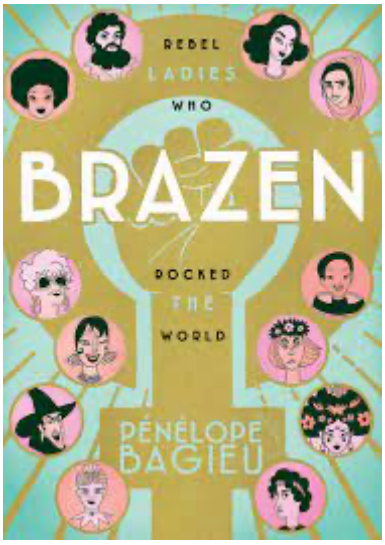
BOOK REVIEW Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World By Penelope Bagiue

PARENTAL ADVISTORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT AVAILABLE AT TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Sample content:

OF COURSE, HER ADOPTED COUNTRY HAS NEITHER RACIAL SEGREGATION (SHE CAN GO WHEREVER SHE PLEASES), NOR PURITANICAL MORALS.
(JOSEPHINE HAS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN "TWO LOVES.")

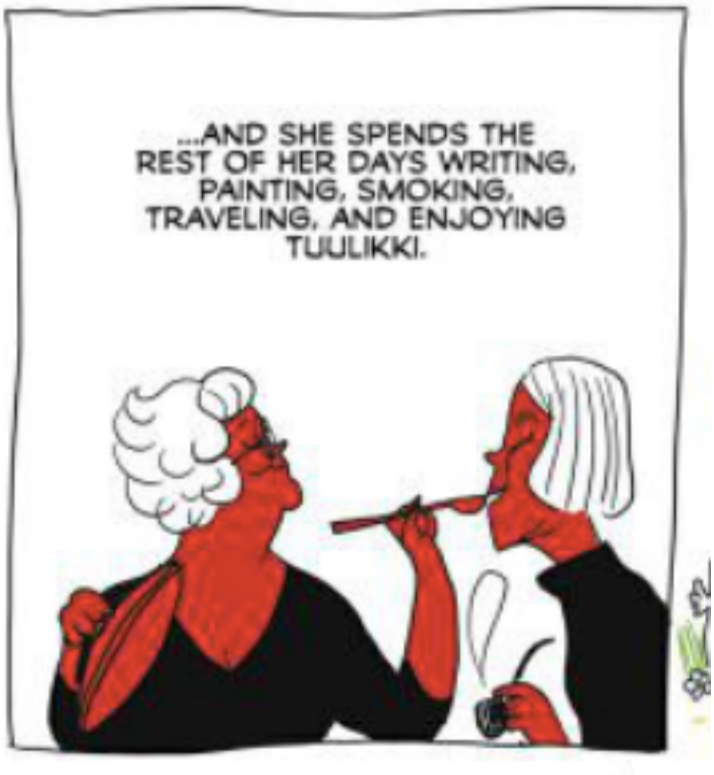
BUT TOVE HAS A HARD TIME FINDING HER PLACE IN INSTITUTIONS, WHERE IT IS MADE CLEAR TO HER THAT WOMEN AREN'T WELCOME.
Art must come from the *balls*, you see?!
...

INITIALLY INTENDED AS A SIDE HOBBY, THESE ILLUSTRATED BOOKS ARE INSPIRED BY HER HAPPY CHILDHOOD.
The Moomins explore enchanting islands.
Moominmamma is free and encourages her kids to live life the same way (and to smoke).
Their friend, crazy Little My, represents Tove as a child.
FOR EXAMPLE, THESE ARE HER CHARACTERS THINGUMY AND BOB.
THEY ALWAYS WALK AROUND HOLDING HANDS AND CARRY WITH THEM A SUITCASE: A SECRET THEY CAN'T TELL ANYONE.
HOMOSEXUALITY IS ILLEGAL IN FINLAND AT THIS TIME, AND TOVE IS IN A SECRET RELATIONSHIP WITH A MARRIED WOMAN.

TOVE AND TUULIKKI DREAM OF ISOLATION AND LIFE IN THE WILD.

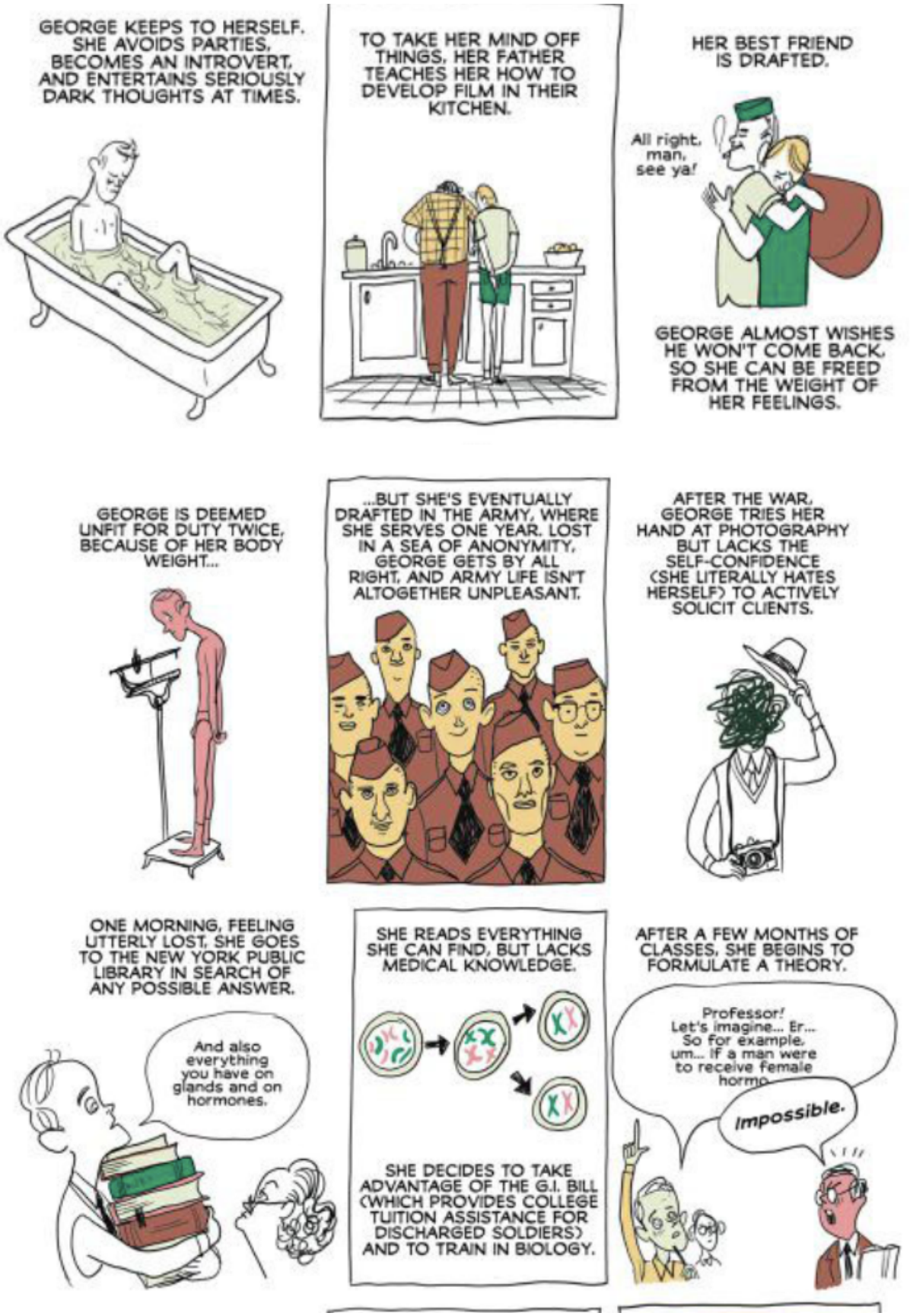
TOVE IS IN FULL DEPRESSION MODE WHEN, AT A PARTY ONE NIGHT, SHE MEETS FELLOW FINNISH ARTIST TUULIKKI PIETILÄ.
SHE INVITES HER TO DANCE. (SCANDALOUS!)
IT'S LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, AND THEY BECOME LIFE PARTNERS.
Too-Ticky, a new character in Moomin's adventures (who guides him through the winter)

DEVASTATED, SHE DECIDES TO PEN THE LAST MOOMINS BOOK.
After that, let's go away. Far away. For a long time.


...AND SHE SPENDS THE REST OF HER DAYS WRITING, PAINTING, SMOKING, TRAVELING, AND ENJOYING TUULIKKI.

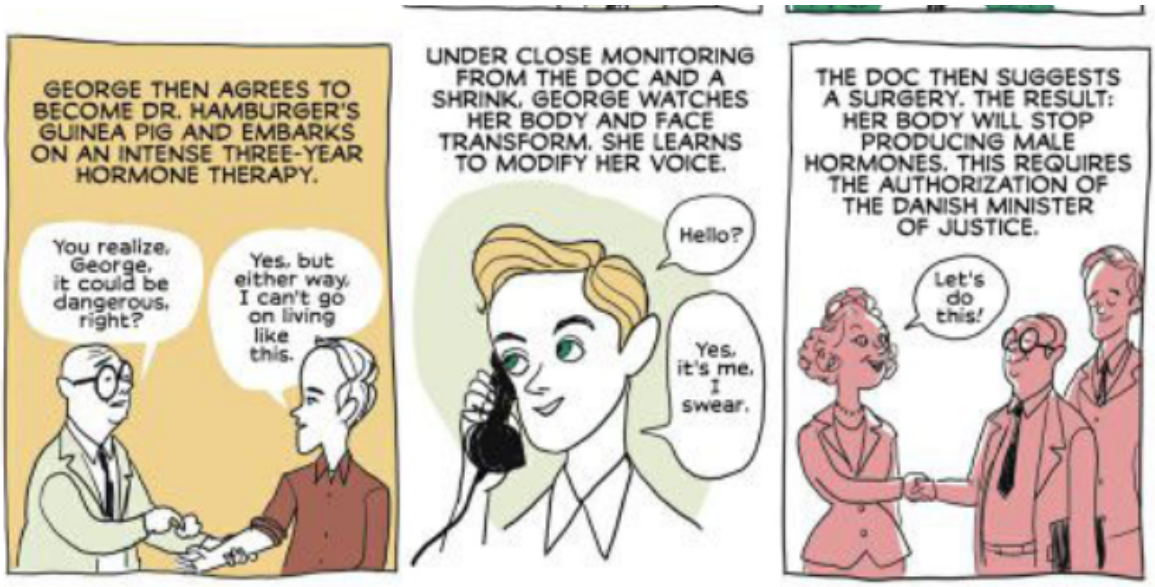
THE LEONARDO DA VINCI ART SCHOOL IN NEW YORK MAKES AN EXCEPTION FOR GIORGINA AND ALLOWS HER TO ENROLL DESPITE BEING ONLY FIFTEEN.

1926-1989
THE JORGENSENS LIVE IN THE BRONX, IN NEW YORK CITY. ON MAY 30, 1926, THEY WELCOME THEIR SECOND CHILD...
...WHO, BY ALL APPEARANCES, IS A BOY. BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, THIS ISN'T THE CASE.
THEY NAME THEIR BABY GEORGE, JR.— BUT DEEP DOWN, GEORGE IS A GIRL.
GEORGE IS A VERY SLENDER CHILD WHO IS ALWAYS BEING PICKED ON.
HAVING TO WEAR BOYS' CLOTHES IS TORTURE FOR HER, AND SHE SECRETLY PUTS ON HER SISTER'S PRETTY DRESSES. SHE LONGS FOR A DOLL FOR CHRISTMAS ABOVE ALL ELSE.
Please, Baby Jesus.
I hate trains.
AS A TEEN, SHE QUICKLY BECOMES VERY JEALOUS OF HER BEST FRIEND.
OR RATHER, JEALOUS OF HIS GIRLFRIENDS.

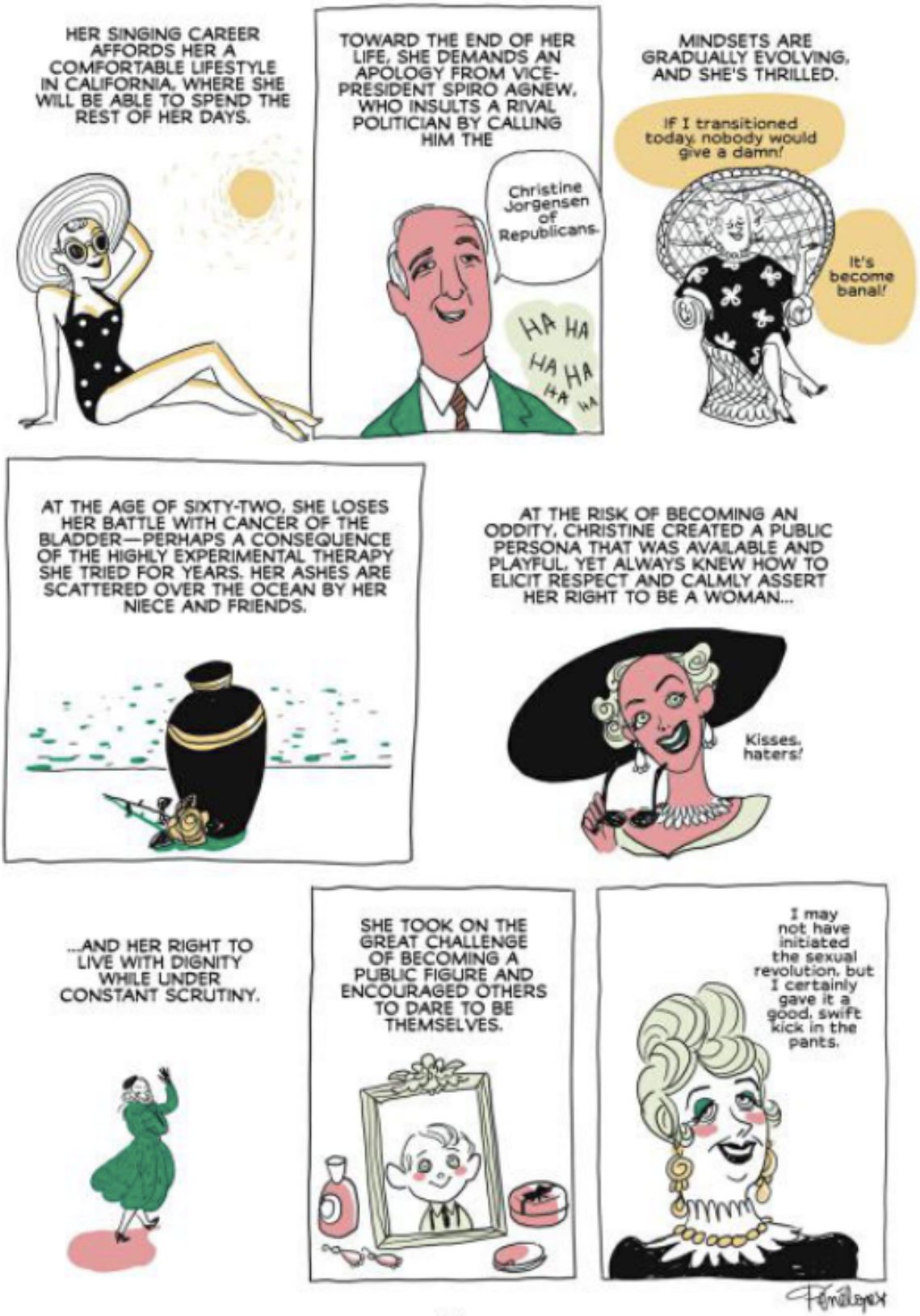

GEORGE KEEPS TO HERSELF. SHE AVOIDS PARTIES, BECOMES AN INTROVERT, AND ENTERTAINS SERIOUSLY DARK THOUGHTS AT TIMES.
TO TAKE HER MIND OFF THINGS, HER FATHER TEACHES HER HOW TO DEVELOP FILM IN THEIR KITCHEN.
HER BEST FRIEND IS DRAFTED.
All right, man, see ya!
GEORGE ALMOST WISHES HE WON'T COME BACK, SO SHE CAN BE FREED FROM THE WEIGHT OF HER FEELINGS.
GEORGE IS DEEMED UNFIT FOR DUTY TWICE, BECAUSE OF HER BODY WEIGHT...
...BUT SHE'S EVENTUALLY DRAFTED IN THE ARMY, WHERE SHE SERVES ONE YEAR. LOST IN A SEA OF ANONYMITY, GEORGE GETS BY ALL RIGHT, AND ARMY LIFE ISN'T ALTOGETHER UNPLEASANT.
AFTER THE WAR, GEORGE TRIES HER HAND AT PHOTOGRAPHY BUT LACKS THE SELF-CONFIDENCE (SHE LITERALLY HATES HERSELF) TO ACTIVELY SOLICIT CLIENTS.
ONE MORNING, FEELING UTTERLY LOST, SHE GOES TO THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF ANY POSSIBLE ANSWER.
And also everything you have on glands and on hormones.
SHE READS EVERYTHING SHE CAN FIND, BUT LACKS MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.
SHE DECIDES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE G.I. BILL (WHICH PROVIDES COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS) AND TO TRAIN IN BIOLOGY.
AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF CLASSES, SHE BEGINS TO FORMULATE A THEORY.
Professor! Let's imagine... Er... So for example, um... If a man were to receive female hormo
Impossible.

BUT GEORGE HAS NOTHING TO LOSE, SO SHE BEGINS MIXING UP A HOMEMADE HORMONE THERAPY, ALL ALONE IN HER ROOM.
Okay. Let's give it a shot.
(SHE MAKES HERSELF VERY SICK IN THE PROCESS.)
A DOCTOR FRIEND OF HERS GROWS CONCERNED ABOUT HER HEALTH.
First: stop that nonsense. Second: go to where people care about this stuff...
...Denmark.

SHE MAKES UP HER MIND. SHE THROWS A LITTLE FAREWELL PARTY FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BUT REMAINS EVASIVE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF HER TRIP.
To the George you know! Say good-bye to him, sis!
SHE ARRIVES IN COPENHAGEN AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE.
THE MAN WHO CAN SUPPOSEDLY HELP HER IS DR. CHRISTIAN HAMBURGER, THE HEAD OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AT THE STATENS SERUM INSTITUT.
Hello, my name is George and I would like to know what is wrong with me.
SHE TELLS HIM EVERYTHING: HER DESPAIR, THE SEXUAL "NO MAN'S LAND" BETWEEN GENDERS IN WHICH SHE FEELS LIKE SHE IS DYING, AND HER CONVICTION THAT WHAT OTHERS SEE ISN'T HER TRUE SELF.
AND THE DOC *LISTENS*.
HE DOESN'T JUDGE HER. HE BARELY LOOKS SURPRISED.
You have the *sexual features* of a boy.
You were *registered* as a boy.
But it does look like somewhere in there, you're a woman, that's all.

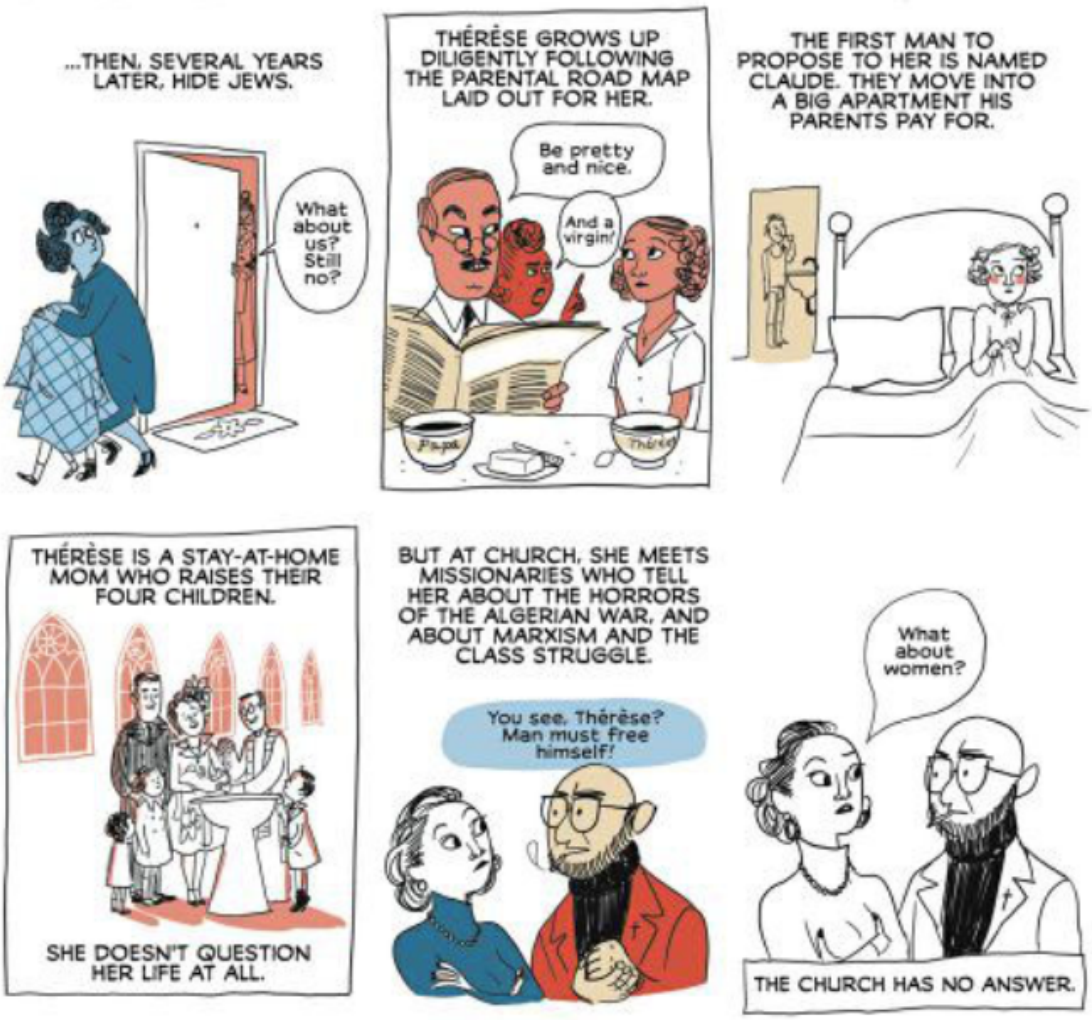

GEORGE THEN AGREES TO BECOME DR. HAMBURGER'S GUINEA PIG AND EMBARKS ON AN INTENSE THREE-YEAR HORMONE THERAPY.
You realize, George, it could be dangerous, right?
Yes, but either way, I can't go on living like this.
UNDER CLOSE MONITORING FROM THE DOC AND A SHRINK, GEORGE WATCHES HER BODY AND FACE TRANSFORM. SHE LEARNS TO MODIFY HER VOICE.
Hello?
Yes, it's me. I swear.
THE DOC THEN SUGGESTS A SURGERY. THE RESULT: HER BODY WILL STOP PRODUCING MALE HORMONES. THIS REQUIRES THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE DANISH MINISTER OF JUSTICE.
Let's do this!

STORIES ON THE BRAVE, GLAMOROUS WOMAN STOP SELLING, SO THE PRESS CHANGES ITS ANGLE, TURNING MEAN (AND DUMB): "TRANSVESTITE," "DEGENERATE," ETC. MAGAZINES START TO USE THE PRONOUN "HE" TO REFER TO CHRISTINE.
Wow.
I guess the enlightened tolerance phase is over.
AS IT TURNS OUT, SOCIETY HAS A HARD TIME ACCEPTING THE SPECTRUM OF IDENTITIES BETWEEN "MAN" AND "WOMAN."
So what is he, exactly?
It's unclear!
TIMES
CHRISTINE MAKES PEOPLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
BUT THE PRESS STILL SPILLS A LOT OF INK OVER HER...
hush hush!
EXCLUSIVE!!
CHRISTINE: "I WANT TO BE A MAN AGAIN!!"
Shocking revelations from her inner circle (p. 3)
...AND SHE FIGURES THAT IF SHE HAS TO BE MOCKED TO BE HEARD, SO BE IT.
CHRISTINE FACES IT ALL WITH GREAT COURAGE. SHE RESPONDS WITH POISE AND PATIENCE. DESPITE THE FEAR AND HATRED SHE AROUSES, SHE GOES ON SERVING AS THE PUBLIC FACE OF ALL THOSE LIVING IN THE SHADOWS.
My body doesn't matter. I am a woman because I want to be.
SHE ATTENDS FANCY CHARITY EVENTS, IS ELECTED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY A SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION...
...AND LIVES THE LIFE OF A SOCIALITE.
TO SUCH A POINT THAT ONE DAY AN AGENT SUGGESTS SHE TAKES TO THE STAGE.
Who
MEPP
AND THIS IS HOW CHRISTINE ENDS UP AT FREDDY'S SUPPER CLUB IN MANHATTAN, BELTING OUT "I ENJOY BEING A GIRL" AT SOLD-OUT SHOWS.
IN LAS VEGAS, THE SAHARA HOTEL BOOKS HER FOR A SERIES OF CONCERTS, BUT LATER GETS COLD FEET. THEY ARGUE THAT HER CONTRACT IS VOID BECAUSE "SHE" IS REALLY A "HE."
THE GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS COMES TO HER RESCUE AND MAKES THE CASINO PAY CHRISTINE HER $12,000 WEEKLY FEE.


HER SINGING CAREER AFFORDS HER A COMFORTABLE LIFESTYLE IN CALIFORNIA, WHERE SHE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND THE REST OF HER DAYS.
TOWARD THE END OF HER LIFE, SHE DEMANDS AN APOLOGY FROM VICE-PRESIDENT SPIRO AGNEW, WHO INSULTS A RIVAL POLITICIAN BY CALLING HIM THE
Christine Jorgensen of Republicans.
HA HA HA HA HA HA
MINDSETS ARE GRADUALLY EVOLVING, AND SHE'S THRILLED.
If I transitioned today, nobody would give a damn!
It's become banal!
AT THE AGE OF SIXTY-TWO, SHE LOSES HER BATTLE WITH CANCER OF THE BLADDER—PERHAPS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE HIGHLY EXPERIMENTAL THERAPY SHE TRIED FOR YEARS. HER ASHES ARE SCATTERED OVER THE OCEAN BY HER NIECE AND FRIENDS.
AT THE RISK OF BECOMING AN ODDITY, CHRISTINE CREATED A PUBLIC PERSONA THAT WAS AVAILABLE AND PLAYFUL, YET ALWAYS KNEW HOW TO ELICIT RESPECT AND CALMLY ASSERT HER RIGHT TO BE A WOMAN...
Kisses, haters!
...AND HER RIGHT TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY WHILE UNDER CONSTANT SCRUTINY.
SHE TOOK ON THE GREAT CHALLENGE OF BECOMING A PUBLIC FIGURE AND ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO DARE TO BE THEMSELVES.
I may not have initiated the sexual revolution, but I certainly gave it a good, swift kick in the pants.

GAOZONG, WHO, IN THE MEANTIME, HAS BECOME THE (MARRIED) EMPEROR, KEEPS VISITING WU FOR THREE YEARS...
...UNTIL HE FINALLY MANAGES TO GET HER BACK INTO THE PALACE AS HIS CONCUBINE (AFTER BEING HIS FATHER'S CONCUBINE, WHICH CAUSES QUITE A SCANDAL...
...ESPECIALLY WITH EMPRESS WANG AND THE OFFICIAL CONCUBINE, XIAOSHU).
THINGS GROW EVEN TENSER FOR WU WHEN SHE GIVES BIRTH TO GAOZONG'S FIRST SON— IN OTHER WORDS, THE FUTURE EMPEROR.
(BUT SHE HASN'T COME THIS FAR JUST TO LET A BUNCH OF JEALOUS SHREWS STAB HER IN THE BACK.)
SOON THEREAFTER, WU ALSO GIVES BIRTH TO A DAUGHTER. TRAGICALLY, THE BABY SUFFOCATES TO DEATH, PERHAPS DUE TO A COMBINATION OF COAL FURNACES AND POOR VENTILATION IN THE PALACE.*
*Some historians have suggested that Wu strangled her own child, which is really pretty preposterous.
WU ACCUSES HER ENEMIES OF KILLING HER BABY, AKA THE BABY OF THE EMPEROR—WHO BELIEVES HER.
THEY ARE HUNTED DOWN AND EXECUTED.
TOWARD THE END OF HER LIFE, SHE GROWS TIRED AND HUMBLY CEDES POWER TO HER SON, WHO PROMPTLY RESTORES HIS FATHER'S DYNASTY, AS IF HIS MOTHER'S LEGACY HAD NEVER HAPPENED.
(Until the very end, she has lovers, namely two brothers fifty years her junior.)
WU PASSES AWAY AT EIGHTY-ONE. TRADITION HOLDS THAT ONE'S SUCCESSORS MUST SUM UP THE DECEASED'S LIFE ON HER TOMBSTONE.
TO THIS DAY, NO ONE HAS FIGURED OUT WHAT TO WRITE.
OFFICIAL HISTORIANS HAVE LONG DEPICTED WU ZETIAN AS A SORT OF CHINESE VERSION OF THE QUEEN OF HEARTS IN *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, BY FOCUSING ON HER SECRET POLICE AND HER FONDNESS FOR BUMPING OFF ENEMIES.
Plus, she slept her way to the top!

HER MOTHER REMARRIES WHEN SHE'S SEVEN. HER STEPFATHER IS NOT NICE AT ALL. AND ACTS AS IF SHE DOESN'T EXIST. SHE BECOMES INVISIBLE.
stepsister
no presents (and it's her birthday, to boot!)
BUT WHEN SHE HITS HER TEENS, HE SUDDENLY TAKES AN INTEREST IN CHERYL.
A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
WAY TOO MUCH.
SHE LIKED IT BETTER WHEN HE ACTED AS IF SHE DIDN'T EXIST.
SHE LIKED IT BETTER WHEN SHE WAS INVISIBLE.


...THEN, SEVERAL YEARS LATER, HIDE JEWS.
What about us? Still no?
THÉRÈSE GROWS UP DILIGENTLY FOLLOWING THE PARENTAL ROAD MAP LAID OUT FOR HER.
Be pretty and nice.
And a virgin!
THE FIRST MAN TO PROPOSE TO HER IS NAMED CLAUDE. THEY MOVE INTO A BIG APARTMENT HIS PARENTS PAY FOR.
THÉRÈSE IS A STAY-AT-HOME MOM WHO RAISES THEIR FOUR CHILDREN.
SHE DOESN'T QUESTION HER LIFE AT ALL.
BUT AT CHURCH, SHE MEETS MISSIONARIES WHO TELL HER ABOUT THE HORRORS OF THE ALGERIAN WAR, AND ABOUT MARXISM AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE.
You see, Thérèse? Man must free himself!
What about women?
THE CHURCH HAS NO ANSWER.

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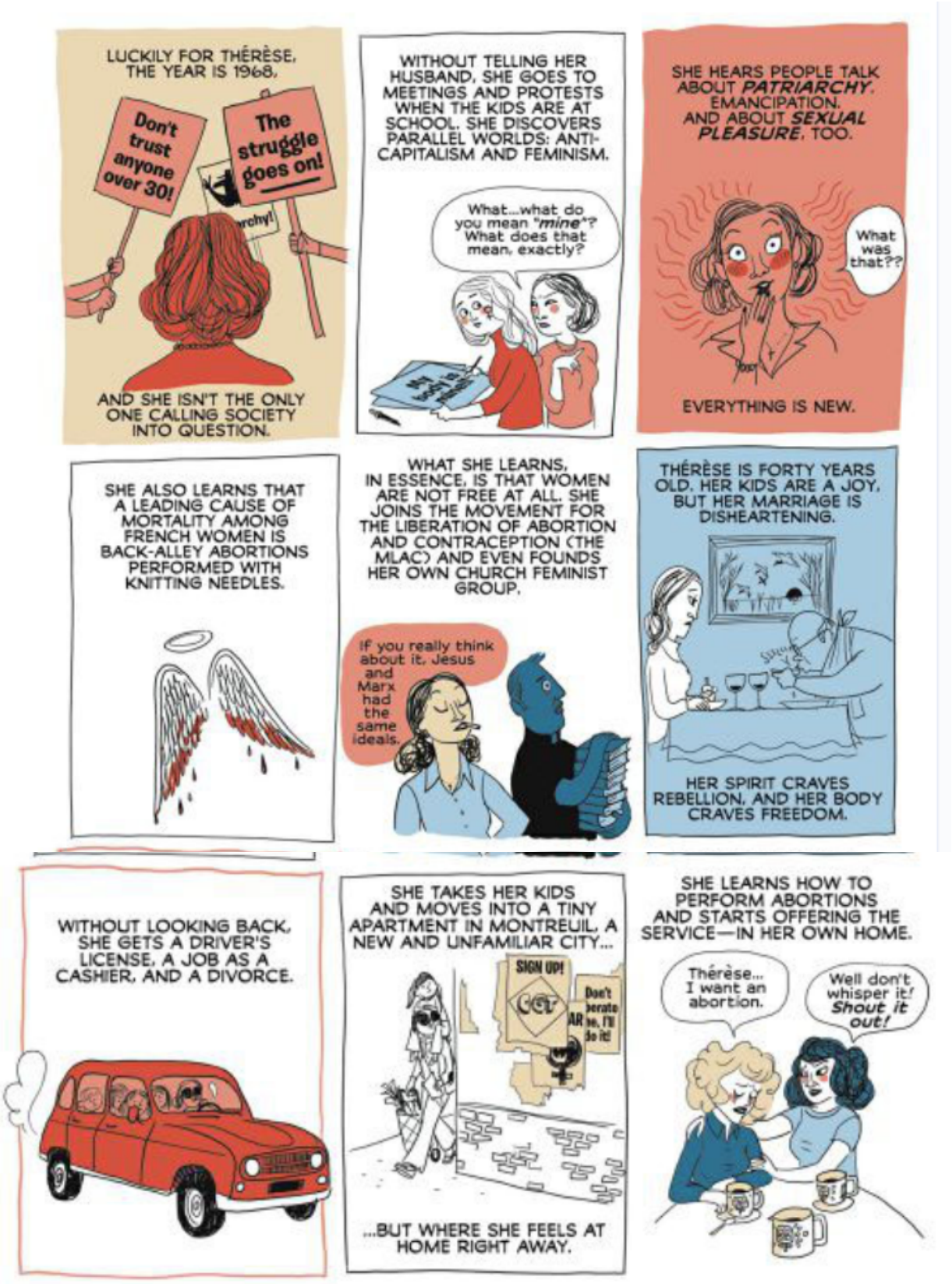
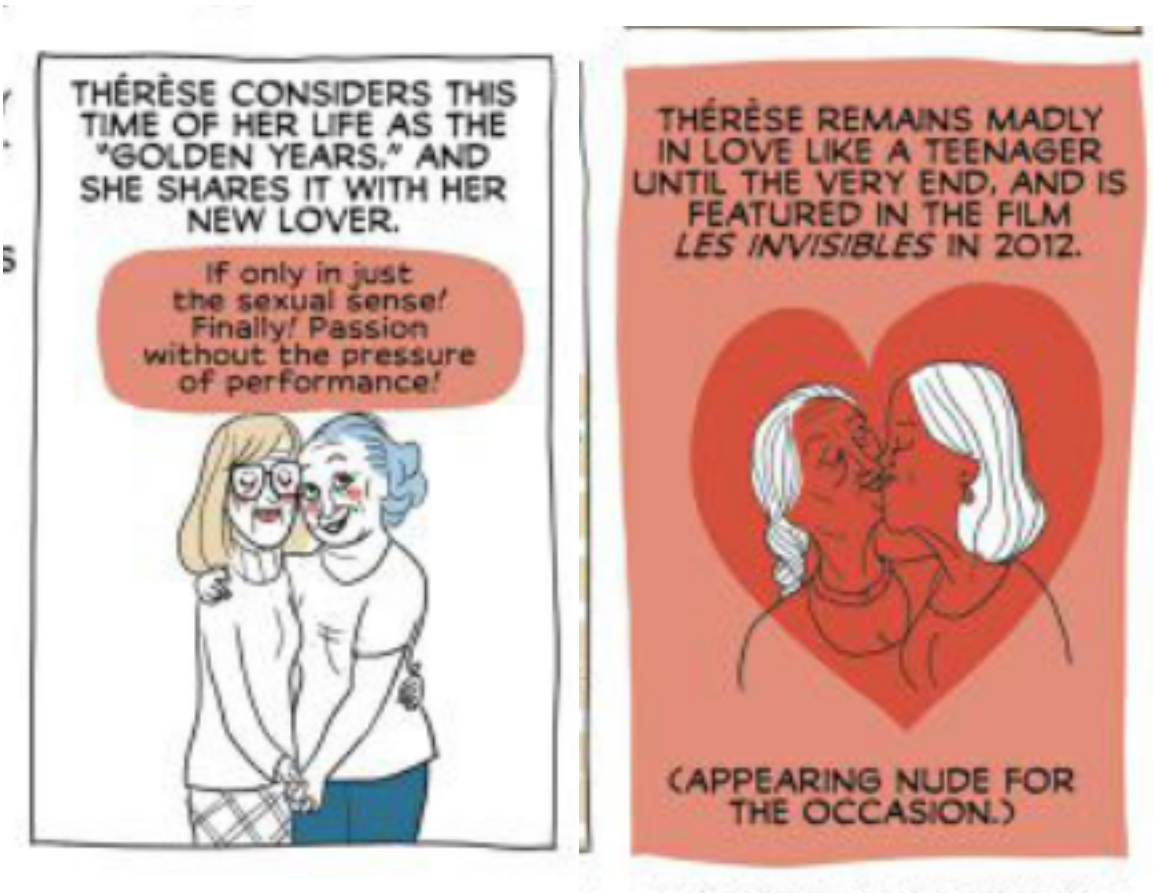
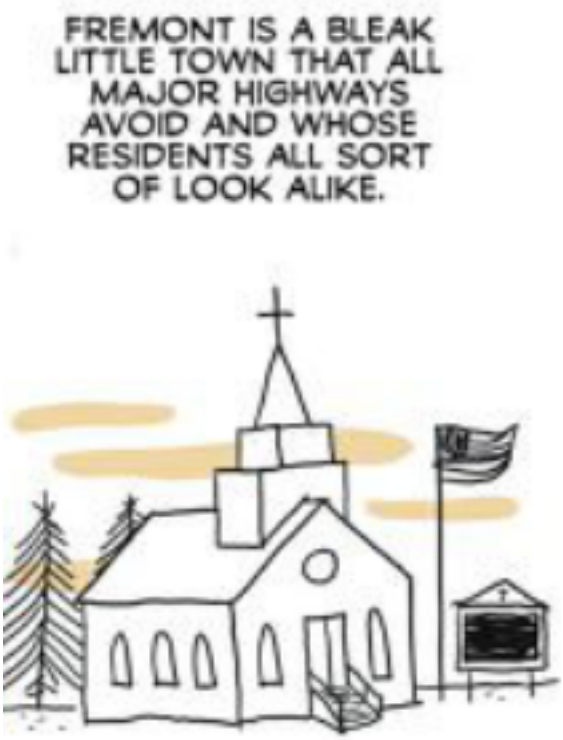

LUCKILY FOR THÉRÈSE, THE YEAR IS 1968.
Don't trust anyone over 30!
The struggle goes on!
AND SHE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE CALLING SOCIETY INTO QUESTION.
WITHOUT TELLING HER HUSBAND, SHE GOES TO MEETINGS AND PROTESTS WHEN THE KIDS ARE AT SCHOOL. SHE DISCOVERS PARALLEL WORLDS: ANTI-CAPITALISM AND FEMINISM.
What...what do you mean "mine"? What does that mean, exactly?
SHE HEARS PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PATRIARCHY, EMANCIPATION, AND ABOUT SEXUAL PLEASURE, TOO.
What was that??
EVERYTHING IS NEW.
SHE ALSO LEARNS THAT A LEADING CAUSE OF MORTALITY AMONG FRENCH WOMEN IS BACK-ALLEY ABORTIONS PERFORMED WITH KNITTING NEEDLES.
WHAT SHE LEARNS, IN ESSENCE, IS THAT WOMEN ARE NOT FREE AT ALL. SHE JOINS THE MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION (THE MLAC) AND EVEN FOUNDS HER OWN CHURCH FEMINIST GROUP.
If you really think about it, Jesus and Marx had the same ideals.
THÉRÈSE IS FORTY YEARS OLD. HER KIDS ARE A JOY, BUT HER MARRIAGE IS DISHEARTENING.
HER SPIRIT CRAVES REBELLION, AND HER BODY CRAVES FREEDOM.
WITHOUT LOOKING BACK, SHE GETS A DRIVER'S LICENSE, A JOB AS A CASHIER, AND A DIVORCE.
SHE TAKES HER KIDS AND MOVES INTO A TINY APARTMENT IN MONTREUIL, A NEW AND UNFAMILIAR CITY...
SIGN UP!
...BUT WHERE SHE FEELS AT HOME RIGHT AWAY.
SHE LEARNS HOW TO PERFORM ABORTIONS AND STARTS OFFERING THE SERVICE—IN HER OWN HOME.
Thérèse... I want an abortion.
Well don't whisper it! Shout it out!


THÉRÈSE CONSIDERS THIS TIME OF HER LIFE AS THE "GOLDEN YEARS." AND SHE SHARES IT WITH HER NEW LOVER.
If only in just the sexual sense! Finally! Passion without the pressure of performance!
THÉRÈSE REMAINS MADLY IN LOVE LIKE A TEENAGER UNTIL THE VERY END, AND IS FEATURED IN THE FILM *LES INVISIBLES* IN 2012.
(APPEARING NUDE FOR THE OCCASION.)

BETTY TRIGGERS MILES'S ARTISTIC REVOLUTION. IN HIS VIEW, THE MUSIC SHE LISTENS TO IS THE NEW SOUND OF THE BLACK PEOPLE.
The blues have been sold to the whites!
HE IS STEEPED IN THE SOUNDS OF ELECTRIC ROCK AND COMPOSES THE ALBUM *BITCHES BREW* (A TITLE BETTY CAME UP WITH), WHICH SELLS A HALF MILLION COPIES.
BUT AFTER ONE YEAR OF MARRIED LIFE, MILES IS EXHAUSTED BY HIS WIFE, WHOM HE JUST CAN'T MANAGE TO DOMESTICATE.
You're too young and too wild for these ol' bones of mine.
HE ACCUSES HER OF SHENANIGANS WITH JIMI HENDRIX. SHE SAYS HE HAS ANGER ISSUES.

SHE FINALLY RECORDS HER OWN ALBUM AND HER OWN SONGS.
Just say when.
HER LYRICS ARE... PROVOCATIVE.
When I was his geisha...
Baby please, take me home...
Do you BLEEP them by the dozen?
I used to whip him with my turquoise chain
Oooooh begging me for more
I might not be here in the morning
I'm wiggling my BLEEP
Ride my broom, honey...
BETTY SINGS ABOUT SEX AND SENSUALITY. ABOUT HER DESIRES AND HER CONQUESTS.
Are... are you sure?
It's... unusual for a girl to let go like that, with such self-assurance...
How about a love song, instead? Huh, Betty?
Hey, good idea! I'll write a song I'll call "Anti Love Song"!
ON THE JACKET OF HER FIRST ALBUM, BETTY IS ALL CUTE AND SMILEY...
Betty Davis

...BUT THEN, UPON LISTENING TO IT, MAJOR SHOCKER: SHE MEOWS, SHE YOWLS, SHE ROARS, SHE SCREAMS.
it's like she's got one hand down my pants and the other one is slapping me!
SHE ISN'T EXACTLY SUBTLE ON STAGE, EITHER...
BUOYED BY THE SUCCESS OF HER FIRST ALBUM, BETTY DECIDES TO DO ANOTHER. BUT THIS TIME, SHE TAKES THE TRAINING WHEELS OFF AND SETS OUT TO WRITE, ARRANGE, AND PRODUCE IT HERSELF.
(AND SHE'S LIKELY THE ONLY WOMAN DOING THIS AT THE TIME.)


FREMONT IS A BLEAK LITTLE TOWN THAT ALL MAJOR HIGHWAYS AVOID AND WHOSE RESIDENTS ALL SORT OF LOOK ALIKE.

THIS PRODUCES THE EXACT OPPOSITE EFFECT: THE GIRL LEAVES THERE FILLED WITH A STRONG AVERSION TO AUTHORITY AND IGNORANCE.
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...
sigh
FOR KATIA HAS FAITH IN ONLY ONE RELIGION: SCIENCE.
IN HER TEENS, SHE ANNOUNCES TO HER PARENTS THAT SHE WILL EITHER BE A VOLCANOLOGIST OR WRITE CRIME NOVELS.
Those...those are men's jobs...why??
THEY AREN'T ALTOGETHER WON OVER.
AND THEN, AT LONG LAST, SHE'S OFFERED THE LEAD PART IN A CZECH FILM TITLED ECSTASY. SHE IS SEVENTEEN.
SHE LOVES HOW MODERN THE SCREENPLAY IS.
My character spots a handsome stranger, and it's love at first sight! So she sets out to seduce him, has a fling with him, and then leaves him because, as it turns out, she's married!
H. KIESLER

Ekstase
THE FILM IS A HIT RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE, WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RUSHING TO SEE IT OPENING WEEKEND.
HEDY TRIES TO WARN HER PARENTS: SHE MAKES A FULLY NUDE APPEARANCE IN THE FILM.
WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR THE SCENE WHERE SHE SIMULATES AN ORGASM IN A CLOSE-UP SHOT, HER FATHER STANDS AND LEAVES THE ROOM.
Get your coat, Mother.
FEMME FATALE.
THIS WHOLE TIME, SHE PLOWS THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF LOVERS (CHAPLIN, BRANDO, CAPA), MARRIES FIVE MORE TIMES, AND HAS THREE CHILDREN.
James
Anthony
Denise
SHE ALWAYS GOES FOR THE SAME TYPE OF MAN: INTELLIGENT, BROODING, AND OLDER THAN HER.
"Men under thirty-five have too much to learn. And I don't have time to teach them."
HER AUTOBIOGRAPHY, WHICH TALKS ABOUT HER LOVE AFFAIRS, WILL BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE TEN MOST EROTIC MEMOIRS OF ALL TIME BY *PLAYBOY* MAGAZINE.
ECSTASY AND ME
ITS PREFACE IS EVEN PENNED BY A PSYCHIATRIST WARNING READERS ABOUT THE DEPRAVED DIVORCEE'S PATHOLOGICAL LIBIDO.

HER MOTHER PROTECTS HER KIDS LIKE A MAMA BEAR TO KEEP THEM ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.
You come near my boy again and I'll make myself a purse out of the skin on your ass.
Yes, Ma'am.

BUT THEN, IN RAPID SUCCESSION, HER BELOVED SISTER DIES IN CHILDBIRTH, THEN HER TWO NEPHEWS DIE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. SHE IS DEVASTATED.
Her husband doesn't give a crap and lets her bawl her eyes out.
SHE LEAVES LAURENCE FOR LITERARY CRITIC JOHN HOLMS, WHOM SHE FINDS FASCINATING (AND WHO'S A BOOZEHOUND).
SHE GIVES AN ALLOWANCE TO LAURENCE AND HIS NEW WIFE (IN SECRET, SO HE WON'T FEEL HUMILIATED). THE CHILDREN ARE IN BOARDING SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND. THEY'RE SPOILED ROTTEN AND HATE EVERYTHING.
JOHN DIES UNDER ANESTHESIA. (HE WAS DRUNK.) PEGGY MOURNS HIM ON THE SHOULDERS OF (LOTS OF) NEW LOVERS.
FOR SHE HAS *MANY* OF THEM. MOST ARE PAINTERS IN HER SOCIAL CIRCLE. THEY FASCINATE HER. ESPECIALLY THE REALLY GOOD-LOOKING ONES.
It sounds silly, but I feel less like the ugly duckling this way.
SHE LOVES ART AND ARTISTS. VISCERALLY. PHYSICALLY.

HER FRIEND MARCEL DUCHAMP HELPS HER UNDERSTAND SURREALISM, ABSTRACT ART, JEAN ARP'S BRONZES, AND COCTEAU'S DRAWINGS.
(HE ALSO INTRODUCES HER TO SAMUEL BECKETT, WHO IS JUST PEGGY'S TYPE.)
tortured
unfaithful
alcoholic
THEY'LL GO ON TO HAVE A TOXIC LOVE AFFAIR THAT LASTS FOR AGES.
FOR HER FIRST SHOW, SHE BRINGS IN MODERN WORKS FROM FRANCE. BUT CUSTOMS REFUSES TO ACCEPT THEM AS ART.
"Pieces of wood and metal"?!
FRAGILE
SHE USUALLY SLEEPS WITH THEM, AS WELL.
(WHICH DOESN'T STOP HER FROM SUPPORTING THEIR WIVES.)
IN THESE DAYS, MODERN PAINTERS ARE STARVING ARTISTS. PEGGY DOES THE ROUNDS OF THE PARISIAN STUDIOS AND BUYS:
One painting a day!
LUCKY HER, SHE LOVES WHAT NOBODY ELSE WANTS IN THEIR HOMES: CUBISM.
BUT THEN THE NAZIS INVADE PARIS. PEGGY IS JEWISH, SHE HAS CHILDREN, AND YET SHE HAS ONLY ONE FEAR:
My babies! They'll destroy my babies!!!

PROFANITY COUNT approximate (and other sensitive words)

BOOK REVIEW Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World By Penelope Bagiue

*ss 1
Homosexual 1

RED FLAGS
Sexual Content
Glamorized lewd behavior
Drinking, Smoking

CONCLUSION
Not appropriate literary content for K-12 schools