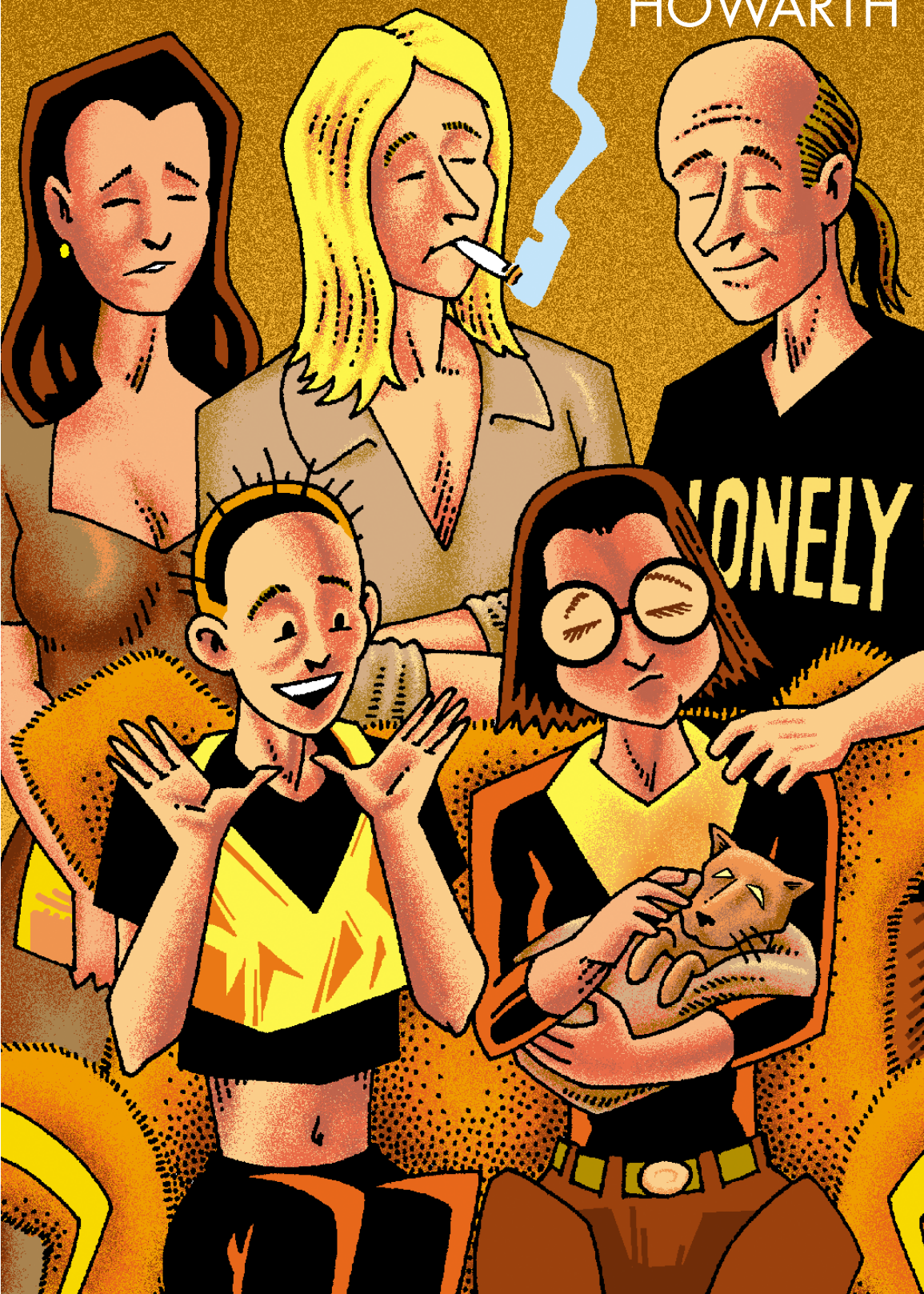
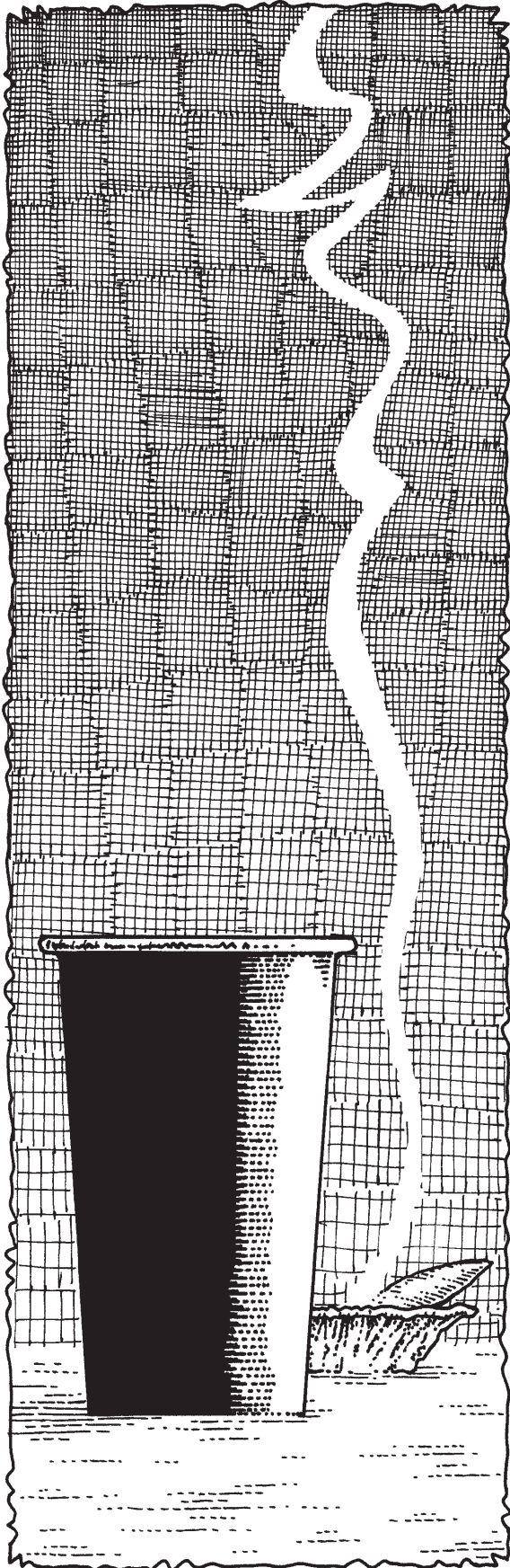


THE DOWNSIZED

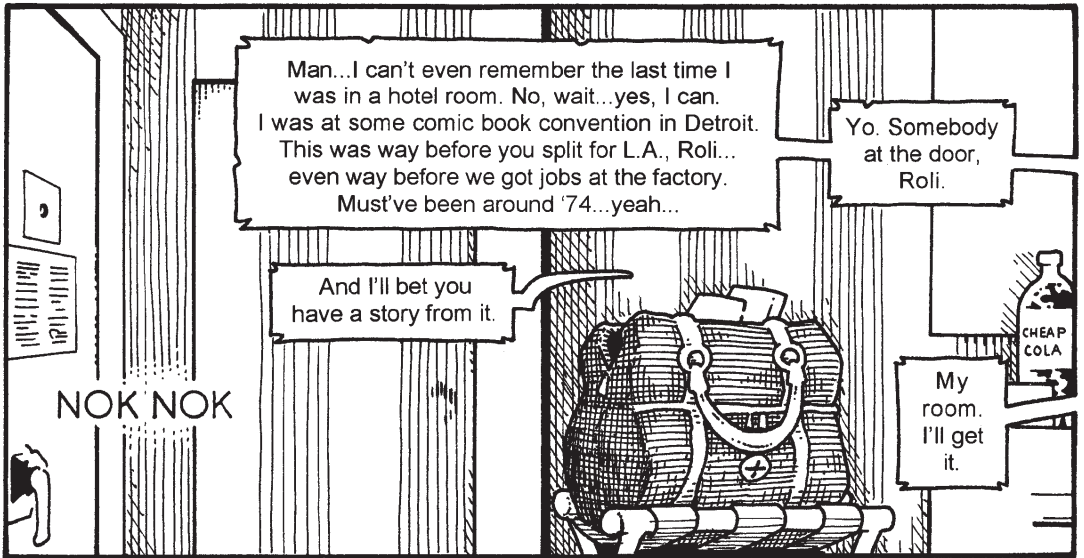
MATT
HOWARTH





the downsized

chapter 1:
the reunion
(thursday night)



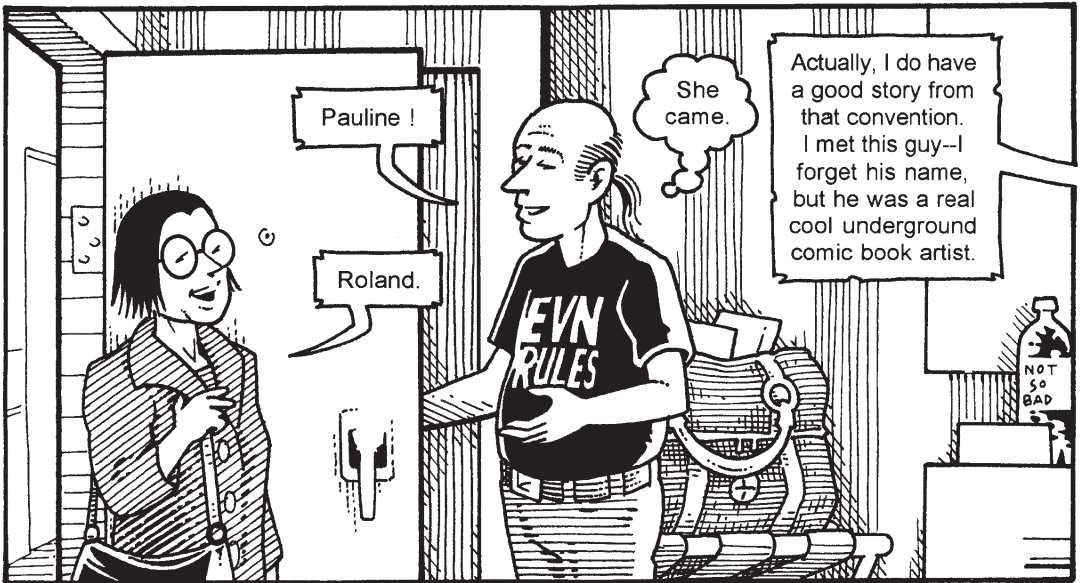
Man...I can't even remember the last time I was in a hotel room. No, wait...yes, I can. I was at some comic book convention in Detroit. This was way before you split for L.A., Roli... even way before we got jobs at the factory. Must've been around '74...yeah...

Yo. Somebody at the door, Roli.

And I'll bet you have a story from it.

My room. I'll get it.

NOK NOK



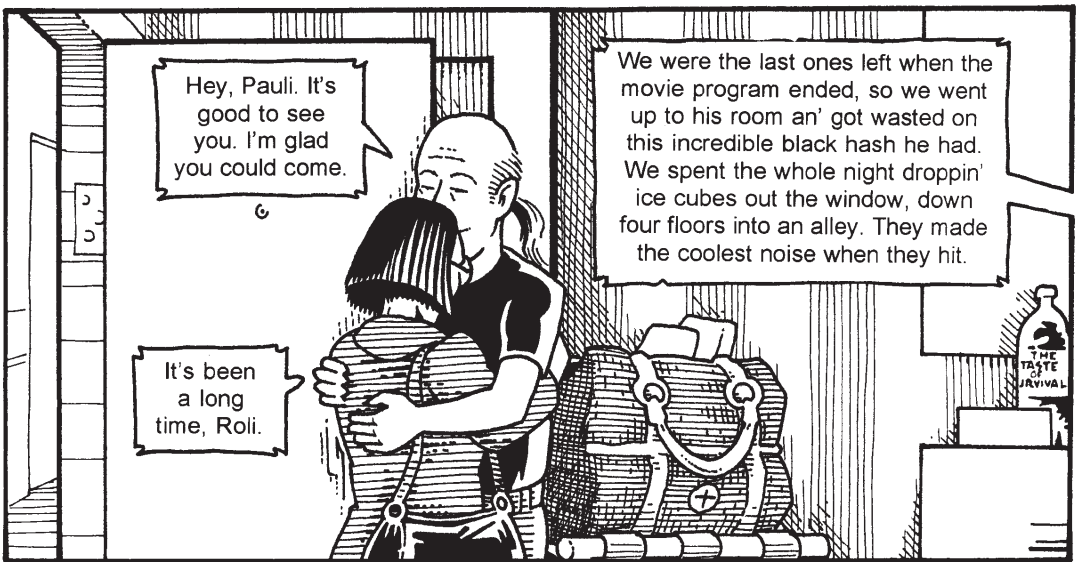
Pauline!

Roland.

She came.

Actually, I do have a good story from that convention. I met this guy--I forget his name, but he was a real cool underground comic book artist.

NOT SO BAD



Hey, Pauli. It's good to see you. I'm glad you could come.

It's been a long time, Roli.

We were the last ones left when the movie program ended, so we went up to his room an' got wasted on this incredible black hash he had. We spent the whole night droppin' ice cubes out the window, down four floors into an alley. They made the coolest noise when they hit.

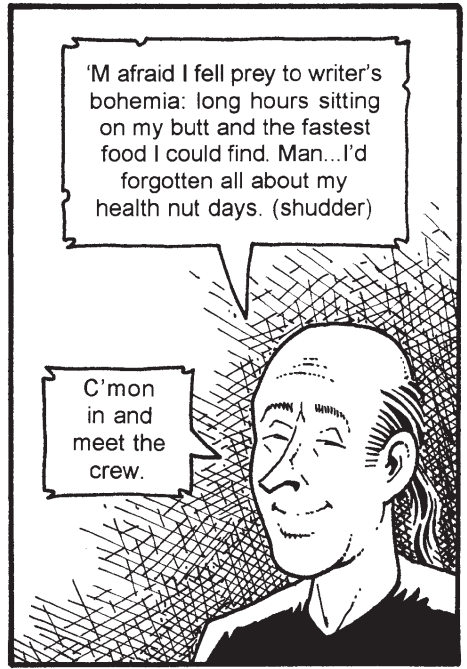
THE TASTE OF JUVENAL



It's good to see you too. And look at what living in L.A. has done to you.

What happened to Roland the health food nut?

Gah! I haven't touched tofu in years.



'M afraid I fell prey to writer's bohemia: long hours sitting on my butt and the fastest food I could find. Man...I'd forgotten all about my health nut days. (shudder)

C'mon in and meet the crew.



Okay. This is Eddie, my cousin.

And this is Joy, cousin Eddie's wife.

They're in town from Otisville for the festivities.

And--of course--you already know Stevie.

Howz doin'...

Hello.

Pauli!

Stevie!

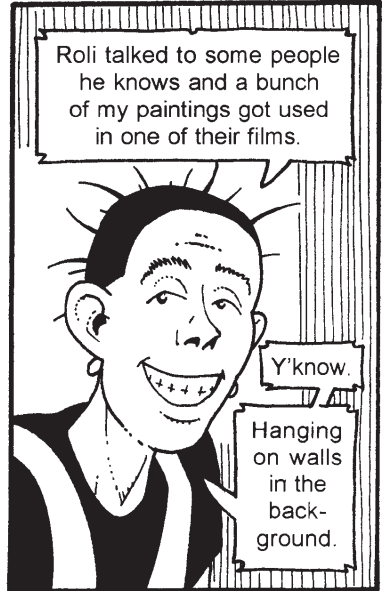
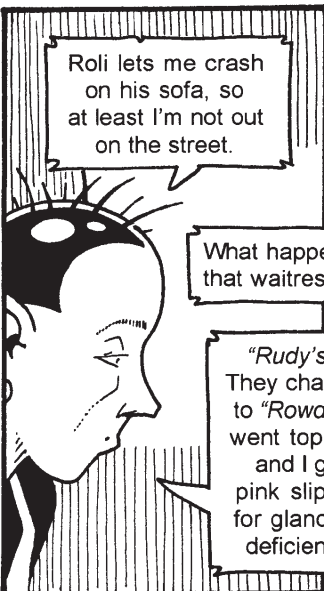
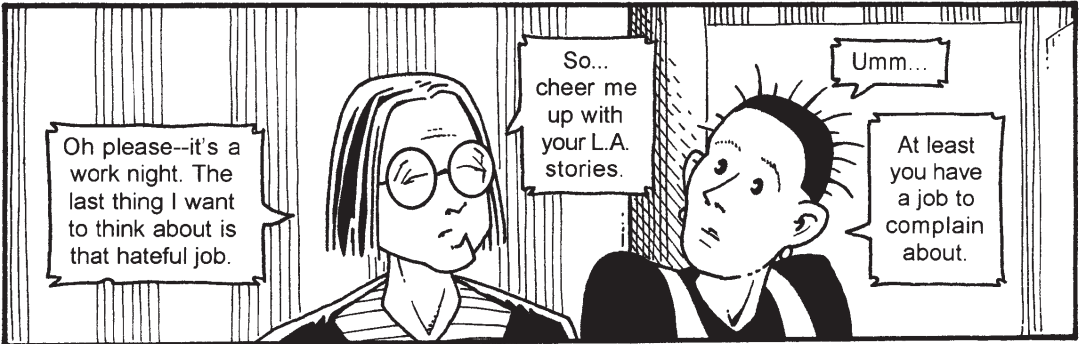
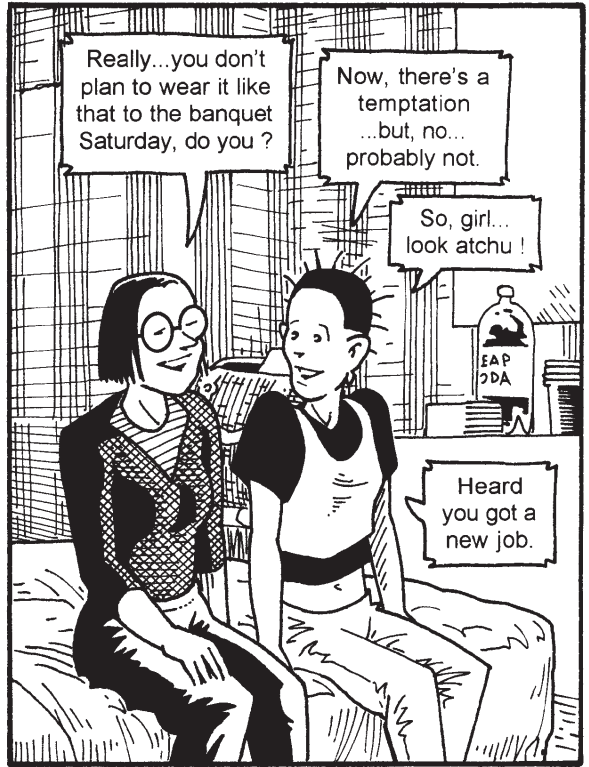
Girl! Look atchu!

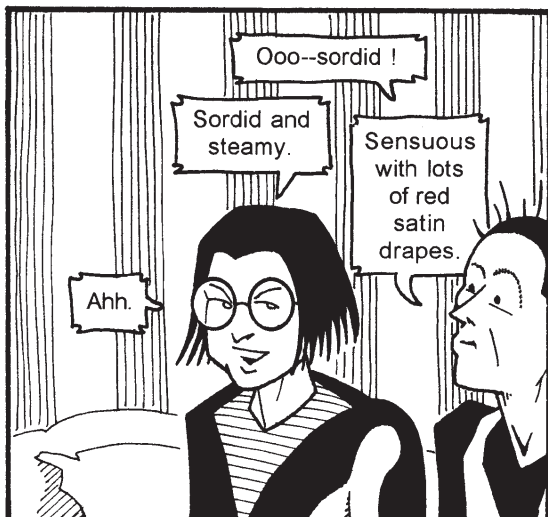


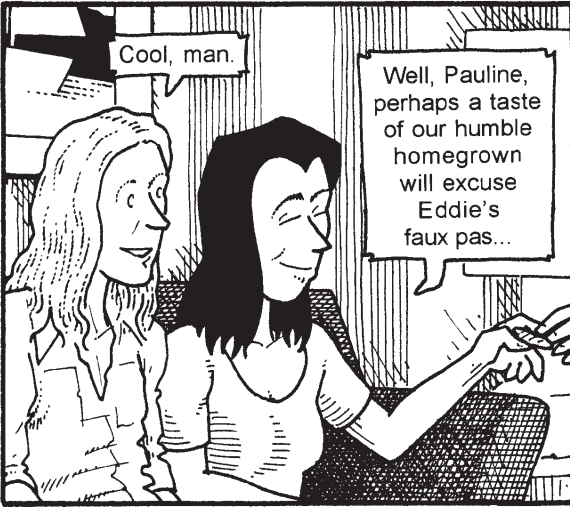
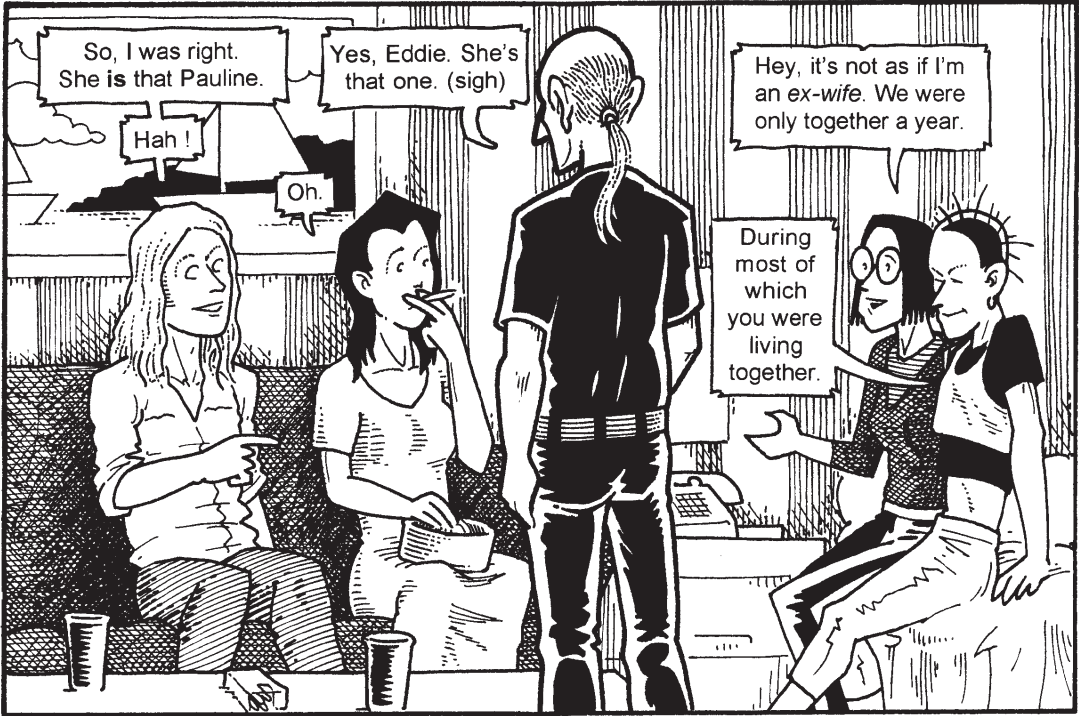
Aw, Pauli... Where you been?

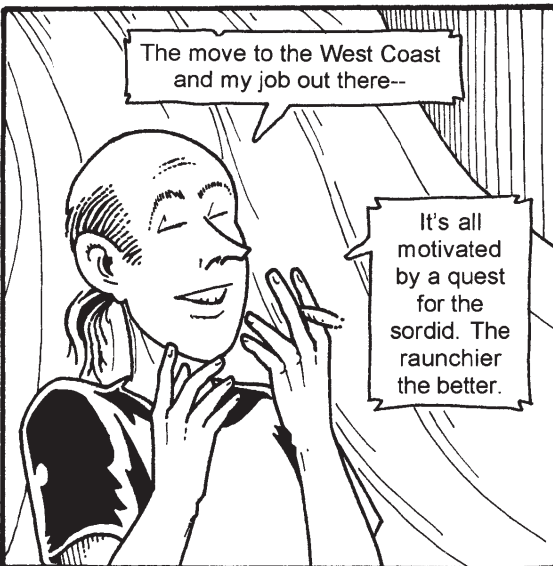
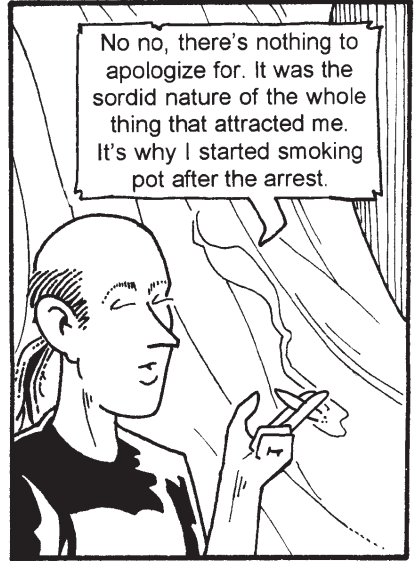
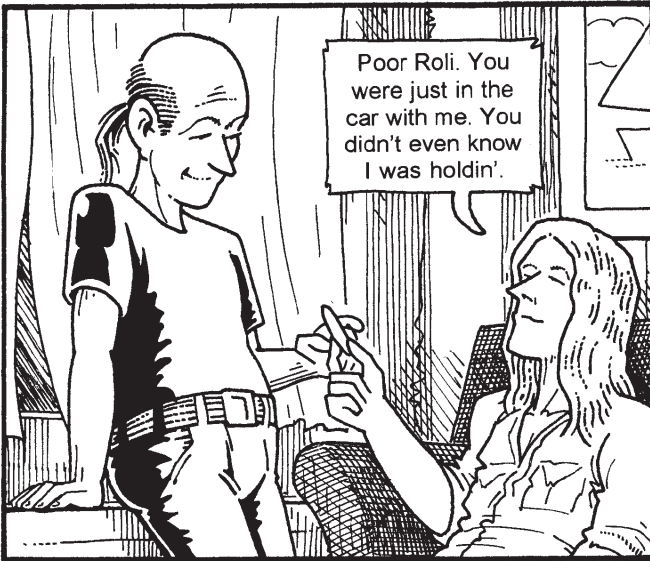
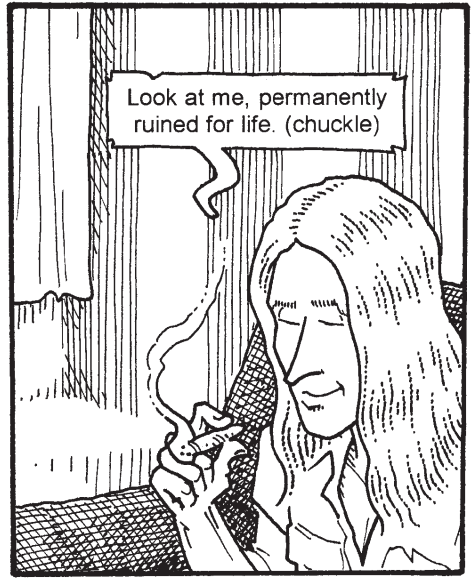
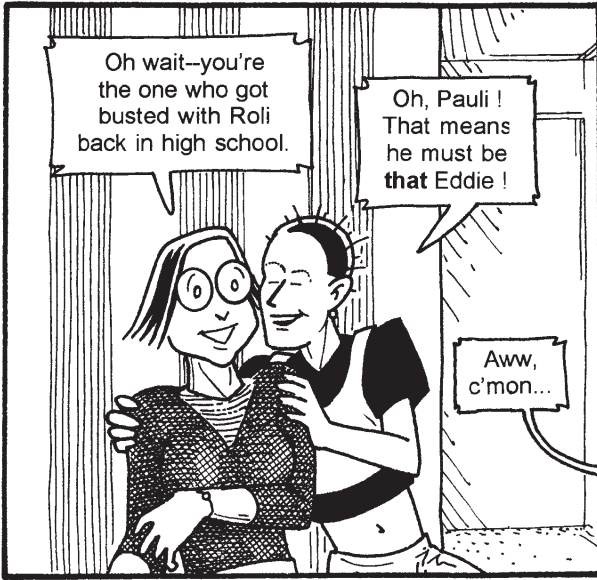
Stranded right here in Michigan, silly. You're the one who moved out to L.A.

Hey, it's great to see you, girl.









The Downsized
by Matt Howarth

March 2011

AdHouse Books
www.adhousebooks.com