



LEORA'S

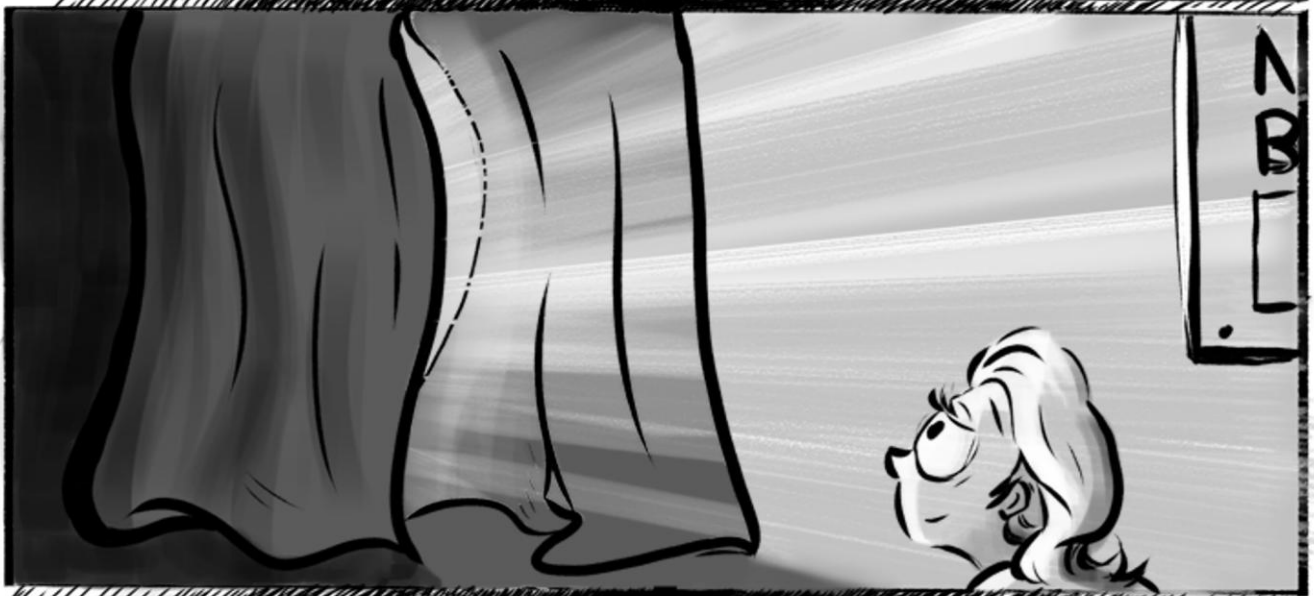
Christmas Tree

by STRANDED
E.H.

HOW WOULD YOU SAVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF? STRANDEDCOMICS.COM

LEORA

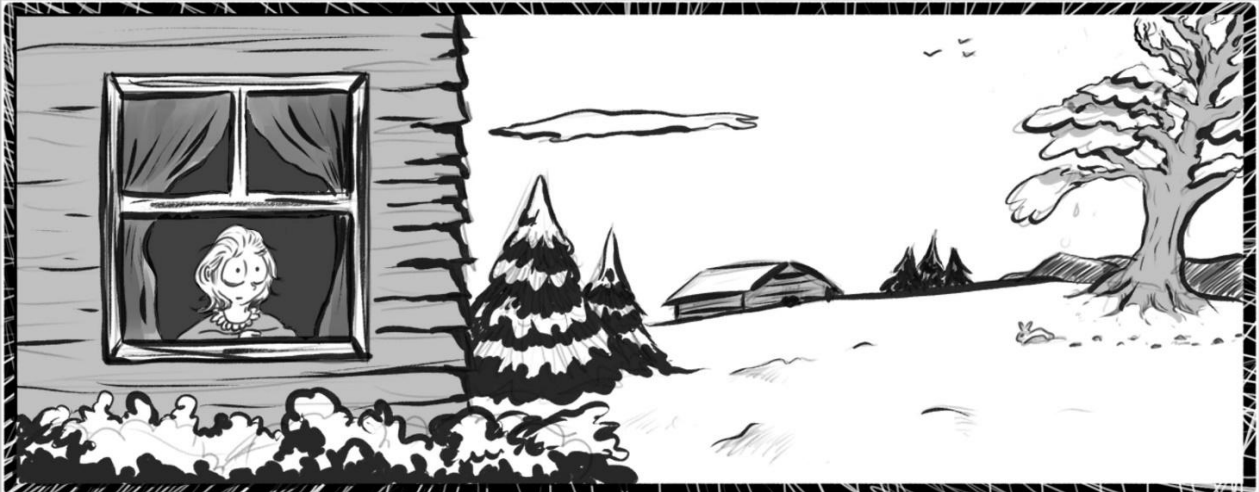
BY G. HUGHES



Days without
Nervous
Breakdown:

101

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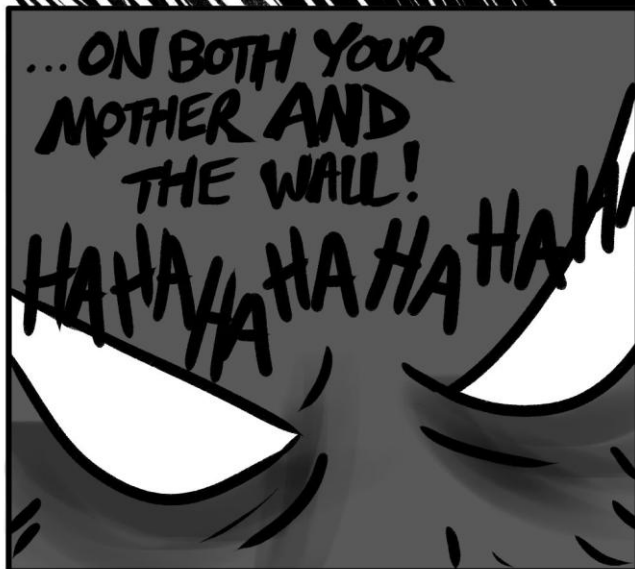




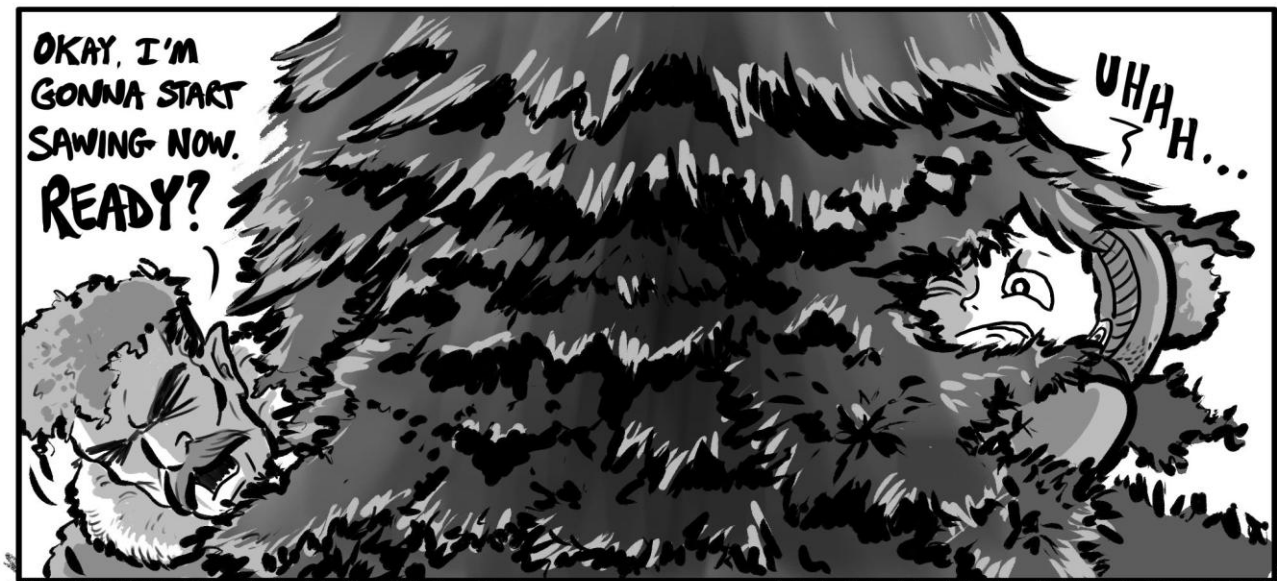
YOU CAN HOLD
A TREE THIS BIG,
RIGHT, L?



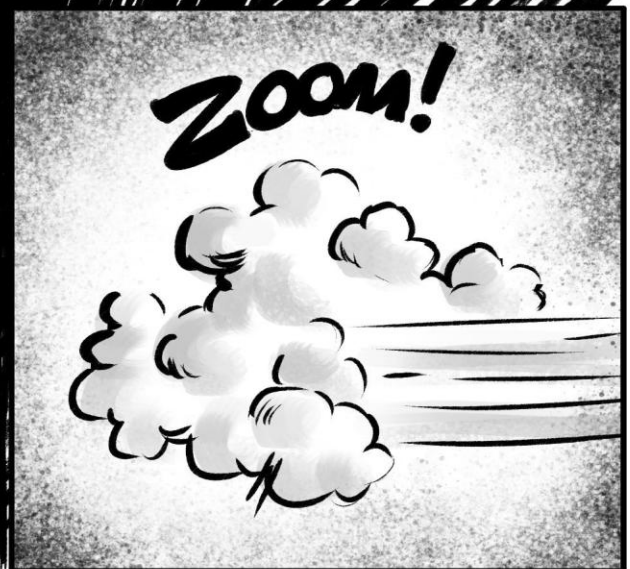
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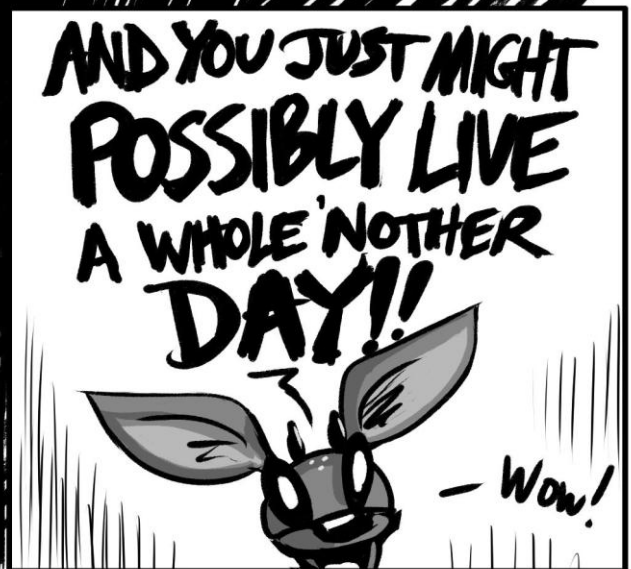


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BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN
I'M A **BAD KID** IN SOME WAY?
IF I WERE **BORN LOVEABLE**
THEN DAD WOULD NATURALLY



WANT TO TREAT
ME WITH
KINDNESS,
NOT **YELL AND**
SCREAM AT ME.

IF I CAN'T CHANGE **DAD**, I
CAN CHANGE **ME** SO HE'LL
WANT TO BE **NICE** TO ME.

I CAN AFFECT

THAT AT LEAST,
CAN'T I?

I **HATE** FEELING
LIKE THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO!



OOH! I KNOW JUST
THE THING TO DO,
LEORA!



**LOWER
YOUR
STANDARDS!!**



HELL, NO! THAT'S -

**-TO
THE
POINT
WHERE THE BARE
MINIMUM FEELS
EUPHORIC!**



WHILE **OTHER KIDS' DADS** SAY
"I LOVE YOU" REGULARLY AND
BACK IT UP WITH **CONSISTENT ACTS**
OF **CARE, EMPATHY, AND SAFETY,**
YOUR DAD IS SPECIAL!

HE EXPRESSES
HIS LOVE BY
**NOT HITTING
YOU!!**



SO A DAY
HE DOESN'T
HIT ME IS
A **GOOD DAY?**

THIS IS SOME **CULT-
LEVEL BULLSHIT**



RIGHT
HERE



BUT A DAY HE
ACTUALLY **HUGS**
YOU IS LIKE THE
**SECOND
COMING!**



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LEORA, I HOPE YOU'LL HEAR THIS
BECAUSE IT **CANNOT** BE
UNDERSTATED...



YOU, CHILD, BY VIRTUE OF
BEING BORN, ARE **INHERENTLY**
WORTHY OF KINDNESS
AND LOVE.



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO **DO**
ANYTHING TO **EARN** THAT
LOVE FROM ANYONE,
BUT ESPECIALLY
FROM YOUR
OWN
PARENTS.



IT'S **NOT** YOUR JOB TO CONVINCE
YOUR DAD YOUR NEEDS ARE
IMPORTANT, NOR SHOULD
YOU **NEED** TO
TWIST YOURSELF
IN **KNOTS**
TRYING TO
KEEP HIM
HAPPY FOR
YOUR OWN
SAFETY.



AND IT ISN'T YOUR
FAULT HE THROWS
TANTRUMS LIKE A
SIX FOOT TODDLER...

CRASH

... IT LOOKS UNHINGED,
BUT TRUST ME, HE
KNOWS HE'S SCARING
YOU, AND HE LIKES HOW
THAT SERVES HIM.

OW!!

GODDAMN
GLASS!!
MOTHER
F@*#IN
PIECE OF SHIT



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THAT'S A RIGHT PRETTY
SPEECH, GRUMPTIPUS,
BUT IT **DOESN'T**
RESCUE HER FROM
THE **REAL THREAT**
SHE HAS TO
LIVE WITH
EVERY DAY!
TEEHEE!



TRUE, BUT WHEN SHE GROWS UP
SHE WILL NEED A SENSE OF
SELF-WORTH TO AVOID SEEKING
VALIDATION
FROM **ABUSIVE**
OR **EMOTIONALLY**
UNAVAILABLE
PEOPLE.

IF SHE GROWS
UP, LMAO!



THUMP
THUMP
THUMP



GASP!
HE
APPROACHES!
ASSESS
FOOTSTEPS!

HE **DOESN'T SOUND**
ANGRY ANYMORE, BUT
HE COULD STILL
EXPLODE.



BE ON
ALERT!



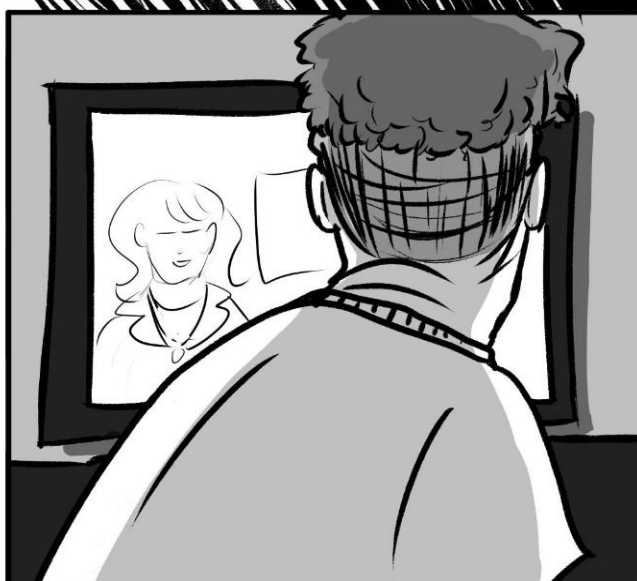
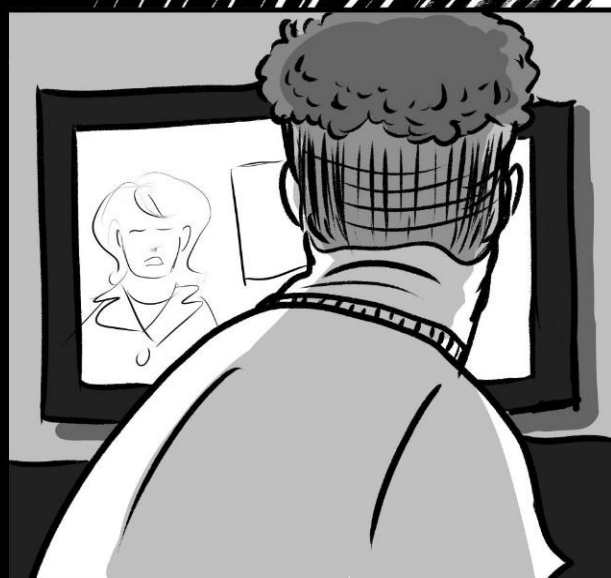
KRSHHK!



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I'M SORRY, LEORA.

I KNOW IT HURTS...

...BUT DO YOU KNOW
HOW I KNOW YOU
CAN SURVIVE THIS?



BECAUSE I'M HERE.
AND I WOULDN'T BE HERE...

...IF, DEEP DOWN,
THERE WEREN'T
A SPARK OF ANGER ...



... STRUCK BY A LATENT
SENSE OF **SELF-WORTH.**

LET IT GUIDE AND
PROTECT YOU ...

...KEEP IT
BURNING.



-END.

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