

***A*
CAB
{ CONVERSATION }**

BRAVE — WITH — ABIE'S



CHICKEN



DOWNTOWN TAXI

BY NINA FRENKEL

A CAB CONVERSATION

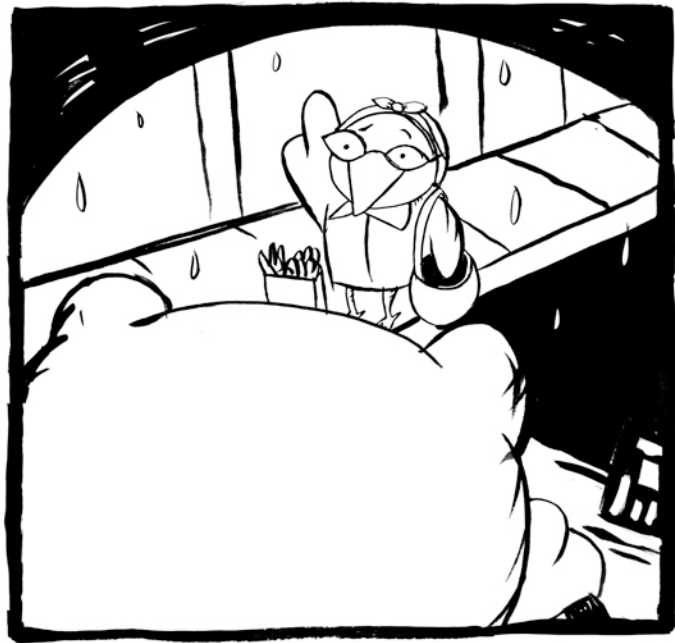
IS BASED ON A REAL EXCHANGE I HAD
WITH ABIE (OF ABIE'S DOWNTOWN TAXI)
TRAVELLING FROM MANHATTAN TO
BROOKLYN ON A RAINY NIGHT IN
DECEMBER OF 2011.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO ABIE
AND TO ALL THE CAB DRIVERS WHO
HELPED ME GET AROUND NYC
DURING BREAST CANCER TREATMENT
AND RECOVERY--MOST SPECIALLY TO
THOSE WHO WERE ENCOURAGING AND
WHO HELPED ME TO FEEL BETTER.

-NINA FRENKEL







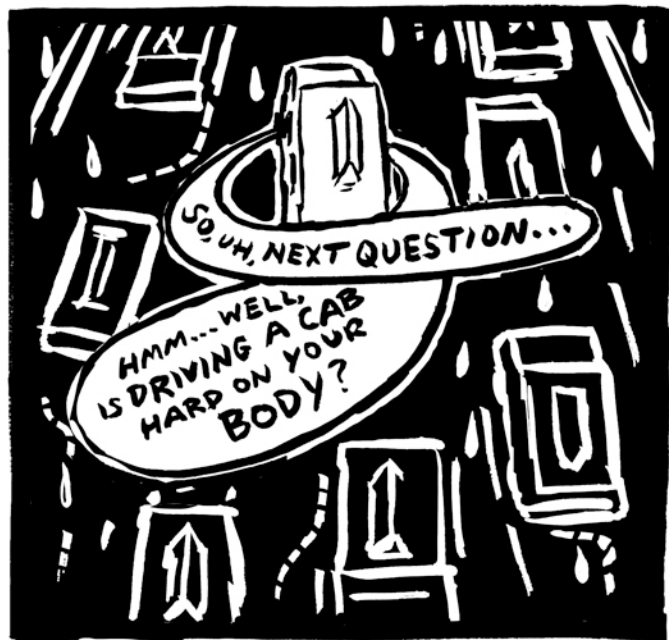








AND THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO
IN THAT SITUATION
IS TO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION.
YOU WANT TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACT.











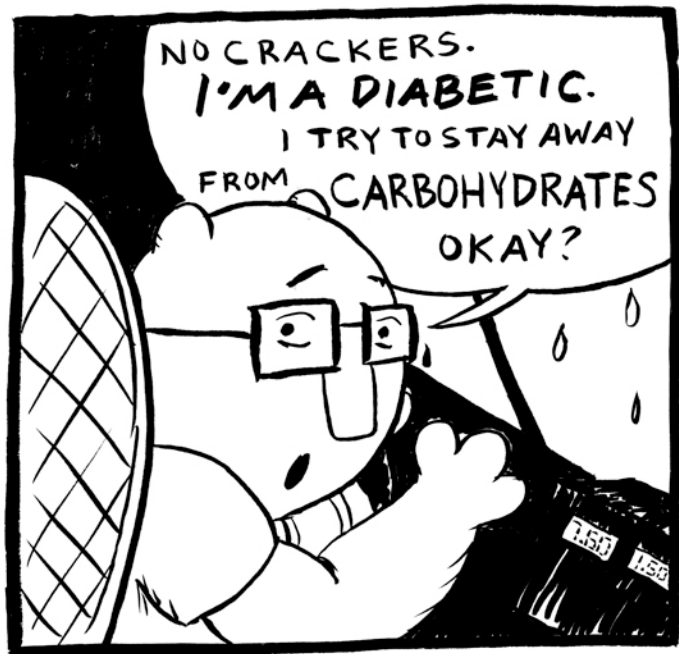
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT,
I COOK A SALMON. AND I BRING IT
WITH ME, OKAY? AND THAT'S WHAT
I EAT FOR THE WHOLE DAY.
THAT, AND A JAR OF...

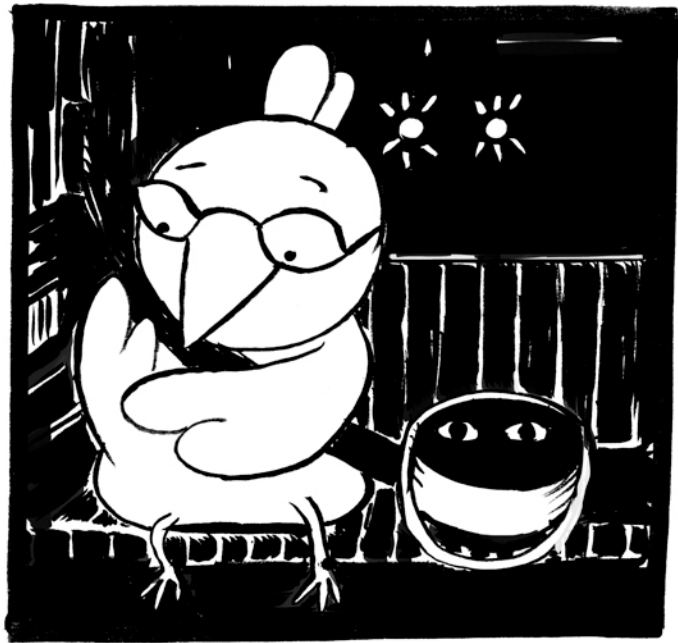


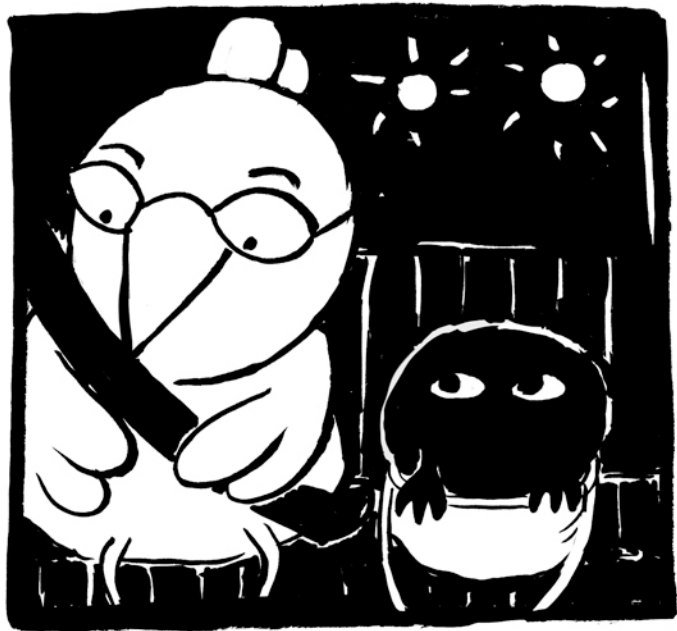
SO THAT KEEPS ME FROM BEING
DISABLED BY MY STOMACH, OKAY?
THAT KEEPS ME WORKING.

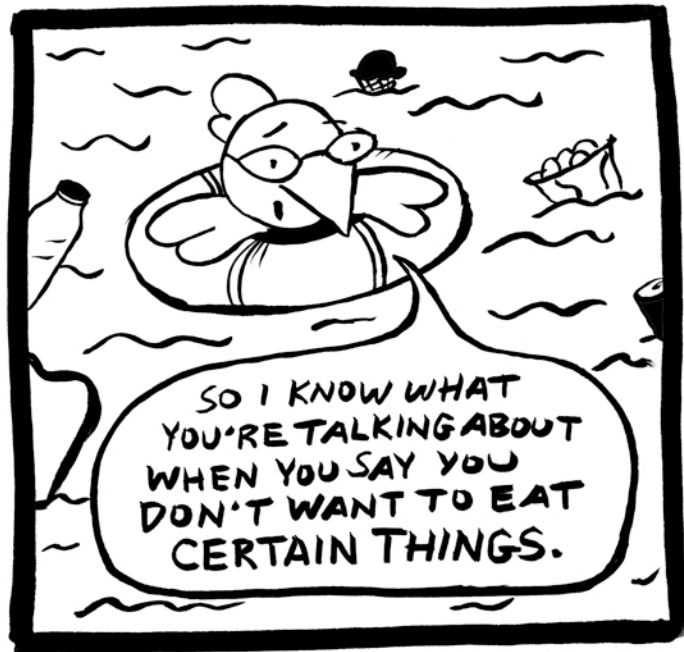
... BUT
DON'T YOU
HAVE
SOMETHING
WITH
THE
PEANUT
BUTTER?
LIKE
CRACKERS
?!?!?
....









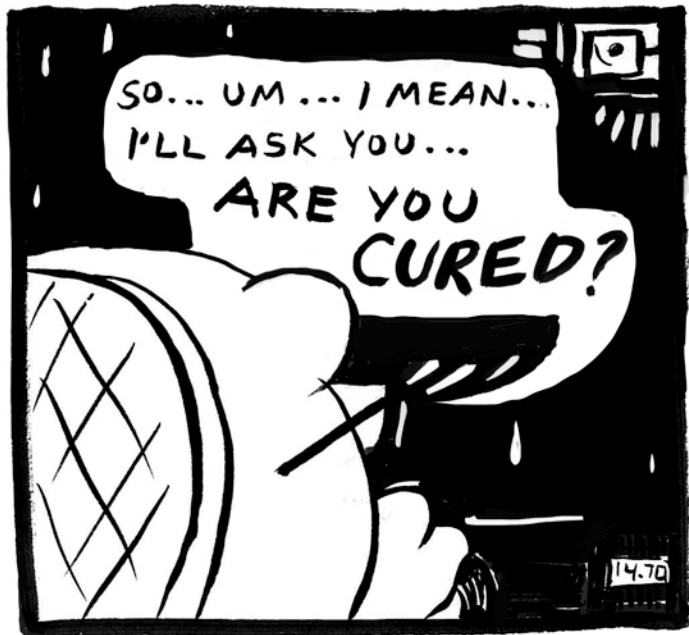




WELL, YOU
KNOW-
YOU
ARE
WHAT
YOU EAT.

WE ALL MAKE
MISTAKES
WHEN WE'RE
YOUNGER,
AND THEN...

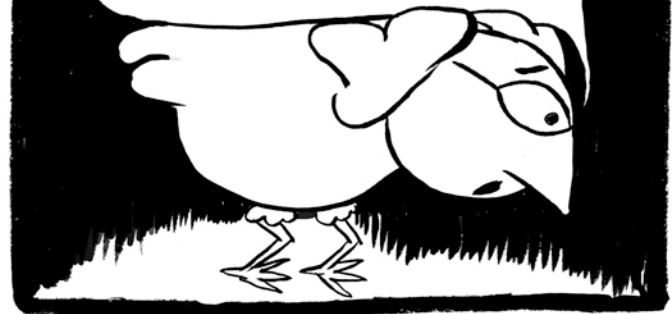
YOU REALIZE
YOU'VE SCREWED UP
OKAY?



I MEAN, LIKE IF I HAD
DUCTAL CARCINOMA IN SITU,
A SELF-CONTAINED
TUMOR...



THEN I WOULD BE
"CURED",
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THAT.
MINE WAS INVASIVE.





AH, DID YOU
HAVE
A
MASTECTOMY
?

YES.

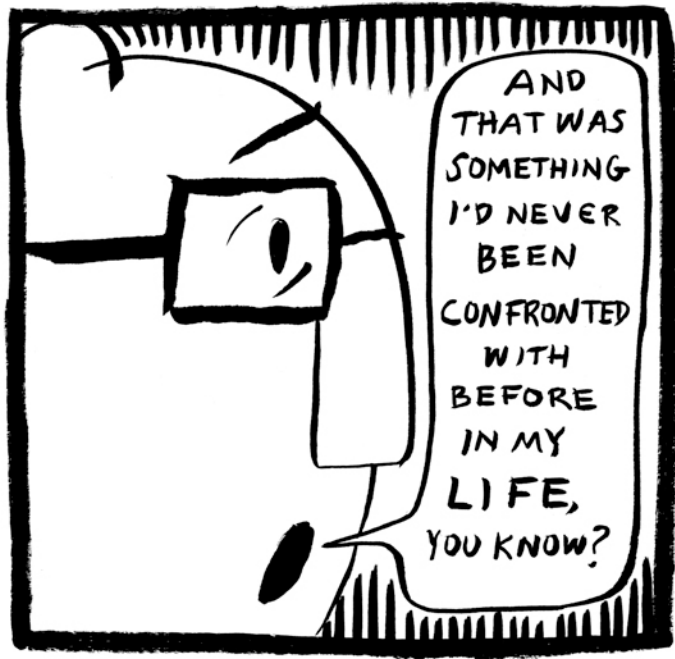
... I WANT TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING: MY WIFE
OF 28 YEARS
PASSED AWAY 7 YEARS
AGO... **ESOPHOGEAL**
CANCER.

OH, I'M
SORRY!

I'M WITH A WOMAN NOW
WHOM I HAD MET ONLINE.
I NEEDED ANOTHER WOMAN.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE BY
MYSELF. I HAD, LIKE, 4-5
POSSIBILITIES.

YOU SEE,
I'M A
NICE
GUY.

OF THE POSSIBILITIES,
ONE WAS...THE WOMAN
I'M WITH NOW...
YOU KNOW, I HAD
TO CONSIDER
THAT SHE HAD A
MASTECTOMY
AT ONE TIME
IN HER LIFE.

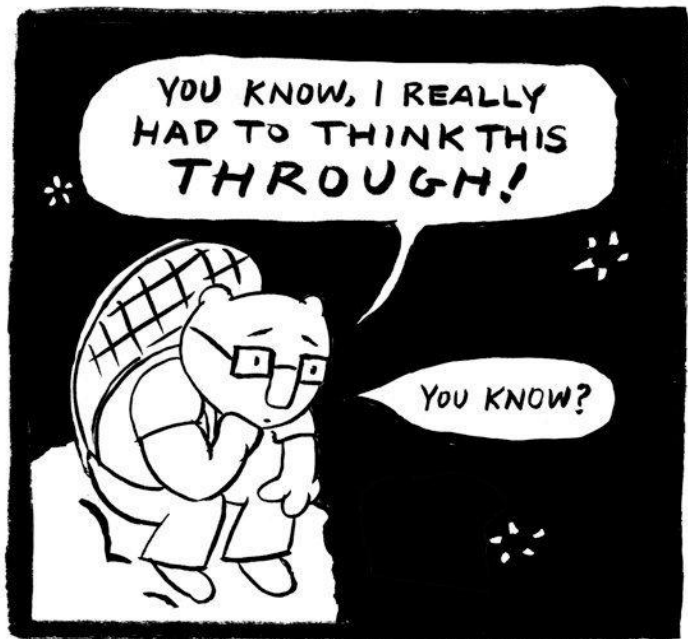


OK, I MEAN, AT THE
TIME, YOU KNOW,
WHEN I FIRST LEARNED
OF IT... I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW TO
FEEL, OKAY?

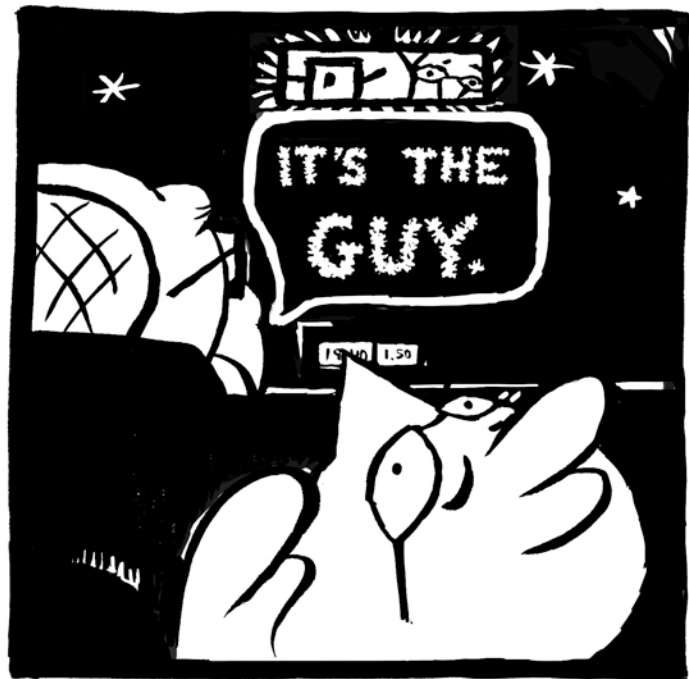
WELL, YOU HAD
ALREADY BEEN
THROUGH CANCER
ONCE, WITH YOUR
WIFE.

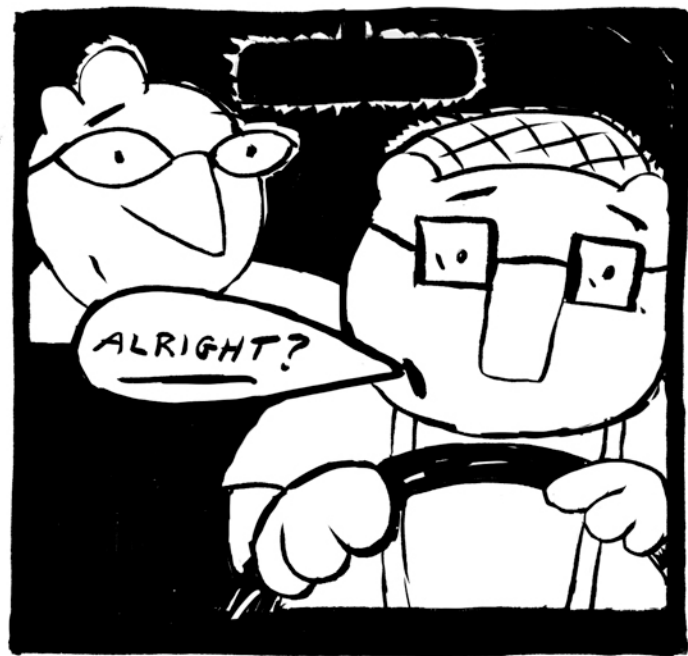
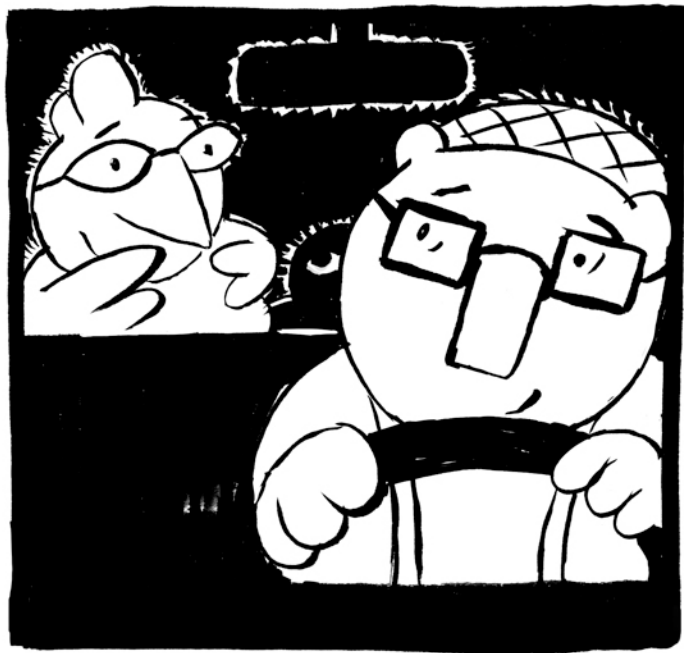
... BUT THE THING IS,
THE **MASCULINE** PART
OF ME... ..YOU
KNOW...

...YOU WANT A WOMAN
WITH "All Her Parts"
AND BLAH BLAH BLAH...













NINA FRENKEL
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
MFA ILLUSTRATION 2012