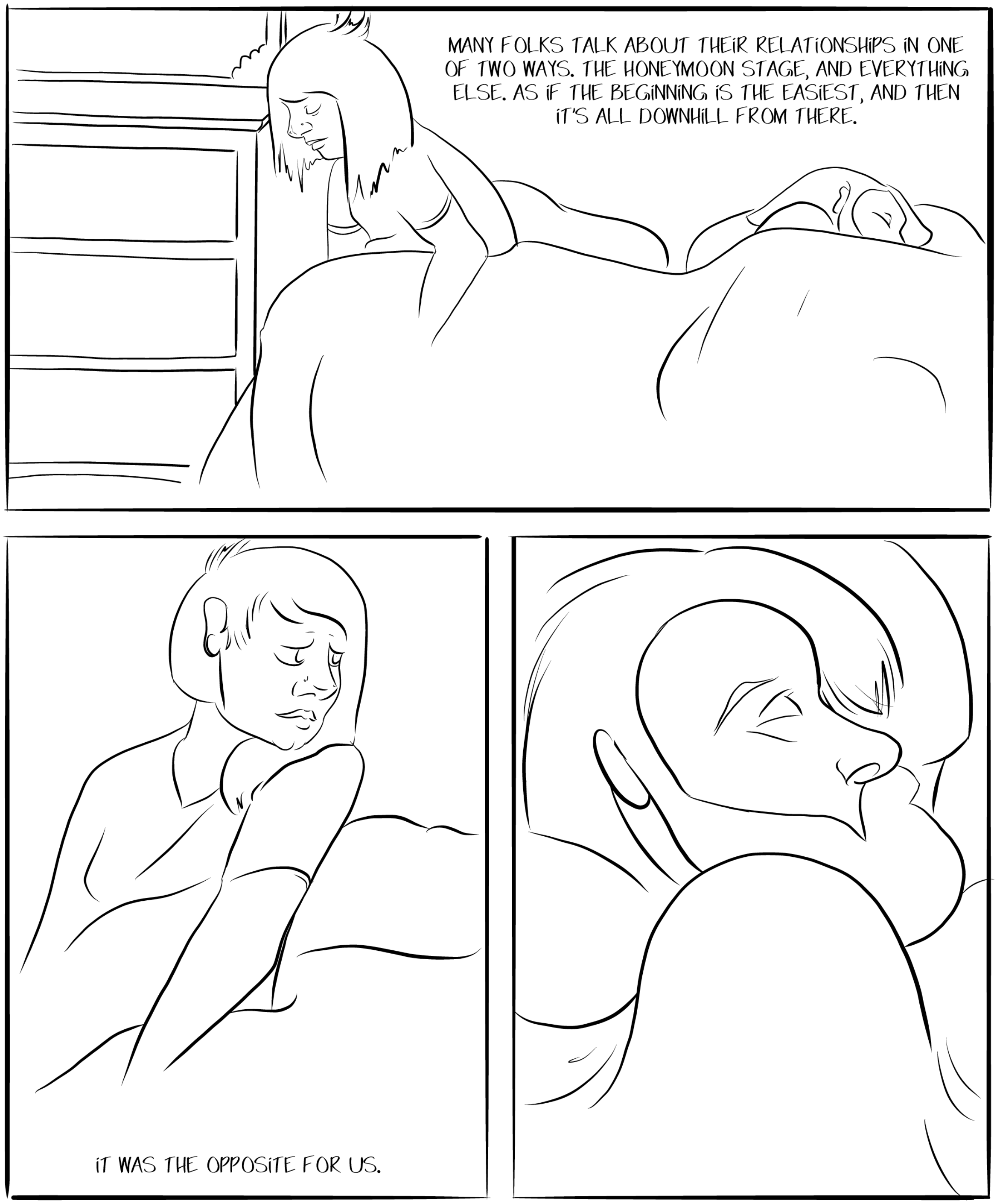
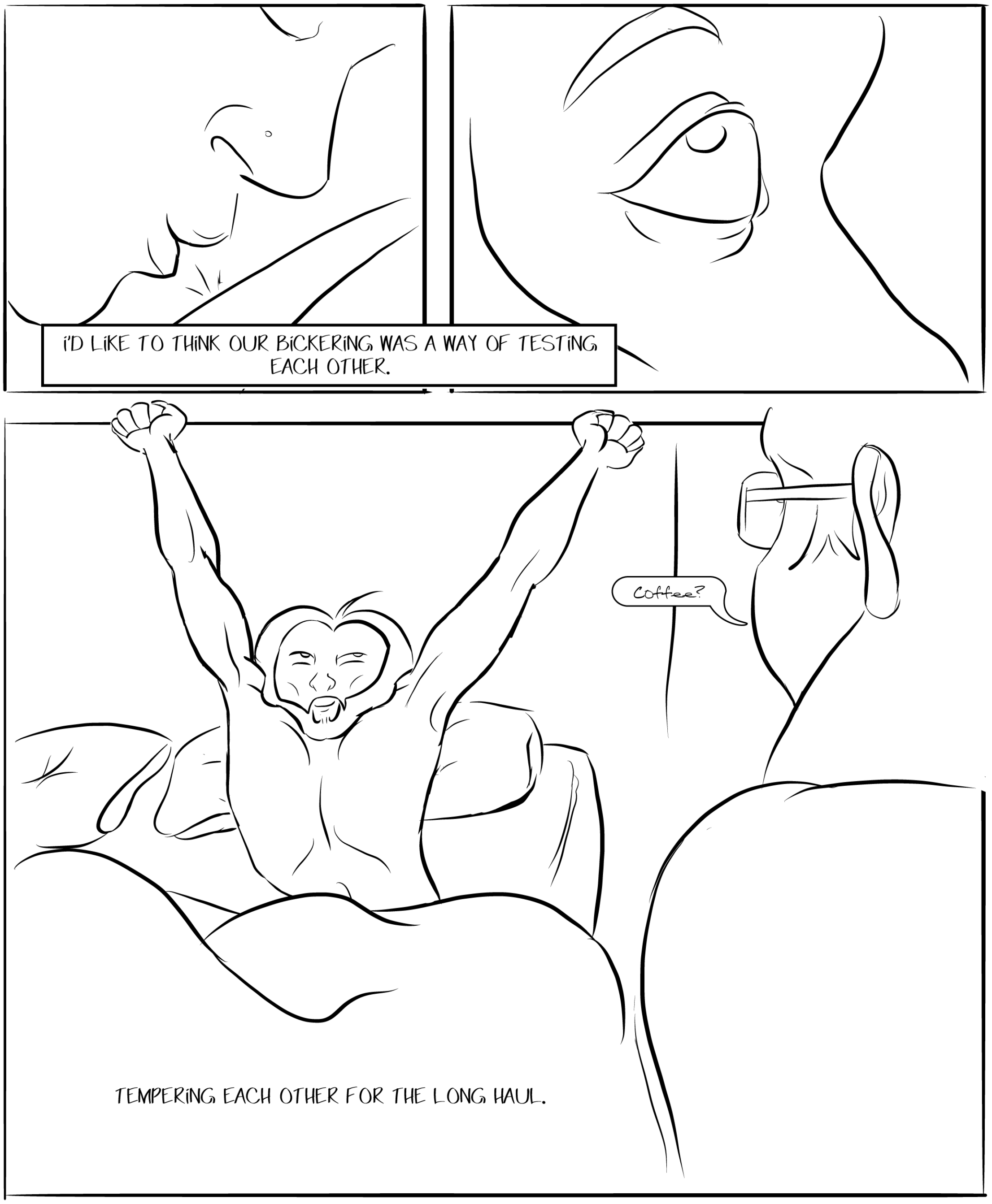
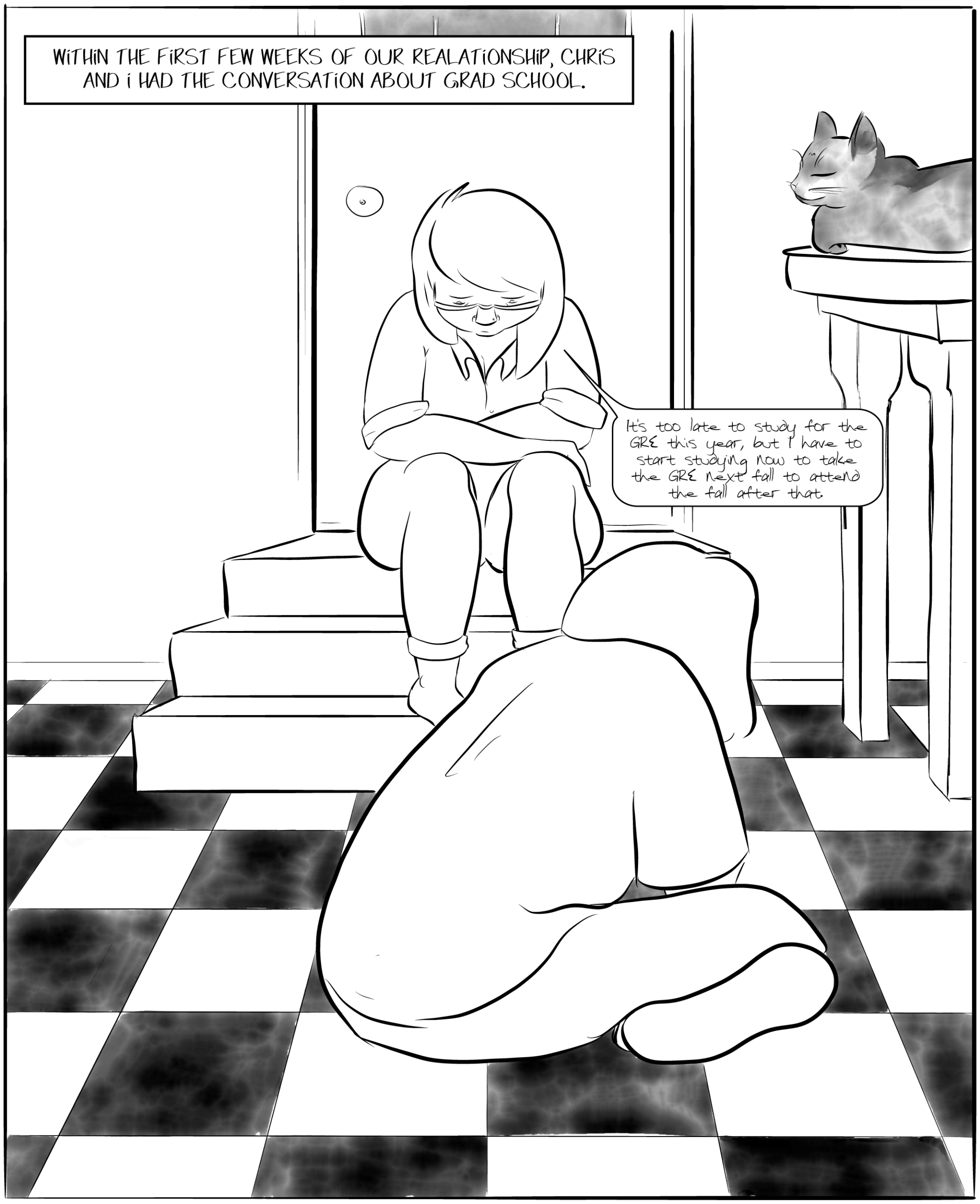
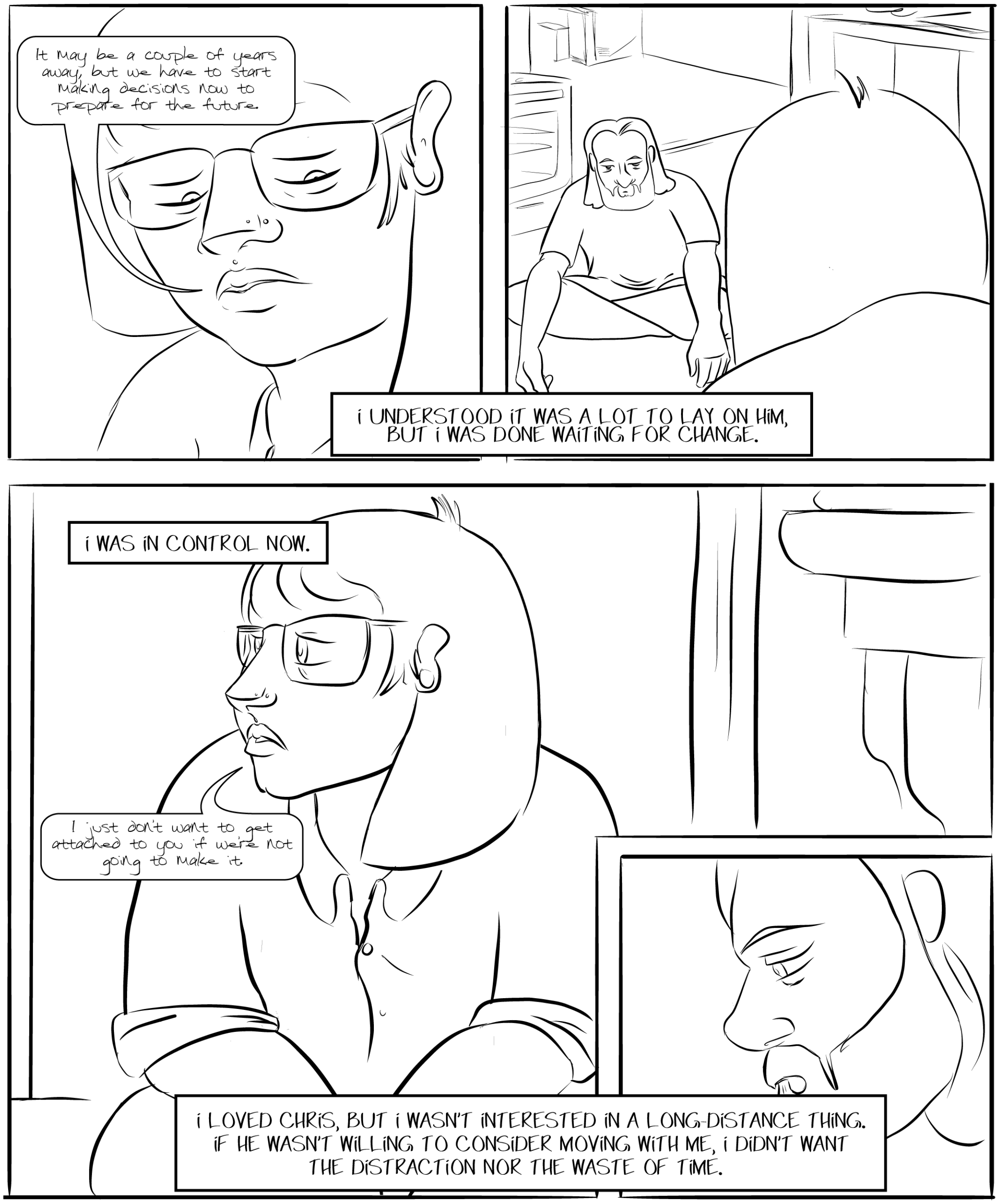
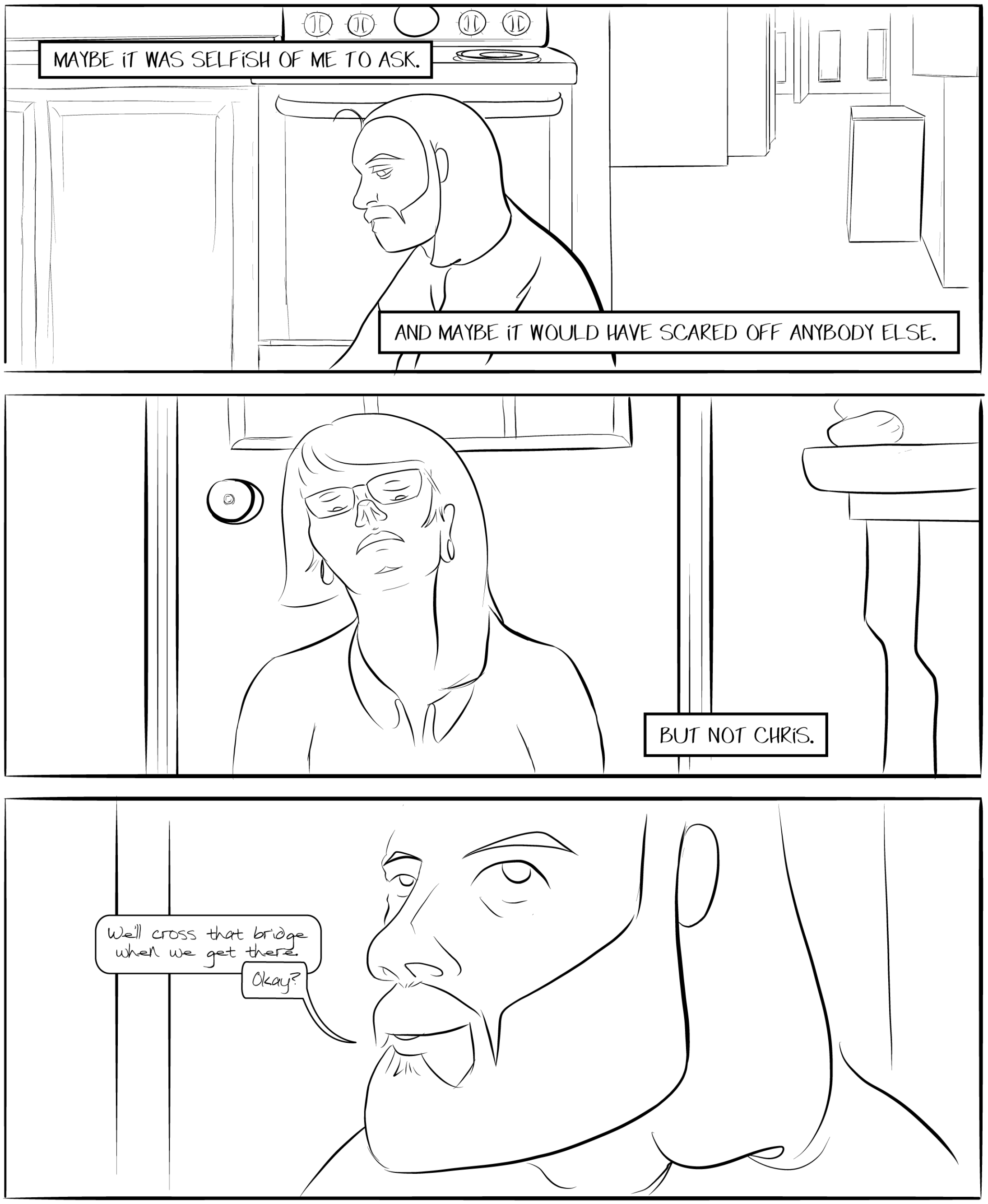
SAMPLE PAGES

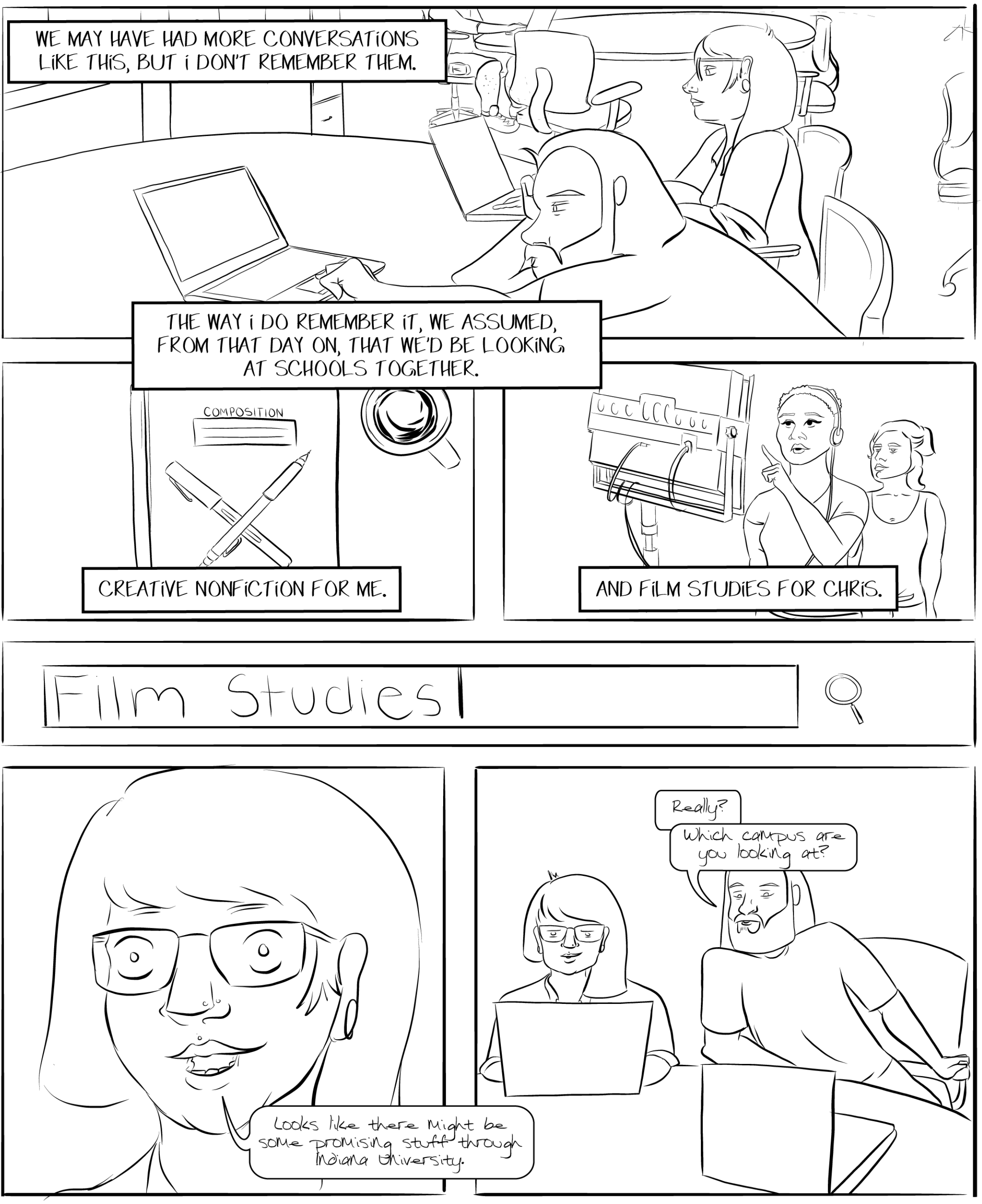

MANY FOLKS TALK ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN ONE OF TWO WAYS. THE HONEYMOON STAGE, AND EVERYTHING ELSE. AS IF THE BEGINNING IS THE EASIEST, AND THEN IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM THERE.
IT WAS THE OPPOSITE FOR US.

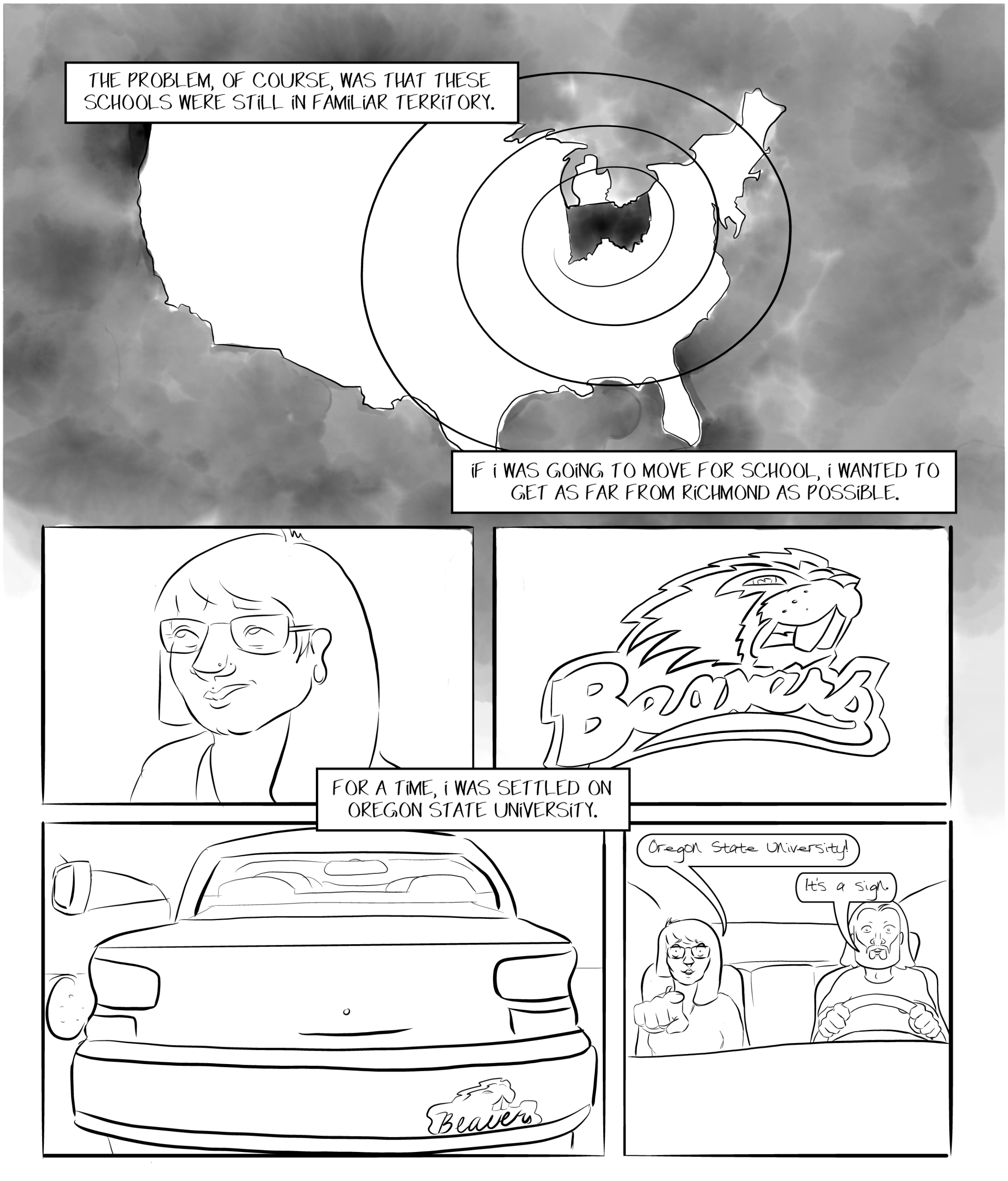

I'D LIKE TO THINK OUR BICKERING WAS A WAY OF TESTING EACH OTHER.
Coffee?
TEMPERING EACH OTHER FOR THE LONG HAUL.

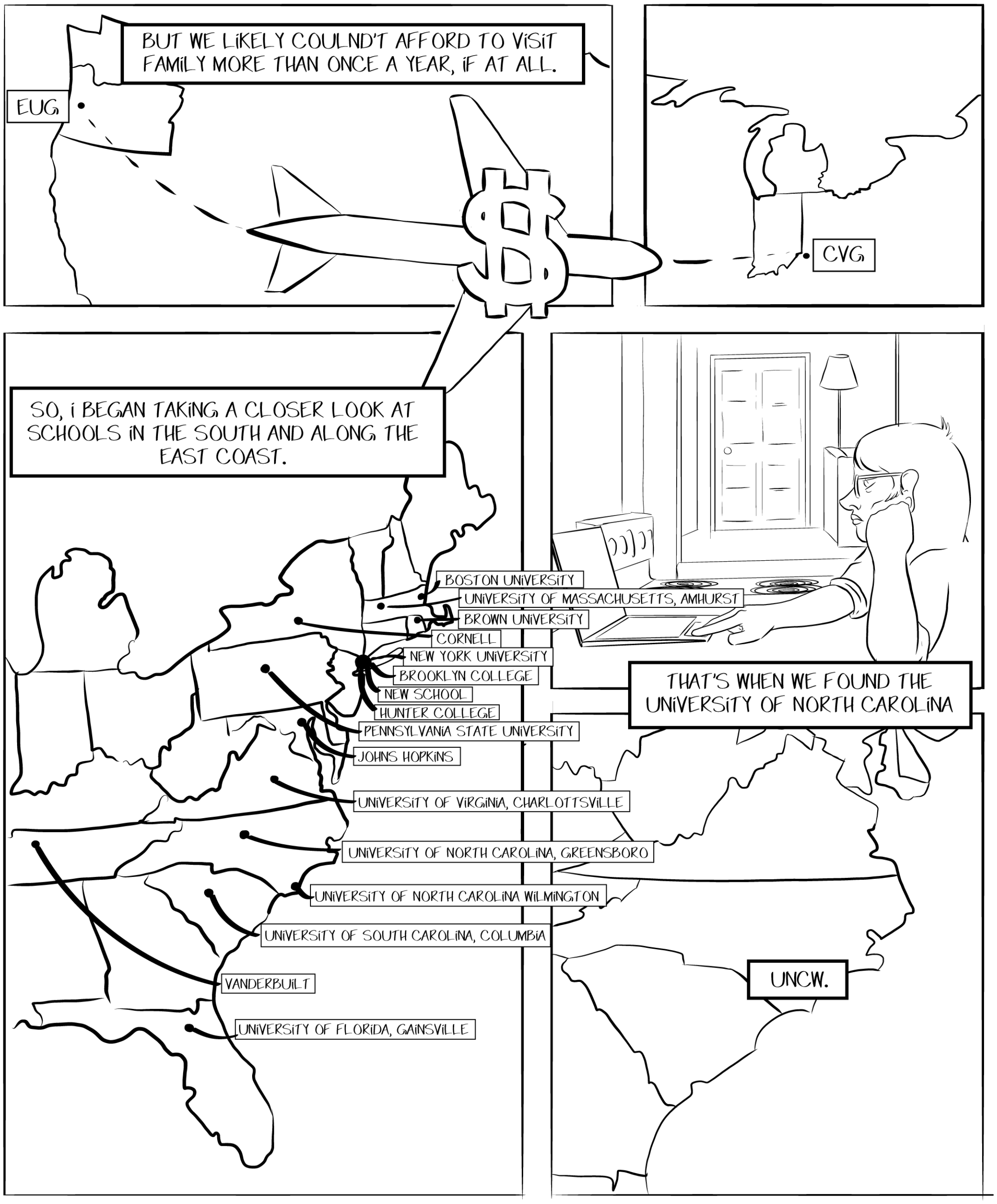

WITHIN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF OUR REALATIONSHIP, CHRIS AND I HAD THE CONVERSATION ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL.
It's too late to study for the GRE this year, but I have to start studying now to take the GRE next fall to attend the fall after that.

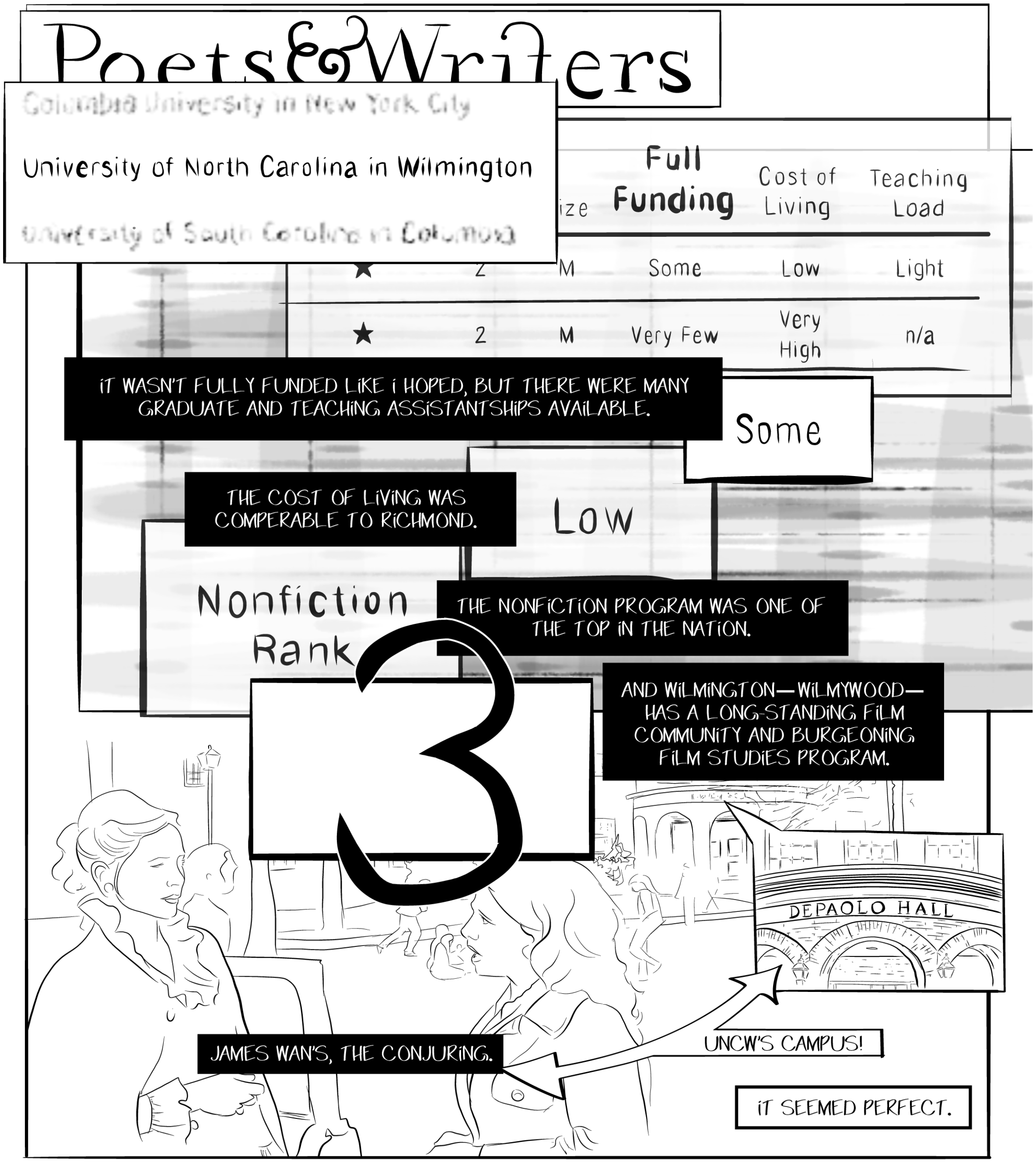

It may be a couple of years away, but we have to start making decisions now to prepare for the future.
I UNDERSTOOD IT WAS A LOT TO LAY ON HIM, BUT I WAS DONE WAITING FOR CHANGE.
I WAS IN CONTROL NOW.
I just don't want to get attached to you if we're not going to make it.
I LOVED CHRIS, BUT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN A LONG-DISTANCE THING. IF HE WASN'T WILLING TO CONSIDER MOVING WITH ME, I DIDN'T WANT THE DISTRACTION NOR THE WASTE OF TIME.

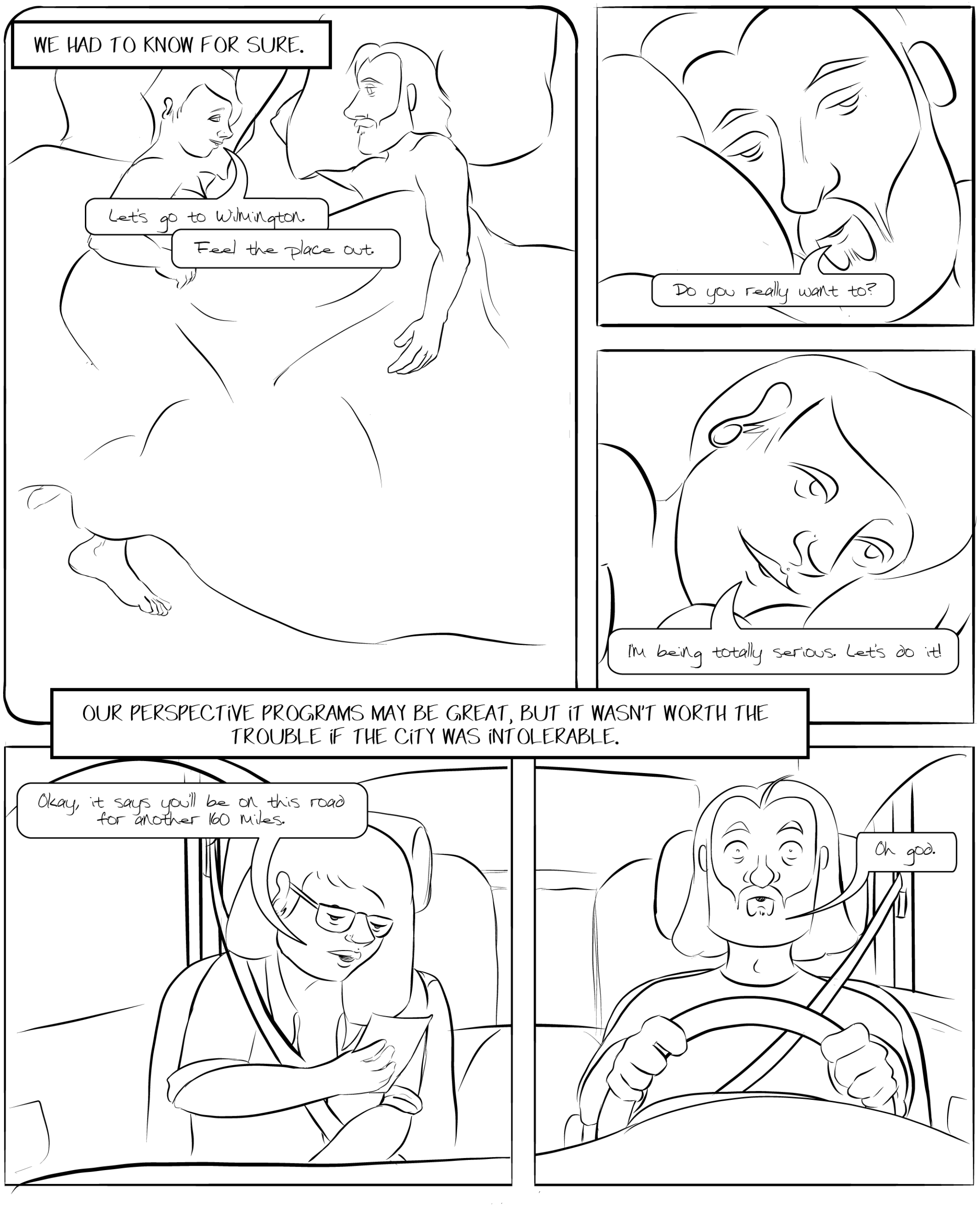

MAYBE iT WAS SELFiSH OF ME TO ASK.
AND MAYBE iT WOULD HAVE SCARED OFF ANYBODY ELSE.
BUT NOT CHRiS.
We'll cross that bridge when we get there.
Okay?

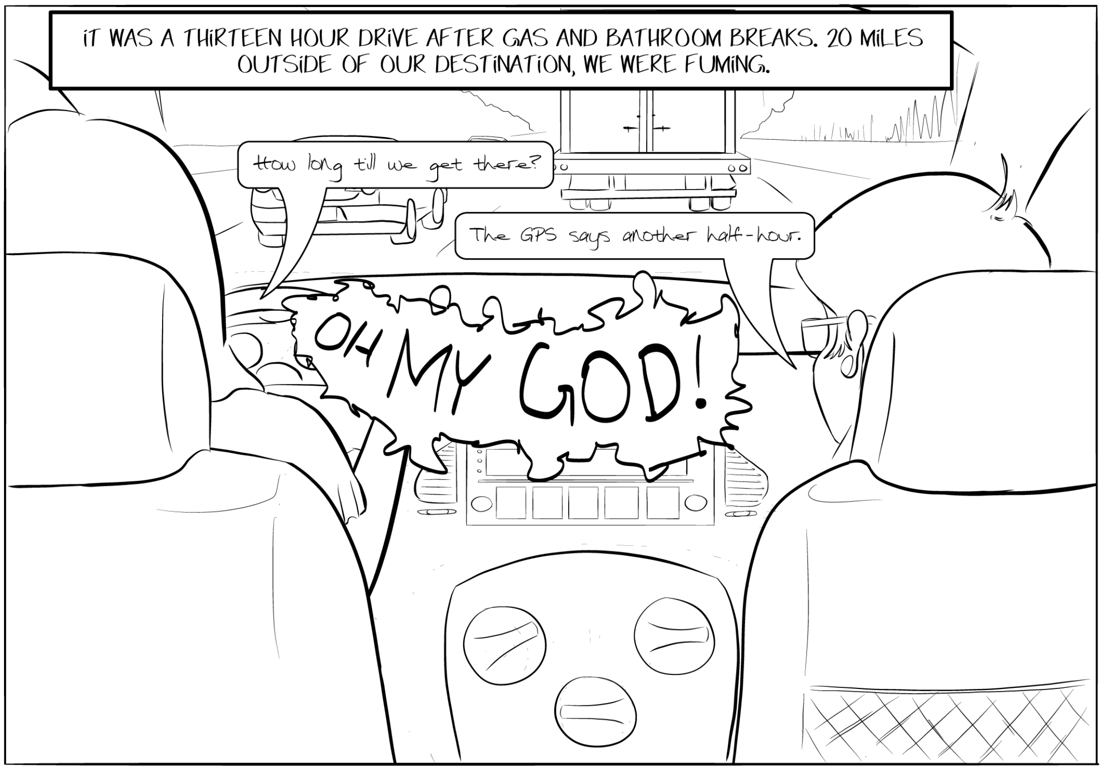

WE MAY HAVE HAD MORE CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THEM.
THE WAY I DO REMEMBER IT, WE ASSUMED, FROM THAT DAY ON, THAT WE'D BE LOOKING AT SCHOOLS TOGETHER.
COMPOSITION
CREATIVE NONFICTION FOR ME.
AND FILM STUDIES FOR CHRIS.
Film Studies
Looks like there might be some promising stuff through Indiana University.
Really?
Which campus are you looking at?

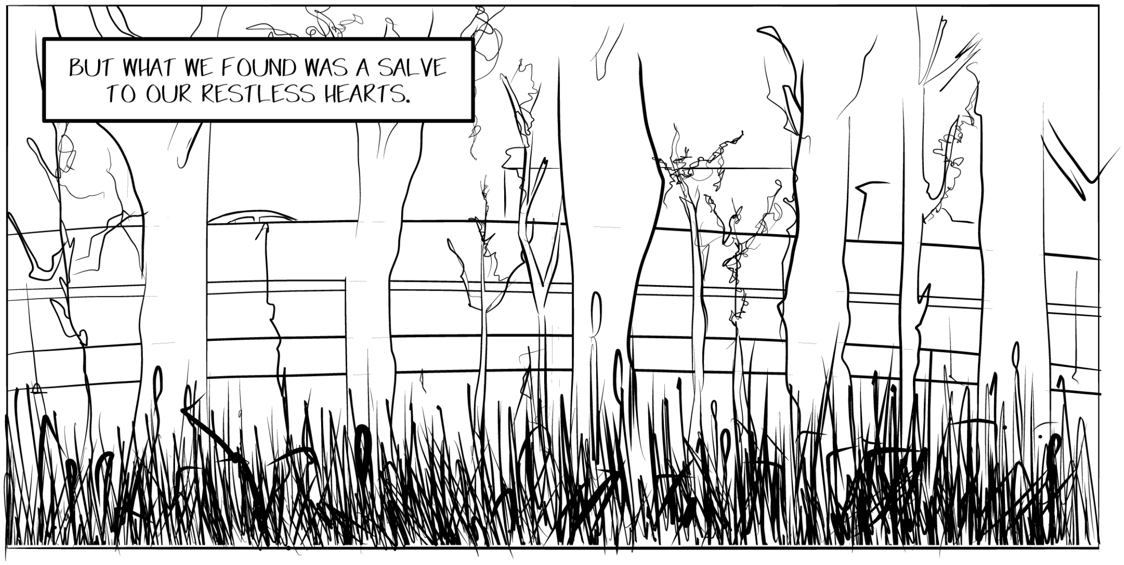

THE PROBLEM, OF COURSE, WAS THAT THESE SCHOOLS WERE STILL IN FAMILIAR TERRITORY.
IF I WAS GOING TO MOVE FOR SCHOOL, I WANTED TO GET AS FAR FROM RICHMOND AS POSSIBLE.
Beavers
FOR A TIME, I WAS SETTLED ON OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY.
Beavers
Oregon State University!
It's a sign.


BUT WE LIKELY COULNDT AFFORD TO VISIT FAMILY MORE THAN ONCE A YEAR, IF AT ALL.
EUG
CVG
SO, I BEGAN TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH AND ALONG THE EAST COAST.
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHURST
BROWN UNIVERSITY
CORNELL
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
BROOKLYN COLLEGE
NEW SCHOOL
HUNTER COLLEGE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTSVILLE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, GREENSBORO
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA
VANDERBUILT
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINSVILLE
THAT'S WHEN WE FOUND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
UNCW.


Poets&Writers
Columbia University in New York City
University of North Carolina in Wilmington
University of South Carolina in Columbia
ize
Full Funding
Cost of Living
Teaching Load
★ 2 M Some Low Light
★ 2 M Very Few Very High n/a
IT WASN'T FULLY FUNDED LIKE I HOPED, BUT THERE WERE MANY GRADUATE AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE.
Some
THE COST OF LIVING WAS COMPERABLE TO RICHMOND.
Low
Nonfiction Rank
THE NONFICTION PROGRAM WAS ONE OF THE TOP IN THE NATION.
3
AND WILMINGTON—WILMYWOOD—HAS A LONG-STANDING FILM COMMUNITY AND BURGEONING FILM STUDIES PROGRAM.
DEPAOLO HALL
JAMES WAN'S, THE CONJURING.
UNCW'S CAMPUS!
IT SEEMED PERFECT.


WE HAD TO KNOW FOR SURE.
Let's go to Wilmington.
Feel the place out.
Do you really want to?
I'm being totally serious. Let's do it!
OUR PERSPECTIVE PROGRAMS MAY BE GREAT, BUT IT WASN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE IF THE CITY WAS INTOLERABLE.
Okay, it says you'll be on this road for another 160 miles.
Oh god.


iT WAS A THiRTEEN HOUR DRiVE AFTER GAS AND BATHROOM BREAKS. 20 MiLES OUTSiDE OF OUR DESTiNATiON, WE WERE FUMiNG.
How long till we get there?
The GPS says another half-hour.
OH MY GOD!


BUT WHAT WE FOUND WAS A SALVE TO OUR RESTLESS HEARTS.