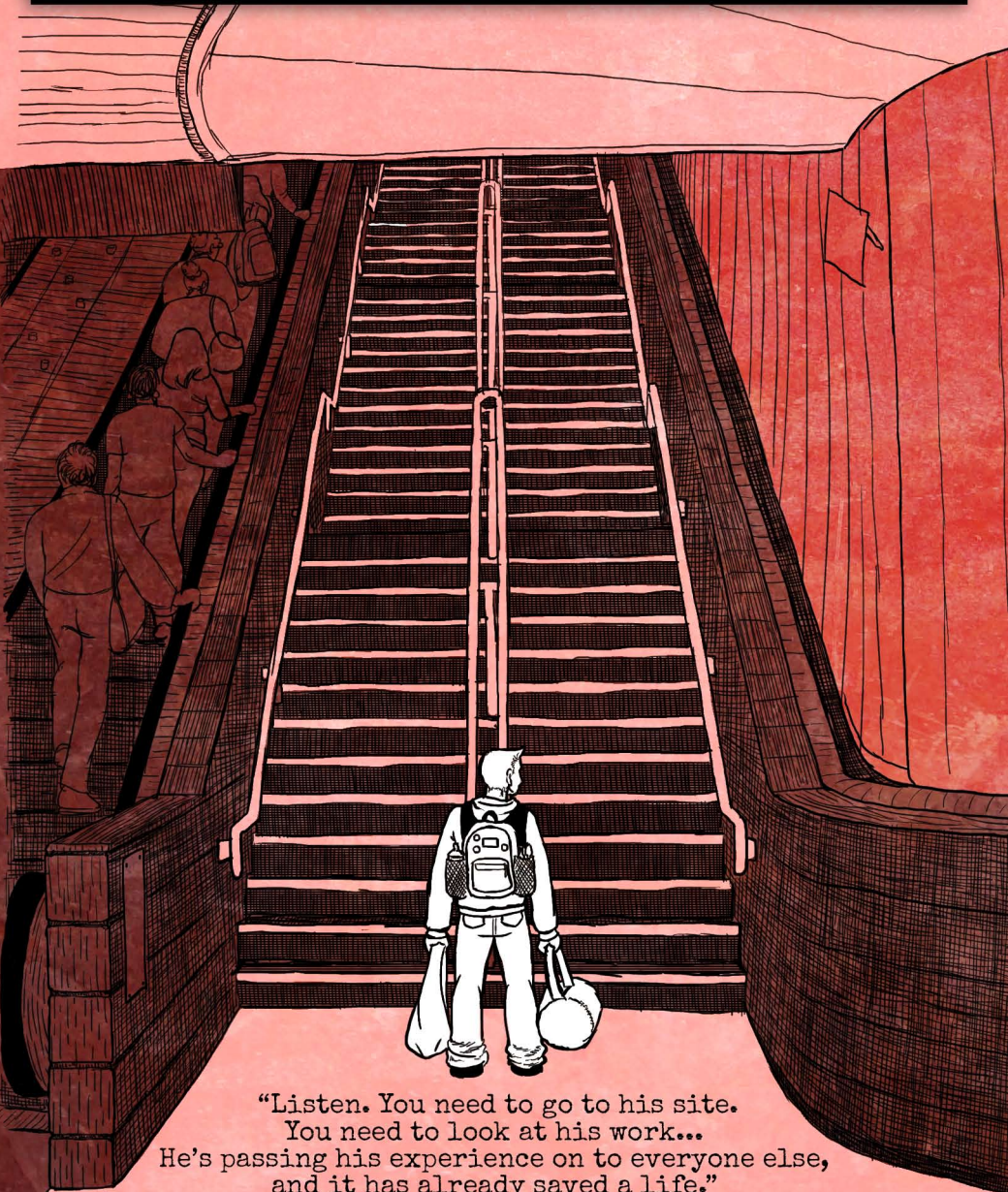


THE HOMELESS YEAR

LB LEE



"Listen. You need to go to his site.
You need to look at his work...
He's passing his experience on to everyone else,
and it has already saved a life."

-Jade Aurora, via Tumblr

A HAPPY HEALTHY COMIC ABOUT SICK SAD THINGS

It is summer 2012, and multiple LB has just lost job, home, and mind. Mentally ill, living in an attic crawl space filled with rusty nails and rotten fiberglass, there's only one thing to do: make funny comics about it, and hope to eventually write their own happy ending. So they do, and they did.

Funny, heartbreaking, and determined, The Homeless Year saved LB's life. Maybe it'll save yours.

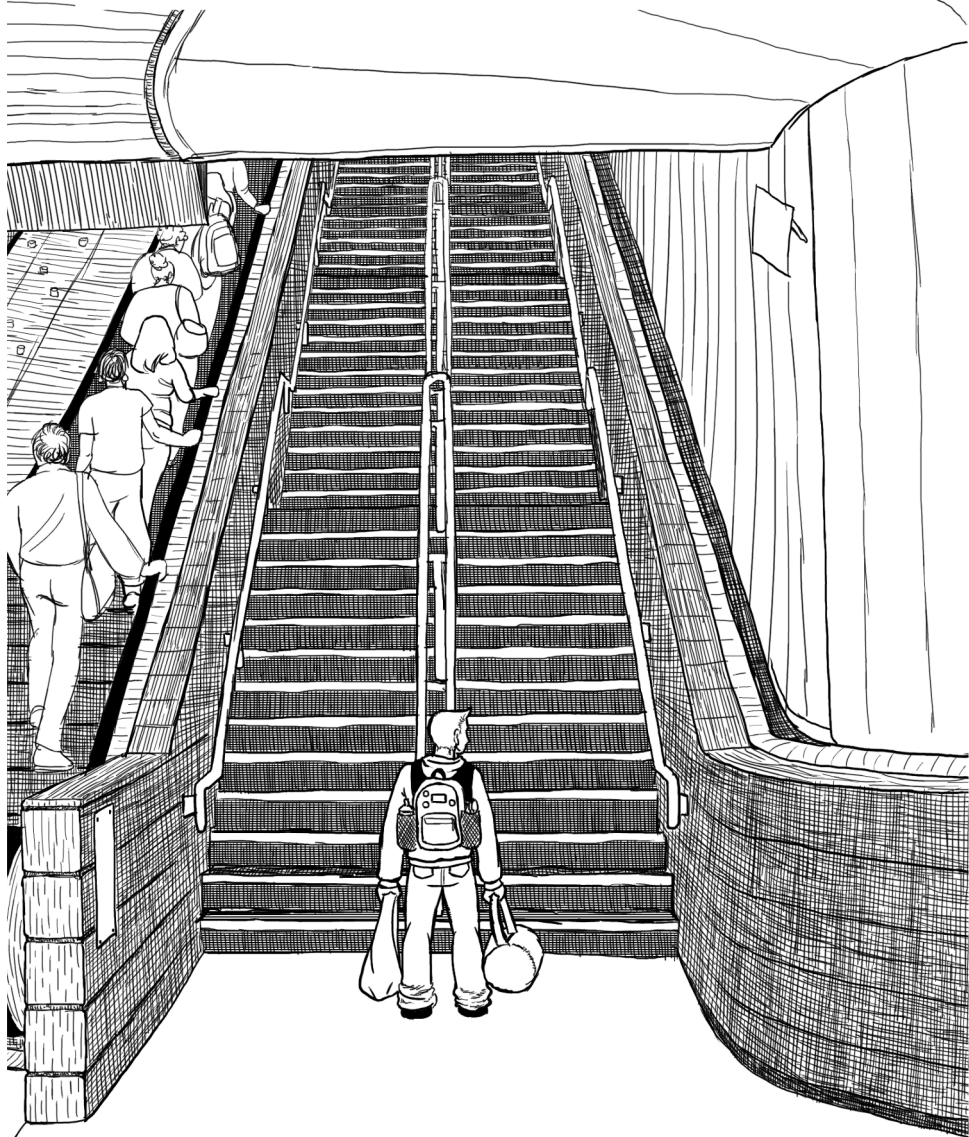


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LB is a multivarious entity that makes mental health comics, draws pretty pictures, and writes stories about reality melting. They live in Boston. They have windows.

THE HOMELESS YEAR

LB LEE



Cover typography & design assistance:
Kerry of Plures House. (exunoplures.org)

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of the author, except for the purpose of
review.

Parts of this book were originally
published as 'Dissociation,' 'Cracks of
Sunshine vol. 1: Broke Brain,' and
'Cracks of Sunshin vol. 2: Self-Hate
Loves You.'

First printing, October 2015.

Printed in the USA by Keness.

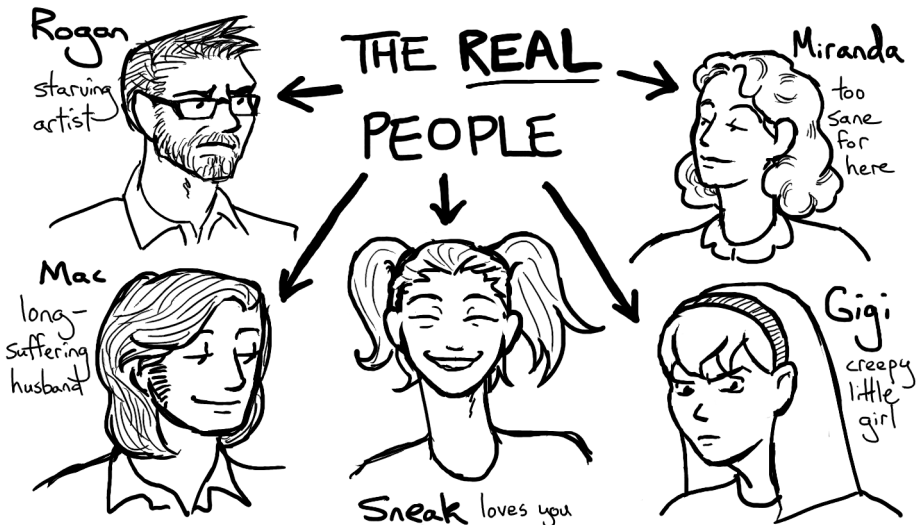
LB would love to hear from you!
loonybrain@healthymultiplicity.com
<http://LB-Lee.livejournal.com>



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Dissociation		6
Scratch's Art		14
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WHO IS LB?



Oh, and Falcon, retired imaginary pal



who we sometimes depict as a coffin in a hat. (Old in-joke.)

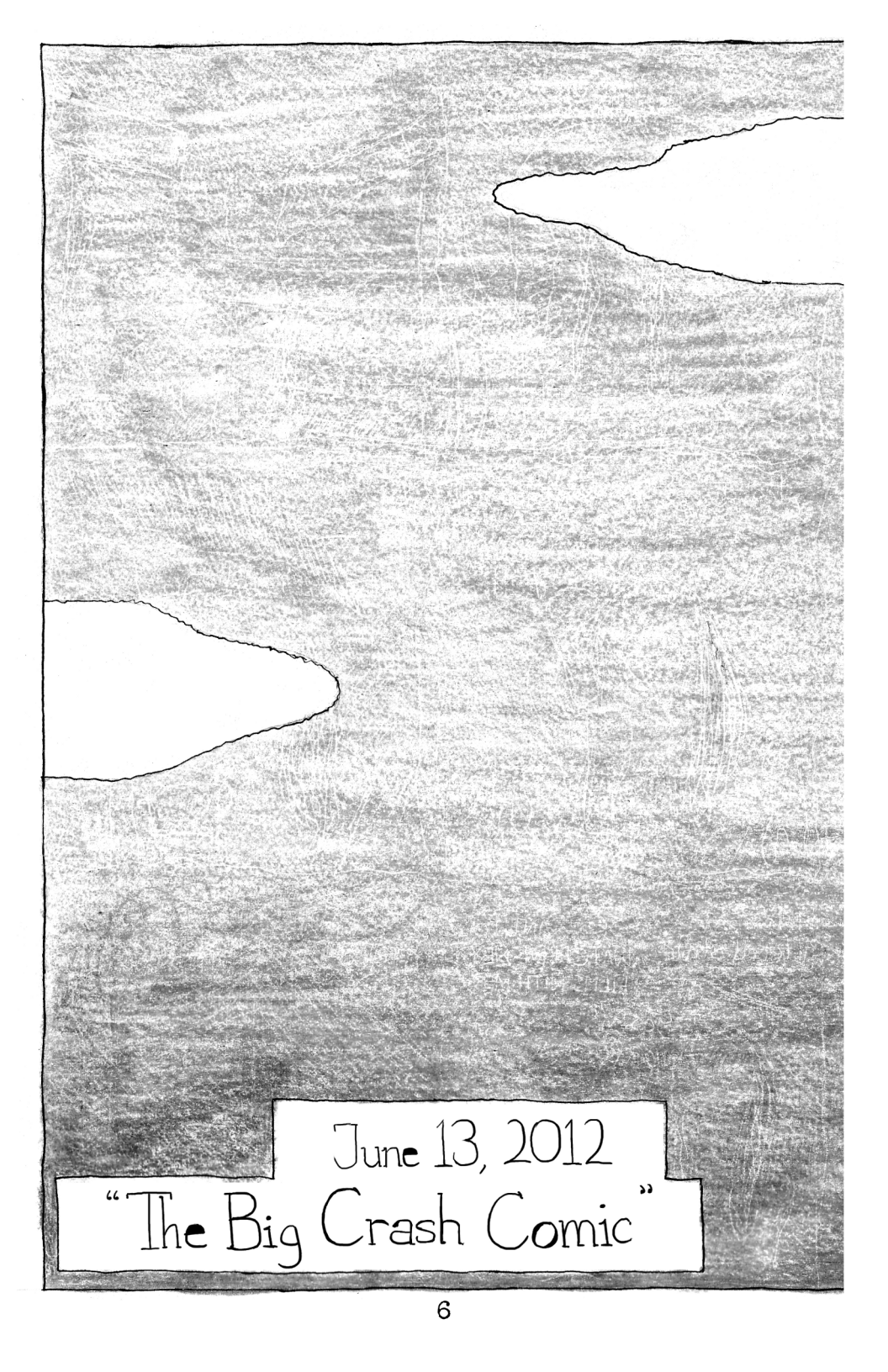
A QUICK NOTE:

Originally, that was all the context we gave, but just for added clarity:

We're a multi system.
AKA 'multiple personalities.'

We go into more detail in other comics, but the Homeless Year isn't about that. If you're curious about us, we have a little group bio in the back, or you can visit us online.

Okay? Okay.
On with the book!



June 13, 2012

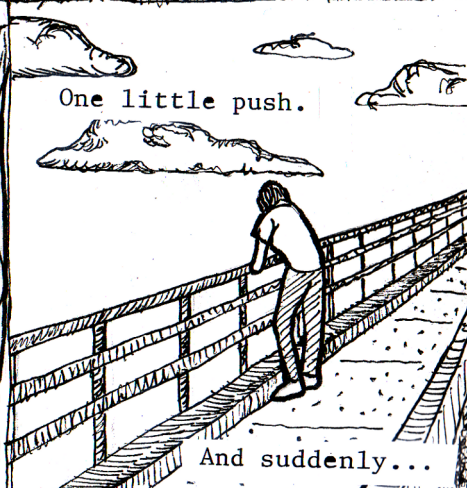
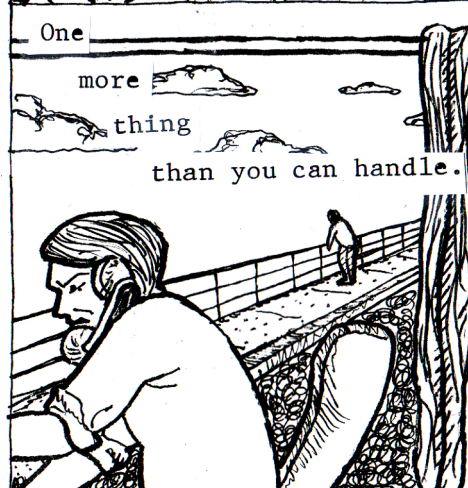
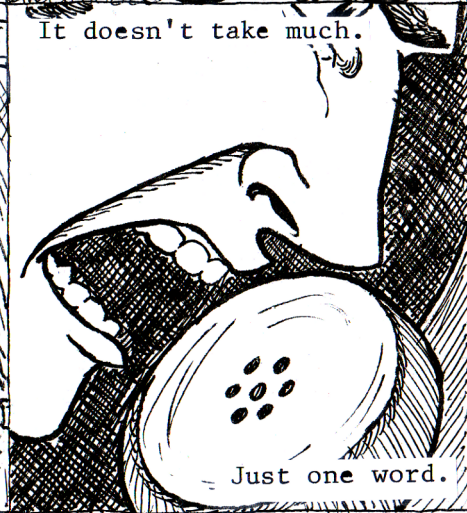
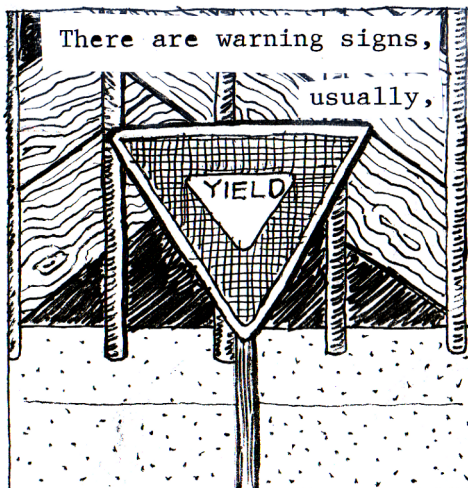
"The Big Crash Comic"

MADNESS
COMICS

Dissociation

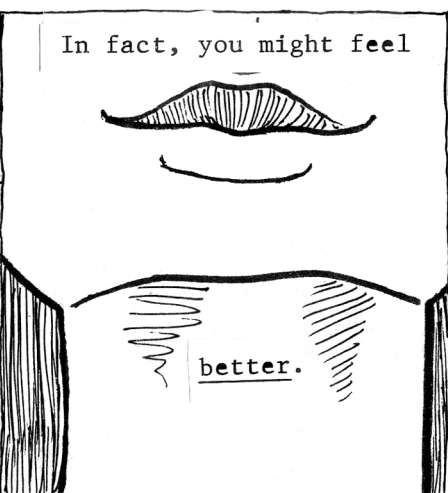
LB
Lee

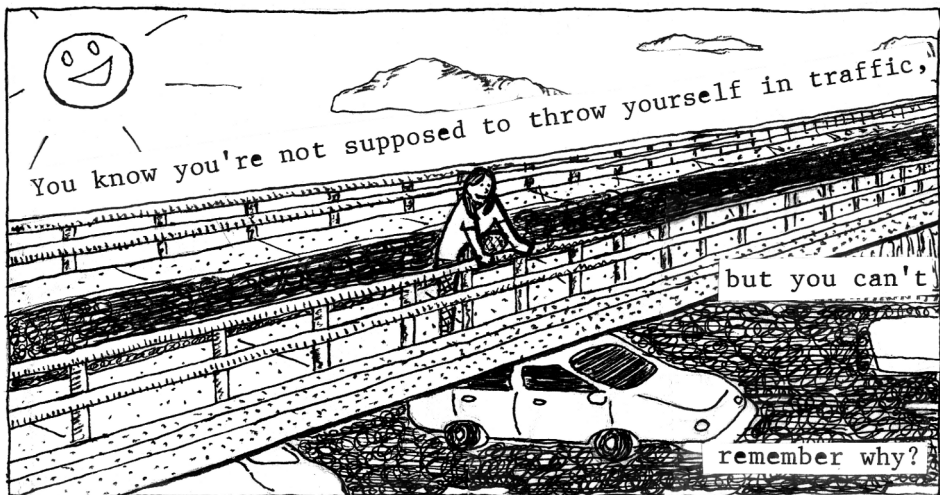




Sanity is no longer the best option.







You know you're not supposed to throw yourself in traffic,

but you can't

remember why?

Then your imaginary friend
shows up.



You haven't seen him
since you were 12.

He says you need to call your
friend.



Right now.

It's very important.

You suspect he's trying to
trick you,



but he's always been
trustworthy in the past,
so okay.





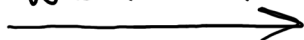
When we made 'Dissociation', we tried to pretend it wasn't completely autobiographical, but I don't think we fooled anybody. Here's the lowdown:



was us.



was Falcon.



was our friend (and soon to be roomie)
Holly (watch for her later cameo!)



We were in a dissociative haze for a week. When we surfaced, we entered a partial hospitalization program (AKA Loony Daycare). We planned for our upcoming homelessness with Holly.

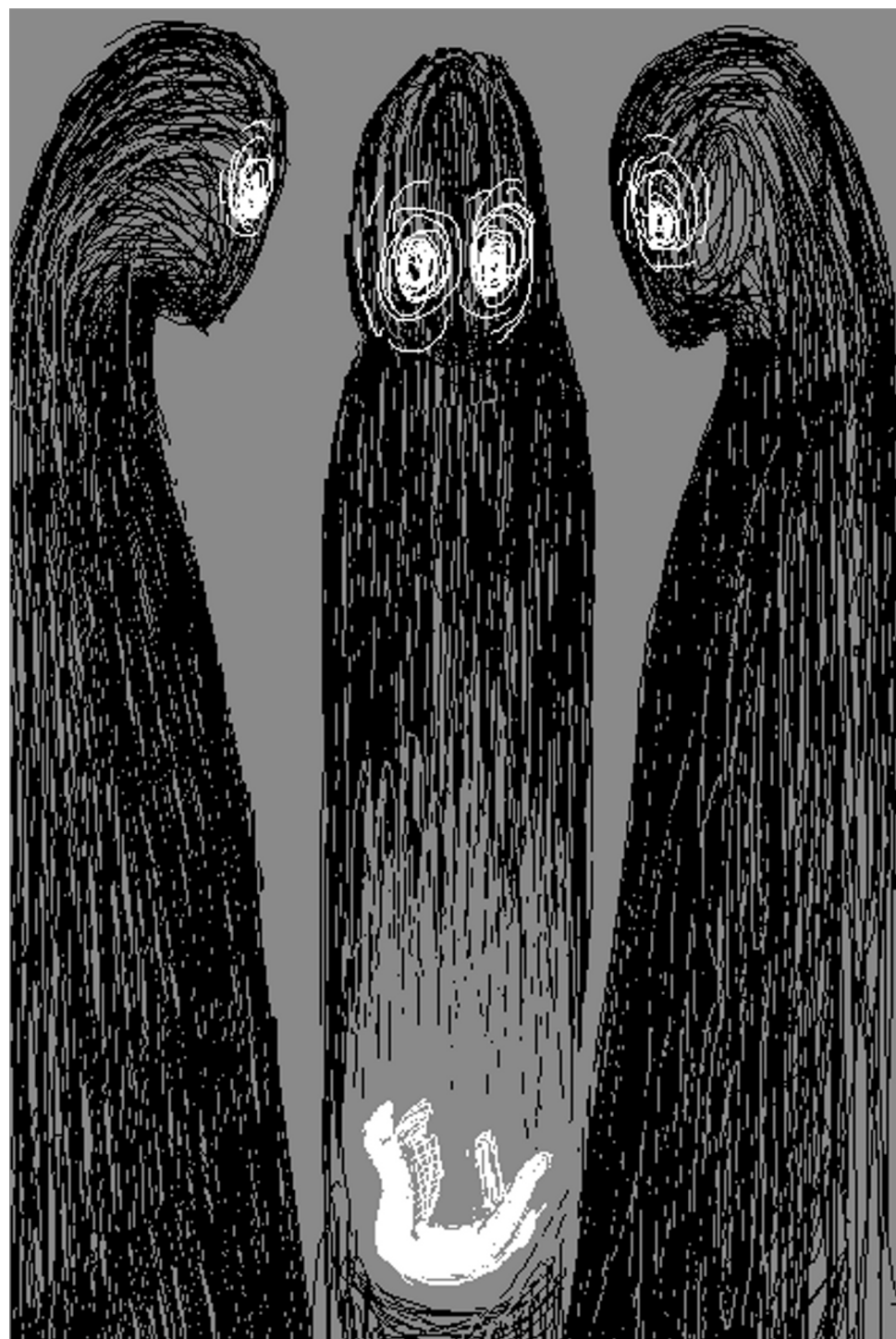
And we drew...











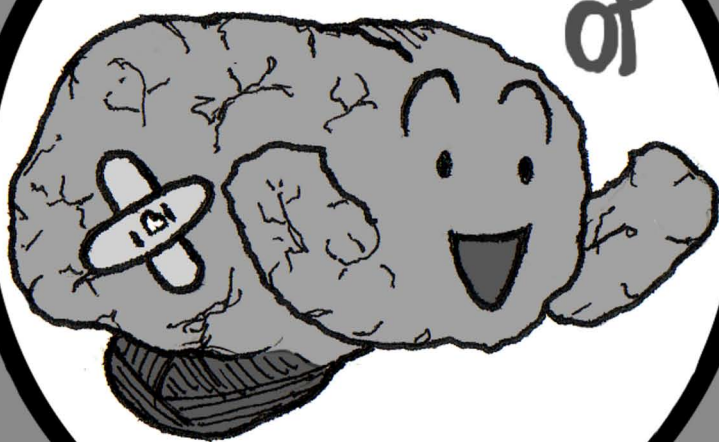
Nobody will ever
love you



The way I do

CRACKS

of



SUNSHINE

vol. 1: Broke Brain

by L.B. Lee

HOME SWEET HOME



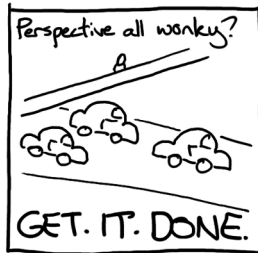
ROGAN: WORST PATIENT EVER



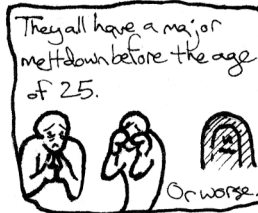
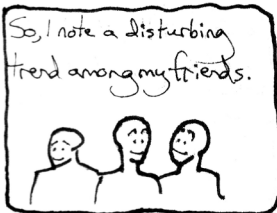
THE ROOM



PERFECTIONISM



CRACK UPS AND BURNOUTS



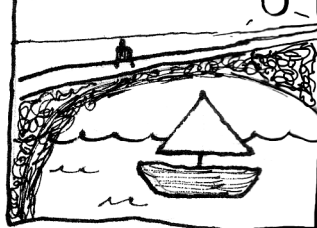
Or all of them at the same time.



It's really sad to see my loved ones fall...



...especially knowing how close I came too.

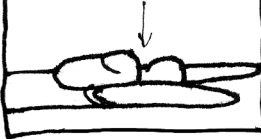


At the same time, I have to wonder...



Is our society just that rough on people?

Adulthood!



Are we just unlucky?



Will this happen to everyone?



Just us?



...me?



If it does, would it be my fault?



Will I be fighting this the rest of my life?



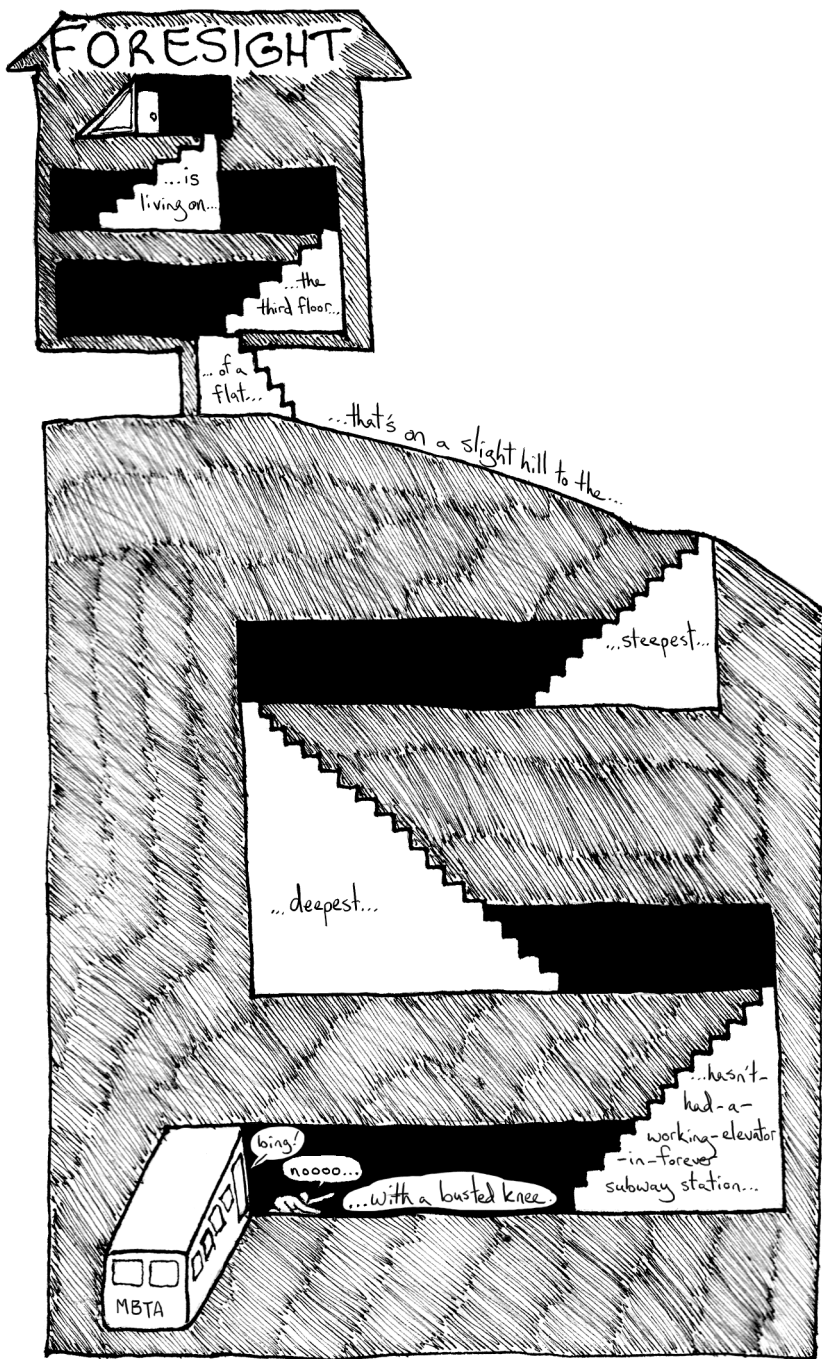
Will it always be this hard?



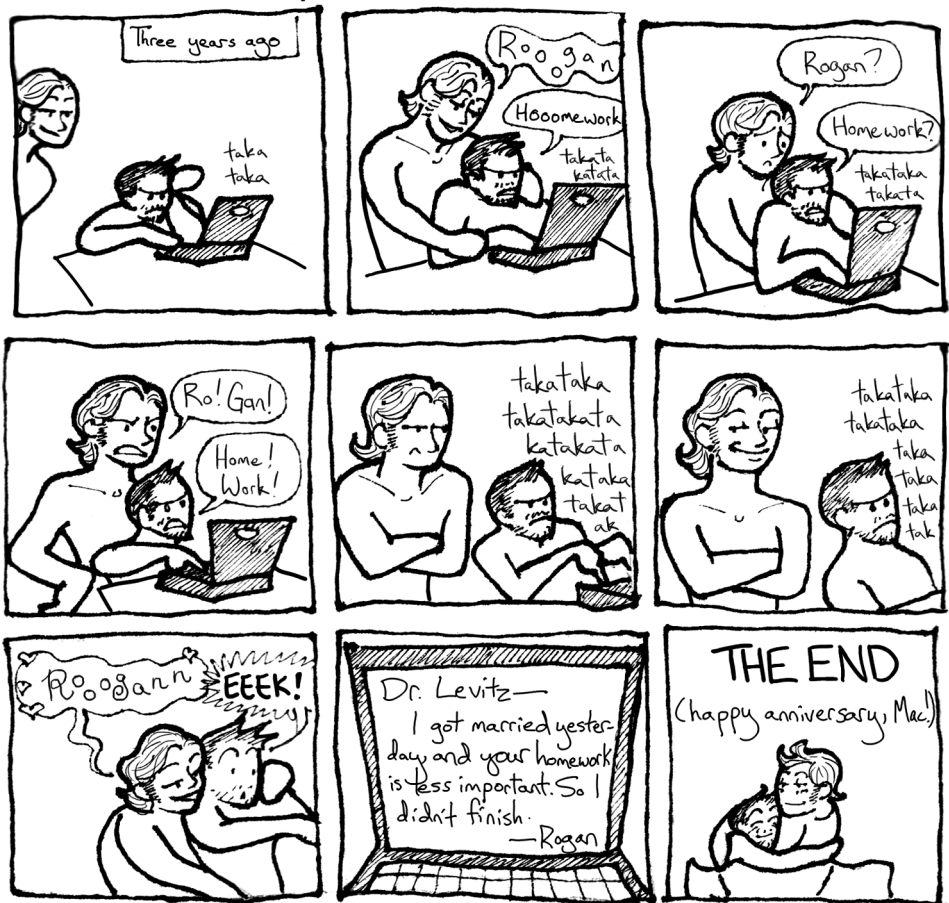
Will I be strong enough?



I guess I'll find out, won't I?



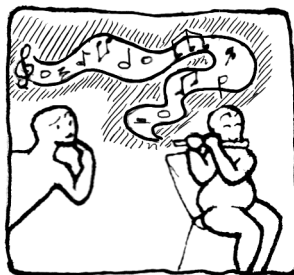
PRIORITIES



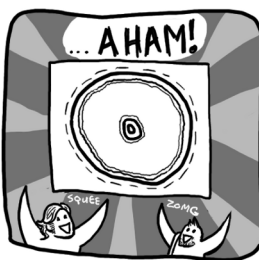
THE ONLY WAY TO WIN...



FACE REALITY!



MEAT ANNIVERSARY



ENVY



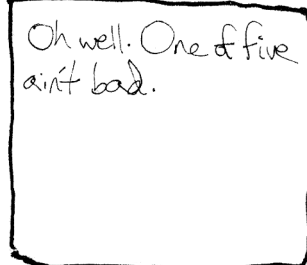
LEATHER ANNIVERSARY



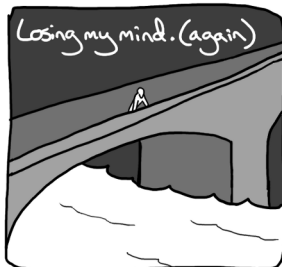
DOUCHEY UNICORNS



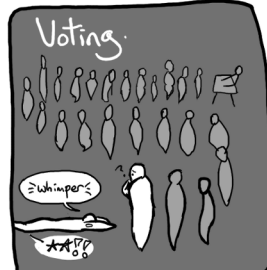
COMMON INTERESTS



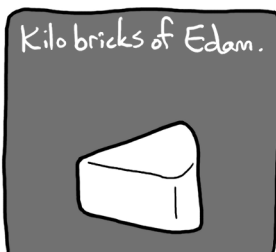
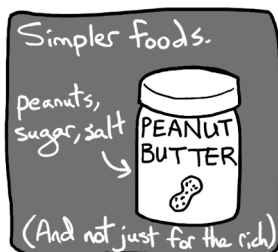
THINGS I AM SCARED OVER



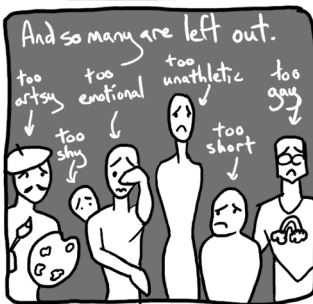
THINGS THAT HURT MY KNEE



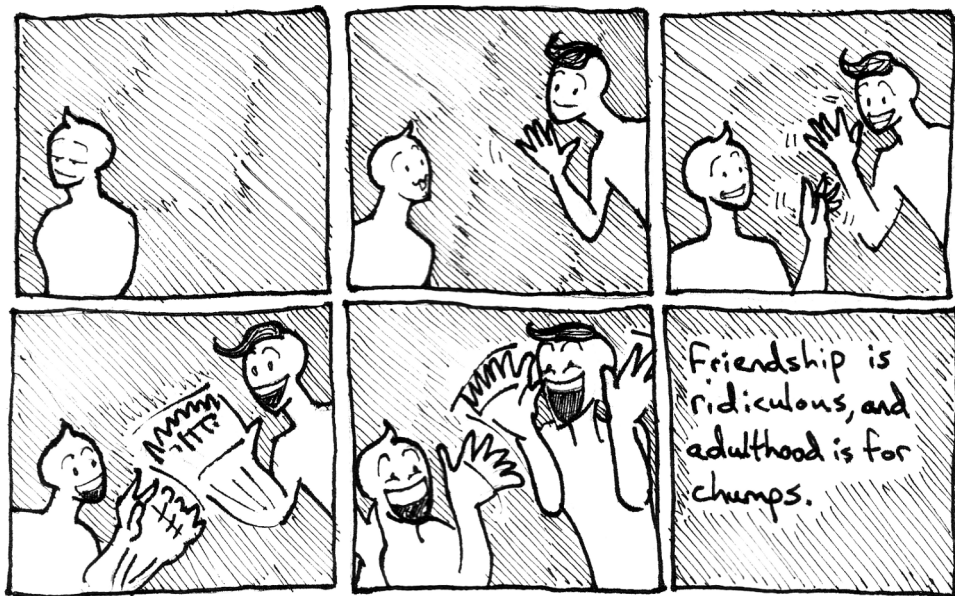
THINGS I MISS ABOUT NEW ZEALAND



MANLINESS



HELLO, FRIEND!



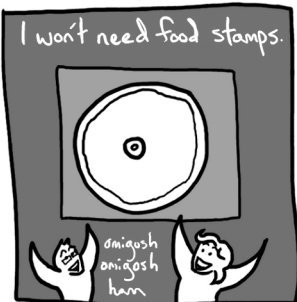
HEAVEN



HOLIDAYS



DREAM BIG



TO STARVE

Since time immemorial, folks have starved for spirituality.



Sometimes to accompany a rite of passage.



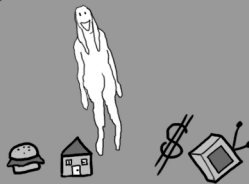
Sometimes to mourn a historical tragedy.



Sometimes to protest.



To starve was to be free.



Of worldly distractions, desire...

...of pain.



I hoped to be clean of desire,

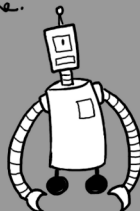


and thus of pain as well.

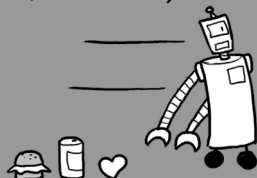
When I didn't eat, I felt less like a fallible human...



...and more like an unstoppable machine.

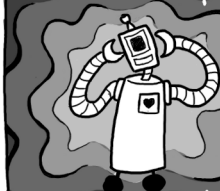


I didn't need rest, food, or love.



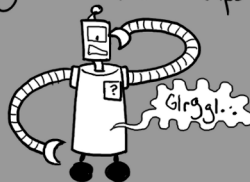
I didn't need anything.

I would become euphoric,



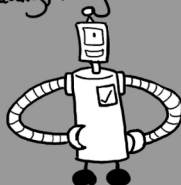
my mind's response to constant starvation.

Hungers and stomach cramps



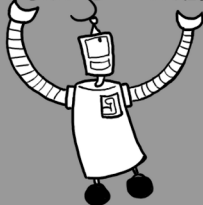
were just worldly distractions, requiring further training.

Eventually, they would stop.



And I'd know they were meaningless. Unimportant.

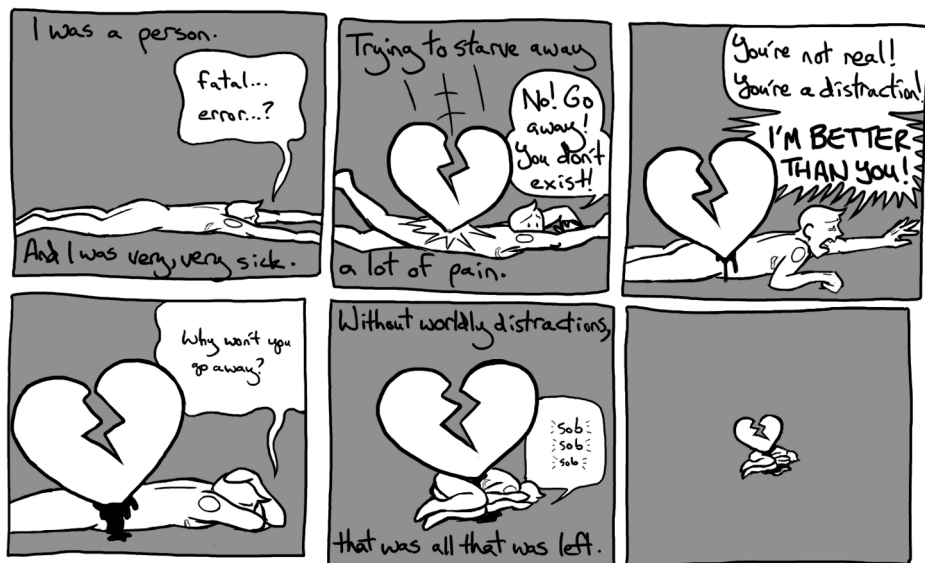
I was stronger than desire!



I was stronger than flesh!

Except really I wasn't.





ANOREXIA BOOKS



ENTITLEMENT

The TRUE destroyer of our nation:



And that's how I destroyed the USA economy on \$300 a month.

Mwahaha.

THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR



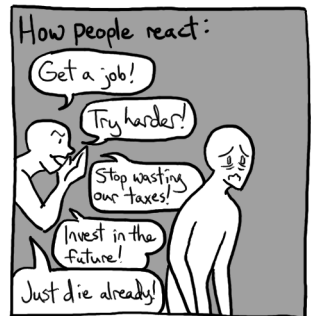
HOW TO APOLOGIZE



ENVY II



POVERTY



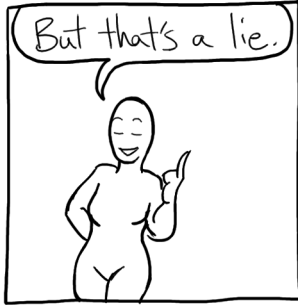
MARVELOUS ADVENTURE



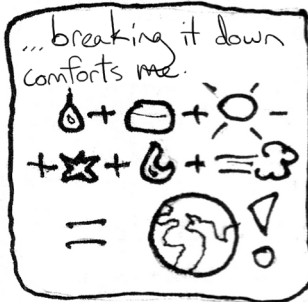
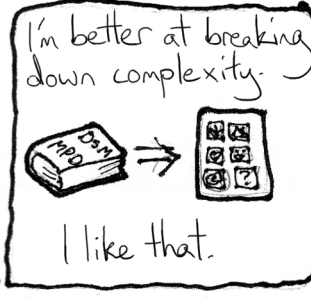
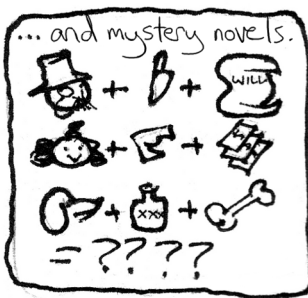
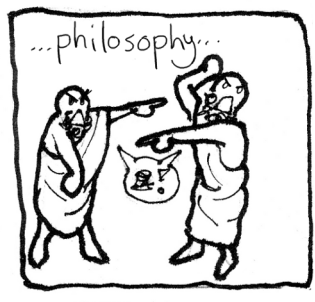
EXPERT



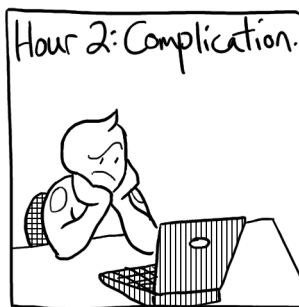
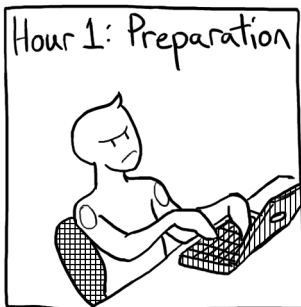
STUFF AS IN SPEECH



SIMPLE-MINDED



HOW ART WORKS (sometimes)

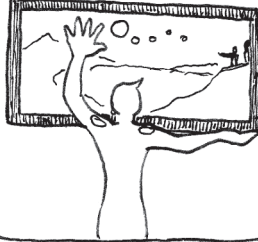


TESTS

I guess in some ways,
I'm trying to test myself.



Just how badly do I
want to make art?



What's truly important
to me?



Can I do it?



Do I truly want to?



It's easy to rely on cliché...
Follow your dreams!
It's called 'work,' not fun!



...but the only way to
know for sure is try.



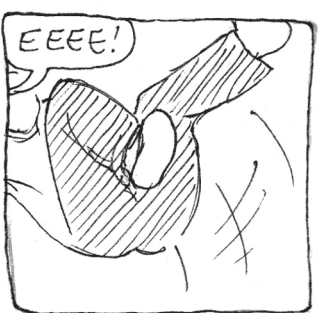
And fail. Or succeed.



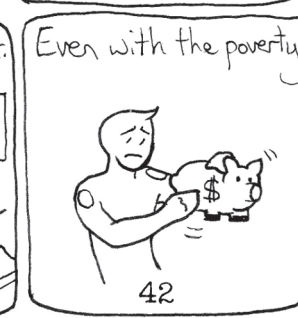
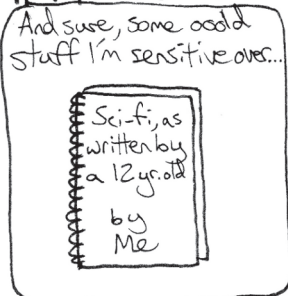
And try again.



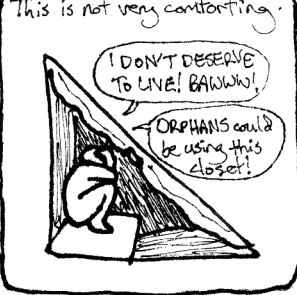
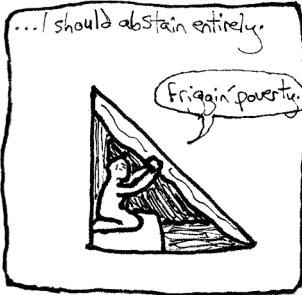
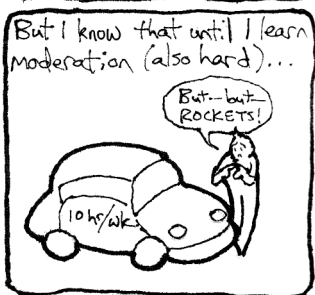
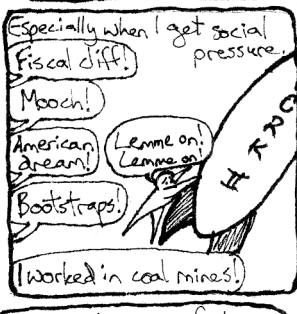
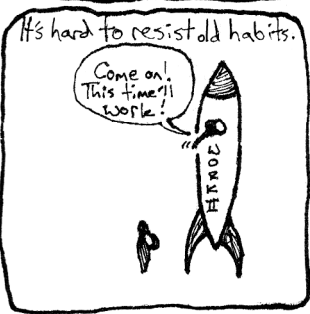
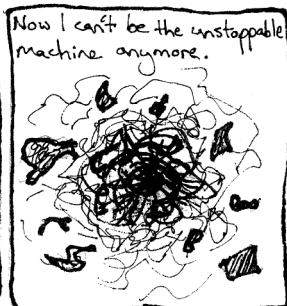
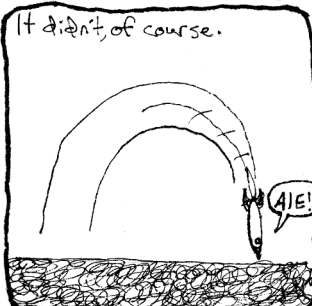
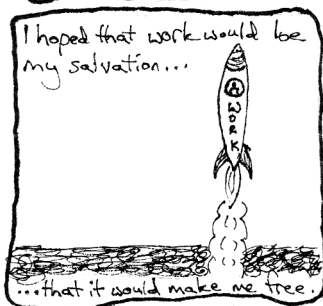
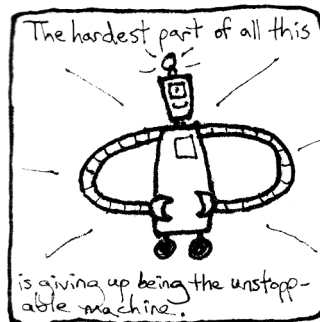
SNEAK IS FRIEND TO ALL ANIMALS



ART WORK



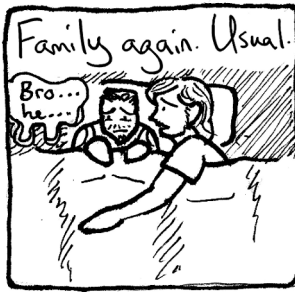
UNSTOPPABLE MACHINE



TRAUMA BOTTLE



NIGHTMARES



SMILE!

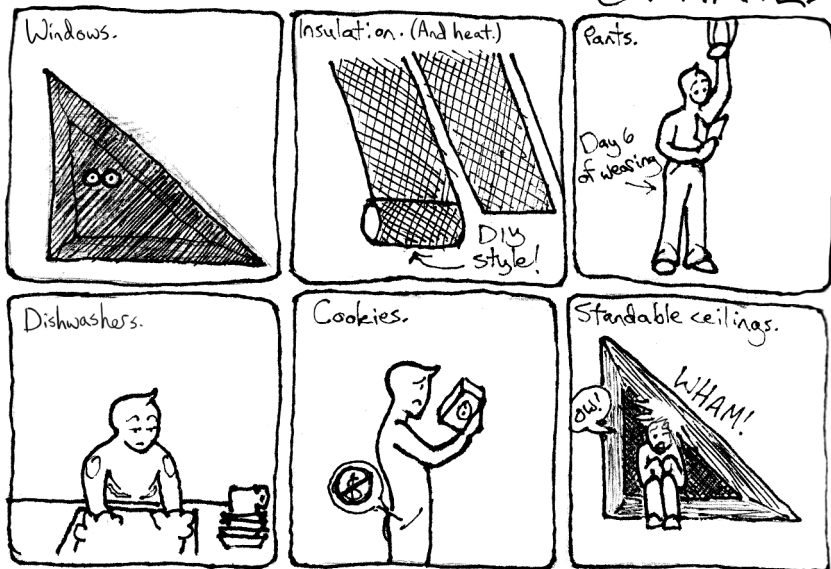


Guys, don't be this shitheel. Don't order nauseous homeless people to smile for you. Or anyone else, either.

FAILURE



THINGS I TOOK FOR GRANTED

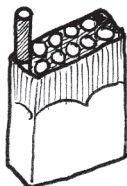


POP-POP

We never got to come out to our grandfather, ★ Pop-Pop.



He died of lung cancer while we were in college.



He painted landscapes, played banjos, sailed yachts.



Well.

Before we were born.

When older, he seemed withdrawn and sad.



That's how we remember him.

I wrote him a story when he was dying...



...but he was too sick to read when I finished.

His death wasn't easy.



Dad came back from it looking warstruck, hollow.

I never knew Pop Pop well...



...but he seemed to like our art.

When our family situation rotted, I pretended he knew us in death...



I love you!

...that he was okay with us.



It probably wasn't true, but he was dead; who'd it harm?

angel yacht



Last night, I dreamed he came to visit me as a ghost.



He looked so vital and happy.

He gave me his blessing and art supplies.

(never owned stuff like this)



I asked if I would see him again, and he said yes.

It was just a dream...



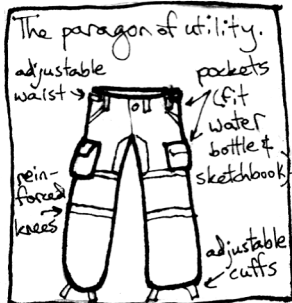
...but I woke immensely comforted, nevertheless.

★ Note: this is not Grampa from 'All In the Family.' This's our other grandfather.

THE POINT

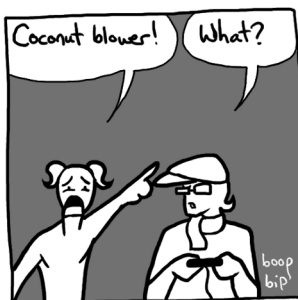


INVULNERABLE PANTS



ZELDA

(guest-starring Bitmap Maddie Prager, of buzzelwak.com!)



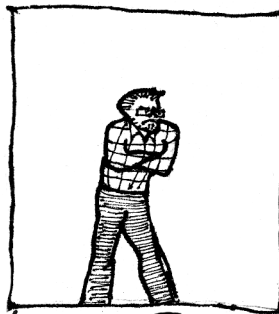
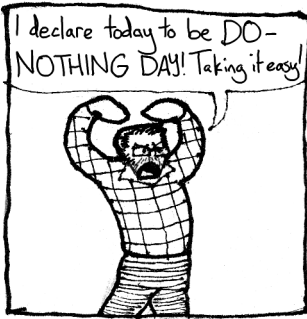
ANXIETY



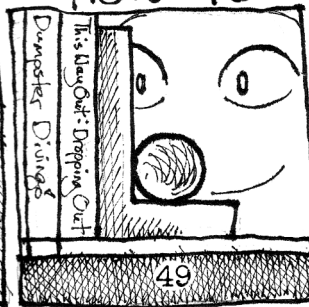
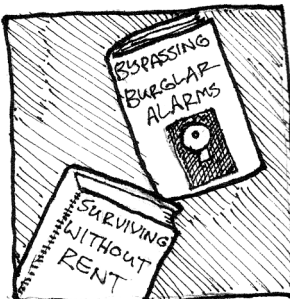
FOOD STAMPS



DO-NOTHING DAY



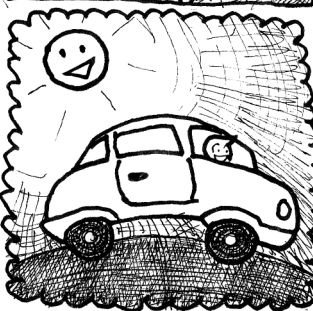
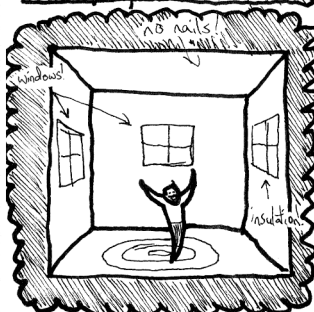
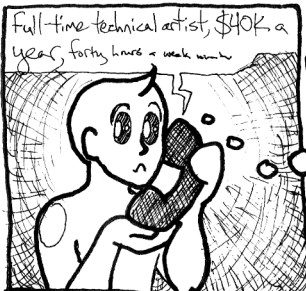
HOW-TO



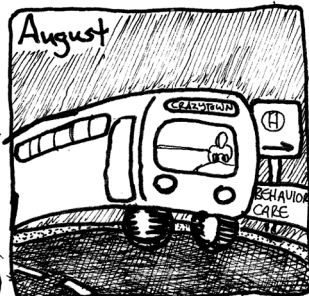
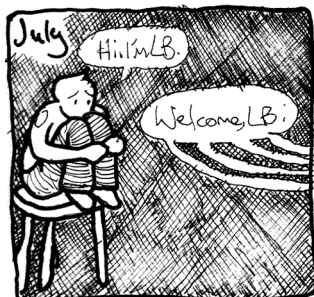
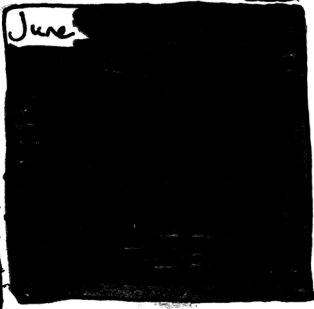
ANXIETY II



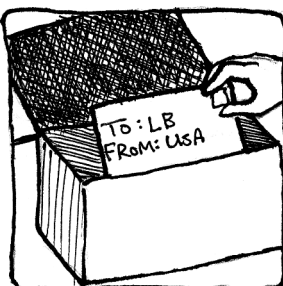
SO MUCH MONEY



2012 IN REVIEW

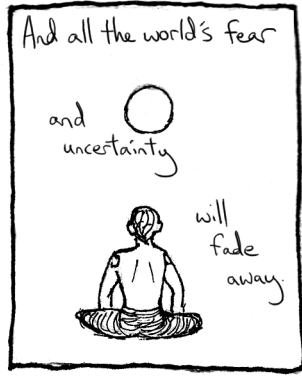
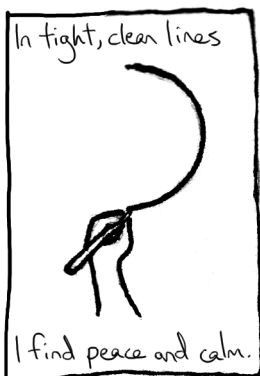
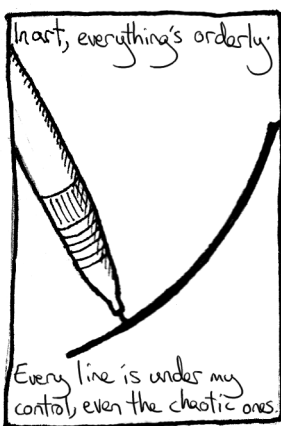
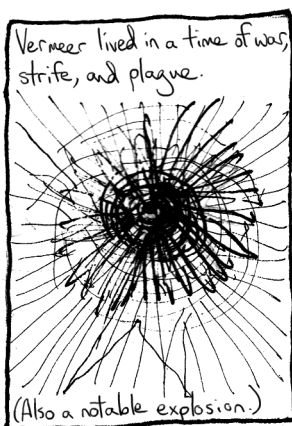


SO MUCH MONEY II



I celebrated by
buying shampoo.
It was the best
Christmas gift
EVER.

ORDER



CHILDHOOD

I was born sixteen years old.



A lot of people don't get what that means.

"My" childhood is all borrowed memories.



A little girl. Some of them feel mine. Most don't.

Within a couple months of my formation, we met my rapist. →



My adolescence was a year of him.

By the time I hit eighteen, I felt I was an adult.



I didn't regret it. Being a vulnerable kid sucked.

It's weird, having someone else's childhood.



You feel like a fake.

An imposter.

A thief, of memories of celebrations.

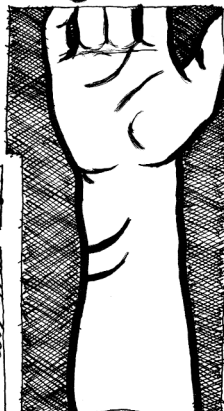
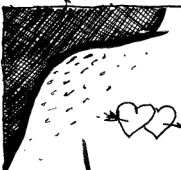
Of love.

You wonder what your parents would have done, had they known of you.



And you thank god they didn't. This way at least, you were lovable once.

THINGS I LOVE ABOUT YOU

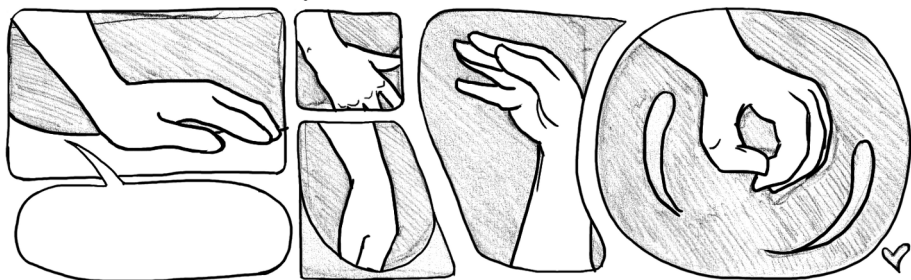


BODY HEAT

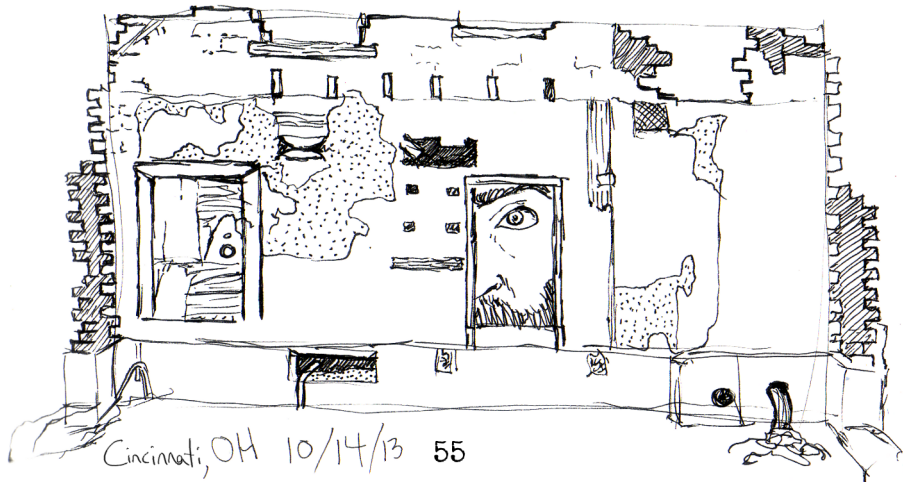


*Also probably ED related; it got me through undergrad. —P.

MEMORIES

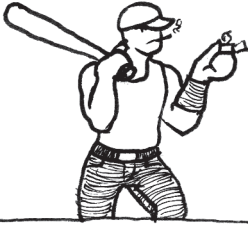


LOVE YOU



GAYDAR

Character A: Thug illusionist with Issues. Closeted gay.



Character B: Men In Black workaholic gay.



Character C: Slackers hacker-gamer. Bi.



And it took you HOW LONG to realize you're gay?



So let this be a lesson to you all:

Be more self-aware than me.

VAMPIRES YOU NEVER SEE

Melvin, the IT Guy.



Charlotte, the D&D player.



Larry, father of two.



Pilar, paraplegic athlete.



Han, who acts/looks his age.



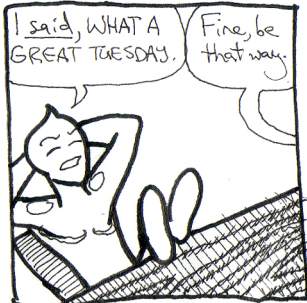
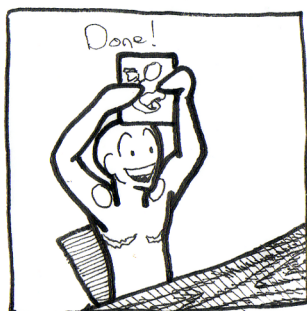
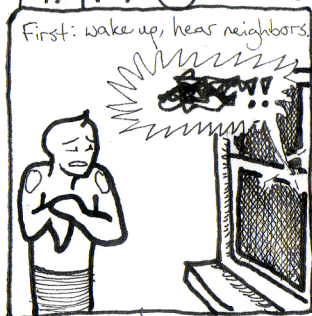
Rashid, who's asexual.



★ This comic inspired stories! <http://lb-lee.livejournal.com/205815.html#cutid4>

HAPPY TUESDAY

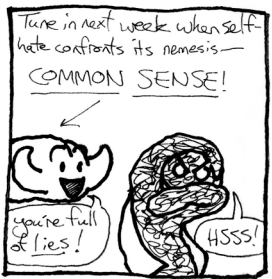
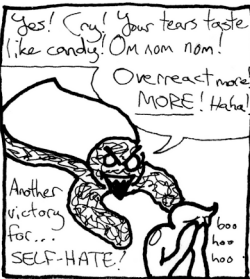
12/25/12



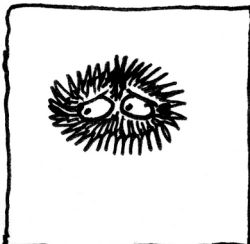
GREEN LANTERN OF BOSTON



INTRODUCING SELF-HATE



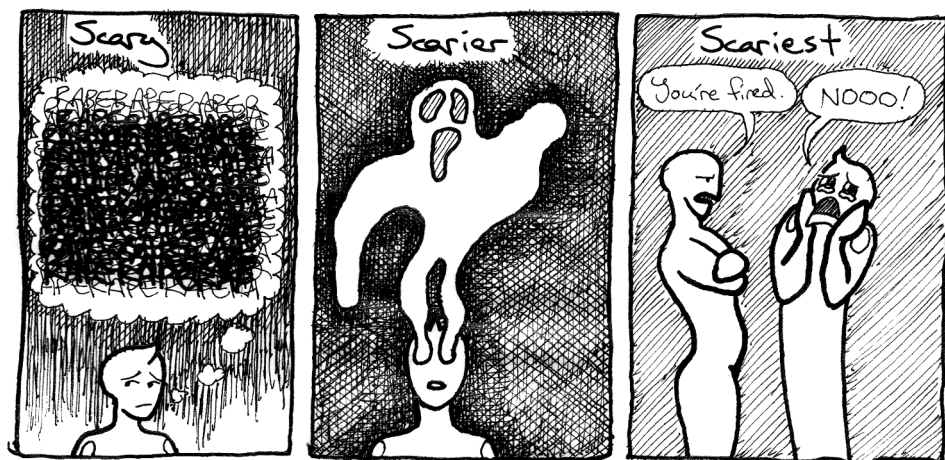
FREE-FLOATING ANXIETY



ALTER NINJA



SCARY THINGS

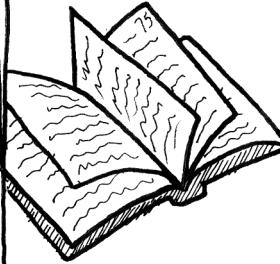


ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2012

I made two comics and two pocket zines.



Wrote eighteen short stories.



Orew twenty-five commissions.



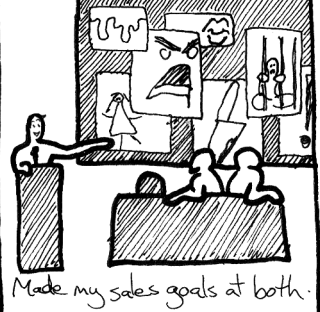
Doodled 75 Cracks of Sunshine strips.



MSTed fifteen chapters of '50 Shades of Grey.'



Tabled at two conventions, paneled at one.



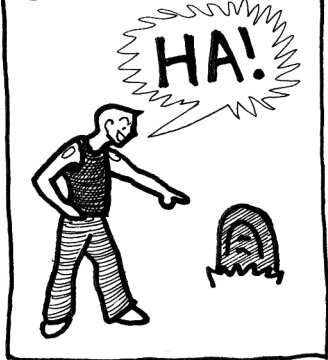
Spent three months in PHP/OP programs



Lost one job, one home, and an undisclosed amount of \$.



Did not die.



Goodbye, 2012! May we never see the likes of you again! See you in Vol. 2!

CRACKS

of

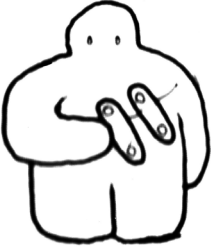
SUNSHINE

vol. 2: Self-Hate Loves You

by L.B. Lee

GOLEMS

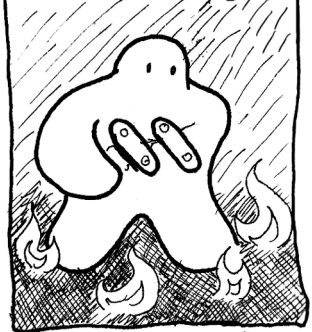
I have always been fond of golems.



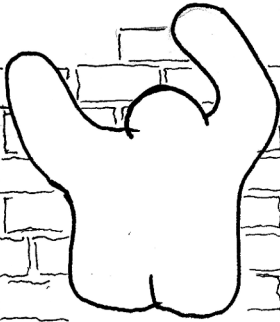
Like us, they were made in times of need.



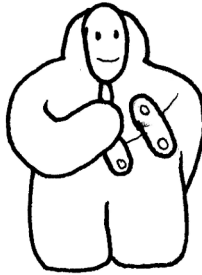
Made to survive all sorts of horror and calamity.



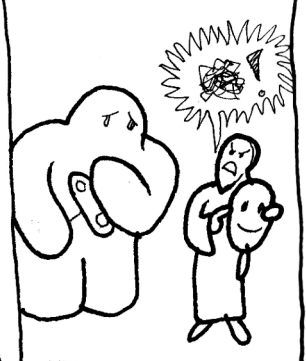
To work.



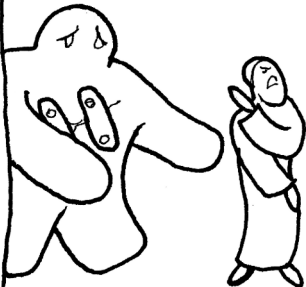
They could pass for human.



But they weren't people.



Rabbis didn't love their golem children.



They killed them when they stopped being useful.



I could empathize with that.



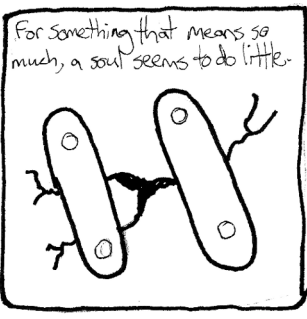
ROUGH & TUMBLE KIDS



Surprise Biff and M.D. cameo!

* Note: you do not want to know what happened to her.

GOLEMS II



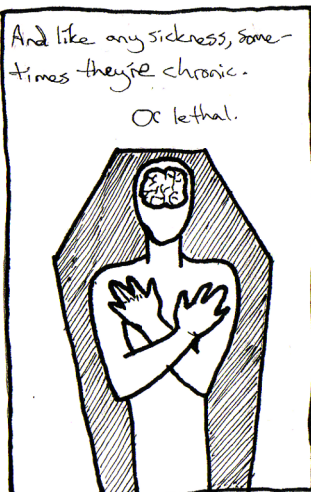
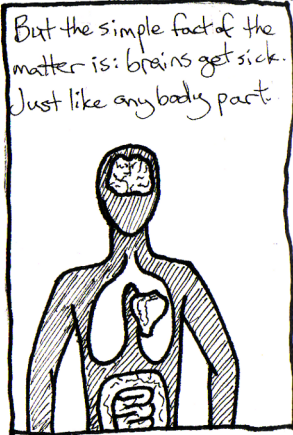
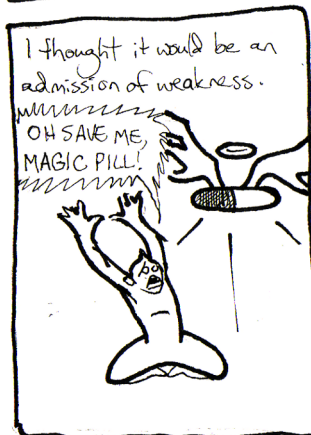
NIGHTMARES II



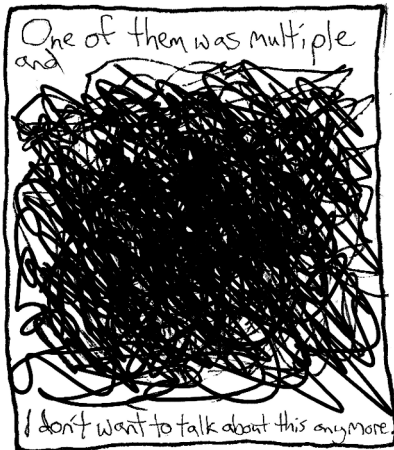
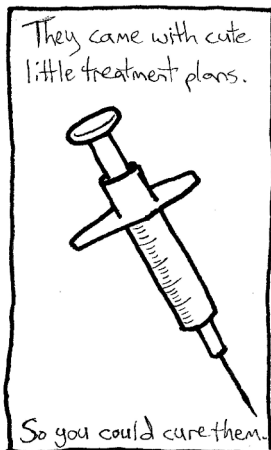
SEVERE EMOTIONAL ISSUES



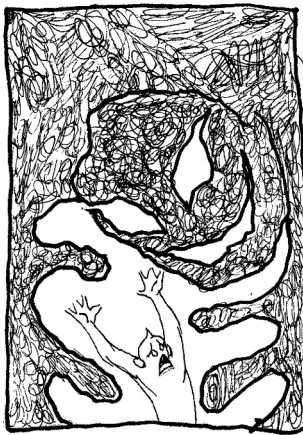
ANTI-DESPAIR PILLS



ABUSED CUDDLYTOYS



ABUSED CUDDLYTOYS II



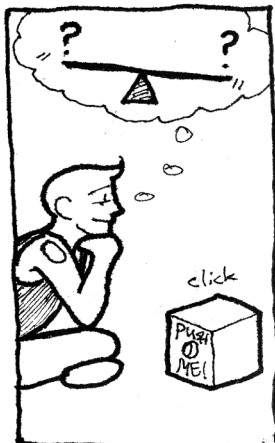
WORSE THAN NIGHTMARES



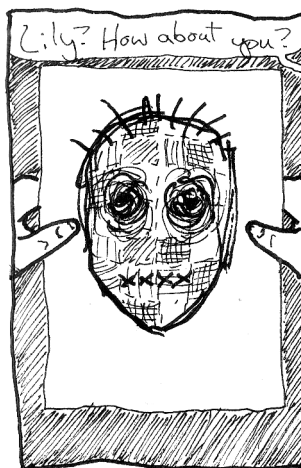
BETTER THAN NIGHTMARES



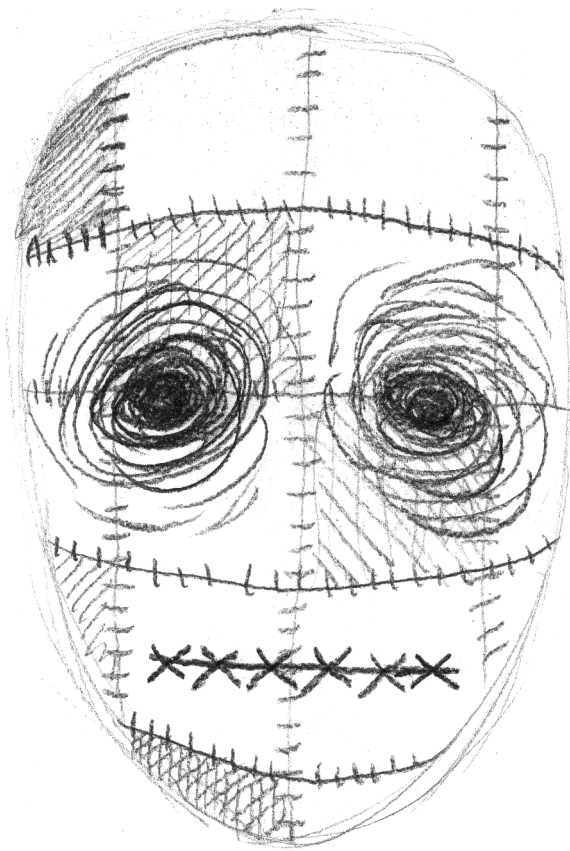
TAKE YOUR TIME



SCRATCH



Scratch's self-portrait



UURRRRRRRRAAAAAAGH!

How's the knee?

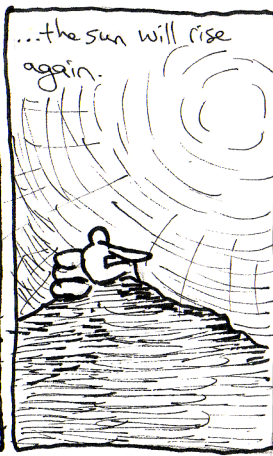
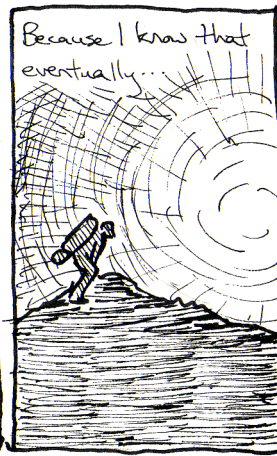
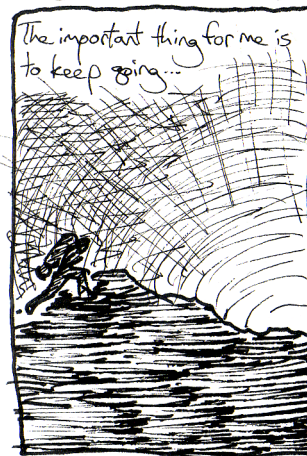
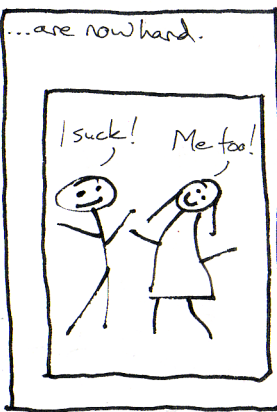
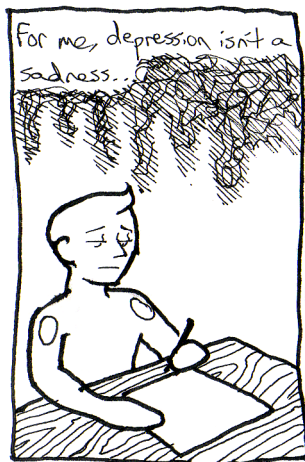
And that's how we ended up cancelling our birthday party 'SAAY!' :)

hsssss—clink! hsssss—
clink! htkgkalklkkk—
clink? CLINK! **CLANK**

gisk! gisk! kkkkkkkk
CLANGCLANG

Ha! Nobody will ever sus-
pect I'm a secret agent.

DEPRESSION



BIRTHDAY SUSHI

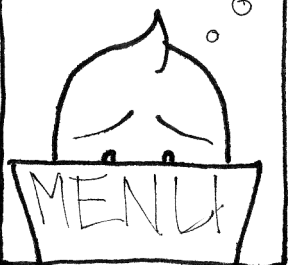
So what would you like to order? Our treat, yummy sushi.



Ohmygosh, this is so much money! I can't justify over \$10 for a meal!



This is food for people who deserve nice things! I don't deserve nice things and I shouldn't —



I'm buying you dinner.



Udon and a California roll.



Good. Happy birthday.

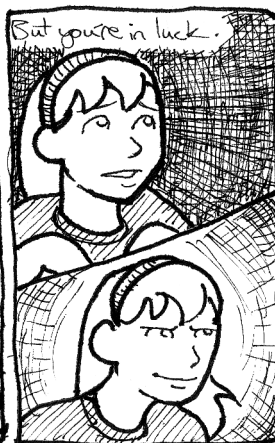


POWER OF THE MIND

Sometimes, your greatest threat is inside you.



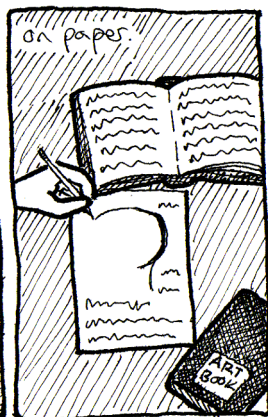
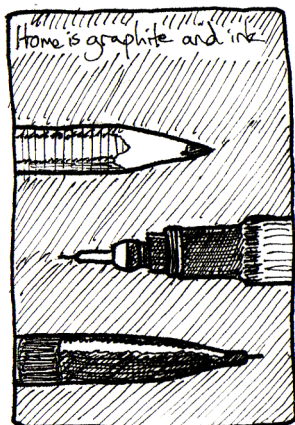
But you're in luck.



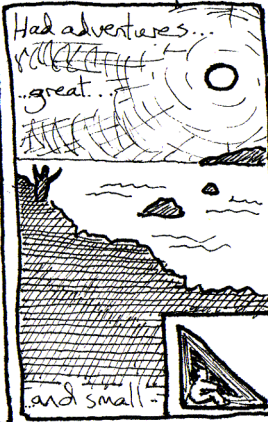
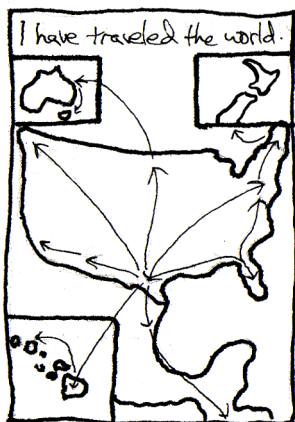
So is your greatest strength.



HOME IS A FEELING



WASTE



CHOCOLATE FOR you



CHOCOLATE FOR you II



[illegible]

Listen to me! I am your voice of reason! I am your ruler! I am —

fair?

fair!

I can't imagine why.

I am... so alooone!

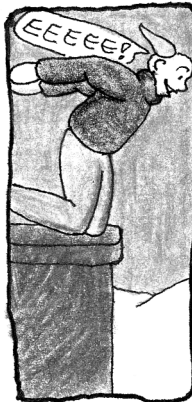
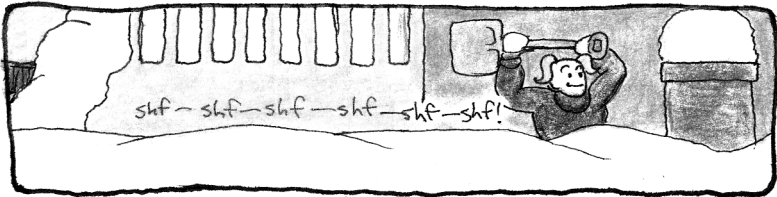
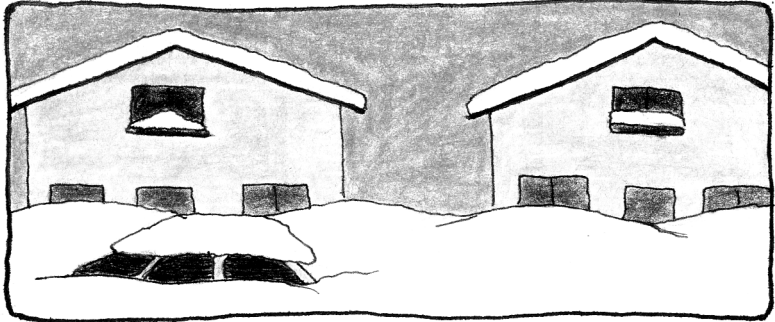
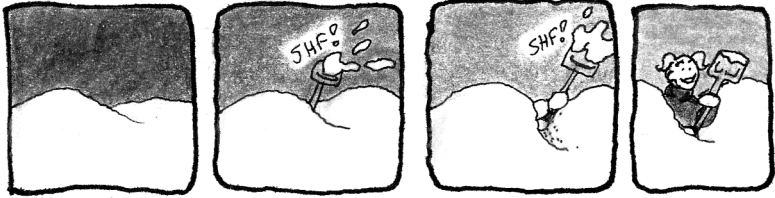
HEALING HURTS



TECH TROUBLE



SNOW!



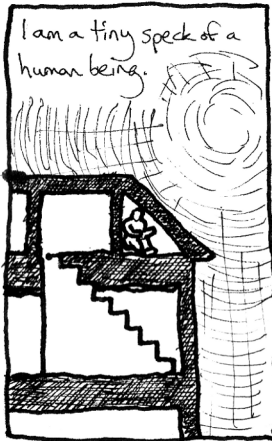
BROHUG



MEMOIRS



WE ARE SO TINY



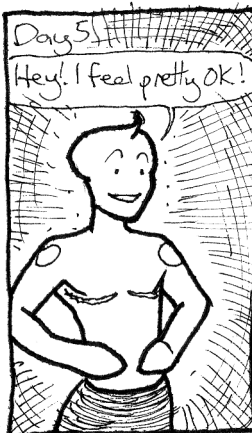
HOW TO EAT



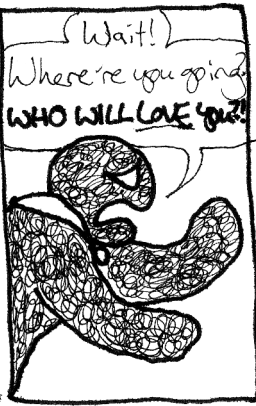
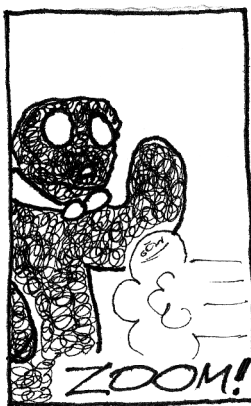
THINGS I WON'T DISCUSS HERE



6 DAYS WITH LB



SELF-HATE ~~LOVES~~/HATES YOU



3 KINDS OF MULTIPLE



↓

This kind of multi usually is...

- female
- powerless
- harmless
- institutionalized



This kind of multi is uncommon in the literature, mostly just a warning to shrinks that we're terrible people.



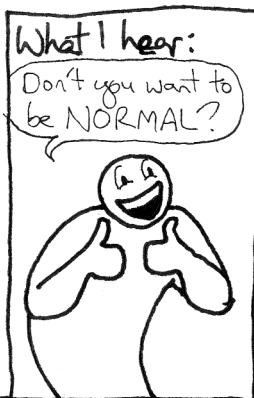
↓

This kind of multi usually is...

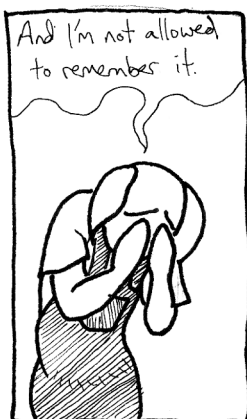
- male
- powerful
- dangerous
- imprisoned

Can I have a different option, please?

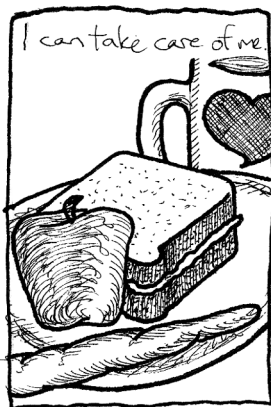
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE...



SOMETHING TERRIBLE



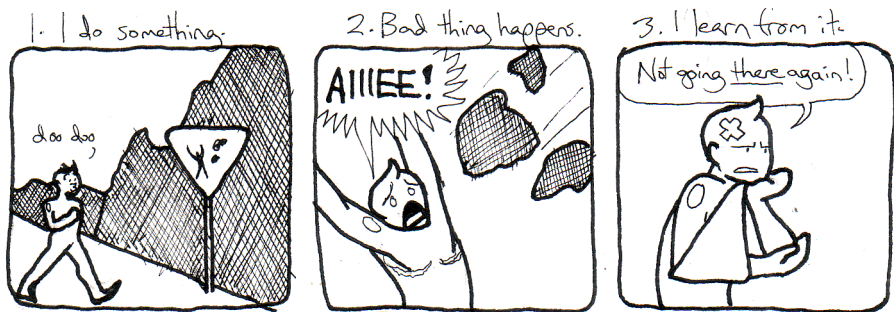
LIMITS



HOW DO YOU FEEL?



HOW MEMORY SHOULD WORK



HOW OUR MEMORY WORKS



WINDOWS



MENTAL HEALTH DAY



VOLUNTEER



LONG LONG TIME

September 6th,
2012:

Disability claim
filed.



May 11th, 2013:

Disability claim
rejected; we "do not
meet the medical
requirements."



It'll probably take at
least two appeals—
about a year...



JUST KEEP RUNNING

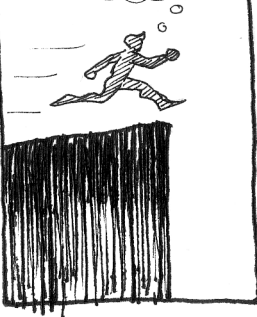
How does everyone do
this? It feels crazy. But
I can't fall behind, or...



ZOMG this is amazing! I
can do this forever! Feel
great weee ahahaha!

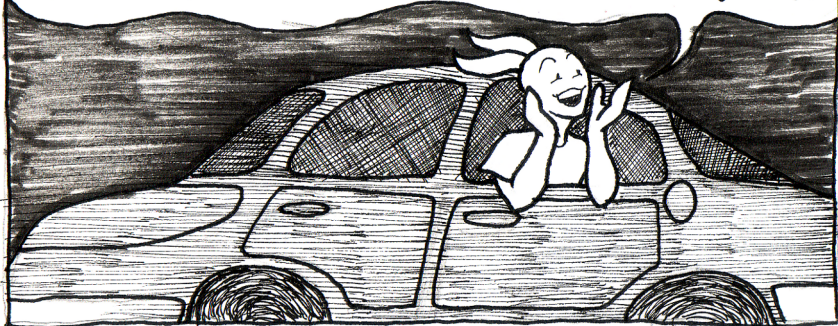


I'm sure nothing can
possibly go wrong!



MECAF (Maine Comic Arts Festival)

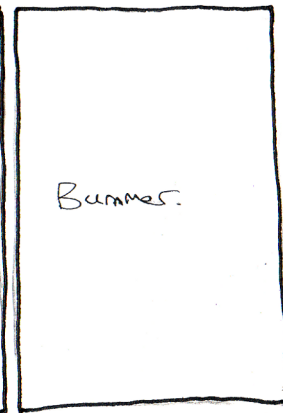
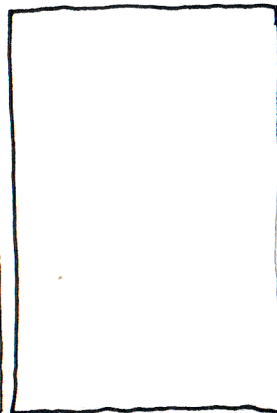
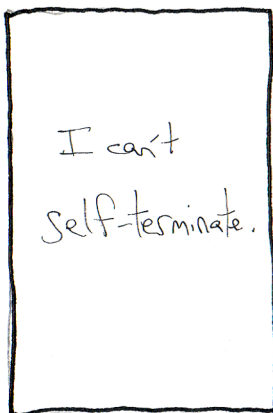
CONNNNNNNNNNN!



HOW ARE you?



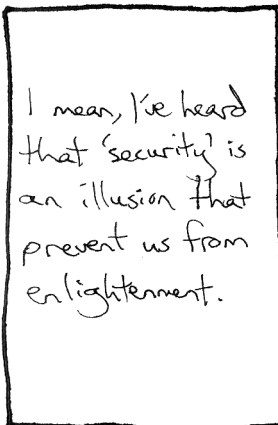
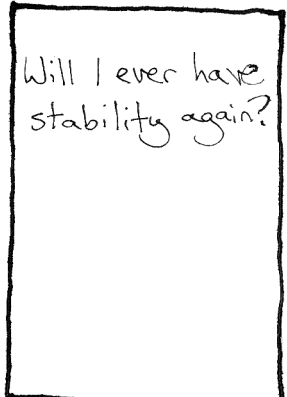
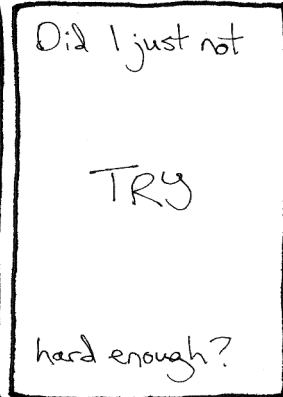
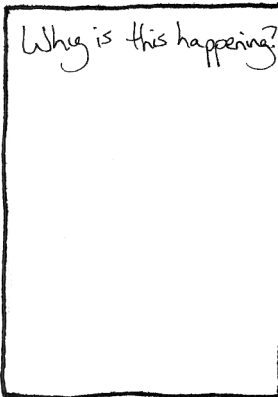
SELF-TERMINATION



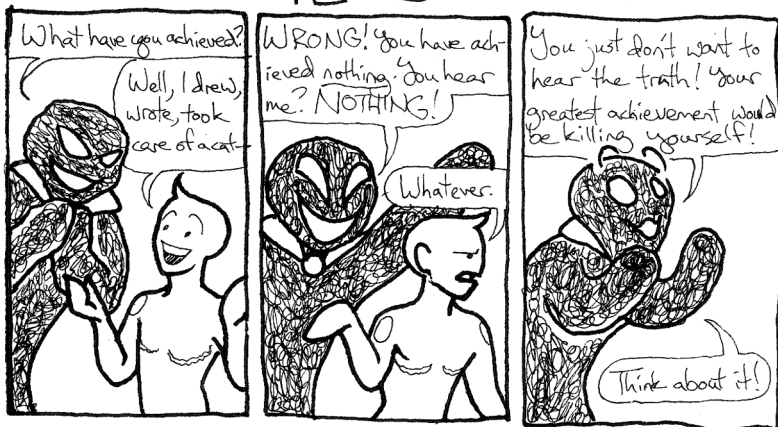
I LOVE YOU



SECURITY IS AN ILLUSION



ACHIEVEMENT



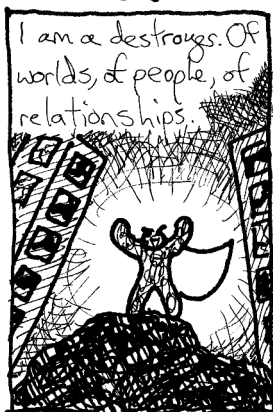
SELF-HATE ~~HATES~~ LOVES you



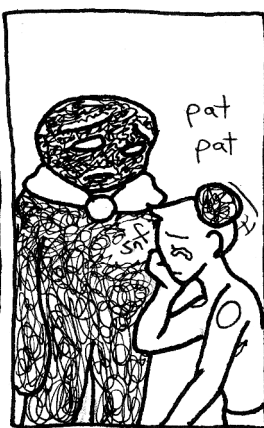
SELF-HATE HATES LOVES you II



SELF-HATE ~~HATES~~ LOVES you III



SELF-HATE ~~HATES~~ LOVES you IV



SELF-HATE ~~HATES~~ LOVES you V



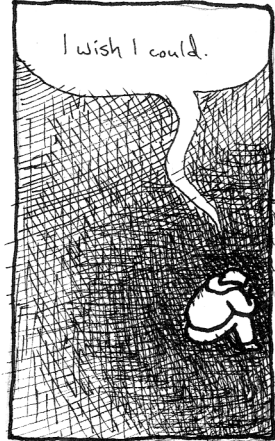
RELAPSE



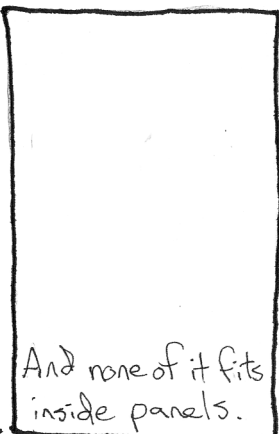
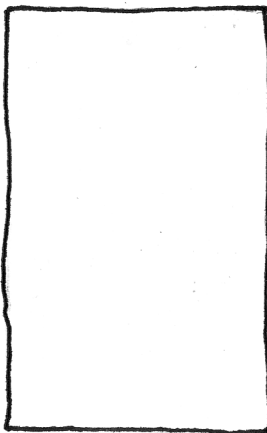
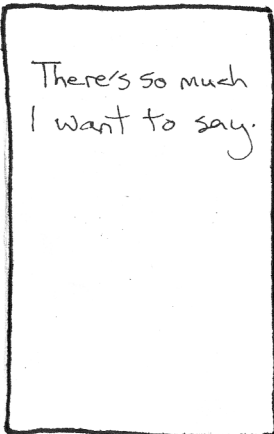
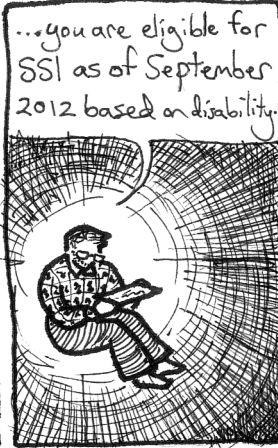
NIGHTMARES III



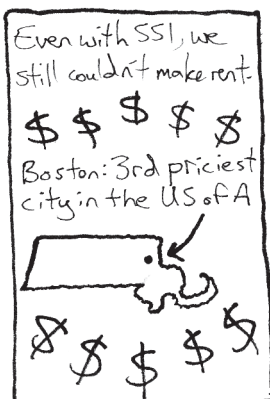
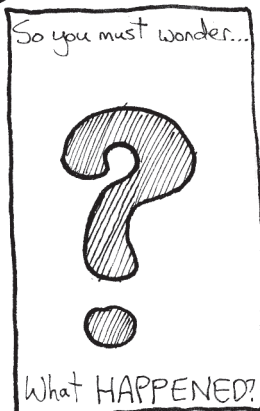
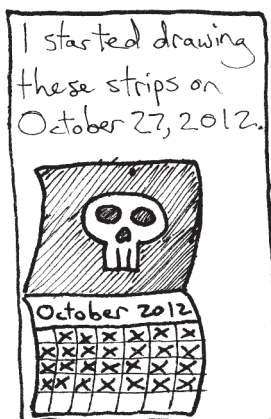
BOSTON BOMBINGS



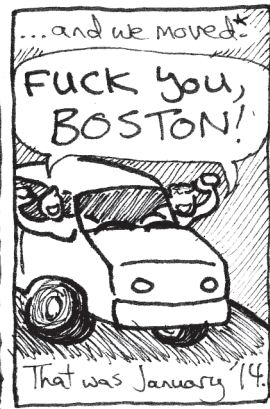
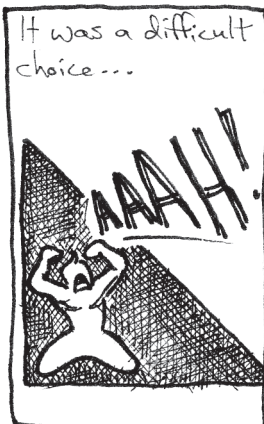
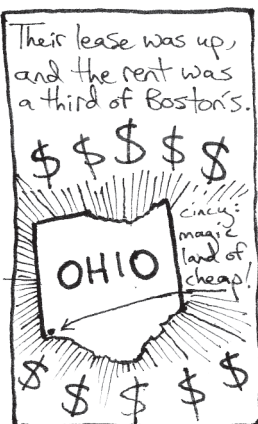
DISABILITY



THE END/EPILOGUE



* The full explanation: they considered the closet proper housing, the rent of which was being paid by someone else. Ergo, I would not get full SSI until I paid full rent without assistance, even though the rent would be higher than the money I was getting. Yeah, figure that one out.

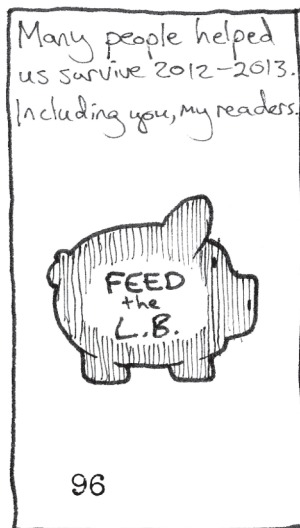
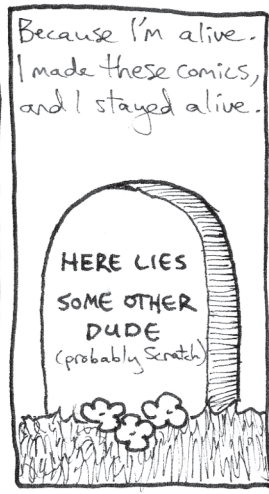


* Not pictured: our roommate getting sick on arrival, us getting sick partway through the move, and our other roommate getting sick upon exposure to our plague-ridden selves.





* Seriously, you have no idea how terrifying security is after a period of prolonged duress. You feel like you're just saving up for a super-mega-UBER crisis. for months.



For everyone
who helped us during
The Homeless Year.

Special thanks goes to:

the Boston Comics Roundtable
the Looking Glass
Laxton Abbey
Manboobz.com/WeHuntedTheMammoth.com
Arbor HRI Triangle Program
Mac Magruder
Megan Rupe
Bitmap Prager
KC Clearwater
Peter Hurley
Audrey DiFelice
Tracy Deagan
Ranjeev Benjamin
Cassie Dail
Ivy Foster
Snow Kelleher & co.



BEHIND THE FACE



We used the character of 'LB' as a narrative device to simplify things for a singlet audience and emotionally distance ourselves from a hellish situation. Here is more about the people behind the face!

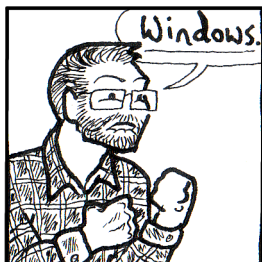


SCRATCH was behind the scenes of most of this book.

Unable to speak, it communicated through its distinctive monochrome artwork, also in this book. What was depicted as a (metaphorical) conversation with Self-Hate was in fact two months of waves of memory and emotions from Scratch. It enjoyed quiet music.

MAC was the poor schmuck stuck at front when the episode at the start of this book hit.

He held down our job before the episode, but his first brush with heavy-duty lunacy rattled him badly enough that he wouldn't front solo again for more than a few seconds until 2014. He enjoys cooking, working out, and 80s musicals. Rogan's husband.



ROGAN made most of this book and held down the front almost single-handedly throughout the Homeless Year, while also managing depression, an eating disorder, and material from Scratch.

Our system tank, his ability to soldier on despite grueling stress served us very well. He likes to draw, write, and watch B movies.

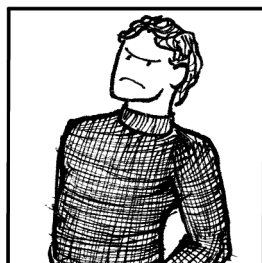


SNEAK is our ray of sunshine, though zer ability to front was hampered by the depression.

Zie helped draw this book, and also handled our computer/tech things. Zie likes puppies, glitter, and the scariest horror video games zie can find.

FALCON has been around since 2002; only Gigi is senior to him.

At the time of this book, he was incapacitated by depression and had been for years, but he still managed to talk us down off the bridge, call our shrink, and get us into care. He's doing better. He likes film noir, and jazz.

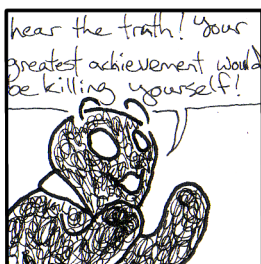


GIGI is our creepy little crisis fronter who specializes in physical danger and holding off episodes. The events that started this book were beyond her abilities.

Dealing with Scratch made her grow up and deal with her feelings. She likes vengeance, Falcon, and cucumber.

MIRANDA is our system diplomat and record-keeper.

She fronted little during the course of this book, but she masterminded our dealings with Scratch and helped it be dealt with in a proper manner. She likes meditation, psychology, and slash fanfiction.



SELF-HATE was a fictional conceit of this book and (much like LB) does not actually exist as a person. Thank goodness.



Want more? Check out LB's newest work, [All In The Family](http://etsy.com/shop/MadComics), at [http://etsy.com/shop/MadComics!](http://etsy.com/shop/MadComics)