

Derik A. Badman

Things Change

The Metamorphoses Comic

I



MadInkBeard 2009

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madinkbeard.com/comics

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Introduction

In August of 2006, I began publishing *Things Change* as a biweekly webcomic. To write *Things Change* I am using Ovid's *Metamorphoses*—in a few translations though mostly the translation by Horace Gregory (Signet Classic edition) with supplemental reading of the Allen Mandelbaum translation (the version I first read of the poem)—as a generative text. I am not directly adapting Ovid's work, rather I am using his stories as a jumping off point for characters, events, themes, images, words, or whatever else seems useful for the particular story. At times I have stuck close to the original story, but for most of the stories the myths lurk behind the scenes.

Things Change has been a vehicle for my ongoing experiments with comics, which is why many of the stories have quite different appearances and styles (also befitting the theme of change). All content was made digitally using a Wacom drawing tablet. This file contains the complete pages from Book One. Books One and Two are linked short stories; Books Three and Four (ongoing) are both single narratives.

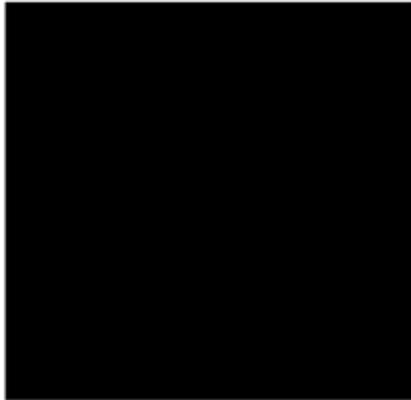
I hope you enjoy the comics here. If so, please go to *Things Change*'s web home madinkbeard.com/comics to read more. You might also visit my blog madinkbeard.com/blog to read my writings on comics. This book has been published (along with Book Two) as a print-on-demand volume, but I am interested in hearing from any potential publishers.

-Derik
07.31.09

Book One

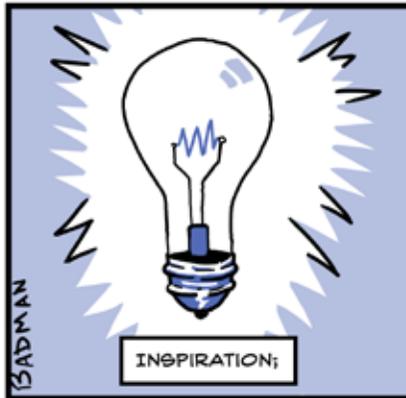
Invocation * Ages of Man * Deucalion and Pyrrha
Apollo and Daphne * Io

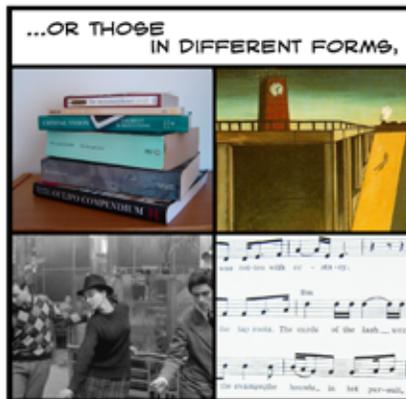
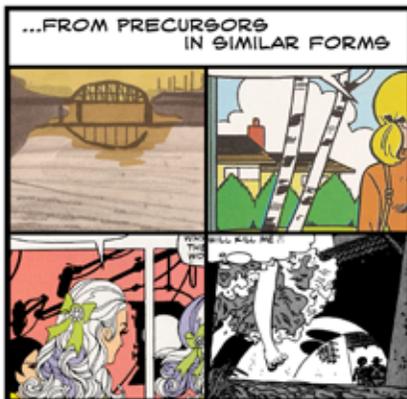
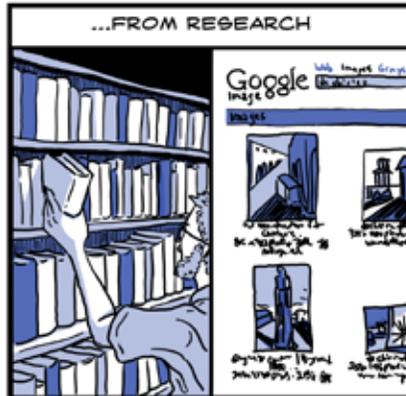
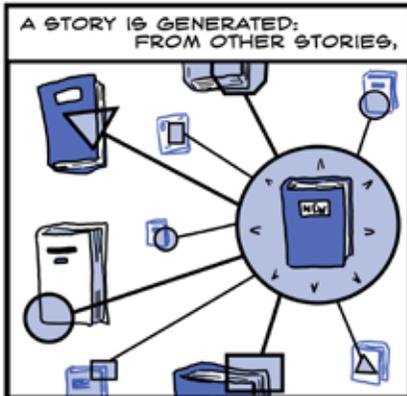
Invocation



ALL STORIES HAVE BEGINNINGS.

SOME WOULD HAVE IT AS A FLASH OF LIGHT...





A STRUCTURE BUILT UP PIECE BY PIECE, AS MUCH PROCESS AS PRODUCT.

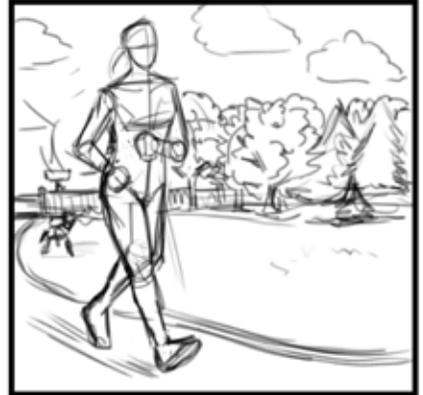
Adeline is jogging in the morning (1) and comes upon Zach sitting on a bench. She questions him and he says he found a few things of hers while he was packing and wanted to offer them back.

A:Good morning, Zach. I can't believe this is chance.

Z: No, I was waiting for you.

A: And?... What do you want?

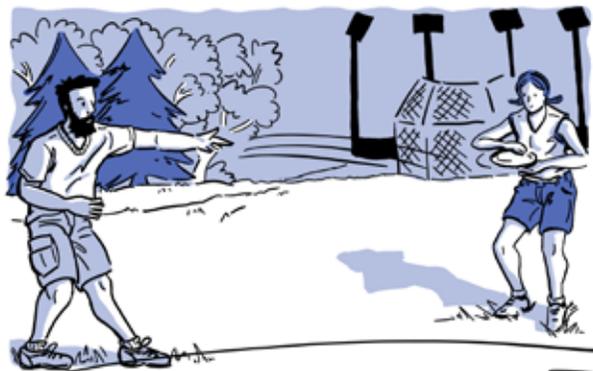
Z: I have a few things of yours that I found while I was packing. I'm moving this



Ages of Man



"THERE'S THAT OLD FRIGBEE."



"YOU STILL HAVE THAT, ZACH!?"



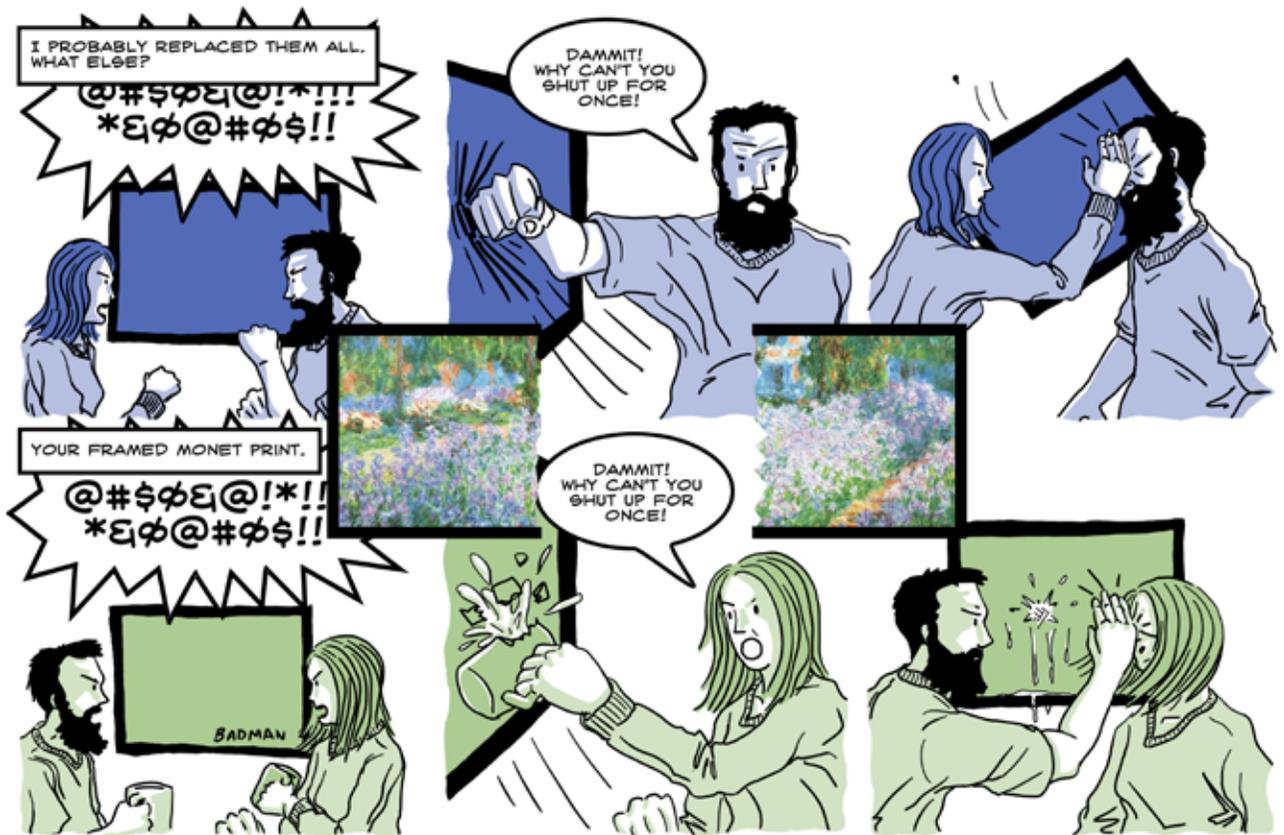


WHAT ELSE?

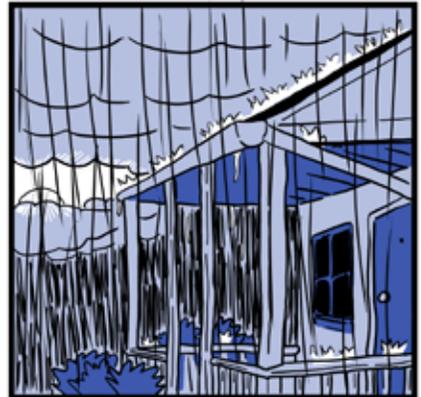
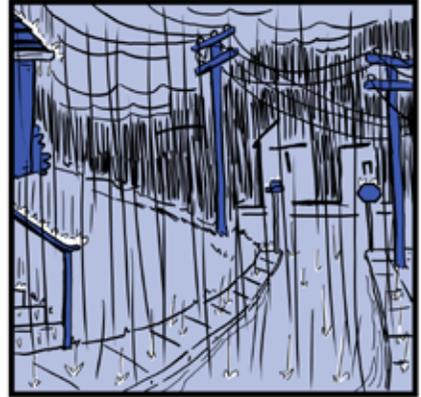
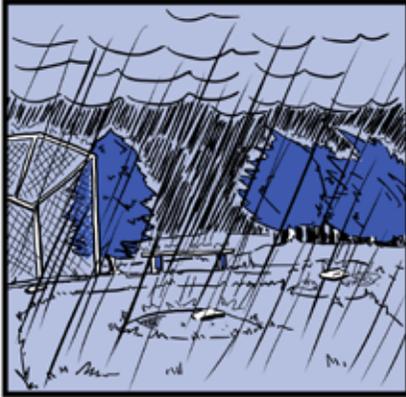
A FEW CD'S.



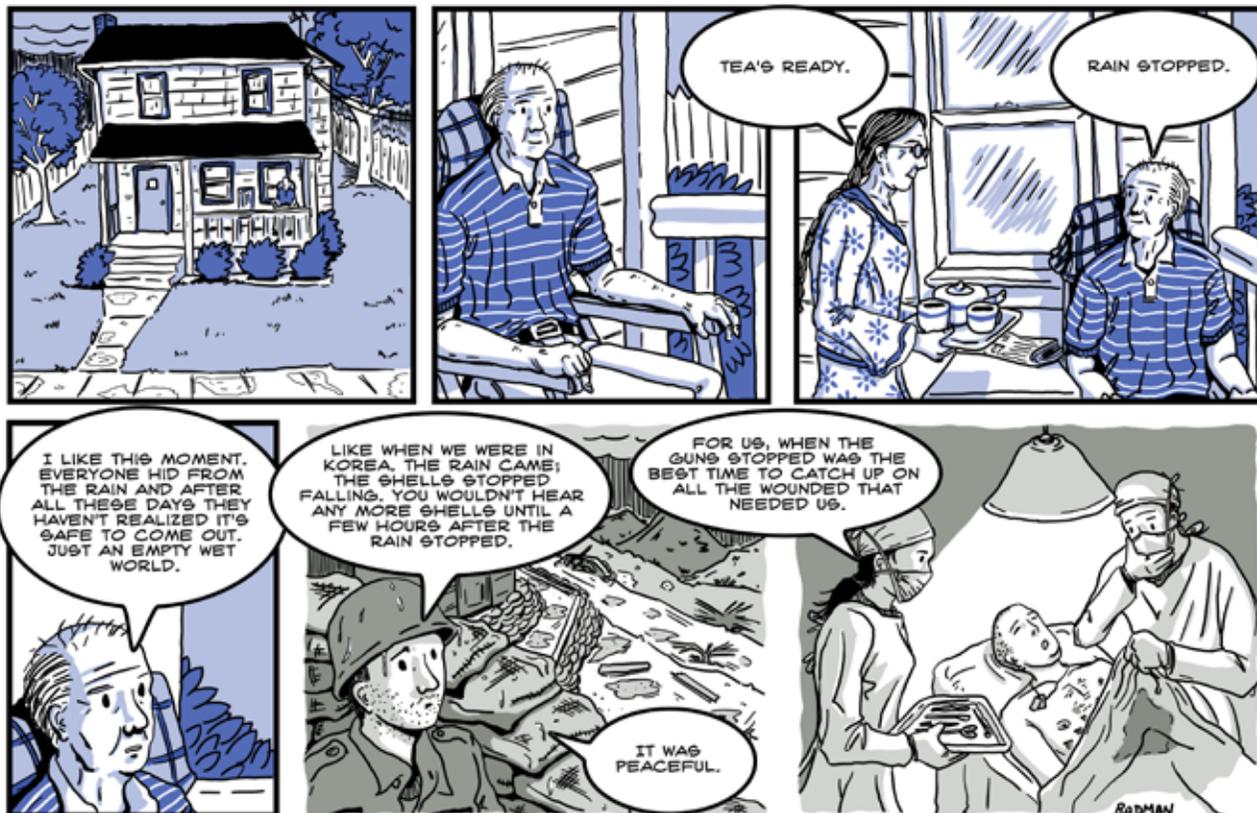
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Deucalion and Pyrrha





FIND ANYTHING USEFUL?



THE TEA IS QUITE FINE TODAY. I TRIED A NEW TYPE FROM THE STORE.



HOLD ON, I'M STILL READING.

HMM.

AH, HERE'S ONE...

...PERFECT.



YES, YES...



HERE.
TAKE A LOOK

HE SOUNDED
LIKE AN
INTERESTING
MAN.



Tuesday, July 11, 2006.



Paul H. Meas

Paul H. Meas of Rockhill Mennonite Community, West Rockhill Township, formerly of Perkaspie, died Saturday, July 8, 2006, at his home. He was 92.

He was the husband of Dorothy E. (Benner) Meas. The couple would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on July 10.

Born in Quakertown, he was the son of the late Otto and Rose (Weiss) Meas.

Mr. Meas had been a drummer and singer with the Percy Wagner Mickey Meyers Orchestra in the 1930s, as well as with the Benner and George Doddy Orchestra of Bethlehem and the Fred Benner Orchestra.

He and his wife co-owned, published and distributed the Quakertown News Bee, and later were proprietors of the former Benner's Market in Perkaspie from 1955 until retiring in 1976.

He and his wife also enjoyed singing together with the Off Beats from Perkaspie. He loved woodworking and making things with his creative mind, including his pride-and-joy model train display and miniature amusement park that many visitors enjoyed seeing in the Meas home.

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Daily posts on the news of the day.

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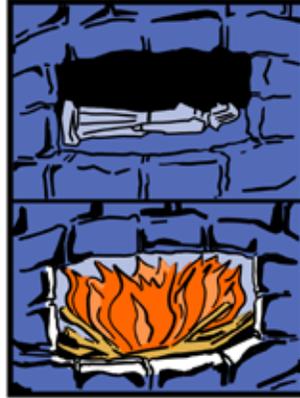
Stop in and see our special

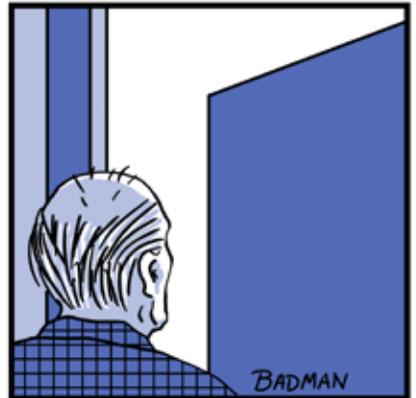
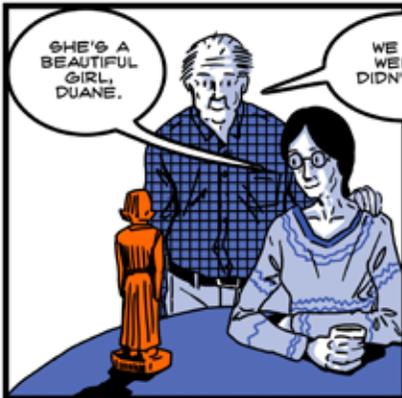
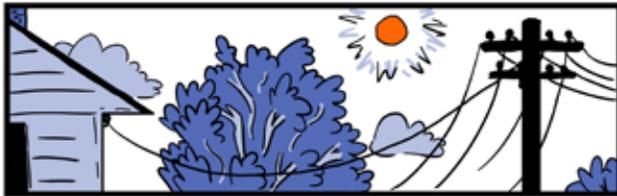
I SHOULD GET TO WORK.

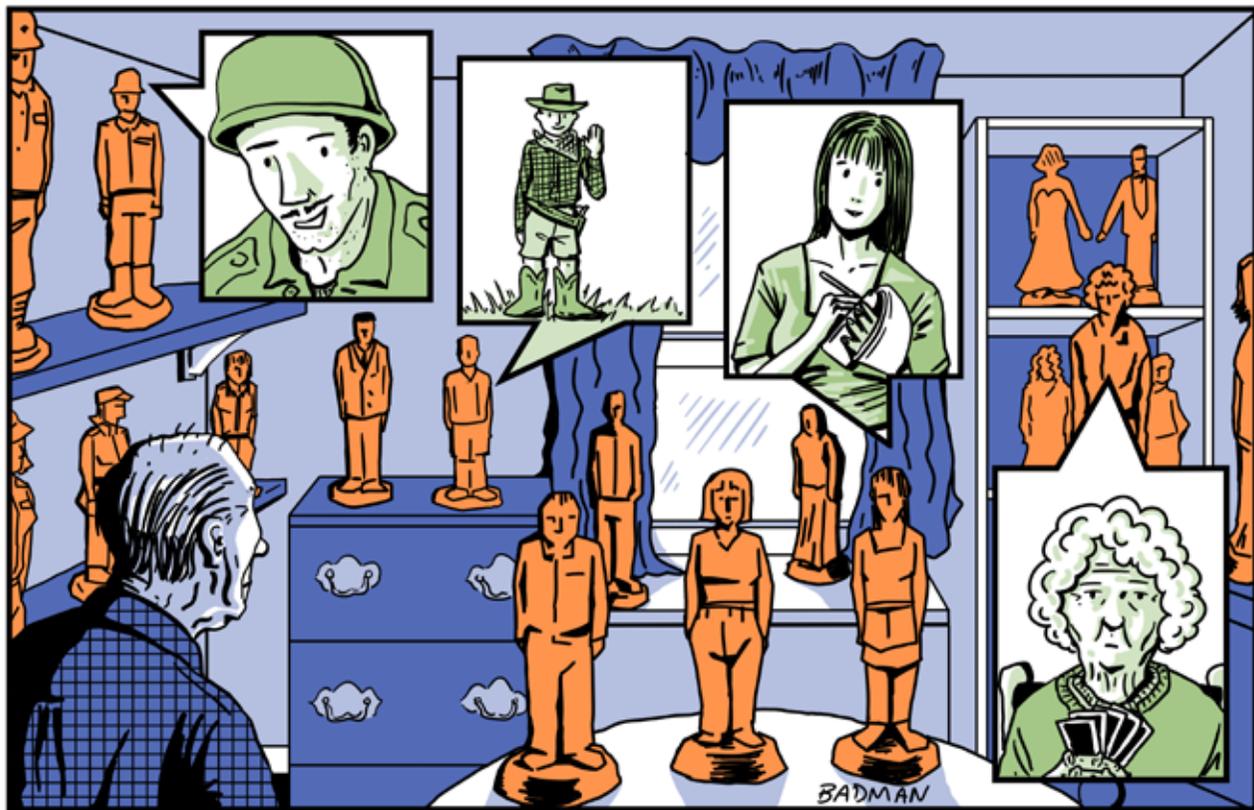


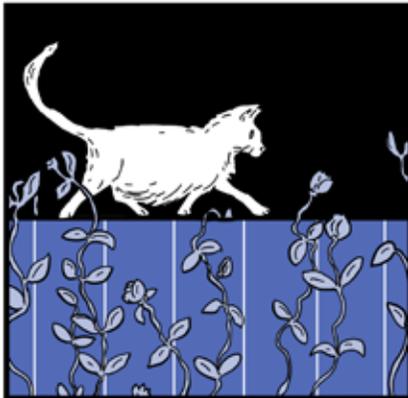
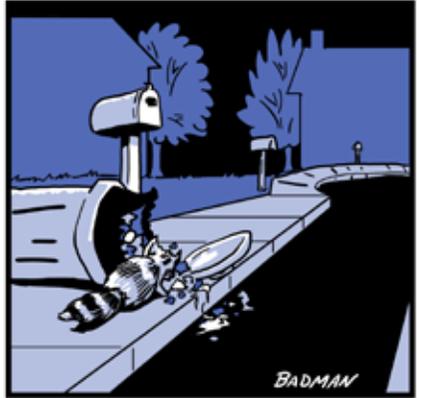
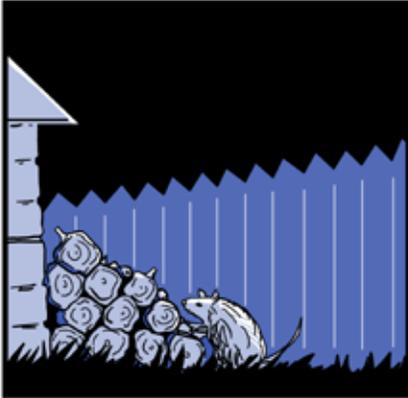






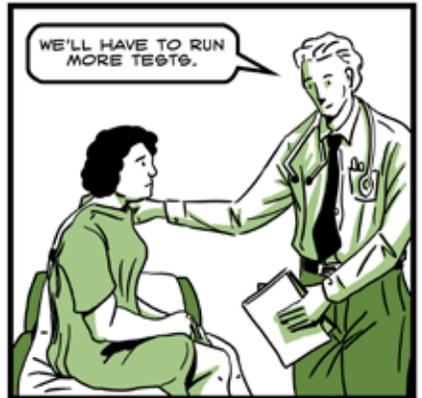






Apollo and Daphne









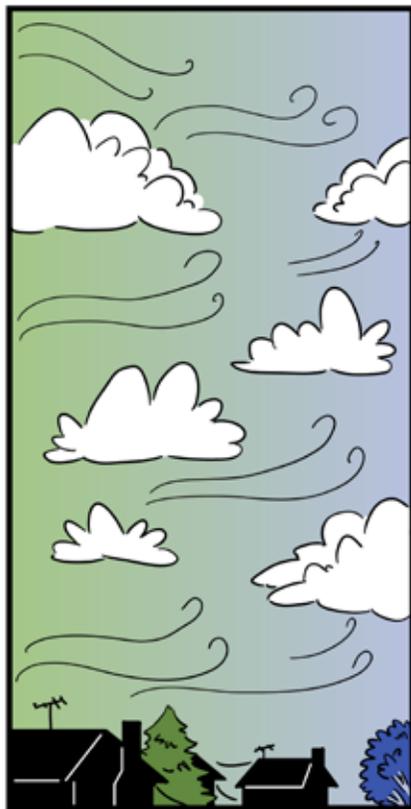
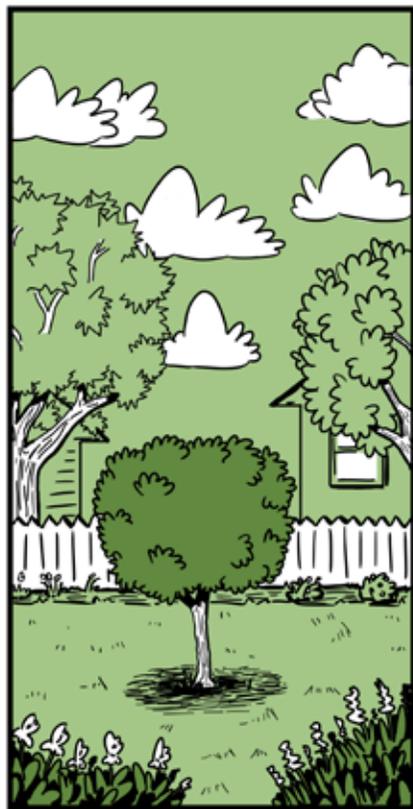




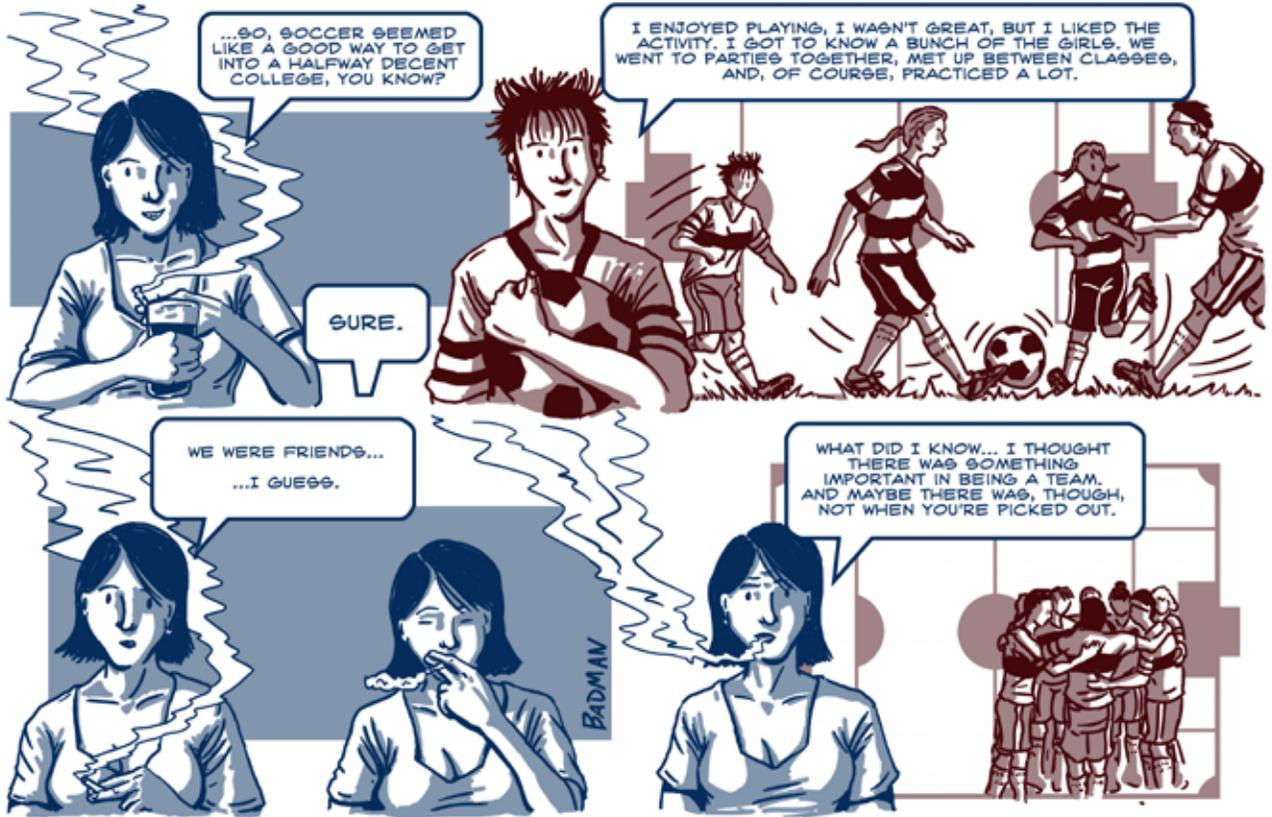


BADMAN

BADMAN



Io







THEN, ONE WEEKEND THE COACH HAD A PARTY FOR THE TEAM AT HER HOUSE, A KIND OF PEP RALLY FOR OURSELVES THE NIGHT BEFORE A GAME WITH OUR LOCAL RIVALS. THEY HAD THIS BEAUTIFUL HOUSE ON THE LAKE.

WE MADE A BONFIRE, ATE, AND DANCED TO HER OLD RECORDS. A FEW OF US ENDED UP GOING SWIMMING IN THE LAKE.



ONE OF THE GIRLS HAD A BOTTLE. AT THE EDGE OF THE WATER HIDDEN FROM VIEW, WE PASSED IT AROUND, TAKING SWIGS.

I WAS A LITTLE BUZZED.

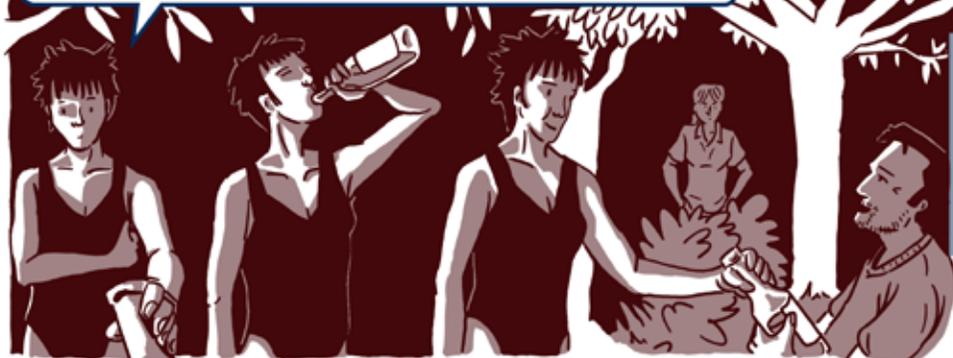


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HER HUSBAND HADN'T BEEN AT THE PARTY, BUT IN THE DARK, AS I CAME OUT OF THE WATER, I NOTICED HIM SITTING IN THE GRASS NEARBY WITH A BOTTLE.



I TOOK A SWIG, HE OFFERED SOME WORDS, I DON'T REMEMBER NOW, I WASN'T THINKING ANYTHING OF IT. WE CHATTED FOR A MINUTE OR TWO.



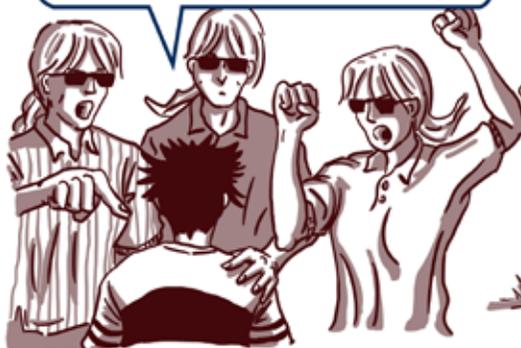
I HEARD ONE OF MY FRIENDS CALLING MY NAME SO I TURNED AND WALKED AWAY.



THE NEXT DAY OUR GAME DIDN'T GO WELL. SURE, I MADE SOME MISTAKES, BUT SO DID MANY OTHERS. THE COACH SINGLED ME OUT. AFTER THE GAME, SHE MADE IT SOUND LIKE IT WAS MY FAULT.



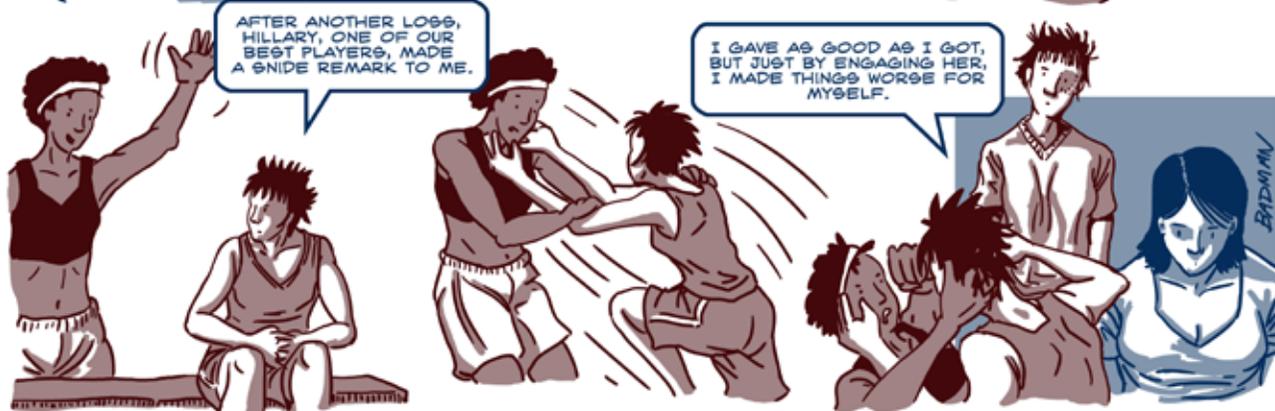
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS THE OBJECT OF ALL KINDS OF BLAME. EVERY LOSS WAS MY FAULT. AND I STARTED TO BELIEVE IT.



AT FIRST, MY FRIENDS QUESTIONED THE COACH'S WORDS WHEN SHE WASN'T AROUND, BUT SOON THEY WERE AGREEING WITH HER.



BADMAN

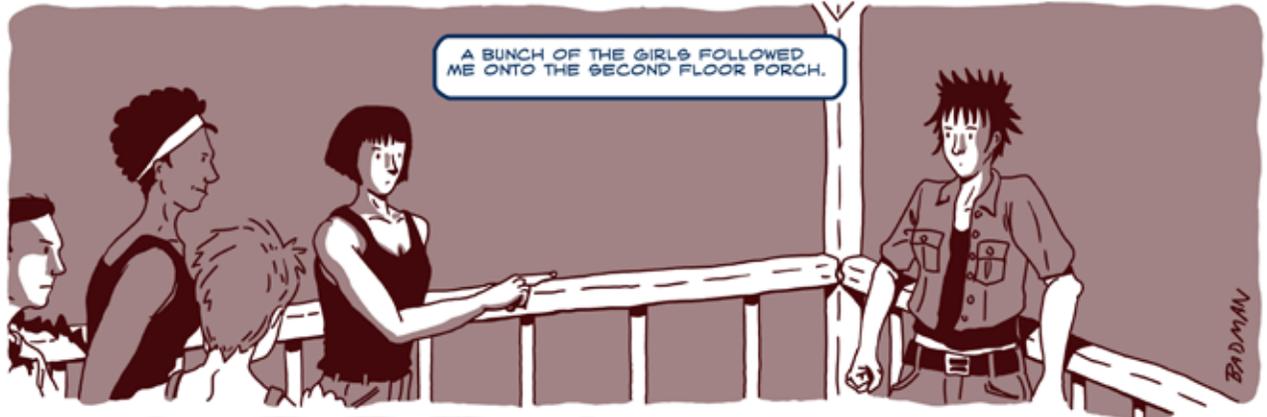


LATER THAT WEEK, I WAS AT A PARTY WITH MY FRIEND SARA WHO WAS ALSO ON THE TEAM, BUT NOT A REGULAR PLAYER. A LOT OF THE OTHER GIRLS ON THE TEAM WERE THERE.



I TRIED TO AVOID THEM. ONE OF THEM PURPOSEFULLY SPILLED HER BEER ON ME, THEN ANOTHER ONE DID TOO.. SARA TRIED TO TALK TO THEM, BUT I WALKED OUT.







SARA CALLED THE AMBULANCE, AND I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL A FEW DAYS. WHEN I GOT OUT, I WENT TO THE COACH'S HUSBAND.



WITH A LITTLE PERSUASION HE AGREED TO WRITE ME A RECOMMENDATION FOR A DIFFERENT SCHOOL. HE OWED ME THAT MUCH.



ANYWAY... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.



I'VE PROBABLY HAD ENOUGH, MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL IT A NIGHT.



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END: BOOK ONE.

Notes:

p. 8 Panel 4: Images borrowed, clockwise from top-left: Frank Santoro's *Storeyville*, *Archie Americana 1960's*, Alex Toth's *Zorro*, Jim Steranko's *Marvel romance*.

p. 8 Panel 5: Clockwise from top-left: *Oulipo Compendium*, Mandelbaum's translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Gaddis' *The Recognitions*, Sorrentino's *Crystal Vision*, Breton's *Nadja*, Gregory's translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; a De Chirico painting; a Phil Ochs song ("When in Rome"); Anna Karina and co. from Godard's *Bande a Parte*.

p. 12: CD covers (left to right): Bob Dylan "Desire", Sonic Youth "Daydream Nation", Matthew Sweet "Girlfriend", Bruce Springsteen "The Wild, the Innocent, and the E Street Shuffle", Patti Smith "Easter", and Neil Young "Tonight's the Night."

p. 18: For what it's worth, that is my grandfather's real obituary. I just edited out the last paragraph where it mentions all the family members by name. That's a sketch I did of him a few years ago.

The font used in the comics portion of this book is primarily Blambot's "Webletterer BB" (www.blambot.com).

Things Change continues with Book Two,
available online and in print at:

madinkbeard.com/comics

About the Author

Derik A. Badman is a librarian by profession and a comics artist and critic by passion. He has been blogging at madinkbeard.com since 2004 and posting webcomics since 2005. His first webcomic, *Maroon*, was a year long experiment about a man on a deserted island. He lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA with his wife, two cats, and lots of books.