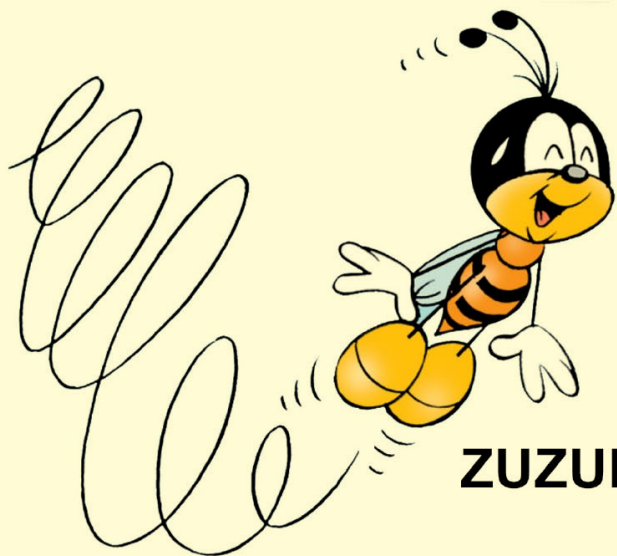


Zuzuko

Zdravko Zupan

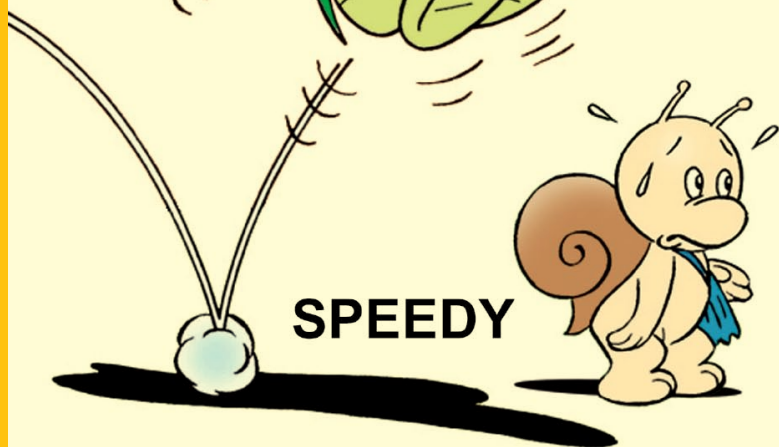


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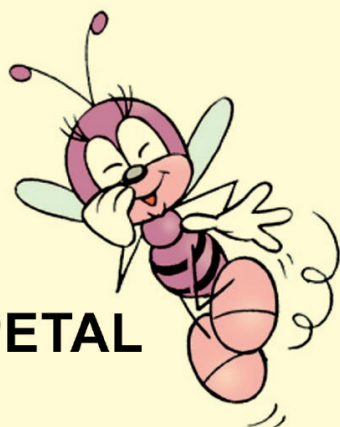


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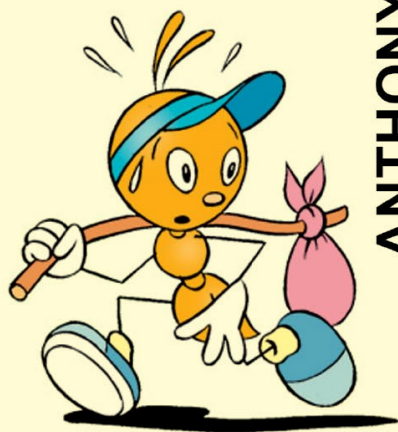
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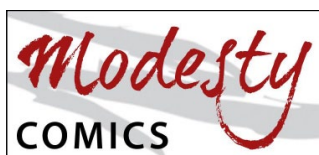
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Zdravko Zupan

Zuzuko



Zdravko Zupan
Zuzuko

Published in 2014 by Modesty Comics, London, UK
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office@modestycomics.com
Editor: Živojin Tamburić

Original title: Zuzuko, Zdravko Zupan
Script and art © Zdravko Zupan
Copyright for this edition © Modesty Comics
Foreword © Vasa Pavkovic
English translation: Tijana Tamburić & Živojin Tamburić

Graphic design: zmcomics

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Zdravko Zupan's Zuzuko

The artists and scriptwriter of Zuzuko - the comic strip for children (and adults), Zdvarko Zupan, appeared for the first time to Yugoslavian readers at the beginning of November 1973. In other words, he brought happiness to the lives of comics enthusiasts across Serbia and over Ex-Yugoslavia territories over four decades ago. This author created Zuzuko with a loyalty and persistence that has few comparisons in the world of humorous comics. Most commonly his creations come in the format of a single-page table, though occasionally there are short stories about Zuzuko and his friends which go on for two or three pages.

A comic strip presented on one page, one of the primary forms of newspaper comics and currently in international comics, is the most long-lasting and popular format. It was the same in Yugoslavia and its federal republics – the characters of Bim and Bum (The Katzenjammer Kids), Little Nemo, Popeye and Hogar (Hagar the Horrible), along with Disney's Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, to name just the most popular, were read by people of all ages for many generations. Zdravko Zupan chose to draw Zuzuko very much in the Disney aesthetic, like his other character Flash, a little alien on Earth.



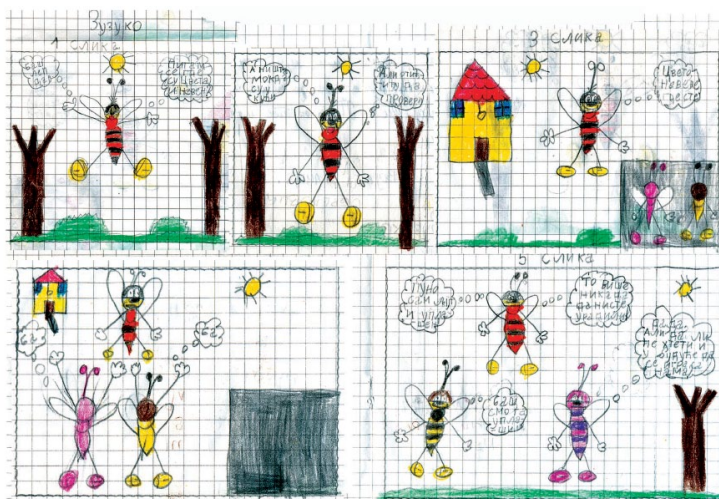
The covers of children's magazine Flash by Zupan

As opposed to Flash, whose comics strips were always gags without words, Zuzuko uses images and words; the protagonist of this comic strip has conversations. The difference between this comic strip and all the other characters mentioned before is that Zuzuko and his friends are insects, mostly bees, but a grasshopper and a snail too, who by definition are considered small and insignificant creatures, relatively unsuitable for 'conversion' into anthropomorphic comic strip characters!

Insects, with the acceptance of butterflies and ladybirds, are not particularly popular among most people, thus Zdravko Zupan was risking a lot and had to plan how to make these unusual characters work and be a success with the readers. Settling on these characters and filling the scenes with flowers, grass, mushrooms and other quaint foliage, Zdravko Zupan and two occasional assisting writers, built an idyllic universe in which the days are devoid of major dramas but filled with playful, naive and simple but cute gags, close to the hearts of children and their parents, some of whom, grew and became adults whilst following the adventures of Zuzuko and his friends. It remains interesting that people and their creations are completely absent from this long-standing project.

In these short and funny comic strips, the message, if there is one, is always discrete, and the jokes natural and inoffensive, aiming to make people smile and laugh. This captivating strategy contributes to the pleasantness of the comic strip – Zuzuko is both easy on the eyes and food for the soul and the narrative is both balanced and devoid of any curses. The comic strip is intended primarily for young children and yet it is also loved and followed by parents and grandparents. There has been a remarkable response in the number of boys and girls who draw Zuzuko and

his friends and send the drawings to magazines - this is the most beautiful confirmation of the artistic success of Zdravko Zupan.



Zuzuko drawn by a young fan

Nobleness and kindness are the words we use to depict the main features of this comic strip, and they, in this modern world where we live with our children, have a precious, healing power for souls and lives of young and adult readers.

Vasa Pavković, writer and comics critic

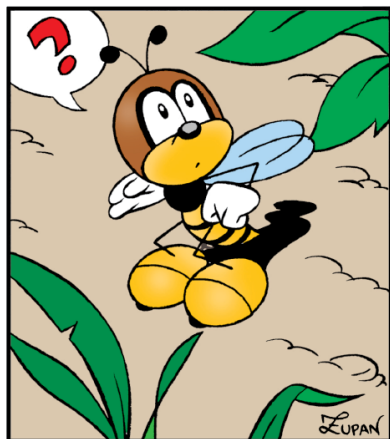


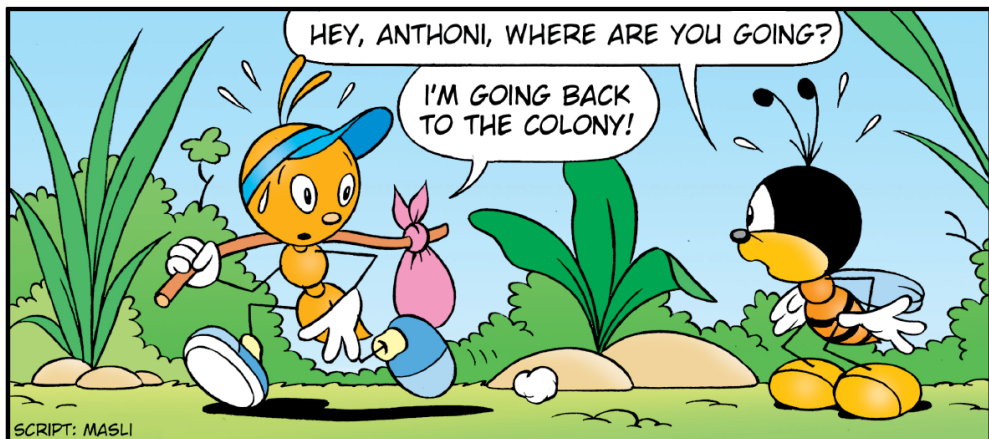
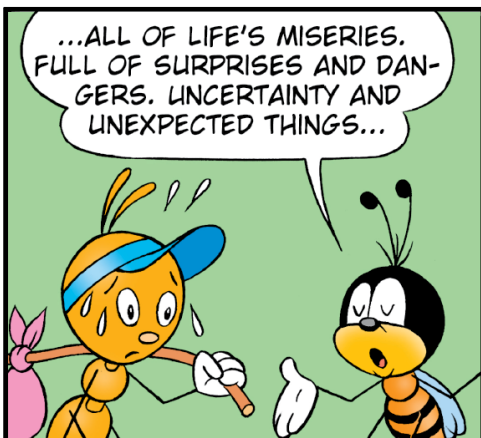
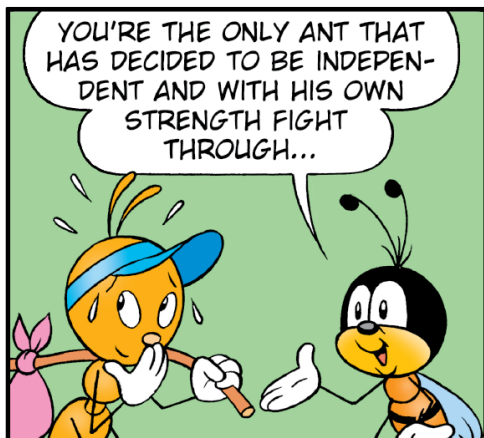
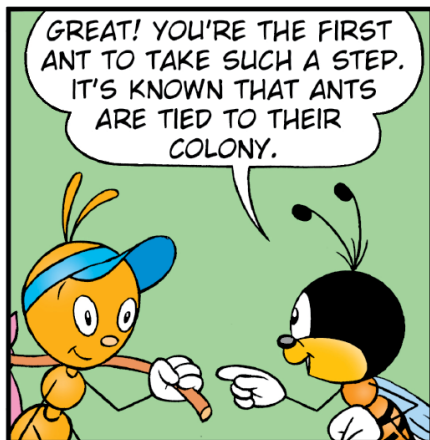
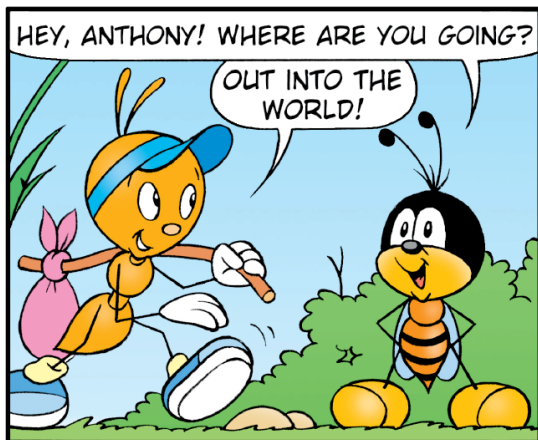
Zdravko Zupan

Zuzuko

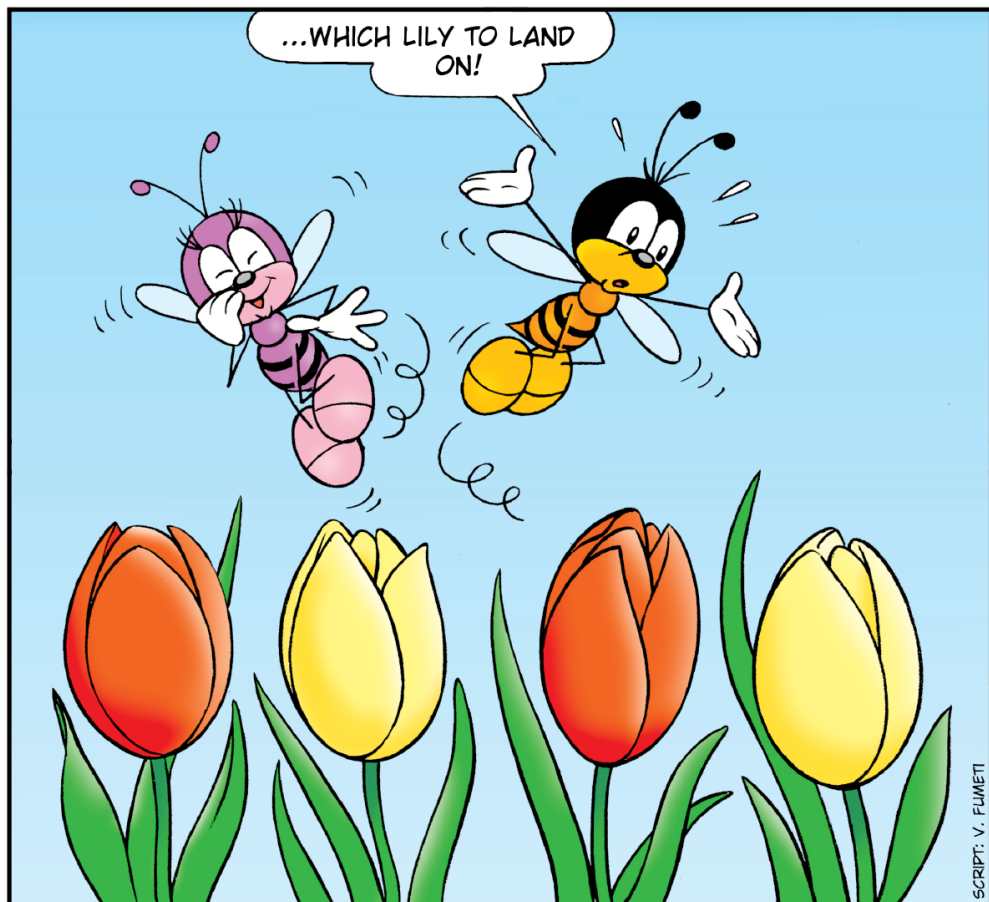
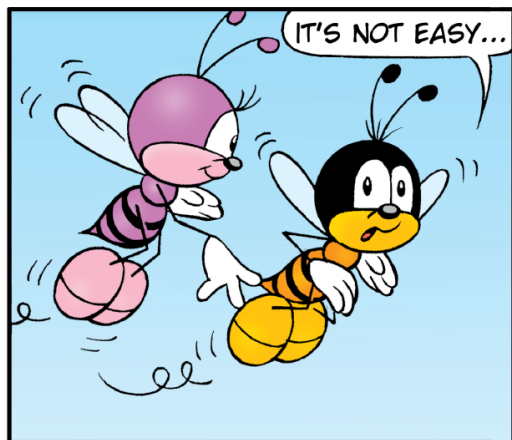


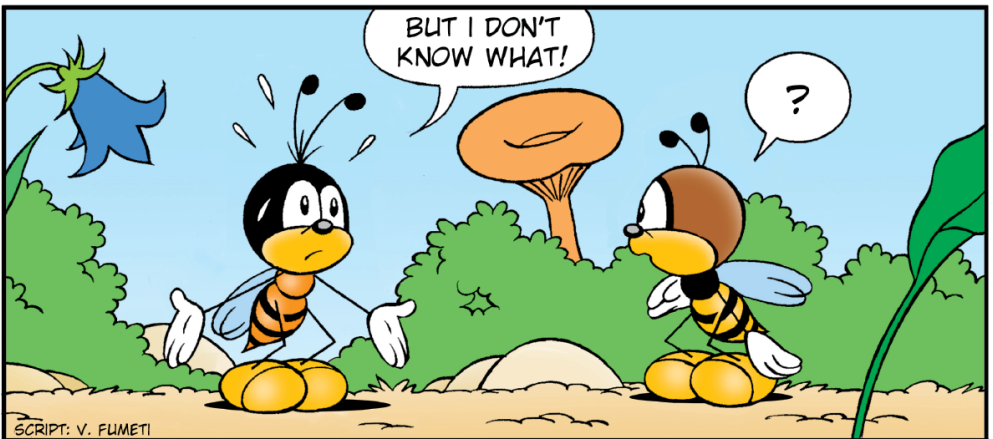
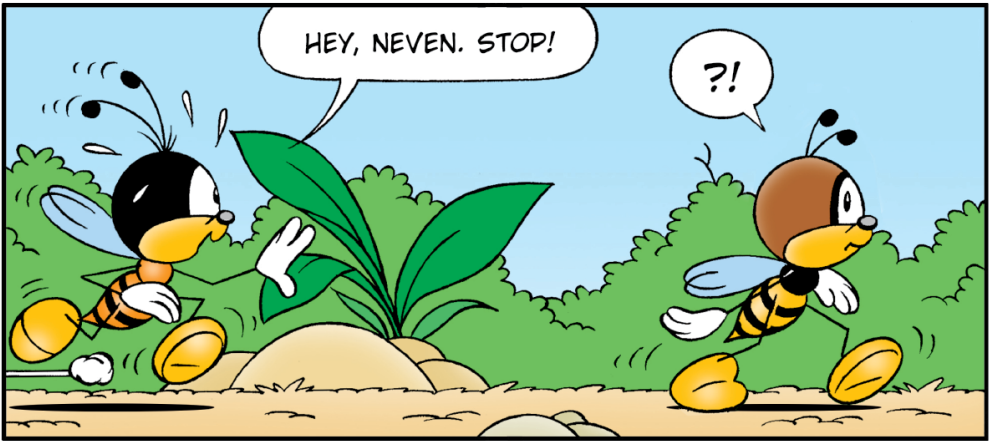






SCRIPT: MASLI





SCRIPT: V. FUMETI

