

## EU INVESTMENTS

### CZELADŹ

Post-industrial monuments are an important part of the urban heritage in the Zagłębie Dąbrowskie region. This is also true for the city of Czeladź, where the local government has been renovating parts of the former Saturn Coal Mine for years. Established in the 19th century, the colliery primarily supplied factories in Łódź with the fuel necessary for production at the time. Today, the Elektrownia Contemporary Art Gallery, founded in 2016, is one of the institutions housed by the above-ground facilities. After being refurbished, the transformer station and the electrical workshop building changed their profile in 2019. They now accommodate the Community Services and Local Engagement Centre. Erected between 1907 and 1911, the pithead building was another Saturn facility to be renovated. It currently houses the Post-industrial Heritage Centre of Coalmining in Zagłębie and the Media Library, the latter of which was created from the ground up. The areas surrounding the renewed buildings serve as venues for meetings and open-air events.

Projects aimed at renewing the area of the former Saturn Coal Mine in Czeladź were worth over PLN 73 million, of which the European Union financed more than PLN 46 million.

For more about the projects, visit:

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/780575/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/709837/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/768795/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/713108/>

### ŁÓDŹ

The consistent area regeneration of the Łódź city centre has produced impressive results. It began in 2015 and involves the refurbishment of eight large downtown quarters and the historic Księży Młyn (Priest's Mill) housing estate. The residents of Łódź have been reclaiming successive parts of their city, including Wólczyńska Street and the house at No 11 that once belonged to the famous 19th-century urban architect Hilary Majewski. His many designs shaped the cityscape of Łódź that can still be seen today. For many years, Majewski's own house was in disrepair. It was only after an EU-co-funded refurbishment project was implemented that it returned to its former glory. Majewski's house is now the seat of inłodz21, the city's new cultural institution. The renewal of the Stary Rynek (Old Town Park) helped to revive the memory of its pre-WWII urban fabric, while the neighbouring Stary Rynek (Old Market Square) became again a magnet for residents to spend their time and for restaurant owners to set up their businesses. Wolności Square (Liberty Square) – formerly known as Nowy Rynek (New Market Square) – has also been transformed. The octagonal square has become more leafy and now boasts new paving, a fountain and a children's playground. Wolności Square has always been a meeting place and the city's transport hub. After tram and car traffic was moved to the northern part of the square, pedestrians have more space to walk and relax.

Hilary Majewski's town house was renovated under the "Area regeneration of the Łódź city centre – an area of 7.5 ha delimited by Wschodnia, Rewolucji 1905 r., Kilińskiego and Jaracza Streets together with building frontages on the other side of these streets" project. Its value was PLN 288.4 million, with the EU financing over PLN 88.9 million.

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/756668/>

The Stary Rynek, Stary Rynek and Wolności Square were renovated under the "Area regeneration of the Łódź city centre – an area of 32.5 ha delimited by Zachodnia, Podrzeczna, Stary Rynek, Wolborska, Franciszkańska, Północna, Wschodnia, Rewolucji 1905 r. and Próchnicka Streets together with building frontages on the other side of these streets" project. Its value was PLN 278.3 million, of which the EU financed over PLN 73.5 million.

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/756667/>

For more about renovation projects in Łódź, visit:  
<https://rewitalizacja.uml.lodz.pl/dzialania/7L-1>

30 new trams make it easier to get to Wolności Square and other parts of Łódź. They were purchased by the city of Łódź as part of a project co-funded by the EU. These new trams will run on modernized tracks from the expanded depot in Chocianowice.

The city of Łódź modernized its public transport infrastructure thanks to the project "A comprehensive programme for integrating the low-emission public transport network in the Łódź metropolis, including the purchase of rolling stock to operate the W-Z route and other communication lines, and the modernization of tram depots in Łódź". It was worth PLN 843.6 million, with the EU financing over PLN 471.7 million.

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/746926/>

The European Union supports the renewal of cities and public transport!

### RYBNIK

In 2024, the Ignacy Historic Mine in Rybnik received the European Heritage Award/Europa Nostra Award. It is hard to imagine a more fitting recognition for the project in a year marking 20 years of Poland's membership in the Community. The Ignacy Mine ceased operations in 1995, after the last cart carrying coal left the Kościuszko shaft. Deeply embedded in the historical and cultural heritage of the Rybnik region and Upper Silesia, the mine had been running for 203 years. The buildings of the colliery complex survived thanks to the determination of former employees who established the Ignacy Historic Mine Association. Subsequently, the site was inscribed on the register of cultural property, and the city of Rybnik undertook several renovation projects co-funded by the EU budget. Today, the Ignacy Historic Mine is a science and technology centre, and a highlight of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodship. This is all thanks to the use of modern audiovisual technologies and the preservation of original equipment from the old plant, such as a steam machine that is still in working order.

Projects aimed at renewing the Ignacy Historic Mine in Rybnik were worth over PLN 35 million, with the European Union financing more than PLN 16 million.

For more about the projects, visit:

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/553757/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/736081/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/780577/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/789963/>  
<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/1166289/>

### WEST POMERANIA VOIVODSHIP

Szczecin continues to be one of the major sea ports of Poland and the Baltic Sea. It would be difficult to think of a better place for the science centre of West Pomerania than the region's capital city. So it is in Szczecin that a characteristic building in the form of a ship was erected to house the Professor Jerzy Stelmach Maritime Science Centre. This state-of-the-art educational facility allows children and adults to delve into the world of science and technology. The unifying theme is obviously the sea, which is why visitors can explore exhibitions on life at sea, navigation, fishing, and the functioning of ports. The centre boasts a unique educational offer that popularizes physics, mathematics, geography, astronomy, medicine, technology, ecology, sociology, history, and culture.

The project "Construction of the Professor Jerzy Stelmach Maritime Science Centre in Szczecin" was worth over PLN 152 million, with the European Union financing more than PLN 112 million.

For more about the projects, visit:

<https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/1166919/>



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Dear Reader,

it has already been 20 years! On 1 May 2004, Poland joined the European Union, leaving for good the grey zone of security stretching between the Euro-Atlantic area and countries of the former Soviet Union. We have already had several occasions to appreciate the importance of belonging to the EU and NATO. Being part of the Community proved invaluable at the difficult time of the pandemic, when extraordinary measures adopted by the EU, such as the joint purchases of vaccines, protective equipment, and medical equipment, helped save hundreds of thousands of lives. Membership allowed Poland to make a remarkable leap in its development, progress not seen in countries not part of the 2004 big-bang enlargement or the subsequent expansions in 2007 and 2013. Putin's aggressive war against Ukraine, unleashed on 24 February 2022, added momentum to the EU's efforts aimed at improving our joint security, notably by supporting Ukraine's heroic and unequal struggle against the Kremlin despot. Ukraine is a candidate country whose accession to the EU will expand the area of security and stability in Europe. Some argue that integration will deepen during the tenure of the next European Commission from 2024 to 2029, with particular attention paid to defence. The EU, which we have been helping to shape since 2004, has demonstrated its resilience by developing and responding flexibly to challenges such as the pandemic, the great financial crisis that hit in 2008, and now the threat posed by Moscow's aggression.

The European Union is a community of values, and it is these values that the Ukrainians are now fighting for. Before the changes brought about by the fall of communism in 1989, we aspired to join the Community based on democracy, the rule of law, and respect for diversity. The Polish constitution, adopted in the 1997 referendum, was drafted in this spirit. The road to the geopolitical West culminated in another referendum held in 2003 that asked Polish people where they saw their country and gave a definitive reply: in the European Union.

In Poland, we also perceive the EU through the prism of its positive impact on the economy, the near-eradication of unemployment during times of prosperity, the improved standards of living, and the investments that are now ubiquitous in our local communities. Comics from the “Paneuropa” series create a unique and beautiful catalogue of the latter. Telltale signs of our presence in the EU include new or renovated motorways, state-of-the-art railway services, refurbished or newly built theatres, cultural centres, and facilities that let us travel near and far. Poland is constantly changing. The pages of this year's volume, “Paneuropa – Licho Never Sleeps,” portray the subsequent investments that prove these changes. A partner of this year's publication, the city of Rybnik has undergone some breathtaking transformations, with its Ignacy Historic Mine becoming a modern technology centre, a meeting place for citizens, and a testament to the Rybnik region's eventful history. Czeladź is another one of our municipal partners. Its erstwhile Saturn mine now hosts the city's Elektrownia Contemporary Art Gallery. A refurbished pithead building will house the Post-industrial Heritage Centre of Coalmining in Zagłębie. Rybnik and Czeladź have been renovating examples of their industrial architecture and sharing their experiences within the Silesian Association of Municipalities and Districts, which has joined the Paneuropa team as yet another partner. The city of Łódź remains on board as well. As usual, it will host the annual International Festival of Comics and Games, where the launch of the new Paneuropa will occur. Łódź is a special place for comic art. In 2022, EC1 Łódź – City of Culture celebrated the inauguration of the Centre for Comics and Interactive Narratives. Like the EC1, the Centre is a child of European integration: it would not exist if we had not joined the European Union. We are happy to have it again as a part-

ner of Paneuropa. Home to factory owners and the alchemist Sendivogius featured in our book, the city continues implementing the area regeneration of the Łódź city centre project. Thanks to it, this year, residents of Łódź were able to start using Wolności Square again (which our cover depicts). Trams had always been running through Wolności Square, and this has not changed. Perhaps, except for the trams themselves, as those you will find here with the characteristic plates showing EU stars, are brand new. Other Łódź landmarks that have been renovated include Włókiennicza Street and the house of Hilary Majewski, a city architect and one of the creators of industrial-era Łódź. Meanwhile, the West Pomerania Voivodship debuts as a partner and setting of our comic book. The impressive Professor Jerzy Stelmach Maritime Science Centre was built on their territory, on the Odra riverbank in Szczecin. EU membership has spurred growth in several regions and cities, including those belonging to the Union of Polish Metropolises, another of our partners. Warsaw is a vital member city of the Union, and it has consistently expanded its metro network. We are glad that EU funds help to make it possible.

As in previous years, we will be shown around these unique places by our protagonists, including someone who particularly stands out. It is Ignacy, whom his Paneuropa friends also call “Industrius.” Like many of our readers, Ignacy was born after the EU accession. He has no recollection of Poland before it joined the Community, which is also true of the young artists making their debut in this edition. Julia Cięciała, Miłosz Zimnicki, Matylda Lotka, Jowita Kotwica, and Monika Szopa have drawn pages that you will find among those created by the veterans of our series, with whom you are familiar from previous volumes. Rafał Szłapa, Robert Służały, and Grzegorz Pawlak have again illustrated the adventures of Paneuropa. The impressive cover of this volume was created by Przemysław Truściński. And as there can be no comic book without a script, ours was written by Dominik Szcześniak, whom you may remember from “Paneuropa – Standing with Ukraine.”

Time blots out the memories of those who witnessed Polish accession to the EU. Young people do not remember Polish towns and villages from before 2004. Creators of pop culture – including comic book authors – sometimes ponder the question: what if...? To express the idea that bad things can happen, we say in Polish: “Licho never sleeps,” a proverb that evokes the figure of Licho as the embodiment of misfortune. Twenty years after the accession, and aware of the dubious alternatives to European integration that some propose occasionally, we tried a similar experiment. We believe it is worth doing it in 2024, as we celebrate 20 years of Polish EU membership right after we have elected a new European Parliament. Read this latest volume of Paneuropa to find out what happens to our protagonists in this exceptional year. And to get your copy, visit the Katowice Book Fair, which, along with its organizer, the History and Culture Foundation, is a partner of the book. Moreover, “Paneuropa – Licho Never Sleeps” will be available at the European Commission Representations in Warsaw and Wrocław and the Europe Direct centres across the country. Our partners from Czeladź, Rybnik, Łódź, Western Pomerania, the Union of Polish Metropolises, and the Silesian Association of Municipalities and Districts will make sure that Paneuropa finds its way wherever its readers may be.

I hope you will enjoy this book. Remember: Licho never sleeps!

Bartłomiej Balcerzyk

Acting Head

European Commission Representation in Poland





IN MOTHERS' TELLINGS BUR-ROWED...

FRAGRANT POTIONS AND CLAWS' STACK, BLOODY BILE SHALL SEND YOU BACK.

SO, AS DARKNESS PRO-PELS DOOM...

FROM FATHERS FOR LIFE BE-STOWED.



MMMH.



...MY GRAND ENTRANCE SHALL COME SOON.



GO FOR IT, DUDE!

NOW ROCK THAT KICKFLIP, PABLO!

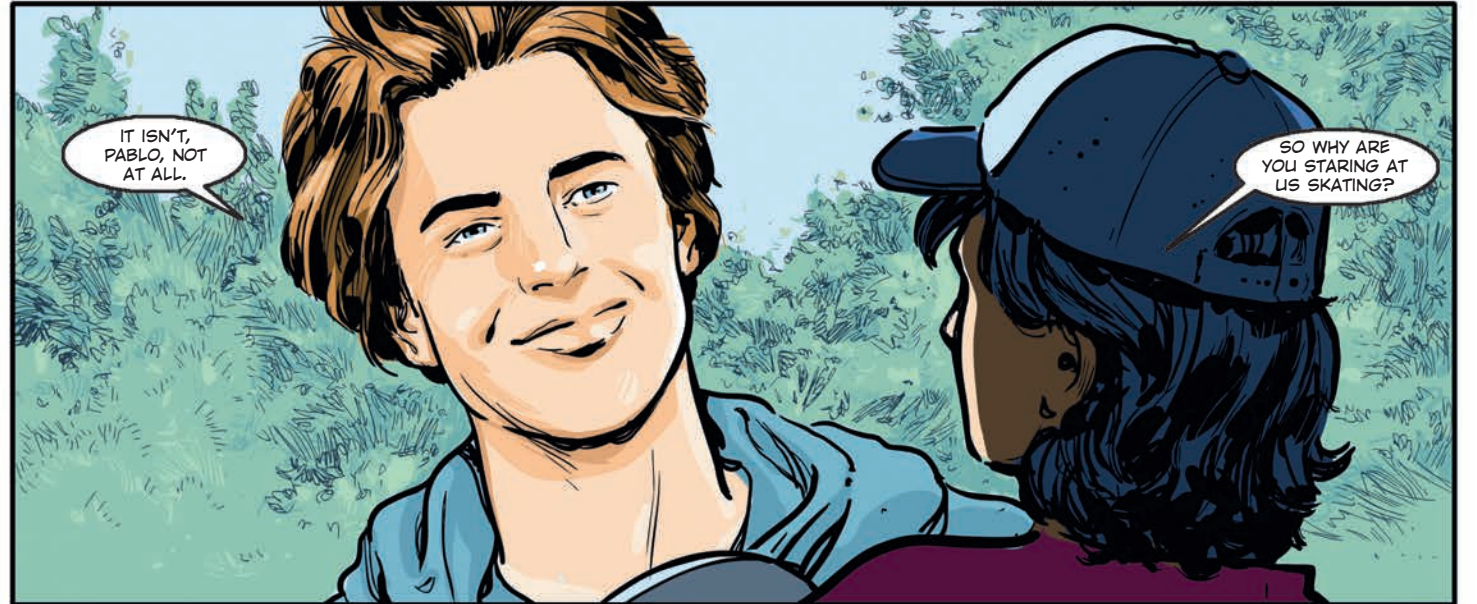
PABLO, PABLO!

AAACH!



IT SEEMS SOMETHING WENT WRONG, KID.

HOW'S THAT YOUR BUSINESS?



IT ISN'T, PABLO, NOT AT ALL.

SO WHY ARE YOU STARING AT US SKATING?









GRANDPA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M GIVING YOU AN ACCELERATED COURSE IN YOUR "PROFESSION"!



WHOA, DID YOU SEE THAT, GUYS?

THAT WAS AWESOME!



ANYONE HAS PINCHERS? I NEED PINCHING ASAP!



MMM... I CAN SMELL BROKEN BRICK. MODERNITY WEARS OFF, PROGRESS FADES AWAY.



COME FORWARD, ALL OF YOU.



AS YOU COMMAND, BEAUTIFUL LICHO, TOGETHER WE WILL PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO ROT.

YOU SHALL FOLLOW ME INTO THIS DECAY.

**KALMA**  
GODDESS OF DEATH AND DECAY. SHE DESPISES THE PROTECTORS OF PROLIFIC VEGETATION AND BREEDING ANIMALS.

**SZARLEJ**  
SKARBNIK'S TWIN BROTHER AND ARCHENEMY. HE HAS THE POWER TO CAUSE EARTHQUAKES.

AND BY THE WAY, I WILL FINALLY DEAL WITH MY BROTHER.

WE WILL DEPRIVE HUMANS OF FREE WILL AND DROWN THEM IN THE PAST!

THERE'S ONE MORE ALLY HIDING IN THE SHADOWS RIGHT BEHIND ME. HE'S ONE OF YOUR KIND, VOLOSHIN.

**VOLOSHIN**  
LORD OF DRAGONS, FATHER OF THE WAWEL DRAGON.





COME AND JOIN YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTER, ZMAJ.

**ZMAJ**  
WAWEL DRAGON,  
VOLOSHIN'S SON.

PANEUROPA...  
THEY BETRAYED  
ME...



THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING TOGETHER. TIME TO CONFIRM THAT WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS ONE GOAL.



OH YES. THEY WANTED TO DRIVE HIM OUT OF KRAKOW, A PLACE HE HAD BEEN GUARDING FOR CENTURIES.

BUT I REVEALED THEIR WICKED PLANS TO HIM IN ADVANCE... AND THUS HE MADE THE ONLY RIGHT DECISION.

HE FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH US.



AND HE JUST BELIEVED YOUR WORDS RIGHT AWAY?

OH, NOT QUITE...

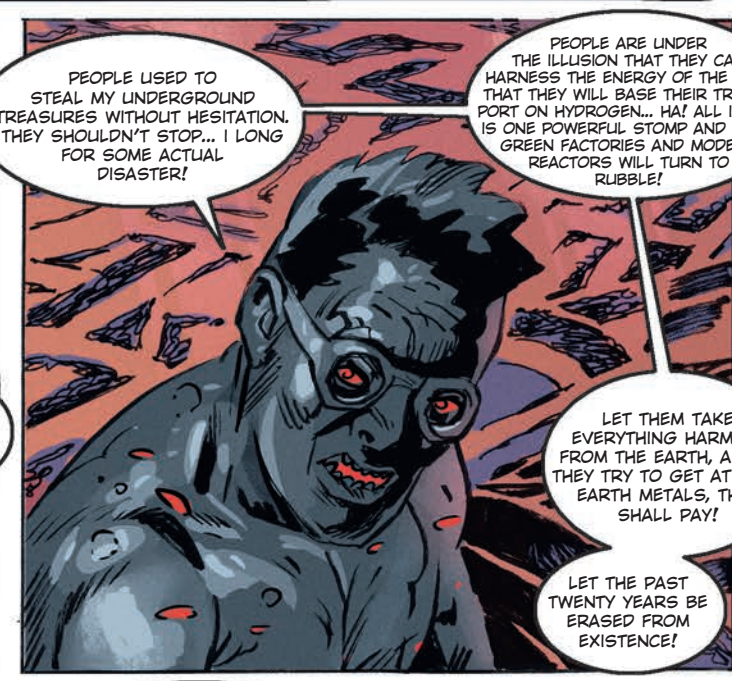
CERTAIN SPELLS, WHISPERED OVER A POT OF BREW, HELPED WITH THAT. BUT THESE WERE NOT THE TRITE INCANTATIONS OF AN ORDINARY WITCH, ONE CONCOCTING MEDIOCRE POTIONS IN A CAULDRON.



ALL THIS GROWTH AND LIFE HAPPENING AROUND ME MAKES MY INSIDES TURN OVER. I WANT PEOPLE TO LANGUISH IN MISERY AND THE WHOLE WORLD TO DROWN IN DECAY.

ALL THESE TWENTY YEARS OF NATURE CONSERVATION, RESTORING ANIMAL HABITATS, AND DEVELOPING GREEN ENERGY, ARE FUTILE. I WANT THE RETURN OF THE OLD EUROPE - POLLUTED AND FILLED WITH PEOPLE AFRAID OF CHANGES FOR THE APPARENT "BETTER LIFE".

I WANT THE LAST TWENTY YEARS TO COME TO NOTHING.



PEOPLE USED TO STEAL MY UNDERGROUND TREASURES WITHOUT HESITATION. THEY SHOULDN'T STOP... I LONG FOR SOME ACTUAL DISASTER!

PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT THEY CAN HARNESS THE ENERGY OF THE SUN, THAT THEY WILL BASE THEIR TRANSPORT ON HYDROGEN... HA! ALL I NEED IS ONE POWERFUL STOMP AND THEIR GREEN FACTORIES AND MODERN REACTORS WILL TURN TO RUBBLE!

LET THEM TAKE EVERYTHING HARMFUL FROM THE EARTH, AND IF THEY TRY TO GET AT RARE EARTH METALS, THEY SHALL PAY!

LET THE PAST TWENTY YEARS BE ERASED FROM EXISTENCE!



WITH MY HAND I STIR THE ESSENCE OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, WEAVING IT ACCORDING TO MY WILL!

**LICHO**  
GODDESS OF MISFORTUNE,  
PATRONESS OF EVIL SPIRITS,  
DEMONS AND SORCERERS.



LONG AGO, PEOPLE BOWED TO DRAGONS AND TREMBLED AT THE VERY SIGHT OF US. TODAY WE FADE INTO OBLIVION.

IT'S TIME THESE HUMANS REMINDED THEMSELVES WHERE THEIR PLACE IS. WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, WE ARE READY TO MAKE THEM REMEMBER US.

ME AND MY SON, THE PROTECTOR OF WAWEL.



I ACCEPTED MY FATE. PANEUROPA WANTED TO BELITTLE ME... AND WITH YOU I FEEL... GOOD. I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK IN THE SHADOW. I WANT TO BE MORE THAN JUST A FAIRY TALE MONSTER... I AM ON YOUR SIDE.

YOUR UNANIMITY DELIGHTS ME. EUROPE HAS FLOURISHED FOR WAY TOO LONG. AND, DESPITE THE PROBLEMS IT FACES, IT WANTS TO GROW EVEN MORE AND ENCOMPASS THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES AND EVEN UKRAINE.

THESE TWENTY YEARS WILL BE FORGOTTEN, YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT. BUT IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT MY PLAN, WE MUST FIRST DEAL WITH PANEUROPA...





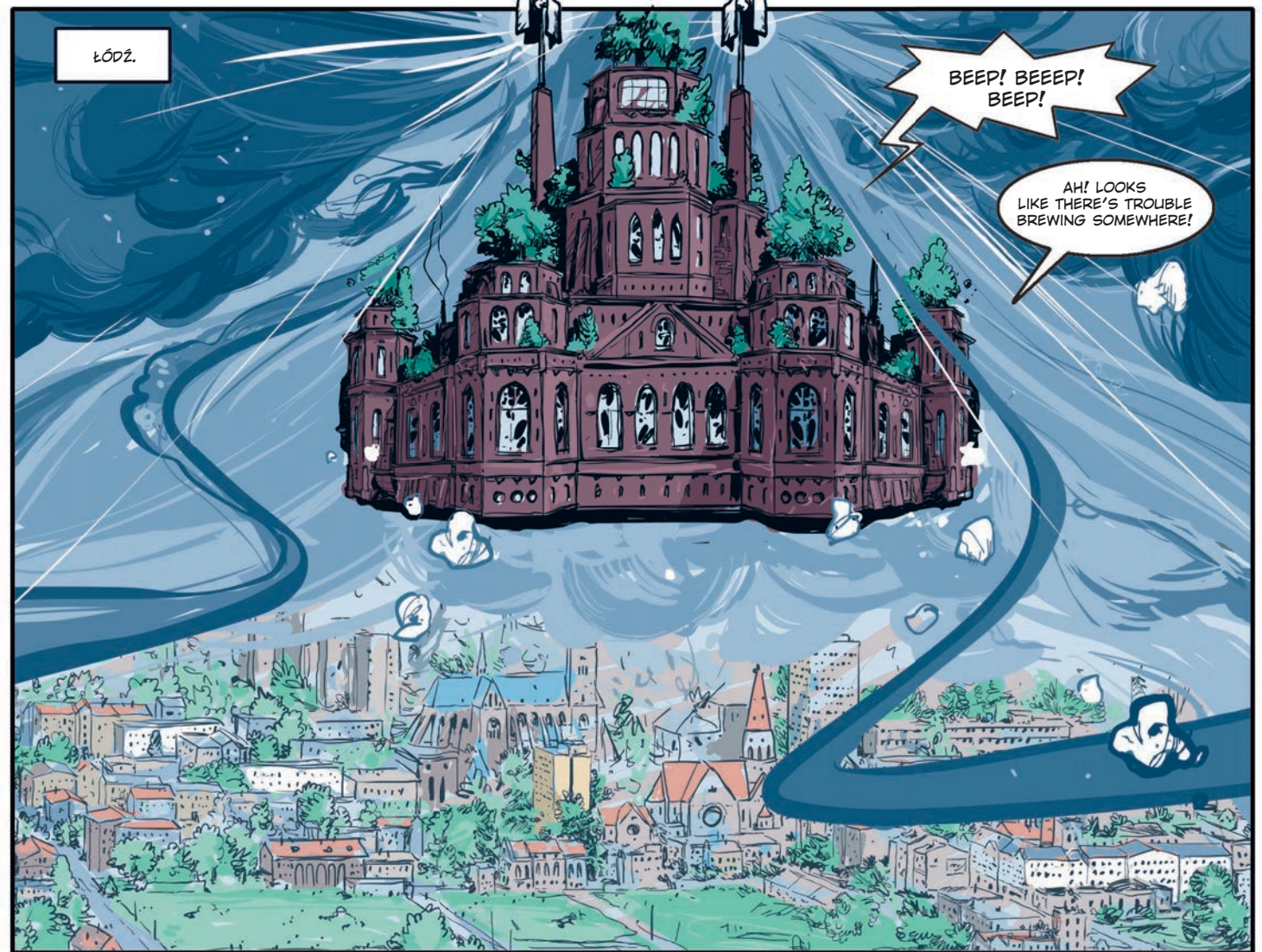
SATURN MINE, CZELADŹ.



GRUM!



BA AROOM!



ŁÓDŹ.

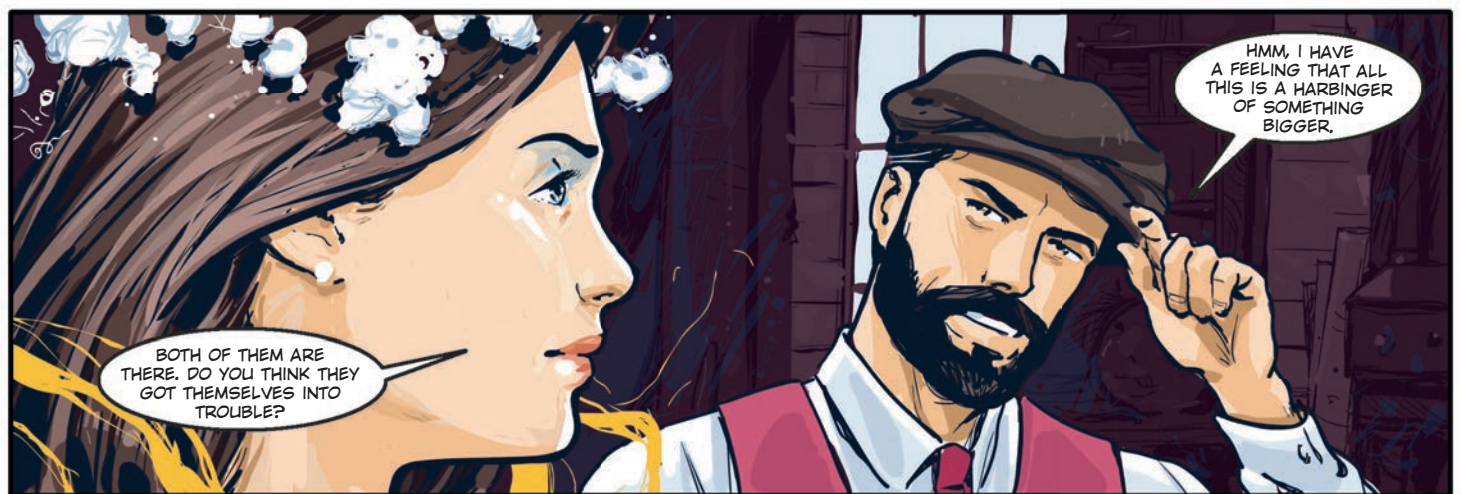
BEEP! BEEP!  
BEEP!

AH! LOOKS  
LIKE THERE'S TROUBLE  
BREWING SOMEWHERE!



YOU GOT TO BE  
KIDDING! ISN'T THAT  
WHERE OUR BOY  
WENT?

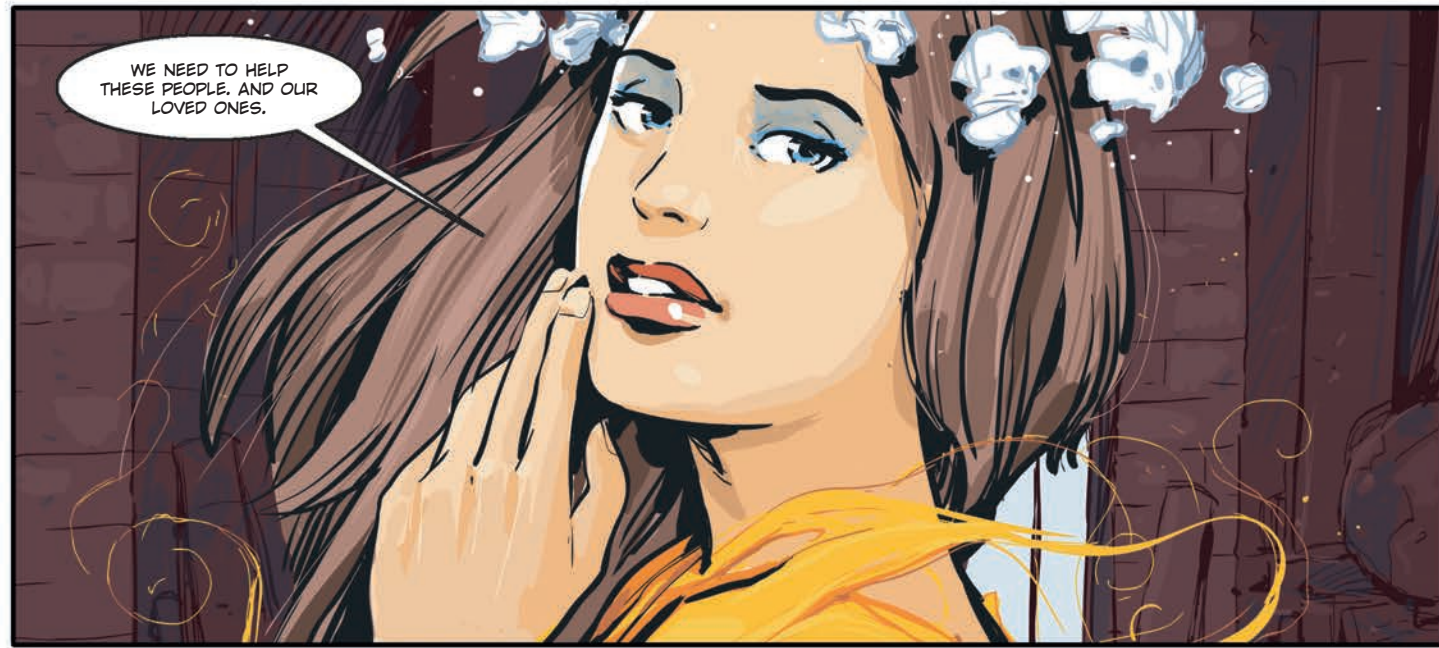
I WONDER WHO HE  
INHERITED HIS ADVENTUROUS  
CHARACTER FROM, SENDIVOJUS?  
I HOPE HE GOT THE FORTITUDE  
FROM ME!



BOTH OF THEM ARE  
THERE. DO YOU THINK THEY  
GOT THEMSELVES INTO  
TROUBLE?

HMM, I HAVE  
A FEELING THAT ALL  
THIS IS A HARBINGER  
OF SOMETHING  
BIGGER.





WE NEED TO HELP THESE PEOPLE, AND OUR LOVED ONES.



FORTUNATELY, I MOVED ZORYA'S\* LIGHT-POWERED CIRCLE FROM THE WHITE FACTORY TO OUR NEW HOME. WITH IT, WE CAN...



...OR MAYBE JUST SEE FOR YOURSELF!



HOW WILL WE GET DOWN THERE?

HOW DO YOU THINK WE WILL?



NOT A CHANCE!

HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOUR FAMILY, DEAR!



YOU HAD TO DO THOSE KICKFLIPS AT THE SITE OF YET ANOTHER DISASTER, OF ALL PLACES, SON!

OH COME ON, DAD...

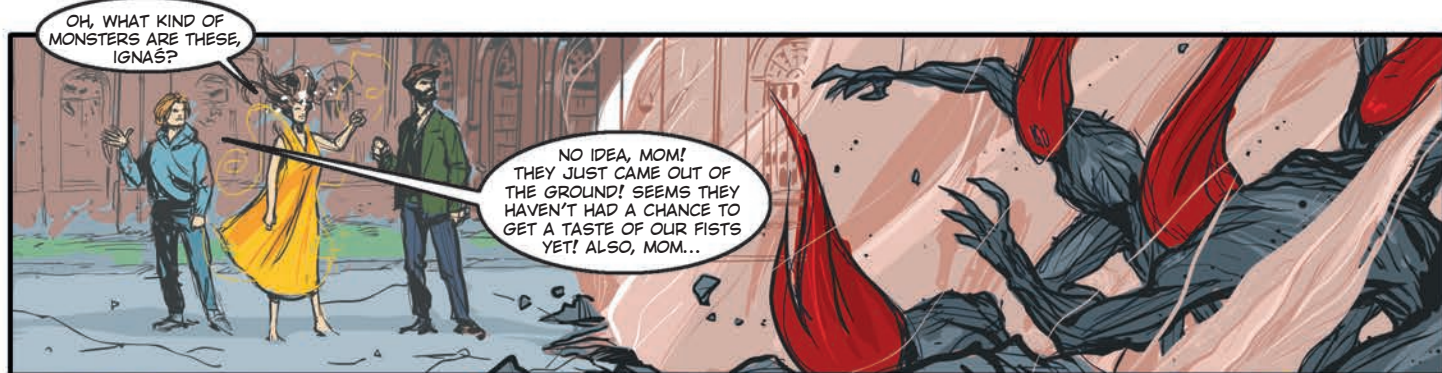


NO TIME FOR JESTS WHEN THE WORLD IS FALLING APART! LET'S GET TO WORK, PANEUIROPA!

LET ME BEGIN, THEN, FATHER!

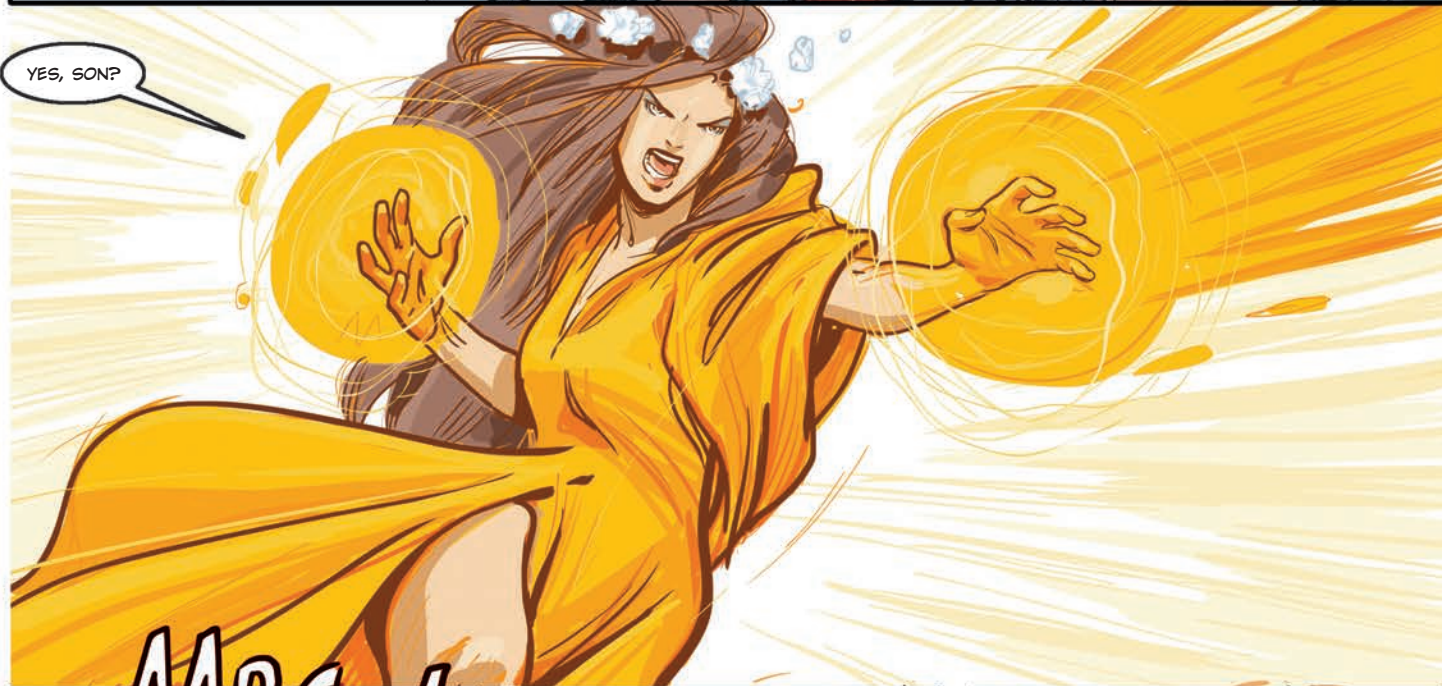
\* SEE: "PANEUIROPA - STANDING WITH UKRAINE"





OH, WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE THESE, IGNAŚ?

NO IDEA, MOM! THEY JUST CAME OUT OF THE GROUND! SEEMS THEY HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GET A TASTE OF OUR FISTS YET! ALSO, MOM...



YES, SON?

AAARGH!



WE'RE AT WORK. PLEASE TITLE ME APPROPRIATELY!



SORRY... INDUSTRIUS! IT'S YOUR TURN!



JUST ONE MOMENT AND...



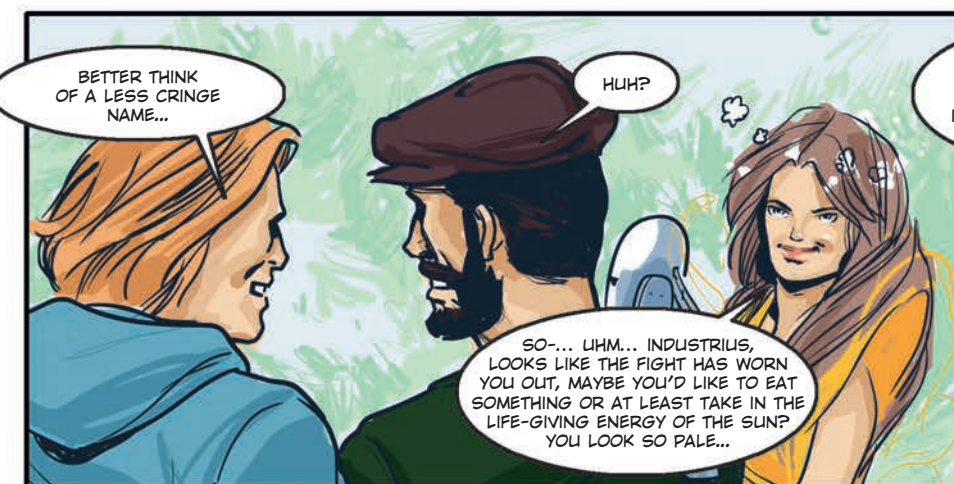
...DONE!"



GOOD JOB, SON! NOW YOUR DAD WILL DO SOME WORK. I HAVE A NEW INVENTION HERE. I CALLED IT "THE MENDRAY". SOUNDS RAD, RIGHT-O?



HAH!



BETTER THINK OF A LESS CRINGE NAME...

HUH?

SO... UHM... INDUSTRIUS, LOOKS LIKE THE FIGHT HAS WORN YOU OUT, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO EAT SOMETHING OR AT LEAST TAKE IN THE LIFE-GIVING ENERGY OF THE SUN? YOU LOOK SO PALE...



LET ME REMIND YOU - THE WORLD IS BURNING RIGHT NOW. I RECOMMEND IMMEDIATE ACTION.





FATHER?

I LIKE IT WHEN YOU ADDRESS ME THIS WAY.

LICHO DID US A GREAT FAVOR BY ALLOWING US TO STRENGTHEN OUR FATHER-SON BOND.



SO WHY DON'T I KNOW WHY WE SET OUT ON THIS JOURNEY?

WELL, IT'S A SURPRISE I CAN REVEAL. THIS JOURNEY IS PURELY FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

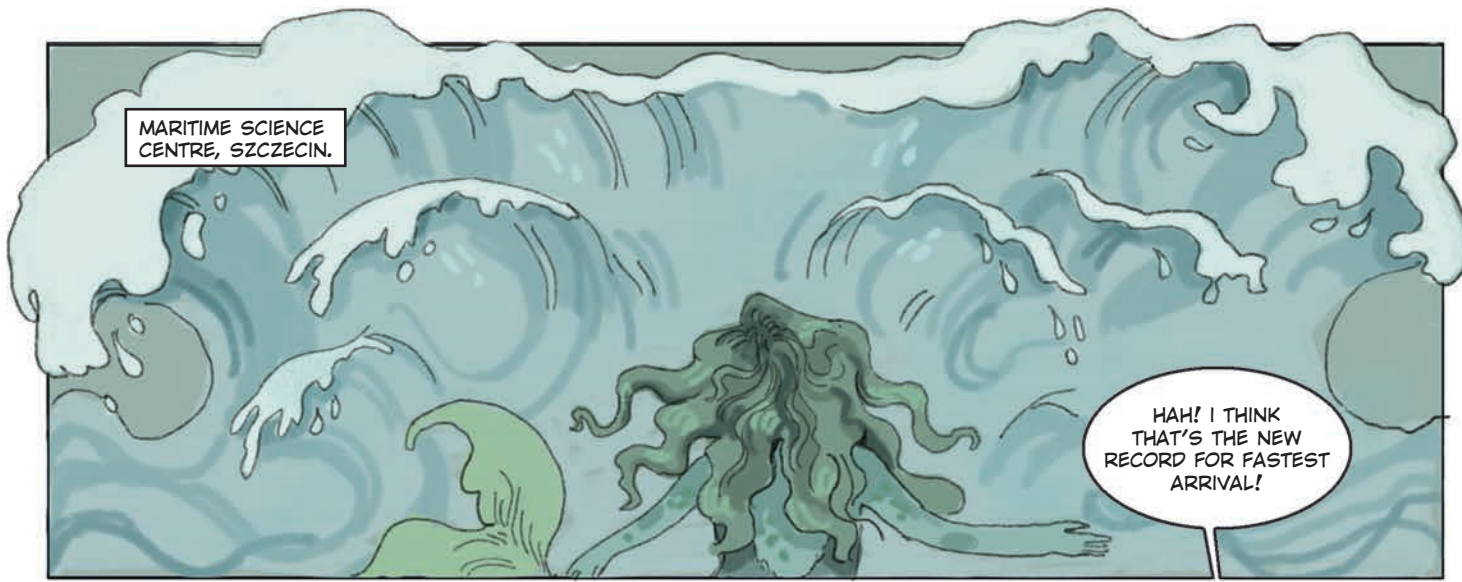
I ORDER YOU TO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE DESTRUCTION THAT LIES AHEAD!



YOU INTEND TO STRENGTHEN OUR BOND WITH ORDERS?

AND HOW ELSE?!

LET US BEGIN! FOLLOW ME!



MARITIME SCIENCE CENTRE, SZCZECIN.

HAH! I THINK THAT'S THE NEW RECORD FOR FASTEST ARRIVAL!



THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO FLEX YOUR MUSCLES, BASILISK! THIS FLOOD WAVE IS THREATENING THE CITY!

THIS SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE TO YOU, GIRL!



IF I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP...



ZMAJ?!



... WHY DID YOU EVEN COME HERE?

OH, IT SEEMS IT WAS MEANT TO BE.



IGNACY MINE,  
RYBNIK.



BRRRR...

BRRRRRRMM!

GRRRR!



COME ON,  
BROTHER! COME HERE!  
DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH  
COURAGE?!

UHM!



I BROUGHT  
A FRIEND, LITTLE ONE,  
SO I HAVE TWICE THE  
COURAGE!

WE ARE TWINS,  
YOU DISGUSTING SPAWN!  
DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME  
„LITTLE ONE“!

FINE THEN, LET'S  
SETTLE FOR „YOUNGER“  
— AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN  
A FEW MINUTES AHEAD  
OF YOU, AS I WAS THE  
FIRST TO LEAVE MY  
MOTHER'S WOMB!

YOU BROTHER  
DIDN'T COME HERE  
TO RECONCILE,  
I ASSUME?

WHEN I WAS  
YOUNG, SZARLEJ BEGAN  
TO ACT QUITE BIZARRELY.  
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT  
BROTHERLY LOVE, DEAR  
TWARDOWSKI!

AS THE MOST  
FAMOUS WRITERS  
SAY: IT HAPPENS!





NOW CAST SOME SPELLS, DEAR JAN, SO THAT...

... WE CAN THEN FOCUS ON TRYING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION...

WHAT...

ON EARTH...

IS GOING ON?!

RIGHT IDEA, DEAR SKARBNIK. THIS BIZARRE ATTACK IS, TO SAY THE LEAST...

PAUL  
1998  
=623

...SUSPICIOUS.











YOU, LICHO, WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF ASSUMING THE ROLE OF MY NEW ALLY!



TOGETHER WE WILL CRUSH THESE FAILURES FROM PANEUROPA AND TAKE OVER THE WO-



AT LAST!

OH NO.

HA, HA! YES, INDEED! NOTHING SHALL STOP THE MACHINE OF HATRED AND DESTRUCTION!

BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, I WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO WALK THE WORLD AND PREY ON ITS PATHETIC INHABITANTS!



FAILURES, WHO HAVE BEEN DEFEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN, HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR GROUP.



SO MUCH FOR BLISSFUL SILENCE...

OH, LICHO! GORGEOUS, DESTRUCTIVE LICHO!

FATHER, WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY TRYING TO ACHIEVE HERE?

WELL, AS KOSCHEI SAYS: HATRED, DEATH, DESTRUCTION, DECAY. WE WILL REACH FOR EVERYTHING THAT WILL BE OF USE IN RESTORING PEOPLE TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE - AT OUR FEET!



THIS IS ALL WE NEED.



IT WILL ALLOW US TO WIPE TWENTY YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT AWAY!



CENTRAL MUSEUM OF TEXTILES  
IN ŁÓDŹ, ŁÓDŹ CITY CULTURE PARK.



WITH DESTRUCTION DARKNESS SWEEPED,



AND THAT WAS BUT THE FIRST STEP!

PLAC WOLNOŚCI,  
ŁÓDŹ.

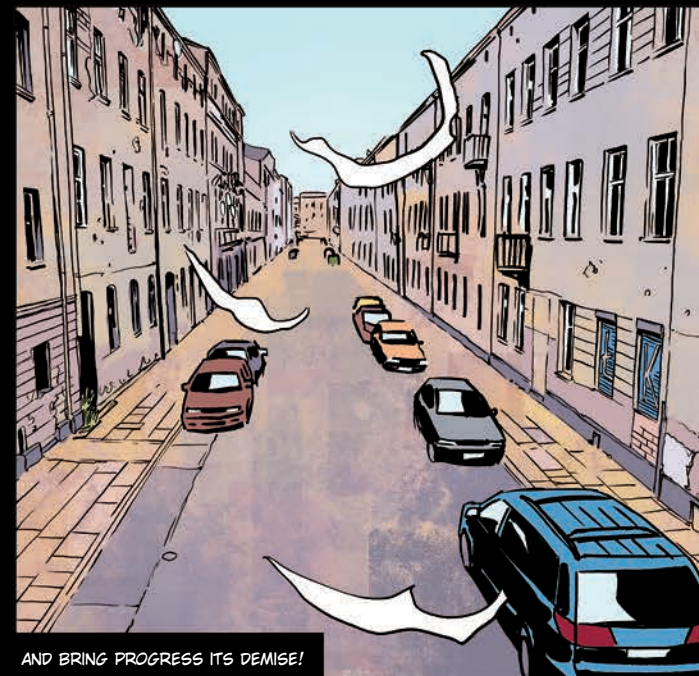


AND REJOICE WITH ME, MY CUNNING ALLIES, BECAUSE THIS  
DESTRUCTION...

WŁÓKIENNICZA STREET, ŁÓDŹ.



IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RISE,



AND BRING PROGRESS ITS DEMISE!

HISTORIC IGNACY MINE,  
RYBNIK.



THE HOUSE OF THE 19TH-CENTURY  
ARCHITECT HILARY MAJEWSKI,  
ŁÓDŹ.



YOU ALL FOLLOW ME ON THIS PATH OF DESTRUCTION,  
SO FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE SIGHT OF IT.



SEE HOW WHAT HAS BEEN RENEWED  
FALLS INTO DISREPAIR AGAIN!

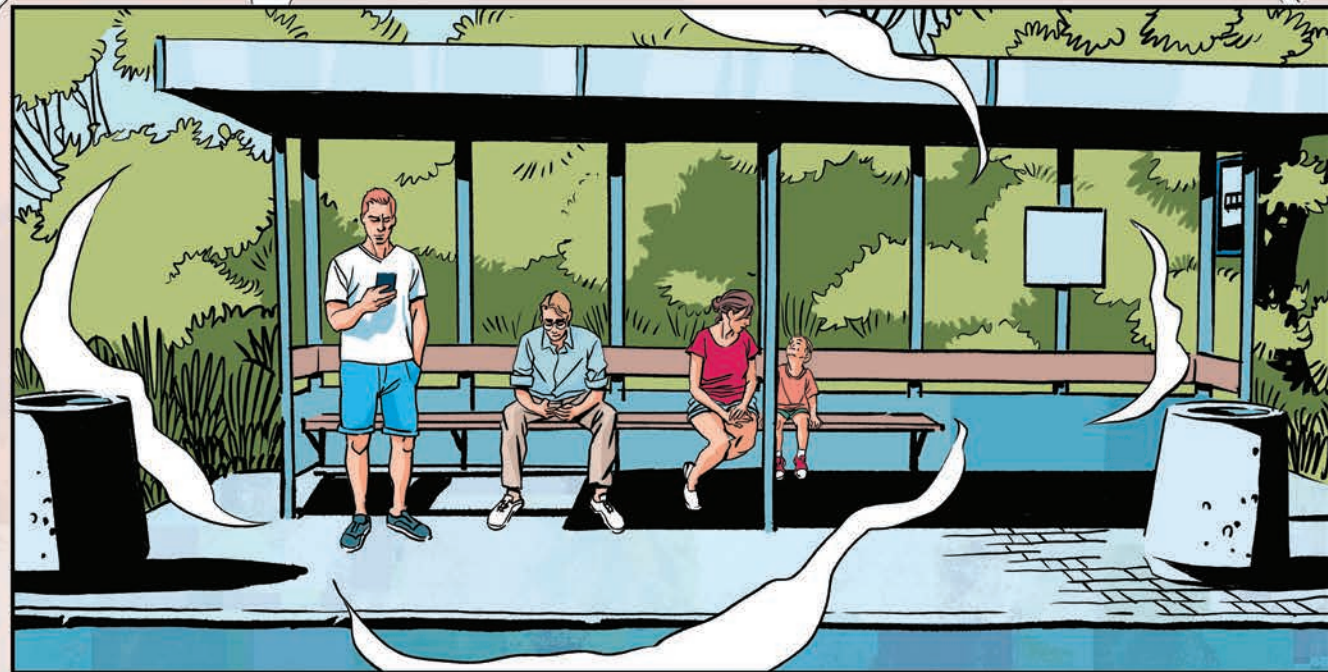
SATURN MINE,  
CZELADŹ.



...AFFECTS HUMANS' MEMORIES AS WELL!



BRÓDNO METRO STATION,  
WARSAW.



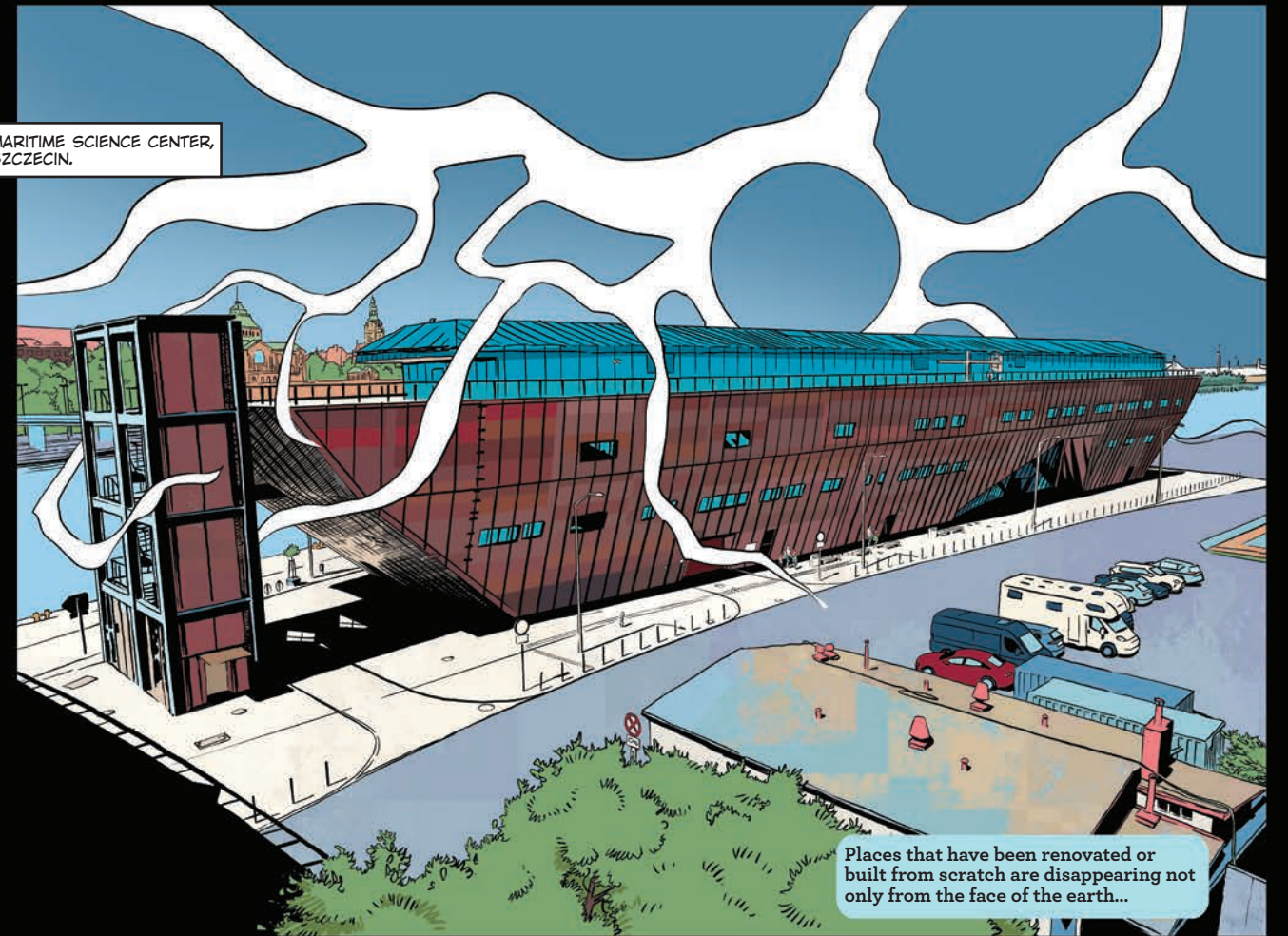
Paneuropa, what you are seeing  
is really happening.



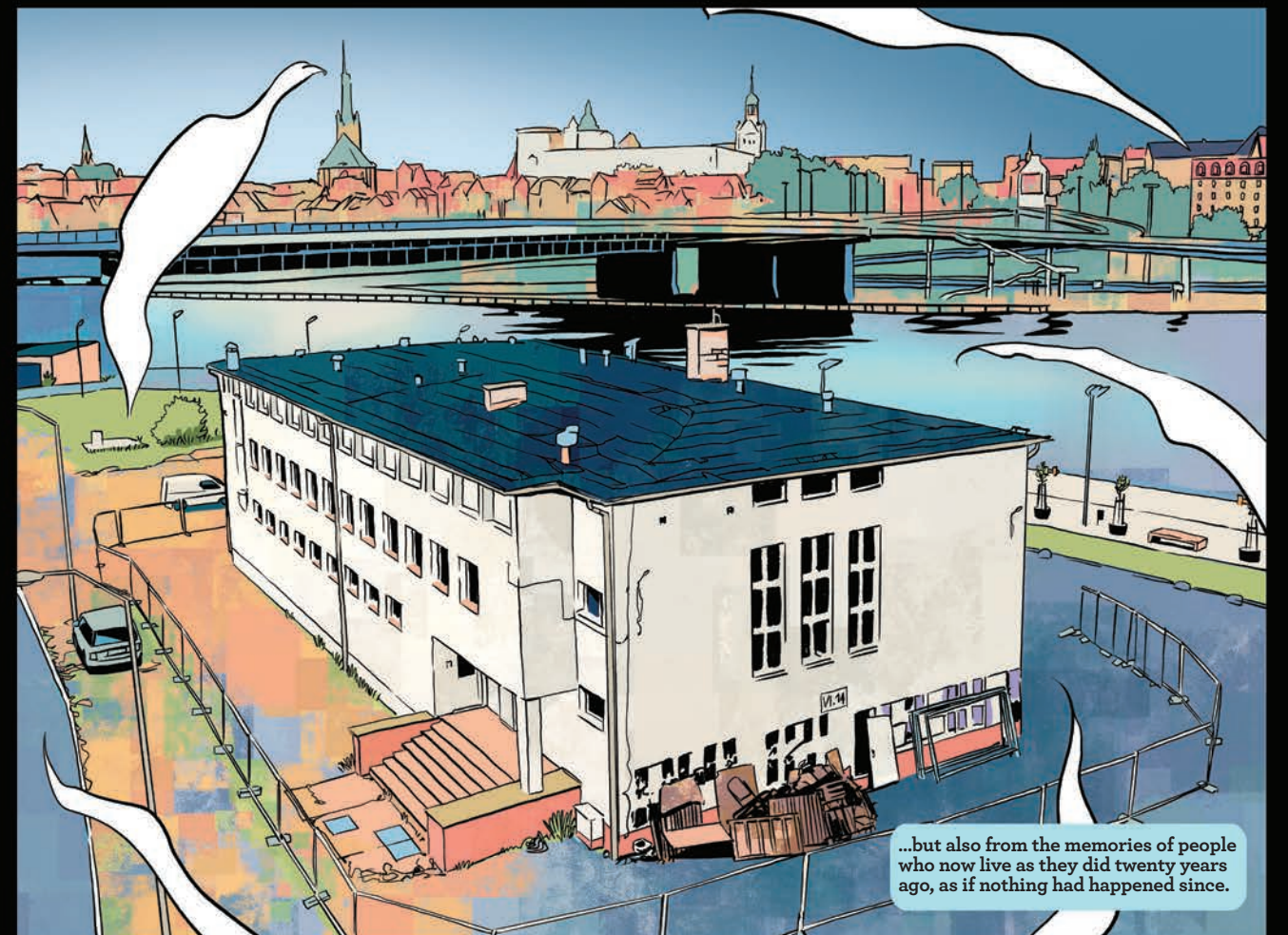
In many places in the country – and not  
just this country – we are dealing with  
a regression of technological progress!



MARITIME SCIENCE CENTER,  
SZCZECIN.



Places that have been renovated or  
built from scratch are disappearing not  
only from the face of the earth...



...but also from the memories of people  
who now live as they did twenty years  
ago, as if nothing had happened since.

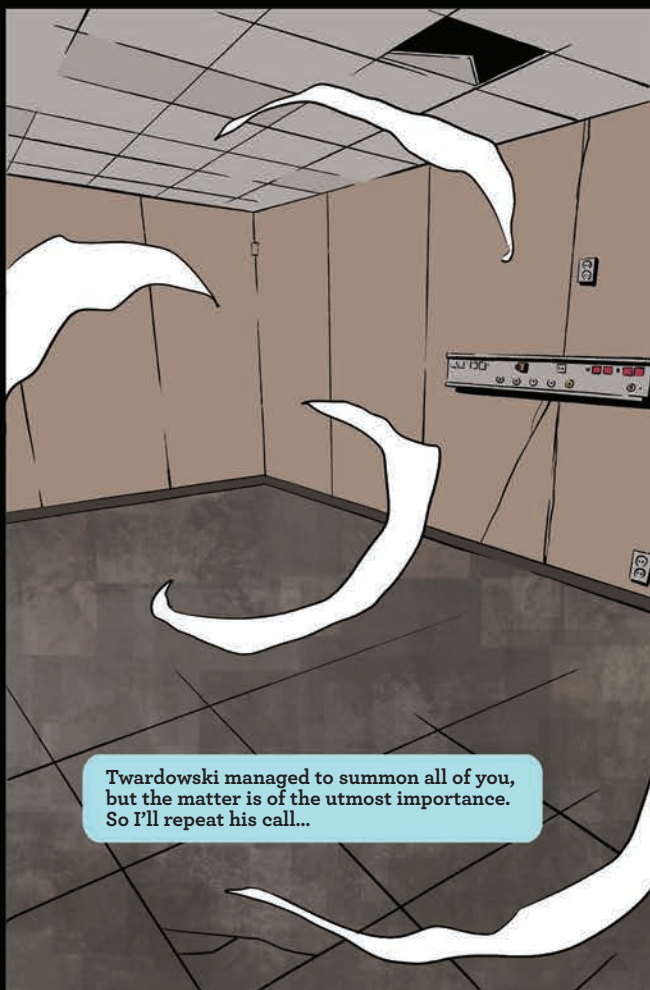


LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES' HOSPITAL, GAMMA KNIFE CENTRE, KAUNAS.

We are witnessing a literal return to the past – infrastructural, economic and technological.



Twardowski managed to summon all of you, but the matter is of the utmost importance. So I'll repeat his call...



REVITALIZED AREA IN DOLNI VITKOVICE, OSTRAVA.



Paneuropa, assemble!

WHAT A DISGUSTING ACT OF SABOTAGE!



OUR ENEMIES LAUNCHED AN ATTACK IN THREE PLACES SIMULTANEOUSLY, ALL IN ORDER TO BREAK INTO TWARDOWSKI'S LUNAR FORTRESS AND STEAL ZORYA'S CASKET!

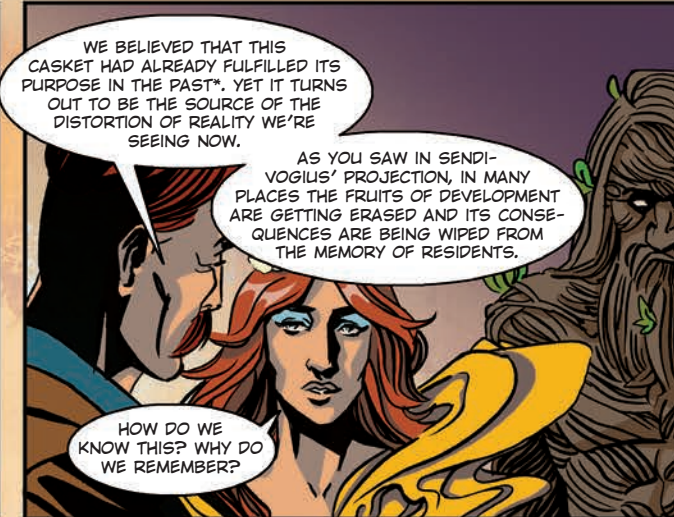
THEY WENT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR AN ARTIFACT THAT HAS ALREADY PLAYED ITS ROLE?



WE BELIEVED THAT THIS CASKET HAD ALREADY FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE IN THE PAST\*. YET IT TURNS OUT TO BE THE SOURCE OF THE DISTORTION OF REALITY WE'RE SEEING NOW.

AS YOU SAW IN SENDI-VOGIUS' PROJECTION, IN MANY PLACES THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE GETTING ERASED AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE BEING WIPED FROM THE MEMORY OF RESIDENTS.

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS? WHY DO WE REMEMBER?



THANKS TO TWARDOWSKI'S SPELLS AND ATHENA'S WORK IN THE BACKGROUND, OUR MEMORIES HAVE REMAINED INTACT. THAT'S WHY WE CAN NOTICE THIS CHANGE.

BUT WE ARE HELPLESS IN DIAGNOSING THE SOURCE OF THESE INTERVENTIONS.

LISTEN!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE USED TO BE A SKATE PARK IN THE MINE IN CZELADZ?



NOT NOW, IGNAŚ. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE SKATE PARK, GO AND PRACTICE YOUR TRICKS, SON.

MHM.

LET'S SUMMARIZE THE FACTS.

\* NOT SO DISTANT PAST – SEE: " PANEUROPA – STANDING WITH UKRAINE".



THERE WERE TWO ATTACKS IN HISTORIC MINES, THE ONES IN RYBNIK AND CZELADZ, AS WELL AS A FLOOD WAVE THREATENING SZCZECIN.

THESE THREE EMERGENCIES WERE PREVENTED BY THREE SPONTANEOUSLY FORMED PANEUROPA MINI-TEAMS.

WE WERE UNABLE TO PREVENT THE FOURTH ONE, IN TWARDOWSKI'S LUNAR HEADQUARTERS.

THE FIRST THREE WERE QUITE TRIVIAL AND WE DEALT WITH THEM EASILY.

THE FOURTH WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT.

THE ENEMY HAS SUCCESSFULLY DISTRACTED US AND NOW WE HAVE A TRUE DISASTER ON OUR HANDS. WHAT LEADS DO WE HAVE?

TRACH

THE FIRST IS MY LIGLIER TWIN BROTHER, WITH WHOM I CAME INTO CONFLICT A LONG TIME AGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY THING I CAN DETERMINE BEYOND THAT IS THAT HE'S SOMEWHERE UNDERGROUND.

AND THE EARTH IS WIDE AND DEEP...

THE SECOND IS A BROKEN MIRROR IN MY WORKSHOP. SOMEONE PASSED THROUGH IT WITH ZORYA'S CASKET.

AND THIS IS SOMEONE POWERFUL, PROBABLY NOT ACTING ALONE. THIS IS WHERE THE TRAIL ENDS.

THERE IS ALSO A THIRD VOICE ON THIS MATTER, AND I WOULD LIKE ALL OF YOU, ESPECIALLY WEAVER AND SENDIVOGILUS, TO LISTEN TO IT CAREFULLY AND WITH DUE RESPECT.

SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS.

INDUSTRILUS?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE USED TO BE A SKATE PARK IN THE MINE IN CZELADZ?

I WAS THERE JUST BEFORE ALL THIS MADNESS STARTED. WE DID TRICKS WITH KIDS...

KIDS YOUNGER THAN ME, BUT KIDS WHO, LIKE ME, ARE... THE KIDS OF THE NEW ERA.

AND WE CAN LOOK AT IT ALL FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT KIND OF PERSPECTIVE, IGNAŚ?

OH, SON.

ARRGH!

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD. IF I WERE TO FORGET, WHAT WOULD I ACTUALLY REMEMBER? WHAT WOULD THESE TWELVE-YEAR-OLD KIDS REMEMBER?

NOTHING AT ALL, I BET. THE LAST TWENTY YEARS WERE MY ENTIRE LIFE, AND SOMEONE IS ERASING THEM. BUT WHAT ELSE IS CELEBRATING ITS TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY IN POLAND THIS YEAR?

SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN ENSURING DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY FOR THESE YEARS...

THE EUROPEAN UNION.

NICE ONE, BOY!

IGNAŚ!

WHOA, WHOA! DON'T "IGNAŚ" ME NOW!

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED TREATING ME LIKE I'M JUST A KID?

ONLY GRANDPA BOTHERED TO LISTEN AND TRUST ME! YOU, MY PARENTS — THE GREATEST LIVING ALCHEMIST ON EARTH AND THE DIVINE PATRONESS OF THE ENTIRE CITY — INSTEAD OF TREATING ME AS AN EQUAL, YOU DISMISSED ME AS IF I HAD NOTHING VALUABLE TO SAY!

AND YOU, SKARBNIK, INSTEAD OF ACTING PROFESSIONALLY, ALL YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WAS A BEEF WITH YOUR BROTHER! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ALL? YOU ARE AN INVINCIBLE SUPERGROUP AND YOU ACT LIKE-

EKHM!

FIRST THING: SORRY FOR ARRIVING LATE!

AND THE OTHER: I THINK INDUSTRILUS' FAMILY IDEA WILL SAVE OUR SKIN!





LOOK WHO I BROUGHT WITH ME!



WAWEL DRAGON? HELLO THERE, FRIEND!

WHAT PART DO YOU PLAY IN THIS LUNACY?

A RATHER BIG ONE, REGRETTABLY.



I WAS DECEIVED BY MY FATHER. I WANTED TO RENEW MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

AH, FAMILY BONDS! BEAUTIFUL!



BUT I BETRAYED YOU BY DOING THAT.

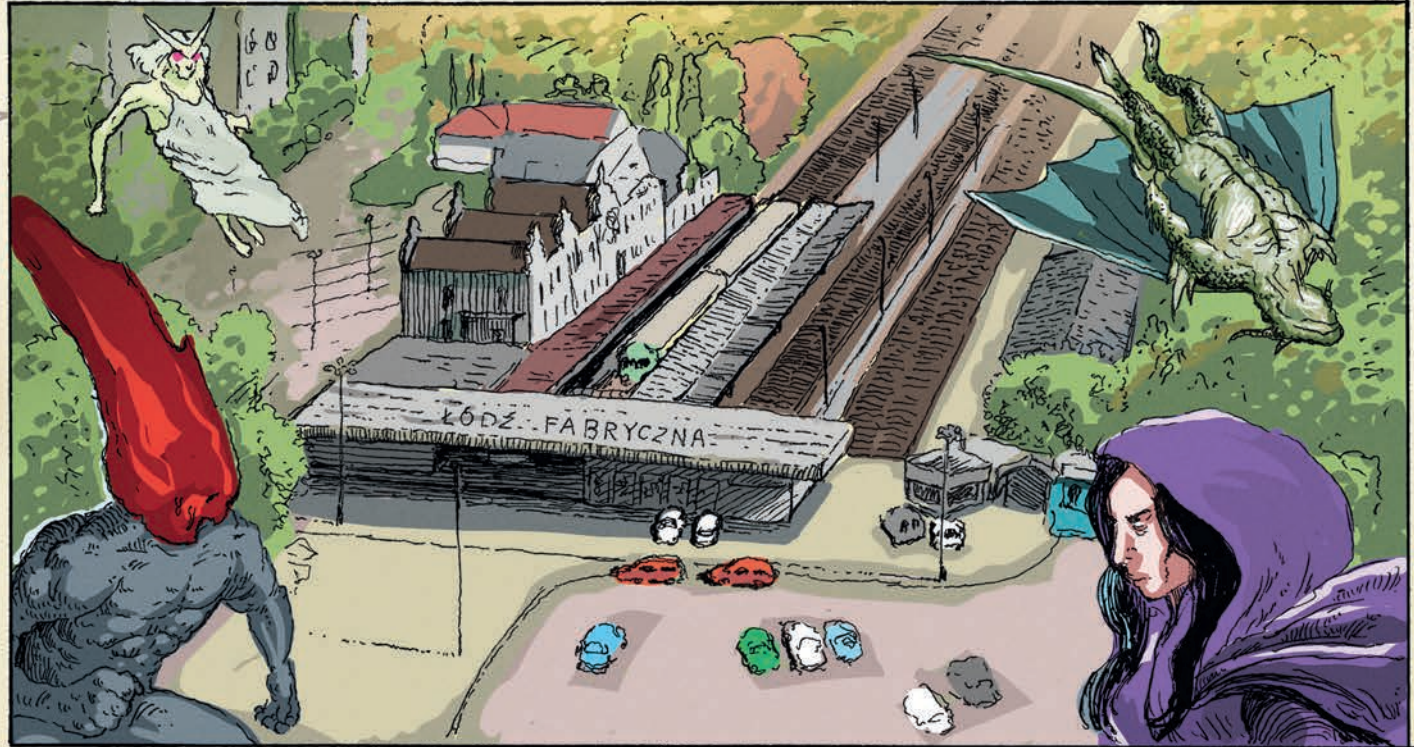
TOGETHER WITH MY FATHER, I TOOK THE SIDE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD NOW.

WHO ARE THEY?



I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING... INCLUDING HOW TO DEFEAT THEM AND WHERE TO FIND THEM.

he told us everything, including how to defeat them and where to find them. It was high time to act, because with every second the nightmare reality dreamed up by Licho – the one responsible for this unbearable mess – and her group of henchmen, was becoming more and more permanent.



Industrius' idea was right on – they wanted to destroy the achievements of the European Union. The villains' spells made Europeans wake up to a completely new reality, one in which the great expansion of the Union in 2004 never happened. It is easiest to explain all this mess using specific examples that we could observe in absentia thanks to Sendivogius' inventions.



HMM, STRANGE. I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE IN HELSINKI...

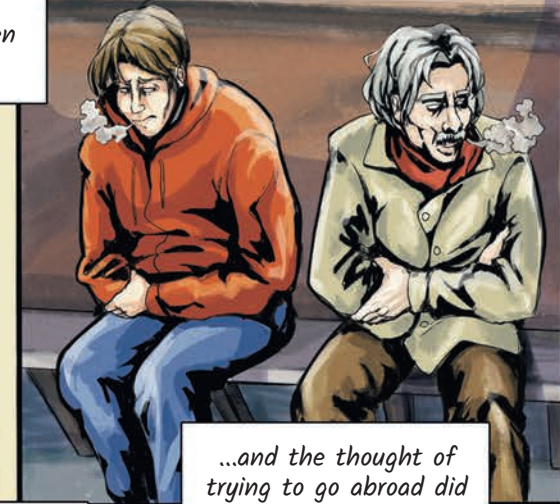
The student exchange programs and Erasmus trips have been erased from memory, and foreign schools and universities knew nothing about the possibility of accepting students from Poland. And the kids got confused, suddenly thrown into a world completely different from the one they knew.



Due to Licho's machinations, their parents, who had previously worked in industries offering their services outside the country, never even got a chance to legally work abroad...

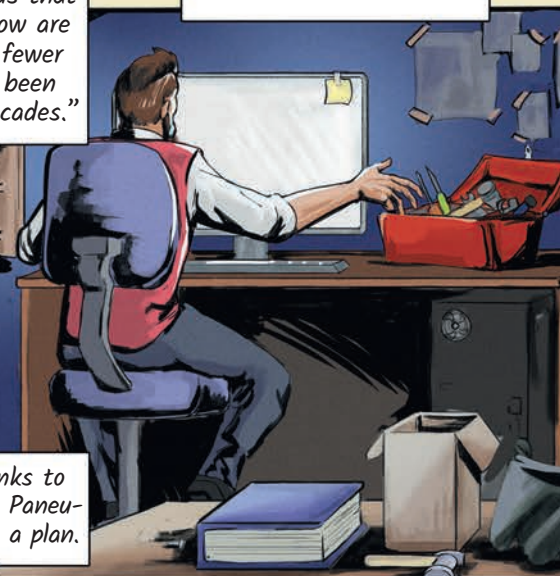
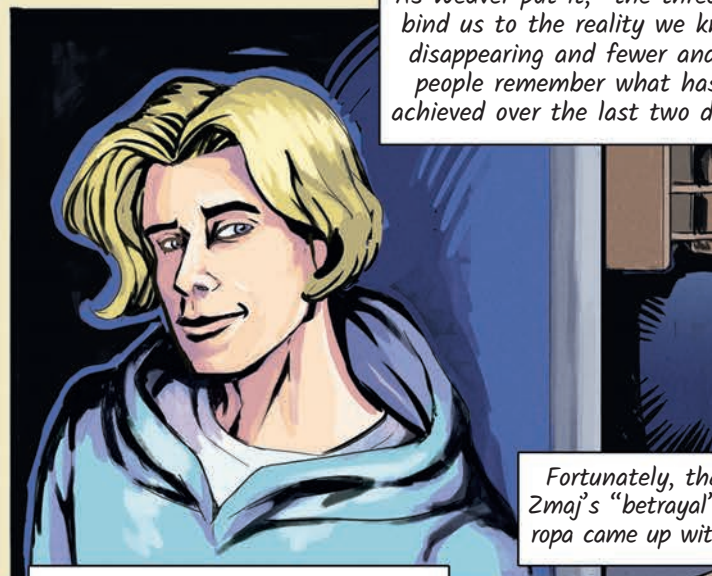
...and they didn't even consider doing so.

The ones living in Germany or Portugal suddenly woke up in a version of Poland that never joined the EU...



...and the thought of trying to go abroad did not even occur to them.

As Weaver put it, "the threads that bind us to the reality we know are disappearing and fewer and fewer people remember what has been achieved over the last two decades."



Fortunately, thanks to Zmaj's "betrayal", Paneuropa came up with a plan.

The spells of talented members of our team already got cast, Sendivogius is working on a gadget that - as he claims - will be able to trap evil...



...and Industrious, that hothead who refused to give up...

...whoa, this boy is already turning into a pro, he will become a great man one day! This young man knows that no one can destroy an entire community just like that, and he's using all available sources to connect with his peers.

And these young people are slowly spreading awareness to the older residents. But now it's all in our hands - to make sure their efforts don't go to waste...

...we must defeat Licho!



We located her and her gang's hideout. The showdown is about to begin, so I must go now, dear Diary.

After we're done, I will report how we did... and if we perish (I doubt it, though!), we will survive in legends!

P.S. I quickly sketched Sendivogius' secret weapon - it's MAPE, i.e. Mega Awesome Pacifier of Evil. It's time for some tests on live baddies!



YOUR SCHEMES END HERE!

PANEUROPA!





AND YOU, ZMAJ, WITH THEM, YOU TRAITOR?

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO NOW. IN JUST A SECOND, YOU WILL ALL BE FINISHED!

ONE OF YOUR HENCHMEN HAS ALREADY BROKEN AWAY FROM YOUR FLOCK! WE'RE ABOUT TO SHOW YOU WHAT TRUE COMMUNITY IS!



THAT SCOUNDREL, HE HAD NO SHAME AT ALL! BUT I TRUST IN ALL OTHERS! LET'S FIGHT, COMRADES!

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS ALL OF PANEUROPA IDLE?!

AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY PUT SOME KID ON THE FRONT FOOT!

IDLE DOESN'T MEAN THOUGHTLESS!

BEFORE WE START BEATING EACH OTHER UP THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, LET ME ASK YOU: ARE YOU REALLY THAT DEVOTED TO LICHOP?

SENDIVOGILIS' AND WEAVER'S SPELLS ARE ALREADY WORKING, AND THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT IS SPREADING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ALL OVER EUROPE!

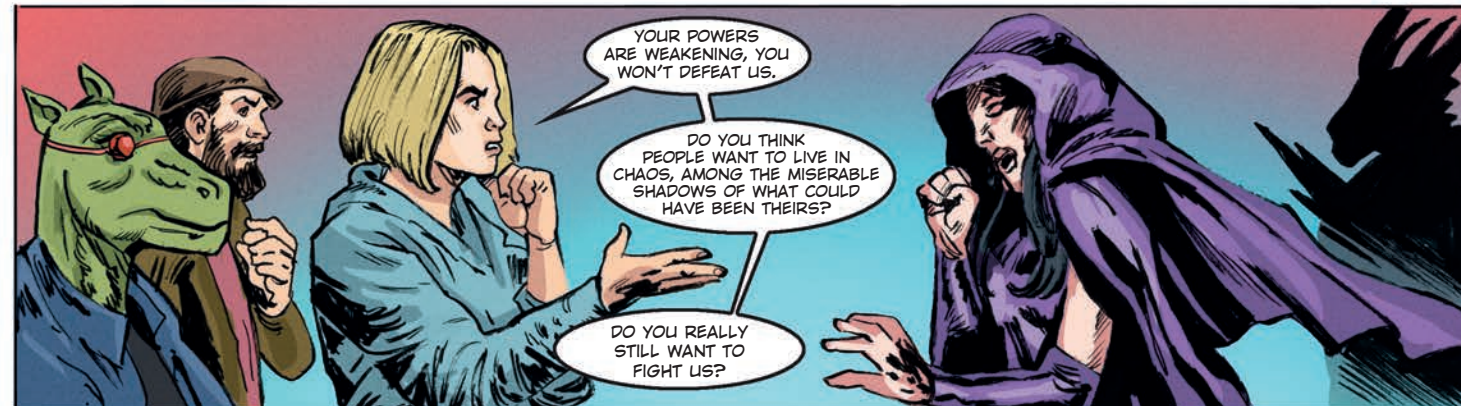
YOUNG PEOPLE REMEMBER! THEY WILL BE THE ANCHOR THAT CONNECTS US TO OUR WORLD.

BECAUSE THIS REALITY IS THE ONLY ONE THEY KNOW! YOU WON'T DESTROY THIS COMMUNITY!

WAKE UP!

CONCENTRATE!

NOW!



YOUR POWERS ARE WEAKENING, YOU WON'T DEFEAT US.

DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE IN CHAOS, AMONG THE MISERABLE SHADOWS OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN THEIRS?

DO YOU REALLY STILL WANT TO FIGHT US?



YES! OVER YOUR DEAD BODIES!



UHH... MAYBE LET'S CONSIDER IT...

AFTER ALL, I CAN SOW DECAY AND DESTRUCTION IN MY HOME GARDEN. IT'LL BE FUN AND NICE TOO.

DRAGONS WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME.

MOST OF THEM ARE STILL DEEP IN SLEEP SOMEWHERE UNDER THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS ANYWAY...



WHAT? UNGRATEFUL COWARDS!

I WON'T FIGHT WITH MY BROTHER — AFTER ALL, WE ARE STILL BOUND BY LOVE, NOT JUST HATRED!

WHILE I WANT POWER, I ALSO WANT MY SON'S PEACE OF MIND!

I'M SORRY, LICHOP, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING HERE, JUST THE TWO OF US. LET'S WAIT FOR A BETTER OPPORTUNITY.



WHAT A DISASTER! I SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED KOSCHEI'S OFFER.



YOU'LL BE JOINING HIM SOON, WITCH!





SMALL, BUT INGENIOUS!

THINK WHAT I COULD CREATE IF I ONLY HAD A LITTLE MORE TIME!

AMAZING SPEECH...

...INDUSTRIUS.



EPILOGUE

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO CZELADZ FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION...

WE GOT OUR PAST BACK, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF FUTURE INVESTMENTS AHEAD OF US. DID YOU HEAR? A GAMING CENTER WILL BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER WIECZOREK MINE IN KATOWICE.

A FLOWPARK OR SOMETHING WOULD BE COOL TOO.

SUCH WONDERS WILL ALSO APPEAR SOON, BOY.

THANKS TO THE BLUE VELO CYCLING ROUTE, YOU WILL SOON BE ABLE TO USE YOUR ACROBATICS IN CITIES FROM SZCZECIN TO RACIBÓRZ!

YOU MEAN...?

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ALONG THE RAIL BALTICA LINE TO MANY CITIES IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES AND SEE WHAT YOUR FLOWPARKS LOOK LIKE THERE.

COOL!

INDUSTRIUS GOT SO GOOD AT CAPTIVATING CROWDS.

BAH! HE'S A FULL MEMBER OF PANEUROPA NOW. WE WON'T "IGNAS" HIM ANY LONGER.

AFTER ALL THIS TROUBLE, WE COULD USE SOME REST.

REST, REST...

...WHILE LICHO SLEEPS!

THE END



## 20th anniversary of Poland's membership of the European Union

Poland joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. It was the crowning point of membership negotiations that began on 31 March 1998 and concluded at the Copenhagen summit on 13 December 2002. Ever since then, 13 December can be associated not only with the brutal subjugation by General Wojciech Jaruzelski's communist regime of what came to be known as the Carnival of Solidarity in 1981 but also with the unprecedented development Poland has experienced following the accession. EU membership aligned with the people's will, as expressed in the 7–8 June 2003 accession referendum. 77.45% of voters supported Poland joining the European Union. Such a significant majority saying "yes" gave Poland a strong and decisive mandate to enter the Community. The signing of the Treaty of Accession on 16 April 2003 in Athens, a city rich in symbolism for European democracy, formalized Poland's membership. Polish citizens elected their representatives to the European Parliament for the first time on 13 June 2004, with Professor Danuta Hübner becoming the first Polish member of the European Commission as Commissioner for Regional Policy.

Joining the European Union proved to be a crucial choice for Poland's prosperity. EU membership offers opportunities to stimulate economic growth and curb negative phenomena such as unemployment. It supports structural reforms. The decision to embark on a path leading to the European Union means embracing Western civilization's values: the rule of law, human rights, representative democracy, and the market economy. These conditions are laid down in the so-called Copenhagen criteria, and each country wishing to become part of the European Union must fulfil them, as Poland did. In addition, law, democracy, and civic rights naturally need to be respected after accession. Let us remember this as we celebrate 20 years of Poland's membership in the European Union!

### Benefits of Polish accession to the European Union

The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) creation in 1951 kick-started European integration. This was a consequence of efforts by critical Western European countries such as France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy to prevent another war in Europe. After the signing of the Rome Treaties in 1957, the ECSC was joined by the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom. The EEC became one of the world's leading economic powers. Over time, member states set new goals for themselves, such as establishing the euro as their common currency, which most EU countries now use as their legal tender. The Union was officially established by the Maastricht Treaty of 7 February 1992. The process of European integration is valuable in its own right, setting a peaceful rhythm of relations between countries that only recently were often at war. Poland derives substantial advantages from its EU membership. Poland not only helps to shape integration but also prospers economically. According to data from the Polish Economic Institute, Poland's GDP per capita grew by 209% between 1990 and 2023. In the early 1990s, it stood at only 41% of the average GDP of EU member states, but it now amounts to 81%. Poland will soon eliminate the backwardness from the years it was trapped behind the Iron Curtain. Poland remains the biggest beneficiary of the historic 2004 EU enlargement. Since then, over EUR 251.16 billion have been invested in Poland, while Warsaw has contributed almost EUR 87 billion to the joint budget in the same period. As a result, Poland has gained nearly EUR 164 billion. That money was invested in developing infrastructure (including rural areas), renewing cities, supporting cultural institutions, and implementing social reforms under the European Social Fund Plus. Polish businesses have secured access to European markets, where goods made in Poland and services

provided by Polish companies are available. Polish farmers are among the key beneficiaries of the country's accession to the European Union. A case in point is the increase in exports from Poland's agri-food sector after 2004, which grew from EUR 5.2 billion in the accession year to EUR 51.8 billion in 2023.

The launch of Kremlin's unlawful invasion of Ukraine in 2022 changed the geopolitical order in Europe, one that the Moscow dictator had already undermined by illegally annexing Crimea in 2014. Thus, the European Union must adapt to this dangerous neighbourhood. Security cooperation is being deepened, which is especially important to ensure that the European industry can secure reliable arms deliveries for member states. The war in Ukraine has made it clear that it is time to rebuild Europe's defence potential. The European Union supports this process.

### EU co-funded investments in our local communities

Funds secured from the Union after 2004 under its multi-annual financial frameworks help to finance investments in Polish municipalities, districts and regions. These funds benefit both smaller local governments, such as Czeladź in Zagłębie or Rybnik in Upper Silesia, and larger ones, such as one of Poland's major cities Łódź and the West Pomerania Voivodship with its capital city, Szczecin. These local governments are the partners of our "Paneuropa – Licho Never Sleeps" comic book, as are the Union of Polish Metropolises and the Silesian Association of Municipalities and Districts. Our partners continue their refurbishment efforts. Thanks to the consistent implementation of such projects, Czeladź and Rybnik have reclaimed facilities that are part of their historical and cultural heritage. Evidence of this can be found in the former collieries now experiencing a renaissance: the Ignacy Historic Mine in Rybnik, as well as the Saturn Coal Mine in Czeladź. Successive city quarters in Łódź are being restored to their former glory by the area regeneration project. Green transport is front and centre, with new trams stopping at the renovated Wolności Square. The capital city of West Pomerania boasts the Professor Jerzy Stelmach Maritime Science Centre. With its building resembling a ship, it is fitting that the Centre should have cast its anchor on the Odra riverbank in Szczecin. The biggest city in the Union of Polish Metropolises, Warsaw, is expanding its metro network. It would be hard to imagine Poland's capital city without this convenient means of transport. But if you have already read our comic book, you know that the reality created by a scriptwriter can be full of surprises. Perhaps you sometimes wonder "what would happen if...".

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