

QUEER

POLY 

ROMANCE

NOVEL 

to Shannon



Welcome! To the Greatest Show on Earth. The Carnival of Resistance is pleased to present our best line up of performers to date! Featuring the best performers in all of Rivervest!



Remember you're on following this act.



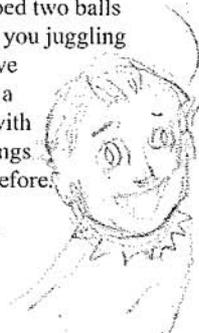
..and don't get too distracted again



Distracted? me?



You dropped two balls practising you juggling act. You've never had a problem with simple things like that before.

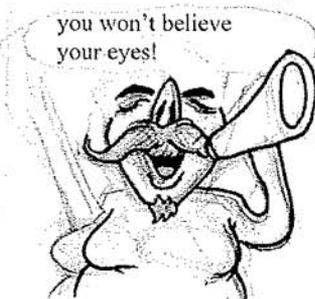


hah!

I've done this act a 100 times



you won't believe your eyes!



you just don't seem to be your normal self



Presenting!!

THE AMAZING



Our best Juggler **ARKADY THE AMAZING**

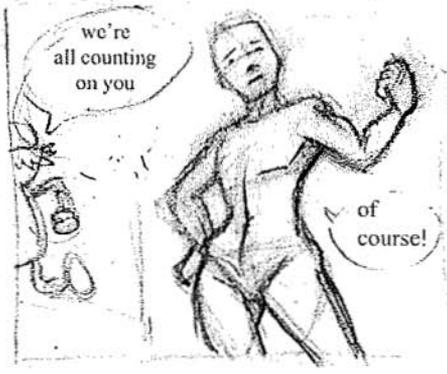
Don't worry about me I could perform blindfolded

..well..



we're all counting on you

of course!



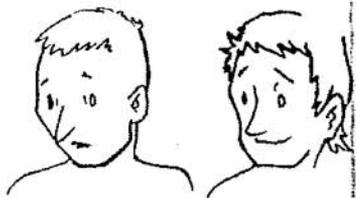
I'm fine...



I can't keep pretending like this any more. My relationship is falling apart. He won't even speak to me. Its over.

Why didn't I see it coming...

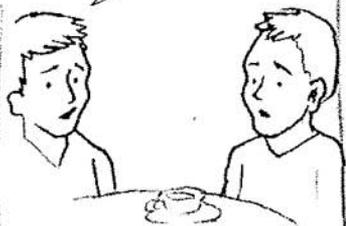
he'd been so distant



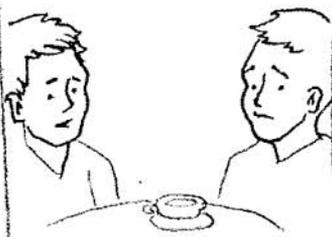
until that day
at the
co - op



Vera your so quite.



Seriously? What's going on?



Its just...



Your not jealous
are you!?



We've
always had an open
relationship



I love you.
What more
reassurance do you
need? You mean
more to me
than anyone!



I don't know how to say
this Arkady...



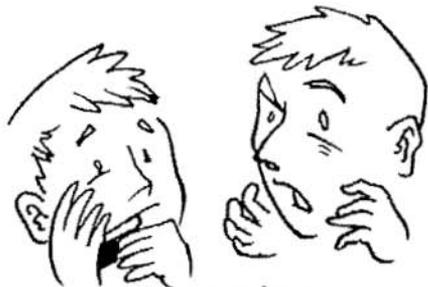
I haven't had
much say in
things.

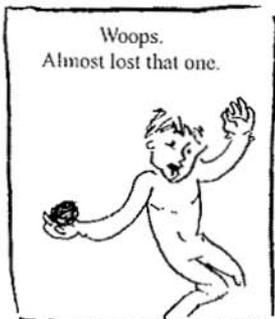
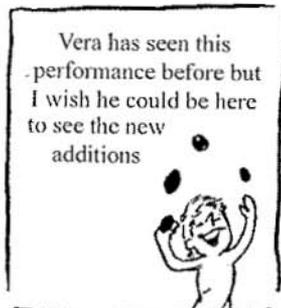
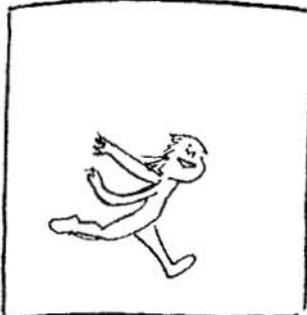
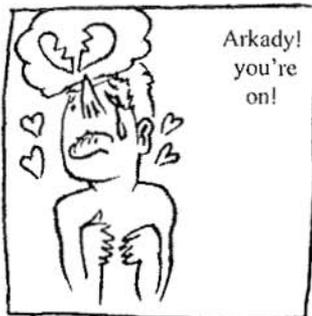


I can't see
you any-
more!



You just
aren't the
right person
for me.





Tonight -for the first time ever (& on the tight rope)- Arkady will juggle...



THREE freshly sharpened SWORDS!!!



Thank you all!
Observe these Bibles!



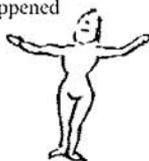
Vera...



where did I go wrong? Did I over-book my time with other partners?

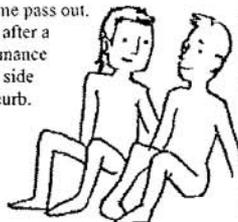


what happened to us?



Things used to be so perfect two years ago.

we were both head over heels for each other. Our first kiss almost made me pass out. It was after a performance on the side walk curb.



So much anticipation lead up to the moment.



when it finally happened.

From the very beginning we decided an open relationship would be something we both wanted. We would commit ourselves to being honest, ethical, and transparent on all fronts.

We were building our future together the way we wanted it to be. A life apart from jealousy and possessiveness with a relationship founded on trust and communication

We had discussions early on in the relationship about how committed we would be to each other.

How we would set ourselves apart from a world that institutionalized enclosure.

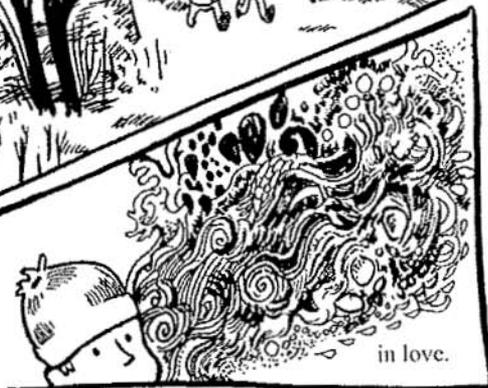


We consented on respecting each others choices, even if it meant leaving the relationship.

We could keep it fluid, natural, and mutually beneficial.

We were so in love with each other maybe I had assumed that it would never end.

we were inseparable.



in love.



We confided in each other so much, friends joked we were monogamous. On tour we would always make time to prepare meals together. As fluid as the relationship was...

Arkady



Vera



halloween costumes

Our relationship mirrored our conceptions of gender as something dynamic, fluid, and unstable. Our relationship boundaries were like the oceans; in constant motion, in some places more defined, or "thickly coded," than others always affected by local conditions. At the same time we were farmers or coast managers carefully, or not so carefully tending to subtle weather changes and erosion.

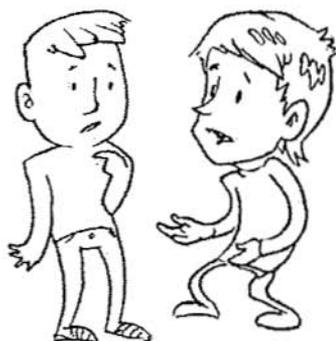


...it was a production of routine, methodical, and recurring get togethers. One of our favorite rituals was starting spontaneous dance parties with strangers to whatever music was around.

.....okay so I wasn't always the best partner



Sometimes I would forget Vera was around.



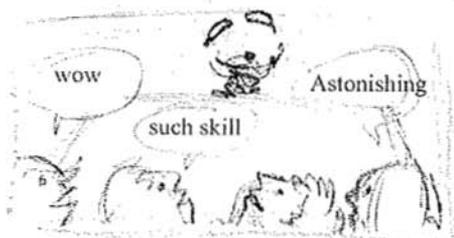
He'd feel out of place and I blamed him.



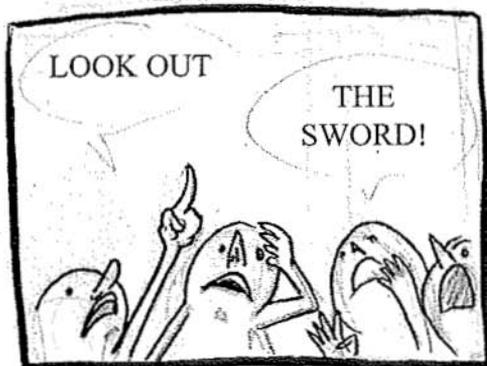
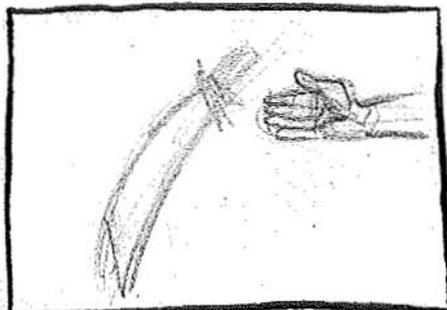
I'd forget to tell him when I was with other partners

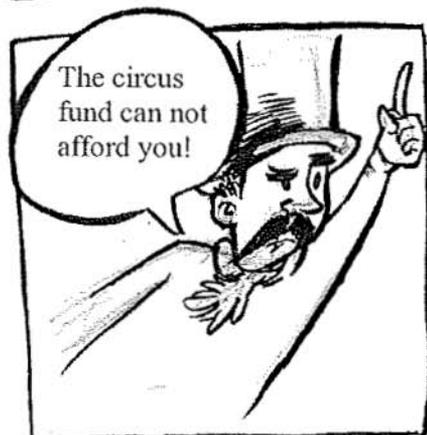


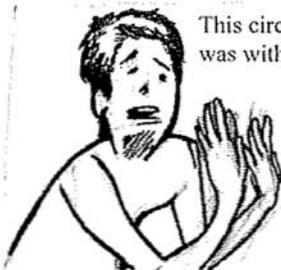
and he'd find evidence of it



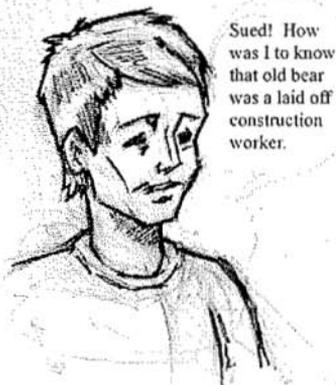
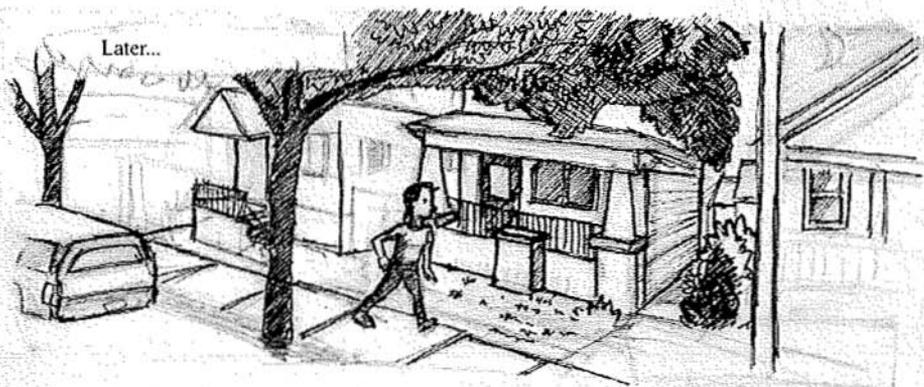
..Vera



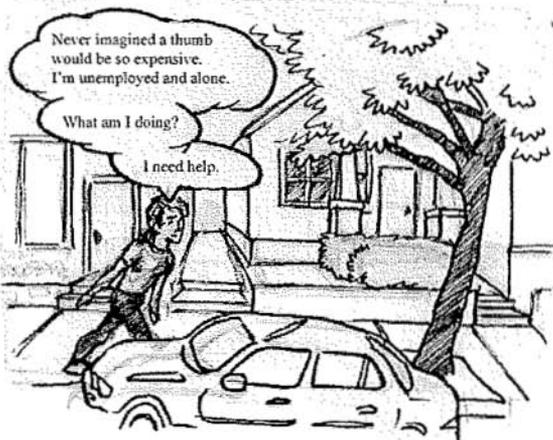




This circus has been my life. I was with it from the beginning.



Sued! How was I to know that old bear was a laid off construction worker.





Thanks again for picking up this zine! You've made it to the Second Chapter.



keep reading to find out what kind of trouble Arkady gets himself into

yea no work and the economy sucks

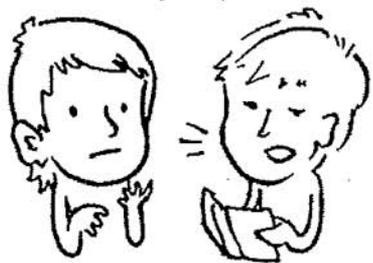


With no family to turn to I have my community to help me out. Only, everyone I know is just scraping by. Vera and the Circus were the biggest part of my life. I have to start all over again.

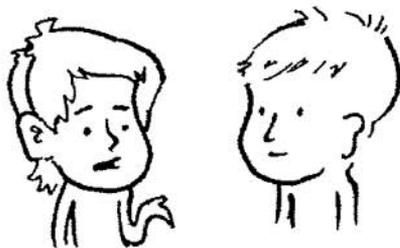


How did we start things out?

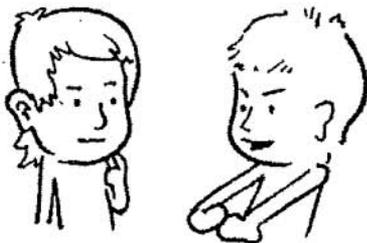
we read books to each other about the potential issues to look out for and related what we knew about ourselves



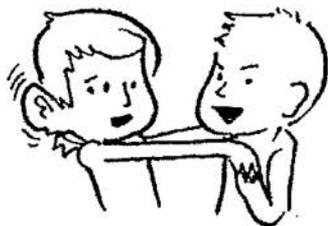
we practiced routinely checking in on each others thoughts and feelings.



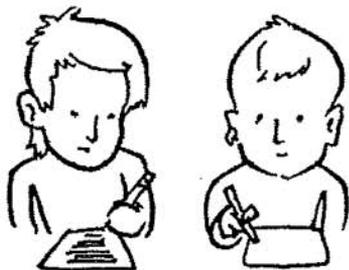
we promised to be open and honest with each other about everything



and when unexpected things came up that we hadn't prepared for, we would talk about it



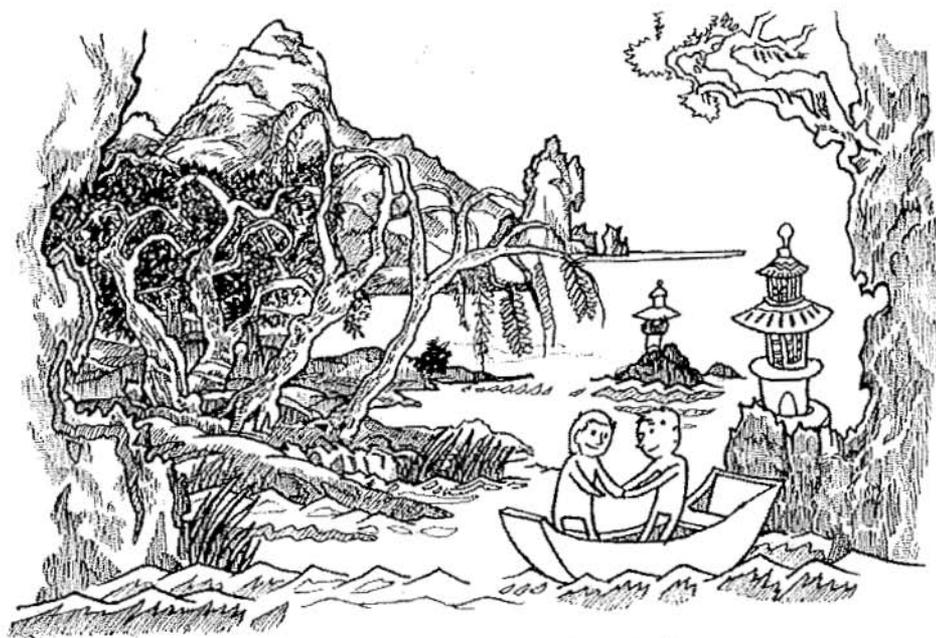
even writing down our plans & what we wanted



We set guidelines for enjoying everything good about relationships; the interdependence, trust, companionship, shared activities, and mutual acceptance.

Only in the end it was me that avoided negotiating the awkward parts of the relationship.

I would avoid the difficult parts...



in favor of the exotic and fantastical.



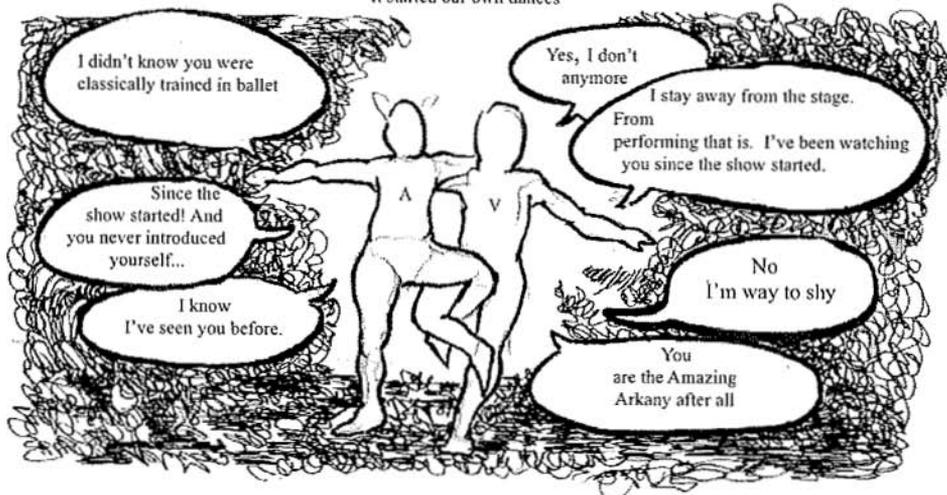
When the carnival started out we did a series of Comédie larmoyante, French tragic comedies with vaudeville twists and elaborate dance scenes. Naturally thespians and dancers would be the only people in the audience.

Vera would show up regularly.

He liked my dance sections.



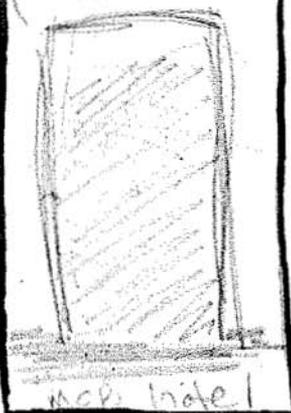
It started our own dances



I can't think about Vera so much right now. I need to consider my chances at getting adopted into the mob family.



They give out loans



It would be dangerous but what other chance have I got?



i need this money fast



I'd be free!

They even offer assignments to help pay off the loan.



You can have it. Pay us back running errands for us, but remember you fail its your LIFE



I wouldn't have to worry about interest rates.

it could work with my sperm donating job.

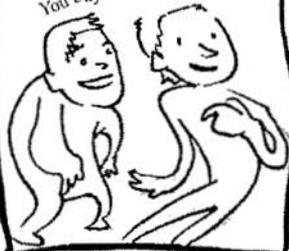
Could I even enjoy it?



Stan I'm payed off. Lets go celebrate together.



You buy the drinks!



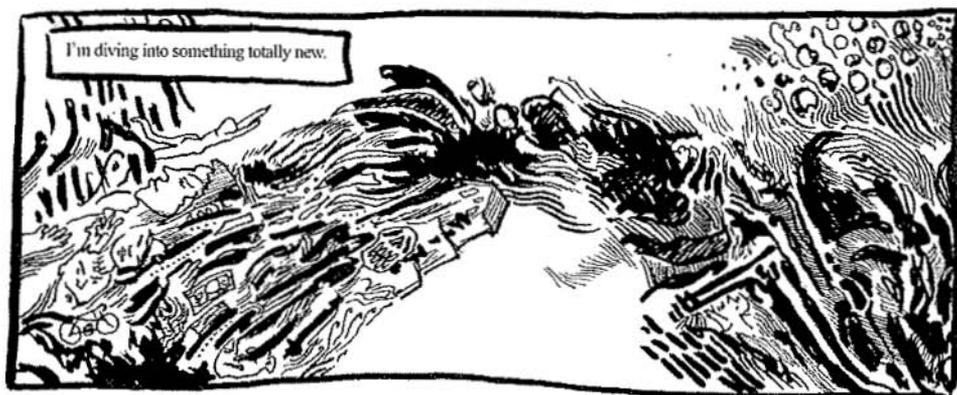
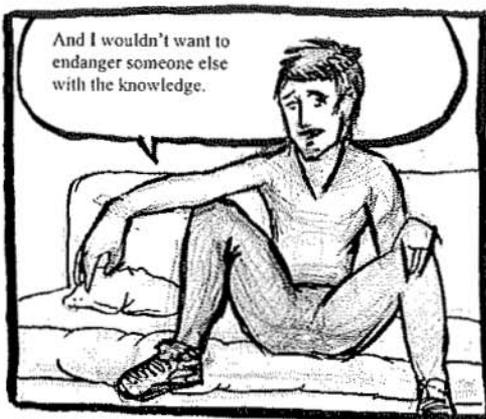
And we can dance all night!

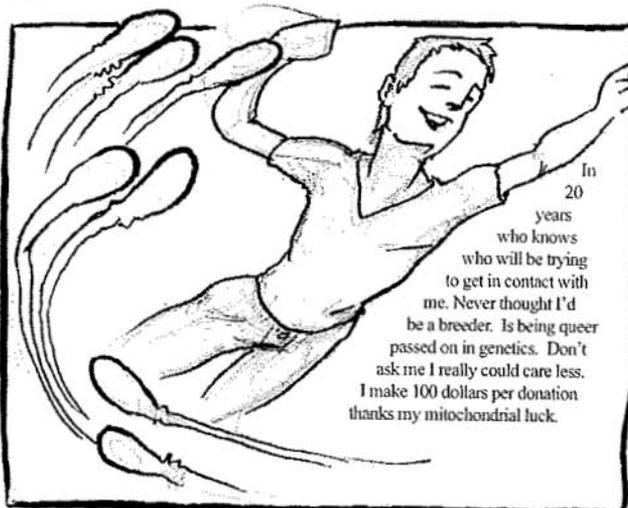
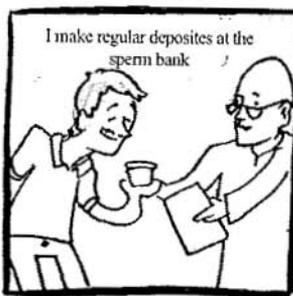
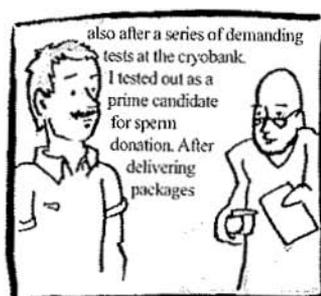
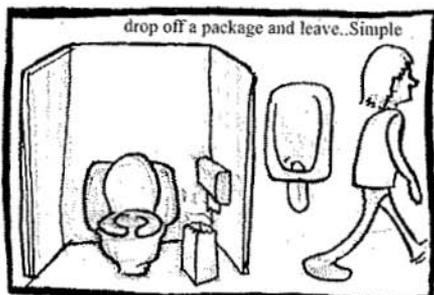
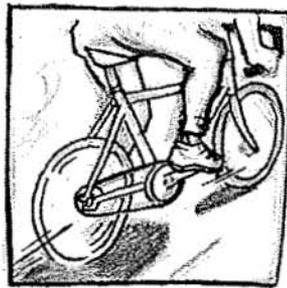
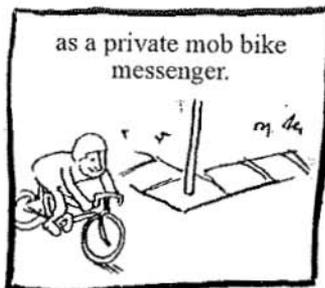


I'd always have to be ready and on call for work



the family needs you..





Everything about the mob's tasks were easy - until I realized I was trafficking illegal narcotics. I should have known outright this was a job that would inevitably compromise my values. I was helping tear my community apart.



also familiar faces started to show up. Were criminal investigators starting to know?



To escape the commitment I started to pay the mob out of my sperm bank funds. (Hoping they wouldn't Reassign me.)



I started to feel like a hostage in my own neighborhood. -on rare occasions...



...when romantic opportunities presented themselves



My affair with the mob would constantly interfere



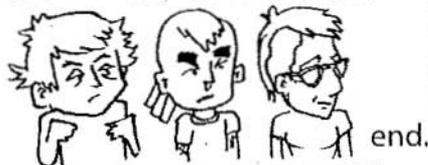
and the lingering heartbreak stole the pleasure from it all.



My obsession with the past and uncertain future were starting to make me sick, nauseous with guilt and then with the flu



More and more I started to suspect police trackers on my back. One false alarm had me so terrified my house mates started to wonder.





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or snail mail
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HOUSE MATES

Think Arkady is some kind of selfish loner. Think again. Next issue meet his crazy House Mates!

Angus



Angus is the smartest one. loves the internet and being sarcastic. likes revolt. riot porn and living post-vegan in a vegan world. eats bacon & fast food proudly. reads "insurrectional" texts from Europe. hates liberals and hipsters. loves wolves and nihilism.

Richard



Richard likes growing stuff, bikes, stringed instruments, tools, dumpsters, dice games, wild edibles, pitbull-terrier mixes, DIY stuff, Homebrew, and bon fires under the bridge. hates showers, long term commitments, monocultures, upward mobility, social networking, and oogles

Grant



The Older, Wise Person. Dish washer, Artist. Likes younger boys, smoking cigs, weed, Eastern mysticism, flowers, poetry, and not getting mail.



and these sexual tonic herbs!!!

Chlorophytum borivilianum (Safed Musli), Curuligo orchioides (Kali Musli), Asparagus racemosus (Shatavari or Shatavar)



