

The
Tempter

Lucija & Damijan Stepančič

ebook





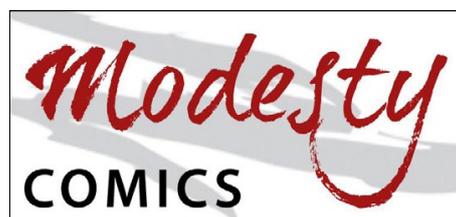
Trbovlje

50

ebook

Lucija & Damijan Stepančič

The Tempter



Lucija & Damijan Štepančič
THE TEMPTER

Published in 2015 by
Modesty Comics, London, UK
www.modestycomics.com
office@modestycomics.com
Editor: Živojin Tamburić

Script and art © Lucija i Damijan Štepančič
Copyright for this edition © Modesty Comics
English translation: Tijana Tamburić & Živojin Tamburić
Graphic design: zmcomics

Contents

The Tempter, Pavle Zelić I - II

The Tempter 1 - 56

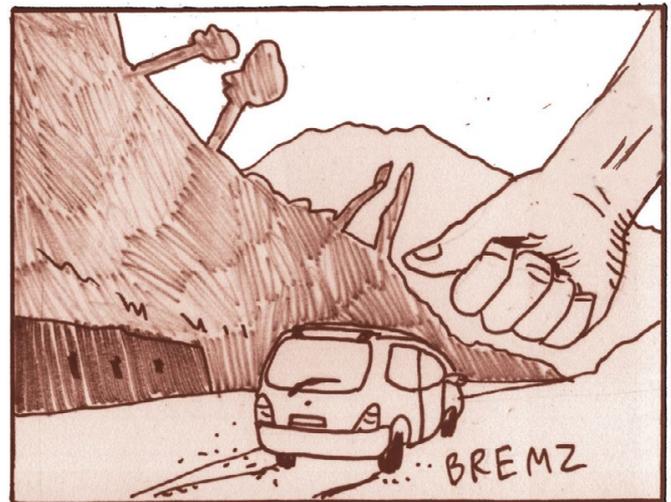
Biographies 58

The Tempter

This truly remarkable graphic novel by Mr and Mrs Stepančič begins seemingly quite ordinary. Some young women, relatives, pretty Masha and plump Klara, who otherwise would never see each other in Ljubljana where they both live, are on a apparently pointless task, on the way to Trbovlje, the city in which they spent their childhood. Their grandfather, feeling that his death is at hand, wants to fulfill his last wishes and, in addition to the Armani suit in which he wants to be buried - a horror for fashion obsessed Masha, he wants his funeral orchestra to be a miner's orchestra from Trbovlje, where he had spent his entire working life.

This is the early part of the story, where we will be rooted for some time, believing that the world in which we are taken by Lucija and Damijan is our own world, well known and grounded in the laws which we consider possible. However, from the second page and the frame with the hand of the hitchhiker, which seems like the hand of God himself, our heroines move from their mundane existence into the sphere of the fantastical. It will not be apparent immediately, because superficial Masha will fill several of the next pages with her chatter which drives her shrewd cousin crazy, but strangely enough, not a hitchhiker – a priest who looks like he has been sent from heaven.

Upon arrival in Trbovlje, things for a short time look normal and the relatives were separated, Masha following the priest and Klara trying to finish her grandfather's task, but only after a few pages, everything becomes insane. Houses appear instead of buildings, mob lynchings occur, people fornicate in public places, everything is full of magnificent buildings and expensive cars, and when in the hotel where they stayed finally appears Masha in the Chanel's suit that Jackie Kennedy wore at the assassination of JFK, with fresh blood stains, it is clear that



Hitchhiker's hand or finger of higher force?



Providence in the form of an ideal man - handsome and ready to listen



The desire for Jackie Kennedy's clothes is met, perhaps a little too precise

the devil is telling a joke. Residents' wishes were met, which was unexpected, but the story offers an explanation which is much more than a simple divine (or devilish) intervention. After returning from the localized apocalypse, Klara and Masha will come across a destruction of their own, small, personal worlds, with an important lesson in the end.

Damijan Stepančič, a popular Slovenian painter and illustrator of children's books, on this occasion for the first time working on a comic book with his wife as the screenwriter, shows subtle talent that behind the 'ugly' figures presents emotions in combination of only two basic colors - grey and brown. Lucija's dialogues in turn offer a range of Masha's chattering and Klara's truly philosophical thoughts, making this wacky story receptive to read.



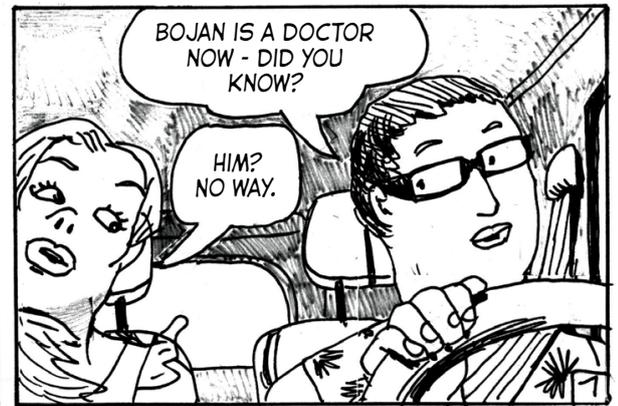
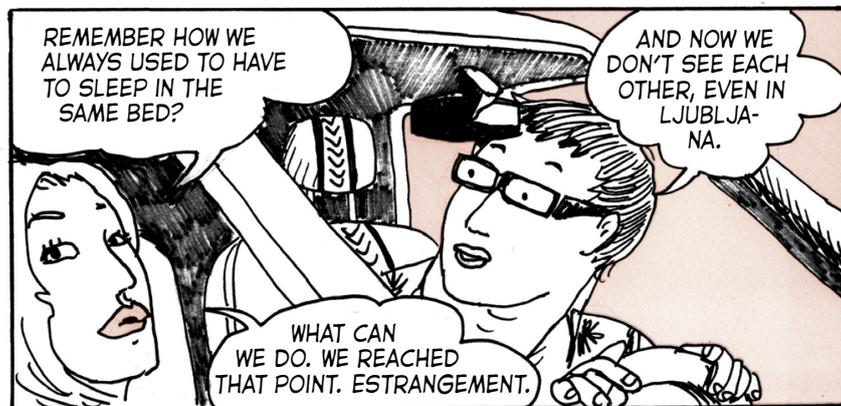
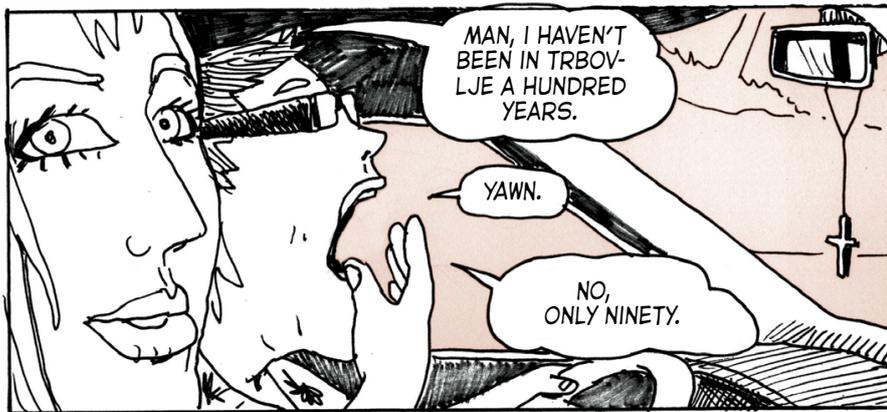
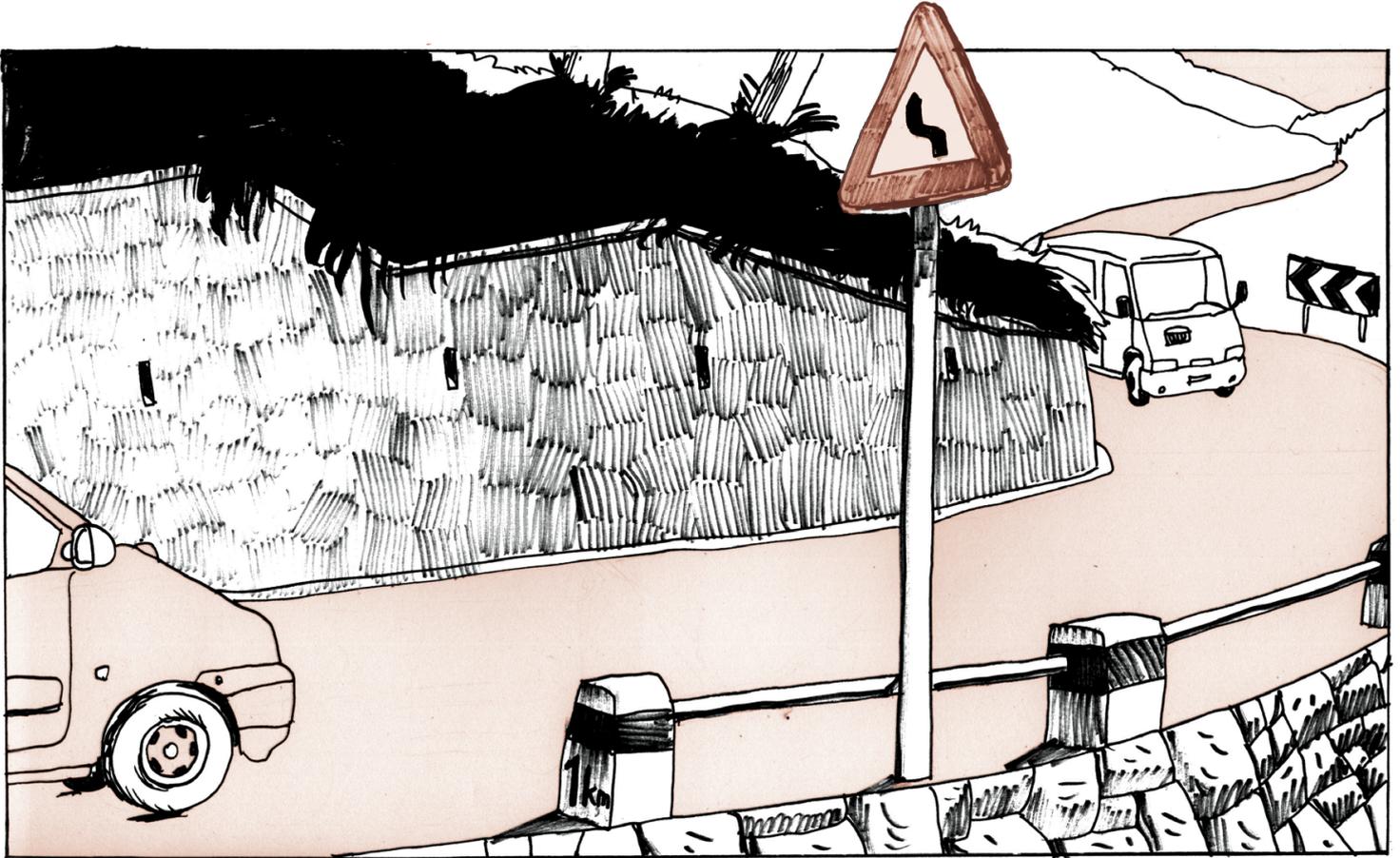
Madness and anarchy in Trbovlje

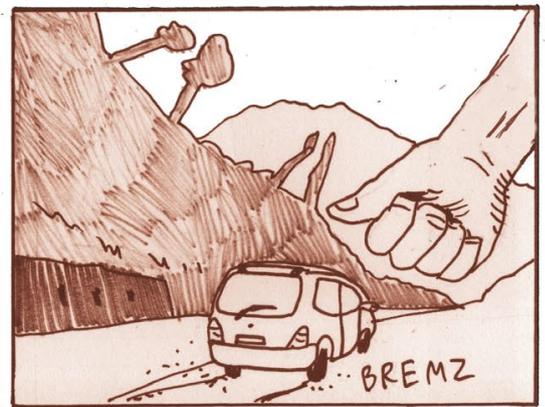
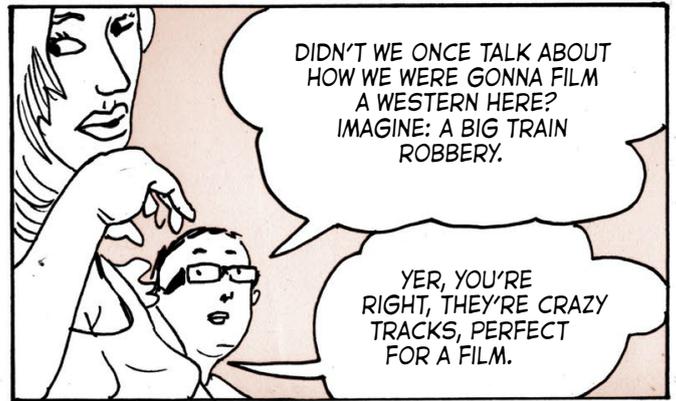
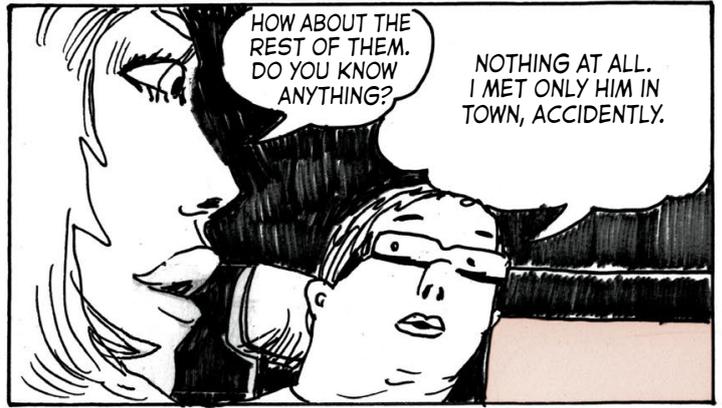
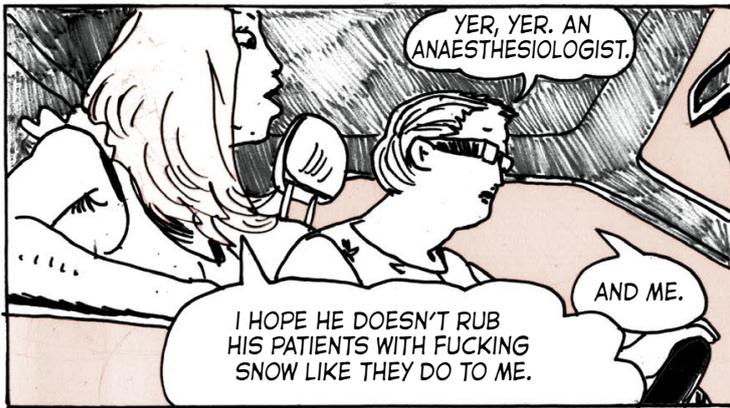
Together, they made a really rare thing, an intelligent graphic novel with women in the lead roles. These women seem real and ordinary, but at the same time they expose, through their thoughts and contemplations, deep emotions and complex psychology. All this is packed in an effective combination of pictures and words that together tell a lot more than they would if they stood independently as just an illustration of the story. It is because of such accomplishments that comics art deserves the title of the ninth art, and we, who truly enjoy it, can only eagerly await new works of this powerful duo of top creative personalities.

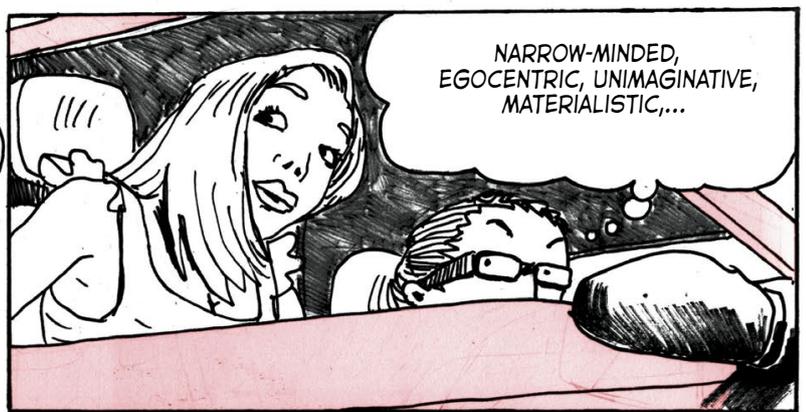
Pavle Zelić,
writer and comics scriptwriter

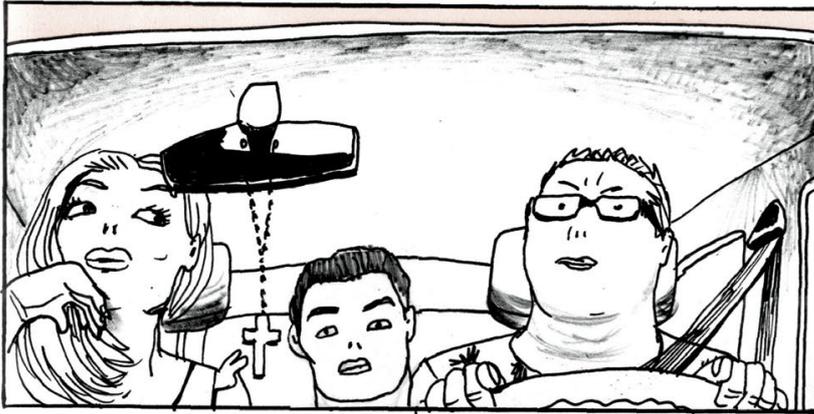
Lucija & Damijan Stepančič

The Tempter





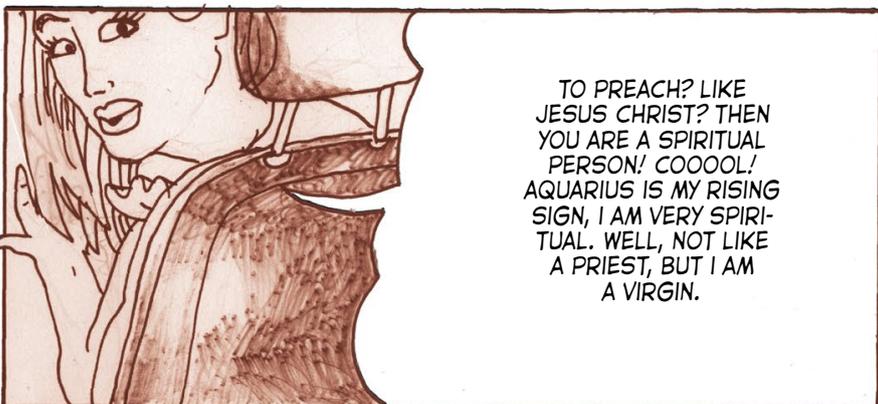




TRBOVLJE, EY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
THERE - IF IT'S NOT
A SECRET?



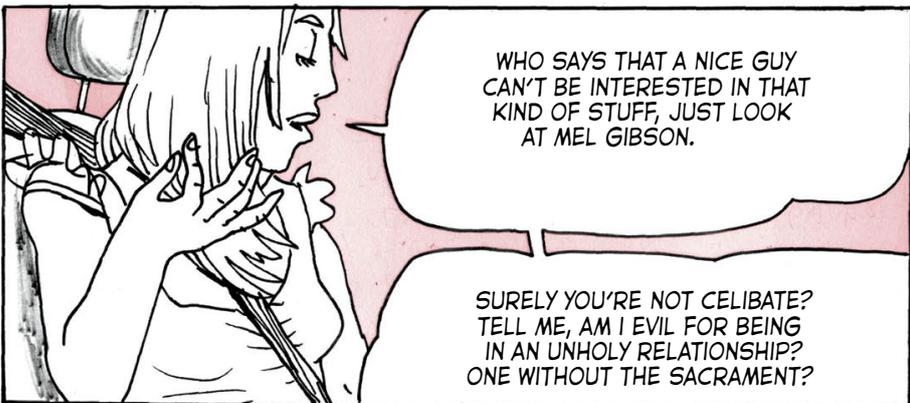
I AM GOING TO
DELIVER A SER-
MON.



TO PREACH? LIKE
JESUS CHRIST? THEN
YOU ARE A SPIRITUAL
PERSON! COOOOL!
AQUARIUS IS MY RISING
SIGN, I AM VERY SPIRI-
TUAL. WELL, NOT LIKE
A PRIEST, BUT I AM
A VIRGIN.



I AM, A VIRGO, IN
MY HOROSCOPE,
SORRY - NOT TO
BE CONFUSED!
HA HA HA!
ARE YOU SOME
KIND OF CHAP-
LAIN?

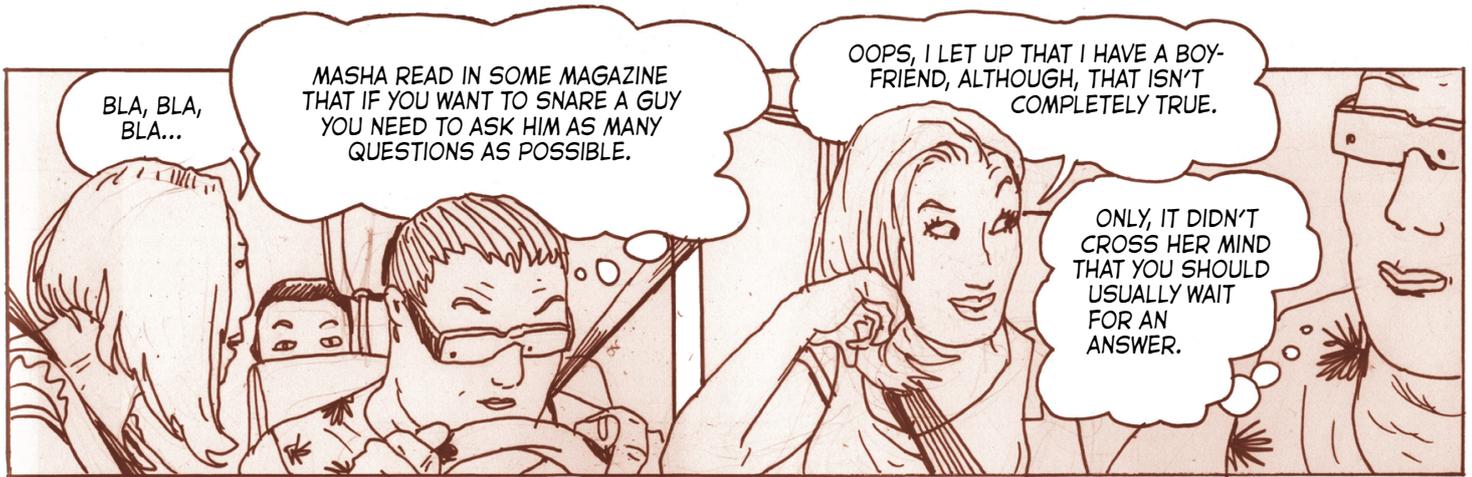


WHO SAYS THAT A NICE GUY
CAN'T BE INTERESTED IN THAT
KIND OF STUFF, JUST LOOK
AT MEL GIBSON.

SURELY YOU'RE NOT CELIBATE?
TELL ME, AM I EVIL FOR BEING
IN AN UNHOLY RELATIONSHIP?
ONE WITHOUT THE SACRAMENT?



WHAT DO
YOU THINK, IS
SPIRITUALITY
ABOUT HEALTHY
EATING TOO?

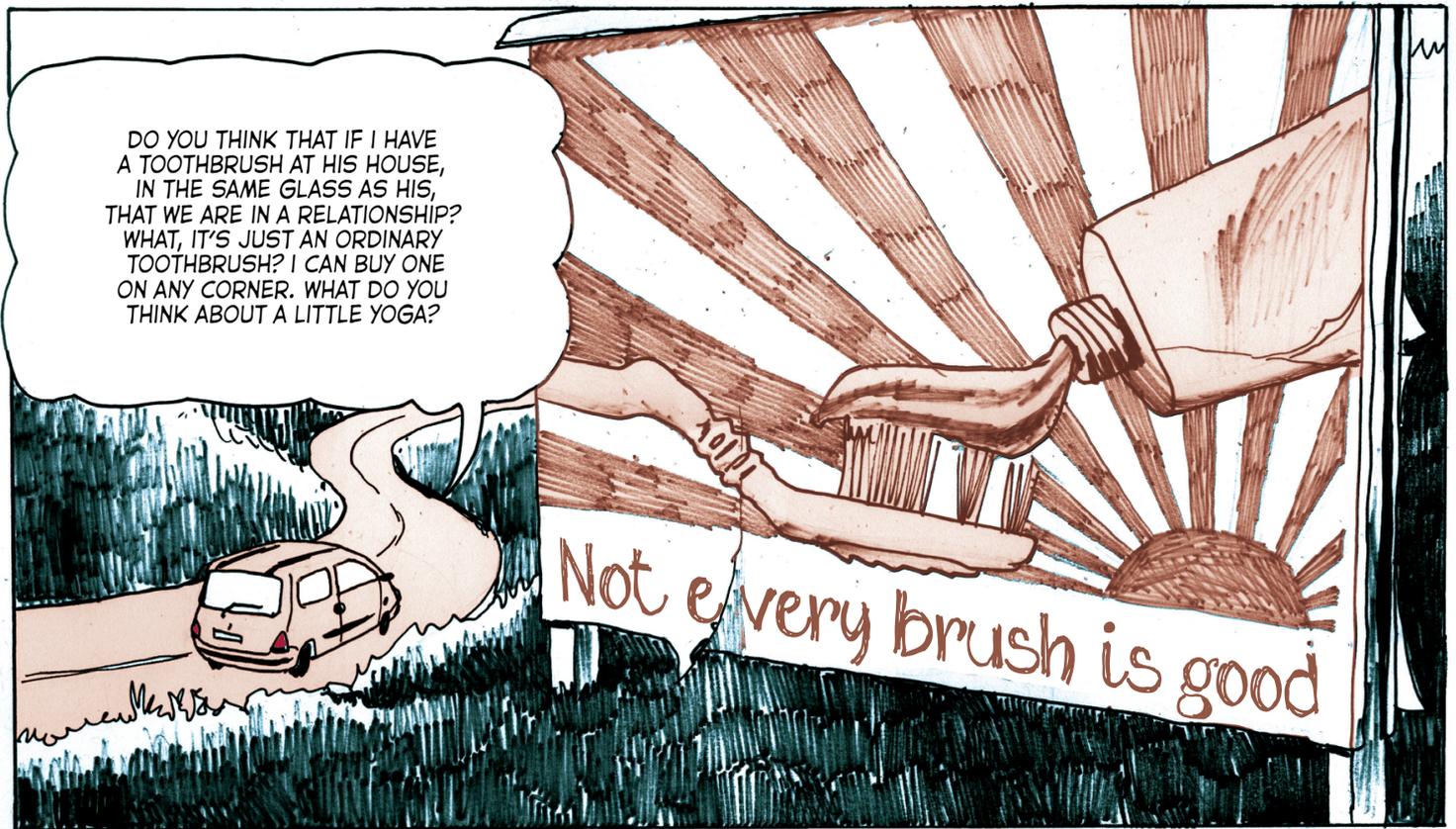


BLA, BLA,
BLA...

MASHA READ IN SOME MAGAZINE
THAT IF YOU WANT TO SNARE A GUY
YOU NEED TO ASK HIM AS MANY
QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE.

OOPS, I LET UP THAT I HAVE A BOY-
FRIEND, ALTHOUGH, THAT ISN'T
COMPLETELY TRUE.

ONLY, IT DIDN'T
CROSS HER MIND
THAT YOU SHOULD
USUALLY WAIT
FOR AN
ANSWER.



DO YOU THINK THAT IF I HAVE
A TOOTHBRUSH AT HIS HOUSE,
IN THE SAME GLASS AS HIS,
THAT WE ARE IN A RELATIONSHIP?
WHAT, IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY
TOOTHBRUSH? I CAN BUY ONE
ON ANY CORNER. WHAT DO YOU
THINK ABOUT A LITTLE YOGA?

Not every brush is good

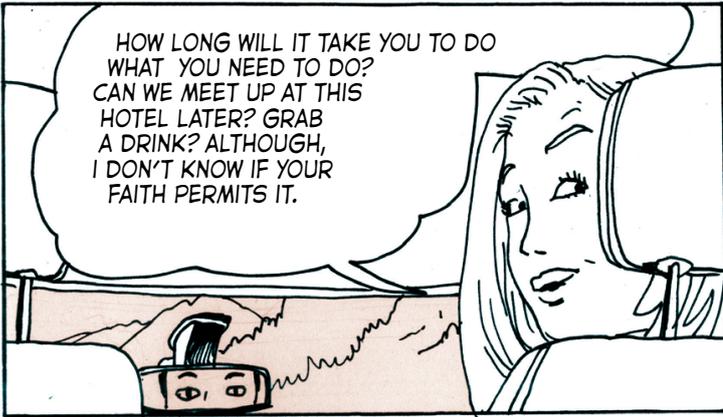


DID YOU KNOW THAT IF
YOU GO TO YOGA YOU DON'T
OVER EAT ANY MORE - SO YOU
SIMULTANEOUSLY GET SKINNIER?

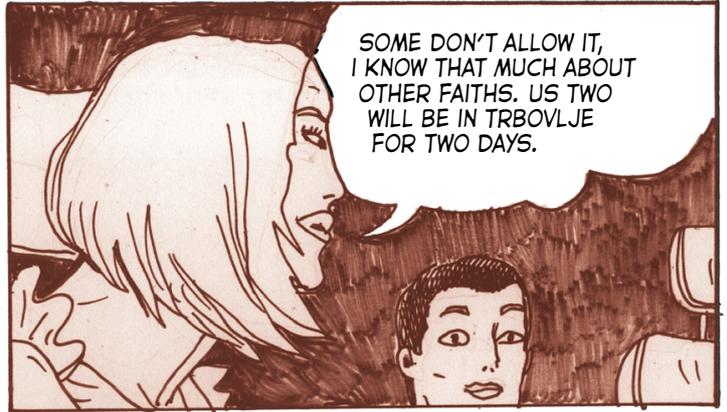


BLA,
BLA...

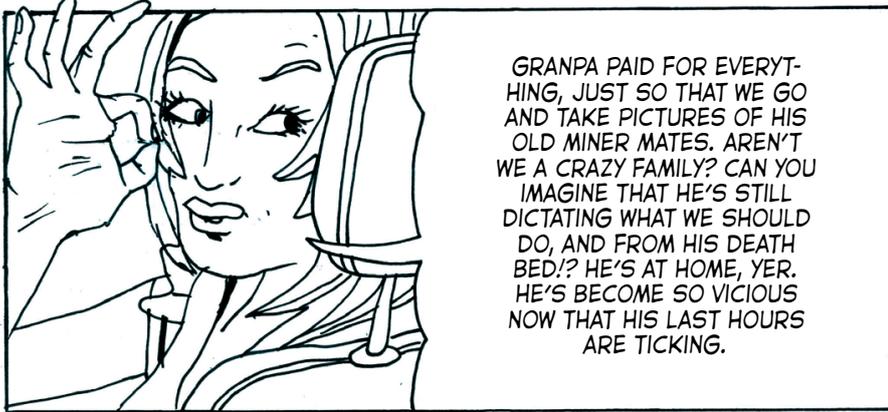
YES, OF COURSE. BUT WHAT ELSE
COULD SHE TALK ABOUT? THAT WE ARE
FAMILY? THAT OUR GRANDFATHER SENT
US, INSTEAD OF HIM, TO VISIT THESE
PARTS ONE LAST TIME? HE JUST HAD
TO PAIR THE TWO OF US, WE HAVEN'T
EVER BEEN ABLE
TO LOOK EACH
OTHER IN
THE EYE.



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO? CAN WE MEET UP AT THIS HOTEL LATER? GRAB A DRINK? ALTHOUGH, I DON'T KNOW IF YOUR FAITH PERMITS IT.



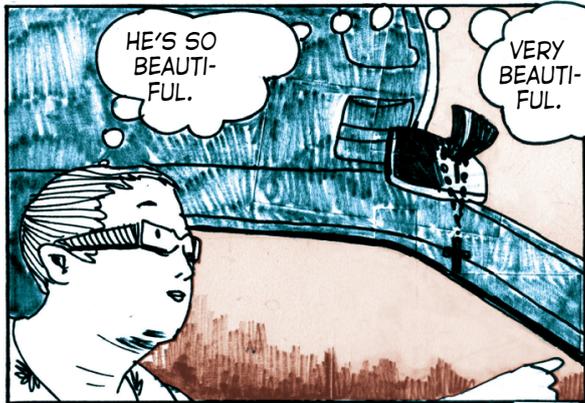
SOME DON'T ALLOW IT, I KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT OTHER FAITHS. US TWO WILL BE IN TRBOVLJE FOR TWO DAYS.



GRANPA PAID FOR EVERYTHING, JUST SO THAT WE GO AND TAKE PICTURES OF HIS OLD MINER MATES. AREN'T WE A CRAZY FAMILY? CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT HE'S STILL DICTATING WHAT WE SHOULD DO, AND FROM HIS DEATH BED!? HE'S AT HOME, YER. HE'S BECOME SO VICIOUS NOW THAT HIS LAST HOURS ARE TICKING.

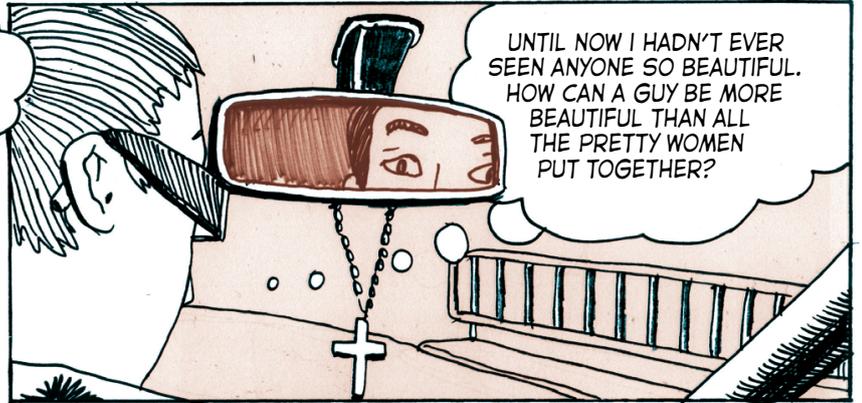


YES, YES, HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT, BUT NOW HE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT.



HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

VERY BEAUTIFUL.



UNTIL NOW I HADN'T EVER SEEN ANYONE SO BEAUTIFUL. HOW CAN A GUY BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL THE PRETTY WOMEN PUT TOGETHER?



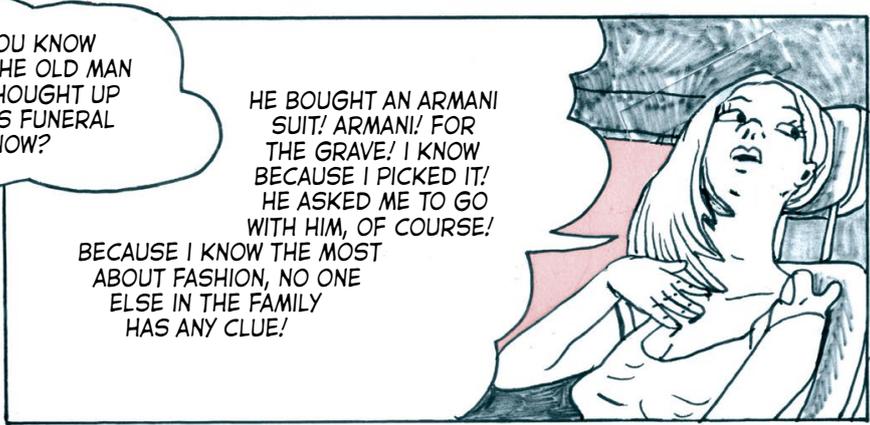
AND DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CAR?



CAN HE POSSIBLY BE A RECLUSE?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE OLD MAN HAS THOUGHT UP FOR HIS FUNERAL NOW?



HE BOUGHT AN ARMANI SUIT! ARMANI! FOR THE GRAVE! I KNOW BECAUSE I PICKED IT! HE ASKED ME TO GO WITH HIM, OF COURSE! BECAUSE I KNOW THE MOST ABOUT FASHION, NO ONE ELSE IN THE FAMILY HAS ANY CLUE!



DON'T EVEN ASK ME HOW MUCH IT COST! THANK GOD I DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME! THAT HE WAS WED IN A BORROWED SUIT BUT WANTS TO BE BURIED IN HIS OWN!



NOW, TELL ME, O SPIRITUAL ONE? IS IT NOT OK FOR A MAN TO GET DRESSED UP FOR WHEN HE GOES FORTH, INTO ETERNITY?



IN THAT KIND OF SUIT, MAN, EVEN I WOULD GET BURIED!

ONCE IN ARMANI, THEN IN GALLIANO, THEN IN LAGERFELD.

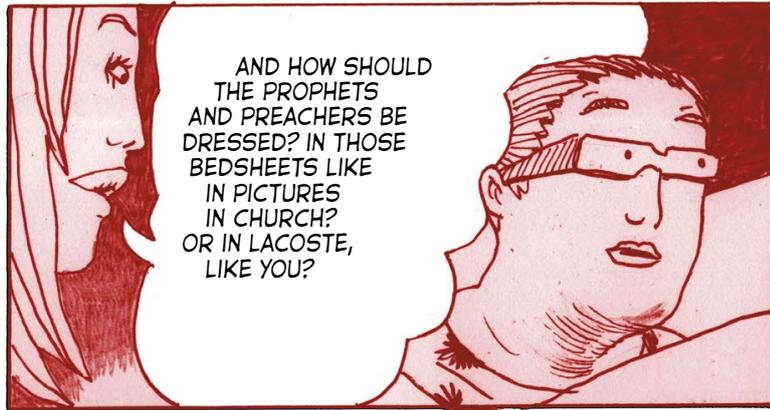


UP THERE THEY ALL WEAR VERSACE, RIGHT?

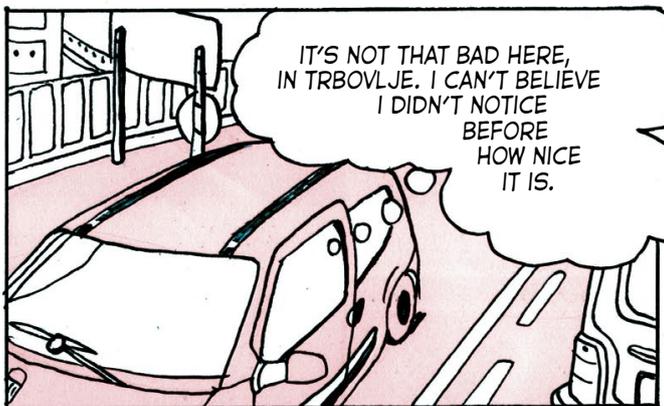




IF SHE'S STARTED TALKING ABOUT HER BELOVED RAGS THIS ISN'T GOING TO END SOON. THAT'S MASHA.



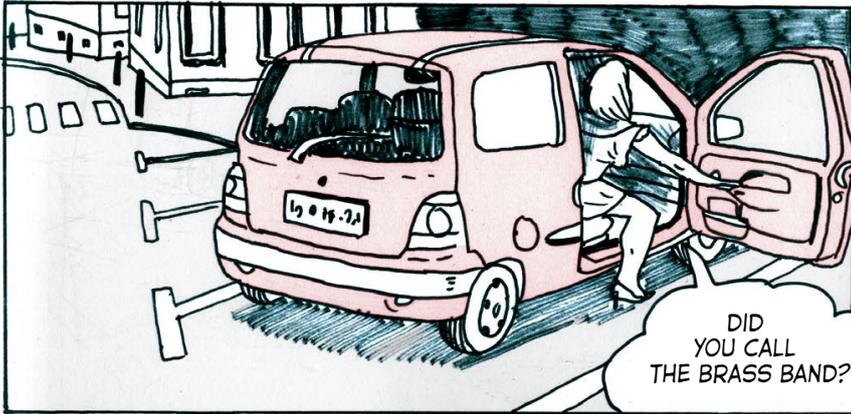
AND HOW SHOULD THE PROPHETS AND PREACHERS BE DRESSED? IN THOSE BEDSHEETS LIKE IN PICTURES IN CHURCH? OR IN LACOSTE, LIKE YOU?



IT'S NOT THAT BAD HERE, IN TRBOVLJE. I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T NOTICE BEFORE HOW NICE IT IS.



I'M UP FOR GOING FOR A DRINK. FIRST BUSINESS, AND THEN PLEASURE! O, SORRY, THE OTHER WAY ROUND.



DID YOU CALL THE BRASS BAND?



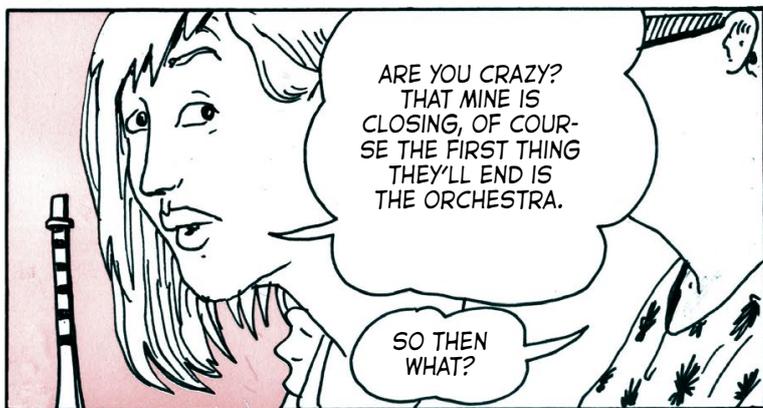
BRASS BAND? WHY?



THE MINER'S ORCHESTRA, YOU KNOW THE OLD MAN WANTS THEM TO PLAY AT HIS FUNERAL.

TO PLAY SOMETHING.

I DIDN'T KNOW. WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THEM YOURSELF?



ARE YOU CRAZY? THAT MINE IS CLOSING, OF COURSE THE FIRST THING THEY'LL END IS THE ORCHESTRA.

SO THEN WHAT?



YOU STILL COULD HAVE PUT SOME EFFORT IN. SO IT'S NOT JUST ME DOING EVERYTHING.

YER, I CAN TELL YOU'RE HAVING THE WORST TIME.





IN MY OPINION, WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF SECRET FAMILY MEMBERS TO UNEARTH IN THIS PLACE. IT'S LIKE A SOUP OPERA. I THINK WE HAVE PLENTY OF ILLICIT FAMILY MEMBERS.

OUR GRANPA WAS REALLY POPULAR. WOMEN WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM. HE WAS GORGEOUS. HE WAS SMART AND HE USED IT, WHO WOULDN'T?



NOW HE WANTS A BRASS BAND TO PLAY AT HIS FUNERAL. THE EXACT ORCHESTRA THAT HE WAS ONCE IN.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

I'D LIKE A COFFEE.

I WOULD LIKE A SEX ON THE BEACH. THE COCKTAIL, OF COURSE, BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A BEACH.



THANK YOU, I DO NOT WANT ANYTHING. I MUST LEAVE...

I'M COMING WITH YOU!

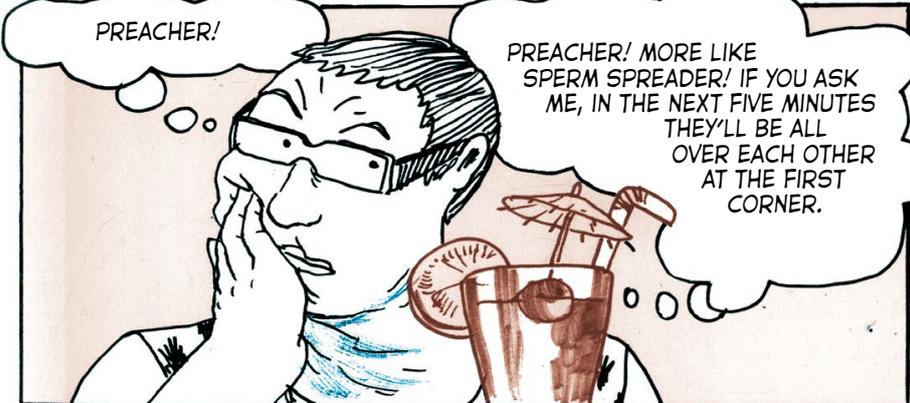


THANKS FOR THE COMPANY. GOODBYE.

GOD BLESS.



IT IS BETTER WITHOUT GOD'S BLESSING.



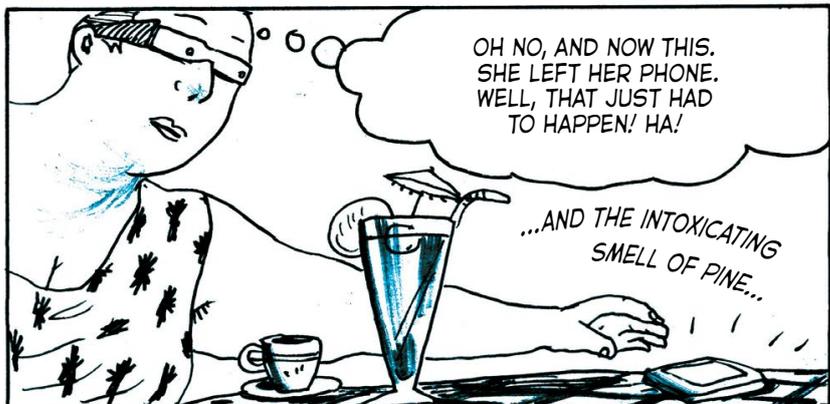
PREACHER!

PREACHER! MORE LIKE SPERM SPREADER! IF YOU ASK ME, IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES THEY'LL BE ALL OVER EACH OTHER AT THE FIRST CORNER.



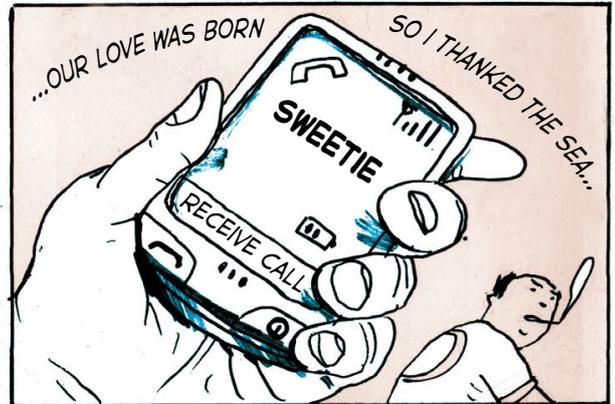
... WELL WHAT COULD THAT BIMBO BE THINKING, THAT SHE'LL BE LIKE MONICA BELLUCCI WHEN SHE PLAYED MAGDALENE?!

...SO THANK YOU SEA...



OH NO, AND NOW THIS. SHE LEFT HER PHONE. WELL, THAT JUST HAD TO HAPPEN! HA!

...AND THE INTOXICATING SMELL OF PINE...



...OUR LOVE WAS BORN

SO I THANKED THE SEA...



SWEETIE SEEMS LIKE HE HAS SOME INTUITION.



ONLY, IT DOESN'T HELP HIM AT ALL.