

# DANA ZLATO'S CAVE

ISOLOTTO

FARRELL

Dana Plato's *Cave* is a graphic novel depicting the rise and demise of child actress Dana Plato.

Starting out as Kimberly Drummond, the lovely teenage daughter in the sitcom *Diff'rent Strokes*, Dana was the symbol of innocence and virtue.

She soon plummeted into a lifestyle of substance abuse and sexual escapades that eventually cost Dana her stardom - and her life.

Most of the visual material for the graphic novel is produced by Kristin Farrell, a former party girl, who makes pornographic CG images, either commissioned or based on her own sexual endeavors.

The loss of innocence  
and the gaining of knowledge  
resides  
in Dana Plato's *Cave*

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"BUT I MUST EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW ALL THIS MISTAKEN IDEA OF DENOUNCING OF A PLEASURE AND PRAISING PAIN WAS BORN.

AND I WILL GIVE YOU A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF THE SYSTEM, AND EXPOUND THE ACTUAL TEACHINGS OF THE GREAT EXPLORER OF THE TRUTH, THE MASTER-BUILDER OF HUMAN HAPPINESS.

NO ONE REJECTS, DISLIKES, OR AVOIDS PLEASURE ITSELF, BECAUSE IT IS PLEASURE, BUT BECAUSE THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PURSUE PLEASURE RATIONALLY ENCOUNTER CONSEQUENCES THAT ARE EXTREMELY PAINFUL.

NOR AGAIN IS THERE ANYONE WHO LOVES OR PURSUES OR DESIRES TO OBTAIN PAIN IN ITSELF, BECAUSE IT IS PAIN, BUT OCCASIONALLY CIRCUMSTANCES OCCUR IN WHICH TOIL AND PAIN CAN PRODUCE HER SOME GREAT PLEASURE."



**LOREM**

*DE FINIBUS MALORUM ET BONORUM*



**DOLOR  
AMEN**

*ABOUT THE PURPOSES OF GOOD AND EVIL*

CICERO





I WAS ADOPTED

THAT'S HOW I GOT  
MY LAST NAME

PLATO

**LOREM**

LIKE THE PHILOSOPHER



STRAIN

DANA MICHELLE STRAIN

THAT WAS MY BIRTH NAME

BUT SOMEONE DECIDED TO  
GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE

AND THAT'S WHEN I  
BECAME DANA PLATO



MY PARENTS DIVORCED  
WHEN I WAS 3 YEARS OLD

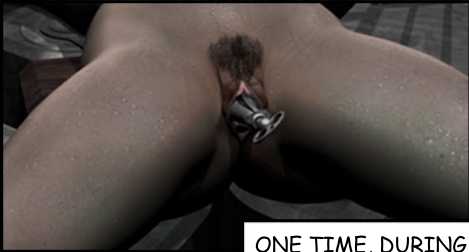
AROUND THE SAME TIME MY MOM  
STARTED TAKING ME TO AUDITIONS



THAT'S THE FIRST THING I REMEMBER  
- WAITING OUTSIDE CLOSED DOORS  
AND BEING OBSERVED BY STRANGERS







ONE TIME, DURING A FILMING  
OF A DOLE COMMERCIAL, I  
COULDN'T STOP GIGGLING



SO I WAS FORCED TO EAT  
82 BANANAS, BECAUSE THEY  
HAD TO DO SO MANY RETAKES







SHORTLY AFTER I WAS OFFERED THE PART OF THE DAUGHTER IN "THE EXORCIST"



MY MOM VETOED THE JOB

I WAS 8

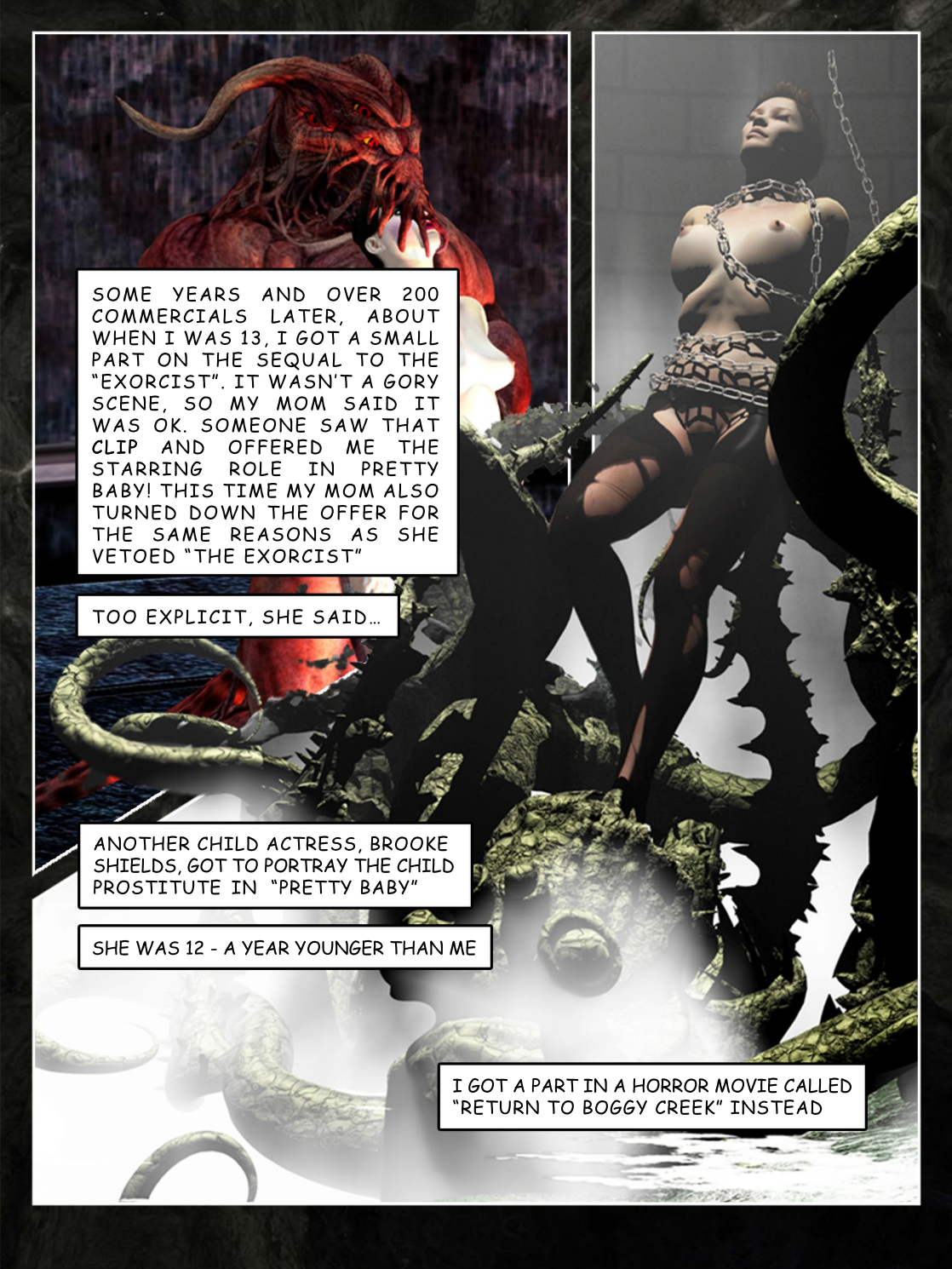


I THINK SHE WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULD SEE SOMETHING I WOULDN'T LIKE OR THAT IF I PLAYED THE PART I WOULD BE TYPECAST IN THE FUTURE



WELL, LINDA BLAIR GOT THE JOB INSTEAD

GOOD FOR HER



SOME YEARS AND OVER 200 COMMERCIALS LATER, ABOUT WHEN I WAS 13, I GOT A SMALL PART ON THE SEQUAL TO THE "EXORCIST". IT WASN'T A GORY SCENE, SO MY MOM SAID IT WAS OK. SOMEONE SAW THAT CLIP AND OFFERED ME THE STARRING ROLE IN PRETTY BABY! THIS TIME MY MOM ALSO TURNED DOWN THE OFFER FOR THE SAME REASONS AS SHE VETOED "THE EXORCIST"

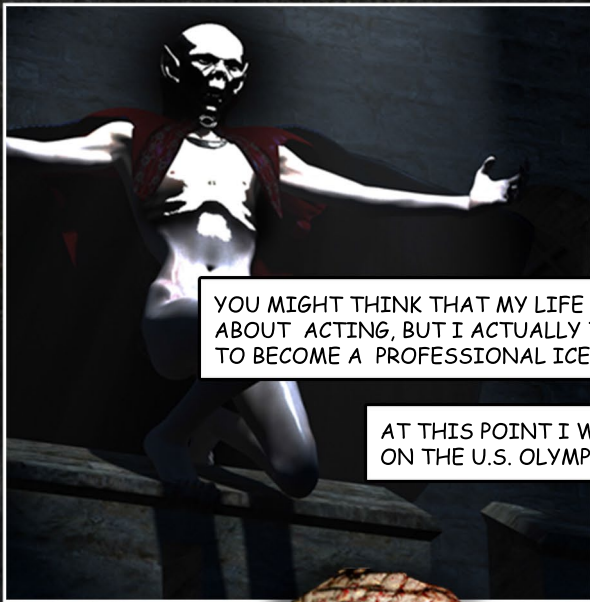
TOO EXPLICIT, SHE SAID...

ANOTHER CHILD ACTRESS, BROOKE SHIELDS, GOT TO PORTRAY THE CHILD PROSTITUTE IN "PRETTY BABY"

SHE WAS 12 - A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME

I GOT A PART IN A HORROR MOVIE CALLED "RETURN TO BOGGY CREEK" INSTEAD

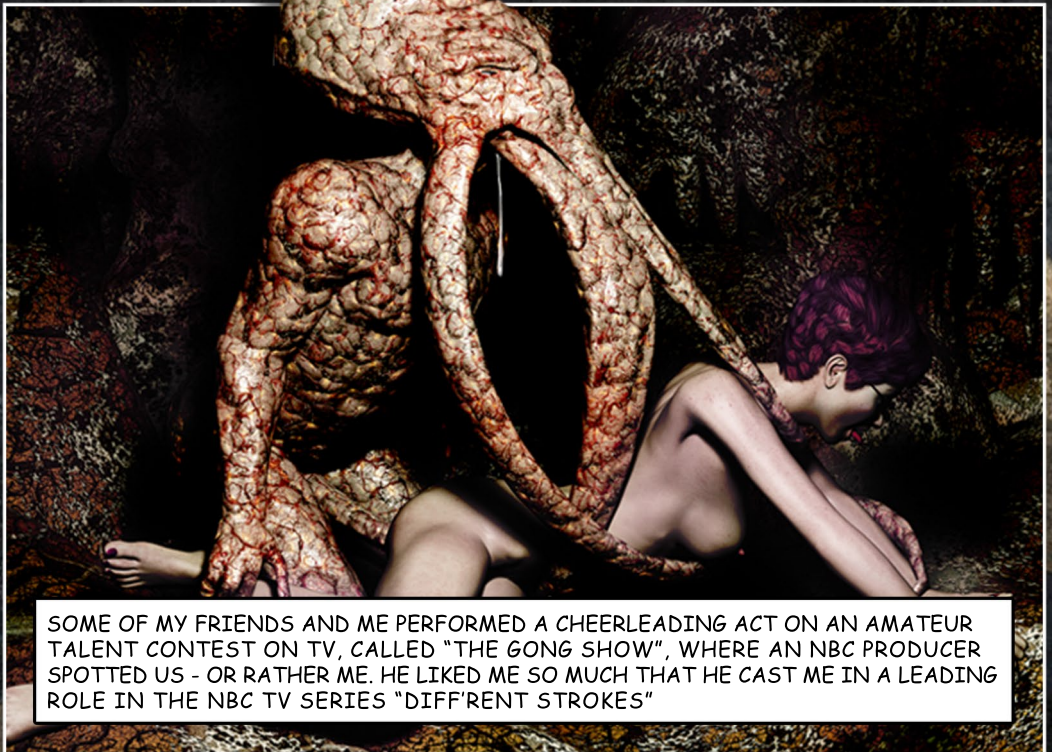




YOU MIGHT THINK THAT MY LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT ACTING, BUT I ACTUALLY TRAINED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL ICE SKATER



AT THIS POINT I WAS COMPETING FOR A SPOT ON THE U.S. OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATING TEAM



SOME OF MY FRIENDS AND ME PERFORMED A CHEERLEADING ACT ON AN AMATEUR TALENT CONTEST ON TV, CALLED "THE GONG SHOW", WHERE AN NBC PRODUCER SPOTTED US - OR RATHER ME. HE LIKED ME SO MUCH THAT HE CAST ME IN A LEADING ROLE IN THE NBC TV SERIES "DIFF'RENT STROKES"




SO MY MOM DECIDED I HAD TO CUT DOWN ON THE SKATING AND PURSUE AN ACTING CAREER INSTEAD



I WASN'T THRILLED ABOUT LEAVING ICE SKATING BEHIND, BUT THE THOUGHT OF LIVING MY LIFE ON A FILM SET DID SOUND REALLY TITILLATING!







"DIFF'RENT STROKES" WAS AN IMMEDIATE HIT: I PLAYED THE PART OF KIMBERLY DRUMMOND, THE WHITE TEENAGE DAUGHTER IN A FAMILY WITH TWO ADOPTED BLACK BOYS. GARY COLEMAN AND TODD BRIDGES PLAYED THE BOYS

WE WOULD SOON EXPLORE HOW CLOSE OUR RELATION COULD GET





WHEN I RECOVERED IT FELT LIKE THE  
FILM SET WAS WAY TOO SMALL FOR  
ME AND I JUST WANTED TO GET OUT

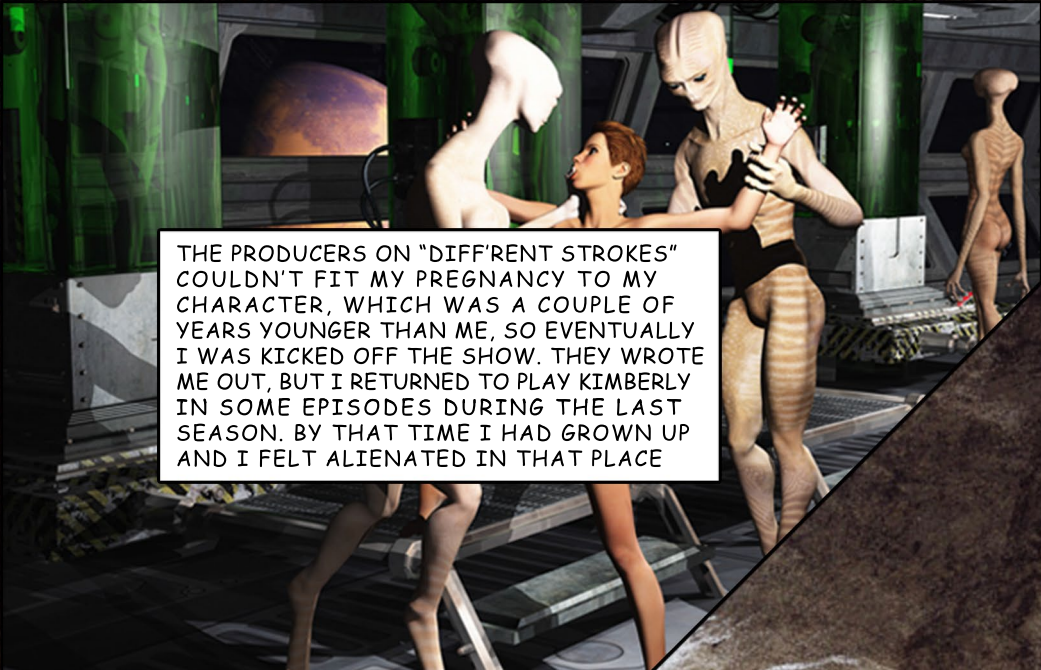
I MET THIS GUY AT A HOLLYWOOD  
PARTY. HIS NAME WAS LANNY AND  
HE WAS A MUSICIAN. I REALLY LIKED  
HIS SOFT, SLIGHTLY OBLIQUE EYES  
AND HIS SHY, FOREIGN SMILE

I GUESS I WAS SOLD ON THE SPOT

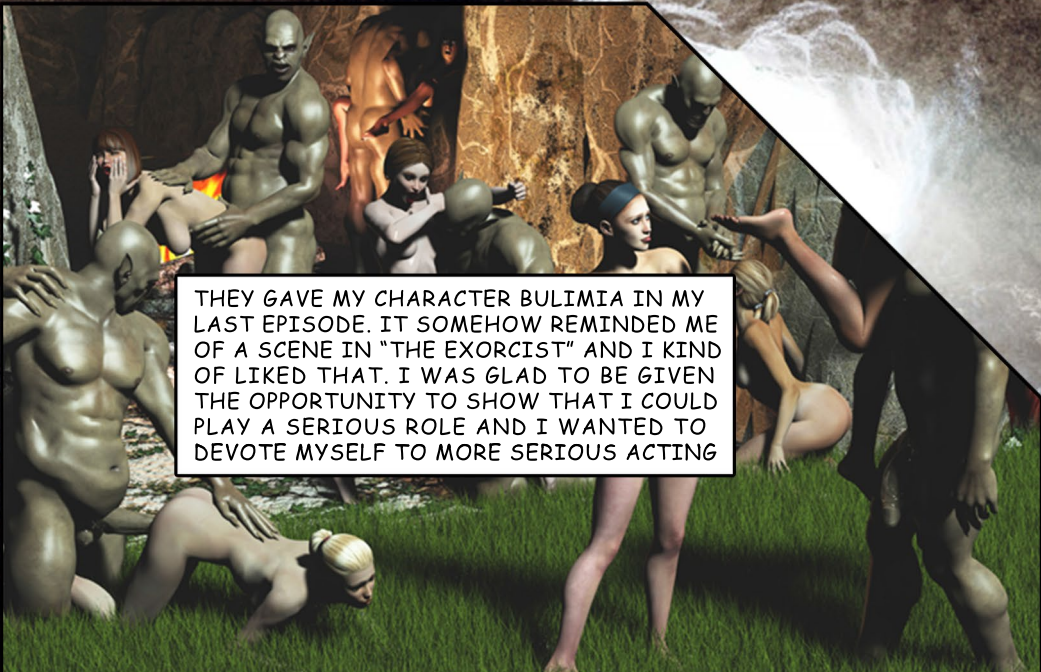
I GOT PREGNANT THE  
FIRST TIME WE HAD SEX

OUCH!





THE PRODUCERS ON "DIFF'RENT STROKES" COULDN'T FIT MY PREGNANCY TO MY CHARACTER, WHICH WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME, SO EVENTUALLY I WAS KICKED OFF THE SHOW. THEY WROTE ME OUT, BUT I RETURNED TO PLAY KIMBERLY IN SOME EPISODES DURING THE LAST SEASON. BY THAT TIME I HAD GROWN UP AND I FELT ALIENATED IN THAT PLACE



THEY GAVE MY CHARACTER BULIMIA IN MY LAST EPISODE. IT SOMEHOW REMINDED ME OF A SCENE IN "THE EXORCIST" AND I KIND OF LIKED THAT. I WAS GLAD TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THAT I COULD PLAY A SERIOUS ROLE AND I WANTED TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO MORE SERIOUS ACTING



THAT YEAR MY SON TYLER WAS BORN





A woman with dark hair is lying on a stone floor, surrounded by several large, pig-like creatures with sharp teeth and horns. The scene is set in a dark, stone-walled room. The woman is looking up with a distressed expression. The creatures are of various sizes and are reaching towards her. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman's face and the creatures' features.

A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER I  
GOT DIVORCED FROM LANNY

THE SAME WEEK AS MY MOM DIED

EVERYTHING JUST WENT DOWN.  
IT WAS LIKE BEING RIPPED APART,  
BUT I COULD ONLY REACT WITH...

APATHY

AT SOME POINT LANNY WAS AWARDED  
CUSTODY OVER OUR SON TYLER

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYBODY LEFT



AT SOME POINT I PICKED UP MYSELF AND STARTED FOCUSING ON WORK. IT WAS MY LIFELINE, A POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF THIS MESS. AND THE ONLY THING I COULD DO FAIRLY WELL. I WANTED TO DO SOME MORE SERIOUS ACTING, BUT FOUND IT HARD TO STEP OUT OF THE SITCOM SHADOW I WAS IN

SO IN AN ATTEMPT TO BOOST MY CAREER AND SHOW ANOTHER SIDE OF MYSELF I DECIDED TO DO A PLAYBOY PICTORIAL. I GOT BREAST IMPLANTS RIGTH AFTER TYLER'S BIRTH AND NOW WAS THE TIME TO USE THAT INVESTMENT!



IT KIND OF BACKFIRED ON ME



A woman with extensive tattoos is lying on her back. A green alien with a skull-like head and large eyes is positioned on her chest, with its hands near her breasts. The scene is set against a black background.

INSTEAD I GOT OFFERED ROLES IN  
B-MOVIES AND EVENTUALLY ONLY IN  
EROTIC AND SOFTCORE MOVIES

ONE WAS CALLED "DIFFERENT STROKES:  
THE STORY OF JACK AND JILL... AND JILL"

GO FIGURE...

A woman with tattoos is sitting on a green alien. The alien is lying on its back, and the woman is leaning over it. The scene is set against a black background.

AFTER THAT ONE I CAME  
OUT AS A LESBIAN IN A  
LESBIAN MAGAZINE  
CALLED "GIRLFRIENDS"

I CAN'T RECALL DOING THAT  
- I MUST HAVE BEEN DRUNK





I MOVED TO LAS VEGAS AND STARTED WORKING AT A DRY-CLEANING. THE CUSTOMERS LIKED ME

ONE DAY I PUT A MASK ON AND WENT INTO A VIDEO STORE WITH A PELLET GUN IN MY HAND AND ROBBED THE PLACE. THE ADRENALINE WAS PUMPING IN MY VEINS AND THE HIGH WAS ALMOST AS GOOD AS DOING DRUGS. THE IRONY WAS THAT I WAS IN THE DAMN STORE IN THE FIRST PLACE TO GET SOME MONEY TO BUY DRUGS. WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE STORE I TURNED A CORNER, LOOKED AT THE CASH IN MY HAND AND COUNTED EXACTLY \$164. IT WAS A STUPID IDEA TO DO THIS HOLD-UP, SO I WENT BACK TO THE STORE TO APOLOGIZE. APPARENTLY THE GIRL AT THE REGISTER HAD RECOGNIZED ME AS KIMBERLY FROM "DIFF'RENT STROKES" AND POINTED ME OUT TO THE POLICE OFFICER AS SOON AS I ENTERED THROUGH THE DOOR. THAT WAS THE SECOND TIME THAT DAY I FELT STUPID

I GOT OFF WITH BAIL AND FIVE YEARS PROBATION



THE YEAR AFTER I FORGED A PRESCRIPTION FOR VALIUM

I GOT 30 DAYS

AND WENT TO REHAB

SOME YEARS LATER...

"I DON'T BELIEVE YOU"

"DIDN'T YOU HAVE SEX WITH THAT BLACK GUY?"

"DANA, HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR LESBIAN LOVER?"

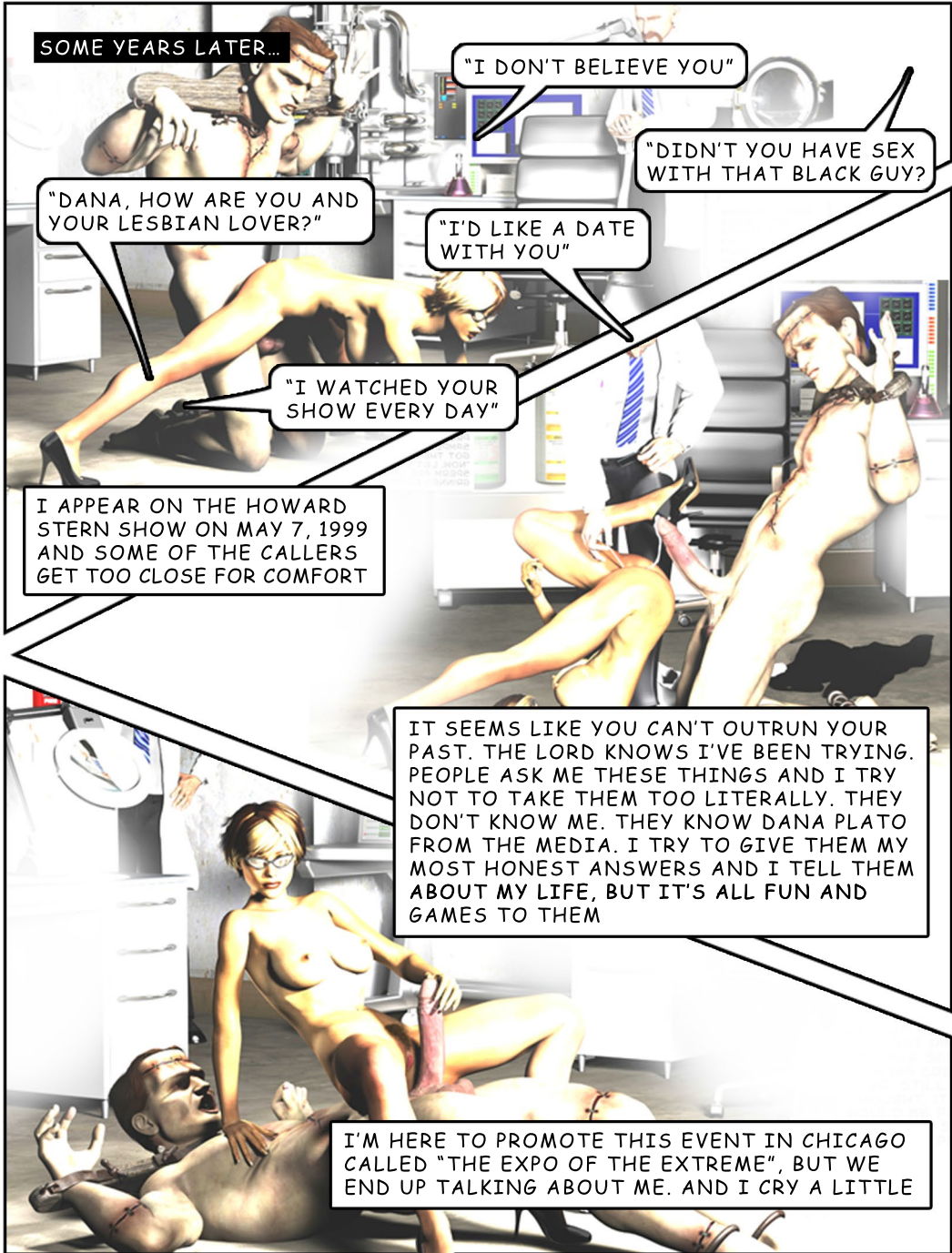
"I'D LIKE A DATE WITH YOU"

"I WATCHED YOUR SHOW EVERY DAY"

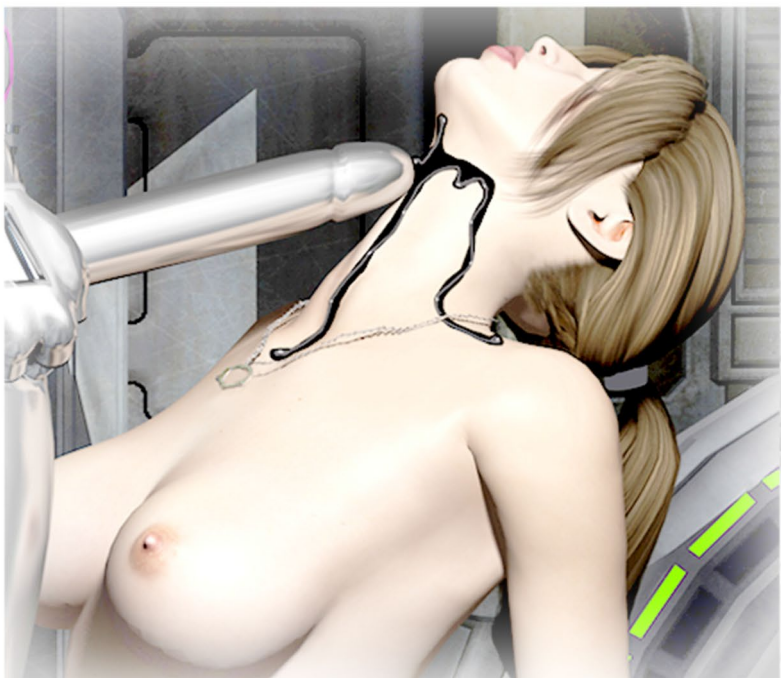
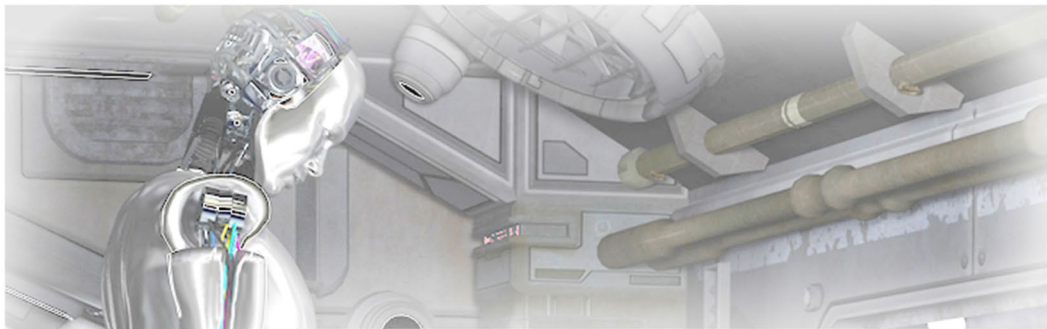
I APPEAR ON THE HOWARD STERN SHOW ON MAY 7, 1999 AND SOME OF THE CALLERS GET TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN'T OUTRUN YOUR PAST. THE LORD KNOWS I'VE BEEN TRYING. PEOPLE ASK ME THESE THINGS AND I TRY NOT TO TAKE THEM TOO LITERALLY. THEY DON'T KNOW ME. THEY KNOW DANA PLATO FROM THE MEDIA. I TRY TO GIVE THEM MY MOST HONEST ANSWERS AND I TELL THEM ABOUT MY LIFE, BUT IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES TO THEM

I'M HERE TO PROMOTE THIS EVENT IN CHICAGO CALLED "THE EXPO OF THE EXTREME", BUT WE END UP TALKING ABOUT ME. AND I CRY A LITTLE

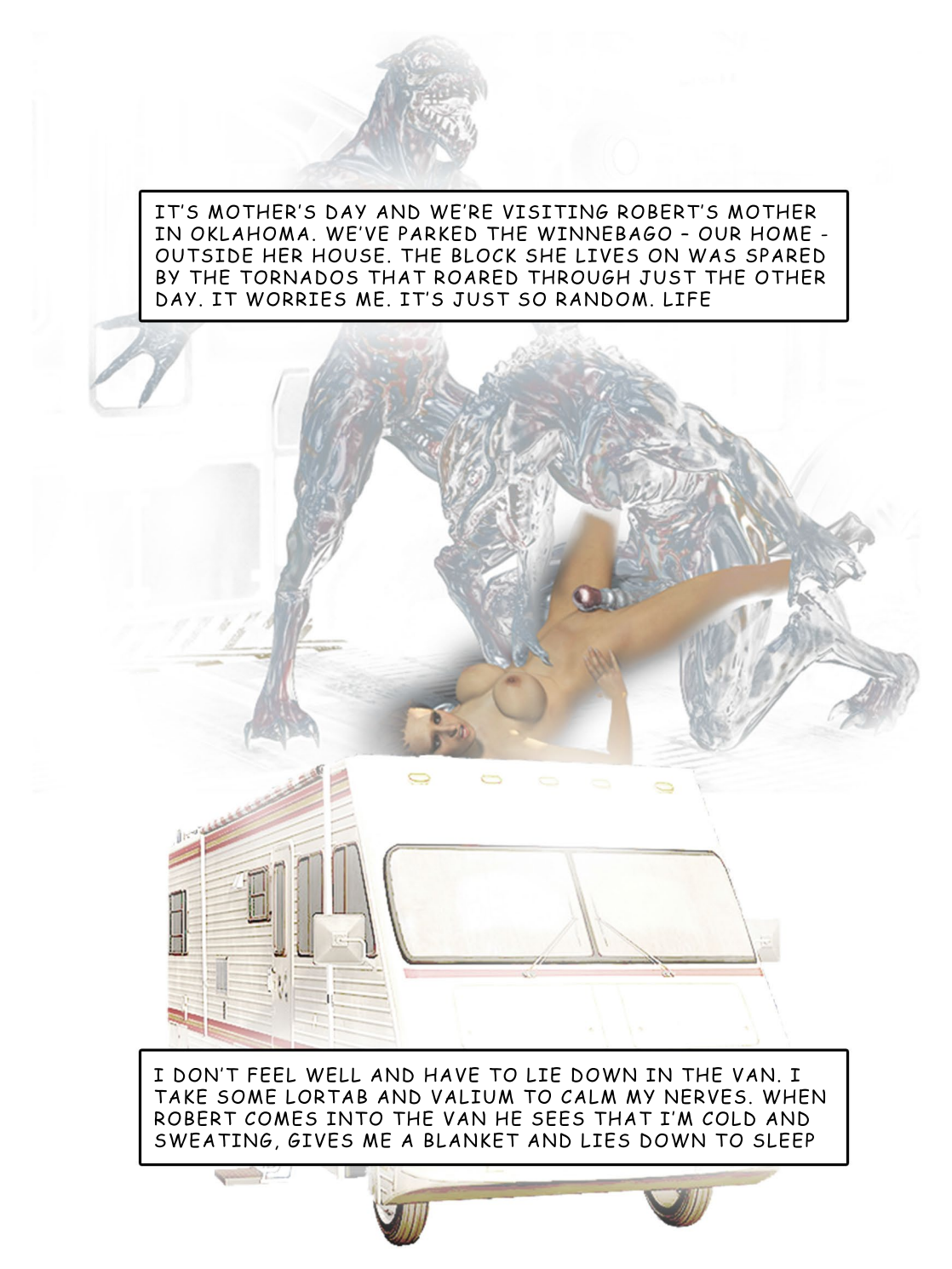






I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH MY BOYFRIEND ROBERT MENCHACA IN MY MOBILE HOME, AT A CAMPGROUND IN FLORIDA, FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. IT WAS SUCH A TRANQUIL PLACE AND PEOPLE WERE SO NICE. I EVEN SHOWED ONE OF THE NEIGHBOURS MY MOST CHERISHED RELIC FROM THE SITCOM DAYS

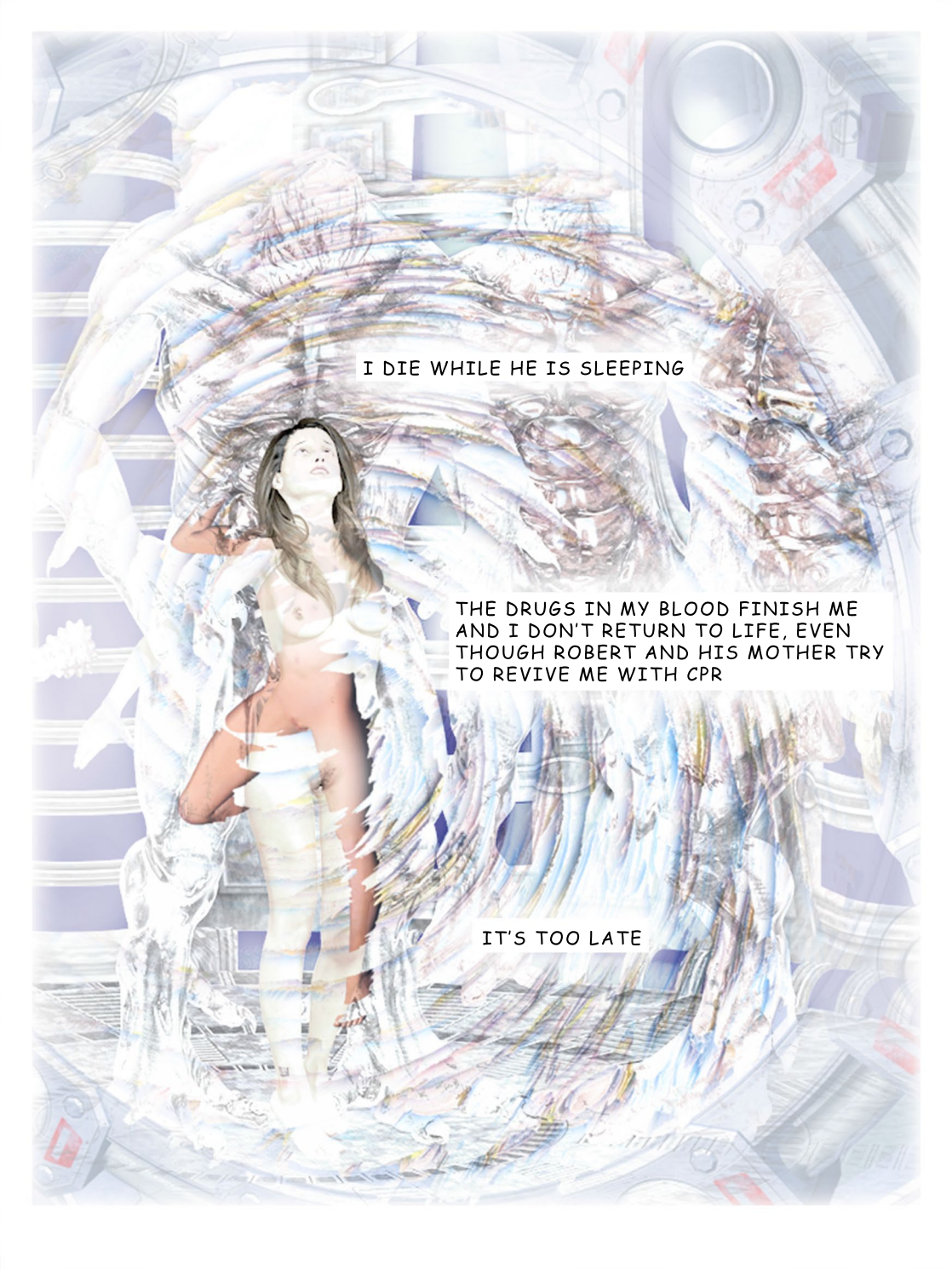
A BLACK CHOKER NECKLACE

A composite image featuring a large, metallic, multi-limbed creature with a human-like face, a nude woman lying on her back, and a white Winnebago motorhome. The creature is positioned in the upper half, the woman is in the middle, and the motorhome is in the lower half. The background is a light, hazy cityscape.

IT'S MOTHER'S DAY AND WE'RE VISITING ROBERT'S MOTHER IN OKLAHOMA. WE'VE PARKED THE WINNEBAGO - OUR HOME - OUTSIDE HER HOUSE. THE BLOCK SHE LIVES ON WAS SPARED BY THE TORNADOS THAT ROARED THROUGH JUST THE OTHER DAY. IT WORRIES ME. IT'S JUST SO RANDOM. LIFE

I DON'T FEEL WELL AND HAVE TO LIE DOWN IN THE VAN. I TAKE SOME LORTAB AND VALIUM TO CALM MY NERVES. WHEN ROBERT COMES INTO THE VAN HE SEES THAT I'M COLD AND SWEATING, GIVES ME A BLANKET AND LIES DOWN TO SLEEP



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white, strapless, futuristic garment, stands in a metallic, industrial-looking environment. She is looking upwards. Behind her is a large, complex sculpture made of many overlapping, colorful, translucent layers, resembling a human figure or a large, multi-layered face. The background features various mechanical elements, pipes, and a circular opening, suggesting a futuristic or medical setting.

I DIE WHILE HE IS SLEEPING

THE DRUGS IN MY BLOOD FINISH ME  
AND I DON'T RETURN TO LIFE, EVEN  
THOUGH ROBERT AND HIS MOTHER TRY  
TO REVIVE ME WITH CPR

IT'S TOO LATE



HOLLYWOOD

I'M SAD I DIDN'T GET TO SEE TYLER ON MOTHER'S DAY. HE IS JUST 14. THE SAME AGE I WAS WHEN I OVERDOSED THE FIRST TIME

I HOPE THAT I CAN BE HIS GUARDIAN ANGEL. GUIDE HIM THROUGH ALL THE VALLEYS AND THE MOUNTAINS AND THE CAVES AND THE PITS. I HAVE BEEN IN THE DARK FOR SO LONG AND I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER SAW THE LIGHT

MAYBE THE STRONGEST LIGHT IS JUST AT THE BRINK OF MEMORY. MY EARLIEST MEMORY WAS A CLOSED DOOR IN A DARK HALLWAY THAT OPENED TO A BRIGHTLY LIT ROOM

AND I SAW A LIGHT SO SERENE  
THAT IT STILL BLINDS ME

