

# The *Tempter*

*Lucija & Damijan Stepančič*

ebook









Trbovlje

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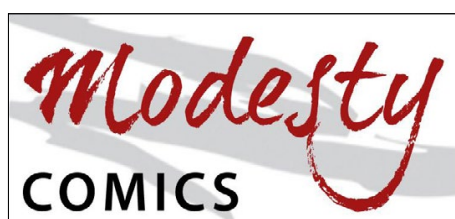
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**ebook**

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Lucija & Damijan Stepančič

# The Tempter





**Lucija & Damijan Stepančič**  
**THE TEMPTER**

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# The Tempter

This truly remarkable graphic novel by Mr and Mrs Stepančič begins seemingly quite ordinary.

Some young women, relatives, pretty Masha and plump Klara, who otherwise would never see each other in Ljubljana where they both live, are on a apparently pointless task, on the way to Trbovlje, the city in which they spent their childhood. Their grandfather, feeling that his death is at hand, wants to fulfill his last wishes and, in addition to the Armani suit in which he wants to be buried - a horror for fashion obsessed Masha, he wants his funeral orchestra to be a miner's orchestra from Trbovlje, where he had spent his entire working life.

This is the early part of the story, where we will be rooted for some time, believing that the world in which we are taken by Lucija and Damijan is our own world, well known and grounded in the laws which we consider possible. However, from the second page and the frame with the hand of the hitchhiker, which seems like the hand of God himself, our heroines move from their mundane existence into the sphere of the fantastical. It will not be apparent immediately, because superficial Masha will fill several of the next pages with her chatter which drives her shrewd cousin crazy, but strangely enough, not a hitchhiker – a priest who looks like he has been sent from heaven.

Upon arrival in Trbovlje, things for a short time look normal and the relatives were separated, Masha following the priest and Klara trying to finish her grandfather's task, but only after a few pages, everything becomes insane. Houses appear instead of buildings, mob lynchings occur, people fornicate in public places, everything is full of magnificent buildings and expensive cars, and when in the hotel where they stayed finally appears Masha in the Chanel's suit that Jackie Kennedy wore at the assassination of JFK, with fresh blood stains, it is clear that



*Hitchhiker's hand or finger of higher force?*



*Providence in the form of an ideal man - handsome and ready to listen*



*The desire for Jackie Kennedy's clothes is met, perhaps a little too precise*

the devil is telling a joke. Residents' wishes were met, which was unexpected, but the story offers an explanation which is much more than a simple divine (or devilish) intervention. After returning from the localized apocalypse, Klara and Masha will come across a destruction of their own, small, personal worlds, with an important lesson in the end.

Damijan Stepančič, a popular Slovenian painter and illustrator of children's books, on this occasion for the first time working on a comic book with his wife as the screenwriter, shows subtle talent that behind the 'ugly' figures presents emotions in combination of only two basic colors - grey and brown. Lucija's dialogues in turn offer a range of Masha's chattering and Klara's truly philosophical thoughts, making this wacky story receptive to read.



*Madness and anarchy in Trbovlje*

Together, they made a really rare thing, an intelligent graphic novel with women in the lead roles. These women seem real and ordinary, but at the same time they expose, through their thoughts and contemplations, deep emotions and complex psychology. All this is packed in an effective combination of pictures and words that together tell a lot more than they would if they stood independently as just an illustration of the story. It is because of such accomplishments that comics art deserves the title of the ninth art, and we, who truly enjoy it, can only eagerly await new works of this powerful duo of top creative personalities.

**Pavle Zelić,**  
writer and comics scriptwriter

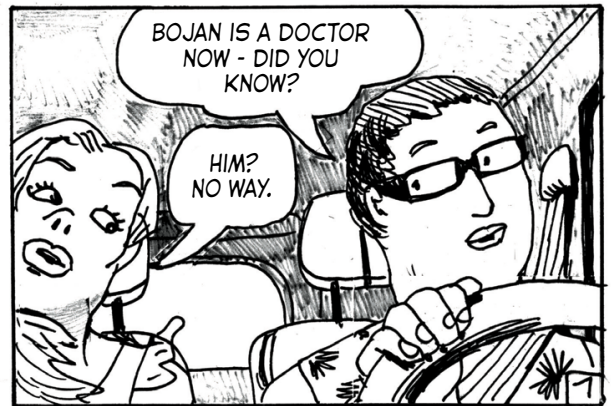
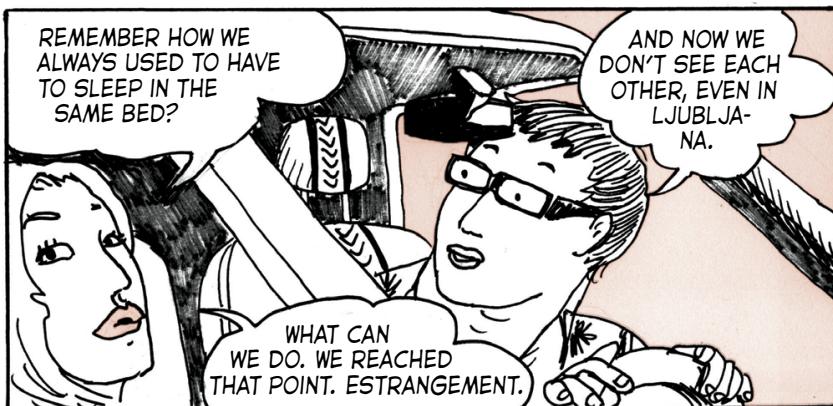
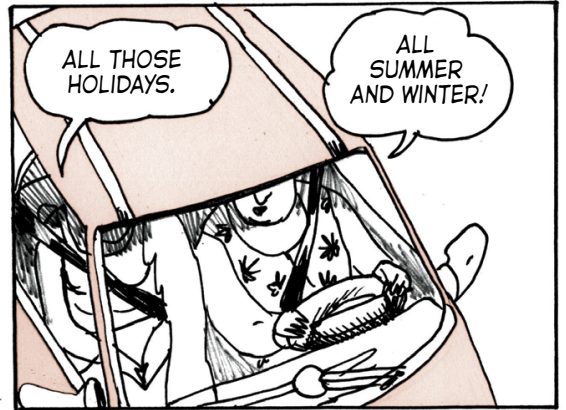
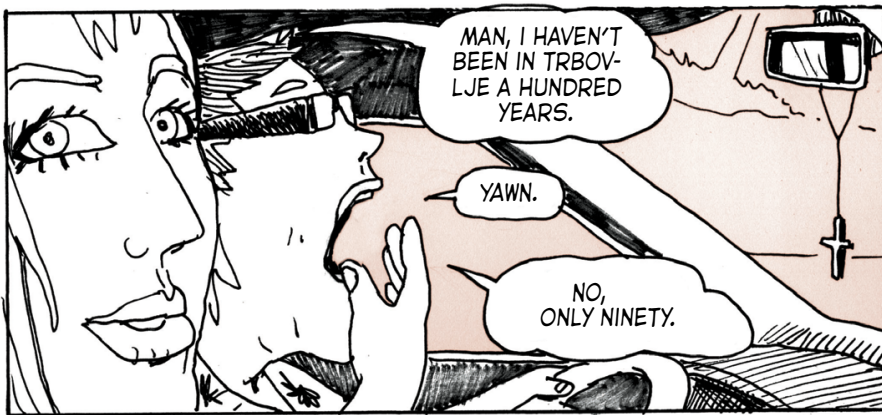
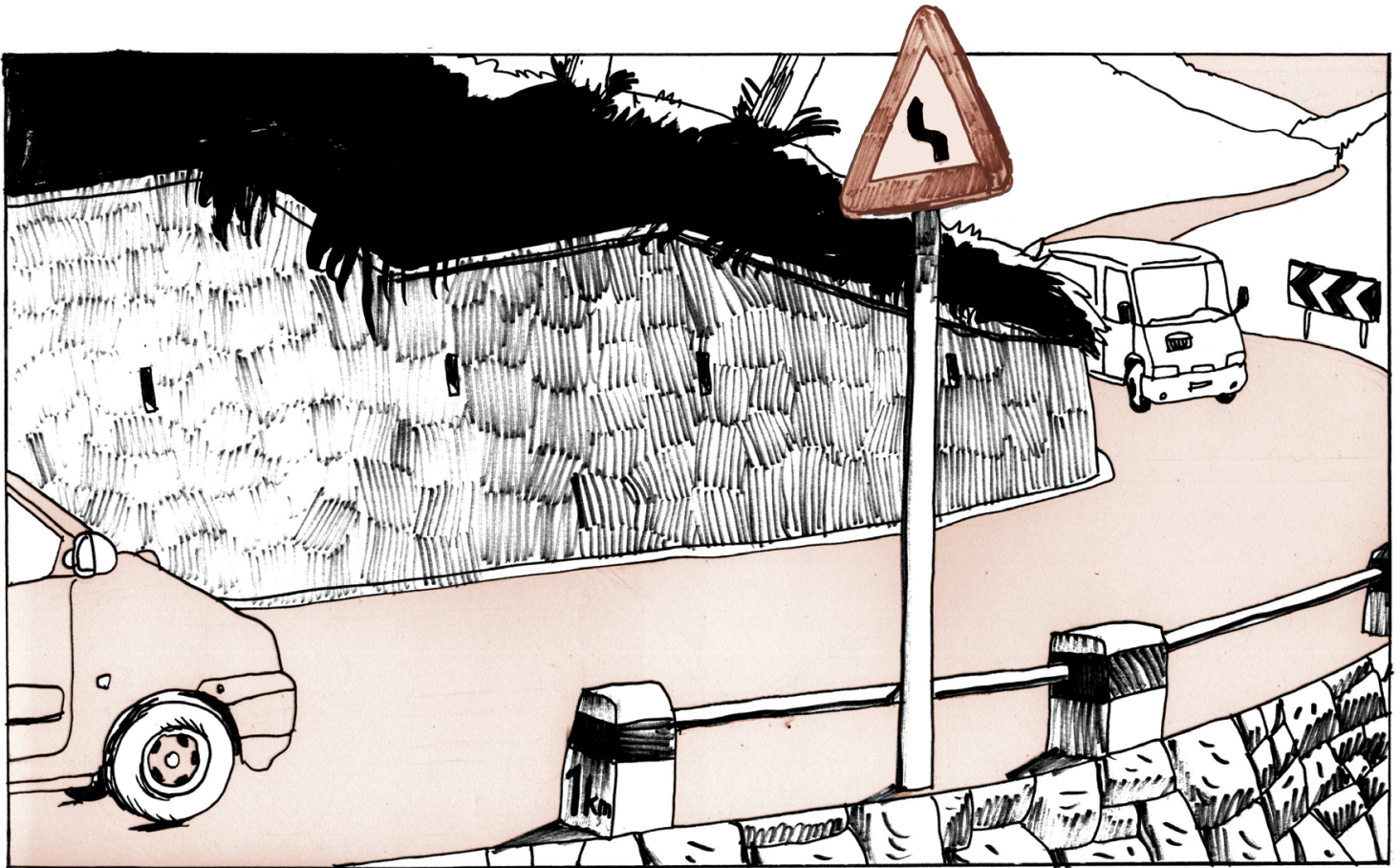


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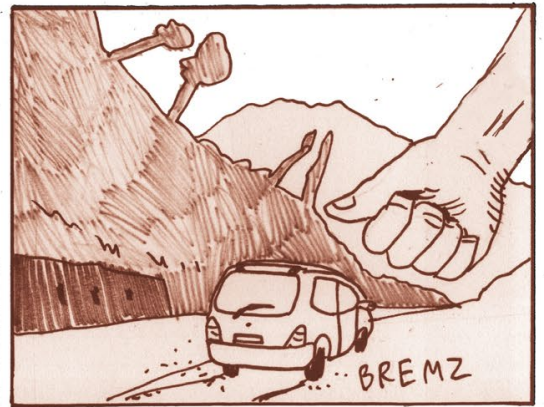
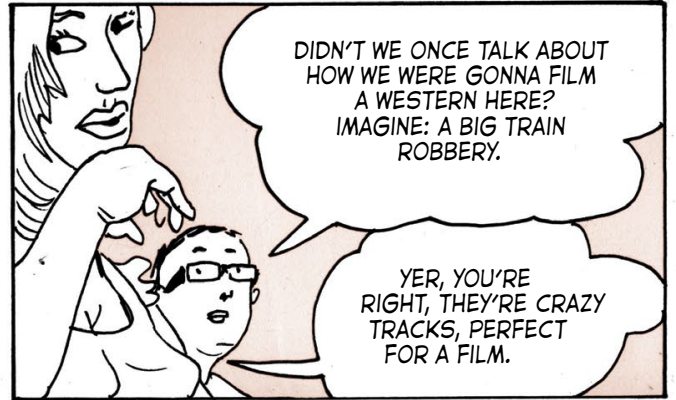
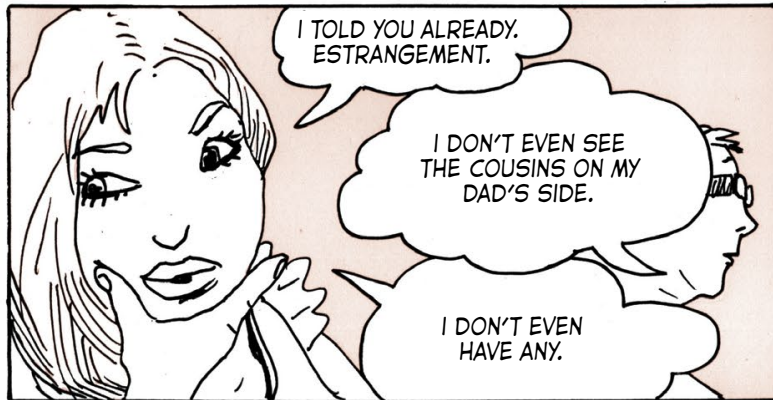
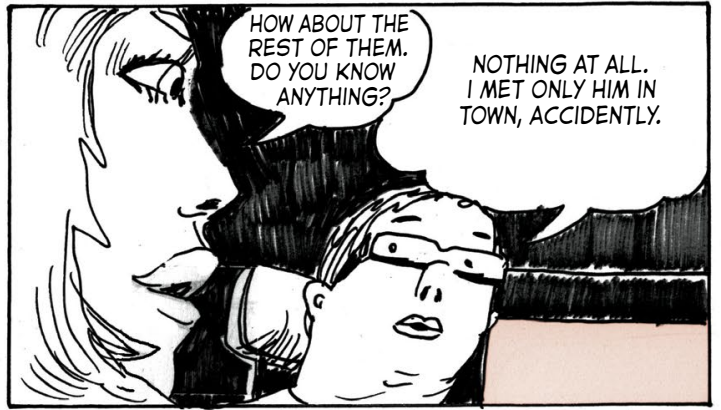
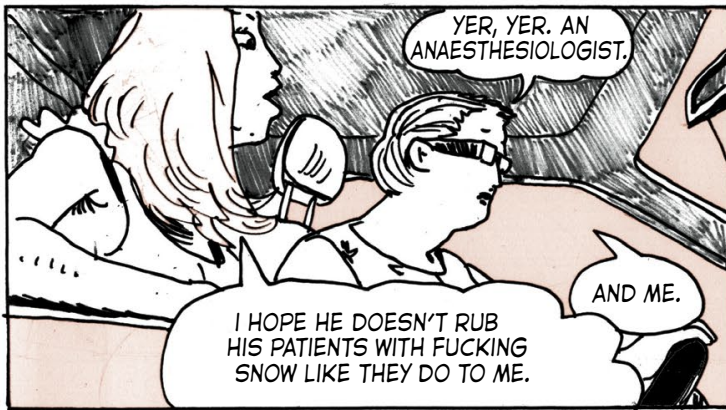
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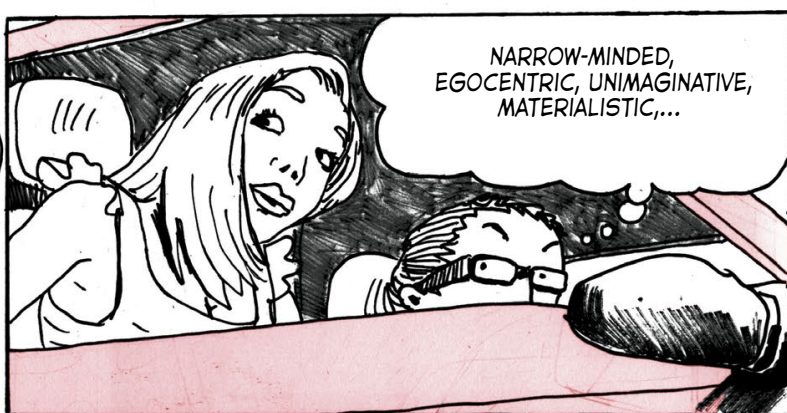




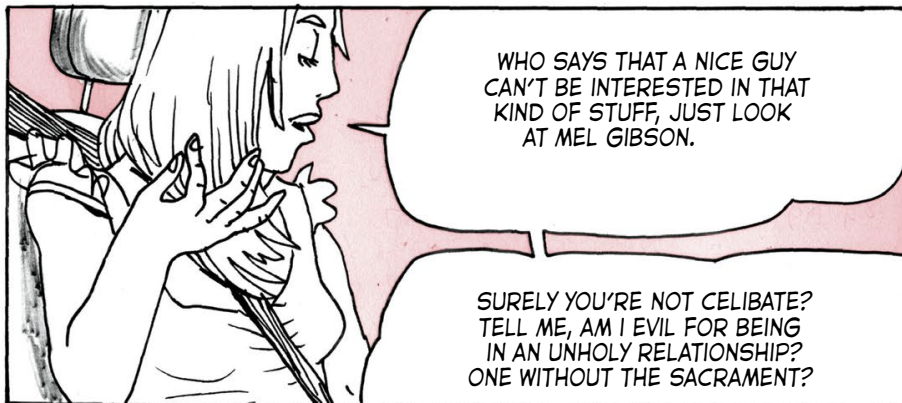
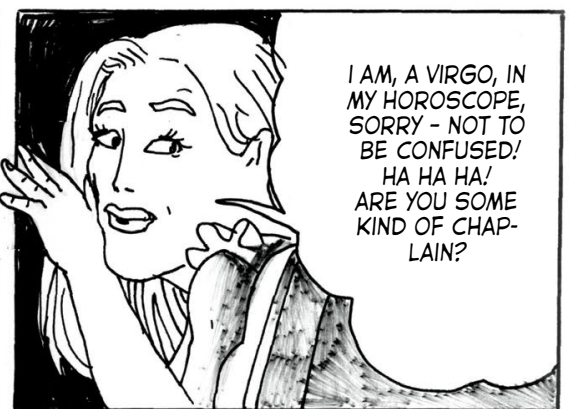
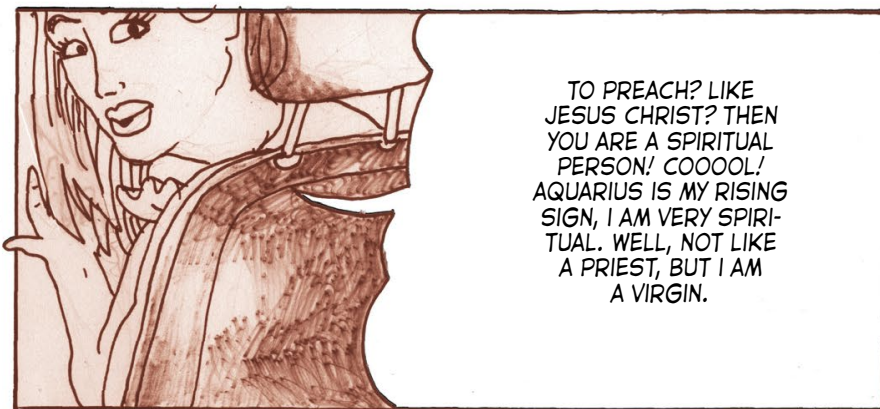
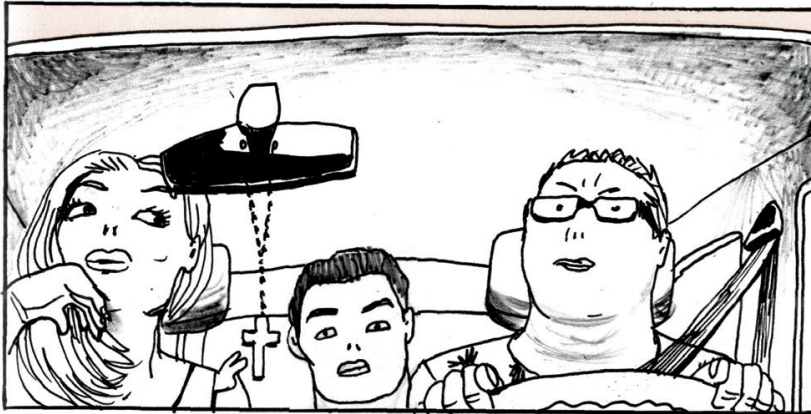




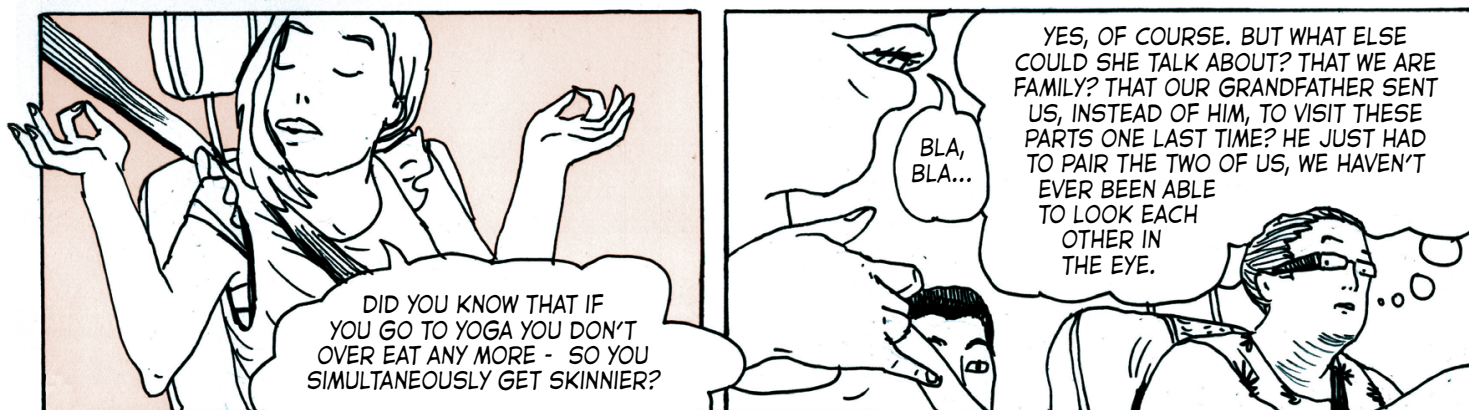
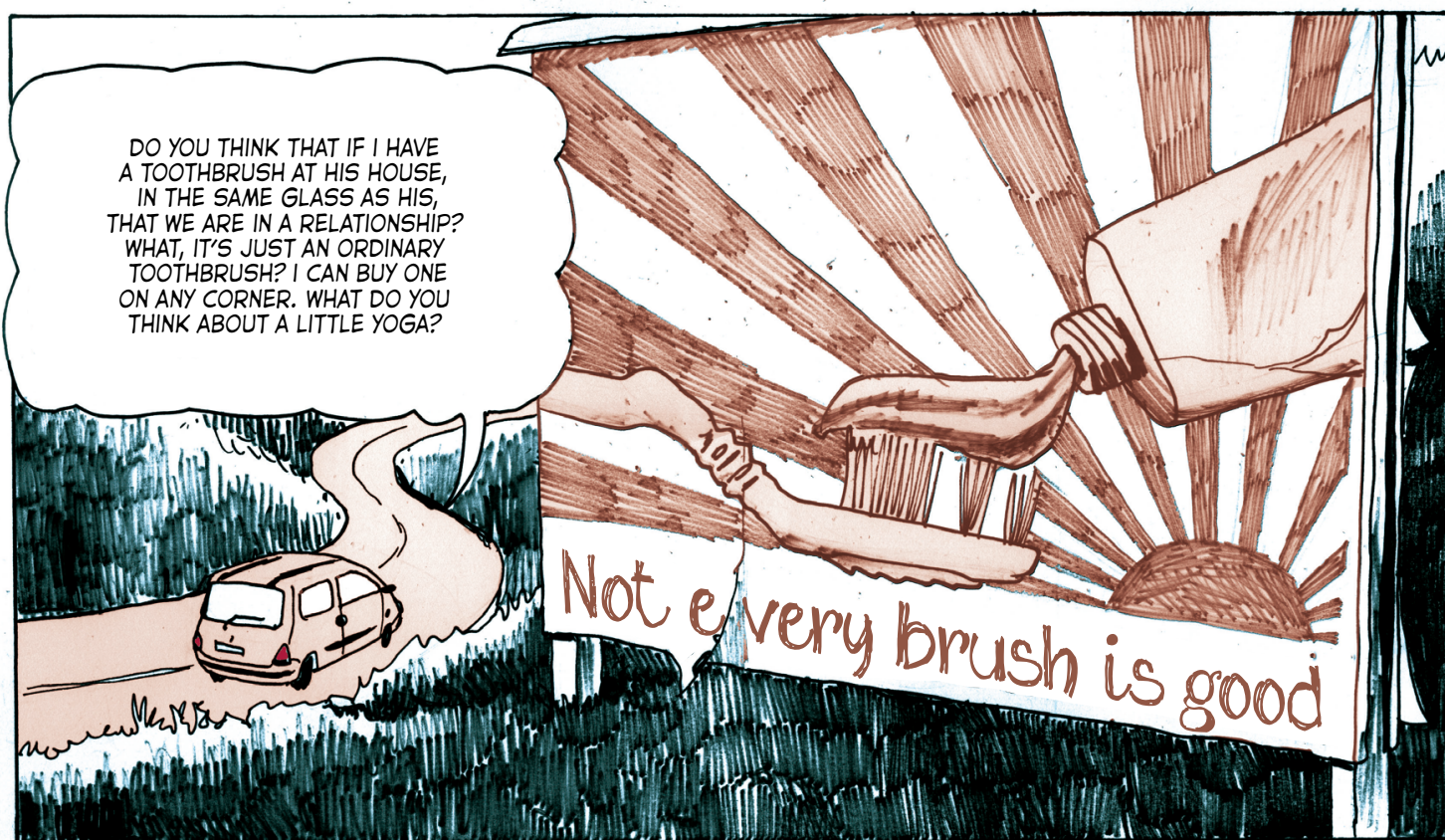
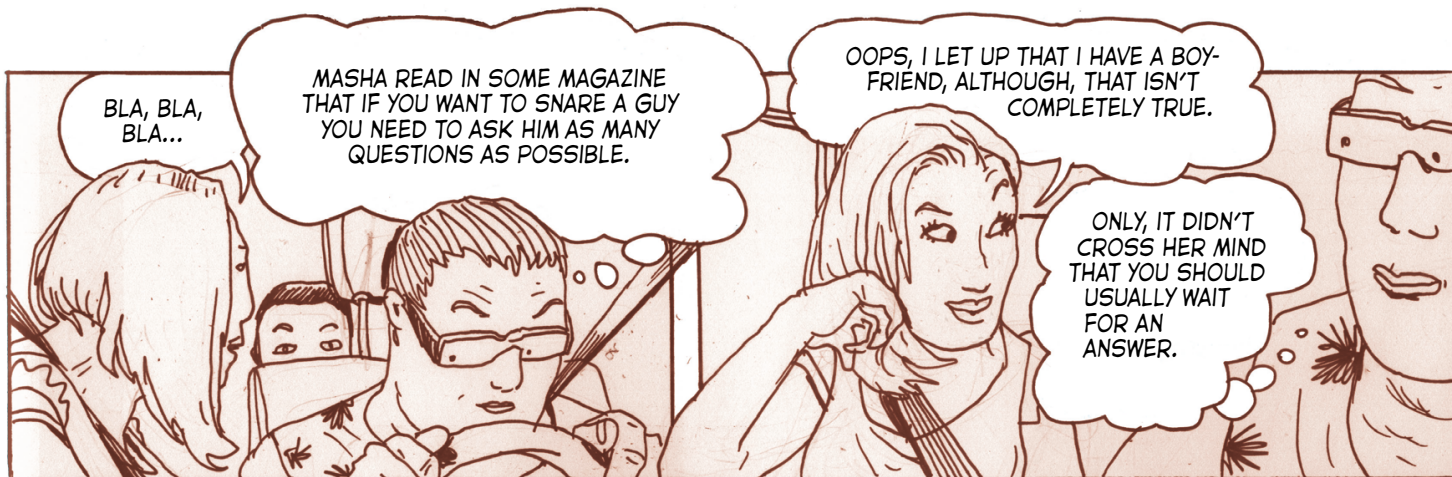




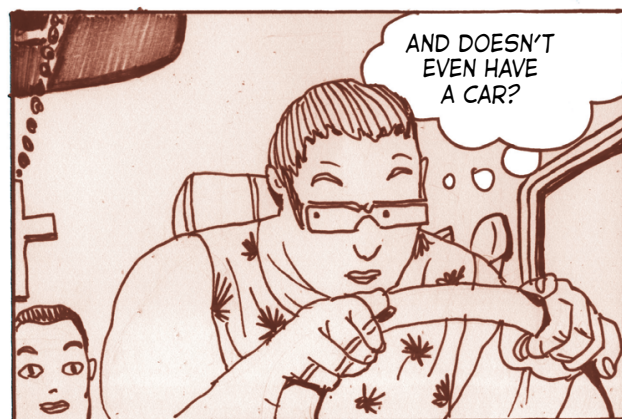
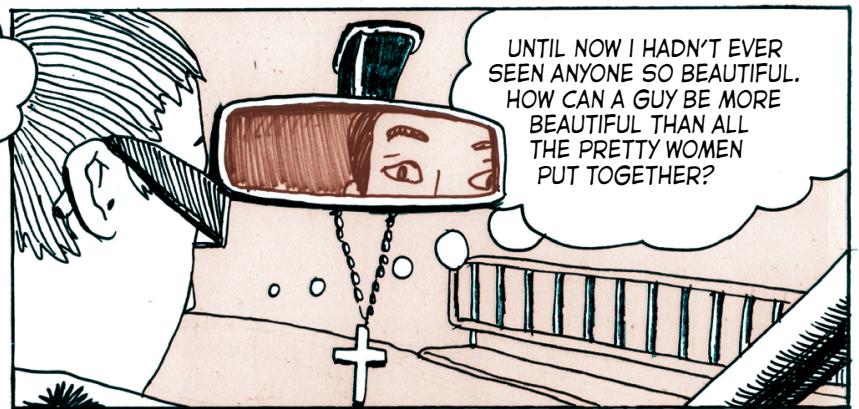
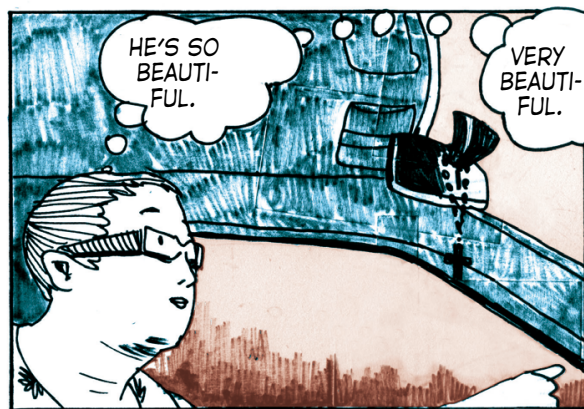
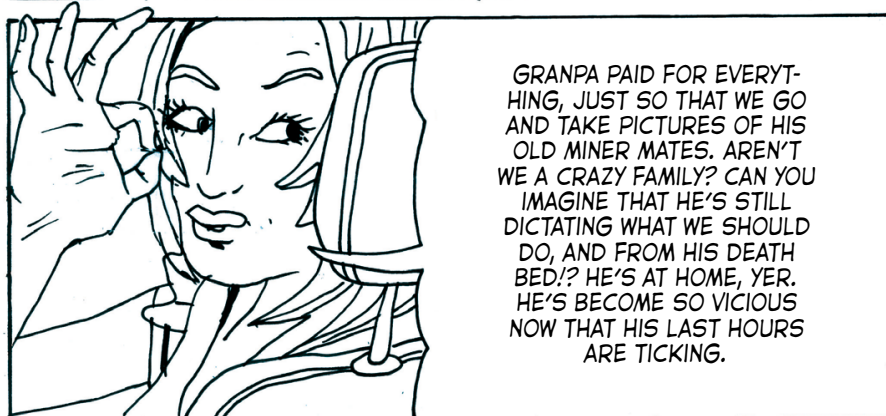
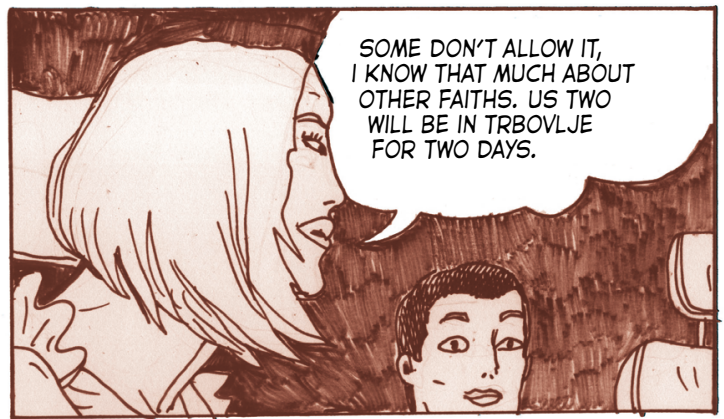
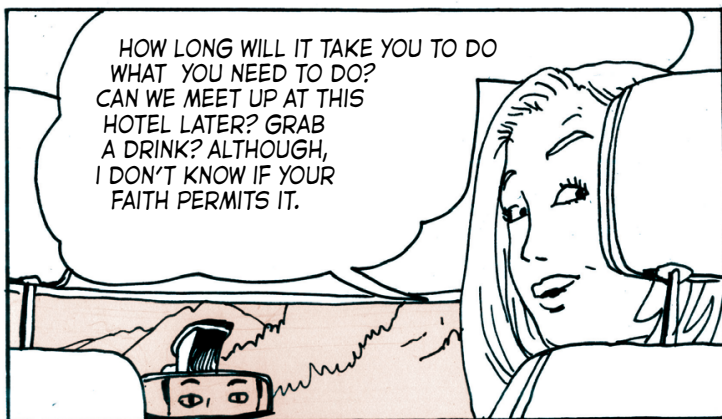










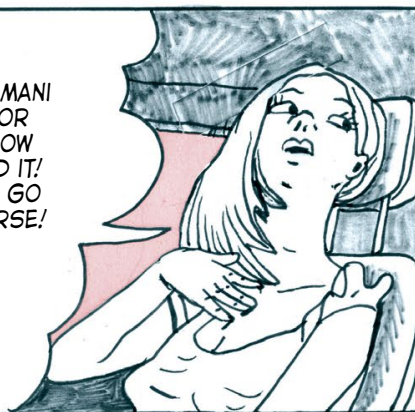






DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT THE OLD MAN  
HAS THOUGHT UP  
FOR HIS FUNERAL  
NOW?

HE BOUGHT AN ARMANI  
SUIT! ARMANI! FOR  
THE GRAVE! I KNOW  
BECAUSE I PICKED IT!  
HE ASKED ME TO GO  
WITH HIM, OF COURSE!  
BECAUSE I KNOW THE MOST  
ABOUT FASHION, NO ONE  
ELSE IN THE FAMILY  
HAS ANY CLUE!



DON'T EVEN ASK ME HOW  
MUCH IT COST! THANK GOD  
I DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.  
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT  
HE SAID TO ME!  
THAT HE WAS WED IN  
A BORROWED SUIT  
BUT WANTS TO BE  
BURIED IN  
HIS OWN!

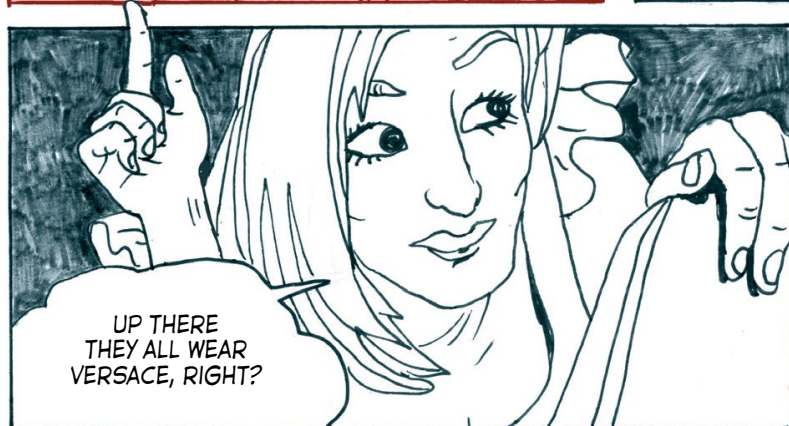


NOW, TELL ME,  
O SPIRITUAL ONE?  
IS IT NOT OK FOR  
A MAN TO GET  
DRESSED UP FOR  
WHEN HE GOES  
FORTH, INTO  
ETERNITY?



IN THAT KIND OF  
SUIT, MAN, EVEN  
I WOULD GET  
BURIED!

ONCE IN  
ARMANI, THEN IN  
GALLIANO, THEN  
IN LAGERFELD.



UP THERE  
THEY ALL WEAR  
VERSACE, RIGHT?





