



UNITED NATIONS  
UKRAINE



Kingdom of the Netherlands

# THE SOUNDS OF PEACE



Svitlana TARATORINA • Serhii CHUDAKOROV



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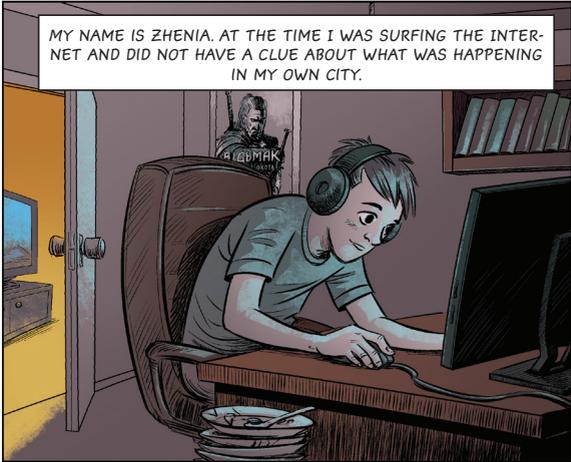


SLOVIANSK HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HUMDRUM HOLIDAY TOWN. DURING SUMMER PEOPLE CAME VISITING OUR SALT LAKES. DURING WINTER WE WERE DYING OF BOREDOM.

UNTIL THE WINTER OF 2014.



OF COURSE, I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN KYIV. SOME LOCALS ALSO WENT OUT TO SHOUT IN THE STREETS.



MY NAME IS ZHENIA. AT THE TIME I WAS SURFING THE INTERNET AND DID NOT HAVE A CLUE ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN MY OWN CITY.



MOM, CLOSE THE DOOR!

I REMEMBER ONE DAY THE TV WAS ESPECIALLY ANNOYING.



"TELEVISION TOWER ON MOUNT KARACHUN HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY OUR FORCES..."

MY PARENTS WERE WATCHING THE NEWS NON-STOP. FOR SOME REASON THE NEWS WAS IN RUSSIAN.



"... GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE RETREATED..."



AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HEARD THE SOUND OF SHELLING.



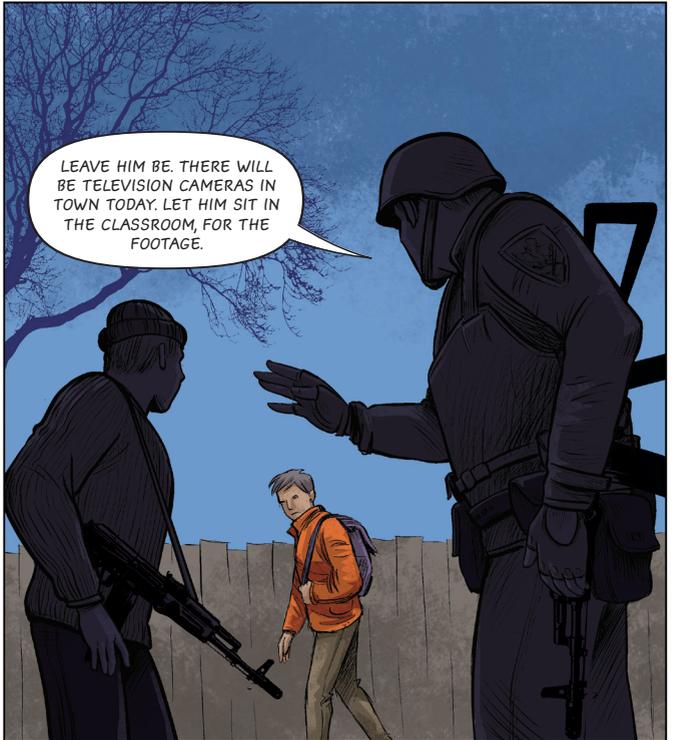
DESPITE THE BAD NEWS, I HAD TO FINISH SCHOOL ANYWAY. AND TO SIT AT A SCHOOL DESK.



I AM OFF TO SCHOOL.

ZHEKA-A-A, AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY HELLO?!

I WAS VERY SCARED, AND THE SITUATION WAS WORSENING ALMOST BY THE DAY.



LEAVE HIM BE. THERE WILL BE TELEVISION CAMERAS IN TOWN TODAY. LET HIM SIT IN THE CLASSROOM, FOR THE FOOTAGE.



THAT CHECKPOINT ON OUR STREET MEANT THAT WE STARTED TO LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF SHELLING.



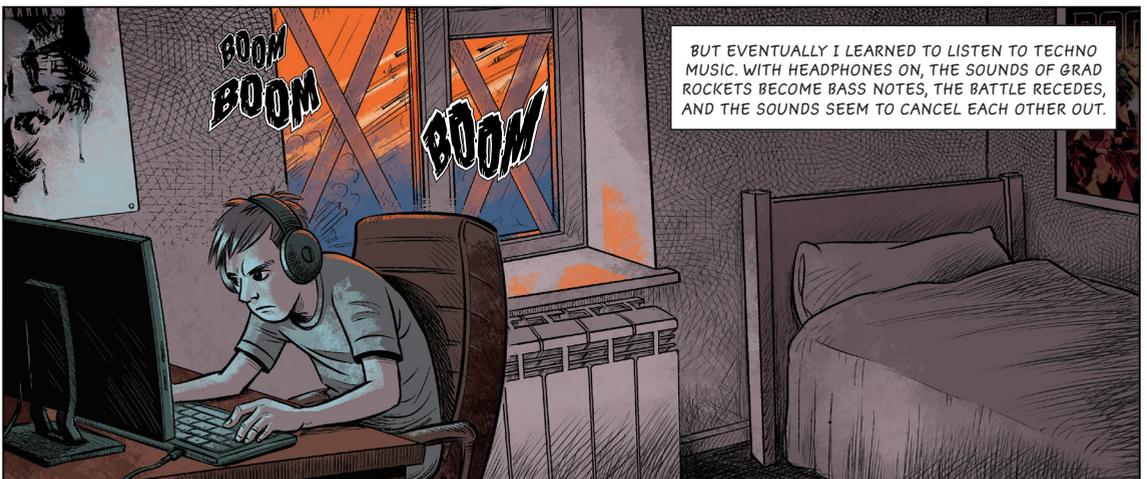
IT GOT ONLY WORSE WHEN THE FOREIGN MILITARY SHOWED UP AT THE CHECKPOINT.



THEY HAULED IN A HEAVY MACHINE GUN. SHELLINGS HIT OUR STREET TOO.



THE SILENCE WHEN THE SHELLING STOPPED ALMOST MADE YOU WANT TO SCREAM. SILENCE ALWAYS MEANT THE UNKNOWN. THE MOMENT BEFORE MORE SHELLING STARTS.



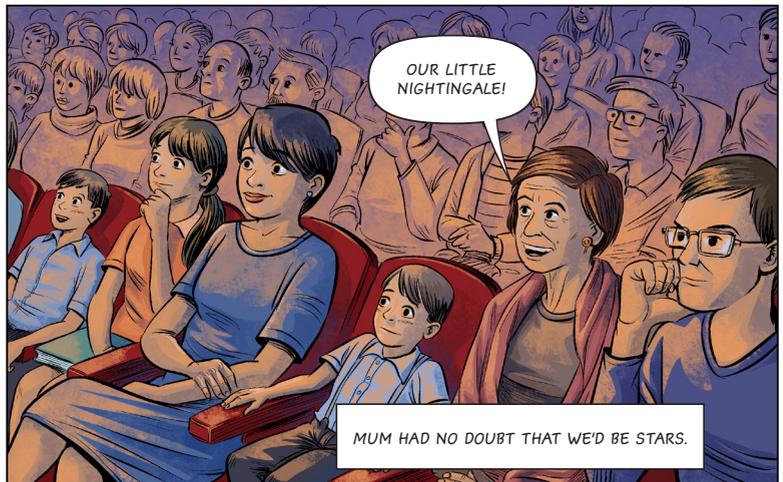
BUT EVENTUALLY I LEARNED TO LISTEN TO TECHNO MUSIC. WITH HEADPHONES ON, THE SOUNDS OF GRAD ROCKETS BECOME BASS NOTES, THE BATTLE RECEDES, AND THE SOUNDS SEEM TO CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.



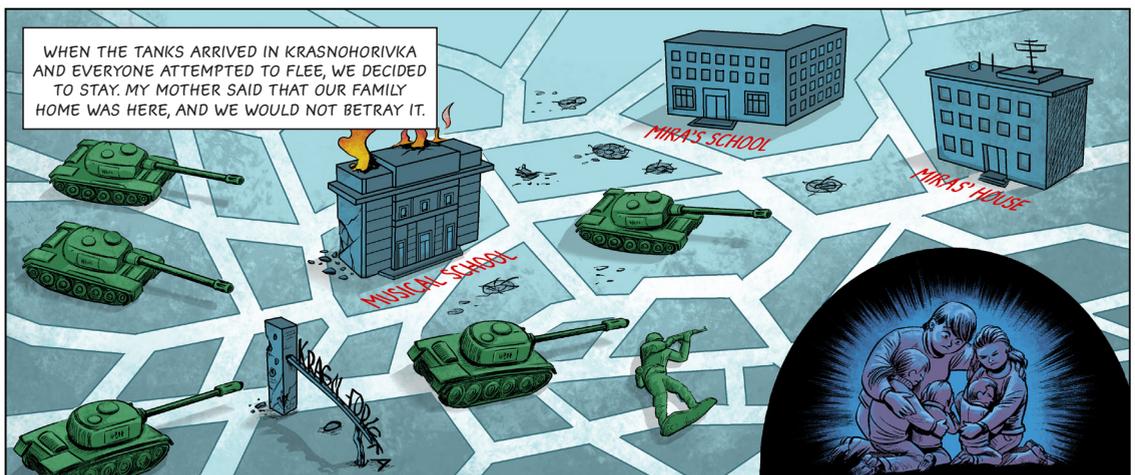
MY NAME IS MIRA, AND THIS IS MY LARGE FAMILY. FOR ME, KRASNOHORIVKA MEANS PEACE, CARING AND COMFORT.



I USED TO DREAM OF BECOMING A SINGER.



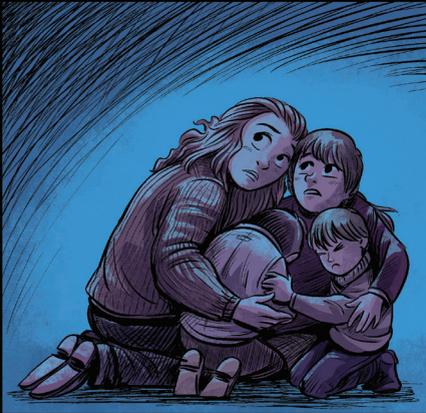
MUM HAD NO DOUBT THAT WE'D BE STARS.



WHEN THE TANKS ARRIVED IN KRASNOHORIVKA AND EVERYONE ATTEMPTED TO FLEE, WE DECIDED TO STAY. MY MOTHER SAID THAT OUR FAMILY HOME WAS HERE, AND WE WOULD NOT BETRAY IT.



Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be  
thy name...  
...Thy will be  
done...



ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE STAYED IN KRASNOHORIVKA. THEY OPENED THE MUSIC SCHOOL ESPECIALLY FOR ME. MY MOTHER SAID THAT THE MUSIC TEACHER NEEDED IT EVEN MORE THAN ME.



THE SCHOOL'S BASEMENT WAS DAMP AND COLD. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU COULDN'T AFFORD TO GET SICK. MEDICINE COST A FORTUNE.



I JUST COULDN'T TELL MY MOTHER I'D LOST MY VOICE. EVEN WITHOUT THAT, SHE HAD TOO MUCH ON HER PLATE.



WE'LL TRY ANOTHER TIME. YOU WILL BE A SINGER, YOU'LL SEE.



HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT MUSIC WITH ALL OF THIS HAPPENING?



QUIET. REMEMBER EVERYTHING YOU SEE.



MY MOTHER SAID THAT TO LET GO OF THE PAIN, IT HAD TO BE RECORDED.



BECAUSE I HAD A CAMERA, MY RAPPER FRIEND ASKED ME TO SHOOT A VIDEO FOR HIM IN A SUPERMARKET THAT HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY SHELLING.

IT'S GOING TO BE COOL, YOU'LL SEE!



THERE WAS A CHECKPOINT NEARBY, BUT WE DIDN'T FILM THAT. FILMING MILITARY VEHICLES OR SOLDIERS WAS FORBIDDEN - EVERYONE KNEW THAT.



BUT STILL, IT SEEMS WE'D MADE A MISTAKE



WHERE ARE YOUR DOCUMENTS?

SHOW US YOUR CAMERA!

AND YOU CAN'T MAKE MISTAKES ON THE 'CONTACT LINE.'



NO! PLEASE! WE WERE JUST SHOOTING A VIDEO! NOTHING MORE.



THEY CHECKED THE CAMERA. OF COURSE, THERE WAS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS THERE.



TAKE IT, BUT DON'T FILM HERE. THIS IS A DANGEROUS AREA.



THEY LET US GO, BUT THE FEAR STAYED WITH ME.

SORRY.



I'M NOT GOING TO FILM ANYMORE! DEFINITELY NOT IN KRASNOHORIVKA!



BUT MUM WASN'T HAVING IT. SO I'D NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE MAKING VIDEOS AT THE VOLUNTEER CAMP.



AS A CHILD, I IMAGINED THAT MARIINKA WAS MY ISLAND, AND I, RUSIA, WAS THE DISCOVERER OF ITS TREASURES.



I WANT TO STAY AND SEE THE TANKS!

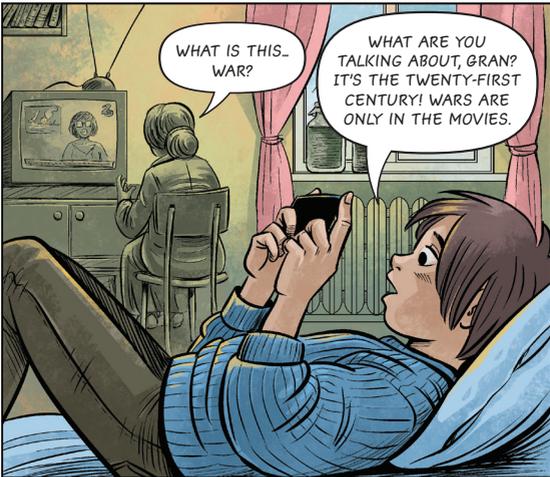
I HAD BIG PLANS FOR THE SUMMER OF 2014. BUT MY PARENTS SENT ME AWAY TO MY GRANDMOTHER'S IN THE VILLAGE.



HAVEN'T YOU SEEN WHAT'S GOING ON IN SLOVIANSK? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TANKS? IN THE CAR, QUICK!



TO ME, SLOVIANSK WAS ON ANOTHER PLANET. AND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO LEAVE MY PLAYGROUND AND MY FRIENDS.



WHAT IS THIS... WAR?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GRAN? IT'S THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY! WARS ARE ONLY IN THE MOVIES.



AT FIRST I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS KIDDING ME.



BUT SADLY, IT WAS THE TERRIBLE TRUTH.



I IMAGINED COMPLETE DESTRUCTION, LIKE IN THE MOVIES: OUR BIKE AND COMPUTER BROKEN, THE TREE HOUSE DESTROYED. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT MY TOYS? THEY BELONG TO ME!



BUT, WORST OF ALL, I COULDN'T CALL MY PARENTS.



I IMAGINED A PLANE CRASHING ONTO THEM.



BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP

I JUMPED EVERY TIME I HEARD THE PHONE RING.



DADDY? HOW ARE YOU? WHEN CAN I COME HOME?

WAIT. JUST A LITTLE MORE.

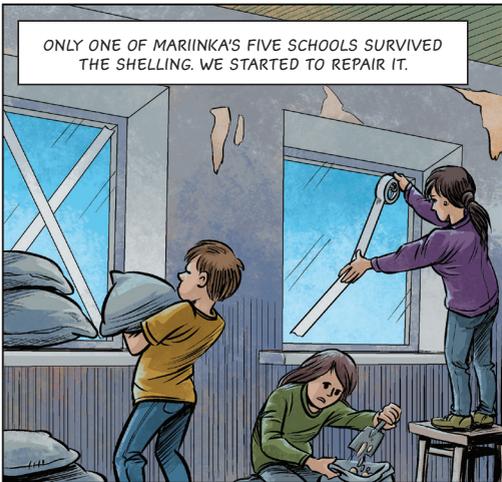
MY PARENTS PROMISED IT WOULD ALL END SOON. BUT EVEN THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.



I ONLY CAME BACK IN OCTOBER.



I REMEMBER THAT WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE SOUND OF GRAD ROCKETS, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE SOUND OF SOLDIERS MARCHING. IMAGINE THINKING THAT!



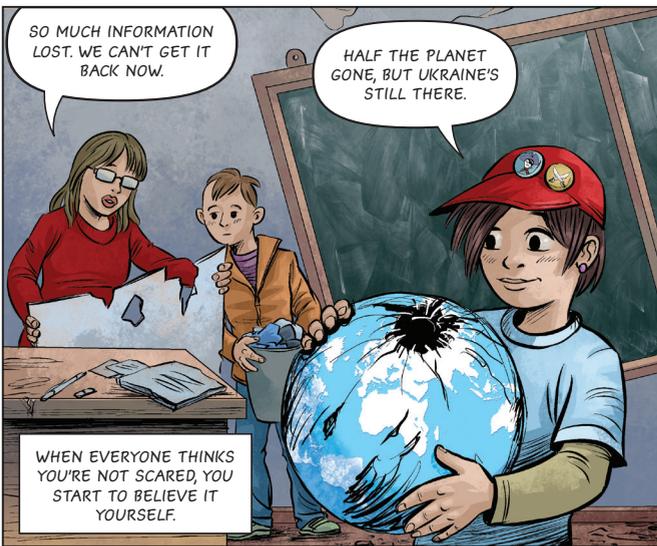
ONLY ONE OF MARIINKA'S FIVE SCHOOLS SURVIVED THE SHELLING. WE STARTED TO REPAIR IT.



IT HAD A COOL BASEMENT.



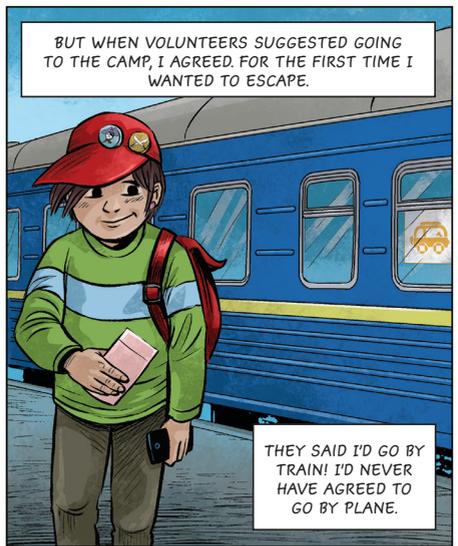
I'VE ALWAYS ACTED LIKE EVERYTHING WAS COOL WITH ME. IT WAS MY IMAGE.



SO MUCH INFORMATION LOST. WE CAN'T GET IT BACK NOW.

HALF THE PLANET GONE, BUT UKRAINE'S STILL THERE.

WHEN EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE NOT SCARED, YOU START TO BELIEVE IT YOURSELF.



BUT WHEN VOLUNTEERS SUGGESTED GOING TO THE CAMP, I AGREED. FOR THE FIRST TIME I WANTED TO ESCAPE.

THEY SAID I'D GO BY TRAIN! I'D NEVER HAVE AGREED TO GO BY PLANE.



WOW! THERE'S ACTUALLY A LOT OF INTERESTING THINGS OUTSIDE OF MARIINKA.



WHAT ARE YOU FILMING?

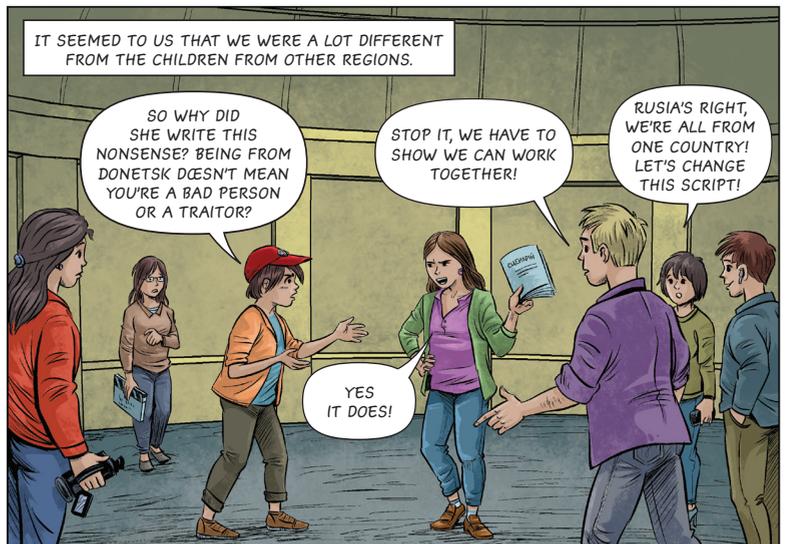
A TRAVEL DIARY FOR MY FAMILY. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S REALLY QUIET HERE? BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IN KRASNOHORIVKA.



THERE, WHEN THEY'RE NOT SHELLING, THERE'S DEAD SILENCE. BUT HERE THE SILENCE IS, I DON'T KNOW. CALMING. A PEACEFUL SILENCE.



I DON'T LIKE LOUD SOUNDS EITHER. I'M RUSIA FROM MARIINKA. LET'S BE FRIENDS, STRANGE GIRL FROM KRASNOHORIVKA.



IT SEEMED TO US THAT WE WERE A LOT DIFFERENT FROM THE CHILDREN FROM OTHER REGIONS.

SO WHY DID SHE WRITE THIS NONSENSE? BEING FROM DONETSK DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A BAD PERSON OR A TRAITOR?

STOP IT, WE HAVE TO SHOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER!

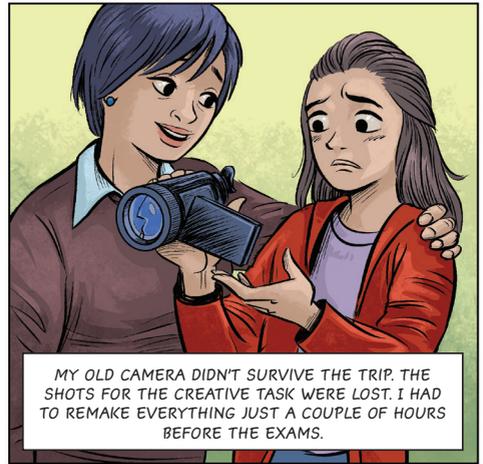
RUSIA'S RIGHT, WE'RE ALL FROM ONE COUNTRY! LET'S CHANGE THIS SCRIPT!

YES IT DOES!





AFTER I FINISHED SCHOOL, I DECIDED TO BECOME A CAMERA OPERATOR. ONLY MY MUM BELIEVED IN ME.

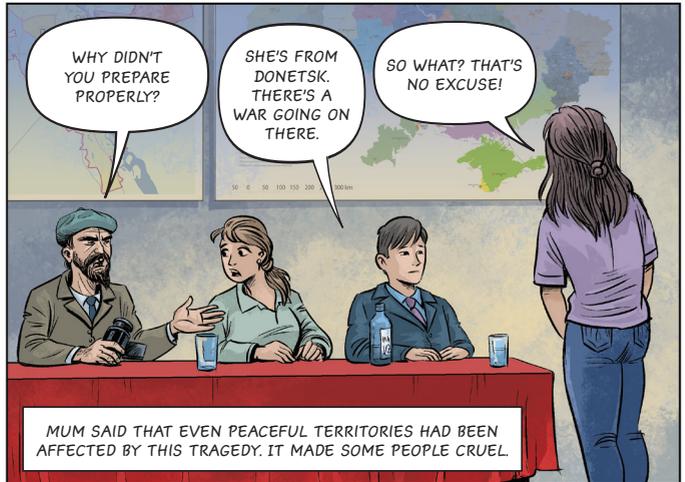


MY OLD CAMERA DIDN'T SURVIVE THE TRIP. THE SHOTS FOR THE CREATIVE TASK WERE LOST. I HAD TO REMAKE EVERYTHING JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS BEFORE THE EXAMS.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, SHOW THEM WHAT YOU HAVE.

IT'S ALL OVER!



WHY DIDN'T YOU PREPARE PROPERLY?

SHE'S FROM DONETSK. THERE'S A WAR GOING ON THERE.

SO WHAT? THAT'S NO EXCUSE!

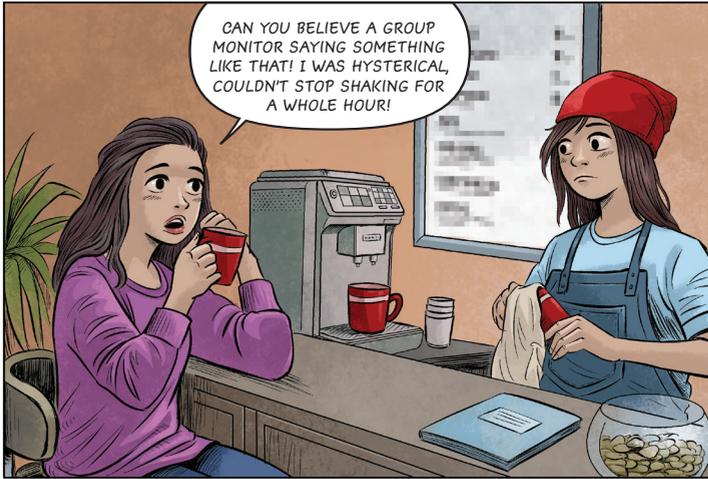
MUM SAID THAT EVEN PEACEFUL TERRITORIES HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS TRAGEDY. IT MADE SOME PEOPLE CRUEL.



BUT IT ALSO TAUGHT OTHER PEOPLE TO FEEL COMPASSION. THEY REALIZED HOW LUCKY THEY WERE THAT OTHERS HAD GONE THROUGH HOSTILITIES INSTEAD OF THEM.

MIRA, WAIT!

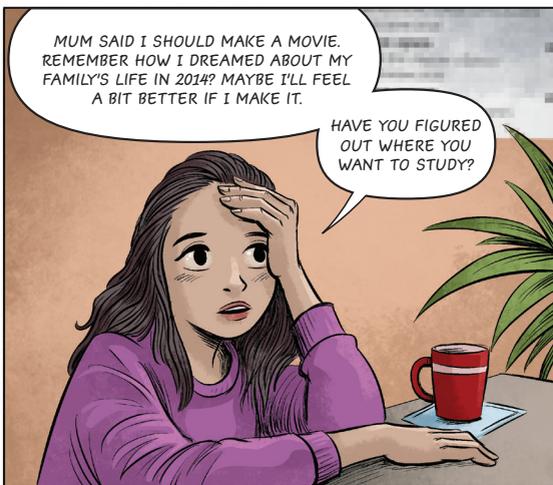




CAN YOU BELIEVE A GROUP MONITOR SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT! I WAS HYSTERICAL, COULDN'T STOP SHAKING FOR A WHOLE HOUR!



YOU NEED TO FORGET ABOUT IT ALL. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FREAK OUT ALL THE TIME BECAUSE OF ALL THOSE STUPID JOKES?



MUM SAID I SHOULD MAKE A MOVIE. REMEMBER HOW I DREAMED ABOUT MY FAMILY'S LIFE IN 2014? MAYBE I'LL FEEL A BIT BETTER IF I MAKE IT.

HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE YOU WANT TO STUDY?



NOPE. I'M AFRAID TO MAKE A MISTAKE AND GO TO THE WRONG SCHOOL. SO I DECIDED TO SEE THE WORLD FIRST.



AND GOT STUCK IN THIS CAFE?

NO, I'M JUST STARTING IN KYIV. AND, BY THE WAY, ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS HELPED ME GET THIS JOB. OTHERS INVITED ME TO BERLIN.

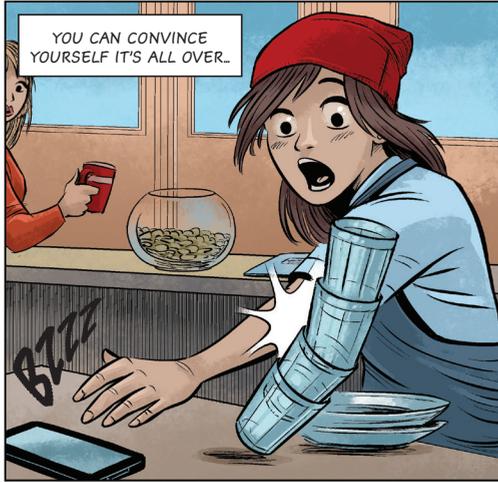
RUSIA, THE CUSTOMERS!



IGNORE THE MONITORS, AND GOOD LUCK WITH STUDYING!



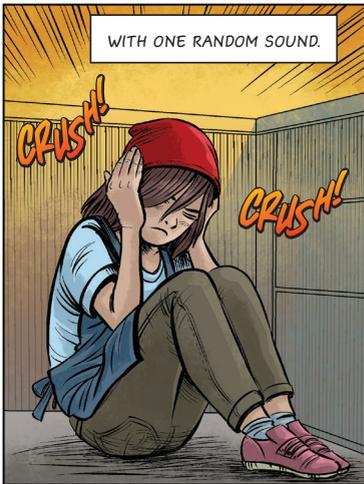
YOU CAN TELL PEOPLE THEY SHOULD LEARN TO FORGET.



YOU CAN CONVINCE YOURSELF IT'S ALL OVER...



AND THEN IT IS BACK IN YOUR LIFE, AGAIN.



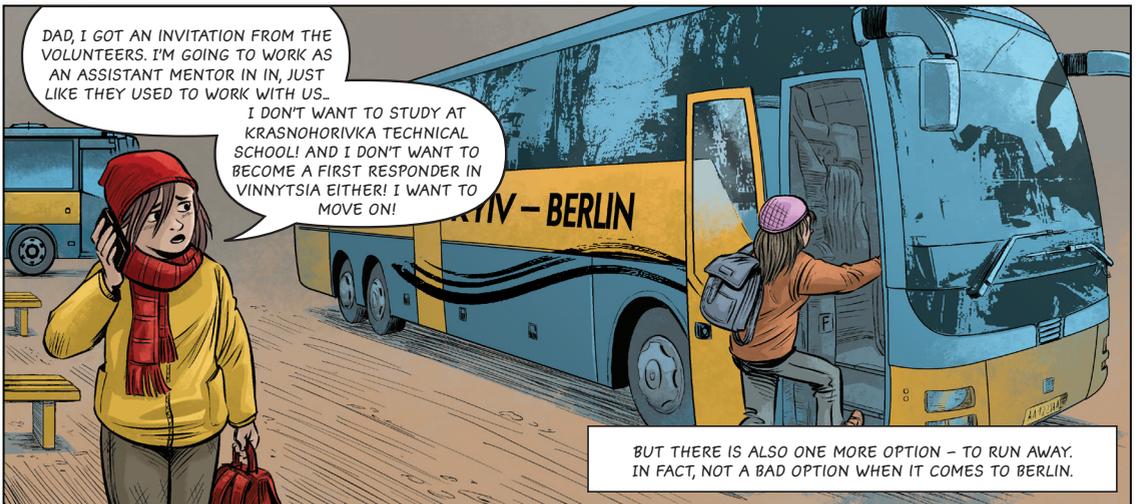
WITH ONE RANDOM SOUND.



AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS BREATHE AND WAIT UNTIL YOUR BODY REMEMBERS YOU'RE SAFE.



SHE DOESN'T LIKE LOUD NOISES... THE WAR...



DAD, I GOT AN INVITATION FROM THE VOLUNTEERS. I'M GOING TO WORK AS AN ASSISTANT MENTOR IN IN, JUST LIKE THEY USED TO WORK WITH US.

I DON'T WANT TO STUDY AT KRASNOHORIVKA TECHNICAL SCHOOL! AND I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A FIRST RESPONDER IN VINNYTSIA EITHER! I WANT TO MOVE ON!

BUT THERE IS ALSO ONE MORE OPTION - TO RUN AWAY. IN FACT, NOT A BAD OPTION WHEN IT COMES TO BERLIN.



THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS I GOT A CHANCE I'D NEVER HAD BEFORE. A GIRL FROM MARIINKA WOULDN'T GET TO GO TO BERLIN BEFORE 2014.



BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THOSE SCARY YEARS AGAIN. IN BERLIN I REALIZED THAT I'D SURVIVED IT. I'M DONE CRYING ABOUT IT. I'M FINE NOW.



ICH HEIßE RUSIA. I'M FROM UKRAINE.



I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH FIREWORK DISPLAYS BEFORE.



I EVEN TRIED TO APPRECIATE THEIR BEAUTY.



BUT THEN I HEARD THE GRAD ROCKETS AGAIN.

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**



I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. IT'S ME OR THOSE SOUNDS.

APPARENTLY, MOVING ON AND RUNNING AWAY AREN'T THE SAME.



AFTER THE LIBERATION OF SLOVIANSK, YELLOW AND BLUE FLAGS WERE EVERYWHERE. I WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT THE TOWN HAD CHANGED.



BUT, LIKE BEFORE, THERE WAS JUST NOWHERE TO GO.



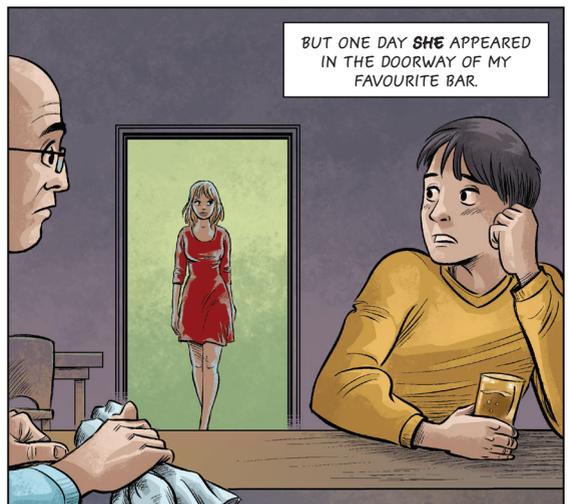
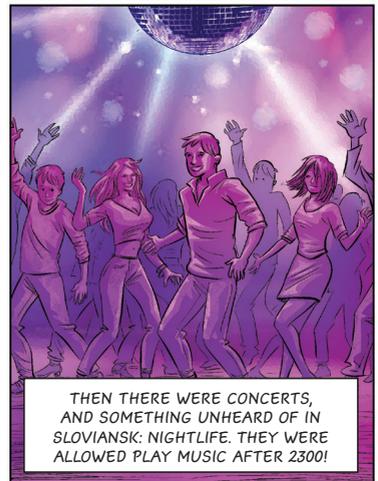
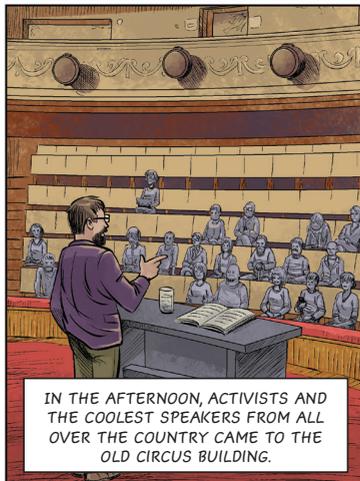
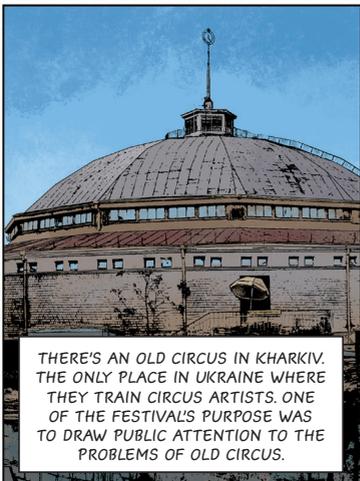
SUDDENLY THERE WERE PEOPLE IN SLOVIANSK WHO DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO APRIL 2014.

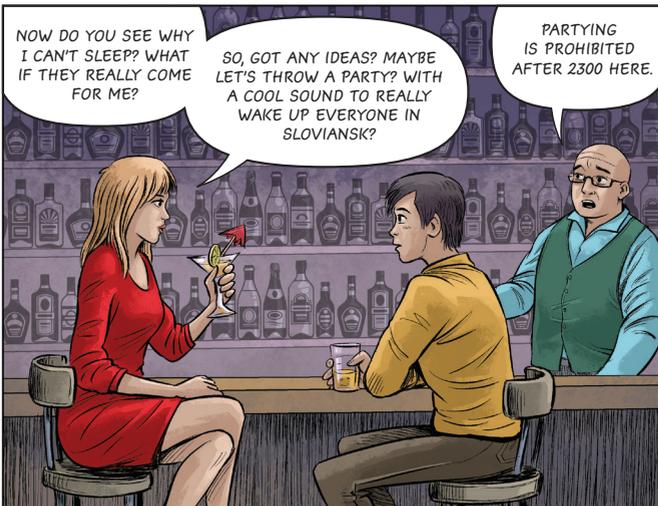
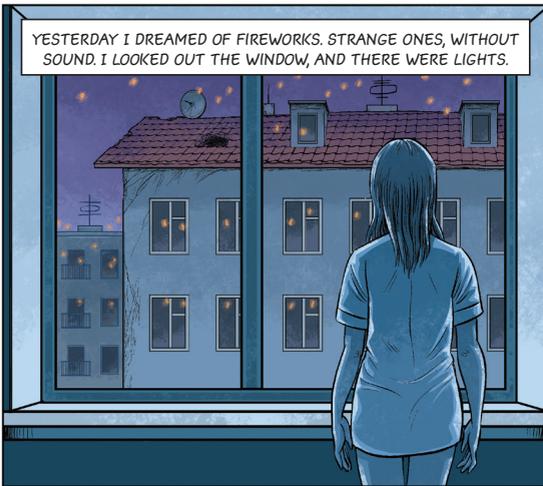


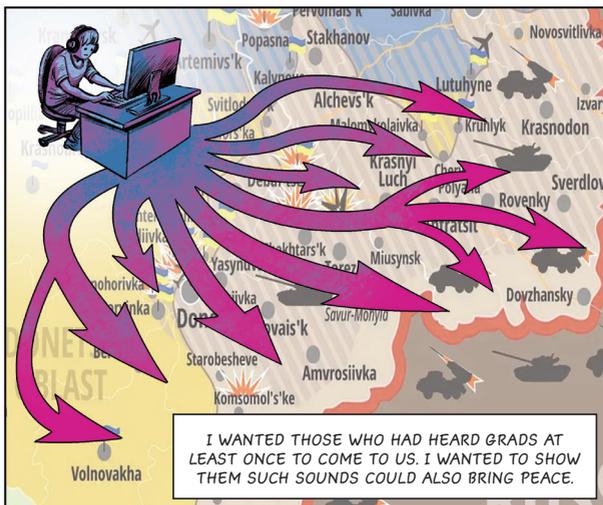
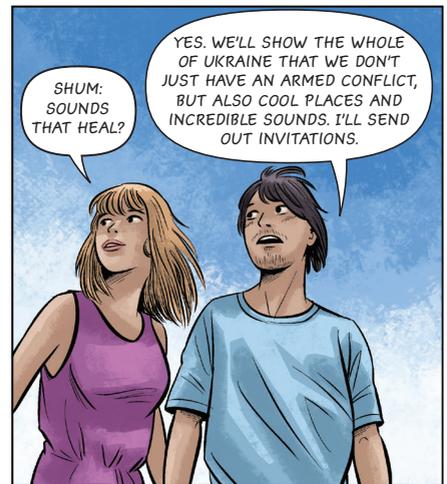
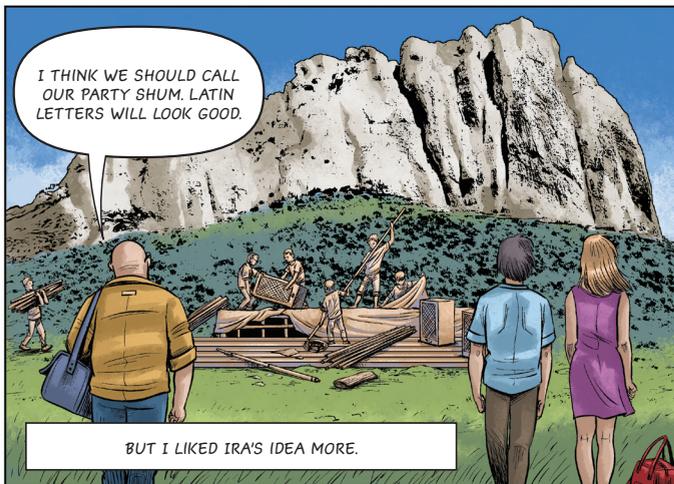
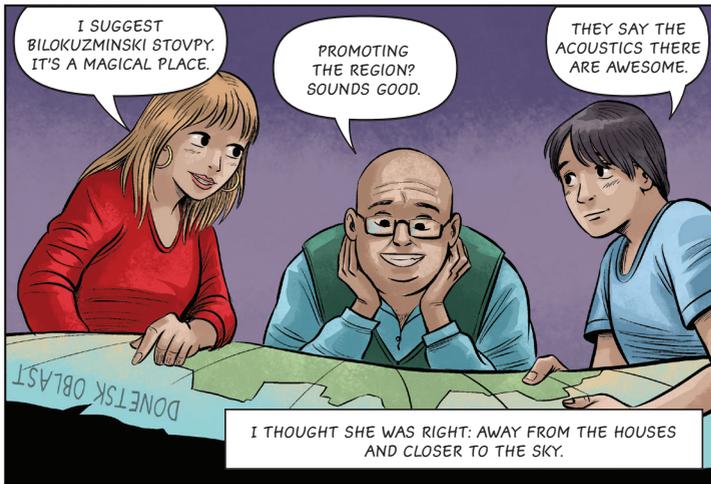
OR MAYBE NOT SO SUDDENLY. MAYBE UNTIL 2014 I JUST HADN'T NOTICED THEM.

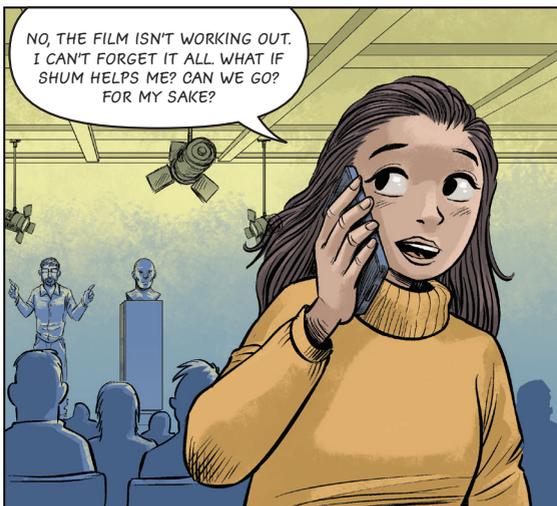


I STARTED HELPING OUT AT "THE GREENHOUSE." AND I LEARNED ABOUT A BUNCH OF OTHER PROJECTS.





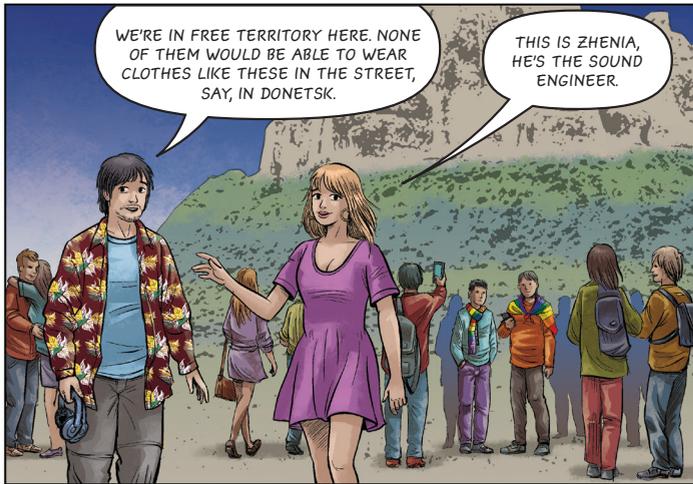






HOW BEAUTIFUL!

I'M NOT SURE THE POWER IN MY HEADPHONES WILL LAST LONG HERE. AND WHY DID THEY GATHER HERE EXACTLY?



WE'RE IN FREE TERRITORY HERE. NONE OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THESE IN THE STREET, SAY, IN DONETSK.

THIS IS ZHENIA, HE'S THE SOUND ENGINEER.

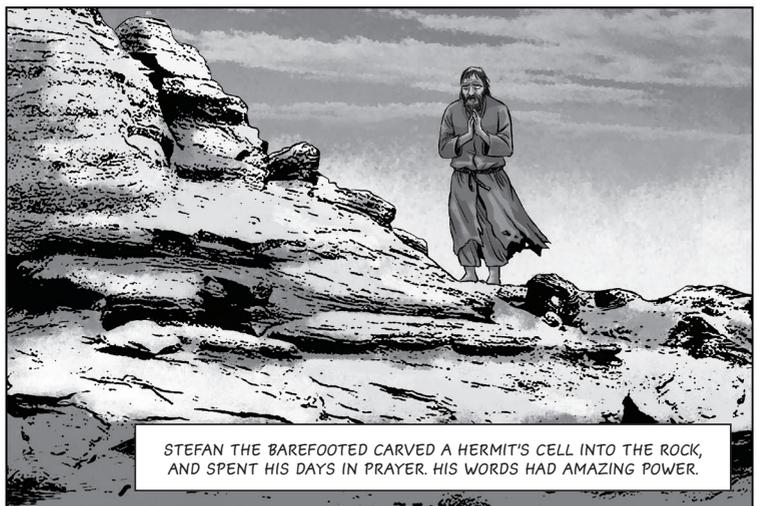


AND WHY HERE? IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

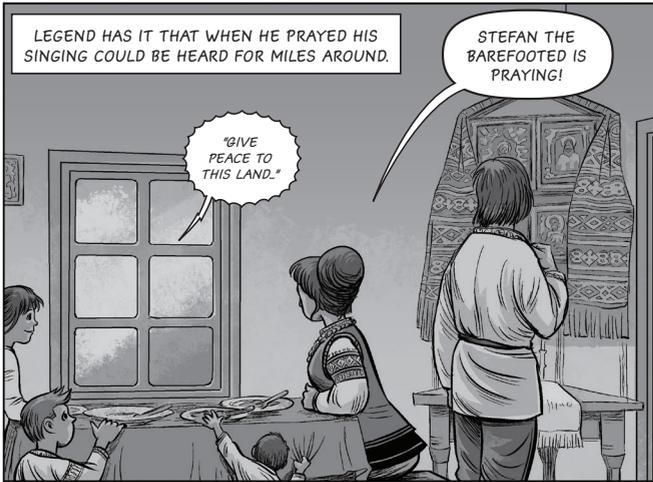
THERE'S A LOCAL LEGEND.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO A HERMIT LIVED HERE. HE WAS CALLED STEFAN THE BAREFOOTED.



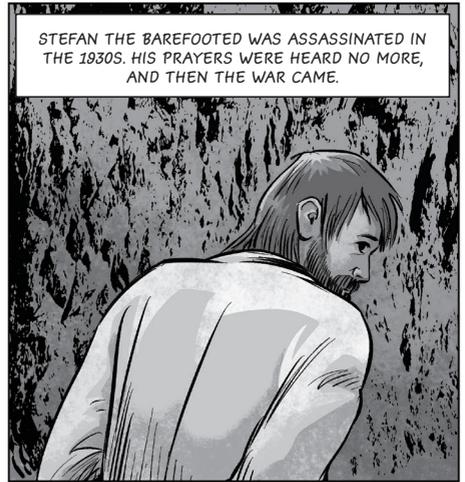
STEFAN THE BAREFOOTED CARVED A HERMIT'S CELL INTO THE ROCK, AND SPENT HIS DAYS IN PRAYER. HIS WORDS HAD AMAZING POWER.



LEGEND HAS IT THAT WHEN HE PRAYED HIS SINGING COULD BE HEARD FOR MILES AROUND.

STEFAN THE BAREFOOTED IS PRAYING!

"GIVE PEACE TO THIS LAND."



STEFAN THE BAREFOOTED WAS ASSASSINATED IN THE 1930S. HIS PRAYERS WERE HEARD NO MORE, AND THEN THE WAR CAME.



I DREAMED THAT STEFAN BAREFOOTED TOLD ME THAT WE SHOULD BRING THE SOUND BACK TO BILOKUZMINSKI STOVYY.



AND I TRAVELLED ACROSS HALF OF UKRAINE FOR THIS?

WE DON'T REALLY LIKE LOUD SOUND.



WE DON'T REALLY LIKE IT?! I'M TERRIFIED OF IT!



HERE YOU ARE, WE'VE GOT THESE FOR SUCH CASES. THEY'RE SOUNDPROOF. YOU CAN DECIDE YOURSELF WHEN TO TAKE THEM OFF.



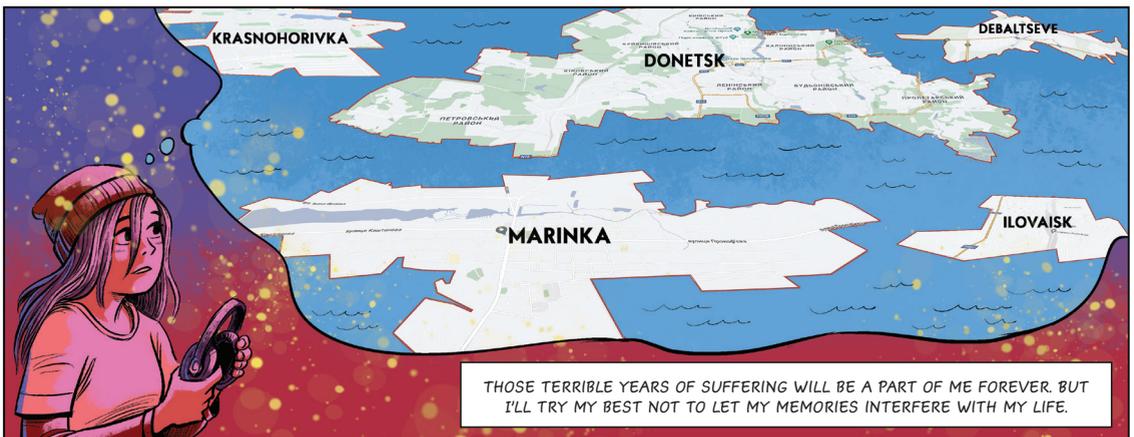
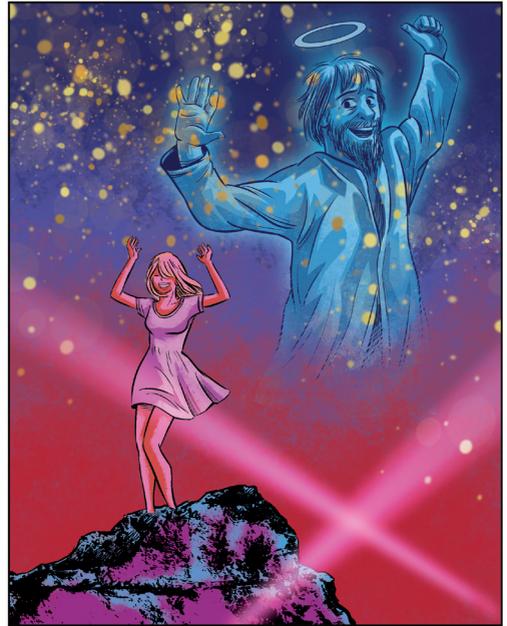


TECHNO IS A SOUND THAT HEALS. IT'S MUSIC THAT HELPS YOU OVERCOME FEAR.





MAYBE SOMEDAY PEOPLE WILL SPEAK ABOUT OUR REGION AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF A TECHNO FESTIVAL, NOT AS A PLACE OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES.



THOSE TERRIBLE YEARS OF SUFFERING WILL BE A PART OF ME FOREVER. BUT I'LL TRY MY BEST NOT TO LET MY MEMORIES INTERFERE WITH MY LIFE.



SO, WHEN ARE YOU MAKING YOUR '2014' FILM?

NEVER.



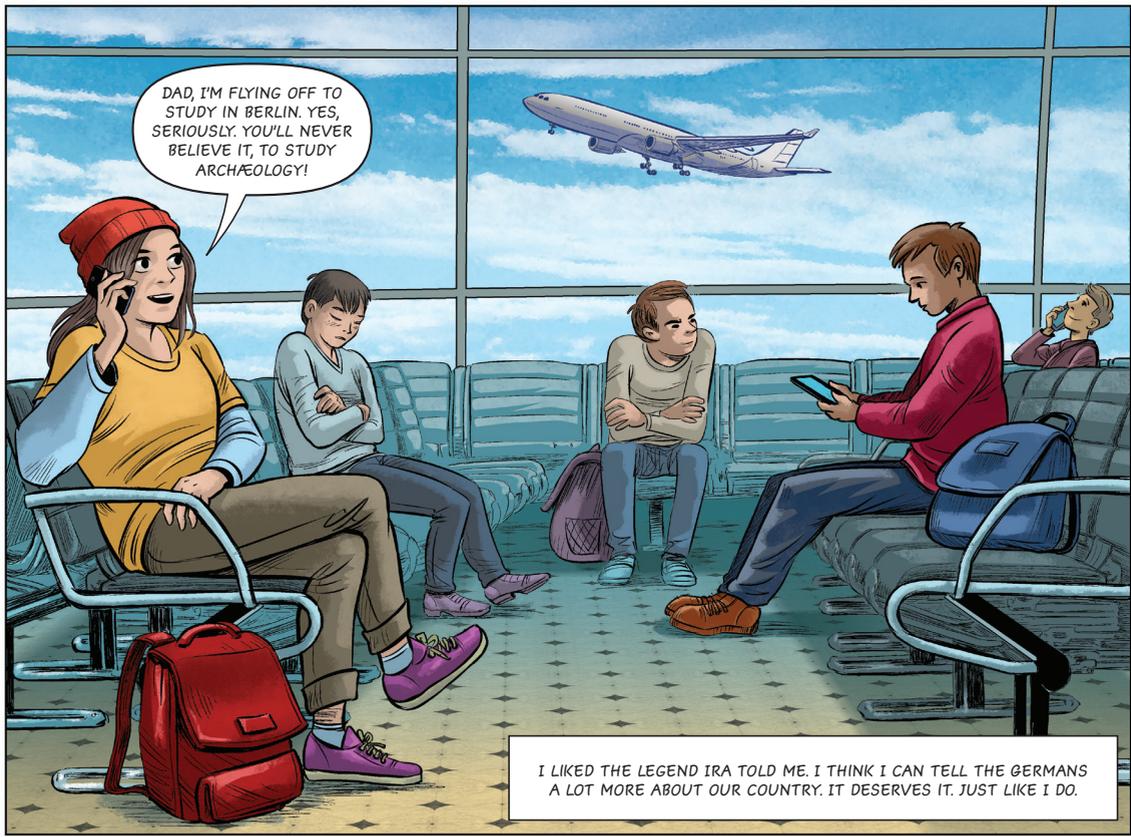
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? SINGING AGAIN?

NO. THIS ISN'T A FAIRY TALE. I'M NOT GETTING MY VOICE BACK. BUT I WILL MAKE A FILM. JUST A DIFFERENT ONE.



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

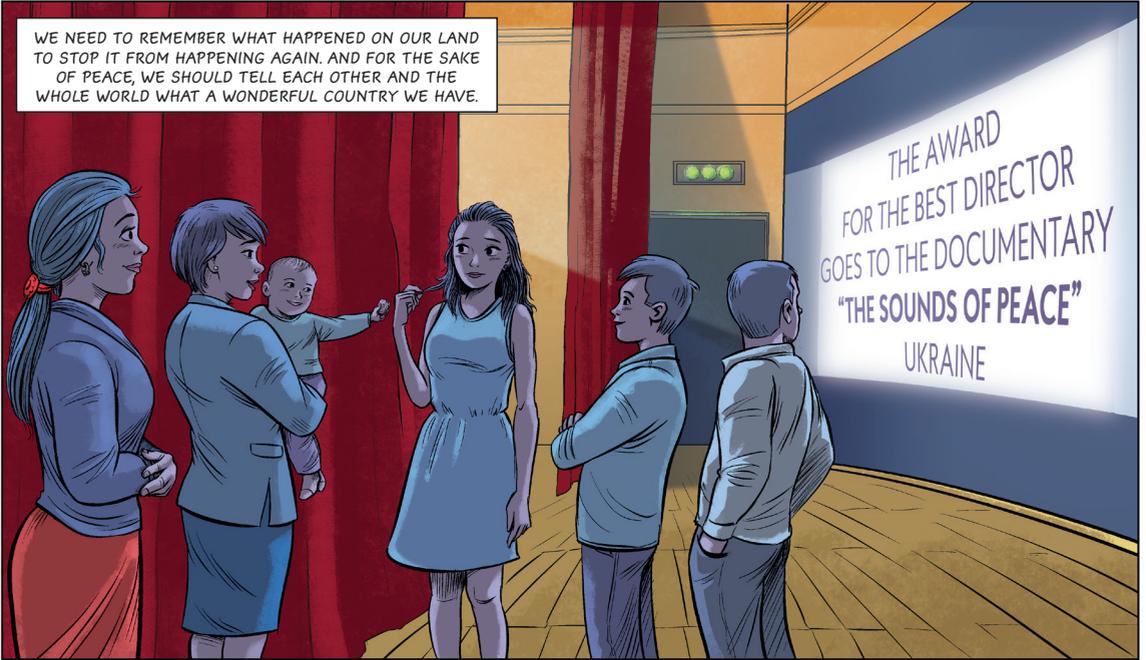
ME, I'M FINALLY READY TO MOVE ON.



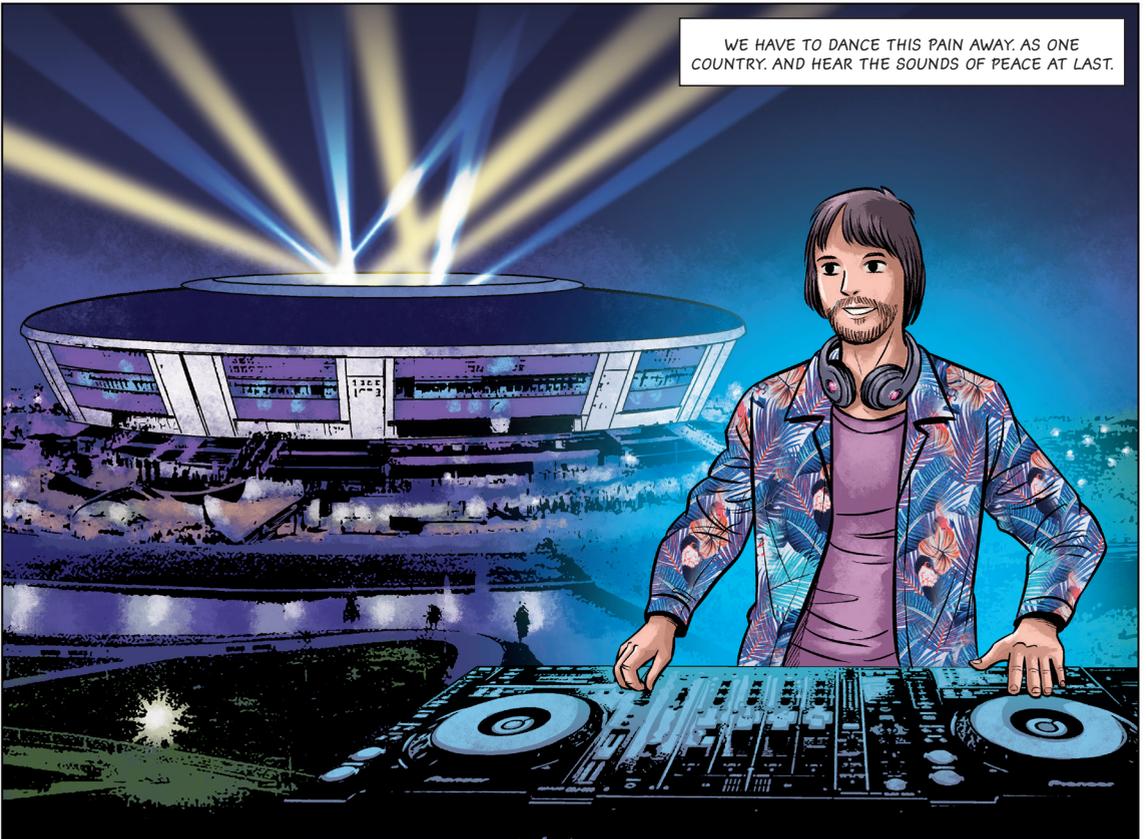
DAD, I'M FLYING OFF TO STUDY IN BERLIN. YES, SERIOUSLY. YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT, TO STUDY ARCHAEOLOGY!

I LIKED THE LEGEND IRA TOLD ME. I THINK I CAN TELL THE GERMANS A LOT MORE ABOUT OUR COUNTRY. IT DESERVES IT. JUST LIKE I DO.

WE NEED TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ON OUR LAND TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN. AND FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE, WE SHOULD TELL EACH OTHER AND THE WHOLE WORLD WHAT A WONDERFUL COUNTRY WE HAVE.



WE HAVE TO DANCE THIS PAIN AWAY. AS ONE COUNTRY. AND HEAR THE SOUNDS OF PEACE AT LAST.



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**ВИДАВНИЦТВО**  
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