




A GRUMP IN THE GRASS


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IT'S A PERFECT DAY. THE SUN IS SHINING BRIGHTLY AND A COOL WIND ROCKS THE TREES WITH GENTLE, INVISIBLE ARMS.

YOU HATE IT.

I HATE IT.



YOU KNOW, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIVES LOOKING AT BEAUTY AND TURNING IT INTO SOMETHING DEPRESSING.

YOU DON'T SAY.

NO, I MEAN AS A JOB. THEY'RE CALLED "POETS."



"POETS," EH? AND THEY GET PAID FOR THIS?

WELL ...

NEVER MIND. I'M OFF TO BE INSPIRED.

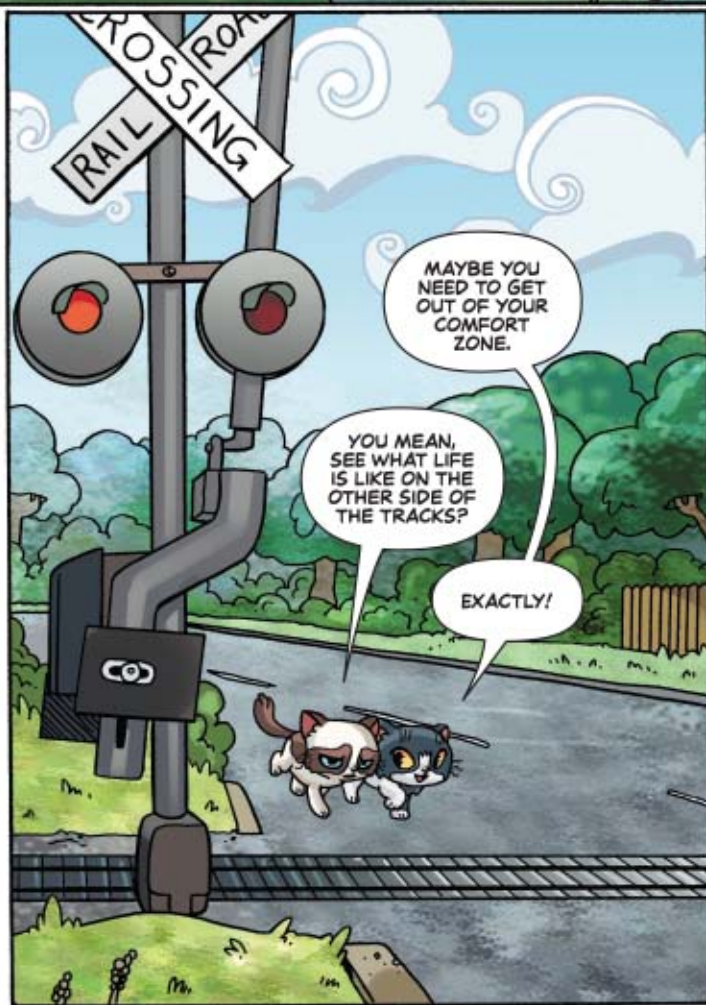


A ROSE BY
ANY OTHER
NAME ...

COULD NOT
BE MARKED UP A
THOUSAND PERCENT
ON VALENTINE'S
DAY.



WELL, THAT
WAS THE LAST ONE,
AND I'M STILL NOT
FEELING ANYTHING.
WRITING POETRY IS
HARDER THAN I
THOUGHT.



MAYBE YOU
NEED TO GET
OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT
ZONE.

YOU MEAN,
SEE WHAT LIFE
IS LIKE ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THE TRACKS?

EXACTLY!



THAT SOUNDS
TERRIBLE.

I SUPPOSE
IT IS PRETTY
CLICHÉ. WELL
THINK OF SOME-
THING.



AH, LOVE, SHALL I COMPARE THEE TO A SUMMER'S DAY?

SWEATY, UNCOMFORTABLE, AND BEST EXPERIENCED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.



AREN'T YOU EVEN A LITTLE INSPIRED BY THOSE TWO? I'LL BET HE'S GOING TO PROPOSE! HE'LL REACH INTO HIS POCKET--

AND FIND THE HAIRBALL I LEFT THERE. LET'S GO.



MAYBE IT WOULD HELP IF WE GOT BACK TO NATURE.

ANYWHERE AWAY FROM THEM.



IS IT TRUE THAT POEMS CAN BE ANY LENGTH?

SOMETIMES ONLY A FEW WORDS. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO RHYME!

WHAT A RACKET.

RIGHT?



THERE'S
A FORK IN THE
ROAD.

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO?



LEAVE IT.
IT'S JUST
A FORK.

NO, I MEAN
WHICH WAY
SHOULD
WE GO? THE ONE ON
THE RIGHT LOOKS
A LOT LESS
TRAVELED.

WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?
COME ON, LET'S FIND
SOMETHING TO WRITE
A POEM ABOUT.



SSSS--
SSALUTATIONSSS!



HELLO?



SSSSORRY IF I SSSTARTLED YOU.

I SSSSAW YOU SSSAUNTERING BY AND WANTED TO SSSPEAK WITH YOU.



YOU'RE DOING THAT ON PURPOSE.

SSSAY AGAIN?

THAT! USING WORDS THAT START WITH 'S'.



SSSSURELY YOU ARE MISSSTAKEN. I SSSSIMPLY SSSPOUT MY SSSSPIELSS WITHOUT A SSSSECOND THOUGHT --

YOU'RE STILL DOING IT!



PERHAPSSS MY SSSSUBCONSCIOUS-SSS ...

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS. LET'S GO



I JUST DON'T SEE ANYTHING INSPIRATIONAL.

DON'T GIVE UP! MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOMETHING AT THE END OF THIS ROAD.

SSSSUIT YOURSSSELF.

SSSSON OF A... SSSSHE'S RIGHT. I CAN'T SSSSTOP...