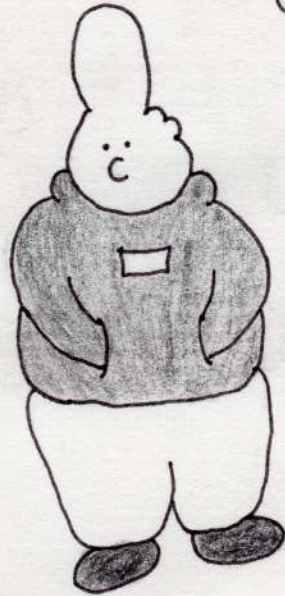
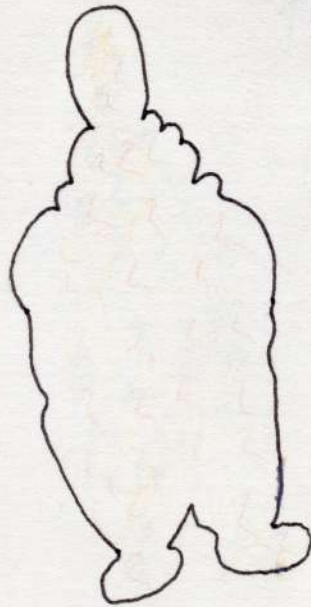


in the beginning

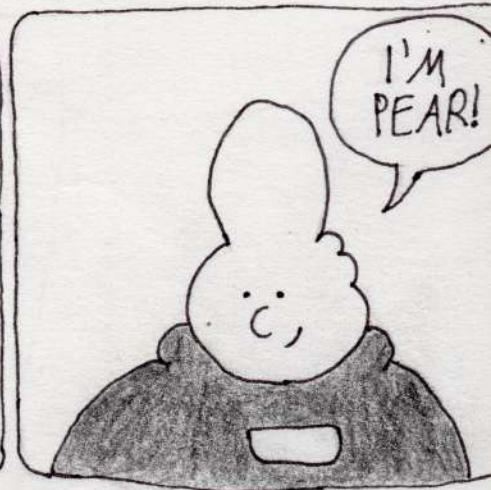
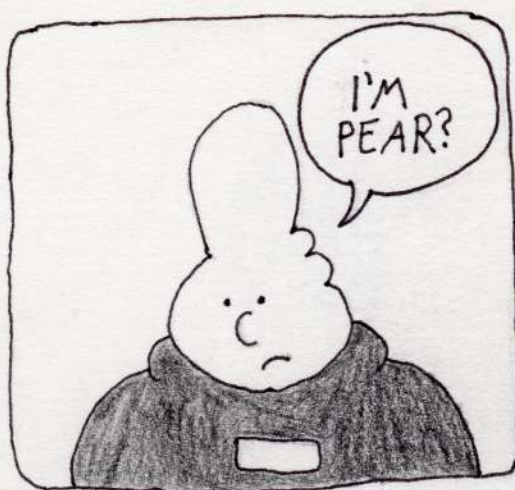


there was Pear...

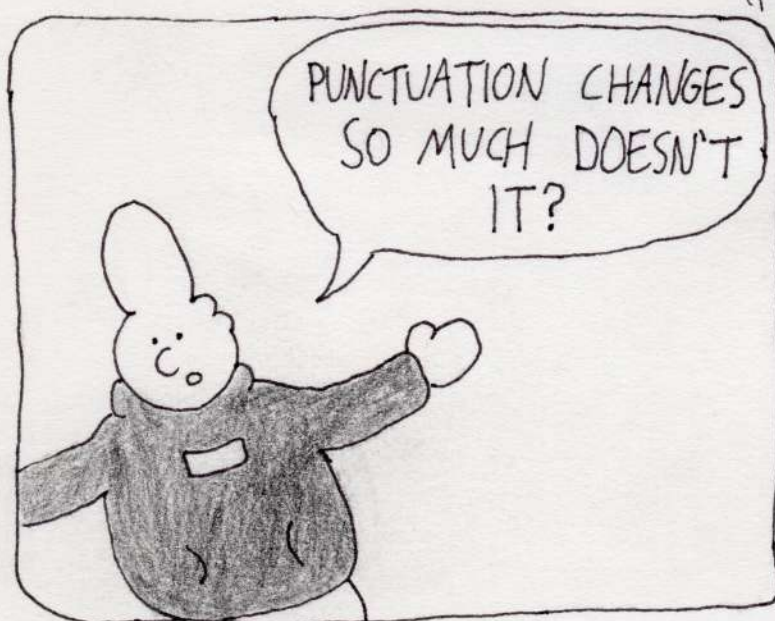
in Pear there



was the beginning.



pear
&
THE EXISTENTIAL CRISIS
(pt. 1)



AND FEELINGS
ARE TRICKY

CURRENT PANEL

THEY NEVER SEEM
TO SIT STILL FOR
LONG

THEY'RE
ALWAYS ON
THE MOVE

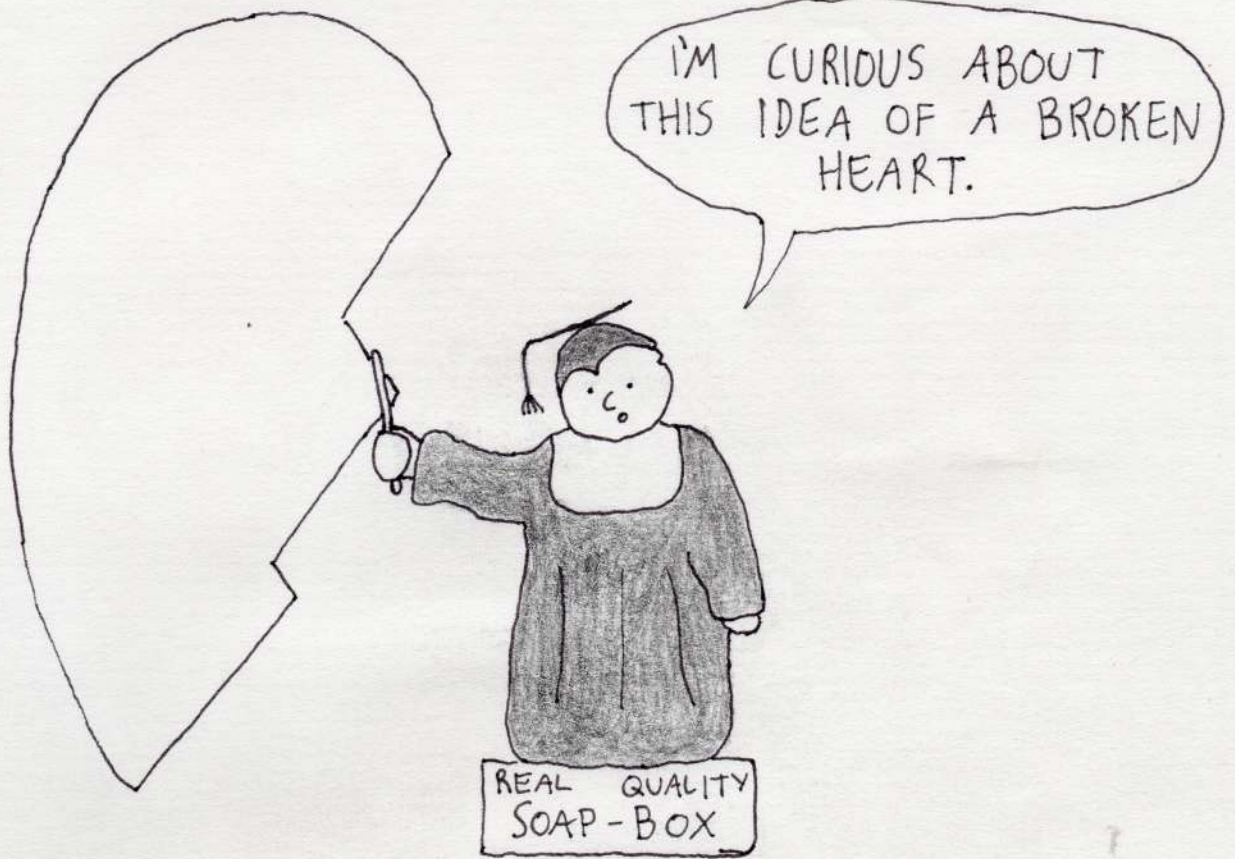
TO NEXT
PANEL

EXIT

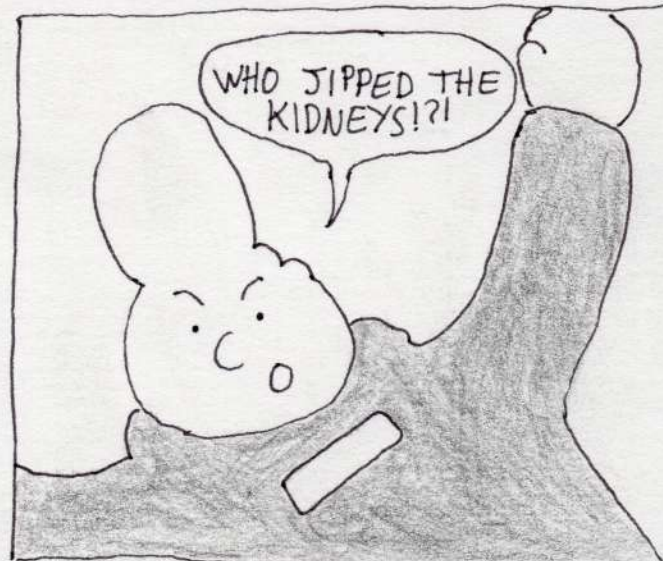
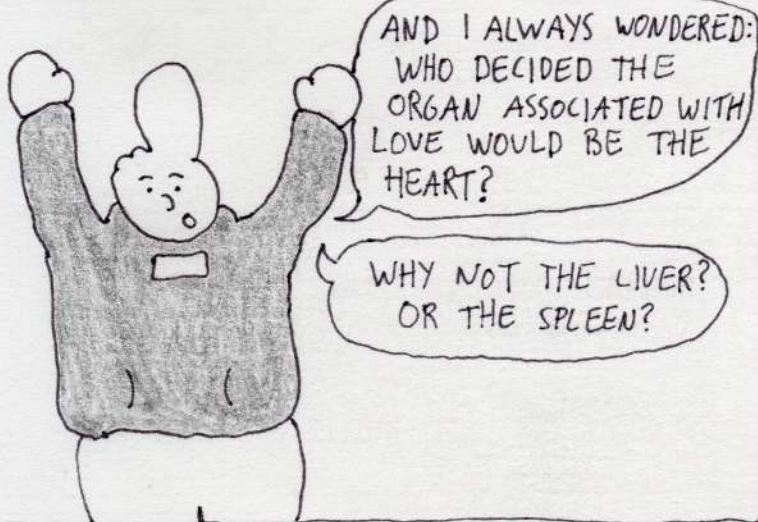
WHICH CAN BE FRUSTRATING WHEN
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO KEEP THEM
ALL ORGANIZED AND IN THEIR
PROPER BOXES

ONWARD

BUT WHERE'S THE COMFORT IN
BOXES WHEN ALL I WANT TO
KNOW IS HOW SHE COULD LIE TO
ME... OR SOMETHING ALONG
THOSE LINES



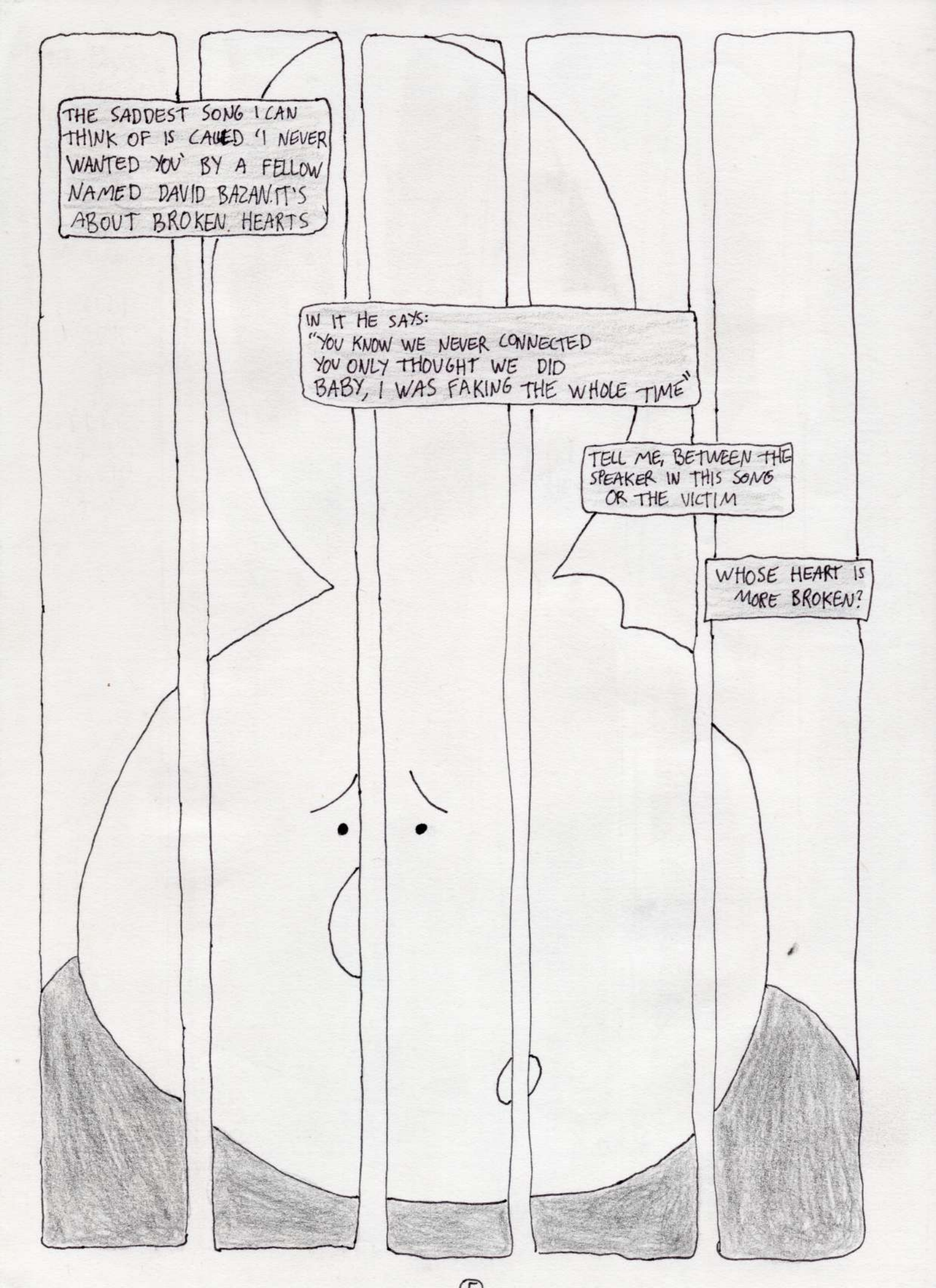
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
I MEAN, OUR SYMBOL FOR A HEART HARDLY SEEMS ANATOMICALLY CORRECT
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥



IF ANYTHING, LOVE IS POWERFULLY LINKED
TO THE STOMACH, AND DIGESTION...

THE STRESS AND EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL
ALWAYS MESSES WITH MY PIPES...

IT'S NOT PRETTY.



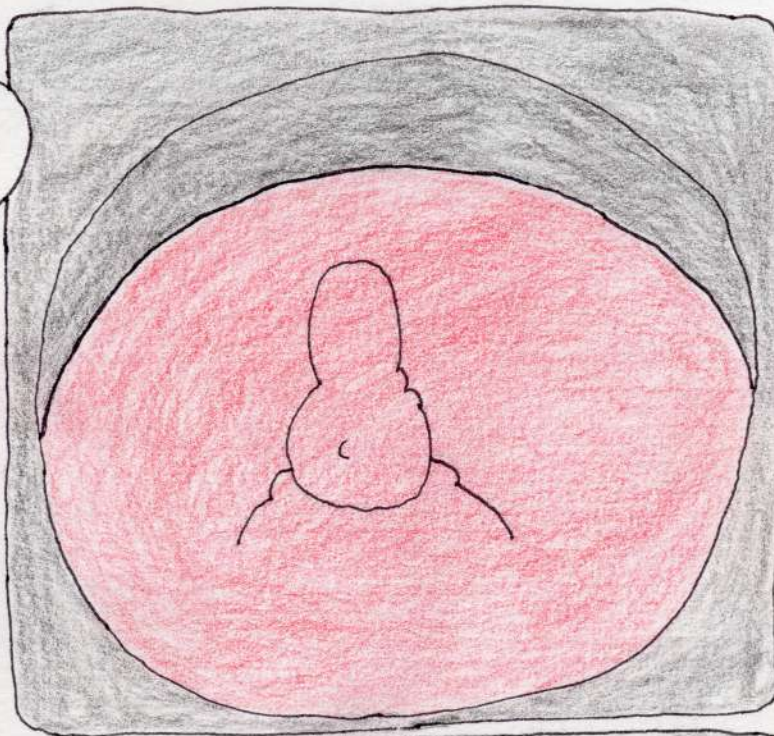
THE SADDEST SONG I CAN
THINK OF IS CALLED 'I NEVER
WANTED YOU' BY A FELLOW
NAMED DAVID BAZAN. IT'S
ABOUT BROKEN HEARTS

IN IT HE SAYS:
"YOU KNOW WE NEVER CONNECTED
YOU ONLY THOUGHT WE DID
BABY, I WAS FAKING THE WHOLE TIME"

TELL ME, BETWEEN THE
SPEAKER IN THIS SONG
OR THE VICTIM

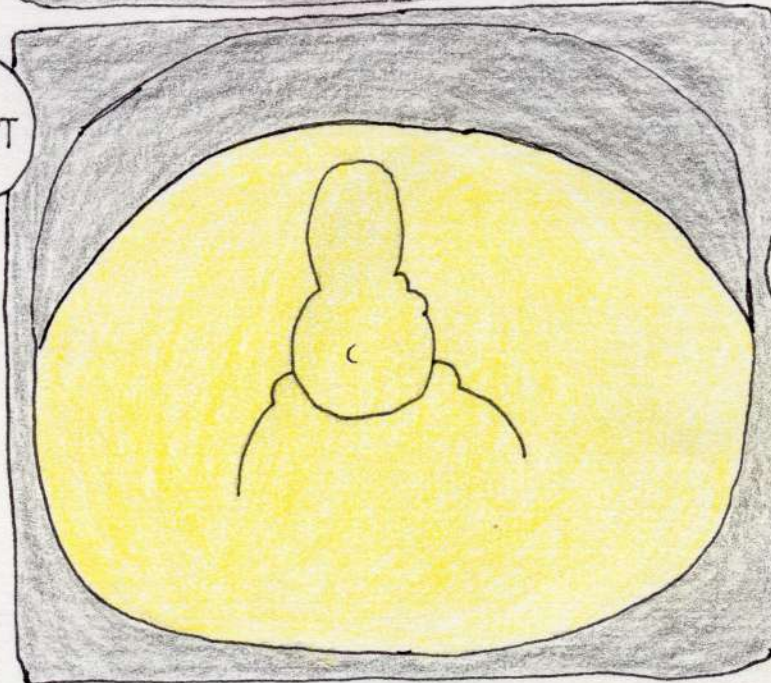
WHOSE HEART IS
MORE BROKEN?

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT
BROKEN HEARTS



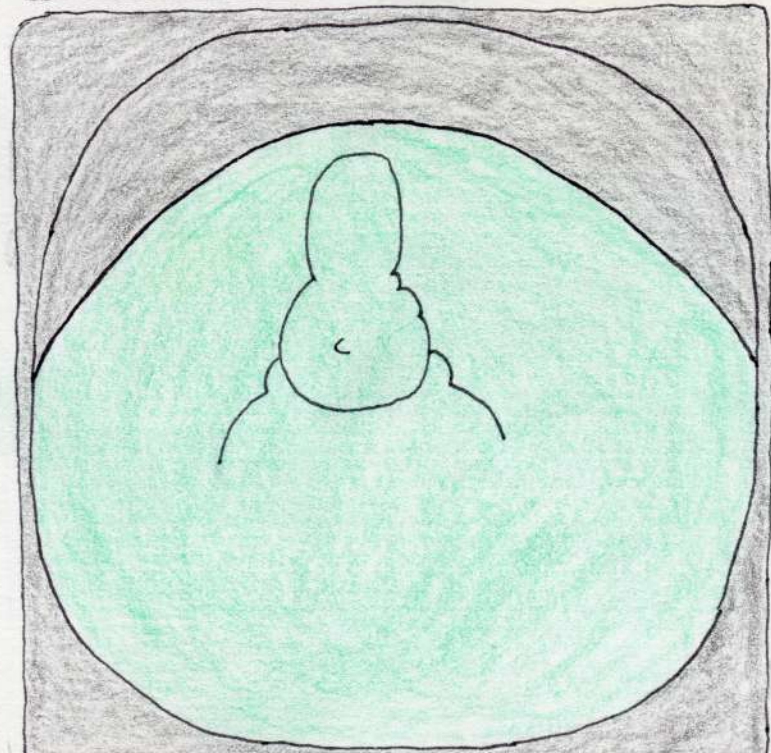
IT'S ABOUT BROKEN
PEOPLE

IT'S ABOUT A BROKEN
WORLD WHERE THINGS AREN'T
AS THEY OUGHT TO BE




A WORLD OF BROKEN
GOVERNMENTS, ECONOMIES
AND ECOSYSTEMS


A WORLD WITHOUT
A COMPASS




A WORLD WITHOUT GOD




IS THAT AN
OFFENSIVE
STATEMENT?



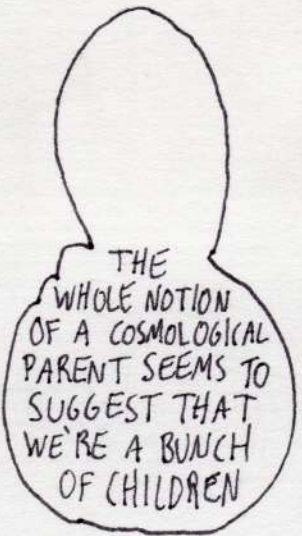
IS IT RUDE
TO SUGGEST
THAT HUMANITY
COULD USE A
LITTLE HELP?



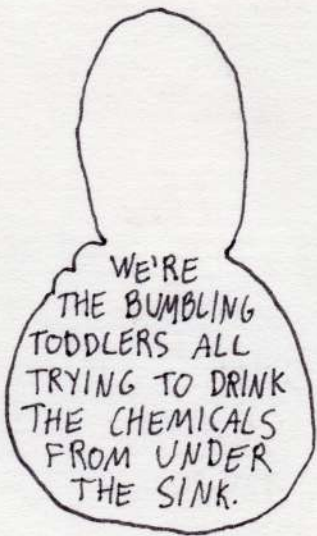
I THINK IT
MIGHT BE.



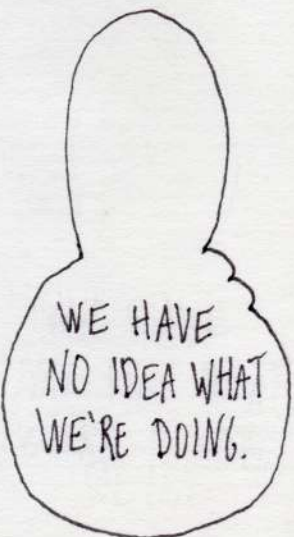
I MEAN THERE'S
A REASON THEY
KILLED CHRIST
RIGHT?



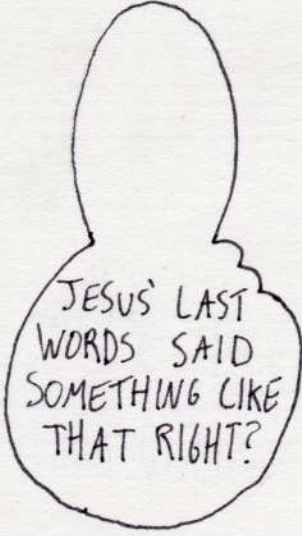
THE
WHOLE NOTION
OF A COSMOLOGICAL
PARENT SEEMS TO
SUGGEST THAT
WE'RE A BUNCH
OF CHILDREN



WE'RE
THE BUMBLING
TODDLERS ALL
TRYING TO DRINK
THE CHEMICALS
FROM UNDER
THE SINK.



WE HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
WE'RE DOING.



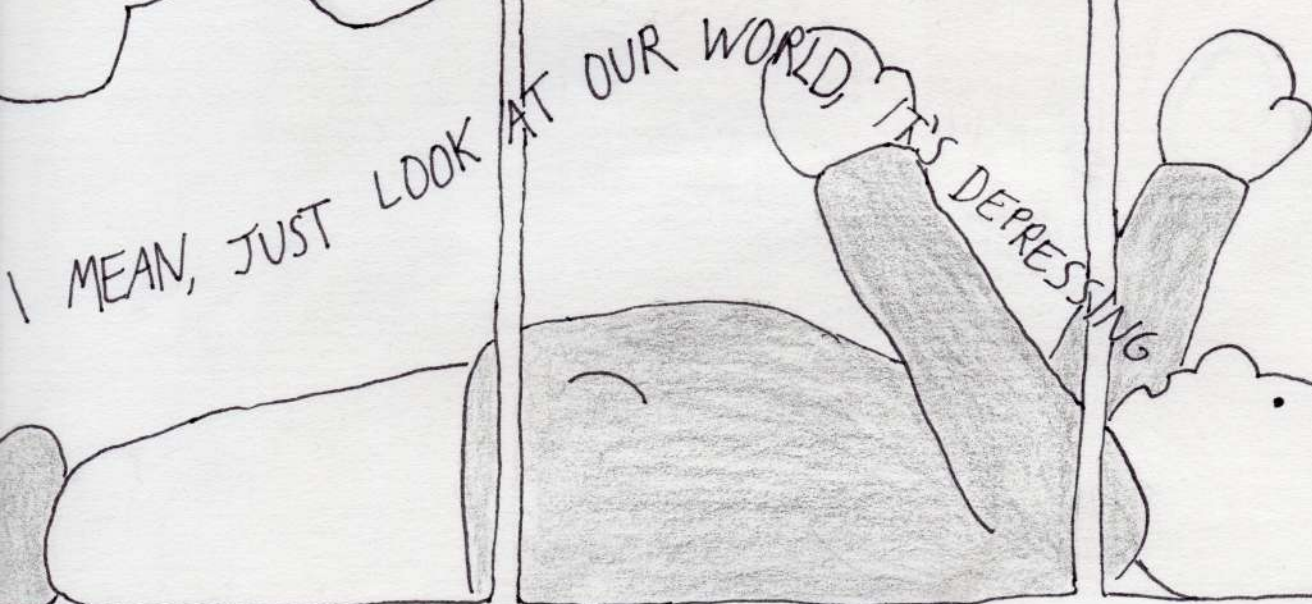
JESUS' LAST
WORDS SAID
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT RIGHT?



VERY
RUDE
INDEED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH
I BUY INTO THIS IDEA
THAT HUMANITY IS ALWAYS
PROGRESSING, UP AND UP

SURE OUR TECHNOLOGY
KEEPS GETTING MORE
AND MORE COMPLEX. BUT
ARE WE PROGRESSING
OUTSIDE OF THAT?



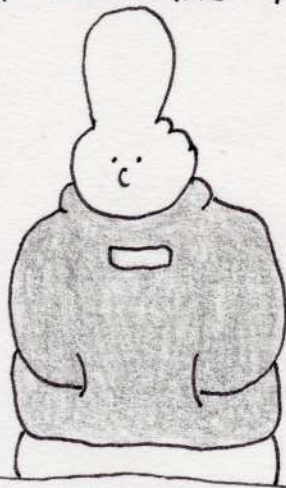
C.S. LEWIS ONCE WROTE THAT:

"PROGRESS MEANS GETTING NEARER TO THE PLACE YOU WANT
TO BE. AND IF YOU HAVE TAKEN A WRONG
TURNING, THEN TO GO FORWARD DOES NOT
GET YOU ANY NEARER. IF YOU ARE
ON THE WRONG ROAD, PROGRESS
MEANS DOING AN ABOUT-TURN AND
WALKING BACK TO THE RIGHT
ROAD; AND IN THAT CASE THE
MAN WHO TURNS BACK SOONEST IS
THE MOST PROGRESSIVE MAN."

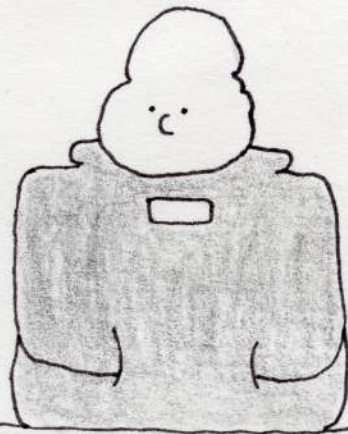


C.S. LEWIS

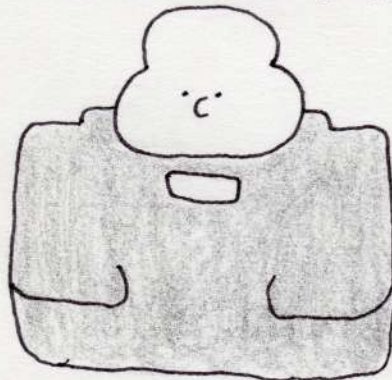
I SUPPOSE SOME MIGHT SAY THAT EMBRACING THE IDEA OF GOD IS VERY REGRESSIVE,



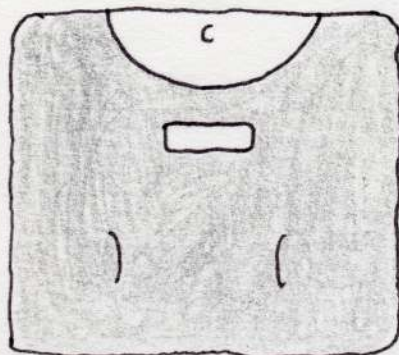
MENTION THE CRUSADES OR SOMETHING.

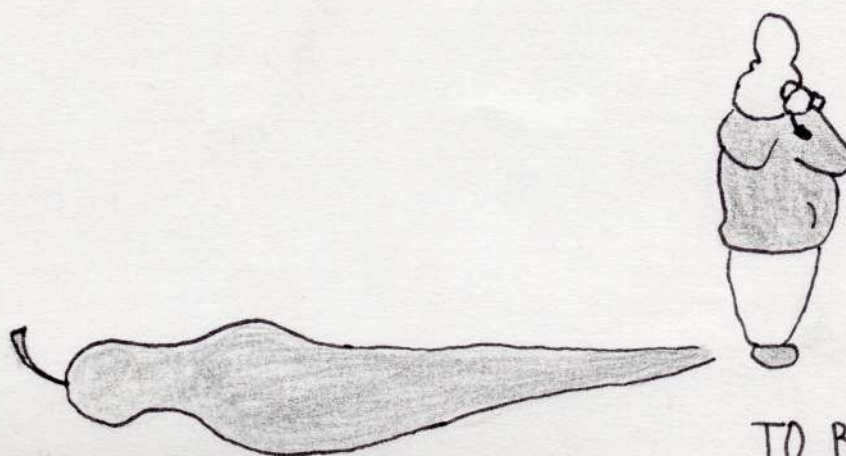
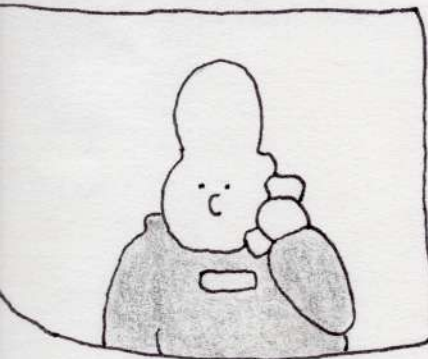
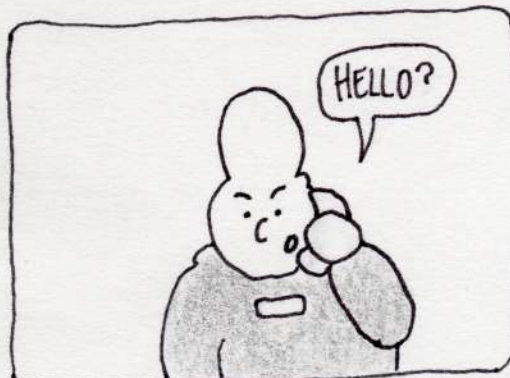
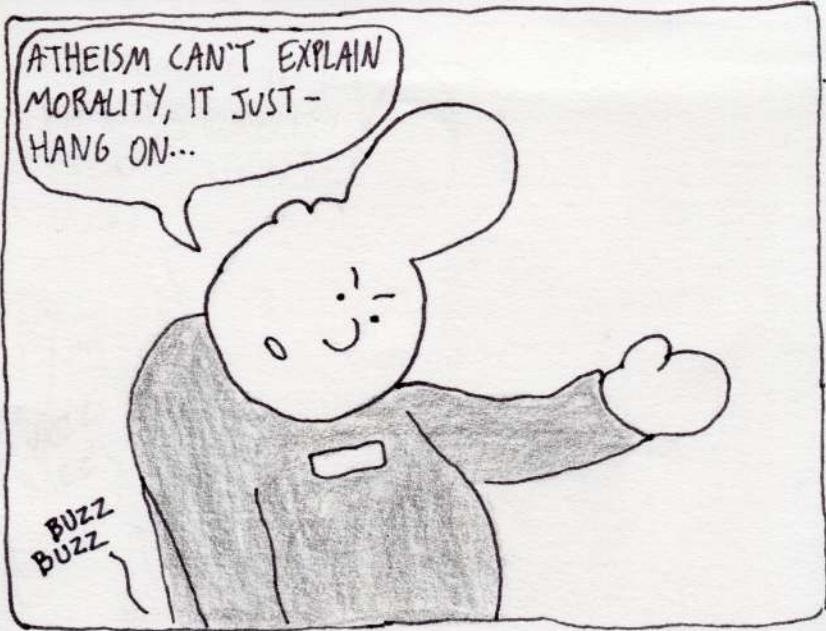


BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW,



ATHEISM FEELS SO SMALL.





TO BE CONTINUED.