

TOO
COOL
*to be
Forgotten*



ALEX ROBINSON

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to be
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For the *loners, losers* and *outcasts*.

May you show them all someday.

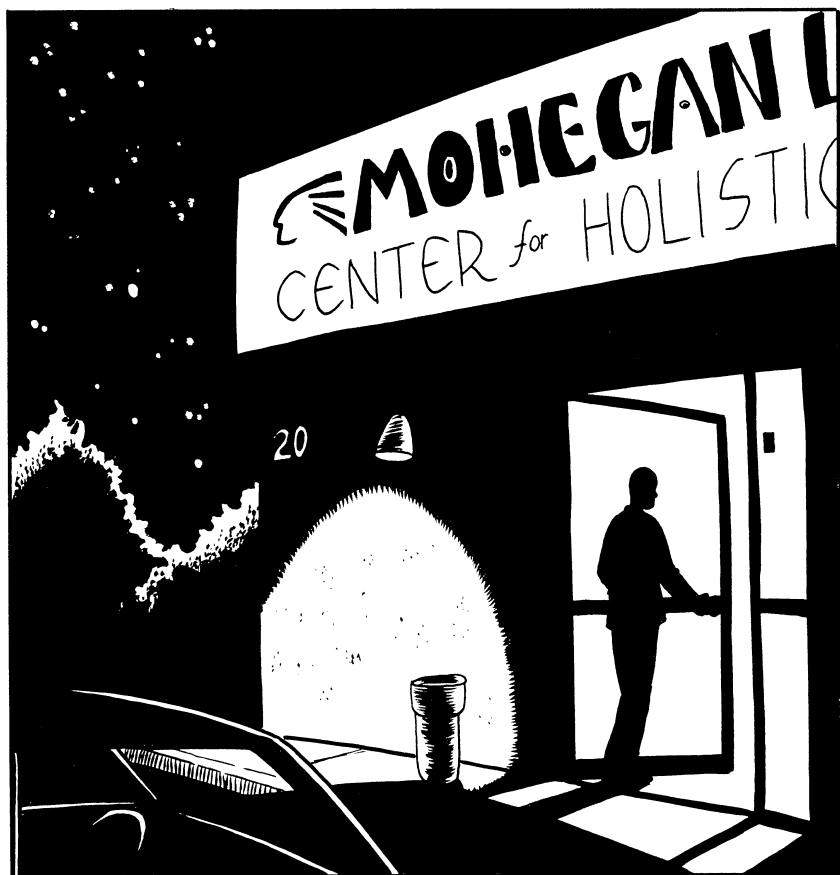
**TOO
COOL**
*to be
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ALEX ROBINSON



CHAPTER ONE: ONE MORE TRY



NO, BUT I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS NEW AGE MUMBO JUMBO, SO I APPRECIATE YOU HUMORING ME.

WELL, NOTHING ELSE HAS WORKED SO FAR SO WHY NOT? BESIDES, THIS WAY I CAN RUB IT IN YOUR FACE WHEN IT DOESN'T WORK.

I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS, HAHA.
SO ON BEHALF OF AMBER, SOFIA AND MYSELF, THANKS FOR TRYING.

I KNOW IT'S HARD.

MR. WICKS?
DR. ALCOLA IS READY TO SEE YOU.

IF I COME OUT CLUCKING LIKE A CHICKEN IT'S YOUR FAULT, LYNN!

MMM, WE COULD USE THE EGGS.

RIGHT IN HERE, MR. WICKS.

AlzidonTM
A GLOBE-CHEM PRODUCT # 7181030

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

DATE 6/18/10

NAME: Robert Andrew Wicks

ADDRESS: 138 Salem Ct.

CITY: Mohansic

D.O.B.: 10/30/70

HT: 6'2" WT: 195

MARITAL STATUS: SM

SEX: F ☒ M TG

OCCUPATION: Computer Tech

SEXUALLY ACTIVE? Yes

WID DECEASED ?

ALIVE DECEASED ?

CHILDREN? Amber (step-daughter), Sofia (daughter)

MOTHER'S NAME Susan Wicks

FATHER'S NAME Robert Wicks

SIBLINGS Patrick (older brother), Gina (younger sister)

PETS (NAME, SPECIES, BREED): Abe, dog, German Shepherd mix

ALLERGIES: Springtime pollens etc.

PHOBIAS: Needles (?)

LAST BOOK READ: "How to Build Your Dream Deck or Patio" by Michael Radtke

DO YOU HABITUALLY USE TOBACCO? ☒ Y ☐ N

ALCOHOL? ☒ Y ☐ N

DO YOU CURRENTLY TAKING ANY PSYCHOACTIVE MEDICATIONS, PRESCRIBED OR OTHERWISE? IF YES, DETAIL: None

APPROX HOW MUCH SLEEP DID YOU GET LAST NIGHT? 6.5 HRS

WHAT WAS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF YOUR LAST NIGHTMARE?

tidal waves

CIRCLE FIVE (5) WORDS BELOW WHICH BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

ENERGETIC ☒ REALISTIC ☐ ACERBIC ☐ CALM ☐ EGREGIOUS ☐ PUNCTUAL

FREE-WHEELING ☐ OBSTUSE ☐ DREAMER ☐ THOUGHTFUL ☐ CURIOUS

DEPRESSED ☐ IRONIC ☐ CLEVER ☐ BEAUTIFUL ☐ NERDY

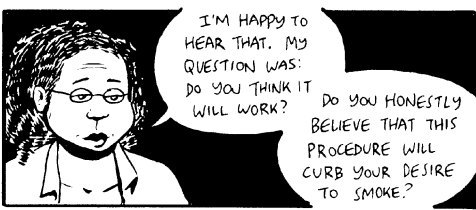
SENTIMENTAL ☐ FRUSTRATED ☐ THWARTED ☐ ARROGANT ☐ AVERAGE

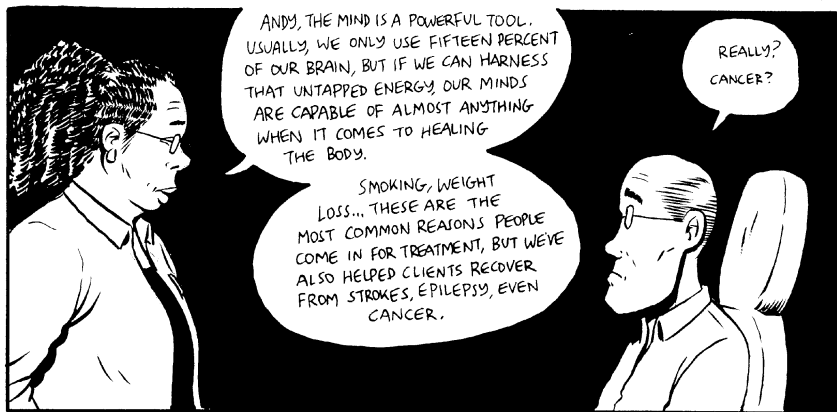
TIRESOME ☐ RELOCATE ☐ WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE? MONTANA

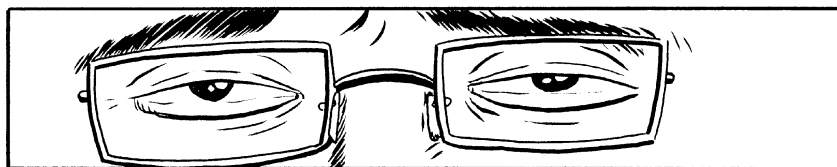
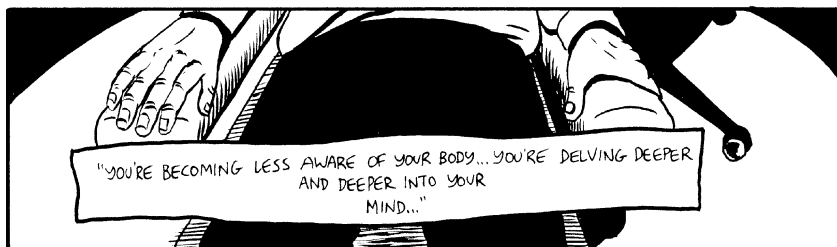
IF FORCED TO RELOCATE, WHERE WOULD YOU LIVE? MONTANA

REASON FOR YOUR VISIT? I want to stop smoking.

CONTINUED >>>







FOCUS...AND

RELAX...FOCUS AND

RELAX...FOCUS AND...

RELAX...I WILL NOT

SMOKE...FOCUS...I WILL

NOT SMOKE...RELAX...I WILL

NOT SMOKE...FOCUS...RELAX...

I WILL NOT SMOKE...RELAX...

IS IT WORKING?...FOCUS...I WILL

NOT SMOKE...RELAX...I CAN'T TELL

IF IT'S WORKING. I DON'T FEEL ANY

DIFFERENT. FOCUS! RELAX! BUT HOW

CAN I FOCUS AND RELAX? THIS ISN'T

WORKING. SHE PROBABLY JUST LULLS

PEOPLE TO SLEEP, WAKES THEM UP

AND CHARGES \$300. THE WHOLE THING

IS A PLACEBO. IF IT WORKS AT ALL.

PEOPLE ARE PROBABLY TOO SCARED TO

ADMIT **IT DOESN'T WORK. I SHOULD**

UP AND **SAV "CUT THE CRAP, DOC!"**

A SCENE. I PROMISED LYNN I'D AT

LEAST GIVE IT

A TRY.

NOW I'M NOT

EVEN DOING THAT.

MONICA

WELL JUST RESIGN

MYSELF

TO A LIFE OF

SMOKING.

NOTHING HAS WORKED. THE PATCH, COLD TUR-

KEY GUM, NEGATIVE STIMULATION, NONE OF

IT. I CAN ONLY HOPE THE GIRLS ARE ALL

GROWN UP BEFORE I--WAIT, WHY DID

I SUDDENLY THINK OF MONICA JUST

THEN? GOD, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF

HER IN YEARS! BUT I HAVE

TO KEEP TRYING. I WANT

TO SEE AMBER GRADUATE

FROM YALE AND I WANT

TO DANCE AT SOFIA'S WED-

DING. I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE HIM.

SO, COME ON ANDY! YOU PROMISED

LYNN YOU'D GIVE IT A SHOT. GIVE

THIS STUPID HYPNOSIS A TRY...

FOCUS...RELAX...RELAX...YOU ARE GETTING SLEEPY...

SLEEPY! WHEN YOU AWAKE YOU

WILL NO LONGER CRAVE NIKOTINE!

AND YOU WILL HAVE A THICK HEAD

OF BEAUTIFUL HAIR! WAHA!

DON'T LAUGH! IF YOU LAUGH SHE'LL

KNOW YOU AREN'T FOCUSED...

AND RELAXED...FOCUSED...

AND RELAXED...I WILL NOT

SMOKE...I WILL NOT SMOKE

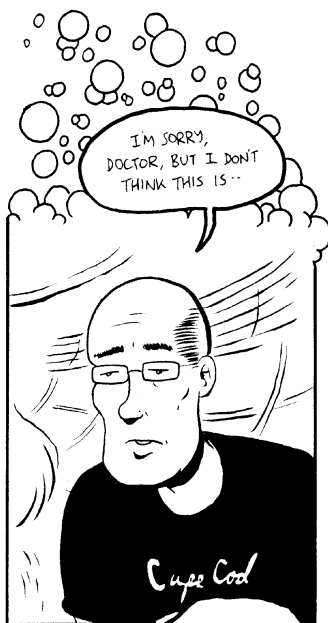
...FOCUSED AND RELAXED...

I WILL NOT...NOT...OH,

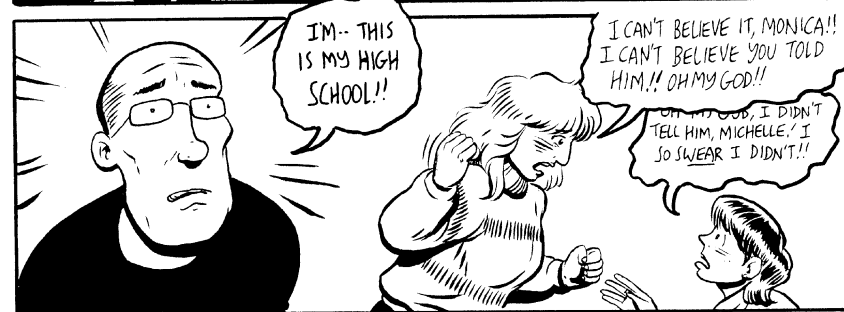
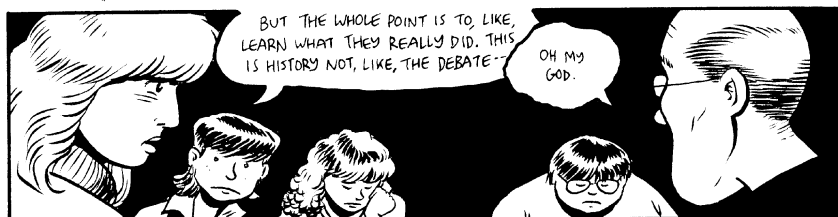
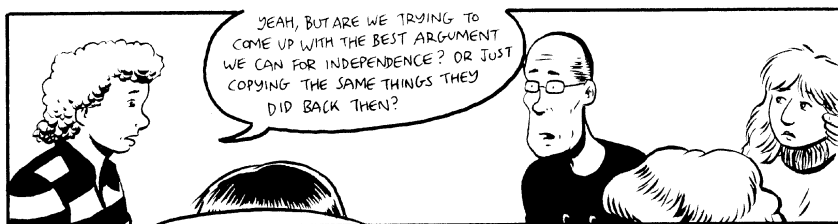
FORGET IT.

DO IT! I SHOULD JUST SIT
BUT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE

O'CONNOR, I MIGHT AS









"YOUNG MAN?" THAT'S FUNNY. OKAY, I'LL PLAY ALONG:

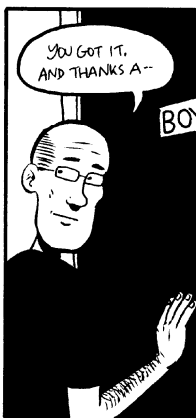
I'M JUST GOING TO THE BATHROOM, MR. MARKSTEIN. I'LL BE RIGHT OUT, I PROMISE. /

ANDY, A PASS NEXT TIME, OKAY? OR I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT REAL BALL BUSTING IS.



YOU GOT IT, AND THANKS A--

BOY



OH, UH, HEY, FELLAS. I WAS JUST TALKING TO MR. MARKSTEIN OUT THERE.

I HOPE I'M NOT INTER--



WAS HE TELLING YOU HOW GOOD YOUR NOT-SACK TASTED LAST NIGHT?

PHAHHA!



WHOA! HAHA, OKAY, LET'S TOKE IT DOWN A NOTCH, OKAY? YOU--

YEAH, I HEARD HE GAVE YOU FIFTY BUCKS TO LET HIM GIVE YOU A BLOW JOB AT DOWNING LAST NIGHT.



WH--?? YOU GUYS DON'T EVEN KNOW ME. WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR--

SURE I KNOW YOU. WE'RE IN THE SAME GYM CLASS YOUR NAME IS GAYLORD, RIGHT?

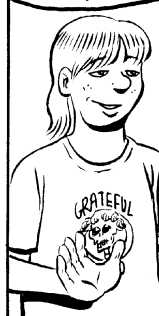
YEAH, GAYLORD QUEERBAIT, RIGHT?



OH, THAT'S REALLY CLEVER! WHO WRITES YOUR--



(HE'S GETTING MAD, HANK.) HEY, MAN, COME ON. WE'RE JUST MESSIN' WITH YOU.



YEAH, MAN, THAT REMARK ABOUT YOUR NUTSACK WAS WAY OUT OF LINE. WE'RE SORRY.



LEZ BE FRIENDS, OGAY?

HAAAAHAHA! HAAAAHAHA! SHIT!



IF YOU FUCKING ASSHOLES ARE DONE W--



HEY, MAN, FUCKING ASSHOLES IS YOUR DEPARTMENT. HAAAAHAHAHA!

HAHA! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE. SEE YOU IN HOME EC, GAYLORD!



IF I SEE YOUR MISERABLE PRICK ASSES AGAIN I--

SHIT!!

FUCKING JERK ASSHOLE SHITHEADS!! IF THERE WEREN'T TWO OF THEM, I'D-- THEY--



PSH, WHO AM I KIDDING?

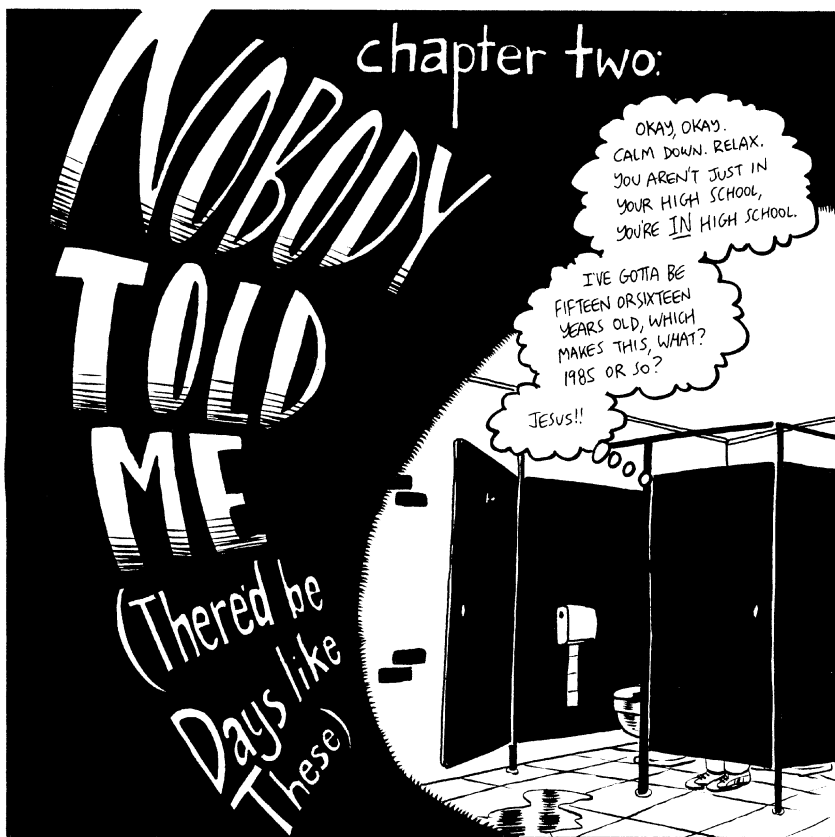


WHAT THE HELL DID THAT QUACK DOCTOR DO TO ME? WHAT IS GOING ON?

GOD! THOSE TWO PUNKS ARE EXACTLY WHAT I HATED ABOUT HIGH SC--







WHAT DO I DO? I MEAN, HOPEFULLY
THIS WILL WEAR OFF AND I'LL BE
MY REGULAR SELF AGAIN BUT
WHAT DO I DO UNTIL THEN?

WILL I BE HERE
FOR A FEW HOURS?
A FEW DAYS?

WHAT IF IT'S
PERMANENT?? OH,
GOD, WHAT IF I
HAVE TO LIVE THE
REST OF MY LIFE
OVER AGAIN?

OR WHAT IF
I'M STUCK IN HIGH
SCHOOL FOREVER?!

OKAY, CALM DOWN.
YOU'VE WATCHED ENOUGH
"STAR TREK" TO KNOW
THAT THE FIRST THING
YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE
IN THE PAST IS NOT
MESS UP THE TIME-
LINE.

I GUESS I'LL
JUST TRY AND GO
ABOUT MY "NORMAL"
DAYS AND SEE WHAT
HAPPENS.

STUPID DOCTOR!! FIRST THING
I SHOULD DO IS FIND HER AND
SHOOT HER SO NONE OF THIS WILL
HAPPEN TO BEGIN WITH! OR AT
LEAST MAKE SURE SHE
DOESN'T GET INTO MED--



SHIT! THE
BELL! WHAT DO
I DO?

⌈BREATHE⌋





WILL! OH MY GOD,
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU
IN YEARS!
LOOK AT
YOU...

COME ON,
MAN, WHAT DID
SHE SAY?



YOU DIDN'T
PUSSY OUT, DID
YOU?

I HAVE NO IDEA
WHO OR WHAT HE'S
TALKING ABOUT.
IS 'SHE' SOME
GIRL? A TEACHER?
MY MOM?

UH, NO, NO. I
FORGOT. I MEAN,
I DIDN'T GET A
CHANCE. Y'KNOW?



SHIT. I WAS HOPING YOU'D DONE
IT SO IT WOULD MAKE ME ASK
CATHY. SHIT.

FUCK, I SHOULD
JUST ASK HER,
RIGHT?

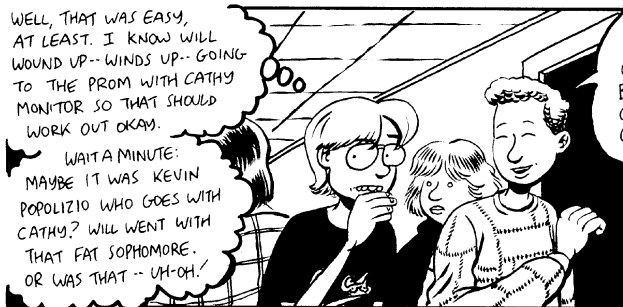


ALL SIGNS
POINT TO
"YES."

Cape Cod

WELL, THAT WAS EASY,
AT LEAST. I KNOW WILL
WOULD UP-- WINDS UP-- GOING
TO THE PROM WITH CATHY
MONITOR SO THAT SHOULD
WORK OUT OKAY.

WAIT A MINUTE:
MAYBE IT WAS KEVIN
POPOLIZIO WHO GOES WITH
CATHY? WILL WENT WITH
THAT FAT SOPHOMORE.
OR WAS THAT -- UH-OH.



HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT
MIKE TOLD ME? MONICA
O'CONNOR WENT TO THE
BILLY OCEAN CONCERT AND
GAVE BLOW JOBS TO THREE
GUARDS TO GET BACKSTAGE!

MAYBE I
SHOULD ASK HER
OUT INSTEAD!
HAWHAW!

IT'S SO WEIRD WALKING DOWN THESE HALLS.
I CAN'T GET OVER HOW YOUNG WE ALL
ARE... AND HOW MANY KIDS I DON'T
RECOGNIZE.

I'M JUST KIDDING. SHE'S
WAY TOO FLAT FOR ME. I LIKE
A GIRL WITH BIG THINGS AHEAD
OF HER! HAHA.

I GUESS MOST OF
THEM ARE IN GRADES ABOVE
OR BELOW ME (WHAT GRADE
AM I IN, ANYWAY?) OR ARE
JUST THE BORING, UNDISTINGUISHED
RABBLE WHO DIDN'T SURVIVE IN
MY MEMORY.



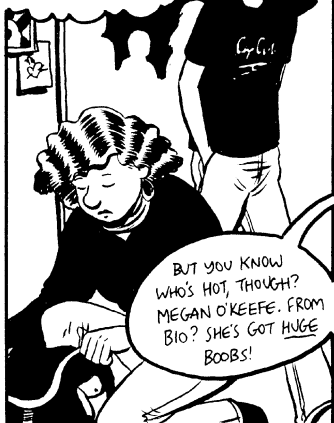
I GUESS IT'S NOT REALLY FAIR TO CALL THEM BORING. I'M SURE I DIDN'T MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION ON MOST PEOPLE. MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T KNOW THEM. THEY'RE JUST REGULAR KIDS TRYING TO GET BY.

WHO ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW? STOCK BROKER?

BLACK JACK DEALER?

BOOKSTORE MANAGER?

REAL ESTATE AGENT?



I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT IT MAKES ME SAD SOMEHOW. ALL THESE POTENTIAL PEOPLE... I HAD THIS CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW THEM AND NOW IT'S GONE.

OH ME.

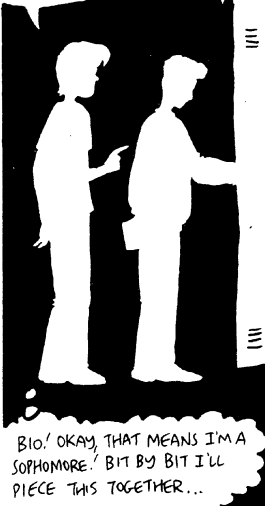


WHO KNOWS IF IT WOULD'VE MADE MUCH DIFFERENCE? I WAS REALLY GOOD PALS WITH WILL HERE BUT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL WE DRIFTED APART.



WAIT A MINUTE, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT OUR BIO CLASS? BIOLOGY?

HUH? OH, YEAH, LIKE FIVE MINUTES AGO! DUH!



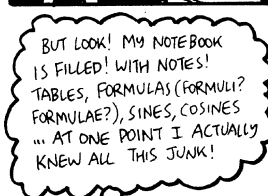
BIO? OKAY, THAT MEANS I'M A SOPHOMORE. BIT BY BIT I'LL PIECE THIS TOGETHER...

OKAY, SO AT THIS POINT WE'LL BE USING THE SLOPE OF THE LINE TO DETERMINE THE SECOND POINT. IN THIS CASE, THE SLOPE IS $\frac{1}{2}$. THIS GIVES US THE Y VALUE CHANGE OVER THE X VALUE CHANGE. OKAY, SO THE DENOMINATOR, OR CHANGE IN X VALUE, IS, IN THIS CASE, 2. NOW...

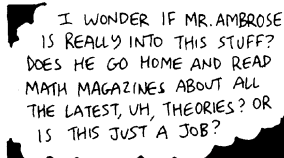
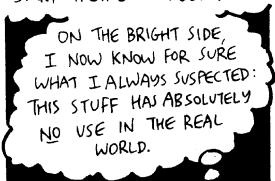




HOW ON EARTH DID I DO THIS??
THIS HAS TO BE THE MOST BORING,
INCOMPREHENSIBLE GIBBERISH
EVER SPOUTED BY AN ACTUAL
HUMAN BEING!



WELL, I'M JUST GOING TO HOPE
THAT THIS TIME TRAVEL THING
IS TEMPORARY, RATHER THAN
START TRYING TO RELEARN IT.

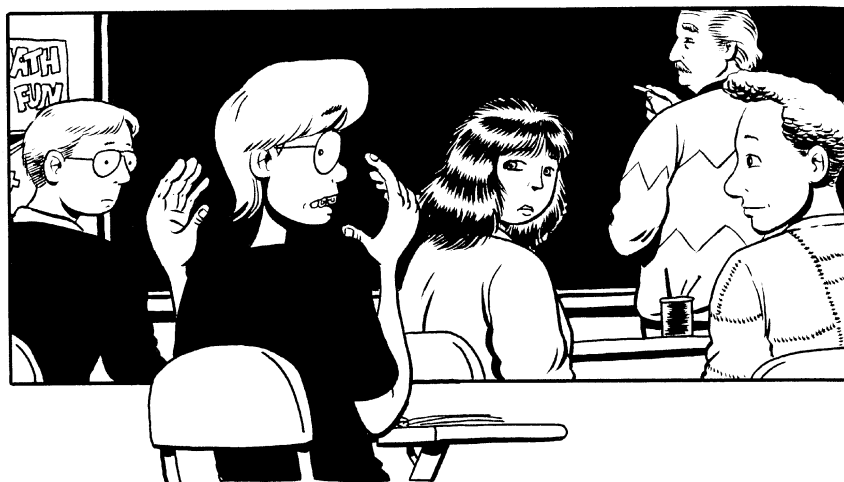


HE'S ACTUALLY NOT THAT MUCH OLDER THAN I AM BUT THAT DROOPY MUSTACHE AND COMB-OVER MAKE HIM LOOK MUCH OLDER.



HE'D LOOK MUCH BETTER IF HE JUST--

SWAHN!



IS SOMETHING WRONG, ANDY?



OH! NO, SORRY!

IT JUST HIT ME THAT I HAVE HAIR AGAIN.

HEH HEH.



◊AHEM◊

SORRY.

SIR.





MAN, I THOUGHT LUNCH WOULD NEVER GET HERE!

LUNCH? GREAT!



ANDY?
A WORD?



OOH!
BUSTED!

YES, MR. AMBROSE?

IF THIS IS ABOUT MY, UH, OUTBURST BEFORE, I'M SORRY I--

WELL, NOT REALLY BUT IT'S PART OF IT. IS, UH, EVERYTHING OKAY? WITH YOU?

ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU ASK, I'M A FORTY YEAR-OLD MAN STUCK IN MY FIFTEEN YEAR-OLD BODY BEING FORCED TO RELIVE HIGH SCHOOL BUT OTHER THAN THAT

EVERYTHING IS FINE. WHY?



IT'S JUST THAT, AHMM, LATELY, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE IN CLASS, YOU AREN'T... HERE.



I, UH, UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN HAVING SOME... DIFFICULTIES IN YOUR HOME, UH, LIFE SO I JUST WANTED TO OFFER--



DIFFICULTIES? ME? NOW?

MY ONLY DIFFICULTY IS THAT YOUR CLASS IS SO FRIGGIN DULL, YOU BORING DRONE!!

NO, NO, EVERYTHING IS OKAY. BUT, UH, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN, YOU KNOW, CONCERN AND ALL.

UM, WILL'S WAITING FOR ME SO WE CAN GO TO LUNCH, SO... CAN I GO? NOW?

SURE, ANDY.



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

HE'S PROBABLY JUST JEALOUS CUZ HE WISHES HE COULD HAVE HAIR AGAIN. C'MON...

Chapter THREE!

Chapter
THREE!

Devil Inside!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

DID YOU GET MATT'S NEWEST THING?

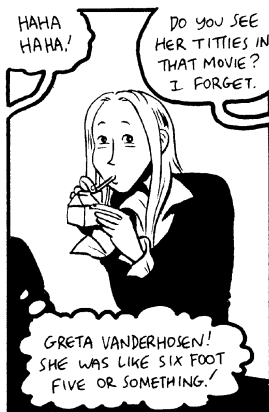
UH, NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

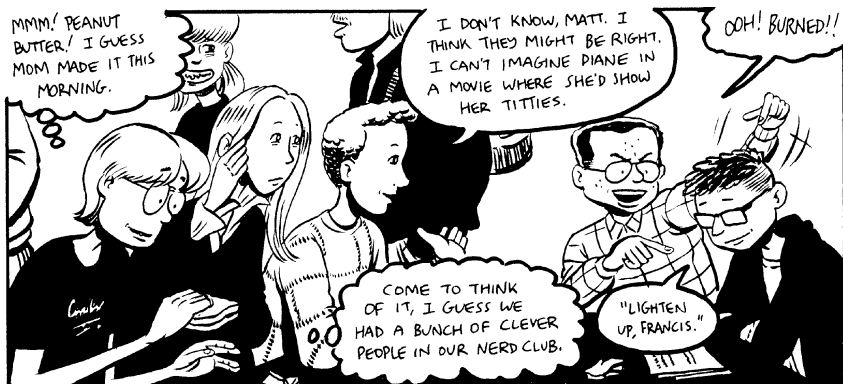
YOU TOTALLY HAVE TO GET IT, IT'S AWESOME!

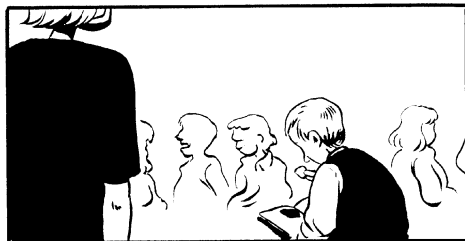
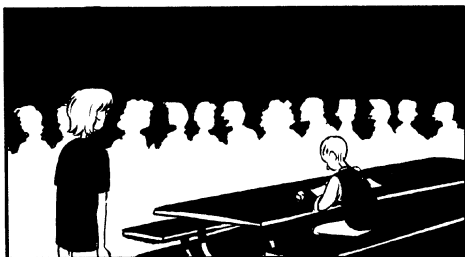
DID YOU
GET MATT'S
NEWEST
THING?

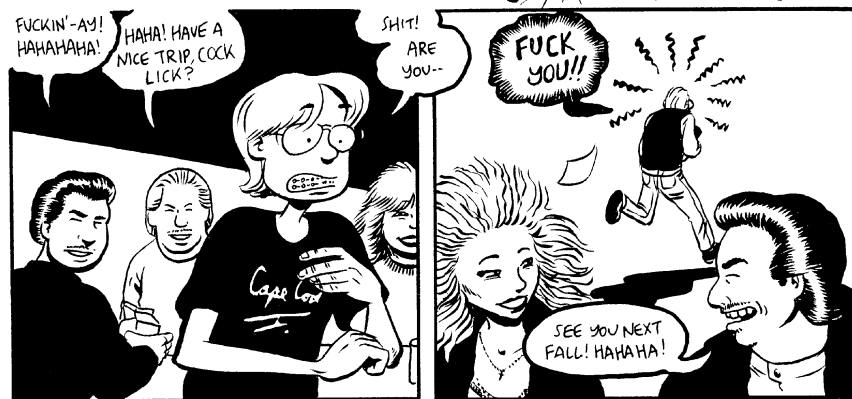
➤ UH, NO, I
DON'T THINK
SO.

YOU TOTALLY
HAVE TO GET
IT, IT'S
AWESOME!











UM, REMIND ME AGAIN
WHAT PARTY IT IS
YOU MEAN?

EARTH TO ANDY: MATT'S
COUSIN'S? FRIDAY NIGHT?
HEL-LOOO?

SHE'S OVER THERE
WITH DONNA RIGHT
NOW. YOU SHOULD
TOTALLY DO IT NOW!

COME ON, GUYS,
DON'T PRESSURE
HIM.



MARIE SIMONE?? YOU'RE
CRAZY! SHE WOULD NEVER--

WAIT! MATT'S
COUSIN SCOTT?

OH MY GOD! THAT'S IT! I REMEMBER
GOING TO THIS PARTY! IN FACT, IT'S
WHERE I HAD MY FIRST REAL
CIGARETTE!!

CONRAD AND I
WERE TRYING TO
IMPRESS THOSE GIRLS
FROM SCOTT'S SCHOOL!

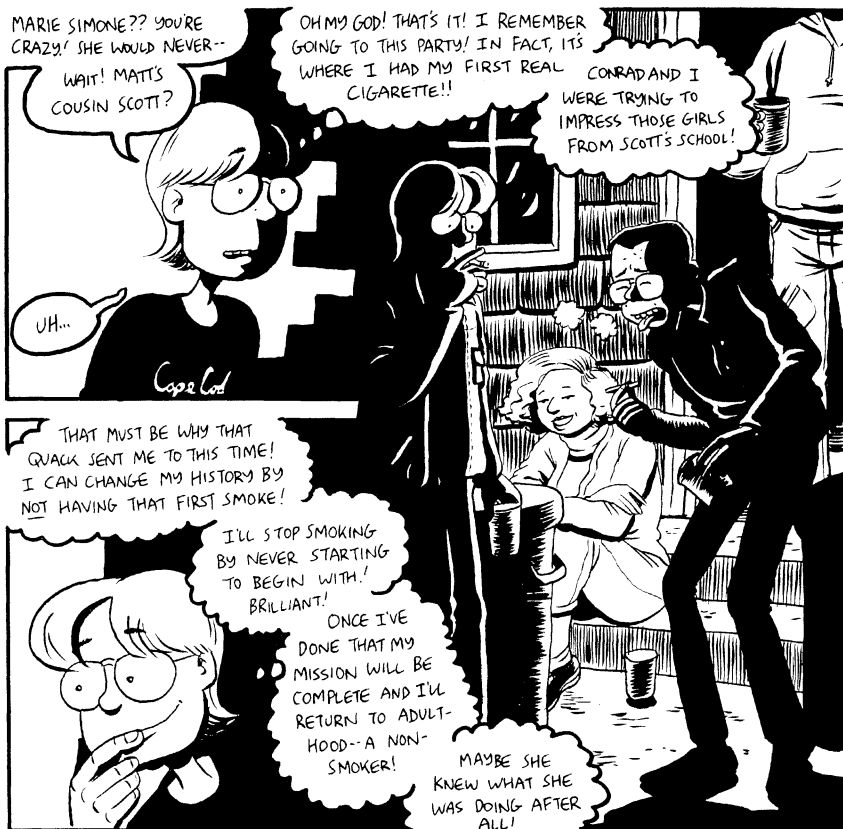
UH...

THAT MUST BE WHY THAT
QUACK SENT ME TO THIS TIME!
I CAN CHANGE MY HISTORY BY
NOT HAVING THAT FIRST SMOKE!

I'LL STOP SMOKING
BY NEVER STARTING
TO BEGIN WITH!
BRILLIANT!

ONCE I'VE
DONE THAT MY
MISSION WILL BE
COMPLETE AND I'LL
RETURN TO ADULT-
HOOD--A NON-
SMOKER!

MAYBE SHE
KNEW WHAT SHE
WAS DOING AFTER
ALL!



DAVE, I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT THIS PARTY IS LITERALLY GOING TO CHANGE MY LIFE.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT A BRAND NEW ANDY WICKS!

AWESOME, DUDE! GO FOR IT!!

IF YOU SHOW UP WITH HER YOU'LL RULE!

WHILE YOU'RE THERE ASK MICHELLE IF SHE'LL GO WITH ME! HAHA!

(I'M JUST KIDDING! DON'T REALLY ASK. HAHA.)

HUH? WHAT ARE -- OH, RIGHT.

MARIE.

GUYS, YOU KNOW WHAT?

I'M GOING TO GO ASK HER OUT RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS CRAZY. I REMEMBER HAVING A BIG CRUSH ON MARIE BUT I NEVER HAD THE BALLS TO ASK HER OUT. SHE WAS NICE TO ME BUT I ALWAYS FIGURED SHE WAS OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

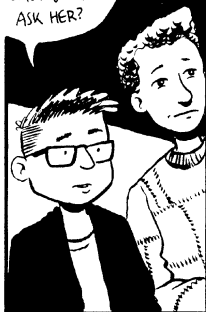
BUT NOW? WHAT THE HELL! SHE'LL PROBABLY SAY NO BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE GIVEN IT A SHOT AND IT SEEMS LIKE MY FRIENDS ARE IMPRESSED.

THIS IS KIND OF EXCITING, IN A WAY. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW NOTHING WILL COME OF THIS, I'M ACTUALLY NERVOUS!

HAHA! I'M ACTUALLY FINALLY ASKING OUT MARIE SIMONE! HAHA!



DID YOU ASK?
WHAT DID SHE
SAY? DID YOU
ASK HER?



WOW!

SHIT, MAN,
YOU FUCKIN'
RULE!

HAHA, IT
WAS NOTHING,
OLD CHUM!

YEAH, THAT'S
GREAT.

HEY, YOU KNOW
WHAT I JUST REMEMBERED?
THAT NEW MICHAEL J. FOX
MOVIE IS OPENING THIS
WEEKEND. MAYBE WE
SHOULD GO TO THAT
INSTEAD, RIGHT?



WE SHOULD! AND WHEN
WE GO WE'LL MAKE SURE
YOU'RE, LIKE, WEARING A
DIAPER, HAHHAHA!

CUZ YOU'RE
SUCH A BABY!

HMM... MAYBE THIS
WEIRD TRIP INTO THE PAST
WON'T BE ALL BAD. IN ADDITION
TO NOT SMOKING, I CAN CORRECT
ALL THE DUMB MISTAKES I MADE
AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL
THE BLOWN OPPORTUNITIES.

IF NOTHING ELSE
I FINALLY ASKED OUT
MARIE. IT TOOK ME
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
BUT I DID IT!







IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF HORMONAL THING. I AM FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, AFTER ALL, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF PHEROMONES ARE BEING PUMPED INTO THE AIR BY ALL THESE ADOLESCENTS?

ONE OTHER THING I'VE NOTICED IS HOW, WELL, HEALTHY I FEEL. I'M NOW IN A BODY WHICH NOT ONLY HAS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LESS WEAR AND TEAR ON IT, IT'S ACTUALLY STILL GROWING!

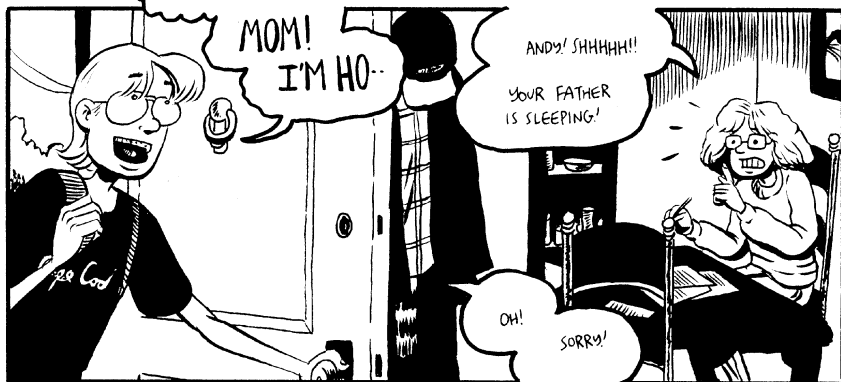
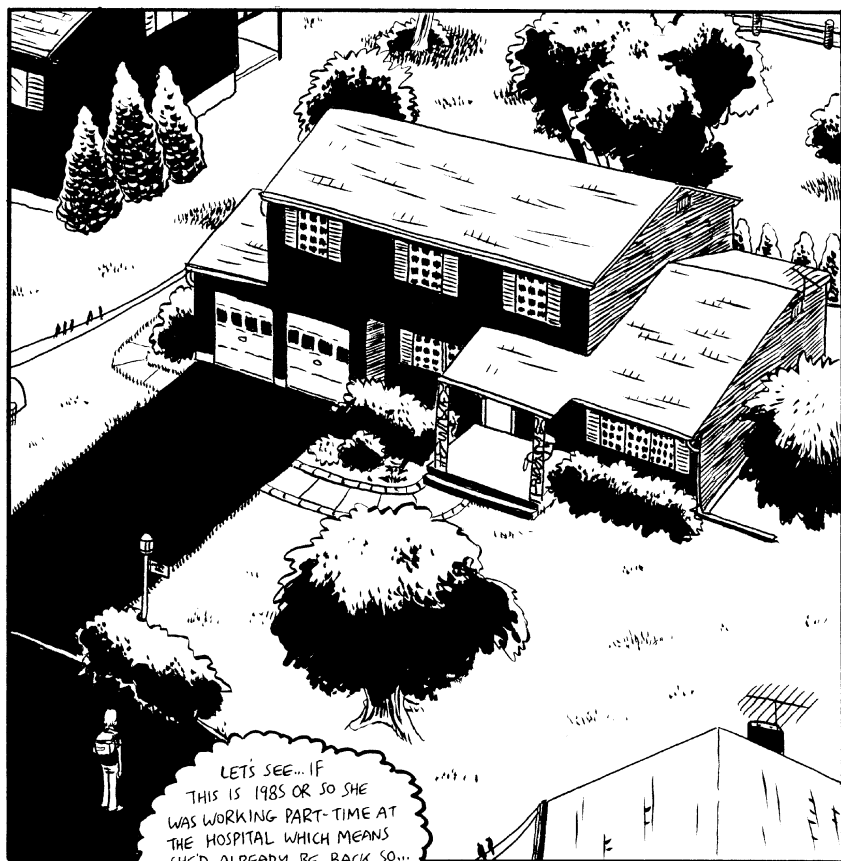
PLUS, ITS LUNGS ARE UNPOLLUTED BY TOBACCO, NEVER BEEN HUNG OVER, NEVER TORE ITS A.C.L. DURING THAT STUPID BASKETBALL GAME IN 1997. I FEEL FANTASTIC!

IF I CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY OF BRINGING THIS BODY BACK TO THE PRESENT I'LL BE ALL SET, HAHA!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LYNN WOULD FEEL ABOUT IT BUT MAYBE IT WOULD WORK OUT: DON'T THEY SAY THAT GUNS REACH THEIR SEXUAL PEAK AT SEVENTEEN BUT FOR WOMEN IT'S THIRTY-FIVE?

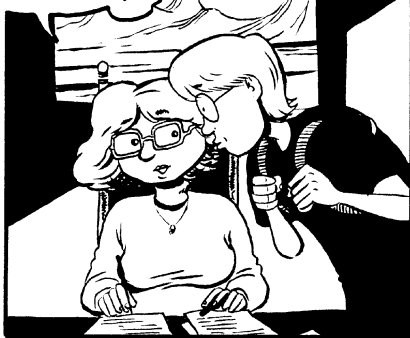
SOMETIMES "THEY" ARE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS.





I PICKED UP
SOME YOO-HOO
AT THE MAR--OH!

=SMEEK= WHAT'S WRONG?



HAHA! NOTHING'S "WRONG,"
I WAS JUST-- IT'S BEEN
SO LONG SINCE YOU'VE--

I WAS JUST
SURPRISED IS ALL.

HOW
WAS
SCHOOL?



OH... NOTHING
TOO EXCITING.
SAME OLD STUFF.

WELL, I'M GLAD TO
HEAR YOU'RE DOING
BETTER.



WOW... WHAT'S
GOING ON, HERE?
SHE'S EXACTLY THE
SAME AS IN THE
PRESENT!

OKAY, HER HAIR
AND GLASSES ARE A
LITTLE DIFFERENT BUT
OTHER THAN THAT SHE'S
THE SAME WOMAN IN 1985
THAT SHE IS IN 2010.

BUT... IS
SHE?

MAYBE IT'S JUST MY
PERCEPTION. MAYBE SINCE
I'VE KNOWN HER FOREVER
MY CONCEPT OF "HER" IS REALLY
AN AMALGAM OF MEMORIES FROM
MY ENTIRE LIFE.

AND MEMORIES
OF HER FROM CHILD-
HOOD ARE PROBABLY
MORE POTENT THAN
THOSE FROM OTHER
TIMES. FASCINATING!

SPEAKING OF
CHILDHOOD...

HEY, IS
GINA HOME
YET?

HMM? NO,
WHY WOULD SHE
BE HOME NOW?



OH, RIGHT! HER SCHOOL
DOESN'T--
ANYTHING I
CAN HELP YOU
WITH?

HELP ME?

OH, NO, IT'S
JUST THE USUAL
NONSENSE. NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT!
START YOUR HOME-
WORK.



OKAY. I GUESS
I'LL BE UP IN
MY ROOM.



WELL, I'M
GOING TO SCREW
MY FIFTEEN YEAR-OLD
SELF TODAY BECAUSE
THERE'S NO WAY I'M
DOING THIS HOMEWORK.



BUT SINCE I
GOT HIM A DATE
WITH MARIE FOR
FRIDAY I'D SAY
WE'RE SQUARE.

JEEZ, WHAT A SLOB I
AM! NOW I KNOW WHERE
MY DAUGHTERS GET IT
FROM.



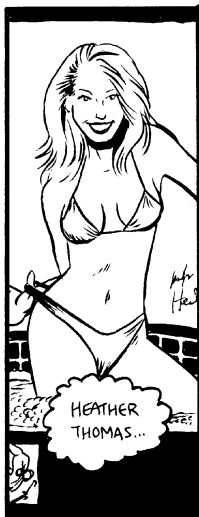
HA! LOOK AT THIS
PLACE! I FORGOT HOW
INTO POSTERS I WAS
AT THIS POINT.

MURPHY'S
LAWS...

"GHOST
BUSTERS"



IRON
MAIDEN...



HEATHER
THOMAS...

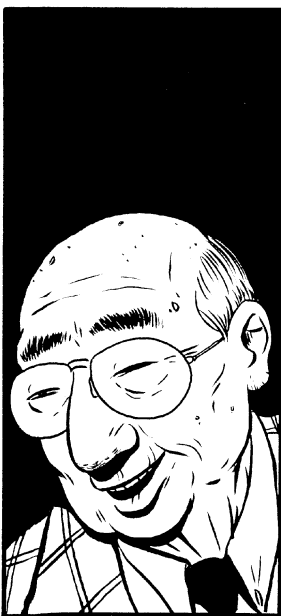
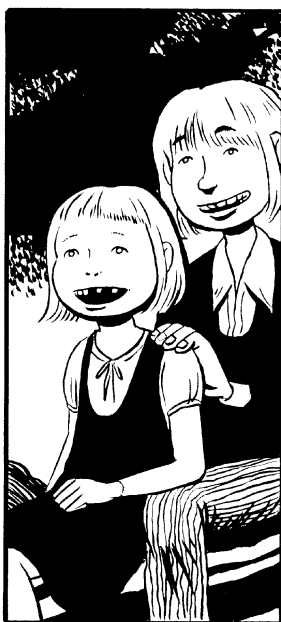


DENISE DOWNS. WAS
SHE AN ACTRESS? SINGER?
I GUESS THIS WAS HER
FIFTEEN MINUTES. I
HOPE SHE SAVORED IT.



HMM, SPEAKING OF
FORGOTTEN TREASURES,
I WONDER IF I'VE
STARTED MY COLLECTION
YET...





BASED ON HOW OLD PAT AND I LOOK IN THIS IT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT A YEAR OR SO UNTIL MRS. STRANG-
RAN HIM OVER ON LIME ST.



LOOK AT HIM THERE,
ALL HAPPY AND DUMB AND
TRUSTING. LITTLE GUESSING
WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE,
HOW LITTLE TIME HE HAS
LEFT...

I REMEMBER WHEN DAD
BROUGHT HIM HOME ON THE
DAY OF MY BROTHER PAT'S
CONFIRMATION. I GUESS THAT
WOULD'VE MADE ME... SIX? WAS
HE REALLY A PART OF OUR
LIVES FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME?



GOD, I LOVED
THAT DOG.

I WISH THAT
HYPNOQUACK SENT ME
BACK A FEW YEARS
EARLIER SO I COULD
SEE OL' NOODLES ONE
MORE TIME.



SO I COULD
SAY GOODBYE...



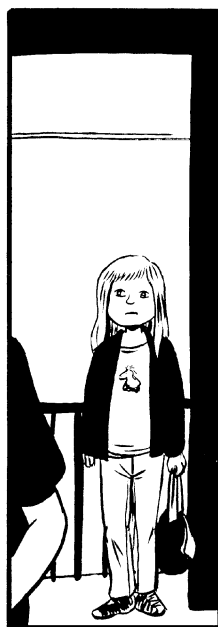
= Sniff =

SHIT, WHAT'S
WRONG WITH ME? HE'S
JUST A DOG -- A DOG
WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR
DECADES NOW! PULL
YOURSELF TOGETHER!

= Sniff =



GOD, MAYBE THE STRESS
OF THIS WHOLE CRAZY
SITUATION IS GETTING
TO ME. MAYBE I
NEED A--







Chapter Five: BROKEN WINGS



MATT'S COUSIN?
HE'S HAVING THE
PARTY? THE ONE
IN COLLEGE?

WHEN EXACTLY
WERE YOU PLAN-
NING ON TELLING
ME ABOUT ALL OF
THIS?



UM...

=CHW=
:CHEW:
:CHEW:
:CHEW:
:CHEW:



=GULP=

WELL...



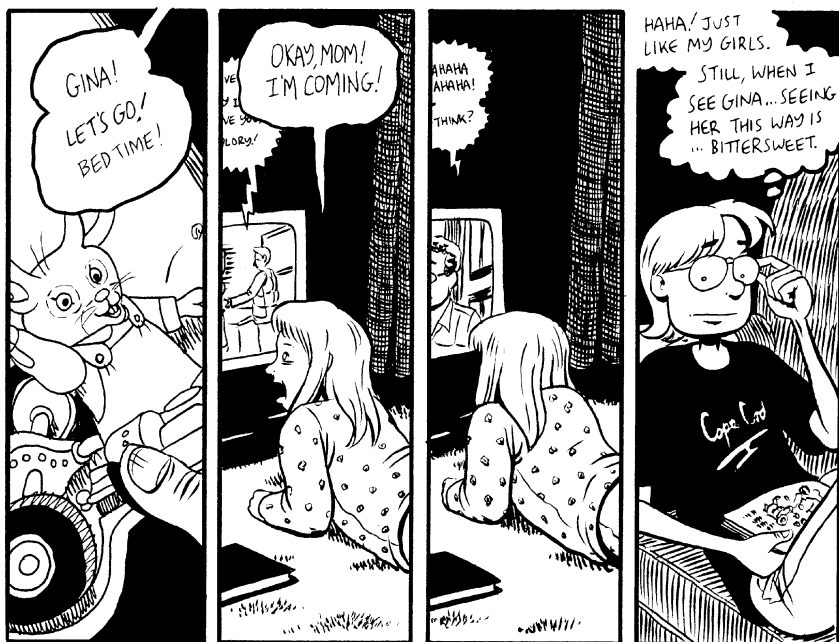
I
GUESS I SORT
OF FORGOT ABOUT
IT UNTIL NOW.



I WASN'T
REALLY SURE IF I
WAS GOING TO GO, IT
SEEMS, BUT NOW I
HAVE THIS DATE AND ALL
WITH MARIE.

AREN'T YOU HAPPY
I HAVE A DATE?





THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ARE NO PICNIC FOR POOR GINA. SHE JUST BARELY GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND DROPS OUT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHEN SHE GETS PREGNANT.

DIVORCED TWICE BY THE TIME SHE'S THIRTY.

IRONICALLY, SHE AND HER DAUGHTER, BETHANY, LIVE IN THIS HOUSE NOW, SINCE SHE MOVED IN WITH MOM IN '07.

I... I KNOW I TOLD MYSELF I SHOULDN'T TINKER WITH THE PAST TOO MUCH, BUT I FEEL THE URGE TO HELP SOMEHOW... DO SOMETHING.

YOU TELL HIM!
(HAHAHAHA!)



GINA.

WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY? "MAKE SURE TONY CHEVRON WEARS A RUBBER WHEN YOU DO IT IN TEN YEARS?"

BUT EVEN BEFORE THAT GINA SEEMED TO BE ON A TROUBLED COURSE.

WHY? BAD LUCK? DESTINY?

WHAT GOES WRONG BETWEEN NOW AND THEN?

MAYBE NOTHING. MAYBE IT'S ALREADY--

GINA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??







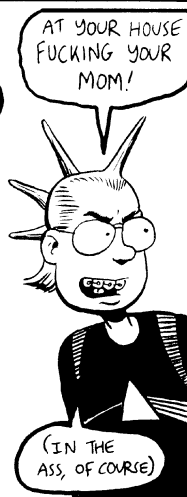


Chapter Six



The Authority Song





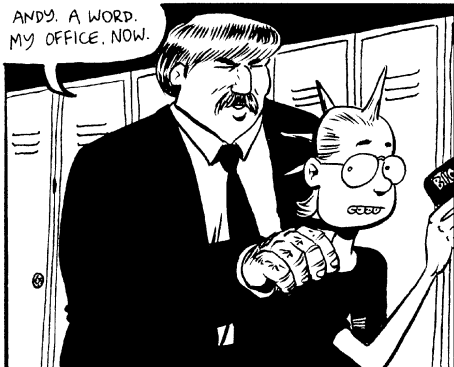


WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT! THAT WAS FRICKIN' RADICAL!

AH, WELL SCREW HIM. I CAN DRESS HOWEVER I WANT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO--



ANDY. A WORD. MY OFFICE. NOW.



000000000000HH!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS, SIR.

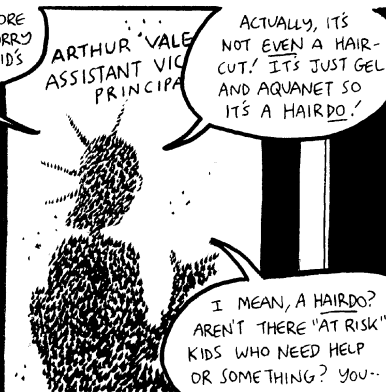
DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN SOME DUMB KID'S HAIRCUT?



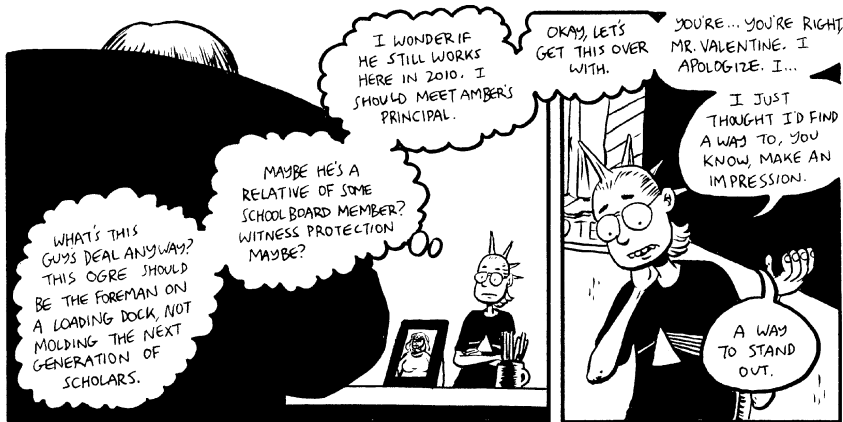
ARTHUR VALE
ASSISTANT VICE
PRINCIPAL

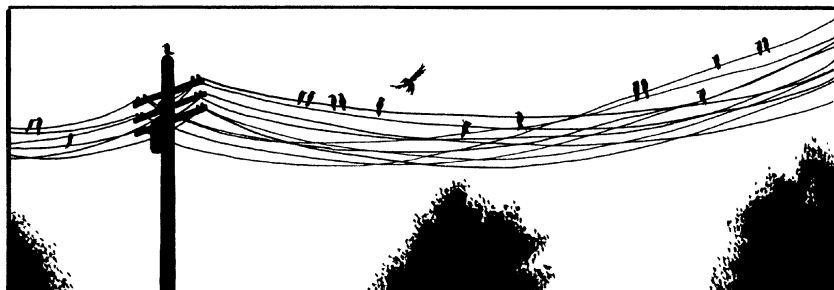
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT EVEN A HAIRCUT. IT'S JUST GEL AND AQUANET SO IT'S A HAIRDO!

I MEAN, A HAIRDO? AREN'T THERE 'AT RISK' KIDS WHO NEED HELP OR SOMETHING? YOU--











STILL, THERE ARE WORSE
WAYS TO SAY GOODBYE TO
THIS SECOND ADOLESCENCE
THAN FINALLY GOING ON
A DATE WITH MARIE
SIMONE.

WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE I'LL GET
LUCKY!



HAHA!



HERE
HE IS!

COME ON,
PUNK ROCK!
LET'S GO!

OKAY, MOM.
I'M HEADING
OUT.

OKAY, HONEY. HAVE
FUN AND REMEMBER:
WE HAVE A DEAL.



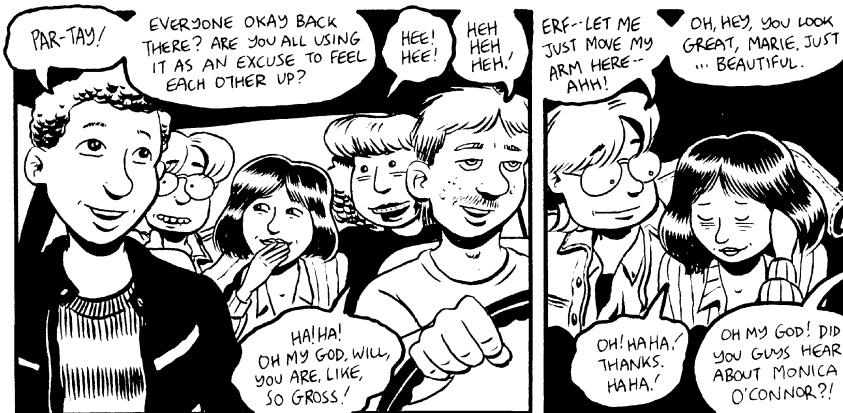
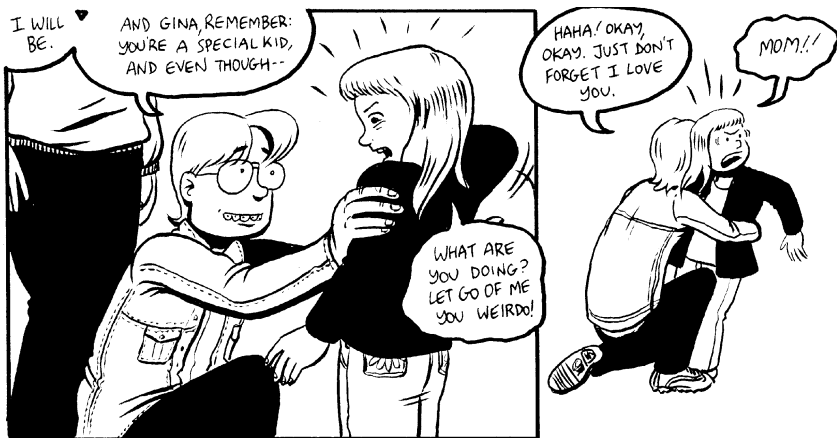
I KNOW,
I KNOW.
AND... THANKS.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME
GO TO THIS PARTY... AND
FOR TAKING ME AND JIM
TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY WHEN WE WERE
KIDS... AND, AND FOR ALL
THE CLOTHES YOU BOUGHT
US, EVEN THOUGH I SAID
THEY WERE UGLY.

AND THANKS FOR ALL THE
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND... AND
FOR JUST, YOU KNOW, RAISING US.
THANKS. THANKS FOR ALL OF IT.

OH! HAHA!
MY, WELL, YOU
ARE WELCOME!

ARE... ARE
YOU OKAY?



SHE REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL... AND SHE SMELLS GREAT.

MING RAGINO TOLD ME THAT SHE, LIKE, TOTALLY SAW HER AT A BILLY SQUIRE CONCERT, LIKE, OUT AT JONES BEACH?

THEY WERE, LIKE, BRINGING HER OUT ON, LIKE, A STRETCHER? SHE HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL SO THEY COULD, LIKE, PUMP HER STOMACH OR WHATEVER!



WOW! WHAT HAPPENED? WAS SHE ON PCP OR SOMETHING?

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE SHE GAVE BLOOD TO FIFTY GUYS! I JUST ASKED HER OUT AND SHE SAID YES! THERE'S A LESSON HERE, THREE GALLONS I THINK.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

EWWWWW

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE! HAHA!



TONIGHT SHOULD... UM... OH! I FEEL A BOWSER COMING ON!

SHE IS LIKE A TOTAL SLUT, RIGHT?

I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE AT THE PARTY.











TWENTY YEARS? GOD, I HAVE NO IDEA. I'D BE... THIRTY-SIX? SO I'LL PROBABLY BE ON MY THIRD WIFE AND SIXTH KID. (THAT I KNOW OF)

THAT WOULD BE, LIKE, 2005.' IT'S GONNA BE ALL, LIKE, THE JETSONS BY THEN, RIGHT?

OH, COME ON, MATTY THAT'S TOTAL BULLSHIT! YOU KNOW THAT BY THEN YOU'LL BE A FAMOUS HOITY-TOITY BIG-SHOT WRITER.

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE FILMING THE SEQUEL TO THE "HIDDEN CAVERNS" MOVIE TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW.
(IF THEY EVEN MAKE MOVIES ANY MORE!)





WELL... I GUESS I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D BE DOING SOMETHING... CREATIVE.

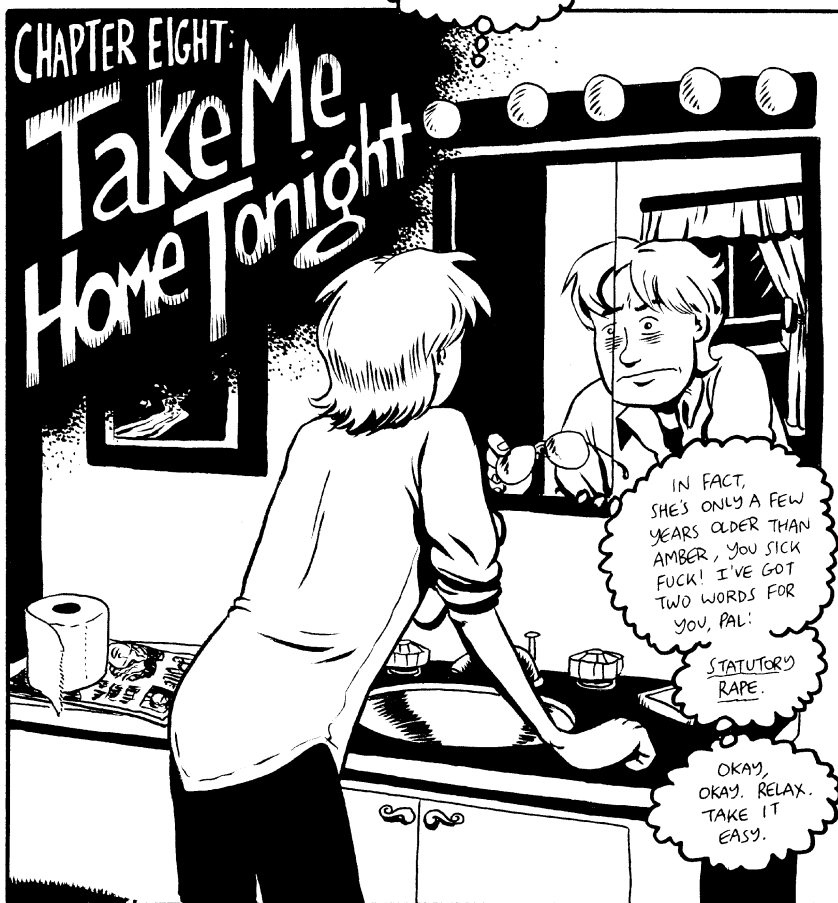




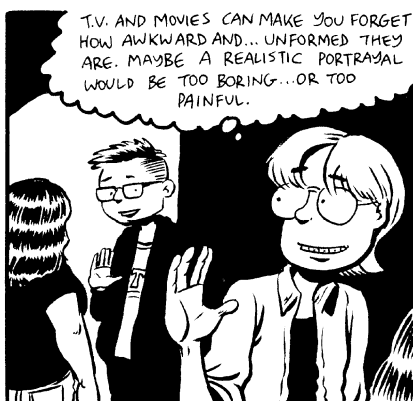


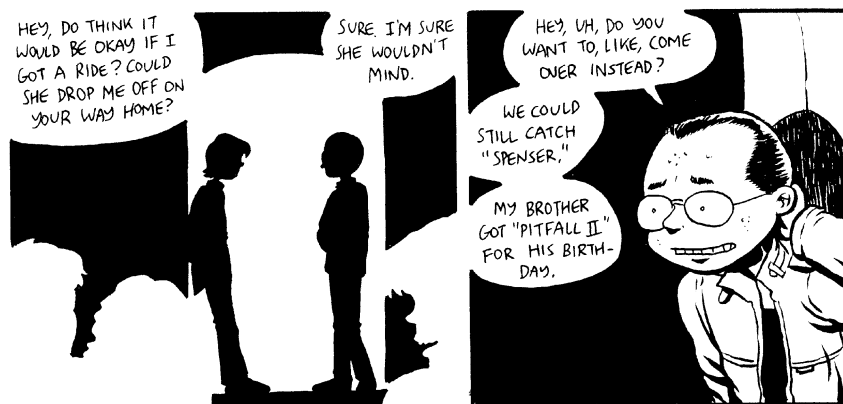












EXCUSE ME, IF I
CAN JUST REACH
AROUND AND GET
MY--



UM... NO, NO,
IT'S COOL, WE'RE
ALL COOL, IT'S
JUST MY JACKET
IS, IS ...

JUST
EXCUSE...



OKAY!
WELL, UH, I'M
GETTING A RIDE
IN CONRAD'S MOM, UH,
IN HER CAR SO...

SEE YOU
LATER!



I ... I ... WHAT WAS
I SUPPOSED TO DO
THERE? KICK HIS
ASS?

CALL HER A
TRAMP OR SOME-
THING?

I REALLY DON'T
KNOW. DID SHE WANT
ME TO CAUSE A SCENE
TO PROVE I STILL LIKED
HER AFTER WHAT I DID
OUT ON THE PATIO?

AND WILL ... WHAT
AN ASSHOLE! HE
KNOWS I LIKED
HER! THE GYM
CODE DICTATES HE
KEEPS HIS HANDS
OFF HER, RIGHT?

EVEN IF I'M
THE ONE WHO ABRUPTLY
AND MYSTERIOUSLY STOPPED
MAKING OUT WITH HER.

IT'S IN THE
GYM CODE!!





BEFORE, I FELT LIKE I WAS SORT OF... PRESSURING YOU DO THINGS YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO DO AND, WELL, IT WASN'T RIGHT.



WHAT? SCREW YOU, BUDDY! I'M READY TO DATE! I JUST HAVEN'T FOUND A GIRL I WANTED TO ASK OUT YET!



NO, NO, I KNOW! I JUST MEANT THAT--



AND, I DON'T NOT DRINK BECAUSE I'M NOT "READY," I DON'T DRINK BECAUSE DRUNK PEOPLE ARE "ANNOYING!"

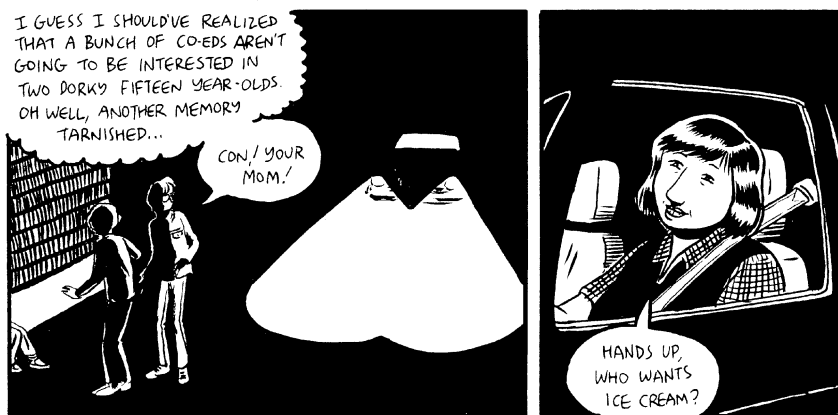


WELL, HA! NO, THANKS, "DUDE!"

OKAY, ALREADY! I WITHDRAW MY APOLOGY! IT MUST'VE BEEN THE DUM-DUM JUICE TALKING, I'M SORRY.









IT'S FUNNY BEING THIS CLOSE TO THE END. I'M EAGER TO GET HOME BUT IT'S SORT OF BITTERSWEET.

WHO DOESN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO GO BACK?

BUT, ACTUALLY HAVING THAT CHANCE... IT'S REALLY A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

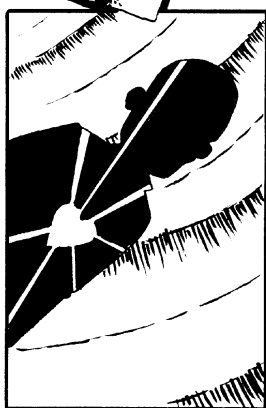
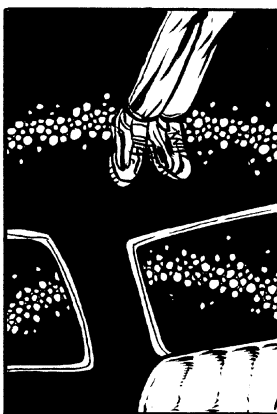
I KNOW I DAD WHAT I CAME BACK TO DO AND THAT MY FOCUS WAS THE SMOKING THING...

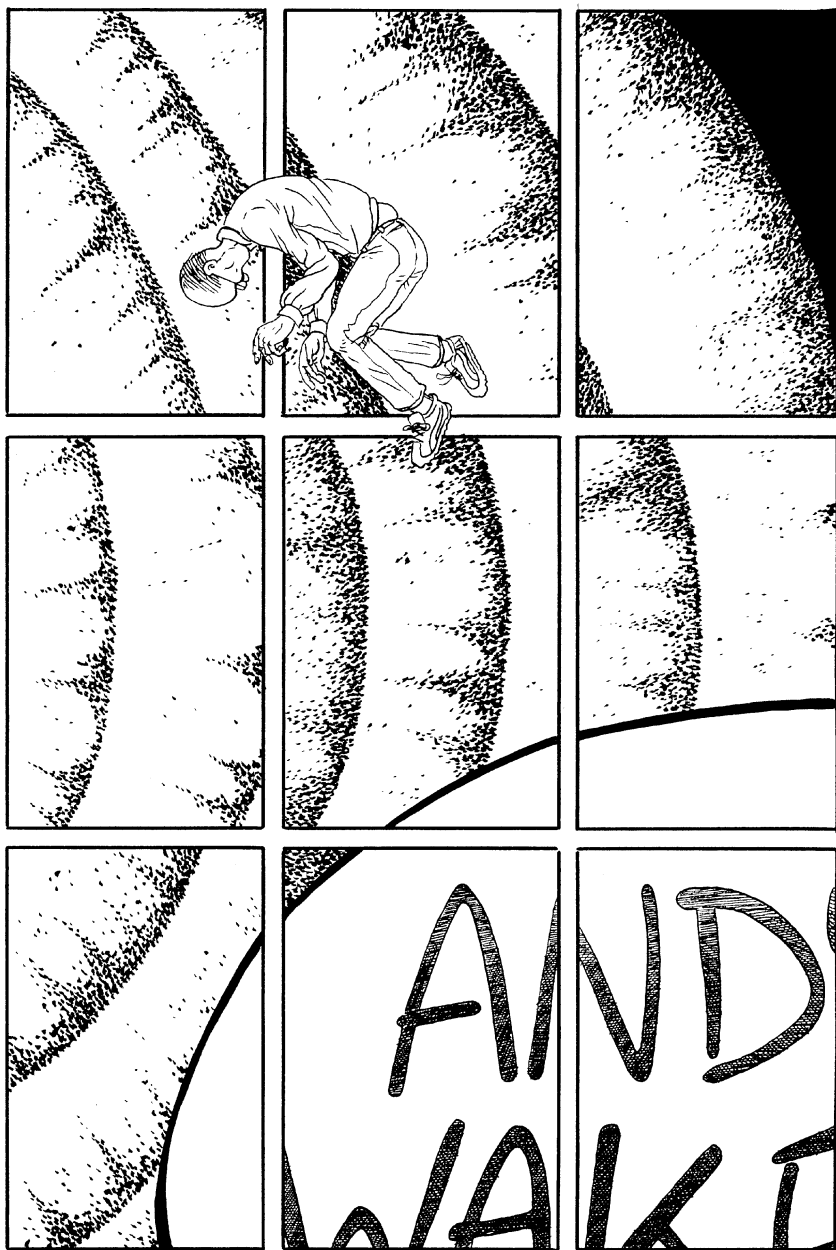
BUT SHOULD I HAVE DONE MORE?

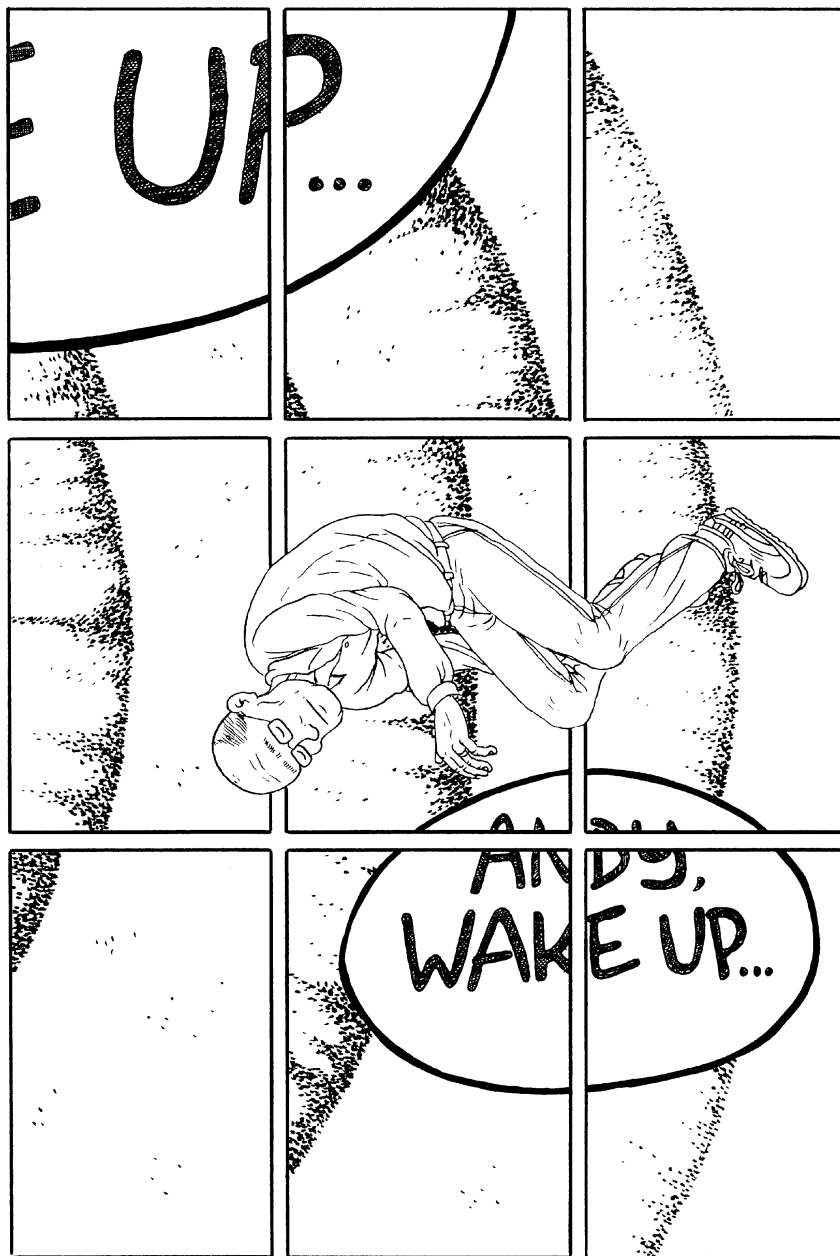
I ASKED MARIE OUT BUT BASED ON HOW THAT TURNED OUT I'M AFRAID TO THINK WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED IF I TRIED TO "FIX" ANYTHING ELSE!

BUT, ACTUALLY, I CAN'T THINK OF MUCH ELSE I WOULD HAVE CHANGED... UNLESS I REALLY WANTED TO CHANGE THINGS...













CHAPTER NINE. HERE I GO AGAIN

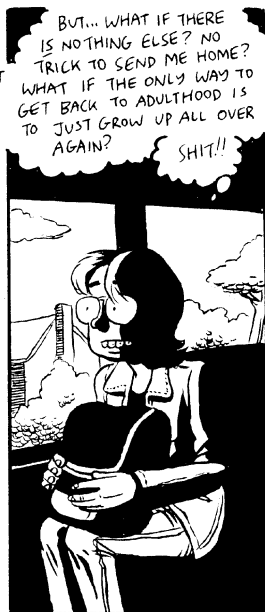


I MAY BE A LITTLE LATE GETTING HOME FROM WORK, SO REHEAT THAT PIZZA FROM SATURDAY FOR YOU AND GINA, OKAY?



MRS. JOUVRAY WILL BE HERE UNTIL SEVEN, BUT I SHOULD BE HOME BY THEN TO HELP YOUR DAD. HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL!





RELIVE HIGH SCHOOL, DAY AFTER MISERABLE DAY, ALL OVER AGAIN UNTIL I GRADUATE, GO TO COLLEGE AND SO ON AND SO ON? I CAN'T DO THAT! EVEN IF I DIDN'T GO INSANE I'D BE EXPERIENCING A WHOLE DIFFERENT LIFE!



WHEN I LOSE MY VIRGINITY WITH CAROL METER IN MY JUNIOR YEAR AT BROCKPORT I WON'T BE THE SAME ANXIOUS, NAIVE NINETEEN YEAR-OLD, I'LL BE AN ANXIOUS, WORLD-WEARY FORTY-FOUR YEAR-OLD!



WOULD IT EVEN BE WITH CAROL METER? FOR ONE THING I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE HER ALL THAT MUCH. NINETEEN YEAR-OLD ANDY DIDN'T THINK HE COULD BE PICKY.



MORE IMPORTANTLY, EVEN IF I WERE TO TRY AND MAKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN, TEN THOUSAND DECISIONS PUT ME AT THAT SCHOOL AT THAT PARTY ON THAT WEEK-END -- TRYING TO RETRACE MY STEPS TWO DECADES LATER WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE!



AND IS THAT WHAT MY LIFE IS DOOMED TO BE? TRYING TO RECREATE MY OLD LIFE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, JUST SO THAT I CAN GET BACK TO SQUARE ONE? DO I HAVE TO DO IT ALL AGAIN? EVEN THE MISTAKES?



DO I HAVE TO PURPOSELY SMASH MY MOM'S CAR INTO THAT GUARDRAIL? WORK THAT AWFUL BUSBOY JOB? FAIL ADVANCED PLACEMENT HISTORY? DO I GET EMMA PREGNANT AGAIN SO THAT WE CAN HAVE AN ABORTION AND THEN WATCH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITHER AND DIE OVER THE NEXT YEAR?



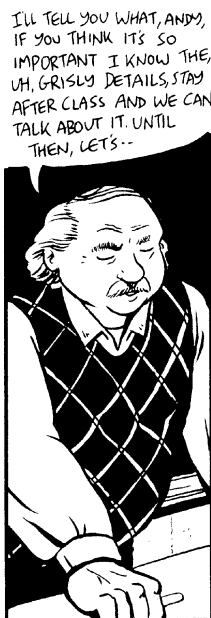
HOW DO I KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT? WHAT WENT INTO MAKING ME THE MAN I AM--OR THE MAN I BECOME? WHAT...

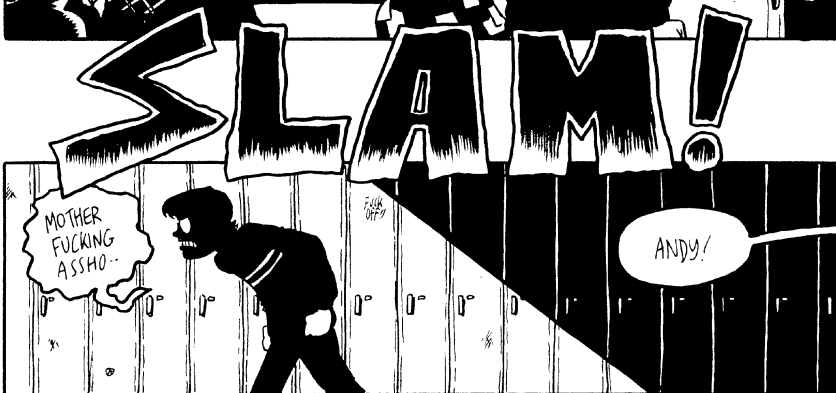
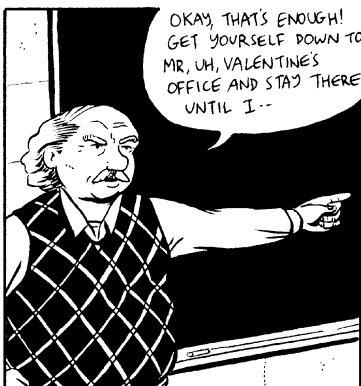


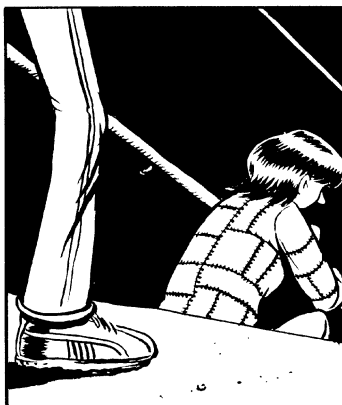
WHAT THE HELL AM I GOING TO DO??



MR. AMBROSE, CAN I GO TO THE BATHROOM?





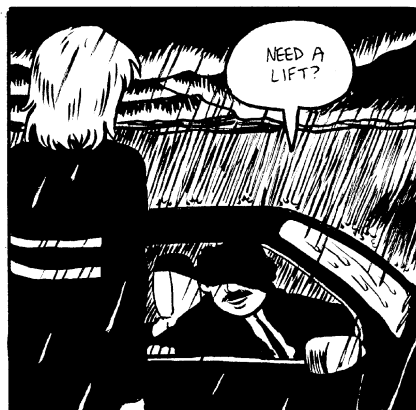
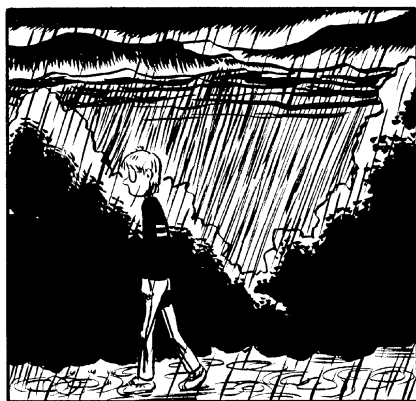




CHAPTER TEN

TOO MUCH TIME
ON MY HANDS

RUMBLERUMBLER



EVEN IF DO EVER MAKE IT BACK I'M SURE I'VE SCREWED THINGS UP SO BAD THAT IT WILL ALL BE DIFFERENT.

I'M GOING UP ROUTE 132. DOES THAT GET YOU CLOSER TO HOME?

SURE. I LIVE RIGHT OFF THERE

MAYBE...MAYBE NONE OF THIS IS REAL. MAYBE THAT DOCTOR DID SOMETHING TO MAKE ME GO INSANE.

YOU, UH, CUTTING OUT OF SCHOOL, THEN?

YEAH, I'M KIND OF SICK.

OH! WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA PUKE ROLL DOWN THE WINDOW! HAHA!

OR MAYBE I'M NOT IN "THE PAST" AT ALL. MAYBE I'M JUST SOME FIFTEEN YEAR-OLD KID WHO'S HAVING A NERVOUS COLLAPSE.

MY DAUGHTER GRADUATED IN '83. YOU KNOW HER? MAURA BEESLEY?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

IF I CAN'T FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS I GUESS THAT'S WHAT MY LIFE, MY ADULT LIFE, WILL HAVE BEEN -- A STRANGE DREAM OR HALLUCINATION.

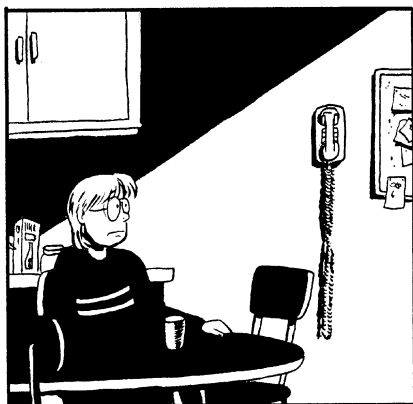
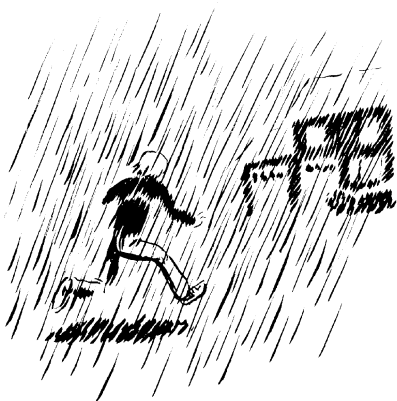
YEAH, SHE'S GOING TO CORNELL NOW. YOU HAVE ANY COLLEGE PLANS YOURSELF?

BUT I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT! I KNOW IT'S REAL! I HAVE TO FIGHT FOR MY FAMILY! THE IDEA THAT AMBER WILL NEVER BE BORN, THAT LYNN AND I WILL NEVER MEET --

STOP IT!
STOP IT!!

OKAY THIS IS FINE I LIVE RIGHT OFF SALEM SO I CAN WALK FROM HERE THANKS!!

HUH?
OH, UH, OKAY. IF --





WHAT?? NO! NO, IT'S ME!
ANDY! ANDY WICKS!
I... WE...



"WE WIND UP MEETING FOR
THE FIRST TIME AT YOUR
COUSIN VITO'S FORTIETH
BIRTHDAY AT A FRIDAYS IN
JONKERS."



"I WORK WITH VITO'S WIFE,
MINDY, WHO INVITES ME TO
THE PARTY TO SET ME UP
WITH HER FRIEND, RACHEL."



"BUT RACHEL WILL TURN OUT
TO BE A DRIP, SO I WIND UP
TALKING TO YOU INSTEAD."



"YOU'LL HAVE JUST SEEN THIS
AWFUL EXPERIMENTAL PLAY THE
NIGHT BEFORE AND WE LAUGH
ABOUT THAT AND FALL IN LOVE."

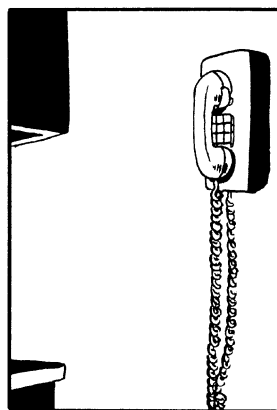


"YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER FROM A
PREVIOUS MARRIAGE AND SHE
WILL CONSENT WHEN YOU TELL
HER THAT I PROPOSED TO YOU."



"WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER DAUGHTER,
SOPHIA, AND SHE --"



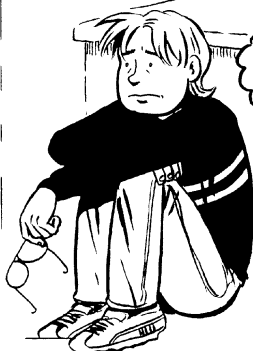




TOMORROW, I GO BACK TO SCHOOL
AND REPEAT THE TENTH GRADE.
GOD, TALK ABOUT GETTING LEFT
BACK... SHOP CLASS... BIOLOGY
... WHATEVER THAT STUPID
MATH THEY'RE MAKING ME
TAKE IS...



SO... I
GUESS
THAT'S IT.

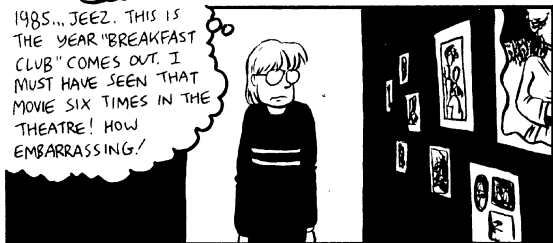


THE START
OF ANDY
WICKS 2.0.

THE
MULLIGAN
LIFE.



1985... JEEZ. THIS IS
THE YEAR "BREAKFAST
CLUB" COMES OUT. I
MUST HAVE SEEN THAT
MOVIE SIX TIMES IN THE
THEATRE! HOW
EMBARRASSING!



THE ONLY REASON I
EVEN REMEMBER THAT
IS THAT THIS IS THE
SUMMER DAD DIES
SO I --



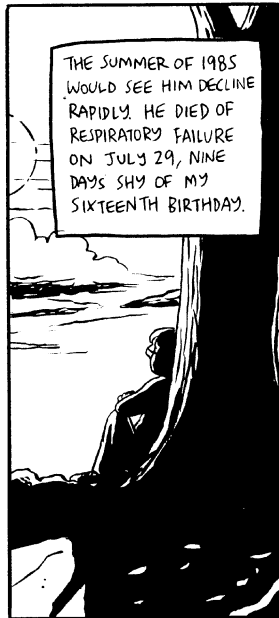
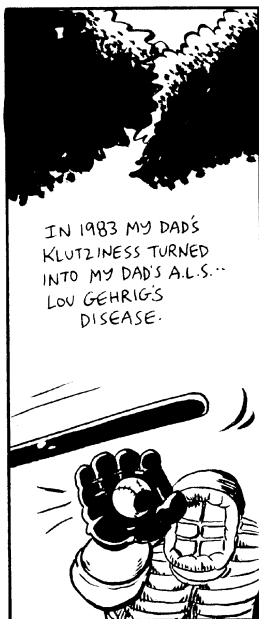
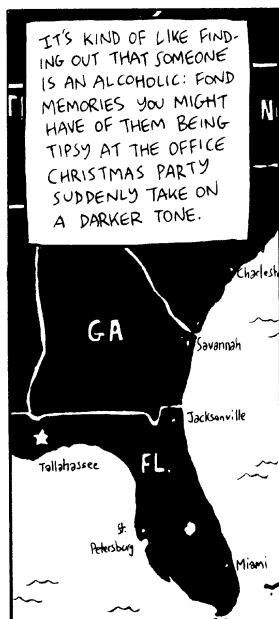


HE WAS FIRST
DIAGNOSED AROUND
1983 OR SO... IT'S HARD
TO SAY, EXACTLY, SINCE MY
PARENTS TRIED TO KEEP IT
FROM US FOR AS LONG AS THEY
COULD. ONCE IT GOT BAD ENOUGH
WHERE HE COULDN'T GO TO WORK,
OF COURSE, THE JIG WAS UP.

CHAPTER ELEVEN HOLD MY ME DADDY



I ALWAYS
REMEMBERED MY
DAD AS BEING SORT OF
KLUTZY. IT WAS NO BIG
DEAL, JUST A QUIRKY,
SOMETIMES FUNNY PART
OF WHO HE WAS... LIKE
HIS BEING A CUBS FAN OR
THE WAY HE LAUGHED.





IS ANYONE EVER REALLY PREPARED FOR THE DEATH OF A PARENT? EVEN IF YOU KNOW IT'S COMING, AS WE DID, YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL UNTIL...



I WAS JUST A KID.



I CAN, AND HAVE MADE EXCUSES: I WAS YOUNG, I WAS CONFUSED, ALL TEEN-AGERS ARE NARCIS-SISTIC, WRAPPED UP IN THEIR OWN WORLDS.

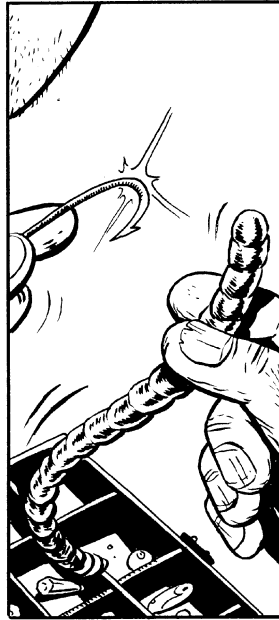


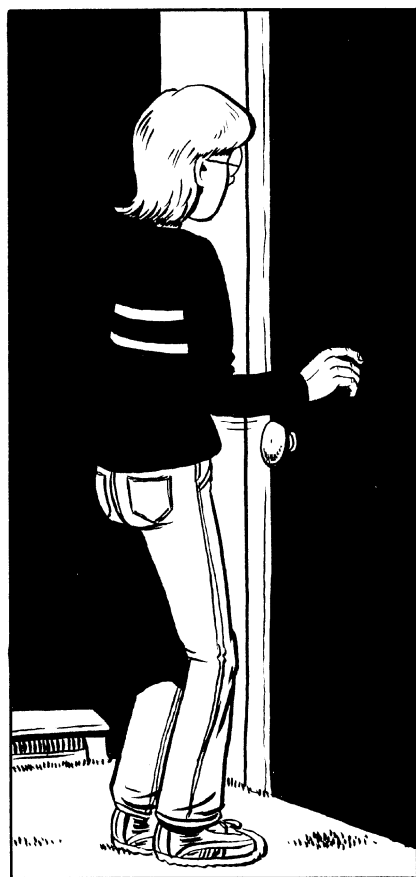
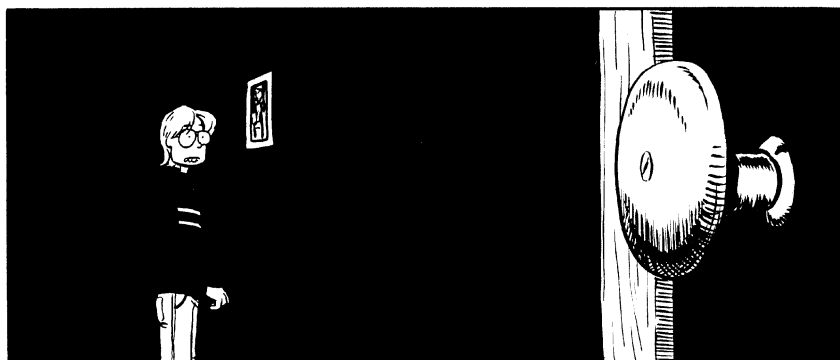
SELFISH.

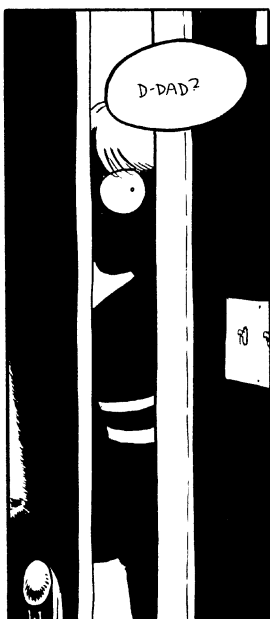
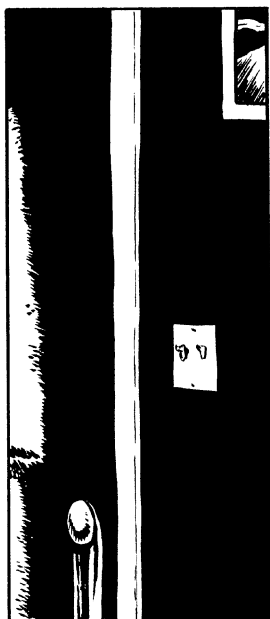
THE THINGS I SAID, THE THINGS I DIDN'T SAY... I CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE THE FEELINGS. REGRET? SHAME? RAGE? SORROW?



MY MOM, GINA, MY BROTHER... WE'VE ALL TALKED ABOUT IT, ABOUT OUR COMMON EXPERIENCE, BUT I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE.











OH, YOU KNOW: EACH DAY IS... BETTER THAN THE NEXT... AS THEY SAY.

HEH...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
... HOW ARE THINGS GOING?

WELL, NOTHING TOO EXCITING, YOU KNOW.

JUST A CRAZY TIME LATELY.

MMM...

YOUR MOM TOLD ME YOU... HAD A BIG DATE THE OTHER NIGHT... YOU OLD DOG... WHO IS SHE? A CUTE ONE I BET...

HAHA! YEAH. YEAH, SHE IS. I'M GLAD I FINALLY WORKED UP THE NERVE TO ASK HER AT LEAST.

BUT WHO KNOWS HOW IT WILL TURN OUT, RIGHT?

HEH! THIS IS TRUE... HOW'S SCHOOL THESE DAYS?

SCHOOL?
UM.

LET'S JUST SAY I REALLY CAN'T WAIT TO NEVER HAVE TO GO THERE AGAIN.

HA... ALSO TRUE, BUT THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS SOMETIMES... IT GETS BETTER...



THAT'S... THAT'S THE KIND
OF THING I'VE... I'LL MISS
WHEN YOU... AFTER YOU...

AFTER
I DIE.

SHIT, I'M SORRY TO...
TO BRING UP, YOU KNOW, I
DON'T MEAN TO GET ALL, OR
TO GET YOU ALL, YOU KNOW
ALL...

NO, NO,
LISTEN:

IT'S NOT AS IF
YOU'RE... REMINDING
ME OF WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN...

TRUST ME...
IT'S NEVER NOT
ON MY MIND...

IN FACT, IT'S KIND OF...
(WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY "NICE"
EXACTLY)... BUT TALKING
ABOUT IT IS... IMPORTANT.

I JUST WANT
US ALL TO... BE HONEST.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR
... FOR...

ARE
YOU

WE-- WE BOTH
HAVE SO MUCH TO
SAY... AND THERE'S
NO TIME...

IT'S
OKAY,
DAD.



I HATE THAT YOU KIDS
HAVE TO... GO THROUGH
ALL OF THIS. PATTY, HE'S
A LITTLE OLDER, BUT...
YOU, GINA...

IT'S HARD ON PATTY,
TOO. I'VE TRIED TO BRING
IT UP WITH HIM A BUNCH
OF TIMES BUT HE'S--

I MEAN, I
GUESS HE DEALS WITH
IT FINE, BUT, YOU
KNOW, NONE OF US EVER
REALLY... WE...

SHIT, DAD! I CAN'T
DO THIS! I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY!! IT'S JUST--

YOU SAY YOU
WANT US ALL TO BE
HONEST BUT HOW?
HOW THE HELL CAN
WE DO THAT??

WHAT'S
STOPPING
YOU?

"WHAT'S
STOPPING
ME??"

WHAT'S STOPPING
ME IS THAT YOU'RE
FUCKING DYING, DAD!!
YOU'RE DYING!!

YOU'RE
ANGRY.



YOU WON'T GET TO SEE
ME GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE
OR, OR, OR WARN ME THAT
MOVING TO TEXAS WITH JAMIE
IS A REALLY BAD IDEA!!

NOW... NOW I'M GOING TO
WATCH LYNN'S DAD MAKE A TOAST
AT OUR WEDDING AND WONDER WHAT
YOU WOULD'VE SAID!

THINK ABOUT
HOW PROUD YOU
WOULD'VE BEEN!!

YOU WON'T BE AROUND
FOR ANY OF IT! WHEN, WHEN...
WHEN LYNN HAS TO GET THE
EMERGENCY C-SECTION AND
I'M TERRIFIED I'M GOING,
UH, UH, TO LOSE, UH---







NO, NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL.

I'M ANGRY, TOO.

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO GET TO SEE YOU GUYS GROW UP, FINISH SCHOOL, FALL IN LOVE... RETIRE WITH YOUR MOM, DRIVING AROUND THE COUNTRY IN A WINNEBAGO, GRANDKIDS ... ALL OF IT.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S LIFE.

GOD, IT'S A TERRIBLE IRONY OF LIFE THAT THE DEEPEST TRUTHS CAN'T BE EXPRESSED WITHOUT LAPSPING INTO CLICHÉ. OH WELL. THIS, TOO, SHALL PASS, RIGHT? HEH HEH...

GOD, I AM SO TIRED.



MM... IF YOU DON'T
MIND, I'M JUST GOING
TO SHUT MY EYES FOR
AWHILE.

THAT'S OKAY.
I'M SURE THAT
ALL THIS...

...THIS
IS...

WAIT.

THIS...
THIS IS IT, ISN'T
IT?

AFTER THIS,
I NEVER -- WE
NEVER --

MMM? I
JUST NEED TO REST
A BIT. I'M GLAD WE
HAD THIS TALK, THOUGH.
COOKIE. I'M REALLY
PROUD OF YOU.

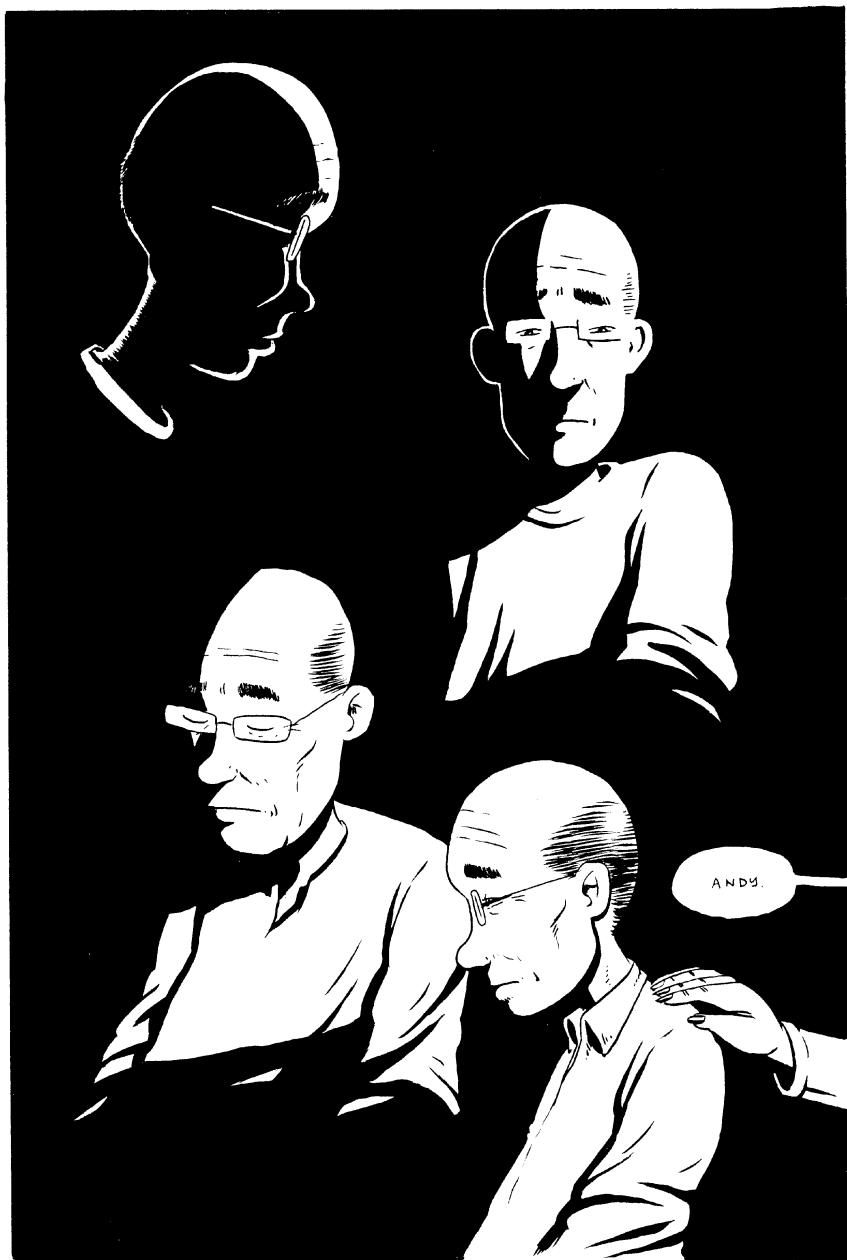
YOU'RE GOING
TO GROW UP TO
BE A FINE
MAN, ANDY.

W- AHHEM-

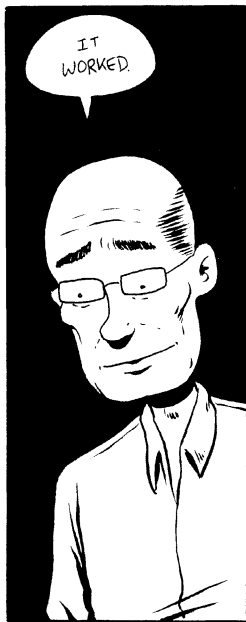
WELL, YOU
AND MOM DID
A GREAT JOB.











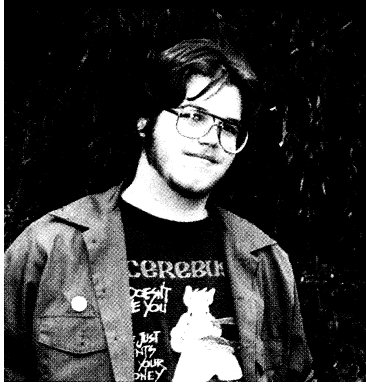
Thanks to Al, Andrew, Bob, Burr,
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seemingly endless patience,
support and love.



Alex Robinson lives in

New York City with his wife and
their two cats. His other books,

all available from Top Shelf

Productions, are **Box Office**

Poison, BOP!, Tricked and **Alex
Robinson's Lower Regions.**

He graduated from high school

in 1987, and was voted "*Most*

Artistic" by his classmates. He

was not invited to the reunion.

www.comicbookalex.com



[Page 84 includes an error in which the protagonist, Mr. Wicks, thinks the word "Dad" instead of "Did." This will not be corrected in future editions, as it was intentional on the part of Mr. Robinson. The publishers and proofreaders wish to note their opposition to including such grammatically awkward and painfully heavy handed foreshadowing, but have let the issue rest out of respect for the author. We apologize if the author's stubborn refusal to listen to reason, demands or threats at all diminished your enjoyment of another otherwise entertaining Top Shelf product.]

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1. Graphic Novels
2. Humor
3. Time-travel

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WARNING: Middle-aged Andy Wicks has tried everything to quit smoking — from going cold turkey, to the latest choices in patches and nicotine chewing gums, so he figures he'll give this hypnosis thing a try. What's the worst that could happen? Unfortunately, he's dealt a fate worse than death — high school! He's transported back to 1985 and now Andy must relive his formative years, as a gangly, awkward teenager. Is he doomed to relive the mistakes of his past, or has he been given a second chance to get things right? One thing's for sure — this time he will not pass up the chance to ask out that girl he has a crush on from his math class...

"This is Alex Robinson's best book, and one of the rare comics not written by Stan Lee to perfectly capture the tragedy and triumph of being a teenager. Totally recommended."

—*Brian K. Vaughan, Y the Last Man, Ex Machina*

"A master of the slice-of-life indie comic genre, Robinson brings a strong dramatic force to his work as well. Robinson's talent allows his characters to be comprehensible even when they act like spoiled jerks or sabotage their own chances for happiness — but his authorial generosity returns them all to their own best selves by the end."

—*Publishers Weekly*

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