

Dear Randy, Fletch (James), Keith, Chris, Rob (Guang), Jonathan, Lynette, Clayton, Dave, Richard, Judie (Mom!), Tom, Carol B., Troy and Carol L.,

Thank you all so much for coming out and taking part in Scott McCloud's International 24 Hour Comics Day Challenge for 2008. I am very grateful to Randy for taking the time to shoot the event, coming up with interesting questions and never losing it, even at crazy hours (like 3am) or when we all got the giggles and could only say "boobies", "Dick Clark", "Meanwhile, in the future..." and things like that!

Thanks to: Lynette, Dave, Richard, Tom and Mom, Carol B., Troy and Carol L., for coming out, calling or emailing and showing your support as we struggled valiantly with spontaneously invented material, a stupid deadline and the eternally wobbly table. It meant a lot knowing that our friends and family were behind us 100% (or at least had the good grace not to chuckle at our misfortune for agreeing to such a preposterous challenge in the first place!) The food donations were greatly appreciated (Doughnuts! Beans! Apples! Orange juice... Oreos... *—thanks*)

Deep thanks to the comic artists, the participants who slogged through, no matter what medium: web-comic, traditional comic, superhero-alphabet, or intuitive paintings. It was a great creative venture that inspired me and kept me very excited and motivated. Group efforts (even though we were working on individual projects) contain an amazing power; an energy all their own. I enjoy drawing, but more than that, I truly love the dynamics of working with other people. It is something I miss from my studio days in animation.

With music to build us up (*Loveshack, baby!*) and soothe our moods (Cranberries anyone?) as well as some cool movie soundtracks, (*The Good the Bad and the Ugly* to hysterical Bugs Bunny tunes) interspersing the venture, music played a large role in the 24HCD. Thanks for sharing your music, tastes and forbearance (as yet another Jethro Tull tune spun around and slid into the Pogues and finally the Proclaimers.. *—how could they know we'd feel like we'd drawn 500 miles by Saturday evening?*)

No matter what personal deadline or challenge people took, it was all good, and valid creativity. James attempted a 12 hour challenge (drawing 12 pages in 12 hours), Keith doodled along keeping us company and Jonathan created a whole page, with jittered jokes. The 24 hour posse tackled bigger bites: Clayton drew 26 pages of a tongue-in-cheek superhero alphabet, Guang wrote, plotted and thumbnailed his 24 pages (then took an intelligent break for *sleep*) and returned in the light of day to finish off letters, layouts, poses, and inks. I wrote, drew, lettered and inked complete pages as I went along, grinding out 19 ½ pages by the time 24 hours had trudged by. Chris drew traditionally, then scanned work, did layouts on his tablet and produced, *in colour*, 24 pages of his web-comic characters from *SailorSun* with 15 minutes to spare.

In between we chatted, swore, ate jelly beans, drank pots of coffee (10+) and went for quick walks in the brisk October evening, dawn or night. Randy jabbed questions at us and as the time wore on, eventually the presence of large cameras didn't faze us anymore. I even forgot the mike I had on me—until it fell on the floor in the bathroom and I was aghast at the thought that I'd broken it!

Anyway, I will write a more complete entry on my blog (Womangue) to celebrate another successful 24 Hour Comic party.

In the meantime, I wanted to let you know how much it meant to me having you there, drawing, supporting, filming and rolling into the hour after the next, cajoling and keeping things positive. I look forward to getting together again soon—once I've recovered enough to draw more than a stick figure (my right hand is swollen and my thumb is pulsing like the painful memory of a long-term hitchhiker, plying her trade).

As Robert intoned at the beginning of the beginning: *Carpe Deum* indeed: seize the day, and rage against the coming of the night (it doesn't stop the night from coming, but it might keep you awake long enough to draw another page).

Cheers, hugs  
And love  
Suzanne.