THE BRONTË SISTERS
go to the
CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES
Haworth, England, 184?

Charlotte, I'm going for a walk — you coming?

Sorry, Emily, I need to finish this.

What are you working on?

Is it a story about a small plain heroine who triumphs over adversity through dogged conviction in her inner strength?
Yes, that's it.

Then what's that robot doing there?

Emily, my graphic novel has been rejected nine times. I need to try something new.

I have decided to further my education on the Continent...

Come with me!
I have the feeling that I... who have never truly lived...

White River Junction, Vermont, 2020

...am about to taste life.

Charlotte! Come down! Class is about to start!
I have taken to Cartoon College with the avidity of a cow to new grass—don't laugh at my simile!

In the Schulz Library I devoured the work of great cartoonists, including CCS graduates.

Emily! Check out this mini-Comic set on a Napoleonic Ship—

―Sailed by women.

Ben & Jerry's take note! New flavor concept: Brontë Brûlée.
In class...

Our next project will be to collaborate in groups to create a story in the style of Classic Comics.

Oh goodie, Classic anything!

Pssst Charlotte—what's the point of this? What will we gain by imitating other cartoonists' styles?

We're here to expand our cartooning powers!
But Charlotte, you must have written a thousand pages before this — and you made tons of tiny Glassstown zines!

Yes but that was growing potatoes in the cellar. No one saw them!

Here we've gained sympathetic peers to read what we write — and to share ideas with!

Hey Brontë Sisters! Want to contribute to an anthology? The theme is graveyards.

Oh sure, other Emily!*

*Dickinson
Here for the first time, we’re being asked to craft our comics. Before I always wrote whatever came into my head, one scene after another.

Now I’m learning to sacrifice anything that doesn’t contribute to clarity and to accentuate everything that sets the main idea in relief.

And you’ve become an ace at cross-hatching.
Anyway Emily, you needn’t worry about your originality—it’s as intact as a corpse in a bog. Your latest project—it sent my spirits soaring.

Have you been snooping at my draft of *Wuthering Junction*?

We all read it for critique. It’s very darkly shaded.

*Life is darkly shaded.*
Yes, but I’m talking about your silk-screen cover and heavy use of black.

The school had to order another case of ink after I printed 20 copies!

A month or so later...

Charlotte, that draft is really piling up.

I’ve been writing incessantly—what will come of it?
A book! And since you’ve been posting online it will never be out of print.

Now want to go for a walk?

Yes! Let’s see if the others are up for a break, too!

We were used to working quietly alone, but here we’ve gained a community of cartoonists that will last a lifetime (now longer thanks to vaccines).
Hi Branwell, Anne, Can you see us? We're in Vermont! You'll love it here! They have summer classes too!

The Center for Cartoon Studies
Cartoonstudies.org

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