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Grzegorz Janusz Tomasz Piorunowski

Dear Readers!

Post-war Europe has united after the bloody experiences of the past. The most severe military conflict in the history of the world, the Second World War, ruined our continent and brought death to millions of people, thus dividing Europe into two parts: free and enslaved. The forefathers of integration created European Coal and Steel Community, which later transformed into the current European Union. Common market, ease of travel and individual development goals have eliminated the need to fight for resources. Cooperation replaced the urge to dominate over the weak. However, it is not only economy that brings Europeans together — although it is, indeed, the foundation of our wealth. It is the culture — common to 500 million people living in the European Union, our myths and stories are the foundation of our mutual understanding. Fables and mythologies, often alluding to similar motifs, help us realize just how much we have in common as a part of the European family of independent but cooperating nations.

European culture has cultivated many means of expression and communication — including comics. We intentionally decided on that medium as one of the pillars of modern communication. Comic art has been elevated by many outstanding creators to become a vital part of modern European and Polish culture: artists like Grzegorz Rosiński, co-creator of Thorgal, European classics like

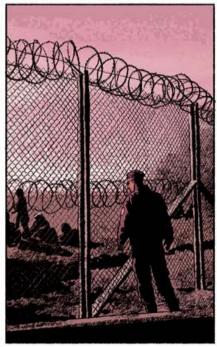
Moebius and Enki Bilal or young generation of Polish artists, currently making waves in the international market — Kasia Niemczyk and Szymon Kudrański.

We give you a European story written by Grzegorz Janusz and illustrated by Tomasz Piorunowski. A tale of a group of heroes fighting for a common goal — protection of Europe's cultural heritage. Their threat? Monolith a villain seeking thoughtless uniformity and transformation of Europeans into mindless pawns, who is unable to comprehend that Europe has created an alliance of nations capable of defending its citizens and values and it is not only through technical means, such us the civil protection mechanism that has previously helped to fight fires in Sweden and Greece, or political means in the hands of the Parliament and European Commission. Europe remains strong thanks to its culture and heroes. This is why Pan Twardowski, Mermaid, Athena and Basilisk are standing up to fight. How will their struggles unfold? Find out for yourselves! I wish you good reading of the comic and learning about Europe — united in diversity, full of possibilities and always supporting its citizens.

Marek Prawda, Head of Representation of European Commission in Poland











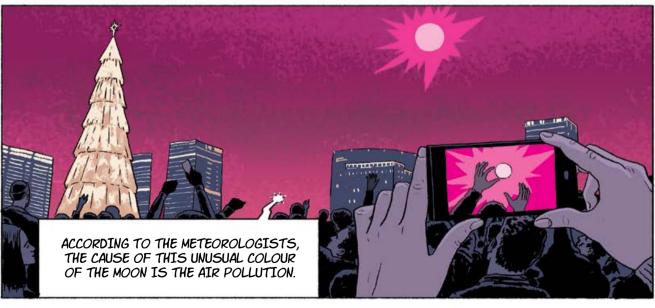
WE ALL REMEMBER
THE EXTRAORDINARY, BREATHTAKING MOON ECLIPSE WE
WITNESSED ON JULY 27TH 2018.





FORTUNATELY, NONE OF THE DARK PROPHECIES WERE FULFILLED.











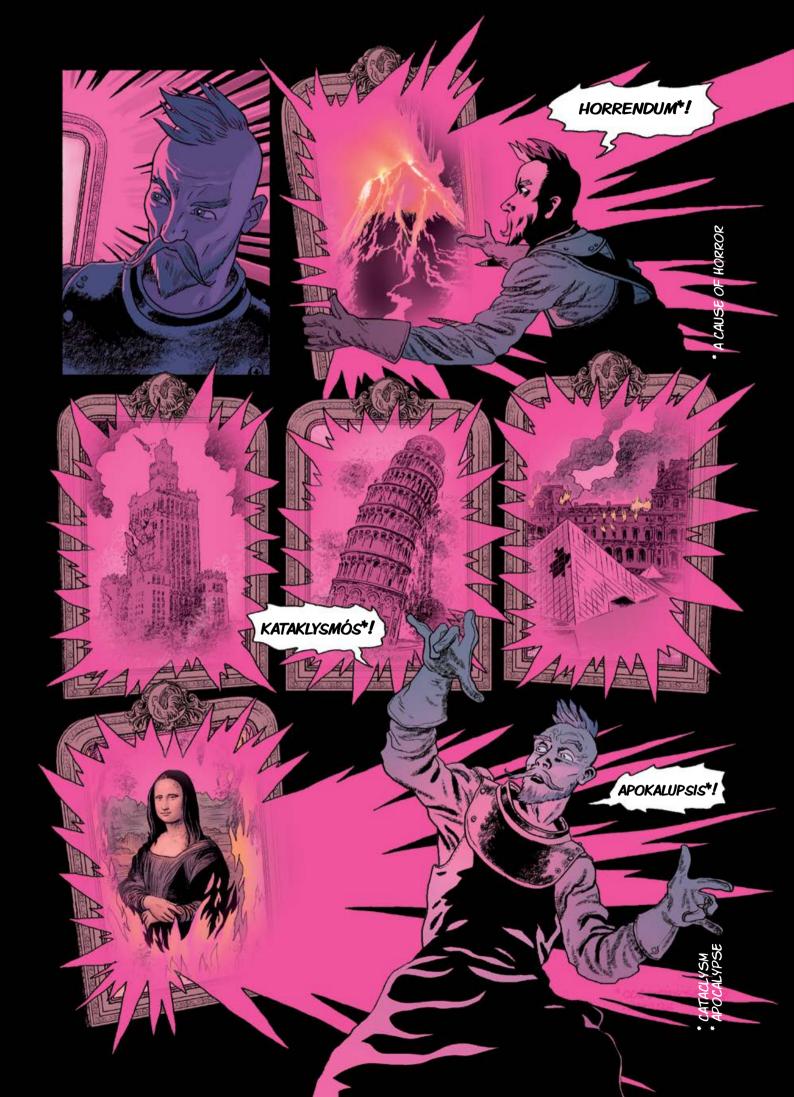








WENTION







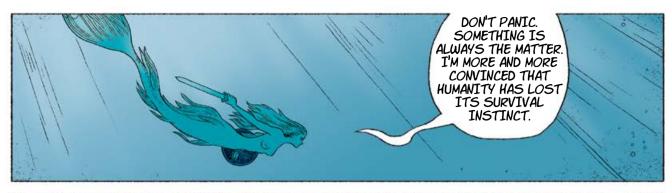












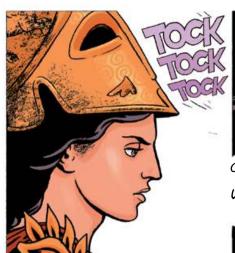






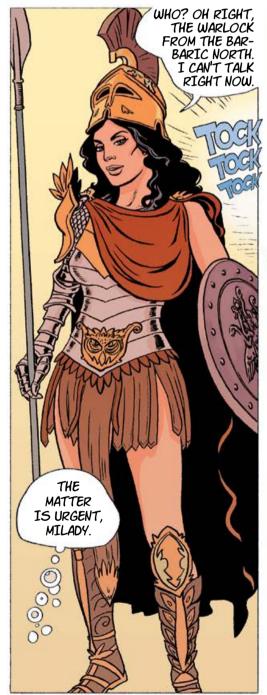






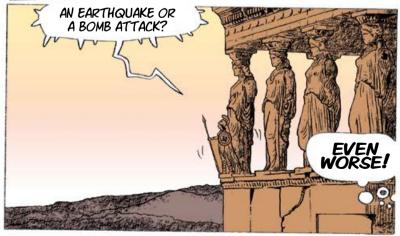




































UNDEFEATED MERMAID, EXPLORER OF THE ABYSS, SLAYER OF LEVIATAN, WHO ONCE ROAMED THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.



CUNNING RAT-CATCHER OF HAMELIN, WHO SAVED EUROPE FROM MANY EPIDEMICS OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES.



DAUNTLESS ROMULUS, WHO SAVED CANIS LUPUS - GREY WOLF - FROM EXTINCTION.



FEARLESS REMUS WITH IDENTICAL MERITS.



BRAWNY GOLEM, OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIST, BRAVE TRACKER OF UNDERGROUND UNEXPLODED BOMBS... DAMN! WHERE IS THIS



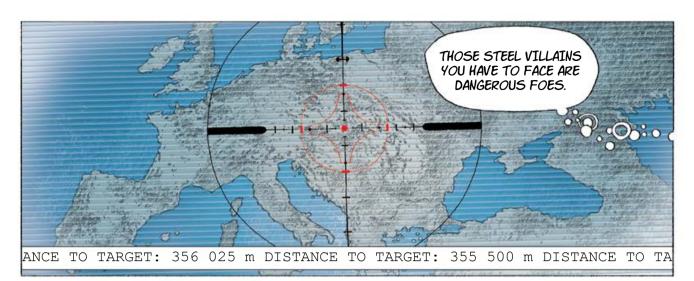




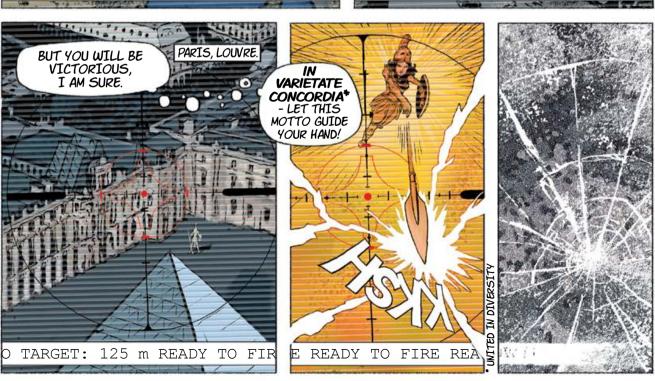


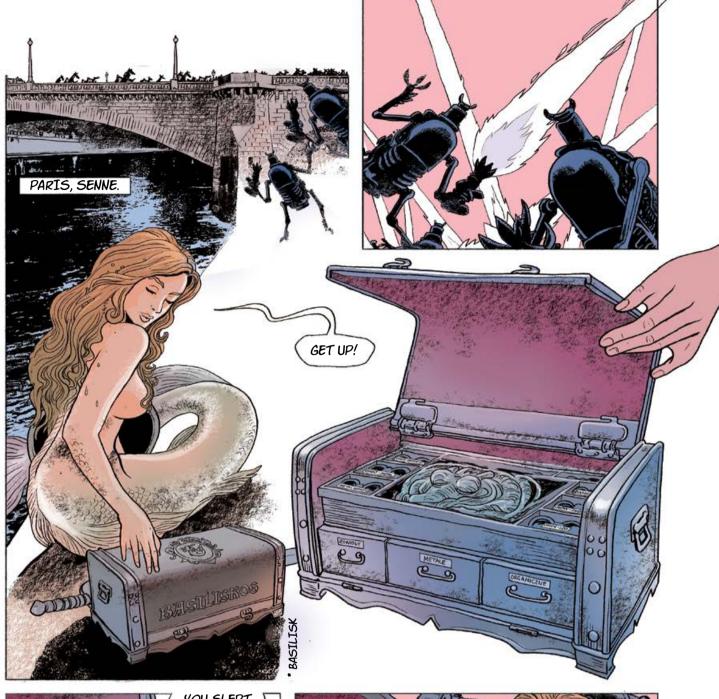




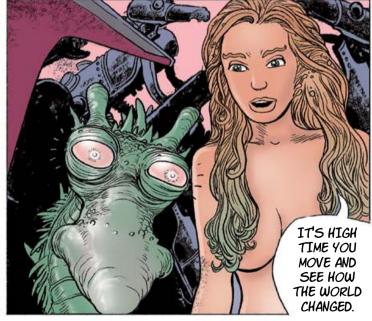








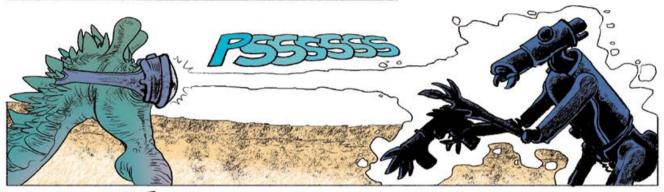








DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH, I'D RATHER YOU DON'T LOOK AT MY ARMS.

















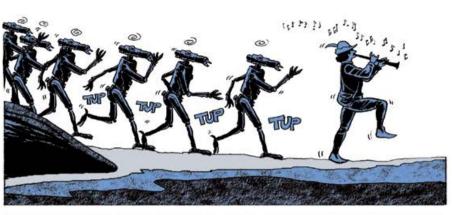










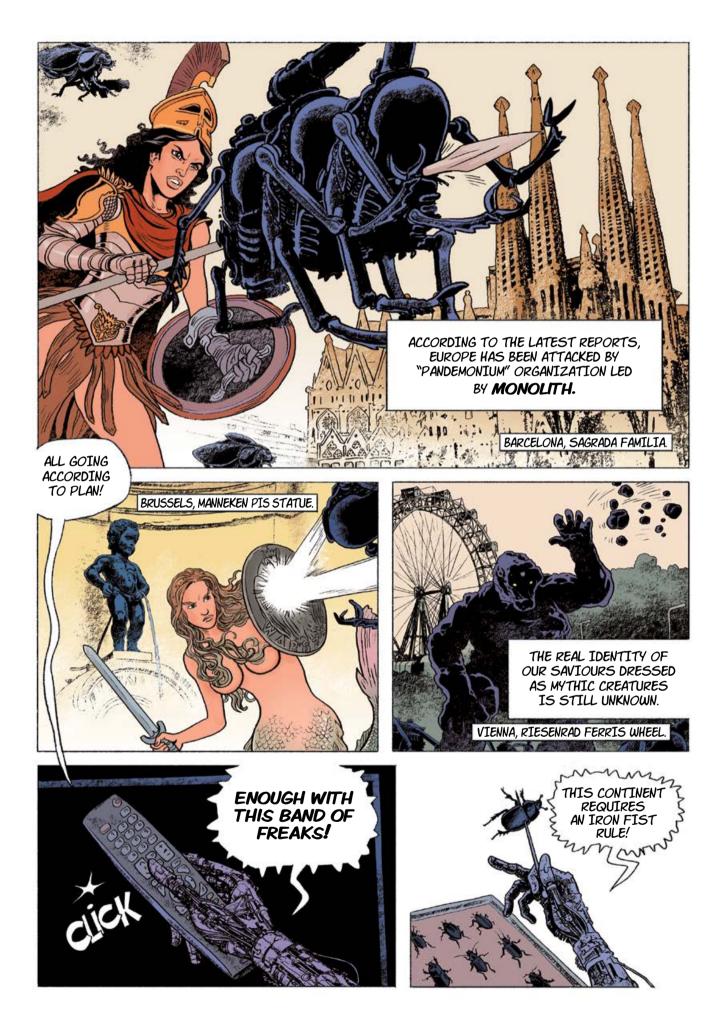




BUL BUL

























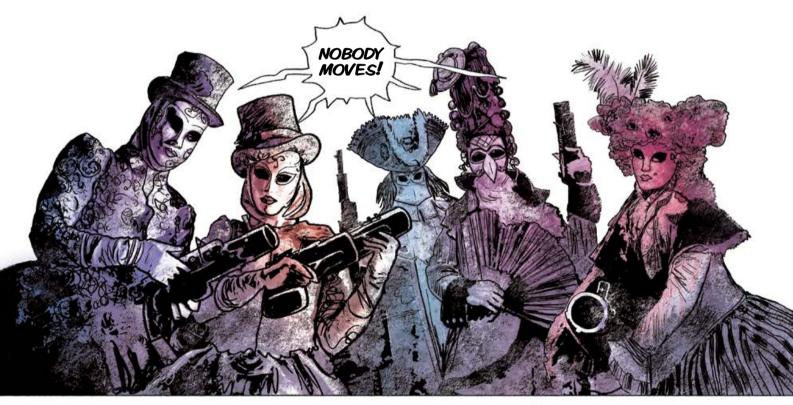








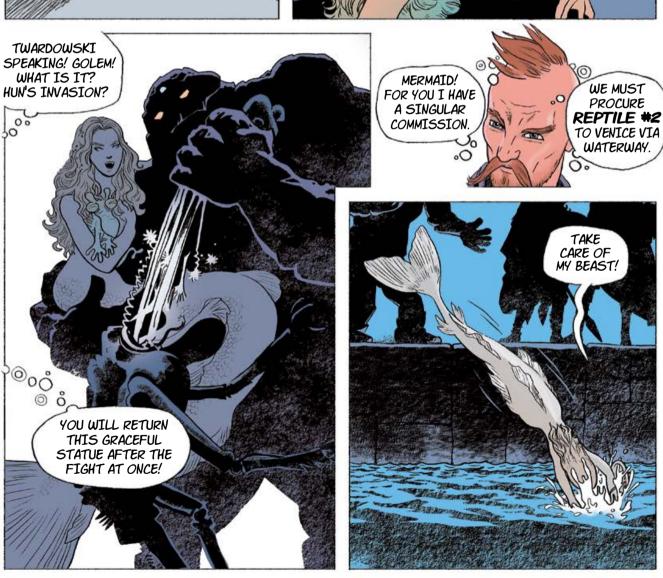






















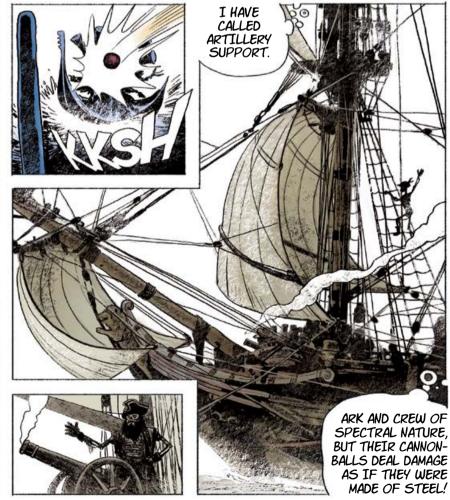


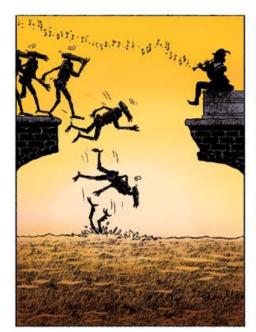




















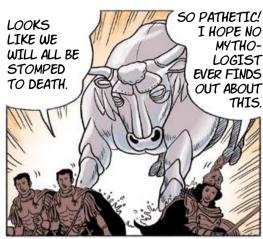


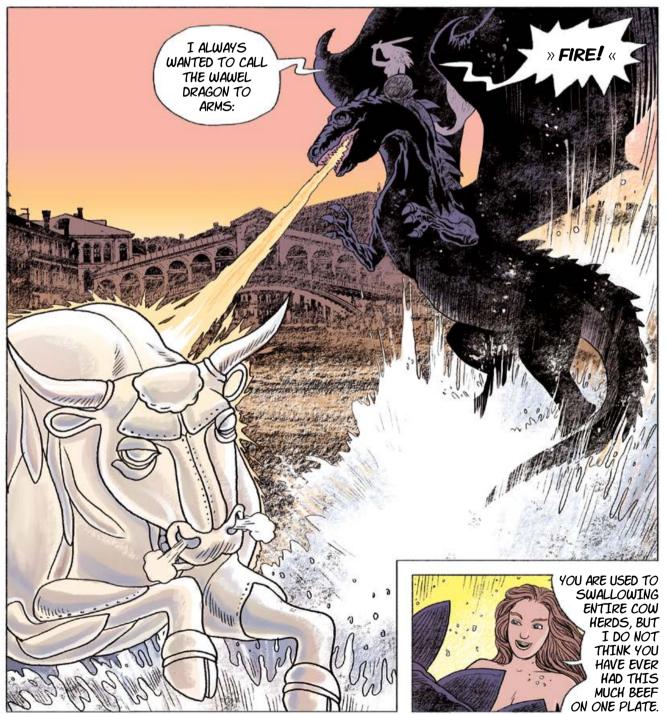


























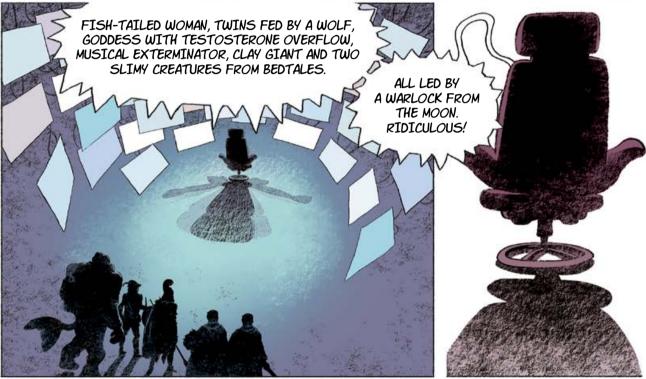




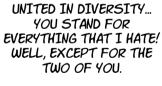
BASILISK CAN DO A LOT, BUT IT CAN'T CHANGE CLAY INTO

MARBLE.





























IT'S JUST ONE STEP FROM THE GREATEST UNITY, WHICH IS NON-EXISTENCE. ALL THAT DO NOT EXIST ARE PERFECTLY IDENTICAL.



AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE APPLIED THIS MEANS OF HOMOGENISATION ON A LARGE SCALE.



SOON I WILL USE A
SIMILAR STANDARDIZING
TREATMENT WITH YOU,
AND AFTER YOU ARE
GONE, I CAN TAKE CARE
OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS,
WHO ARE STILL NOT GRAY
ENOUGH.



DON'T BE SCARED, I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT. I WILL GET RID OF YOU IN A MUCH MORE HUMANITARIAN WAY.



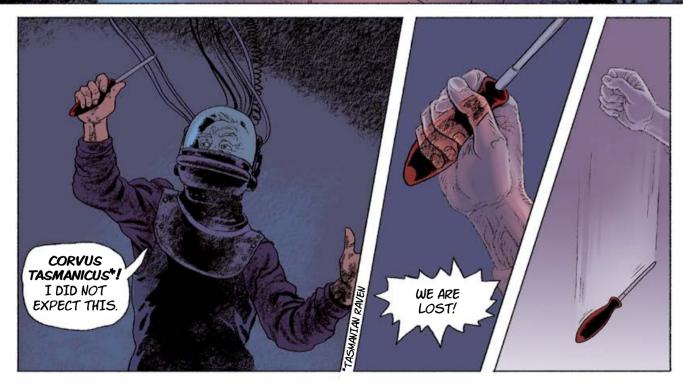


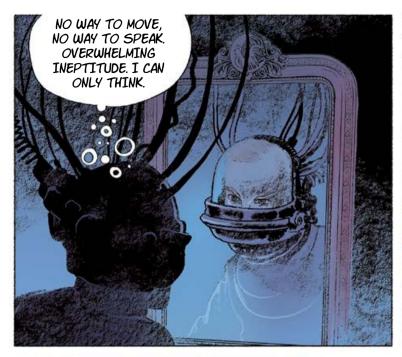










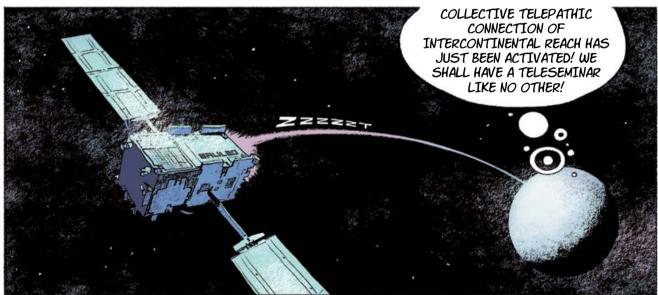










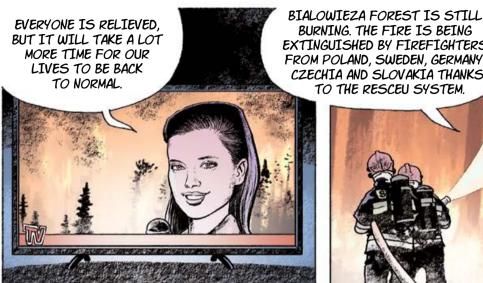






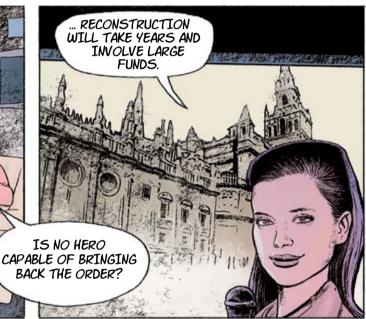
OF THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE THEY EXPRESS COMMON HOPES, DREAMS AND FEARS.



















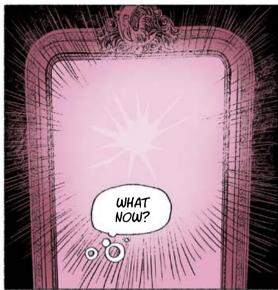




















* RECONSTRUCTIONS AND RENOVATIONS CO-FUNDED BY EUROPEAN UNION.

CORVUS ALBUS*!
FUTURE SEEMS TO



THE END

GRZEGORZ JANUSZ &
TOMASZ PIORUNOWSKI



AUTHORS

Grzegorz Janusz

— born in 1970; writer of many short stories and scripts, mostly for comics; debuted in 1991; published in "Nowa Fantastyka", "Machina", "Lampa", "Playboy" and "Miś", among others; his texts were translated into English, French, German, Czech, Russian, Lithuanian and Serbian; collaborates with the most prominent Polish artists.

Tomasz Piorunowski

— born in 1969; author of many book covers and illustrations, storyboards for feature films, documentaries and TV shows and TV spots; comic book artist — often symbolic, full of lyricism; co-creator of comic book character Paula; colourist of "Kajko i Kokosz" and "Bezdomne wampiry" comics.

Brexit

Common name used to describe the process of United Kingdom's withdrawal from European Union. "Brexit" is a consequence of a national referendum held in June of 2016 in the UK. The term "Brexit" is a portmanteau of two words — "British" and "exit".

According to regulations from the Lisbon Treaty, each member state can withdraw from the Union through sovereign decision. It is a simple consequence of the willingness of European Union membership — a state can both willingly enter the European Union and willingly withdraw from it. The withdrawal process is governed by Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

More on Brexit negotiations: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/brexit-negotiations en

Economic and Monetary Union. Euro currency

Economic and Monetary Union was established in December, 1991, pursuant to the Treaty of Maastricht. It covers coordination of the economic and budgetary policies of EU member states, common monetary policy and common euro currency. All EU countries participate in the Economic Union, with some of them integrated more closely by having adopted euro. Together, these countries form the eurozone, deepening integration by participating in the banking union and by subjecting their national budgets to mutual control. Single currency has undeniable advantages: it reduces the costs of financial transactions, facilitates export, simplifies travel and strengthens EU's position at the international level.

More on Economic and Monetary Union: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/economic-and-monetary-union_en

Galileo

European satellite navigation system, established through EU member states' cooperation. It is the only navigation system in the world supervised exclusively by civil institutions (unlike e.g. US GPS system and Russian GLONASS). Galileo was launched in 2016 and is applicable in various areas of economy, i.e. logistics, air-traffic control and rescue operations. The system is developed in cooperation with European Space Agency — ESA, of which Poland has been a member since 2012. One of the system's satellites was named "Zofia" in honour of Zosia Ćwir from Krasnystaw, who, at the age of 11, won 1st place in Galileo art competition in 2012.

More on Galileo: https://galileognss.eu/

More on European Space Agency: http://www.esa.int/ESA

DiscoverEU

European Union initiative enabling young people to travel across Europe and, thus, discover benefits of unrestricted movement within EU and learn about diversity and cultural heritage of the continent. Lots for train tickets are drawn twice a year.

Those interested can take part in drawing by applying on the website: https://europa.eu/youth/discovereu en

RescEU

EU Civil Protection Mechanism implemented within the Union. Its main task is to protect citizens against the effects of natural and man-made disasters. The initiative is based on a combination of member states' national rescue (civil defence) systems to increase the resources required to deal with large-scale disasters. The project established reserves of resources such as aerial firefighters, high-performance pumps, field hospitals and medical emergency teams for use in all types of emergencies.

More on RescEU:

https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2553_en.htm https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/ thematic/resceu en.pdf

European Solidarity Corps

EU initiative to create opportunities for Europeans to volunteer or participate in projects for professional development. The aim of activities carried out under the Corps is to support local communities throughout Europe. The initiative is addressed to young people (up to 30 years old). Corps members can provide help in preventing and neutralizing effects of natural disasters (floods, forest fires) or activities for local communities (e.g. reconstruction of public buildings).

More on European Solidarity Corps: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

European Parliament elections

Every EU citizen eligible to vote can participate in elections. There are 751 seats in the European Parliament, elected according to principle of proportionality. Following Brexit the number of seats will be down to 705. European Parliament's term lasts 5 years and the most recent elections were carried out in May, 2019. Members of Parliament do not make up national clubs and associate in groups of similar political outlooks instead. For years two political powers have been dominating the Parliament — European People's Party and Party of European Socialists. The first and so far only head of European Parliament from Poland was Jerzy Buzek from EPP.

More on European Parliament: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en

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EU Open Data Portal

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PROJECT PARTNERS:







Dark clouds are gathering above the united Europe.

It is not a weather phenomenon, but thousands of flying battle droids commanded by evil Monolith, villain dreaming of an iron fist rule.

Our only hope is superheroes, known from childhood fairy tales and myths.

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