a + e

a graphic novel
4ever

drawn and written by i. mercy
APHENPHOSMOPHOBIA, ALSO KNOWN AS HAPHEPHOBIA, IS AN EXTREME AVERSION TO BEING TOUCHED OR TOUCHING OTHER PEOPLE.

RATHER RARE, THIS PHOBIA CAN FORM IN INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE, THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM CHRONIC EMOTIONAL NEGLECT FROM AN EARLY AGE...

OR THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO ASSOCIATE THE TOUCH OF ANOTHER PERSON ONLY WITH SOMETHING NEGATIVE.
YEAR: JUNIOR
DAY OF SCHOOL: THIRD
HAIR: LIGHT BROWN
PANTS: SKIN-TIGHT
ORIENTATION: SHY
DIRECTION: PENDING
SEX: STILL WAITING
RELIGION: JEWISH

soy un perdedor
-OK. SO, WHAT ARE YOU?

-....

-HEY, WE'RE TALKING TO YOU.
ARE YOU A GUY
OR ARE YOU A GIRL?
...ARE YOU A FAGGOT?

-HEH HEH, WHY DON'T WE CHECK?

-I DUNNO, I'M KIND OF SCARED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S DOWN THERE.
BUT ALL RIGHT,...LET'S GET HER IN THE STALL. IT. WHATEVER.
I DON'T WANT SOMEONE COMING IN...

THEY'RE GOING TO TOUCH ME, THEY'RE GOING TO TOUCH ME,
THEY'RE GOING TO TOUCH ME, THEY'RE GOING TO TOUCH ME,
THEY'RE GOING TO TOUCH ME, THEY'RE GOING TO...

-GET... OFF... OF.... ME!

-OWW, THE LITTLE DICKHEAD JUST BIT ME!
I TOLD YOU TO HOLD HIM DOWN!

-HEY, IT'S NOT EASY WHEN HE'S FLIPPING OUT.

-I'M GOING TO PUKE! STOP!

-HEY, YOU KNOW... MAYBE WE SHOULD,
HE'S SWEATING LIKE CRAZY, I DON'T WANT HIM TO UPCHUCK
ALL OVER..

-LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA HURT HIM,
YOU HEAR THAT? I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU,
SO JUST CALM DOWN.

CALM DOWN, BREATHE DEEP. I CAN'T. YES YOU CAN. DON'T CRY.
BREATHE. BREATHE. BREATHE. DEEP. DON'T CRY. SWALLOW.
AND THEY'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE. IT'LL BE OVER IF YOU JUST...

-THAT'S GOOD. THAT'S GOOD.
SEE? YOU'RE OK. NOBODY'S HURTING YOU.

WE JUST WANT TO HAVE...

...A LOOK.

LET'S SEE YOUR FACE....
"-fuckin' a.

-what the hell is going on in here?? i can hear you boys all the way down the hall! do you have a hall pass?

-you really are a....

-don't!

-shit, someone's coming!

-what the hell is going on in here?? i can hear you boys all the way down the hall! do you have a hall pass?

-you're just the janitor, so what do you care?

what are these little pricks up to?
—Yeah, grandpa, just clean up the floor before someone gets AIDS.

—Granpa, my ass, I'm 42.

—Hello? Is someone still in here?

—Hello.....

AND WHAT ARE THESE CRAZY KIDS TALKING ABOUT, AIDS?

SHIT... IS THAT BLOOD?
-Aww, sweetie... are you ok? Come on... let's go get you cleaned up.
-...
-Did they make you come in the boys room?
-No, I came in here myself... to use the bathroom.
//Fucking A...//
-Oh... oh, uhm... well, if you give me their names, I'll report them to the...
-I don't know their names. This is like... my third day at this school.

-Well...
...son.

Here's some friendly advice--

Go get a haircut.

It might make your life here easier.