

PHILIPPE THIRAULT • ROBERTO ZAGHI

МАКHIО

UKRAINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER



Life Drawn
by Humanoids

PHILIPPE THIRAULT • ROBERTO ZAGHI



МАКНИО

UKRAINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER



Life Drawn
by Humanoids



PHILIPPE THIRAULT

Writer

ROBERTO ZAGHI

Artist

ANNELISE SAUVÊTRE

Colorist

SÉBASTIEN GÉRARD

Colorist (Page 1)

•
NANETTE MCGUINNESS

Translator

•
JONATHAN STEVENSON

English-Language Edition Editor

CAMILLE THÉLOT-VERNOUX

Original Edition Editor

JERRY FRISSEN

Senior Art Director

MARK WAID

Publisher

Rights and Licensing - licensing@humanoids.com
Press and Social Media - pr@humanoids.com

MAKHNO: UKRAINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER.

First Printing. This book is a publication of Humanoids, Inc. 8033 Sunset Blvd. #628, Los Angeles, CA 90046.
Copyright Humanoids, Inc., Los Angeles (USA). All rights reserved. Humanoids® and the Humanoids logo
are registered trademarks of Humanoids, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021945736

Life Drawn is an imprint of Humanoids, Inc. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means without
the express written consent of the copyright holder except for artwork used for review purposes. Printed in Lithuania.

BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT,
PARIS, FEBRUARY 1934

RENAULT

COMRADES! ON FEBRUARY 6,
THE FASCIST LEAGUES ATTEMPTED A
COUP! THE BLOODY DALADIER GOVERNMENT
HAS ALREADY RESIGNED UNDER PRESSURE
FROM THE REACTIONARIES! THE RADICAL
PARTY AND ITS SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORT
HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR FASCISM!

EVER AT THE
FOREFRONT OF
THE MASSES, THE
CGTU* AND THE
COMMUNIST PARTY
HAVE ORGANIZED
A PROTEST AT
THE PLACE DE LA
NATION, CALLING
FOR A GENERAL
STRIKE!

COME TO THE PROTEST! IT'S TO
DEFEND OUR FREEDOM, COMRADE!

YOUR TRADE UNION IS
COMPLETELY BEHOLDEN TO THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET
UNION, WHICH HAS ENSLAVED
THOSE IT CLAIMS
TO LIBERATE.

STALIN AND HIS LAPDOG
THOREZ ARE NO BETTER THAN
THE FASCISTS!

SHUT THE FUCK UP! YOU INSULT
GREAT MEN, BRAVE MEN, AND YOU
DISGRACE YOURSELF! SHUT YOUR
MOUTH OR I'LL SMASH
YOUR TEETH IN.

* UNITED GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR.



ARGH!

NO, YOU'RE GOING TO SHUT UP.



COWARD! COMMIE PROPAGANDA ISN'T GOING TO TEACH YOU BRAVERY.



OKAY, OKAY... LET GO AND WE'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.

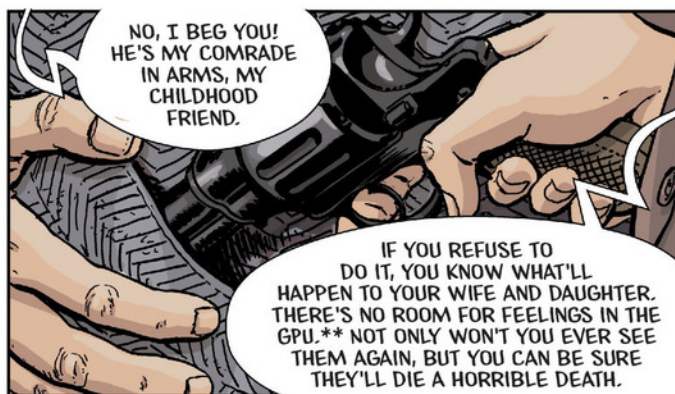


GOOD GOD!



IT'S HIM—IT'S MAKHNO! HE DOESN'T LOOK WELL, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY HIM.

IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, ZIMORSKY.* YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM. IT'S AN ORDER FROM STALIN, HIMSELF.



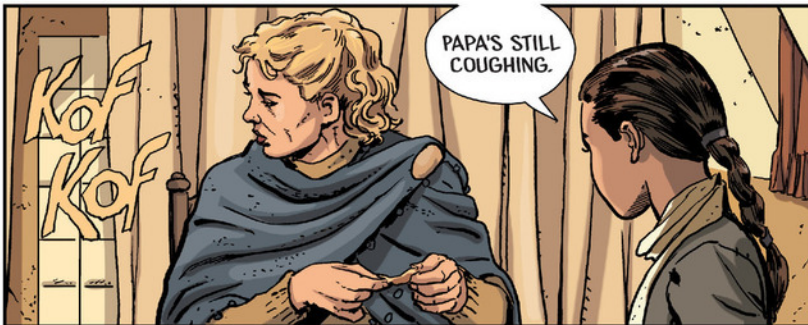
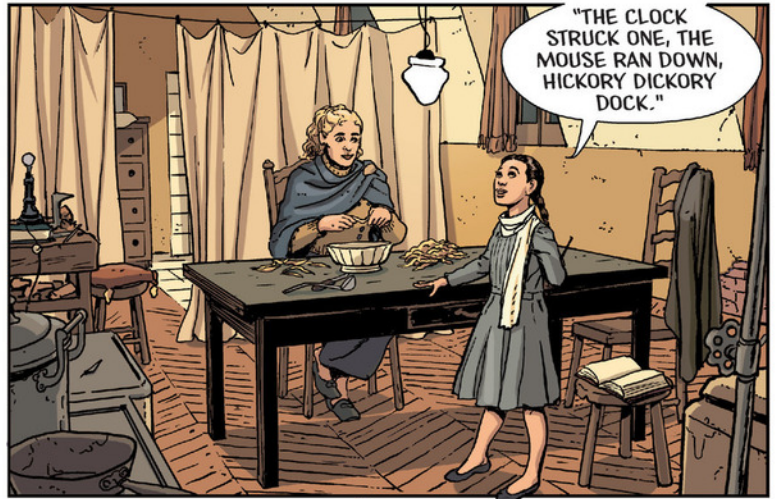
NO, I BEG YOU! HE'S MY COMRADE IN ARMS, MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

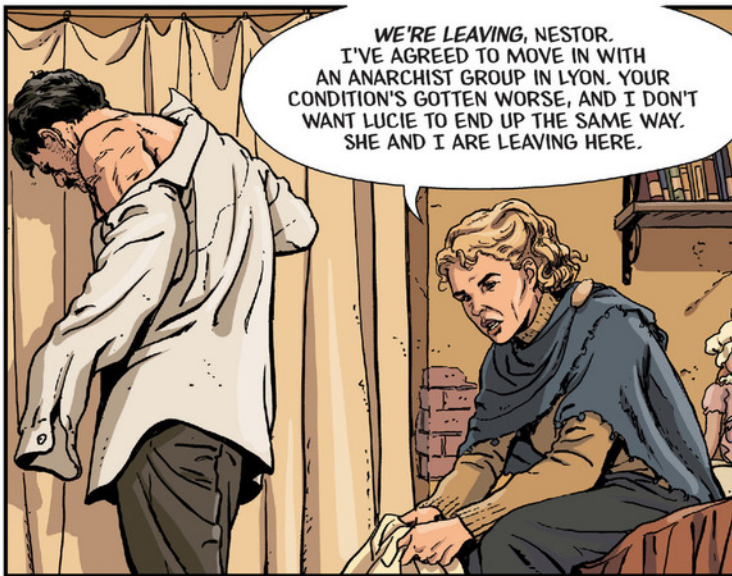
IF YOU REFUSE TO DO IT, YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR FEELINGS IN THE GPU.** NOT ONLY WON'T YOU EVER SEE THEM AGAIN, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE THEY'LL DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH.



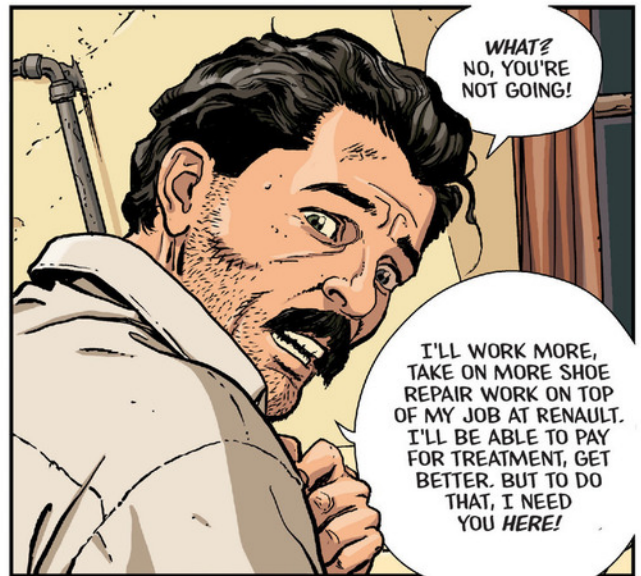
"FOLLOW HIM."

* NAMES AND PLACES ARE IN AUTHENTIC UKRAINIAN RATHER THAN RUSSIAN SPELLINGS.
** STATE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE, SOVIET SECRET POLICE.





WE'RE LEAVING, NESTOR. I'VE AGREED TO MOVE IN WITH AN ANARCHIST GROUP IN LYON. YOUR CONDITION'S GOTTEN WORSE, AND I DON'T WANT LUCIE TO END UP THE SAME WAY. SHE AND I ARE LEAVING HERE.



WHAT? NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING!

I'LL WORK MORE, TAKE ON MORE SHOE REPAIR WORK ON TOP OF MY JOB AT RENAULT. I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR TREATMENT, GET BETTER. BUT TO DO THAT, I NEED YOU HERE!



I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, PAPA!



CAN I RECITE MY NURSERY RHYME FOR YOU?

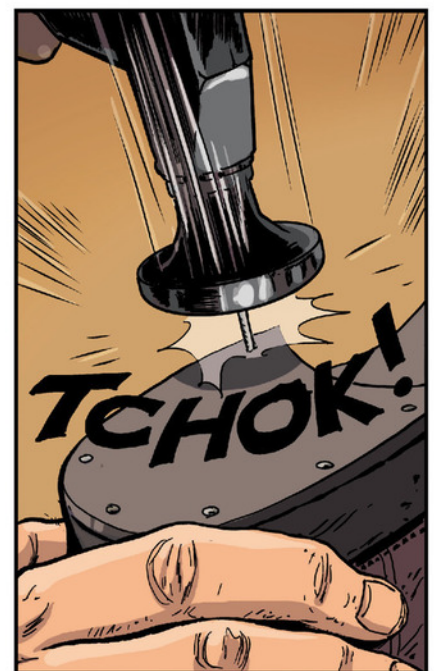


I'M SICK, LUCIE. DON'T COME TOO CLOSE.



"HICKORY DICKORY DOCK, THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK, THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE, THE MOUSE RAN DOWN, HICKORY DICKORY DOCK."

THAT'S VERY GOOD, LUCIE. HELP YOUR MOTHER, I'M GOING TO WORK NOW.





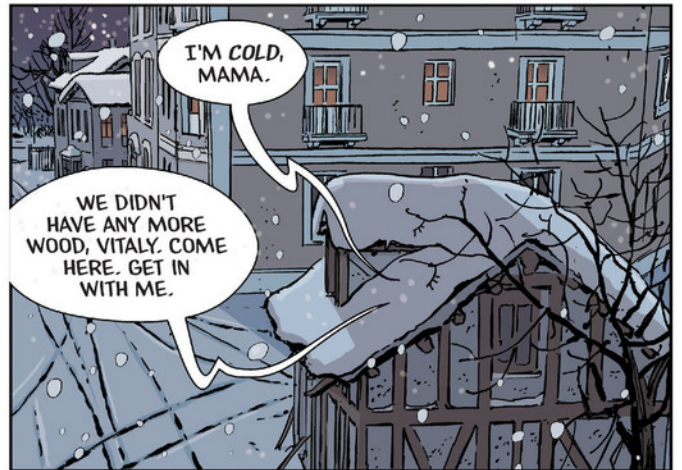
HULIAIPOLE,
SOUTHEAST UKRAINE,
WINTER 1898

ТЧОК!

ТЧОК!
ТЧОК!

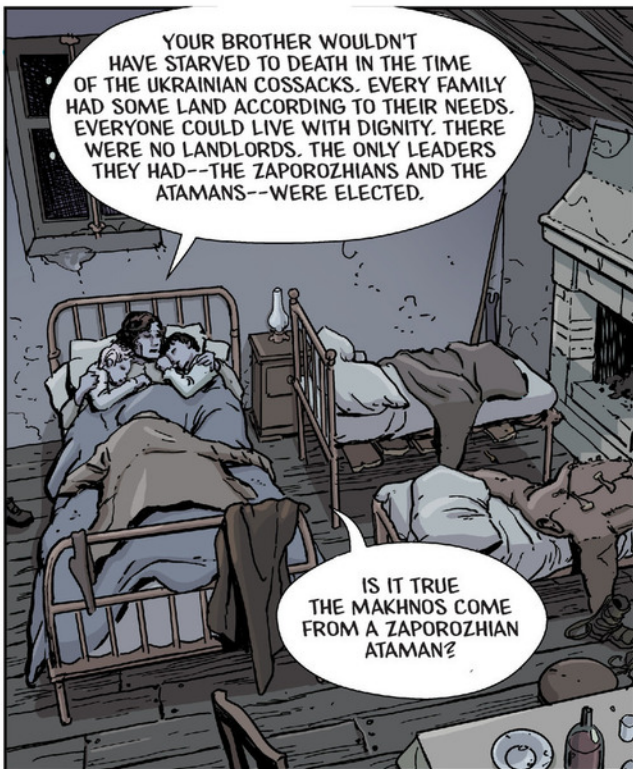


SASHA IVANOVITCH
MAKHNO
1887
1898



I'M COLD,
MAMA.

WE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY MORE
WOOD, VITALY. COME
HERE. GET IN
WITH ME.



YOUR BROTHER WOULDN'T
HAVE STARVED TO DEATH IN THE TIME
OF THE UKRAINIAN COSSACKS. EVERY FAMILY
HAD SOME LAND ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS.
EVERYONE COULD LIVE WITH DIGNITY. THERE
WERE NO LANDLORDS. THE ONLY LEADERS
THEY HAD--THE ZAPOROZHIAN AND THE
ATAMANS--WERE ELECTED.

IS IT TRUE
THE MAKHNOS COME
FROM A ZAPOROZHIAN
ATAMAN?



YES, NESTOR.
ONLY THE ELECTED
COSSACK LEADERS
HAD THE RIGHT TO WEAR
THESE SILVER CRESCENTS
IN THEIR EARS. THEY'VE
BEEN IN OUR FAMILY EVER
SINCE. THEY WERE FOR
SASHA. NOW THEY'LL GO
TO YOU. YOU'LL HAVE
TO PROVE YOURSELF
WORTHY OF
THEM.



AS WILL I, NESTOR.
I DON'T WANT TO ATTEND
THE FUNERAL OF ANOTHER OF
MY CHILDREN! SO FORGIVE ME,
MY SON. FORGIVE ME FOR
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.



VINCENNES, 1934



WHY WASN'T LUCIE AT SCHOOL, MR. MAKHNO? IS SHE SICK?



WHAT DID YOU SAY?



HALYNA! LUCIE!



"YOU WARNED ME, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU."



"THERE WE ARE. NOW YOU'VE ABANDONED ME."

VYNNYCHENKO FAMILY ESTATE,
HULIAIPOLE, SPRING 1899



YOU'LL BE TREATED WELL AT MRS. VYNNYCHENKO'S, NESTOR. SHE'S ADOPTED YOU. YOU'RE HER SON NOW.



YES, COME HERE, NESTOR.



YOU WON'T BE ALONE. THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, KATRIN.

TEA'S READY. ARE YOU HUNGRY? DO YOU LIKE FRUIT BRIOCHES?



I DON'T WANT ANYTHING! I WANT TO GO BACK HOME!

YOU'LL EAT EVERYTHING THEY GIVE YOU! AND YOU'LL OBEY THEM JUST THE SAME AS YOU'D OBEY ME! I'M LEAVING NOW, AND YOU'RE STAYING. UNDERSTOOD?

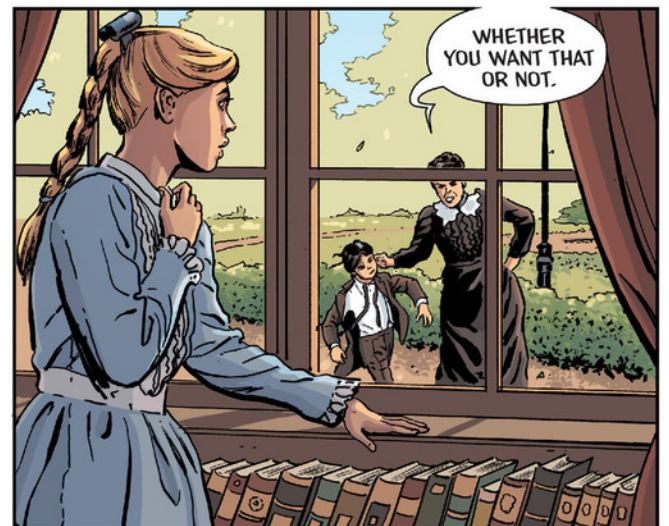
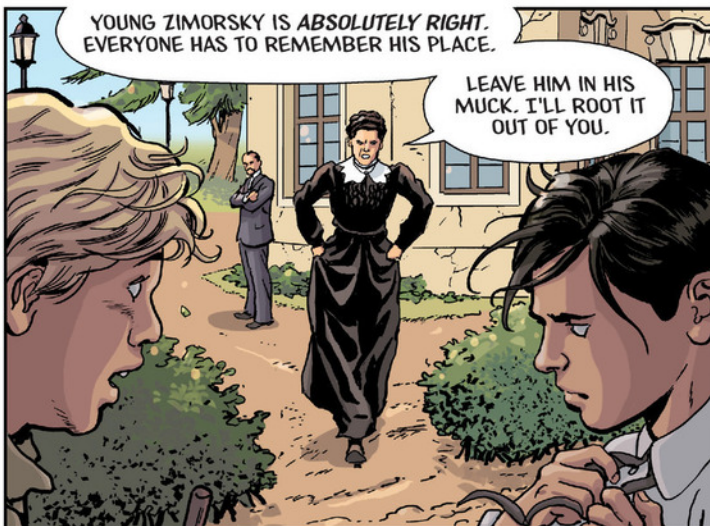
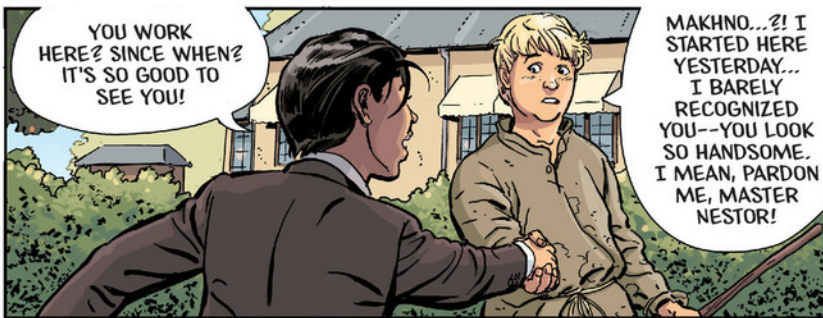
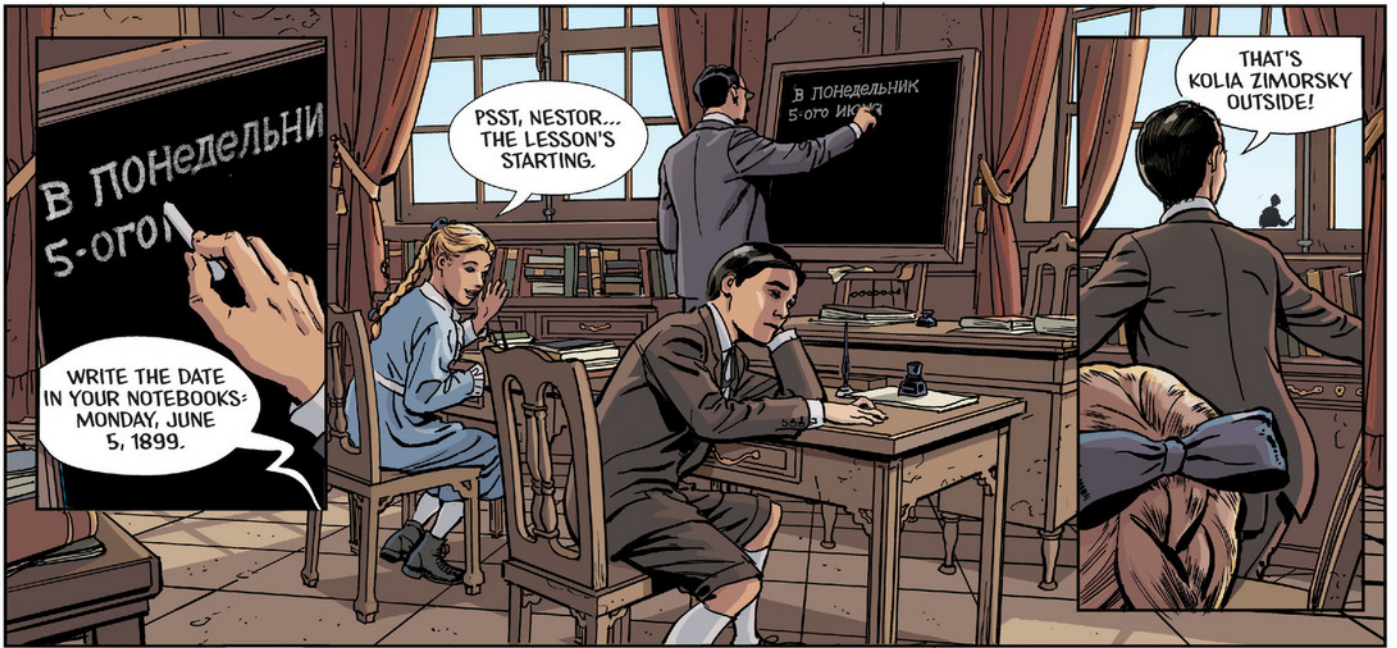


COME, MASTER NESTOR. I'M LEV BARCHINSKY, THE STEWARD. AFTER YOUR TEA, I'LL SHOW YOU THE ESTATE. YOUR ESTATE.



MAMA! DON'T LEAVE ME!







YOU MAY NOT HAVE WANTED TO WEAR THE OUTFIT, BUT YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME IN IT.



REALLY?!

YOU WON'T LOOK GOOD AS LONG AS YOU'RE SO SLUMPED OVER. SIT UP STRAIGHT, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!



WHEN CAN WE LEAVE THIS PADDOCK?!

YOUR SISTER ALREADY HAS...SEVERAL TIMES. YOU MUST LEARN THE BASICS FIRST.



THOSE AREN'T LEARNED. I'M A COSSACK, AND COSSACKS ARE BORN RIDERS! WE DON'T NEED YOUR RULES!



WELL, THE LESSON IS OVER FOR YOU, MR. COSSACK. PLEASE DISMOUNT. I HOPE NEXT TIME YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER ATTITUDE.



HURRAH!

HA! HA! HA!



COME ON, BOY, WE'LL SHOW HIM.

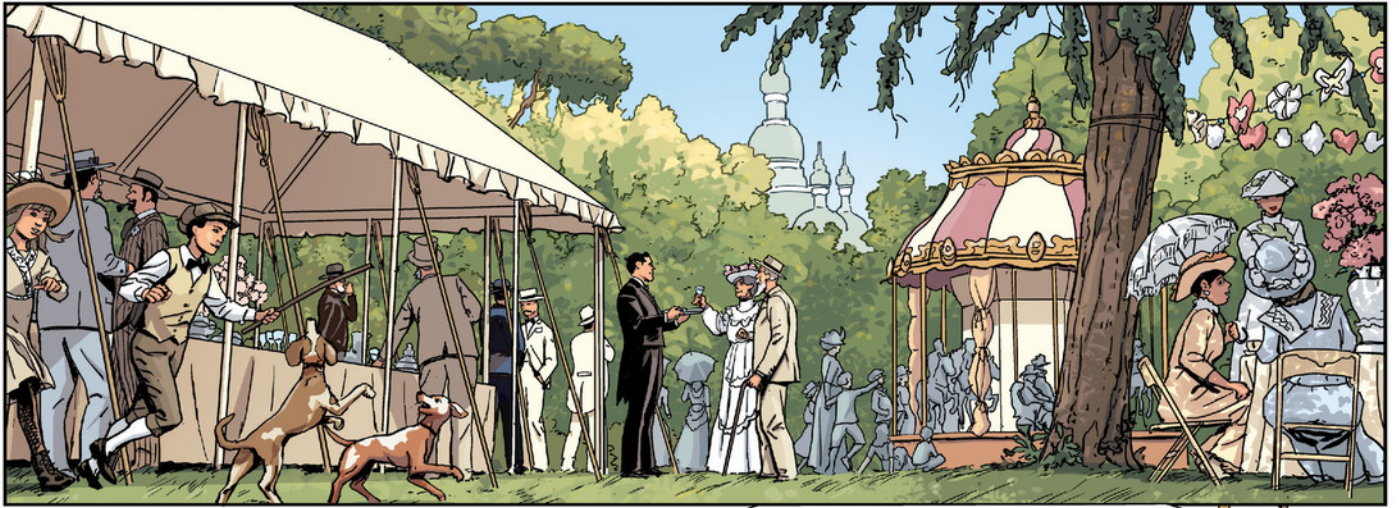
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP! I TOLD YOU TO GET OFF YOUR HORSE!

NO! NESTOR! DON'T DO THAT!



STOP AT ONCE! COME BACK! THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU!





IT'S A PITY THERE ISN'T A TEAM OF OXEN ON THIS CAROUSEL. NESTOR WOULD FEEL MORE AT HOME.

HE'S JUST A GUSSIED-UP FARMHAND IN HIS SUNDAY BEST. NO MATTER HOW MANY BATHS HE TAKES, HE'LL NEVER GET RID OF THAT PEASANT STENCH.

NESTOR, NO!

I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT NESTOR TO YOURSELF, UNDERSTAND? HE'S MY BROTHER, AND I WON'T LET YOU INSULT HIM!

NESTOR! IT TOOK ME AWHILE TO BE ACCEPTED, AS WELL. OUR MOTHER ADOPTED ME, TOO, WHEN I WAS SIX.

REALLY?

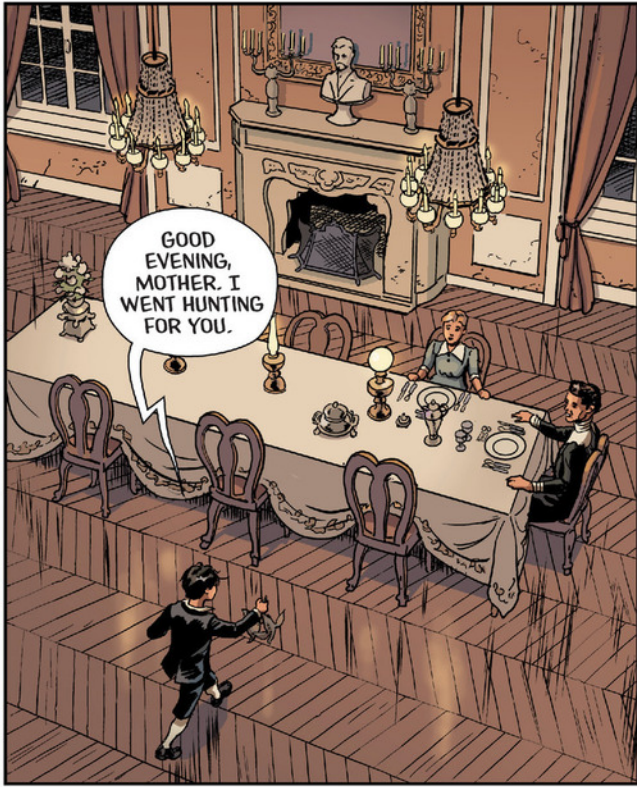
YES. I HAD TO WORK HARD, SWALLOW MY SADNESS, LEARN...AND TODAY I'M ONE OF THEIRS. YOU'RE SMART. YOU'LL GET THERE.

I'M NOT INTERESTED. I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THEM. THESE CLOTHES THEY GAVE ME ARE TOO TIGHT. I DON'T LIKE THEM. I DON'T LIKE OUR MOTHER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THEY'LL GET WORRIED. COME BACK.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

NESTOR! PLEASE! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!



GOOD EVENING, MOTHER. I WENT HUNTING FOR YOU.



WE'RE GOING TO YOUR ROOM, NESTOR...



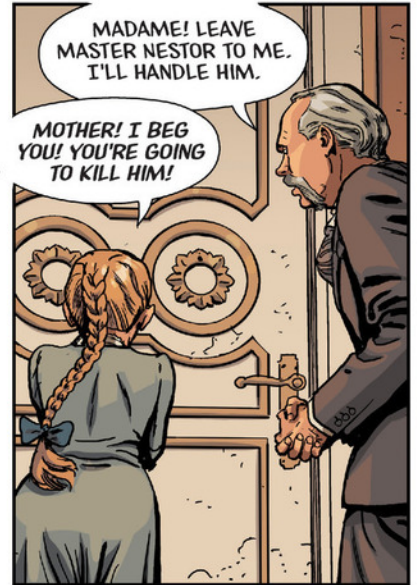
AREN'T WE EATING FIRST? I CAN PREPARE THESE THRUSHES. I LEARNED HOW, BUT NOT FROM A BOOK.



UNTIL YOU GET RESPECT AND DISCIPLINE INTO YOUR THICK SKULL, NESTOR...



YOU'LL GET THIS IN YOUR FLESH.



MADAME! LEAVE MASTER NESTOR TO ME. I'LL HANDLE HIM.

MOTHER! I BEG YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!

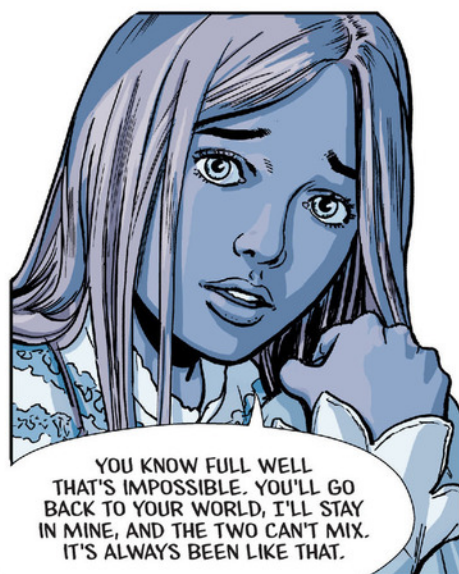
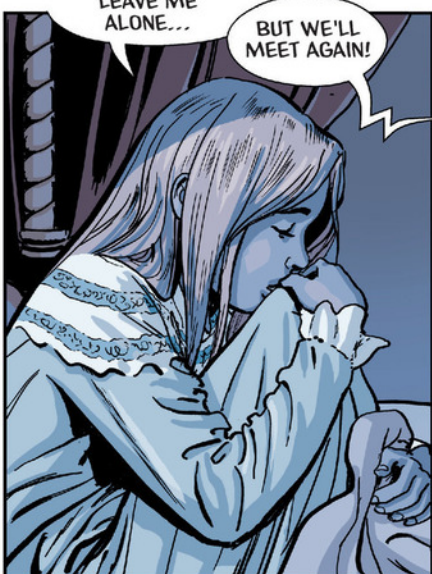
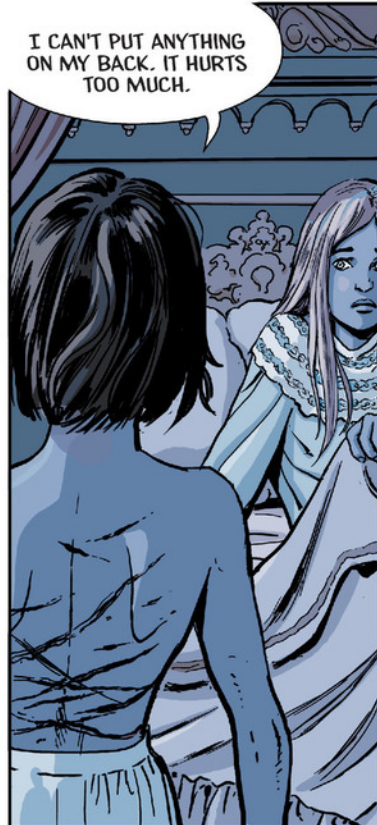


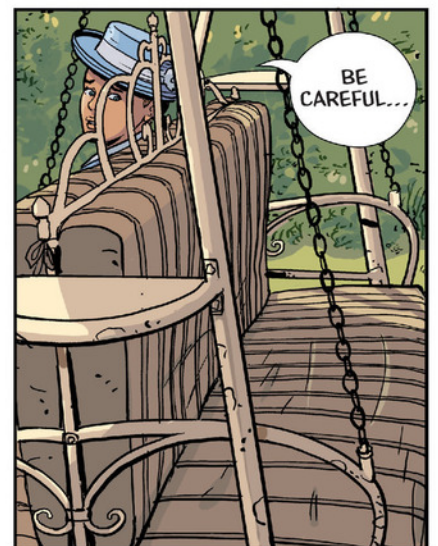
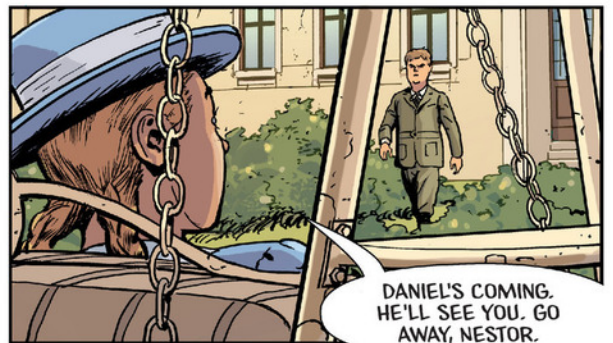
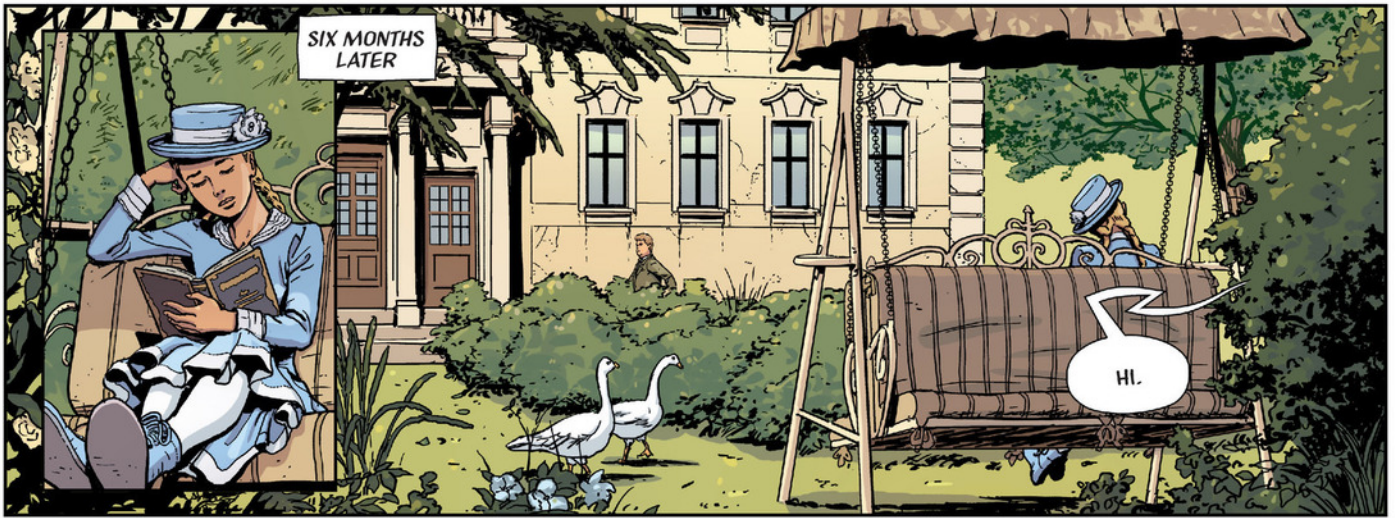
NESTOR!



LEV, GO TELL THE KITCHEN TO SERVE US DINNER.

VERY WELL, MADAME.







SEVEN YEARS LATER, IN 1907

I'M NEVER VERY FAR AWAY FROM YOU.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SURPRISE ME, SILENTLY, LIKE A CAT...



HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY.



NESTOR! IT'S GORGEOUS.

MERCY, MASTER DANIEL! MERCY!

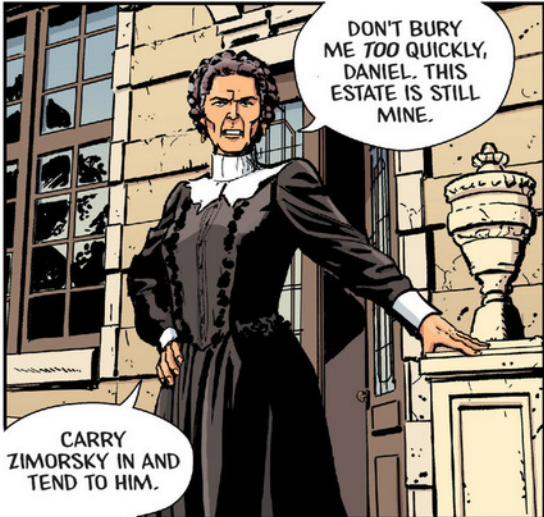


THAT'S ENOUGH, DANIEL!

I CAN'T STAND YOUR CRUELTY ANYMORE!

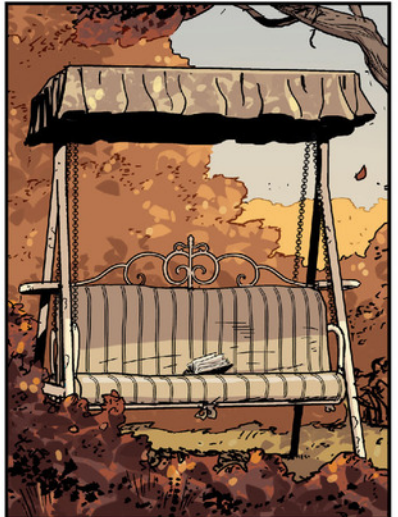


IT ISN'T CRUELTY; IT'S AUTHORITY. I'M MANAGING AN ESTATE!



DON'T BURY ME TOO QUICKLY, DANIEL. THIS ESTATE IS STILL MINE.

CARRY ZIMORSKY IN AND TEND TO HIM.





GENTLY...
GENTLY...



NATASHA,
CLEAN HIS
WOUNDS.



HE'S A
BLOODY
MESS.



ARE YOU GOING TO
TOLERATE THIS MUCH
LONGER?

TODAY
IT'S KOLIA.
TOMORROW IT'LL
BE SOMEONE
ELSE...



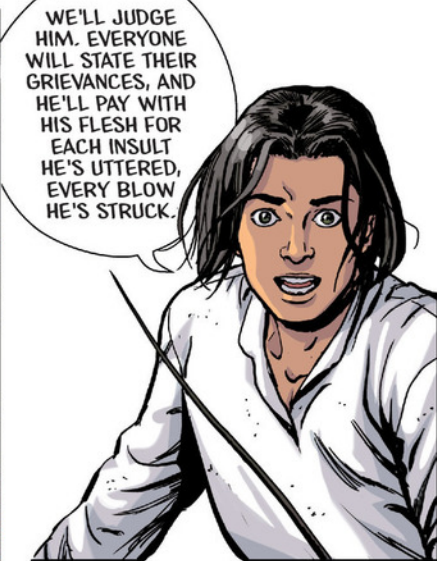
WHO HERE
HASN'T HE HIT?
WHO?



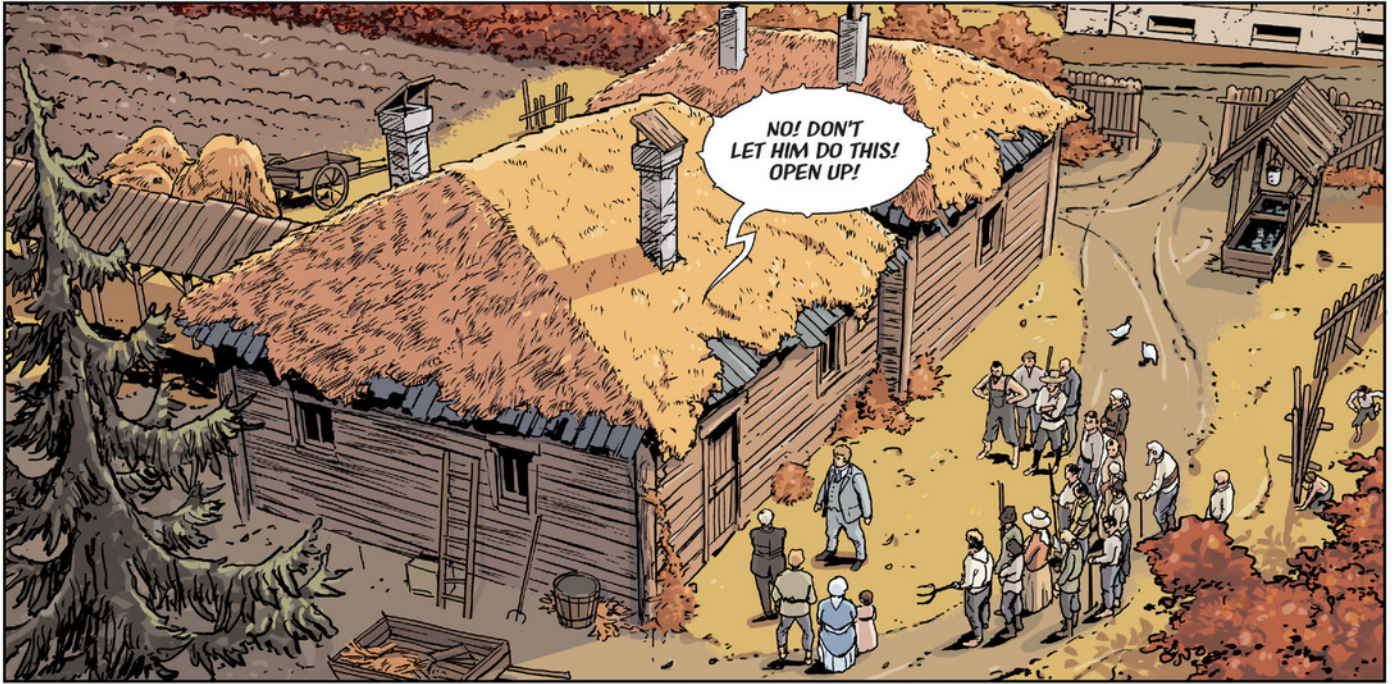
HOW MUCH
MORE ARE YOU
WILLING TO
SUFFER? THAT'S
ENOUGH! HE
MUST PAY!



I'M GOING TO
MAKE YOU DANCE,
GUTTERSNIPE!



* PEASANTS/WORKERS.





NO ONE SAW US.
YOU'RE SAFE.



GONE!

THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!



SETTLE IN
AND REST UNTIL
NIGHTTIME.
THEN YOU CAN
ESCAPE, LIKE
YOU DID WHEN
WE WERE
CHILDREN.



BUT PLEASE
DON'T TAKE THE PATH OF
VIOLENCE. IT WILL CHANGE
YOU DESPITE YOURSELF,
AND YOU'LL BECOME LIKE
THOSE YOU SAY YOU'RE
FIGHTING.

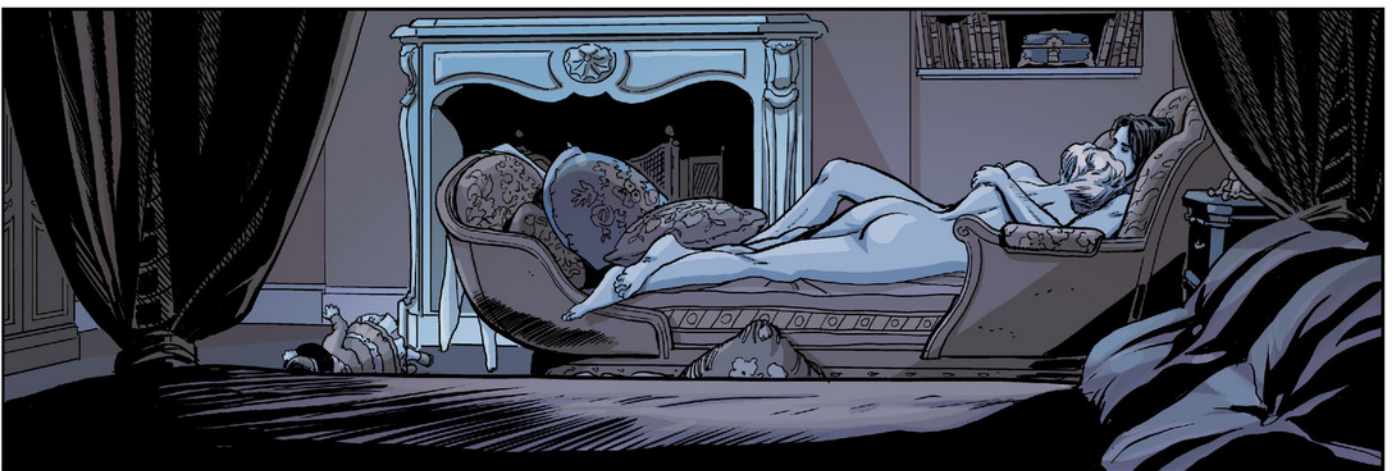
WHAT I WANT
IS TO BUILD A WORLD
WHERE EVERYONE IS EQUAL.
IN THAT WORLD, THE TWO
OF US COULD LIVE AND
LOVE TOGETHER.



L...LOVE?
BUT YOU NEVER
TOLD ME...



I LOVE
YOU.



KULAK JANSSEN ESTATE
IN HULIAIPOLE, A YEAR
LATER, IN 1908



COMRADES! JUST AGRARIAN REFORM
CAN HAPPEN ONLY WITH THE END OF
TSARIST RULE AND THE RISE OF
THE SOCIAL REPUBLIC!



JOIN
OUR RANKS,
COMRADES.

ONLY OUR SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE
KYIV AND MOSCOW!



SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARIES...
THERE'S NOTHING SOCIALIST ABOUT
YOU EXCEPT YOUR WORDS. YOU'RE
A FALSE REVOLUTIONARY! THE
REAL REVOLUTION WILL BE OF
LIBERTARIAN COMMUNISM
OR NOT AT ALL!



YOUR MASK BELONGS
TO BANDITS AND COWARDS,
WHICH IS WHAT YOU ARE,
LIKE ALL ANARCHISTS!



QUICK! GO
PUT OUT THE
BLAZE!

HUH? YOU WANT TO HELP THIS
KULAK*--SAVE HIS PROPERTY?



THE REVOLUTION ISN'T CRIME; IT
ISN'T TERRORISM. WE MUST RESPECT
PROPERTY OR ELSE EVERYTHING
WILL BECOME CHAOS.

BUT THEN
NOTHING WILL
EVER CHANGE!

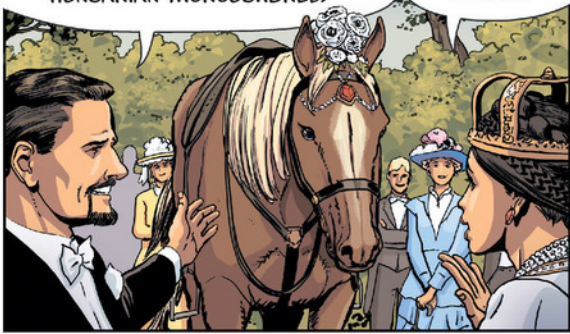


* A PEASANT WHO OWNS SEVERAL ACRES AND EMPLOYS OTHER PEOPLE TO WORK THE LAND.



HERE'S MY FINAL WEDDING PRESENT TO YOU: HER NAME'S ALIZ. SHE'S A HUNGARIAN THOROUGHBRED.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, FATHER!



PAW! PAW!



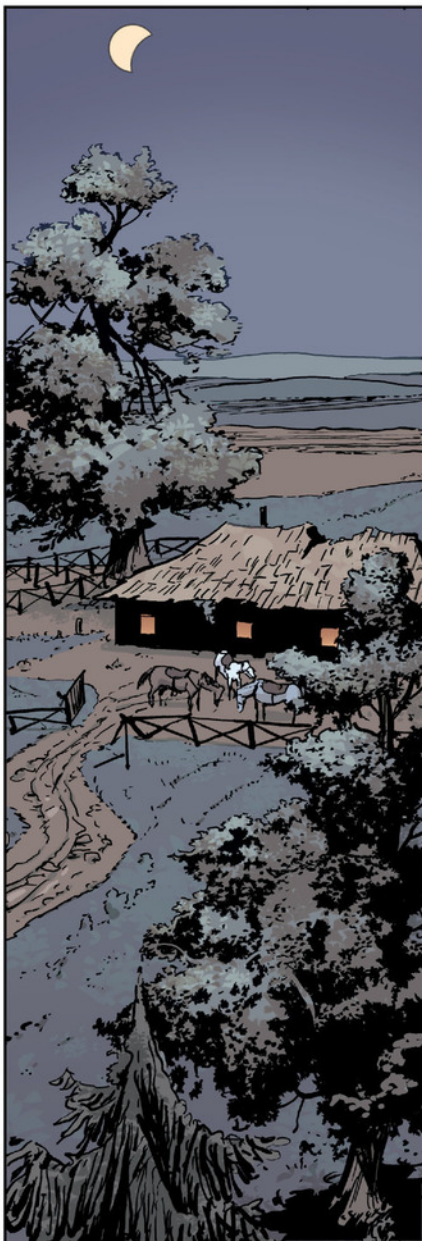
LOCK THEM IN THE STABLES!



THIS OBSCENE PARTY AND ITS PARTICIPANTS DESERVE THE PEOPLE'S EXPROPRIATION. INSTEAD OF BEING THROWN OUT OR ENDING UP IN YOUR ALREADY-FULL STOMACHS, THE FOOD WILL GO TO THE NEEDY.

WE'LL TAKE ALL YOUR JEWELRY, TOO.







I GOT YOUR MESSAGE.

KATRIN... I CAME TO WARN YOU. YOU MUSTN'T BE ON THE ESTATE ON FRIDAY. LEAVE--PRETEND TO GO FOR A VISIT, WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT DON'T BE HERE.



THE ESTATE'S GOING TO BE ATTACKED, ISN'T IT? BY YOUR GROUP OF ACTIVISTS. BY YOU. HOW COULD YOU?



YOU KNOW THAT I WON'T ABANDON MY MOTHER. I WON'T LEAVE.

ULIA VYNNYCHENKO ISN'T YOUR MOTHER! THIS WORLD ISN'T YOURS! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GET CAUGHT UP IN ITS NECESSARY DESTRUCTION BY THE REVOLUTION. I NEED YOU TO BUILD THE NEW WORLD!



IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, GIVE UP ALL THAT. I DON'T WANT YOUR NEW SOCIETY IF IT'S BUILT ON BLOOD AND TEARS.

SO YOU'LL BETRAY ME AND TURN US ALL IN? HOW CAN YOU THINK THAT? I'LL NEVER BETRAY YOU! I'LL LOVE YOU ALL MY LIFE, EVEN IF THIS IS THE LAST WE EVER SEE OF EACH OTHER.



THEN IF THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE MEET, LOVE ME ONE LAST TIME.



NESTOR, STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME! NO! LET ME GO! I DON'T WANT TO! STOP! NO!





TWO DAYS LATER

IT'S TIME TO EXPROPRIATE THIS SHAMEFUL ESTATE. WE'LL DESTROY ITS OWNERS.



PUT YOUR MASKS ON. MOVE OUT!



STOP THAT RABBLE!



WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.



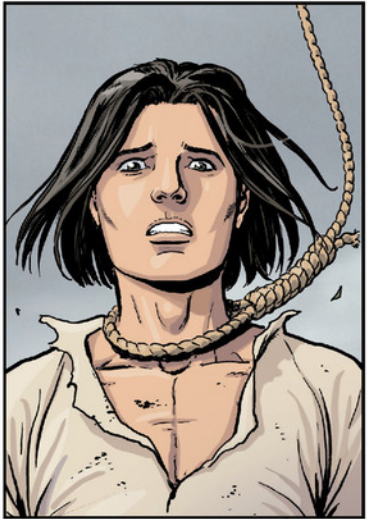
YOU SCUM!

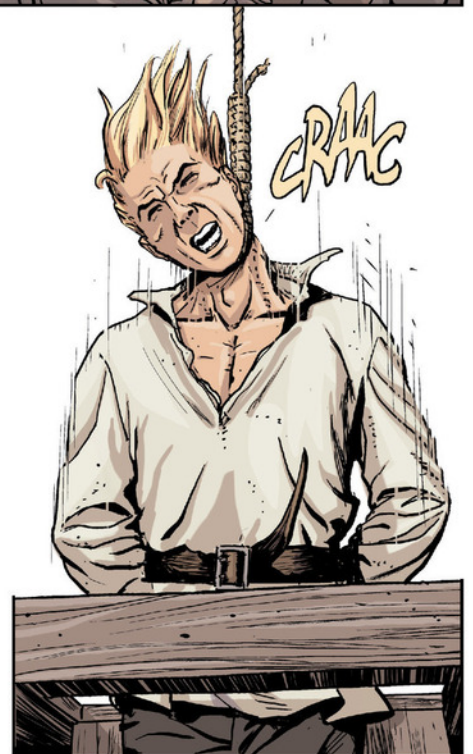


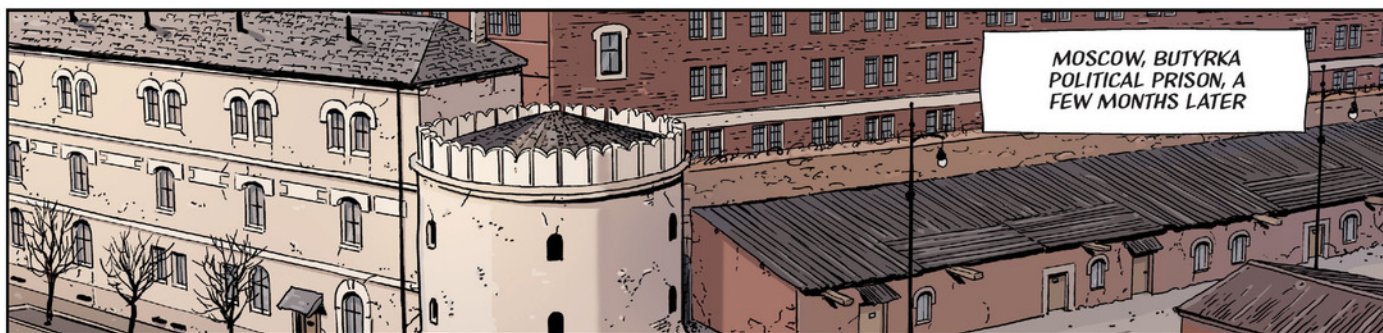
BASTARDS!



I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR MASTER, MAKHNO!







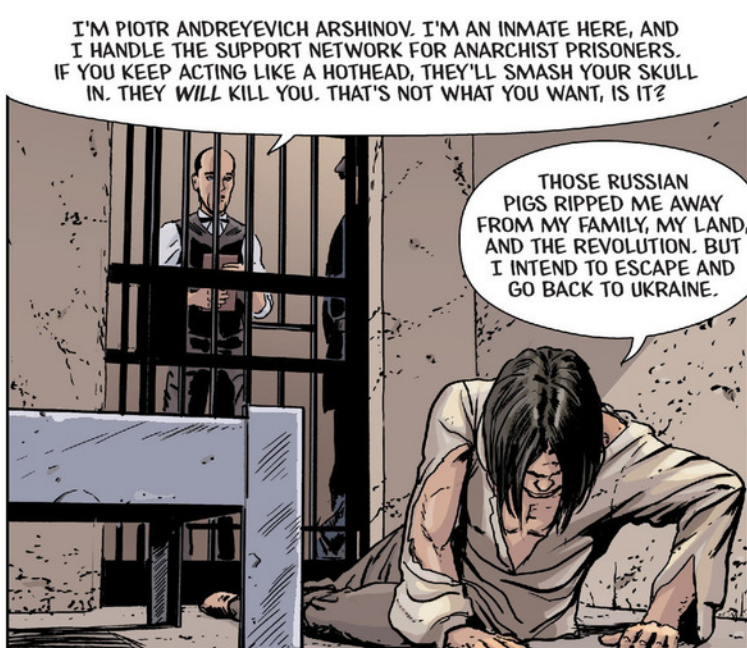
MOSCOW, BUTYRKA POLITICAL PRISON, A FEW MONTHS LATER



I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MINUTES TO TALK TO THE LITTLE UKRAINIAN ANARCHIST. BUT I WARN YOU: HE'S MAD. DON'T PUT YOUR HAND BETWEEN THE BARS. HE'S LIABLE TO RIP IT OFF.



MAKHNO! UP!



I'M PIOTR ANDREYEVICH ARSHINOV. I'M AN INMATE HERE, AND I HANDLE THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ANARCHIST PRISONERS. IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE A HOTHEAD, THEY'LL SMASH YOUR SKULL IN. THEY WILL KILL YOU. THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT, IS IT?

THOSE RUSSIAN PIGS RIPPED ME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY, MY LAND, AND THE REVOLUTION. BUT I INTEND TO ESCAPE AND GO BACK TO UKRAINE.



I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO JOIN MY CELL.



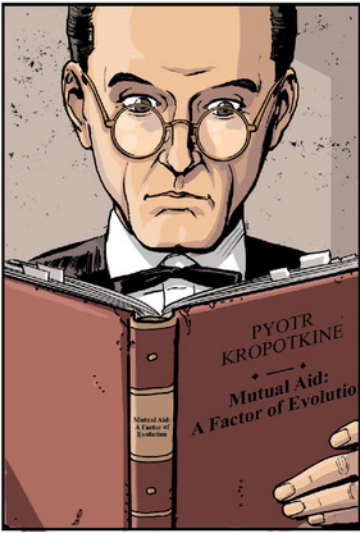
READ THIS WHILE YOU'RE WAITING. IT'S THE WORK OF A GREAT ANARCHIST THINKER. THIS WILL HELP YOU HOLD ON. I'LL HAVE OTHERS PASSED TO YOU.



I HATE BOOKS, BUT THEY DON'T GIVE US ANYTHING TO WIPE OUR ASSES WITH. SO IT'LL COME IN HANDY.



TIME TO GO, ARSHINOV.



HERE'S NESTOR MAKHNO. PUTTING A WILD BEAST INTO YOUR OWN CAGE... GOOD LUCK, ARSHINOV.

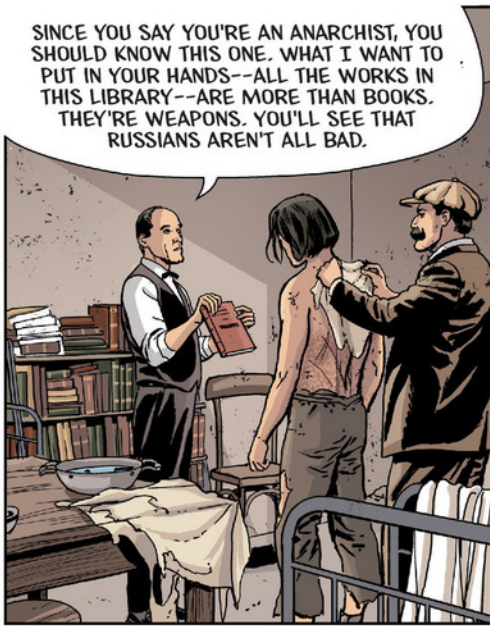


WITH THESE SHACKLES ON, HE WON'T BE SO KEEN TO ESCAPE.

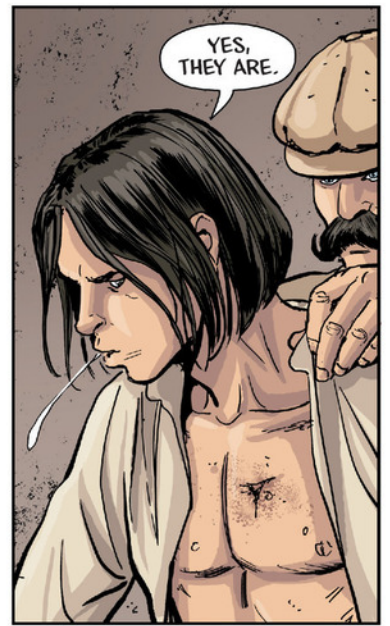


I'M IVAN MYKHAILOVYCH ZADOV. LET ME HELP YOU CHANGE THAT SHIRT.

THIS IS A NICE CELL OF INTELLECTUALS... EVEN IN PRISON, THE PRIVILEGED KEEP THEIR PRIVILEGES.

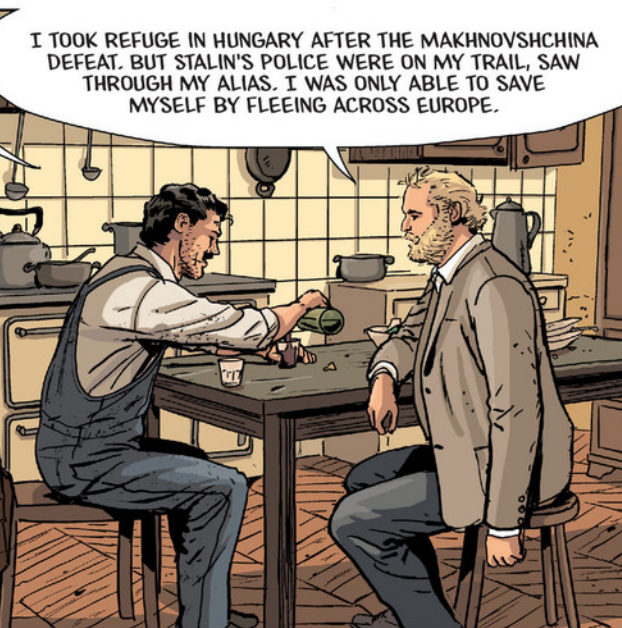


SINCE YOU SAY YOU'RE AN ANARCHIST, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS ONE. WHAT I WANT TO PUT IN YOUR HANDS--ALL THE WORKS IN THIS LIBRARY--ARE MORE THAN BOOKS. THEY'RE WEAPONS. YOU'LL SEE THAT RUSSIANS AREN'T ALL BAD.



YES, THEY ARE.

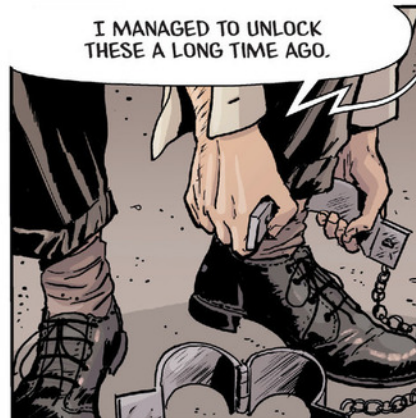
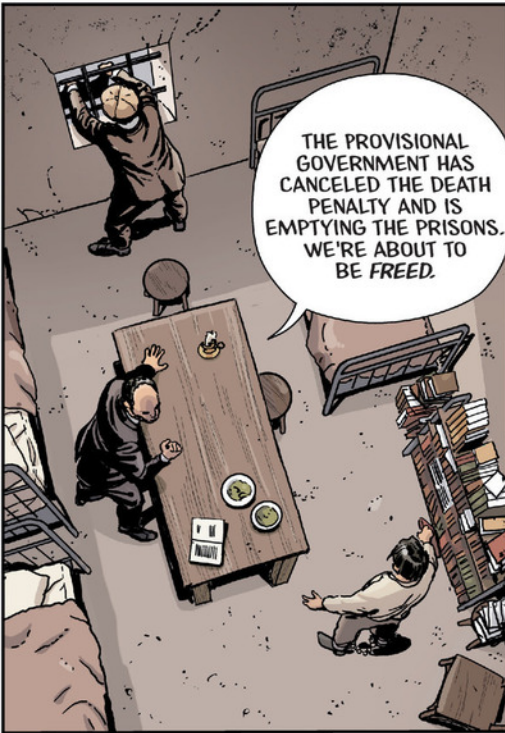




MARCH 1917

FELLOW PRISONERS!
THE OLD ORDER HAS FALLEN!

LIBERTY FOR
EVERYONE!



TVERSKAYA ST.
IN MOSCOW

HEAVE HO! BRING
DOWN THE TYRANT!

FROM THE SOIL WE WERE
BORN! OPPRESSED WORKERS:
NOT FOR LONG! WE ARE READY!
WE ARE STRONG!

ЗМА
РАВОПР
ТЕКНХ

БУДЕМ
ДОСТОИ!

РЕСПУБЛИКА

I'M STAYING IN MOSCOW. I WANT
TO WORK ALONGSIDE COMRADE
LENIN. THE BOURGEOISIE CAUSED
THIS REVOLUTION. THE HOUR
OF THE PROLETARIAT IS AT HAND!

ALL LAND TO
THE PEASANTS!

NESTOR! PIOTR!
COME!

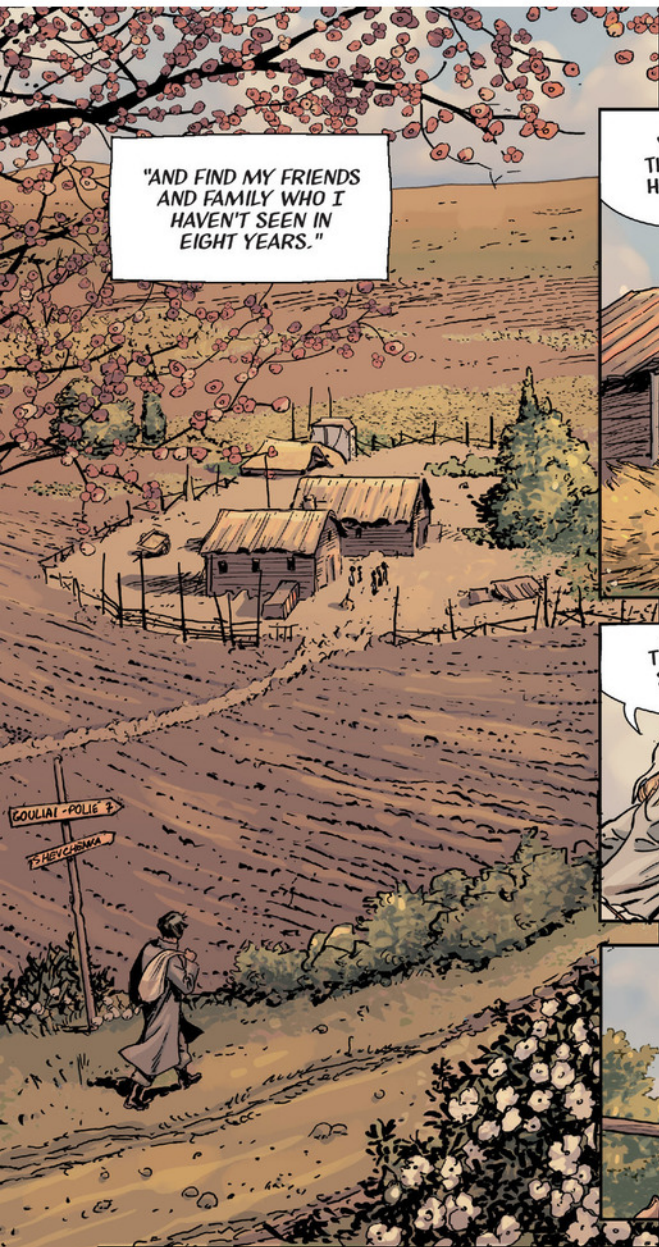
HEAVE HO!
ROMANOV IS
ALMOST DOWN!
HEAVE HO!

OPENING THE PRISONS
AND THE TSAR'S ABDICATION
ARE A GOOD START. BUT WE NEED
TO GO FURTHER: MAKE PEACE AND
LET THE IMPERIALIST POWERS
FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES.

BRAVO!

I WANT TO STAY
IN MOSCOW, TOO. THE
GREATEST ANARCHIST
THINKERS ARE HERE. SO
NESTOR, WHAT'RE YOU
GOING TO DO?

GO TO UKRAINE
TO SPREAD THE
REVOLUTION THERE.



"AND FIND MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO I HAVEN'T SEEN IN EIGHT YEARS."

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!

ON THE CONTRARY, KUZMENKO, MY WORD IS LAW; I AM THE LAW. YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR RENT. AS A RESULT, I'M EVICTING YOU FROM YOUR FARM. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. CLEAR OUT, PLEASE. A NEW TENANT WILL BE HERE SOON.



AND YOU CALL THAT JUST? THAT'S JUST THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST, THE CRUELEST!



THE GREEDIEST --OOF...

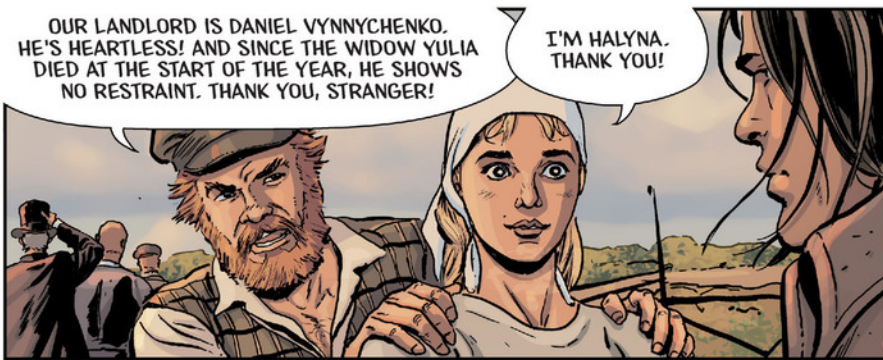


THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST RENDERED BY THE COWARDS.



IF YOU DARE RAISE A HAND TO ME, I...

WHICH KULAK ARE YOU DOING THIS DIRTY WORK FOR?



OUR LANDLORD IS DANIEL VYNNYCHENKO. HE'S HEARTLESS! AND SINCE THE WIDOW YULIA DIED AT THE START OF THE YEAR, HE SHOWS NO RESTRAINT. THANK YOU, STRANGER!

I'M HALYNA. THANK YOU!

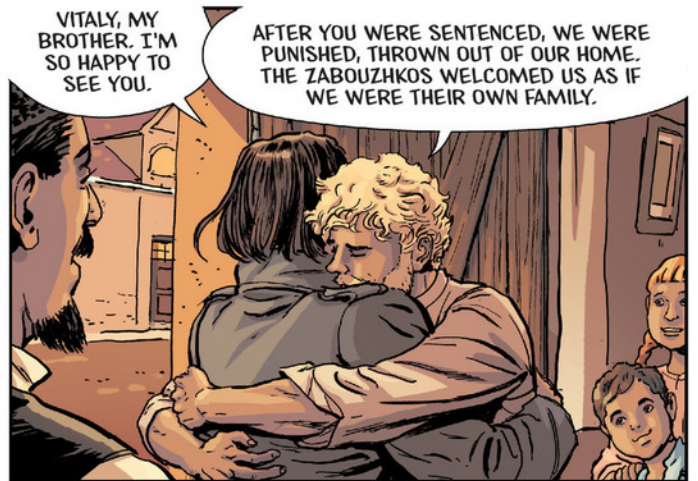


I'M NOT A STRANGER, KUZMENKO. I'M NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO, AND I'VE COME HOME.



I'M NESTOR, YANA MAKHNO'S OLDEST. ARE YOU DMITRI ZABOUZHKO? I HEARD YOU TOOK IN MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHER.

NESTOR! IT'S YOU!



VITALY, MY BROTHER. I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

AFTER YOU WERE SENTENCED, WE WERE PUNISHED, THROWN OUT OF OUR HOME. THE ZABOUZHKOS WELCOMED US AS IF WE WERE THEIR OWN FAMILY.



NESTOR, IS IT YOU? IS IT REALLY YOU?



IT'S A MIRACLE.

SO YANA'S SON DIDN'T DIE IN THE TSAR'S BIG PRISON?

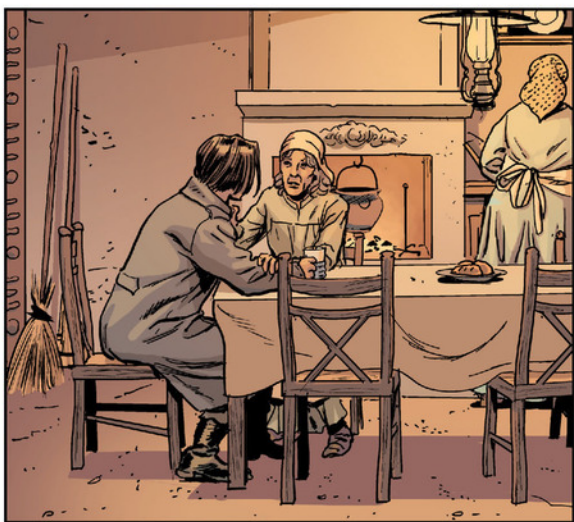


YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, MOTHER.

I'M AN OLD WOMAN WHO STILL HAS TO WORK HARD TO SURVIVE. THAT'S ALL.



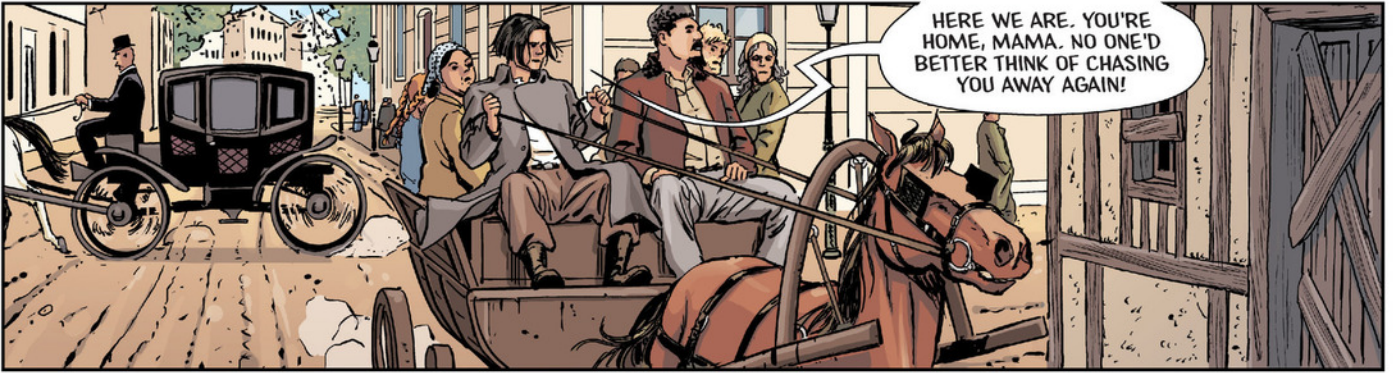
I PROMISE YOU THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE. BUT FIRST, YOU'LL GO BACK HOME IMMEDIATELY.



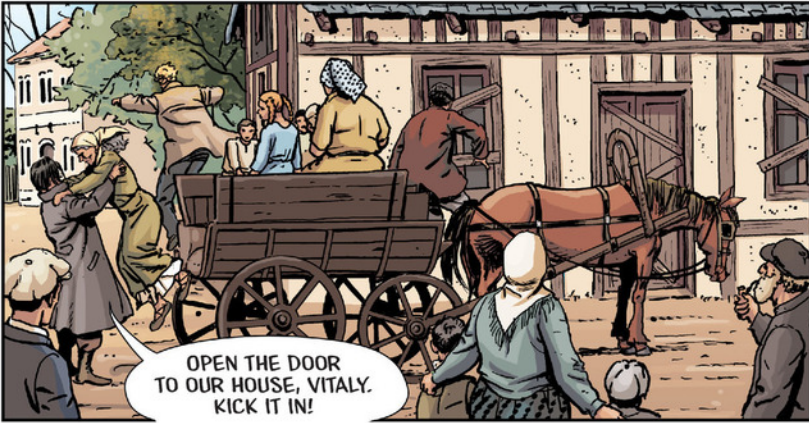
KATRIN VYNNYCHENKO? SHE DISAPPEARED SHORTLY AFTER YOU WERE DEPORTED.



NBODY KNOWS WHAT BECAME OF HER.



HERE WE ARE. YOU'RE HOME, MAMA. NO ONE'D BETTER THINK OF CHASING YOU AWAY AGAIN!



OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR HOUSE, VITALY. KICK IT IN!



HERE WE GO!



MY SON... EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH YOU. TODAY YOU'RE CARRYING YOUR MOTHER; SOON, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS.



MAKHNO! MAKHNO!



HALYNA! ARE YOU HURT?

THIS IS MY FATHER'S BLOOD. THE BAILIFF'S MEN DIDN'T RETURN, BUT THE POLICE DID. THEY KILLED MY FATHER-- SHOT HIM IN THE BACK! THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU, MAKHNO. THEY'RE COMING TO ARREST YOU.

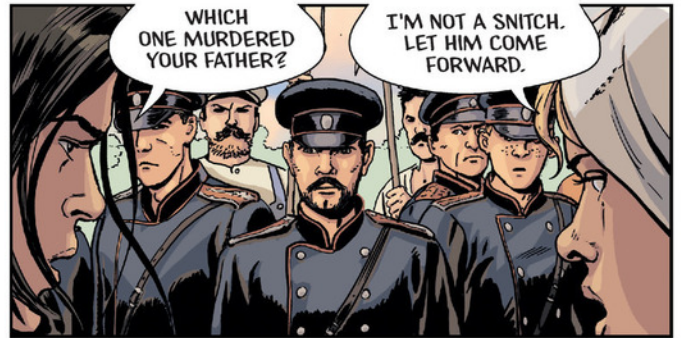


NO! NO WAY!



MOVE ASIDE! WE'VE COME FOR THE INSURGENT NAMED MAKHNO.

I'M MAKHNO. LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS OR DIE WHERE YOU STAND.



WHICH ONE MURDERED YOUR FATHER?

I'M NOT A SNITCH. LET HIM COME FORWARD.



NOBODY?... IN THAT CASE, YOU'LL ALL BE EXECUTED.



IT WAS HIM! HE KILLED KUZMENKO!



SINCE JUSTICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN RENDERED FOR THE POWERFUL, WE'LL RENDER OUR OWN JUSTICE, STARTING TODAY.



A MURDERER AND A MISERABLE COWARD... YOU'LL BOTH BE HANGED. THE REST OF YOU CAN GO FREE OR JOIN US.

GET ME TWO ROPES.



BUT WE KNOW WHO'S REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR KUZMENKO'S MURDER: DANIEL VYNNYCHENKO!

WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!

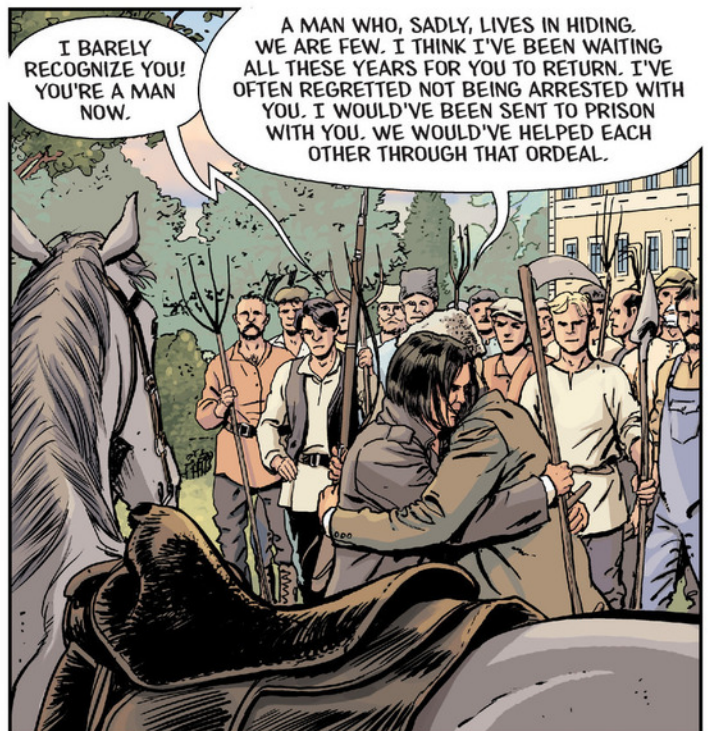
WE ARE READY! WE ARE STRONG!



WAIT, FRIEND!



YOU'RE GOING TO NEED OUR HELP.



I BARELY RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE A MAN NOW.

A MAN WHO, SADLY, LIVES IN HIDING. WE ARE FEW. I THINK I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL THESE YEARS FOR YOU TO RETURN. I'VE OFTEN REGRETTED NOT BEING ARRESTED WITH YOU. I WOULD'VE BEEN SENT TO PRISON WITH YOU. WE WOULD'VE HELPED EACH OTHER THROUGH THAT ORDEAL.



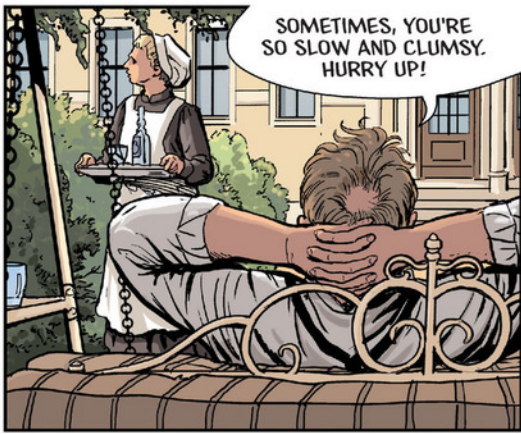
KOLIA ZIMORSKY!



NEVER REGRET HAVING AVOIDED PRISON. I'M PROUD YOU KEPT FIGHTING. I'LL BRING YOU JOY...AND NUMBERS!



NO MORE HIDING! TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS! WE ACT IN THE OPEN FROM NOW ON!



SOMETIMES, YOU'RE SO SLOW AND CLUMSY. HURRY UP!



THE LAND OF THE PEASANTS! THE DIGNITY OF MAN!

WHAT...?



LEV! HAND OUT THESE GUNS TO TRUSTED WORKERS. WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES! GET MY HORSE FROM THE STABLE!

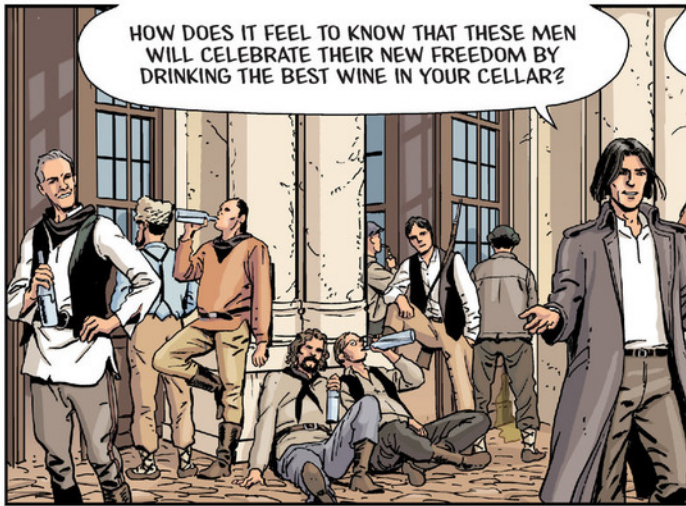


THIS ESTATE IS SUBJECT TO SOCIAL EXPROPRIATION AND WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO ALL WHO WORK THE LAND.

Y... YOU! MAKHNO, IT'S YOU! YOU'VE RISEN BACK UP, STRAIGHT FROM HELL!



YOU WON'T ROB ME! YOU'LL TAKE NOTHING FROM ME! FIRE AT THEM! FIRE!



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT THESE MEN WILL CELEBRATE THEIR NEW FREEDOM BY DRINKING THE BEST WINE IN YOUR CELLAR?

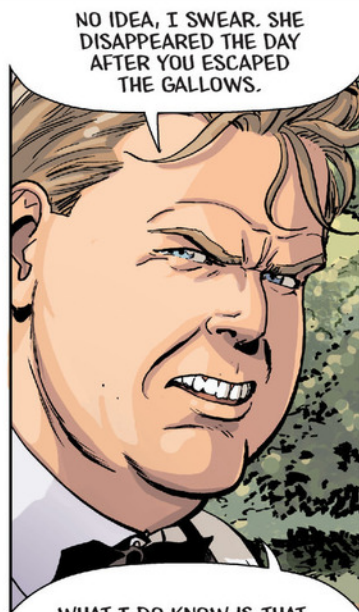


DRINK! GET DRUNK! ENJOY YOURSELVES. I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH WHEN YOU ALL SWING AT THE END OF A ROPE. AND THIS TIME YOU WON'T BE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED, MAKHNO.



I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU, AND YOU'D BE WISE TO ANSWER HONESTLY.

WHERE'S KATRIN?



NO IDEA, I SWEAR. SHE DISAPPEARED THE DAY AFTER YOU ESCAPED THE GALLOWES.

WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT LITTLE BITCH IS WHY YOU WERE ARRESTED, IDIOT THAT YOU ARE.



BRING ME A BOTTLE OF VODKA!



YOU ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE YOUR OWN EXPROPRIATION!



GET UP!



WE'RE GOING TO DRIVE YOU TO THE EDGE OF THE ESTATE. IF YOU RETURN TO THIS LAND, YOU'LL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT.



YOU...YOU... CAME BACK, M...MAKHNO. I...I, TOO, SHALL RETURN! I S...SWEAR TO YOU!



HEY, WAIT! I...I HAVE NOTHING! YOU DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE ME A K...KOPEK! LET ME TAKE SOMETHING. I'LL DIE OF...



WE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH NOTHING A LONG TIME AGO, VYNNYCHENKO. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT, TOO.



NESTOR...



I'M ANGRY, TOO... ABOUT THE DEATH OF MY FATHER. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID, FOR HIS MEMORY, FOR MY PAIN, AND FOR ALL THESE PEOPLE.





KREMENCHUK,
EAST OF HULIAIPOLE



WE MUST FREE ALL THE
PRISONERS AND GET OUT OF
HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
IF THESE DAMN GUARDS HADN'T
RESISTED SO MUCH...



HURRY UP
AND OPEN
THAT JAIL!



THANK YOU,
COMRADE! YOU'VE
SAVED OUR LIVES!



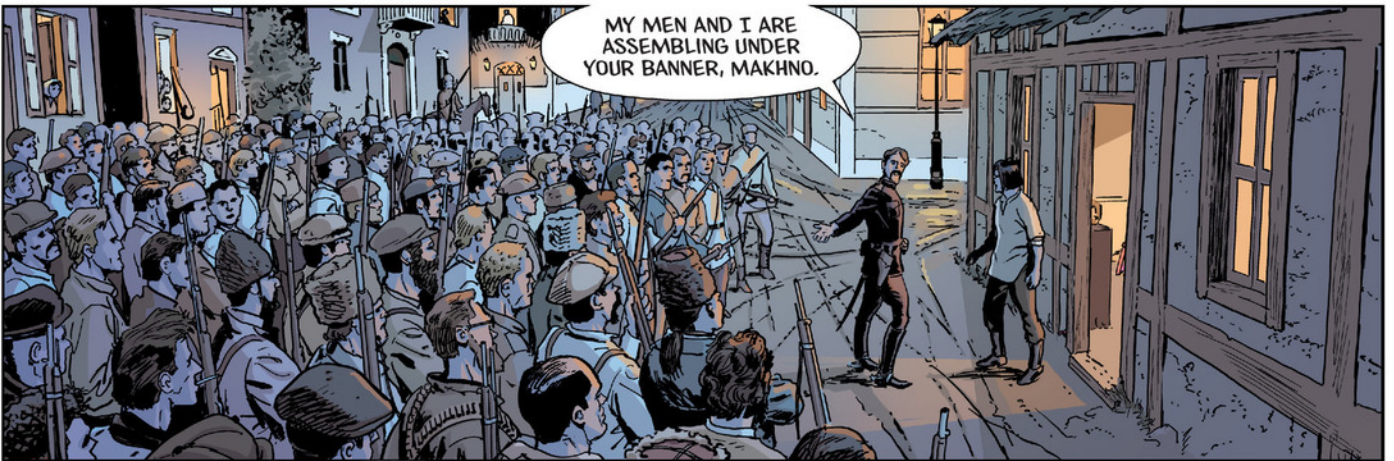
I'M VASILY MARCHENKO. OUR GROUP EXPROPRIATED
THE BANK OF KREMENCHUK. WE KILLED THREE
OF ITS DIRECTORS AND WERE GOING TO
BE HANGED. THANK YOU.



DON'T THANK ME. I'M NESTOR MAKHNO, AND I SPENT NINE YEARS
IMPRISONED AND CHAINED UP. IF I COULD, I'D FREE ALL THE
PRISONERS AND DESTROY EVERY PRISON.



I PROMISE YOU WE'LL
MEET AGAIN, MAKHNO.



HULIAIPOLE,
OCTOBER 1917

TODAY, FREE RESIDENTS OF
HULIAIPOLE, YOU'LL APPOINT
YOUR LEADERS. THEY'LL BE
ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY.
YOU'LL DECIDE.

SILENCE!

YOU, NESTOR IVANOVYCH,
YOU! WE ELECT YOU!

OKAY, YOU'VE ELECTED THREE
LEADERS: KOLIA ZIMORSKY, VASILY
MARCHENKO, AND ME. NOW ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS TO APPOINT THE
HEAD OF OUR CAVALRY.

WE'RE FAMOUS IN
ALEKSANDROVSK, WHERE WE
DEFEATED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY
TROOPS. WE'RE REAL
COSSACKS.

I'M A COSSACK,
TOO. A ZAPROZHIAN
COSSACK.

WHAT GIVES YOU
THE RIGHT TO WEAR THE
UNIFORM OF UKRAINIAN
COSSACKS?

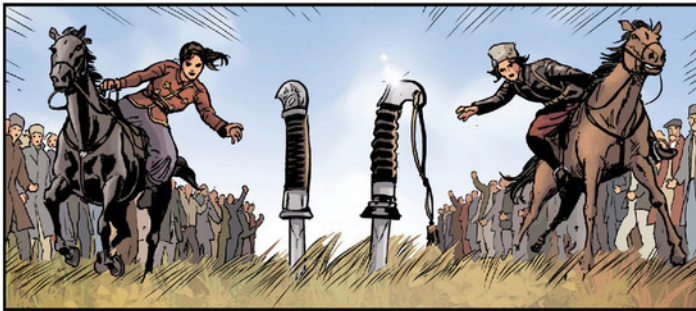
PROVE IT.





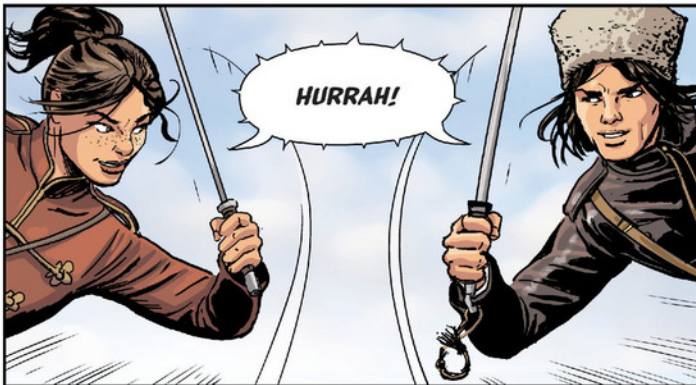
HURRAH!

SET THE SABERS.



YOU'RE A REAL COSSACK, NESTOR MAKHNO. I'M MARUSYA KLIMENKOVA. DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY FACE? THINK BACK NINE YEARS AGO TO ALEKSANDROVSK...

YES. THAT DAY I SWORE TO FIGHT, TOO. SEEING YOU SAVED CONVINCED ME YOU'D BE A LEADER SOME DAY. AS SOON AS I KNEW YOU'D RETURNED TO UKRAINE, I HURRIED TO SEE WHO YOU'D BECOME. I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED.



HURRAH!



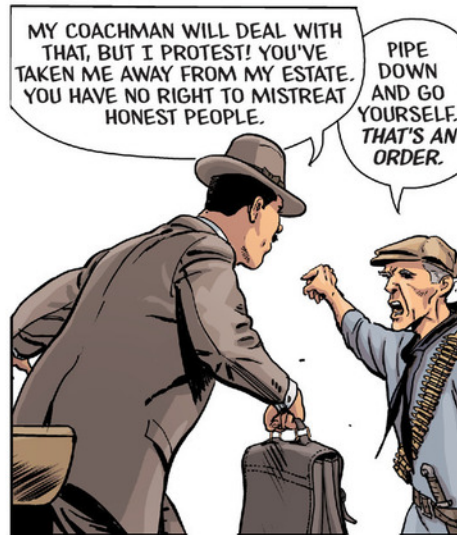
THE YOUNG GIRL IN THE CROWD!

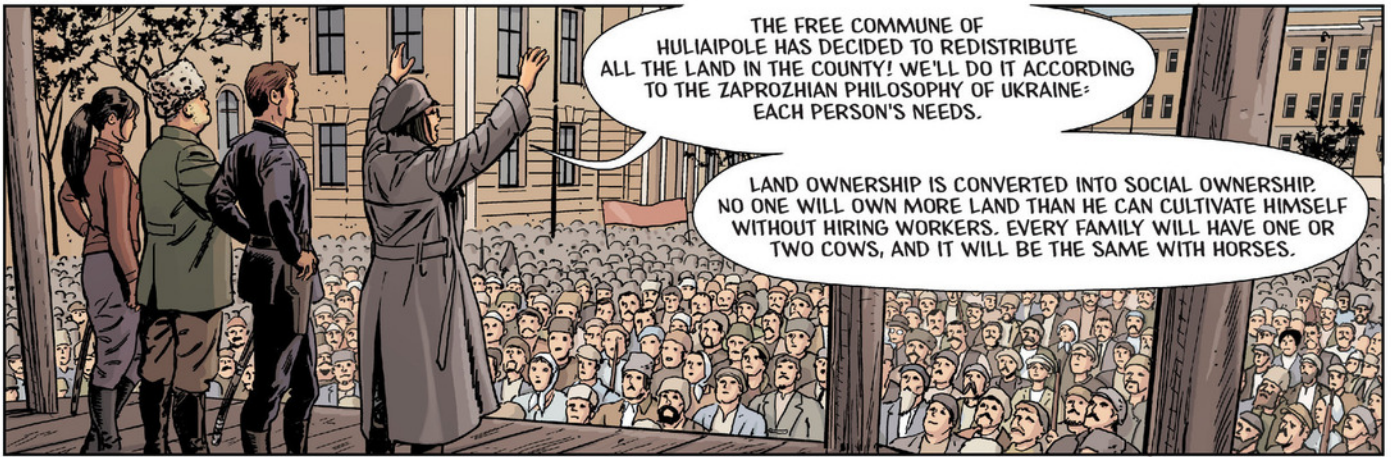


ALL OF YOU ASSEMBLED HERE, I PROPOSE MARUSYA KLIMENKOVA AS HEAD OF OUR CAVALRY! WILL YOU VOTE FOR HER?

YES, WE WILL!





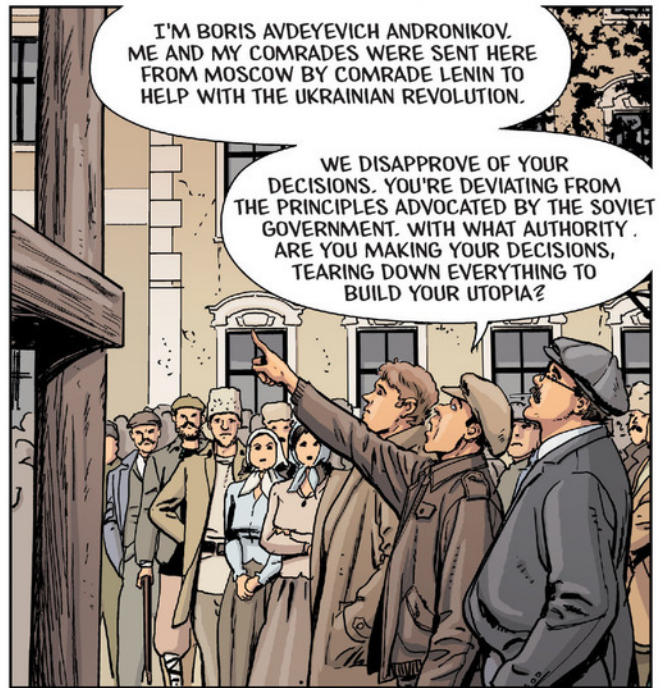


THE FREE COMMUNE OF HULIAIPOLE HAS DECIDED TO REDISTRIBUTE ALL THE LAND IN THE COUNTY! WE'LL DO IT ACCORDING TO THE ZAPROZHIAN PHILOSOPHY OF UKRAINE: EACH PERSON'S NEEDS.

LAND OWNERSHIP IS CONVERTED INTO SOCIAL OWNERSHIP. NO ONE WILL OWN MORE LAND THAN HE CAN CULTIVATE HIMSELF WITHOUT HIRING WORKERS. EVERY FAMILY WILL HAVE ONE OR TWO COWS, AND IT WILL BE THE SAME WITH HORSES.



THE WORST. I TOLD YOU.



I'M BORIS AVDEYEVICH ANDRONIKOV. ME AND MY COMRADES WERE SENT HERE FROM MOSCOW BY COMRADE LENIN TO HELP WITH THE UKRAINIAN REVOLUTION.

WE DISAPPROVE OF YOUR DECISIONS. YOU'RE DEVIATING FROM THE PRINCIPLES ADVOCATED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. WITH WHAT AUTHORITY ARE YOU MAKING YOUR DECISIONS, TEARING DOWN EVERYTHING TO BUILD YOUR UTOPIA?



WAIT!



MY DECISIONS? ONLY THE PEOPLE MAKE THE DECISIONS HERE. ARE THE BOLSHIEVKS AGAINST THE PEOPLE?



WE DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!

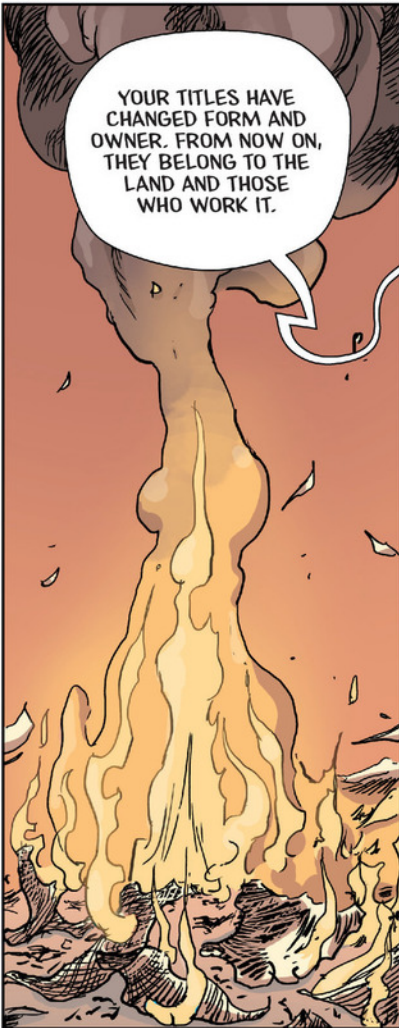
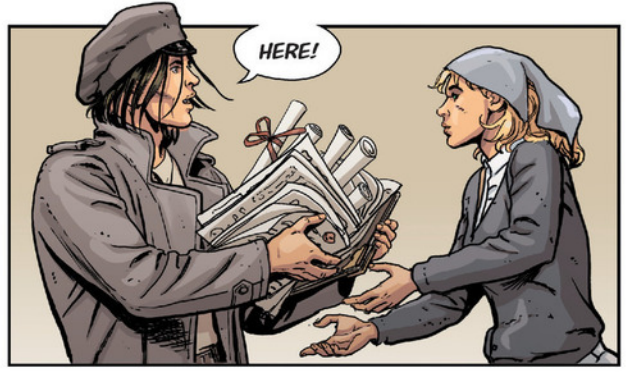
GO BACK TO RUSSIA!



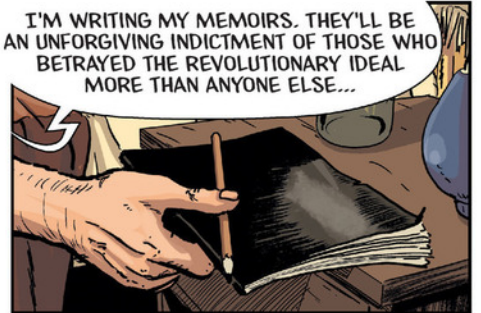
WE DON'T APPROVE OF ANYTHING YOU'VE DECIDED, MAKHNO! YOUR DISPOSSESSIONS ARE REPUGNANT!

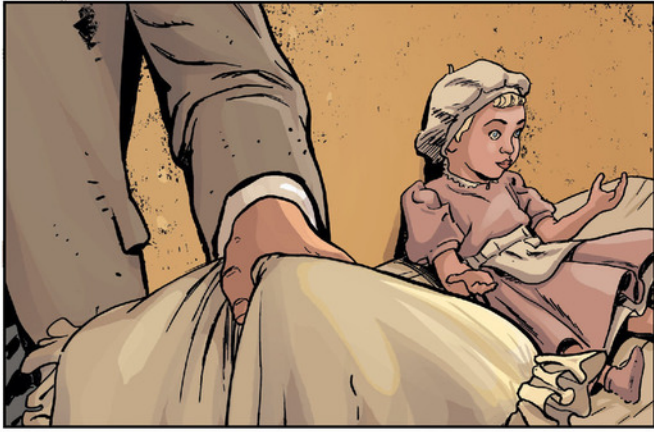


LET US THROUGH! WE'RE TAKING BACK OUR TITLES!









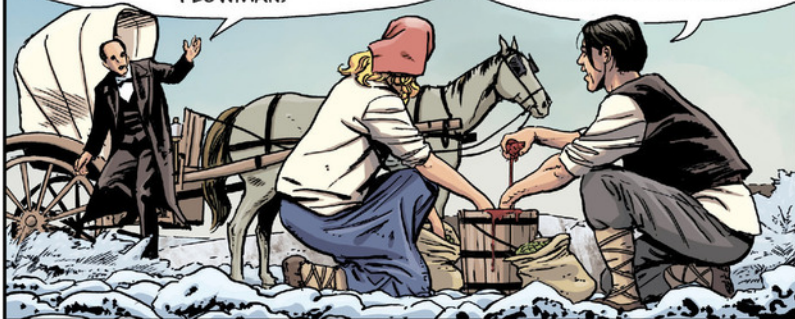
HULIAIPOLE,
CENTRAL UKRAINE,
MARCH 1918

NESTOR, SOAK THE
BEANS IN BEEF BLOOD
BEFORE PLANTING THEM. IT'LL
STOP THEM GETTING CROWDED
OUT BY WEEDS.



NESTOR MAKHNO! I EXPECTED TO FIND
A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION AND
INSTEAD I FIND A PEACEFUL
PLOWMAN.

PIOTR ARSHINOV! YOU'VE
LEFT MOSCOW? COME
EMBRACE ME, FRIEND!

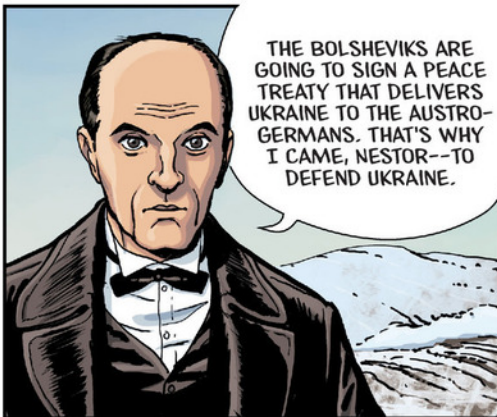


BUT I'LL
GET MY BOOTS
DIRTY!

YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED, ARSHINOV.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE
THE CITY? WHY
DID YOU LEAVE
MOSCOW?



THE BOLSHEVIKS ARE
GOING TO SIGN A PEACE
TREATY THAT DELIVERS
UKRAINE TO THE AUSTRO-
GERMANS. THAT'S WHY
I CAME, NESTOR--TO
DEFEND UKRAINE.



WHAT? LOOKS
LIKE I'LL BE TRADING
THESE FARMER'S
CLOTHES FOR MY
UNIFORM AGAIN.



WE HAVE TO GATHER OUR
TROOPS. YOU'LL SEE, THEY
CUT A FINE FIGURE.



WE'LL FIGHT TILL
WE SEE VICTORY.



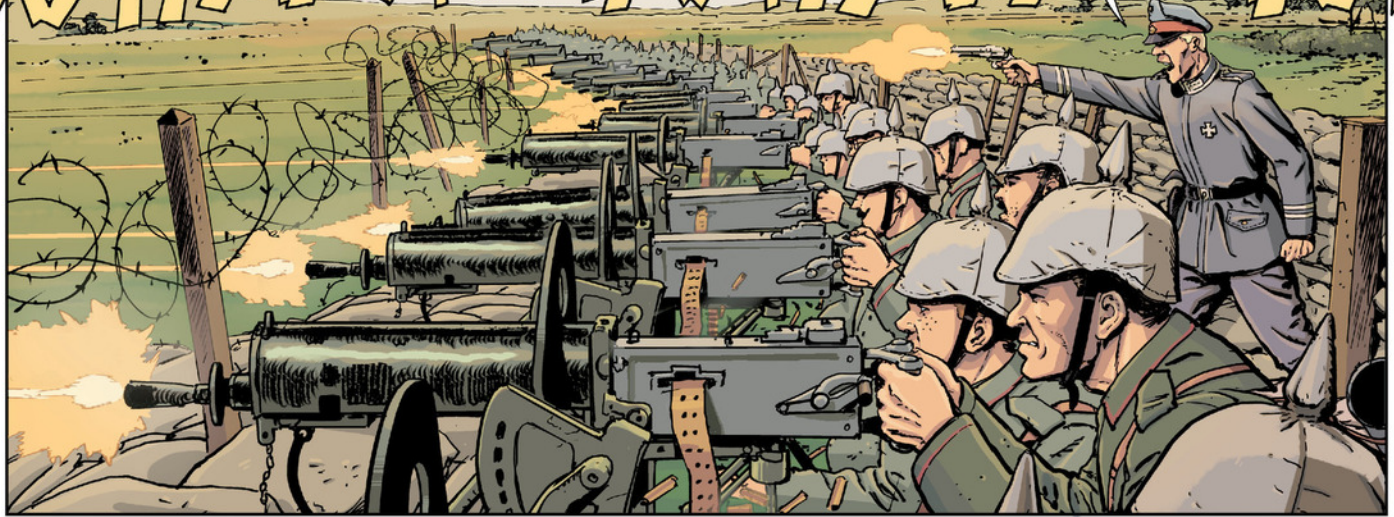
ZAPORIZHZHIA, ABOUT 60 MILES WEST OF HULIAIPOLE, MAY, 1918

RATAKAT...ATAKA

NO RETREAT!

CONTINUE! I WANT NO BREAKS IN FIRING! THESE UKRAINIAN DEVILS ARE GOING TO WIND UP LOSING HEART OR ELSE WE'LL ALL GO DOWN.

RATAKATATAKATA...KA



DAMN!



MARCHENKO! ARE YOU HIT?

WHO CARES? I'D RATHER DIE THAN RETREAT.



BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO. WE'LL ONLY SEE THIS TRENCH FROM AFAR: OUR ENEMIES ARE TOO STRONG TODAY.

WHAT?



THE REVOLUTIONARY INSURRECTIONARY ARMY OF UKRAINE IS PITIFUL.

DON'T GIVE UP. I PROMISE YOU WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE!



FOR THE MOMENT, OUR VALIANT FREEDOM FIGHTERS CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST THE INVADERS' ADVANCE.



WE CAN'T MEET THE GERMANS HEAD ON. WE MUST SPLIT UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS. WE'LL STRIKE AT THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY THAT WAY. HALYNA WILL BE OUR LIAISON OFFICER.

WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HULIAIPOLE. THE CITY ISN'T FORTIFIED WELL ENOUGH FOR US TO DEFEND IT.



YOU'RE ABANDONING US, MAKHNO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PROMISES TO PROTECT US?



HAVE FAITH! LOOK AT THESE BIRDS.



COME WHAT MAY, EVEN WHEN SEPARATED, THESE BIRDS FIND EACH OTHER. WE'LL BE LIKE THEM. NOTHING WILL KEEP US APART.

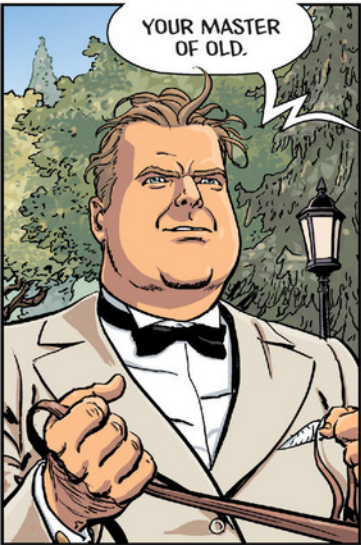
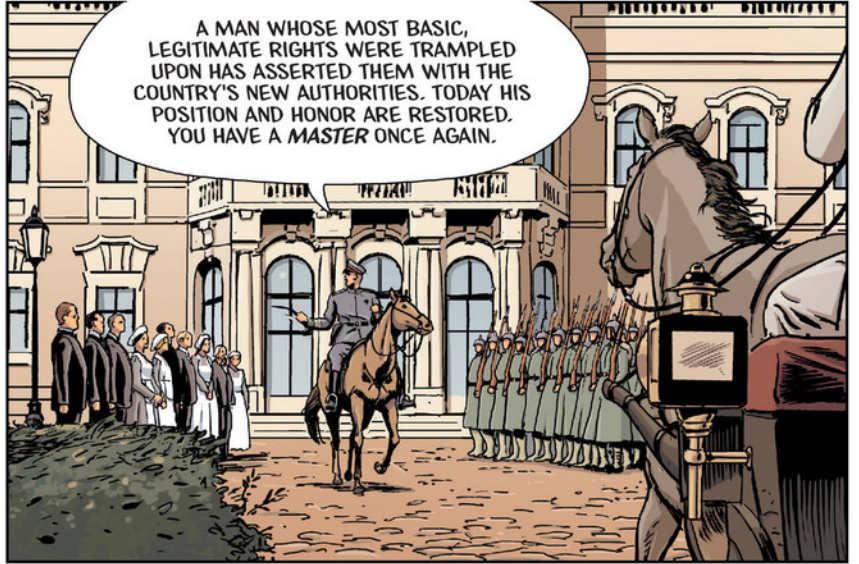


AND THEN DEATH ITSELF WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND US.

YOU AREN'T LIKELY TO SEE YOUR BANDIT AGAIN, YOUR MAKHNO. THE FREE COMMUNES ARE WELL AND TRULY FINISHED.



A MAN WHOSE MOST BASIC, LEGITIMATE RIGHTS WERE TRAMPLED UPON HAS ASSERTED THEM WITH THE COUNTRY'S NEW AUTHORITIES. TODAY HIS POSITION AND HONOR ARE RESTORED. YOU HAVE A MASTER ONCE AGAIN.

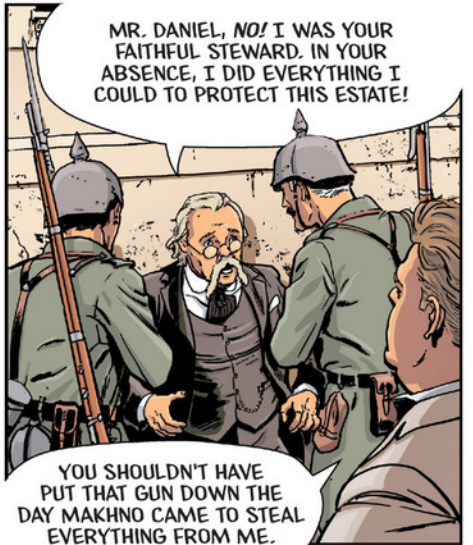


YOUR MASTER OF OLD.



ALL THE WORKERS ARE HERE. WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED?

THEY'RE ALL GUILTY. BUT I CAN'T PUNISH ALL OF THEM. I NEED THEM. BRING THE OLD MAN.



MR. DANIEL, NO! I WAS YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARD. IN YOUR ABSENCE, I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO PROTECT THIS ESTATE!

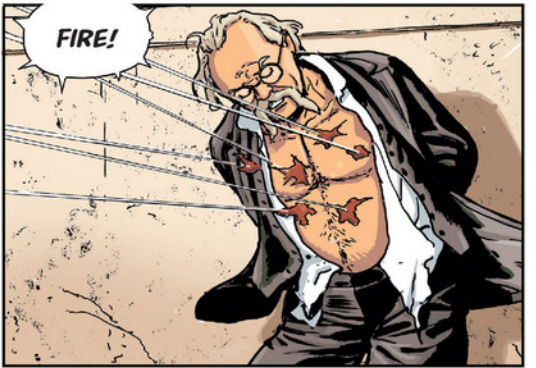
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THAT GUN DOWN THE DAY MAKHNO CAME TO STEAL EVERYTHING FROM ME.



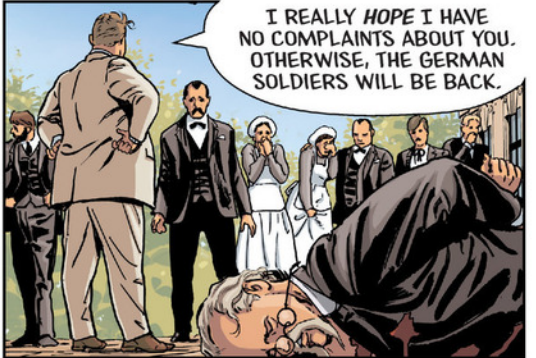
NO! DON'T DO IT!

MR. DANIEL! SPARE LEV! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU WANT. YOU WON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT US!

AIM!



FIRE!



I REALLY HOPE I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOU. OTHERWISE, THE GERMAN SOLDIERS WILL BE BACK.



YOUR SON'S NO LONGER IN CHARGE, YANA MAKHNO. FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL LIVE OUTDOORS, AND NOBODY MAY HOUSE YOU UNDER PENALTY OF BEING HANGED ALONGSIDE YOU.



AAAH!



IF YOU CIRCLE THE TOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES, I'LL AGREE TO LET YOU LIVE IN A DOGHOUSE.

I'LL NEVER HUMILIATE MYSELF FOR YOU. MY SON CAME BACK ONCE. HE'LL COME BACK AGAIN AND HE'LL PUNISH YOU.



OFFICER, SIR, NO! SPARE THIS WOMAN. SHE IS NO THREAT TO ANYONE.



YOU'RE DEFENDING A MAKHNOVIST PIECE OF TRASH. YOU'RE MAKHNOVISTS, TOO.

NO! I ASSURE YOU THAT...



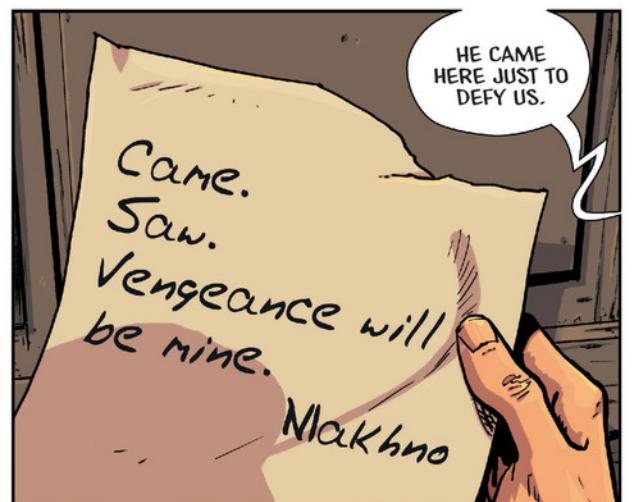
NO!



YOU NEED TO GET IT INTO YOUR HEADS THAT THE RULES HAVE CHANGED.



YOU'VE KILLED WHAT'S GOOD. WHAT'S GOOD WILL KILL YOU.



DONETSK REGION,
UKRAINE, AUGUST 1918



RATAKATA
RAIAKATATA

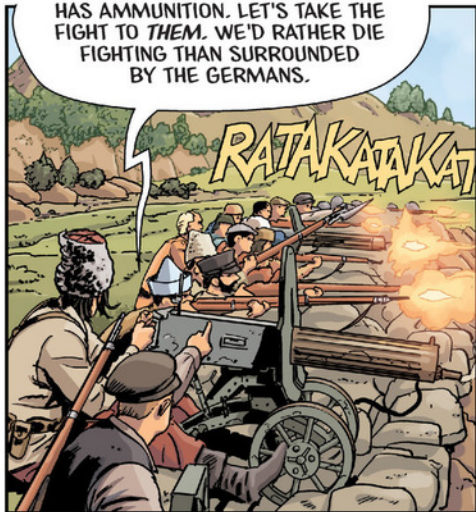
DON'T HESITATE! IF THEY
GET US WITHIN THE REACH
OF THEIR GRENADES, NONE OF
US WILL GET OUT ALIVE.



MORE AMMO! QUICK! WHY AREN'T
THE NEXT ROUNDS READY?

TIC TIC TIC
TIC TIC TIC

ONLY ONE MACHINE GUN STILL
HAS AMMUNITION. LET'S TAKE THE
FIGHT TO THEM. WE'D RATHER DIE
FIGHTING THAN SURROUNDED
BY THE GERMANS.



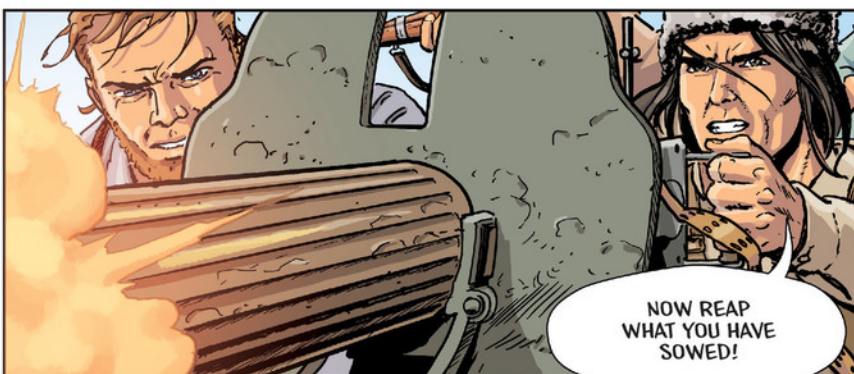
RATAKATAKAT

GRENADES...
LAUNCH!



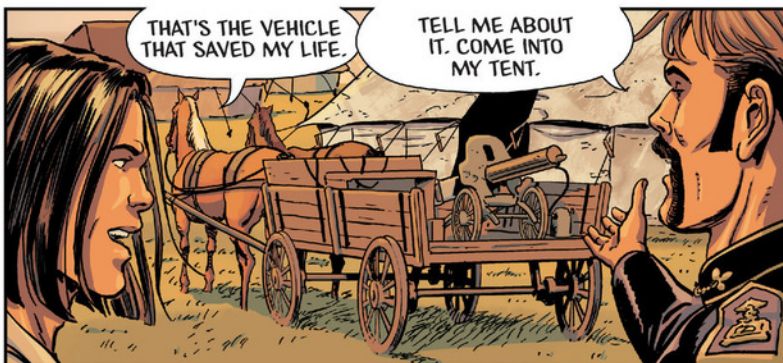
HELP ME LIFT THE MACHINE
GUN. WE'LL SORTIE, BUT NOT
THE WAY YOU THINK.





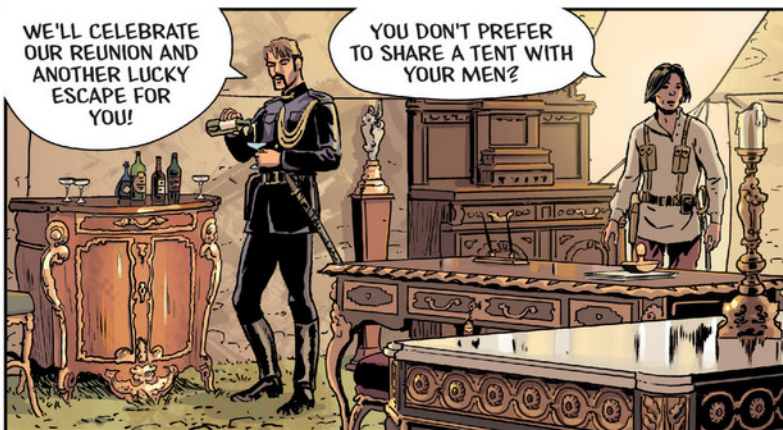


THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME TO YOUR CAMP, MARCHENKO. OURS WAS DESTROYED BY THE GERMANS. THEY HUNTED US DOWN IN THE DONETSK HILLS, AND I JUST MADE IT OUT OF THERE WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF MEN.



THAT'S THE VEHICLE THAT SAVED MY LIFE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. COME INTO MY TENT.



WE'LL CELEBRATE OUR REUNION AND ANOTHER LUCKY ESCAPE FOR YOU!

YOU DON'T PREFER TO SHARE A TENT WITH YOUR MEN?



VASILY, DO YOU NEED THIS LUXURY?

THESE ARE THE SPOILS OF WAR, NESTOR. OBJECTS STOLEN FROM THE BOURGEOISIE, FROM GERMAN OFFICERS.

YOU KNOW WHAT I NEED? VICTORY! THAT'S WHAT I'D RATHER SHARE WITH MY MEN! TOGETHER, WE'VE FREED POLOHY WITH ALMOST NO LOSSES.



BRAVO. DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS FROM MARUSYA?

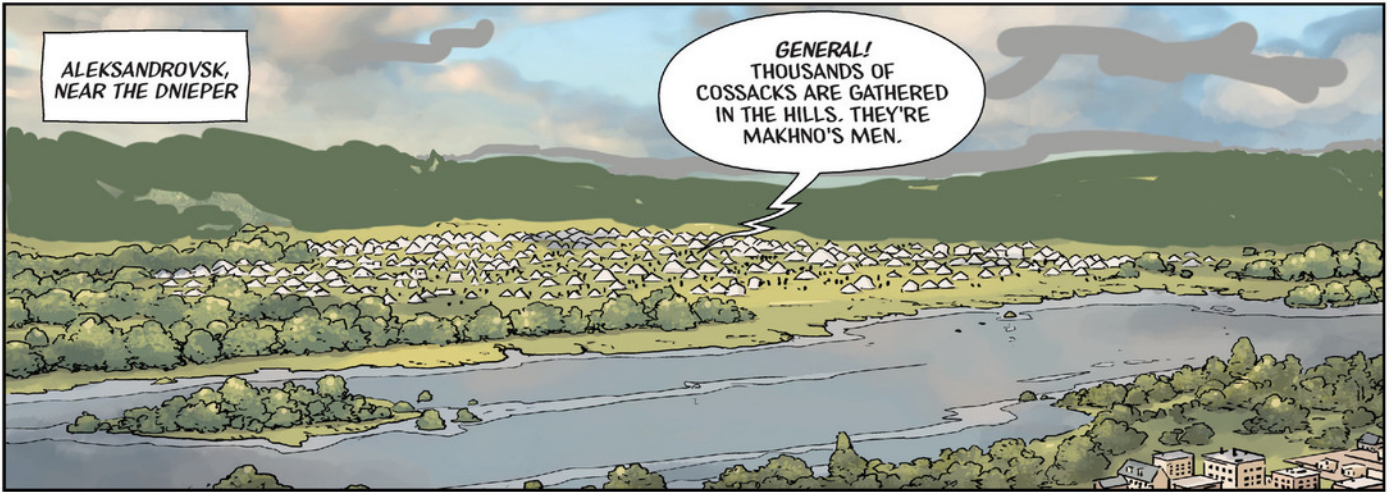
HALYNA SAYS SHE FREED SYNELNY. SHE'S PHENOMENAL. NOBODY SUSPECTS THAT LITTLE WOMAN WHO SLIPS BETWEEN THE LINES.



I KNOW ZIMORSKY IS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND. AND HE HAS MANY GOOD QUALITIES...BUT HE ISN'T A LEADER.



IT WASN'T ALL GOOD NEWS THOUGH. THE GERMANS WIPED OUT KOLIA'S TROOPS AT NIKOPOL.



ALEKSANDROVSK,
NEAR THE DNIEPER

GENERAL!
THOUSANDS OF
COSSACKS ARE GATHERED
IN THE HILLS. THEY'RE
MAKHNO'S MEN.



WHAT DOES HE EXPECT
TO DO WITH THOSE BEGGARS?
HE CAN'T INTEND TO ATTACK. IS
HE HERE TO TAUNT US?



THERE
AREN'T
ENOUGH
OF US,
MAKHNO.

AS LONG AS WE WAGE A WAR OF SKIRMISHES,
THE BALANCE OF POWER WILL BARELY SHIFT AND THE
GERMANS WILL STAY ON UKRAINIAN SOIL. ATTACKING
THEM *HERE*, WHERE THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IS
STATIONED, WILL BE A MAJOR BLOW TO STRIKE.



WE MAY
BE FEWER, BUT
BOLDNESS IS
STRONGER THAN
NUMBERS. EACH OF
US IS WORTH 100 OF
THEM. WE ARE READY!
WE ARE STRONG!



WE ARE
READY! WE ARE
STRONG!



GENERAL! THEY...
THEY'RE ATTACKING!

WE'LL GIVE
THEM A GOOD
WELCOME, THOSE
IMBECILES. THAT'S
THE END OF THEIR
MAKHNOSSHCHINA.

Property of General Kohn

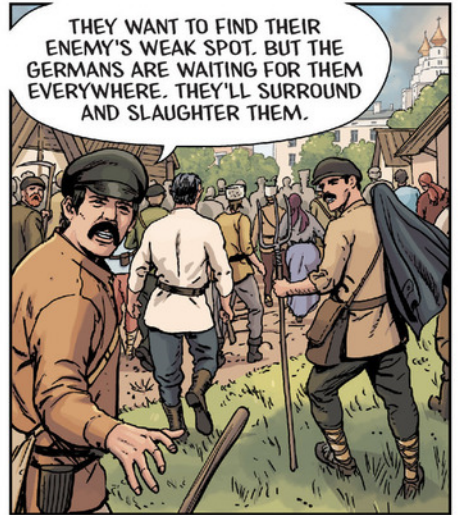




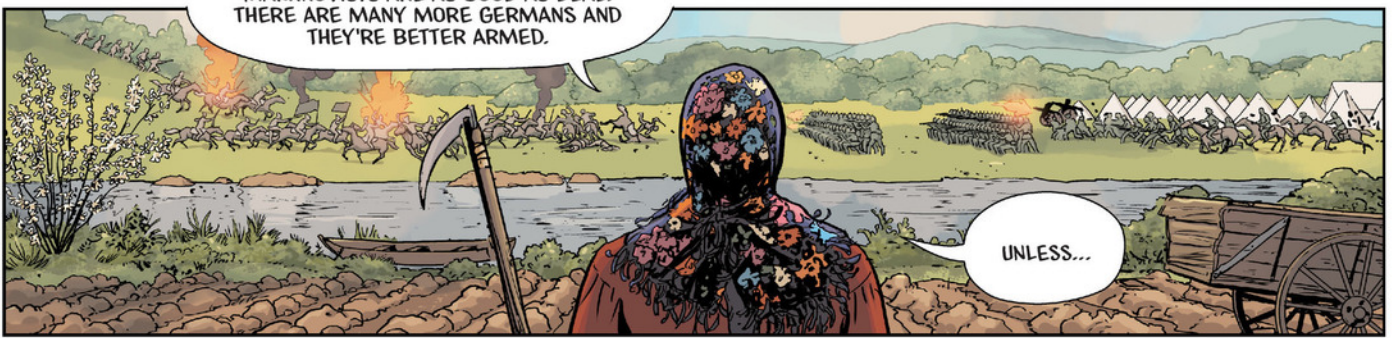
...FIRE!

LET'S MOVE AWAY FROM HERE. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.

THIS WILL BE OVER SOON. THE MAKHNOVISTS ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD. THERE ARE MANY MORE GERMANS AND THEY'RE BETTER ARMED.



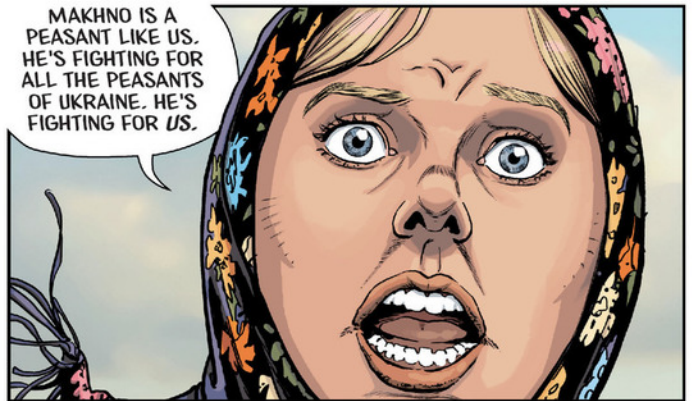
THEY WANT TO FIND THEIR ENEMY'S WEAK SPOT. BUT THE GERMANS ARE WAITING FOR THEM EVERYWHERE. THEY'LL SURROUND AND SLAUGHTER THEM.



UNLESS...



...UNLESS WE JOIN HIM!



MAKHNO IS A PEASANT LIKE US. HE'S FIGHTING FOR ALL THE PEASANTS OF UKRAINE. HE'S FIGHTING FOR US.



HE AND HIS MEN MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND WE TURN OUR BACKS ON THEM?



LET'S FIGHT FOR THEM! I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.





MAKHNO!
WE'RE HERE!



WE WON'T LET THESE
INVADERS KILL ONE
OF OUR OWN!



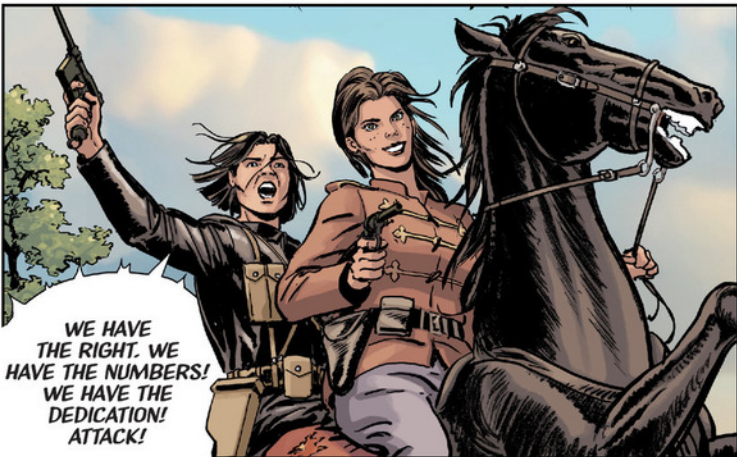
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MOVE BACK! GO HOME
OR WE'LL SHOOT!



THE BIRDS...
WE'RE GOING
TO WIN.



THEY'LL REAP
DEATH OR
SHAME!



WE HAVE
THE RIGHT. WE
HAVE THE NUMBERS!
WE HAVE THE
DEDICATION!
ATTACK!



HULIAIPOLE BARRACKS



AAAH!

HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?



RICHTER! WHAT'S GOING ON? RICHTER! WHERE ARE YOU? ANYBODY?!

NOBODY'S ANSWERING...



WAKE UP, YOU LAZY LOT! I HEARD SCREAMS THAT...

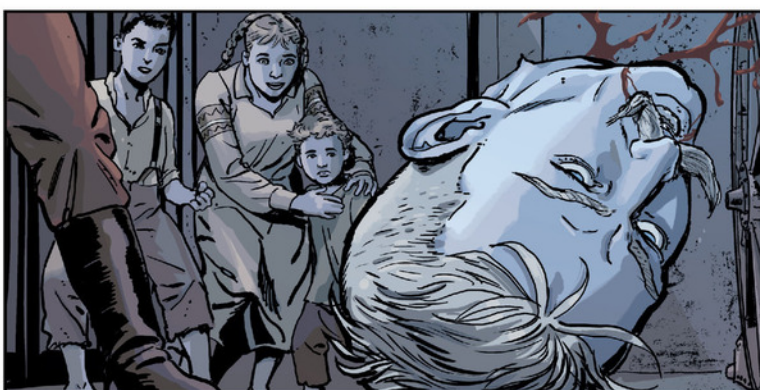


NO! IT'S A NIGHTMARE. IT MUST BE... ARGH!

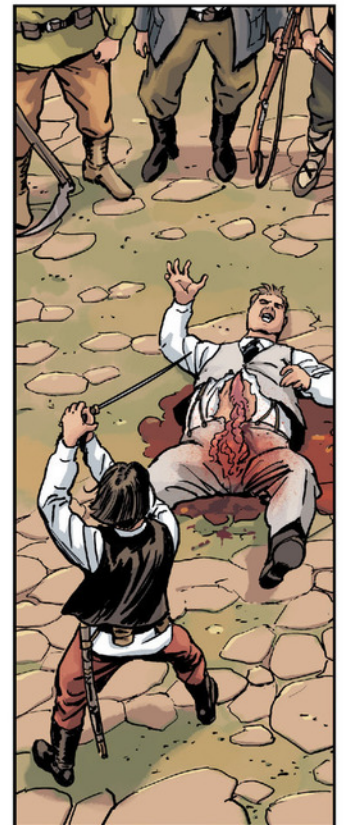
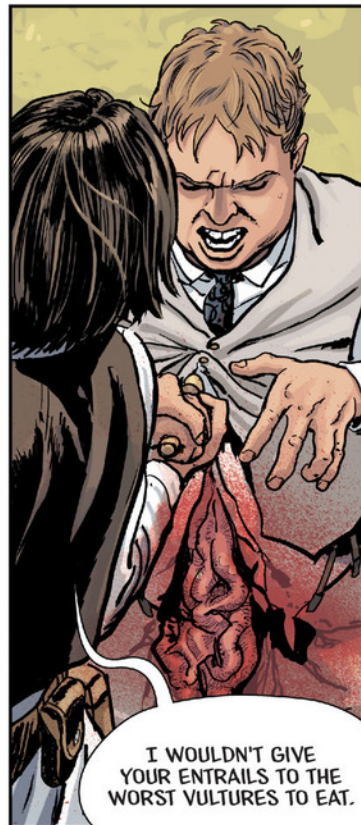


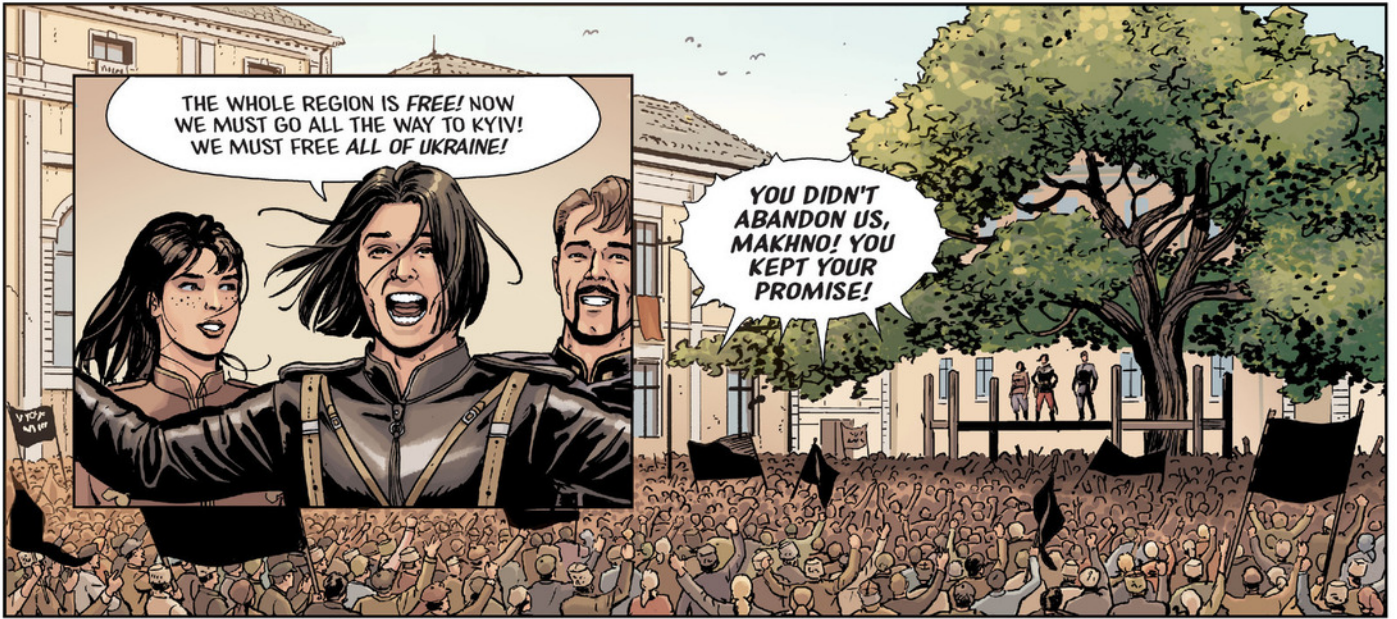
GET OUTSIDE!

HELP! THEY'RE ATTACKING YOUR CAPTAIN! QUICK!









THE WHOLE REGION IS FREE! NOW WE MUST GO ALL THE WAY TO KYIV! WE MUST FREE ALL OF UKRAINE!

YOU DIDN'T ABANDON US, MAKHNO! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!



IT'S KOLIA ZIMORSKY.

YES, THOSE ARE HIS TROOPS.



OR WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM.



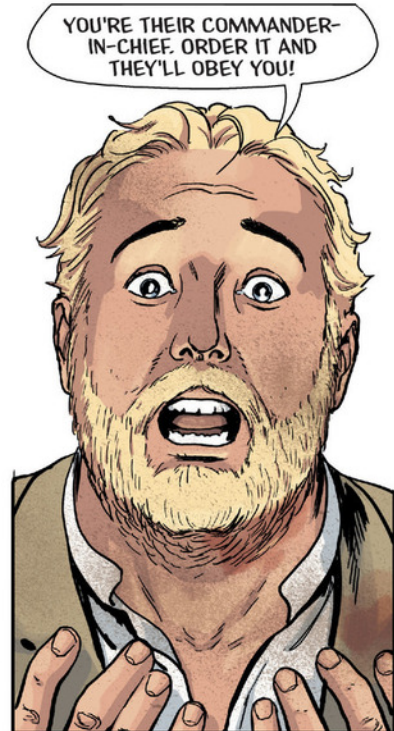
THE MEN HAVE ALL DISMISSED ZIMORSKY. WE'LL HAVE TO ELECT A NEW LEADER.

IT'LL BE DONE.



WHAT? YOU AREN'T DEFENDING ME? RESTORE ME TO MY COMMAND, NESTOR. THE GERMANS WERE FAR TOO STRONG, THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE MY FRIEND, KOLIA, BUT I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE WILL OF THE SOLDIERS OF MAKHNOVSHCHINA.



YOU'RE THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. ORDER IT AND THEY'LL OBEY YOU!



IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD NOTHING.

LET'S HOLD THE ELECTION.



THE SAME EVENING

HALYNA HASN'T RETURNED, NESTOR?

NOT YET, VASILY. SHE'S MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER UKRAINIAN PATRIOT MOVEMENTS TO SET UP A MEETING AND UNITE ALL THE INSURGENTS. THE UNIFIED ARMY WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL THE GERMAN TROOPS A FATAL BLOW. THEY'VE ALREADY RETREATED TO KATERYNOSLAV.

MORE BATTLES AHEAD--SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! I LIKE FIGHTING AND DANCING. COME ON, MAKHNO, SHOW ME YOU KNOW HOW TO DANCE LIKE A REAL COSSACK!



WHAT'S THIS HORSE COLLAR?

SPOILS OF WAR!



LET'S STOP NOW.

HAHAHA! TIRED ALREADY?



IT'S YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT. I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

JOIN ME IN MY TENT.



DUBROYKA FOREST,
THE SAME TIME

WHERE'S YOUR LEADER?
WHERE'S SHCHUS?



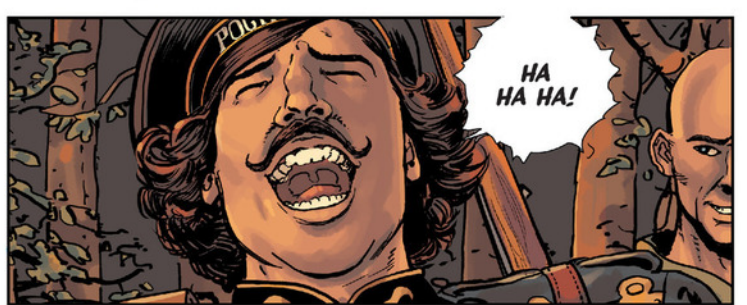
THERE HE IS. I WOULDN'T
RECOMMEND YOU SHOW
HIM DISRESPECT.



THAT'S ALL MAKHNO SENT ME:
A LITTLE WOMAN?



AND THIS CIRCUS COSTUME'S
ALL YOU HAVE TO WEAR,
ATAMAN SHCHUS?





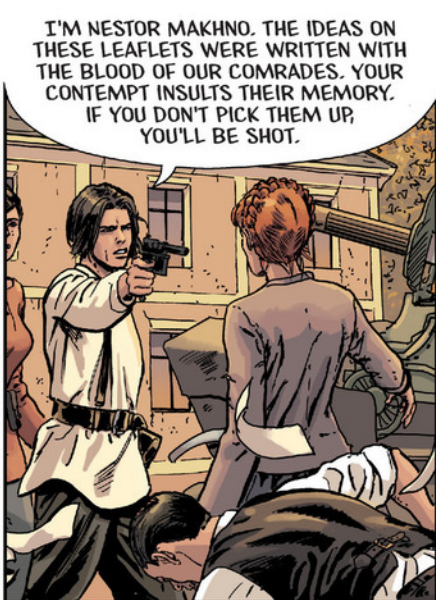
WE'RE GOING TO PRODUCE DOZENS OF THESE "TACHANKAS," MAYBE EVEN MORE. ONE TACHANKA SAVED MY LIFE; HUNDREDS WILL SAVE THE REVOLUTION.

WATCH OUT!



PICK UP THESE LEAFLETS!

I'M NOT YOUR SLAVE.



I'M NESTOR MAKHNO. THE IDEAS ON THESE LEAFLETS WERE WRITTEN WITH THE BLOOD OF OUR COMRADES. YOUR CONTEMPT INSULTS THEIR MEMORY. IF YOU DON'T PICK THEM UP, YOU'LL BE SHOT.



I'M FANIA ASKAROVNA. THE ONLY CONTEMPT I SEE HERE IS YOURS FOR HUMAN LIFE.



IF YOU DON'T MOVE ASIDE, YOUR BLOOD WILL STAIN THESE LEAFLETS, TOO.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT?



TO SURVIVE IN WARTIME, A WOMAN HAS TO LEARN A LOT FASTER THAN A MAN HOW TO DEFEND HERSELF.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET ELECTED HEAD OF THE TACHANKA DIVISION. YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

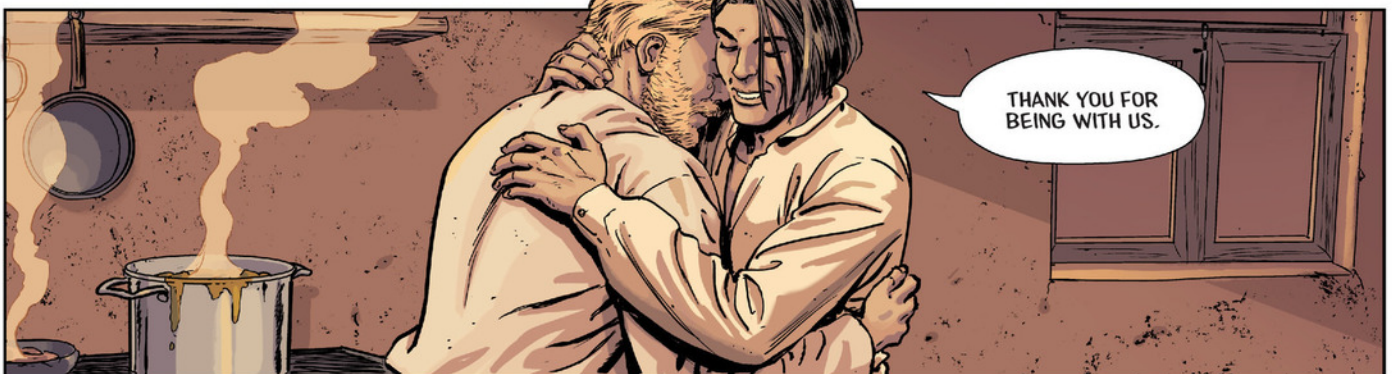
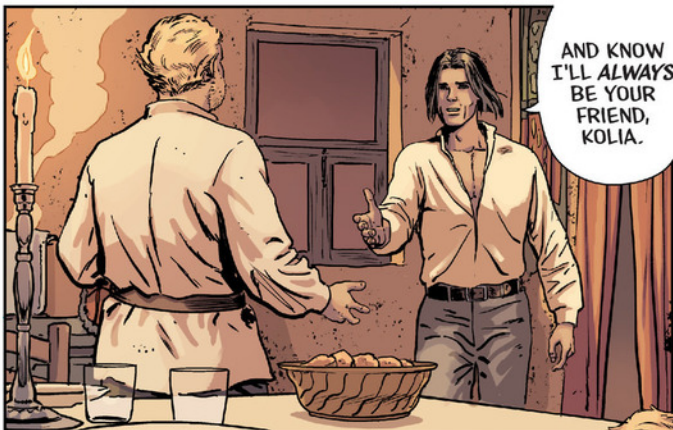
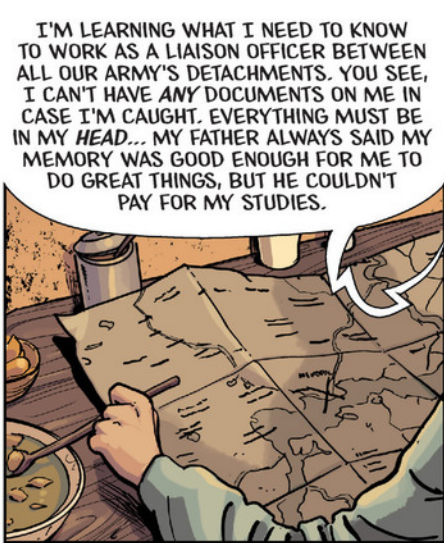


YOU ALREADY HAVE ME. I'LL BE YOUR WOMAN ONCE MORE IF WE MEET AGAIN.



ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE HER TO BED, TOO, MAKHNO? GO ON, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR TACHANKAS. I PREFER COMBAT, ANYWAY. I'M LEAVING TOMORROW, GOING BACK TO BATTLE.

I'M WITH HALYNA, BUT I NEED A WOMAN LIKE YOU, MARUSYA.





PARIS, 1934

KNIFE GRINDER!
SHARPEN YOUR KNIVES
AND SCISSORS!



WHY ISN'T
MAKHNO DEAD?



HE'S NO LONGER
DANGEROUS. HE'S SICK.
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO
FEAR FROM HIM.



HE'S WRITING
HIS MEMOIRS. HIS IDEAS
WILL ALWAYS BE
DANGEROUS.

NO. ASK
SOMEONE
ELSE.



IT HAS TO BE YOU. IF A
MAKHNOVIST KILLS HIM, NO ONE
WILL SUSPECT STALIN.

SINCE YOU DON'T
HAVE THE GUTS TO
DO IT WITH YOUR OWN
HANDS, POUR THE
CONTENTS OF THIS VIAL
INTO HIS GLASS. DON'T
FORGET: WE JUST HAVE
TO GIVE THE COMMAND,
AND YOUR FAMILY'S
EXTERMINATED.

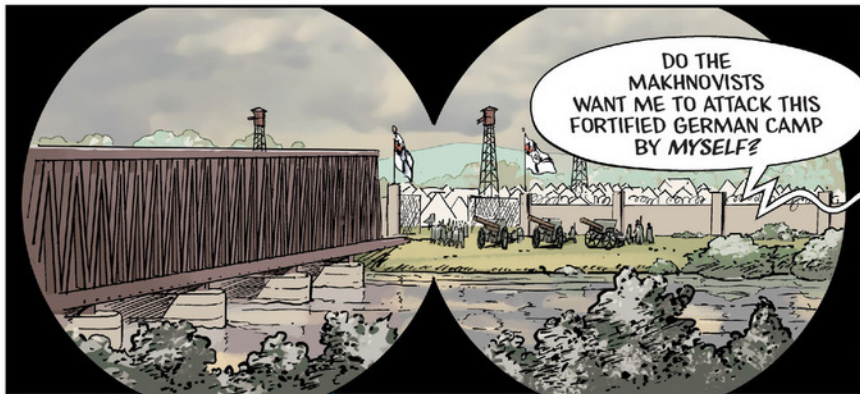


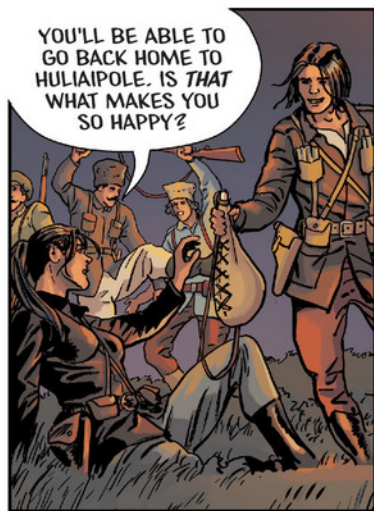
A FEW
DROPS WILL
SUFFICE.



KNIFE
GRINDER!
KNIVES...

SCISSORS AND SWORDS!







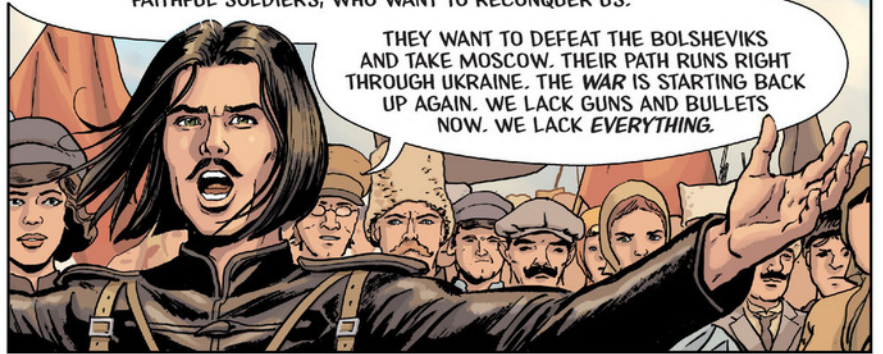
HULIAIPOLE, ONE MONTH LATER



EVERYONE, STOP AND LISTEN!



WE'VE CHASED AWAY THE GERMANS, BUT OUR INFORMANTS REPORT OTHER INVADERS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN CRIMEA: *WHITE COSSACKS*, THE TSAR'S FAITHFUL SOLDIERS, WHO WANT TO RECONQUER US.



THEY WANT TO DEFEAT THE BOLSHEVIKS AND TAKE MOSCOW. THEIR PATH RUNS RIGHT THROUGH UKRAINE. THE WAR IS STARTING BACK UP AGAIN. WE LACK GUNS AND BULLETS NOW. WE LACK EVERYTHING.

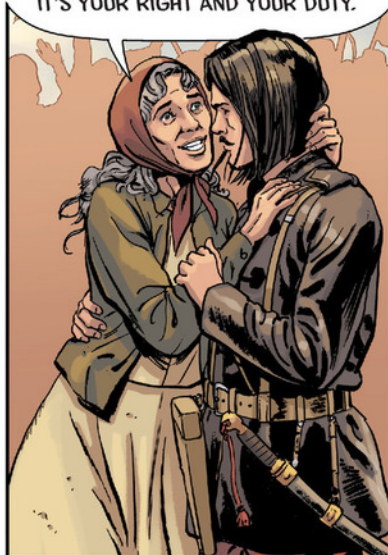
WE HAVE OUR SABERS. WE HAVE OUR ARMS. WE HAVE OUR TEETH AND OUR NAILS. FOR THESE NEW BATTLES, I MOVE WE NOMINATE NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO AS THE SUPREME ATAMAN, AS IN THE TIMES OF THE ZAPHROZHIAN COSSACKS. LET'S GIVE HIM THE TITLE OF BATKO!



YES, MAKHNO! OUR FATHER! OUR GUIDE! OUR BATKO!



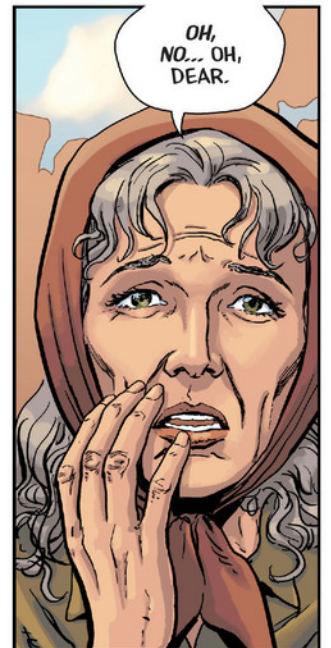
THE MOMENT HAS COME, NESTOR. NOW YOU CAN BRING OUT YOUR SILVER CRESCENTS AND WEAR THEM. IT'S YOUR RIGHT AND YOUR DUTY.



I...I NO LONGER HAVE THEM. THE RUSSIANS STOLE THOSE EARRINGS WHEN I WAS IN PRISON.



OH, NO... OH, DEAR.





THESE WHITE COSSACKS ARE THE TOUGHEST OPPONENTS WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!

YES, AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE HERE. BUT YOU MUST SURVIVE. YOU'RE OUR BATKO. TAKE MY HORSE.

COME WITH ME. THAT'S AN ORDER!



GO, NESTOR!



DIE BRAVELY, MEN--TAKE AS MANY OF THEM WITH YOU AS POSSIBLE!



I WANT THESE MAKHNOVISTS ALIVE.



GO! GATHER THE VILLAGERS BY THE RIVER.



I AM COLONEL ANTROPOV, THE TSAR'S COSSACK. THE EMPIRE WILL BE REBORN. I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST HIS AUTHORITY.



CHOP OFF THEIR FEET!



AAAH!

ТЮХ



MAKHNO WILL COME AND TAKE REVENGE ON YOU, ANTROPOV. AND ALL YOUR EXECUTIONERS!

ТЮХ ТЮХ



FOR YOU, LEADER OF THE BLACK COSSACKS, I'VE RESERVED A SPECIAL TREATMENT!



THIS IS AWFUL. THESE MEN ARE MONSTERS.

WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS. WE MUST ACT! THERE ARE MORE OF US.





BOM BOM

DON'T OPEN IT! IT MIGHT BE A PACK OF WHITE COSSACKS. THEY BELIEVE THEY'RE ON CONQUERED LAND. THEY TERRORIZE US.

I SEE ONLY A MAN COLLAPSED AT THE DOOR. WE SHOULD BRING HIM IN.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WHO ARE YOU?

I'M NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO.

YOU... YOU'RE OUR BATKO? PRAISE BE THE FATE THAT ALLOWS US TO SAVE YOU, YOU WHO SAVED US ALL.

HERE, BATKO. WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING ELSE?

TAKE ME HOME.



HULIAIPOLE



SUKIN AND
HER FAMILY
SAVED ME.



WITHOUT THEM,
I WOULD HAVE LOST
MY FEET... PROBABLY
MY LIFE.

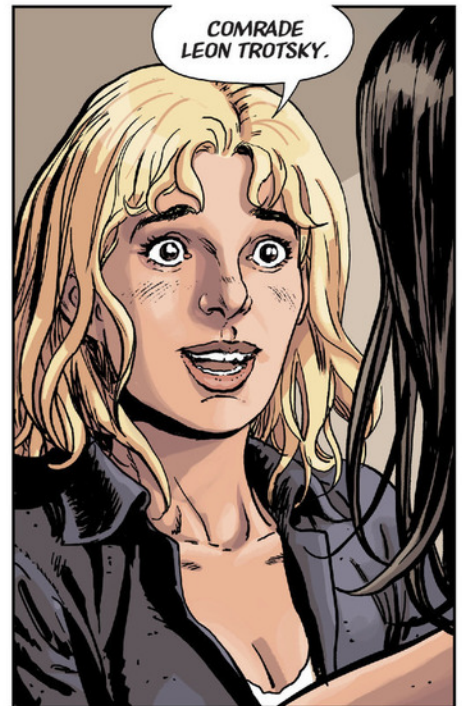


NESTOR!
YOU'RE AWAKE.



I'M GOING TO DRAW YOUR BATH.
A MAN WANTS TO SEE YOU. WE SET
UP A MEETING AT THE INN THREE
LEAGUES FROM HERE.

WHAT?
WHO IS THIS
MAN?



COMRADE
LEON TROTSKY.



IT'S BATKO MAKHNO.



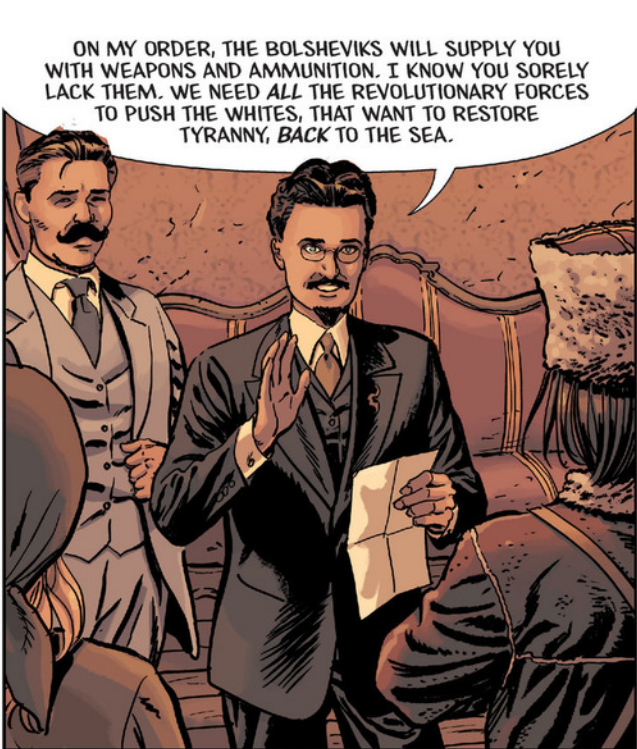
IVAN ZADOV!



YES, MY BROTHER, IT'S ME. I'VE WORKED WITH COMRADE TROTSKY FOR OVER A YEAR NOW. COME IN.



NESTOR IVANOVYCH! LET US BE BROTHERS, TOO!



ON MY ORDER, THE BOLSHEVIKS WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. I KNOW YOU SORELY LACK THEM. WE NEED ALL THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES TO PUSH THE WHITES, THAT WANT TO RESTORE TYRANNY, BACK TO THE SEA.



COMRADE IVAN ZADOV WILL LEAD THE WEAPONS CONVOY IN PERSON. THEN HE'LL STAY WITH YOU.



YOU SEE, TO SEAL OUR DEAL, I'M READY TO PART WITH A FRIEND AND RETURN HIM TO YOU.

THANK YOU, COMRADE.



COMRADES!
WELCOME!



THIS TIME THE
REVOLUTION CAN'T FAIL.

WHICH REVOLUTION,
NESTOR? OURS OR THE
BOLSHEVIKS'?



REMEMBER THE ZAPROZHIAN. THEY FORMED
AN ALLIANCE WITH THE RUSSIANS AND BECAME THEIR
SLAVES. BECAUSE UKRAINE IS NOTHING MORE THAN
SOUTHERN RUSSIA TO THOSE IMPERIALISTS.



YOU'RE A HARBINGER
OF DOOM. THIS
ALLIANCE IS JUST
TEMPORARY.

AND I'M VERY
HAPPY IVAN ZADOV WILL
REMAIN WITH US.



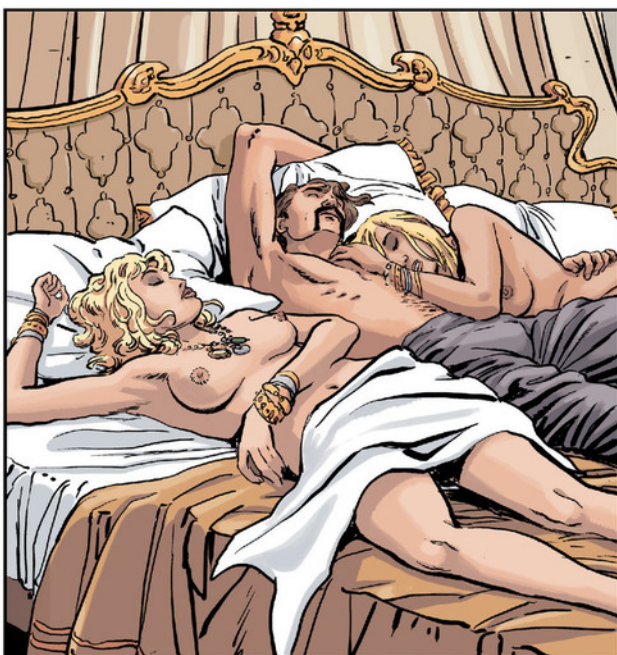
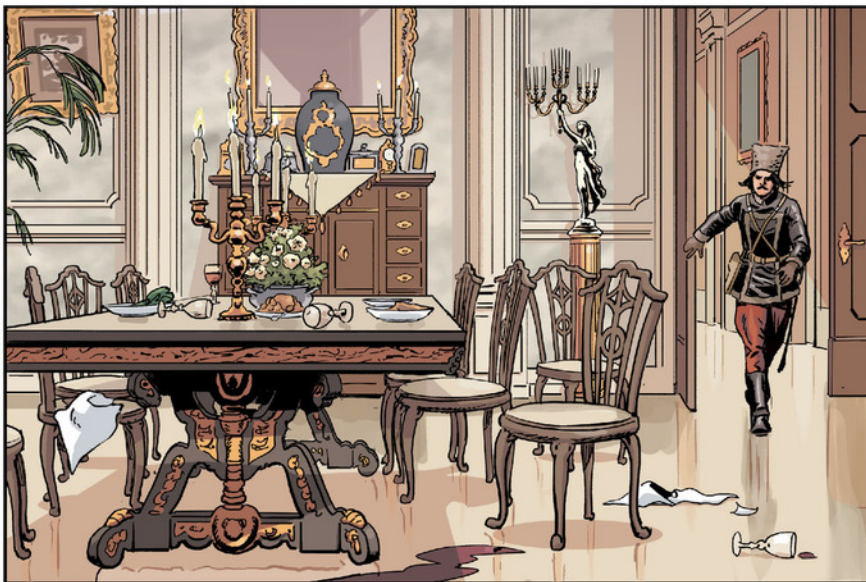
WHAT'S GOING ON?

I HAVE TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT
VASILY MARCHENKO.
IT'S SERIOUS.



NESTOR!

HERE'S SOMEONE ELSE
WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO SHARE
YOUR ENTHUSIASM, MAKHNO.



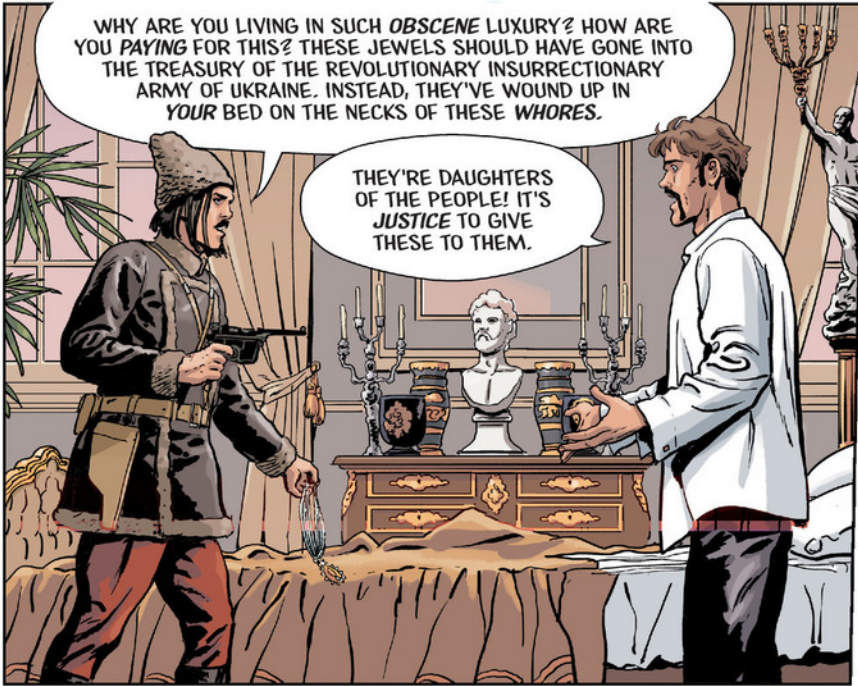


N...NESTOR. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DON'T KILL US!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, IDIOTS? HE WON'T KILL ANYONE. THIS IS MY BATKO. HE'S OUR HERO.



WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN SUCH OBSCENE LUXURY? HOW ARE YOU PAYING FOR THIS? THESE JEWELS SHOULD HAVE GONE INTO THE TREASURY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INSURRECTIONARY ARMY OF UKRAINE. INSTEAD, THEY'VE WOUND UP IN YOUR BED ON THE NECKS OF THESE WHORES.

THEY'RE DAUGHTERS OF THE PEOPLE! IT'S JUSTICE TO GIVE THESE TO THEM.



HOW MUCH OF THE REVOLUTION'S MONEY HAVE YOU SPENT ON YOUR OWN PLEASURE? HALYNA THINKS YOU'VE MISAPPROPRIATED 600,000 RUBLES. IS THAT TRUE?

I... THE MONEY... I GAVE YOU LOTS OF IT, AND NOBODY MADE ME DO IT. REMEMBER THE SPOILS FROM THE BANK OF KREMENCHUK, NESTOR!



THAT DAY YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED MONEY, I SHOULD'VE REFUSED WHAT YOU BROUGHT ME. I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL SOMEONE WHO'D BECOME A FRIEND. AND I DO HAVE TO KILL YOU, VASILY.

GO AHEAD AND SHOOT! AT LEAST I LIVED WELL IN ALEKSANDROVSK. I WILL HAVE RESTED AFTER THE REVOLUTION!



Fujiit



PAW



WHY DID YOU DO IT, VASILY?

WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO IT?



COME HERE, HANDSOME! YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET. I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD AGAIN. COME ON, FOLLOW ME INSIDE. HAVE A GLASS OF CLARET AND SOME FUN!



GET OUT, YOU FILTHY LUSH! AND DON'T EVER COME BACK!



ENTER, ENTER, NOBLE COSSACK! SORRY THAT PANHANDLER TOUCHED YOUR FINE UNIFORM.

THAT WOMAN... SHE'S WEARING SILVER CRESCENTS!



WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR EARRINGS? ANSWER ME, BITCH OR YOU'LL BLEED OUT IN THIS GUTTER!

N...NESTOR... IT'S YOU...



K...KATRIN!



SOTSGOROD HOSPITAL
IN ALEKSANDROVSK

I'M PREPARED
TO PAY WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO
CURE HER.



I'M
AFRAID HER
TUBERCULOSIS
IS IN THE FINAL
STAGE. ALL
THE MONEY IN
THE WORLD
COULDN'T
SAVE HER.

COME
HERE.

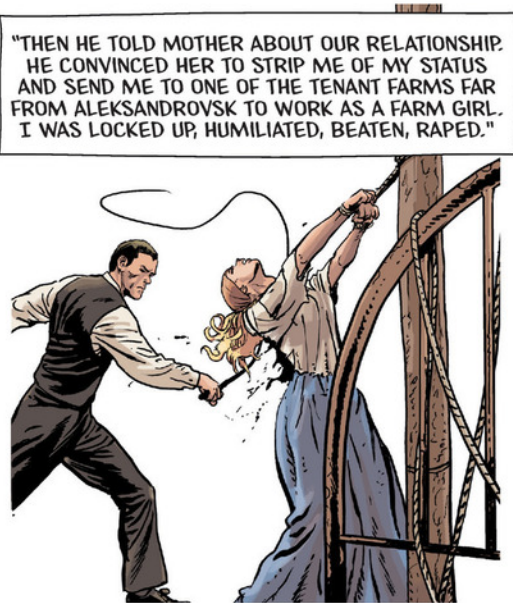


DON'T COME TOO CLOSE, NESTOR. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
CONSUMPTION IS CONTAGIOUS. WHY WAS FATE SO CRUEL
AS TO SEPARATE US, ONLY TO HAVE US FIND
EACH OTHER AGAIN TOO LATE?

WHAT
HAPPENED?
CAN YOU
TELL ME?



"I DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT DANIEL SPIED ON
MY COMINGS AND GOINGS. HE HEARD OUR
CONVERSATION WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT
THE ATTACK ON THE ESTATE. HE SOUNDED
THE ALARM TO THE AUTHORITIES.



"THEN HE TOLD MOTHER ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.
HE CONVINCED HER TO STRIP ME OF MY STATUS
AND SEND ME TO ONE OF THE TENANT FARMS FAR
FROM ALEKSANDROVSK TO WORK AS A FARM GIRL.
I WAS LOCKED UP, HUMILIATED, BEATEN, RAPED."



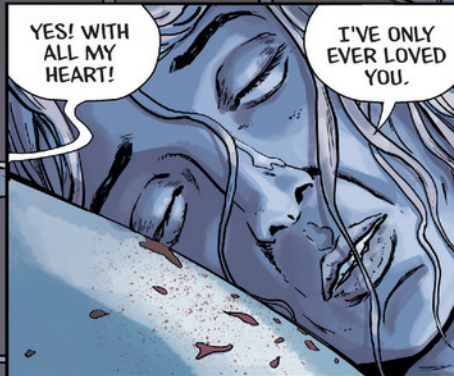
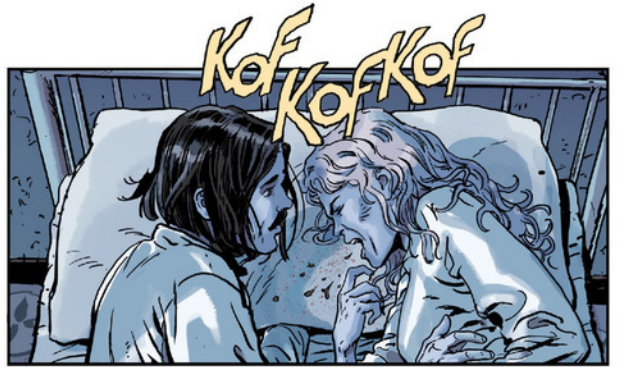
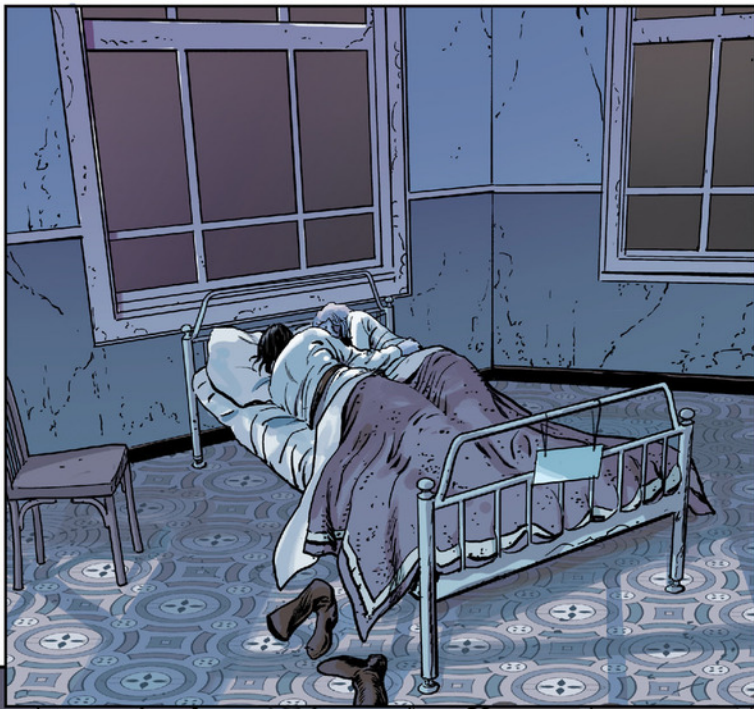
I MANAGED TO RUN AWAY. BUT
I ONLY HAD THE STREETS FOR
SURVIVAL. AND SOON I'LL BE
DEAD. OH, NESTOR... AT LEAST
YOU'LL SWEETEN THE LAST
MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.

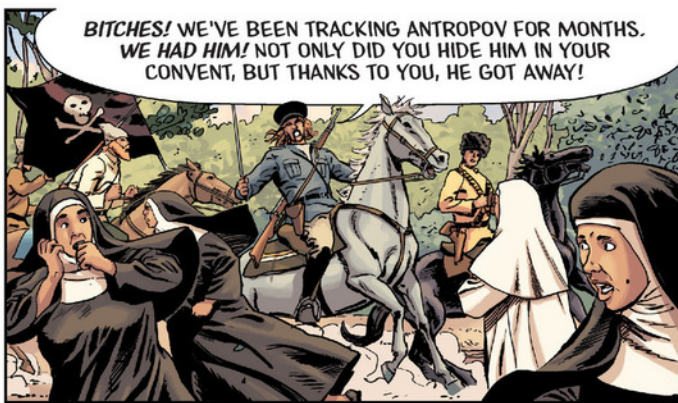
NO! YOU
WON'T DIE!

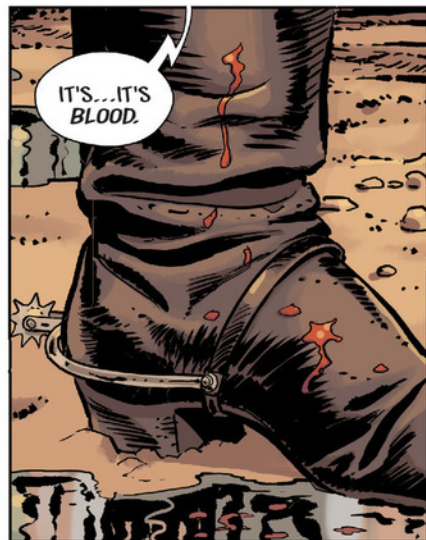
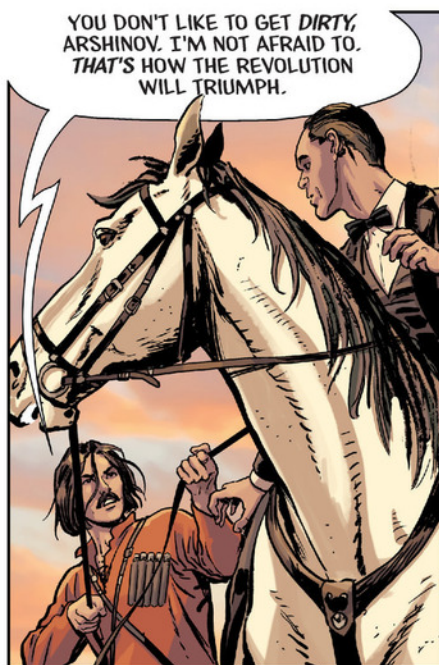


NESTOR!
NO!

I WON'T
LEAVE YOU
AGAIN.



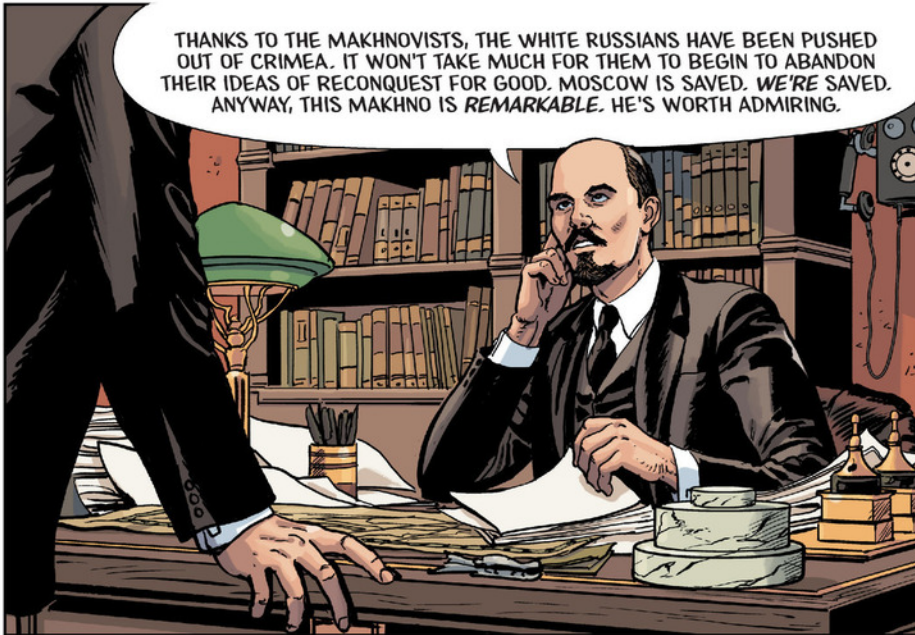




MOSCOW,
THE KREMLIN,
NOVEMBER 1920



THANKS TO THE MAKHNOVISTS, THE WHITE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF CRIMEA. IT WON'T TAKE MUCH FOR THEM TO BEGIN TO ABANDON THEIR IDEAS OF RECONQUEST FOR GOOD. MOSCOW IS SAVED. WE'RE SAVED. ANYWAY, THIS MAKHNO IS REMARKABLE. HE'S WORTH ADMIRING.



YOU SEEM PLEASED!
THE UKRAINIANS ALSO FIND
HIM REMARKABLE.
THEY ADORE HIM.



HIS FREE COMMUNES HAVE
SPREAD. IMAGINE THAT IDEA
INFECTING RUSSIAN
PEASANTS!



NO. OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

WHAT TO DO?
WE DON'T HAVE
THE TROOPS TO
FIGHT HIM.



NO, NOT HEAD-ON.
FIRST, WE HAVE TO
WEAKEN HIM, REDUCE
HIS ARMY. THEN WE'LL
EXTERMINATE HIM
AND HIS WRETCHED
ANARCHISTS.



I'M SURE
YOU ALREADY HAVE
EVERYTHING PREPARED.
SO DON'T DELAY. YOU
HAVE MY APPROVAL.



THE SYVASH,
CRIMEA, THREE
WEEKS LATER

SHCHUS!
ATMAN!



HALYNA...
HERE...



THE BOLSHIEVIKS WERE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER WEAPONS
SO WE COULD THROW THE LAST WHITE RUSSIANS INTO THE
SEA. BUT THEY WERE DELAYED. WE WERE ATTACKED
BY THE WHITES WHILE WE WERE DISARMED.



TELL BATKO...WE DID NOT SURRENDER.
WE FOUGHT WITH OUR SABERS AGAINST
THEIR CANNONS, WITH OUR HANDS AGAINST
THEIR GUNS. NOBODY RETREATED.

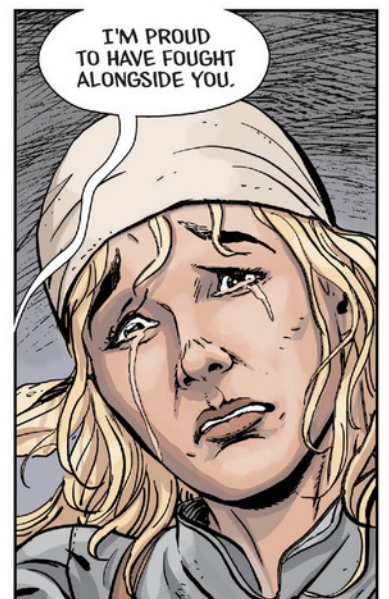
YOU'LL TELL HIM YOURSELF.
I'M TAKING YOU HOME.



IT'S TOO LATE. YOU KNOW, IN CRIMEAN
TATAR, SIVACH MEANS, "ROTTEN SEA." I'LL
ROT HERE. GO NOW. PASS BETWEEN
THE LINES THE WAY DO SO WELL.



I'M PROUD
TO HAVE FOUGHT
ALONGSIDE YOU.





THE ENEMY NEVER FALTERS. WE CUT OFF ITS HEAD; ANOTHER GROWS BACK IN ITS PLACE. WE NEED MEN FOR OUR ARMY. WE'RE GOING THROUGH THE VILLAGES OF UKRAINE TO FIND BRAVE MEN.

THE WAR. STILL THE WAR. ALWAYS THE WAR. THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.



IT'S THE WAR THAT FORCES ME TO ASK FARMERS TO LEAVE THEIR FIELDS. IT'S FOR THE STRUGGLE.

THE STRUGGLE FOR WHAT? YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS, AND YOU LET THOSE RUSSIAN INVADERS ENTER OUR COUNTRY. WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY MAKHNO. WE LOVE UKRAINE.

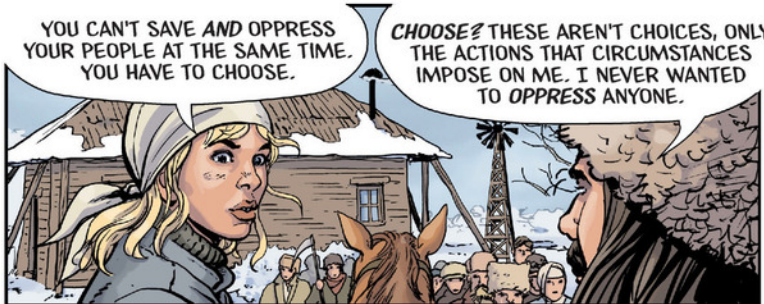


AND I LOVE MY LAND! I KNOW NO BORDERS. I KNOW NO COUNTRIES. I ONLY KNOW FREE MEN.



FREE? YOU SAID JOINING MAKNOVSHCHINA WAS ENTIRELY OUR CHOICE, BUT YOU ACT LIKE THE WHITES; YOU ACT LIKE THE REDS. YOU CONSCRIPTED OUR MEN.

YOU'RE KILLING YOUR PEOPLE!



YOU CAN'T SAVE AND OPPRESS YOUR PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME. YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE.

CHOOSE? THESE AREN'T CHOICES, ONLY THE ACTIONS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IMPOSE ON ME. I NEVER WANTED TO OPPRESS ANYONE.



CHOOSE WHO YOU ARE, OR ELSE OTHERS WILL CHOOSE FOR YOU.

YOU! TELL ME THE NAME OF YOUR HUSBAND. IF YOU SAY HE WAS FORCIBLY CONSCRIPTED, I'LL SET HIM FREE IMMEDIATELY.



THAT'S WHERE HE RESTS.

LEON TROTSKY'S ARMORED TRAIN.
RUSSIA, NEAR THE NORTHEAST
UKRAINIAN BORDER

YOU'VE STOPPED SUPPLYING OUR ARMY
WITH GUNS AND BULLETS, COMRADE TROTSKY.
THAT'S AGAINST OUR AGREEMENT.



I PROPOSE ANOTHER AGREEMENT, MAKHNO. WE'LL RESUME DELIVERIES ON THE
CONDITION THAT YOUR ARMY INVADERS POLAND. THE COUNTRY IS COMPLETELY
DIVIDED. YOU'LL GO AHEAD OF OUR TROOPS, WHICH WILL TAKE
THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION THERE.

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO KILL POLES.
I WANT TO REESTABLISH FREE COMMUNES
IN UKRAINE. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS
TO ME. THAT'S MY LAST WORD.



TOO BAD
FOR YOU.
FIRE!



HE GOT
AWAY.

SHOOT ZADOV.
HE'S MAKHNO'S
FRIEND.

ALEKSANDROVSK.
VASILY MARCHENKO'S
FORMER RESIDENCE



A TEMPORARY
ALLIANCE WITH THE
WHITES IS NECESSARY,
NESTOR.

I DON'T
WANT TO EAT.

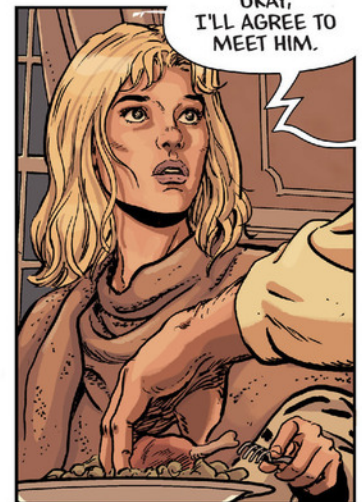


I DON'T WANT TO ALLY
MYSELF WITH RUSSIANS ANYMORE,
WHOEVER THEY ARE. LOOK WHERE
THE ALLIANCE WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS
LED US... NOW THEY'RE KILLING
OUR SUPPORTERS. THEY'RE
HUNTING US.

AT LEAST AGREE TO RECEIVE
THE WHITE'S EMISSARY. LISTEN TO WHAT
COLONEL ANTROPOV HAS TO SAY TO YOU AND
THEN MAKE YOUR DECISION. BUT REALIZE THAT WE
NO LONGER HAVE A CHOICE. IF WE FACE THE REDS
ALONE, THEY'LL CRUSH US. NEXT THEY'LL TAKE
ON THE WHITES, AND THEN ALL OF UKRAINE.



THE EMISSARY'S
NAME IS
ANTROPOV?



OKAY,
I'LL AGREE TO
MEET HIM.



I'M
HUNGRY!



NESTOR, I BEG YOU. YOU'RE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE.



REMEMBER MARUSYA KLIMENKOVA?



ON MY COMMAND.



FIRE!



IT'S ALL OVER NOW.



SONS OF BITCHES!

WHEN THE GERMANS TRIED TO BURN DOWN YOUR HOUSES, YOU LOOKED TO YOUR BATKO. WHEN THE WHITES TRIED TO RETURN AND SOW TERROR, YOU LOOKED TO YOUR BATKO.

BUT THEN LENIN PUT YOU TO SLEEP WITH THE NEP*, AND THE BOLSHEVIK COMMISSARS GAVE YOU TINY PLOTS OF LAND. SO YOU DROPPED THE INSURRECTIONARY ARMY! YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT FREEDOM!

WHAT'S GOING ON, BATKO?

JOIN MY ARMY, SUKIN, OR ELSE... OR ELSE...

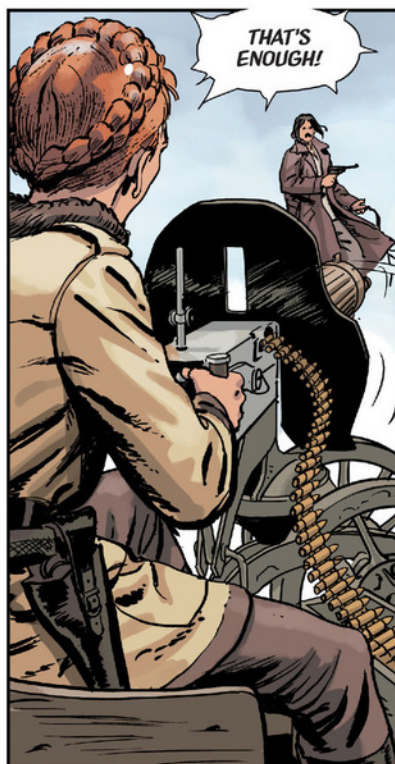


WHAT ARMY? YOU'VE ONLY GOT A HANDFUL OF MEN AND THAT MACHINE.



THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE A COWARD...AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

BATKO, NO! REMEMBER, WE WELCOMED YOU. WE GAVE YOU BACK TO YOUR LOVED ONES! WE...



THAT'S ENOUGH!

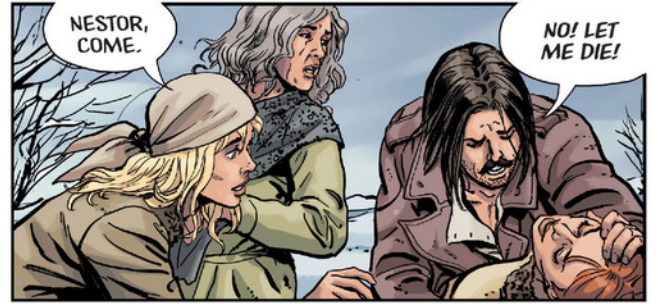


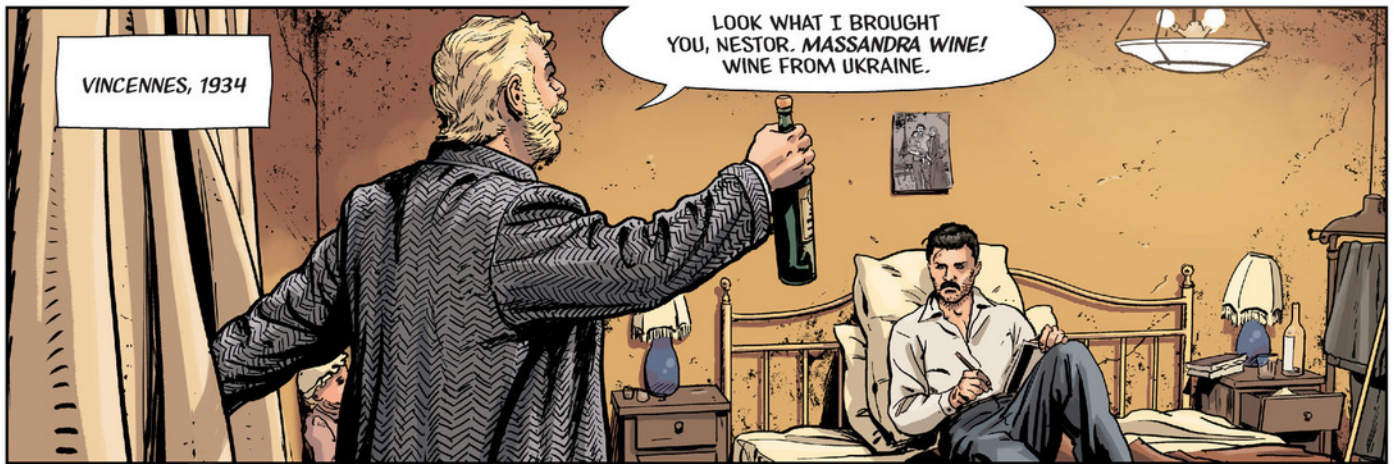
YOU'RE BETRAYING ME, TOO, BITCH?

NESTOR! NO!



* NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.





VINCENNES, 1934

LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT YOU, NESTOR. MASSANDRA WINE! WINE FROM UKRAINE.



THAT BOTTLE MUST HAVE COST YOU A FORTUNE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE AS POOR AS ME...

UH...YOU'LL SEE. IT'S NICELY CHILLED.



THIS IS A TELEGRAM I GOT FROM HALYNA TODAY. I TELEGRAPHED HER THAT YOU WERE IN PARIS. SHE'S KEPT SOME KIND OF A SPY NETWORK RUNNING. PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE. SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TRUST YOU.



HERE, NESTOR.

THAT WINE IS TOO SWEET. TOO BOURGEOIS. I PREFER VODKA, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE.



WHY AREN'T YOU DRINKING YOUR WINE?

I...I...



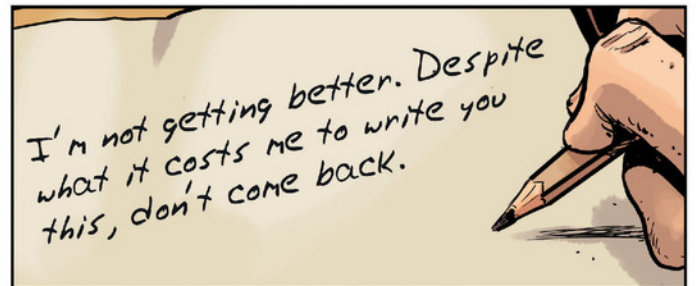
WHY HESITATE WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISH?



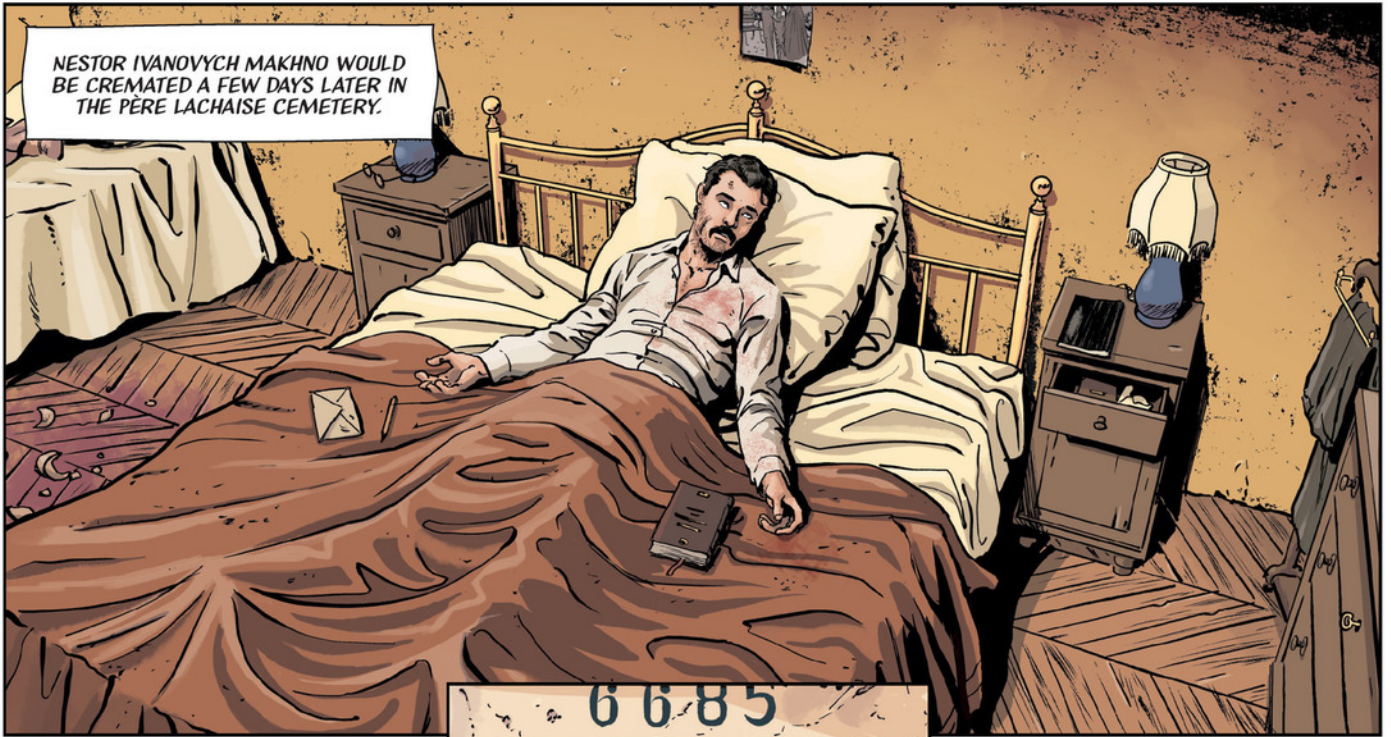
I DON'T HESITATE. I'VE NEVER LET OTHERS CHOOSE FOR ME.



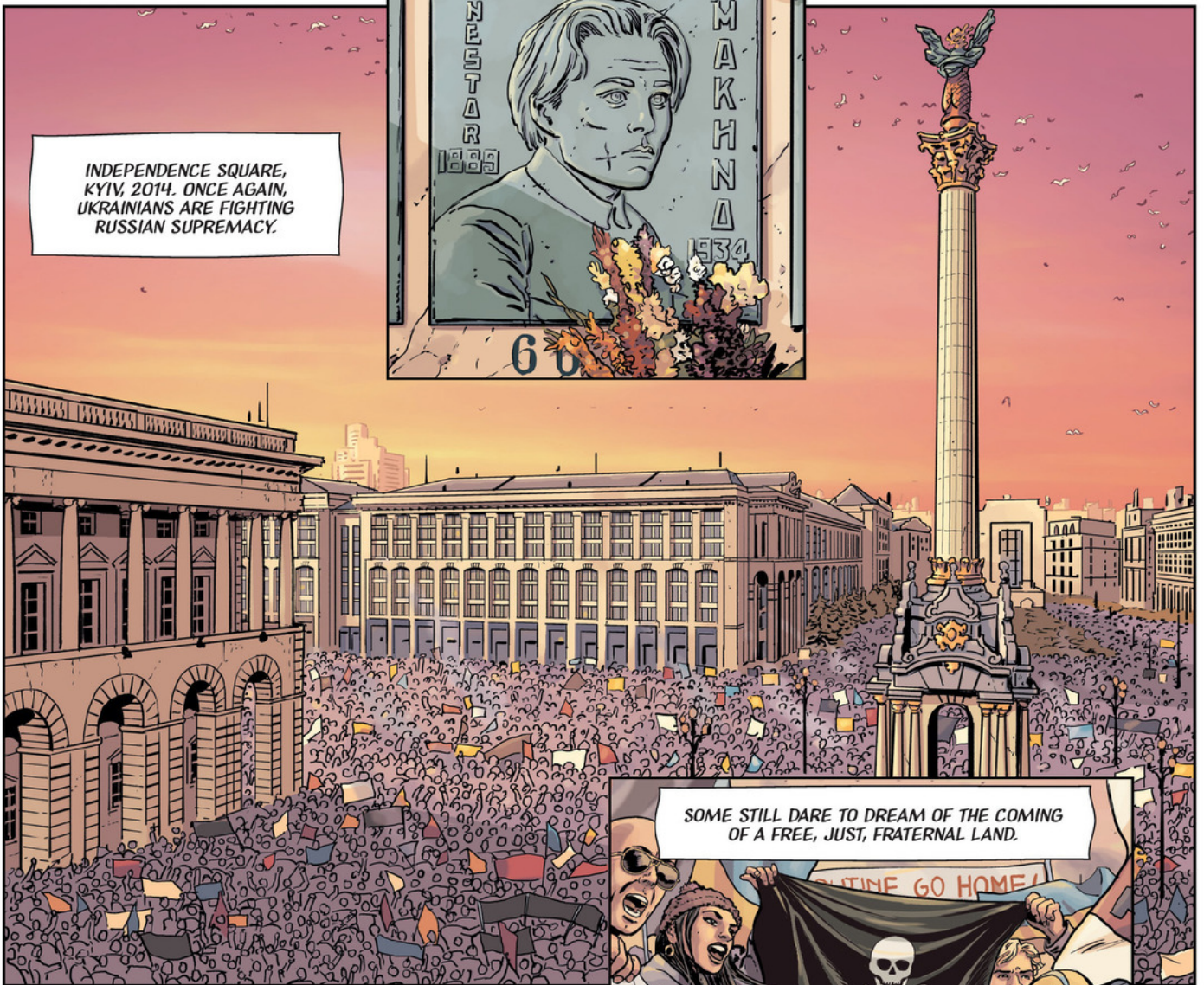
STAY THERE, YOU BASTARD!



NESTOR IVANOVYCH MAKHNO WOULD BE CREMATED A FEW DAYS LATER IN THE PÈRE LACHAISE CEMETERY.



INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, KYIV, 2014. ONCE AGAIN, UKRAINIANS ARE FIGHTING RUSSIAN SUPREMACY.



SOME STILL DARE TO DREAM OF THE COMING OF A FREE, JUST, FRATERNAL LAND.



END

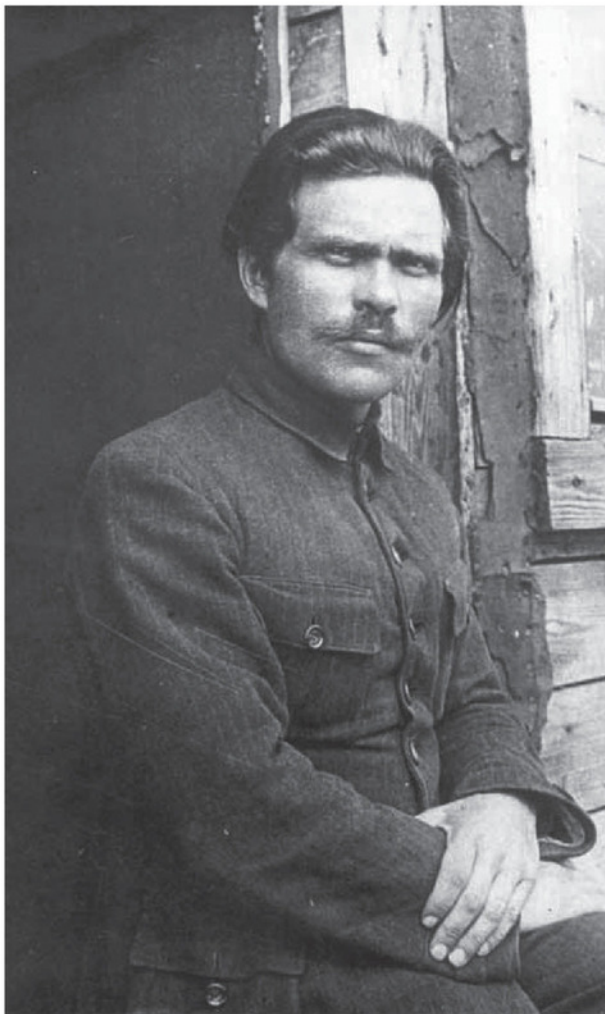
MAKHNO: HERO OF THE PEOPLE

"Even dead and buried, Makhno's country bumpkins with their pitchforks will always be right compared to Lenin, his pretentious know-it-alls, and his models."

Alain Fleig, *Lutte de cons et piege a classe* (trans., "Fights of Fools and Class Traps"), 1975

THE STORY you just read is a fictionalized account of the life of Nestor Makhno. So, let us now take a look at the real Makhno, a remarkable man who could have changed the face of Europe.

"Across all of Ukraine
Our partisans arose...
Maknovshchina Maknovshchina
Our partisans were those:
Black arms fought in Ukraine
'Gainst Reds and Whites, their foes."



The lyrics of this song by anarchist Etienne Roda-Gil were set to a traditional tune, the text of which changed depending on whether the tsarists, fascists, Bolsheviks, or others sang it. The words glorify one of the most important events in the 20th century, the final failure of which allowed one of the deadliest regimes in history to be established in Eastern Europe.

Nestor Ivanovych Miknienko was born in 1888 to a peasant family in the Ukrainian town of Huliaipole. Fatherless, a shepherd at seven, and a farm worker at 12, he became an anarchist during the 1905 revolution. At the age of 20, he participated in a failed assassination attempt and was sentenced to death, which was commuted to a life sentence of forced labor due to his youth. He remained incarcerated until the second revolution in 1917. Trained during his prison sojourn by locksmith and anarchist leader Piotr Arshinov, he became Makhno. His character was established: stubborn, intelligent and distinctly charismatic. With a face marked by smallpox and a fiery gaze, he led the Soviets in the Huliaipole region, organized communes with 100-300 volunteers, expropriated exploiters, put lands in the hands of poor peasants, placed businesses under self-management, and imposed Francisco Ferrer's libertarian and avantgarde educational methods in the schools. He founded labor and agricultural unions and then, in January 1918, he founded an army, the Maknovshchina, with railroad worker Viktor Belash at its head. The army – which flew a black flag and employed guerilla tactics – would quickly grow to 50,000 men – maybe twice as many – with cannons, trains taken from the enemy, and lightweight carts – the tachankas – which allowed for quick moves and concomitant, simultaneous attacks in several locations. Anarchist principles ruled, with freely accepted discipline and elected officers (Makhno reserved the right to veto commanders). Popular support from his humble, often illiterate, followers was total; they supplied him with hiding places, food, and equipment. More communes were created across all of Ukraine. The peasant Basil Korylenko in Berdyansk, the sailor Shchus in Dibrivka, and Petrenko-Platonov in Grishchino followed in Makhno's footsteps, while several anarchist leaders joined him: his friend Arshinov, then Voline (Vsevolod Mikhailovich Eikhenbaum), Aron Baron, and Osip Tsebriy (all members of Nabat: Nabat Confederation of Anarchist Organizations)–organized conferences, meetings, propaganda and education.

Makhno met Lenin in Moscow, but the latter's visceral hostility towards what he could not control was obvious; he hated libertarian socialists. And the ones in

Moscow - led by Piotr Kropotkin - did not understand Makhno and they wouldn't help him.

The war ruined everything. Makhno first fought the Whites, the army of the far-right grand bourgeois tsarists led by the Ataman Petlyura, an anti-Semite whose pogroms the Bolsheviks later attributed to Makhno. Lenin signed the Brest-Litovsk peace treaty which, among other things, delivered Ukraine to Austro-Hungary. Petlyura took advantage of Makhno's trip to Moscow to have his brother (wounded in the war) killed and his home burnt down. The response was bloody and bitter: police and officers were summarily executed. Successive White officers joined forces against Makhno and were considered freedom fighters (i.e., anti-communists) in Western Europe, while slanderous Communist propaganda slammed Makhno as a bandit.

That's when the Reds got involved. Their technique was clear: Makhno was enemy No. 1; so they had him fight the Whites, then occupied the towns he had liberated while boasting of having done so, and shot him in the back as soon as they could. Trotsky and Djerzinsky (founder of the dreary Cheka, the Soviet secret police), who always opposed the anarchists, were the most relentless of the Bolsheviks. Consequently, Makhno, who had attempted a revolutionary alliance for a time and agreed to join forces with the Red Army (under his Black flag) in order to fight General Denikin, had to fight the Reds and the Whites at the same time. Leftist Pavel Dybenko, leader of the Bolshevik army, treated him as a counterrevolutionary and a "kulak" (rich peasant), before attempting to have him assassinated. Trotsky declared, "It would be better to let Denikin have all of Ukraine than allow the Makhnovist movement to expand." And so the attack on Huliaipole was launched, with large-scale executions to boot. Trotsky tasked Kliment Voroshilov, a member of the Red Ukrainian government, with bringing Makhno down. Despite numerous attempts and 200,000 slaughtered peasants, Trotsky failed.

From that point on, and alone with 8,000 wounded men (Voline having been captured by the Reds), Makhno still managed to liberate Ukraine, retake Huliaipole, burn down prisons and execute police, White officers, priests (all on the side of the Whites), kulaks, and bourgeois, plus suppress current laws. He had 18 commanders under him, but typhus wreaked havoc in the ranks.

Opposite him, his two adversaries were panicking. The Bolsheviks bragged about getting rid of Denikin when they had had nothing to do with it. Wrangel led the Whites and, once again, it was necessary to pretend to join forces, which freed Voline. But soon the Bolsheviks turned against Makhno, using treachery to capture and shoot his faithful officers (Karetnik, Gavrilenko, and Marchenko escaped).

There was one final effort: Makhno regained ground, this time with 2,500 fighters, taking 6,000 Red prisoners, a third of whom swung over to his side. He would hold out until August 1921 when a harsh winter finished them off and the leader of the Red Cavalry, Semyon Budyonny, won the day. Marchenko, his second in command Vasilevsky, Mikhalev-Pavlenko, Kurylenko, Shchus, Petrenko, and Ivanyuk were killed; his general staff walked into a trap and was snuffed out. Makhno himself had been hit twice.

This time, it was over. Wounded and sick, Makhno had to escape with 250 fighters.

He managed to hide himself without any help from the Russian anarchists who, having shifted to Lenin's side, renounced him. The Red International of Labor Unions denounced him. From then on, the man who everyone had called "Batko" (father) was now the "bandit," an epithet that the press and Western intellectuals gleefully took up. They tried to pass him off as the author of pogroms, he who had been surrounded by Jews and had shot anti-Semites.

Makhno traveled in a haycart to Romania where he was taken care of but imprisoned. At the same time, Commander Mikhail Frunze oversaw a massacre in Ukraine, including women and children, and established a dictatorship. Makhno managed to escape again, went to Poland, was imprisoned. Again, he slipped away and then went to Germany. He wrote and met other great revolutionaries of the time: Durutti, Ascaso, Alexander Berkman, Louis Lecoq... Perhaps thanks to the latter, he left for France in 1925, where the generous May Picqueray made him welcome. Covered with wounds and suffering from tuberculosis, he went under the surgeon's knife several times, falling into abject poverty and abandoned by his last wife. He fell prey to depression, too, when Stalin took power in the USSR. Arshinov himself turned to Stalinism, which did not prevent the dictator from eliminating him along with the military leaders who had fought the Makhnovshchina.

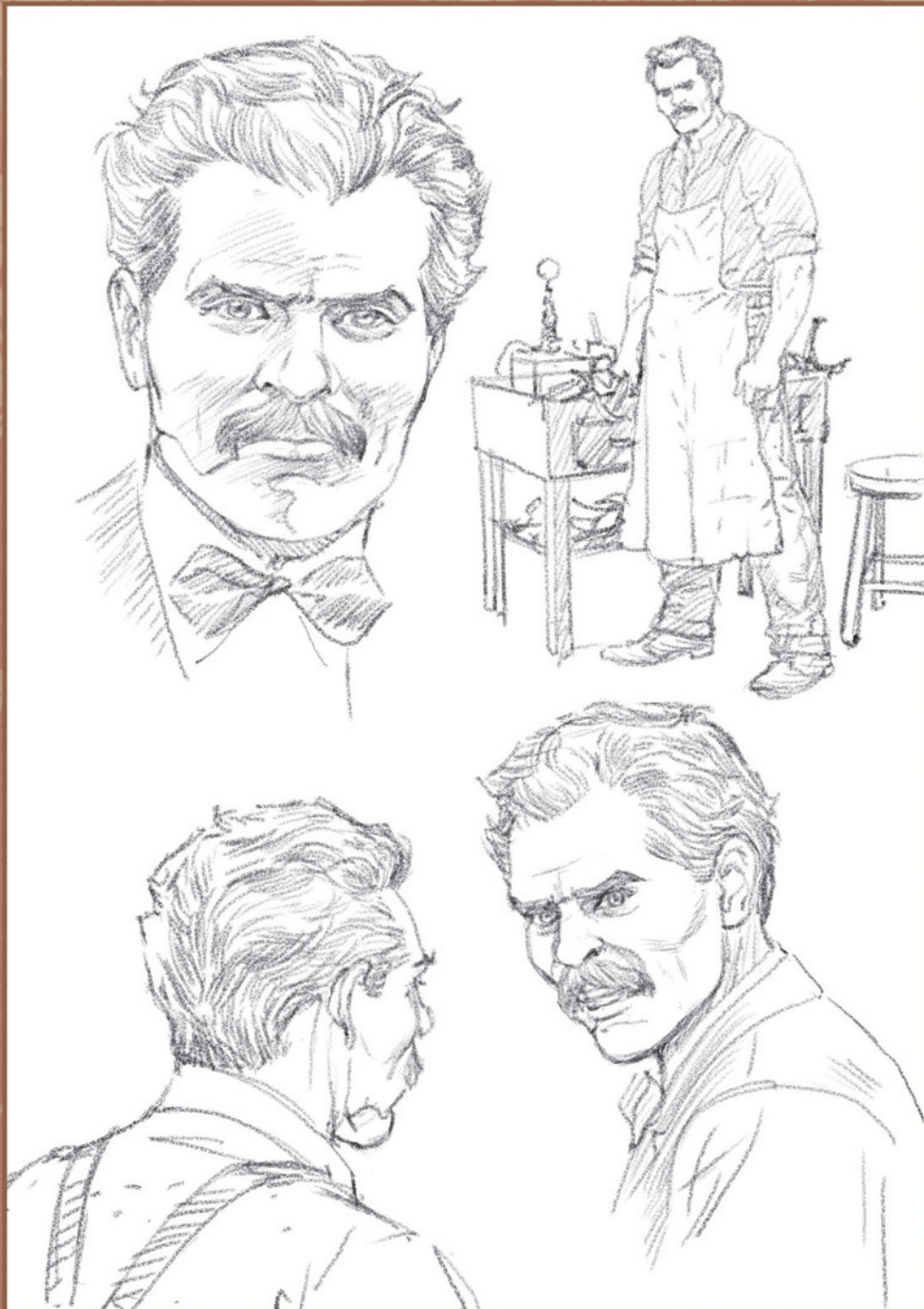
As soon as he recovered, Makhno earned his living by driving a cab and working at Renault, despite a disabled right foot. In France, regime toadies condemned him; right-wing writer Joseph Kessel would be the most despicable of these fabricators with his novel, *Makhno et sa juive* (trans: "Makhno and His Jewess") (1926).

Makhno began to write, but would never finish, his memoirs. Only Arshinov and Voline would leave firsthand accounts of their experiences... Exhausted, worn out, and disillusioned, Nestor Makhno died of tuberculosis at the Tenon Hospital in 1934 at the age of 45. Ever at odds with him, Voline delivered his funeral eulogy before the Père Lachaise columbarium. Batko was no saint: he drank too much, had a bad temper, and didn't always treat women well; his war record warrants criticism. But had he been victorious, supported, and understood, Europe would have avoided the authoritarian dictatorships that arose in the name of communism in a number of countries well away from the self-governing Soviets. The situation in Ukraine today shows the burning topicality of the Makhovshchina's fight.

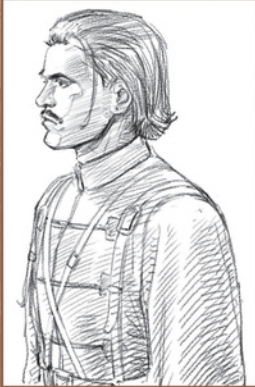
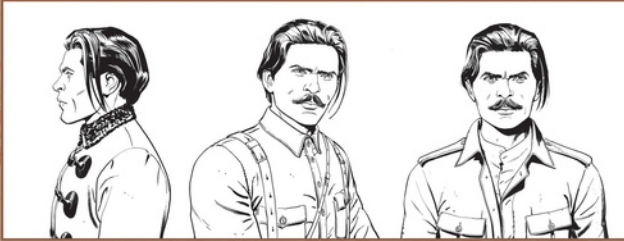
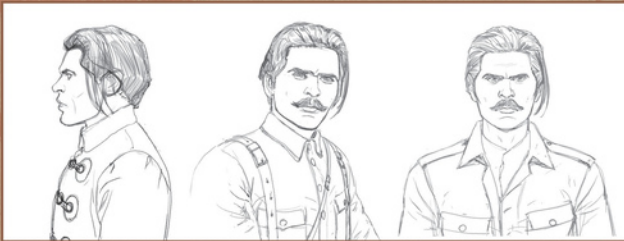
Several years after Makhno's death, the few survivors of the Makhnovshchina would go on to get themselves killed in the Durutti Column, the largest anarchist military unit in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Indeed, on Makhno's black flag was written the slogan, "Liberty or Death."

Yves Frémion
July, 2019

SKETCHBOOK

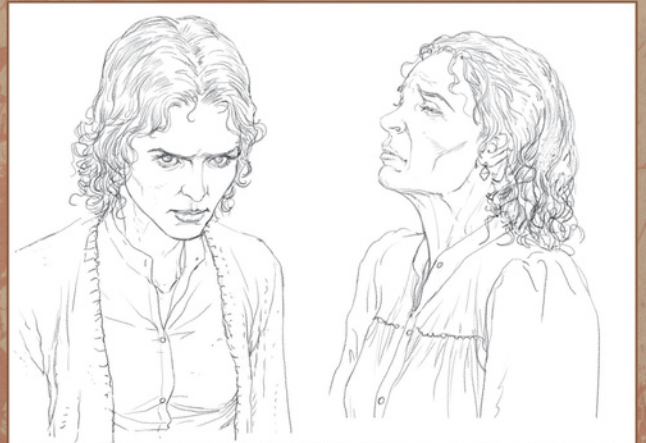
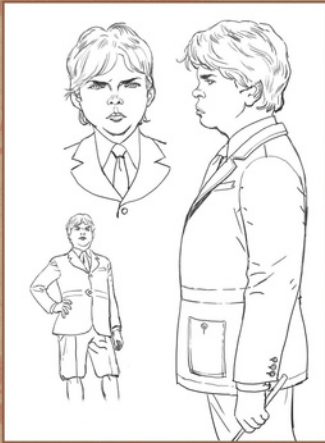


Character study of Makhno in the 1930s.

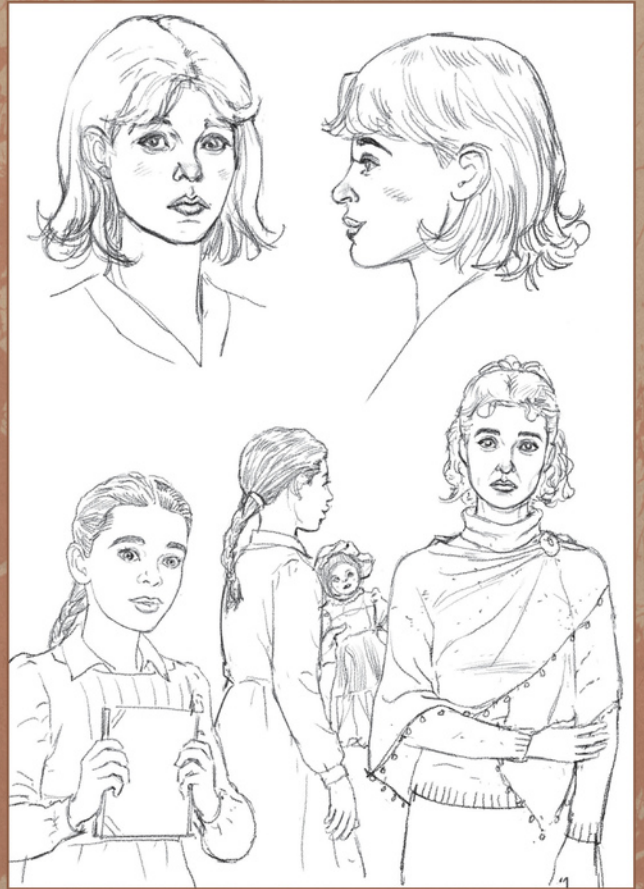


Left-hand page: Pencil and ink character studies of Makhno.
Above: Ink and color character studies for Makhno.
Opposite: Study sketch of a soldier during a battle.





Pencil and ink character studies.



Character studies

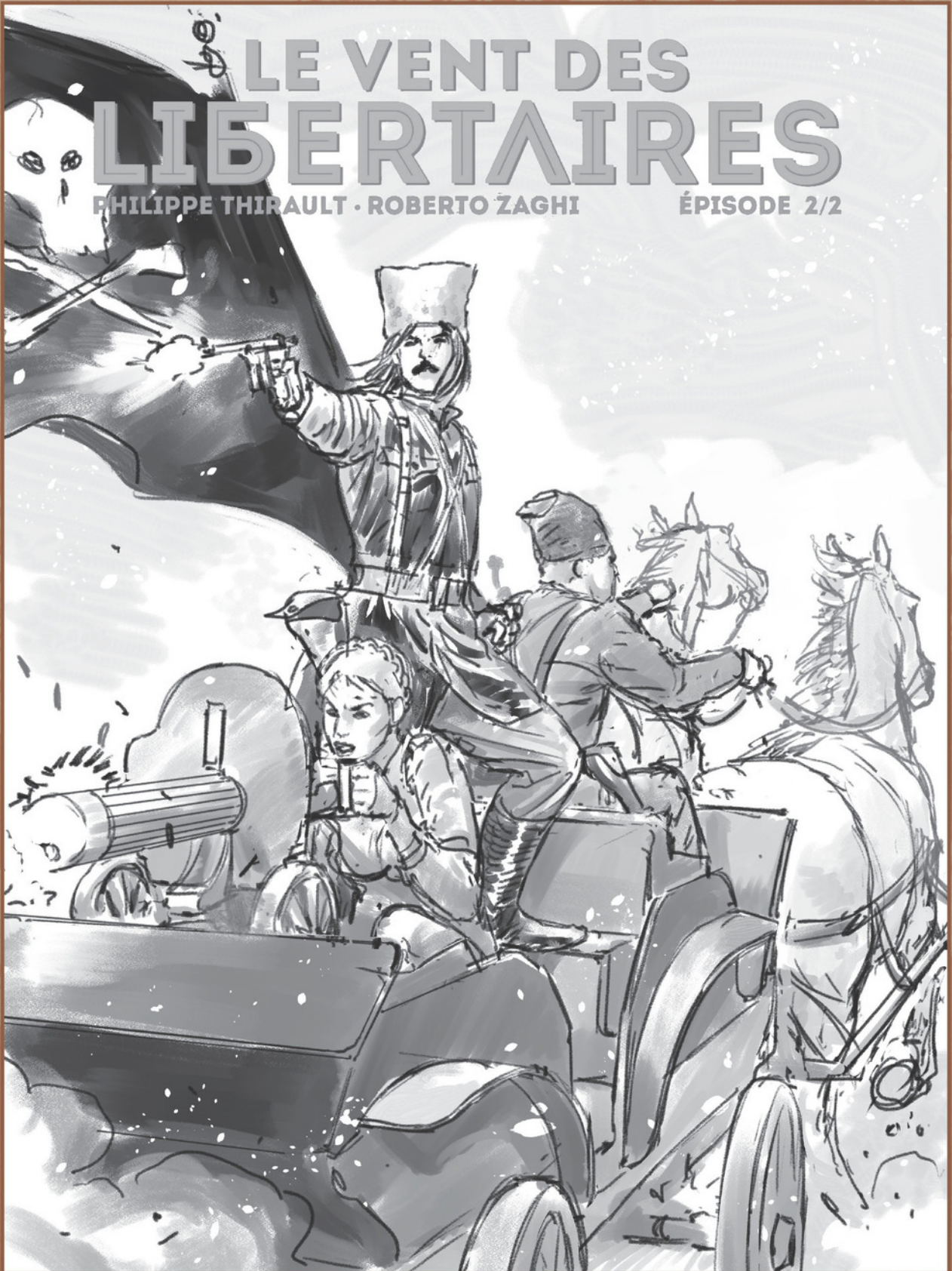


Left-hand page, from top to bottom and from left to right: Pencils for pages 4, 5, 7 and 8.
Above: Pencilled page 9.

LE VENT DES LIBERTAIRES

PHILIPPE THIRAULT · ROBERTO ZAGHI

ÉPISODE 2/2



Cover sketch for the second French tome.