

HURTS
LIKE
A
MOTHER

3

A Cautionary Alphabet

JENNIFER WEISS

AND

LAUREN FRANKLIN

ILLUSTRATED BY KEN LAMUG

U.S. \$14.95 / CAN \$17.95

At last . . .

the book that truly feels your pain.

Whether you've had a kid for decades
or a few minutes, you know it can hurt—
physically, emotionally, and, let's just
say it: like a motherf*&^\$%!

A parody of Edward Gorey's classic

The Gashlycrumb Tinies,

this grown-up picture book takes
you on an A-Z journey through the
perils of modern parenting as twenty-six
moms succumb to hilarious and
horrific child-care-related fates.
Hurts Like a Mother will make you
laugh so you don't cry (or die).





Hurts Like a Mother

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A Cautionary Alphabet

Jennifer Weiss and Lauren Franklin

Illustrated by Ken Lamug

Doubleday

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First Edition

For Charles—my loving husband and best friend—who has been forced to hear more rhymes about mothers than should be required of any person, and for my fabulous daughters, who provided absolutely no data for this book. I adore you all completely and wouldn't have it any other way.

—L.F.

For Leonard—my soul- and writing-mate—who, when reading this book, laughed in all the right places, and for Anya and Felix, who thankfully served as only minor inspiration for the contents herein. Without all of your abiding love and support, I might have been a casualty, too.

—J.W.

And for our own mothers—Andy and Olga—for whom we have even greater appreciation than before.

Hurts Like a Mother

A large, stylized, pink letter 'A' serves as a background for the text. It is a simple, bold outline with a slight shadow effect.

Amy overdid the Pinot
at the Parent Potluck

PARENT POTLUCK




A large, stylized, pink letter 'B' serves as a background for the text.

Brenda was concave from
a postpartum nip/tuck

SURGERY IN A JIFFY





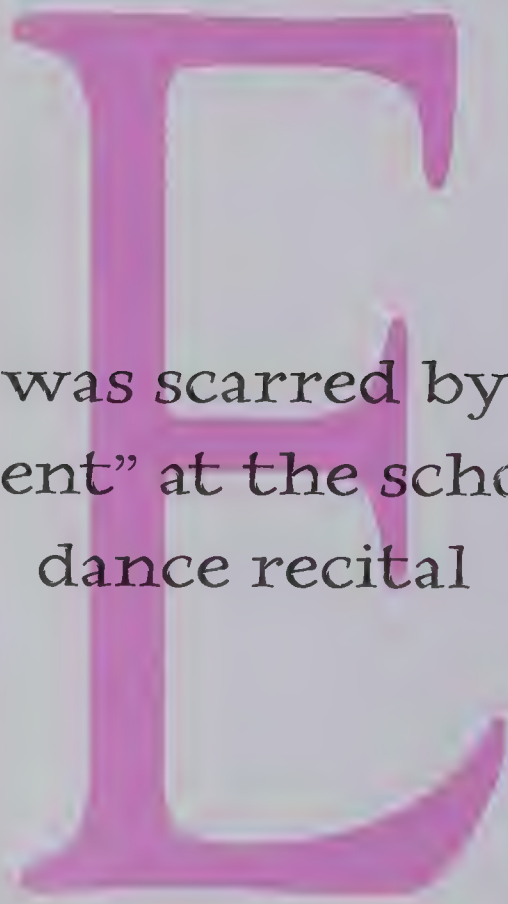
Claire was iced out-
her snacks weren't organic



A large, stylized, pink letter 'D' serves as a background for the text.

Coordinating car pools
made Dee pop a Xanax



A large, stylized, pink letter 'E' serves as a background for the text. It has a classic serif font style with a slightly distressed or hand-painted appearance.

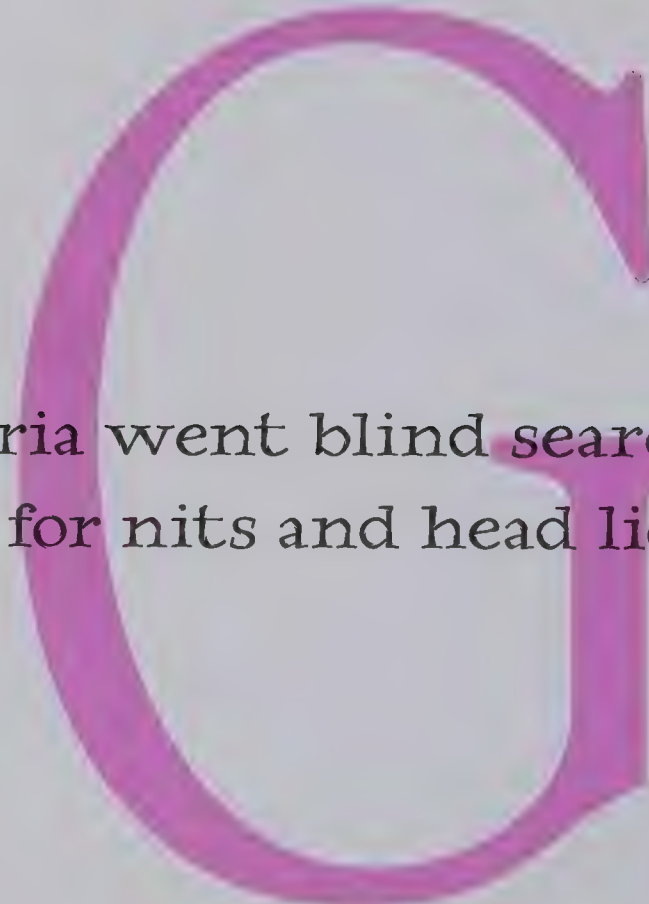
Eve was scarred by the
“talent” at the school’s
dance recital



A large, stylized, pink letter 'F' serves as a background for the text. It is a simple, bold font with a slight shadow effect.


Her daughter's attitude
made Fran near homicidal



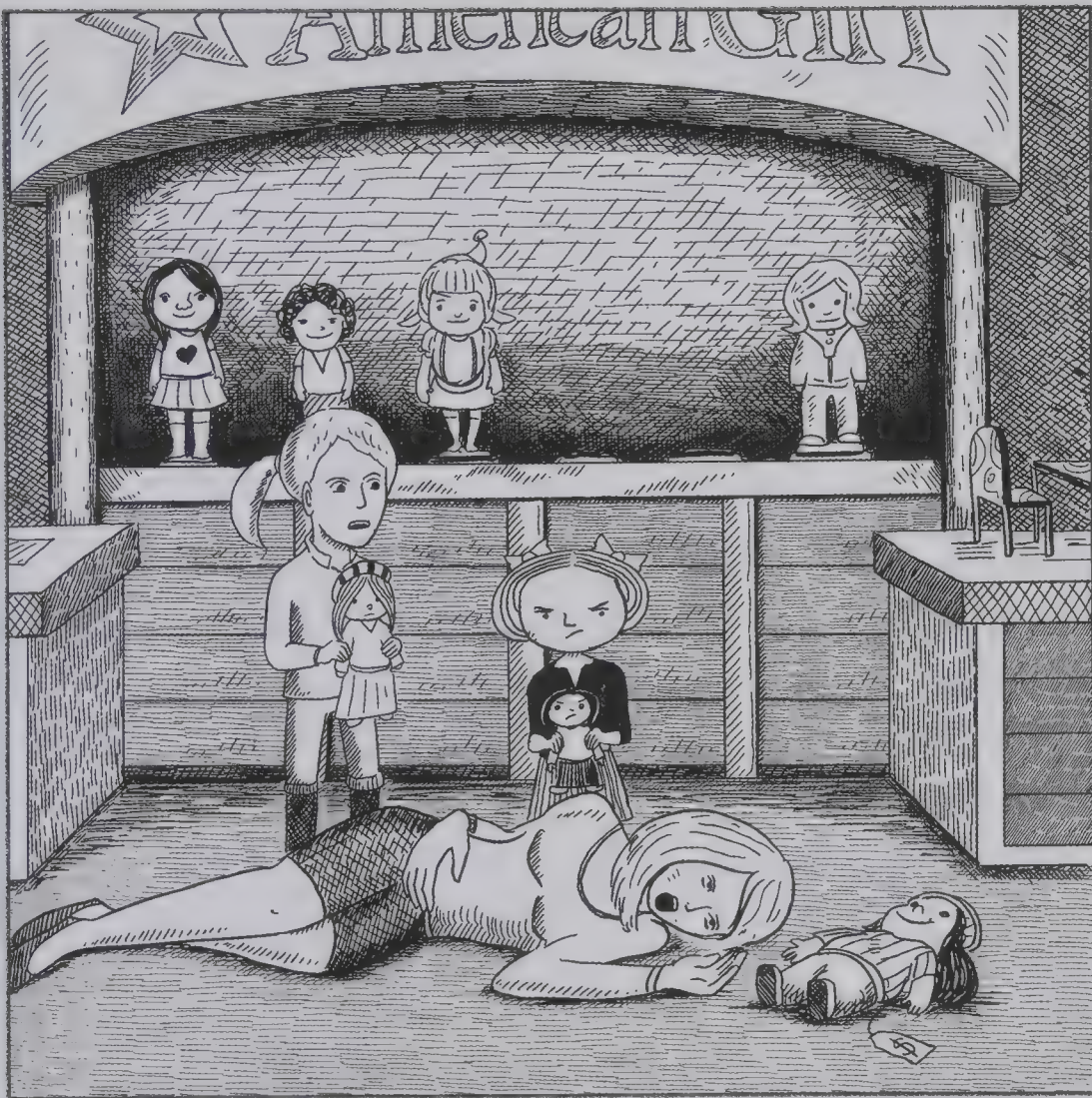
A large, stylized, pink letter 'G' serves as a background for the text. It is a simple, bold outline with a small hook at the top right.

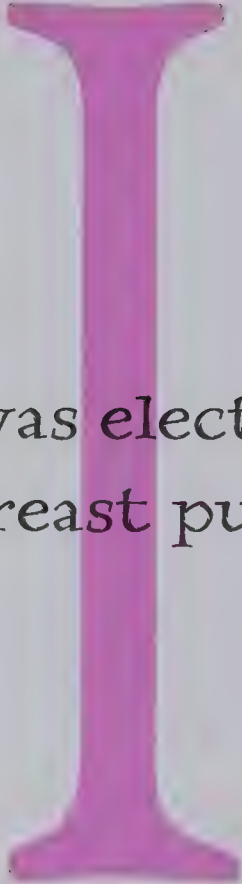
Gloria went blind searching
for nits and head lice



A large, stylized, pink letter 'H' serves as a background for the text. It has a classic serif font style with a horizontal crossbar and two vertical stems that flare slightly at the top and bottom.

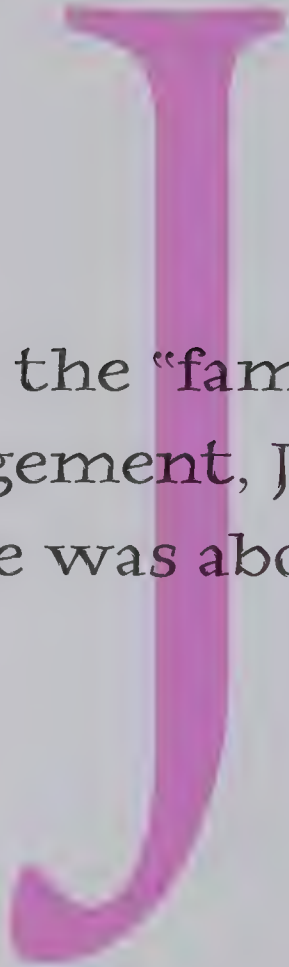
Helen blacked out, eyeing
the American Girl's price






Ingrid was electrocuted
when her breast pump shorted



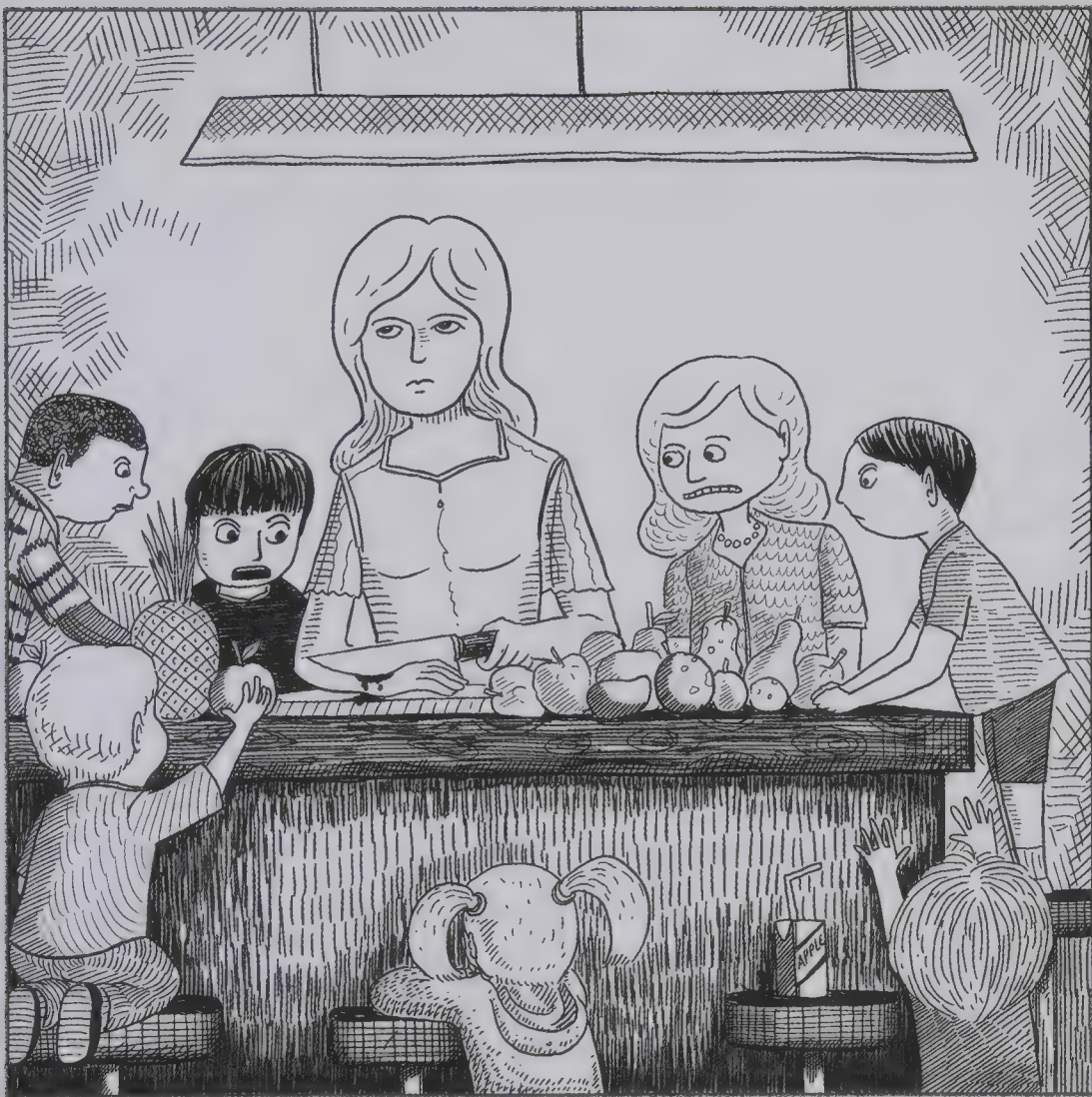
A large, stylized, pink letter 'J' is positioned vertically in the center of the image, serving as a background for the text.

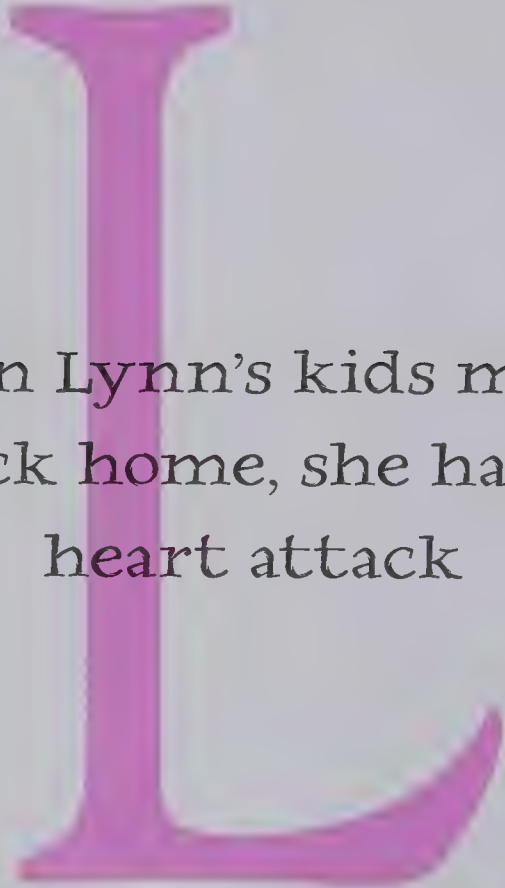
With the “family bed”
arrangement, Jane’s sex
life was aborted



A large, stylized, pink letter 'K' serves as a background for the text. It is a serif font, with a thick vertical stem and two diagonal strokes that branch out from the middle. The letter is centered on the page.

Kelly slit her wrists
chopping apples for a snack



A large, stylized, pink letter 'L' is positioned vertically in the background of the slide. The text is centered over the letter.

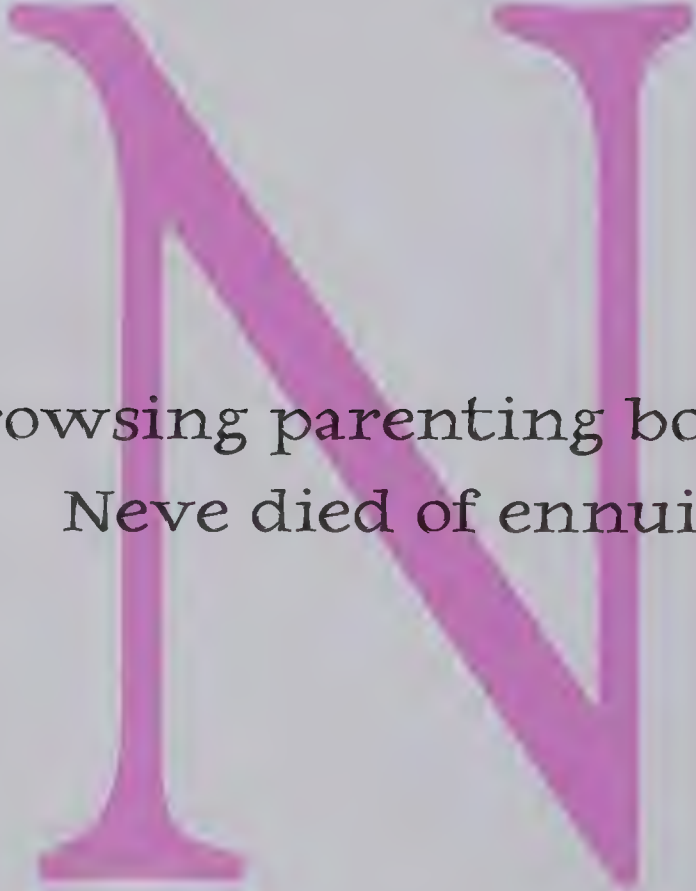
When Lynn's kids moved
back home, she had a
heart attack



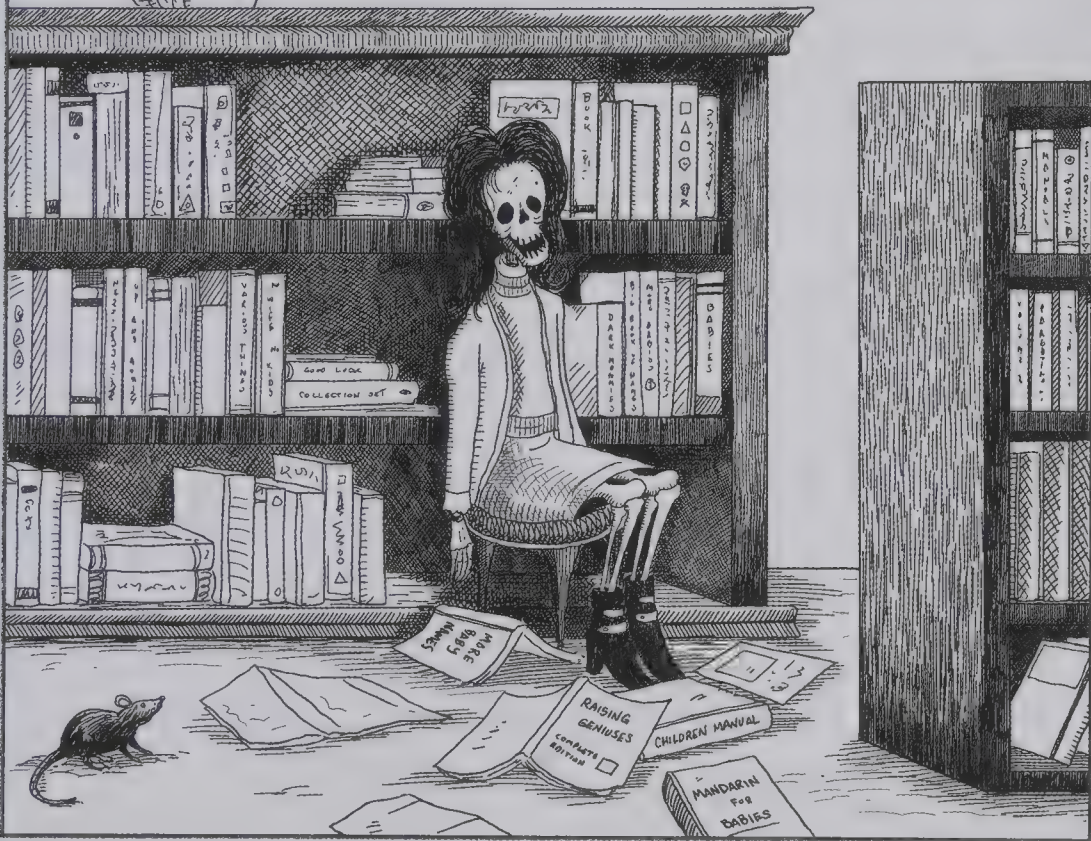
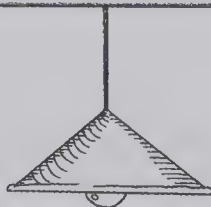
A large, solid pink letter 'M' serves as a background for the text.

An abundance of snow
days deflated Mary's esprit



A large, stylized, pink letter 'N' serves as a background for the text. It is a simple, bold outline with a slight shadow effect.

Browsing parenting books,
Neve died of ennui






Olive got carpal tunnel
typing preschool applications



A large, stylized, pink letter 'P' serves as a background for the text.

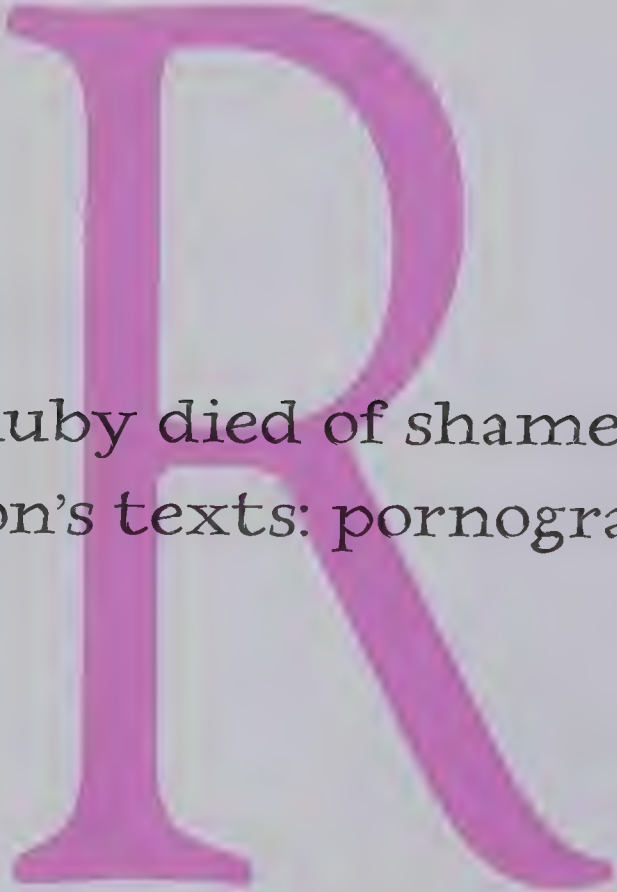
Paula broke down during
sex ed conversations





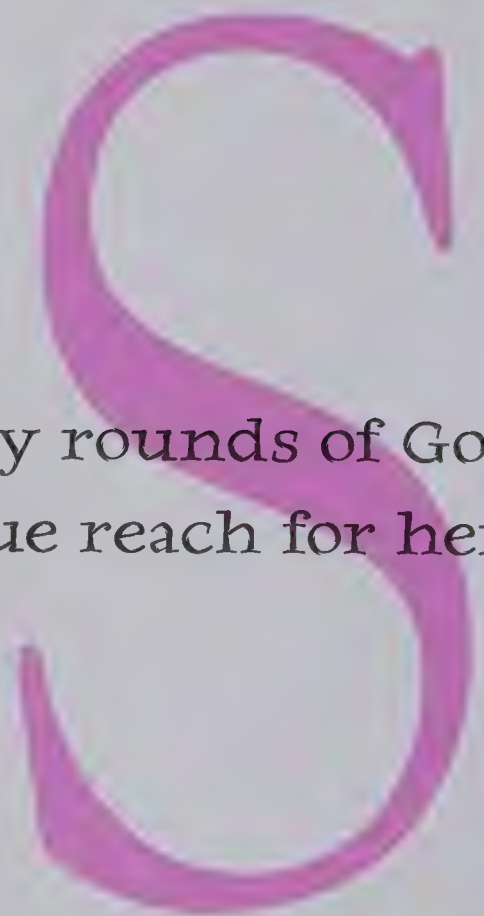
Queenie was flattened
running into heavy traffic



A large, stylized, pink letter 'R' serves as a background for the text.

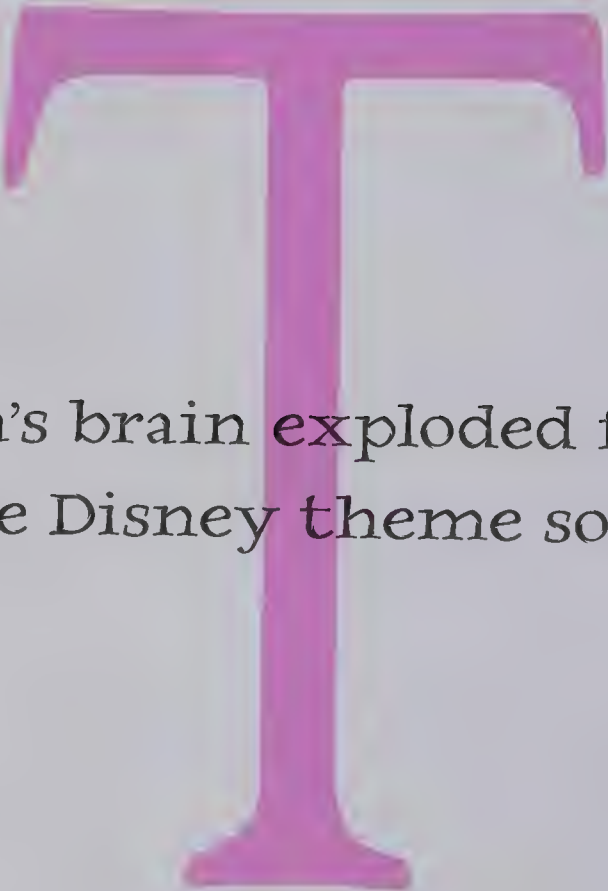
Ruby died of shame-
her son's texts: pornographic!





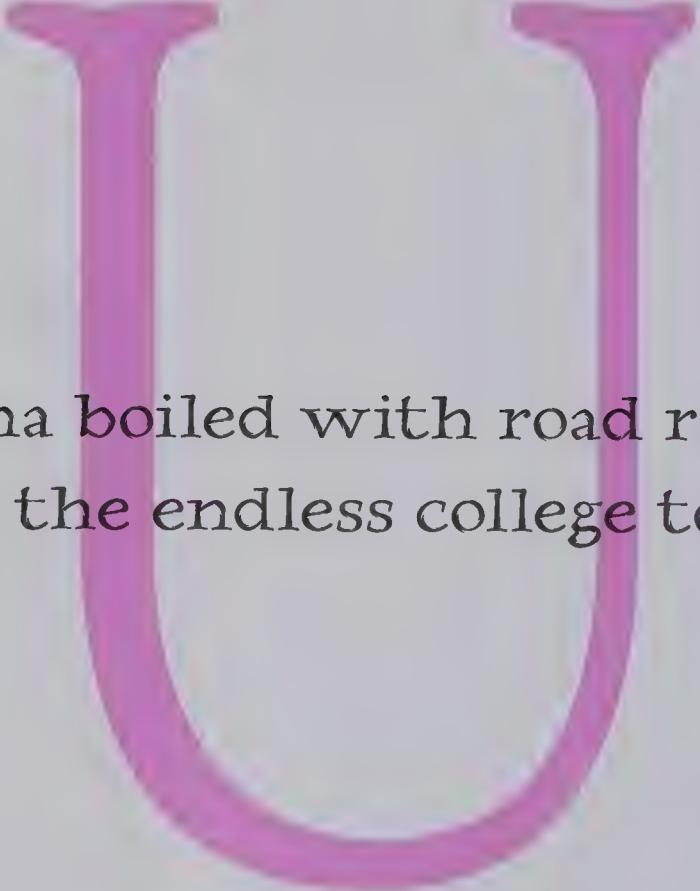
Forty rounds of Go Fish
had Sue reach for her bong






Tessa's brain exploded from
the Disney theme song



A large, stylized, pink letter 'U' that serves as a background for the text.

Una boiled with road rage
on the endless college tour



A large, stylized, pink letter 'V' is centered on the page. It has a soft, slightly blurred appearance, giving it a gentle, artistic feel. The letter is the primary visual element, framing the text within it.

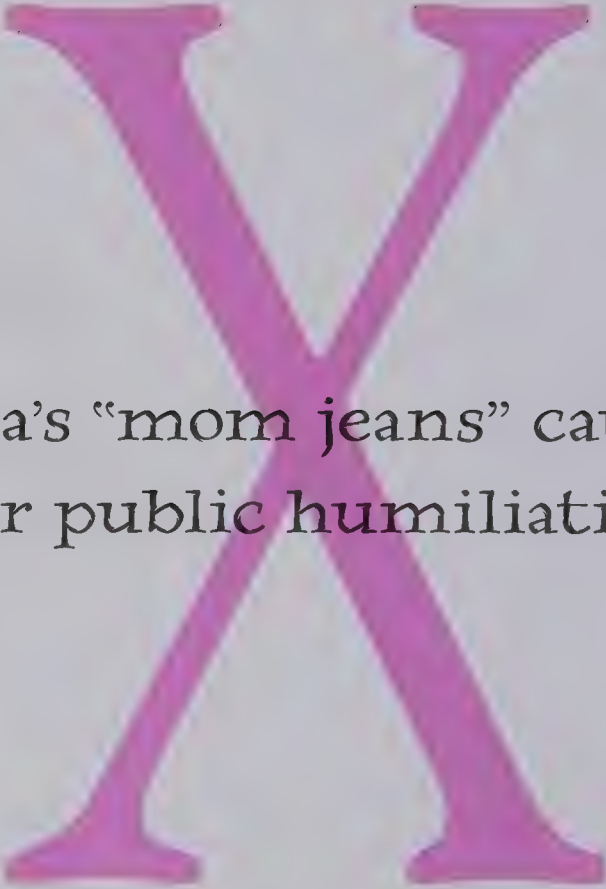
The formidable Tiger Moms
made Vera insecure



A large, stylized, pink letter 'W' serves as a background for the text. The letter is composed of four vertical strokes, with the first and third strokes being slightly thicker than the second and fourth. The letter is centered on the page and has a soft, slightly blurred appearance.

Inflating the pool toys led
to Wynne's asphyxiation





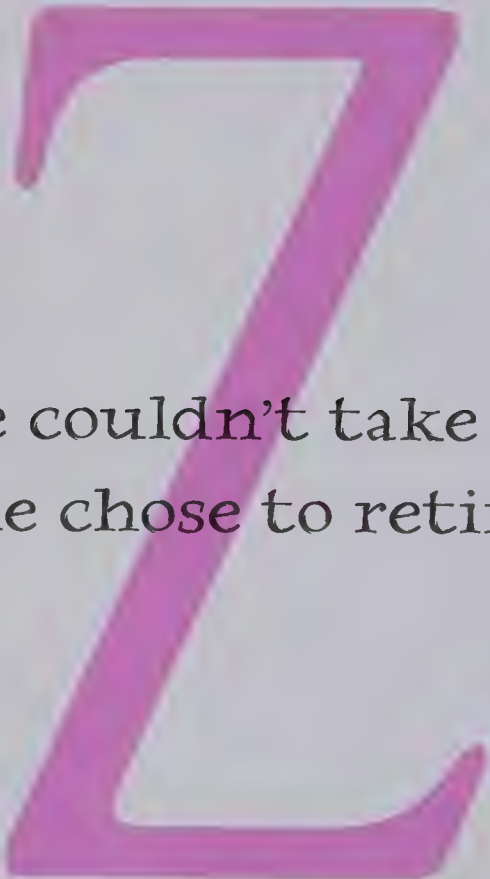
Xena's "mom jeans" caused
her public humiliation



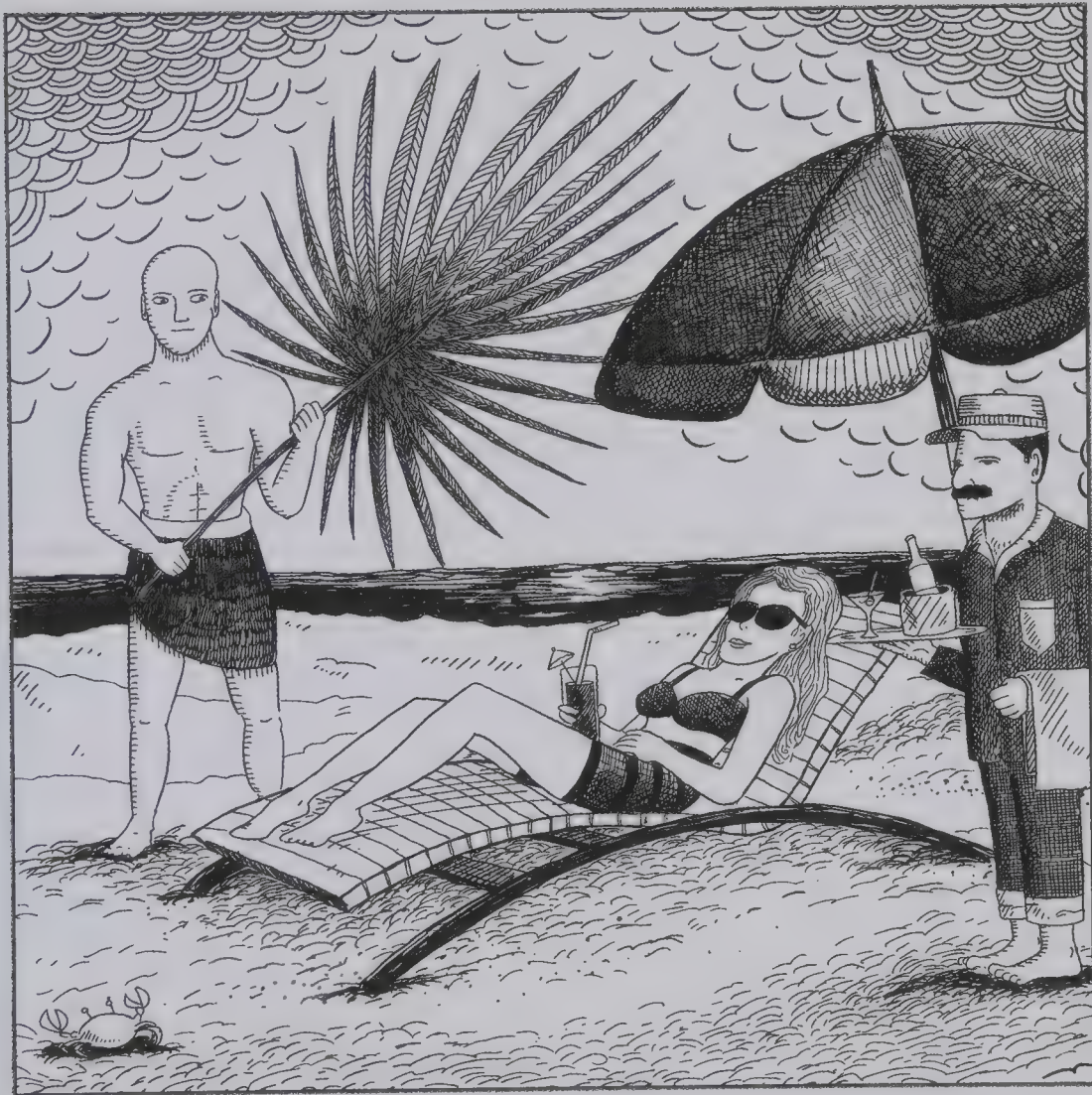
A large, stylized, pink letter 'Y' serves as a background for the text. It is a simple, bold font with a slight shadow effect.

Yvette burned to a crisp
toasting s'mores on the fire



A large, stylized, pink letter 'Z' is positioned vertically in the background of the page.

Zoe couldn't take it-
she chose to retire



About the Authors

JENNIFER WEISS consults for nonprofits on public health policy, advocacy, and education and is the coauthor of *Brooklyn by Name: How the Neighborhoods, Streets, Parks, Bridges, and More Got Their Names* and *Citizen-in-Chief: The Second Lives of the American Presidents*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.

LAUREN FRANKLIN lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and two children.

Weiss and Franklin have been sharing dark humor for more than twenty-five years. Beyond their writing collaboration, they cofounded babyPolitico, a children's clothing company.

About the Illustrator

KEN LAMUG works on both comic and picture books in addition to being a filmmaker and photographer. He has won the Moonbeam Children's Book Award, National Indie Excellence Award, Literary Classics Children's Book Award for Preschool, and Pinnacle Book Achievement Award for his illustrations. When not creating stories, he spends time with his wife and three rabble-rousing boys. You can find more of his work at www.rabbleboy.com or on Twitter: @rabbleboy.





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