The Pescatarian

by

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The Pescatarian: An Introduction

In this series of portraits, I assume the role of "the pescatarian". To do so, I transform into various aquatic creatures and travel the world with naked, attractive young women. As "the pescatarian", I explore the real world, quite literally as a fish out of water.

The old saying "you are what you eat" holds true for me as an entomologically-defined pescatarian. I relish a good fish fillet, a crab cake, barbecued squid, or, on special occasions, a plate of lobster tails. A pescatarian, by definition, adds fish and seafood to a vegetarian diet. People usually adopt this diet for health reasons, to reduce their environmental footprint, or for ethical reasons. In my case, I became a pescatarian because my wife deemed it a wise dietary choice for both of us. Since she prepares our meals, I am grateful to eat whatever she serves.

However, this series of portraits has nothing to do with my dietary preferences. When COVID forced us into lockdown, I sought a way to photograph subjects that would enable me to explore the world, even if only in my imagination. I thought of the photobook "To have and to be: posing nude with big fish" by Gary Kuehn and Sarah Bereza, which was published in 2006. Kuehn, a pioneer of Minimal art, and Bereza invited young women to pose naked with a fish in various settings, such as playing the piano, dining, sitting by a fireplace, showering, or standing on the snow-covered Brooklyn Bridge. The images were full of humor and absurdity, with a surreal atmosphere created by the juxtaposition of everyday material life with naked women holding big fish.[1] . The title of the series played on Eric Fromm's 1976 book "To have or to be," which criticized materialism's impact on people's hedonism, egotism, and selfishness, and championed the concept of "being" as the path to living as one's best self.

Rather than seeking models online to wander around with fish, like Kuehn and Bereza had done, I contacted several models to see if they would be willing to pose nude with a fish or a crustacean in my photo studio. Most agreed to do so, demonstrating their sporting nature, even though most of them were vegans who found the sea creatures' pungent odor quite unpleasant under the hot studio lights. For their good efforts, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to these models - Olive, Anne, Ellen, Dafne, and Ameria - who spent an afternoon holding a big fish, lobster, octopus, or crab. In post-processing, I was able to transport these images into my imagined settings and bring my alter-ego, "the pescatarian," to life.

The first series I created is called "Big Fish," featuring Olive wandering around various bank offices while holding a large fish. Having worked in banking before the pandemic, I was struck by how impervious bankers were to life happening around them. I reckoned that if a nude model with a big fish managed to invade their offices, they would simply carry on.

[1] Gary Keuhn saw the Big Fish series that I had posted on the web, and corresponded with the model Olive who posed for that series. In his correspondence, he declared that he wasn't certain why he made his "to have and to be" series, or what it was that they he was actually trying to say with it.

For the second series, I took Olive and her big fish to different libraries and bookstores. Reading has always been a cherished pastime of mine, and during lockdowns, I longed for the chance to spend my afternoons in a library or bookstore. I also wondered whether fish could read or not, and thought: “why not”.

In the third series, I envisioned Olive and Anne traveling the world with their big fish and sending postcards back home from their adventures. To bring my pescatarian alter-ego to life, I used my own travel photos for some of these postcards, providing a glimpse into my own special travel memories.

In the fourth series, I decided to take Olive and "the pescatarian" outdoors for some fresh air. In this series, I swapped out the big fish for a well-steamed red lobster, whose hard shell provided ample protection against the elements. Together, Maya and the red lobster trekked into the wilderness, scaling the highest mountain peaks without a care in the world.

In the fifth series, I pondered how "the pescatarian" would fare at a barbecue. While lobsters are not typically known to approach open fires, I decided to have Olive and the red lobster attend a barbecue with a particularly vibrant array of smoke wafting through the air. To my surprise, they both appeared to flourish amongst the thick smoke screen.

For the sixth series, I felt it was time for a little retail therapy. Unfortunately, lobsters aren't great shopping companions with their pointy claws and limited ability to carry things. That's when "the pescatarian" transformed into yet another of his alter-egos, Spike the octopus. Ellen brought Spike to the local mall for a day of retail therapy. They shopped until they almost dropped, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

After a long day at the mall, Ellen and Spike were ready to unwind and appreciate the simple pleasures of nature. The crisp autumn air and vibrant colors of the falling leaves provided the perfect backdrop for them to contemplate the beauty of the changing seasons. In the seventh series, we see Ellen and her multi-limbed "pescatarian" companion taking a peaceful break amidst the autumn foliage.

Contemplating the difference between "having" and "being" amongst the fall foliage didn't quite have the desired effect on "the pescatarian". Being a Baltimore native, I tend to be a bit crabby at the best of times. So for the eighth and final series, Dafne and Ameria decided to transport "the pescatarian's" crabby alter-ego into one of his favorite comic strips. There, he spends a delightful afternoon exploring his crabby psyche with Lucy, his favorite character from the Charlie Brown comic strips.

BIG FISH

READING TIME

Opera: Scelta:
Petrarca
LEGGI E CODICI
SETOS TOM I
Lomer: in Latin
LE AMERICHE
LE INDIE

HISTORY of UKRAINE-RUS'
HISTORY of UKRAINE
HISTORY of UKRAINE-RUS
Mykhailo Hrushevsky
DK 468.Ω
DK 508.H6813 1997 vol 9 .bk 1
DK 254.15.A5 vol 4 .bk 1
DK 189.1
DK 503.H6813 1997 vol 9 .bk 2 .pt 1
DK 561.A
Богдан Хмельницький
Іван Мазепа
Російська імперія
Reconstructing the Dream of Empire

LAW & CRIME
LAW & CRIME
LANGUAGES

THE
LAST
BOOK
STORE
THE
LAST
BOOK
STORE

DREAMCARDS

Greetings from
PARIS
LE CAFÉ
EGYPTIEN
LE CAFÉ EGYPTIEN
CHAMPAGNES

Rome

Greetings from NEW ORLEANS

SAWADEE KRAP

BANGKOK

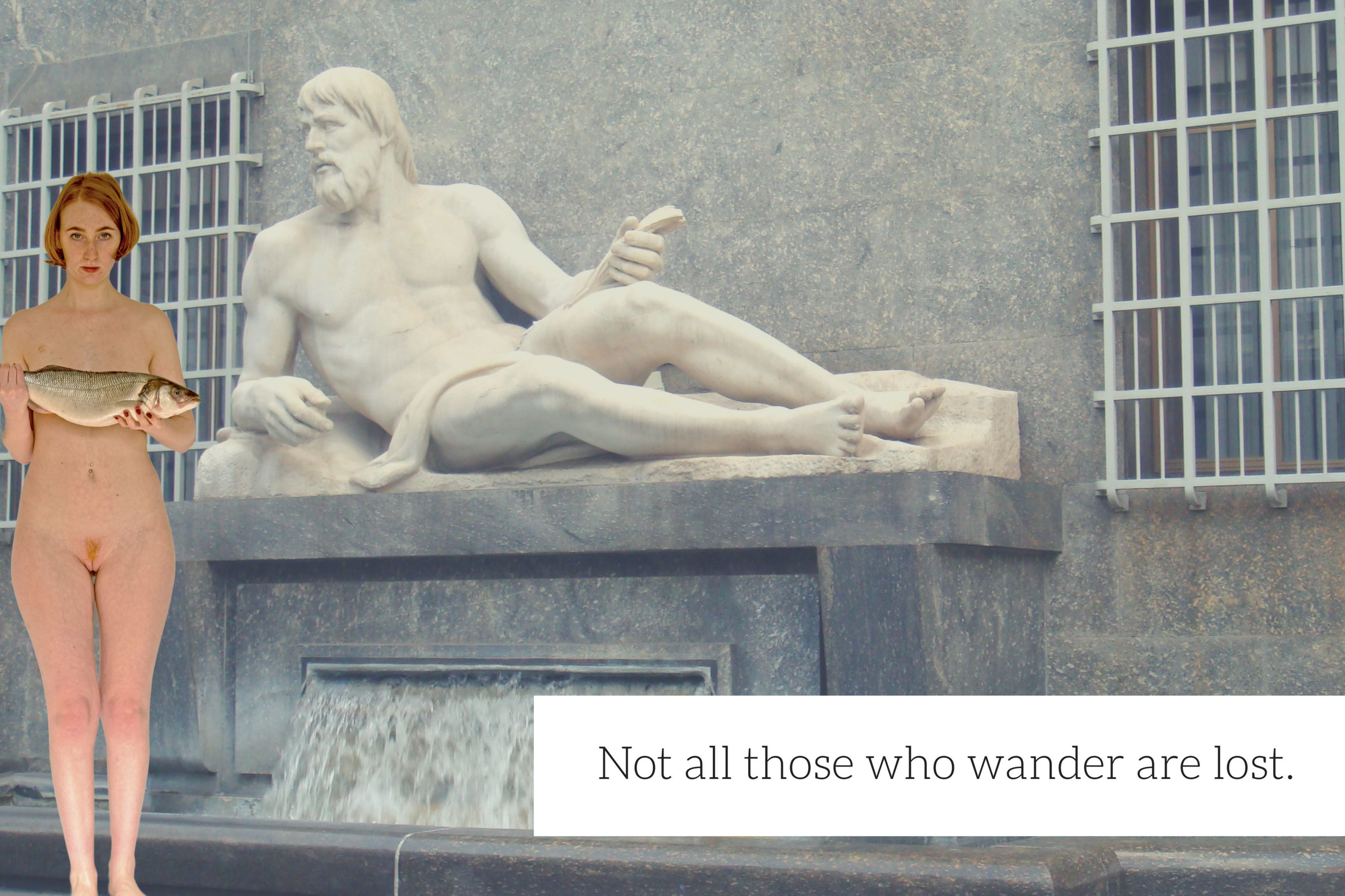
your Corned Beef

ADVENTURE

awaits

NEVER FORGET:
you are loved

CULTURE

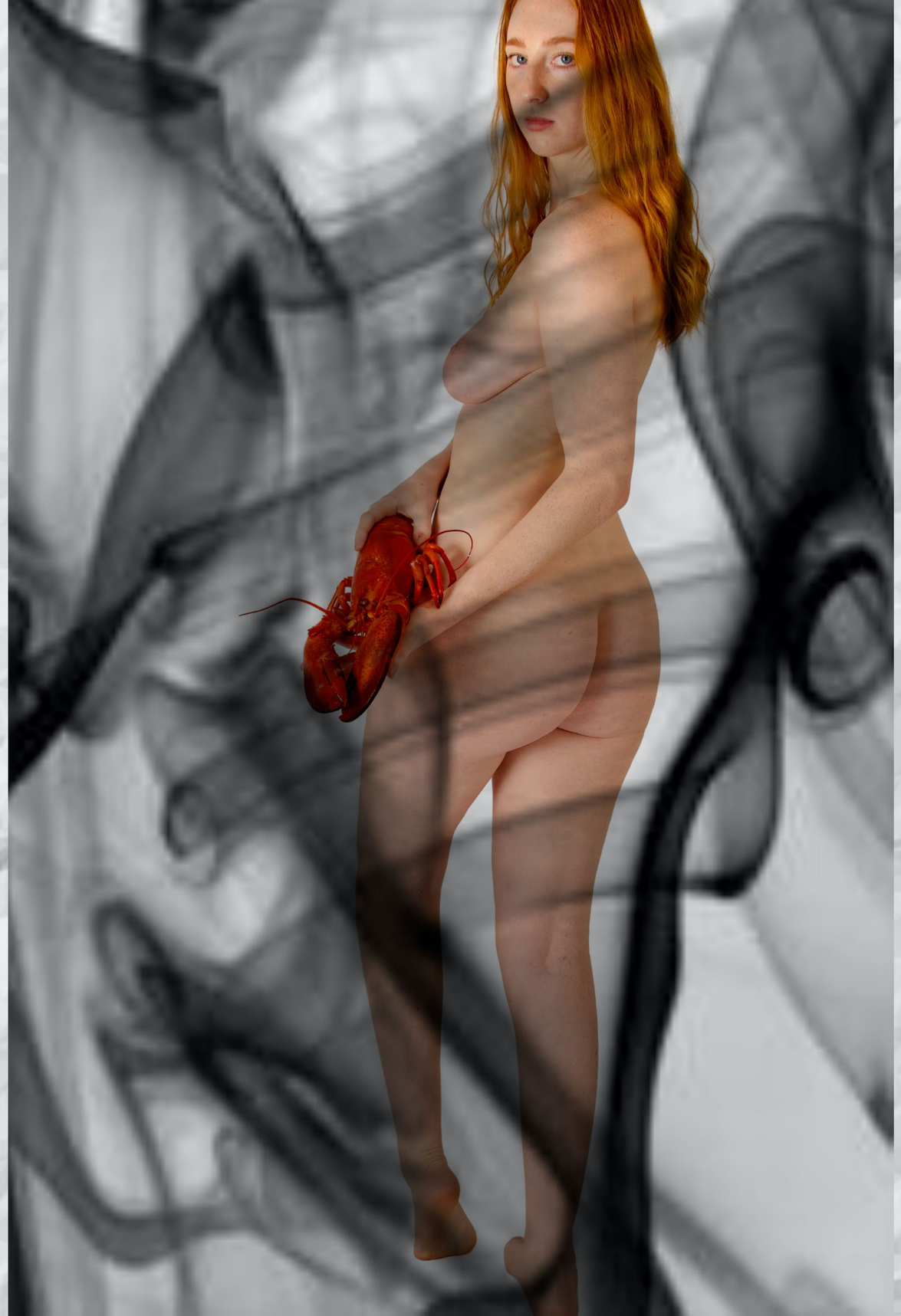


Not all those who wander are lost.

WHERE TO NEXT?

TREKKING

BARBECUE



AT THE MALL

GAP
GAP
GAP

STARBUCKS COFFEE

MARKS & SPENCER

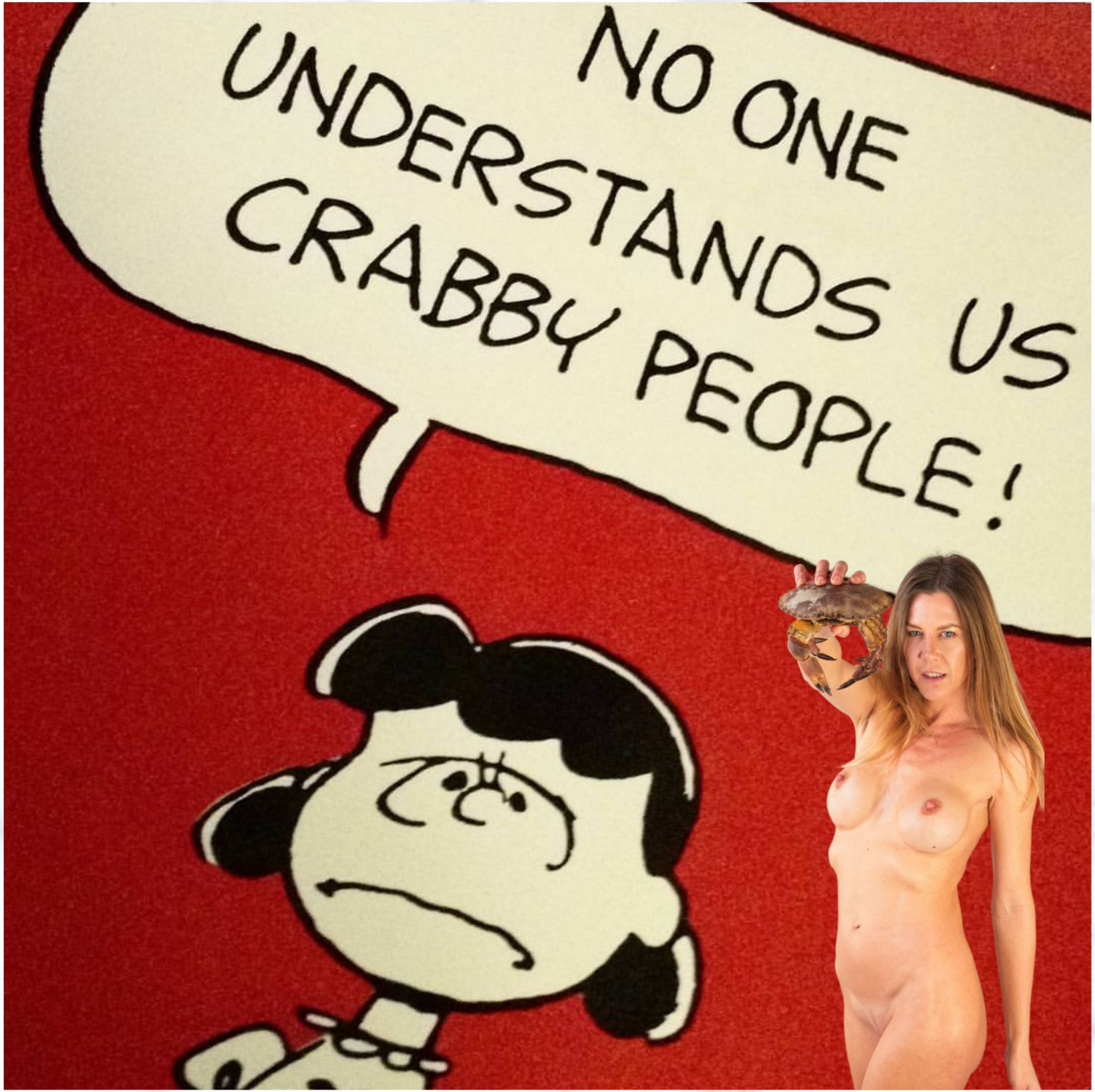
WATCH

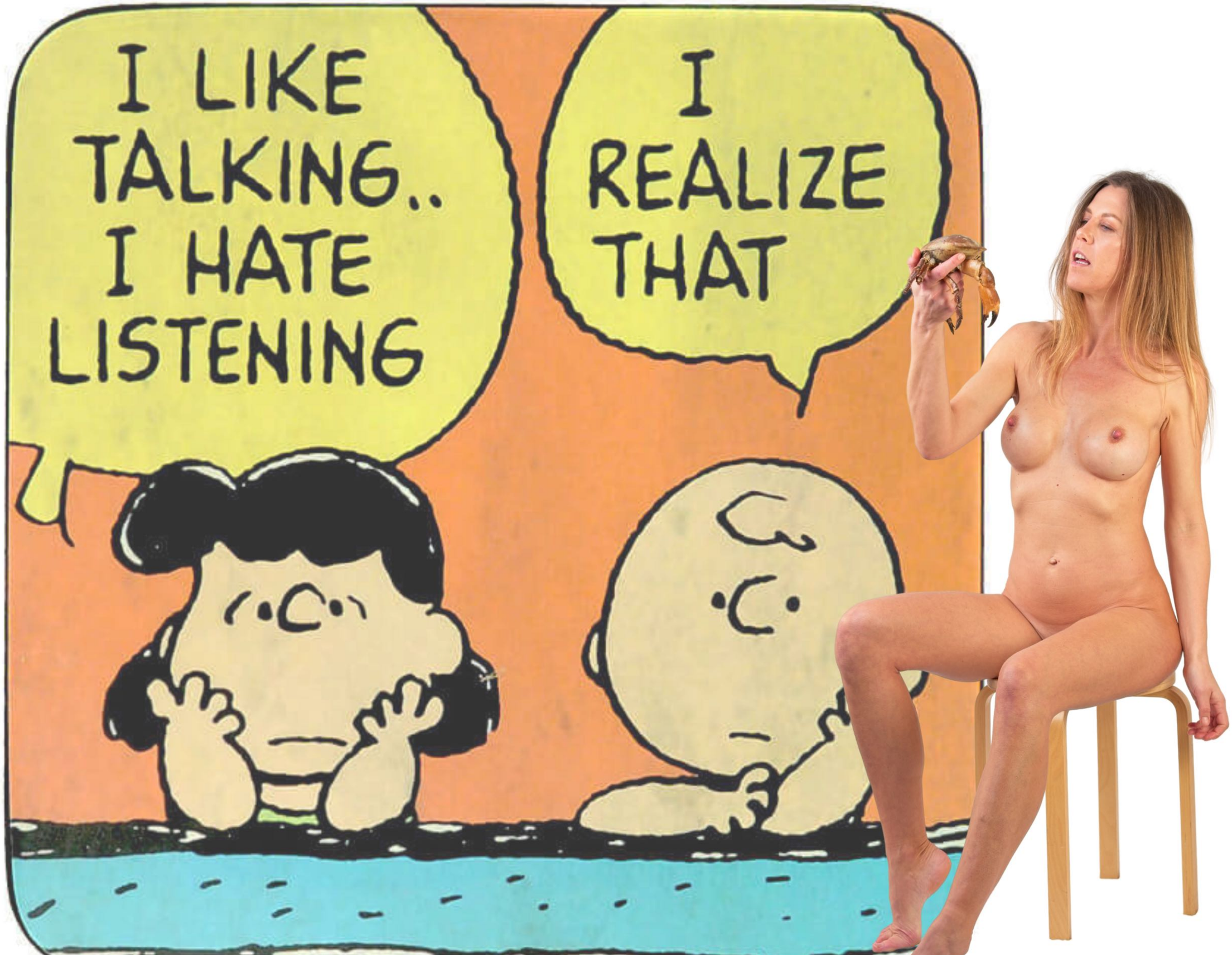
the
aquarium
there is magic on this plane

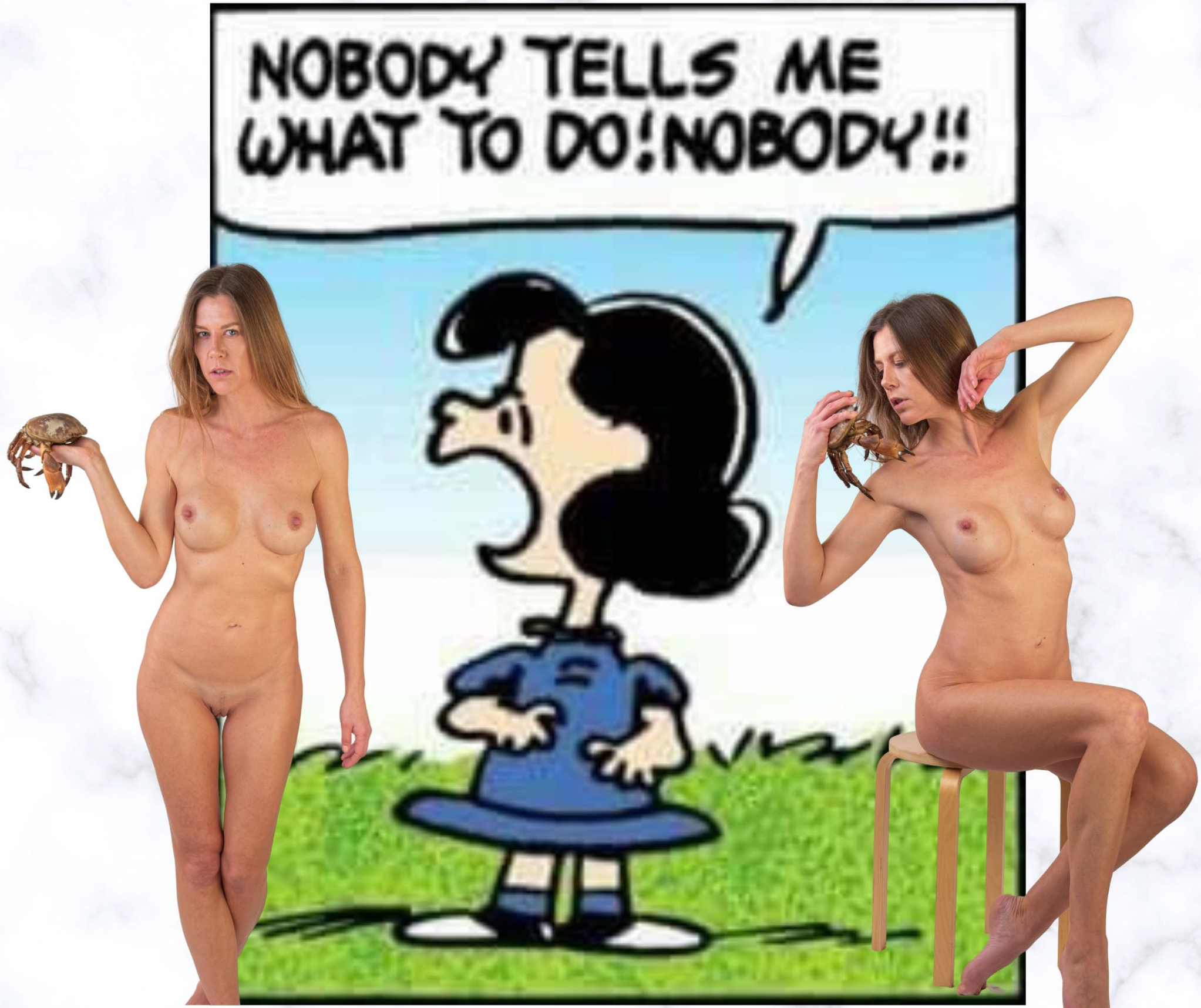
AUTUMN LEAVES

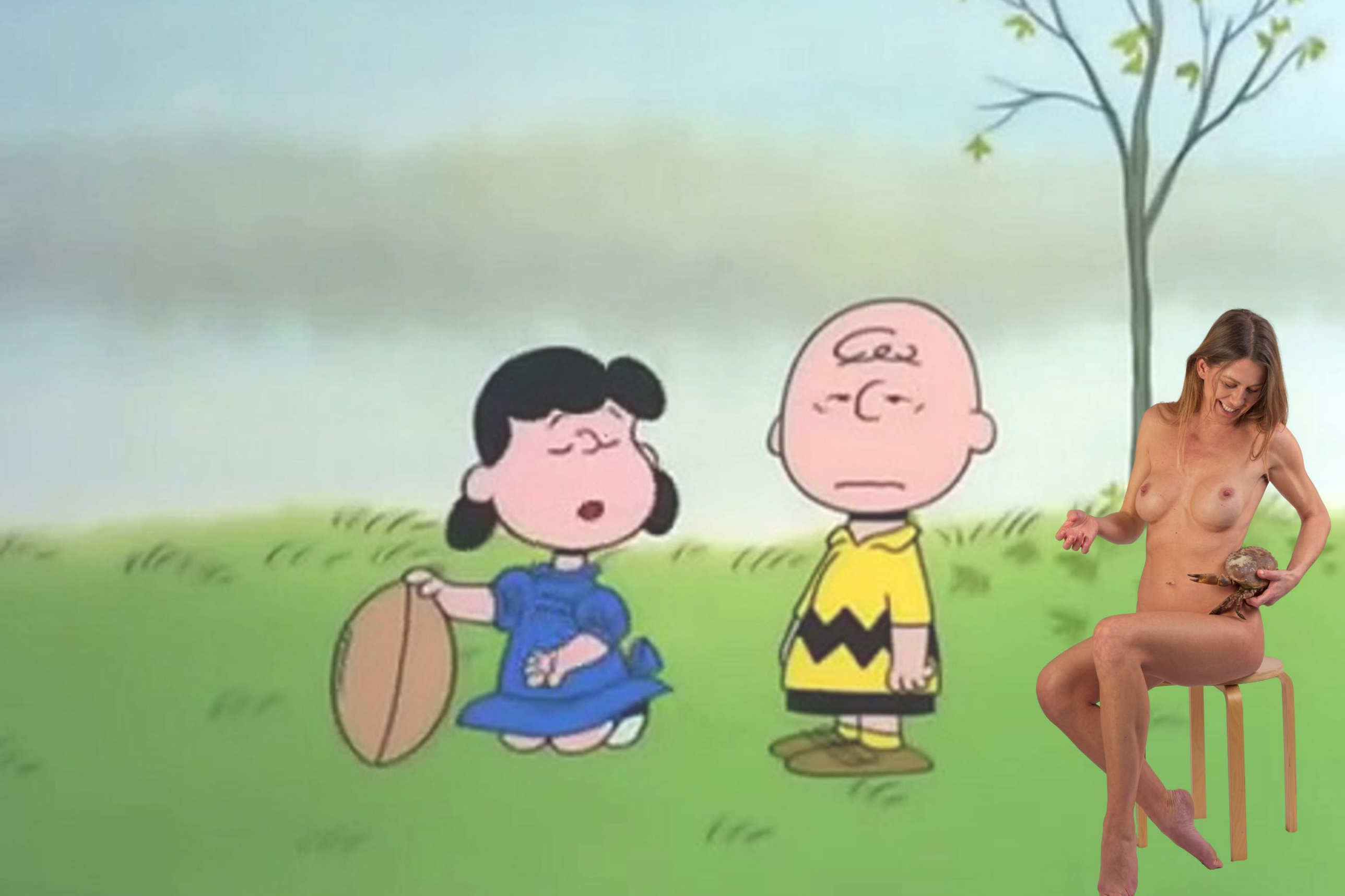
I'M GRABBY

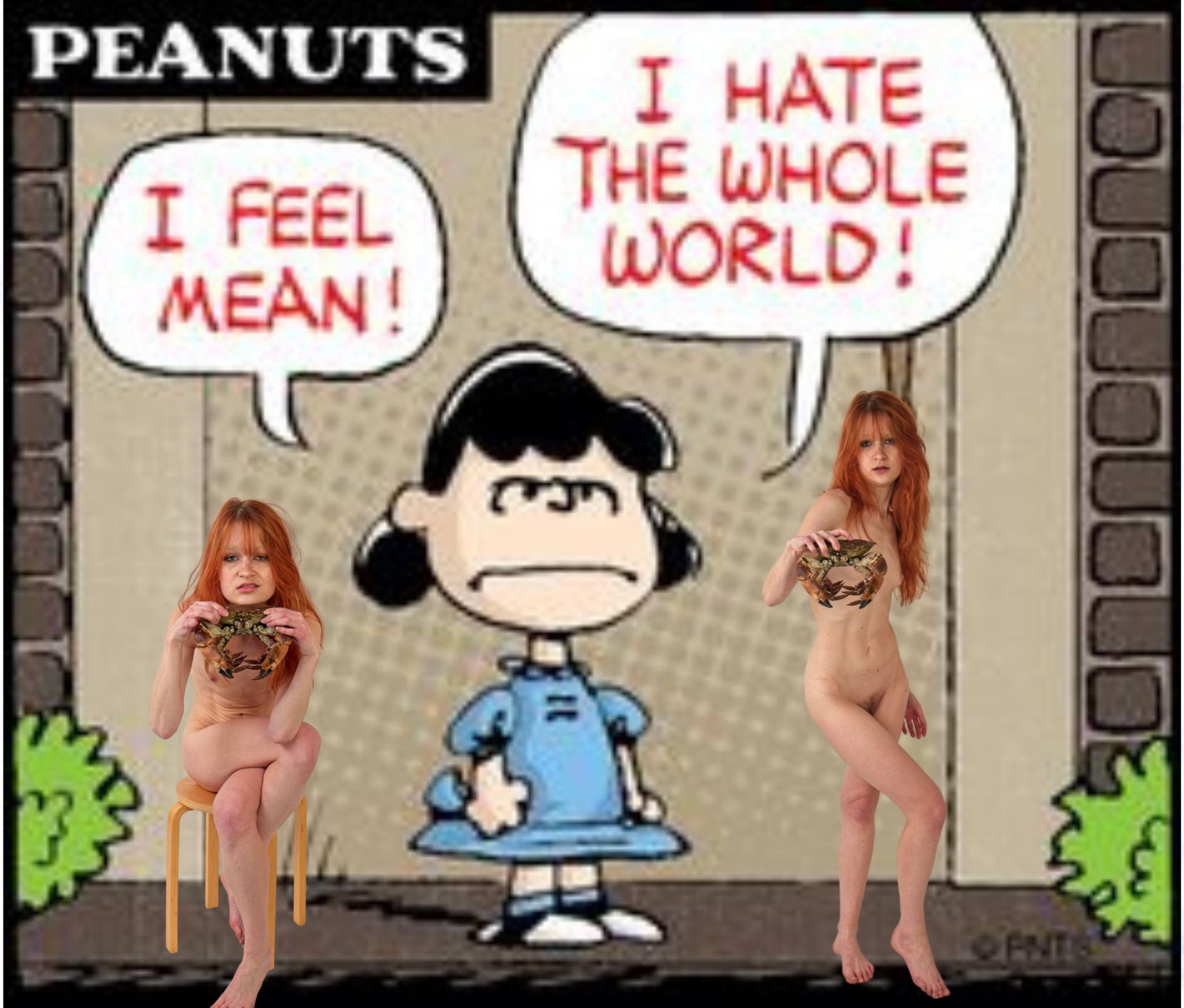
I'M CRABBY!


NO ONE UNDERSTANDS US CRABBY PEOPLE!

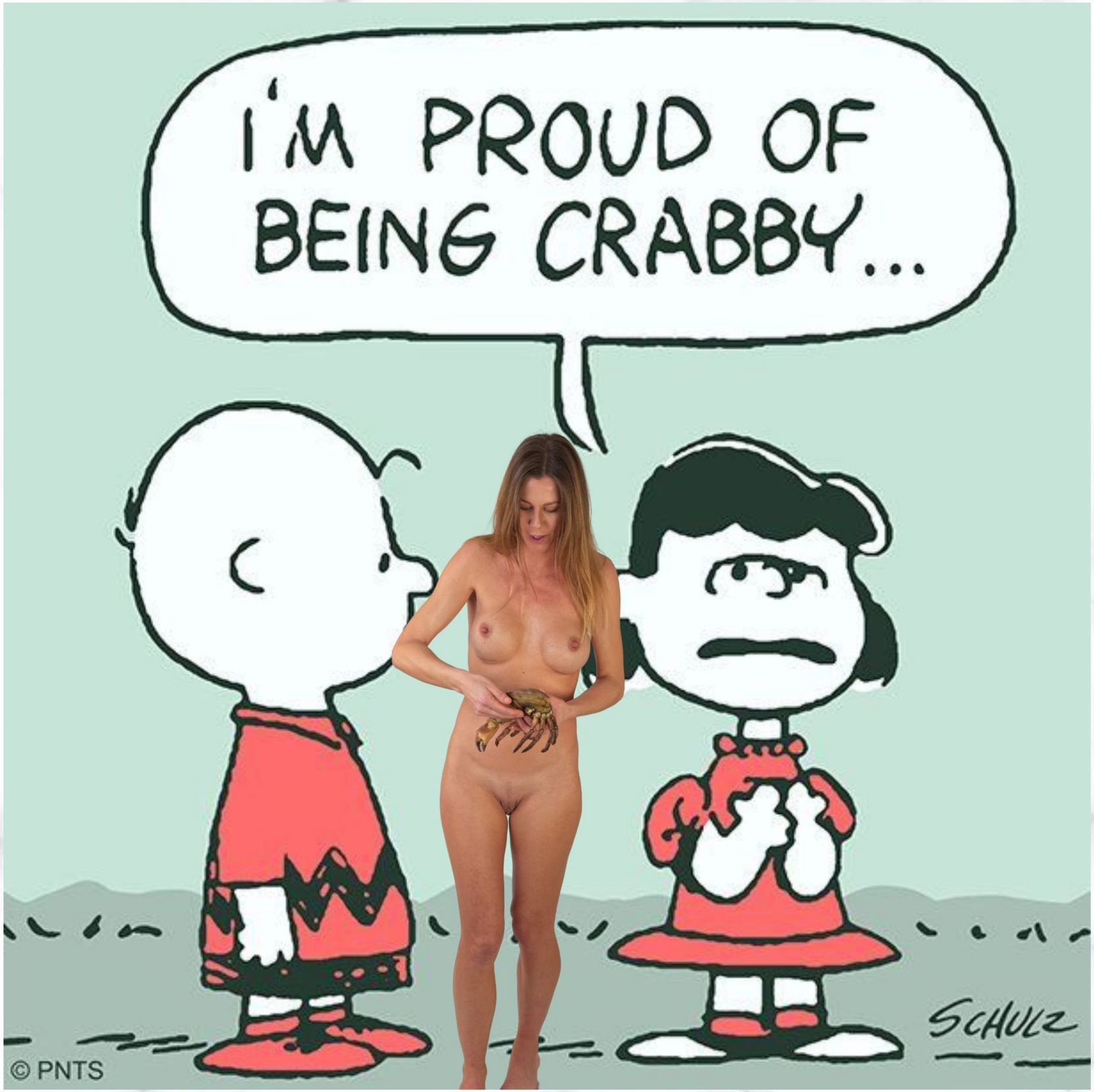

I LIKE TALKING.. I HATE LISTENING
I REALIZE THAT


NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO! NOBODY!!




PEANUTS
I FEEL MEAN!
I HATE THE WHOLE WORLD!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING CRABBY?


I'M PROUD OF BEING CRABBY...
SCHULZ
© PNTS

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU...HOW CAN YOU STAND IT?
9-1
www.snoopy.com
I KEEP HOPING THAT SOMEDAY THEY'LL DEVELOP A CRABBINESS VACCINE..
SCHULZ

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