GHOOK

POPOSHAK & FLOWERS

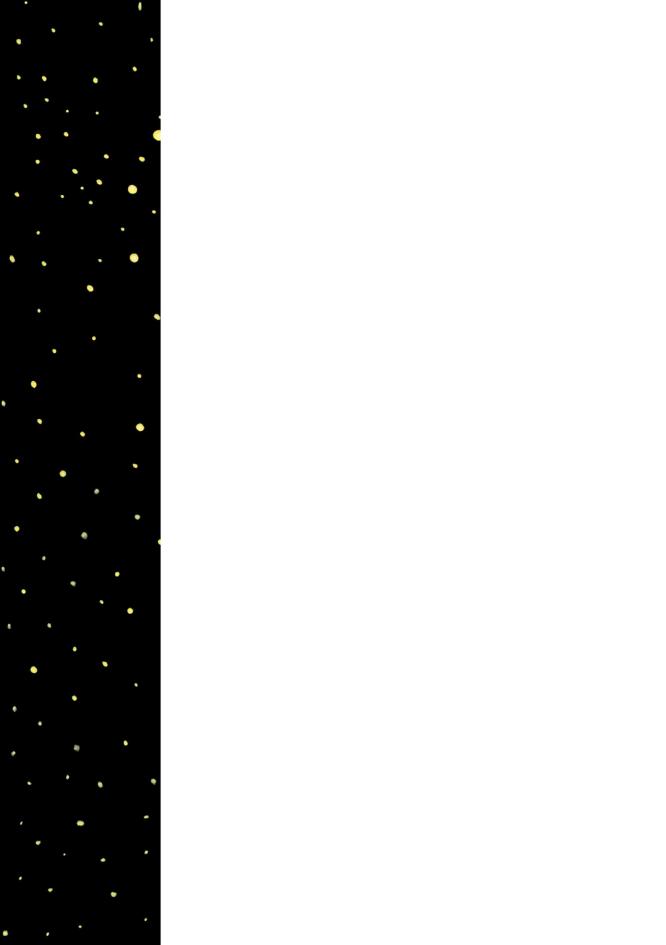
COSMIC BARN



WOSTOK - VLADAN NIKOLIĆ







ebook

POPOSHAK & FLOWERS

COSMIC BARN



STORY BY: WOSTOK

ART BY: VLADAN NIKOLIĆ







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Following the White Beard Road

very unusual comics book, not just for Serbia but anywhere, Poposhak and Flowers are a phantasmagorical epic in the making, and a post-modern intellectual game filled with cultural references, and a social commentary and a naïve children's fairy tale. It is above all a confident and triumphant artistic work, with a clear sensibility and poetics, which can be easily differentiated from any other work.

The weird world where Poposhak and her clever dog Flowers are roaming, has its own set of rules, which we just need to identify. In the episode Cosmic Barn, these two heroes start from the grave of Poposhak's mother and follow the beard of her father in the hope that it will lead them to her father, who symbolises safety and hope in the very often horrible and cruel world. Similar to the yellow brick road that leads Dorothy and her dog Toto through the world of Oz, the beard takes them through bizarre landscapes, and even, like in Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, into dreams. The road is not without obstacles, and the most difficult one is a four-headed monster called Hunchback. However, the real adventure starts when they enter the gigantic cosmic ship, actually, a cosmic barn. The plot twists in unexpected



Hunchback

ways, just like Daddy's beard, and even though our heroes sometimes exhausted. are they continue their pursuit, as there is nothing else for them except the road that they are on. In spite of the uncertainty of the final goal, it provides the purpose to their lives and to the story. Even when they reach her father's coffin, it is only an illusion, and the beard goes further, through the hole at the bottom of the coffin, into the infinity of the universe.

The full story is separated into smaller episodes with sinister titles (Cosmic Emptiness, The Funeral, The Box Without Nothing) and can be considered as miniature, but well-rounded stories, within the main plot. There is also a difference in tone and visual approach between stories; from morbid fields with skulls, through the



Laika, the Mother

never-ending corridors of a Kafka-esque metropolis, to orange fields with Homonculuses. There is also a host of crazy characters they meet along the way such as the little bear Mr Pedal and Flowers' long-lost sister - the famous astronaut - Laika. As in the aforementioned Wizard of Oz, this pursuit becomes a collective effort of a group of unexpected heroes.

Danilo Milošev Wostok, the widely recognised comics author from Serbia, has found on this occasion an excellent new illustrator for Poposhak and Flowers. After his collaboration with Borislav Grabović Grabowski, an exceptional artist from his hometown Vršac, the artistic work has been taken up by the equally talented Vladan Nikolić from Zrenjanin. Nikolić's style is soft and gentle, like in children's picture books, but with power and drama when necessary. Special praises should go to his colouring, which is rich and diverse and perfectly complements both the drawings and text in the creation of a new world.

Even though, as Wostok has explained, the comics began with his interest in his daughter Lola's vocabulary and understanding of the world around her, in Cosmic Barn it is obvious that authors let their imagination to develop quite an incredible story.

Pavle Zelić, writer and comics critic

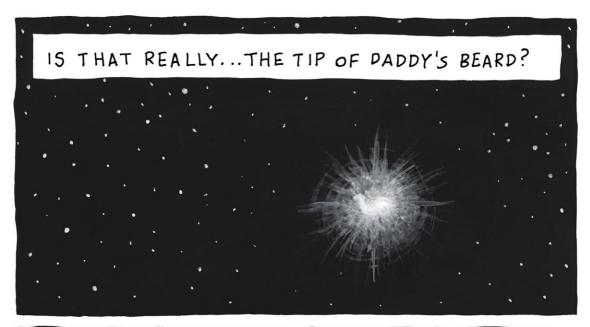
Wostok Vladan Nikolić

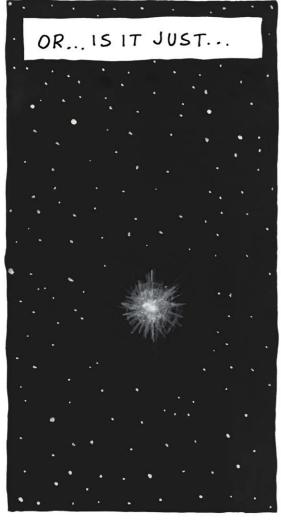
Poposhak & Flowers COSMIC BARN

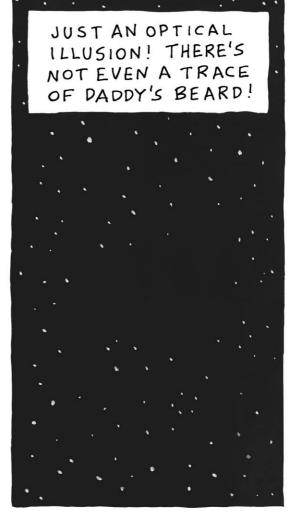


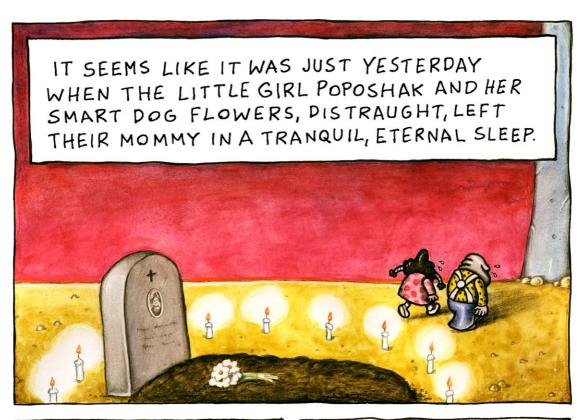
TWINKLING

WHITISH TWINKLE CAN BE MADE OUT THE DEEP, COSMIC NIGHT ... IN















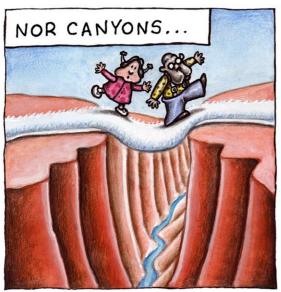








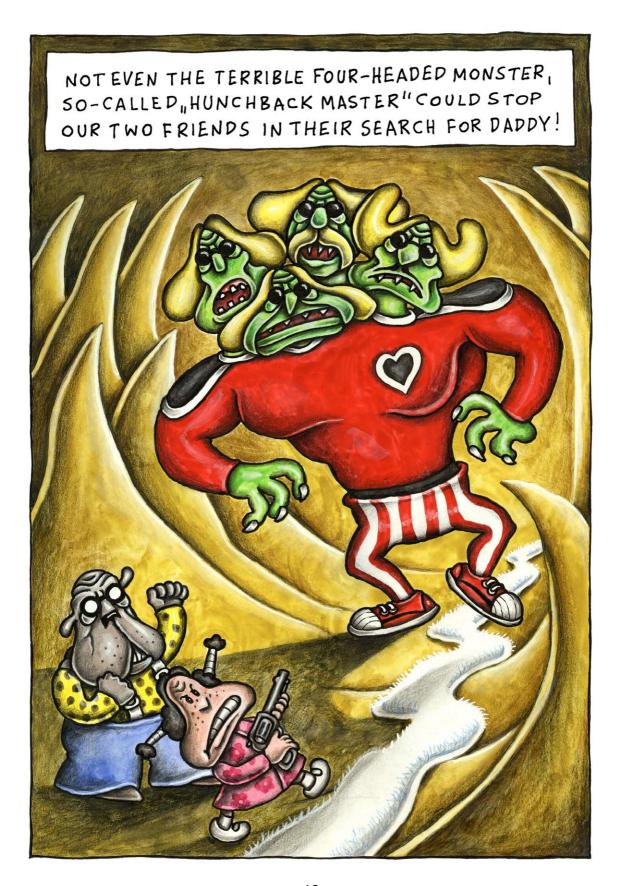














AND FATIGUE WOULD OWERCOME THEM...



AND THEIR LITTLE HEADS WOULD FALL INTO A DEEP SLEEP...







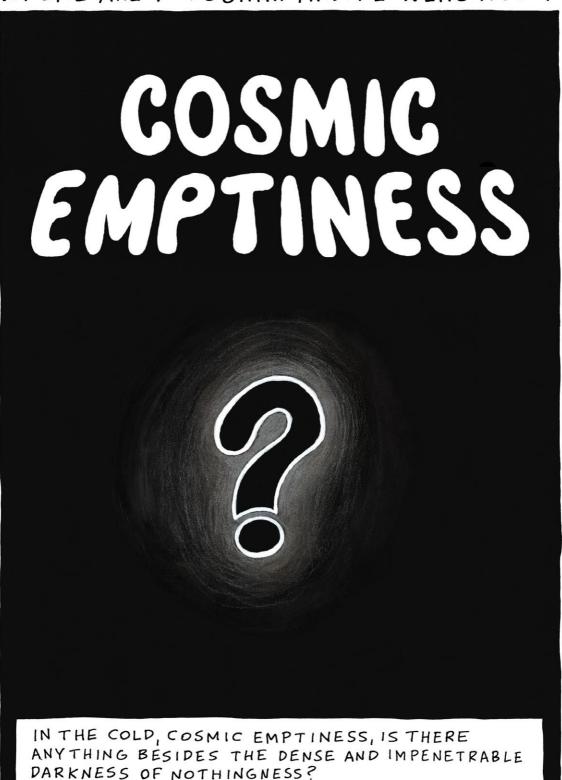




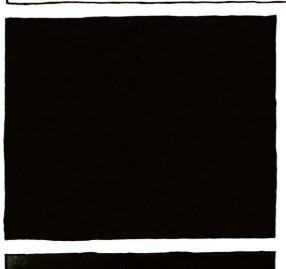


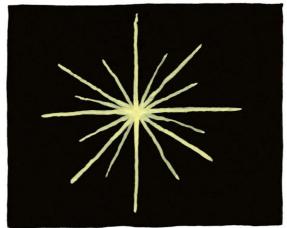


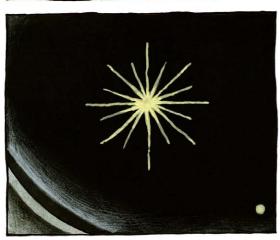
WHERE ARE POPOSHAK AND FLOWERS NOW?

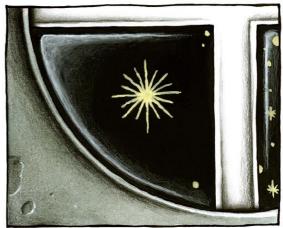


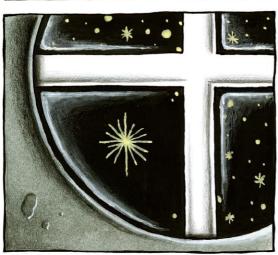
IF WE CLOSE OUR EYES FOR JUST A MOMENT, AND THEN OPEN THEM AGAIN, MAYBE WE ACTUALLY CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING IN THE COLD, DARK NOTHINGNESS...













WE COULD FIND A SURPRISE IN SOME UNKNOWN PLACE ...





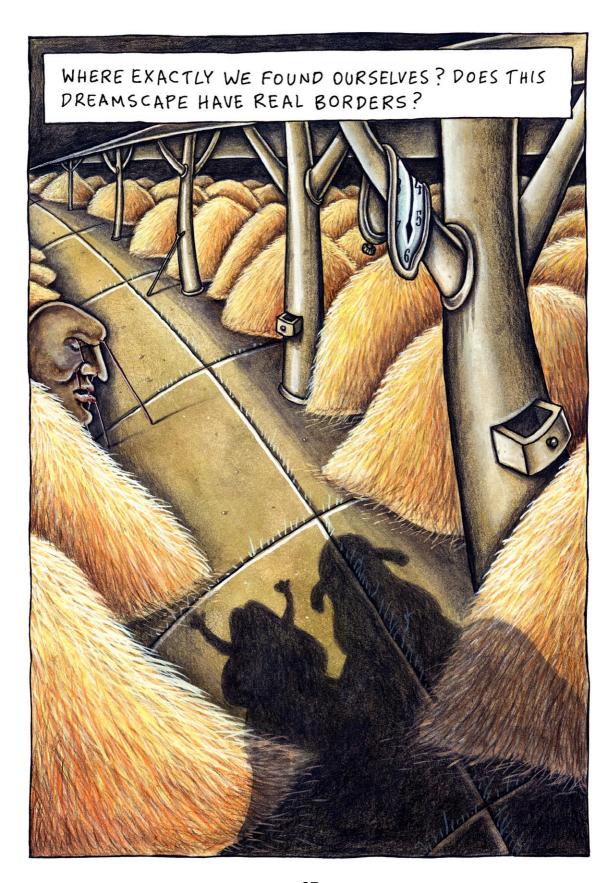






BEFORE YOU, AN ENDLESS STRING OF WINDOWS, ROWS OF PILLARS WITH NO END IN SIGHT, AND HAY STACKS THAT EXTEND OUT AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...





BUT LET'S GO OUTSIDE, JUST FOR A MOMENT. MAYBE THE GLIMMER OF MILLIONS OF STARS WILL, AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, HELP US DISCERN THE REAL EXTENT OF THIS SPACE.



