

IN THE CRACKS

HE WAS A PERFORMER. THE
ON-CAMERA VERSION OF
ROGUE WAS THE ONLY
VERSION MOST PEOPLE
SAW.

HE KNEW EXACTLY HOW
TO STARE THE CAMERA
DOWN.

DISPOSABLE

HE KNEW HOW TO BE
WATNED, BUT HAD NO
IDEA HOW TO BE
LOVED.

HE TURNED SELF
DESTRUCTION INTO AN
AESTHETIC.

TOO
MUCH

DON'T
FEEL

HE ALWAYS HAD TO BE
THE LOUDEST PERSON
IN THE ROOM.

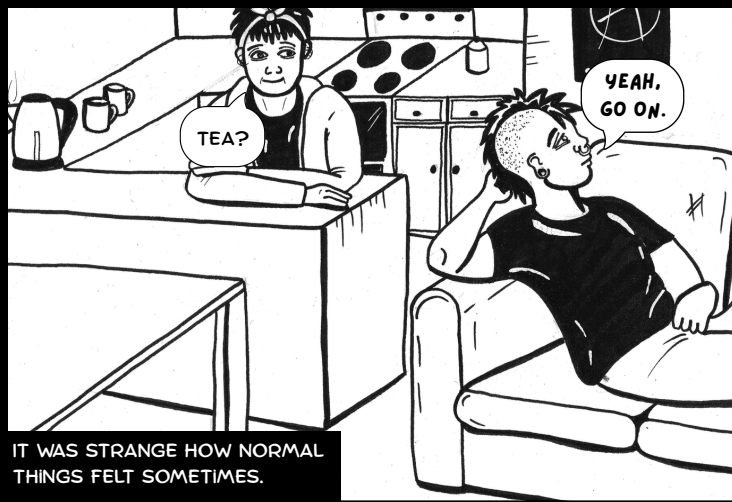
NOT ENOUGH

EVERY SMILE WAS
REHEARSED...ON AND
OFF CAMERA.

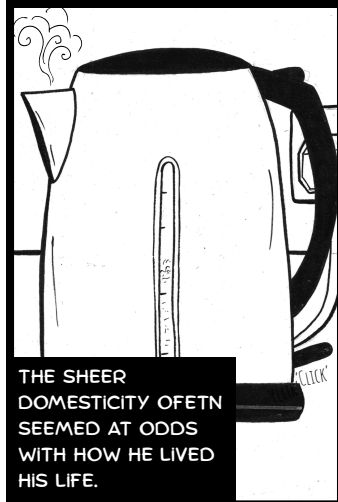
FUCK
UP

EPISODE TWO: THE ACT





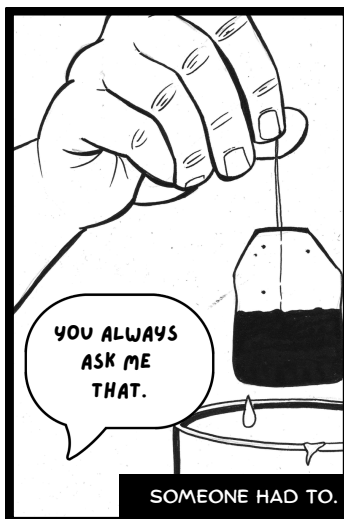
IT WAS STRANGE HOW NORMAL THINGS FELT SOMETIMES.



THE SHEER DOMESTICITY OF ETN SEEMED AT ODDS WITH HOW HE LIVED HIS LIFE.



I WAS CONSTANTLY CHECKING IN.



SOMEONE HAD TO.



I COULD SEE HE WAS TRYING.



BUT HE HAD A LOT OF OLD HABBITTS THAT WERE HARD TO SHAKE.

I MET HIM WHILE
WORKING AT THE FOX.



I KNOW
SOMEWHERE QUIET
WE CAN GO WHEN
YOU FINISH YOUR
SHIFT....

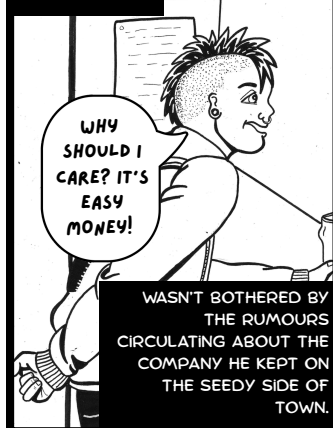
HE'D
COME IN
AND TRY
IT ON.



I ALWAYS SAID NO.

YOU NEVER
GIVE UP
DO YOU?

HE WORE HIS
BRAVADO LIKE
ARMOUR.



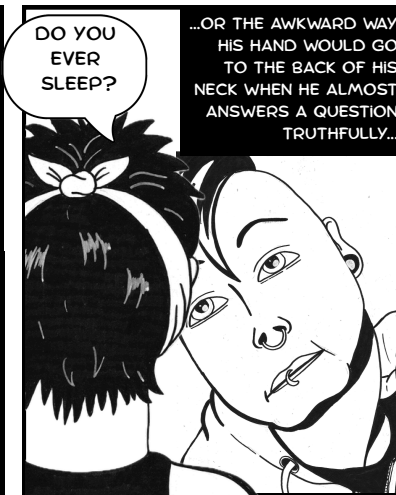
WHY
SHOULD I
CARE? IT'S
EASY
MONEY!

WASN'T BOTHERED BY
THE RUMOURS
CIRCULATING ABOUT THE
COMPANY HE KEPT ON
THE SEEDY SIDE OF
TOWN.



BUT I
STARTED
TO
NOTICE
LITTLE
THINGS...

...LIKE THE WAY
HE ALWAYS DUG
HIS NAILS INTO
HIS PALMS
UNTIL THEY
LEFT MARKS...



DO YOU
EVER
SLEEP?

...OR THE AWKWARD WAY
HIS HAND WOULD GO
TO THE BACK OF HIS
NECK WHEN HE ALMOST
ANSWERS A QUESTION
TRUTHFULLY...



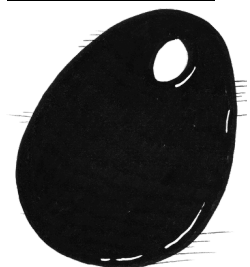
...BEFORE SNAPPING
BACK INTO HUMOUR.

SURE, I HAD
45 GLORIOUS
MINUTES LAST
NIGHT!



I THINK I STARTED TO
SEE HIM DIFFERENTLY
THE FIRST TIME I SAW
HIM GRIPPING THAT
PEBBLE.

IT WAS SMOOTH AND
BLACK WITH A HOLE
WORN THROUGH IT.



AND IT SEEMED LIKE HE
WAS TRYING TO CHANGE
IN SMALL WAYS.
BECOMING LESS SELF
DESTRUCTIVE.

OFF CAMERA

THERE WAS A VERSION OF HIM HE TRIED HARD TO HIDE. WHEN HE DROPPED THE PERSONA, I'D OCCASIONALLY SEE THE VULNERABILITY HE FEARED WOULD RUIN HIS REPUTATION.



HE BEFRIENDED STRAY CATS IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE BAR.

Enough

HE LOOKED MOST BEUTIFUL WHEN HE WASN'T TRYING TO POSTURE.

HE CARRIED HIMSELF DIFFRENT WHEN THERE WAS NO AUDIENCE.

Healing



I THINK HE WAS TIRED OF PERFORMING LONG BEFORE HE ADMITTED IT.

Trying

Tired

ALL THE TIMES I TURNED HIM DOWN, I WAS REALLY JUST WAITING FOR THAT VERSION.



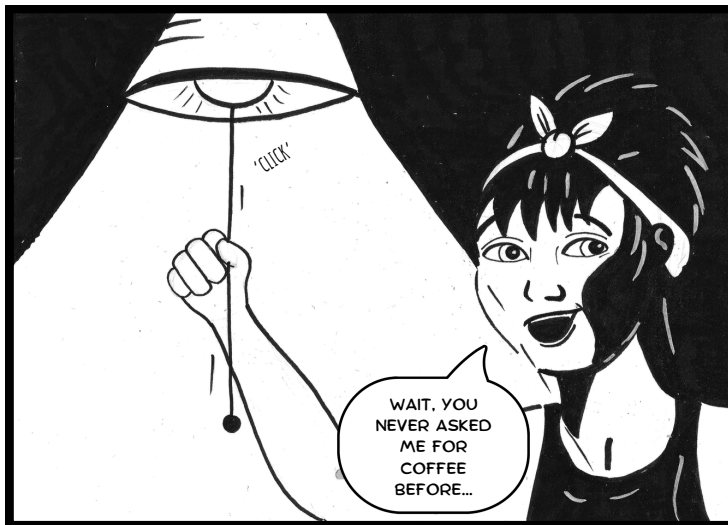
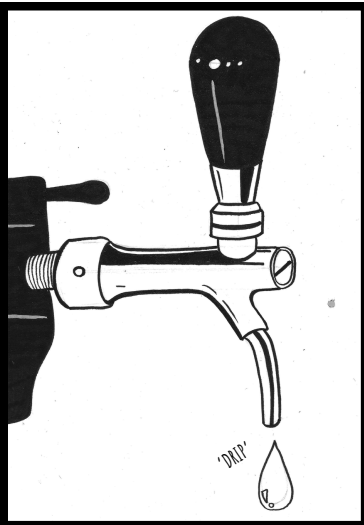
THEN ONE DAY IT
HAPPENED...



IT HAD BEEN AN
ESPECIALLY
TRYING SHIFT.



WANNA GET A
COFFEE?
YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU NEED TO
VENT.



WAIT. YOU
NEVER ASKED
ME FOR
COFFEE
BEFORE...

HE LOOKED
AWKWARD. LIKE
HE WAS FIGHTING
BACK THE URGE
TO MAKE A
JOKE. BUT HE
DIDN'T.



GUESS I
THOUGHT
I'D TRY A NEW
TACTIC

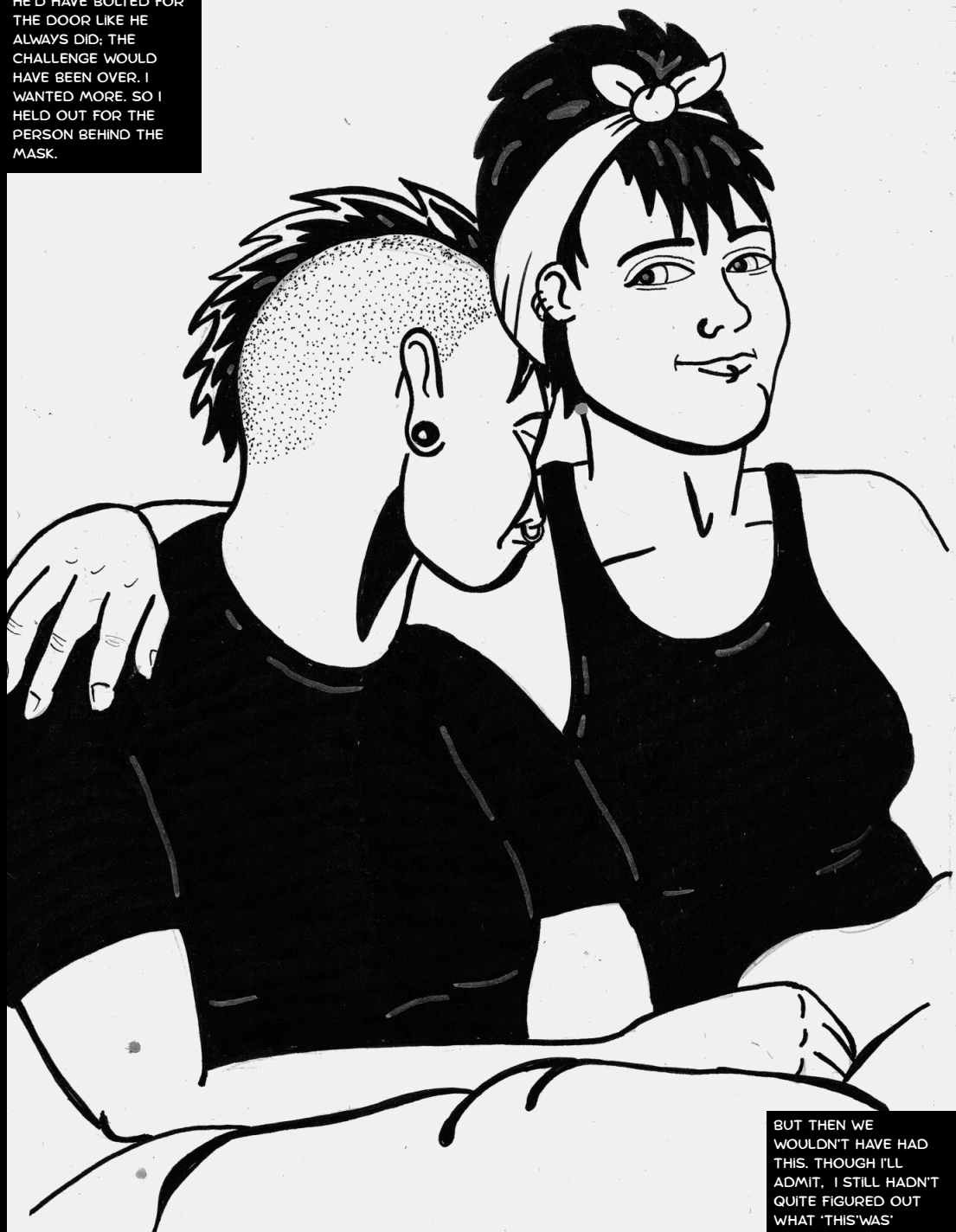
THIS WAS THE
VERSION I HAD
BEEN WAITING
FOR.

JUST
COFFEE?



JUST
COFFEE.

I COULD HAVE GIVEN IN SOONER, JUST GONE WITH IT. WE MIGHT HAVE HAD SEX. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN GREAT. OR NOT, BUT IN THE MORNING, HE'D HAVE BOLTED FOR THE DOOR LIKE HE ALWAYS DID: THE CHALLENGE WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER. I WANTED MORE. SO I HELD OUT FOR THE PERSON BEHIND THE MASK.



BUT THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THIS. THOUGH I'LL ADMIT, I STILL HADN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT WHAT 'THIS' WAS