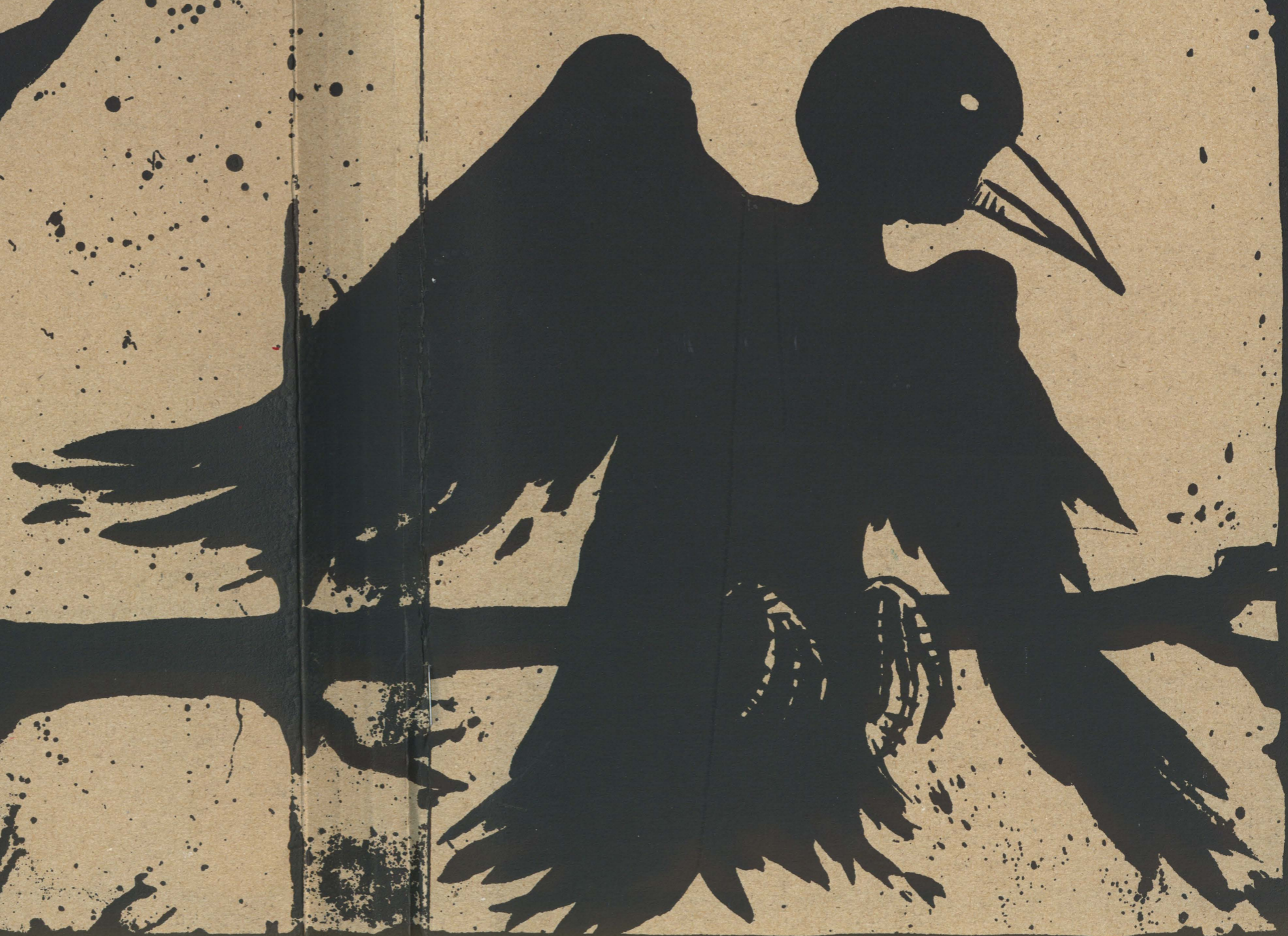


ashtray

no. 2



ASHTRAY #2

WRITTEN & DRAWN
BY JEFF LEMIRE

www.ashtraypress.com

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1. THE MAN WITH NO EYES

So it came to pass that The
Man With No Eyes released
his bird out into the
Desert...



... then he lowered his head and sighed...



SIGH.

... setting off on a journey of his own...

He was a wise man, perhaps the wisest, But he had few friends and he worried he'd never see his little companion again...



he flew...



...and flew...



...and flew.



Until his eyes were tired and his wings heavy...



KAW-KAW

Finally, he came to the Valley of They Who Did Not Move. He veered down, hoping to rest.

So, he asked their permission
And, they replied in
vision:

LITTLE CREATURE WHAT ARE
YOU DOING OUT HERE IN
THE WORLD WITHOUT
YOUR MASTER?

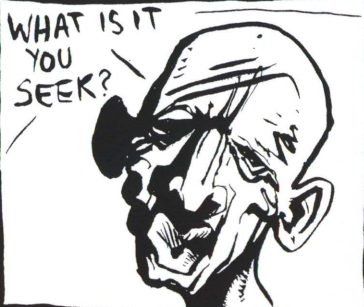


The Bird said softly:



I AM
LOOKING
FOR
SOMETHING

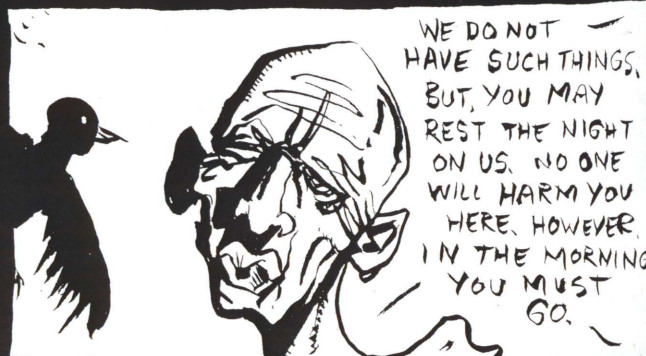
WHAT IS IT
YOU
SEEK?



He whispered
into their ear...

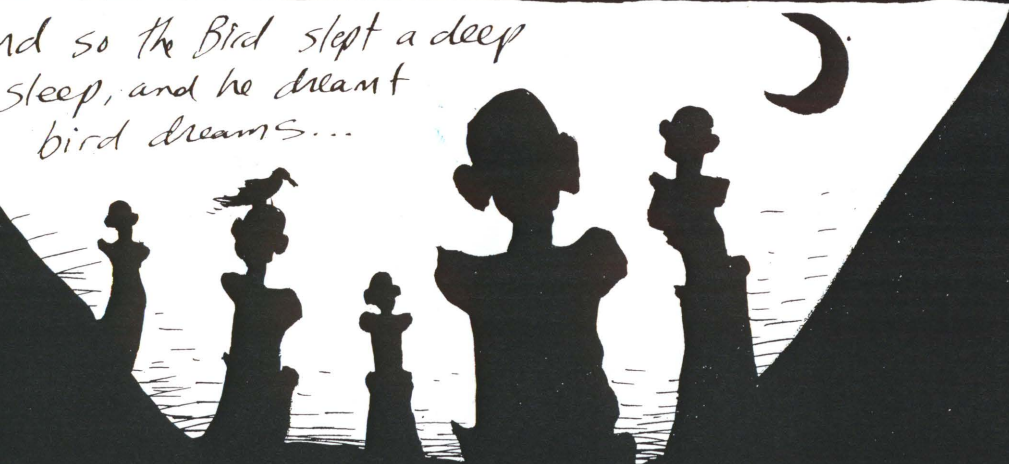


HMMM...



WE DO NOT
HAVE SUCH THINGS,
BUT, YOU MAY
REST THE NIGHT
ON US. NO ONE
WILL HARM YOU
HERE, HOWEVER.
IN THE MORNING
YOU MUST
GO.

And so the Bird slept a deep
sleep, and he dreamt
bird dreams...



In the morning he awoke
and missed his master
terribly. He knew he
could waste no time.
He took flight again...



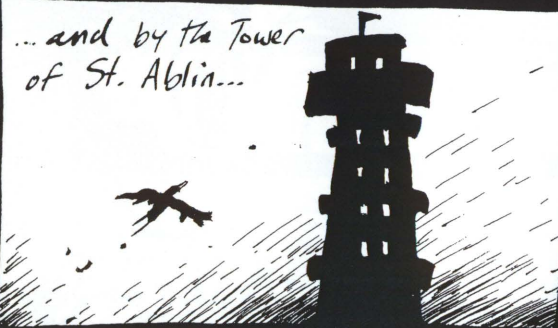
He passed over the lakes of fire...



...and under Skullbridge...



...and by the Tower
of St. Ablin...



Still he did not see what he sought.



Nothing could prepare the bird for what
would happen next though...

For, the guard of the tower had been
left alone for over a thousand years...



...and he had long since
gone mad! When he
saw the bird fly
over he presumed
he was a spy
from the Magic Realms!



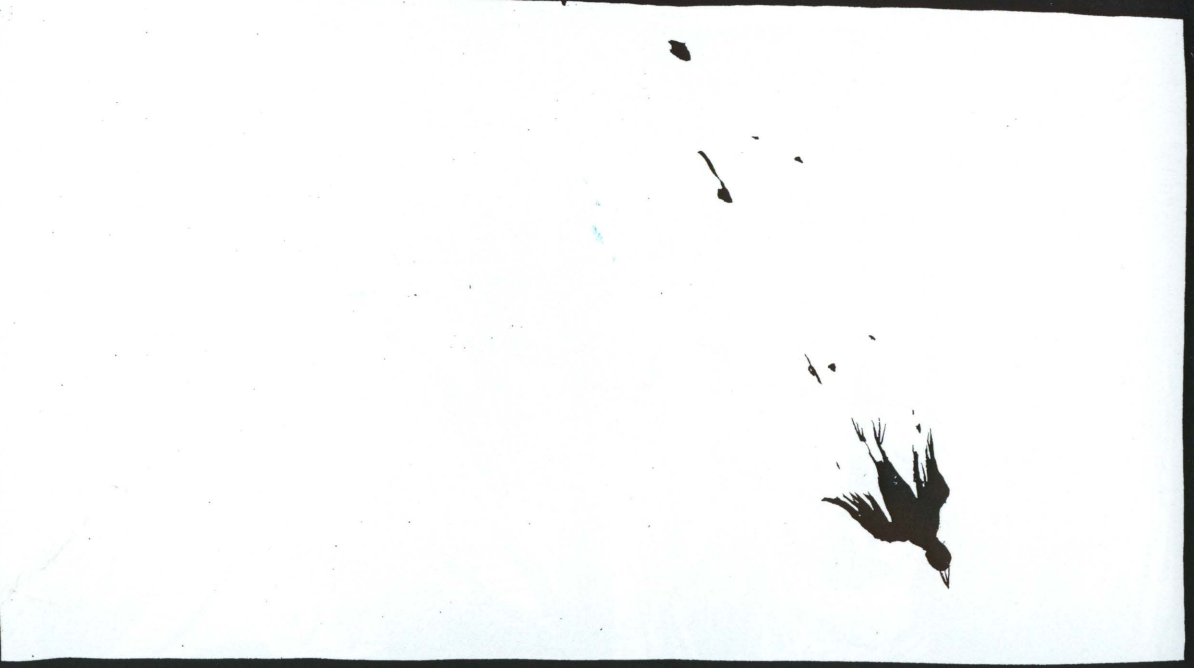
He took aim...

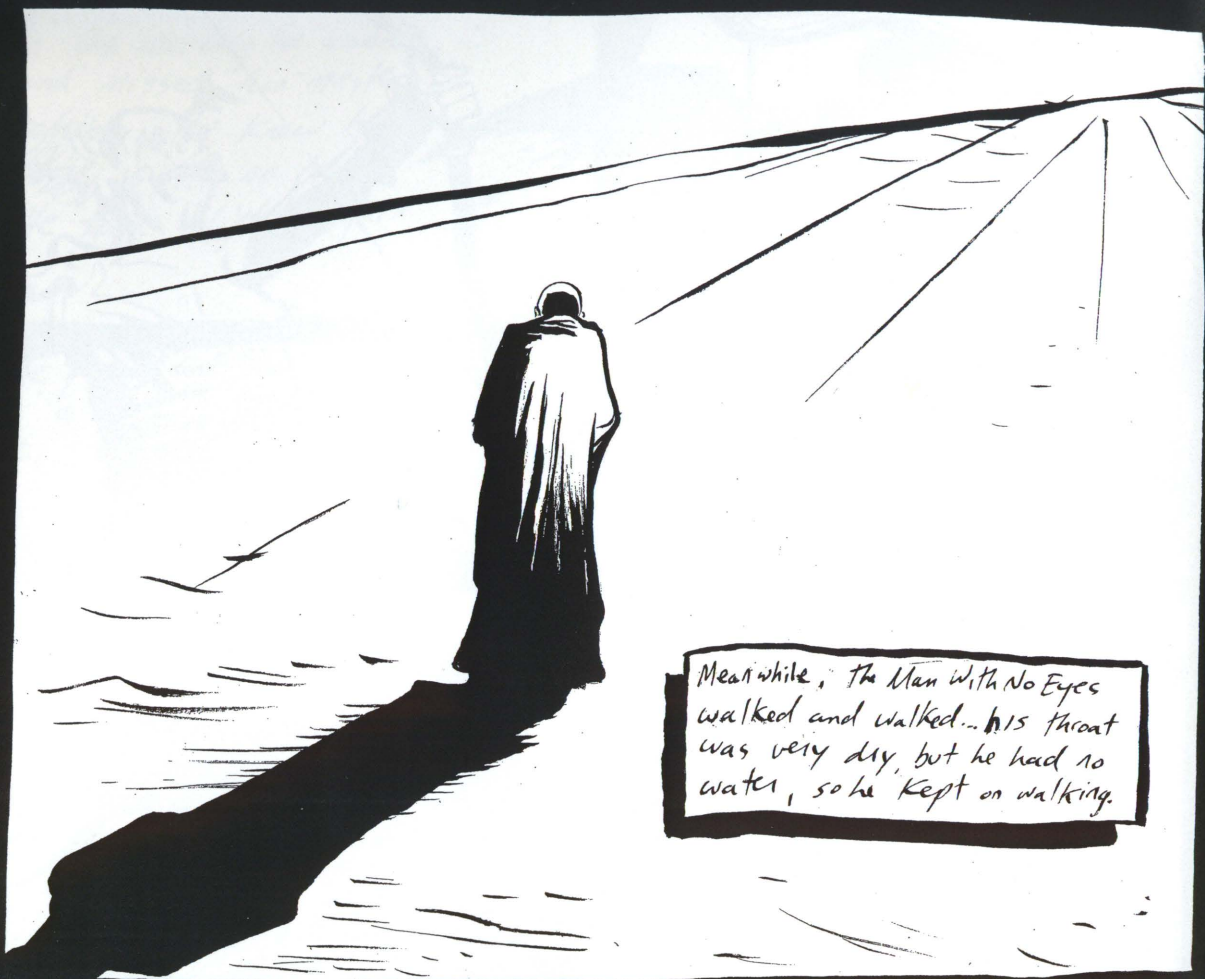


... and fired!



KAW!





Meanwhile, the Man with No Eyes walked and walked... his throat was very dry, but he had no water, so he kept on walking.

Finally he felt the cool mossy earth of the westland forest under his feet.



He had come to the place of his childhood. Resting by an old tree he waited...

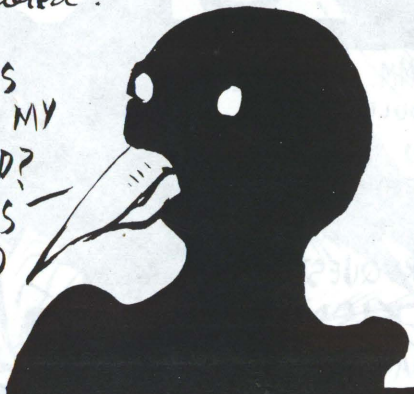


The little bird awoke to find himself lying by a lake. His injured wing tended to.



He wondered:

WHO HAS DRESSED MY WOUND?
WHO HAS HELPED ME?



And a soft, sweet voice, sweeter than any he had ever heard, replied ...

IT WAS I, LITTLE ONE.



The Little Bird turned and looked into the beautiful face of a Water Witch...



HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP?



FOR NEARLY TWO DAYS YOU HAVE SLEPT BY MY LAKE.

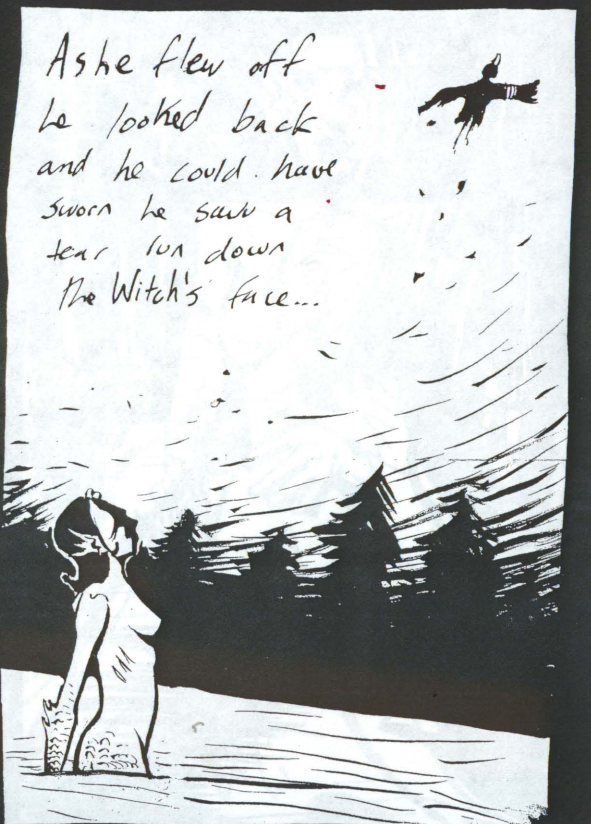
Panic filled the little bird...

WELL, I AM ON A QUEST MA'AM, AND I FEAR I'VE SLEPT TOO LONG! I MUST LEAVE!





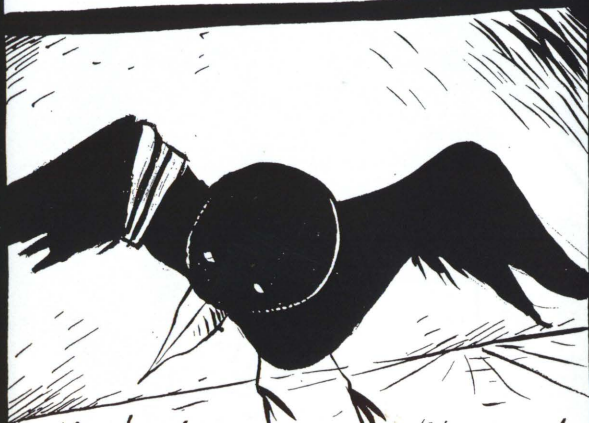
So the Little Bird leaned in. And, for the first time in his life, he kissed a beautiful girl.



The Bird's wing hurt
awfully, but he flew
harder than ever
before...



... He had to find
what his master had
sent him for!



He had seen many things and
been on a great adventure.



But he was not happy, only
worried that he would fail
his Master.

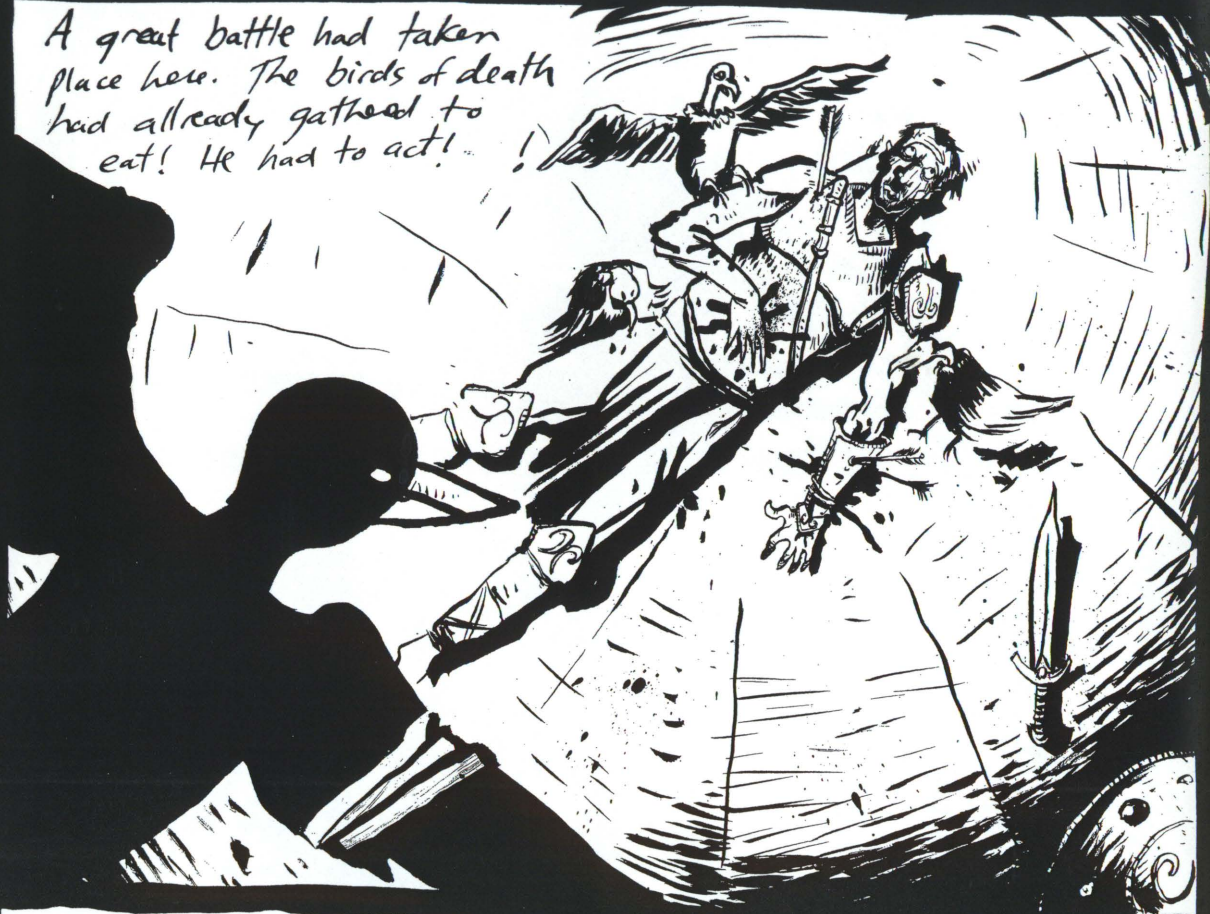
Near hysteria he took one
last chance. Swooping across
the Plains of Man.



And just like that,
he saw it!



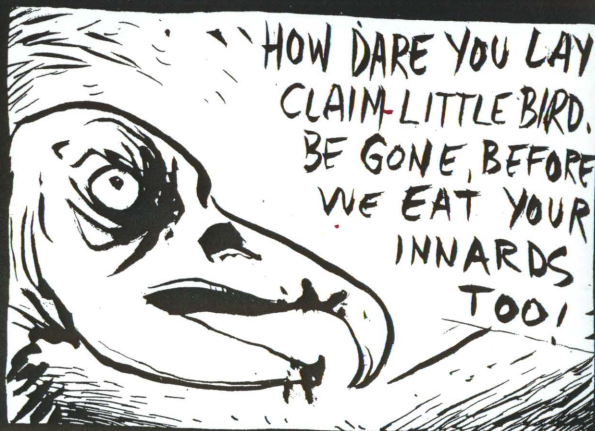
A great battle had taken place here. The birds of death had already gathered to eat! He had to act!



KAW!
STAND ASIDE!
I KNOW YOU ARE
HUNGRY, BUT HE
IS MINE!

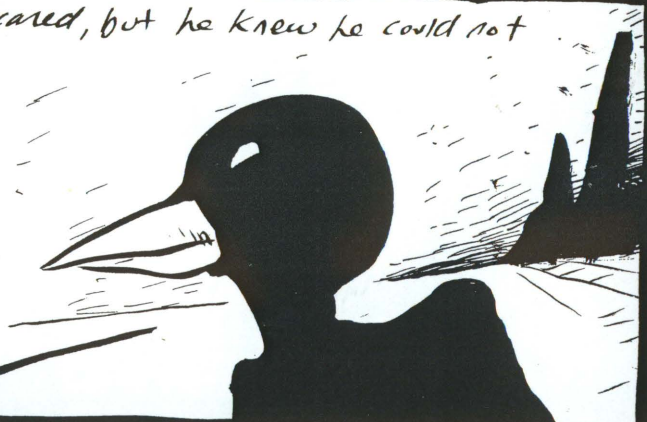


HOW DARE YOU LAY
CLAIM-LITTLE BIRD.
BE GONE, BEFORE
WE EAT YOUR
INNARDS
TOO!



The Little Bird was very scared, but he knew he could not show them his fear.

**NO! I WILL NOT LEAVE,
I HAVE TRAVELLED FAR, AND
THOUGH I MAY BE SMALL
I AM COURAGEOUS AND
FIERCE! IT IS YOU WHO WILL
STAND DOWN, OR YOU WHO
WILL DIE!**

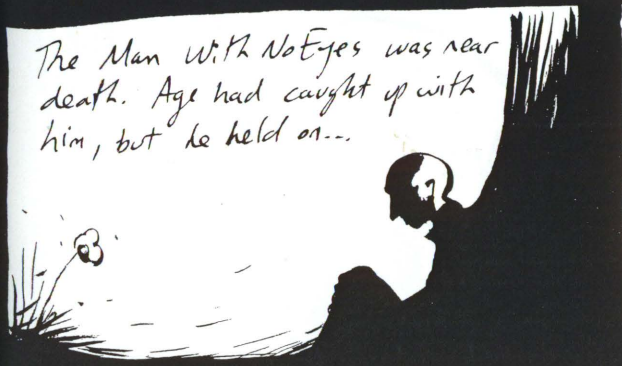




To his surprise, the deathbirds did not call his bluff! Instead they flew off to find new prey. But he had no time to celebrate. What would come next would be very hard. Taking a deep breath he steadied his stomach and perched over the corpse.

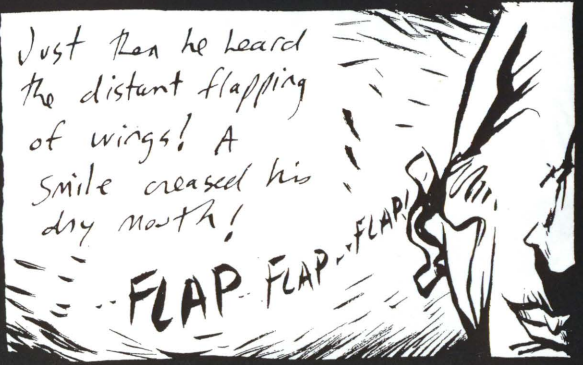


The Man With No Eyes was near death. Age had caught up with him, but he held on...



Just then he heard the distant flapping of wings! A smile creased his dry mouth!

FLAP FLAP FLAP



LITTLE BIRD!
I KNEW YOU
WOULD
COME!
DID YOU
FIND IT?

I DID MASTER



The Man took the warrior's eyes from the Little Bird and placed them in his sockets...



And for the very first time he looked!



He saw the sky, he saw the lands where he had blindly played as a child, and finally, he saw the Little Bird. A tear, his first, ran down his face:

I AM HAPPY YOU ARE THE LAST THING I WILL SEE LITTLE BIRD... LITTLE FRIEND.



And then the Man died. The Little Bird sat overhead for a long time, days maybe...

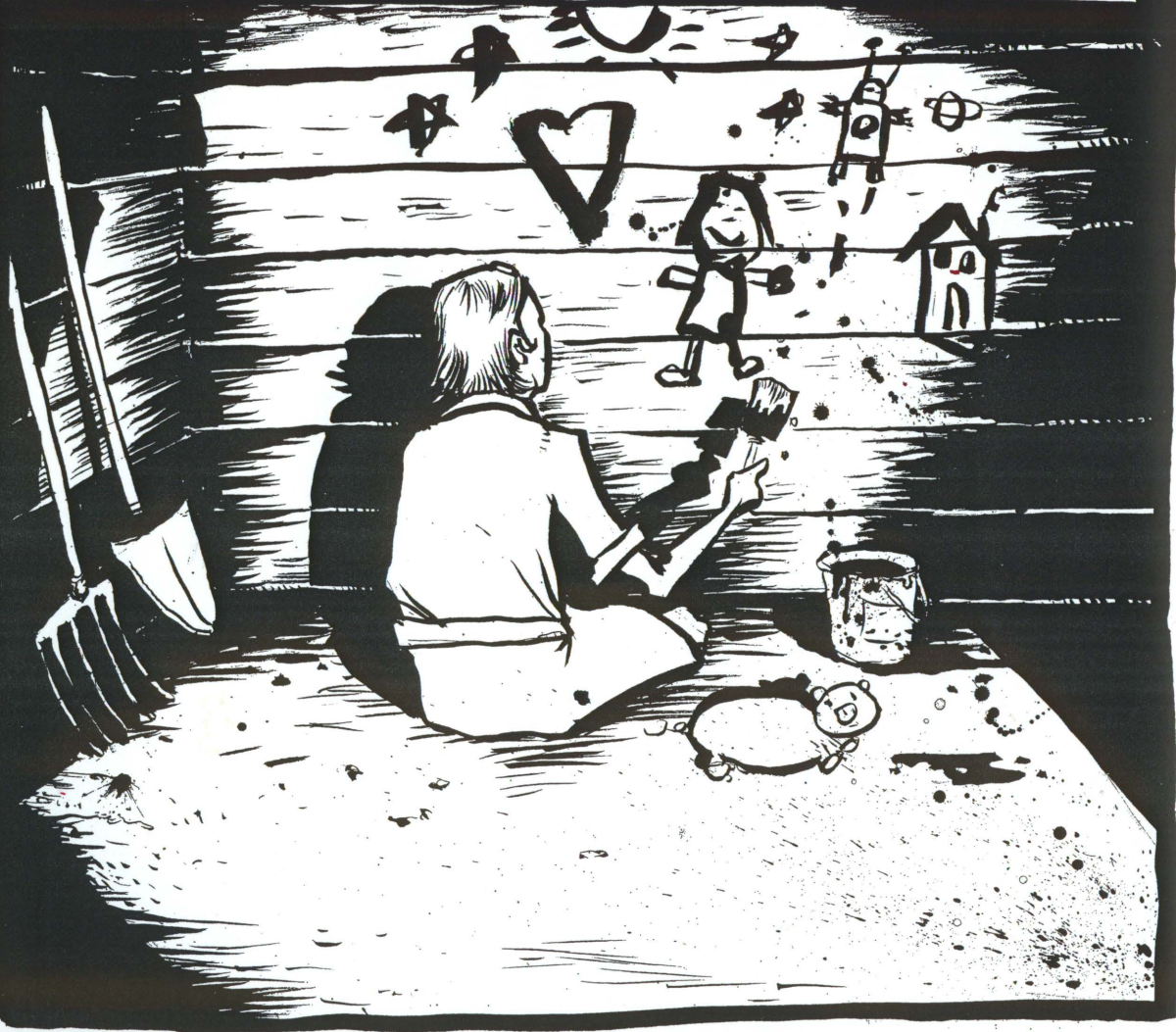




...And when he was done
mourning he took flight
once more... This time
with no particular
direction in mind...

2. THE BIG ESCAPE

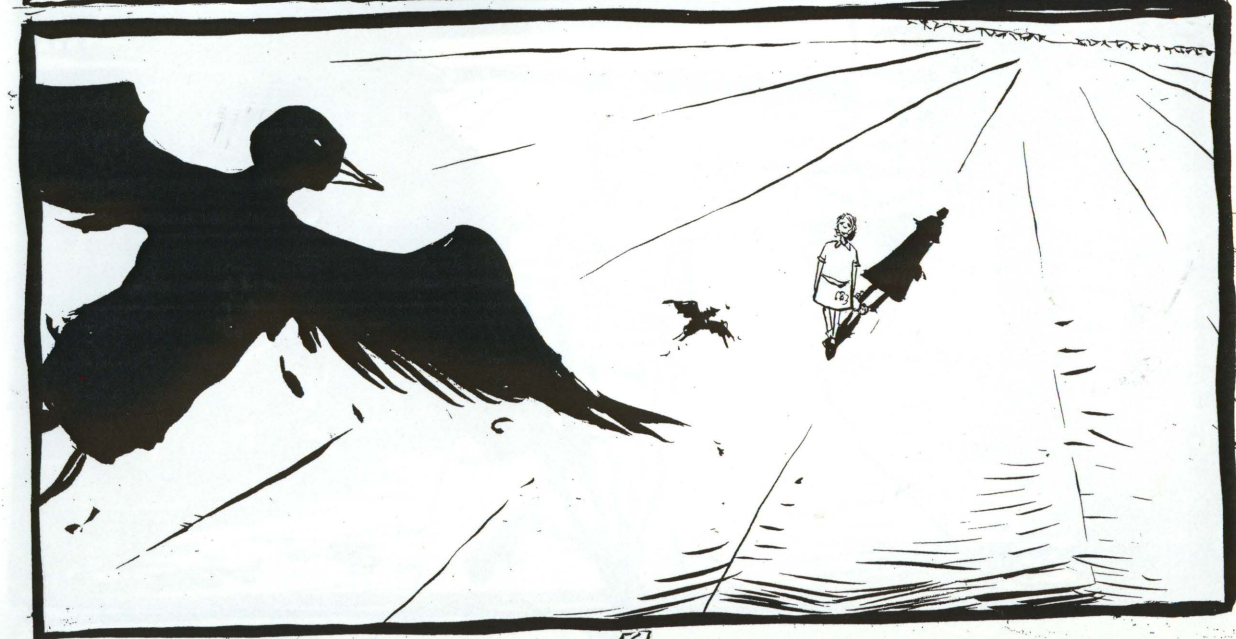


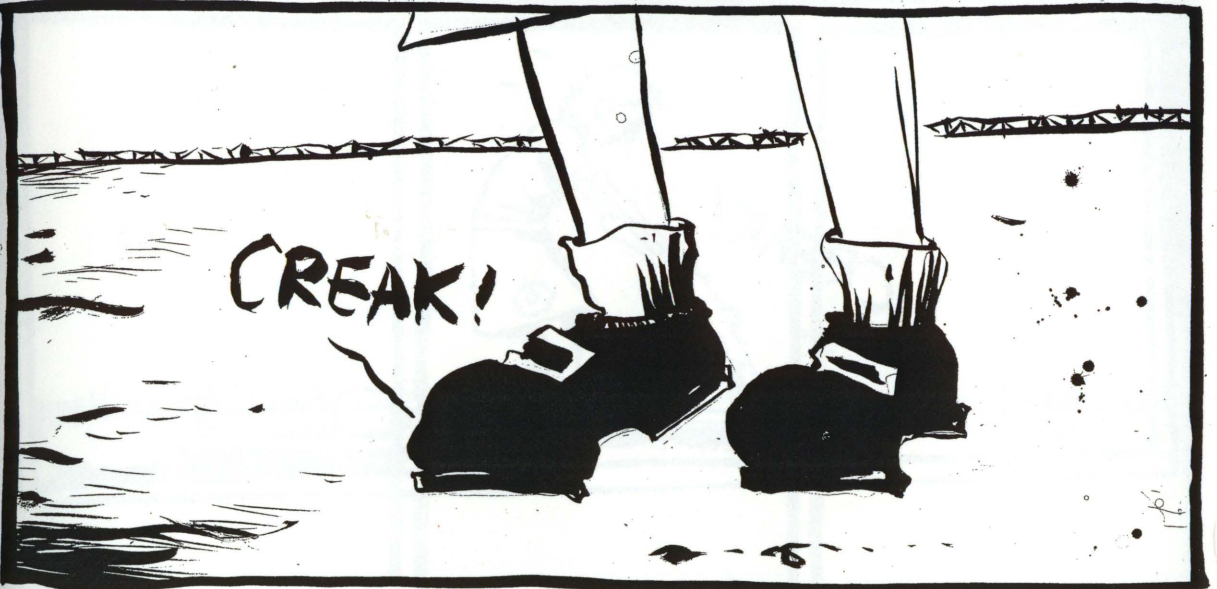


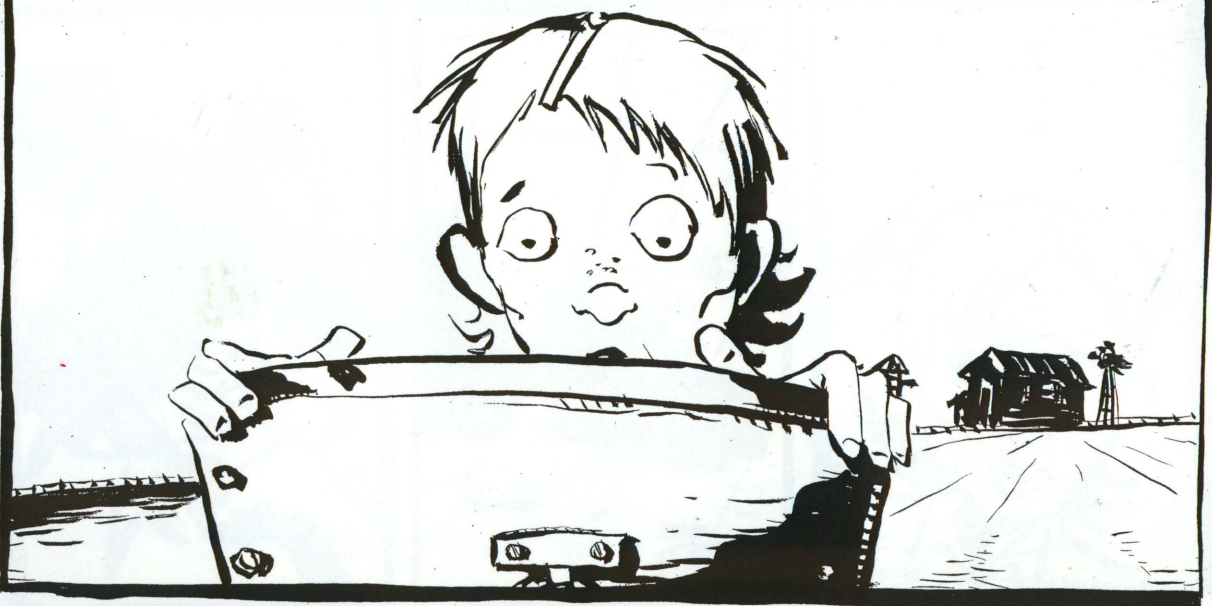
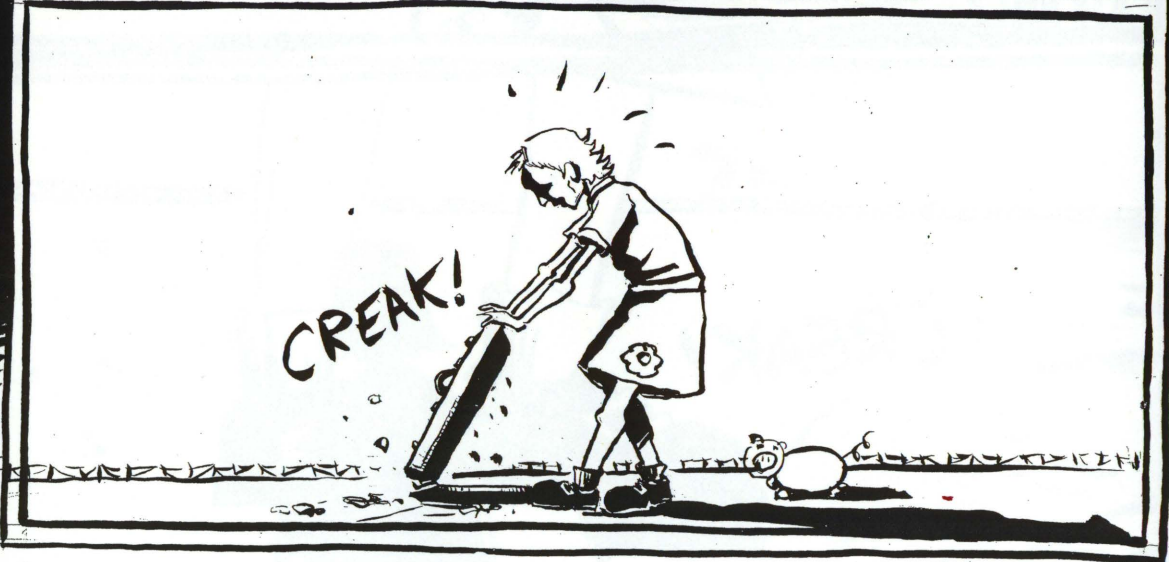
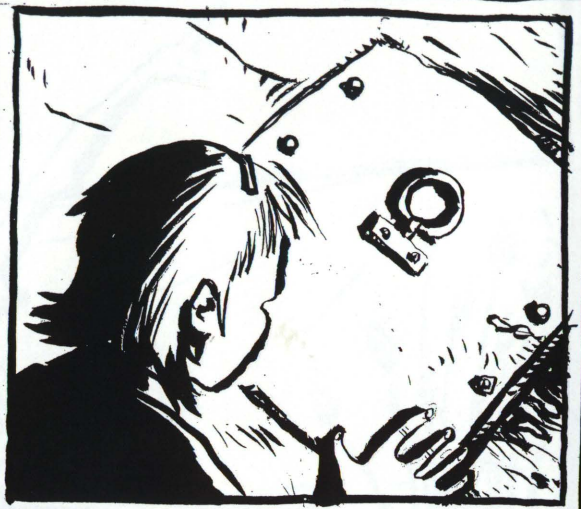


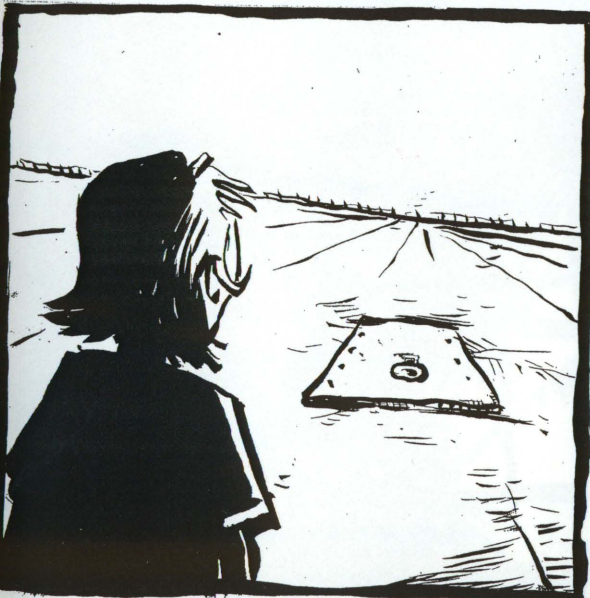
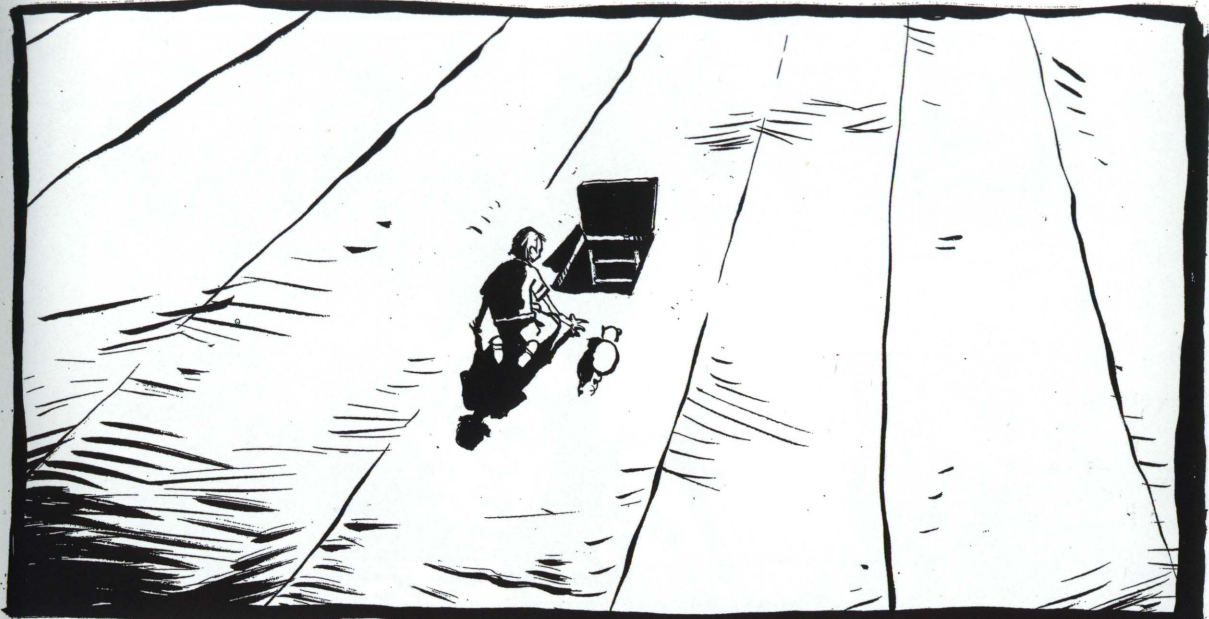


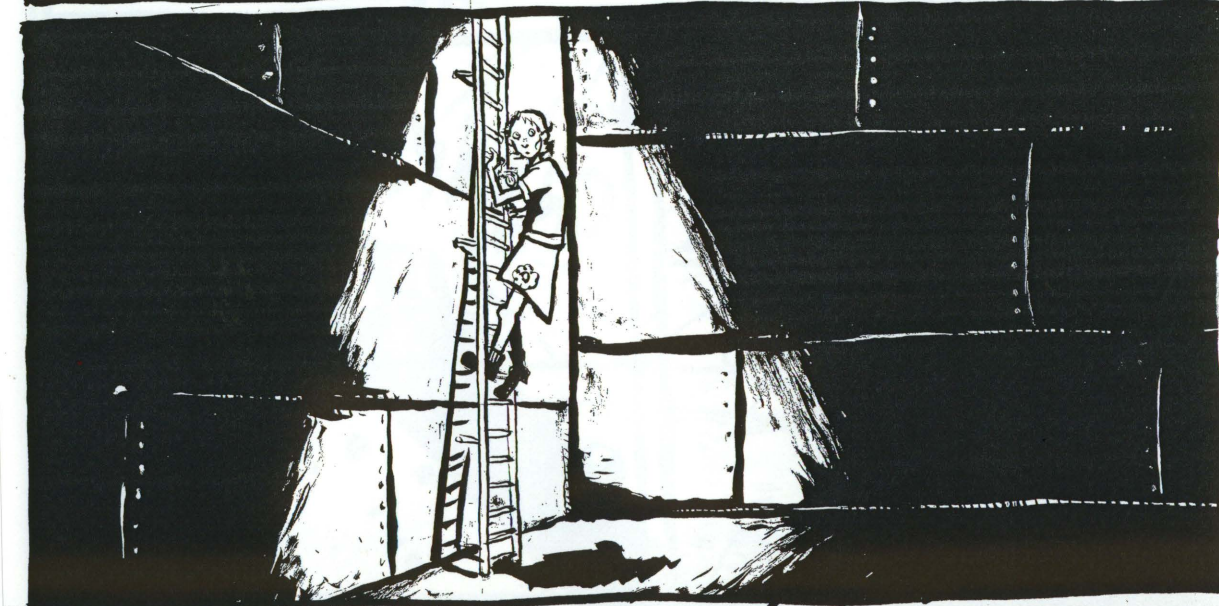
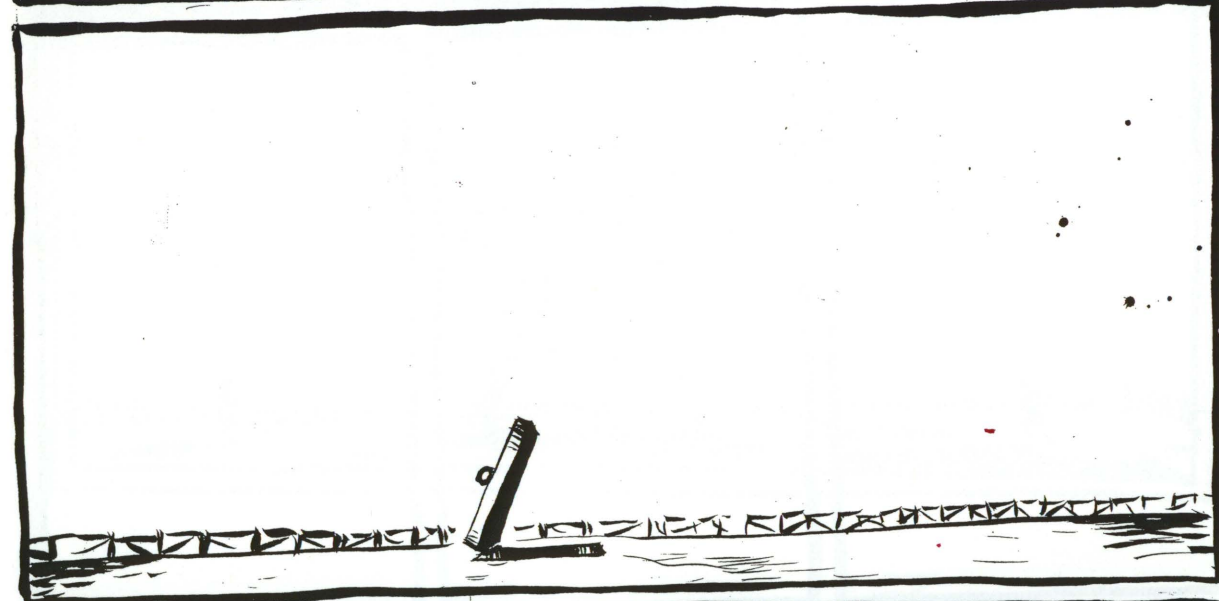
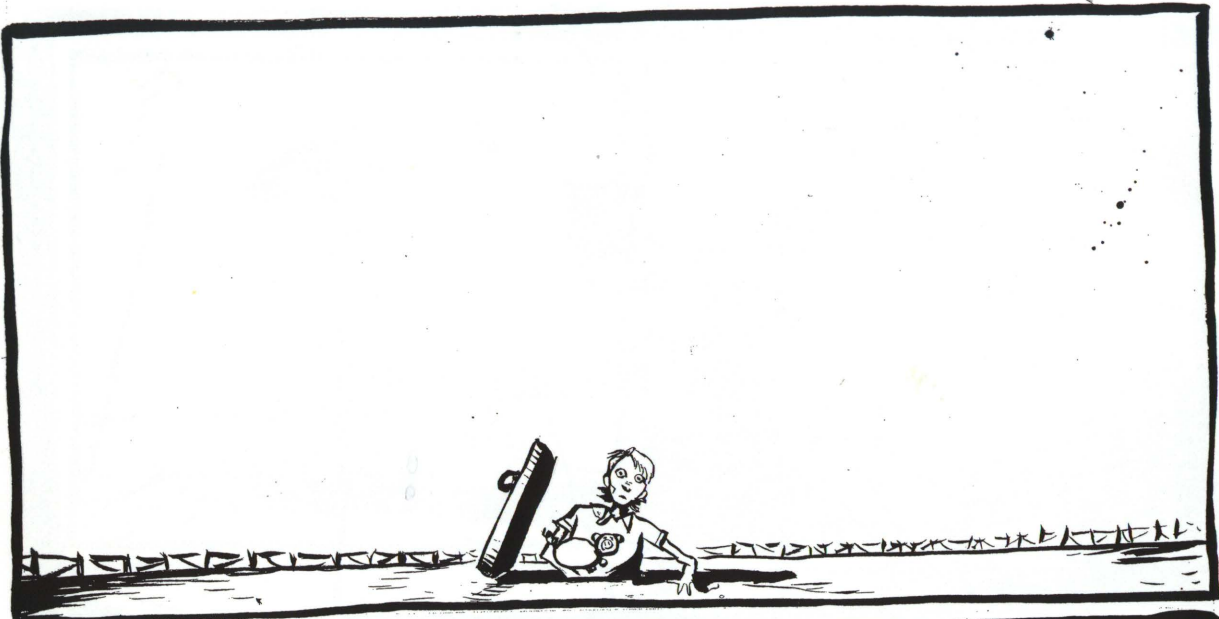


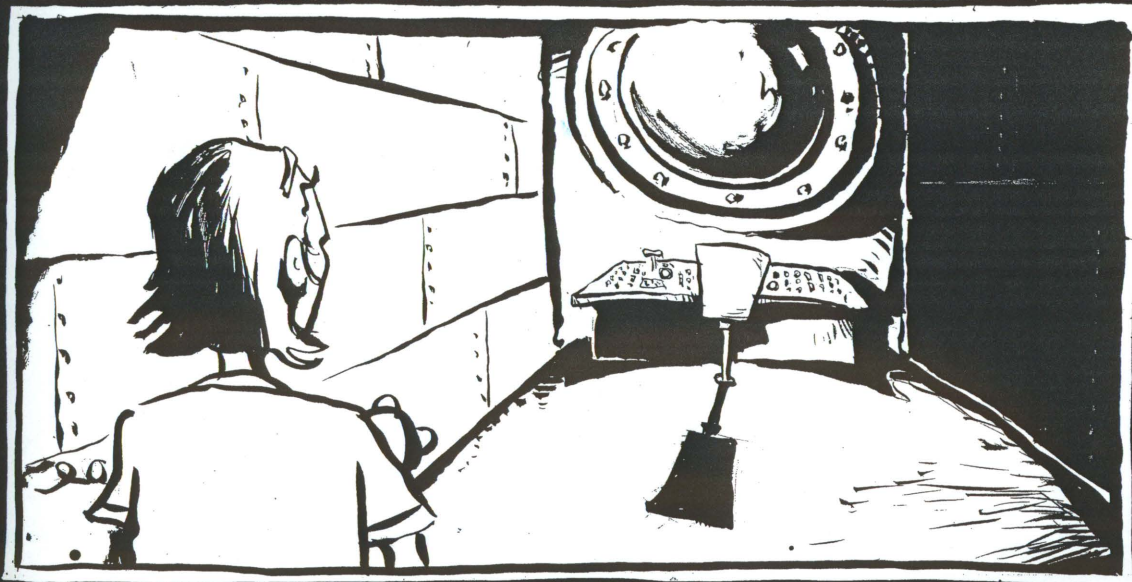
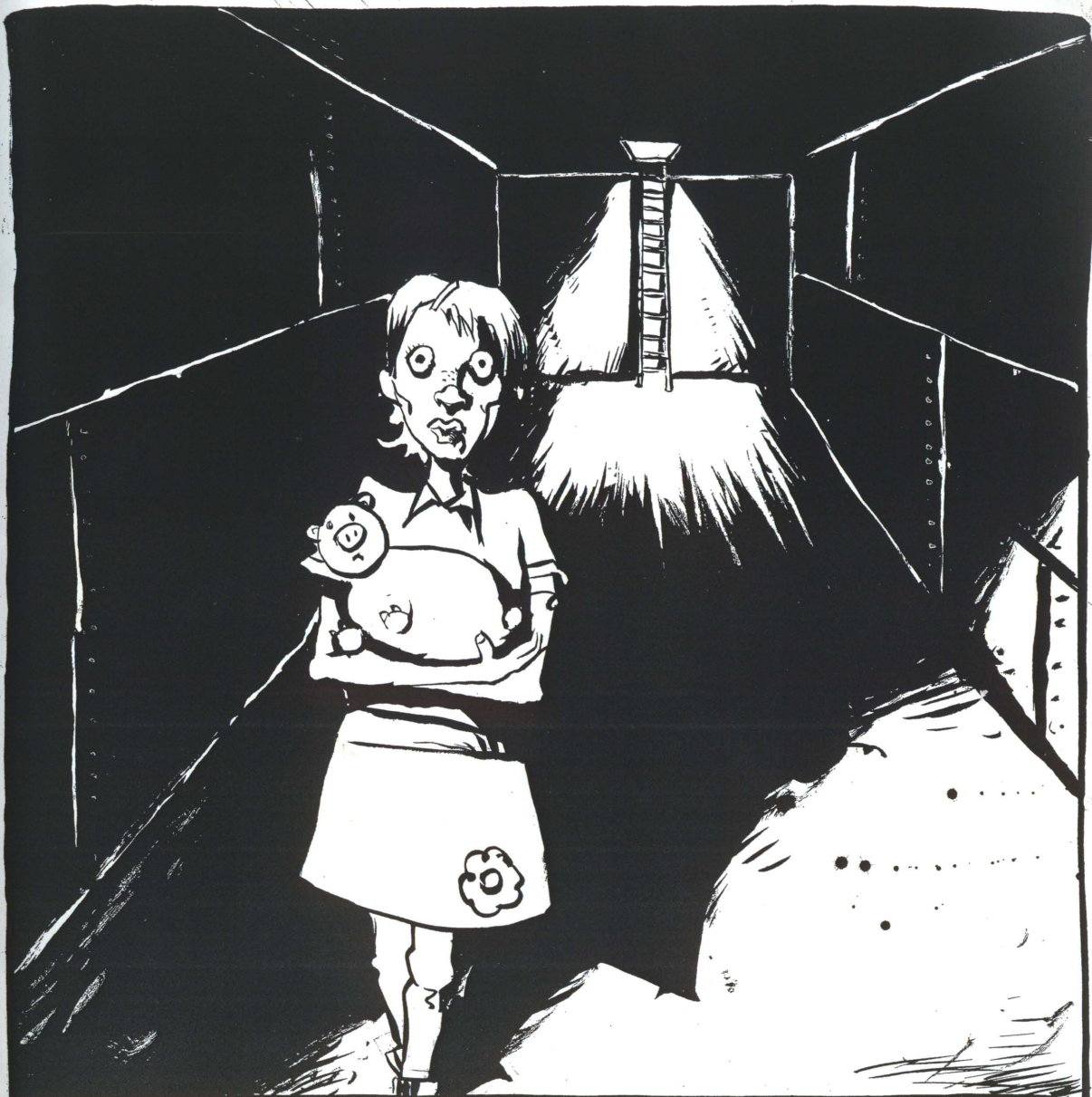


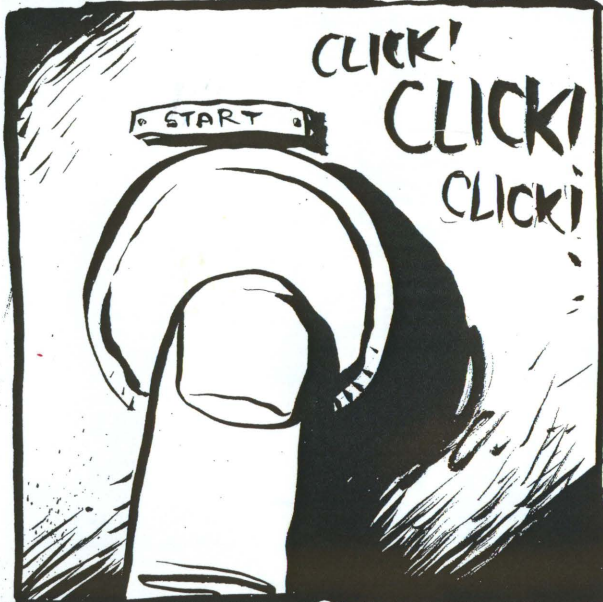
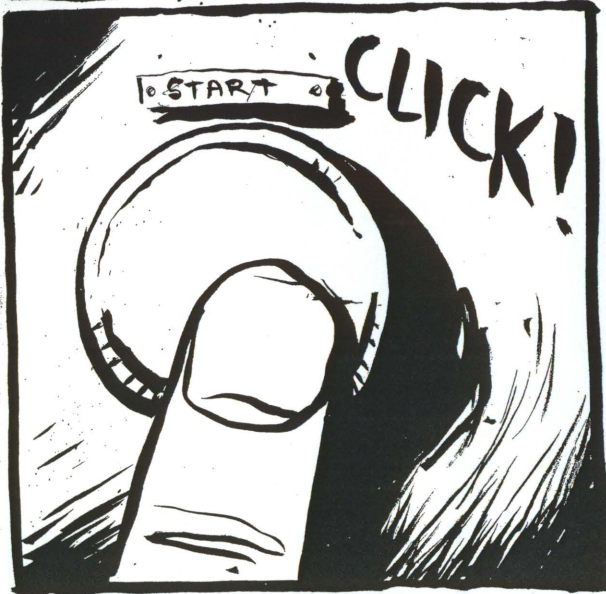












SLAM!



RUMMBLE



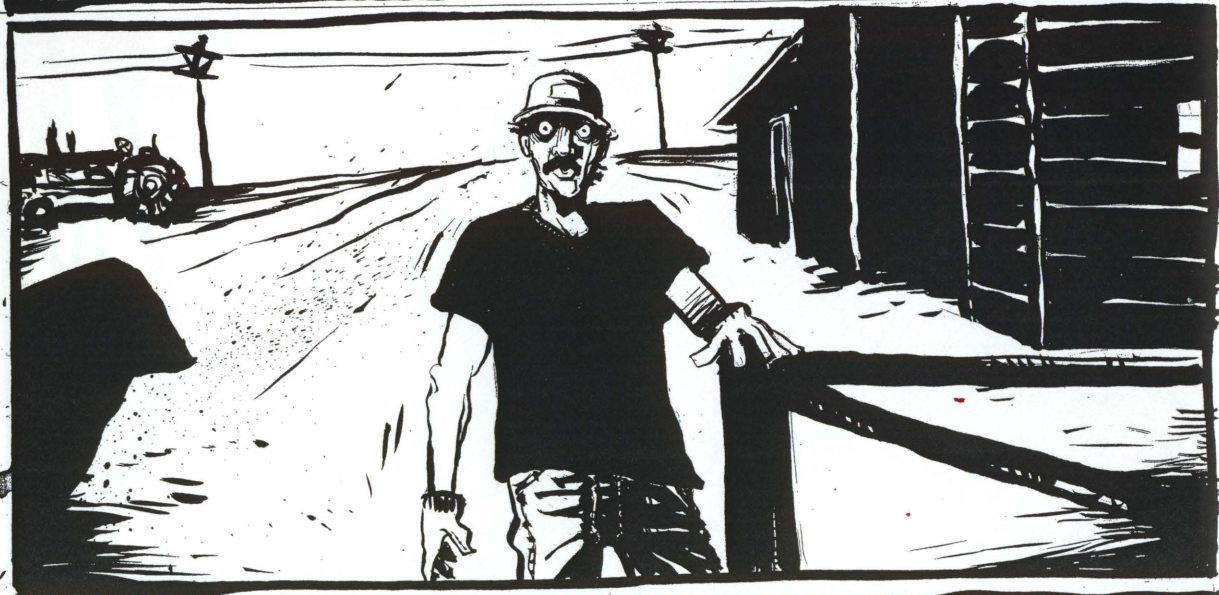
VR000M



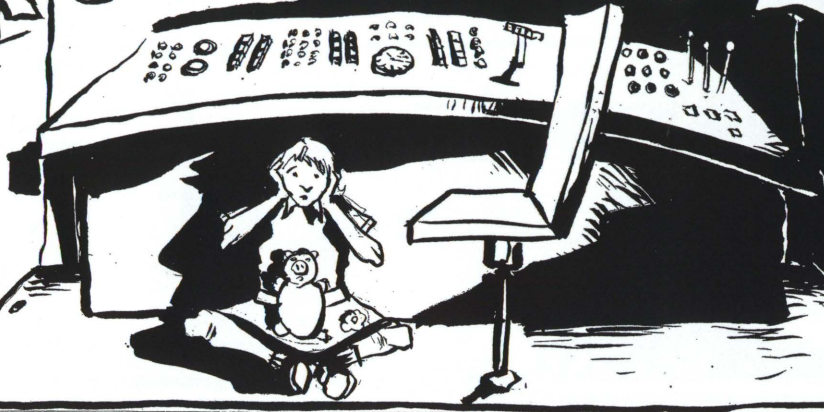
RR!

VR000M!

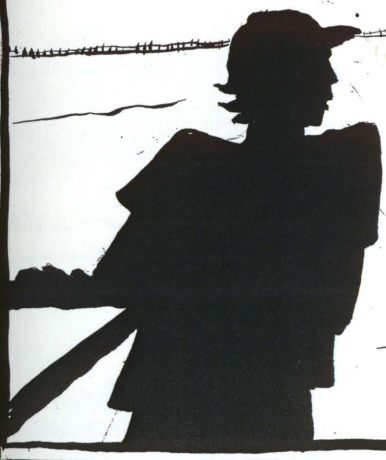




RUMBLE!



RUMBLE!



CRACK!



