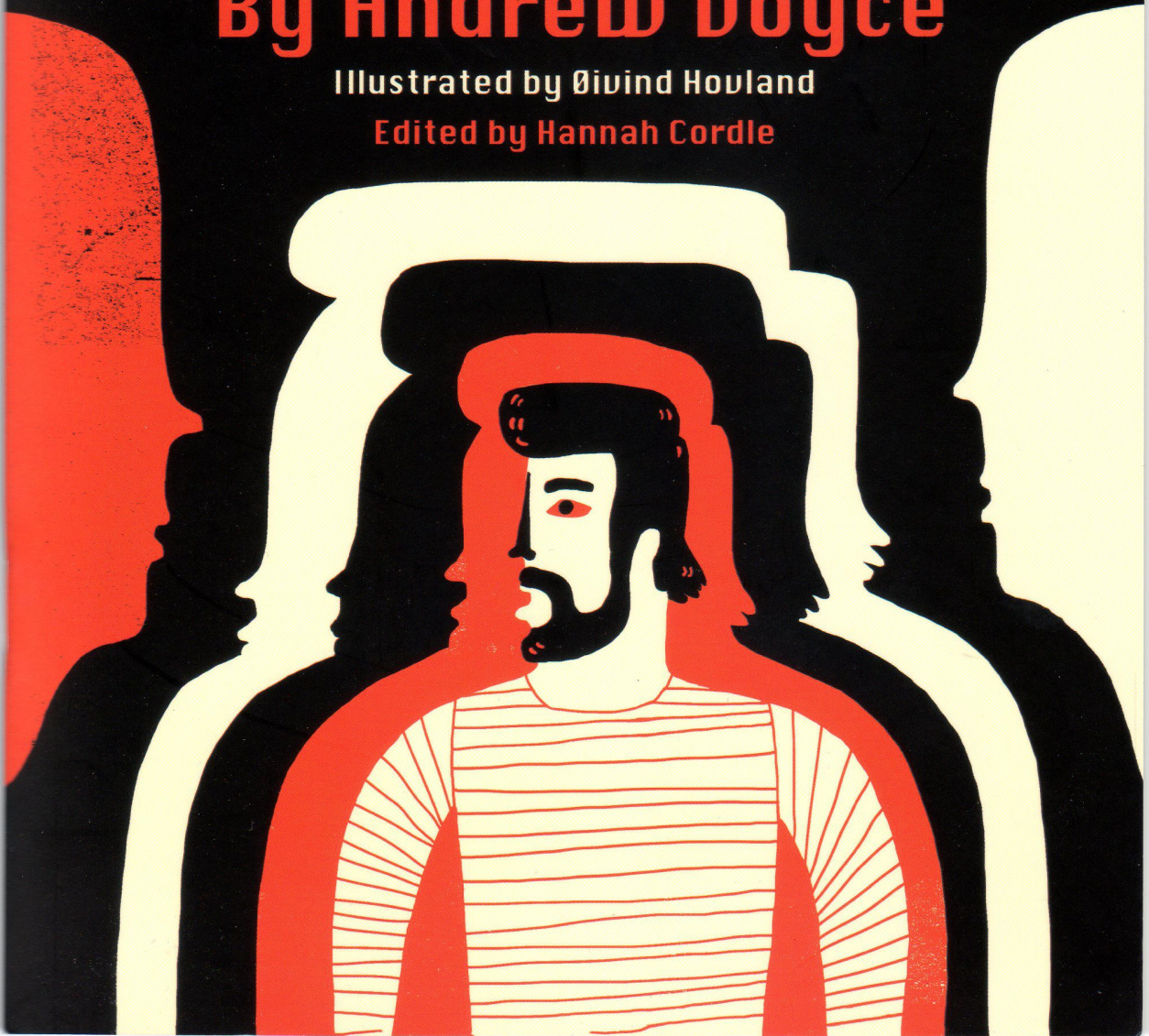


# SIDE EFFECTS

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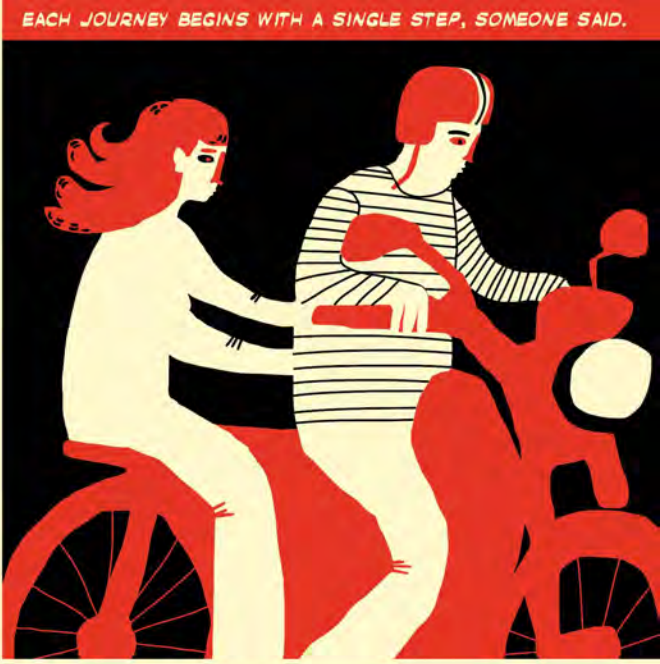




1968, SOMEWHERE IN KENT.



EACH JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP, SOMEONE SAID.



IN MY CASE IT WAS A ROAD ACCIDENT.



I SHOULD HAVE STUCK TO MY MOD PRINCIPLES AND GOT A SCOOTER.







TWO YEARS AFTER THE ACCIDENT I RECEIVED £2,000 COMPENSATION. I SET OFF FOR READING UNIVERSITY TO STUDY POLITICS. BUT I FELL IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD.



HEY RAYMONDO, LET'S GO INTO TOWN.

I WAS GETTING STONED EVERY SINGLE DAY.



LET'S GO BACK TO THE FLAT. I CAN'T HANDLE THIS.

YEAH. LET'S SPLIT.



GOING TO CROSS OVER. GOT TO GET OUT. HELL. WHO'S THAT COMING AT ME?



THIS IS AWFUL, WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE? I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY. GOT TO GET BACK.



JUST THREE MORE DOORS THEN I'M SAFE.

BISSA ROAD





I WAS TOO PARANOID TO GO TO LECTURES. BUT I STILL HAD SOME COMPENSATION MONEY SO I SPENT IT ON POT.



BLOODY HELL, THAT WEATHER'S COMING OVER FROM SIBERIA. A NUCLEAR CLOUD SENT OVER US BY THE SOVIET UNION.



HAVE YOU GOT ANY IODINE?

NO WE DON'T SELL IT.



I'VE BEEN OUT IN THAT CONTAMINATED RAIN AND I COULDN'T GET ANY ANTIDOTE.



I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES TONIGHT.



IN MY SECOND YEAR I DROPPED OUT ALTOGETHER AND WENT BACK TO LIVE WITH MY FATHER.





AT CHRISTMAS IN 1974, MY FATHER GOT ME ADMITTED TO HELLINGLY HOSPITAL, AN ASYLUM IN EAST SUSSEX.



THE PSYCHIATRIST SAID THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG. BUT I COULDN'T GO HOME. THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.





WHERE IS ALL THE TRAFFIC COMING FROM?



CHRIST, I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS. LET ME OUT!



HELL, THEY'VE GOT ME!



THEY ARE COMING AT ME. THIS IS IT!



I'LL TAKE THESE, SIR!



I WAS NICKED FOR STEALING PETROL AND SENT BACK TO HELLINGLY WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD.



THIS WAS THE START OF MY TIME IN THE REVOLVING DOOR.



BLOODY TRAFFIC AGAIN.



I'LL COUNT ALL THE CARS OVER FIVE MINUTES THEN AGGREGATE THE FIGURE.



I'M SURE THERE'S A TRANSMITTER IN HERE. THAT'S WHY THE TRAFFIC HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND.



LATER, IN THE PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I'VE BEEN COUNTING THE CARS THAT COME INTO THE HOSPITAL.



RAY, WE THINK YOU HAVE SCHIZOPHRENIA. THERE IS A MAGISTRATE'S ORDER STIPULATING THAT YOU MUST RECEIVE ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATION.

ABOUT 3,000 GO UP AND DOWN THE DRIVE EACH DAY. IS THAT REASONABLE?



ONCE A FORTNIGHT I HAD TO DROP MY TROUSERS AND HAVE SOMEONE INJECT MY BACKSIDE.

Medical Room









NEXT ONE'S IN A FORTNIGHT AS USUAL. THERE'S NO INDUSTRIAL THERAPY TODAY AS IT'S THE SILVER JUBILEE DISCO.

FOR A WEEK AFTER THE INJECTION, I SHOULD SUFFER A HORRENDOUS SIDE EFFECT CALLED AKATHISIA. AKATHISIA, FROM THE GREEK FOR "NOT TO SIT", REFERS TO INNER RESTLESSNESS CHARACTERISED BY AN INABILITY TO SIT STILL OR REMAIN MOTIONLESS.



CRUIKEY, SHE'S NOT ONLY GORGEOUS, SHE'S GOT QUITE A REPUTATION.

HELLO... WHY DON'T YOU COME AND SIT WITH ME?



OH GOD, I FEEL DREADFUL.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE GOING SOMEWHERE?



GOT TO KEEP MOVING, CAN'T HELP IT.





I ER...I ER...

WHAAT?



I'M SORRY, BUT NO...  
I'M OK.



EXIT

OH GOD, I'VE GOT  
TO GO. SORRY.



NEED TO SLEEP  
BUT I FEEL SO  
RESTLESS. CAN'T  
GET ANY PEACE.



THIS IS TERRIBLE,  
CAN'T SLEEP.



I'LL HAVE A SMOKE.  
NO I CAN'T STAY STILL.





I JUST WANT THIS TO END.



THERE'S TOO MUCH LAYING ON BEDS. GET OUT. I'M LOCKING THE DORMITORY TILL AFTER SUPPER.

NONE OF THE OTHER PATIENTS IN THE OLD ASYLUMS WERE ABOUT TO GET WELL ANY TIME SOON EITHER.



YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO SHAVE. LIKE AUDIE MURPHY.

WHO WAS HE?



THE MOST DECORATED AMERICAN SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR TWO. HAD A GLITTERING HOLLYWOOD CAREER AFTER THE WAR. HE PLAYS HIMSELF IN "TO HELL AND BACK."

AND YOU ENDED UP IN HERE.



I REMEMBER THE DOODLEBUGS COMING OVER WHEN I WAS SIX. I'VE HAD NERVES EVER SINCE.

ACTUALLY IT'S ON TONIGHT.









MANY ASPECTS OF ASYLUM LIFE I COULD ACCEPT, LIKE SLEEPING IN A TEN-BED MALE DORMITORY, THE LACK OF PRIVACY, THE AWFUL FOOD.



BUT THE INJECTIONS WERE HELL.



ONCE A DAY WE WERE SENT TO INDUSTRIAL THERAPY.



YOU KNOW CHRIS ALL THIS UNEMPLOYMENT IS WRONG. IT'S UNNECESSARY. IF THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS ENOUGH MONEY THROUGH BORROWING OR RUNNING A DEFICIT, UNEMPLOYMENT WILL GO DOWN LIKE IN THE 1960S.







COME ON, YOU KNOW WE START AT TWO. WE WANT A HAND LOADING THESE. MAY YOU CAN GO BACK TO PACKING SOAP.



IT'S NOT THAT I MIND DOING THIS, BUT I WISH THEY'D STOP THOSE PEOPLE SHOUTING DOWN AT ME FROM PASSING AIRCRAFT.



I CAN GET SOME SOAP AND BACCY NOW.

WAGES, EVERYONE.



THEN TO SEE THE NURSE.

I HATE THE AKATHISIA I GET WITH THESE INJECTIONS, NURSE.



AT THE WARD ROUND YESTERDAY THE DOCTOR SAID WE CAN LOOK AT DISCHARGING YOU. SO YOU'LL NEED TO GET A JOB.

I'VE STUDIED TO DEGREE LEVEL IN THE PAST.



WHAT DID YOU STUDY?

MARXIST IDEOLOGY AND THE ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR.

THIS IS 1980. THINGS HAVE MOVED ON. YOUR STEP DAD AND THE CONSULTANT WANT YOU TO DO TYPEWRITER MECHANICS.



AT LAST, I TOOK A STEP TOWARDS THE DISCIPLINE OF WORK  
IN THE REAL WORLD.



I WAS TOLD I COULD  
STUDY COMPUTING.

DO WHAT YOUR STEPFATHER WANTS.  
HE'S A TOP CITY DIRECTOR. KNOWS  
MORE THAN ANYONE THE FUTURE'S  
IN TYPEWRITERS.



HERE WE ARE.



WE'RE GOING TO  
ASSESS YOU FOR  
THE SORT OF SKILLS  
EMPLOYERS WANT.



YOUR FIRST TASK WILL BE TO PUT THESE PEGS  
INTO THE HOLES. YOU MAY NOTICE THAT SOME  
OF THE PEGS ARE SQUARE AND SOME ARE  
ROUND. SAME FOR THE HOLES. TAKE YOUR TIME.

TWO HOURS LATER...



OK MR VOYCE, YOU'VE  
PASSED THE TASK IN THIS  
SECTION. NURSE NEEDS  
TO SEE YOU NOW.





OK, HERE'S THE NEXT TEST. THIS TYPEWRITER WEIGHS ABOUT FOUR KILOS. I WANT YOU TO CARRY IT UP THOSE STAIRS.



THAT'S RIGHT. NOW BRING IT DOWN AGAIN. WATCH YOU DON'T FALL.



LOOK OK TO YOU?

PUT HIM DOWN FOR THE NEXT TYPEWRITER MECHANICS COURSE.



THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF TRAINING BEGAN. THERE WAS INSTRUCTION, APPOINTMENTS, THEN HOME LEAVE ON A BRITISH RAIL TRAVEL WARRANT.

ADJUST...LOOSE DOG... REMINGTON... FIXED DOG... ADJUST... BROTHER...BLAH







AKATHISIA AGAIN - DEBILITATING EXTREME RESTLESSNESS AND SEDATION TOGETHER.



MR VOYCE, NURSE WANTS TO SEE YOU. ADLER...BLAH...LOOSE DOG...BLAH



I'VE HAD IT WITH THESE INJECTIONS. THEY GIVE ME A WEEK OF HELL AFTER EACH ONE.

DOCTOR'S WRITTEN YOU UP FOR INJECTIONS BECAUSE THEY DO YOU GOOD.



WHAT IF I REFUSE?

WELL YOU'RE NOT UNDER SECTION, SO I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

RIGHT, THAT'S IT. I'VE HAD ENOUGH AND I'M NOT HAVING ANY MORE INJECTIONS.

WEEKS PASSED AND MY MENTAL HEALTH DETERIORATED.



THE IRA COULD BE LURKING IN HERE.



I WAS TERMINATED FROM THE TYPEWRITER MECHANICS COURSE AND SENT BACK TO LIVE WITH MY MUM AND STEPDAD.



I FEEL GREAT!  
HARDLY NEED TO  
SLEEP AND I'M  
SO ALERT!



I BUY SOME PAINT TO MAKE MORSE CODE SIGNS ON TREES AND SEE JESUS ON A CARNIVAL FLOAT.



AT NIGHT I RUN RED LIGHTS AND FEEL INVINCIBLE.



PEOPLE TO  
SEE YOU, RAY.

WE THINK IT WOULD  
BE GOOD IF YOU CAME  
INTO HOSPITAL.



WHY SHOULD I? I'M NOT MAD.  
YOU CAN'T FORCE ME.

I'M AFRAID WE CAN.  
DR PATEL AND I HAVE  
SIGNED PAPERS TO  
SECTION YOU UNDER  
THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT.





SO YOU'RE BACK WHERE YOU STARTED. THINK OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET YOU A JOB. ALL THE NURSES, DOCTORS, AND PSYCHIATRISTS. THE ASSESSORS AND TRAINERS OF THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION. THEY ALL WORK, WHY CANT YOU?



YOU CAN START AT THE CONCRETE SHOP TOMORROW. IT'S £1.75 A WEEK.



THERE'S JUST SOMETHING FIRST...

DESPITE THE FUTILITY OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES, I'D ALWAYS BE A MODEL PATIENT AND EVENTUALLY GET MYSELF DISCHARGED.



I'M GOING HOME!

CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH MY OLD UNIVERSITY CONTACTS. COULD RESTART MY DEGREE.

WELL, NOT EXACTLY... WHAT WE HAD IN MIND WAS A COUNCIL HOSTEL. YOU'LL GET YOUR OWN ROOM. YOU CAN DO TWO MORNINGS A WEEK SWEEPING FLOORS AT TIMOTHY WHITE'S.



BUT I WANT TO COME OFF THESE INJECTIONS. I NEED INTELLECTUAL STIMULUS. I DON'T THINK I'M BEING TREATED WITH DIGNITY OR RESPECT!

LOOK, THIS IS ALL WE CAN OFFER. IT'S THE BEST THING. I NEED YOUR FINAL DECISION BY WEDNESDAY.





DID HE GO FOR IT?

OH YES, HE'LL GO.

BET YOU A FIVER HE'LL BE BACK IN SIX MONTHS.

ON ONE OCCASION, I WAS DISCHARGED AND MANAGED TO GET A JOB IN LONDON AS AN ACCOUNTS CLERK. I BOUGHT A HOUSE AND WAS ABLE TO AVOID HAVING ANY INJECTIONS.



TWO HUNDRED POUND GIRO TO COVER MY MORTGAGE. BRILLIANT! I'LL GET THE FERRY ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND TRAVEL AROUND EUROPE BY TRAIN.

A WEEK LATER, CROSSING THE CHANNEL.



THOSE CLOUDS OUT THERE... SHAPE OF A GIANT SHIP.

REDUNDANCY AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOLLOW ON FROM BECOMING PSYCHOTIC AGAIN.



JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE ASSUME THE LARGEST SHIPS ARE 500,000 TONNES, DOESN'T MEAN THERE ISN'T ONE SHIP OF MILLIONS OF TONNES OCCUPYING THE WHOLE ATLANTIC. IT'S JUST WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

ABOUT 36 HOURS LATER, SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY.



CRIBKEY! THAT CARRIAGE IS FROM THE DEUTSCHE REICHBAHN - THE RAILWAY OF THE GERMAN REICH! I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF HITLER BOARDING A TRAIN LIKE THIS.



ON BOARD.



EVEN THE CURTAINS HAVE THE DR INSIGNA. I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE THIRD REICH WAS STILL AROUND.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, ON RETURN TO DOVER.



STRANGE THINGS ARE GOING ON AT SEA. THIS IS THE SUBSTANCE OF CONFLICT. IT'S ABOUT MANAGING THESE HUGE FORCES, LIKE HYPNOTISM AND THE SEA.



EXCUSE ME SIR, CAN I SEE YOUR PASSPORT?



SIR, IT APPEARS THERE'S A WARRANT OUT FOR YOU TO APPEAR AT MAIDSTONE CROWN COURT.


YOU'RE ONLY HERE FOR A MOTORING OFFENCE. WHAT ON EARTH POSSESSED YOU TO TAKE IT TO THE CROWN COURT THEN NOT TURN UP?




WOW, WHAT A STUNNING VIEW OF THE CATHEDRAL. IT'S ALMOST ELECTION DAY. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS A SAY IN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. THAT'S THE CONNECTION! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!




FIVE WEEKS LATER.




SO I'M HERE. I'VE SEEN THOSE THINGS AT SEA. I KNOW THE THIRD REICH IS STILL ALIVE. THERE ARE FORCES AT SEA AND A GIANT VESSEL FILLING THE WHOLE ATLANTIC. AND WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON IN DEEPEST SIBERIA. THIS IS WHAT THE COLD WAR IS ABOUT!



MAYBE THERE'S A GIANT CONSTRUCTION, THE RESULT OF A HUGE CONVEYOR BELT AND GIANT EARTH MOVERS, THAT REACHES INTO OUTER SPACE.




MAYBE MY CELL IS AT THE FOOT OF THIS HUGE MOUND THROWN UP INTO SPACE BY THE SOVIETS. SOMEWHERE NO ONE GOES, WITH UNFORTUNATES FALLING FROM THE TOP.




THE COLD WAR ISN'T ABOUT INTER-CONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES. WE'RE ALL BEING MOVED AROUND FROM ONE REALITY TO ANOTHER.

AFTER A COURT APPEARANCE, I WAS GIVEN A CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE. MY HOUSE WAS REPOSSESSED, SO HOMELESSNESS ARRIVED.



THIS IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN LIFE IN AN ASYLUM, WITH THOSE DEBILITATING INJECTIONS.



I KNOW I HAVE A HYPNOTIST WHO PUTS ME TO SLEEP THEN KEEPS ME WARM. THAT'S WHY I DON'T FREEZE TO DEATH.



FIVE YEARS LATER, IN THE GROUNDS OF OAKWOOD HOSPITAL.



MAKES A CHANGE FROM BUS SHELTERS. ONE LAST ROLL UP.



THE HEATING'S KEPT ON ALL NIGHT IN HERE. NICE AND WARM AND I CAN MAKE MYSELF A CUP OF TEA.

occupational therapy



DON'T MOVE AND THE DOG WON'T BITE.



AFTER A NIGHT IN THE CELLS, I WAS SENT BACK TO OAKWOOD HOSPITAL - MY TWELFTH ASYLUM ADMISSION IN 17 YEARS. IT WAS TO BE MY LAST.



SO YOU ARE UNDER SECTION. I AM GOING TO PUT YOU ON DEPOT INJECTIONS.

WHY INJECTIONS? THEY GIVE ME HORRENDOUS SIDE EFFECTS! I'VE NEVER REFUSED TO TAKE TABLETS!



NO. I THINK WE PUT YOU ON DEPOTS.

NO! I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THIS ANYMORE! I'VE BEEN A REVOLVING DOOR PATIENT FOR 15 YEARS AND I WON'T TAKE THAT TORTURE AGAIN.





LATER THAT DAY.







FOUND THIS GENTLEMAN WANDERING ABROAD AT TEN PAST SIX THIS MORNING. ONE OF YOURS I BELIEVE?

THANKS. WE'D NO IDEA YOU'D GONE, RAY.

LATER THAT MORNING.



WE THINK THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT IN THE INJECTION TRIFLUOHEXADINE HAS A DIFFERENT EFFECT FROM THE TABLETS.



SO I'VE DECIDED TO PUT YOU ON TABLETS.

THANK YOU.

ONCE I WAS ON THE CORRECT MEDICATION, THINGS STARTED TO IMPROVE. THEN MARGARET THATCHER CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.



NO, THERE'S NO PAPER THIS EVENING. THE ADMINISTRATOR'S SENT THEM BACK.

CAN I HAVE THE ARGUS FOR HORAM WARD PLEASE?



MARSH, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE WARD. WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE PAPER?

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO KNOW!





THREE MONTHS LATER, I WAS DISCHARGED AND SETTLED IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION WHERE I COULD LIVE INDEPENDENTLY IN THE COMMUNITY.



WITH SMALL STEPS, I BEGAN TO TAKE THE ROAD TOWARDS RECOVERY.











LOOK HOW CROWDED THIS PLACE IS.



THESE GUYS HAVE COME FROM ANOTHER WARD TO EAT OUR FOOD.



I'M GONNA FOLLOW THIS STRANGER AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T COME BACK.



THAT'S GOT RID OF ONE OF THE SPACE INVADERS.

SOME WEEKS LATER.



LOOK, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. THAT MAN YOU ATTACKED. I'M AFRAID HE'S COMMITTED SUICIDE.



I CAN ASSURE YOU HIS DEATH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.









ONE OF THE TOOLS I'VE FOUND MOST CATHARTIC IS NARRATIVE. AT DIGITAL ART CLASSES, I BEGAN MAKING CARTOONS ABOUT MY DIFFICULT PAST.







I'LL PUT SOME OF THESE  
IN THE VASE I MADE IN ART  
CLASS.



JUST TO COMPARE OURS  
WITH VAN GOGH'S.



HOPELESSNESS FOR ME IS NO MORE.



THE END