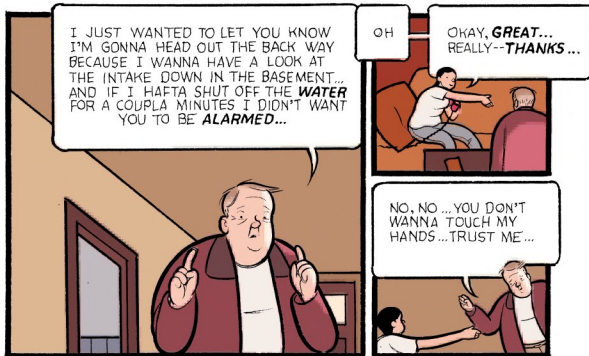
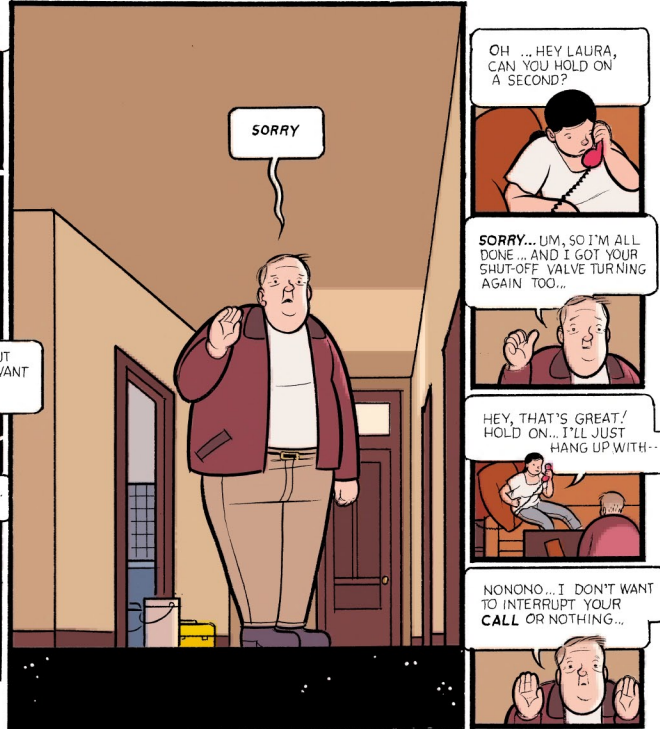


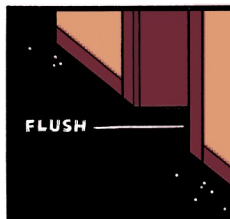
I STILL FELT BAD HAVING TO WALK AWAY FROM HIM LIKE THAT... BUT WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO? I WAS PROBABLY BOTHERING HIM ANYWAY... I'M SURE HE JUST WANTED TO GET OUT OF THERE AND GO HOME... I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH LAURA FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR WHILE HE JAMMED THAT FLOPPY RUSTY-WIRE THING FARTHER AND FARTHER DOWN INTO THE PIPES... IT SOUNDED AS IF THE WHOLE BUILDING WAS COMING APART... AT SOME POINT, THOUGH, HE MUST'VE STOPPED, BUT I DIDN'T NOTICE BECAUSE I WAS TOO CAUGHT UP IN REMINISCING WITH LAURA...



SO... LET'S SEE IF I CAN RE-MEMBER HOW IT ALL HAPPENED FROM HERE...

I THINK I MUST'VE TALKED TO LAURA FOR AT LEAST 20 MORE MINUTES, FIGURING EVERYTHING OUT ABOUT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BILL (YET ANOTHER DISTANT SCHOOL ACQUAINTANCE), WHICH I WAS BEING ADDED INTO...

THEN I DID WHAT EVERYONE DOES: WHO'S JUST HAD A TOILET FIXED...



PLUS, HEY - I WAS GETTING TO GO **OUT!** THE ODD TENSIONS OF HAVING A STRANGER IN THE HOUSE WERE FINALLY OVER, TOO... IT WAS THE FIRST TIME ALL DAY I'D ACTUALLY FELT... **HAPPY**...

IT WAS ALSO TIME TO FEED THE CAT...

