



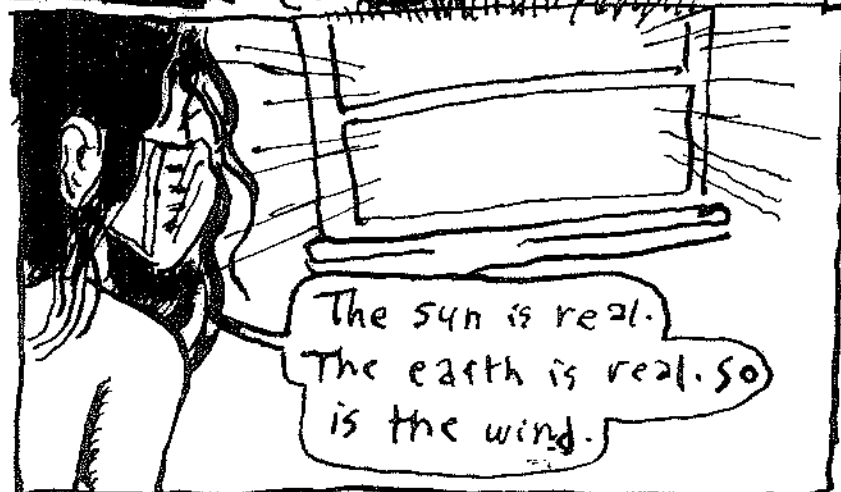


It is true.

Oh, Spiff, how on earth could you say that?

This is what I hate about you.

You keep your head buried in those stupid books. They're not real. I'm real!



The sun is real. The earth is real. So is the wind.



But listen up!



The earth is tired, now.

The moon is tired, the wind is tired. The trees are tired, too.

The sun will set for the last time tonight.

And it'll set without you if you don't come with me.





they couldn't seem to breathe. Now pressed very close, and getting other than Mountain Girl was But Spiff did not know that, or much of



Mountain Girl terrified spaceman Spiff in ways that they couldn't begin to understand.

Ah, uhh--

Shh.

She might have been warm, but Spiff couldn't feel it through the thick padding of their trusty suit.



I'm sorry.

Shh, shh, shh.

But Mountain Girl's eyes were the warmiest of all, and could not be avoided.



Please, let's go
somewhere
together

A special place.
we have to, while
we still can.



... The world isn't
going to end.

It's okay to
be scared.

come with me
anyway.

Encyclopedia
Brit A-D
Encyclopedia
Brit Q-Z

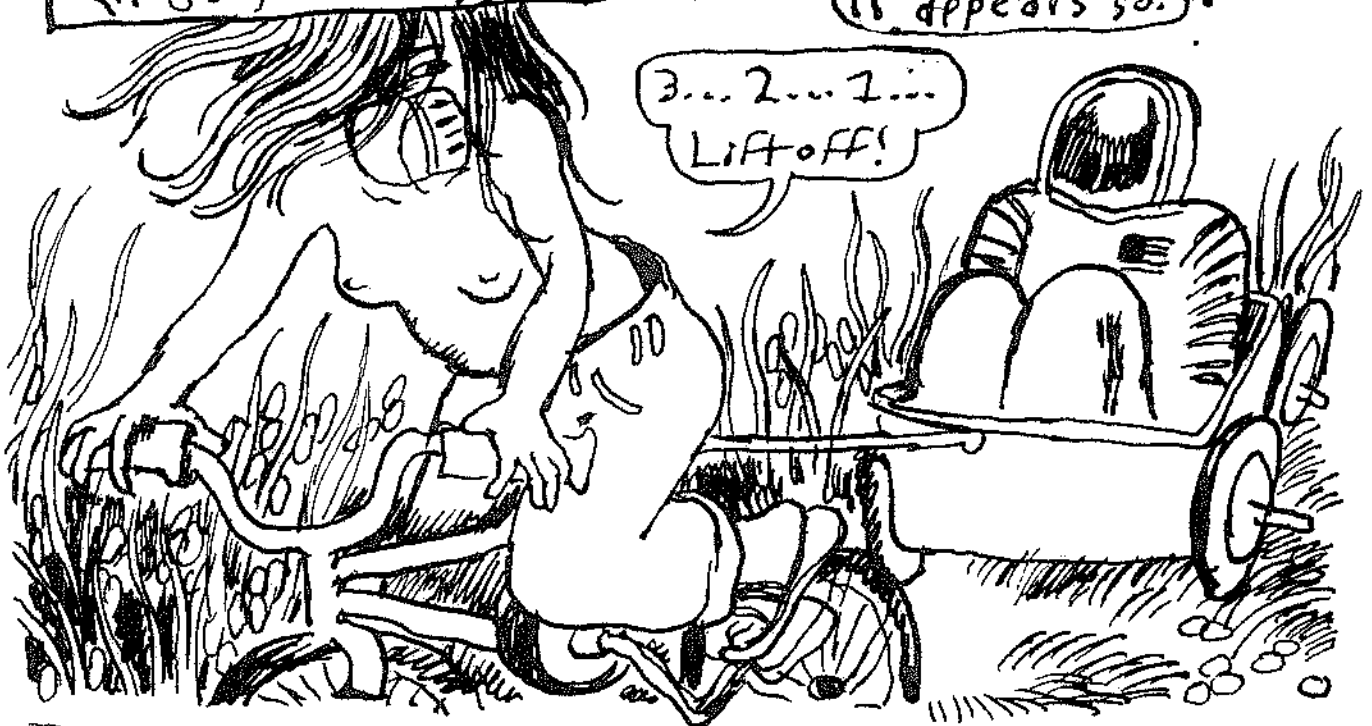
Mountain Girl was,
Spiff reflected,
completely crazy.

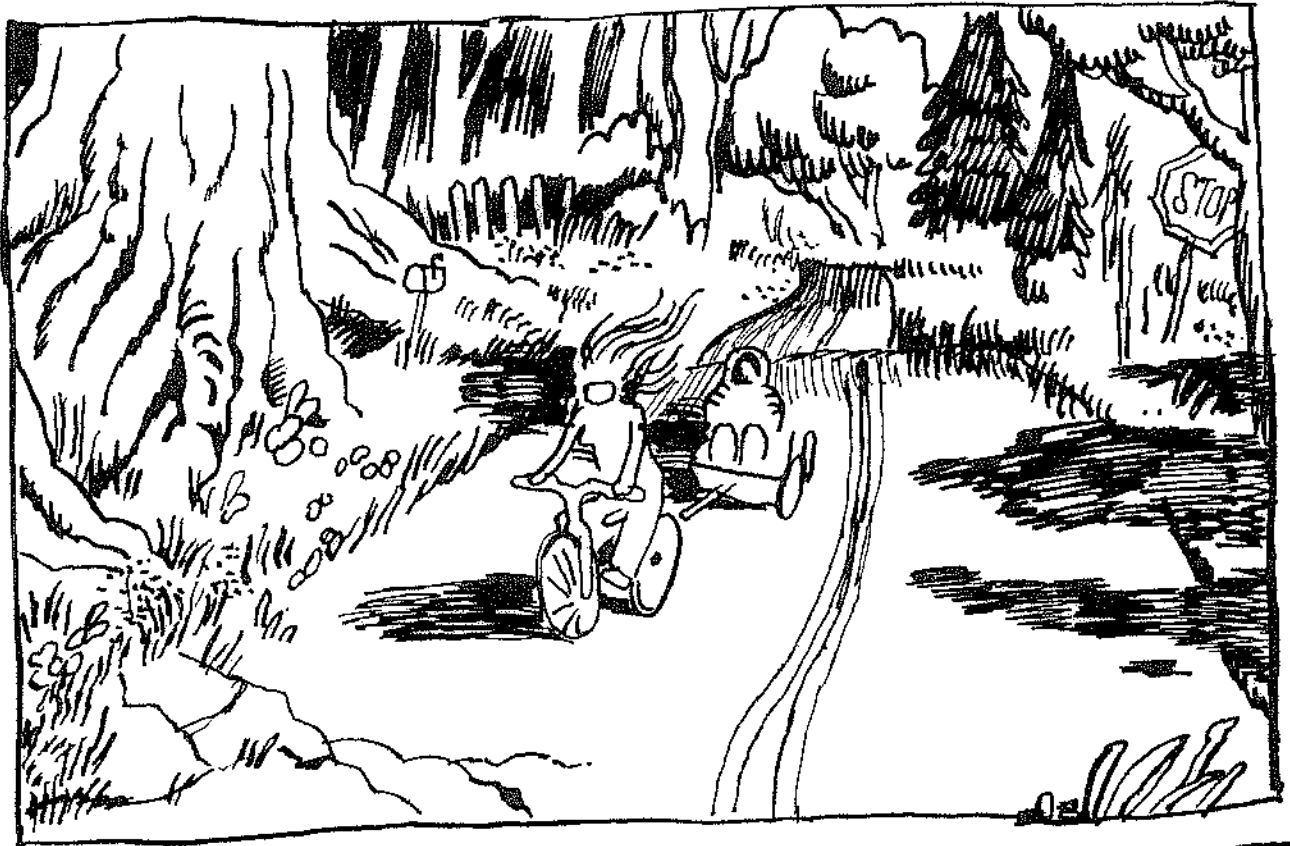
crazy, but warm to the touch.

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1. 4. 11

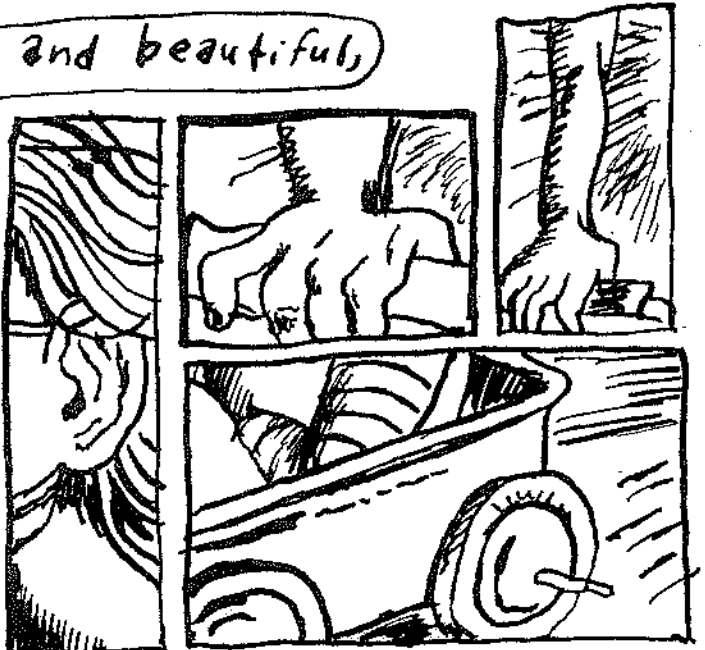
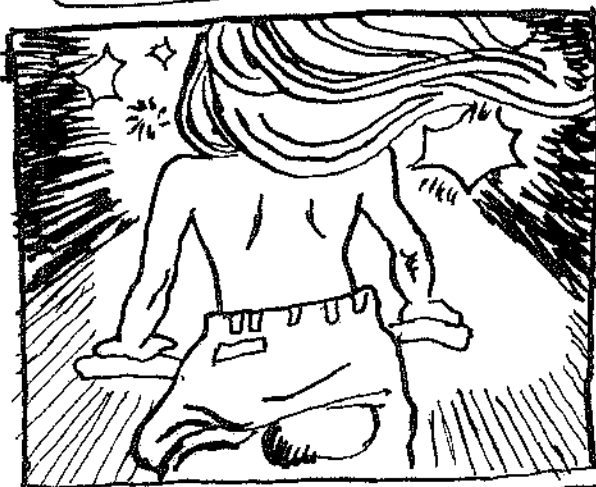








Mountain Girl looked strong and beautiful,
towing Spiff along.

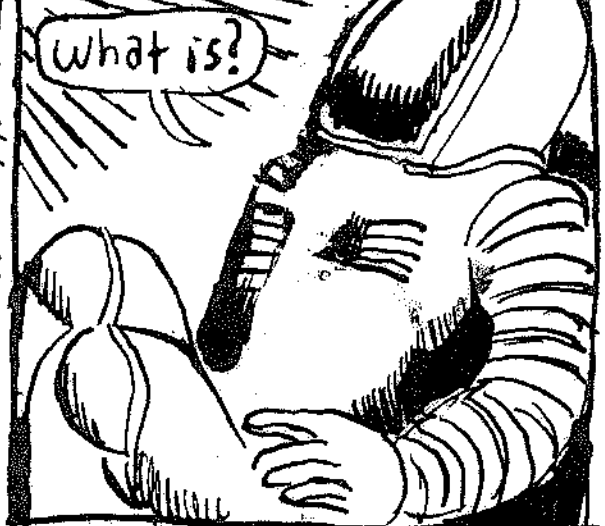
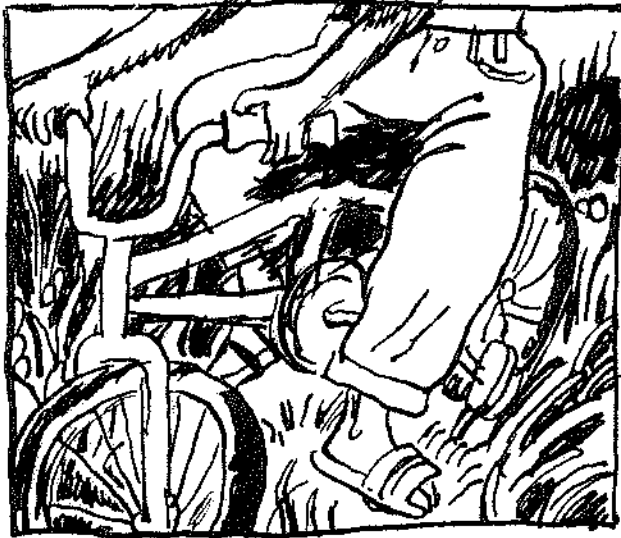


The sun was strong, like it was shining
just to catch Mountain Girl's hair.

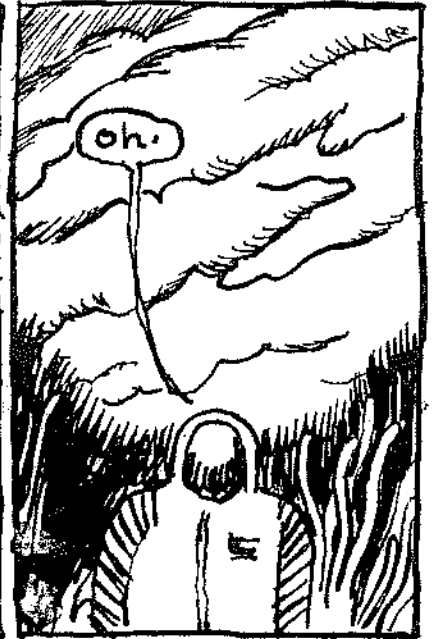
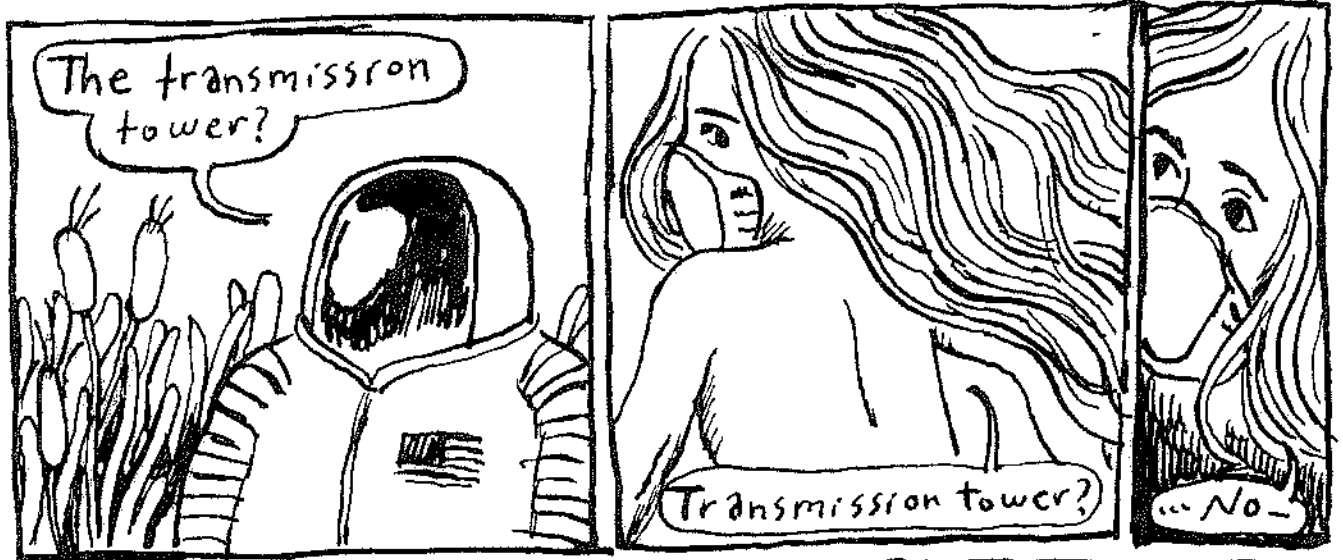


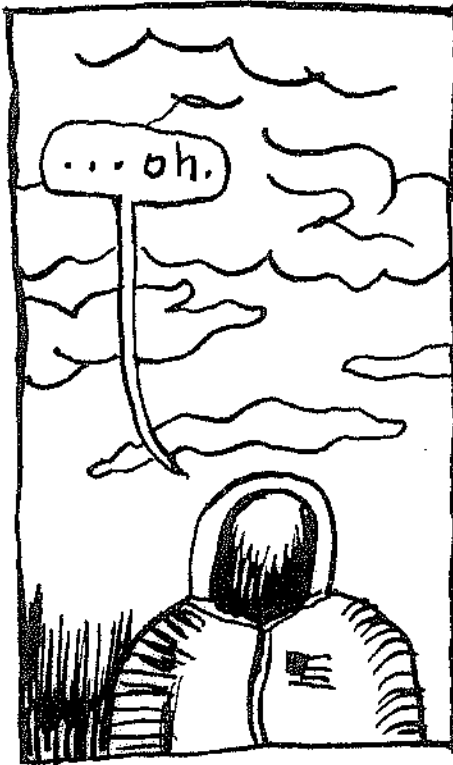
So maybe
today really
would be the
best day ever.







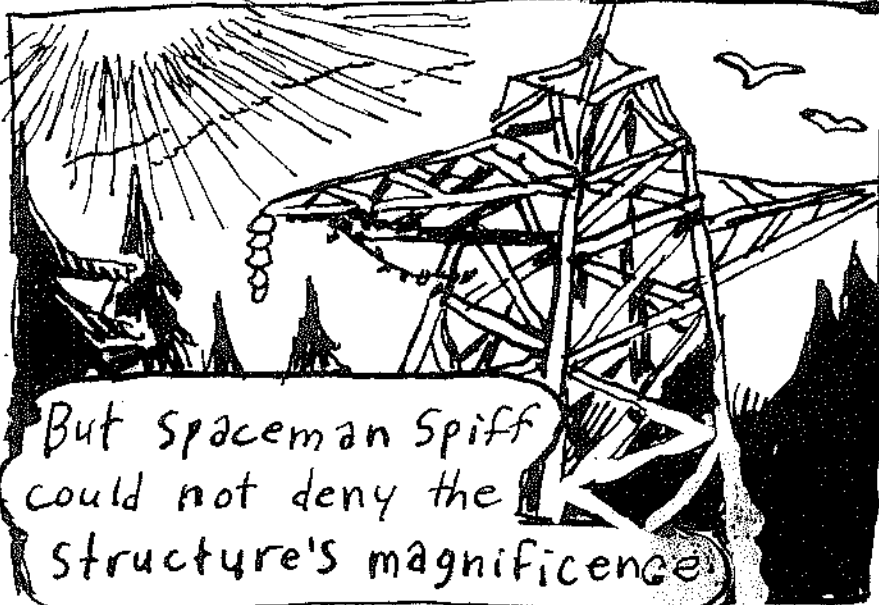




Again, Spiff felt very stupid.

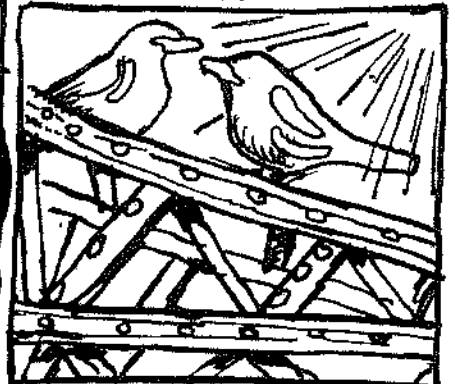


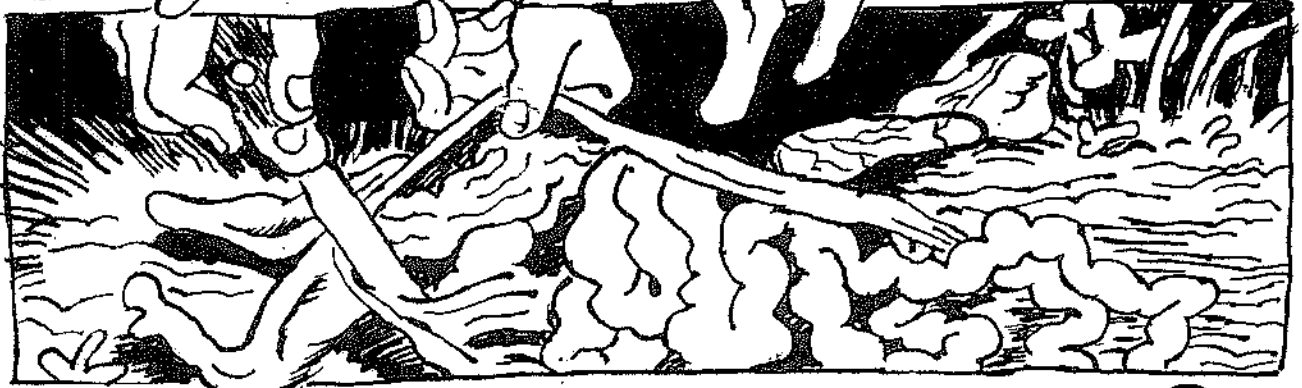
Nothing they had ever read about transmission towers indicated they might be angels.

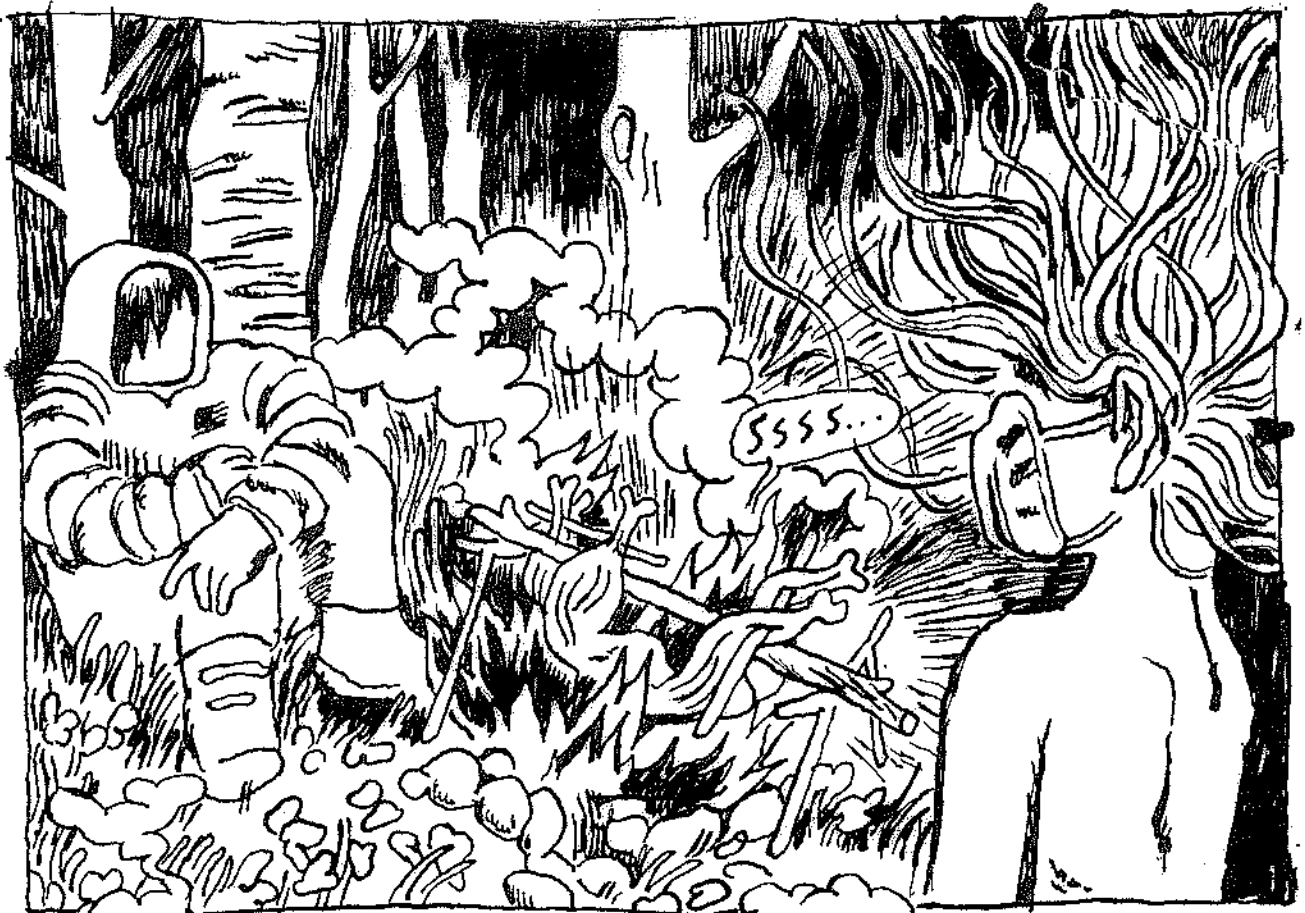


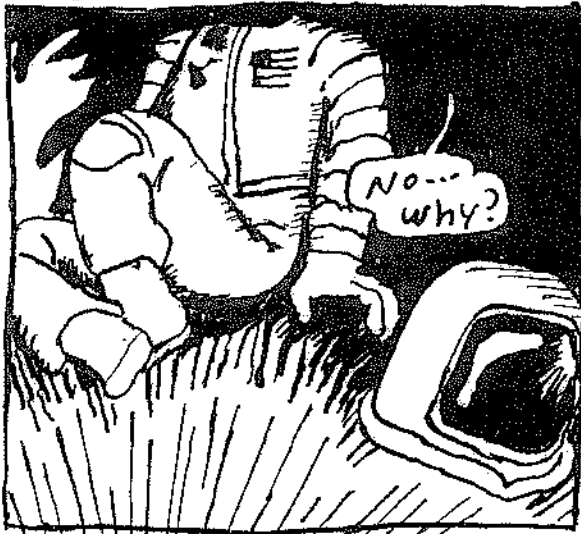
But spaceman Spiff could not deny the structure's magnificence.

What did Spiff know about angels, anyway?









My favorite story is actually a comic book about a brave space adventurer - oh, uh,

comics are-

like books, but with drawings

And,

The space adventurer is just a six year old boy named Calvin. He never actually goes to space. All his adventures take place on Earth, in his imagination.

True stories about the universe are also exciting, because they're real.

One day, out of nowhere, the universe exploded out of a speck so small it didn't exist.

It's still expanding, faster every second.

The planet Earth itself is bigger than a human can imagine. And compared to the whole universe it is smaller than a speck of dust.

And on a molecular level, everything is made up of particles that are as tiny to us as the

Earth is, compared to the vastness of space.



Particles?

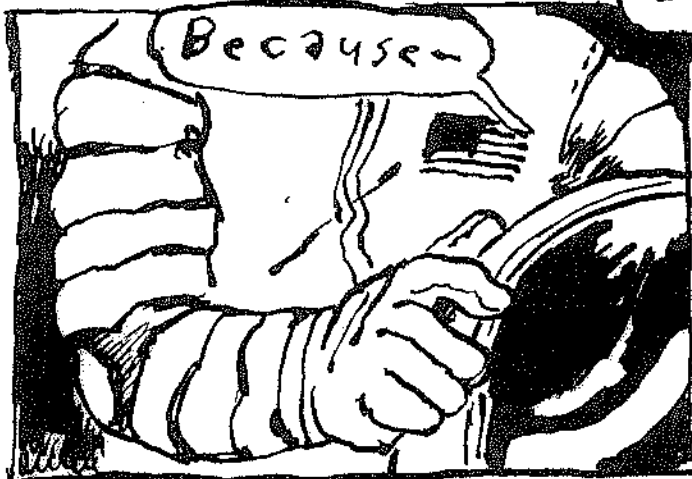


...Galaxies?



What does any of that matter?

If you can't even imagine these things, why think about them?



Because-



It means we don't have to be alone. Right?

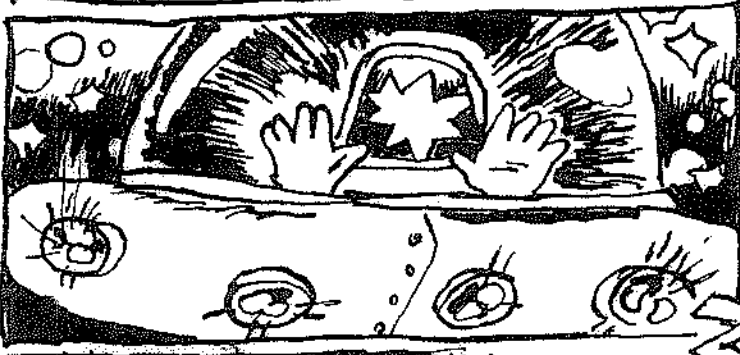
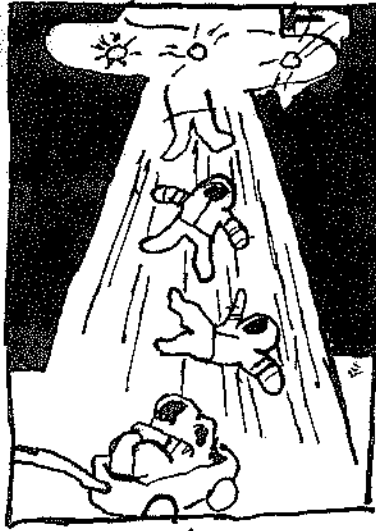
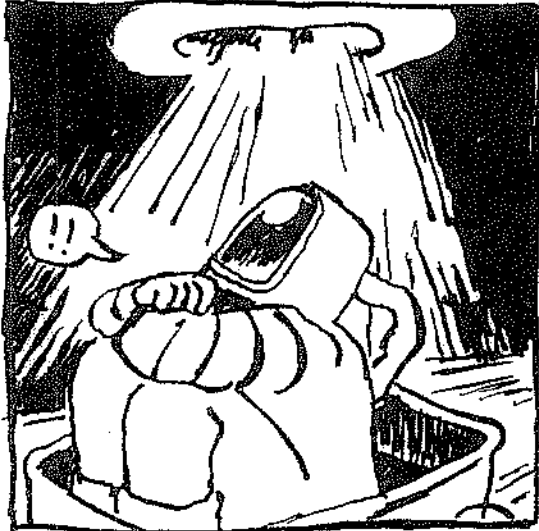


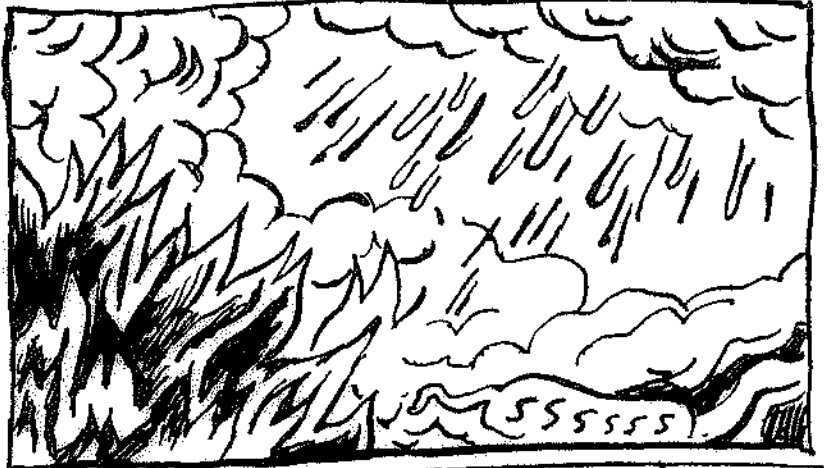
We should keep moving

There's a long way to go until the oceans



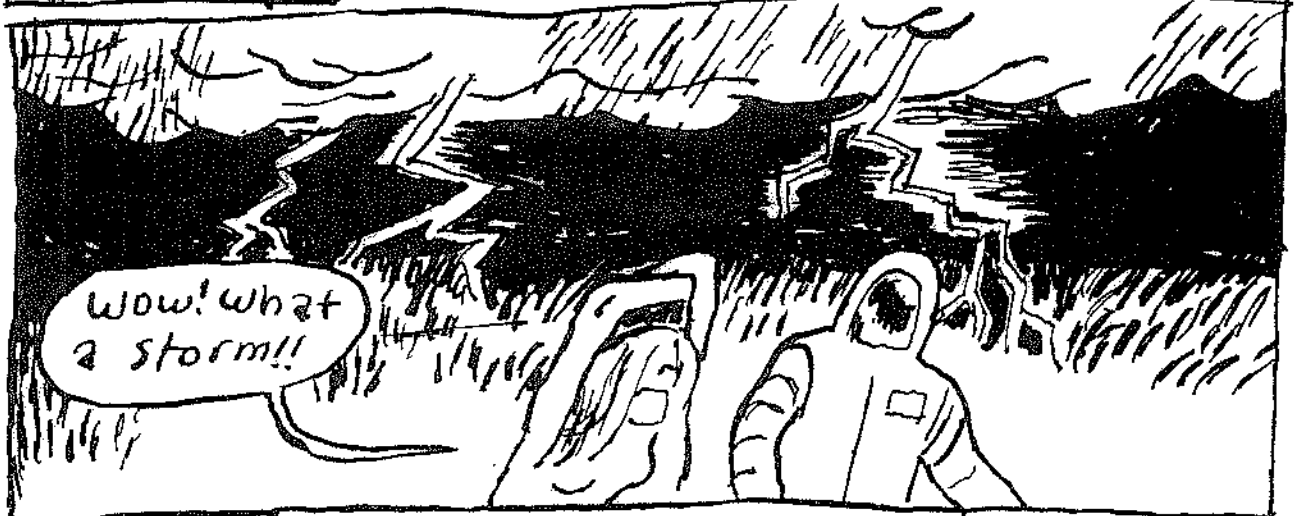
The road seemed endless. Spiff dreamed of aliens.





Wake up, Spiff.

We gotta stop and find shelter. It's pouring!



Wow! what a storm!!



OOF.

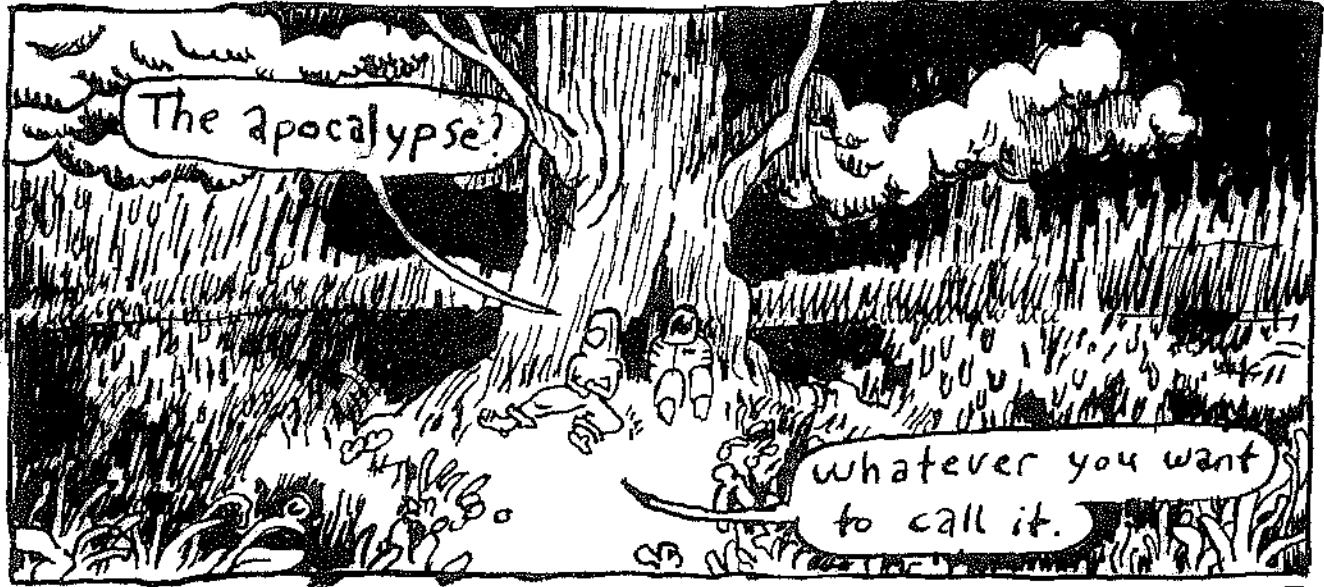


That isn't true.
Oh yes it is.



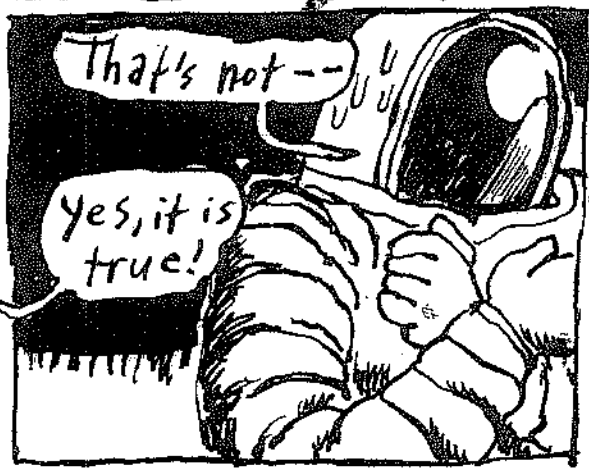
It was like this before.

During the apocalypse.



The apocalypse?

whatever you want to call it.



That's not --

Yes, it is true!



Well, how do you think everything got this way?

I don't know!



SPIFF

Mnn...



Ah...!

Look at me.



You're gonna have to face reality eventually. You're upset because you have all these ideas, about what's true..

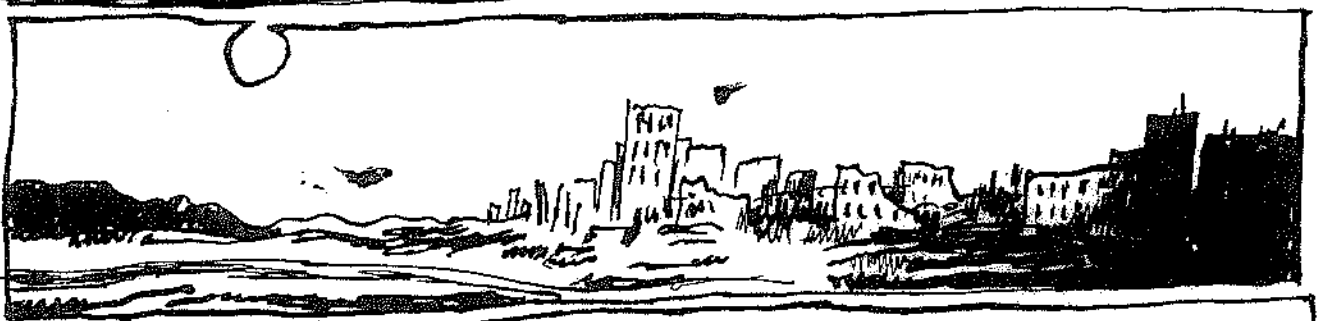
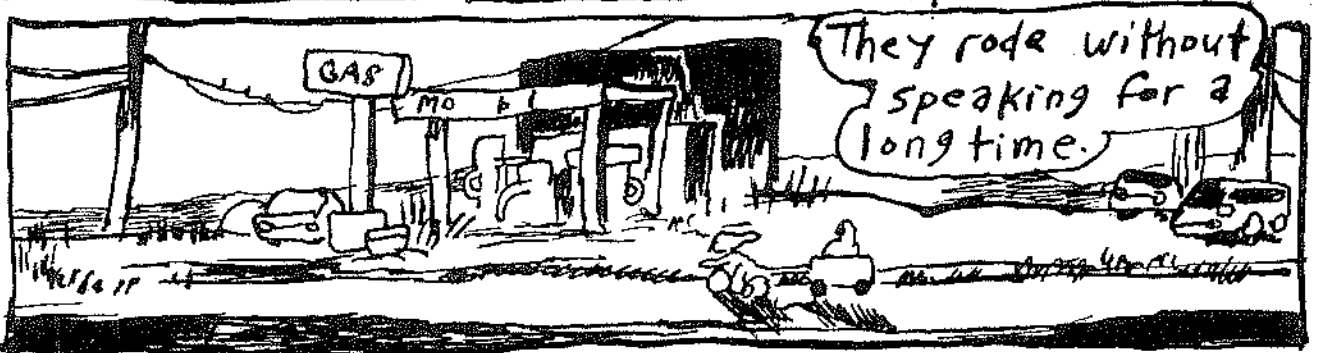
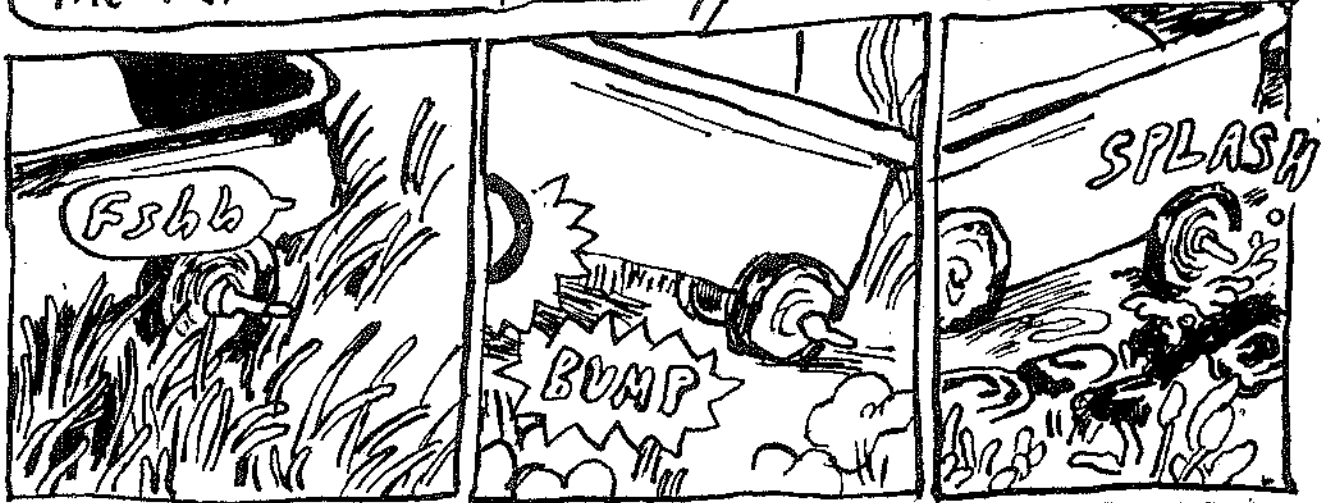
Just -- look around yourself for once!

The real world isn't the nicest.

But it's beautiful, just as it is.

I promise.

I wish you could see.



The sun had begun to drop in the sky by the time Mountain Girl spoke again.

I... No.

Not really.

You didn't grow up around other people, did you?

Haha! That explains a lot, actually.

How shy you are. This is the most I've ever heard you talk.

And I guess I can't expect you to know things you didn't have anyone to talk to.

I lived in a nice place with my family, a big group of people, all together. There were about a hundred of us, living there.

A hundred.

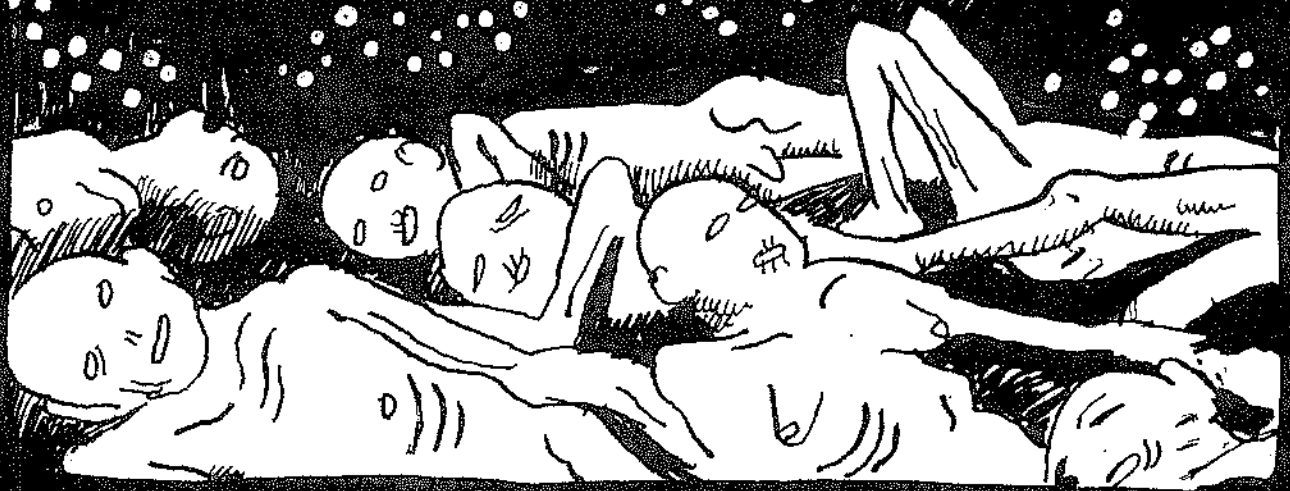
yeah.

Babies, old people, my brothers and sisters. All living, sleeping, eating together, telling stories.

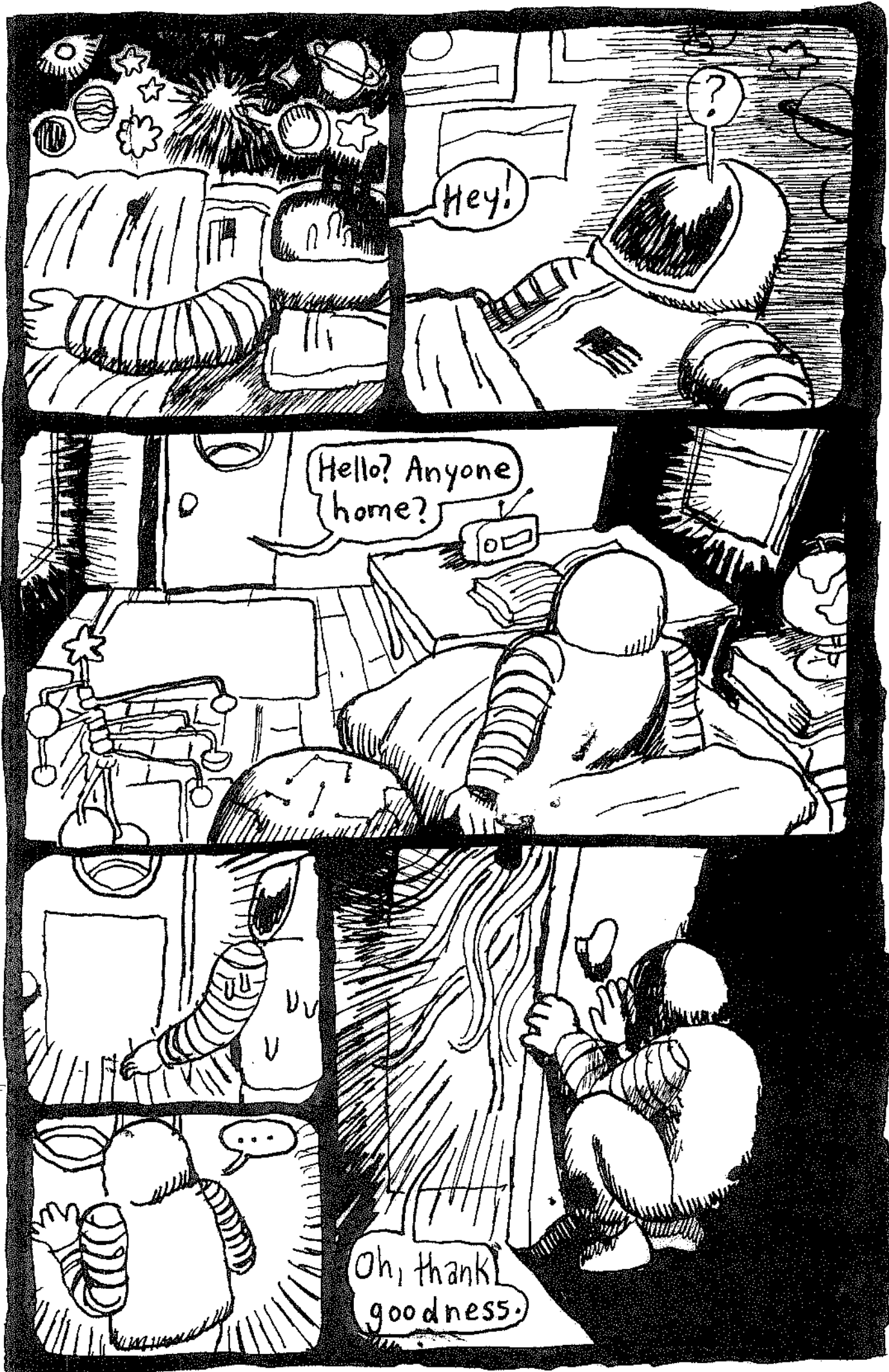
But, what happened to all of them?

They all got sick.

Really sick, then they died.









Oh, I'm so glad I found you.

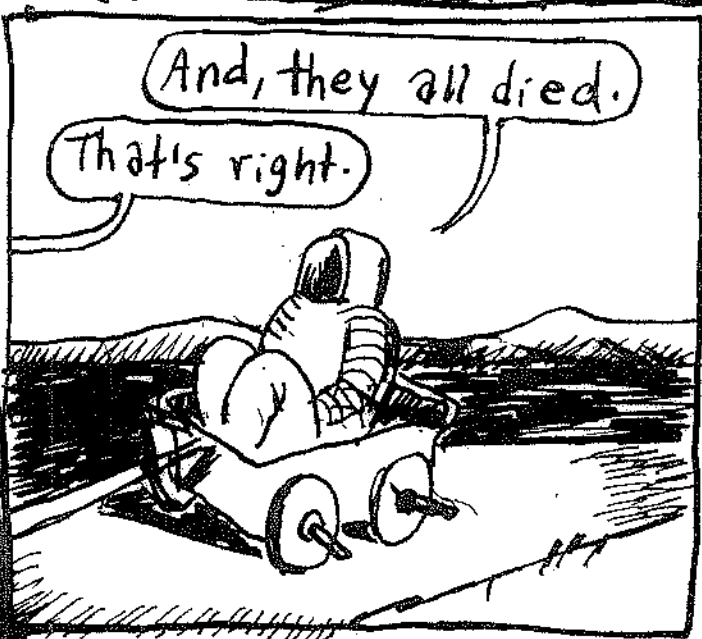
I'm called Mountain Girl.

Who are you?



You lived with a hundred people?

Maybe more.



And, they all died.

That's right.



Spiff was filled with more questions than ever.

A hundred people was more than Spiff could imagine. And Spiff would never even know them, because they were gone.