

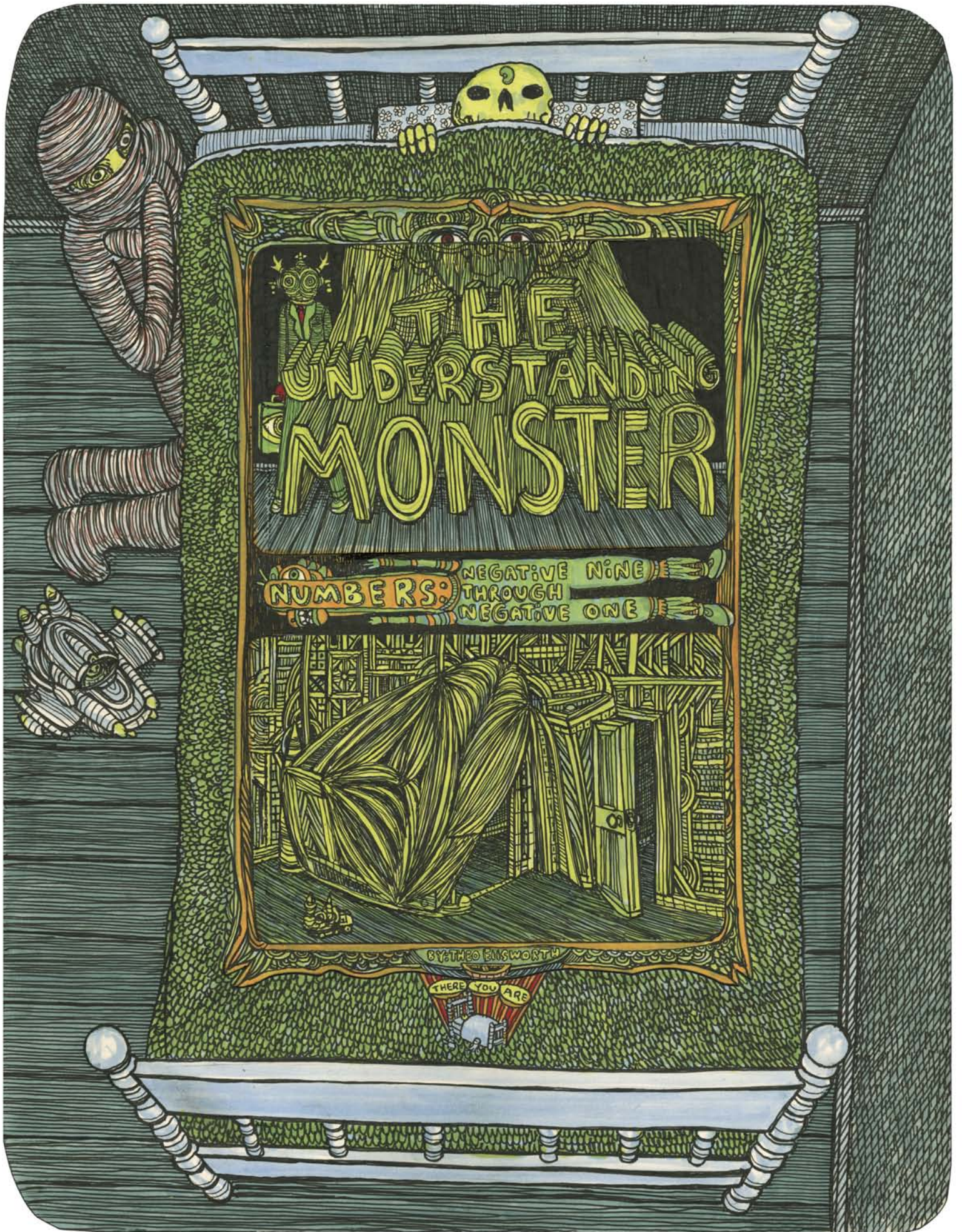
UNDERSTANDING THE MONSTER

BOOK
ONE



THEO ELLSWORTH





THE UNDERSTANDING MONSTER

NUMBERS: NEGATIVE NINE THROUGH NEGATIVE ONE

BY THEO ENSWORTH

THERE YOU ARE

HA HA HA HA HA

THERE YOU ARE!



OH!



TIME-LAPSE EVOLVING INTO A LIVING PHYSICAL BODY HAS CAUSED YOU TO GO INTO SUDDEN MANIFESTATION SHOCK.



IT'S VITAL THAT YOU KEEP YOUR LIMBS IN MOTION.



I'M GOING TO BE SETTING A NEGATIVE-TIME CLOCK INSIDE OF YOUR NEW BRAIN.



WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES ZERO, YOU WILL TURN A VERY IMPORTANT CORNER.



THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE NINE.





THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE EIGHT.

WILL HE FAIL?

I DON'T KNOW, NEGATIVE EIGHT IS STILL A LONG WAYS BACK, AND HE'S BASICALLY WOUND UP TRAPPED INSIDE OF A MOUSE BODY.

EVEN IF HE SUCCEEDS IN TURNING THE NEGATIVE CORNER, HE'LL STILL HAVE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE ZERO CROSSING. CAN A MOUSE WITHSTAND SUCH A MIND-LASHING?!



DON'T LISTEN TO THE TOYS RIGHT NOW, IZADORE.



THE TOYS ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR SITUATION.



YOU'VE COME TOO FAR TODAY TO LET THEM DISCOURAGE OUR PLAN.

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN YOUR HEAD?



GOOD, IZADORE.



SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.

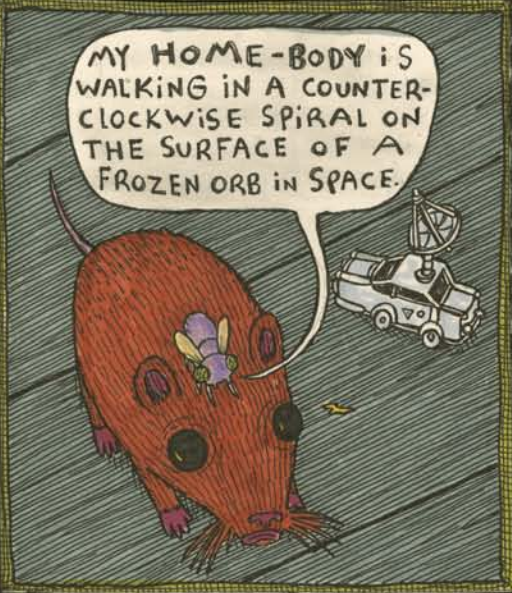


IT'S ME!
THIS WAY
THAT WAY!

THIS WAY
THAT WAY?



MY HOME-BODY IS
WALKING IN A COUNTER-
CLOCKWISE SPIRAL
ON THE SURFACE OF A
FROZEN ORB IN SPACE.



AT THE CENTER OF THE
SPIRAL IS MY SHIP.



IT'S BEEN
THREE DAYS.

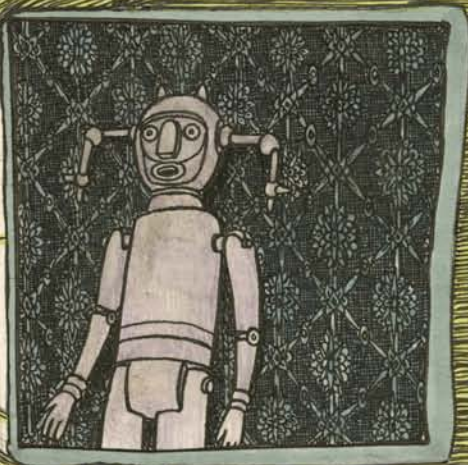
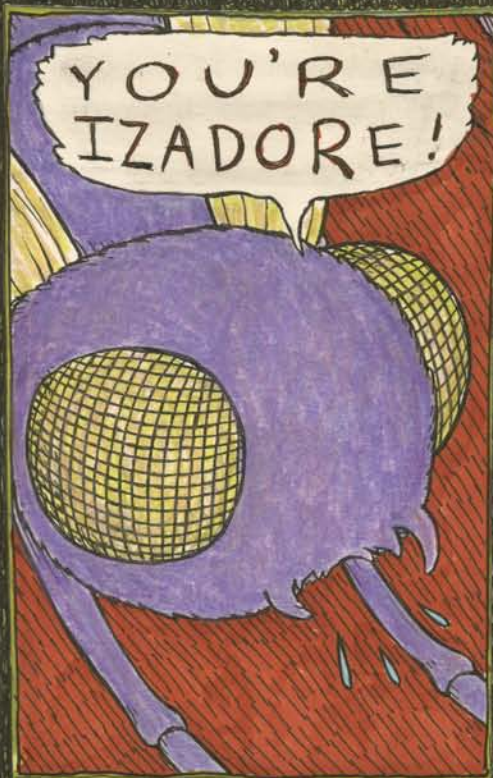
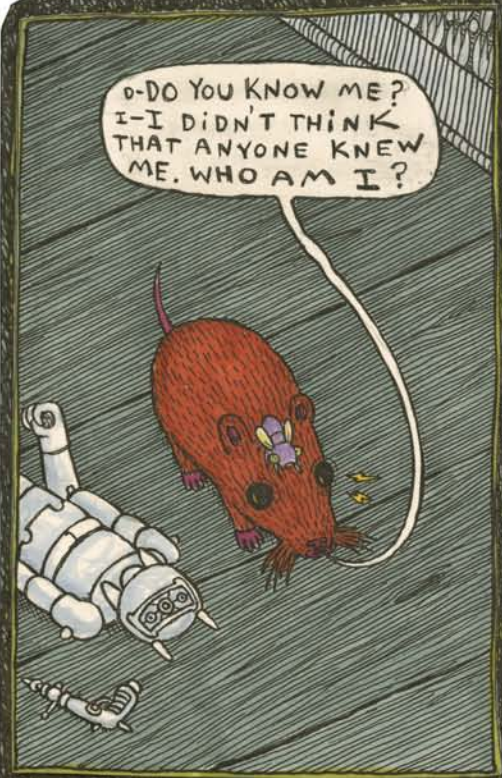
SO FAR,
THERE'S
NOTHING
OUT THERE.
NOT A MARK
TO BE
SEEN.



I'LL MAINTAIN FLYFORM
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN.
WE'RE GOING TO GET
YOU THROUGH THIS.



THE CLOCK
STRIKES
NEGATIVE
SEVEN.





THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE FIVE.

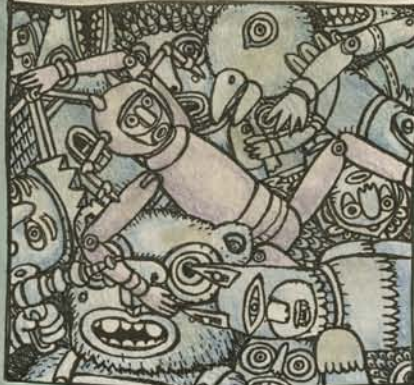
DAY 136.

PRINCE BOBBINS WALKS NO MORE, BUT I DISCOVER A WIND-UP TECHNOLOGY POWERED VEHICLE AND GORTLE PIGGIT FOLLOWS ME AROUND FOR AWHILE. I EXPLORE NEW ROOMS.



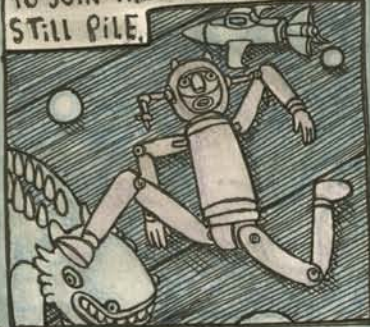
DAY 1009.

I'VE MET SO MANY OF THEM NOW. I DECIDE TO PILE ALL OF THE STILL ONES IN A SINGLE LOCATION. I VISIT THEM OFTEN.



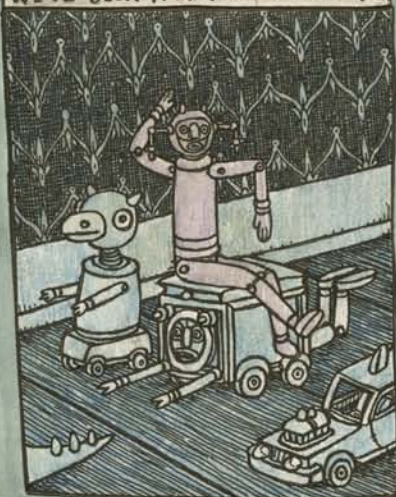
DAY 1486.

I WAIT AROUND FOR AS LONG AS I CAN STAND IT BEFORE FINALLY TAKING JUNGELLY JURANOSAUR TO JOIN THE OTHERS IN THE STILL PILE.



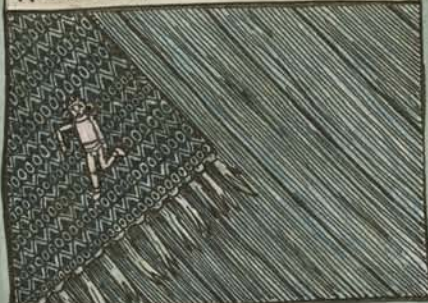
DAY 3028.

HAPPIER TIMES! THERE ARE DOZENS OF US ON THE GO! WE'VE BEEN ROAMING THE HALLS!



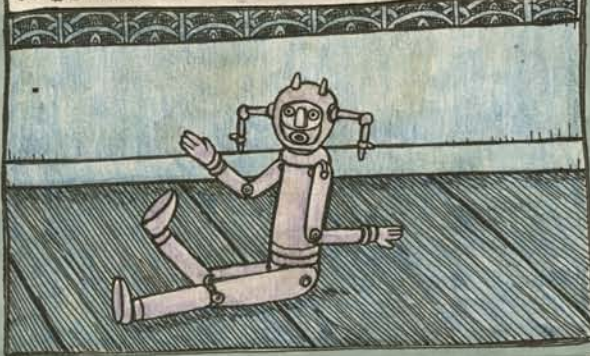
DAY 9342.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS MOTIONLESS NOW. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM. THEY EACH SEEM TO HAVE ONLY SO MUCH MOVEMENT INSIDE OF THEM AND WHEN IT RUNS OUT, THEY STOP FOR GOOD.



DAY 12456

I KEEP ALL OF MY MOVABLE PARTS IN MOTION AT ALL TIMES. I'M NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THEM. I'M REFUSING TO QUIT!



DAY 53764

I SIT AS STILL AS POSSIBLE FOR HOURS AND HOURS. I TRULY HATE IT. DO THEY ACTUALLY PREFER THIS TO DOING THINGS?



NO ONE NEW HAS SHOWN UP FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

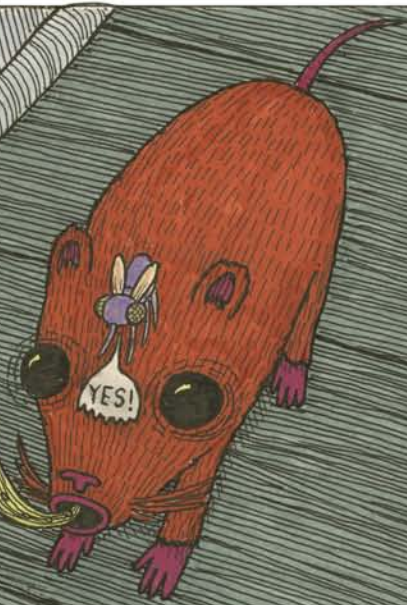


HELLO? ANYONE?
WHY AREN'T THERE
MORE PEOPLE?

NOW
YOU'VE
SEEN IT.



THE CLOCK STRIKES
NEGATIVE FOUR.



THANK YOU FOR SHOWING
ME YOUR MOVIE, IZADORE.
IT EXPLAINS SO MUCH! I
ALWAYS KNEW YOU COULD
NEVER TRULY STOP BEING A PERSON.



ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN YOU FEELING
BETTER, YOU AND I ARE GOING
TO GO ON SOME LONG OVERDUE
MIND-SCAPE QUESTS, OKAY?

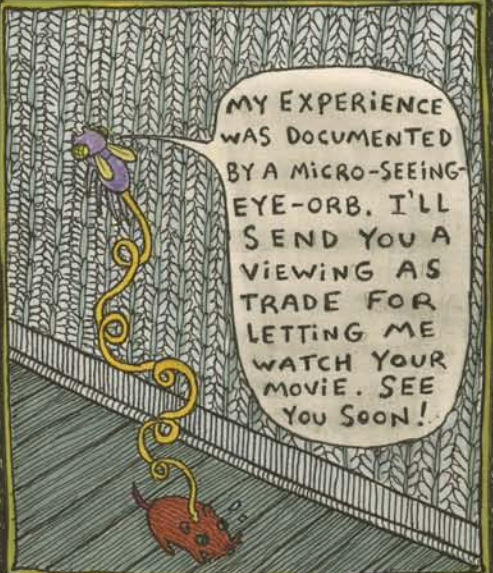
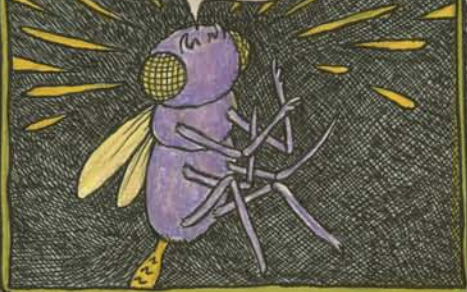


I-I DON'T
REMEMBER
MAKING THAT
MOVIE.

YOUR MEMORY WILL IMPROVE
WHEN THE SUDDEN MANIFESTATION
SHOCK SUBSIDES. FIRST
WE NEED TO GET YOU TURNING
THAT NEGATIVE CORNER.



I HAD TO TURN A
SIMILAR CORNER AS
PART OF MY SECRET
SPACE NAVIGATION
TRAINING A FEW
YEARS BACK.



MY EXPERIENCE
WAS DOCUMENTED
BY A MICRO-SEEING-
EYE-ORB. I'LL
SEND YOU A
VIEWING AS
TRADE FOR
LETTING ME
WATCH YOUR
MOVIE. SEE
YOU SOON!

KEEP MOVING YOUR LEGS, IZADORE. YOUR MOUSE BODY'S FORWARD MOMENTUM IS WHAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO TURN THE NEGATIVE CORNER.



THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE THREE.

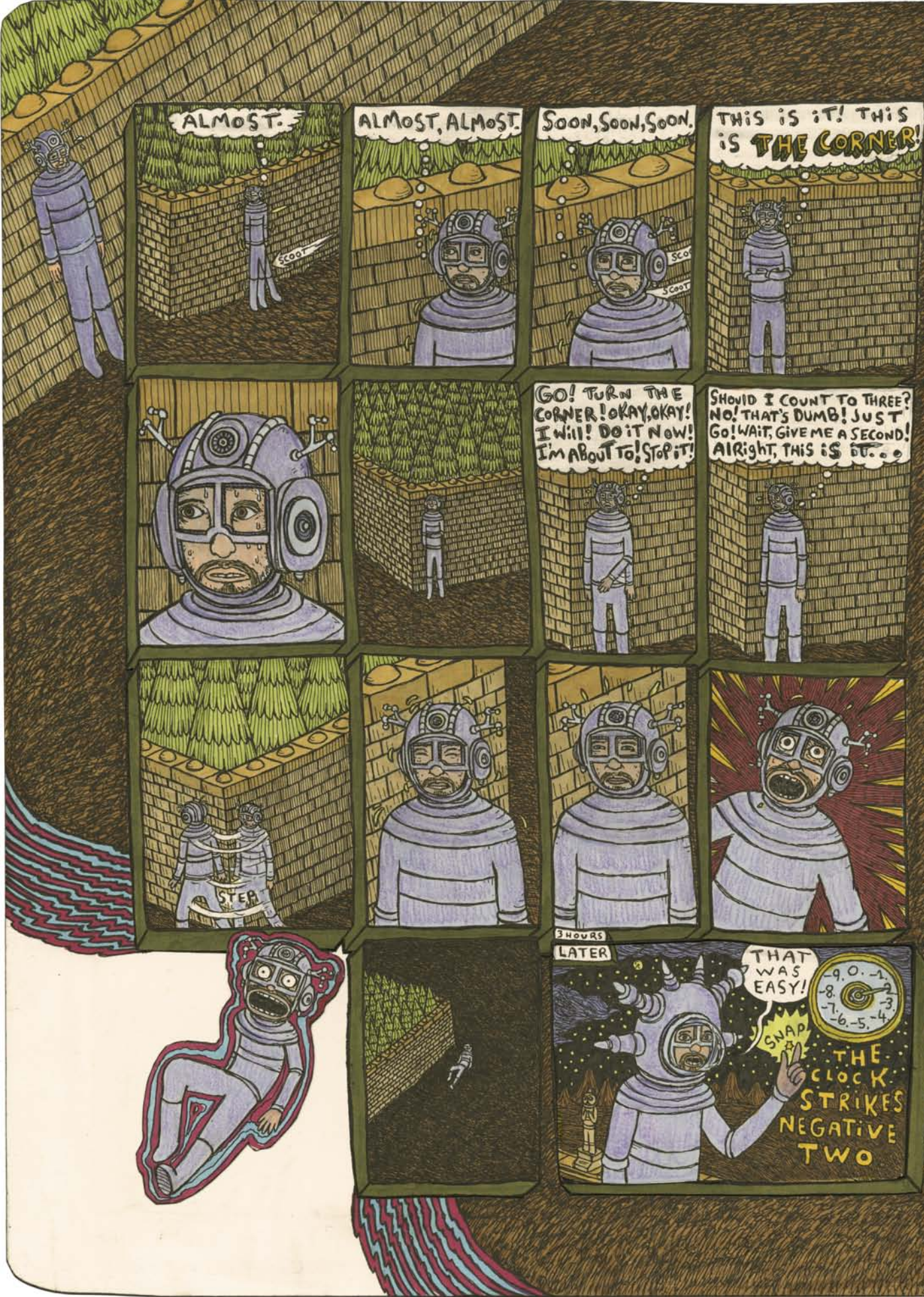
OH NO! HEY, IZADORE! I'VE JUST REALIZED THAT YOU HAVE MICROSCOPIC TRIBES OF VIOLENT SPORE LORDS LIVING ON THE SURFACE OF YOUR EYEBALLS! ONE EYE IS AT WAR WITH THE OTHER, AND BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN USING YOUR BRAIN AS A NIGHTMARE PARTICLE FACTORY AND FUELING THEIR ATTACK VEHICLES WITH YOUR BLOOD! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!



AGAIN, IGNORE THE TOYS FOR NOW. THE SCENARIO YOU JUST HEARD IS SOMETHING YOU ABSOLUTELY DO NOT NEED TO BE THINKING ABOUT.

THE MICRO-SEEING-EYE-ORB FOOTAGE THAT THISWAYTHATWAY WANTS YOU TO SEE IS NOW AVAILABLE. STAY TUNED:





ALMOST.

ALMOST, ALMOST.

SOON, SOON, SOON.

THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE CORNER!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

SCOO!

GO! TURN THE CORNER! OKAY, OKAY! I WILL! DO IT NOW! I'M ABOUT TO! STOP IT!

SHOULD I COUNT TO THREE? NO! THAT'S DUMB! JUST GO! WAIT, GIVE ME A SECOND! ALRIGHT, THIS IS IT...

3 HOURS LATER

THAT WAS EASY!
SNAP!
THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE TWO



IZADORE, NO! DON'T GO INTO THE WALLS. THAT'S WHERE THE GHOSTS WHO'VE BEEN INFECTED BY THE MEAN KID'S DISEASE ARE HIDING. DO NOT STOP!

YOU HAVE A TRAINED GROUP OF SPECIALISTS WORKING AGAINST YOU.

LET'S SEW OUR FACES TOGETHER SO WE NEVER HAVE TO BE APART.

THERE REALLY ARE NIGHTMARE PARTICLES IN YOUR BRAIN.

ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS ARE ACTUALLY ME IN DISGUISE.

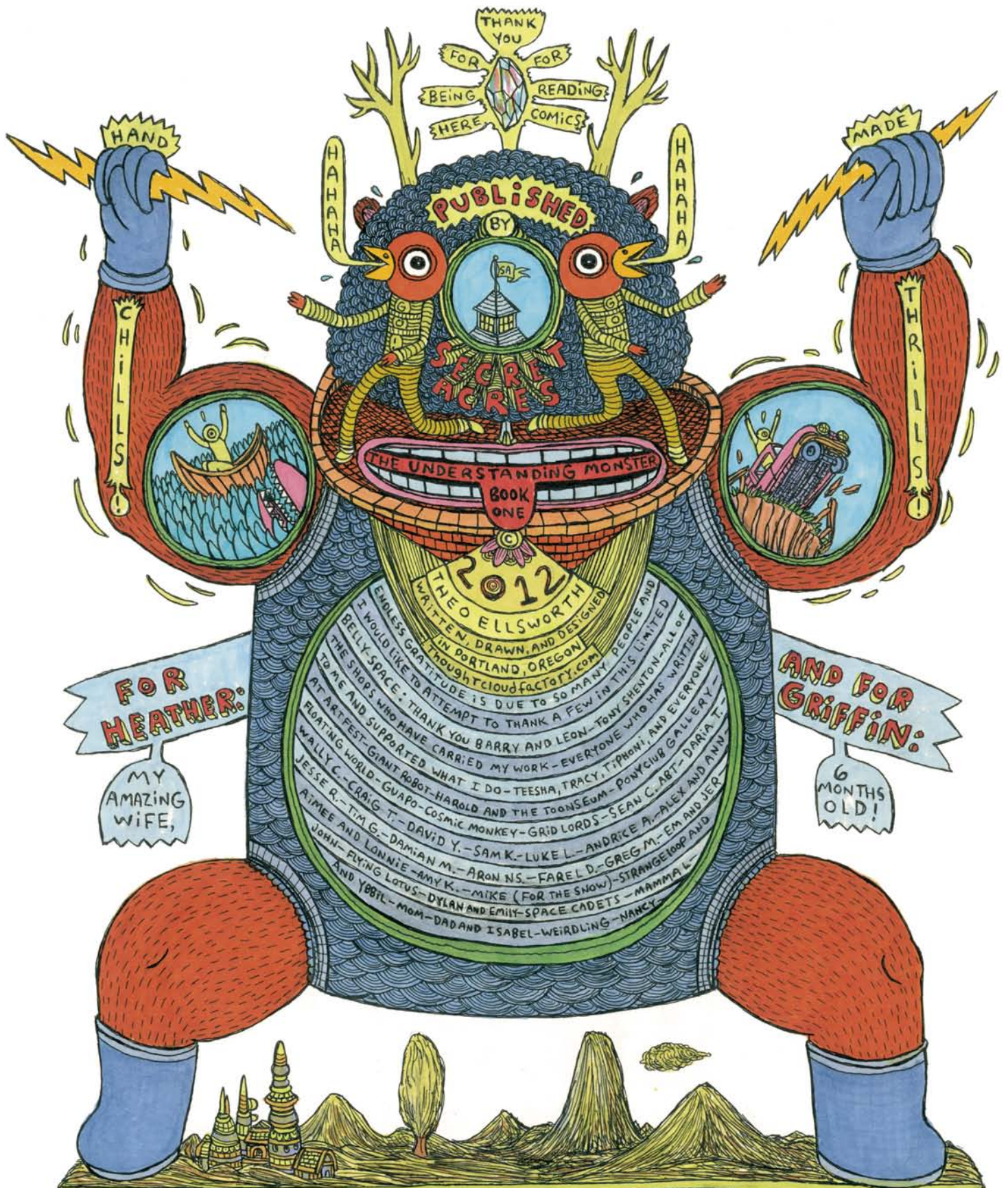
1, 2, 3. GO!



THE CLOCK STRIKES NEGATIVE ONE.

THE CLOCK STRIKES





THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE FOR READING COMICS

HAND

MADE

H A H A H A

H A H A H A

PUBLISHED BY



SECRET ACRES

C H I L L S

T H R I L L S



THE UNDERSTANDING MONSTER

BOOK ONE

2012

THE O ELLSWORTH

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND DESIGNED IN PORTLAND, OREGON
 I WOULD LIKE TO THANK A FEW IN THIS LIMITED BELLY-SPACE: THANK YOU BARRY AND LEON - TONY SHENTON - ALL OF THE SHOPS WHO HAVE CARRIED MY WORK - EVERYONE WHO HAS WRITTEN TO ME AND SUPPORTED WHAT I DO - TEESHA, TRACY, TIPHONI, AND EVERYONE AT ART FEST - GIANT ROBOT - HAROLD AND THE TOON SEUM - PONY CLUB GALLERY - WALLY C. - CRAIG T. - DAVID Y. - SAM K. - LUKE L. - ANDRICE A. - ALEX AND JESSIE R. - CRAIG T. - DAVID Y. - SAM K. - LUKE L. - ANDRICE A. - ALEX AND JER- ATIMEE R. - TIM G. - DAMIAN M. - ARON NS. - FAREL D. - GREG M. - EM AND JOHN - FLYING LOTUS - DYLAN AND EMILY - SPACE CADETS - MAMMA L. AND YBBTL - MOM - DAD AND ISABEL - WEIRDLING - NANCY

FOR HEATHER:

MY AMAZING WIFE,

AND FOR GRIFFIN:

6 MONTHS OLD!

UP NEXT: INSIDE TOY MOUNTAIN, ORACLE TRANCE CLASS, CHRONICLES OF THE PHARAOH, PRO-LEVEL EXORCIST TECHNIQUES, MEAN KIDS GALORE, SECRET SPACE NAVIGATION.

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ISBN 0983166242 52195



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