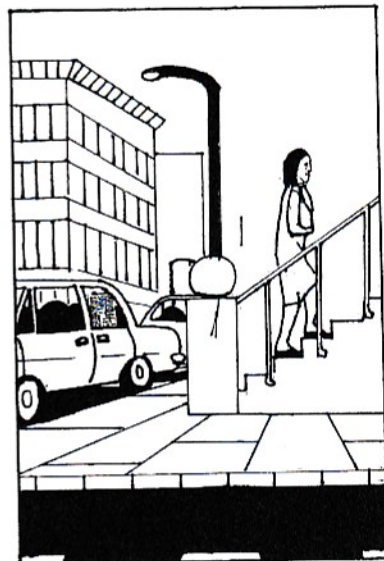
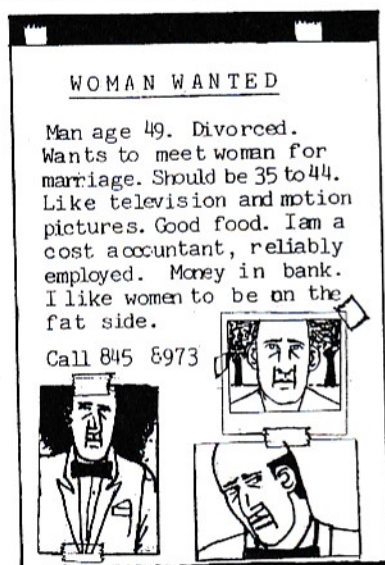
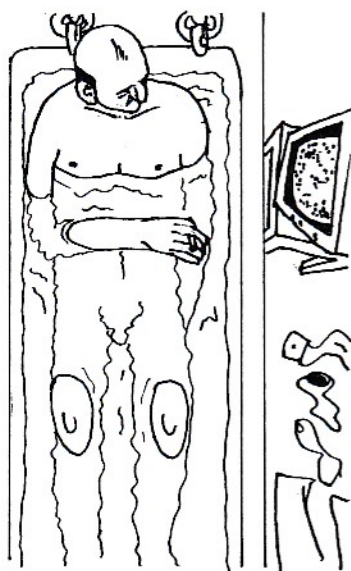
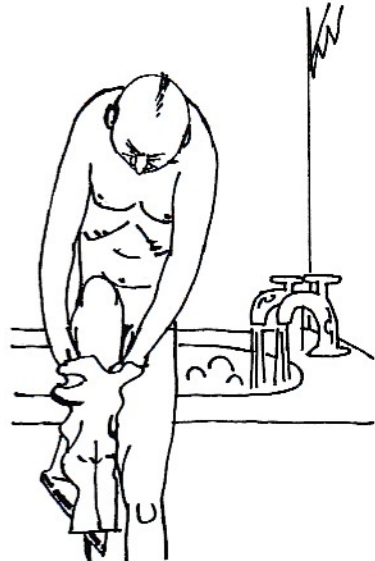
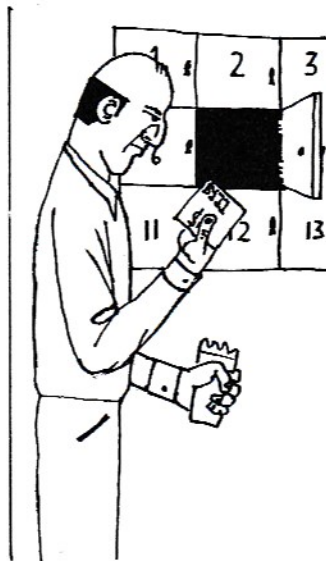
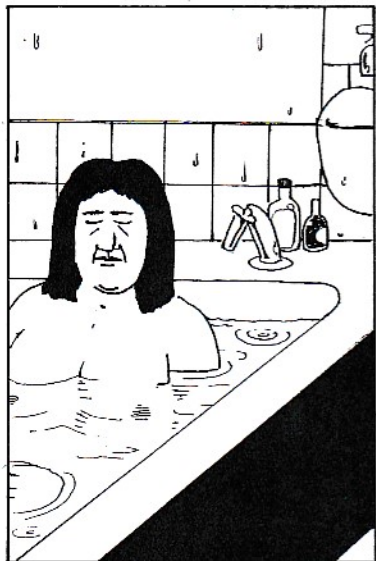


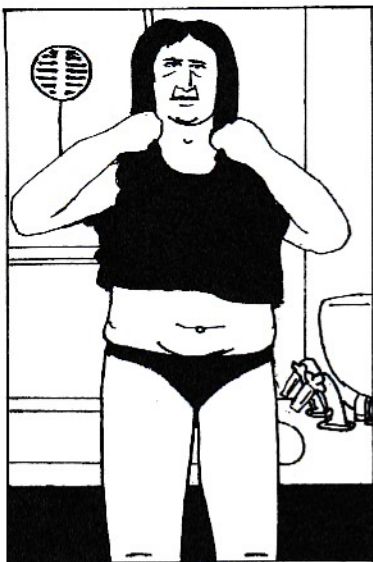
LONELINESS

Story © 1973 Charles Bukowski
Drawing © 1994 James Pymon.

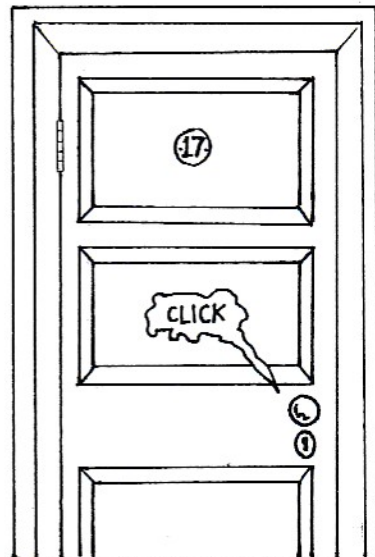
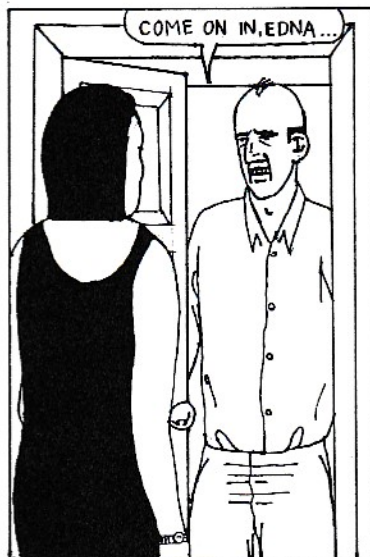
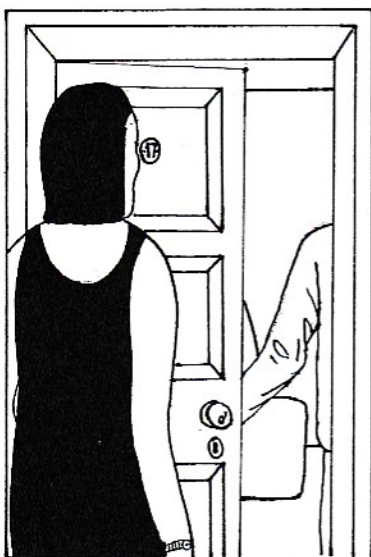
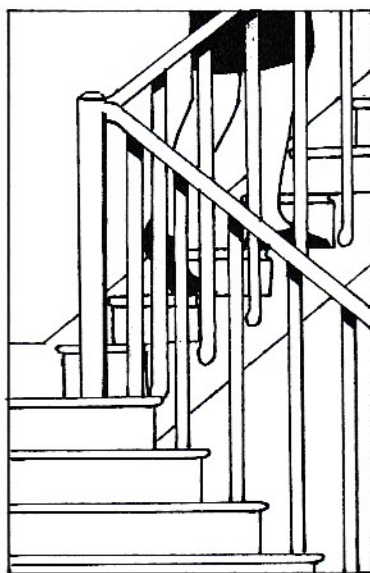
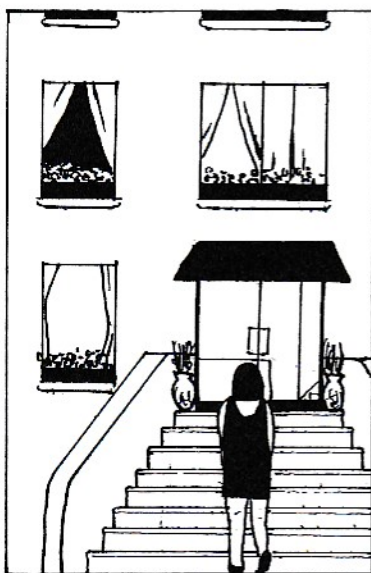
Edna was walking down the street with her bag of groceries when she passed the automobile.

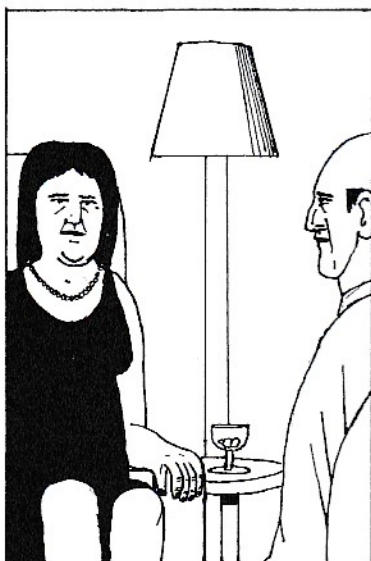












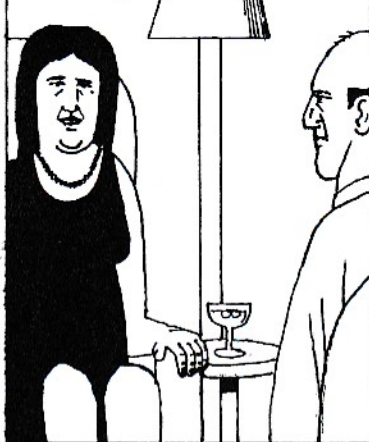
YOU KNOW, I DO WELL
ON THE SEX QUIZZES.



HOW DO YOU DO ON
THE SEX QUIZZES?



I'VE NEVER TAKEN ANY.



YOU SHOULD, YOU KNOW, SO
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHO YOU
ARE AND WHAT YOU ARE.



DO YOU THINK THOSE THINGS ARE
VALID? I'VE SEEN THEM IN THE
NEWSPAPERS. I HAVEN'T TAKEN
THEM BUT I'VE SEEN THEM.



OF COURSE THEY'RE VALID.

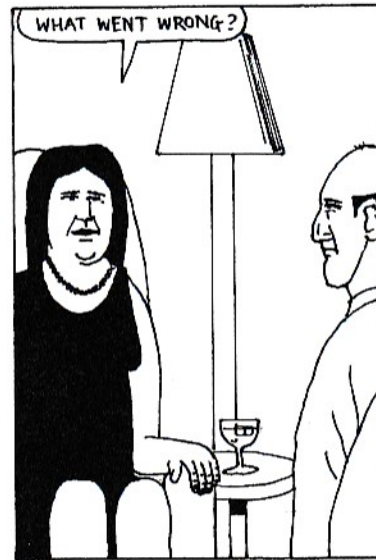


MAYBE I'M NO GOOD AT SEX,
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M ALONE.



EACH OF US IS, FINALLY, ALONE.





AND IT WORKS ALL RIGHT?



WELL, I DUNNO... SWAPS CAN CAUSE DIFFICULTIES...AFTERWARDS. IT ALL HAS TO BE TALKED OUT... VERY WELL TALKED OUT AHEAD OF TIME.



DO YOU KNOW ENOUGH, JOE?



WELL, THESE SWAPS... I THINK IT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR SOME... MAYBE GOOD FOR MANY. I GUESS IT WOULDN'T WORK FOR ME. I'M TOO MUCH OF A PRUDE.



LISTEN JOE, I HAVE TO BE GOING...



