

Michelle

8 some friends



went to see
"Synecdoche, NY"
with Michelle

Thanks for getting
free tickets

sure



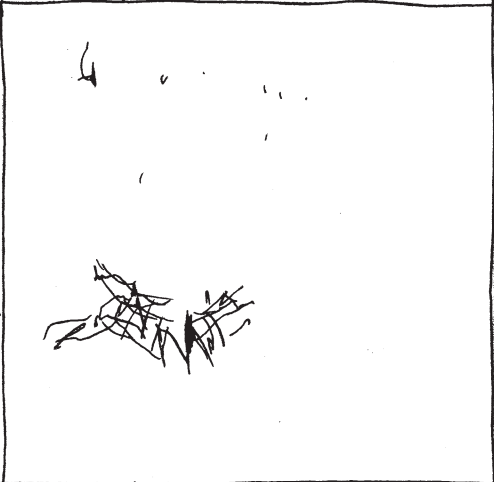
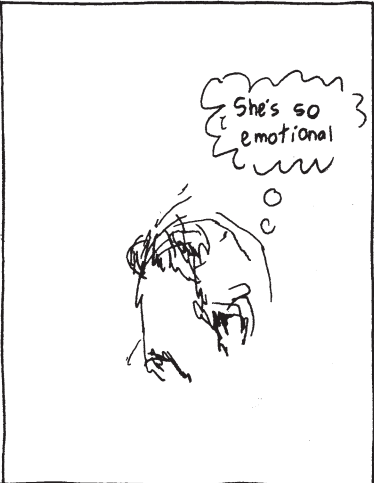
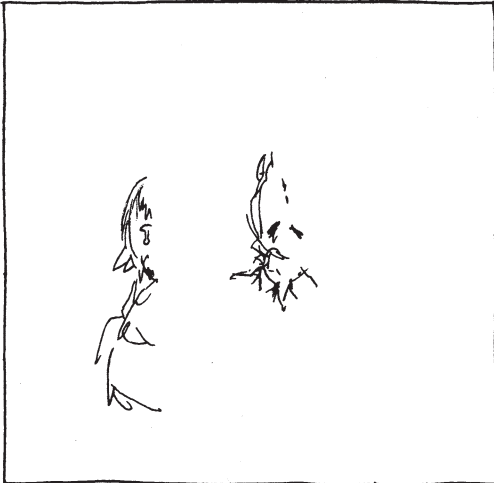
↳ y u w m -



Jason
right here
Theater 9

Oh
cool







This movie's just dragging on infinitely

SIGH



It's gotta be over soon

Do you guys want popcorn?



but Naomi & Davere down there -

- I don't wanna have to get into a big,

Yeah

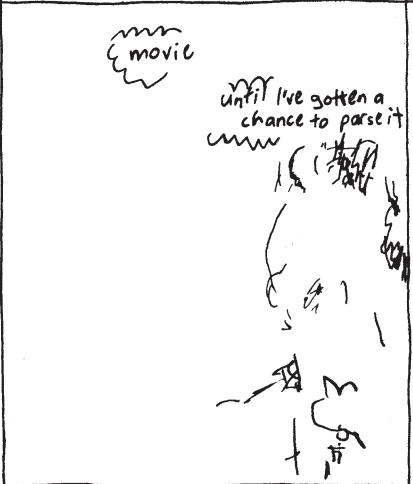
Babe?

Sure



involved conversation with them about this

Thanks, will



until I've gotten a chance to parse it

movie



I keep wanting to relate it to Auster



but that's only a clever analogy for Tempest and Alex



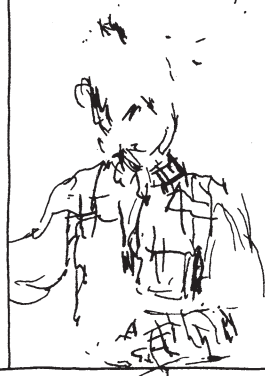
What difference does it?



make how clever I am when I talk about it?



It's some kind of performance



Hum

Finally...



OK -
walk out
quickly -
don't glance
at Naomi
& Dave



I have to go to
the bathroom

OK.



We're gonna
go pee



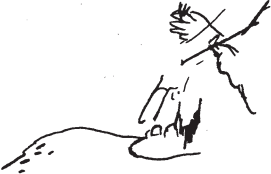
MEN



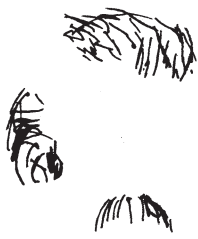
These shoes I'm wearing remind me so strongly of my Jack Purcell's



-like deja vu-



... kinda similar to when I see



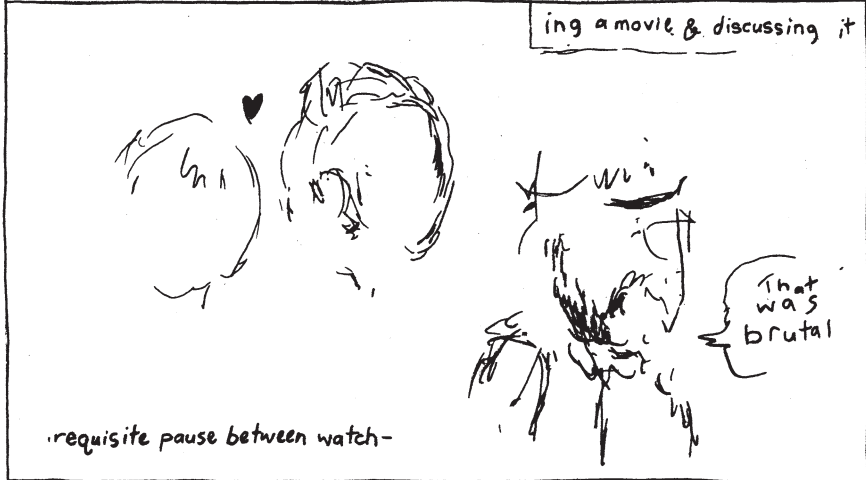
somebody in a crowd whose face resembles someone I know

always makes me feel like reality's exhausted the possibilities of its expression

MEN



What does he mean?
Is he serious?



It was like a fractal



If I didn't feel depressed before, I sure do now



Hummm

It was like a Paul Auster novel

like there was a specific construction there,



but I couldn't completely know it

yeah





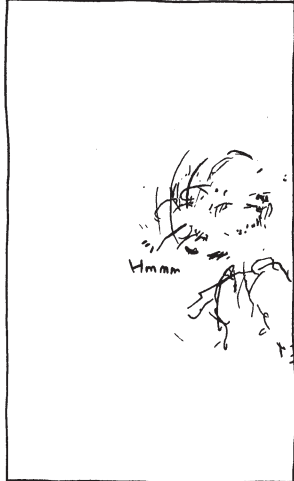
yeah, but I don't really think

it's depressing



It's about some-
one who's depressed &
Charlie Kaufman's, I bet,
depressed, or
has been

but it doesn't
make me depressed



hmm



I mean, he's treating
everything as an
abstraction of itself

not as it
fully is, right?



but, like, I don't see the world as math.
life's only depressing if you're thinking about
it that way, isn't it?



does that make sense?

yeep

I struggled so long like that to break reality into

manageable components

I don't think I'd ever watch it a gain, though

I think I've gotten better - at least with my marriage



I wouldn't've imagined Michele as my type, but she's perfect

It's not like movies that



she's so sweet artfully evoke some facet of existence, like Charlie's Angels, for instance

she makes me so happy

or the Flintstones movie!



Michelle's the answer

Bildungsroman

After I got out of
college, I ate a
lot of fast food
& got really fat

I was totally depressed



After a few years
they raised the
price of cigarettes

I needed
a new car

so I quit smoking,
which gave me enough
confidence to try to
be healthier in general.

I changed my eating habits,

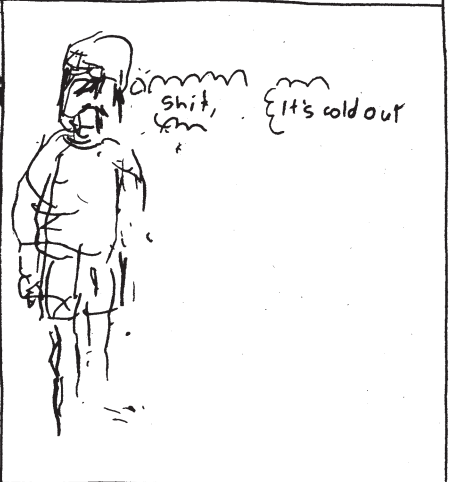
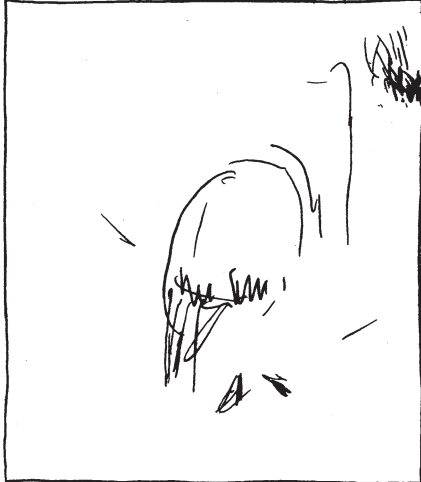
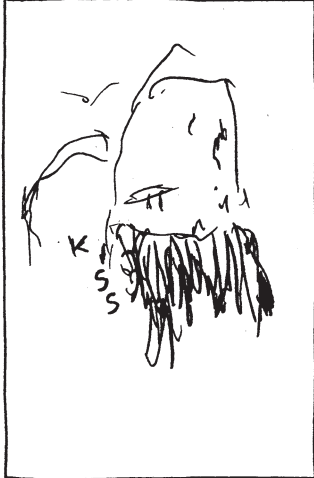
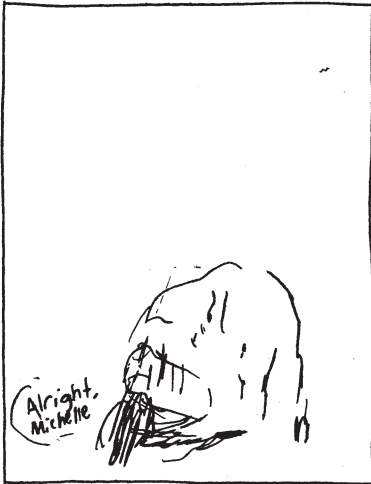


started
jogging.

and I got skinny really



quickly



mmm
i'll heat
up in a sec



BEEP



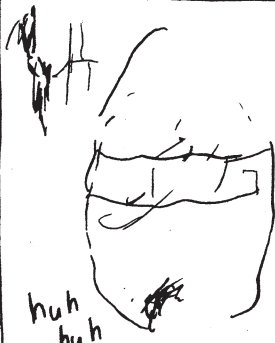
DANCE THE
JACQUES TATI!



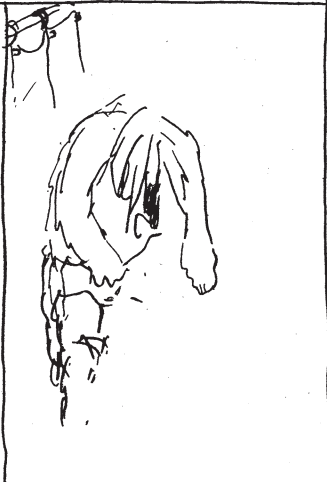
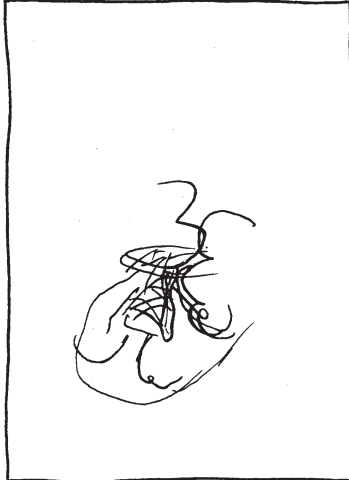
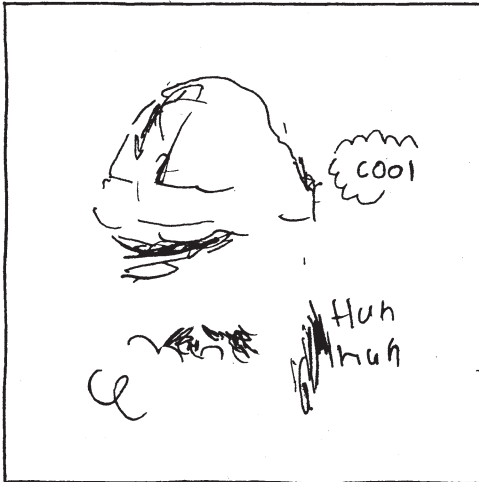
almost been }
thirty }
minutes }



huh
huh



OK - done





SIGH

This is never
going away



this,

what
Michelle
said, my "stomach" -
it's a scar. " a badge of character
to show a life
lived.

Rube Goldberg
vs. Occam's Razor

metatextual,
autobiographical,
superhero
comic

I'd been drawing this epic,

for a year or so.

I'd developed an obsessive style
of drawing where I'd texture

every panel completely & then
draw over the resulting pattern
while also erasing it, little by little,
to create an image.

I had initially
started making

the superhero comic

maybe six years ago, but the
way I was drawing it

seemed too minimal, and I
got frustrated

& moved on to
something else.

but this new style
was totally

up to the task

so I just
started in,

and I didn't really plan it

because the spontaneity of
the word/image juxtapositions
excited me.

And how the story
interfaced with
my present reality

seemed to
abound with
synchronicity

so I made, like,
15 pages of it,

but it was kind
of a mess

in the way that, unless you were me, you
wouldn't probably see the connections I was
making or be able to follow the narrative.

and that was ri-
diculously apt.

I was calling it
solipsistic cos-
mology comics.

I was too self-indulgent-

there was no structure,

and I was
intending

with this strip
you're reading

to tell you

about the plot of that
story and the symbology
I had developed to im-

press you with
my ingenuity, but
would it matter?

I was listening
to an old radio
interview yes-
terday with

David Foster Wallace,
and, I mean, Charlie Kaufman must've heard this

(DFW even uses the word "synecdoche!").

In the interview

he says he structured his novel Infinite Jest

(which I haven't read)

like a Sierpiński Gasket, which is similar to a fractal,

& I sorta got that the
idea was that,
I mean, obviously,
for one,

that complexity arises
from the combination
of lots of simple things, and

that the
fractal structure
of the thing
was hinting
that maybe

there's an overarching scheme
to the real world,

that there's
purpose,

someone who built all of this,

That's what I
got from it.

But couldn't that form
just be an emergent
property of the combination?

H M M M -

That was a question
I wanted to ask

when
I was trying
to make my
goofy super-
hero book.

I'm confronted in my life with coincidences that appear
magical

,but, possibly,

there's just so much
stuff

that

Synchronicity
must arise

as an emer-
gent proper-
ty of infinity?

I'm still trying to figure it out.