

LOVE AND ROCKETS

#4

GILBERT & JAIME HERNANDEZ



BETO 2017

In addition to the regular edition, don't miss this exclusive variant cover, available from www.fantagraphics.com.



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

LOVE AND ROCKETS Vol. IV #4 by Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez.
Published by Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Editor and Associate Publisher: Eric Reynolds. Production: Paul Baresh. Design: Jacob Covey. Published by Gary Groth. All contents © 2017 Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez. This edition © 2017 Fantagraphics Books Inc. All rights reserved. Permission to reproduce material must be obtained from the author(s) or publisher. First Fantagraphics Books edition: November 2017. Printed in Canada.

LOS BROS HERNANDEZ



PERSONIFY COUTURE FOR EVERY BODY WITH PRINTS FROM
GILBERT AND JAIME HERNANDEZ FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Pinup Girl
CLOTHING
PINUPGIRLCLOTHING.COM

♡ SINCE, DON'T HAVE YOU

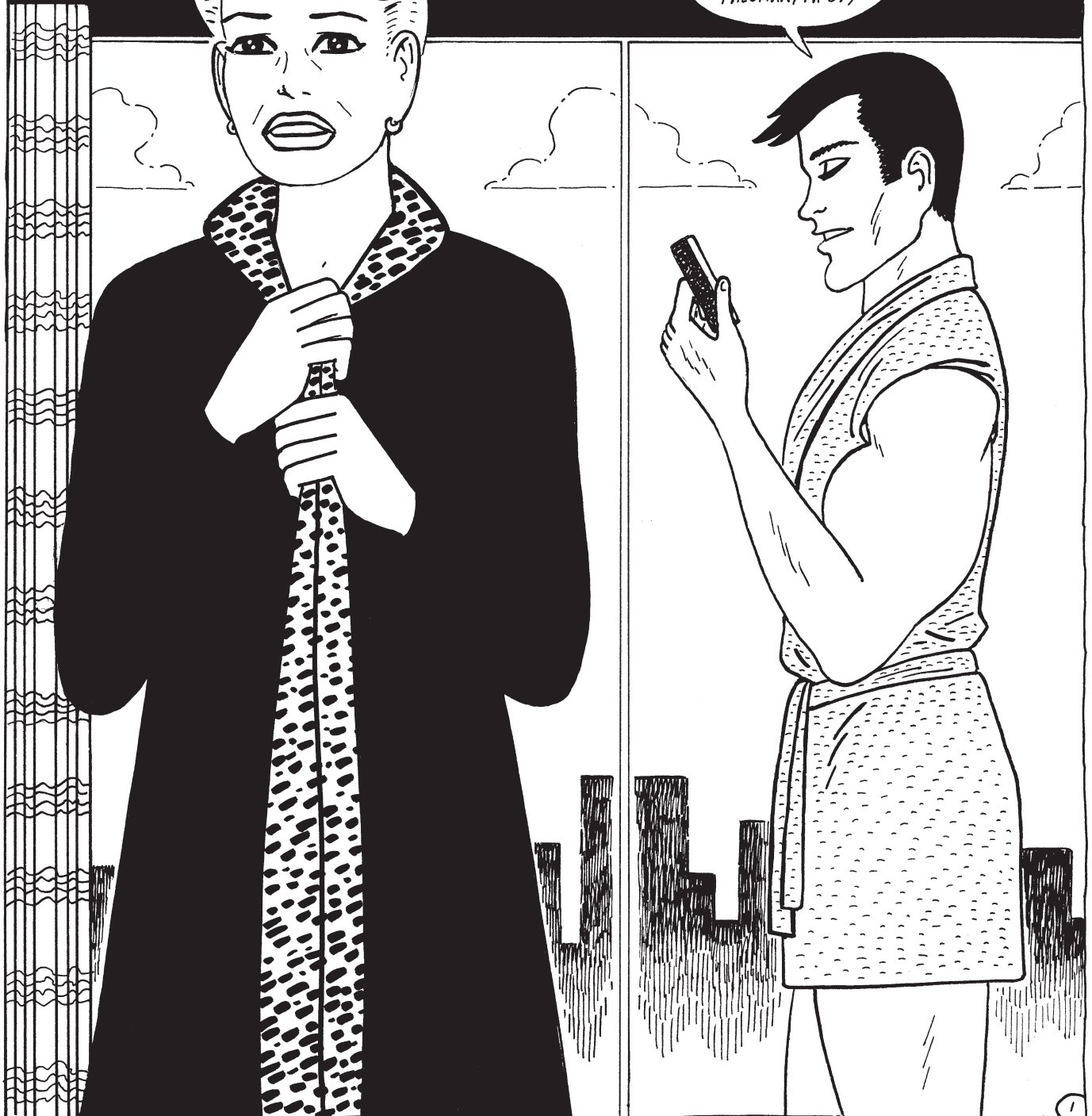
BETO/2017

PIPO'S
U.S.
HOME.

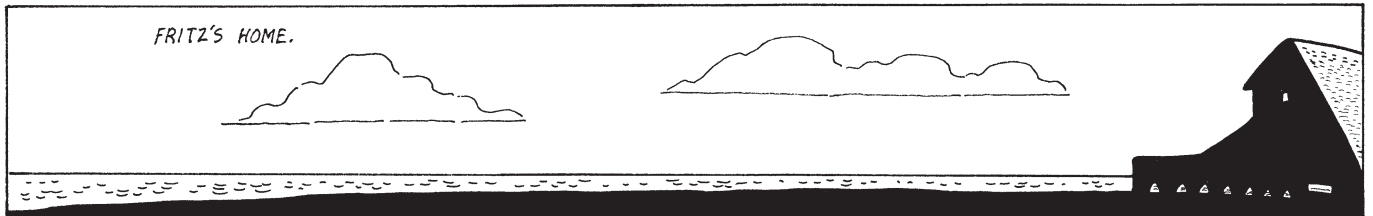
< OH.. OH,
JUST TELL ME,
GO AHEAD. >

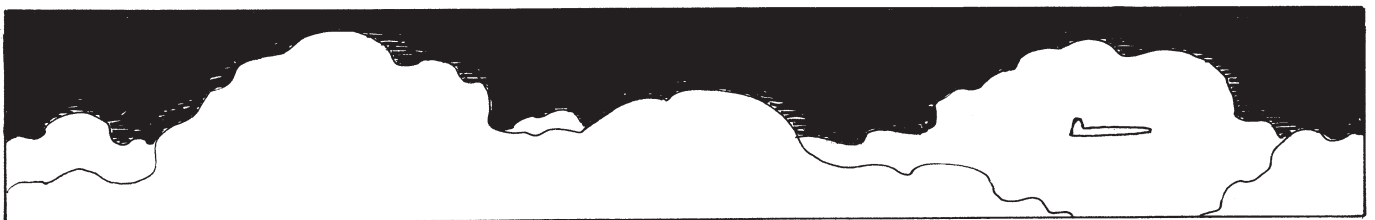
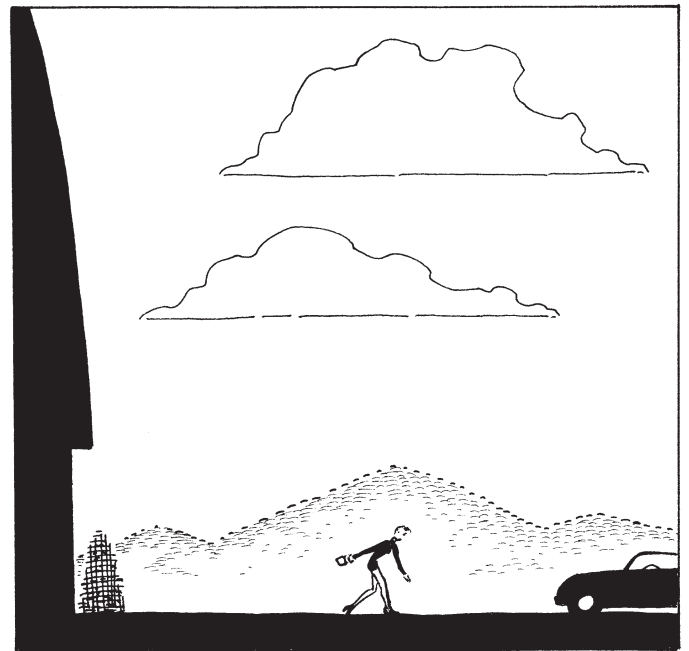
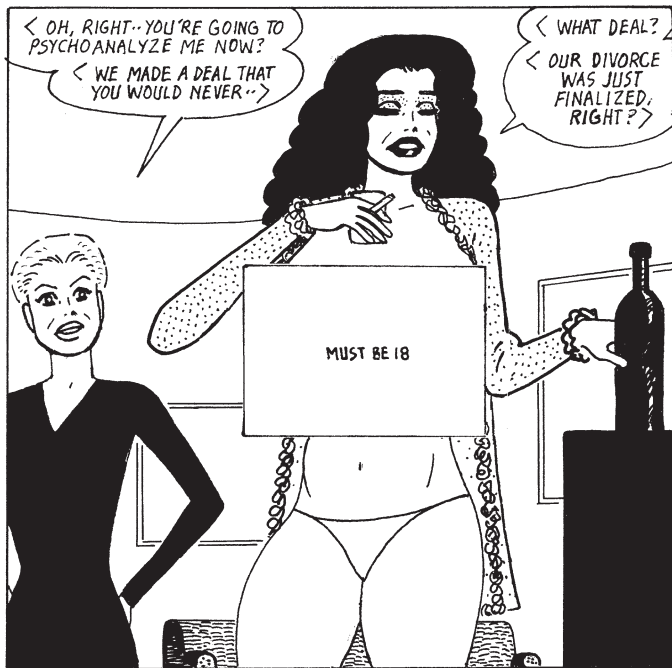
< IT SAYS SOLEDAD
MARQUEZ DIED OF..
NATURAL CAUSES.

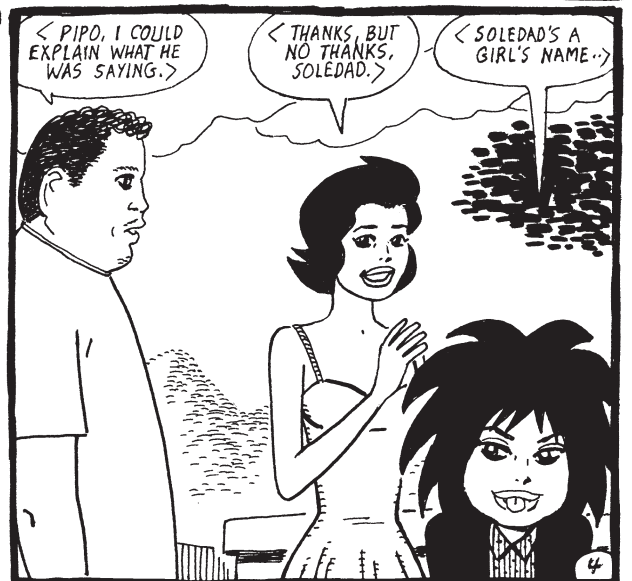
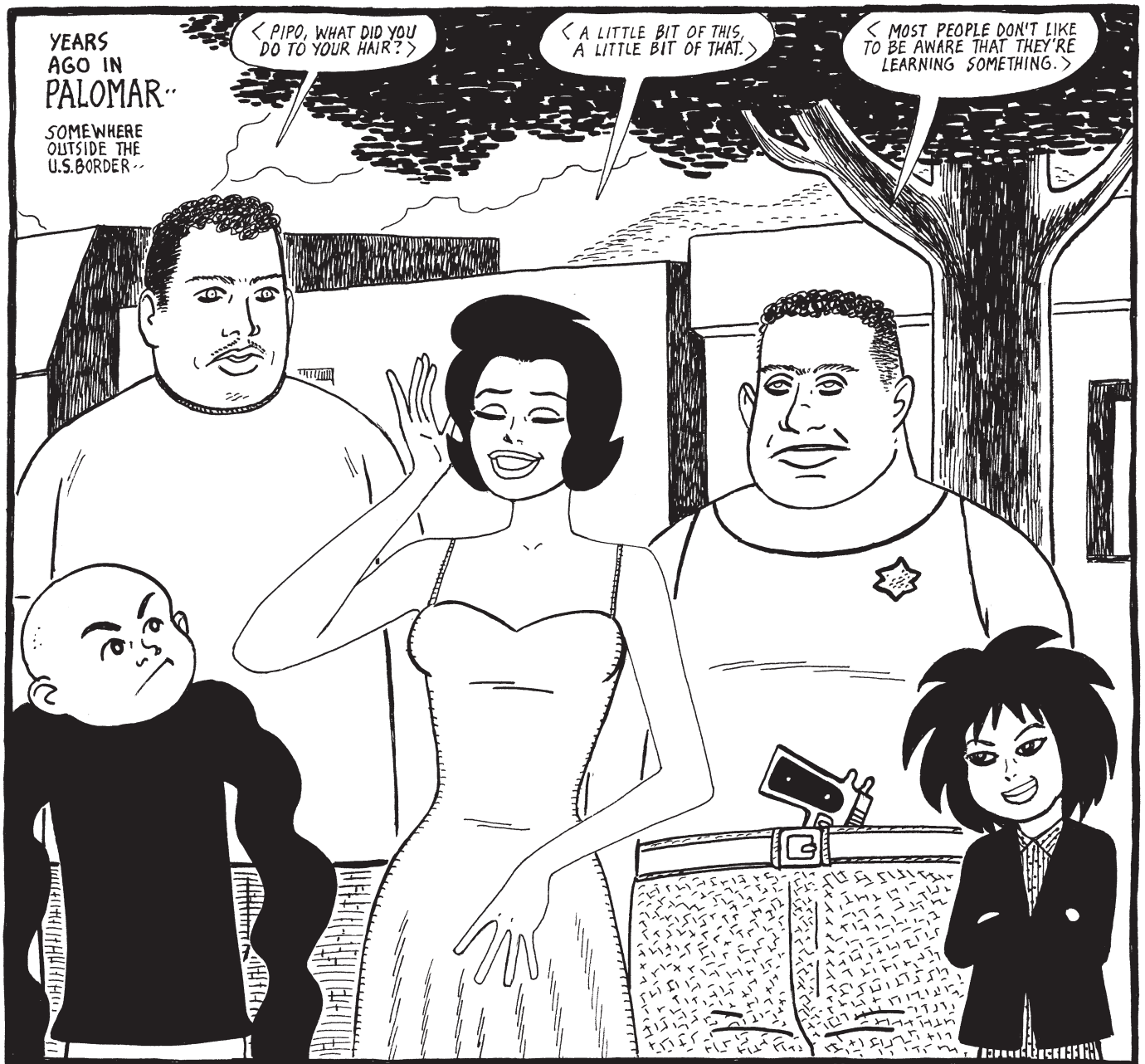
< FUNERAL'S SET
FOR NEXT FRIDAY IN
PALOMAR, PIPO. >

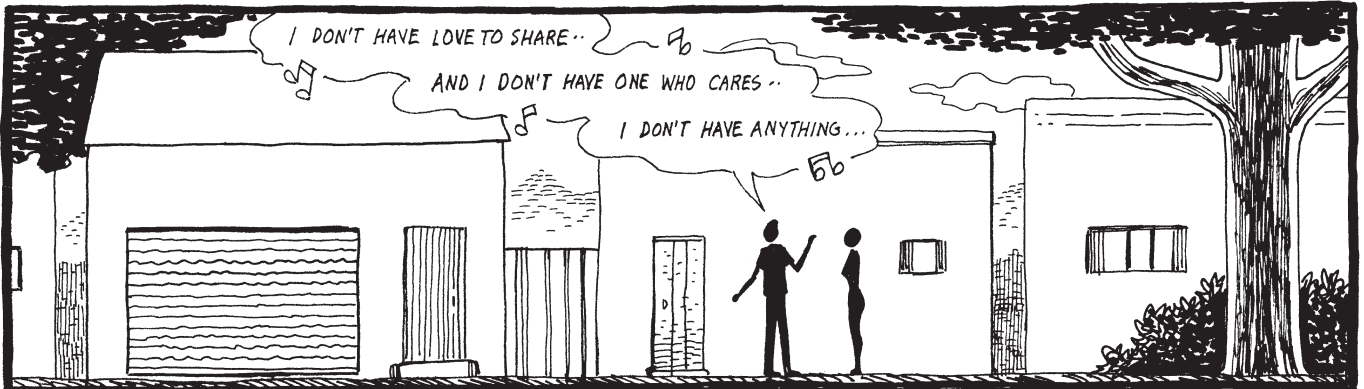


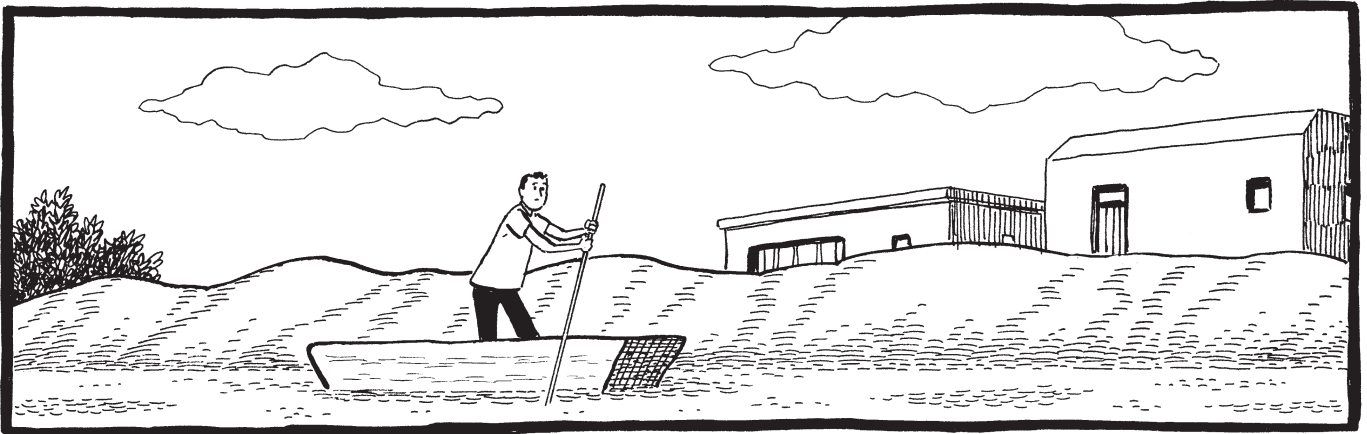
<SPANISH>

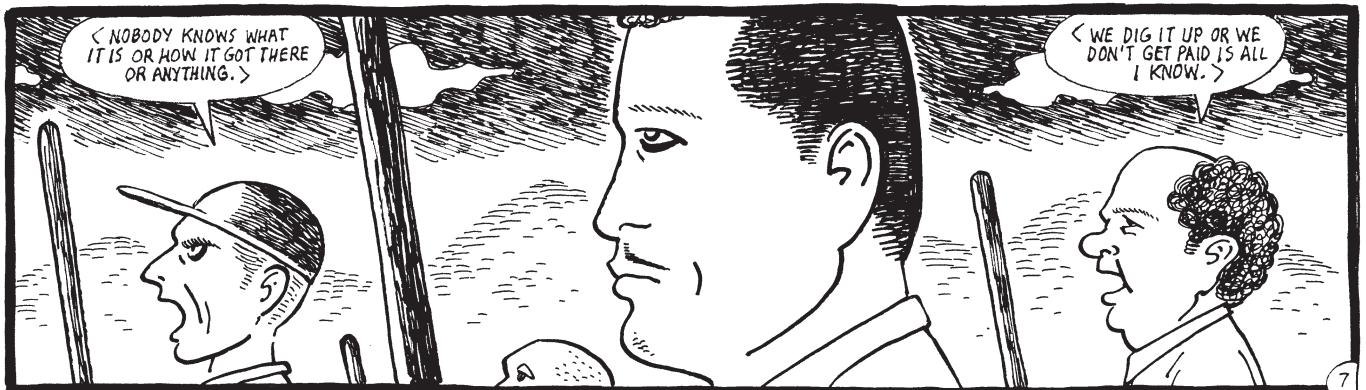


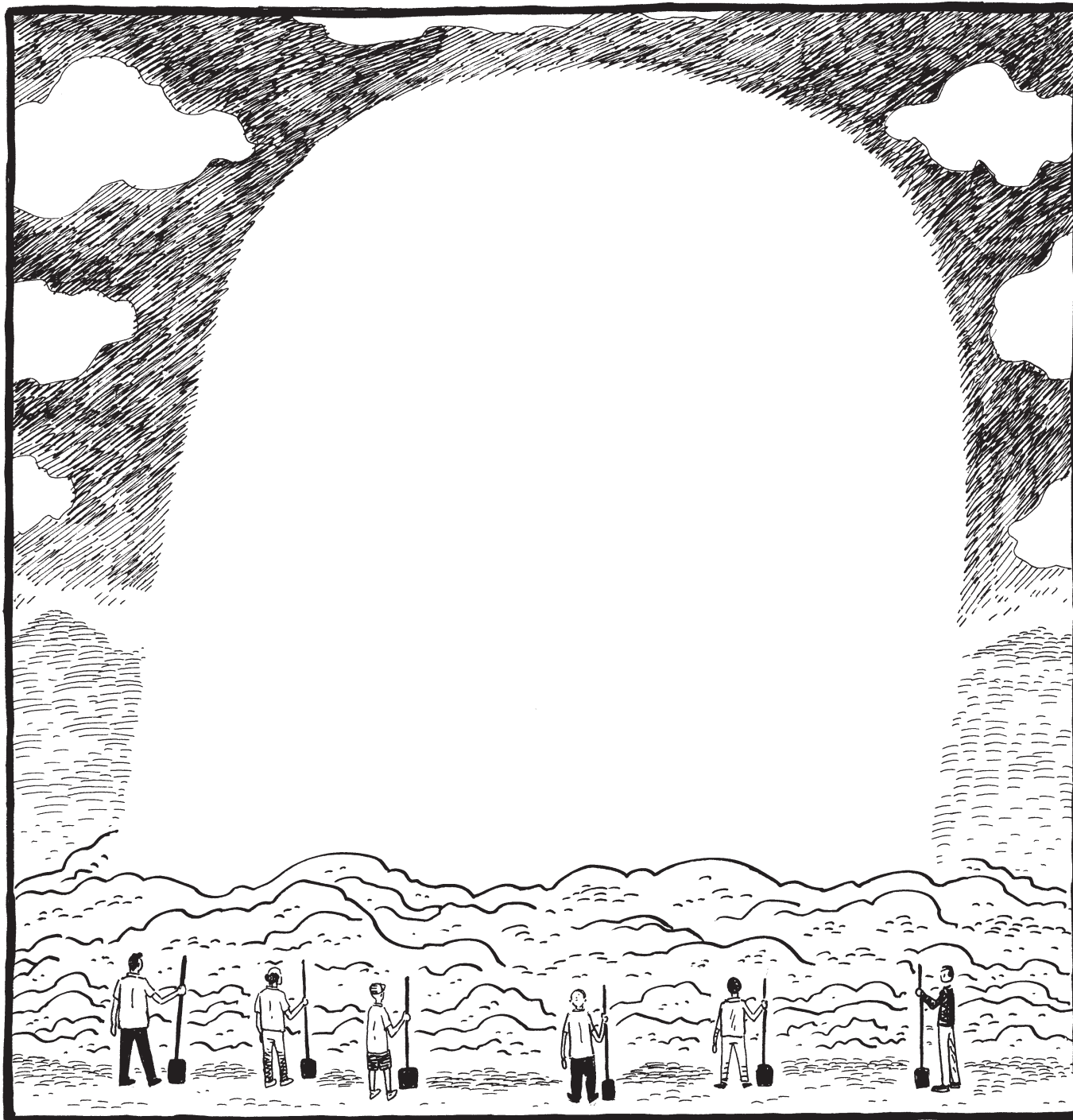


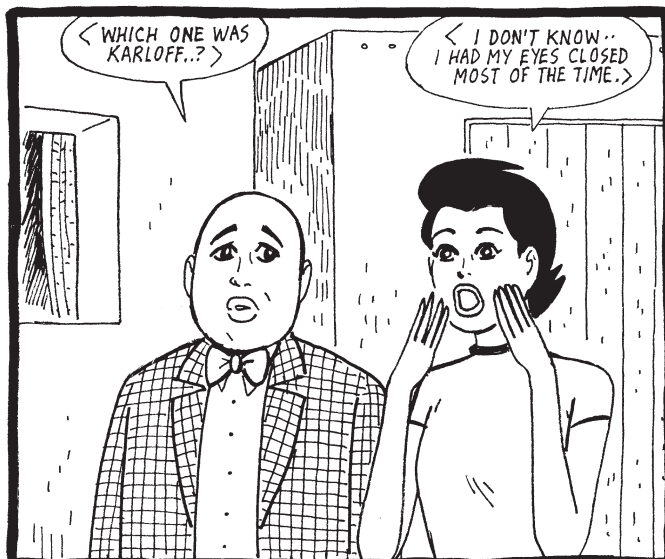
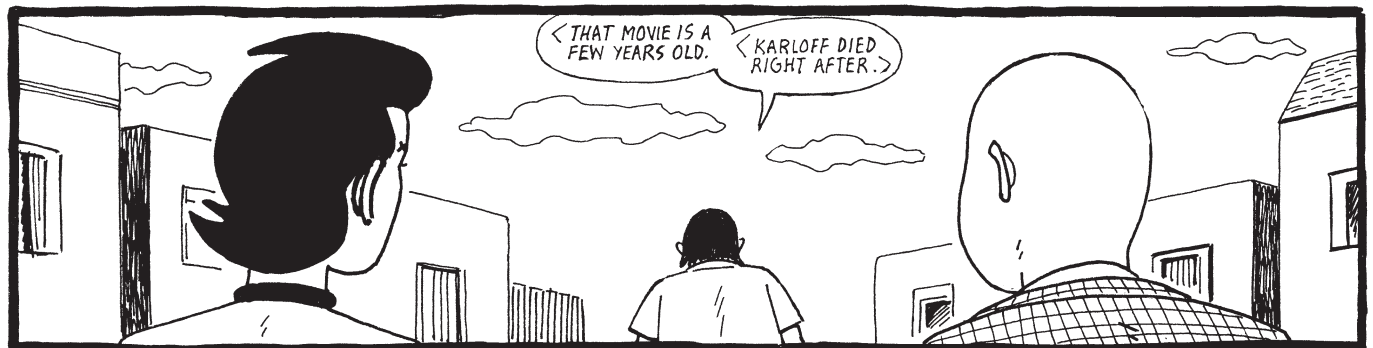
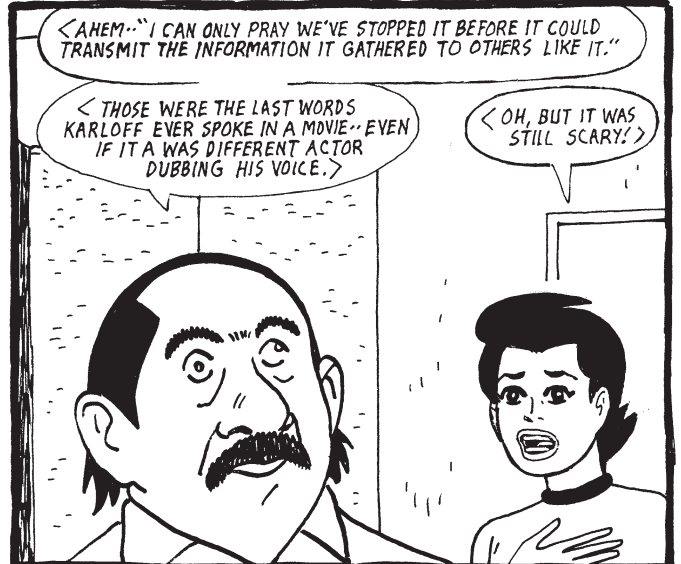
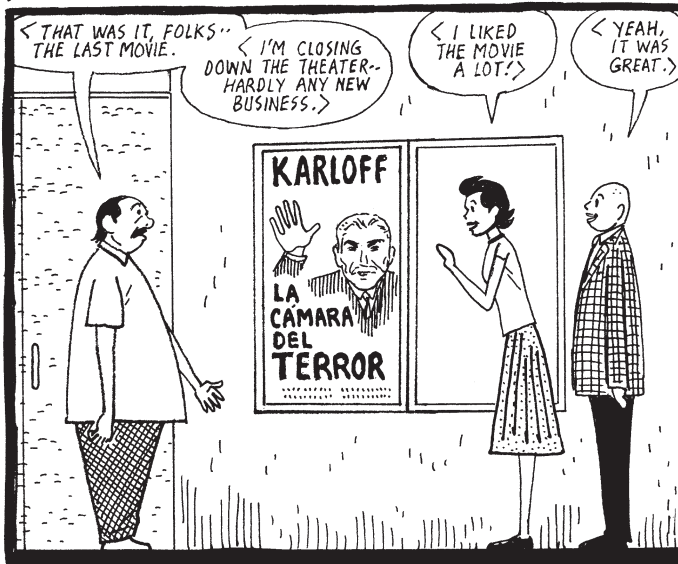


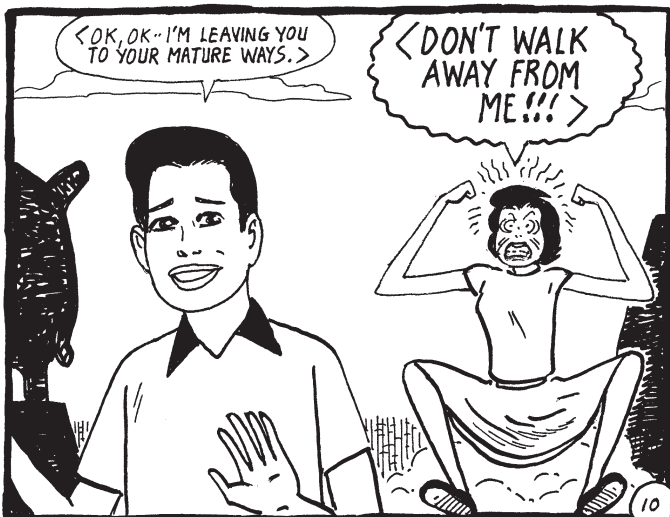
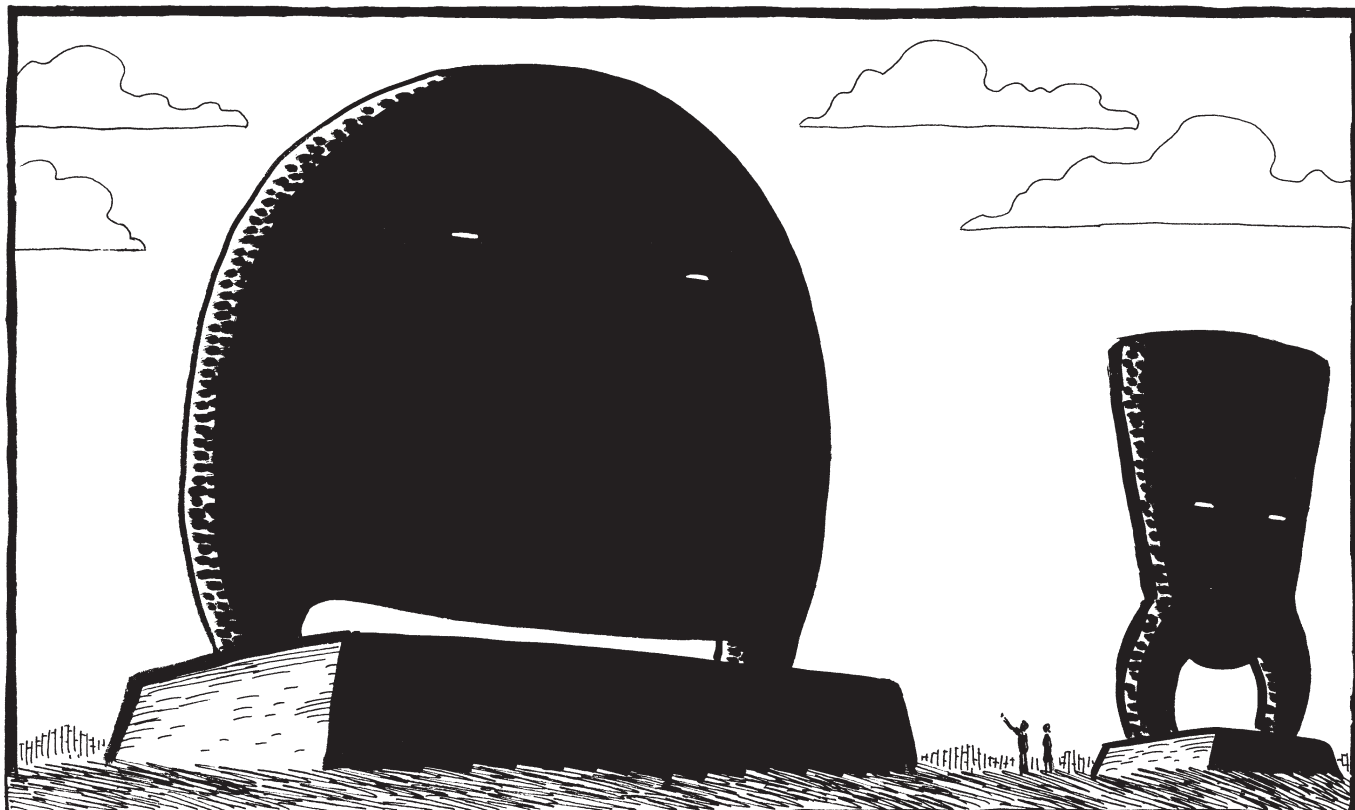






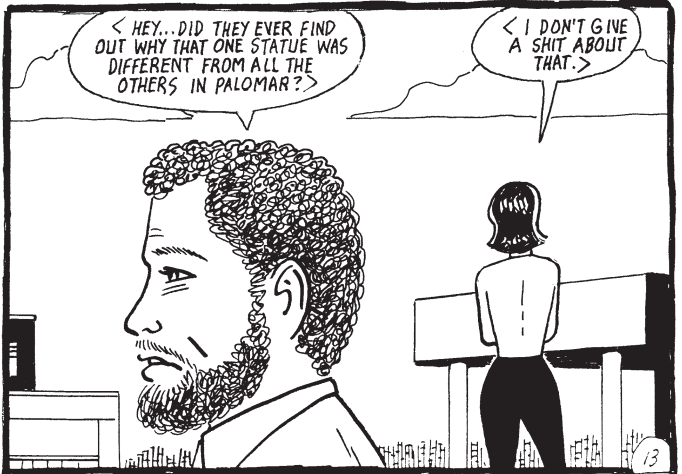
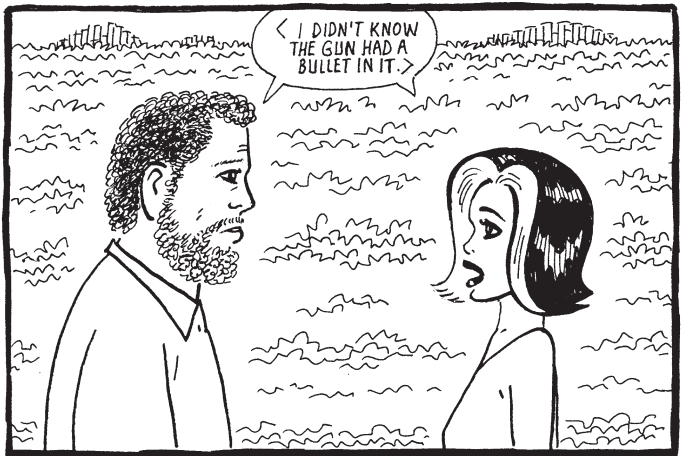
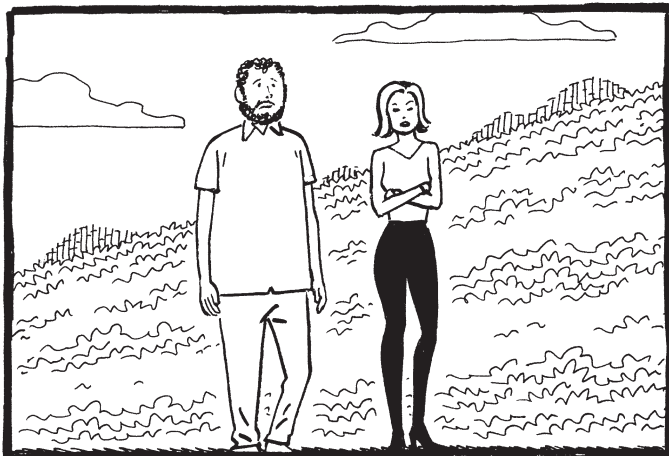
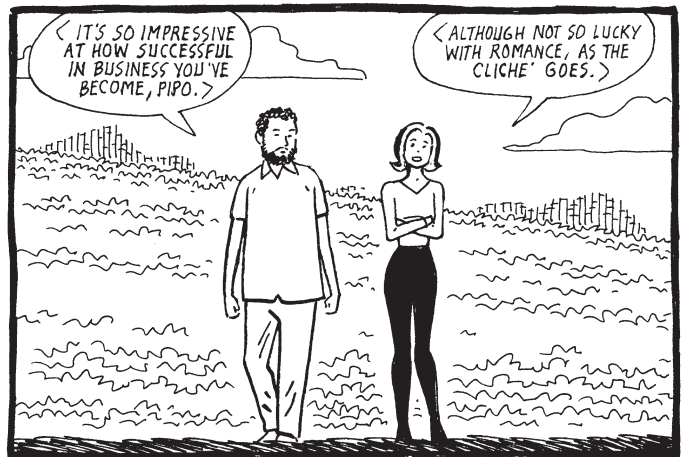


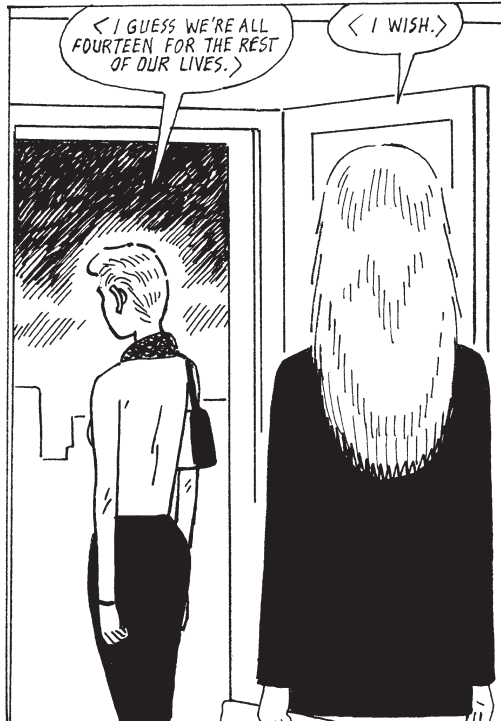
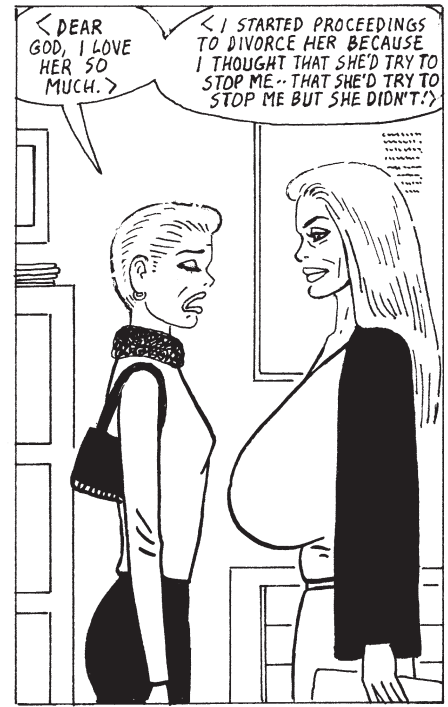


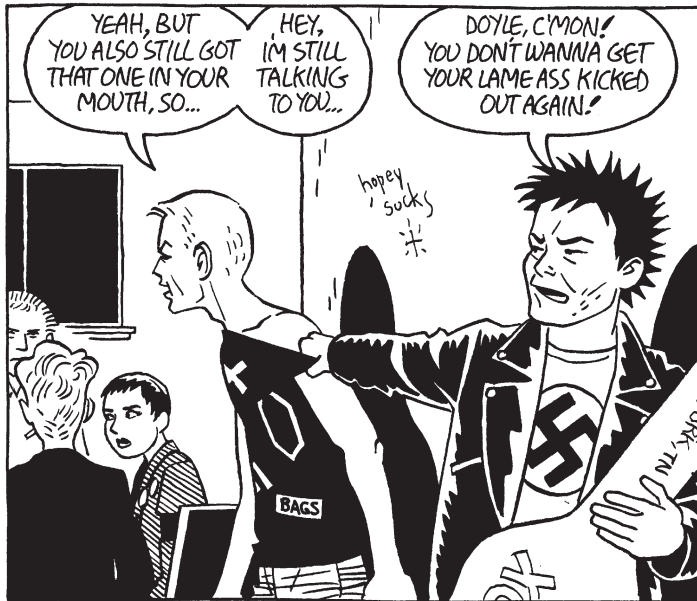
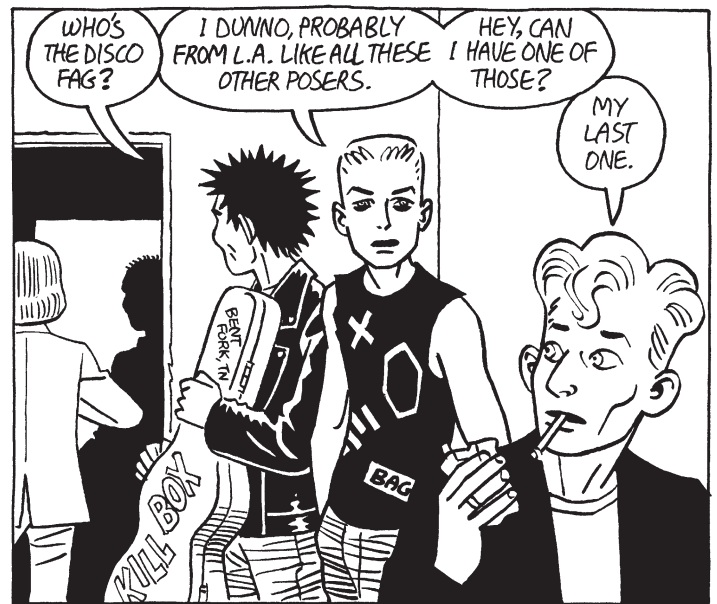




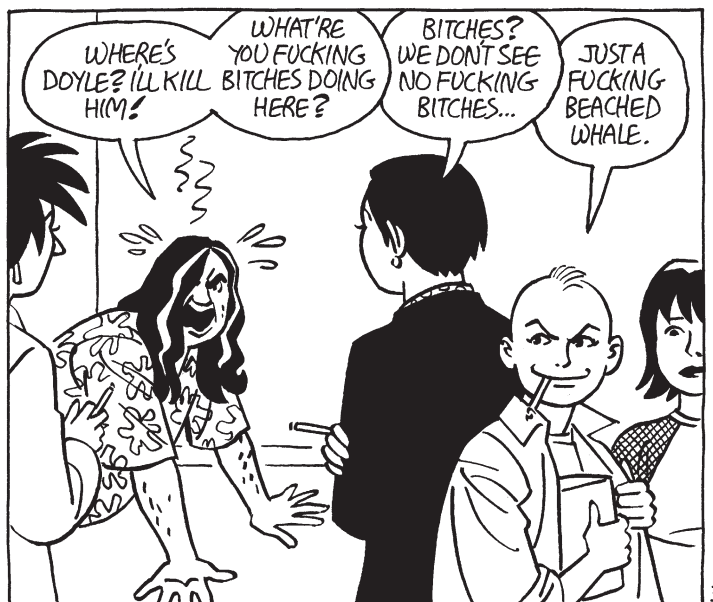
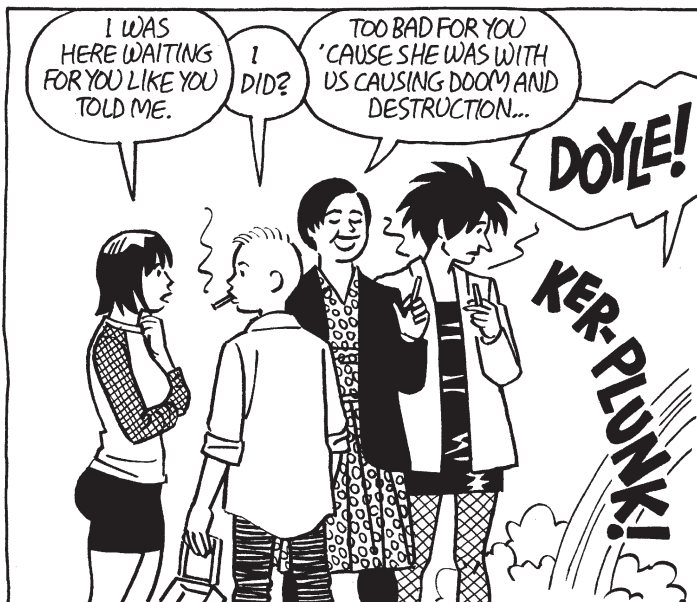
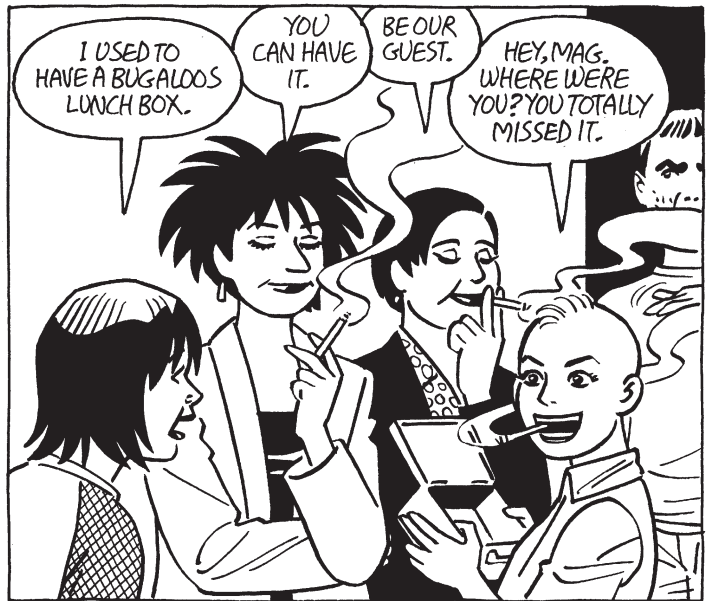
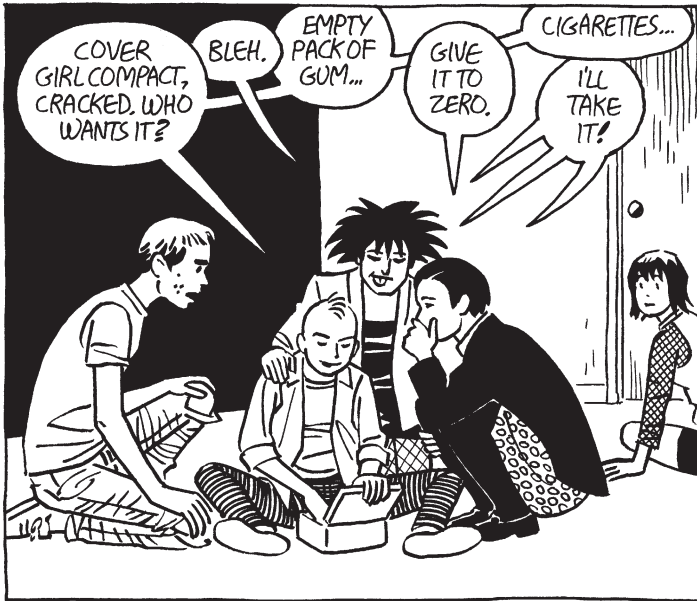


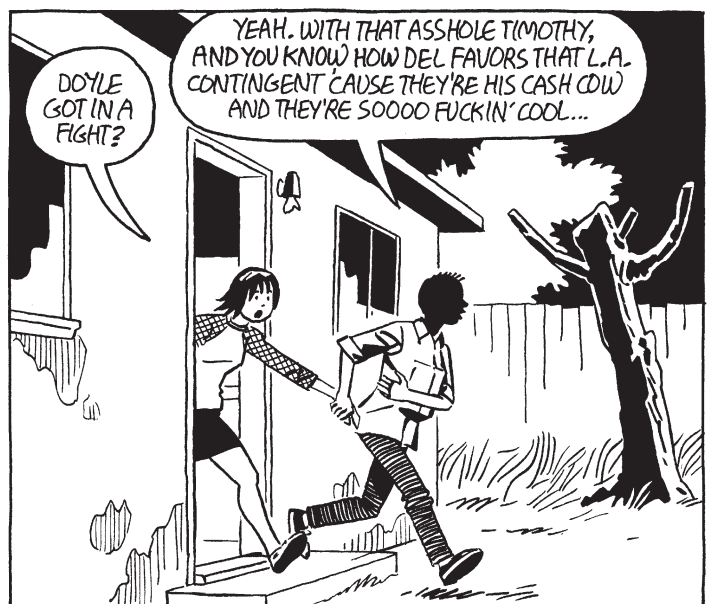


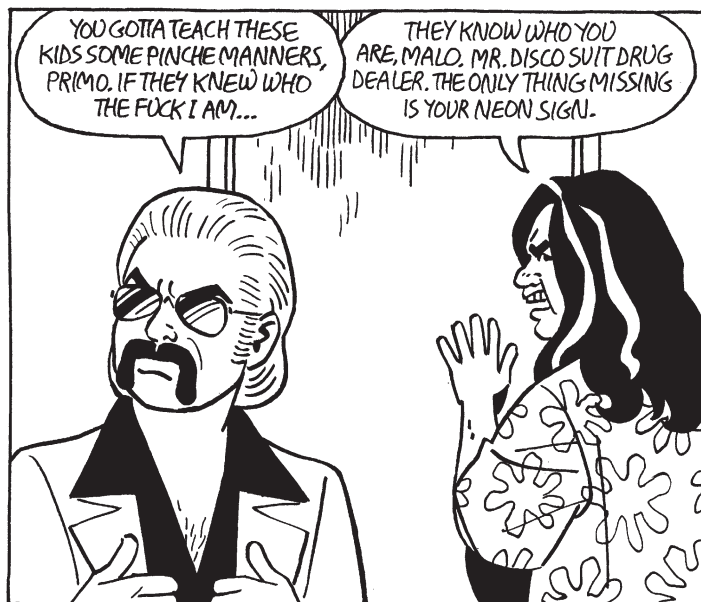


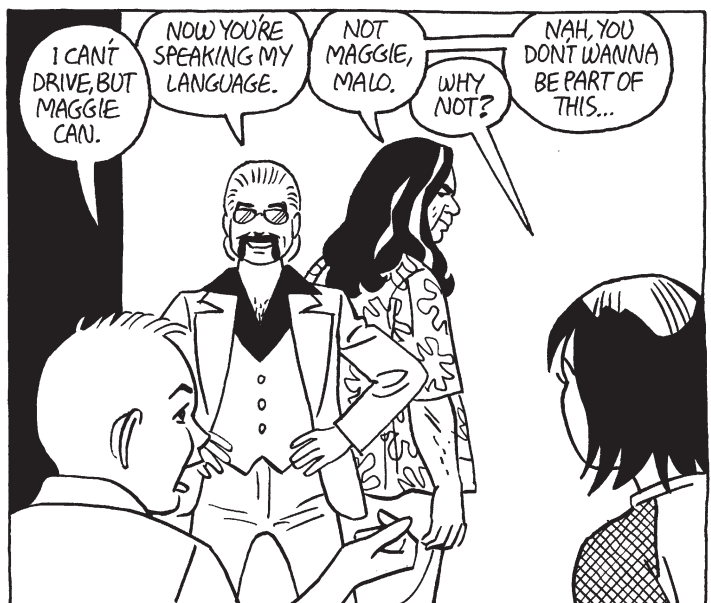


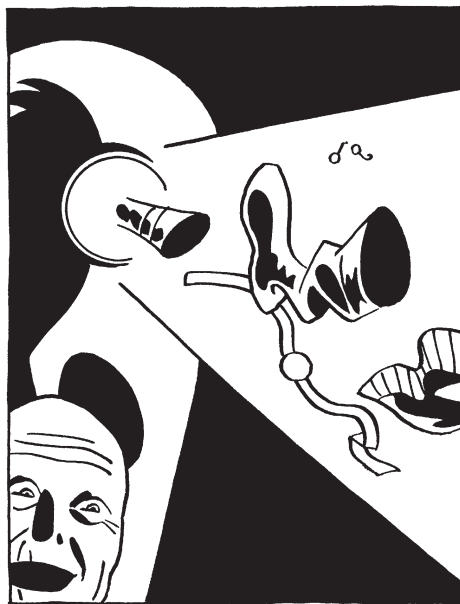
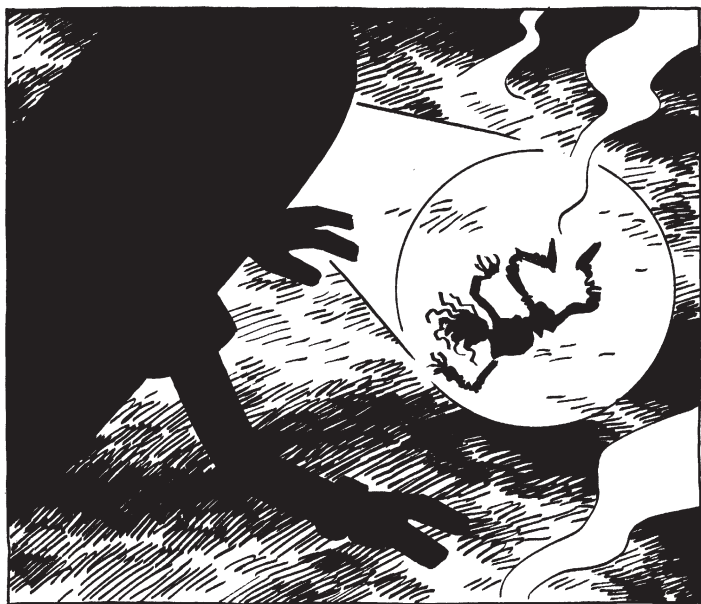


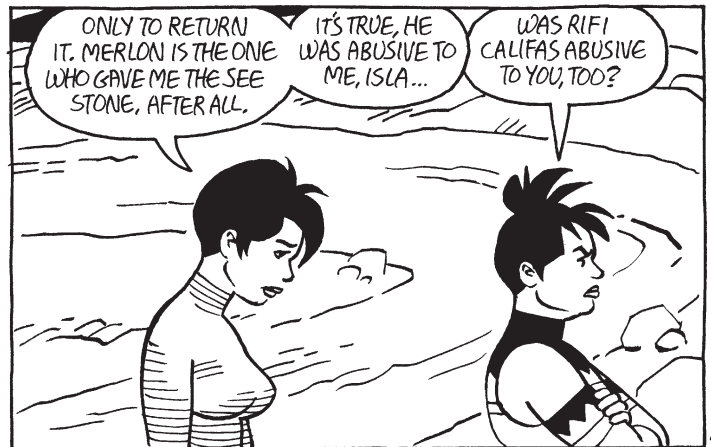
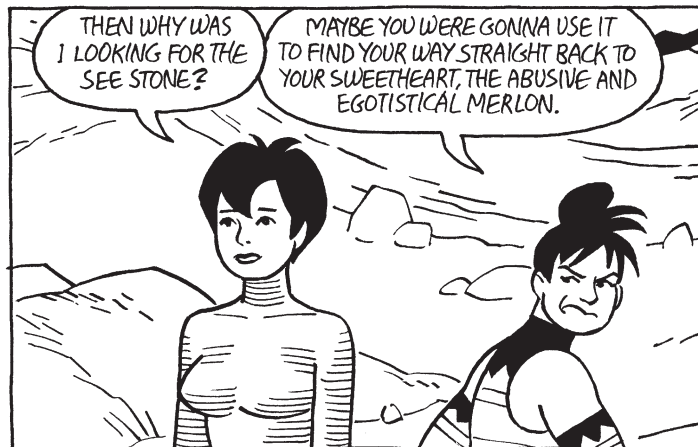
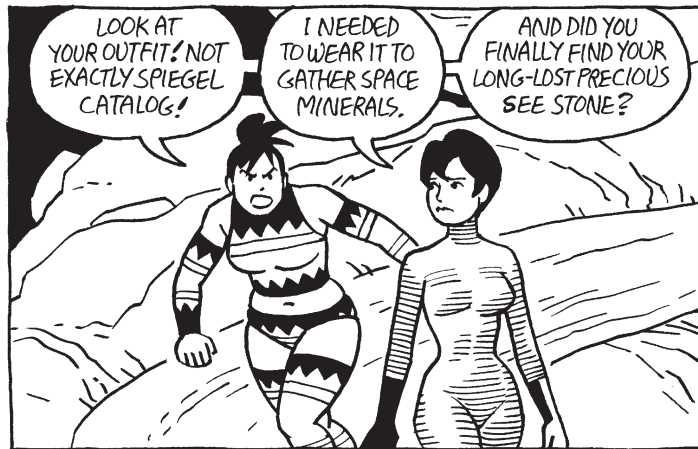
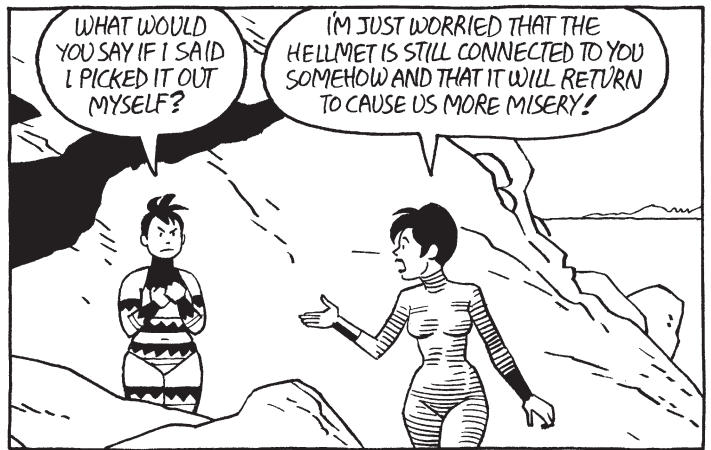
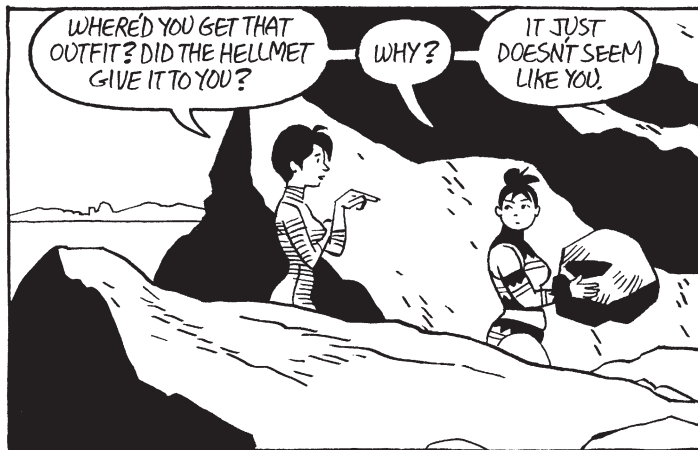
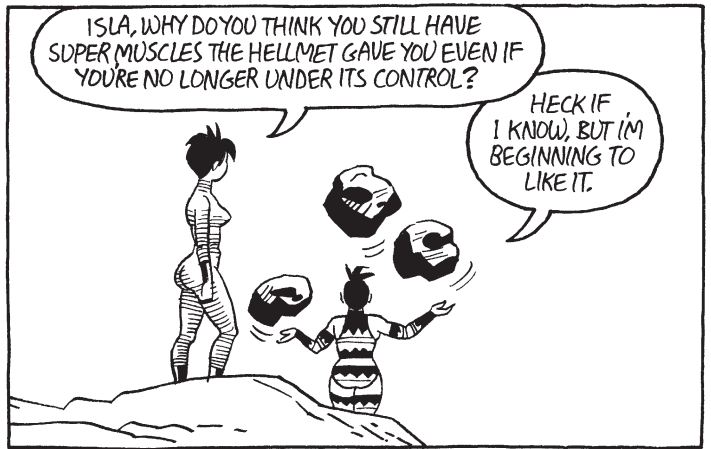
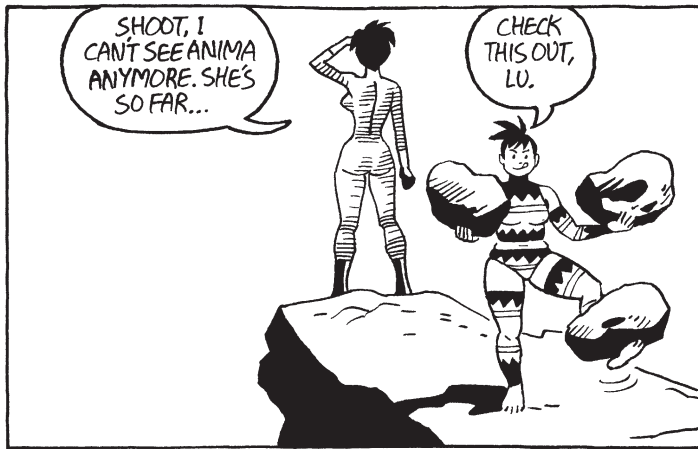


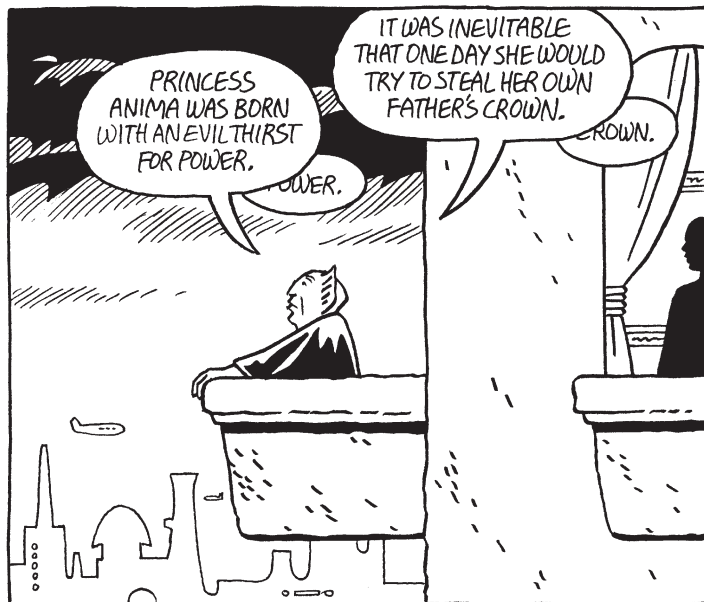
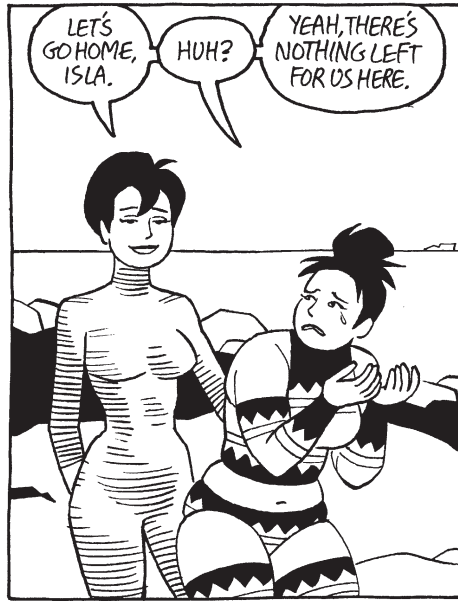
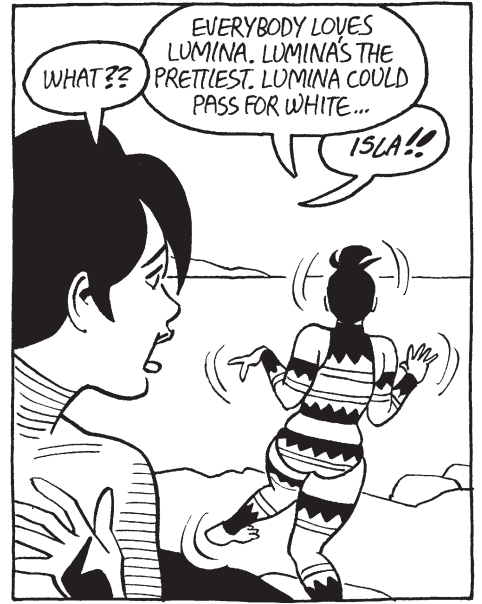


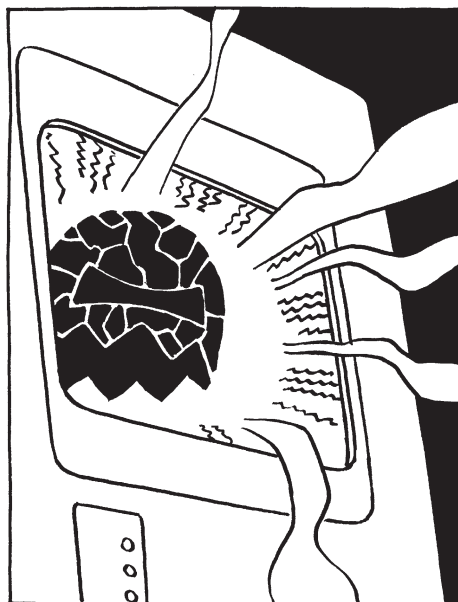
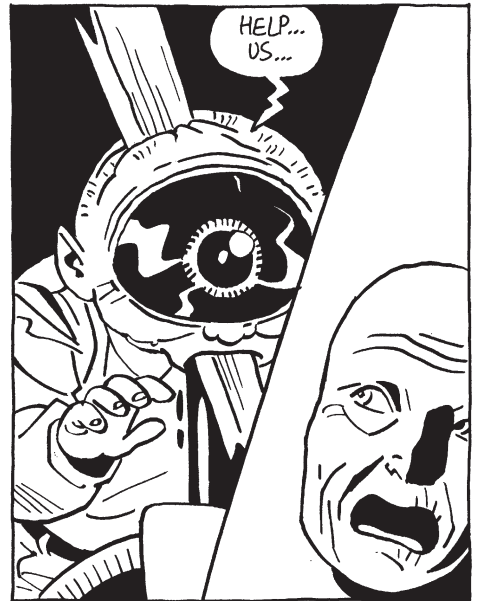


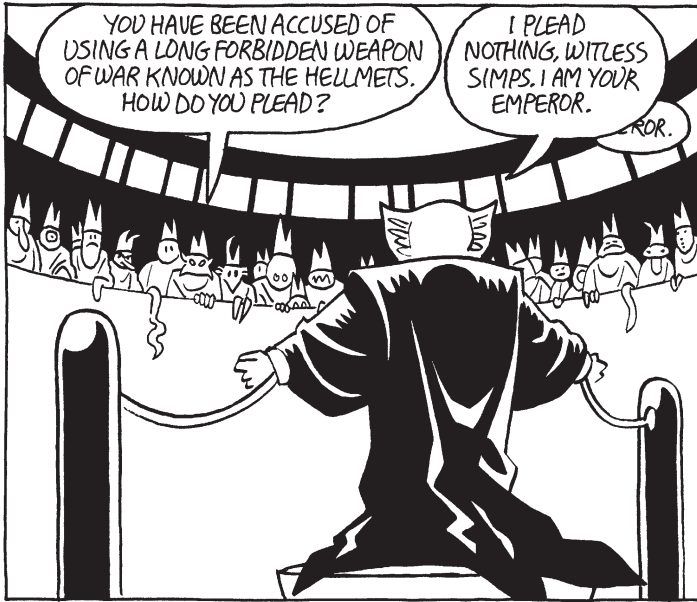


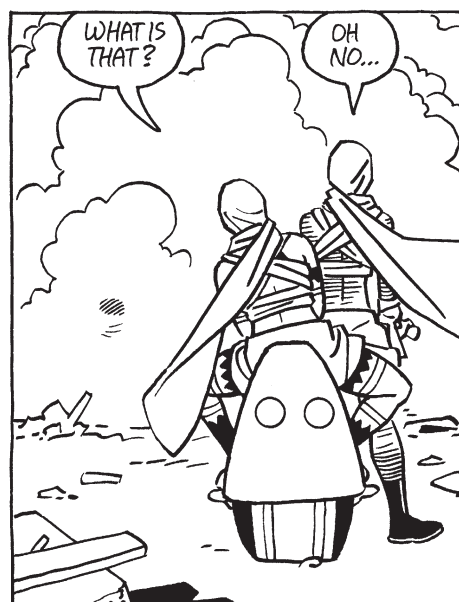
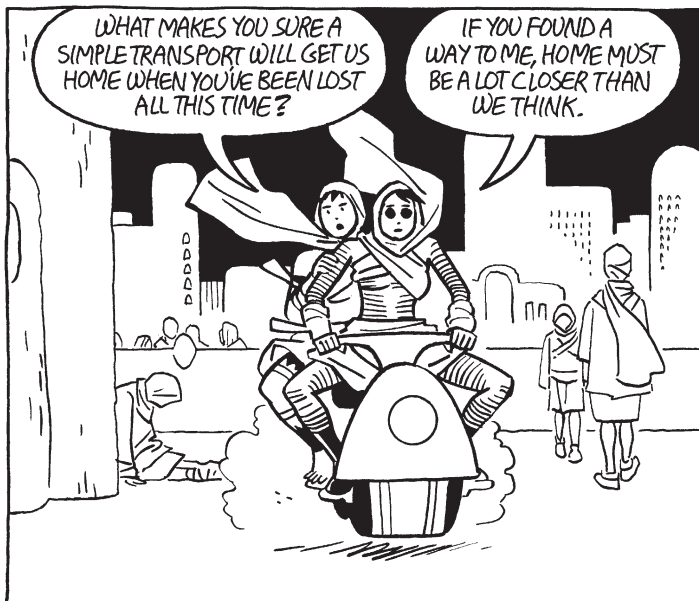












12th STREET AND VINE

XIME 17

SONNY CAME BY TODAY. HE'S THE GUY WHO LITERALLY SAVED MY LIFE. HE STOPPED THAT ONE FUCKER FROM COMPLETELY SMASHING MY HEAD INTO MULCH WITH A BRICK SOME YEARS BACK. THAT ONE FACELESS FUCKER...



HADN'T SEEN SONNY IN A WHILE. HE USED TO COME BY A LOT, TO THE POINT OF BEING A PEST. ALWAYS WANTING TO GO OVER THAT DAY. TRYING TO HELP ME PIECE IT TOGETHER. MAGGIE ASKED HIM NOT TO COME ANY MORE. SHE SAID NOT TIL I WAS BETTER.



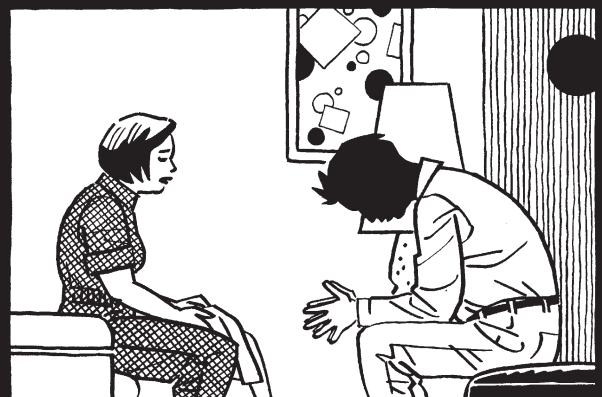
TO BE HONEST, MAGGIE AND HER FAMILY HAVE NEVER BEEN ONES FOR EXPOSING SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET, SO THIS BRICK INCIDENT BECAME LIKE A GHOSTLY FOG HOVERING OVER OUR HOME SWEET HOME.



MAGGIE AND I TRIED TO PRETEND THINGS WERE BACK TO NORMAL BUT IT WAS MY OCCASIONAL BLACKOUTS THAT WERE A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THAT DAY. PRETTY SOON NOBODY CAME OVER.



THEN ONE HOT AND MUGGY DAY, MAGGIE CAME HOME IN A REALLY PISSY MOOD THAT TURNED INTO A FIGHT THEN INTO TEARS WHEN SHE TOLD ME SHE KNEW WHO THE BRICK GUY WAS.



AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHO CALVIN WAS BUT IT EVENTUALLY CAME BACK TO ME THAT IT WAS HER FUCKED UP TECATO BROTHER. IT DIDN'T FEEL GOOD BUT I WASN'T REALLY SURPRISED.



SHE SAID IT WAS HER NIECE LINDA WHO TOLD HER. LINDA WAS VISITING HER ESTRANGED FATHER CALVIN IN THE PEN FOR SOME UNRELATED CRIME WHEN HE TOLD HER EVERYTHING.



THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE NOT OF CLOSURE BUT A LOT OF BOTTLED-UP ANGER. THE CORK POPPED WHEN MAGGIE SLIPPED THAT SHE KNEW IT WAS CALVIN WHO DID IT MUCH EARLIER THAN SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID.



SHE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT SHE KNEW BUT DIDN'T REALLY KNOW. THAT ENDED UP IN A FIGHT ABOUT HER FAMILY AND THEIR FUCKING SECRETS AND IN RETURN, MY FAMILY'S ANNOYING PRESSURE ON MAGGIE TO PUT HER FUCKING BROTHER AWAY FOR GOOD.



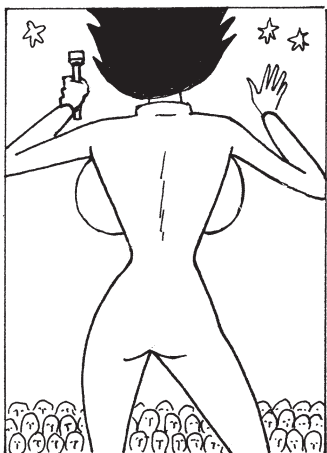
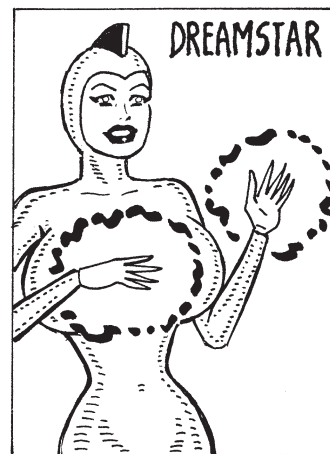
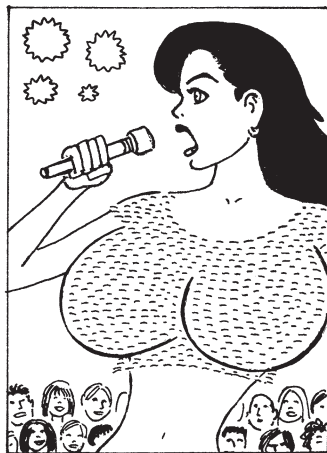
BUT AFTER ALL THAT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE BECAUSE IT ACTUALLY BROUGHT US CLOSER INSTEAD OF TORE US APART. IT BECAME ME AND MAGGIE AGAINST THE WORLD.

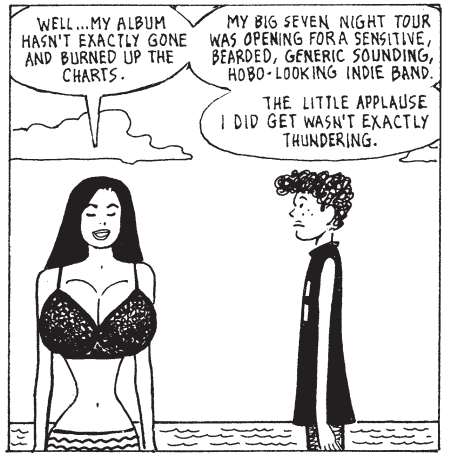
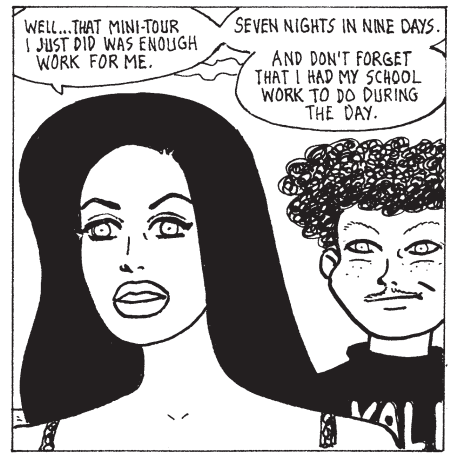


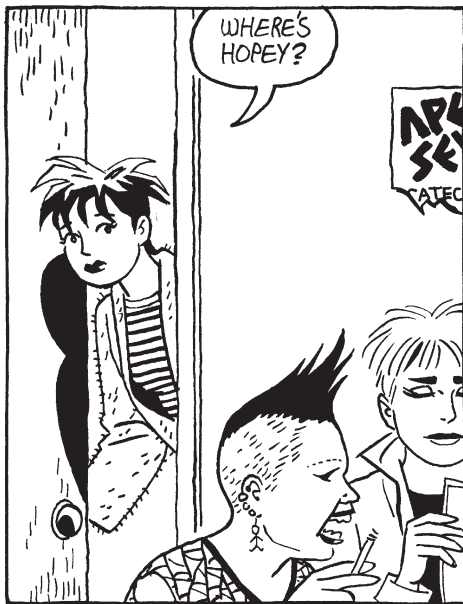
THINGS HAVE FINALLY LEVELLED OFF. HAVEN'T HAD A BLACKOUT IN ALMOST A YEAR, GOT A NEW JOB, MAGGIE'S AT A PUNK REUNION WITH ALL HER FRIENDS. OH YEAH, AND IT'S THREE IN THE MORNING AND SONNY WON'T LEAVE.



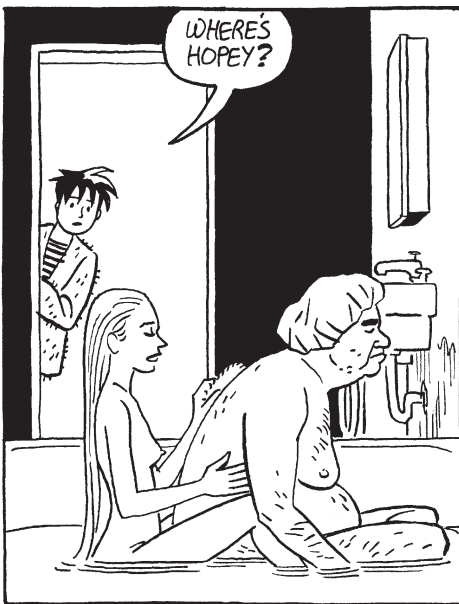
XAIME 2017 2.







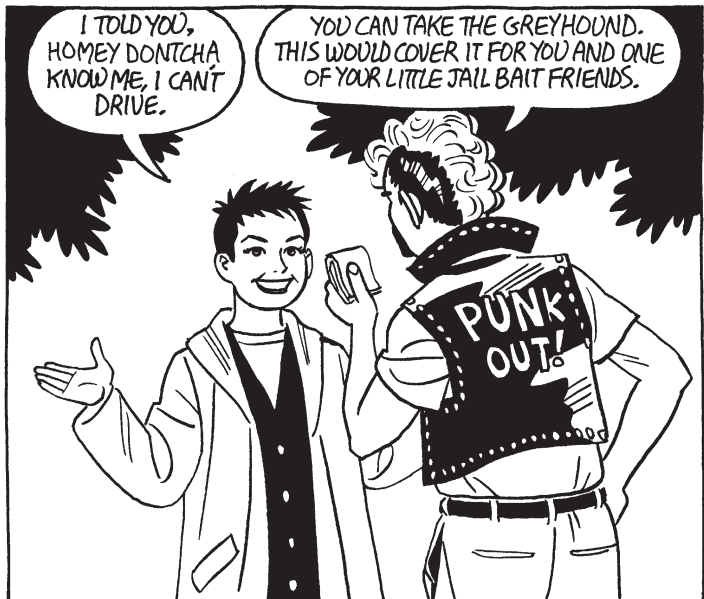
WHERE'S HOPEY?



WHERE'S HOPEY?



WHERE'S HOPEY?



I TOLD YOU, HOMEY DONTCHA KNOW ME, I CAN'T DRIVE.

YOU CAN TAKE THE GREYHOUND. THIS WOULD COVER IT FOR YOU AND ONE OF YOUR LITTLE JAIL BAIT FRIENDS.



WOW. PLUS A FEW DOZEN MORE FRIENDS.

CHICKY, THIS IS CHUMP CHANGE...

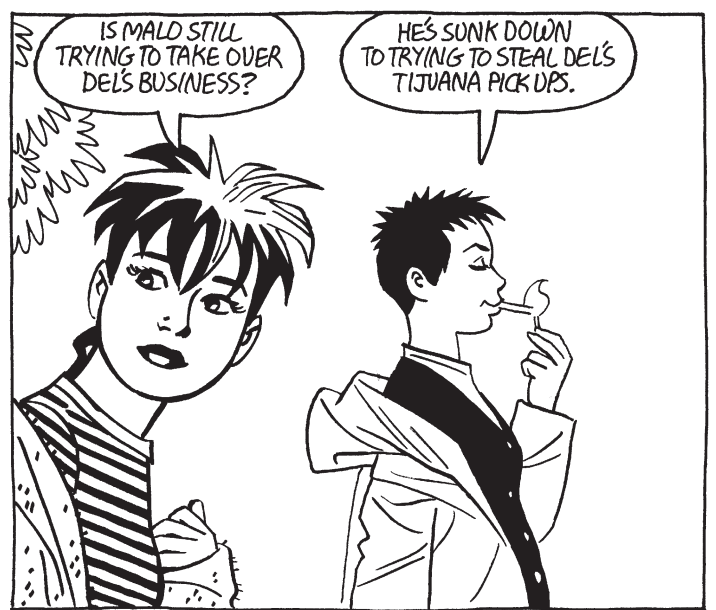
FUCKIN' SHIT! WHO'S THAT?

JUST A LITTLE JAIL BAIT...



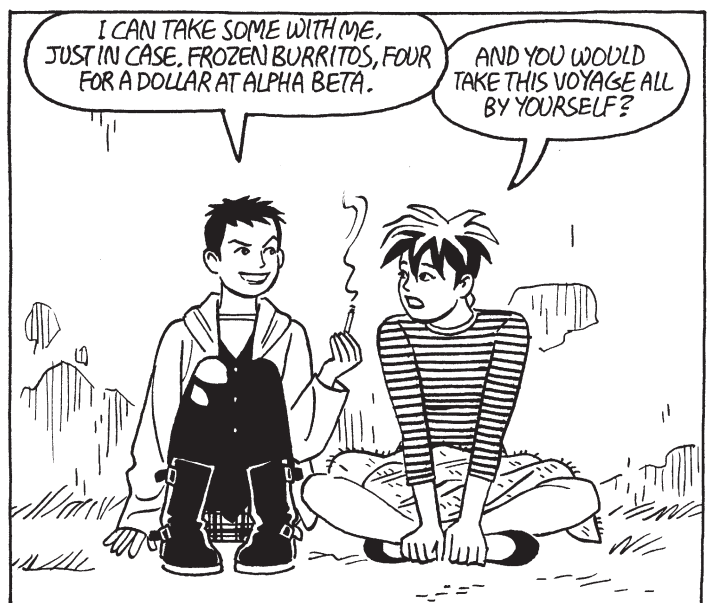
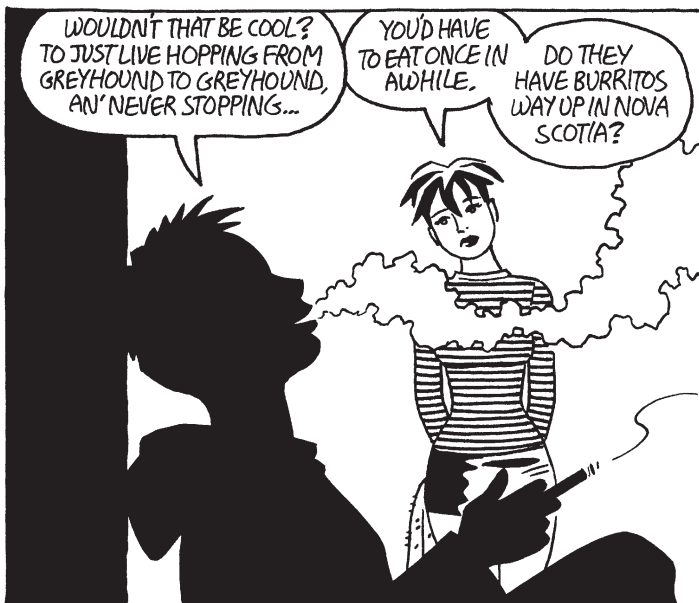
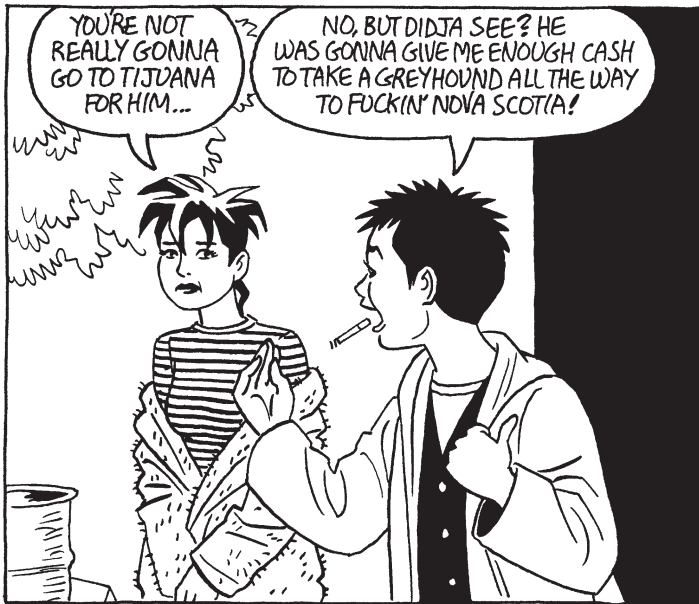
CHIMNEY'S GOT NO CLASS. STICK WITH MALO AN' YOUR RIDIN' FIRST CLASS, BABY.

I MAY SWOON WHERE I STAND.



IS MALO STILL TRYING TO TAKE OVER DEL'S BUSINESS?

HE'S SUNK DOWN TO TRYING TO STEAL DEL'S TIJUANA PICK UPS.





LETTERS PAGE

Dear Mr. Xaime and Mr. Gilbert Hernandez,

My first introduction to *Love and Rockets* was when our assigned reading was *Human Diastrophism* [aka Vol. 4 of The Complete Love and Rockets trade paperback series. — Ed.] during my third year of University. At the time, I was a severely depressed, obese, and unmotivated individual. I was in a long-term relationship with someone I knew was gay, but he couldn't bring himself to tell the rest of the world. I was told I would never do better and figured I'd settle for a numbing lifestyle of complacent happiness. After reading my first few Luba stories, I was enamored. Reading page after page of strong women in challenging situations made my true emotions surface. I didn't want to continue life in a fuzzy daze. I wanted to be as adventurous, independent, and striking as the women in your stories.

After months of immersing myself in *Love and Rockets*, I began to pull my life together: I left my relationship, got back in shape, found my confidence and landed a pretty sweet job as a flight attendant. In particular, I found myself drawing strength from Petra-based stories. Her genuine love for her family hit so close to home with me. While I was going through my lifestyle transition, I based my ideal outcome on Petra.

A few months ago, I was working a flight and a woman became unconscious onboard. Right when I was aware of the situation, I jumped over seats, lifted the woman up and began CPR where I was able to bring her back. Afterwards, I was released from work and sent to deadhead home. On the hour flight back home, I did what I usually do and whipped out my Luba stories. I fingered through the stories and landed on a page featuring Petra in a superheroine outfit. I burst out in tears because for the first time I had really felt like I had really acted like the person I wanted to be. I felt like Petra in that outfit. And I wouldn't have ever dreamed of becoming that person if it wasn't for *Love and Rockets*. Thank you for changing my life.

On a fan level, holy smokes, you guys rock my comic world. Both your styles are so clean and simple, yet able to evoke such real emotions. I grew up first-generation Italian in Canada. I learned to read with Archie comics while my Nonno learned English. My mom gave me her old *Batman* comics and I was sold for life. *Love and Rockets* was my own personal oasis combining all of my passions: Palomar was reminiscent of my family and helped me realize the trials and tribulations of different people I knew. Maggie and Hopey helped me dissect my own personal relationships and deal with emotions on a better level. Luba, Fritz, and Petra are some of the most inspirational and relatable women in my life. I'm also ridiculously grateful for characters like Venus, Vivi, Tonta and Maggie. They make me feel like I'm not the only awkward, self-conscious or cranky gal in the world. Both you brothers are able to write and draw female characters is outrageously brilliant. I love the

new stories (especially anything with Killer). But my heart is hoping so hard that we'll see how Venus is doing.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with the world; you've made my life infinitely better.

PS: I purchased a Killer Pin Up Girl Couture skirt and I feel so glamorous whenever I wear it. Thank you for the collaboration of my dreams!

Thanks again and all my love,
Mia McLeod

Thank you, Mia, for one of the best letters we've ever received. — Ed.



Dear Gilbert & Jaime,

The new *Love and Rockets* fits like a glove. Thank you for giving me a reason to hit the comic book shop again! I suppose it's easy to take your work for granted after 35 years, but if anything, the longer it exists, the more grateful I am. I love that you guys just keep doing what you do. I thought it was punk rock the way you guys just dropped right into issue #1 of the new series with the stories you already had in full swing from *New Stories* rather than trying to crassly make an issue that might go down a bit easier with new readers. I appreciate that you never "talk down" to us readers and trust us to go along for the ride. Please don't ever stop, OK? Oh, and congratulations on getting into the Eisner Awards Hall of Fame — and for being inducted by the great Sergio Aragonés, no less!

Best wishes,
Bob Buchmann

Thanks, Bob! I don't know this for a fact, but I'm willing to bet there haven't been many other Eisner Hall of Famers still producing an ongoing comic book series at the very top of their games after induction! Although if anyone else could, it's Sergio. — Ed.

Dear Gilbert,

I'm writing to express my gratitude for your work! I'm a new fan and just found one of your *Love and Rockets* collections (*Luba and her Family*) at my local library and couldn't put it down. Venus and her family's intertwined stories had me more enthralled than any recent comics have in a long time, and the art is gorgeous to boot. I adore the way in which you place women in media. I could identify with Venus so well—loving comics and wanting to be treated like an adult—and simultaneously with Petra—blonde and athletic, in control of her body and her words. Venus looks and feels the way I felt as a young girl, stick-like and just getting comfortable in her

own skin. Petra owns her athletic body and all of its flaws—seeing her rock her muscular thighs have helped me embrace my own.

I can't wait to read more of your work,
Helen Meyers

What a great letter, Helen. Thank you. We hope you enjoy catching up on the other books in the series and are grateful to have you as a reader. — Ed.

Hola Hernandez Bros,

I really enjoyed issue 3 and having a letter printed was just one of the best things about it! I was also captivated by the flashback of Maggie at Del Chimney's. Somehow I never got the idea that he was such a rat, but now I know. Another thing that just really amused me a whole lot was Beto's Professor Enigma! After the first couple pages, I finally figured out that it was similar to Dr. Who and his helpers (whatever they are called). Now, I'm not into Dr. Who, but I hear my friends talk about it a lot so it eventually registered in my little Who-deprived brain. And it's so funny that all those Fritz-related women acted as Professor Enigma's helper at one time, then all together! And finally Jaime's cliffhanger: Whoa man, Eugene scares me!

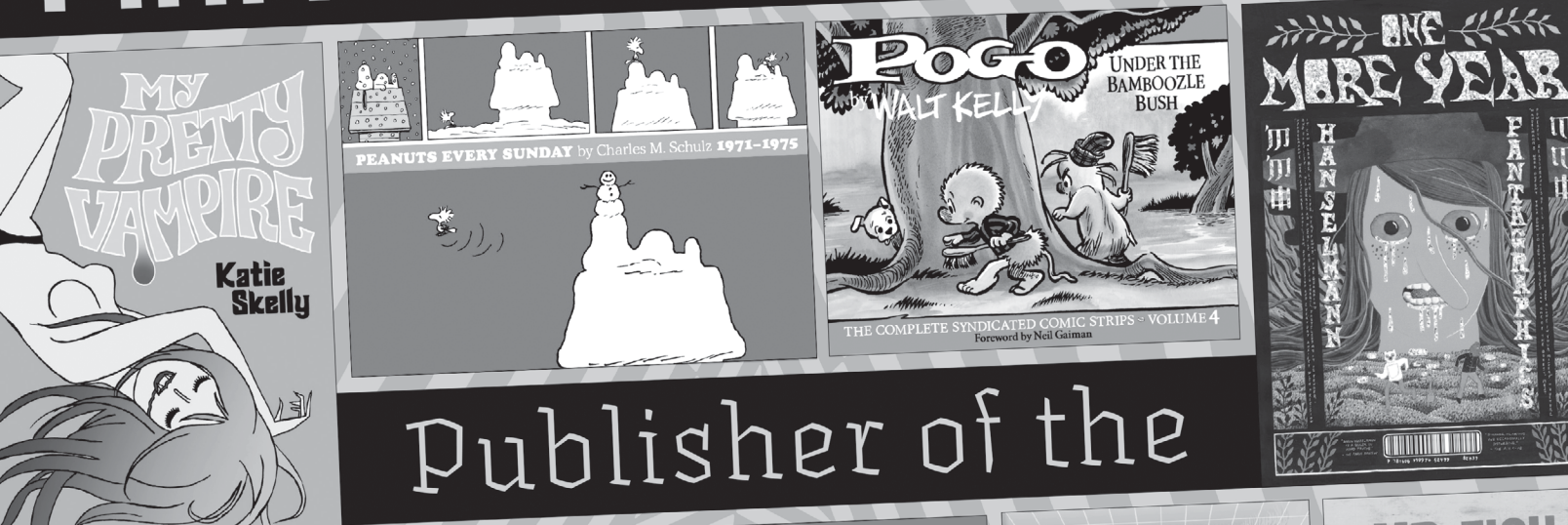
Alan Bowman

Us, too, Alan — us, too. Speaking of Eugene, for all of you wondering just what happened to Maggie & Hokey at the end of last issue, come back next issue! Meanwhile, on the Gilbert side, Fritz's daughter Rosy stays home alone in Mom's mansion for a week and has to find ways to entertain herself. Uh-oh. Look for issue #5 in March! In the meantime, Jaime will be appearing at Wizard World in New Orleans, LA, from January 5–7, and Emerald City Comicon in Seattle, WA, from March 2–4. Gilbert is scheduled for the Latino Comics Fest in Brownsville, TX sometime in February (check your local listings). See you in 120! — Ed.





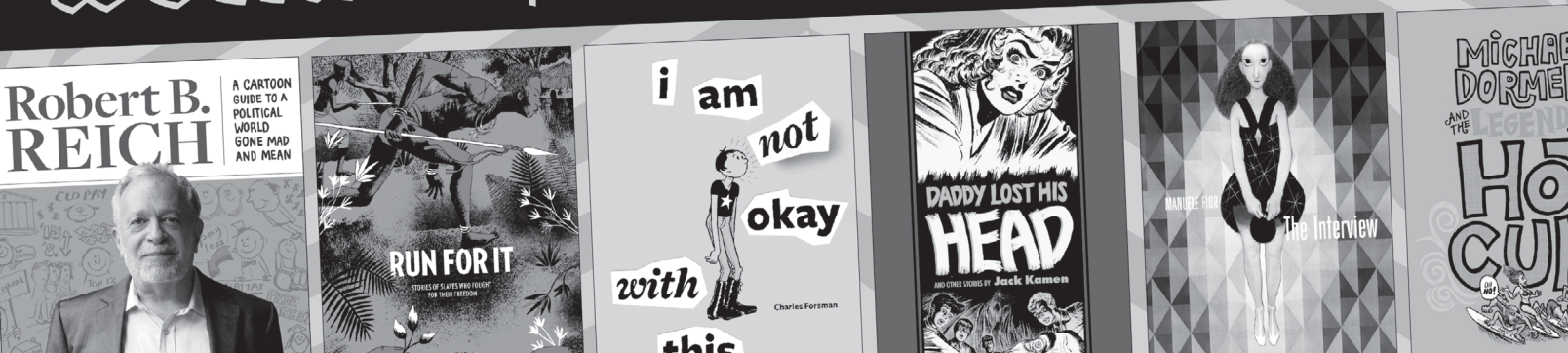
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

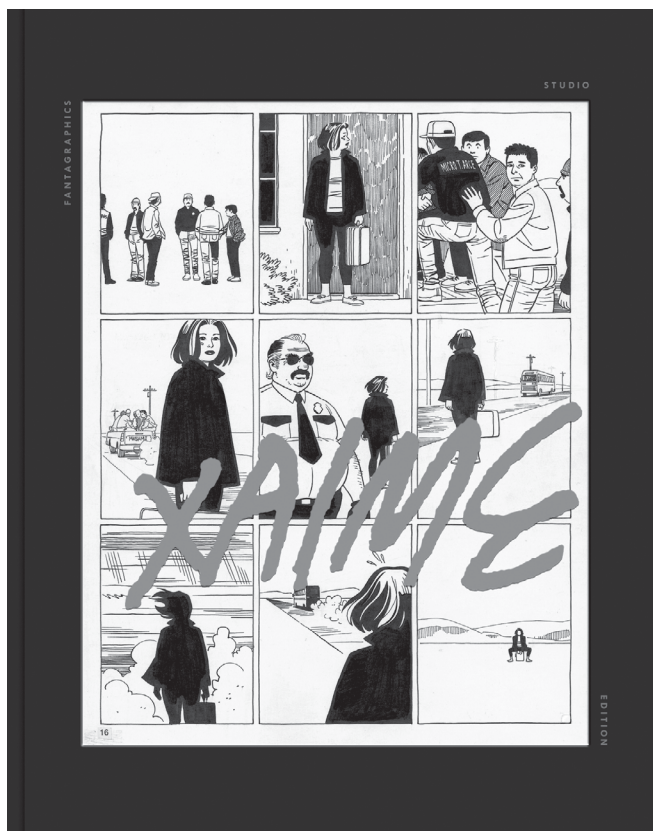


Publisher of the



World's Greatest Cartoonists





THE FANTAGRAPHICS STUDIO EDITIONS

Limited edition, oversized
hardcover collections
showcasing original artwork
by master cartoonists at the
size it was created.

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

JAIME HERNANDEZ
Featuring 14 *Love and Rockets*
stories spanning its history,
including classics such as "Spring
1982" and "Chester Square," plus
outtakes, a new interview with
Jaime about his process, studio
photos, and other surprises.

CHARLES BURNS
Showcasing over 150 pages from
Burns' magnum opus, *Black Hole*,
including nine complete chapters
and an original art cover gallery
hand-picked by the artist himself.

