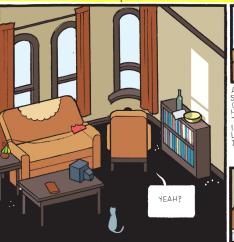
THE STRIP



## **Building Stories** By Chris Ware

PART 19: 2 p.m.





AFTER THE RAIN STOPPED, THE SUN CAME BACK OUT AND HIGHLIGHTED THE TOPS OF THE TREES IN A WAY THAT I'VE LOVED EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...







SO, UH, WHAT IS HE GONNA DO, THEN?

SINCE I COULDN'T
LEAVE, I DECIDED
TO CALL MY FOLKS,
JUST TO GET IT OVER
WITH... I DON'T KNOW.
EVER SINCE MOM RETIRED A COUPLE OF
VEARS AGO, OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE TAKEN ON
AN ODD QUALITY, AND
I DREAD THEM...

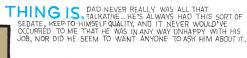
JEEZ... WELL ... THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

















ME? NO, NOT MUCH TO REPORT, REALLY... THE USUAL, Y'KNOW. WORKING.











OBVIOUSLY I DON'T WANT TO BE A BAD DAUGHTER, SO WHENEVER SHE MEN-TIONS, SOMETHING, LIKE THIS ABOUT DAD, I FEE LIKE I SHOUD ASK HIM T, TOO... I MEAN, SHE MUST BE TELLING ME FOR A FEASON, RIGHT?

SHUT UP!



OH, SCHROEDINGER, HEIDEGGER, SHUT UP!











GUESS MOSTLY I WONDER IF MOM IS TRYING TO FERING IN SILENCE, "OR IT FLL ME THAT DAD'S SPENT ALL HIS LIFE "SUFF FERING IN SILENCE," OR IS TRYING TO SEND ME SOME KIND OR MESSAGE ABOUT ME BEING INSENSITIVE TO HIM... OR MAYBE SHE JUST REALLY ITS BORED OUT OF HER MIND AND IS ONLY LIVING VICARIOUSLY THROUGH HIM, AND I'M BLOWING IT ALL OUT OF PROPORTION...







WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT... IT'S EASIER SIMPLY TO DO NOTHING, ACTUALLY... JUST LET THE CONVERSATION PLAY ITSELF OUT AND SOMEHOW REASSURE THEM THROUGH THE TONE OF MY VOICE THAT I LOVE THEM BOTH AND THAT I WISH THEM THE VERY BEST... REALLY, WE MUST'VE ALREADY EXCHANGED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORDS OVER THE PAST 3 DECADES AND HOW MANY CAN I GENUINELY REMEMBER? 100? 50? AND MOST OF THOSE ARE FROM THE FEW FIGHTS WE'VE HAD. ANYWAY... NO, 17'S ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE... A FRIENDLY "WAVE"... AN ACKNOWLEDOMENT. OF SOMETHING ELSE... A FRIENDLY "WAVE"... AN ACKNOWLEDOMENT. OF SOMETHING ELSE... A FRIENDLY "WAVE"... AN ACKNOWLEDOMENT. OF SOMETHING LINE WAVE THING HALFWAY BETWEEN REMEMBERING AND PORGETTING... JUST BEING THERE, I GUESS...









OHH-KAY... SO, UH, MOM SAID WEIRD STUFF IS GOING ON AT WORK, OR SOMETHING?