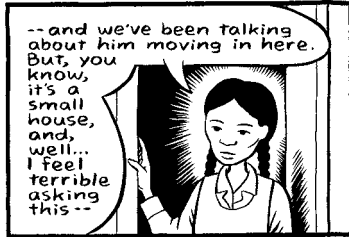


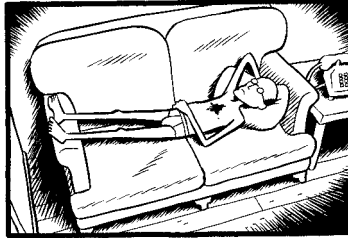
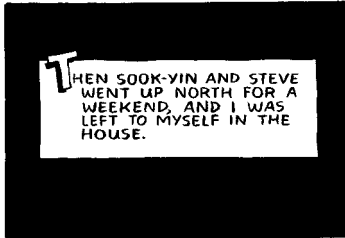
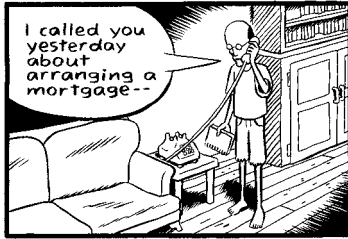
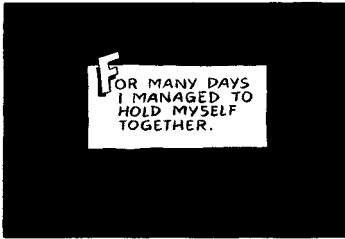
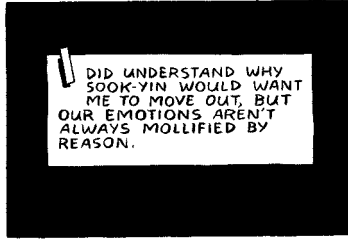
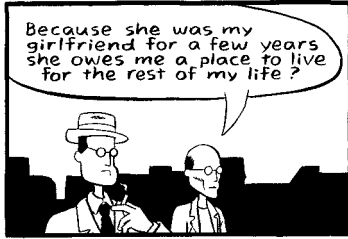
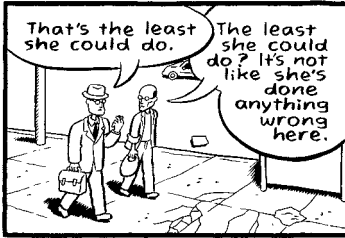
CHAPTER 23 THE MOVE



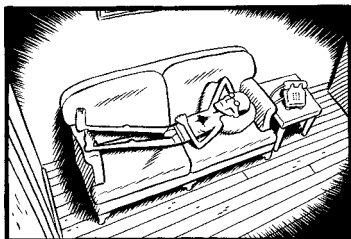
CHAPTER 23



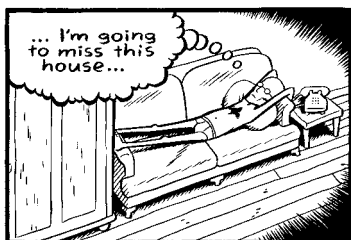
THE MOVE



CHAPTER 23



WITH NO ONE ELSE AROUND I DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO KEEP UP A FRONT, AND I FELT MYSELF SINKING INTO DEPRESSION.

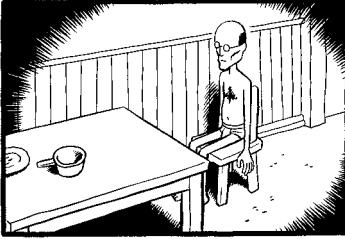
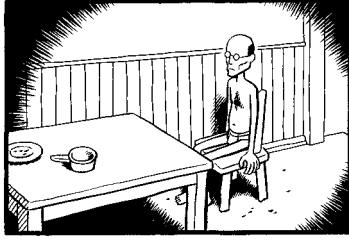
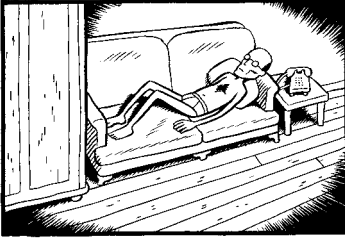


THE TRANSITION FROM ROMANTIC COUPLE TO FRIENDS-WHO-LIVE-TOGETHER HAD BEEN EMOTIONALLY EASY --

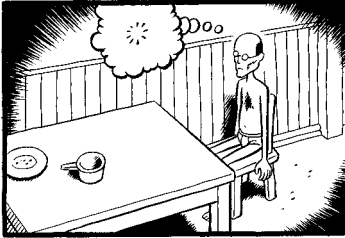
-- BUT THE PROSPECT OF NOT LIVING WITH SOOK-YIN FELT LIKE AN ENDING --

-- AND THE MORE I DWELLED ON IT THE MORE DEPRESSED I GOT.

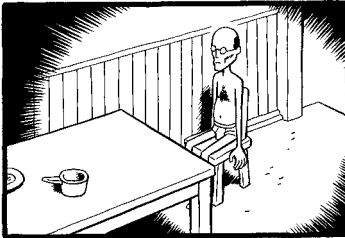
THE MOVE



SUDDENLY I FELT
A TINY TWINGE
OF HAPPINESS.



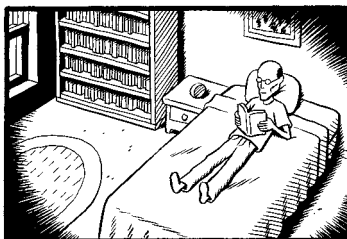
AND THEN I WENT
BACK TO BEING
DEPRESSED.



I just felt happy
a few moments
ago. What
caused
that?
What
was I
thinking
about?

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I WENT BACK OVER MY THOUGHTS AND REMEMBERED THAT AN IMAGE HAD BRIEFLY FLASHED INTO MY MIND.



I HAD IMAGINED MYSELF IN THE FUTURE, LIVING IN MY OWN CONDO OR SMALL HOUSE.

THAT IMAGE HAD GIVEN ME THE TINY TWINGE OF HAPPINESS.

I'm depressed because I'm not going to be living with Sook-Yin anymore. Why would thinking about living by myself make me happy?



As much as I like living with Sook-Yin, this is HER house -- having my own place will give me a feeling of security.



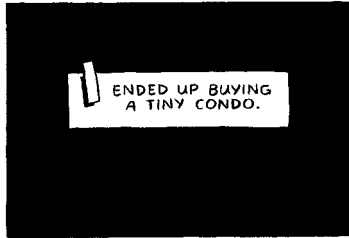
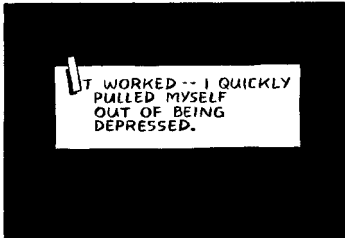
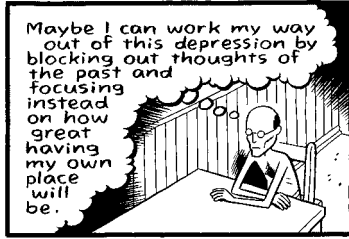
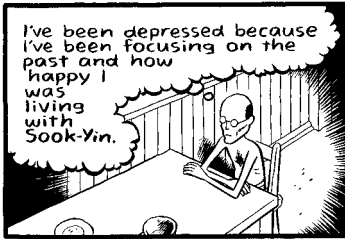
And living on one's own can have a peaceful, meditative quality.



And I'll be able to have outcall prostitutes come to me -- I won't have to go out to incalls anymore.



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