

Chipmunk

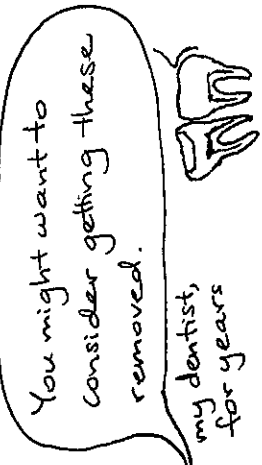
Vol. 1

Mopey

continued...

To be

In my 4th year of grad school, I changed insurance and dentists. Also, my upper right wisdom tooth started to poke through.

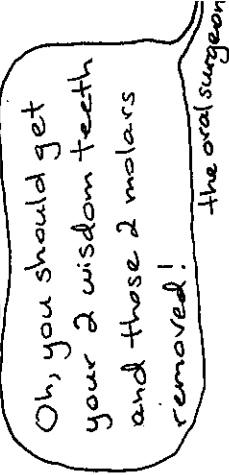


You might want to consider getting these removed.

my dentist, for years

I've always been behind when it comes to teeth. My lower 12-year molars never came in fully.

Then he told me all the risks: permanent nerve damage, pierced sinus...

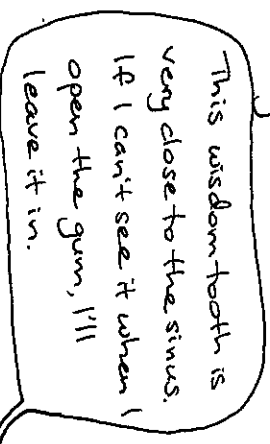


Oh, you should get your 2 wisdom teeth and those 2 molars removed!

the oral surgeon

My new dentist sent me to the oral surgeons at the School of Dentistry. None of my teeth were bothering me. But...

I was getting IV sedation. The surgeon said he wouldn't start till I fell asleep.



This wisdom tooth is very close to the sinus. If I can't see it when I open the gum, I'll leave it in.

my surgeon

On the day of the surgery, M. came with me. In the operating room, the surgeon pointed at my X-ray.

The next thing I knew, I was out of the OR, and M. was sitting by me. The surgeon told me he'd left in the tooth, though later I couldn't remember this exchange.

I know M. and I walked to the campus pharmacy, but I can't remember the walk at all. I remember being at the pharmacy counter. M. produced a bottle of water so I could

take one dose of hydrocodone. Then she drove me home.

I finished the book I was reading on the couch. I felt like I could even work, though I didn't want to. Spring break was about to begin. But I felt surprisingly fine, considering. Then I crashed and took a long nap.

I made an appointment for the surgery, but I had it decided to go through with it. Turns out it's pretty unclear whether teeth that don't hurt need to be removed. U.S. dentists really like to remove wisdom teeth. Not everyone thinks it's necessary. But in the end, I decided to do it.