

# Horrible Hagiographies



G.C. Houle

# Beauty is pain.

That's certainly true in the Catholic mind, at least. The Sacred Heart, a bleeding anatomical heart pierced by a cross, is one of the foremost Catholic symbols. No church is complete without an elaborate depiction of the Stations of the Cross, or a beautiful, writhing Christ as its figurehead. We celebrate all aspects of Christ, but aesthetically, his tortuous death is what captures the imagination. I found this both frightening and fascinating growing up - a masochism of my own.

These 31 pieces, created during Inktober 2019, were an attempt to recapture those feelings and play with them. Traditional depictions of martyrs are beautiful, but often staid. There's little of the passion and zeal of the devotee, the terror and bliss she must have felt in those last moments before, hopefully, meeting her maker. Of course, I hope you will find the art in this book beautiful, but but better yet, I hope it will make you feel something hard to describe, deep down in your gut.

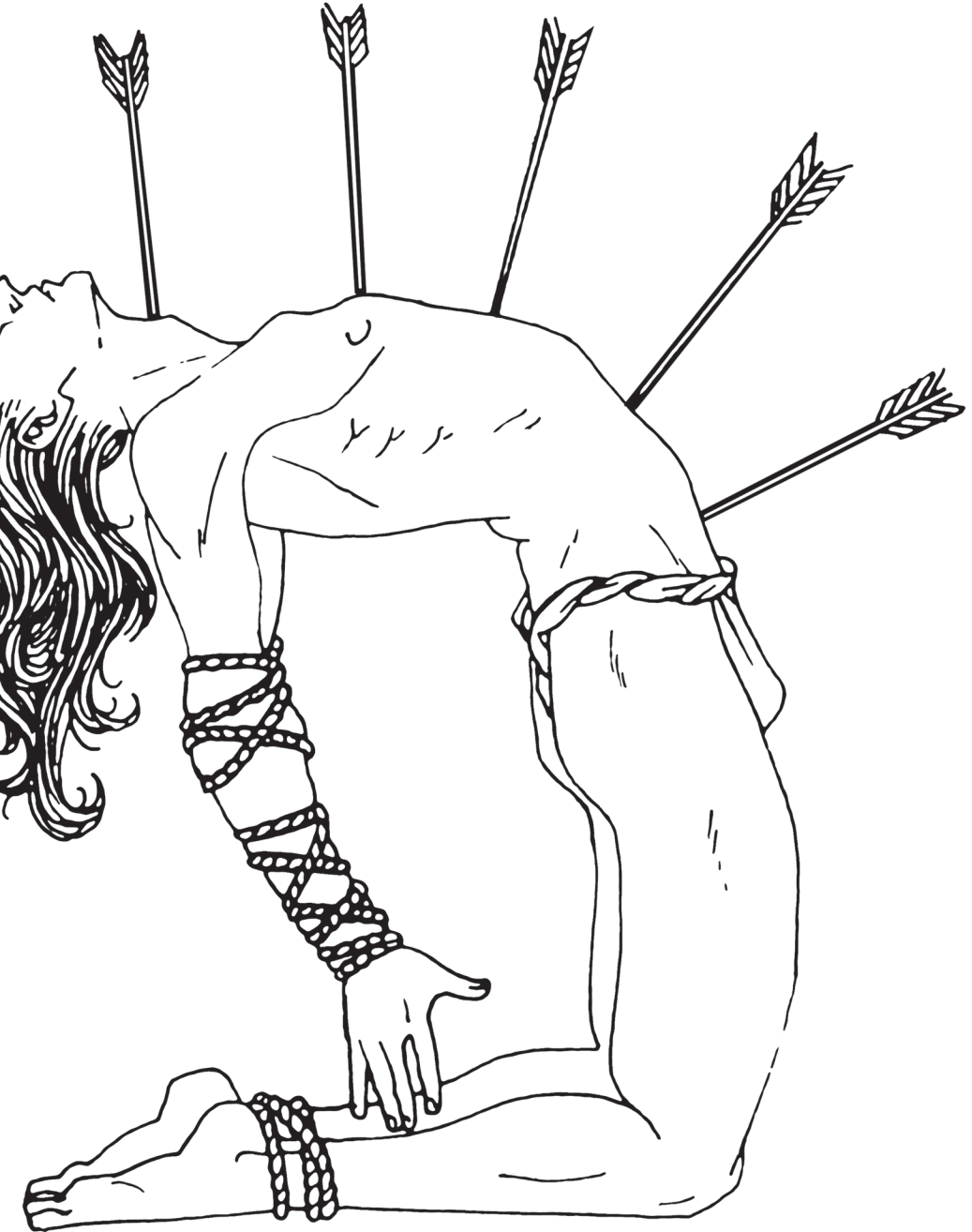
# St. John the Baptist

Beheaded and delivered to Salome on a silver plate



# St. Sebastian

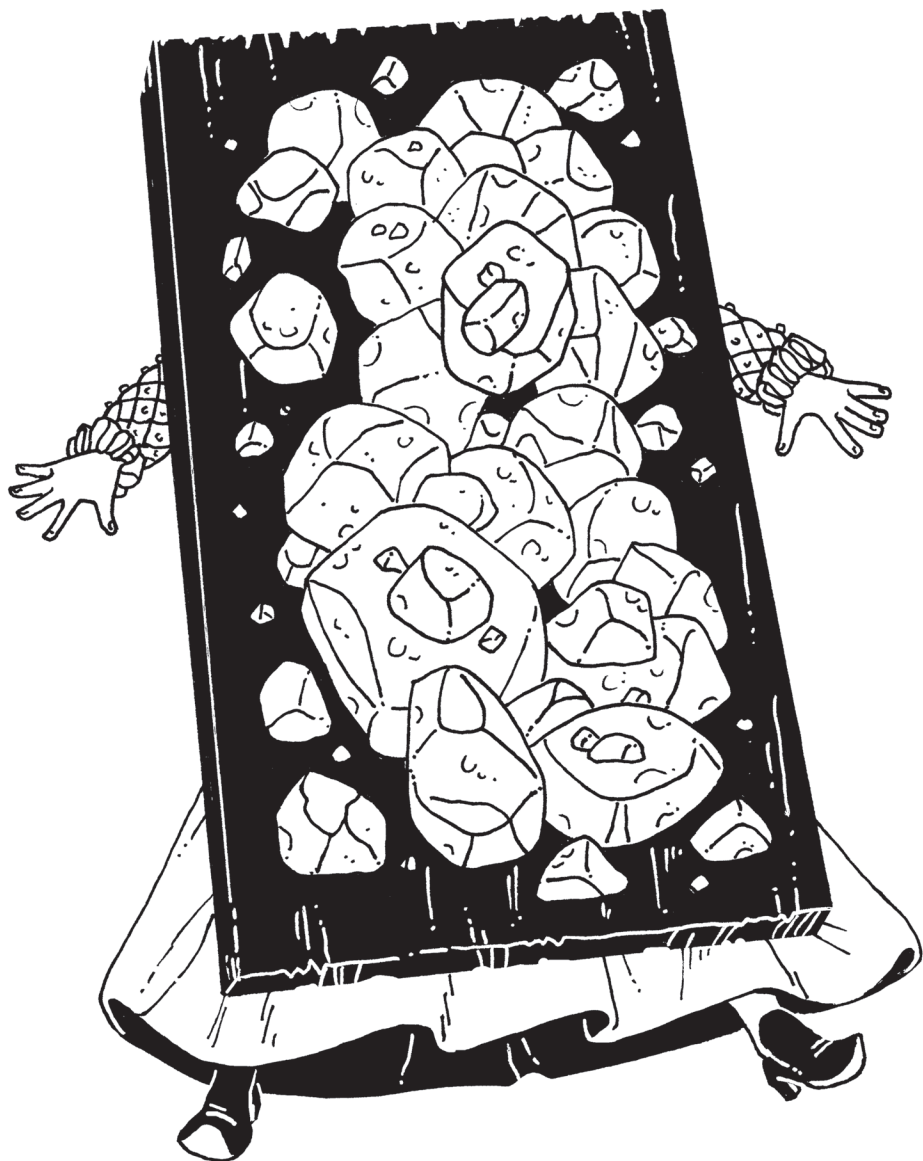
Shot through with arrows





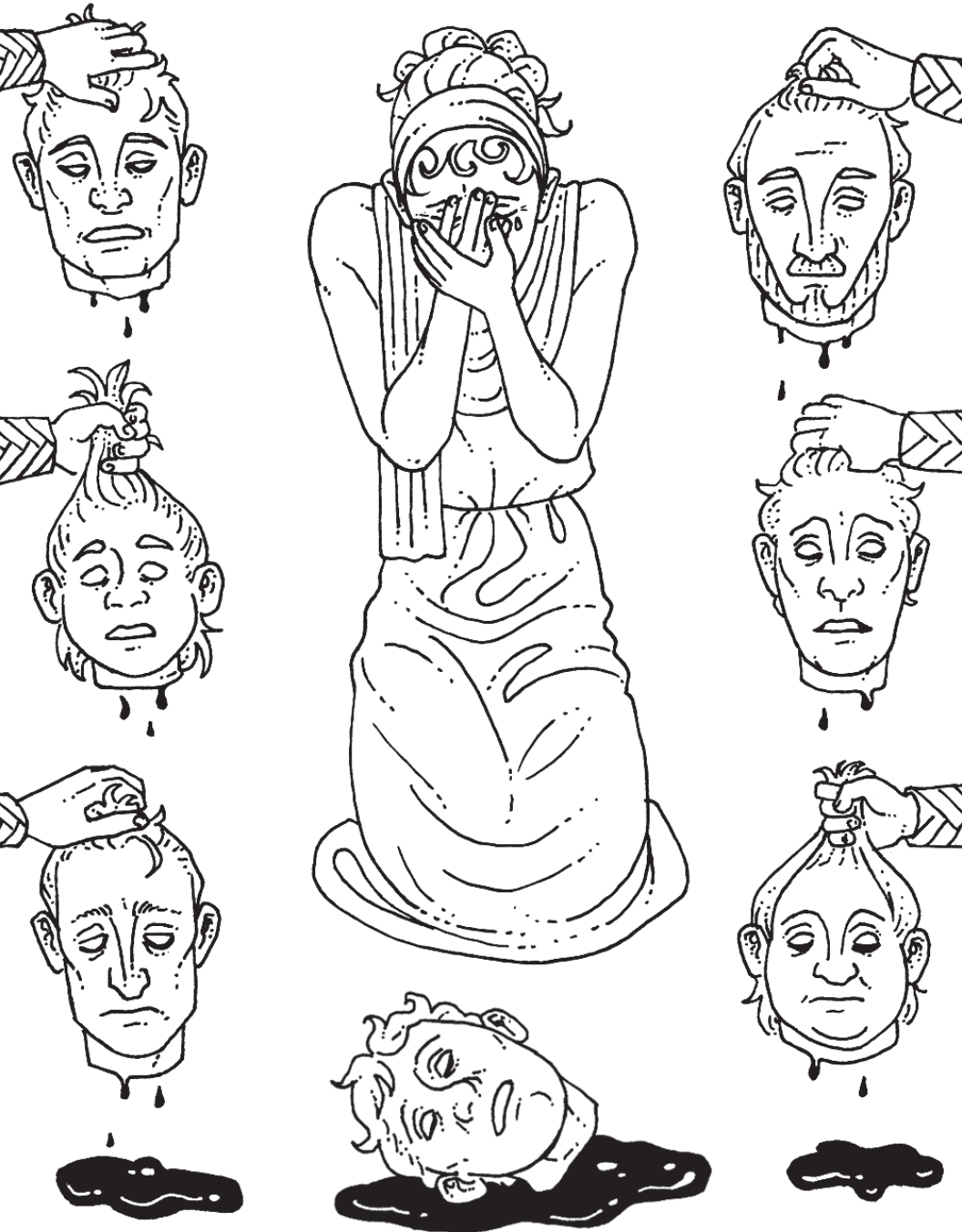
# St. Margaret Clitherow

Pressed to death



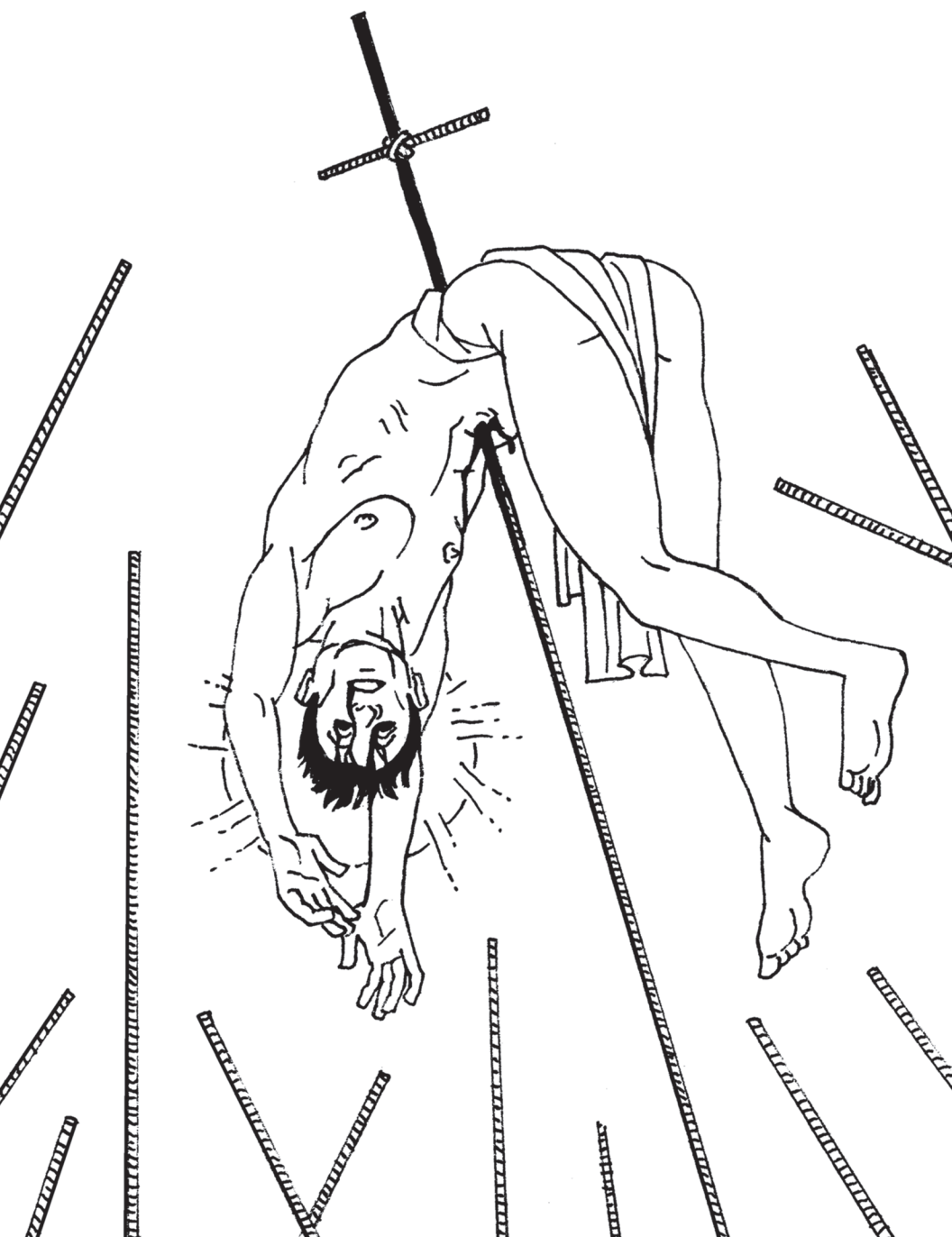
# St. Felicity of Rome

Made to watch her seven sons die



# St. Thomas the Apostle

Impaled



# St. Simon the Zealot

Sawn in half, down the middle



# St. Euphemia

Thrown to the lions



# St. Clement

Tied to an anchor and thrown to sea





# St. Ludmila

Choked with her veil



# St. Castulus

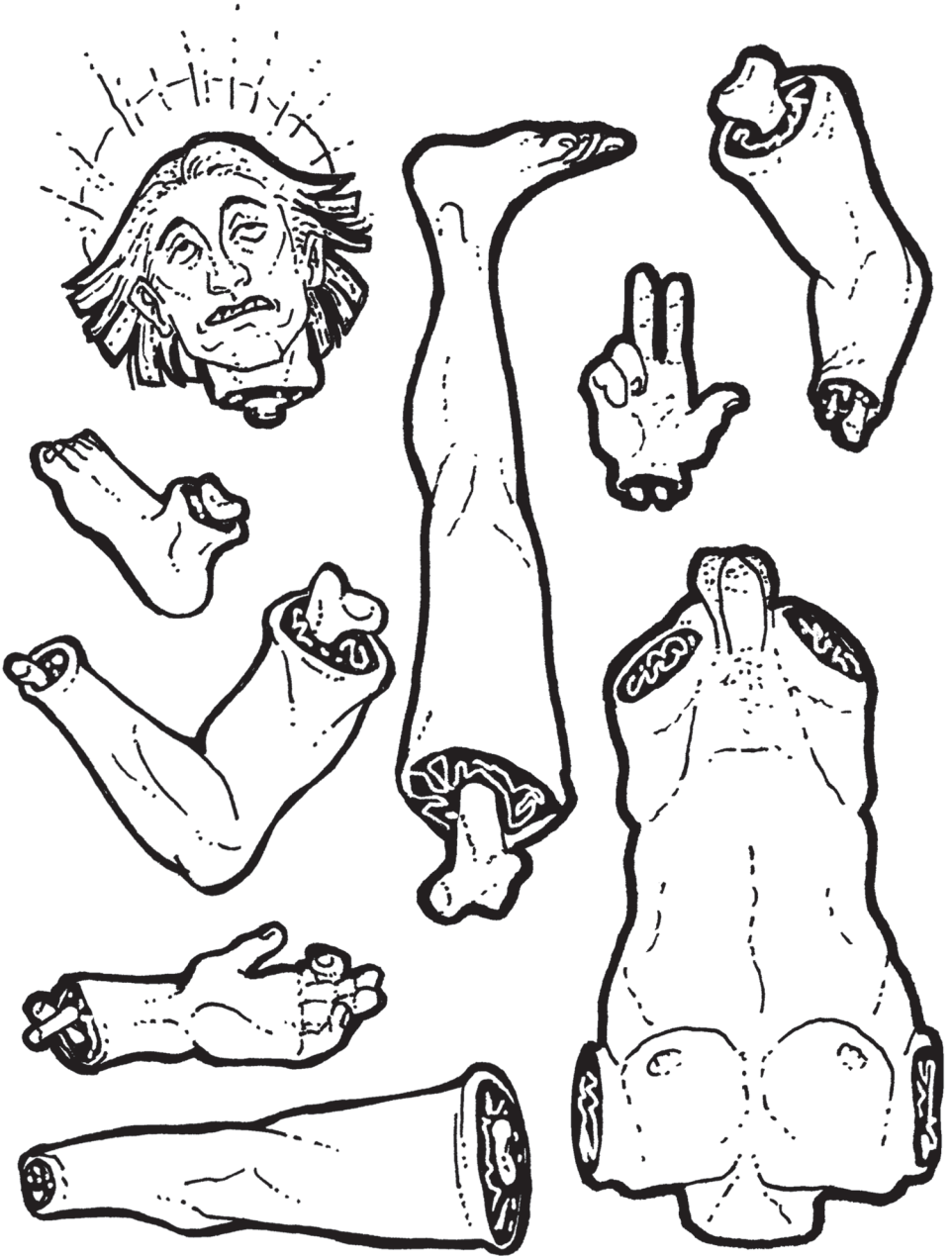
Buried Alive





# St. Stanislaus

Hacked to pieces



# St. Eulalia

Rolled down the streets in a barrel full of glass



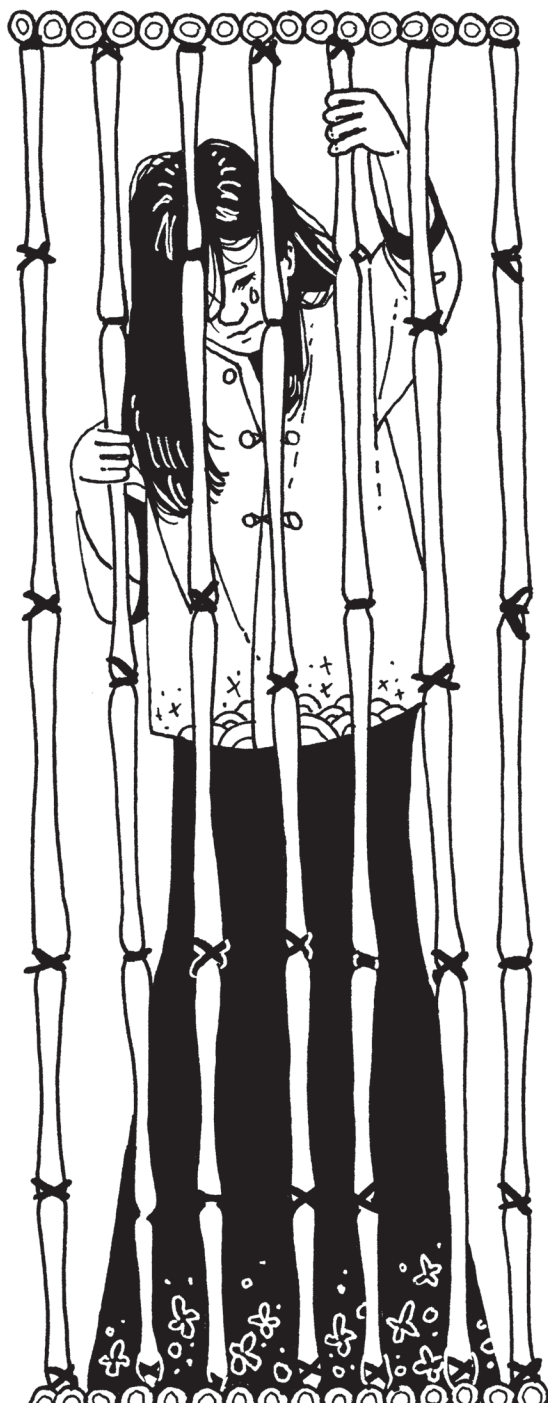
# St. Stephen

Stoned to death



# St. Agnes Tsao Kou Ying

Confined to a miniscule cage



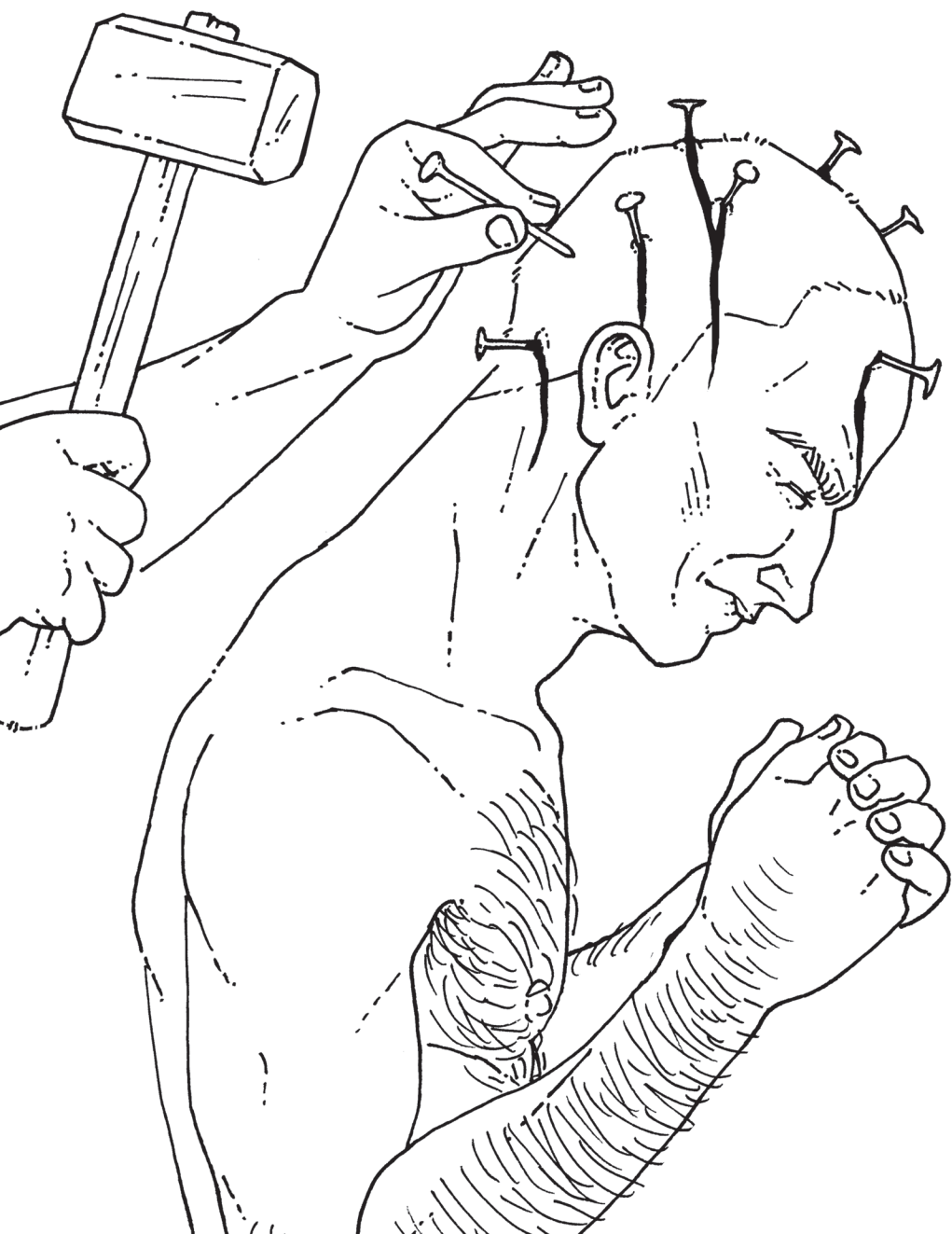
# St. Potamiana

Doused with boiling pitch



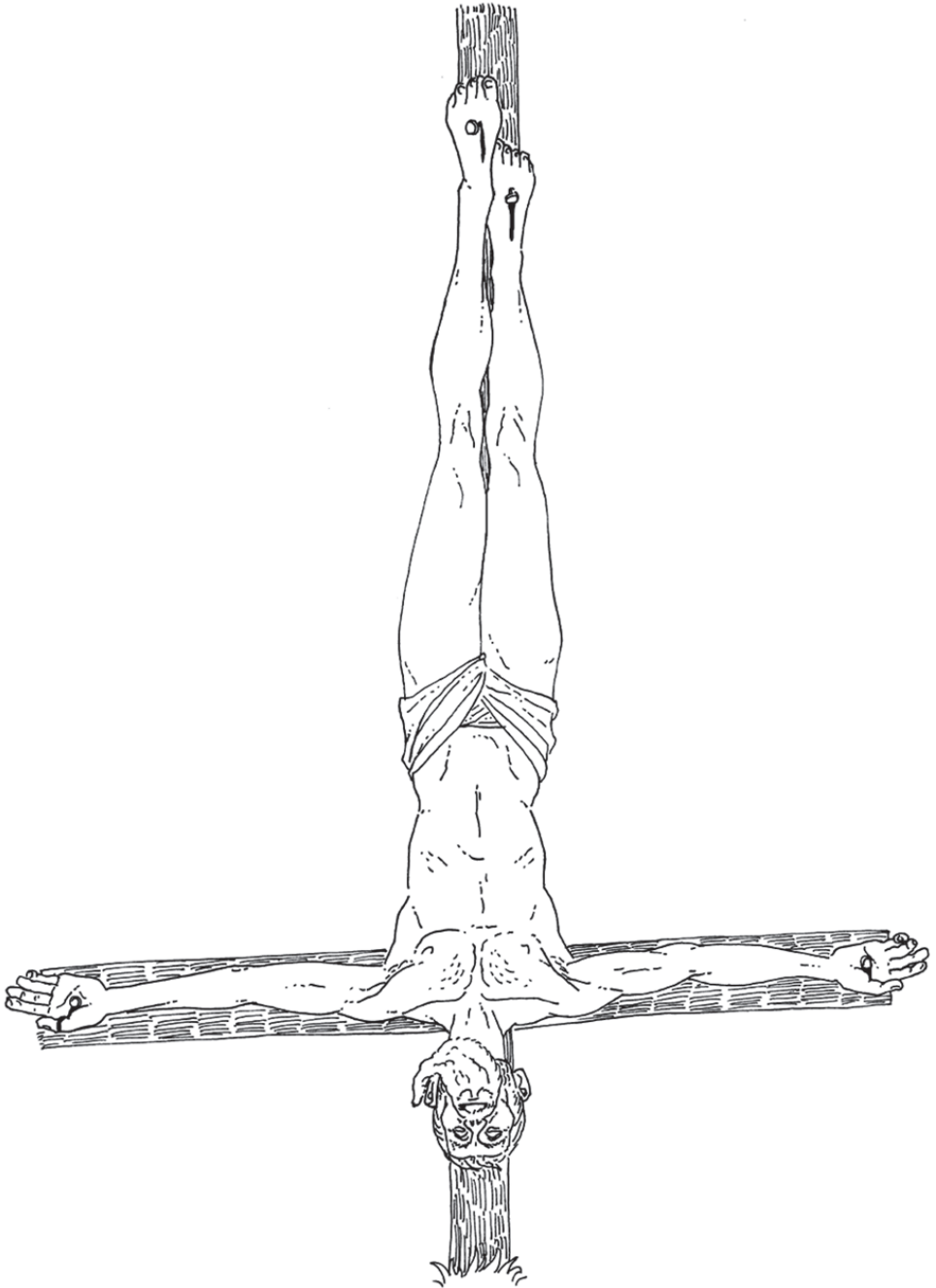
# St. Severus of Barcelona

Nails driven into skull



# St. Peter

Crucified upside down



# St. Joan of Arc

Burned at the stake







# St. Eutropius of Saintes

Head split open with an axe



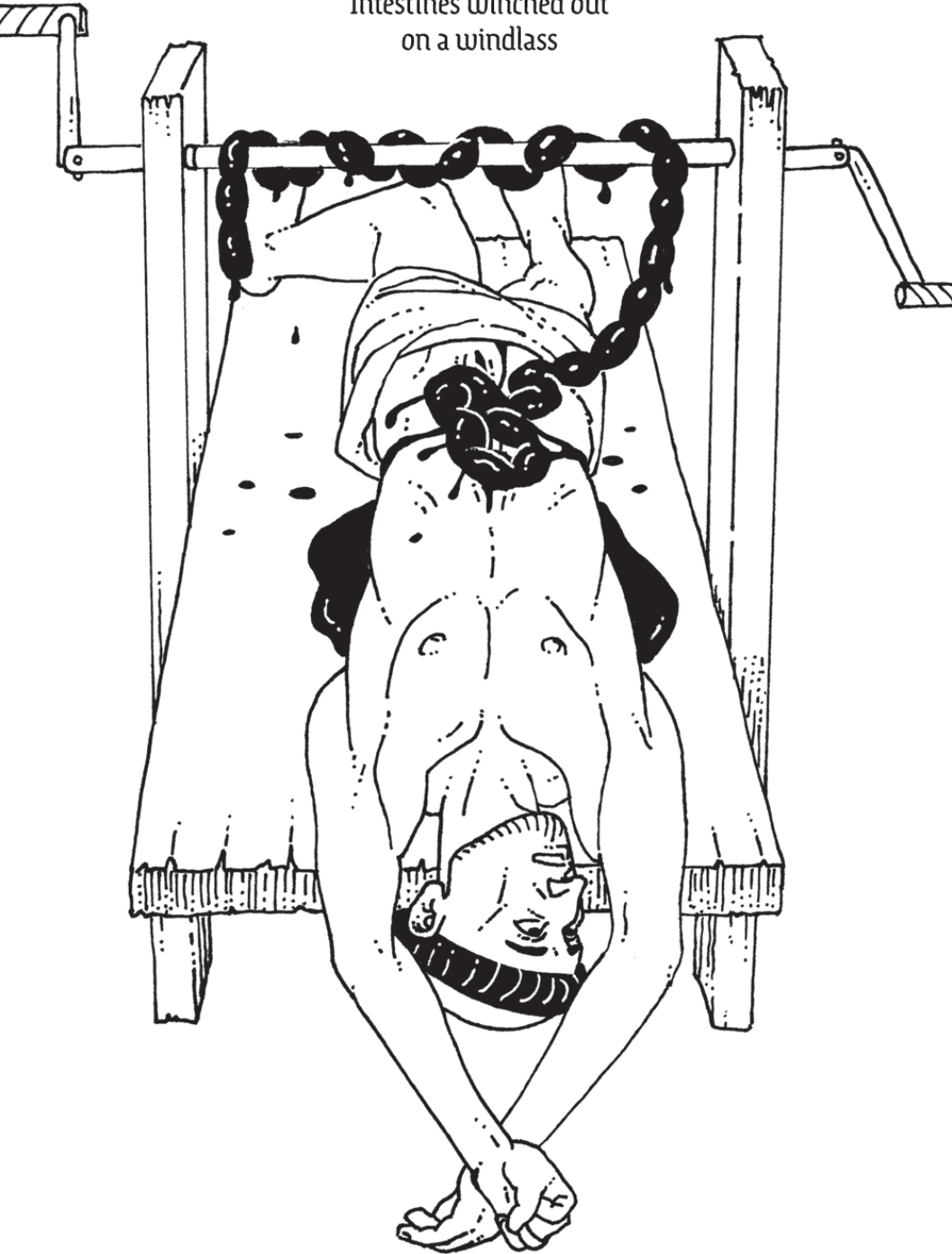
# St. Nerses

Poisoned



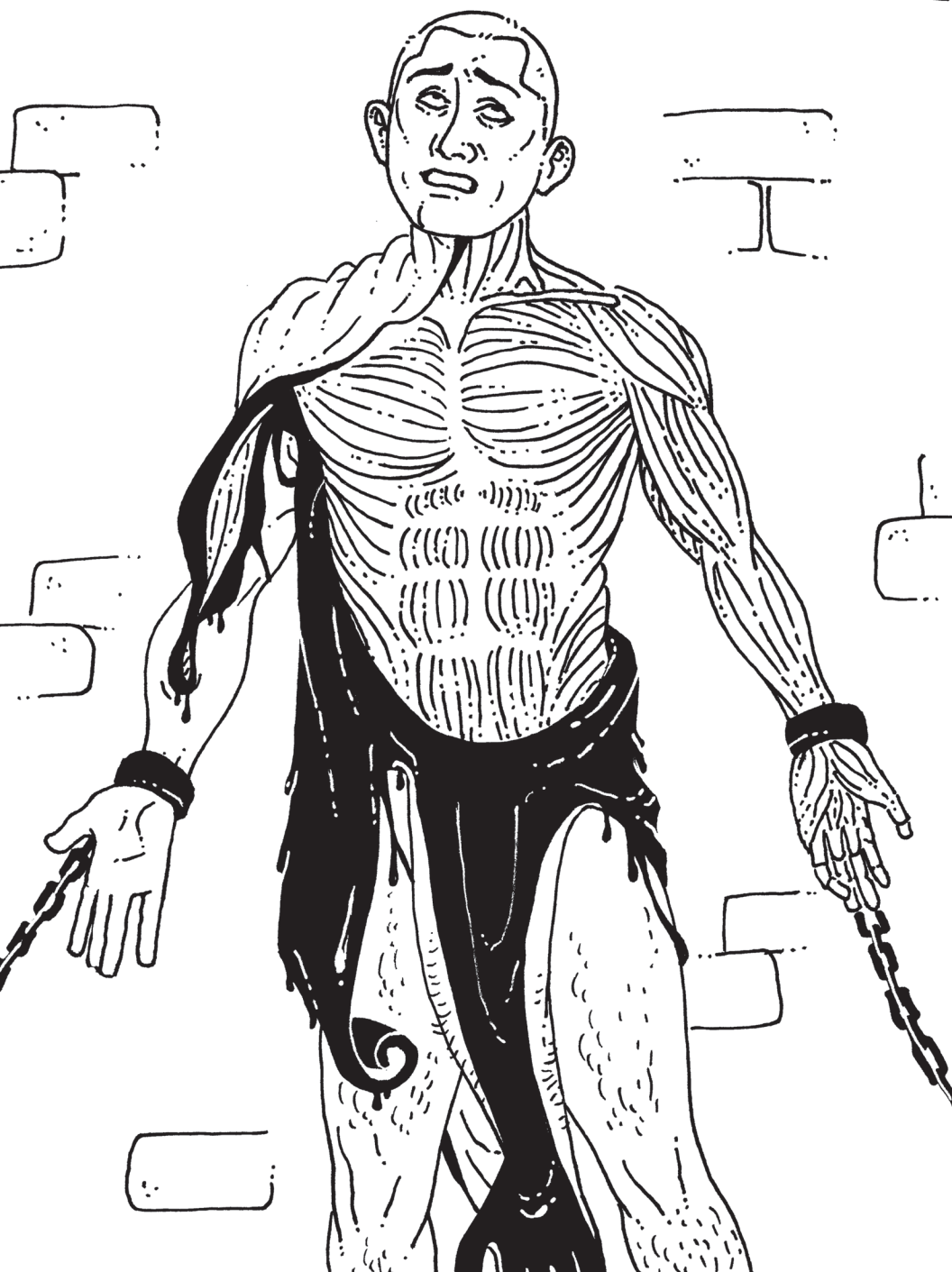
# St. Erasmus

Intestines winched out  
on a windlass



# St. Bartholomew

Flayed Alive



# St. Vitus

Boiled alive





# St. Luke

Hung from an  
olive tree



# St. Bernardo Tolomei

Died administering help to plague victims





# Sts. Marianus, Didorus (and Others)

Immured in the Roman Catacombs



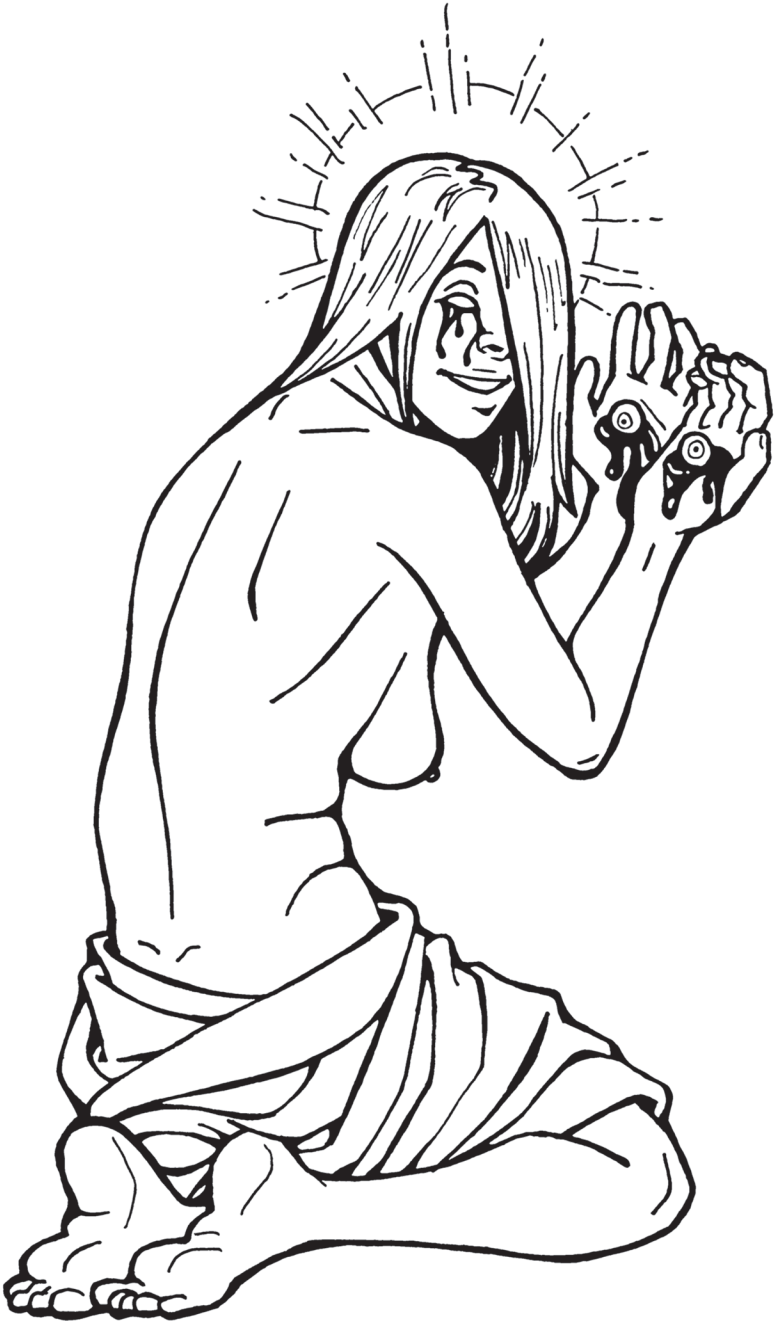
# St. Lawrence

Grilled



# St. Lucy

Eyes gouged out



# Jesus Christ

Nailed to a two beam cross  
and left for dead



# G.C. Houle

G.C. Houle is a French-Canadian comic artist currently residing in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They love telling funny, feel-good love stories about queer people, in every sense of the word “queer.”

Drawing a bunch of saints being tortured to death was a bit of a left turn, on that front.

To view their body of work, visit [gchoule.com](http://gchoule.com).

