Journey to Burning Man

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Burning Productions Presents:

Journey to Burning

Man

Survive & Thrive
Start with the heart
Creating this comic book, it was our mission to raise awareness of the health benefits of attending rituals and festivals for people suffering from illness, injury, trauma, or extreme stress. We wanted to provide our audience with an informative yet fun comic book that persuades them that non-traditional coping practices, such as attending music festivals like Burning Man, can be effective sources of healing and comfort. Herein lies a story about four guys trying to survive and thrive in the face of stress and personal issues who are open-minded and ambitious enough to take a bus trip across the country to Burning Man. While the characters and their trip are fictionalized, the problems and emotions they deal with are very real. It is our hope that this story will inspire readers to take their own real-life journeys of self-discovery and healing.

Contributors:

Jec Kasper: panel illustrations, storyboards
Jec Clark: digitalization, storyboards
Joseph Dombeck: inside cover design/photo, mission statement, storyboards
Matthew Ellingson: creative input, storyboards
Sorey Mills: front/back cover designs, storyboards
Ex Veedee: publication support
You need to focus on school!

Burn the Man!!

Yeah!!

How do I get through to this kid?

Sometimes I hate my dad so much!!

Whoa now, slow down there Tom
Tom...What's going on?

Sometimes he's just...

AAAAAGGGGGH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

These grades are unacceptable young man!!!!!

This isn't what I want dad!! I never wanted to be a doctor!!

Uncle Marky! Why are you smiling?!

We're gonna step out into the garage for a little while

Tom, I think I have the perfect solution
Uncle Marky, what are you talking about??

I was going through a lot of what you're going through right now, and chose to take a break. My drifting brought me to Burning Man.

Burning man?

Yes. It made me realize we all need retreats, and we all need time away from stressful life. This is what you need.

Yeah...I think you might be right...

I think it's about time I break out the old bus and get us ready for a road trip.

Really?? That sounds great!!

Alright, we're going to need some other people though.

No problem! I can get some friends to join us and make this an awesome break!
Alright I'll see you later Tom
Cool. I'll give you a call later
Burning Mans going to be so cool!

Ok now, who should I call?
Aww jeez...Who would want to go? What about Hank? Hank might go

C'mon Hank. Pick up. You better not be drunk
Hank! We're going to Burning Man with my Uncle Marky!

Um...Ok... How long?
A week, maybe two

ok, works for me... when??

Yeah...

Soon, but there's an issue. My dad's an ass, Marky's a hippy, and we're poor college kids

Yeah, so how's this supposed to work? What's up with your dad?

Nothing, but let's meet tomorrow around noon to cover details

Alright...

Yeah...

he next day

I don't know... Tom's being kind of crazy...

The next day

HANK!!!!!!

Hank... I don't know about this... Oh there's Tom
Ok dude, what is this? What are we doing here?

We’re going to burning man with my uncle Marky!

The only problem is, we don’t have very much money

Yeah this probably won’t be cheap. We’re kinda screwed. We should probably forget about it

No! this will be so badass! Let’s check inside and see if we can find someone to come with

Yeah ok. We’ll check

Yeah, maybe Tom...

I bet we find so many people to go with inside here
Dude! I told you! There's so many people here! Hey, Harold over there

Yeah... But He... freaks out about school so much...

Yeah cause he's stressed out. If he goes with, he'll learn to relax. Plus he has all the money!

Yeah I guess. He can be kind of cool. We do need money...

So much to do! So little time!

Hey Harold what's up dude? You know you should totally come to Burning man with us!

What?!

WHAT?!? Are you serious?! I have homework coming out my ass! I don't have time for some stupid hippy love fest crap!

Whoa calm down man!

We saw you were stressing out super hard, and thought maybe a trip to Burning Man would do you some good

Well... yeah I guess I've been under a lot of stress

Yeah we saw that. We thought you could use a break
Well...I guess you guys make some sense. Alright. I'm in!

Oh. You guys looking for another person? I think Arthur over there is stressing out too.

Aah Man, what am I doing with my life...?

Hey Arthur, we're going to the super cool Burning Man festival next week. You should come.

What? Why would I do that?

Who are these guys? I don't even know them...

Dude, it will be really fun! We're all going!

Ahh let me think about it

Ok we'll see ya next week!

This is going to be so awesome!!
Two weeks later

Hey Tom., I thought about it, and decided this isn't for me
What??? It's going to be so fun though!

One small step for Hank...

Yeah I was thinking south, then west

Hey Tom., I thought about it, and decided this isn't for me
What??? It's going to be so fun though!
They won't have that much fun. I got a lot of stuff going on anyways.

Well maybe if Hank would pass that bottle we would talk more.

You shut your mouth Tom!

Ya know it's gonna be a long trip if nobody talks the whole time. You guys should get to know each other better.

One hour later

Nevada...Iowa, New York, oh that's far. Iowa again...Minnesota...

Woah now. Guys. Let's start with something like saying they like. Ill go first. I like Burning Man.
Well...I like booze...

Yeah, I do too

Why do you drink so much?

Yeah, WHY do you drink so much?

It helps me forget Iraq...It was tough

Oh geez, not Iraq again. He says this all the time, but never says what he did

Meanwhile back in derp town

MOM! I need more PB & J!!

Aww nothings good on. I'll find something

MOM! The internets broken!
Hank, you always say that

You went to Iraq? I didn't know that...

Beer helps me...forget...

I still relive Iraq almost nightly

You don't know what it was like!

Ok, let's talk about Burning Man. Anybody got goals?

To quit drinking

Yeah, let's see if he actually quits drinking

I was stressing out way hard

Get away from life

I swear to god Tom...
What?? Hank all you does is drink

Hank has problems just like you Tom

True story Mr. Daddy issues. Thank you Harold

Oh geez what was that?!?

Oh no no not now!

Ah no!! Get me out of here!

Damn flat!

Harold come back!

Ok guys seriously. Stop fighting. We're supposed to have fun
Oh no I'm gonna fall in the sink hole!

We need to change the tire. I did this a lot in Iraq

Harold come back!

Oh no I'm gonna fall in the sink hole!

Damn! What are we gonna do now?

We need to change the tire. I did this a lot in Iraq

Harold come back!

Oh no no no. This is Texas all over again. I never should have come

Oh geez. This is a mistake. I'm falling again!

Oh no no no. This is Texas all over again. I never should have come

Harold? You alright?

I don't know...I mean... I don't think so...

Harold, say whatever you think you need to. That's why I'm here, and why we went on this trip
Well this place and hitting that pothole...It all just reminds me of the sinkhole in Texas I fell in...

Well like I said, We're doing this to get away an talk about this kind of stuff. Tell people about it, an listen to them too.

Oh Marky. Your such a wise old sage

I try

Hank...Are you drunk? You sure you can do this?

Why would you say that??? No Tom I'm fine

Really? It's...You don't seem ok. You say you are all the time though...

Yes Tom! I mean I when I say I'm ok!
I don’t believe you for some reason.

It's...hard to talk about it. Talking about it, is reliving it for me.

I can't do anything if all you say is "it was tough" or "hard on me".

I already said it Tom! I don't like talking about it...but... sometimes...

Sometimes I wake up in the night... From a nightmare shooting that little kid... He wouldn't stop walking toward me!

I didn't know...

You couldn't know... But... I feel better... I'm done with beer.

Hey guys, look who I found!

Ha... Fix the tire?

Better yet, Hank decided to stop drinking!

Yah you betcha!

I think we've had a lot of coming together moments in this desert.
Going to Burning Man! With my best friends!

Some time later...

Yeah, and then we light the man on fire!

Aw that’s so cool!

That sounds awesome!

I see it!!!

Yeah, and then we light the man on fire!

These dudes look pretty awesome!!! Welcome Burning Man Bus!!