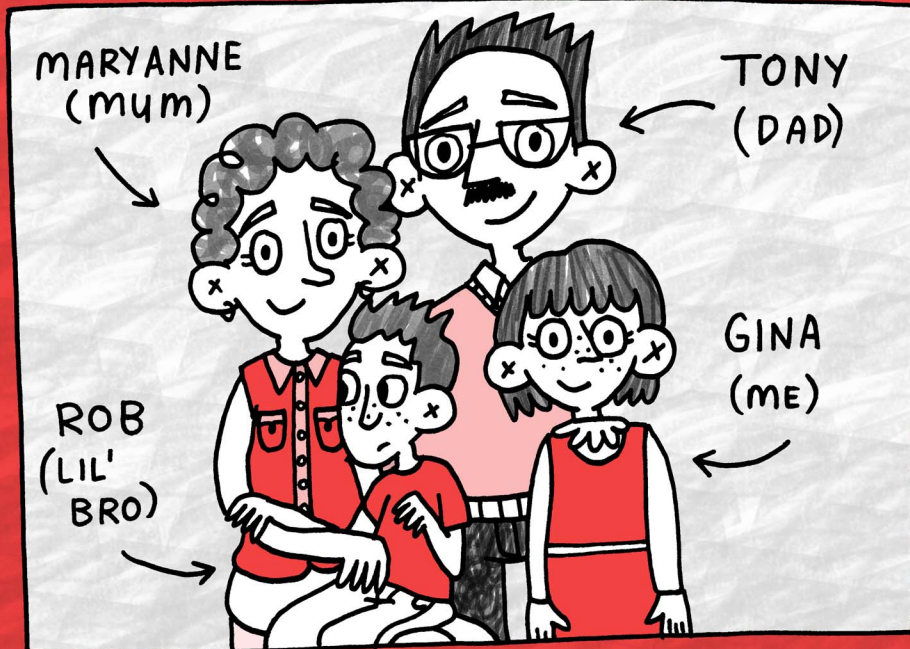


# FAMILY TRAITS

BY GEORGINA CHADDERTON



FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE I WAS TOLD I LOOK LIKE MY DAD.



I THINK IT'S THE NOSE.



AND SOUND LIKE MY MUM.

HELLO, MARYANNE!



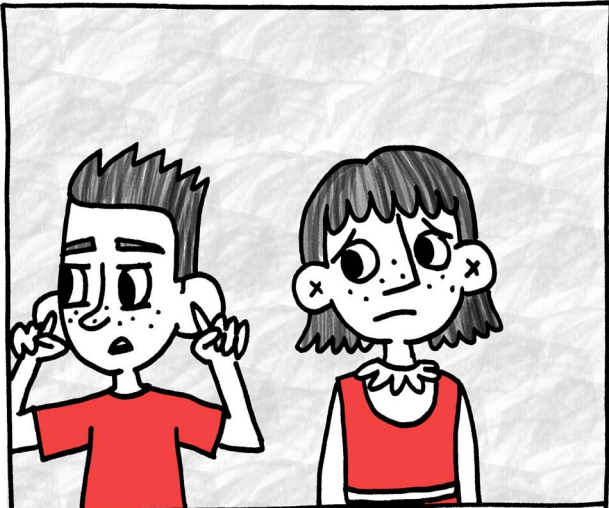
MUM HAS ALWAYS SAID THAT ROB LOOKS LIKE MY COUSIN SIMON.



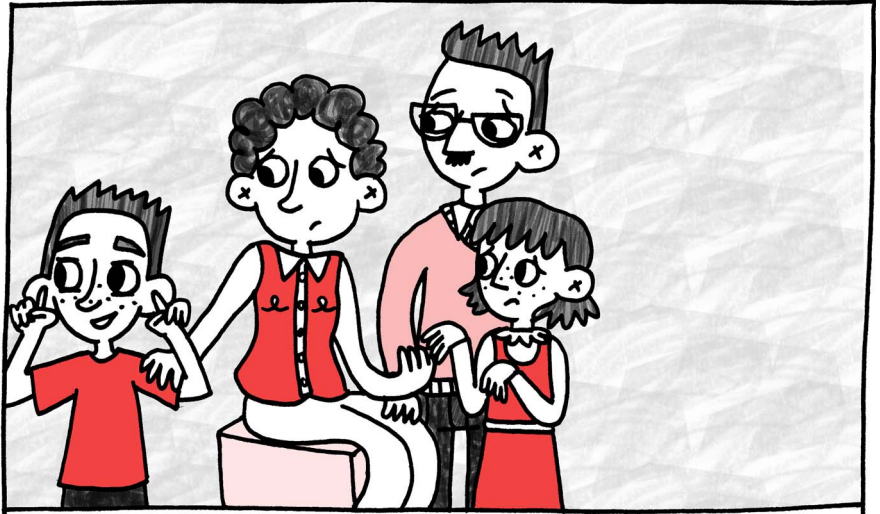
COUSIN SIMON.



I CAN KIND OF SEE IT BUT HAVE TROUBLE LOOKING PAST THE AUTISM.



I COULD NEVER SEE A FAMILY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN ME AND ROB.



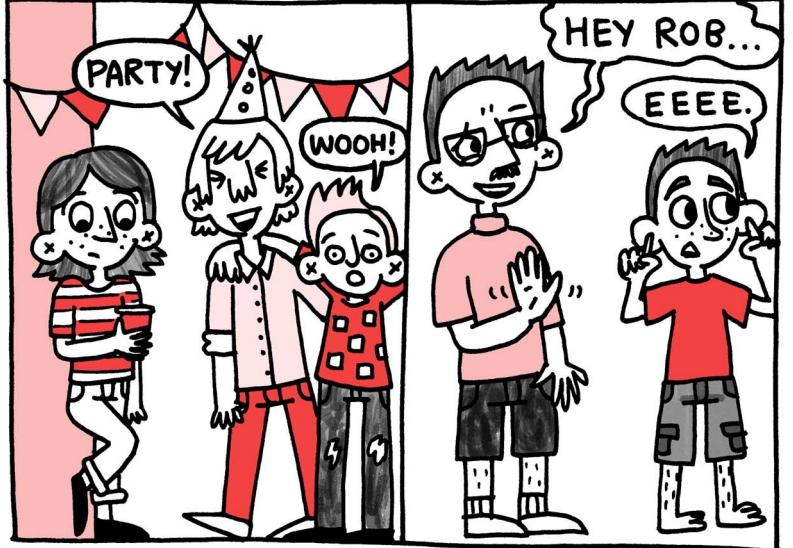
MOST OF THE TIME IT DIDN'T EVEN FEEL LIKE ROB WAS PART OF OUR FAMILY AT ALL.

GROWING UP WITH A BROTHER WITH AUTISM YOU CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY THAT YOU MIGHT BE ON THE SPECTRUM YOURSELF.

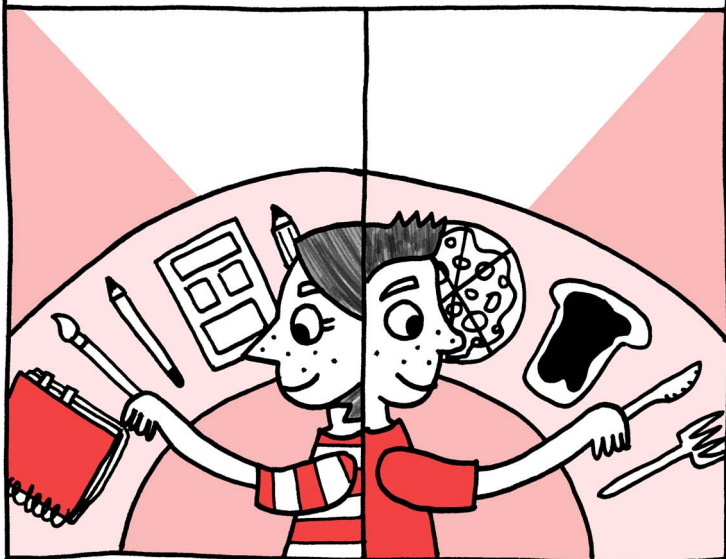


SOCIALLY

AWKWARD



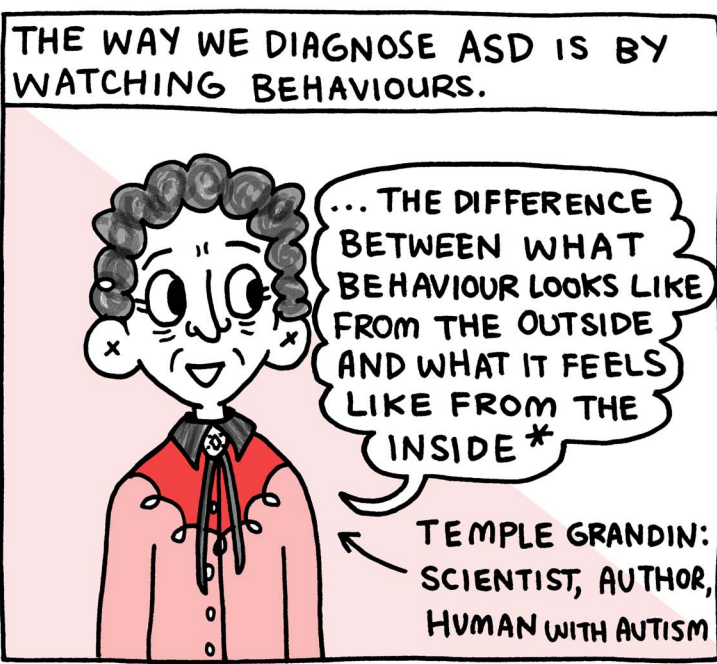
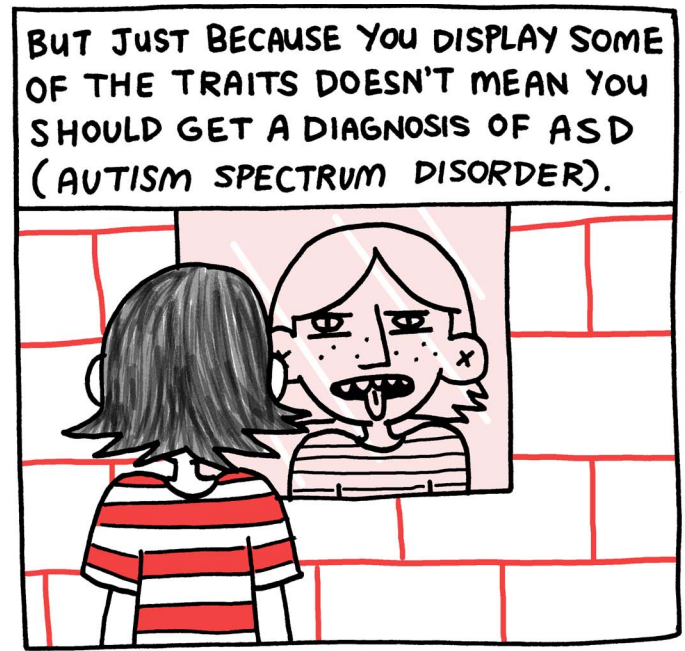
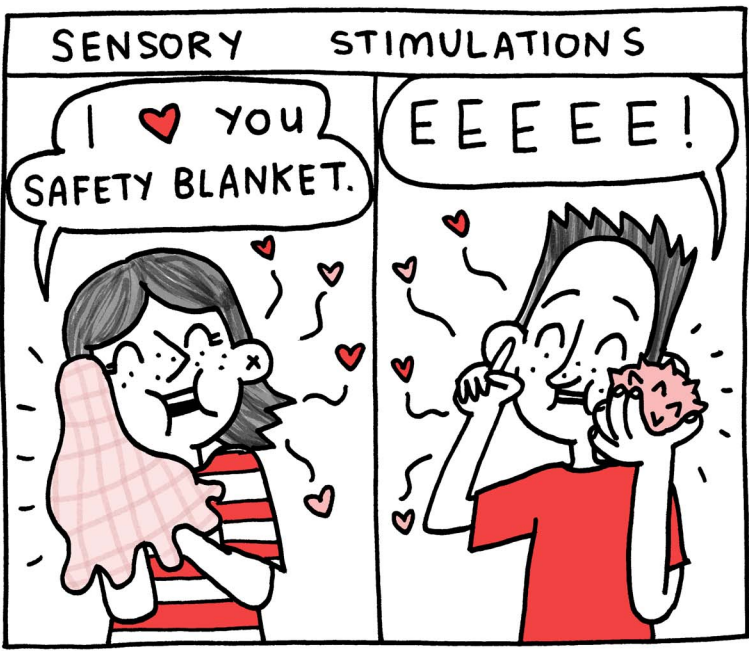
FOCUS ON DETAIL



REPETITIVE

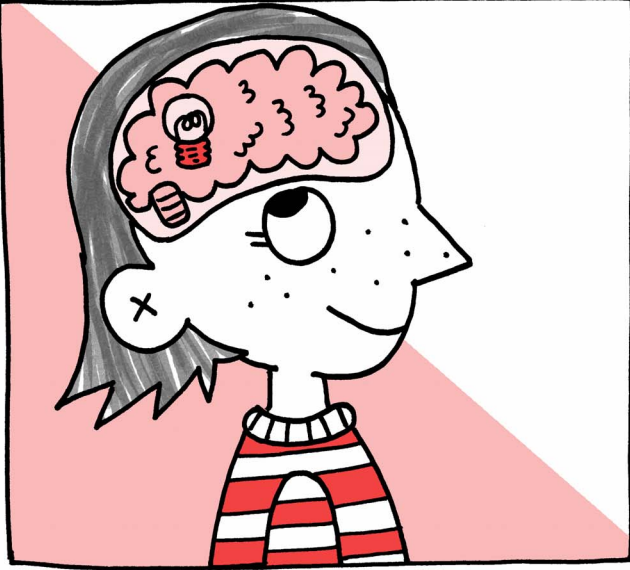
BEHAVIOUR





\* P.9 111 GRANDIN & PANEK, THE AUTISTIC BRAIN, 2013

WHEN I READ THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME IT CLICKED SOMETHING IN MY BRAIN.



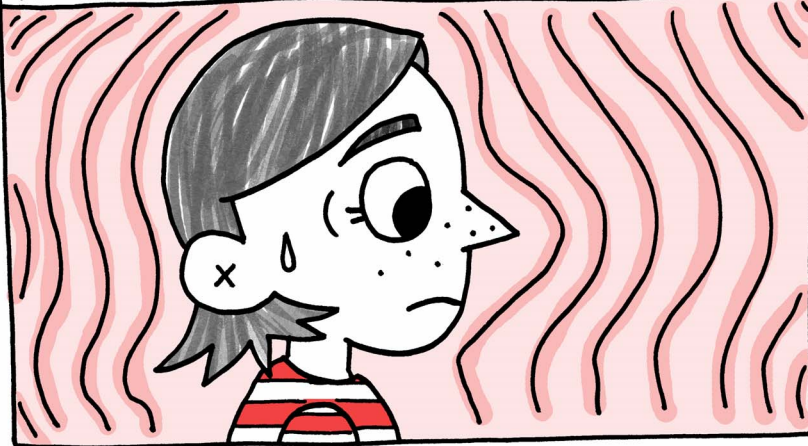
TO LOOK AT ME AND MY BEHAVIOURS, YOU WOULD NOT DIAGNOSE ME WITH ASD.



BUT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO ME INSIDE MY HEAD MIGHT GIVE YOU PAUSE.



ALL THIS HAPPENS IN A SPLIT SECOND. TALKING TO ME YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE. BUT IT FEELS LIKE THE WORLD HAS BROKEN AND ONLY I CAN FIX IT.



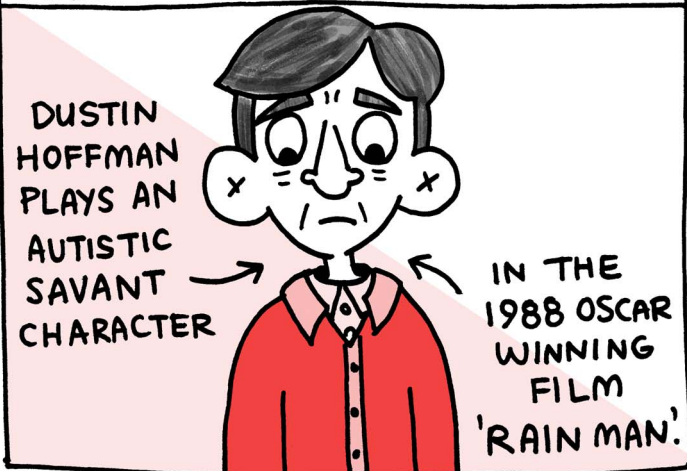
TO SOME WITH AUTISM, THIS FEELING IS SO HUGE, SO UNSTOPPABLE THAT THEY HAVE TO ACT.



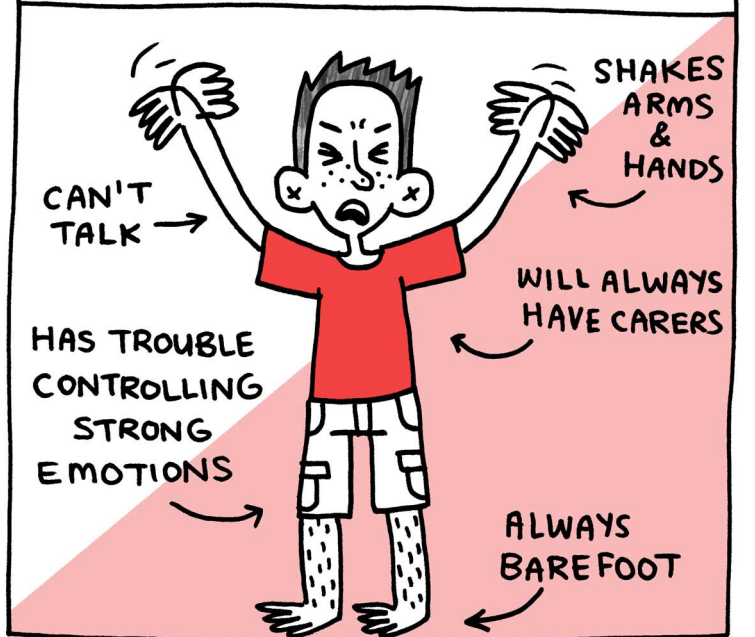
AT LEAST THAT'S HOW I SEE IT.



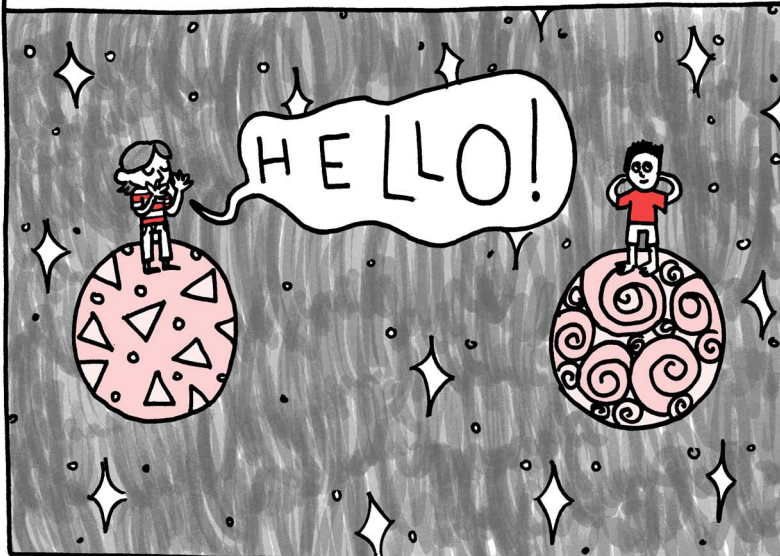
HOW DO YOU PICTURE SOMEONE WITH AUTISM? ARE THEY A SOCIALLY AWKWARD SAVANT? OR AN ADULT WHO ACTS AND REACTS LIKE A TODDLER? DO YOU SEE 'RAIN MAN'?



I SEE THIS, OBVIOUSLY.



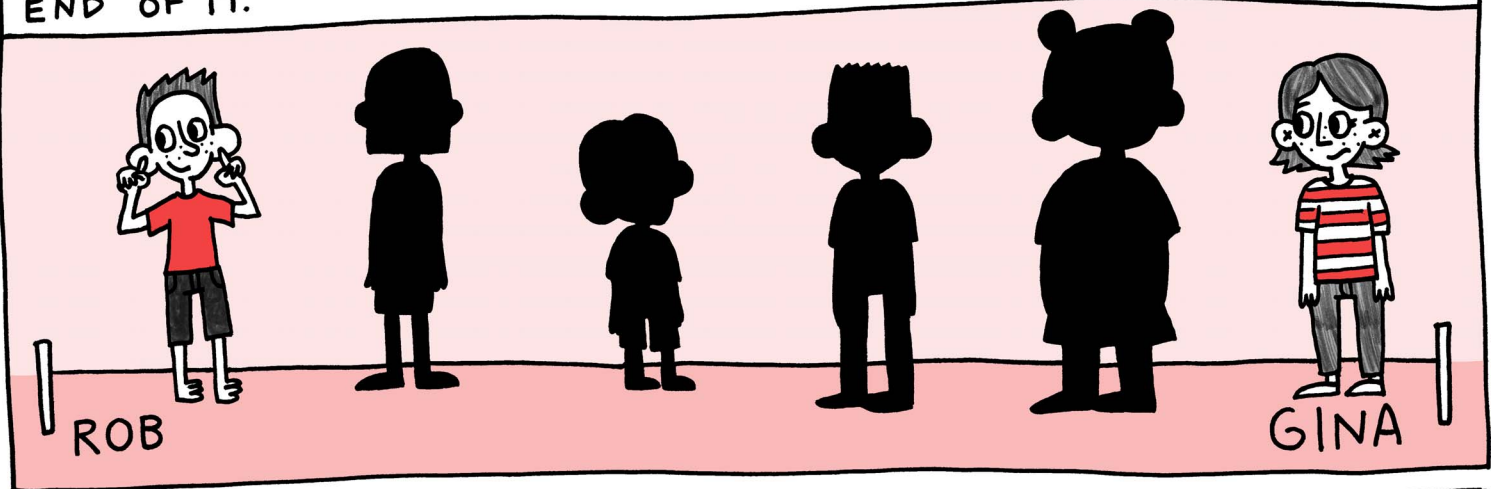
I USED TO THINK THAT ROB AND I WERE FROM TOTALLY DIFFERENT PLANETS.



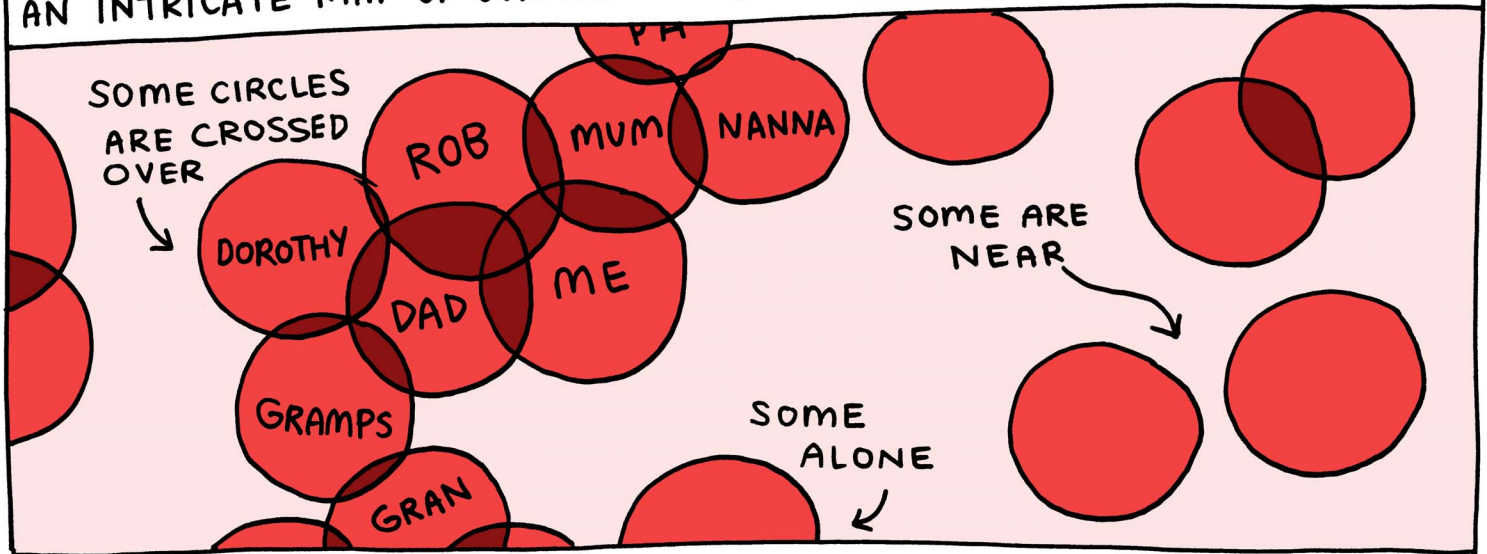
BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I REALISE THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON.



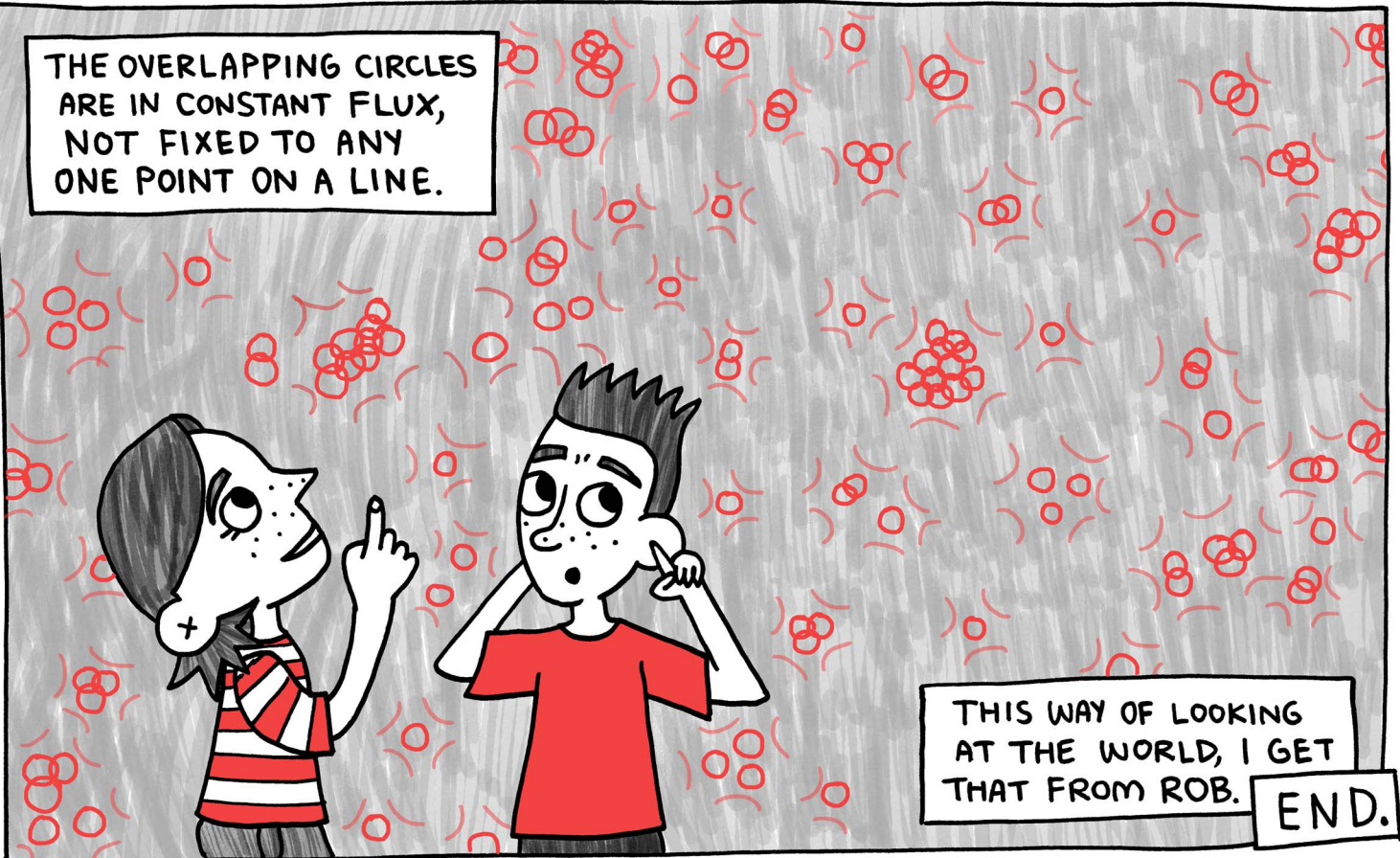
SOME PEOPLE SAY WE ARE ALL ON THE SPECTRUM AND AUTISM IS JUST ONE END OF IT.



I PREFER TO THINK OF EVERYONE NOT ON A SPECTRUM, BUT MORE LIKE AN INTRICATE MAP OF OVERLAPPING VENN DIAGRAMS.



THE OVERLAPPING CIRCLES ARE IN CONSTANT FLUX, NOT FIXED TO ANY ONE POINT ON A LINE.



THIS WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD, I GET THAT FROM ROB.

END.