

MIEL

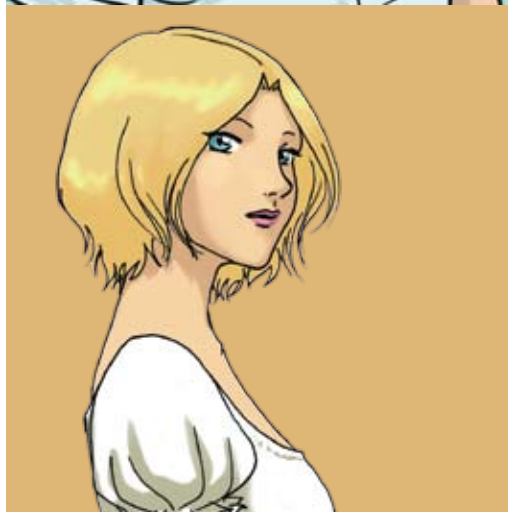
DURIEUX

GIHEF

SAVOIA

VANYDA

TAKE TWO



European Commission

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained in this publication.

Europe Direct is a service to help you
find answers to your questions about the
European Union

Freephone number (*):
00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow
access to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Cataloguing data as well as an abstract can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010

ISBN 978-92-79-13891-1
doi:10.2767/74407

© European Union, 2010

Non-commercial reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Germany

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

Comic strip storyboards designed and produced by www.letitbee.be

MIEL

DURIEUX

GIHEF

SAVOIA

VANYDA

TAKE TWO

JULIE



Vanyda

This year,
it's going to be just the three
of us. Your mother can survive
without us for 10 days,
for once!



Funny how
I never hear you
complaining when
she's looking
after Julie because
you're working
overtime
for your boss.



We've already discussed this.
Everything is booked.
It's a little too late to change now,
and slow down a bit.
You're driving way too fast!



Stop
twisting my words!
All I'm saying is that it
would be really nice to go on
a proper holiday, with just my
husband and daughter, without
my mother-in-law constantly
hovering in the
background.



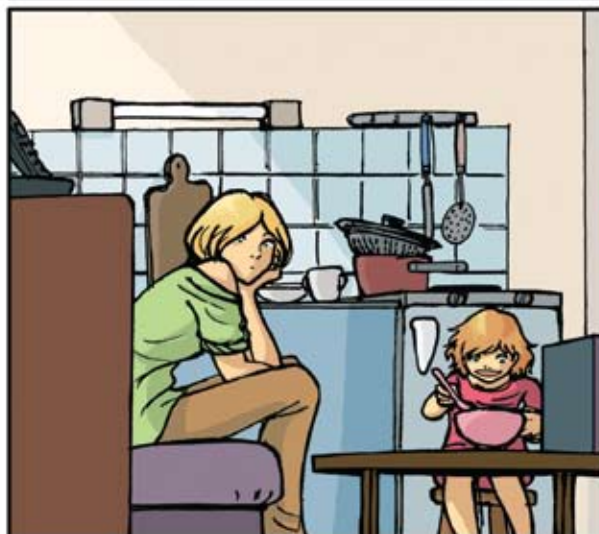
Fair enough.
I won't be going
on holiday, then!





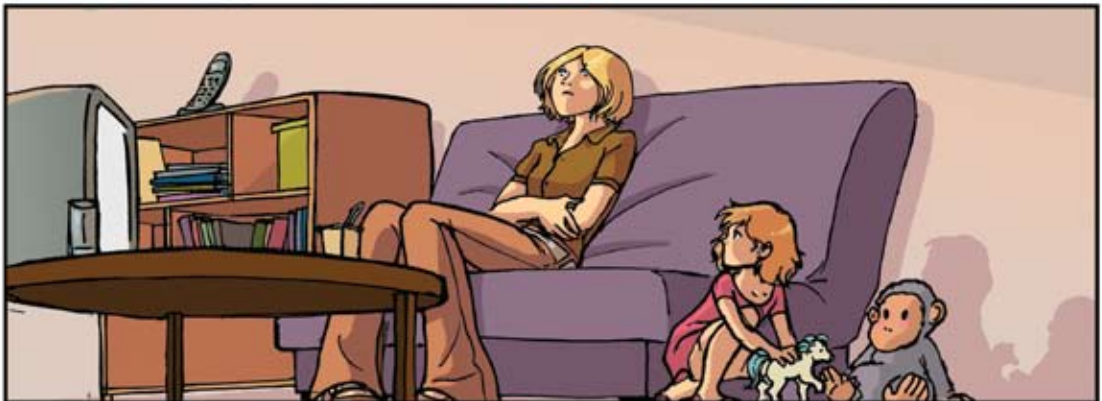
FIFTEEN YEARS LATER





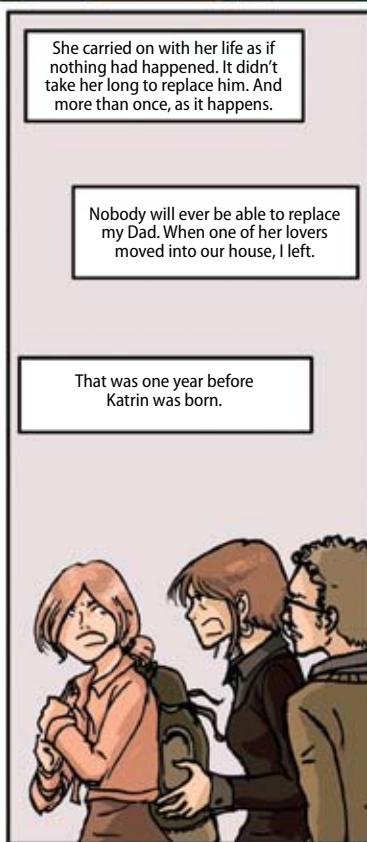
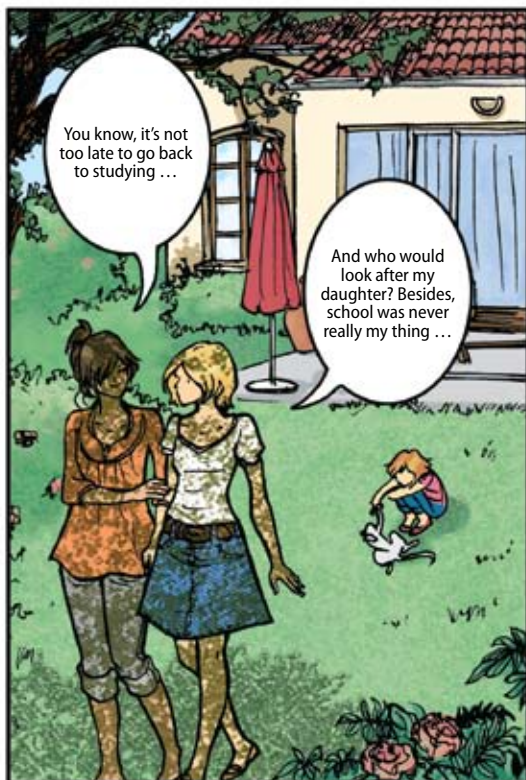


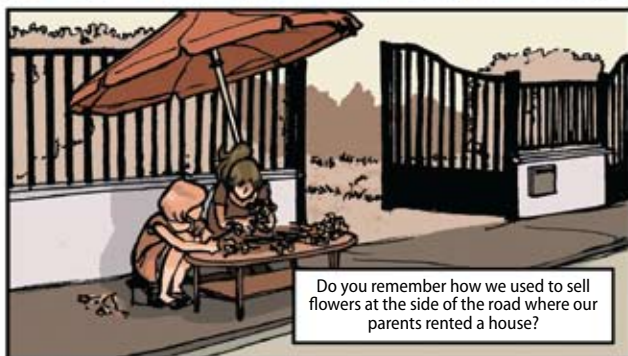


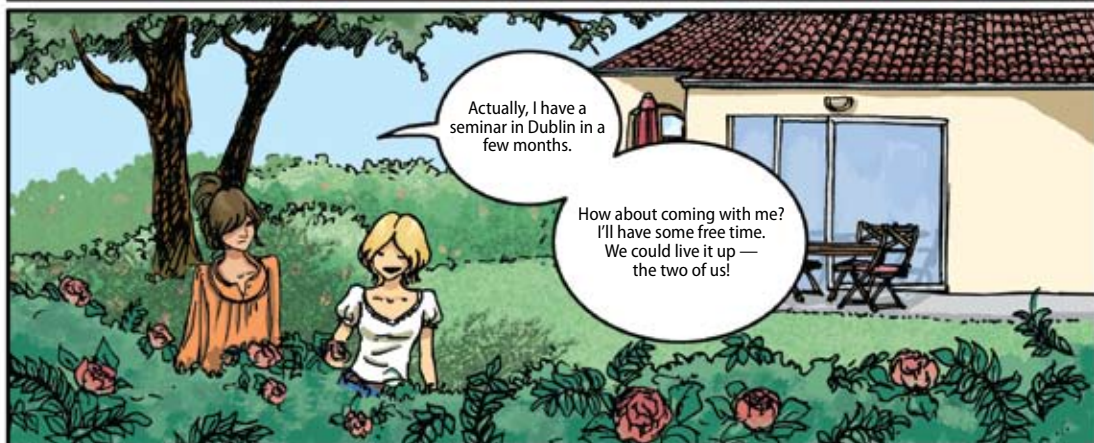












EIGHT MONTHS LATER

A little bird told me that you're going to have pancakes at Grandma's today.

We're off sweetheart! I'll bring her back at around 6 o'clock!



Are you the sales assistant, Miss?

No, no, I'm just helping. I'm on a work placement.

But I did make up this bouquet myself. Maybe not quite the way we were shown at school ...

I really like how you mixed the flowers with wild plants ...



VIKTOR



BUDAPEST



Viktor, dinner's ready!



Mum, why do you bother going to such an effort over me? I told you I was going out for dinner with some friends.



I forgot ...



It smells delicious though! Save me some for tomorrow!

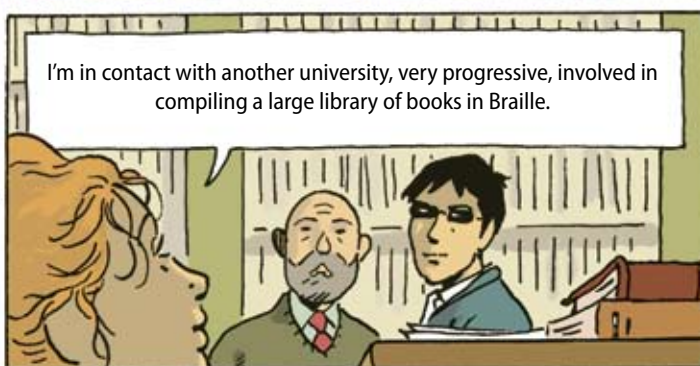
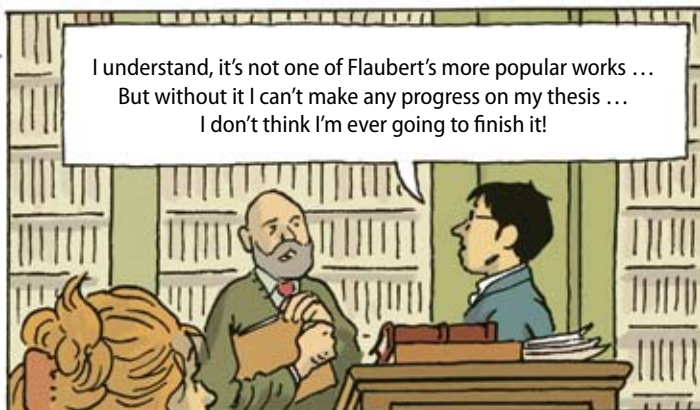
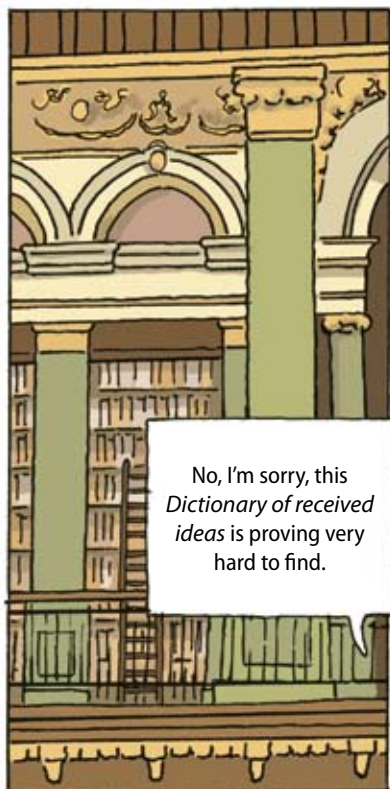


I'm worried Viktor ... What will happen to you when I'm gone?

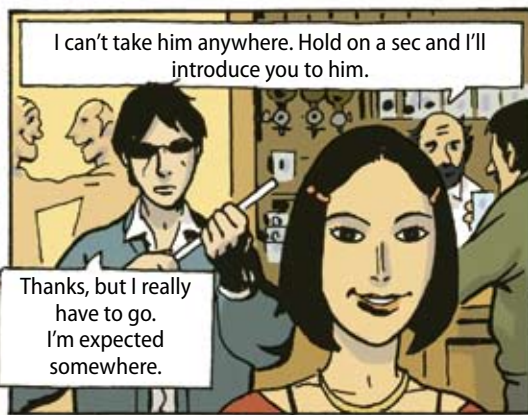


You're so stuck in your ways. But you have to relax a little! Once I'm finished with this damn thesis, I'll finally be able to apply for a job at the university ... And get a small flat ...









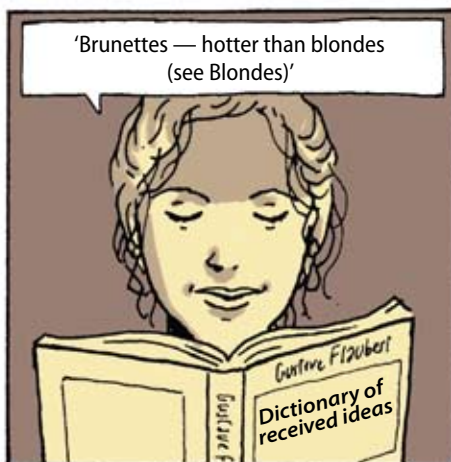








'Brunettes — hotter than blondes
(see Blondes)'

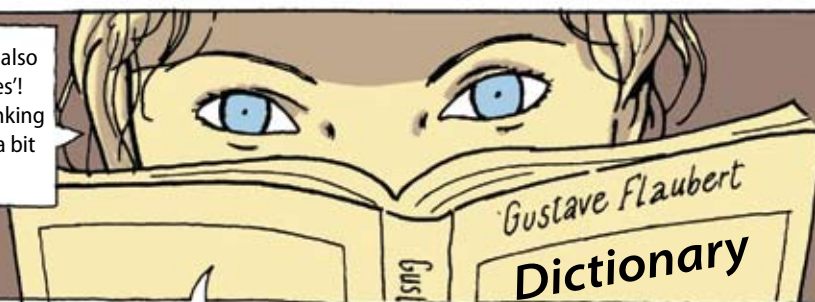


And for
'Blondes', What
do you think?



... hmmm ...
'Hotter than
Brunettes?'

Well done! And he also
says 'see Brunettes'!
And there I was thinking
that Flaubert was a bit
strait-laced ...

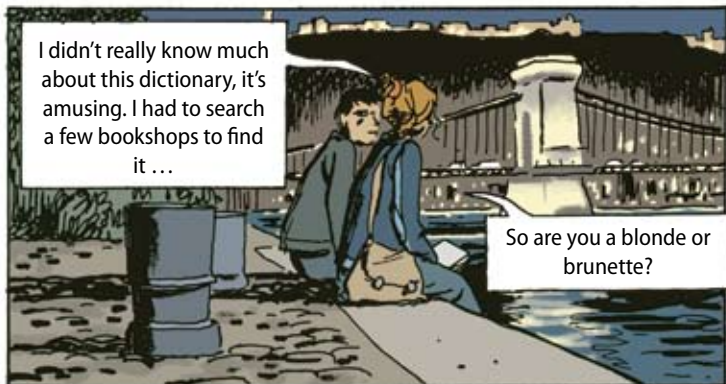


Once you've found out all there is to know about his work, will you teach me a little more about him? ...
A little bird told me that a big parcel is on the way for you ... Great news, isn't it?

In the meantime, what
are you doing after five
o'clock? Do you have any
plans?



... Hmmm ...
yes ... actually
no, I don't think
so ...



You have no idea how much I appreciate what you're doing for me, Linda. I really don't want to be a burden on my mother anymore ... or on anyone else. But that means I really have to do well on this thesis ... And you've been working miracles for me!





Linda. It's lovely to meet you. Viktor has told me so much about you.



Come in young lady! You could have told me Viktor ... I'm mortified; I would have prepared a special meal if I had known ... And I'm not even dressed for visitors. He's always putting his foot in it you know!



It will be great!
It always is!
My Mum is a fantastic cook!

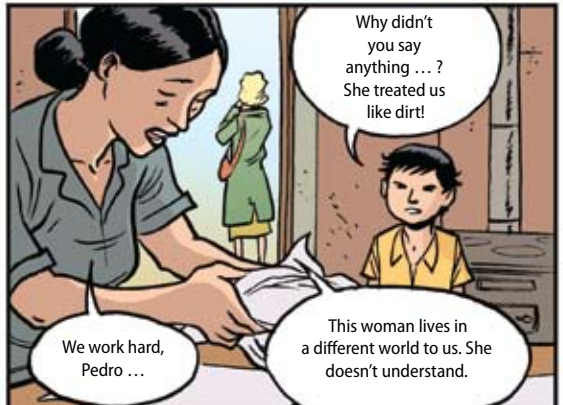
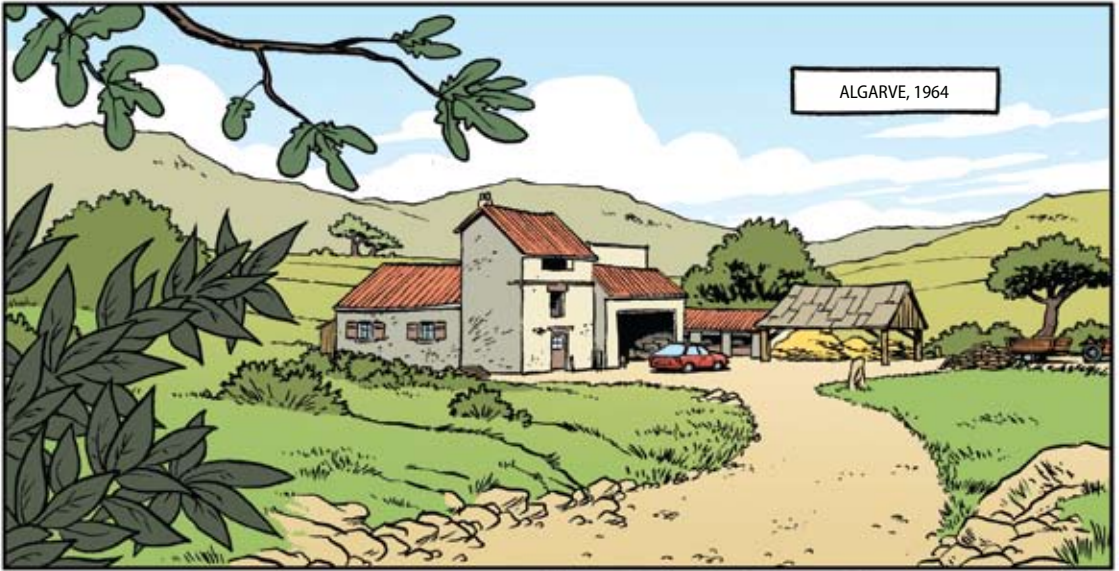


PEDRO



SADIA

ALGARVE, 1964



ALGARVE, TODAY

I'm going to go and see my parents.

I've been thinking about it for a couple of months now.

It is 40 years since I left ... without ever telling them what was going on in my life

Of course they know I've opened this restaurant ... News travels fast around here.

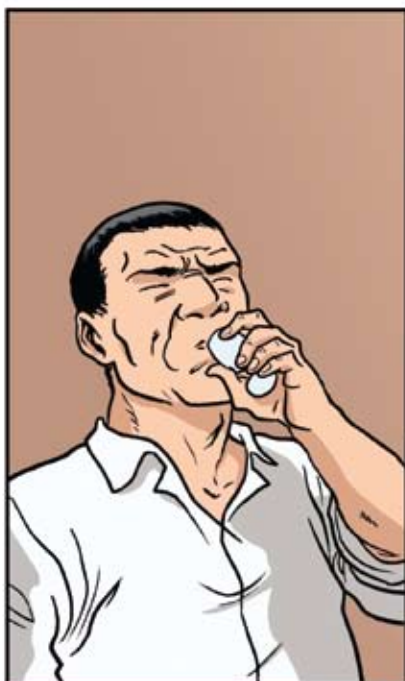
It's a brave decision ...

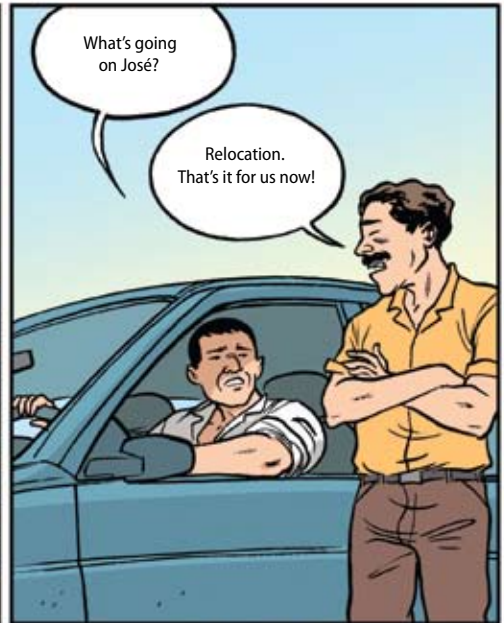
In the meantime, let's hope the customers like the new decor ... And that we haven't overreached ourselves ...

I know. There's a lot of money involved ... Touch wood we'll be OK!







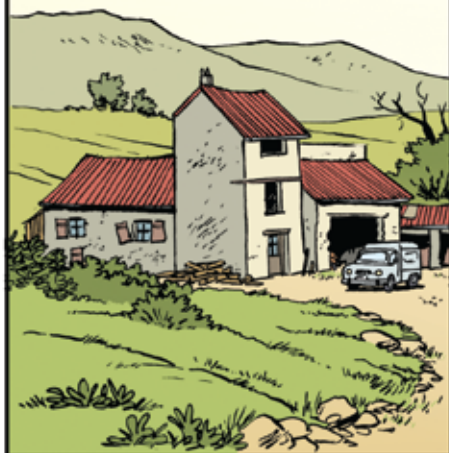


TWO WEEKS LATER





SIX WEEKS LATER



Relax!
Everything is
going to be fine ...

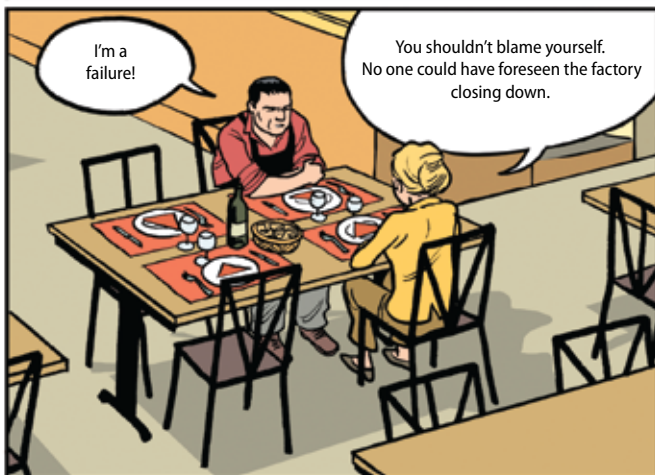
FECHADO

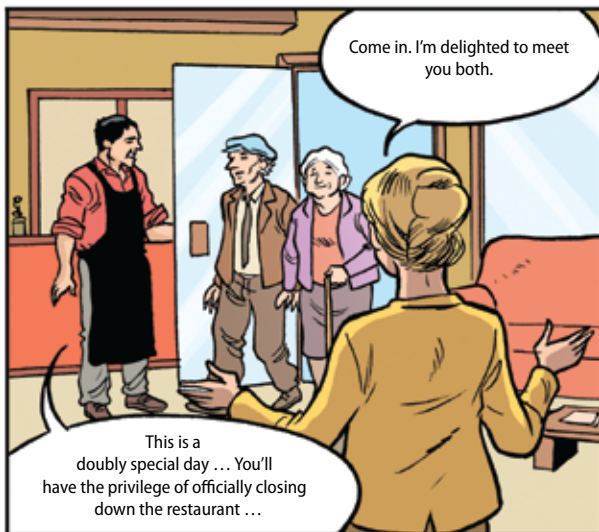
It's a pity we're
having them over in such
circumstances ...

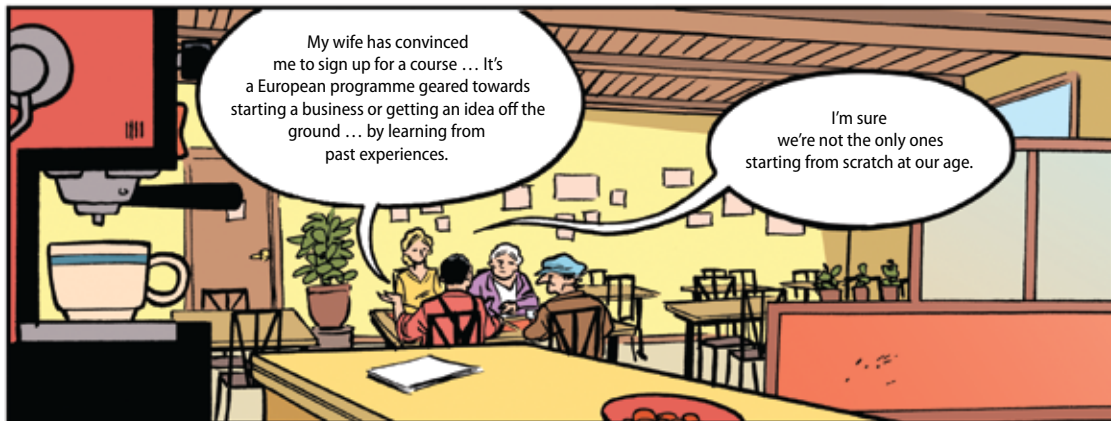
I'm a
failure!

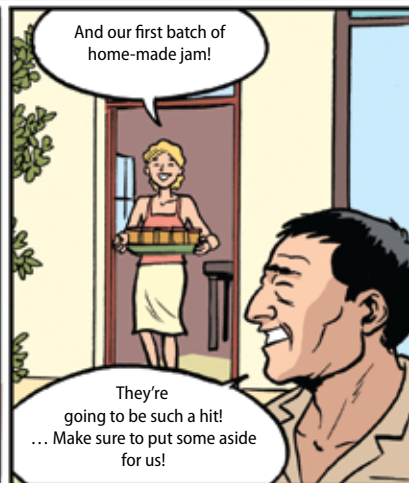
You shouldn't blame yourself.
No one could have foreseen the factory
closing down.

I'm the
one who talked you into
all these renovation costs.









FIANNE



ihf

DUBLIN

You look like you're in a rush ... and weighed down, Judith ... What's in the bag?

None of your business, Fianne!

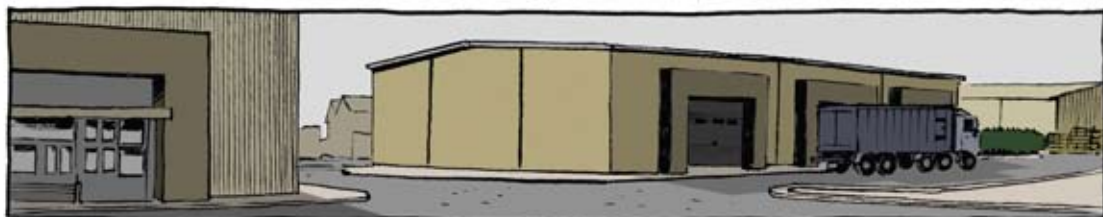
Oh, really? So what's this? Are you really looking for trouble?

If I were you, I'd put a lid on it, Fianne ... You're in no position to be lecturing me ... you don't own me!

OK. Forget about it. You're right. This has nothing to do with me ...



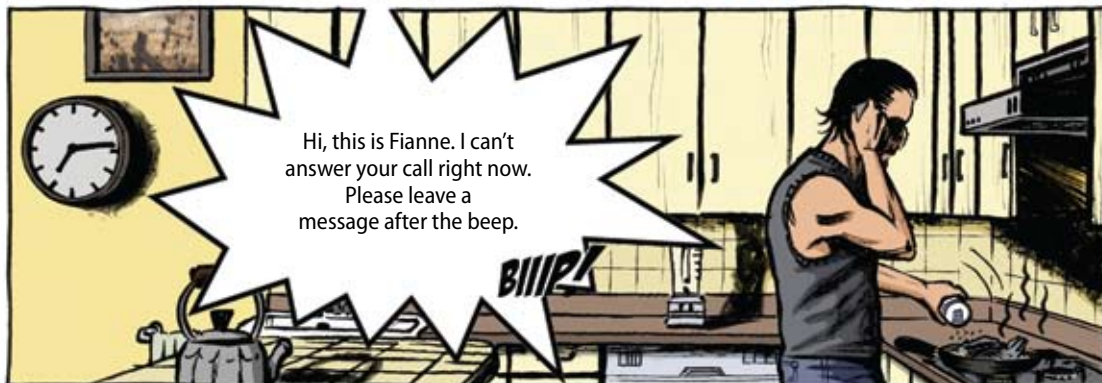
Yeah ... I was thinking about this girl who's pinching stuff from the stockroom ... I really don't like what she's doing. We're paid pretty well and the bosses are good to us.





You've told me everything about your past ... I took a risk in hiring you. And I'm responsible for that. You promised me that I could trust you.











I don't know if that was the best idea ... She could press charges against you. And with your history ...



Enough!
My day was bad
enough without
you starting
as well.

TTTTT!
TTTTT!



It would be a shame to let
an opportunity like this pass
you by ...

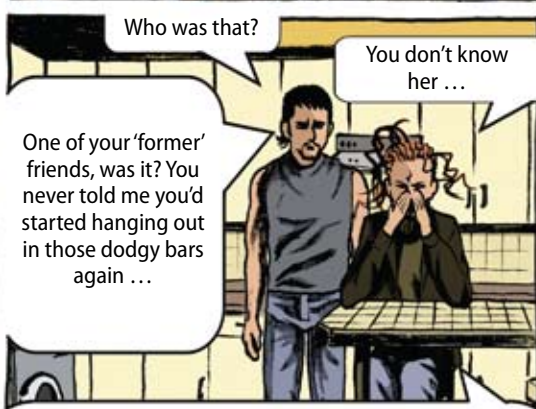


Fianne!? What
happened to you?

I bumped into Judith in
town. I think she'll cross the
street next time.



Yes, hello!... No ...
I don't know. This isn't
a good time,
I'll call you back.



Who was that?

You don't know
her ...

One of your 'former'
friends, was it? You
never told me you'd
started hanging out
in those dodgy bars
again ...

Yeah I have. And it's none of your business.
I'm not a child. Leave me alone please ...
I need to be on my own.



Peter?

Peter?
Is that you?



Now sit down and explain yourself, if you don't want the hiding you deserve.



Your face reminds me of someone ...
Are you ...
Suze's son!?



Yeah ...
maybe I am ...



Did you know my mother?

We shared the same room in that wonderful place where we did some time, if you know what I mean ...



It's awful what happened to your mother ...
She was a good person ...

The doctors couldn't do anything.



A good person ...? I don't know about that! She hadn't been in touch for almost two years.
She never really looked after me properly.

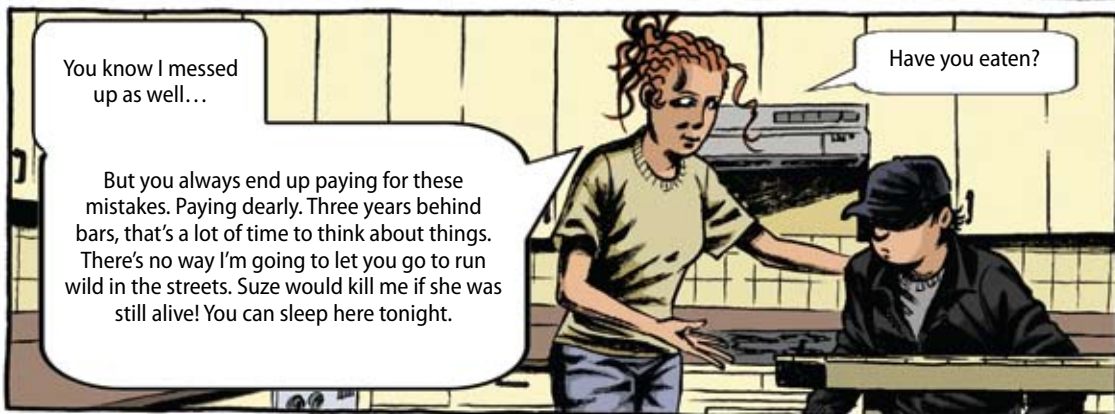




Where do you live?
And how are you
surviving? ...



I get by ... I've some mates
who put me up from time
to time.



You know I messed
up as well...

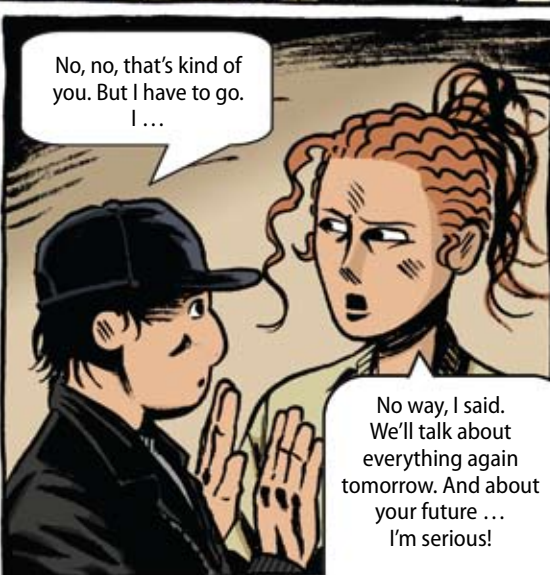
But you always end up paying for these
mistakes. Paying dearly. Three years behind
bars, that's a lot of time to think about things.
There's no way I'm going to let you go to run
wild in the streets. Suze would kill me if she was
still alive! You can sleep here tonight.

Have you eaten?



What's going on here?
Who's this guy? I didn't
hear the doorbell ...

This is the son of a friend of mine ... sadly she died a
few years ago. He came through the 'VIP entrance'. He's
in a bit of trouble and needs my help. He's going to stay
here for at least one night.

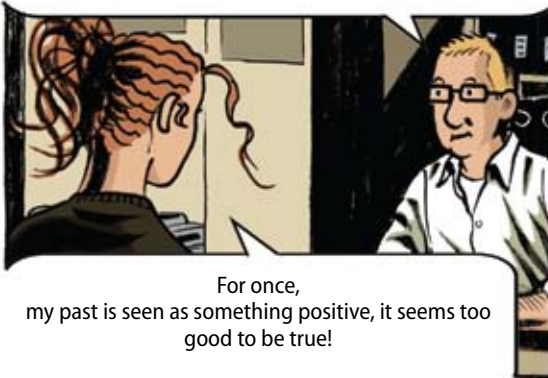


No, no, that's kind of
you. But I have to go.
I ...

No way, I said.
We'll talk about
everything again
tomorrow. And about
your future ...
I'm serious!



You came to the right place, Fianne. We need experienced people like you ... with a similar past ... someone with a strong personality.



For once, my past is seen as something positive, it seems too good to be true!



Our rehabilitation programme for ex-prisoners is ambitious. Europe believes in our project and supports us financially.



And what about the boy we spoke about?

We'll see to it that he's sent to school under the best conditions ... and you're going to mentor him personally.



Did you see how he looked at you?



You can't let someone like that slip through your fingers!

THE END

Additional information

Fianne, Viktor, Julie and Pedro succeeded in making a fresh start in life thanks to the support they received from the programmes financed by the European Social Fund (ESF).

But what exactly is the ESF?

The ESF was created more than 50 years ago, in 1957, to be precise. It is the main financial instrument used by the European Union for investing in people. Its goal is to promote employment by improving workers' prospects. It provides support, for example, to individuals who have particular difficulties in finding a job, including women, young people and elderly workers. It also provides support to businesses and young entrepreneurs. The Fund also invests in lifelong education and training.

The ESF does not work alone; it is at the core of a partnership comprising multiple players. The projects that it supports are co-funded by the Member States and put forward by educational and training institutions, associations, trade unions, etc. These projects are selected by the national authorities to meet the requirements of specific countries and regions.

Today, the ESF is a real success story. Each year, the ESF invests EUR 10 billion in the financing of various projects across the 27 Member States. This investment is used to improve the lives of 10 million individuals each year, by helping them to find a job or to advance in their careers.

From reality to fiction

The comic strip *Take two* is based on four true events. The European Commission gathered personal accounts from 54 EU citizens, all of whom had benefited from ESF-funded programmes. In front of the camera, they speak about their own experiences and of the path that led them to new employment and training opportunities. To see these personal accounts, visit: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/video/videos_en.htm

Do you find these stories inspiring? Send your script ideas and/or illustrations to: esf@ec.europa.eu
The best entries will be published on the website or in the upcoming comic strip.

The authors

Text



Rudi Miel

Born in Tournai, in 1965, Rudi Miel has a degree in journalism. Communications consultant and comic book scriptwriter, he is the co-author of *Les eaux blessées* (*Troubled waters*), published by the European Parliament, which won the award for best use of comic books in advertising at Angoulême in 2003. He wrote the text for *L'arbre des deux printemps* (*Tree of the two springs*) (illustrated by Will & Co — published by Le Lombard), which won the award for best foreign comic book at Sobreda (Portugal) in 2001. Along with C. Cuadra and P. Teng, Rudi Miel is also co-author of *L'ordre impair* (*Odd order*) (Le Lombard), which was published in full at the end of 2009.

Illustrations



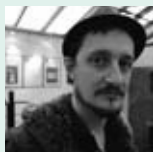
Christian Durieux

Born in Brussels, in 1965, Christian Durieux published his first comic book in 1990, based on a script written by Jean Dufaux, published by Glénat (Avel). Designer and scriptwriter, he explores different genres and styles through various collaborations, successfully combining his ability to write and illustrate with a sense of delight. In particular, he has authored the comic book *Les gens honnêtes* (*The honest people*) (text by Gibrat), published by Dupuis, and the comic book *Le pont* (*The bridge*), published by Futuropolis in 2009. Christian Durieux is currently living in Gironde (France).



Gihef

Born in Belgium, in 1974, Gihef wrote his first comic book, *RIP Ltd*, with Jean-Christophe Derrien in 2001. This was directly followed by the publication of the four-part comic book *Enchaînés* (*Chained up*), published by Vents d'Ouest, with text by Callède, who went on to introduce him to the Dupuis publishing house, where he wrote *Haute sécurité* (*High security*), a thriller set in a prison environment, which saw him collaborating with Callède again. In 2009, he published *Mr Hollywood* (Dupuis), the first comic book in which he was involved as scriptwriter (illustrated by Eric Lenaerts).



Sylvain Savoia

Born in France, in 1969, Sylvain Savoia has been animating for the past five years an account of daily life in Poland during the 1980s, along with his scriptwriter partner. Seen through the eyes of a young girl, *Marzi* (Dupuis), and produced with great sensitivity, it tells the story of what life was like during the final years of communist Poland. This eclectic designer, who has published more than 15 comic books in a wide range of styles, also works as an illustrator in the area of communications, alongside the biggest international companies.



Vanyda

Of French and Laotian descent, Vanyda was born in 1979. It was during her studies at l'Académie des Beaux-Arts (the Academy of Fine Arts) at Tournai, where she specialised in comic books, that she met François Duprat, who wrote the scenes for Julie (colours by Virginie Vidal), and with whom she worked on the comic book *L'année du dragon* (*Year of the dragon*) (published by Carabas). In her comic books, she evokes an intimate and contemporary universe, similar to the one depicted in *L'immeuble d'en face* (*The building opposite*) (Boite à Bulles), where we follow the day-to-day lives of neighbours living on the same floor, or in the comic book, *'Celle que ...'* (*The one ...*) (Dargaud), which recounts the story of a young girl growing up and making the transition to secondary school.

European Commission

Take two

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2010 — 60 pp. — 17.5 x 24.5 cm

ISBN 978-92-79-13891-1

doi:10.2767/74407

How to obtain EU publications

Publications for sale:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- from your bookseller by quoting the title, publisher and/or ISBN number;
- by contacting one of our sales agents directly. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

Free publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- at the European Commission's representations or delegations. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://ec.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

TAKE TWO

Julie, Viktor, Pedro and Fianne do not believe in giving up!

Find out how these four individuals succeeded in picking themselves up and moving on thanks to the support they received from Europe. Inspired by true events, these four stories in comic strip format show that we can all bounce back with a little support and perseverance. You could easily find yourself in their shoes!

Illustrated with tact and sensitivity by Vanyda, Durieux, Savoia and Gihe and based on a text by Rudi Miel, *Take two* is a comic strip published by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission, on the initiative of the European Social Fund.

This comic book is available in all 23 official languages of the European Union.



ISBN 978-92-79-13891-1

