



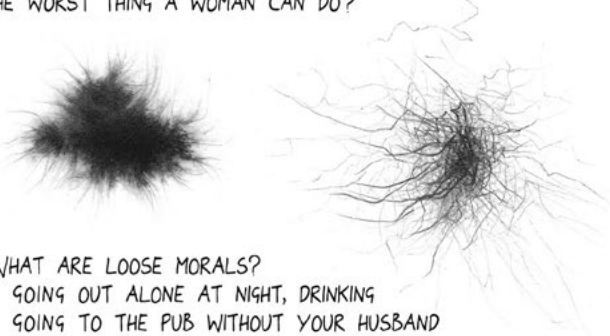
**“An incredibly powerful  
new graphic novel, and a powerful  
demand to listen to women’s voices.”**

**-Elle UK**

# BECOMING UNBECOMING

**Una**

THE POLICE, THE PRESS, THE PUBLIC, CONCENTRATED ON LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE OF LOOSE MORALS IN THE LIVES OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF WOMEN THAT SOMEONE HAD ATTACKED. AFTER ALL, THEY MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO DESERVE BEING ATTACKED SO VICIOUSLY—AND WHAT IS THE WORST THING A WOMAN CAN DO?



IT'S ODD THAT A PERSON WHO BRINGS ONLY PLEASURE SHOULD DRAW SO MUCH IRE.

WHAT ARE LOOSE MORALS?

GOING OUT ALONE AT NIGHT, DRINKING  
GOING TO THE PUB WITHOUT YOUR HUSBAND  
GOING TO THE PUB WITH YOUR HUSBAND  
HAVING A HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS  
HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A JAMAICAN (PRESUMABLY THIS WAS ONLY PROBLEMATIC IF YOU WEREN'T JAMAICAN YOURSELF).<sup>6</sup>

FOR THE RIPPER TO KNOW ALL THIS HE WOULD NEED TO BE PSYCHIC.

# 'THE RIPPER WILL STRIKE AGAIN'

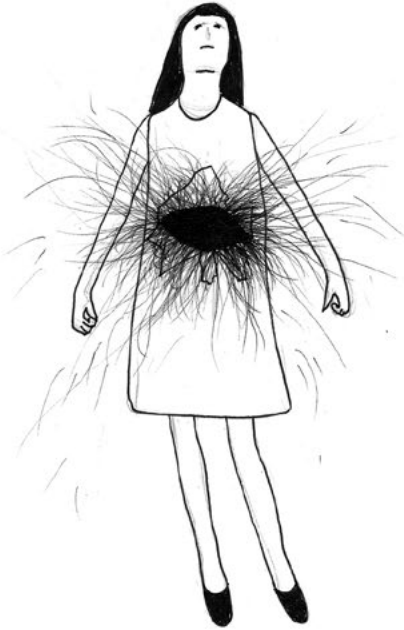
The 'Jack the Ripper' killer, who has savagely murdered five Yorkshire women in two years, will strike again in a month.

The amazing prediction of clairvoyant Alf



Clairvoyant Alfred Cartwright at the scene of the murder.

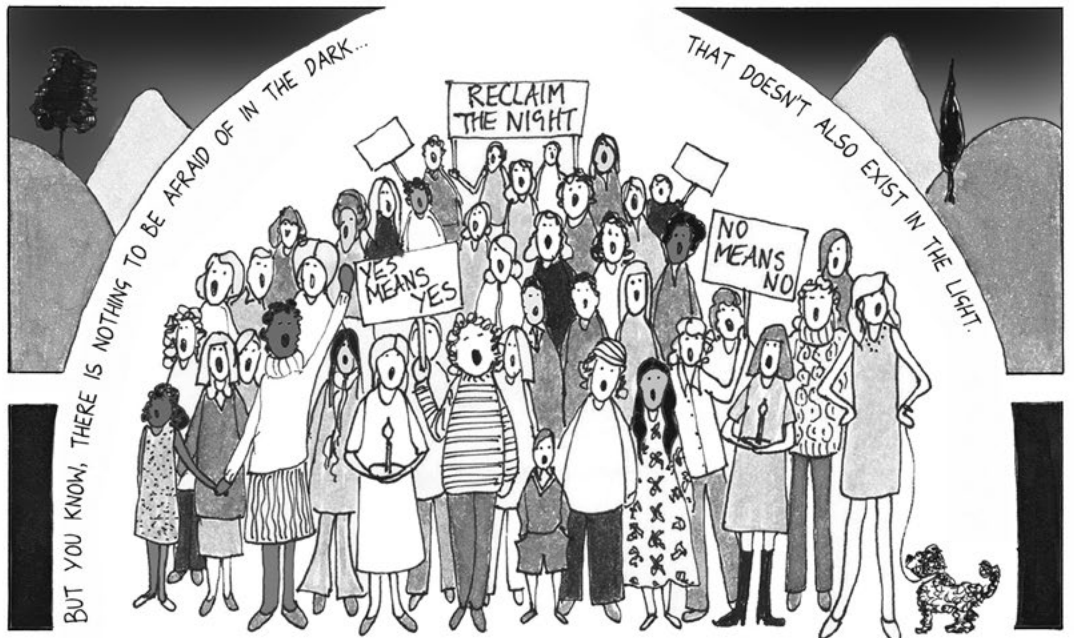
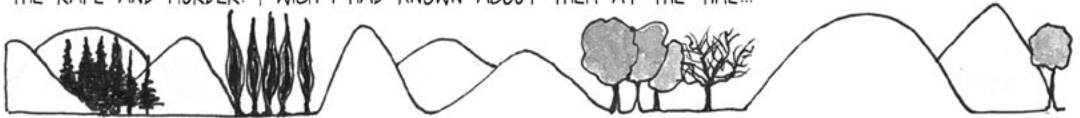
A PERSON WHO LACKS MORAL FIBRE IS UNABLE TO DO THE RIGHT THING IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION.





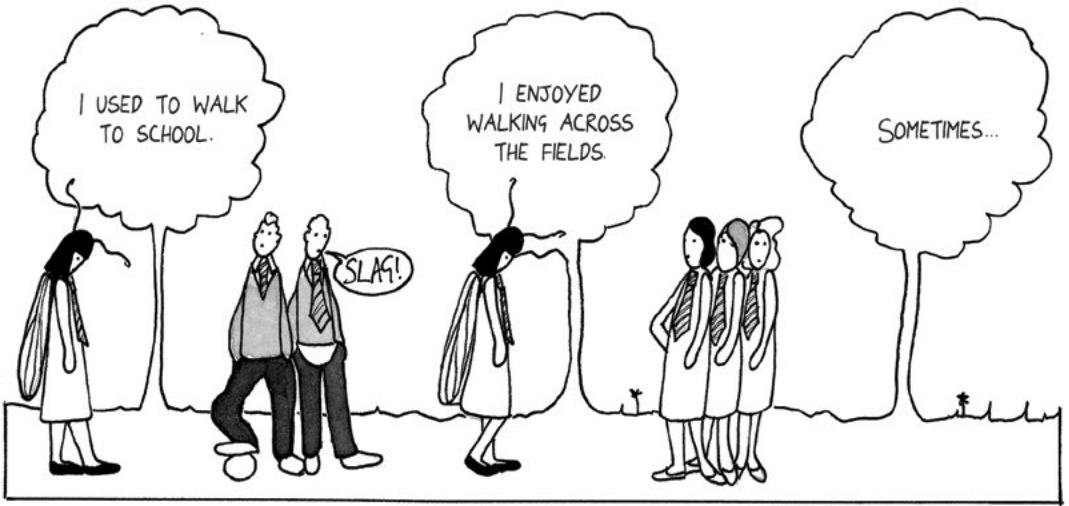
AS I GREW OLDER, MY FEAR GREW WITH ME UNTIL EVERYTHING BECAME WRAPPED IN IT. IF I CAME HOME TO FIND THE HOUSE EMPTY, I WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO GO INSIDE, SO I WOULD SIT ON THE GARDEN WALL UNTIL MY MOTHER CAME HOME.

AROUND THIS TIME, GROUPS OF WOMEN WERE DEMONSTRATING THEIR ANGER AT BEING TOLD TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN OUT AT NIGHT, OR MAYBE TO JUST STAY IN, WHEN THEY WEREN'T THE ONES DOING ALL THE RAPE AND MURDER. I WISH I HAD KNOWN ABOUT THEM AT THE TIME...

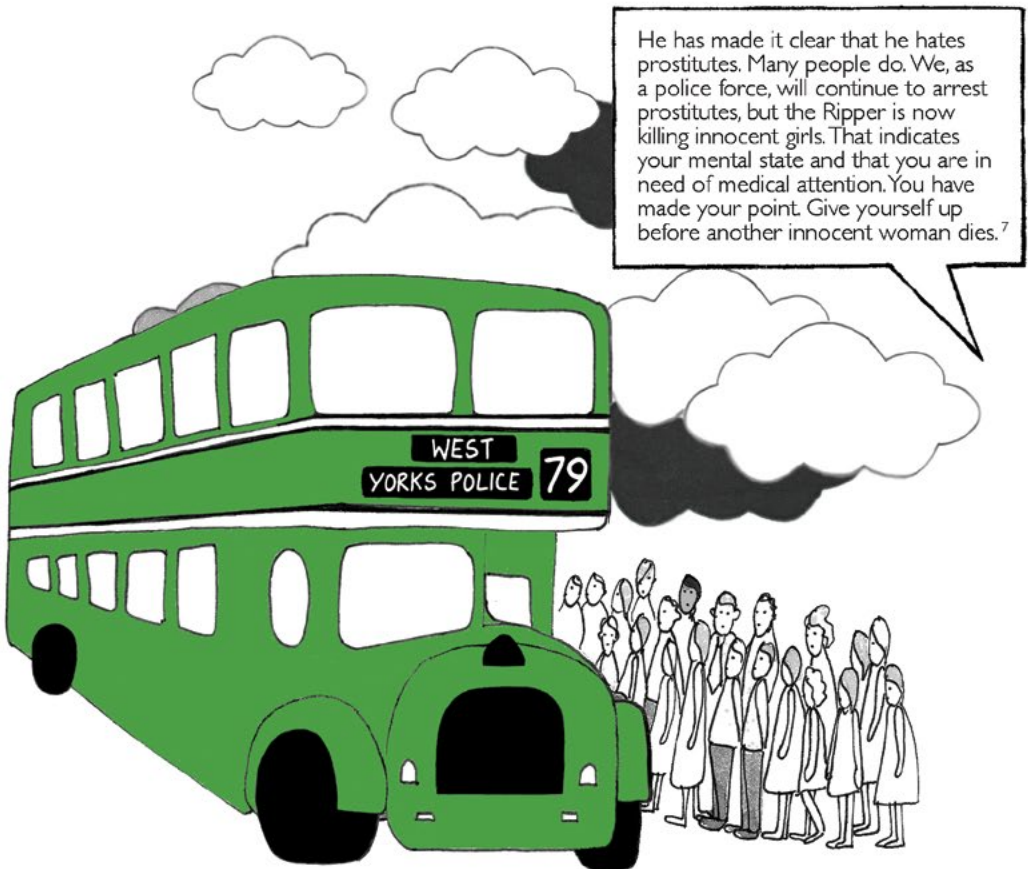








ONE DAY, THE GIRLS WERE TOLD NOT TO WALK TO SCHOOL ANY MORE, BUT TO CATCH THE BUS INSTEAD, AND NEVER ALONE. BOYS WERE NOT GIVEN ANY INSTRUCTIONS. ALL GIRLS, EVERYWHERE, HAD NOW TO BE CAREFUL, BECAUSE THE RIPPER HAD KILLED ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN. THIS TIME, PEOPLE WERE OUTRAGED! THE POLICE ISSUED A STATEMENT.



IT SEEMED IT WAS REASONABLE TO WANT TO KILL SOME WOMEN, BUT NOT OTHERS.

IT WAS NOT EASY TO NEGOTIATE THIS LANDSCAPE. ASKING QUESTIONS OF GROWN-UPS DIDN'T SEEM POSSIBLE...  
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO SPEAK ABOUT IT?  
IT DEFINITELY WASN'T THE KIND OF THING YOU COULD DROP CASUALLY INTO A CONVERSATION.

SOME GIRLS GET CALLED SLUTS BECAUSE THEY WON'T GIVE IT AWAY! OR BECAUSE THEY ONLY GIVE IT TO GIRLS.



ARE SLUTS DESIRABLE? OR UNDESIRABLE?

SOME SLUTS GET PAID FOR IT AND OTHERS GIVE IT AWAY FOR FREE. THAT'S QUITE CONFUSING, I THINK.

IF YOU'RE FEMALE AND SOMEONE WANTS TO SHOW HOW MUCH THEY HATE YOU, YOU'RE LIKELY TO BE CALLED A SLUT OR SOMETHING SIMILAR AND THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE LINE OF DEFENCE:

BUT WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN PLAIN SIGHT.  
I'M NOT A SLUT

I'M NOT A SLUT



IT'S A DEFENCE THAT ONLY MAKES IT HARDER FOR OTHERS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

# BECOMING UNBECOMING

UNA

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This extraordinary graphic novel is a powerful denunciation of sexual violence against women. As seen through the eyes of a twelve-year-old girl named Una, it takes place in northern England in 1977, as the Yorkshire Ripper, a serial killer of prostitutes, is on the loose and creating panic among the townspeople. As the police struggle in their clumsy attempts to find the killer, and the headlines in the local paper become more urgent, a once self-confident Una teaches herself to "lower her gaze" in order to deflect attention from boys.

After she is "slut-shamed" at school for having birth control pills, Una herself is the subject of violent acts for which she comes to blame herself. But as the police finally catch up with and identify the killer, Una grapples with the patterns of behaviour that led her to believe she was to blame. *Becoming Unbecoming* combines various styles, press clippings, photo-based illustrations, and splashes of colour to convey young Una's sense of confusion and rage, as well as sobering statistics on sexual violence against women. The book is a no-holds-barred indictment of sexual violence against women and the shame and blame of its victims that also celebrates the empowerment of those able to gain control over their selves and their bodies.

*Una* (a pseudonym) is an artist, academic, and comics creator. Her self-published graphic narratives have explored disability, psychosis, political activism, and violence against women and girls.

*Becoming Unbecoming*, which took seven years to create, is her first book. She lives in the U.K.

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