

## EU INVESTMENTS

### RZESZÓW

The new energy-efficient Local Bus Station in Rzeszów was built as part of a bigger project called "Expansion of the public transport system in Rzeszów". It made it possible to buy 50 modern, low-emission buses, 10 of which had electric drive (including charging infrastructure). The project also supported the necessary investments in road infrastructure.

The EU project comprising the construction of the Local Bus Station in Rzeszów was worth over PLN 211 million, of which the European Union financed more than PLN 141 million.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/748736/>  
Originally used as shops and storage rooms, the Rzeszów Basements are now part of the Underground Tourist Route, which is nearly 400 metres long. For residents of Rzeszów and tourists visiting the city alike, the Basements are a unique and interactive cultural institution that combines workshop spaces with historic cellars and corridors beneath the market square. The project "Rzeszów Basements – interactive cultural institution" was worth nearly PLN 19 million, of which the European Union financed nearly PLN 13 million.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/774732/>

### ŁÓDŹ

Łódź's Pinocchio Theatre has found its new premises at the Wigencja factory. Erected over a hundred years ago at 75/77 Sienkiewicza Street, the building was renovated to meet the needs of its new user. The theatre was able to move in thanks to "Area regeneration of the Łódź city centre", an EU project implemented in the very centre of Łódź. Modern-day Wigencja will accommodate not only the theatre halls, but also creative studios, a recording studio, rooms for cultural and community projects, and a library. Thanks to this area regeneration scheme, yet another historic piece of industrial architecture was given new functions and will help enrich Łódź's cultural offer.

The project "Area regeneration of the Łódź city centre – project 6" was worth over PLN 98 million, of which nearly PLN 35 million was financed by the European Union.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/756651/>

The MeMo Media Library, a branch of the Łódź Municipal Library, is housed in a historic villa built at 5 Moniuszki Street by the industrialist Ludwik Meyer. Part of the privately owned Meyer passageway in the 19th century, the villa is nowadays a multimedia centre open to all residents of Łódź. The media library comprises a library with a collection of over four thousand comic books, a recording and sound editing studio, as well as meeting rooms hosting a rich programme of animation, computer graphics and photo workshops.

The MeMo Media Library operates in a building that was refurbished as part of the project "Urban renewal of 3 and 5 Moniuszki Street and 10 Tuwima Street (New Centre of Łódź Programme)". The project was worth over PLN 70 million, of which more than PLN 32 million was financed by the European Union.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/756647/>

### PSZCZYNA

Castle Museum in Pszczyna

The documented beginnings of a brick defence castle in Pszczyna date back to the first half of the 15th century. Established in 1946, the Castle Museum in Pszczyna has benefitted from EU funds for a number of years now. They make it possible to renovate the castle and other historic monuments, including the Prince's Stables, which house some of the museum exhibitions. The Castle Museum in Pszczyna is one of the most valuable and popular objects of this kind in Upper Silesia and Poland.

"The renovation of the castle complex in Pszczyna" was carried out as part of a project worth over PLN 8 million, of which the European Union financed more than PLN 5 million. Around PLN 12 million was allocated for the restoration of the Prince's Stables, with the European Union contributing over PLN 9 million.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/548353/> and: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/700856/>

The District Transfer Centre in Pszczyna integrates railway and buses, two means of transport used by residents of the District of Pszczyna. The state-of-the-art infrastructure consists of a new building housing a waiting room and ticket offices, bus bays, car parks and bicycle sheds. They make it easier to switch from a private mode of transport to a public one. The District of Pszczyna also undertook a comprehensive reconstruction of the transport network in this part of the city. With the Centre being located in the immediate vicinity of Pszczyna's railway station, it is now easier and quicker to get to school or work quickly.

The project "Construction of an integrated transfer centre in Pszczyna, together with the necessary accompanying infrastructure" was worth nearly PLN 18 million, of which the European Union financed around PLN 15 million. The second part of the project, including the construction of a network of bicycle routes, was implemented by the district's partner – the Community of Pszczyna. The cost of both parts of the project amounted to over PLN 53 million, of which the European Union financed almost PLN 40 million.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/767982/>

### European Bison Show Farm

Pszczyna is one of handful of Europe's places where it is still possible to admire the European bison. Situated in the historic park of Pszczyna, the European Bison Show Farm serves educational and scientific purposes, allows visitors to delve into the natural riches of the ancient Pszczyna Forest, and is one of Pszczyna's most frequented tourist attractions.

The project "Construction of the European Bison Show Farm in the historic park of Pszczyna" was worth PLN 6.6 million, of which PLN 4.6 million was financed by the European Union.

For more about the project, visit: <https://mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty/553783/>



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**Dear Reader,**

On 24 February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin unleashed an illegal war of aggression against sovereign Ukraine. Russian tanks crossed the border of an independent country under the false pretext of aiding the people of Ukraine who were allegedly facing a threat from the government in Kyiv. We the Poles – just like citizens of other European Union countries – remember from history that similar criminal acts were once perpetrated in Europe by the leader of Nazi Germany. Working hand in glove with Putin's idol Stalin, Adolf Hitler carved up Central and Eastern Europe by illegally taking hold of the liberty and territories of the nations living between two ravenous totalitarian states. In response to the Nazis' appalling barbarity and the resulting Second World War, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community were established, which ultimately led to the creation of the European Union in 1991. Trapped for many years behind the Iron Curtain, it was only after 2004 that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe were able to join the community of sovereign states governed by the rule of law.

The firmness with which Ukrainian citizens reject demands by the Kremlin dictator testifies to their determination to defend their independence. Along with its allies, notably the US and UK, the European Union endorses Ukraine's right to self-determination and its freedom to choose which alliance to join. Ukraine's European path was reaffirmed by its status as an EU candidate, granted on 23 June 2022. The Community's support for Ukraine goes beyond the prospect of membership and includes billions of euros in macroeconomic aid, which is necessary to sustain the Ukrainian state. The sanctions packages make business as usual impossible for the Russian economy. The sanctions will remain in place for as long as the Kremlin's aggression continues.

Putin's criminal aggression has driven more than 4 million refugees out of Ukraine. They made their way to Poland and other EU countries. Their travel from the border was facilitated by new trains, like the one that pulls into Łódź Fabryczna station in this year's “Paneuropa – Standing with Ukraine” comic book. Integrating road and rail transport, the District Transfer Centre in Pszczyna and a similar investment in Rzeszów make it easy to travel around Polish municipalities and districts. After they arrived in Poland, refugees began to visit cultural institutions such as the Castle Museum in Pszczyna, which relies on EU funds for its renovation and expansion. Young Ukrainians living in Łódź can use the new seat of the Pinocchio Theatre or the MeMo Multimedia Library housed in revitalised buildings of the Śródmieście district. The historic Rzeszów Basements offer a meeting place for Ukrainians and Poles, as does the European Bison Show Farm in Pszczyna, where refugees can marvel at these rare European animals.

Benefitting the Poles and Ukrainians alike, these investments would not have been possible without Poland's EU membership. Now Ukraine is striving for the same. Traumatized by the aggression by its neighbour, Ukrainian nationals are receiving medical aid in the EU Medevac Hub at Rzeszów airport. Polish generosity has been unprecedented and opened the door for Ukrainians to stay, and access education, healthcare and the job market. The European Union took care of Ukrainians by activating the Temporary Protection Directive, which happened on 4 March 2022 or right after the invasion. Europe is indeed helping.

This year's book picks up the threads from the previous volume entitled “Paneuropa vs Nightmares from the Past.” The necromancer Koschei will be confronted by two new heroes: the goddess of light and hope Zorya and the god of courage and springtime Yarilo. Those of you with a soft spot for Slavic mythology will probably recognize these names and make a connection with Ukraine. Quite rightly. This year we tell the story of hope and courage, something our Ukrainian friends need so much. Zorya and Yarilo are joined by the newcomers from Łódź and Pszczyna. Together they will face the threat from the East. Keep your fingers crossed for their victory!

Bartłomiej Balcerzyk

Acting Head

European Commission Representation in Poland

THAT NIGHT, THE SKY ABOVE KYIV WAS ALL RED.

ONE BACKPACK, TWO CHILDREN AND THAT'S IT.

WE JUST LEFT, WITHOUT ANY PAPERS, WITHOUT QUESTIONS.

MOMMY?

MOMMY!

I'M SO SCARED!

BUT THE DARKNESS FOLLOWED US.

AND WITH IT CAME DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

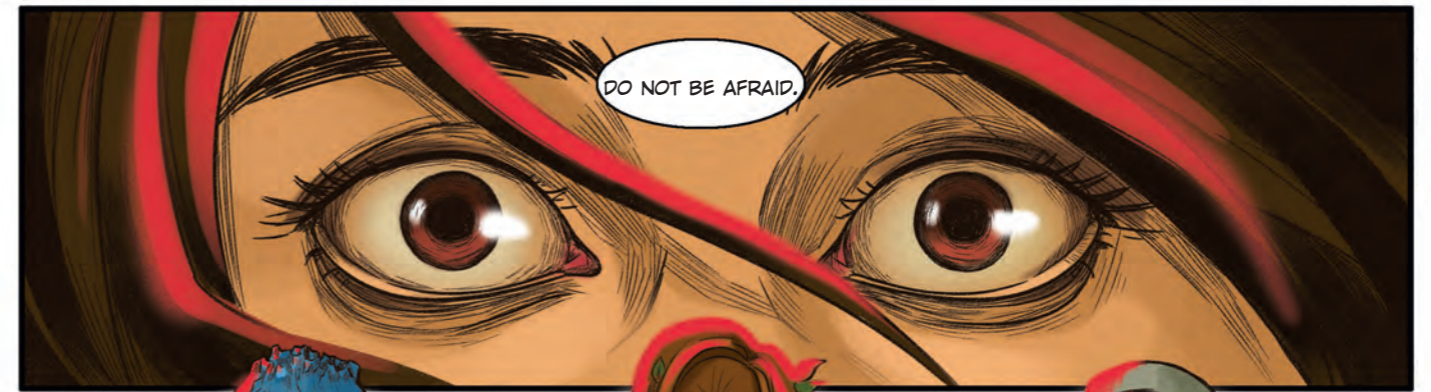


I'M SO SCARED THAT MY LOVED ONES WILL DIE.

ALL I WANT RIGHT NOW IS TO BE SAFE.



AAA!!!



DO NOT BE AFRAID.



THE LORD OF THE FOREST AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.



JUST LOOK, BOROVIL. IT'S NOT JUST THESE PEOPLE.

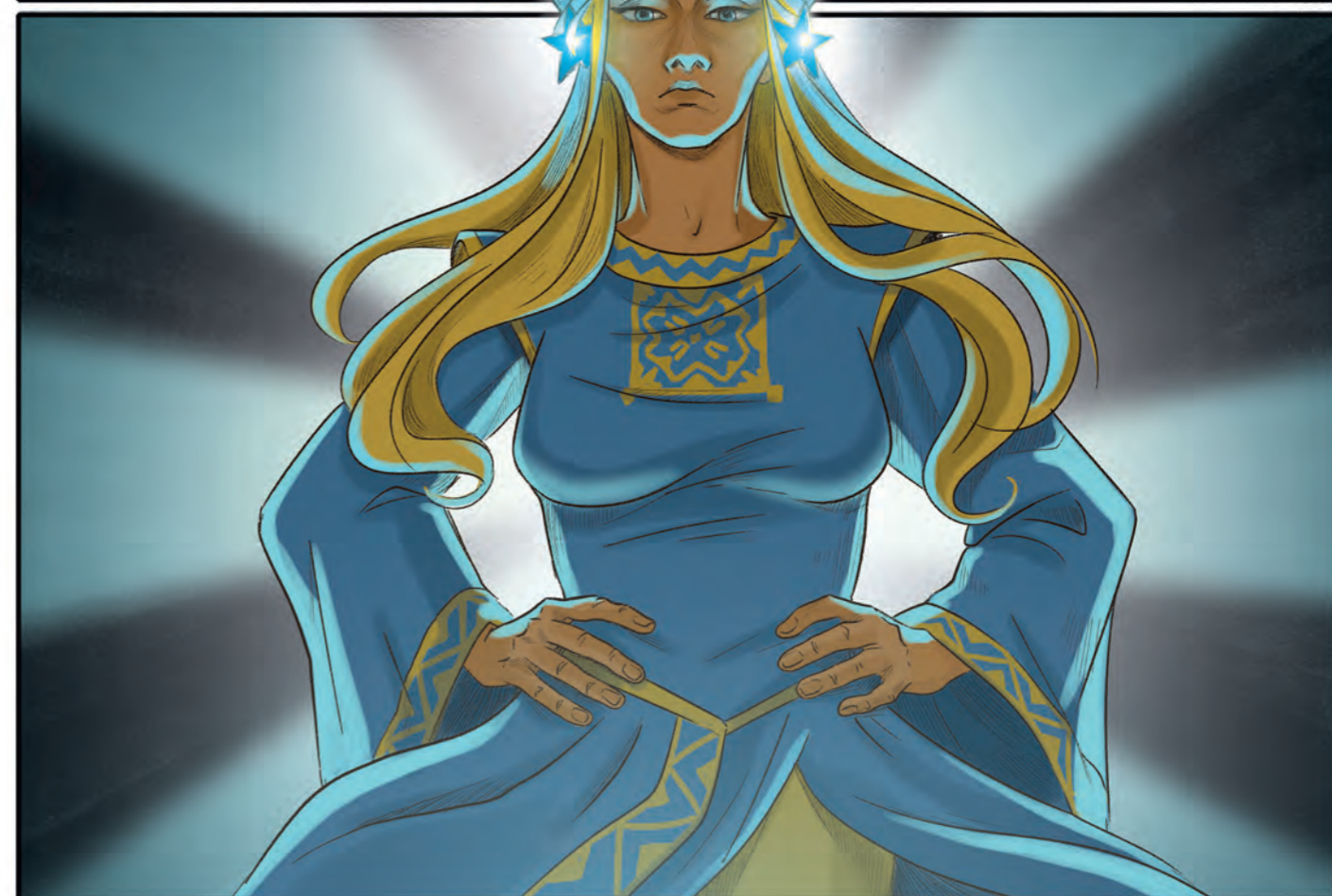
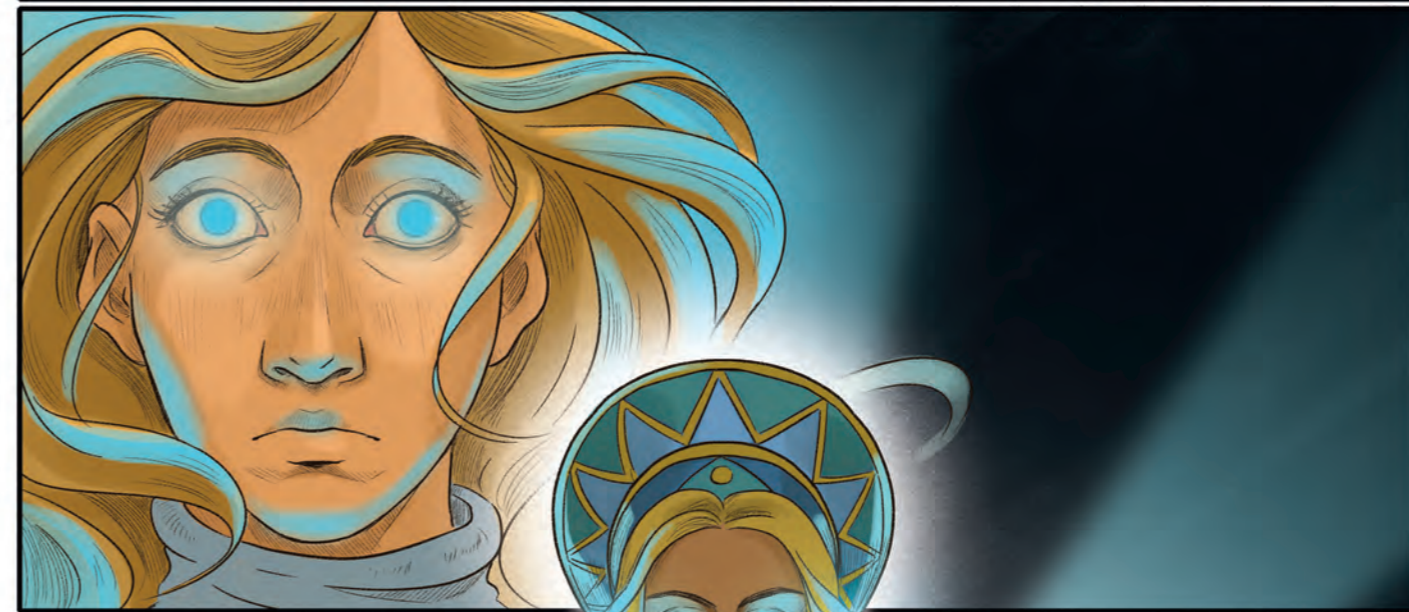
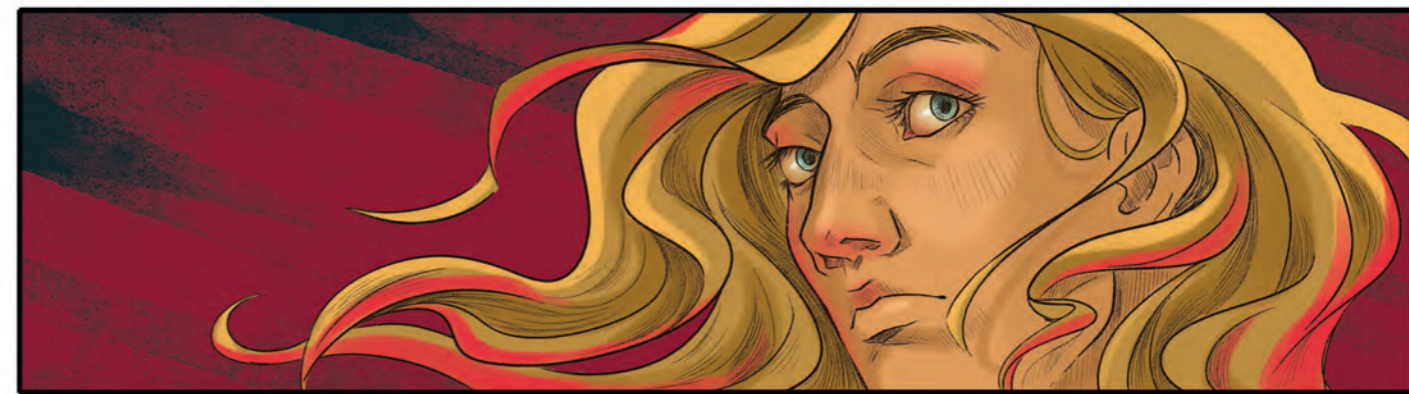
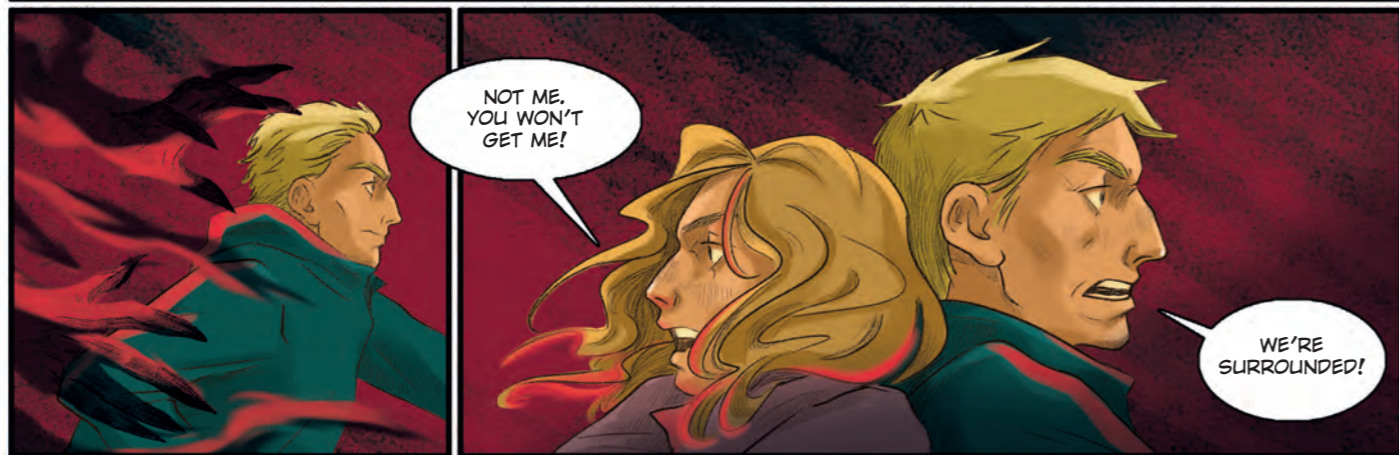
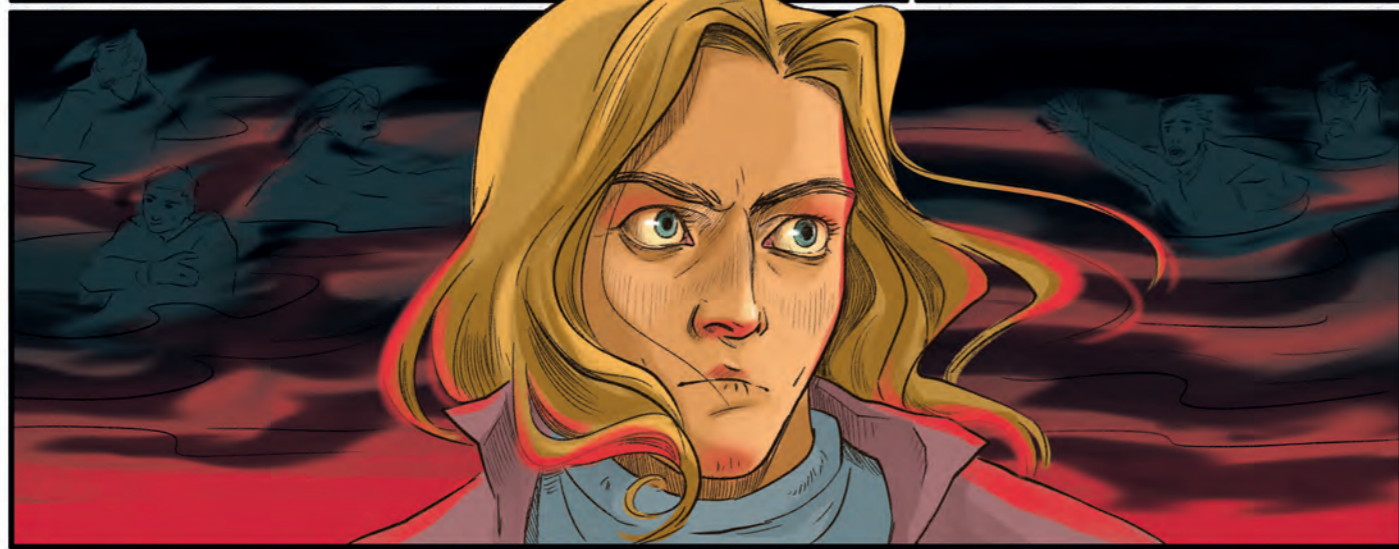
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM EVERYWHERE.

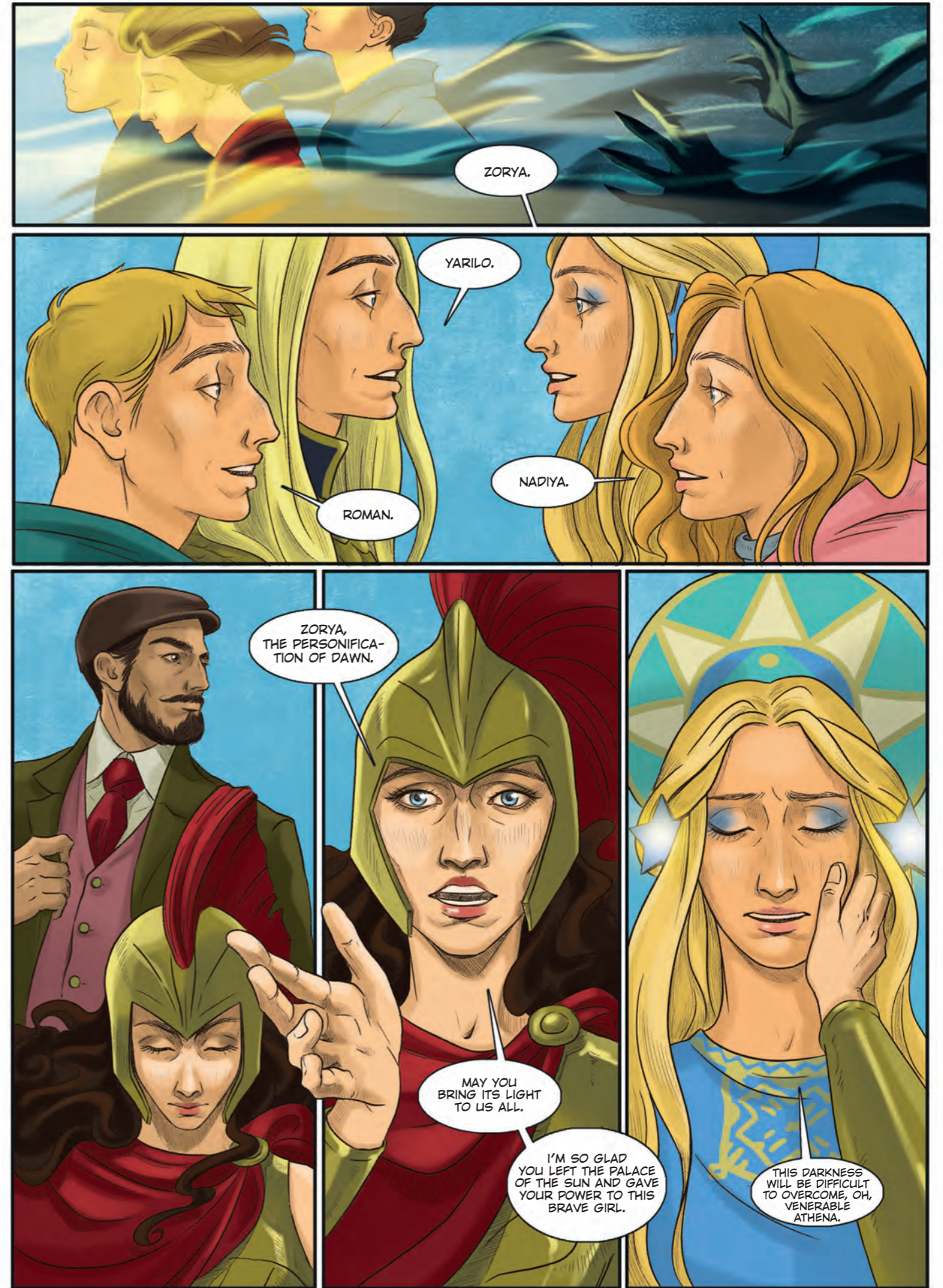


THEY'RE RUSHING TOWARDS THE BORDER.

SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

NADIYA! MY COUSIN HAS DISAPPEARED!







YOU HAVE ROAMED ALL OVER THE WORLD, YAROLO...

...AND NOW YOU TOO APPEARED TO AID THE COMMON MAN'S CAUSE.

I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN.



ATHENA...

YES, I KNOW.

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR LONG GREETINGS.

THE SACRED BAND WON'T HELP US THIS TIME, BUT PANEUROPA HAS GAINED TWO NEW ALLIES.



**WELCOME!**

THAT'S GREAT AND ALL, BUT COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?



SINCE WE ARRIVED A BIT LATER THAN YOU, WE KNOW MORE THAN YOU.

TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, THE SITUATION LOOKS LIKE THIS:



THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING FROM THE MOST FRIGHTENING NIGHTMARES. JUST AS I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING, I GOT A CALL FROM MY MOTHER THAT A WAR HAD STARTED IN UKRAINE.

**RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE**



THE MAIN ATTACKS TOOK PLACE AT 5 AM, TARGETING CITIES, MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE, AIRPORTS, MILITARY WAREHOUSES AND COMMAND CENTRES.



IN THE COMING HOURS, EIGHT RECEPTION POINTS FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE WILL BE SET UP IN THE LUBELSKIE AND PODKARPACZKIE VOJVODESHPIS, AT THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER.



ON THURSDAY, UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI CONFIRMED THAT ALL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA HAD BEEN SEVERED. HE ALSO ASKED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS.

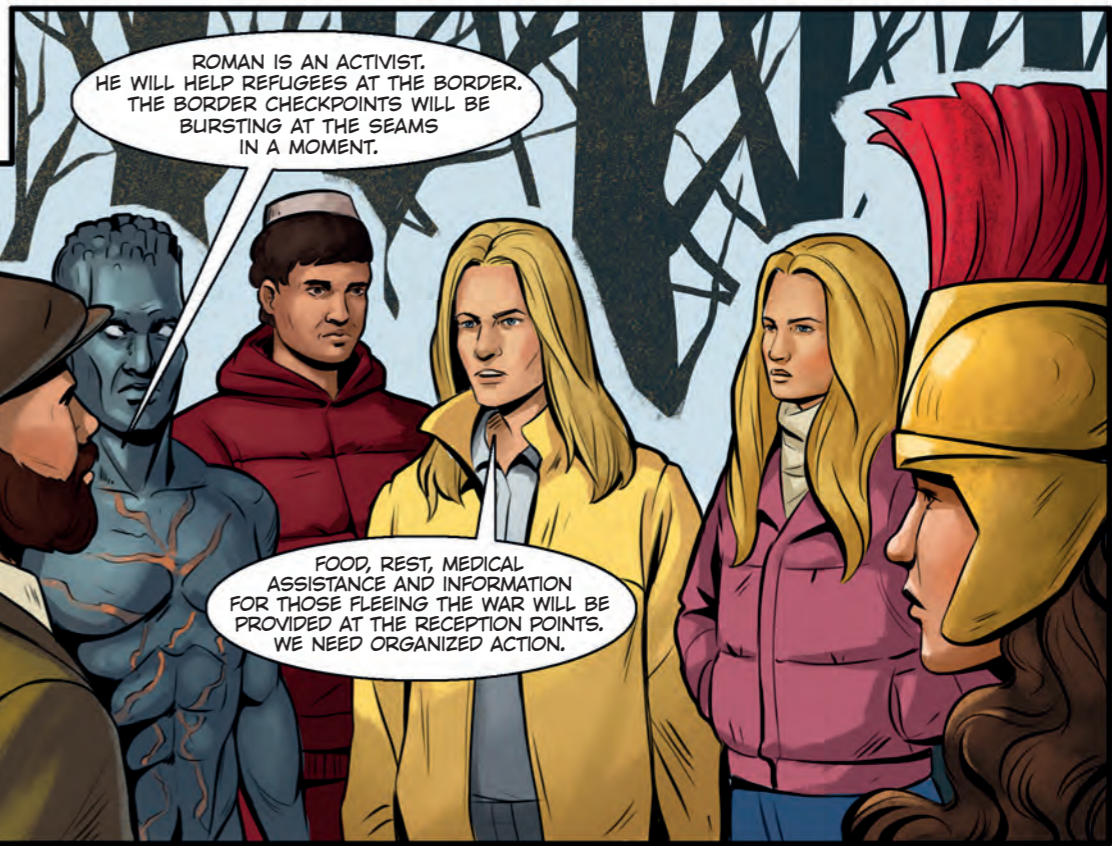


THE EUROPEAN UNION DEMANDED THAT THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT UNCONDITIONALLY WITHDRAWS ALL FORCES AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF UKRAINE. THE EU'S FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF JOSEF BORRELL ISSUED A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY.



**NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JENS STOLTENBERG**

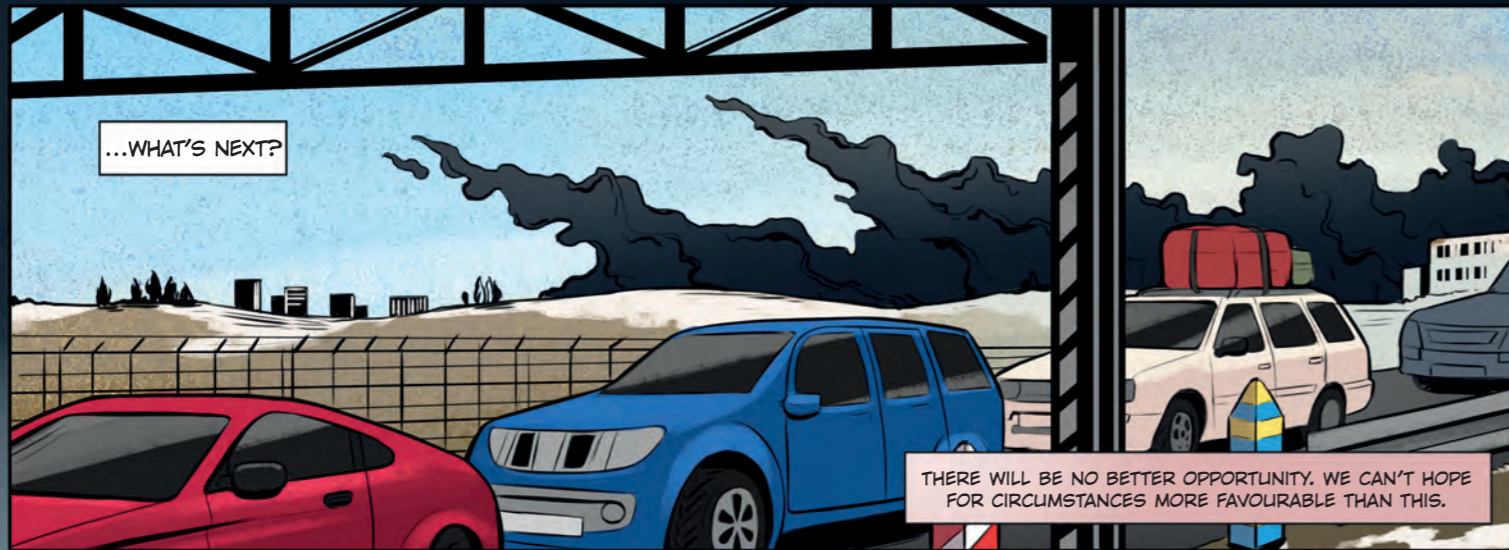
PEACE ON OUR CONTINENT HAS BEEN SHATTERED. WE NOW HAVE WAR IN EUROPE ON A SCALE AND OF A TYPE WE THOUGHT BELONGED TO HISTORY. THIS IS A DELIBERATE, COLD-BLOODED AND LONG-PLANNED INVASION. DESPITE ITS LITANY OF LIES, DENIALS, AND MISINFORMATION, THE KREMLIN'S INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR FOR THE WORLD TO SEE. RUSSIA IS USING FORCE TO TRY TO REWRITE HISTORY, AND DENY UKRAINE ITS FREE AND INDEPENDENT PATH.



ROMAN IS AN ACTIVIST. HE WILL HELP REFUGEES AT THE BORDER. THE BORDER CHECKPOINTS WILL BE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS IN A MOMENT.

FOOD, REST, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION FOR THOSE FLEEING THE WAR WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE RECEPTION POINTS. WE NEED ORGANIZED ACTION.

SO FAR WE'VE MANAGED TO DISPERSE THE FORCES OF DARKNESS, BUT...



...WHAT'S NEXT?

THERE WILL BE NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY. WE CAN'T HOPE FOR CIRCUMSTANCES MORE FAVOURABLE THAN THIS.



EUROPEANS WILL NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF THOSE FLEEING THE WAR.

THEY WILL BE TOO AFRAID OF LOSING EVERYTHING THEY HAVE.



OF LOSING IMPORTED GAS, ELECTRICITY AND MEDICINES. PRICELESS ELECTRONICS, INFLUENCE AND MONEY.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LEAN ON THE POLITICIANS AND MANIPULATE THE SOCIETY... TURN THEM ALL AGAINST THE REFUGEES.



THE MORE PEOPLE FLOOD EUROPE, THE BETTER!

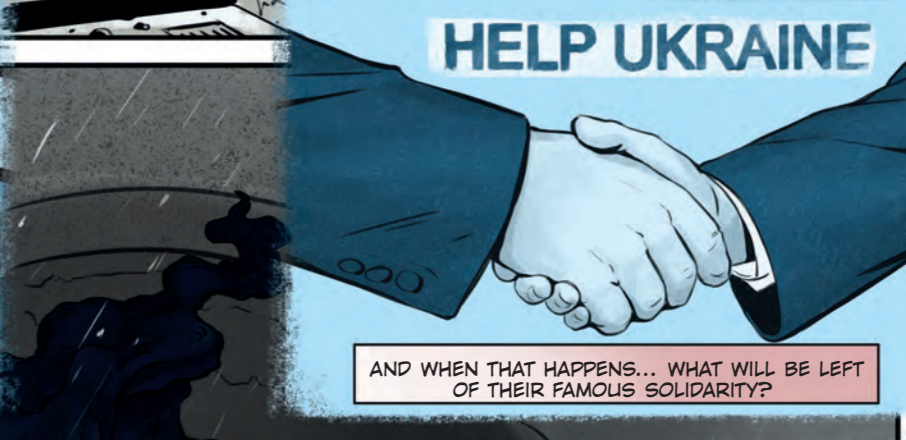
AND I'LL MAKE SURE THEY WILL!



JUST WAIT UNTIL WINTER... WHEN THE FIRST SNOW COMES, GAS AND ELECTRICITY WILL BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE. WITH THE HORROR OF TRULY DEADLY WEAPONS FROM THE EAST HANGING OVER THEIR HEADS, THEY'LL FINISH EACH OTHER OFF.



THE FEAR OF DESTRUCTION WILL FREEZE THEM.



**HELP UKRAINE**

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS... WHAT WILL BE LEFT OF THEIR FAMOUS SOLIDARITY?



WHAT WILL BE LEFT OF THEIR OH SO MIGHTY UNION?



THE NEXT BOMB WON'T BE JUST A WARNING! IT WILL BE DROPPED ON THE SUPPLY LINES CREATED BY THESE AGITATORS OF WAR!



FROM THE ABYSS I COME, ALL TO SERVE THE WILL...

...OF KOSCHEI, WHO SHALL TRIUMPH!





BUT THERE'S STILL THE ISSUE OF THAT ACCURSED PANEUROPA. I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT LAST TIME THESE SANCTIMONIOUS...

...SELF-APPOINTED DEFENDERS OF EUROPE MANAGED TO BREACH THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF MY POWER...



...THEY DID WEAKEN ME, BUT THEY HAVEN'T DEFEATED ME!



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, THE MASSES OF REFUGEES THIS PATHETIC BUNCH WILL HAVE TO CARE FOR, WILL SERVE MY PLAN WELL!



THANKS TO THEM, I WILL EASILY COMPROMISE BOTH PANEUROPA AND THAT WHOLE RIDICULOUS UNION!



SMALL GROUPS OF REFUGEES SMUGGLED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKERS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GIANT WAVE THAT WILL FLOOD EUROPE DURING THIS GLORIOUS WAR! AND I'LL...



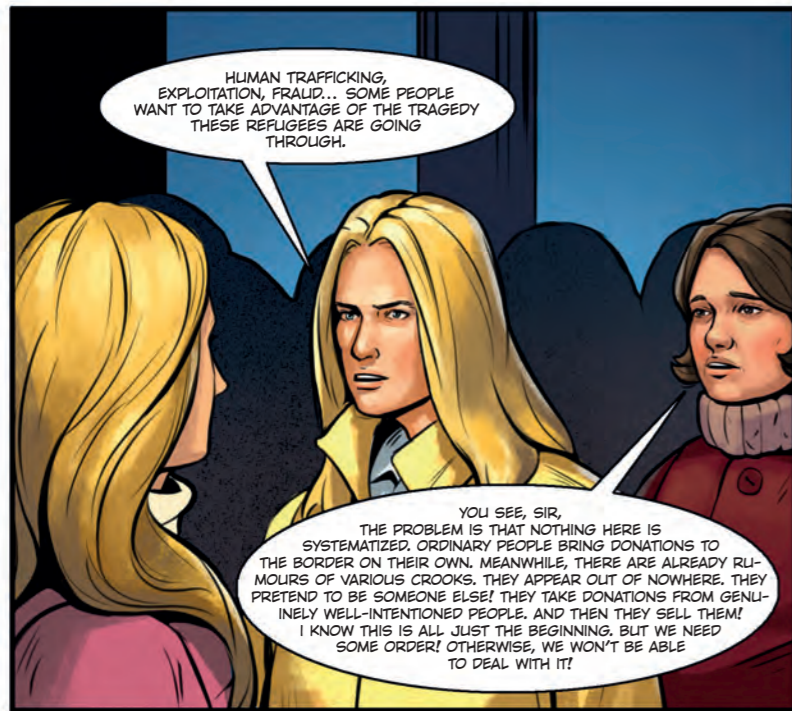
RZESZÓW

...MAKE GREAT USE OF THEM!



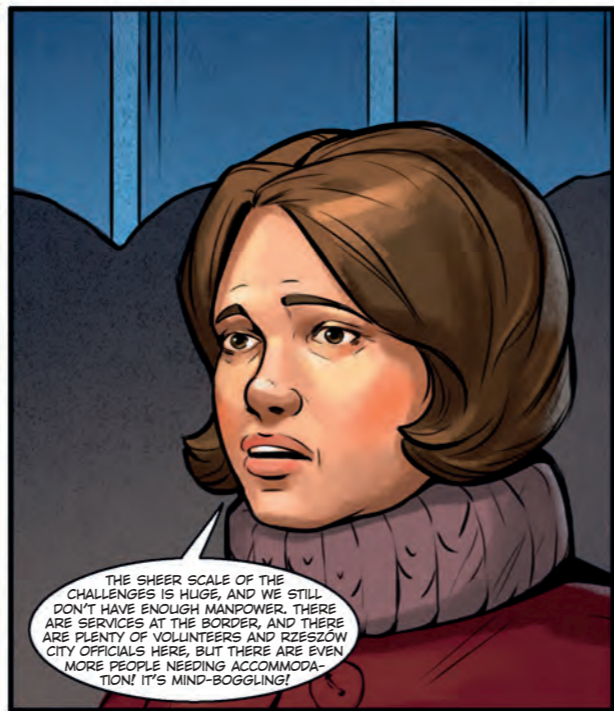
THESE PEOPLE... THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM. I DID NOT THINK THAT SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT US... BUT EVERYONE HAS THEIR LIMITS. HUMAN KINDNESS IS IMMENSE, BUT IT CANNOT LAST FOREVER. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE EXHAUST THEIRS?

EH... I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT CRISES LIKE THIS BRING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE. OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. TO GAIN SOMETHING FOR THEMSELVES...



HUMAN TRAFFICKING, EXPLOITATION, FRAUD... SOME PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TRAGEDY THESE REFUGEES ARE GOING THROUGH.

YOU SEE, SIR, THE PROBLEM IS THAT NOTHING HERE IS SYSTEMATIZED. ORDINARY PEOPLE BRING DONATIONS TO THE BORDER ON THEIR OWN. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE ALREADY RUMOURS OF VARIOUS CROOKS. THEY APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE. THEY PRETEND TO BE SOMEONE ELSE! THEY TAKE DONATIONS FROM GENUINELY WELL-INTENTIONED PEOPLE. AND THEN THEY SELL THEM! I KNOW THIS IS ALL JUST THE BEGINNING. BUT WE NEED SOME ORDER! OTHERWISE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT!



THE SHEER SCALE OF THE CHALLENGES IS HUGE, AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MANPOWER. THERE ARE SERVICES AT THE BORDER, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF VOLUNTEERS AND RZESZÓW CITY OFFICIALS HERE, BUT THERE ARE EVEN MORE PEOPLE NEEDING ACCOMMODATION! IT'S MIND-BOGGLING!



WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THAT. WOMEN AND CHILDREN WILL BE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE.

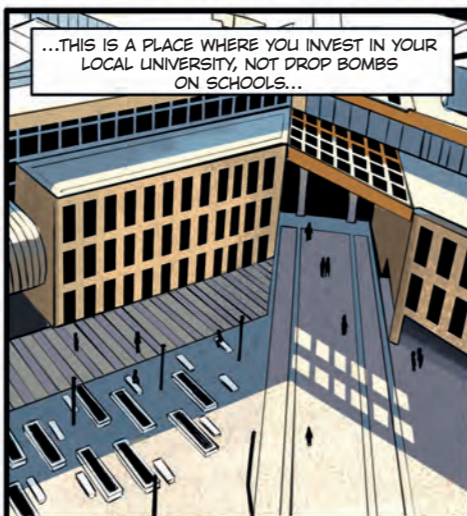
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO NEXT. THE RUSSIANS ARE DESTROYING OUR HOMES! WHY?! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE THEY CALLED US BROTHERS?!



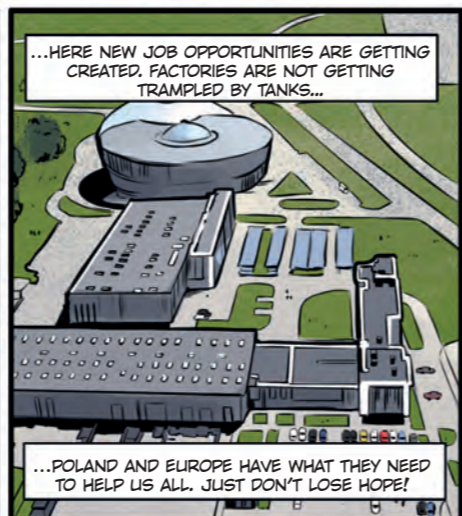
YOU RECOGNIZE WHO YOUR BROTHERS ARE WHEN YOU'RE IN NEED. SOUNDS CLICHE? PROBABLY. BUT IT WAS POLES WHO WELCOMED US WITH OPEN ARMS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. JUST LOOK AROUND! WE WERE ACCEPTED HERE NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE THE HOSTS WANTED TO HELP BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY COULD HELP IF THEY DO NOT ATTACK THEIR NEIGHBOURS. BUT THEY COOPERATE WITH THEM!



THEY HAVE A HIGHWAY GOING ALL THE WAY FROM THE POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER TO THE POLISH-GERMAN ONE...

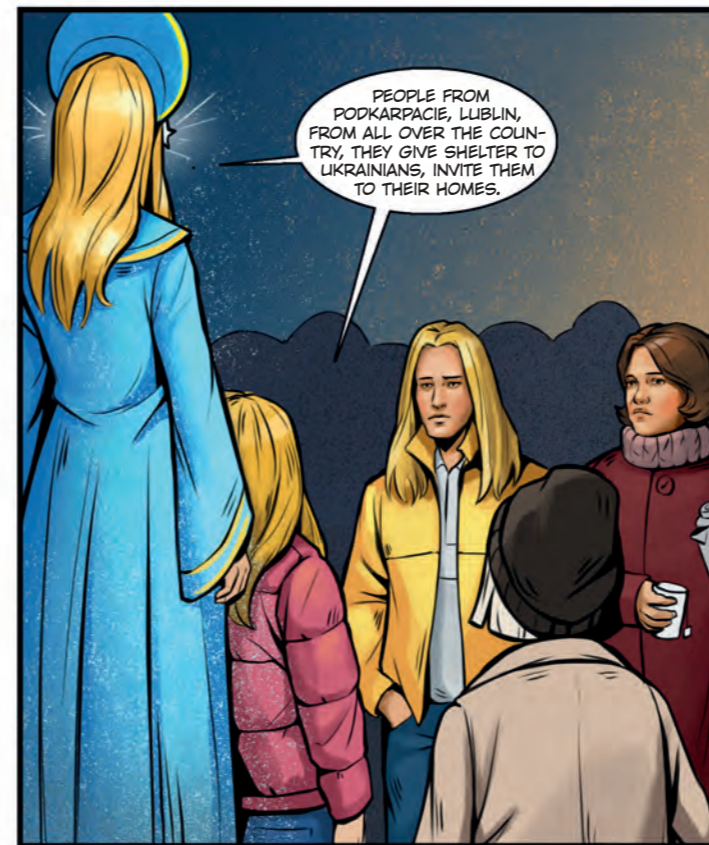


...THIS IS A PLACE WHERE YOU INVEST IN YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITY, NOT DROP BOMBS ON SCHOOLS...

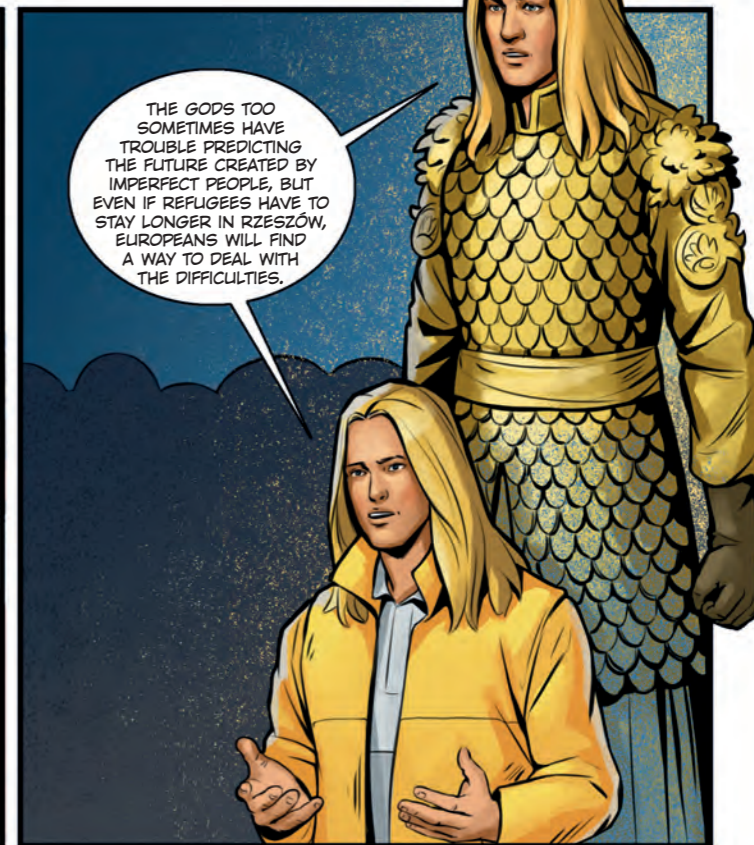


...HERE NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE GETTING CREATED. FACTORIES ARE NOT GETTING TRAMPLED BY TANKS...

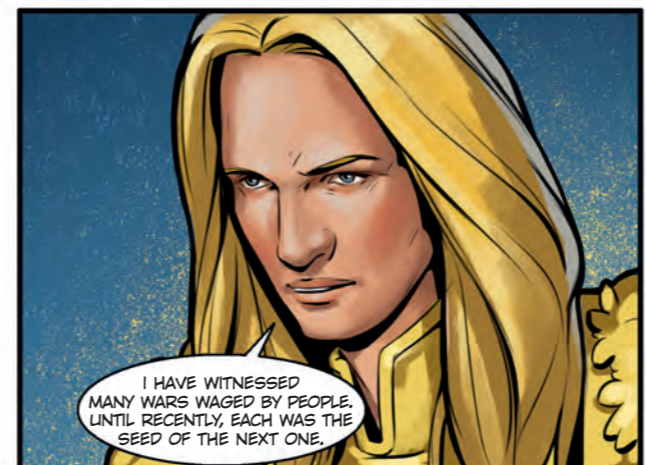
...POLAND AND EUROPE HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO HELP US ALL. JUST DON'T LOSE HOPE!



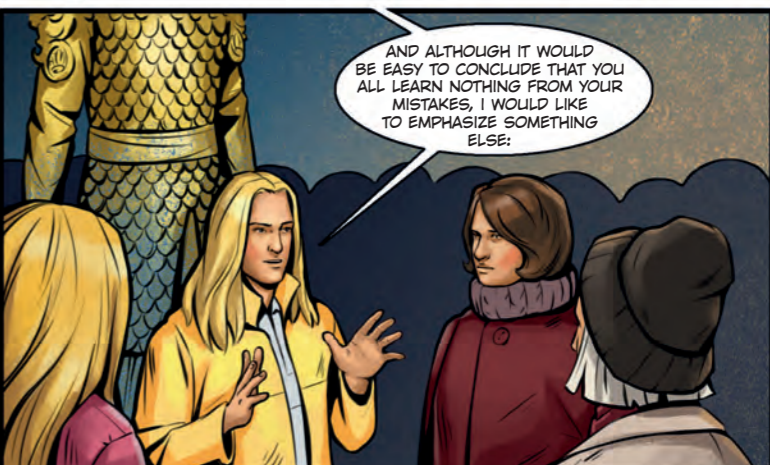
PEOPLE FROM PODKARPACIE, LUBLIN, FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, THEY GIVE SHELTER TO UKRAINIANS. INVITE THEM TO THEIR HOMES.



THE GODS TOO SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE PREDICTING THE FUTURE CREATED BY IMPERFECT PEOPLE, BUT EVEN IF REFUGEES HAVE TO STAY LONGER IN RZESZÓW, EUROPEANS WILL FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULTIES.



I HAVE WITNESSED MANY WARS WAGED BY PEOPLE. UNTIL RECENTLY, EACH WAS THE SEED OF THE NEXT ONE.



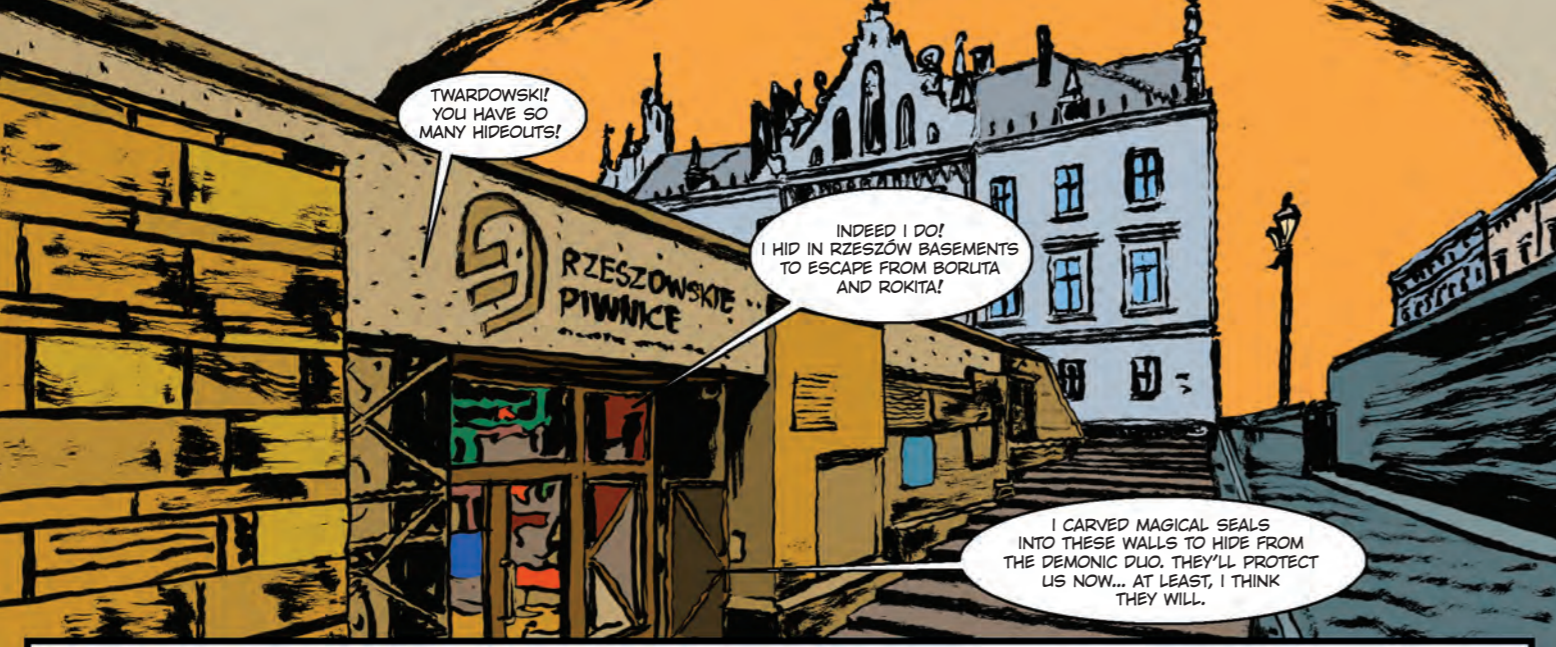
AND ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE EASY TO CONCLUDE THAT YOU ALL LEARN NOTHING FROM YOUR MISTAKES, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE SOMETHING ELSE:



THE LAST WORLD WAR TAUGHT AT LEAST SOME OF THIS CONTINENT'S INHABITANTS THAT IT IS BETTER TO LIVE IN PEACE THAN TO FIGHT EACH OTHER. EUROPE WILL SUPPORT YOU.



YOU CAN BE SURE OF IT.



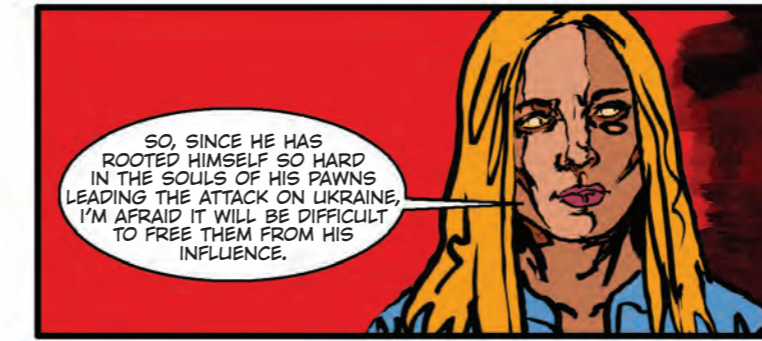
TWARDOWSKI!  
YOU HAVE SO  
MANY HIDEOUTS!

INDEED I DO!  
I HID IN RZESZÓW BASEMENTS  
TO ESCAPE FROM BORLITA  
AND ROKITA!

I CARVED MAGICAL SEALS  
INTO THESE WALLS TO HIDE FROM  
THE DEMONIC DUO. THEY'LL PROTECT  
US NOW... AT LEAST, I THINK  
THEY WILL.



"REVIVE HELL", "RETURN FROM  
BEYOND THE GRAVE", "FRIGHTEN  
INNOCENT HEARTS" ... EACH OF THESE  
GRAPHOMANIAC THREATS TESTIFIES TO  
HIS NIGHTMARISH TENACITY.



SO, SINCE HE HAS  
ROOTED HIMSELF SO HARD  
IN THE SOULS OF HIS PAWNS  
LEADING THE ATTACK ON UKRAINE,  
I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE DIFFICULT  
TO FREE THEM FROM HIS  
INFLUENCE.



AND AS LONG AS  
THIS VILLAIN CONTINUES  
HIS PLOT, THE REFUGEES  
WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN  
TO THEIR HOMES. ALL I CAN  
DO IS INSPIRE THEM WITH  
THE HOPE OF VICTORY.



BORLITA AND ROKITA ARE A PIECE OF CAKE  
COMPARED TO THE THREAT WE ARE FACING NOW. A TANGLE  
OF SHADOWY FIGURES SEEKING TO CAPTURE THE REFUGEES...  
EACH ONE OF THESE SHADOWS REMINDS ME  
OF SOMEONE I KNOW...

KOSCHEI.

WE HAD TO DEAL  
WITH HIM NOT TOO  
LONG AGO.

KOSCHEI?  
ARE YOU SURE? IF  
MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT,  
WE GOT HIM GOOD  
BACK THEN.



BUT THE ISSUE  
OF KOSCHEI REMAINS. WE  
HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM AT  
SOME POINT.

YES, BUT  
HOW?

WE WILL NOT LET  
HIM HARM THEM HERE,  
IN POLAND, OR IN  
OTHER EU COUNTRIES.  
THEY WILL BE  
SAFE HERE.

LESSONS  
ALWAYS COME  
FROM HISTORY.



NOT NECESSARILY.  
HE THREATENED THE  
SACRED BAND THAT "THE  
ONE WHO CAN REVIVE  
HELL IS JUST GETTING  
STARTED".



REVIVE  
HELL?

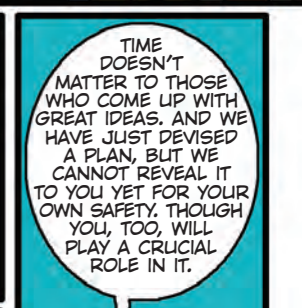


IF YOU WANT  
TO FIND A SOLU-  
TION TO PRESENT  
PROBLEMS, YOU  
NEED TO LOOK  
TO THE PAST.



AND THAT  
THOUGHT IS SUCH  
A WORTHY FINALE FOR  
THIS CONVERSATION!

ZORYA, YARILO,  
PLEASE EXCUSE US.  
I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS  
SOMETHING WITH MY OLD  
COMRADES FROM  
PANEUROPA!



TIME  
DOESN'T  
MATTER TO THOSE  
WHO COME UP WITH  
GREAT IDEAS. AND WE  
HAVE JUST DEVISED  
A PLAN, BUT WE  
CANNOT REVEAL IT  
TO YOU YET FOR YOUR  
OWN SAFETY. THOUGH  
YOU, TOO, WILL  
PLAY A CRUCIAL  
ROLE IN IT.



A WHILE LATER...



WHAT  
TOOK YOU  
SO LONG?



KOSCHEI'S MINIONS ARE SPREADING DISINFORMATION. THEY MAY HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE BORDERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. YOUR TASK WILL BE TO PROTECT REFUGEES STAYING IN POLAND.



REFUGEES NEED IMMEDIATE HELP, WHICH IS WHY REGIONAL RAILWAY DEPOTS — FINANCED BY EU FUNDS — HELP THEM WITH EXPRESS SPEED!



THE TRACTION UNITS OF THE ŁÓDŹ METROPOLITAN RAILWAY ARE MADE TO MODERN STANDARDS AND ARE SAFE FOR EVERYONE.

THEY'RE FASTER THAN LIGHTNING, OR A SPEEDING BULLET, ALTHOUGH SOME WOULD PROBABLY STILL PREFER A CAR!



OUCH!



CAR? ARE YOU KIDDING?! ROADS ARE GREAT, BUT IF YOU WANT TO TRANSPORT SEVERAL HUNDRED HELPLESS REFUGEES QUICKLY AND COMFORTABLY, A TRAIN IS THE BEST BET!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINC ME!



ŁÓDŹ

THE PASSENGER TRAIN FROM RZESZÓW GŁÓWNY TO ŁÓDŹ FABRYCZNA IS DUE TO ARRIVE ON TRACK ONE AT PLATFORM TWO!

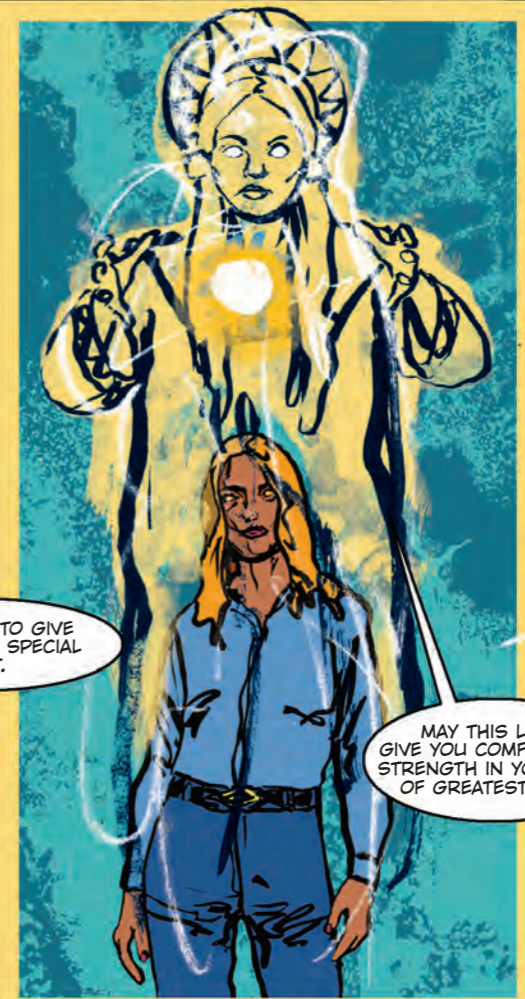


SENDIVOGLIUS' WORKSHOP...

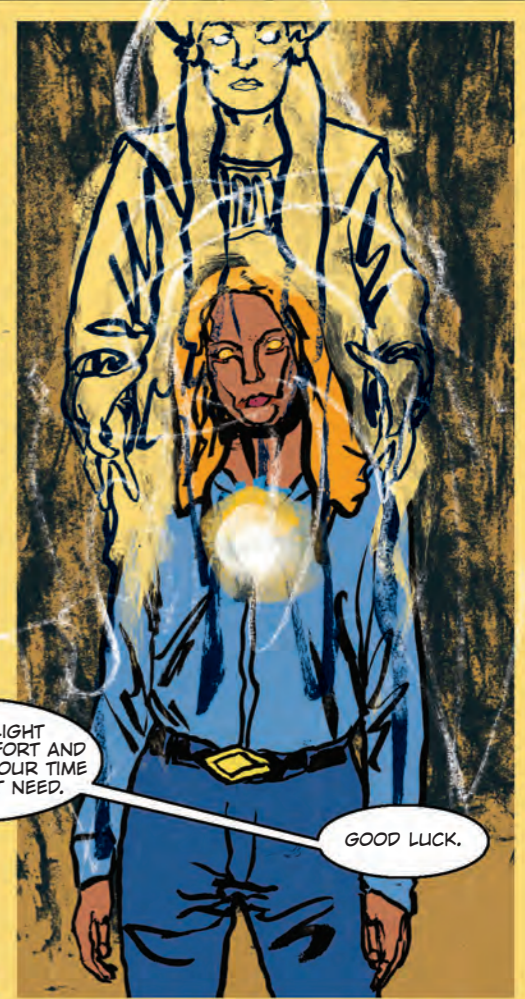
NADIYA...



ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU A VERY SPECIAL GIFT.



MAY THIS LIGHT GIVE YOU COMFORT AND STRENGTH IN YOUR TIME OF GREATEST NEED.



GOOD LUCK.



I LIVE NEAR KYIV. WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKED US, I WAS VISITING MY FAMILY IN VOLHYNIA. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.



FEARING THAT THE ATTACK FROM THE NORTH WAS COMING NEXT, WE SET OFF FOR POLAND. MY COUSIN, HER 5-YEAR-OLD SON, AND ME. I HEARD KYIV IS NOW SURROUNDED...



I WANT TO HELP OTHER REFUGEES IN POLAND. I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO.



?!  
oo



WE CAN'T STAY IDLE EITHER!



WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER OTHER REFUGEES WHO ENDED UP IN ŁÓDŹ. SOME OF THEM WILL MOST LIKELY STAY HERE BUT DON'T FORGET THAT ONE CITY CANNOT SUPPORT ALL THOSE IN NEED.



THE SAME WILL BE TRUE OF OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

WARSAW IS OPEN TO UKRAINIANS.

MOST OF THEM WILL PROBABLY GO THERE.



AND SO, THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY.



WROCLAW, ALTHOUGH FRIENDLY, ALSO HAS ITS LIMITS. QUESTION IS WHERE WILL THE REST OF THE REFUGEES GO?



LET ME ANSWER: THEY WILL FIND SHELTER IN SMALLER PLACES.

WHICH ONES, THOUGH?

THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM... FOR EXAMPLE OUR GUESTS COULD END UP IN THE AREA THAT YOU, BOROVIL, SHOULD ASSOCIATE WITH ONE OF YOUR RELATIVES.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



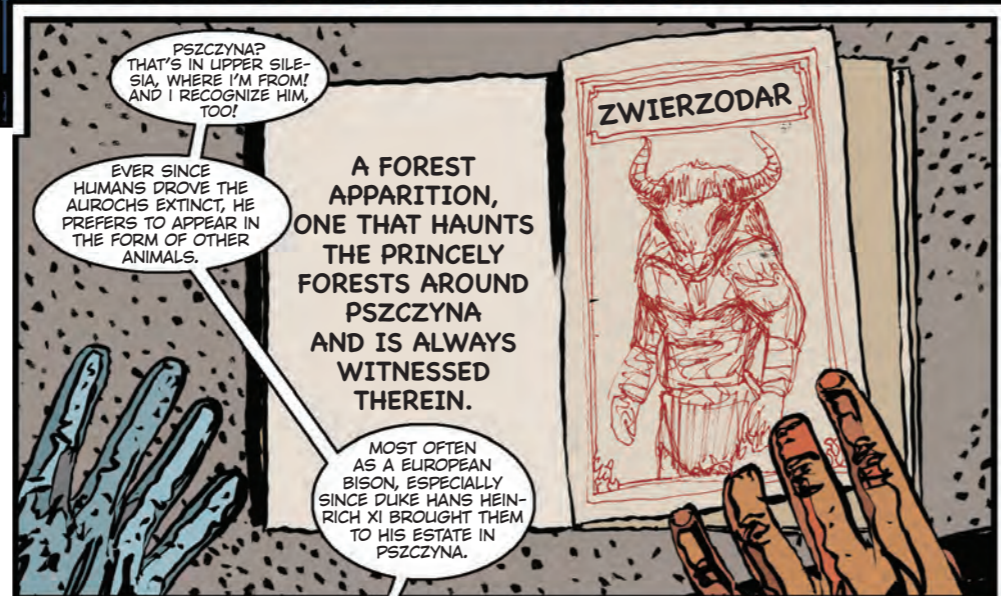
ZWIERZODAR CAN BE WHIMSICAL AND GRUMPY. PEOPLE INFURIATE HIM EVEN MORE THAN ME — ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO KILL WILD ANIMALS.

WHERE THE ANIMALS LIVE, HE IS POWERFUL, BUT AMONG MEN, HIS POWER WANES... AS DOES MINE IN BIG CITIES.



SEE FOR YOURSELF!

ZWIERZODAR? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.



PSZCZYNA? THAT'S IN UPPER SILESIA, WHERE I'M FROM! AND I RECOGNIZE HIM, TOO!

EVER SINCE HUMANS DROVE THE AUROCHS EXTINCT, HE PREFERS TO APPEAR IN THE FORM OF OTHER ANIMALS.

A FOREST APPARITION, ONE THAT HAUNTS THE PRINCELY FORESTS AROUND PSZCZYNA AND IS ALWAYS WITNESSED THEREIN.

MOST OFTEN AS A EUROPEAN BISON, ESPECIALLY SINCE DUKE HANS HEINRICH XI BROUGHT THEM TO HIS ESTATE IN PSZCZYNA.

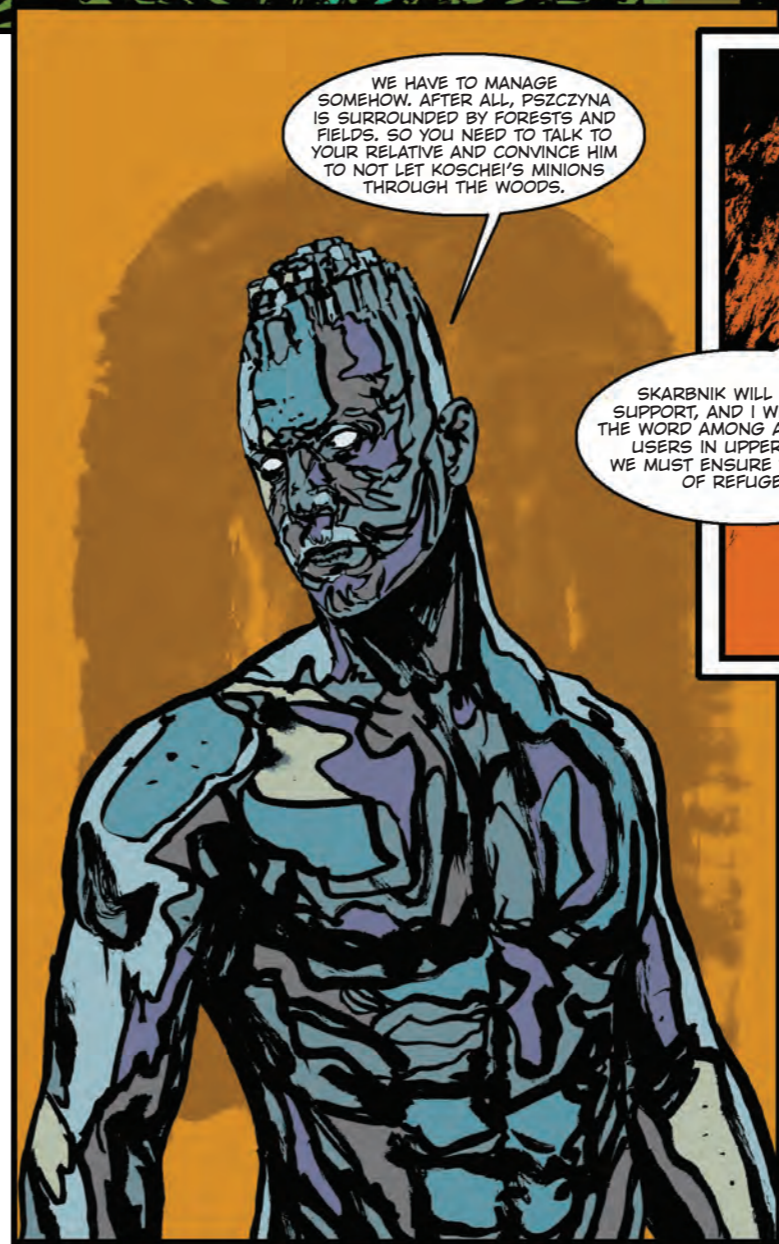


AUROCHS OR BISON — WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

MY COUSIN HAS MANY NAMES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. WE, HIS KINSMEN, CALL HIM ZWIERZODAR.



THE ROMAN DESCENDANTS OF ROMULUS AND REMUS REFER TO HIM SIMPLY AS FERINUS. REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE IS KNOWN AS, HE CAN TAKE MANY FORMS. BUT I MUST WARN YOU.



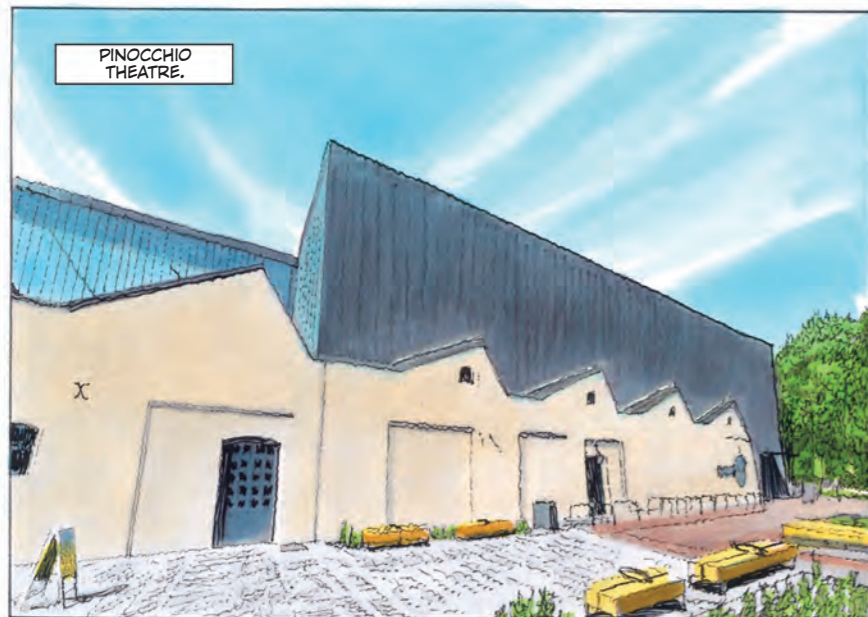
WE HAVE TO MANAGE SOMEHOW. AFTER ALL, PSZCZYNA IS SURROUNDED BY FORESTS AND FIELDS. SO YOU NEED TO TALK TO YOUR RELATIVE AND CONVINCE HIM TO NOT LET KOSCHEI'S MINIONS THROUGH THE WOODS.



SKARBNIK WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT, AND I WILL SPREAD THE WORD AMONG ARCANES ARTS USERS IN UPPER SILESIA. WE MUST ENSURE THE SAFETY OF REFUGEES.



WHICH IS WHY WE WILL SPLIT UP INTO FOUR GROUPS.





OH WELL, SO MUCH FOR SENDVOGIUS' INVISIBILITY POTIONS!



MESS WITH ME AND I'LL TURN YOU TO STONE!



OH, YOU WILL, WILL YOU?



WILL YOU HURT THE PEOPLE I'VE POSSESSED?

WILL YOU TURN THEM TO STONE?

I MAY BE ONLY A GHOST IN THIS FORM, BUT THEY...



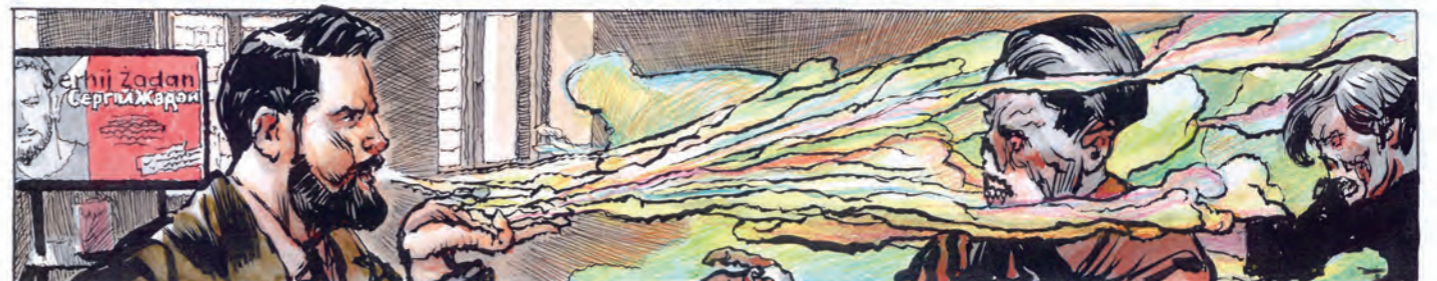
...ARE FLESH AND BLOOD!



YOU MAY HAVE POSSESSED THESE POOR PEOPLE, BUT IT IS A HOLLOW VICTORY! FOR I TELL YOU: COURAGE HAS MANY FACES, AND I CAN KINDLE ITS FLAME IN MANY A HEART!

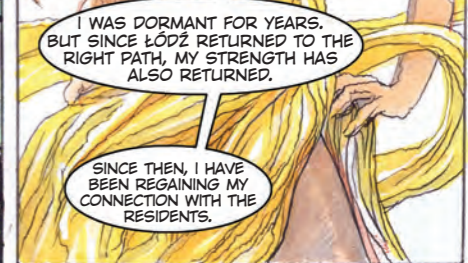
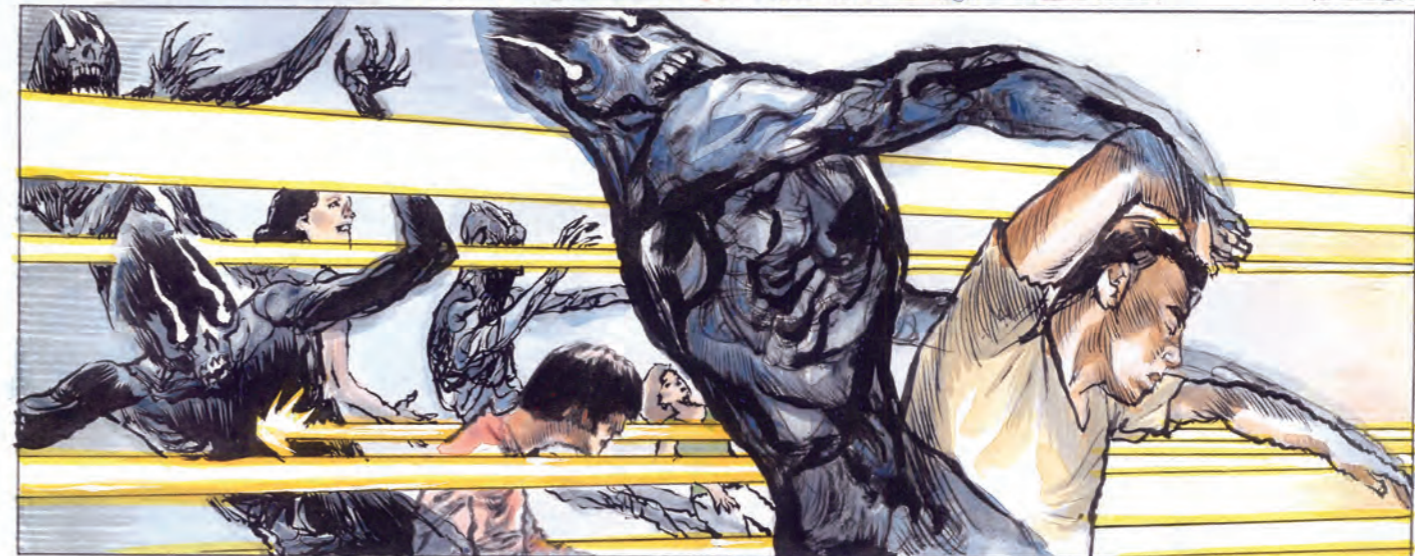
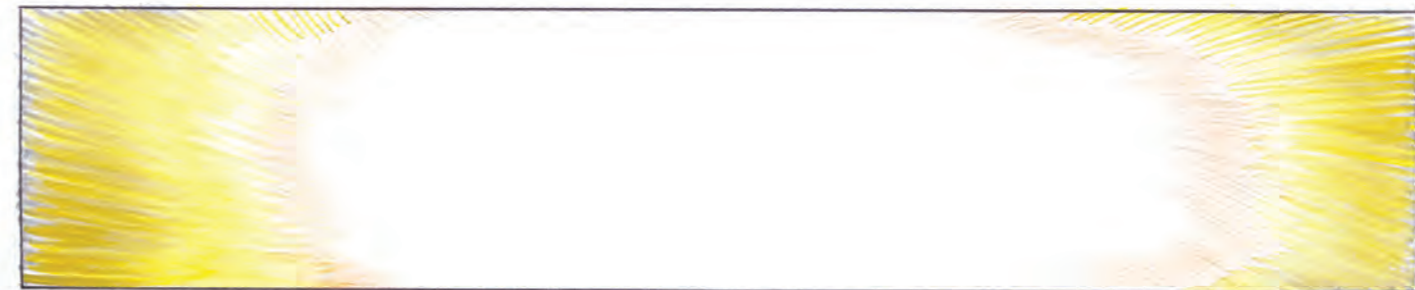


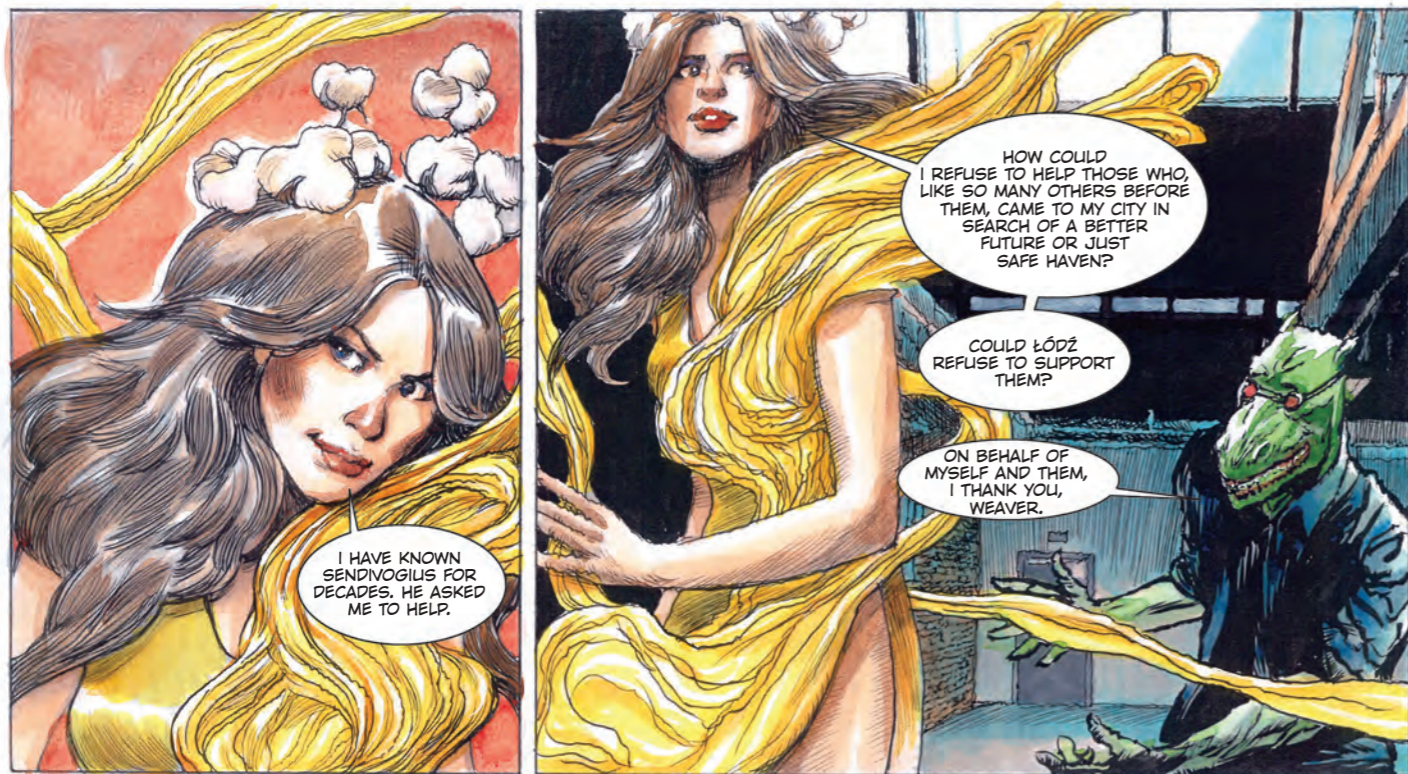
THE MOON DUST FROM TWARDOWSKI'S FORTRESS, ENHANCED BY MY SPELLS, SHOULD ENLIGHTEN YOUR MIND A BIT!









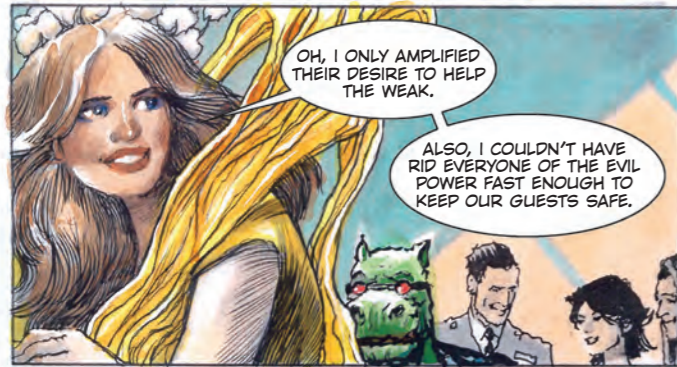


I HAVE KNOWN SENDIVOGIUS FOR DECADES. HE ASKED ME TO HELP.

HOW COULD I REFUSE TO HELP THOSE WHO, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS BEFORE THEM, CAME TO MY CITY IN SEARCH OF A BETTER FUTURE OR JUST SAFE HAVEN?

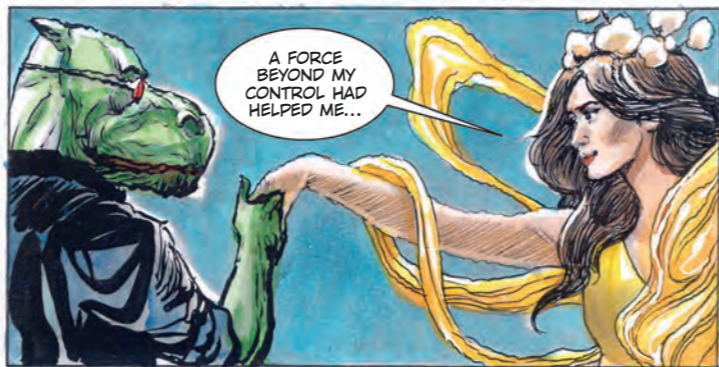
COULD ŁÓDŹ REFUSE TO SUPPORT THEM?

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND THEM, I THANK YOU, WEAVER.

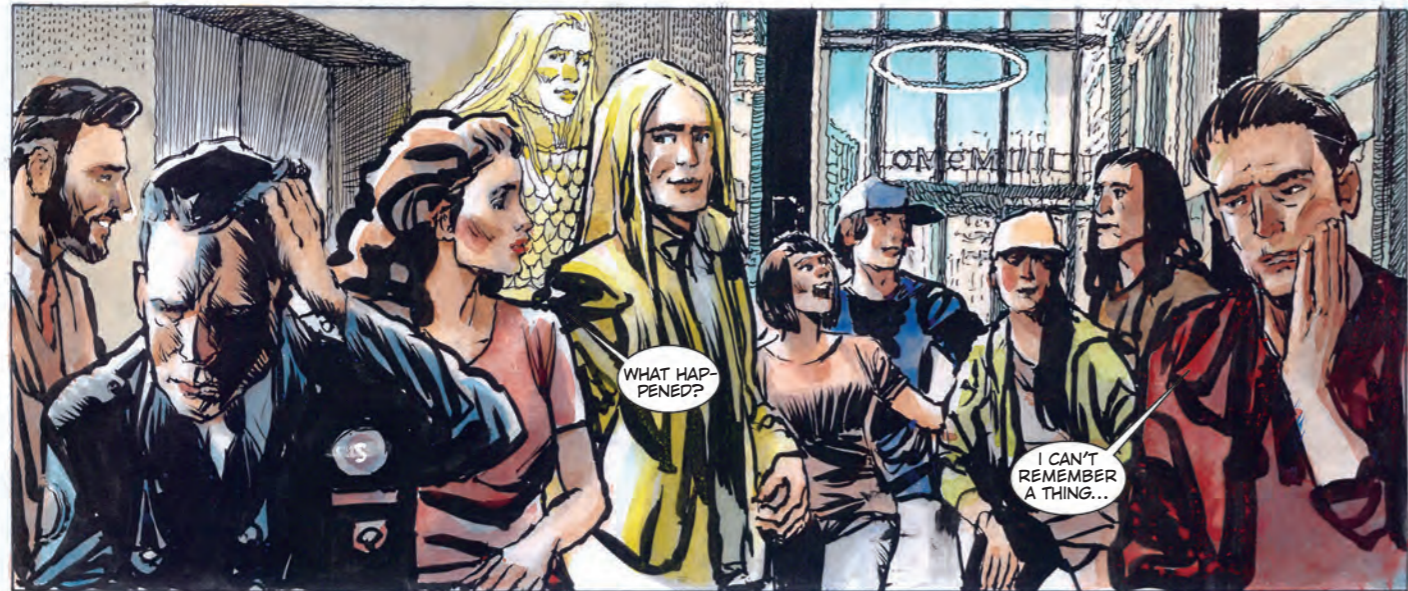


OH, I ONLY AMPLIFIED THEIR DESIRE TO HELP THE WEAK.

ALSO, I COULDN'T HAVE RID EVERYONE OF THE EVIL POWER FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP OUR GUESTS SAFE.



A FORCE BEYOND MY CONTROL HAD HELPED ME...



WHAT HAPPENED?

I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING...



WELCOME TO PSZCZYNA! YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE. THERE IS ACCOMMODATION FOR EVERYONE. WE MADE SURE OF IT.

THESE ARE TEMPORARY QUARTERS, BUT MANY GOOD PEOPLE FROM HERE ARE READY TO TAKE YOU UNDER THEIR ROOFS. THIS IS MIRKA FROM OUR DISTRICT - SHE'LL BE GLAD TO HOST YOU.



ABSOLUTELY! WE ALL HAVE TO HELP EACH OTHER IN NEED.

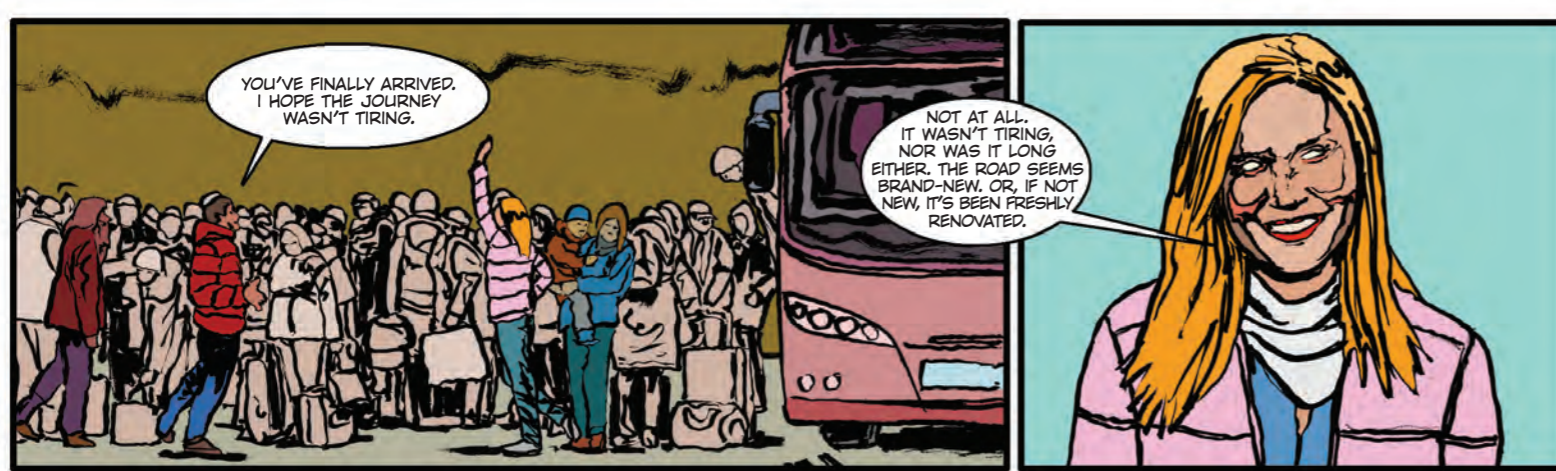
ALL OF EUROPE WANTS TO HELP. WE CAME FROM ANHALT-BITTERFELD - WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS WITH THE PSZCZYNA DISTRICT FOR MANY YEARS.



AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT EDUCATION - YOUR CHILDREN ARE GUARANTEED PLACES IN SCHOOLS.



HEY! NADIYA! HERE.



YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED. I HOPE THE JOURNEY WASN'T TIRING.

NOT AT ALL. IT WASN'T TIRING, NOR WAS IT LONG EITHER. THE ROAD SEEMS BRAND-NEW. OR, IF NOT NEW, IT'S BEEN FRESHLY RENOVATED.



THE STATION LOOKS PRETTY NICE.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS AND BUILD WHAT THEY NEED, BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO DISCUSS BUS STATIONS... ALTHOUGH...



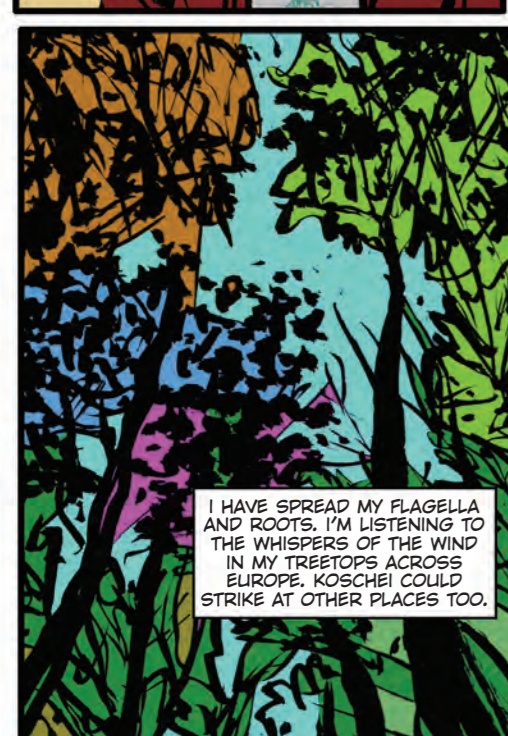
THINKING ABOUT IT, IT WOULD BE GOOD IF MORE OF THOSE... WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM... STOPPED HERE... SENDMOGIUS TOLD ME ABOUT THEM...



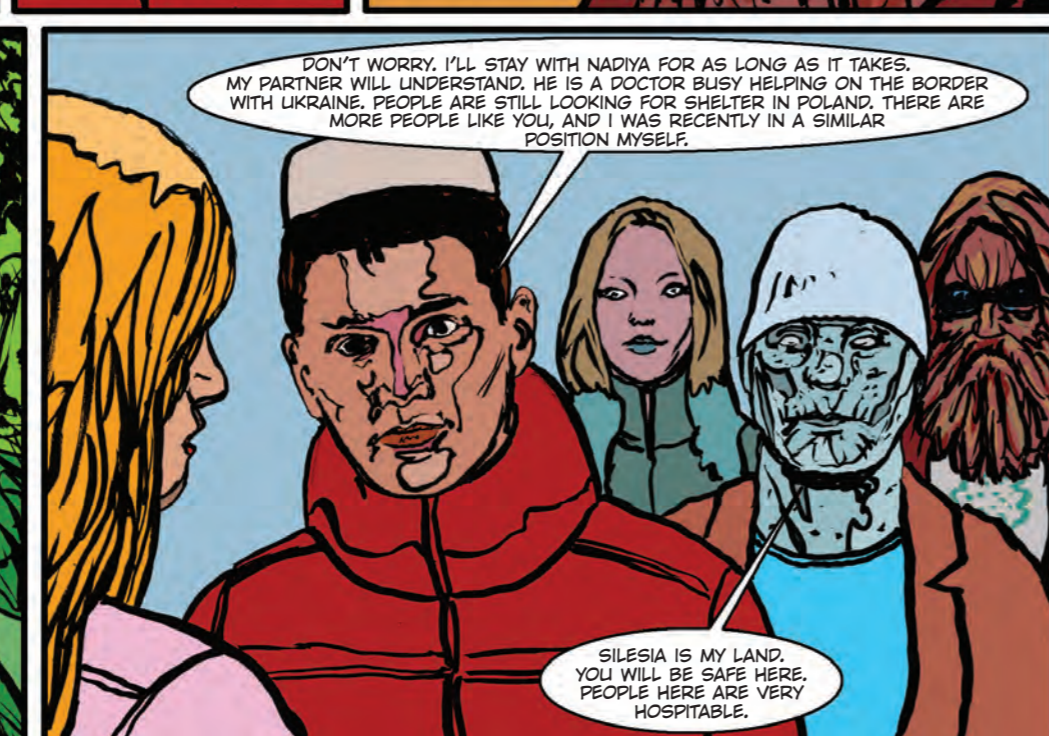
...ELECTRIC BUSES?



EXACTLY! ELECTRIC BUSES! EXHAUST FUMES HURT MY TREES. MAYBE SOMEDAY... ANYWAY, I SPOKE TO ZWIERSODAR. HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO SURROUND PSZCZYNA WITH HIS SERVANTS. AND I WILL CAUSE A GROVE OF YOUNG, STRONG OAKS TO SPROUT NEARBY... BUT I CANNOT STAY FOR LONG.



I HAVE SPREAD MY FLAGELLA AND ROOTS. I'M LISTENING TO THE WHISPERS OF THE WIND IN MY TREETOPS ACROSS EUROPE. KOSCHEI COULD STRIKE AT OTHER PLACES TOO.



DON'T WORRY, I'LL STAY WITH NADIYA FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES. MY PARTNER WILL UNDERSTAND. HE IS A DOCTOR BUSY HELPING ON THE BORDER WITH UKRAINE. PEOPLE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SHELTER IN POLAND. THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU, AND I WAS RECENTLY IN A SIMILAR POSITION MYSELF.

SILESIA IS MY LAND. YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE. PEOPLE HERE ARE VERY HOSPITABLE.



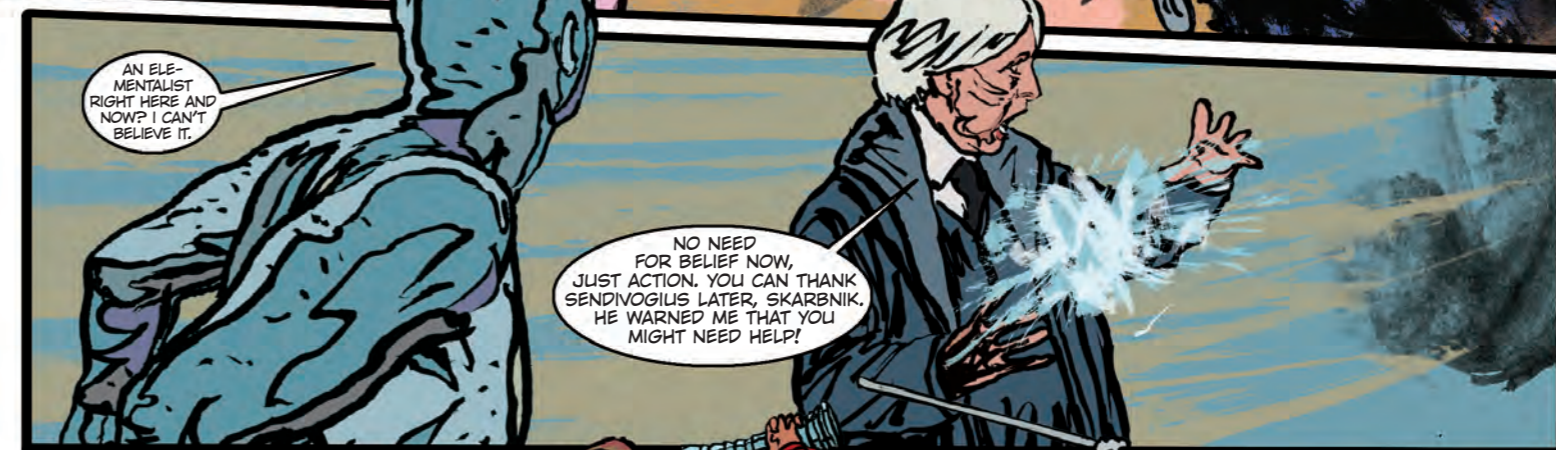
MY NAME IS XAVIER, AND I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE. THE PSZCZYNA CASTLE IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY UNIQUE OBJECT ON THE MAP OF POLAND AND EUROPE.



IT MAINTAINED THE CHARACTER OF THE 19TH-CENTURY RESIDENCE WITH ALMOST ENTIRELY PRESERVED, ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS FROM BACK WHEN THE TOWN WAS RULED BY THE PRINCELY FAMILY OF HOCHBERG OF PSZCZYNA AND KSIĄZ...



...FOR YEARS IT HAS BEEN ATTRACTING VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD - YOU ARE FROM UKRAINE, AND I COME FROM CATALONIA. SO WE ARE IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMPA...





**TOGETHER!**

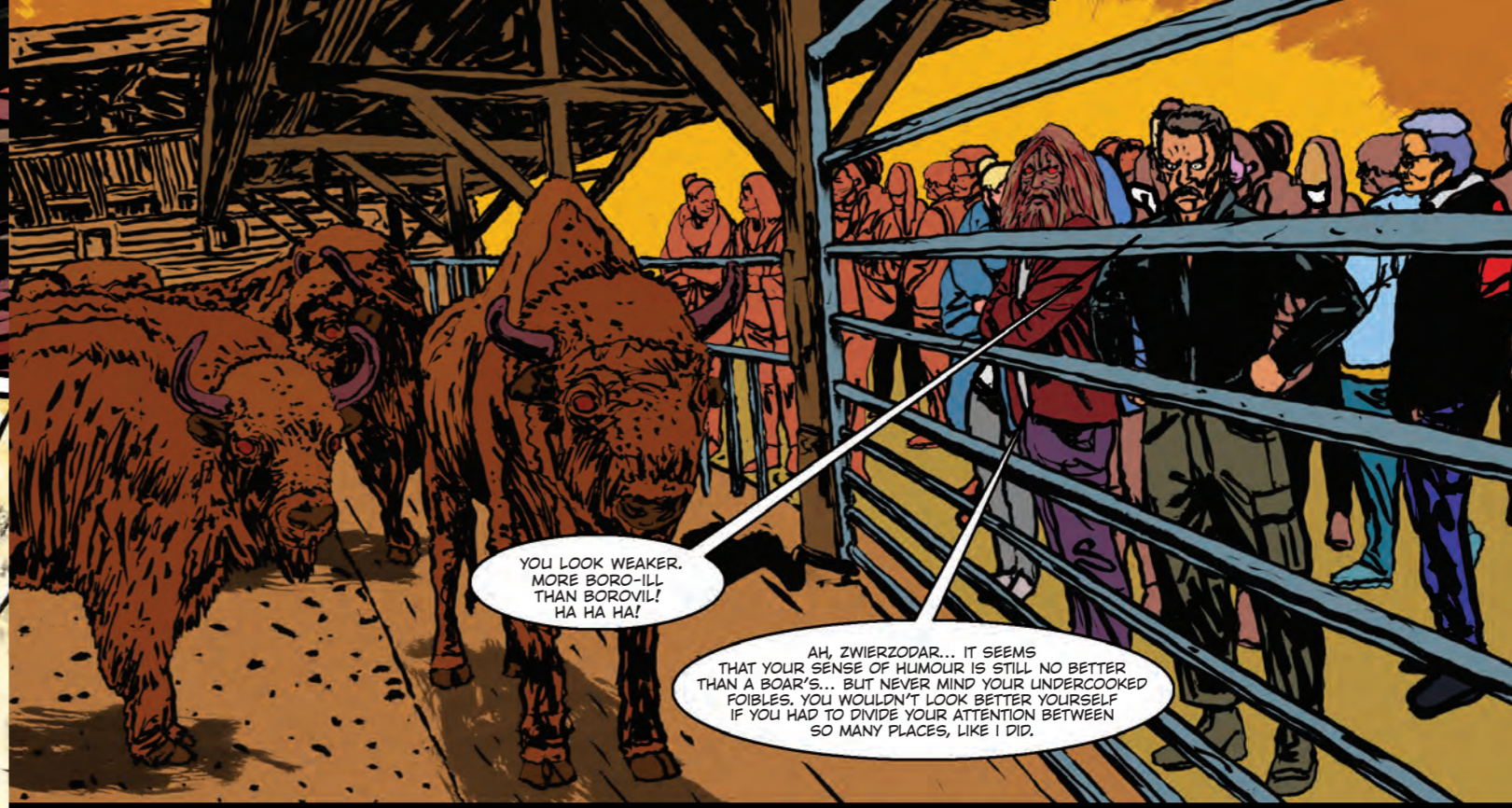


IMMINENT DOOM...

MARLISZ, IS THAT YOUR SNAP OUT OF IT!

AGNIESZKA? COME ON!

...AWAITS YOU!



YOU LOOK WEAKER. MORE BORO-ILL THAN BOROVI! HA HA HA!

AH, ZWIERZODAR... IT SEEMS THAT YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR IS STILL NO BETTER THAN A BOAR'S... BUT NEVER MIND YOUR UNDERCOOKED FOIBLES. YOU WOULDN'T LOOK BETTER YOURSELF IF YOU HAD TO DIVIDE YOUR ATTENTION BETWEEN SO MANY PLACES, LIKE I DID.



MY FLAGELLA ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE CONTINENT. IT TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY, SO SPARE ME YOUR INSOLENT REMARKS... I WATCH AND LISTEN WHEREVER TREES AND PLANTS GROW... ANYWHERE KOSCHEI COULD STRIKE...



WELL, MICHAŚ, WE BANISHED THESE GHOSTS. YOU WERE RIGHT TO ASK ME FOR HELP. BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THEM... THEY POSSESSED SOME POOR PEOPLE IN THE MARKET. THEY GAVE WAY PRETTY QUICKLY.

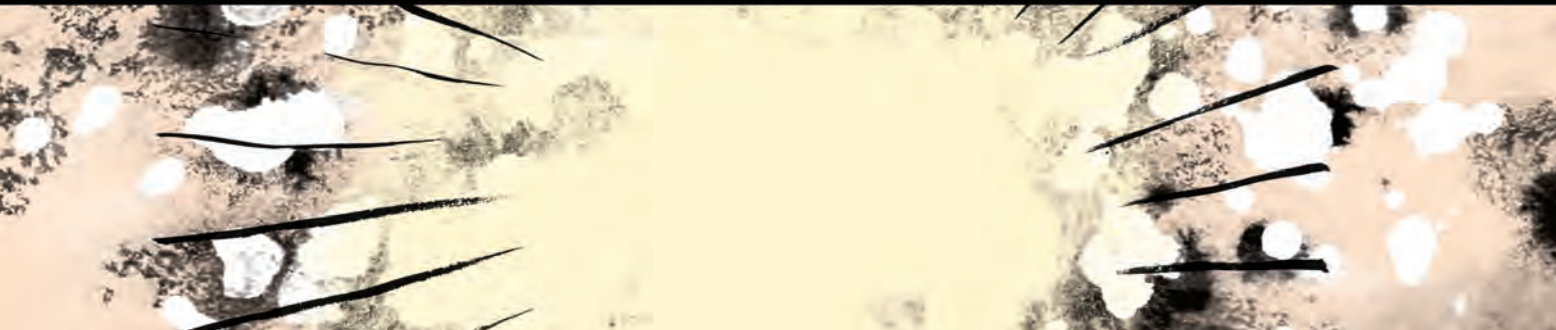


WHAT?

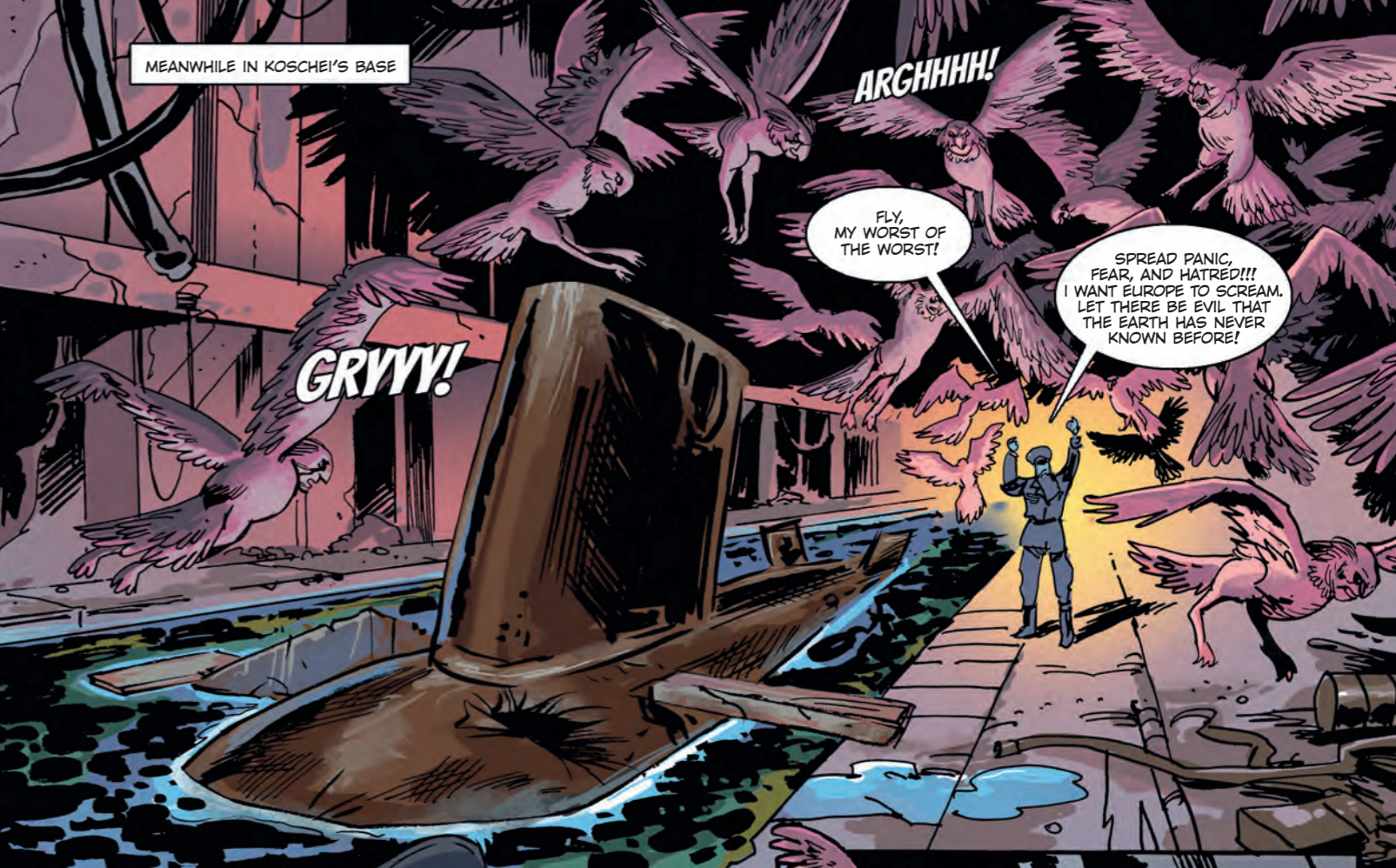


YOU TOO?





MEANWHILE IN KOSCHEI'S BASE



GRYYYY!

FLY, MY WORST OF THE WORST!

SPREAD PANIC, FEAR, AND HATRED!!! I WANT EUROPE TO SCREAM. LET THERE BE EVIL THAT THE EARTH HAS NEVER KNOWN BEFORE!

ARGHHHH!



THE WORD "UKRAINE" IS SUPPOSED TO CAUSE SHIVERS OF RESENTMENT. NO ACCEPTANCE OR TOLERANCE. NO SYMPATHY



I COMMAND YOU TO PLOT, PROVOKE AND INCITE. SPREAD ACROSS EUROPE LIKE A PLAGUE!!!





GEOPOLITICAL CONFERENCE.

REPEAT AFTER ME: I WANT TO EXPRESS MY... WHISPER... WHISPER...

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE UNCONTROLLED RECEPTION OF MASSES OF REFUGEES IN OUR COUNTRY...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

STOP IT!

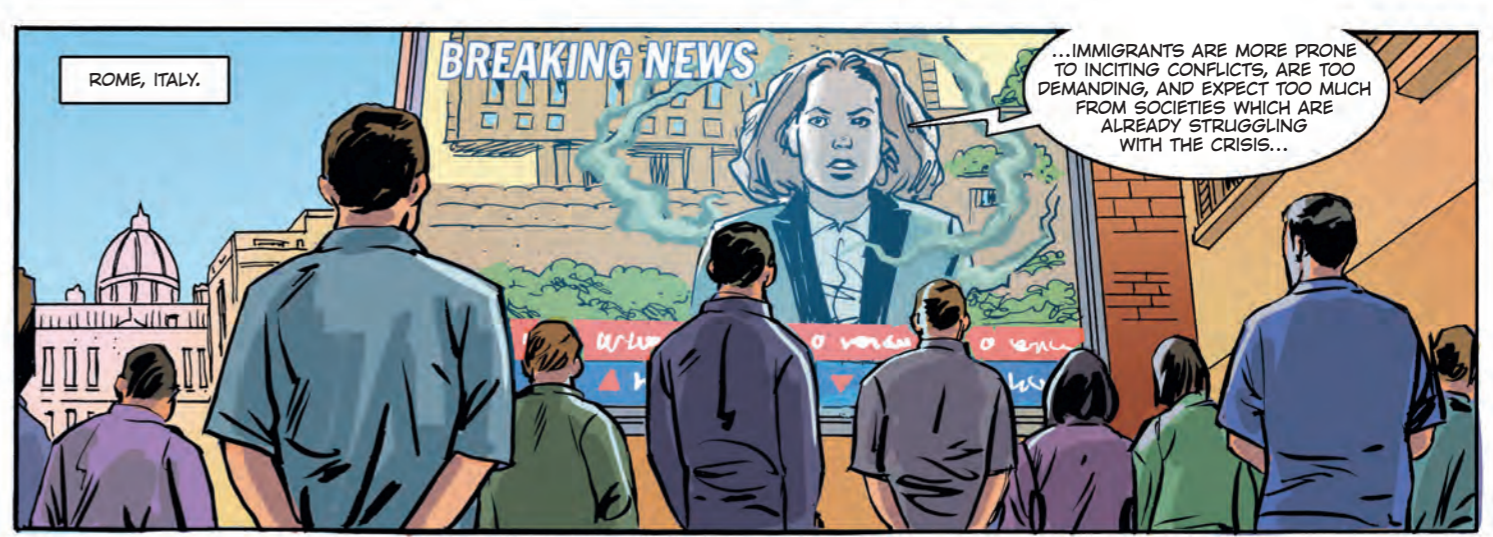
OUR CONCERNS STEM FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO AMONG THEM IS AN IMMIGRANT...

...AND WHO IS A WAR REFUGEE...

MEANWHILE...

Forum Problemów Polityki Międzynarodowej

THE EVENTS IN UKRAINE ARE A CONFLICT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND KYIV... WHY SHOULD WE INTERFERE?



ROME, ITALY.

BREAKING NEWS

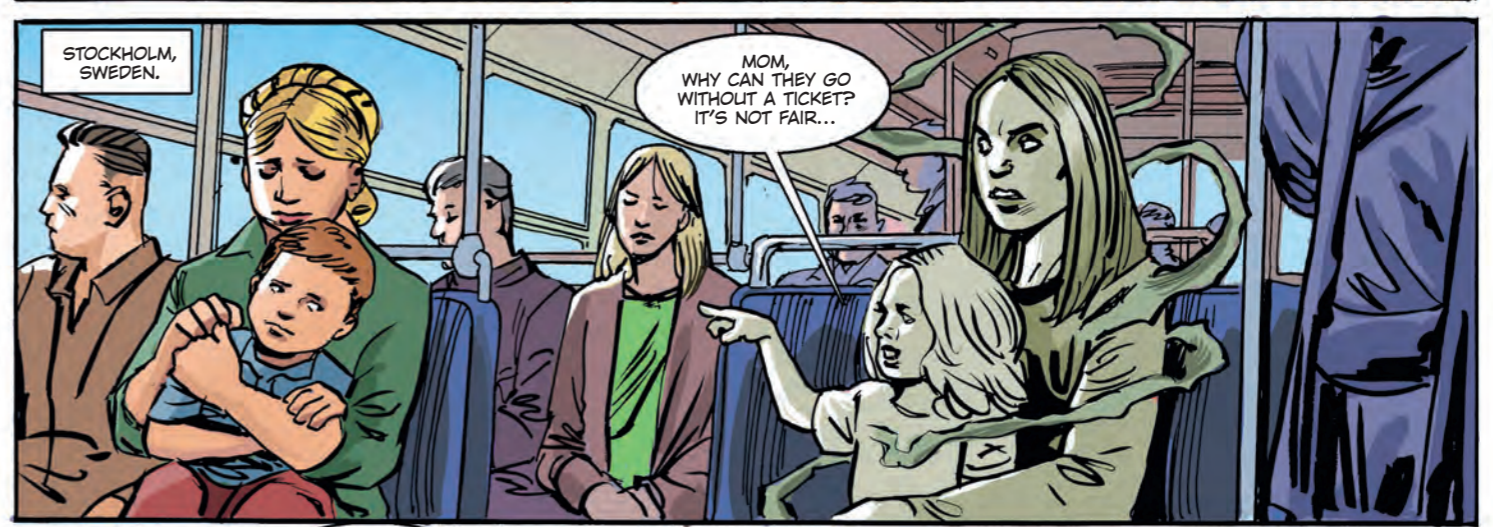
...IMMIGRANTS ARE MORE PRONE TO INCITING CONFLICTS, ARE TOO DEMANDING, AND EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM SOCIETIES WHICH ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH THE CRISIS...



PARIS, FRANCE.

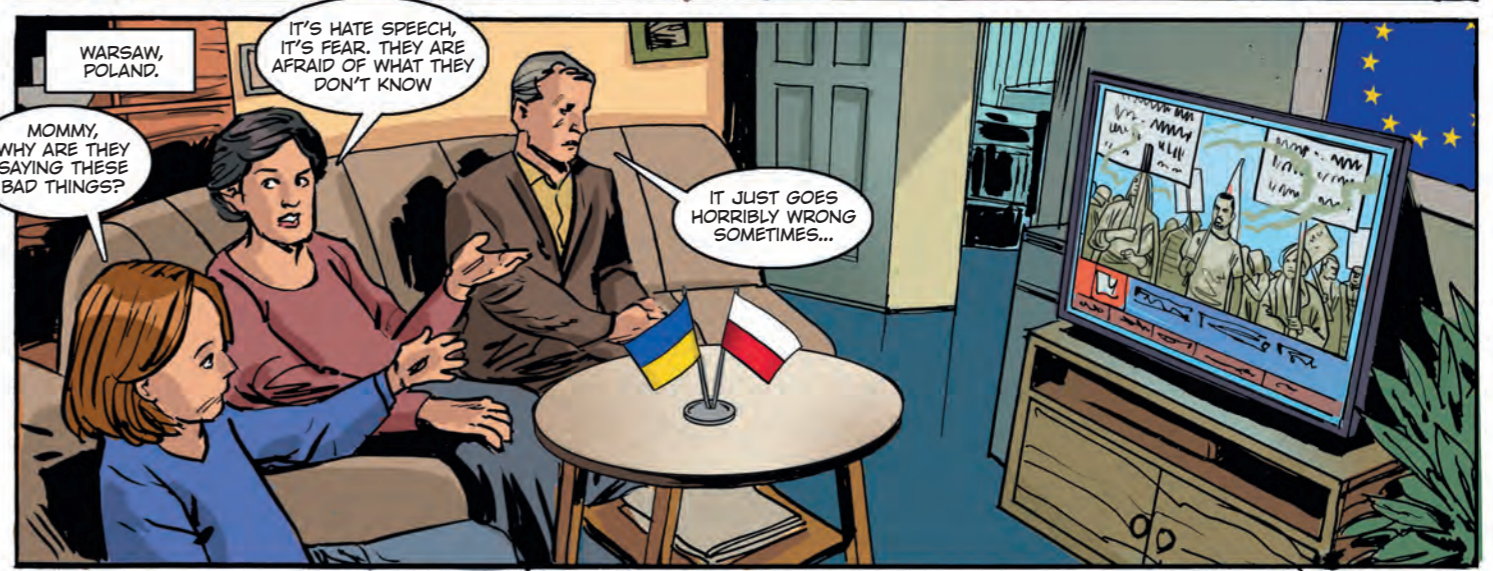
SOME WILL BE BETTER, SOME WORSE OFF...

RIGHT...



STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

MOM, WHY CAN THEY GO WITHOUT A TICKET? IT'S NOT FAIR...



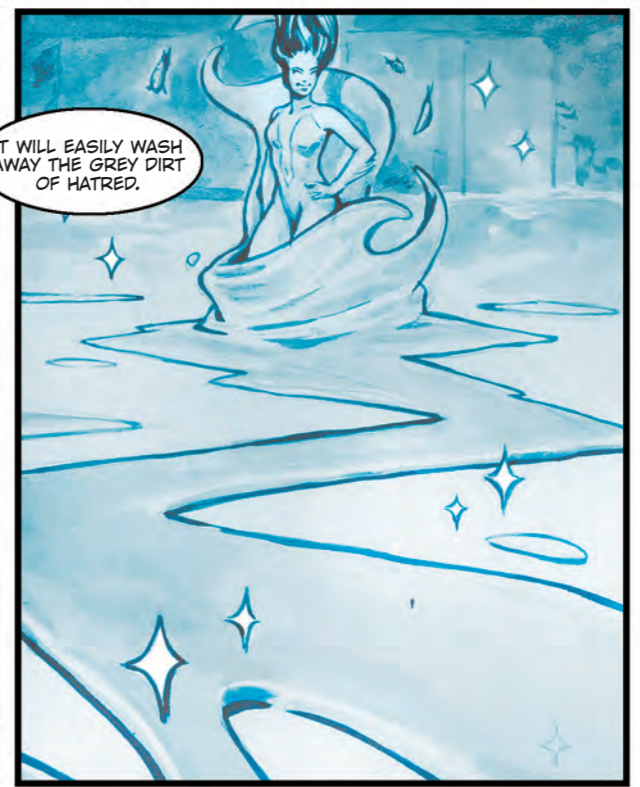
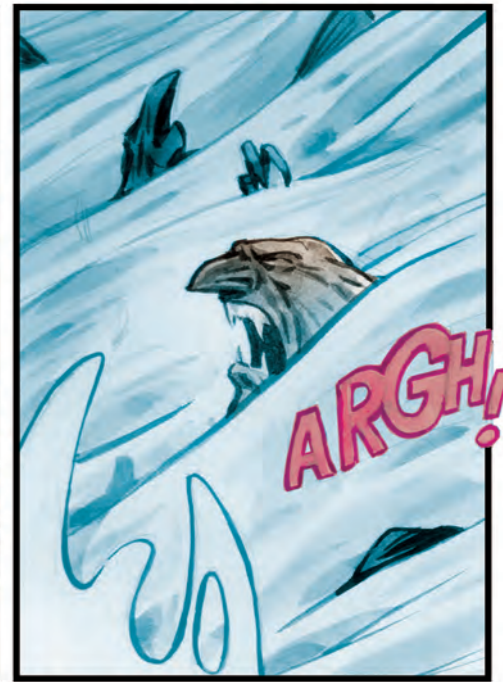
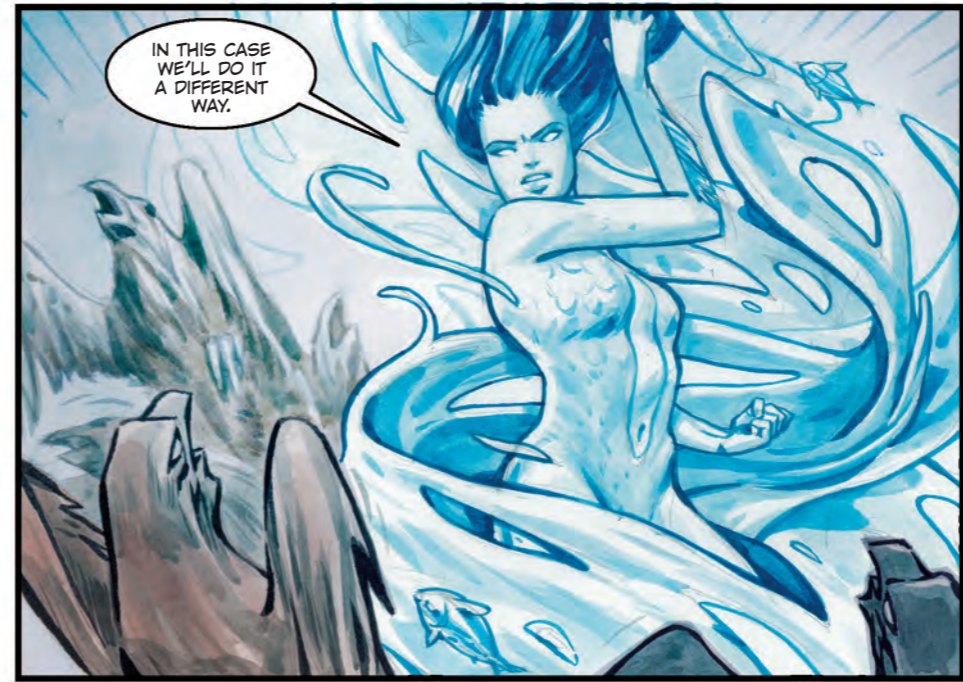
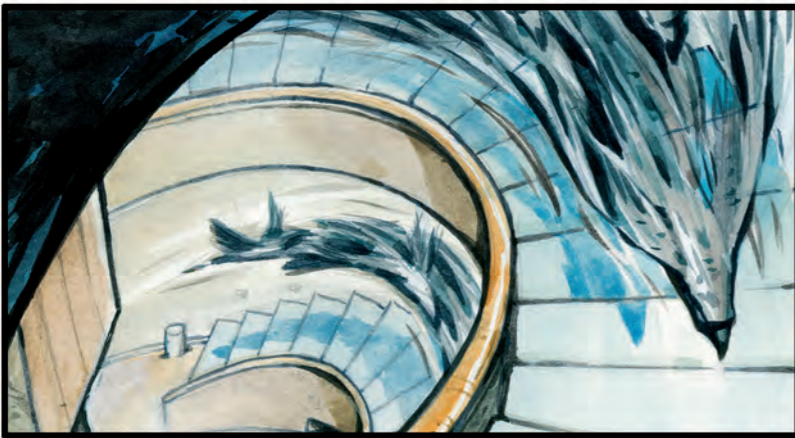
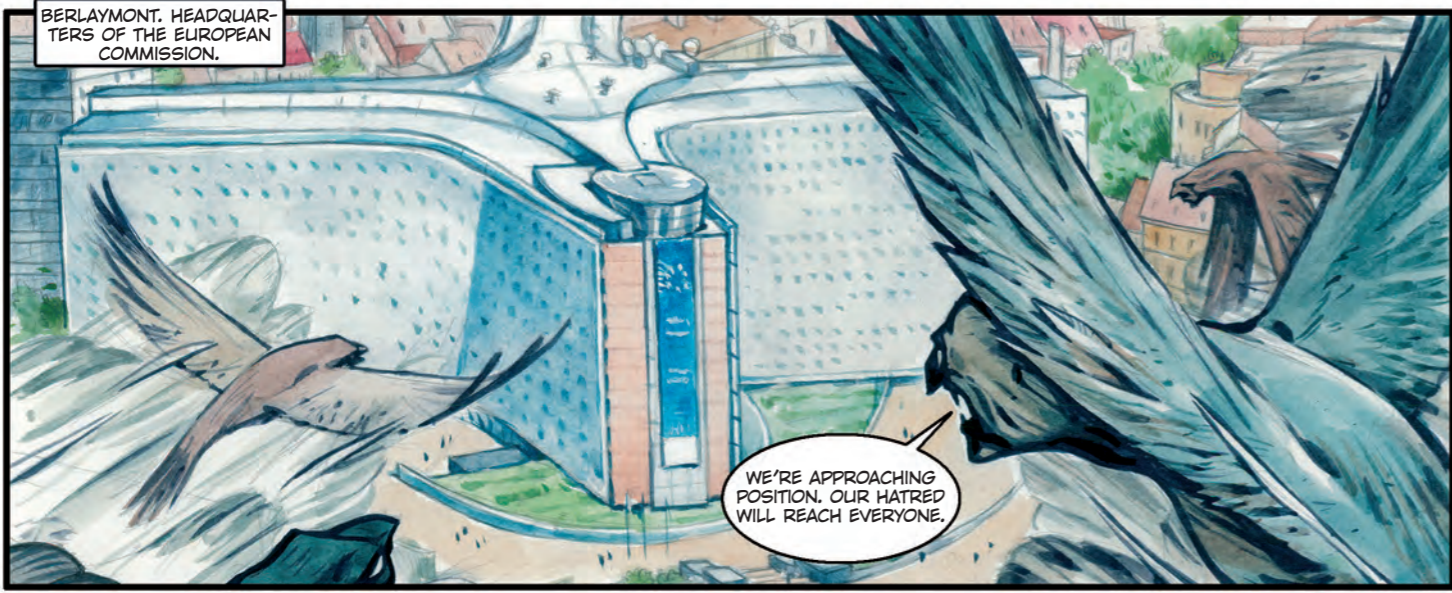
WARSAW, POLAND.

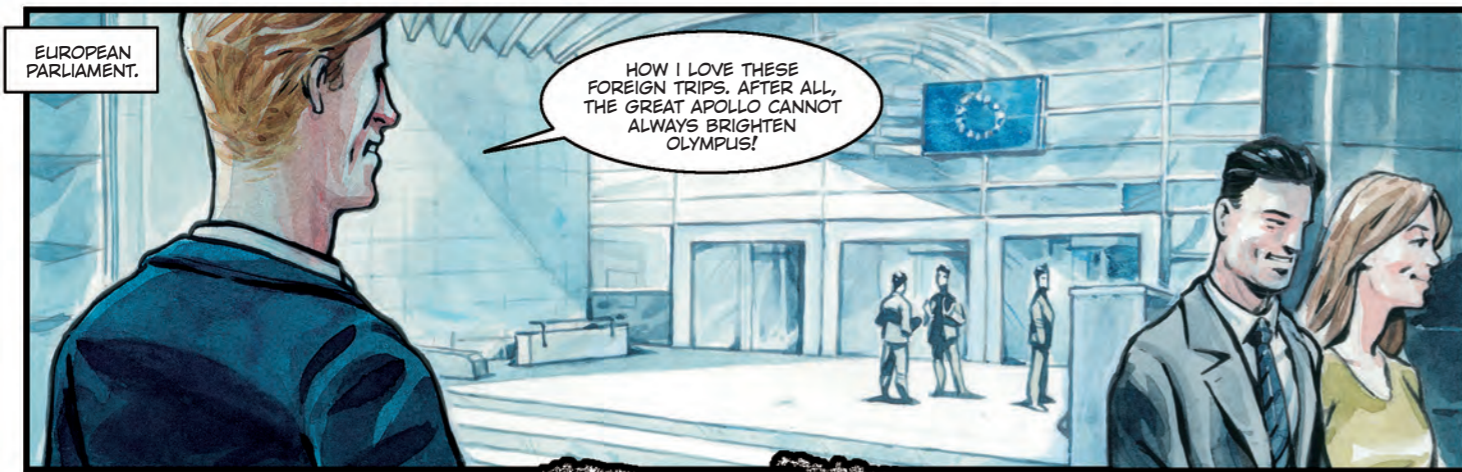
IT'S HATE SPEECH, IT'S FEAR. THEY ARE AFRAID OF WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW

MOMMY, WHY ARE THEY SAYING THESE BAD THINGS?

IT JUST GOES HORRIBLY WRONG SOMETIMES...





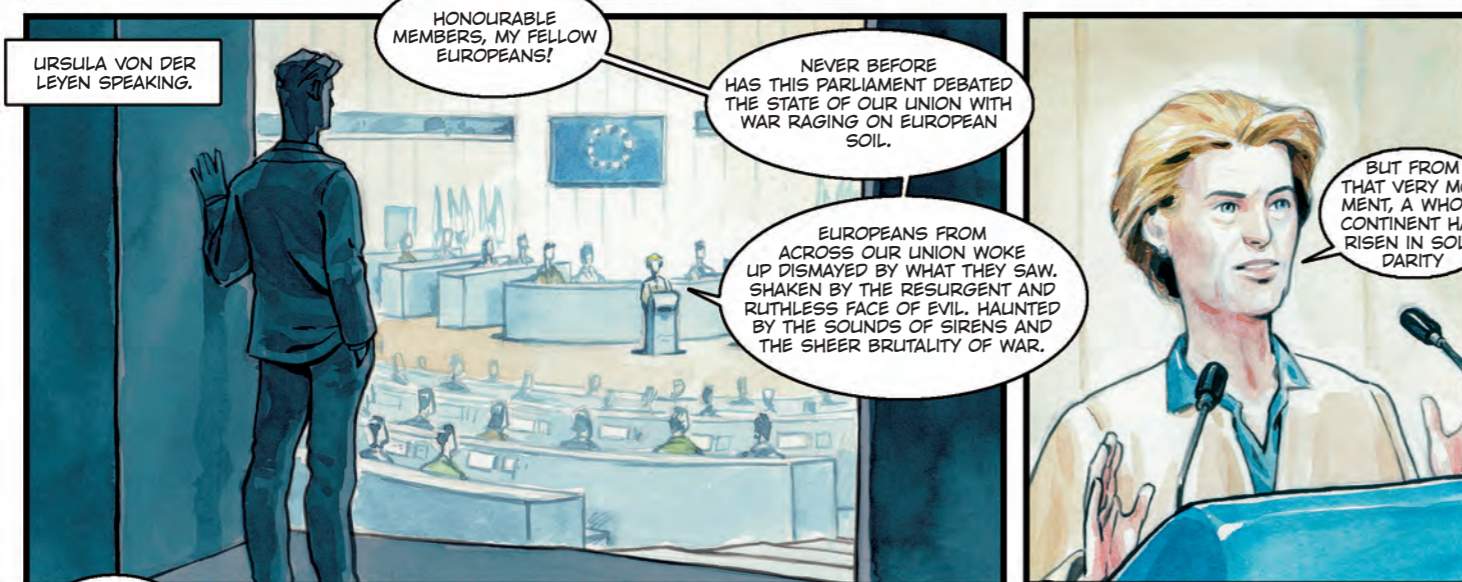


EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

HOW I LOVE THESE FOREIGN TRIPS. AFTER ALL, THE GREAT APOLLO CANNOT ALWAYS BRIGHTEN OLYMPUS!



SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOMETHING WISE TO SAY.



URSULA VON DER LEYEN SPEAKING.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, MY FELLOW EUROPEANS!

NEVER BEFORE HAS THIS PARLIAMENT DEBATED THE STATE OF OUR UNION WITH WAR RAGING ON EUROPEAN SOIL.

EUROPEANS FROM ACROSS OUR UNION WOKE UP DISMAYED BY WHAT THEY SAW. SHAKEN BY THE RESURGENT AND RUTHLESS FACE OF EVIL. HAUNTED BY THE SOUNDS OF SIRENS AND THE SHEER BRUTALITY OF WAR.

BUT FROM THAT VERY MOMENT, A WHOLE CONTINENT HAS RISEN IN SOLIDARITY



IT'S A BIT TOO QUIET TODAY...



?



AH, THESE NASTY CREATURES!

NO WONDER ATHENA ASKED ME TO ASSIST. THEY KEEP STICKING THEIR NASTY MUGS EVERYWHERE.



"AND FROM THAT VERY MOMENT, OUR UNION AS A WHOLE HAS RISEN TO THE OCCASION".

ENOUGH OF THIS BABBLE!

LET'S SHUT THEM UP!

LET'S POISON THEIR MINDS WITH HATRED!



YOU CAN BE SO BORING AND PREDICTABLE SOME-TIMES!

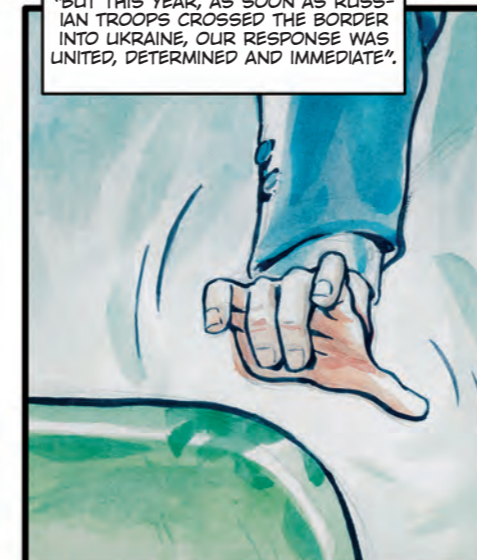


"FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, DURING THE FINANCIAL CRISIS, IT TOOK US YEARS TO FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS".



"A DECADE LATER, WHEN THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC HIT, IT TOOK US ONLY WEEKS".

THESE SPECTRES MAY COME BACK HERE UNLESS PANEUROPA FINALLY TRACKS KOSCHEI DOWN AND GETS RID OF HIM. HE'S GETTING CARRIED AWAY!



"BUT THIS YEAR, AS SOON AS RUSSIAN TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER INTO UKRAINE, OUR RESPONSE WAS UNITED, DETERMINED AND IMMEDIATE".



I GUESS I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE ORDER HERE JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

"AND WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF THAT".



AS YOU CAN SEE, OTHERS ARE DOING BETTER AND BETTER.

IN THE END, DESPITE HATEFUL ENTICEMENT, EUROPEANS CAN UNITE.

THAT'S THE NATURE OF EUROPE.



ŁÓDŹ, POLAND.



BUCHAREST, ROMANIA.

SLAVA UKRAINIE!



PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC.

WE CAN DO IT!

CZECH REPUBLIC SAYS NO TO FEAR!



BERLIN, GERMANY.

STOP WAR



EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.



WE CANNOT SIMPLY STAND WITH OUR ARMS CROSSED.

LEADERS WHO DO NOT RESPECT FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED. THEY MUST ANSWER FOR THEIR CRIMES.

WE MUST NOT BETRAY THE TRUST OF OUR CITIZENS.



WE NEED TO DETERMINE WHAT ECONOMIC AND TRADE SANCTIONS TO IMPOSE ON RUSSIA.

RUSSIA'S ACCESS TO EU MARKETS, CAPITAL, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES MUST BE RESTRICTED

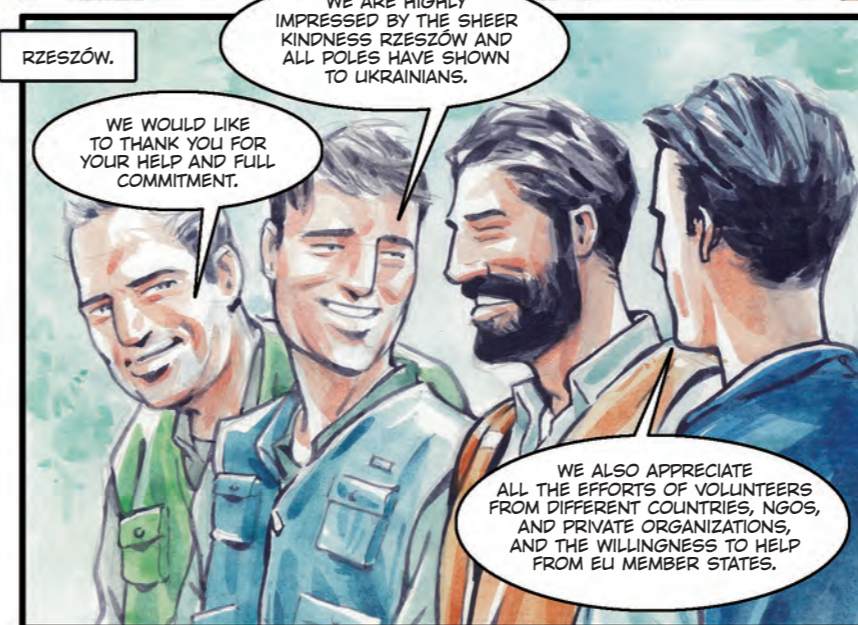
MILITARY ASSISTANCE MUST BE PROVIDED TO UKRAINE IMMEDIATELY FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY.



WARSAW, POLAND.

ARE THEY GOING TO THE DONETSK REGION?

YES, A TRANSPORT OF 1,200 KITS FOR CHILDREN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE



RZESZÓW.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND FULL COMMITMENT.

WE ARE HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE SHEER KINDNESS RZESZÓW AND ALL POLES HAVE SHOWN TO UKRAINIANS.

WE ALSO APPRECIATE ALL THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, NGOS, AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE WILLINGNESS TO HELP FROM EU MEMBER STATES.



THANK YOU, THESE WORDS MEAN A LOT TO OUR CITY

IT IS IN PEOPLE THAT THE STRENGTH AND AGENCY LIE.



MEANWHILE AT KOSCHEI'S BASE.

OUR NUMBERS ARE DRIPPING... WE ARE LOSING POWER...

THEY CRUSHED US TO A PULP...

THIS EARTH, STEEPED IN EVIL AND CHEMICAL WASTE, SHOULD BE LIKE A BALM FOR US. WHY ARE WE NOT RECOVERING?

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

WHERE IS OUR LORD?



I USED SO MANY SPELLS...

EVIL WAS ABOUT TO TRIUMPH...

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?!



WHAT'S THAT? MY HANDS? WHY AM I NOT REGENERATING?



COULD IT BE...



PANEUROPA!!!



BUT HOW?



I WON'T LET THIS SANCTIMONIOUS BUNCH DEFEAT ME!

THEY MUST HAVE RESORTED TO SOME EXCEPTIONALLY FORMIDABLE MAGIC. OLD, FORGOTTEN GODS AND GHOSTS OF THE PAST ARE AWAKENING ALL OVER EUROPE... ŁÓDŹ, PSZCZYNA...



THE PAST!!! YES... I FEEL IT IN EVERY CELL OF MY BODY.

SOMEHOW THEY HAVE CHANGED THE PAST EVENTS. THEY MADE ME WEAKER!

ARGHHH! WAIT? WHAT ARE THESE MEMORIES??? I DIDN'T HAVE THEM BEFORE...



TWARDOWSKI'S HIDEOUT IN RZESZÓW BASEMENTS. A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

I HAVE AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE.

TIME TRAVEL!

WE WILL BEAT HIM IN THE PAST! KOSCHEI GREW STRONGER WITH TIME. HE WASN'T ALWAYS AS POWERFUL AS HE IS NOW.

HE WAS FUELLED BY THE BARBARITIES COMMITTED IN THE EAST.

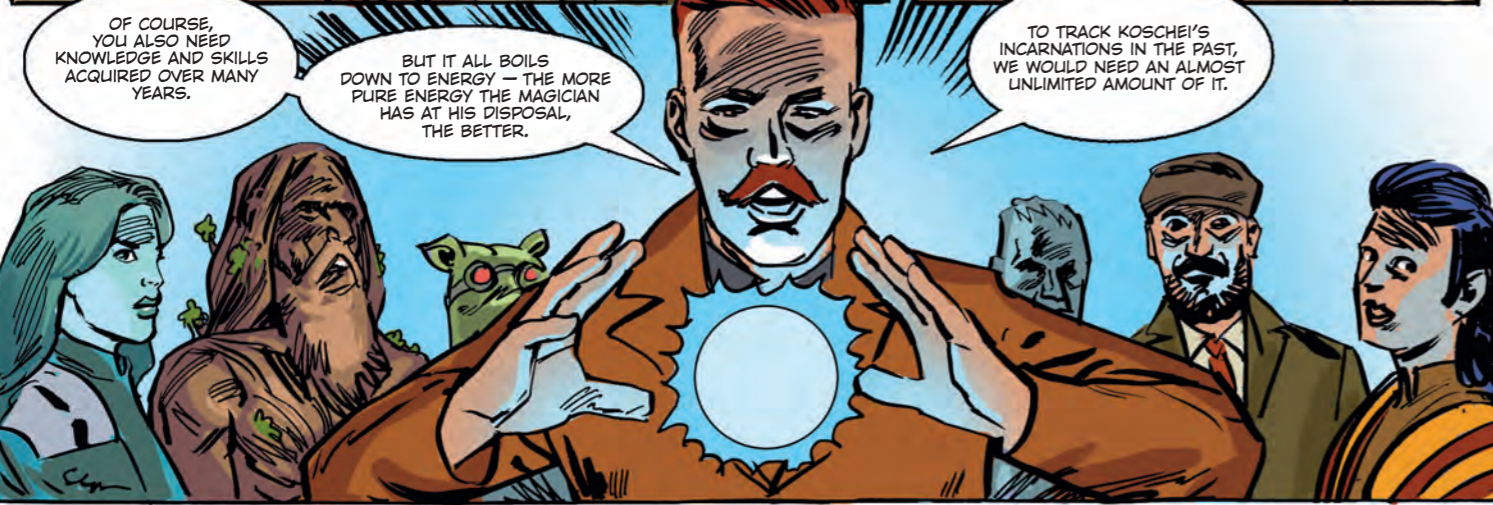


MY FRIEND, I THINK YOU OVERESTIMATE YOUR ABILITIES. I DON'T THINK EVEN YOU ARE CAPABLE OF CASTING A SPELL OF THAT KIND.

IT'S NOT JUST THE SPELL. WITH YOUR HELP, I WOULD BE ABLE TO CAST IT...

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN MAGIC IS ENERGY - SOME HAVE LITTLE, WHICH IS THE CASE WITH MOST PEOPLE.

YET SOME - LIKE ME OR SENDIVOGIUS - HAVE A LOT OF IT.



OF COURSE, YOU ALSO NEED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED OVER MANY YEARS.

BUT IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO ENERGY - THE MORE PURE ENERGY THE MAGICIAN HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL, THE BETTER.

TO TRACK KOSCHEI'S INCARNATIONS IN THE PAST, WE WOULD NEED AN ALMOST UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF IT.



I THINK I COULD HELP. AFTER ALL, I AM THE GODDESS OF LIGHT, THE SOURCE OF WHICH ARE THE STARS. AND I CAN USE THEIR ENERGY AT WILL.



I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO RETURN TO MY FIRST WORKSHOP IN ŁÓDŹ

THE WHITE FACTORY WAS THE FIRST LARGE PLANT EQUIPPED WITH A STEAM ENGINE, AND IT USED TO BE SYNONYMOUS WITH THE MODERNITY OF ITS TIME. IT BRINGS A TEAR TO THE EYE...

WE CANNOT LET NOSTALGIA GUIDE US, MY FRIENDS! WHY THERE?



WE CAN'T GO BACK TO EC 1. KOSCHEI'S PAWNS BESIEGED ME IN MY OWN HOUSE IN TARGOWA STREET. JUST TWO STEPS FROM OUR BASE. THERE COULD BE AN ACCIDENT, AND WE DON'T WANT THAT.

IT MAKES SENSE. WE NEED TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME. WHY NOT DEPART FROM YOUR FIRST WORKSHOP? ŁÓDŹ IS FILLED WITH FACTORIES. BUT DON'T YOU DARE TO MAKE US SQUEEZE THROUGH FACTORY CHIMNEYS!

HA, HA, HA!



LET'S GO, THEN!

WAIT. WE CAN'T ALL SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR. SOMEONE HAS TO HOLD OFF KOSCHEI'S ATTACKS. THIS MONSTER WILL NOT REST.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE FATE OF REFUGEES IS STILL IN OUR HANDS. SOMEONE HAS TO STAY AND KEEP THEM SAFE.

I'M THE LAST PERSON ALIVE WHO WOULD WANT TO ARGUE WITH THE GODDESS OF WISDOM, ATHENA

AND YOU BOROVIL, WILL TAKE BASILISK, SAWA, SKARBNIK, AND YARILLO TO KEEP ORDER IN THE PRESENT DAY.

SOUNDS REASONABLE. I WILL ASK MY RELATIVES TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE CONTINENT DISCREETLY. THEY MAY THINK YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING FROM OLYMPUS, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO GO DOWN AND BE AMONG THE MORTALS.



SO IT'S DECIDED. THE FIRST STOP IS ŁÓDŹ, AND THE SECOND - THE PAST. AND THE PRESENT WILL NOT BE ABANDONED EITHER.



THE WHITE FACTORY, ŁÓDŹ, POLAND

YOU'VE SET THIS PLACE UP PRETTY WELL. A TRUE TEMPLE OF ALCHEMY!

COME CLOSER! WE MUST FIND KOSCHEI AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS STRENGTH. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO WEAKEN HIM AND TAKE HIS POWER AWAY.

HERE IS THE TIME RIFT. THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS IS DISAPPEARING. DO NOT LOSE COURAGE OR STRENGTH, DEFENDERS OF GOOD.



LET ORDINARY PEOPLE, WITH OUR HELP, DEFEAT THE EVIL THAT THREATENS THE WORLD...

POWER COMES FROM TIME — LET THIS RIFT BRING NO HARM.

LET TIME BE SET IN FRAMES TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION! LET THE ENEMY UNDERSTAND WHY EUROPE WILL NEVER PERISH!

SHINE!



AND SO, THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY.

KOSCHEI HAS BEEN TRYING TO HARM EUROPE AND ITS INHABITANTS FOR CENTURIES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE ACCOMPANIED THE TROOPS OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE, WHO SUCCESSFULLY INVADDED LIVONIA IN THE 16TH CENTURY.



HA HA HA, JUST LOOK AT IT, EVERYTHING BURNS SO BEAUTIFULLY! NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM CONQUERING THIS LAND!

YOUR TROOPS HAVE DONE INCREDIBLE DAMAGE, MY LORD.



FORTUNATELY, NOTHING LASTS FOREVER. THE STUBBORNNESS AND BRAVERY OF THE DEFENDERS PREVAILED. THE INVASION WAS STOPPED. KOSCHEI'S POWER WAS SLOWLY FADING.



AND WHO ARE THESE COSTUMED FOOLS?

THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME HERE... I FEEL SORRY FOR THESE LOSERS.



I'VE NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD LOOK LIKE THIS.

LET'S CALL IT A MINOR OVERSIGHT.

BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET! I'M WEAK NOW, BUT THAT WILL CHANGE SOON.

THE TIME WILL COME WHEN MY ENEMIES WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I AM THE LORD OF ALL WRAITHS!

YOU!!!

WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE! LET'S STICK TO THE PLAN AND THE EVIL WILL BE STOPPED!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN DEFEAT ME? NEVER!

WE HAVEN'T MET YET, WRAITH, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO CAUSE US A LOT OF TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE — YOUR TIME HAS COME!

YOU WANT TO SCARE ME WITH A BOX, STRAY? HA HA HA!

IT'S NOT JUST AN ORDINARY BOX!

IT IS POWERED BY STAR ENERGY!

I WANTED TO USE THIS TO IMPRISON OTHER DEVILS BEFORE, BUT I ALWAYS LACKED THE POWER TO COMPLETE THIS HUMBLE ARTIFACT.

NOW — THANKS TO ZORYA'S POWER — THE TRAP FOR THE NIGHTMARES FROM THE PAST IS READY!

IT WENT REALLY SMOOTHLY.

NOOOOOO...

INDEED, THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR MORE SPECIMENS IN THE TRAP.

LET'S GET GOING!

GREAT FAMINE IN UKRAINE, 1932.

WHAT ARE YOU GROANING ABOUT?

PLEASE, GIVE MY CHILDREN SOME BREAD, THEY ARE SO FAMISHED ALREADY...

PLEASE HELP US! WE HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT FOR WEEKS...

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT YOU'RE IN THIS SITUATION. THE LAND BELONGS TO THE STATE, NOT TO YOU.

YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT RESOURCES MUST BE SHARED EQUALLY.

I BEG YOU, MY CHILDREN WILL STARVE TO DEATH... GIVE US SOME BREAD...

"BREAD"? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S A LUXURY YOU DON'T DESERVE.

IF YOU GO AGAINST THE STATE, YOU WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

WHAT A NIGHTMARE...

TIME TO FIND KOSCHEI. I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE IS.



KREMLIN PALACE, 1932

VERY HUMBLER, BOLSHOE SPASIBO, BOLSHOE...

INTERESTING... I DON'T NEED TO FUEL THIS DEGENERATE'S MADNESS AND BLOODLUST... THE GENERALISSIMO INFLECTS SUFFERING OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.

DON'T TRY TO RESIST, YOU SCUMBAG. THIS IS THE END OF YOUR REIGN IN THIS ERA.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME? THIS TYRANT HAS DOWNTRODDEN MILLIONS, HIS LEGACY WILL LAST FOREVER, AND I WILL SEE TO IT!

AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF DARK POWER LIES IN THE BLOODY NIGHT! OH, MIGHTY DARKNESS, GIVE ME YOUR STRENGTH!

EITHER WAY, IT WILL MAKE ME EVEN MORE POWERFUL. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT I'LL ACHIEVE IN A FEW DECADES.

OH, HOW PEOPLE LOVE TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THE DELUSIONS OF THIS RIDICULOUS ... TOTALITARIANISM. I DON'T THINK IT WILL EVER CHANGE!

WHAT??? I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING... BUT WHERE... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ... IT'S THE PAST ... THE DEFEAT IN LIVONIA.

ARRRRGGGGHHHHH! PANEUROPA!!!

YOU'RE WRONG!

MR TWARDOWSKI, END IT!

AAAAAAAH...

VILNIUS,  
JANUARY 13,  
1991.



THE SOVIET  
AUTHORITIES DO  
NOT RECOGNIZE THE  
INDEPENDENCE OF LITHUANIA.  
THE REVOLUTION WILL BEGIN  
TODAY. LITHUANIA HAS NO  
RIGHT TO BE FREE!

IT WILL BE EASIER FOR US  
TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IF  
WE DEPRIVE THEM OF ACCESS  
TO INDEPENDENT SOURCES  
OF INFORMATION.



TODAY  
LITHUANIA WILL  
LOSE ITS VOICE  
AND SIGHT!

YOU'VE PLANNED  
IT ALL EXCELLENTLY,  
COMRADE! THE LEADERS  
WILL BE PLEASED.

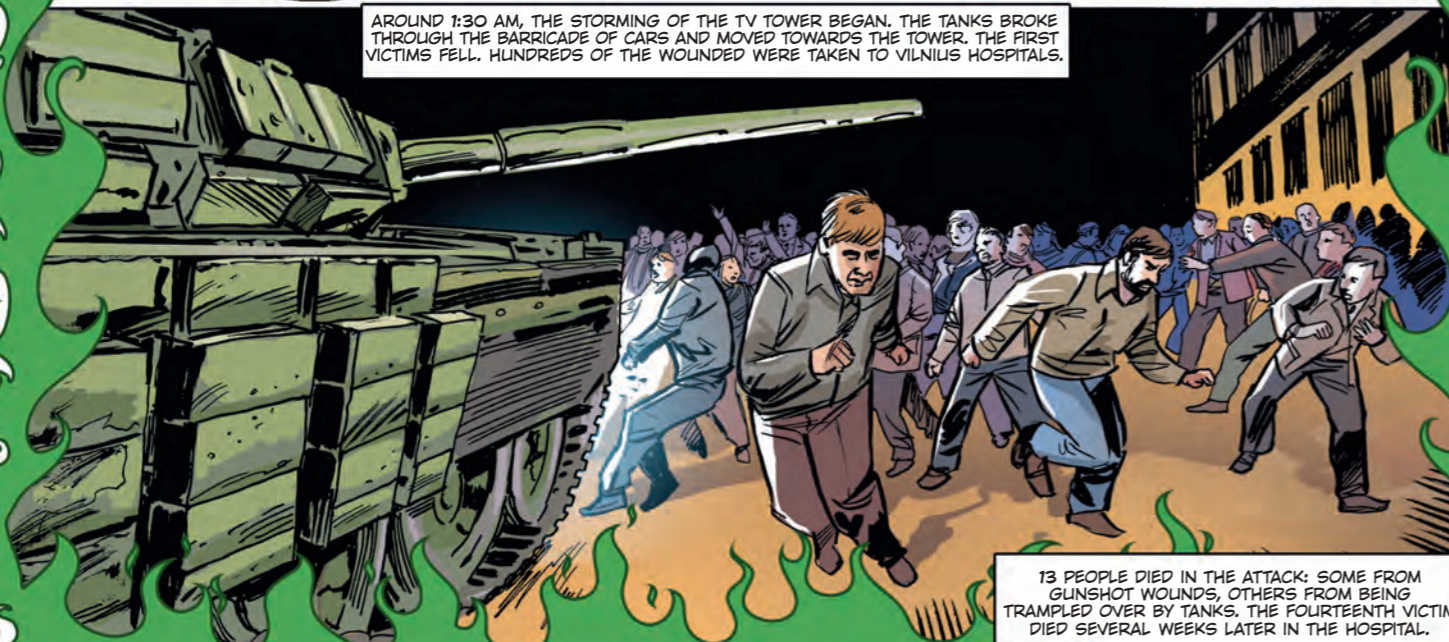


THIS IS THE  
PLAN OF THE ASSAULT.  
LONG LIVE THE SOVIET  
UNION!



HOW SIMPLE IT ALL IS.  
THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE  
WITH FEAR AGAIN.  
I'M INVINCIBLE!

AROUND 1:30 AM, THE STORMING OF THE TV TOWER BEGAN. THE TANKS BROKE THROUGH THE BARRICADE OF CARS AND MOVED TOWARDS THE TOWER. THE FIRST VICTIMS FELL. HUNDREDS OF THE WOUNDED WERE TAKEN TO VILNIUS HOSPITALS.



13 PEOPLE DIED IN THE ATTACK: SOME FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS, OTHERS FROM BEING TRAMPLED OVER BY TANKS. THE FOURTEENTH VICTIM DIED SEVERAL WEEKS LATER IN THE HOSPITAL.



WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?!



IT'S  
HAPPENING  
AGAIN!!!  
IMPOSSIBLE!!!  
HOW DID THEY  
FIND ME? PANEUROPA!



COME  
TO ME, MY  
WRAITHS...



AAAAHHH!





ON THE GROUND, DOWN!

LET YOUR LIPS BE SILENT, LET YOUR TONGUE, BOUND BY THE POWER OF MY SPELL, STOP SOWING CHAOS AND OUTRAGE.

THOSE ACCURSED RATS!



WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR LIES AND INSULTS! FOR CENTURIES YOU HAVE PLOTTED AND DRIVEN THOSE SUSCEPTIBLE TO YOUR INFLUENCE TO ASSAULT AND CONQUESTS. YOU HAVE DIVIDED AND PROVOKED. WE WILL PUT AN END TO THIS RIGHT NOW!



WELL, THE JOB IS DONE, WE ONLY HAVE ONE OF HIM LEFT, THE ONE IN OUR TIME.

OR WHAT REMAINS OF HIM...

SO LET'S GET THIS BUFFOON OUT OF THE WAY AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT - SUPPORTING THE REFUGEES.



OKAY, BUT BEFORE WE GO BACK TO OUR TIME, LET'S LOOK AT ONE MORE PLACE.



DID WE MISS ONE OF THE KOSCHEIS?



NO.

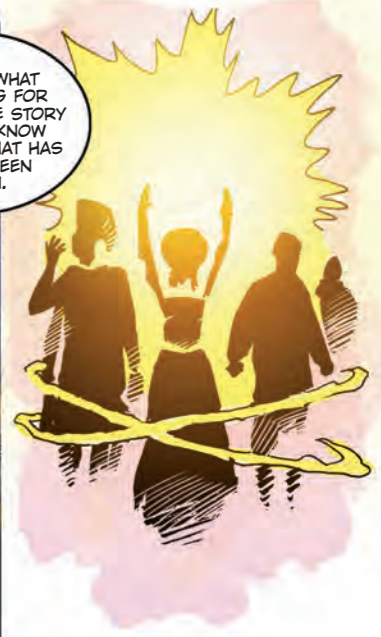


HOWEVER, IT IS WORTH TO REMIND OURSELVES WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR. MR TWARDOWSKI, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER?



IN THE PAST, IN THE PRESENT, OR THE FUTURE..

...REVEAL WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR SHOW ME THE STORY I WANT TO KNOW SHOW ME WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIDDEN.



AUGUST 1991,  
KYIV, UKRAINE.



THIS IS THE BEGINNING... PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE LEONID KRAVCHUK IS SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

AND THIS IS ITS AUTHOR, LEVKO LUKYANENKO.



WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY! TODAY UKRAINE HAS BECOME A FREE COUNTRY! ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO SEE THOUSANDS OF GRATEFUL EYES? THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION. IT ALL STARTED HERE. OVER THIRTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.



MR TWARDOWSKI, LET'S KEEP MOVING

KYIV, 2004.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAVE JUST TAKEN PLACE. FREE UKRAINE NOW HAS A LEADER. IT'S VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO.

KOSCHEI'S WRAITHS WASTED NO TIME. IN THE FINAL MONTHS OF HIS CAMPAIGN, YUSHCHENKO FELL MYSTERIOUSLY ILL. HE WAS DISFIGURED, AND DOCTORS CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN POISONED.

THE PRO-RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THEY WERE LOSING THEIR POSITION. THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS RIGGED. CITIZENS TOOK TO THE STREETS OF UKRAINIAN CITIES. MASSIVE PROTESTS FOLLOWED. IN THE END, DEMOCRACY WON, AND VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, THE LEADER OF THE ORANGE REVOLUTION, BECAME PRESIDENT.



AND NOW LET'S MOVE TEN YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.



THE REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY HAS JUST BEGUN. A WAVE OF PROTESTS IN UKRAINE FROM NOVEMBER 2013 TO FEBRUARY 2014.

IT ALL BEGAN WHEN THE THEN-PRESIDENT VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH HAD REFUSED TO SIGN THE EUROPEAN UNION-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. KOSCHEI HAD TRIUMPHED. THAT POLITICAL PATH WAS BRINGING UKRAINE CLOSER TO RUSSIA.



THIS EVENT SPARKED PROTESTS AMONG THE CITIZENS - EUROMAIDAN, WHICH LATER BECAME THE REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY.

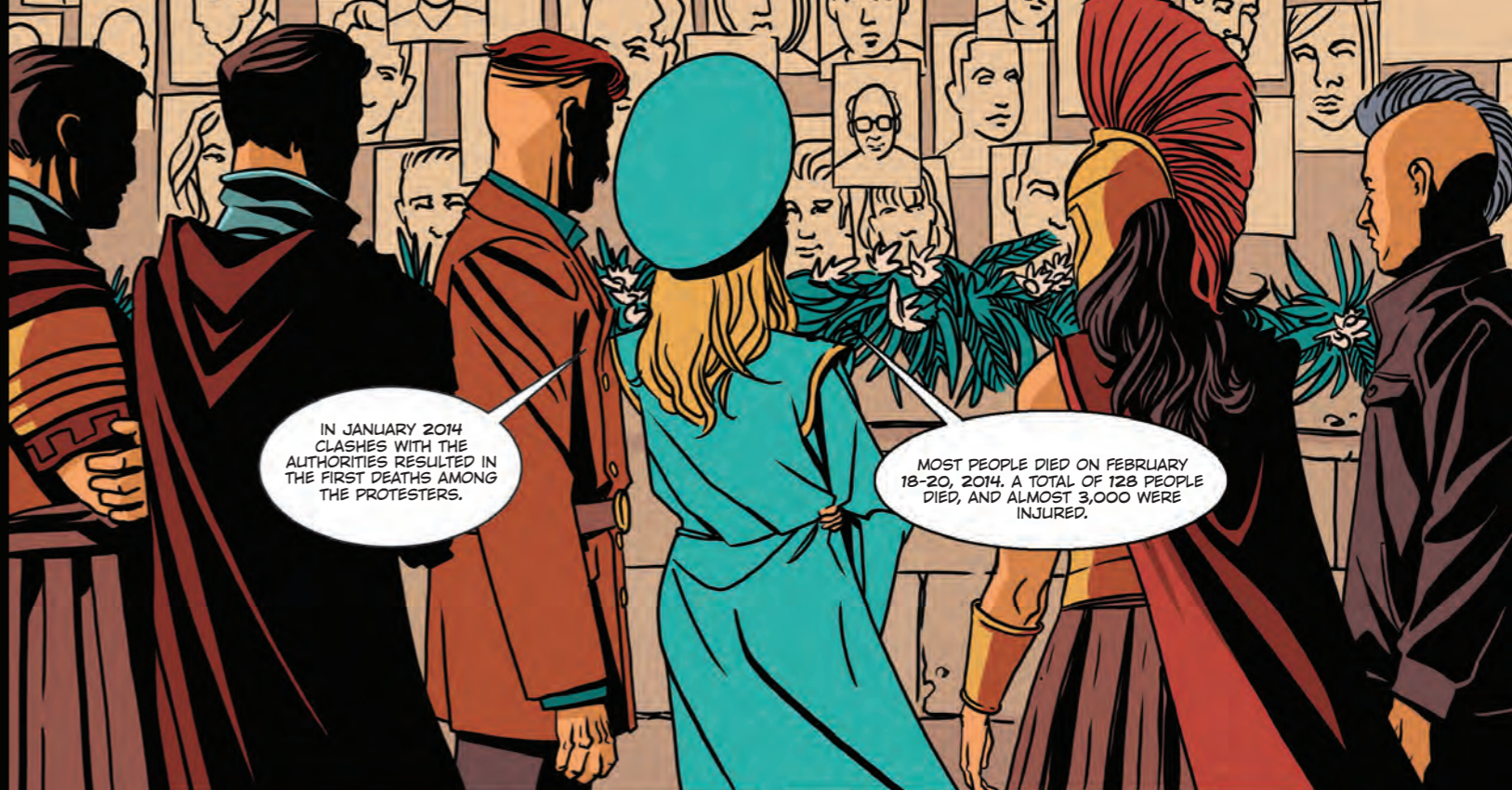
PROTESTERS REPEATEDLY CLASHED WITH THE POLICE.



THEY TOOK OVER THE MOST IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS.

THEY BUILT BARRICADES AND KEPT SINGING THE SONG BROTHER FOR BROTHER.

ON DECEMBER 8, 2013, THE STATUE OF VLADIMIR LENIN IN KYIV WAS TOPPLED.



IN JANUARY 2014 CLASHES WITH THE AUTHORITIES RESULTED IN THE FIRST DEATHS AMONG THE PROTESTERS.

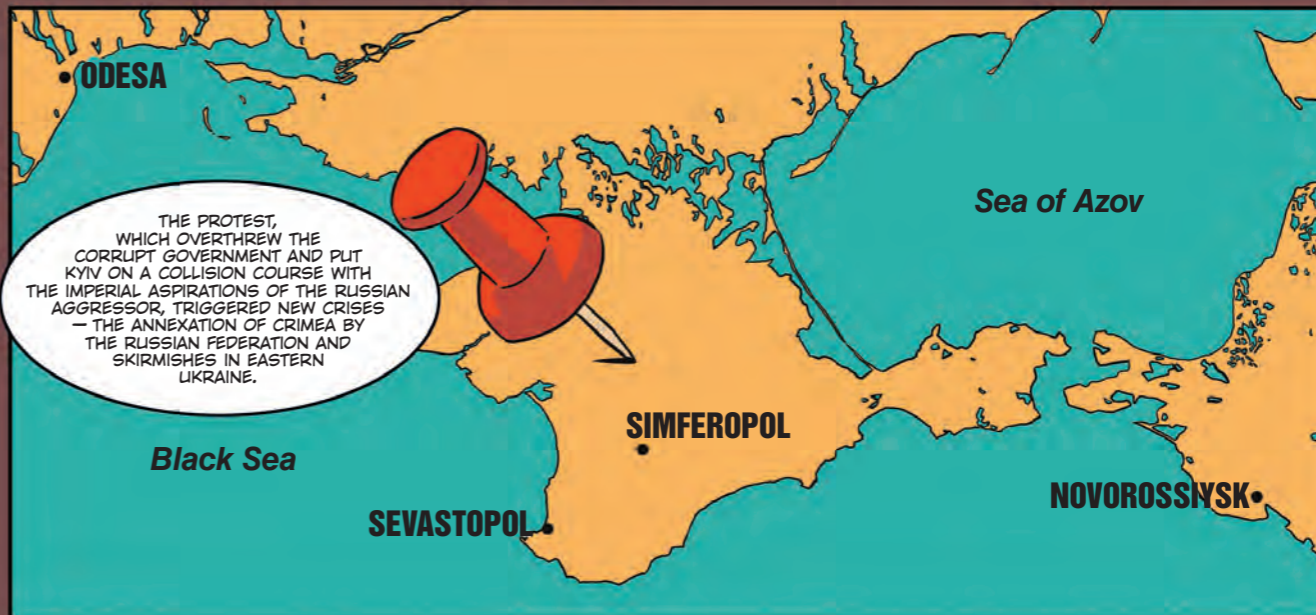
MOST PEOPLE DIED ON FEBRUARY 18-20, 2014. A TOTAL OF 128 PEOPLE DIED, AND ALMOST 3,000 WERE INJURED.



SUCH DRASTIC EVENTS PROMPTED YANUKOVYCH TO FLEE THE COUNTRY.



TO THIS DAY, UKRAINE PAYS FOR THE REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY - WITH BLOOD AND SOIL. THIS IS THE PRICE FOR WANTING TO GET CLOSER TO EUROPE.



THE PROTEST, WHICH OVERTHREW THE CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AND PUT KYIV ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE IMPERIAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE RUSSIAN AGGRESSOR, TRIGGERED NEW CRISES - THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND SKIRMISHES IN EASTERN UKRAINE.



MAY THIS ROAD LEAD THEM TO THE UNION, WHICH HAS BECOME A TRUE — AND NOT IMPOSED — HOME FOR SO MANY OTHER NATIONS.

WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT THUG KOSCHEI.

AND UNITED EUROPEANS WILL SUPPORT UKRAINE.

IT'LL WORK. MY HEART ASSURES ME THAT IT WILL.

I WILL NOT LET KOSCHEI GET AWAY WITH THIS.

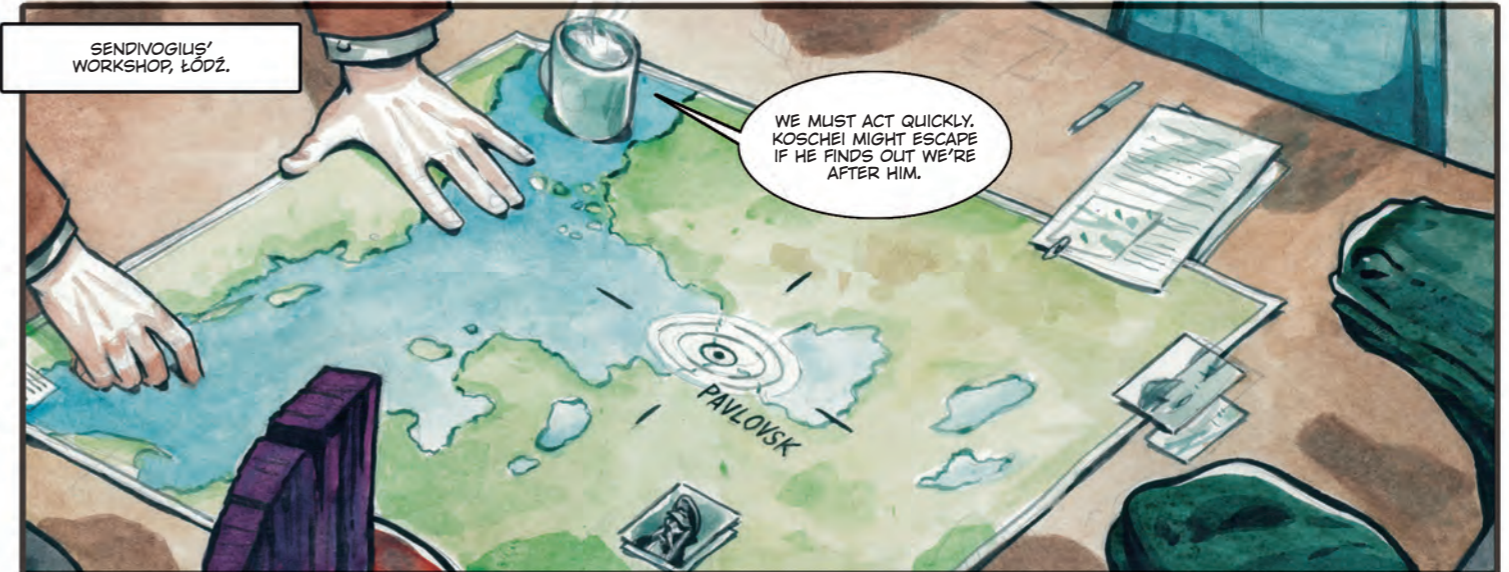
UKRAINE HAS SUFFERED TOO MUCH BECAUSE OF HIM. LET'S GO BACK! ONE MORE CRITICAL TASK AWAITS US!

YET UKRAINE NEVER GAVE UP!

FINALLY, ON JUNE 23, 2022, AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL SUMMIT, EU LEADERS GRANTED UKRAINE THE STATUS OF A CANDIDATE COUNTRY FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION.

UKRAINE IS EUROPE

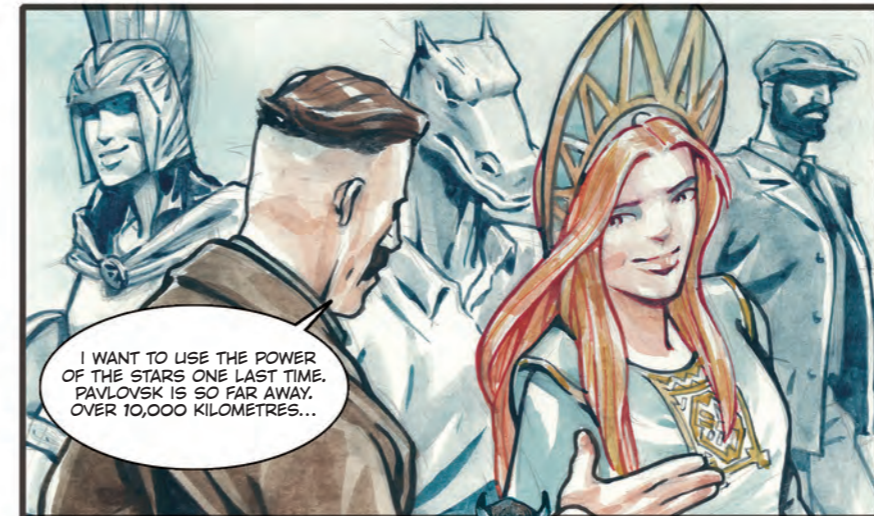
UKRAINE IS EUROPE



WE ALREADY HAVE THE LOCATION. THAT VILLAIN HID IN AN OLD SOVIET SUBMARINE BASE.

TIME TO HUNT SOME DEMONS!

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED? WE HAVE A LONG WAY AHEAD OF US.



I WANT TO USE THE POWER OF THE STARS ONE LAST TIME. PAVLOVSK IS SO FAR AWAY. OVER 10,000 KILOMETRES...



LET'S GO.

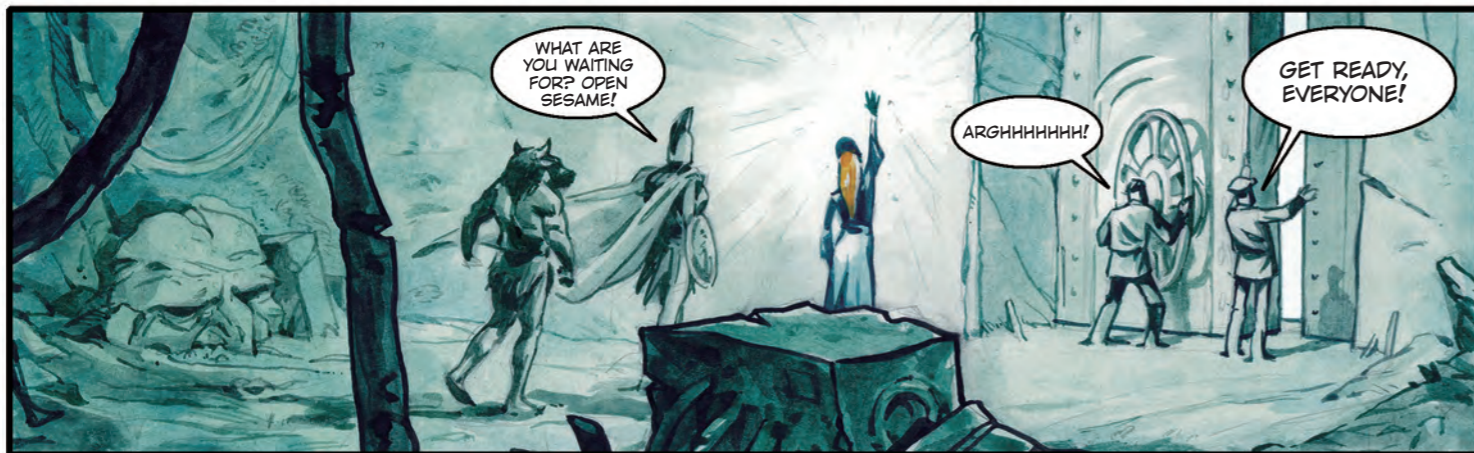
SENDIVOGLIUS' WORKSHOP, ŁÓDŹ.

WE MUST ACT QUICKLY. KOSCHEI MIGHT ESCAPE IF HE FINDS OUT WE'RE AFTER HIM.



WHAT A PLACE...

TERRIFYING...



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? OPEN SESAME!

ARGHHHHHHH!

GET READY, EVERYONE!



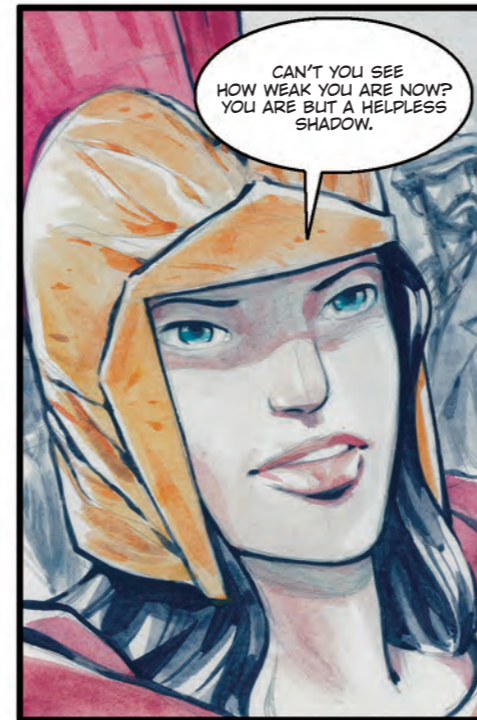
AH!

WHAT'S THIS?



OH, I SEE THAT YOU HAVE COME TO ME, GRAND MASTER TWARDOWSKI. AND YOU BROUGHT YOUR OH-SO RELIABLE FRIENDS.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME WITH YOUR MULE-LIKE STUBBORNNESS?



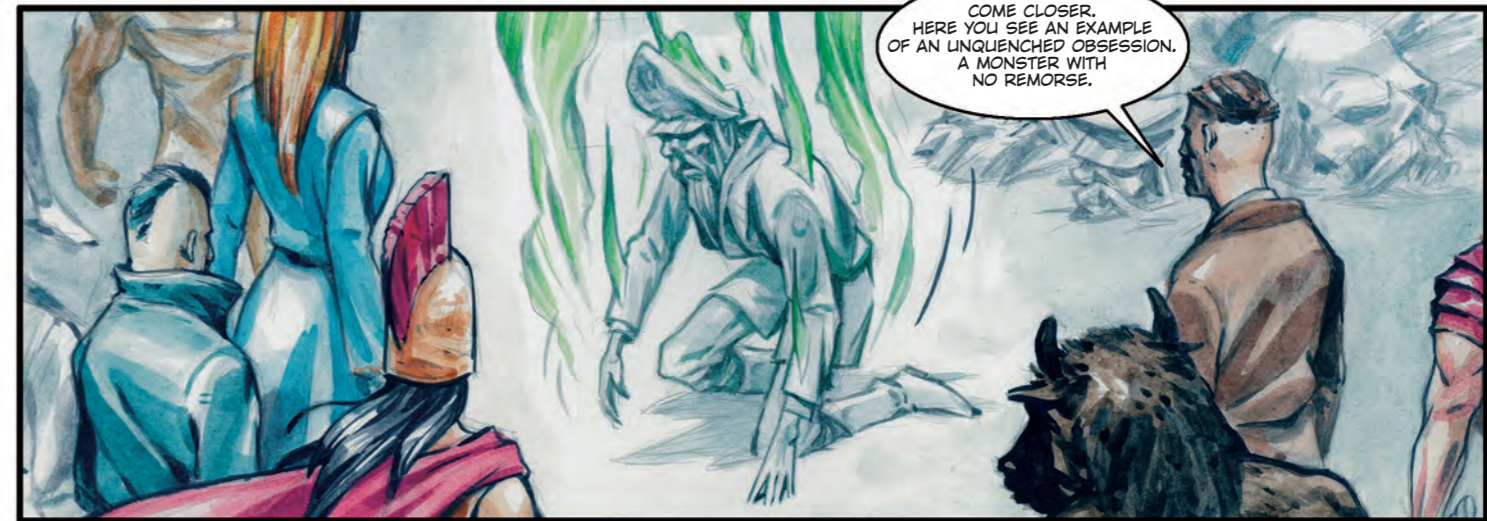
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW WEAK YOU ARE NOW? YOU ARE BUT A HELPLESS SHADOW.



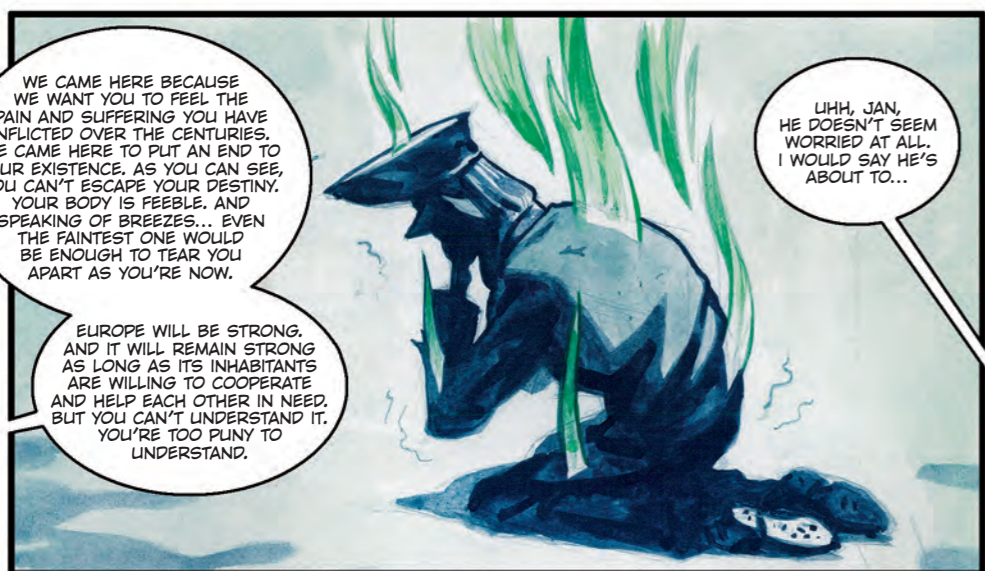
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH. I HAVE LIVED FOR AGES, AND YOU, YOU'RE JUST A FAINT BREEZE. JUST A SPECK OF DUST ON MY SHOES!

I'VE WALKED THE CENTURIES TRAMPLING VERMIN MORE DETERMINED THAN YOU! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU MATTER TO? NOBODY!

MEANWHILE, THE FRUITS OF MY LABOUR GROW EVERY DAY ON THE GROUND THAT PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTARILY WATERED WITH THEIR OWN BLOOD! I JUST NEEDED TO SPUR THEM INTO ACTION AND THEY WERE READY TO SLAUGHTER ONE ANOTHER...



COME CLOSER. HERE YOU SEE AN EXAMPLE OF AN UNQUENCHED OBSESSION. A MONSTER WITH NO REMORSE.



WE CAME HERE BECAUSE WE WANT YOU TO FEEL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING YOU HAVE INFLICTED OVER THE CENTURIES. WE CAME HERE TO PUT AN END TO YOUR EXISTENCE. AS YOU CAN SEE, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR DESTINY. YOUR BODY IS FEEBLE, AND SPEAKING OF BREEZES... EVEN THE FAINTEST ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO TEAR YOU APART AS YOU'RE NOW.

LIHH, JAN, HE DOESN'T SEEM WORRIED AT ALL. I WOULD SAY HE'S ABOUT TO...

EUROPE WILL BE STRONG, AND IT WILL REMAIN STRONG AS LONG AS ITS INHABITANTS ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE AND HELP EACH OTHER IN NEED. BUT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. YOU'RE TOO PLINY TO UNDERSTAND.



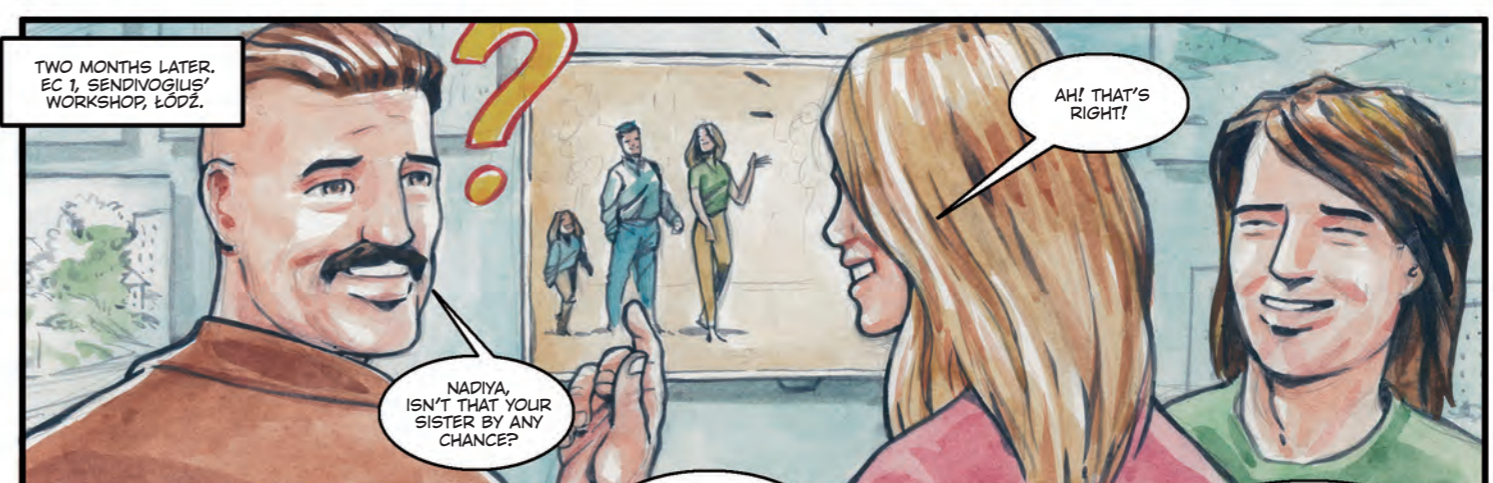
HA, HA, HA! IT'S YOU WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND!



NOTHING CAN STOP THE MACHINE OF HATRED AND DESTRUCTION. NOTHING... THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE LIKE ME. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE WORLD DESCENDS INTO CHAOS. PEOPLE ARE IMPRESSIONABLE FOOLS. AND UKRAINE WILL BE LOST!



I CAN'T LISTEN TO THIS ANYMORE!



TWO MONTHS LATER. EC 1, SENDVOGIUS' WORKSHOP, ŁÓDŹ.

NADIYA, ISN'T THAT YOUR SISTER BY ANY CHANCE?

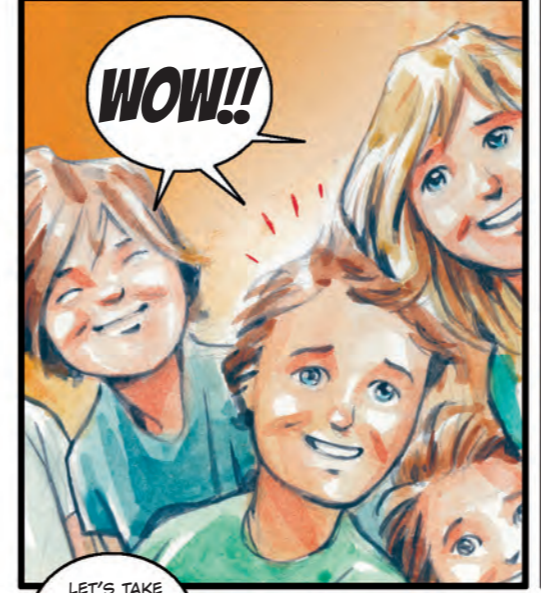
AH! THAT'S RIGHT!



TATIANA, WE ARE SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE WITH US. SUMMER IN PSZCZYNA AWAITS YOU ALL.

THE CHILDREN NEEDED A RESPITE SO MUCH. THERE WERE TEN OR MORE AIR ALERTS IN KYIV YESTERDAY!

WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!



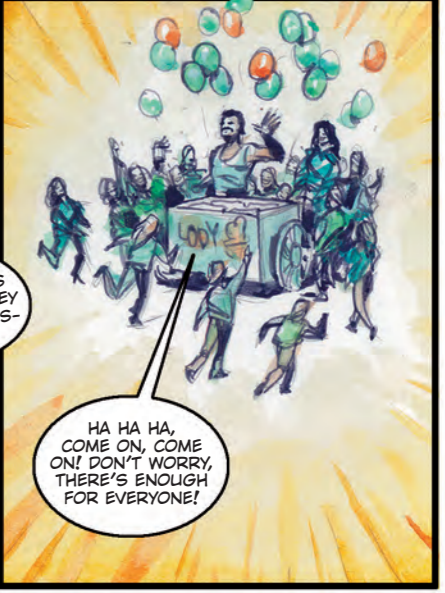
WOW!!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT A PLACE NEAR RZESZÓW FOR A MOMENT.



WELCOME!

THESE ARE KIDS FROM BUCHA. THEY ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY.

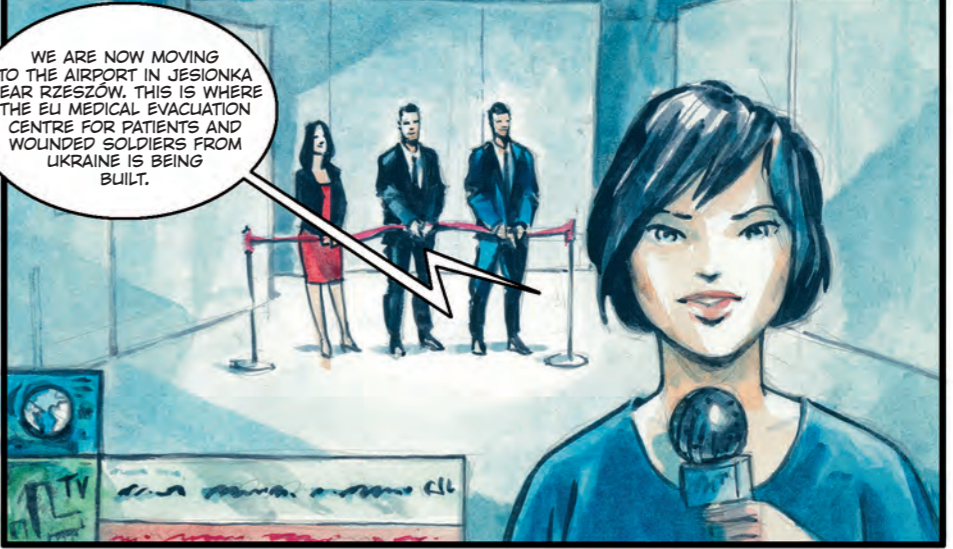


HA HA HA, COME ON, COME ON! DON'T WORRY, THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE!



WHAT'S THERE?

SEE FOR YOURSELF.



WE ARE NOW MOVING TO THE AIRPORT IN JESIONKA NEAR RZESZÓW. THIS IS WHERE THE EU MEDICAL EVACUATION CENTRE FOR PATIENTS AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS FROM UKRAINE IS BEING BUILT.





I GIVE THE FLOOR TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT, MR. JANEZ LENARCIC.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. REMEMBER, YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT, AND WE WILL STAND BY YOU AS LONG AS IT TAKES. EVERY DAY, MORE PEOPLE - PATIENTS FROM UKRAINE - GO TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR TREATMENT.

THAT IS WHY WE NEED WHAT HAS BEEN CREATED HERE. A MEDICAL HUB WHERE PATIENTS WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF WHILE WAITING FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORT.



IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT THANKS TO THIS SUPPORT, ABOUT 1,200 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN EVACUATED TO HOSPITALS IN 18 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

RZESZÓW HAS BEEN SUPPORTING OUR UKRAINIAN FRIENDS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. LET US RECALL THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THESE EFFORTS, PRESIDENT ZELENSKY AWARDED THE CITY THE TITLE OF "THE RESCUER CITY".

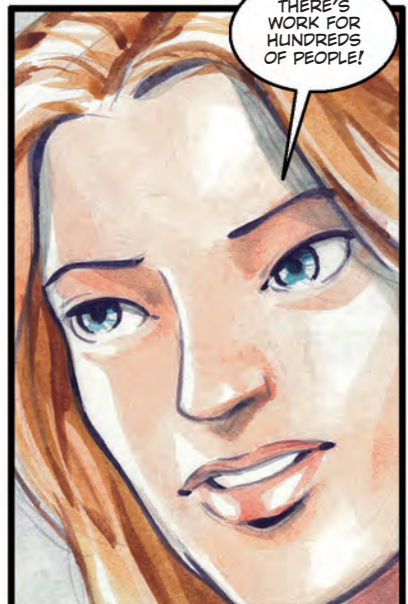


AND I'M NOT OVER THERE YET? I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO TO RZESZÓW. I'M SURE I'LL BE OF USE THERE. HOW ABOUT YOU, NADIYA?

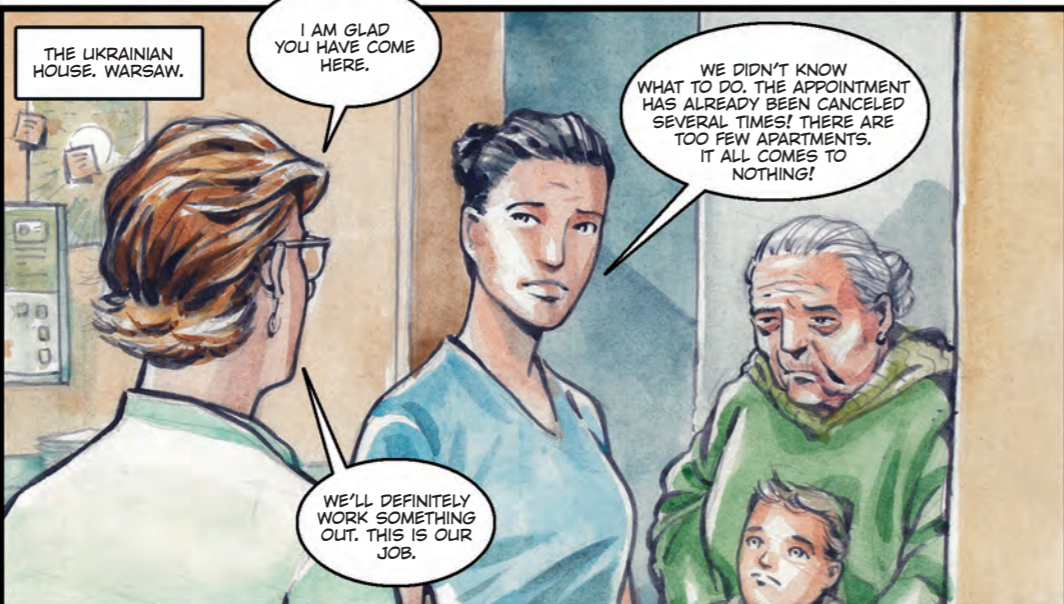
I WILL STAY WITH THE NEWCOMERS. TOMORROW I'M GOING TO WARSAW TO HELP IN THE UKRAINIAN HOUSE. REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE CURRENTLY HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE RENTING APARTMENTS. IT REALLY IS HARD. SEE FOR YOURSELF.



SOMETIMES THE PROBLEM IS JUST THE LANGUAGE BARRIER, BUT AT OTHER TIMES IT GETS MORE COMPLICATED. THAT IS WHY VOLUNTEERS ARE SO NEEDED TO HELP FIND ACCOMMODATION FOR REFUGEES.



THERE'S WORK FOR HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE!



THE UKRAINIAN HOUSE, WARSAW.

I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME HERE.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE APPOINTMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN CANCELED SEVERAL TIMES! THERE ARE TOO FEW APARTMENTS. IT ALL COMES TO NOTHING!

WE'LL DEFINITELY WORK SOMETHING OUT. THIS IS OUR JOB.



WE WORK LEGALLY, WE PAY TAXES IN POLAND, WE HAVE MONEY, WE JUST WANT TO RENT A FLAT. MEANWHILE, PRICES ARE SKYROCKETING!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH APARTMENTS, AND THEY HAVE ALREADY BECOME EXPENSIVE. I HAVE AN OFFER THAT MIGHT WORK. TOMORROW WE WILL BE JOINED BY A NEW VOLUNTEER, NADIYA, AND WE WILL GO TO SEE IT TOGETHER. THE OWNER PROMISED TO HOLD OFF RENTING THE APARTMENT.



NADIYA, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO WARSAW TOMORROW, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE ANASTASIA'S EXHIBITION WITH ME TODAY?

ABSOLUTELY!



URBAN ACTIVITY FACTORY. EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY AIA KORA (ANASTASIA SKOLOZDRA)

SO, THIS IS ANASTASIA, I TOLD YOU ABOUT HER.

HELLO! I'M REALLY GLAD TO MEET YOU.

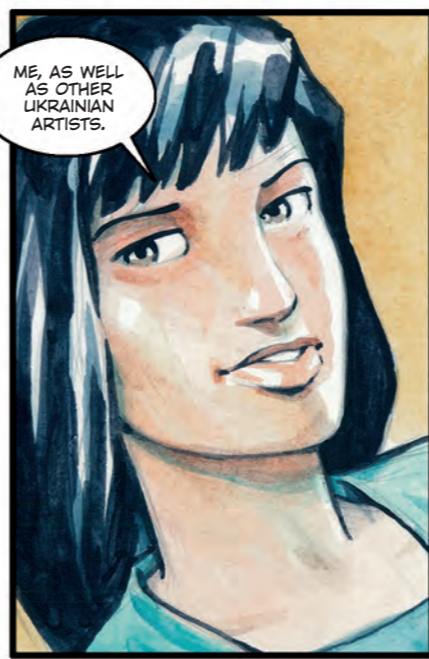


IT'S GREAT THAT YOU FOUND YOUR WAY IN ŁÓDŹ.

IT WAS NOT EASY. I HAD QUITE A DIFFICULT JOURNEY WITH A CHILD. FIRST KRAKÓW, THEN ŁÓDŹ, BUT WE MADE IT!

AND SINCE I CAME HERE, I'VE PAINTED 65 PAINTINGS. I'VE ALSO TAKEN PART IN VARIOUS EXHIBITIONS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES.

I SEE THAT THE URBAN ACTIVITY FACTORY PROVIDES YOU WITH EXCELLENT SPACE TO SHOW OFF YOUR TALENT.



ME, AS WELL AS OTHER UKRAINIAN ARTISTS.



APPARENTLY ANASTASIA IS GOING TO WARSAW TOMORROW, LIKE YOU. SHE WILL OPEN HER NEW EXHIBITION, "UKRAINE IS A WOMAN", AT THE INTERNATIONAL ART PLEIN-AIR.

GREAT! THEN IT SEEMS WE'LL GO ON OUR NEXT JOURNEY TOGETHER!

YEAH! SOUNDS GOOD!



THIS COMIC IS DEDICATED TO THE REFUGEES AND VICTIMS OF THE RUSSIAN ATTACK ON UKRAINE.

#### RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE AND EUROPEAN UNION'S REACTION

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation illegally invaded Ukraine. The attack constituted a violation of the United Nations Charter and a crime against peace. The European Union's position on Russian responsibility has been clear from the very beginning. On the day of the aggression, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen issued a joint statement on Russia's unprecedented and unprovoked aggression of Ukraine. Michel and von der Leyen strongly condemned the invasion, and called on Russia to immediately withdraw its military and respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. The Kremlin would not listen, though, with reaction to the attack and support for Ukraine topping the agenda of an extraordinary European Council summit. The EU leaders imposed eleven packages of sanctions on Russia. They made it impossible for the country to freely trade in certain key raw materials such as coal, crude oil and natural gas. In addition, they prevented Russian nationals from moving within the European area without restrictions, and hampered the purchase of components for the Russian war machine on world markets. In the first year of fighting alone, the EU provided Ukraine with over EUR 67 billion's worth of economic, humanitarian and military assistance. In 2023, the EU will make available EUR 18 billion to support Ukraine, of which EUR 7.5 billion has already been disbursed. To address the needs of refugees in the EU, considerable EU funding was also provided.

#### UKRAINE AND EUROPEAN UNION

The relationship between the European Union and Ukraine became closer in the wake of the successful Revolution of Dignity, which lasted from November 2013 to the end of February 2014. The Revolution broke out after President Viktor Yanukovich, influenced by Moscow, defied public expectations by refusing to sign the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. On 22 February 2014, Yanukovich was removed from power by Ukraine's Supreme Council and fled to Russia. The new Ukrainian government signed the Association Agreement on 21 March 2014. Ukraine is willing to join the European Union, and like any other country on our continent it may apply for membership, which it did on 28 February 2022. On 23 June 2022, the European Council granted candidate status to Ukraine. EU membership will allow Ukraine to embark on the path of development Poland has been pursuing since 2004.

#### TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

On 4 March 2022, the European Union triggered the Temporary Protection Directive. This gives displaced people fleeing the war in Ukraine certain rights in the EU, including a residence permit, access to the labour market and suitable accommodation or housing, medical care, and access to education for children. EU countries have given around 4 million refugees from Ukraine temporary protection since then. Poland adopted extraordinary measures, which have been in place since March 2022. They have given Ukrainian refugees unrestricted access to the labour market, the education system and healthcare.

#### EUROPEAN UNION INVESTMENTS IN POLISH MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS

After the EU enlargement in 2004, Poland became the biggest beneficiary of this historic event. Since then, over EUR 238 billion has been invested in Poland, while Warsaw contributed EUR 79 billion to the joint budget within the same period. EU funds help to build and improve rural and urban infrastructure, they support agriculture, education, science and entrepreneurship. European investments are visible in the local municipalities which are partners of this year's Paneuropa. Rzeszów benefits from the nearby A4 motorway, co funded-by the EU, which connects the Polish-Ukrainian border to the Polish-German border. Travellers use the Local Bus Station, while residents and visitors of the Podkarpacie region's capital city can take a tour of the Rzeszów Basements. Łódź has witnessed ongoing urban renewal, which involved the historic Wigencja factory providing new premises for the Pinocchio Theatre. Additionally, one of the villas in the former Meyer Passageway has been transformed to house the MeMo Media Library. Cultural investments are also visible in the Upper Silesian city of Pszczyna, where EU funds helped to renovate the Castle Museum, build the District Transfer Centre, and create the European Bison Show Farm. All these investments provide the setting for the plot of our "Paneuropa - Standing with Ukraine" comic book

#### CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

In February 2022, photos and videos made the headlines in Europe and around the world, showing volunteers from Poland and other EU countries who had come to the Polish-Ukrainian border to help refugees, hard on the heels of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Heeding the call of their heart, civil society members would support Ukrainian refugees wherever they appeared: at the railway and bus stations, at the mushrooming help centres that offered a place to rest, and at the collection and distribution points for in-kind aid. Measures to aid refugees would be taken by local governments. They included the cities of Rzeszów, winner of the Rescuer City title awarded by the Ukrainian President for assistance to refugees; Łódź, which took in a hundred thousand refugees in April 2022; and Pszczyna, whose municipal and district authorities joined forces to provide refugees with accommodation, and their children with places at schools. All these local governments are the partners of "Paneuropa - Solidarity with Ukraine". Throughout the country, help would be offered by non-governmental organizations such as the Ukrainian House in Warsaw (another partner of this year's edition), and associations such as the Volunteer Fire Brigades, which set up a number of donation drives. Ordinary citizens would welcome our Ukrainian guests under their roof. Business people would provide financial and in-kind support. Putin's army - destroying Ukrainian houses, schools and businesses - was met in Poland and the European Union with a firm grassroots response. Thank you!

## CONTACT THE EU

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There are several hundred Europe Direct information centres all across the EU. Check the website below to find the closest one to you:

[https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

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Europe Direct is an information service that provides information on all aspects of EU activities. You can contact it by

– calling a toll-free number: 00 800 67 89 10 11

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+32 229 996 96

– filling in the online application form available at:

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## INFORMATION ON THE EU

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Information on the European Union is available in all official EU languages at the Europa website:

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### EU publications

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### EU legislation and related documents

EU legal documents, including all legal acts published since 1952, are available in all official EU languages on the EUR-Lex website:

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### EU Open Data Portal

The Union's Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/pl>) provides access to databases of various institutions and other EU bodies. Data can be downloaded and used free of charge for both commercial and non-commercial purposes

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### Project partners:



### Berenika Kołomycka born 1983

A comic book author, illustrator, sculptor, and graphic artist. She collaborated with Grzegorz Janusz (*Wykolejeniec*) and Marzena Sowa (*Tej Nocy Dzika Paprotka*), among others. In 2011, she won the Comics Grand Prix at the MFKiG in Łódź. Her works have been published in Polish and foreign magazines, numerous anthologies, and school textbooks. The author of the children's comic series *Tiny Fox and Great Boar*. She illustrates the series about Mika, titled *Arcygroźne Domostwo*, for the publishing house Dobrąnoga.

### Dominik Szcześniak born 1981

A graduate of cultural studies at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. A comic writer, the long-term editor-in-chief of the Ziniol magazine, and host of the "Halo Comics" program on the Radio Lublin. An animator at Lublin's Punkt Kultury and the editor-in-chief of the Bronowice District's *Dzielnicówka*. He published two original comic books: *GadKaszmatka* (2012) and *Robaczki* (2015). He is an author of many comic albums, such as *Dolores* (illustrated by Marcin Rustecki), *Wacine Kafliki Żyttu* (illustrated by Maciej Pałka), *Fotostory* (illustrated by Rafał Trejnis), *Tim and Miki w Krainie Figli* (illustrated by Piotr Nowacki) or *Pętla* (illustrated by Marcin Rustecki, Grzegorz Pawlak, Rafał Trejnis). He is a winner of the lifetime achievement Złoty Kurczak award. For his merits in the field of Lublin culture and achievements in popularizing Polish comics, he received the medal of the President of the City of Lublin.

### Bohdana Vitkovska born 1994

A graduate of Germanic Languages and Literatures from the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University. A self-taught artist, author of illustrations, fine art paintings, posters, comics and book covers. She has worked in the game development industry as a character artist since 2017. She makes traditional Ukrainian wax tiaras in her free time. Currently she lives and works in Kyiv.

### Daria Bairamova born 1995

A graduate of the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture (NAOMA). Previously she worked as a designer in a branding agency and was involved in the rebranding of Ukrzaliznytsia (Ukrainian state railways). Currently, she's working as an illustrator and comic book writer, creating her comic book album *Midnight Conversations*. She collaborates with publishing houses Ranok, Vydavnytstvo, and others. In 2021, her comic book *Bethlehem 12* was among the top three finalists of the International Comics Festival.

### Wojciech Stefaniec born 1980

A graphic designer, creator of posters, book covers, music album covers, and a comic book artist. A graduate of the Pomeranian University in Słupsk. Author of over a dozen comic book titles. He collaborated with many of the most notable creators of the contemporary Polish comic book scene, such as Jerzy Szytak, Dominik Szcześniak, Bartosz Szybor, and Daniel Gizicki, as well as with novelist Daniel Odija. He participated in many exhibitions devoted to Polish comics. Winner of numerous awards for his albums *Szelki*, *NOIR*, *Wróć do mnie*, *Jeszcze raz*, *Stolp* and *Rita*.

### Przemysław "Trust" Truściński born 1970

A Polish cartoonist, creator of comic books, illustrator, and painter. He is a graduate of the High School of Fine Arts in Łódź, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź. He made his debut on the Polish comics scene in the 1990s, mainly creating fantasy titles. He is a member of the "Contour" group, he has participated in many collective

and individual exhibitions in Poland and abroad. He is the recipient of many awards, including the OKTK Grand Prix in 1993 and the Graphic Award in the Book of the Year 2021 competition of the Polish Section of IBBY. In 2010 he was awarded the Medal of Merit for Polish Culture. In 2013 he received the Silver Cross of Merit. His achievements include the albums *Komiks W-wa*, *Trust - Historia Choroby*, *Najczwarsza RP - Antylista Prezerwatora*, *Tymczasem*, *Trust. Album* and *Andzia* (also released in France).

### Rafał Sztapa born 1976

A graduate of the State Secondary School of Fine Arts in Bielsko-Biała and the Faculty of Graphic Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków. Graphic designer, creator of graphics and illustrations, storyboards, posters, and book covers. For many years he was associated with the advertising market. Since 2010 he has been working on his series about the Polish superhero *Bler*. Currently, he lives in Kraków.

### Robert Służały born 1979

A graduate of the State Secondary School of Fine Arts in Jelenia Góra and the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Kalisz. He collaborated on numerous projects with many scriptwriters in the Polish comic book scene (including Dennis Wojda, Jerzy Szytak and Andrzej Ziemiański).

### Grzegorz Pawlak born 1986

A second-degree graduate of Architecture and Urban Planning at the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice. He is a graphic designer in a large Polish company, and after hours he works as a comic book artist and occasionally designs illustrations and covers. Together with Daniel Gizicki, he runs an independent comic book publishing house Celuloza, which publishes his *NOIRtober* series of atzines, among other titles. He is winner of competitions for short comic forms organized by the House of Literature in Łódź and at the MFKiG festival.

### Ihor Baranko born 1970

He became interested in comics as a child when he got a comic book by Grzegorz Rosiński. He graduated from an art school in 1988 and spent two years in the Soviet Red Army. In 1990, after leaving the service, he traveled around Central Asia. He returned to Ukraine after it regained independence and immediately began his career as a comic book artist. He published short stories in the Slovenian *Stripburger* and the Polish *AQQ*. In 1999 he set off to conquer the USA, where he created the comics *Pifitos* and *Skaggy the Lost*. There, he also met representatives of Les Humanoides and began working for French publishers – he created the continuation of *Exterminator 17*, or his series – *The Dance of Time*, *The Egyptian Princesses*, *Jihad* and *Maksym Osa*. In 2013, he decided to emigrate from Ukraine to Thailand, where he's working on the adaptation of the epic *Mahabharata* (volume 1 is currently being published in Polish), and in his free time he creates the *Widow* series, set in the realities of the 17th-century Ukrainian steppes.