



Wostok - Vladan Nikolić Poposhak & Flowers: Cosmic Orphanage

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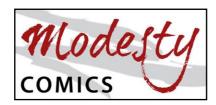
POPOSHAK & FLOWERS

COSMIC ORPHANAGE



STORY BY: WOSTOK

ART BY: VLADAN NIKOLIĆ





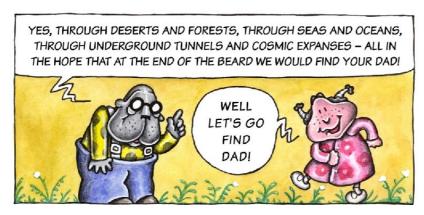




The Great Quest for Daddy

magination. An inevitable element in every big work, and in comics as well. For comics authors, imagination is important for a good story and drawings, but also for the preparatory phase of defining the look of the main characters. The first "visual" thing which can help us to separate comics from related arts, movies and literature, and which is similar to paintings, is the variety of styles used by comics authors. When they develop the look of their characters, they develop their styles as well, and by this they finish a good part of the work and after this they are limited only by their imagination. Exactly like this, a duo from Vršac have developed their own style. Borislav Grabović – Grabowski, was given the task of drawing and Danilo Milošev with script-writing and inking, enriching each other.

Their collaboration started in the last decade of the previous century, and as the artists can not be isolated from their environment, it was realized through fanzines. This was due to technical issues at that time, but also because, as Wostok has explained in one interview, "due to the lack of information from the world, we had to find them inside, form the collective unconscious". It is not a surprise that the title of their collection of short stories is The Nineties,



The heroes of this story - clever dog Flowers and little Poposhak





published by "Omnibus" in Serbia in 2012. Even though the fanzines were "poor" from a technical point of view, they were rich in the unrestrained imagination of their authors, who were also the editors. Today we have a growing trend of young authors who present their works in unpretentious, self-published comics, despite the growing digitalization.

In the nineties most of the people wanted to escape Serbia. Many literally emigrated from the country, but others were looking for escapism in their imagination. The characters of this story, a little girl Poposhak and her dog Flowers, reminds one of the characters published in short comics in magazines for children such as "Tik-tak" or "Zeka" ("Little Rabbit"), found themselves in a world, which is a somewhere between Baum's Wizard of Oz and McCay's Little Nemo in Slumberland. Wostok, the script writer, found the inspiration for this comics in the early nineties by watching his daughter Lola growing up. However, this is not a tale only for children, because the fantasies of children intertwines with the fantasies of adults. The authors present vivid characters and places which will make readers laugh, but also in some cases, make them frightened. This work has been continued in the period after the "horrible nineties", by other authors, and the complete opus of Poposhak and Flowers is not easy to "grasp".

This series starts with the panel where Poposhak is saying farewell to her dead mother, who was just buried. With her



In the cosmic orphanage a little girl CAN NOT have freckles!

is her resourceful and quick-witted dog Flowers, and they decide to start the quest for her "Daddy". The only trace they have is Daddy's beard... But, what a beard! Like the yellow brick road in the land of Oz, which is followed by Dorothy and her dog Toto, Poposhak and Flowers will follow the beard, which seems endless, and meet different creatures, who will either help them or make their quest more difficult. Sometimes, even the beard disappears, but – who cares!

In this episode, Cosmic Orphanage, Wostok has collaborated with Vladan Nikolić. Poposhak is, along with other children, trapped in the cosmic orphanage, where horrific guardians maltreatment her, but she escapes through her dreams. She and Flowers, looking for Daddy's beard, pass through the land of Eastern Nowhere, meeting old acquaintances – Mr Pedal, Boat Dryland, Fearless and their archenemy Hunchback.



One type of transport in Eastern Nowhere – it's easy when you have friends





It is difficult to say whether Daddy's never-ending beard is a metaphor for a quest of one young girl to understand the world around her, but also to find protection, or an excuse for the authors to execute this series for as long as they want, but one thing is for certain – reading of these pages is going to be, for comics fans, an unforgettable adventure.

Andrija Mihajlović, comics critic



Finally... the beard!

Wostok Vladan Nikolić

Poposhak & Flowers COSMIC ORPHANAGE























OK, IF NO ONE
WILL SPEAK
UP, THEN
SIGN THE
COSMIC
ORPHANAGE
HYMN AND
GO STRAIGHT
TO BED WITH
NO DINNER! HE
HE HE HE HE!









MY DARLING FLOWERS

- I'M SORRY THAT I

HAVE TO HIDE YOU

UNDER MY PILLOW
YOU ARE THE ONLY

THING ON THIS EARTH
I HAVE! IT'S A SHAME
YOU'RE ONLY A TOY
SO WE CAN'T TALK TO

EACH OTHER!













