

ISSUE #7

# SLICED

(QUARTERLY)

An Experimental Comic Anthology







## Editorial

Lately I've been thinking a lot about the act of finishing. To me it is a skill in and of itself. My career background is in graphic design. A strange job in many ways... Basically, an element of it is to be creative on demand and to a strict schedule. Things that a lot of 'creative types' would argue goes against the process. In some ways this is true, but again, it's a skill. Skills must be cultivated and developed over time and with practice.

I consider a lot of my commercial work to be 'unfinished' because I'd have liked to explore more ideas, but time and budget constraints meant I couldn't. The clients were happy though. They certainly didn't consider the work they got to be incomplete.

Nearly all of the commercially successful creative people I know don't sit around waiting for inspiration to strike before getting on with their job. No, it's a process.... You DO whatever it is you do, whether you feel like it or not. Some days you produce utter crap, most days you won't. But making shit is still making something. Contrary to popular belief I'm a firm believer that you can in fact polish a turd. You see, it's much easier to make improvements to something that already exists than spend time thinking about every little detail of your creation before you make a start.

So... Finishing. I find myself less than 3 pages away from completing the inks on a solo book I've been picking at for the last 18 months or so. This will be my first complete comic issue as an artist, and once it's all inked the remainder of the processes are in my creative comfort zone. But it seems to be taking me a very long time to crawl over that finish line. I really don't know why. I'm so excited to get it ready to show people and eventually sell. I'm really proud of the work I've put into it, and that I have done every single step in the comic making process. I guess it's that prospect of sharing, and to a certain degree giving up sole ownership of it that might be slowing me down. Once you share your art you no longer get to control it. Anyone can take it in, process it and take a little piece for themselves. Sometimes in ways you never imagined or intended. I don't see my self as a precious creator... Maybe I'm just holding onto this one a little too tight.

And this is the part of the process where completing work becomes a skill. The closer you get, the more you can psyche yourself out about what happens next.

That being said, we are very happy to have completed this latest issue of Sliced for you! It has a few firsts. We've tried to heavily feature short form comics, there is an experimental 'jam-piece' and the opening chapter of our first serialisation.

*Ken Reynolds*  
Editor

*July 2017*





## Cover

Art by  
Lukasz  
Kowalczyk

# SLICED

(QUARTERLY)

ISSUE #7



## The Penned Guin

By Alan Henderson



## I Wandered

By Taz



## Hornazo

By Rahil Mohsin



## A Short Comic

By Tara Lucy



## A Strange Place

By David Thomas



## Naughty Circle

By Brad Brooks



## Farquhar Part 1

By Tara Lucy



## Without Remorse

Script by Jon Osborn  
Art by Rahil Mohsin



## StereoRodeo

By Bob Schroeder, David Thomas,  
Ben Peter Johnson, Tara Lucy,  
Jenny Brown, Rahil Mohsin,  
Ken Reynolds



## Sink Low

By Simon Mackie  
& Ben Rowdon



## Lava

By Taz



## Wormfood

By David Hailwood



## Dark

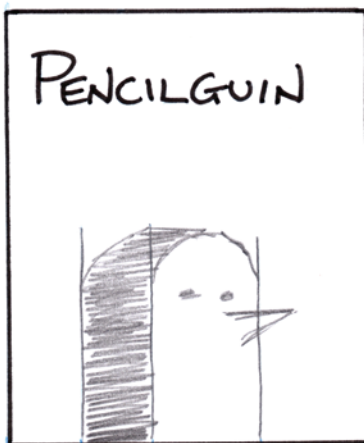
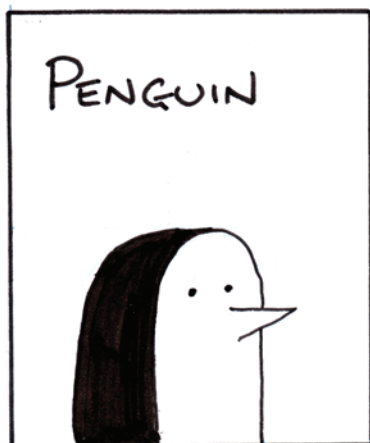
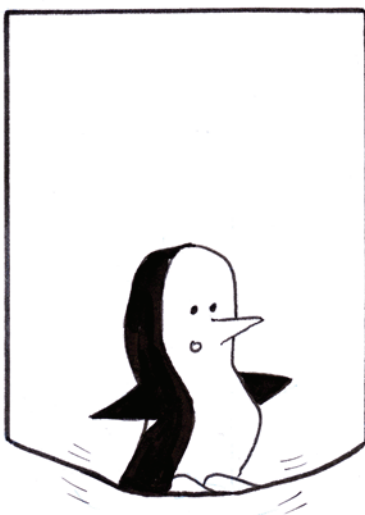
By Taz



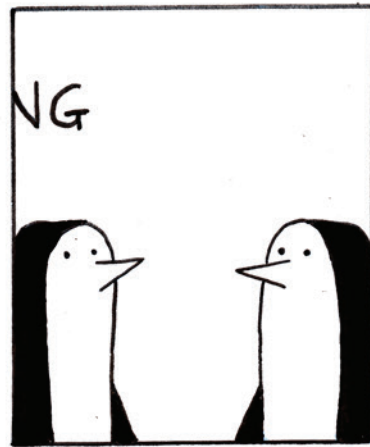
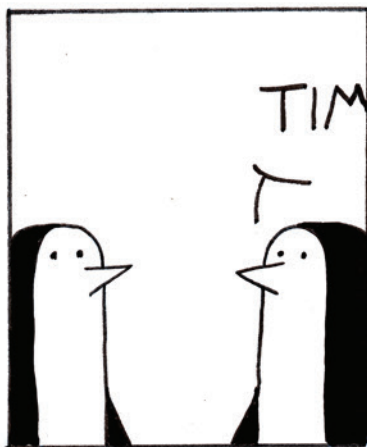
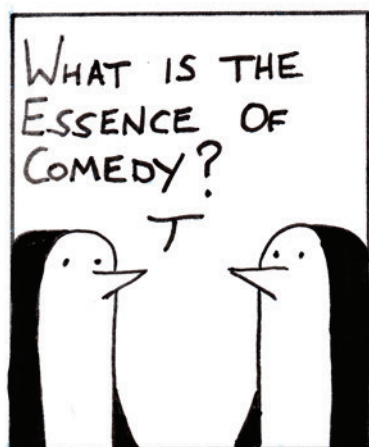
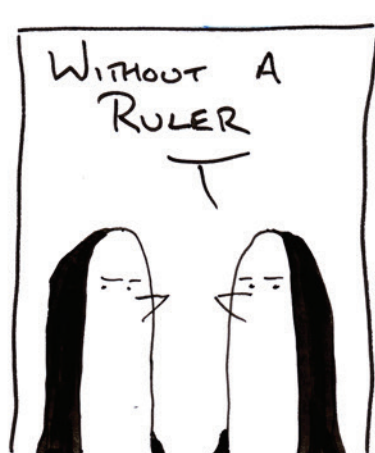
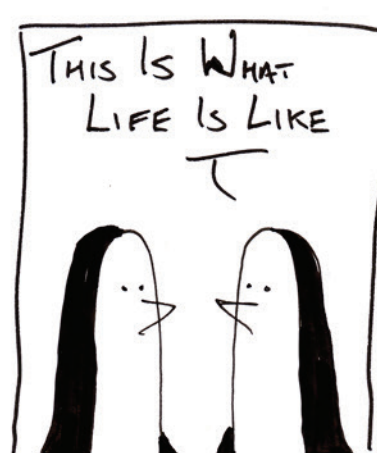
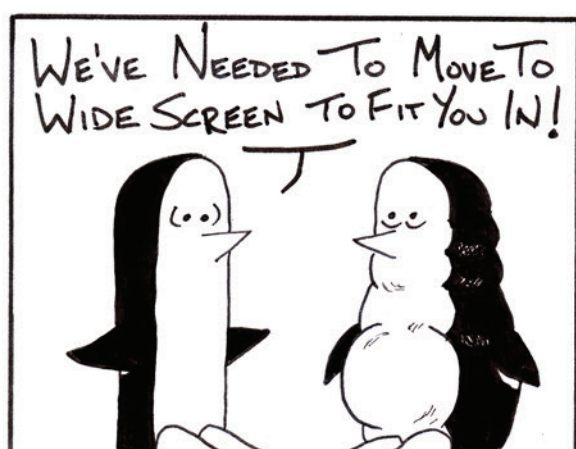
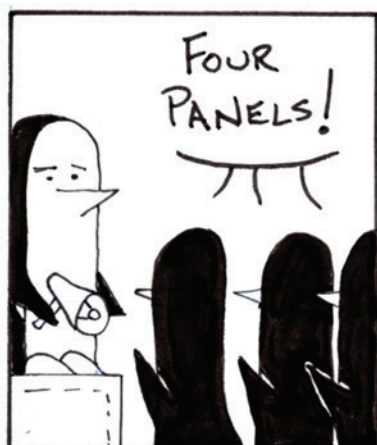
## Small Press Preview - Bhudda of New York

Written by Malek Hawkins  
Art by Ben Peter Johnson

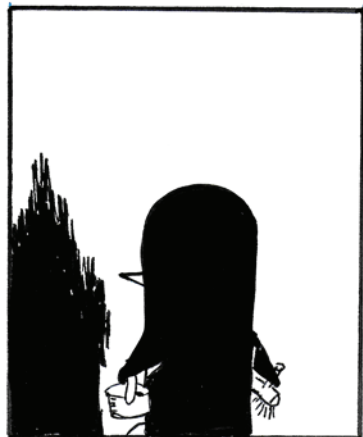
WHEN WE SAID  
EXPERIMENTAL  
COMICS...



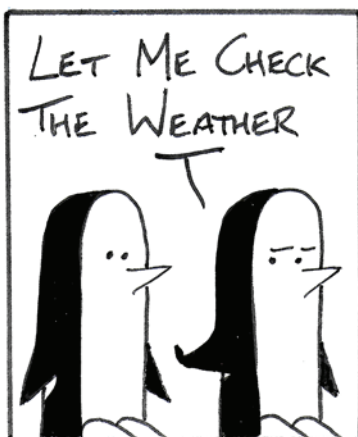
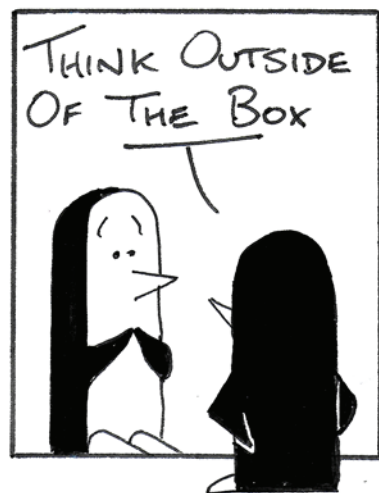
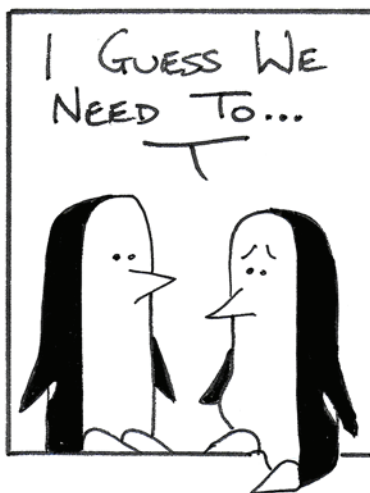
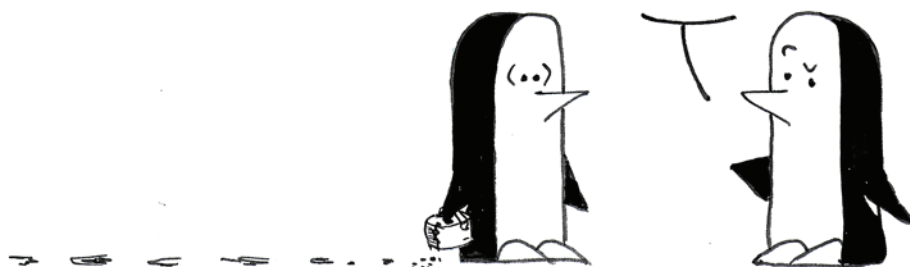








HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING  
TO THE ROLLING STONES?





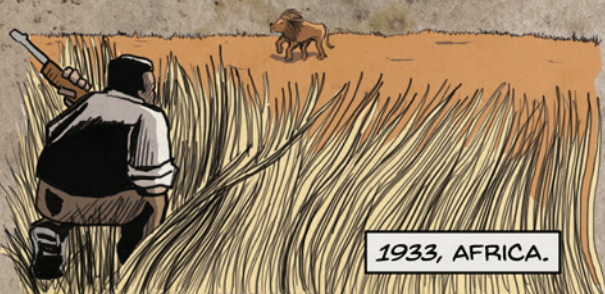
# Without Remorse

Story  
John Osborn

Art  
Rahil Mohsin

I do not mind killing.

On the contrary, I have grown to like it, when done cleanly.

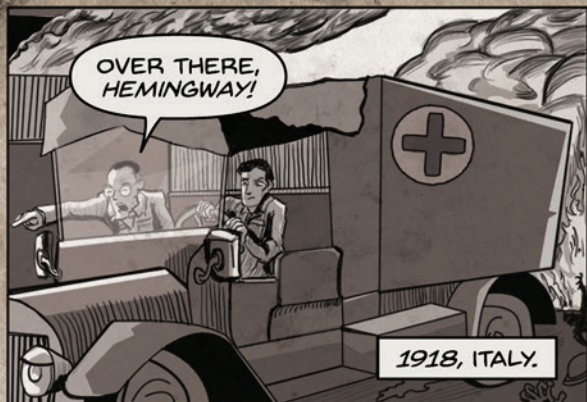


It is the natural order of the world.



If it hadn't been me, it would have been something else.

All life, by necessity, eventually ends.

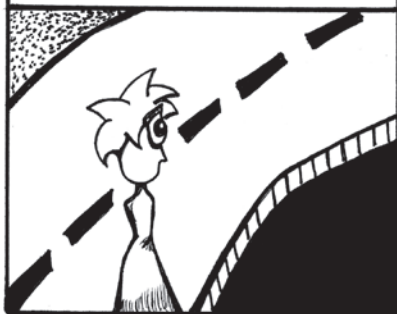


Eventually everything ends.

THE END.



I WANDERED,  
LONELY AS A CLOUD



ON MY WAY

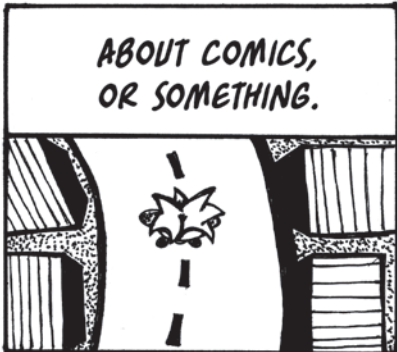


TO THE CORNERSHOP.



BUT I WAS THINKING

ABOUT COMICS,  
OR SOMETHING.



SO MY FEET WALKED ME

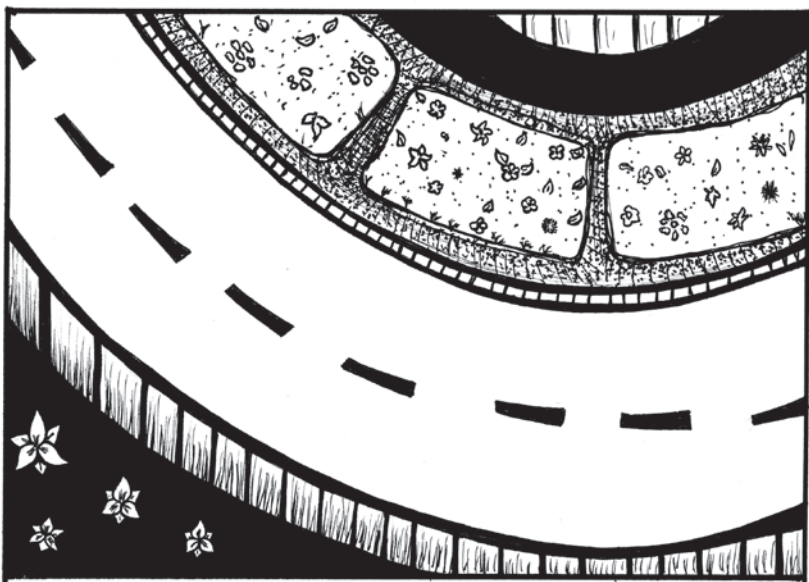


HALF-WAY TO WORK

BEFORE I REALISED.



I DIDN'T SEE ANY DAFFODILS, EITHER.





STEREORODEO

IT'S A BAREFOOT FEELING OF  
ADOLESCENCE SÉANCE'S.

**Cawl Derwydd  
Gwreiddiau fam.**

IGS.  
DATING

ORCHID PIGS.  
SASQUATCH DATING  
WYNFORD HOTEL  
7PM.

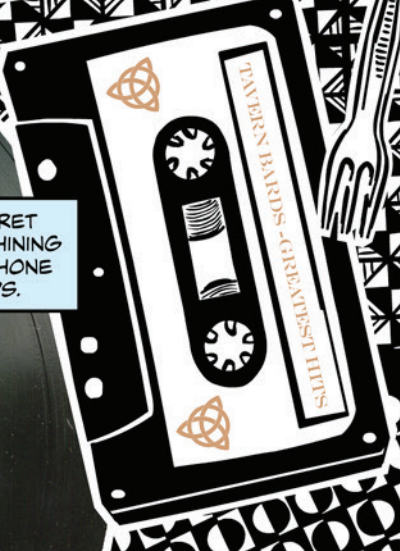


A FLASH OF AURA  
AGAINST REALITY'S  
HIP CURVATURE.



CABARET  
EYES SHINING  
HEADPHONE  
NODS.

- Bob Schroeder
- David Thomas
- Ben Peter Johnson
- Tara Lucy
- Jenny Brown
- Rahil Mohsin
- Ken Reynolds

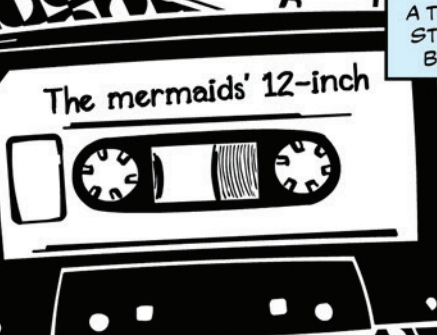


Goliath

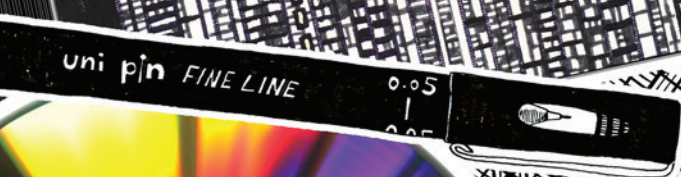
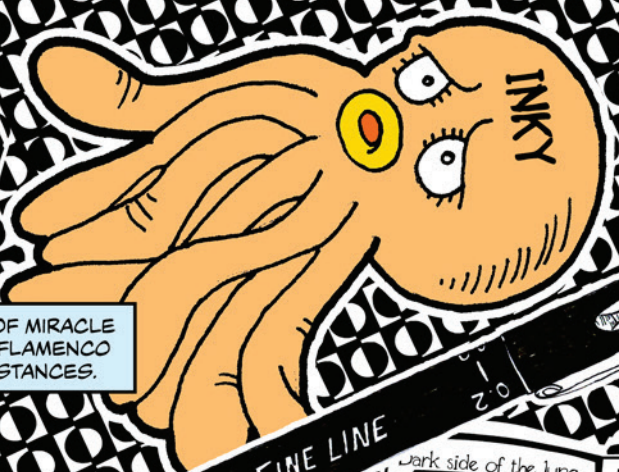




A TWIRLING OF MIRACLE STEPS FOR FLAMENCO BEDROOM STANCES.



A PISCES'S KISS UPON A MIRROR BALL WALL.



THE HISS AND SCRATCH SPIRIT RIBBON FORMS.







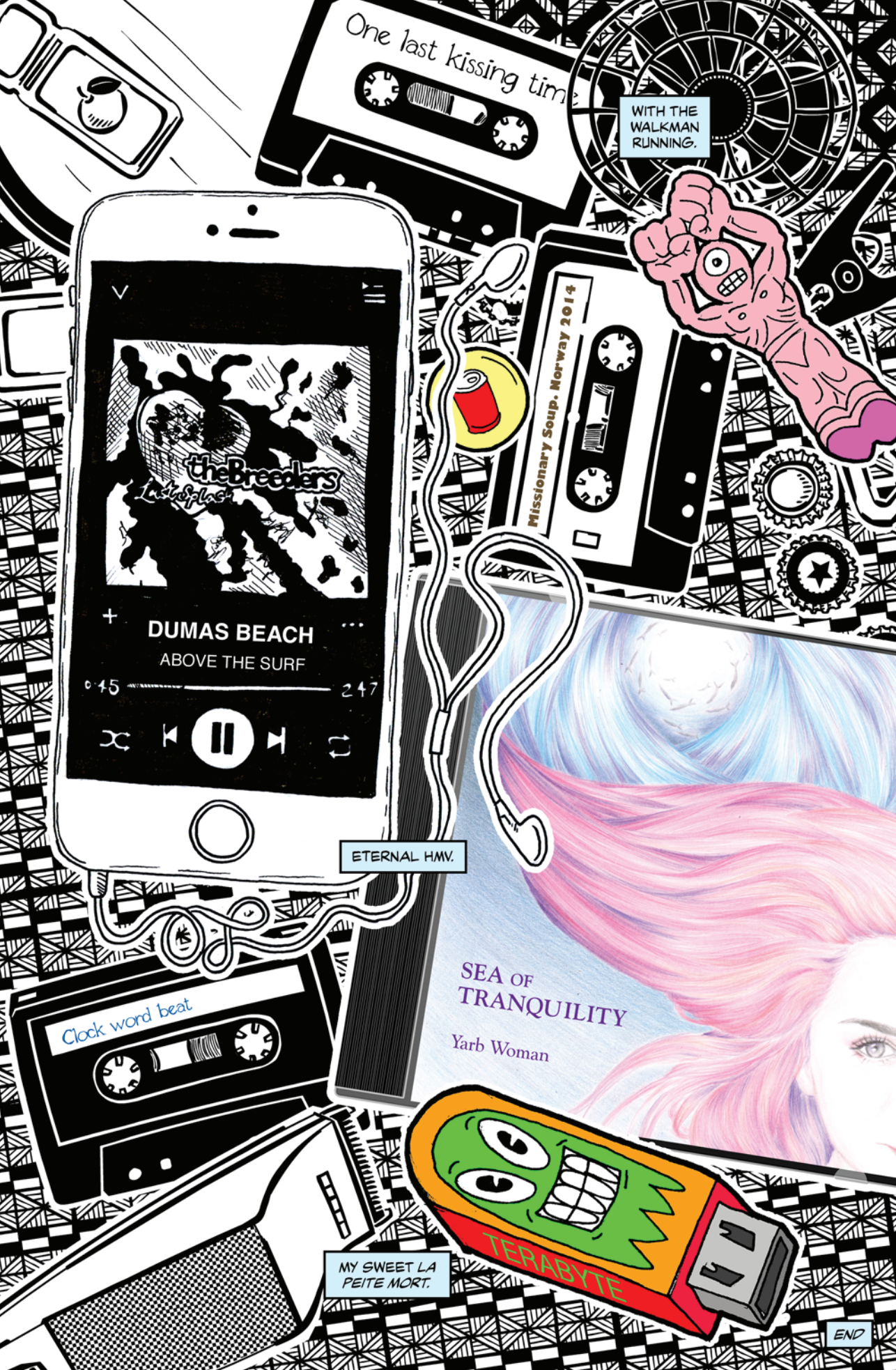
FOLDING ORIGAMI  
LYRICS INTO WISHING  
WELL ORACLES.

COUNT THE  
BLESSINGS UP  
WITH THE LEGO  
BLOCK VOLUME.

IT'S A  
STRANGE  
BOOGIE  
WOOGIE  
PRAYER.

Wind chimes AND WINE  
Paris 1999





One last kissing time

WITH THE  
WALKMAN  
RUNNING.

Missionary Soup. Norway 2014



DUMAS BEACH  
ABOVE THE SURF

ETERNAL HMV.

SEA OF  
TRANQUILITY

Yarb Woman

Clock word beat

MY SWEET LA  
PEITE MORT.



END

# hornazo

-Rakhi Mohsin

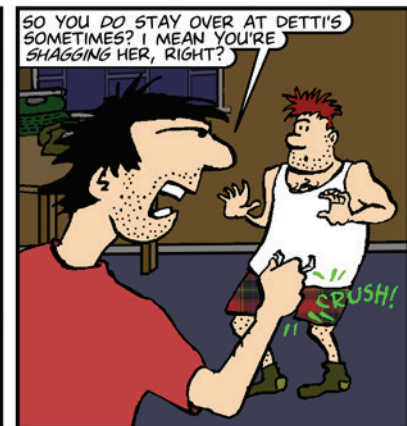
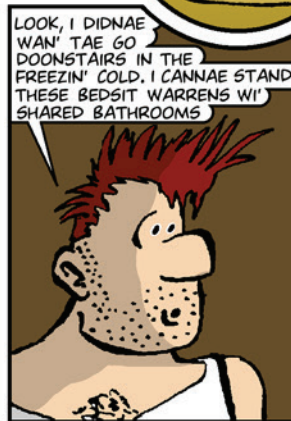


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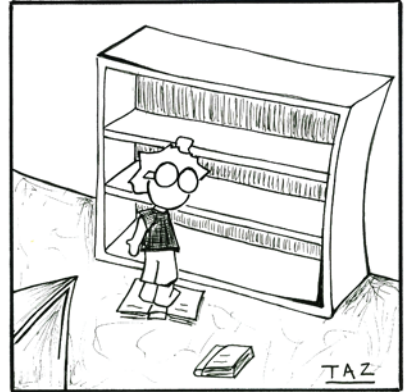
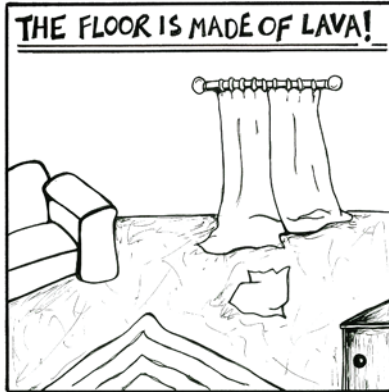
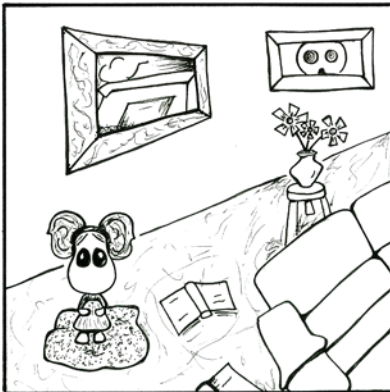


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TAZ



# A STRANGE PLACE

BY DAVID THOMAS

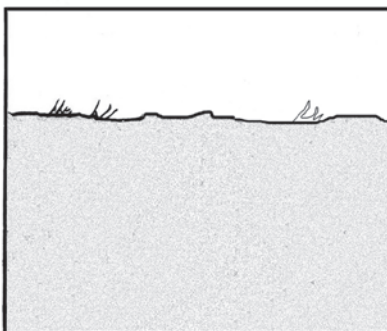
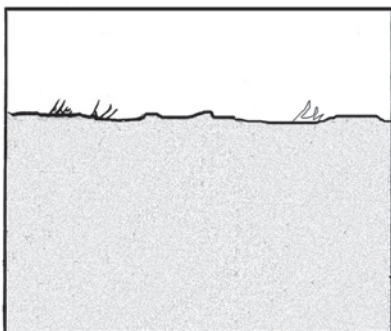
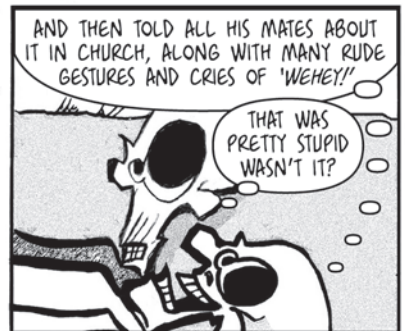
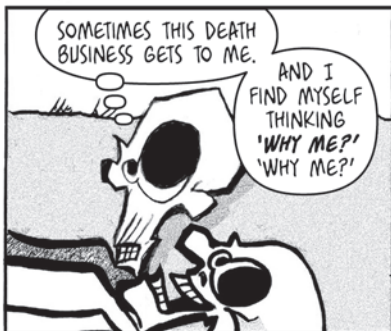
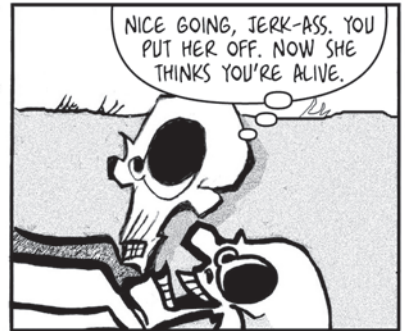
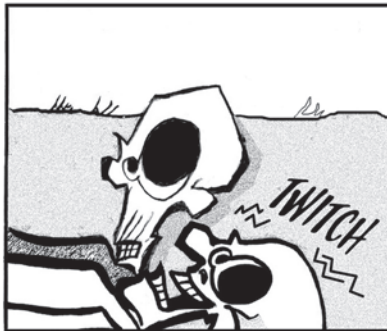
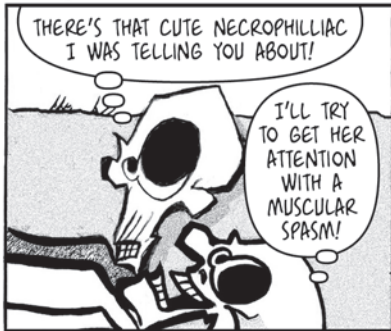
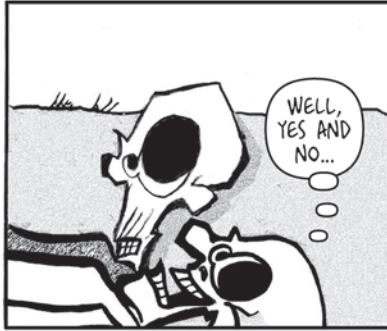


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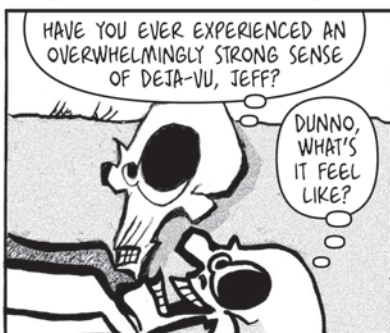
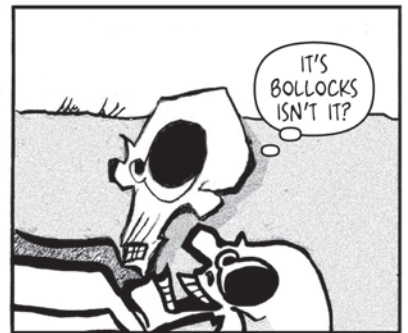
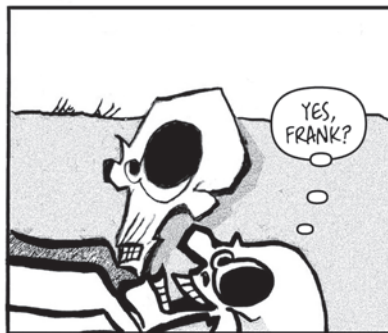
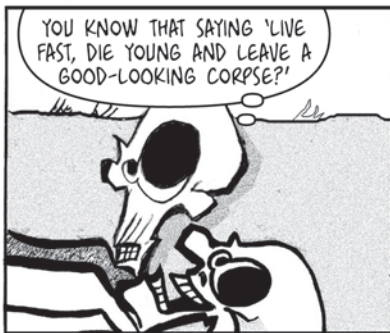
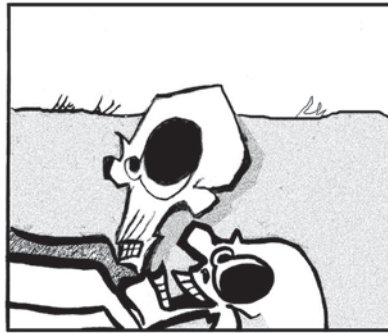
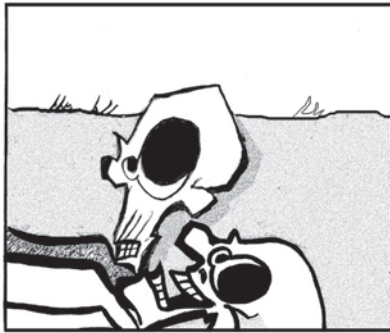
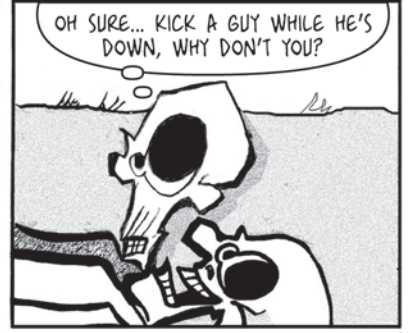
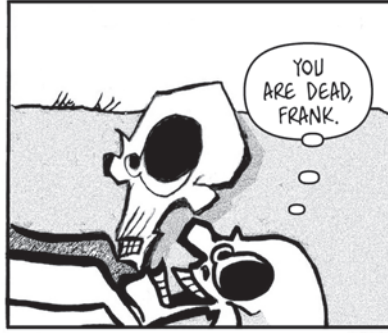
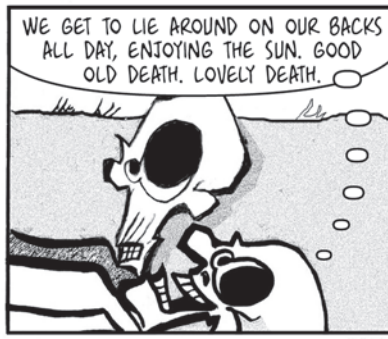
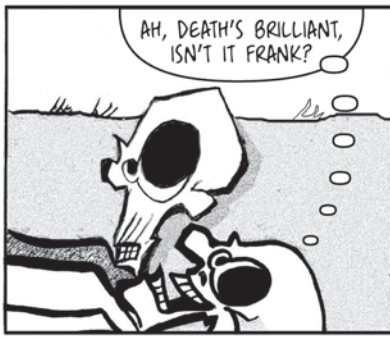


# WORMFOOD

(C) DAVID HAILWOOD

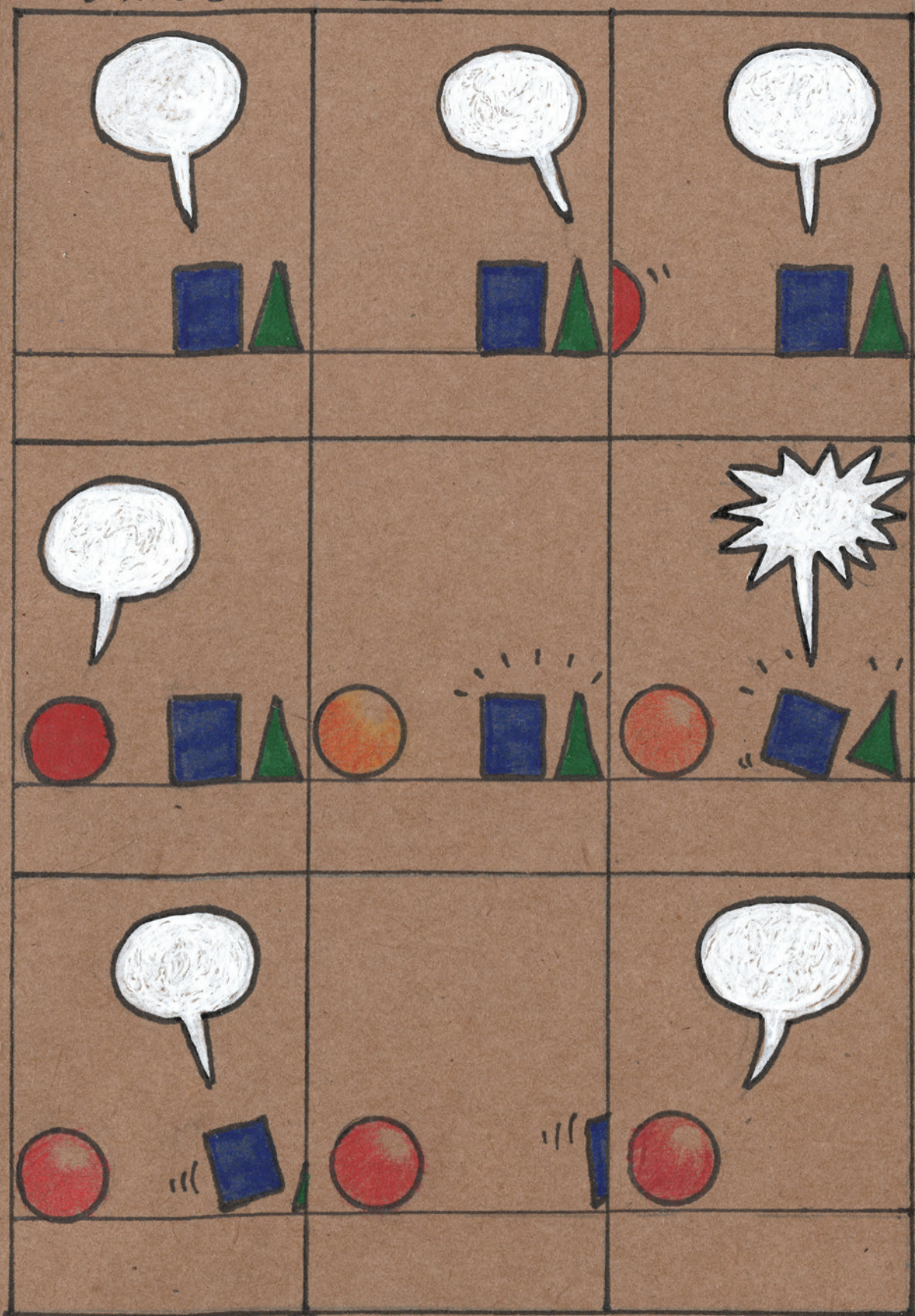








# IS THIS COMICS XVIII





*I'M NOT SCARED OF THE DARK...*



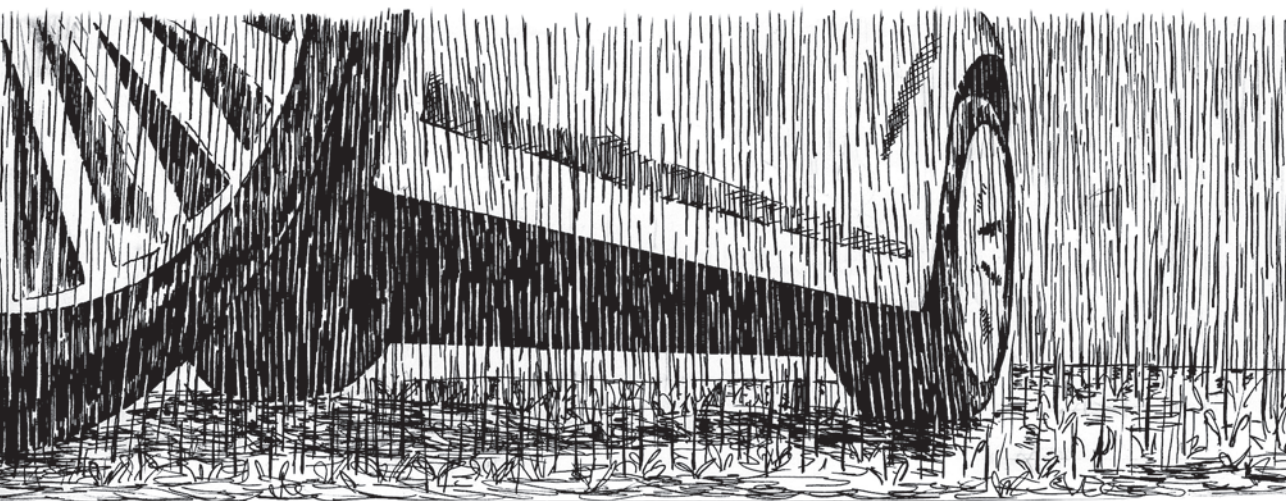
*I'M SCARED THAT THE DARK WILL NEVER END.*



There was electricity in the air that night, the gloom of the sky predisposed a storm brewing. I sat in the back seat of the taxi glancing out of the window at the passing scenery, fresh to the mind yet it held a familiarity.



Rain fell gracefully, gaining momentum until it was as heavy as hail.



I paid the driver and made my exit. Within seconds my coat was drenched.



I felt the cold in my bones as the rain seeped into my shoes saturating my socks.



If there is one thing which really gets me down it's having wet feet.



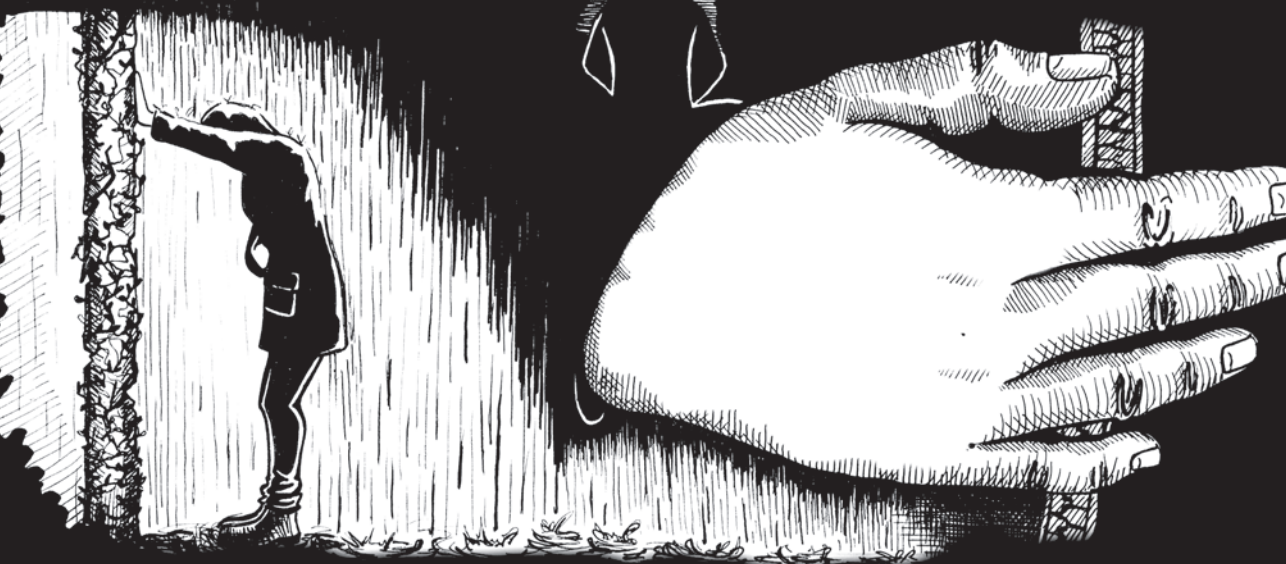


I decided it was not the time to be concerned with such exasperation, to woman up and focus. I had to keep reminding myself to concentrate on the task. This point had taken me a year to reach, all the time, all the lost sleep, to reach this moment. I had no idea what I was to meet when I entered, I just knew I needed to see what was behind that door. I was aware of the risk I was putting myself in. I had no experience in this field just an excessive curiosity and perhaps too much time on my hands.



I wondered how the house was still standing. I found myself questioning if anyone could find comfort in this decrepit shelter.

My mind kept drifting to the worst-case scenario. I wasn't sure if I was ready to stomach the reality of what could be behind the door.



I've never had a strong stomach and I felt myself retch with the thoughts drifting in and out of my mind.

Alas, the curiosity was still alive and I knew until I found answers I wouldn't have been able to let it lie. So I collected myself and with one hand on the door handle I counted myself in...



One...



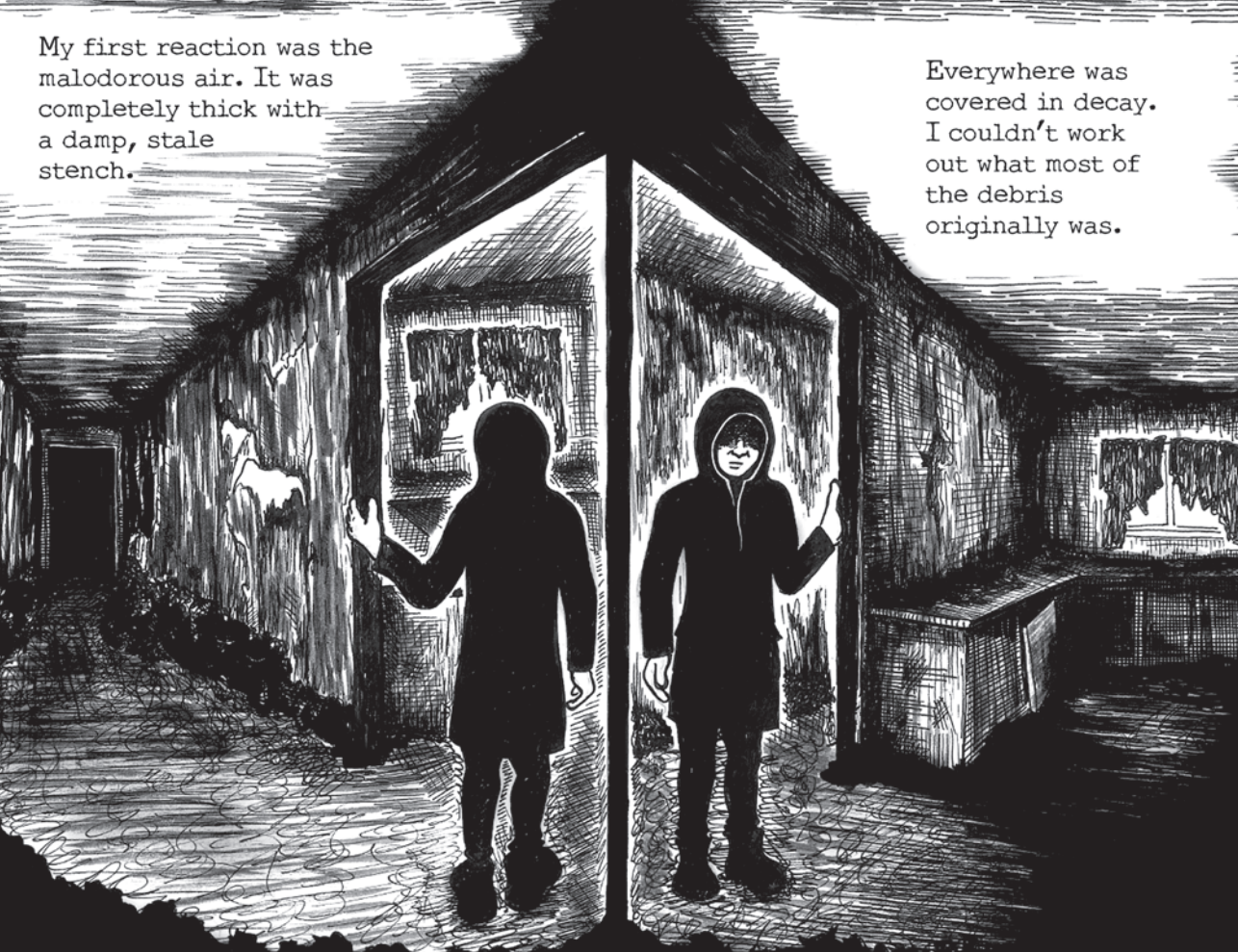
Two...



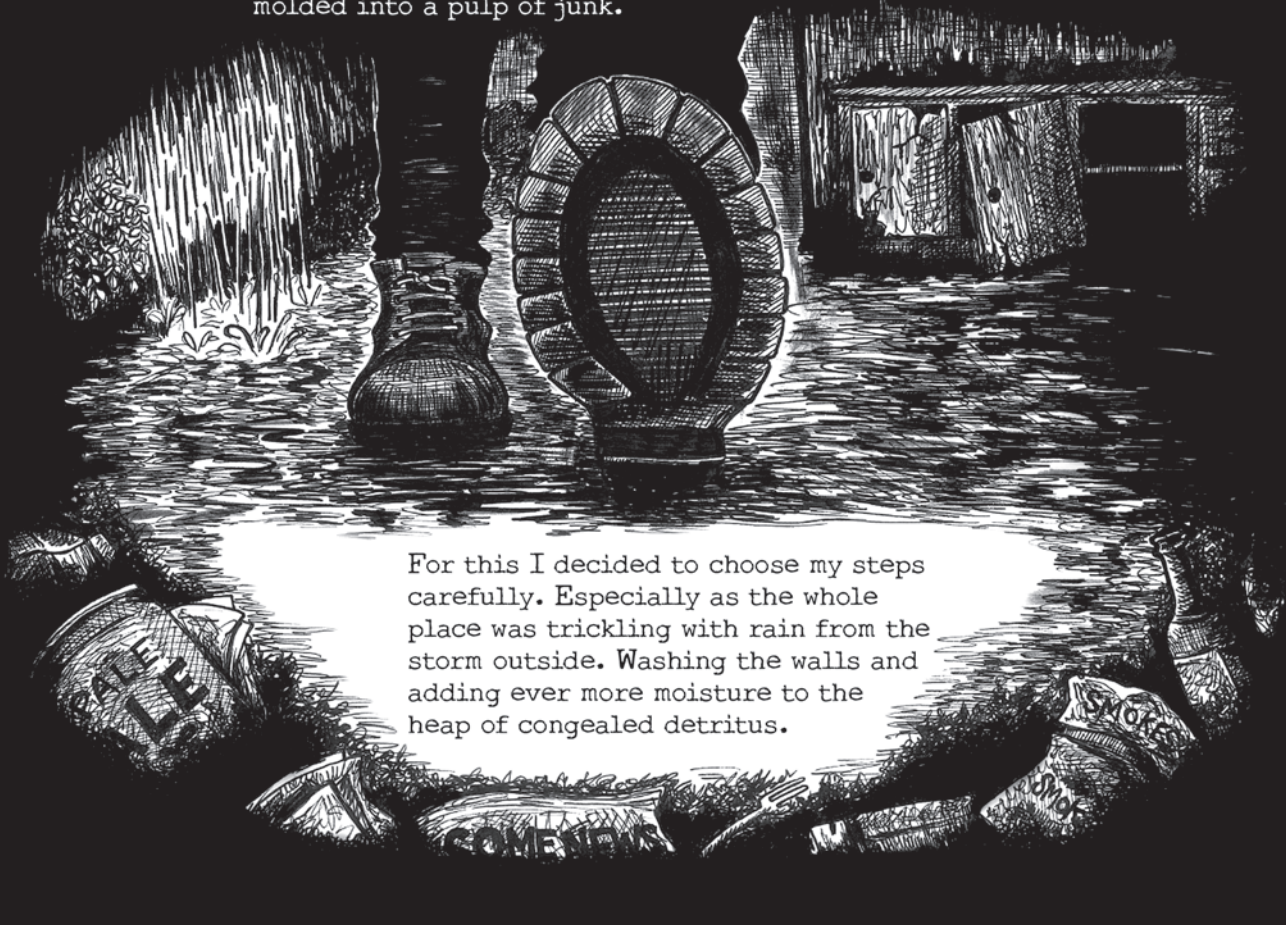


My first reaction was the malodorous air. It was completely thick with a damp, stale stench.

Everywhere was covered in decay. I couldn't work out what most of the debris originally was.



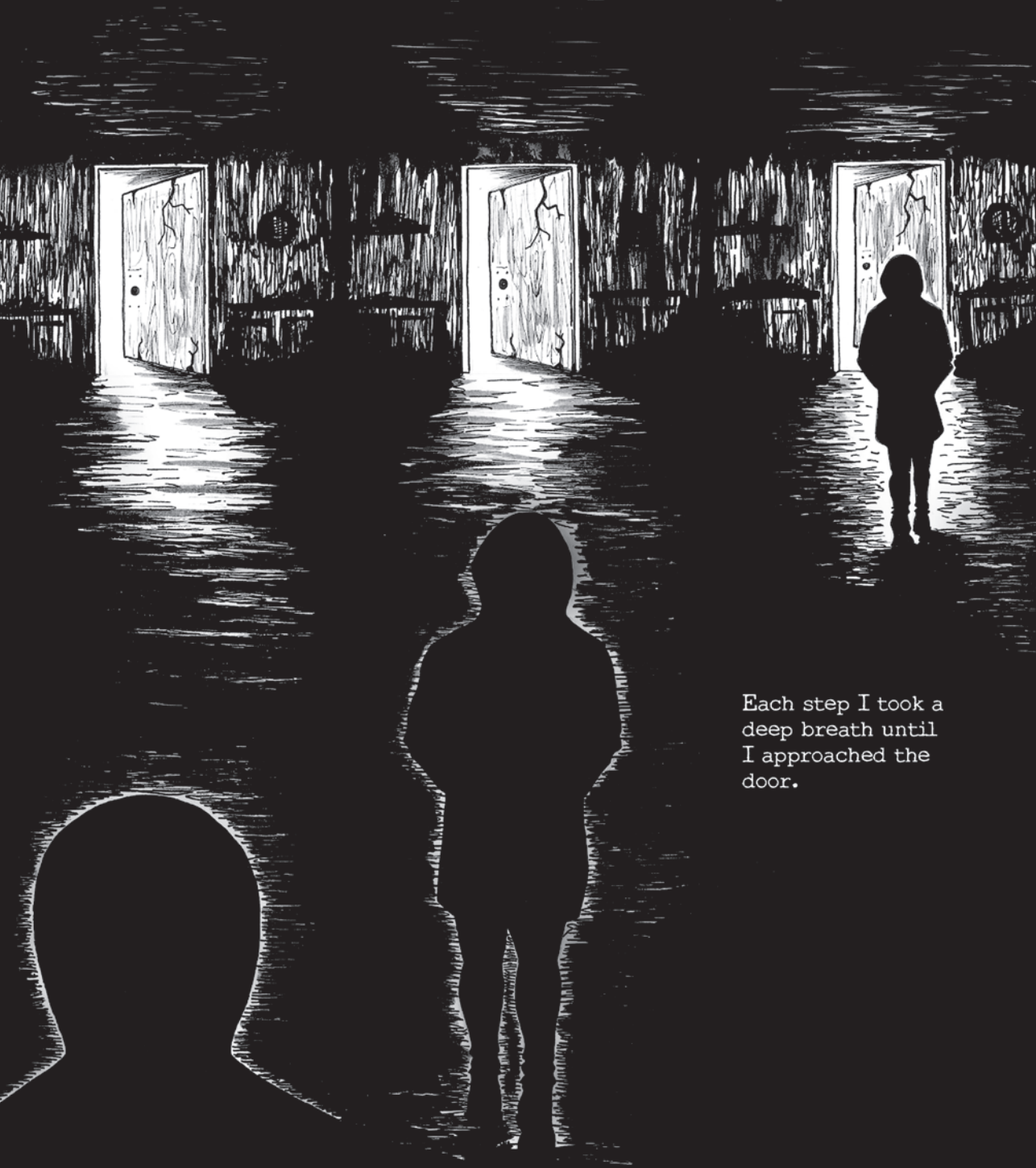
The years had taken their toll and it had all molded into a pulp of junk.



For this I decided to choose my steps carefully. Especially as the whole place was trickling with rain from the storm outside. Washing the walls and adding ever more moisture to the heap of congealed detritus.

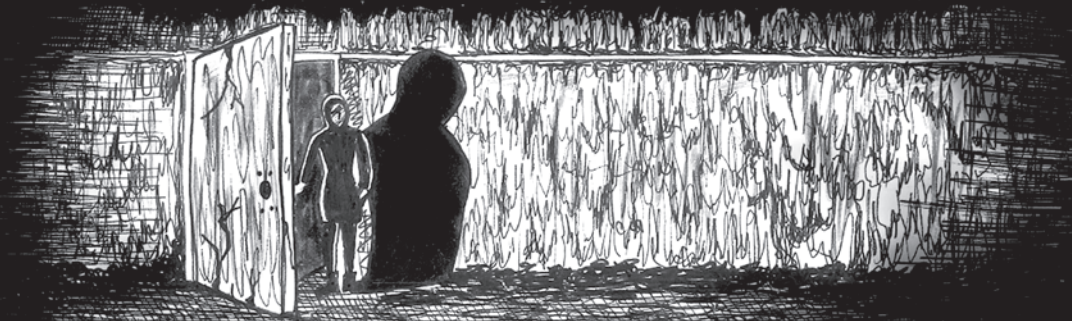


My heart stopped while I was grounded within the moment. It was as though the light was guiding me towards clarity and with it my legs felt the weight of anticipation.



Each step I took a deep breath until I approached the door.





When I entered the only sound that broke the silence of the room was a whistling draft.



But that was soon to change as a snap of a match igniting echoed through the space.

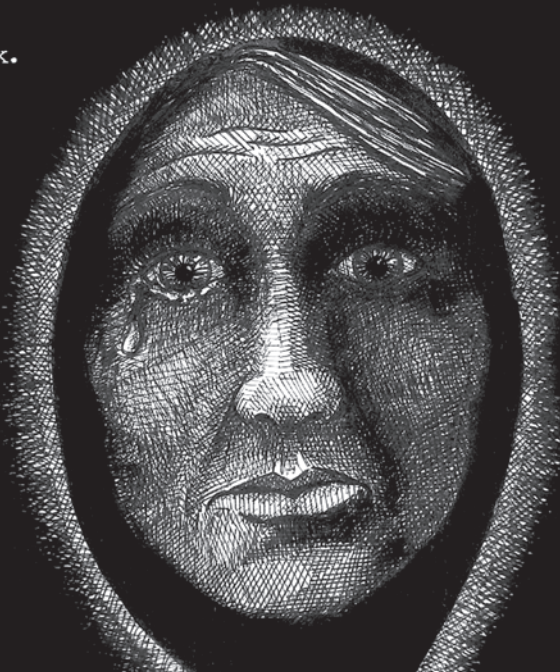


I felt myself cripple with anxiety as the intensity of the situation hit me.

A teardrop slid down  
and caressed my cheek.

The reality was I  
had no reason to  
be there and why  
I was there was  
still uncertain.

I followed a whim  
and at what risk  
I was to find out  
but as my courage  
found me I turned  
around to face  
the towering  
shadow.



After all, I had  
come so far and  
this could well  
be Farquhar.





# Farquhar

Part 1

To be continued...

Tara Lucy  
2017





# SMALL PRESS PREVIEW

## Buddha of New York

Hello, my name is Malek Hawkins and I am a comic book writer from New York, I am currently looking for an artist to work with me on a project that involves a story which features Buddhist mythology but in a modern, urban setting.

Ben and I have put together a small companion piece to set the scene.

### - Malek Hawkins

Put simply, this is a modern retelling of the origin story of Gautama Buddha. Its the story of a man, born into luxury, shut away from reality, who one day travels to the outside world, who witnesses first hand phenomena such as poverty, illness and death.

He then undergoes a period of deep contemplation, whereupon he is set upon by all manner of demons, perhaps they are of supernatural origin, perhaps they are manifestations of his own fears, negative forces. Finally, he thinks his way out.

In some ways this can be read as a myth, but for me it's very comparable to meeting the "black dog" of depression, or periods of anxiety, panic attacks etc.

I contacted Malek about maybe doing something together a while back. He's working on an action adventure story that mixes urban environments with Buddhist mythology and I just really liked the idea. It just stuck in my head.

Should Malek be successful in finding an artist, he intends to release the comic as a web periodical on the Omnicomics website:  
[www.omnicomics.net](http://www.omnicomics.net)

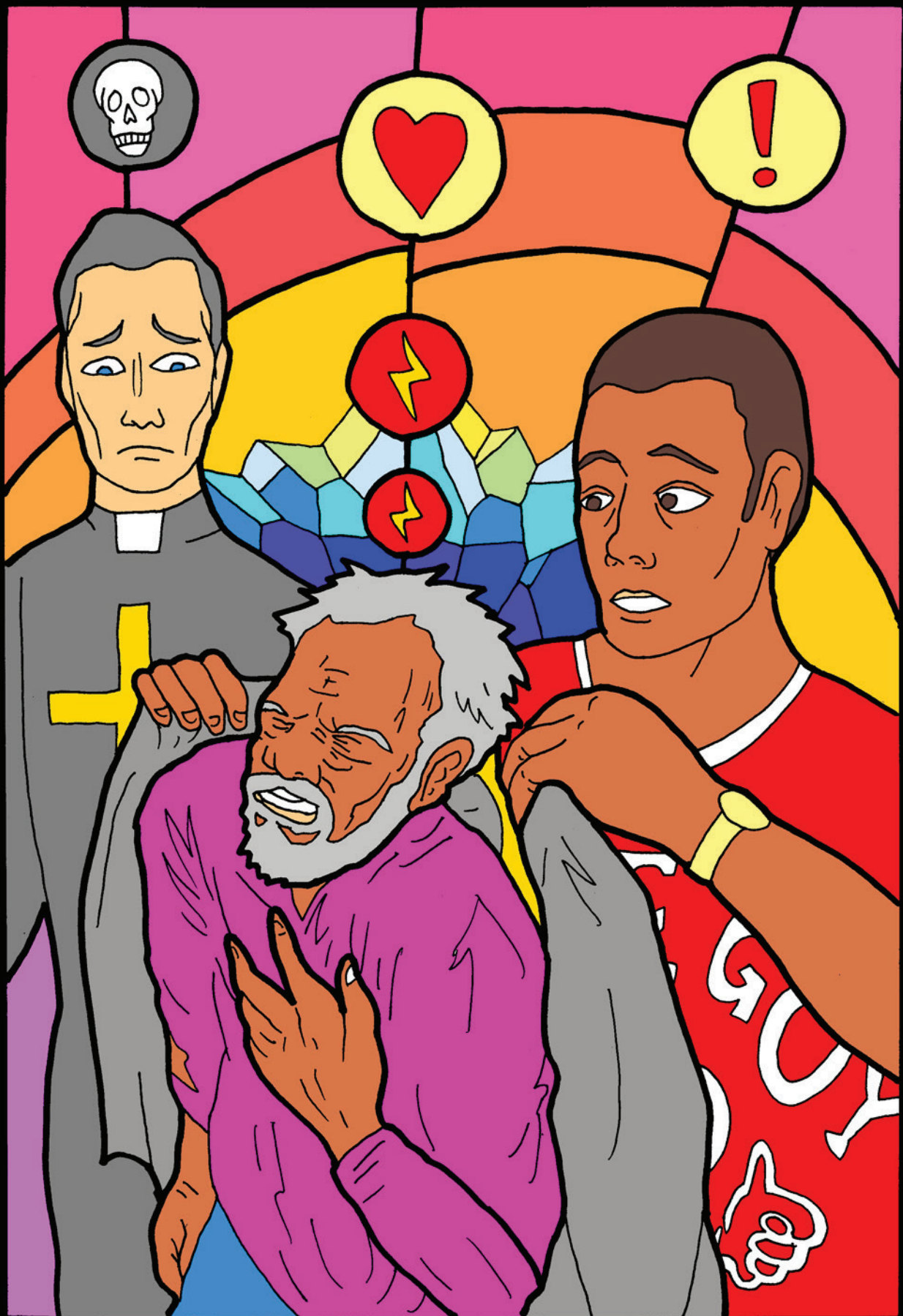
For me it stopped being a publicity stunt for a webcomic and became a little art project quite early on. Buddha in New York, how can you not love that?

### - Ben Peter Johnson























# THE WIFE RETURN.



MALEK  
HAWKINS

BP  
JOHNSON  
2017.



# 100% BIODEGRADABLE

**"The kind of smart script and stylish art that would feel right at home in the pages of the galaxy's greatest comic!" Alex Thomas, Pipedream Comics**

**100% Biodegradable is a quarterly digital sci-fi anthology, featuring strips by John Freeman, Jon Haward, Paul H. Birch, Jim Alexander, Neill Cameron, Dan Cornwell, Tony Suleri, Dave Thomson and many more!**

**Available on Drivethru here:  
<http://www.drivethrucomics.com/browse/pub/6130>**





**Jenny Brown**

ARTIST

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**Malek Hawkins**

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pennedguins.tumblr.com  
facebook.com/ThePennedGuins  
pennedguin.bigcartel.com

**Ben Peter Johnson**

CREATOR

[blythemporia.blogspot.co.uk](http://blythemporia.blogspot.co.uk)**Lukasz Kowalczuk**

CREATOR

[lukaskowalczuk.tumblr.com](http://lukaskowalczuk.tumblr.com)  
facebook.com/nienawidzeludzi666

**Tara Lucy**

CREATOR

Twitter: @drawingsbytaral  
drawingsbytaralucy.com  
facebook.com/drawingsbytaralucy  
[instagram.com/drawingsbytaralucy](https://www.instagram.com/drawingsbytaralucy)

**Simon Mackie**

CREATOR

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# SLICED

(QUARTERLY)

Are you a comic creator?

If you've enjoyed this issue, and like what we're all about, get involved. We are running an open submissions policy for future issues.

We're looking for '*slice of life*' stories told in experimental and innovative ways, this includes comics, narrative illustrations and infographics. We aren't interested in zombies, vampires, aliens or superheroes; there are plenty of comics that have those bases covered.

We want stories that communicate. They can be funny, serious, moving, thought provoking. You can do whatever you want, as long as it isn't offensive or inappropriate.

We put the spotlight on the narrative potential of comics. **HOW** the story is told is as important as **WHAT** it's about.

Writers, artists, or all-round creators are welcome. We're happy to make creative teams if necessary.

**[slicedquarterly.co.uk/submissions](http://slicedquarterly.co.uk/submissions)**

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