

# Comics

LIFE IN HELL

## HOW TO GET BEYOND STRESS

LET'S FACE IT: WE ARE ALL STRESSED TO THE MAX. FOR SOME SENSITIVE PEOPLE, MERELY READING THE PHRASE STRESSED TO THE MAX" CAUSES STRESS.

"I'M SO STRESSED I CAN HARDLY STAND TO LOOK AT YOU." "OHH, MOODY."

FEW OF US KNOW HOW TO GET BEYOND STRESS. WE YELL AT THE TV, WE HONK IN TRAFFIC, WE RIP UP OUR LOSING LOTTERY TICKETS, WE SNAP AT OUR LOVED ONES-- BUT SOMEHOW IT ISN'T ENOUGH.

"DON'T CALL ME MOODY, GRUMPY." "DON'T CALL ME GRUMPY, MOODY."

SO WE TRY TO GET PEACE OF MIND BY EATING TASTY SNACK TREATS, PUFFING ON SOOTHING CIGARETTES, DRINKING DELICIOUS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OR SMOKING RELAXING CRACK.

"HUZZA BIMBA! MAMBI GLAM!"

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by MATT GROENING

GARY, DO YOU REALIZE YOUR AQUARIUM HAS A SHRE HORN, AND A CONTAINER AND AN ASSORTMENT OF DEAD FISH INIT?

SO SOME BIG DEAL.

YOU'LL SEE TONIGHT WHEN YOU'RE LYING IN BED, YOUR CONSCIENCE WON'T LET YOU SLEEP.

FAT CHANCE.

I AM THE GHOST OF AQUARIUMS PAST...

I HATE ROBOTMAN.

AND YET WE OFTEN END UP JUST AS STRESSED AS WHEN WE STARTED.

"I HATE MYSELF FOR LOVING YOU." "WE ARE A LIKE IN MANY WAYS."

SO HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO. SIT ON A COMFY SOFA IN A DARK, WARM, QUIET ROOM. TURN OFF THE TV, OR AT LEAST KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN.

"PLEASE DON'T WHISTLE."

STARE AT A BLANK WALL. BREATHE SLOWLY AND DEEPLY. EACH TIME YOU EXHALE, REPEAT THE WORD "STRESS" TO YOURSELF. THIS WILL BE YOUR MANTRA.

"STRESS" "STRESS" "STRESS" "STRESS" "STRESS" "STRESS"

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WAKE UP EVERY MORNING AND WONDER WHICH ONE OF YOUR BUDDIES YOU'LL FIND FLOATING BELLY UP?

ACTUALLY, NO.

AND DO YOU REMEMBER LITTLE JOEY? REMEMBER HOW POOR OLD LITTLE JOEY DIED? HMM? WELL, MAYBE I CAN REFRESH YOUR MEMORY...

"\*GULP\*"

SO HOW DOES GLASS WOOL FEEL ON YOUR FANNY?

"OK-OK, I'M SORRY. I LEFT LITTLE JOEY IN THE FILTER FOR TWO WEEKS!"

VISUALIZE YOUR BODY AS THE RUSTY, HOLLOW HULL OF A SUNKEN OCEAN FREIGHTER, AND THE WORD "STRESS" AS A GIANT EEL SWIMMING IN AND OUT OF YOUR PORTHOLES.

"DON'T CALL ME PERCY, CHUCKIE." "DON'T CALL ME CHUCKIE, PERCY."

CONTINUE BREATHING DEEPLY WHILE THE EEL SLITHERS THROUGH YOUR DEPTHS. SOON THE EEL WILL SWIM AWAY, AND YOU WILL FEEL RELAXED AND REFRESHED.

"CHUCKIE! PERCY!"

JUST LOOK AT ALL THE POOR SUCCERS AROUND YOU WHO ARE LIVING IN CONSTANT MENTAL TURMOIL. BUT NOT YOU. YOU HAVE ACHIEVED INNER PEACE. YOU SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED WITH YOURSELF.

"GRUMPY..." "MOODY..." "I FORGIVE YOU."

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW YOU NEGLECTED TO FEED US...

"WHOA NOW, JUST LAST WEEK I SPRINKLED A BAG OF CHEESE DOODLES IN THE AQUARIUM..."

BUT FISH AREN'T SUPPOSED TO EAT CHEESE DOODLES!... DEBBIE DIED TRYING TO EAT A CHEESE DOODLE!

"ACTUALLY, NO."

WE FOUND HER BELLY-UP WITH ARTIFICIAL ORANGE COLORING ALL OVER HER GILLS!

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, HE'LL BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SWEET TARTS.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The Cyclops family at breakfast.



"Wouldn't you know it!... And always just before a big date!"



"So!... You must be the one they call 'The Kid.'"



"By the way, we're playing cards with the Millers tonight... And Edna says if you promise not to use your X-ray vision, Warren promises not to bring his Kryptonite."



Layout by Benny Smith