

# Martha

by John Linton  
Roberson





1997



# MARTHA

a pornographic memory  
by JIRoberson

THERE ARE A LOT OF EX-MORMONS IN THE BAY AREA, MUCH IN THE SAME WAY I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM OHIO.

MARTHA WAS FROM ANCHORAGE, DIVORCED, AND EXPELLED FROM THE CHURCH OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

AND AFTER ALL THAT, YOU DON'T MOVE NEXT TO SAN FRANCISCO TO STAY IN AND TRY NOTHING NEW.

THERE WAS ONE NAMED MARTHA.

(THOUGH, IF YOU ASKED HER, I HAD)

BUT MARTHA WAS HAVING NONE OF THAT ON A COOL SUMMER NIGHT IN OAKLAND.

NO, MARTHA WAS OUT TO ENJOY EVERY INDULGENCE IN THE CHECKLIST WAY THE EX-RELIGIOUS ALWAYS DO.

EVEN IF HER RANGE OF CURIOSITY WAS ONLY THE VARIOUS VARIETIES OF VANILLA.

*giggle*  
YOUR FACE

C'MON, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...

WHICH SUITED ME. IN THE BAY AREA IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE.

THERE WAS THIS GUY WHO HAD A BIG HOT TUB, AND WAS NEVER IN TOWN.

UH, WELL, I'VE ONLY BEEN IN ONE BEFORE...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE WAS; I DOUBT ANYONE THERE DID EITHER. MARTHA DIDN'T.

...AND IT WAS REALLY HOT.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

um actually

*SHH NOW!*

you can't talk so much here.

OH? ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULDN'T--

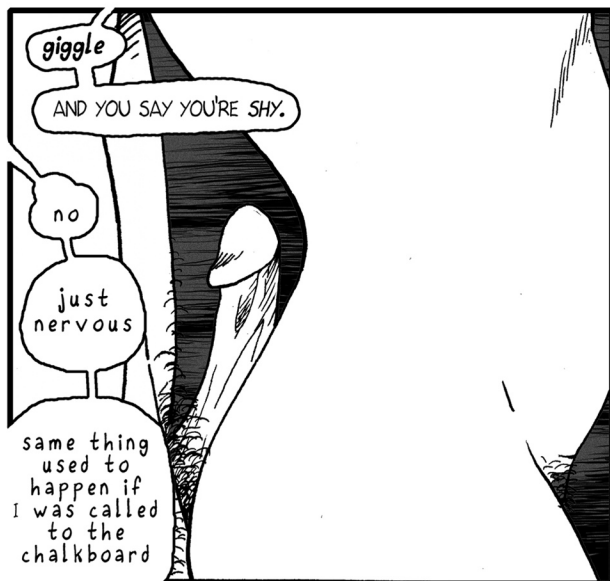
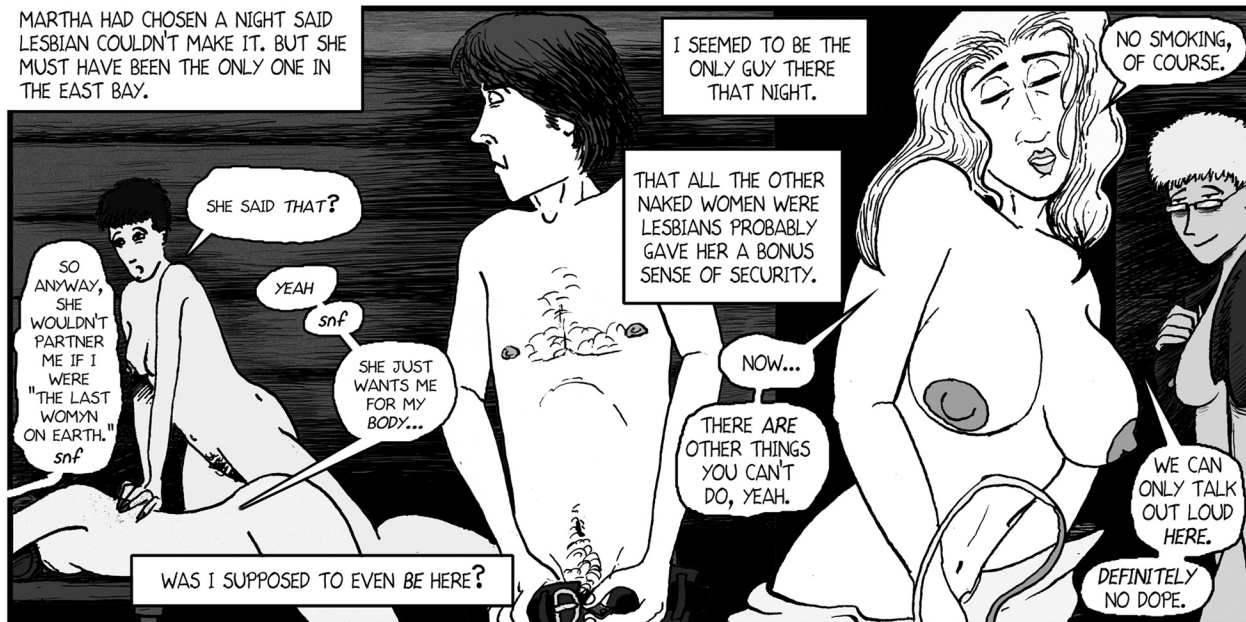
GOL

AHEM  
WELL, FOR ONE THING... NO STARING.

BUT A LESBIAN SHE WORKED WITH AT THE BERKELEY LIBRARY, WHO HAD A CRUSH ON HER, DID. AND SO INVITED HER. LENT HER A KEY.

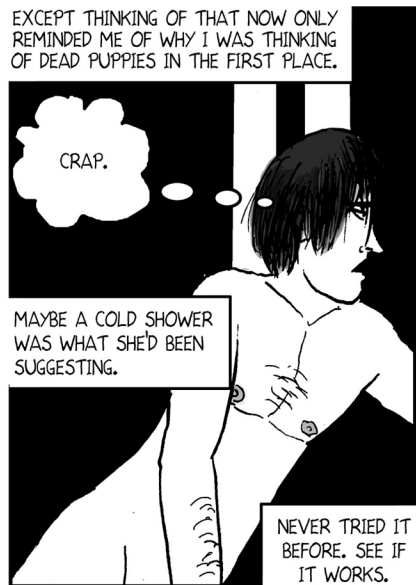
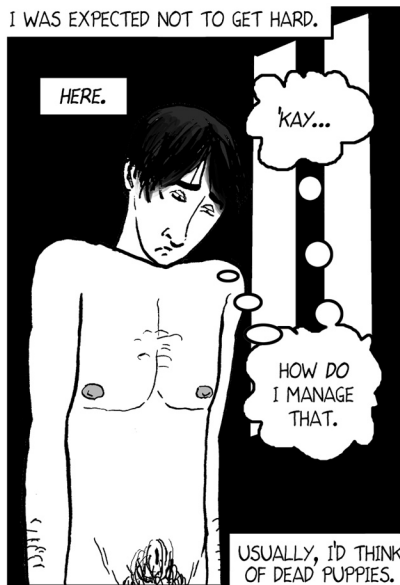
(THOUGH IT WAS OPEN ANYWAY.)

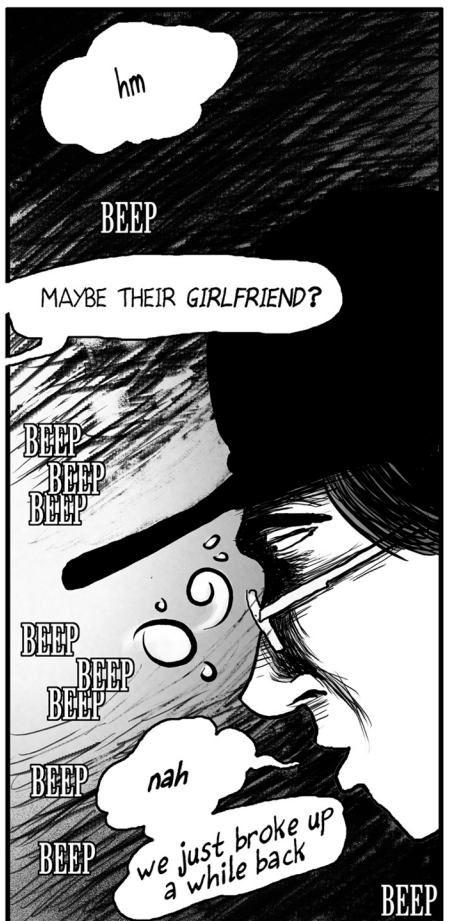
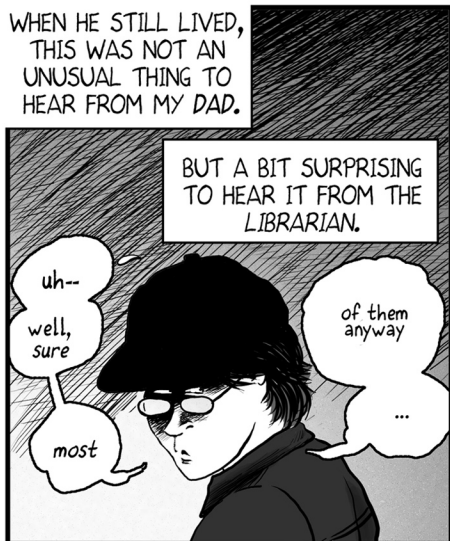
MARTHA HAD CHOSEN A NIGHT SAID LESBIAN COULDN'T MAKE IT. BUT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONLY ONE IN THE EAST BAY.



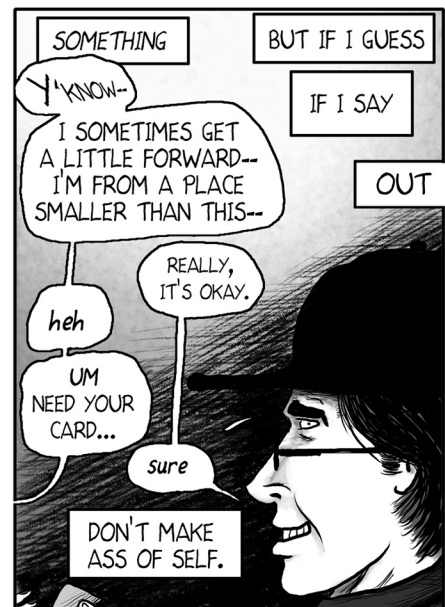


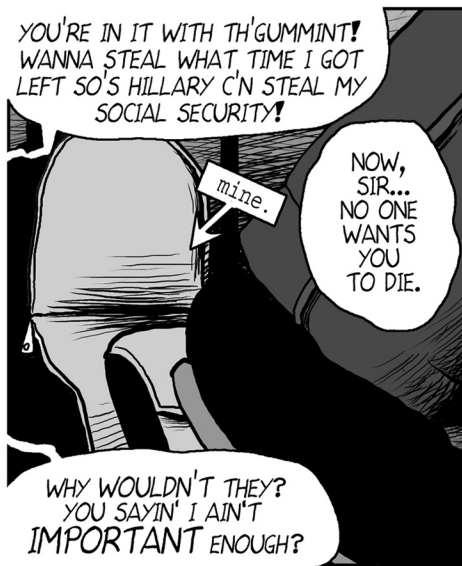














AND YOU'D HAVE DONE WHAT?  
THEY WERE ABOUT TO CLOSE.

I FOUND MOST  
OF THEM LATER.

(BUT BERKELEY'S HOMELESS  
ARE VERY QUICK AND, LIKE  
MOST OF US, NEED TOILET  
PAPER.)

LATER, SHE WIPED THE ONES I  
DIDN'T FIND FROM MY ACCOUNT.

uh

kaff

I

mm?

--yeah?

pant

oh--hi--

pant

UH--

DID YOU  
FORGET  
ANYTHING?

pant

pant

just

pant

a second, ran

pant

ran down the street

uh

SURE?

pant  
thanks

KAFF

but  
yeah

forgot  
my bag

heh

there  
it is.

and, uh...

and I was  
thinking I  
might give  
you my

uh

my  
number

here

and, and uh  
wondered if  
sometime you  
might like  
to...

Y'KNOW--DO SOME---

OHH.

mmm.

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
CUTE.

BUT

I'M KIND  
OF SEEING  
SOMEONE

OF COURSE  
SHE WAS.

NICE  
ONE  
GOD.

right  
fine  
'night.