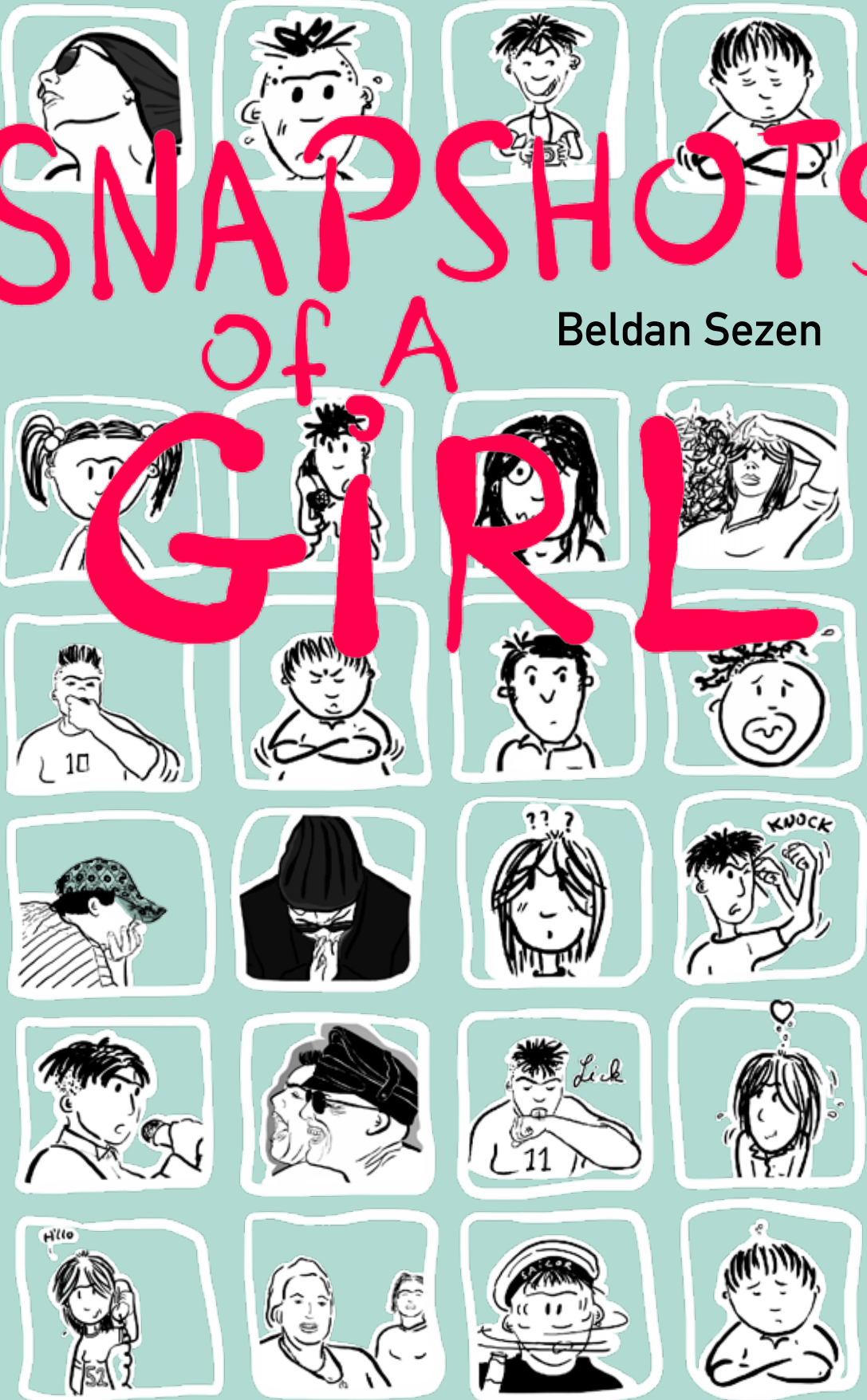


SNAPSHOTS

of A

Beldan Sezen

GIRL





first comic
love-letter

i entered 1993. The fling with my housemate didn't last long. She fell in love with a PEDRO. i was a little heartbroken but much too occupied with my new-found homecoming.

The lesbian women of our group took me under their wing, and i was declared a "baby dyke."

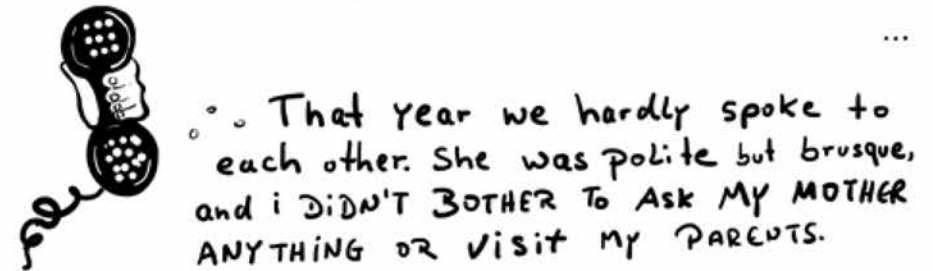
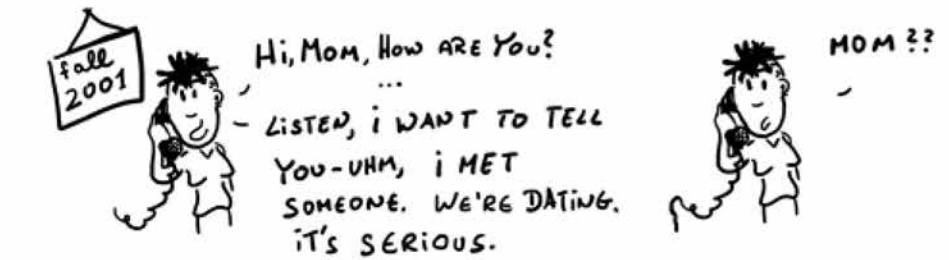


The highlight of the year was Berlin's annual lesbian-week happening. For one week, women would come together from all over the world to attend workshops and talk about the community—mainly pointing out the differences. This often resulted in (over-)heated discussions or fights, which split apart the already separated.



The evenings were filled with concerts, dance, drinking and making out... uniting what can be united.

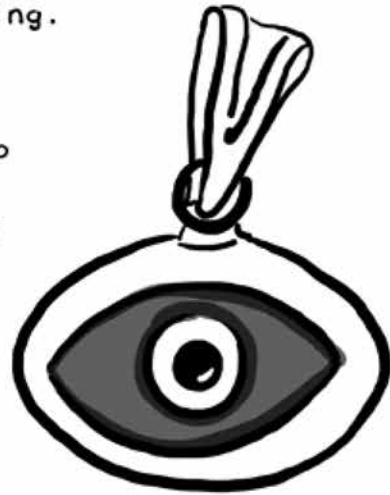
For me, the week would alter my life. I met a handful of people who would become dear friends. How lucky can one get?





While everyone else, my girlfriend included, chatted away freely, my mom and I hardly spoke. I was too overwhelmed and she excused herself, busy with the cooking.

Then I saw her go into her bedroom, open a closet door, take out one of her jewelry boxes, and go through it until she found what she was looking for.



I saw her approach my girlfriend in the hallway and give her the little bag, saying:

"That is the tradition in our culture."

A smile appeared on my puzzled girlfriend's face as she took out the little gold pendant.

"Yes" my mother continued, "that's what you give the daughter-in-law when welcoming her into the family."



She did her best. Despite her fears, wishes, choices, beliefs. And I am still her daughter. That's all I need to know.



SNAPSHOTS of a GIRL



Beldan Sezen

ISBN 978-1-55152-598-3

\$17.95 USA & Canada (other territories TBA)

176 pp; 7" x 10"

Trade paperback

Genre: GRAPHIC NOVELS (LGBT)

PUBLICATION MONTH:

Canada & USA: October 2015

UK/Australia/New Zealand:

November 2015

ARSENAL PULP PRESS

arsenalpulp.com

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Distributed in the USA by
Consortium

Distributed in Canada by
University of Toronto Press
(sales by Ampersand, Inc.)

Distributed in the UK/Europe by
Turnaround

Distributed in Australia/New
Zealand by NewSouth Books

EXCLUSIVE EXCERPTS AVAILABLE

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In this fresh, often funny autobiographical graphic novel, Beldan Sezen depicts her coming of age, and her coming out as lesbian, in both western and Islamic cultures (as the daughter of Turkish immigrants in western Europe)—to friends, family, and herself. Through a series of charming, self-deprecating vignettes that take place in North America, Germany, the Netherlands, and Turkey, she navigates the messy conflicts of her life, dealing with family issues, bad dates, sexual politics, and self-doubt with the honesty, humor, and spunk of a young woman simply looking for happiness around her. Imbued with the candor of Alison Bechdel and the quirk of Lynda Barry, *Snapshots of a Girl* is a thoroughly modern, pop culture-infused take on dyke life and cultural identity.

BELDAN SEZEN is an artist who uses drawing, collage, and text. Her previous graphic novels were *Zakkum* and *#GeziPark*. *Snapshots of a Girl* was first published in Italy. Born in Germany, she currently lives in Amsterdam. beldansezen.com

PLEASE NOTE: The artwork in the finished book will be printed at a higher resolution.