



I ALWAYS WANTED  
TO THINK OF MYSELF

...

AS A GOOD  
PERSON.

I MEAN, IT'S TRUE THAT I  
NEVER JOINED THE PEACE CORPS  
OR DID A TON OF CHARITY WORK.



BUT I TRIED TO BE KIND  
AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.



THAT'S NOT SUCH A COMMON  
THING IN THE MODERN WORLD..



WHICH SEEMS TO BE FULL OF  
EVERY KIND OF RUDENESS.



I TOLD MYSELF THAT, IF I COULD  
RETURN KINDNESS FOR UNKINDNESS...



THEN IN SOME SMALL WAY  
I WAS HELPING TO MAKE  
THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE..



AND THAT MY HARD WORK  
WOULD, IN THE END, BE  
ACKNOWLEDGED.



I WAS A REAL SUCKER.



...UNTIL I MET  
MR. PUNCH.





# COMEDIA

A 24 HOUR COMIC BY  
MARK SIMMONS

















THAT'S RIGHT. ORIGINALLY  
HE WAS A CHARACTER  
FROM THE COMMEDIA  
DELL'ARTE - THE COMEDY  
OF ART.

WHICH THEN  
EVOLVED INTO  
A PUPPET SHOW...



THEY CALL IT "A TRAGICAL COMEDY,  
OR A COMICAL TRAGEDY"...



YOUR MR. PUNCH BEATS HIS  
WIFE, GRINDS THE BABY UP  
INTO SAUSAGES...



HE KILLS THE JUDGE, HE  
HANGS THE HANGMAN...



AND THEN HE KILLS THE  
DEVIL, SO NOBODY  
CAN STOP HIM.

HUH. SO IS THAT  
A COMEDY OR A  
TRAGEDY?





"...THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY  
ONE WITH A PUPPET."

IT WAS  
TRUE.

AND MAYBE I  
HAD BEEN SELFISH.  
DIDN'T I HAVE  
A RESPONSIBILITY...

TO USE IT ON  
BEHALF OF ALL  
OF YOU?

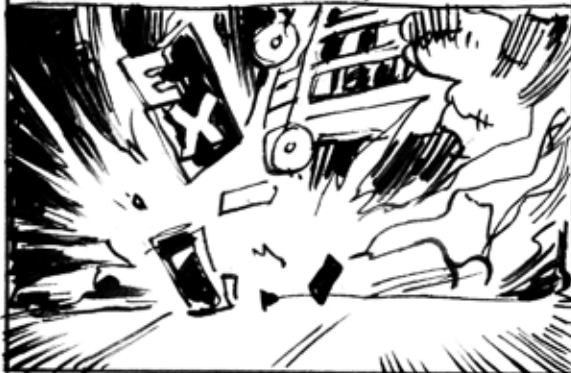
ON CORRUPT POLITICIANS!



ON BLATHERING PUNDITS!



ON CORPORATE EXPLOITERS!



EVERYWHERE I LOOKED, I SAW  
PEOPLE CRYING OUT FOR THE  
JUSTICE OF PUNCH!













WITH THE BENEFIT  
OF HINDSIGHT...



I THINK THAT MAY  
HAVE BEEN THE POINT

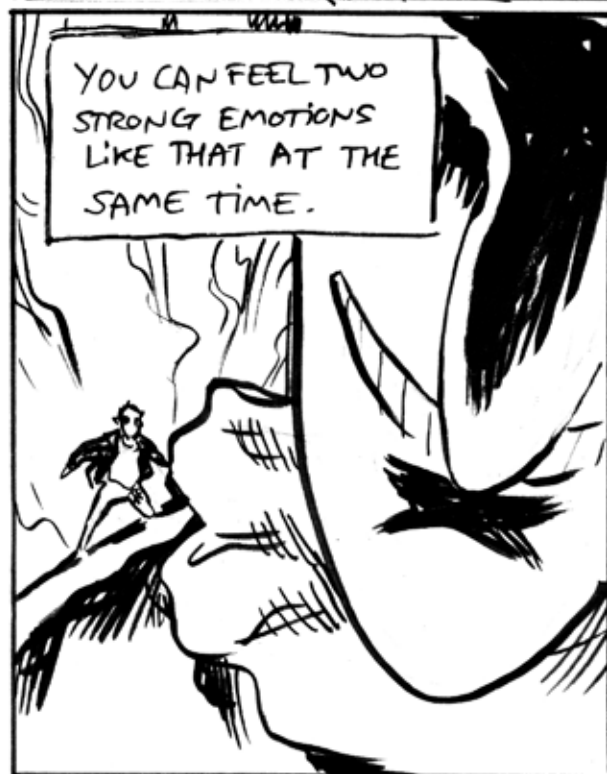


WHERE THINGS STARTED  
GETTING OUT OF HAND.









ALL I KNOW IS THAT I  
NEVER LOVED ANYONE...



LIKE I LOVED HER  
AT THAT MOMENT.

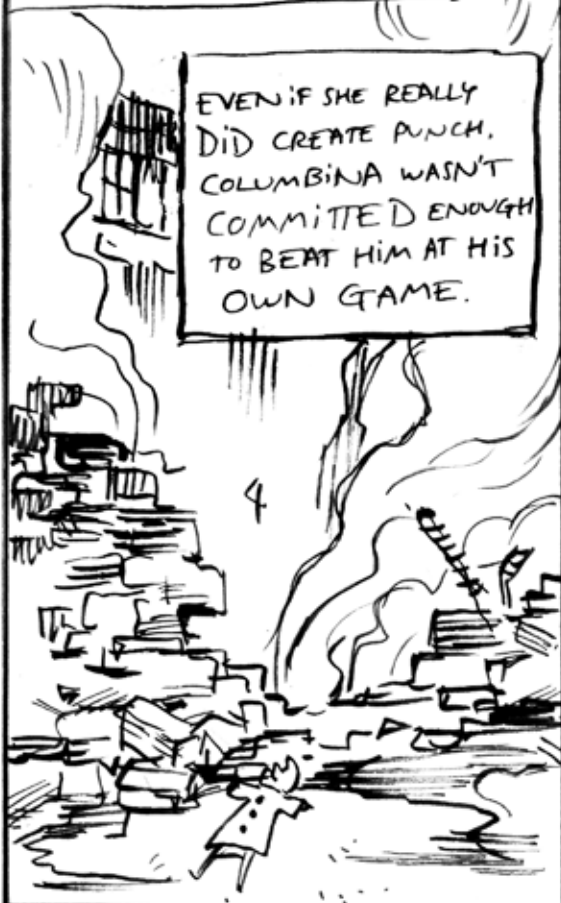


MY COLUMBINA.

SHE DIDN'T WIN,  
OF COURSE.



I MEAN, I'M PRETTY  
SURE THAT PUNCH ACTUALLY  
KILLED GOD, AND  
THAT'S hardcore.



EVEN IF SHE REALLY  
DID CREATE PUNCH,  
COLUMBINA WASN'T  
COMMITTED ENOUGH  
TO BEAT HIM AT HIS  
OWN GAME.

BUT SHE DID MANAGE TO  
REDUCE HIM BACK TO A  
MANAGEABLE SIZE.



SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN  
READING UP ON THE THEATER  
AND THAT OTHER STUFF SHE  
TOLD ME ABOUT. TRAGEDY  
AND COMEDY.



THE GREEKS SAID THAT  
COMEDY STARTS WITH A LOWLY  
CHARACTER, RAISES HIM UP,  
AND GIVES HIM A HAPPY ENDING.

TRAGEDY, OF COURSE, IS  
THE OTHER WAY AROUND.



I STILL THINK I'M BETTER  
OFF THAN WHEN I STARTED...



SO LET'S CALL  
THIS A COMEDY.



AND I'M STILL TRYING TO DO BETTER.  
I'D LIKE TO MAKE COLUMBINA PROUD.

I'M TRYING TO  
BECOME A BETTER  
PERSON...

I'M TRYING TO FORGIVE MYSELF.

COME ON,  
JACKASS!  
MAKE ME  
A COMIC!!

BONK  
BONK  
BONK

L'END