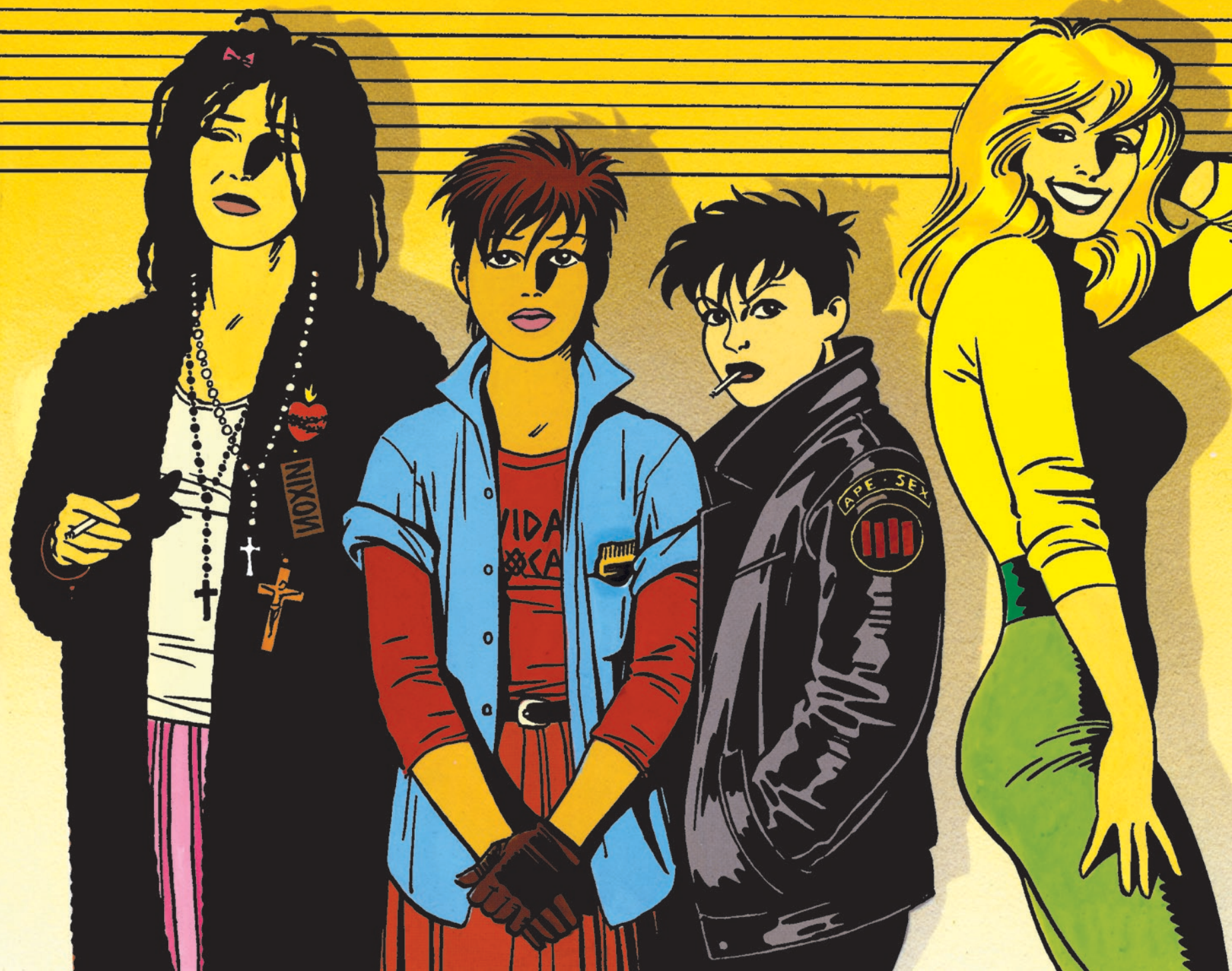


LOVE AND ROCKETS THE COVERS







No. 1

Recommended
For Mature
Readers

\$4⁹⁵

\$6.50 in
Canada

Love AND ROCKETS



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and **Ben Horak**

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Restored color:

Rich Tommaso

Published by

Gary Groth

and **Kim Thompson**

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Gary Groth

and **Kim Thompson**

for loaning original artwork

from their collections,

and to **Carol Kavinick-Hernandez**

for use of the photograph

on pages 8-9

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LOVE ROCK THE C

by **Gilbert,**
HERN

Oxnard | Studio City | Las Vegas | San

FANTAGRA

HEAD KETS COVERS

Jaime and **Mario**
NANDEZ

San Francisco | Pasadena | Altadena | Seattle

GRAPHICS BOOKS



1984 **J A I M E G I**



ALBERT MARIO



ND

KKE





EDITOR'S NOTE

Love and Rockets: The Covers includes all of the original covers created by Gilbert, Jaime and Mario Hernandez for the original, 50-issue run of the *Love and Rockets* comic book series (1982-1996, also known as *Love and Rockets* Vol. I) and the collected editions that were released concurrently throughout the series' run. Along the way, we've included scans of original art, production ephemera and actual magazine scans to showcase the stages of creation that went into creating and publishing these iconic comic book covers.

For this special edition, every effort was made to restore the work in such a way as to showcase the artwork itself, "de-cluttering" the pieces of extraneous elements — logos, bar codes, issue numbers, prices, etc. — that often obfuscated details, so that the artwork could be newly viewed as the potent images that they are. Also, virtually every cover herein was newly recolored to the original specifications to improve fidelity.*

While firmly riffing on comic book traditions, the Hernandez brothers created some of the most provocative, original and progressive covers of their era, as this book so acutely makes clear.

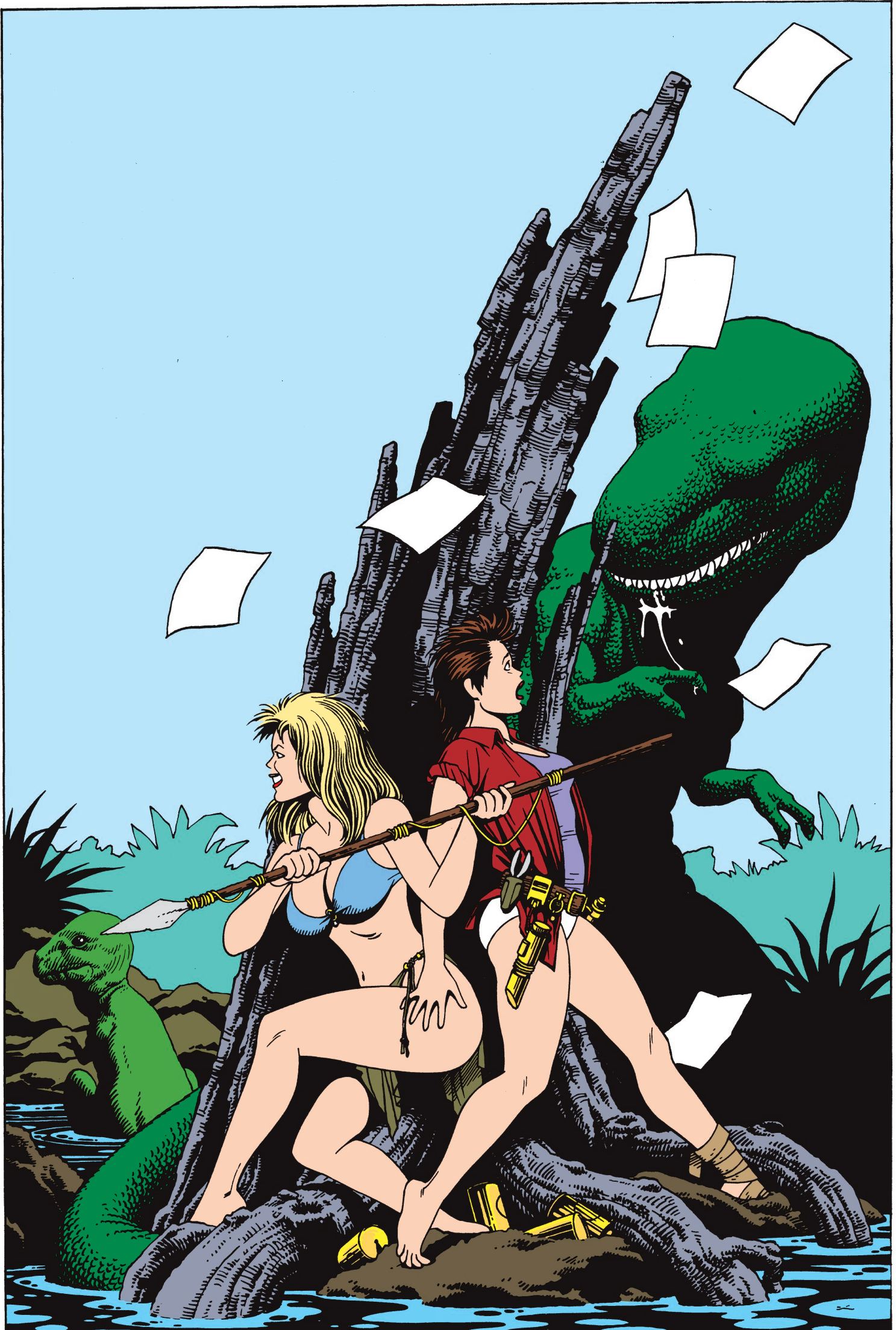
—ER

* The few exceptions to these objectives were the result of either the logos being embedded into the original design in such a way that removing them proved illogical, or no original files existed that would allow us to replace the information underneath the logos. In the few exceptions where the original color is used, it's because a quality black-and-white file to recolor proved too difficult to find.

The images in this book originally appeared in the following publications:

Love and Rockets #1 (self-published, 1981)
Love and Rockets Vol. I, #s 1-50 (Fantagraphics, 1982-1996)
The Collected Love and Rockets Vols. 1-15 (Fantagraphics, 1985-1997)
Love and Rockets Short Stories (Fantagraphics, 1987)
Heartbreak Soup and Other Stories (Fantagraphics, 1987)
The Lost Women and Other Stories (Fantagraphics, 1988)
The Reticent Heart and Other Stories (Fantagraphics, 1988)

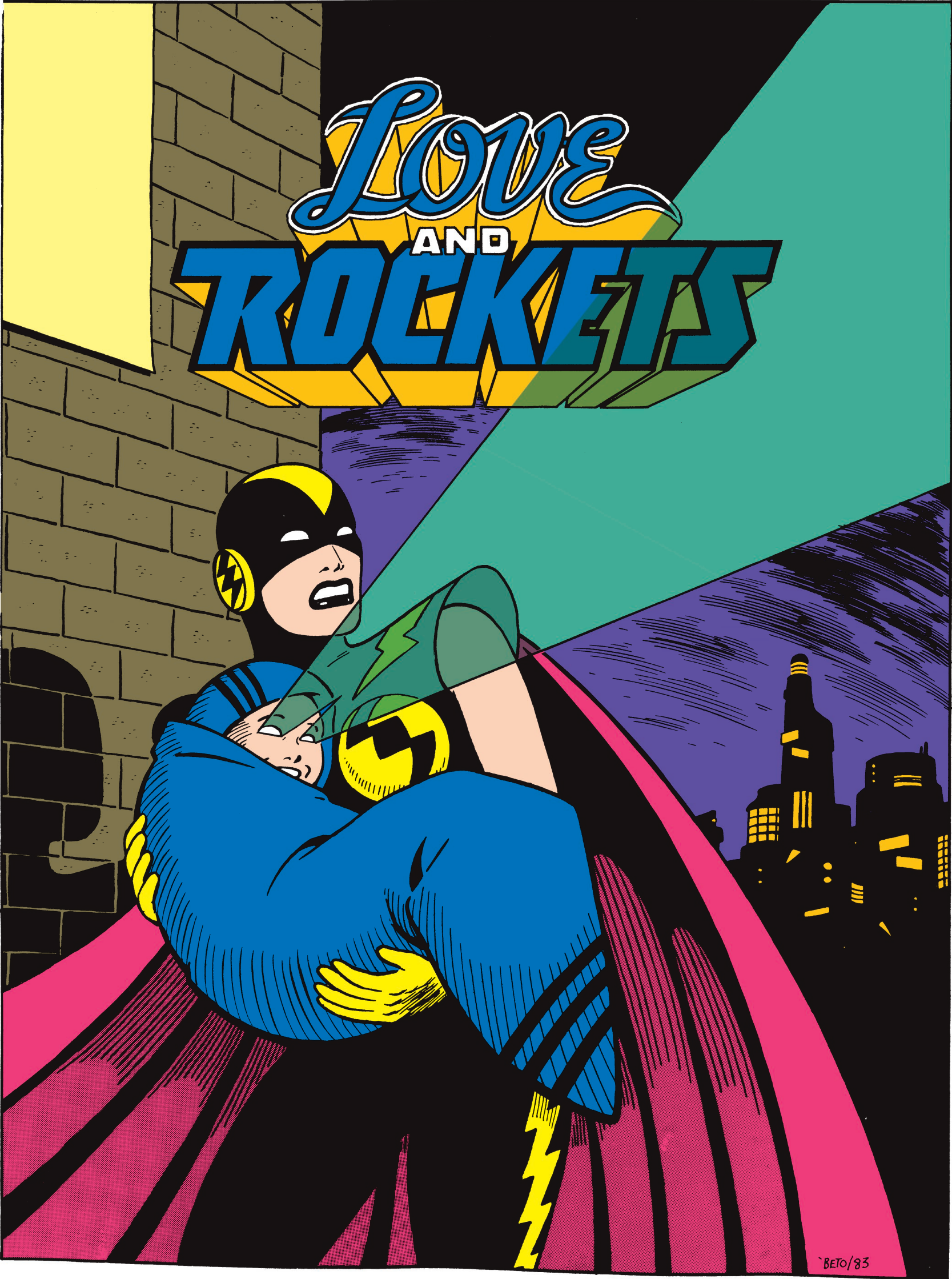








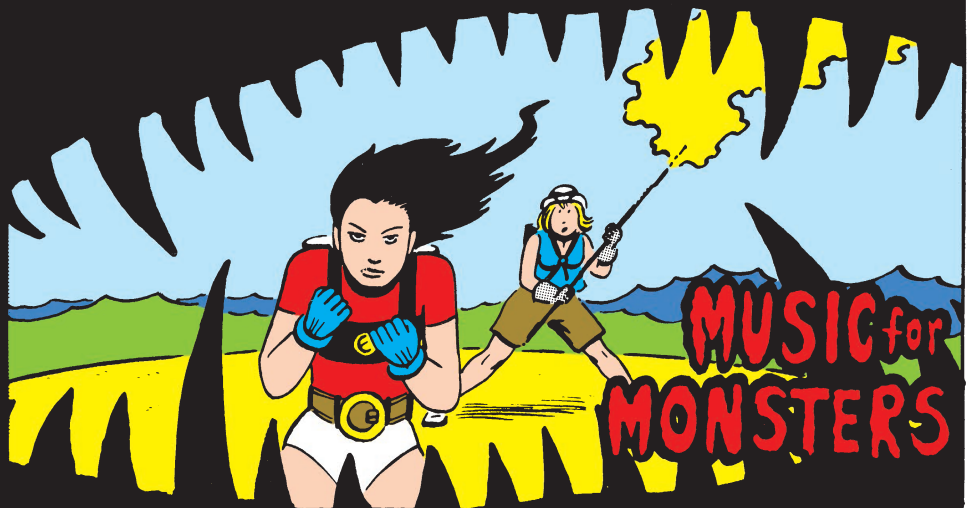
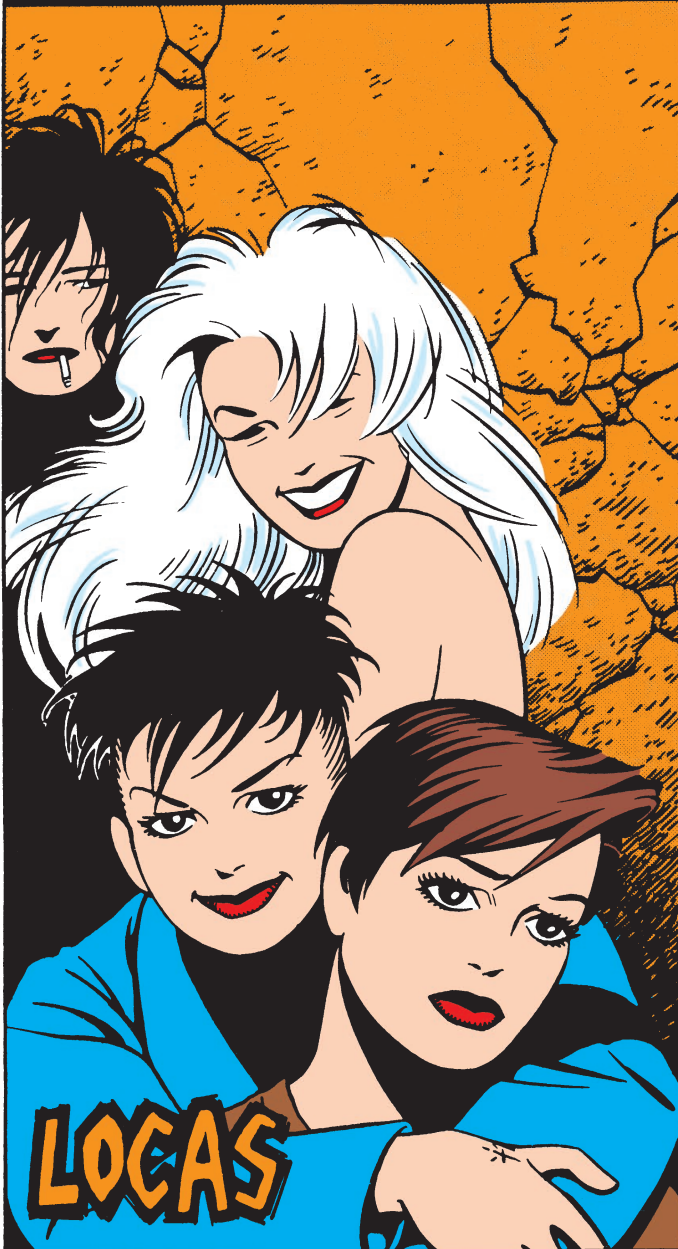






MAR 16 '83

Love AND ROCKETS







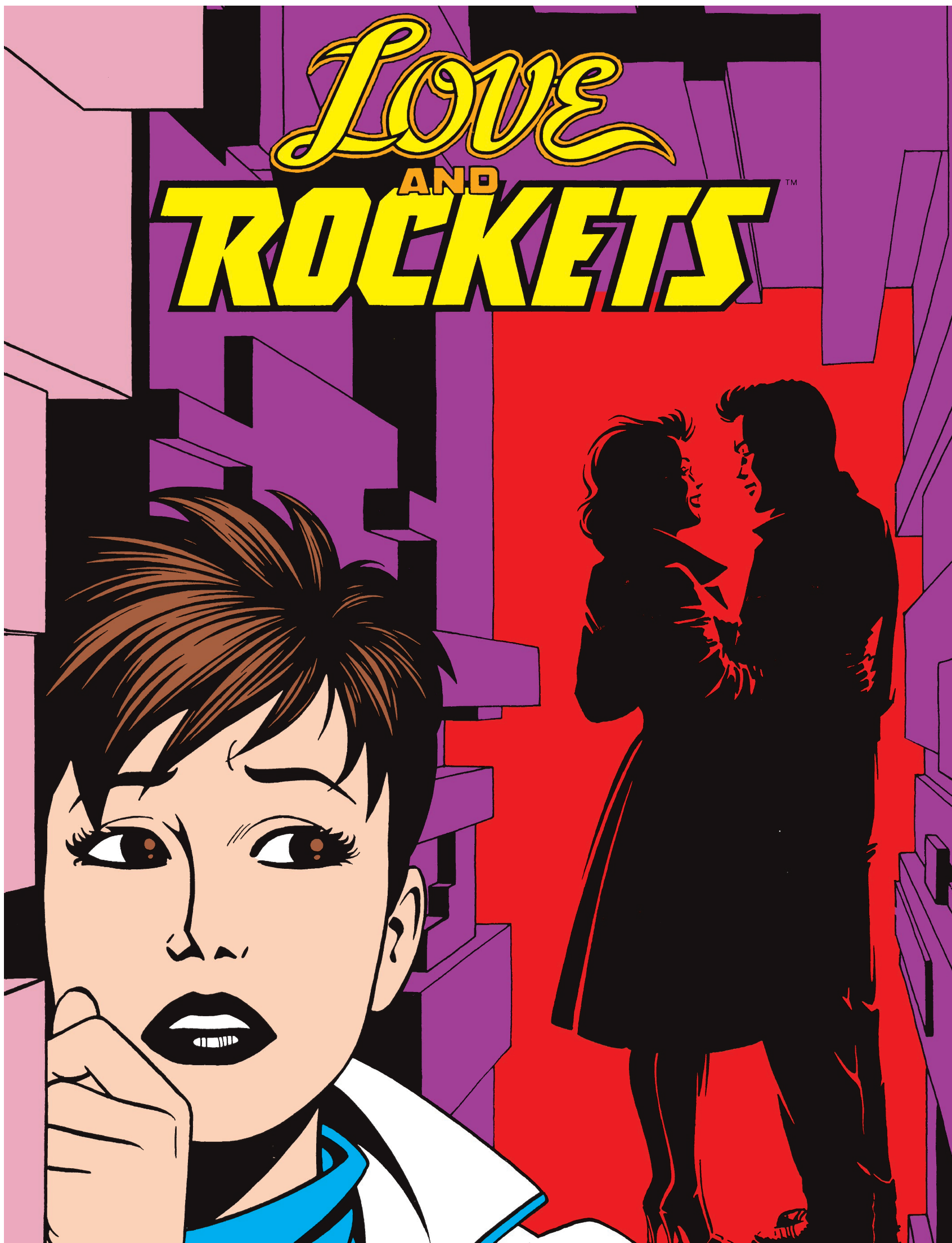


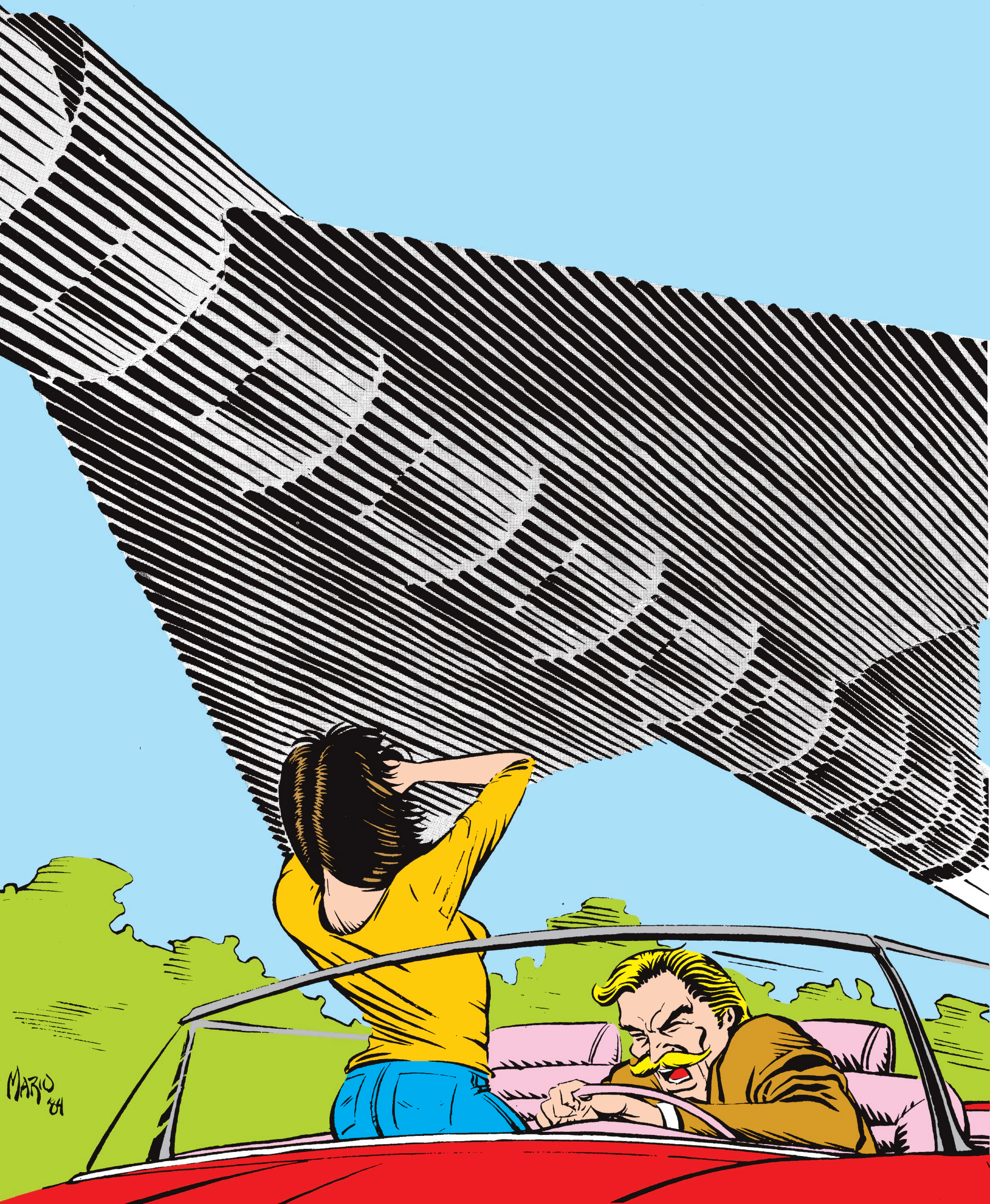








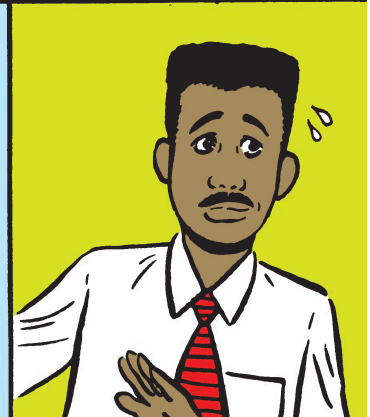
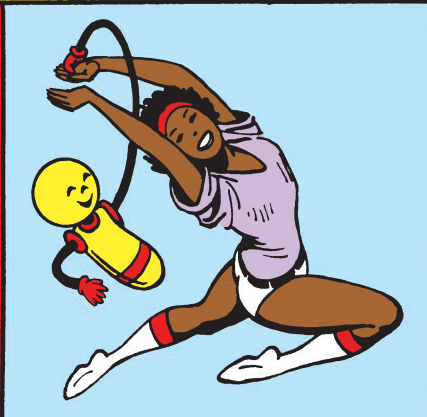
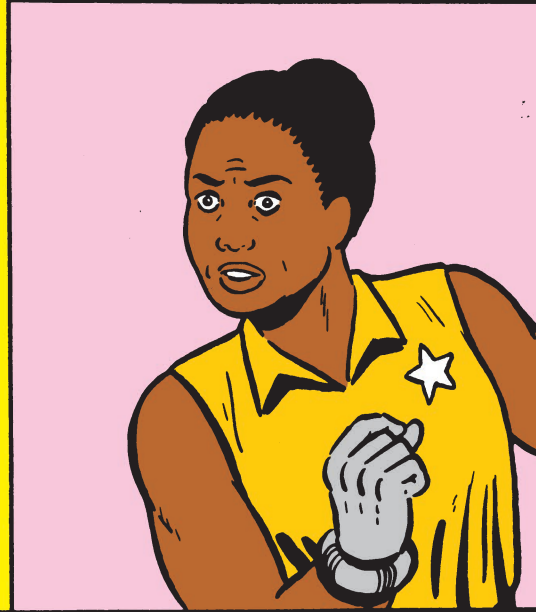








Love AND ROCKETS



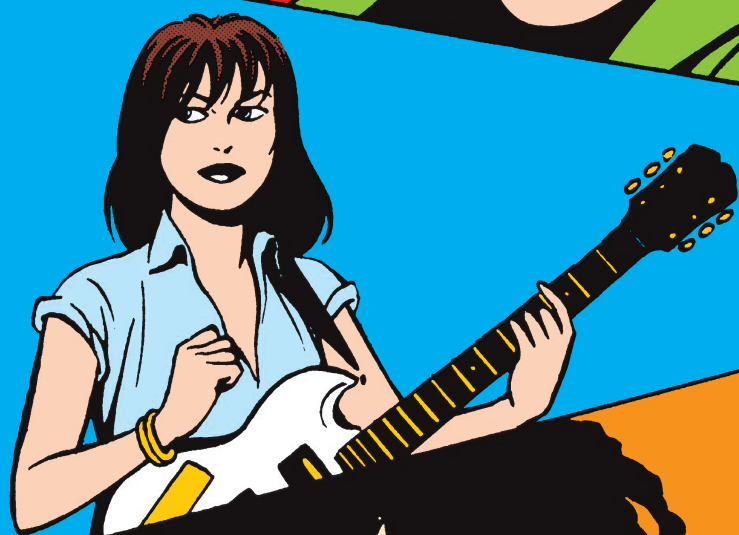
Love AND ROCKETS





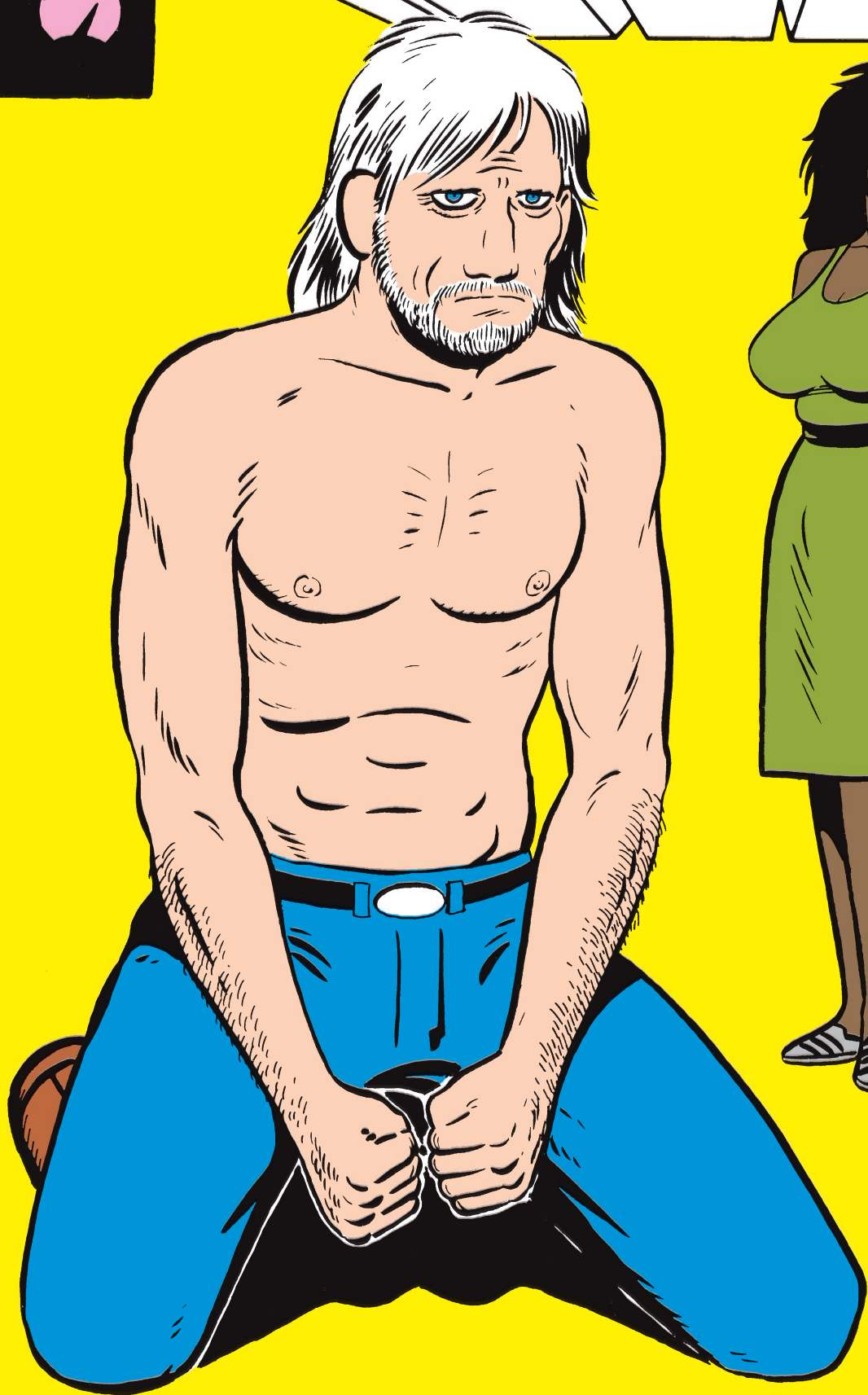
BETO
-DEC
84

12/4/85



JAMES
84.85

Love AND ROCKETS



BETO/85-88

AN
AMERICAN
IN **Palomar**



LOVE + ROCKETS #15 COVER





BETO
=85

Love AND ROCKETS





BETO
-86-

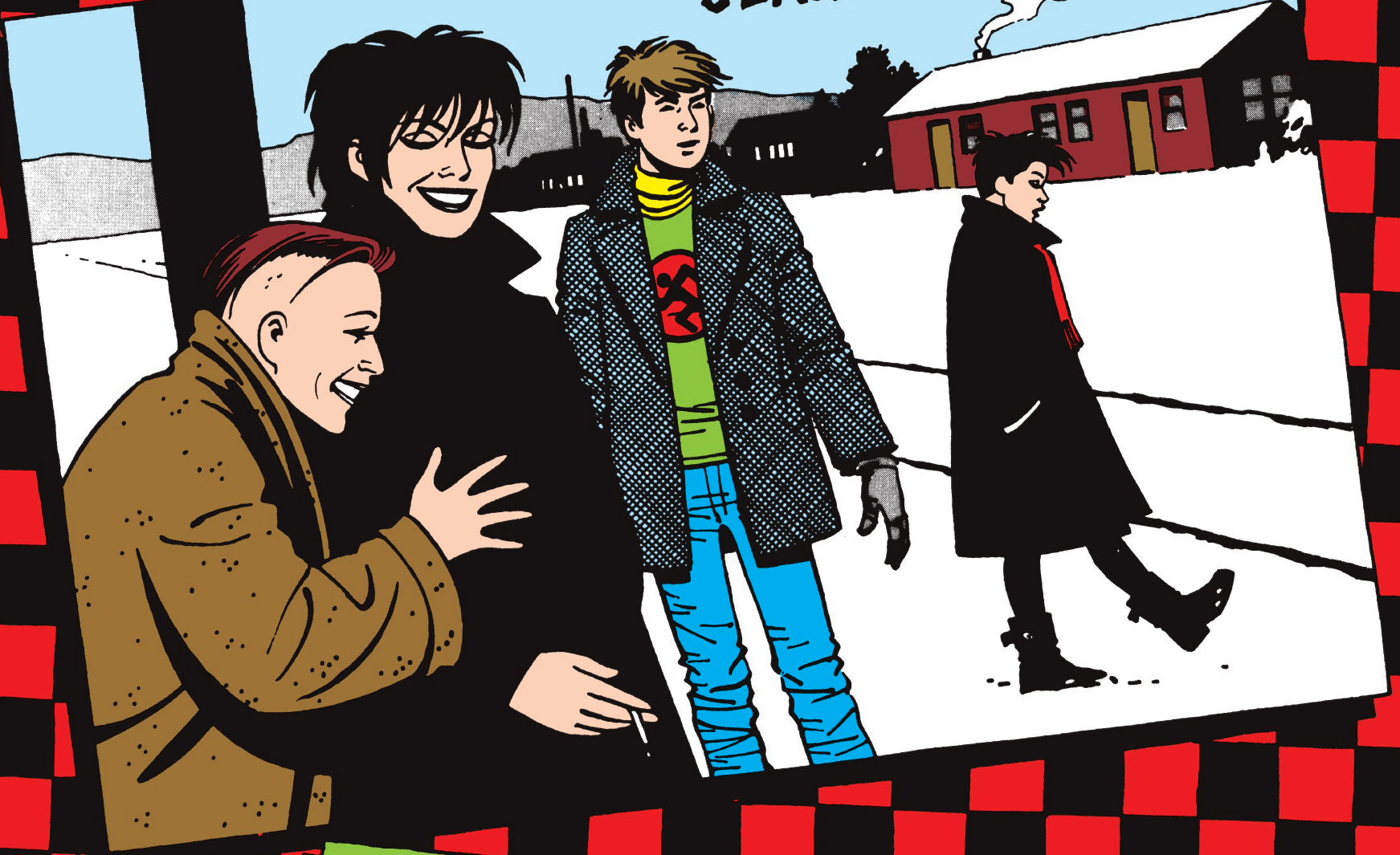




BETO-86



JERUSALEM CRICKETS



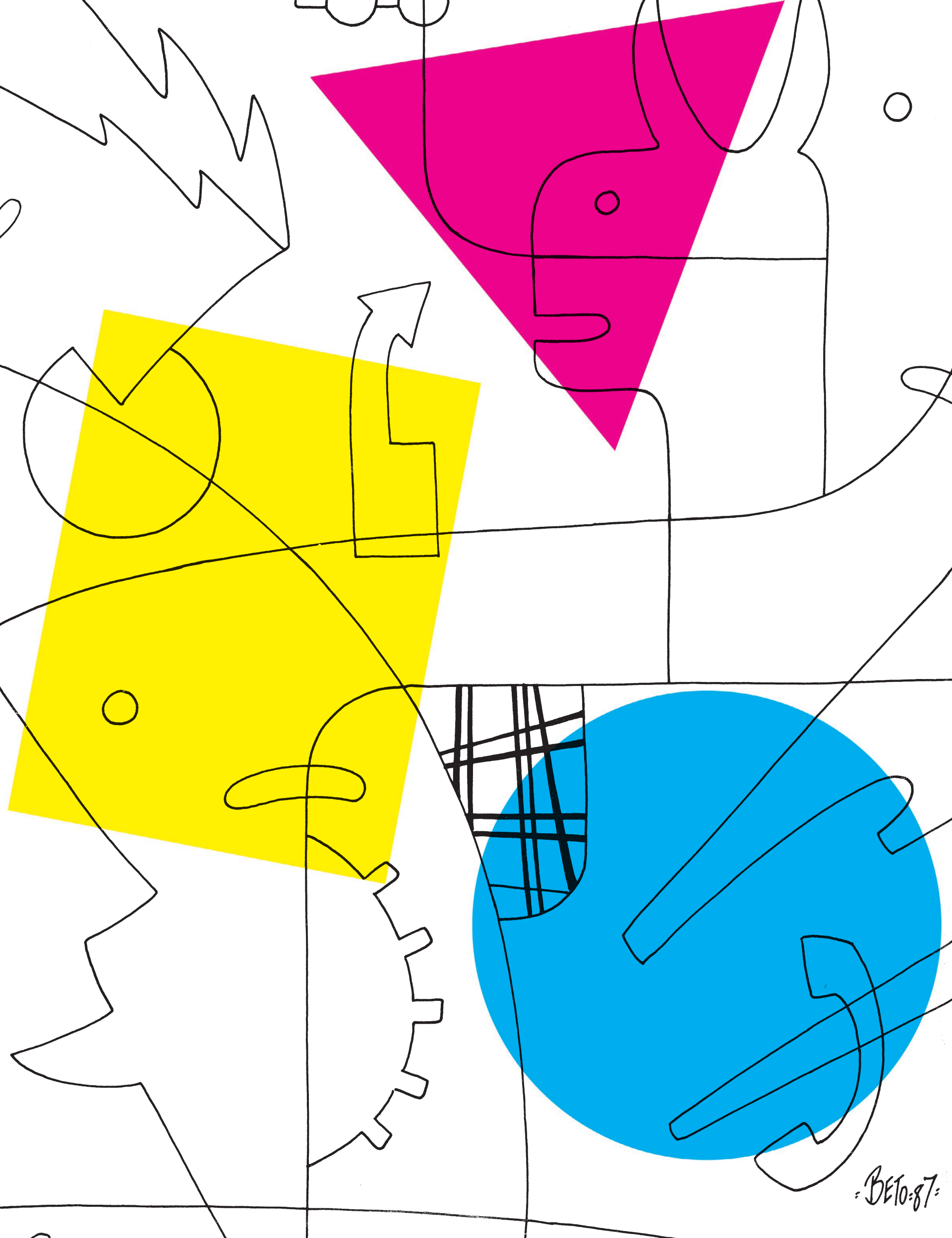
VIDA
LOKA

JAME 87

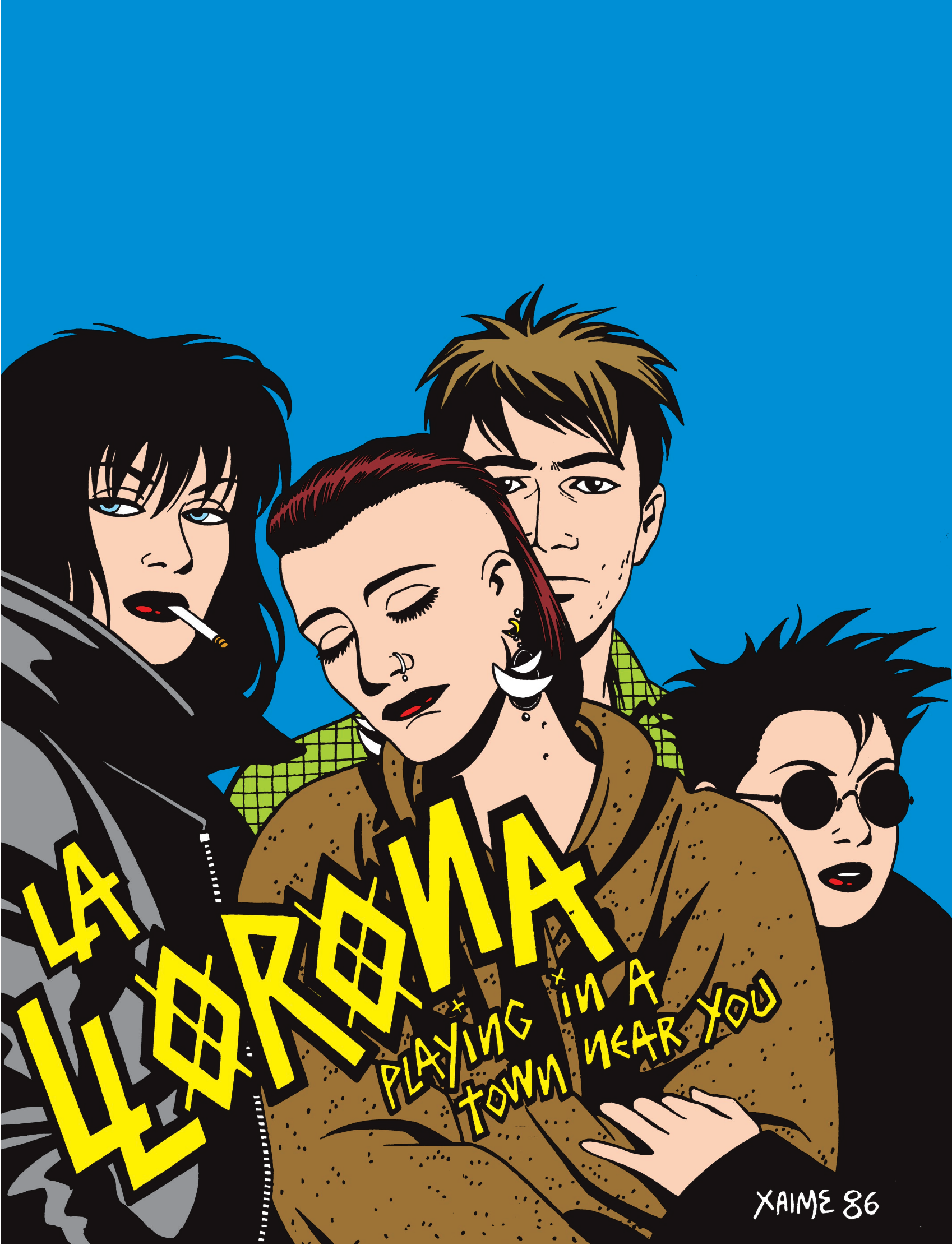




BETO
86



:BET0:87:



WILD
WILD

★ COLONEL LEWIS ★ VICKI GLORI ★ ROYAL DON RAINS ★

WRESTLING

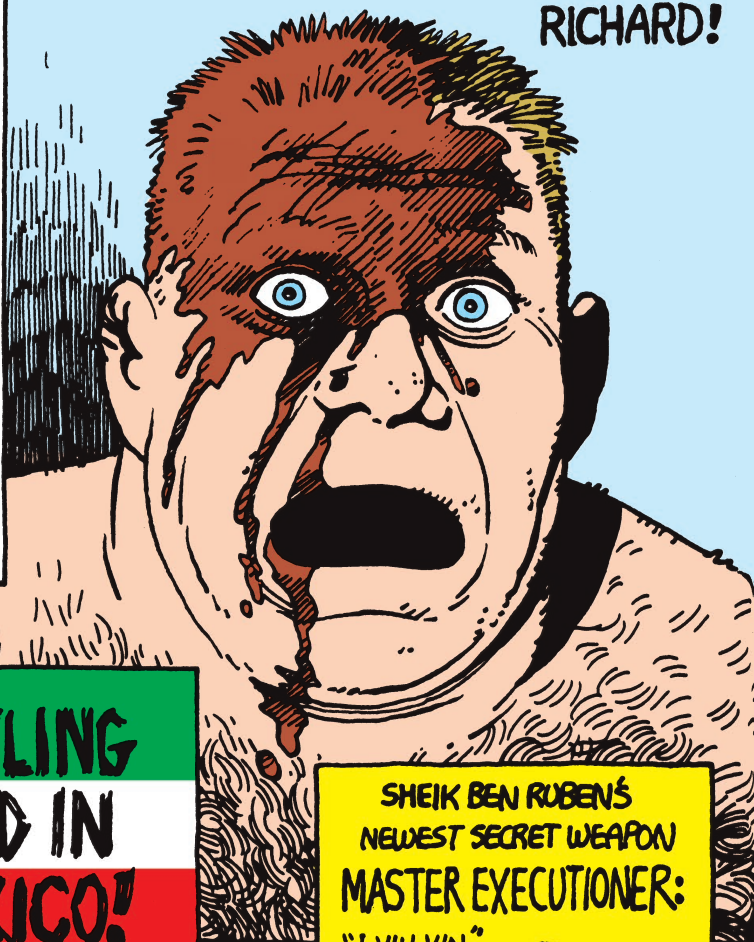
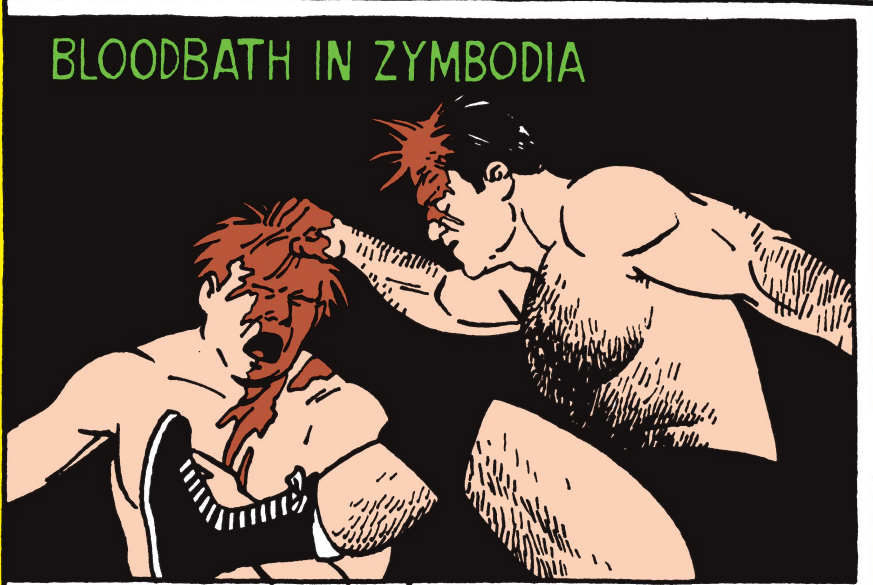
SEXY
SPORTS
INC.

JULY STILL 50¢

'CRUSHER HAS GONE TOO FAR!'

SEZ UFWA PREZ ZACK
RICHARD!

BLOODBATH IN ZYMBODIA



WRESTLING
BANNED IN
CARAXICO!

SHEIK BEN RUBEN'S
NEWEST SECRET WEAPON
MASTER EXECUTIONER:
"I VILL VIN."



EXPERTS ASK:

ARE THESE RENA'S FINAL DAYS?

WILD WILD WRESTLING

JULY 50¢

SEXY SPORTS INC.





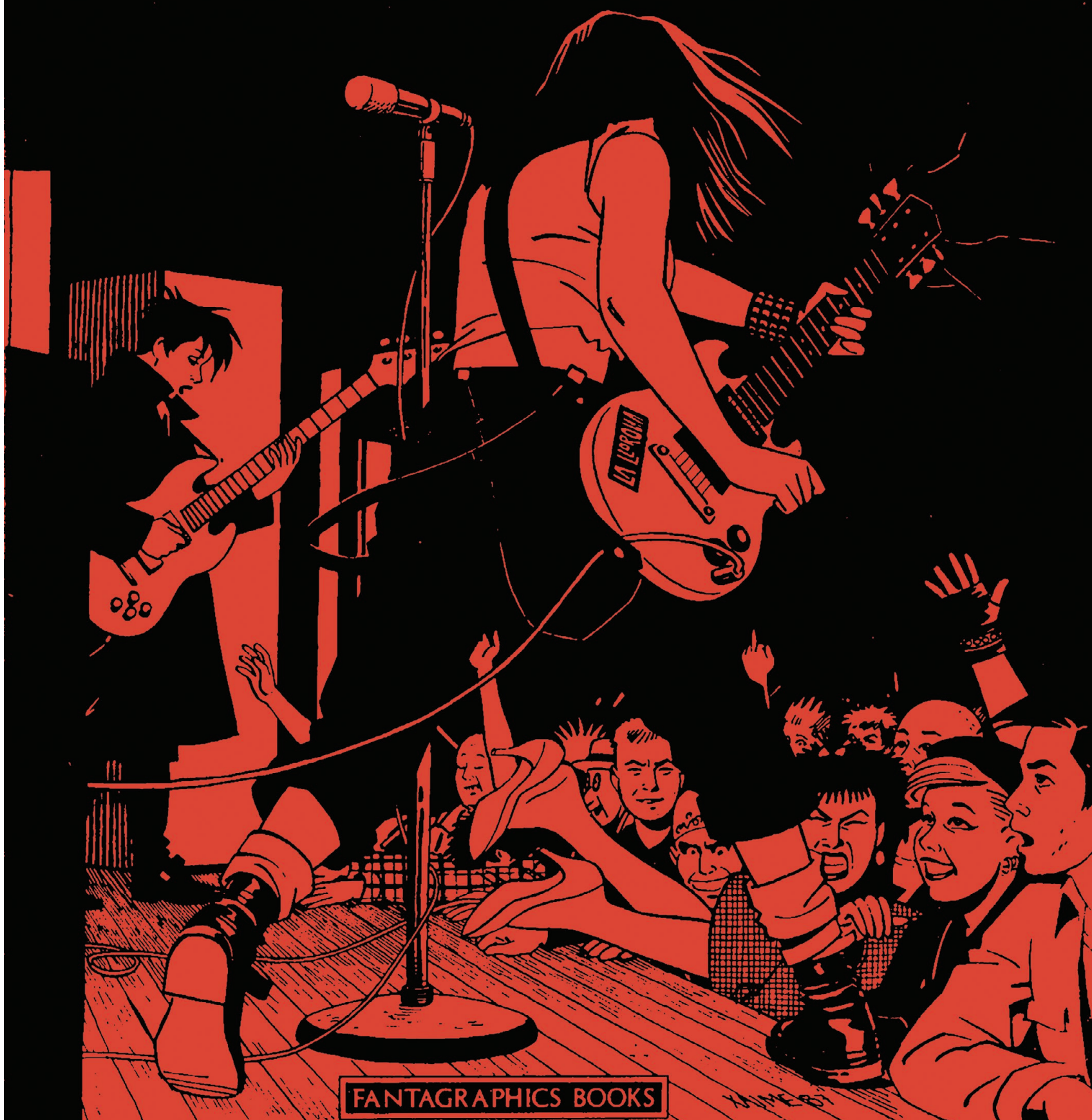




LOVE & ROCKETS

Number 24 • \$2.25 (\$3.40 in Canada)

Recommended for Mature Readers



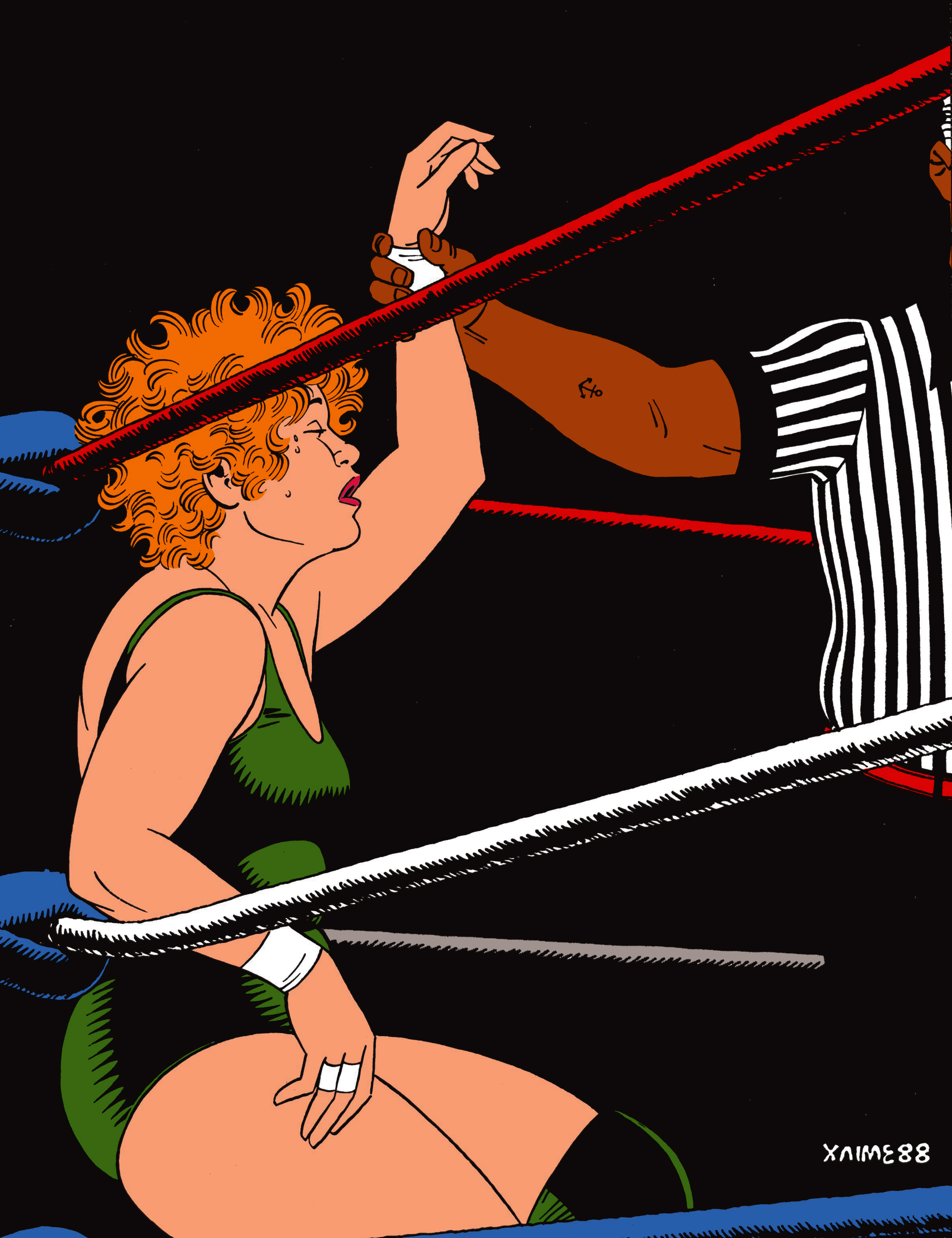
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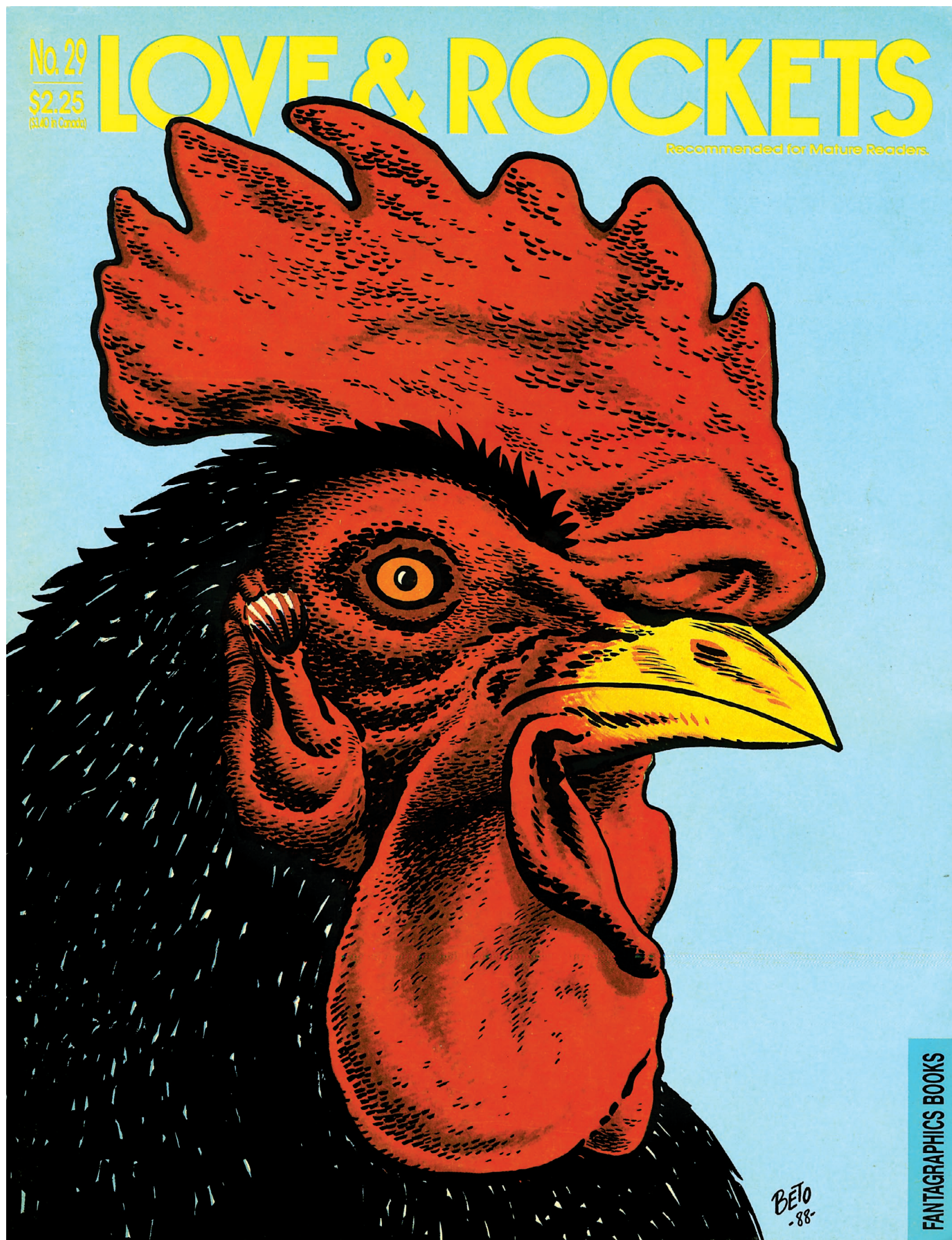
BETO 87



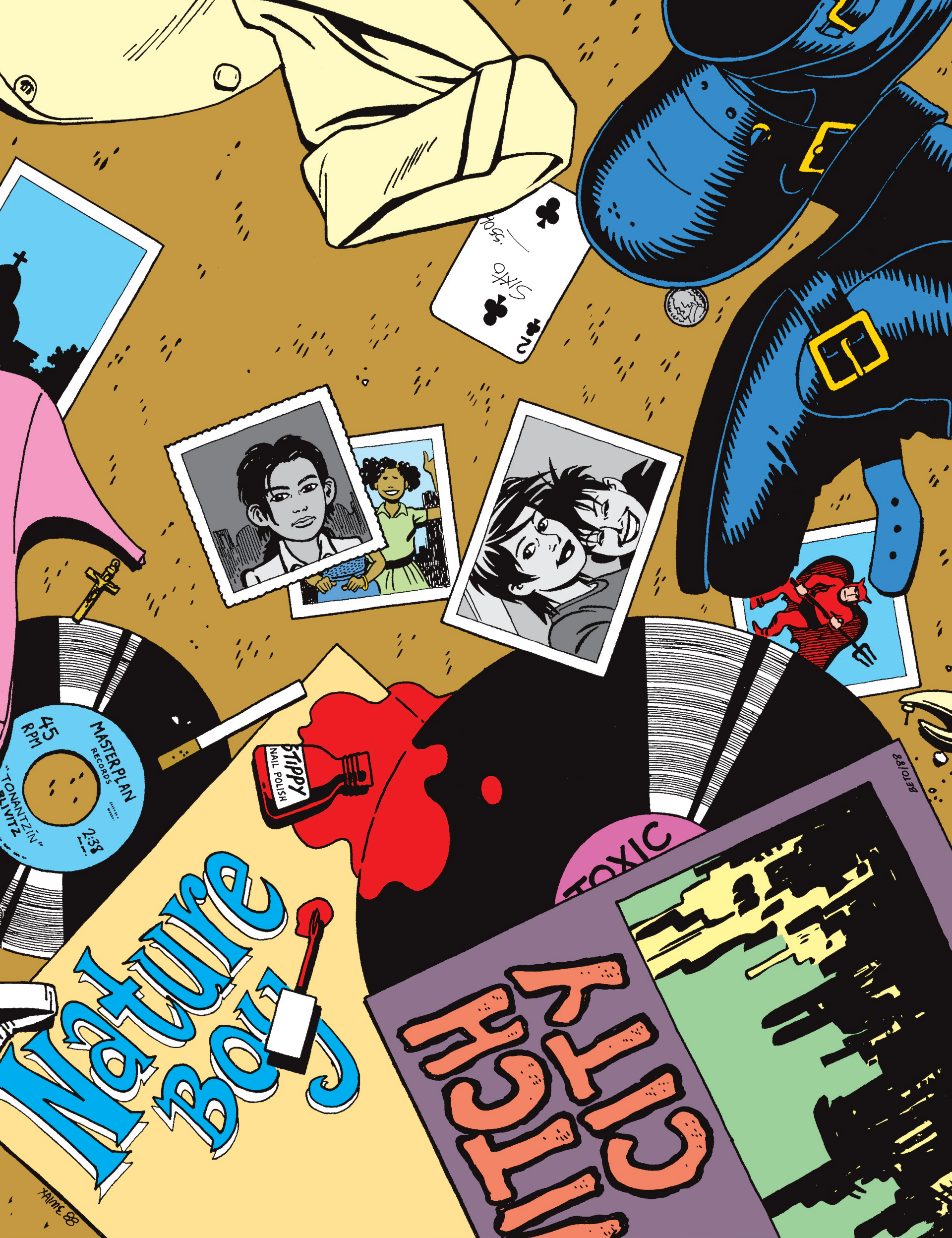
BETO/89







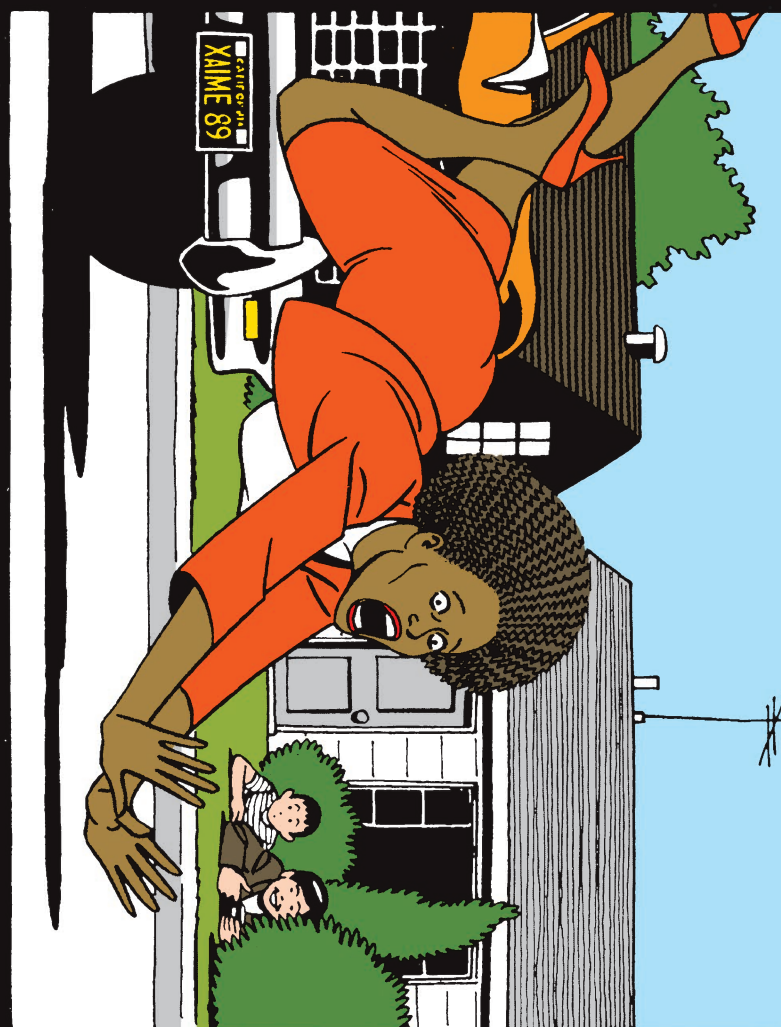
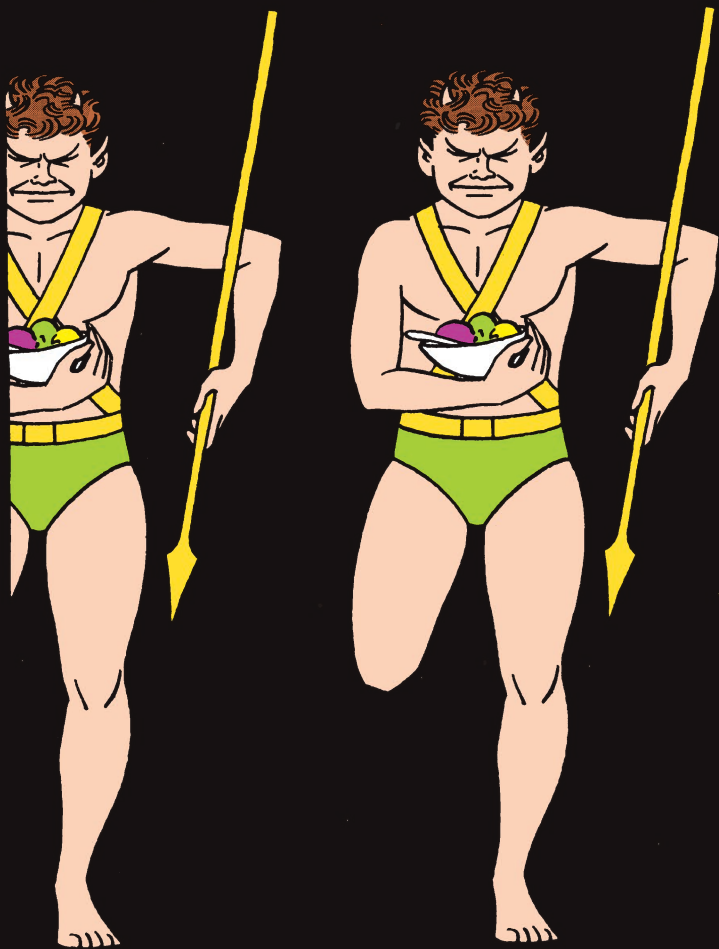




88-3WIK









SUCK ME
FUCK ME

WESTSIDE
HOMEBØYS
SUCK

RUN,
METZGER,
RUN

POLICE



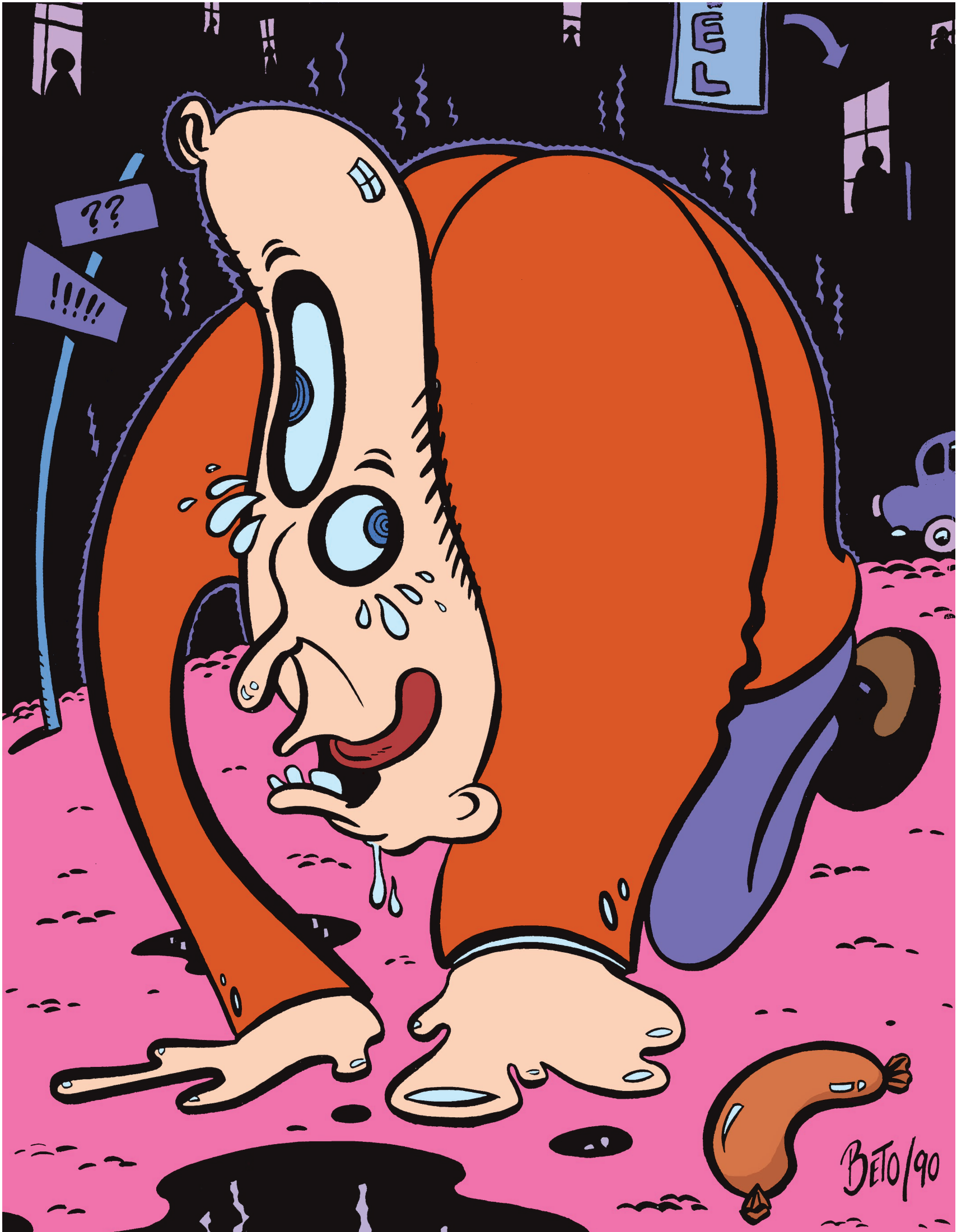
NO
PRISONERS

FUCK

VAM
ROOM

IGHT
THE
OWER

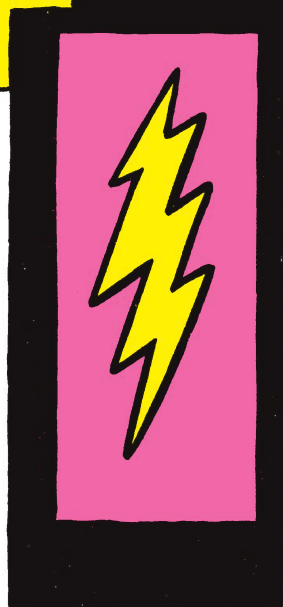
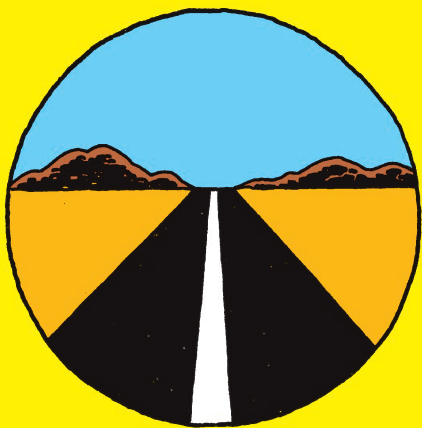
Belo 89



BETO/90







BETO/80









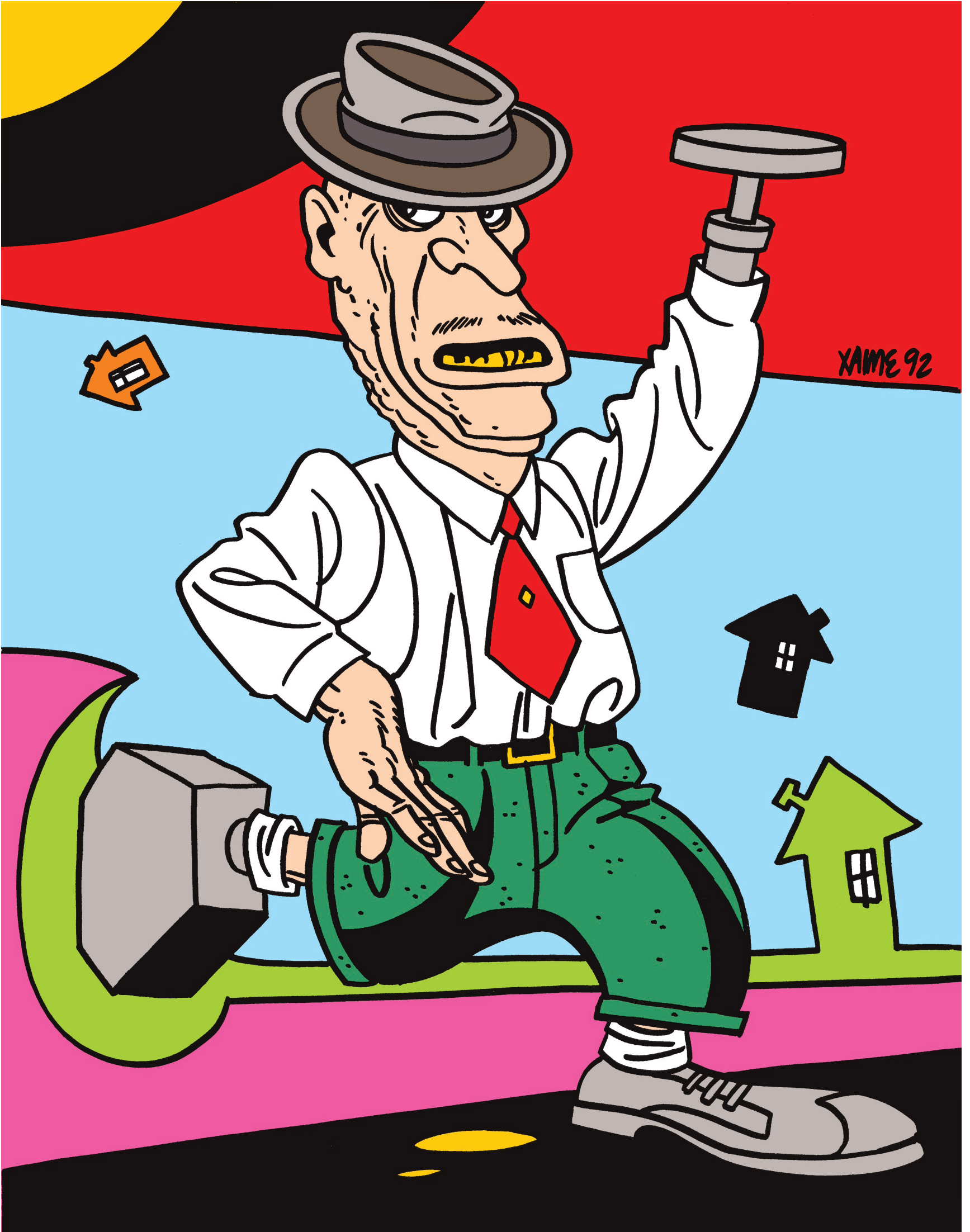


PRO
CHOICE!

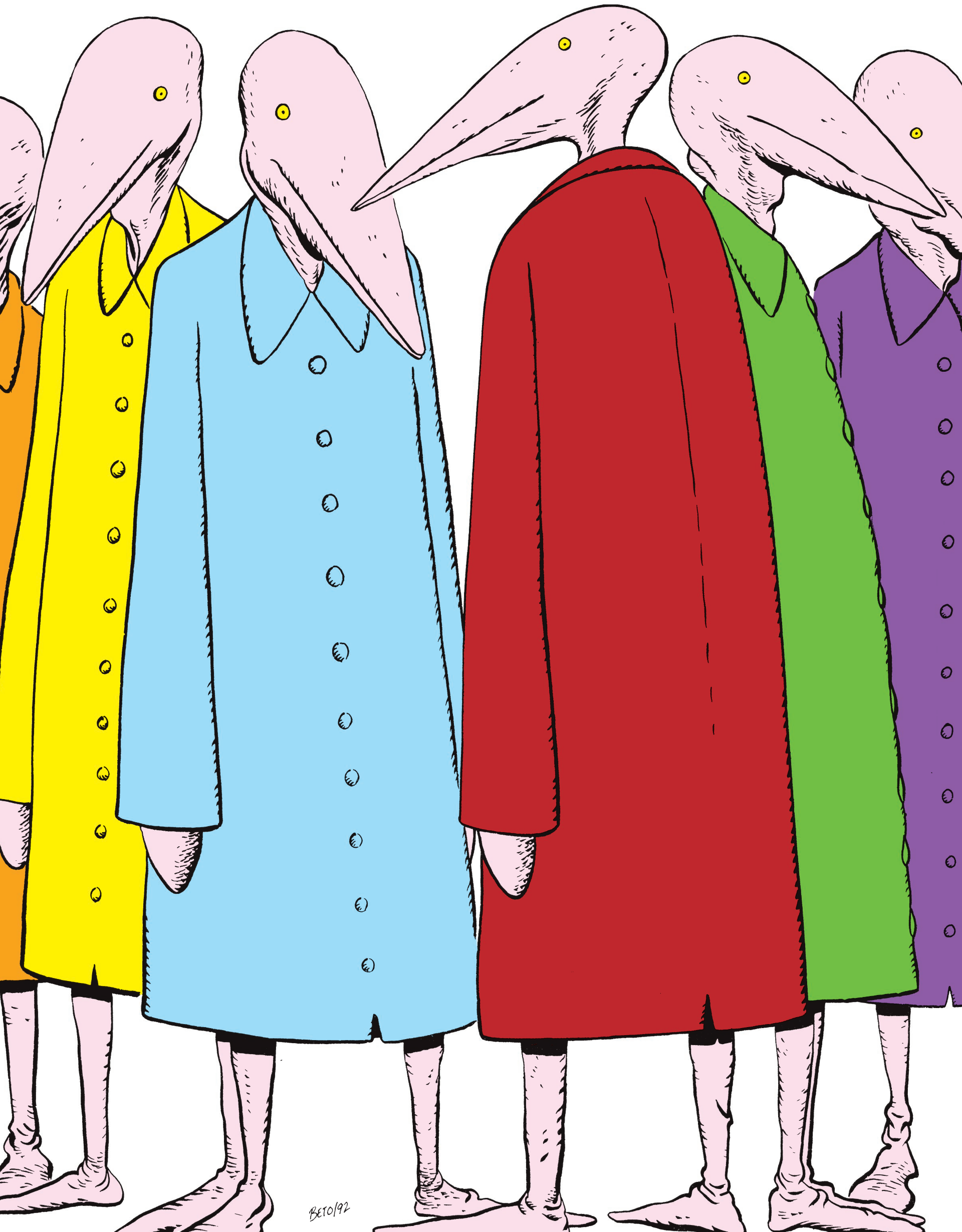
WHY
DO YOU
ASK?



XAIME 91







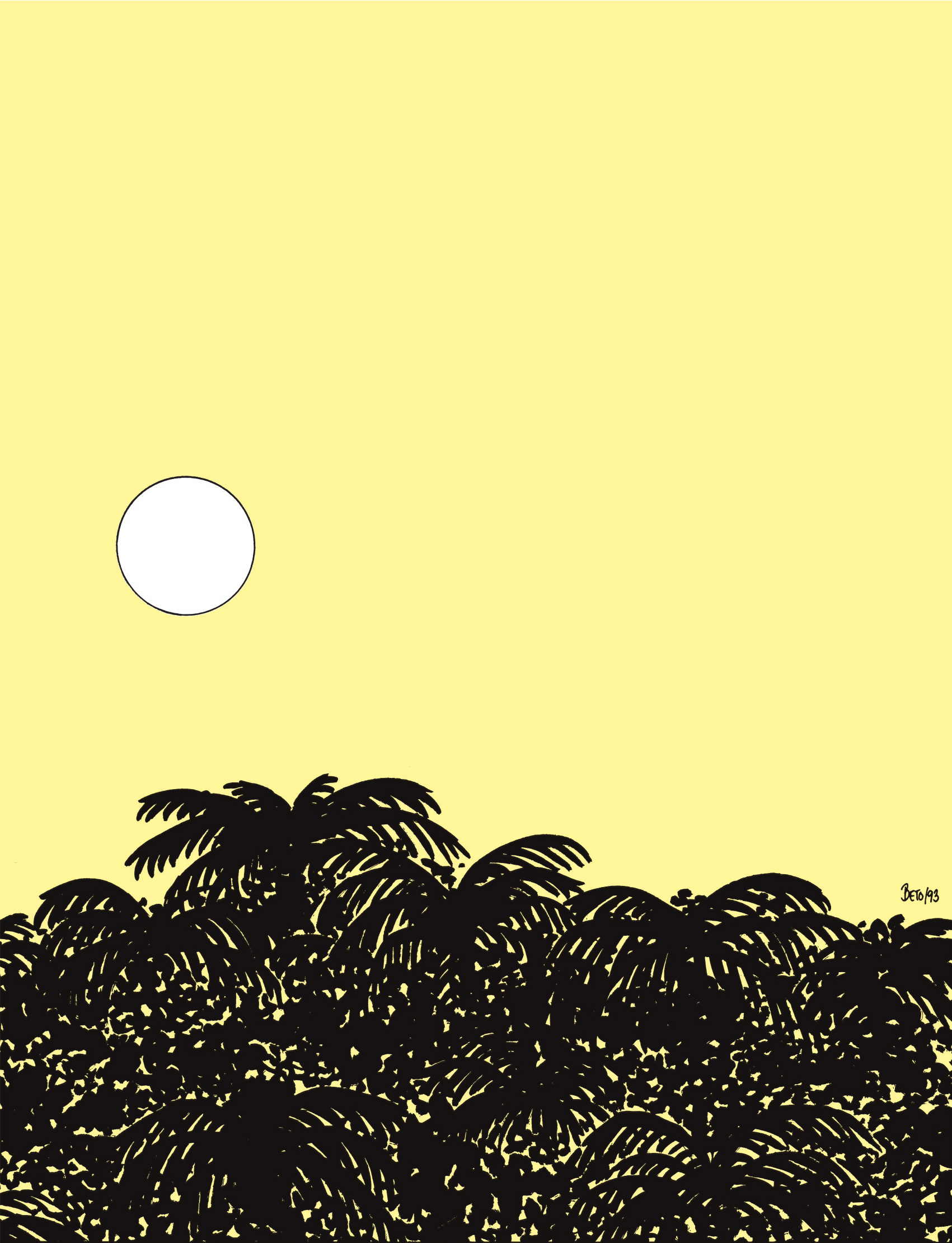




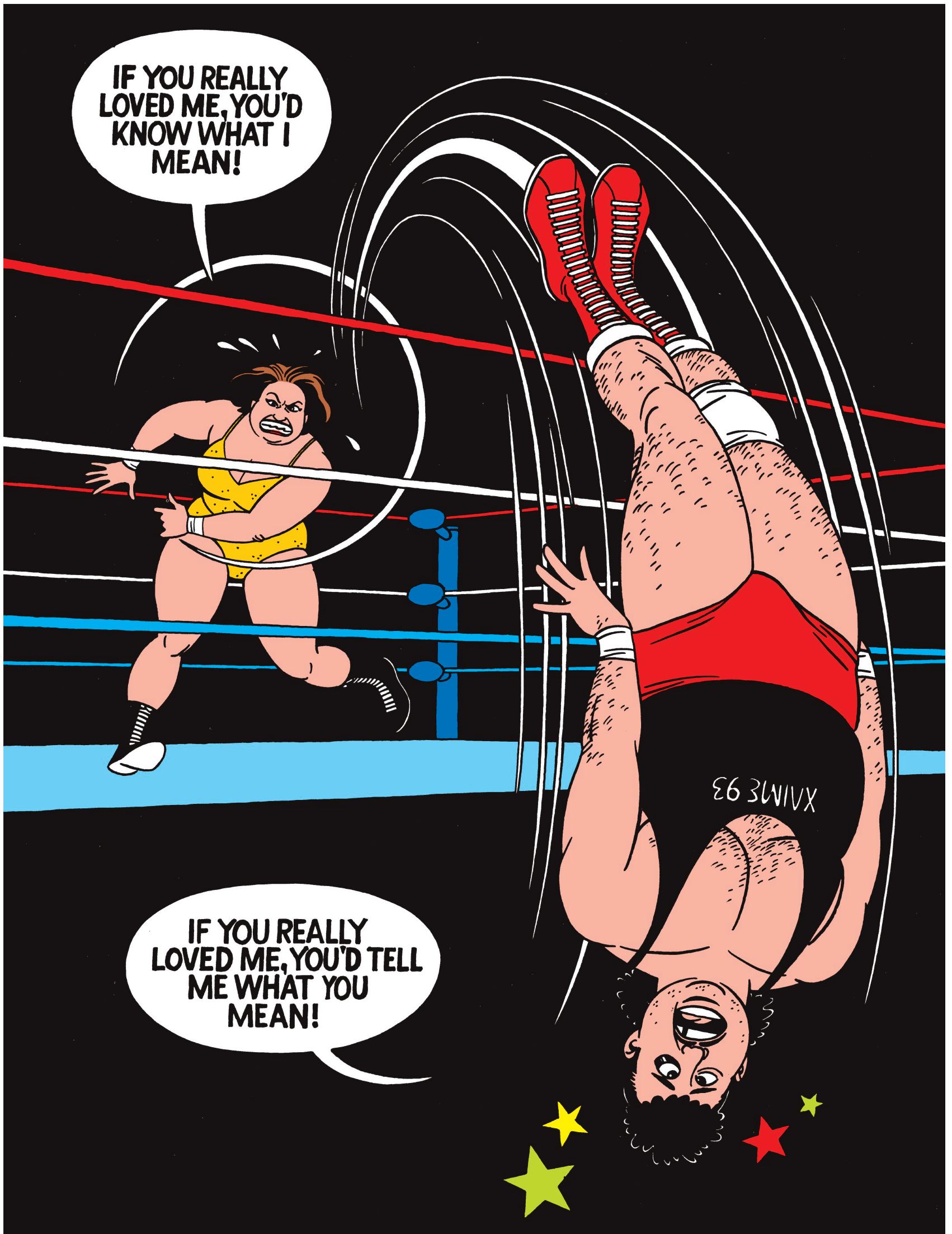














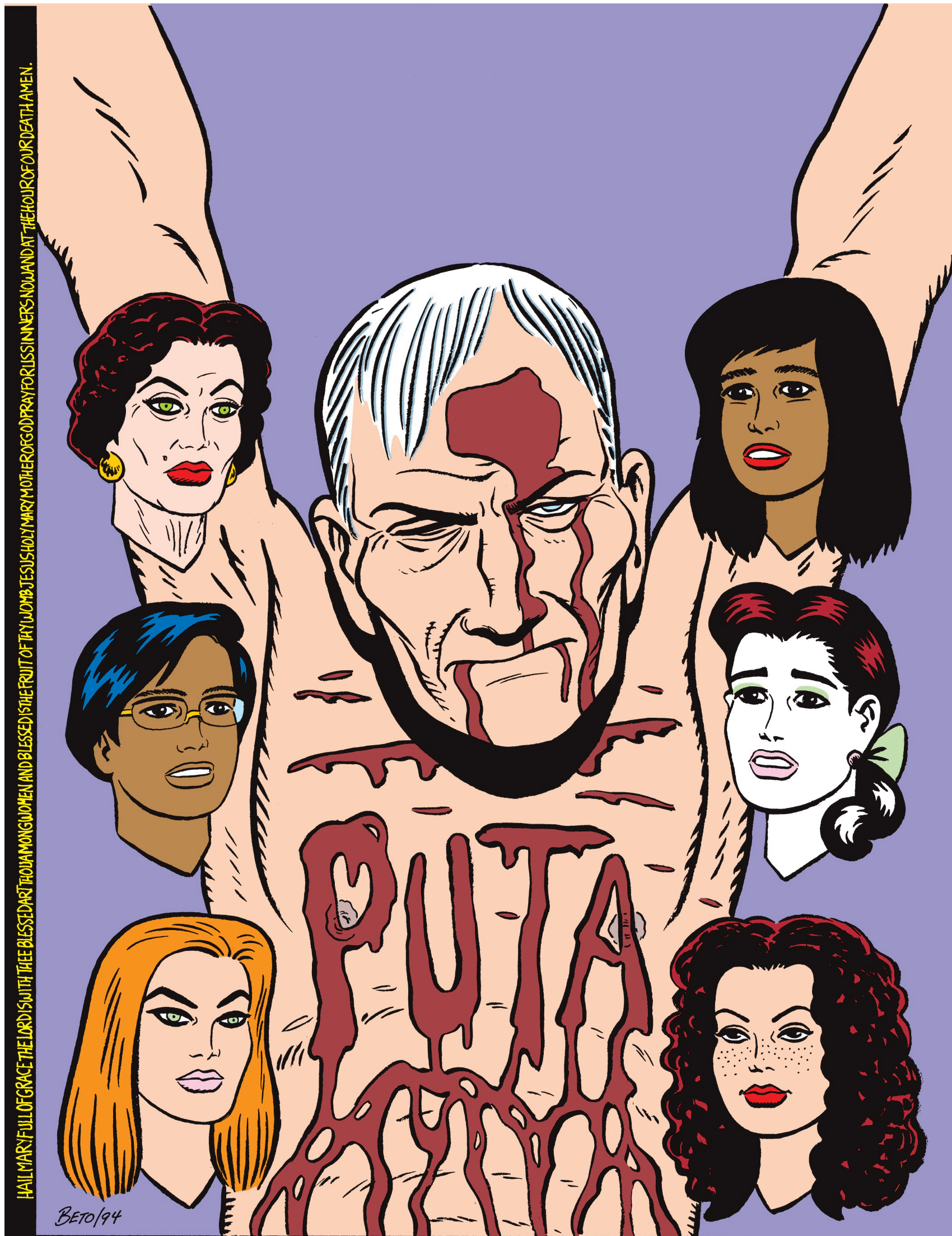












HAIL MARY! FULL OF GRACE THE LORD IS WITH THEE BLESSED ART THOU O WOMAN AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB JESUS HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAY FOR US SINNERS NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH AMEN.

BETO/94









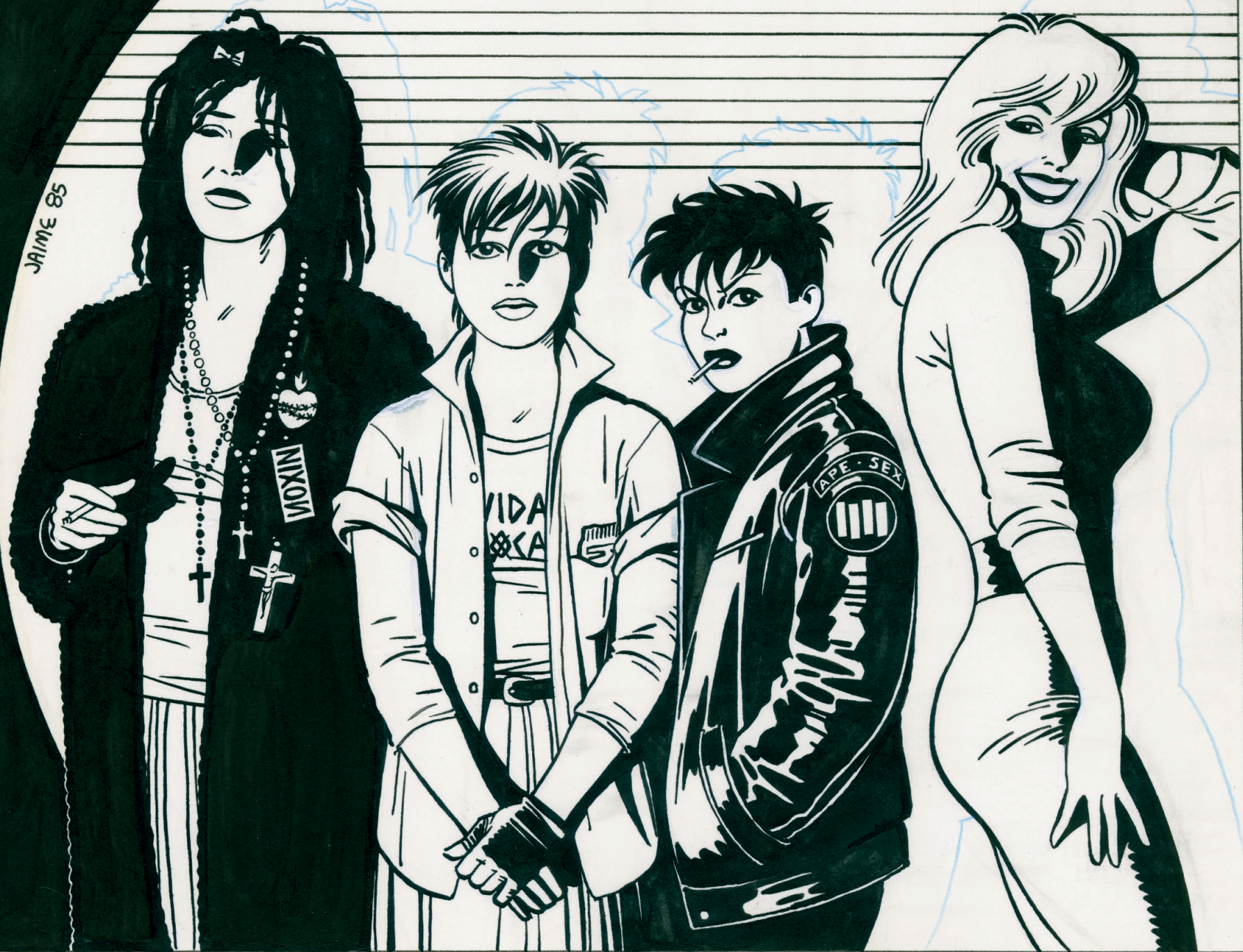








JAMIE 85





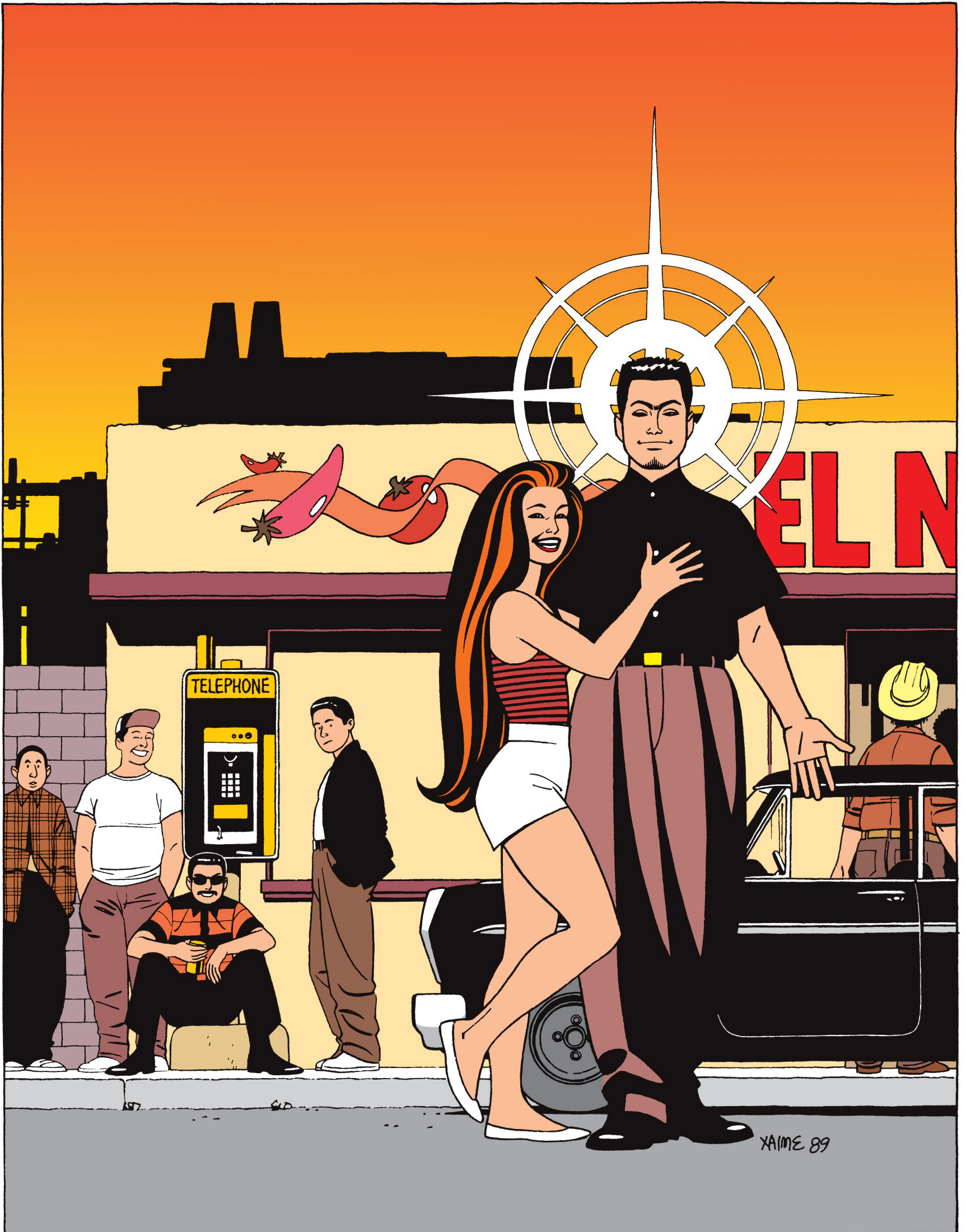












GILBERT HERNANDEZ

BLOOD OF PALOMAR





XNIME 9i











Chester
SQUARE

BE R
WINE

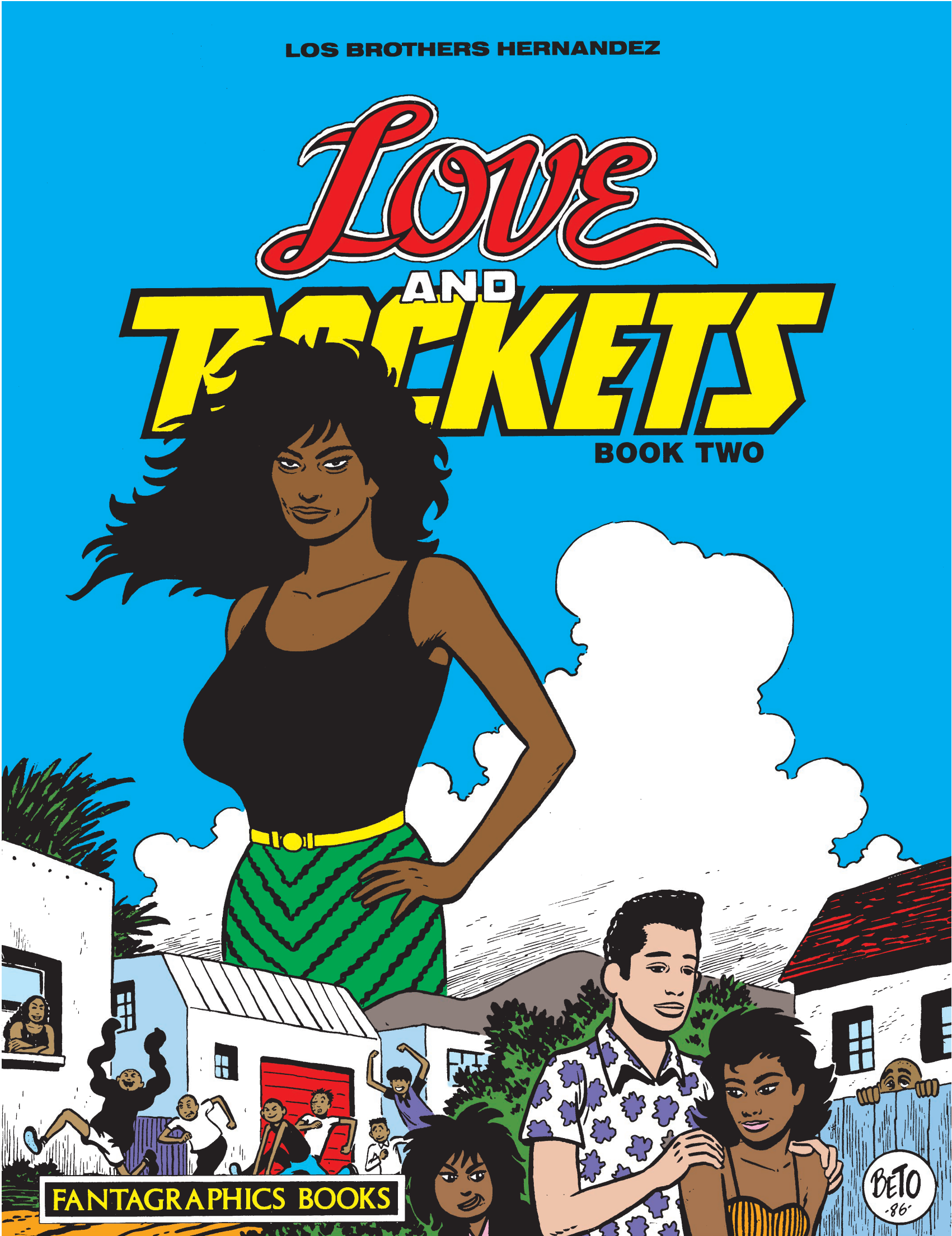
MOTEL

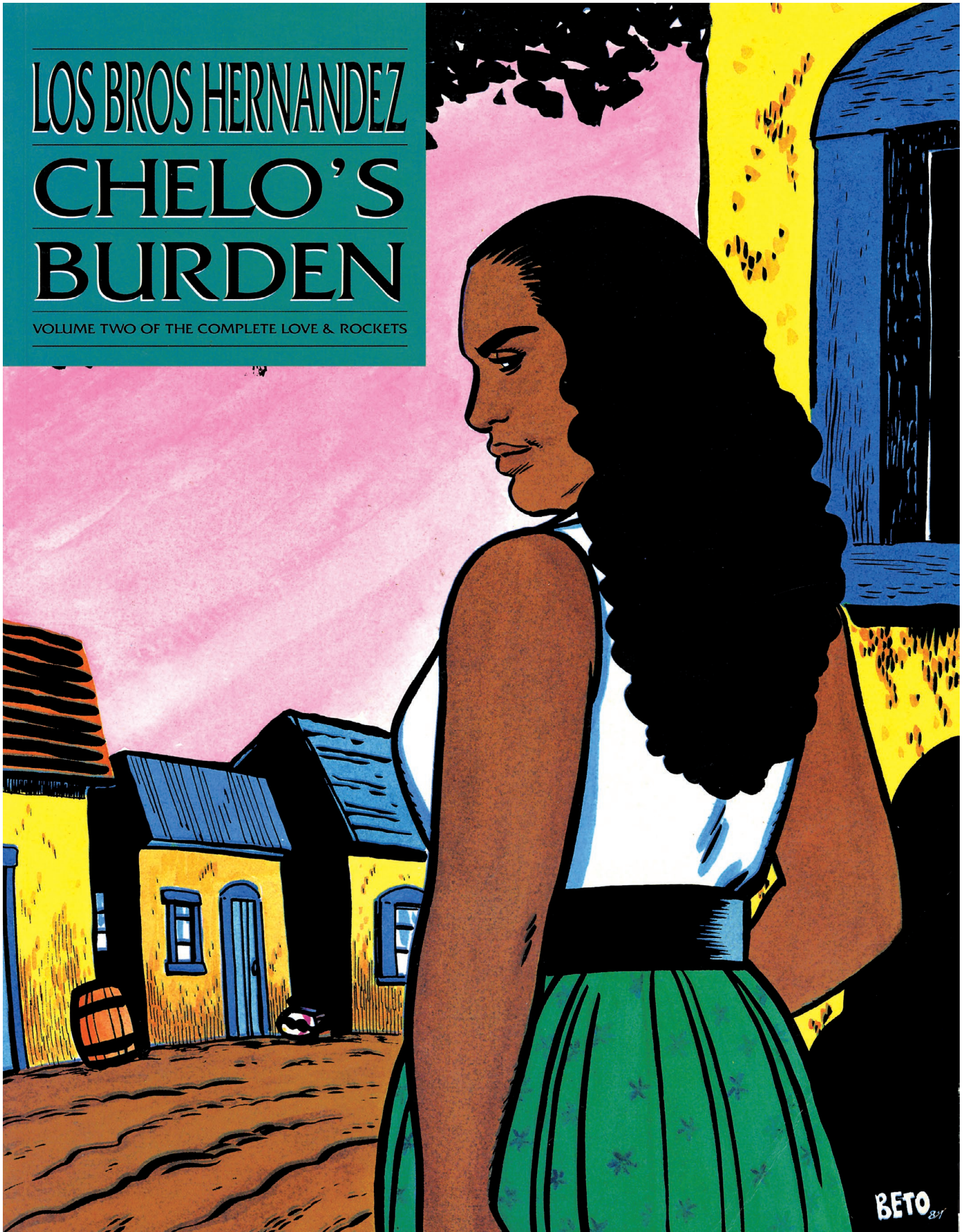
XAME 96

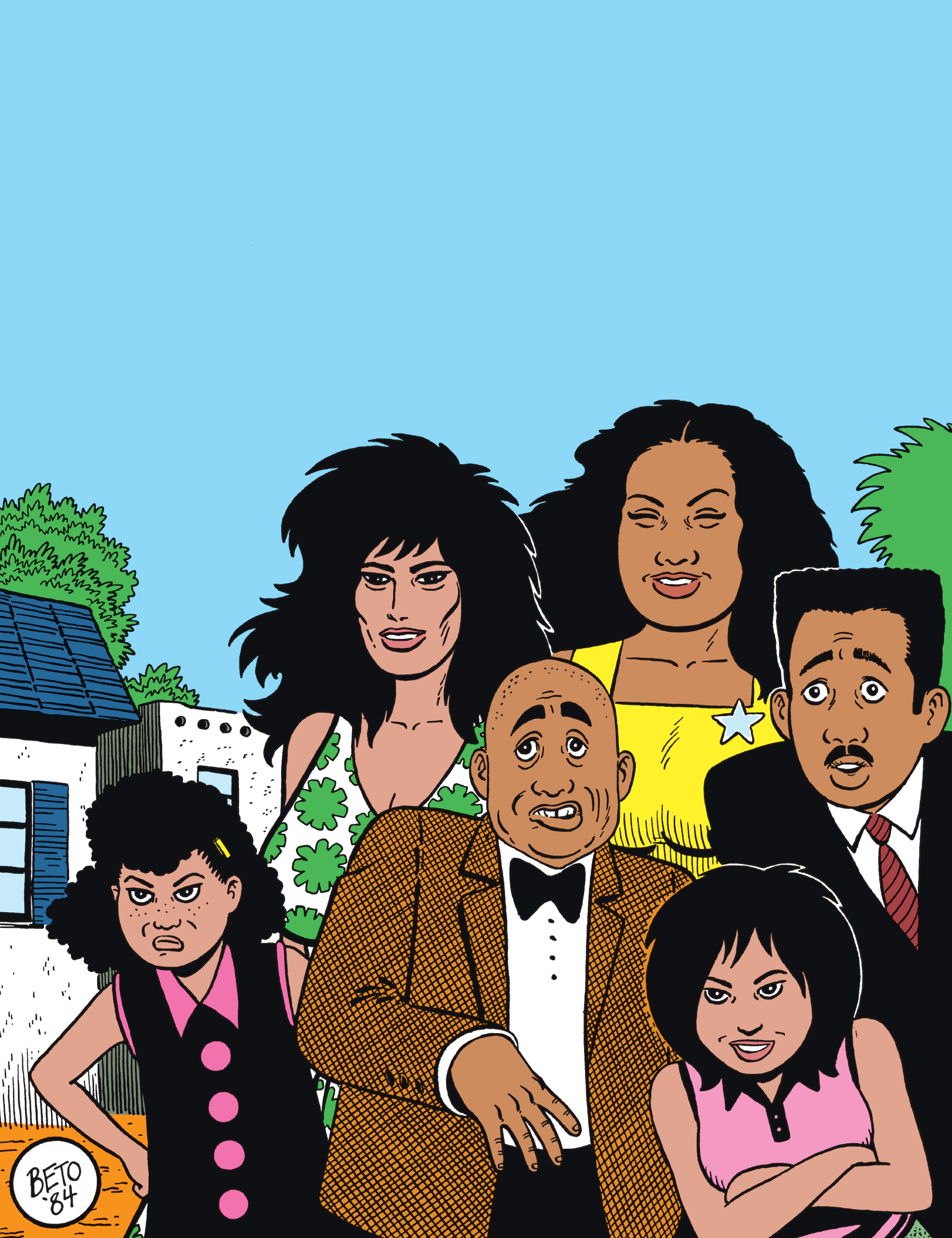


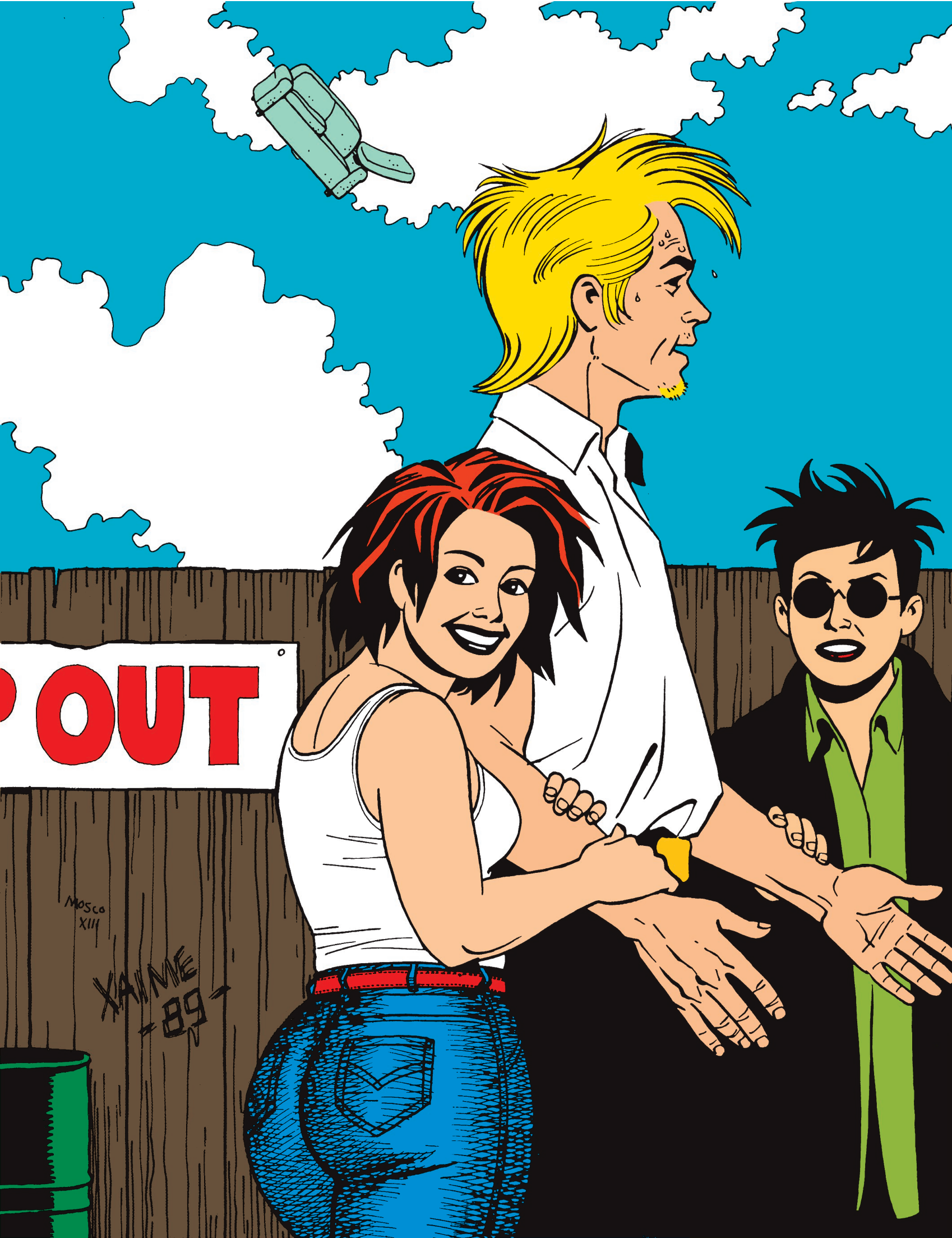


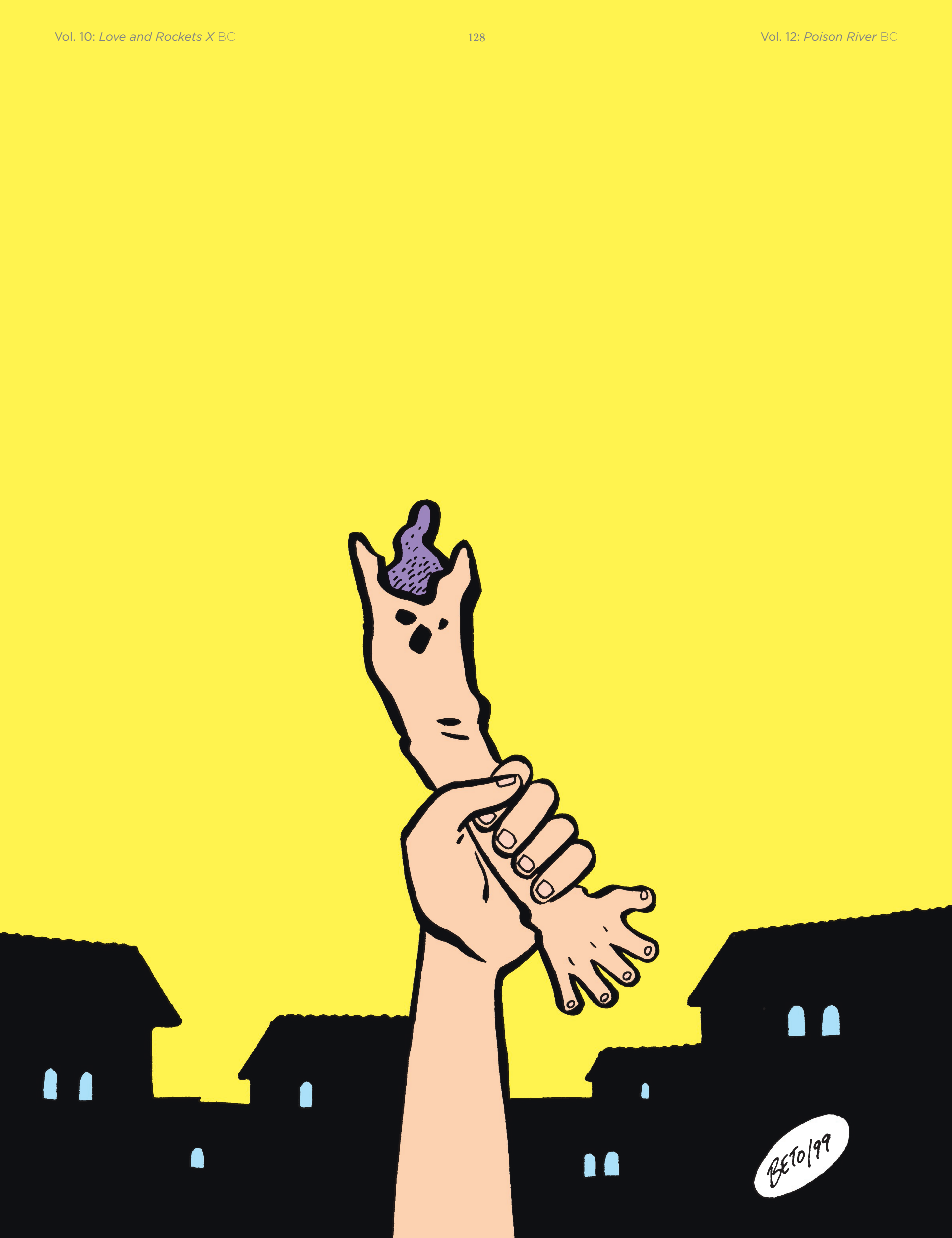






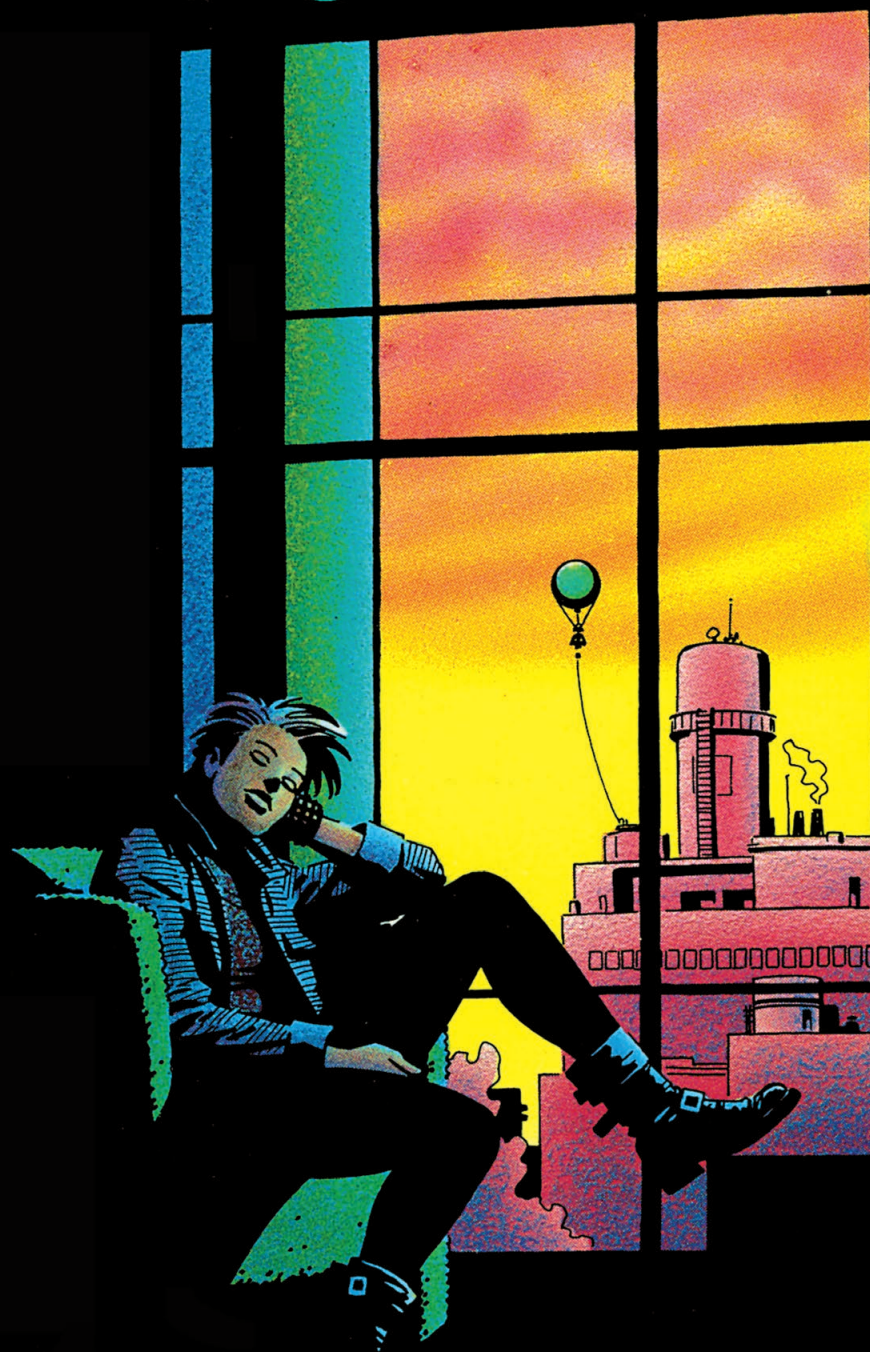








LOVE & ROCKETS



SHORT STORIES

Jaime Hernandez

HEARTBREAK SOUP

AND OTHER STORIES



GILBERT HERNANDEZ

THE LOST WOMEN

AND OTHER STORIES



JAIME HERNANDEZ

THE RETICENT HEART

AND OTHER STORIES



GILBERT HERNANDEZ

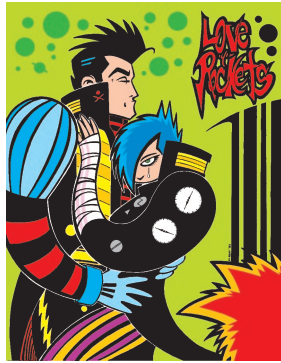
AUTHORS' NOTES

GILBERT AND JAIME HERNANDEZ





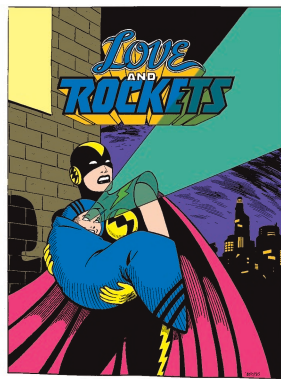
#1 FC This cover was loosely based on the back cover of Black Flag's first single. We thought it would be a good way to show the different kinds of women splattered all over comics. The barbarian woman has an Ape Sex tattoo on her thigh. JH



#1 BC Mr. New Wave sci-fi at work here. GH



#2 BC I could never come up with too many stories to go with this style of art. GH



#3 FC I liked doing a cover with a mysterious back story, but I got too many complaints that either I was pandering to the mainstream or people wanted the story within the book's pages. GH



#3 BC The Ape Sex tattoo shows up again. I inked part of this cover blind stinkin' sloshed. I originally planned it to be a front cover, I think. I copied the machine gun from a *Sgt. Rock* cover. JH



#4 FC Remember when everybody thought Luba's breasts were too big? These days you see teen girls at the mall that look like her on this cover. GH



#4 BC When I did the first of my three covers, we were so full of ourselves, me mostly. I wanted to be the one that did completely different, genre related stuff. Crime, terror-ists, political intrigue, pulp adventure. I figured to do an illo that would capture the new readers' attention, like, "Hey this is what you're gonna get from me, so, look out!" MH



#5 BC Popsicle sticks are more dangerous than knives, you know. GH



#6 FC I love Mexican artist Posada's demons, so I used them here. Remember when everybody thought that Luba's breasts were...? GH

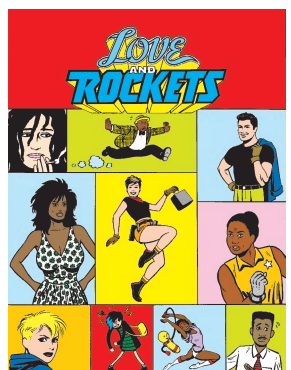


#6 BC I drew this on my 24th birthday, I believe. Terry's hat was inspired by one Pat Smear wore on stage when he was in The Adolescents. JH



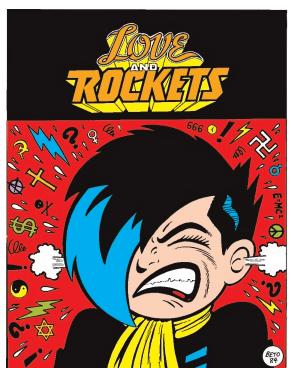
#7 BC This and my next back cover (for #9) were from a long saga that never made the cut. It was a convoluted treasure hunt adventure that was a little too ambitious in hindsight. MH

Looks like this was originally done for a front cover, with all that space on top. GH



#10 Old-fashioned jam cover, 1960s comic book style. GH

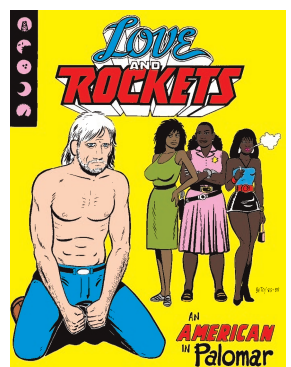
The second jam cover. At first, I think it was a just a goof between Beto and I, but every tenth issue through #50 has one. JH



#11 FC R. Crumb influence here. GH



#12 FC I could never get that lighting effect on the trees again. Hem. GH



#14 FC How did Howard Miller hear with that ear? Remember when everybody thought that Luba's...? GH



#15 FC I put Rena's name on the cover at the last minute fearing someone might think she was another one of my hot characters and some readers went ahead and thought she was Hopey. Oh, well. JH



#16 FC A chance to do a classic-style romance cover. GH



#18 FC The first of my covers that contradicted people's expectations. GH



#20 It was hard to scale my characters with Jaime's. GH



#21 FC Probably the most fun I had with a cover. GH

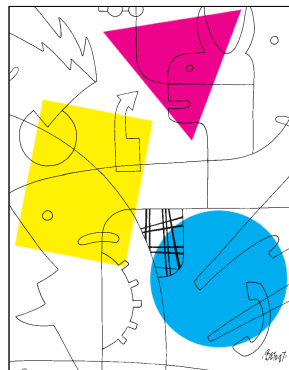




#21 BC The image of the band was inspired by the movie *Stranger Than Paradise*. JH



#22 FC Monica's head was originally tilting the opposite way but it looked like the whole image was falling to the right so this one ended up having a big ol' paste up in the center. JH



#22 BC Did I get complaints with this one. The philistine came out in some readers. GH



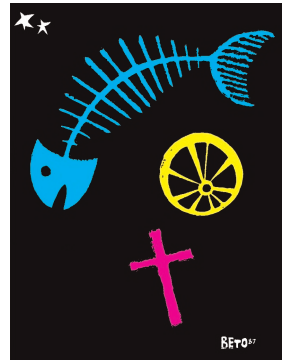
#23 FC A chance to have a Jack Kirby-type monster image. GH



#23 BC Some thought that Crusher guy was the real wrestler Crusher Lisowski but, no, it was just my own Crusher. JH



#24 FC Just one of those "happy accidents" that I had to turn in real quick for a deadline. I think I remember starting with Terry's left foot. If you'll notice in the original, I straightened Terry's guitar neck and shortened Hopey's bass neck. JH



#24 BC More complaints. Wish it was a front cover. GH



#25 FC Old-fashioned character guide cover. A comic book cover from my childhood that made a great impression on me was *Our Army At War* #112, which depicted Sgt. Rock's Easy Co. in a similar way. GH



#25 BC That's Rena's old boyfriend Bernie Carbo, whose name I stole from a ballplayer. Shortly after it was printed I wished it was a portrait of H. R. Costigan instead. Don't remember why, though. JH



#26 FC I drew this in an old apartment that I copied in detail. Yes, the wallpaper says "This Comic has Nothing to do with The Band." JH



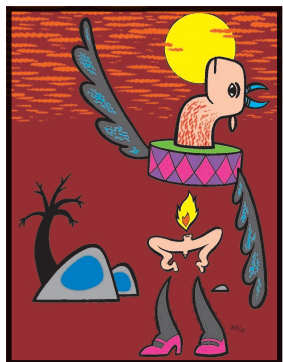
#26 BC Tonantzin's farewell. GH



#27 FC R. Fiore said it looked like a UPA cartoon-style drawing, which I'm happy to cop to. GH



#28 FC Wasn't happy with this one 'til a reader told me it was their favorite cover. Then naturally it was like "Harumph! But of course..." JH



#28 BC What an arty artist, huh? What ever happened to him? GH



#29 FC In Mexico, a black chicken is like a black cat in the U.S.; don't let it cross your path. GH



#30 Another jam. Most of the stuff I got from around the house and scaled to size for authenticity. Gilbert added the pencil, which I felt was way too big. The bra was the only thing I had to improvise on even though I was married at the time (could not find one for some reason). That's why it looks like a moon training bra. JH

It was the floor of a punk girl's bedroom. GH



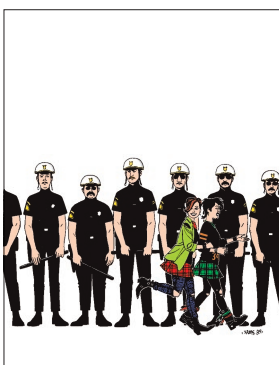
#31 BC Maria's head is pretty big here; something I did all the time during this period but didn't notice. GH



#32 FC An image that provoked some; it was business as usual to me. GH



#32 BC These were images from dreams I had as a child. I tried to get them as close as I could remember. JH



#33 FC I went to the Oxnard Public Library looking for riot gear reference and couldn't find a damn thing. One of the few times I actually tried to research something and I totally bombed. JH





#33 BC My idea of an 'arty' image. GH



#34 FC This was the last time I painted the colors myself. Never again! GH



#35 FC One of the few times a cover came out exactly as I pictured it. JH



#35 BC I just felt like doing another "mysterious" image again; people love 'em or hate 'em. GH



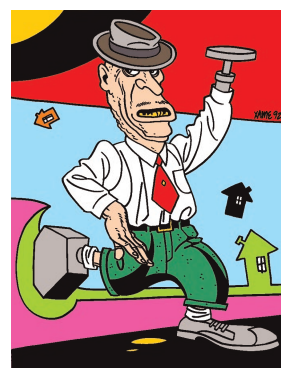
#36 FC Just to be provocative. No message. GH



#37 BC Again, no message. The words were an afterthought to fill up space. GH



#38 FC My second romance cover; a little naughty this time. GH



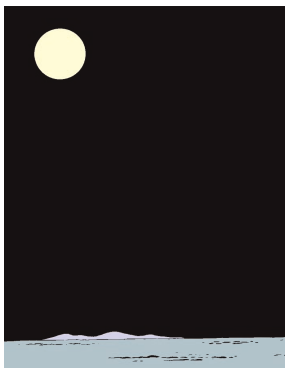
#38 BC Another one needed real fast. First and last cover ever drawn completely with a Sharpie. JH



#39 FC Because this idea has been copied since the dawn of comics, I didn't feel too much like a thief. JH



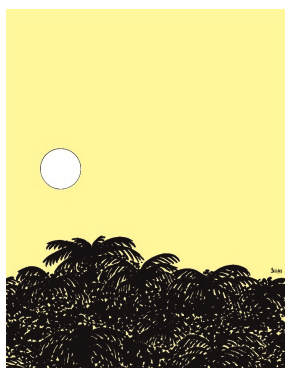
#39 BC An image that might be welcomed in another comic, but if we weren't featuring Hoppers or Palomar on covers, an irritant to some readers. GH



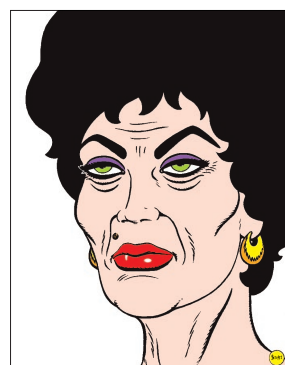
#40 The back cover was either hated as a rip off or loved as a bold statement. GH



#41 FC Another cover hated by fans of hyper-detailed art. The simpler the image for me, the better. Stands out. GH



#42 BC Simple; effective. GH



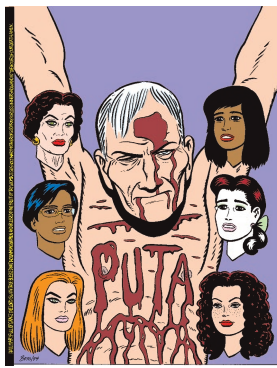
#43 FC I got a lot of complaints that I'm into old ladies. Only a person afraid of getting old would say that. GH



#44 BC I forgot to give Casimira almond-shaped cat eyes; she looks like Jack Nicholson here. GH



#45 FC That's my lovely wife Carol here beating Maria in a swimsuit contest. GH



#47 FC Just being provocative again here, gang. GH



#48 FC I must have whited out that face 600 times. JH



#48 BC Fritz sure has changed, eh? GH



#49 FC No pencilling, just straight onto the page using a rapidograph pen. No R. Crumb influence here; pen lines tend to "hug" the image when you don't use pencil guide lines. GH





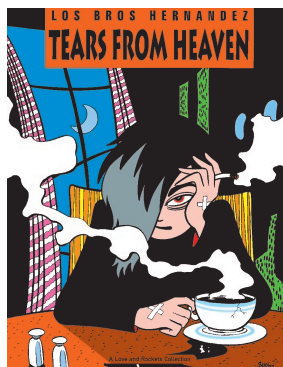
#49 BC Need a cover quick #748. That's supposed to be Lee J. Cobb. JH



#50 Again, pretty hard to scale the characters with one another. GH



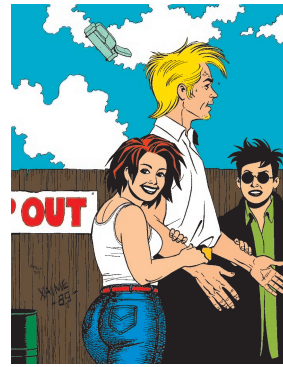
Vol. 2 FC Classic-style Palomar image. Fun to do. GH



Vol. 4 FC One of my personal favorites of mine. Doesn't go with any story, though. GH



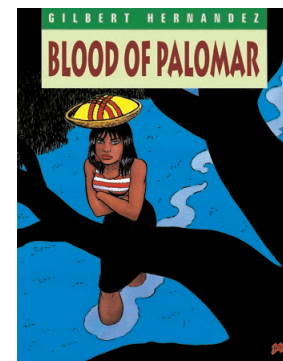
Vol. 6 FC The "Noddy Holder" witch! GH



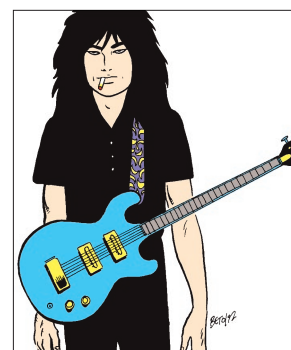
Vol. 6 BC Of course the jeans were the funnest part to draw! JH



Vol. 7 FC I whited out Maggie sitting in the car at the last minute. JH



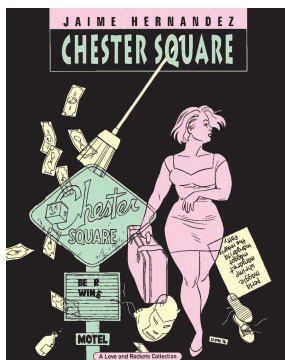
Vol. 8 FC Great Jim Woodring coloring! GH



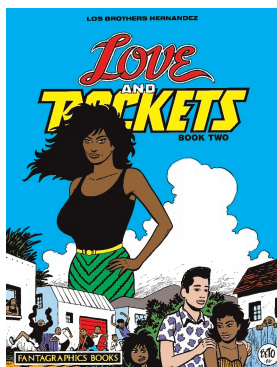
Vol. 10.1 FC My first Asian character on a cover. GH



Vol. 10.2 FC We used these types of "posed" images from the beginning, some folks complaining that there was no action, no sense of movement. Now everybody does covers like this. GH



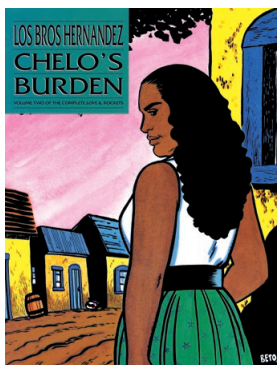
Vol. 13 FC I took the photo of Hopey's mom out because I wanted to save that photo for a later story, which turned up in *Maggie and Hopey Color Fun*. JH



Original Vol. 2 FC Yes, I was asked if Luba was a giant in the story. Sigh, ok. GH



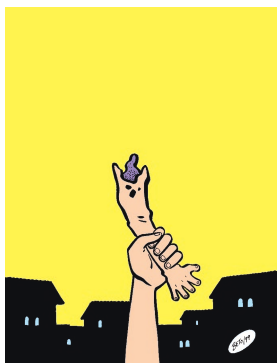
Vol. 14 FC A couple of twits at Wonder Con giggled uncontrollably at this cover, and I called them immature, which outraged them. GH



Second Vol. 2 FC Safe; the less sexiness on a cover the more it's liked. GH



Vol. 15 FC No problem with scaling here! GH



Vol. 10 BC A fave iconic image. GH



Vol. 12 FC A weary Luba. How I felt after I finished *Poison River*. GH



Vol. 12 BC Big-head Maria, but at least I'm getting the breasts right at this time. GH





ONLY
\$1⁰⁰

LOVE *and* ROCKETS

FAIR
WARNING:
THIS COMIC
CONTAINS
RAW
LANGUAGE,
VIOLENCE,
AND
NUDITY

NO
1

inside:

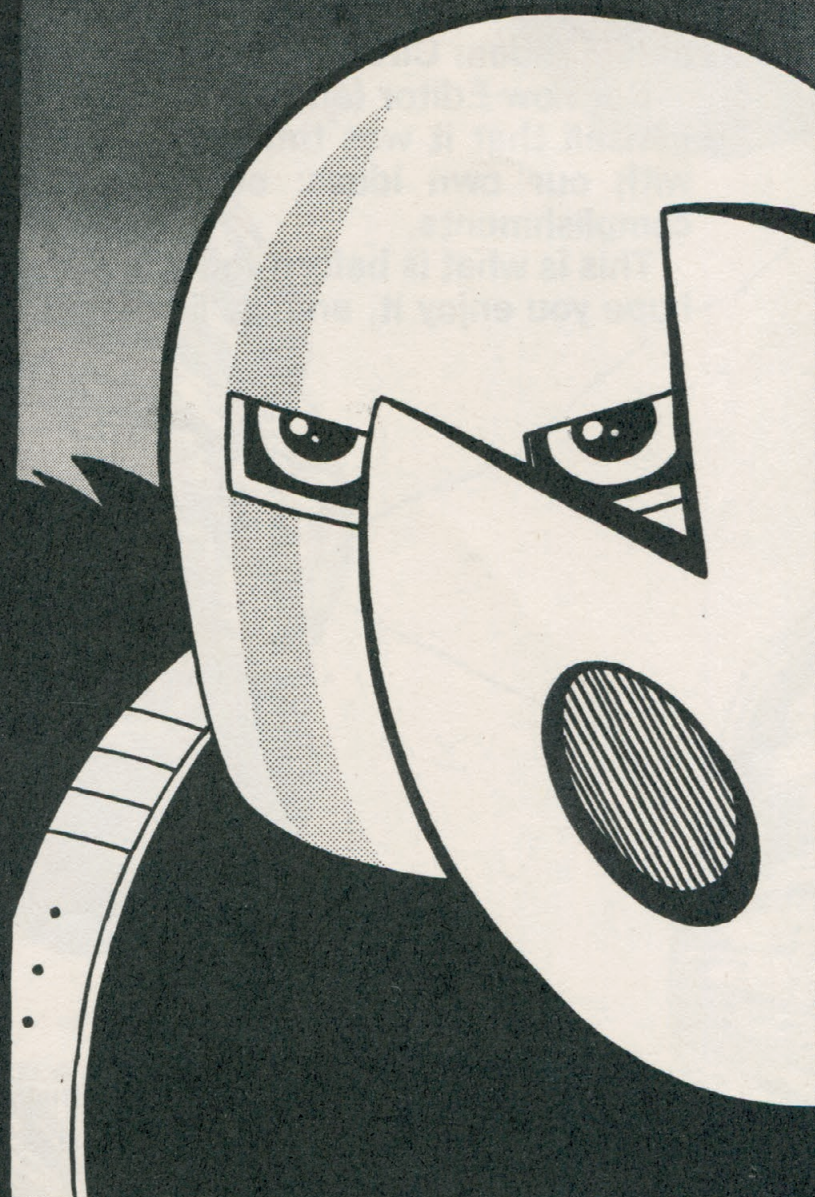
**HOW
TO KILL A...**
BY ISABEL RUEBENS

**MUSIC FOR
MONSTERS**

MECHAN-X

BEM

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTION



“*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 1982

Five women stand in a police lineup; four of them are garishly dressed super-women — perfectly normal, because this is, after all, the cover of a comic book.

A closer look, however, reveals a fifth woman who seems thoroughly out of place — mousy, in a bathrobe and curlers, smoking a cigarette. Surely she's here by mistake — or is she?

From this very first cover of the very first issue of *Love and Rockets* in 1982, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez (along with their brother, Mario) have created artwork that has subverted, contradicted and celebrated the history of comics while making it their own.

For the first time, these iconic comic book covers from the original *Love and Rockets* comic book series (and the earliest trade paperbacks) have been restored and collected.

