

# I Will Never Be Happy

by Amanda Nazario

*The panels of this comic strip are not of a uniform size; they, and what is in them, seem to have been drawn by an amateur or someone under duress. All twelve of the panels feature a cartoon woman wearing a striped sweater, sitting at a table.*

## PANEL 1

*The woman sits with arms folded. In front of her is a can of soda with a straw in it. A scalloped-edged thought balloon over her head reads: I will never be happy.*

## PANEL 2

*A hand in the lower left corner of the panel holds a plate with small cylinders on it, as if to place them on the table. The plate is labeled, with an arrow pointing at it: SPRING ROLLS. The woman looks at the plate.*

## PANEL 3

*A scalloped-edged thought balloon above the woman's head reads: Maybe I should amend that. Her cartoon hand holds two long cartoon line segments; these (chopsticks) grip one of the cylinders.*

## PANEL 4

*The woman's face bulges on one side to signify that she is eating. A scalloped-edged thought balloon above her reads: I will **sometimes** be happy.*

## PANEL 5

*The hand in the lower-left-hand corner reaches for the plate, which is empty. The woman's scalloped-edged thought balloon is larger than previous ones. Inside, the text reads: This principle can be applied in other situations too! I just figured it out! It's AMAZING! *She is smiling.**

PANEL 6

*A smaller thought balloon; the plate absent. The woman's face calm.*

Text: I will never have a hovercraft.

PANEL 7

*The woman's face stern, triumphant.* Text: No! I will **sometimes** have a hovercraft!

PANEL 8

*Stern and triumphant as before.* Text: Jeff will never want to sleep with me again.

PANEL 9

*Even sterner and more triumphant.* Text: Jeff will **sometimes** want to sleep with me again.

PANEL 10

*The woman's arm is lifted, her hand holding the soda can. Her face is expressionless. Inside the thought balloon: I will **sometimes** be considered a genius in my lifetime.*

PANEL 11

*The scalloped-edged thought balloon is wider, more pillowy, than previous ones. The woman's arm is lifted, the soda can in front of her face and the straw in her mouth.* Text: My peers will **sometimes** encounter a talent remotely like mine.

PANEL 12

*A small legend in the lower right-hand corner reads: END. The hand reappears in the lower left-hand corner, holding a black rectangular dish with a bill inside it. Above the woman's head, a comet descends toward Earth, its tail made up of tiny five-pointed stars with minuscule lines radiating from each star to signify that it is glittering. Behind the hindmost star is an issue of smoke, depicted*

*with curly, chaotic scribbling—this smoke fills the rest of the frame and obscures the woman's head and body, the tabletop, and all of the surrounding space.*

