

HARK! A VAGRANT



KATE BEATON





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BEA

HARK! A VAGRANT

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Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication: Beaton, Kate, 1983–. *Hark! A Vagrant* / Kate Beaton. ISBN 978-1-77046-060-7. I. Title. PN6733.B42H37 2011 741.5'971 C2011-901768-7.

Drawn & Quarterly acknowledges the financial contribution of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Canada Council for the Arts for our publishing activities and for support of this edition.

Published in the USA by Drawn & Quarterly, a client publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Orders: 888.330.8477. Published in the Canada by Drawn & Quarterly, a client publisher of Raincoast Books. Orders: 800.663.5714

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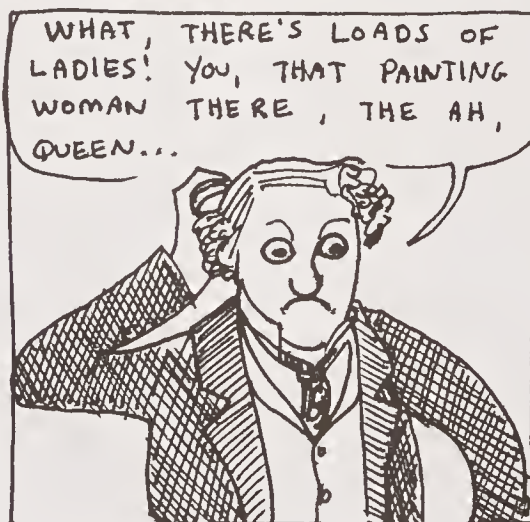
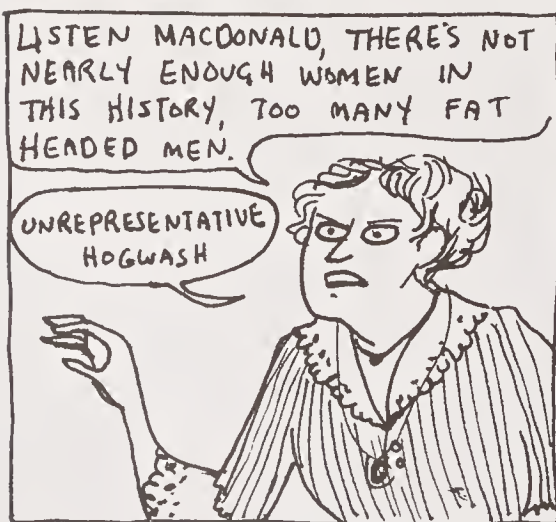
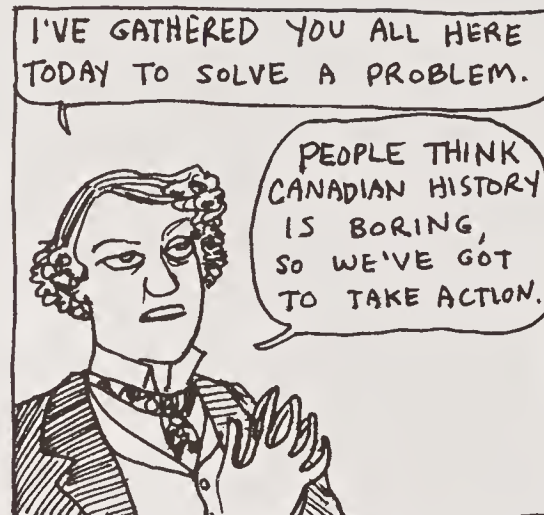
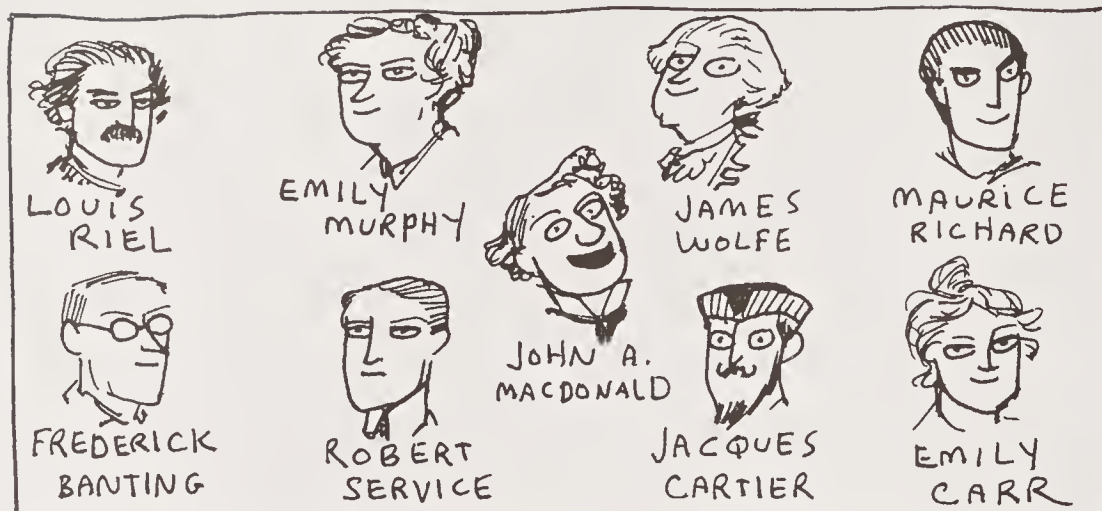
Let me take a minute to dedicate this book to my parents, because it's the right thing to do with your first book, and no one deserves it better. Some time ago I packed my history degree into a suitcase and said goodbye to the world of working in museums for low pay and limited opportunity, and said hello to the world of being a cartoonist, which, as we all know, is lucrative and glamorous. I had been drawing comics since university, when I would put off essays for history classes to draw comics for the student paper. Not that I didn't enjoy my classes, rather the opposite, but you and I both know that there are always better things to be doing than writing an essay that's due by the end of the week. It turned out, to my great luck, that what I really had a knack for was putting the two together—history and comics. That's what started all this, in any case. I think comics about topics like history or literature can be amazing educational tools, even at their silliest. So if you learn or look up a thing or two after reading these comics, and you've enjoyed them, then I will be more than pleased! If you're just in it for the silly stuff, then there is plenty of that to go around, too. While I have the chance, I want to thank a few people. First, the authors whose work I read—whether it was a novel to be parodied, historical research, a comic book, or any number of things. I am forever in debt to those who have inspired, educated, and entertained me, and given life to my comics. Secondly, thanks to everyone who has supported me in this from the beginning—you friends, you family, you readers. You know, the thing that keeps you doing a job like this is the idea that there is someone out there who is actually going to like what you're making, and I can't believe I'm fortunate enough to have fantastic people who enjoy the loony pictures I like to draw. I'll keep it up for as long as I can, or until the museum world calls and begs to have me back...and they have a dental plan.

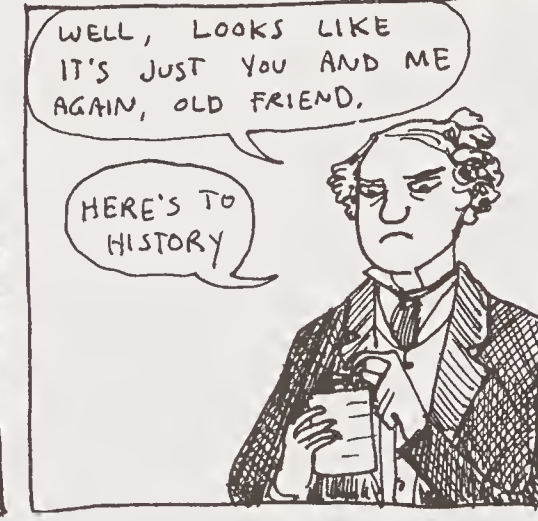
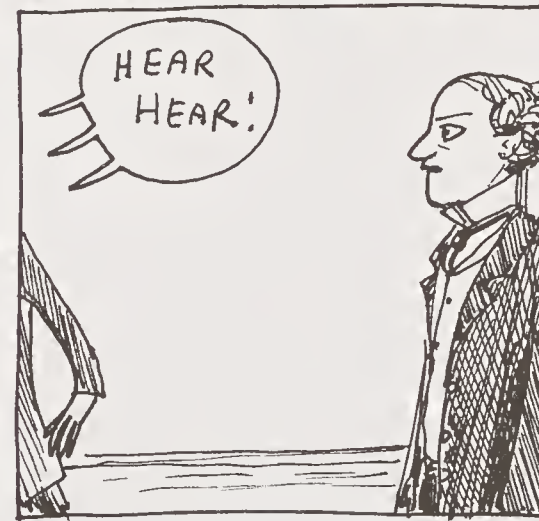
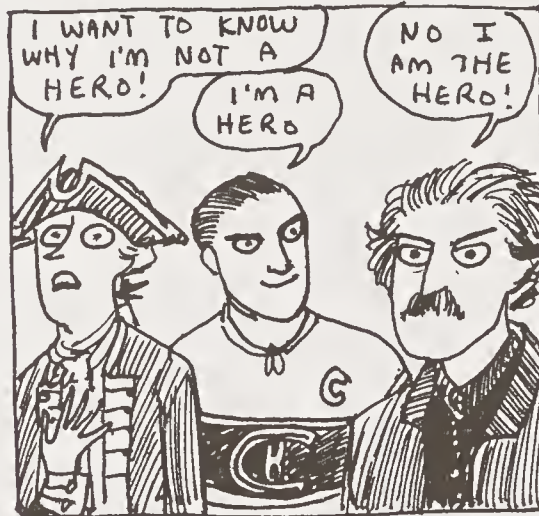
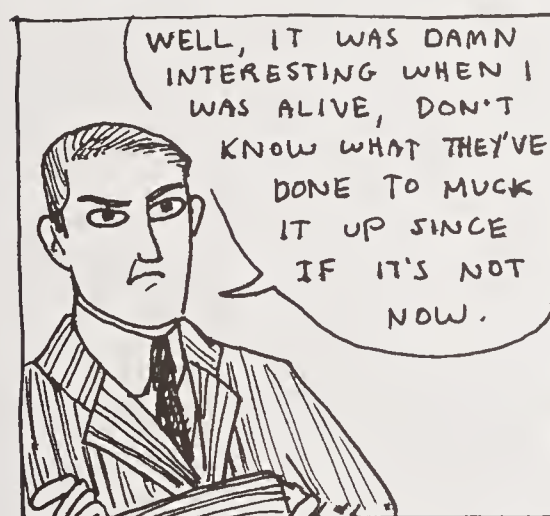
GET ME OFF THIS FREAKING MOOR



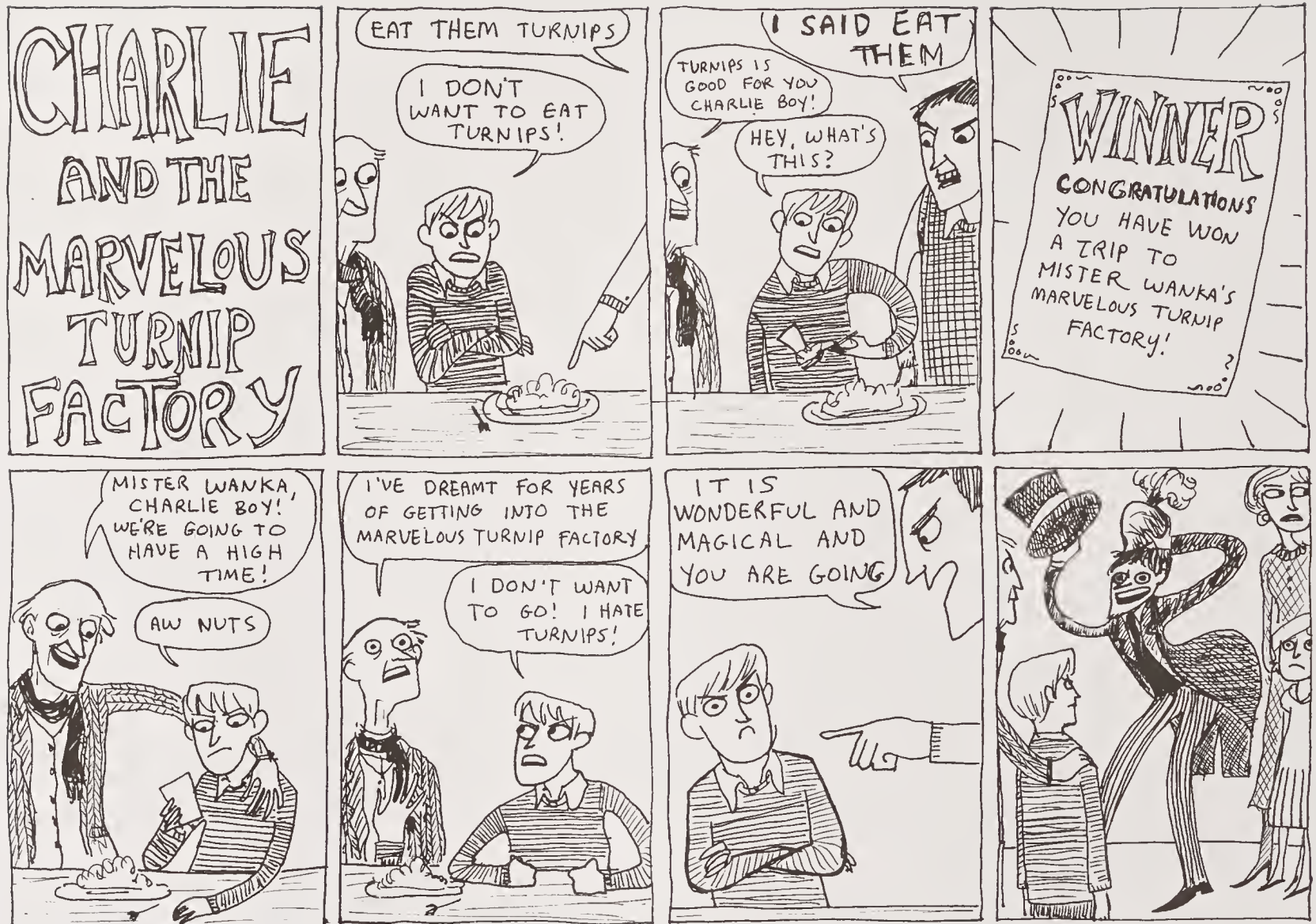
Anne, why are you writing books about how alcoholic losers ruin people's lives? Don't you see that romanticizing douchey behavior is the proper literary convention in this family! *Honestly*. Losers who ruin people's lives are who we want to dream about at night.

A HISTORY DEBATE





A MAGICAL DAY



My father is an excellent gardener and can grow enough vegetables to keep us fed all through the winter. Turnips are amazing because they are root vegetables, so if you pick them and put them in soil in the cellar, they last for ages and ages. For more information about turnips, see every day of my childhood.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY MAY NOT APPROVE



If Susan B. Anthony were on *Sex and the City*, do you think she would be a Carrie, a Miranda, a Charlotte, or a Samantha? Definitely a Samantha.

JUST DON'T FLY DURING RED APRIL



In WWI, pilots were the cool new thing. So exciting! Flying aces! Nothing like that had ever existed before. That's why people like Billy Bishop could become a star and inspire all the young bros to sign up. The only real drawback was that for 99 percent of new recruits, an engine would blow up in their faces two minutes after taking off for the first time. Beyond that, it's a great life. Just don't fly during Red April, boys.

TEAM BOLIVAR



Sucre was Bolívar's right hand man for sure (matching hairdos and everything), but I think he had a much different approach to leadership. I really wonder how different the outcome of the Spanish American Wars of Independence would have been if Sucre hadn't been assassinated just as he was poised to become Bolívar's obvious successor. I wish I had something funny to say now.

PEARY I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS



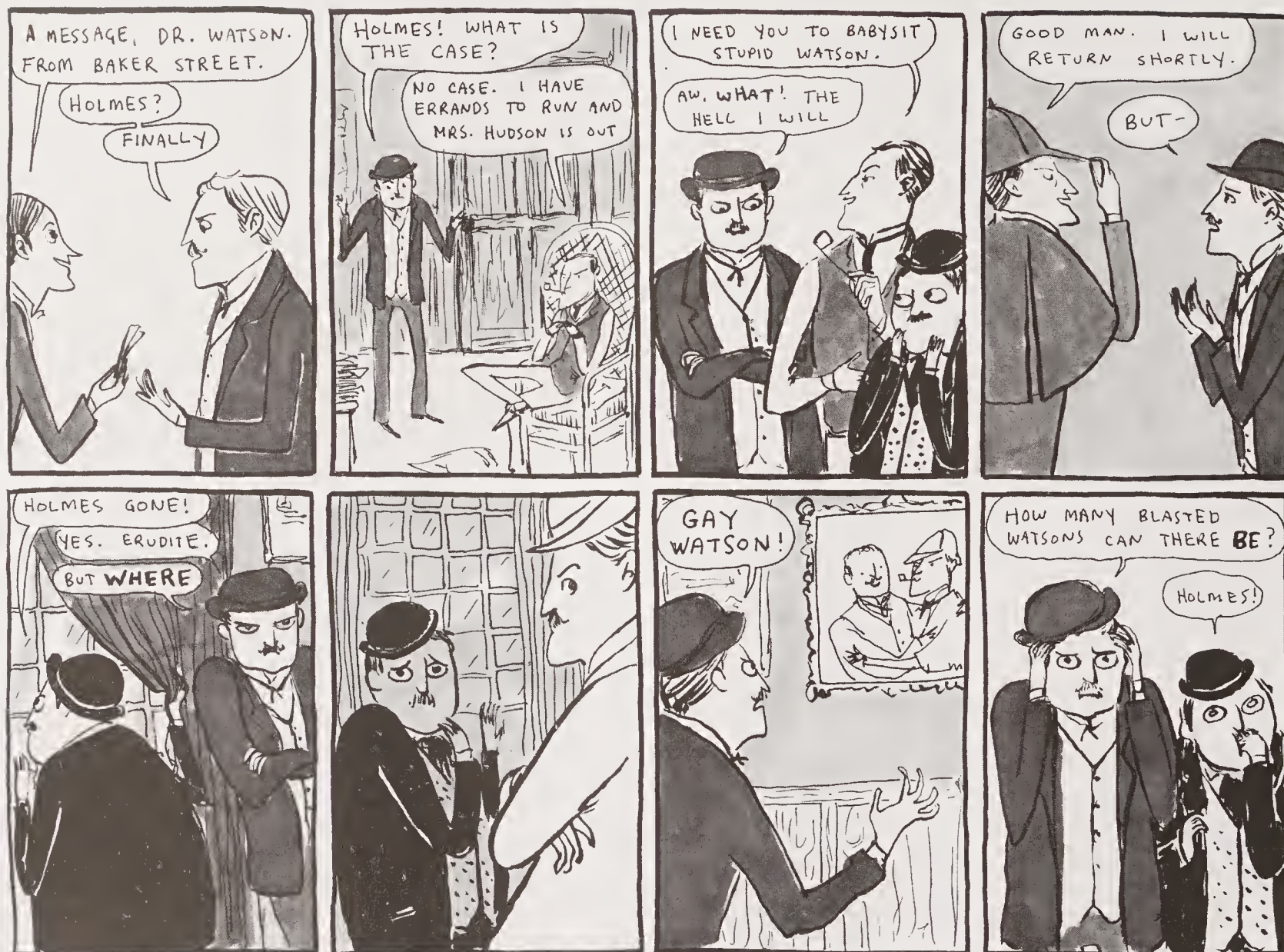
Peary got himself some frostbitten feet and someone else drove that sled and *that is that*. Now, these two weren't Canadian, but it is always interesting to note that at the very same time that Canadian immigration was insisting that black people couldn't handle the cold, a black man was the first non-native person to set foot on the North Pole. Don't you love it when the irony is that good? Matthew Henson gets his due these days; it only took a century or something. A nod to Ootah, Egingwah, Seegloo, and Ooqueah as well.

WATSON I MISS YOU



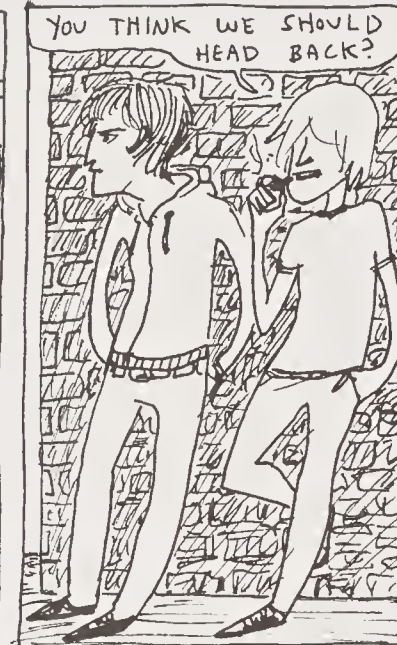
Poor Doctor Watson gets a bad hand in a lot of on-screen portrayals and parodies, and more than a few people have a mental image of him as a fat old dodderer. Unfair! We all look kind of stupid next to Sherlock Holmes, but come on.

ANOTHER CASE OF WATSONS



Here's the thing about a homosexual relationship between Holmes and Watson: you are never going to prove it. It just isn't in the books, explicitly. It would be rad if it were, but it's not, so now we are going to have arguments with no end because, maybe maybe maybe maybe. Eventually the idea that these two were hookin' up between the pages gets so popular that people who never read the books will argue, "Yeah man, of course they were!" That's popular culture for you! It's interesting. Between you and me, I much prefer Gay Watson to Stupid Watson (I mean, obviously). What Watson does in his spare time is his business. Now solve me some damn crimes, boys!

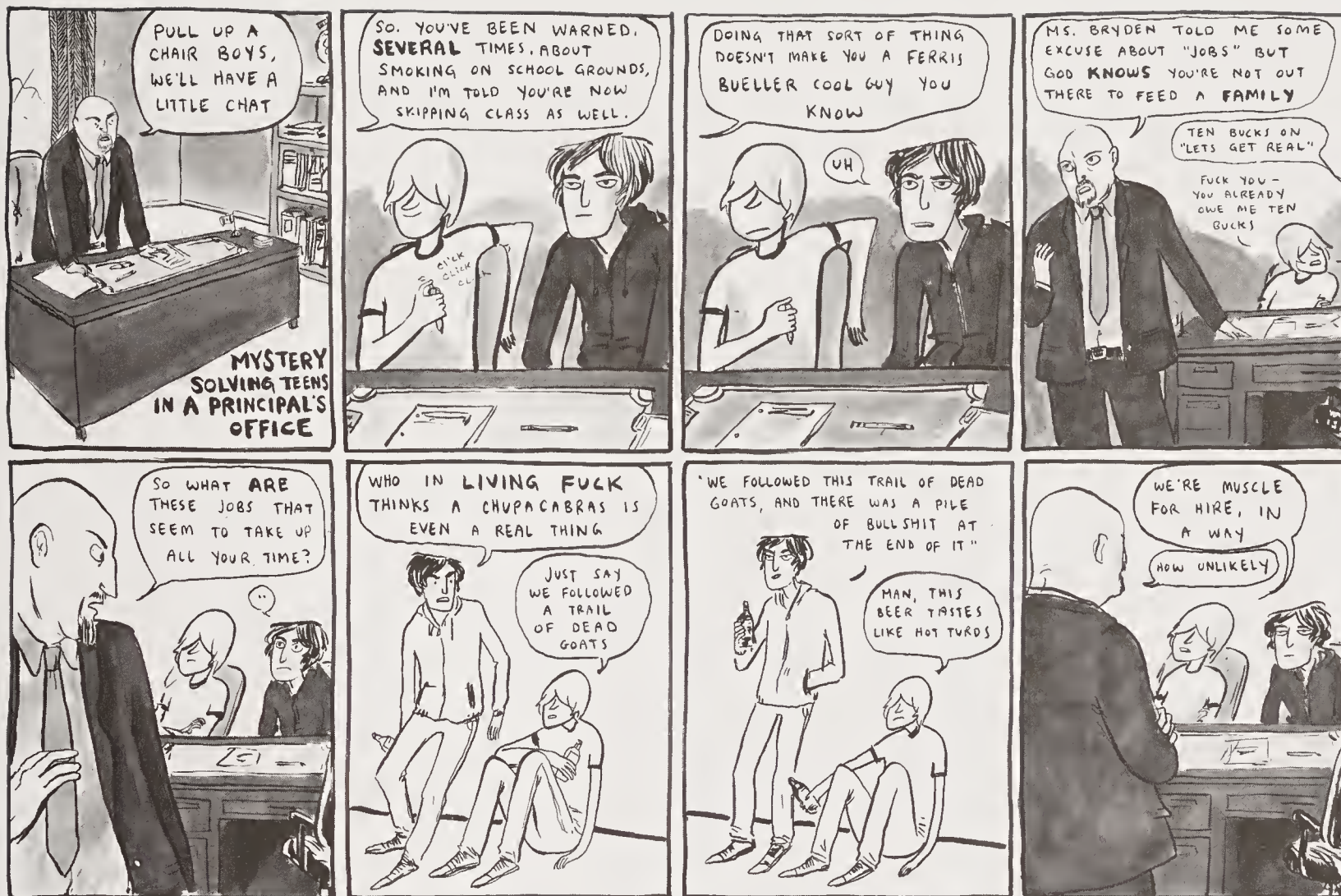
MYSTERY SOLVING TEENS



I'll make one of those YA series where adults believe what teens tell them. Except instead of fake teens, mine will have real ones because real teens don't give a shit about anything.



Nothing says "Hallowe'en" like teens being punks and throwing shit. They're on the job here, but who knows what for. They're not doing it anyway, whatever it is.



Not their employer's office, another one! Oh you little teenage ne'er-do-wells. Like most teens, they go to school, but much like the ones who enroll in art class because it's easy, sometimes they are also not there.

BOWIE
AND
RONNO
WANT AN
ICE CREAM



THE
PROSTITUTES
ARE SO
TIRED
OF THIS
SHIT



DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT



The Pony is an enduring symbol of...something in whatever country he lives in. It would be fascinating to know what that is or what the people see in him. Clearly though, I am not going to tell you.

PONY



The pony returns! It does a job for the king, I think. But that could all be in the king's head.

ANNE OF SLEEVES



In *Anne of Green Gables*, the plucky young orphan grows from a child with a wild imagination and a tongue she cannot hold into a sophisticated and responsible young lady. If there were no scene where she gets the puff-sleeved dress she pines for, I think there would have been a chapter where she slaughters the whole town.

FOX HUNT



BIG DREAMS



HAIL THANE OF CAWDOR



Finally, after years of hard work, Handel broke through with his first major hit, "Safety Dance," and he totally ruled the eighties!!

THE SCOTTISH PLAY

SCHEDULE MAKING



THE THOUGHT DOES NOT CROSS MACBETH'S MIND



WRONG CASTLE



They say the real Macbeth was a pretty decent fellow and a good ruler, and he'd probably have a bone to pick with Shakespeare over character assassination. He'd have to get in line behind Richard III though, whom I have heard (from certain Elizabethan sources) was an ugly hunchbacked troll.

UNSEX ME, SEX ME



THE GAG COMES BACK



HELL IS MURKY



MACBETH WANTS TO HEAR IT AGAIN



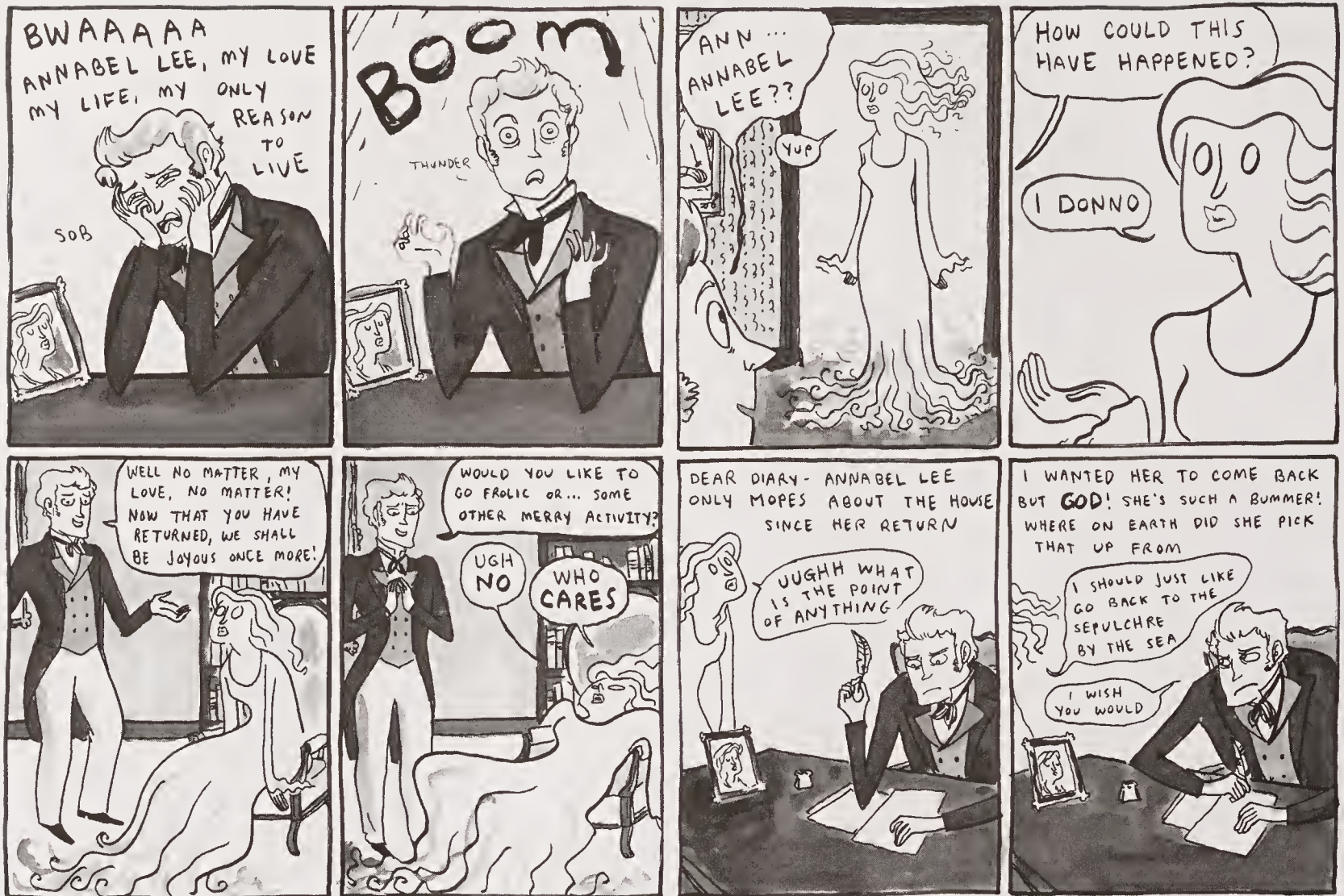
LAY ON MACDUFF, WITH MOTIFS



GOOD QUESTION

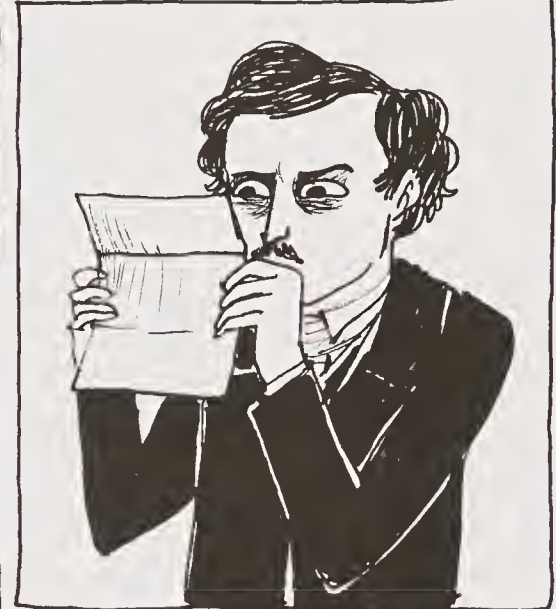
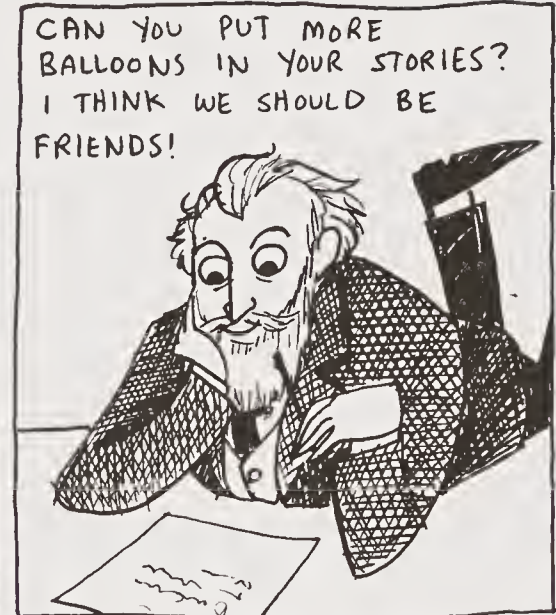
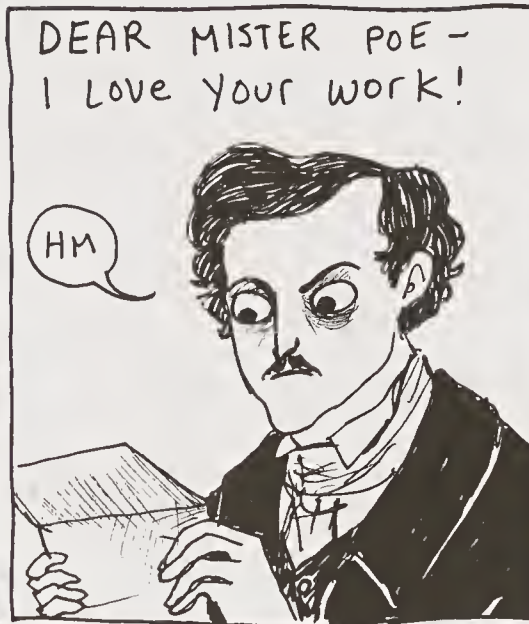
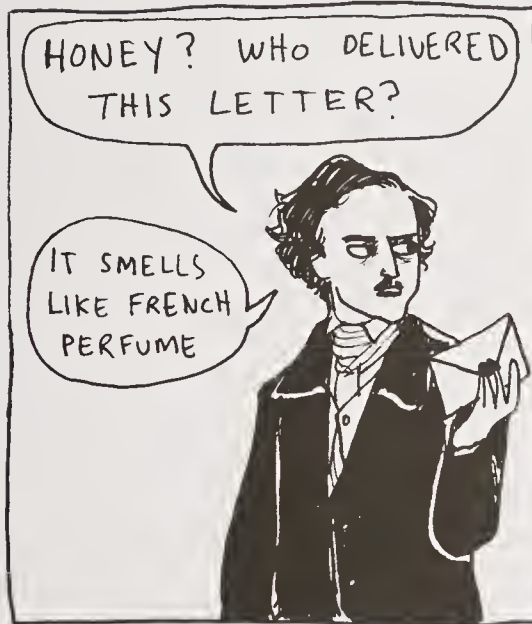


THE RETURN of ANNABEL LEE



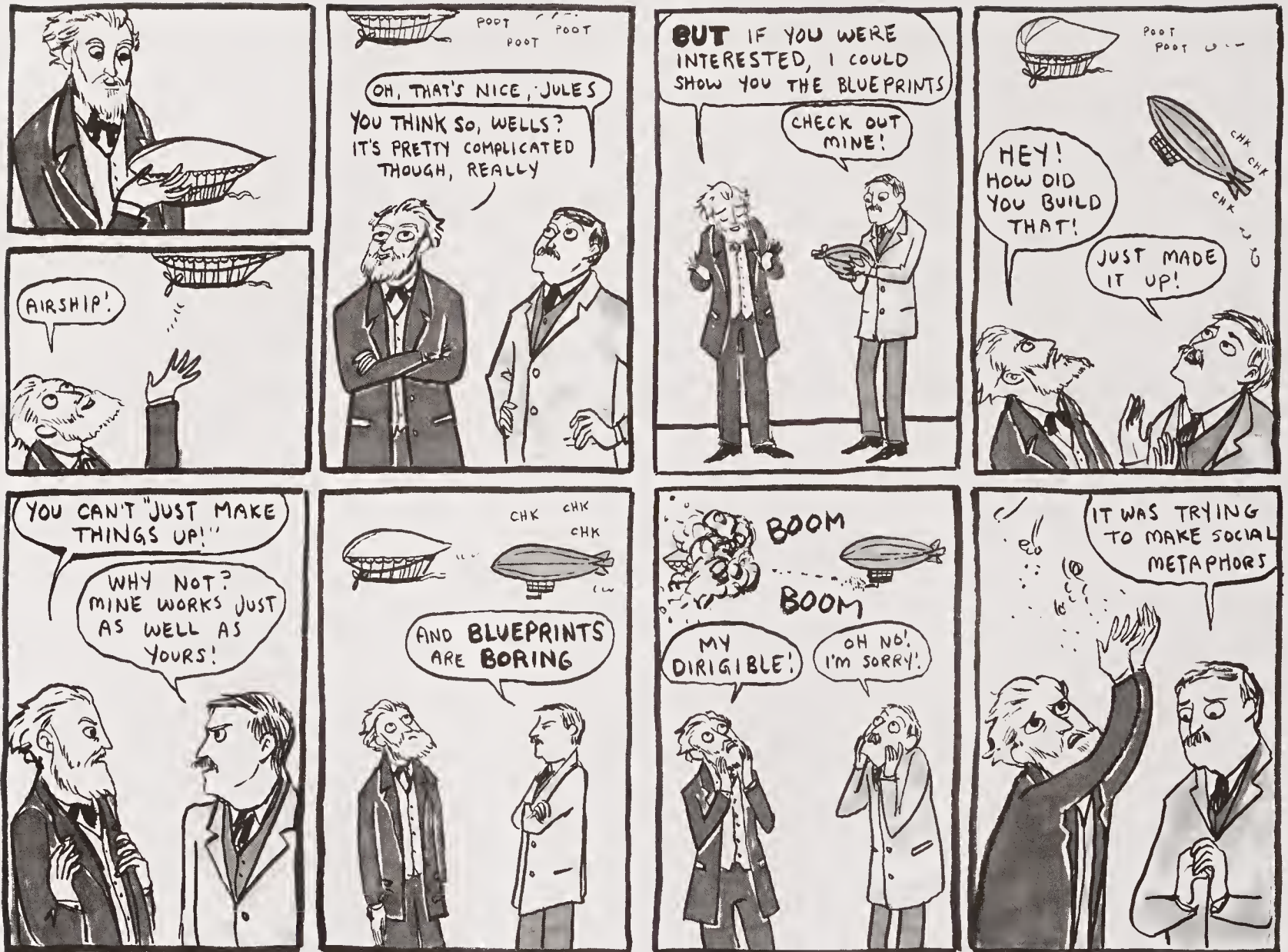
When I read *Annabel Lee* and listen to that narrator pine and whine and pine, I think "Man, Annabel? You put up with this loser?" It's okay to pine now and then, but the man needs a hobby that isn't lying beside her grave and moaning. Then I wonder, "What if Annabel came back and she was just as lame as he was?" It's like they say: be careful what you wish for.

COME DREAM WITH ME



It's true that Jules Verne wrote what we may call "fan mail" to Edgar Allan Poe. By fan mail, of course, I mean a full-on sequel to one of Poe's books. Perhaps Poe doesn't get enough credit for influencing science fiction, since many people think about ravens, madness, and other dreary things when the name "Poe" comes up. Don't get me wrong, the man could write a dirge of a paragraph, a hell of a wah-wah cryfest. But he could also write about hot air balloons.

RETURN OF VERNE



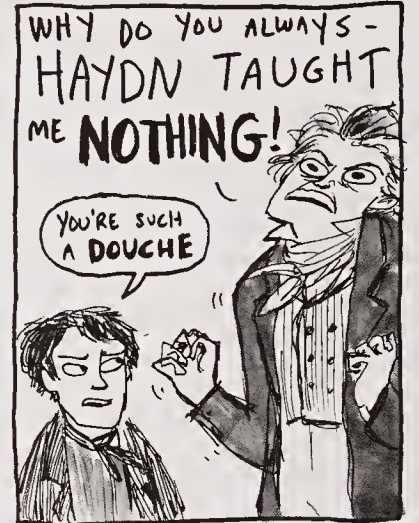
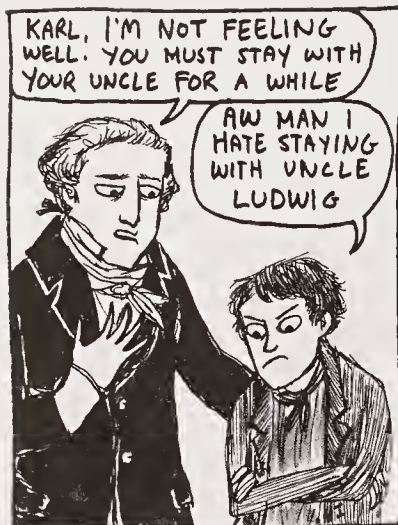
Jules Verne made a famous rant about H.G. Wells once that basically threw a fit over Wells making up whatever he liked about spaceships and other devices. Wells wrote about these things without explicitly describing how they functioned, and he didn't power them with steam or coal or anything that made sense in 1899. Jules didn't like that! "It's science fiction," he said, "so where's the science?!" In response, Wells possibly called Verne "an old fusspot."

ONE OF YOU WILL DO IT BY GOD



Dynasties the monarchy way are so easy! You have a kid? Great, they are next in line for the best throne in the Throne Room. In America it's hard because you have to "prove yourself" and maybe people have to "vote for you" and that's difficult! No one knew that better than Joe Kennedy Sr., who trained his wife to give birth to the United States Senate.

PROTÉGÉ



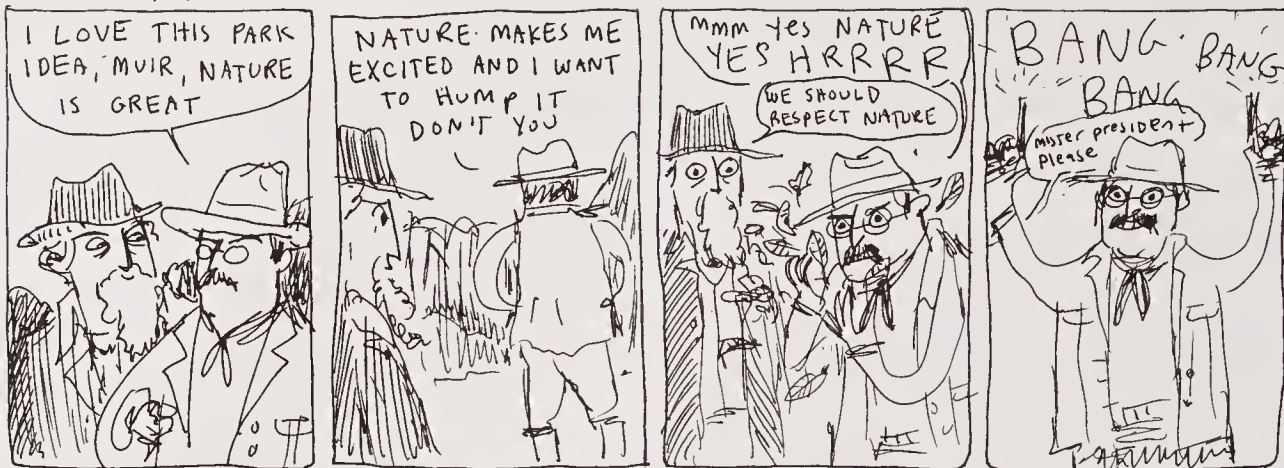
Beethoven had an Immortal Beloved but no children to pass his wisdom onto. I guess he figured his nephew would have to do. Unfortunately for everyone in this comic, talent is not a thing you can pass on, nor passion for any one thing. Writing a fantastic symphony is not like baking Mom's secret pie recipe, even if Mom's secret pie recipe is pretty darn good.

CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS



I have no idea why I made them talk so funny, but that is what happens sometimes in this crazy comics world. I guess it is because it's a comic about two weirdos! Here we meet Burke and Hare toward the end of their killing spree, a period that may be described as "unbelievably sloppy" and also "lazy." Still, they had an impact on medical history (medical cadavers for everyone!), and perhaps not every harebrained criminal may lay claim to this.

JOHN MUIR'S HOPES AND DREAMS



ACTON, CURREN AND ELLIS BELL



KAHLO'S PROCESS



Some fast comics. Out they come, pen to paper, lickety split.

CELEBRATE THE BEST WAY



Canadians are their most Canadian on three occasions: when they've left the country, when Olympic Hockey is going on, and on Canada Day. The rest of the time it's a toss-up on whether they're feeling patriotic or if they just feel like tossing the whole enterprise and moving to Miami. Anyway, what is a celebration of national unity in this country without a little national disunity? It's only proper, traditionally.

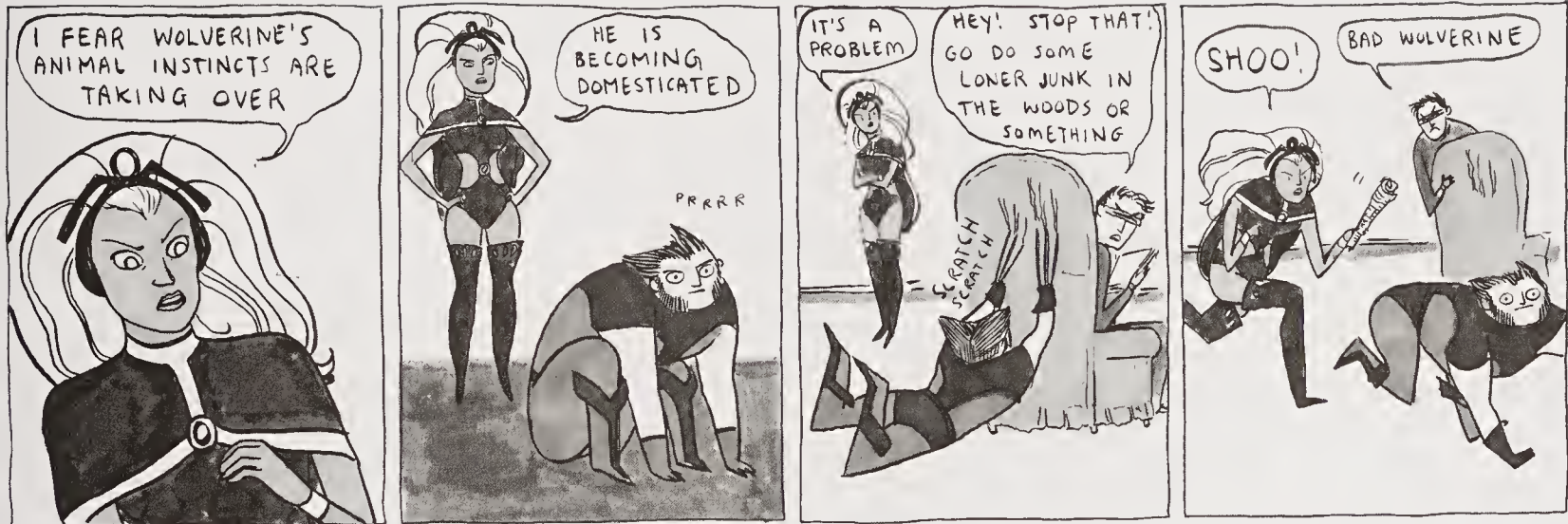
BE A HERO



Wonder Woman has spent a lifetime as one of the biggest deals in comics, and yet I think it's universally agreed that no one has been able to truly "get" her character right. If that were me, I'd probably be pissed.

WORLD'S FINEST

IT'S IN HIS NATURE



WONDER WOMAN RETURNS



Weren't most superheroes first created to fight Nazis? Guess they had to find something else to do after the war.

ONCE UPON A

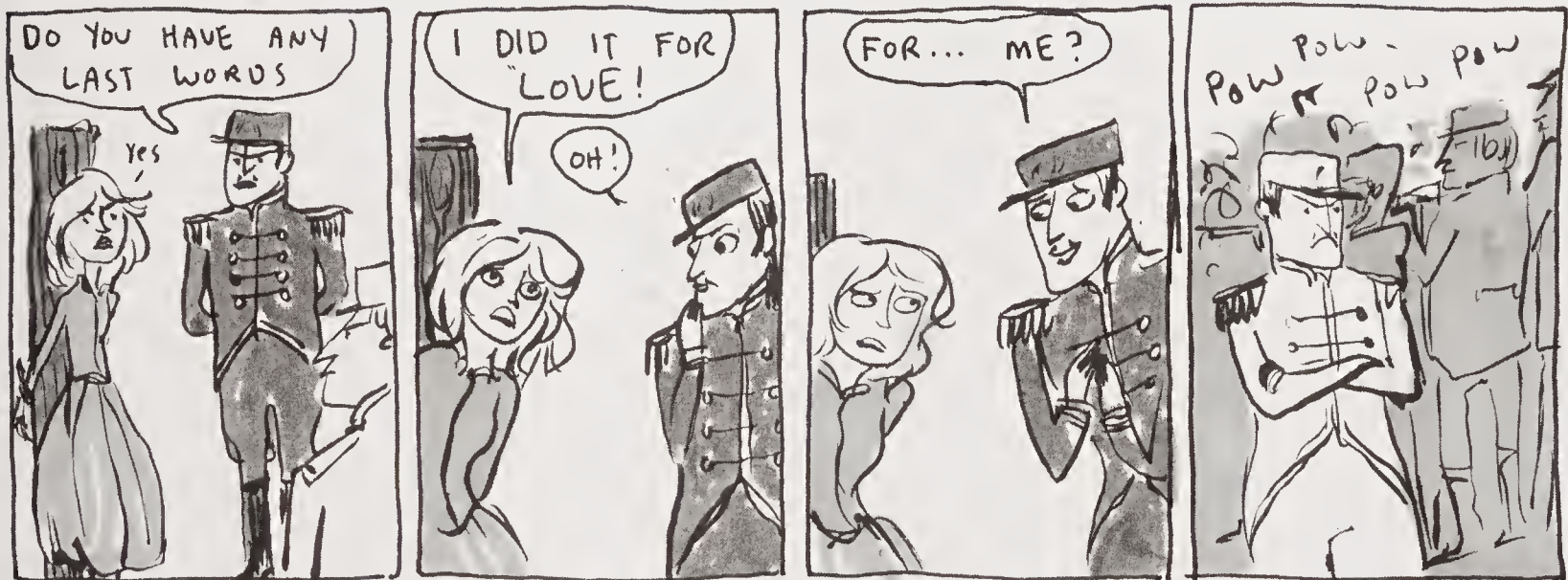


Remember when you found out that fairy tales were much deeper and darker than the Disney cartoons you knew made them out to be? I mean, Cinderella's stepsisters are punished *how* in Grimm's version? You were like, "Damn!" when you read that. Perhaps you thought, "Maybe that's not such a bad thing, to jazz it up a bit?" Perhaps you even thought that the elves in *The Elves and the Shoemaker* were a major bore and would be better if they were members of the band Kiss.

BRUNEL IS TIRED OF THESE TIME TRAVELING ASSHOLES



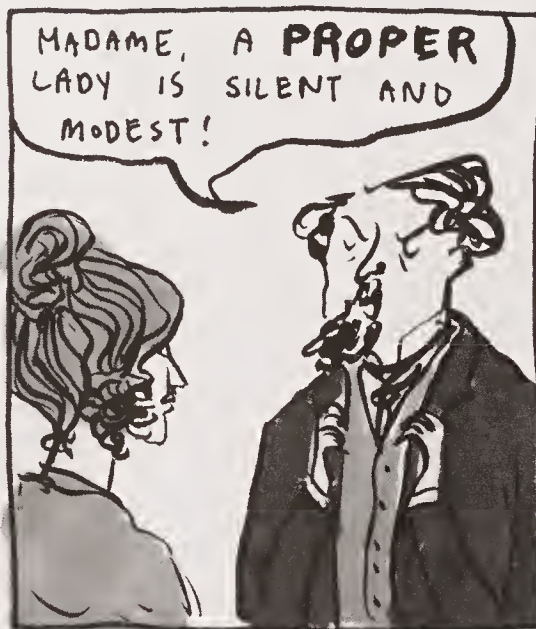
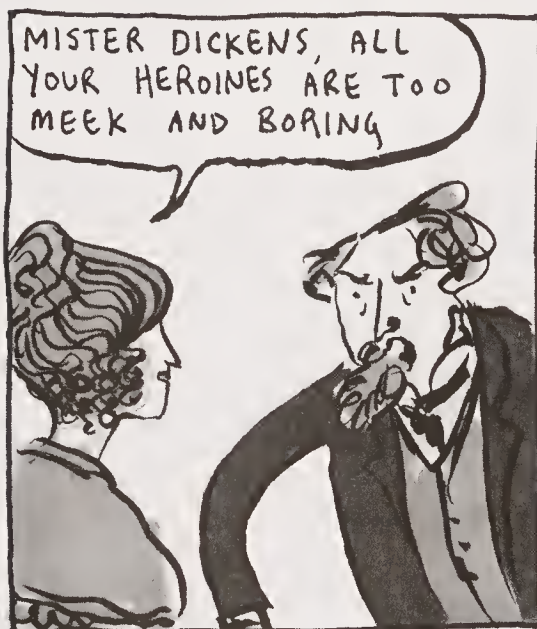
FIRING SQUAD



SICK MANUSCRIPT BRO



ALSO IT IS MY PERSONAL FETISH



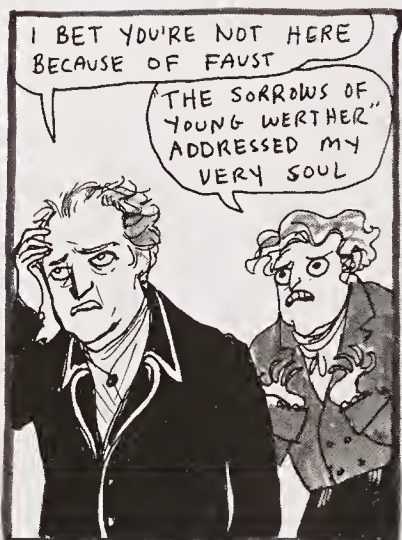
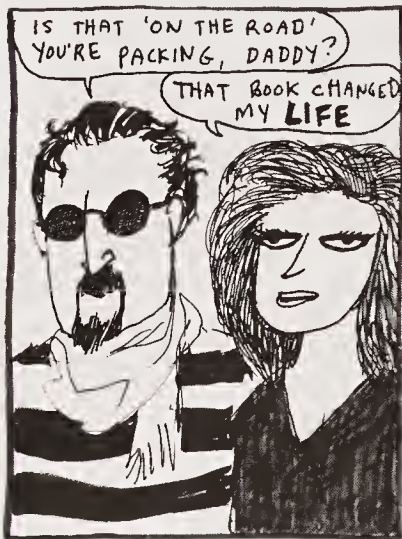
WWII HIPSTER BATTALION



WWII HIPSTER BATTALION

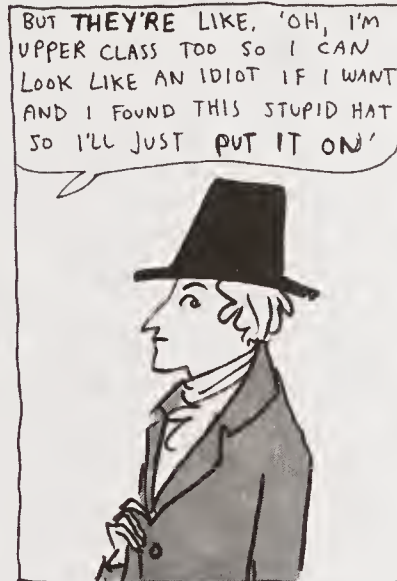
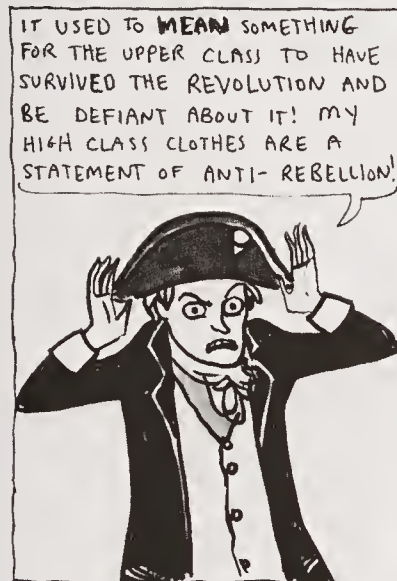
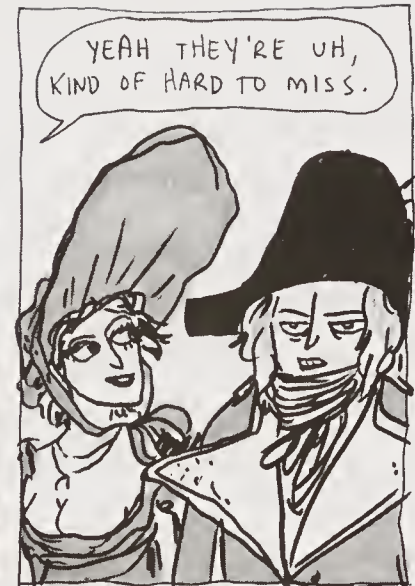


HIPSTERS RUIN EVERYTHING, PT. 1



It's funny when people complain about how hipsters ruined this or that as though if hipsters would just go away, the problem would be solved and you could go back to wearing plaid shirts like you did before they were ruined for everyone. Directionless youths have always appropriated things and made them annoying! You have it easy, oh reader! The Beats had walking caricatures to deal with, and Goethe had suicidal poet dandies on his doorstep.

HIPSTERS RUIN EVERYTHING, PT. 2



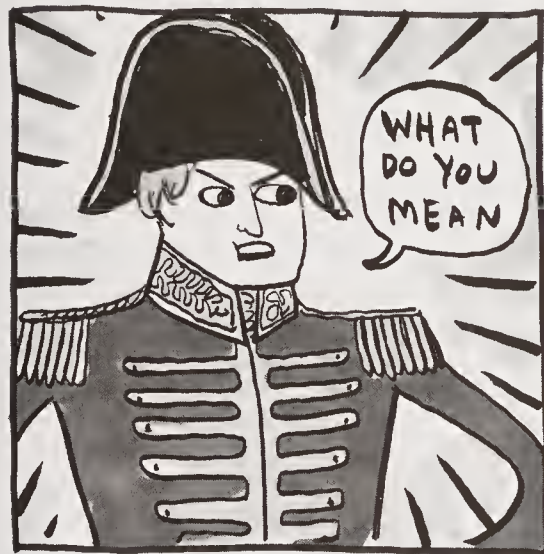
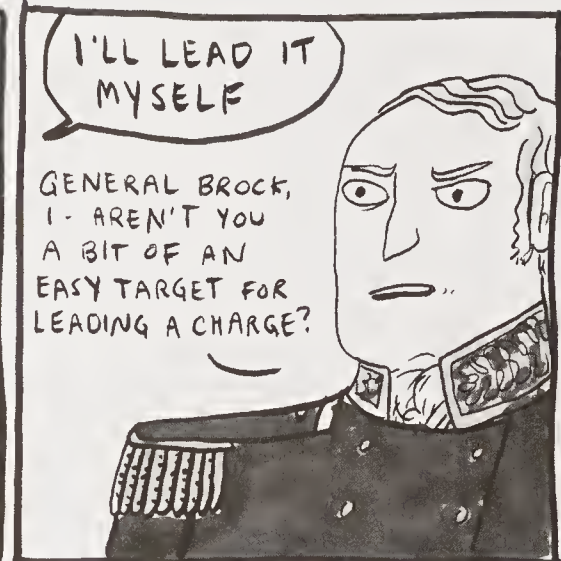
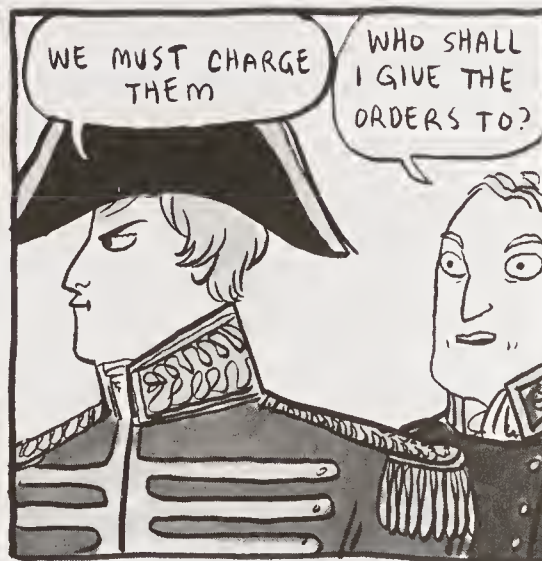
The Incroyables and Merveilleuses were ironic hipsters years before their time. What they wore was once a political statement, but then they gave up on making statements, and that was a statement.

TUDORAMA



It's weird when television and movies think that in order to reach a modern audience, they need to sex up history. Sexy people did live in the past, and they had sex! Maybe that's not enough. Someone needs to build a time machine and go tell William Cecil that he may have been a crack statesman, but if he wants us to give a shit about him, he better start hitting the gym.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL BROCK



At Queenston Heights there is a stunning monument to a man who would not order his men anywhere he would not lead them. Somehow, mysteriously, this man got himself shot by a sniper. By mysteriously, of course, I mean that everyone was largely dressed the same, except for the fellow in front with the giant hat, big brass buttons, and, oh I don't know, rippling epaulettes. And anyway, of course you're going to shoot that guy.

STRANGER



I CAME FOR THE DICK JOKES



IT'S HOW WE DID IT BACK THEN



SUBSTITUTE TEACHER



WRONG ISLAND



BIG BUSINESS



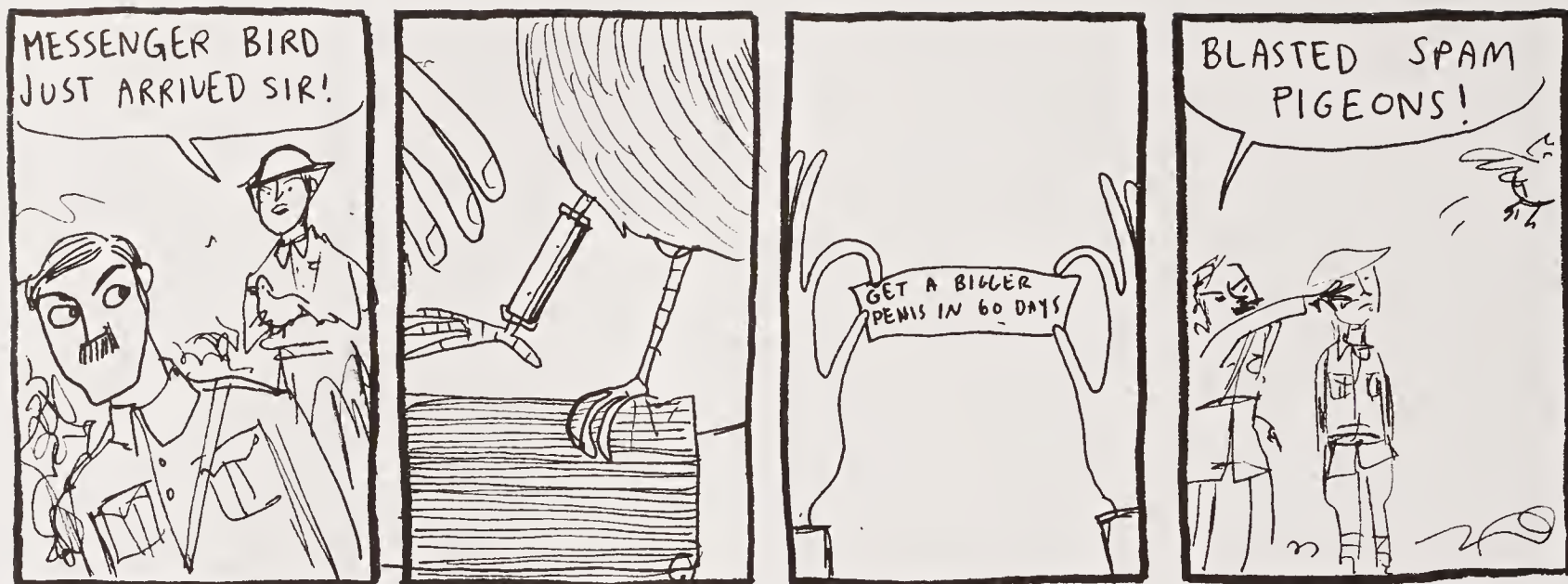
BEST FRIENDS FOREVER



MESSIN' WITH YOUR KIDS



NEWS FROM THE FRONT



A BAD AFFAIR



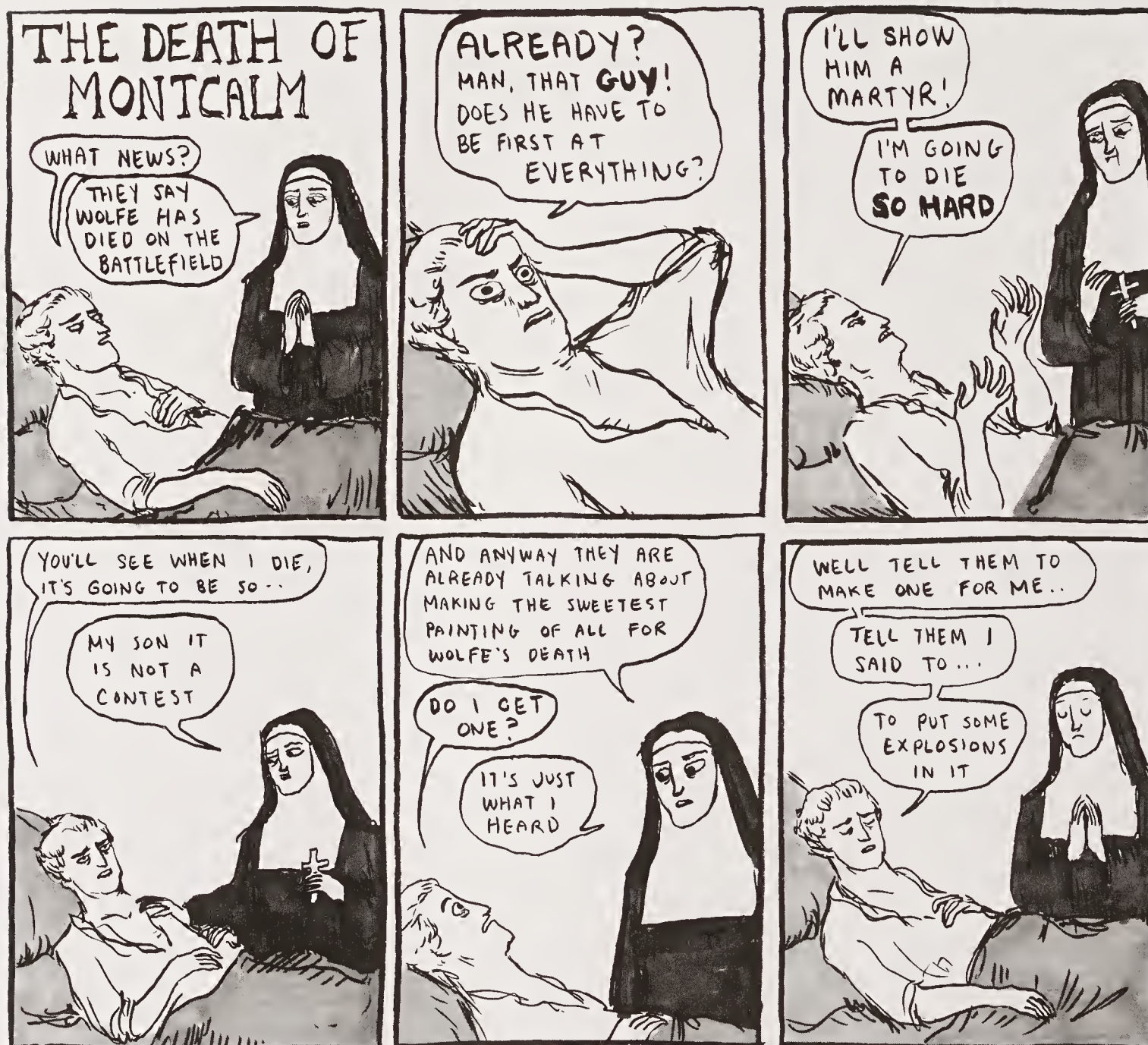
REGRETS



STUPID ROOSTER COMICS



THE OLD FOX



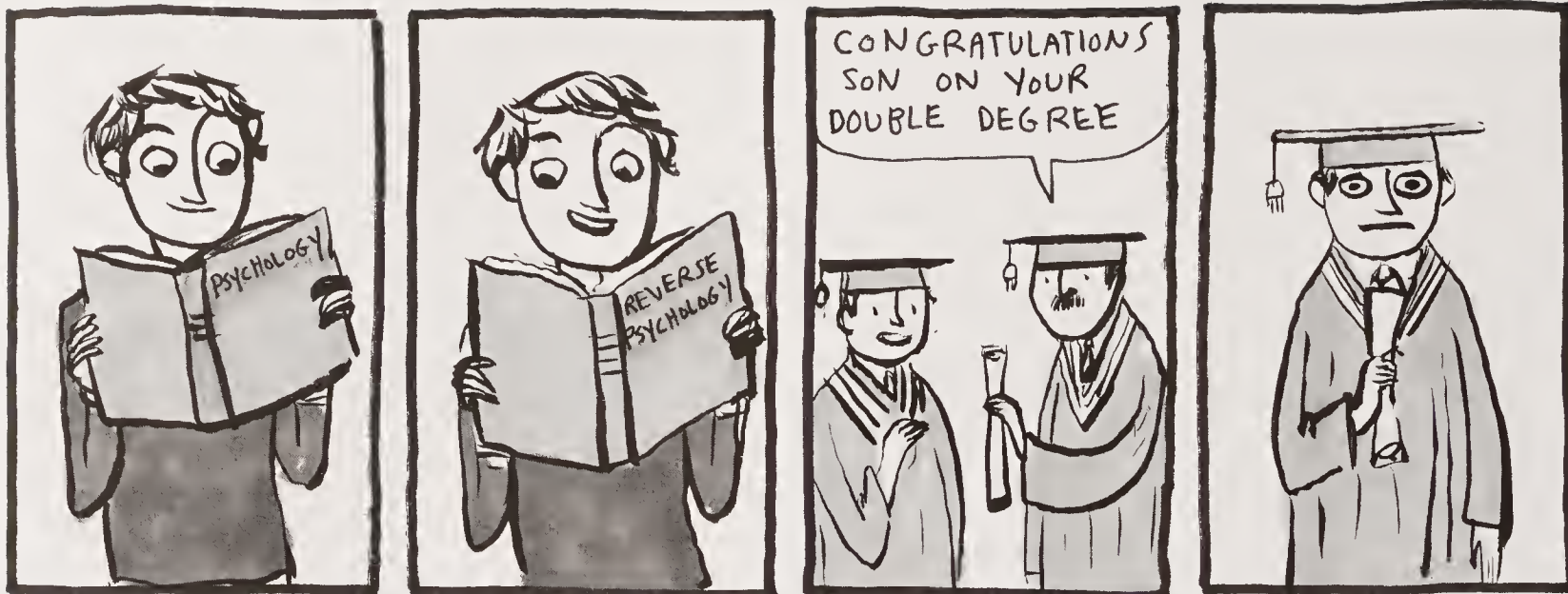
Is Montcalm less memorable because he lost the Battle of the Plains of Abraham to Wolfe? Unfair—I like Montcalm. All you need to know to like him as well is that his last letter to his wife reads, “I think I should have given up all my honors to be back with you, but the king must be obeyed; the moment when I shall see you again will be the finest of my life. Good-bye my heart, I believe I love you more than ever.” What I am saying is that I want a romance novel with Montcalm on the cover and I want it now. He got one of those epic-death paintings eventually. It’s okay.

EVERY LADY SCIENTIST WHO EVER DID ANYTHING TILL NOW



Rosalind! Don't let 'em get you down. The trouble with reading about any given woman who was born before your mom is that yes, sometimes, they were hilarious, powerful, tough, loud, etcetera, etcetera—all good comic making material! But then sometimes, man, the main thing about them is that they just got screwed, big time. Here's to all the old time ladies of science, and their ideas that were worth stealing.

AN EDUCATION



INTERVENTION



THE LATEST FASHIONS



CHARLES' POETRY



RADIUM EYES



THE TRUE FAITH



SCOUNDRELLY

LORD LOVAT'S LETTERS



BUT CAN YOU GUESS



Lord Lovat (Simon Fraser, born 1667—there are about a million Simon Fraser Lord Lovats) really epitomizes how reading Scottish history can make you want to tear your eyeballs out, or laugh because it's so nutty that it could pass as a farce. Either the people involved are disastrously loyal, or disastrously duplicitous. Everything is a disaster, but it's a hell of a ride. Lord Lovat was the last man to lose his head in Great Britain. I suppose, depending on whom you talk to, he deserved the honour.

CANADIAN STEREOTYPE COMICS



Canadian stereotypes are either hilarious and amazing or stupid and embarrassing, depending on whom you ask. But I can't help myself. I love our silly stereotypes. Anyone who gets upset because too many people think their country is exceedingly polite needs to rethink their priorities. I want to apologize to anyone who is offended by that statement.



BIRTHDAY



SOH-RY



FINALLY THE RIGHT LEADER



ST. FRANCIS AND THE BIRDS

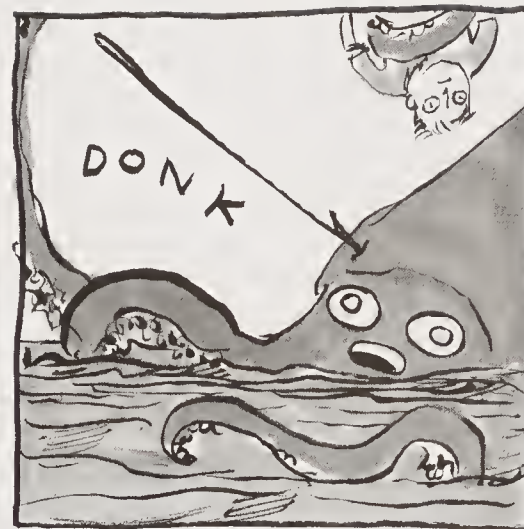


Catholic children are usually brought up with picture books of Saints; sometimes they have a favorite one. Many have super scary stories, like, "Saint So-and-So was ripped to pieces and consumed by hot flames." You know, stuff kids can relate to. Consequently, a lot of children like St. Francis of Assisi the best because his deal is that he is always pictured surrounded by a load of animals and no one chopped his head off.

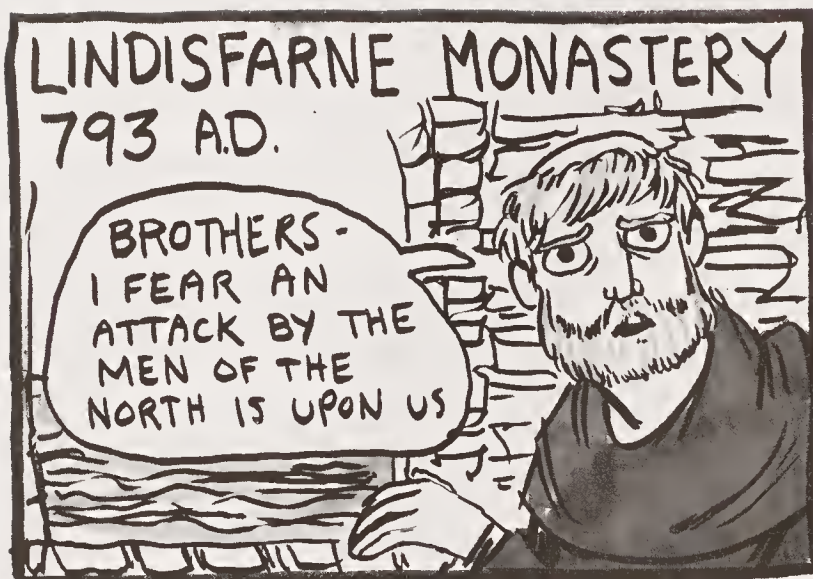
THE BRAVE CREW OF THE NAUTILUS BATTLE THE MONSTROUS SQUID



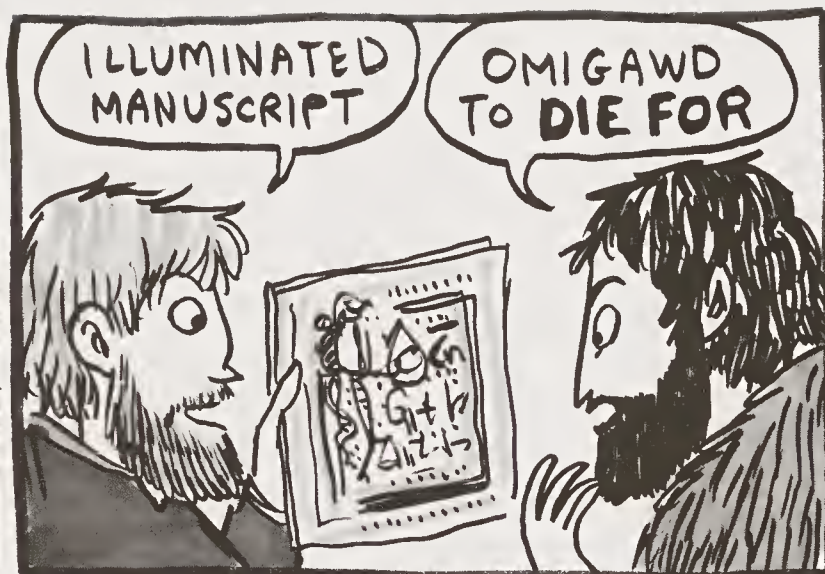
The Nautilus was actually attacked by a "poulpe," which is an octopus, but the description sounds something like a squid, and it's usually translated as "squid." Does that make a difference? If a creature from the depths were attacking your ship, would you really care if it was an octopus or a squid, or would you just pull the hatch down over your head and try to remember how to pray? There are no atheists in foxholes, or in submarines beset by many-legged monsters.



PERIL



Thus did the Vikings terrorize the coast of Britain, among other places, joyously taking for themselves shiny trinkets and the newest styles in leggings, delighting in the suffering of others as they filled their pockets with scrunchies and fashion magazines.



MATRICIDE



There are some funny things in *The Life Of Nero*, if you like your maniac emperors that way. Pretty well all accounts of how Nero went about murdering his mother are hilariously awful in their own right—collapsible boat, anyone?—and the notion that he thought her ghost was after him is also good. On top of this, he had a neck beard, and according to Suetonius, he had a mullet and smelled bad.

15th CENTURY PEASANT ROMANCE COMICS

WELL NEITHER HAS SHE



TAKE ME AWAY

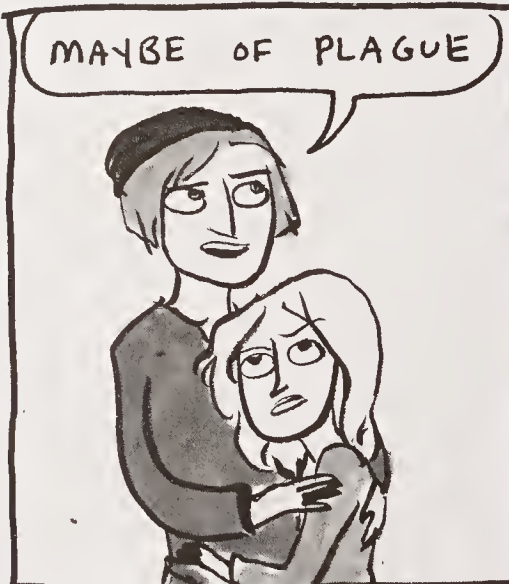


Back in the day, things were harder, you know? Love was harder. One day your sweetheart is here, the next they get one of those diseases we only read about in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!*

FOR THE GLORY OF LOVE



OR MAYBE LIVE TILL YOU'RE 40



OR BEAR BAITING



SEVERAL INCONGRUITIES IN THIS ONE

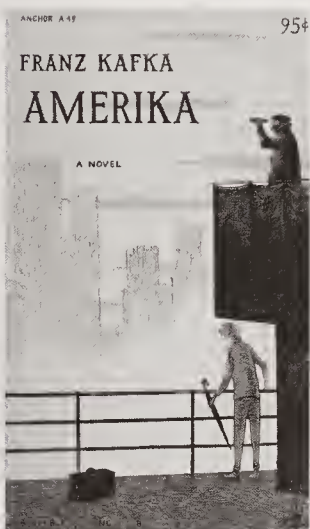


CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

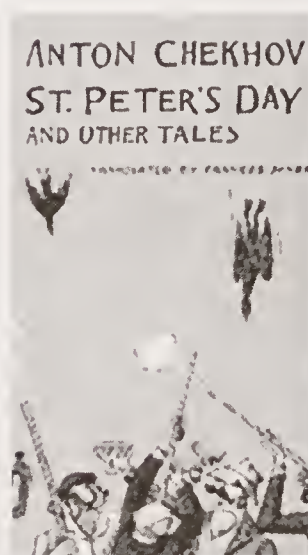
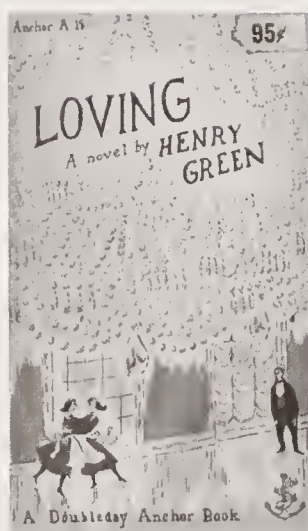


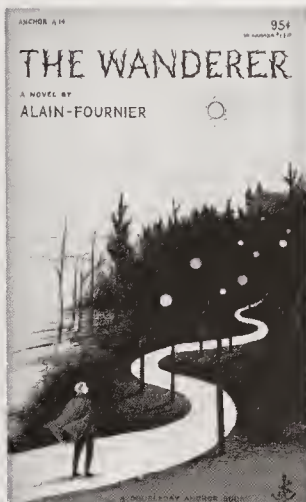
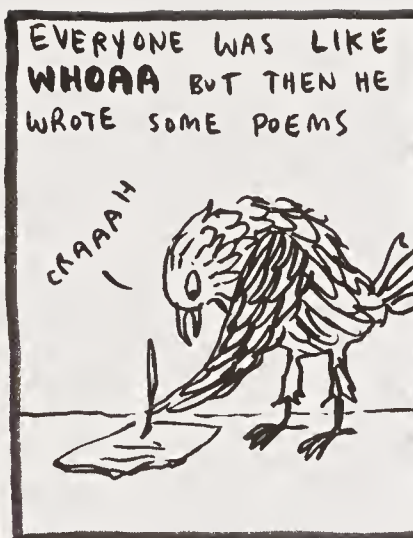
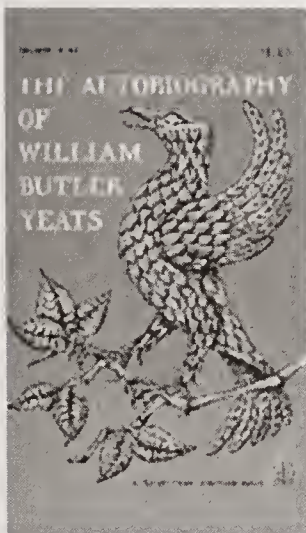
These days Tesla is enjoying a belated surge in popularity. Everyone seems to be on Tesla's side now, against Edison; whereas before, Edison was the hero and Tesla was some nut job making a different lightbulb. Edison is getting to be well known as the jerk he totally was! But let us never forget: he wasn't the only one, as Marconi demonstrates for us. I bet there is a ton of shit Tesla invented that got stolen by other people. Probably cool things like skateboards and helicopters. Patent your inventions, kids.

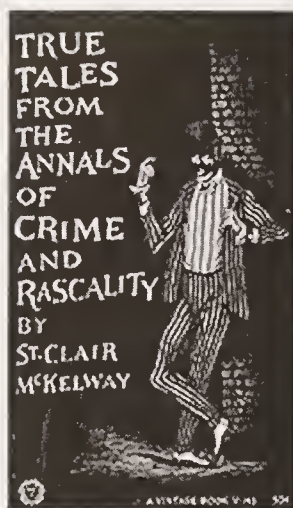
GOREYS

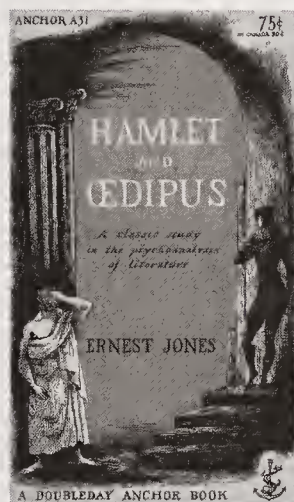
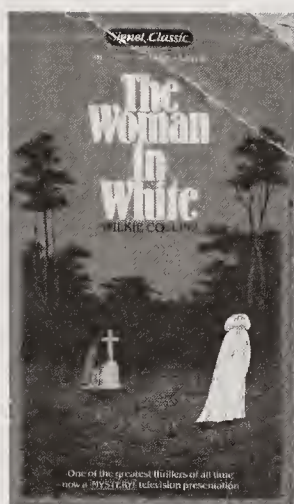


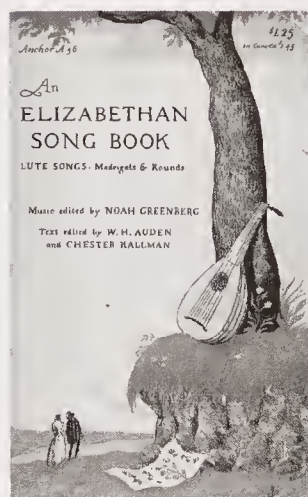
Edward Gorey made many a nice book in his day, and on top of this, designed many a nice book cover. We're going to do a little exercise with some of them. You take a book, and then you guess what the story inside of it is based on the info you get from the cover. Because, you know, that's just how books work.

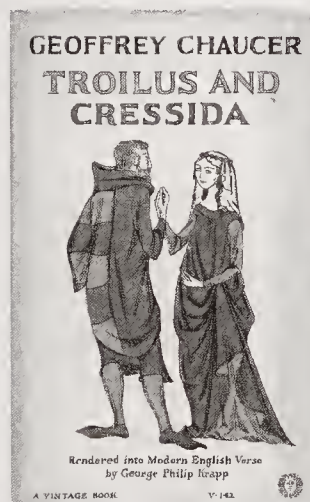
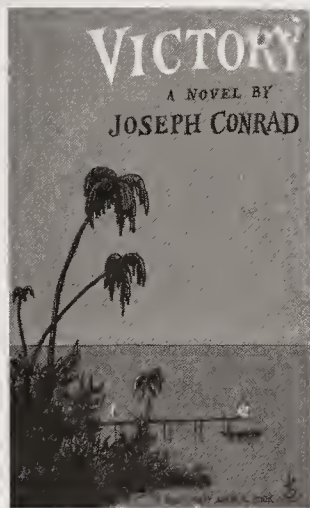


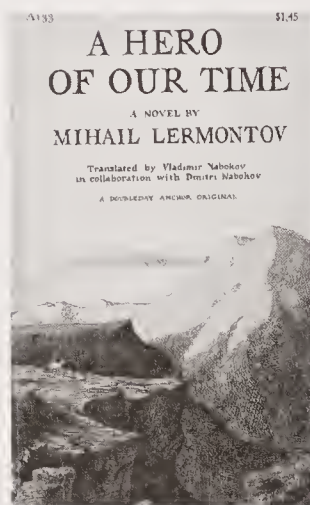
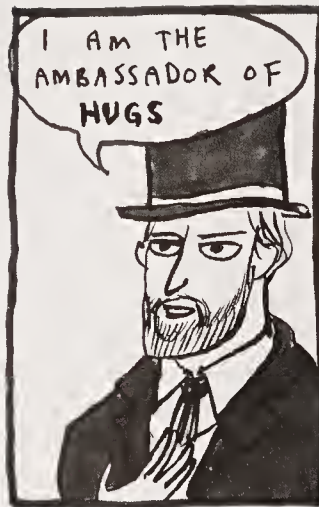


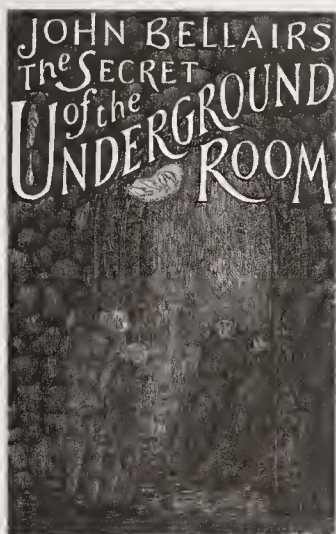








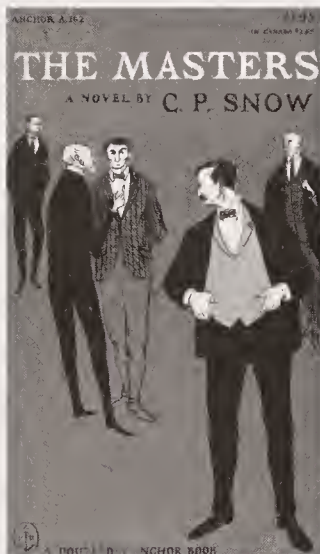


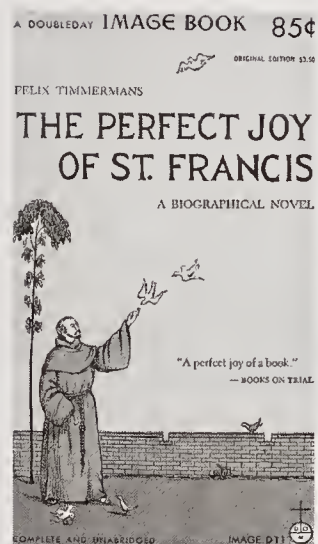
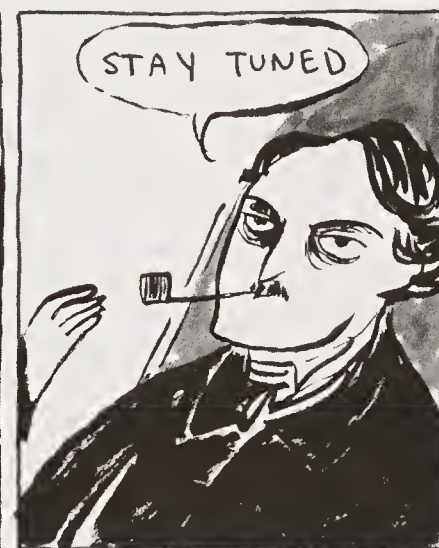
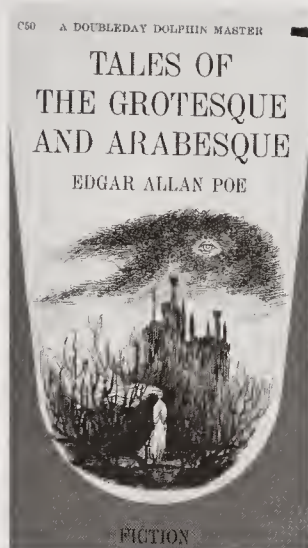


MASTERPIECES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

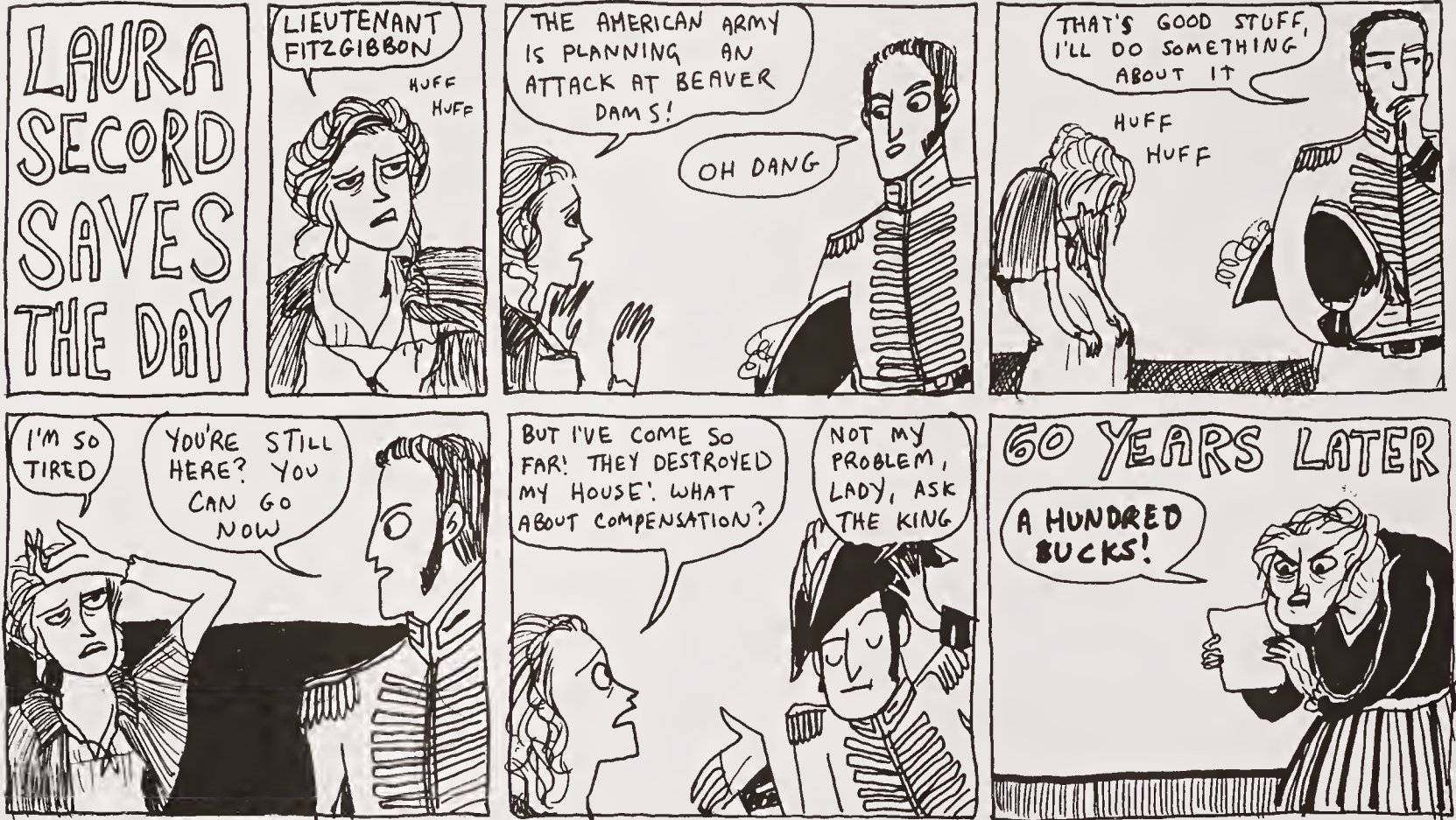


COMPILED BY MARTIN H. GREENBERG





LAURA



Laura Secord looms so largely as a Canadian Hero (or as a box of chocolates depending on what your interests are), but during her lifetime, she fought until she was an old lady for anyone to recognize what she did at all. That sort of thing happened all the time; they can make a book about it called *Bummer History*. Good chocolates though.

THE ONE COMMANDMENT



HELP ME HANDSOME DOCTOR



THE WISEST



OCEANS IN NEED



There's an idea out there that Aquaman is lame as far as superheroes go, but I'm not sure. I read a bit about Aquaman growing a beard and having a harpoon hand and living in a cave and talking to spirits or something, and thought, "How can anyone not like this guy? This crazy dude, living under the water?" Anyway, that is the only version of Aquaman that I know, but I am really into it.

PIRATES

YOU AND I COULD MAKE A BAD VENGEANCE



TATTOO COMPARISONS



Pirates are overdone these days. If you agree, please do not read the comics above.

I WANTED TO GET INTO FORENSICS BECAUSE OF CSI



NEMESIS MINE



AUSTEN MANIA

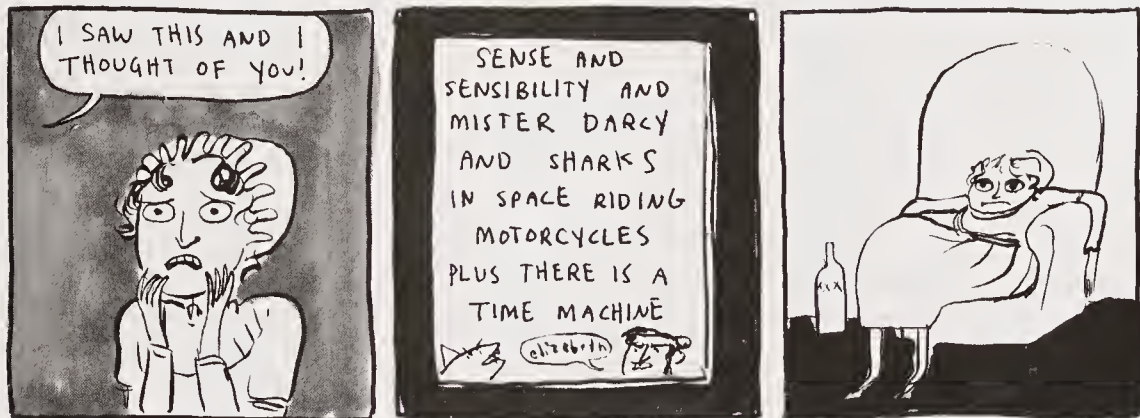
IT'S A LARGE BOOK



EMILY HAS SOME ADVICE



WHERE THIS IS GOING



Jane Austen has transcended "fandom," I think. Now there is an Austen culture. It's never certain what we should make of it. What is it about Mister Darcy that drove readers wild? What is it about the manners and conversation in the stories that inspired a craze of popular parodies? Why not a culture around, I don't know, *Madame Bovary*? Jane, either you are blessed, or you are cursed.



Are any of us really surprised that there is so much Darcy/Elizabeth fan fiction out there? Fan fiction was created for this. Aching stares from across the room can only go so far, if you know what I'm sayin'.

THE ROCHESTER WEDDING PARTY



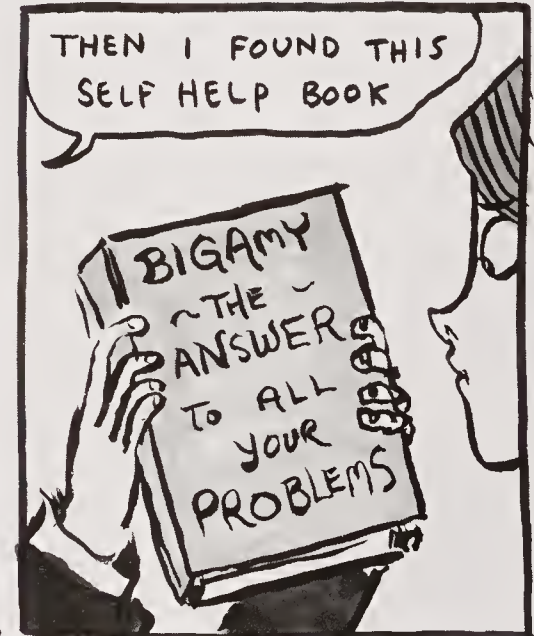
In the various essays out there titled “In Defense of Mr. Rochester,” we are to understand that keeping a nutty wife in your attic was a reasonable alternative to the asylums of the day. Fair enough. However, after much consideration, we the jury still find Mr. Rochester to be a creepy wife-hiding weirdo. We know Jane is coming back to him eventually, but we really wish Bertha could make a break for it.

JANE EYRE

GOOD TO BE UGLY



THE SOLUTION



What the heck is happening out on those moors? Is it like when you're out in your boat for too long and you start to lose it, and you think you see a beautiful mermaid, but it's really a manatee? Then you've made out with it and you don't know why? We only want Jane to be happy though, because she had a pretty rough go in life and she's a smart cookie. We'll let her have Mr. Rochester because she loves him, even though he might be a manatee.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING



TRUEST DECLARATION



JEALOUSY



HAPPY ENDING

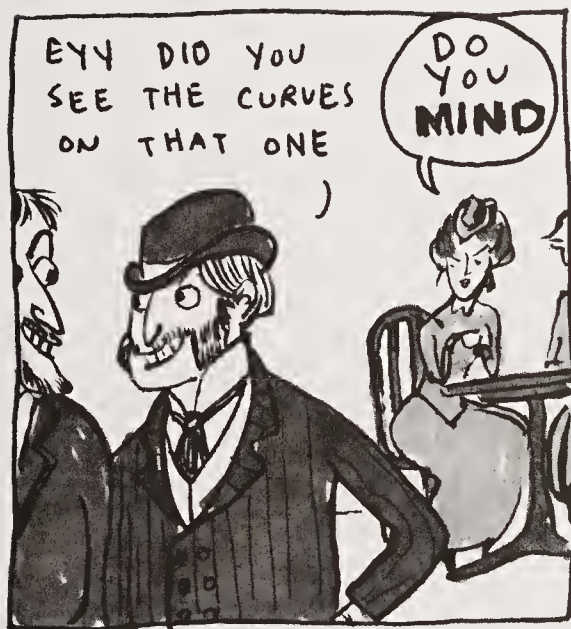


DIRTY WORDS

TYCHO

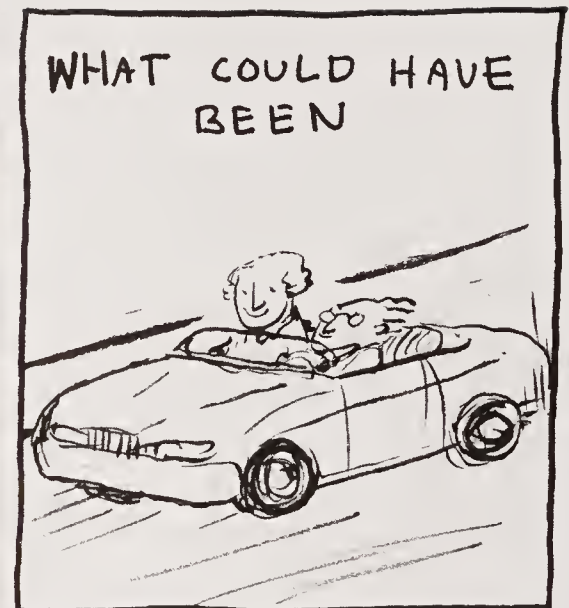
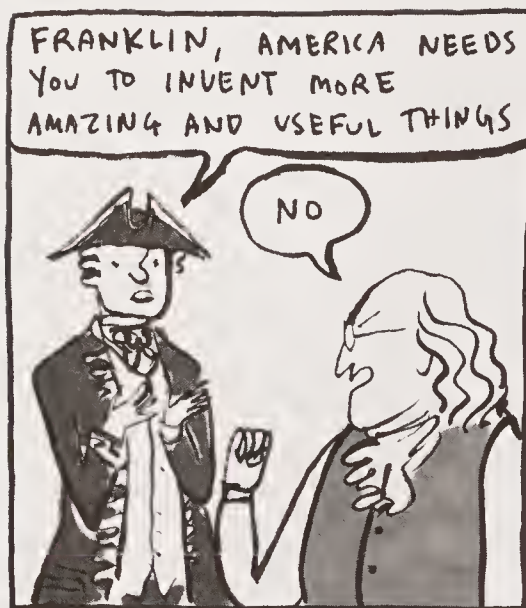


VICTORIANS



Remember when you were small and you would lookup all the dirty words in the dictionary? If it were a good dictionary, it had at least three, and then you and your friends would laugh because dirty words are hi-larious. I resist the urge to put them in comics most of the time these days, but sometimes you just gotta (sorry Mom!).

WHAT A STUPID COMIC I HAVE MADE



NEMESIS RETURNS



MYTHICAL TEENS



PUG COMICS

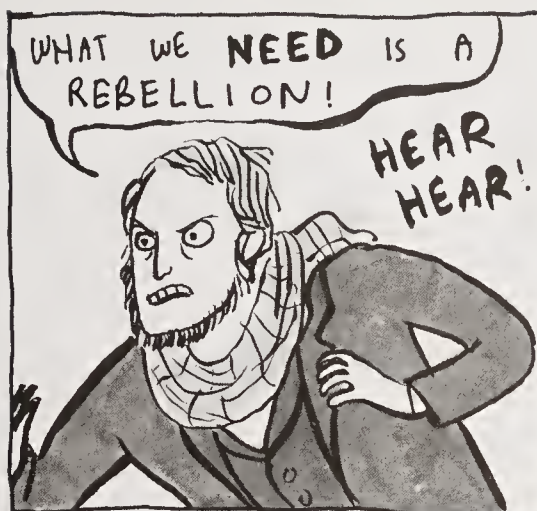


HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER



How did he get that number?! A few liberties may have been taken in this comic. Bell and Watson probably did not have a direct line to Gray's newly developed telephone, but there it is nonetheless. Bell, ever the competitor, was in the airplane races as well as the telephone one and probably a bunch of others like the can-opener race and the whatever-hot-inventors-at-the-time-were-up-to race.

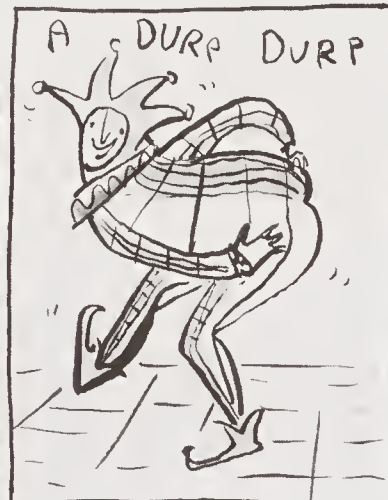
THE VERY CANADIAN REBELLION OF UPPER CANADA



EDITORIAL CARTOON



SHOW SOME RESPECT



ODYSSEUS AND HIS CREW ENCOUNTER THE FACEBOOK PERIL



JOCK CITY ELECTIONS



FRENCH REVOLUTION COMICS

A DAY RUINED



INAPPROPRIATE



Ah, the French Revolution. It's one of those things where the utter madness of it all lends itself to great comedy, usually of the madcap variety. I guess your large-scale terrors are easier to handle if someone is slipping on a banana peel.

SEND US YOUR REFERENCES



I JUST LIKE DRAWING BABIES



OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE REVOLUTION



I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND



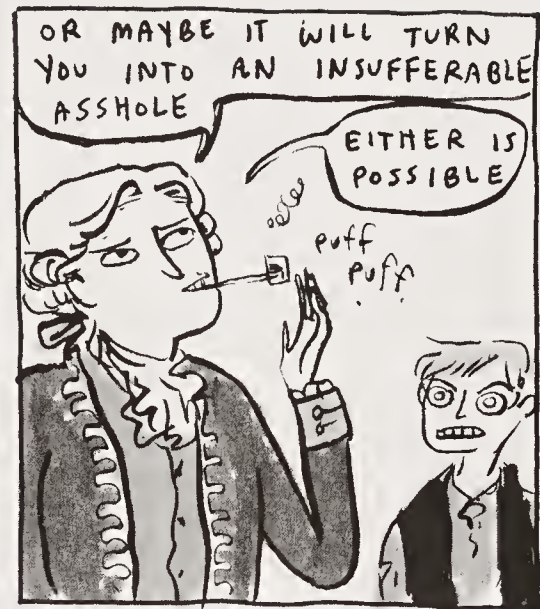
JOHN ADAMS LIGHTENS UP



John Adams was a grouchy old fellow who enjoyed being cantankerous the whole time that he was doing important things, which is a hard way to make friends. In 1776 the musical there is a whole song number where everyone is telling John Adams to sit down and shut up because they would rather be doing anything else in the world other than listen to him talk about even more things he's unhappy with. But Adams's stubborn ways have earned him a lot of fans who realize he was a cool dude in spite of it all. And really, isn't it time we just let the man relax a little?

JACKSON

CLEAN MY BOOTS



OLD HICKORY

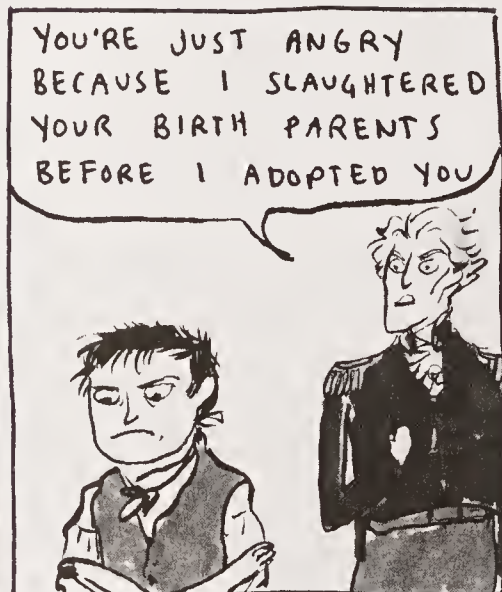


Andrew Jackson: you love him or hate him, and not much in between. He did some good things. He brought himself up from nothing and did what he thought was best. And he did a lot of bad things. Modern folks can't really look at something like the Indian Removal Act and think, "Yeah, but maybe he was an okay dude." Don't kid yourselves either—it's not like in his time no one thought to duke it out with him when he was being a jerk. The man had so many musket balls in his body you could stick magnets to him, if magnets stuck to lead.

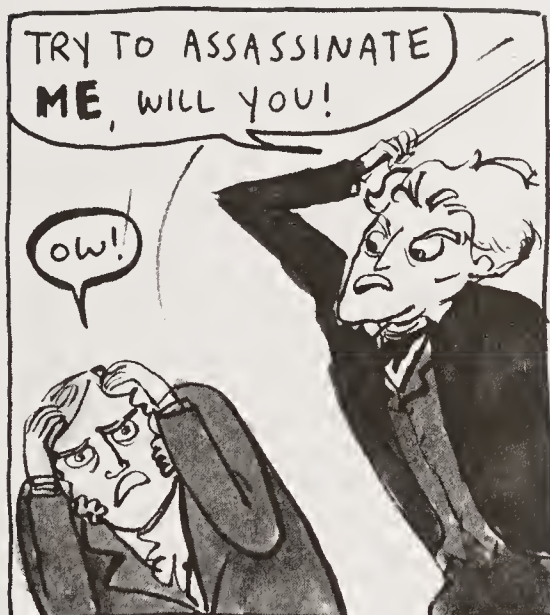
IT WAS A GIFT



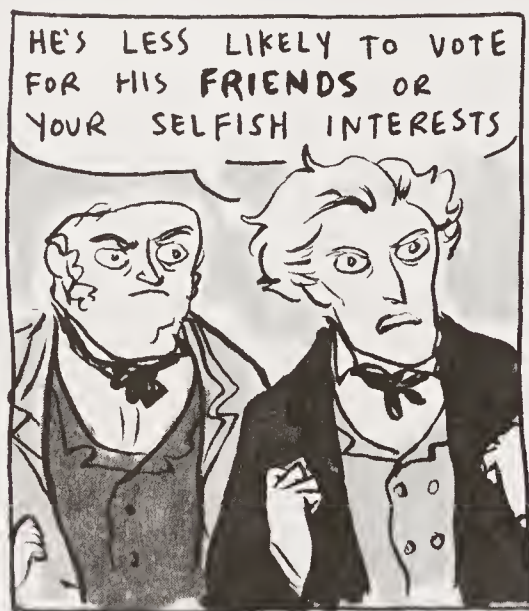
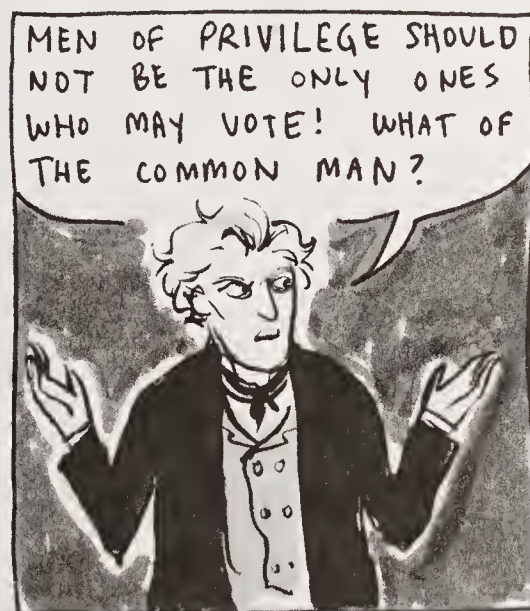
LYNCOYA



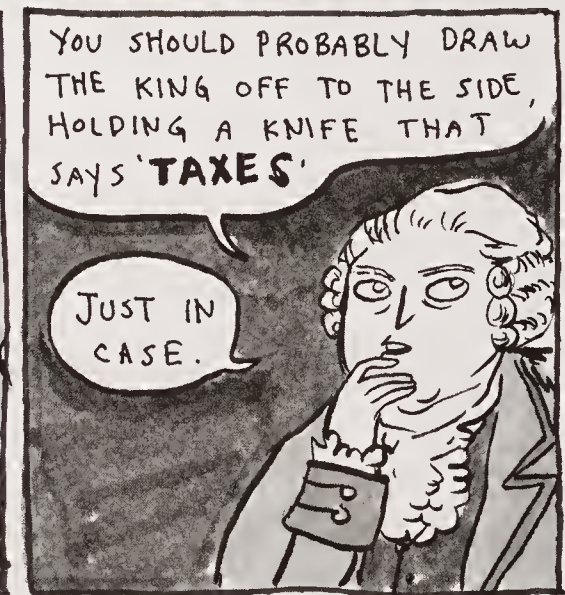
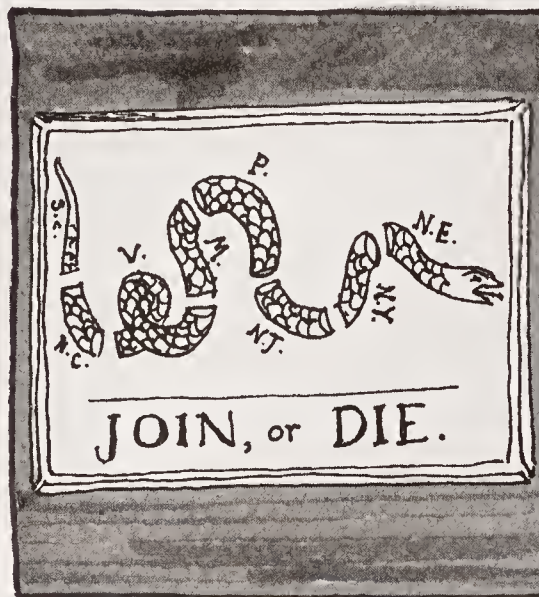
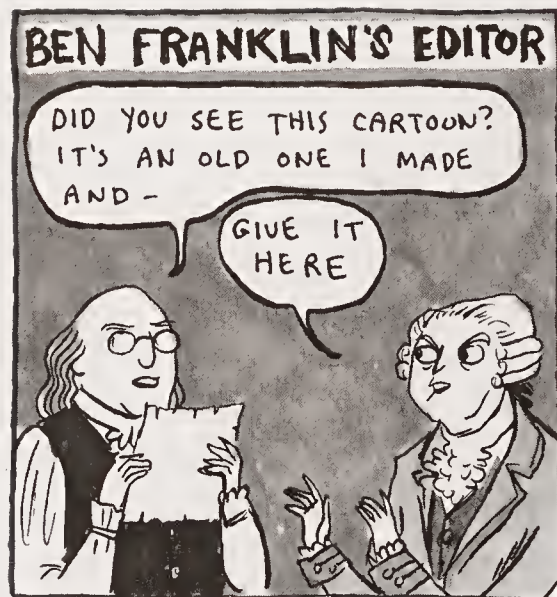
ATTEMPTED MURDER



MAN OF THE PEOPLE



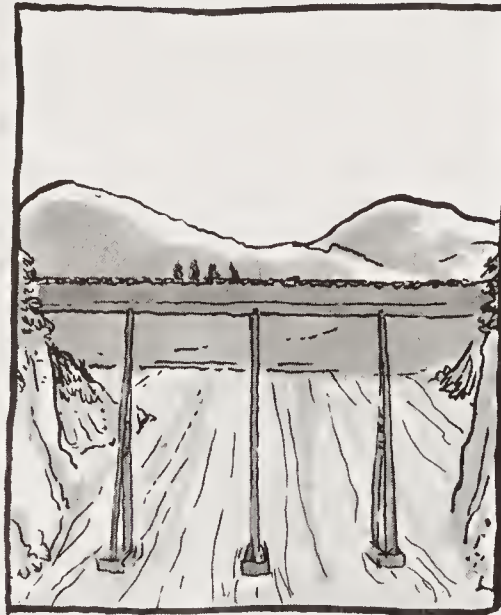
EXTRA EXTRA



This isn't to say that all early political cartoons didn't belabor the point; rather, a good deal of them had several figures in view, with an entire paragraph each coming out of their mouths. Underneath the picture was, naturally, a lengthy explanation of the joke and/or main idea. A few of them managed to be pretty sick burns all the same.

GANGSTERS

SO DARLIN, DARLIN STAND



DAVY JONES, I MEAN, IN THE DRINK



We see something in gangsters that we like. They are all dangerous and cool and there are guns and money and cars and booze and all that stuff that is great for movies and bad for anything else. A tommy gun is such an iconic thing that you'd almost think it doesn't even shoot real bullets. The car just drives by, with someone hanging out, pointing the tommy gun at you and it just goes "rat-a-tat-tat-tat!" while you stand right where you are and cheer because you are crazy.

SLEEPTIME

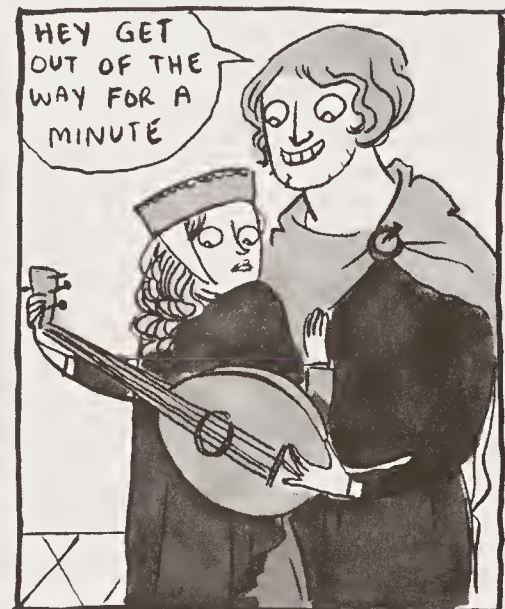


SURPRISE



COURTLY LOVE

YOU MEANT "BALLAD" RIGHT



SONG OF LOVE



Courtly Love—so pure, so true! More pining than what the modern couple would care to indulge in, but pining is better than being bored to tears at your loom, I suppose. They say it was platonic, in that I-love-you-but-will-never-touch-you way, which seems about as likely as my platonic relationship with the Loch Ness Monster (we're just friends you guys).

GIFT WARS



INTUITION



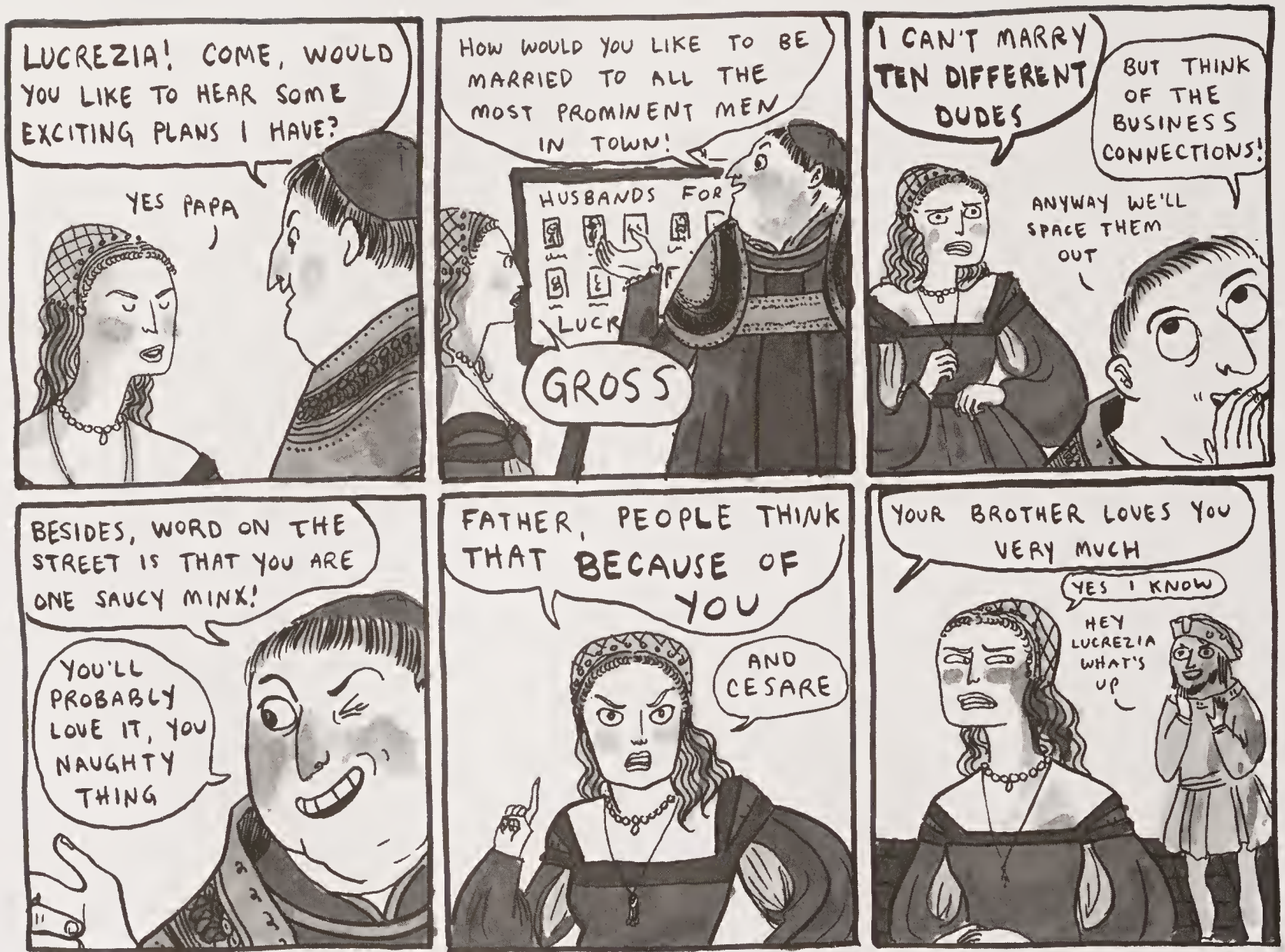
MY FAIR LADY



SWEET SIGN OF AFFECTION



BORGHIAS



Lucrezia gets a bad rap for being a good-looking lady with a dubious family during a time when that set-up meant your life was going to be scandalous whether you liked it or not! They say she had a good deal of administrative sense when it came down to it, but let's face it, that's boring news compared to your father marrying you off to all his business contacts and your brother killing them.

THE MADNESS OF KING LEAR

UNREASONABLE

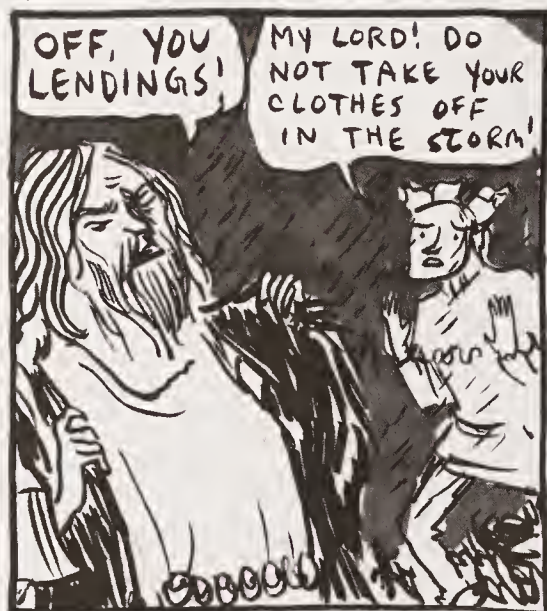


A WATCHED POT NEVER BOILS



King Lear is based on the life of an old king named Leir who occupies a nebulous sort of space as far as being sure of how much of his story is the real deal. We can be wary I guess, but if Old King Cole might have been a real person (really?), then Leir deserves a fighting chance as much as the next legendary figure.

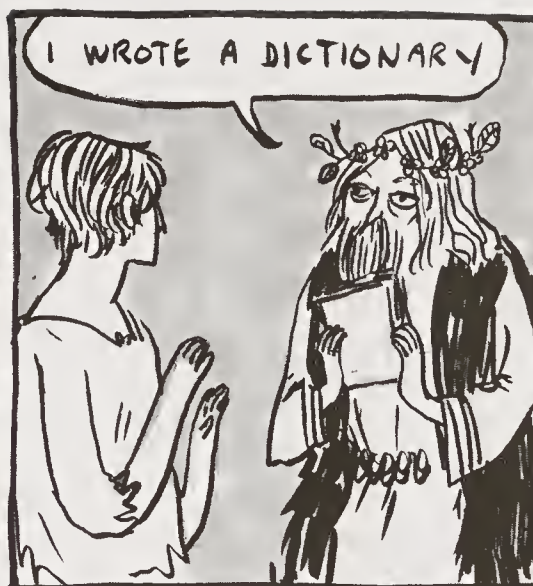
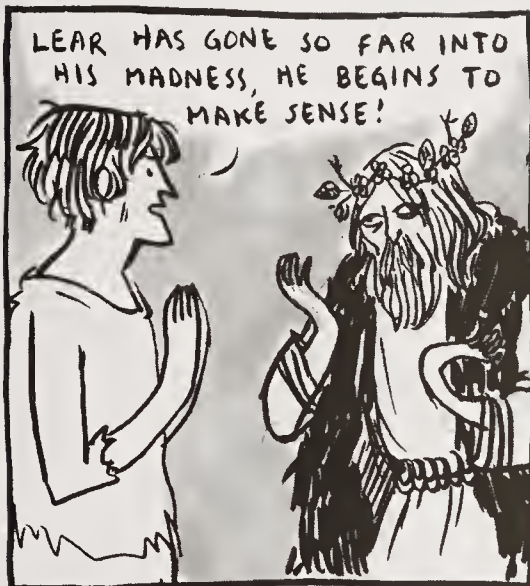
JUST LIKE THE YMCA



CAMEO



REASON IN MADNESS



GOOD IDEA



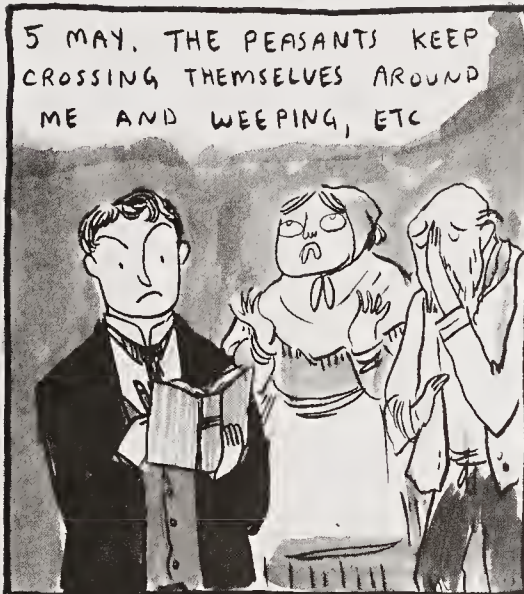
YOUNG ADA LOVELACE



Poor young Ada. The vices of poetry were all around, and within her very blood! If I were the Lady Isabella and had to deal with Lord Byron swinging dark moods around the house and swinging what was in his pants around every human or non-human item, I might have a bad opinion of The Arts as well. Isabella was a bit of a whiz with a protractor herself anyway, we are told. Later of course, Ada became famous for doing some computery things with Charles Babbage, the mechanics of their work on the Analytical Engine being something most of us still can't completely grasp, probably because our parents didn't mind if we read a poem now and then. Thus, no doubt, our mathematical ruin.

DRACULA

DON'T GO TO THE CASTLE



HAIRY PALMS ARE A GOOD SIGN AMIRITE



Here we have Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, a book written to tell ladies that if you're not a submissive waif, society goes to hell and ungodly monsters are going to turn you into child-killing horrors and someone is going to drive a bowie knife through your heart/cut off your head/etcetera. As you deserve! Thanks, Bram! I wrote it down so as to remember it. Also: foreigners. Not sure about those guys, *amirite*? Bram's got all the tips.

THE HORROR OF THE NEW WOMAN



WHAT A TRANSFORMATION



DRACULA COMES TO ENGLAND



FIFTY BOXES OF EARTH



HOT HOT METAPHORS



FOOLPROOF

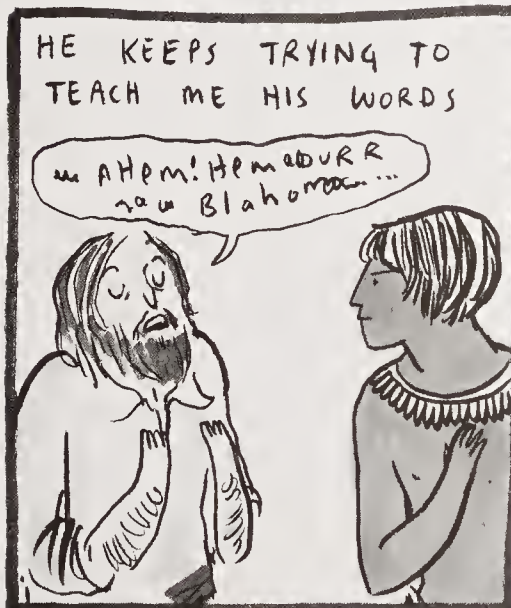


CRUSOE

SHIPWRECK



EDUCATION



Robinson Crusoe has been a children's favorite for years and years. I read it as a child and distinctly recall the impression that Crusoe and Friday were pretty good friends! Crusoe and Friday, chumming it up on the island, bonfires and Good Times. Obviously though, that notion was a little lopsided. There is that scene where Crusoe puts his foot on Friday's head and says he owns him and uh, well there's also the whole book.

NICE THREADS



AFFECTION



MANIFEST DESTINY



BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS

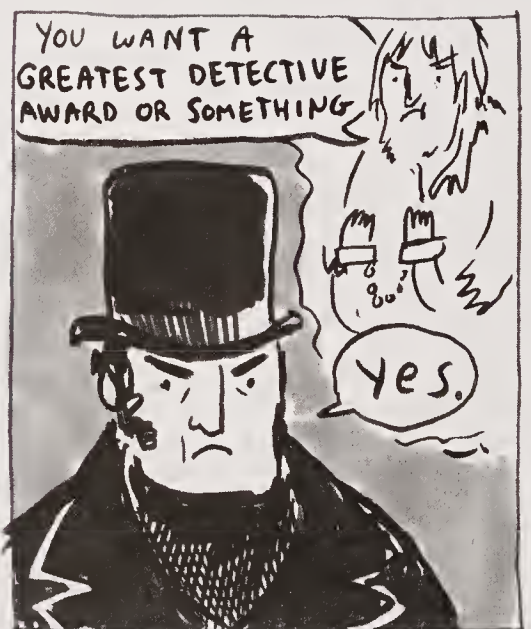


JAVERT

JAVERT CHASES A GHOST



JAVERT CELEBRATES

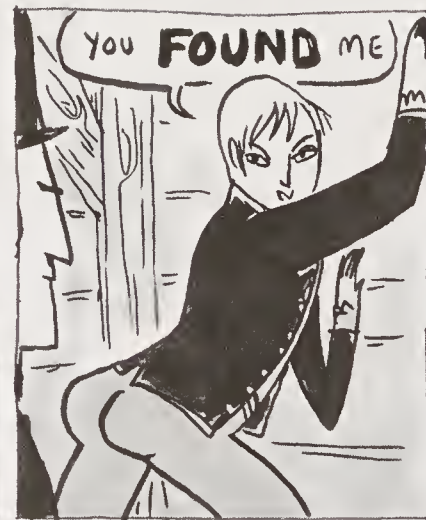


Forget Jean Valjean—Javert is the real money in *Les Miserables*. Javert is like a robot in a cast of humans, not computing anything except data, not executing any motion except on the program he's running. When they finally make cyborg police, every one of them will operate like Javert and then you'll be sorry you ever even looked at that loaf of bread. Just forget about it. You're better off eating something you found in the trash, really.

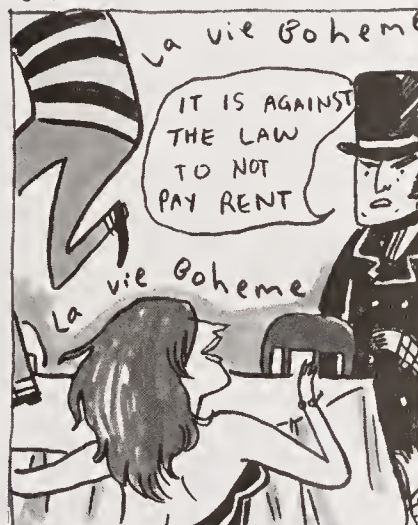
JAVERT HAS TROUBLE PARSING



JAVERT IS IN SLASH FICTION



JAVERT IS IN THE WRONG MUSICAL



SLOPPY LEADERSHIP



FIBER CRAZE



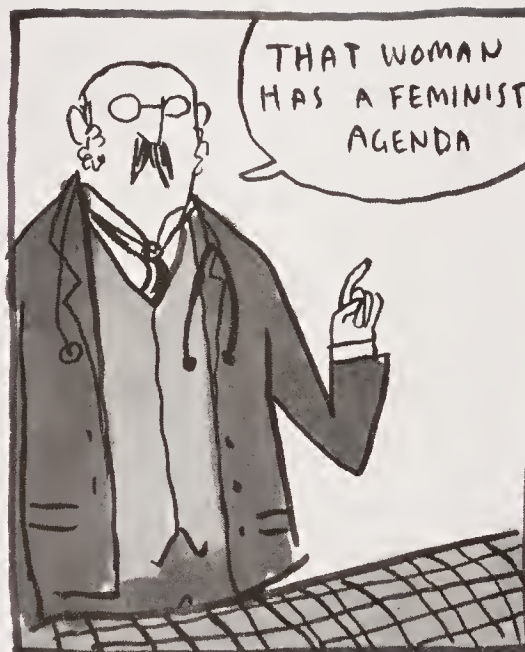
THE SWEATER ISSUE



WWII MOVIE



EITHER THE WALLPAPER GOES OR I DO



WWII MOVIE II

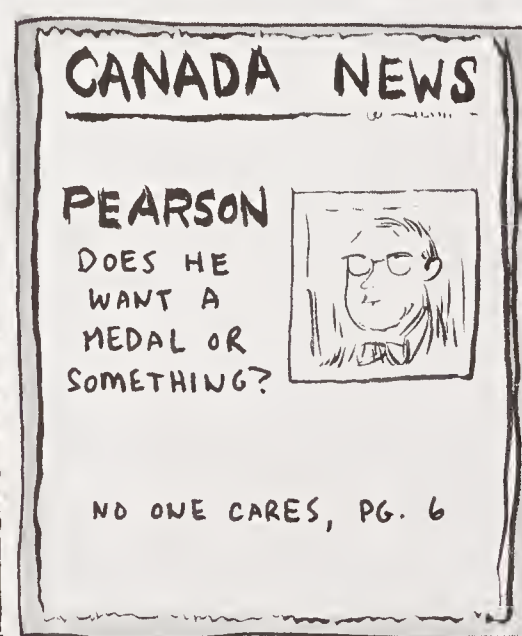


PEARSON

CALL ME MIKE

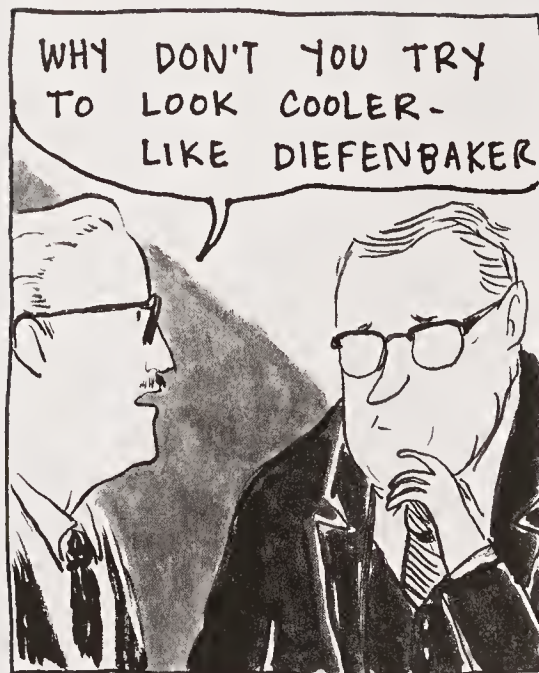


CANADA HATES ITS HEROES

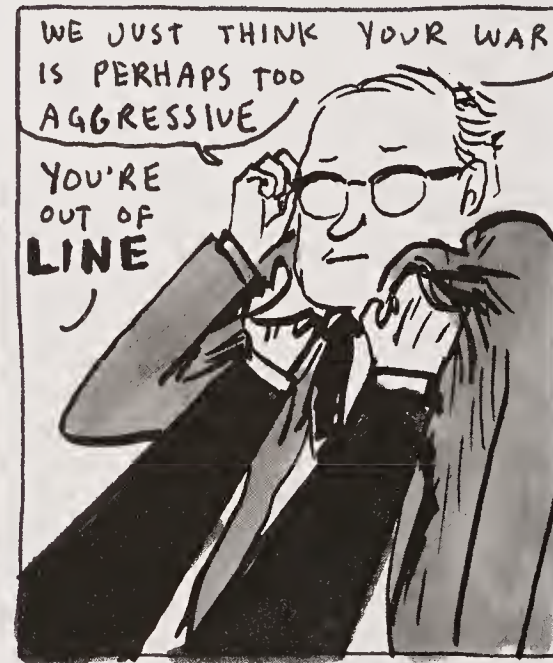


Pearson had the Little Minority Government That Could, giving people free health care, pensions, and student loans for the first time, among other achievements. He gave a lot to Canada, which we—correctly or not—like to claim as proof of some national character; he symbolizes the things we like about ourselves. If only we could go back in time now and tell that to the people who made fun of his lisp.

ELECTION



ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ



PAT WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO



RED ENSIGN, ADIEU



BRAHMS'S FIRST IMPRESSION



How could Brahms have fallen asleep at a performance by Liszt? By most accounts the guy was all Jerry Lee Lewis on the piano, banging on the keys and kicking his legs and winking at the audience and making out with women all at the same time. You'd have to be already dead to fall asleep during that.

THE ADVENTURES OF SEXY BATMAN

MEET YOUR MATCH



GARTER

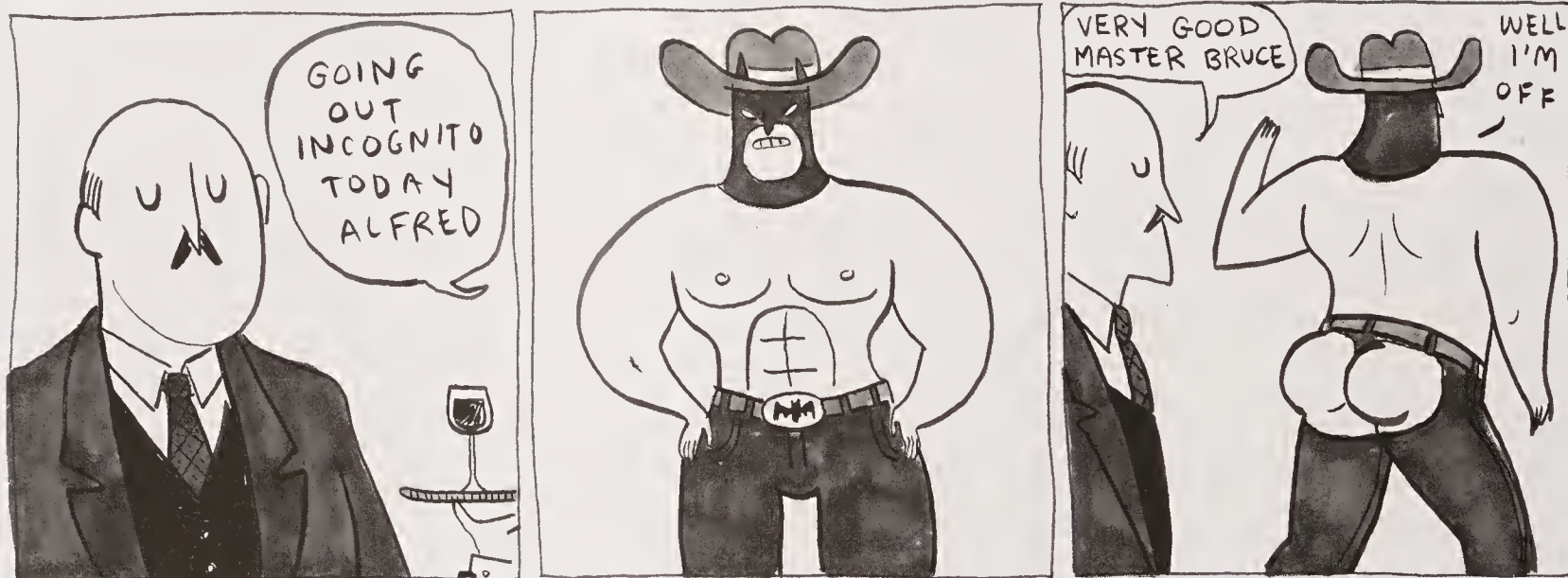


Batman is fun. Batman is *so much fun*, and that is why everyone makes comics about him, even though he's supposed to be scary and serious. Case closed. Everyone can make silly Batman comics now and feel good about it. Plus, did you really pick up this book for anything but Batman and butt drawings? A marriage of two fine things, like wine and more wine.

THE SLIP



BRUCE WAYNE



CARWASH



STAKE OUT



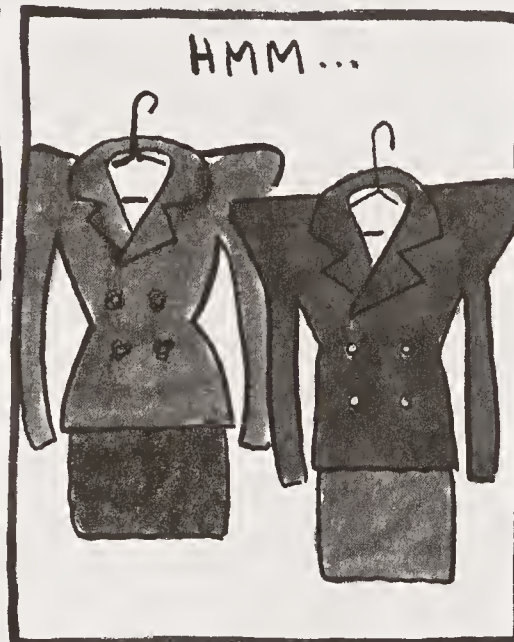
QUEEN BESS AT TILBURY



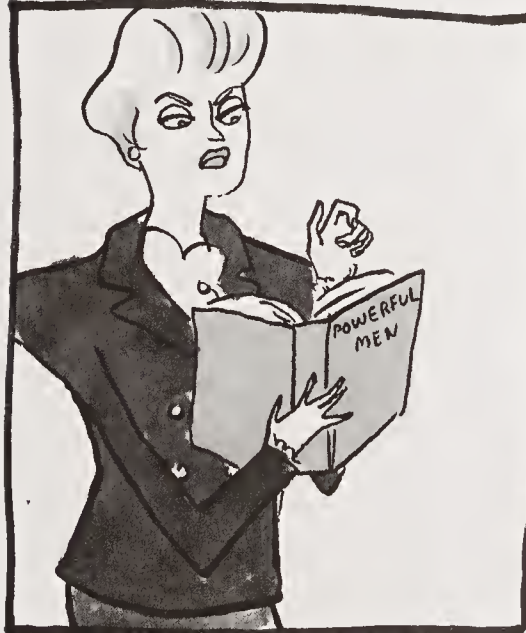
If you were at Tilbury and Queen Elizabeth, like, burst in there all up on a horse with some gnarly armor and she was yelling about how much she kicks ass and therefore you, as her subject, can do the same, maybe you too would feel like the Spanish Armada ain't no thang. In any case, it worked pretty well for her. On top of this, whenever someone tries to attack England by sea, they do it during Storm Week, which results in many wrecked ships and many more wrecked ambitions.

1980S BUSINESSWOMAN COMICS

BIG DAY AHEAD

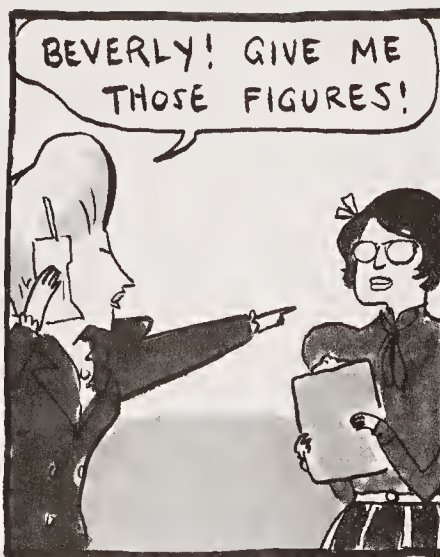
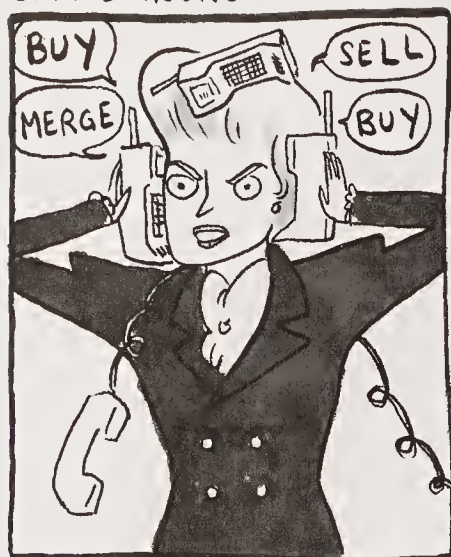


FORBES OR GTFO



I think these comics are mostly the product of my childhood understanding of business ladies. You see, I was born in the 1980s, when images of boxy-shouldered, helmet-haired, red-lipstick-wearing women were striding across magazines and TV shows in giant heels, and I guess they inserted themselves into the pantheon of jobs you one day figured you could have. You know, nurse, princess, teacher, businesswoman. From the images I was familiar with, I gathered that these women: (1) did business *all the time*, or (2) if they were not doing business, they were probably exercising. Pretty fierce, but also, it kind of rules.

OFFICE HOURS



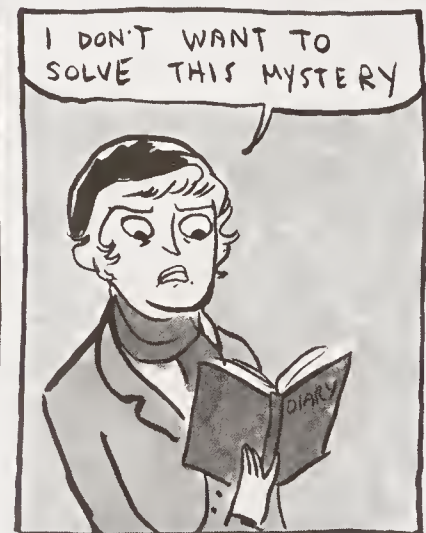
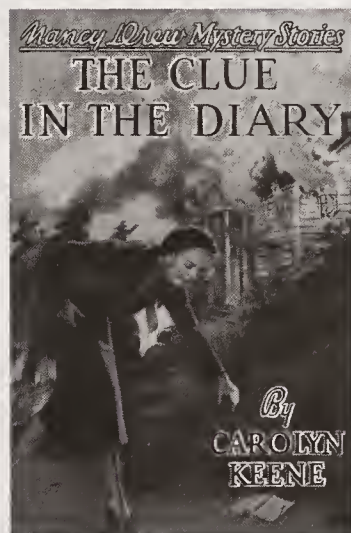
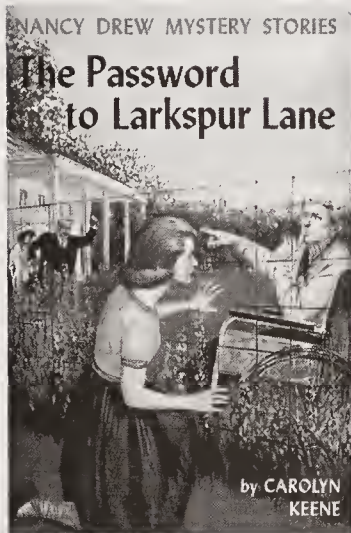
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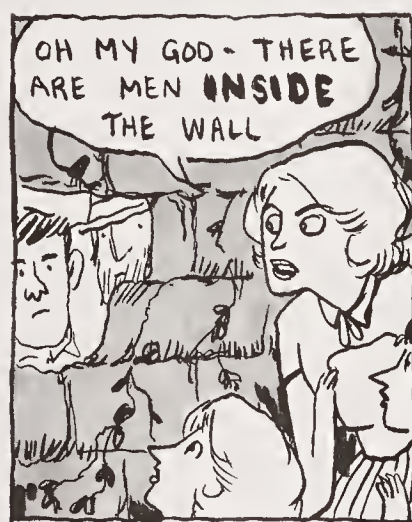
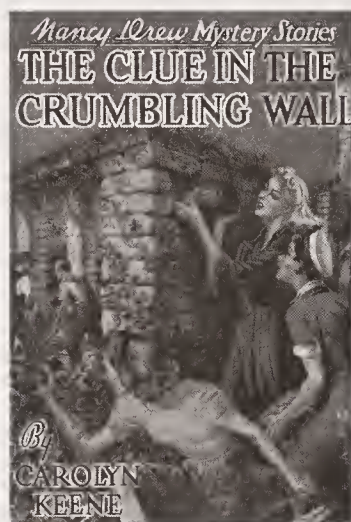
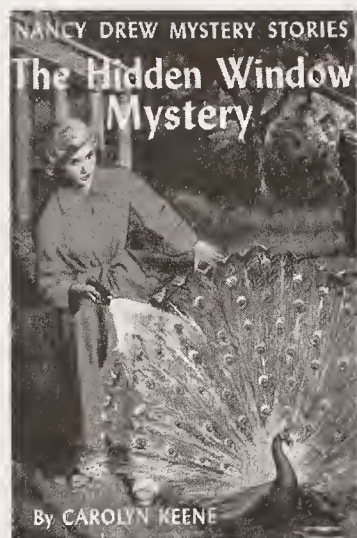
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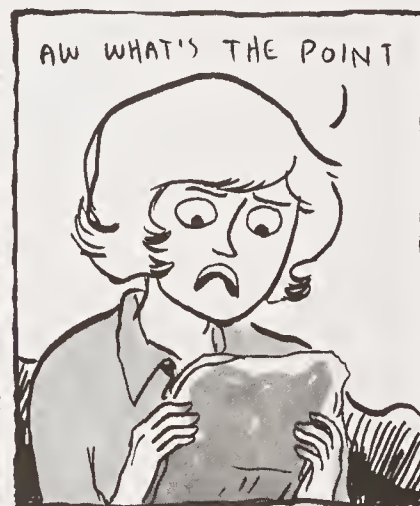
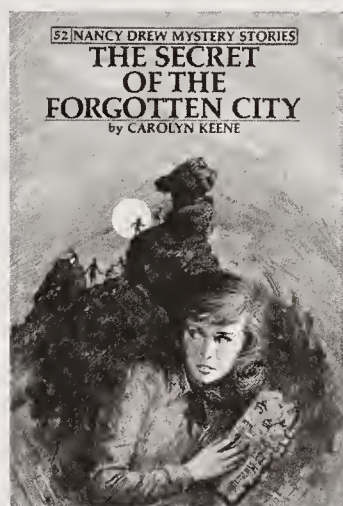
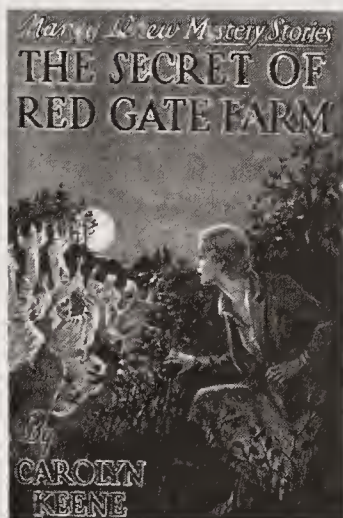


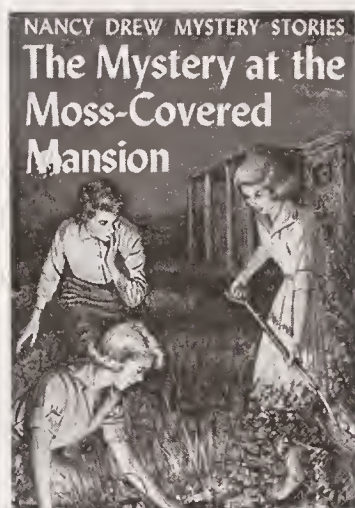
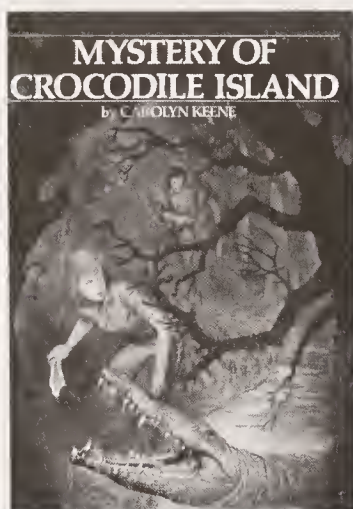
NANCYS

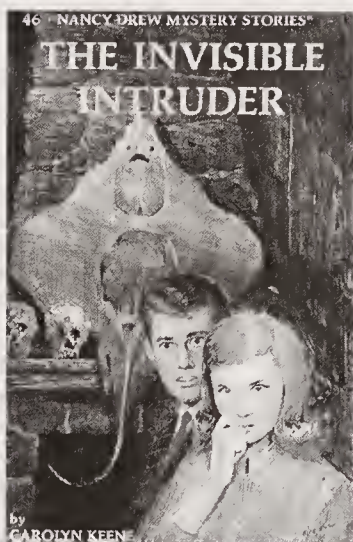
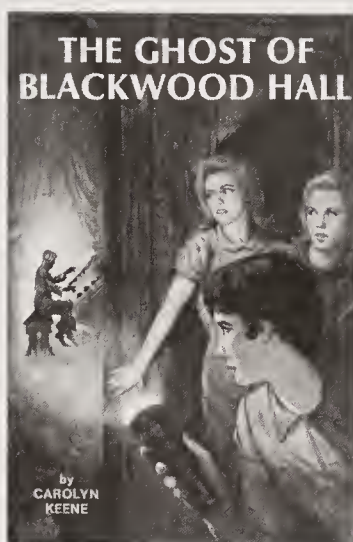


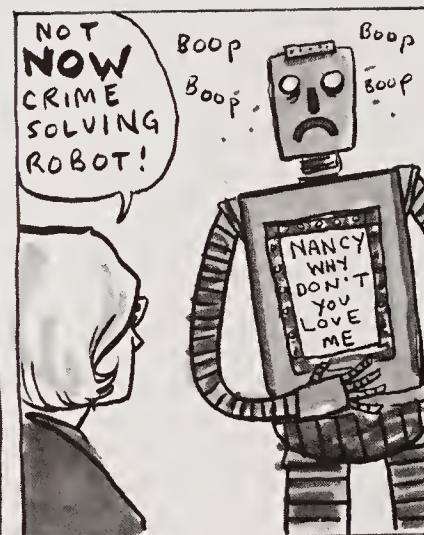
What mischief is Nancy Drew getting into? I've read all the books, so I can just tell you. Join me on a series of unforgettable adventures!











RASKOLNIKOV

IT'S SO HARD TO BE BETTER THAN EVERYONE

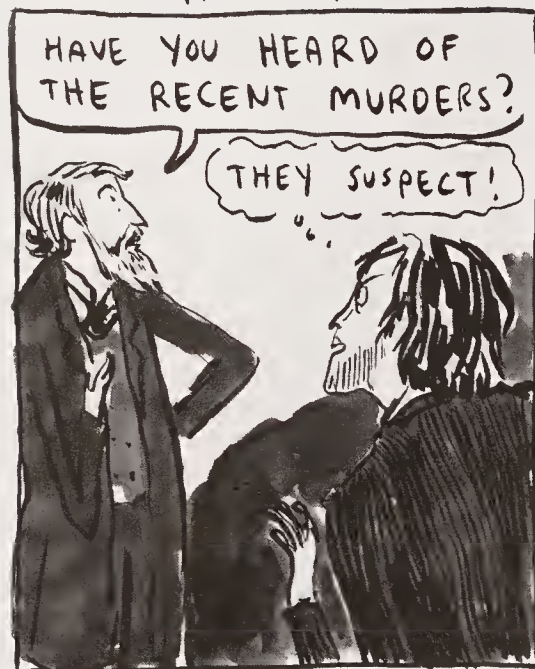


THE AWFUL DEED



Ah, the disenchanted young people of today, letting the things they read go to their heads. Folly of youth! It's everything your father warned you about when you said you were getting a philosophy degree. Why couldn't you just get a trade in plumbing? Everyone needs a plumber sooner or later! Now you've gone and embarrassed yourself by killing a few people for your new principles. What on earth are we going to tell the neighbours?

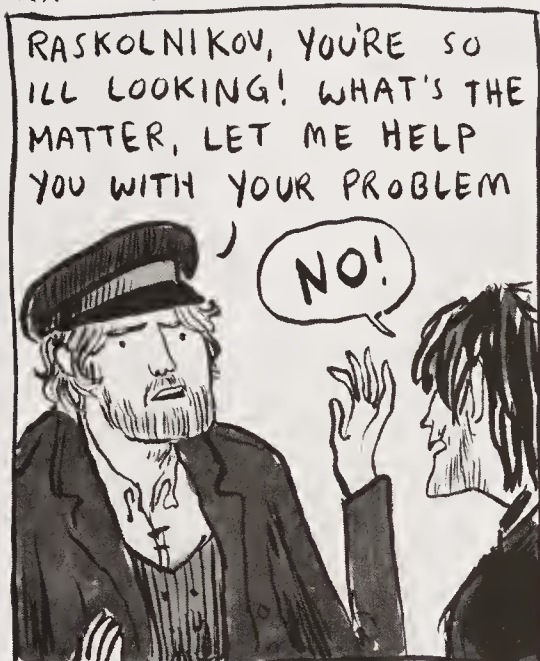
THROW THEM OFF THE TRAIL



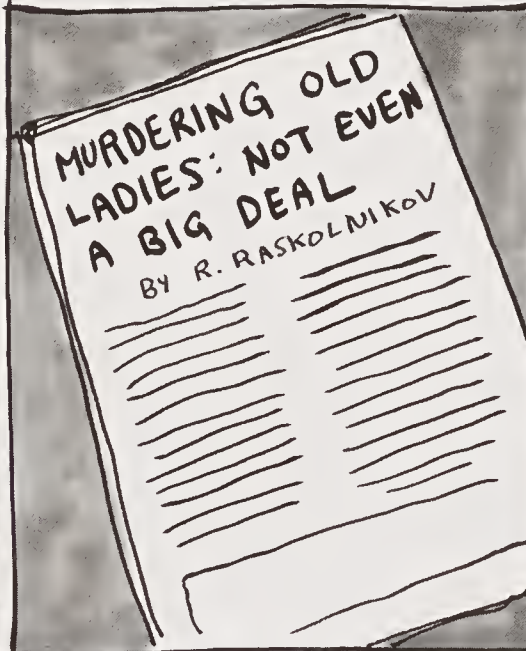
BLUNT SIDE OF THE AXE BUT OH WELL



RAZUMIKHIN MY ONLY FRIEND



ON CRIME



SONYA, GET WITH THE PROGRAM



SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT UP



A BRAND NEW ERA



Do you think when the Middle Ages ended, they had town meetings and everyone was instructed, "Okay, set your watches—it's the dawn of a new era"? Of course not. That's silly. No one had watches in the Middle Ages. They'd have to adjust their sundials or adjust their general sense of guessing what time of day it is.

THE FAMOUS FITZGERALDS



So, I said I would work on something with the Fitzgeralds, and here they are in all their glory, ruining each other's dreams. First Zelda got a bad rap for mucking things up for Scott, then the other way around. But the truth is, they were both a big mess. Let's call it a tie.

GREAT GATSBYS

DREAM GIRL



Everyone has to read *The Great Gatsby* in high school because it's the best example of constructing a novel with themes and symbols, like legos, only not legos but The American Dream and the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg. Fifteen-year-olds can really get behind an essay on what the green light means, which is good, because they sure as heck won't relate to any of the characters, who are all huge jerks with enough money to be wasted most of the time on top of being miserable.

LIKE TOM'S A GOOD FATHER



IN THE VALLEY OF ASHES



GREEN LIGHT



THE REAL JAY GATSBY



THAT'S PRETTY OLD



LATER SHE DUMPS HIM



JUST AS GOOD THE SECOND TIME



NICK'S LUNCH DATE



HENRY'S LESSON



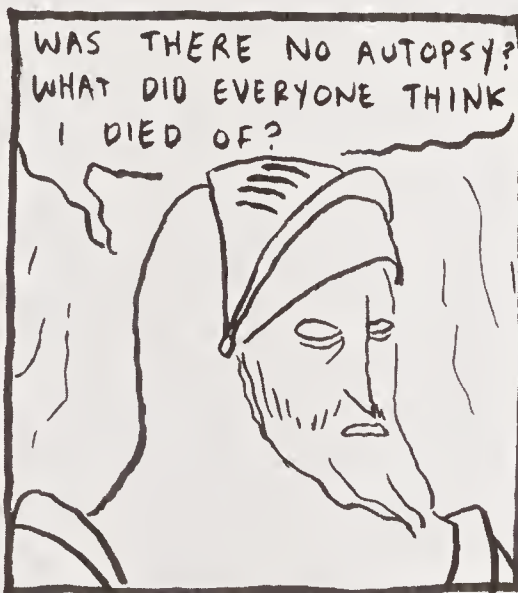
Wasn't it lucky for Henry that disagreeing with the Catholic Church and wanting to get rid of its power also meant pocketing a load of cash? Those monks were holy bros who prayed a lot, but they were also getting their Friar Tuck on in the Party Room of the Monasteries and Henry needed that wine money for wars and probably some wife-related funeral expenses.

HAMLET

IN MOURNING FOREVER

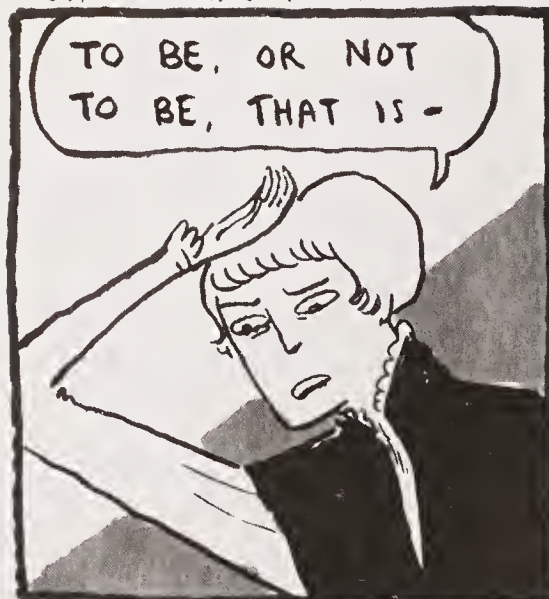


THE GHOST EXPLAINS



The play *Hamlet* is a case study in the behavior of depressed young dudes during the time before you could just let off steam by listening to Morrissey records in your bedroom with the lights turned off. How many monarchs has Morrissey really saved with his music? We may never know. But what is irrefutable is that there are many less regicides these days. A connection??

CLAUDIUS AND POLONIUS ARE THERE TOO



CLAUDIUS EXPOSES HIMSELF



LAERTES RETURNS



THE PRINCE OF NORWAY ARRIVES



SACAGAWEA AND YORK TRAVEL TO THE PACIFIC

NOW WE'LL NEVER GET THERE



BACK OF THE VAN

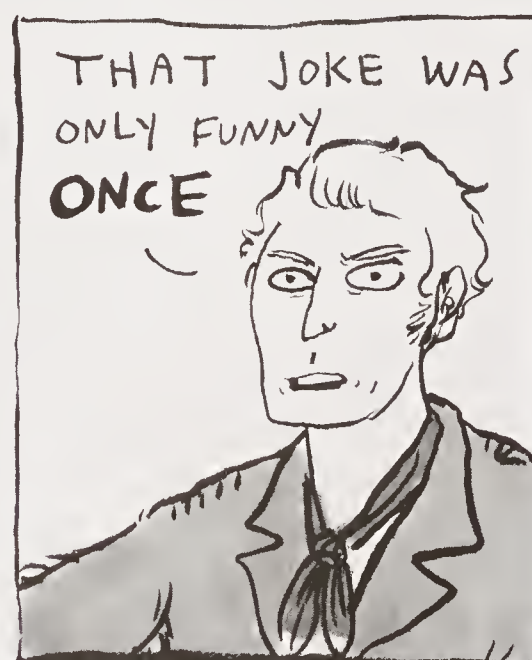
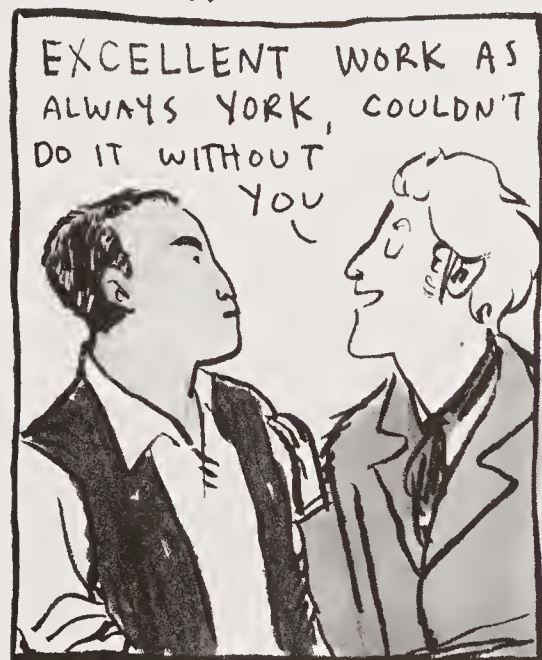


There are people who protest the fame of Lewis and Clark because their mission didn't really do what it was supposed to, and here we are plopping them into the pages of every grade-school textbook. The real benefit of reading about Lewis and Clark is the inclusion of people like Sacagawea and York in the narrative, who were not overly remarkable in a historical sense, but were ordinary people who stood out with their courage, skills, and conviction, and did not happen to be puffed-up, high-ranking white guys, of which we already have plenty.

PAPOOSE



EARN IT



CHARBONNEAU

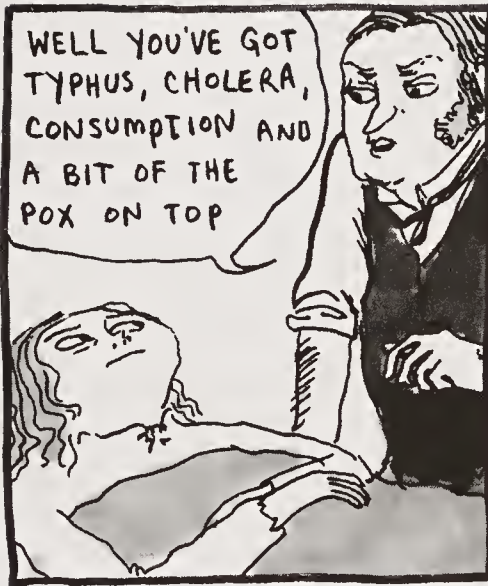


DESTINATION



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION FUN

NEW LIVING CONDITIONS



IN THE CLUB



When Oliver Twist says to the man with the food pot, "Please sir, I want some more," we know he is speaking for all the poor little orphans, and our hearts melt. Just give the little nipper some gruel! Or gravel mixed with water, whatever it was they were being fed. When your parents say, "There are starving children in Africa" to make you eat your dinner, it can only go so far. I'd throw in, "One hundred and fifty years ago you'd be a chimney sweep and dead at twelve and no one would give a shit." More broccoli please!

PLUS, IT'S CHEAP

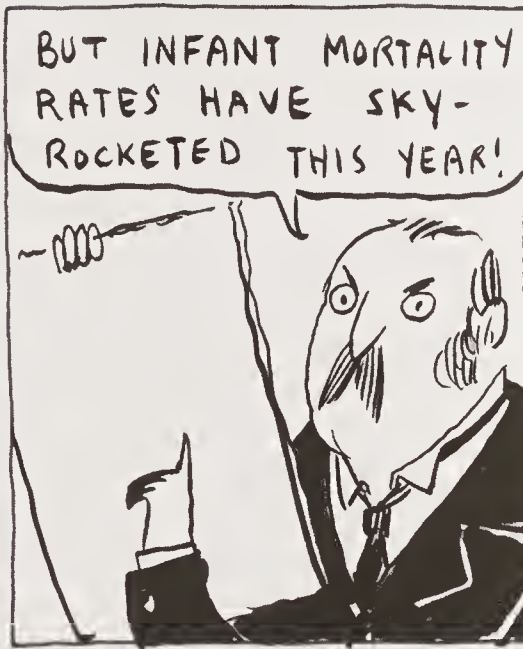


PREVAILING ATTITUDES

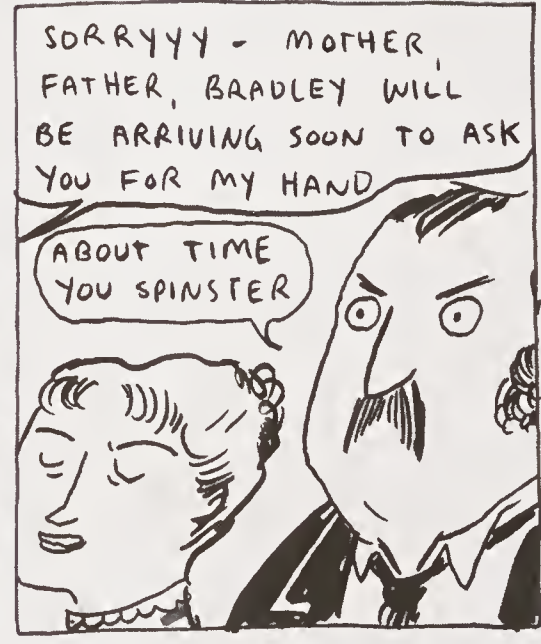


SITCOM, VICTORIAN STYLE

RATINGS SLUMP SOLUTION

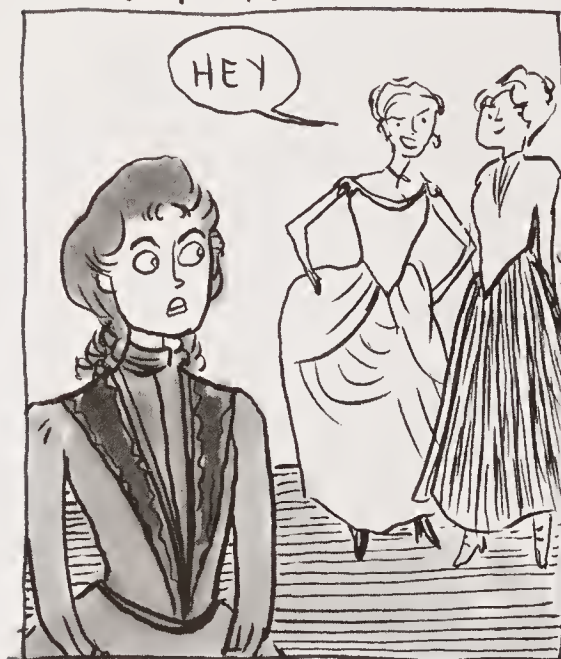


TEEN DRAMA



If you read a Victorian joke book you may be surprised by what they found funny, which is nothing, unless it was racist or sexist, in which case: hilarious. Aw, just kidding, they also thought farts were funny. If they did have a joke it took them two hours to tell it though.

A VERY SPECIAL EPISODE



WACKY NEIGHBOURS



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Kate Beaton grew up in the Maritimes, specifically Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology at Mount Allison University. During her last two years in school, she contributed to the student newspaper, unexpectedly morphing her lifelong obsessions with literature, history, and drawing into very funny comics. In 2007, after prodding from friends, Beaton uploaded her first comics to her website, receiving acclaim that set her on the path to becoming one of the most successful and talked about new cartoonists of the past decade. She eventually self-published the now-sold-out book *Never Learn Anything From History*. Her comics have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harpers*, the *National Post*, and *The Best American Comics* anthology. She won the Doug Wright Award for Best Emerging Talent and has been nominated for the Harvey and Shuster awards. Her website is www.harkavagrant.com.

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