





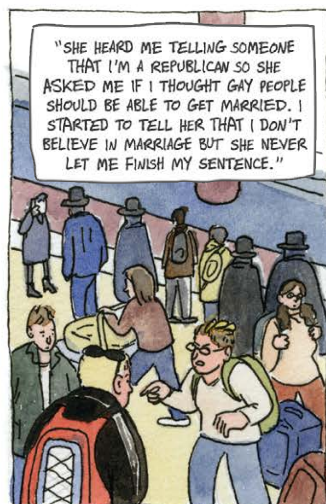


WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?

WE, UM...OVERHEARD A CERTAIN CONVERSATION IN THE AIRPORT.



AH, I REMEMBER NOW. BECCA WAS GIVING ME A PRETTY HARD TIME ABOUT THAT. REALLY IT WAS JUST A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING.



"SHE HEARD ME TELLING SOMEONE THAT I'M A REPUBLICAN SO SHE ASKED ME IF I THOUGHT GAY PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED. I STARTED TO TELL HER THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN MARRIAGE BUT SHE NEVER LET ME FINISH MY SENTENCE."



"WAIT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN MARRIAGE? FOR ANYONE?"

"NO, I DON'T. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE GAY OR STRAIGHT, IT JUST DOESN'T WORK. IT'S A BROKEN SYSTEM."

RRRRRR!



SURE, GAY PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED, SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY THEY WOULD WANT TO.

OH! WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE THEN, I GUESS.

BUT YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN?

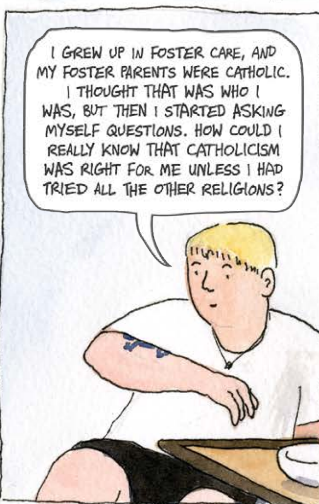


GUILTY AS CHARGED!

AND CHRISTIAN TOO?



HUH? OH, MY TATTOO?



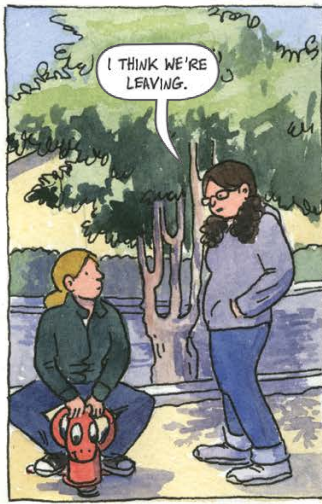
I GREW UP IN FOSTER CARE, AND MY FOSTER PARENTS WERE CATHOLIC. I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHO I WAS, BUT THEN I STARTED ASKING MYSELF QUESTIONS. HOW COULD I REALLY KNOW THAT CATHOLICISM WAS RIGHT FOR ME UNLESS I HAD TRIED ALL THE OTHER RELIGIONS?



SO I LOOKED AT OTHER FORMS OF CHRISTIANITY. I LOOKED AT ISLAM. BUT THEN I SAW THAT ALL OF THESE HAD ROOTS IN JUDAISM, SO I TRIED THAT AND IT JUST FELT RIGHT. THEN I CONVERTED.



I WAIT FOR THE REST OF THE GROUP TO FINISH BREAKFAST AND WONDER HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE ON THIS TRIP I'VE COMPLETELY MISJUDGED.



I THINK WE'RE LEAVING.



WHERE ARE WE GOING? WE CAN'T DRIVE ANYWHERE.

WE'RE GOING TO A KIBBUTZ! AND GET THIS...IT'S DEGAWYA!



GIL LEADS THE WAY TO A PATH THROUGH THE PALMS AND UNDERBRUSH AT THE EDGE OF CHALO'S GROUNDS.

NOW, DEGAWYA...THE WAY JOEL DESCRIBED IT YESTERDAY I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT AS A REAL PLACE.



I'M GLAD WE CAN'T USE THE BUS TODAY. THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED: A NATURE WALK THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM NEW YORK CITY.



OUR WALK TAKES US ALONG THE JORDAN RIVER. WE SEE SOME NATIVE WILDLIFE.



AND WHERE THE RIVER SWELLS, SOME VISITING WILDLIFE.



BY THE POWER OF JESUS, YOU ARE SAVED!





DEGANYA IS A BIT DIFFERENT NOW THAN THE TIME THAT JOEL DESCRIBED TO YOU YESTERDAY. OVER THERE IS A FACTORY WHERE THEY MAKE DIAMOND-TIPPED TOOLS.



BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE SURE THAT WE REMEMBER OUR PAST. THESE ARE THE ORIGINAL BUILDINGS FROM WHEN DEGANYA WAS FIRST BUILT.



THIS ONE WE MADE INTO A MUSEUM SO OUR CHILDREN CAN ALWAYS KNOW THE HISTORY OF THEIR HOME.



PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND LOOK AROUND.



IS WHAT JOEL TOLD US TRUE? WAS IT REALLY A SWAMP?



WELL, IT STILL DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE WAS NO ONE ALREADY LIVING HERE.



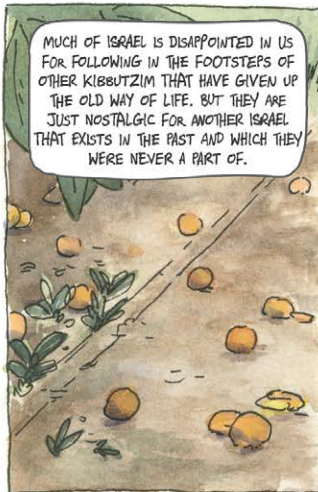
THESE MUST BE THE ORIGINAL "PIONEERS" THAT JOEL WAS TALKING ABOUT.



THEY WERE SO YOUNG!











AFTER LEAVING GIL WITH HIS FAMILY AT DEGANYA AND HAVING DINNER, OUR GROUP IS BUSSSED OVER TO ANOTHER LOCAL KIBBUTZ WHICH HAS ITS OWN BAR. IT'S PURIM, WHICH IS KIND OF LIKE JEWISH HALLOWEEN, SO EVERYONE IS DRESSED UP.



THE LOCALS SEEM TO TOLERATE OUR GROUP.



BUT MELISSA IS A HIT WITH THE U.N. PEACEKEEPERS WHO ARE STATIONED IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND HAVE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR SOME R&R.



THERE'S A LUNAR ECLIPSE TONIGHT SO NADAN AND I GO OUTSIDE TO CHECK IT OUT. NADAN ASKS ME WHAT I THINK OF ISRAEL.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ISRAEL?

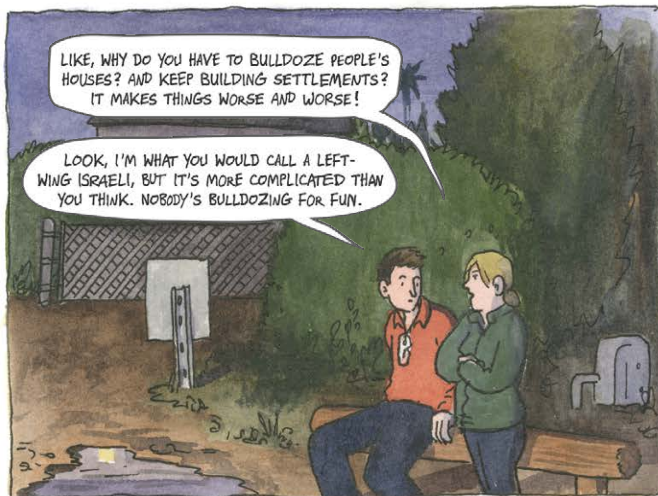
WELL, I LIKE IT MORE THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD... BUT I'M SORRY...

...THE WHOLE PALESTINIAN SITUATION REALLY MAKES IT HARD TO FOCUS ON THE GOOD.



UGH. THE SITUATION, THE SITUATION. ALWAYS IT'S THE SITUATION. CAN'T YOU THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?

WELL, IT'S KIND OF A BIG DEAL, DON'T YOU THINK?



LIKE, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BULLDOZE PEOPLE'S HOUSES? AND KEEP BUILDING SETTLEMENTS? IT MAKES THINGS WORSE AND WORSE!

LOOK, I'M WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A LEFT-WING ISRAELI, BUT IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN YOU THINK. NOBODY'S BULLDOZING FOR FUN.

