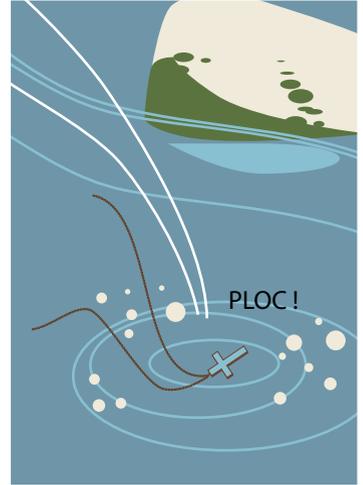
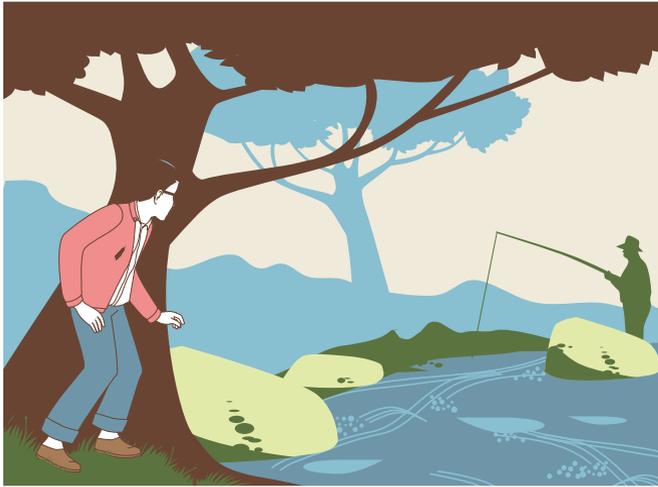


ADRIAN *and the* **TREE** *of* **SECRETS**

HUBERT

illustrations by **MARIE CAILLOU**







It was a complete freak-out.
Everyone was talking about it.
I had a really bad day.

Thanks for worrying about me,
but that's okay, I'm fine.



You'd better go home.
Your parents must be
super worried.





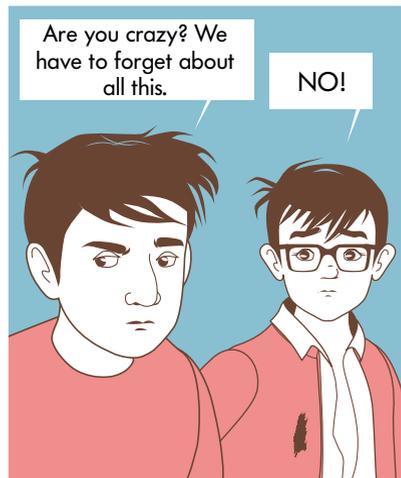
I don't want to see them.
I'm leaving this place.

Come with me.



But how would we live?

I don't know. We'll figure something out.



Are you crazy? We have to forget about all this.

NO!



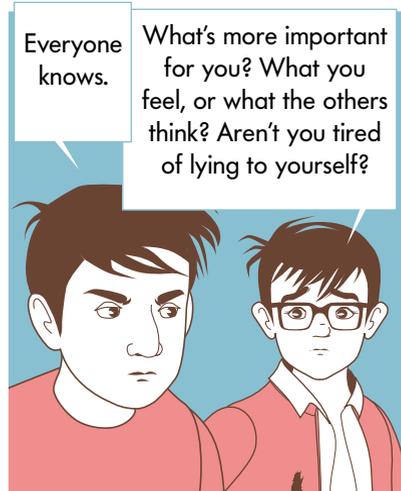
We have to stop talking to each other. I'm getting back together with Laura. She says she's not mad at me.

And what about us?



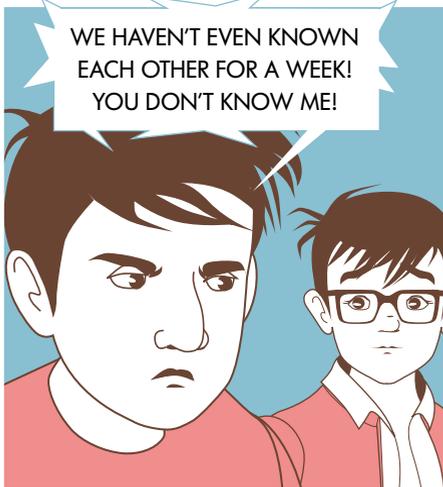
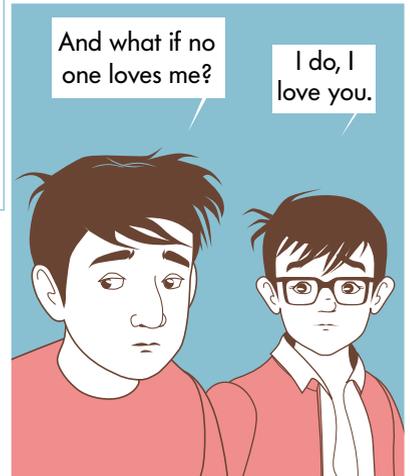
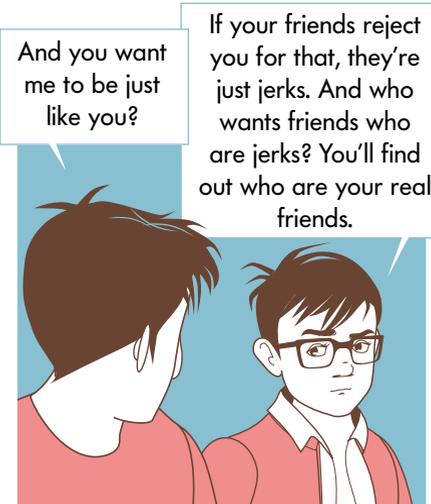
I don't want people to think I'm a faggot. Life would be hell.

But you don't love her! You're just using her to look cool for your friends.



Everyone knows.

What's more important for you? What you feel, or what the others think? Aren't you tired of lying to yourself?



ADRIAN *and the* TREE of SECRETS

Hubert & Marie Caillou
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Adrian isn't very happy these days. He lives in a small town, and goes to a Catholic high school. He wears glasses, secretly reads philosophy books, and wishes he had more muscles. He's dogged by a strict mother, bullied by fellow players on the soccer field, and chastised by the school principal, who considers rumors about Adrian being gay as a sign that he is "ill." But Jeremy, the coolest kid at school, thinks otherwise; he takes Adrian on scooter trips, where they end up in Jeremy's secret treehouse stealing kisses. Adrian finds himself falling in love, until Jeremy's girlfriend rats them out, sending Jeremy into a tailspin of embarrassment. What will become of Adrian?

Adrian and the Tree of Secrets is a poignant, beautifully illustrated graphic novel about first love, growing up, and having the courage to be true to yourself.

HUBERT studied at the School of Fine Arts in Angers, France, where he first set his career sights on comics. He has written a number of graphic novels and comic series in French, including one that has been translated into English: *Miss Don't Touch Me, Vols. 1 and 2*, a graphic novel series set in Paris in the 1930s. He lives in Paris.

MARIE CAILLOU studied Fine Arts in Strasbourg, France, and then in 1995 went to Brussels to study animation. She has directed short animated films, including a series entitled *Peur(s) du Noir* (Fear of the Dark). This is her first book to appear in English. She lives in Paris.