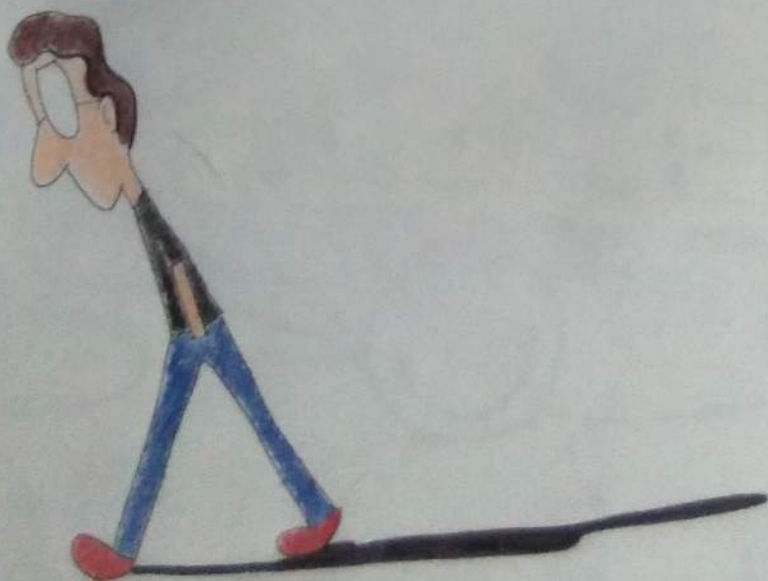


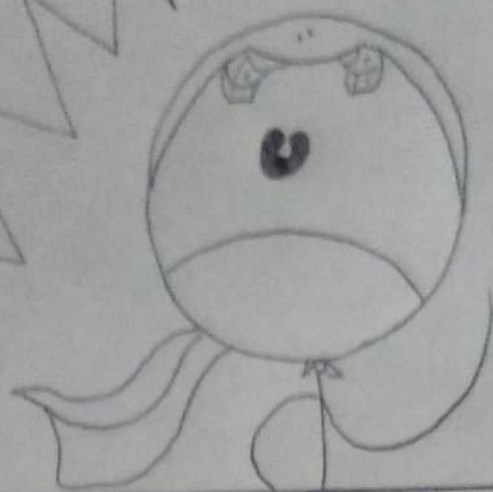
Tears on a weapon

OR

How I wrote a 64K word
fanfiction which nobody
wanted to read



IT IS I, J-man CHILDHOOD SUPERHERO,
HERE TO SAVE THE DAY!



WHAT'S THIS?
A GROAN
FOR
HELP!

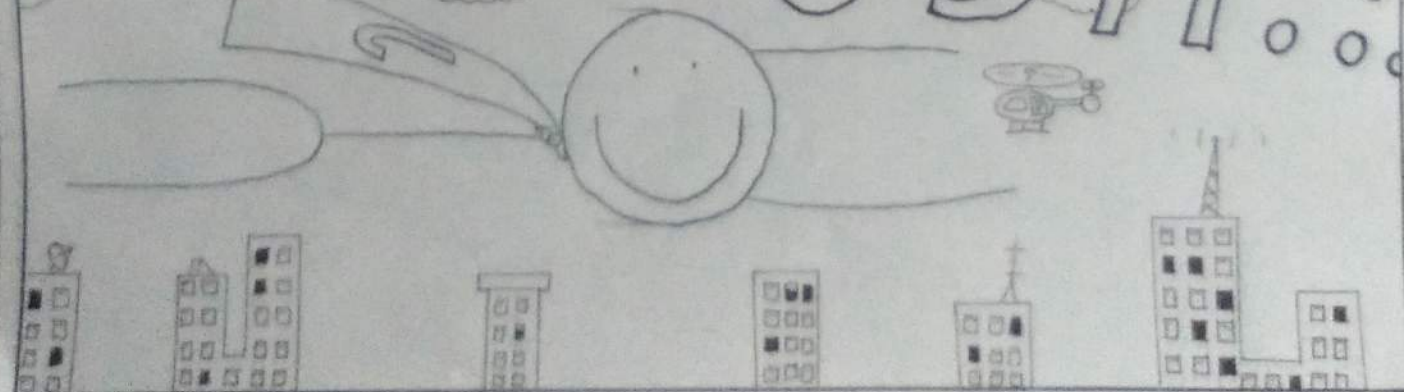
GROAN...

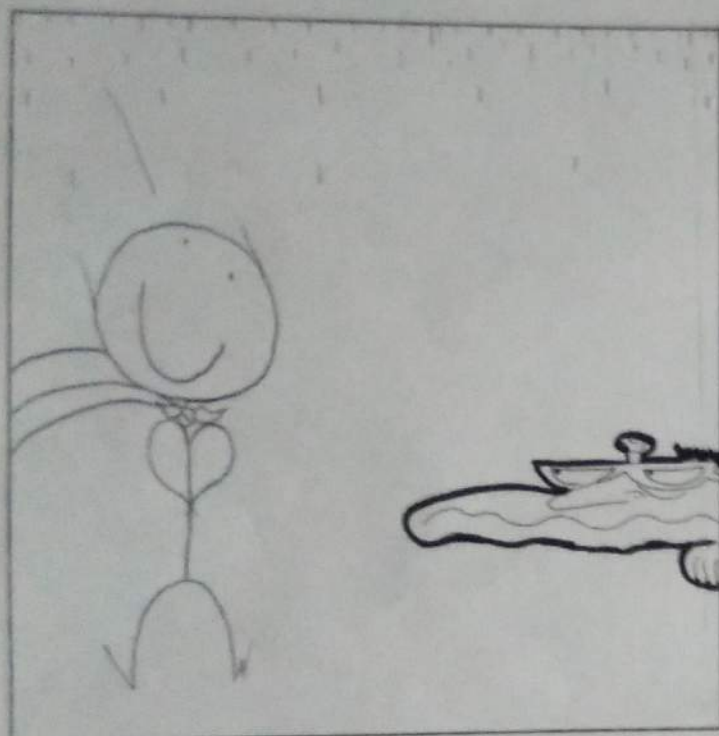
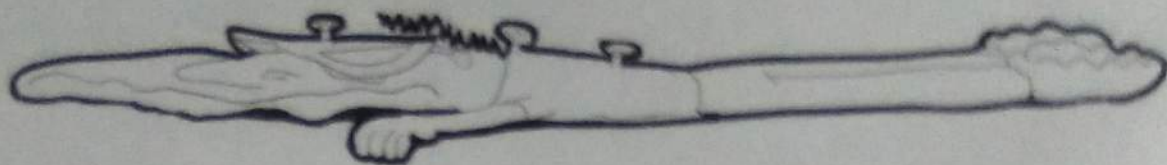


J-MAN TO THE
RESCUE!!!

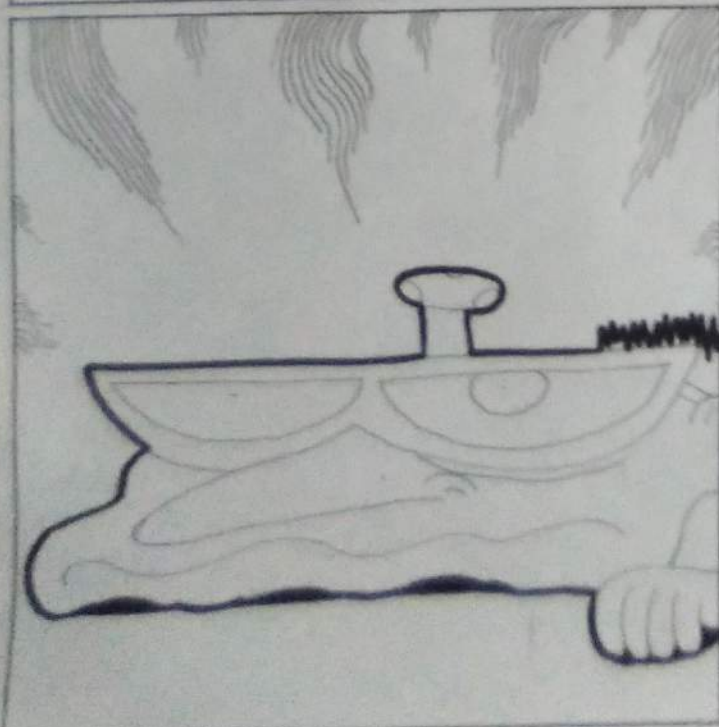


FWOOOOSH!!





GASP! IT'S MY CREATOR!
HE LOOKS PHYSICALLY,
EMOTIONALLY, MENTALLY,
AND, OF COURSE, CREATIVELY
BANKRUPT!



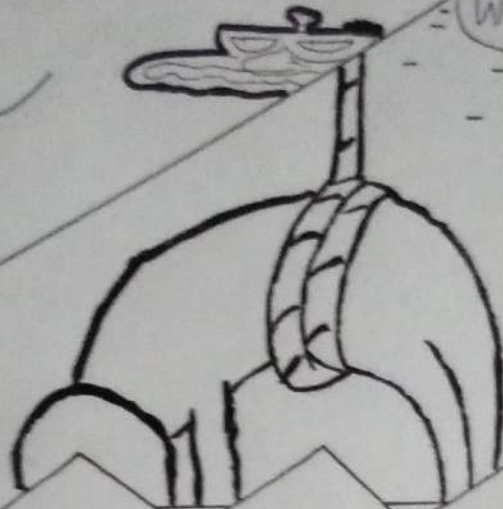
UGGH... J-MAN? SERIOUSLY?
I'M **THIS** DESPERATE
NOW



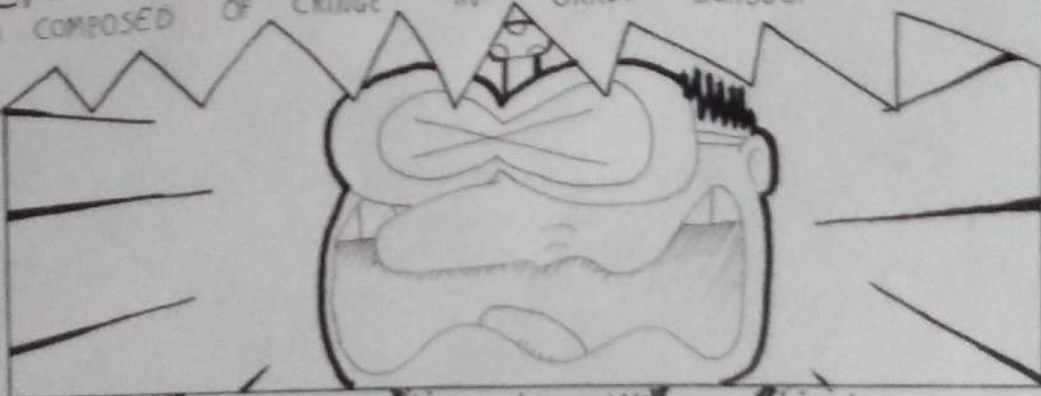
CREATOR! YOU HAVEN'T LONG! YOU
MUST TAKE MY HAND AND
INHERIT TWO DECADES WORTH
OF
**SUPER
LIFE!**

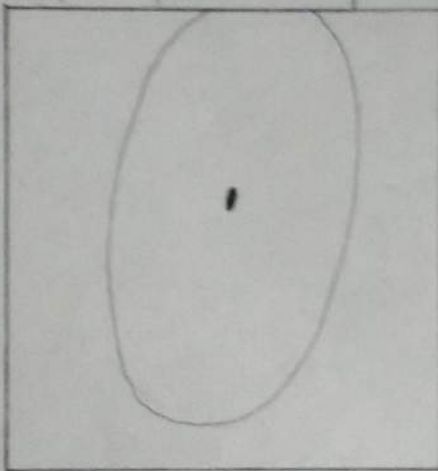
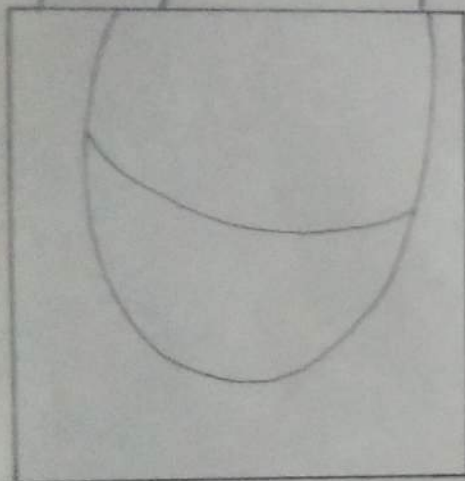
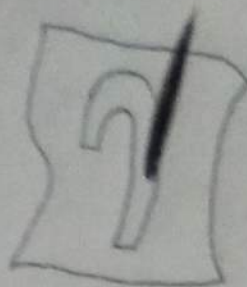
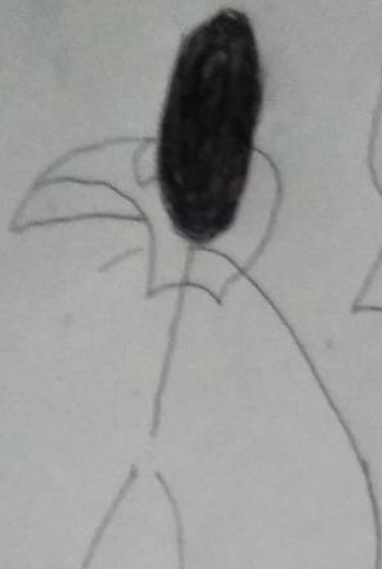
DUDE, I GREW OUT OF CAPTAIN
UNDERPANTS ONE DECADE
BEFORE DREAMWORKS-

HURRY!
I HAVE THE
POWER TO LEAP
TALL BUILDINGS
WITHOUT USING A
NIGHTROPE!



AH! I'LL DO IT! JUST DON'T
MENTION THE NIGHTROPE! SCREW ME WAS
I COMPOSED OF CRINGE IN GRADE SCHOOL!







THAT, RIGHT THERE, WAS A
SUPERHERO I CREATED, AS HE
SPECIFIED. TWO DECADES AGO



ONE OF, IF NOT THE LAST
FRAGMENTS, OF MY DATED
CHILDHOOD ÉLAN, TO HELP ME
BRING TO LIGHT SOMETHING
JUST AS PASSÉ FROM
BETWEEN THOSE TWO
DECADES. BUT FIRST LET
ME TAKE YOU TO THE
PLACE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN:
HIGH SCHOOL





IN HIGH SCHOOL I HAD TO
WRITE A MONOGRAPH, WHICH
IS PRETTY MUCH THE FORMER'S
EQUIVALENT OF A THESIS



DESPITE RECEIVING A
PASSING GRADE I NEVER
FELT AS THOUGH I
ACCOMPLISHED
ANYTHING.

THIS WAS MOSTLY DUE TO
MY REAL PASSION LYING IN
THE ESCAPE FROM THE
HELLS OF HIGH
SCHOOL:



FANFICTION






MY LOVE FOR IT DATES BACK TO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WHEN BOOKS (OR
I GUESS EVEN VIDEO GAMES)
ALONE NEVER CUT IT. IT WAS GENERALLY
TAKING SOMETHING THAT WASN'T
YOURS AND MAKING IT YOURS





AND YET IT WASN'T UNTIL I STARTED
JUNIOR HIGH WHEN I BEGAN
POSTING FANFICTION MYSELF.

SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER
AT THE TIME MY WORK RANGED
FROM COMEDY PARODIES TO ANGSTY
DRAMAS MADE BY SOMEONE WHO'S
FAVORITE MOVIE SEEMED TO
BE THE BREAKFAST CLUB.





THE 2000S WERE VERY MUCH
A GOLDEN AGE FOR FANFICTION,
WHICH, LIKE ANY DECADE, WAS
SADLY ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY
ANOTHER DECADE THAT RUINS THE
FORMER BEFORE BUILDING ITS
OWN FOUNDATION ABOVE ITS
RUBBLE, CONTINUING THE CYCLE.



ALTHOUGH I NEVER REALLY STOPPED
WRITING FANFICTION AFTER THE
2000S ENDED I DID WRITE
SOMETHING WHICH I WAS NEVER
ABLE TO REPLICATE ONCE
I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL
IN 2010. THE EPONYMOUS
FANFICTION OF 60 PLUS
THOUSAND WORDS.

NUMEROUS REASONS CONTRIBUTED TO MY INSPIRATION FOR IT, BUT THE CORE ANGLE WAS SIMPLY TO WRITE A SPRAWLING MULTI-CHAPTERED EPIC THAT WASN'T A COMEDY FOR ONCE, SOMETHING WHICH I EITHER FAILED AT OR NEVER WENT AS FAR AS MAYBE 14 CHAPTERS, JUST TO DELETE IT OUT OF SHAME ANYWAY.



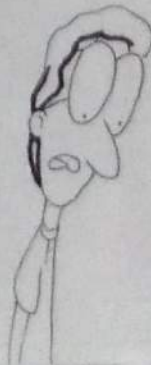
IT WAS HIGH SCHOOL, AND I WAS EXPOSED TO, "AHEM," FILTH, AT THE AGE OF 12. LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.



(PORN)

ALSO, IN 2009, I BECAME A FAN OF A CARTOON WHICH, WHILE FUN AT FIRST, AGED LIKE BREAD. THE OLDER IT GOT THE BLUER IT SEEMED UNTIL YOU FOUND OUT THESE BLUE SPOTS MEANT IT WAS TIME FOR IT TO RETURN TO NATURE, ALONG WITH ANYTHING ELSE THAT GREW A RATHER NASTY FUNGUS TO SHOW ITS AGE.

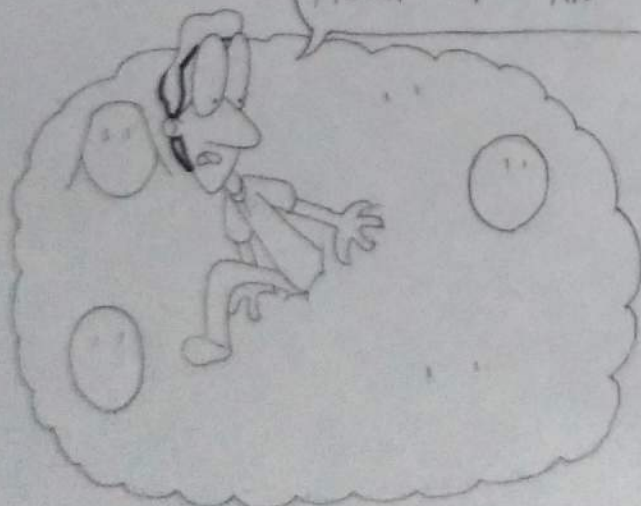
WHAT'S WORSE WAS HOW IN THAT SAME YEAR I JOINED A FORUM WHICH, WHILE A FAN OF THIS CARTOON, HAD THE SAME STRICT YET DATED TRAPPINGS OF SAID CARTOON AND ITS TIME.



THIS WAS MOSTLY BECAUSE THE FORUM
HAD BEEN AROUND SINCE THE EARLY
2000S (IF NOT THE LATE 90S) AND
EVEN ADMITTED IT WAS MORE OF A
REUNION FOR OLD FRIENDS FROM THOSE
HEYDAYS RATHER THAN ANYTHING FOR
NEWCOMERS.



BUT DESPITE THESE CRUTCHES,
NOT ONLY DID I GO TO A
HIGH SCHOOL WITH 15
SUBJECTS, BUT THEY WERE
90% IN A NON-ENGLISH
SPEAKING LANGUAGE (WHICH,
BY DEFAULT, WAS IN A
DIFFERENT COUNTRY) SO A
STRICT FANDOM WASN'T TOO
MUCH OF AN OBSTACLE..



WHAT **DID** GET IN
MY WAY, THOUGH, WAS
HOW DISTANT THE
FANDOM WAS BECOMING
THE MORE I TRIED TO
BE A PART OF IT.



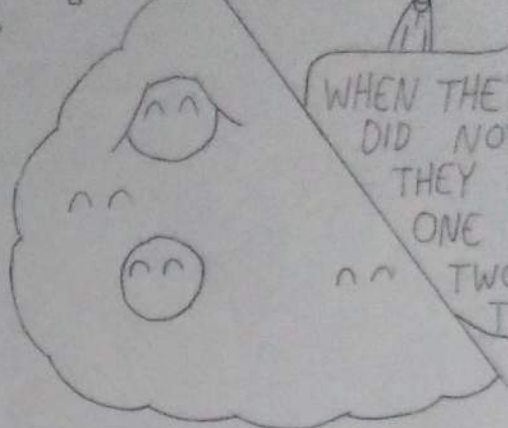
SOMETIMES I'D WRITE FUN THINGS. SOMETIMES I'D WRITE SERIOUS THINGS



WHEN THEY LIKED IT THEY MOTIVATED ME TO KEEP GOING (AND IN ONE CASE WERE EVEN INSPIRED BY MY ADMITTEDLY SILLY WORK).



WHEN THEY DID NOT THEY DID ONE OF TWO THINGS:



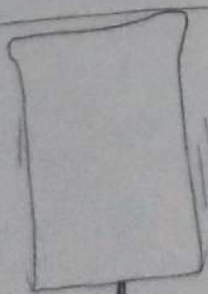
OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK, WHICH I TRIED MY HARDEST TO TAKE WITH A GRAIN OF SALT (EVEN THOUGH THE NEGATIVE ENERGY MAY HAVE BEEN USED TO FUEL MY LATER EFFORTS)



OR THEY WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL, WHICH ONLY MOTIVATED ME TO TRY HARDER.



COMBINE THOSE AND YOU'VE GOT THE AFOREMENTIONED EPONYMOUS FANFICTION (BUT I'M GETTING THERE)



ONE ANECDOTE NOT MANY KNOW IS THAT, WHILE THE STORY IN ITSELF IS THE BASIS OF THIS FANFICTION, IT DIDN'T EXACTLY START OUT AS ONE.



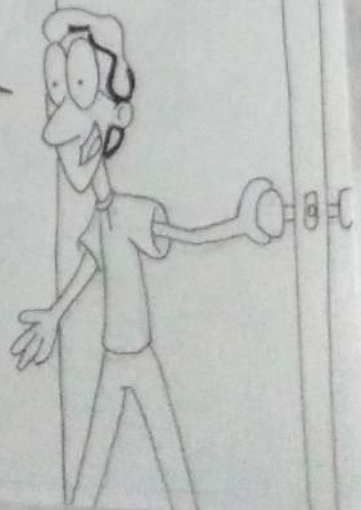
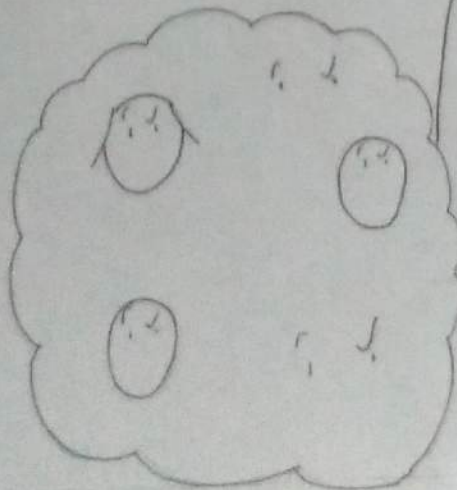
MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO PULL THIS STORY
OFF DATES BACK TO EARLY 2010, WHEN
I TRIED INCORPORATING THE CARTOON
WITH MY OWN ORIGINAL COMIC, AT
THE TIME, AS A CROSSOVER.



TO MAKE THAT MEDIUM STORY SHORT I
BIT ON MORE THAN I COULD CHEW BY
ATTEMPTING IT IN COMIC FORM AND
SCRAPPED IT.



IT WAS, HOWEVER,
WHEN A YEAR
IN THE FANDOM
PASSED (SINCE
2010) THAT I
FELT 2011 WAS
WHEN I COULD
START ON IT
AGAIN.



SO WHEN IT COMES TO WRITING A FANFICTION
OF 64 THOUSAND WORDS I WANT TO SAY
ANYONE CAN DO IT.



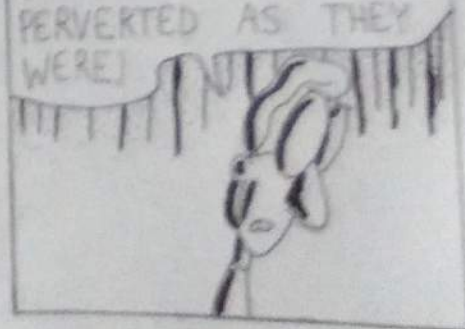
WHAT I DON'T WANT TO SAY
(IF NOT **CAN'T** SAY)

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU PROBABLY
EVEN NEED A HIGH SCHOOL
DEGREE FOR. IT CERTAINLY
DIDN'T SHOW IN MINE
DESPITE PROOF OTHERWISE

IS THAT IT'S ~~SAY~~ SOMETHING
YOU MUSN'T WANT TO DO. AS I'VE
PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FANFICTION,
AND THE ONES I'VE WRITTEN
IN THE PAST WITH MULTIPLE
CHAPTERS, IS THAT I ACTUALLY
FINISHED THIS ONE, AND THE
SOMEWHAT MASSIVE LENGTH.



THAT
AND, OF
COURSE, THE PAIN-
FUL FACT THAT MY
PREVIOUS EFFORTS
WERE ACTUALLY
WORTH READING (AS
PERVERTED AS THEY
WERE)



BUT WITHOUT ANY FURTHER
ADO (OR BEATING AROUND
THE BUSH) HERE IS
THE PLOT AS CONDENSED
AS I COULD MANAGE.



NOW FOR THE SAKE OF
KEEPING THE SOURCE AS
ANONYMOUS/SELF-CONFIDENTIAL
AS POSSIBLE I HAVE REPLACED
THE CARTOON (ALONG WITH THE ONES
IT'S CROSSED OVER WITH) AND
ITS CHARACTERS, WITH BADLY
DRAWN BY MEMORY HANNAH
BARBERA CHARACTERS.



