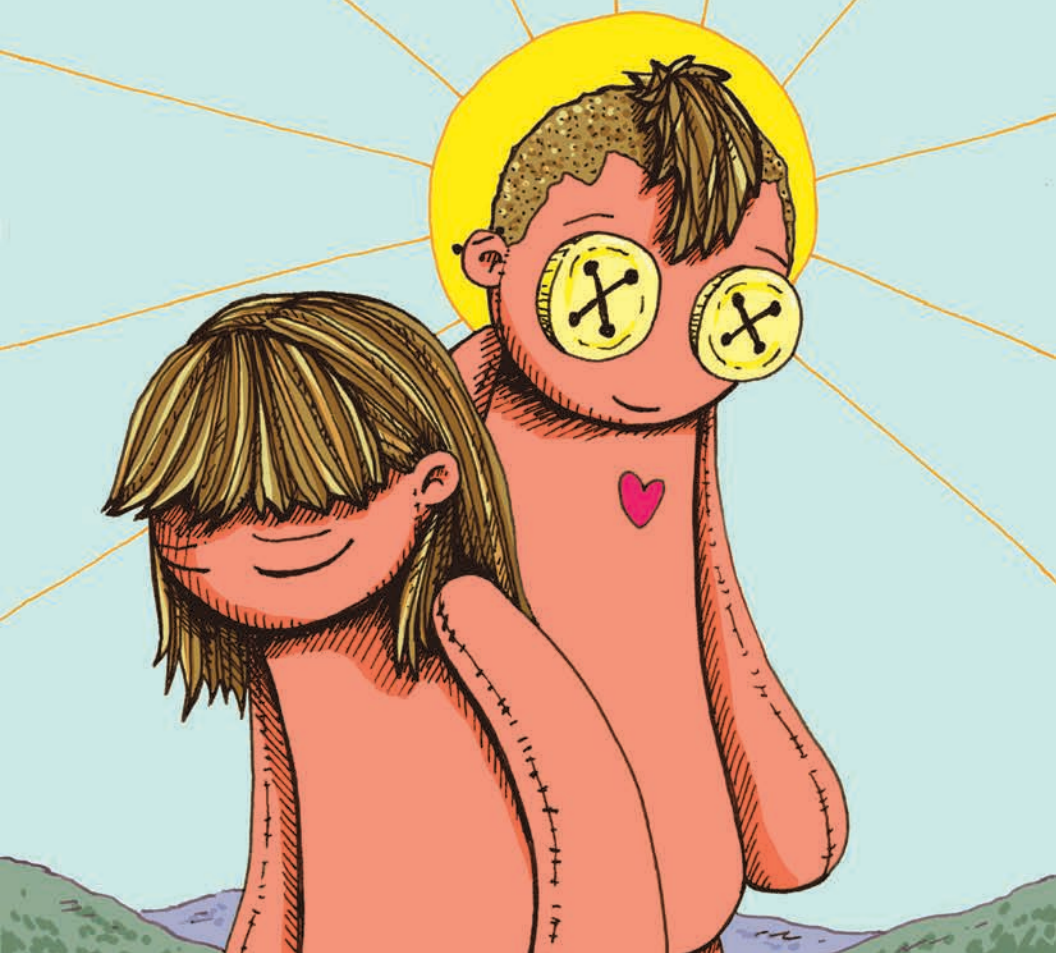


FLOCKS

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AS A SOUTHERN BAPTIST I WAS TAUGHT THAT BAPTISM WAS ESSENTIAL TO MY GROWTH AS A CHRISTIAN.

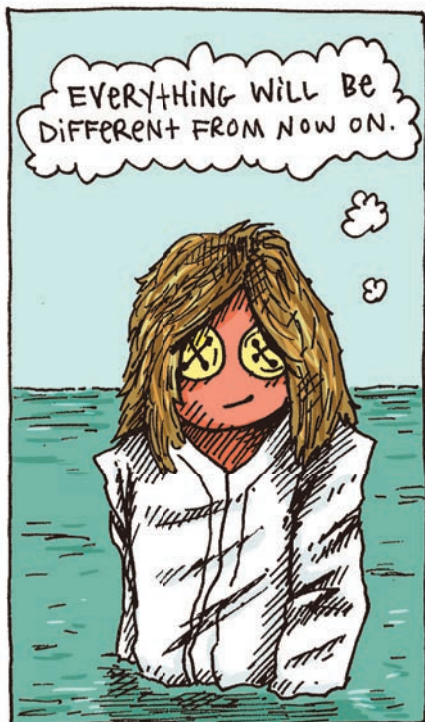


FULL IMMERSION BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES DEATH AND REBIRTH INTO A NEW, CHRISTIAN LIFE.



I DESPERATELY WANTED THIS NEW LIFE.





AND

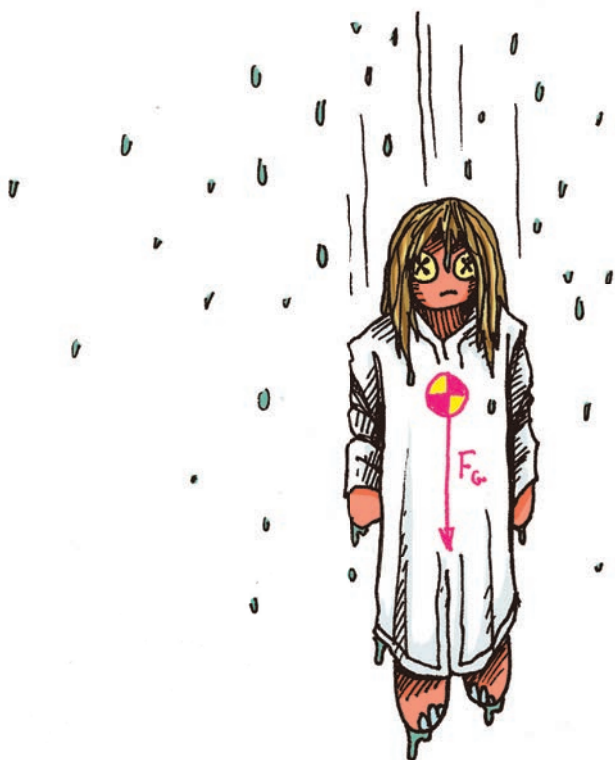


DUNK

NOTHING.



Welcome our new sister in Christ.



I BLAMED MYSELF FOR THIS.



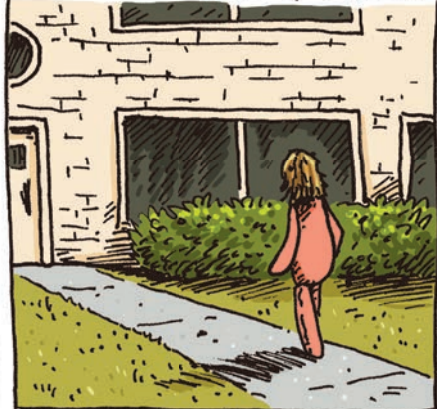
INSTEAD OF QUESTIONING THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS, I THREW MYSELF EVEN FURTHER IN.



I READ THE BIBLE FROM START TO FINISH.



I WENT TO SUNDAY SCHOOL.



I SANG IN THE CHURCH CHOIR.



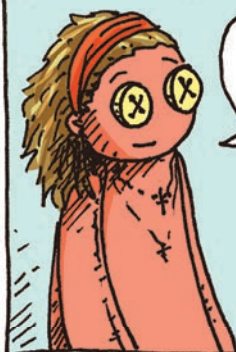
I WENT TO THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE...



AND ALSO TO THE WEDNESDAY EVENING ONE.



I TALKED OF ONE DAY BECOMING A MISSIONARY,



MAYBE I COULD GO TO...

BUT INSIDE I REALLY JUST WISHED FOR ONE THING.



PLEASE NOT THIS.

WHEN PUBERTY HIT, I FELT EVEN MORE CONFUSED AND EVEN MORE AWKWARD.



there she is!

I HOPE SHE NOTICES ME. WAIT! I HOPE SHE DOESN'T NOTICE ME. I MEAN... I ... I

MY PARENTS DIDN'T HELP,



WHAT ABOUT HIM? HE'S HANDSOME.

ESPECIALLY NOT MY MOM.

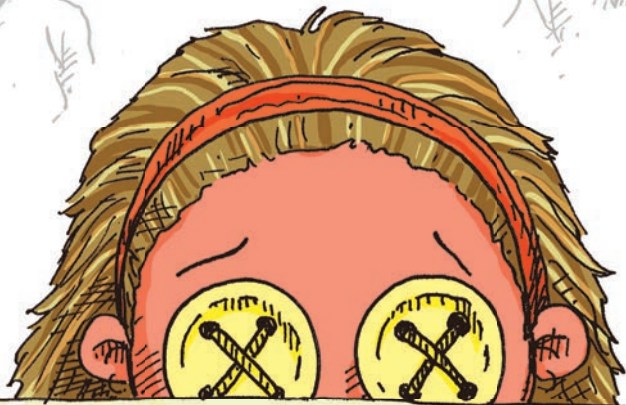


DO YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND YET? WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE OF A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY?

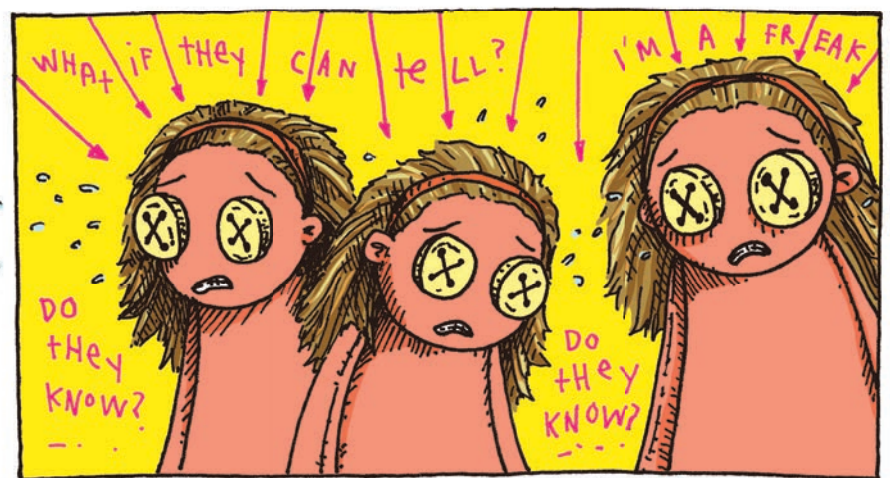
EVERYTHING THEY SAID REMINDED ME OF WHO I WASN'T.

IF YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT
A BOY MIGHT ASK YOU OUT.

DO YOU HAVE A
DATE FOR THE DANCE?



WHY CAN'T I
BE NORMAL?





FLOCKS

L. NICHOLS



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