

NIRA



**Kaunitz &
Kaunitz
Prlja
Andronik**



Elma Kaunitz & Pavle Kaunitz

NIRA

RUBY RAY

INITIATION

AN ORDINARY STAIRWELL

NIRA VS. LONG PANTS AND HIGH HEELS

BRAVO NIRA!



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NIRA

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INTRODUCTION

Within the project “Initiative for Creative Dialogue and Education (ICDE)”, TPO Foundation launched the publishing of the comic book “NIRA” in order to bring the issue of human rights closer to young people, especially the teenagers. Former activities on the promotion of human rights and gender equality have mostly been directed towards women and young people. Guided by the idea that young people need to be the agents of change in the society through various activities, TPO Foundation has created a special material to encourage them to articulate human rights issues in their community.

As a form of expression which communicates the different messages by interweaving images and texts on human rights and their application, the comic book “NIRA” encourages the youth to learn, think, and work, thus combining creativity and civic activism.

The heroine of this comic book, Nira, authentically represents one of the models of an active young person and a conscious citizen who leads by example, daily showing courage and initiative for change in the society. She is aware of the difficulties encountered by the society in which she lives, but she resists the passive, inert, and uniform society which allows the violation of human rights through its silence and inactivity. Nira, courageous and persistent in her goals, raises her voice, not allowing the injustice and lawlessness to occur in her presence. She gains support from her friends through her ideas, wishes, and activism, and manages to change the attitudes of the environment.

Five episodes of the comic book “NIRA” will grab your attention and encourage you to think about your own work in your community. Learning that we must not be blind in the sight of injustice, “NIRA” will prompt us to re-examine our own responsibility towards ourselves and others.

TPO Foundation is grateful to all colleagues who have worked on the preparation of the comic book, as well as our donor, the Porticus Germany, who supported this project.

We hope that young people will find inspiration in Nira’s stories, and find the courage to act as active citizens on promoting and protecting human rights.

TPO Foundation team



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NIRA

in the episode
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NIRA

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OH DEAR GOD, I WONDER WHAT THE TESTS FOR ASSOCIATE JOURNALISTS WILL BE LIKE?

OH WELL, WHATEVER THEY TURN OUT TO BE, IT'S GOING TO BE OK.



I AM READY. TODAY IS MY DAY!



YOU HAVE A FEW MORE MINUTES LEFT, SO YOU SHOULD BE FINISHING UP.



DONE ALREADY?

YES... HERE YOU GO.

GOOD. PLEASE REPORT TO THE COPY EDITOR.

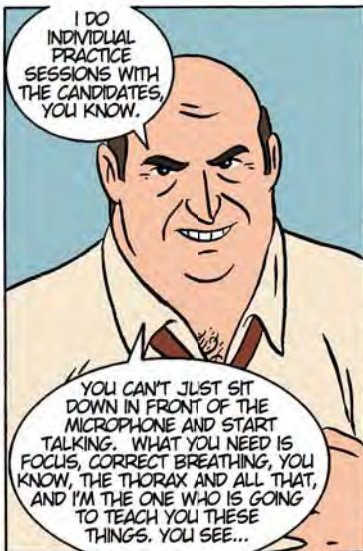






INTERESTING, INTERESTING...

IF YOU WANT THIS JOB THAT MUCH, AND I BELIEVE YOU DO, YOU'RE ALL IN NEED OF A JOB NOWADAYS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO THROUGH A FEW MORE TESTS AND EXERCISES...



I DO INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE SESSIONS WITH THE CANDIDATES, YOU KNOW.

YOU CAN'T JUST SIT DOWN IN FRONT OF THE MICROPHONE AND START TALKING. WHAT YOU NEED IS FOCUS, CORRECT BREATHING, YOU KNOW, THE THORAX AND ALL THAT, AND I'M THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO TEACH YOU THESE THINGS. YOU SEE...



SIR, I HAVE TO BE IN THE NEWSROOM IN THREE MINUTES...

BASTARD... I HATE SLEAZEBALLS LIKE HIM! I HAVE TO TELL HARLIN WHAT HAPPENED HERE...



AFTER A WHILE

I'M LOOKING AT YOUR TEST SCORES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND I MUST SAY YOU ARE ALL EXCELLENT... IF I COULD, I WOULD HIRE YOU ALL STRAIGHT AWAY...

UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE WE HAVE ONLY TWO AVAILABLE POSITIONS YOU, NIRA, AND YOU, BORO, CAN BEGIN WORKING STRAIGHT AWAY.



NIRA CAN'T GO IN FRONT OF THE MICROPHONE YET. SHE'S NOT READY. SHE HAS TO WORK WITH ME... ONE-ON-ONE...



I PASSED ALL THE TESTS AND IF SOMEONE HERE THINKS I'LL SLEEP WITH HIM TO GET THIS JOB THEN THEY ARE SADLY MISTAKEN.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

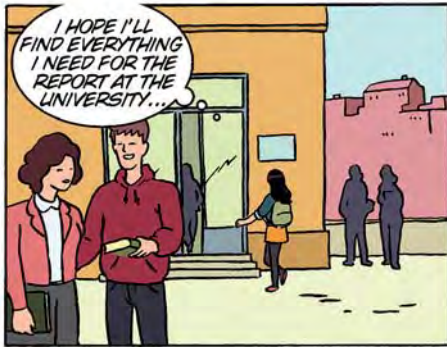


NOTHING, I'M JUST SAYING!

IF I ACHIEVED SATISFACTORY SCORES ON THE TESTS, THEN HIRE ME AND GIVE ME A CHANCE. I'M NOT PREPARED TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT, MR. CHIEF COPY EDITOR.

AS FAR AS THIS GIRL HERE IS CONCERNED, I'M ONLY GIVING MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION... I'M THE CHIEF COPY-EDITOR. AND NO ONE CAN GO ON THE AIR WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

AND I AM, AS YOU KNOW, THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THIS PROGRAM AND MY WORD IS FINAL... WE WILL DISCUSS YOUR "INDIVIDUAL" TRAINING METHODS ELSEWHERE...













ME? YOU'RE KIDDING, I'M DYING TO KNOW. WHY ARE YOU QUIET? TELL ME...

SO THERE I WAS, LOOKING FOR THE OLD YEARBOOKS, AND THEY SENT ME INTO THE BASEMENT. FOUND THEM, BUT I ALSO FOUND A REALLY OLD COMPUTER. IT WAS ANCIENT. I MANAGED TO TURN IT ON, BUT ALL IT DID WAS SIT THERE, HUMMING, AND ITS LIGHTS WERE B-LINKING.



I TURNED IT OFF AND WALKED OUT, AND SAW THAT MY WATCH WASN'T WORKING. MY PHONE ALSO WENT CRAZY. LOOK!



I TOLD YOU TO REPLACE THIS OLD THING A LONG TIME AGO...

WAIT... INTERESTING... DID YOU MAKE LEONARDO YOUR DISPLAY PICTURE?



THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. YOU KNOW I HAD THE LITTLE LABRADOR ON IT, AND NOW THIS GUY'S PICTURE IS ON THERE. ALSO, LOOK AT MY CONTACTS.



THAT'S WEIRD! I KNOW YOU HAD THE DOG ON THERE. WHERE DID ALL THESE GIRLS COME FROM?

WHERE ARE ALL YOUR FRIENDS' NUMBERS? WHERE'S MY NUMBER, YOU USED TO HAVE MY NUMBER.

THIS IS ALL WAY TOO CREEPY FOR ME.

WAIT A MINUTE, LET ME HOOK THIS UP TO MY PC. OH MY GOD, COME SEE THIS! THIS IS INSANE!



AH... THERE YOU ARE! IT WAS ABOUT TIME, NIRA! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR QUITE A WHILE.

NIRA

in the episode

INITIATION!

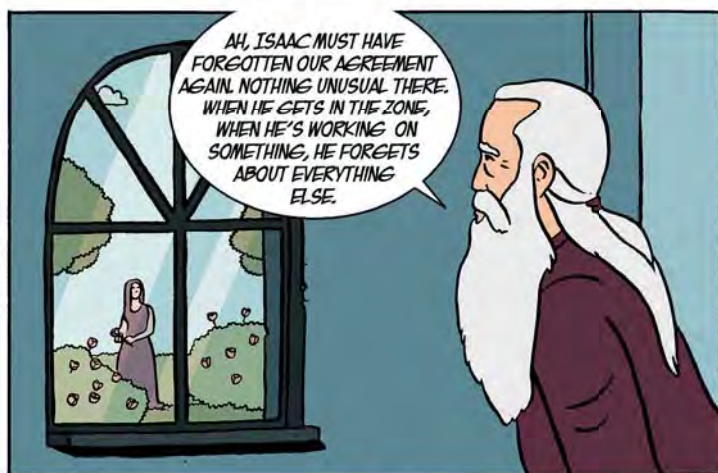


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Andronik



NIRA

in the episode
INITIATION!





HARUN? I'VE ONLY HEARD OF HARUN AL-RASHID, BUT HE'S NOT ONE OF US. AREN'T YOU ALONE?

NO. I'M HERE AT MY FRIEND HARUN'S, COMPUTER WIZZARD.

MY MOBILE IS ACTING STRANGE, YOUR FACE AND SOME OTHER STUFF APPEARED ON THE SCREEN, SO I ASKED HIM TO CHECK WHAT'S HAPPENING.



THEN WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

FOLLOWING YOUR INITIATION, OUR MEETING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, TOO MANY COOKS SPOILS THE BROTH.

INITIATION! WHAT INITIATION? WILL SOMEONE FINALLY EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT IS GOING ON?



OKAY NIRA, LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY. A FEW OF US, WE ARE - HOW DO YOU SAY THAT NOWADAYS - AN INFORMAL GROUP, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IF YOU WILL.



EACH ONE OF US IN THEIR OWN WAY, AS WELL AS ALL OF US TOGETHER, WE WORK ON CORRECTING INJUSTICES DONE TO PEOPLE FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, AND NOT ONLY THAT.

BUT YOU'VE BEEN DEAD FOR AGES, YOU DO NOT EXIST, YOU ARE DUST AND ASHES. SO, HOW ARE YOU WORKING ON...



OUR PHYSICAL BODIES ARE DEAD, BUT OUR SPIRIT IS NOT. IT ACCUMULATES AROUND THE EARTH FROM THE INCEPTION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES AND REPRESENTS... LET'S CALL IT A PLANETARY, SPIRITUAL AURA.

IN CONJUNCTION AND WITH THE HELP OF THE COSMIC CREATIVE FORCE, IT ALLOWS US THAT WE REMAIN ACTIVE EVEN AFTER OUR PHYSICAL DEATH. DURING OUR LIVES, ALL OF US LEFT SOMETHING TO GENERATIONS THAT CAME AFTER US...

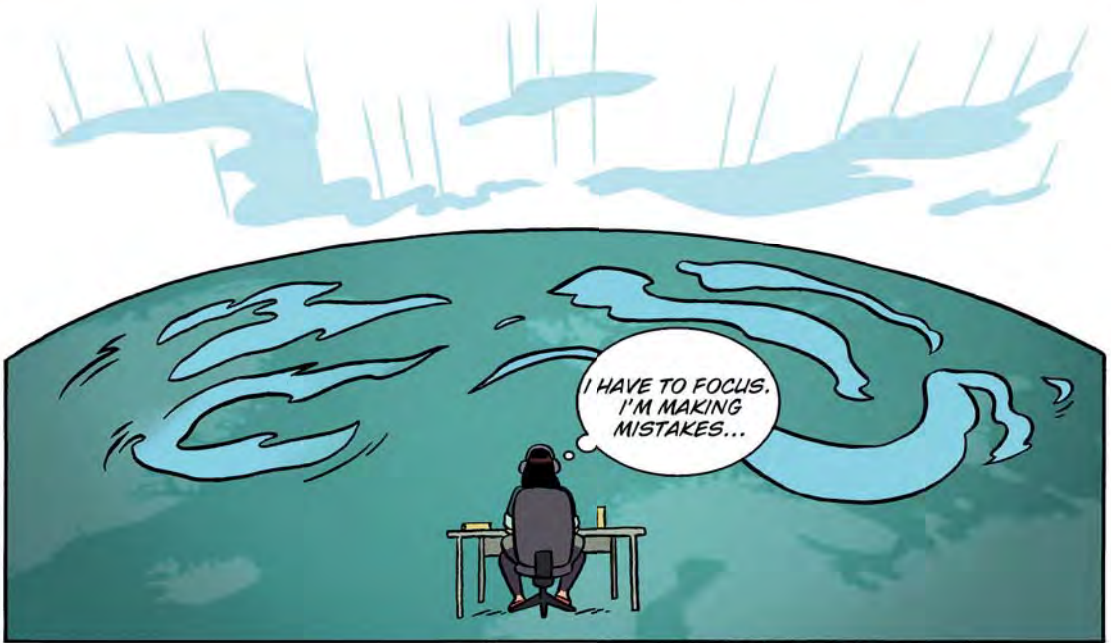
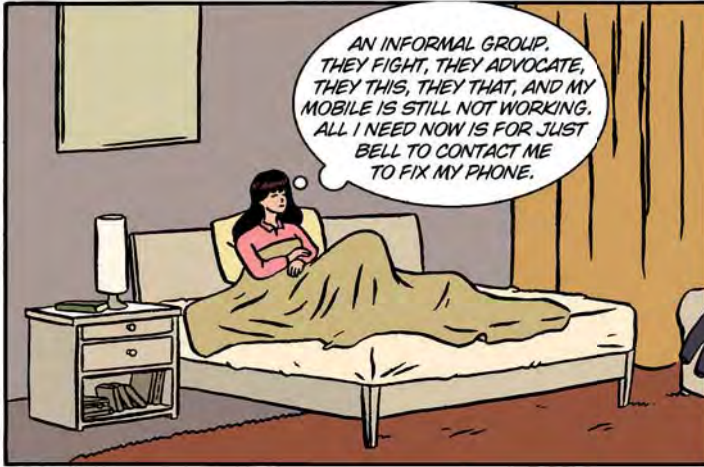


...I LEFT A FEW PAINTINGS AND A MULTITUDE OF INVENTIONS, ISAAC LEFT HIS LAWS OF MECHANICS AND THE REFLECTING TELESCOPE, ALBERT - HIS THEORY OF RELATIVITY, NIKOLA... AH, WELL, NIKOLA IS A SPECIAL STORY. WITHOUT TESLA, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE AS EASILY

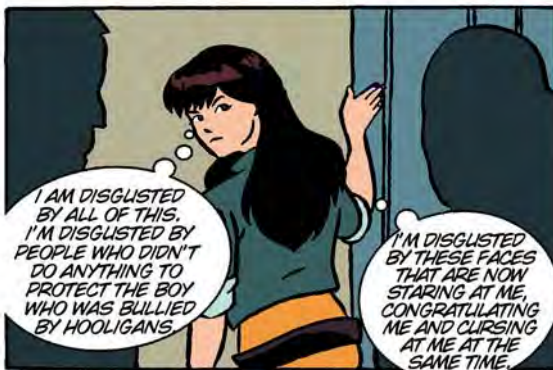


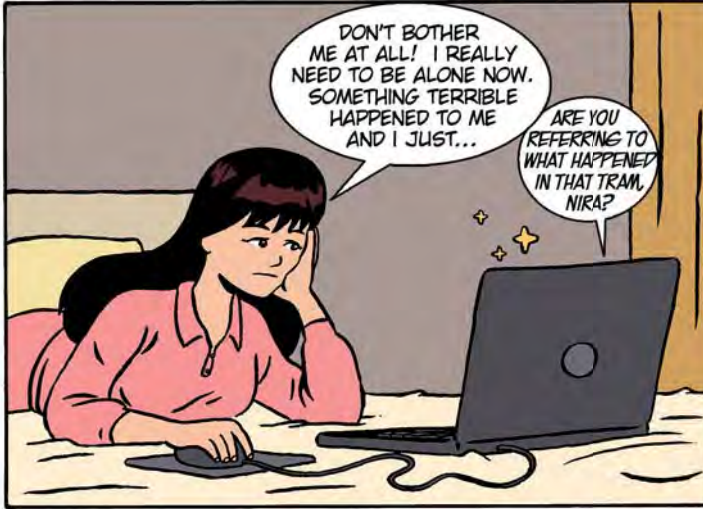
OH, GOD! MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO BURST FROM ALL OF THIS AND FROM THIS INCREDIBLE STORY. MR. LEONARDO, OR WHOEVER YOU MIGHT BE, I'M TIRED, TOO TIRED, AND I NEED A BREAK AND SOME TIME TO SORT ALL OF THIS INTO MY INTERNAL FILES, IF THAT IS EVEN POSSIBLE.

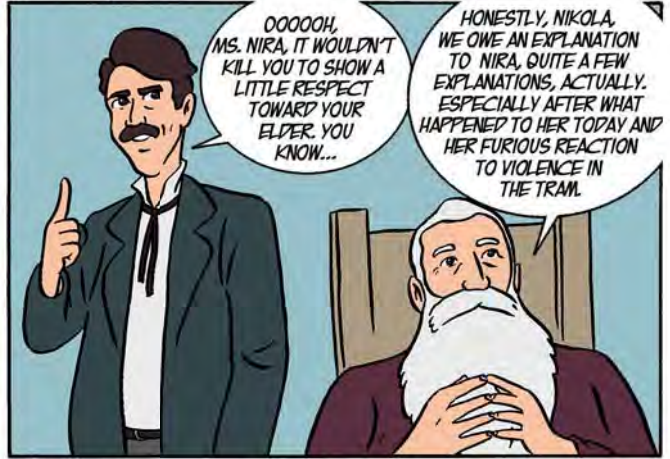
THAT'S OK, NIRA. DON'T FORGET TO WRITE YOUR STORY ABOUT THE YEARBOOKS, AND I WILL BE IN TOUCH AFTER YOU'VE RESTED. SWEET DREAMS.

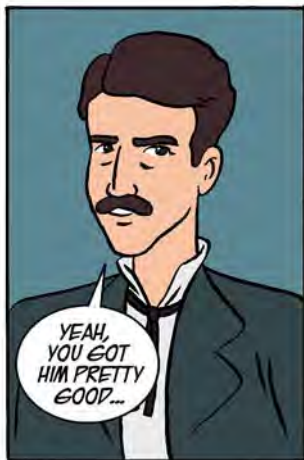




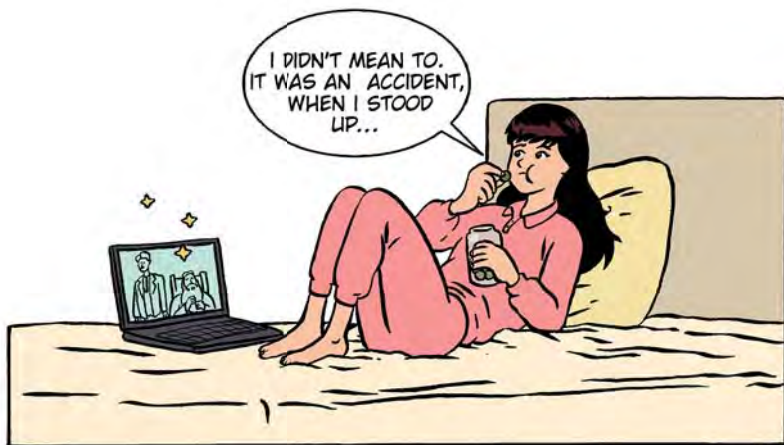








YEAH, YOU GOT HIM PRETTY GOOP...



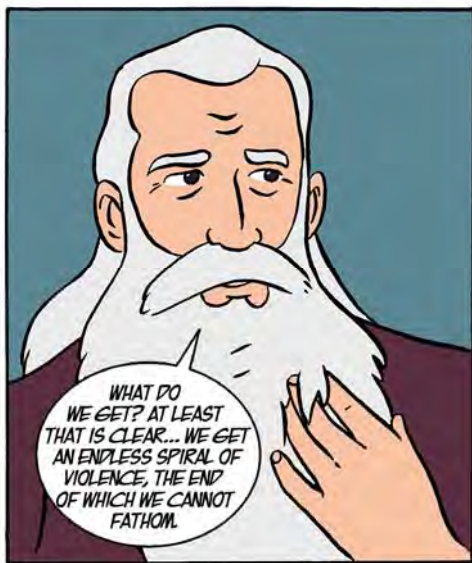
I DIDN'T MEAN TO. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, WHEN I STOOD UP...



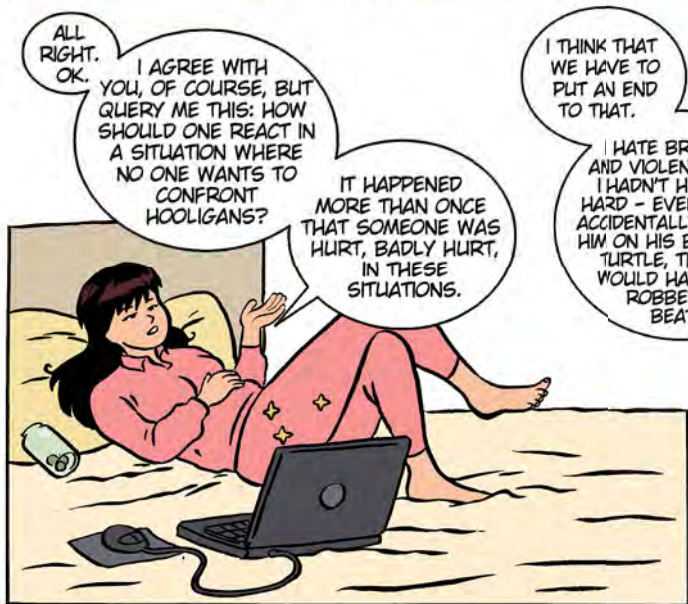
I KNOW, BUT I DON'T REALLY FEEL SORRY THAT YOU DID IT... HE DESERVED A BEAT!...

HOLD ON THERE, NIK! I HOPE YOU DON'T MEAN TO JUSTIFY RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE, BUT... HMM... YES VIOLENCE ON TOP OF VIOLENCE, AND WHAT DO WE GET?



WHAT DO WE GET? AT LEAST THAT IS CLEAR... WE GET AN ENDLESS SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE, THE END OF WHICH WE CANNOT FATHOM.



ALL RIGHT. OK.

I AGREE WITH YOU, OF COURSE, BUT QUERY ME THIS: HOW SHOULD ONE REACT IN A SITUATION WHERE NO ONE WANTS TO CONFRONT HOOLIGANS?

IT HAPPENED MORE THAN ONCE THAT SOMEONE WAS HURT, BADLY HURT, IN THESE SITUATIONS.

I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO PUT AN END TO THAT.

I HATE BRUTALITY AND VIOLENCE, BUT IF I HADN'T HIT HIM SO HARD - EVEN IF IT WAS ACCIDENTALLY - FLIPPING HIM ON HIS BACK LIKE A TURTLE, THAT BOY WOULD HAVE BEEN ROBBED AND BEATEN.

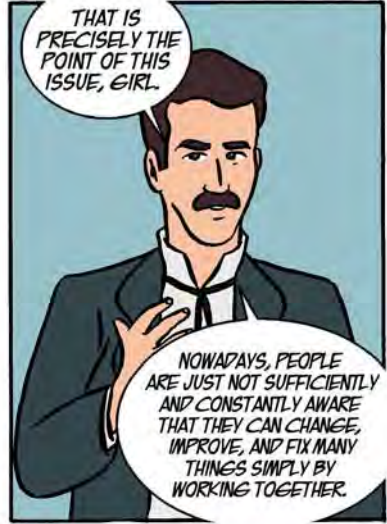


THEREFORE, I HOPE THAT WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT VIOLENCE IS NEVER A SOLUTION.



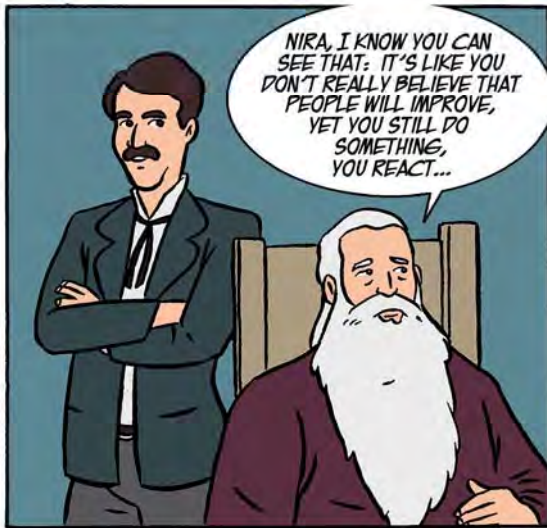
YOU REACTED, NIRA, AND THAT IS A GOOD THING, BUT YOU ALSO PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER. MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE POLICE WHEN YOU SAW WHAT'S GOING ON. COULD HAVE INCLUDED OTHER PASSENGERS, OR...

AH, POLICE. EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST. BY THE TIME THE POLICE WOULD ARRIVE, THEY WOULD HAVE BEATEN THAT BOY, OR SOMETHING EVEN WORSE WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. PERHAPS THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE COMPLETELY GONE OUT OF CONTROL.



THAT IS PRECISELY THE POINT OF THIS ISSUE, GIRL.

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE ARE JUST NOT SUFFICIENTLY AND CONSTANTLY AWARE THAT THEY CAN CHANGE, IMPROVE, AND FIX MANY THINGS SIMPLY BY WORKING TOGETHER.



NIRA, I KNOW YOU CAN SEE THAT: IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WILL IMPROVE, YET YOU STILL DO SOMETHING, YOU REACT...

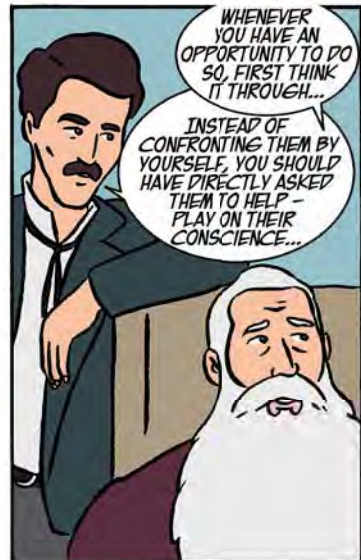


EXACTLY, LEO! THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE OTHERS, TO NOT ALLOW THEM TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES.

PERHAPS, IF YOU HAD SHOUTED SOMETHING LIKE "HELP, SAVE THIS CHILD, STOP THE TRAM, CALL THE POLICE!", YOU WOULD HAVE JOLTED THE PEOPLE FROM THEIR LETHARGY AND WOKEN IN THEM A NEED TO REACT.



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... I AGREE. PERHAPS PEOPLE ARE NOT SO BAD. SOME OF THEM WERE ASHAMED BECAUSE OF THE INJUSTICE AND NOW I BELIEVE THAT I COULD HAVE INSTIGATED THEM.



WHenever you have an opportunity to do so, first think it through...

INSTEAD OF CONFRONTING THEM BY YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD HAVE DIRECTLY ASKED THEM TO HELP - PLAY ON THEIR CONSCIENCE...



EXACTLY - CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONSCIENCE! YOU SHOULD WAKE UP THE LETHARGIC CONSCIENCE OF THE INERT ONES! I REMEMBER THAT, IN MY TIME, IT WAS...



NIRA

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in the episode

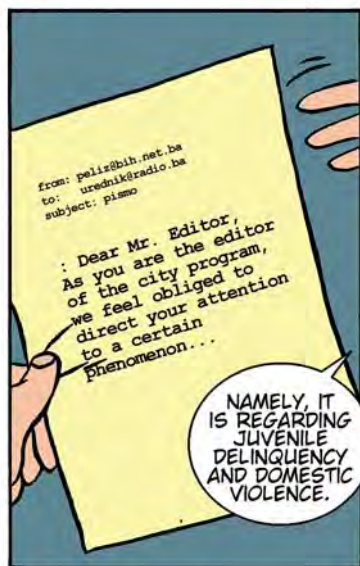
**AN ORDINARY
STAIRWELL**

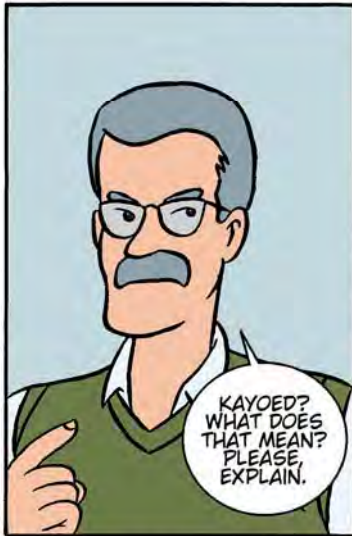




NIRA

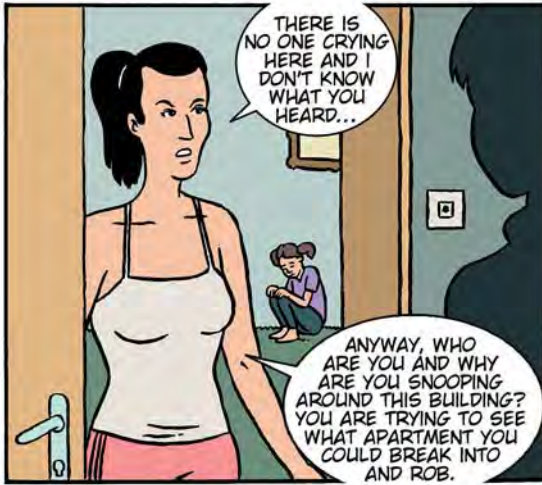
in the episode
AN ORDINARY STAIRWELL











THERE IS NO ONE CRYING HERE AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD...

ANYWAY, WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU SNOOPING AROUND THIS BUILDING? YOU ARE TRYING TO SEE WHAT APARTMENT YOU COULD BREAK INTO AND ROB.



TRAS!

GET LOST RIGHT NOW OR I WILL CALL THE POLICE!



THIS NEEDS TO BE REPORTED. I'M GOING TO REPORT IT, I HAVE TO REPORT IT, SHE IS GOING TO KILL THAT CHILD! GOD FORBID! IMAGINE THAT TOMORROW... IN THE NEWS-PAPERS... GOD FORBID! WHAT IF I READ THAT...! I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THAT!



DRRRRING!



GOOD AFTERNOON! ARE YOU NIRA? PLEASE, COME IN. WELCOME!

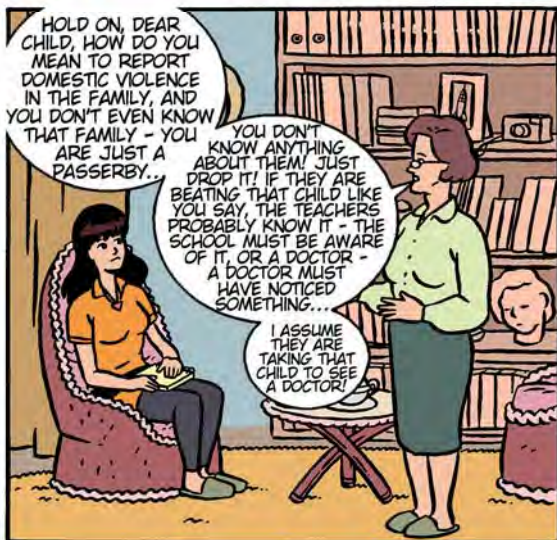
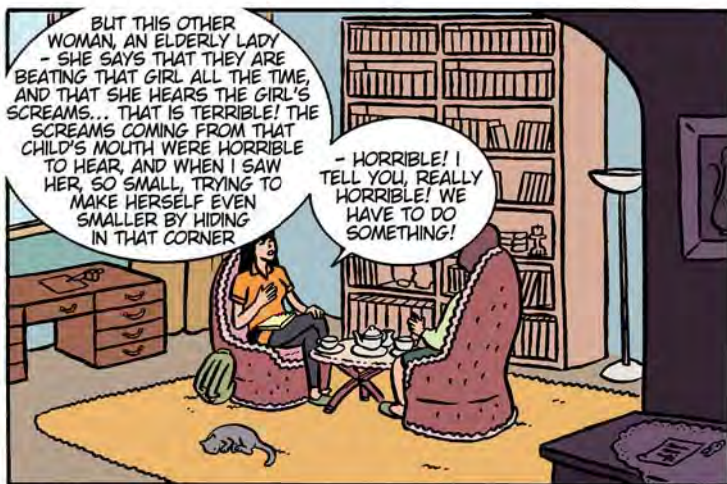


WELL... FIRST, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME AND FOR AGREEING TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW FOR OUR RADIO STATION. THE REASON FOR THIS INTERVIEW IS THE GOLD MEDAL AND THE FIRST PLACE YOU WON AT THE PRESTIGIOUS INNOVATION FAIR IN BRUSSELS AND...

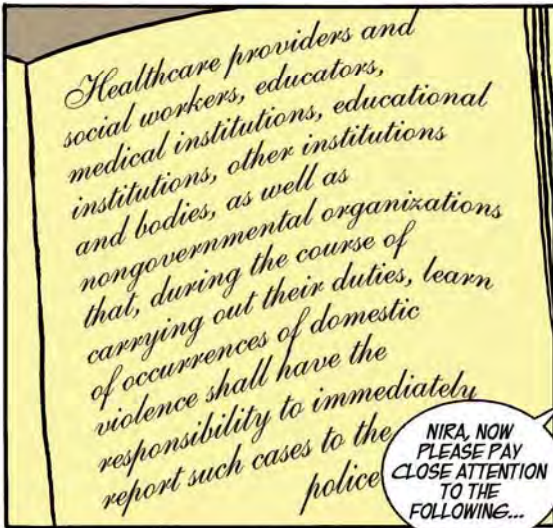
...IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME I PARTICIPATED AT THE EXPOSITION IN BRUSSELS, AND IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I WON THE FIRST PLACE...

DEAR GOD, WHO IS THAT GIRL AND IS THAT HER MOTHER? MAYBE I SHOULD ASK MRS. D., SHE SEEMS LIKE A NICE WOMAN, ALTHOUGH I AM HERE FOR A TOTALLY DIFFERENT REASON...











NIRA

in the episode

NIRA VS. LONG PANTS AND HIGH HEELS

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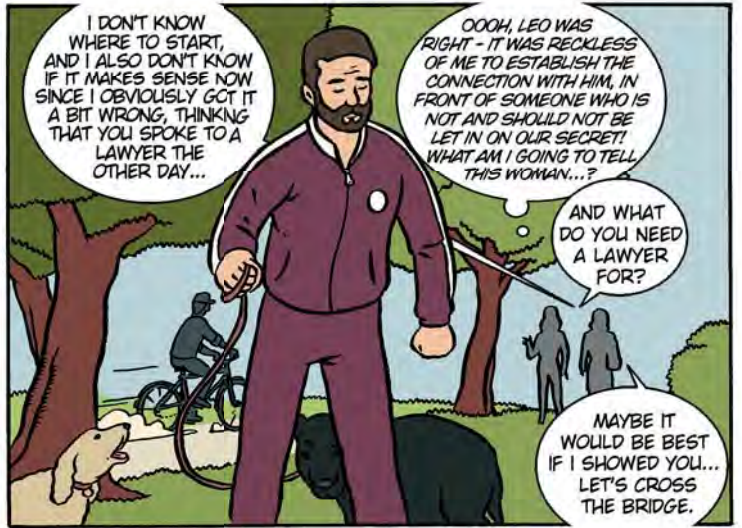


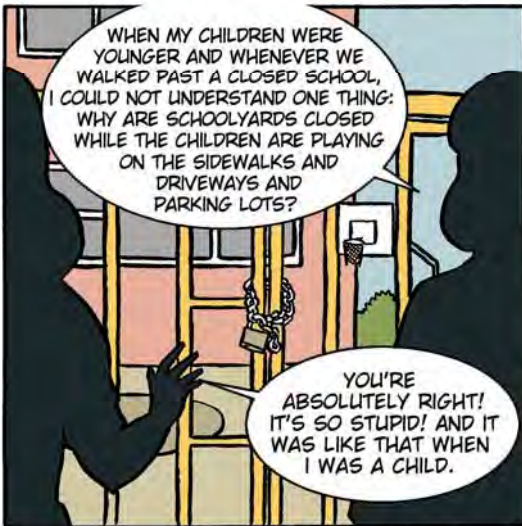
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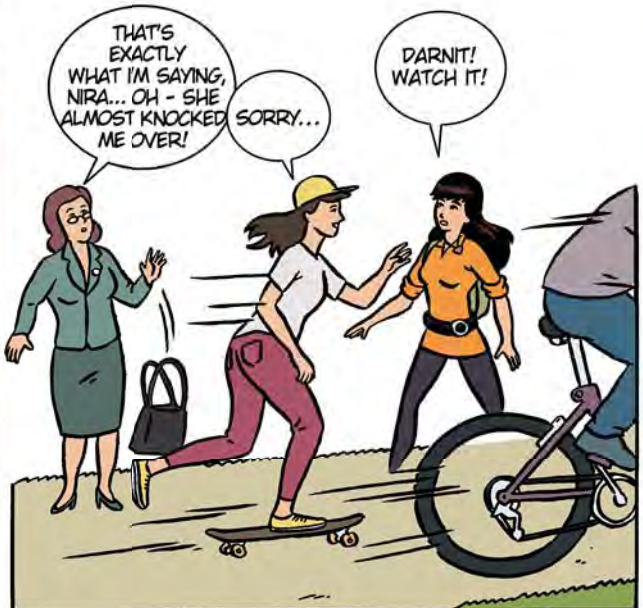
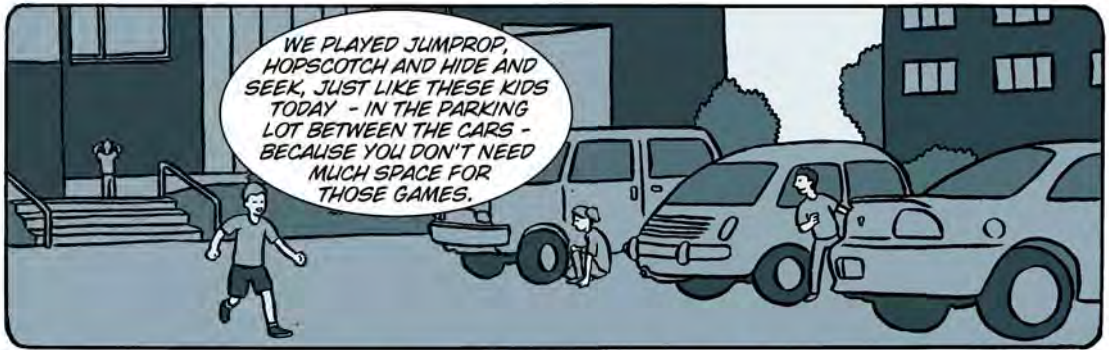
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NIRA VS. LONG PANTS AND HIGH HEELS









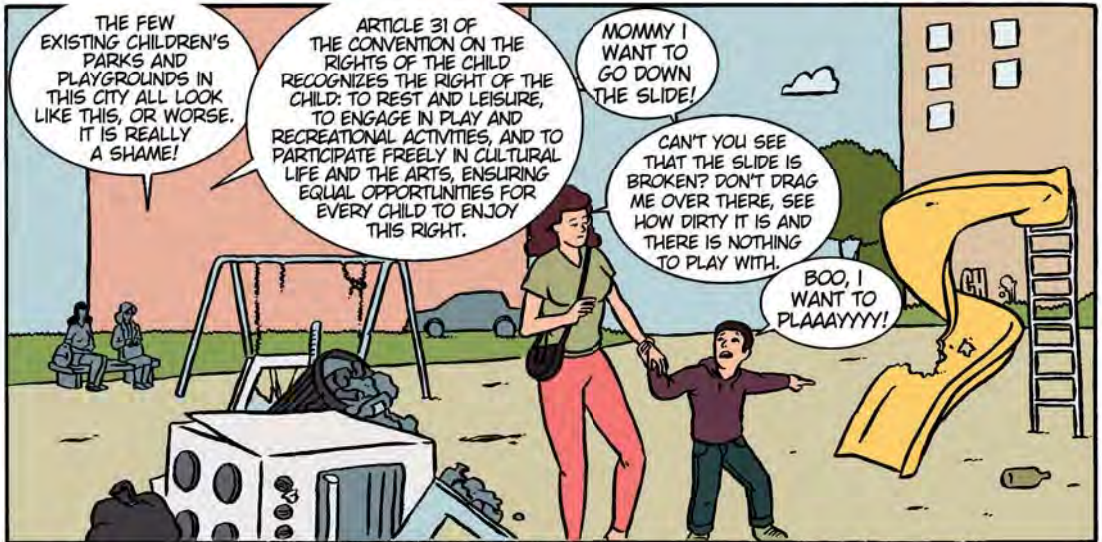


OH, IT'S OK, IT'S OK. LET'S GO LEFT HERE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING. BELIEVE ME NIRA, THAT GIRL IS INNOCENT. OUR CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO LITERALLY STEAL THE SPACE FOR THEMSELVES.



LOOK AT THIS PLAYGROUND. IT IS SO EMBARRASSINGLY SMALL. NO ONE CARES ABOUT IT. LOOK NIRA, ALL THE EQUIPMENT IS BROKEN.

THERE ARE NO CHILDREN HERE AND IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE ADULTS ARE GATHERING HERE - JUDGING BY THESE CIGARETTE BUTTS AND GLASS FROM BROKEN BOTTLES.



THE FEW EXISTING CHILDREN'S PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN THIS CITY ALL LOOK LIKE THIS, OR WORSE. IT IS REALLY A SHAME!

ARTICLE 31 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD: TO REST AND LEISURE, TO ENGAGE IN PLAY AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND TO PARTICIPATE FREELY IN CULTURAL LIFE AND THE ARTS, ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY CHILD TO ENJOY THIS RIGHT.

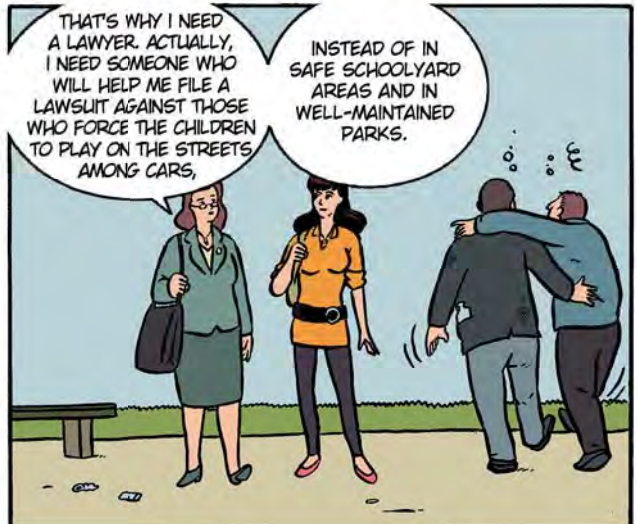
MOMMY I WANT TO GO DOWN THE SLIDE!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE SLIDE IS BROKEN? DON'T DRAG ME OVER THERE, SEE HOW DIRTY IT IS AND THERE IS NOTHING TO PLAY WITH.

BOO, I WANT TO PLAAAAYYY!



OUR SOCIETY TREATS CHILDREN LIKE PETS THAT WE RECEIVED AS A GIFT: WE CAN'T GET RID OF THEM IN ORDER NOT TO OFFEND THE ONE WHO GAVE THEM TO US, BUT WE'RE NOT REALLY PUTTING TOO MUCH EFFORT INTO TAKING CARE OF THEM.



THAT'S WHY I NEED A LAWYER. ACTUALLY, I NEED SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP ME FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST THOSE WHO FORCE THE CHILDREN TO PLAY ON THE STREETS AMONG CARS,

INSTEAD OF IN SAFE SCHOOLYARD AREAS AND IN WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS.





IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU INTO THE HOUSE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FRIEND...

YOU ARE NOT BEING SERIOUS! WHY DO YOU HAVE A POSTER OF LITTLE WHIRLIGIG JO, ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE WINDOW NO LESS?

HOW DO YOU KNOW OF LITTLE WHIRLIGIG JO? AND HERR GNUFL AND GONDOLA? THEY'RE MINE! ONLY MINE! MY MOM MADE THEM JUST FOR ME!



I AM NOT A POSTER...



IS LITTLE WHIRLIGIG JO YOUR FRIEND, LEO? WHY IS LITTLE WHIRLIGIG HERE?

...BUT MY FRIENDS - THEY ARE!

ALTHOUGH LITTLE WHIRLIGIG JO IS MY FRIEND, I WANT YOU TO MEET A LADY WHO IS A FRIEND TO GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN...



OH, THERE SHE IS - ASTRID LINDGREN!

COME, COME ON IN, LITTLE WHIRLIGIG, YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT COLD, BUT MR. DA VINCI IS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AND COULD CATCH A COLD!

ASTRID LINDGREN! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

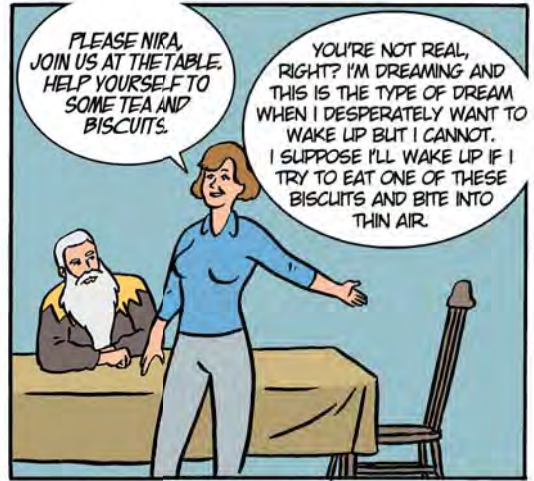


COME NIRA, WE HAVE TO ACT FAST - ASTRID IS RUSHING TO THE CONFERENCE REGARDING THE RATIFICATION OF THE "OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE (CRC OP3)".

SORRY? WHAT? WHERE SHOULD I GO? I AM HERE ALREADY - IN MY ROOM. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

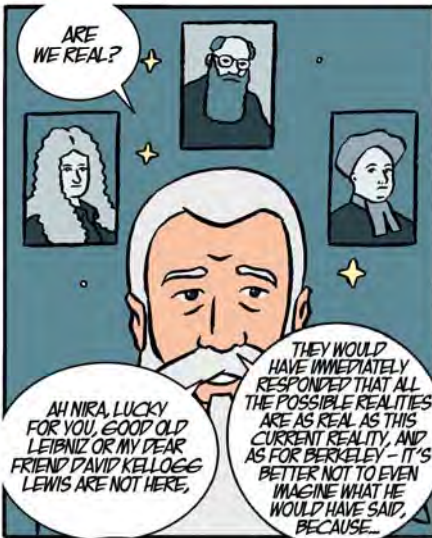


OH RIGHT - I FORGOT: YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO COME TO US; WE'LL COME TO YOU INSTEAD.



PLEASE NIRA, JOIN US AT THE TABLE. HELP YOURSELF TO SOME TEA AND BISCUITS.

YOU'RE NOT REAL, RIGHT? I'M DREAMING AND THIS IS THE TYPE OF DREAM WHEN I DESPERATELY WANT TO WAKE UP BUT I CANNOT. I SUPPOSE I'LL WAKE UP IF I TRY TO EAT ONE OF THESE BISCUITS AND BITE INTO THIN AIR.



ARE WE REAL?

AH NIRA, LUCKY FOR YOU, GOOD OLD LEIBNIZ OR MY DEAR FRIEND DAVID KELLOGG LEWIS ARE NOT HERE.

THEY WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT ALL THE POSSIBLE REALITIES ARE AS REAL AS THIS CURRENT REALITY, AND AS FOR BERKELEY - IT'S BETTER NOT TO EVEN IMAGINE WHAT HE WOULD HAVE SAID, BECAUSE...

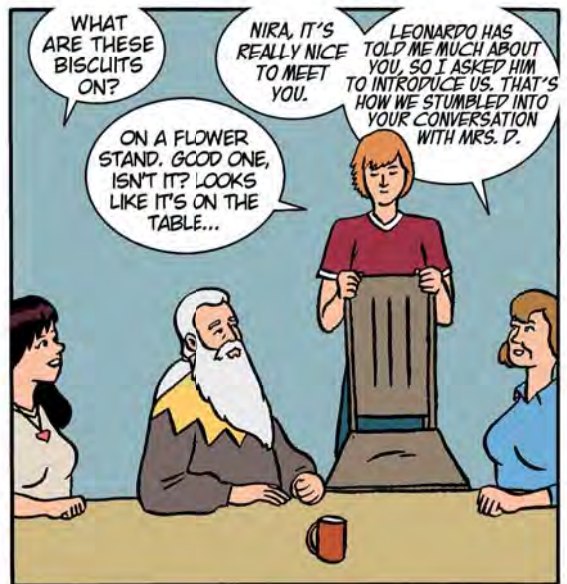


NIRA, THE BISCUITS ARE REAL, AS IS THE TEA IN A CUP ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF THE EMPTY CHAIR. THE REST OF US ARE JUST HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS - VERY SUCCESSFUL, THANKS TO YOUR FRIEND HARUN, WHO HAS MADE THE TEA AND BROUGHT BISCUITS.



HARUN, GOOD GRIEF, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BUT, YOU GAVE ME THE KEY TO COME TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR COMPUTER, INSTALL THE ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE, AND SO ON. WELL, WHEN I TURNED THE COMPUTER ON, LEO APPEARED, WE TALKED A BIT, AND THEN HE GAVE ME SOME GOOD ADVICE, AND THERE YOU GO - YOU NOW HAVE A HOLOGRAAAA!



WHAT ARE THESE BISCUITS ON?

NIRA, IT'S REALLY NICE TO MEET YOU.

LEONARDO HAS TOLD ME MUCH ABOUT YOU, SO I ASKED HIM TO INTRODUCE US. THAT'S HOW WE STUMBLED INTO YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MRS. D.

ON A FLOWER STAND. GOOD ONE, ISN'T IT? LOOKS LIKE IT'S ON THE TABLE...





NIRA

in the episode

BRAVO NIRA!

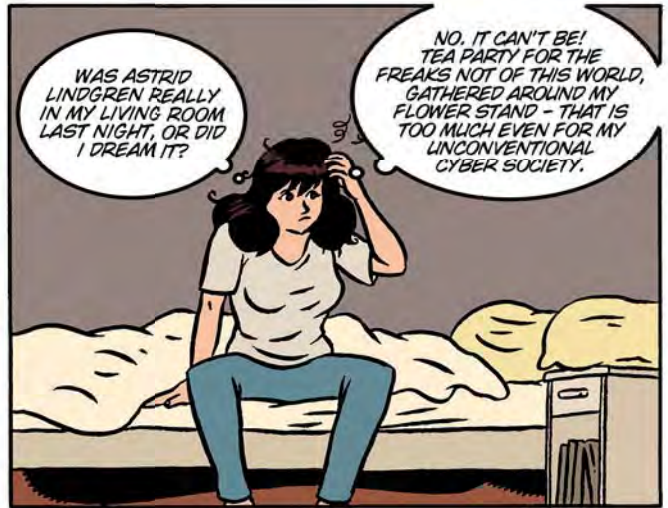
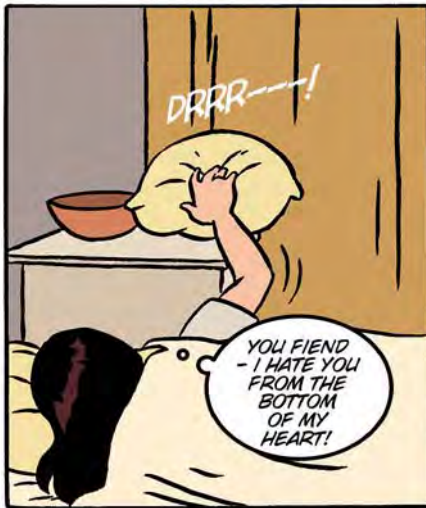
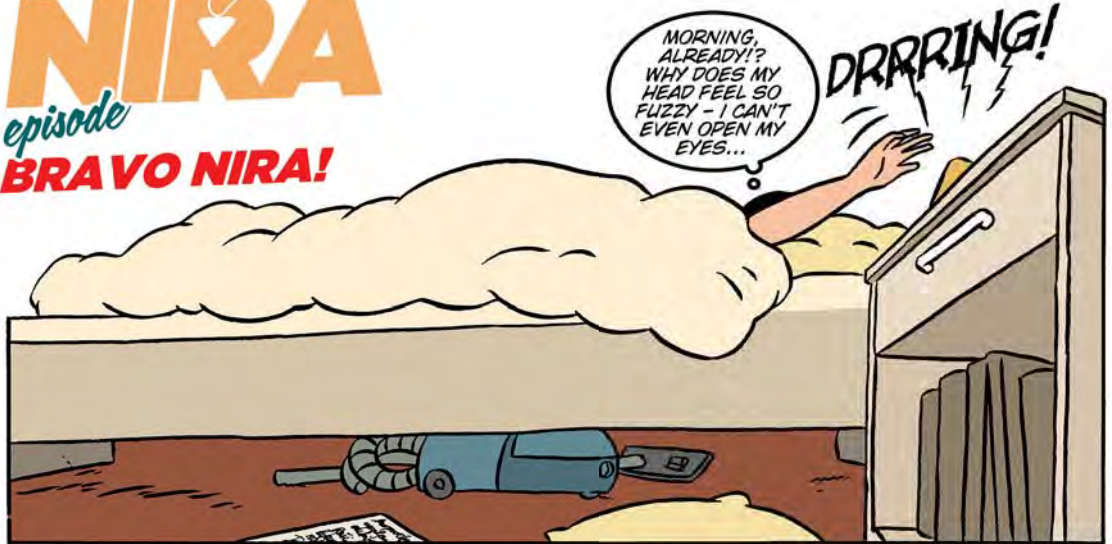
**Kaunitz &
Kaunitz
Prija
Andronik**





NIRA

episode
BRAVO NIRA!







I HATE WHEN YOU CALL ME JO-JO! LISTEN TO ME NIRA, I AM HERE BECAUSE LEONARDO ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU ON A LITTLE JOURNEY...

AND WHERE IS LEONARDO?

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN. SEE YOU IN THE AFTERNOON!

7:30

A FEW HOURS LATER.

OH, I AM REALLY TIRED. I WILL TAKE MY SOFT BLANKET AND CUDDLE UP HERE. I WILL TURN OFF THE PHONE AND MOBILE ...

NIRA, I AM AFRAID THAT WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR NAPPING.

WHAT AM I DOING ON THE TRAIN? WHERE ARE WE TRAVELLING TO?

LEO ASKED ME TO BE YOUR GUIDE AND TO SHOW YOU THINGS WHICH YOU CAN'T SEE FROM YOUR OFFICE AND YOUR COMFORTABLE APARTMENT.

I'M TAKING YOU TO VISIT A FAMILY...

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, LITTLE JO?

WE'LL VISIT ONE LITTLE GIRL, AN EIGHT-GRADER. SHE IS A VERY TALENTED MATHEMATICIAN.

WHAT MAKES THIS GIRL SO IMPORTANT, WHY MUST I SPEND MY DREAMS ON HER? I AM TIRED LITTLE JO...

YOU ARE DREAMING NIRA, AND YOUR DREAM LASTS FOR A FEW SECONDS

- TO BE PRECISE, ONLY SIX SECONDS, ACCORDING TO SCIENCE YOU WILL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO REST AFTER THIS SIX SECOND VISIT.

COME IN, COME IN! WELCOME! I'M TRYING TO START A FIRE, BUT THE BRANCHES ARE WET, WE DON'T HAVE PROPER FIREWOOD...

WE CAN'T CUT ANY MORE, THEY DON'T ALLOW IT, WE CAN ONLY PICK UP THE KINDLING THAT IS LEFT BEHIND, MY SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW GATHER THAT, THEY ARE IN WOODS RIGHT NOW, PICKING UP SCRAP WOOD.



YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE OF MY UNAP? SHE IS THE BRIGHTEST AMONG THE FOUR OF THEM AND SHE IS THE BEST STUDENT... SHE FINISHED ALL HER GRADES WITH STRAIGHT A'S, AND SHE HAS TOP GRADES IN SEVENTH GRADE NOW TOO.

UNA, LEAVE YOUR HOMEWORK FOR NOW, WE HAVE GUESTS, GO MAKE SOME COFFEE...



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT?

MATH.

WHERE DO YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

SHE GOES TO ANOTHER VILLAGE - 15 KM FROM HERE, 3 KILOMETRES TO THE STATION, ON FOOT. BUT HER PARENTS WANT TO TAKE HER OUT OF SCHOOL...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TAKE HER OUT?! HOW ARE THEY GOING TO TAKE HER OUT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? THAT IS AGAINST THE LAW!

AND WHY WOULD THEY TAKE HER OUT OF SCHOOL IN THE FIRST PLACE?



POVERTY, CHILD! POVERTY! HER FATHER LOST HIS JOB AND HER MOTHER IS NOT WORKING. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR PUTTING FOUR OF THEM THROUGH SCHOOL.

SHE FINISHED THE SEVENTH GRADE, TWO OF THEM ARE IN THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE, AND THE LITTLE ONE WILL START SCHOOL NEXT YEAR...



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IS FREE! IT'S MANDATORY, BY LAW, IT'S FREE BY LAW!



IS IT OR IS IT NOT ACCORDING TO THE LAW - I DO NOT KNOW! IT COULD SAY SO IN THE LAW - BUT IT IS NOT FREE!



HOW? WHAT ARE YOU PAYING FOR?

TRANSPORT TICKET, EQUIPMENT, BOOKS FOR SCHOOL, THEY ALSO NEED CLOTHES ...

IN ONE WORD, THEY HAVE TO BE EQUIPPED FOR SCHOOL AND THAT COST ...



HORRIBLE! MAYBE I COULD DO A STORY OR BRING LINA AND HER PARENTS TO THE STUDIO, INITIATE AN ACTION TO COLLECT THE MONEY.

THE ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE IN THE SAME BOAT, AND HOW MANY FAMILIES THAT CANNOT PROVIDE THE SO-CALLED FREE EDUCATION?



UNA IS A MATH GENIUS.

GORAN IS 9 YEARS OLD. HE COULD BECOME A WORLD RENOWNED PIANIST - IF HE ONLY HAD PROPER CONDITIONS FOR EDUCATION...

IF YOU WANT TO VISIT HIM, WE NEED TO GET OFF AT THIS STATION... THE BELL SIGNALLING THAT THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO START MOVING AGAIN IS RINGING ALREADY!



LET ME GO, LITTLE JO! I WON'T VISIT ANYONE ANYMORE!

I WANT TO WAKE UP, WHY IS IT STILL RINGING...?



I HOPE IT'S NOT LEO!!!

HELLO?

DID I WAKE YOU UP? NEVER MIND, I'LL BE AT YOUR PLACE IN 15 MINUTES AND I'M TAKING YOU OUT FOR COFFEE!



...AND THAT IS LINA'S STORY. AND SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. THIS COUNTRY BLATANTLY DISREGARDS ITS OBLIGATIONS - THE OBLIGATIONS IT ASSUMED WHEN IT SIGNED THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD...

THE ARTICLE 28 IS VERY CLEAR: "STATES PARTIES RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD TO EDUCATION, AND WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING THIS RIGHT PROGRESSIVELY AND ON THE BASIS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, THEY SHALL, IN PARTICULAR, MAKE PRIMARY EDUCATION COMPULSORY AND AVAILABLE FREE TO ALL", ETC., ETC.



AND NOW, OF COURSE, YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP THAT LITTLE GIRL ...

NOT JUST THAT GIRL. UNA IS A TALENTED MATHEMATICIAN, DINO IS A PIANIST...

