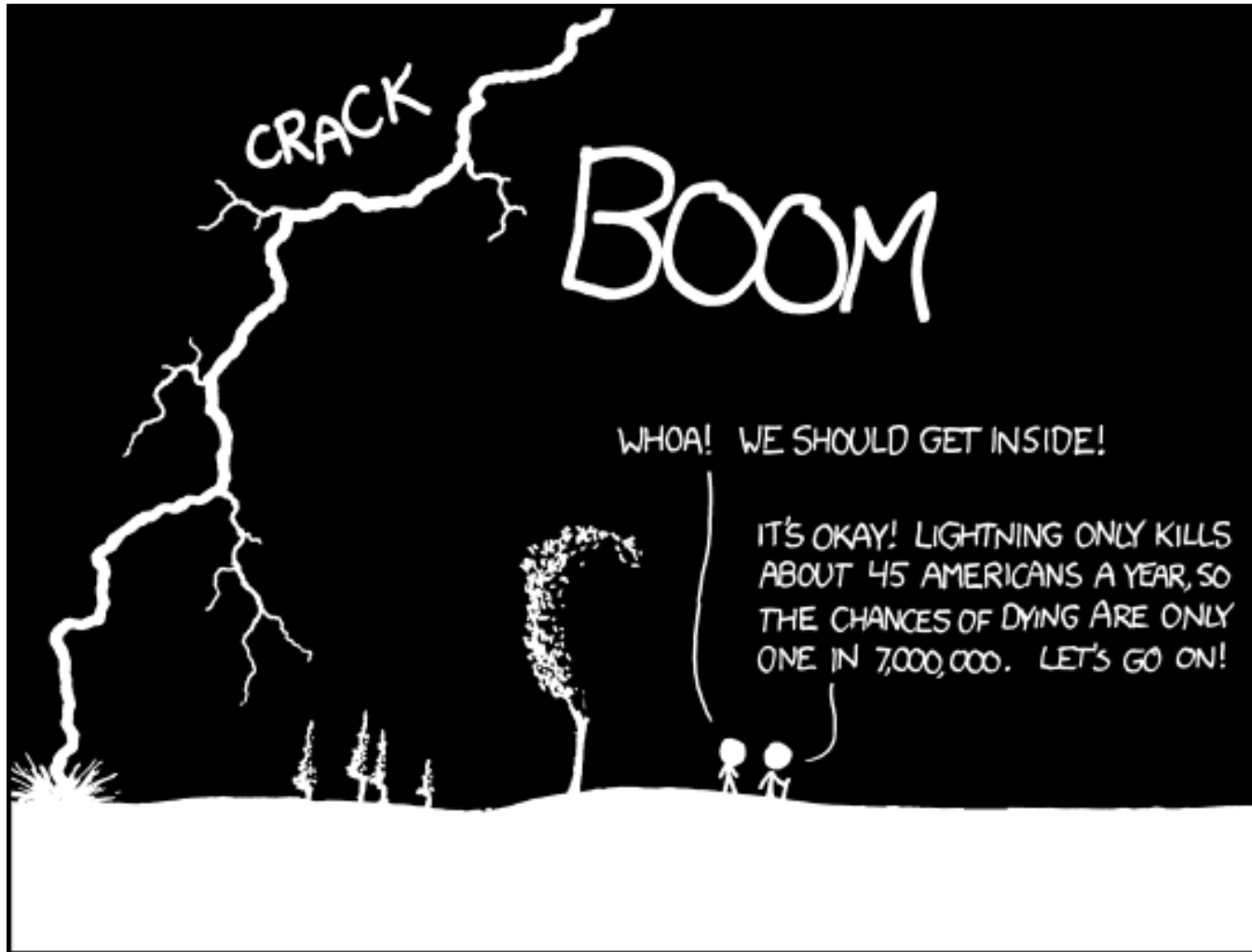


BIOSTATS IN MY BACKYARD

I used to have a few beautiful plants in pots in my backyard. I looked after them. I collected fertile soil from the bush to feed them every so often (all that animal manure). I watered them and weeded them. Surprise, surprise they all died on me, one at a time! A dear friend told me it was because I didn't TALK to them. Apparently, I should say 'Hi, good morning; how are you?', and they'll smile on me and grow more glorious.

Guess what? I've discovered Biostats is like plants in a pot! Punch the numbers, work the z-score table, give commands. When you're done, sit together and say "Why darling, what do you mean?" That, or it dies on you.

PS: Stem and leaves are my kind of backyard decor



THE ANNUAL DEATH RATE AMONG PEOPLE
WHO KNOW THAT STATISTIC IS ONE IN SIX.

A Dictionary of the Near Future

New York Times, Sept 14, 2010

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/13/opinion/13coupland.html?_r=2&ref=opinion

The thing about the future is that it never feels the way we thought it would. New sensations require new terms; below are a few such terms to encapsulate our present moment.

STANDARD DEVIATION Feeling unique is no indication of uniqueness, and yet it is the feeling of uniqueness that convinces us we have souls.