

METAMORFISH



This one-shot comic was created in the framework of the project “The Art of Peacebuilding: Comics for Peace and Stability in the Caucasus”. The project was made possible through the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. In 2019 it was implemented by the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV International).

In the framework of the project three groups of young people from Abkhazia, Georgia and Russia came together to become one team of like-minded persons united by the power of art. Art and education were used by the project as tools for change, while respect for cultural and ethnic diversity as well as the willingness to innovate and creativity provided the framework for the planned activities. Owing to highly professional guidance by famous artist, painter and book producer Gigi Jabidze, 20 young project beneficiaries formed “coMIX” group and have gone through the whole process of comic’s production: generating ideas, creating story, developing the characters, transforming all these into drawings and creating alternate reality through the art of visual storytelling.

The project helped to overcome the isolation between the Abkhazian, Georgian and Russian youth by creating a safe environment to work together and to facilitate spirit of Art as the basis for long-lasting relationships and cooperation.



The publication was developed by the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV International).

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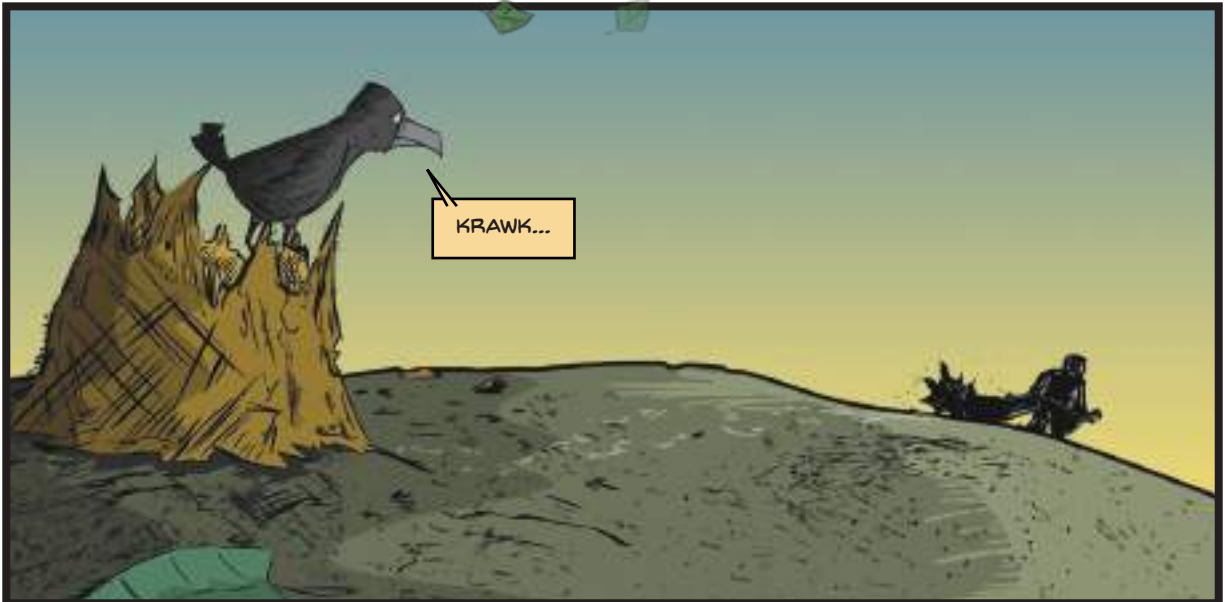




NEXT DAY...



NEXT DAY...



AND AGAIN...

CHOP



CHOP



GRRRR!



UF-UF-UF!!!



AND AGAIN...



AND AGAIN...





SHHHHHH

OH, LOOK AT 'IM NOW... MISERABLE YOU ARE, HUMAN... BEATEN, AREN'T YA?



WHERE'S YOUR BRAVERY GONE, NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO HIDE?

MUST BE A WAY TO STOP HIM...OR HE WILL JUST...

I'VE SEEN IT SO MANY TIMES... THOUSANDS, MILLIONS LIKE HIM...

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO EXCITED OVER SIMPLY... CUTTIN' THE TREES...

WE WON'T PUNISH HIM. IT'S NOT OUR WAY! RATHER... TEACH HIM...A LESSON.

MAYBE THIS WAY HE WILL DISCOVER THE BITTERNESS OF BEING LONELY...AND MAYBE GET SOME REAL FRIENDS.

THE WOOD...SO FREE...AND SO DEFENSELESS...ALL GONE! SO LET'S JUST TURN 'IM INTO SOMETHING EQUALLY HELPLESS..

GOOD POINT..WHY DON'T WE TURN HIM INTO...LET'S SAY, A...

SHHHHHH



CRASH!



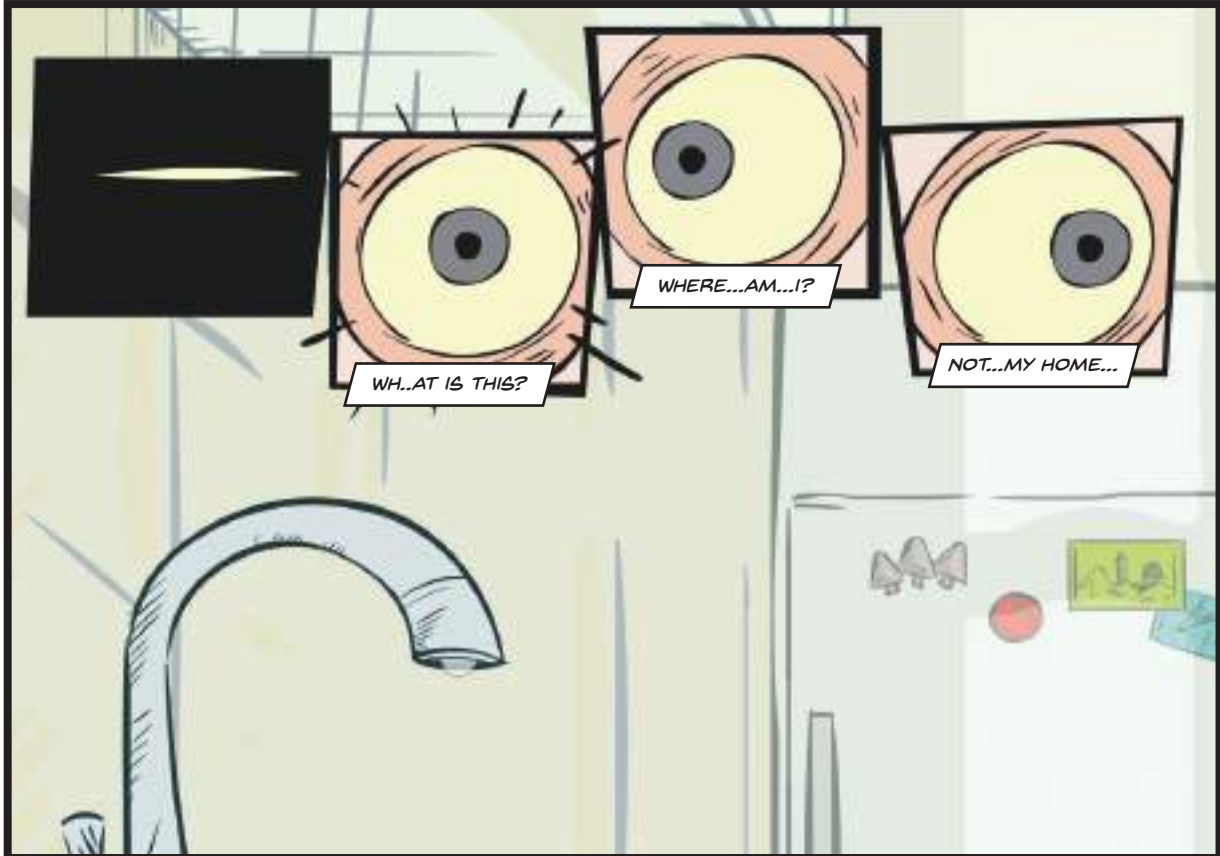


WHAT'S...



GROOOOM!

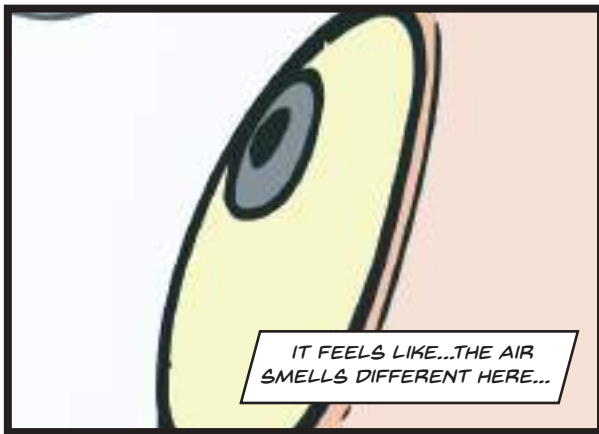




WH...AT IS THIS?

WHERE...AM...I?

NOT...MY HOME...



IT FEELS LIKE...THE AIR SMELLS DIFFERENT HERE...



WAIT...AND WHAT IS THIS?



WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?



A JOKE?



AGAIN? GREEN EVERYWHERE!!!



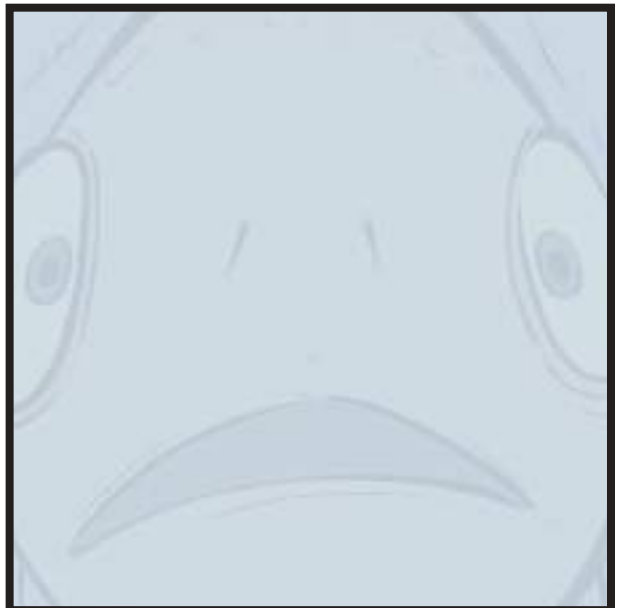
EWWW! HOW I HATE YOU ALL!



EH...



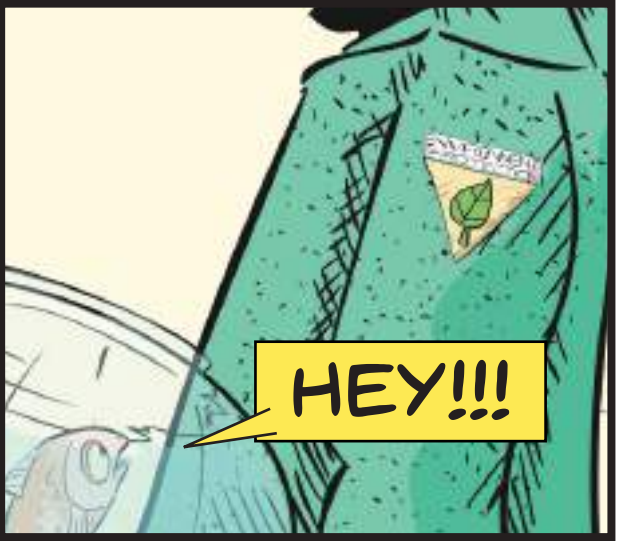
THIS CAN'T BE REAL...



GREAT! SOMEONE CUT THE WHOLE LITTLE WOOD! WHAT KIND OF A...



HEY!!!



HEY! OVER HERE! YOU!!! JUST LET ME OUT...

SHAME I WASN'T THERE. GOT TO WRITE A REPORT NOW. OR MAYBE INSTALL SOME NEW CAMERAS...

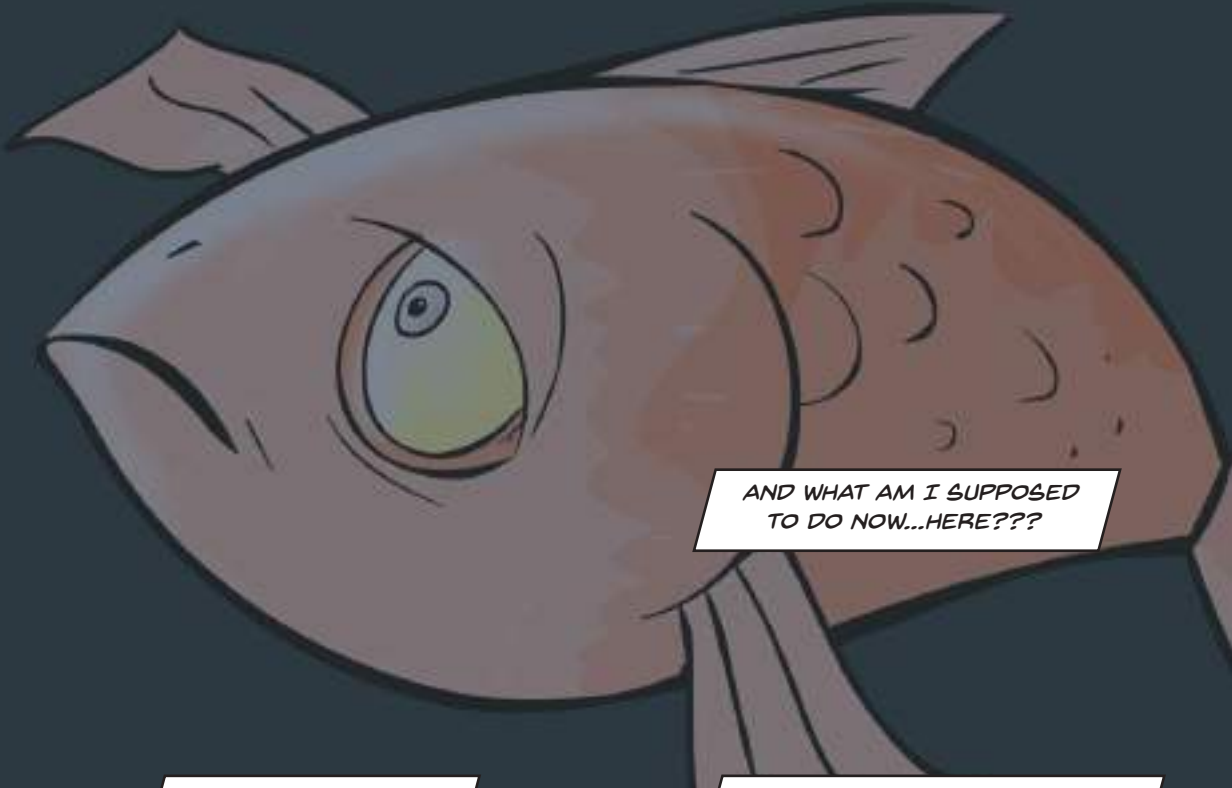


HEY! CAN YOU HEAR...





ME...



AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...HERE????

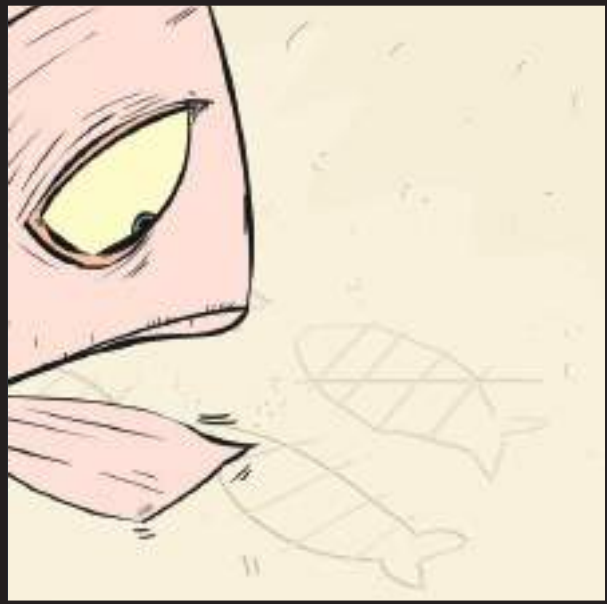
...IS THIS HOW THE FISHES SLEEP?



THESE...GREEN THINGS...ARE DISGUSTING...BUT I'VE GOT NO... OTHER BLANKETS TO COVER...

...MYSELF...

A MORNING...IN A NEW WORLD



AND THE DAYS PASSED...



...FOLLOWED BY MONTHS...



...THEN SUDDENLY...



UUHM...

GOOD NIGHT...





WHO'S THAT?



YOUR ROOMMATE...



YOU? ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE BEEN SILENTLY LURKING HERE?

WELL...I JUST WASN'T SURE YOU WERE A FISH... NO, YOU'RE NOT A FISH!



OH, REALLY? SO WHO DO I LOOK LIKE???




A HUMAN!


A HUMAN!

A HUMAN!


MY GOODNESS!!! TALKING GREENIES!




SO, YOU SAY...I REALLY LOOK LIKE A HUMAN???



YOU CAN BE ANYTHING ON THE OUTSIDE...BUT INSIDE YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN!



I AM NOT A HUMAN! AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ONE FOR A LONG TIME! SPECIFICALLY - TWO MONTHS AND THREE DAYS!



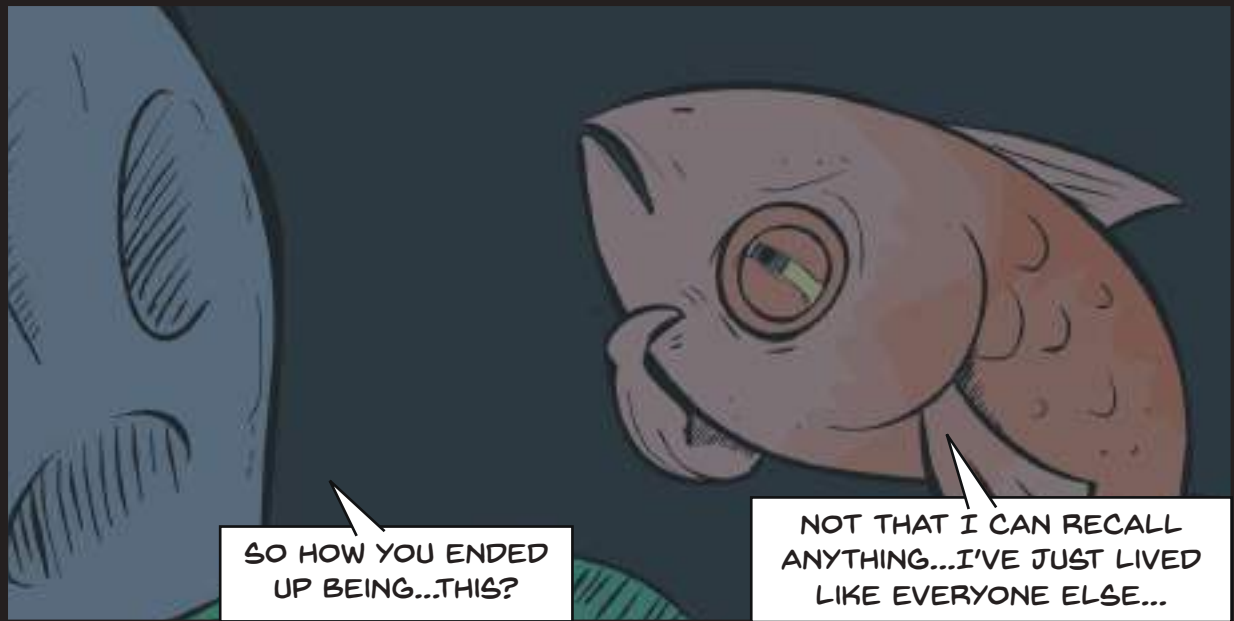
WELL...LOOK AT YOURSELF...YOU'RE GOING MAD LIKE A HUMAN, WAVING YOUR FISTS LIKE A HUMAN...THIS **METAMORPHOSIS** HASN'T MADE YOU A BETTER PERSON...



BUT I DON'T LOOK LIKE A HUMAN...



ALRIGHT...MAYBE SOMETIMES I DO...



SO HOW YOU ENDED UP BEING...THIS?

NOT THAT I CAN RECALL ANYTHING...I'VE JUST LIVED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...




"LIVED"...THIS WAS NOT THE WAY I WANTED TO LIVE...



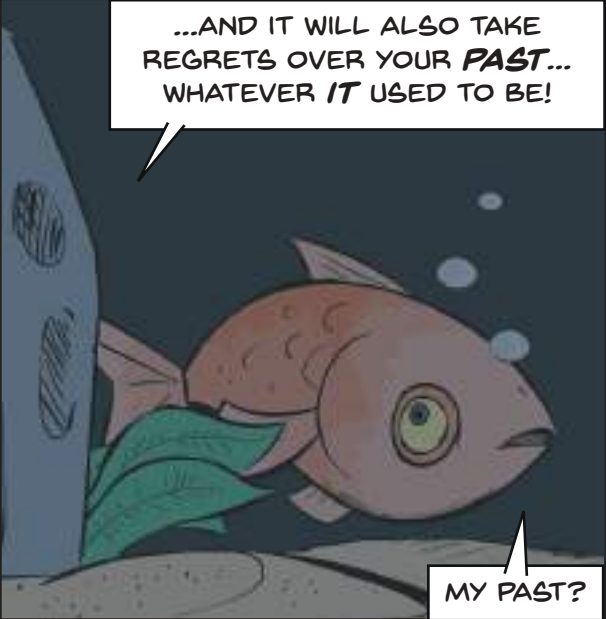
BUT IT'S **WHO YOU'VE BECOME** THAT MATTERS...NOT WHOEVER YOU **USED** TO BE...



YOU MEAN...YOU CAN HELP ME?




JUST MAKE A WISH...




...AND IT WILL ALSO TAKE REGRETS OVER YOUR *PAST*... WHATEVER *IT* USED TO BE!

MY PAST?



YES! YES! I DO REGRET! I FEEL SORRY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE!



I'VE BEEN STUCK HERE FOR WEEKS...FOREVER... AND I'VE THOUGHT AND EVALUATED...

TRYING HARD TO CONVINCE ME, RIGHT?

BUT LOOK AT MY EYES...CAN'T YOU SEE? THEY'RE *FULL* WITH REGRET!!!

NEXT DAY...

SO YOUR PLAN IS...

JUST PUSH THE GLASS. OR HIT IT WITH ALL YOUR WEIGHT!!!

I THOUGHT...I COULD BECOME A HUMAN... IN FLESH...AGAIN...

AT LEAST YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY OUT...

AAAAHHHH!!!!

MMMMM!!!

LATER...

UH...FEEL SO EXHAUSTED... YOU KNOW...I THOUGHT...IF I ESCAPE THIS JAIL, I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME! I PROMISE!


WHAT ABOUT US?

OR ME!

YEAH! WHAT ABOUT ME?



ACTUALLY...I'VE REALISED...I'VE NEVER HAD FRIENDS LIKE YOU... OR ANY FRIENDS AT ALL...



EVERYDAY YOU SURPRISE ME MORE AND MORE, MR. FISH... YOU'VE CHANGED AND THAT WILL **SERVE** YOU WELL...

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I NEED...JUST BREAK OUT OF THIS HOUSE AND RESTART MY LIFE...FROM THE SCRATCH...

WEEKS LATER...



JUST LIKE THAT!


NOT...MUCH... LEFT...NOT... MUCH...

GOOD JOB, LADIES... KEEP ON CHEERING HIM UP!

JUST PUSH IT HARDER!

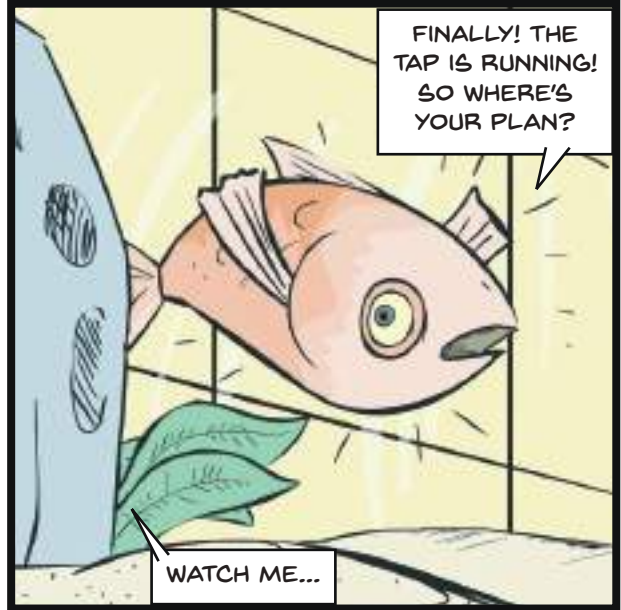


WATCH OUT! HERE HE COMES!



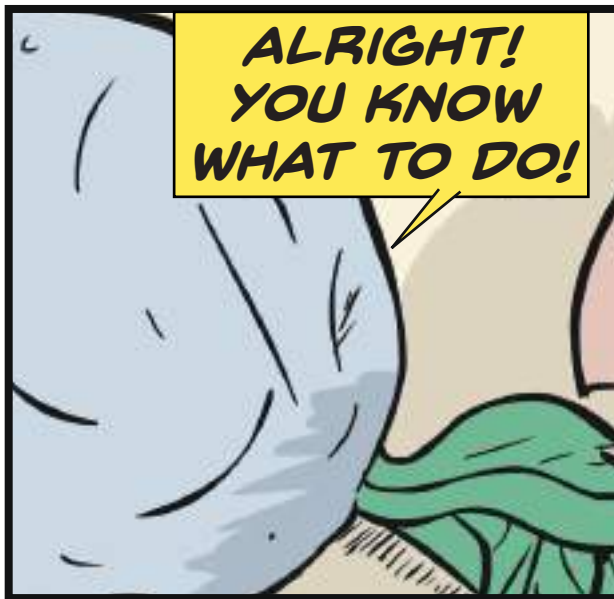
WHAT? WE NEED HIM BY THE SINK, NOT THE FRIDGE!

OH, COME ON, LITTLE FISHY...YOU HUMANS ARE ALWAYS PREDICTABLE. FRIDGE IS THE ONLY REASON YOU COME VISITING THE KITCHEN!!



FINALLY! THE TAP IS RUNNING!
SO WHERE'S YOUR PLAN?

WATCH ME...



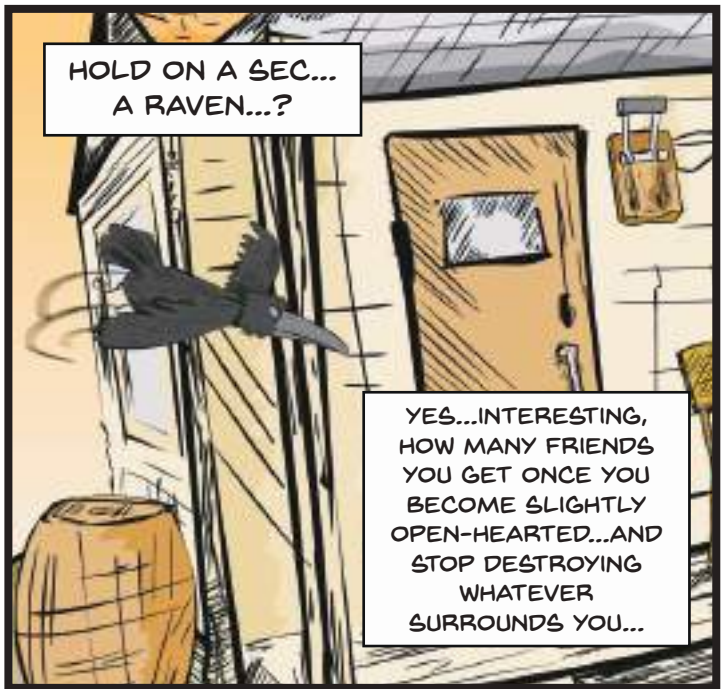
**ALRIGHT!
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO!**



WHO'S THAT...YOU SHOUTING TO...



...HIM, NOT YOU, FISHY!



HOLD ON A SEC...
A RAVEN...?

YES...INTERESTING,
HOW MANY FRIENDS
YOU GET ONCE YOU
BECOME SLIGHTLY
OPEN-HEARTED...AND
STOP DESTROYING
WHATEVER
SURROUNDS YOU...

SO THIS...FRIEND OF YOURS...



THAT'S MY FRIEND...
FROM THE WOOD...



...AND HE KNOWS HIS JOB!



WHAT...



GONE! YOUR
CHANCE!
LET ME SEE
YOU PUSHING IT!



UMMMM!!!



UUUUM!!!





GO! GO! YOU CAN DO IT!!!

AAH!

HERE COMES THE EDGE!!!

JUST A FEW SECS... WE'LL GET THERE!



YES!

YOU ARE MY HERO!!

I WILL TAKE ALL OF YOU WITH...

TELL YOU WHAT...I'LL MARRY YOU, FISHY...ONCE WE ARE SAFE AND SOUND!



AAAAAA
AAAAA!!!!

HERE WE GO!!!

HERE WE ARE!
I'LL COVER THIS HOLE FOR YOU! GO! SOON THERE WILL BE A FLOOD HERE...JUST LEAVE THIS PLACE... THERE MUST BE A LITTLE LAKE OR RIVER SOMEWHERE AROUND!

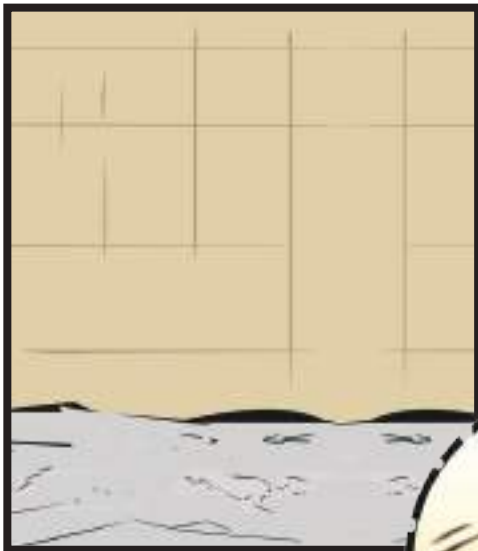


FIRST...I NEED YOU ALL BY MY SIDE...BUT WAIT... SO HARD TO BREATHE...WHY?



AND WAS IT REALLY SUCH AN EASY TA...

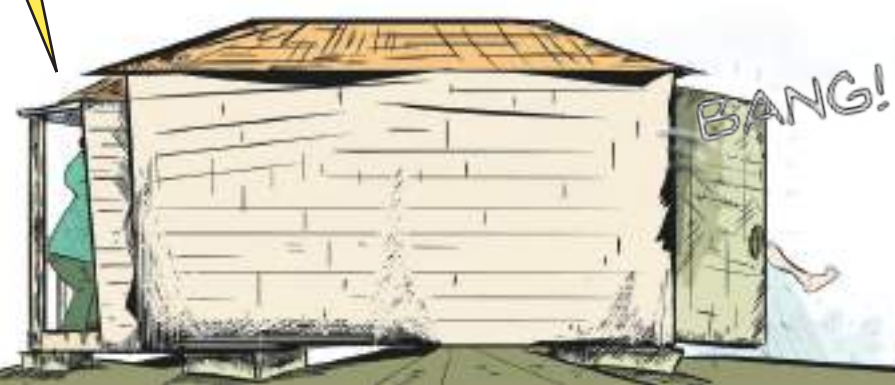
...SK...



AAAAAAAH!



JUST LET ME SWITCH THIS BACK...ON...LET ME FIND OUT..WHOEVER DID THIS!





AND AS I WALKED INTO THIS NEW LIFE...

...RECALLING THOSE WORDS...FROM THE MOUNTAINS...I THOUGHT OF ALL THOSE MISERABLES LIKE ME...MILLIONS OF US... POISONING THIS WORLD...FOR FUN!



...I COULDN'T HELP CONFESSING I DID IT FOR FUN...AND NOW, AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH...WITH MY HEART FREE FROM ALL THE DARK DEEDS AND THOUGHTS, NAKED LIKE A NEWBORN I'VE EMBRACED THIS WORLD...



ALL THANKS TO THIS???

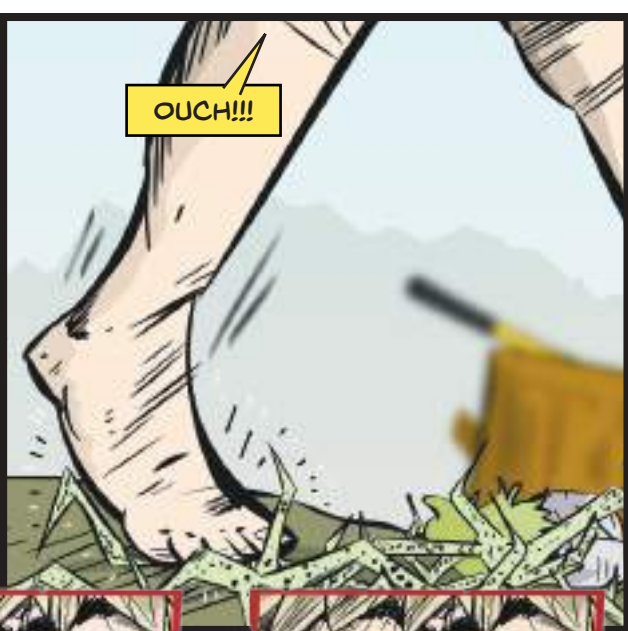


USELESS PIECE OF JUNK!

...AH...ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL...
NEVER AGAIN I WILL TOUCH A SINGLE
GREEN THING...THE WAY I USED TO...



OUCH!!!



I...



I...WILL...CUT...
THEM...ALL...



NO, I WON'T!



HEY! WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU WERE YOU
GOING WITHOUT ME?





