

GARDEN PARTY

written by

Vaclav Urbanek
urbanekwriting@gmail.com



The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PAGE 1 - PANELS: 3

PANEL 1

LARGE ESTABLISHING PANEL. It's a GARDEN PARTY in the summer evening. There are 8 ADULTS, all of them in their early thirties (3 MEN, 5 WOMEN), and 6 CHILDREN.

2 MEN are standing next to a GRILL, chatting while holding beers. 2 WOMEN are talking next to the salads and punch bowls on a long CRAFT TABLE. 1 other WOMAN is talking to a MAN and a WOMAN, presumably a couple, the three of them sitting in comfortable chairs around a small GARDEN FIREPLACE, drinking wine.

All the kids are between the ages of five to ten. 2 BOYS are running around, playing with TOY GUNS, one of them wearing a cowboy hat. 2 GIRLS and a BOY are playing fetch with a SMALL DOG and a GIRL is sitting alone at the KIDS TABLE, drawing.

And then there is the WOMAN. The last of the adults. She's sitting alone on a stone curb leaning on a tree. Smoking a cigarette, with a wine glass in her hand. You wouldn't say she is necessarily a metal head or anything that specific, but her dark hair and even darker clothes suggest a sort of underground feel to her. Even though she is the same age as the rest of the adults, she really doesn't fit to a 30-something young parents' family garden party, that's for sure.

CAPTION: **What the fuck am I even doing here.**

PANEL 2

PANEL focusing on the WOMAN. Sitting, smoking, and holding her glass.

CAPTION: It's like I know these people **less and less.**

PANEL 3

The WOMAN is now looking at the other adults as the PANEL follows her gaze.

CAPTION: Doesn't seem that long ago we were all having fun doing stupid shit and enjoying life together.

Now they all have a mortgage. They all have at least one kid. And they all suddenly enjoy talking about shit that **bores me to death.**

PAGE TURN

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

SMALL PANEL of the 2 MEN drinking beer by the GRILL, talking about stuff and laughing.

CAPTION: Are they **aliens**? Do people just get replaced by boring extra-terrestrial androids when they grow up and I just fell through the cracks? Like a forgotten clerical error of the eternal void?

PANEL 2

SMALL PANEL, framed similarly as the last one, but this time it's of the 2 WOMEN talking and having a good time around the CRAFT TABLE.

CAPTION: Or do they **actually enjoy** talking about the new drapes they bought, the new great deal they snatched up in the supermarket, the new exciting stuff in their mundane office job...

PANEL 3

Another SMALL PANEL, this time of the 2 WOMEN and a MAN, talking around the GARDEN FIREPLACE.

CAPTION: How many kids are they going to bring into their perfect boring lives, so that they can grow up to live their own even more perfect, even more boring lives. **Again and again.**

PANEL 4

BIGGER PANEL of the WOMAN, watching all the other people, totally alone.

CAPTION: What interests me is probably as boring and/or confusing to them as their shit is to me. The stuff that I like to do, watch, listen to, or read.

The possibility that it's me who's the one weird alien among all the normal people is the one most logical explanation, of course.

But I guess I'd rather be a boring alien...

PANEL 5

AREAL SHOT, we see the WOMAN and the rest of the people. It shows the general layout of the GARDEN, similarly to the very first panel of the comic, only now pulled back even more. So that all the people really look minuscule and the woman's isolation is highlighted. We can see a LITTLE GIRL is now approaching the woman with a DRAWING she made, though it's probably not even visible in this panel.

CAPTION: ...than **whatever this is.**

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

A LITTLE GIRL that was drawing at the kids table up until this point approaches the WOMAN. She has a DRAWING in her hands.

LITTLE GIRL Hello.
WOMAN Hello yourself.

PANEL 2

The WOMAN is sitting, leaning on a tree, the LITTLE GIRL is standing in front of her. They are almost at the same eye level.

LITTLE GIRL Why are you not with the other grownups?
WOMAN Grownups are boring.
LITTLE GIRL But aren't you a grownup?
WOMAN **Ouch.**

PANEL 3

CLOSER LOOK at the two, with a heavier focus on the DRAWING the LITTLE GIRL made.

WOMAN What you got there?
LITTLE GIRL I made a **drawing** of you.
WOMAN Oh no!
 Can I see it?

PANEL 4

CLOSEUP of the DRAWING. The LITTLE GIRL is holding it by one edge of the paper, the WOMAN by the other. The woman is drawn as a dark, brooding, but still pretty figure, with other characters, kids and adults, drawn as if in the distance, laughing and playing with each other. One of those characters also looks kind of like a PIRATE and is a little closer to the woman than the rest, though still keeping their distance a bit.

WOMAN I must say you really captured my essence there.
LITTLE GIRL So you like it?
WOMAN Actually, **I kinda love it.**

PANEL 5

Even BIGGER CLOSEUP, focusing on the drawn WOMAN and the little person dressed as a PIRATE.

WOMAN And who is this?
LITTLE GIRL That's me!
WOMAN Oh really? So you are a **pirate**?

PAGE 4 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

The LITTLE GIRL is now sitting on the ground next to the WOMAN, and they are talking under the tree. Finally it seems that everyone in the garden has somebody to talk to.

LITTLE GIRL No, silly. It's a game. I'm not actually a pirate.
WOMAN Oh, right. Stupid me.
 So you like playing pirates? Even just by yourself?

PANEL 2

The WOMAN now looks SURPRISED.

LITTLE GIRL Sometimes. But sometimes **my dad** plays pirates with me.
WOMAN Does he now?

PANEL 3

Both characters are looking towards the GRILL, where the 2 MEN are still talking. Presumably one of them is the LITTLE GIRL's father.

LITTLE GIRL Yes, it's our favorite game.
WOMAN So maybe your dad isn't as boring as the other grownups, huh?
LITTLE GIRL I guess.
 But he didn't want to play pirates with me today. I don't think he wants to play when other grownups are around.
CAPTION: Maybe I had this **all backwards**.

PANEL 4

CLOSEUP of the LITTLE GIRL showing the intricate details of her DRAWING.

CAPTION: Maybe it's not about who's an alien and who isn't. Because **maybe we all are**. In our own unique ways.

PANEL 5

Another CLOSEUP of the 2 MEN next to the GRILL, talking and laughing.

CAPTION: Maybe it's just about how **comfortable** we are with our own unique alien parts.

PAGE 5 - PANELS: 3

PANEL 1

CLOSEUP of the 2 WOMEN by the CRAFT TABLE, talking. One is laughing, the other looks a bit disinterested.

CAPTION: Some of the weird alien parts we just **pretend** to like because other aliens seem to like them too. And some of them, as boring as they seem, we may actually **genuinely love**.

PANEL 2

CLOSE-UP of the 2 WOMEN and a MAN sitting around the GARDEN FIREPLACE. The man is talking to the first woman, while the second woman is tapping the man's shoulder. She's looking at something OUTSIDE THE PANEL, with a bit of a confused and at the same time amused expression.

CAPTION: But some of the alien parts we're just not comfortable with sharing. Because we might think we are the only aliens around. Even though **we never are**.

PANEL 3

BIG PANEL! The WOMAN and the LITTLE GIRL are wearing PAPER PIRATE HATS, the little girl has an EYE PATCH and both of them are wielding WOODEN SWORDS in playful, adventures manner. This is what the woman from the previous panel was looking at and now all the kids and adults are staring, some in awe, some confused, some laughing, some all of the above.

CAPTION: And all we need to do is to give them a little push to embrace it all.

Because it's OK to be an alien.

THE END