

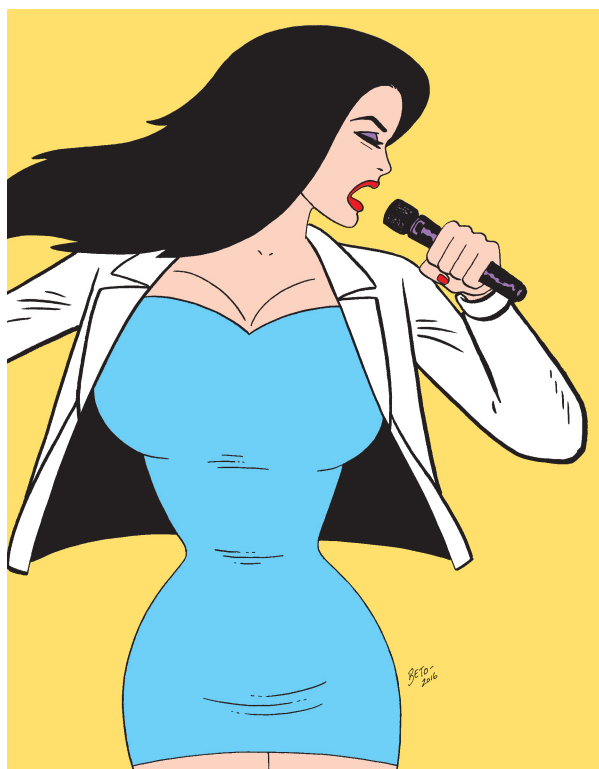
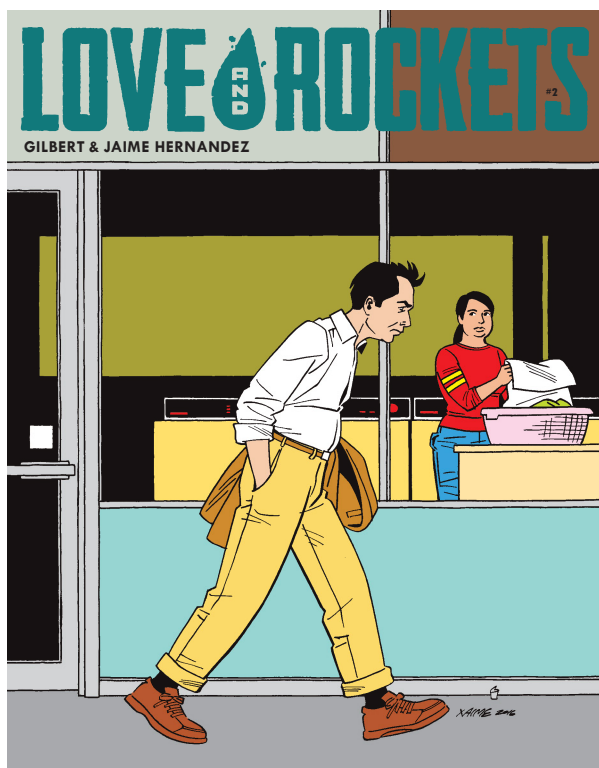
LOVE AND ROCKETS

#2

GILBERT & JAIME HERNANDEZ



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



LOVE AND ROCKETS Vol. IV #2 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. 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: March 2017. Printed in Canada.

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

BETO'S WORLD



ROSALBA
'FRITZ'
MARTINEZ
INTERNATIONAL
CULT MOVIE AND
TV STAR



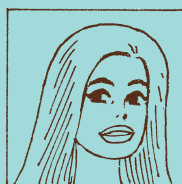
BABY
FRITZ'S DAUGHTER BORN
THROUGH A SURROGATE



ROSARIO
BABY'S TWIN SISTER



PIPO
FRITZ'S LONG TIME FILM
PRODUCER AND WIFE.



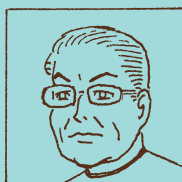
CORAZON
PIPO'S NOT SO SECRET
LOVER



DANNY
FRITZ'S BOYFRIEND AND
MANAGER/PRODUCER



BEVERLY
SURROGATE CHILD
BEARER FOR FRITZ'S
TWIN'S BABY AND ROSARIO



ENRIQUE
BABY AND ROSARIO'S
BIOLOGICAL FATHER



ZANDER, CLAIRE AND VIC
SPOUSES OF BEVERLY,
ENRIQUE AND PETRA.



PETRA
FRITZ'S SISTER



KILLER
TEEN MOVIE/TV ACTRESS
AND ASPIRING POP SINGER



JIMMY
KILLER'S HALF-BROTHER



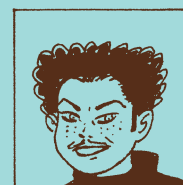
GUADALUPE
FRITZ'S NIECE, MOTHER
OF KILLER AND JIMMY



TIKITIK
CORAZON AND PIPO'S NOT
SO SECRET LOVER.



ANDRES AND SCOOTER
ROSARIO'S CHILDHOOD
CLOSE FRIENDS



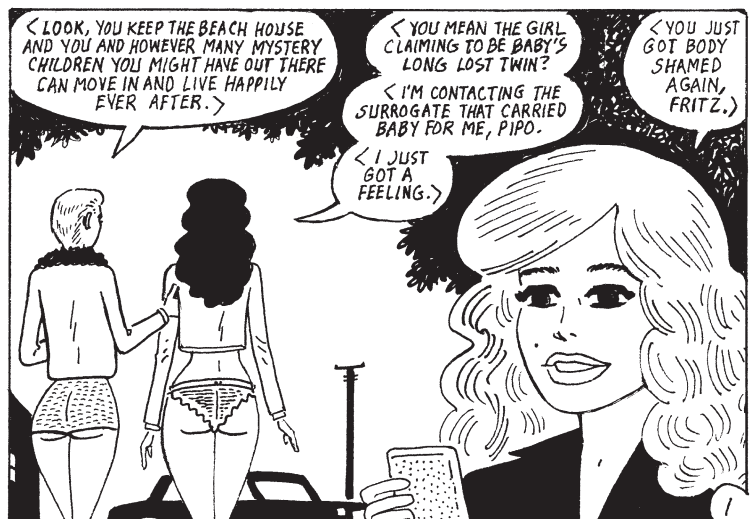
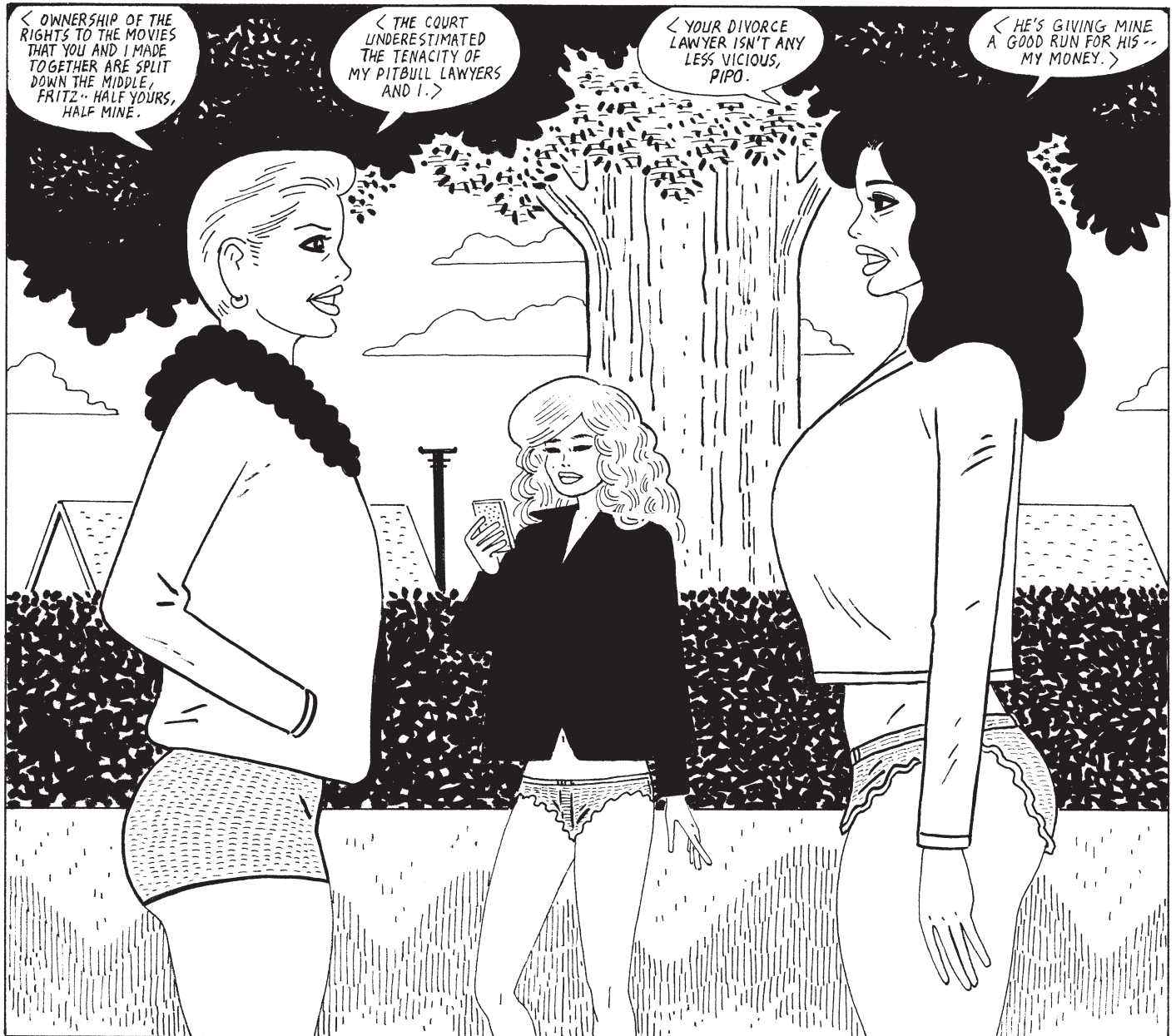
CHINO
KILLER'S SCHOOLMATE
AND BABY'S CONFIDANT

OUR STORY SO FAR:

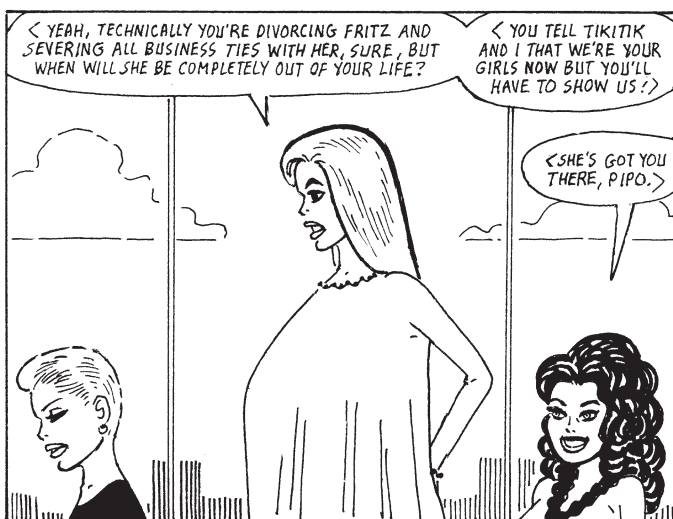
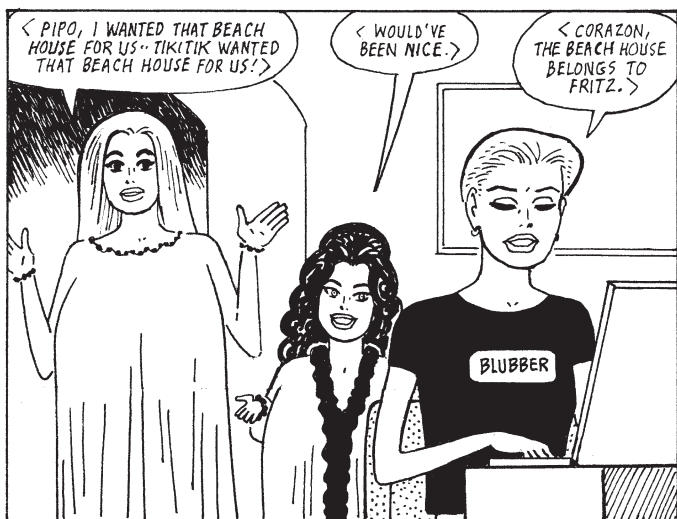
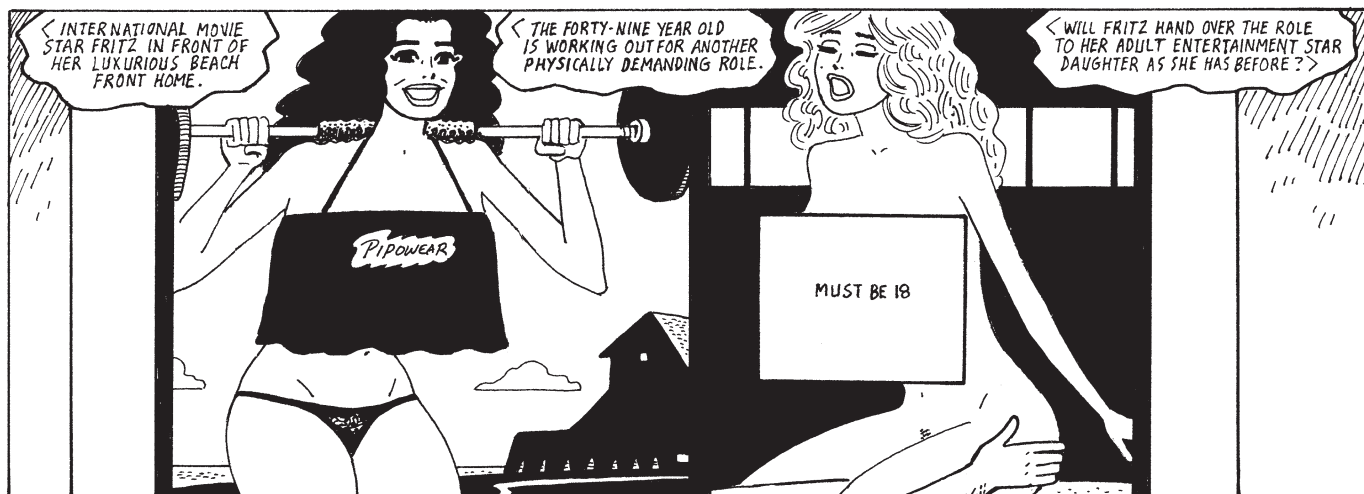
FRITZ HAD A SURROGATE CARRY HER BABY, BUT THE SURROGATE BEVERLY NEVER TOLD FRITZ OR ENRIQUE THAT SHE HAD TWINS. BEVERLY HANDED OVER ONE CHILD (LATER NAMED BABY) TO FRITZ AND ENRIQUE AND KEPT THE OTHER IN SECRET, NAMING HER ROSARIO. NOW A TEEN, ROSARIO WANTS TO MEET HER TWIN AND BIOLOGICAL MOTHER.

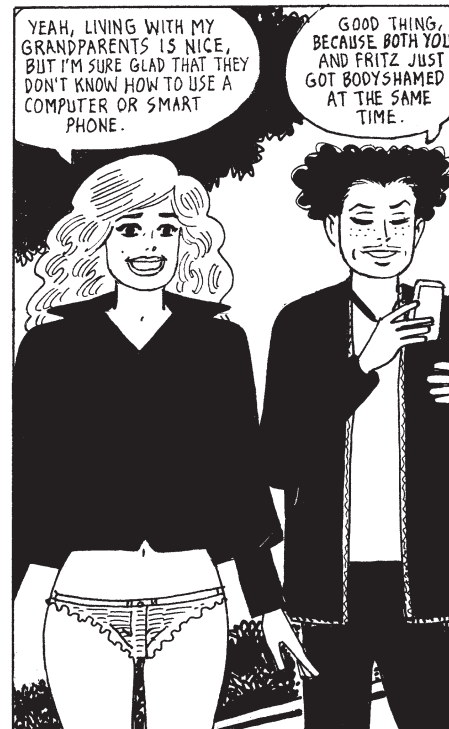
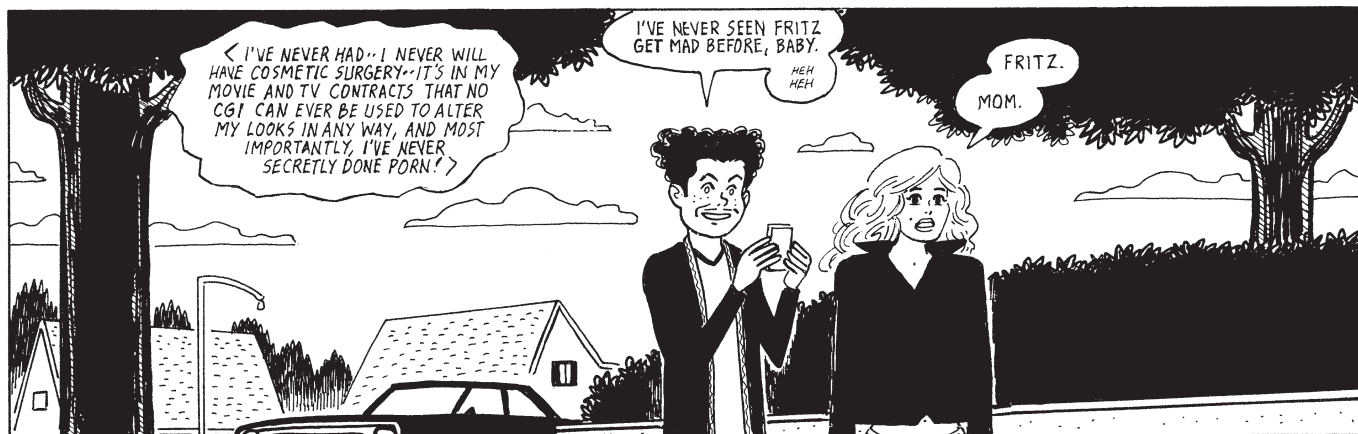
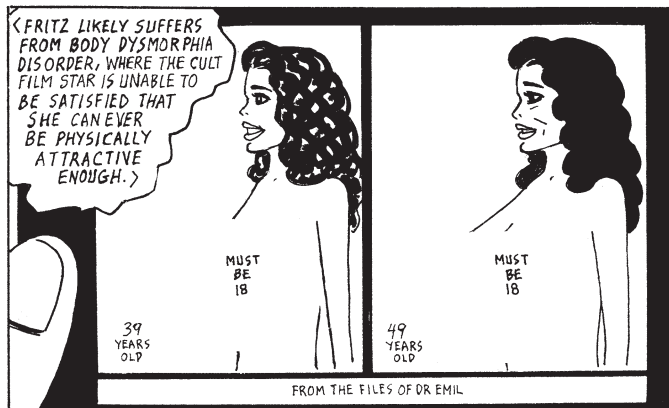
FRITZ HATERS WILL JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT

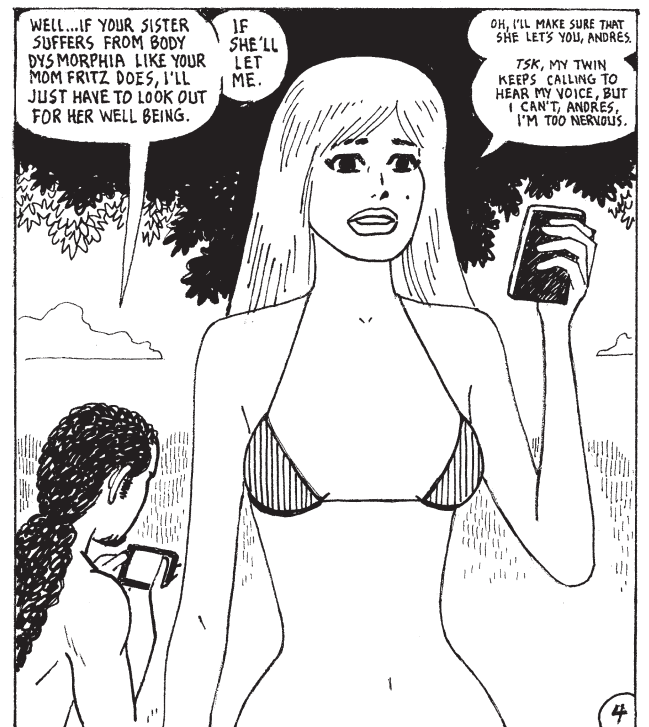
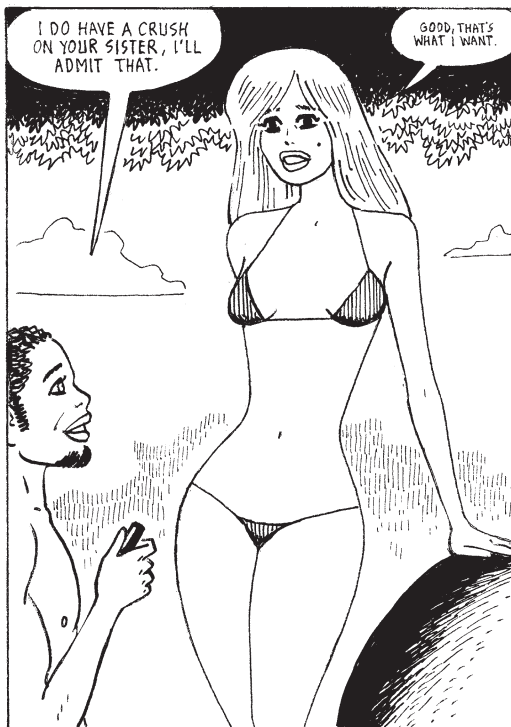
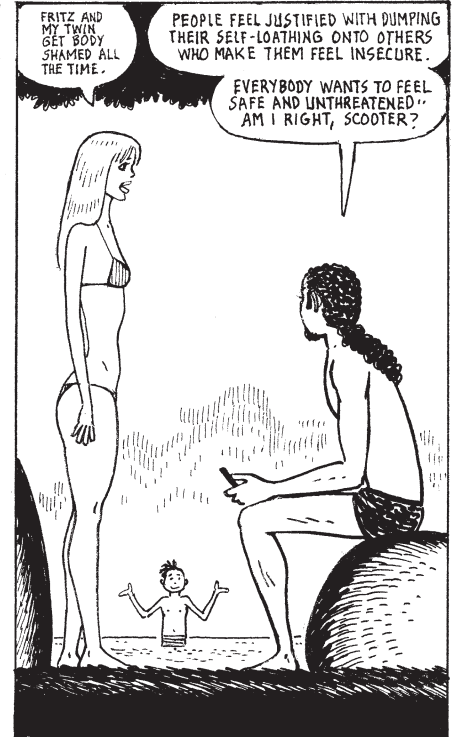
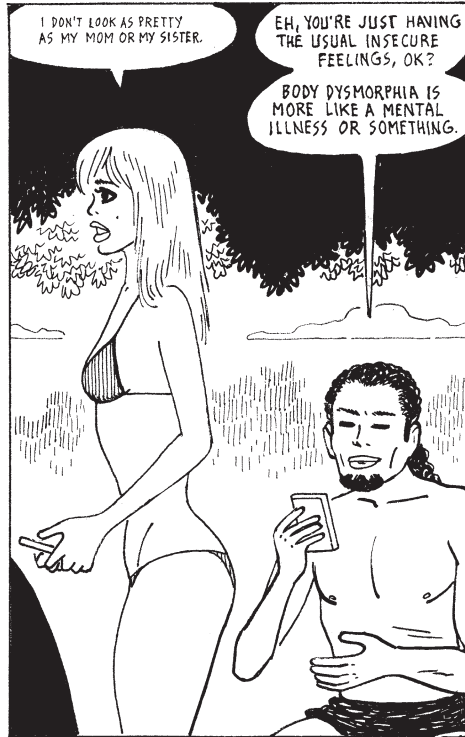
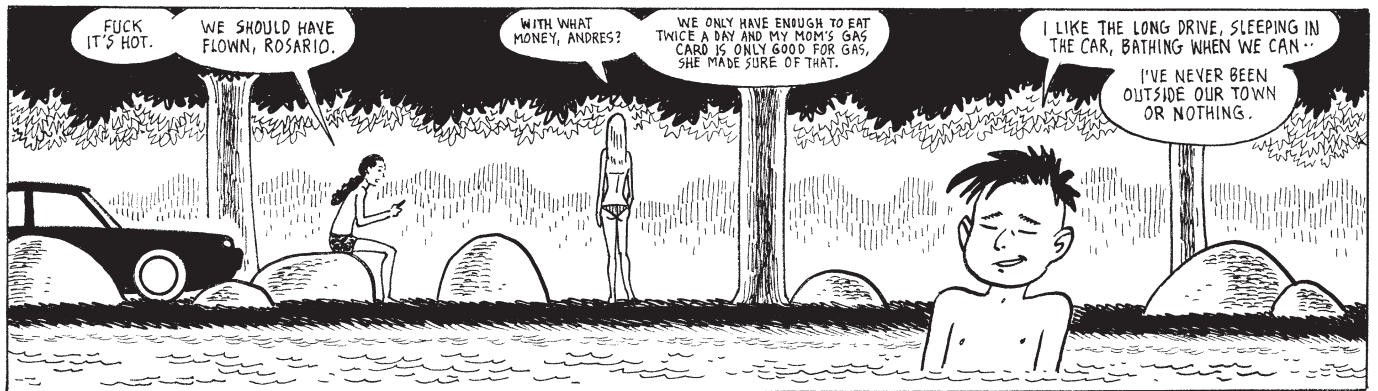
BETO-2017

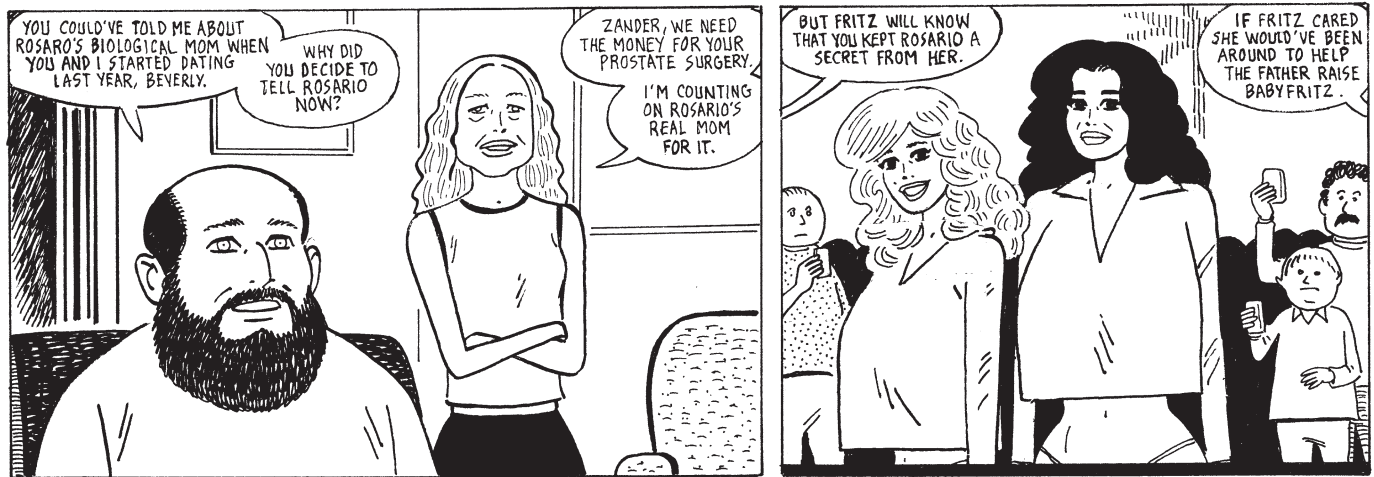


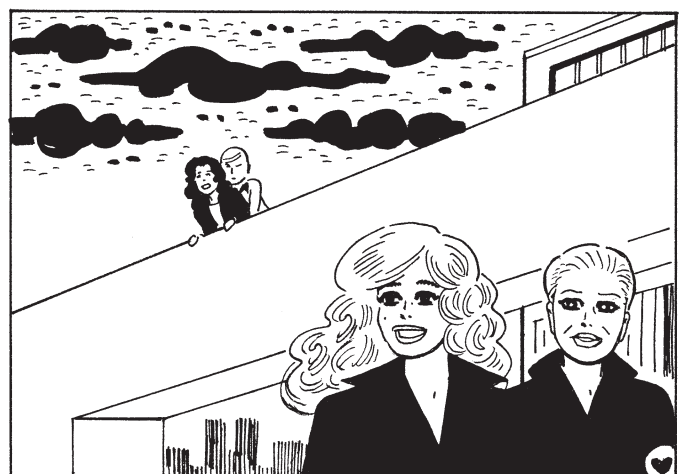
< SPANISH >

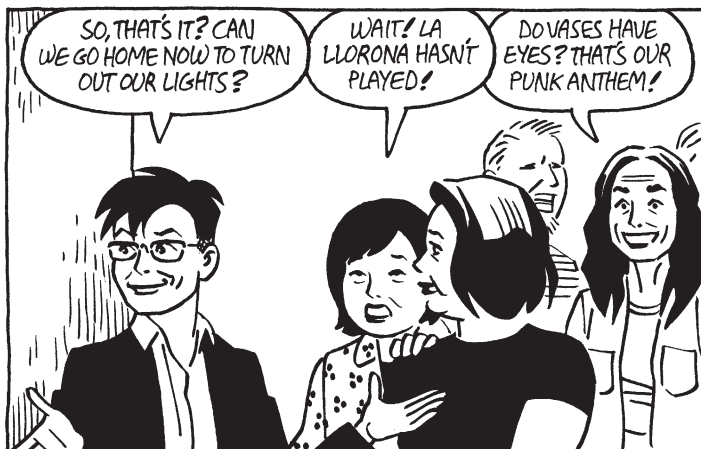
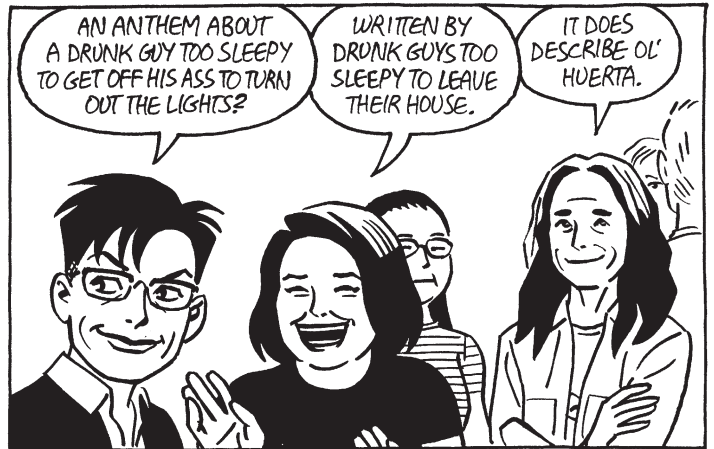
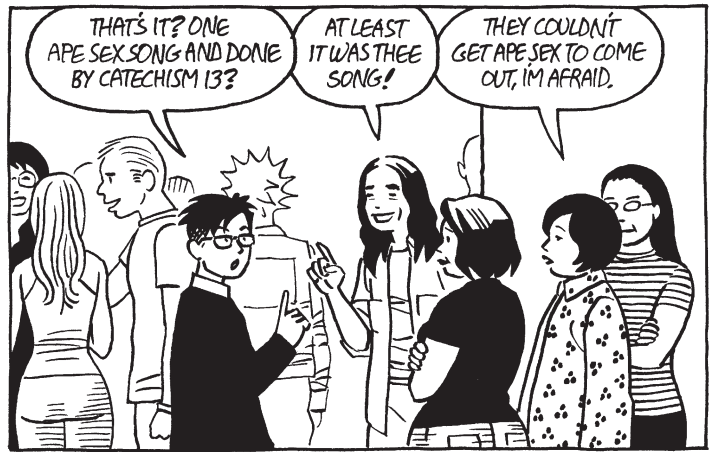


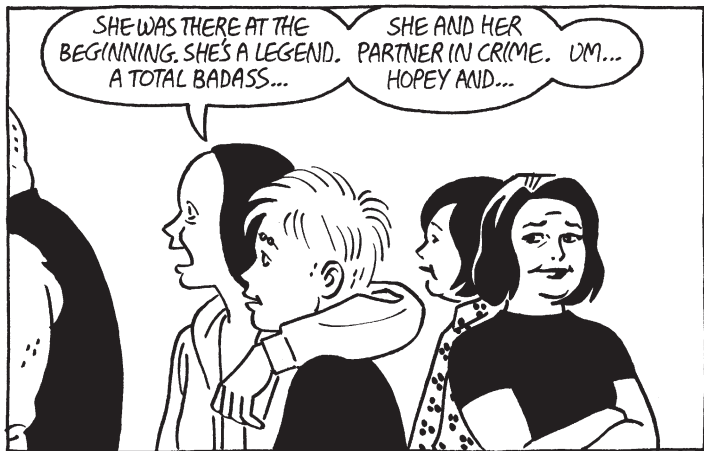
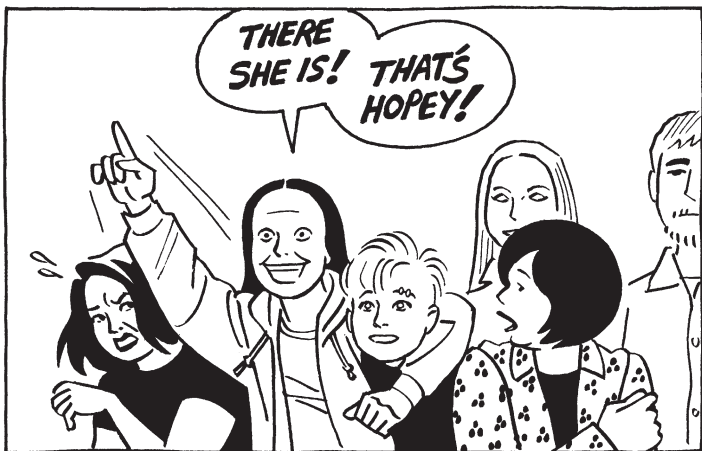
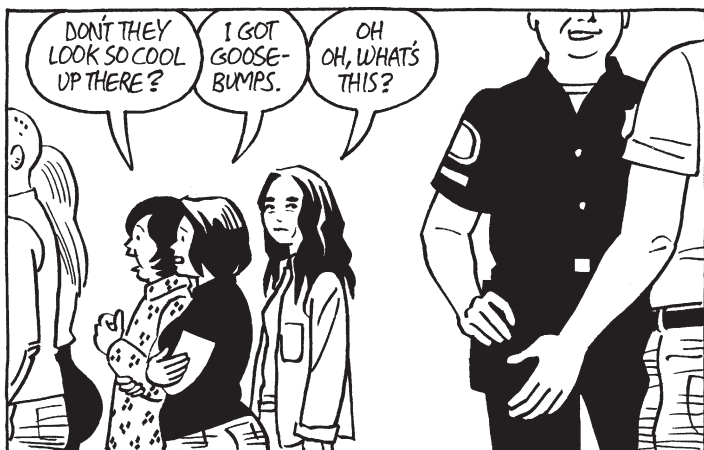


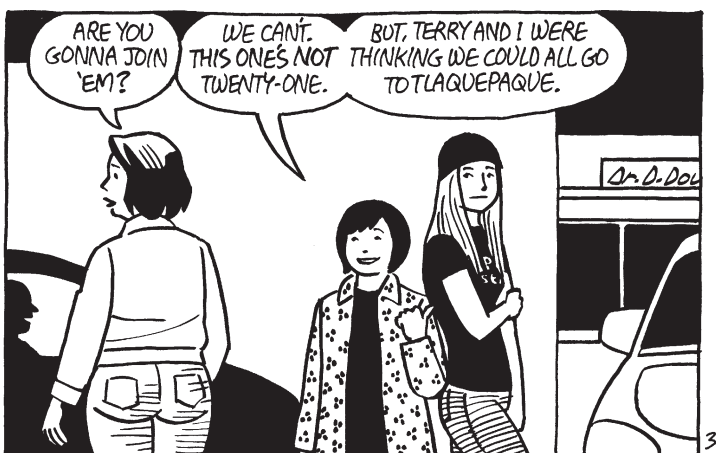
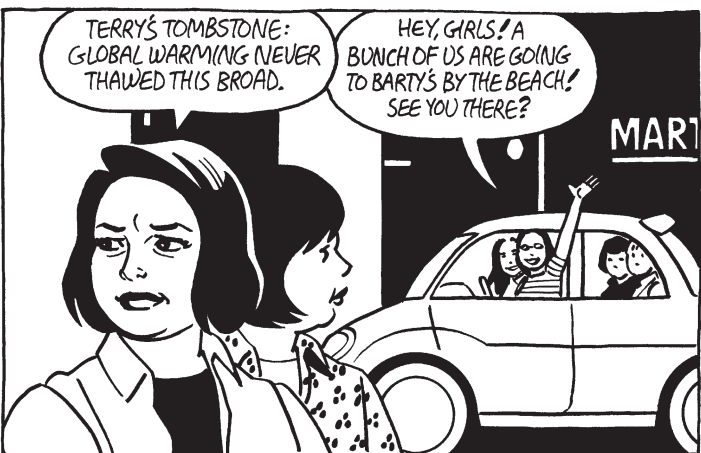
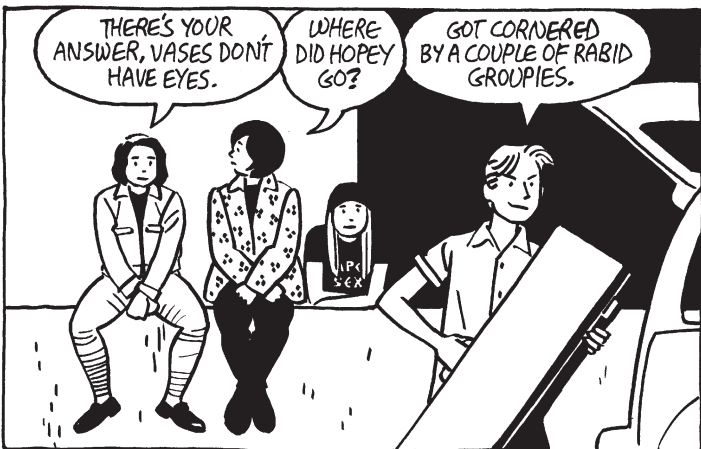


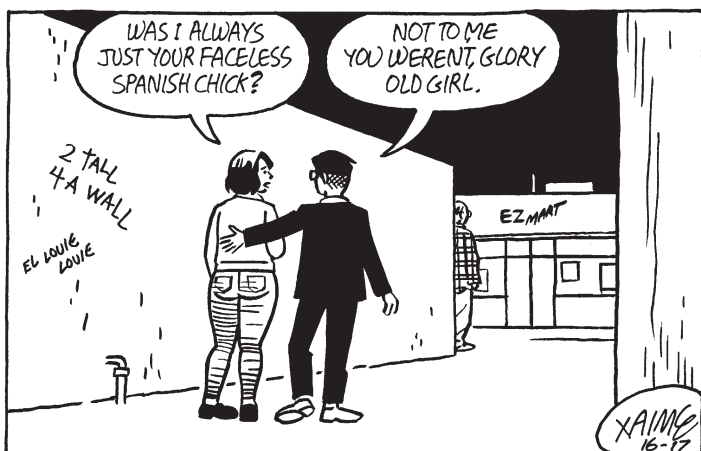
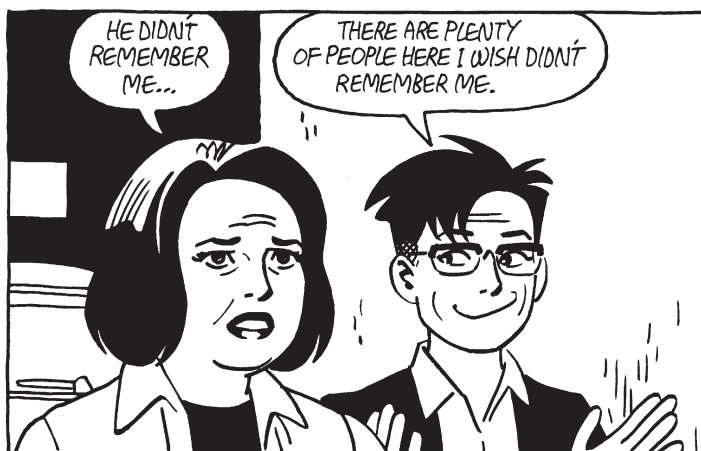
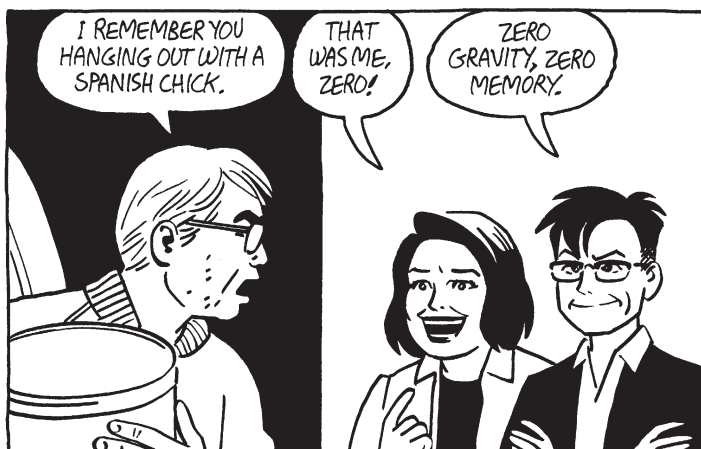
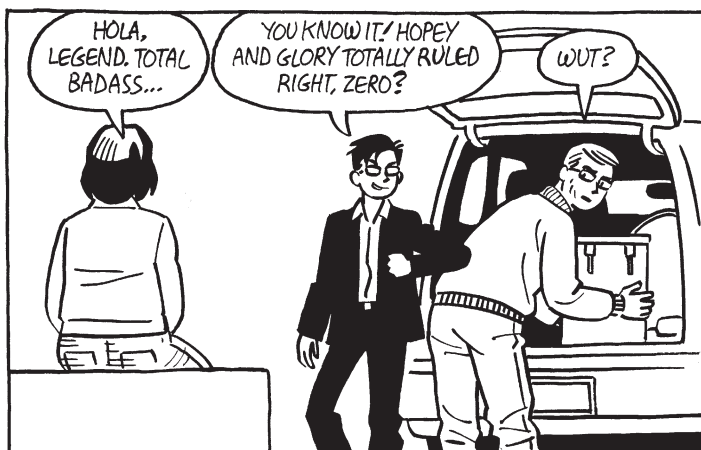
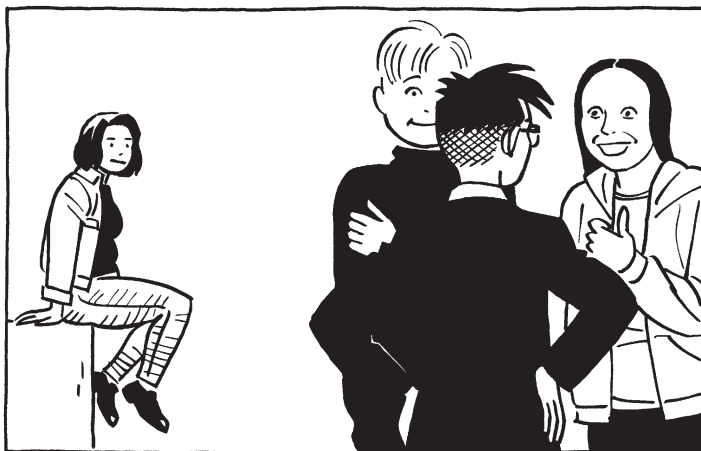


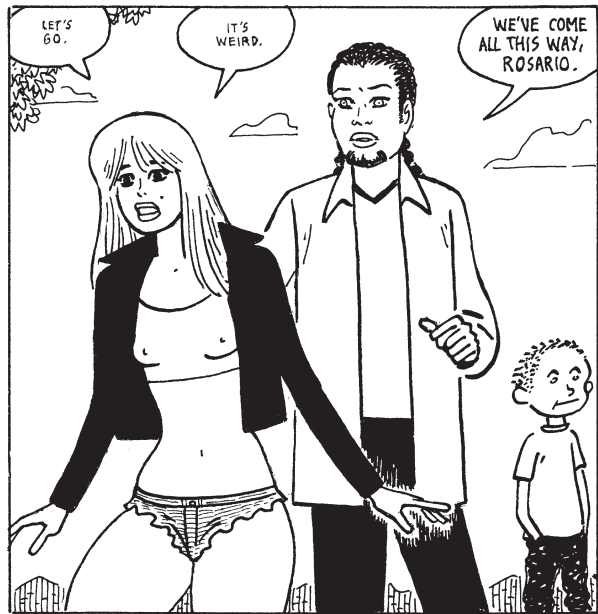






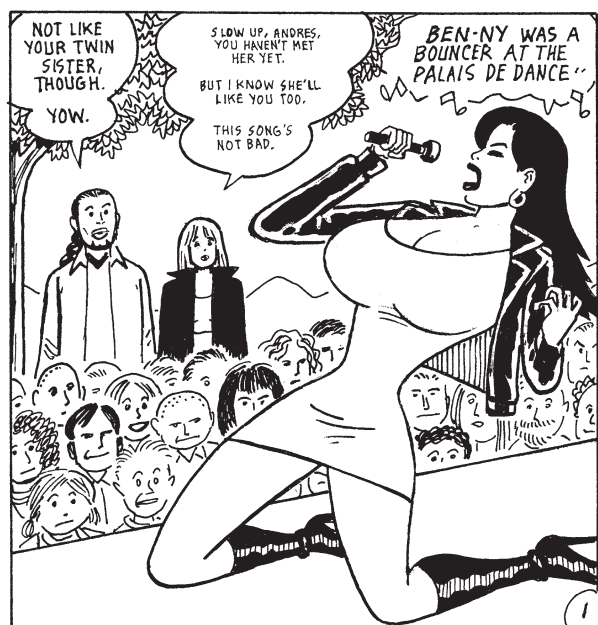
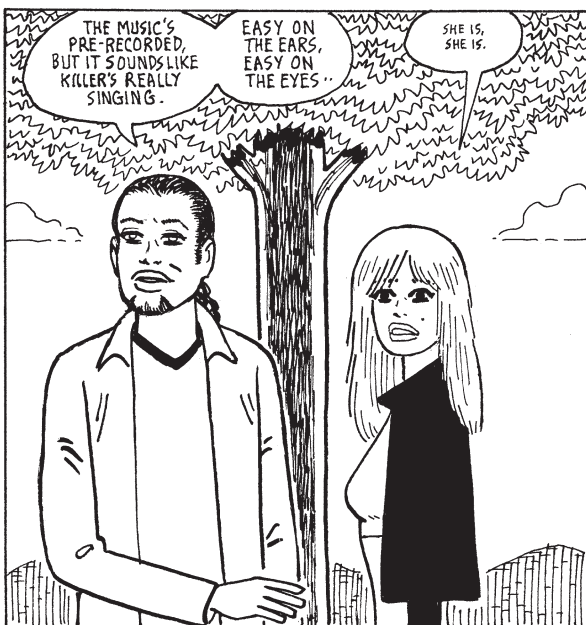
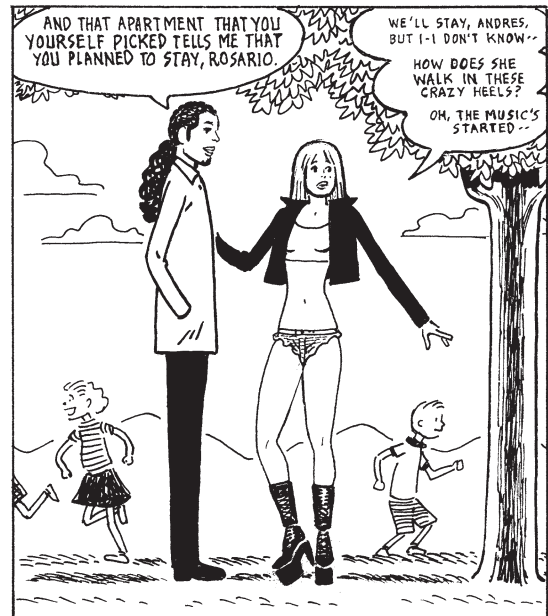


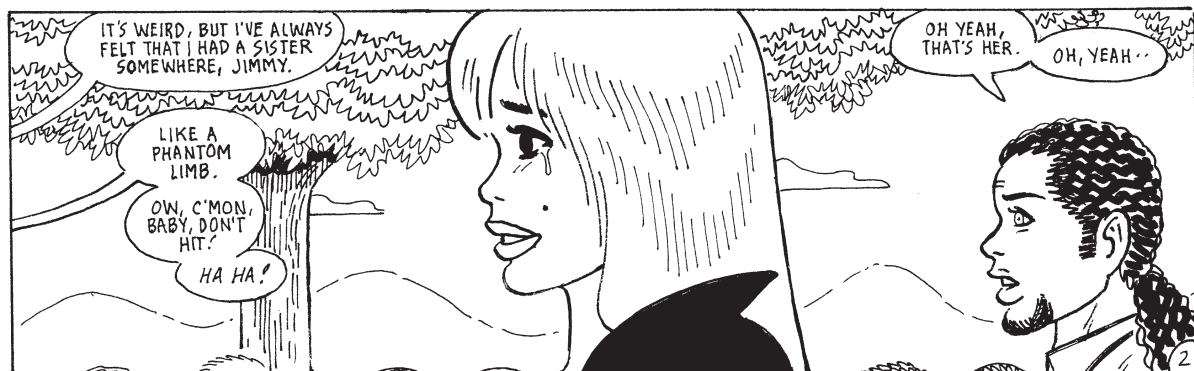


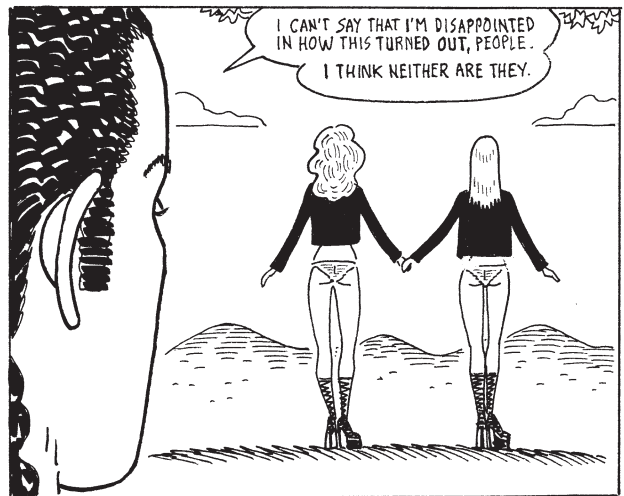


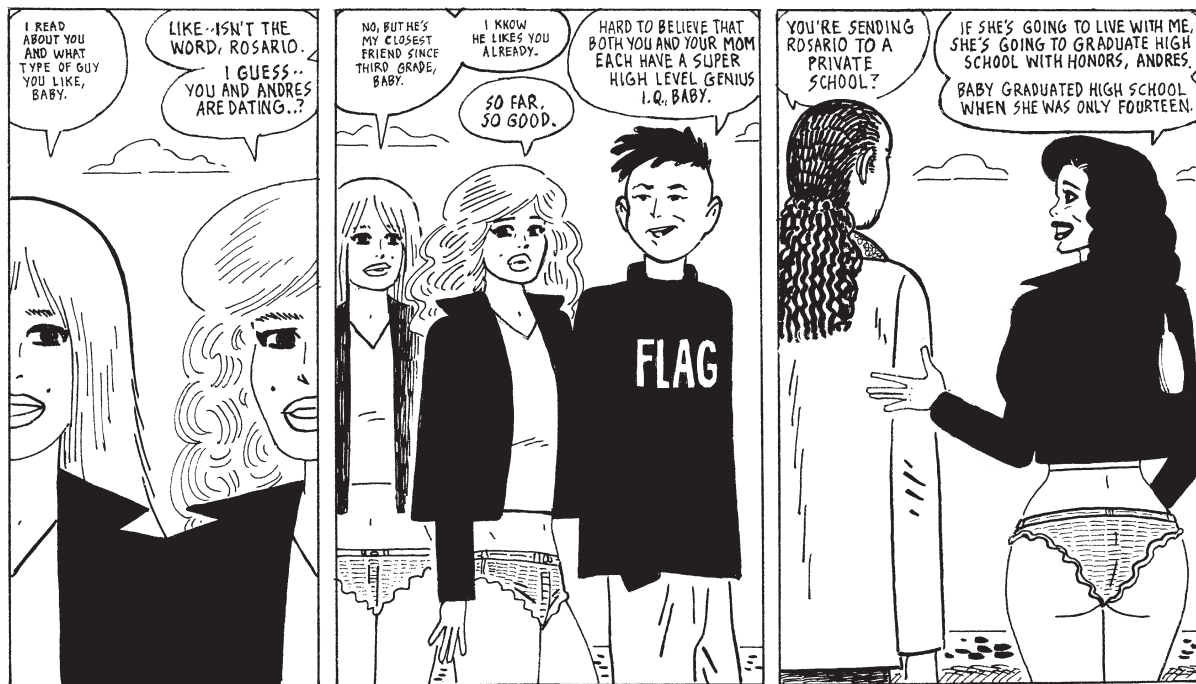
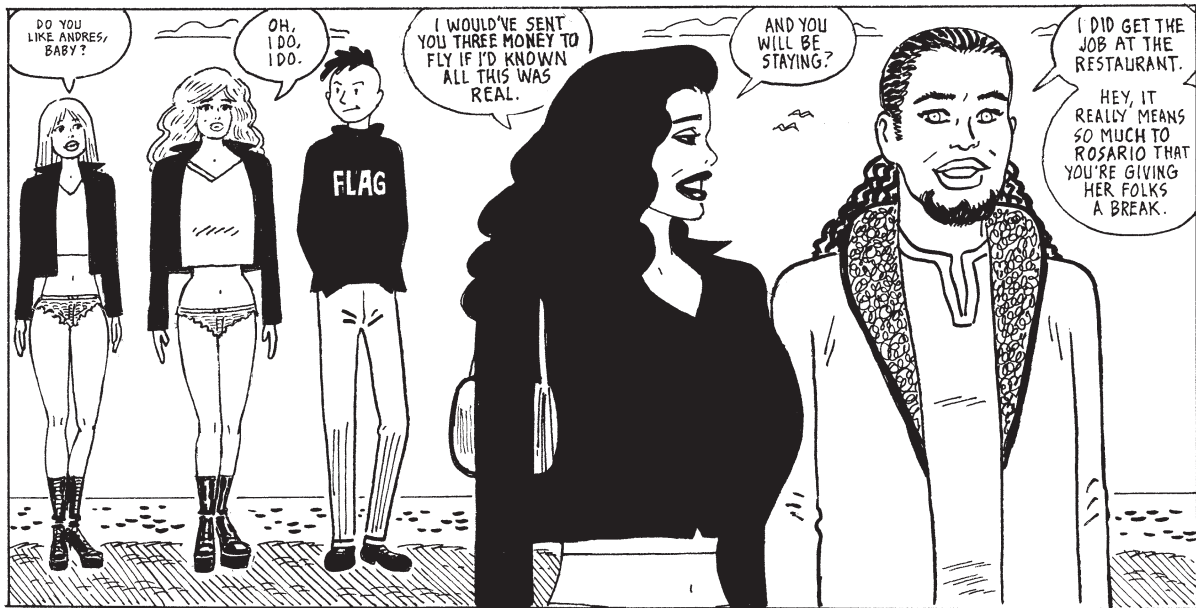
MORE FOR THE HATERS

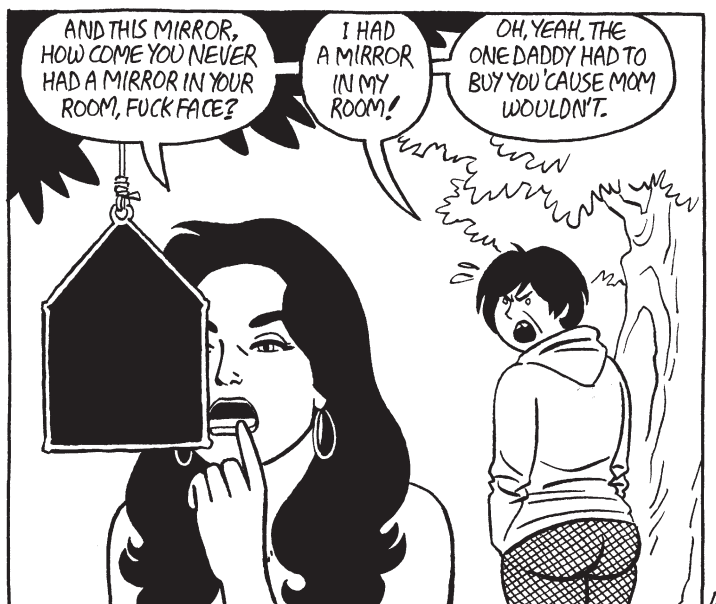
BETO-2017

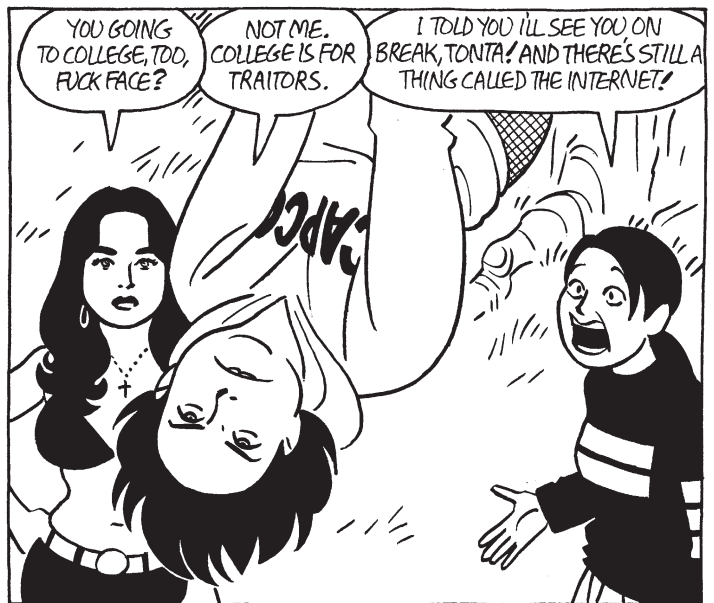
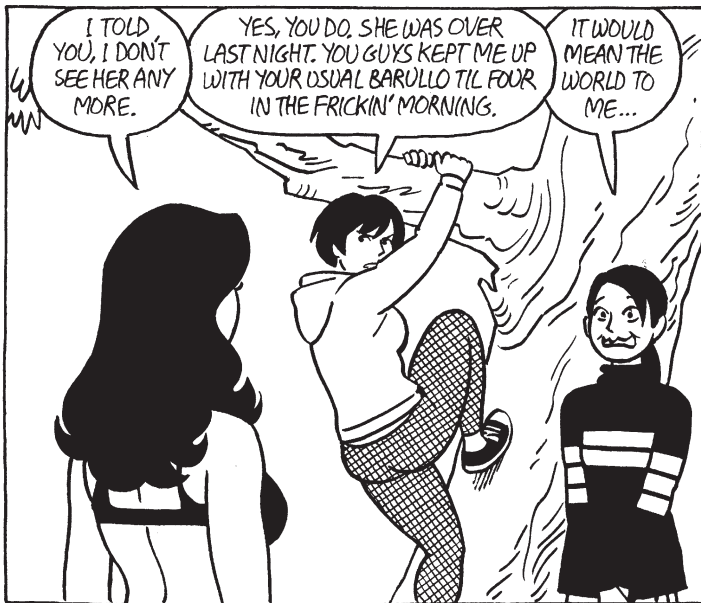
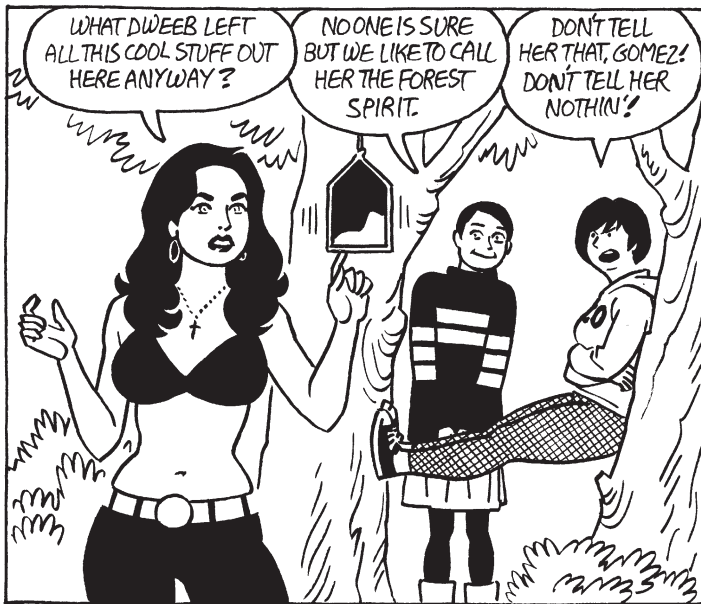




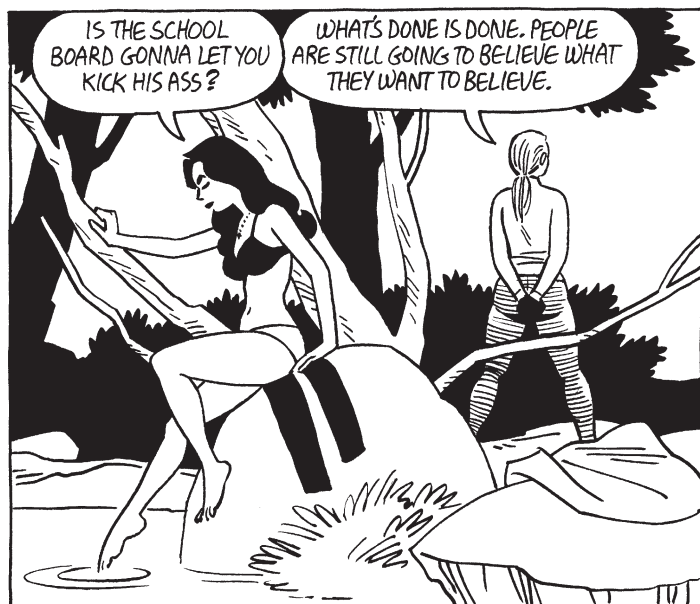
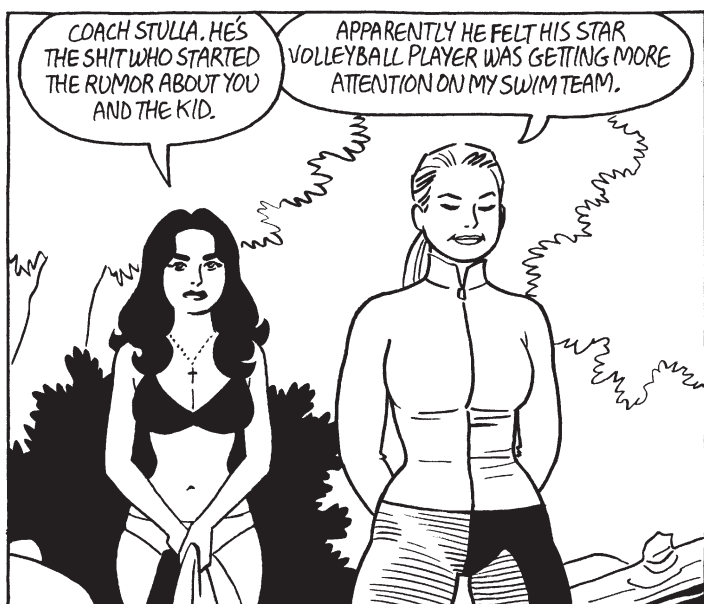
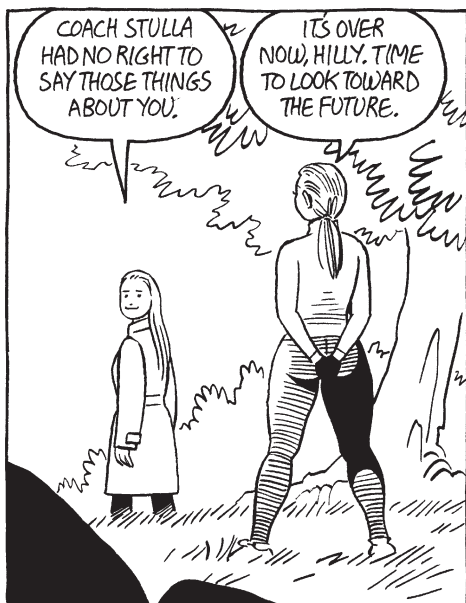


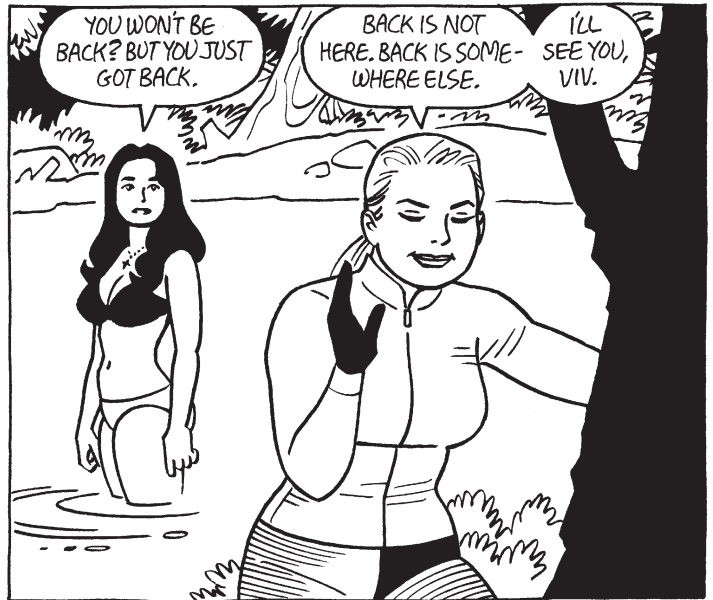


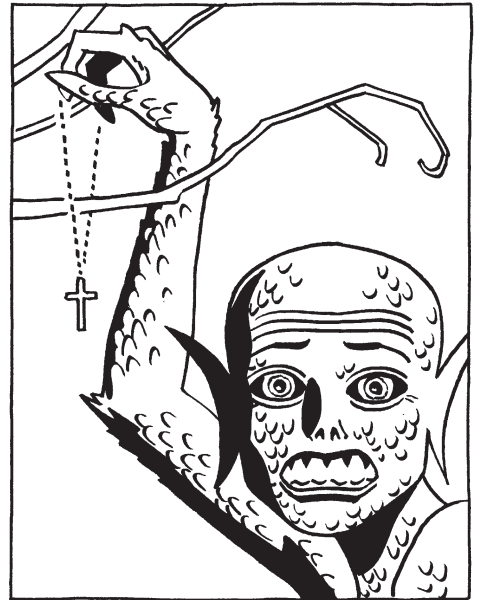






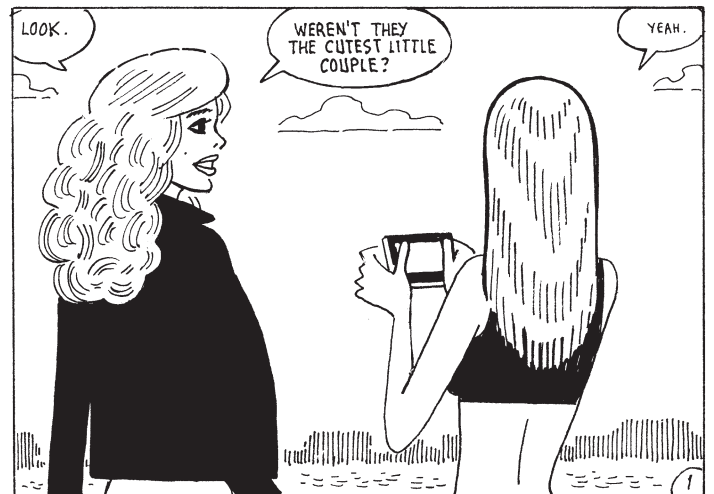
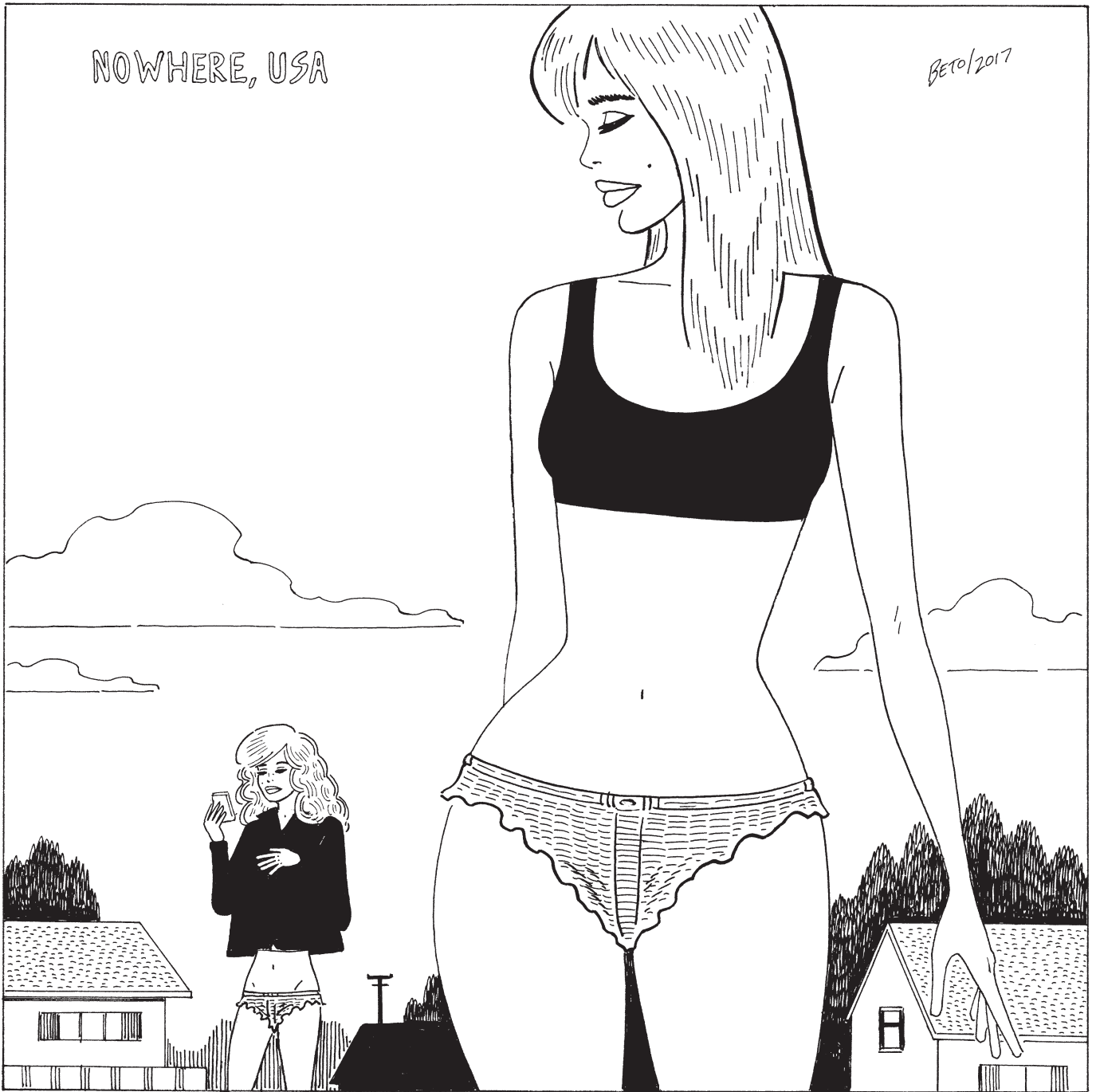


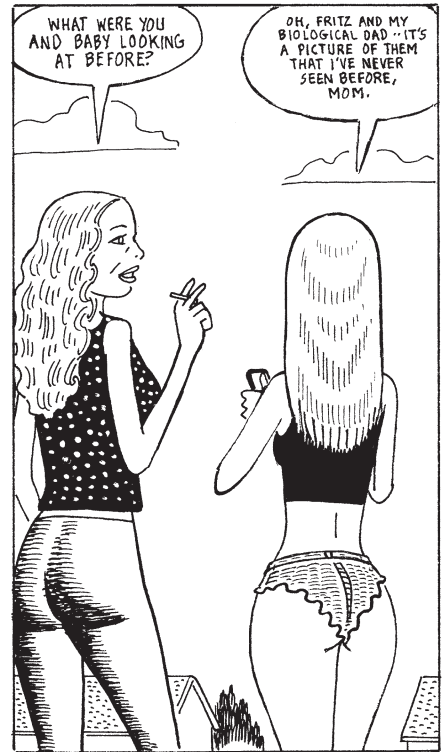
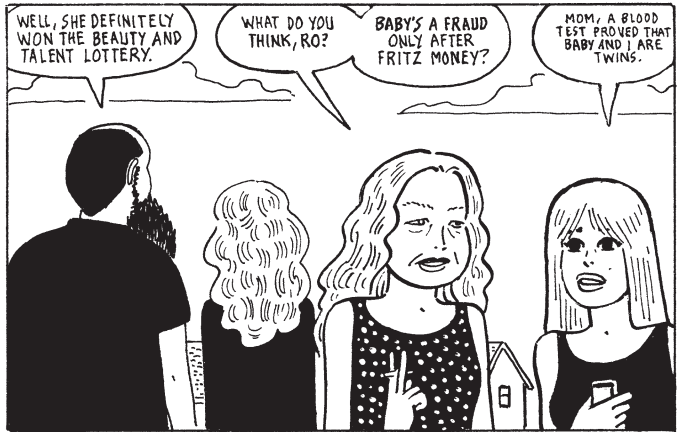




NOWHERE, USA

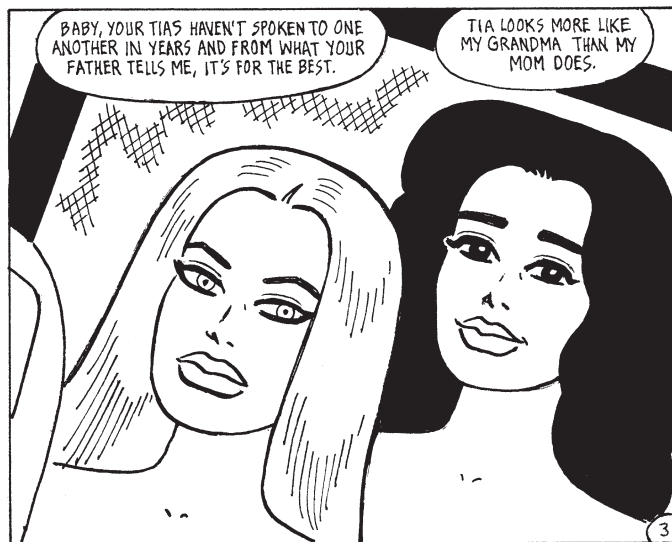
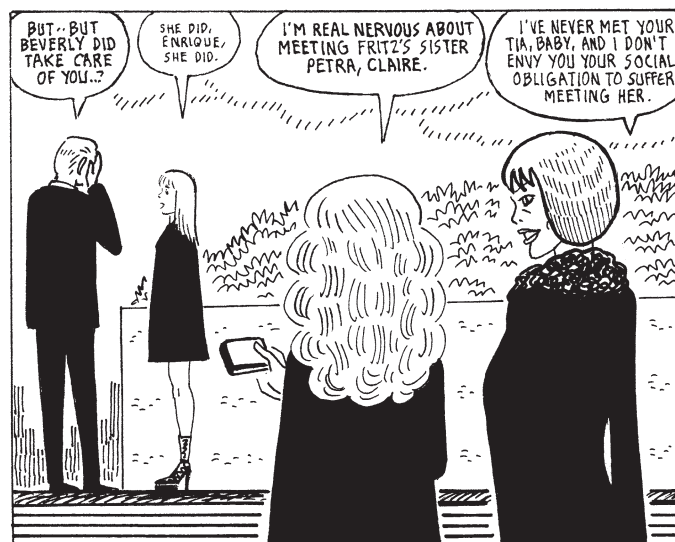
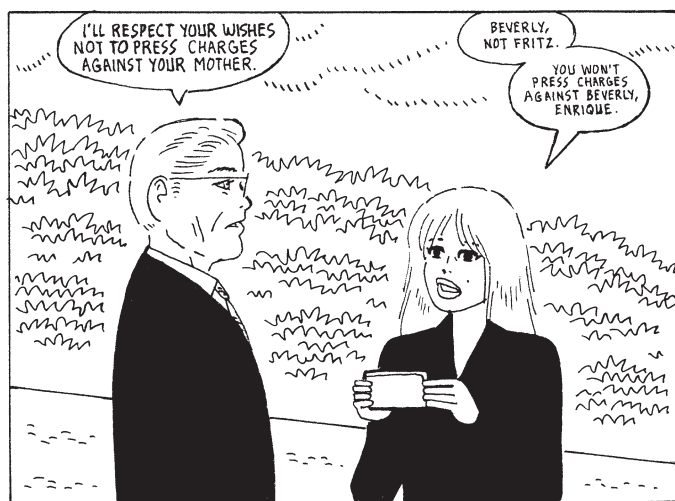
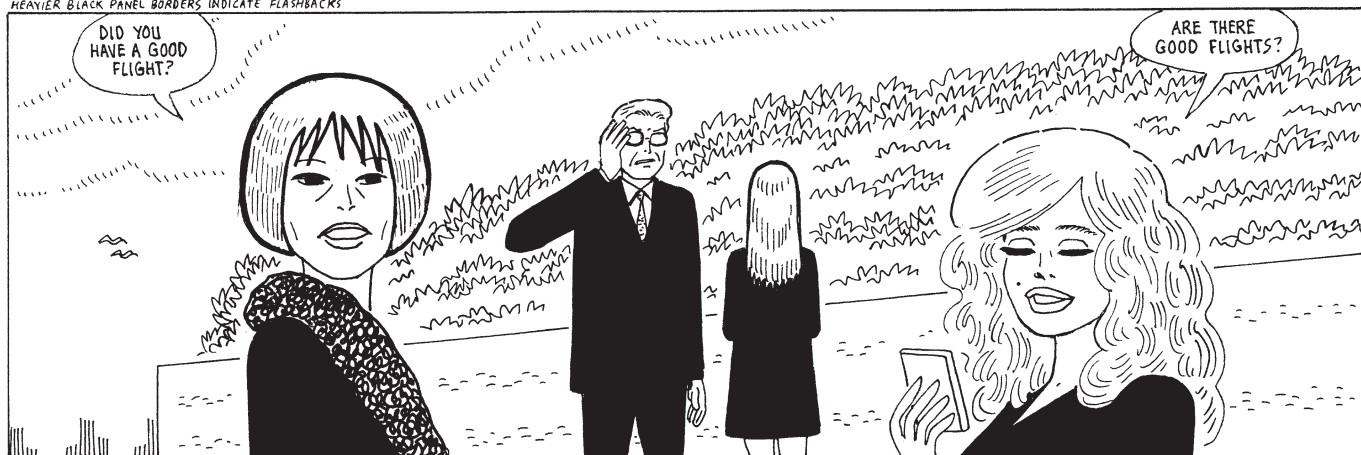
BETO/2017

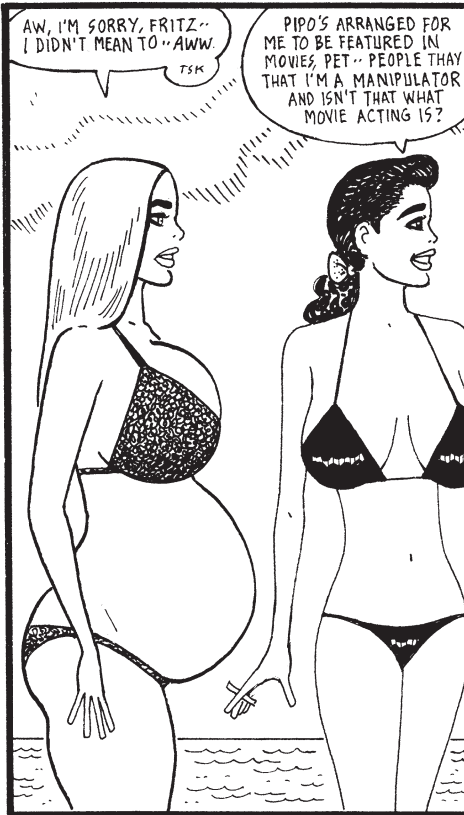
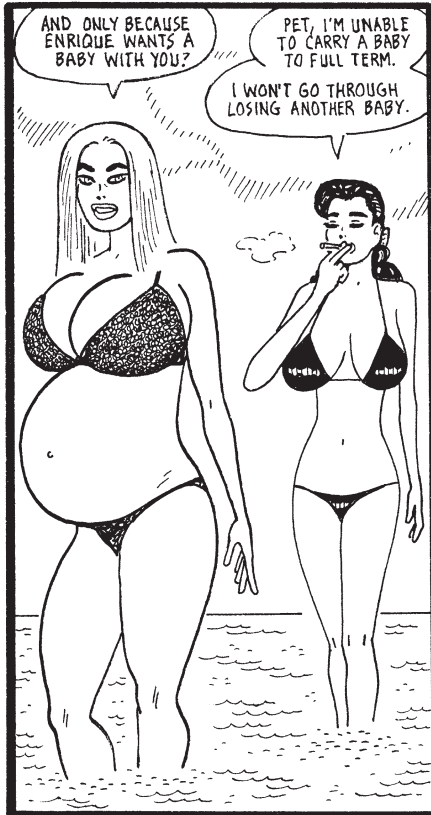


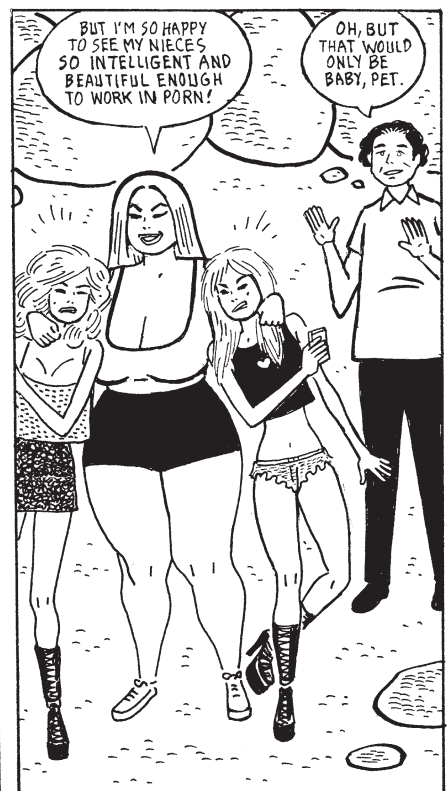
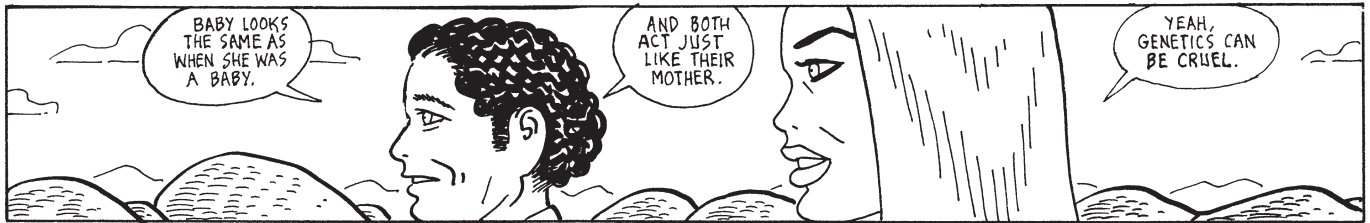




HEAVIER BLACK PANEL BORDERS INDICATE FLASHBACKS

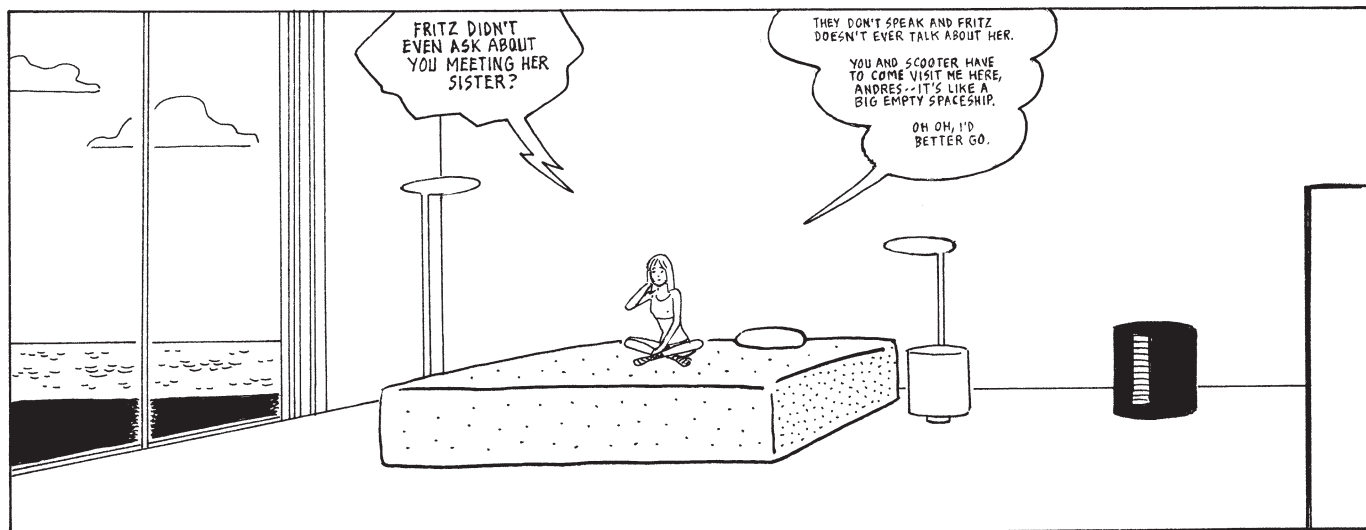








FRITZ'S BEACH HOME.



FRITZ DIDN'T EVEN ASK ABOUT YOU MEETING HER SISTER?

THEY DON'T SPEAK AND FRITZ DOESN'T EVER TALK ABOUT HER.

YOU AND SCOOTER HAVE TO COME VISIT ME HERE, ANDRES--IT'S LIKE A BIG EMPTY SPACESHIP.

OH OH, I'D BETTER GO.



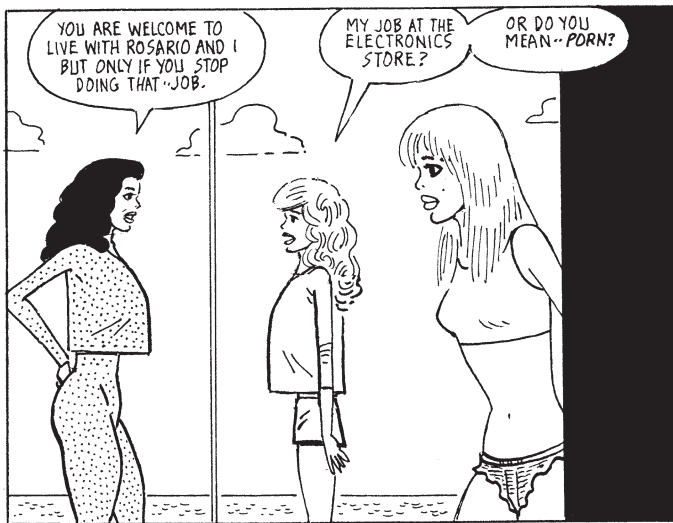
YEAH, I LIKE LIVING WITH MY DAD'S PARENTS WHERE IT'S HUMBLE AND WARM AND LOVING.

BABY, YOU'RE WELCOME TO LIVE HERE WITH ROSARIO AND I.

THAT'S NOT THE FEELING I GET WHEN YOU DISAPPROVE OF MY CAREER CHOICE, FRITZ.

BABY, WHAT MOTHER WOULD APPROVE OF THAT FOR HER DAUGHTER?

MUST BE 18



YOU ARE WELCOME TO LIVE WITH ROSARIO AND I BUT ONLY IF YOU STOP DOING THAT "JOB."

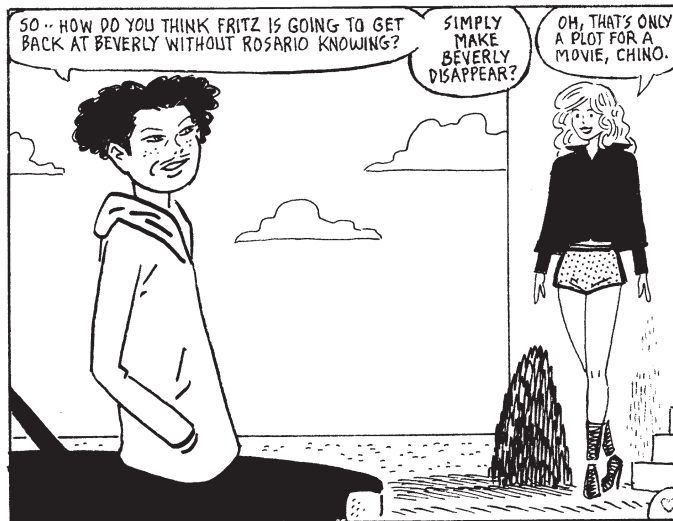
MY JOB AT THE ELECTRONICS STORE?

OR DO YOU MEAN "PORN?"



OH, I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS AND PIPO AND BEVERLY RIGHT NOW--WORKING OUT ALWAYS CLEARS MY HEAD--I'LL BE FIFTY IN TWO WEEKS--OK, HALF HOUR OF BELLY DANCE AB WORK A DAY--HEAVY WEIGHTS THREE TIMES A WEEK--TREADMILL--SWIMMING--YOGA--DRINKING--JUST KIDDING ABOUT THE DRINKING...

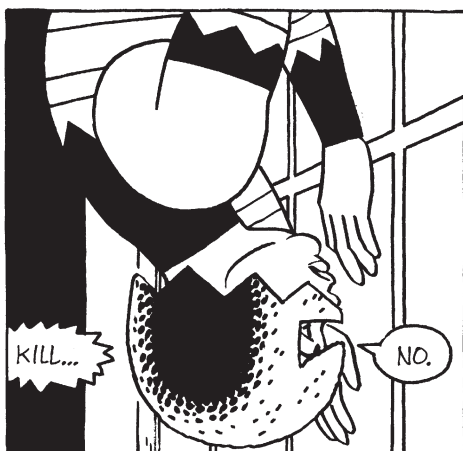
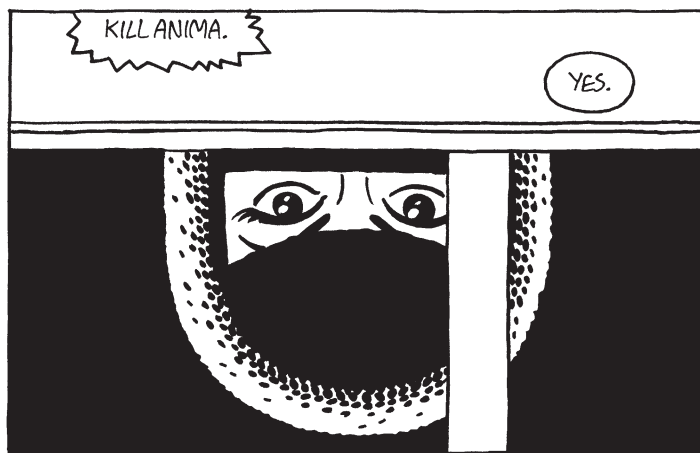
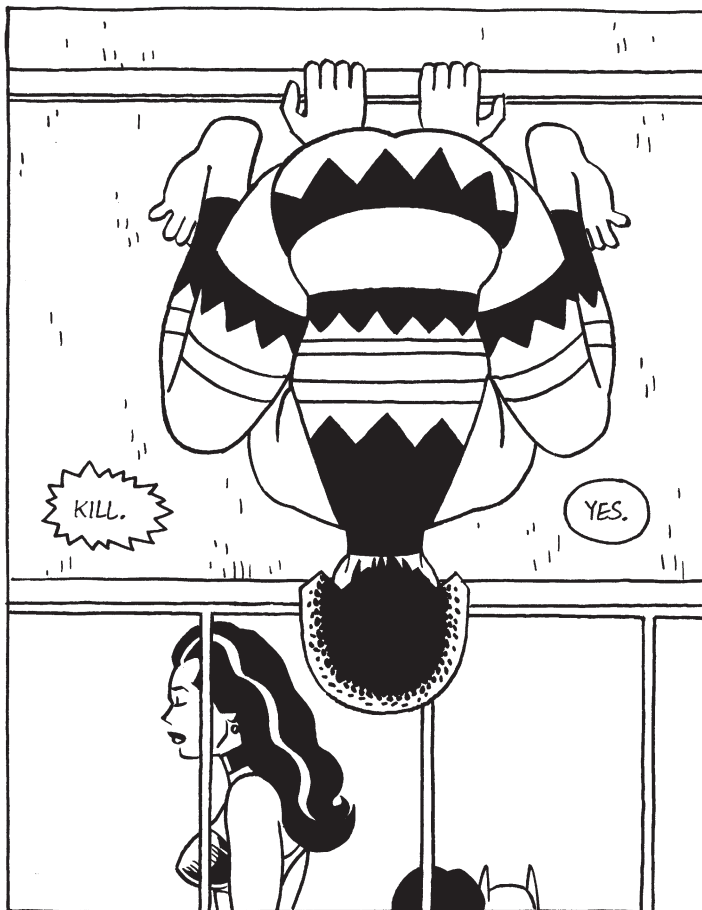
YOUR RIDE'S HERE, BABY.

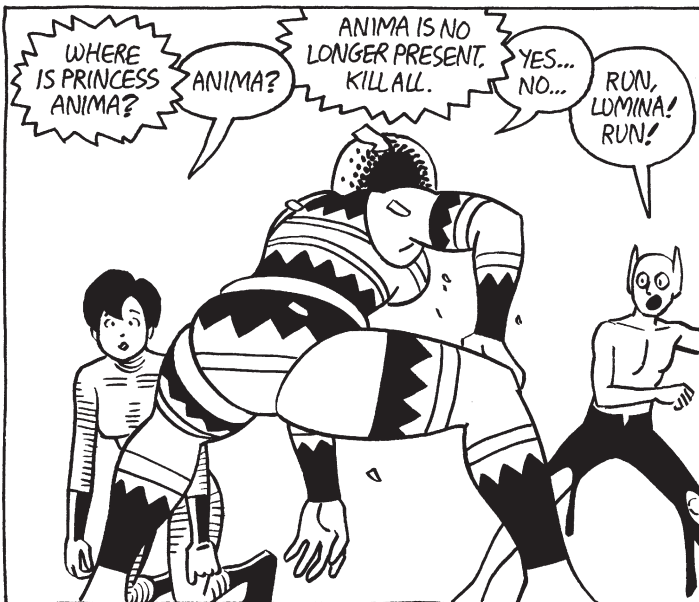
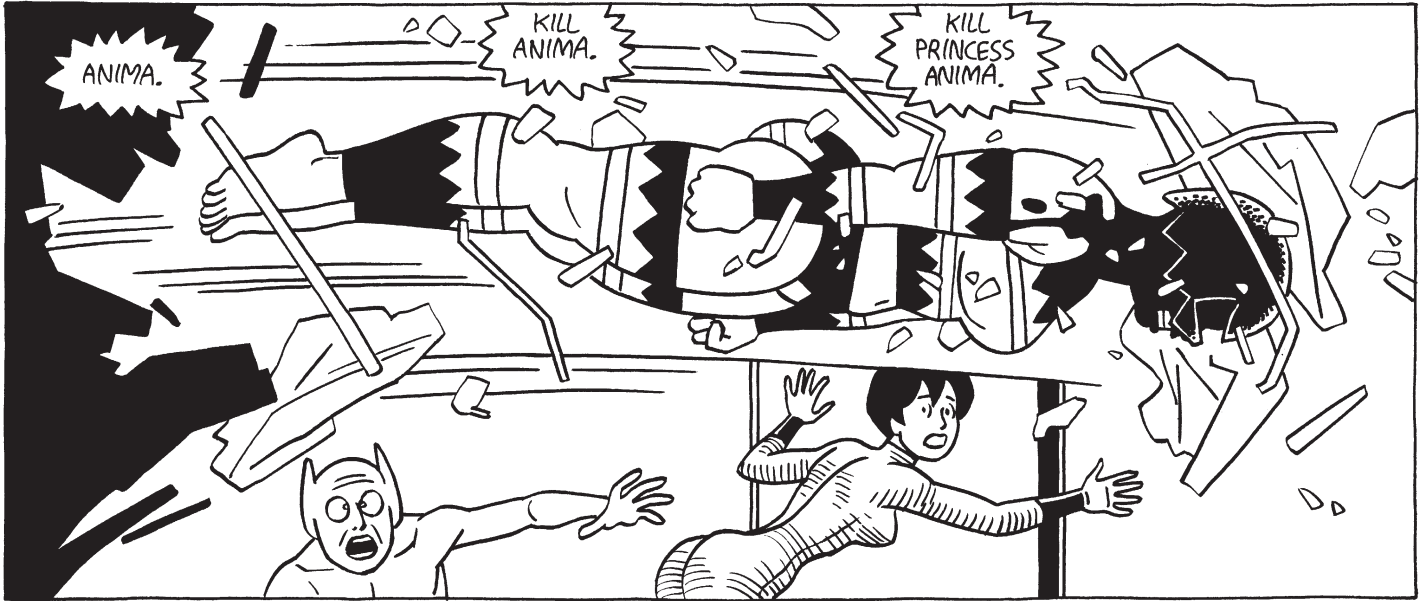
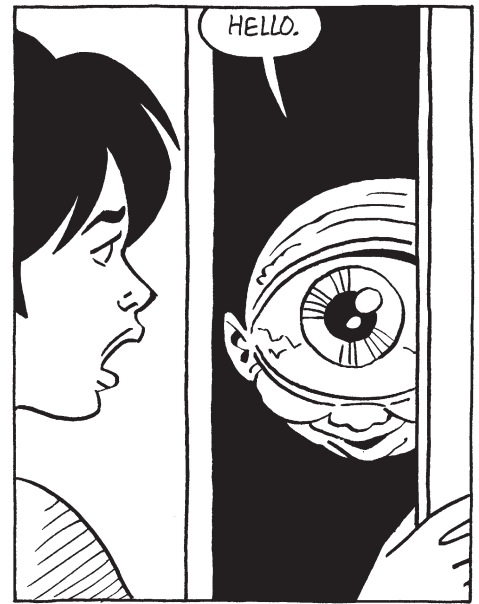


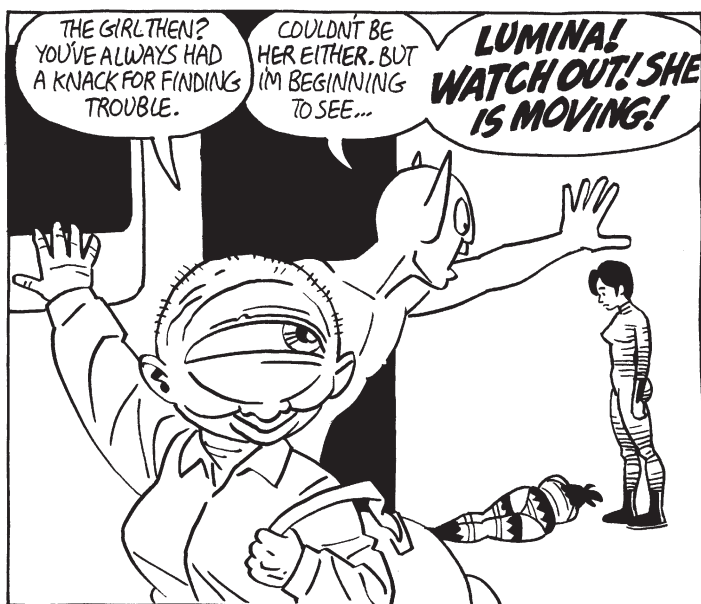
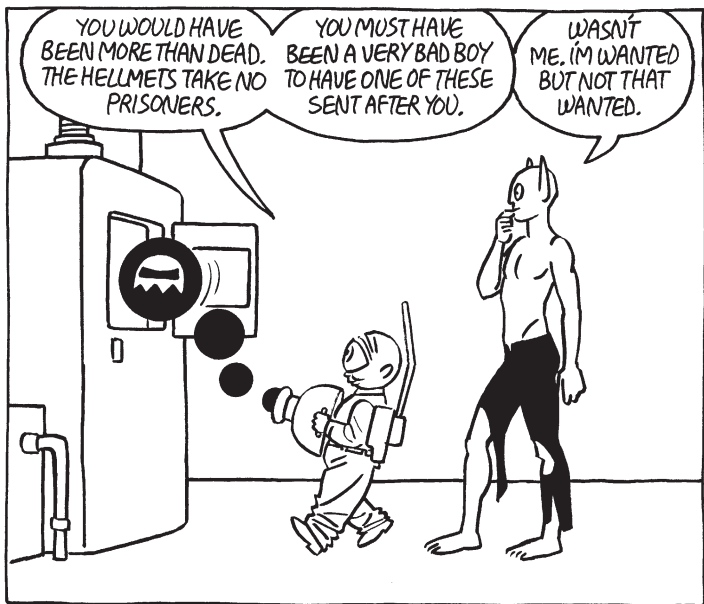
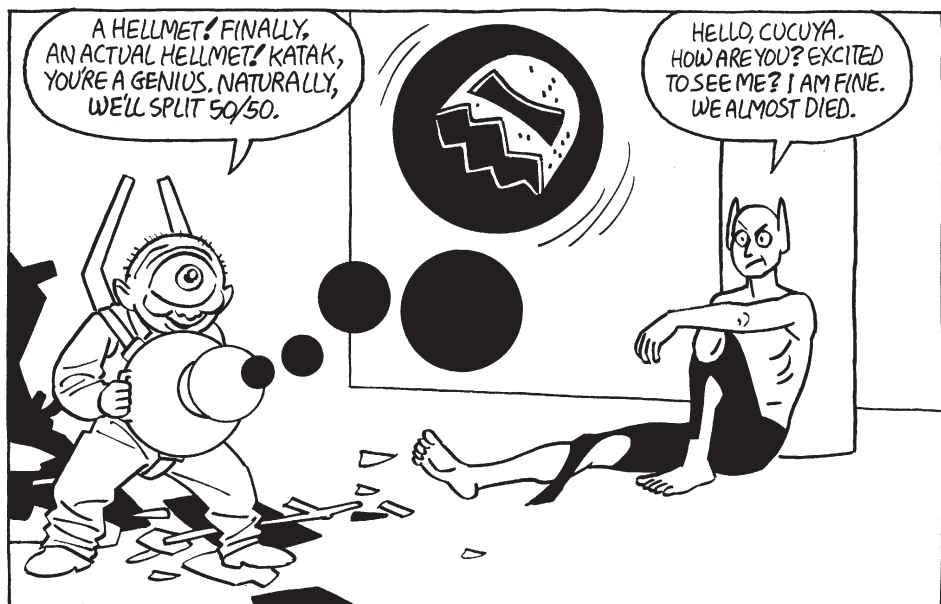
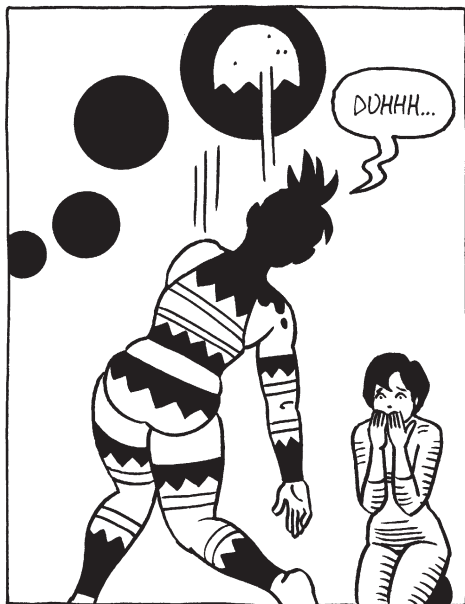
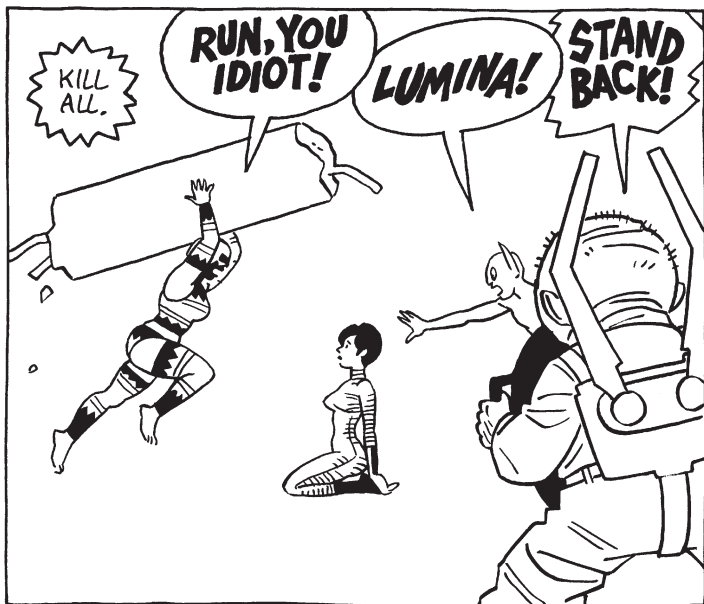
SO--HOW DO YOU THINK FRITZ IS GOING TO GET BACK AT BEVERLY WITHOUT ROSARIO KNOWING?

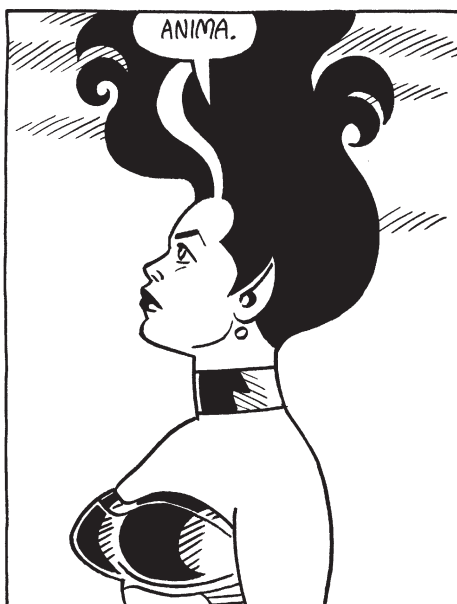
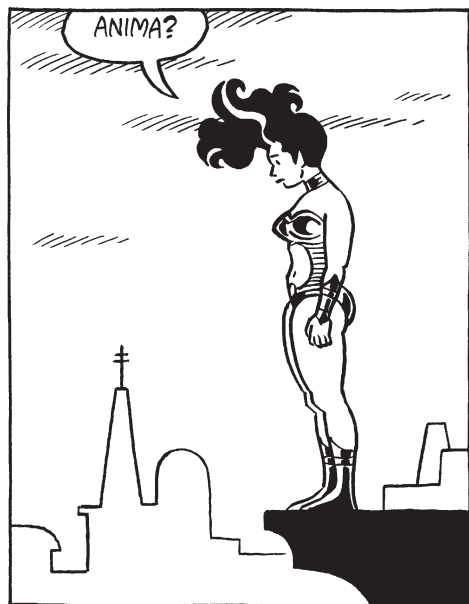
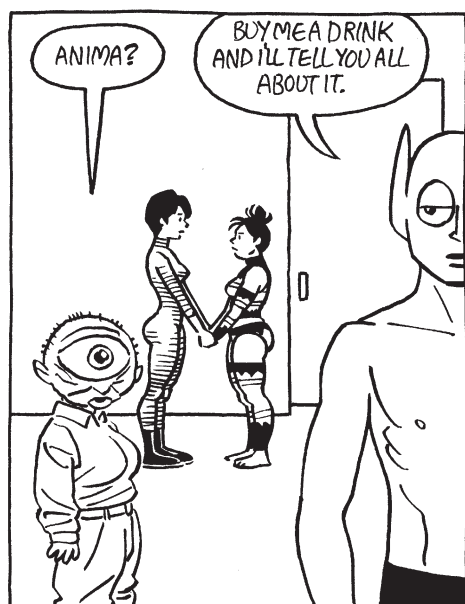
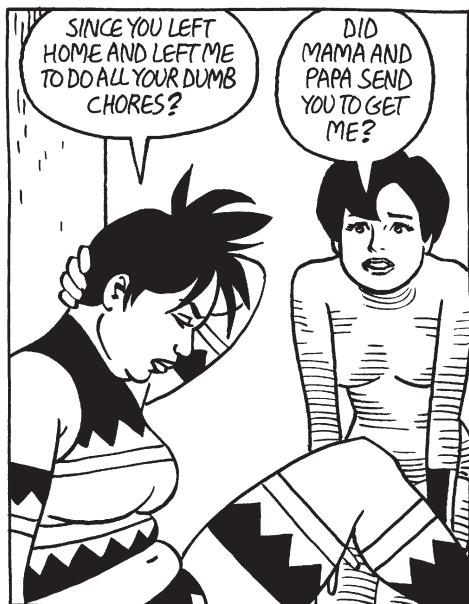
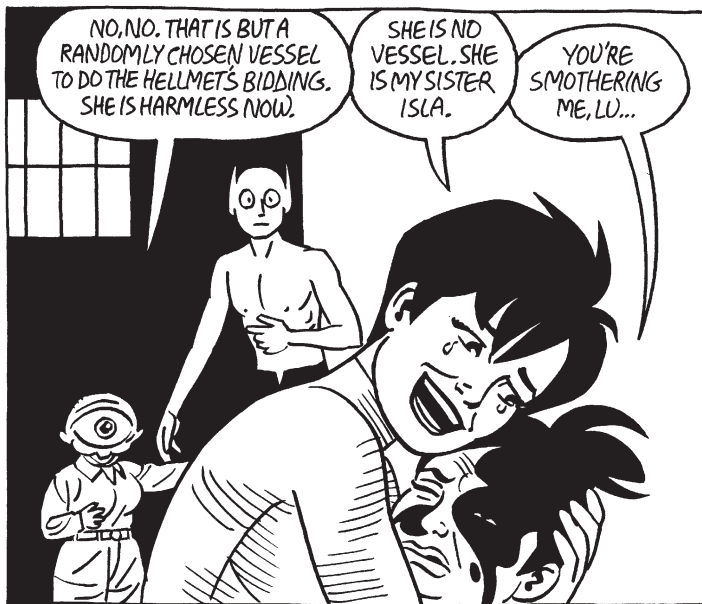
SIMPLY MAKE BEVERLY DISAPPEAR?

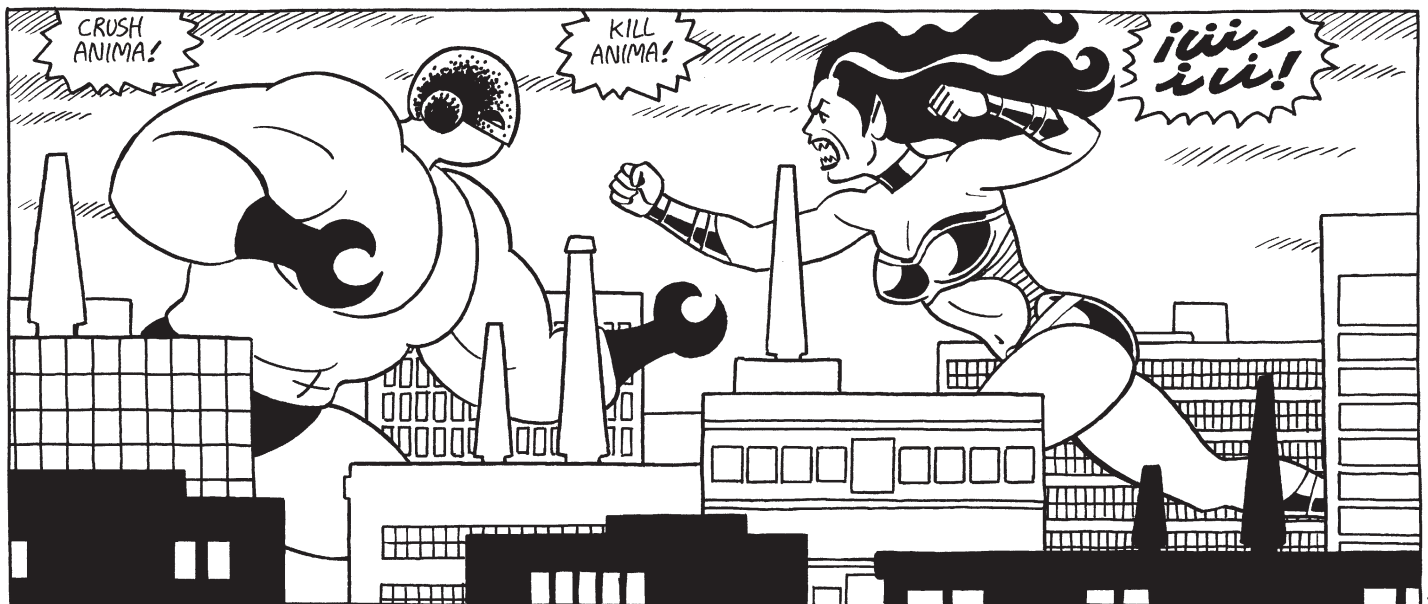
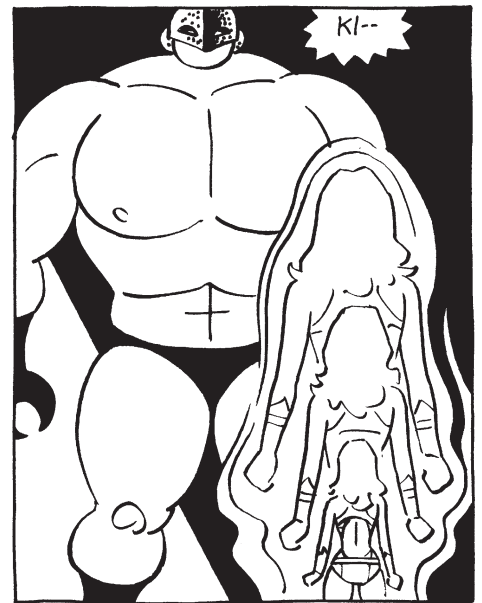
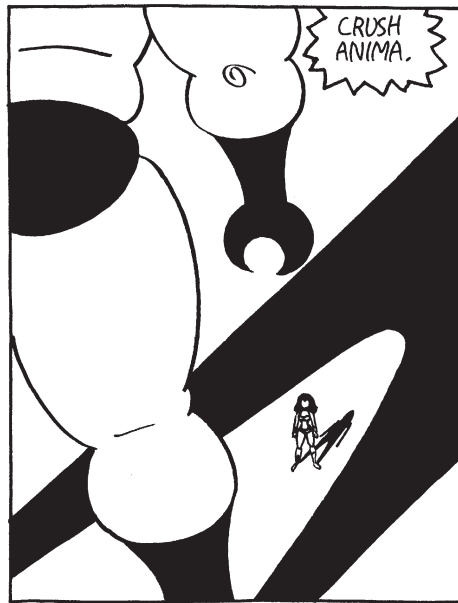
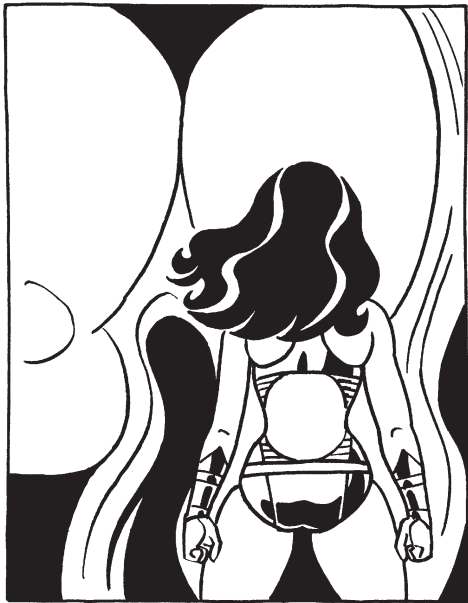
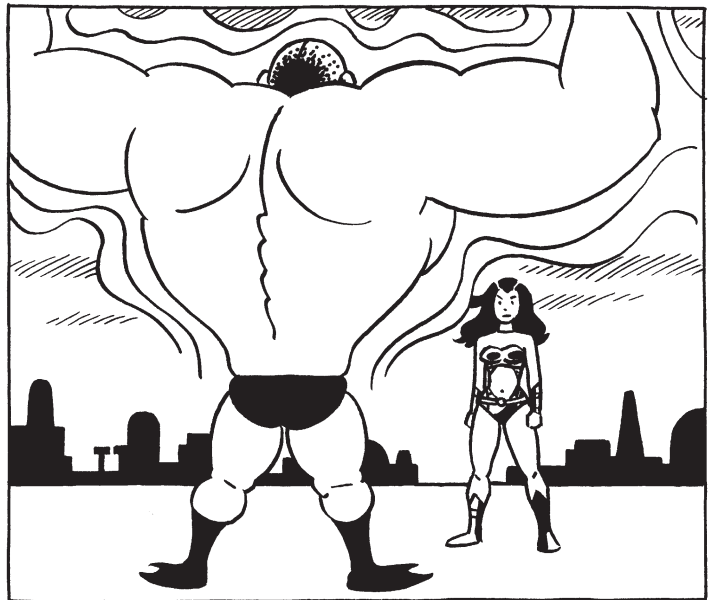
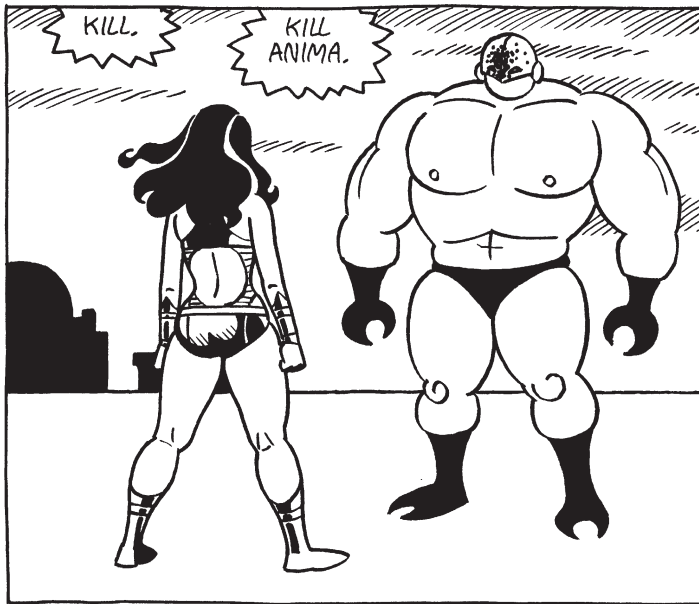
OH, THAT'S ONLY A PLOT FOR A MOVIE, CHINO.

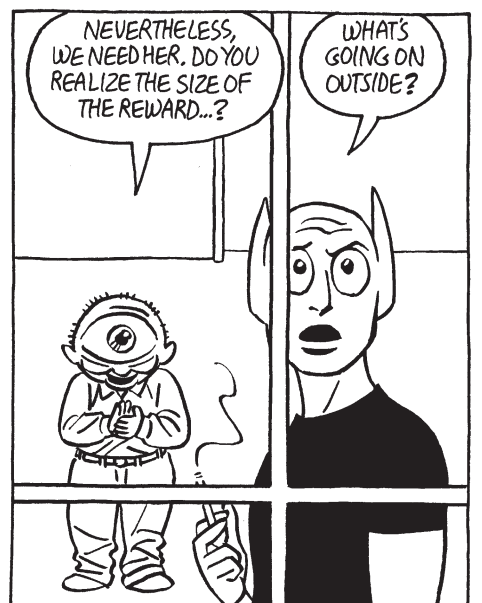
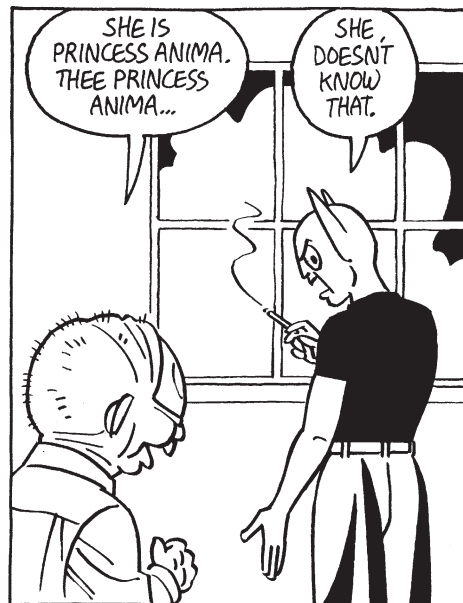
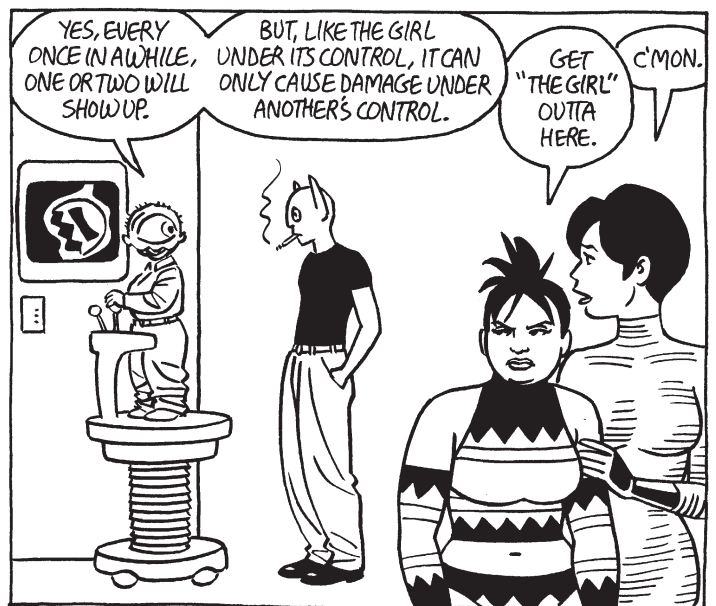
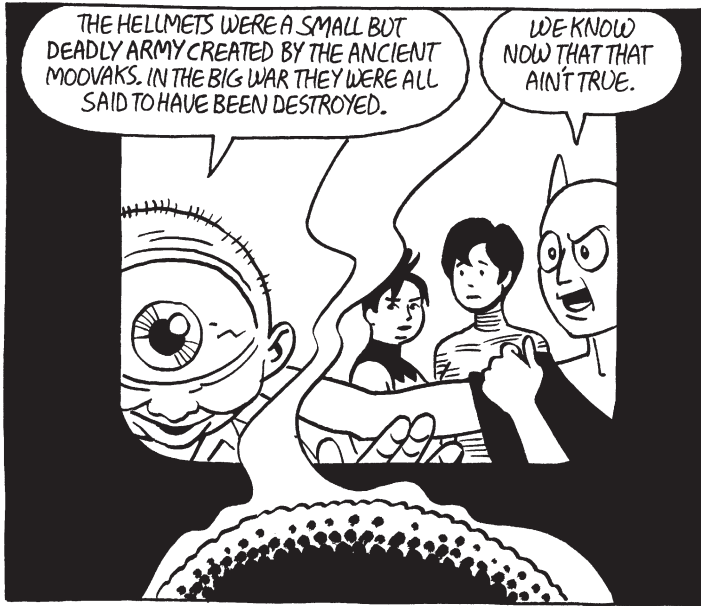














Dear Jaime,

First, I should admit that I don't particularly like punk or comics. I really just like (adore) *Love and Rockets* and have for the last 27 years.

I grew up as an awkward Mexican-White girl in Wisconsin, of all places. When I was 6, I discovered a huge stash of my uncle's comics being stored at our place. There were dozens and dozens of all sorts of comics in there, but the only one I was drawn to was the *Love and Rockets* cover. I can't remember which edition it was, I just remember being entranced by a badass (and also awkward) Mexican-American mechanic named Maggie.

(To be fair, my parents had no idea I was reading what I was reading. One time I read the word "orgasm" and asked my mom what it meant. It almost blew my cover! So yes, some of the mature content went over my head until I reread it much later on.)

Maggie in particular was someone I saw myself in growing up, like so many of your other fans have noted. At first it was fun to, as a child, read about her going on super-fantastical missions with Penny Century and fighting monsters while navigating her crush Rand Race... Later, in my young adulthood, it meant so much to me to see Latino characters like these, not just in graphic novels, but in *any* media at all. You showed me that there is a world of different Latino-ness, and identity in general, beyond my limited scope of knowledge at the time. Seeing Maggie navigating so many different worlds and relationships and challenges was like having a big sister break the mold before me. And she was never made into a character that was above it all. I also credit her shapeliness/normality in helping me not have body issues, and her biculturalism in helping me appreciate my own.

In the last several years, I have also loved, like many other readers, that Maggie ages like me, gets curvier and more settled, like me. Obviously I know I am not a character in a graphic novel. But after 27 years, I wanted you to know that you helped an awkward, half-Mexican girl in Wisconsin navigate her identity growing up, by telling her Latina women are beautiful badasses, just like Maggie.

I also want to thank your parents for creating such an amazing brood of humble and ultra-talented storytellers. I've really enjoyed "New Stories" over the past few years and anxiously await more.

Sincerely,
Selene Escalera
Houston, TX

Dear Hernandez brothers,

Forgive me for the rambling that follows, but this is a letter I've been meaning to write for a long time. I grew up in a small town in Tennessee (still live there), and spent my time reading comics from everyone. DC, Marvel, Charlton, Gold Key, Atlas, Harvey, etc. My friends and I traded comics, made our own comics, and spent much time on the floor surrounded by piles of them.

In 1983, I was a senior in high school, and I discovered my first comic shop. This was when I found new comics by my favorite creators... [Howard] Chaykin's *American Flagg!* and [Mike] Grell's *Jon Sable, Freelance*, to name two. DC released *Camelot 3000* and *Thriller*, and new companies like First and Pacific were entering the ring. It was a true Renaissance.

In the Fall, I went away to college, made new friends, and discovered a comic series that blew my small-town, sheltered, naive little mind. Your comics. Even during the early years, with the sci-fi elements, the characters were so real. And they weren't like people I knew... it's hard to explain the impact it had. I must admit that I was initially a bigger fan of the Maggie & Hopey stories, but I've grown to love all the characters and stories by all of you. I love how I can re-read and get so much enjoyment. I love the way you all tell a story... things aren't always spelled out... definitely not cookie cutter, spoon fed, tales. I love how the characters have been allowed to age; we've grown up together! I'm always left wanting more.

I'm so glad that *Love and Rockets* is still part of my life. I've tried to turn other people onto it, with some success, and my oldest daughter has been reading from my collection over the last year; she now has the fever.

Thank you for sharing your talent, for opening my mind, and most of all, for Vivian the Frogmouth. I wish you all the best, and hope to continue reading your work for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Phil Parkerson

Thank you all very kindly for sticking with Love and Rockets all this time. To you new readers: See what satisfying pleasures await you?
— Ed.

Hi,

I just wanted to say I can't remember the last time I was as excited for a floppy comic as I was the new *Love and Rockets* #1! I was familiar with the series' reputation, but had never read any of it and I have to say it was great stuff — my goal this past summer was to read all of the pre-*New Stories* material and I managed to do so.

I just had a few questions: Are there any plans to release the *New Stories* books in collected editions like you did with the *Love Bunglers*? Also, is there any chance you'll make your way to Toronto in 2017 for any of the conventions/festivals?

Many thanks and I look forward to seeing what's next.

Regards,
Chris Zeichman

We're glad you asked, Chris. We do plan to release individual storylines from Love and Rockets as standalone graphic novels like The Love Bunglers, when the material warrants it. In addition, everything that appears in Love and Rockets also eventually finds a permanent home in our ongoing series of Love and Rockets trade paperbacks (see the last page of this issue), which currently collect everything up to (but not including) Love and Rockets: New Stories (a.k.a. Love and Rockets Vol. III, 2008-2016). We will begin collecting the material from New Stories into the trade paperback series next year.

Meanwhile, although neither Jaime or Gilbert have any plans to visit Toronto in 2017, with an event as excellent as the annual Toronto Comic Arts Festival [TCAF], I'm sure they'll be back soon enough. — Ed.

Hi Jaime,

Seeing as how the latest *Love and Rockets* has included an email for you it seemed rude not to write a gushing, fanboy-type email. I picked up *Love and Rockets* Vol. I #1 when it first came out on the basis of the beautiful cover and having previously seen some of your spot illos in *The Comics Journal*. I loved it immediately and I still buy everything you draw to this day. You're one of the very finest comic artists of the past 40 years and your strips are the things I most look forward to in the world of comics, whenever or wherever they appear. I've been drawing comics myself since '86 here in the UK and in America, and whenever I chat with my fellow artists your name comes up as one of the artists we most enjoy.

There's an elite group of creators that we all seem to gravitate to as having that something special — Breccia, Toth, Moebius, Battaglia, Toppi, and others from the past — and people like [Jose Luis] Garcia Lopez, John Paul Leon, and yourself as creators with that spark of genius that perhaps the general public don't appreciate as much as they should.

A couple of months back I re-read all your strips from the end of *Love and Rockets* Vol. 1 through the various miniseries and format changes right up to date and it was extraordinary to immerse myself so fully in the world you've been creating. There is a wonderful coherence and subtlety to the way the stories evolve and wind around each other that isn't always apparent reading them in small chunks. Nothing in contemporary comics fascinates me quite the way your work does, and of course artistically you are absolutely peerless.

I could go on but I think you get my drift — I'm a fan!

I've been lucky enough to pick up a few of your originals from Heritage and it's been so interesting getting an insight into your working methods, not least the fact that your pages are so small. I've just drawn a strip for *2000 AD* #2000 where I knew I was going to be sharing the comic with people like Brian Bolland, Dave Gibbons, Glenn Fabry, and Kevin O'Neill. I worked at A2 size — more than double the usual U.S. comic page size — to give myself a chance of getting some decent drawing in there. And yet you produce exquisite artwork at such a tiny size, I just don't know how you do it. It's interesting to see the decisions you make about composition and the placing of blacks. Like Toth, there are quite a few instances of you having drawn lots of details only to cover them up with a giant shadow — which invariably improves the balance of the page. As I say, I've got a few of your pages, but no covers and I was wondering if you'd consider selling any? I'd really love to own the cover of the latest issue, but there have been so many iconic shots over the years that would be an honor to own any of them. So if you would be prepared to part with any maybe you could let me know?

I think I've taken up enough of your time, I'm already looking forward to the next issue!

Bye,
David Roach

Jaime currently sells any of his originals exclusively through Heritage Auctions, so you should keep your eyes peeled over there. Anyone interested in purchasing artwork from Gilbert should send inquiries directly to the email provided on this page. — Ed.



LETTERS TO LOVE AND ROCKETS!

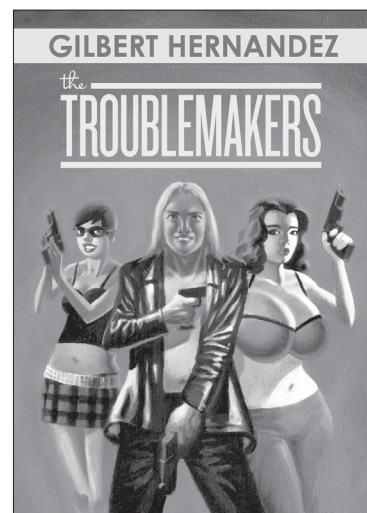
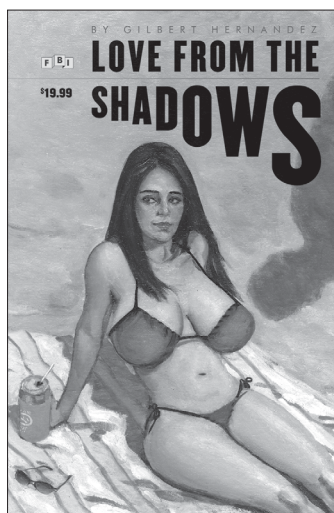
Editor's Note: Keep those cards and letters coming! Send us your thoughts, along with fan art, cosplay pics, and cash donations to:

GILBERT: betomess@yahoo.com
JAIME: hernandezbro@gmail.com
THE PUBLISHER: fbicomix@fantagraphics.com

LOVE & ROCKETS

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

READ THESE STAND ALONE GRAPHIC NOVELS BY THE HERNANDEZ BROTHERS



BY GILBERT

GARDEN OF THE FLESH \$12.99, MAY161521

Just released! An all-new, sexually explicit retelling of the story of Adam and Eve up to Noah's Ark!

LOVE FROM THE SHADOWS \$19.99, NOV100921

"Gilbert Hernandez is one of the great craftsmen of modern comics... *Love from the Shadows* is as bracing as a slug of bottom-shelf rotgut." — *The New York Times Book Review*

THE TROUBLEMAKERS \$19.99, APR083834

"The outlandish plot piles double-crosses upon double-crosses, leading up to an over-the-top, apocalyptic denouement. Pulpy fun." — *Booklist*

WWW.FANTAGRAPHICS.COM/SERIES/LOVEANDROCKETS

BY JAIME

GOD AND SCIENCE \$19.99, MAR121061

"Jaime plus superheroines for 134 wonderful pages? Yes, please!" — *Paste*

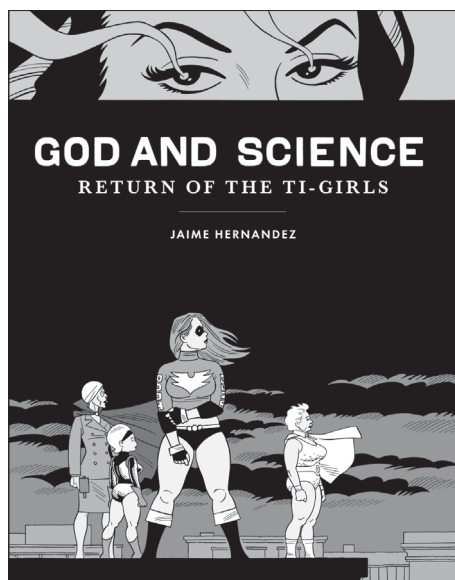
THE LOVE BUNGLERS \$19.99, FEB141277

"*The Love Bunglers* completely knocked me out... Concise, moving, and incredibly bold, it's like a cartooning master class." — Adrian Tomine

BY GILBERT AND JAIME

LOVE & ROCKETS: THE COVERS \$35.00, FEB131021

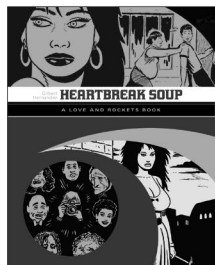
"*Love and Rockets* #1 is marvelous. I hope one day to attain the level of the cover drawing myself... it is a perfect drawing." — Moebius



THE UNABRIDGED LOVE AND ROCKETS, 1982–2007

Collecting the entire, legendary *Love and Rockets* saga in a series
of 12 ridiculously affordable paperbacks!

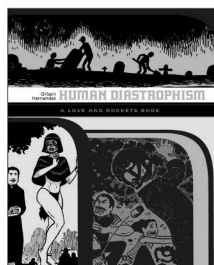
GILBERT HERNANDEZ / Palomar



Vol. 1: *HEARTBREAK SOUP*

The first half of Gilbert's acclaimed magical-realist tales of Palomar, the Central American hamlet, and its memorable inhabitants.

\$18.99 | DEC141512



Vol. 2: *HUMAN DIASTROPHISM*

Palomar's idyll is broken by a serial killer, the modern world's intrusions, and a shocking death.

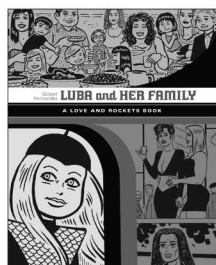
\$19.99 | MAY073453



Vol. 3: *BEYOND PALOMAR*

Collects two acclaimed graphic novels: "Poison River" (Luba's life story) and "Love and Rockets X" (an Altman-esque story set in L.A.).

\$16.95 | SEP073627



Vol. 4: *LUBA AND HER FAMILY*

After leaving Palomar, Luba and her clan move to America, where they become more and more intertwined with Luba's sisters (bodybuilder Petra and therapist/film star Fritz) and their families.

Plus: Venus! \$18.99 | MAY141405



Vol. 5: *OFELIA*

The sisters, the kids, and the cousins are all settled comfortably in California after leaving Palomar in *Luba and Her Family*. \$18.99 | OCT141485



Vol. 6: *COMICS DEMENTIA*

Collecting all of Gilbert's unexpected short treasures, oddities, and rarities from the outposts of *Love and Rockets*. Saints, sinners, Roy, and so much more!

\$19.99 | NOV151393

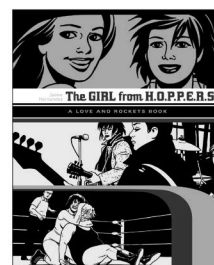
JAIME HERNANDEZ / Locas



MAGGIE THE MECHANIC

The ground zero stories of spunky Maggie, her brash best friend and sometimes lover Hopey, and their friends.

\$18.99 | JAN141209



THE GIRL FROM H.O.P.P.E.R.S.

Centered on "The Death of Speedy," one of *L&R*'s peaks, with wrestling action and the love triangle of Maggie, Hopey, and Ray Dominguez.

\$18.99 | APR141213



PERLA LA LOCA

Jaime drops a narrative bomb on Hopey (and us) in "Wigwam Bam"; Maggie contends with her inner demons and... marriage?

\$16.95 | OCT141487



PENNY CENTURY

In "Whoa, Nellie!," Maggie settles in with her pro-wrestler aunt for a while, then it's back to chills and spills with the old gang.

\$18.99 | DEC090868

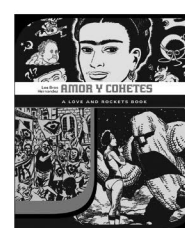
GILBERT, JAIME & MARIO HERNANDEZ



ESPERANZA

An older and wiser Maggie faces down her demons, Hopey becomes a teacher, and Ray tussles with the volatile Vivian.

\$18.99 | APR111032



AMOR Y COHETES

All of the stand-alone, non-"Locas" and non-"Palomar" stories from the original *Love and Rockets* series (1982–1996).

\$16.99 | MAR083713



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS



Publisher of the



World's Greatest Cartoonists



