

JASON FISCHER IN

# Seconds

# Helping

A DRAWING ASSISTANT'S  
MEMOIR COMIC





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**A DRAWING ASSISTANT'S**

**MEMOIR COMIC**

*by Jason Fischer*



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It's been a year and four months since Bryan and I finished inking *Seconds*. It's been nine months since the book release. A lot has happened between now and then, triumph and tragedy alike.

I'm very thankful for the love of my life, Robin Bogert, who guides me when I'm lost and supports me when I need encouragement. Without her my life and work would be lesser than. Thanks to Bryan Lee O'Malley, whose kindness, generosity and hospitality changed my world for the better. Thanks to the help and valuable assistance of Megan Messina, Hannah Ayoubi and Jeremy Arambulo, we were able to meet deadline. Huge thanks to Doug Sherwood, without him I wouldn't be where I am today... and special thanks to Charlie Chu for being so patient! I owe you a burger.

To my friends, family, fans and patrons, I thank you all for your love and support!

♥ JFISH

In July of 2013, Bryan and I began inking *Seconds*. He inked the characters, I inked most of the backgrounds. We worked for six months until the day before deadline. Together we inked a little over 322 pages. It was my first time inking a graphic novel and it was a challenge to say the least. We also had a lot of fun and even worked side by side in his home for the final weeks of work.



This comic is a brief look at what it was like to work on *Seconds* as a drawing assistant, especially focusing on the time Bryan and I worked together in his home. Before we get to that, here is a little visual explanation about my role in the book and what it entailed:



Bryan would mail pages to me every week.



Most packages contained 6 to 8 pages.



These pages contained Bryan's inking, leaving me to fill in the rest.



Bryan's pencils gave me direction as to what I needed to ink. Our inking coalesced on the same sheet of bristol.



A finished page! Then I would scan the page for Nathan Fairbairn to color and Dustin Harbin to letter. This was how we worked together.

UNTIL...

October 2013, Peter Iredale beach on the Oregon coast



Robin and I sit together in our love for our surroundings and each other.



We were just engaged the night before!



We were just about to get romantic, when suddenly...

RING!  
RING!

JASON... WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!



OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...

Bryan and I needed to work side by side at his home in Los Angeles to meet deadline.



GOOD LUCK! SEE YOU SOON!

BYE!



The man himself, Bryan Lee O'Malley. When I met him in 2006 I would have never imagined I'd be working with him someday. Yet, here we were!



Bryan's home, where I would live and work for five weeks.



It was a beautiful, comfortable place to call home.



My own room, nice and cozy.



I put my new Cacodemon plush on my bed while I unpacked.



My own bathroom... it was incredible!

(I love a good bathroom)



With my back turned just a few seconds...

Bryan's dog ripped my Cacodemon to shreds!

(Bryan got me a new one)

Allow me to  
introduce  
Bryan's dogs,



Midge &  
Annie!

Annie's a sweetheart,  
always gentle and loving.



Midge is sweet as well,  
she's just a little fussier.



Annie didn't so much mind our  
long hours and days sitting still.

Midge on the other  
hand... she couldn't  
quite deal with our  
busy lifestyle.



Midge's uneasy pacing would frequently  
aggravate Annie, often leading to...





This was where we spent most of the five weeks working together: the studio. Bryan sat at an easel desk while I preferred a flat desk.



Oh, the pages!  
So much left to ink!

The pile never seemed to lessen no matter how hard we worked.



With just five weeks till deadline, we still had

**200**

pages left to ink! We needed to ink at least 6 pages a day!

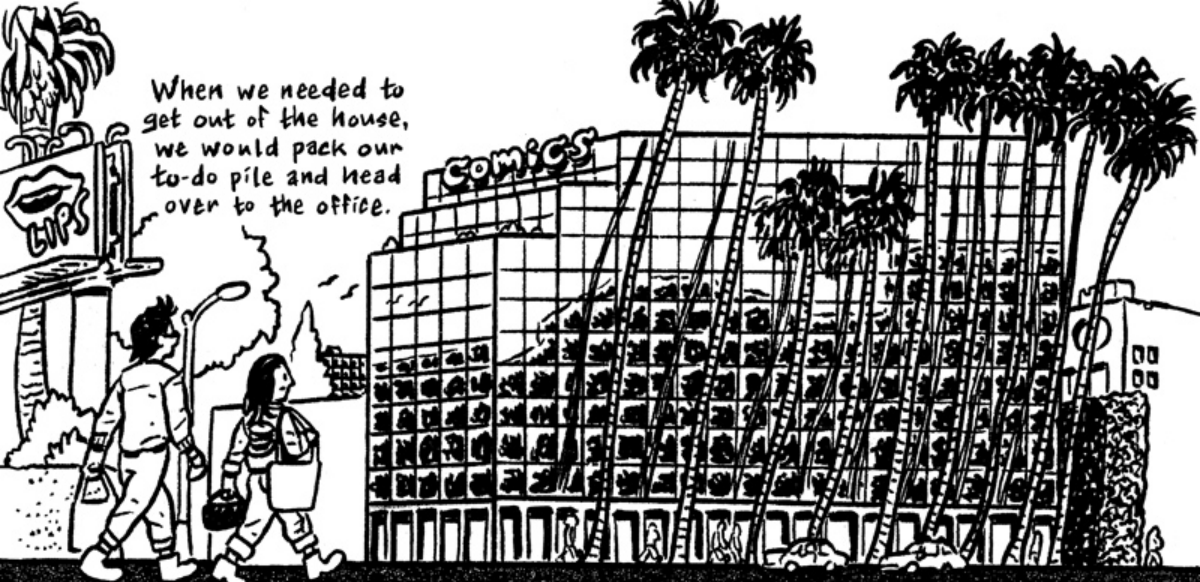


Thankfully, Bryan and I got along swimmingly!

KLINK

Here's to the work ahead!

When we needed to get out of the house, we would pack our to-do pile and head over to the office.



Bryan shared an office with Sam Humphries and Andy Khouri in Hollywood. Sam and Andy were great company.



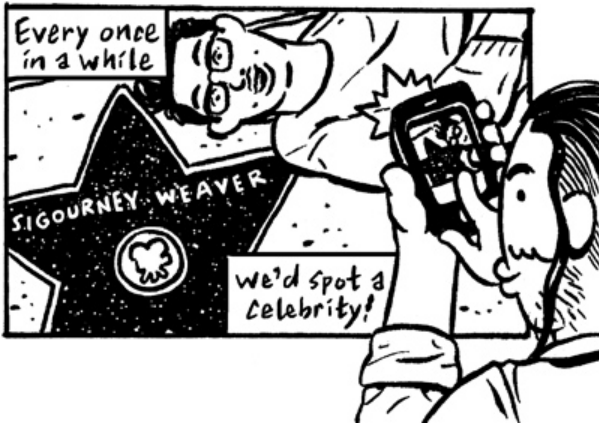
We'd go to lunch, get some burgers.



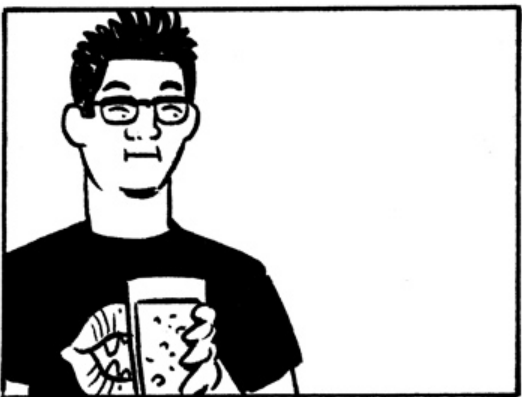
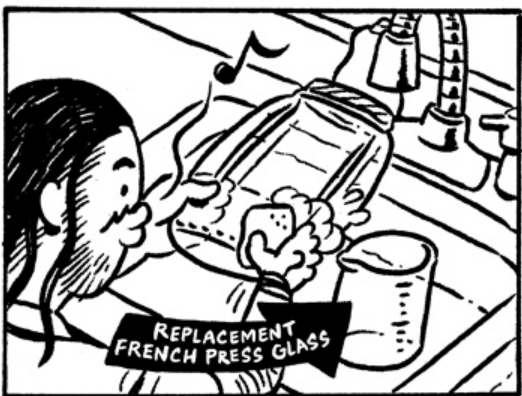
The view from the balcony was astounding.



Every once in a while




We'd spot a celebrity!





At some point Bryan tweeted:



Bryan Lee O'Malley  
Someone should mix Chrono Trigger and Drake together lol

← ↕ 83 ★ 411

Bryan Lee O'Malley

Amazingly, within the hour...







That second half of our work period together was grueling. We rarely left the house, working 12-14 hour days hunched at our desks.



We worked in such a frenzy that we didn't remember inking pages we'd finished that same day...

Until the day before deadline...

IS THIS THE LAST PAGE??



Working this intensely had its unfortunate side effects:

Twitchy Eye

Stiff Neck

Sore Back

Wrist Pain



Luckily, Bryan's friend Julie is a masseuse... Her massage saved my life!



I slept better that night than I've slept in a long, long time.



Robin came to LA the day after we finished inking.



It was so wonderful to see her after staring at pages for weeks.

The next day, Bryan's friend Mary joined us to celebrate at...



Disneyland!

We spent the entire day at the park and rode all the best rides.



This was Robin's first time going so it was even more fun.

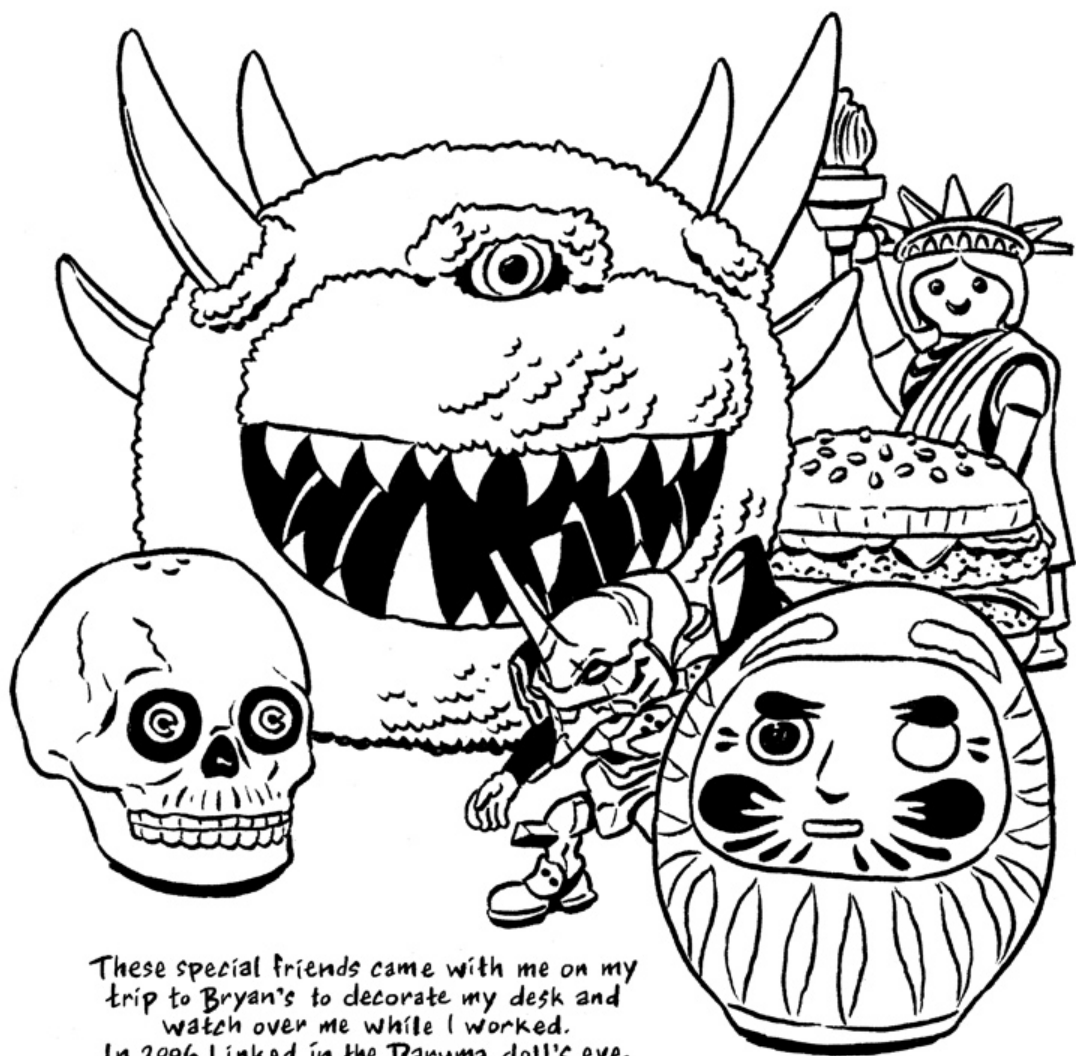


It was a restorative day. The struggle of the past weeks was replaced with joy and laughter. (The Disney beers helped)

We ended our day with Dole whips in the Tiki Room.



It's hard to describe how I felt that day, words fall short. I was just so incredibly proud and happy.



These special friends came with me on my trip to Bryan's to decorate my desk and watch over me while I worked. In 2006 I linked in the Daruma doll's eye, wishing to become a successful cartoonist...

In the company of Bryan, Mary and Robin,  
I inked in the other eye of my Daruma  
doll 7 years after I made my wish. After  
working on a book like *Seconds*, I felt  
that my wish was granted.



OFISH 2015



