

BUT WHEN I FINISHED, IT ALL LOOKED EVEN MORE MEANINGLESS.
HAD I LOST MY YOUTHFUL ILLUSIONS?

FALL IN LOVE, PROCESS,
BREAK UP; FALL IN LOVE, FIGHT,
GET DUMPED; FALL IN LOVE, GET
BORED, FALL OUT OF LOVE.
WELL I'M THROUGH
WITH IT.

COULDN'T
CARE
LESS



I DIDN'T HAVE MANY LEFT. I KNEW THAT MONOGAMY AND ROMANTIC LOVE WERE JUST MALE SUPREMACIST CONSTRUCTS DESIGNED TO KEEP WOMEN IN THEIR PLACE...



I KNEW MY PARENTS' MARRIAGE WAS UNHAPPY, MY OWN LOVE LIFE WAS A SEEMINGLY UNENDING SERIES OF DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND NO ONE I EVER KNEW HAD BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, THAT I HAD ANY DESIRE TO EMULATE.

DON'T INTERRUPT ME!

IF YOU COULD TELL A STORY RIGHT, I WOULDN'T NEED TO!

10 YEARS & GOING STRONG!

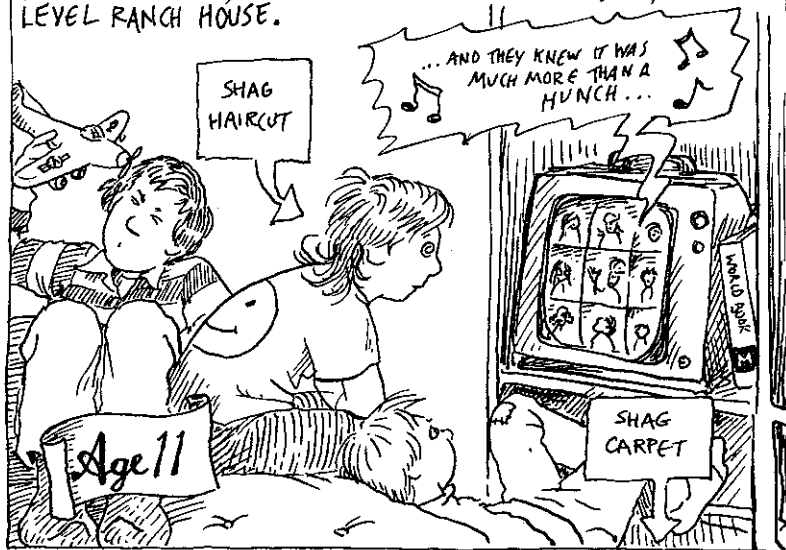
BUT THERE WAS STILL A PART OF ME THAT BELIEVED, DESPITE ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, THAT ONE DAY I'D FIND THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, GET MARRIED, AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER WITH HER.

THIS JUST ISN'T WORKING OUT.

OKAY, FINE. LET'S BREAK UP.

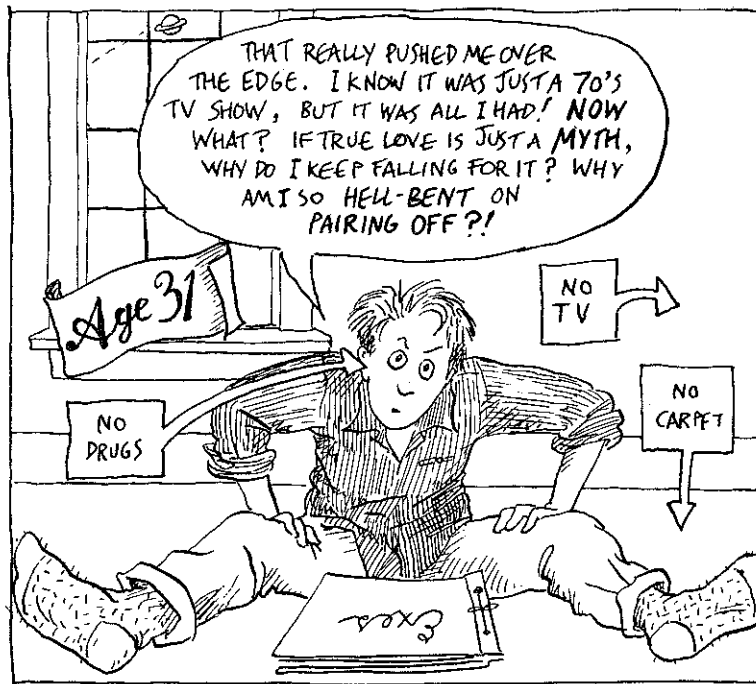
PHEW! I WANNA BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE LOVE OF MY LIFE SHOWS UP!

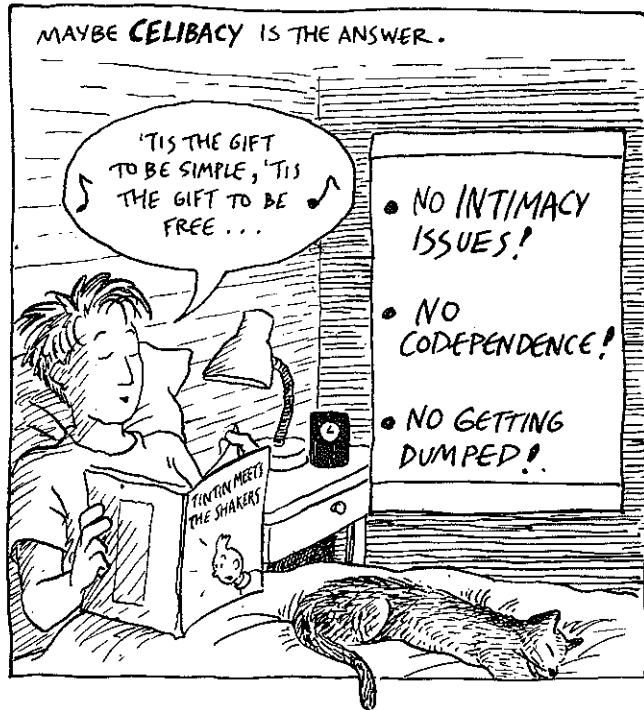
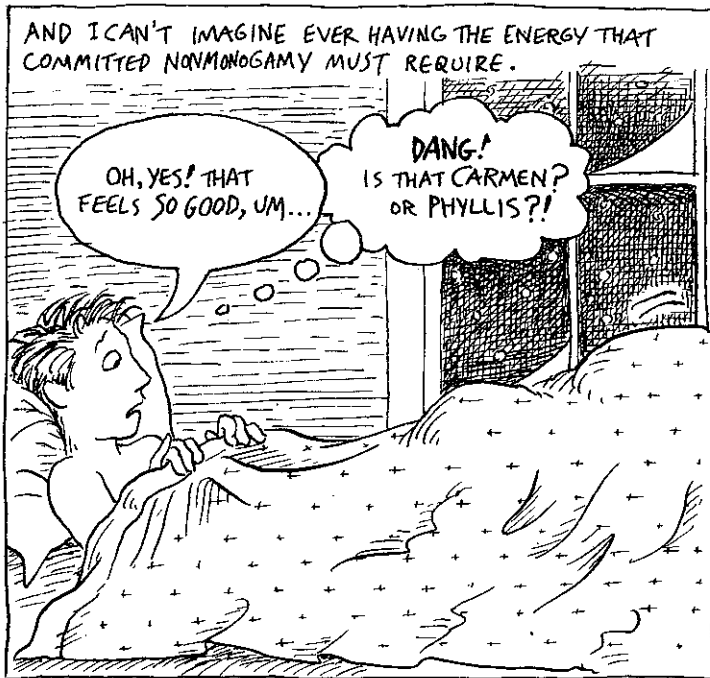
I DUNNO WHY. MAYBE I WATCHED TOO MUCH TV AS A KID. I LOVED ALL THOSE DUMB, PATRIARCHAL SIT-COMS ABOUT BLISSFULLY WEDDED COUPLES AND HAPPY FAMILIES. LIKE, YOU KNEW NOTHING REALLY **BAD** WAS EVER GONNA HAPPEN IN THE BRADY'S SPLIT-LEVEL RANCH HOUSE.

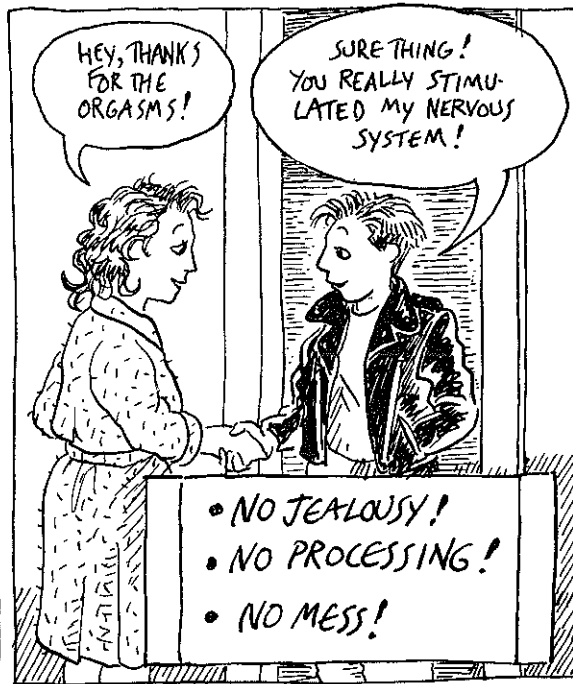


BUT RECENTLY, EVEN THAT LITTLE BUBBLE WAS CRUELLY BURST FOR ME. THE BRADY BUNCH WAS EVEN MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL THAN **MY** FAMILY.



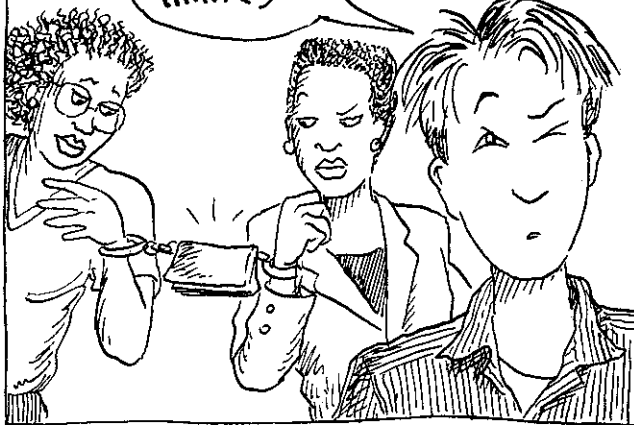






IF WE NEVER EXPERIENCED THAT INITIAL, OVER-POWERING ATTRACTION TO SOMEONE, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD EVER EVEN OCCUR TO US TO WANNA SHARE A CHECKING ACCOUNT WITH HER FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?!

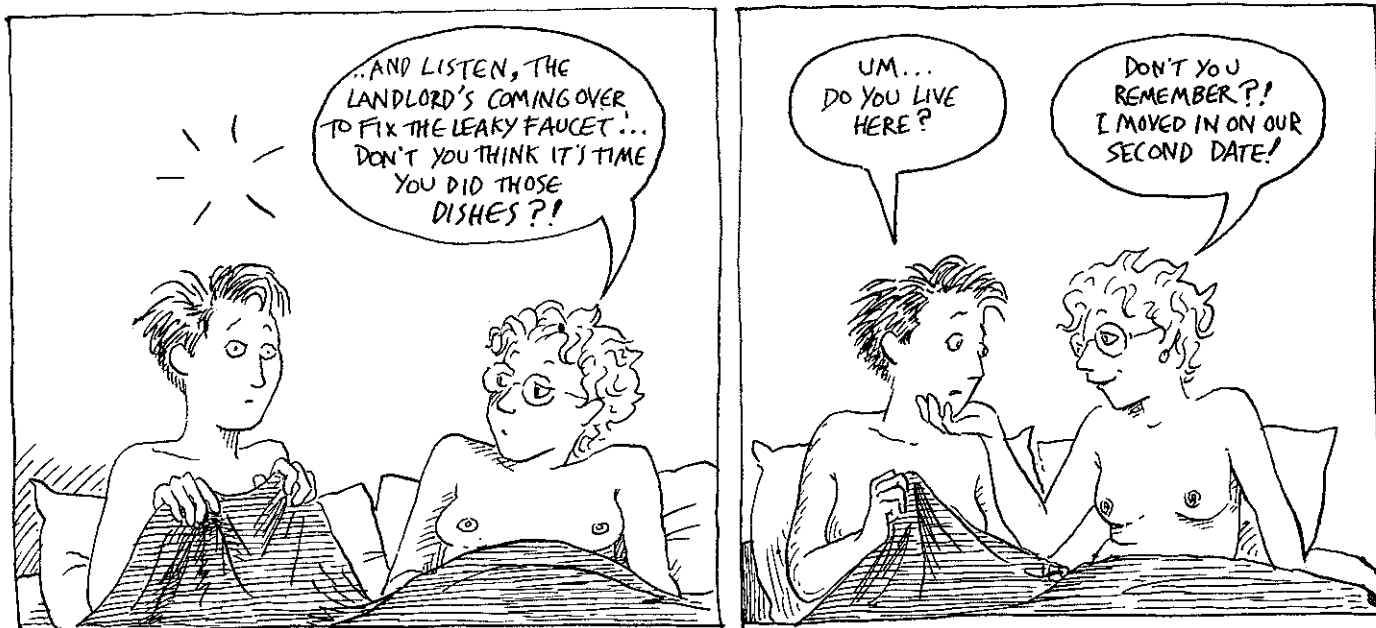
I DON'T THINK SO.



IT'S A TRICK. YOU GO THROUGH THAT INITIAL PERIOD OF TEMPORARY INSANITY, YOU KNOW?



THEN YOU WAKE UP 6 MONTHS LATER... AND FIND THAT THE TWO OF YOU ARE JOINED AT THE FRONTAL LOBE.



SOON AFTER THAT, THE FUN STARTS! I USED TO BE REALLY BAD AT THIS PART!

WHAT'S WRONG?

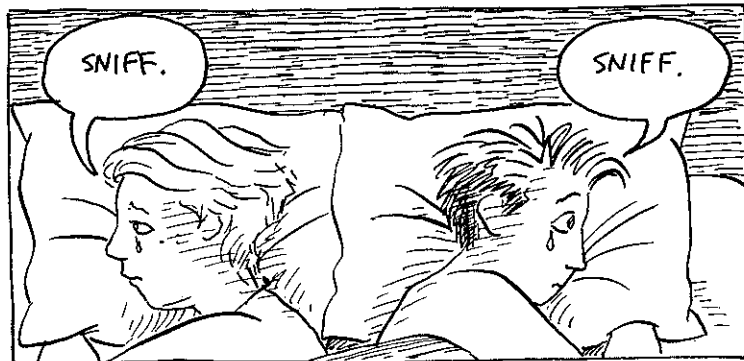
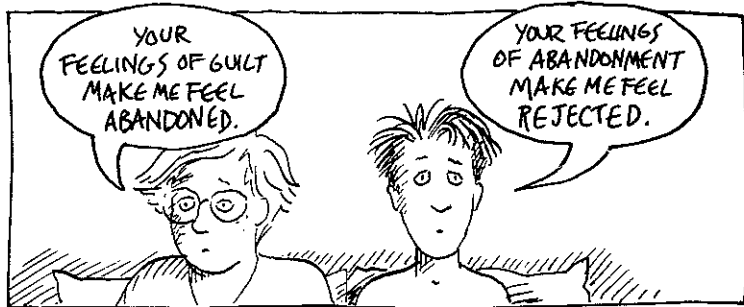
I DUNNO, I'M JUST TIRED, OK? DO WE HAFTA HAVE SEX ALL THE TIME?!

YOU'RE NOT ATTRACTED TO ME!

OH, GREAT. NOW I'LL NEVER GET TO SLEEP. IS THERE ANY OF THAT JOINT LEFT?

SNIFF.

Z



WAIT! IT GETS BETTER! AS WE CONTINUE THIS DOGGED QUEST FOR INTIMACY, WE LEARN TO QUESTION SOME OF OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL PRECONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFE!

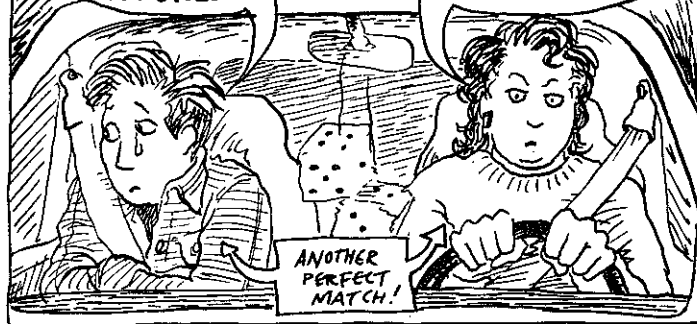
STOP NAGGING ME!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAID, THE WORLD WILL NOT END IF I LEAVE THE REFRIGERATOR OPEN LONGER THAN ONE SECOND!



SOON WE REALIZE THAT OUT OF ALL THE ELIGIBLE WOMEN IN THE WORLD, WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN MANAGED TO CHOOSE THE ONE GUARANTEED TO DRIVE US THE CRAZIEST TEACH US THE MOST.

I CAN'T HELP WHINING! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I GOT MY MOTHER TO PAY ATTENTION TO ME! IRRITATING HER WAS BETTER THAN BEING IGNORED.

WELL MY MOTHER WHINED CONSTANTLY ABOUT EVERYTHING SO WE'D FEEL SORRY FOR HER. COULD YOU GIVE IT A REST? IT'S SO IRRITATING!



NEXT, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL SETTLE INTO A CALM SORT OF RUT FOR A WHILE. YOU LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE GNAWING SENSE OF DISILLUSIONMENT.

NOT ONCE HAS SHE EVER WRITTEN ME A SONNET!

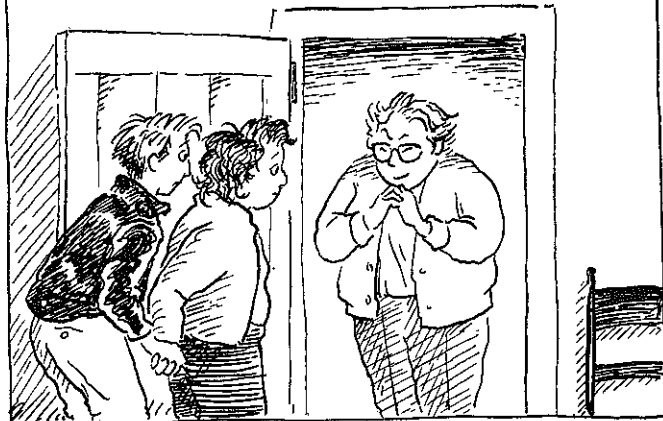
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO HAVE A LOVER WHO WAS A GOOD DANCER?

FBI WARNING

THINGS CAN DRAG ON LIKE THAT FOR YEARS, BUT SOON-ER OR LATER, SOMETHING SNAPS. SO MAYBE YOU TRY THERAPY TOGETHER...

Kiss of Death

LESBIAN RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING INC.



MAYBE YOU DON'T. WHATEVER. THE POINT IS, IT'S OVER. NOW, (IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO) YOU HOP INTO BED WITH THE NEXT PERSON WHO SEEMS REMOTELY INTERESTED IN YOU, AND THE WHOLE PROCESS STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN.

I JUST BROKE UP WITH SOMEONE YESTERDAY.

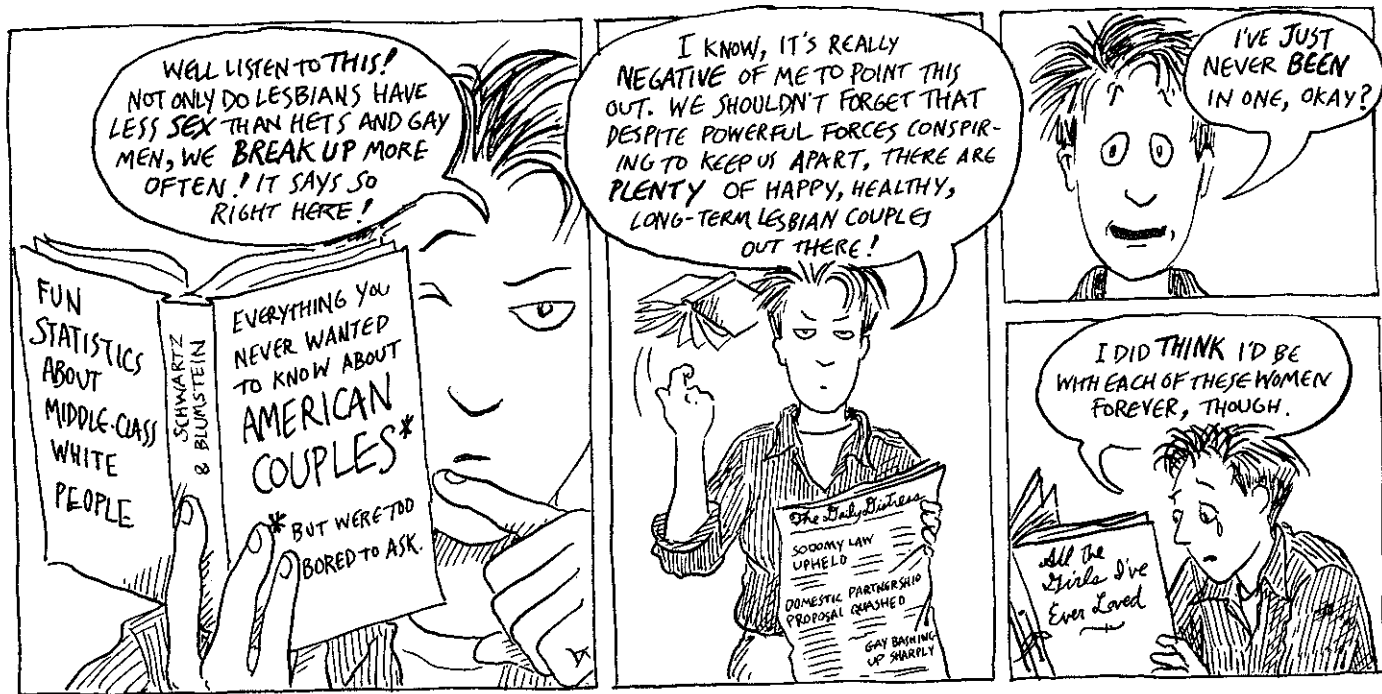
BUT I'M REALLY RESOLVED ABOUT IT.

WANT A BACKRUB?



THIS IS REALLY BUMMING YOU OUT, RIGHT?





WELL, I GUESS I SORT OF STILL AM WITH EACH OF THEM. I MEAN, ONCE YOU'VE BEEN THAT CLOSE TO SOMEONE, THERE'S A CERTAIN CONNECTION YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE BETWEEN YOU.

IT IS AN AREA WHICH WE CALL

**The
EX-LOVER
ZONE**



JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'RE FINALLY FEELING RESOLVED ABOUT THINGS...

A COMMITMENT CEREMONY? OF COURSE I'LL COME! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!



YA DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE @#*! THE WORD 'COMMITMENT' MEANT 5 YEARS AGO!!



YOU WILL OBSERVE BIZARRE BEHAVIORAL CHANGES IN ONCE-RATIONAL WOMEN! FOR EXAMPLE, I ONCE HAD A LOVER WHO I WAS ALWAYS NAGGING TO STAY HOME AND COOK MORE WITH ME...

YOU KNOW I HATE TO COOK! YOU'RE SUFFOCATING ME!

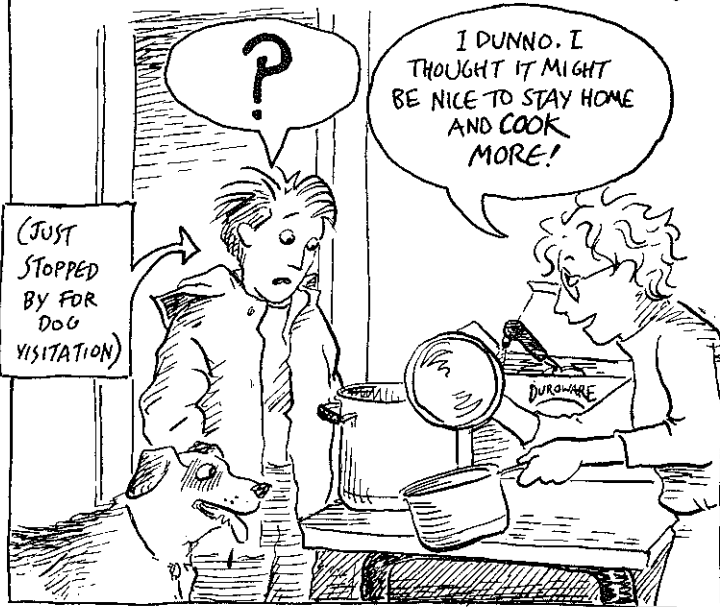


AFTER SHE GOT INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE ELSE, SHE WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A WHOLE SET OF BRAND NEW POTS AND PANS!

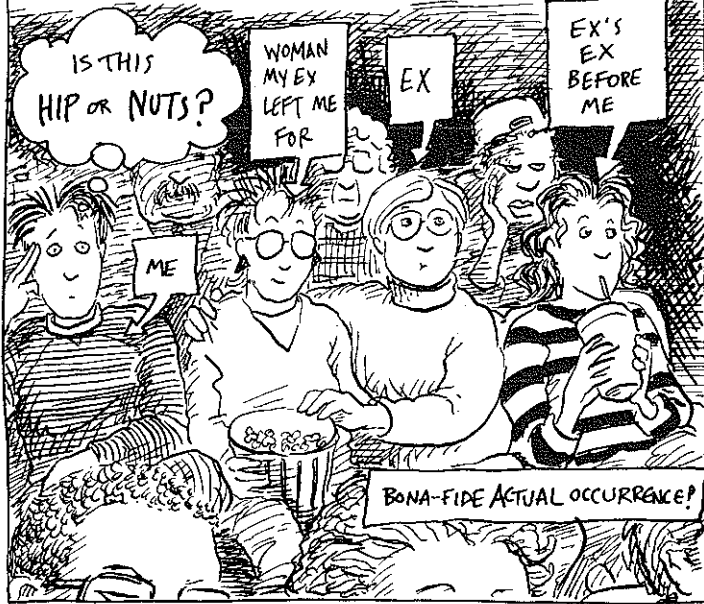
?

I DUNNO. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO STAY HOME AND COOK MORE!

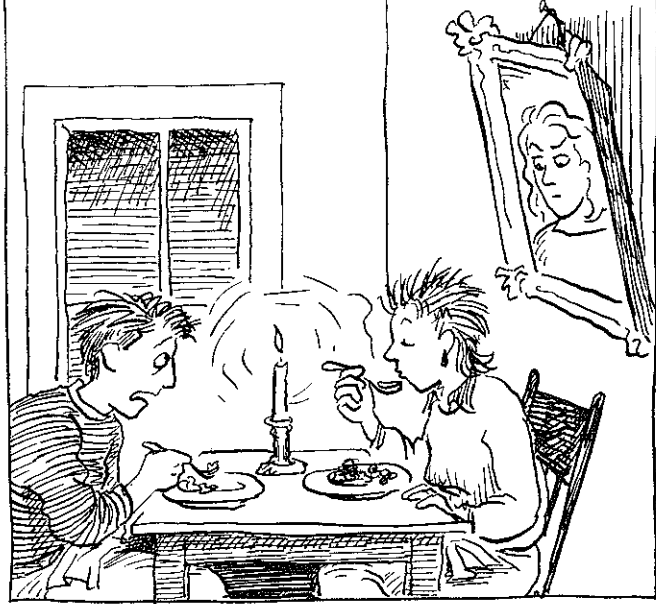
(JUST STOPPED BY FOR DOG VISITATION)



AND AS IF YOUR OWN ERSTWHILE PARTNERS DON'T MAKE LIFE STRANGE ENOUGH...



COPING WITH THOSE OF YOUR CURRENT LOVER CAN BE POSITIVELY EERIE!



IT'S FUTILE TO TRY AND HIDE.

CAPACITY CROWD OF 5,000
KD LANG FANS

ME

MY
LOVER

HER
EX

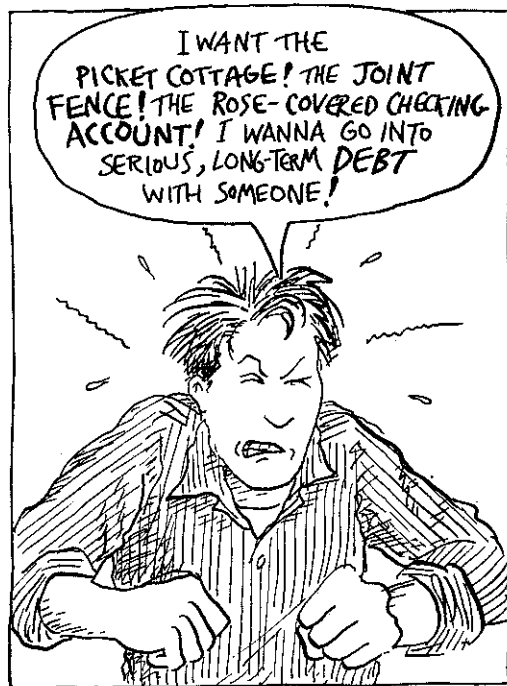
HER
EX'S
NEW
LOVER

ANOTHER BONA FIDE TRUE ADVENTURE!

SO WHY BOTHER? IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM. I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT SOME OF MY **BEST FRIENDS** ARE EX-LOVERS. WEIRD AS IT CAN BE, THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THAT BOND. NO MATTER WHO YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SUBSEQUENTLY, YOUR EX WILL ALWAYS HAVE KNOWN YOU **LONGER**.

HYUK!

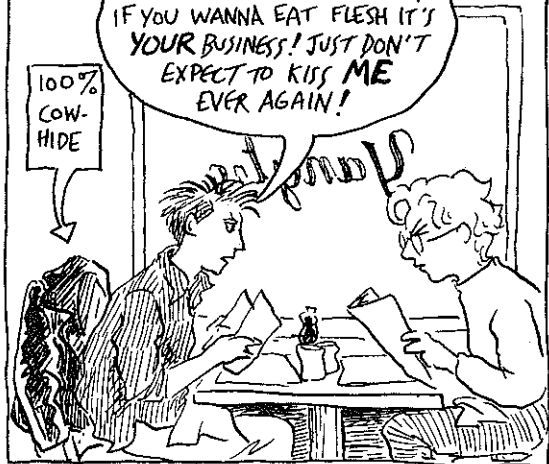
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK ON YOUR ROOMMATE'S FACE WHEN SHE WALKED IN ON US THAT MORNING!



BUT I CAN NEVER SEEM TO GET OVER THE HUMP
IN RELATIONSHIPS! WHEN I FIND OUT MY LOVER
ISN'T PERFECT, LIKE ME, I LOSE IT!

GO AHEAD!
ORDER THE MONGOLIAN BEEF!
IF YOU WANNA EAT FLESH IT'S
YOUR BUSINESS! JUST DON'T
EXPECT TO KISS ME
EVER AGAIN!

100%
COW-
HIDE



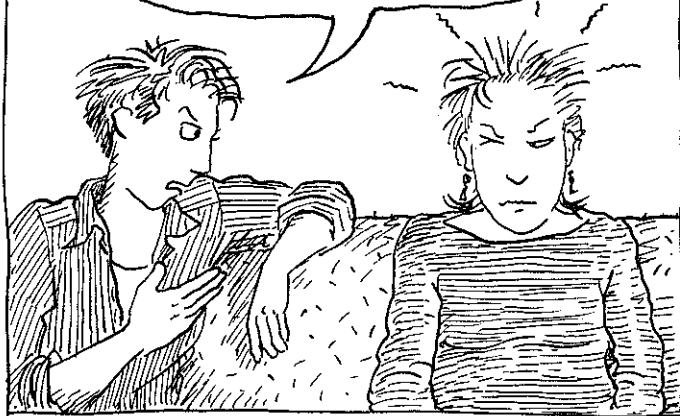
I GET SO THREATENED WHEN WE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS!

NO, THE
RIGHT WAY IS WHEN
IT ROLLS OVER THE
TOP, LIKE THIS!



AND LIKE MOST LESBIANS, MY EXPECTATIONS ARE ABSURDLY HIGH.

IT THINK WE WOULDN'T FIGHT SO MUCH IF YOU'D LEARN TO ADMIT YOU'RE WRONG! WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THERAPY? AND ALANON? AND GET A HAIRCUT?!

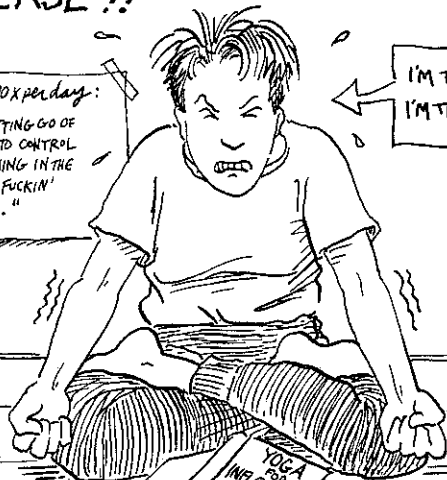


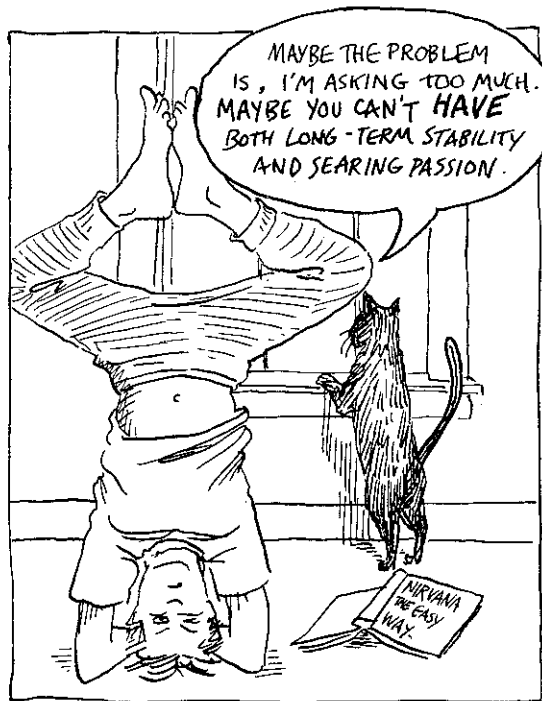
I KNOW I'D BE BETTER AT RELATIONSHIPS IF I WERE ONLY MORE ACCEPTING, MORE LAID-BACK, MORE IN-THE-MOMENT, MORE AT PEACE WITH THE UNIVERSE !!

Says 100x per day:

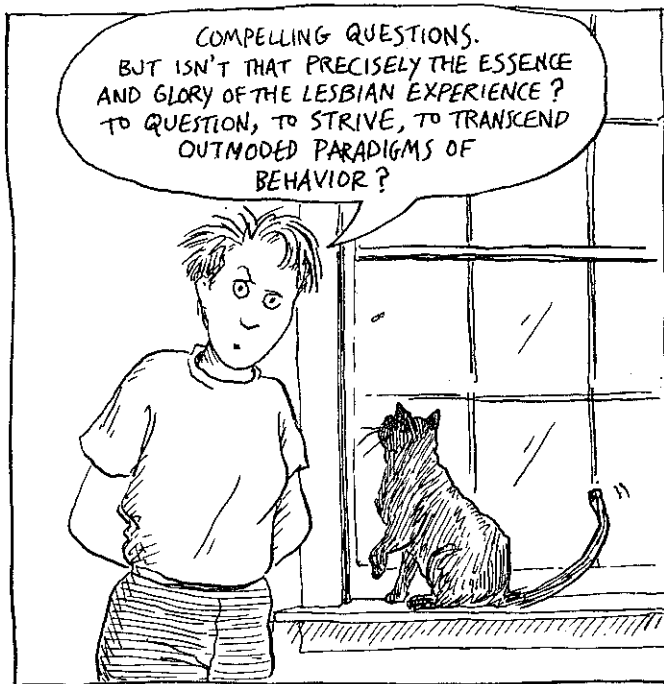
"I AM LETTING GO OF TRYING TO CONTROL EVERYTHING IN THE WHOLE FUCKIN' WORLD."

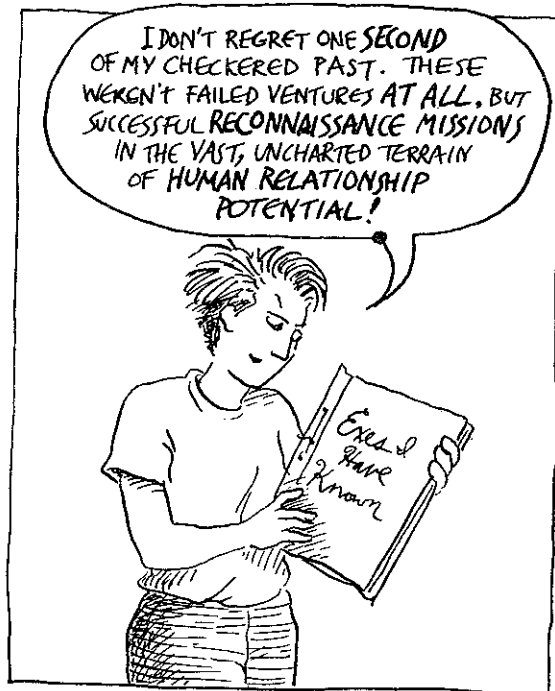
I'M TRYING!
I'M TRYING!











—End

Dykes To Watch Out For

THE SEQUEL

93/07
DATE BOB
11 5 348

ADDED ATTRACTION! "SERIAL MONOGAMY"—A DOCUMENTARY

by Alison Bechdel



The author would like to thank Lyn Oligino, Judith Katz, Sara Van Arsdale, and her publisher, Nancy K. Bereano, for their support and criticism. Also, all her friends in Minneapolis and Burlington, the generous women who consulted with her on various issues, and the many remarkable women she's met on her travels.

Alison Bechdel's cartoons appear regularly in more than forty publications in the United States and Canada.

Copyright © 1992 by Alison Bechdel
All rights reserved.

This book may not be reproduced in whole or in part, except in the case of reviews, without permission from Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Book and cover design by Alison Bechdel and Betsy Bayley

Printed in the United States by McNaughton & Gunn

Library of Congress Card No. 92-4452