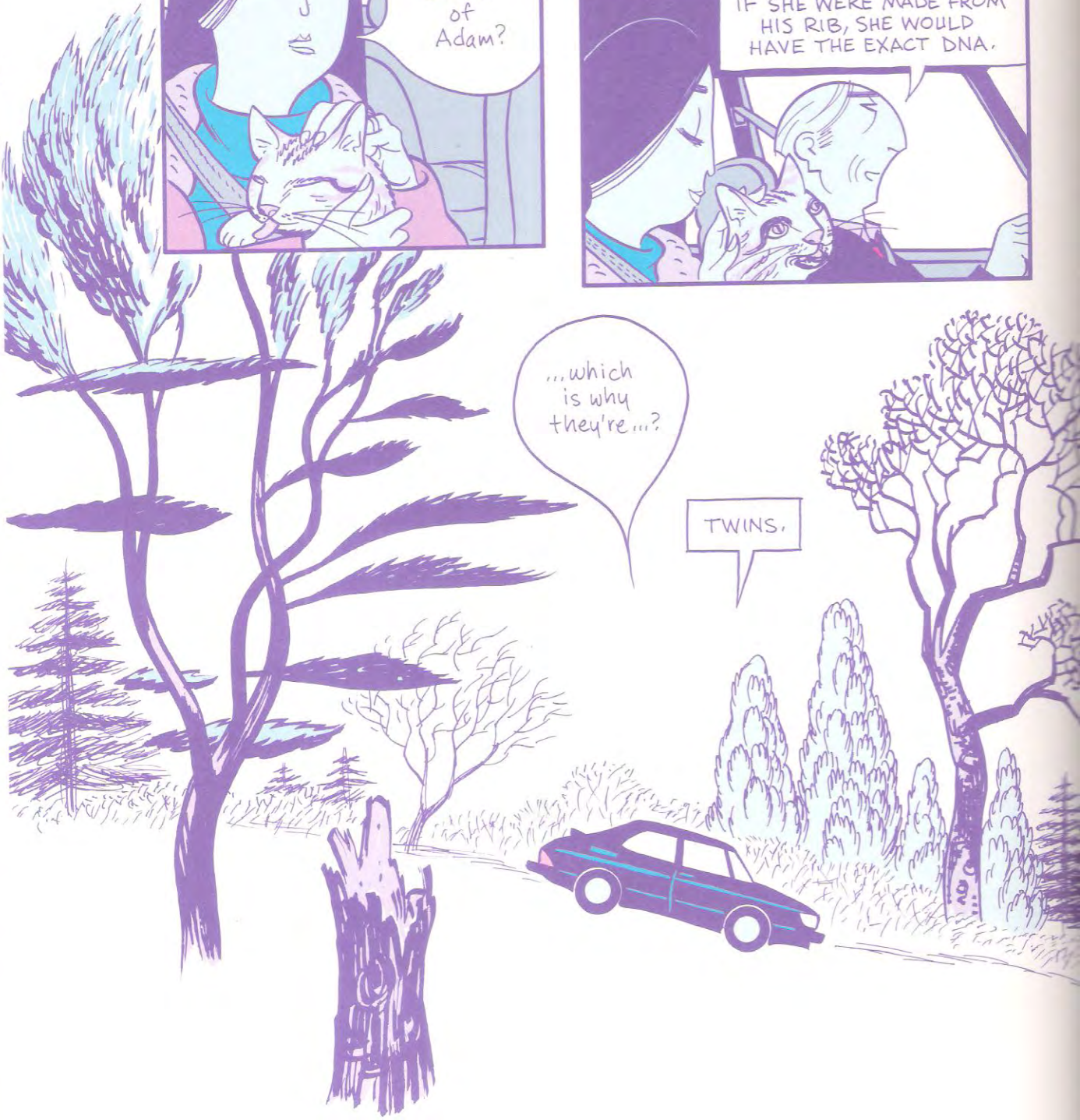
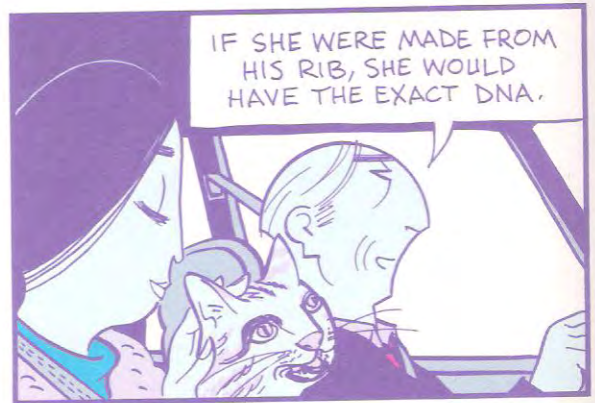








OUR FATHER, EUGENIOS (THE DOCTOR), THOUGHT LITTLE ABOUT RELIGION.





I had
this strange
dream last
night...



mrmh

99ghg

..99ghhg..

eeeeeeeee

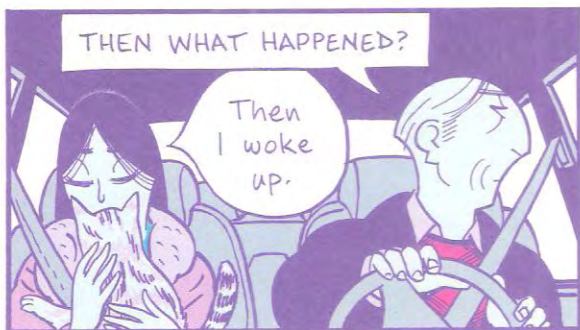
STOP MAKING SO MUCH NOISE.
SOMEONE WILL HEAR YOU.

I'm
sorry...

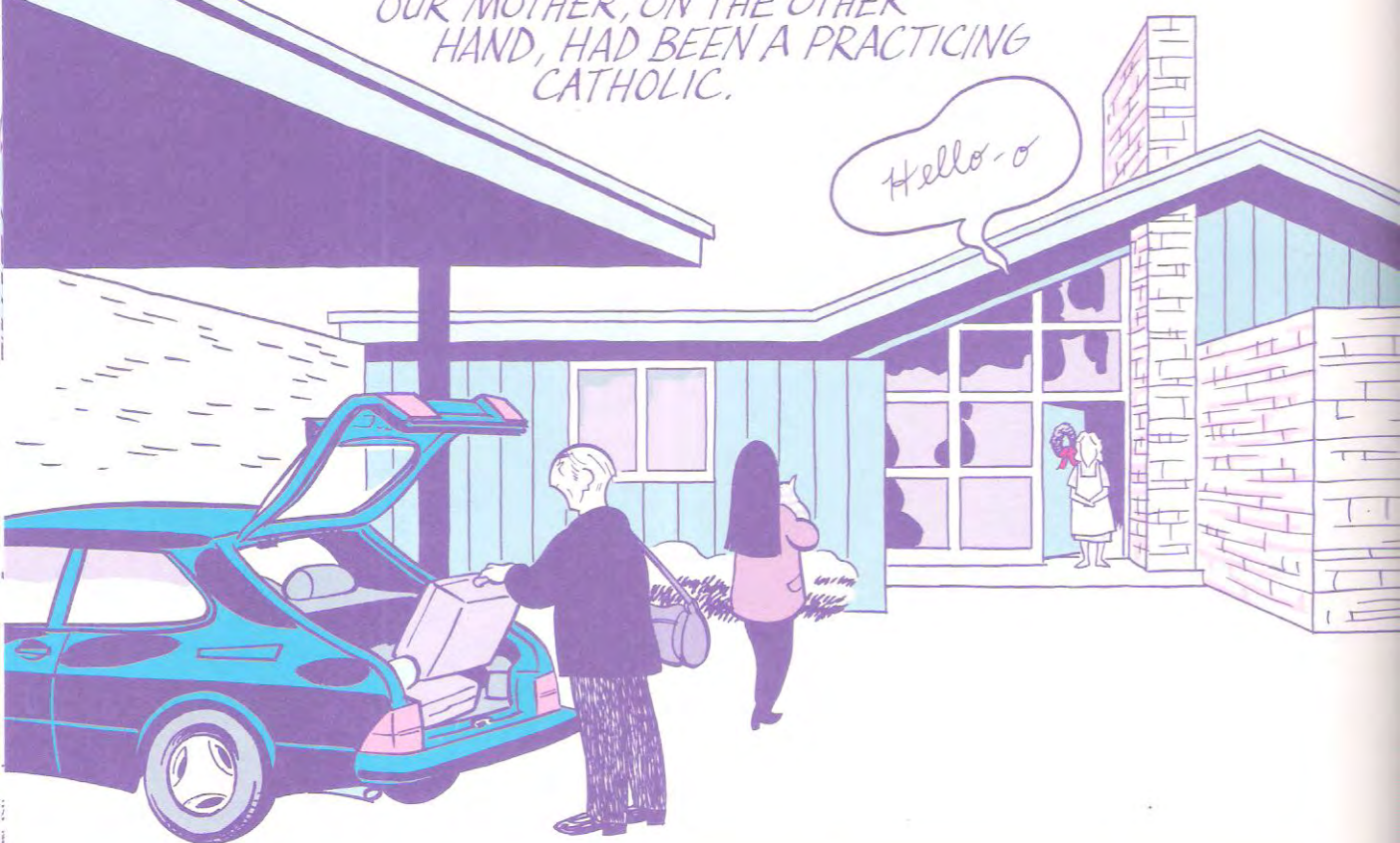
ummm

ahem

mrmhm



OUR MOTHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD BEEN A PRACTICING CATHOLIC.



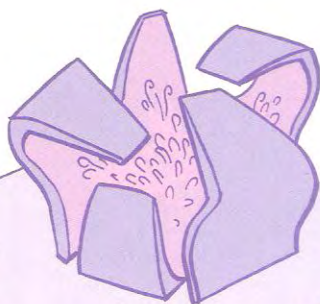


HANA'S UPBRINGING
WAS UNDERSTANDABLY
MORE COMPLEX.



I was raised
a Buddhist, but I've
always had a soft
spot for Francis
of Assisi.

ASTERIOS FIRST SAW HER
SCULPTURE IN A STUDIO SHE
HAD SET UP ON CAMPUS.



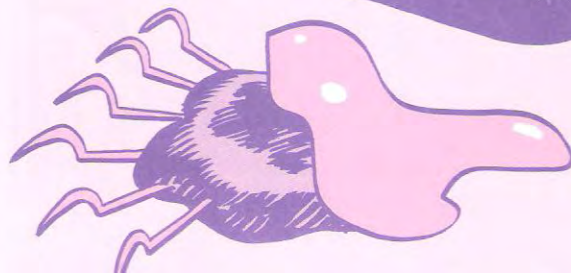
THAT
MAKES
SENSE.



Um...
everything
here was made
from found
materials.



THESE ARE
REALLY STRONG.

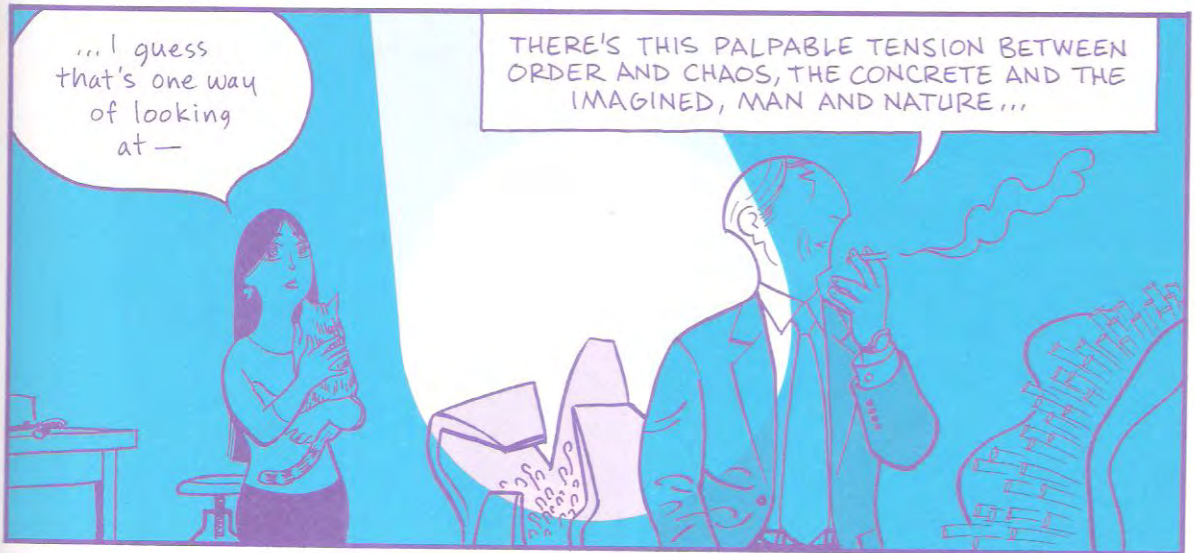




Thank
you.

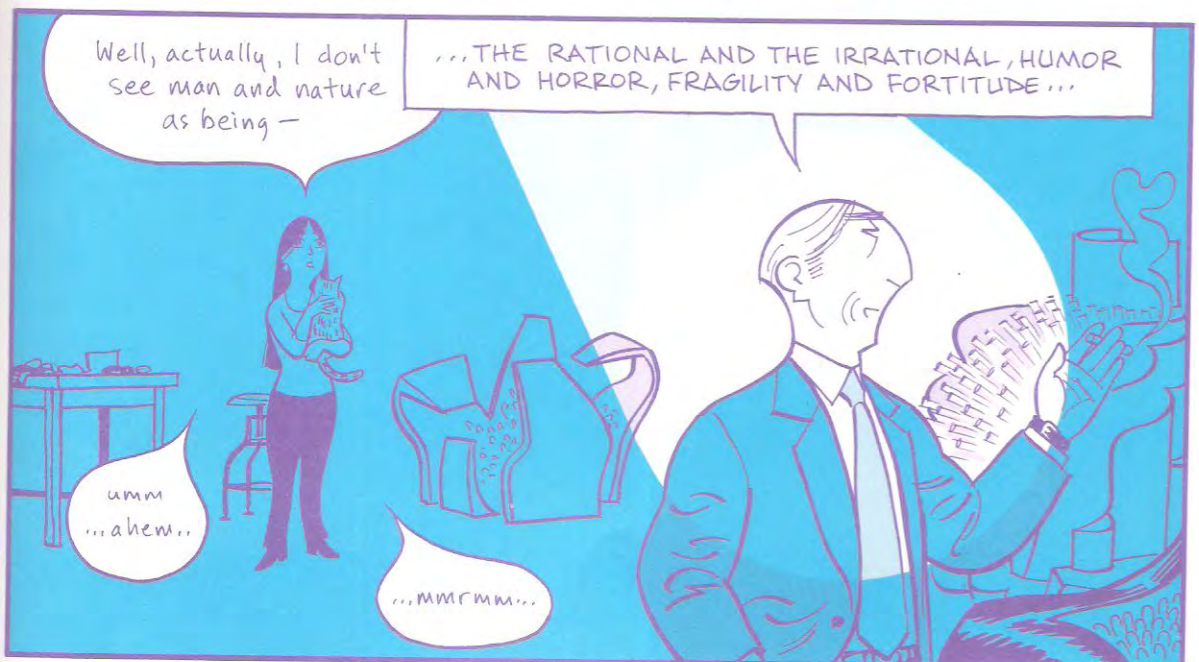


AND I CAN SEE HOW YOU'RE GRAPPLING
WITH THE RECONCILIATION OF OPPOSITES.



...I guess
that's one way
of looking
at—

THERE'S THIS PALPABLE TENSION BETWEEN
ORDER AND CHAOS, THE CONCRETE AND THE
IMAGINED, MAN AND NATURE...

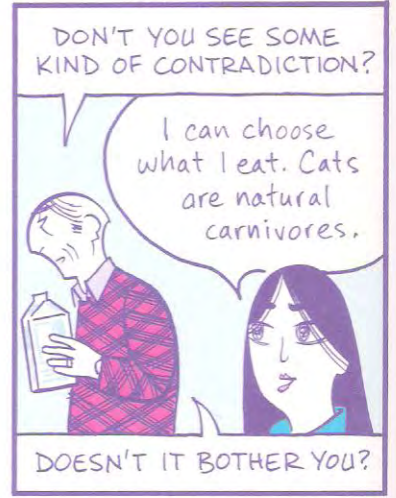
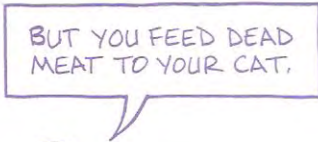


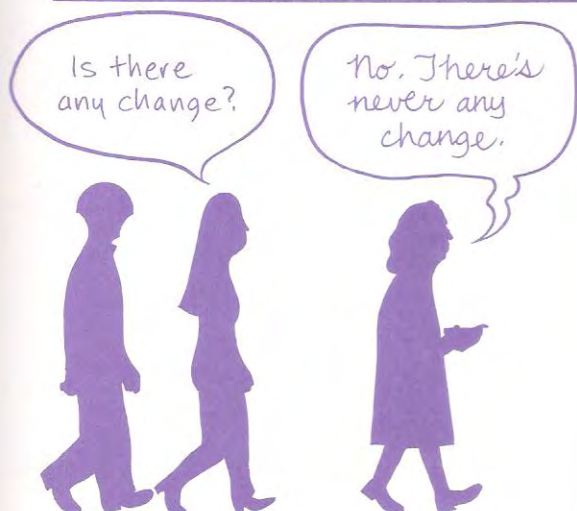
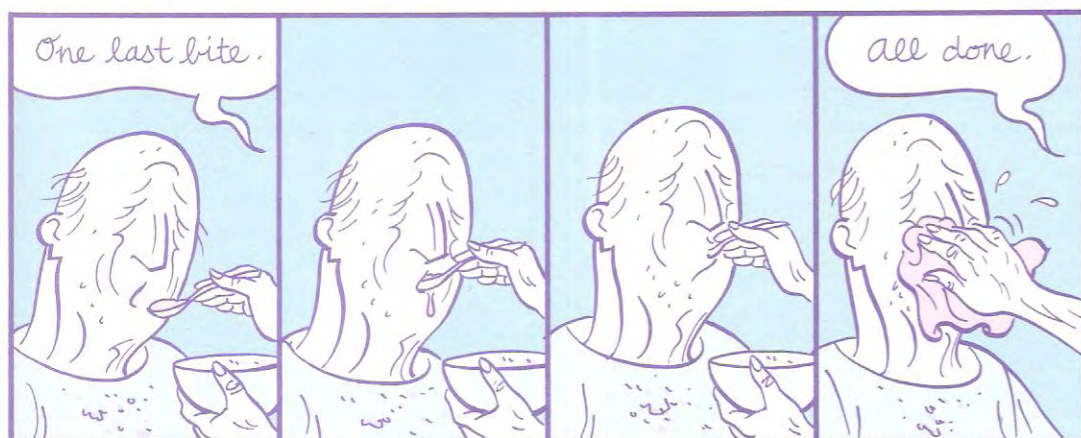
Well, actually, I don't
see man and nature
as being—

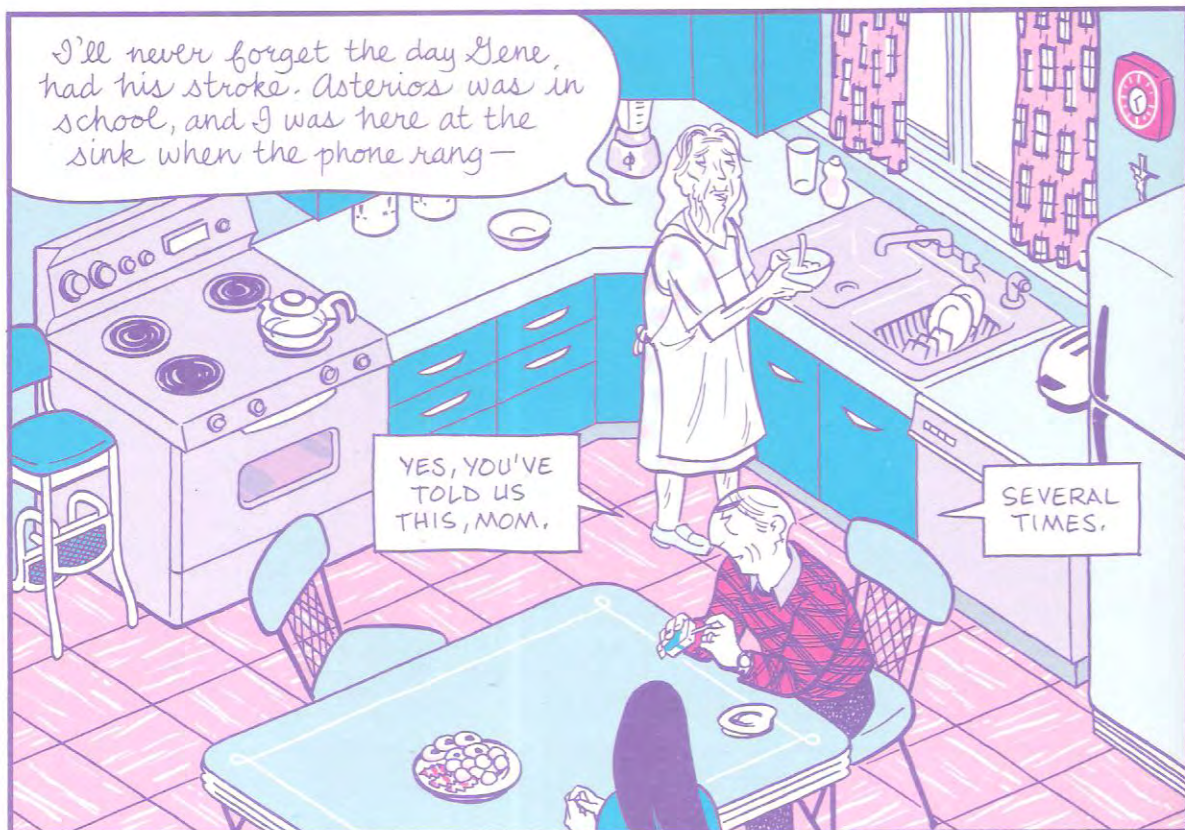
...THE RATIONAL AND THE IRRATIONAL, HUMOR
AND HORROR, FRAGILITY AND FORTITUDE...

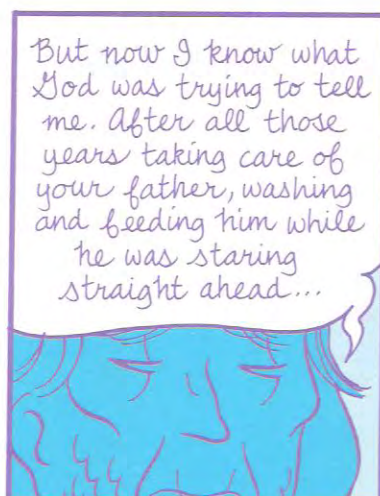
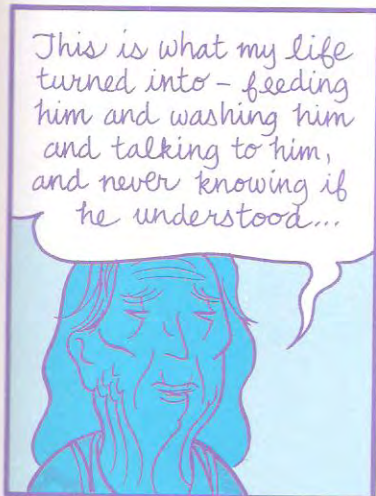
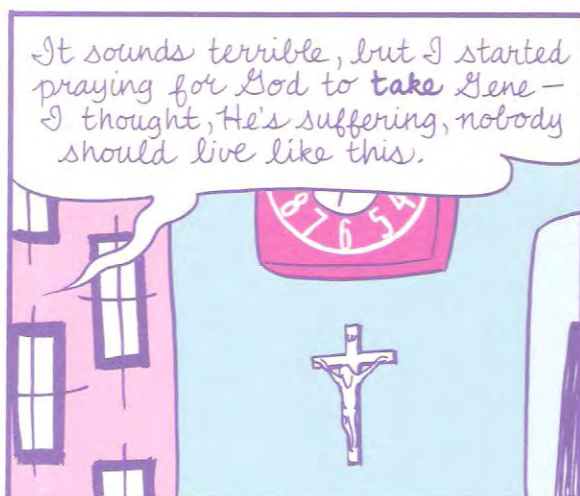
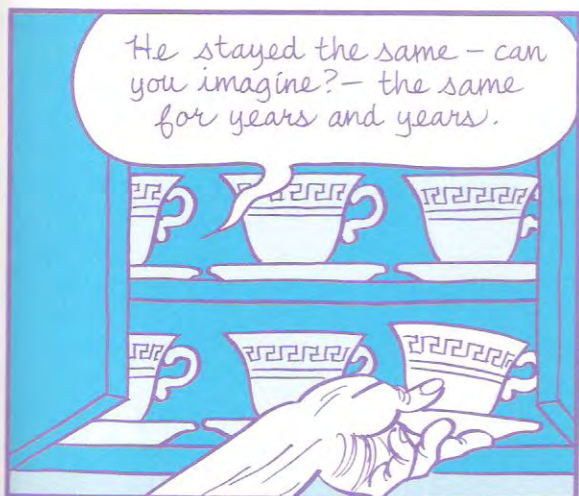
umm
...ahew...

...mmfmm...

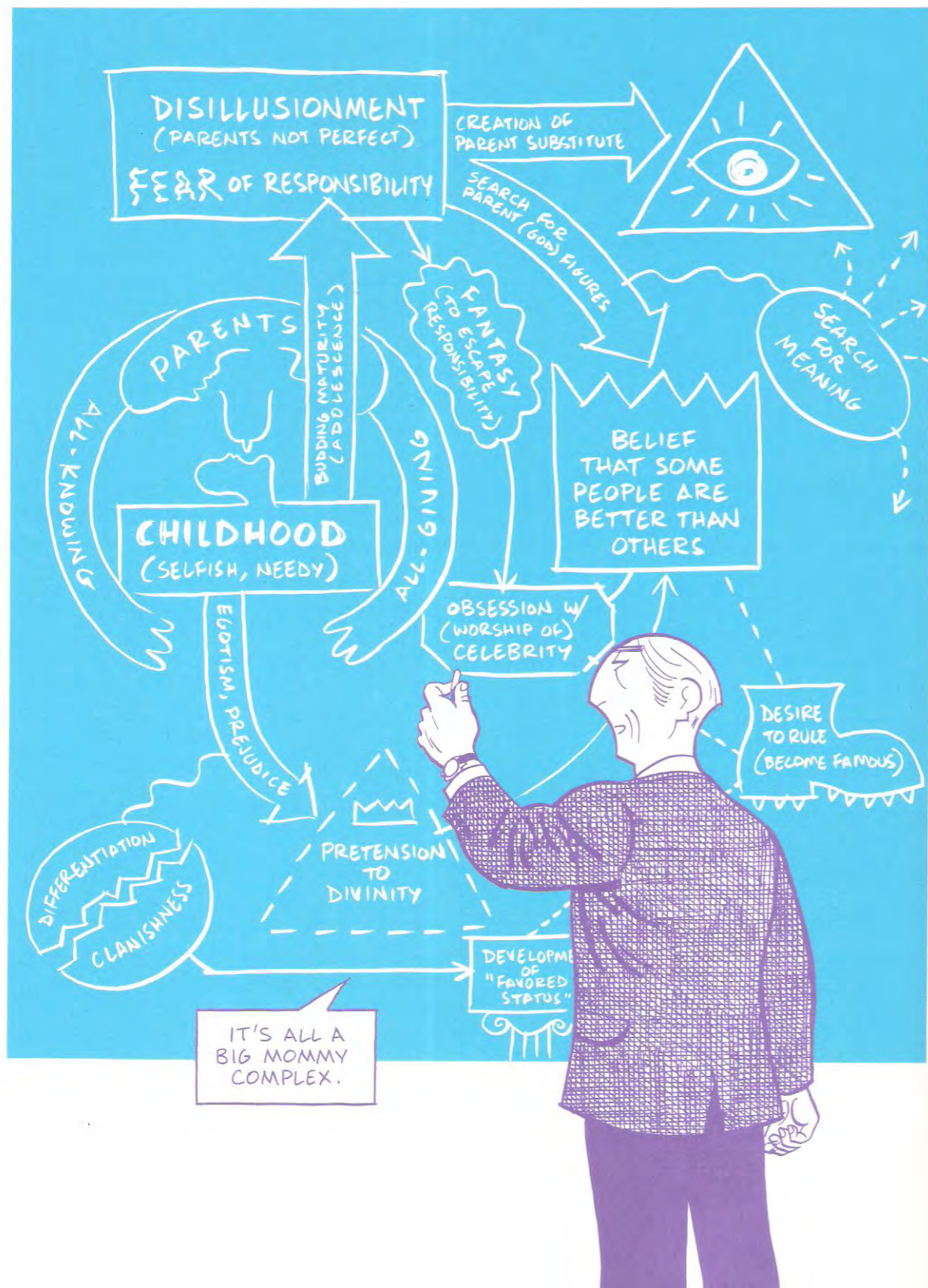








ASTERIOS, OF COURSE, HAD
A DIFFERENT THEORY.



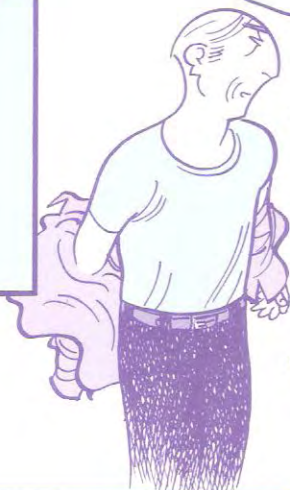
WHAT I REALLY FIND AMUSING IS THAT THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IS BASICALLY THE STORY OF "HOLY MEN" WHO HEARD VOICES, SAW VISIONS, AND BELIEVED THEMSELVES PERSECUTED FOR THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DIVINE.



TODAY WE'D CALL THEM PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENICS,



Well... there must have been some truth in what they said, or they wouldn't have had so many followers.



HARD TO SAY -



- APART FROM BEING OVERLY CREDULOUS, THOSE FOLLOWERS HAVE HAD CENTURIES TO DISTORT THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE.

BESIDES, CRAZY PEOPLE CAN OFTEN BE VERY CHARISMATIC,

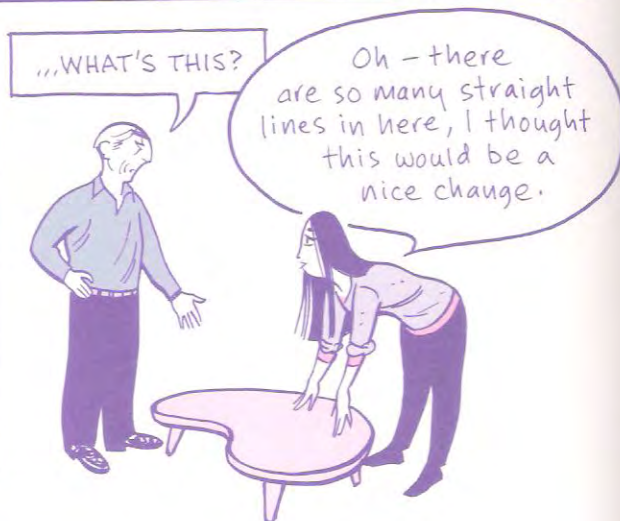
Look who's talking!

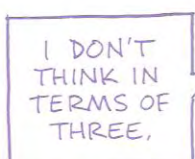
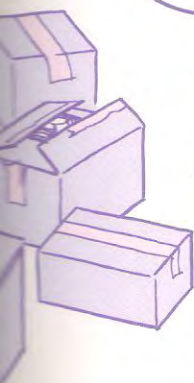
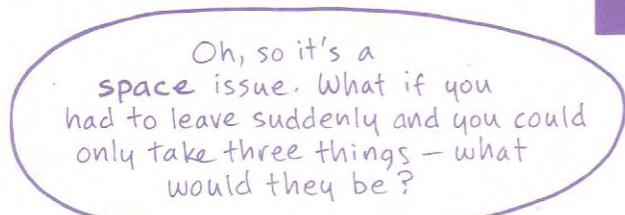


TAKE IT FROM ME, IF LITHIUM HAD BEEN AVAILABLE A FEW THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE WORLD WOULD BE A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE.



ACCORDING TO HANA, THOUGH, ASTERIOS PRACTICED HIS OWN
RITUALS OF DEVOTION.





STILL, DESPITE HIS SKEPTICISM, ASTERIOS IS QUICK TO ADMIT THAT RELIGION ACCOUNTS FOR SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF ART IN MANKIND'S HISTORY.

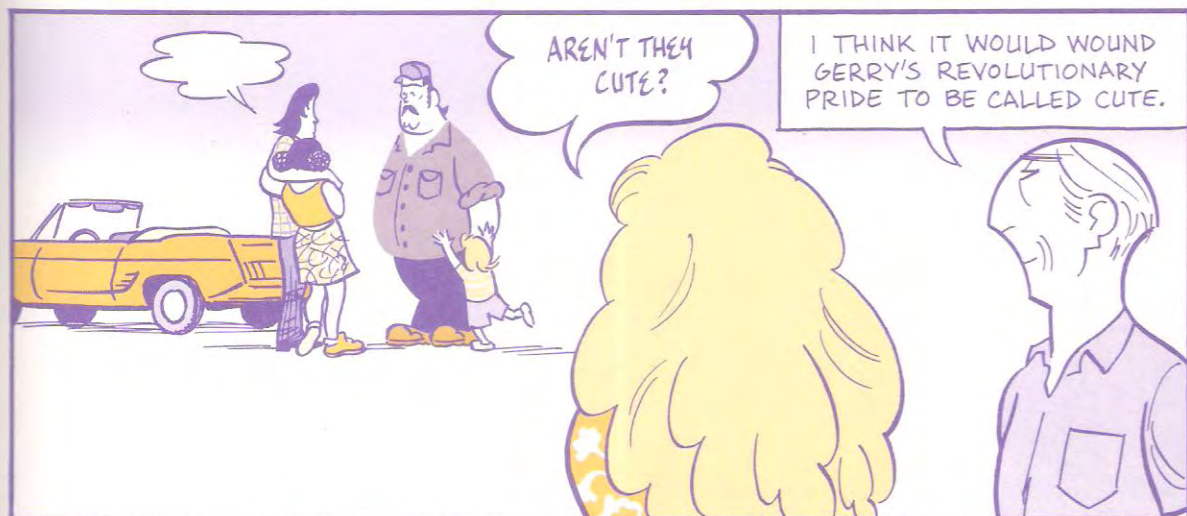
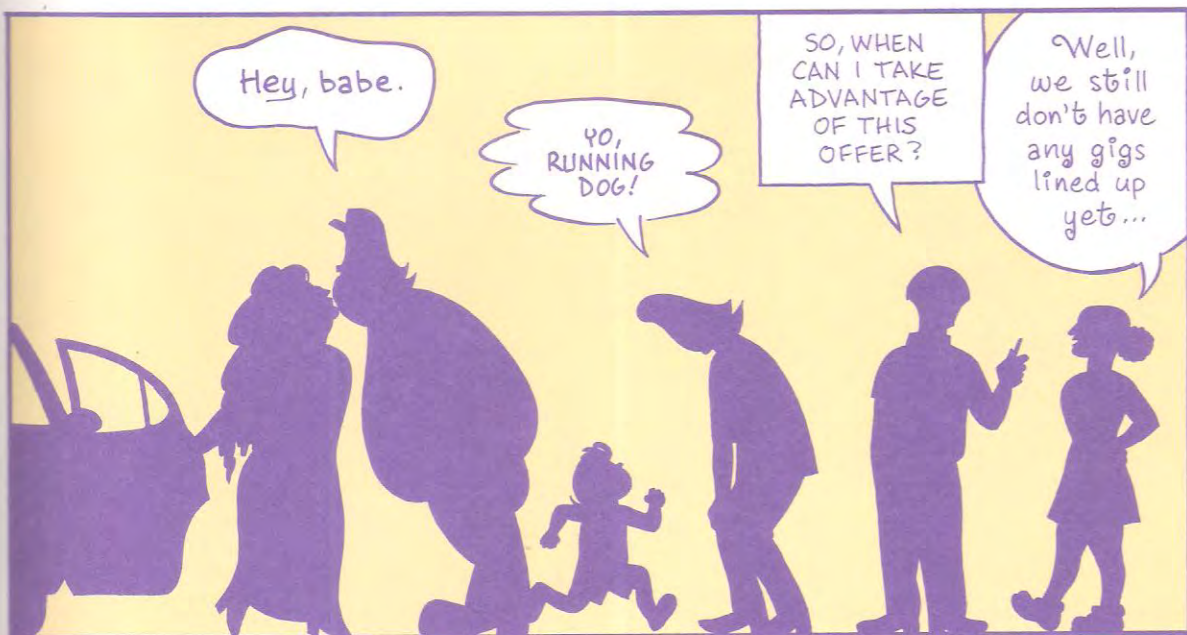


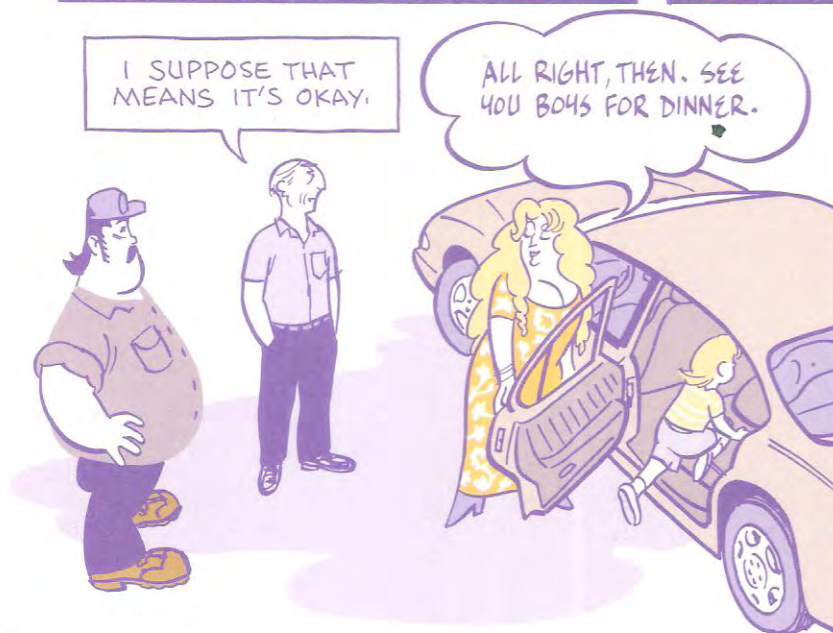




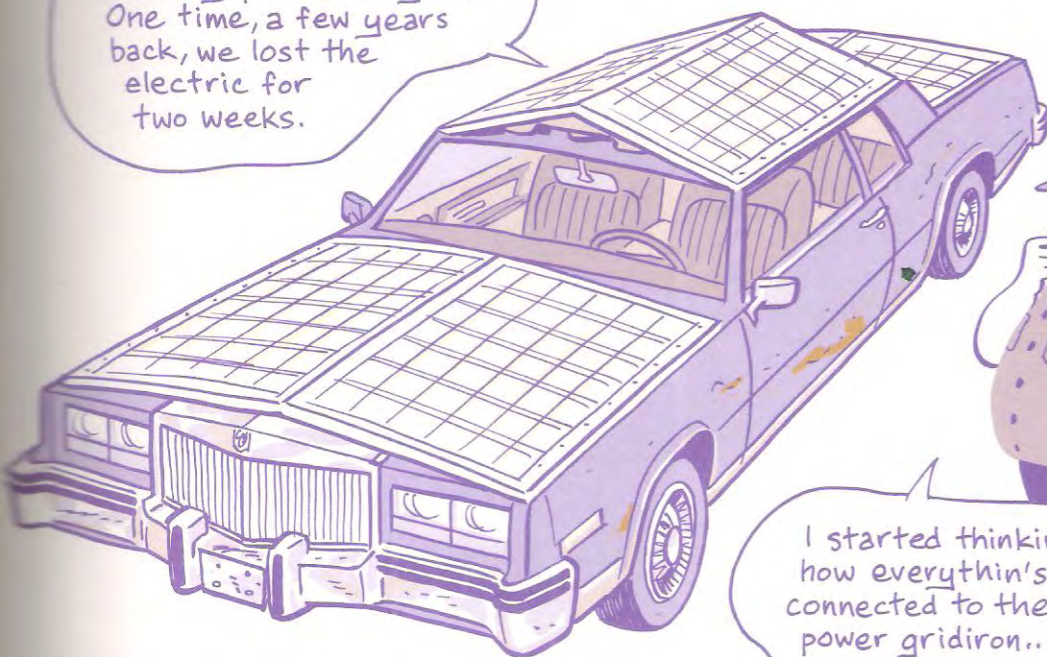
MAJOR AUTO REPAIR







You know we got a flooding problem, right? One time, a few years back, we lost the electric for two weeks.



I started thinkin' how everythin's connected to the power gridiron...



...and two weeks - that's not even a fraction of what we coulda lost.



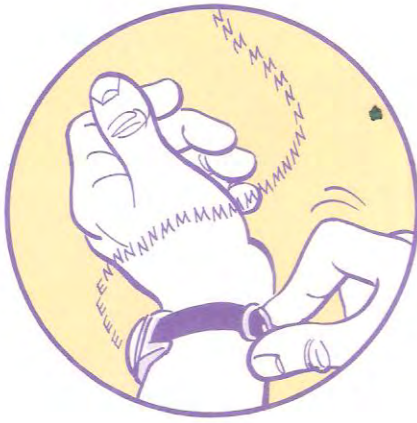
So I put some solar panels on the house, and that made me think about playin' with this old heap.

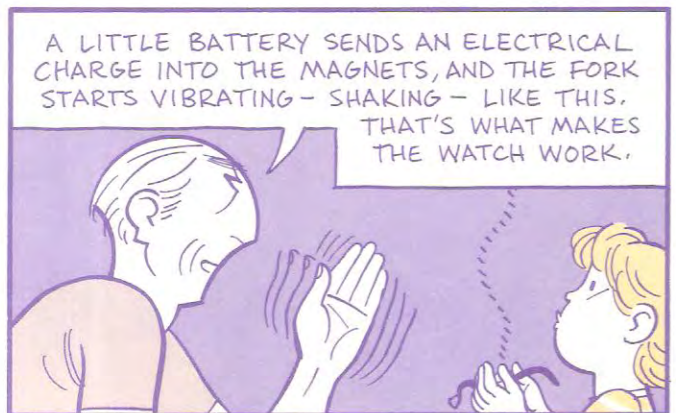
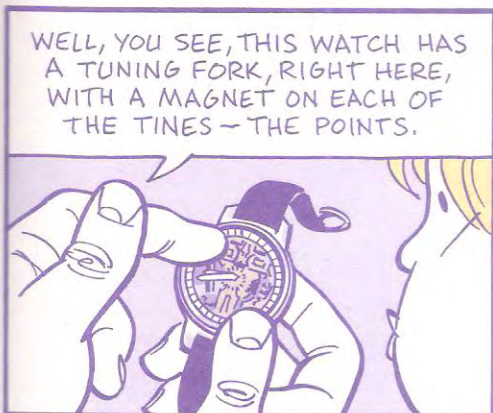
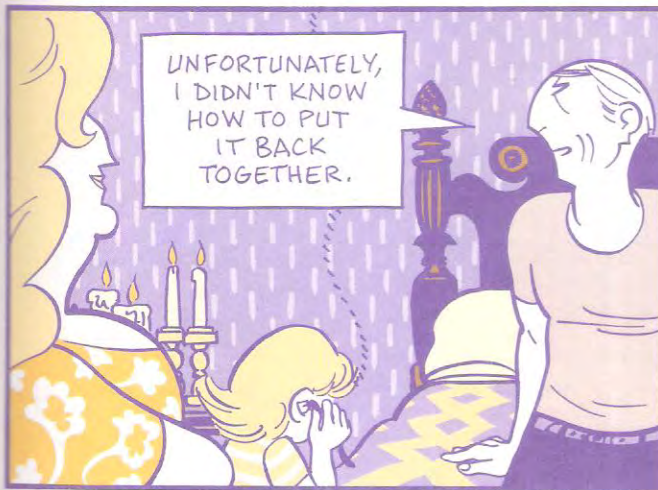
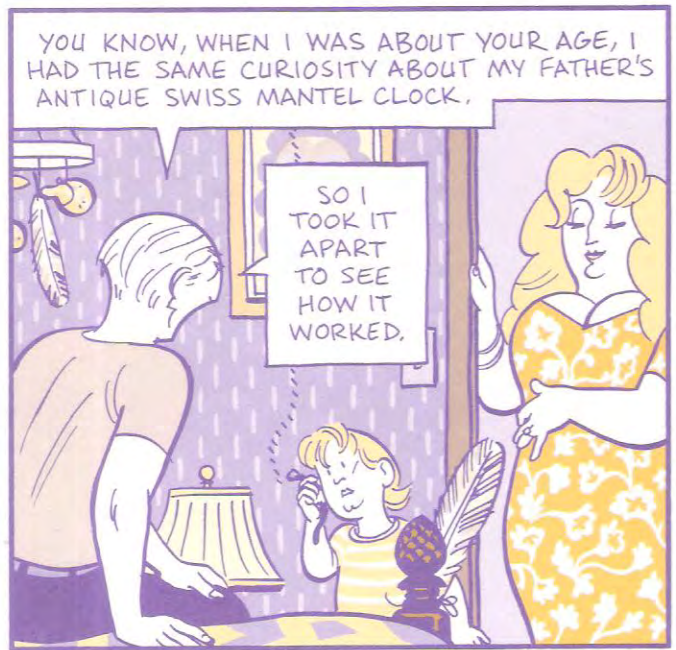
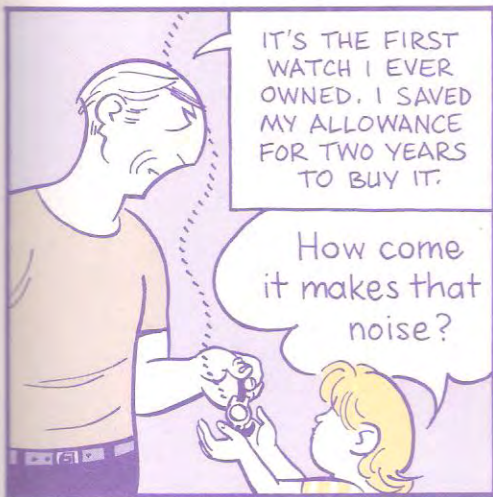
I even got her to putter around a little...

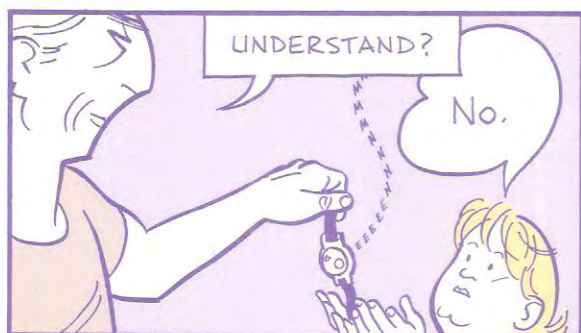
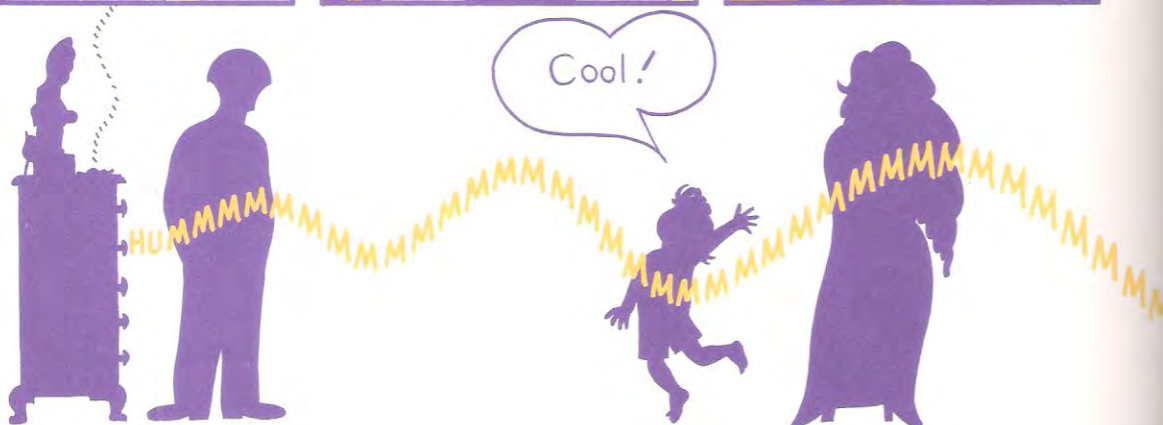


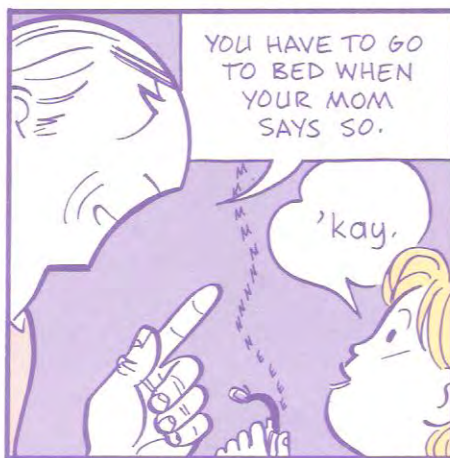
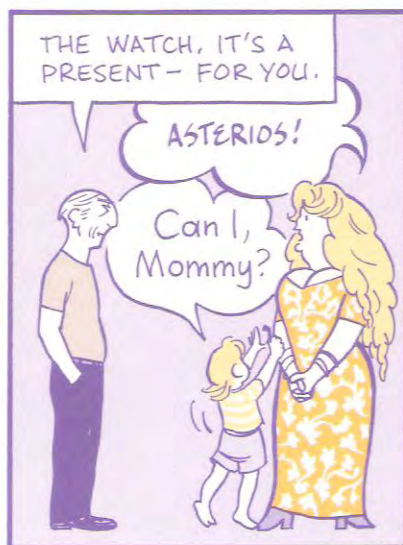
... 'cept for when you had too many rainy days in a row.

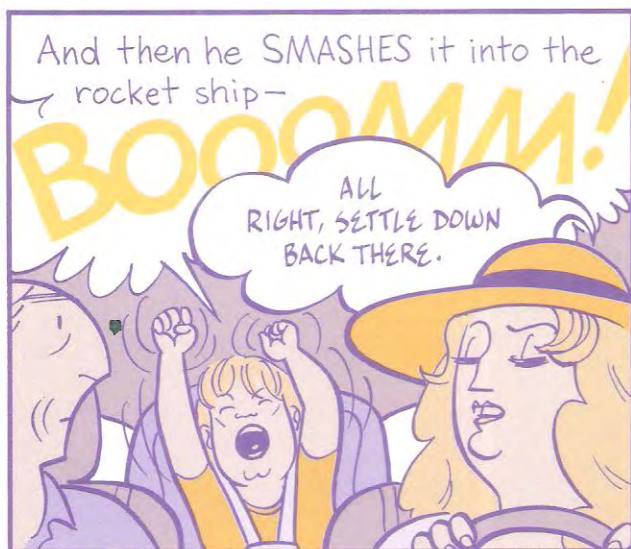
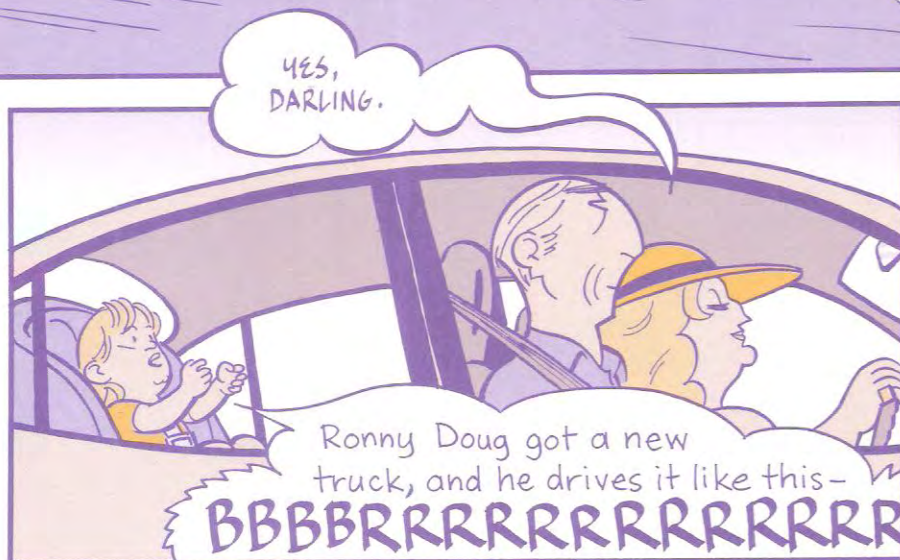


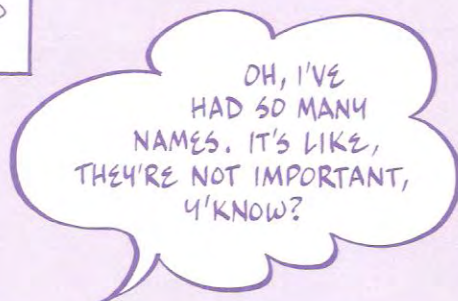
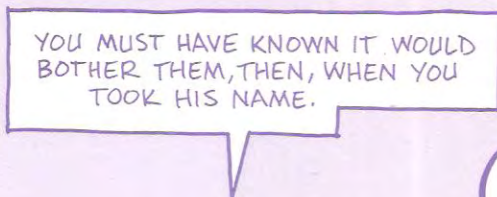
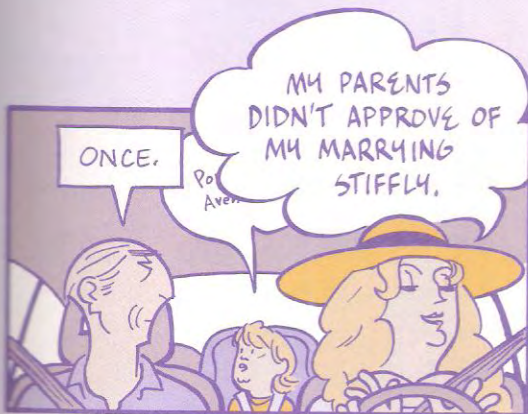












MY FATHER HAD BEEN ILL FOR A LONG TIME. THEN IT TURNED OUT, ALL THE YEARS MY MOTHER HAD BEEN TAKING CARE OF HIM, SHE HAD CANCER AND DIDN'T KNOW IT.



ANY SIBLINGS?



NO,



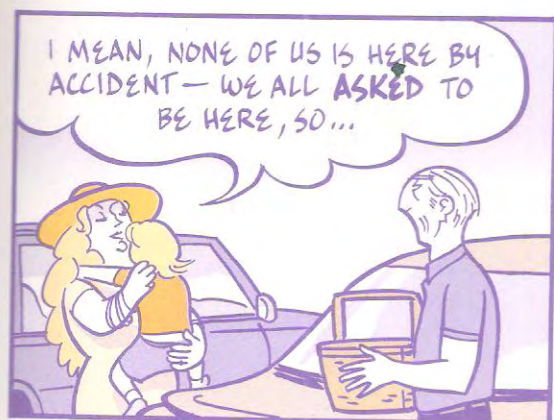
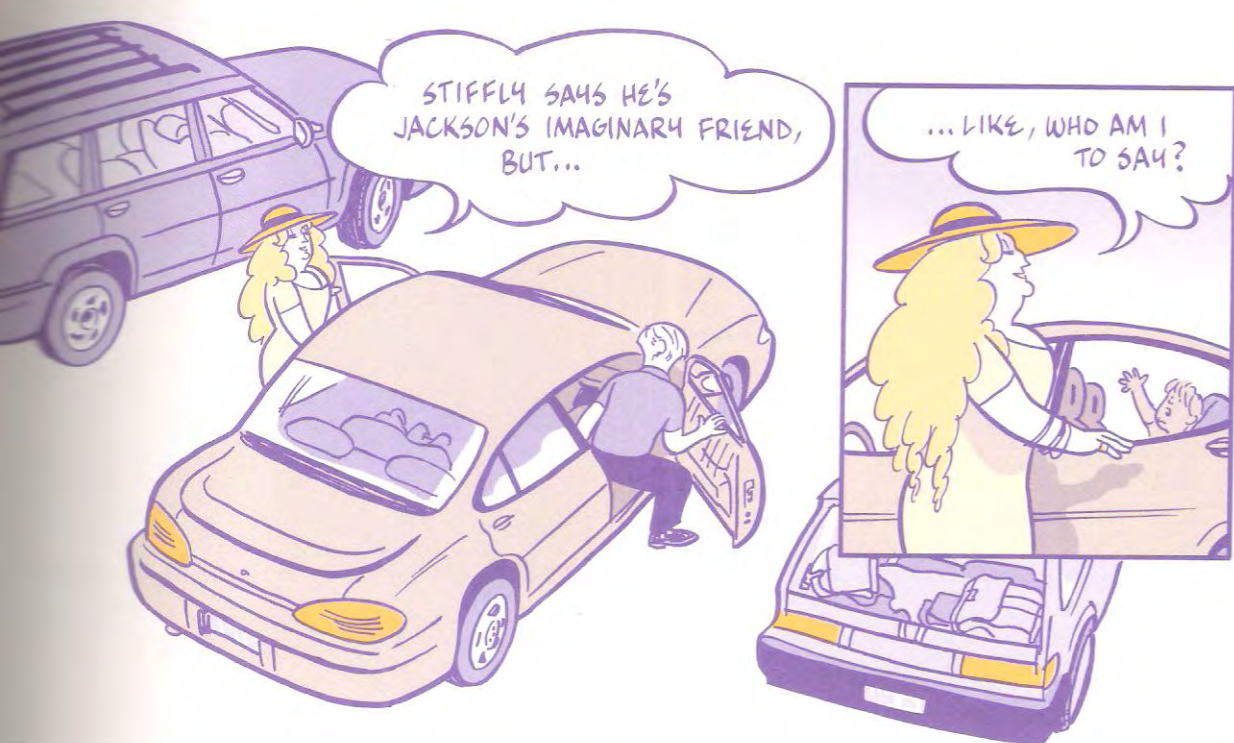
Come down and miss out on Poppyseed A...



WHO'S RONNY DOUG?

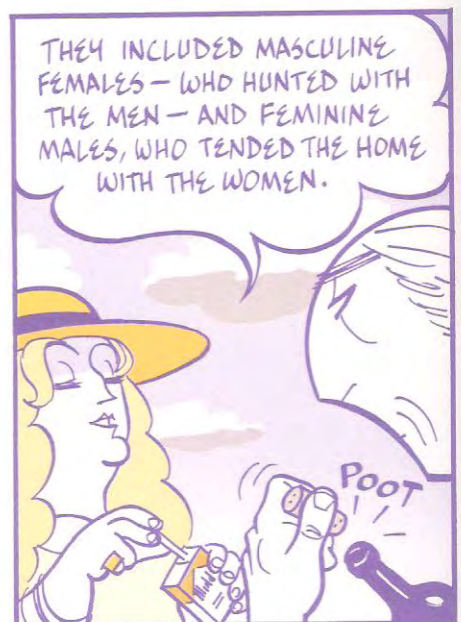
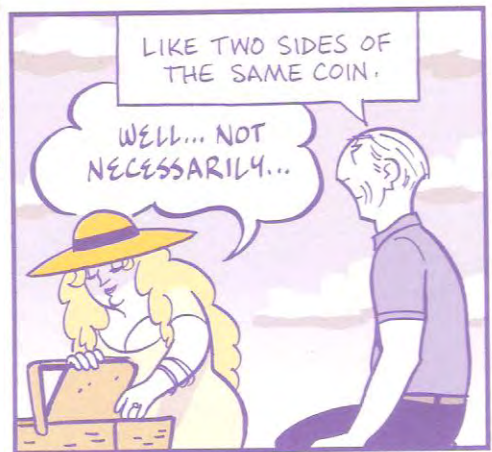
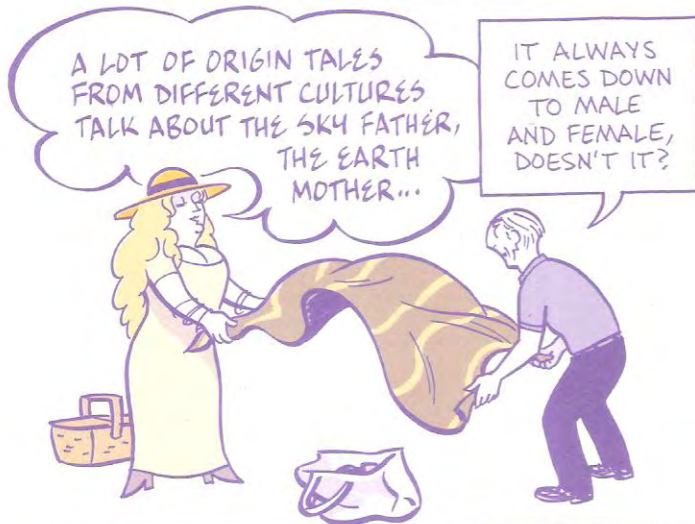
MMM...

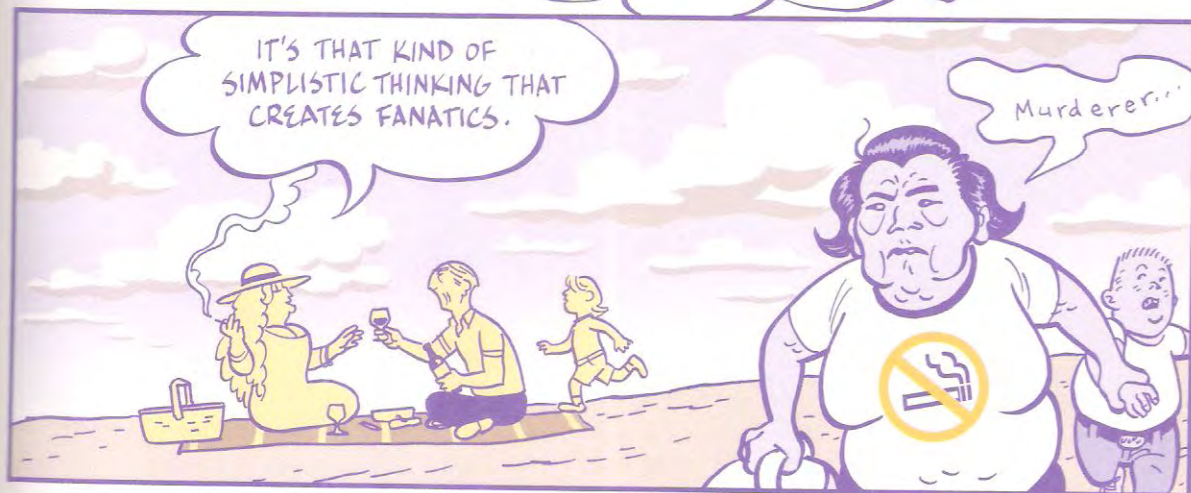
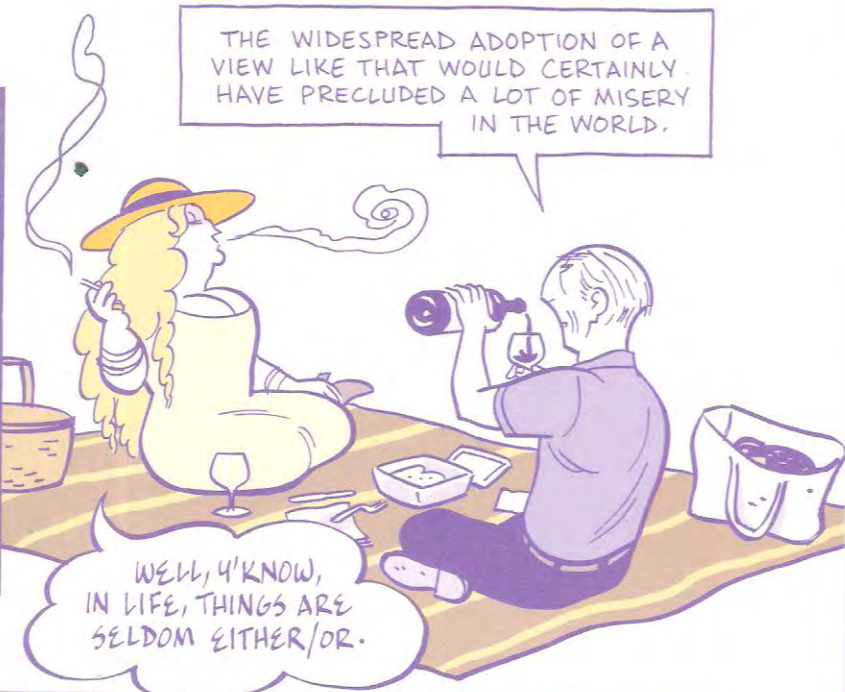


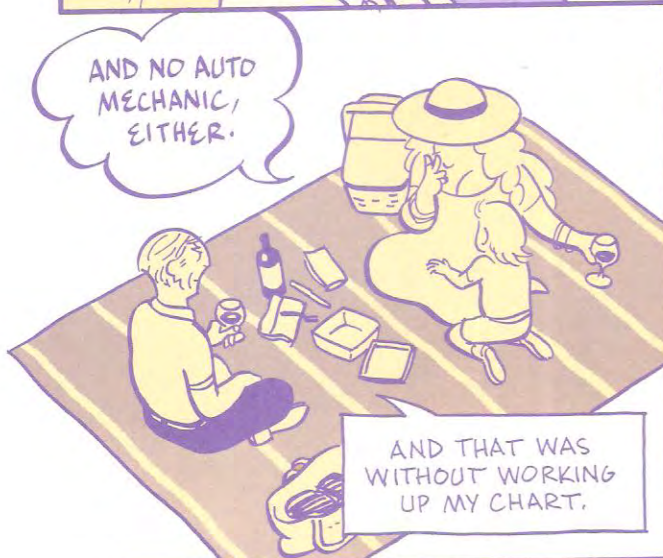


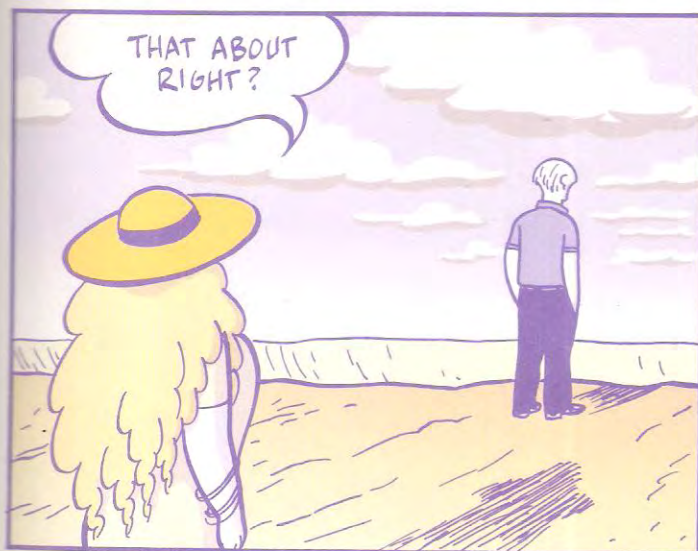
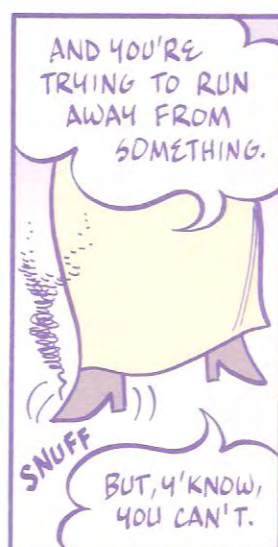


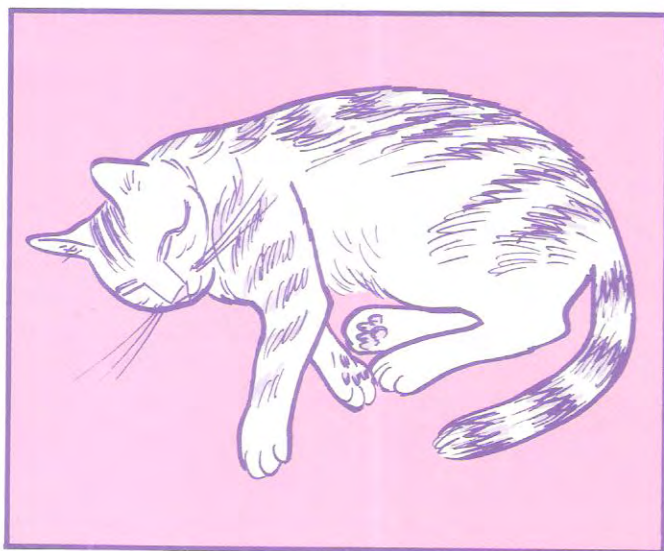
NOW, THAT'S
A HOLE.



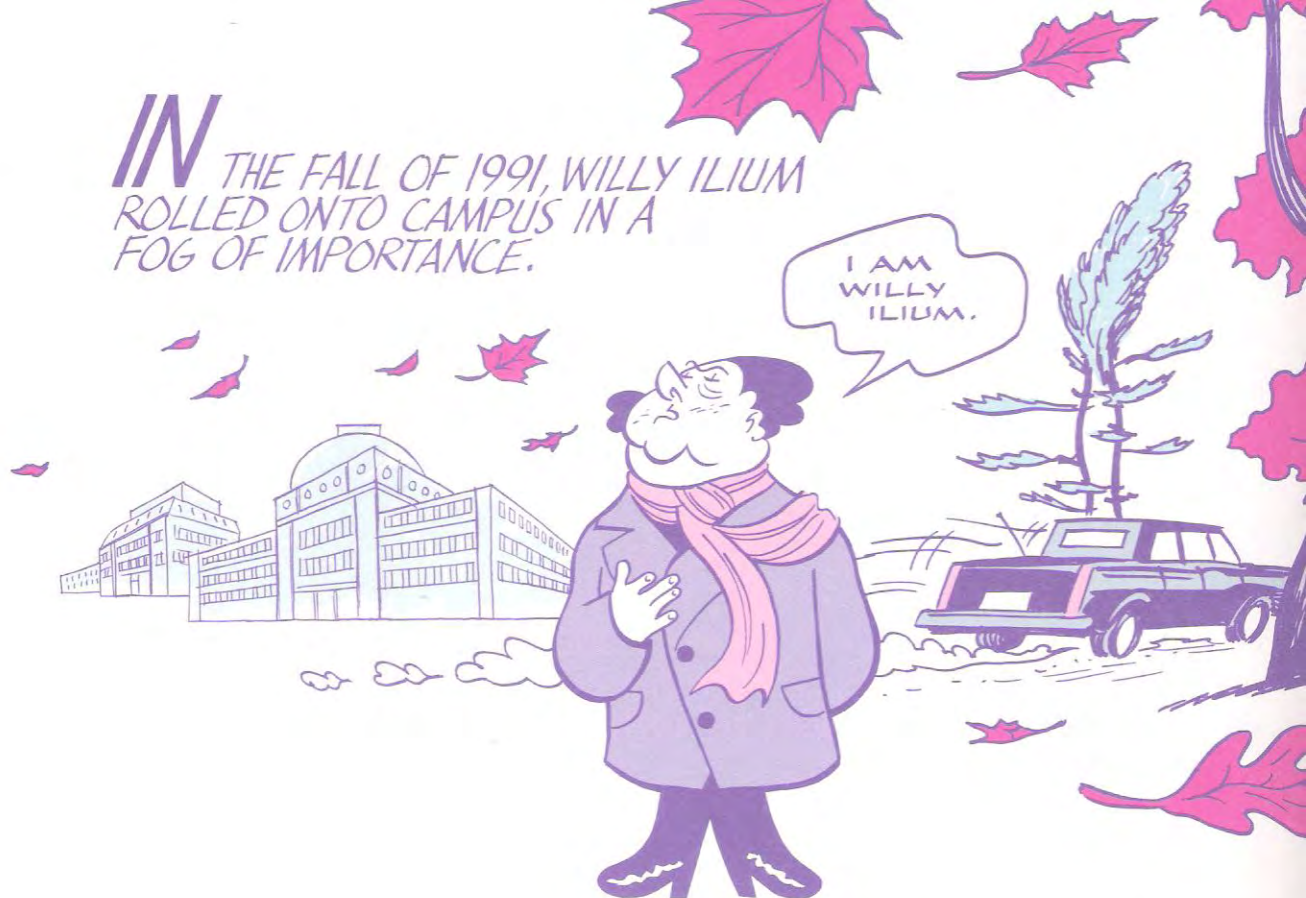






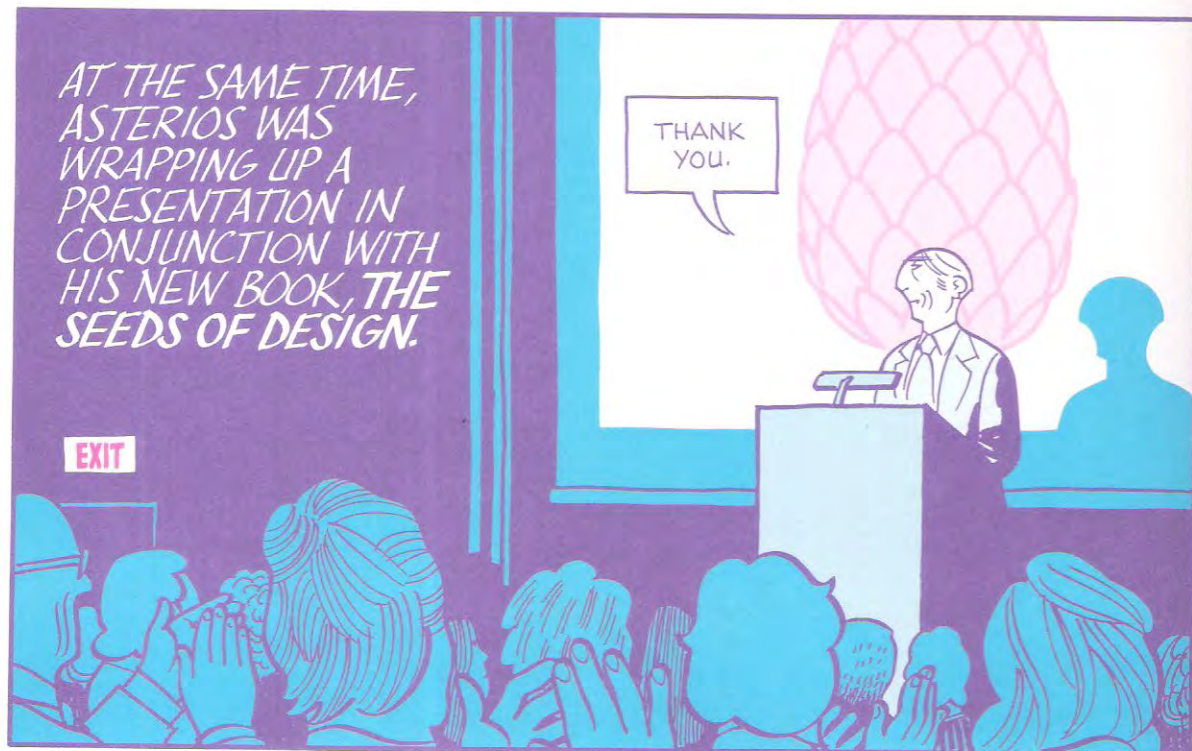


***IN** THE FALL OF 1991, WILLY ILIUM
ROLLED ONTO CAMPUS IN A
FOG OF IMPORTANCE.*



HE CLAIMED HE HAD COME TO DELIVER
A LECTURE, BUT NO ONE COULD
REMEMBER HAVING INVITED HIM.

*AT THE SAME TIME,
ASTERIOS WAS
WRAPPING UP A
PRESENTATION IN
CONJUNCTION WITH
HIS NEW BOOK, **THE
SEEDS OF DESIGN.***



A marvelous reexamination of "organic" moderns like Wright and Neutra viewed in the context of indigenous architecture and sustainability...

...but delivered with the giddiness of discovery, as if seeing a tree for the first time.

And that bit about "the humble pine cone"—I loved it!

WELL, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF PAYING ATTENTION.



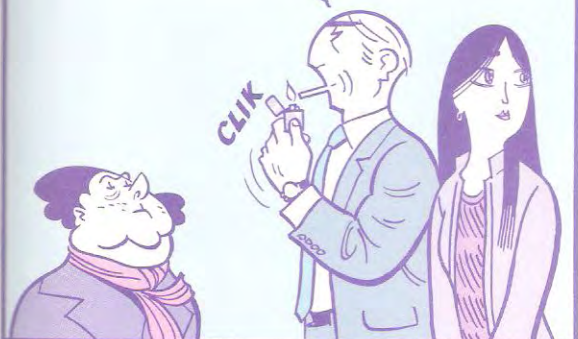
I AM WILLY ILIUM. I WON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH—OR ANYWHERE IN ITS VICINITY, ONE OF THE REASONS I VENTURED HERE WAS TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE. I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR ENDEAVORS FOR SOME TIME.



I WISH TO PROPOSE A COLLABORATION. I HAVE BEEN ENGAGED TO CREATE A NEW THEATRICAL PRODUCTION, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DESIGN THE SETS AND COSTUMES.



THAT'S VERY FLATTERING, MR. ILIUM, BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M INTERESTED IN TAKING—



EXCUSE ME. I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.



WILLY ILIUM WAS A CHOREOGRAPHER WHO, TEN YEARS EARLIER, HAD EXCITED THE NEW YORK DANCE WORLD WITH HIS AUDACIOUS APPROACH TO CHOREOGRAPHY.



ESSENTIALLY, HIS PIECES WERE FORMED BY EXCISING SEQUENCES FROM FAMOUS DANCE COMPOSITIONS AND REASSEMBLING THEM INTO NEW WORKS,

HE SEEMED TO HAVE APPLIED A SIMILAR METHOD TO HIS OWN NAME AS AS WELL.



SO THAT BALANCHINE, PERROT, GRAHAM, AND THARP (TO NAME A FEW) RUBBED ELBOWS—AND ASSES—ONSTAGE.



ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, ASTERIOS DUBBED HIM "WILLY CHIMERA"



FORGIVE ME, WILLY, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE MY IDEA OF A DANCER.

I DON'T DANCE, THE IDEA THAT AN ARTIST MUST BE A PRACTITIONER IS TRÈS RETARDATAIRE.

Thank you.

MY DEAR, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBCELLAR?

I don't think so...

IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE SPACE, VERY CUTTING-EDGE. THEY HAVE COMMISSIONED - FROM ME - A NEW PIECE, AND I HAVE CONTRIVED SOMETHING SO BOLD, SO ORIGINAL - SO MONUMENTAL, IT WILL MAKE OSSA LIKE A WART.

AND THAT IS?

ORPHEUS (UNDERGROUND)!

I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, WILLY, BUT STAGING ORPHEUS IS HARDLY ORIGINAL.

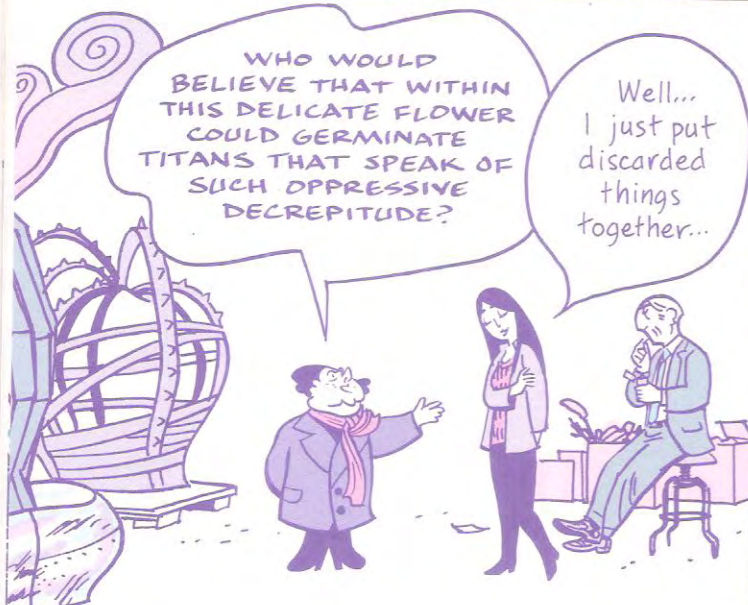
NONSENSE, OF COURSE IT'S ORIGINAL - IT'S MY VERSION. BESIDES, ALL GREAT ARTISTS REVISIT THE CLASSICS.

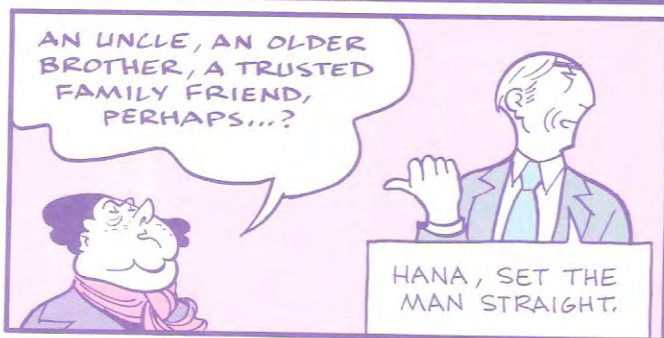
THIS ONE'S BEEN VISITED MORE THAN MECCA,

CIGARETTE?

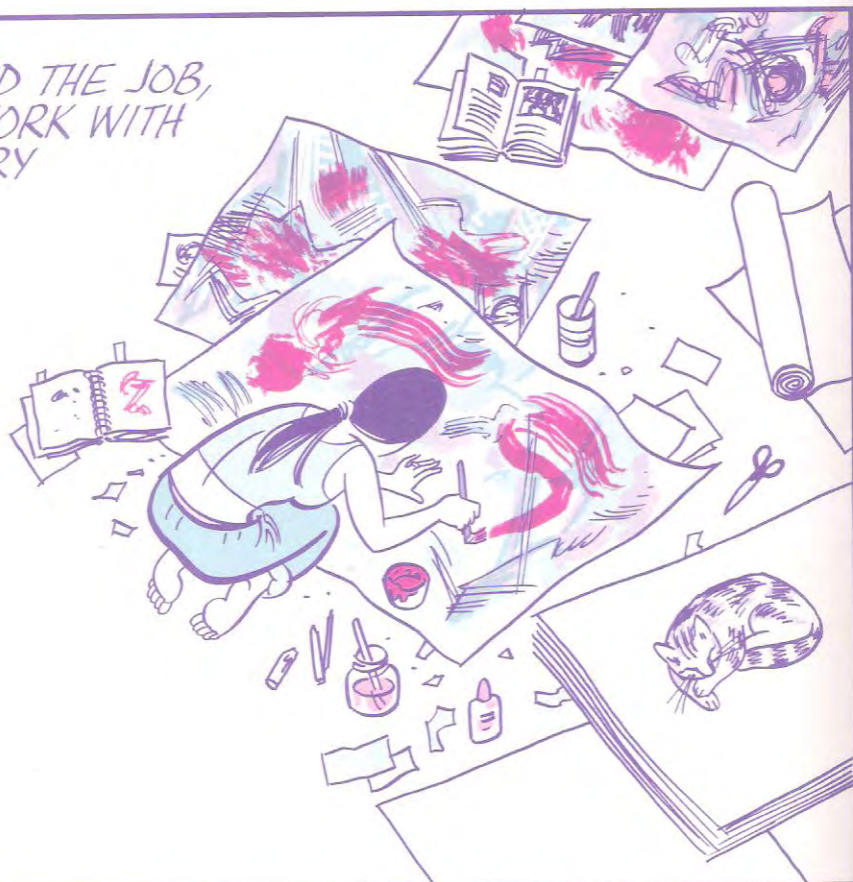
DISGUSTING HABIT.

Finally! Somebody who agrees with me!





HANA ACCEPTED THE JOB,
AND SET TO WORK WITH
HER CUSTOMARY
DILIGENCE.



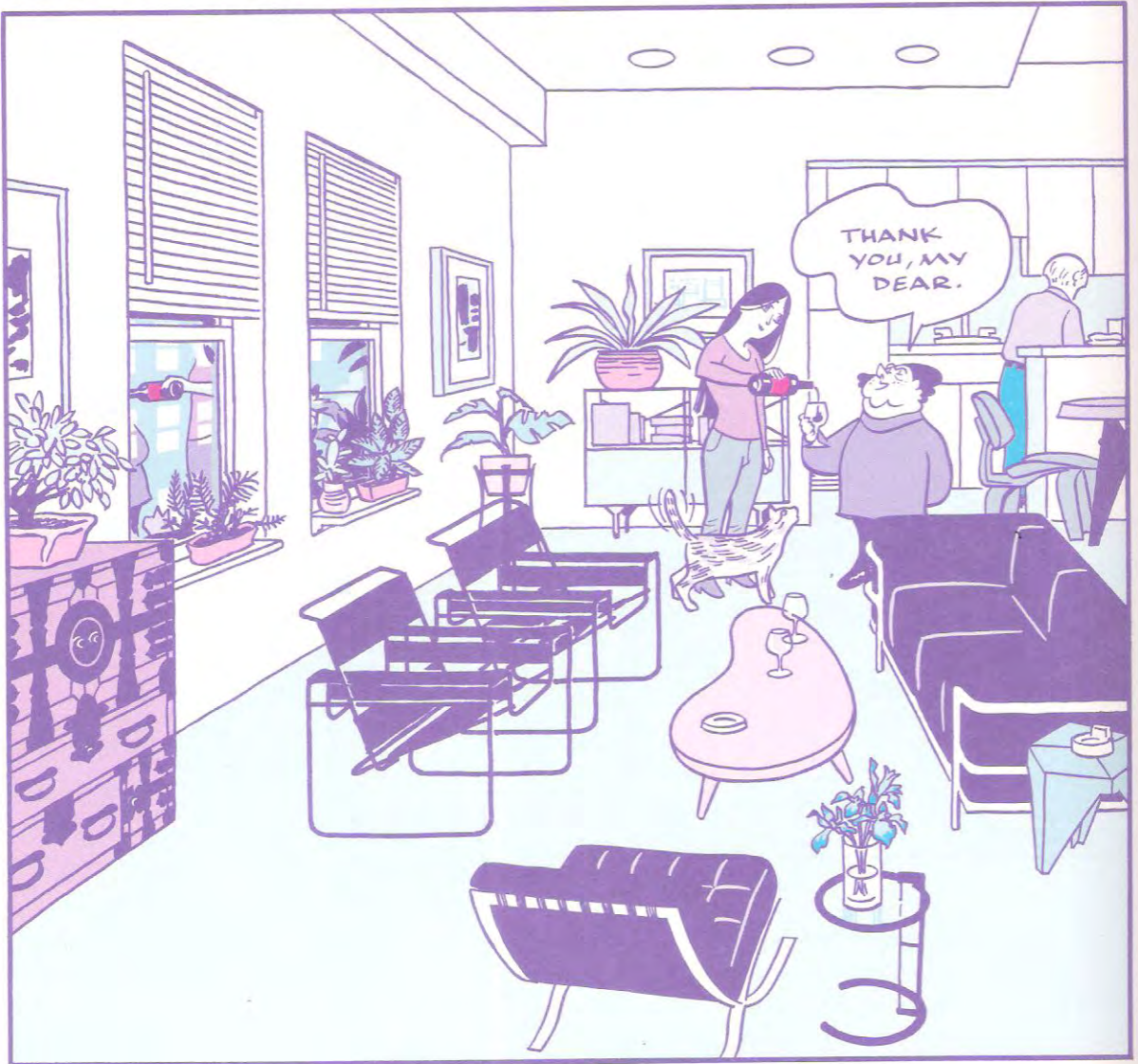
AND (AS USUAL), FEARING FAILURE,
SHE OBSESSED OVER EVERY
MARK IN EVERY DRAWING.

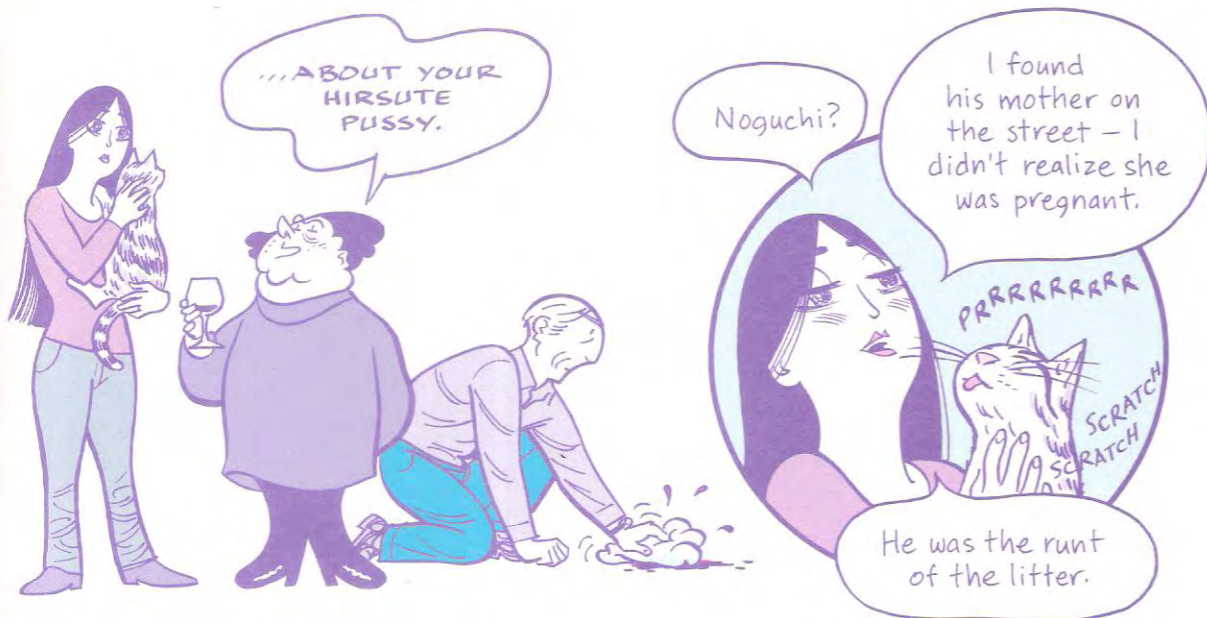
SHE ALSO BEGAN
MAKING WEEKEND
TRIPS TO NEW YORK
FOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH WILLY ILIUM.



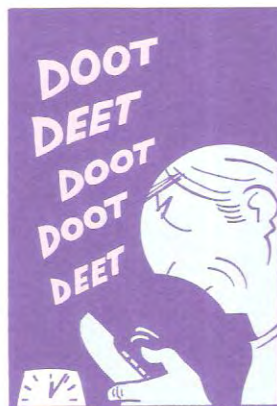


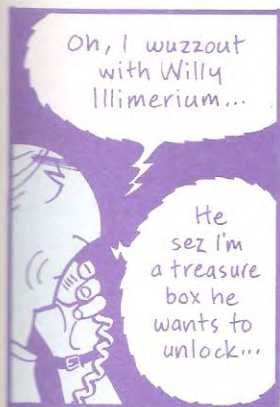
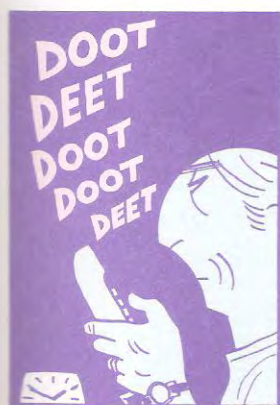
OCCASIONALLY, ASTERIOS ACCOMPANIED HANA TO NEW YORK.



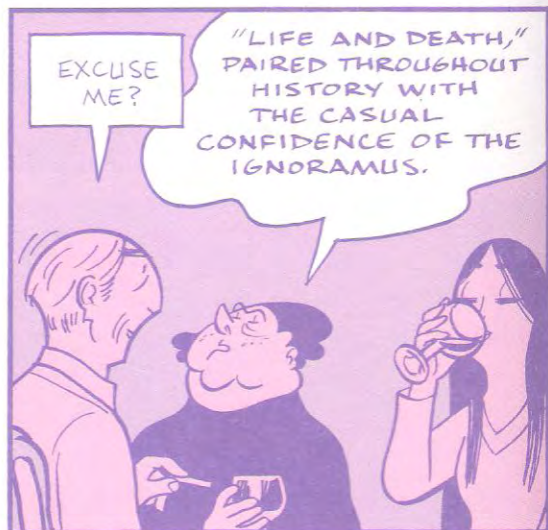
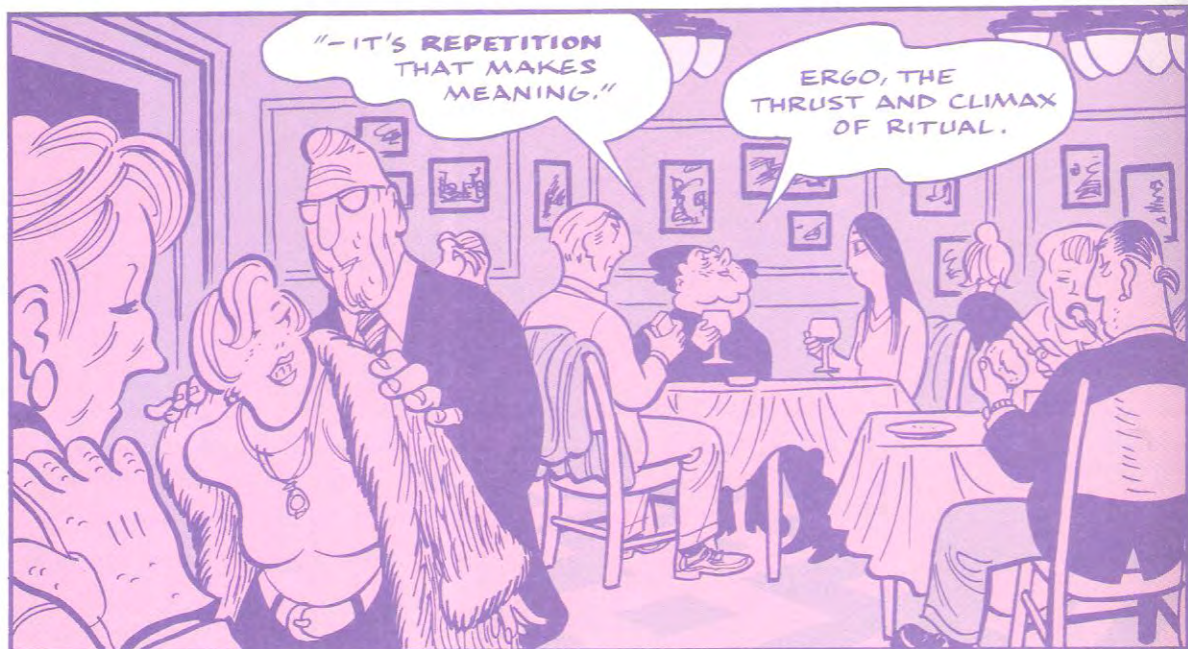


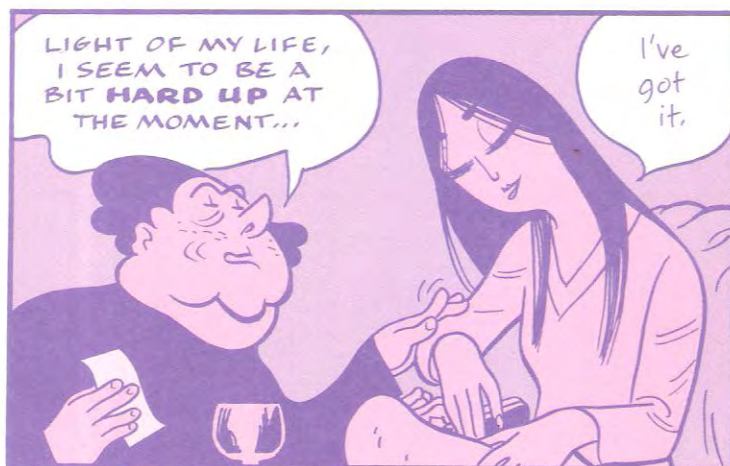
SOON, ALMOST ALL OF HANA'S FREE TIME SEEMED TO BE DEVOTED TO ORPHEUS (UNDERGROUND).



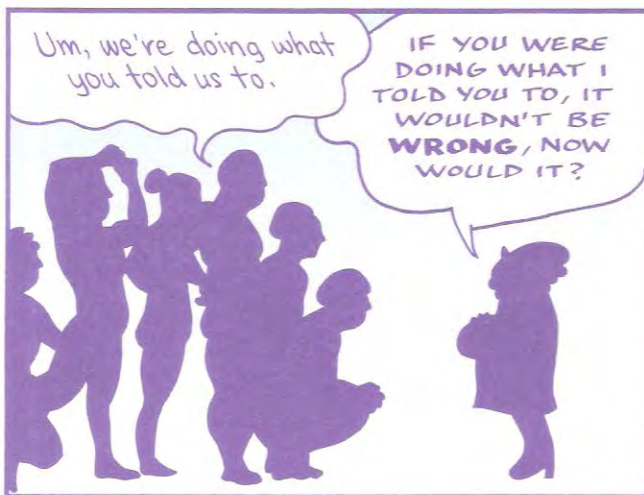


THIS MEANT THAT ASTERIOS WAS TREATED TO THE WILLY CHIMERA EXPERIENCE A LITTLE MORE OFTEN THAN HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED.

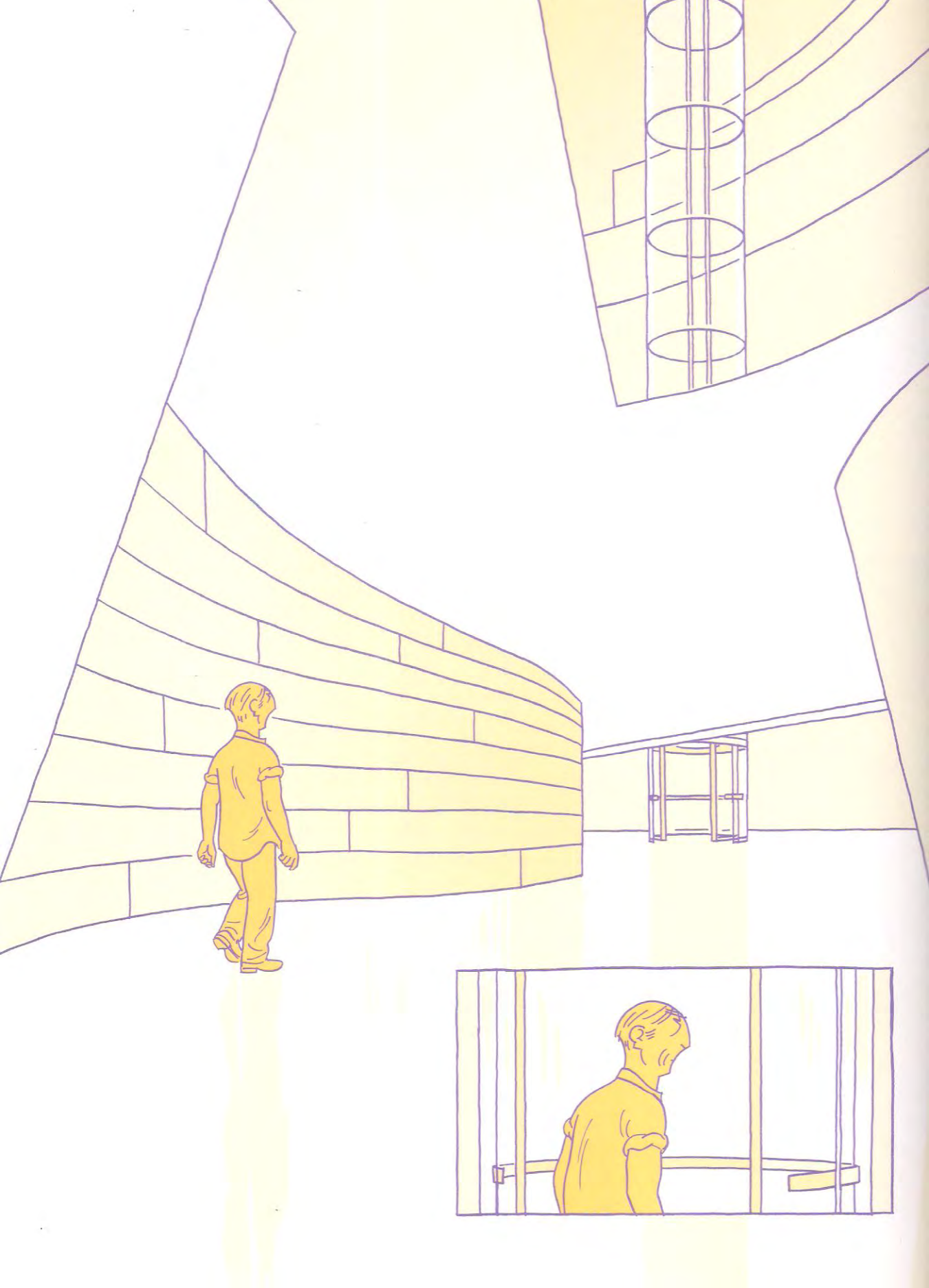


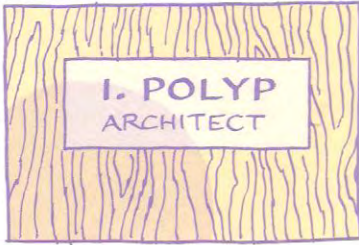
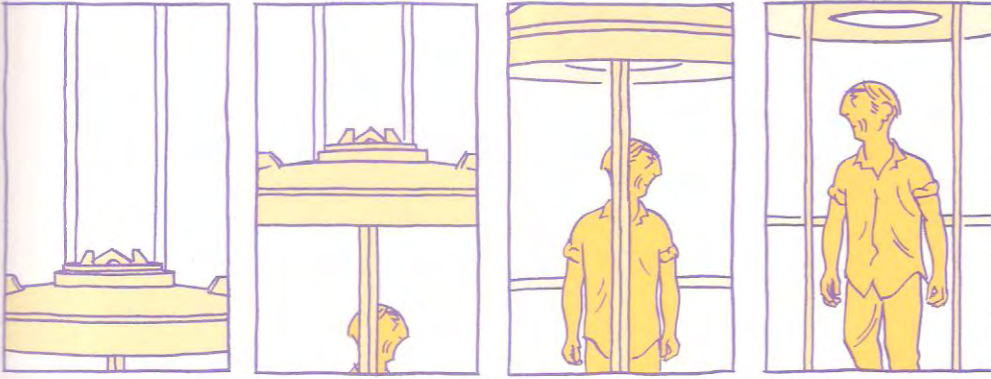


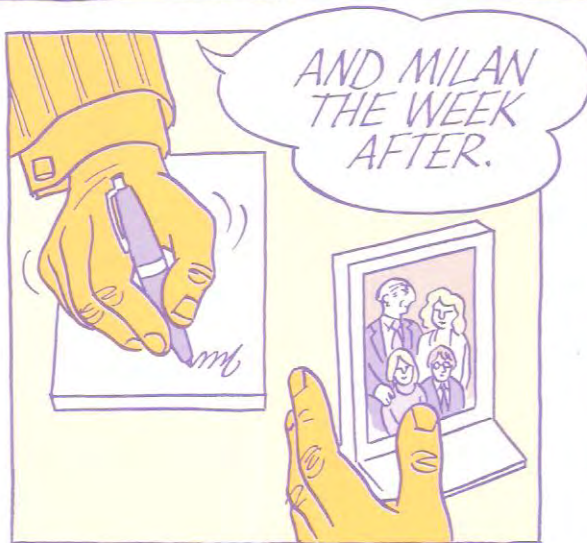












I'M SORRY IT'S TAKEN
SO LONG TO GET TOGETHER,
BUT MY SCHEDULE'S
BEEN CRAZY.



THERE'S THE
MUSEUM IN SPAIN,
AND A DOZEN
OTHER PROJECTS...



...AND THIS MONTH
I'M ACCEPTING THE
PRITZKER PRIZE.

BUT REALLY,
I OWE IT ALL
TO YOU.



TO
ME?

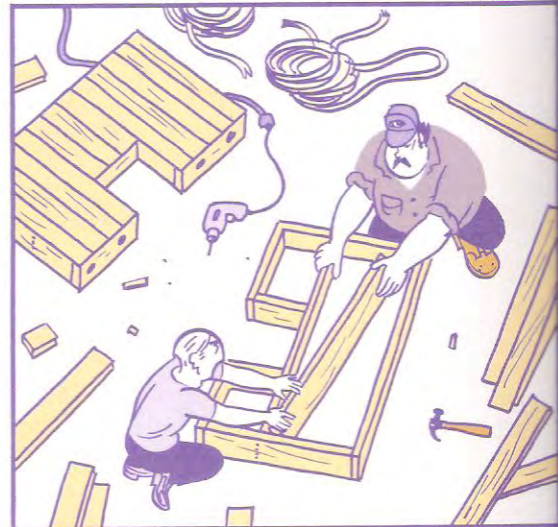
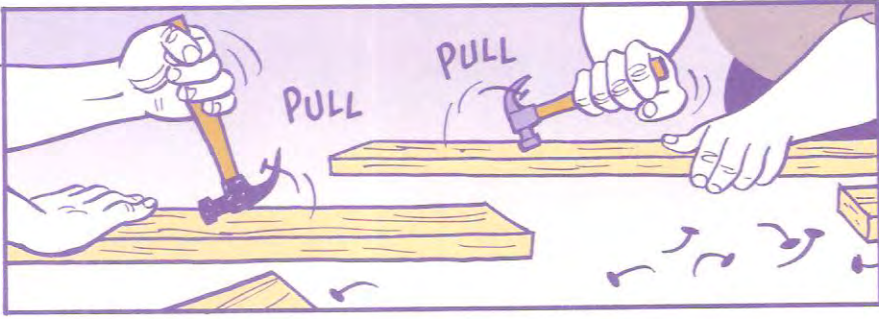
OF COURSE.



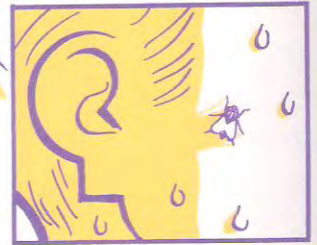
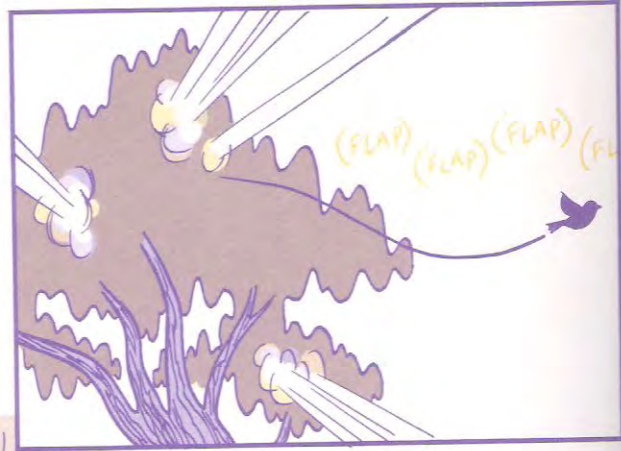
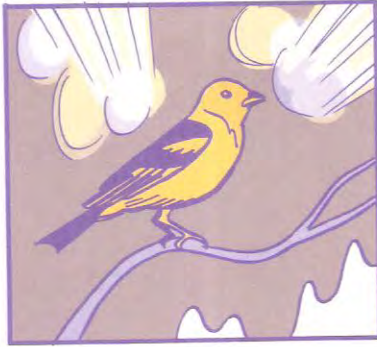
YOU MADE
ME WHAT I AM
TODAY.

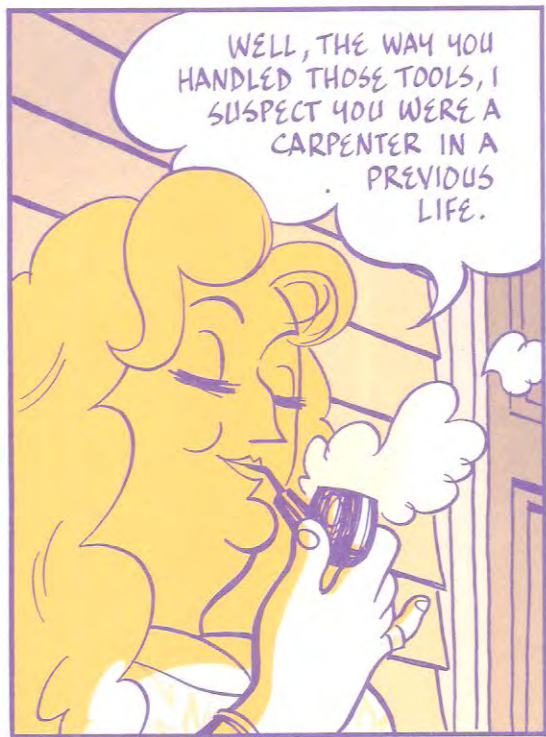












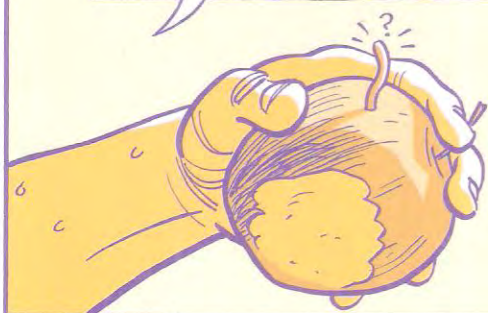
THERE'S A SHINTO SHRINE IN THE TOWN OF ISE THAT'S CONSIDERED THE MOST SACRED SHRINE IN ALL JAPAN.



IT DATES BACK TO THE FOURTH CENTURY, BUT SINCE THE LATE 800s IT'S BEEN CEREMONIALLY RAZED AND REBUILT EVERY TWENTY YEARS, USING TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS.

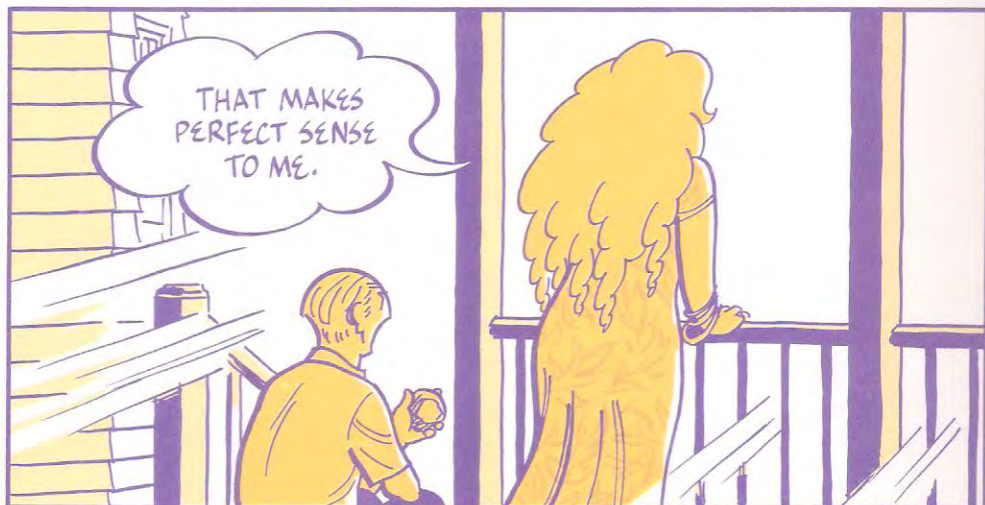


AT ANY GIVEN TIME, NO SINGLE PIECE OF THE STRUCTURE IS OLDER THAN TWO DECADES...



...BUT THE JAPANESE WILL TELL YOU THE SHRINE IS ABOUT TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

THAT MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME.



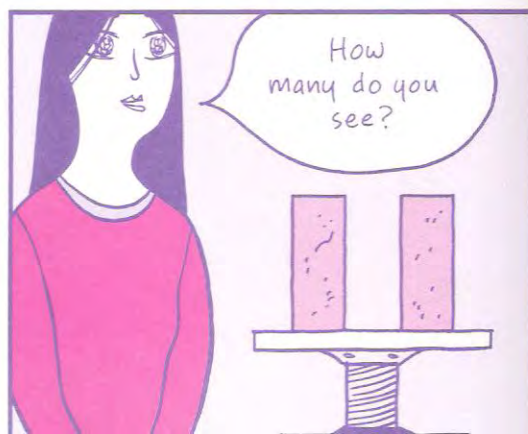
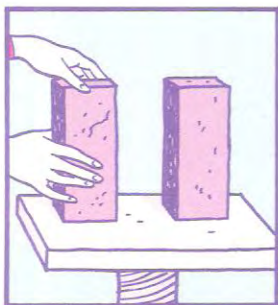
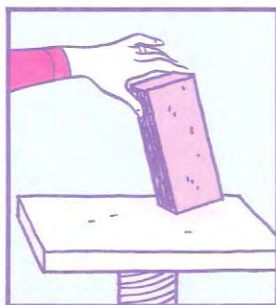


ONE OF THE THINGS ASTERIOS ADMIRRED ABOUT HANA WAS THE WAY SHE ALWAYS LOOKED FOR THE GOOD IN PEOPLE.

IN FACT, HE WAS SOMETIMES CONVINCED SHE SAW GOOD THAT WASN'T THERE.



Everybody,
gather
'round.





PERHAPS HER INCLINATION TO GIVE PEOPLE
THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT
COMPLEMENTED HIS
IMPATIENCE.



...NOW, *WHY* DO WE HAVE
TO SEE WILLY CHIMERA
AGAIN TOMORROW?

He wants me to meet
the composer. You might
find it interesting.

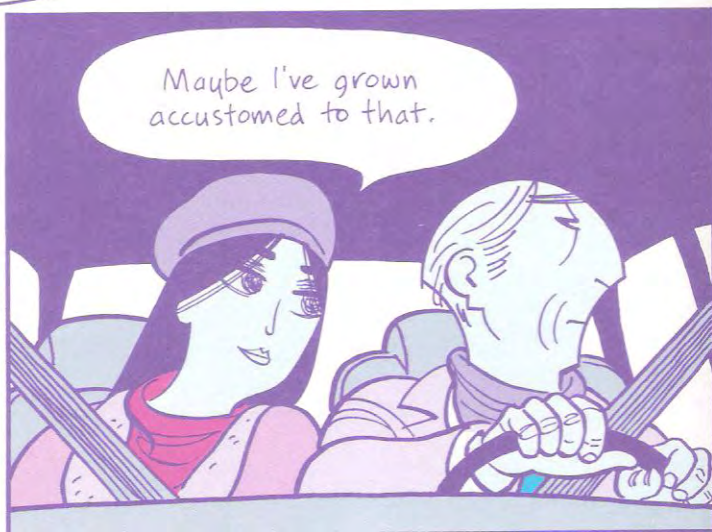


YOU'RE STILL ENJOYING
WORKING WITH HIM?

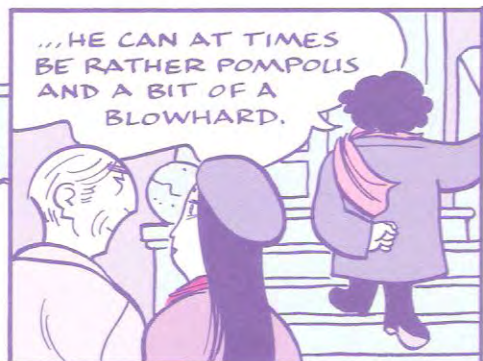
I am.
It's a creative
challenge.



BUT HE'S SO
MIND-NUMBINGLY
FULL OF
HIMSELF,



Maybe I've grown
accustomed to that.



KALVIN KOHOUTEK, ASTERIOS WONDERED BRIEFLY IF
A COMPOSER KNOWN FOR HIS THAT WAS NOT HIS GIVEN NAME.
ECLECTIC AND EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL EXPLORATIONS,
CALLED HIS STYLE OF LIVING
"BOHEGEOIS."



HIS WALLS WERE COVERED WITH TRANSCRIPTIONS OF PASSAGES FROM HIS FAVORITE COMPOSITIONS.



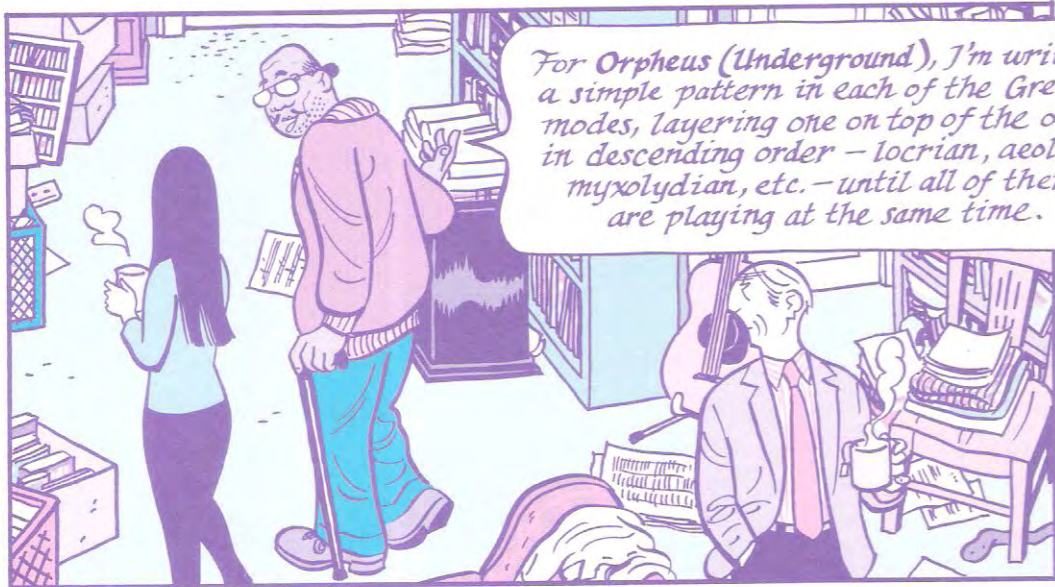
Actually, actually not, really. It's more like each page is a record of time passing in a certain way.



This one, for example, represents about thirteen seconds, while this one is about, about four and a half minutes.



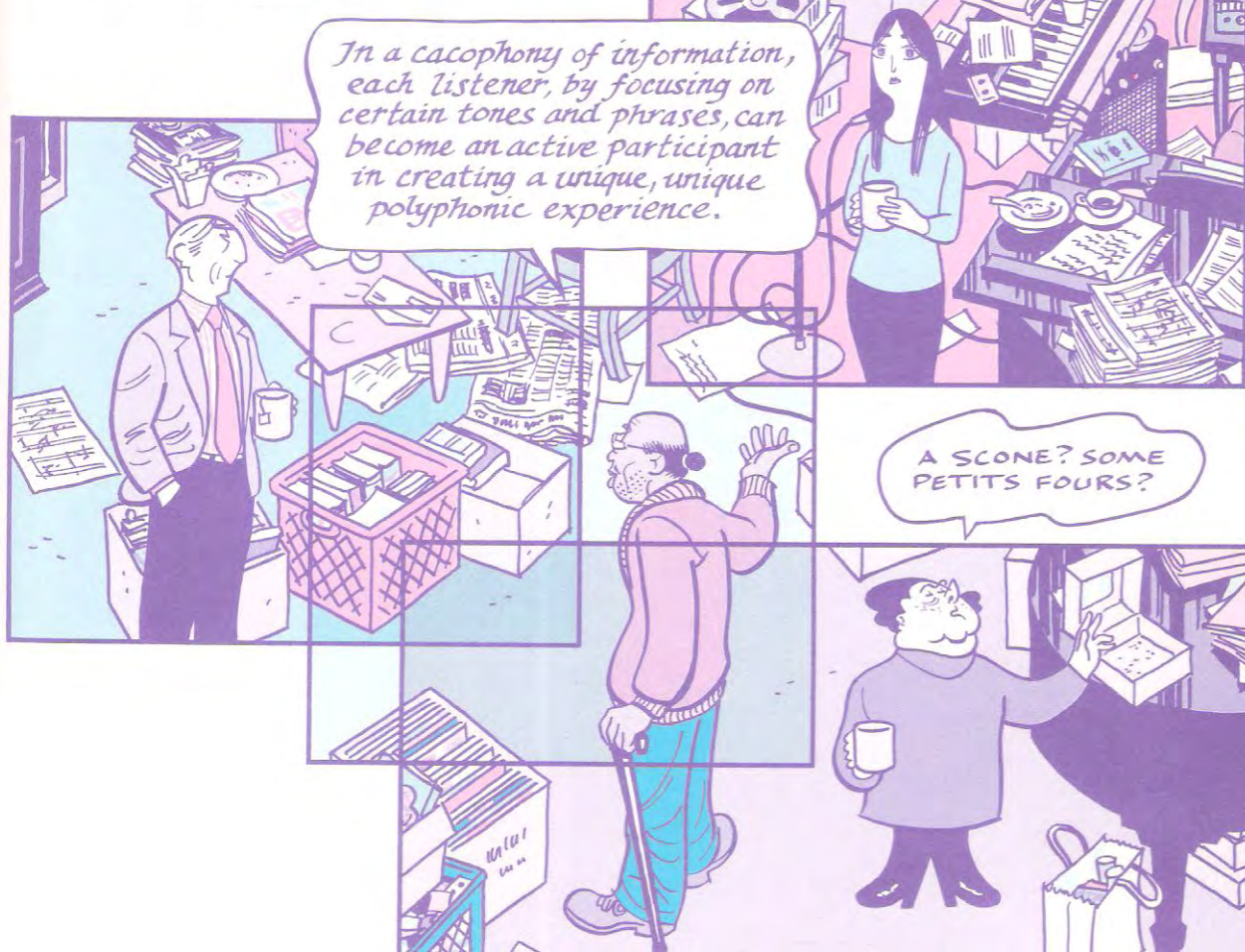
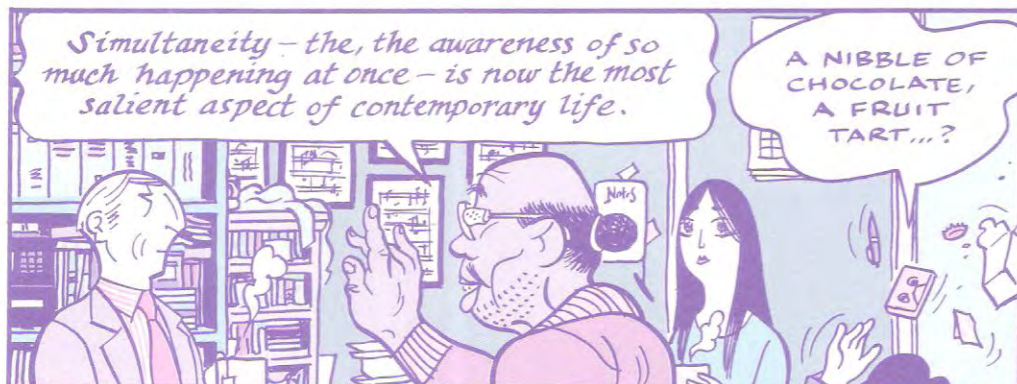
For Orpheus (Underground), I'm writing a simple pattern in each of the Greek modes, layering one on top of the other in descending order - locrian, aeolian, mixolydian, etc. - until all of them are playing at the same time.



SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING ONE OF MY STUDENTS WOULD DREAM UP.

IT WILL BE LIKE PYTHAGORAS' MUSIC OF THE SPHERES!





THAT'S TAKING
DEMOCRACY A
LITTLE TOO
FAR, DON'T
YOU THINK?

AREN'T YOU ABDICATING
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
AS A COMPOSER?

MY SWEET,
YOU DON'T SEE
ANY BISCUITS
LYING ABOUT,
DO YOU?

*No, no, not at all. I'm
setting the conditions for
a sonic expedition.*

THIS
INFUSION IS
MOST THIRST-
QUENCHING,
BUT...

*It's like the, the
discontinuity of
quantum effects:
something only
occurs if you pay
attention to it.*

... COULDN'T YOU
GO FOR SOMETHING
FIRM IN YOUR
MOUTH RIGHT
NOW?

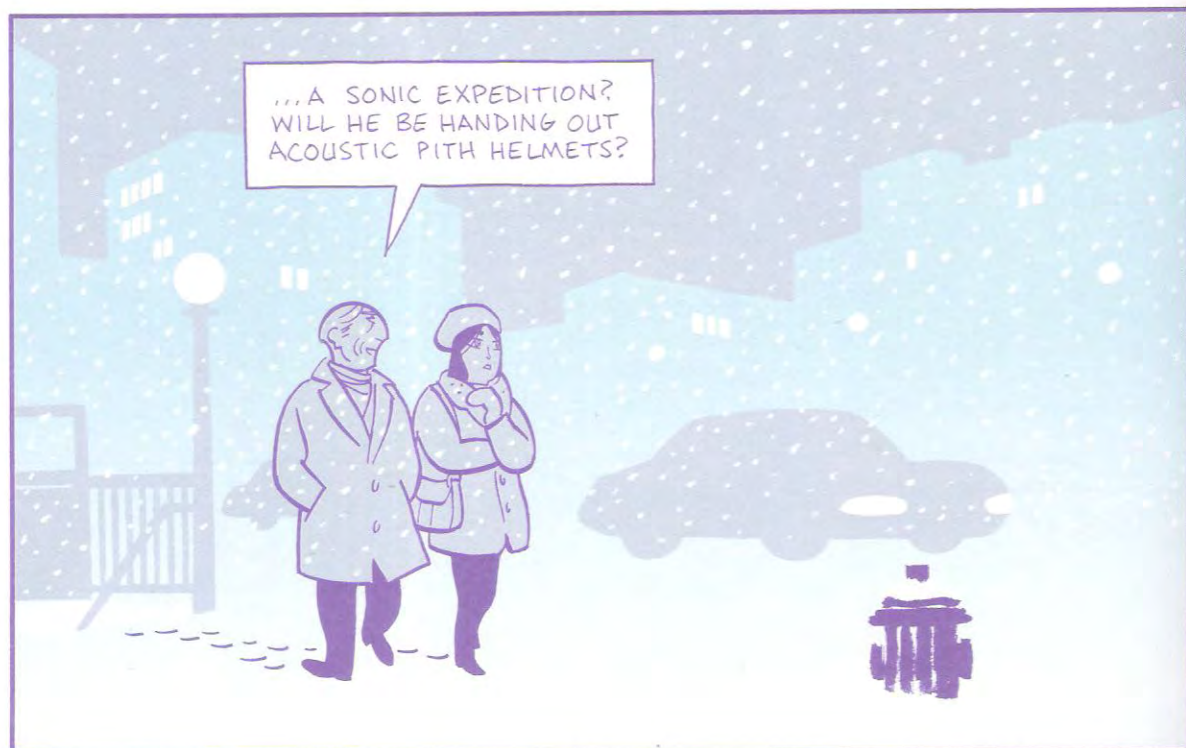
SOME THINGS, ALAS,
ARE PROBABLY
BETTER LEFT
UNNOTICED.

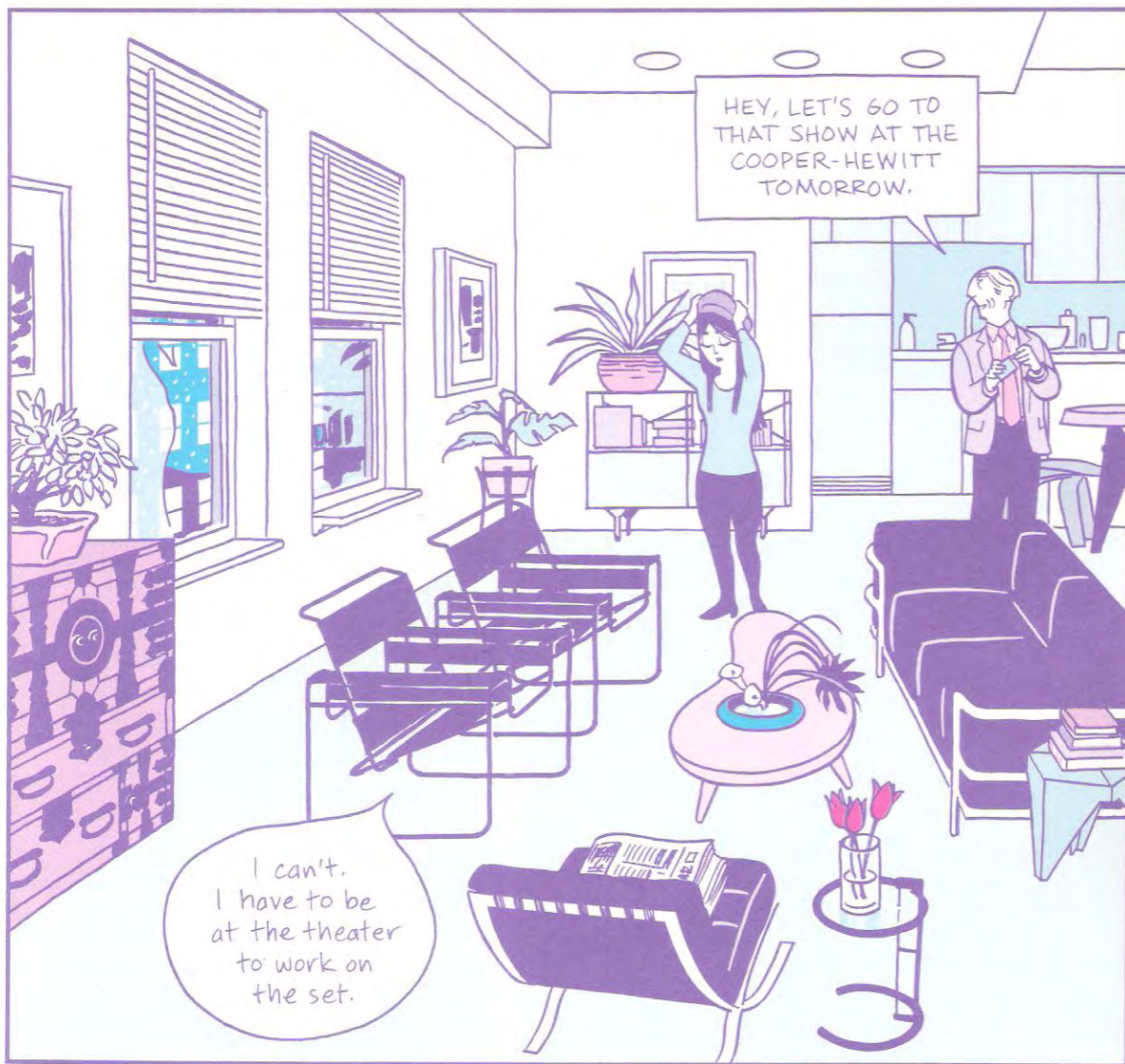
WHOOPSIE

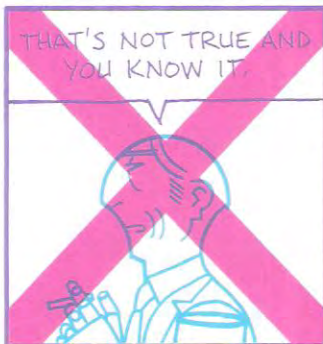


ASTERIOS CAN'T RECALL IF
HANA HAD ANYTHING TO
SAY ON THE WAY HOME.

HE WAS TOO BUSY THINKING
UP NEW REJOINDERS TO
KOHOUTEK'S COMMENTS.







You act like you already know everything about everyone,

Did you even notice his cane? Do you have any idea how Calvin got that broken hip?

I DON'T KNOW... WALKING...

...THROUGH HIS APARTMENT?

Trying to march in Selma in 1965!

OKAY, I GET THE POINT.

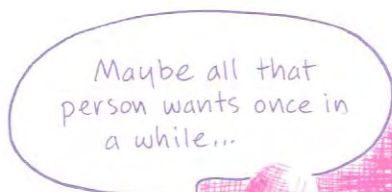
There's a difference between confidence and arrogance, you know.

Not everybody feels the need to show off what he knows all the time.

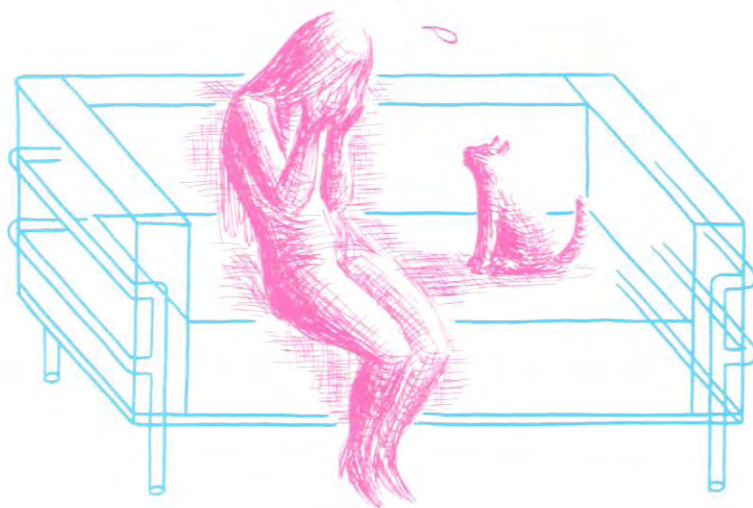
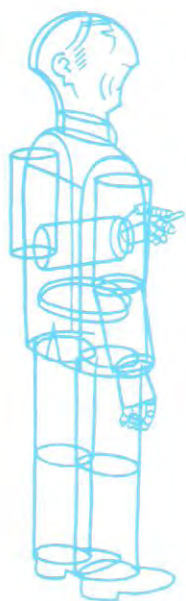
A person might have strengths or talents that aren't obvious right away — especially if he's being drowned out by someone barreling over him.

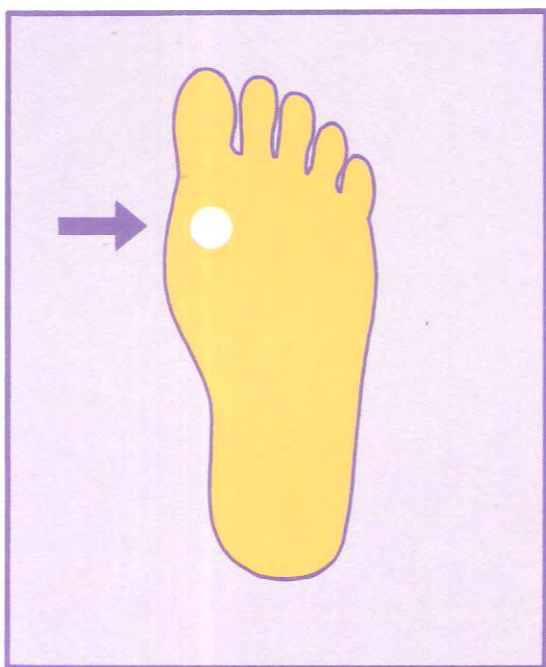
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE GETTING SO ANGRY.

AND BY THE WAY, THAT'S A MIXED METAPHOR.



Why
do you
always let him
talk to me
like
that?





I HAVE A
BLISTER ON
MY FOOT.

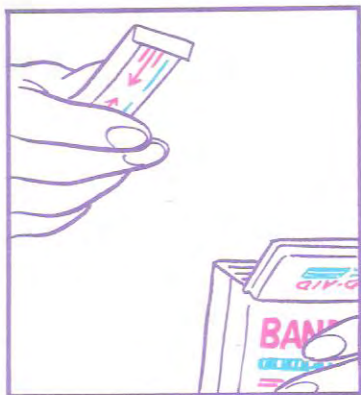


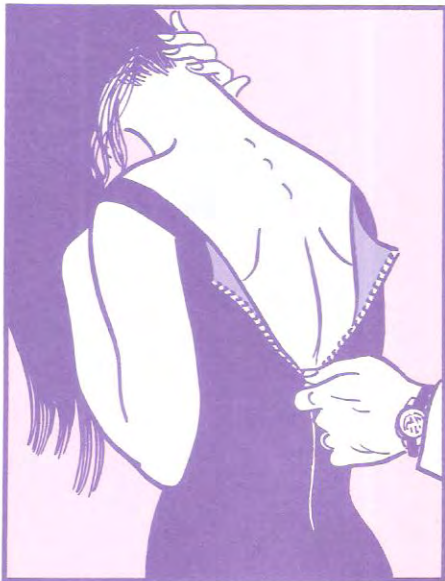
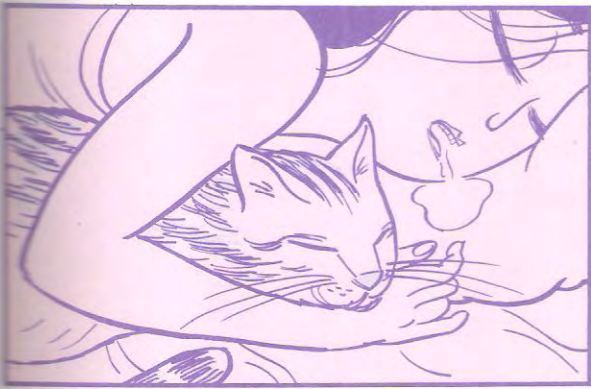


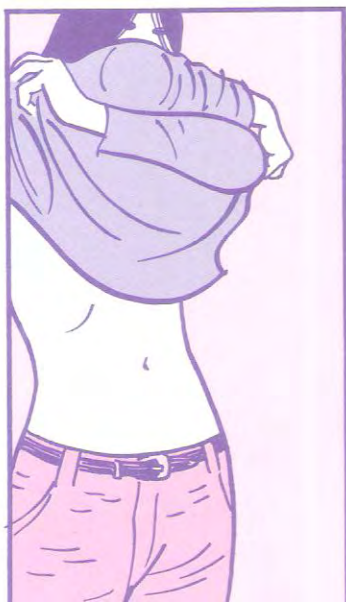
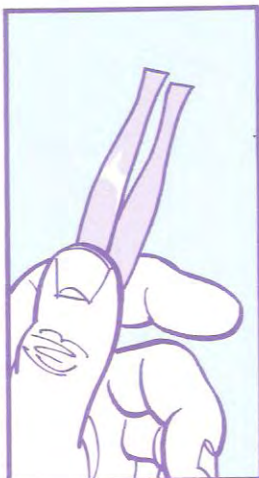
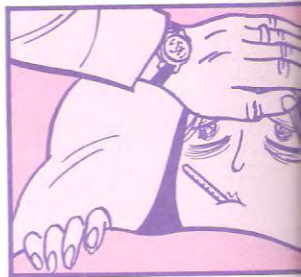
I HAVE A
BLISTER ON
MY FOOT.

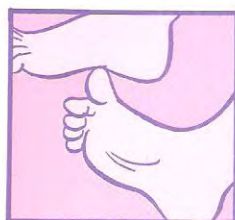
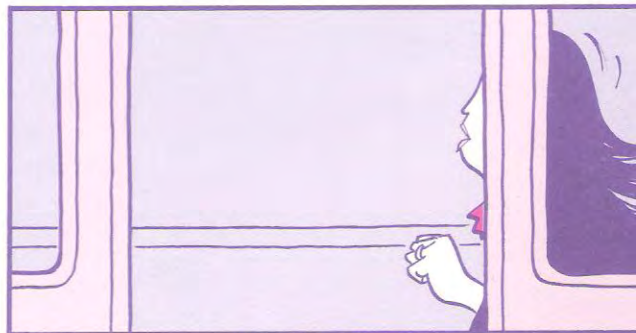
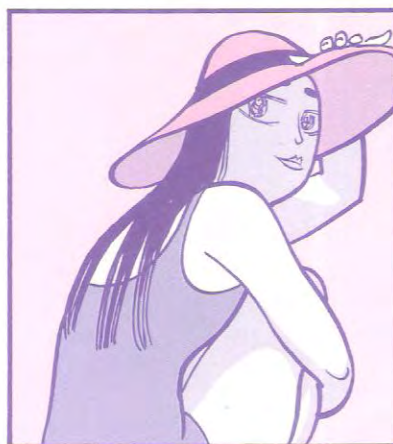


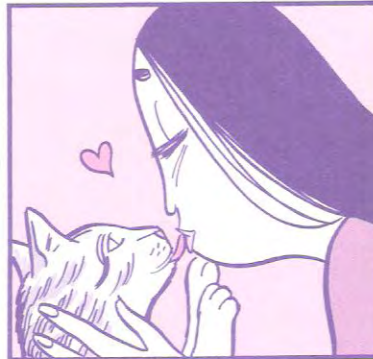


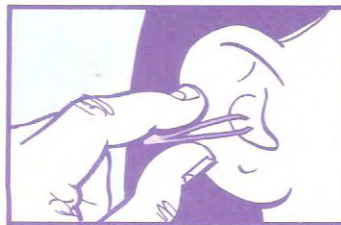
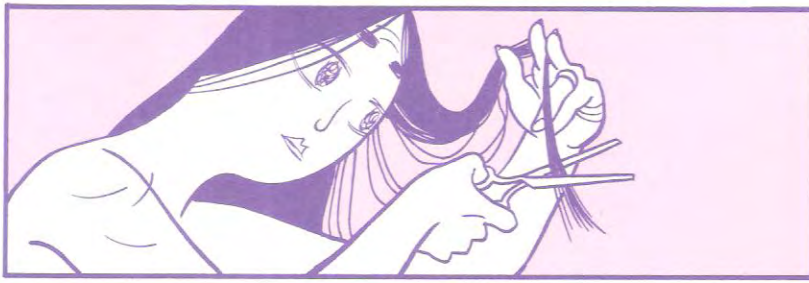
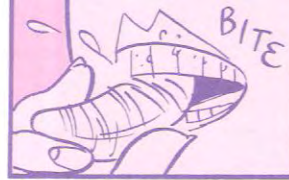


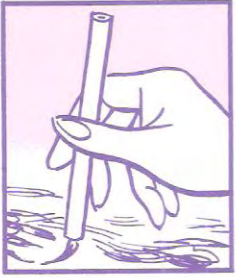




















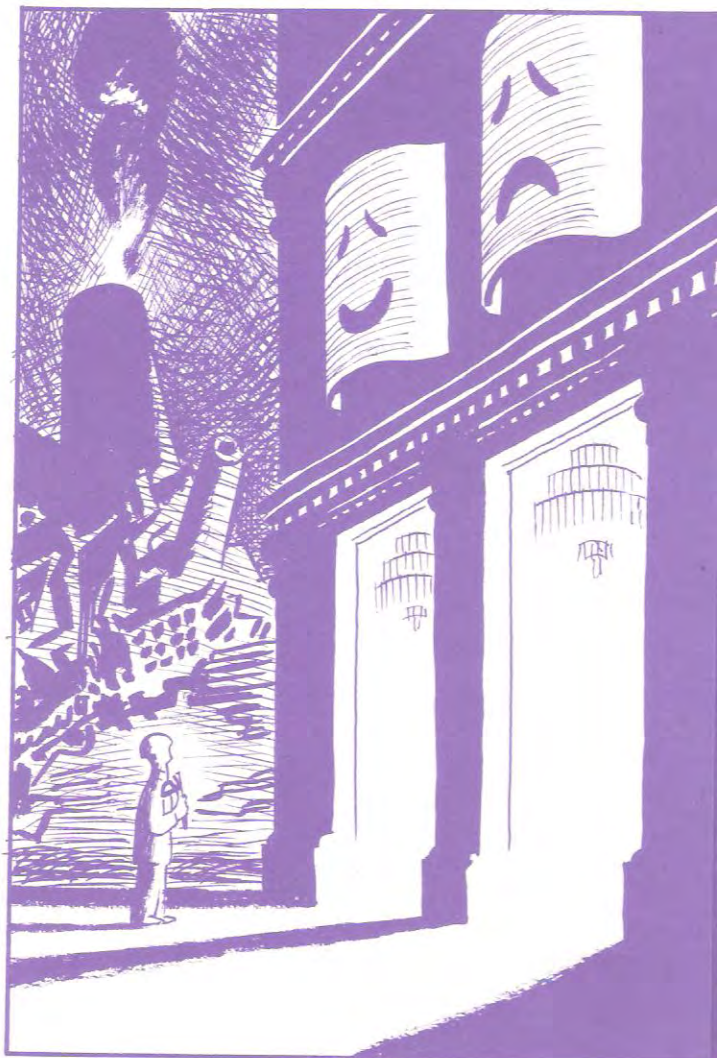


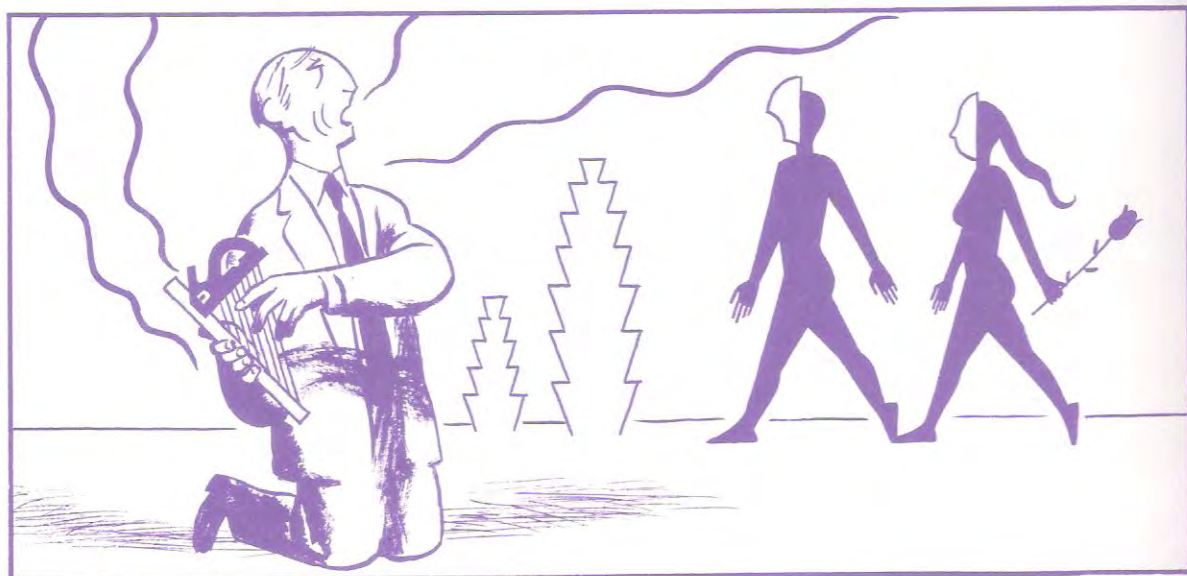




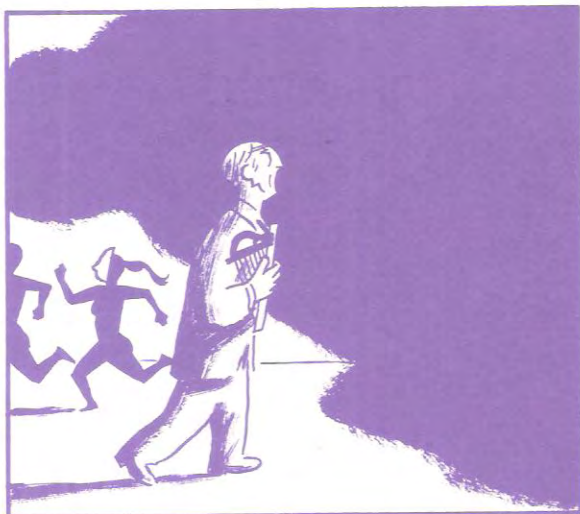
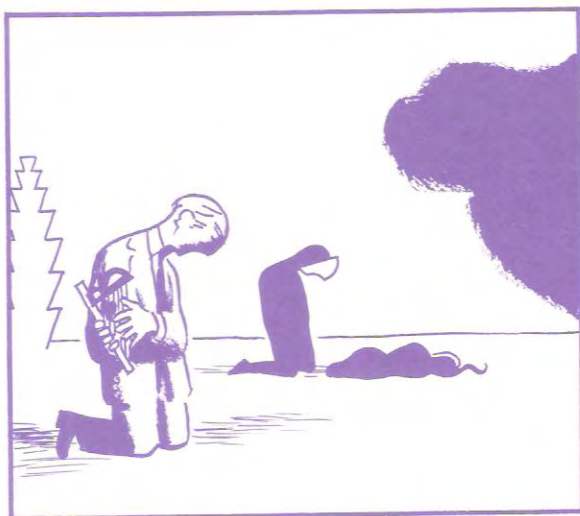


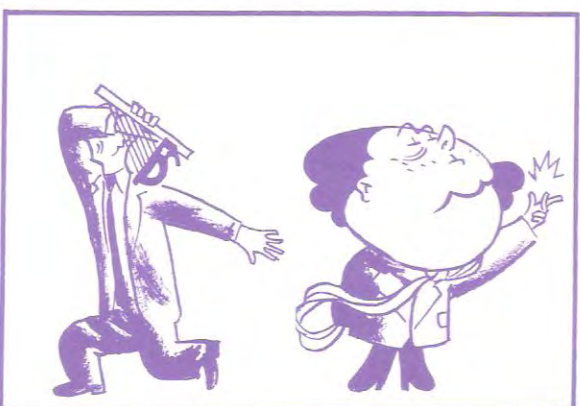
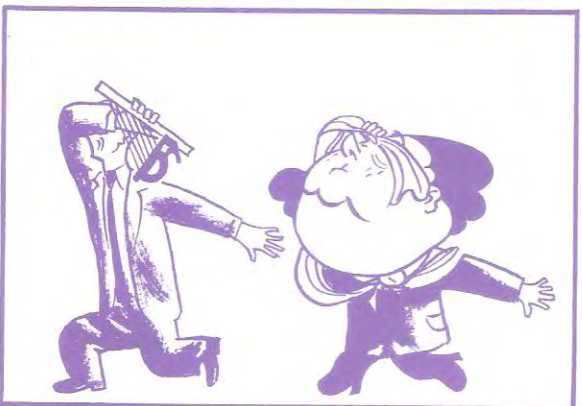
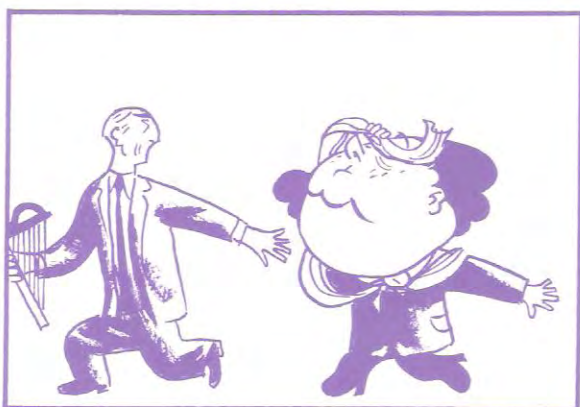
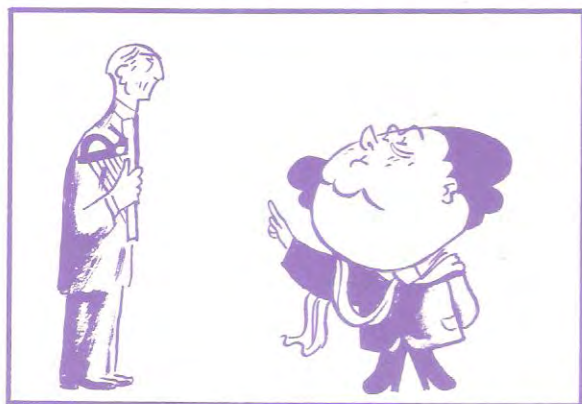


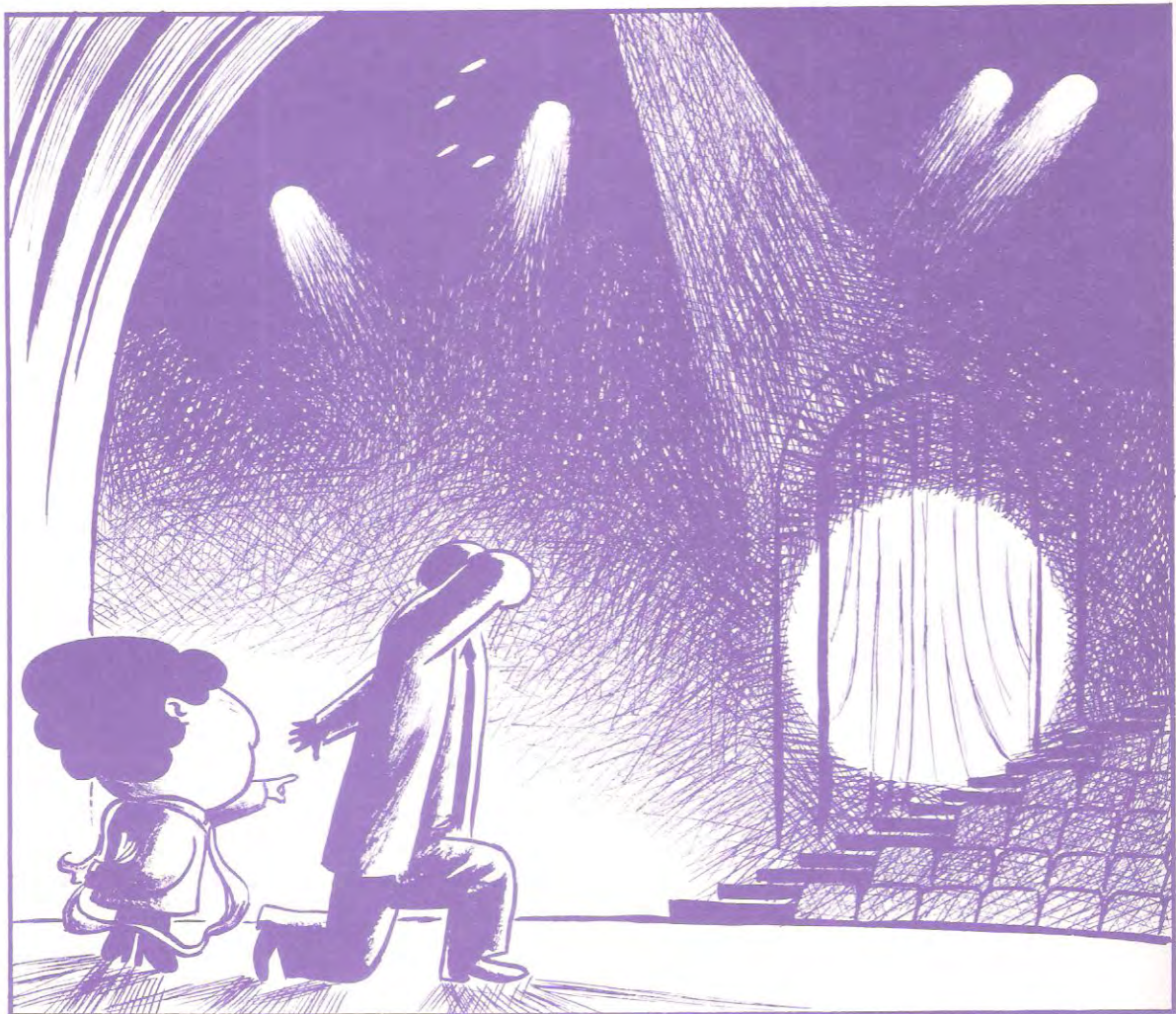










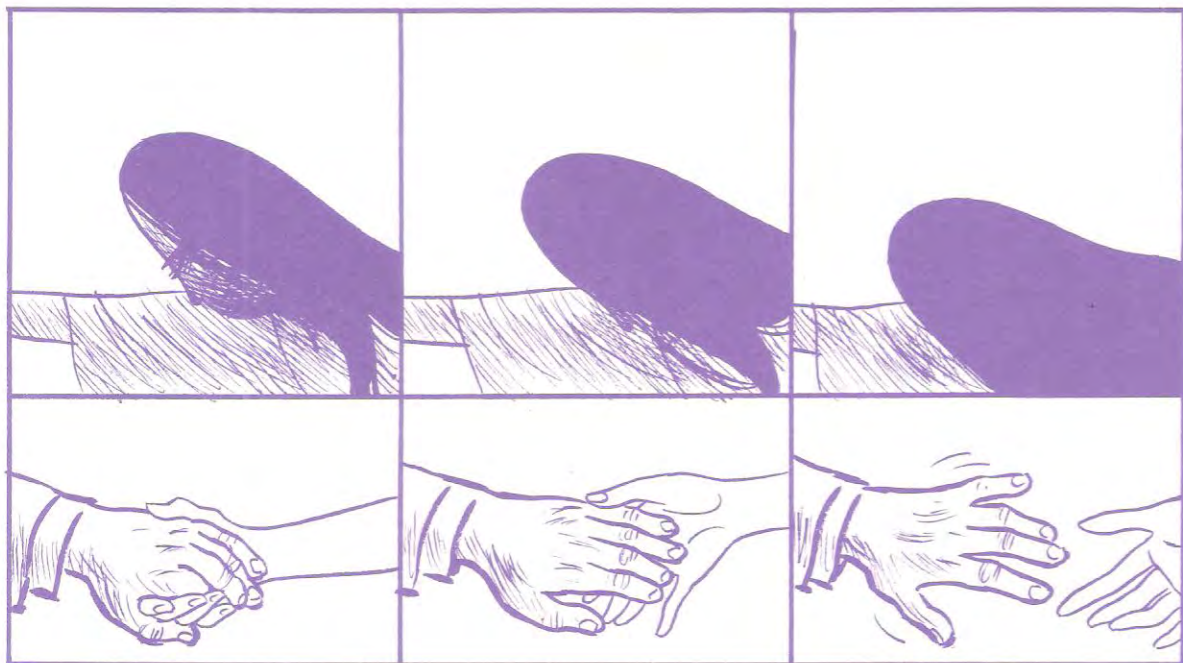


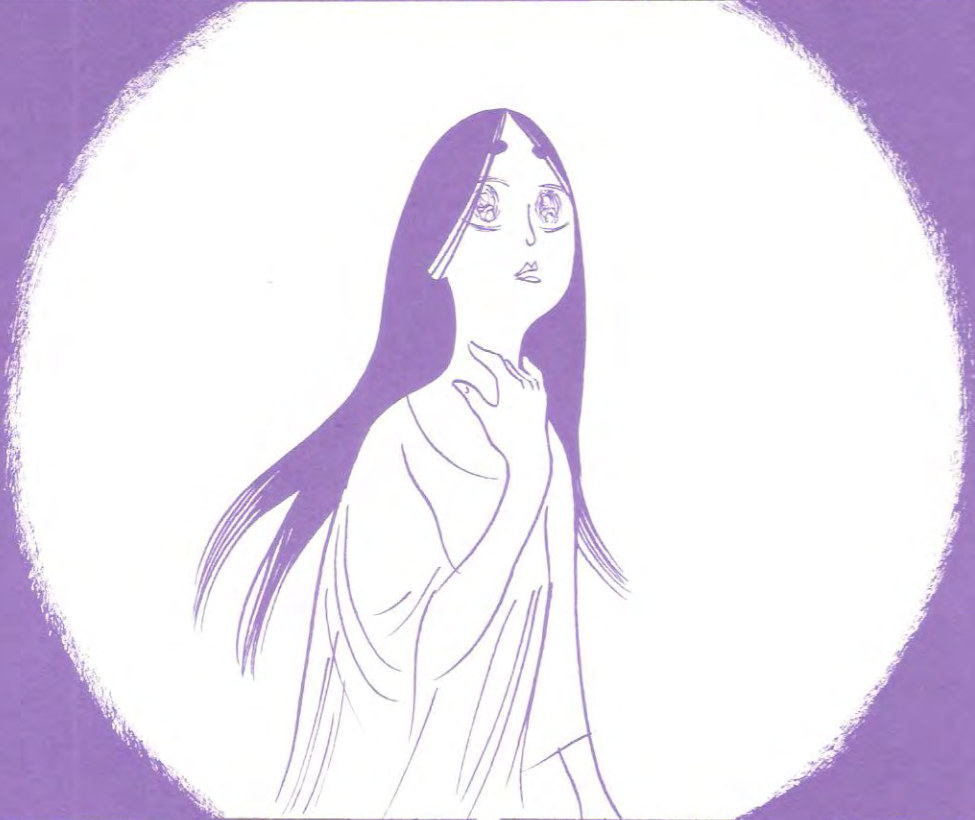
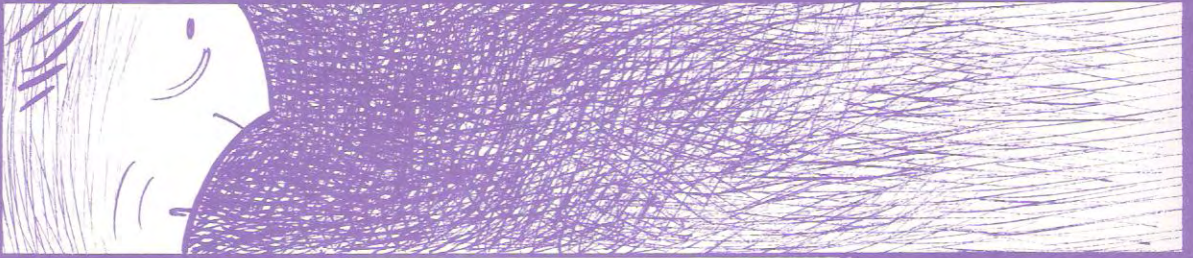


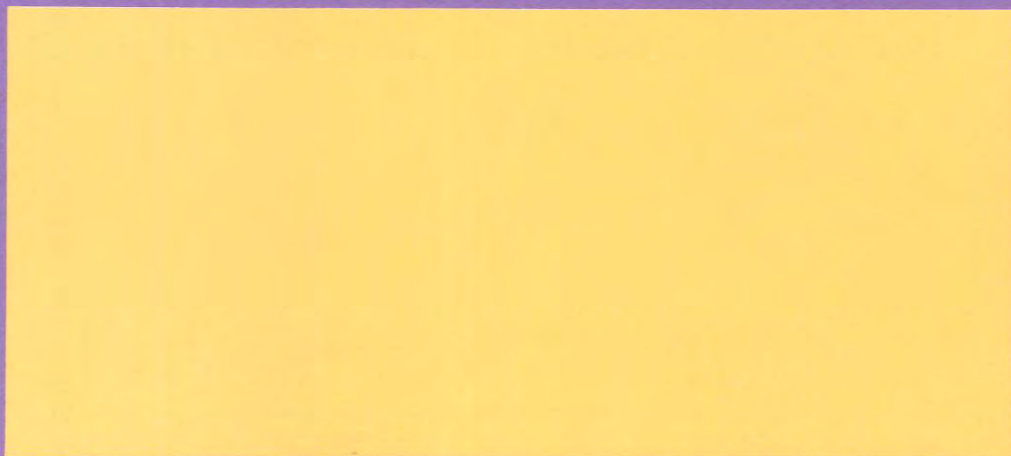












ONE-EYED JACK'S

LIVE MUSIC



TONIGHT

11:00

Celtic Shelter

10:00

OTHMAR'S EGGHELLS

9:00

~~THE RUDNICKS~~ The
RUDNICKS

Don't di-rect me to the lost 'n' found,

I'm not lookin' for holy ground,

Hey,
Stiff.

Hey, Mañana.

GERRY...

...WHO ARE THE
VAMPIRE SISTERS?

Got a square peg, but the hole is round, an' I see-ee-e-e-e-e-e-e-e-e

DUDE, THAT'S
CELTIC SKELTER.

THEY'RE
THE
BOMB.



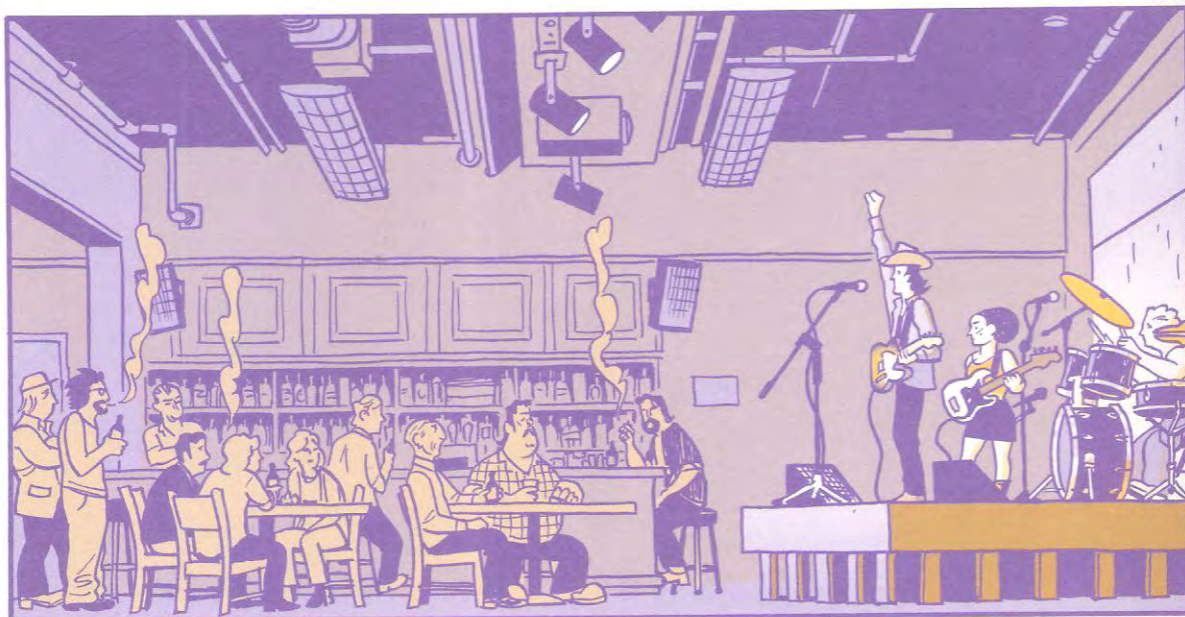
EVERYONE'S GONNA SHOW
UP LATER FOR THEM, SO
GRAB A TABLE WHILE YOU
STILL CAN.

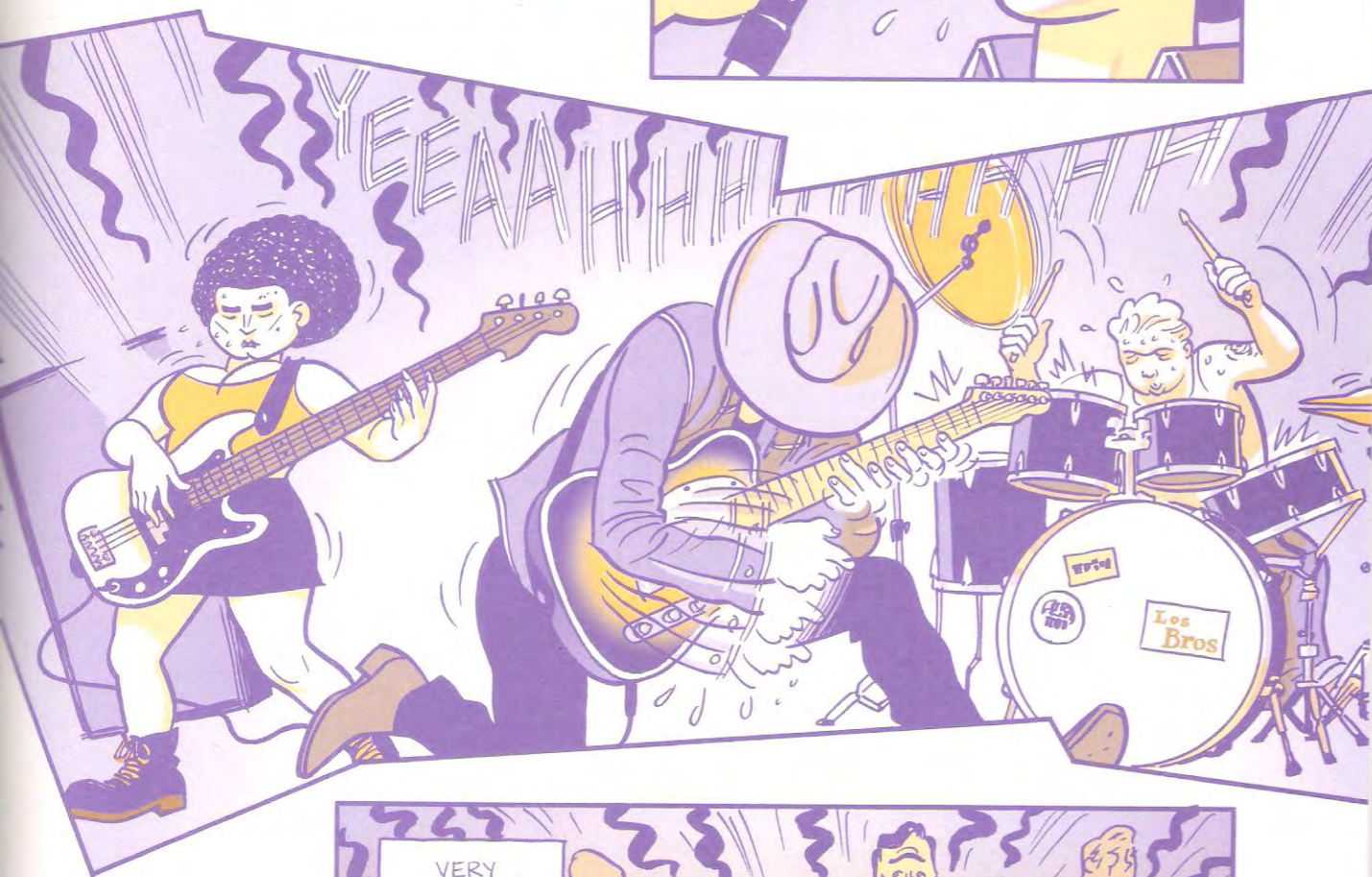
WE GOTTA SET UP.

Oh, yeah - Ursula said break
a string.

I BET SHE DID.

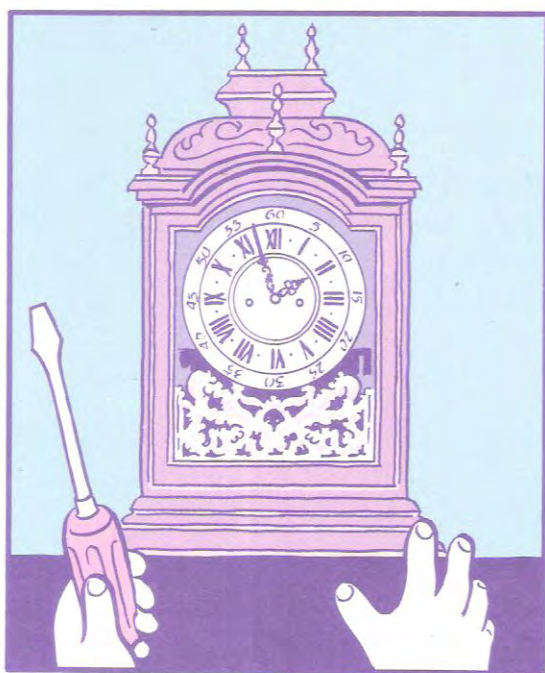
It's too late for me.

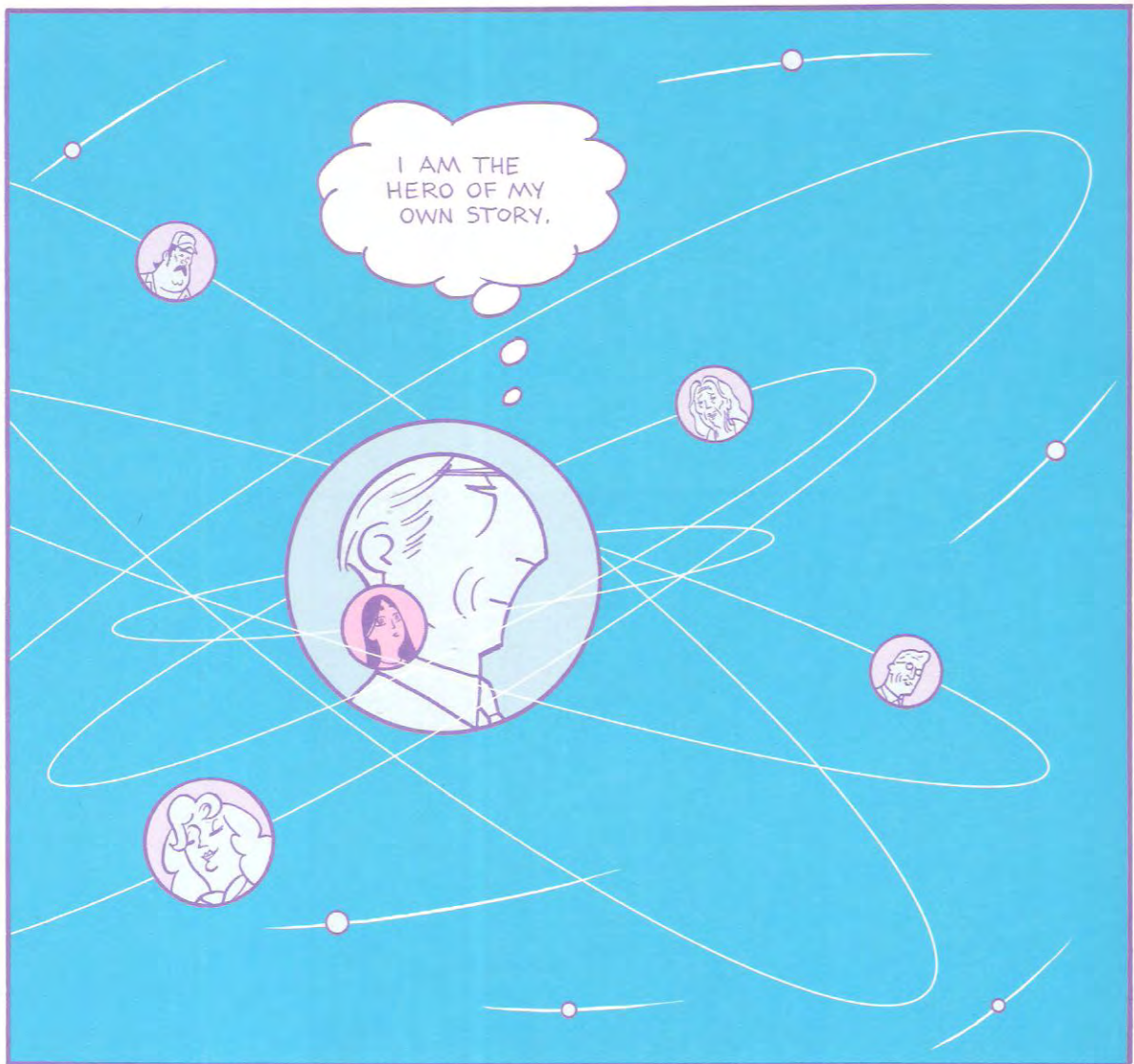








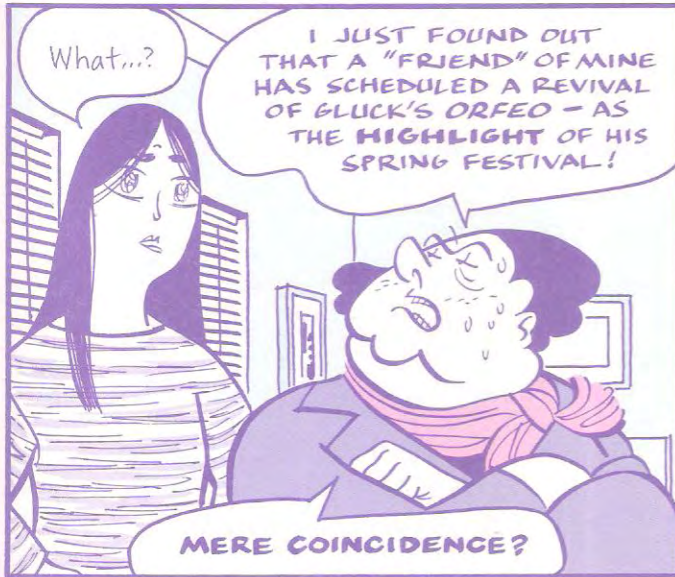




ASTERIOS

THOUGHT HE UNDERSTOOD WHY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN A SOLITARY, OMNISCIENT GOD.





IF THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE IS SPENDING ALL HIS TIME WATCHING YOU, IT MUST SURELY BE BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU.

BUT MY BROTHER ALWAYS
PREFERRED THE GODS
OF OUR ANCESTORS.

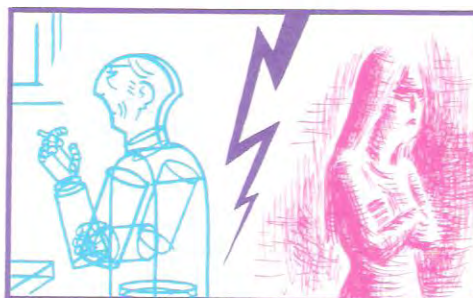


BY GIVING THEM HUMAN PERSONALITIES, THE ANCIENT
GREEKS COULD FEEL THAT THE WORLD MADE SENSE...

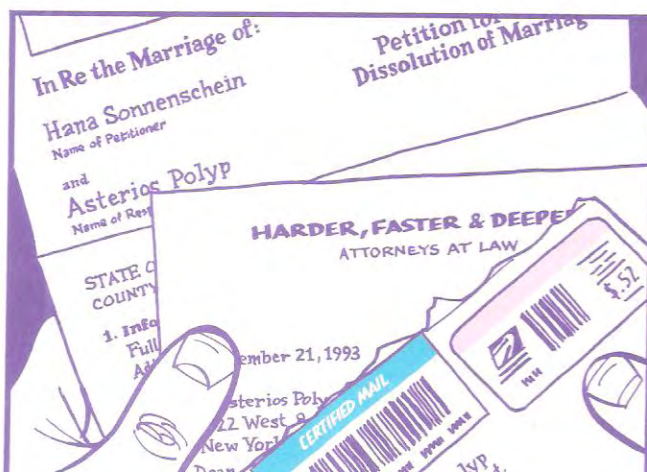




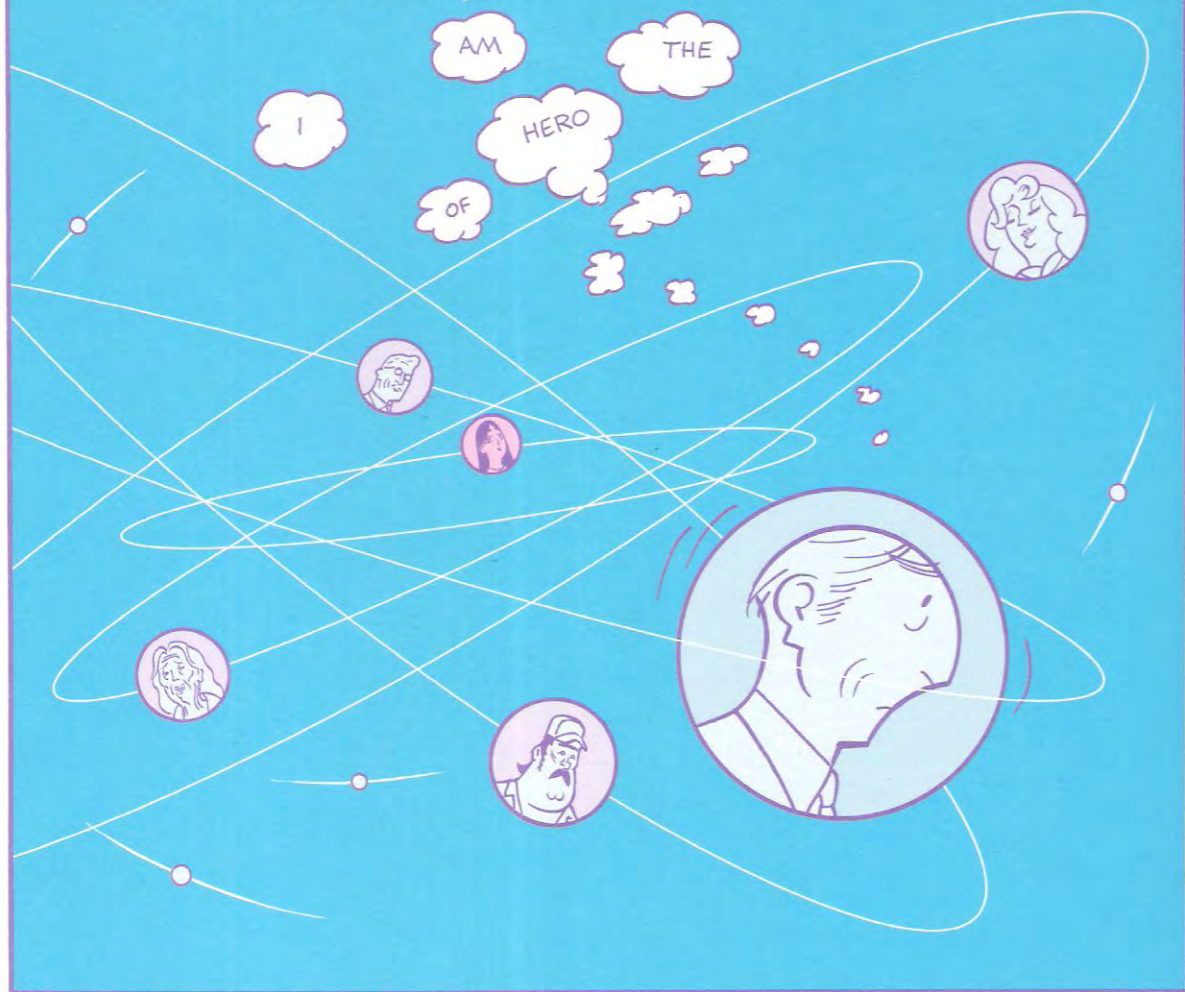
...BECAUSE ONLY THE WHIMS OF A BUNCH OF PETTY, BICKERING DEITIES COULD EXPLAIN THE RANDOM EVENTS OF JOY AND TRAGEDY THAT BEFALL HUMAN BEINGS.



BESIDES, IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TO BLAME.



WITH SUCH POWERFUL, CAPRICIOUS
FORCES AT WORK,



THE PRESSURE'S OFF, AND EVERYONE CAN BE A
SUPPORTING CHARACTER IN THE LARGER STORY-



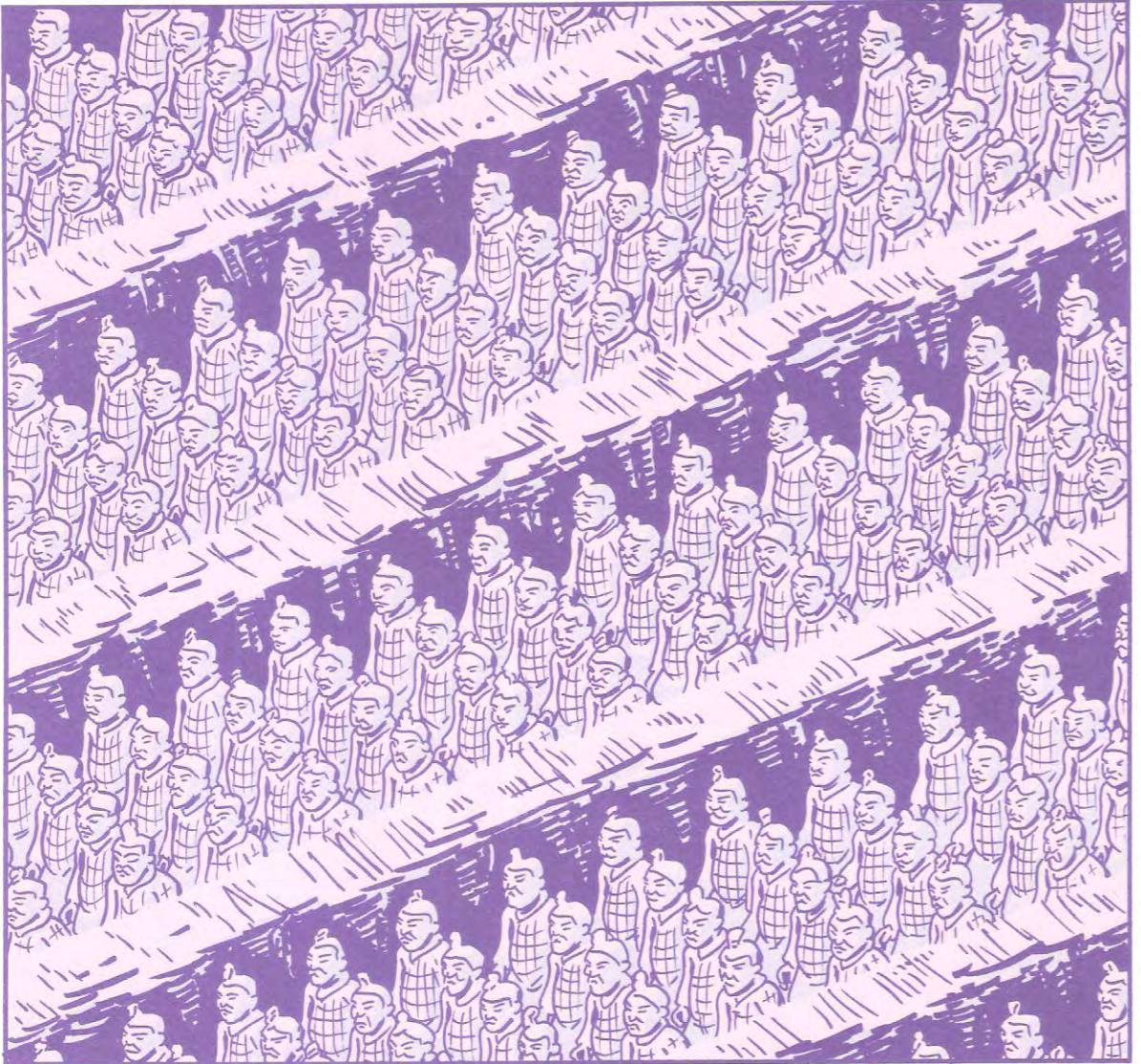


-HOWEVER BRIEF OR COLLATERAL
THAT ROLE MAY BE.



THE FIRST EMPEROR OF CHINA, QIN SHI HUANG, PREPARED FOR ETERNITY BY ORDERING THAT A REPLICA OF HIS VAST ARMY BE BURIED WITH HIM WHEN HE DIED.

THIS WAS CERTAINLY AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE LOCAL RULERS' TRADITION OF INTERRING AN ENTIRE RETINUE ALIVE.



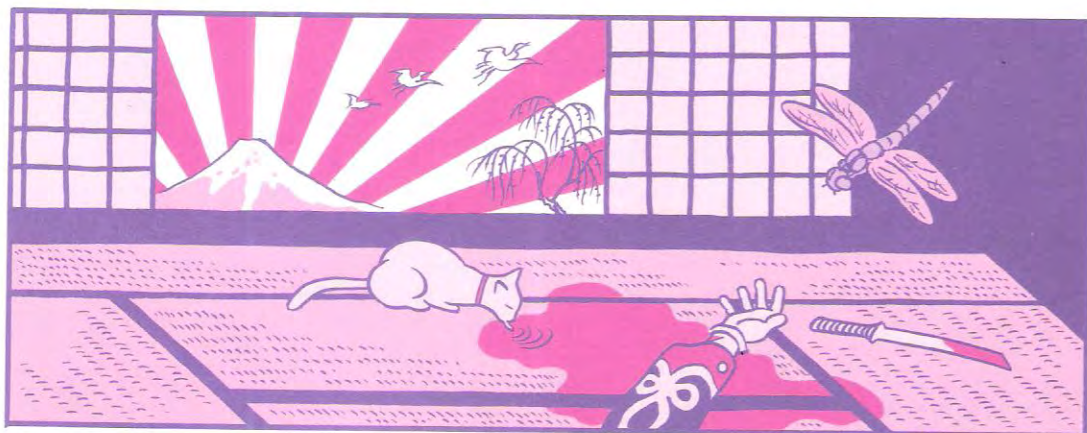
SEVEN THOUSAND TERRA-COTTA SOLDIERS STOOD WATCH IN HIS TOMB, UNDISTURBED, FOR TWO MILLENNIA.

THE EMPEROR, BORN IN 259 B.C., EXPIRED IN 210 B.C., BEFORE HE COULD CELEBRATE HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY.

FROM THE VANTAGE OF
TWO THOUSAND YEARS, THE
SPAN BETWEEN 259 B.C. AND
210 B.C. MAY SEEM NEGLIGIBLE
TO SOMEONE LIVING TODAY,



BUT (ASTERIOS COULD TELL YOU BETTER THAN I) EACH OF THOSE
EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DAYS MUST HAVE BEEN AS
PRECIOUS AND UNPREDICTABLE AS THIS ONE.



AFTER ALL, WHO KNOWS WHICH DAY WILL BE HIS LAST?



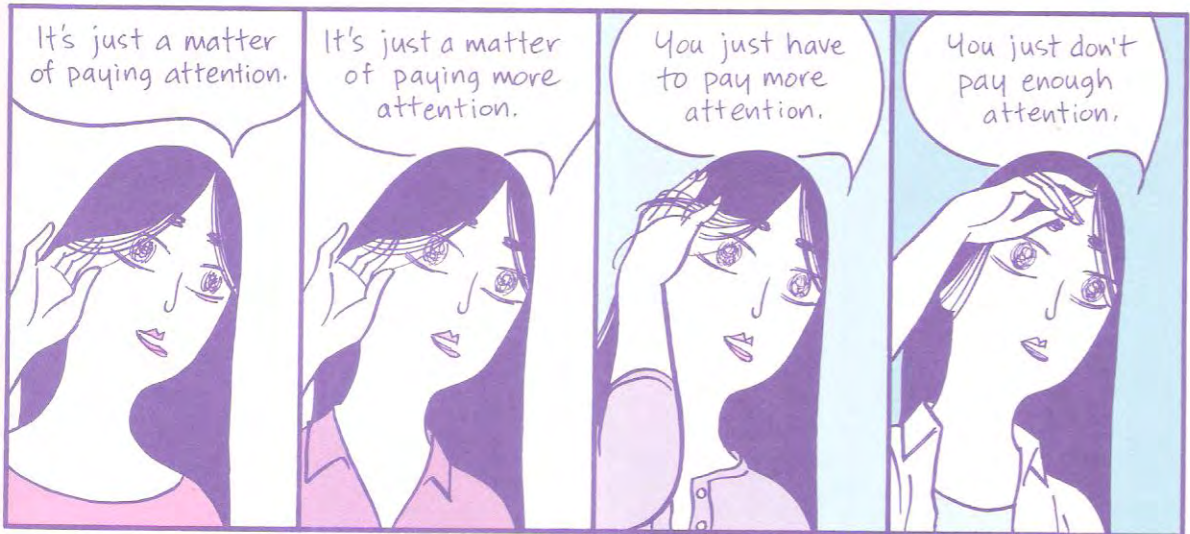
*TO LIVE
(AS I UNDERSTAND IT)
IS TO EXIST
WITHIN A
CONCEPTION OF
TIME.*

*BUT TO REMEMBER
IS TO VACATE THE
VERY NOTION OF
TIME.*

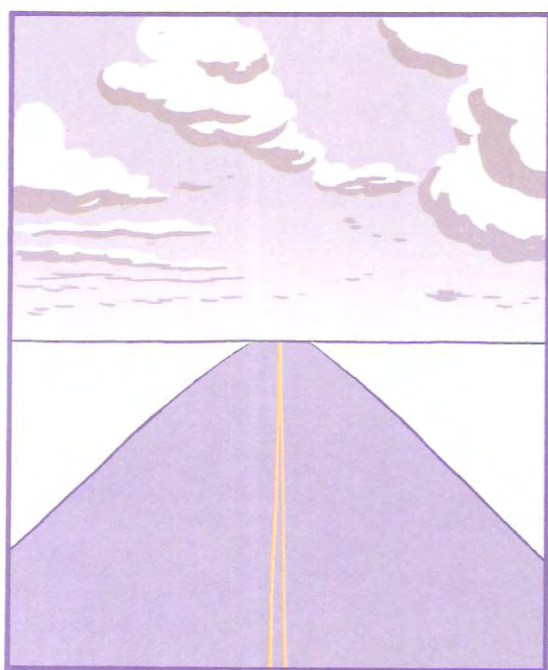
EVERY MEMORY, NO MATTER HOW REMOTE ITS SUBJECT, TAKES PLACE "NOW," AT THE MOMENT IT'S CALLED UP IN THE MIND.

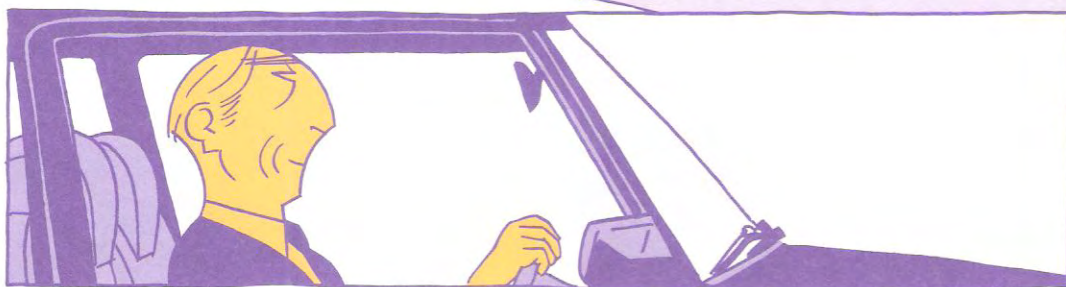
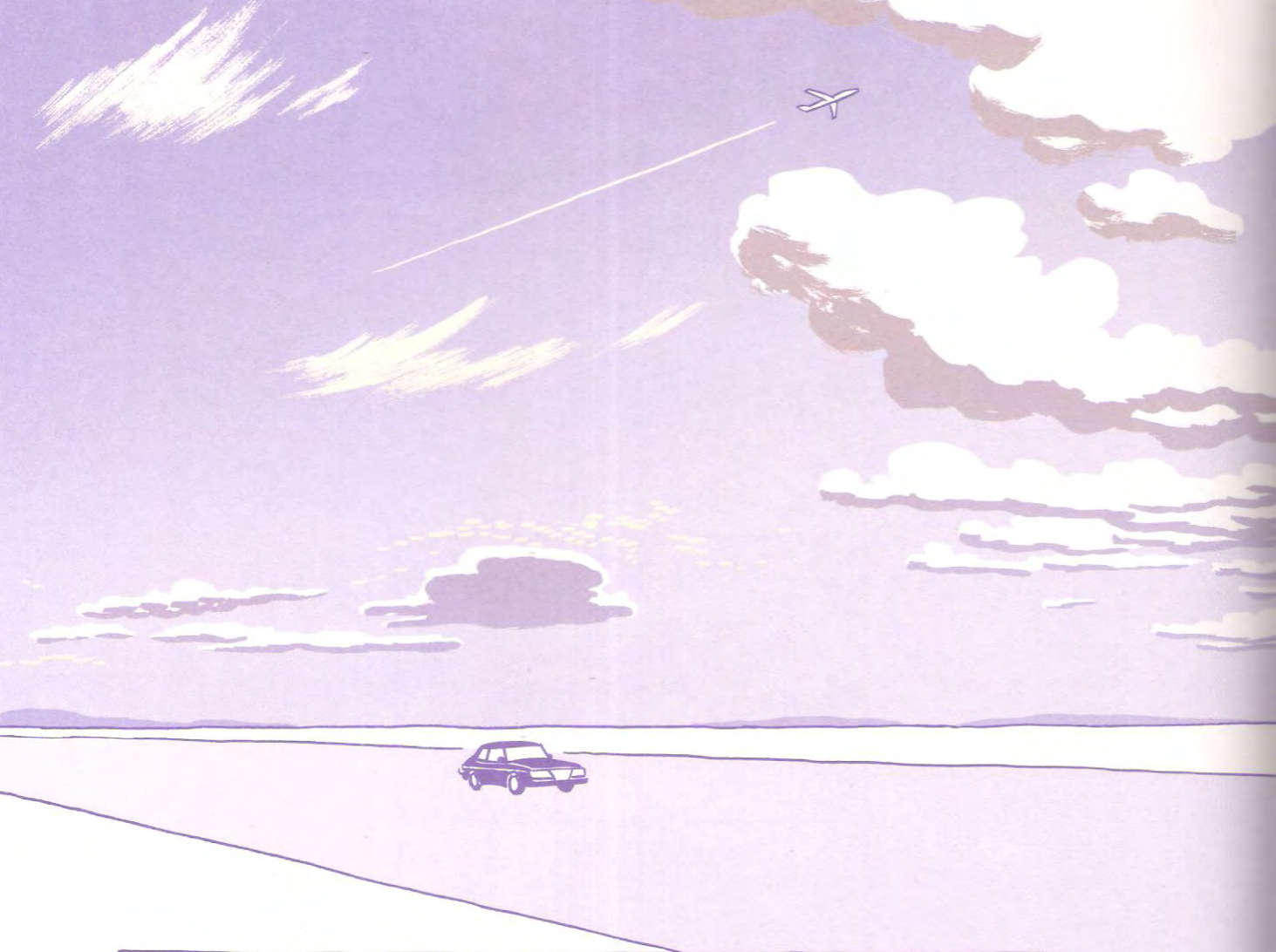


THE MORE SOMETHING IS RECALLED, THE MORE THE BRAIN HAS A CHANCE TO REFINE THE ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE,

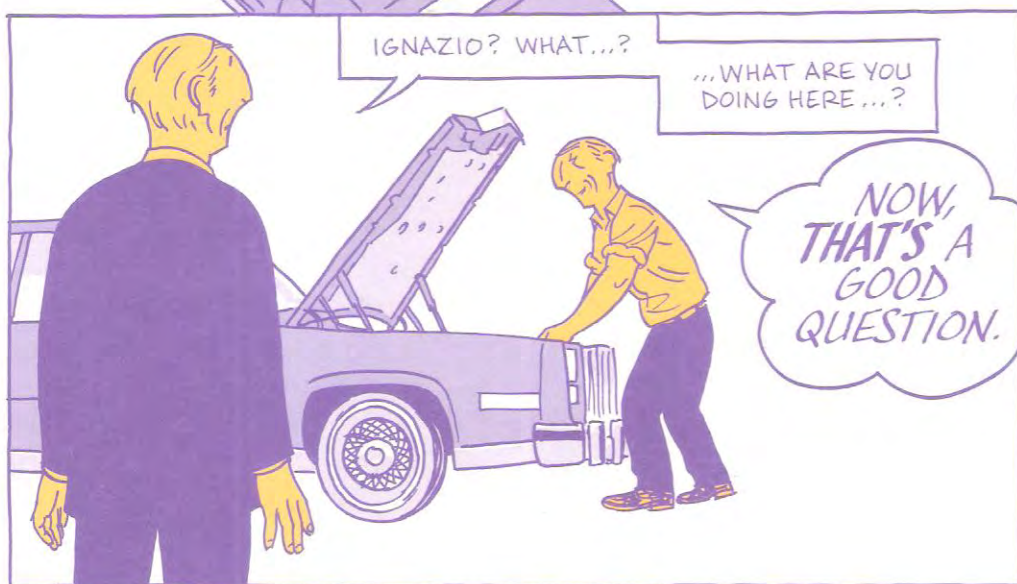


BECAUSE EVERY MEMORY IS A RE-CREATION, NOT A PLAYBACK.









...BUT UNTIL ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO, I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME UPSTATE, TEACHING AT A UNIVERSITY IN ITHACA.



I WAS A TENURED PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE - A POSITION BUTTRESSED BY MY RENOWN AS A "PAPER ARCHITECT."



IT WAS THERE AT THE UNIVERSITY THAT I MET MY WIFE.



WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFERENT, AND YET...



...OUR LIVES FOLDED INTO EACH OTHER'S WITH BARELY A WRINKLE.

ARISTOPHANES WOULD
PROBABLY HAVE SEEN IN US
A VINDICATION OF HIS
PURPORTED THEORY.



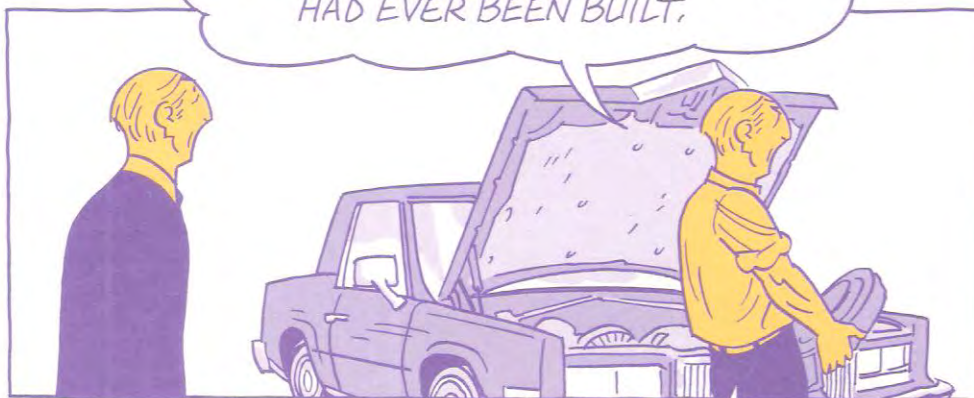
BY CONSOLIDATING
OUR INDIVIDUAL DESIGNS, WE
ERECTED AN EDIFICE OF
ELOQUENT EQUILIBRIUM...



...BUT IT TURNED OUT
THAT REALITY, AS I
PERCEIVED IT, WAS
SIMPLY AN EXTENSION
OF MYSELF.



IN FACT, NONE OF MY DESIGNS
HAD EVER BEEN BUILT.



SO SHE LEFT.



DENIAL BEING A CELEBRATION
OF HUMAN INVENTION, I FOUND A
MEASURE OF SOLACE IN WORK.
I KEPT TEACHING. I TOOK
ON NEW PROJECTS.



AFTER ALL, I WAS UNIVERSALLY
REGARDED AS A BRILLIANT ARCHITECT,
A MEMBER OF THE PANTHEON ALONG
WITH SULLIVAN AND MIES, WRIGHT
AND GROPIUS—

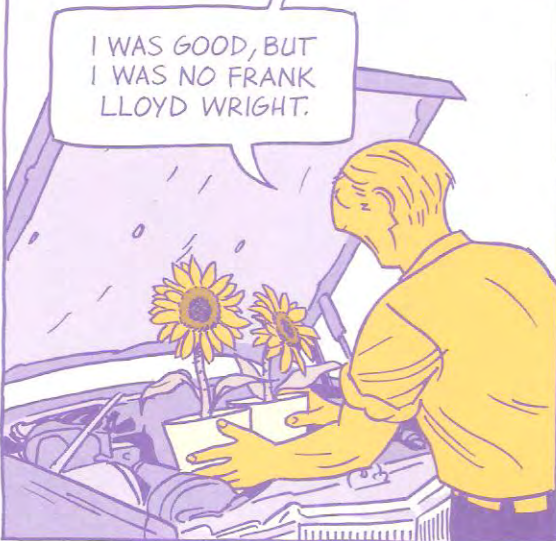


—I HAD WON NUMEROUS
COMPETITIONS AND
AWARDS TO
CONFIRM IT.



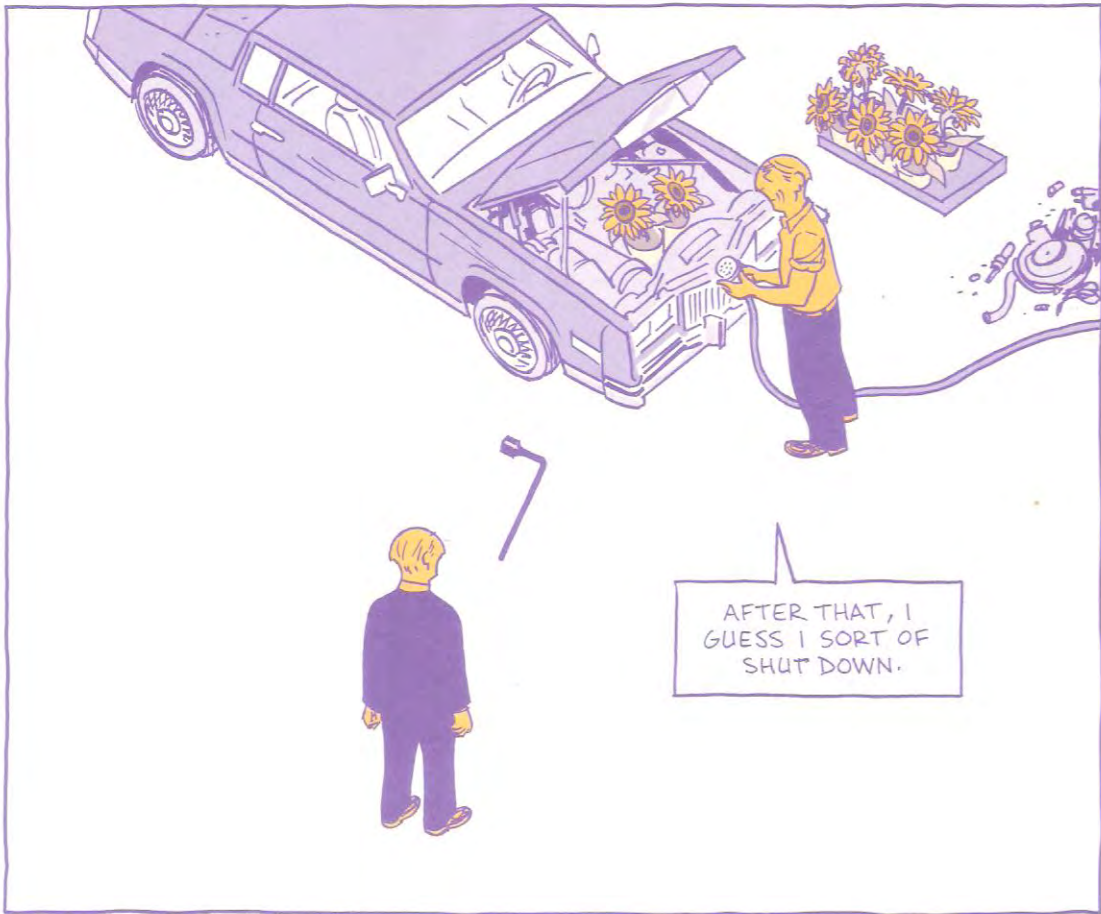
BUT WITH TRUTHFULNESS
ACTING AS MY POLESTAR, I
CAME TO SEE THAT HUBRIS
HAD LED ME TO CHALLENGE
THE GODS THEMSELVES.

I WAS GOOD, BUT
I WAS NO FRANK
LLOYD WRIGHT.



AND GIVING UP THE ONE THING
I THOUGHT DEFINED ME PROVED
A LOT LESS DIFFICULT THAN I
EVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED.





...WHEN A LIGHTNING BOLT
HIT THE SIDE OF MY BUILDING,
INCINERATING MY APARTMENT...



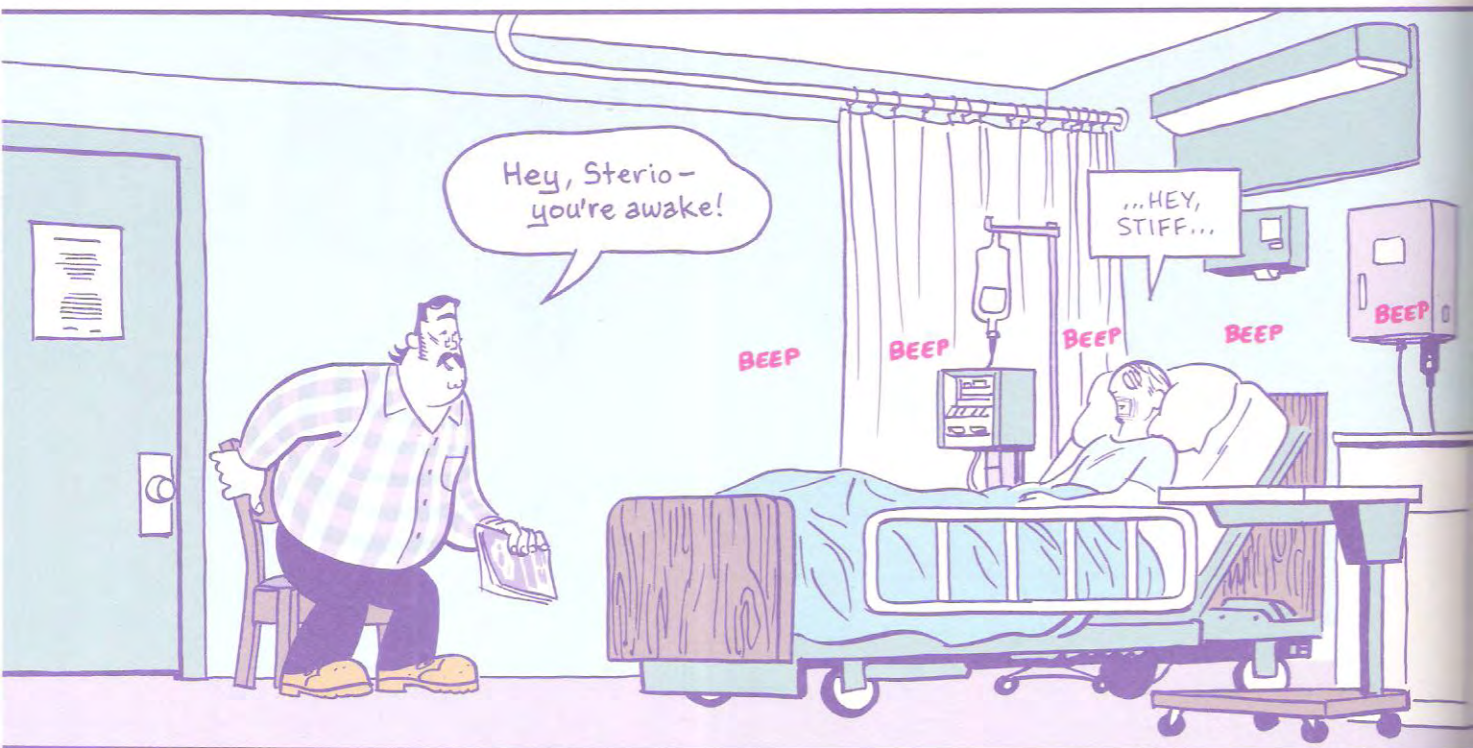
... SO I TOOK ALMOST ALL THE
MONEY I HAD LEFT AND BOUGHT
A BUS TICKET -

I SAID -



-STOP
IT!



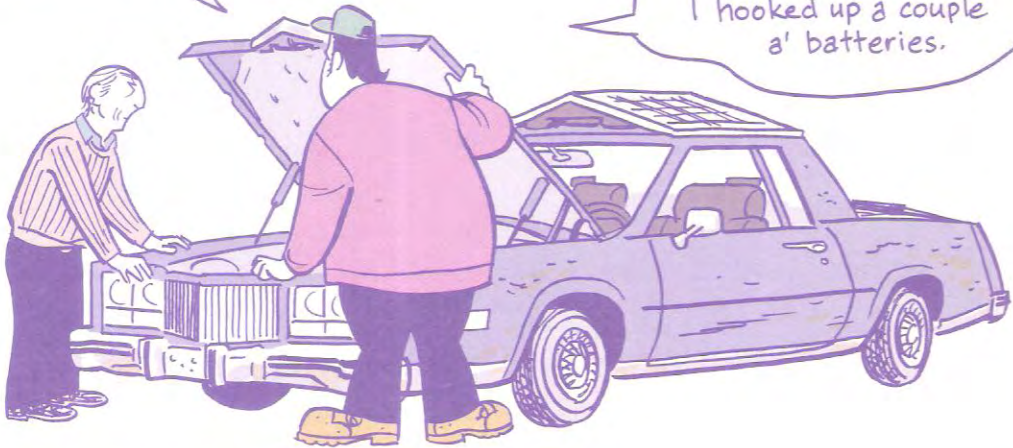






...you can see I took out most of the old engine, and anythin' else that looked extrenuous...

And here's where I hooked up a couple a' batteries.



I think the main problem was storin' enough juice — it's such a big car, it's like movin' a molehill.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE THAT BY LOSING MORE WEIGHT —



— MAYBE TAKING OUT THE REAR SEATS, AND USING THAT SPACE FOR EXTRA STORAGE CELLS.

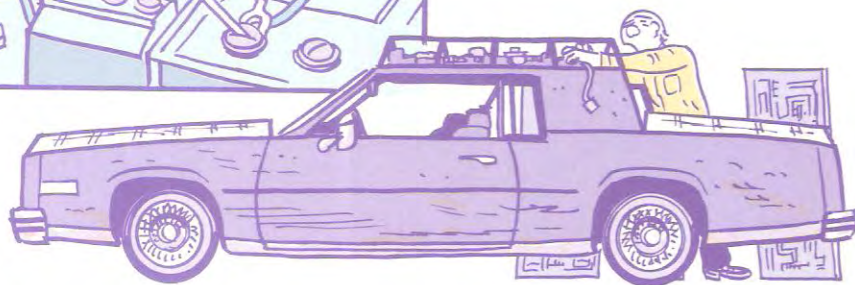
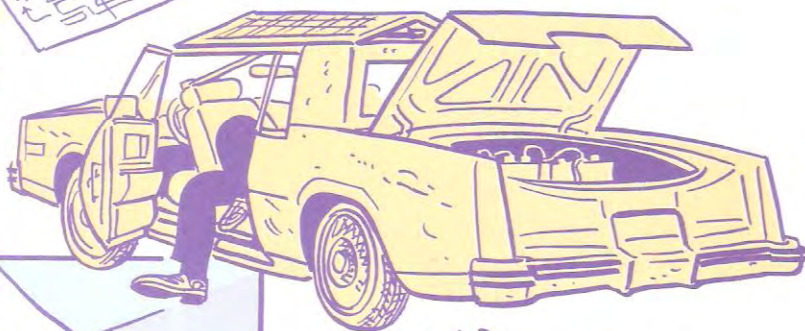
You're still haulin' a lot. It'd probably be easier just to start from scrap.

I DON'T KNOW...

...IT'S A CREATIVE CHALLENGE.

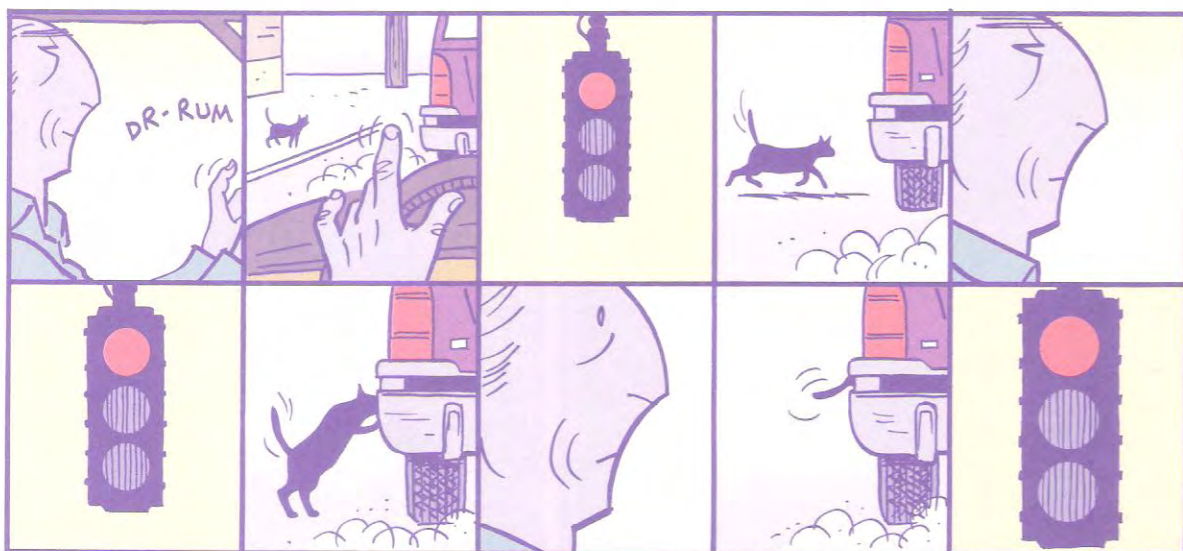
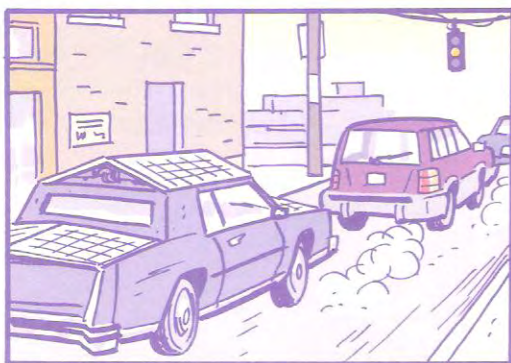
BESIDES, I KIND OF LIKE THIS OLD BOAT.

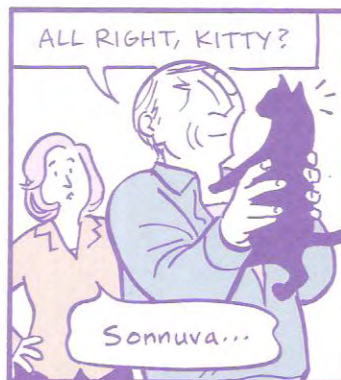
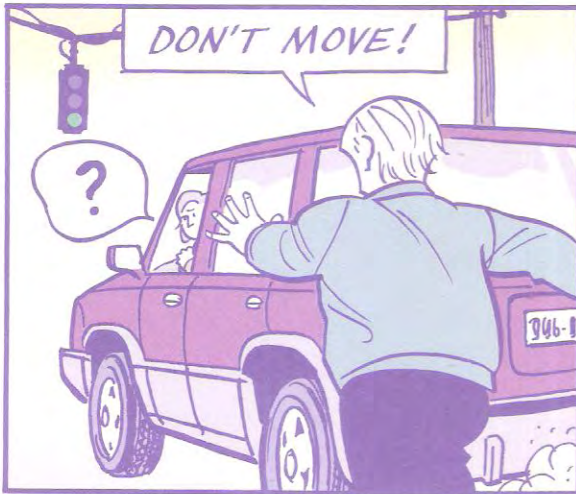




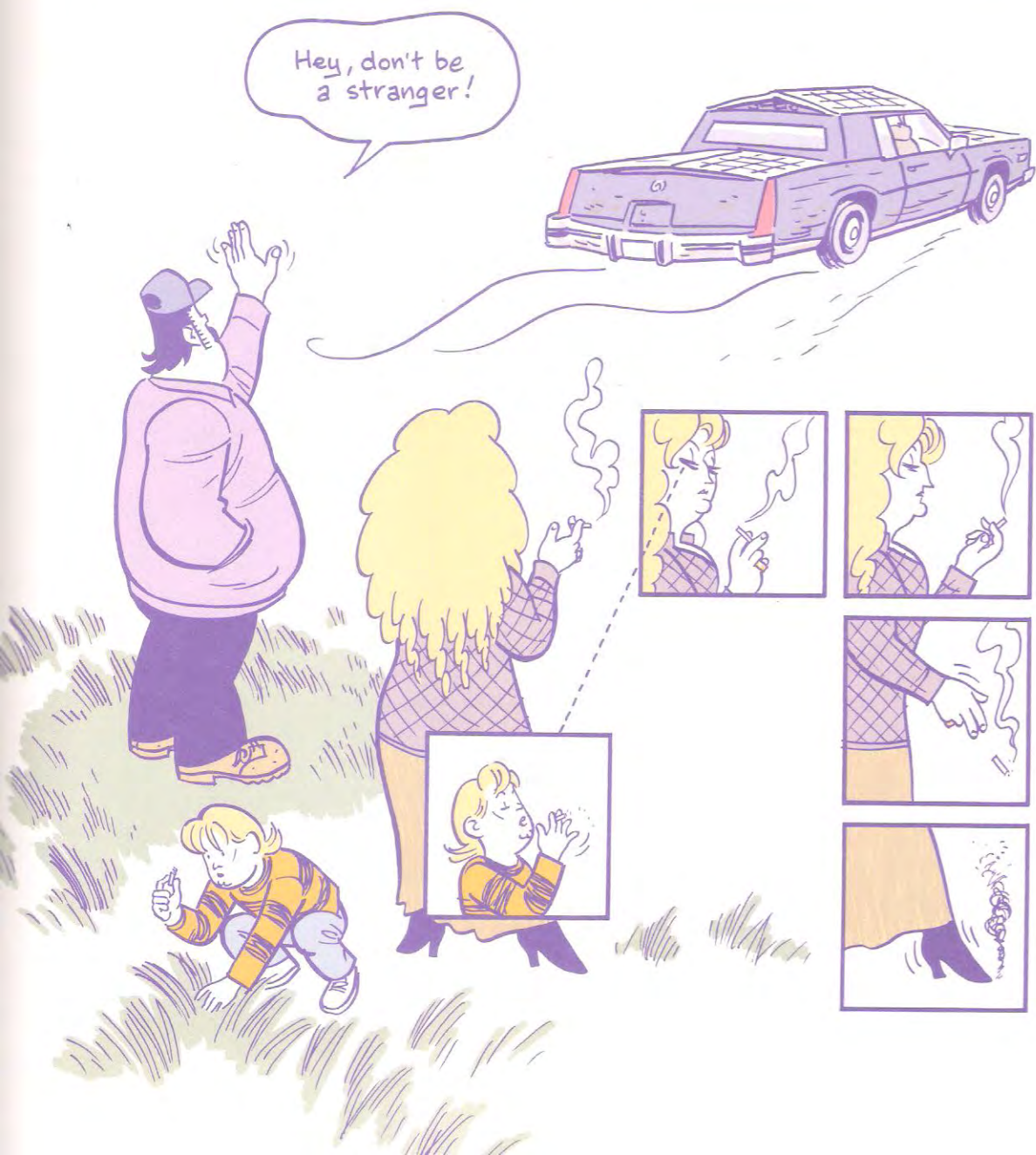


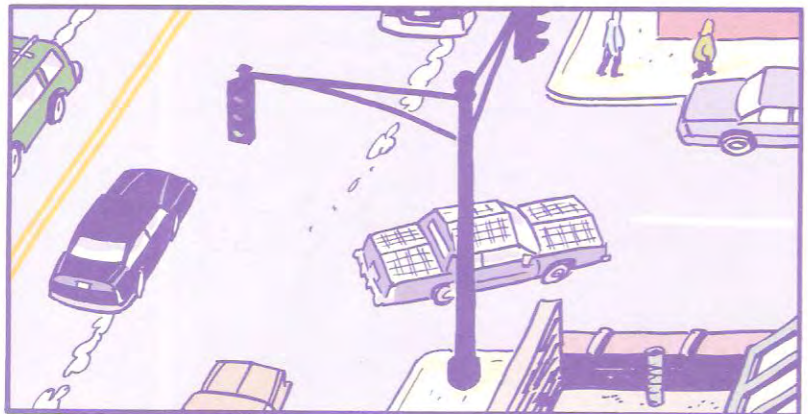
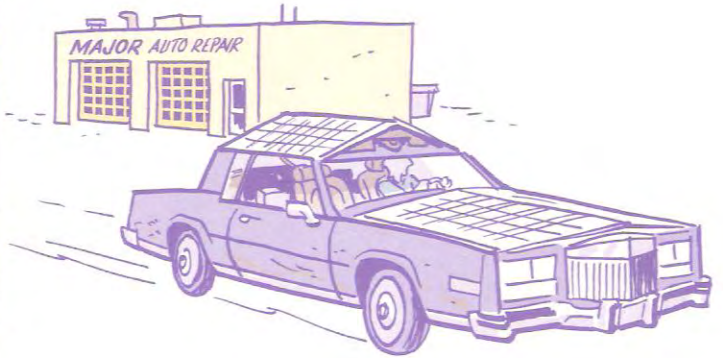
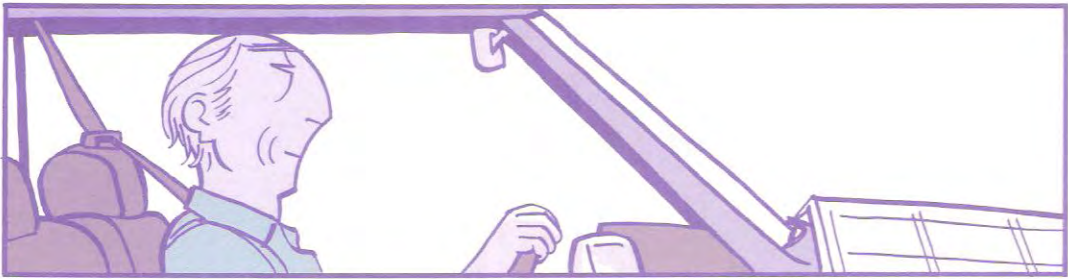


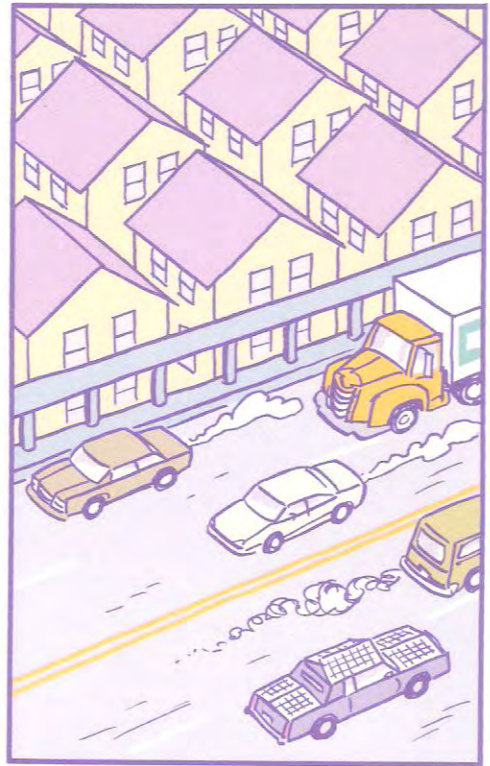


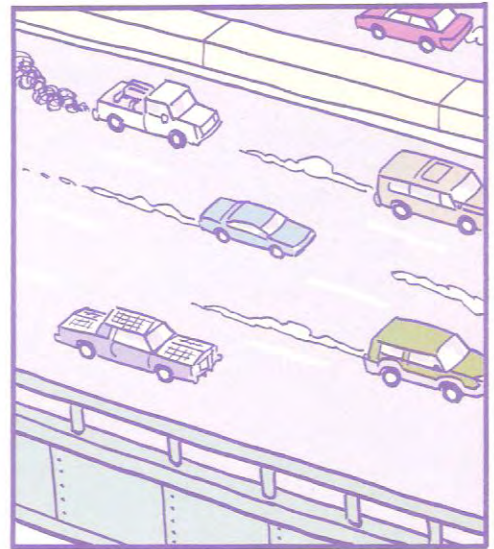
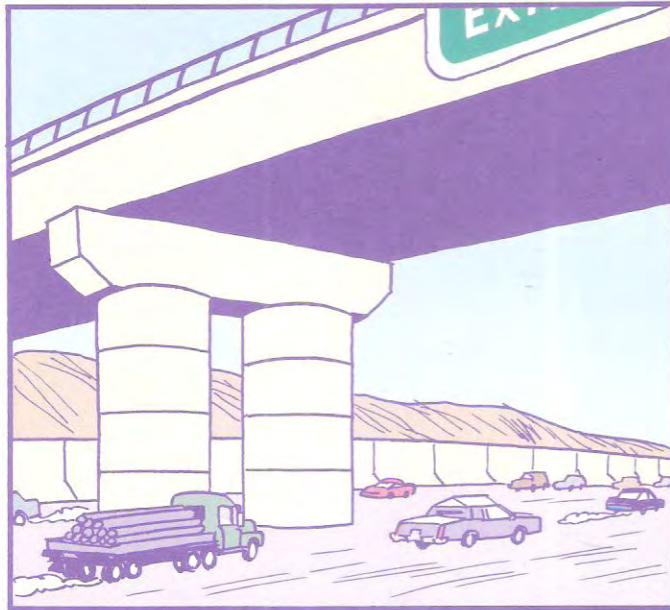
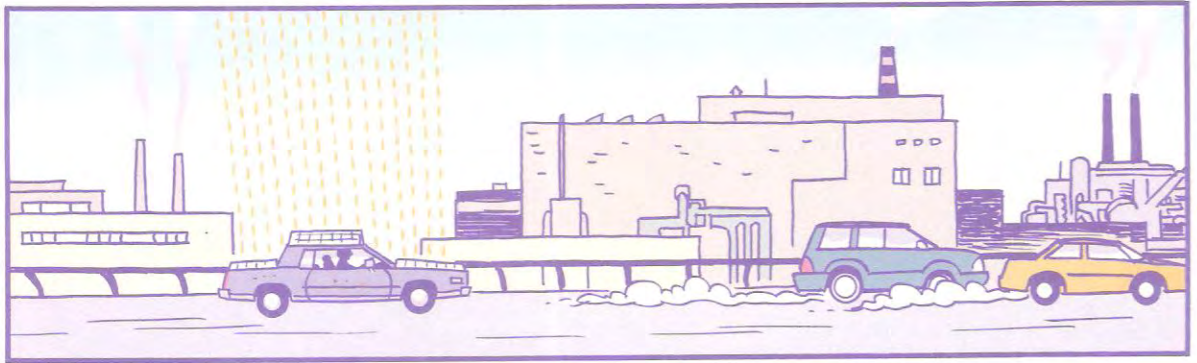


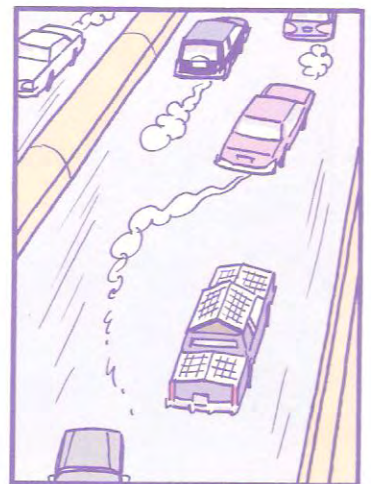
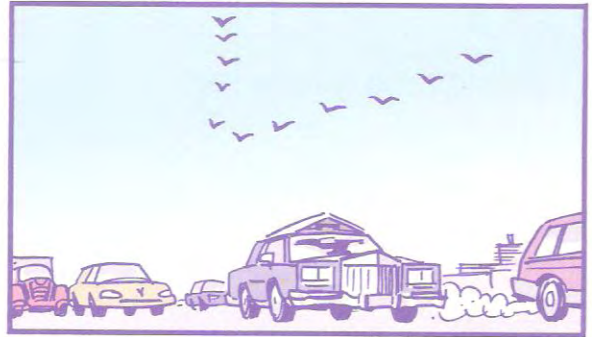
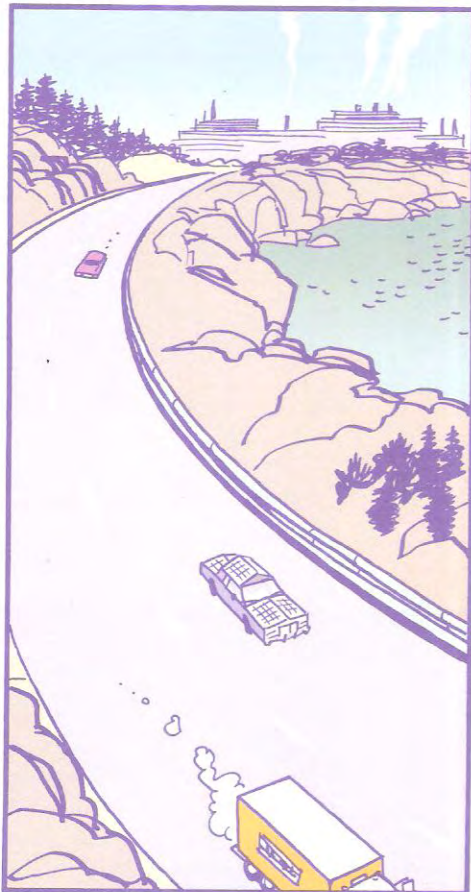


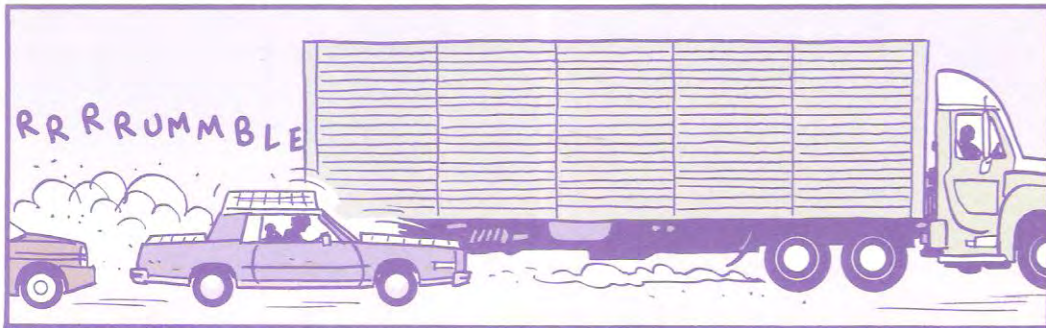
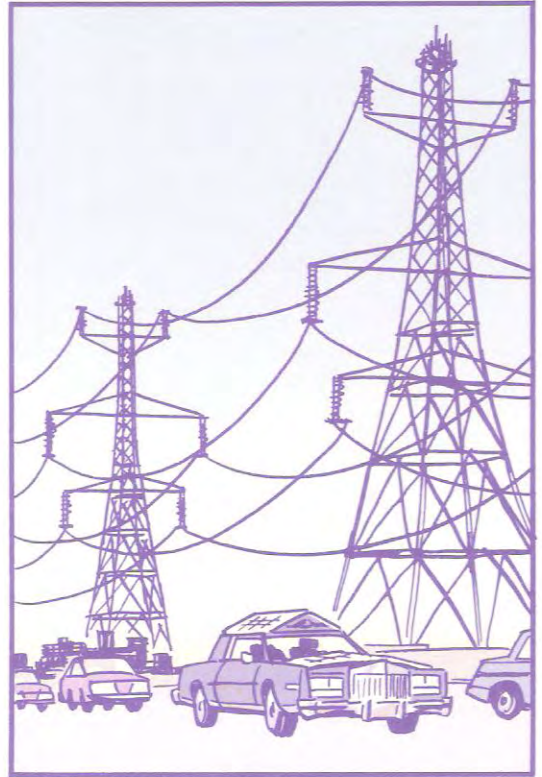


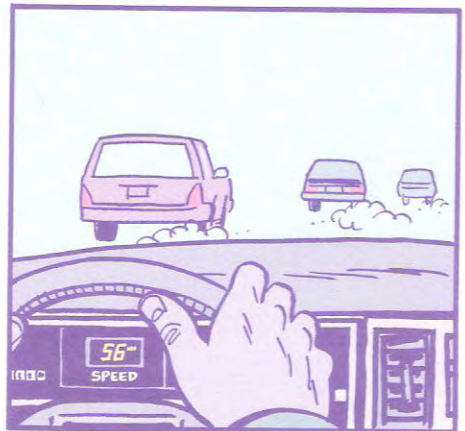
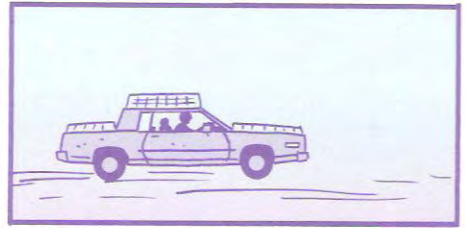
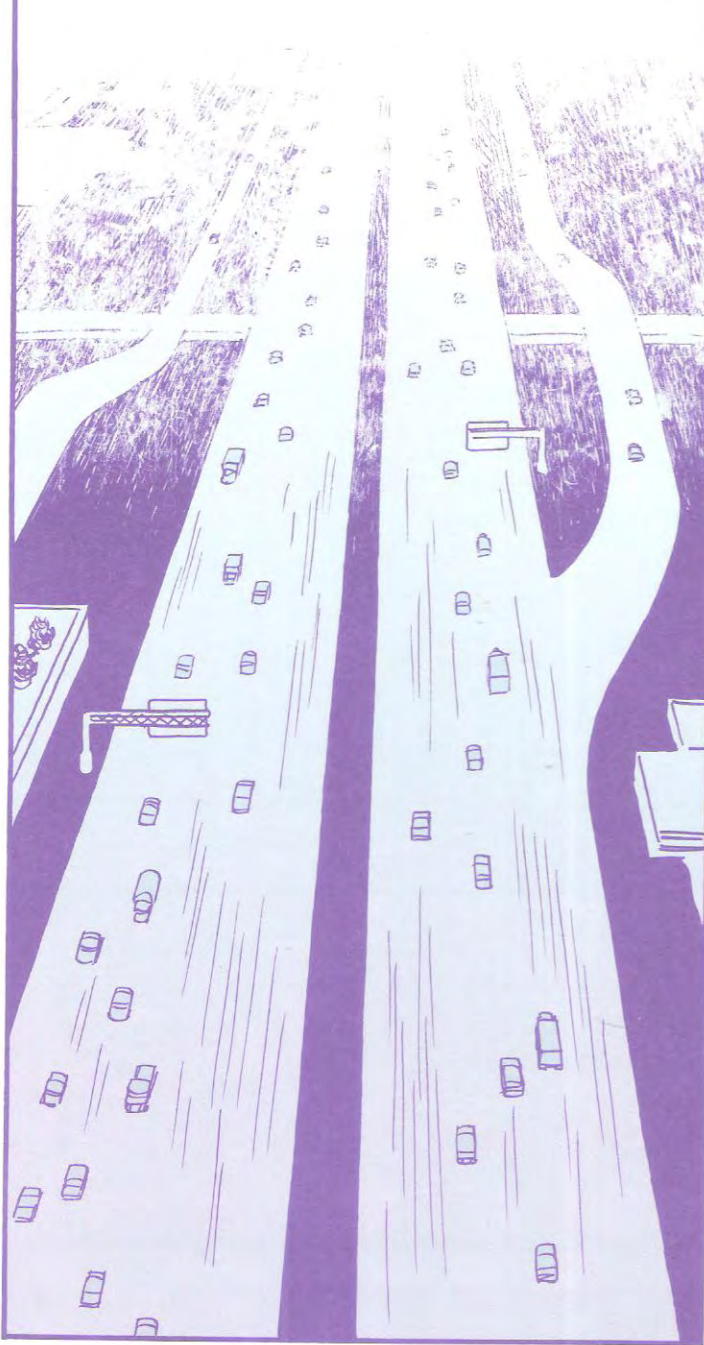






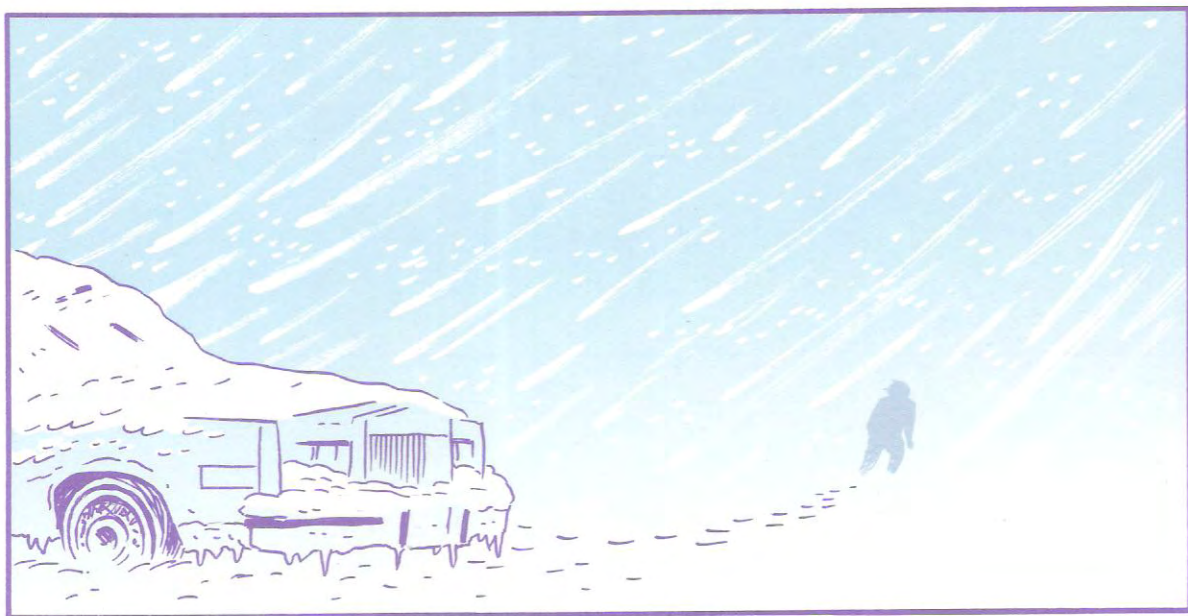


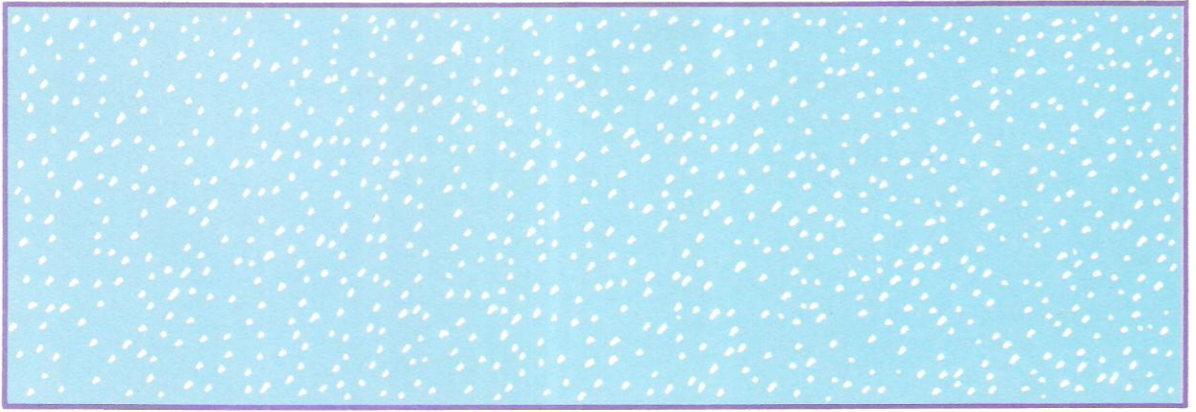


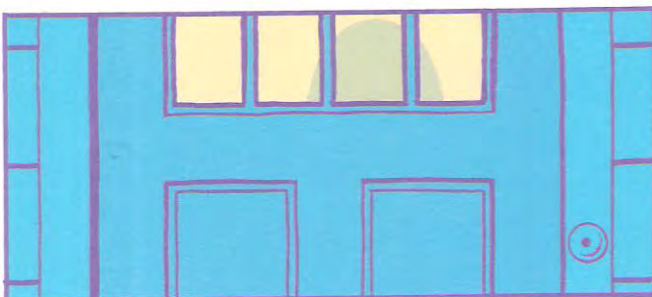
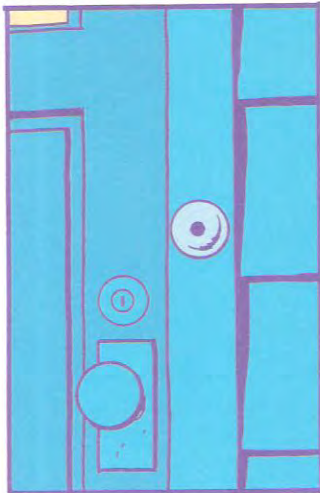


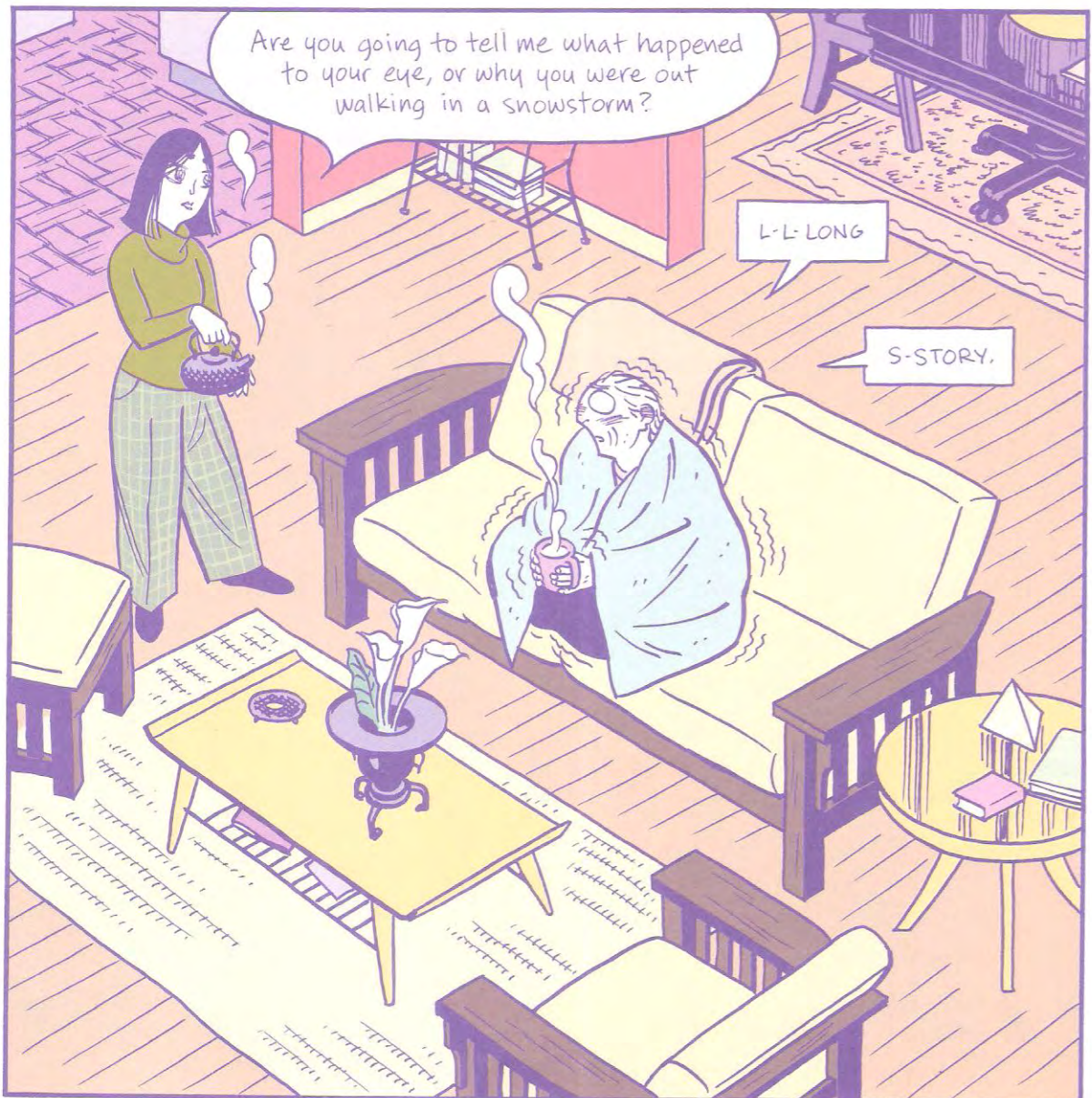






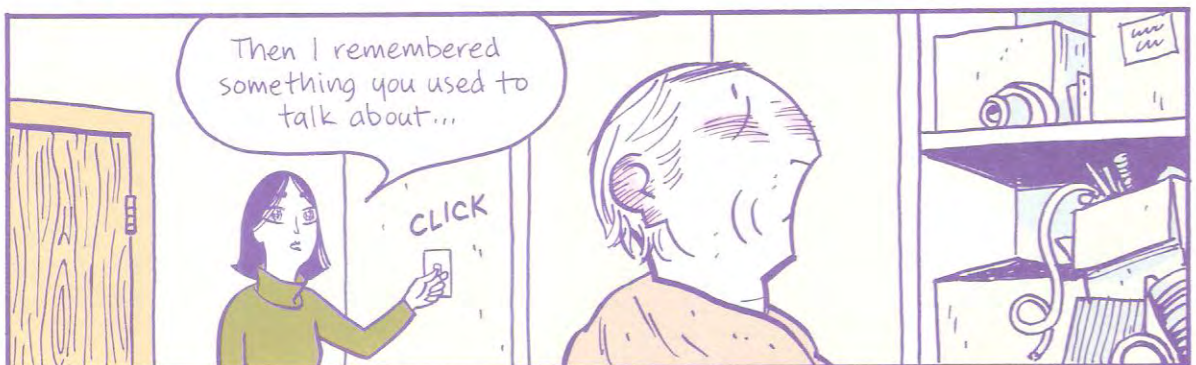
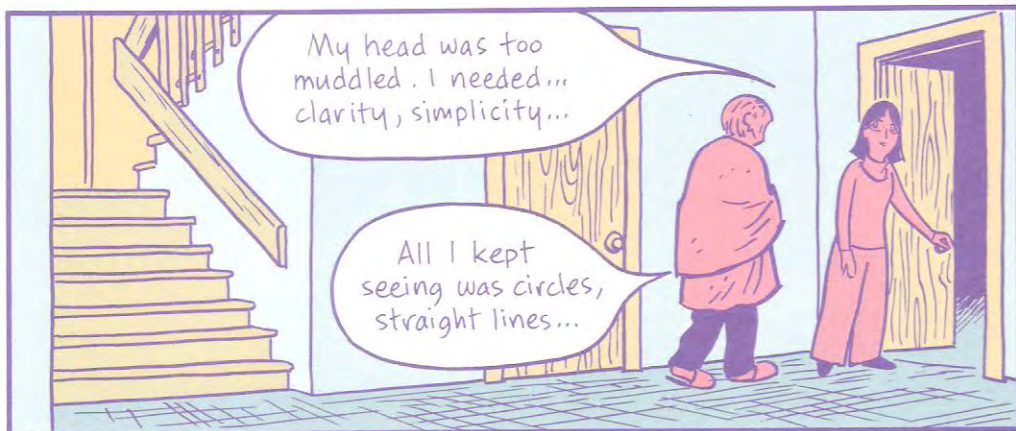


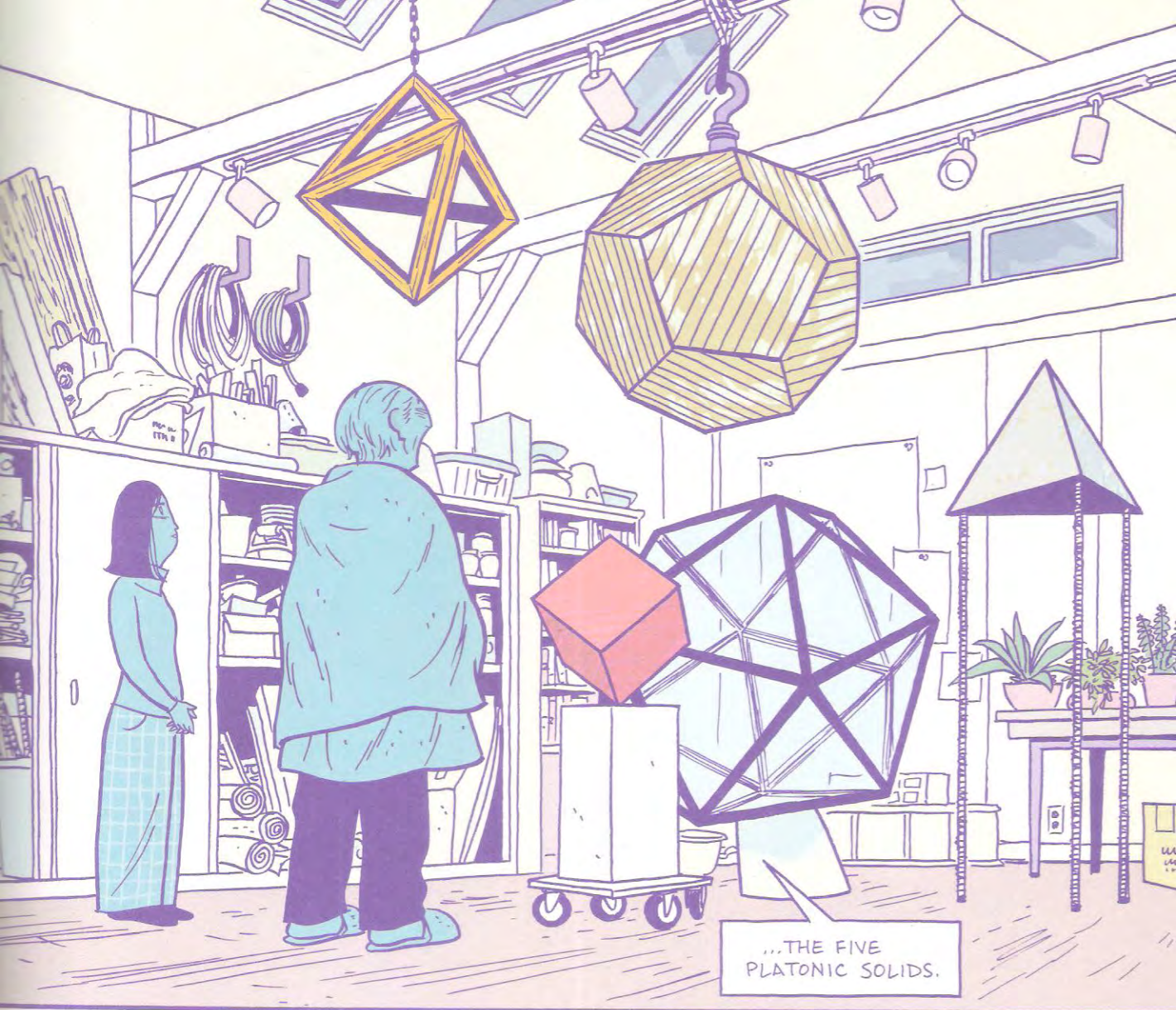












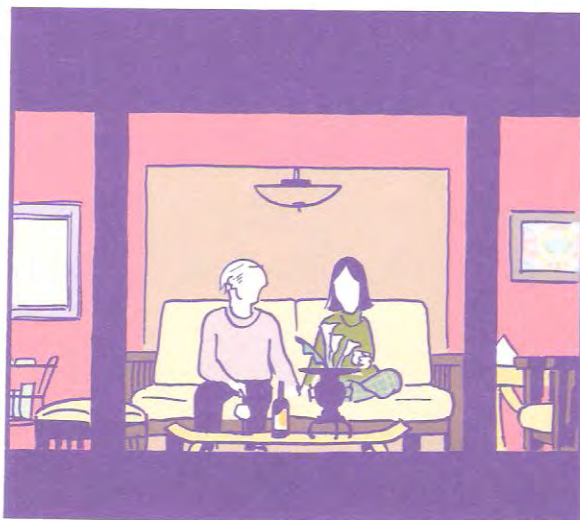








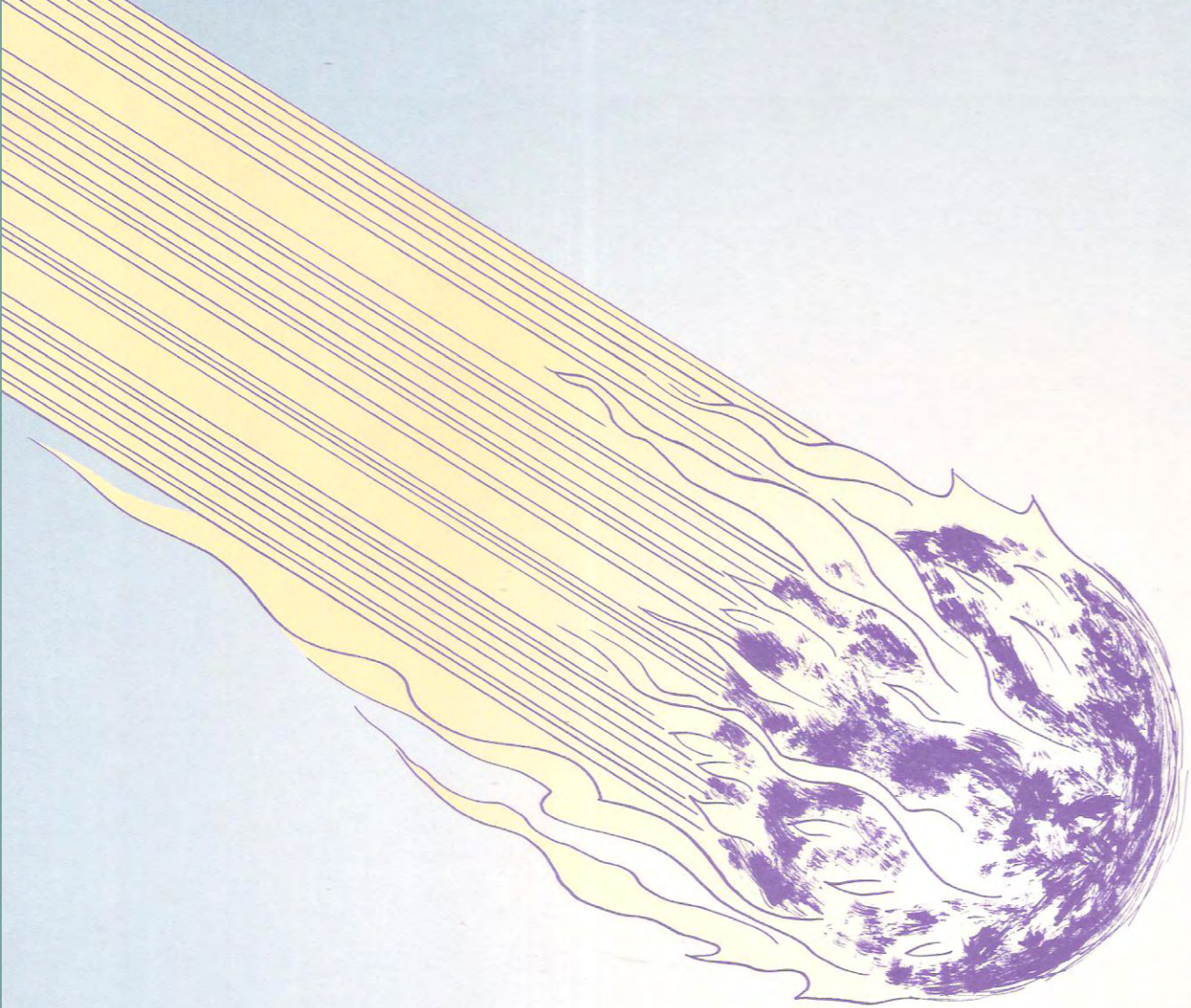






WHAT'S
THAT
NOISE?













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