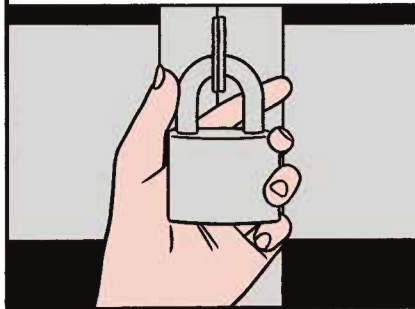




GATE FIVE IS LOCKED.



TUG TO BE CERTAIN.



TURN AROUND. ONE
LAST LOOK TO CONFIRM.



WALK BACK TO MAKE SURE.



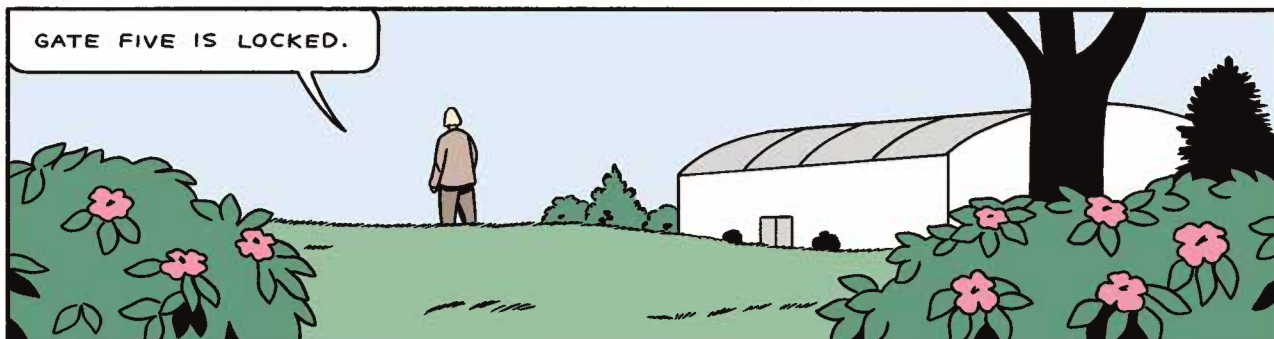
IT *IS* LOCKED. BUT PULL HARD TO BE
EXTRA **EXTRA** CERTAIN.



UNLOCK. RELOCK. TAP TAP. SAY
THE WORDS OUT LOUD:

GATE FIVE IS LOCKED.





GATE FIVE
IS LOCKED.

MONA, WHAT ARE YOU STILL
DOING BACK HERE?

SORRY, I'M RUNNING BE-
HIND. CANDY WASN'T COOP-
ERATING THIS MORNING.

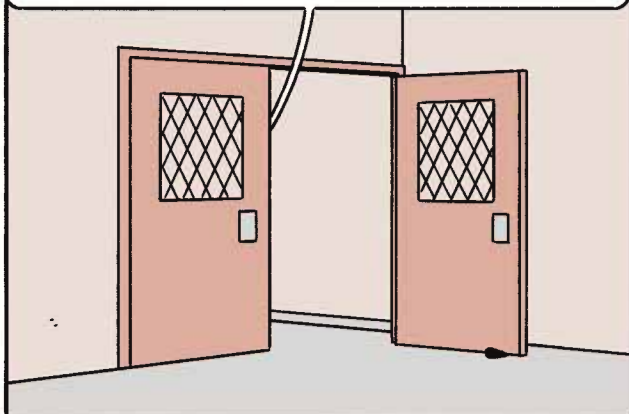
WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS. YOU HAVE
TO BE MORE DECISIVE. EVERY MOMENT
UNNECESSARILY WASTED MEANS ANOTH-
ER ANIMAL ISN'T GETTING PROPER
CARE. IF CANDY'S NOT RESPONDING,
YOU MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TASK
AND COME BACK LATER.

I KNOW. SOMETIMES I HAVE TROUBLE
KNOWING WHEN TO GIVE UP AND
MOVE ON.

YOU HAVE YOUR GUIDELINES. EVERYTHING
ELSE IS INSTINCTIVE. AND YOU CAN'T
KEEP ASKING JAN FOR HELP EVERY
TIME YOU'RE UNSURE.

I KNOW.
THANKS.

MONA, THE OKAPIS ARE STILL IN THE
HOLDING AREA! WHAT THE HELL?



I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST
ABOUT TO LET THEM OUT.



IS THEIR FOOD
EVEN OUT IN
THE EXHIBIT?



I STILL NEED
TO GET IT.



WHAT THE HELL
HAVE YOU BEEN
DOING ALL
MORNING?



SORRY. I AM
TRYING.



GOD DAMMIT. I'LL
GET THEIR FOOD.
THEY BETTER BE ON
DISPLAY BY THE
TIME I GET BACK.



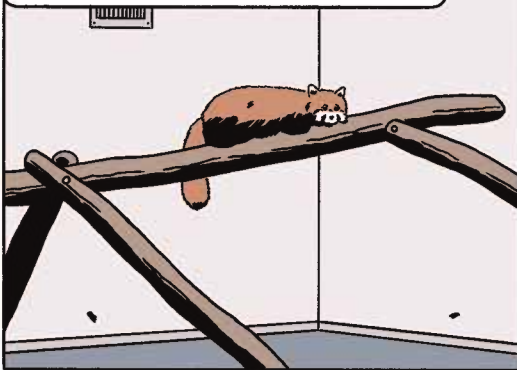
HI! MY NAME IS MAXINE. I'M A KEEPER CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE FOREST SECTION OF THE ZOO.



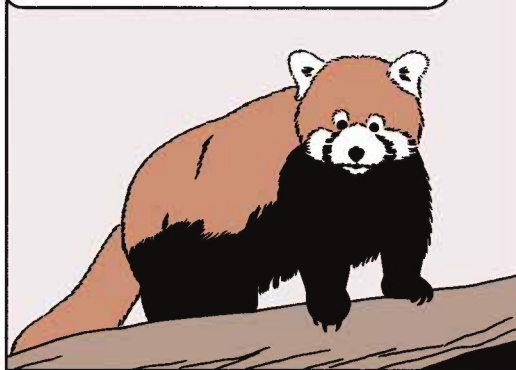
WE'RE IN THE MAIN HOLDING CORRIDOR, WHERE I USUALLY START MY ROUTINE, AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE THE BEST PART OF MY DAY.



THIS IS SYLVIE, OUR RED PANDA.



THIS IS MY BABY. I LOVE HER.



SHE'S MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO A RACCOON THAN A GIANT PANDA, BUT I FIND THAT CLASSIFICATION OVERLY SIMPLISTIC. HOW CAN YOU PLACE HER OTHERWORLDLY BEAUTY IN A CATEGORY?



RED PANDAS COME FROM THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS, THOUGH SYLVIE WAS BORN IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.



SHE'S STOIC AND STANDOFFISH, LIKE MANY RED PANDAS. IT'S A TINY MIRACLE THAT SHE'S ALLOWING ME TO TOUCH HER IN THIS WAY. IT TAKES TIME TO BUILD TRUST.



HOW MANY PEOPLE IN HUMAN HISTORY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS? I'M STRUCK DUMB THAT I GET TO CARE FOR SUCH A SPECIAL ANIMAL EVERY DAY.



EVEN WHEN I'M EXHAUSTED, OR STRESSED OUT, OR THE WEATHER IS BAD, IF I GET TO SPEND TIME WITH SYLVIE, EVERYTHING MELTS AWAY.



I WOULD TAKE HER HOME AND KEEP HER FOREVER, BUT THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL. HA HA.



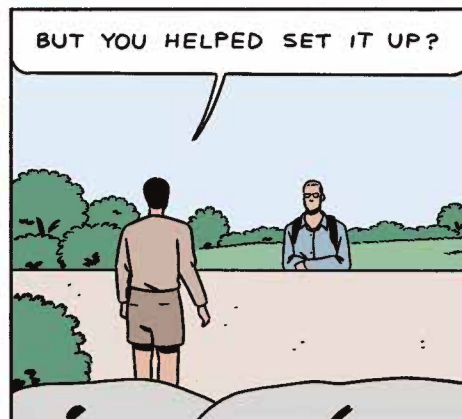
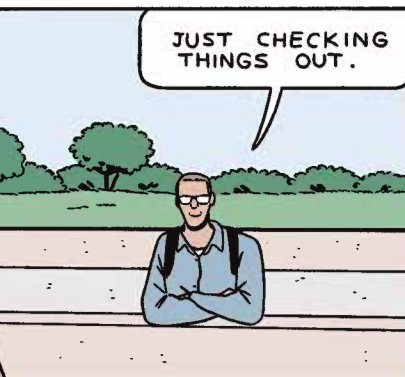
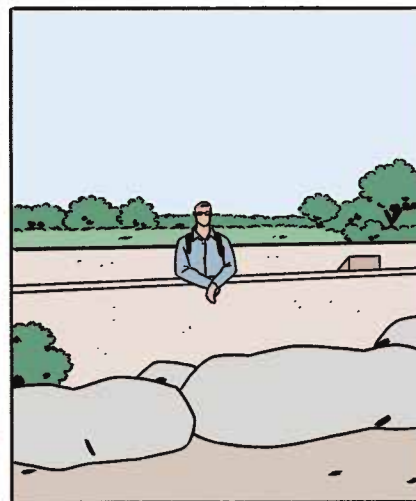
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I PREPARE HER BREAKFAST. FOLLOW ME.

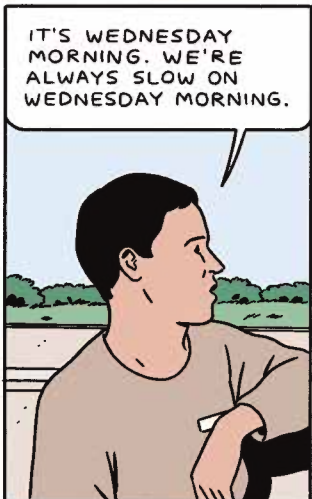
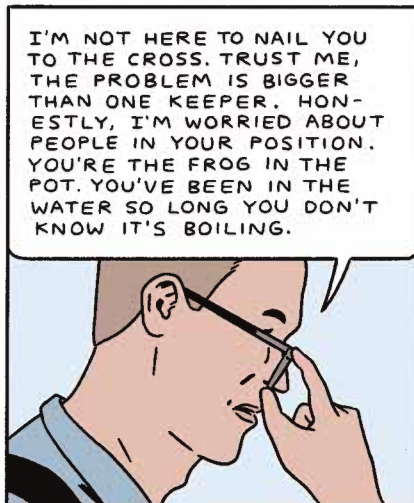


I'VE BEEN AT THIS ZOO FOR TWELVE YEARS, THREE IN THIS SECTION, WHICH IS RIGHT WHERE I WANNA BE.









AND SO YOU KNOW, DEFECTORS ARE SOME OF THE MOST RESPECTED PEOPLE IN OUR MOVEMENT, IF YOU EVER WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE AND ATONE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS BEHIND THE SCENES HERE? WE'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING. WHY DON'T YOU GO HASSLE A SLAUGHTERHOUSE?



I HAVE TIME FOR A LOT OF PROJECTS, BUT THIS ZOO IN PARTICULAR IS OF SPECIAL CONCERN.



IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH OUR EVERY MOVE WAS SCRUTINIZED, YOU'D REALIZE THAT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT KNOWING EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE. DON'T WORRY, I'M ON THE CASE.



HAHA.

WHAT?



YOU'RE A CERTAIN TYPE OF PERSON. EVERYBODY KNOWS A PERSON LIKE YOU.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



IT MEANS EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS.



WELL, FINE. I TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT. IF YOU MEAN THAT I HAVE CONVICTIONS AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF UPSETTING PEOPLE WITH THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR, THEN *FINE*. I'M THAT PERSON.



BUT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I THINK YOU REALLY NEED TO HEAR THIS: UNLESS YOU TURN THIS PLACE INTO DISNEYLAND, AND YOU'RE ALREADY HALFWAY THERE, YOU WON'T EXIST IN A FEW YEARS. RENDERED OBSOLETE AS FREAK SHOWS AND HUMAN ZOOS. **EXTINCT**. GET IT?

SO I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THAT SMUG LOOK ON YOUR FACE DISAPPEAR WHEN YOU'RE FLIPPING BURGERS AT MCDONALD'S, AND I'LL BE THERE TO PROTEST YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.

THAT'S A LITTLE CLASSIST, NO? YOU'RE NOT GONNA WIN OVER US COMMON FOLK WITH THAT ATTITUDE. WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE? ARE YOU FINANCIALLY DIVESTED FROM YOUR RICH PARENTS?

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY LIFE.

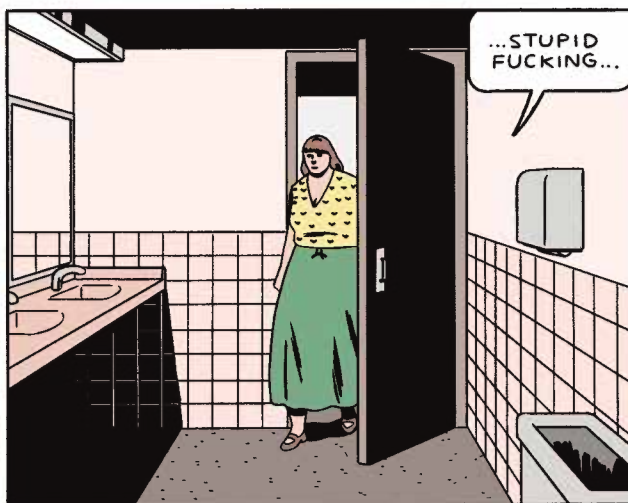
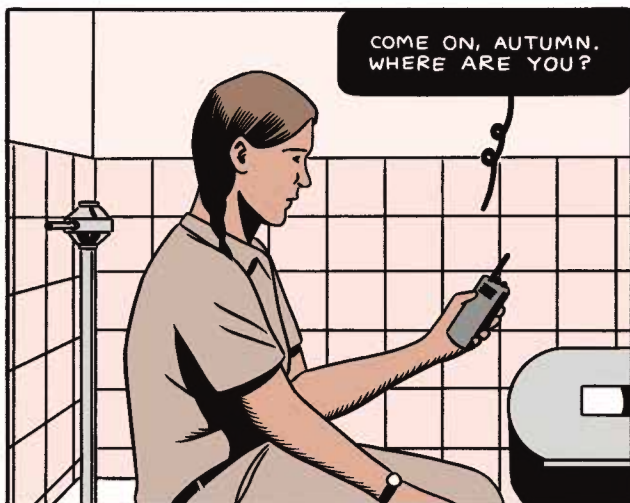
BUT I SUSPECT I'M RIGHT. I CAN SEE IT IN THE WAY YOU CARRY YOURSELF.

YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING. I PITY YOU.

HAVE A GOOD DAY.

ASSHOLE.

COME ON, AUTUMN. WHERE ARE YOU?



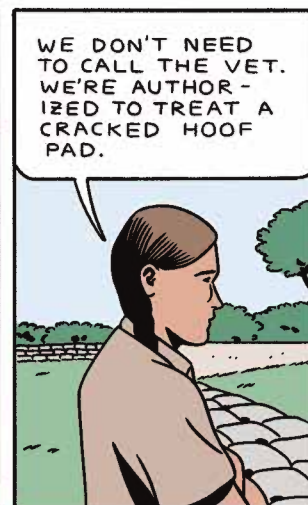
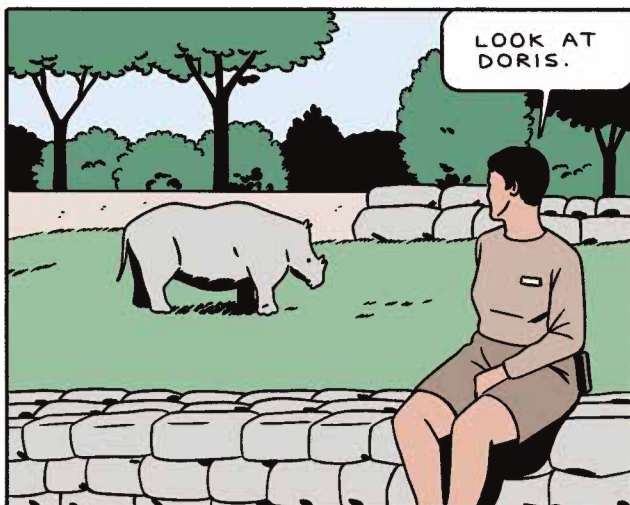
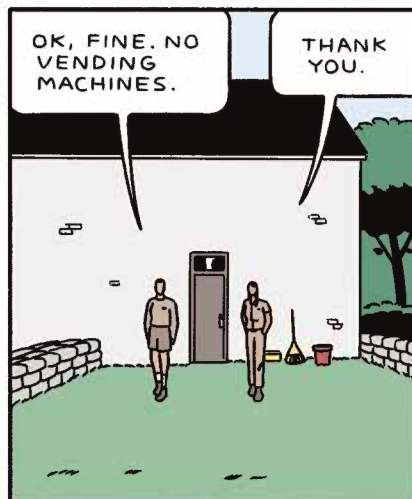
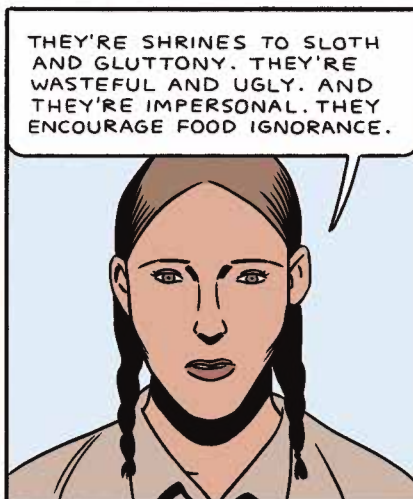
FUCK.

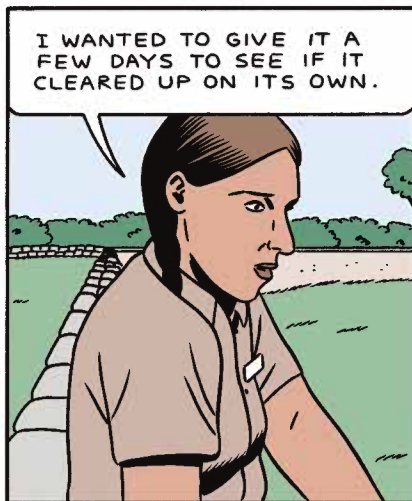
SO FUCKING
STUPID...

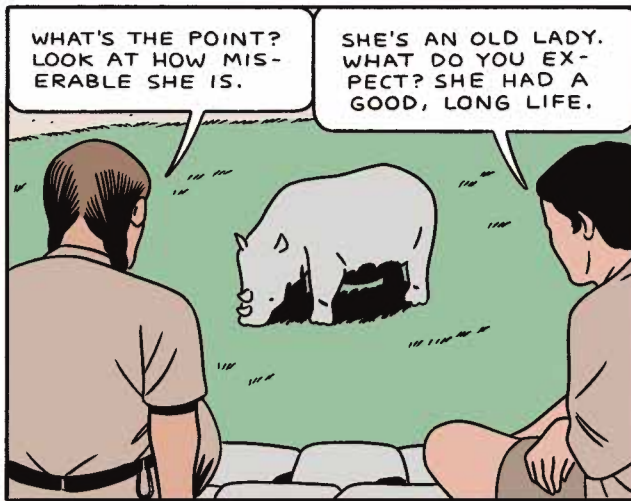












WHAT'S THE POINT?
LOOK AT HOW MIS-
ERABLE SHE IS.

SHE'S AN OLD LADY.
WHAT DO YOU EX-
PECT? SHE HAD A
GOOD, LONG LIFE.



THEY ONLY WANT TO KEEP
HER ALIVE FOR A RETURN
ON INVESTMENT, NOT OUT
OF ANY REAL CONCERN
FOR THE ANIMAL.

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
THAT?



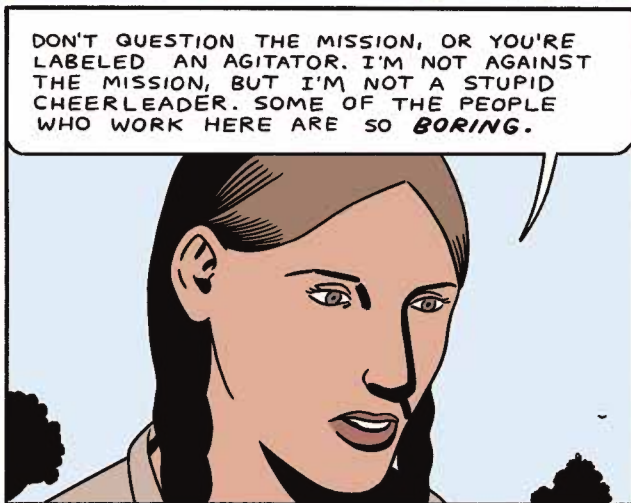
I'M JUST TALKING.
WHY CAN'T WE BE
HONEST WITH EACH
OTHER, LIKE WE USED TO?



I DON'T REMEMBER ANY
CONVERSATIONS LIKE THAT.
WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM?



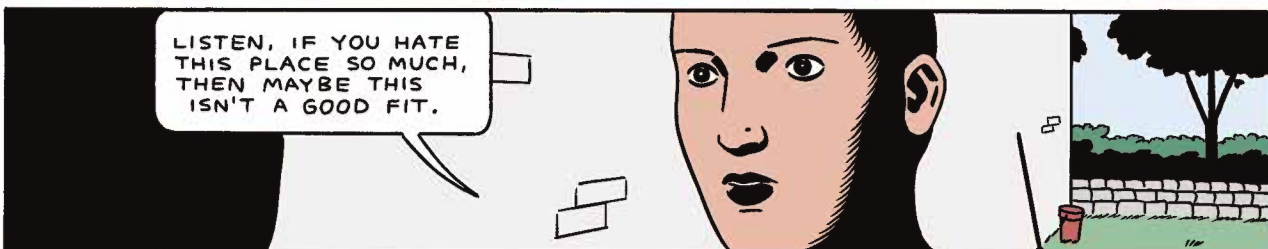
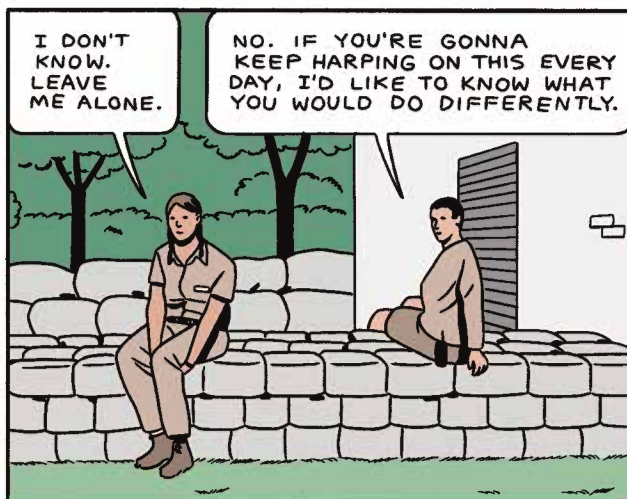
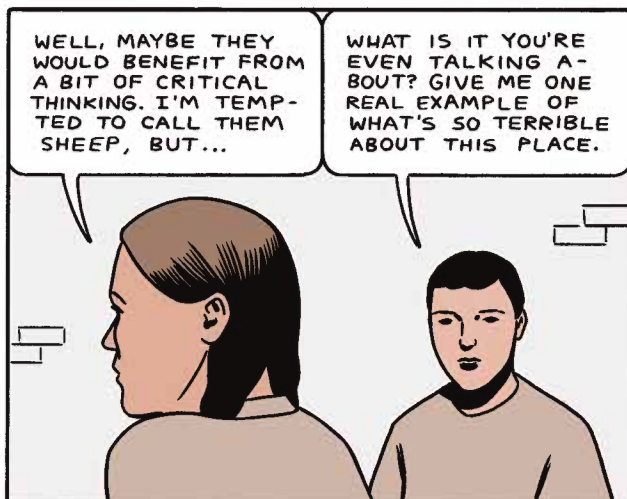
I'M JUST FRUSTRATED.
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T SHARE
ANY THOUGHTS THAT GO
AGAINST "THE MISSION."
ALL THAT STUFF IS JUST,
LIKE, INDOCTRINATION.



DON'T QUESTION THE MISSION, OR YOU'RE
LABELED AN AGITATOR. I'M NOT AGAINST
THE MISSION, BUT I'M NOT A STUPID
CHEERLEADER. SOME OF THE PEOPLE
WHO WORK HERE ARE SO **BORING**.



I THINK MOST PEOPLE ARE JUST
TRYING TO GET THROUGH THE DAY
AND GIVE THE ANIMALS THE BEST
CARE THEY CAN. THEY'RE NOT IN-
TERESTED IN HAVING ETHICAL
ARGUMENTS WHILE THEY'RE TRYING
TO WORK.



REMINDS ME OF THAT FRENCH DOCTOR WHO KEPT HIS DAUGHTERS IN A SECRET BUNKER FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

OH, PLEASE!

NO, REALLY. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? WHO COULD BLAME HIM FOR NOT WANTING HIS DAUGHTERS EXPOSED TO SUCH A CRUEL WORLD? HE GAVE THEM EVERY AMENITY THEY COULD HOPE FOR: TV, GOOD FOOD, LOTS OF ENRICHMENT TIME. THEY COULD HAVE LIVED FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS!

THAT'S A RIDICULOUS ANALOGY.

WELL *I* THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT *YOU* THINK IT'S A RIDICULOUS ANALOGY.

I CAN'T KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS. THIS IS NOT HAPPINESS.

YEAH, WELL, THAT'S THE FIRST REASONABLE THING YOU'VE SAID ALL DAY.

I THINK WE NEED TO SPLIT UP FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.

NO OFFENSE. I JUST... NEED SOME PEACE AND QUIET.

I RESPECT THAT. THANKS FOR HEARING ME OUT.

HEY, I'M GLAD WE HAD THIS TALK. THIS IS WHAT I'M AFTER. THE *REAL* STUFF.