



SHORT STORIES BY FRED CHAO

This Love So Brief



THE REGRETS WE TALK ABOUT

Growing up, I listened to a lot of hip hop — Pharcyde, Brand Nubian, A Tribe Called Quest.

Because I'm **RAWR RAWR** like a **dungeon dragon!**

CHANGE YOUR LITTLE PRAWERS 'CUZ YOUR PANTS ARE SAGGIN'!

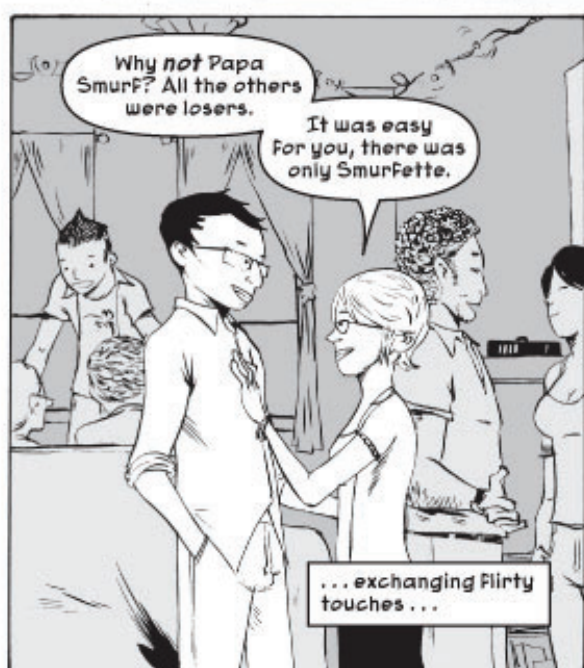
I don't so much revisit those old albums, but there are two songs I still listen to more often than I care to admit.

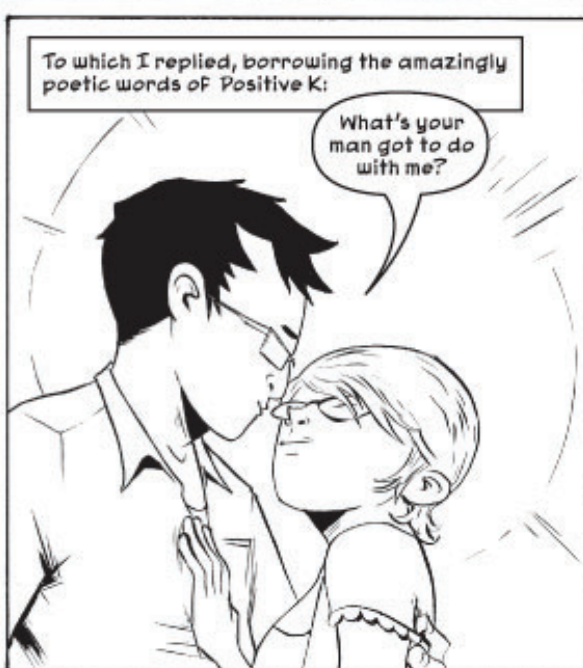
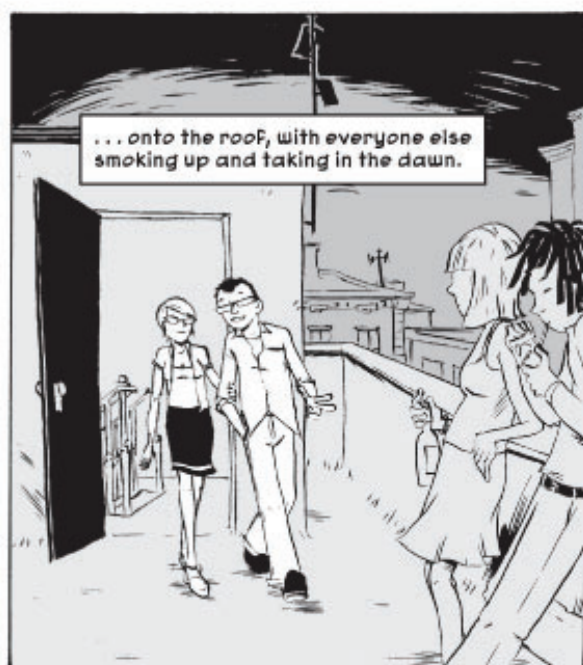
Both have two people rapping back and forth — a dialogue.

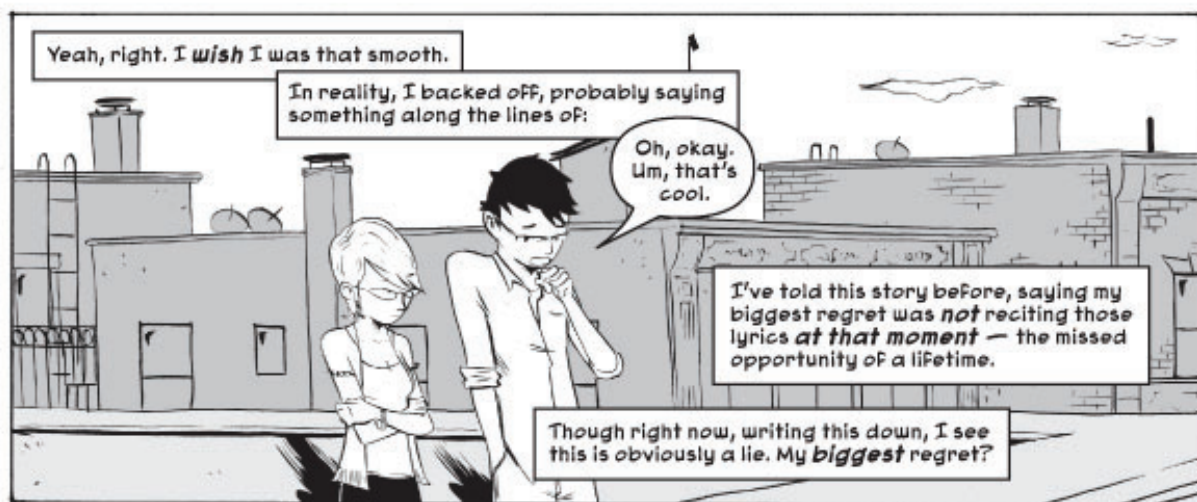
In "Packet Man," a dealer tries to sell Humpty a new kind of drug, one that puts you into the sexual fantasy described on the packaging.

In "I Got A Man," Positive K relentlessly hits on a girl who says she's got a boyfriend, to which K keeps responding, "What's your man got to do with me?"

Along with pithy, fun dialogue, both songs have characters that slightly change, which I really liked. Usually songs are written after an emotional realization; rarely do we see the character change *during* a song.







There are a couple more, bigger regrets I'm not yet comfortable talking about.

In most of those moments, I didn't have the clarity to do anything differently. In some of them, I really don't think I could have changed the outcome.



But on the rooftop with that girl, I *know* I could have recognized it as a lighter moment while still *in* the moment.

Hell, if I had, we might have made out a little.



I don't know — most likely we still would have just stood there awkwardly.

But reciting those words Positive K once rapped might have at least changed the context of this memory.

Because instead of a story about regret, I'd love for this to be just another stupid story I like to tell.