LESTER: THE ROAD LES TRAVELED



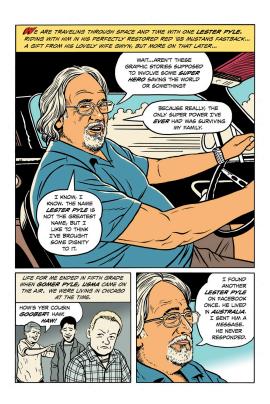
GWYN CREADY

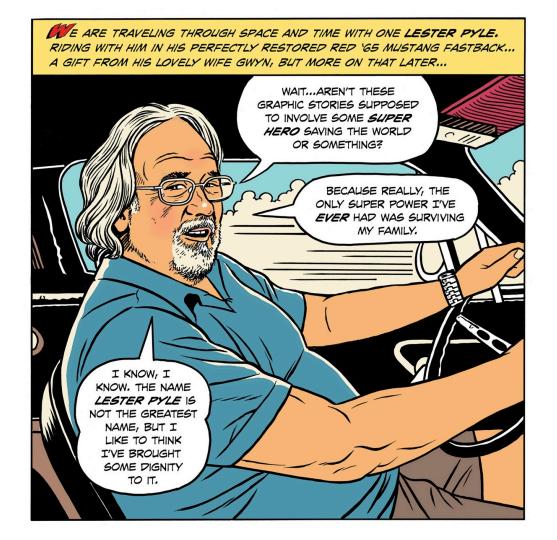
Illustrated by MARK ZINGARELLI

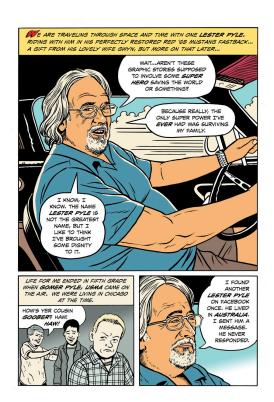
A LIFE WITHOUT GRAVY PUBLICATION, NEW YORK



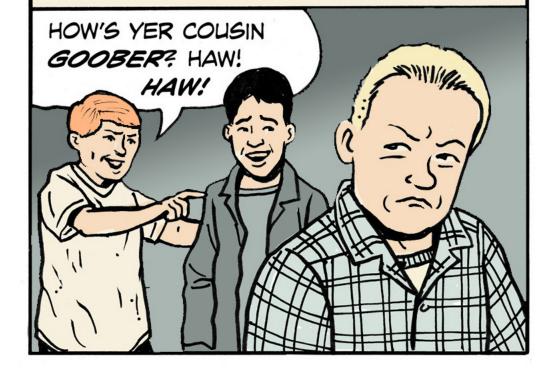


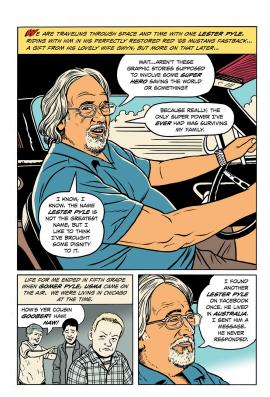






LIFE FOR ME ENDED IN FIFTH GRADE WHEN GOMER PYLE, USMA CAME ON THE AIR. WE WERE LIVING IN CHICAGO AT THE TIME.









Introduction

HERE'S A REASON THEY CALL THE THE ACT OF JOINING YOUR LIFE PERMANENTLY TO THE RIGHT PERSON A STORY-

BOOK ENDING. I KNOW--AND NOT BECAUSE I WRITE LOVE STORIES. THE ACT OF LOVE--THE REAL ACT OF LOVE-- IS ABOUT TELLING STORIES AND TAKING CARE OF THE STORIES YOU'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH. WHEN YOU TELL A STORY ABOUT YOURSELF VULNERABLE.



IT'S A GIFT TO THE PERSON YOU'RE TALKIG TO AS WELL AS A TEST. ARE YOU LIKE ME? WILL YOU LAUGH AT THE SAME THINGS I PO? WILL YOU STILL LIKE ME AFTER I TELL YOU THIS? WHEN YOU TELL STORIES TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE, YOU LEARN YOUR FEELINGS ARE SAFE WITH THEM.