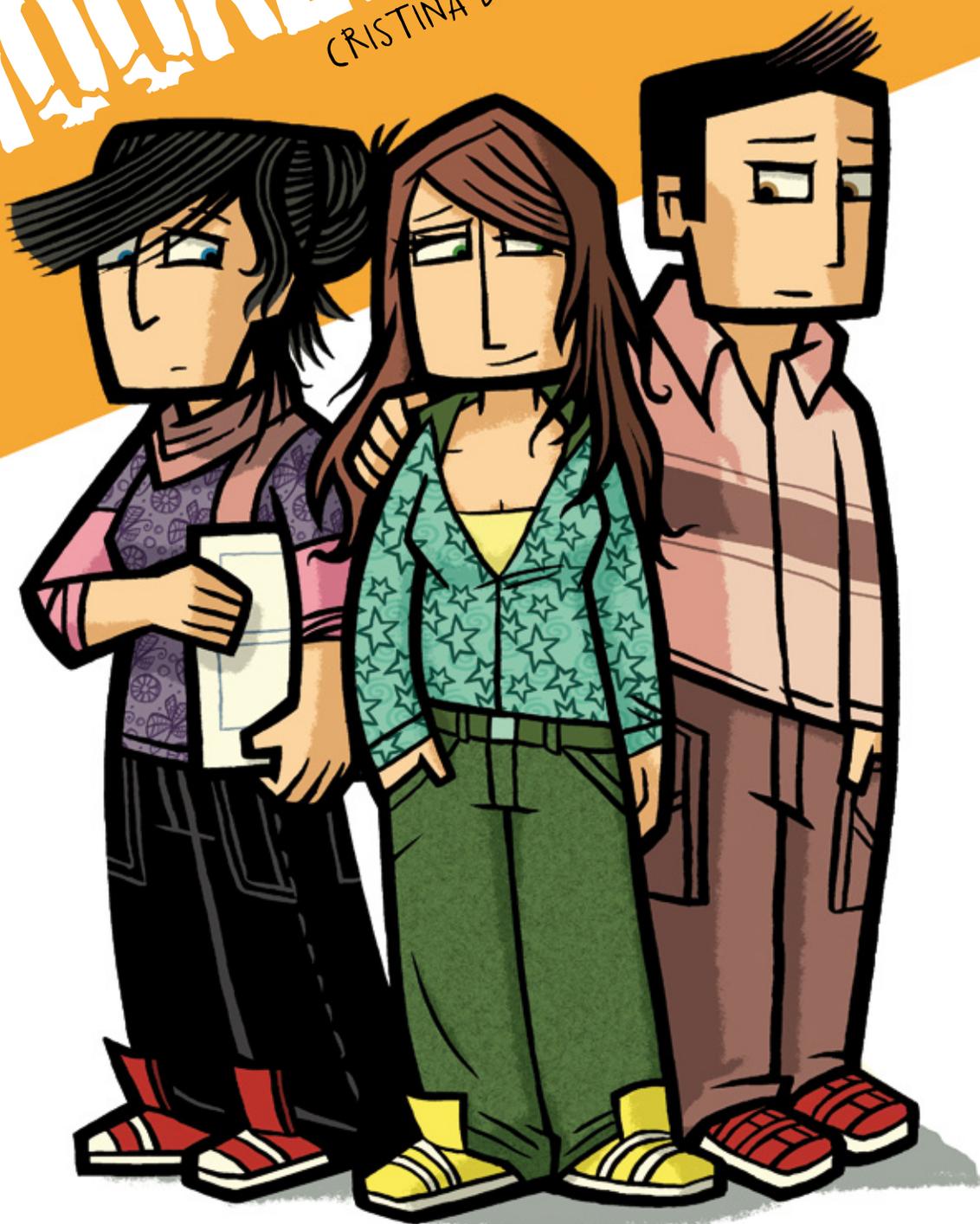


HOOKED ON YOU

CRISTINA DURÁN / MIGUEL A. GINER BOU



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL POLICY AND EQUALITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EQUALITY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATE FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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OLIVIA AND MARTIN'S STORY
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FOREWORD

It might seem made up, a cautionary tale rather than a true story, or something surreal and far off, as if real life had nothing to do with the pictures in the comic-strip or the characters with people we see every day on the metro or bus. But I can assure you that Olivia and Martin's story is real and the characters in it aren't from another planet or a figment of someone's imagination. The main characters could be any of those girls or boys you see each day around school or down at the local shopping centre. People you know, girls who fall for boys who seem lovely at first, but who then start thinking they own the girl, that she belongs to him...and they stop being lovely and turn violent.

A survey conducted by the Ministry of Equality on teenage girls and boys across Spain shows that roughly 1 in every 10 girls says they have experienced an abusive situation at the hands of the boy they are going out with. A little more, 1.3 in every 10 teenage boys, admit to behaving aggressively towards their girlfriends. So you see, it's not all that uncommon and it is closer than you think. Maybe you think I'm exaggerating and you wonder what these guys have done for us to think they have been abusive. I'll tell you: these guys themselves admit to, for example, hitting their girlfriends, making them feel afraid, insulting them or making them look a fool, or they have made them feel that they are worthless. They have also sent images of their girlfriends or messages with their mobile or over the internet to insult them or humiliate them...to name just a few of these things. As you can see, this isn't just kids' stuff. It is the complete opposite. These are genuine acts of aggression that form part of the violence suffered by women, even the very youngest.

This is why it is really important for you to be aware of this kind of violence and understand that it appears to be the most normal thing, as if it was just a part of being in a couple, or at least part of being with a particular partner, which means it is justified instead of rejected. What's more, it is very widespread as you have seen: remember, nearly 10% of teenagers admit to experiencing it or inflicting it at some time! It can happen anywhere, forget about poverty, conflict, alcoholism and drug addiction...any teenage boy can inflict it if they decide to do so; it all depends on his will.

And if this is the case, have you ever wondered why so many teenage boys inflict it in all kinds of places? This is a good question. If the same kind of behaviour appears in highly different circumstances, it means there must be something in common to all of them, something that is nothing to do with whether the parents earn more or less money, whether the family have a higher or lower level of education, whether they live in one neighbourhood or another, ...if it was a result of certain circumstances, it

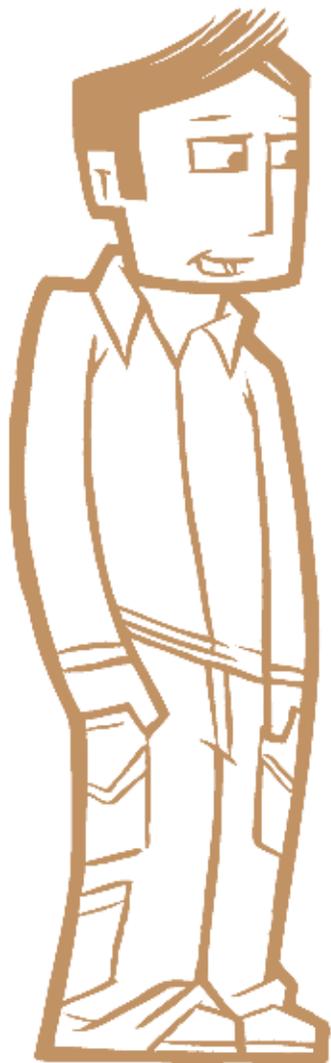
would be associated with them. Yet it's not. Being violent to women crosses all barriers and situations to arise in any couple if that is what the aggressor wants. They all have the same cultural references. By culture I'm not talking about cultural expression in the form of art, literature, painting or music, etc. I mean values that our culture gives us to organize how we live in society and the functions and roles assigned to us as part of these cultural references so we grow up to be "real" men and women. These values say different things to girls and boys, allowing some boys to feel that they should control "their girl" as part of a commitment to the relationship so they don't look bad and his friends don't think he's under the thumb or that she could cheat on him with his friends. And these values make girls believe that when "their guy" gets tough or tells them not to talk to other friends (whether girls or boys), or tells them to wear different clothes... he does it for love, because he's jealous and jealousy means love.

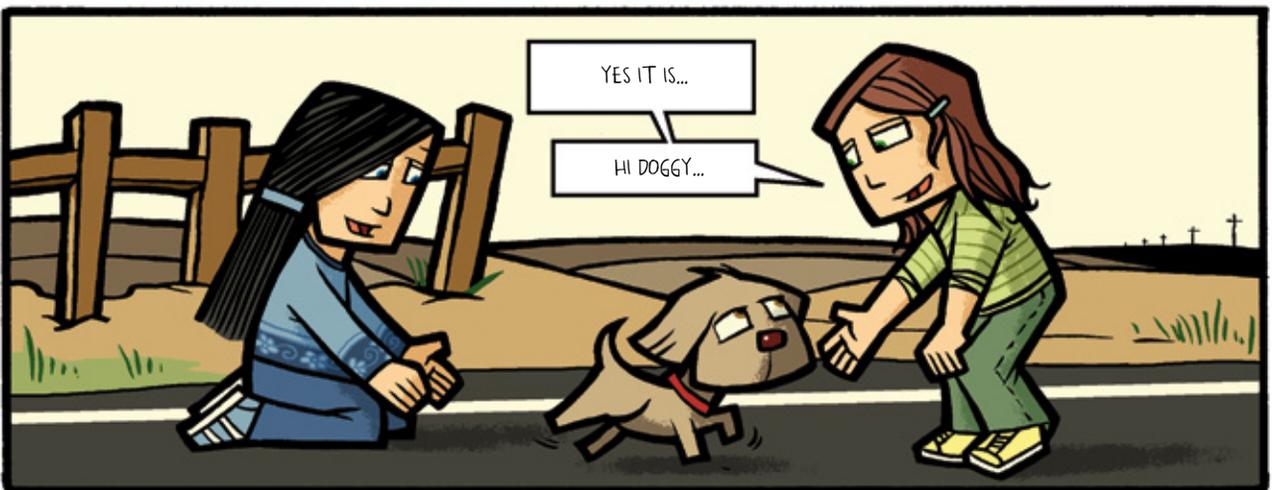
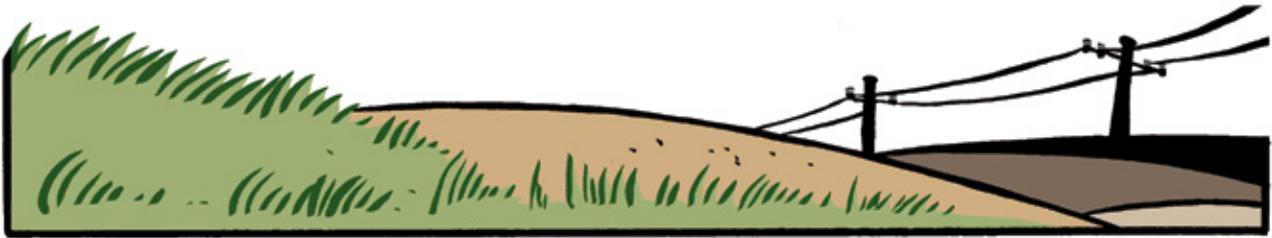
And that's completely true: he does do it for love, but love of himself, because he is selfish and thinks he owns her. These values make him think that he is the one who can set limits in such a way that the relationship adapts to what a culture built by men believes a relationship between a couple should be. This is how deception occurs, which leads to the most serious expressions of inequality; these include violence to and discrimination of women, the same as "it's no time for a girl to be out" or "this place isn't suitable for a woman".

Where there is love, there cannot be violence. And everything that involves imposing, limiting or controlling a girl's will is violence because it forces her to obey her boyfriend, and because it leads him to act in a more violent way by means of aggression to correct what he considers to be wrong or feeling that it is her behaviour that threatens his status as a man.

Putting up with this behaviour doesn't mean you love him more or that he is more of a man by behaving like that. The human condition is based on respect for Human Rights. If you find yourselves in situations like those described in the comic-strip or you know that it is happening to someone you know, don't hesitate, hesitation always traps the person suffering from the violence and reinforces the person being violent as the only thing it does is draw it out over time and prolong the circumstances surrounding it. Ask questions, raise the issue, call 016, ask for help and give it yourselves like Olivia's friends do. We need to build a better society where there is no longer any violence. By taking action together, we can succeed.

Miguel Lorente Acosta
Government Delegate for Gender-based Violence







THERE YOU ARE, YOU STUPID ANIMAL!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO OBEY YOUR OWNER...



HE... HE WAS PLAYING WITH US AND... AND...

I'LL TEACH YOU!

WHACK!



WHIMPER! WHIMPER!



WHIMPER! WHIMPER!

WHIMPER! WHIMPER!

LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU BULLY!



OLIVIA! OLIVIA, HELP ME!

WHIMPER! WHIMPER!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU WANT SOME TOO, DO YA?

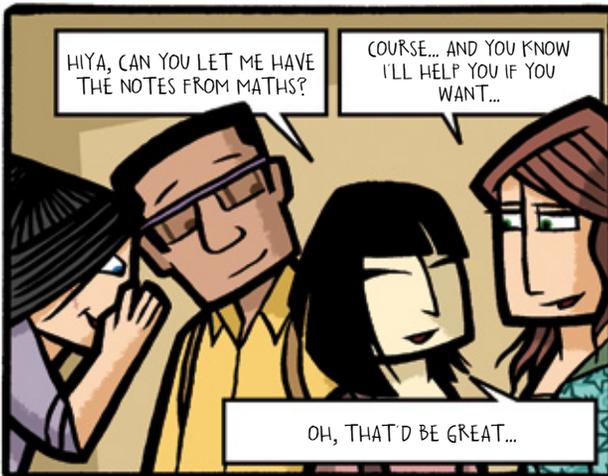


O... OLIVIA DO SOMETHING...

WHACK!



OOO... OLI... VIAAAA...





MARTIN!

YEAH?



ISN'T THAT THE GIRL YOU FANCIED?



OH MY GOD! DID YOU SEE HOW HE JUST LOOKED AT YOU? TALK ABOUT OBVIOUS!



OH MY GOD, I THINK I JUST WENT BRIGHT RED! I'M GONNA POUNCE ON HIM AT THE PARTY.

YEAH RIGHT, THAT'S NOT EXACTLY YOUR STYLE...



WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW.

CIAO.



MUM, DAD, I'M HOME.

HI SWEETHEART.

O.. LI... VAAA...



WHO'S THAT I CAN SEE? IT'S MY LITTLE BUDDHA...

OLI... VAAA...



HELLO LOVE, GIVE ME A HAND WITH YOUR BROTHER, I NEED TO START THE SUPPER.

O.. LI... VAAA...



HI MUM, I'LL GIVE ADRIAN HIS SUPPER...

OLI... VAAA...



SO, HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?

FINE, SAME AS USUAL...

JUST FINE? SO WHAT'S THAT TWINKLE IN YOUR EYE?



ERRRR... WEEELLLL... I THINK THERE'S A BOY WHO LIKES ME...



BITE THE DUST, YOU MINGING ZOMBIE!

****! THEY'VE KILLED ME AGAIN!

MARTIN, SUPPER IS READY!



ARE YOU STAYING FOR SUPPER, RICARDO?

NO, NO, I SAID I'D BE BACK FOR SUPPER AND I DON'T WANT PROBLEMS WITH THE OLD MAN.



WHATEVER... BY THE WAY I THINK I'M GONNA TRY AND PULL THAT GIRL FROM SCHOOL...

THAT OLIVIA? SHE'S A FOX...



YEAH, I REALLY FANCY HER.

WELL, THEY'RE ALL THE SAME REALLY...



I DUNNO... I'LL TRY AND PULL HER AT THE PARTY ON FRIDAY...

WHATEVER, BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SO: THEY'RE ALL A PAIN IN THE NECK.



RICARDO'S NOT STAYING, WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

I'VE LEFT A SANDWICH OUT FOR YOU... I'VE ALREADY HAD MINE.



WHERE'S DAD?

HE'S BUSY AT THE OFFICE, HE'LL BE BACK LATE...

AS USUAL...

YEAH, AS USUAL...



Hi...

HIVA!

IT'S OLIVIA, ISN'T IT?

AND YOU'RE MARTIN...

HA HA, YOU'VE GOT THE SAME NAME AS POPEYE'S GIRLFRIEND.

AND THE SAME ONE AS THE GIRL IN FRINGE...

?

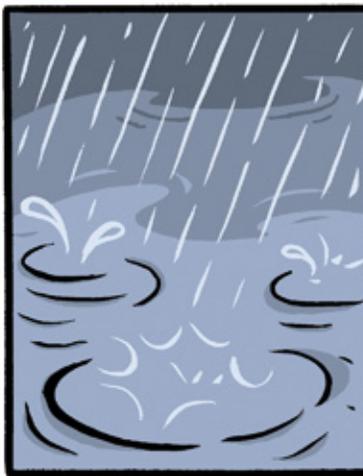
AM I ON TIME?

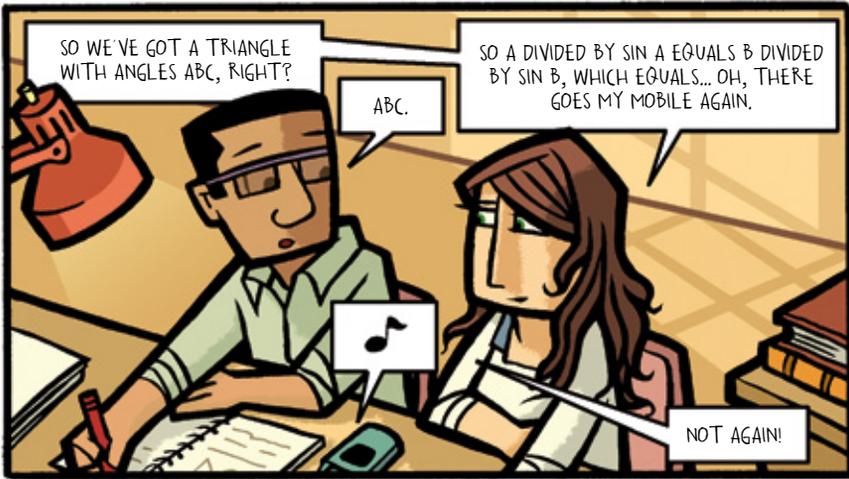
DEPENDS...

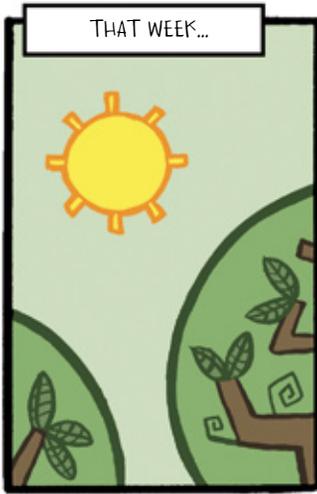
ON WHAT?

ON WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE ON TIME FOR...









THAT WEEK...



I CAN BRING THE DRINKS...

HI GUYS, WHAT'S UP?



HI OLI, WE'RE PLANNING TO GO TO THE BEACH THEN THE CINEMA ON SATURDAY.

FANCY IT?



COURSE! IT SOUNDS GREAT!

I'LL TELL MARTIN LATER... WE'LL DEFINITELY COME!



HI BABE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

KILLING ZOMBIES, WANNA JOIN ME?

COURSE! AS IF YOU NEED TO ASK...



WE'RE GOING TO THE BEACH THEN THE CINEMA ON SATURDAY...

ON SATURDAY? I'VE GOT A MATCH ON SATURDAY...



WELL, UHM... I'LL GO, I REALLY FEEL LIKE IT...



WHAT? I THOUGHT WERE COMING TO SEE US PLAY...

... IT'S A BIG MATCH.

ER... IT'S JUST IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I WENT OUT WITH THEM...

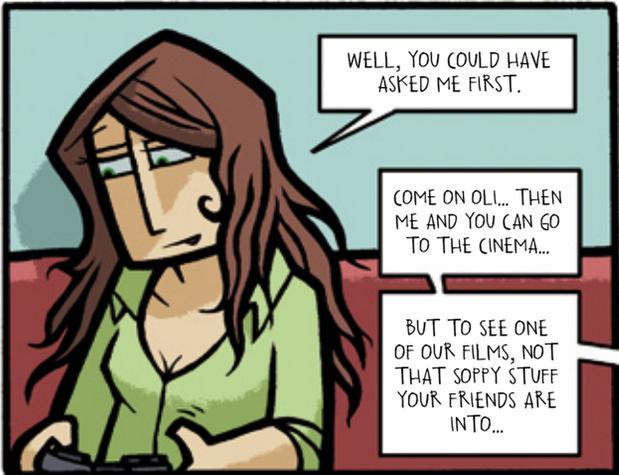


WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T WE PLAYING ANYMORE?

IT'S JUST, FOR GOD'S SAKE OLI, YOU MAKE EVERYTHING SO COMPLICATED...

I'VE ALREADY TOLD THE GUYS YOU'RE COMING...

I'D REALLY LIKE YOU TO BE THERE...



WELL, YOU COULD HAVE ASKED ME FIRST.

COME ON OLI... THEN ME AND YOU CAN GO TO THE CINEMA...

BUT TO SEE ONE OF OUR FILMS, NOT THAT SOPPY STUFF YOUR FRIENDS ARE INTO...



AND BY THE WAY... CAN YOU DO YOUR TOP UP A BIT? I CAN SEE EVERYTHING...

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

COME ON, IT'S NO BIG DEAL...



OH.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IT WAS OLIVIA... GUESS WHAT?

SHE'S NOT COMING ON SATURDAY.

KNEW IT!

WELL, IT'S NORMAL THEY'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO!

OH PEDRITO, YOU'VE GOT A ONE TRACK MIND.



THIS ONE'S NICE, MUM.

TH...THAT ONE?



YES, WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? DON'T YOU LIKE IT?

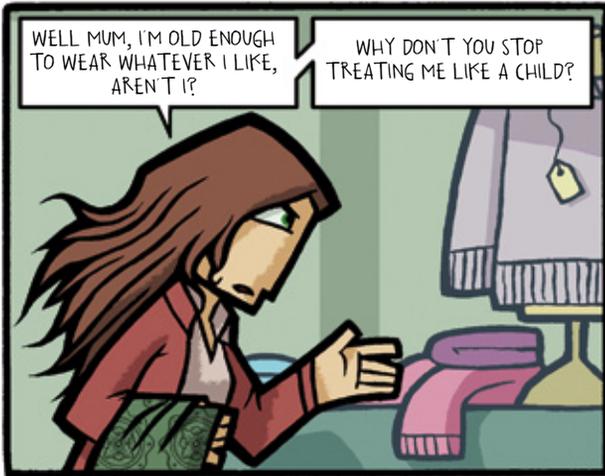
YES, YES I LIKE IT I'M JUST SURPRISED YOU DO.



WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? IT SUITS ME.

IT'S JUST AS YOU ALWAYS WEAR SHORT SKIRTS, I'M NOT USED TO SEEING YOU WITH SUCH A LONG ONE...

SKIIIIIRT...
OOO... LI... VAAA.



WELL MUM, I'M OLD ENOUGH TO WEAR WHATEVER I LIKE, AREN'T I?

WHY DON'T YOU STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD?



NO DARLING, IT'S NOT THAT...

AND STOP TALKING DOWN TO ME LIKE THAT...

...I CAN'T STAND IT.



IT'S MARTIN... HE'S WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE...

I'M OFF.

OLIVIAAA...
CROOOOSSS...



WH...WHAT ABOUT THE SKIRT?

I DON'T CARE! JUST LEAVE IT THERE!



THE NEXT MORNING AT SCHOOL...



LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE IN A SITUATION OF RISK AND THEY DON'T REALISE IT...

AND REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPORT IT, TO REQUEST A RESTRAINING ORDER AND TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON LEGAL PROCEDURES...

THERE'S ALSO THE 016(*) HELPLINE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. I'LL LEAVE YOU A LEAFLET...

016(*): Helpline providing legal advice and information on gender-based violence.



OK, PLEASE THANK THE SPOKESWOMAN FROM THE VIOLENCE UNIT OF THE EQUALITY MINISTRY FOR HER TIME.

OLIVIA, CAN YOU HANG ON A MINUTE?



I'M IN A HURRY...

IT WON'T TAKE A MOMENT...



THANK YOU VERY MUCH, IT WAS A PLEASURE...



DID YOU LIKE THE TALK?

IT WAS VERY INFORMATIVE...

I SEE YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH MARTIN FROM THE FOOTBALL TEAM...

YEAH...SO WHAT?



I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU KNEW I COACHED HIM FOR A FEW YEARS, HOW'S IT GOING WITH HIM?

THAT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...

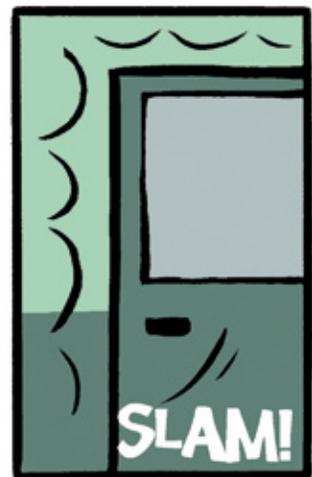
COME ON OLIVIA, DON'T TRY AND ACT TOUGH, IT'S NOT YOUR STYLE...



WHAT IS MY STYLE IS FOR PEOPLE TO LEAVE ME ALONE...

JUST TAKE THE LEAFLET AND HAVE A LOOK AT IT, PLEASE...

WHATEVER YOU SAY... AND IF YOU'VE FINISHED HAVING A GO AT ME, I'M GOING...





DO YOU LIKE IT?

CAROL, THIS IS AMAZING...



CAROL? YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT FOR AGES... SINCE WE WERE LITTLE...

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT PUPPY?

LARACROF!

HOW COULD I FORGET?



GOD... WE WERE SO SCARED.

YEAH, DO YOU REMEMBER I SAID YOU WERE LIKE A BLOCK OF WOOD?

AHA...



IT'S JUST THAT.. UHM... YOU'RE A BIT LIKE THAT NOW, OLIVIA...

YOU'RE PUSHING US AWAY, YOUR FRIENDS...



***** CAROLINA! NOT YOU AS WELL!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

WELL YOU CAN STOP WORRYING BECAUSE I'M A BIG GIRL NOW...

BUT OLIVIA...



LOOK, WHAT WE'VE GOT IS SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL...

YOU LOT DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW WE FEEL.

ESPECIALLY YOU... YOU'D NEVER GET A GUY LIKE THAT...

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

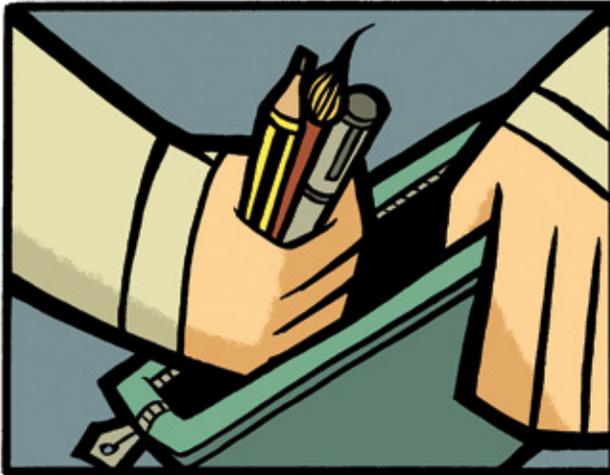
DO I REALLY NEED TO SPELL IT OUT?



PFFF...

SLAM!





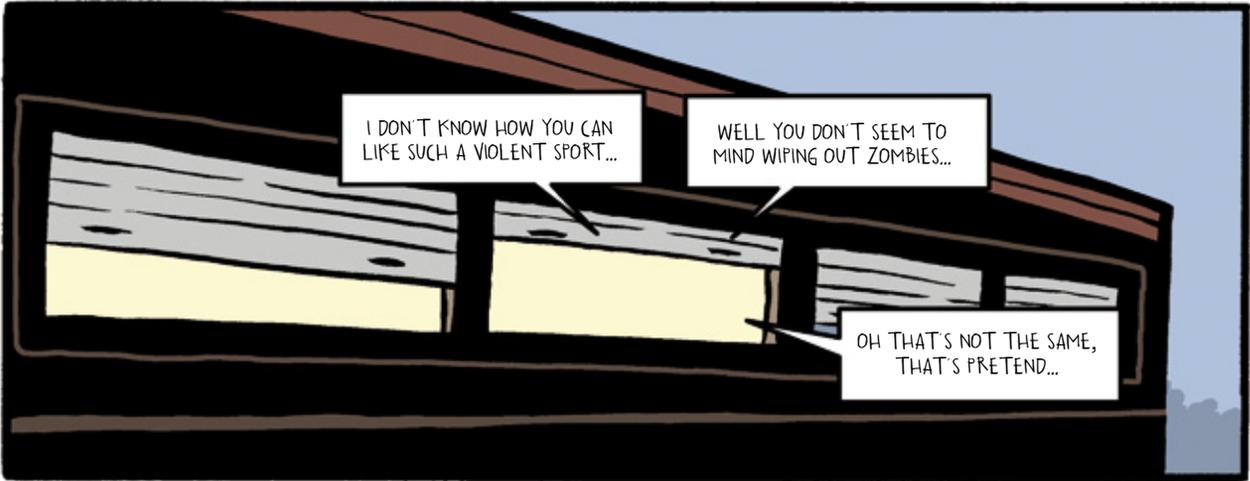




SUNDAY EVENING.

HEY, YOU'VE GOT A MASSIVE BRUISE ON YOUR RIBS...

OH, THAT'LL BE FROM YESTERDAY'S MATCH...



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN LIKE SUCH A VIOLENT SPORT...

WELL YOU DON'T SEEM TO MIND WIPING OUT ZOMBIES...

OH THAT'S NOT THE SAME, THAT'S PRETEND...

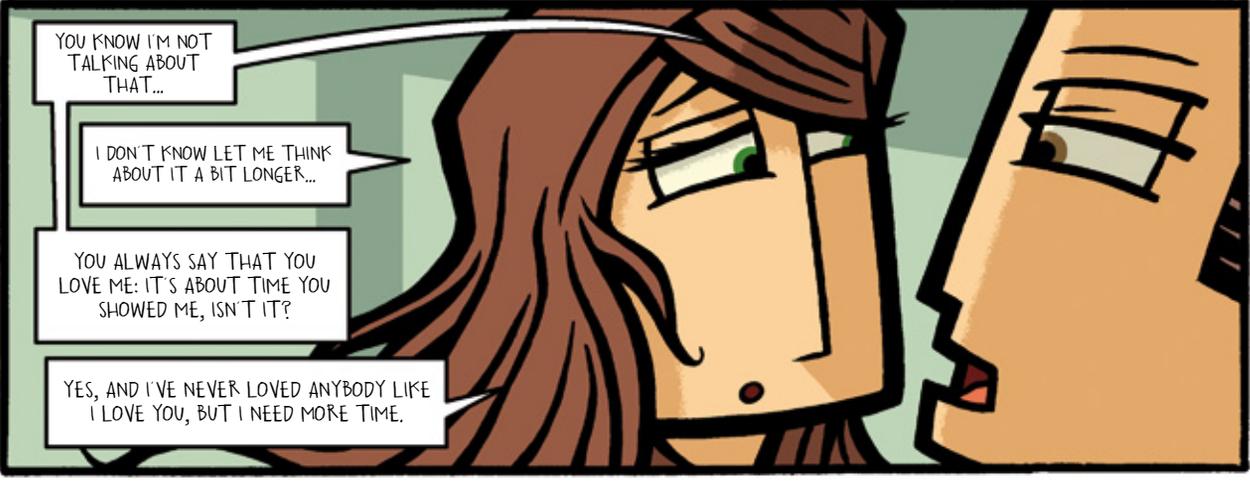


HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I SAID?

ABOUT KILLING ZOMBIES?

NO STUPID, ABOUT TAKING IT FURTHER...

THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU TAKE PHOTOS OF ME WITH YOUR MOBILE!



YOU KNOW I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT...

I DON'T KNOW LET ME THINK ABOUT IT A BIT LONGER...

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME: IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED ME, ISN'T IT?

YES, AND I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYBODY LIKE I LOVE YOU, BUT I NEED MORE TIME.



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MONTHS, I CAN'T WAIT FOREVER...

WHAT WE'VE GOT IS SPECIAL, YOU'LL NEVER FIND ANYTHING LIKE IT...



THE OTHER DAY I SAW YOU FOOLING AROUND WITH SOME GIRLS...

OH THAT? THAT'S NOTHING, IT'S NORMAL FOR GUYS TO FOOL AROUND...



YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T LET ANYONE GO ANYWHERE NEAR ME...



... AND IF THEY DO YOU SPEND AGES NOT SPEAKING TO ME AND YOU GET IN A RIGHT STROP...

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! YOU'VE CHANGED THE SUBJECT AGAIN!



SORRY, BUT IT'S STUFF I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT FOR A WHILE...

STUFF? IS THERE ANY OTHER STUFF?

YES, BUT DON'T GET CROSS...



IT'S JUST WE ALWAYS GO OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS... I MISS MINE.

PFFF, YEAH BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE SO STRAIGHT...

AND BORING... YOU'VE SAID IT YOURSELF BEFORE...



IS THAT EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?

UHM...YOUR FRIEND RICARDO...

WHAT ABOUT HIM?



I DON'T KNOW... I JUST DON'T LIKE HIM... YOU ACT DIFFERENTLY WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM.

HE ISN'T A GOOD INFLUENCE...

HE ISN'T A GOOD INFLUENCE? YOU SOUND LIKE MY OLD WOMAN!



LOOK, RICARDO'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME...

HIS FAMILY HAVE PROBLEMS AND I KIND OF FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM...

IF YOU'RE AS KIND AS YOU SAY, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT, SHOULDN'T YOU?





WHAT THE **** DID YOU TELL MY MUM AND DAD?!

CALM DOWN OLIVIA...



CALM DOWN?! MY FOLKS ARE PACKING ME OFF TO IRELAND FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER!

AND JUST WHEN I'D SORTED MY HOLIDAY OUT WITH MARTIN...

YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO YOUR FOLKS...



THE THING IS YOU DON'T REALISE BUT YOU'RE NOT YOU ANYMORE, IT'S LIKE YOU'VE HAD A PERSONALITY TRANSPLANT...



THAT'S MY BUSINESS!! AND YOU SHOULD LEAVE OUT OF IT!

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE MY FRIEND AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

WELL FROM NOW ON YOU'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FINDING ANOTHER FRIEND TO PUT UP WITH YOUR STUPID IDEAS...



HEY, THAT'S OUT OF ORDER...

YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT YOU'RE SO JEALOUS YOU CAN'T STAND IT.



IF EVERYTHING'S SO GREAT WITH HIM, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM ABOUT LAST SATURDAY NIGHT?



LAST SATURDAY? THEY WERE PLAYING AWAY...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?



YOU'RE JUST NOT THE SAME ANYMORE OLIVIA, YOU'VE LOST YOUR SPARK...

YOU'RE... YOU'RE LIKE THAT LITTLE DOG THAT LOOKED SO FRIGHTENED AT ITS OWNER...

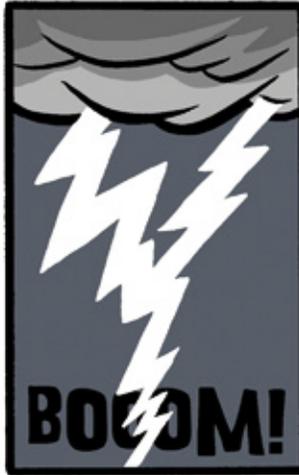


THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LIKE WHEN YOU'RE WITH MARTIN...

NO WAY IS THAT LOVE...



GO TO HELL!











ARE YOU ALRIGHT, CAROL?



THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THERE THEY ARE...

YEAH, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ARGUING.



WHAT DO WE DO IF HE GETS AGGRESSIVE?

HE WOULDN'T DARE WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND.



YEAH, BUT WHAT IF HE DOES?

WELL WE'LL CALL THE POLICE, WON'T WE?





THE END

Survey on Equality and Prevention of Gender-based Violence in
Adolescence at:

www.mpsi.es



Cristina Durán (1970) and Miguel Ángel Giner

Bou (1969) graduated in Fine Arts under the speciality of Drawing from the San Carlos School of Fine Arts in Valencia (UPV). In 1993 they opened the LaGRUAestudio where they have been professionally engaged ever since in comics and editorial and advertising illustration. In 2009, *Ediciones Sins Entido* published its graphic novel *UNA POSIBILIDAD ENTRE MIL*. In March 2010 it was also published in French by the publishing house Dargaud under the title *UNE CHANCE SUR UN MILLION*. The novel was shortlisted for the National Comic Prize 2010 awarded by the Culture Ministry and in 2011 it won second prize in France in the *1er Trophée "les Bds qui font la différence"*.

www.lagruaestudio.com

www.unaposibilidadentremil.com

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