

THE

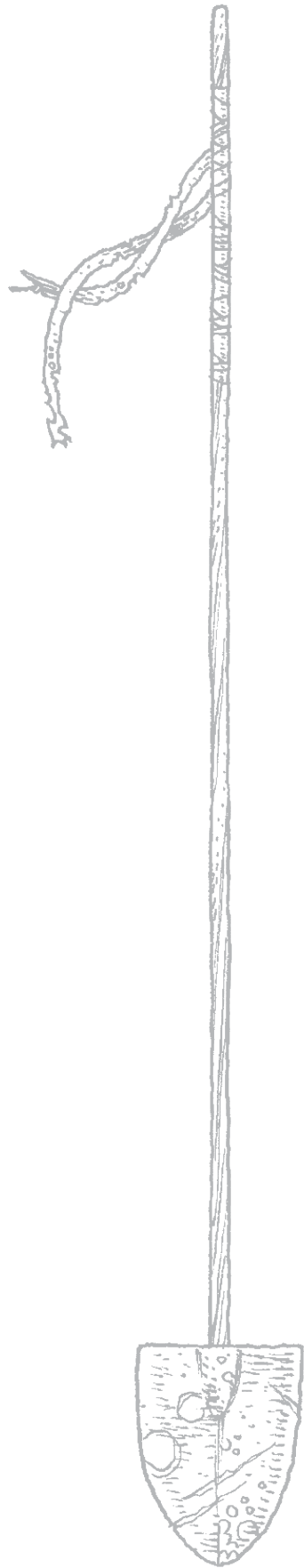
FREAK

M A T T L E S N I E W S K I



**THE
FREAK**

AdHouse Books * Richmond, VA

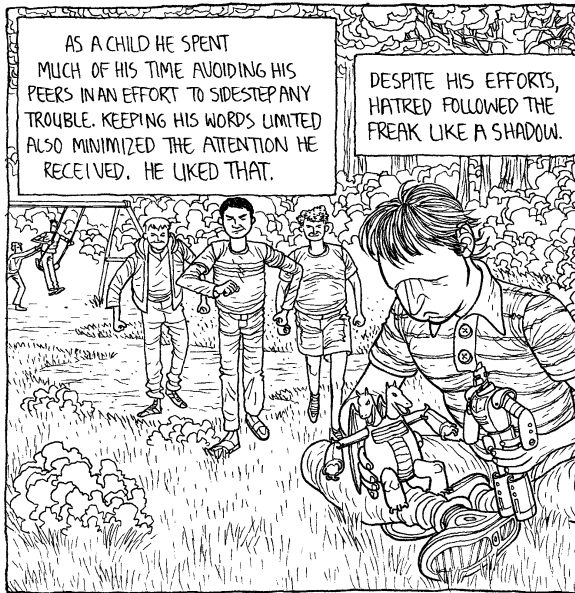


THIS IS THE STORY OF
A MAN MOST OFTEN
REFERRED TO AS 'THE FREAK'.
TO MANY, HE'S THE UGLIEST MAN
TO HAVE WALKED THE PLANET.



AS A CHILD HE SPENT
MUCH OF HIS TIME AVOIDING HIS
PEERS IN AN EFFORT TO SIDESTEP ANY
TROUBLE. KEEPING HIS WORDS LIMITED
ALSO MINIMIZED THE ATTENTION HE
RECEIVED. HE LIKED THAT.

DESPITE HIS EFFORTS,
HATRED FOLLOWED THE
FREAK LIKE A SHADOW.



ADULTHOOD WASN'T ANY DIFFERENT.
THE FREAK WAS HATED AND PUMMELED IN
THE STREET STRICTLY FOR HIS APPEARANCE,
AND OFTEN, HIS LOOKS LEFT PEOPLE IN A STATE OF
LITTE DISGUST WETHER THEY TRIED TO HIDE IT OR NOT.



BECAUSE OF THIS, HE SPENT MOST
OF HIS TIME WITH THE ONLY PEOPLE
THAT WOULDN'T ABUSE HIM--
THE DECEASED. HE DECIDED DITCH DIGGING
WAS A CAREER THAT SUITED HIM PERFECTLY.



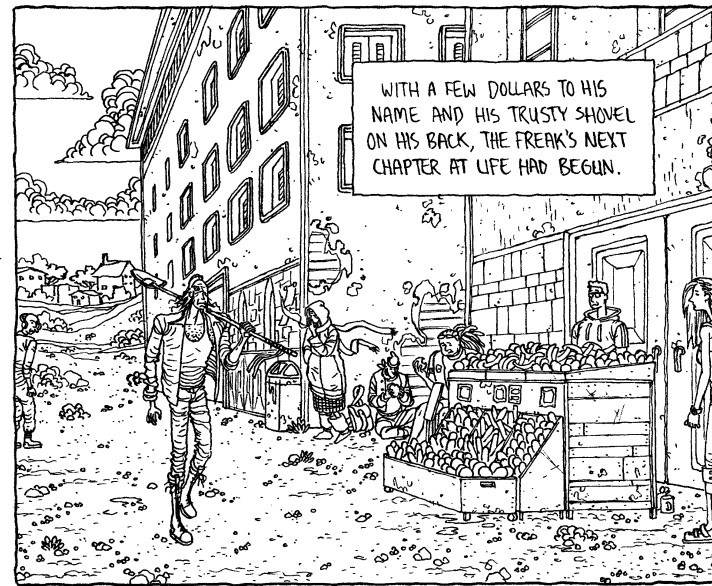
HOWEVER EVEN ON THE PATH
OF SOLITUDE, THE FREAK CONTINUED TO
RECEIVE PUNISHMENT FOR HIS CURSED
GENETICS. EVENTUALLY HE
DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE.

PERHAPS IT WAS HIS SMALL
HOMETOWN. SO, THE FREAK HEADED
FOR THE BIG CITY. PEOPLE WILL BE TOO
BUSY TO EVEN NOTICE HIM THERE,
ESPECIALLY IF HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF.

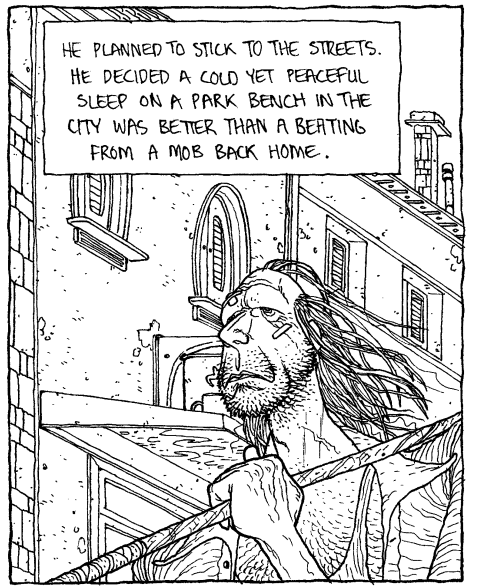




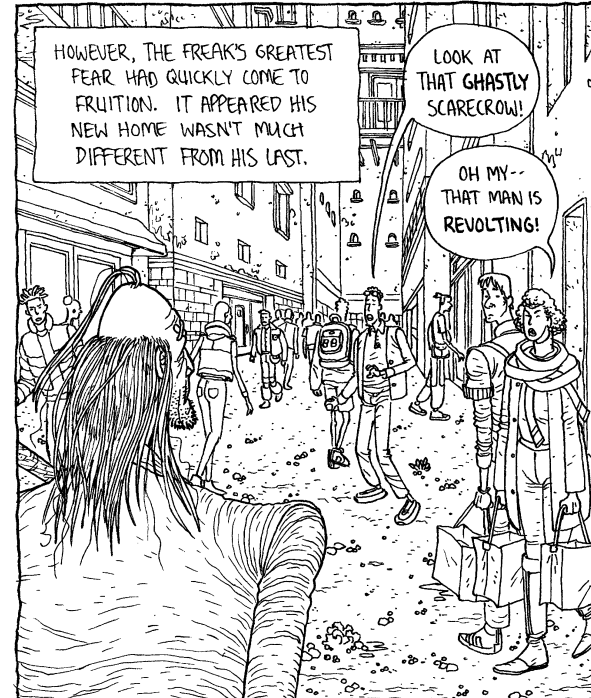
BESIDES, EVERY TOWN NEEDS A DITCH DIGGER.



WITH A FEW DOLLARS TO HIS NAME AND HIS TRUSTY SHOVEL ON HIS BACK, THE FREAK'S NEXT CHAPTER AT LIFE HAD BEGUN.



HE PLANNED TO STICK TO THE STREETS. HE DECIDED A COLD YET PEACEFUL SLEEP ON A PARK BENCH IN THE CITY WAS BETTER THAN A BEATING FROM A MOB BACK HOME.



HOWEVER, THE FREAK'S GREATEST FEAR HAD QUICKLY COME TO FRUITION. IT APPEARED HIS NEW HOME WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM HIS LAST.

LOOK AT THAT GHASTLY SCARECROW!

OH MY-- THAT MAN IS REVOLTING!



ABSOLUTELY SICKENING. HIS MERE PRESENCE DECREASES THE VALUE OF THIS GREAT CITY.

I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF SOMEONE SO DISGUSTING!



DON'T EVEN LOOK AT THAT THING, JIMMY.

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE STRUTTING ALONG LOOKING LIKE A MOBILE PILE OF--

