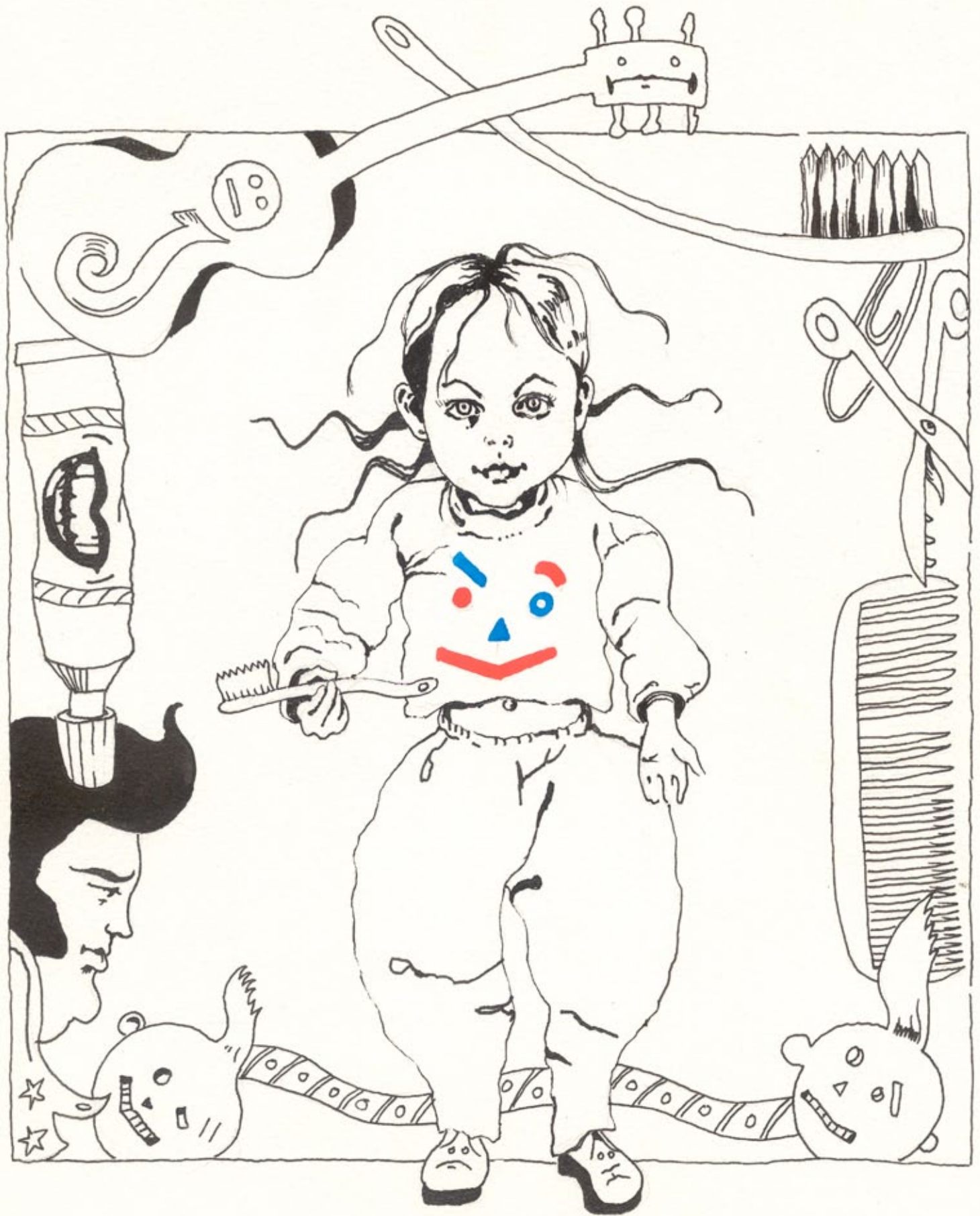


**A Different Face**

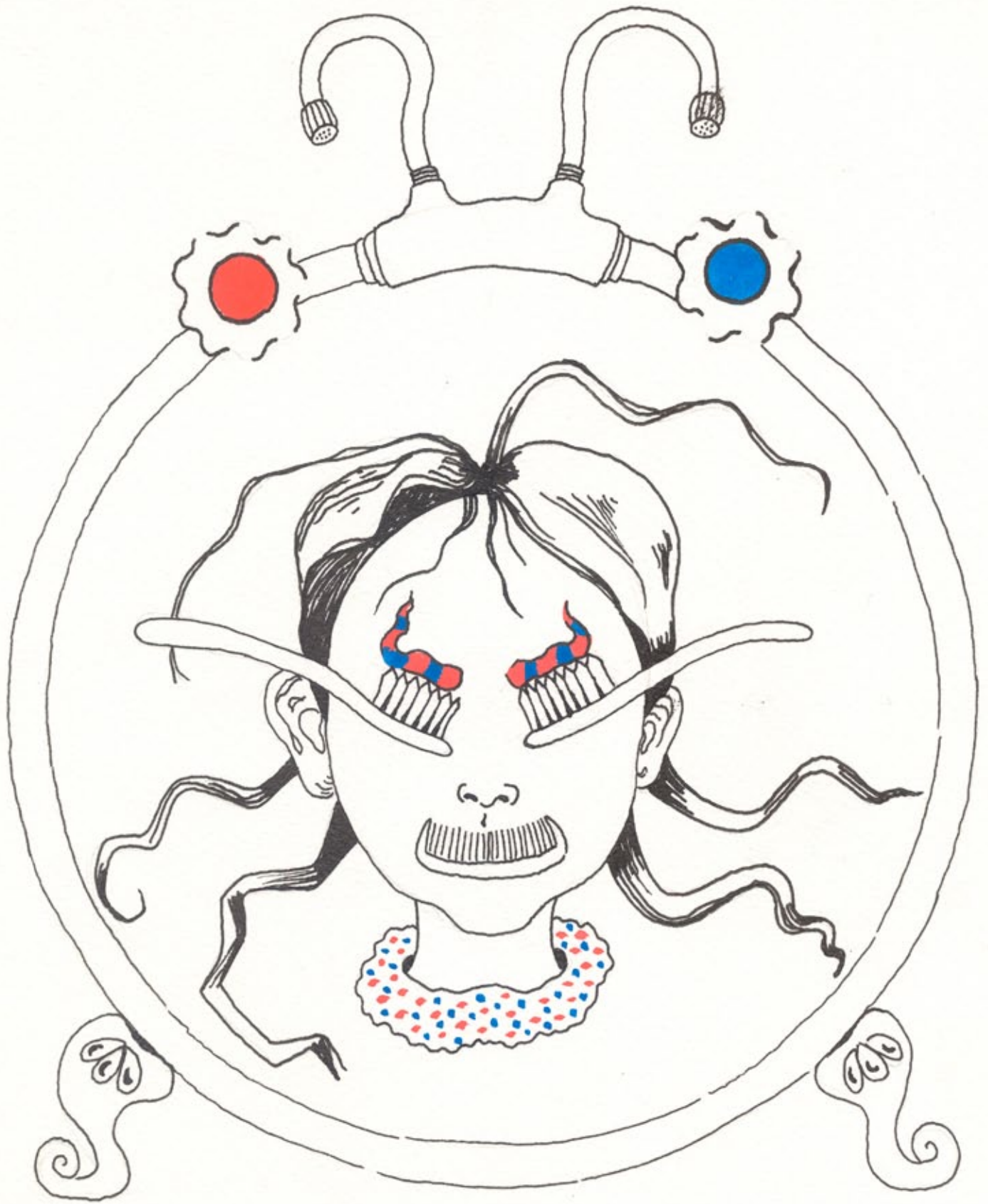


**Roee Rosen**

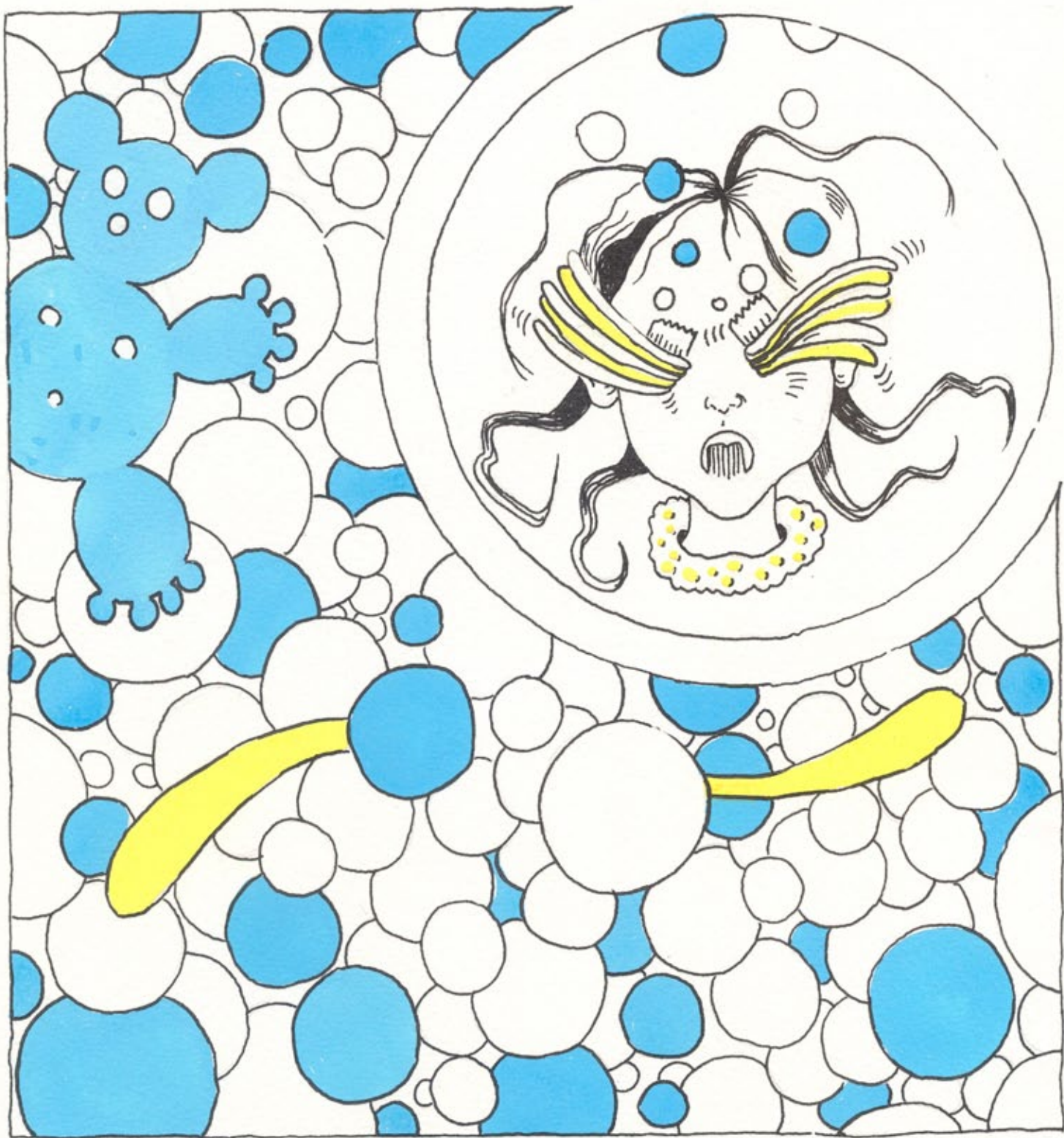
**There was a girl  
whose name was Naomi Elvissa.  
Naomi - because the name has a nice flair,  
Elvissa - after a fat singer with black hair.  
She had two eyes, two ears,  
a nose and a mouth,  
nothing unusual there,  
but Naomi Elvissa cared  
for unusual things,  
and so decided to change her face.**



**One evening in the bathroom,  
she switched her eyes with two toothbrushes  
(and some excellent toothpaste).  
She used her comb as a mouth,  
and then, she was pleased.**



**The new face was almost perfect,  
but then the toothbrushes briskly brushed  
and the toothpaste bubbled so much  
that Naomi Elvissa couldn't see a thing.  
She knew it was time for a different face.**



**Naomi Elvissa chose two monkeys as eyes  
and cookies with jam as ears.**

**She was careful not to overdo her face,  
and left her nose for a nose  
and lips for lips.**





**On the first night,  
a baby monkey was born,  
and settled in mid-face.**

**On the second night,  
the monkeys discovered the cookies  
and munched an ear and a half.**



**In fact,  
they were so happy to be a part of a face,  
that on the third night they threw a party.  
Naomi couldn't sleep.  
She politely kicked them out,  
and worked on a simpler face.**



**She decided on letters.**

**Letters, unlike monkeys,  
don't tend to move much.**

**Letters have excellent manners.**

**Letters always keep silent.**



**But this face had a problem too:**

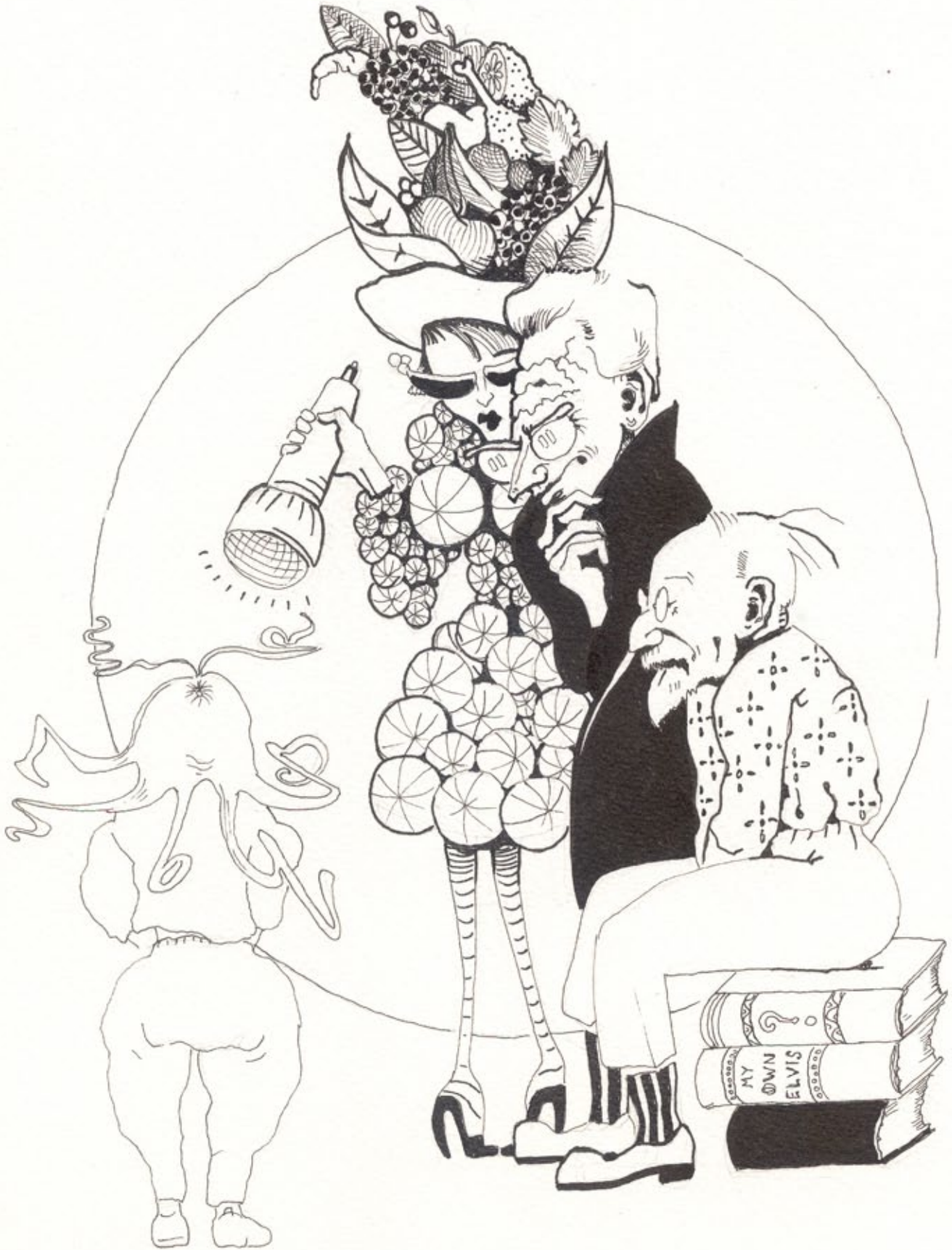
**People kept trying to read it.**

**They searched for meaning.**

**You can't blame them.**

**They were terribly confused.**





**This time, Naomi Elvissa labored over very complicated features:**

**a turtle for one eye, a cow for another**

**(she smartly chose calm creatures**

**and placed them back to back,**

**to prevent any quarrels),**

**a soft candy was her nose**

**and her mouth was a boat in a bottle.**



**Yet again, Elvissa faced  
many problems:**

**First, the turtle sulked  
and started crawling hair-wise.**

**With the first breeze,  
the boat was swept aside  
and the bottle tilted.**

**The candy lost freshness,  
and began to stink  
(and it's a pinch for a nose  
to dislike its own smell).**



**But it was finally too much  
when the cow decided to stand on a hill.  
A hill certainly makes no sense on a face!**



**Naomi Elvissa brewed a special facial:**

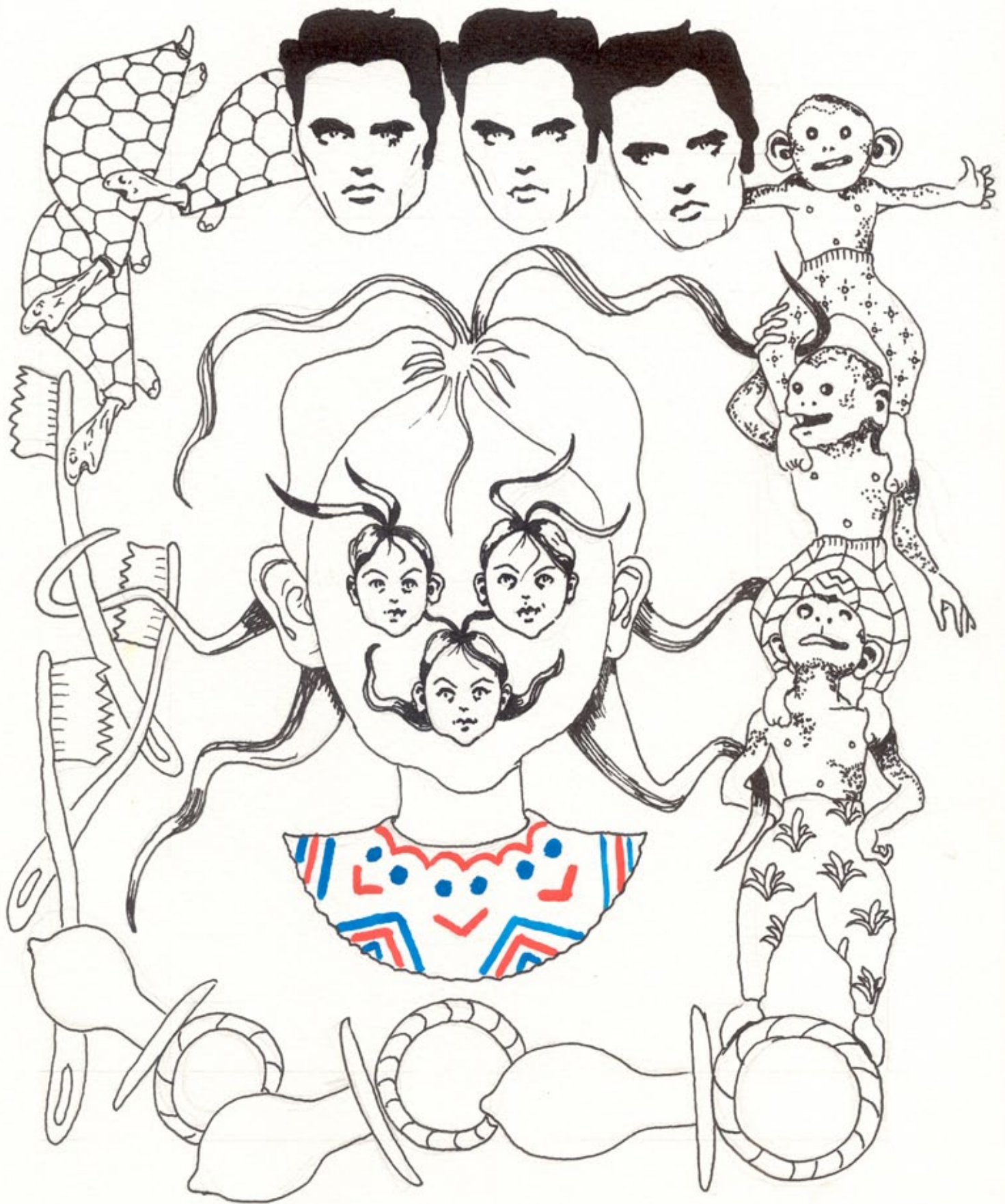
**a face as a right eye,  
and a face as a left eye,  
and a face as a mouth.**

**This way,  
she could sing with herself in three voices!**

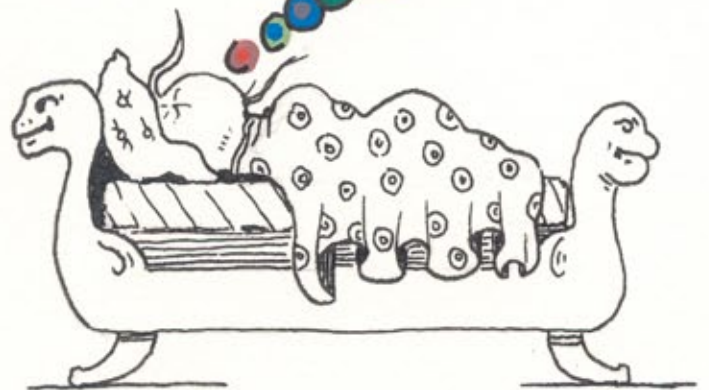
**This way,  
she could look herself straight in the face  
three times at once!**

**This way,  
she could dream three dreams  
behind three pairs of eyelids!**





**It became a real mess  
when the dreams mixed.**



**Naomi Elvissa then did a face  
with delicate doodles.**

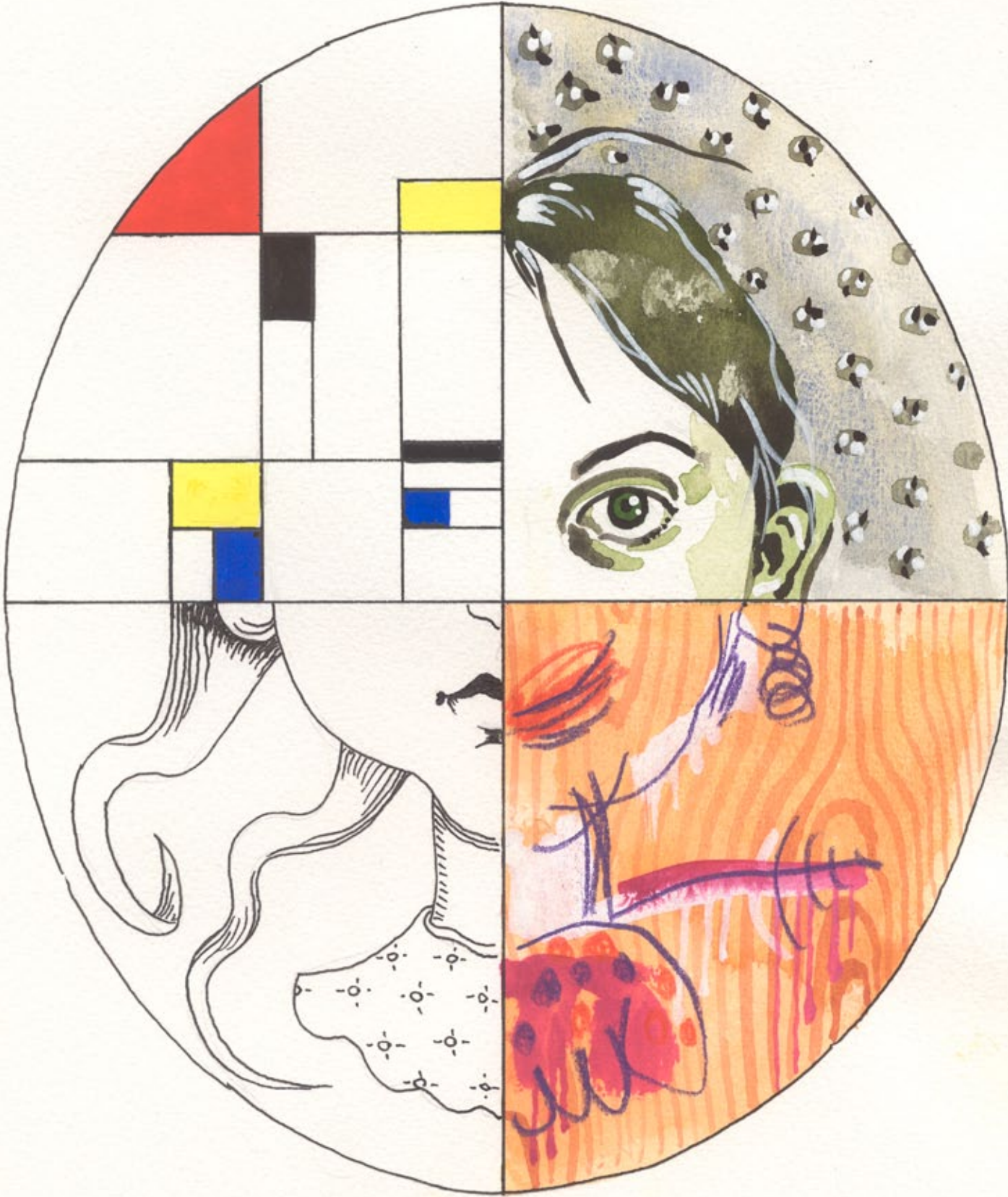


**But some people mistook her  
for a picture by a famous painter.**



**She went along drawing,  
but in several different styles.**





**But some people mistook her for a group show,  
and someone even tacked a label on her face  
(a label of the kind they put next to paintings,  
to explain who painted it,  
when did she paint it,  
how did she paint it,  
and sometimes even why).  
“I don’t want to be labeled,”  
said Naomi Elvissa,  
and left the art scene.**



**She selected nice mice as eyes,  
faucet for a nose, and a zipper mouth.  
The great headway was on the top of her head:  
an umbrella as hair!**



**That the mice kept running around  
was not too bad  
(because eyes do sometimes run around).**

**You could live with the trickle  
from the nozzle-muzzle  
(you can call it a running nose).**

**It was OK for the zipper to get stuck  
(because words also get stuck  
between the teeth).**

**But it was impossible to keep face  
with a closed umbrella.**



**Naomi Elvissa gave the comb a second chance  
(since it did quite well as a mouth),  
and tried an apple for a snout.**

**The real sensation were the eyes:  
two brand new televisions!**

**Whoever faced Elvissa's face  
could watch two programs at once!**





**But mom said that since she got her new eyes  
Naomi Elvissa spends all day  
looking at the mirror.  
Watching so much TV isn't good.**



**She opted for ice-cream and chocolate,**

**but when the weather was hot,**

**her face became gooey.**



**She tested rabbits and carrots,**

**but in notime there were too many rabbits.**



**She even used simple forms:  
rectangles, triangles, circles.**





**But the forms tended  
to rearrange themselves  
without asking for her permission.**



After much work, and many efforts we don't  
have room for in this book,  
Naomi Elvissa managed a face  
which was both in good taste,  
and so complicated,  
it was sure to stay interesting.

A butterfly as a nose (a rare butterfly,  
which can only be found in big cities,  
such as Chicago, New-Delhi or Tokyo).

A green car as one eye, a red hat as another,  
an old (but clean) telephone as one ear,  
and the digit "Three" as another

(with a pretty "Eight" as an earring).

A silkworm and a banana as eyebrows,  
a comb as a mouth

(because the comb proved itself more than once),

Stamens and seeds of sesame and mustard as freckles,  
and in the difficult role of hair:

flowing dough with zucchini flowers.

For such a face, you may even use the word *exclusive*  
(which is often misused).

And this is why Naomi Elvissa could not believe her eyes  
(which were, you'll recall, a car and a hat),  
when she met one day...



**... a boy with virtually identical face!**

**(Except that the butterfly had different colors,  
and his hair was garnished had pesto sauce,  
which is fine and green and made of Basil  
leaves, olive oil, pine-nuts and cheese).**



**For conversation's sake  
they showed each other true face.**

**He said his name was Jonathan Madonni,  
Madonni— after a famous singer who often  
changed her face,  
Jonathan— so as to have a name you can use  
with a straight face.**

**They became good friends  
since they had a lot in common.**





Naomi Elvissa went home  
with the face she had on page one.  
dinner was made of many treats:  
eggs like eyes, a nosy cookie,  
and a smiling cheese with delicious holes.  
She was very pleased  
that not a thing on the plate  
was ever, ever on her face  
(which includes, you may remember,  
bananas, cookies with jam, a soft candy,  
an apple, carrots, ice-cream, chocolate,  
sesame and mustard seeds  
and soft dough with zucchini flowers).



**Naomi Elvissa closed her eyes  
with a beaming face and a jolly belly.**

**But if you thought there's a moral to this story:  
that, just maybe, she was sorry,  
that she was had with different heads,  
or done with unusual ones,**



***you are wrong.***

