

THE BIG BONFIRE



Luca Malisan



Rudi Miel

The European Commission is not liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2020

© European Union, 2020

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

The reuse policy of European Commission documents is regulated by Decision 2011/833/EU (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the copyright of the European Union, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

Print	ISBN 978-92-76-13355-1	doi:10.2762/86519	KF-04-19-752-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-76-13311-7	doi:10.2762/9269	KF-04-19-752-EN-N

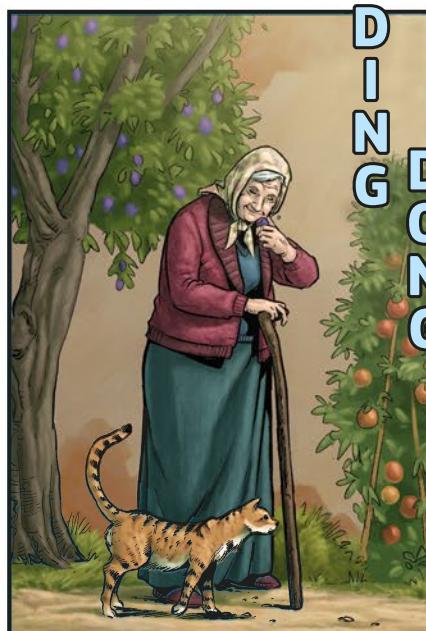
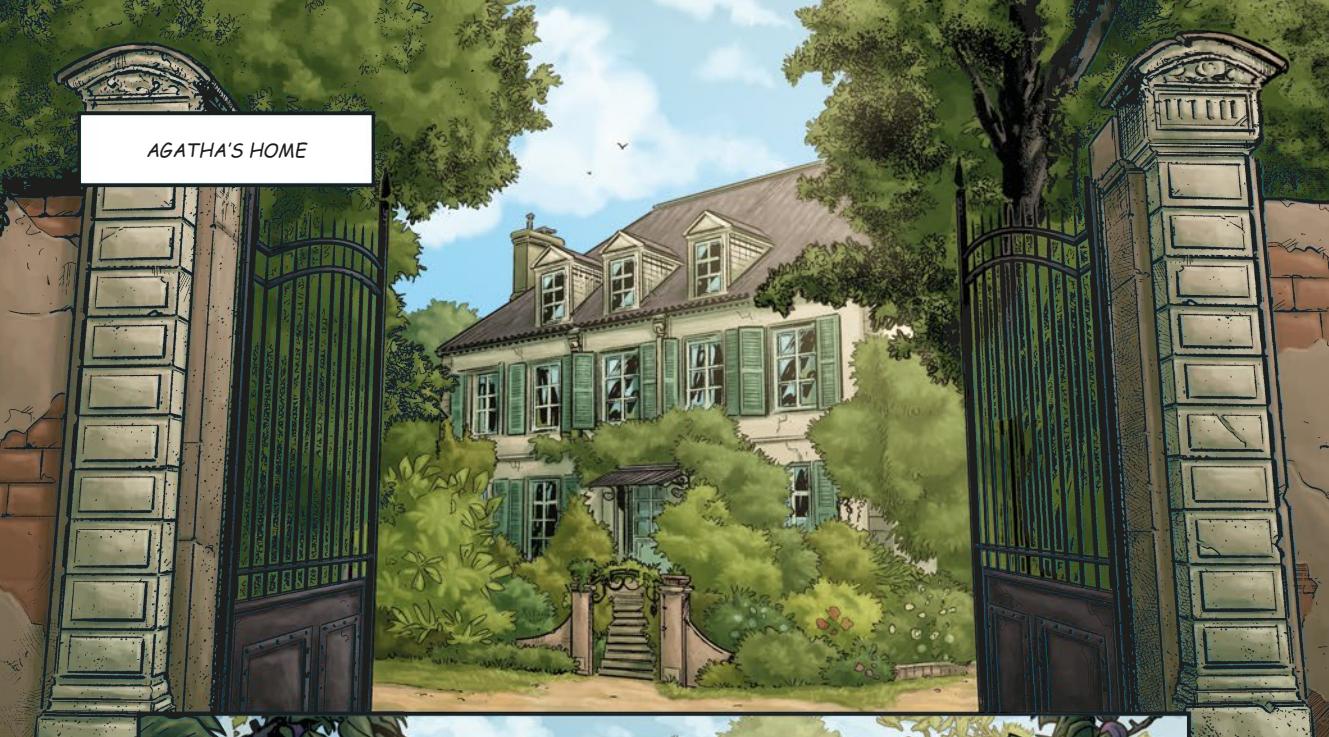
THE BIG BONFIRE

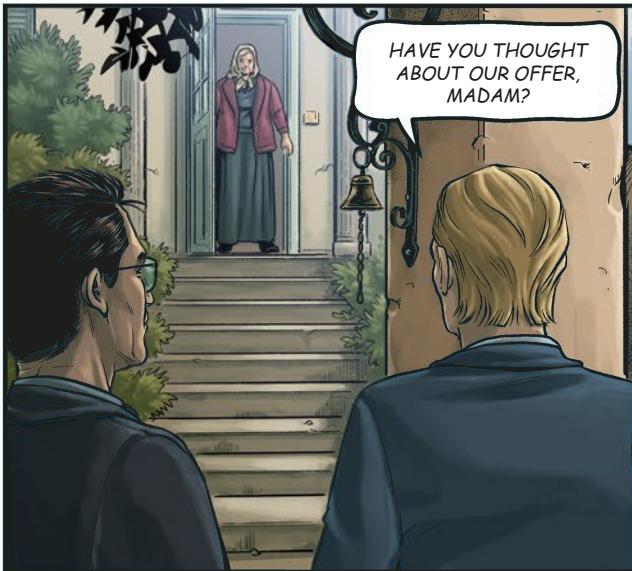
Illustrations: Luca Malisan

Story: Rudi Miel

Colours: Alessio Rizzo

AGATHA'S HOME





AND AT THE VERY SAME
MOMENT, SEVERAL
HUNDRED MILES AWAY ...

HAVE A GOOD
HOLIDAY, EVERYBODY!

SO, JUSTIN, HAVE YOU
PACKED YET? DON'T
FORGET YOUR LIFE FLOAT!

HAHAHAHA!



YOU GUYS ARE
TOO MUCH!!

WE'LL SEND YOU
PHOTOS OF US IN
THE JACUZZI!

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE
SOME CLOTHES PEGS ...
UNLESS YOU LIKE THE
SMELL OF COWPATS.

HAHAHAHA!

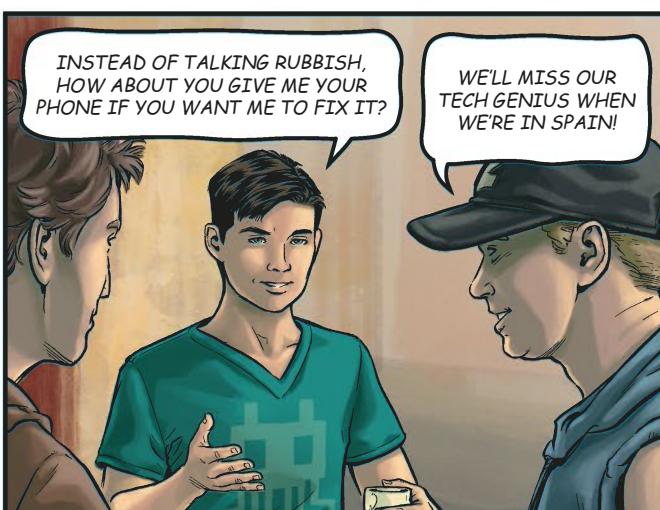


INSTEAD OF TALKING RUBBISH,
HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE ME YOUR
PHONE IF YOU WANT ME TO FIX IT?

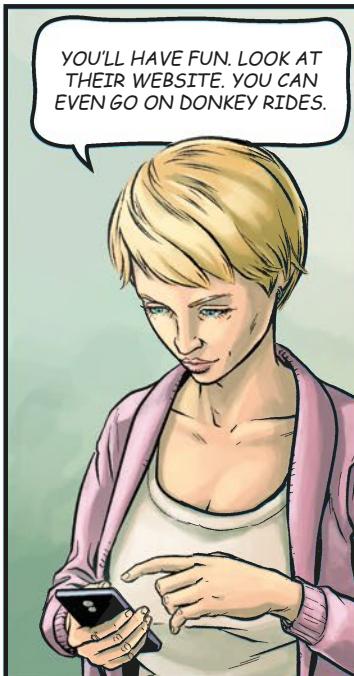
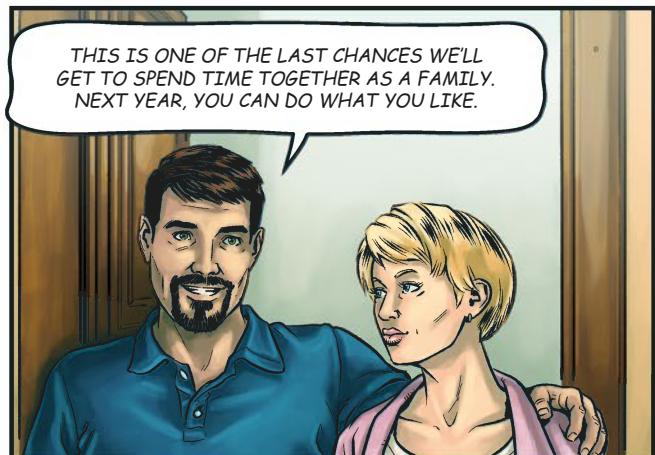
WE'LL MISS OUR
TECH GENIUS WHEN
WE'RE IN SPAIN!

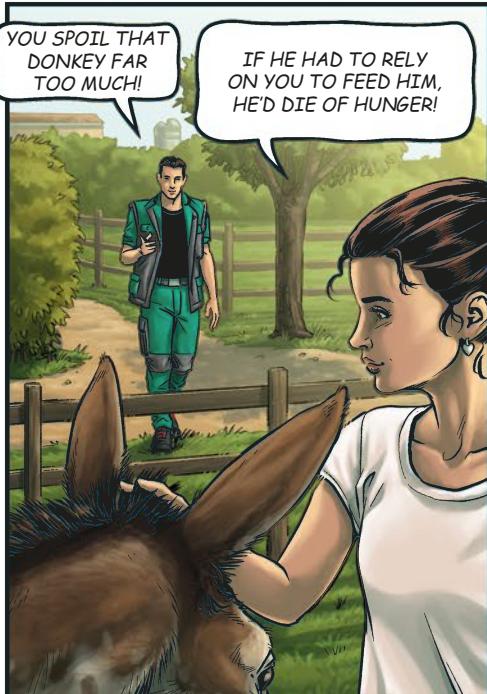
AND WE'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONES
WHO'LL MISS YOU ...

HAHAHAHA!



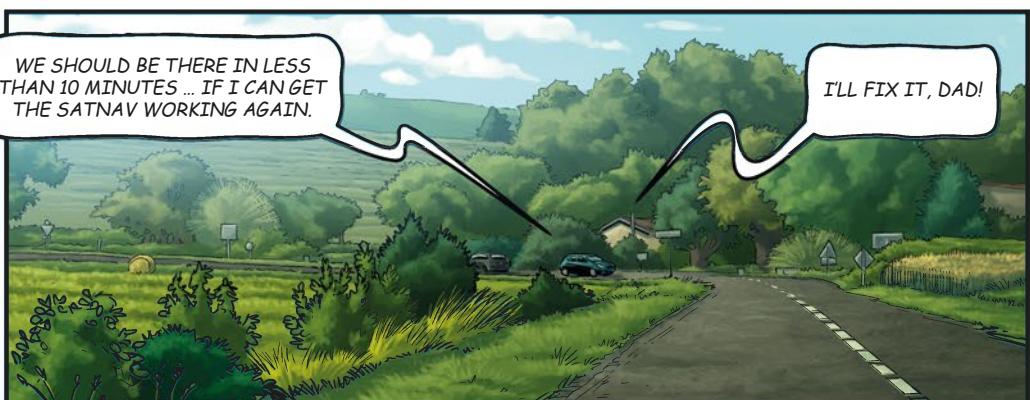
A FEW HOURS LATER ...

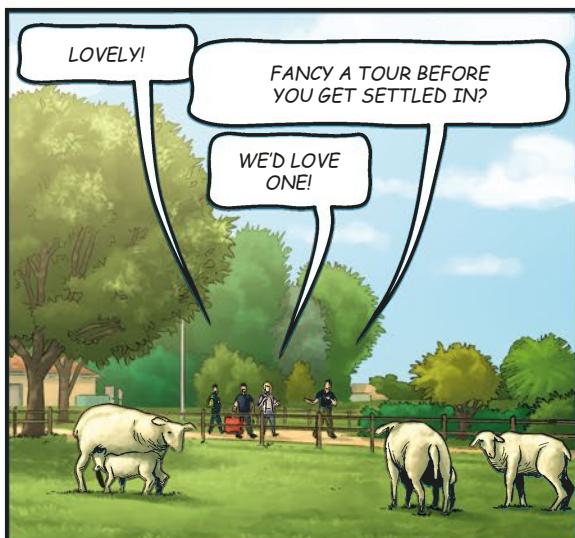


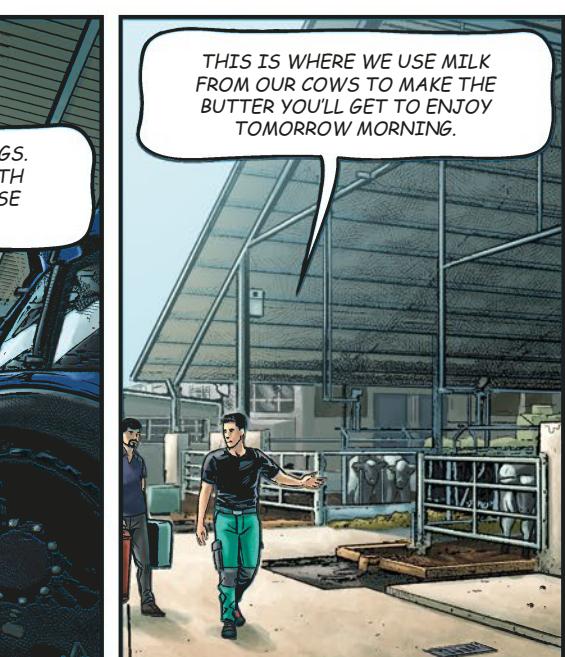


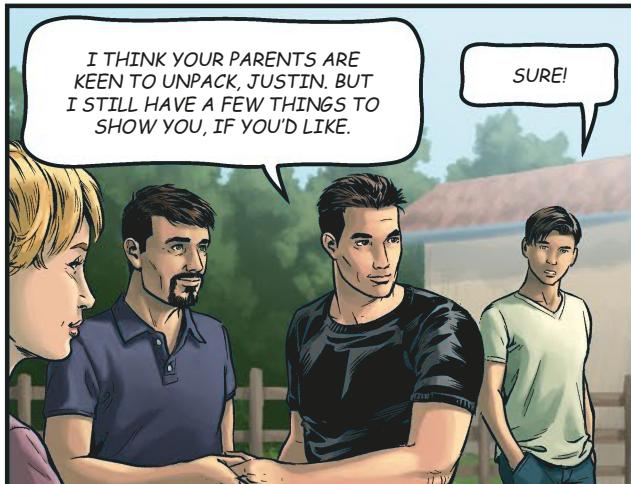
WE SHOULD BE THERE IN LESS
THAN 10 MINUTES ... IF I CAN GET
THE SATNAV WORKING AGAIN.

I'LL FIX IT, DAD!









IT'S LIKE A MAZE AROUND HERE ... YOUR PLACE IS HUGE!

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ALL OF IT YET! THESE DAYS, YOU HAVE TO DIVERSIFY IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE. AND THAT REQUIRES SPACE. WE'VE EXPANDED WHAT WE DO THANKS TO EUROPEAN FUNDING. AND WE MAKE SOME OF OUR PRODUCE ON-SITE, AS YOU'VE SEEN WITH THE CHEESE ...

THE CORN WILL BE DELICIOUS THIS YEAR!

I PREFER IT AS POPCORN AT THE CINEMA! I GO MOST FRIDAYS WITH MY MATES.

THERE'S ONLY ONE VARIETY THAT CAN BE TURNED INTO POPCORN. BUT WE DON'T GROW IT HERE.

WE'VE KEPT THE HEDGES THAT OUR GRANDPARENTS PLANTED, IN BETWEEN THE FIELDS. THEY MAKE A WONDERFUL HOME FOR BIRDS AND INSECTS. THAT'S ONE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS FARMERS.

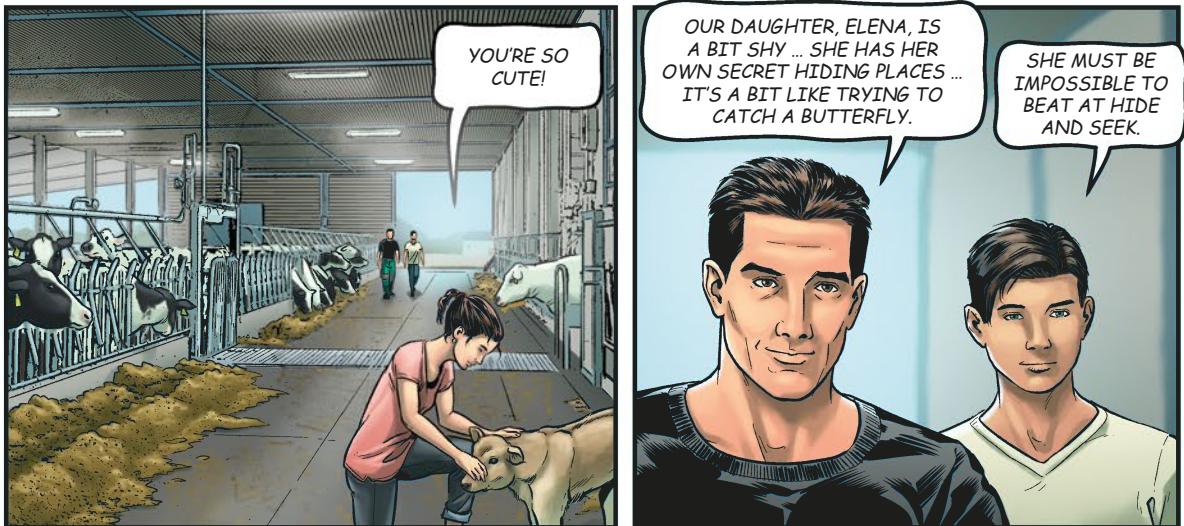
IT'S LIKE THEY'VE GOT THEIR OWN LITTLE CORNER OF PARADISE!

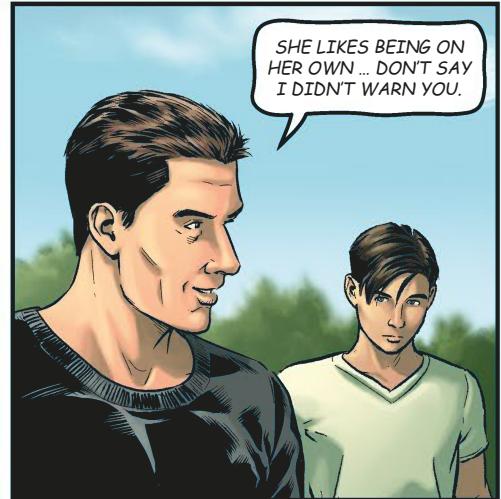
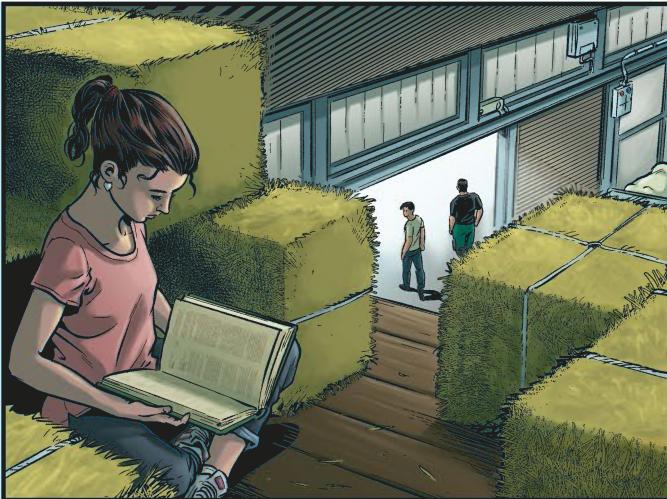
I BET YOU HAD THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT FARMING. LOTS OF PEOPLE DO. THEY HAVE AN IMAGE OF A FARMER WITH A FLAT CAP, A BIG FORK AND A COCKEREL SITTING ON A PILE OF MANURE.

BUT THERE REALLY IS A COCKEREL!

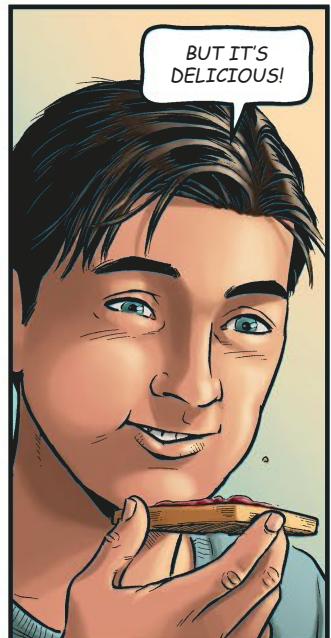
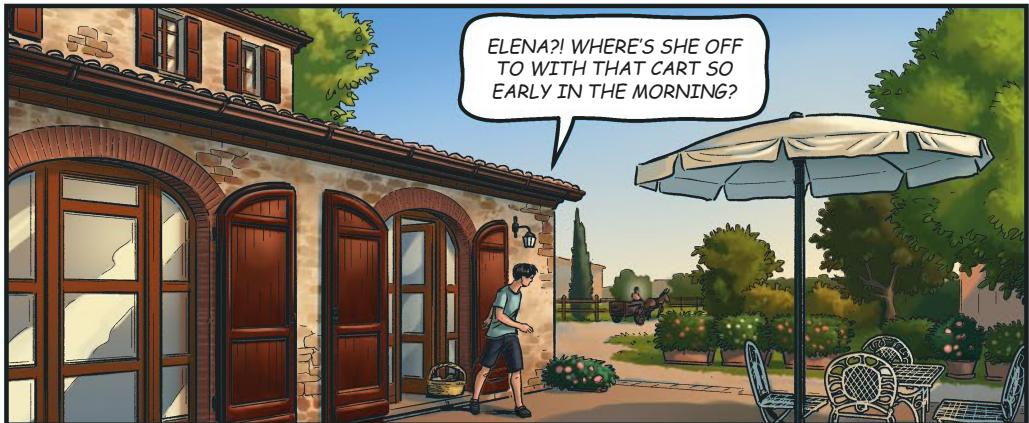
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO

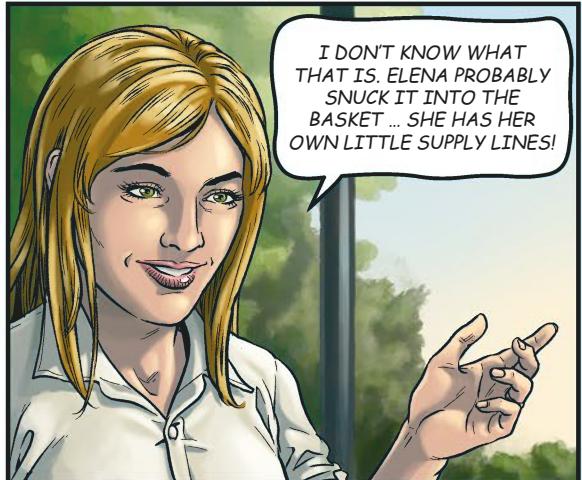
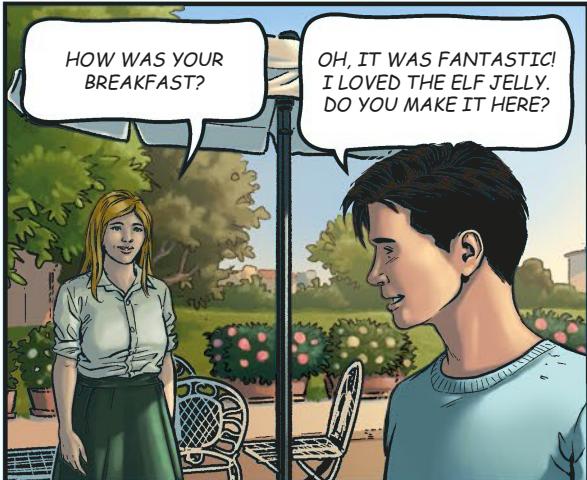
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD IMPRESSION. BUT I THINK YOU'VE SCARED EVERY ANIMAL ON THE FARM!

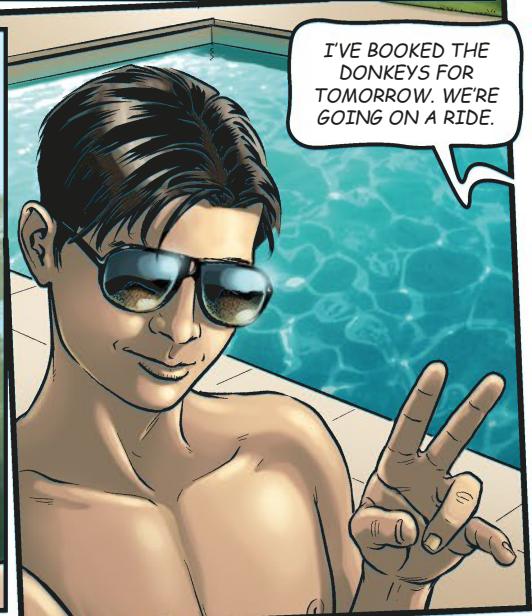
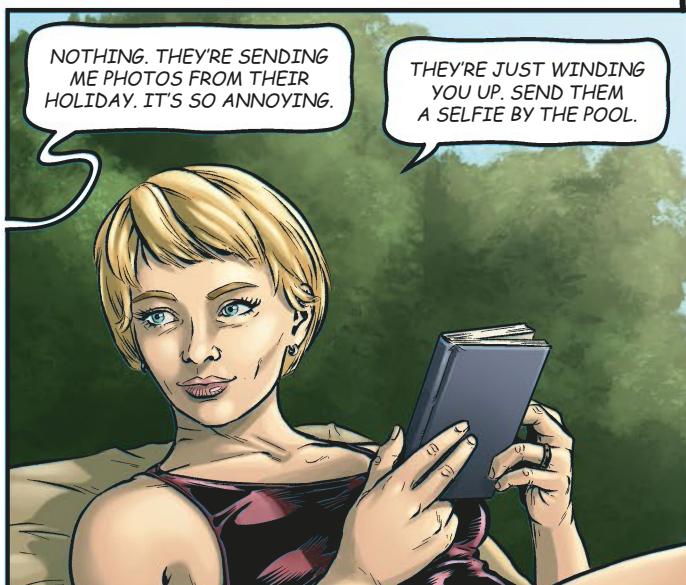




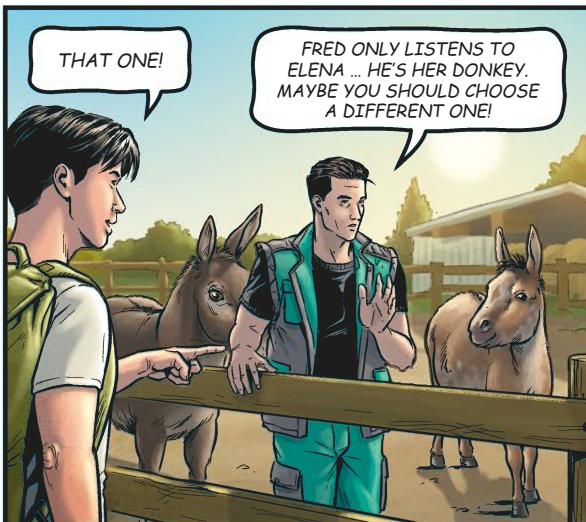
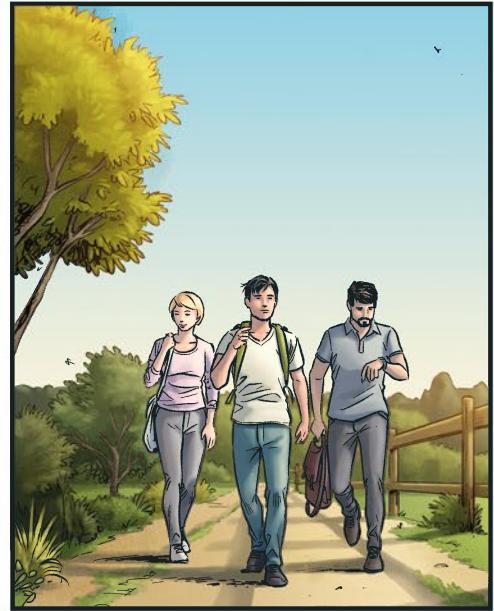
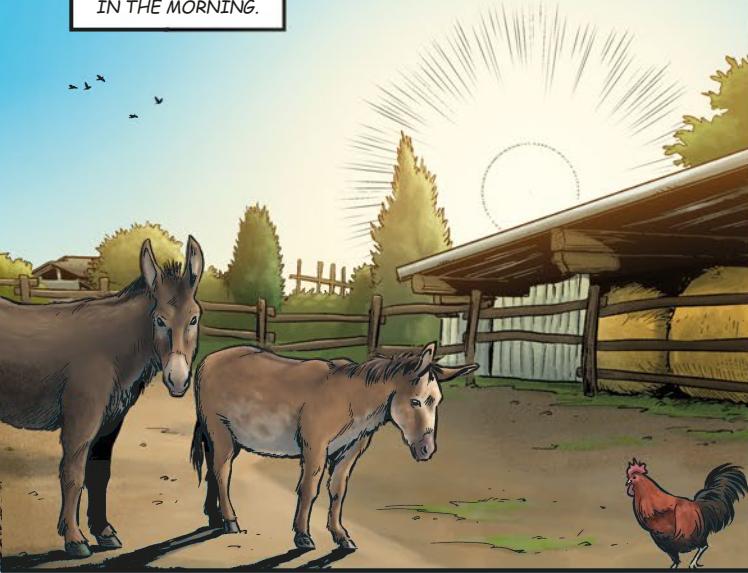
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO



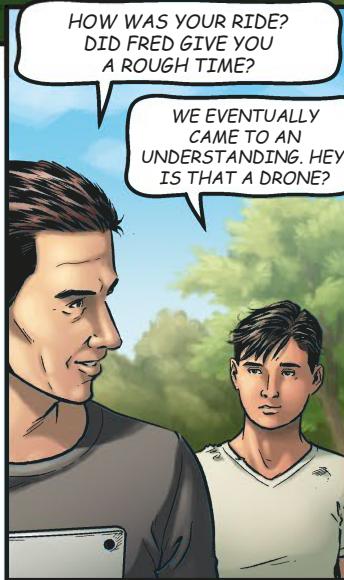
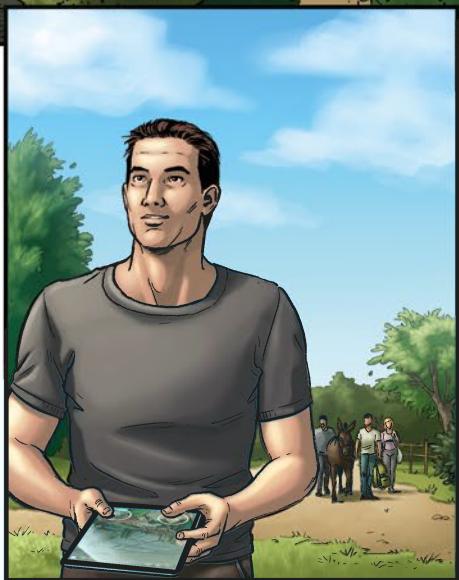




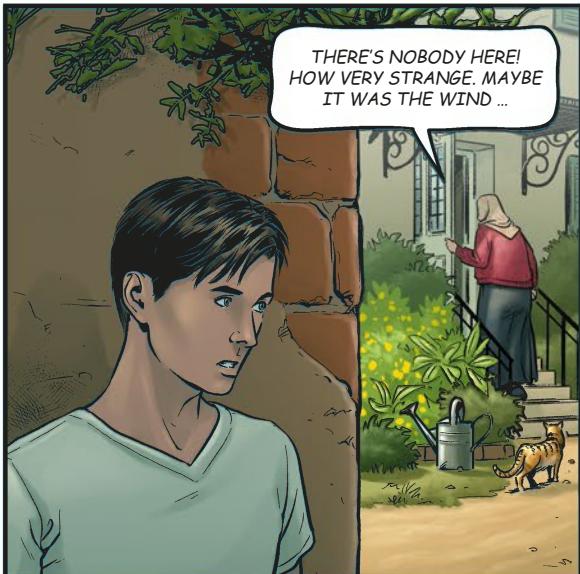
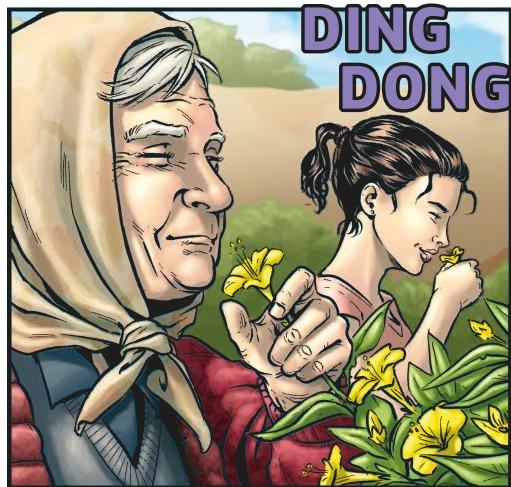
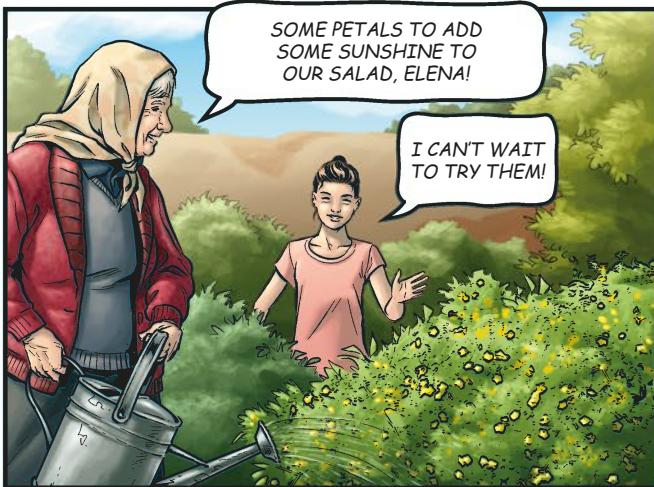
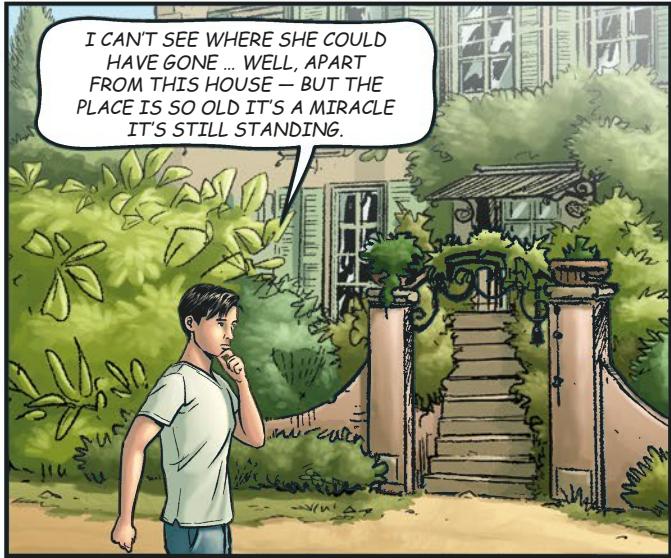
THE NEXT DAY, EARLY IN THE MORNING.



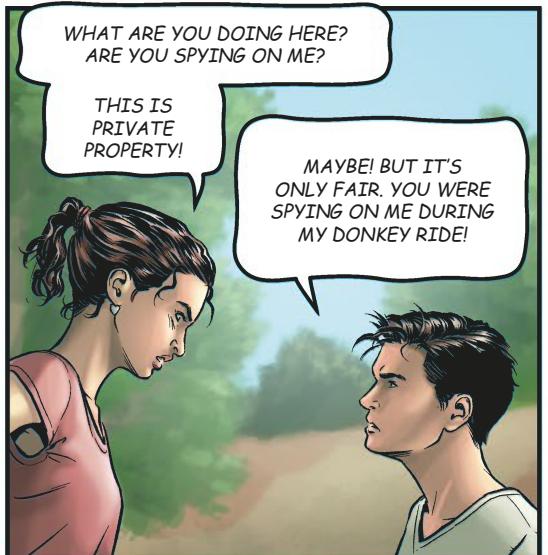


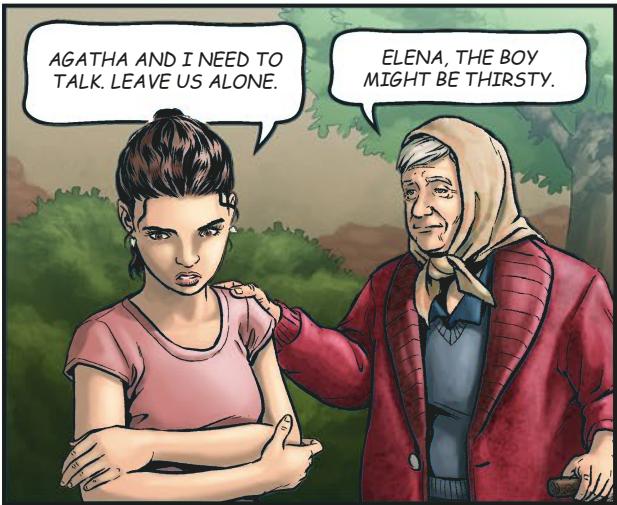
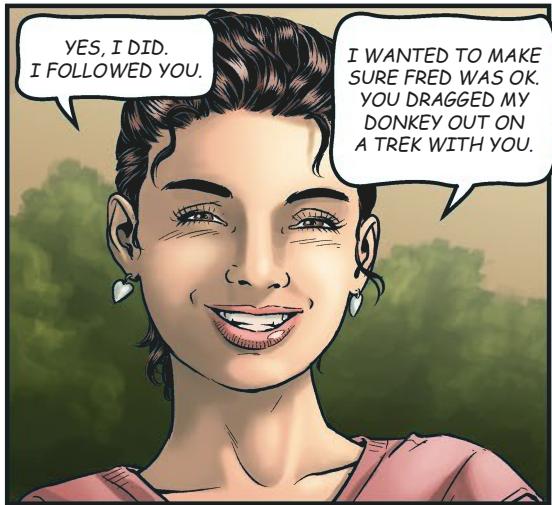


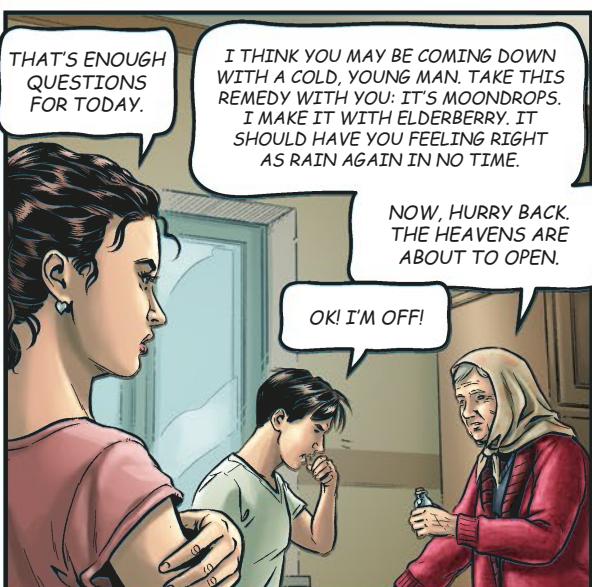
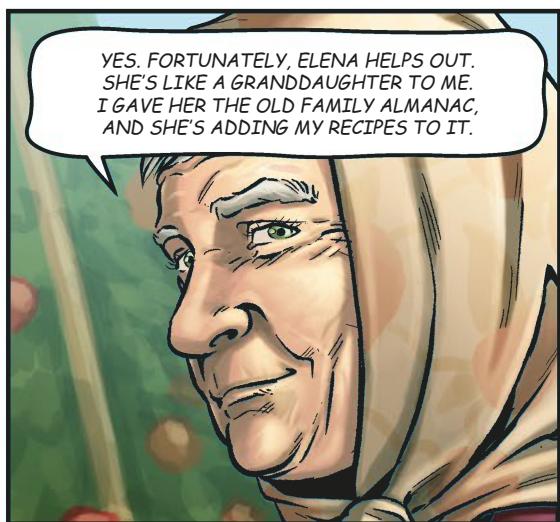
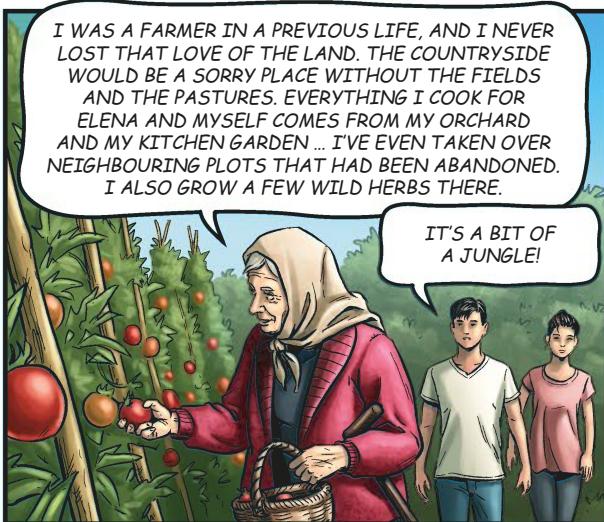
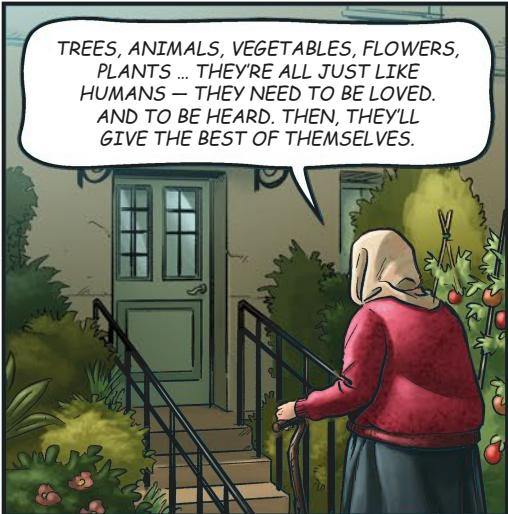
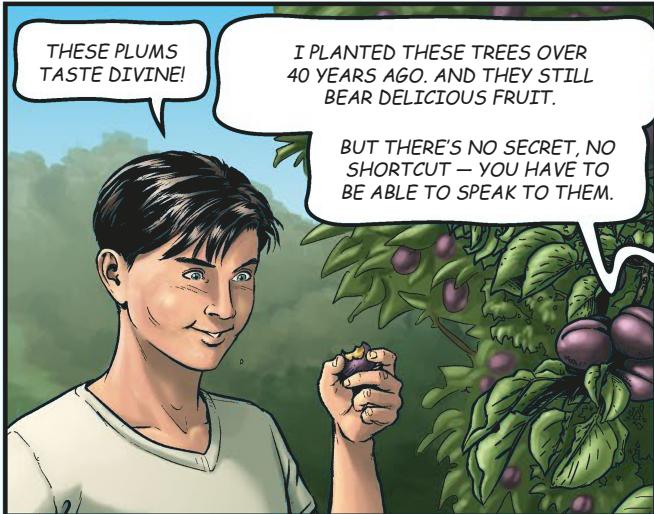


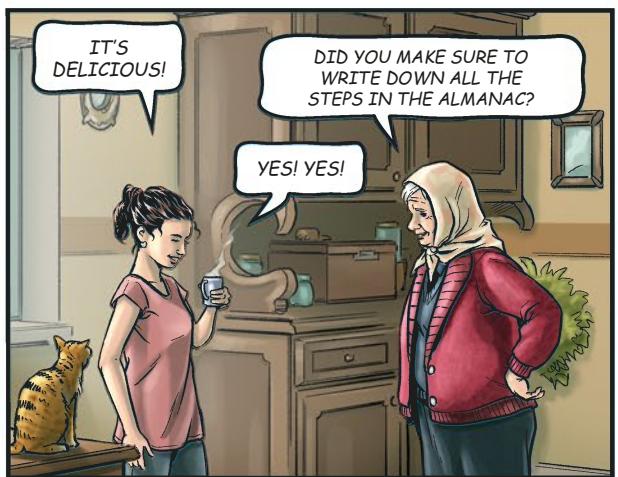
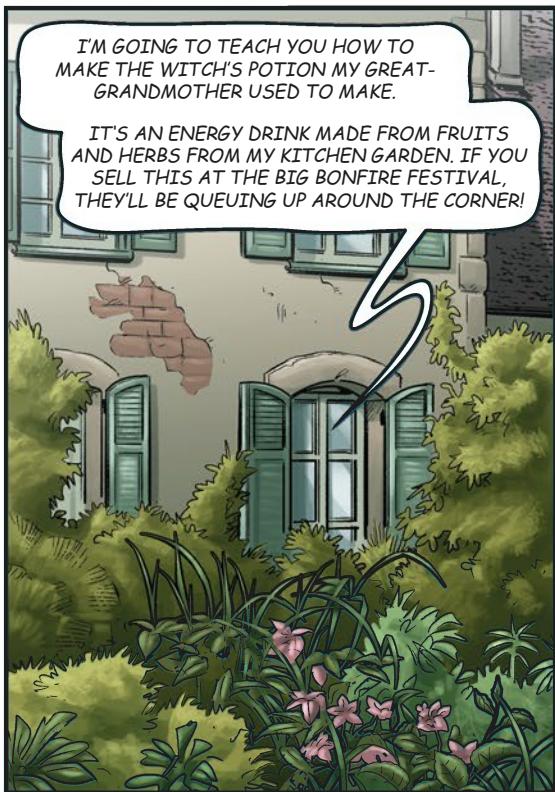


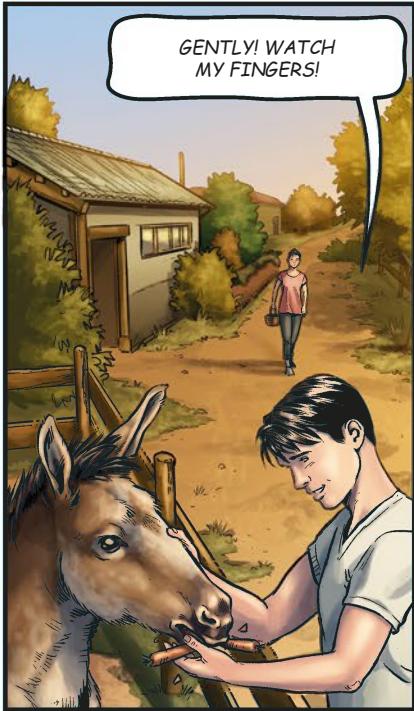


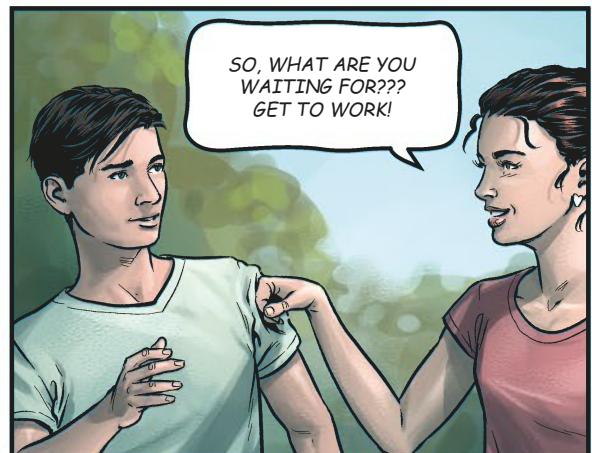
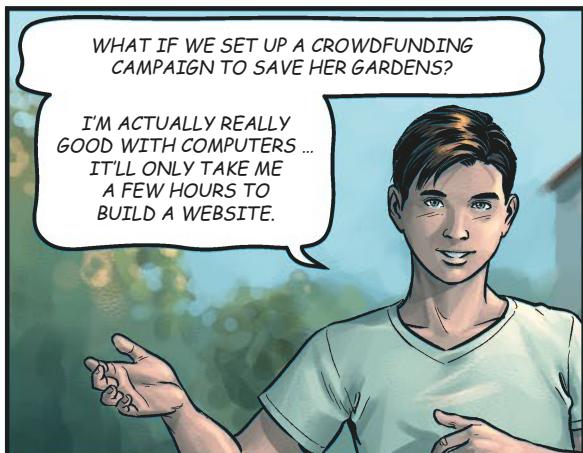
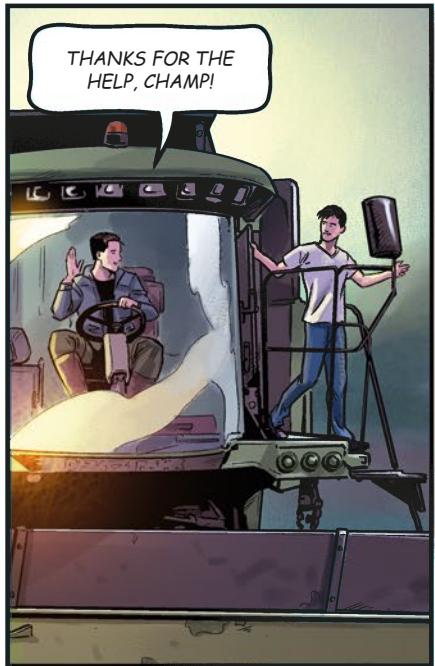












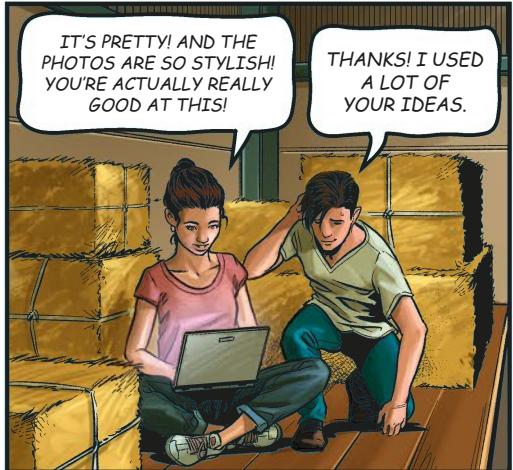
THE NEXT DAY ...



I JUST NEED THE GREEN
LIGHT FROM YOU TO
PUT IT ONLINE.

IT'S PRETTY! AND THE
PHOTOS ARE SO STYLISH!
YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY
GOOD AT THIS!

THANKS! I USED
A LOT OF
YOUR IDEAS.



AND ... IT'S LIVE!



WELL?

IT'S OFF TO
A GREAT START.

... BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO
SAVE AGATHA'S HOME ... IF ONLY WE
COULD SPREAD THE WORD ...

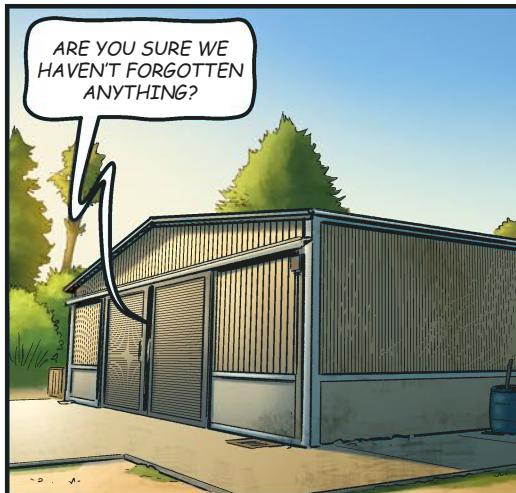
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE
NEED TO PREPARE FOR OUR
STALL TOMORROW. I'M
SURE THE WITCH'S POTION
WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS!



EARLY IN THE MORNING.

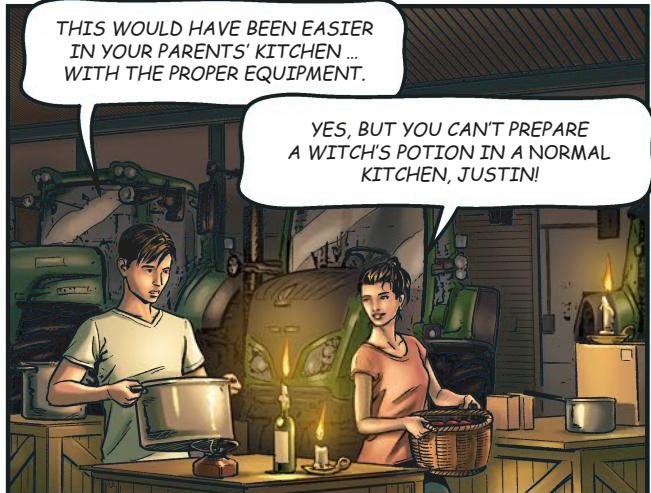


ARE YOU SURE WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING?



THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IN YOUR PARENTS' KITCHEN ... WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.

YES, BUT YOU CAN'T PREPARE A WITCH'S POTION IN A NORMAL KITCHEN, JUSTIN!



THAT'S TRUE.

SO WHERE'S YOUR MAGIC WAND?



I MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN A FEW ACCESSORIES ...

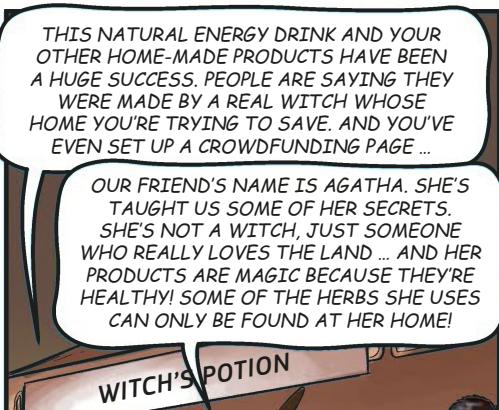


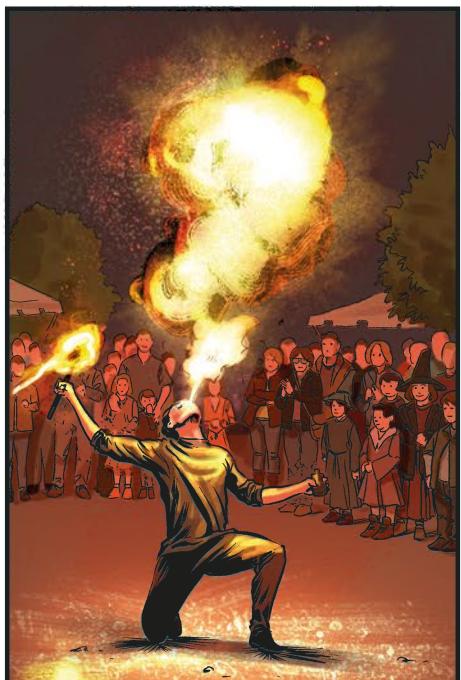
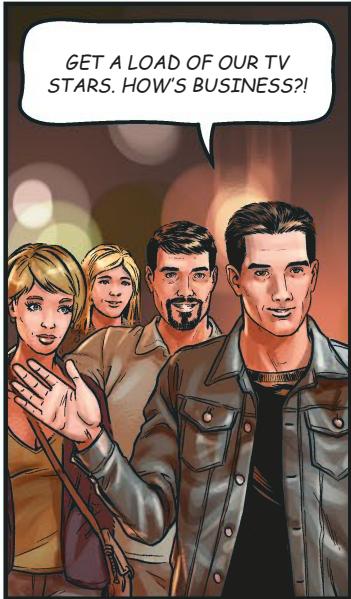
TASTE THAT!

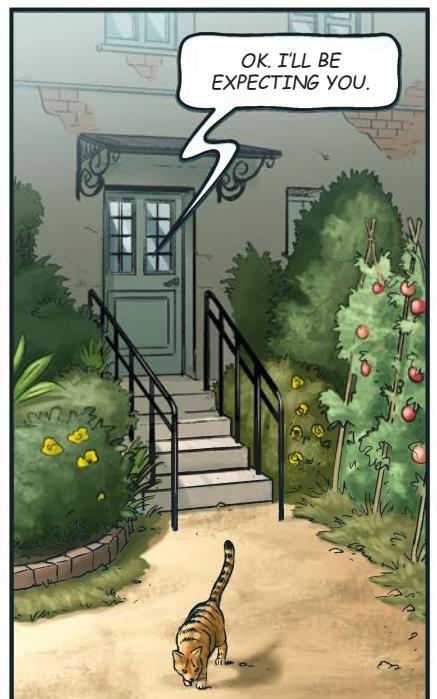
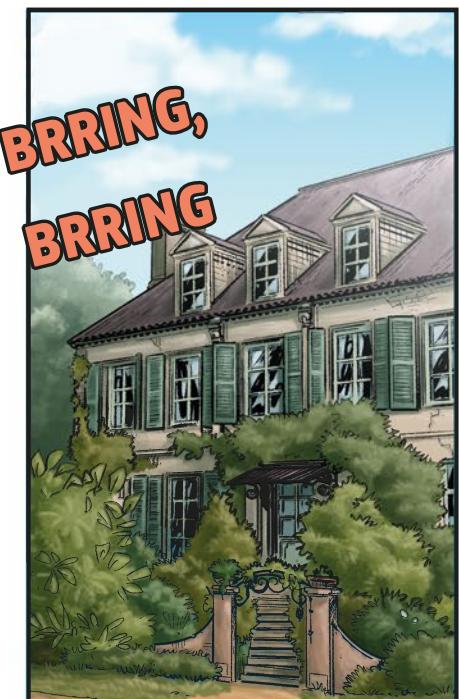
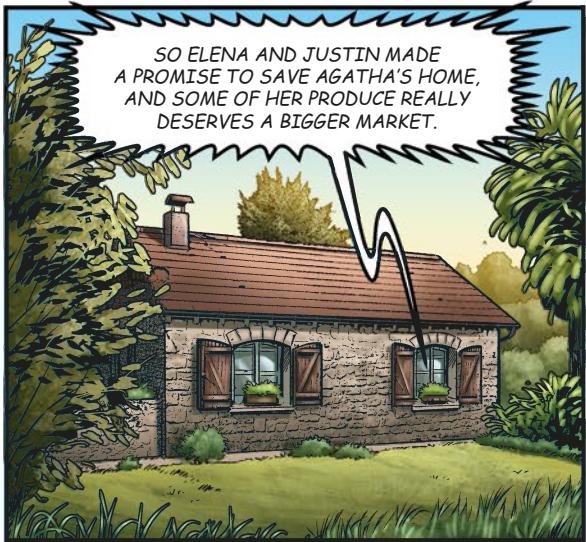
IT'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS AGATHA'S!

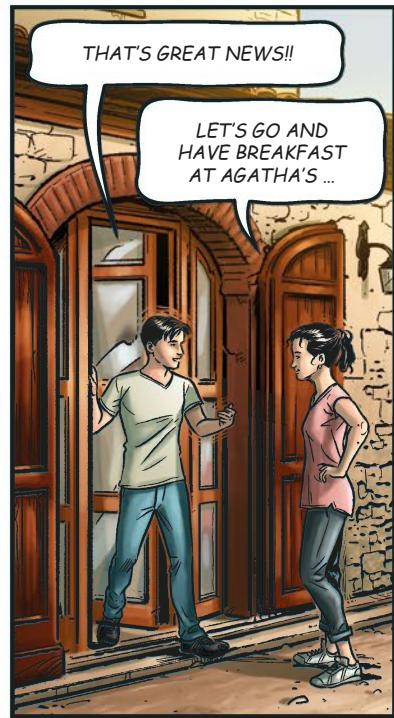
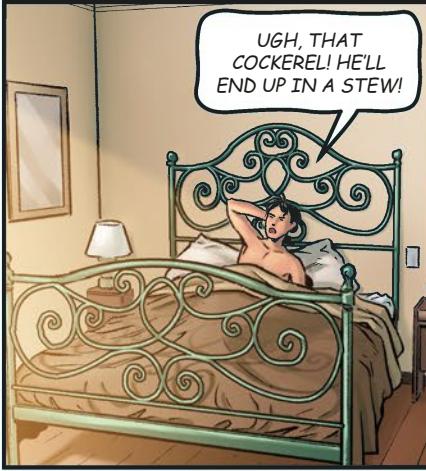
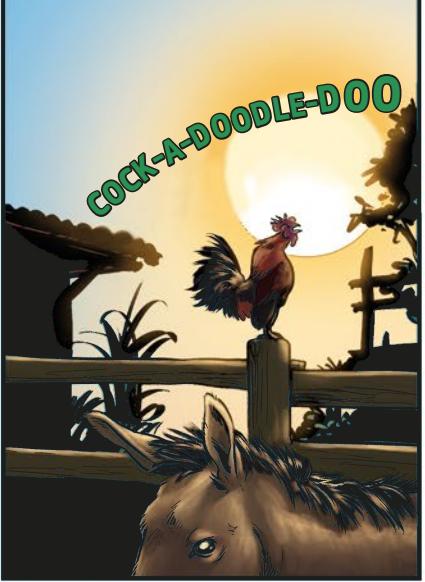


THE FOLLOWING EVENING.









GLOSSARY

AGRICULTURE

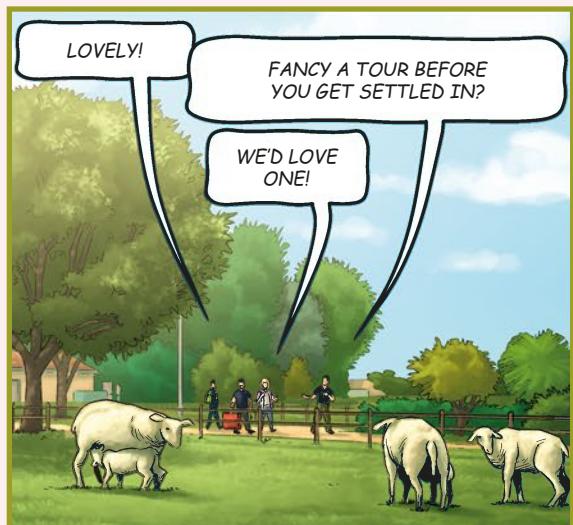


Agriculture is important for Europe. Over 11 million farmers in the European Union do a vital job: they produce high-quality food for citizens, while taking care of the environment, our countryside and their animals. This is why Europe supports its farmers with a policy shared by all European countries, called the common agricultural policy (CAP). It is managed at the European level and funded by the European budget.

It was introduced in 1962 with the aim of making farms more productive and guaranteeing both a fair income for farmers and fair prices for buyers. Thanks to the CAP, the European Union has become the world's leading agricultural power. Over time, the CAP has been given new goals, such as environmental protection and the development of rural areas.

FARM TOURISM

Farm tourism is a kind of countryside tourism developed by farmers. The possibilities are growing: farms offer not just accommodation but also tours and demonstrations, meals, sports and leisure activities and more.



The European Union supports the development of these projects, which allow farmers to diversify and earn a supplementary income.

EXPORTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In 2018, the European Union exported agricultural products worth a total of EUR 138 billion, making it the world's top exporter. Its products are mainly sent to the United States, China, Switzerland, Japan and Russia. Most of the EU's exports are food products with high profit margins.



ANIMAL WELFARE



The European Union has rules about the welfare of farm animals. These apply to how they are kept, transported and slaughtered.

The CAP helps to make sure animals are looked after properly by penalising farmers who do not follow the rules.

EUROPEAN FUNDING



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection is another of the CAP's aims. Farmers are motivated to meet this goal by the fact that they are only given aid if they follow certain rules, such as:

- growing a variety of different crops (diversification);
- keeping permanent pastures to encourage biodiversity;
- setting aside some land to create areas that are good for biodiversity, with hedges, trees and fallow land (where no crops are grown for a season).

The CAP supports farmers by providing aid to help them get through difficult times and problems. It also rewards them for trying to achieve the goals it sets for them. These goals include producing safe and healthy food, protecting the environment, maintaining and developing rural areas and ensuring animal welfare.



FOOD SAFETY

One of the CAP's original aims was to make sure food is safe to eat. Following major food-safety crises in the 1990s, stricter rules were introduced. These rules apply 'from farm to fork', which means they must be followed at all stages of production, right up until the products reach the end buyer. They aim to guarantee a high level of food safety and quality.

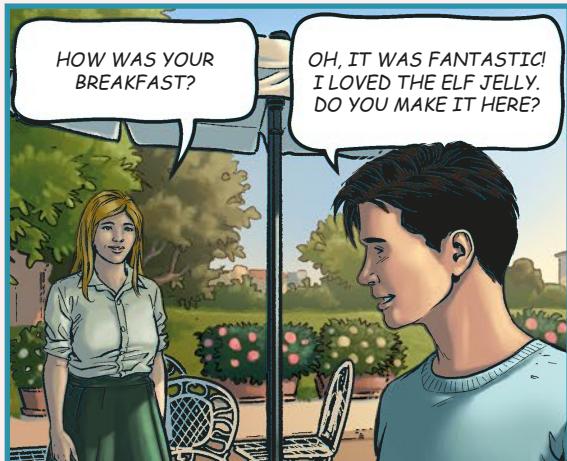


SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS



A short supply chain is a way of getting products from farms to shops with as few people or companies as possible between the producer and the consumer. A common example of this system is farmers selling their products directly to shoppers. It helps farmers to diversify their business and make money in new or different ways.

QUALITY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



All European agricultural food products are of good quality. This is thanks to very strict rules about food safety, which apply at all stages of the food production chain.

In addition to this, the European Union protects the names of certain products against dishonest use or counterfeits (fakes). It does this using labels that show where products come from, for example the protected designation of origin (PDO) and protected geographical indication (PGI) labels. This also helps shoppers to find certain products with special qualities.

PDOs and PGIs are recognised as intellectual property. They are becoming more and more important in trade relationships between the European Union and other countries.

INNOVATION

The European Union funds agricultural research and innovation thanks to rural development projects organised by the CAP and the EU framework programme for research and innovation (Horizon 2020). European farmers need new knowledge and techniques so that they can stay competitive and achieve the goals set for them in the areas of food safety, environmental protection and rural development.

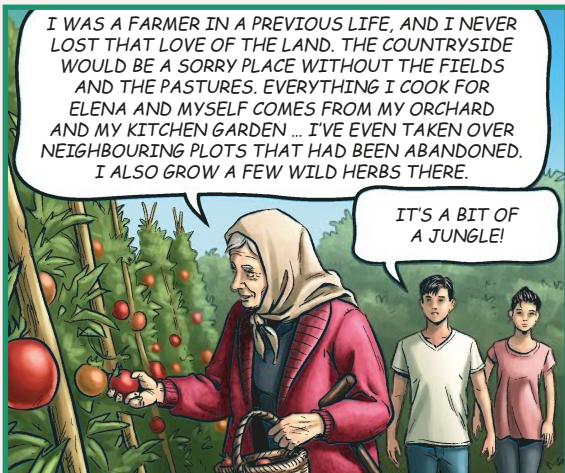


ORGANIC FARMING

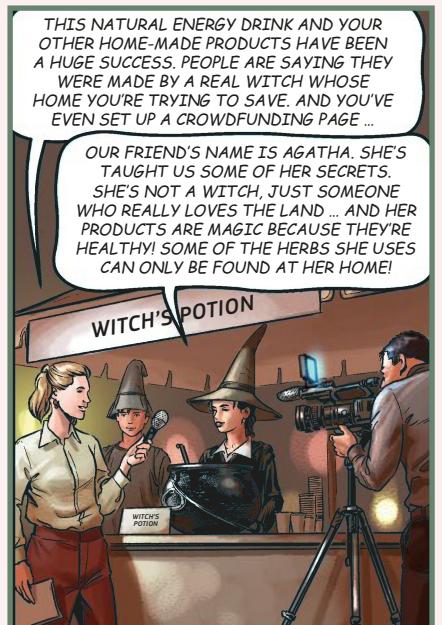
Organic farming aims to produce food as naturally as possible, while reducing the impact on the environment. It also guarantees a high level of animal welfare.

All organic products go through several stages before they reach our plates. From farm to fork, European laws ensure that products with the organic logo have been produced, processed, handled and distributed following certain rules.

In the European Union, the organic logo makes organically farmed products easy to recognise in shops, just by looking at them. It tells shoppers which products are organic. It also helps farmers to sell organic products more easily in all EU countries.



PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



The European Union helps to promote European agricultural products in Europe and around the world, by:

- funding promotion campaigns by European professional organisations;
- taking part in exhibitions or advertising campaigns to inform people about European agricultural products.

EAFRD

The funding that the CAP gives to farmers comes from two funds financed by the European Union budget.

- The European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) provides direct aid for farmers.
- The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) provides financial aid for the programmes designed to encourage rural development in each of the European countries.

YOUNG FARMERS

Only 6 % of farms are managed by farmers under 35 years old. The agricultural population is getting older, and there are not enough people to replace farmers who want to retire. To attract young people to farming, the CAP offers financial help for young farmers, so that they can afford to set up their businesses and pay for training. They also get financial support during their first years of farming.



Getting in touch with the EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696, or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Finding information about the EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.



Justin was planning to go on holiday with his friends, but instead his parents take him to stay on a farm. He soon finds himself caught up in an adventure in which he discovers how modern farming can produce high-quality food, while also contributing to the European economy and preserving the environment.

A chaotic ride on Fred the donkey leads to him meeting Agatha, an old lady with green fingers, who is desperately trying to save her family home from the grasp of property developers.

Will Justin and Elena, the farmer's daughter, be able to help Agatha save her precious home? Does the answer lie in her old family recipe for elf jam? Justin and Elena are sure they can help her. But will they succeed?

