
Peculiar Times

Selected New Drawings &
Stories of Brian Andreas



StoryPeople Digital

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The people in this book, if at one time real, are now entirely fictitious, having been subjected to a combination of a selective memory and a fertile imagination. Any resemblance to real people you might know, even if they are the author's relatives, is entirely coincidental, and is a reminder that you are imagining the incidents in this book as much as the author is.

StoryPeople

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*For Gabe & Matthew, our beautiful sons, walking tall & proud, filled
with compassion for this new & tender world.*

*& always for my dearest Ellen & our dreams of walking side by side
with our boys for many years to come.*

Other books by Brian Andreas available
from StoryPeople Press:

Mostly True

Still Mostly True

Going Somewhere Soon

Strange Dreams

Hearing Voices

Story People

Trusting Soul

Traveling Light

Some Kind of Ride

Introduction

When our boys were younger, we always kept the dress-up box handy for when attention lagged, or when their friends visited. There's something about the right combination of sparkling capes & floppy hats & big leather belts that just coaxes adventure from the cracks of this serious world. Often, Ellen & I would quit what we were doing to play along, since there's nothing that's ever important enough to miss a chance to imagine the world all over again. As I was sorting through a stack of drawings for you, I kept thinking how much the stories I write & draw are like a portable dress-up box.

Go ahead. Try it & see what happens. (It's OK. I checked. There's no one looking at the moment. They're all being busy & important.) Wrap them around yourself & let your mind jump right into your own story. Because it really, truly is just like that. There is nothing so serious that we can't bring it to life with love & laughter & play. Put on something sparkly & top it off with a gypsy scarf in your imagination & see how quickly you're far away, even after all these years still on the adventure of a lifetime.

One more thing. I'm sure some of you will wonder why I called it *Peculiar Times*. Mainly, it's because my favorite memories of being alive have always been peculiar. Times when the magical world that hums behind it all peeked through. Times when I saw everything that is & everything that could be, all at the same time. Times when I listened to my children & wondered if they had been switched at birth for creatures more silly, more frustrating, more wise. Quite peculiar. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Consider these stories an excuse for a quick flight of imagination. For those days when it's time to come back to being you again (because that's the real magic of a dress-up box). I wish for you peculiar & magical times, times that will live long in memory.

At the very least, I know you'll be dressed for it...

with love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Andreas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

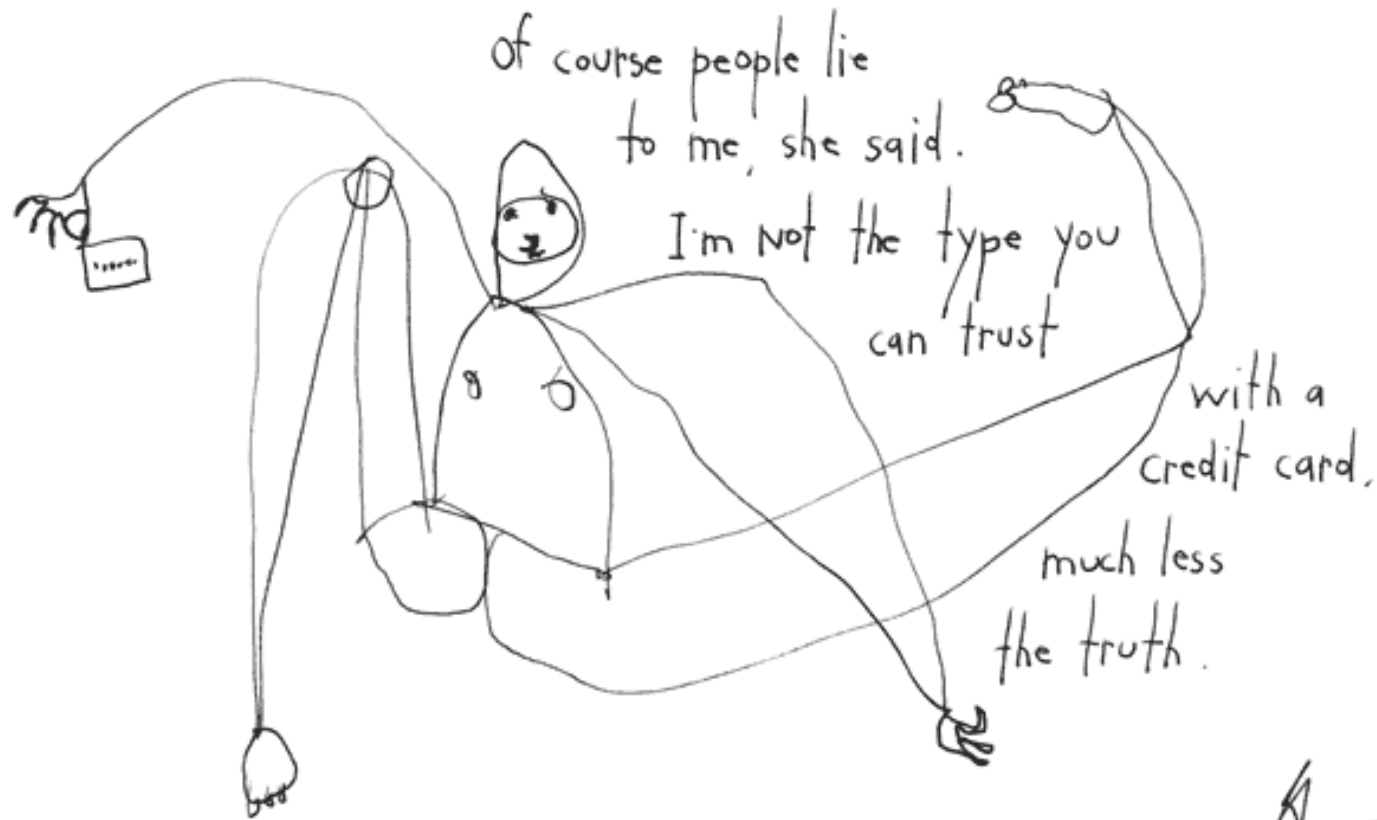
Brian Andreas



I just tell people I'm an
agent of the devil, he
said. It leads to
much more
interesting
conversations than if
I tell them I sell whole-life

03/04/2001

Original drawing #1650



Of course people lie
to me, she said.

I'm not the type you
can trust

with a
credit card,

much less
the truth.

11/09/2001

Original drawing #1685



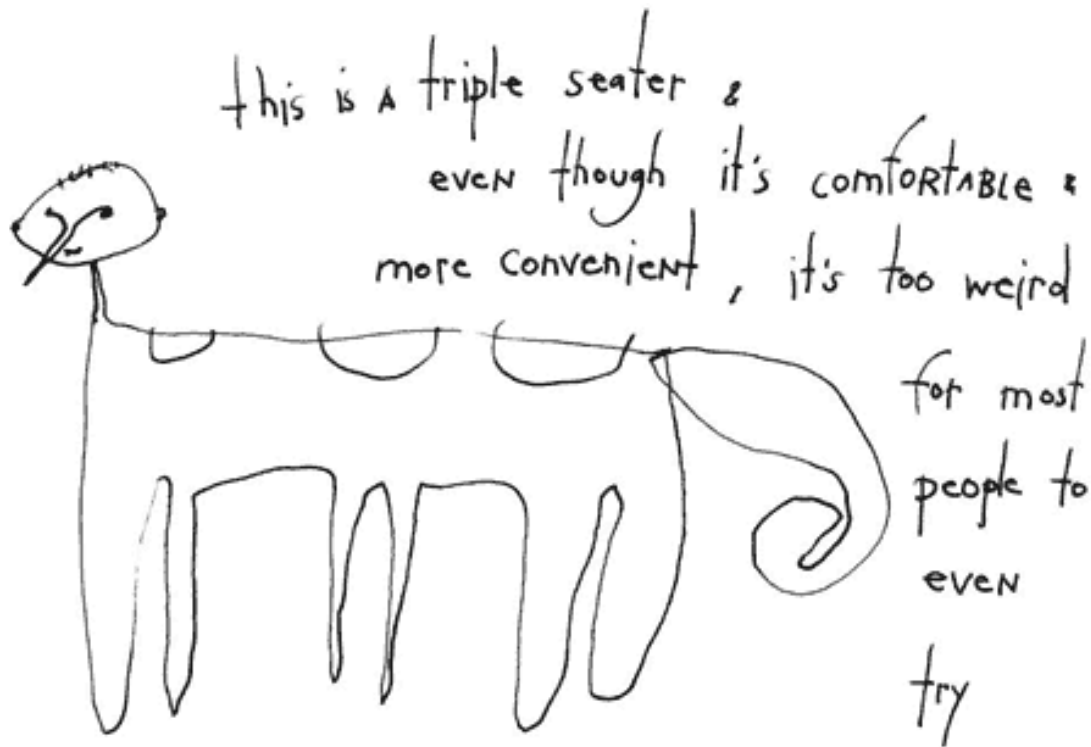


Not proper anatomy
at all, but it means
she CAN WEAR
whatever she wants,
since it all looks
strange

11/03/2002

Original drawing #1759





11/08/2002

Original drawing #1762





I'd have lots
more stuff by
now, he told me,
if I didn't like
grabbing more than
I like keeping

11/08/2002



I quit believing in
astrology, she SAID,
ONCE I found out
I had a bad birthday

11/15/2002

Original drawing #1780

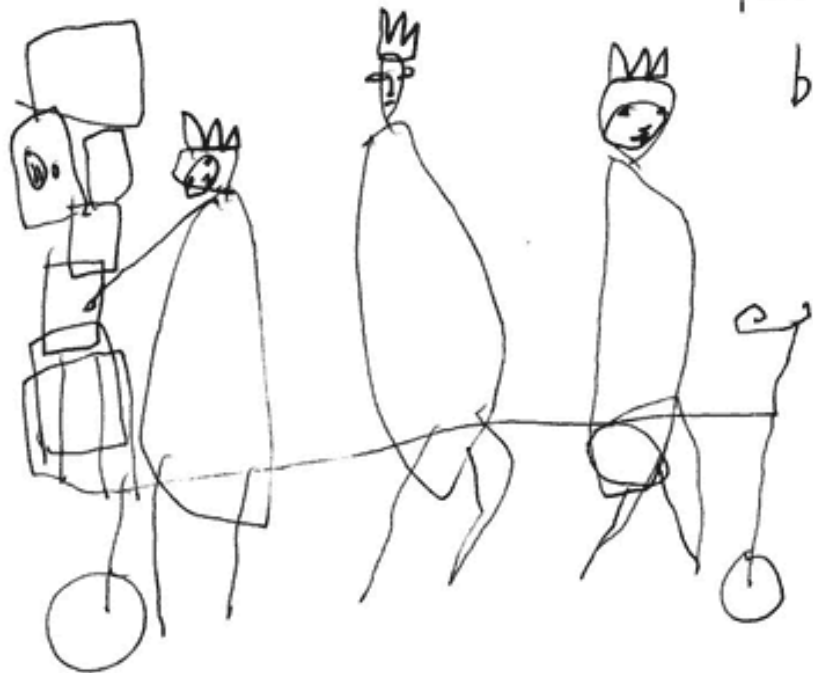




tries not to
anthropomorphize
everything he runs into
but it all seems friendlier
when he knows the
world on a first name
basis

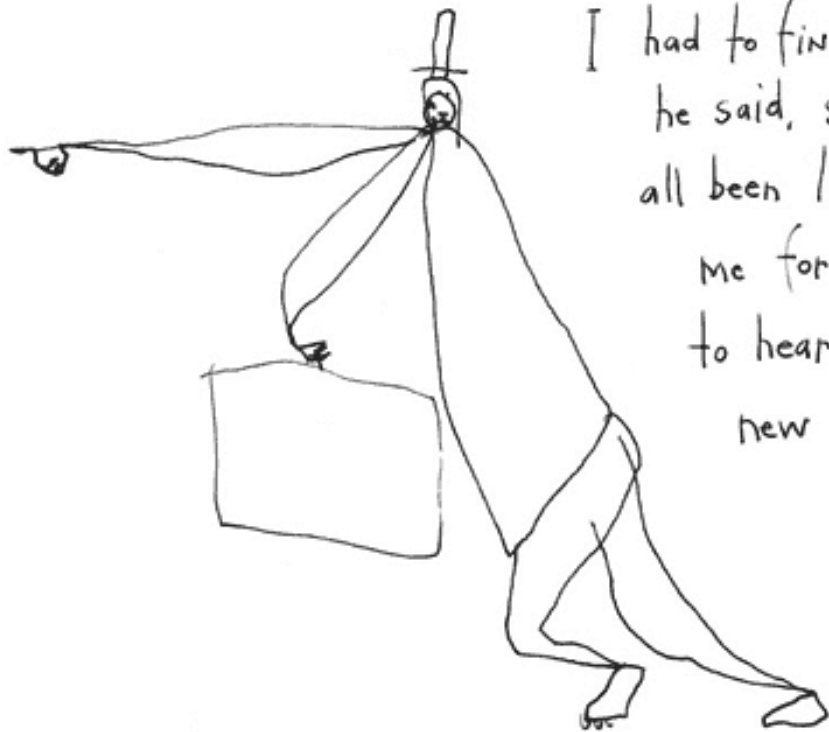
11/15/2002

Original drawing #1783



Not particularly wise men
bearing gifts (so
we don't really
care what direction
they're coming from,
as long as they
get here soon)

11/15/2002



I had to finally leave,
he said, since they'd
all been listening to
me for too long
to hear anything
new any more



08/12/2001



You don't have to believe
in the Easter Scorpion,
but it'll still put a
little more juice into
the whole idea of
putting your hand
into dark places
looking for eggs

01/08/2004

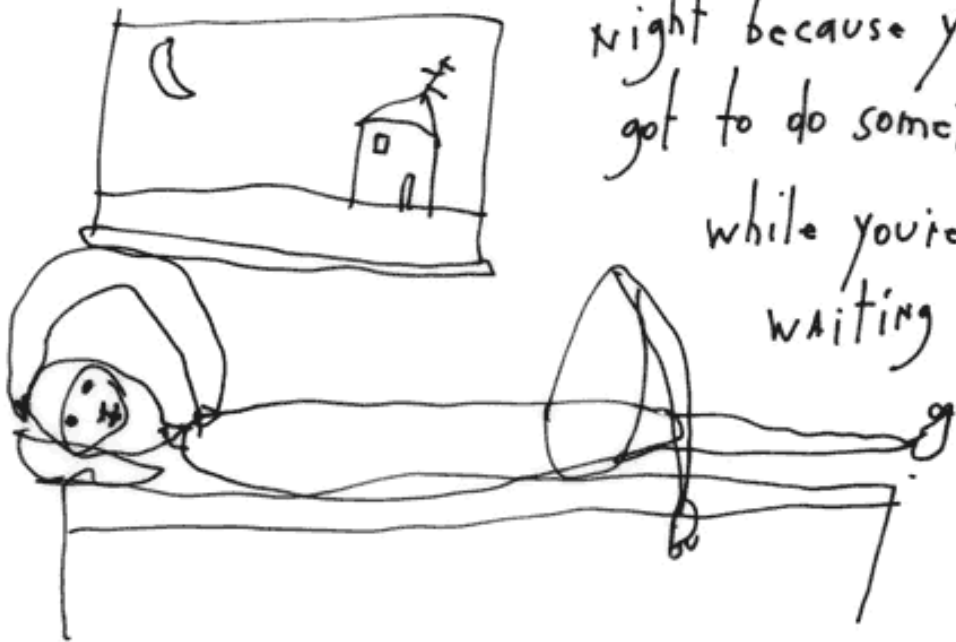
Original drawing #1885



TOP 3 MOVIE IDEAS I'VE THREATENED TO MAKE SOMEDAY

1. A SORT OF 'MY DINNER WITH ANDRE' MEETS 'SLACKERS' (THE FIRST ONE) WITH A LOT OF GREAT PERFORMANCE ART THAT I'LL INVENT ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT. THIS ONE'LL BE GREAT
2. AN ITALIAN-AMERICAN PLUMBER WHO DECIDES TO BE A FILM-MAKER. THIS IS SORT OF FELLINI MEETS 'DUMB & DUMBER', BUT WITH SOME REAL LIFE LESSONS
3. A FAMILY EPIC IN WHICH ALL MY RELATIVES ARE EXPOSED FOR THE PEOPLE THEY REALLY ARE, EXCEPT IN THE END. YOU COME TO LOVE THEM DESPITE THEIR GAPING CHARACTER FLAWS. SORT OF A 'MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING' ONLY WITH MIDWESTERNERS SO THERE ARE LONG STRETCHES OF NO TALKING

02/03/2004



only lies down at
night because you've
got to do something
while you're
waiting for the
new day

06/14/2005

Original drawing #1895



Cross between a piranha & a pug
so it's pretty ugly,

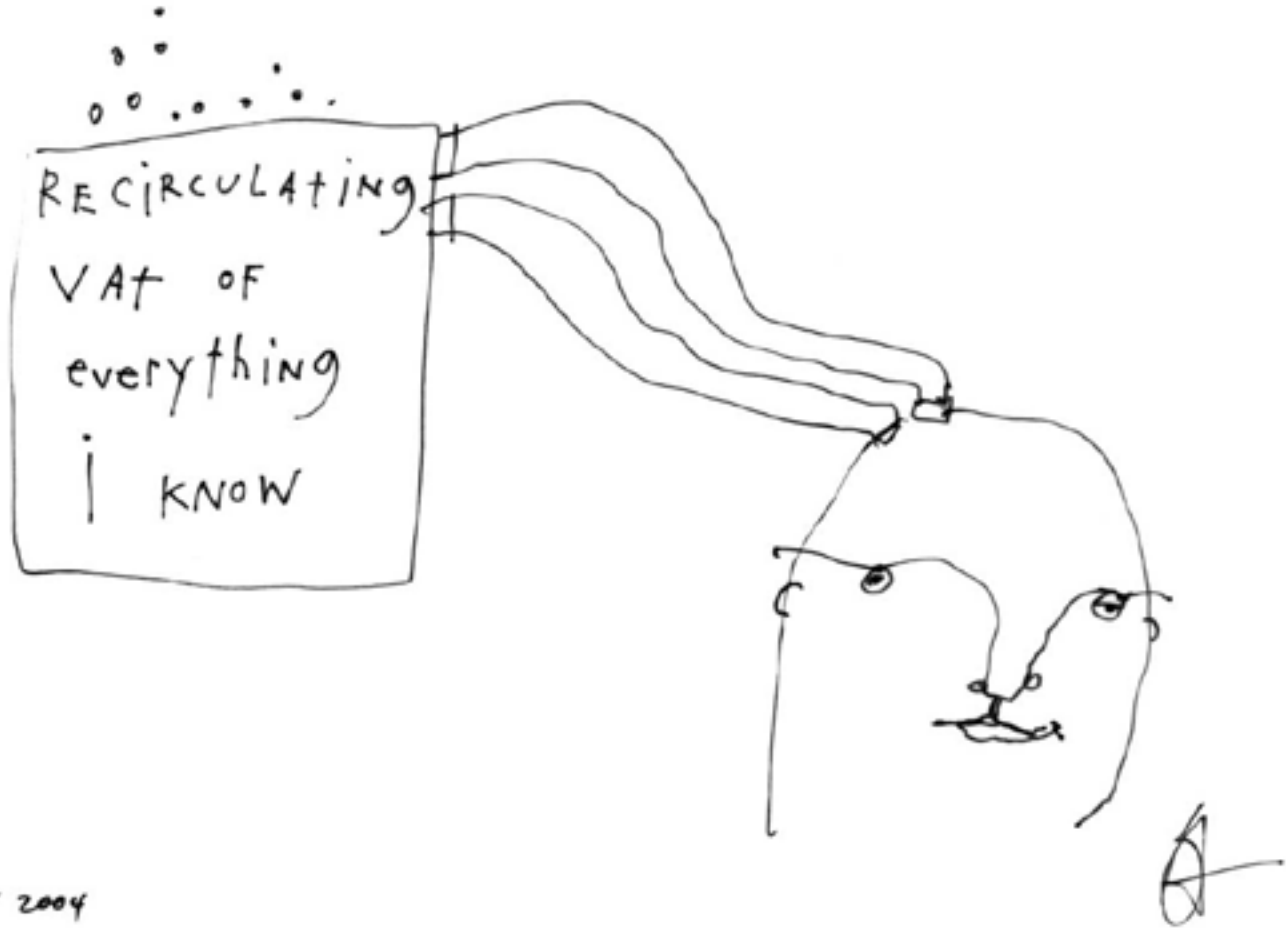


but DON'T ever let
him hear you SAY so

09/13/2015

Original drawing #1901





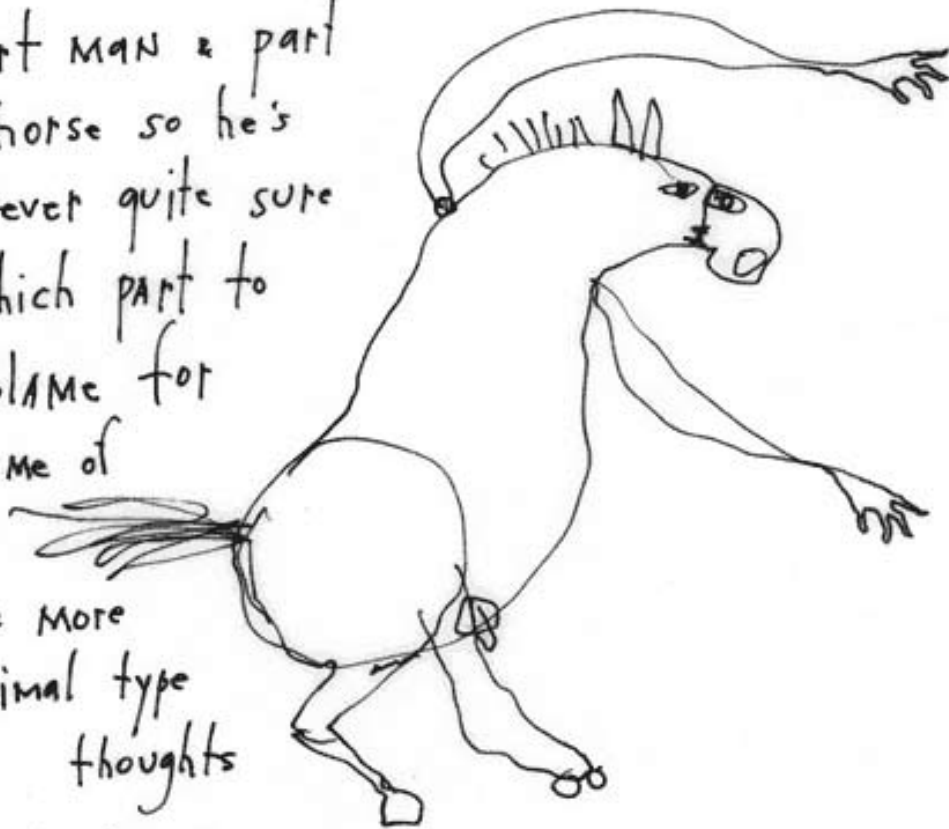
07/14/2004

Original drawing #1915

Part man & part
horse so he's
never quite sure
which part to
blame for
some of

the more
animal type
thoughts

05/24/2004



SCRABBLE™ FOR THE DEAD
First thing to know is that
there's no time limit



09/04/2005

Original drawing #1921



this is a picture of
a mythical creature

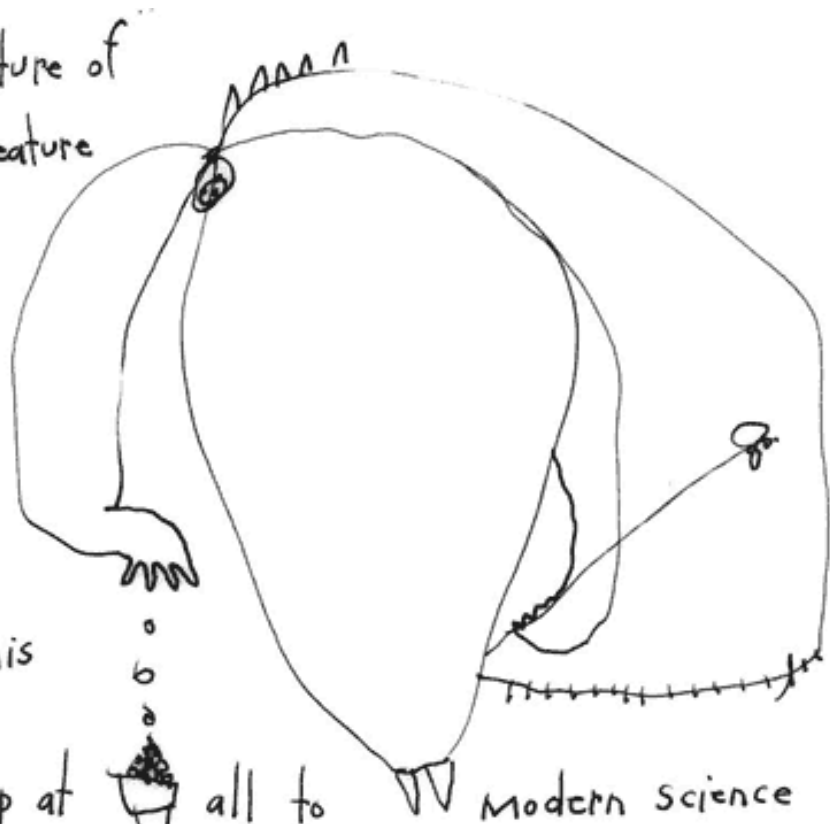
& I've only
captured the
parts that
interested
me, so it
probably looks
nothing like this
which makes

it no help at



all to

Modern Science



05/06/2001



hoping there'll be time for a
future he likes,
but pretty well
settled on the
future he's
got already.



05/06/2001

Original drawing #1937





05/06/2001

Original drawing #1939

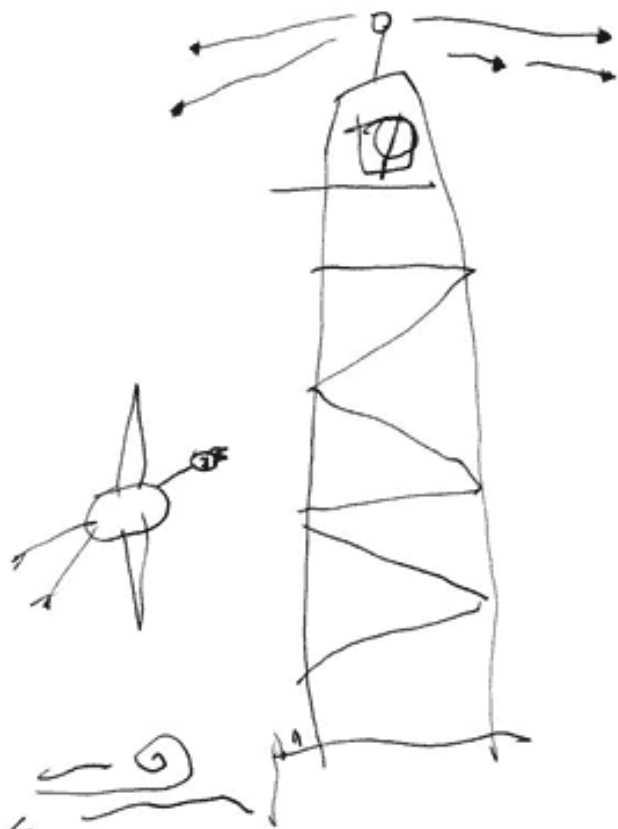
A small, stylized signature or mark, possibly the initials 'A' or 'B', drawn in black ink.



MOVING DAY,
BECAUSE I WAS
getting too
settled ANYWAY

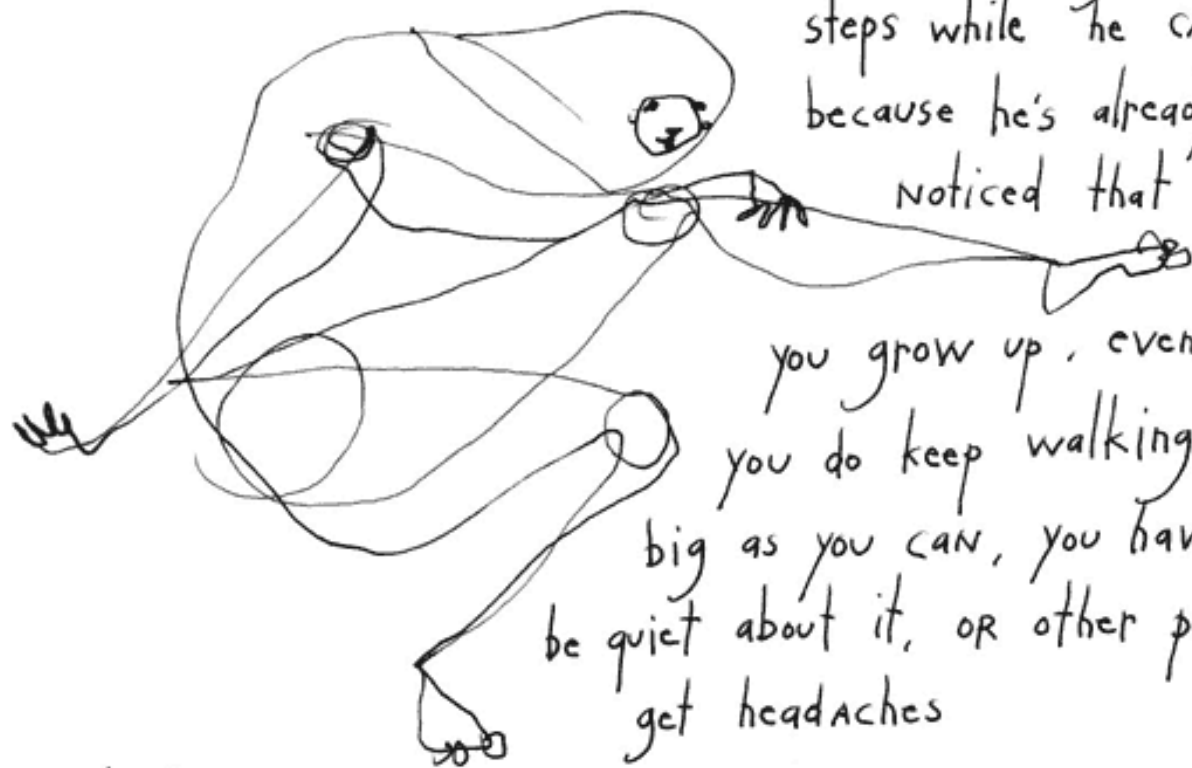
04/20/2000

A stylized signature or mark consisting of a large, looped letter 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.



10/20/2000

this is a lighthouse
that only warns
you if you're likely
to pay attention
because you've
been told the
world is a dangerous
place before

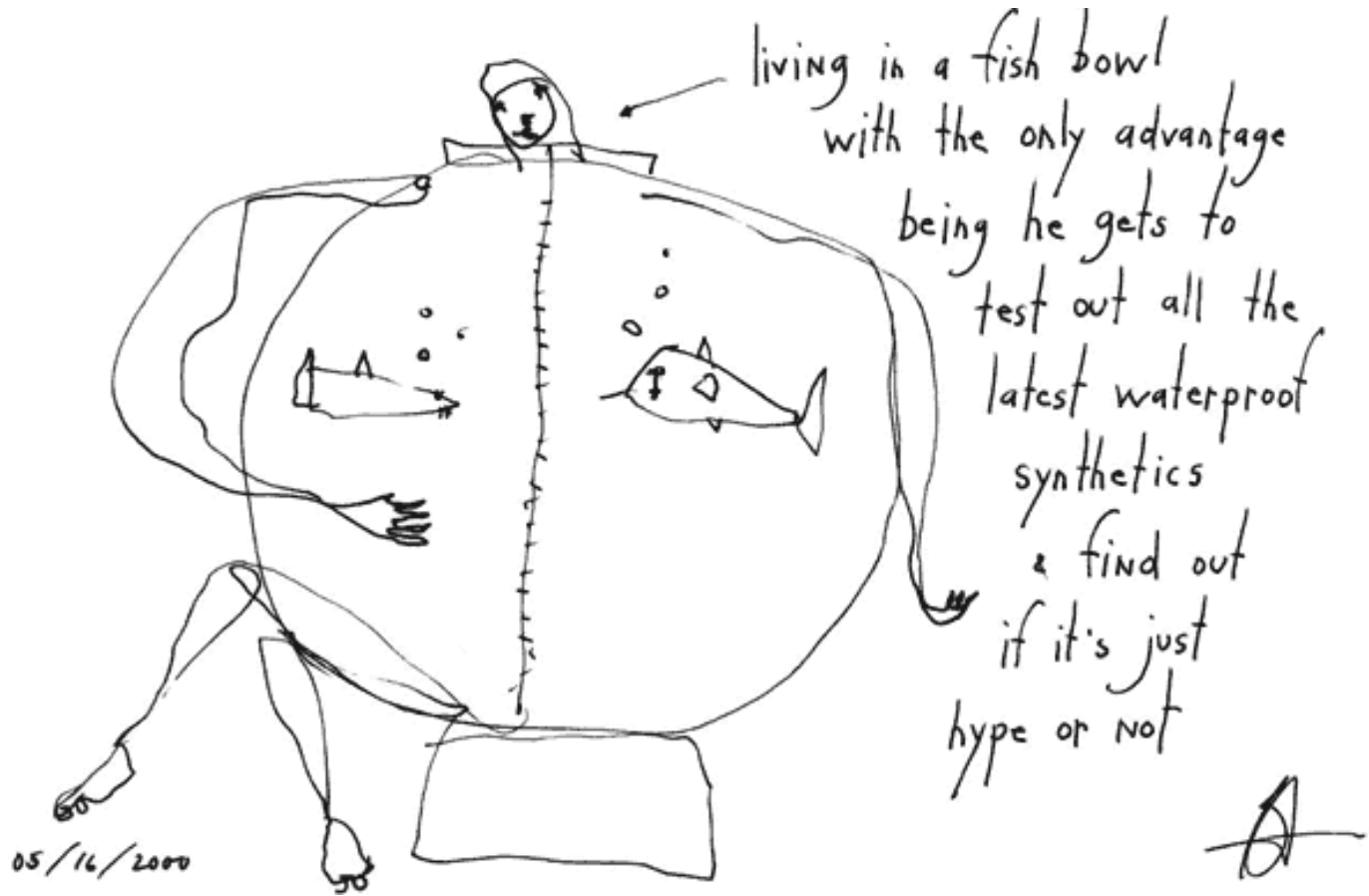


walking with loud giant
steps while he CAN
because he's already
noticed that when

you grow up, even if
you do keep walking as
big as you CAN, you have to
be quiet about it, or other people
get headaches

05/15/2000





living in a fish bowl
with the only advantage
being he gets to
test out all the
latest waterproof
synthetics
& find out
if it's just
hype or not

05/16/2000



his body keeps getting bigger &
his head keeps getting smaller &



he has a
theory about
it but it
doesn't make
sense until he's
on his sixth
or seventh beef

07/12/2000

About the Artist

I've been remembering the future through my art & stories since 1993. I suppose that doesn't make any sense. Remembering the future is my shorthand way of saying that we all have a hand in how the future turns out. The future I imagine for you & me & all the children of the world is one that's filled with laughter & music & love, played full out. It's the only thing that makes sense to me any more.

I came to this almost by accident. I've been a playwright, waiter, tennis player, chef, contract archaeologist, accountant, systems analyst & computer programmer, among other things. For a long time, I thought I'd be a famous marble sculptor, but I always wanted to explain what was going on in my pieces. I'd attach little explanations to them, or I'd surround them with stories. With very little regard for my future plans, people ignored my sculpture & just sat around reading the words. Fortunately, I figured out that I actually liked making up stories more than carving marble.

What else? We've raised two boys. We've travelled. We've moved

cross-country several times. I collected a couple of degrees in there, too. I graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa with a BA in various things & I've got an MFA in Fibre & Mixed Media (in case you think I'm just one of those popular artists who can't cut it in the real world of academia) from JFK University in Orinda, California.

After years of me whining about winter, we finally moved from Saint Paul, Minnesota, back to California. We've been here long enough already that I've started to complain when it gets down to the mid 50s at night. It's an old habit, but to tell you the truth, it's kind of hard to get worked up about winter when it means that only half as many flowers are blooming.

May it remind you of the joy of being alive on this wild planet...

About StoryPeople

StoryPeople started as simple, brightly colored wood sculptures, three to four feet tall, in a roughly human form. Over time, they've evolved from those original pieces to intricate figures built from random pieces of found & scrap wood. The wood itself is recycled from barns & fences from century-old homesteads in the northeast Iowa area. Adding to each figure's individuality are scraps of old barn tin & twisted baling wire. Painted with bright colors & hand-stamped with an original Brian Andreas story, the sculptures are treasured by countless people all over the world. The stories are also found on colorful Story prints, books, & greeting cards & are available in galleries & stores throughout the US, Canada & the EU. They're also available directly from StoryPeople on the web, if you can't find a gallery in your area. Please feel free to call or write for more information, or drop in on the web at www.storypeople.com.

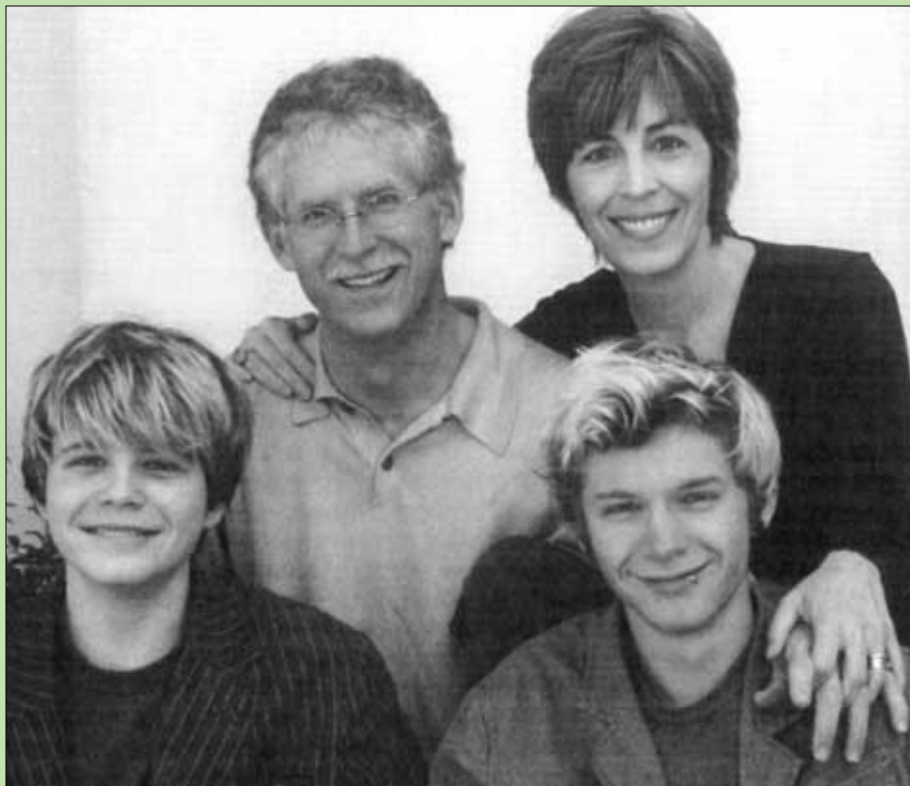
StoryPeople

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About This Book

The drawings & stories in this ebook were chosen from a stack of unpublished original drawings by Brian Andreas. If you absolutely must have one for your very own, check on the web at www.storypeople.com. You'll find them there, along with all the other totally fun things we do.



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