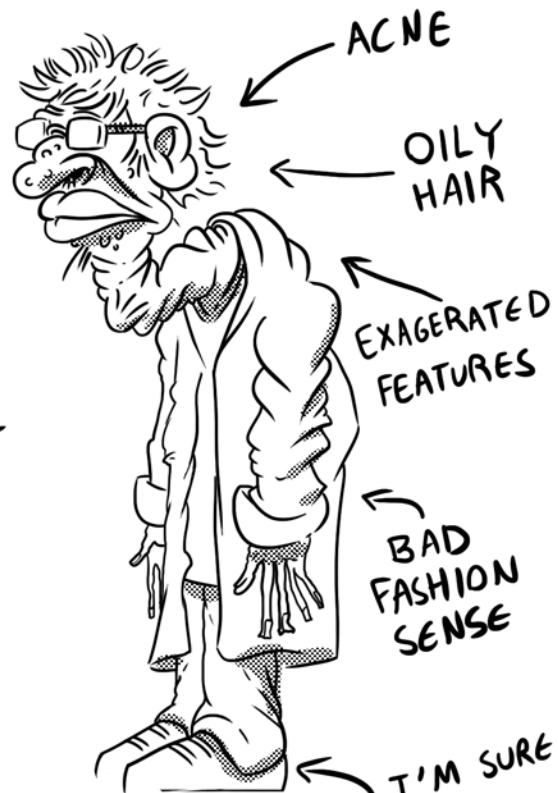
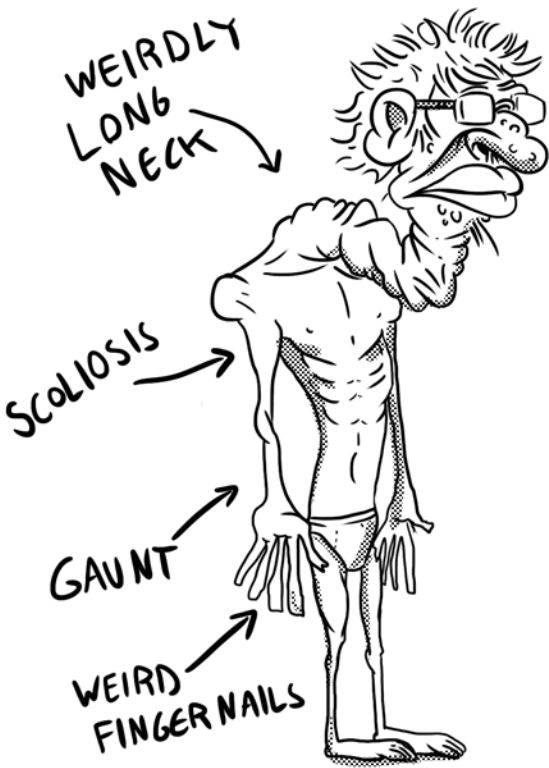


# THE AMERICAN JEW

BY JACQUES MANJARREZ

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SOMEWHAT INSECURE ABOUT MY APPEARANCE



THE UNFORTUNATE COMBINATION OF A MYRIAD OF MINOR DEFICIENCIES, PLUS OVERPROTECTIVE PARENTS IN MY YOUTH LEFT ME WITH ALL SORTS OF METAL APARATI ON MY FACE

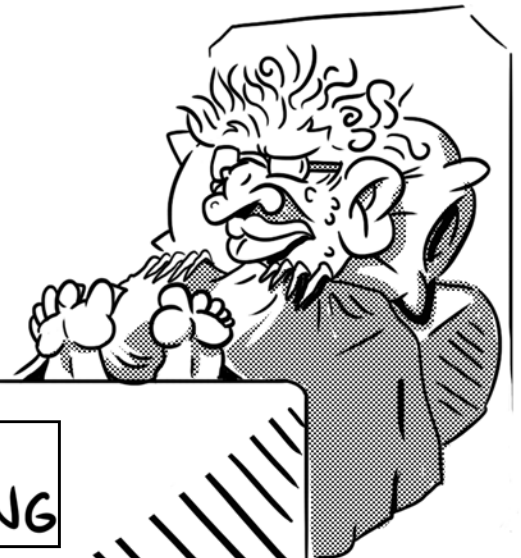


THIS, COUPLED WITH MY SKELETAL FRAME, EARNED ME THE PLAYGROUND NICKNAME: "THE TERMINATOR"

MY GRANDMA WOULD ALWAYS TELL ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT...

ALL JEWS LOOK LIKE THIS.

I FOUND THIS TO BE STRANGELY COMFORTING



MY PERCEPTION OF THE MODERN JEW BECAME ME.



I BEGAN  
SEEING MYSELF  
IN TEMPLE...



IN HEBREW  
SCHOOL...

AT THE  
DELI...



I SETTLED INTO THE NOTION  
THAT WHAT I LOOKED LIKE  
WAS STANDARD FOR MY RELIGION,  
AND WAS THUS SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE



THAT  
WAS  
UNTIL  
I  
MET  
BEN





BEN WAS  
FROM ISRAEL,  
AND WHEN  
I HEARD HE WAS JEWISH,  
IT FELT LIKE MY WHOLE  
WORLD HAD BEEN TURNED  
UPSIDE DOWN!

HELLO

שלום

OH, YOU  
SPEAK  
HEBREW?

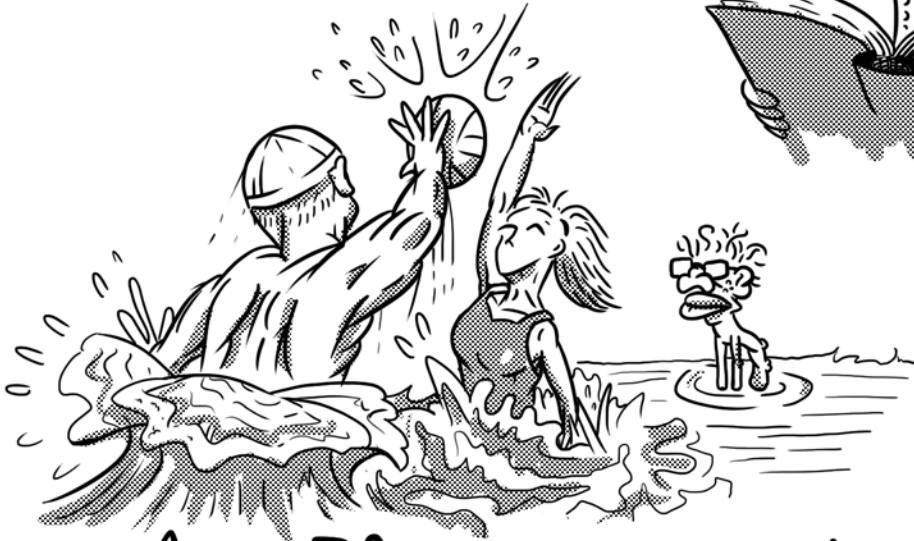
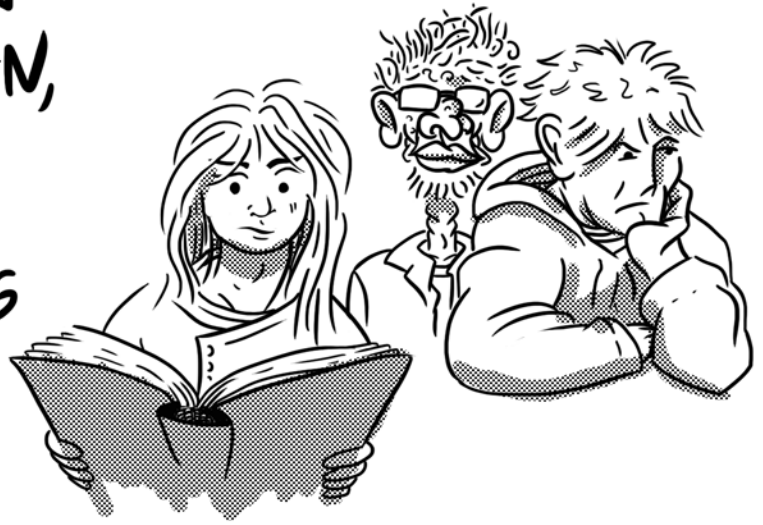
שלום

YEAH, HI.

שלום



FOR SOME REASON  
AFTER I MET BEN,  
EVERYONE BEGAN  
TO SEEM MORE  
NORMAL-LOOKING



AND I STILL  
LOOKED LIKE ME.

AT LEAST NOW I HAD A NEW FRIEND



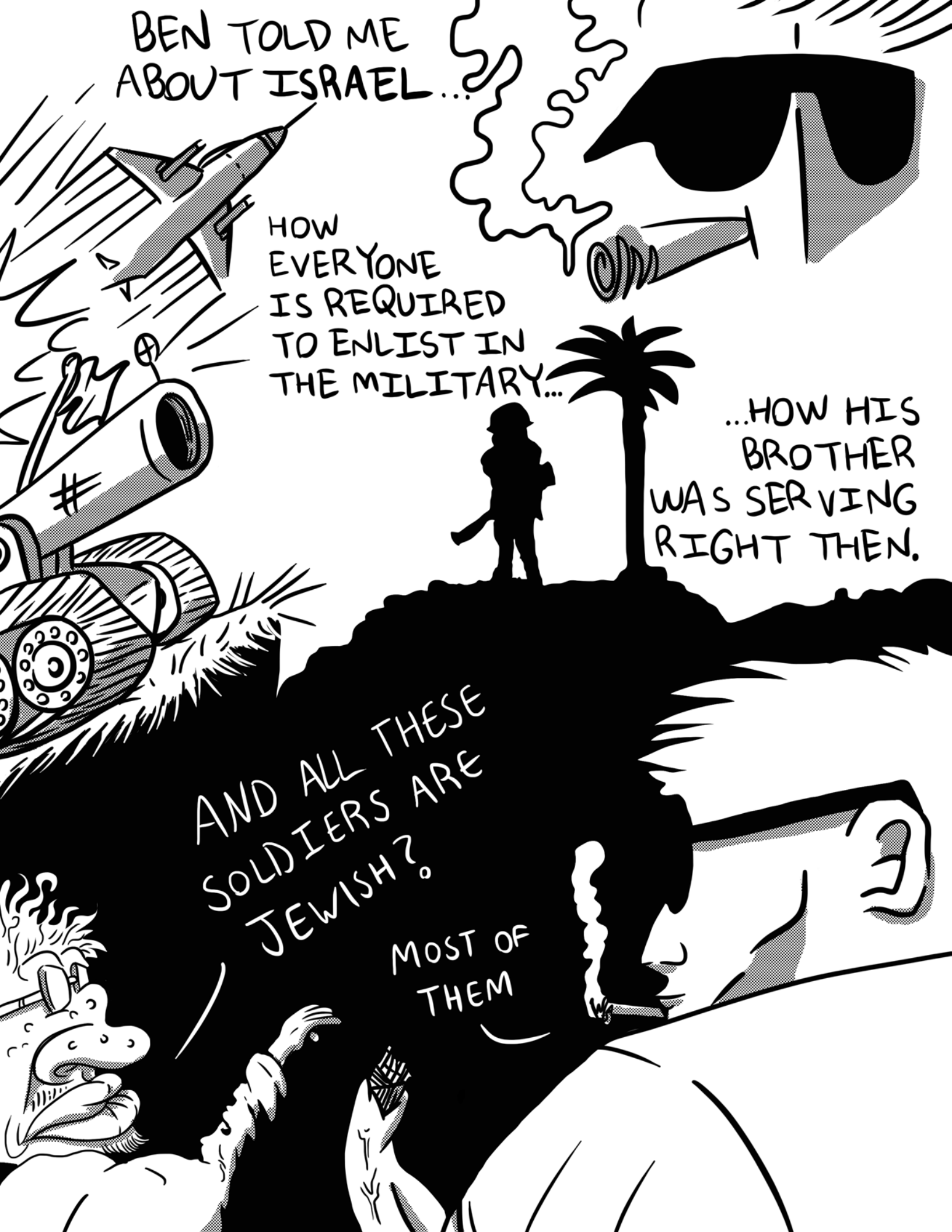
BEN TOLD ME ABOUT ISRAEL...

HOW EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO ENLIST IN THE MILITARY...

...HOW HIS BROTHER WAS SERVING RIGHT THEN.

AND ALL THESE SOLDIERS ARE JEWISH?

MOST OF THEM





I TRIED TO IMAGINE MYSELF  
IN A WAR ...

BOOOOM

PAT  
TAT  
TAT



COUGH  
SO ALL JEWS  
ARE REQUIRED  
TO SERVE?  
(I BEGAN THINKING  
ABOUT HOW I'D  
CONVERT)

YUP.



IF YOU  
WANT  
TO BE  
ISRAELI.



THAT WAS IT - I WASN'T  
JUST ANY ORDINARY  
JEW... I WAS AN  
AMERICAN JEW...

# THE AMERICAN JEW

BY JACQUES  
MANJARREZ

