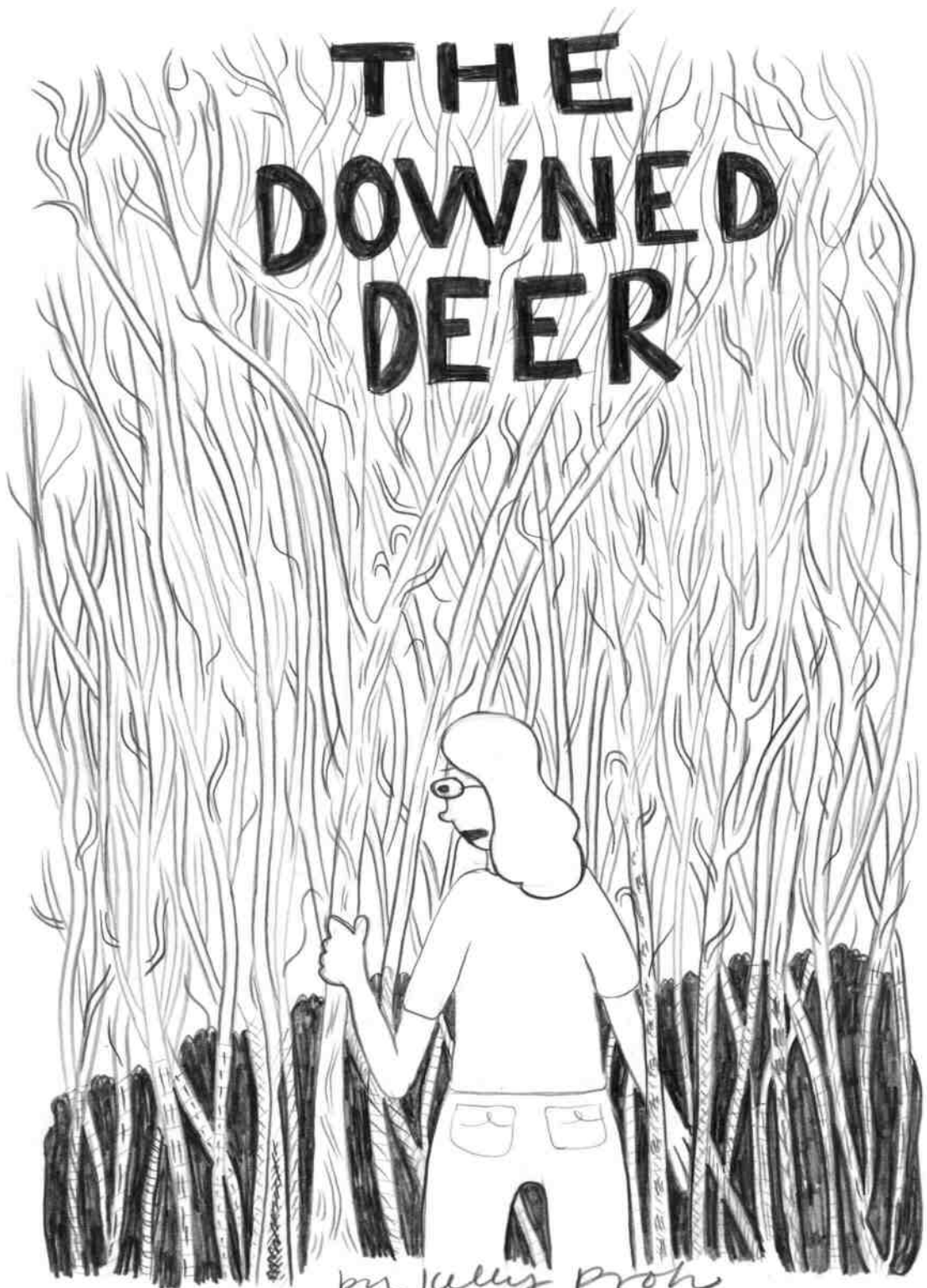
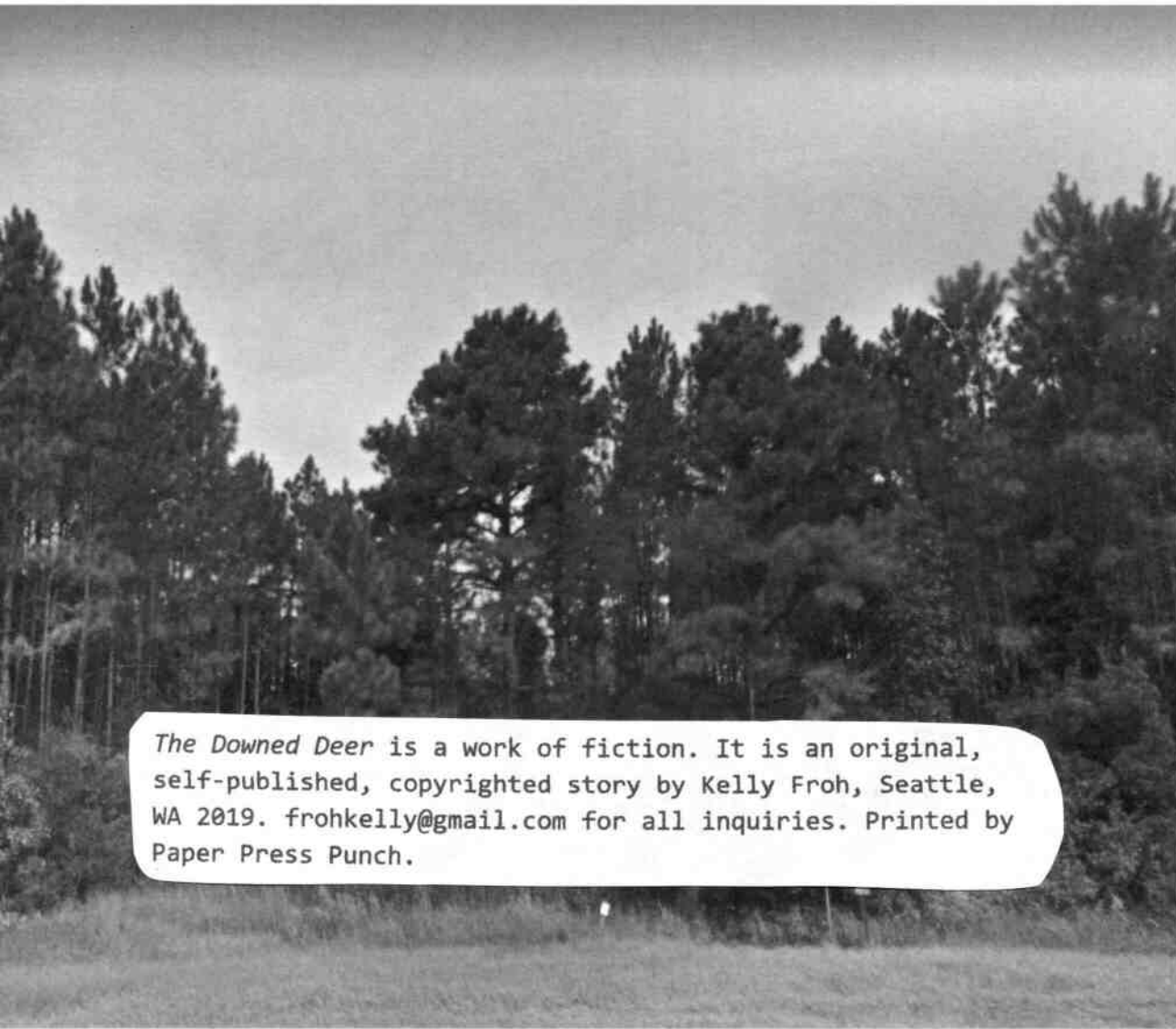


THE DOWNED DEER



by Kelly Proh



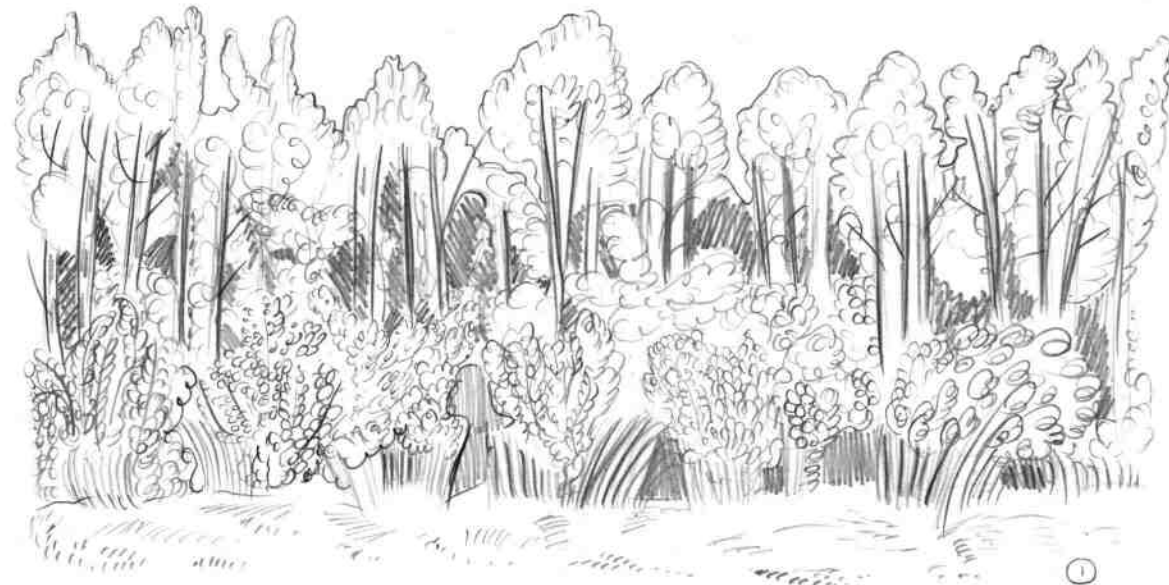
The Downed Deer is a work of fiction. It is an original, self-published, copyrighted story by Kelly Froh, Seattle, WA 2019. frohkelly@gmail.com for all inquiries. Printed by Paper Press Punch.



I might want to move back here one day.



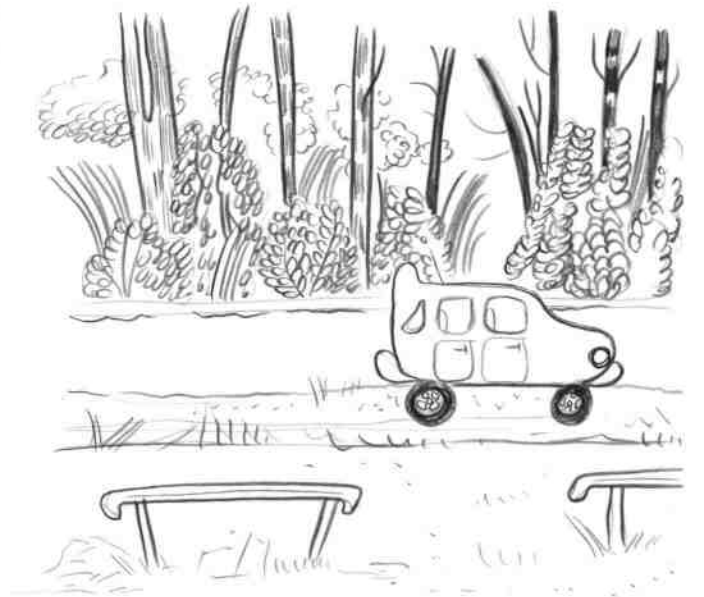
Hmm... I don't know. The humidity might do me in.







Umon! Geez!
Are you taking
a **dump** too?



Hey!
Hey,
honey?



Max!
Max!



Honey?

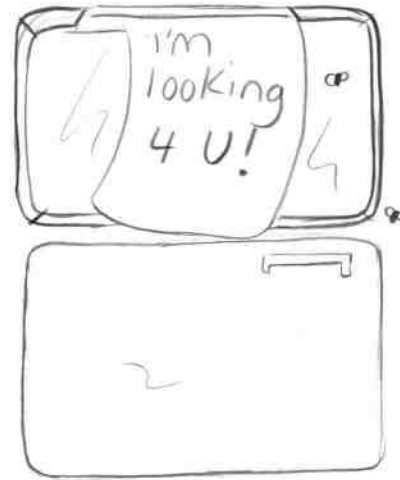
4



Not.
Funny.



5



One hour later...





Hi. I'm on Hwy 27 going west. We just passed Mayo? My boyfriend stopped on the side of the road to pee and I can't find him. He didn't come back, it's been over an hour.



What's your name miss?



Kelly Froh F-R-O-H. We're driving back to Atlanta. He's just... disappeared.



Do you think he's maybe playing a joke on you?



I did, but not anymore, it's been too long.



What's your car make, model, and license #. And how long did you say he's been gone for?



Scion XA. BnJ231. It's been over an hour now!



OK, let's see. What's your boyfriend's name?



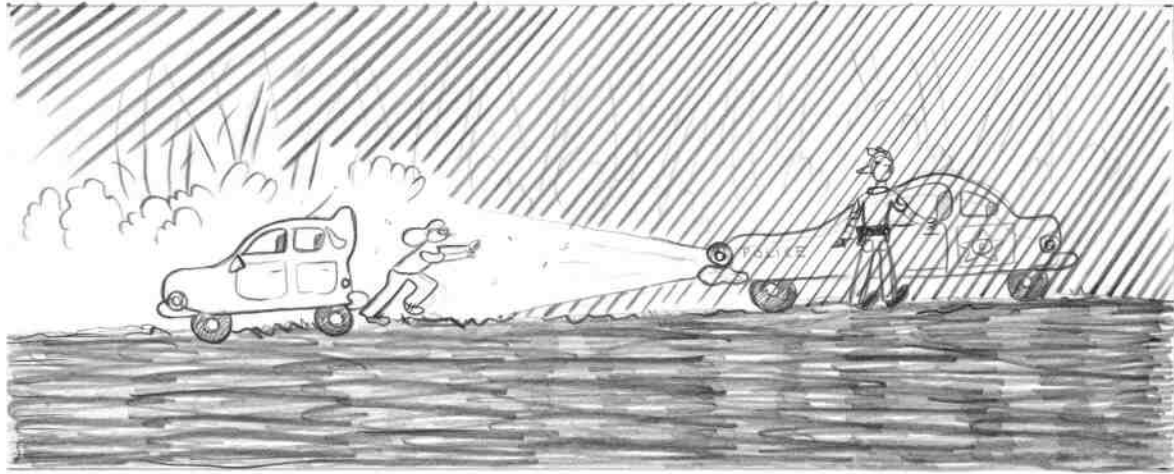
max Clotfelter, 6'2" 200 lbs. 40 yrs old long curly brown hair, beard, wearing shorts, plaid shirt, baseball hat...



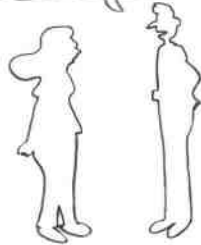
OK. It looks like I have Hwy Patrol 30 minutes out. Hold tight. Make sure your car is a safe distance off the road.

HOLD TIGHT.
The Trooper is on his way.





Tell me what happened!!!



Ok I'm gonna call this in. We'll get some people out here in the morning. Do you need help to find a motel?



What?! I'm not leaving!

Miss, you should really just get to a safe place for the night.



I'm not leaving this spot! What if he comes out of the woods and I'm not here?



I can't advise you to stay in your car on the side of the road alone at night.



I'm more scared of not being here, than being here.

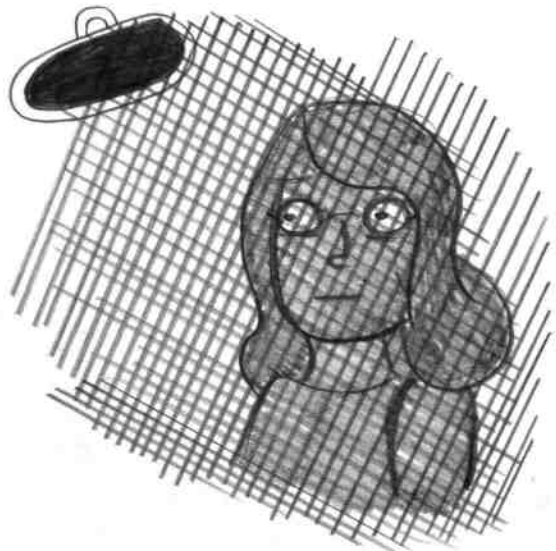


OK, we'll be back in the morning. Call us if he comes out. Keep your car locked.

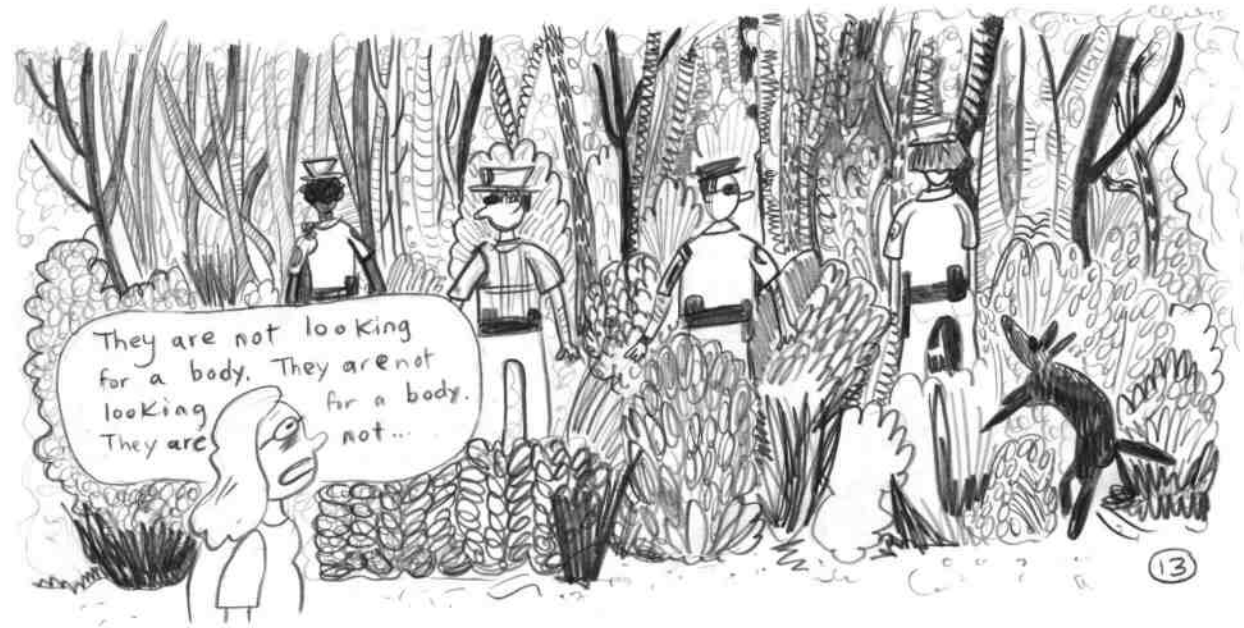




DAY 2



12



13



Hey Sweetie. You ok?
We brought you
some supplies



Wow, hi,
Thank you
so much!

I'm Aileen. We're
from Mayo. my son
the trooper told us
you were out here.

This is
Bunny.

and Dorie.



14

We're so sorry you are out
here. What do you think happened
to your boyfriend?



I honestly don't know.
I can't believe he would
get lost.

Once you are in there,
everything does look
the same in every
direction...



Yeah, I noticed that.

But I truly
feel he would
be able to
find a way
out.



I bet he
will pop out
any minute
and feel so
bad for scaring
you!



15





~ You know, you don't have to be such a BITCH!

What? Look, I'm sorry, whoever you are. I'm in a stressful situation over here. Thank you for reaching out to offer help, but I really just want to keep this line open and not run out of battery, OK, do you understand?

~ yes. I understand. <end>



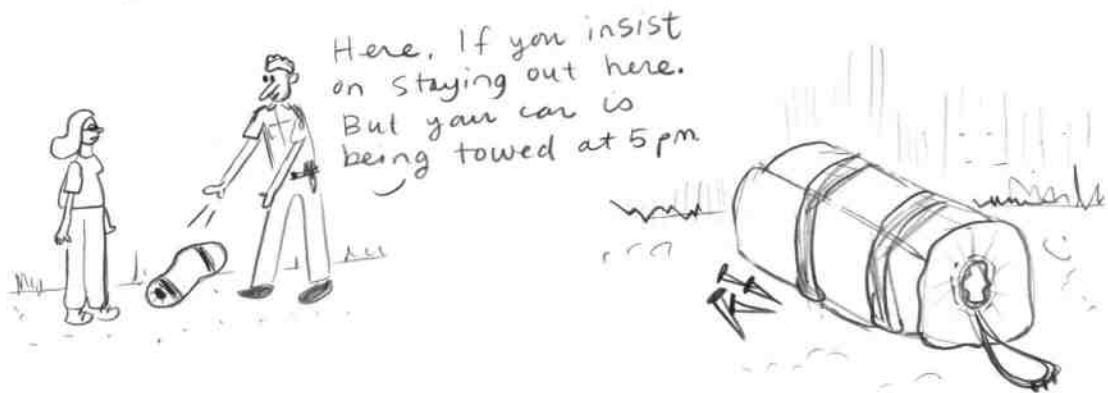
Day 4



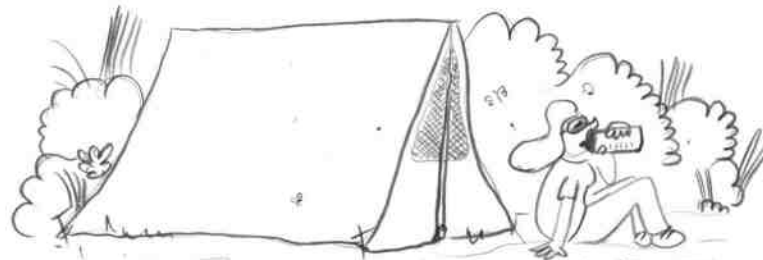
This is private land, the owner wants you gone and it's against the law to leave a car on the side of the road for more than 4 days. No one wants you out here.

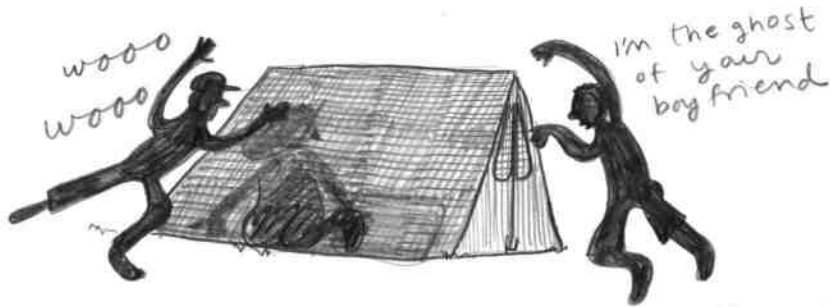
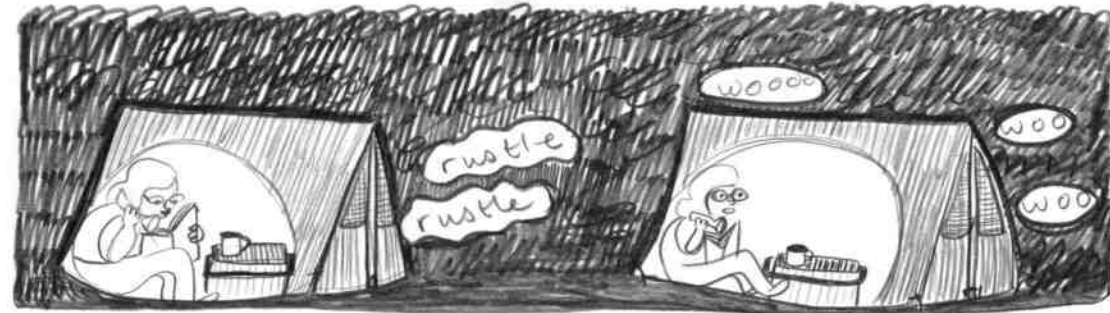


You've "stranded" yourself.



DAY 5





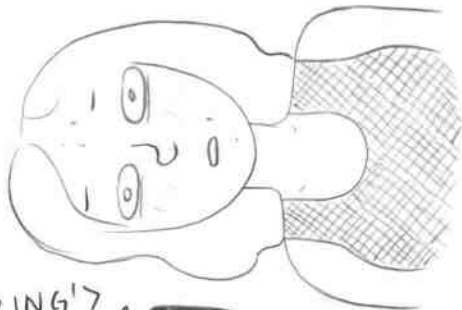
DAY 6





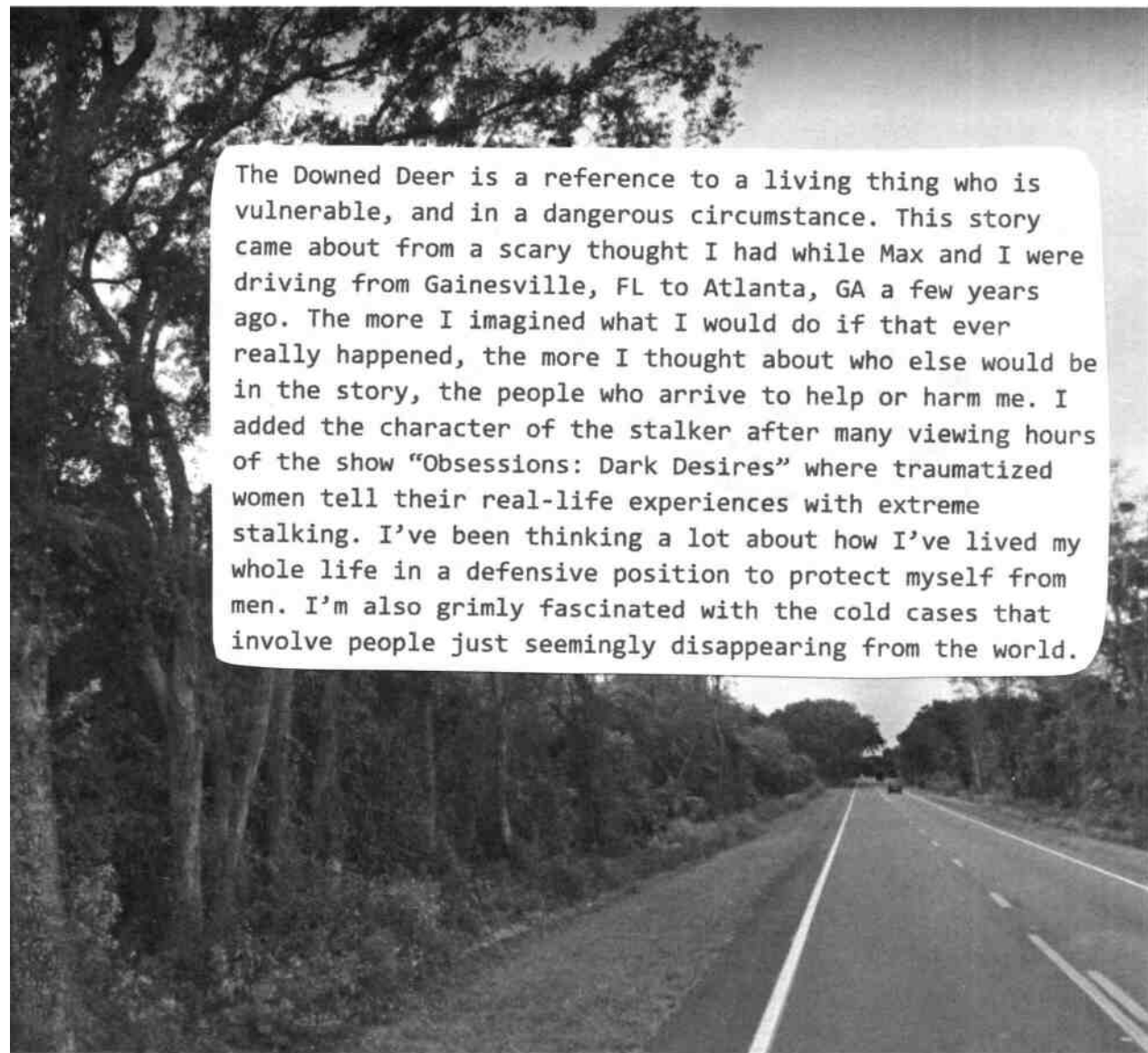
Day 7





<RING!>
<RING!>





The Downed Deer is a reference to a living thing who is vulnerable, and in a dangerous circumstance. This story came about from a scary thought I had while Max and I were driving from Gainesville, FL to Atlanta, GA a few years ago. The more I imagined what I would do if that ever really happened, the more I thought about who else would be in the story, the people who arrive to help or harm me. I added the character of the stalker after many viewing hours of the show "Obsessions: Dark Desires" where traumatized women tell their real-life experiences with extreme stalking. I've been thinking a lot about how I've lived my whole life in a defensive position to protect myself from men. I'm also grimly fascinated with the cold cases that involve people just seemingly disappearing from the world.

... 911. What's
your emergency?

