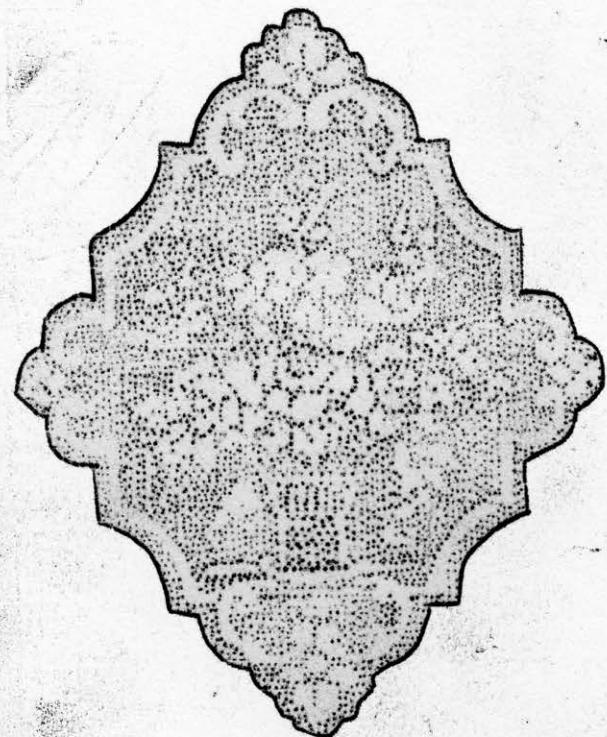


IMMIGRATION TIPS & TRICKS

ILLUSTRATED GUIDEBOOK • BROUGHT TO YOU BY: VLADISLAVA & UROŠ



Prologue

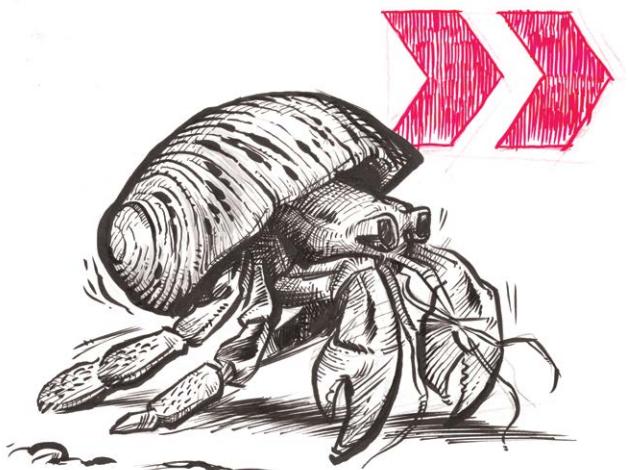


This is a handy guidebook for everyone moving abroad.
Any resemblance to the lives of the authors of this book is purely coincidental.

Hermit Crab (lat. *Paguroidea*) is a quite fragile creature. Unlike his relatives - crabs and lobsters - he doesn't have his own shell. Instead, he inhabits an empty gastropod shell in his surroundings to get protection.

The shell will bring him safety, of course, but after some time it will prevent his further growth. As it becomes too small for his body, hermit crab has to move out, leaving safety to search for a new home.

It's the same for people. In order to grow and reach their full potential, they have to leave their shells, once in a while. During transition between the old and new settlement, humans are extremely vulnerable.



Welcome

or What in a name of the Lord am I doing here?



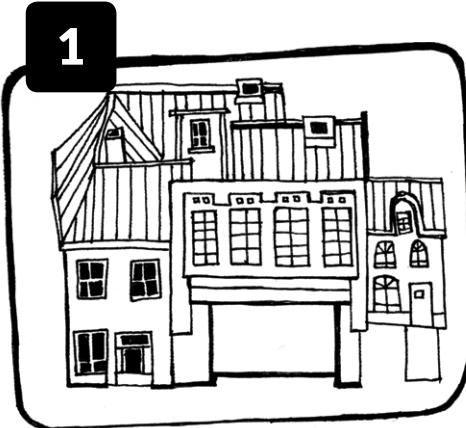
Your family just moved to a new Country. You brought nothing else but huge expectations, **couple of small kids** and **some money**. Borrowed for an indefinite period, just enough for a safe start. You'll pay your debt when you get back on your feet.

The new Country looks awesome. You on the other hand - you look like an orphan during a parents meeting.

You need an apartment as soon as possible.

Housing and apartment renting

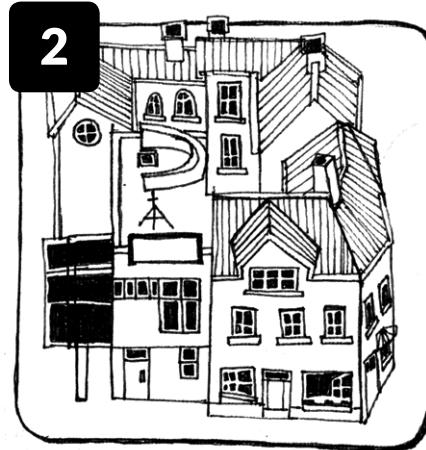
You're flipping through
the yellow pages...



A 2.5 room apartment next to the International Gymnasium for the kids of foreign diplomats. New building with a roof terrace and underground garage with floor heating. Thematic furniture from the set of "2001: A Space Odyssey". Entrance next to the "Vegan's Beard", gluten-free restaurant where the soup comes in the jar. Roasted roots are served as a dessert.

Price: **The annual GDP of your country of origin.**

You're trying to figure out how many people can afford this apartment besides Lady Gaga. You're imagining life in which everything is remote-controlled – light, blinds, pet...



High ceilings in the core center of the Old Town. Comfortable apartment renovated during the late baroque period. Family coat-of-arms engraved on the facade. W/o elevator, w/o dishwasher. Not enough sunlight during winter.

Price: **You would stretch somehow.**

Landlord is answering your phone call. In the background you clearly hear the sound of the cello. Flat owner has a 9yo child that gets private classes from a Russian music teacher. The only thing you provided to your kid is the last name, same one that prevents you from getting the apartment.

Finding an apartment in the new surroundings can be a problem. Finding an apartment within your budget — Utopia.



Cozy apartment in the suburb. City blocks, outside of the city itself. The scenery would make a perfect backdrop for filming Orwell's 1984. Home for the outcasts and not-so-integrated newcomers – over 600 families. 35+ families sharing the same washing machine.

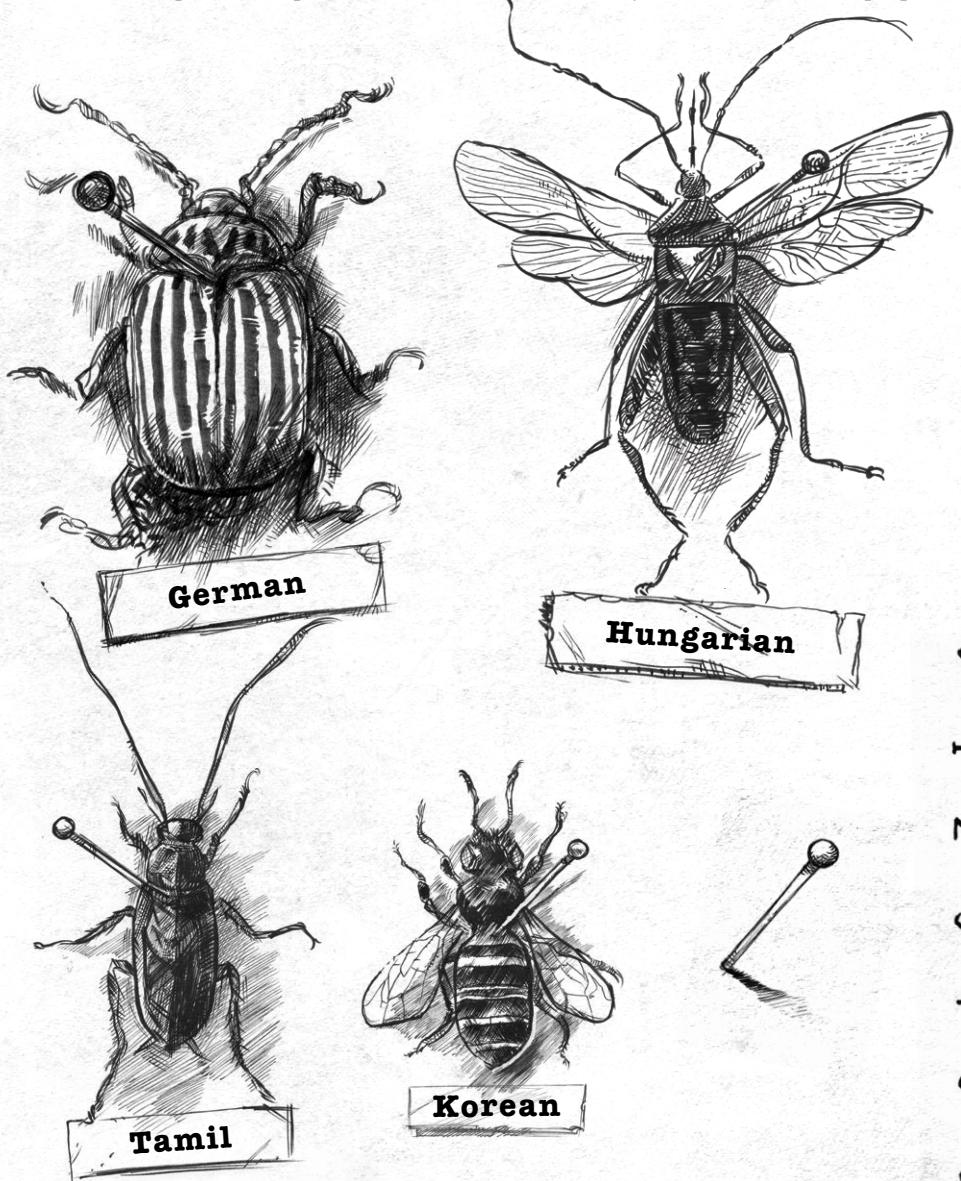
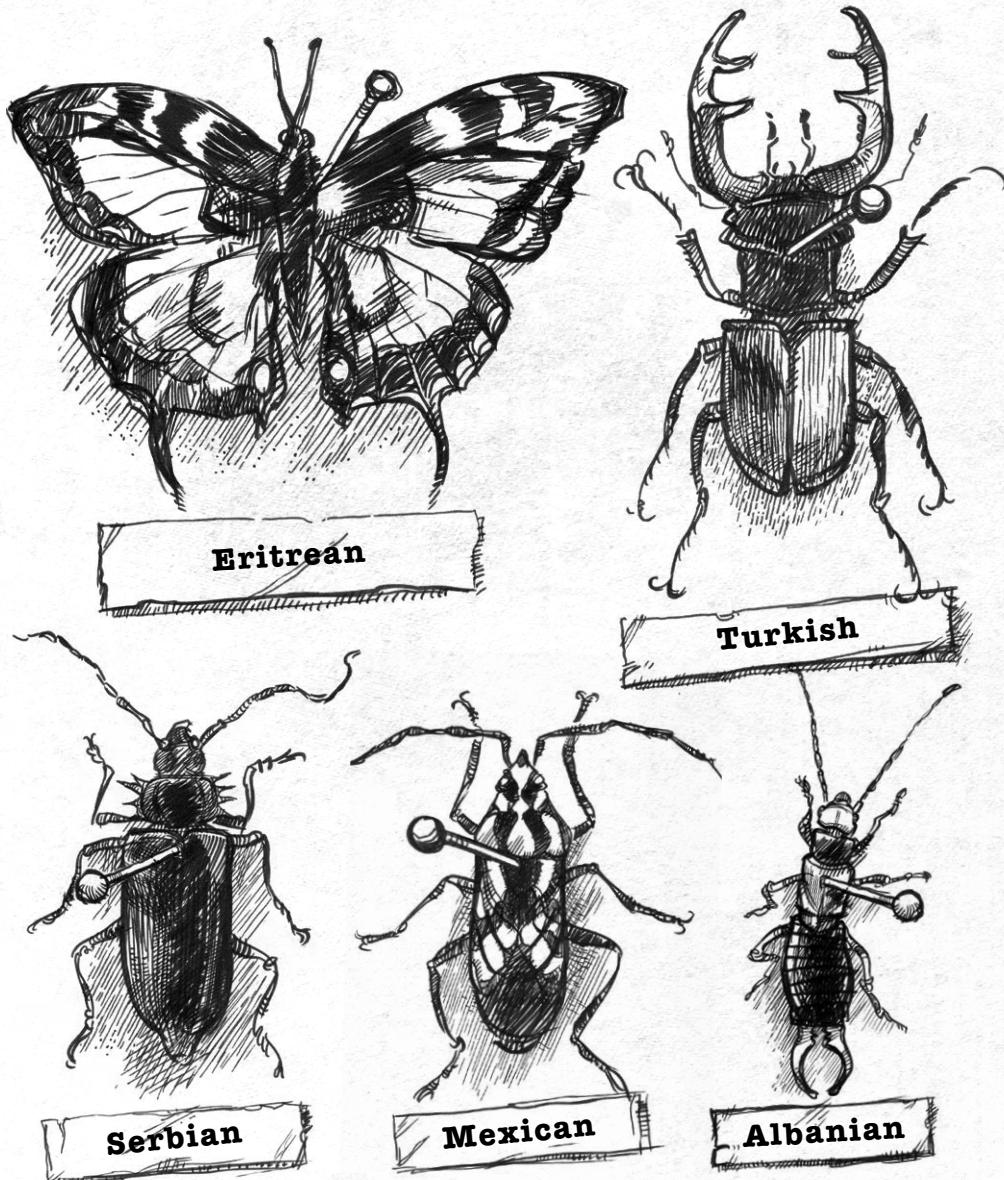
Price: **Affordable, even for you; if you stretch, of course.**

You contact the agency. Their answer is YES. Here you get your first ZIP code outside of your homeland.

Variety of the Nationalities

You have **the hood** instead of a neighbourhood. You're getting to know new people. Each tenth family in your surroundings has the passport of the the country in which you're living. Almost no natives at all. List of the tenants in the hallway of your building is a demographic map of the World in small.

In the West all things are **well organized, labeled and carefully fitted into the system**. Same stands for immigrants and the process of their integration. You're obtaining new knowledge about different nations, religions and political systems. You discover full spectrum of prejudices, those that come from you, or from the other people.



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During the first year of stay, your everyday life is more than a light year away from your comfort zone. You start to forget the meaning of the term

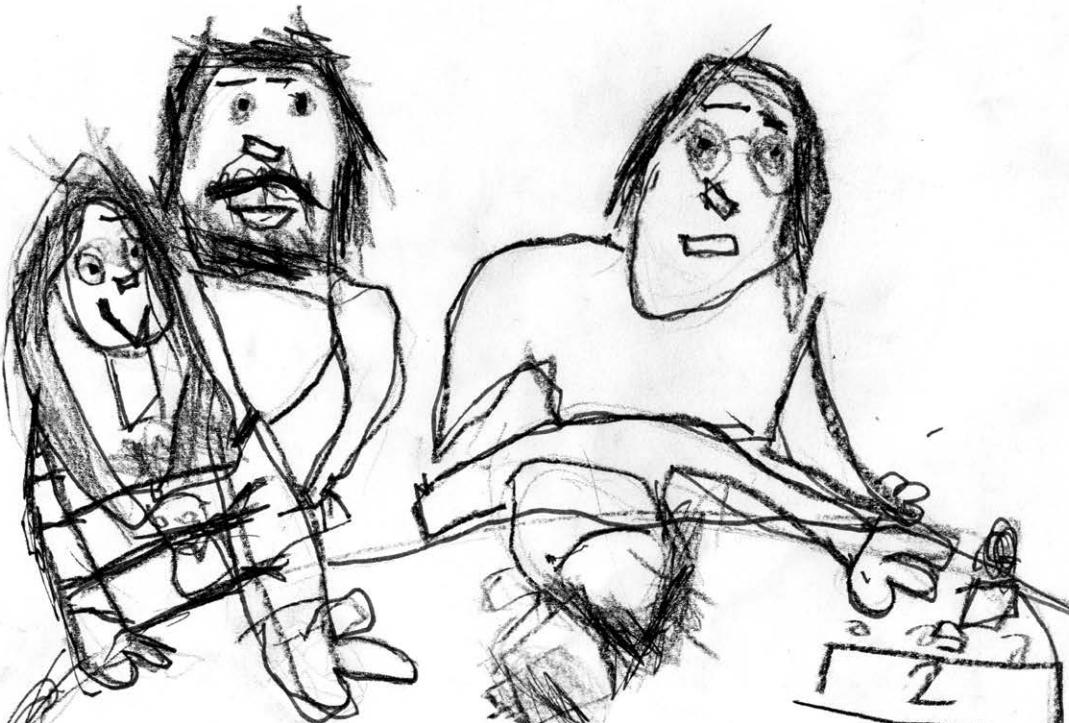
Daily Routine.

You feel completely lost and disoriented, although you are acting totally opposite. To hide your fear and distress, you waste enormous amount of energy, pretending that you are fine. By mimicking behaviour of creatures in your surroundings, you try to blend in with the drove. You admire natives because of the serenity they radiate. They know where they go and why, while you can only roam around them, without actually moving forward. A year later, you will realise how lost you were, and how obvious this was to all the others.

IntegratiOFF

Initial fascination with the **Brave New World** fades away. Suddenly you realise that you don't feel comfortable at all. To enjoy all the pleasures available, you need to accommodate to habits of the people around you. You try your best by forcing yourself into a certain type of behaviour. Never the less, everything feels awkward.

You do not understand your own kid. Your offspring handles the local dialect, while you struggle with **Google Translate**. Your authority as a parent is decreasing, and your confusion starts to be obvious to the kids. Your daughter will draw what exactly you should do and how to behave. **Literally?**



WORK IN PROGRESS

or Escaping the Status Quo

Six months later, you travel back to where you came from to visit your family. Back at “home” you don’t fit in any more. In fact, you never did. Otherwise – you would never have left. When meeting with relatives, you’re saying to everybody “We’re fitting in so well!”

But it's not so simple. Your reality is quite complex. In general you're accepted well, but a lot more time needs to pass before you fully adapt and become relaxed. Circumstances are far better than what you hoped for, but still you feel discomfort.

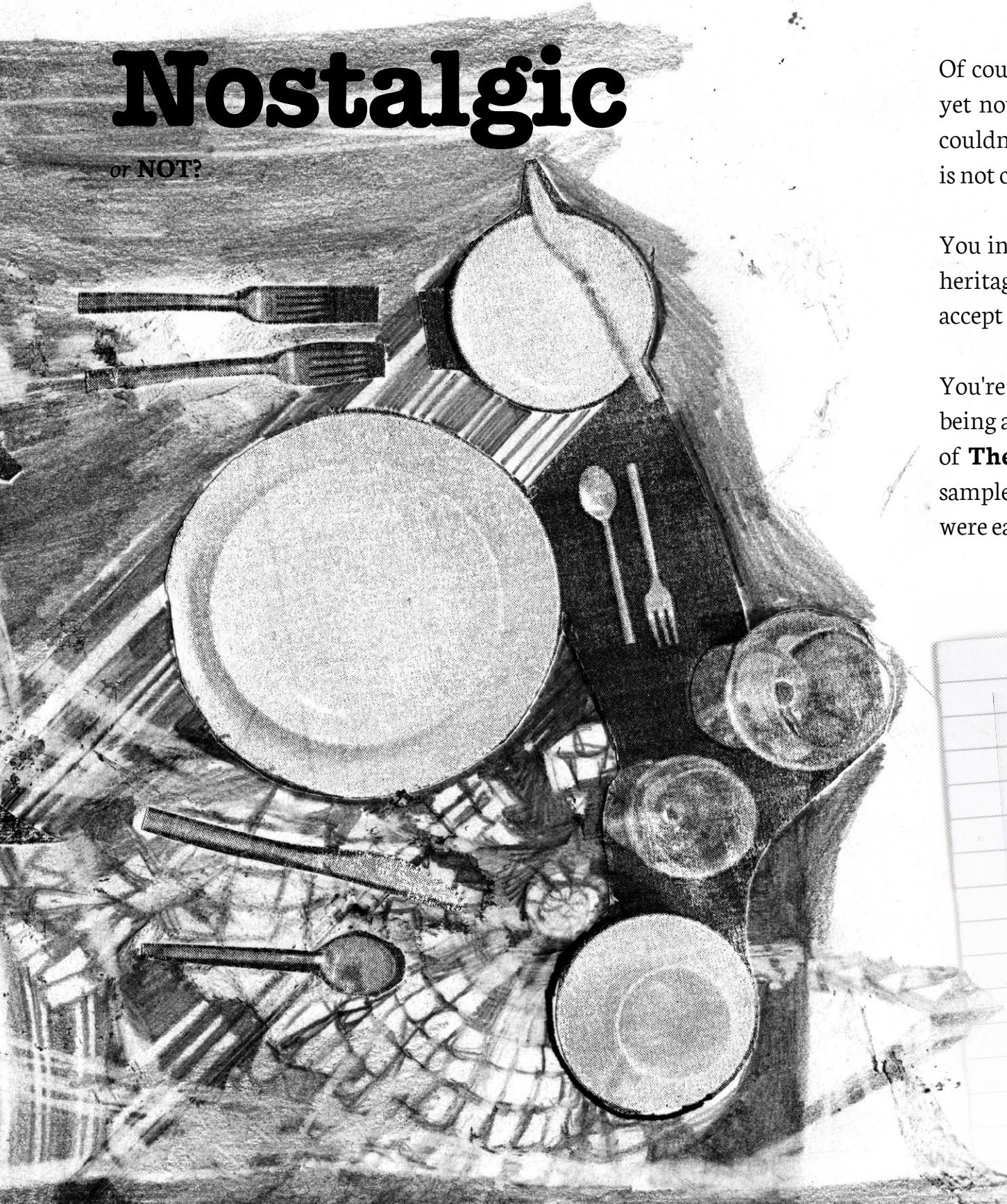
You're flipping through the old family photos, asking yourself

**“What would
my grandpa
say?”**



Nostalgic

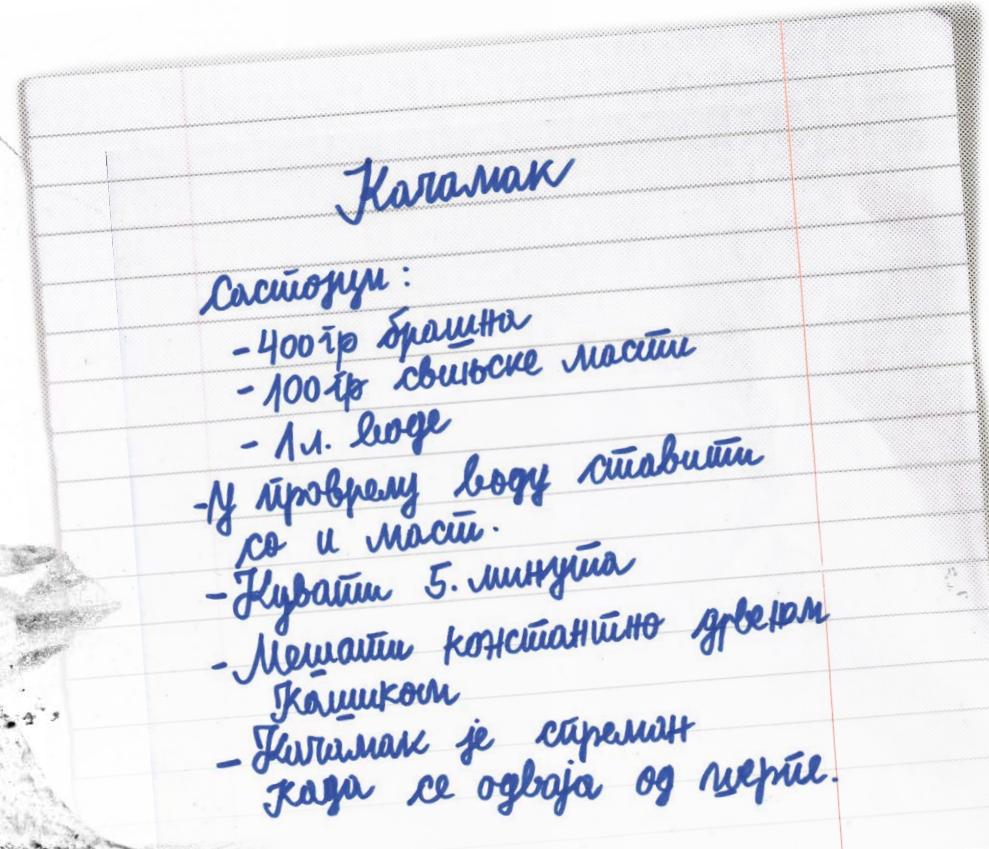
or NOT?



Of course you may be feeling nostalgic from time to time – yet not for your hometown, but for your own identity. You couldn't accept the old version of self, but your new selfhood is not clear yet.

You invent the new ways to present your origin and cultural heritage. adapted in such a way that your new friends will accept and understand.

You're reflecting your previous life from the new angle. While being at home, you're practicing small rituals that remind you of **The Homeland**. You drink sliowitz, while preparing samples of your national cuisine. Back in your country you were eating only **italian** and **chinese**.



GO WITH THE FLOW

or Swim down the stream

Then one day, you are able to perceive and embrace your new personality. Finally you understand the current episode in your life. You're able to admit that your **Promised Land** is not so perfect after all. And that's completely fine.

You have finally "arrived".

Your status will be "Work in Progress" for a lifetime, not because you're an immigrant, but because you're human.

Cheers!

To be continued...





WE ALL CLASH WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES
IN OUR ERA OF GLOBALISATION.
THIS ILLUSTRATED GUIDEBOOK CONTAINS
TIPS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

Humble authors: Vladislava and Uros Savic. They both did the drawings, but Uros needed to write some text as well. Then Jonathan Graham helped by editing Uros' Tarzan English.

Guest author: Tara Savic (obviously related; what a nepotism).

Copies of book are many, far too many to count. You are holding one. Similar titles you can expect in future, in case that this one earns some nickels. If you have borrowed this book from a friend or a relative, it is highly suggested to get your own copy. Feel free to buy some for your friends as well. OK, we admit, we don't have any business plan for this one.