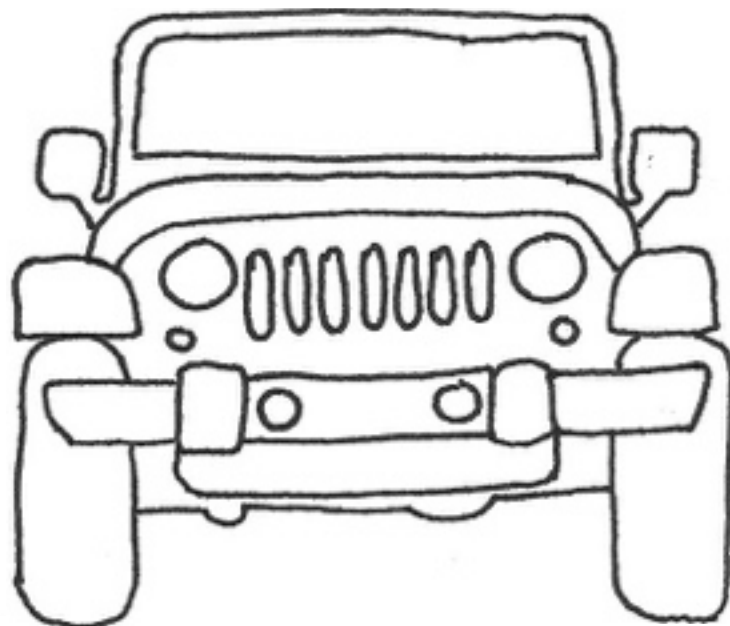
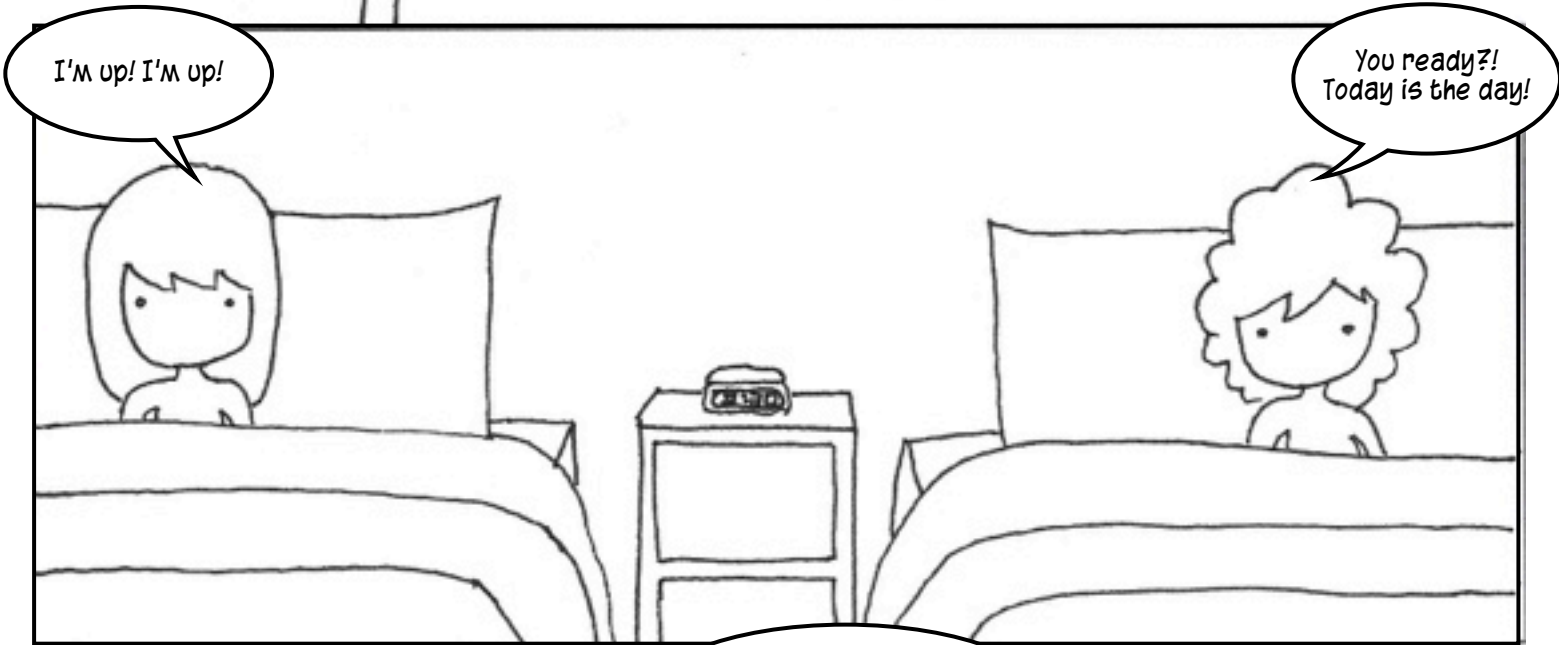
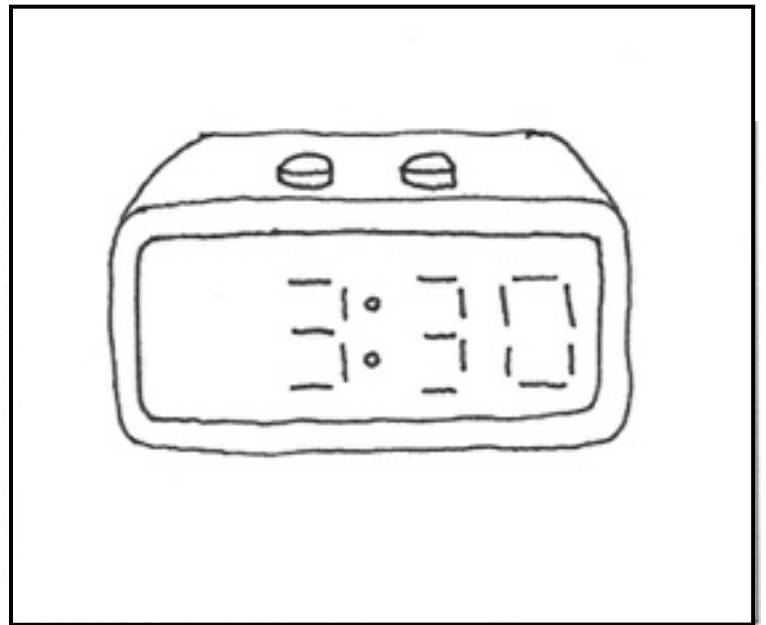


The Passport

Caroline West





I'm up! I'm up!

You ready?! Today is the day!



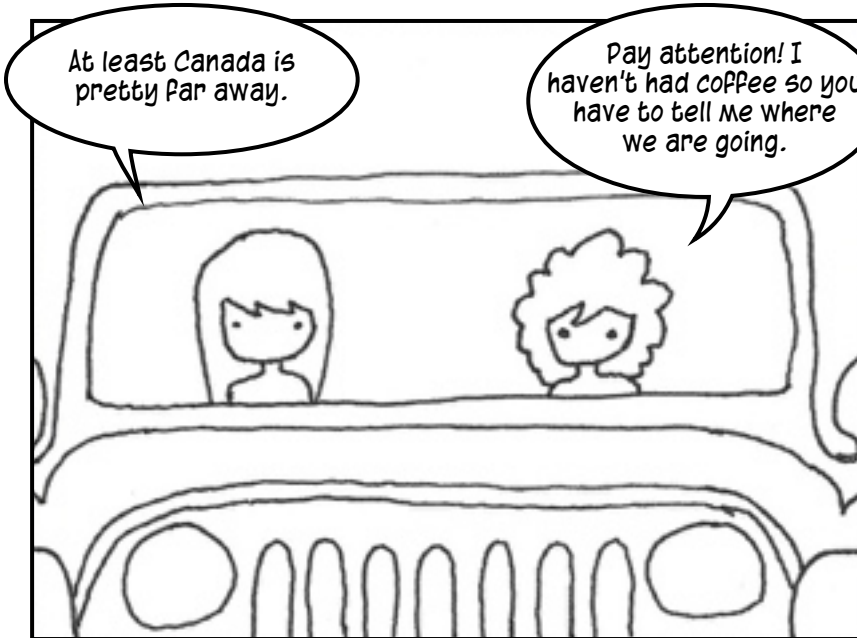
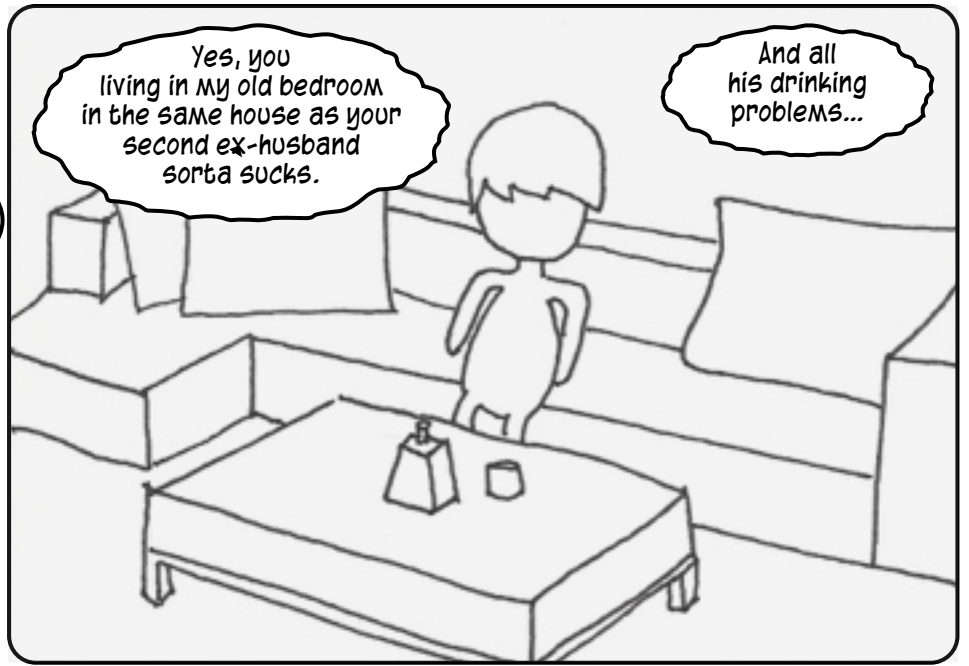
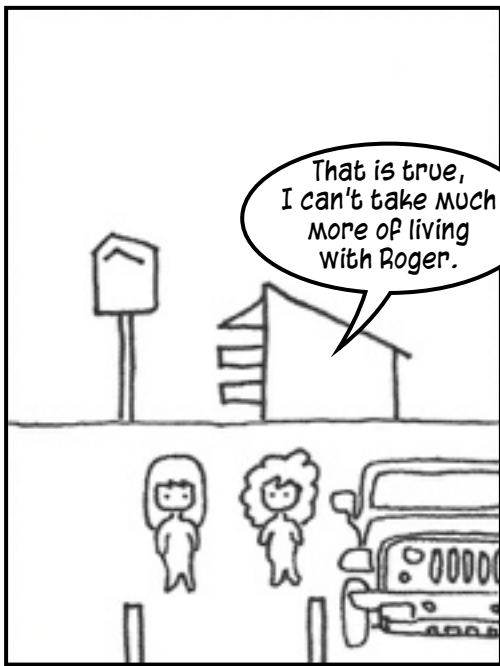
Yes! I can't wait to go back to Vancouver. And for a whole week!



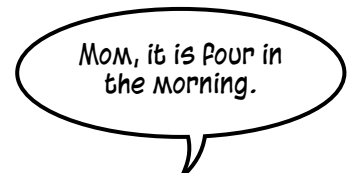
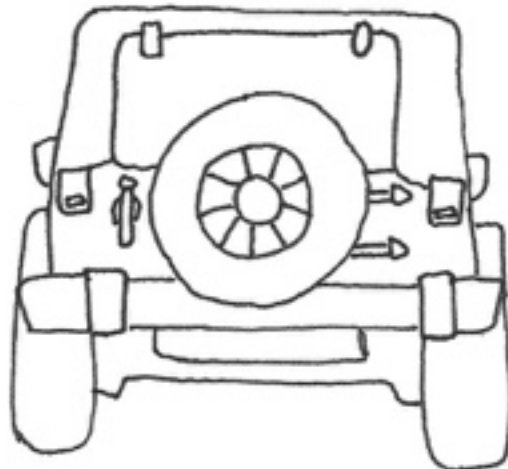
At least you don't have to make a presentation to hundreds of people!



Yea...but we are finally getting away from the hell at home.

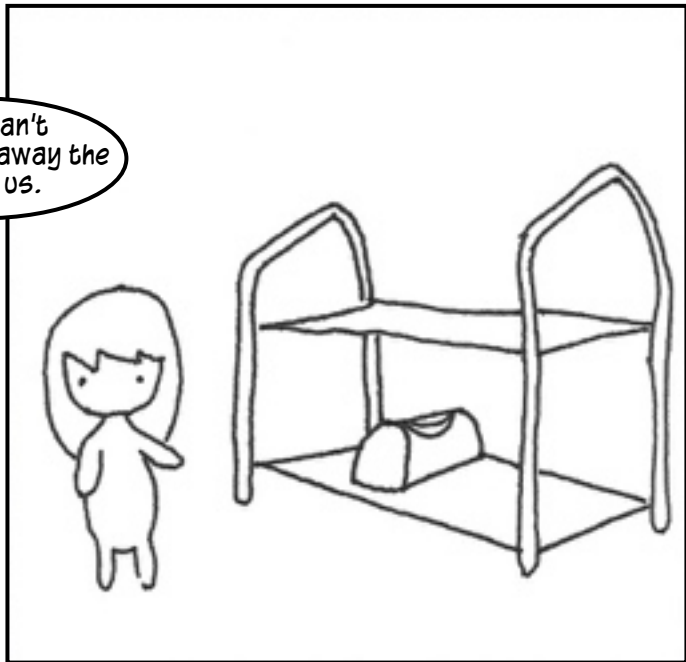


Ten minutes later...



I think we both need a break. Think of all the exploring we can do in Vancouver!

I just can't wait to get away the two of us.



Stop for American Airlines!

This is our stop right?

Yep. Time to start our adventure!

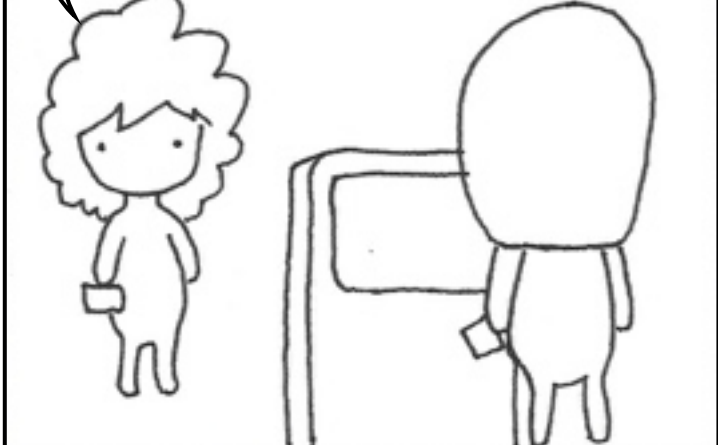
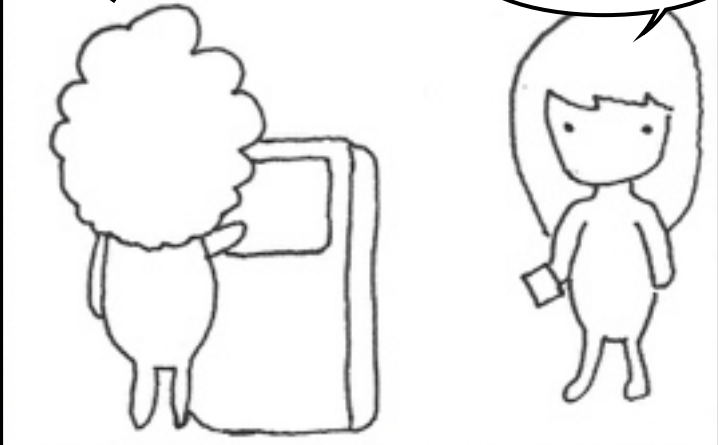
So after we get our boarding passes we find coffee, right?

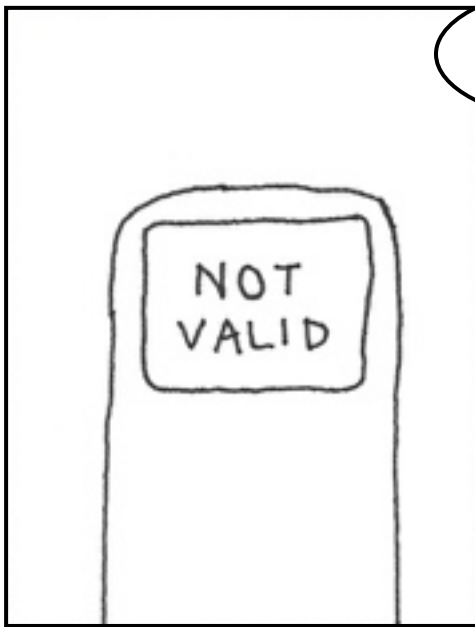


Yes Caroline, can we just do this first?

I was just wondering...

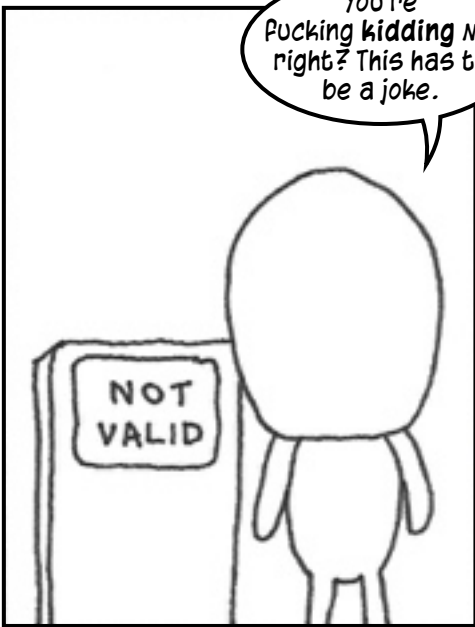
Ok, one down, one to go. Go ahead and swipe your passport.



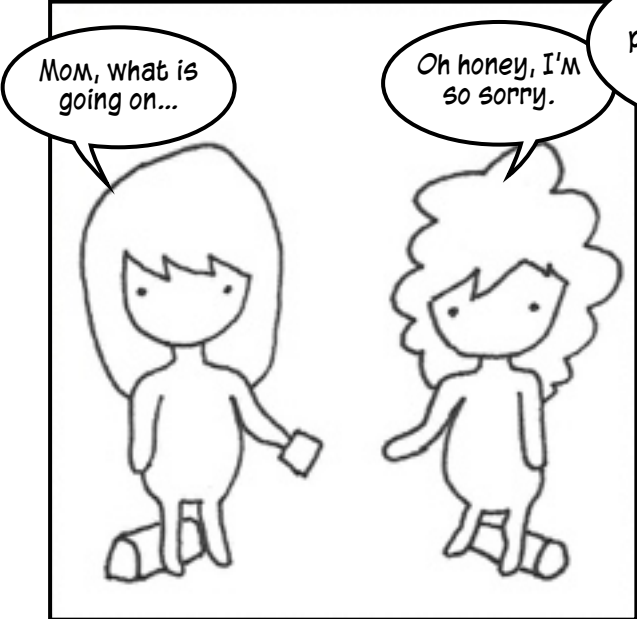


What do they mean my passport isn't valid?!?

Am I on the no fly list or something??



You're fucking kidding me right? This has to be a joke.



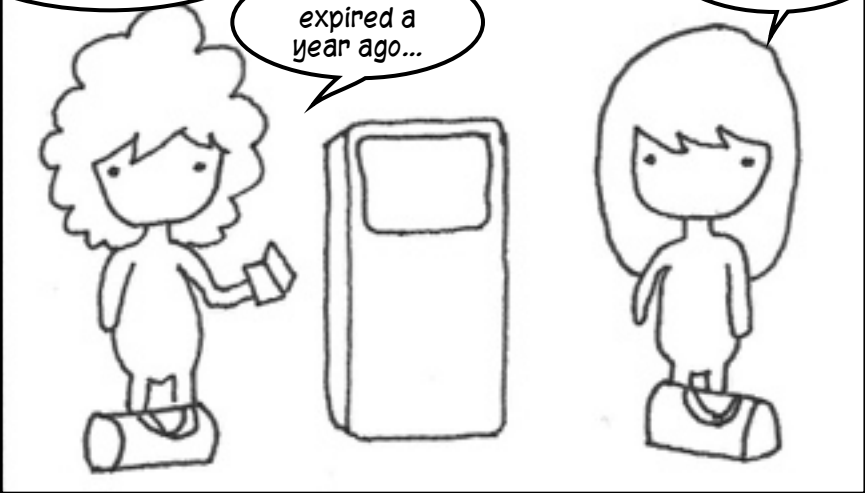
Mom, what is going on...

Oh honey, I'm so sorry.

While you were at school I got my passport renewed and I swore yours was still fine...

Yours expired a year ago...

Ok, it's fine just how do we fix it?

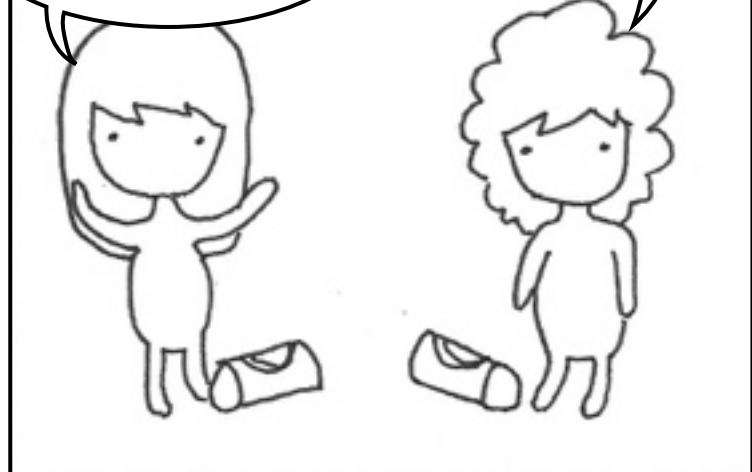


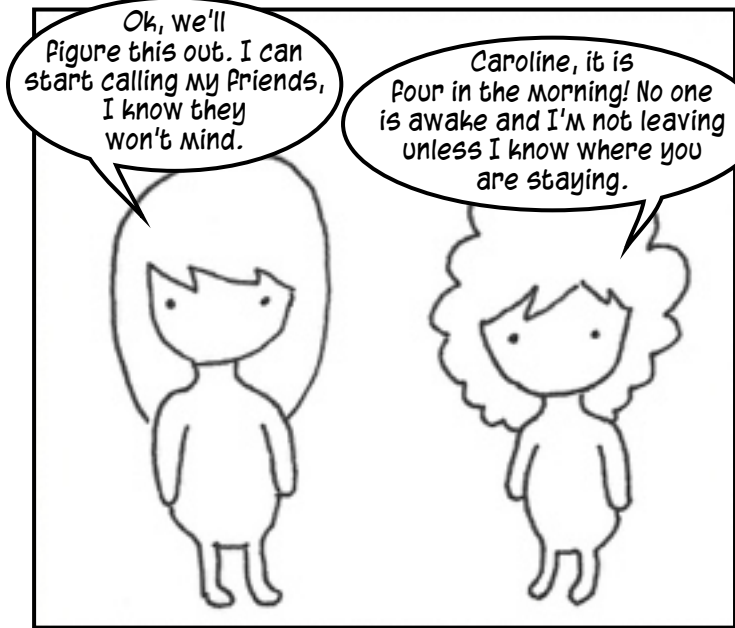
I mean what do we do? You **have** to go to that presentation.

I'll just have to miss it.

You can't just miss it! Hundreds of people are expecting you there. You could lose your job if you don't go!

But I can't just leave you here!



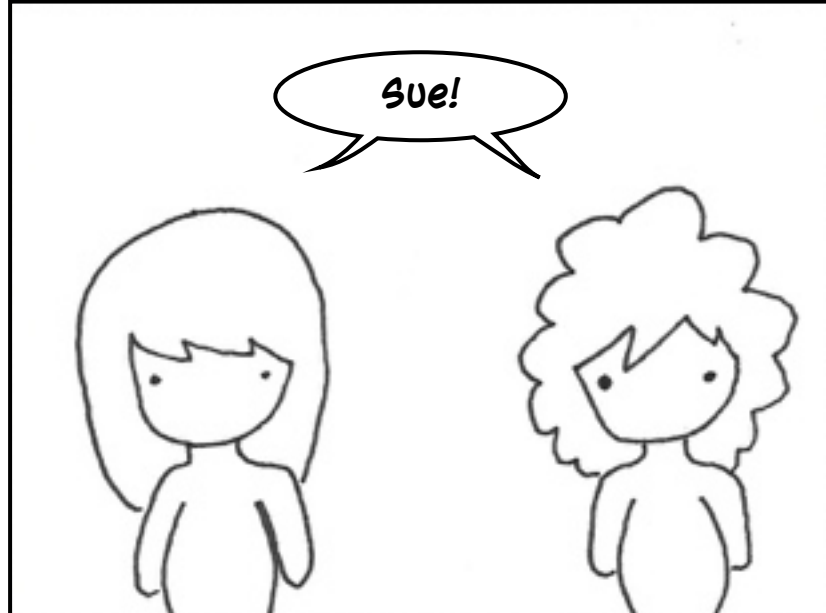


Ok, we'll figure this out. I can start calling my friends, I know they won't mind.

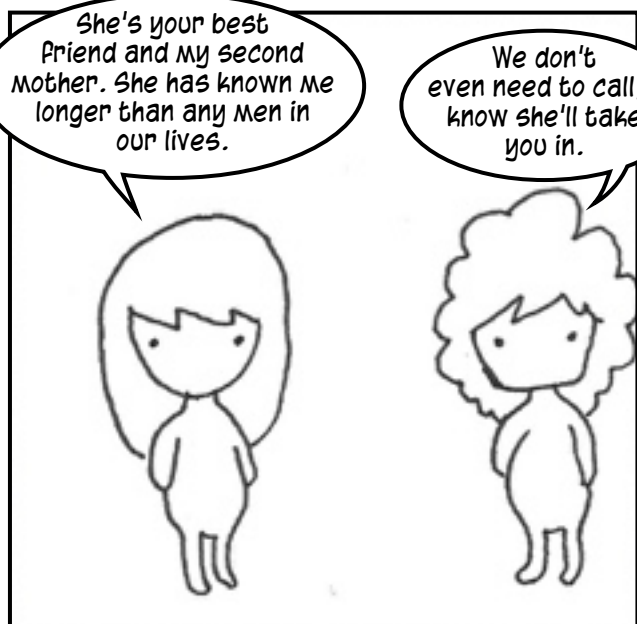
Caroline, it is four in the morning! No one is awake and I'm not leaving unless I know where you are staying.



Well I refuse to stay with our family. I would go crazy after just a few hours with them.

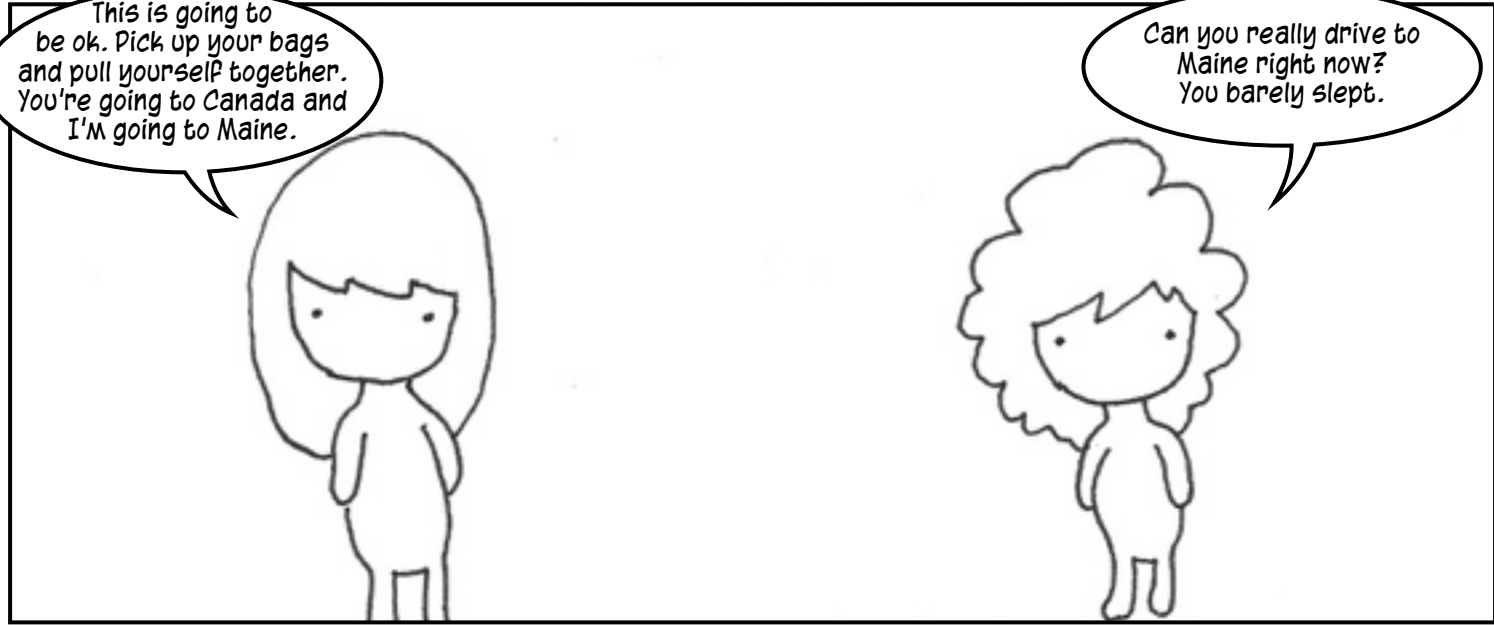


Sue!



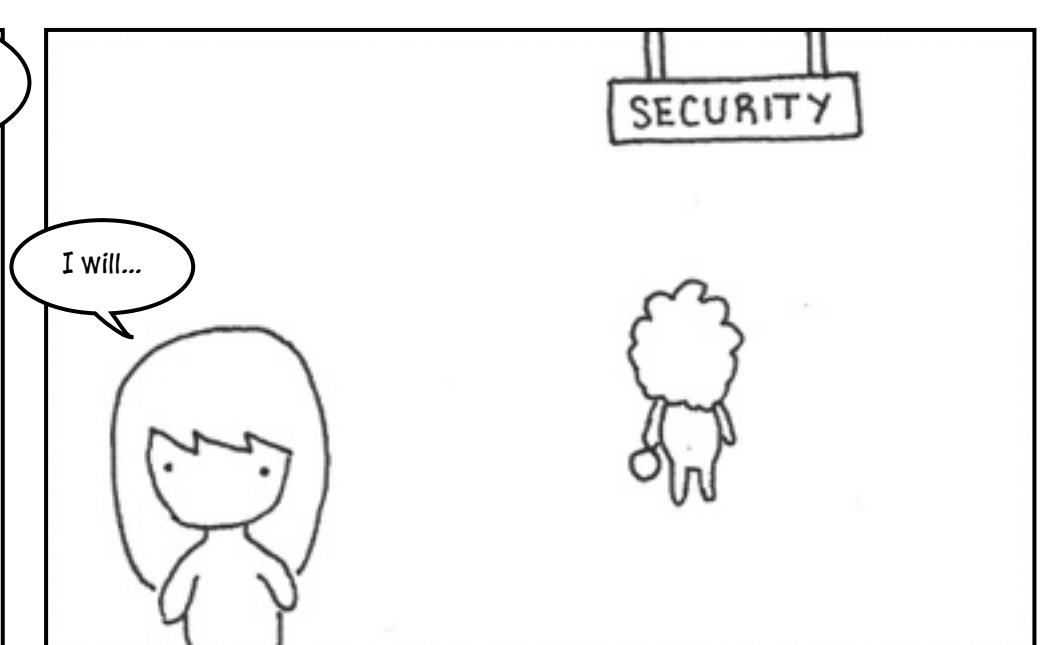
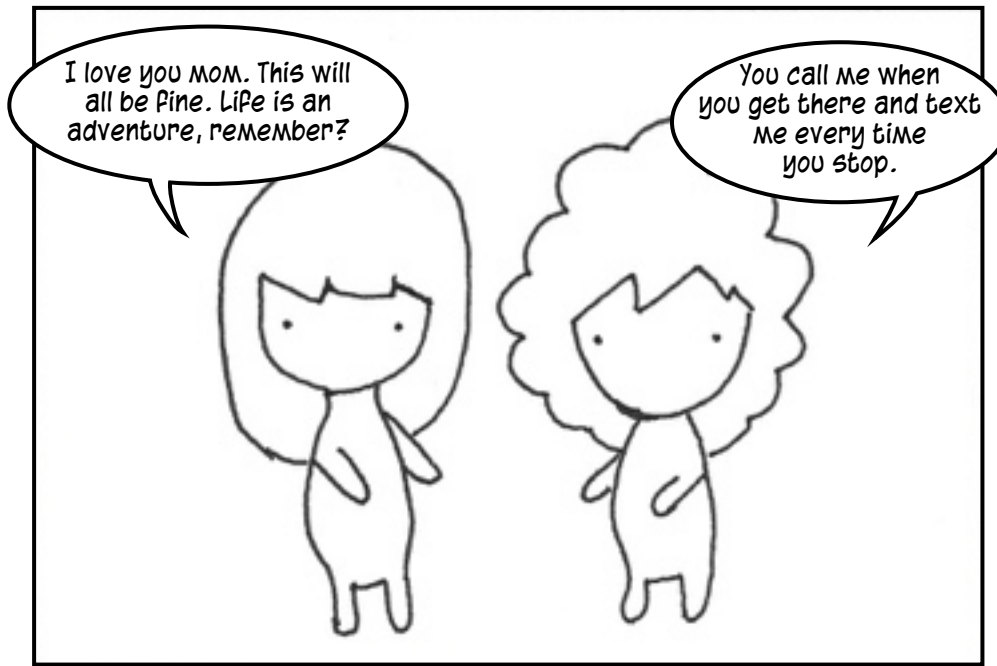
She's your best friend and my second mother. She has known me longer than any men in our lives.

We don't even need to call, I know she'll take you in.



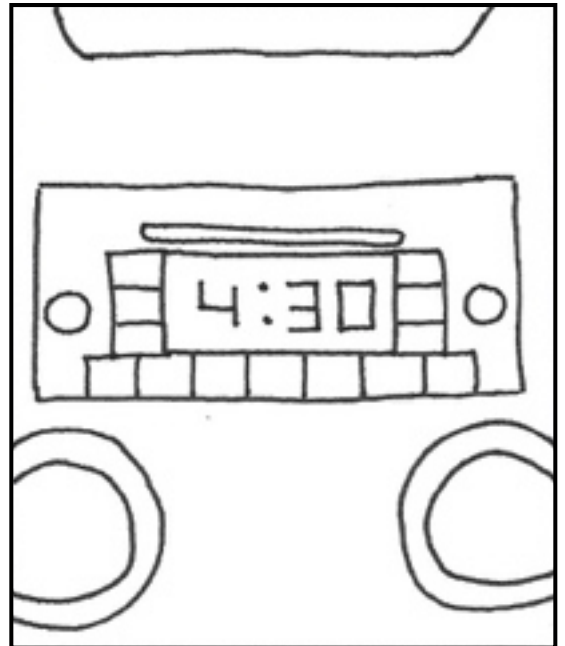
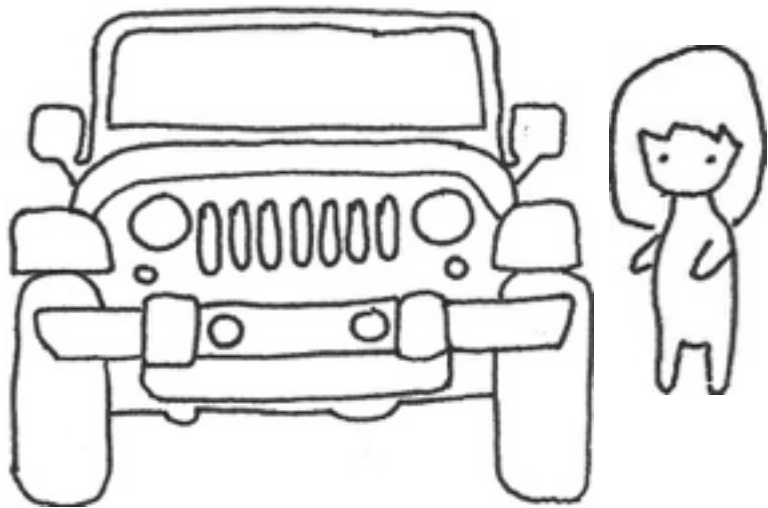
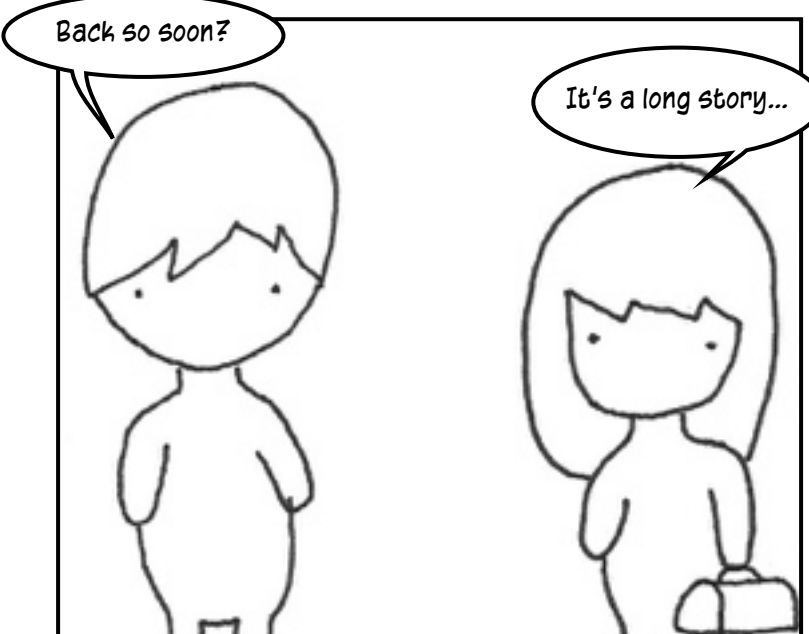
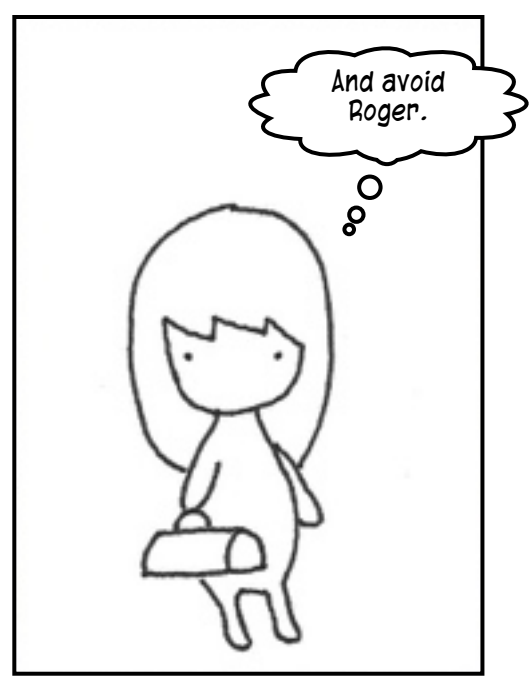
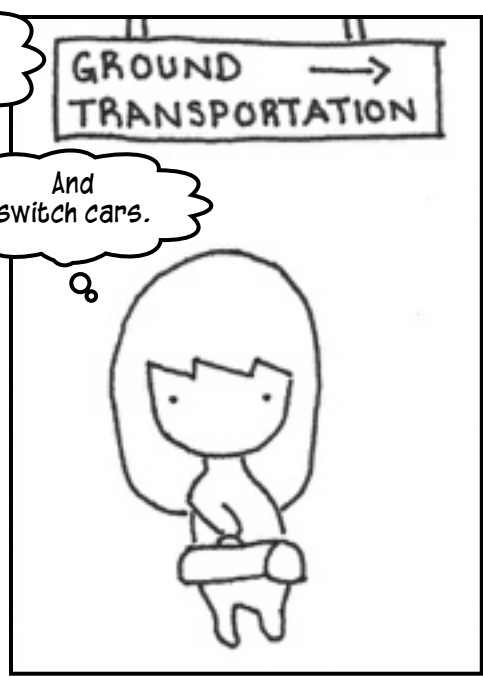
This is going to be ok. Pick up your bags and pull yourself together. You're going to Canada and I'm going to Maine.

Can you really drive to Maine right now? You barely slept.

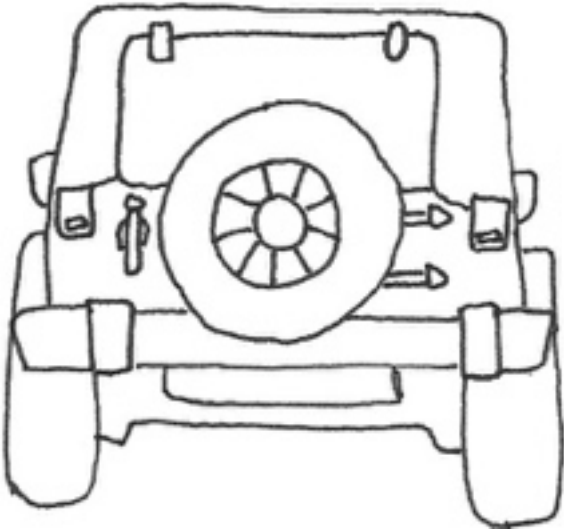




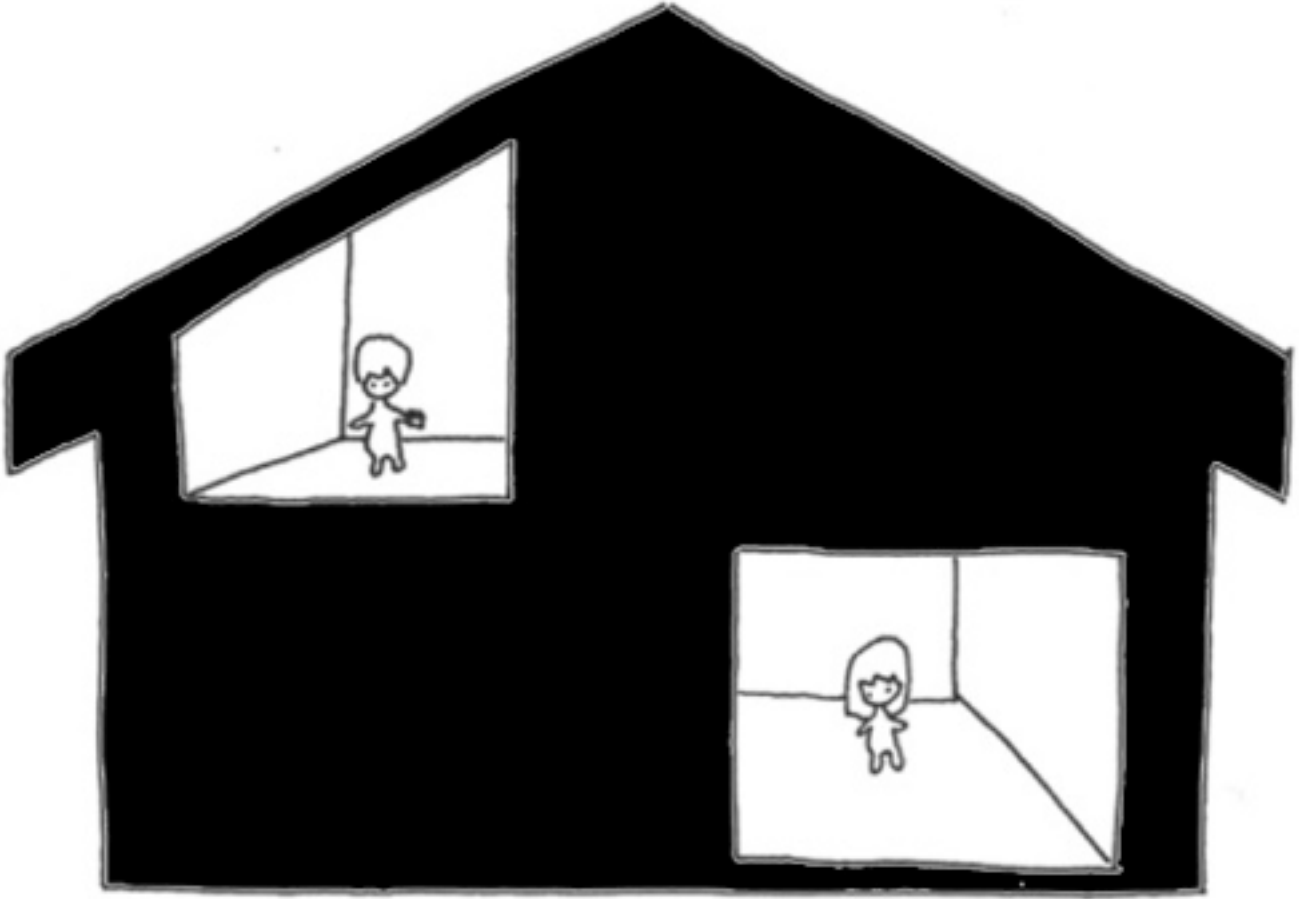
Then go back to the house.



One hour later...



Home sweet home. Just need to grab my keys...Five minutes, in and out tops.





Hello?

Your mom called me. She is freaking out.

Can Caroline come stay with you? She is already on the way so I hope you say yes.



Of course, what happened to Canada?



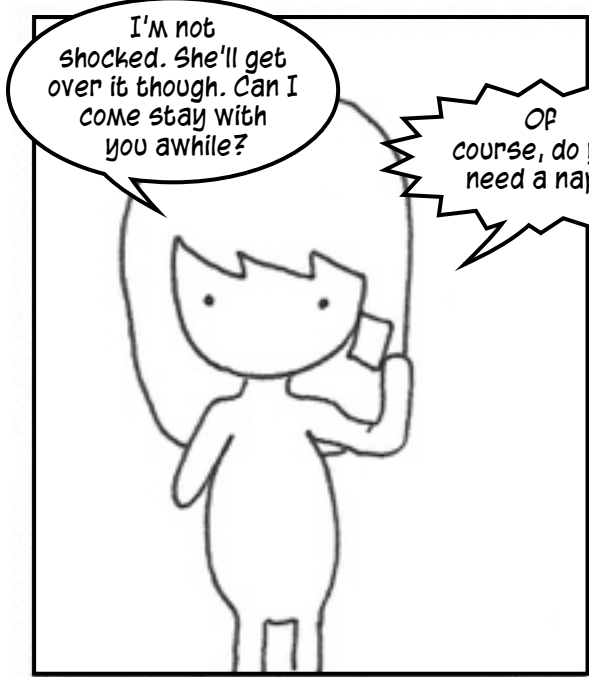
I didn't realize her passport expired while she was at school. She just came home and now I have to leave the country. Without her.

I just feel horrible. I'm in the middle of another divorce and dragging her through all this.



It's fine. I'll call her and check in. I'm sure she understands.





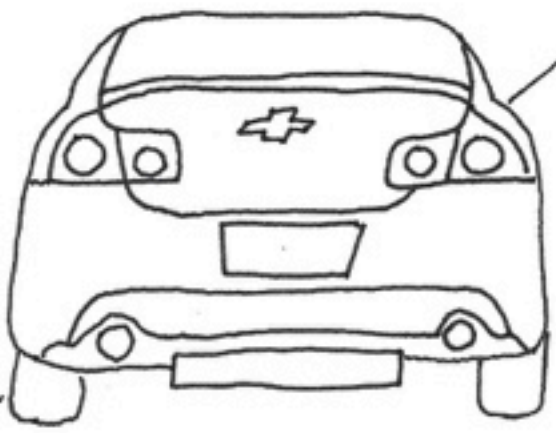
I'm not shocked. She'll get over it though. Can I come stay with you awhile?

Of course, do you need a nap?



I don't really have anywhere to stay.

I'll get lots of Starbucks and it'll all be fine.



I should be there in ten hours, is that ok?

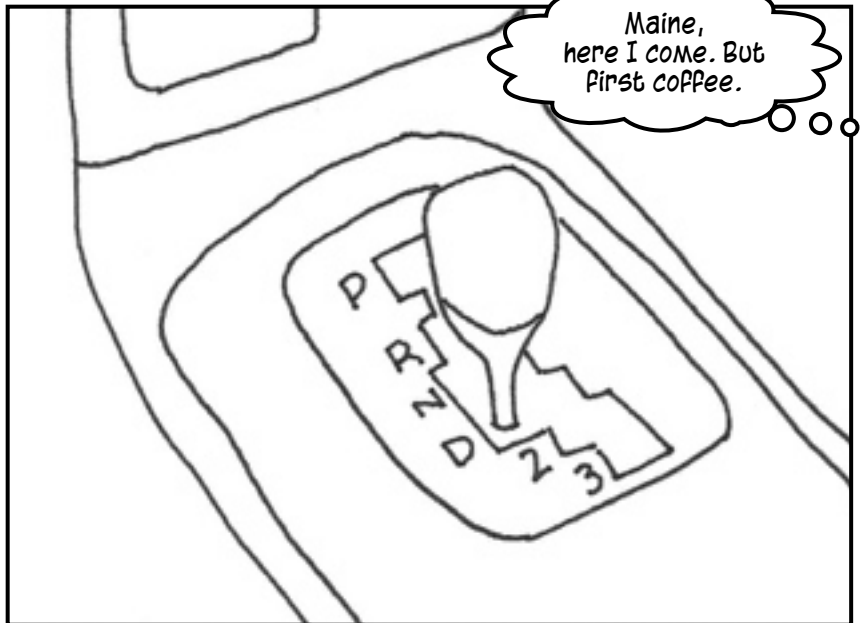


Call me when you are close!

I will,
I promise.
See you soon.



Maine,
here I come. But
first coffee.



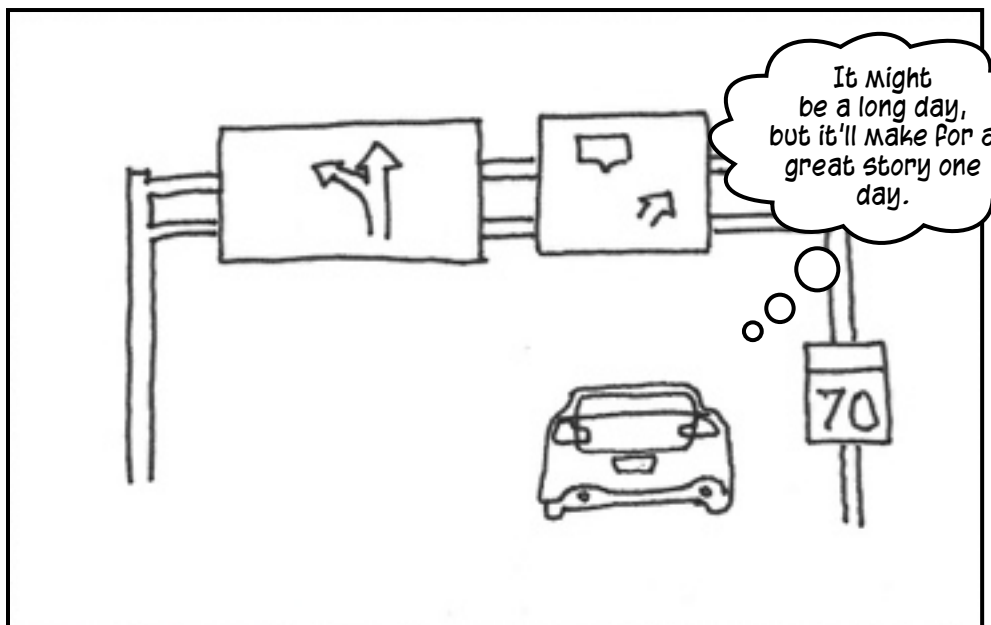
At least I have
an excuse to drink
peppermint white chocolate
mochas all day!

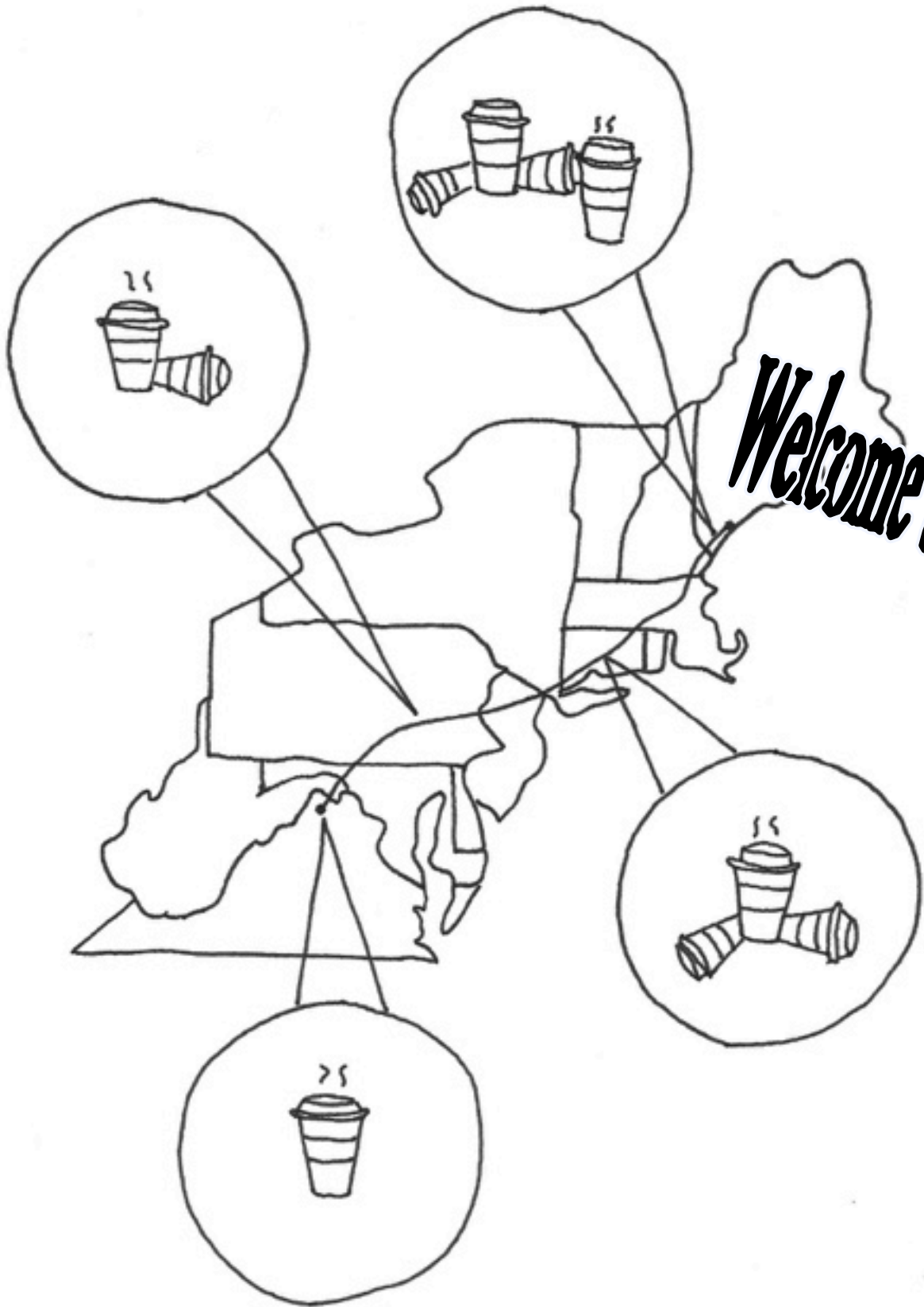


Have a great day!



It might
be a long day,
but it'll make for a
great story one
day.





Welcome to Maine