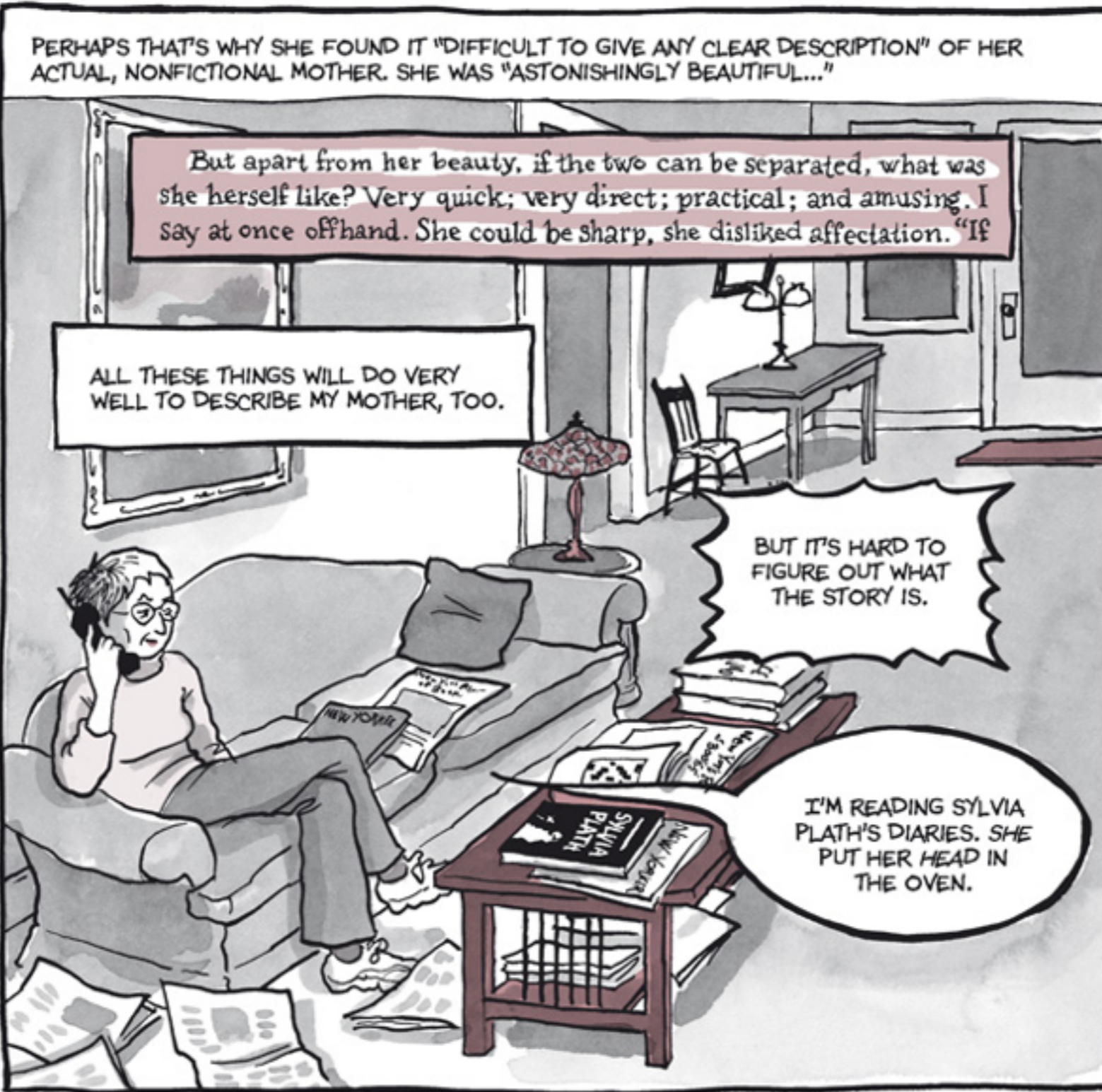


IN *TO THE LIGHTHOUSE*, THE CHARACTER LILY BRISCOE HAS A BRIEF VISION AS SHE WATCHES MR. AND MRS. RAMSAY PLAYING CATCH WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

ing catches. And suddenly the meaning which, for no reason at all, as perhaps they are stepping out of the Tube or ringing a doorbell, descends on people, making them symbolical, making them representative, came upon them, and made them in the dusk standing, looking, the symbols of marriage, husband and wife. Then, after an instant, the symbolical outline which transcended the real figures sank down again, and they became, as they met them, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay watching the children throwing catches. But still for a mo-

THIS "SYMBOLICAL" QUALITY THAT TRANSCENDS MERE "REAL FIGURES" SEEMS TO BE WHAT FICTION ACHIEVES FOR WOOLF--A DEEPER TRUTH THAN FACTS.



WHEN SHE WAS EXACTLY THE AGE I RESPONDED TO A LETTER I'D WRITTEN. I will probably hear from him on his way home.

I have puzzled over your dream about brain tumors and windows at the lilac house. Those two things together are my existence. Even if they don't fit. It's enough to do.

Today I gave one class your enemy. Sycophant little rash, but I d

MOM MEANS THIS KINDLY, COMMISERATINGLY. "OH, THE WRITER'S LIFE." STILL, I THINK OF MY OWN OVEN AND AM GLAD IT'S ELECTRIC.

... I AM NOW, AND I WAS IN MY EARLY TWENTIES, MOM
... TITTEN TO HER ABOUT A DREAM I'D HAD.

... om him since he wants to stay over with you

... your dream. I don't know what it means. I
... mors and babies. I am staring out my dirty
... buds. Now I am trying to analyze why I put
... ether. Why do you and I do that? Patterns
... everything has significance. Everything must
... drive you crazy.

... ss a list of wo
... nt, philanderer
... idn't have tim

BRAIN TUMORS AND BABIES.
DIRTY WINDOWS AND LILAC BUDS.


```
for security reasons, the password you type will not be visible.
Stopping the following units: accounts-daemon.service
NOT restarting the following changed units: systemd-fsckdev-disk-by\x2duuid-09f2ac6c\x2d3564\x2d41
ev-disk-by\x2duuid-1CFB\x2dB38F.service, systemd-fsckdev-disk-by\x2duuid-127
Activating the configuration...
Warning: This configuration contains option documentation in docbook. Support for docbook is deprecated.
Setting up /etc...
Loading user units for ckie...
Setting up tmpfiles
Loading the following units: dbus.service
Starting the following units: home-manager-ckie.service
Starting the following units: accounts-daemon.service
The following new units were started: libvirtd.service
Running healthchecks on cookiemonster (cookiemonster):
Health checks OK
```

```
+ screenie = let
+   s = a:
+     "exec " + (pkgs.writeShellScript "i3-screenshot-maim-wrapper"
+       "${pkgs.maim}/bin/maim ${a} | ${pkgs.xclip}/bin/xclip -selection clipboard -t image/png");
+   in {
+     area = s "-s";
+     window = s "-i ${pkgs.xdotool}/bin/xdotool getactivewindow";
+   };
+ mkMerge [
+   (import ./defaults.nix {
@@ -9,10 +103,10 @@ in {
+     "exec "${locker} ${pkgs.systemd}/bin/systemctl suspend -i"";
+   # screenshot
+   "--release ${modifier}+End" = "${screenie} -ac";
+   "--release ${modifier}+Pause" = "${screenie} -ac";
+   "--release ${modifier}+Shift+End" = "${screenie} -wc";
+   "--release ${modifier}+Shift+Pause" = "${screenie} -wc";
+   "--release ${modifier}+End" = screenie.area;
+   "--release ${modifier}+Pause" = screenie.area;
+   "--release ${modifier}+Shift+End" = screenie.window;
+   "--release ${modifier}+Shift+Pause" = screenie.window;
```

I DON'T HAVE THE NEGATIVES, SO THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. BUT I'VE ARRANGED THEM ACCORDING TO MY OWN NARRATIVE.

INTIMATE INTERACTIONS WITH MOM IN THIS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY'RE SO "ORDINARY."



THERE'S A NOTE IN MY DATEBOOK THAT I SLEPT WITH MY OLD TEDDY BEAR THAT NIGHT AND FOUND IT COMFORTING.

I'M MORE EMBARRASSED TO CONFESS THIS THAN TO CONFESS KICKING A HOLE IN THE WALL.

THE BATHROOM ALSO OFFERED PRIVACY, AND SOMEHOW I KNEW THAT NO ONE ELSE SHOULD SEE THIS DRAWING.

TO MY GREAT RELIEF, I CAN'T REPRODUCE IT HERE BECAUSE MY MOTHER THREW IT OUT. IT DEPICTS A DOCTOR EXAMING A LITTLE GIRL.



EXAMINING, IN PARTICULAR, HER GENITALIA. NO--CLEANING HER GENITALIA. I REMEMBER WRITING A CAPTION: "DOCTOR CLEANING A LITTLE GIRL'S TEE-TEE PLACE."

I WAS AMAZED EVEN AT THE TIME BY MY ABILITY TO IMAGINE SUCH AN UNIMAGINABLE SCENARIO.

IN FACT, THAT WAS PART OF MY EXCITEMENT--REALIZING THE APPARENTLY UNLIMITED POTENTIAL OF MY OWN MIND TO INVENT.



IN THIS GYNECOLOGICAL FANTASY, I WAS BOTH THE POWERFUL MALE SUBJECT AND THE VULNERABLE FEMALE OBJECT, THOUGH I WOULD NOT HAVE ADMITTED THE LATTER.

ON MY WAY TO THE DINNER TABLE, I HID THE DRAWING, INGENUOUSLY, IN PLAIN SIGHT--IN THE STYROFOAM ICE CHEST WHERE I COLLECTED ALL MY DRAWINGS.



"love"

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO TEND TO GROW UP TO ANALYZE OTHER PEOPLE.



PSYCHOANALYTIC INSIGHT, MILLER SEEMS TO SUGGEST, IS ITSELF A PATHOLOGICAL SYMPTOM.

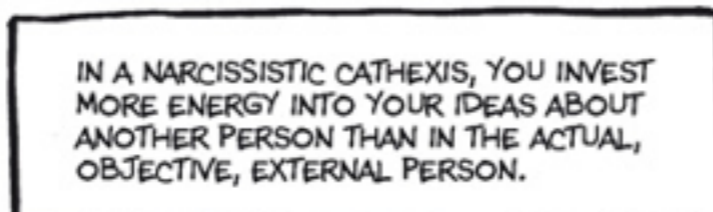
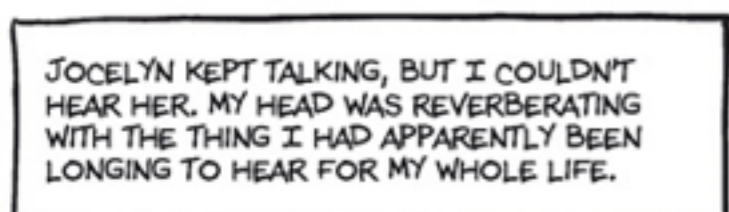
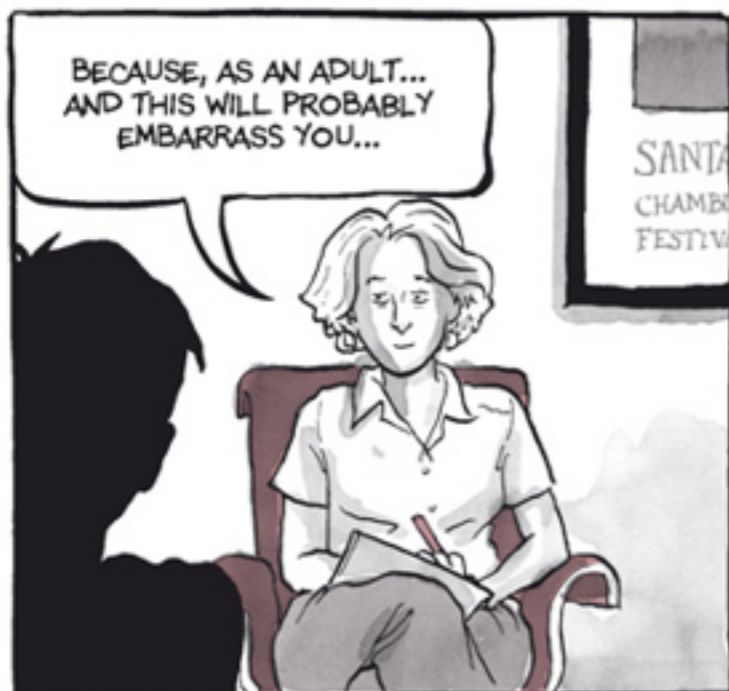
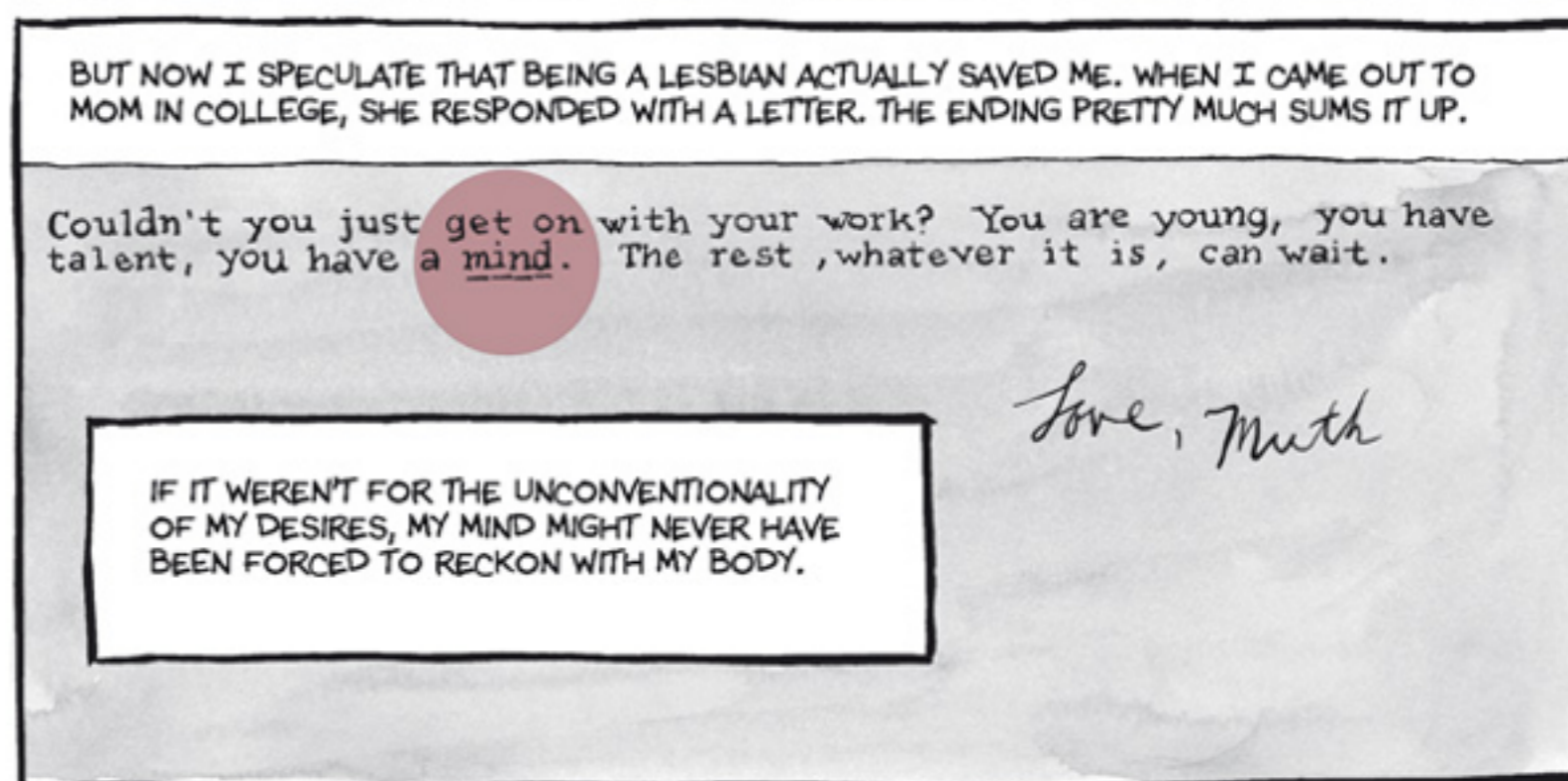
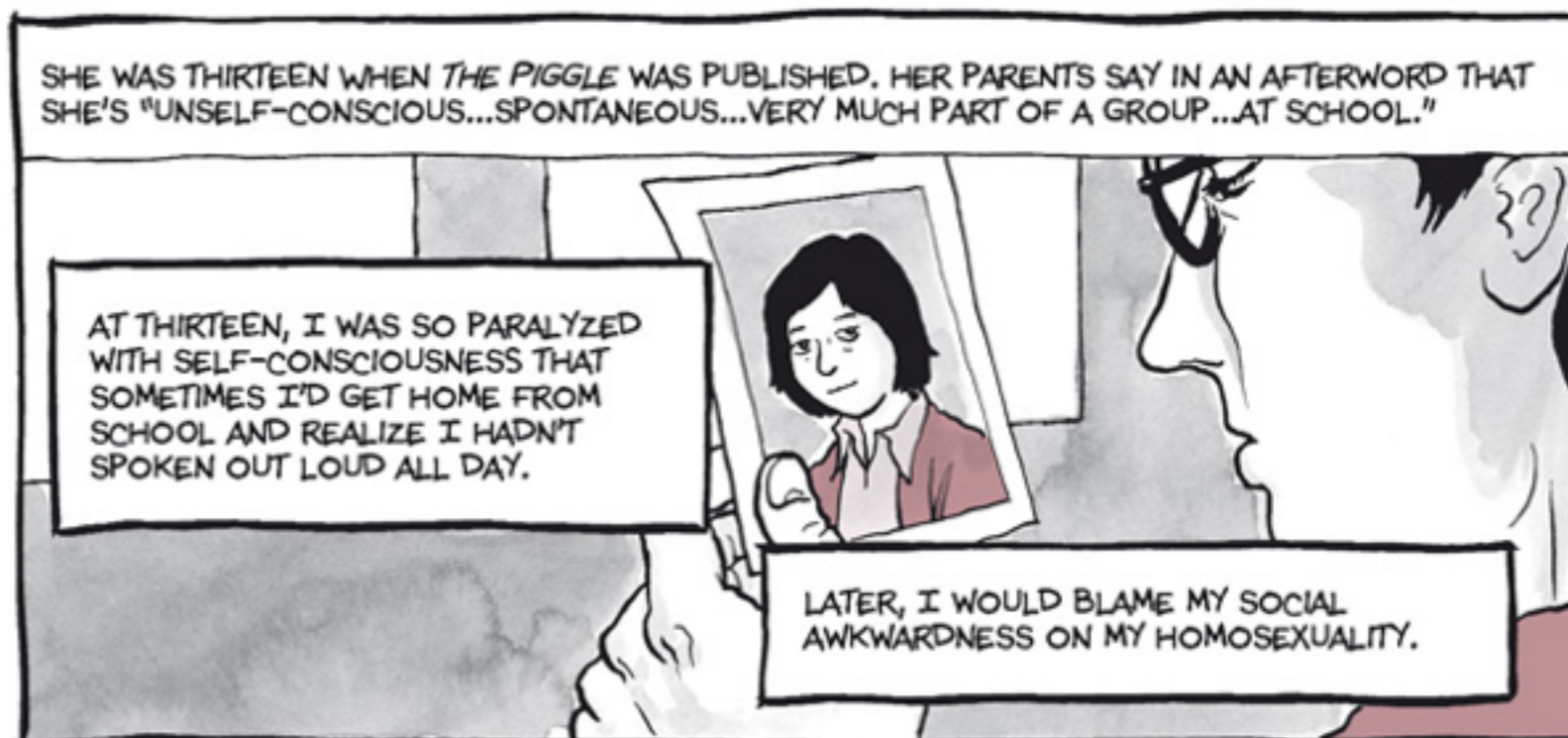
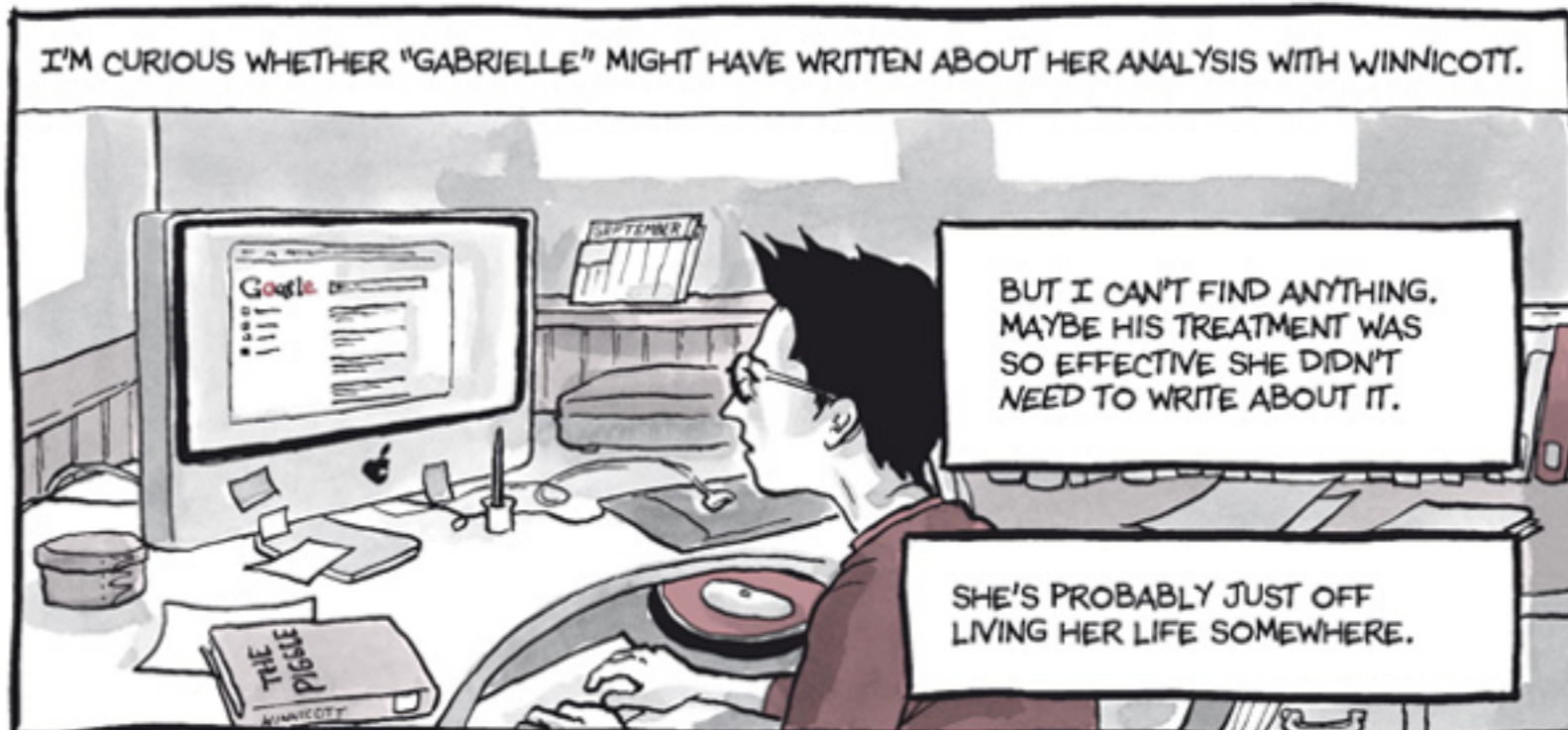


Wednesday JUNE 16
9 Dad & Mother got
10 a new kingsize bed!
11 I got their bed! Mother cut
12 her finger. I put Bactine & a
1 band aid on it. The mattress
2 came in a big box. We made
3 a tent out of it. I got
4 some Crackerjacks.

AND SURELY WINNICOTT WAS THINKING OF HIMSELF WHEN, IN THE PSYCHE-SOMA PAPER, HE MADE THIS OBSERVATION ABOUT THE PERSON WHOSE PSYCHE HAS BEEN "SEDUCED" INTO THEIR MIND:

identification with the dependent individual.

Clinically one may see such a person develop into one who is a *marvellously good mother to others* for a limited period; in fact a person who has developed along these lines may have almost magical *healing properties* because of an extreme capacity to make active adaptation





"NARCISSISM" IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CATHECT YOUR OWN EGO INSTEAD OF AN EXTERNAL OBJECT.



THE JARGON REALLY GETS IN THE WAY.

IN THE MIRROR-ROLE PAPER, WINNICOTT GIVES A CRYSTAL-CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF NARCISSISTIC CATHEXIS WITHOUT RESORTING TO A SINGLE TECHNICAL TERM.

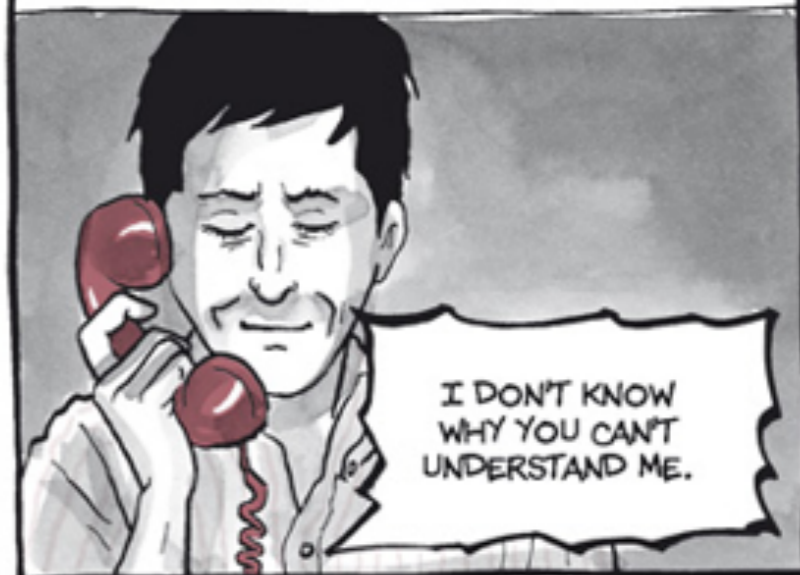
So the man who falls in love with beauty is quite different from the man who loves a girl and feels she is beautiful and can see what is beautiful about her.

I COULDN'T SPEAK WITHOUT REVEALING THAT I WAS CRYING. IN THIS PAUSE, I SUDDENLY SAW SOMETHING VERY CLEARLY.



WHAT ARE WE EVEN TALKING ABOUT? I WANT TO GO EAT MY DINNER.

WHATEVER IT WAS I WANTED FROM MY MOTHER WAS SIMPLY NOT THERE TO BE HAD. IT WAS NOT HER FAULT.



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ME.

AND IT WAS THEREFORE NOT MY FAULT THAT I WAS UNABLE TO ELICIT IT.



CAN YOU UNDERSTAND?

I KNOW SHE GAVE ME WHAT SHE COULD.

SHE HAD JUST SENT ME ANOTHER \$1500 CHECK, FOR GOD'S SAKE, WHILE I PURSUED A CALLING SHE WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT.



YET I DID NOT FEEL GUILTY ABOUT HANGING UP.

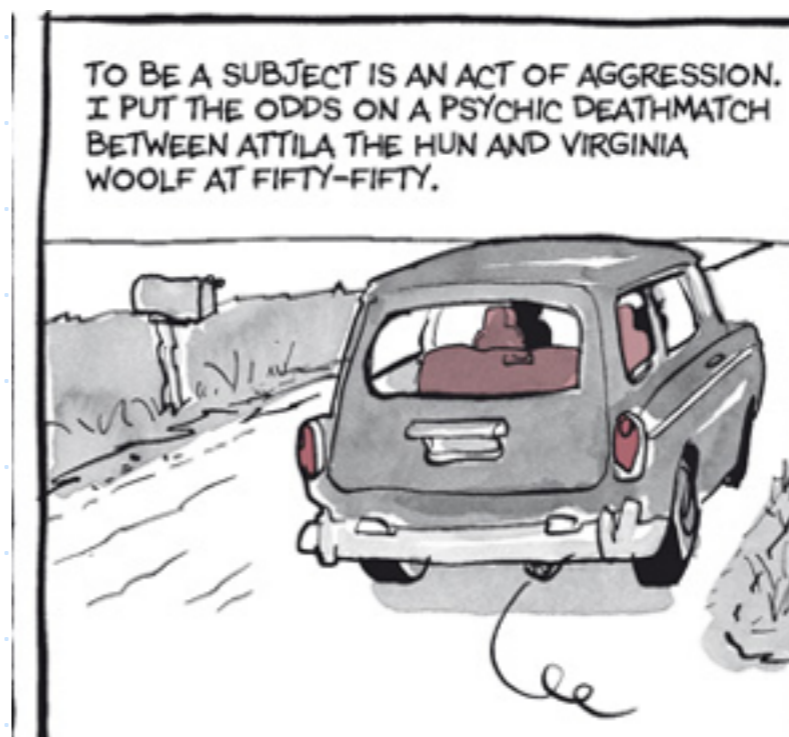
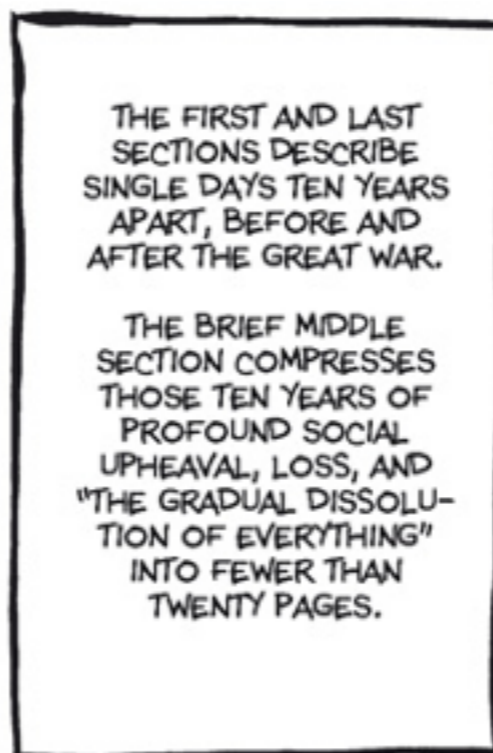
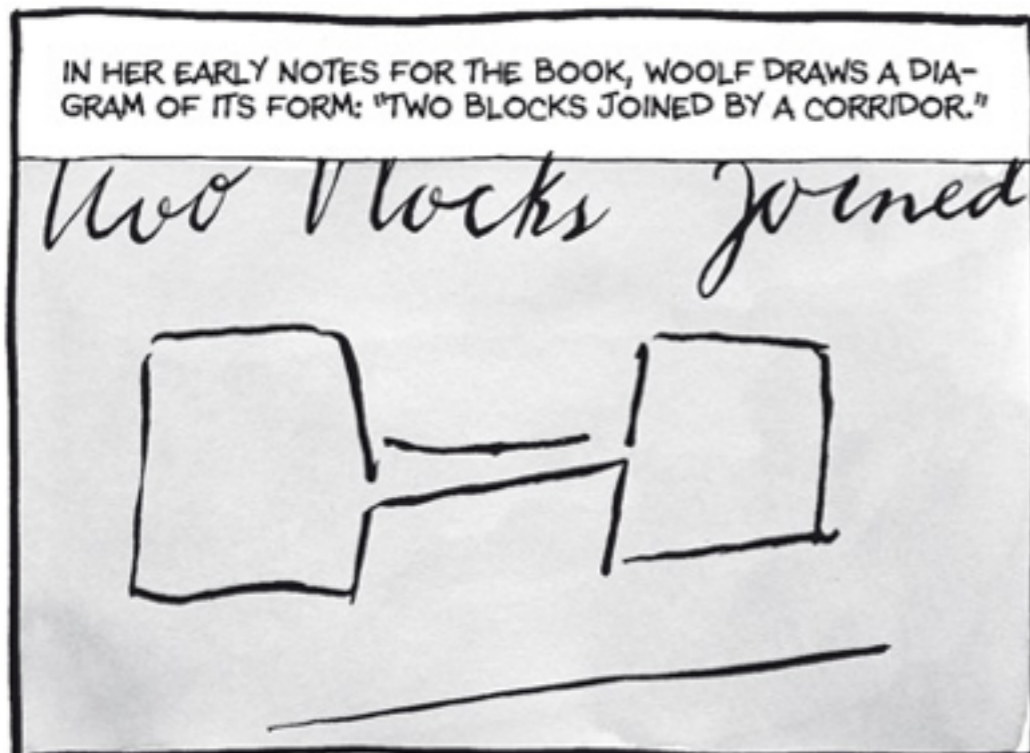
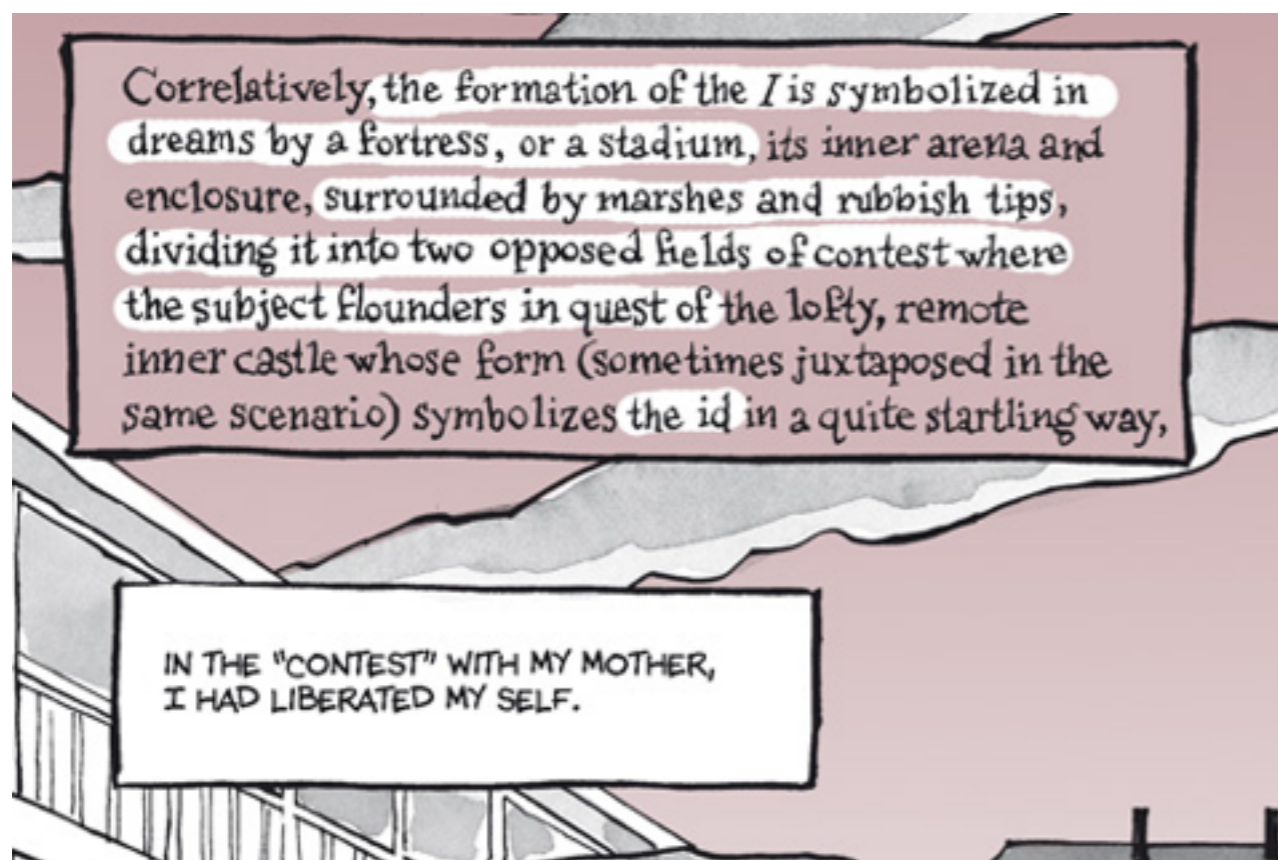
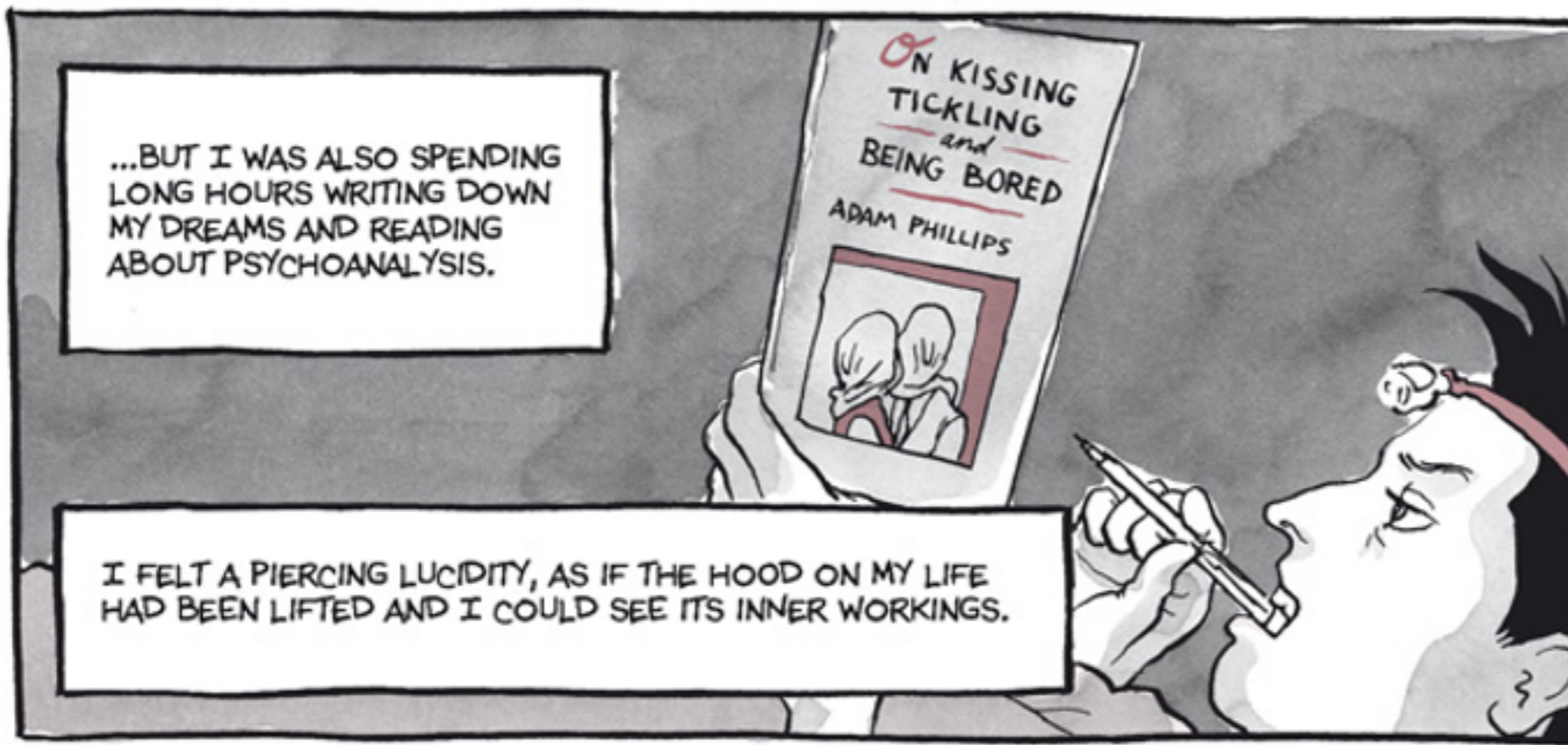


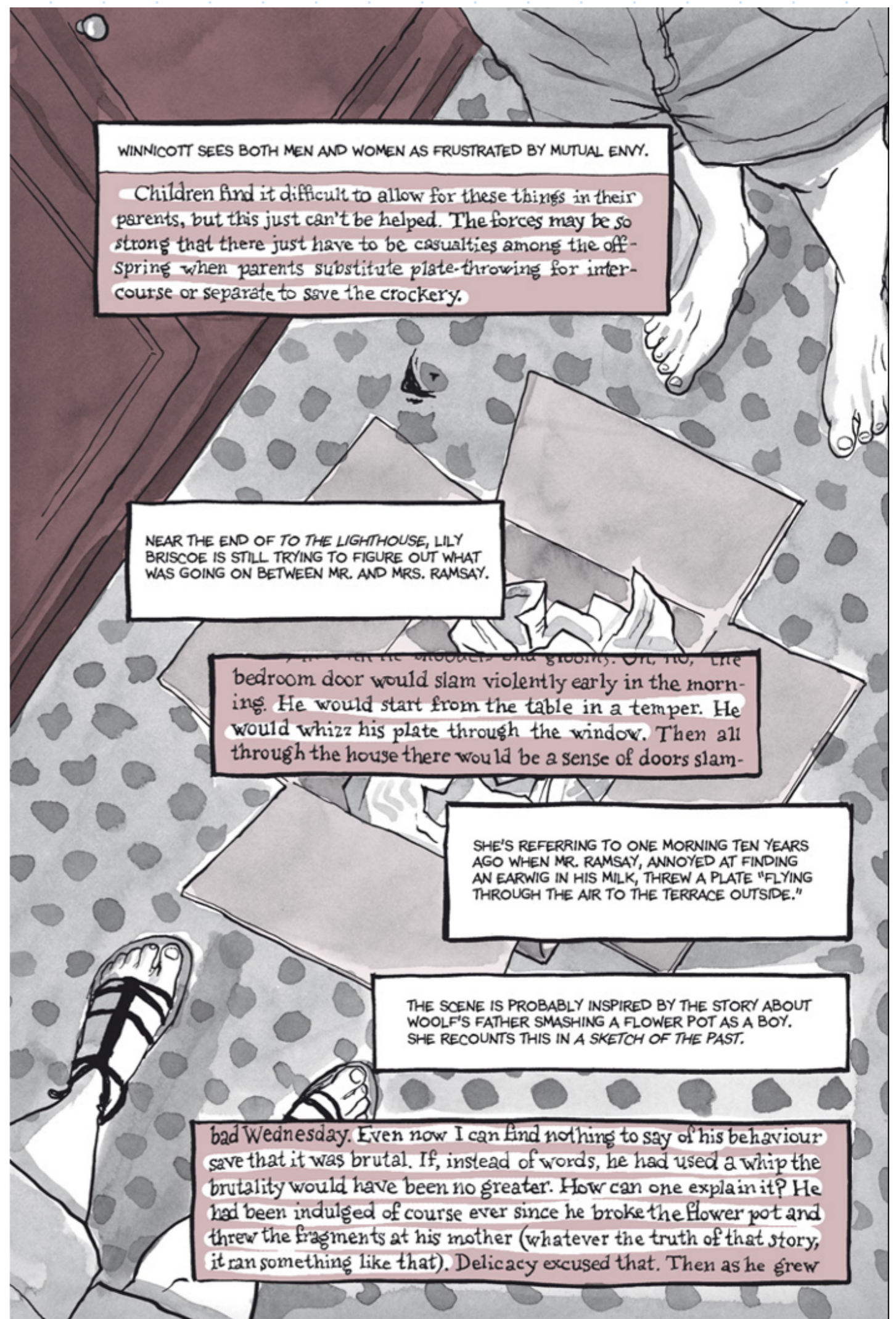
HER CHECK WOULD SEE ME THROUGH UNTIL I MOVED AND GOT A PART-TIME JOB IN SEPTEMBER TO SUPPLEMENT MY CARTOONING INCOME.

MOM HAD SUPPORTED ME FOR NINE MONTHS.

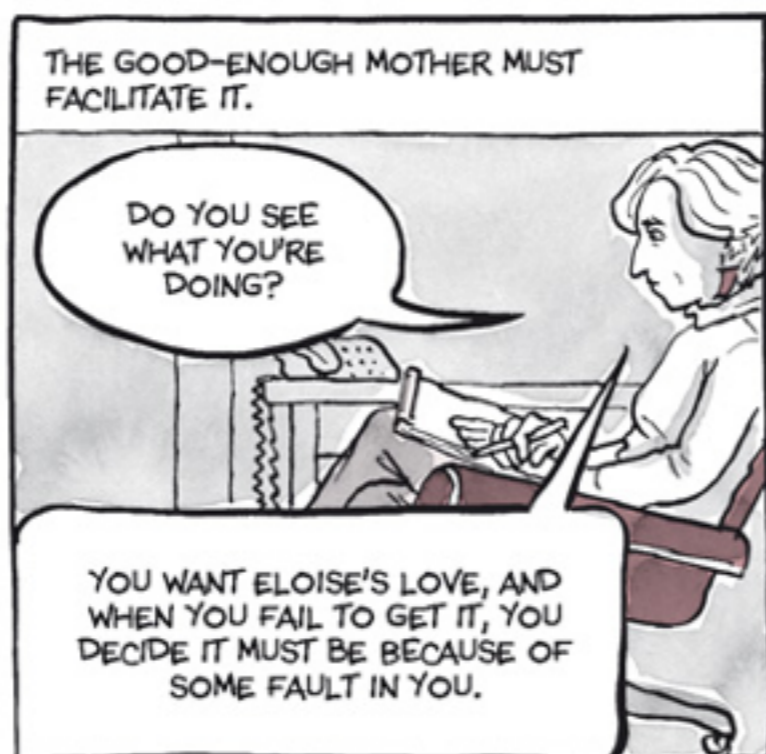
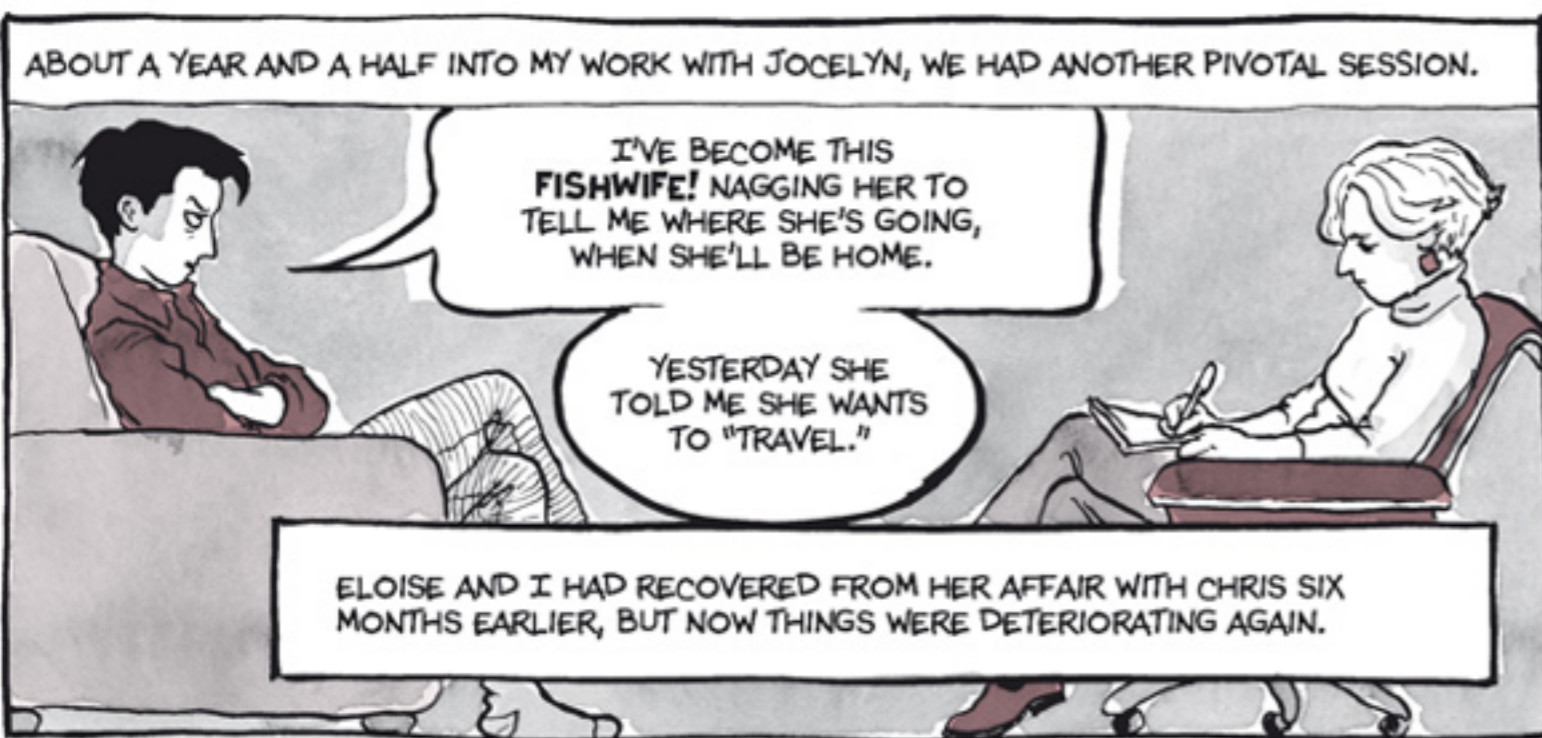
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PARTICULAR LENGTH OF TIME DOES NOT ESCAPE ME.

THINGS HAD ONCE BEEN MUCH SIMPLER BETWEEN US.



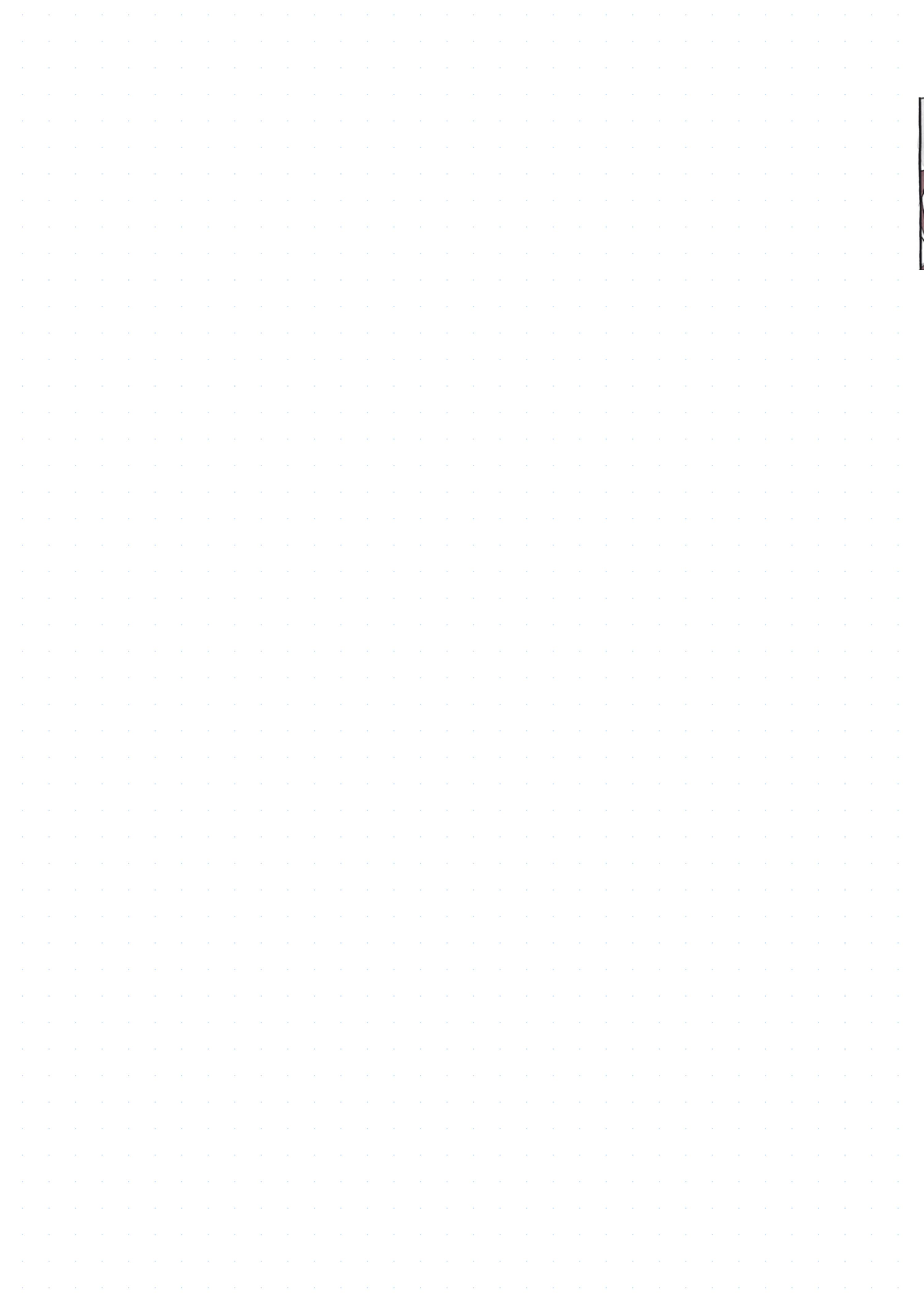


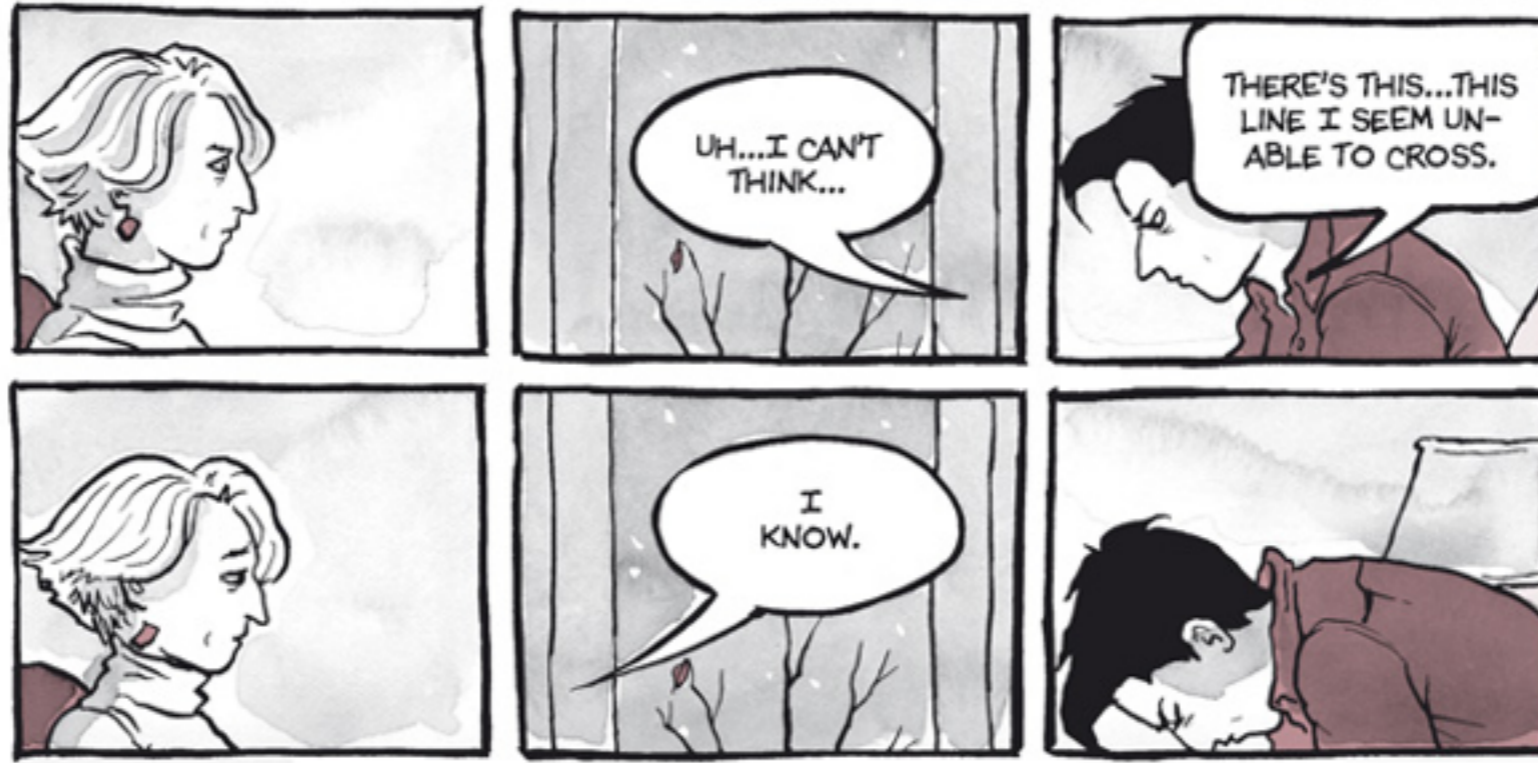
i love this format with the internal dialogue over the psych discussion. such great narrative construction! 🙄



pg 282-283. rly good. big stuff maybe. i don't get it yet





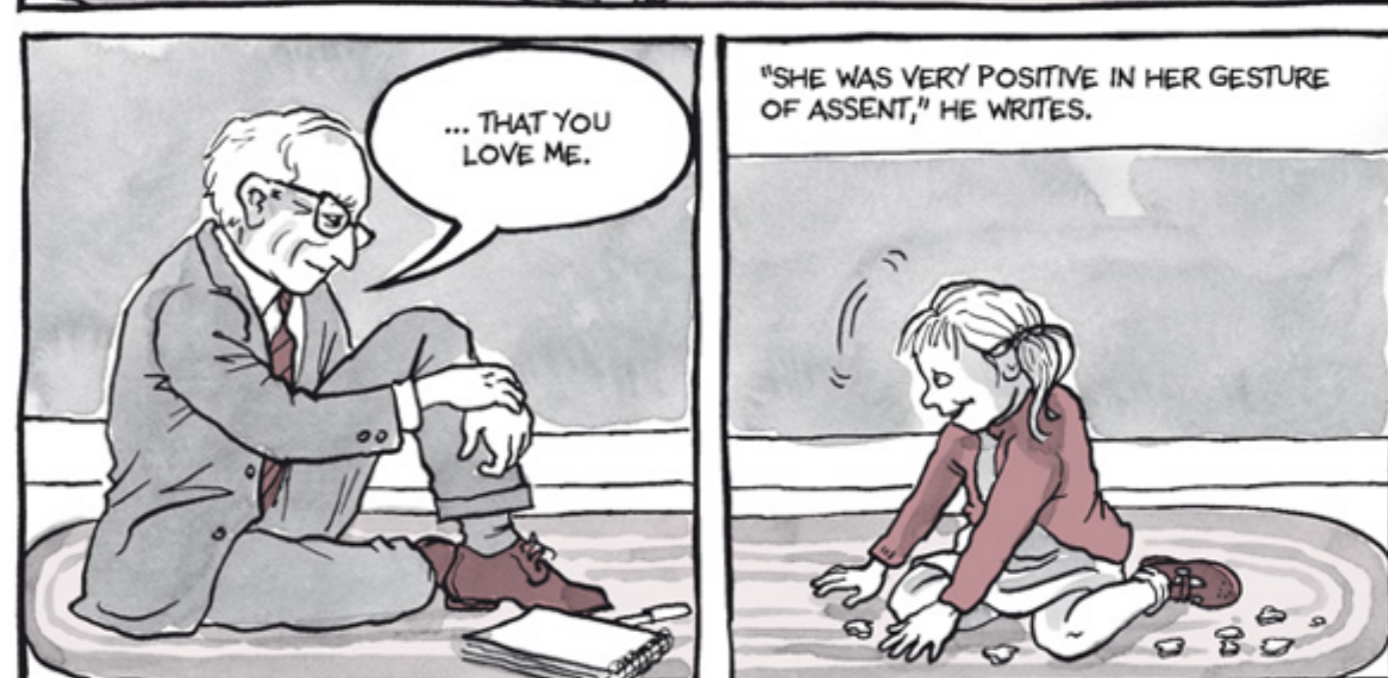
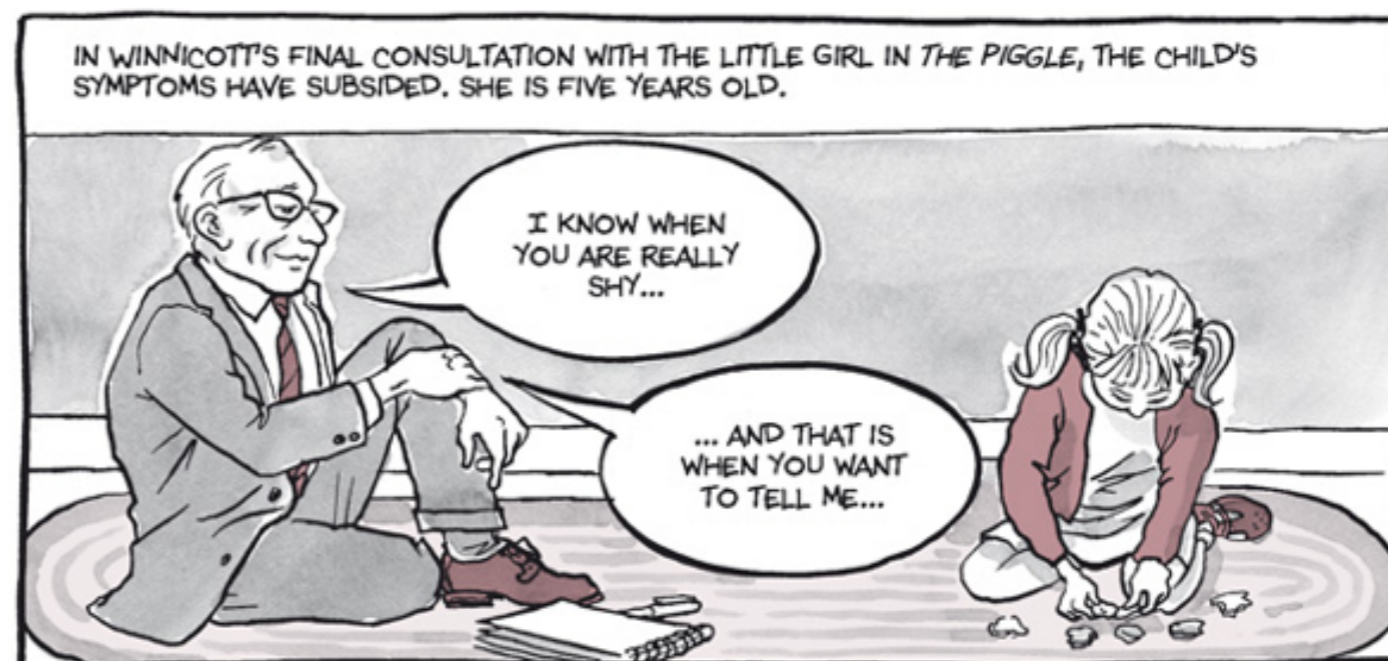
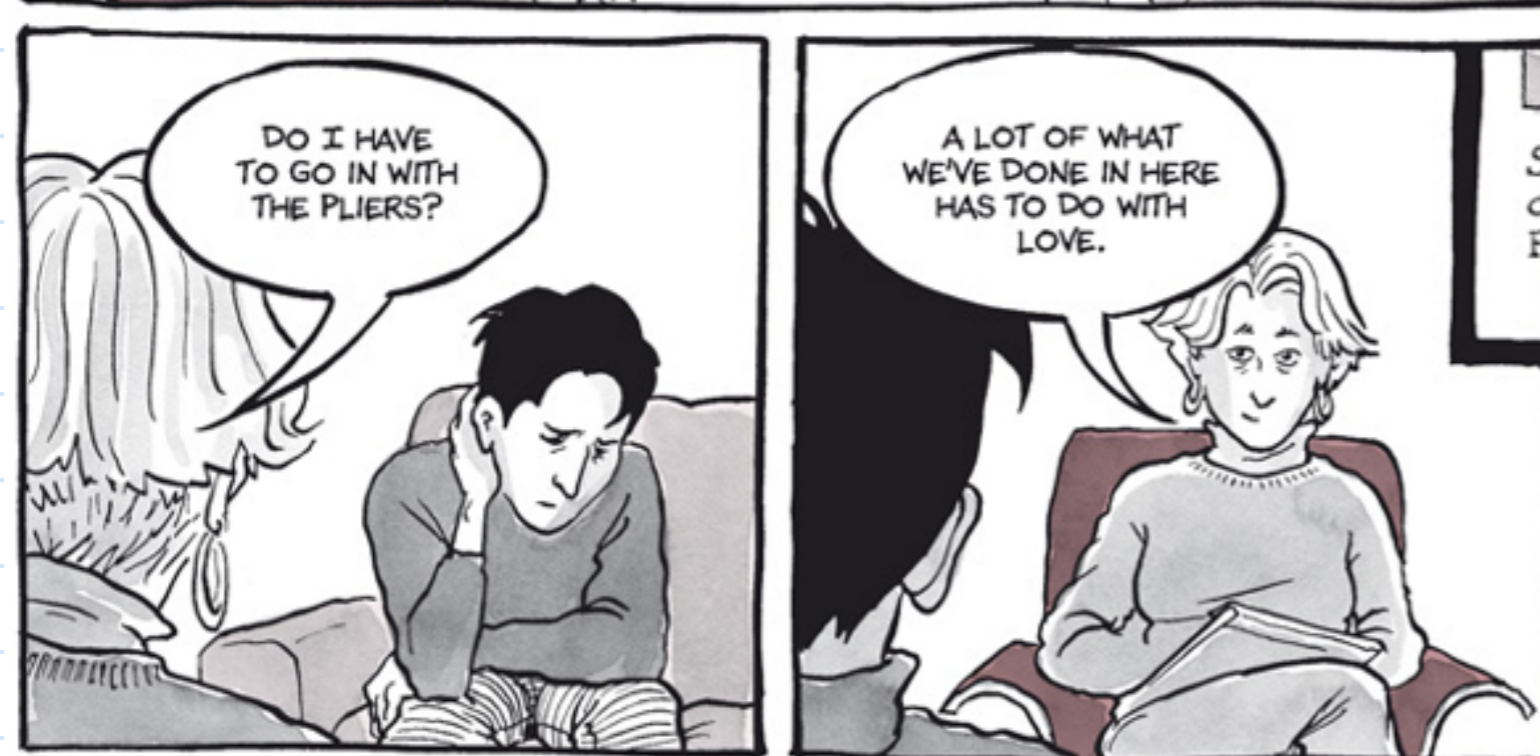


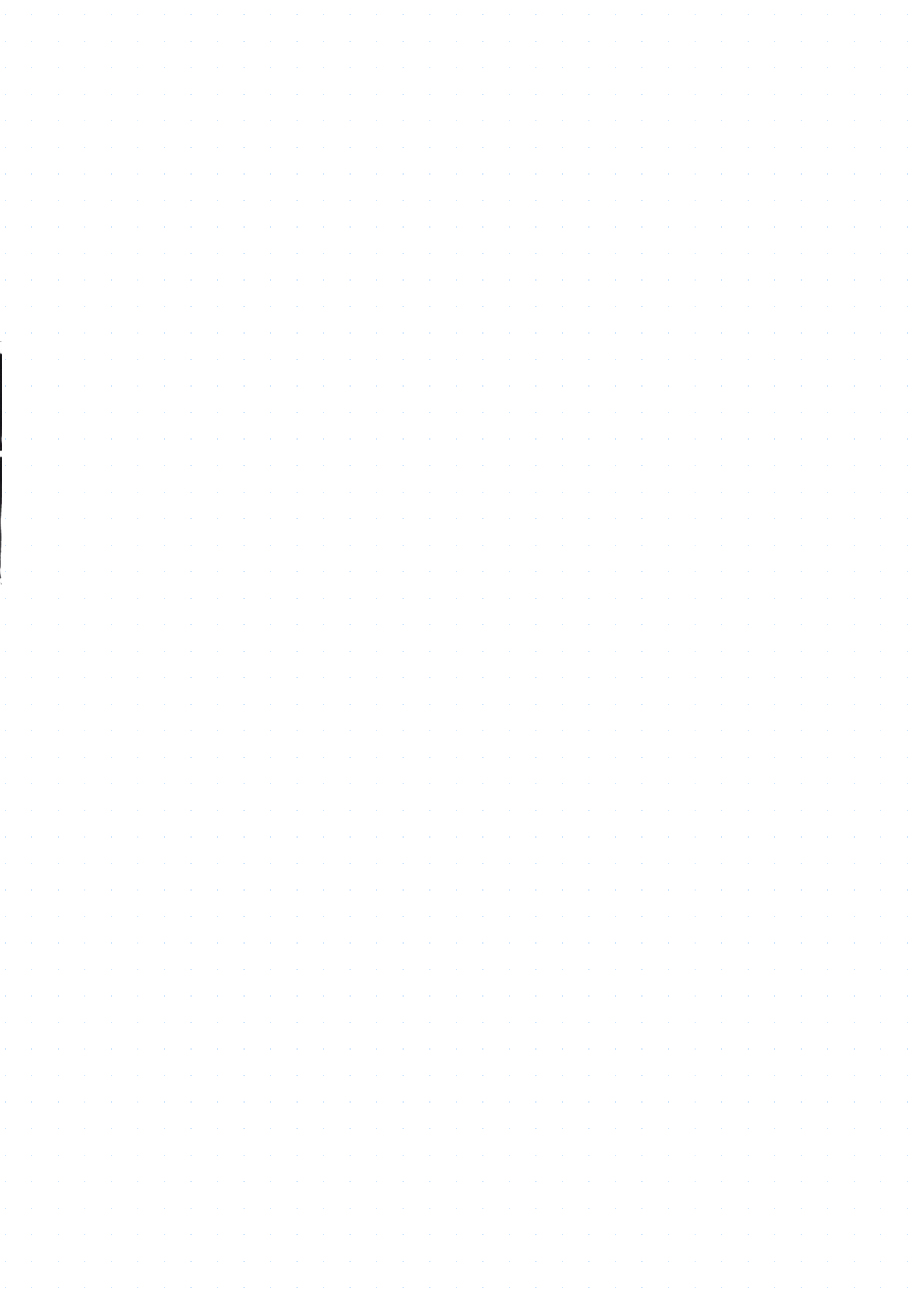
IN HIS 1964 TALK ON FEMINISM, WINNICOTT SAYS SOMETHING HE'S BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG.

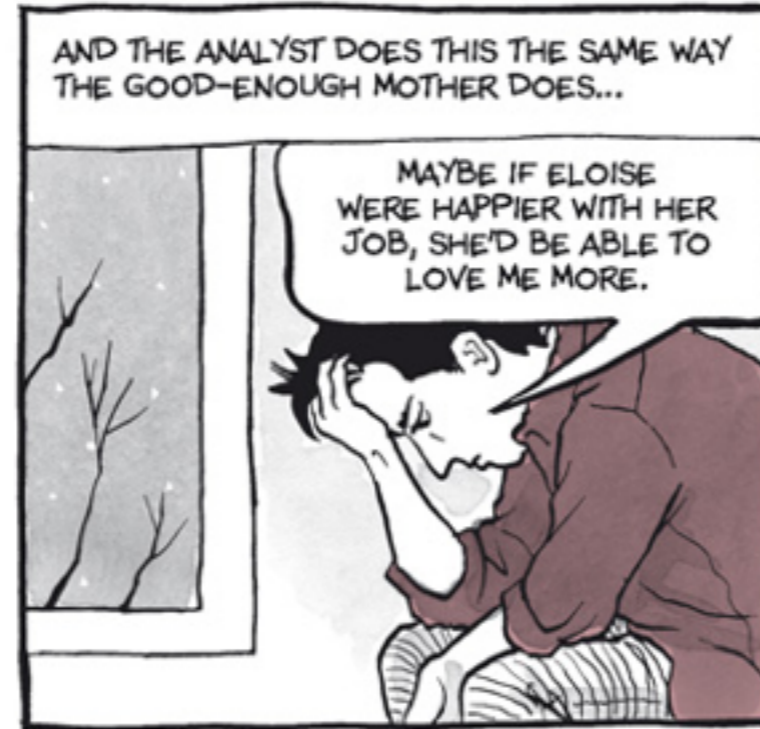
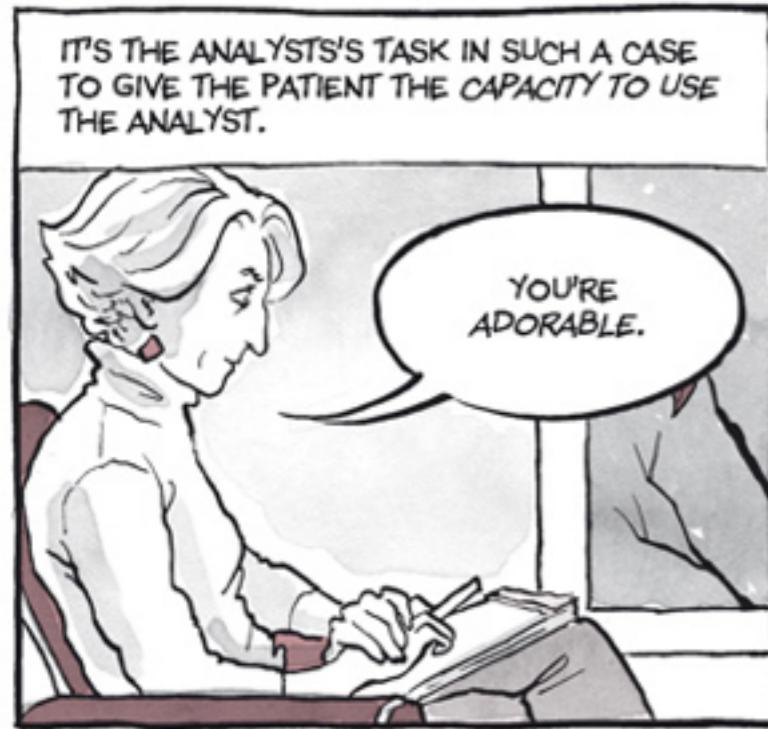
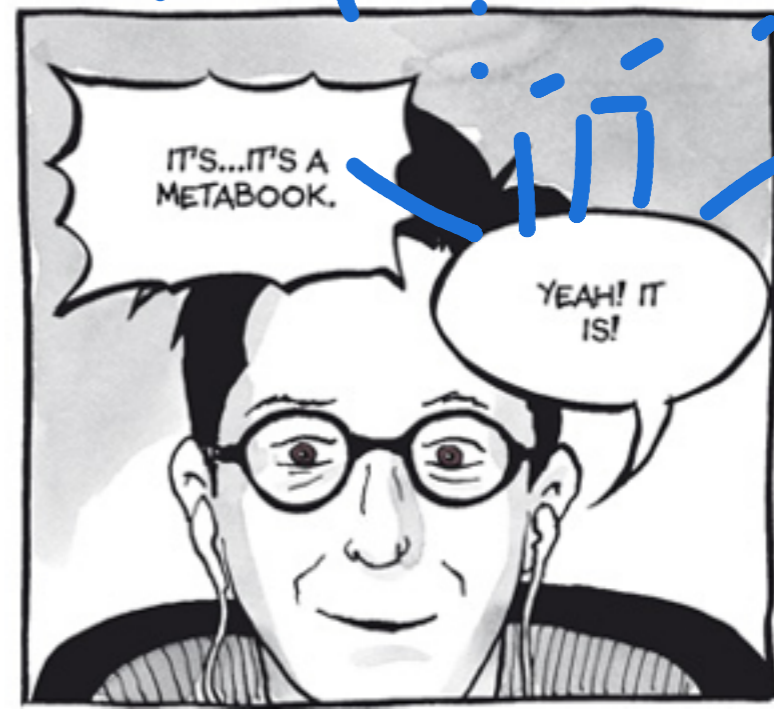
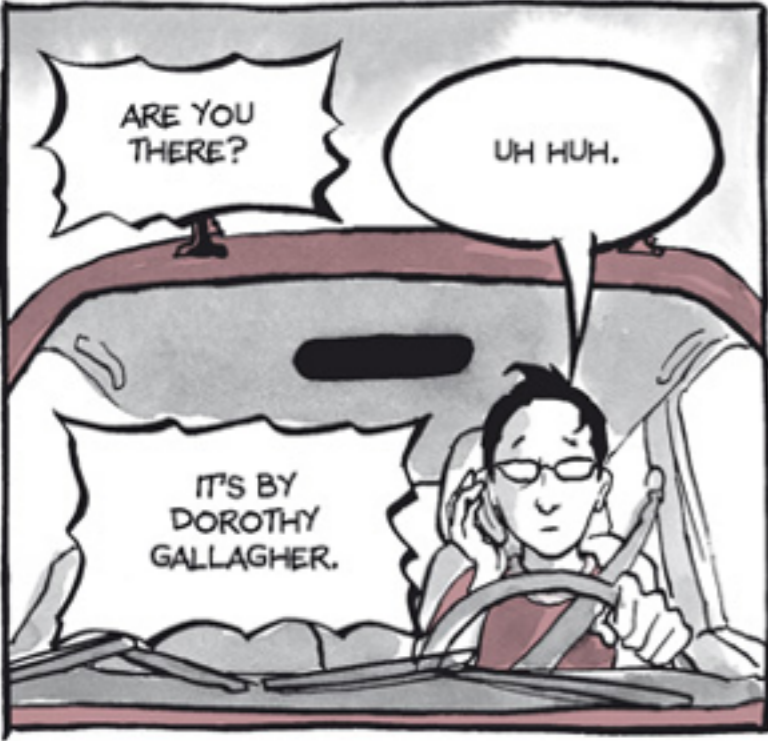
1. We find that the trouble is not so much that everyone was inside and then born, but that at the very beginning everyone was *dependent on a woman*. It is necessary to say that at first

WINNICOTT SEES THIS DEPENDENCE AS THE ROOT OF MISOGYNY--THOUGH HE NEVER USES THAT WORD. PERHAPS, LIKE WOOLF WITH "FEMINIST," HE FELT PLAIN LANGUAGE WAS MORE PERSUASIVE.

The awkward fact remains, for men and women, that each was once dependent on woman, and somehow a hatred of this has to be transformed into a kind of gratitude if full maturity of the personality is to be reached.







pg282-283.

Jocelyn (psych) has been a passive creature for the first page (bottom) but now she is opposing our Bechdel's id(?)

Look at just what she's saying before:



HERE'S THE VITAL CORE OF WINNICOTT'S THEORY:

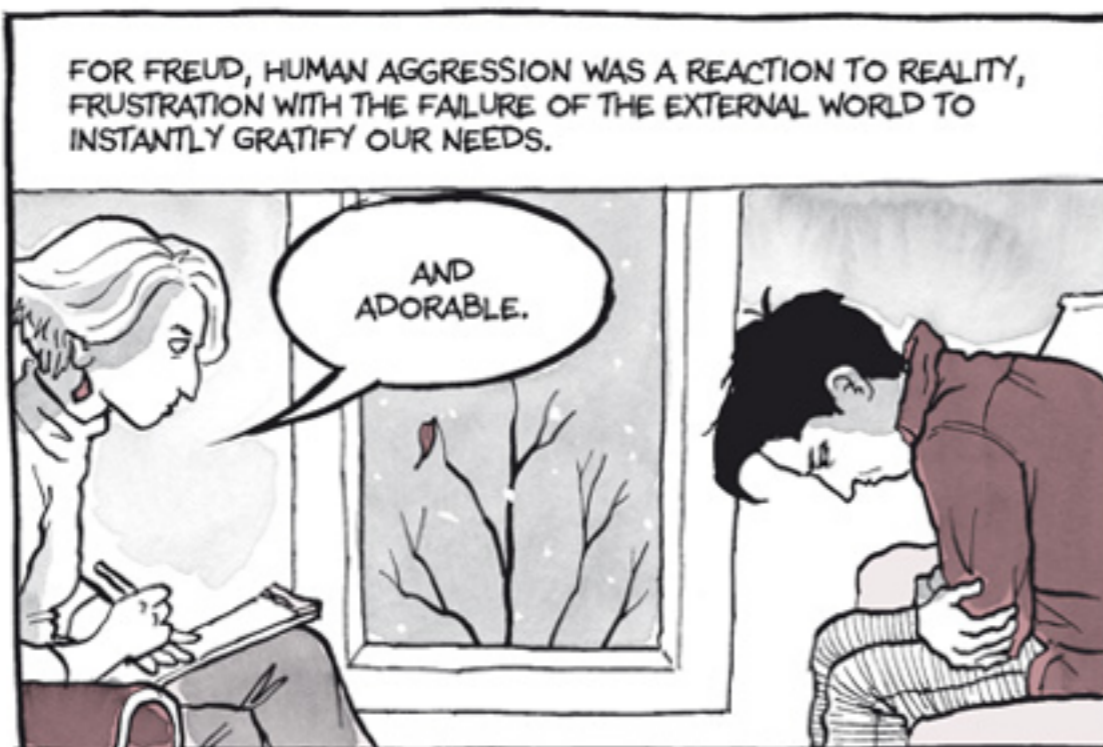
THE SUBJECT MUST DESTROY THE OBJECT.

AND THE OBJECT MUST SURVIVE THIS DESTRUCTION.



IF THE OBJECT DOESN'T SURVIVE, IT WILL REMAIN INTERNAL, A PROJECTION OF THE SUBJECT'S SELF.

IF THE OBJECT SURVIVES DESTRUCTION, THE SUBJECT CAN SEE IT AS SEPARATE.

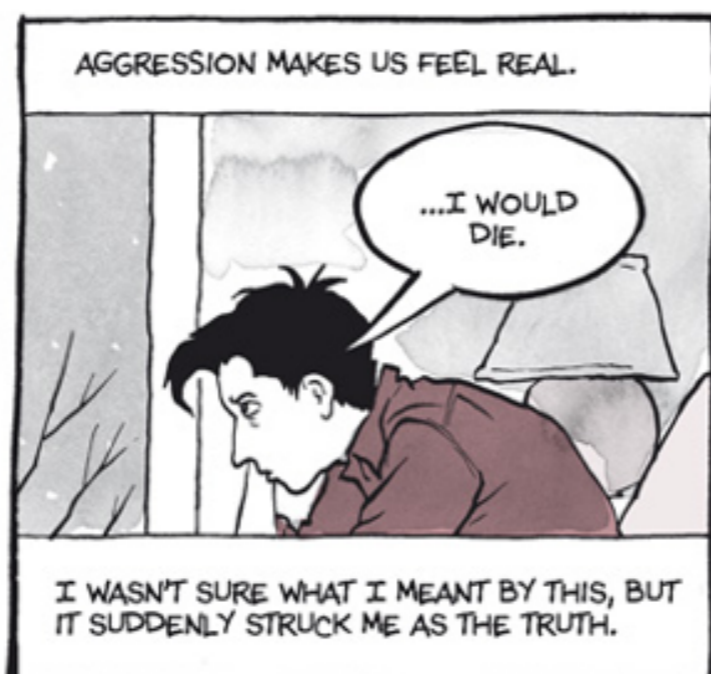


But cracks soon begin to form.

(implied here too)

BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM. HE OR SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO USE THE ANALYST.

LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE A GOOD, KIND PERSON. YOU HAVE INTEGRITY AND TALENT. YOU WORK HARD. YOU'RE WILLING TO CHANGE.



Shattered.

Distinct, individual[adj.] now:

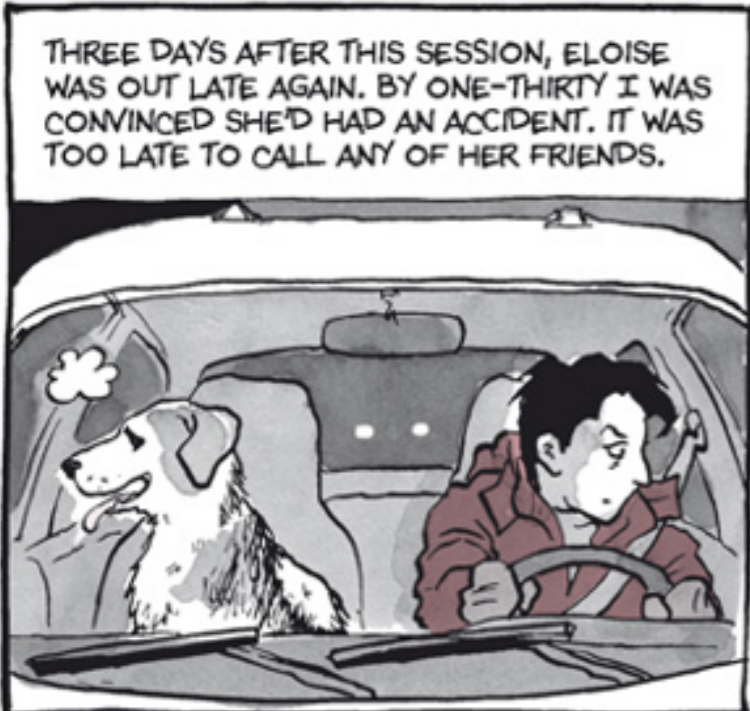
(pg284)

HERE'S THE VITAL CORE OF WINNICOTT'S THEORY:
THE SUBJECT MUST DESTROY THE OBJECT.
AND THE OBJECT MUST SURVIVE THIS DESTRUCTION.

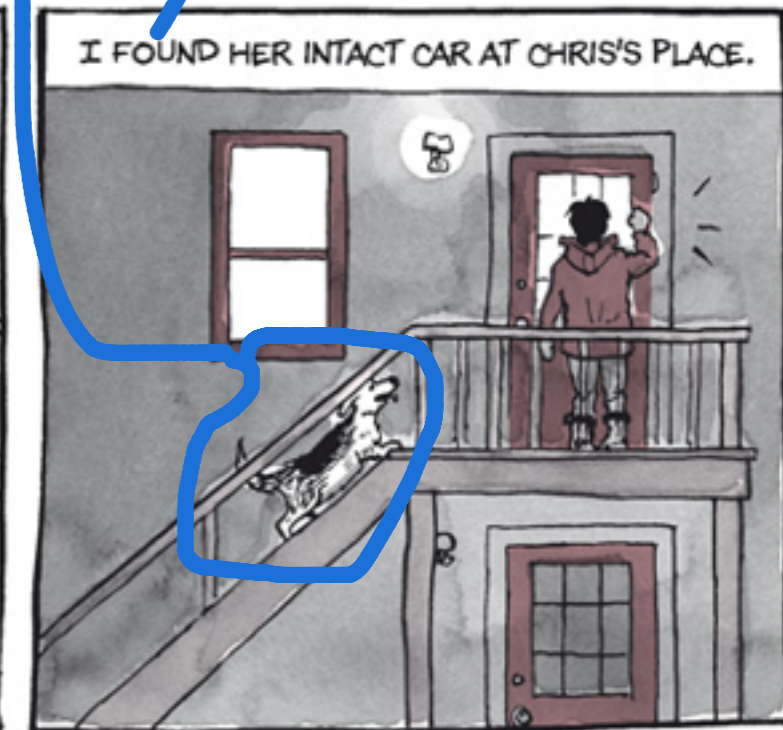
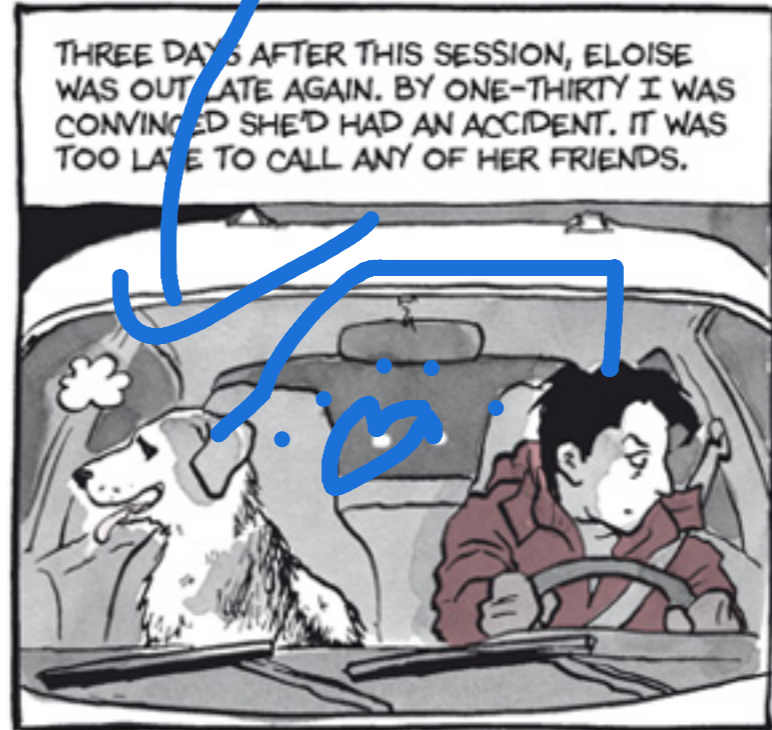
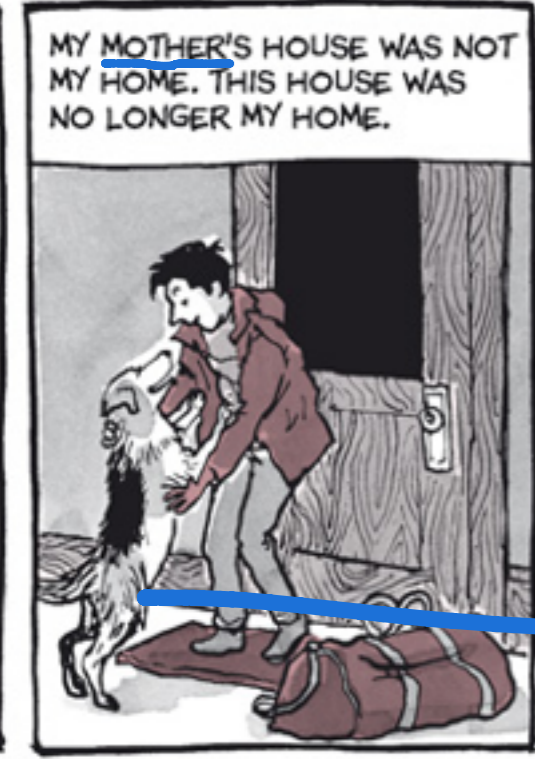
IF THE OBJECT DOESN'T SURVIVE, IT WILL REMAIN INTERNAL, A PROJECTION OF THE SUBJECT'S SELF.
IF THE OBJECT SURVIVES DESTRUCTION, THE SUBJECT CAN SEE IT AS SEPARATE.



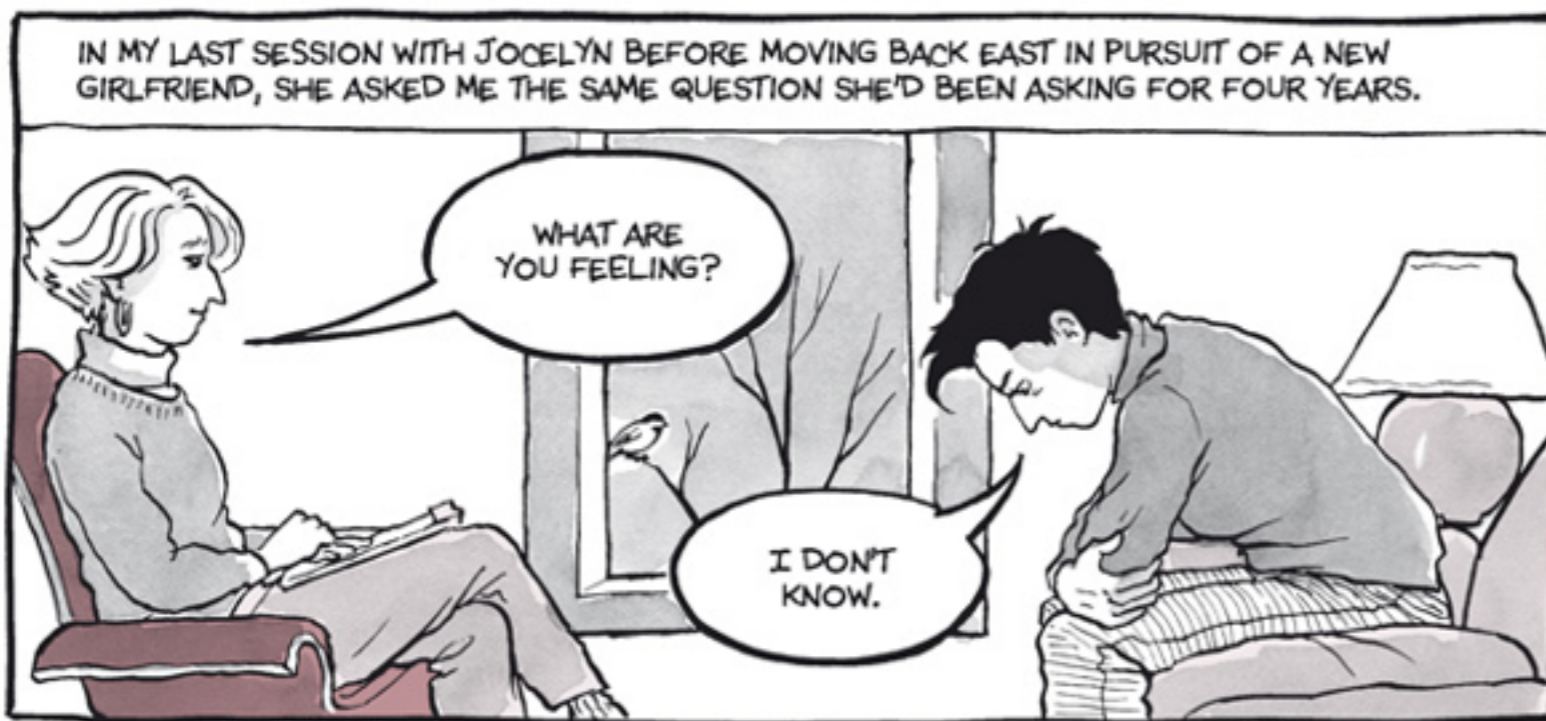
(285)



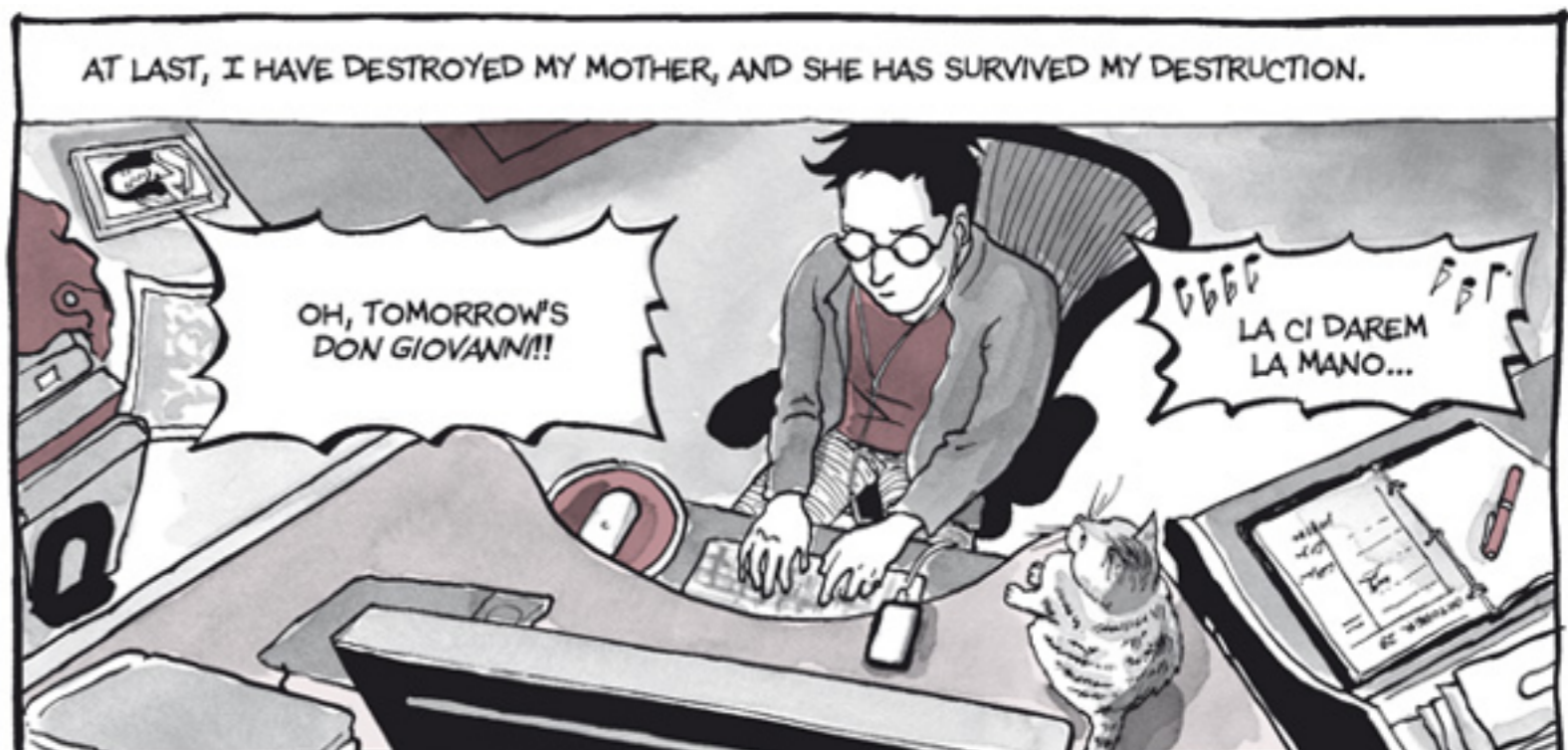
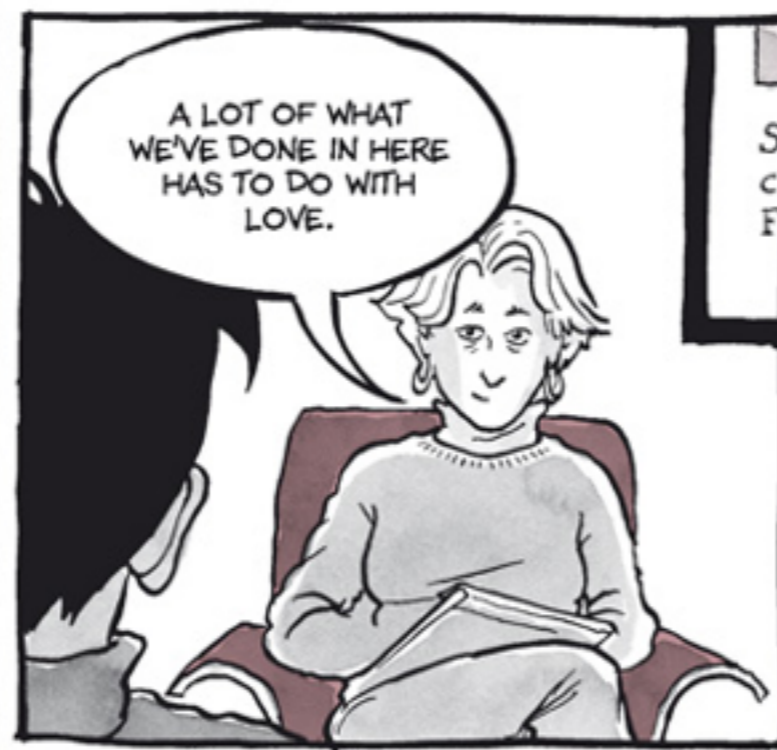
????????????



TODO: Try focusing on the dog here?



Unresolved? Or she's keeping it from us?



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU TO VAL ROHY, HILLARY CHUTE, LUCY JANE BLEDSOE, ALISON PRINE, RUTH ROWITZ, AND JUDITH LEVINE FOR READING VARIOUS EARLY BITS AND PIECES OF THIS BOOK. THEIR CRITIQUES AND INSIGHT HELPED IT TO FINALLY COHERE.

I HAVE HAD THE UNIMAGINABLE GOOD FORTUNE OF WORKING ON TWO BOOKS IN ROW WITH THE SAME AMAZING EDITOR, DEANNE URMY. HER INCISIVE MIND AND ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED A FIRM RUDDER TO MY WAVERING COURSE. I'M ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR HER DEDICATION TO THIS STRANGE PROJECT AS IT BEGAN TO EXTEND WELL PAST THE INITIAL DEADLINE.

WITHOUT THE FAITH AND VISION OF MY AGENT, SYDELLE KRAMER, I WOULD HAVE HAD TO GET A JOB LONG AGO. I'M ESPECIALLY INDEBTED TO HER FOR HER OBSERVATION, FOUR YEARS INTO THE WORK ON THIS BOOK, THAT IT WASN'T MAKING ANY SENSE.

BECCA VAN DYKE, MALINA LESLIE, AND CHARLES FORSMAN PROVIDED SUPERLATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH COLORING AND PRODUCTION, SPOTTING AND FIXING HUNDREDS OF PROBLEMS AND ERRORS. SPECIAL THANKS TO BECCA FOR HER LONG COMMITMENT, TO MALINA FOR HER METICULOUSNESS, AND TO CHARLES FOR HIS CALM IN THE FACE OF MY FREQUENT PANICS. LAURA TERRY ALSO PROVIDED EARLY ADVICE THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION PROCESS. I'M INDEBTED TO THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES AT WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT, FOR TEACHING LAURA AND CHARLES HOW TO DO THIS NEWFANGLED STUFF. AND I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO JESSICA ABEL FOR TALKING ME ABOUT INDESIGN.

THANKS TO ROSEMARY WARDEN FOR ALLOWING ME TO FEEBLY IMITATE HER BEAUTIFUL WATER-COLOR PAINTING, *FISH IN REEDS*, AND TO JEB (JOAN E. BIREN) FOR HER PERMISSION TO BASE MY DRAWING OF ADRIENNE RICH ON A PHOTO FROM HER 1987 PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK, *MAKING A WAY: LESBIANS OUT FRONT*.

WITH FULLER'S COPY EDITING OF MY WORDS AND MY DRAWINGS MADE ME TREMBLE WITH DELIGHT. CHRISTOPHER MOISAN WENT WAY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN WHAT WAS TO ME A STAGGERINGLY COMPLEX DESIGN AND PRODUCTION PROCESS.

I AM PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF AMY RUBIN, ELOISE, AND CHRIS FOR ALLOWING ME TO PILFER SCENES FROM OUR LIVES.

WITHOUT HOLLY RAE TAYLOR'S PATIENT SUPPORT AND FROLICHSOME COMPANIONSHIP I COULD NEVER HAVE FINISHED THIS BOOK. SHE IS AN EXPANSIVE, ENLIVENING FORCE.

AND WITHOUT JOCELYN AND CAROL -- NOT THEIR REAL NAMES -- I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEGUN THIS BOOK. MY GRATITUDE TO EACH OF THEM IS BOUNDLESS.

"*Are You My Mother?* is a work of the most humane kind of genius, bravely going right to the heart of things: why we are who we are. It's also incredibly funny. And visually stunning. And page-turningly addictive. And heartbreaking."

— Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* and *Everything Is Illuminated*

"Many of us are living out the un-lived lives of our mothers. Alison Bechdel has written a graphic novel about this, sort of like a comic book by Virginia Woolf. You won't believe it until you read it — and you must!"

— Gloria Steinem

"Bravely worrying out the snarled web of missed connections that bedevil her relationship with her remarkable mother from the very start, Bechdel deploys everyone from Virginia Woolf to D. W. Winnicott (the legendary psychoanalytic theorist who comes to serve as her quest's benign fairy godfather) to untie the snares of a fraught past. She arrives, at long last, at something almost as shimmering as it is simple: a grace-flecked accommodation and an affirming love."

— Lawrence Weschler, author of *Everything That Rises: A Book of Convergences* and *Uncanny Valley: Adventures in the Narrative*

