

# JUST A COMIC

ISSN 2334-6523

A self-published comics magazine

**No. 1**

December  
2012.

Just a comic...

From the archives...

essay: Something in between...  
the comics and the ghetto.  
comic: Rain falls, grass grows...

Guest authors:

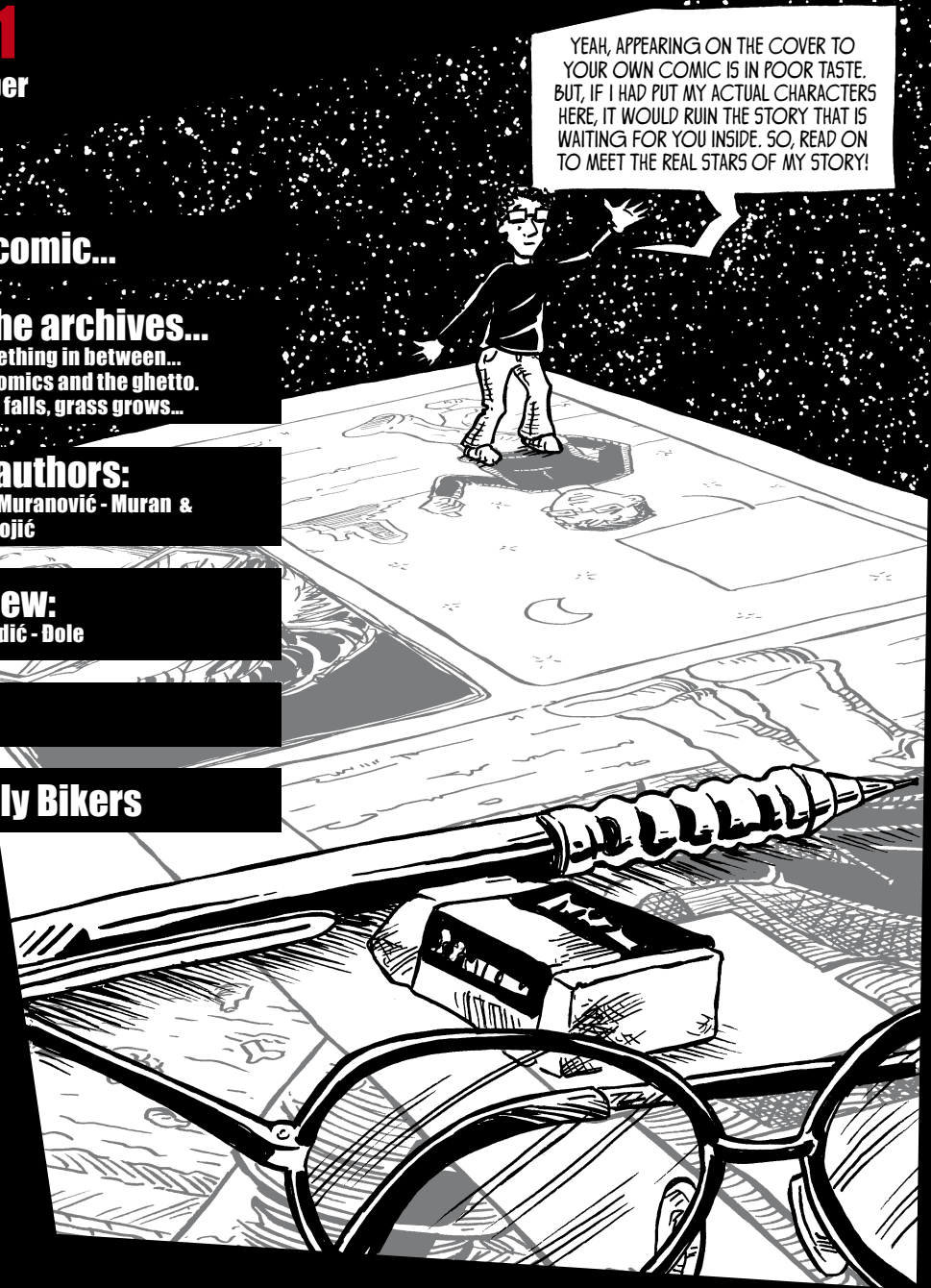
Sabahudin Muranović - Muran &  
Milosav Ostojić

Interview:

Vladimir Tadić - Dole

Germes

The Silly Bikers



YEAH, APPEARING ON THE COVER TO  
YOUR OWN COMIC IS IN POOR TASTE.  
BUT, IF I HAD PUT MY ACTUAL CHARACTERS  
HERE, IT WOULD RUIN THE STORY THAT IS  
WAITING FOR YOU INSIDE. SO, READ ON  
TO MEET THE REAL STARS OF MY STORY!

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# JUST A COMIC...

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## INTRODUCTION

### How to begin my very first introduction?

Well, my motives for making this comic, simply titled *Just a comic*, were best described in the intro I wrote on Facebook:

"When you've dreamt about making comics ever since you were ten, and that dream stays with you your entire life... then it really pains you if you can't find the time to actually do it. But I'm a stubborn old fool, and I'll try to kick myself back into gear... The method's not terribly original, but is also a part of my childhood dreams. I was reminded of the story about Moebius and his *Airtight Garage*, which he made flying by the seat of his pants, drawing whatever he felt like on that particular day, often forgetting what he did on the previous page, moving the plot along through sheer improvisation. I don't mean to compare myself to a genius such as him, but I'll shamelessly steal his recipe (and I'm hardly the first), so I'll draw a page at a time, however and whenever I feel like doing it, or am able to do it. So as not to be ashamed of any pages that turn out to be crap, but also to be able to reach those few that will be noteworthy. And the point of it all? The story? Well, they're bound to show up, all in due time, let the chips - or in this case, pages - fall where they may.... So, without any publishing rhythm in mind, without any set goal (other than to draw as often as I can), I will be posting these pages here, in case someone finds them to their liking... :)"

### Why print issues?

Now, that's a whole different thing. When something's published, when it smells of printed paper, when it goes out to the market to prove itself among the readers who aren't just from my circle of friends on the social networks... then and only then do I feel like I've created a comic.

Perhaps it would be best to call this publication, this magazine, this imprint "zmcomics", because it will predominantly contain my own output in the comics field... But the title of my comic is more than fair and adequate, because there won't be anything within these pages that isn't related to comics...

### Just a comic...

...will publish my own works, mainly the comic that bears the same name, which will premiere on my Facebook profile. It will also contain some of my essays - initially they will be my old, recycled essays, refurbished with minor adjustments so they'd still be relevant today. There'll be old comics and new. There'll also be interviews, and my goal, in accordance with the form this publication took, is to present the local small press scene. Of course, I want to have a guest-author in each issue. I will try to spotlight lesser known artists, the ones that I feel deserve more attention. It is not my goal to publish big stars to boost the sales of my comic. I will provide a space for the authors that have something to gain from my, admittedly modest, means of promoting their work.

...and that's about it.

### Schedule...

As soon as I reach 16 finished pages of *Just a comic*..., I'll publish the next issue. In the meantime, if something else comes up, I'll deal with that as well... But the main publishing rhythm will follow the schedule of the *Just a comic*... Facebook web comic.

### In the meantime...

You can read the latest installments on my Facebook profile, which is open to the public, so you don't even have to friend me to be able to view them and follow the making of the series:

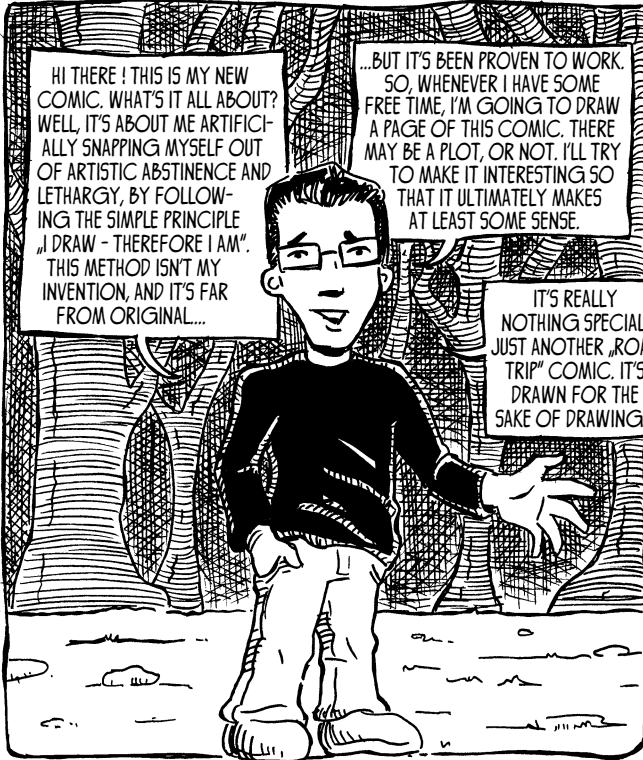
[www.facebook.com/zlatko.milenkovic](http://www.facebook.com/zlatko.milenkovic)

There's even a shortcut straight to my photo albums page, where you can find the *Just a comic*... album: [www.facebook.com/zlatko.milenkovic/photos\\_albums](http://www.facebook.com/zlatko.milenkovic/photos_albums)

### In this issue:

03. *Just a comic*...
19. From my archives: ***Something in between... the comics and the ghetto***
20. From my archives: ***Rain falls, grass grows...***
21. Just a comic... presents: ***Matchstick*** (script: ***Miloslav Ostojić***, artwork: ***Sabahudin Muranović - Muran***)
25. Interview: ***Vladimir Tadić - Đole***
26. ***Germ***
- 27-28. ***The Silly Bikers***

Instructions for the table of contents: Everything listed is the work of the „self-publisher“ of this magazine, except the short comic **Matchstick**, by the credited guest authors. Therefore, everything else will be listed sans credits, because such a repetition of the same name in the table of contents would indeed be tragicomic... :)



HI THERE! THIS IS MY NEW COMIC. WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? WELL, IT'S ABOUT ME ARTIFICIALLY SNAPPING MYSELF OUT OF ARTISTIC ABSTINENCE AND LETHARGY, BY FOLLOWING THE SIMPLE PRINCIPLE „I DRAW - THEREFORE I AM“. THIS METHOD ISN'T MY INVENTION, AND IT'S FAR FROM ORIGINAL...

...BUT IT'S BEEN PROVEN TO WORK. SO, WHENEVER I HAVE SOME FREE TIME, I'M GOING TO DRAW A PAGE OF THIS COMIC. THERE MAY BE A PLOT, OR NOT. I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT INTERESTING SO THAT IT ULTIMATELY MAKES AT LEAST SOME SENSE.

IT'S REALLY NOTHING SPECIAL, JUST ANOTHER „ROAD TRIP“ COMIC. IT'S DRAWN FOR THE SAKE OF DRAWING...

BY ZMCOMICS  
**JUST A COMIC...**



WHEN I FEEL LIKE DRAWING „NEVERWHERE“... A CHILDHOOD DREAM OF A COMIC SET UNDERGROUND, WITH OOZING PIPES, THAT'S WHAT I'LL DRAW!



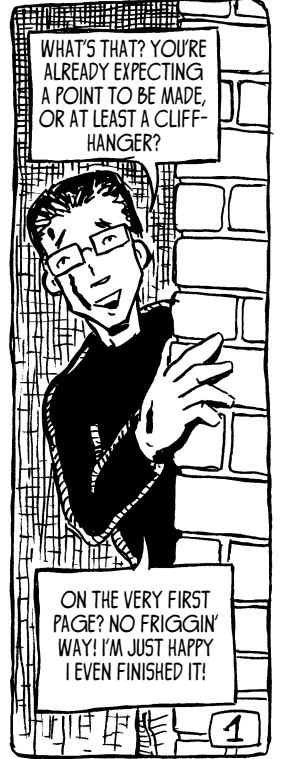
WHEN I'M SHORT ON TIME, I'LL SWITCH TO MINIMALISM... AS LONG AS I GET TO DRAW SOMETHING.



WHEN I'M CRACKING UNDER DEADLINES FOR OTHER PROJECTS...

...I'LL SHAMELESSLY AVOID DRAWING BACKGROUNDS ALTOGETHER...

JUST SO I CAN FINISH THE PAGE.



WHAT'S THAT? YOU'RE ALREADY EXPECTING A POINT TO BE MADE, OR AT LEAST A CLIFF-HANGER?

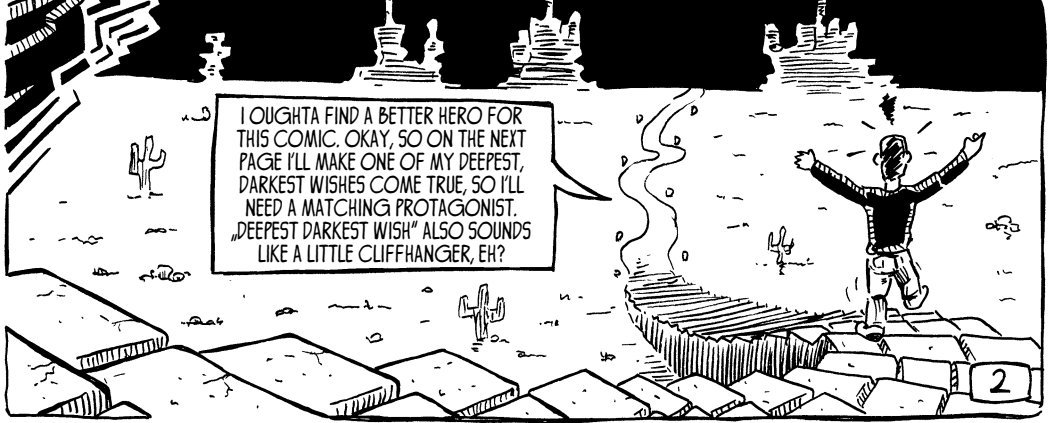
ON THE VERY FIRST PAGE? NO FRIGGIN' WAY! I'M JUST HAPPY I EVEN FINISHED IT!



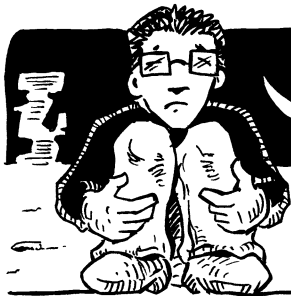
A STAIRWAY CAN BE A GOOD START TO AN ADVENTURE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS TO!



BUT YEAH... ADVENTURES CAN ALSO BE BORING! THE STAIRWAY'S LONG, AND I'M KINDA DULL... PLUS, DRAWING MYSELF SEEMS LIKE A REALLY PATHETIC EGO-TRIP.



I OUGHTA FIND A BETTER HERO FOR THIS COMIC. OKAY, SO ON THE NEXT PAGE I'LL MAKE ONE OF MY DEEPEST, DARKEST WISHES COME TRUE, SO I'LL NEED A MATCHING PROTAGONIST. „DEEPEST DARKEST WISH“ ALSO SOUNDS LIKE A LITTLE CLIFFHANGER, EH?



WHAT CAN I SAY... I'M SWAMPED WITH WORK, SO THE „DEEPEST DARKEST WISH“ PAGE COULDN'T BE DONE IN TIME... BUT SINCE EVERY GOOD CLIFFHANGER ON TV ALWAYS CUTS TO A COMMERCIAL, WHY DON'T I DO IT HERE AS WELL? SO, HERE'S A SHORT AD-BREAK (WHICH IS MUCH FASTER TO DRAW, IF I INTEND TO MEET MY SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE OF ONE PAGE A WEEK) BEFORE WE GET TO THE NEXT PAGE AND MY „DEEPEST DARKEST WISHES“...

# WANTED AN ORIGINAL COMIC BOOK CHARACTER!!!

ADVERTISEMENT!

HEAR YE,  
HEAR YE...

DING  
DONG

**TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

THE HERO MUST BE:

- \* NEW AND ORIGINAL
- \* EASY TO DRAW
- \* ABLE TO WITHSTAND STYLIZATION
- \* ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
- \* NOT TOO CLEVER, BECAUSE I'M STILL THE ONE CALLING THE SHOTS
- \* YET CLEVER ENOUGH NOT TO EXPECT TO GET PAID...

*\*\*\* THE EMPLOYER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF AGREEMENT UPON MEETING THE APPLICANTS!!!*

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT!  
**WANTED:  
A COMIC  
BOOK  
HERO!**

P.S. WE'RE ACCEPTING ONLY SUBMISSIONS BY THE COMICS CHARACTERS THEMSELVES, ANY LOBBYING BY THEIR AUTHORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.



HERE IT IS, FINALLY, AFTER A SPLASH-PAGE OF REPRIEVE: MY „DARKEST DESIRE“. AND AFTER THAT WE'RE OFF TO LOOK FOR A NEW HERO!

A CHILD BEGGAR, PROBABLY A GYPSY. WHATEVER HE IS, HERE'S MY CHANCE!

THIS BASEBALL BAT WILL COME IN HANDY FOR THIS!



HEY KID, YOU SEE THIS BASEBALL BAT?

YOUR PARENTS AREN'T AROUND? OFF DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

I DO...

NO... THEY'RE BACK HOME, WAITING FOR ME TO BRING... WHATEVER I COLLECT...



„THOUGHT AS MUCH...“



HERE'S A 100 EUROS... GO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOUR PARENTS AND YOU'VE EARNED IT.

YES, EVERY TIME I SEE CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 4 OR 5 BEGGING BAREFOOT IN THE COLD, WHILE THEIR PARENTS ARE SIMPLY WAITING FOR THE MONEY, I GET THE URGE TO DO THIS - TO GIVE 100 EUROS TO THE KID TO BREAK THE BONES OF THE SCUM THAT TREAT HIM LIKE THAT.



NEXT: INTERVIEWS FOR THE POSITION OF THE COMIC BOOK HERO!

NEXT PAGE>>



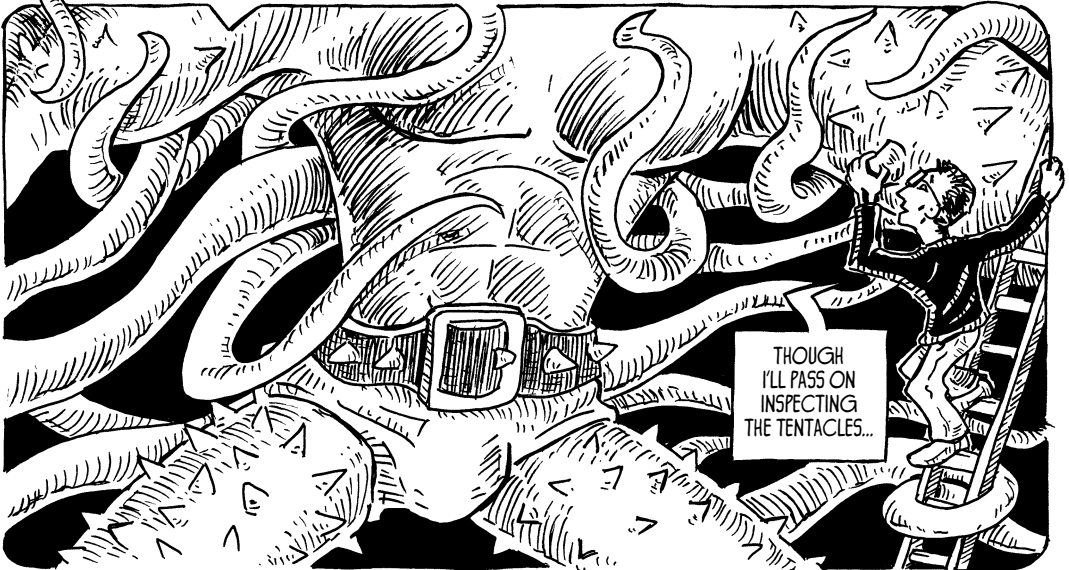
EH, BUT I'LL NEVER DO IT. IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE MONEY, BUT LIFE HAS A TENDENCY TO GIVE THOSE STORIES A DIFFERENT ENDING, AND IN THE END, THOSE KIDS WOULD PAY AN EVEN GREATER PRICE... SO MUCH FOR JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD.

THIS COMIC AT LEAST GIVES ME A CHANCE TO IMAGINE I DID IT...

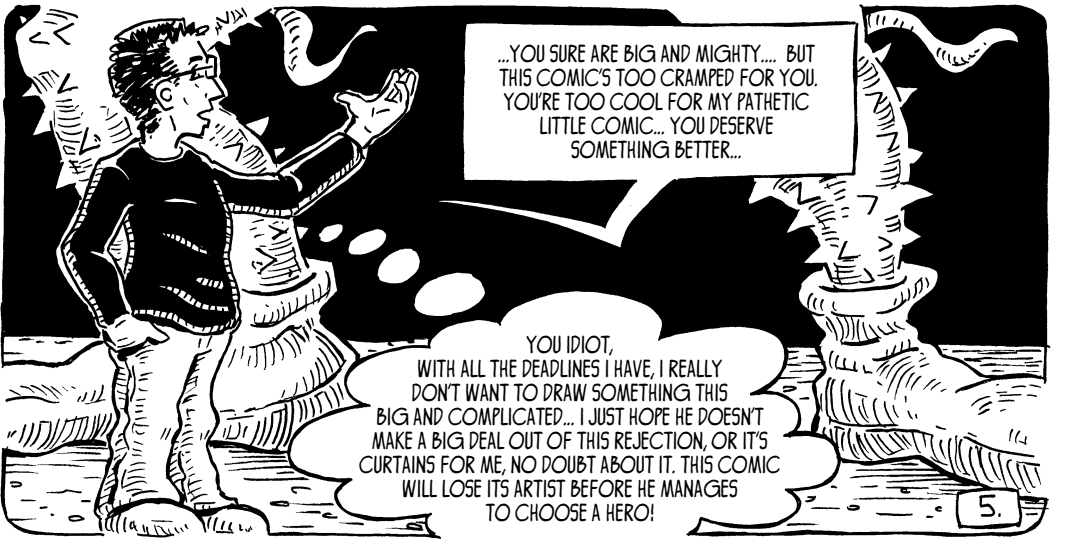
4.



I AM THE RIGHT HERO FOR THE JOB. I AM MIGHTY, BIG AND STRONG... I HAVE A HUNDRED SPIKES... WHICH, IF NEEDED, TURN INTO A HUNDRED POISONOUS TENTACLES...



THOUGH I'LL PASS ON INSPECTING THE TENTACLES...



...YOU SURE ARE BIG AND MIGHTY... BUT THIS COMIC'S TOO CRAMPED FOR YOU. YOU'RE TOO COOL FOR MY PATHETIC LITTLE COMIC... YOU DESERVE SOMETHING BETTER...

YOU IDIOT, WITH ALL THE DEADLINES I HAVE, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DRAW SOMETHING THIS BIG AND COMPLICATED... I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS REJECTION, OR IT'S CURTAINS FOR ME, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THIS COMIC WILL LOSE ITS ARTIST BEFORE HE MANAGES TO CHOOSE A HERO!



I ATE THE BRIGHTEST BULB IN THE SHED, BUB. BUT I'S GOOD AT KICKING ASS WHEN I NEED TO, LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE! YOU NAME IT, I'LL BREAK IT.

THAT'S AWESOME... WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE END OF THE LINE, AND FIGHT YOUR WAY OVER HERE. WE HAVE TOO MANY APPLICANTS ALREADY, SO IF YOU MANAGE TO GET THEM ALL, YOU'RE BETTER THAN THEM, AND IF NOT... YOU'RE OUT. IN EITHER CASE, LESS WORK FOR ME.

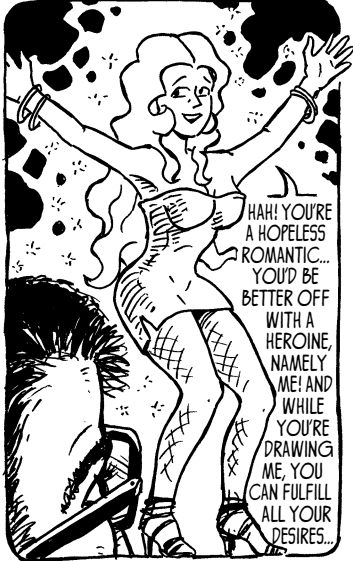


I'M NOT TOO ORIGINAL, BUT I'M EASY TO DRAW. MY POWER IS THAT I'LL SHED INTO YOUR ENEMIES' SOUP...



HEY, IF YOU NEED ANYONE, IT'S SOMEONE HANDSOME LIKE ME. TWICE AS FUN, AND ONLY HALF AS DANGEROUS. AND WITH SUCH A CHARMER AROUND, EVEN YOU MIGHT... ER... GET TO DIP YOUR WICK.

YOU MEAN LIKE... GIRLS, LOVE, AND ALL THAT?



HAI! YOU'RE A HOPELESS ROMANTIC... YOU'D BE BETTER OFF WITH A HEROINE, NAMELY ME! AND WHILE YOU'RE DRAWING ME, YOU CAN FULFILL ALL YOUR DESIRES...

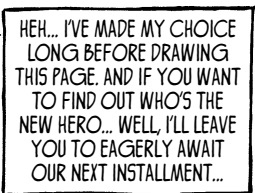


WHAT DO YOU DO?

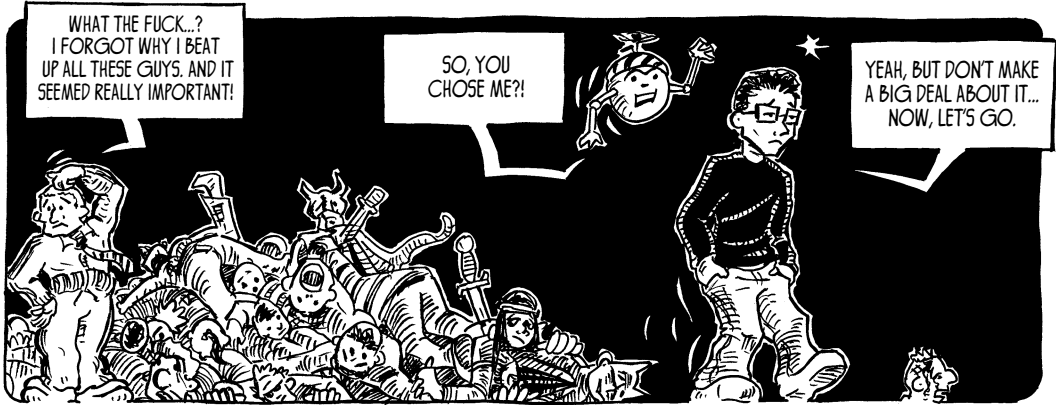
I SPEAK ALMOST ALL THE LANGUAGES IN EXISTENCE, I CAN CARRY YOUR WEIGHT FOR AT LEAST THIRTY FEET. I CAN READ MINDS, TELL TALES AND THANKS TO MY PROPELLER, MY BATTERIES ARE POWERED BY WIND, SO I'M EVEN COST-EFFICIENT...



I AM INVISIBLE. SO IT'S NOT THAT I'M EASY TO STYLIZE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRAW ME AT ALL! EH?

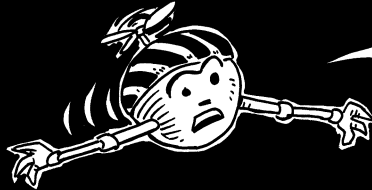


HEH... I'VE MADE MY CHOICE LONG BEFORE DRAWING THIS PAGE. AND IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHO'S THE NEW HERO... WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO EAGERLY AWAIT OUR NEXT INSTALLMENT...





ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE IS NO PLOT? I MEAN, REGARDING THAT PANEL ON THE LAST PAGE? ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FORGET ABOUT IT?



NO, IT'LL BE A PART OF THE PLOT, YOU KNOW THE OLD ADAGE: IF YOU SAY IN THE FIRST ACT THAT THERE IS A RIFLE HANGING ON THE WALL, IN THE SECOND OR THIRD ACT IT ABSOLUTELY MUST GO OFF...

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHY I DREW THAT PANEL, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT IT'LL LATER ON BECOME A PART OF OUR STORYLINE...

OH, YEAH?



TSK, TSK...

BUT FIRST I HAVE TO FOLLOW MY OWN STORY, MY OWN STAR, AND BOY DO I HAVE PLANS FOR IT.



ZMCOMICS

8



THERE WE GO! FROM NOW ON, THIS STAR IS GOING TO GO ITS OWN SEPARATE WAY. IT WON'T BE HERE TO DISTRACT MY READERS... IF IT COMES BACK, IT'LL BE IN A MANNER TRUE TO THIS COMIC...

WHY ARE YOU TAKING IT DOWN? WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH IT?

IS THIS ALSO A PART OF THE PLOT? AND... CAN YOU HURRY UP A BIT?

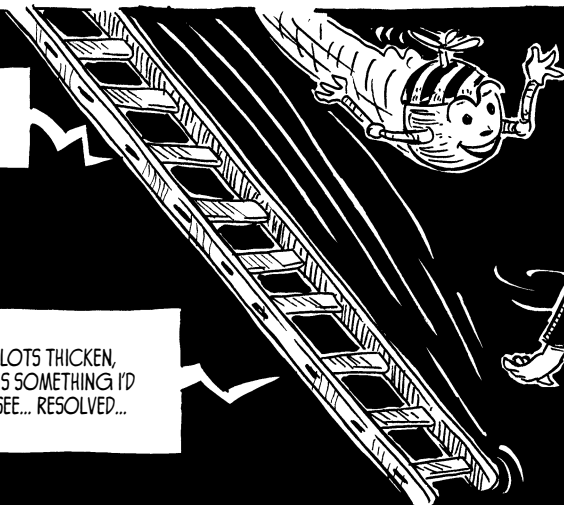
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR CONCERN, BUT... Hmm... YES, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE A PART OF THIS STORY... BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THE PLOT, JUST STICK TO HOLDING THE LADDER FOR ME, SO I DON'T FALL!

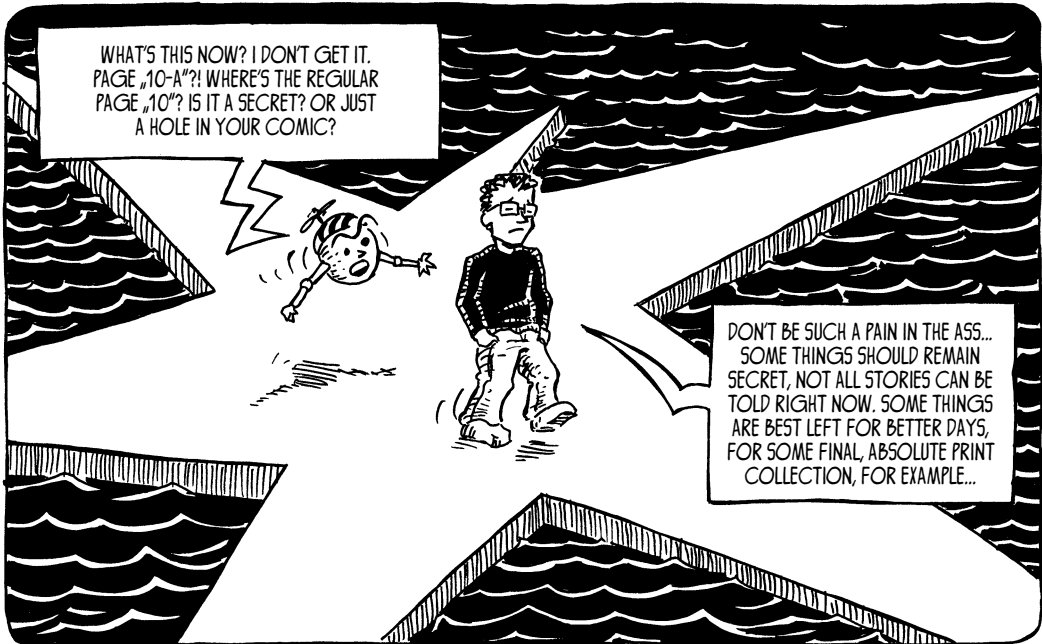


NOT A PART OF THE PLOT? BUT A PART OF THE STORY?

WELL, PLOTS THICKEN, AND THIS IS SOMETHING I'D RATHER SEE... RESOLVED...

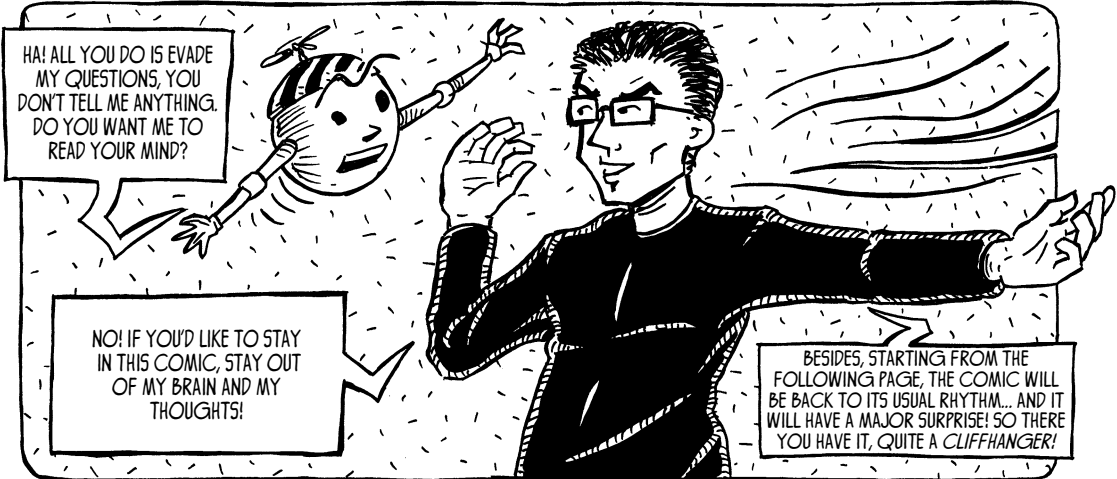
...SOMEDAY.





WHAT'S THIS NOW? I DON'T GET IT. PAGE „10-A“?! WHERE'S THE REGULAR PAGE „10“? IS IT A SECRET? OR JUST A HOLE IN YOUR COMIC?

DON'T BE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS... SOME THINGS SHOULD REMAIN SECRET, NOT ALL STORIES CAN BE TOLD RIGHT NOW. SOME THINGS ARE BEST LEFT FOR BETTER DAYS, FOR SOME FINAL, ABSOLUTE PRINT COLLECTION, FOR EXAMPLE...



HA! ALL YOU DO IS EVADE MY QUESTIONS, YOU DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING. DO YOU WANT ME TO READ YOUR MIND?

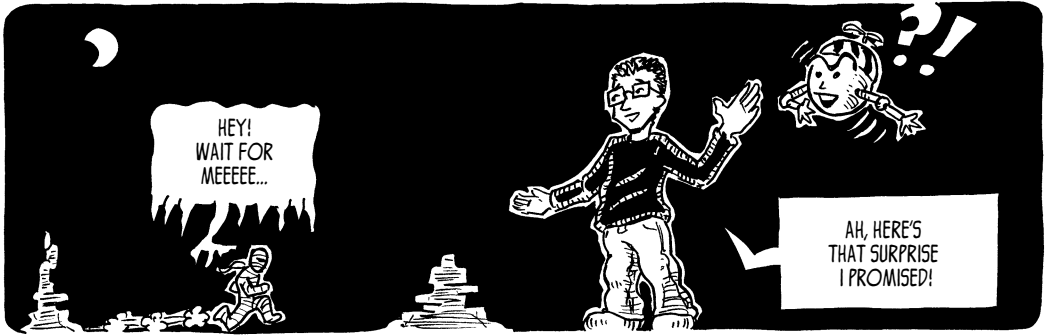
NO! IF YOU'D LIKE TO STAY IN THIS COMIC, STAY OUT OF MY BRAIN AND MY THOUGHTS!

BESIDES, STARTING FROM THE FOLLOWING PAGE, THE COMIC WILL BE BACK TO ITS USUAL RHYTHM... AND IT WILL HAVE A MAJOR SURPRISE! SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, QUITE A CLIFFHANGER!



HE'S RESISTING CONTROL... DOESN'T TRUST HIS NEW SIDEKICK...

SHIT! BUT HONESTLY, IT WOULD BE TOO EASY IF EVERYTHING WORKED RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO...



HEY!  
WAIT FOR  
MEEEEEE...

AH, HERE'S  
THAT SURPRISE  
I PROMISED!

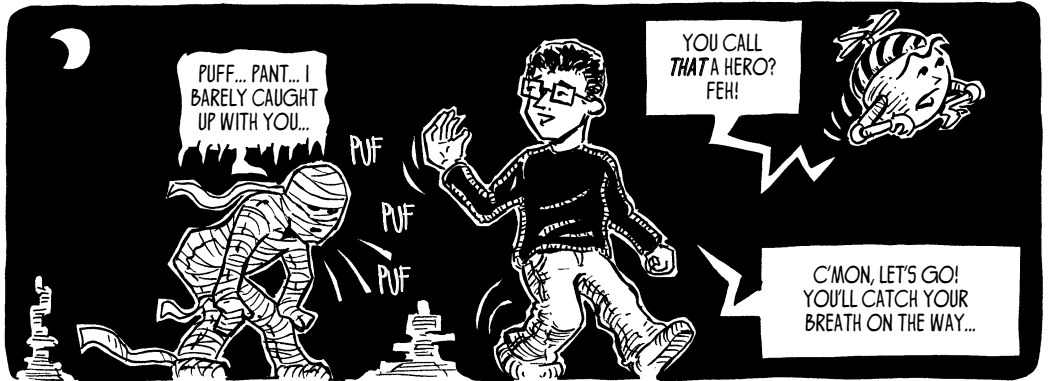


A MUMMY?!

YES, HE'S THE NEW  
MEMBER OF OUR  
ADVENTURING POSSE.

BUT... WHAT ABOUT  
HIS AUDITION?

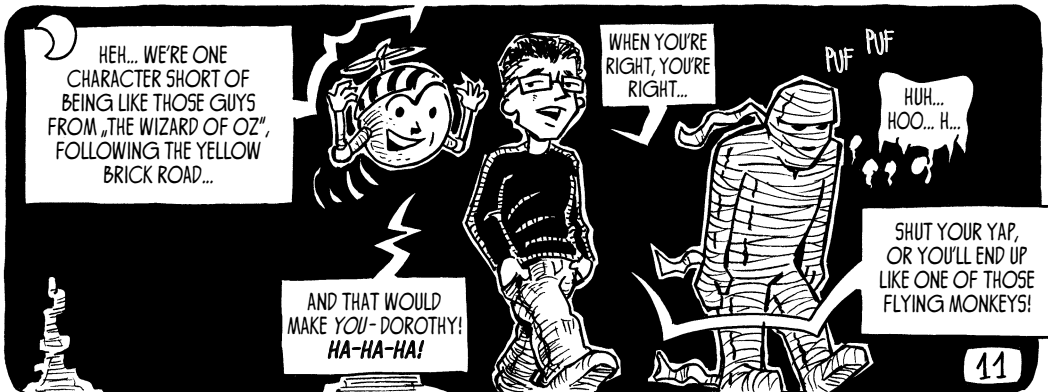
WELL, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID I WANTED  
TO DO A MUMMY COMICS SERIES. ALL  
THOSE FOLDS AND BANDAGES SEEMED  
BOTH EASY AND INTERESTING TO DRAW...



PUFF... PANT... I  
BARELY CAUGHT  
UP WITH YOU...

YOU CALL  
THAT A HERO?  
FEH!

C'MON, LET'S GO!  
YOU'LL CATCH YOUR  
BREATH ON THE WAY...



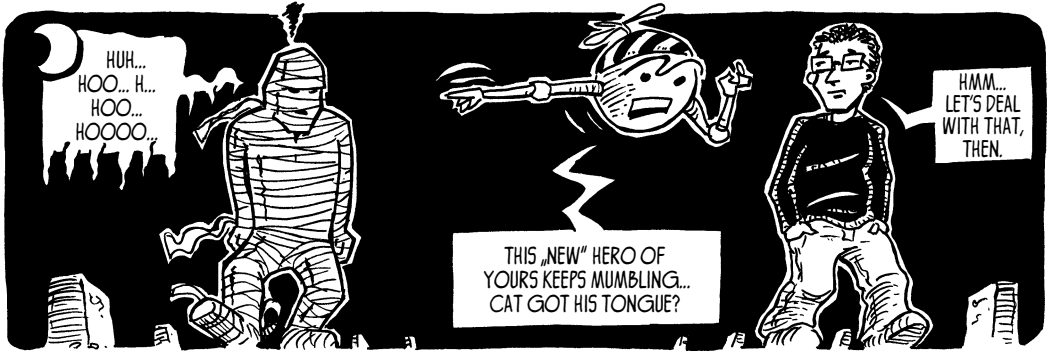
HEH... WE'RE ONE  
CHARACTER SHORT OF  
BEING LIKE THOSE GUYS  
FROM „THE WIZARD OF OZ“,  
FOLLOWING THE YELLOW  
BRICK ROAD...

AND THAT WOULD  
MAKE YOU- DOROTHY!  
HA-HA-HA!

WHEN YOU'RE  
RIGHT, YOU'RE  
RIGHT...

HUH...  
HOO... H...

SHUT YOUR YAP,  
OR YOU'LL END UP  
LIKE ONE OF THOSE  
FLYING MONKEYS!



# INTERMEZZO

YES, AFTER A CLIFFHANGER AT THE END OF THE PREVIOUS PAGE, I'M PROLONGING THE AGONY... I MEAN, THAT WASN'T REALLY MY PLAN, BUT I HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP.

YOU SEE, I KEEP HAVING THE BAD LUCK OF QUITTING MY COMICS 12 PAGES IN... I GOT CANNED FROM MY GIG IN *BIKER 5ZENE* AFTER TWELVE MONTHS, PRIOR TO THAT I GAVE UP AFTER 12 PAGES OF *DWARFLING*. LATER, I SLOWED MY WORK ON "THE CREATOR" CONSIDERABLY WHEN IT CAME TO DRAWING THE 13TH PAGE...

YEAH, QUITE A MISFORTUNE, NO QUALMS ABOUT IT!

AND SINCE CERTAIN "INDIVIDUALS" PREDICTED THAT THERE WON'T BE A 13TH PAGE THIS TIME AS WELL, I MADE A PROMISE TO BEAT UP ONE OF THOSE "INDIVIDUALS". THE MOST PERSISTENT ONE, IN FACT! EVEN THOUGH, DUE TO TWO PAGES WITH THE NUMBER 10, THIS IS ACTUALLY PAGE 14, BUT ITS PAGE NUMBER IS 13, SO IT'S TIME FOR ME TO KEEP MY PROMISE.

NOW, SINCE I'M NOT A BRUISER, I'LL SEND MY MUMMY TO DO THE DEED...

BUT... THE ISSUE WILL BE LATE! PLEASE, DON'T, I BEG Y-

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT'S THE REAL FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

HE HE HE

TUP TUP TUP

NOW WE CAN PICK WHERE UP WE LEFT OFF...

THAT'S NO EXCU... HEY! OVER THERE!

THIS ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING, IT IS QUITE A SOUND BUSINESS... YAPPA - YAPPA.

HEY, GUYS! YOU MADE IT!



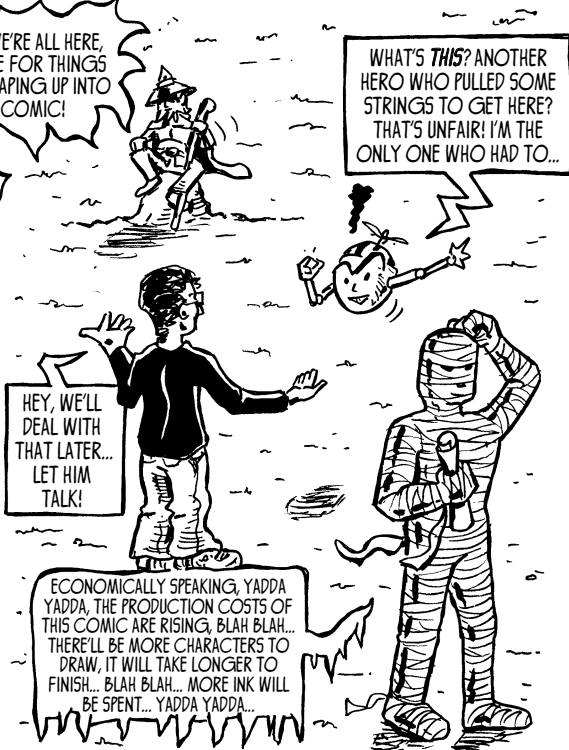
I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR YOU!

BUT NOW WE'RE ALL HERE, AND IT'S TIME FOR THINGS TO START SHAPING UP INTO A REAL COMIC!

HEY, WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER... LET HIM TALK!

ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING, YADDA YADDA, THE PRODUCTION COSTS OF THIS COMIC ARE RISING, BLAH BLAH... THERE'LL BE MORE CHARACTERS TO DRAW, IT WILL TAKE LONGER TO FINISH... BLAH BLAH... MORE INK WILL BE SPENT... YADDA YADDA...

WHAT'S THIS? ANOTHER HERO WHO PULLED SOME STRINGS TO GET HERE? THAT'S UNFAIR! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD TO...



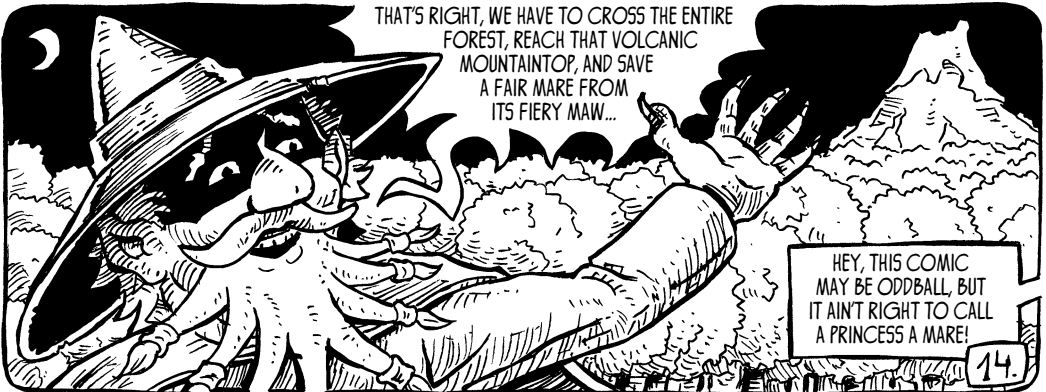
IT'S TRUE... WE HAVE A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US... THERE'LL BE TIME TO TALK. THE WOODS ARE OLD AND VAST, BUT NOT TOO DANGEROUS...

...SO THE READERS MIGHT GET BORED IF WE DON'T TALK ALONG THE WAY...

AND NOW HE'S CALLING THE SHOTS! THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT DIDN'T MENTION ANY TRAVELLING!

WELL, WHAT'S AN ADVENTURE WITHOUT TRAVELLING!

THE SITUATION IS GETTING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, BUT... WHAT'S THE HARM?



THAT'S RIGHT, WE HAVE TO CROSS THE ENTIRE FOREST, REACH THAT VOLCANIC MOUNTAINTOP, AND SAVE A FAIR MARE FROM ITS FIERY MAW...

HEY, THIS COMIC MAY BE ODDBALL, BUT IT AIN'T RIGHT TO CALL A PRINCESS A MARE!



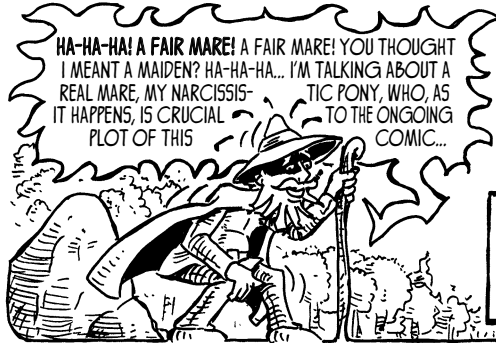
A PRINCESS?!  
WHAT PRINCESS?!

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE,  
SOMEONE WHO'D  
INSULT A PRINCESS  
BY CALLING HER  
A MARE?

WELL, YOU  
JUST SAID THAT  
WE MUST...



...SAVE A FAIR  
MARE... THAT'S  
NOT A VERY  
NICE WAY TO...



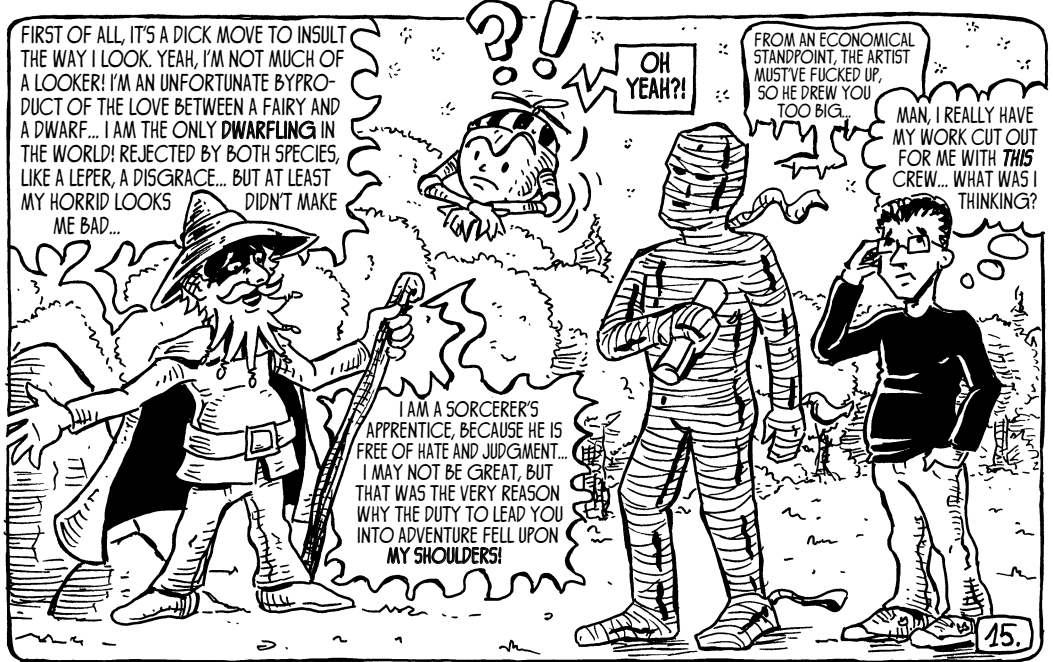
HA-HA-HA! A FAIR MARE! A FAIR MARE! YOU THOUGHT  
I MEANT A MAIDEN? HA-HA-HA... I'M TALKING ABOUT A  
REAL MARE, MY NARCISSIS- TIC PONY, WHO, AS  
IT HAPPENS, IS CRUCIAL TO THE ONGOING  
PLOT OF THIS COMIC...



HAR-HAR... VERY FUNNY... AND  
WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC  
OF FUNNY BUSINESS, LET'S  
TALK ABOUT YOUR LOOK!  
WHO ARE YOU?



YAPPA-BLAH...  
THERE'S NOTHING  
ECONOMICAL  
HERE...



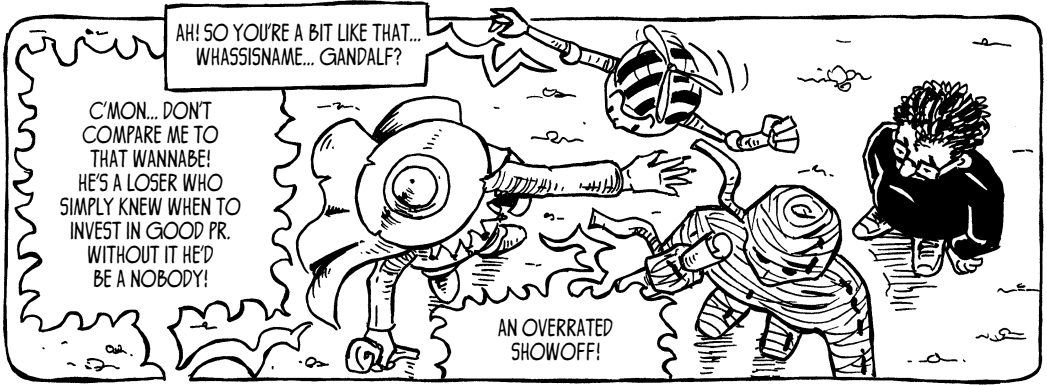
FIRST OF ALL, IT'S A DICK MOVE TO INSULT  
THE WAY I LOOK. YEAH, I'M NOT MUCH OF  
A LOOKER! I'M AN UNFORTUNATE BYPROD-  
UCT OF THE LOVE BETWEEN A FAIRY AND  
A DWARF... I AM THE ONLY DWARFLING IN  
THE WORLD! REJECTED BY BOTH SPECIES,  
LIKE A LEPER, A DISGRACE... BUT AT LEAST  
MY HORRID LOOKS DIDN'T MAKE  
ME BAD...

OH  
YEAH?!

FROM AN ECONOMICAL  
STANDPOINT, THE ARTIST  
MUST'VE FUCKED UP,  
SO HE DREW YOU  
TOO BIG.

MAN, I REALLY HAVE  
MY WORK CUT OUT  
FOR ME WITH THIS  
CREW... WHAT WAS I  
THINKING?

I AM A SORCERER'S  
APPRENTICE, BECAUSE HE IS  
FREE OF HATE AND JUDGMENT...  
I MAY NOT BE GREAT, BUT  
THAT WAS THE VERY REASON  
WHY THE DUTY TO LEAD YOU  
INTO ADVENTURE FELL UPON  
MY SHOULDERS!



AH! SO YOU'RE A BIT LIKE THAT...  
WHASSISNAME... GANDALF?

C'MON... DONT  
COMPARE ME TO  
THAT WANNABE!  
HE'S A LOSER WHO  
SIMPLY KNEW WHEN TO  
INVEST IN GOOD PR.  
WITHOUT IT HE'D  
BE A NOBODY!

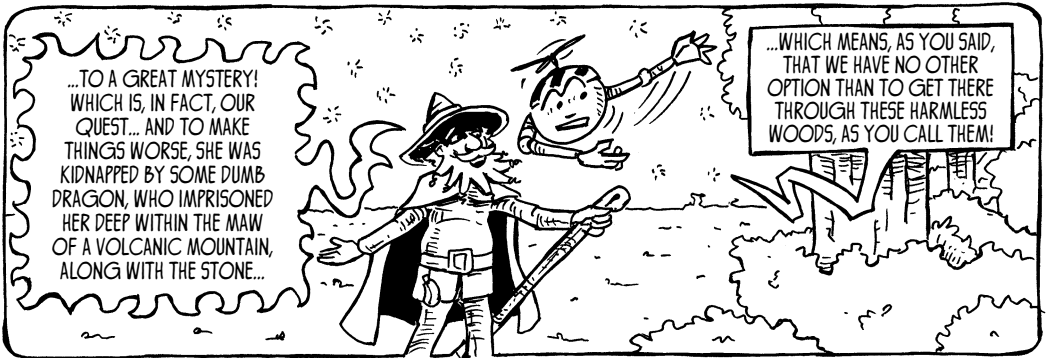
AN OVERRATED  
SHOWOFF!



NOW THESE ARE OUR  
TRUE PROPORTIONS!

OKAY, SO THERE'S  
PLENTY FAT TO CHEW...  
BUT FIRST, IF YOU'D BE  
SO KIND AS TO EXPLAIN  
WHY THE FLYING FUCK  
DO WE NEED TO SAVE  
THAT MARE OF YOURS?

DONT GET ME STARTED...  
I GET MAD AT THE VERY  
MENTION OF HER... DURING  
ONE OF OUR FIGHTS, THE  
NARCISSOID IDIOT STOLE  
A PRECIOUS STONE FROM  
ME, WHICH HOLDS THE KEY...



...TO A GREAT MYSTERY!  
WHICH IS, IN FACT, OUR  
QUEST... AND TO MAKE  
THINGS WORSE, SHE WAS  
KIDNAPPED BY SOME DUMB  
DRAGON, WHO IMPRISONED  
HER DEEP WITHIN THE MAW  
OF A VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN,  
ALONG WITH THE STONE...

...WHICH MEANS, AS YOU SAID,  
THAT WE HAVE NO OTHER  
OPTION THAN TO GET THERE  
THROUGH THESE HARMLESS  
WOODS, AS YOU CALL THEM!



FASTER, MAN... NO TIME  
TO DAWDLE... THE ADVENTURE  
HAS BEGUN! THIS IS YOUR  
COMIC, AFTER ALL!

YES, THE COMIC  
IS MINE! BUT THIS  
ADVENTURE STILL  
BELONGS TO  
YOU!

HERE I  
COME!

16.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# From my archives...

## Somewhere between comics and the ghetto.

For many years I've been hearing moans that our comics scene is in great peril, since it's been shunned to the side, to the *ghetto*. **The horror!** They'll be sending us to the gas chambers next, to complete the tale of our tragic demise.

Is there something concerning our predicament that we don't know about? Why are only *comics* in the ghetto? Or maybe...

Do you know of any hit plays nowadays? Who are the best actors of the stage? Hurm, now I feel bad for them as well. They are also in some sort of a *ghetto*: they are few and nobody really cares about what they're doing, apart from themselves and a small group of equally *ghettoized* fans. They're not like, say, fans of jazz, they always have some festivals broadcast live on TV, which.... almost nobody watches. They're there simply as filler for the late night program. People usually look weirdly at "those" with strange haircuts, be they hairy or shaven, "those" who like the underground scene, heavy metal or rock. And don't get me started on the fans of classical music. Everyone keeps patting them on the back, all the while laughing at them when those very same backs are turned.

Well, folks, everyone's got their own little *ghetto*, and everybody spends their lives getting upset that "the others" don't understand or tolerate them. Occasionally, it's someone's turn to shine, to get the glory and the fans, as was the case with comics back in the day, and then it's back to their own little *ghetto*, while the glory is passed on to the new kids on the block. And those kids will soon enough be replaced by even newer kids, followed by the turbo new kids, cyber new kids, and so on and so forth.... no need for further explanations.

And so it's up to us to take care of our little *ghetto*, like housewives tending to their flowers on the terrace, and to await the day when we'll get another brief glimpse of glory that will help increase the numbers of our ghetto-folk, or should I say - flowers?

Let's not forget all the things the musicians and movie actors do, so as to keep their stars burning bright. How many times have we witnessed some beloved or reviled star go public with their drug addiction? How many different lovers have they had, how many pregnancies? How many fabricated affairs from musicians or actors: cheating scandals, addiction rehabs, coming out of the closet? How many times have they denied it all, only to confirm it, and so on? Just so as they don't lose that fame. Just to keep the attention of us mere mortals focused on *them*.

But us poor humble comics authors, we're not like that. That's why our ghetto isn't as big as theirs. But that is also why those that come to dwell within it never leave it willingly. Honest and quality work has a lasting value. While in music, for example, people are quick to forget those that do not regularly expose their dirty laundry according to the tried and true recipe for success, those that aren't "coincidentally" having some scandalous affair these days. Still, I don't want to be too hard on our beloved musical arts, the good works there will withstand the test of time and be saved from oblivion, but again by a small group of true fans, who are stuck in their own little *ghetto*.

We have to spread our wings and broaden the borders of *our ghetto*. Nobody else is going to do it for us! We are the ones who chose it, so we are the ones who should take care of it. Who else has the right to bring *order* to our ghetto?

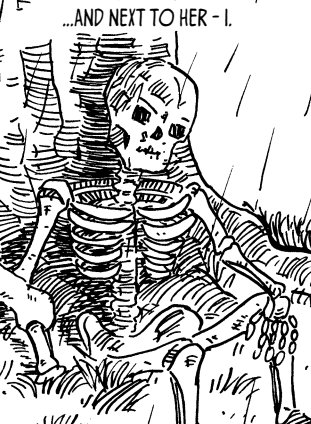
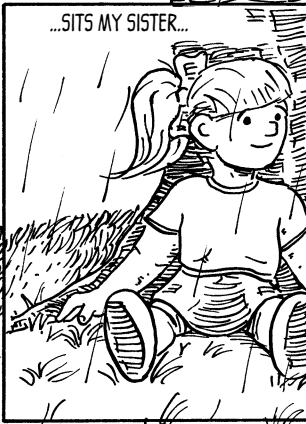
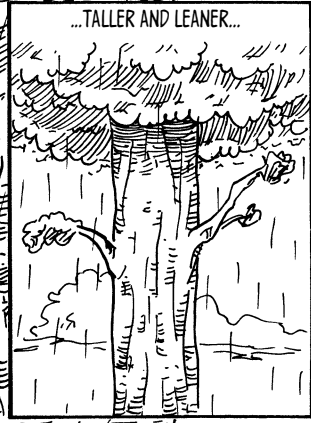
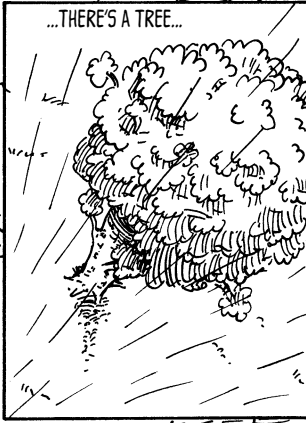
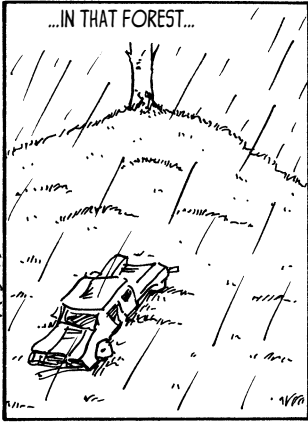
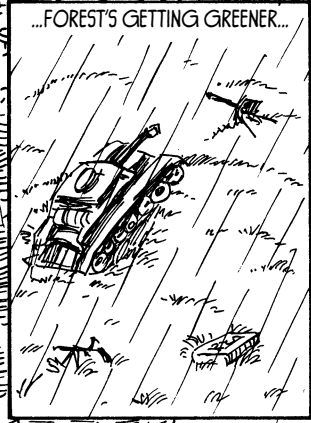
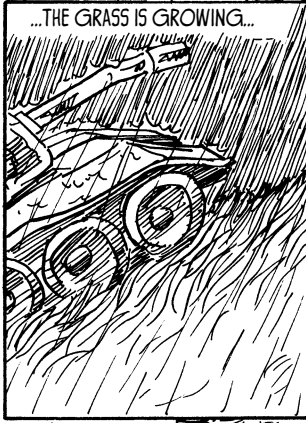
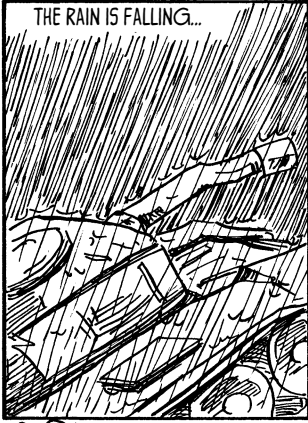
Maybe I'm wrong, as I usually am?

Or rather: *Maybe I was wrong when I wrote this, eleven years ago?*

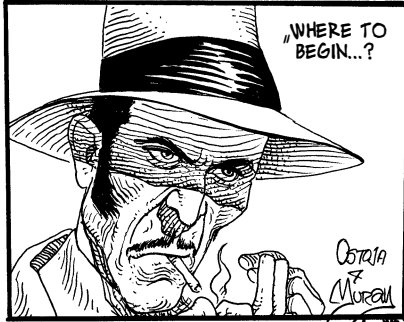
(Originally published in **Strip Vesti #121**, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001.)

From my archives...

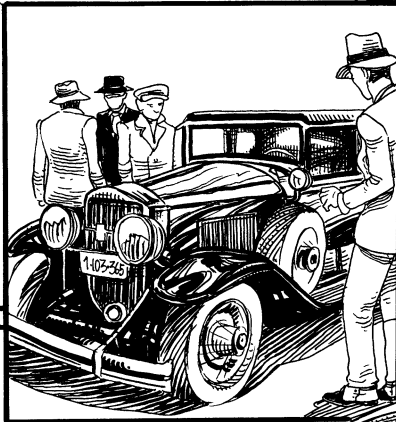
# THE RAIN IS FALLING, THE GRASS IS GROWING...



ZM91

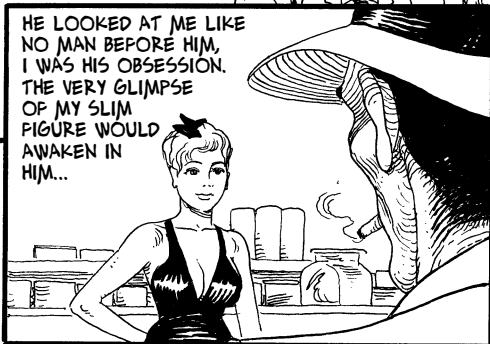


IT SEEMED LIKE ANY OTHER LOVE STORY,  
 WASN'T EVEN THAT LONG AGO...



I FELT SO IMPORTANT,  
 AND WHY WOULDN'T I?  
 OUT OF ALL THE OTHER  
 FEMME PATALES,  
 HE CHOSE ME.

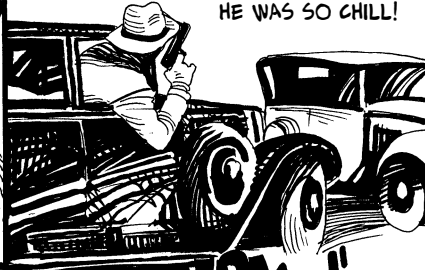
A HANDSOME  
 GUY TOOK A SHINE  
 TO ME.



OTHERS WERE SIMPLY NOTCHES ON  
 HIS BEDPOST, A BIT OF FUN ON THE  
 SIDE. BUT ME? I WAS HIS EVERYTHING.  
 HE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT ME,  
 SCARED THAT HE MIGHT SOMEHOW  
 HURT ME... HE WAS A MAN, AFTER  
 ALL. IN TIME I LEARNED TO LOVE  
 HIM. WE WOULD LOOK AT EACH  
 OTHER EVERY DAY. WHILE HE WOULD  
 BURN ALL OTHERS, HE ONLY HAD  
 EYES FOR ME, I KNEW THAT...



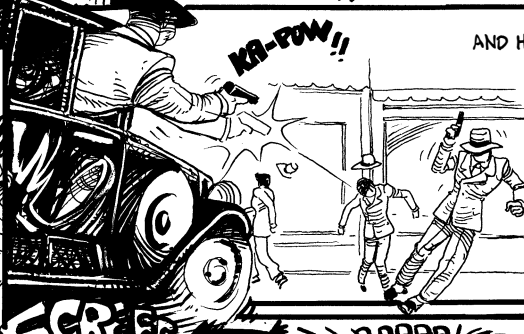
A STRANGE URGE GREW WITHIN ME WITH EACH PASSING DAY. I WANTED TO BE HIS, EVEN IF THAT WILD PASSION BURNED AND CONSUMED ME.



HE WAS SO CHILL!



STRIDING SO CASUALLY, WITH THAT ANGELIC SMILE OF HIS.



AND HE WAS ALL MINE.



HE DIDN'T TALK MUCH, HE WAS MORE OF A MAN OF ACTION. STILL, ALL OUR DAYS BECAME THE SAME... AND I GREW BORED.



Ostoria  
Muroam

BUT HE WAS SO GENTLE AND KIND...

WHY IS EVERY ETERNAL LOVE SO BRIEF? AND JUST WHEN THE MOMENT CAME, WHEN I THOUGHT I WOULD FINALLY BE HIS, WHEN ALL THE CURTAINS WERE LIFTED, WHEN IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYMORE WHAT MIGHT COME AFTER, HE GOT HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE.



2.

AH, MEN... DAMMIT,  
WHY ARE THEY ALL THE SAME?

THEY GET YOUR HOPES UP, AND THEN...  
THEY LEAVE YOU OUT TO DRY.

I EVEN FELT MYSELF GETTING WET!

THAT WAS SO EMBARRASSING.  
BUT STILL, I DIDN'T LEAVE HIM.  
I'M NOT LIKE THAT.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE THERE  
FOR HIM, WHEN EVERYONE  
ELSE ABANDONED HIM.

I WAS THERE TO  
GREET HIM WITH  
A SMILE...

I WASN'T VERY  
GOOD WITH  
WORDS, BUT  
THERE WERE  
SO MANY TIMES  
I WANTED TO  
TELL HIM

HOW MUCH I  
LOVE HIM!

I FELT THE CRAZY  
RUSH OF HIS BLOOD.  
HE WAS A TRUE HEIR  
TO THE FLAME, A GOD  
OF PASSION!

EVEN LIKE THIS,  
IMPRISONED WITHIN THESE  
FOUR DARK WALLS, HE KNEW  
HOW TO LIGHT UP ALL  
THE OTHERS.

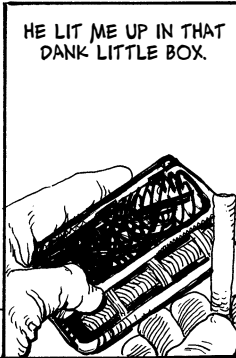
AND EACH AND EVERY ONE  
OF THEM YEARNED AND WAITED  
JUST FOR HIM... STILL, HE  
WAS THINKING ONLY  
ABOUT ME.



I FELT SO IMPORTANT!  
I FELT AS THOUGH THE  
UNIVERSE REVOLVED  
AROUND...



...ME.  
BUT HE...



HE LIT ME UP IN THAT  
DANK LITTLE BOX.



AND I HAD SUCH  
BIG DREAMS.



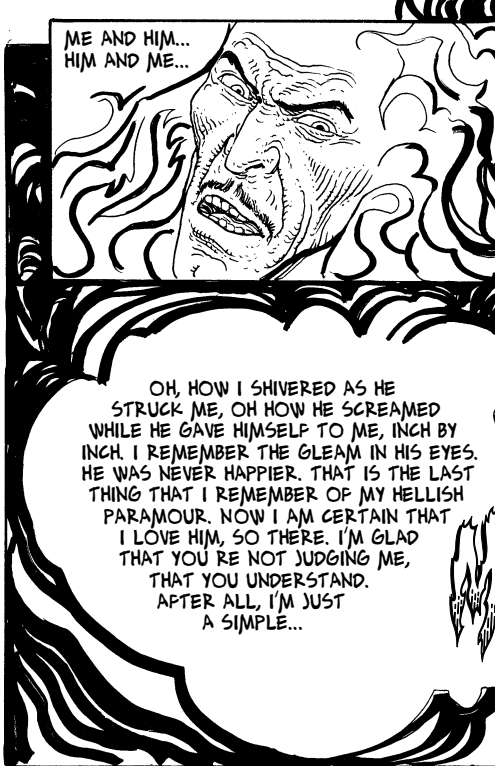
WHAT HAPPENED THEN? WHAT KIND OF  
A QUESTION IS THAT? YOU KNOW THEY  
STILL DON'T DELIVER MAIL TO HEAVEN...



...THAT'S ME TRYING  
TO KEEP MY SENSE OF  
HUMOR. WHAT HAPPENED  
WAS THIS...



WE'RE BURNING  
TOGETHER IN HELL  
NOW. BURNING FROM  
OUR DEPRAVED  
PASSION.



ME AND HIM...  
HIM AND ME...

OH, HOW I SHIVERED AS HE  
STRUCK ME, OH HOW HE SCREAMED  
WHILE HE GAVE HIMSELF TO ME, INCH BY  
INCH. I REMEMBER THE GLEAM IN HIS EYES.  
HE WAS NEVER HAPPIER. THAT IS THE LAST  
THING THAT I REMEMBER OF MY HELLISH  
PARAMOUR. NOW I AM CERTAIN THAT  
I LOVE HIM, SO THERE. I'M GLAD  
THAT YOU'RE NOT JUDGING ME,  
THAT YOU UNDERSTAND.  
AFTER ALL, I'M JUST  
A SIMPLE...



...AND I HAVE  
NO REGRETS.  
AFTER ALL, HE  
WAS THE ONE.

TEXT: M. OSTOJIC  
ART: S. MURAMORIC  
10 X 2012

# INTERVIEW: Vladimir Tadić - Dole

*Fun for the Whole Family* is published by Lavirint. The men responsible for this woefully unknown publishing miracle are its publisher Dekara and Vladimir Tadić, the writer and creator. This time, "Just a comic..." brings you an exclusive interview with Vladimir Tadić, better known as "Djole" on numerous comics forums.



Photo: Dušan Mladenović

**Fun For The Whole Family started in 2007, so this comes off as an interview celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. When did you get the idea for the comic? How long did it take for that idea to come to fruition?**

Our dearly beloved Dejan Đoković (to the wider public known as "Dekara") had an idea to start something akin to a regional comics magazine, so he asked me if I could come up with a short series, to be drawn by Mladen Oljača, who wanted to take a break from doing caricatures in Svet. I came up with several ideas, but Dekara was taken with the one with the monster-hunting family, which combined humor and horror, and - that was it!

...if by "that was it" we include about a year of preparations before issue #0 even saw the light of day. After the first couple of scripts, Dekara decided that *FFTFW* should be published as its own series, and not as part of the said magazine (a year later, that magazine will morph into *Sergej Strip*), and then U sat down and plotted the course of the series, realizing along the way that it's gonna take around 100 issues to tell the story of the Smith family, without it feeling rushed or stretched. One hundred issues, or five seasons, as the youngster call 'em nowadays - each segment would be one larger arc. We've finished the first one, and now we're almost halfway done with the second. **Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Did you already have the idea for this series, or was the comic created as part of an idea to make new Serbian comics for Lavirint?**

The latter, like I said. The Smiths were created only after my talks with Dekara. Of course, the core theme of family values (or lack thereof) under harsh circumstances have interested me long before, as did the whole mythology that is at the background of *FFTFW*, which is now slowly, issue by issue, coming to the forefront. But sometimes, as it often happens to the inexperienced writers, ideas would come first, and characters second. Here it's the other way around - the Smiths carry the series, everything else is secondary. That is the product of my work with *Lavirint*.

**Fun featured many comics authors on its pages, both already acclaimed authors and people who were trying to break into comics. Several artists came to the Serbian comics scene thanks to this series. It's up to you to list all the artists - both regular and guests!**

The first would be the aforementioned Mladen Oljača, who drew five issues (and one New Year's Special), and who was the original artist on the series. Oljača isn't working on *FFTFW* anymore, but his flawless sense of visual narration set the scene for the type of artwork we wanted to feature on the series.

Then, the artist who gave us the definitive visual look of *FFTFW* - Vladimir Kuzmanov, the man capable of drawing everything, from "talking heads" to esoteric multiversal explosions. Kuzmanov joined us a couple of months after we created *Fun*, but it feels like he was there from the very beginning, and he drew most of our pages (thus setting a new record for the younger generation of comics artists). Denis Dupanović, with his classic bande-desinee cartoonish style started off doing short jokey backup strips, but as his style matured, we started giving him longer stories, so he did the artwork on two full issues (one of which is everyone's favorite - "Sex with Jenny Smith") and he's currently working on the third. Denis has the perfect mix of humor and horror, the two pillars of *Fun for the whole family*.

Then we have Maksim Šimić, who had the daunting task of finishing the final 96 pages of season 1, in issues #18-20, and later he also drew #24. And let's not forget the famous Mihajlo Dimitrievski - The Mičo, who was our cover artist for a long time.

When it comes to guest-artists, first we have Darko Macan, because we wanted him to disprove his claims that he doesn't know how to draw, then we have unete Bane Kerac, Mikica and Peka Ivanović, Vladan Nikolić... and in our jubilee issue #25 we had stories drawn by an all-star team of Goran Sudžuka, Tonči Zonjić, Milan Jovanović, Vuja Radovanović and Dalibor Talajić. In other words - so many great artists. We were really fortunate to have them all.

**Which other artist can we expect on the pages of Fun in the near future?**

That's top secret! Which means that even I don't know...

**The project grew over time, as well as your ambitions and plans. What are your plans now, after five years' worth of experience?**

Minimal. The general apathy that has spread over this part of the world has affected the comics creators as well. There's no money, and enthusiasm wanes after so many years. Plus, there's so little time, everything was much easier when we were young and beautiful (collectively speaking; I was never young, and Dekara was never beautiful). We push on the only way we know how, but I can't say I'm overly optimistic.

Which shouldn't come as a surprise, though. That gloomy seagull from Gaston comes off as elated, compared to me.

**Can we expect any surprises from the Fun-Lavirint production team? Are you thinking about some other series you might want to write?**

That's not very likely. Like I said before, I don't have the time, and as the episodes went along, I realized I can put (nearly) everything I come up with within the pages of *Fun*. It's annoying when I come up with an idea that can only fit in, say... issue #87. But what can you do? Better then, than never.

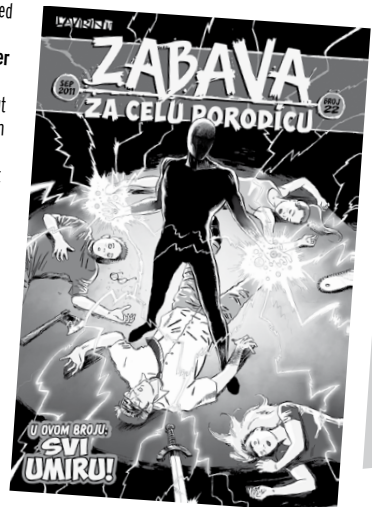
Plus, I'd really hate to tear my stories down to fragments consisting of several pages, just so that we could get artists to draw them - our minimum is 22 pages. And it's hard to find artists willing to do that many.

**Are you planning on expanding to foreign markets?**

Eh, the legendary foreign market, where the grass is always greener... Dekara is working on that, if I'm not mistaken, but I'm not too interested in that. I have my story that I want to tell, and I'll let the publisher worry about where it might be published. Ultimately, *Cat Claw*, which is a Serbian comic closest to our styling and sensibilities, that is to say, mainstream, based on American comics, found its market here, regardless of it being published abroad.

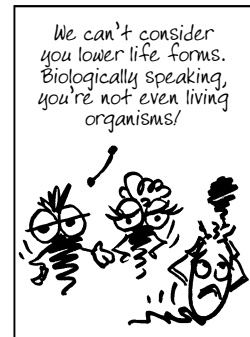
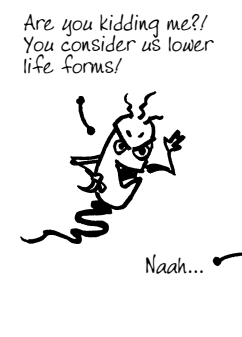
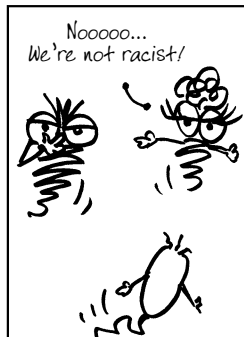
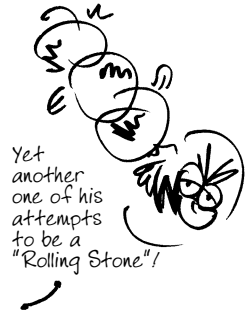
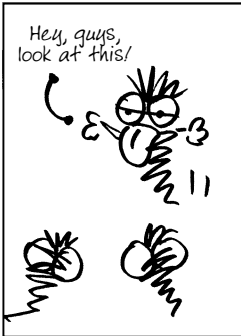
**Fun ranks among the longest-running series in the entire Former Yugoslavia, based on the number of pages. Which comics does it still have to beat, or, more precisely - is there a comic in these parts that it hasn't overcome already?**

I think we've left unete Bane's *Cat Claw* behind, and now we're after *Black Rock* and *Lun, King of Midnight...* and what else is there, after those, those two Partisans, *Mirko and Slavko*? We might beat them in a hundred years, maybe.



# Germs

by Zlatko Milenković



# THE SILLY BIKERS

by: zmcomics



# THE SILLY BIKERS

by: zmcomics

