

Libby Hague's

martian odyssey # 6



the girls

6

Marianne's story: thread 6

BB - The fights get worse every day. They have the whole planet to spread out - they could go west, free land, opportunity, but they stay here and stay greedy. They want to be near the Top Girl with her nurse, chauffeur and live-in-maid. Yet if they took off their uniforms and were brand new naked you couldn't tell them apart.

I have to leave for a minute. I'll be back soon. Be a good boy. Don't worry.

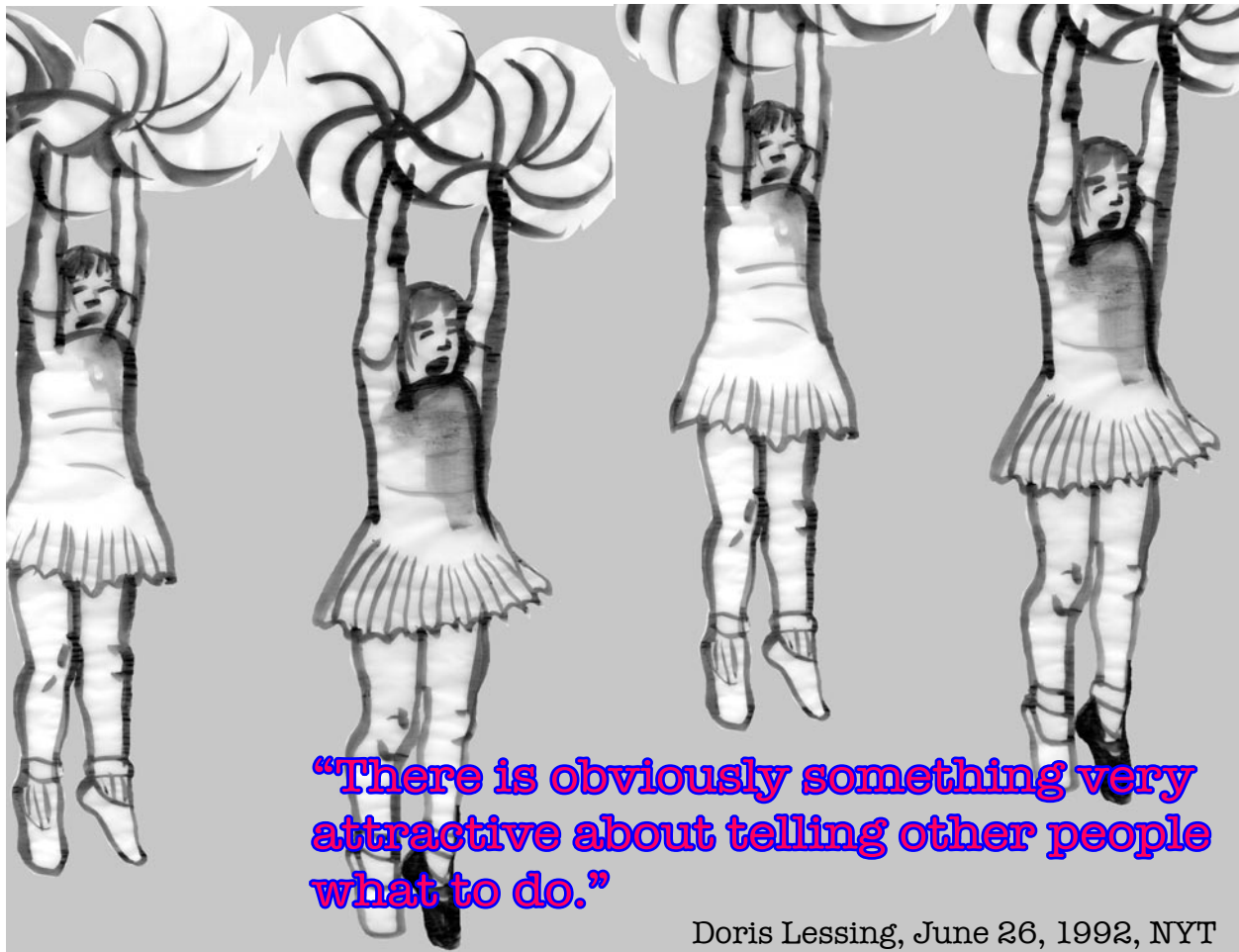


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“All for ourselves and nothing for other people.”

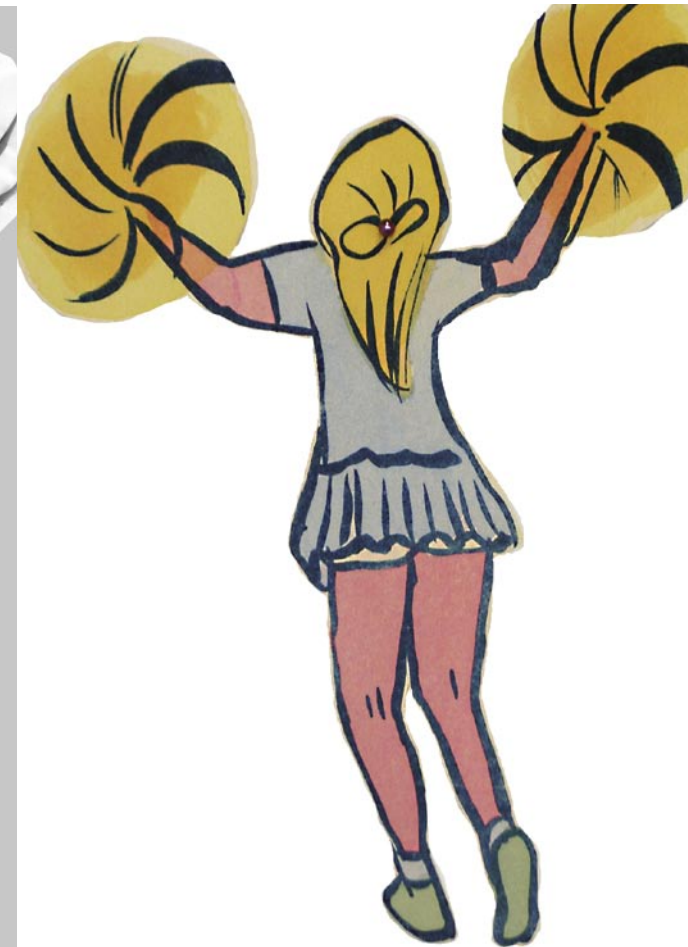
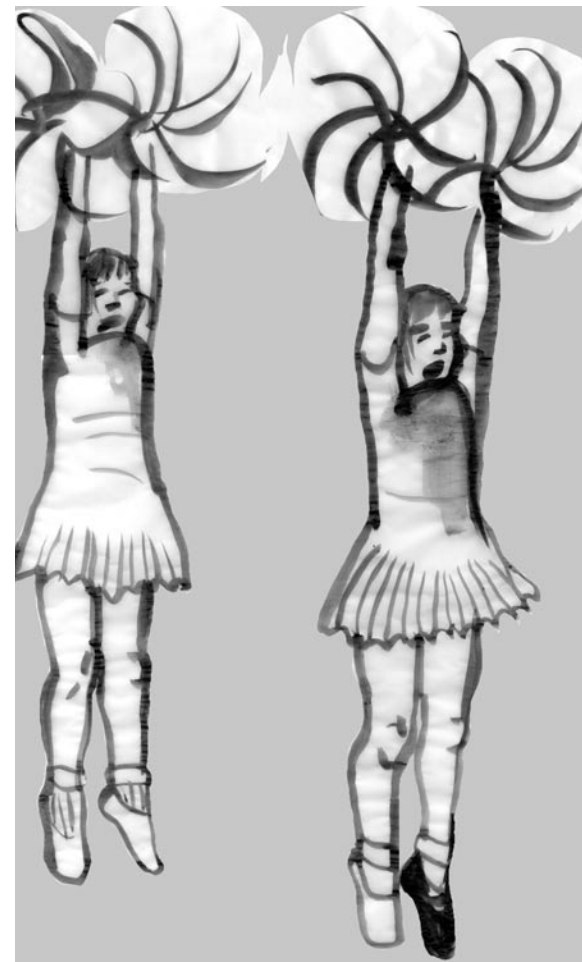
Noam Chomsky quoting Adam Smith
The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy





“There is obviously something very attractive about telling other people what to do.”

Doris Lessing, June 26, 1992, NYT



Earth Tales: String Theory Part 1

It is written that earth-girls were easy, but it is also written that they were cruel. The blond ones had hair that flapped and swung about their necks in hard, pale sheets. The brown-eyed girls were deceivers. They were in charge of communication, but they often lied. Some people tried to join the earth-girl tribes, and this was perilous. As with meeting alien species, there was no guidebook for learning codes of conduct, and there were no second chances.

Once there was an earth-girl who wanted to join a tribe. She had seen others who had been outcast for simple errors such as talking to the wrong girl or wearing socks that were the wrong length or forgetting to appear aloof at key moments. These girls were left behind on the rocks, their shins bleeding, their hair pulled, their sense of belonging shattered.

The earth-girl was careful. She spent a long time observing

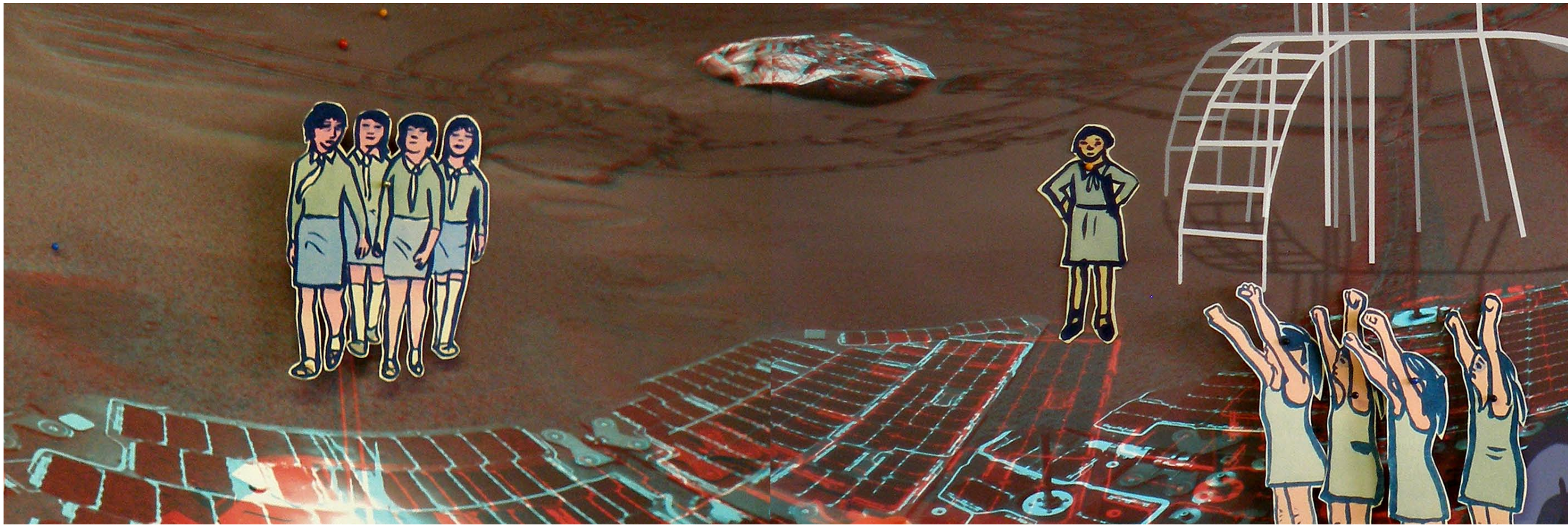
and staying out of the way. Then one day in the playground she approached a girl from the tribe. She did not approach the head girl, instead walked close by to the third highest girl. She looked at the third highest girl and said “hi.” Then she kept on walking. After two days the head girl came to her.

“I heard you want to join our tribe.”

The earth girl did not smile, but she did not look sullen either. She did toss her hair, just a little, before she said, “Yeah, sure.”

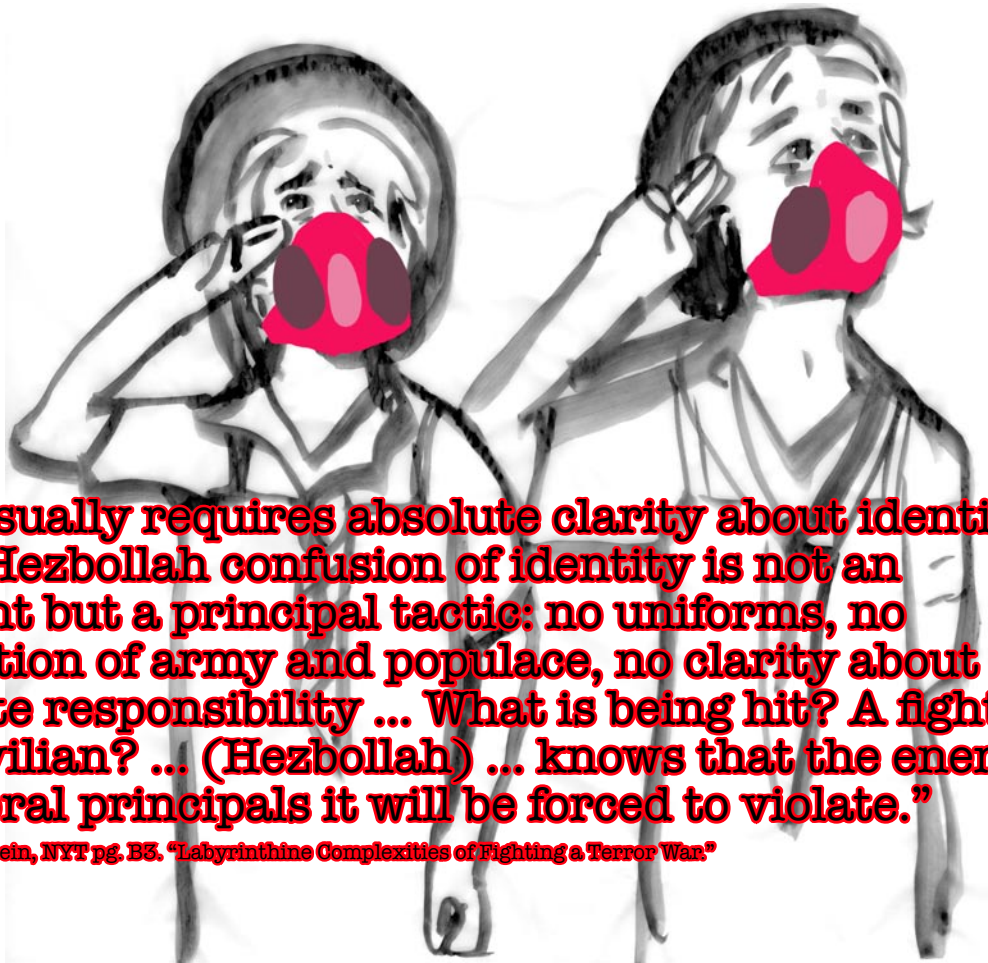
The head girl paused and stared at her for a little while. “Okay, you’re in. You can hang out with us behind the bunker. But don’t make us look bad, if you screw up you’re done for.”

The earth-girl knew that this was true.



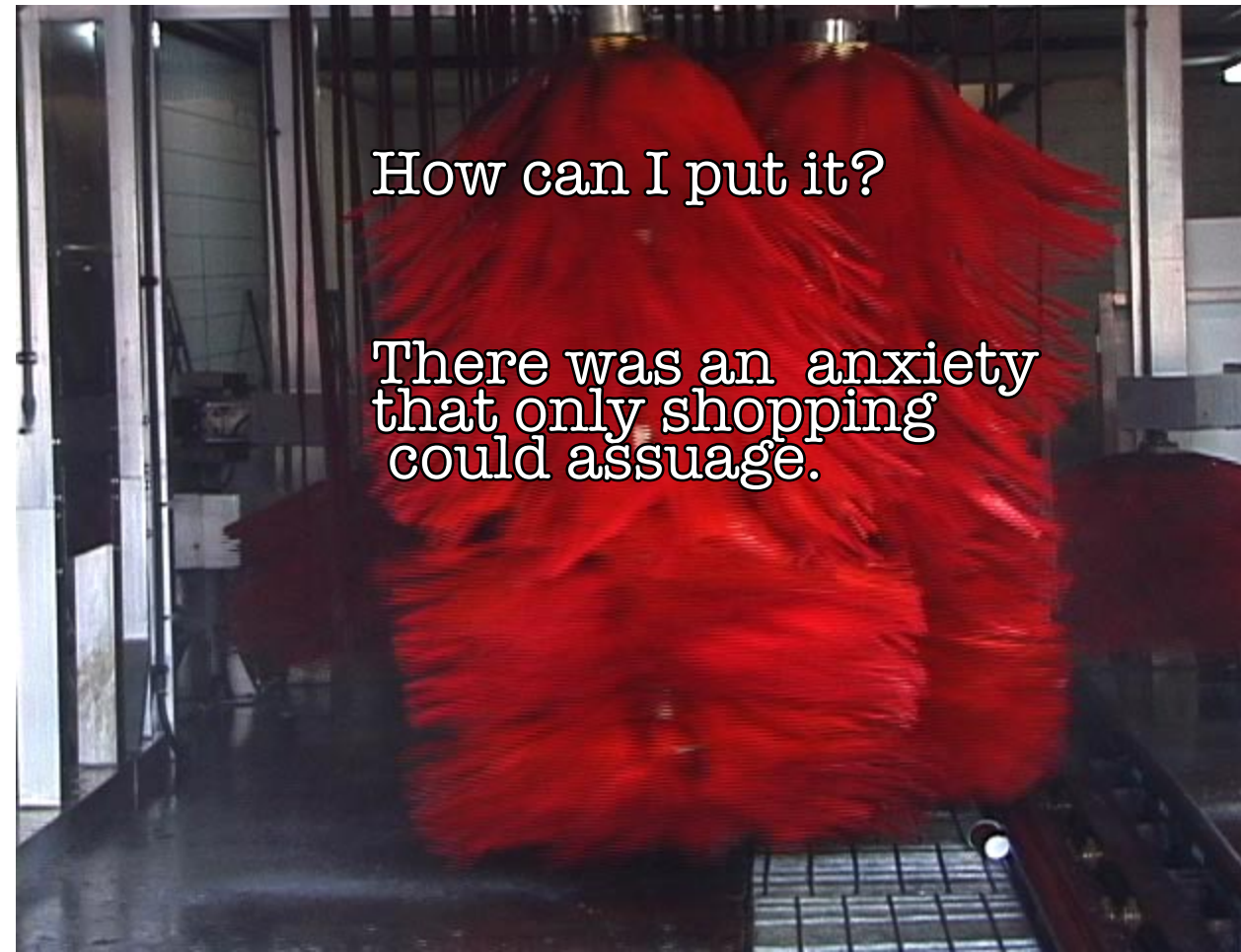
martian odyssey: the girls arrive in the playground, stone lithography with digital output, 20 x 78 in.

background photo courtesy of NASA



“War usually requires absolute clarity about identities ... For Hezbollah confusion of identity is not an accident but a principal tactic: no uniforms, no separation of army and populace, no clarity about ultimate responsibility ... What is being hit? A fighter or a civilian? ... (Hezbollah) ... knows that the enemy has moral principals it will be forced to violate.”

Edward Rothstein, NYT pg. B3. “Labyrinthine Complexities of Fighting a Terror War”



How can I put it?

There was an anxiety that only shopping could assuage.



**“Once a group ...establishes
that it alone suffers, then all
competing claims to injustice
are cancelled out.”**

Chris Hedges, “War is a force that gives us Meaning” pg. 67

“She smiled with her lips only,
her forehead furrowed over her dark brows
as her anguish rose and she addressed them all:...”

Homer, pg. 391 the Iliad, Fagles translation



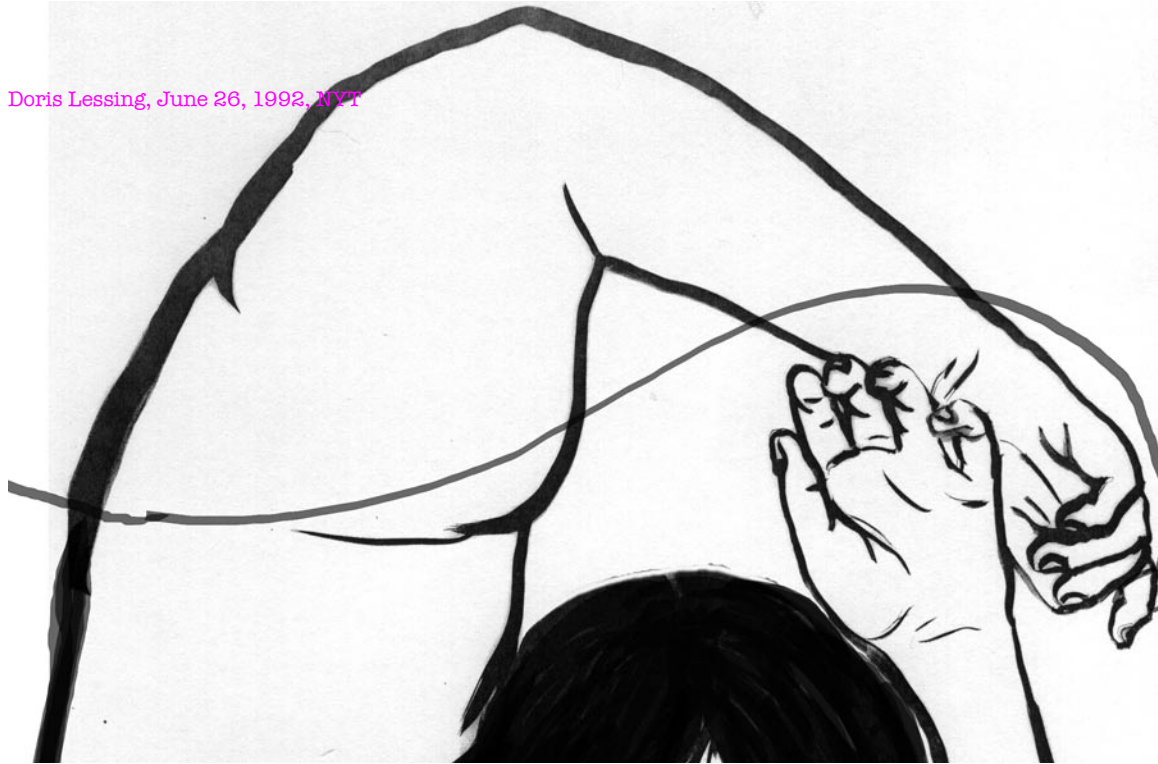
“It’s terrible to be young.
It’s terrible, terrible.”

William Faulkner, pg. 137, Light in August



“...that old bully,
the party line”

Doris Lessing, June 26, 1992, NYT



Thanks to:

Phil Anisman
my parents
*Djivan Gasparyan for his song title
Sally McKay, # 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 19, 26,
27, 28, 30, 19, 21,
Harry Glasbeek # 5
Smadar Peretz # 23, 24
Sasha Pierce # 7



and the many authors quoted in these
books

Brief project description:

This web /pdf edition of 30 booklets, connect and complicate the individual artworks in the Martian Odyssey series previously exhibited at Loop in Toronto. These booklets are intended to serve as a basis for comments on the artwork and their themes. If you want to have your comments considered for a web edition you can respond by sending an email to libbylibby@sympatico.ca with a subject heading of Martian Odyssey. I will be regularly updating the pdf's.

Martian Odyssey titles:

1. luck 2. riddles 3. the animals 4. translation
5. corps de ballet 6. The Girls 7. weave 8. net
9. slow motion 10. Big Bang 11. alouette
12. the wrong boat 13. the disaster
14. RAGE 15. white arms 16. plague
17. amnesia 18. ah.. 19. string theory 20.
laughter 21. dreams 22. Rules 23. justice
24. forgiveness 25. day after peace
26. un-rebuilding 27. blue-sky-blue 28. play
again 29. stars are wide 30. sing

Libby Hague is a printmaker + installation
artist exploring themes of disaster, rescue
and hope. [full cv](#)

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