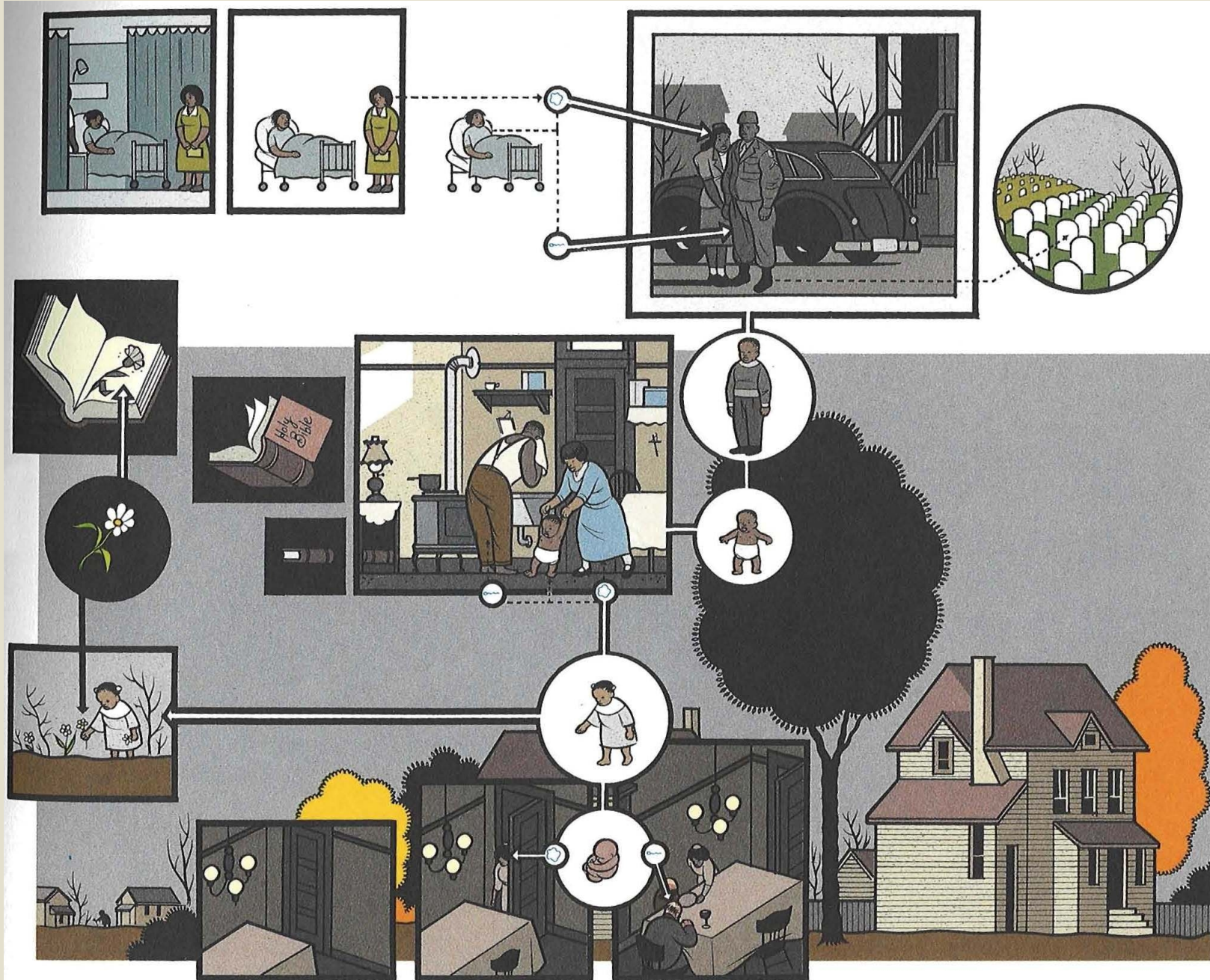




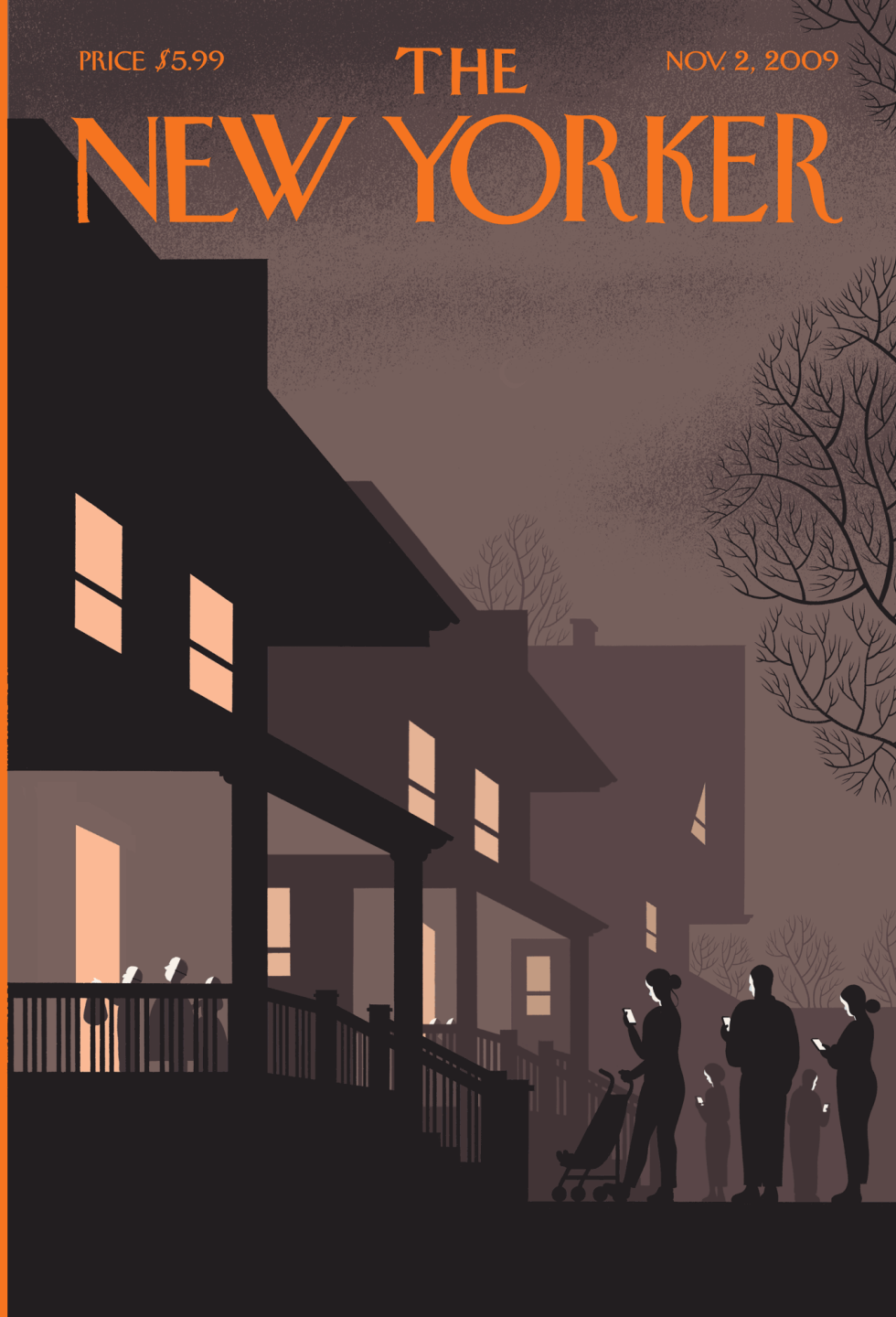
Perspective Taking & Persepolis

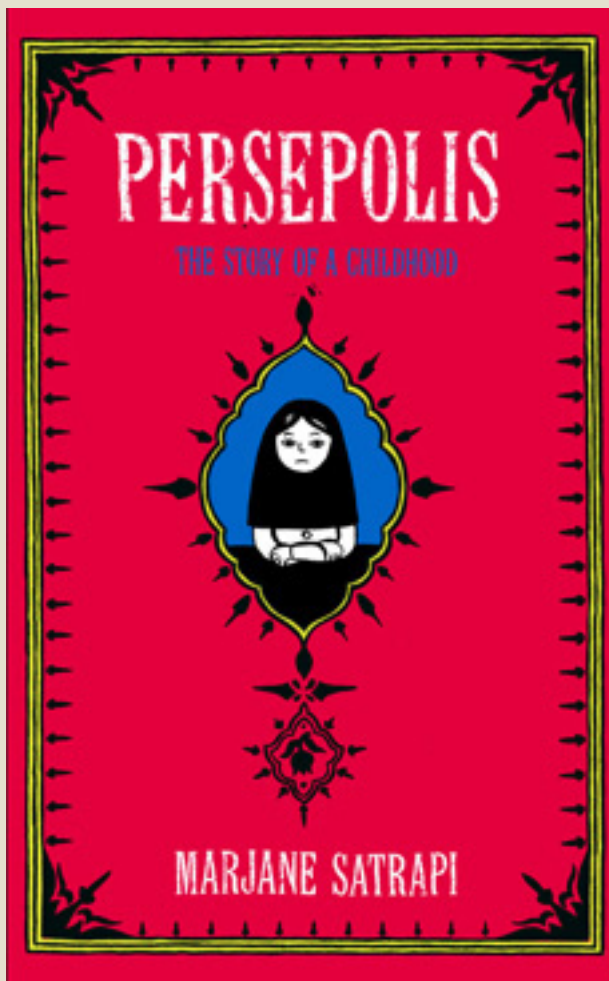


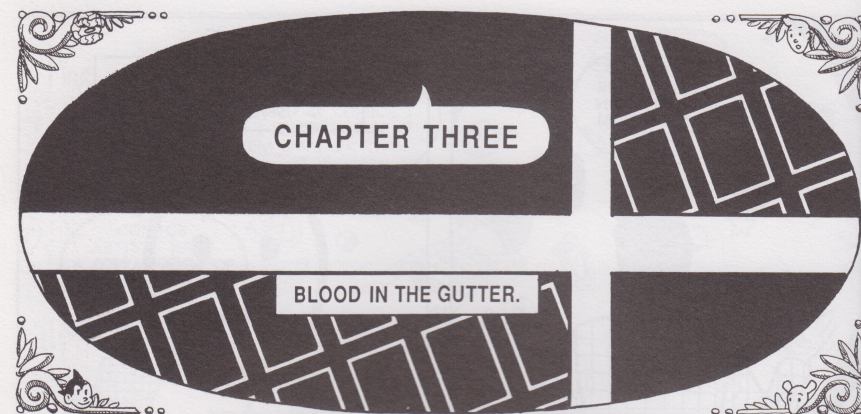
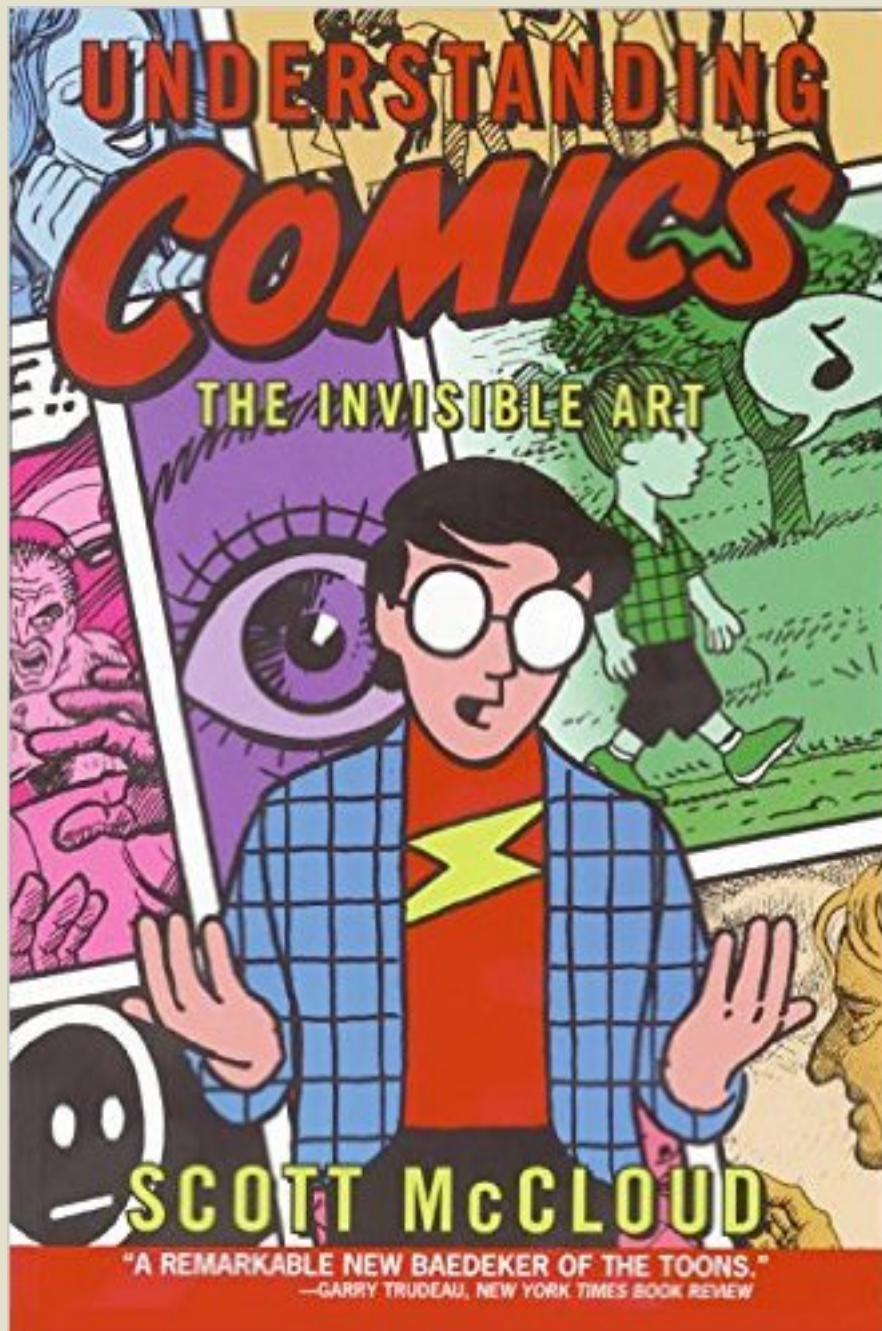
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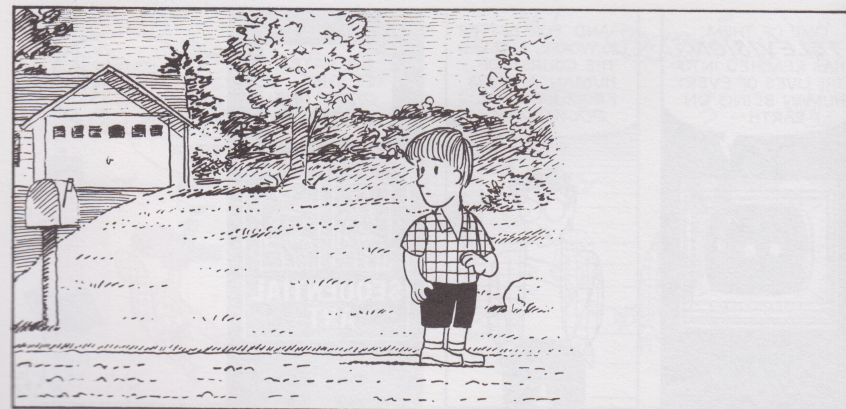
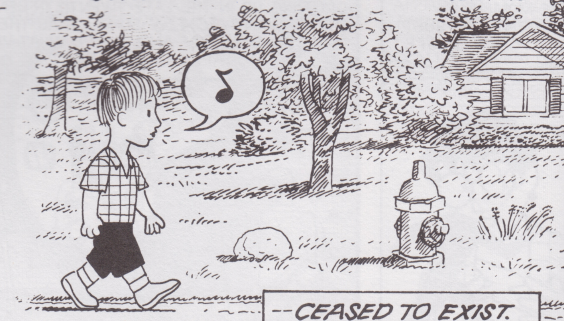
NOV. 2, 2009



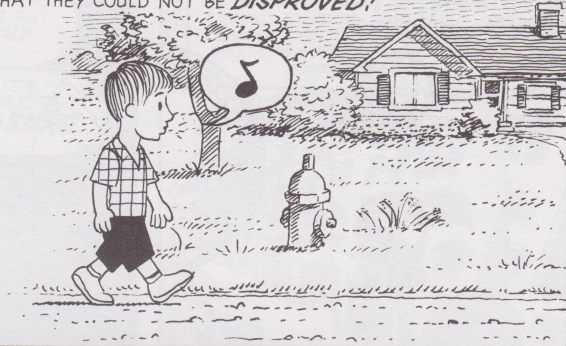




WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, I HAD A RECURRENT *DAYDREAM* THAT THE *WHOLE WORLD* WAS JUST A *SHOW* PUT ON FOR MY *BENEFIT*, THAT UNLESS I WAS PRESENT TO *SEE* THINGS, THEY JUST--



LATER IN LIFE, I FOUND **OTHERS** WHO HAD **SIMILAR** DAYDREAMS AS CHILDREN. NONE OF US EVER REALLY **BELIEVED** THESE THEORIES, BUT WE HAD ALL BEEN **FASCINATED** BY THE FACT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE **DISPROVED**!



EVEN **TODAY**, AS I WRITE AND DRAW THIS PANEL, I HAVE **NO GUARANTEE** THAT ANYTHING EXISTS OUTSIDE OF WHAT MY FIVE SENSES **REPORT** TO ME.*



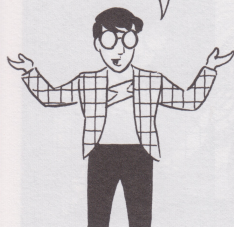
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO **MOROCCO**, BUT I TAKE IT ON **FAITH** THAT THERE **IS** A **MOROCCO**!



I'VE NEVER SEEN THE EARTH FROM **SPACE** FIRSTHAND, YET I TRUST THAT THE EARTH IS **ROUND**.



I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE **HOUSE** **ACROSS THE STREET**, YET I ASSUME IT HAS AN **INTERIOR**, THAT IT ISN'T JUST SOME BIG **MOVIE SET**!



IN THIS PANEL YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE MY **LEGS**, YET YOU **ASSUME** THAT THEY'RE **THERE**.



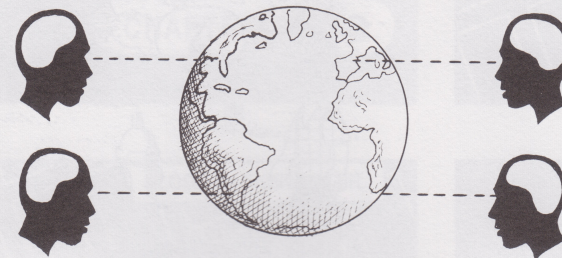
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE **NOT**!



* NOT TO SAY OUR SENSES ARE ANY KIND OF GUARANTEE!

ALL OF US PERCEIVE THE WORLD AS A **WHOLE** THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR **SENSES**.

YET OUR SENSES CAN ONLY REVEAL A WORLD THAT IS **FRAGMENTED** AND **INCOMPLETE**.



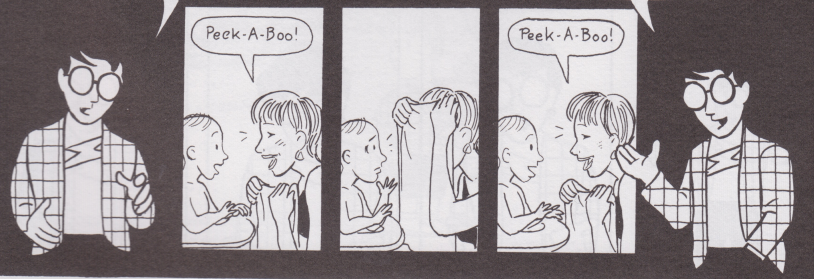
EVEN THE MOST **WIDELY TRAVELLED** MIND CAN ONLY SEE SO MUCH OF THE WORLD IN THE COURSE OF A LIFE.

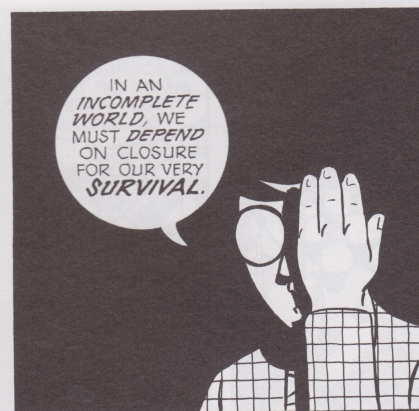
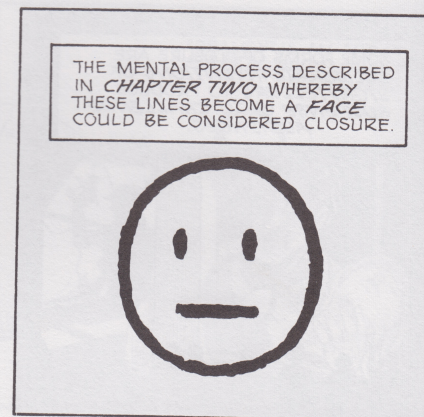
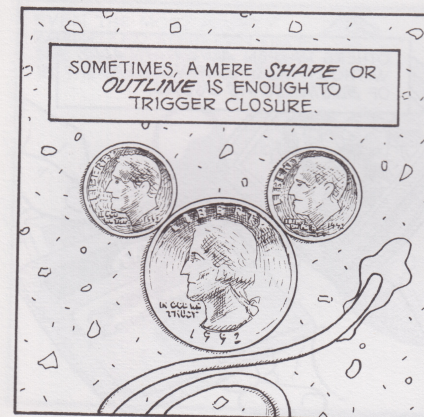
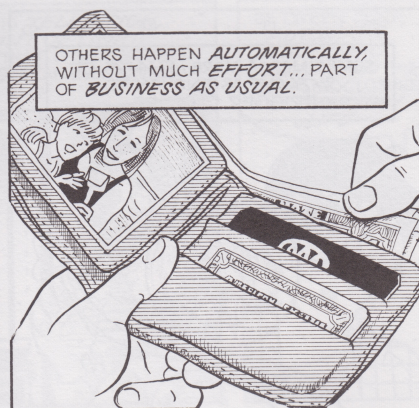
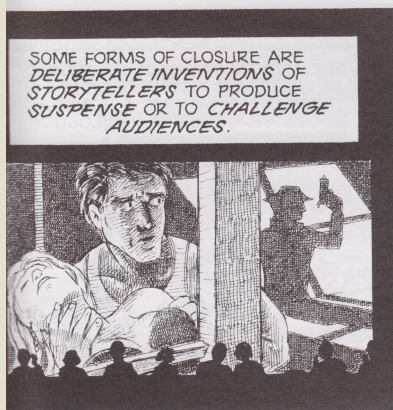
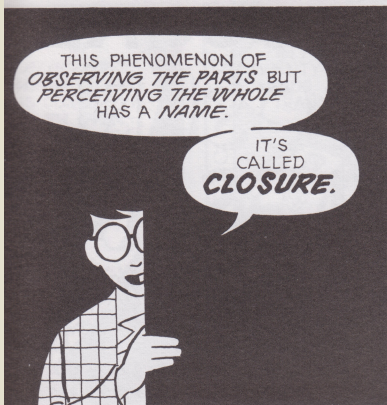
OUR PERCEPTION OF "REALITY" IS AN ACT OF **FAITH**, BASED ON MERE **FRAGMENTS**.



AS **INFANTS**, WE'RE **UNABLE** TO COMMIT THAT ACT OF FAITH. IF WE CAN'T **SEE** IT, **HEAR** IT, **SMELL** IT, **TASTE** IT OR **TOUCH** IT, IT ISN'T **THERE**!

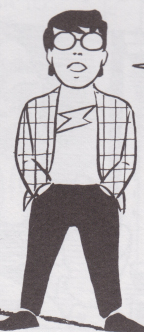
THE GAME "**PEEK-A-BOO**" PLAYS ON THIS IDEA. GRADUALLY, WE ALL LEARN THAT EVEN THOUGH THE **SIGHT** OF MOMMY COMES AND GOES, MOMMY **REMAINS**.





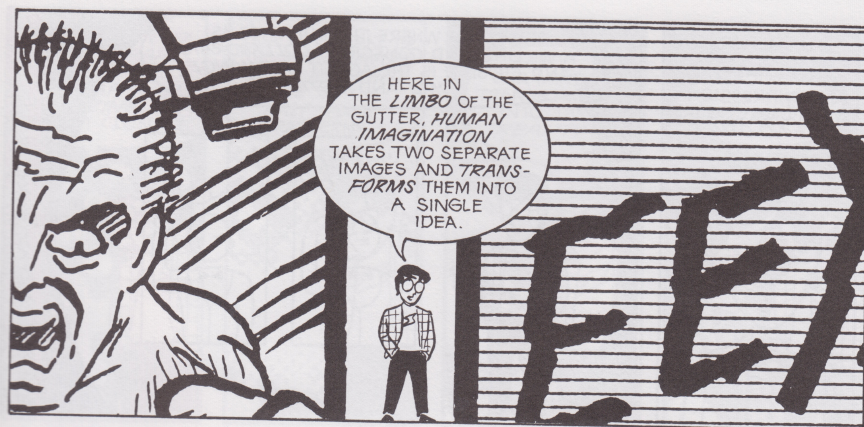
THIS IS ME WHEN I WAS 10
YEARS OLD. THIS WAS IN 1980.





SEE THAT SPACE **BETWEEN** THE PANELS? THAT'S WHAT COMICS AFICIONADOS HAVE NAMED "THE GUTTER!"

AND DESPITE ITS **UNCEREMONIOUS** TITLE, THE GUTTER PLAYS HOST TO MUCH OF THE **MAGIC** AND **MYSTERY** THAT ARE AT THE VERY **HEART** OF COMICS!



HERE IN THE **LIMBO** OF THE GUTTER, **HUMAN IMAGINATION** TAKES TWO SEPARATE IMAGES AND **TRANSFORMS** THEM INTO A SINGLE IDEA.



NOTHING IS **SEEN** BETWEEN THE TWO PANELS, BUT **EXPERIENCE** TELLS YOU SOMETHING **MUST** BE THERE!

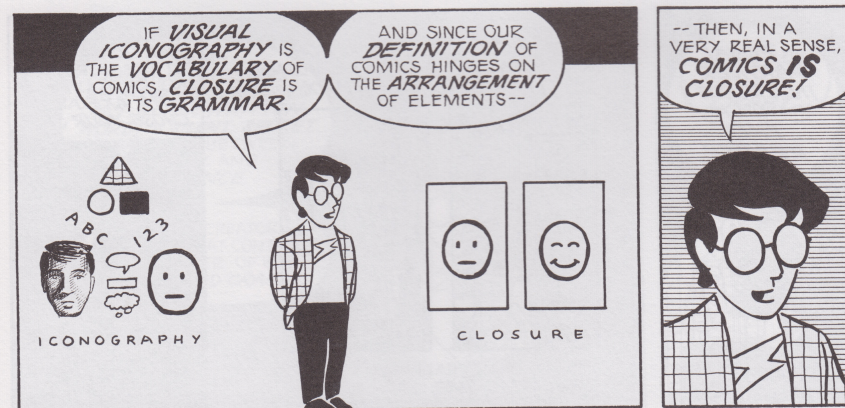
Peek-A-Boo!

Peek-A-Boo!

COMICS PANELS **FRACTURE** BOTH **TIME** AND **SPACE**, OFFERING A **JAGGED, STACCATO RHYTHM** OF **UNCONNECTED MOMENTS**.



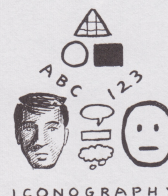
BUT CLOSURE ALLOWS US TO **CONNECT** THESE MOMENTS AND **MENTALLY CONSTRUCT** A **CONTINUOUS, UNIFIED REALITY**.



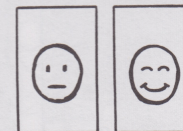
IF **VISUAL ICONOGRAPHY** IS THE **VOCABULARY** OF COMICS, **CLOSURE** IS ITS **GRAMMAR**.

AND SINCE OUR **DEFINITION** OF COMICS HINGES ON THE **ARRANGEMENT** OF ELEMENTS--

-- THEN, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, **COMICS IS CLOSURE!**



ICONOGRAPHY



CLOSURE

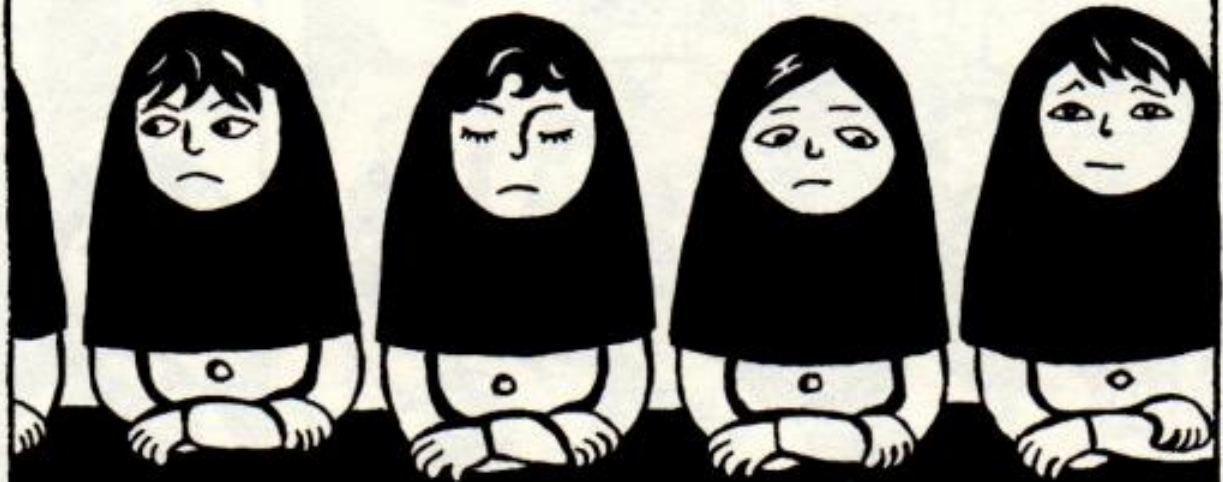


THE VEIL

THIS IS ME WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. THIS WAS IN 1980.



AND THIS IS A CLASS PHOTO. I'M SITTING ON THE FAR LEFT SO YOU DON'T SEE ME. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GOLNAZ, MAHSHID, NARINE, MINNA.



Step inside a point of view:

In the page you are working with:

- What do the characters (and the author) perceive and feel?
- What might they know about or believe?
- What might they care about?

What evidence do you have for your response? What information is missing?





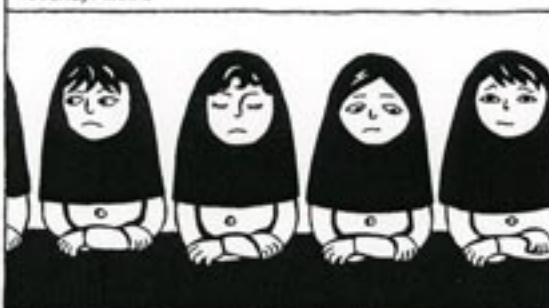


THE VEIL

THIS IS ME WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. THIS WAS IN 1980.



AND THIS IS A CLASS PHOTO. I'M SITTING ON THE FAR LEFT SO YOU DON'T SEE ME. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GOLNAZ, MAHSHID, NARINE, MINNA.



IN 1979 A REVOLUTION TOOK PLACE. IT WAS LATER CALLED "THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION".



THEN CAME 1980: THE YEAR IT BECAME OBLIGATORY TO WEAR THE VEIL AT SCHOOL.



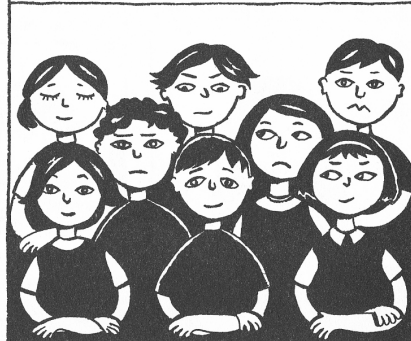
WE DIDN'T REALLY LIKE TO WEAR THE VEIL, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAD TO.



AND ALSO BECAUSE THE YEAR BEFORE, IN 1979,
WE WERE IN A FRENCH NON-RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.

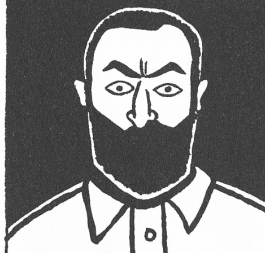


WHERE BOYS AND GIRLS WERE TOGETHER.



AND THEN SUDDENLY IN 1980...

ALL BILINGUAL SCHOOLS
MUST BE CLOSED DOWN.



THEY ARE SYMBOLS
OF CAPITALISM.

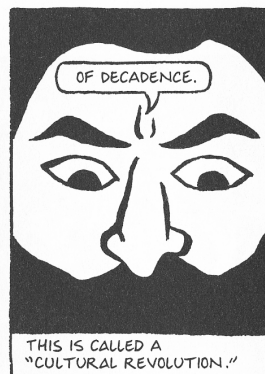
BRAVO!

WHAT WISDOM!



OF DECADENCE.

THIS IS CALLED A
"CULTURAL REVOLUTION."



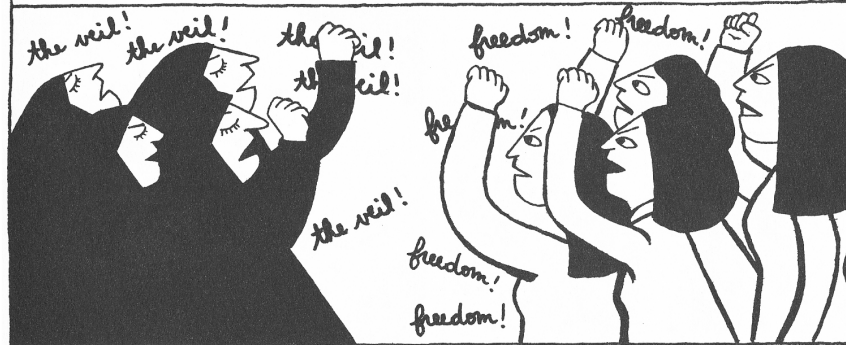
WE FOUND OURSELVES VEILED AND SEPARATED FROM OUR FRIENDS.



AND THAT
WAS THAT...



EVERYWHERE IN THE STREETS THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR AND AGAINST THE VEIL.



AT ONE OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS, A GERMAN JOURNALIST TOOK A PHOTO OF MY MOTHER.



I WAS REALLY PROUD OF HER. HER PHOTO WAS PUBLISHED IN ALL THE EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS.



AND EVEN IN ONE MAGAZINE IN IRAN, MY MOTHER WAS REALLY SCARED.



SHE DYED HER HAIR,



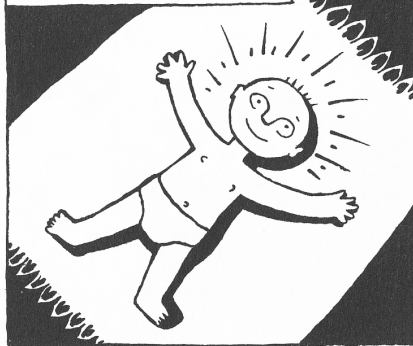
AND WORE DARK GLASSES FOR A LONG TIME.



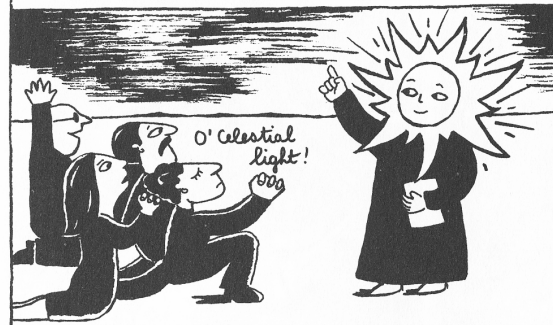
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT THE VEIL. DEEP DOWN I WAS VERY RELIGIOUS BUT AS A FAMILY WE WERE VERY MODERN AND AVANT-GARDE.



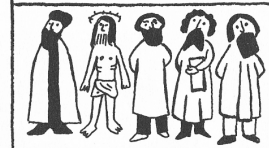
I WAS BORN WITH RELIGION.



AT THE AGE OF SIX I WAS ALREADY SURE I WAS THE LAST PROPHET. THIS WAS A FEW YEARS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.



BEFORE ME THERE HAD BEEN A FEW OTHERS.

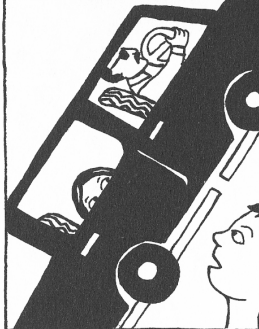


I WANTED TO BE A PROPHET...

BECAUSE OUR MAID DID NOT EAT WITH US.

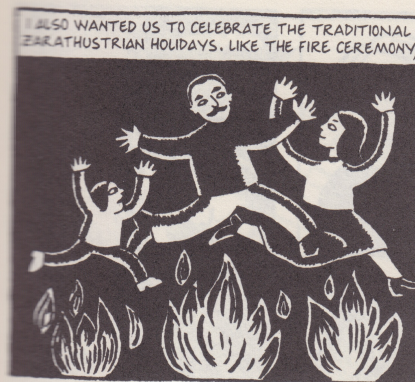
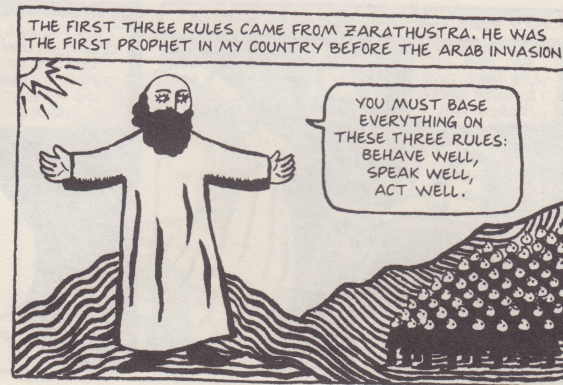


BECAUSE MY FATHER HAD A CADILLAC.



AND, ABOVE ALL, BECAUSE MY GRANDMOTHER'S KNEES ALWAYS ACHED.





EVERY NIGHT I HAD A BIG DISCUSSION WITH GOD.

GOD, GIVE ME
SOME MORE TIME.
I AM NOT QUITE
READY YET.



YES YOU ARE,
CELESTIAL LIGHT,
YOU ARE MY
CHOICE, MY LAST
AND MY BEST
CHOICE.



EXCEPT FOR MY GRANDMOTHER I WAS
OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY ONE WHO BELIEVED
IN MYSELF.

WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO BE WHEN
YOU GROW UP?



I'LL BE A
PROPHET.



HAHA!
HAHA!
HAHA!

SHE'S CRAZY.

MY PARENTS WERE CALLED IN BY THE TEACHER.

YOUR CHILD IS
DISTURBED. SHE WANTS
TO BECOME A PROPHET.



WHAT ABOUT IT?

DOESN'T THIS
WORRY YOU?



NO! NOT AT ALL!



