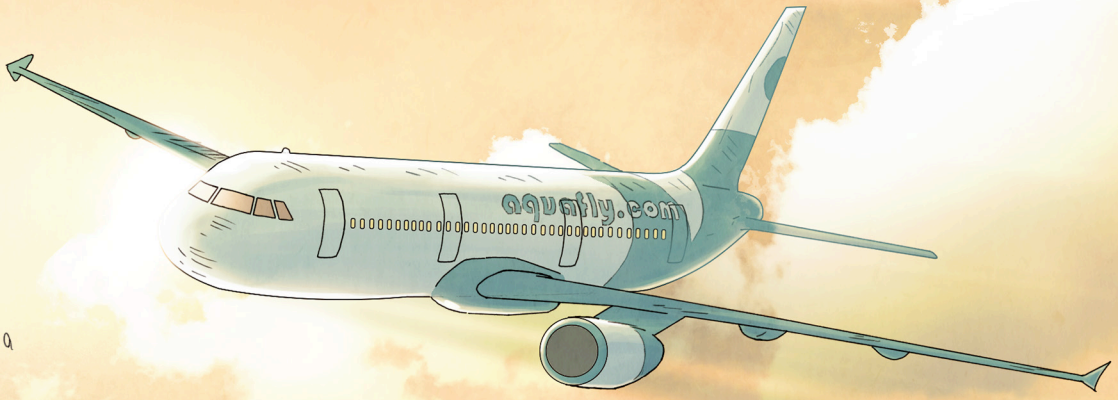
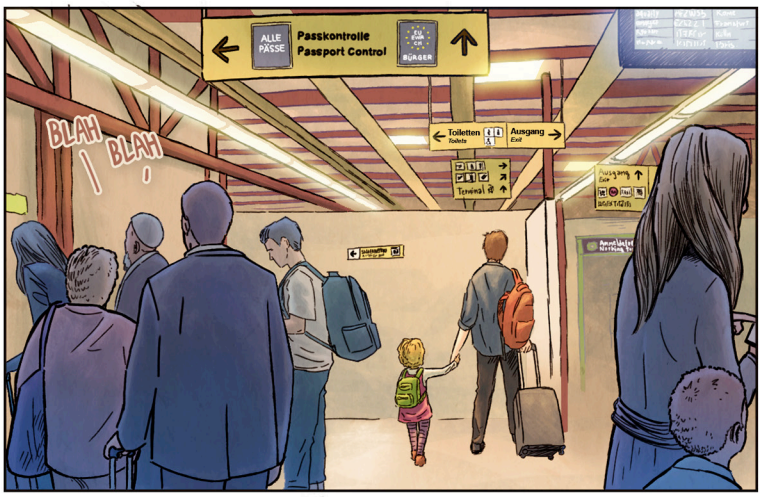
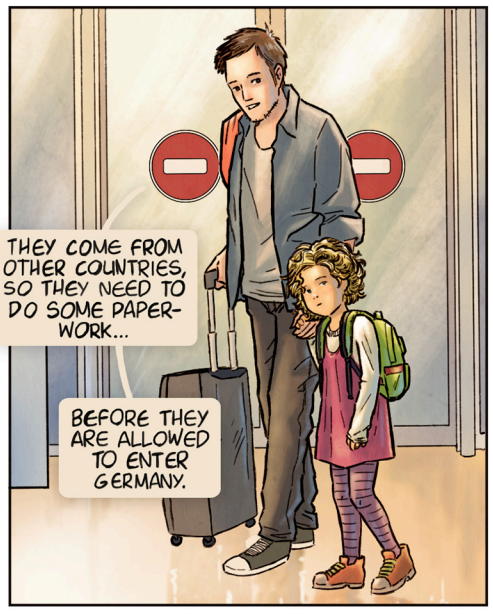
WHAT HAS THE EU EVER DONE FOR US?

by Bruno Cordoba

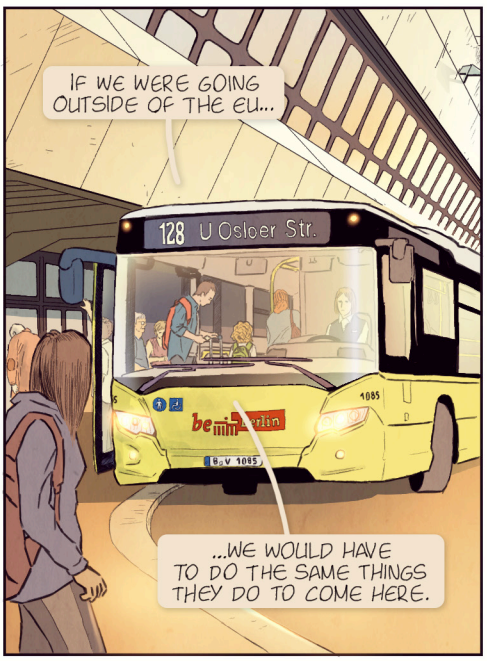




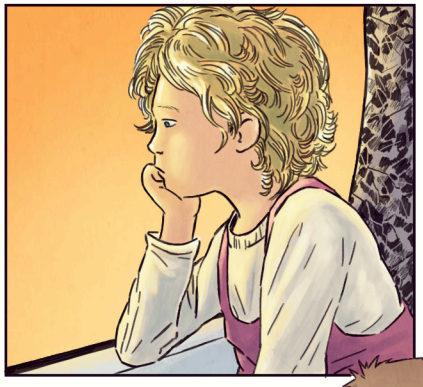


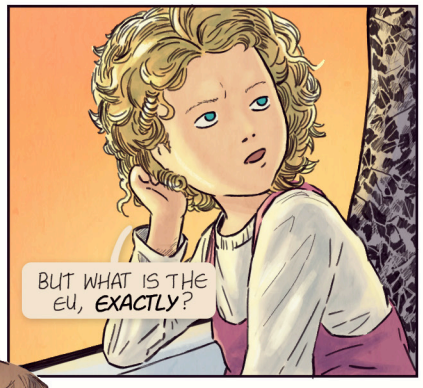
...AND THAT MEANS WE CAN TRAVEL ALMOST LIKE IF IT WERE ONE BIG COUNTRY.
BUS
BUT... THAT'S UNFAIR TO THEM, RIGHT?
WELL...
MAYBE, I DONT KNOW

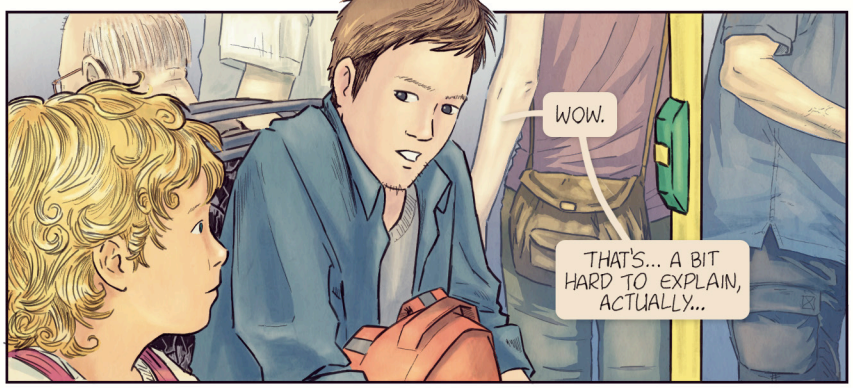
I MEAN, CROSSING BORDERS IS A VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS...
Fahrscheine
Tickets
Fahrscheine
Tickets
BVG
ONLY WITHIN COUNTRIES OF THE EU -I THINK- TRAVELLING IS SO... EASY.

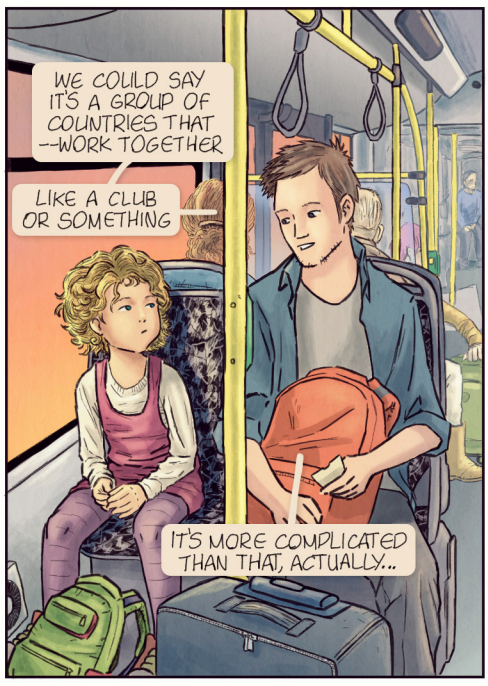

IF WE WERE GOING OUTSIDE OF THE EU...
128 U Osloer Str.
...WE WOULD HAVE TO DO THE SAME THINGS THEY DO TO COME HERE.

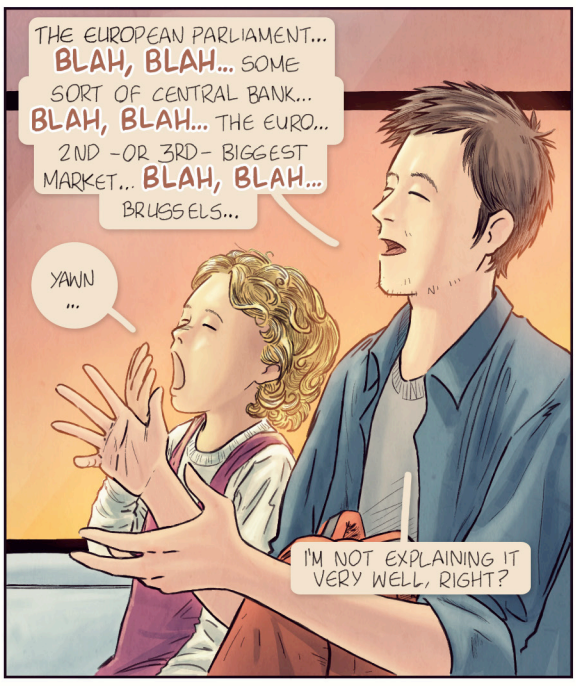
BERLIN-TEGEL
OTTO LILIENTHAL
128 U Osloer Str.
1085
be Berlin
B V 1085



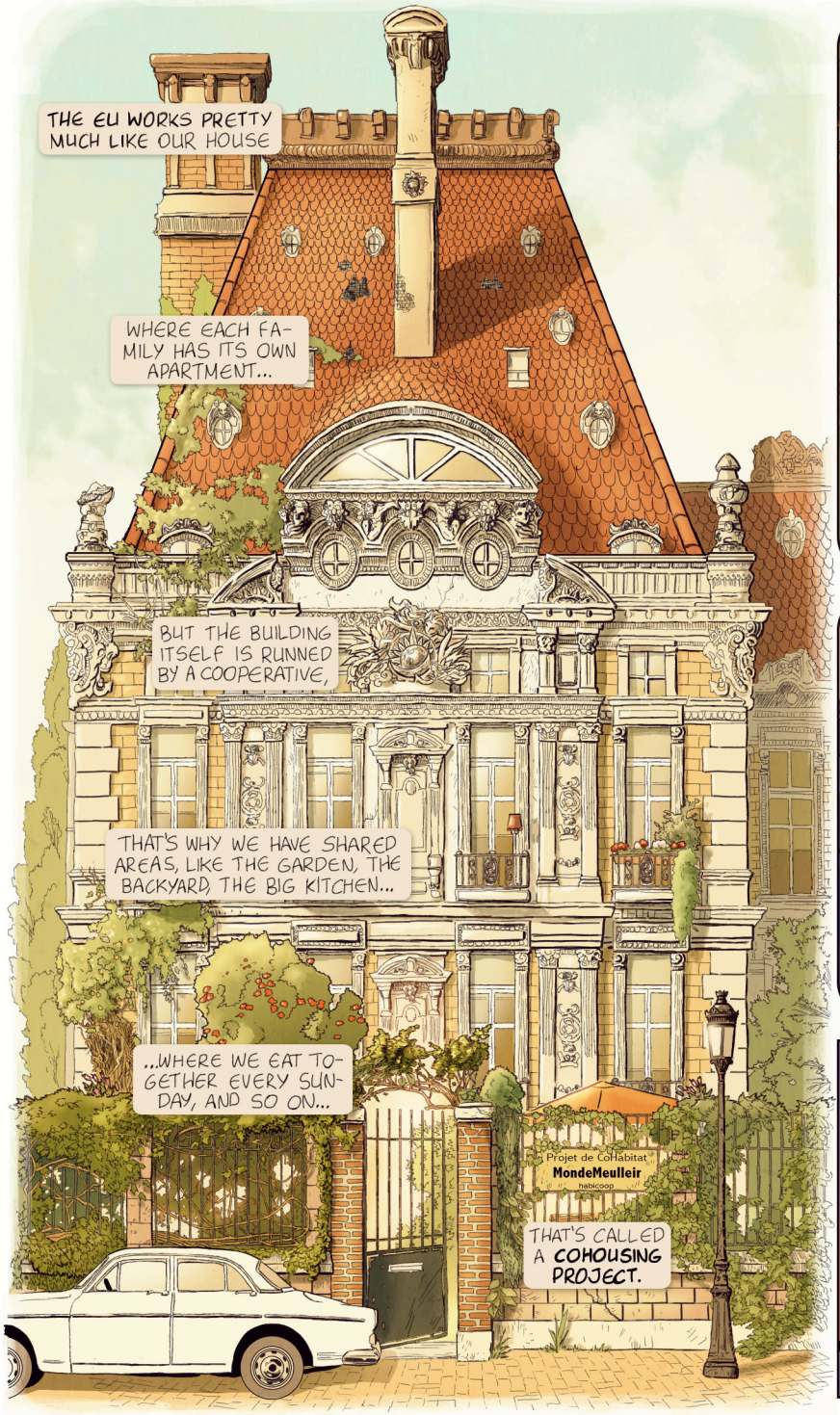

BUT WHAT IS THE EU, EXACTLY?

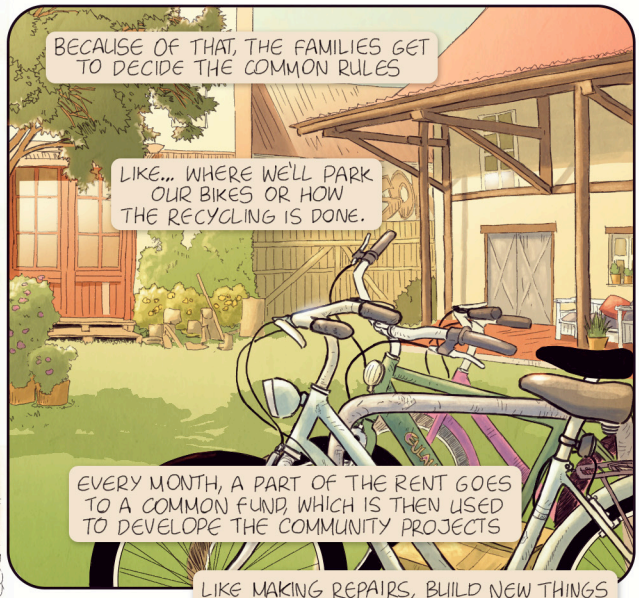

WOW.
THAT'S... A BIT HARD TO EXPLAIN, ACTUALLY...

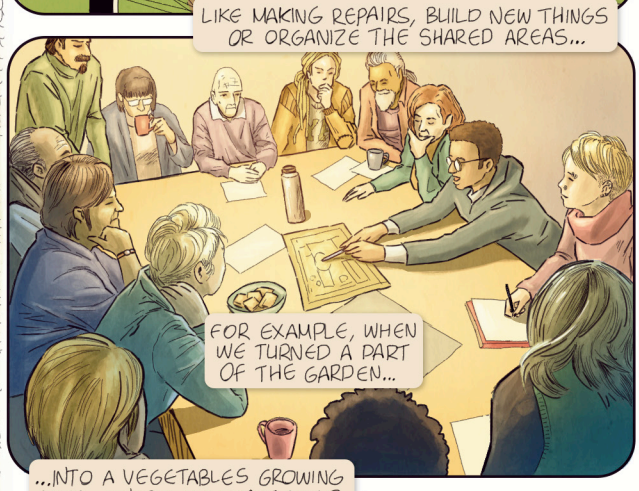

WE COULD SAY IT'S A GROUP OF COUNTRIES THAT --WORK TOGETHER
LIKE A CLUB OR SOMETHING
IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, ACTUALLY...

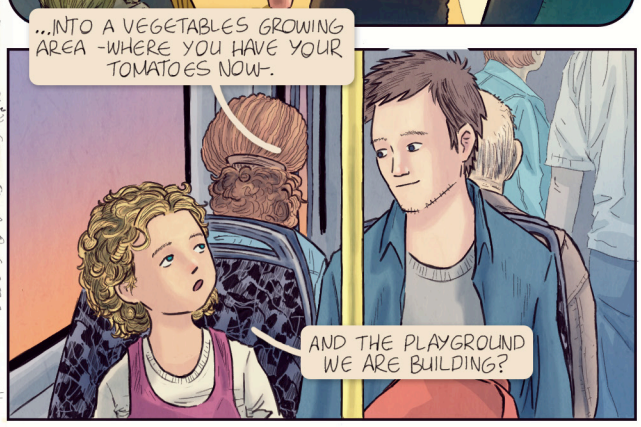

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT... BLAH, BLAH... SOME SORT OF CENTRAL BANK... BLAH, BLAH... THE EURO... 2ND -OR 3RD- BIGGEST MARKET... BLAH, BLAH... BRUSSELS...
YAWN ...
I'M NOT EXPLAINING IT VERY WELL, RIGHT?

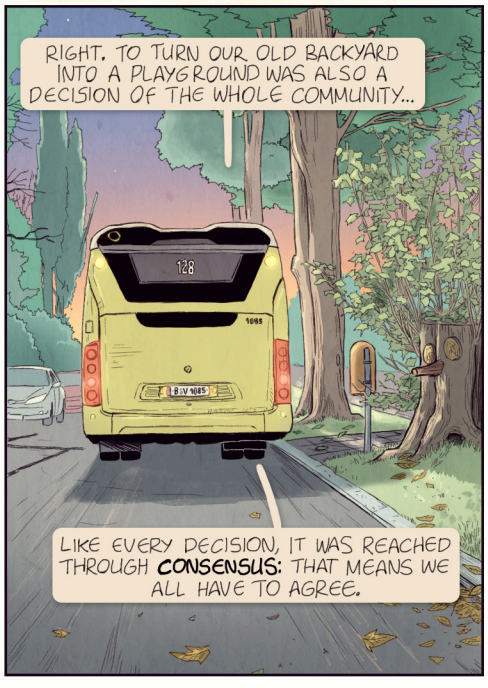
THANKS ANYWAY...
NO, NO, WAIT... HERE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE:


THE EU WORKS PRETTY MUCH LIKE OUR HOUSE
WHERE EACH FAMILY HAS ITS OWN APARTMENT...
BUT THE BUILDING ITSELF IS RUNNED BY A COOPERATIVE,
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE SHARED AREAS, LIKE THE GARDEN, THE BACKYARD, THE BIG KITCHEN...
...WHERE WE EAT TOGETHER EVERY SUNDAY, AND SO ON...
Projet de CoHabitat
MondeMeulleir
habicoop
THAT'S CALLED A COHOUSING PROJECT.


BECAUSE OF THAT, THE FAMILIES GET TO DECIDE THE COMMON RULES
LIKE... WHERE WE'LL PARK OUR BIKES OR HOW THE RECYCLING IS DONE.
EVERY MONTH, A PART OF THE RENT GOES TO A COMMON FUND, WHICH IS THEN USED TO DEVELOPE THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS


LIKE MAKING REPAIRS, BUILD NEW THINGS OR ORGANIZE THE SHARED AREAS...
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE TURNED A PART OF THE GARDEN...

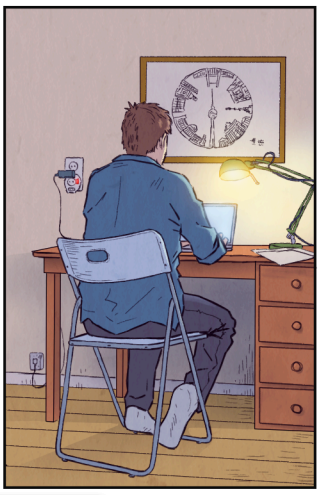

...INTO A VEGETABLES GROWING AREA -WHERE YOU HAVE YOUR TOMATOES NOW-.
AND THE PLAYGROUND WE ARE BUILDING?

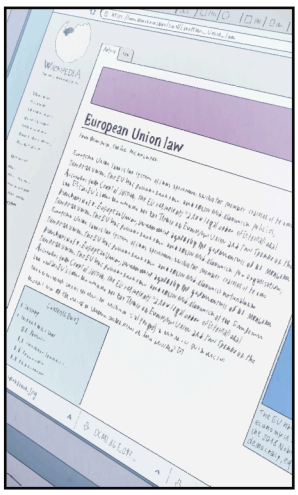

RIGHT. TO TURN OUR OLD BACKYARD INTO A PLAYGROUND WAS ALSO A DECISION OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY...
LIKE EVERY DECISION, IT WAS REACHED THROUGH CONSENSUS: THAT MEANS WE ALL HAVE TO AGREE.

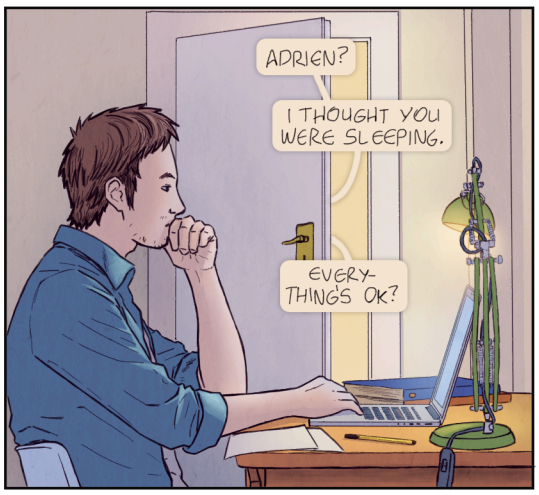
IF YOU THINK THAT EACH APARTMENT IS A DIFFERENT COUNTRY...
...AND THAT THE BUILDING IS THE EUROPEAN UNION...

...YOU GET A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ABOUT WHAT THE EU IS.
I SURE HOPE SO.
DO YOU THINK THE PLAYGROUND WILL BE FINISHED WHEN WE GET BACK?

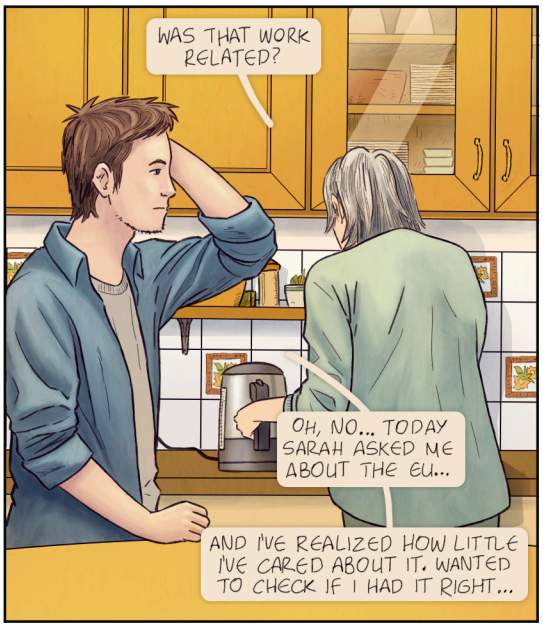
BUT... IS THE EU REALLY LIKE THAT?
WILL WE HAVE A SLIDE?
HUH? SURE.
HAVEN'T PUT MUCH THOUGHT ON IT...
I WANT SWINGS TOO...
AND THOSE THINGS FOR CLIMBING...
WILL WE HAVE THOSE TOO?
Kernha
HALLO, MEINE LIEBE!
WOW, SARAH!
HOW CAN YOU GROW THAT FAST!
HEHE...
OMA!
WAS THE FLIGHT ALLRIGHT?
AND HOW IS MY DAUGHTER DOING?
OH, SHE REALLY SORRIES NOT BEING ABLE TO COME.
BUT SHE'S GREAT. ONLY THAT SHE WORKS TOO MUCH
WELL, THAT'S A FAMILY THING...
OK, SARAH... WILL YOU HELP ME TAKE CARE OF THESE THINGS?
WE NEED TO FREE THE TABLE FROM ALL THESE GAMES IF WE WANT TO EAT.
WOW!
CAN WE PLAY?
WHICH ONE?
ALL OF THEM?



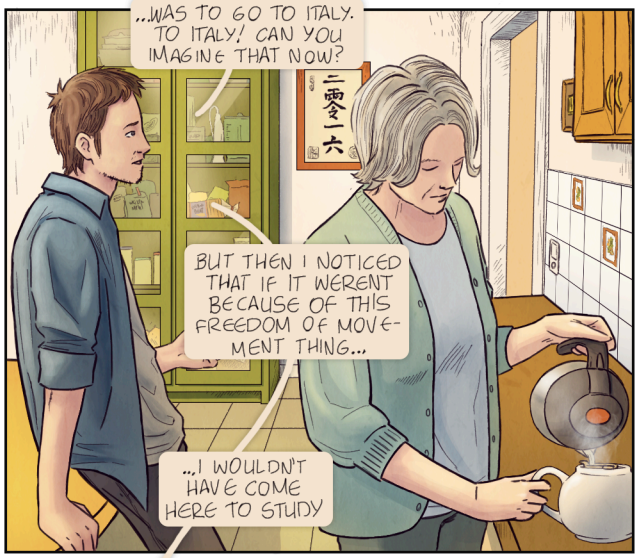

European Union law

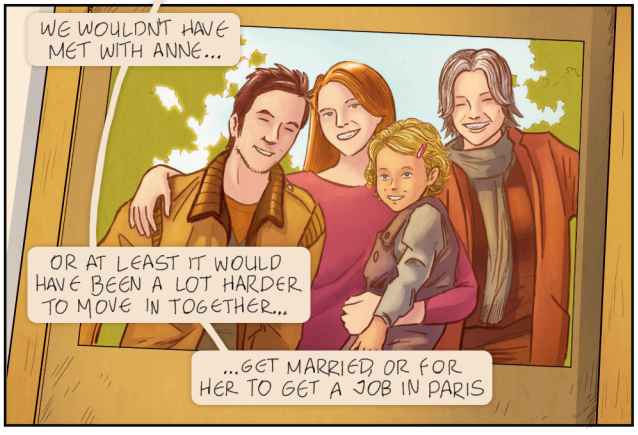

ADRIEN?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING.
EVERY-THING'S OK?

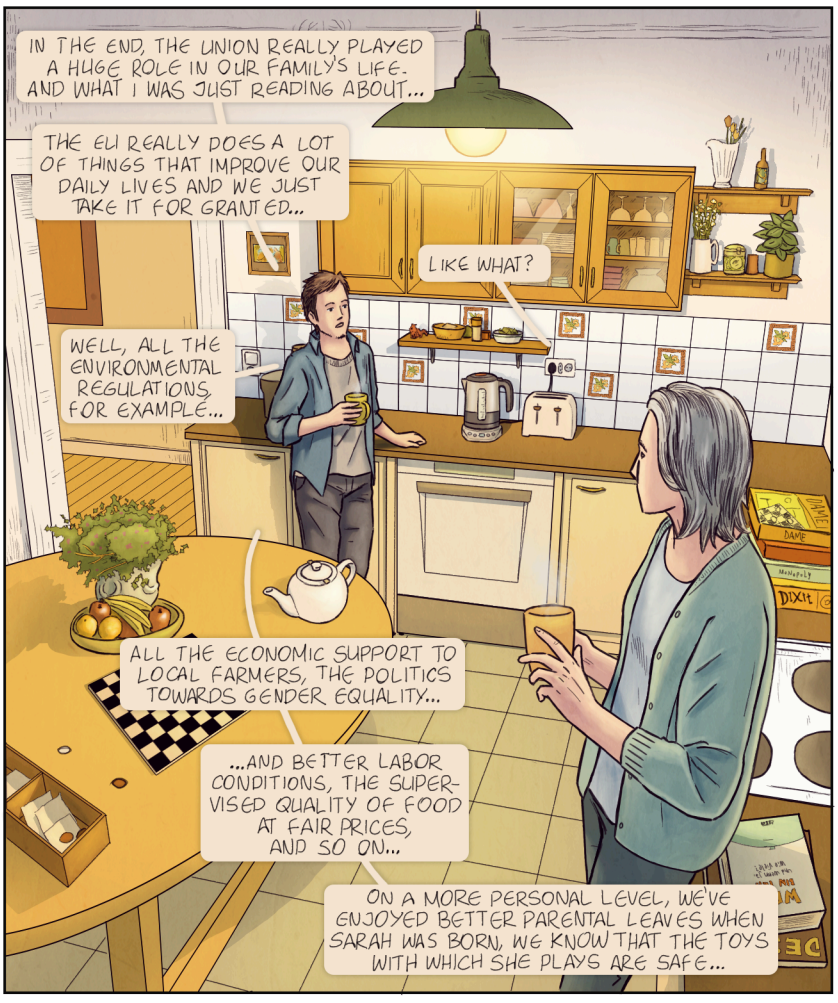
OH, YEAH... JUST DOING SOME RESEARCH.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA, WANT TO JOIN ME?
THAT WOULD BE GREAT

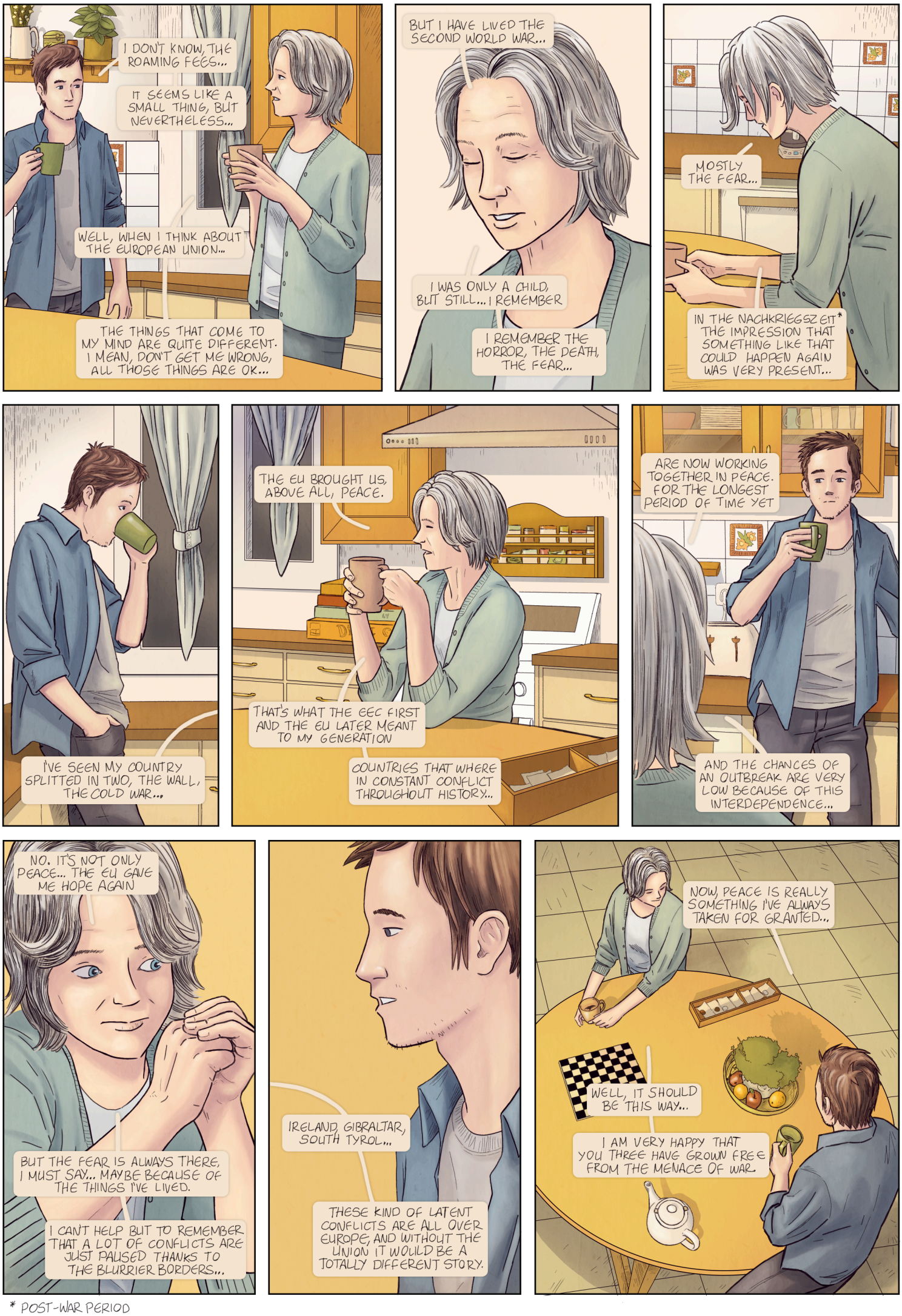

WAS THAT WORK RELATED?
OH, NO... TODAY SARAH ASKED ME ABOUT THE EU...
AND I'VE REALIZED HOW LITTLE I'VE CARED ABOUT IT. WANTED TO CHECK IF I HAD IT RIGHT...

FOR ME THE EU WAS ALWAYS THIS ABSTRACT THING THAT'S JUST THERE AND DOESN'T REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE
I MEAN, SURE... IT'S EASIER TO TRAVEL AND ALL THAT. THE FIRST TIME I HAD MY PASSPORT DONE...


...WAS TO GO TO ITALY. TO ITALY! CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT NOW?
BUT THEN I NOTICED THAT IF IT WERENT BECAUSE OF THIS FREEDOM OF MOVE-MENT THING...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE TO STUDY


WE WOULDNT HAVE MET WITH ANNE...
OR AT LEAST IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT HARDER TO MOVE IN TOGETHER...
...GET MARRIED OR FOR HER TO GET A JOB IN PARIS

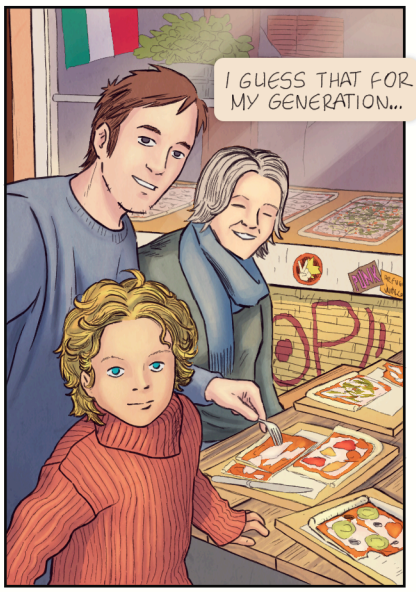

IN THE END, THE UNION REALLY PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN OUR FAMILY'S LIFE. AND WHAT I WAS JUST READING ABOUT...
THE EU REALLY DOES A LOT OF THINGS THAT IMPROVE OUR DAILY LIVES AND WE JUST TAKE IT FOR GRANTED...
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE...
ALL THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO LOCAL FARMERS, THE POLITICS TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY...
...AND BETTER LABOR CONDITIONS, THE SUPER-VISED QUALITY OF FOOD AT FAIR PRICES, AND SO ON...
ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL, WE'VE ENJOYED BETTER PARENTAL LEAVES WHEN SARAH WAS BORN, WE KNOW THAT THE TOYS WITH WHICH SHE PLAYS ARE SAFE...

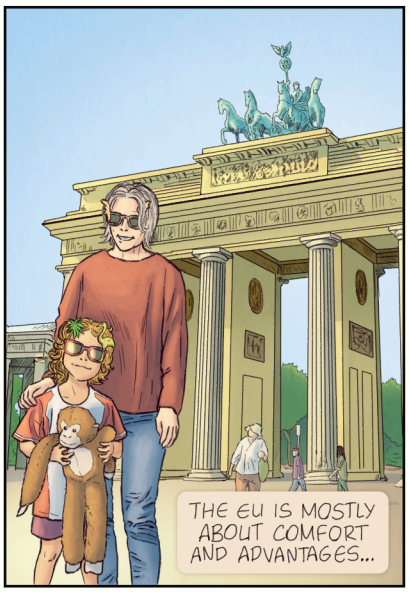


* POST-WAR PERIOD

PEACE ...

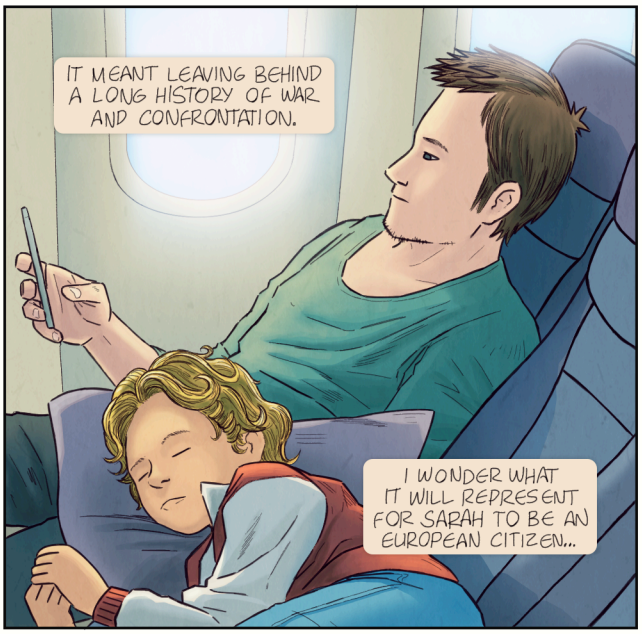
IT'S TRUE THAT WAR IS A VERY DISTANT CONCEPT FOR US


I GUESS THAT FOR MY GENERATION...


THE EU IS MOSTLY ABOUT COMFORT AND ADVANTAGES...

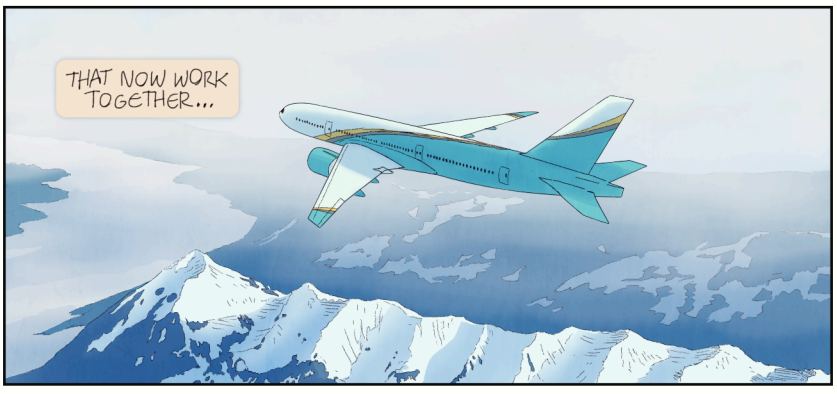
...OF WHICH WE ARE HARDLY AWARE.

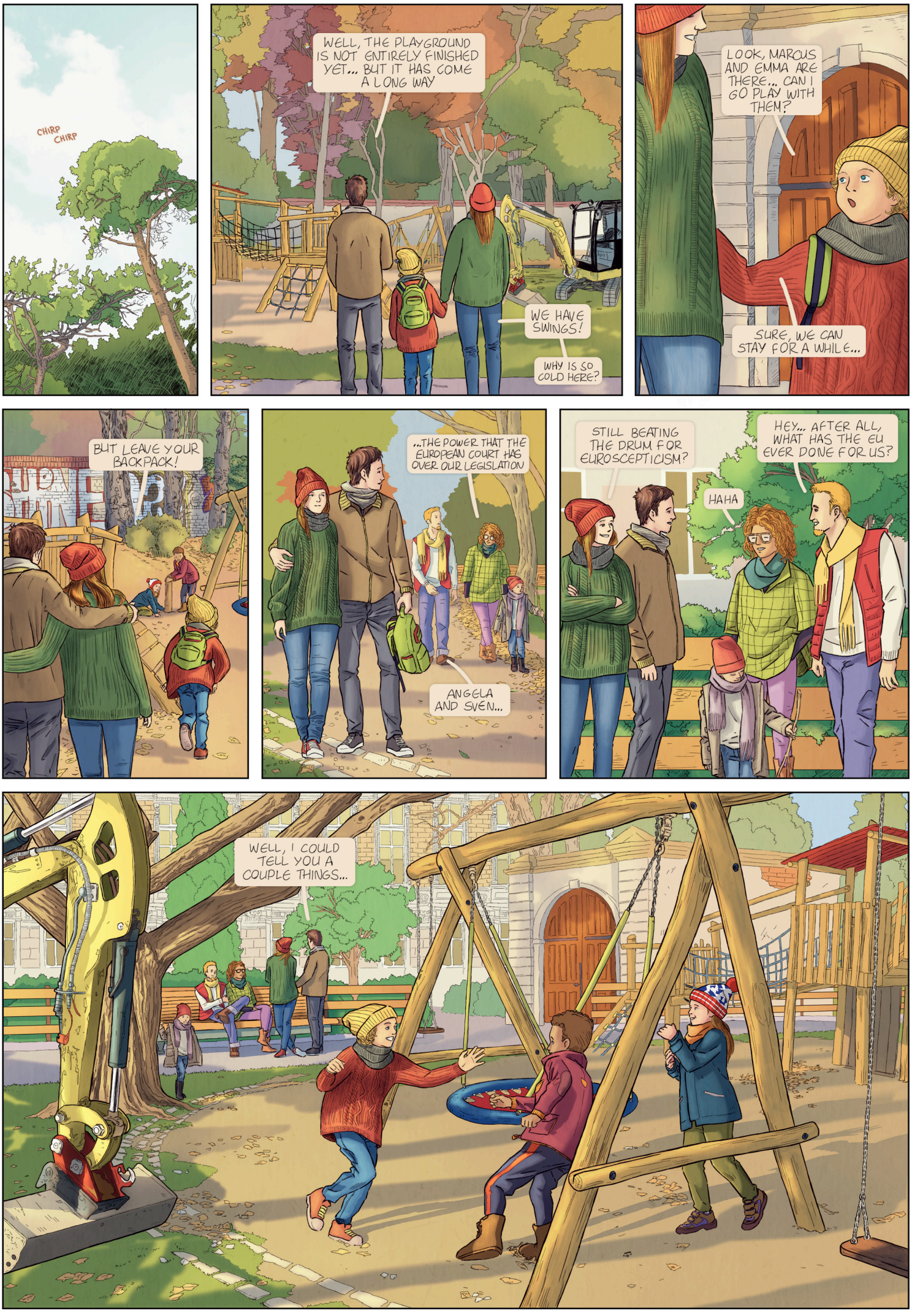
WHILE FOR ULRIKE'S GENERATION...


IT MEANT LEAVING BEHIND A LONG HISTORY OF WAR AND CONFRONTATION.
I WONDER WHAT IT WILL REPRESENT FOR SARAH TO BE AN EUROPEAN CITIZEN...

IN A WAY, SHE IS SOME SORT OF SYMBOL OF THE EU HERSELF...

THE DAUGHTER OF THE NATIONALS OF TWO COUNTRIES HISTORICALLY RIVALS AND IN CONSTANT CONFLICT...


THAT NOW WORK TOGETHER...


CHIRP
CHIRP
WELL, THE PLAYGROUND IS NOT ENTIRELY FINISHED YET... BUT IT HAS COME A LONG WAY
WE HAVE SWINGS!
WHY IS SO COLD HERE?
LOOK, MARCUS AND EMMA ARE THERE... CAN I GO PLAY WITH THEM?
SURE, WE CAN STAY FOR A WHILE...
BUT LEAVE YOUR BACKPACK!
...THE POWER THAT THE EUROPEAN COURT HAS OVER OUR LEGISLATION
ANGELA AND SVEN...
STILL BEATING THE DRUM FOR EUROSCEPTICISM?
HAHA
HEY... AFTER ALL, WHAT HAS THE EU EVER DONE FOR US?
WELL, I COULD TELL YOU A COUPLE THINGS...