

I 3.5.06 The Funny Pages

THE STRIP



Building Stories By Chris Ware

PART 24: 7 p.m.

STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP

MISS KITTY!

STEP
STEP

huf

AT THAT MOMENT, I COULD'VE KILLED THE STUPID PLUMBER...

MISS KITTY!

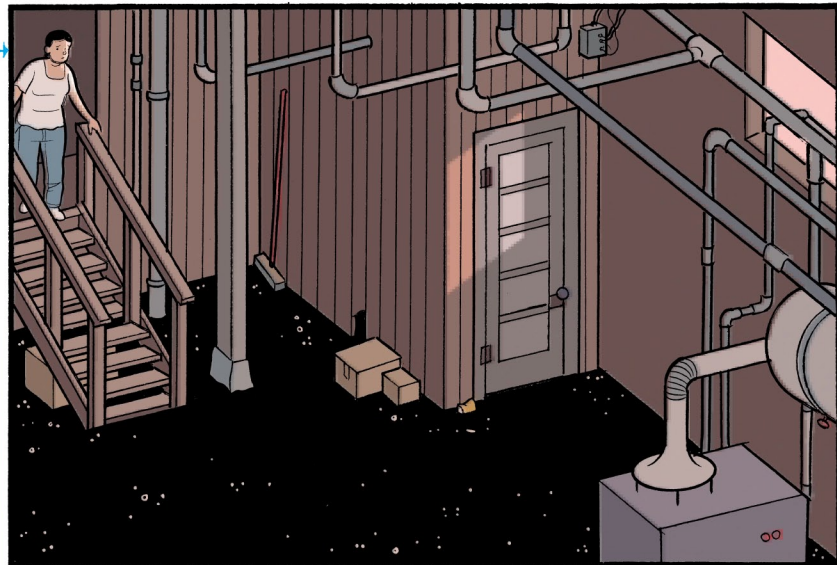
(THEN AGAIN, I SHOULD'VE PAID CLOSER ATTENTION TO WHAT WAS GOING ON...)



SHE WAS THE **WORLD** TO ME... GOD, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD BEAR LOSING HER... NOT AGAIN... **NOT AGAIN!**



THE BASEMENT DOOR WAS OPEN... WHAT IF SHE'D GONE DOWN THERE? (IF SHE HADN'T, AND I WENT LOOKING FOR HER THERE, SHE'D ONLY GET FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY OUTSIDE... BUT WHAT COULD I DO THEN, ANYWAY? "RUN" AFTER HER?)



MISS KITTY?

I STOOD THERE, MY HEART POUNDING, THE BLACK SILENCE OF THE BASEMENT SPONGING UP MY PANICKED WORDS, WHEN SUDDENLY, MIRACULOUSLY...



MISS KITTY!

SOMEHOW,

SHE'D FOUND HER WAY STRAIGHT DOWN THE STAIRS WITHOUT NOTICING THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD AVAILABLE TO HER JUST OVER THE HANDRAIL...

GOD, I WAS SO RELIEVED...



MISS KITTY



YOU LAME-O... COME ON... IT'S ME...

HEY...



ARE YOU OKAY?



I HEARD YOU, AND UM...

YOU, UH... YOU NEED ANY HELP OR ANYTHING?

WHY IS IT THAT THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE COUPULATE IN OUR DREAMS ARE OFTEN THOSE WE'D BE LEAST LIKELY TO CHOOSE IN REAL LIFE? AND WHY IS IT WE FREQUENTLY FORGET UNTIL WE SEE THEM AGAIN? I CROUCHED THERE, SMUGGED AND FILTHY ON THE COLD CONCRETE, THE DETAILS OF MY ONE-WAY TRYST FLOODING BACK TO ME IN EXCRUCIATING DETAIL... * WORST OF ALL, MY STOMACH BURST INTO BUTTERFLIES THE SECOND I SAW HIM, A PERFECT MOCKING COUNTERFEIT OF LOVE...



WAS I REALLY THAT LONELY?

snf

I'M TRYING TO GET MY CAT BACK



YEAH...



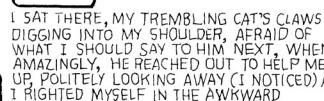
HEY



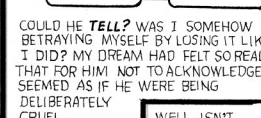
SHE'S OUT! YOU SCARED HER OUT!



STEP STEP YOUR CAT?



MAYBE HE WASN'T SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL...



COULD HE **TELL**? WAS I SOMEHOW BETRAYING MYSELF BY LOSING IT LIKE I DID? MY DREAM HAD FELT SO REAL THAT FOR HIM, NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT SEEMED AS IF HE WERE BEING DELIBERATELY CRUEL... WHICH OF COURSE WAS COMPLETE NONSENSE...

WELL, ISN'T THERE A DOOR OVER HERE?

SCF

* DISORIENTED READERS WILL PLEASE CONSULT INSTALLMENT No. 7 FOR A FULL-REFRESHER, AS TO THE PARTICULARS OF THIS "EROTIC POPSICLE EPISODE" -ed