



KONRAD
ADENAUER
STIFTUNG
MEDIA PROGRAMME SEE



A cartoon illustration featuring a woman with long brown hair and a man with grey hair and glasses. The woman is in the foreground, looking slightly to the side with a determined expression. The man is behind her, looking forward. They are surrounded by stylized, splashing water or liquid. The background shows a city skyline with buildings and power lines against a sunset or sunrise sky with birds flying.

THE TRUTH HUNT

A DANGEROUS INVESTIGATION IN THE BALKANS



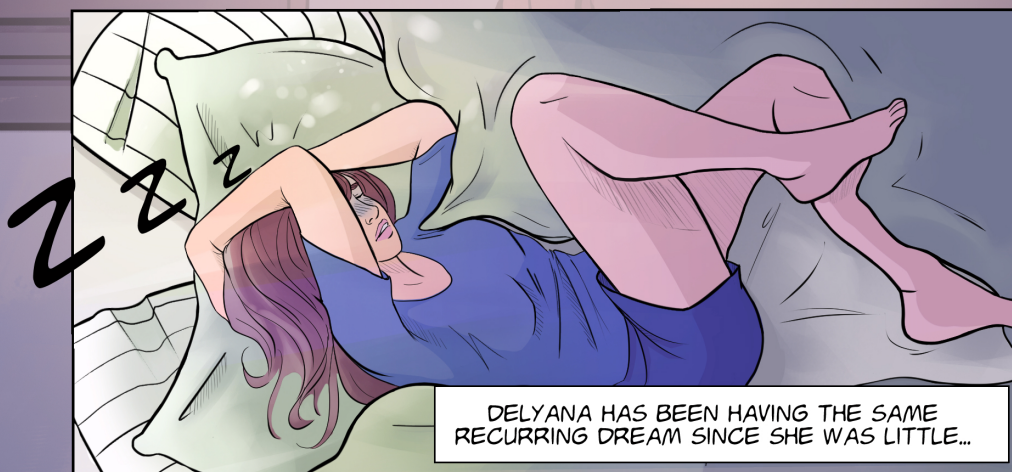
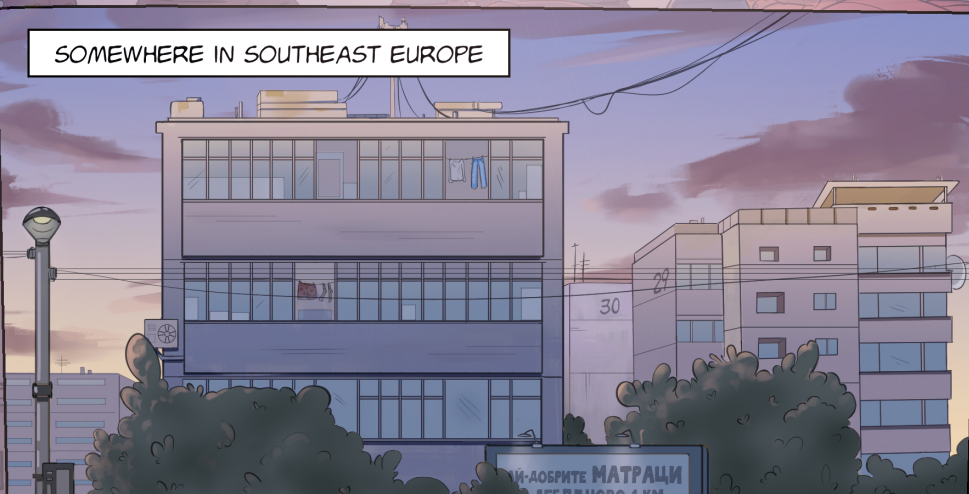
THE TRUTH HUNT

IN THIS STORY OF
PERSISTENT STRUGGLE IN THE
NAME OF TRUTH, A YOUNG JOURNALIST
JOINS FORCES WITH HER OLDER COLLEAGUE
IN UNCOVERING A COMPLICATED CORRUPTION
CASE THAT LEADS TO MANY DEAD ENDS.
WHEN THE WELFARE OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE
IS AT STAKE, IT TAKES TWO MODERN-DAY
HEROES TO SAVE THE DAY. BUT EVERY
HERO HAS AN ACHILLES' HEEL.

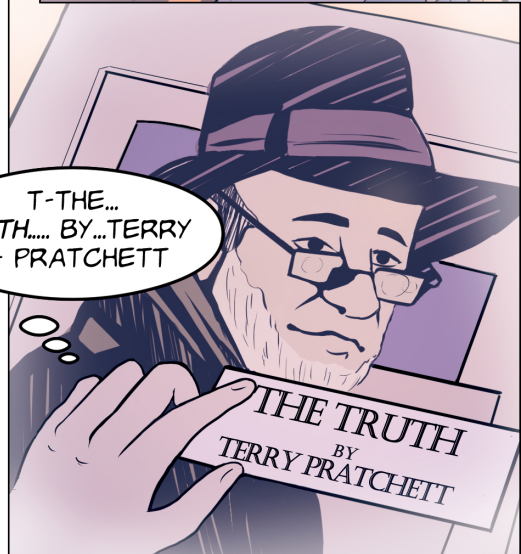
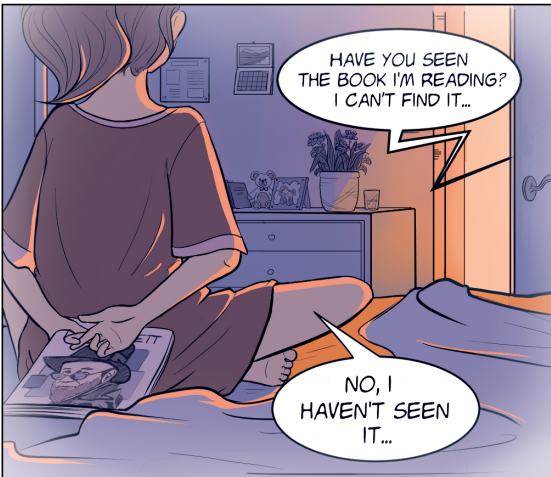
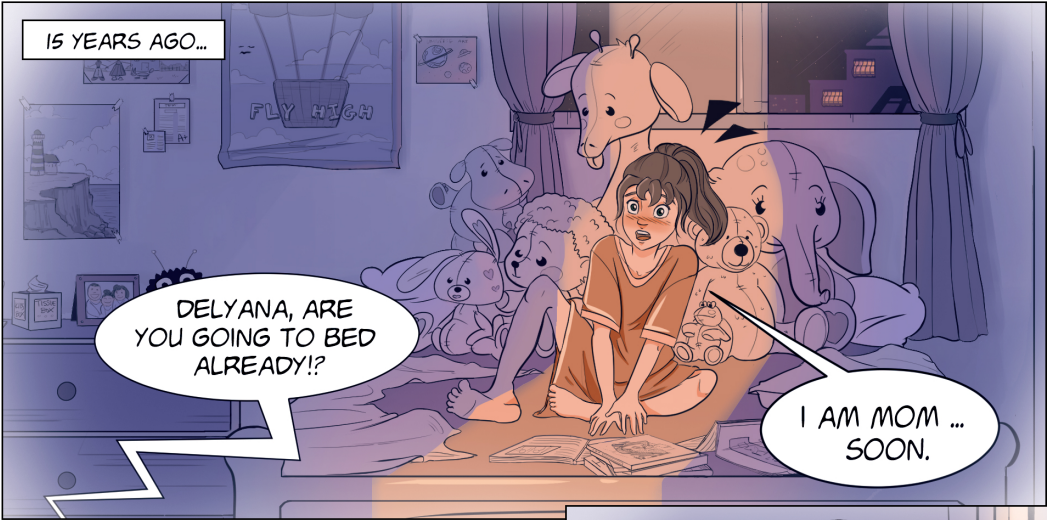
WITH THIS COMIC BOOK
THE MEDIA PROGRAMME SOUTH EAST EUROPE
OF THE KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG, WANTS TO
RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE SITUATION OF MEDIA
PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE AND
STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE WORKING CONDITIONS
OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA WORKERS IN
THIS REGION.

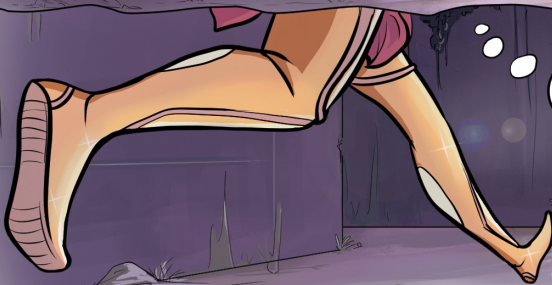
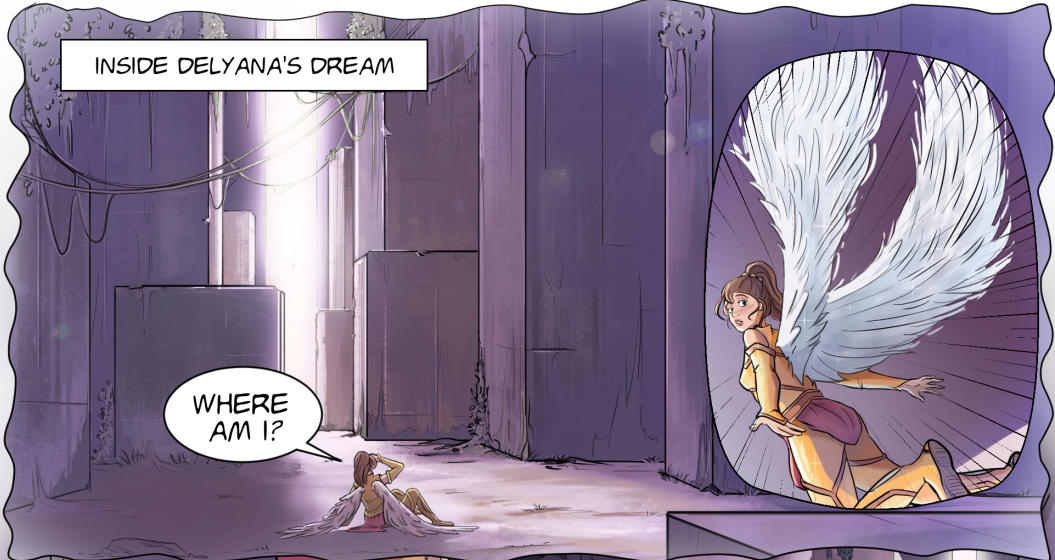
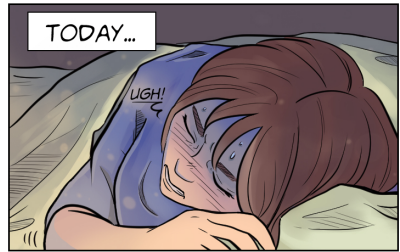
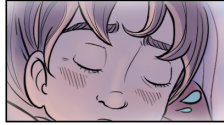
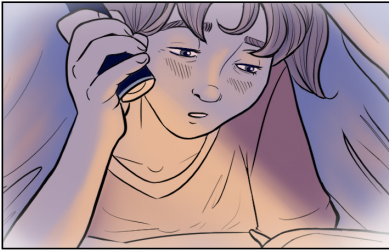


SOMEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

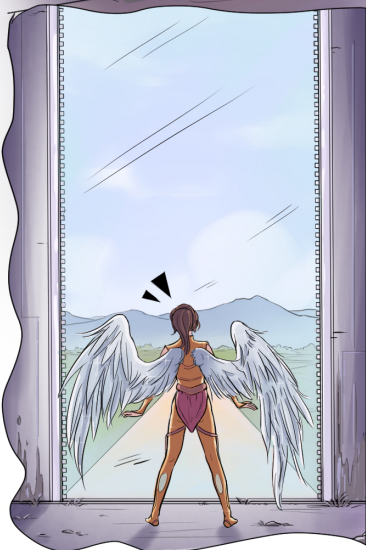


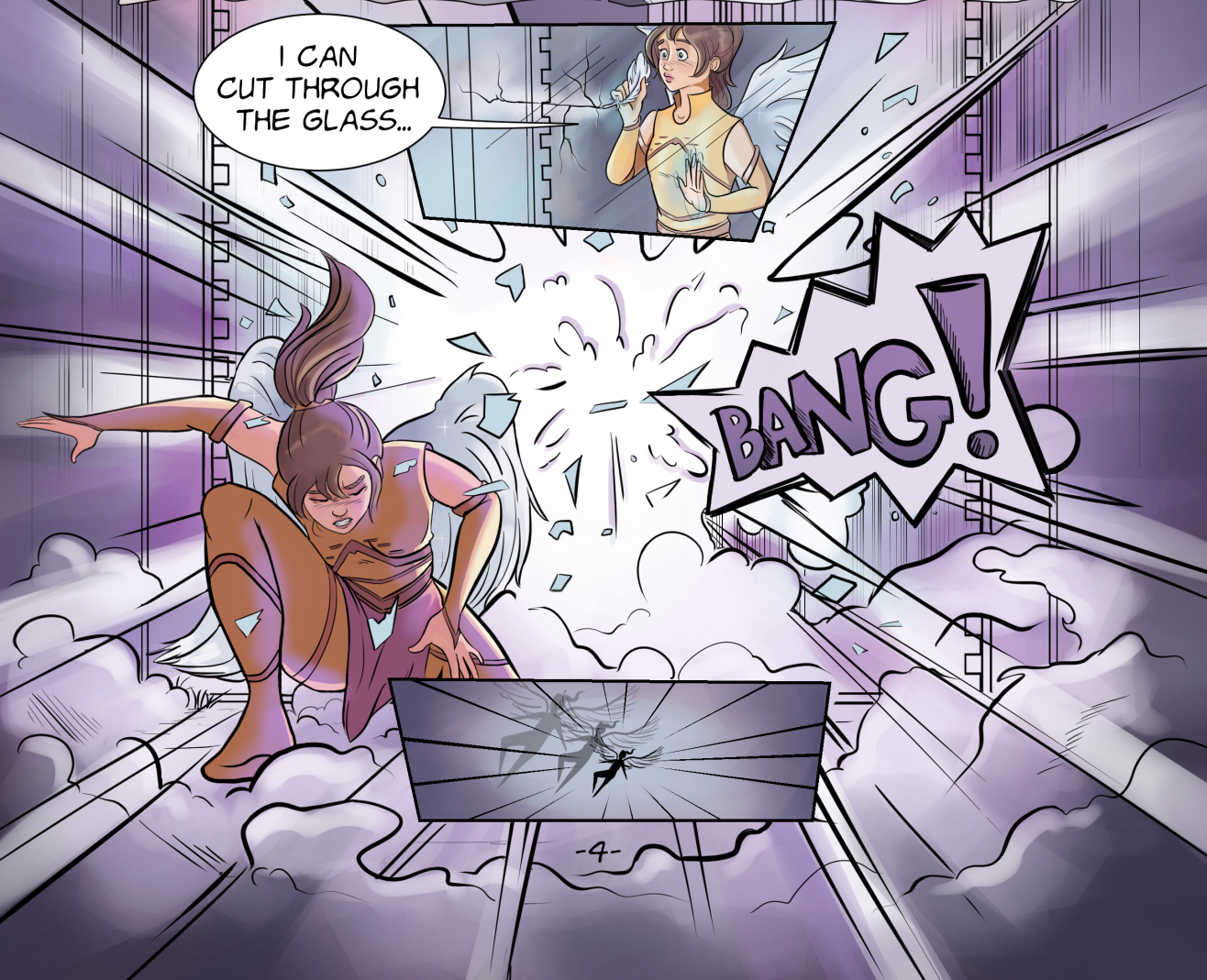
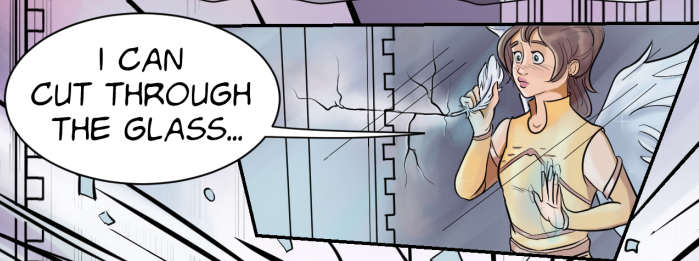
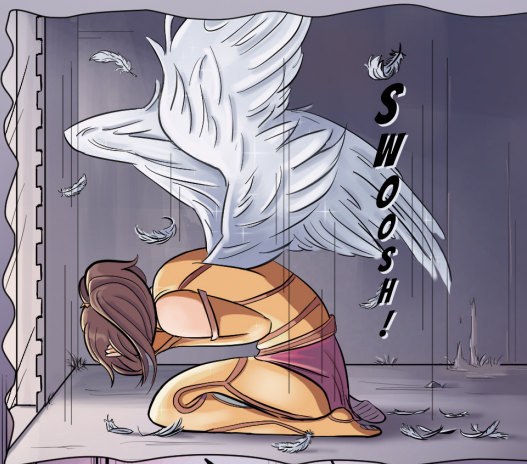
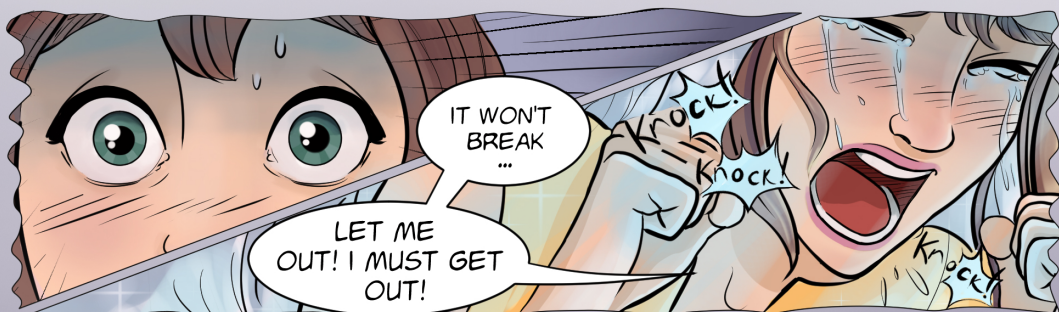
DELYANA HAS BEEN HAVING THE SAME RECURRING DREAM SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE...

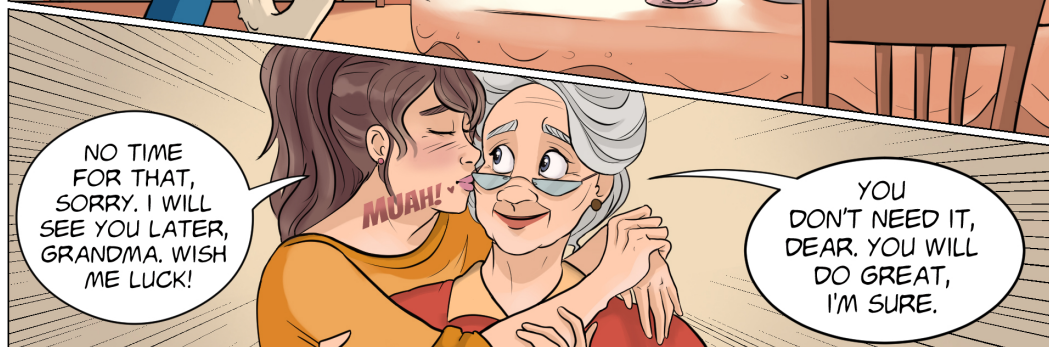
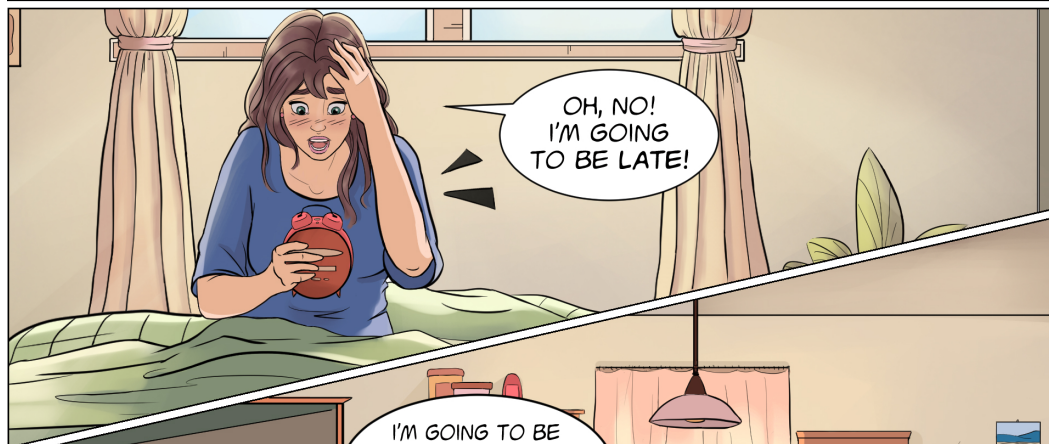
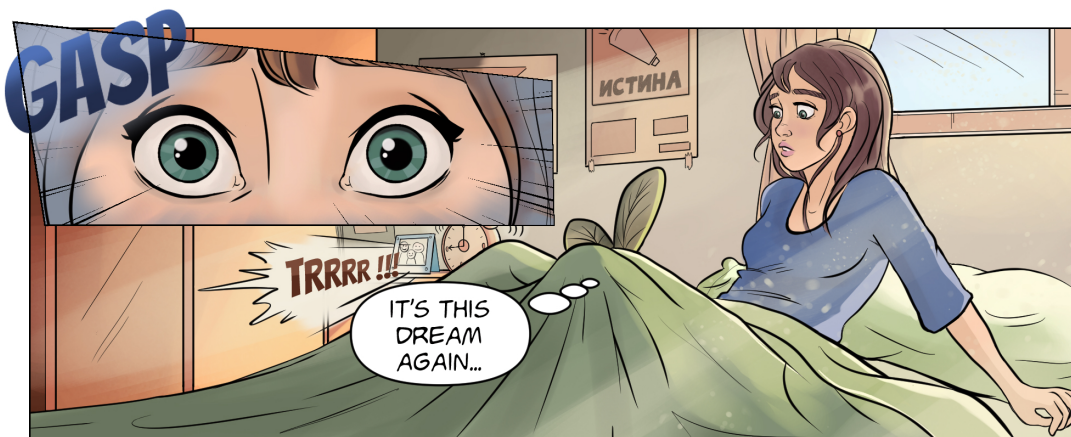


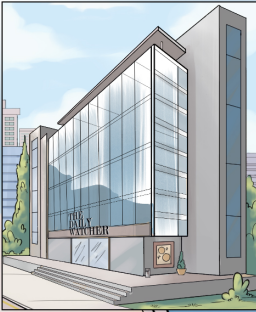


GET
OUT OF HERE
NOW!



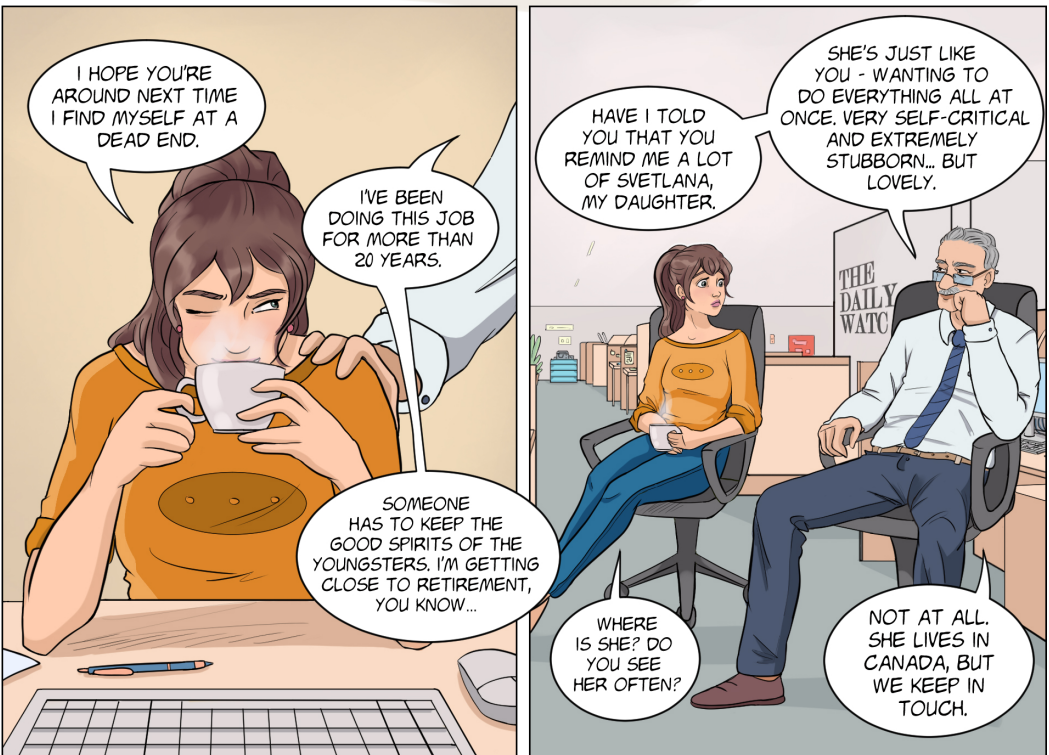
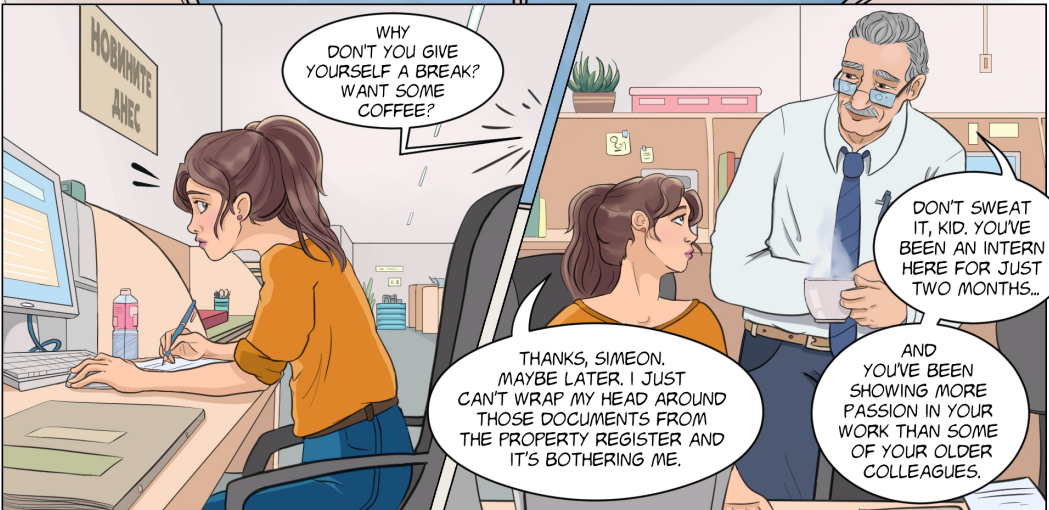


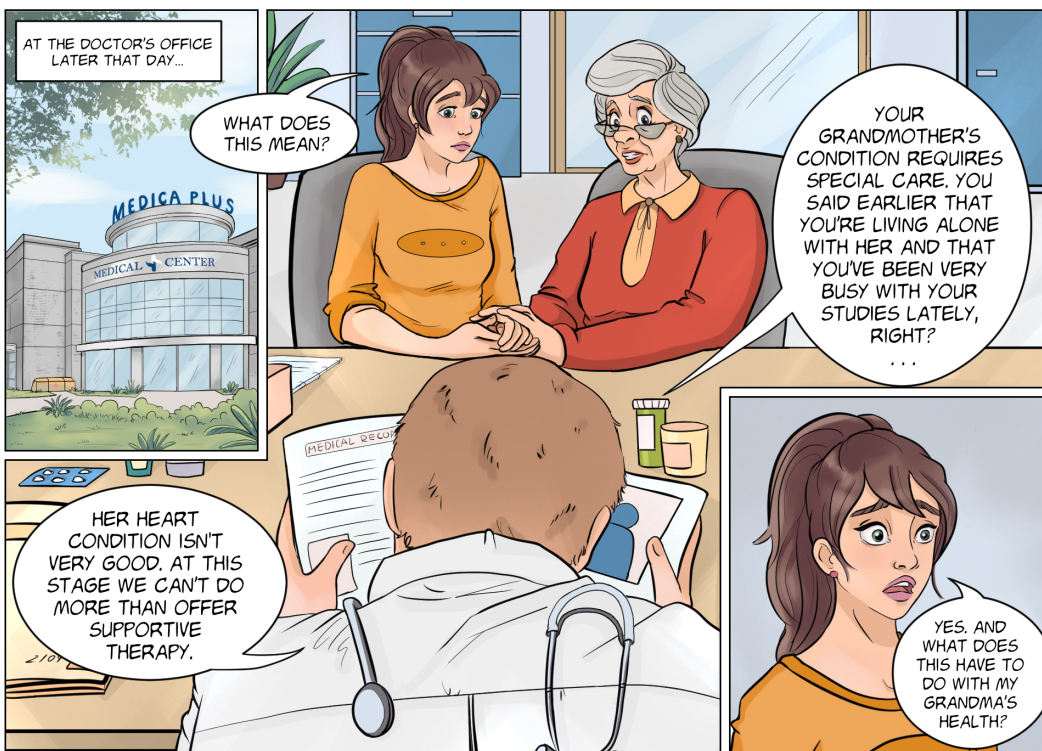
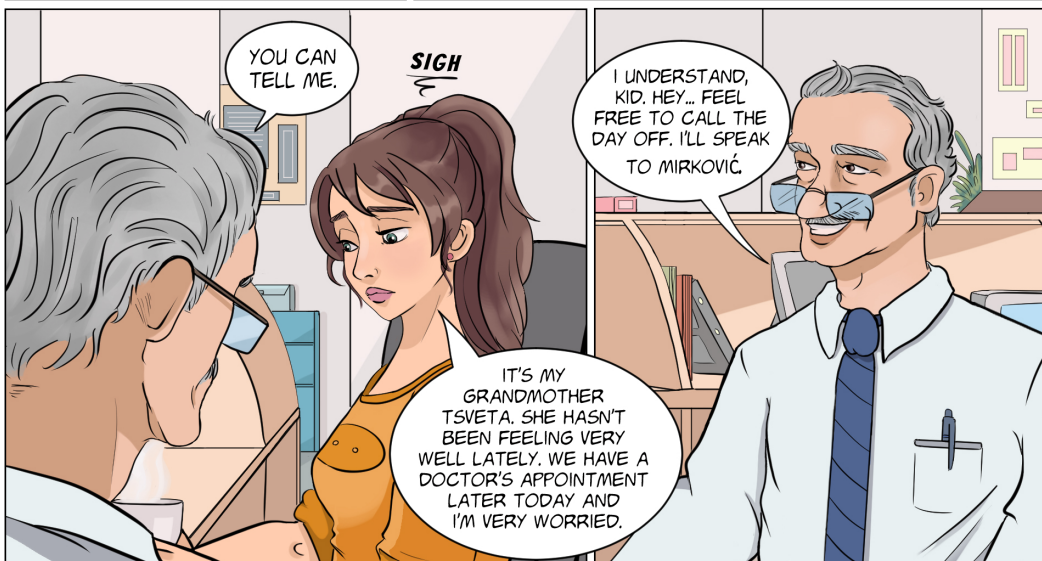
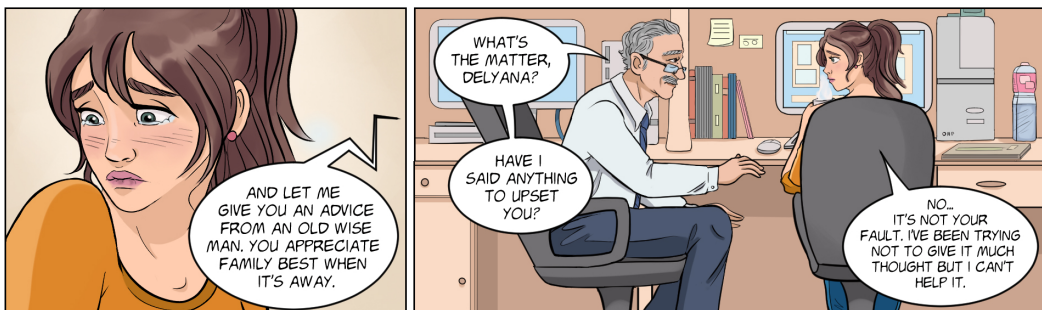


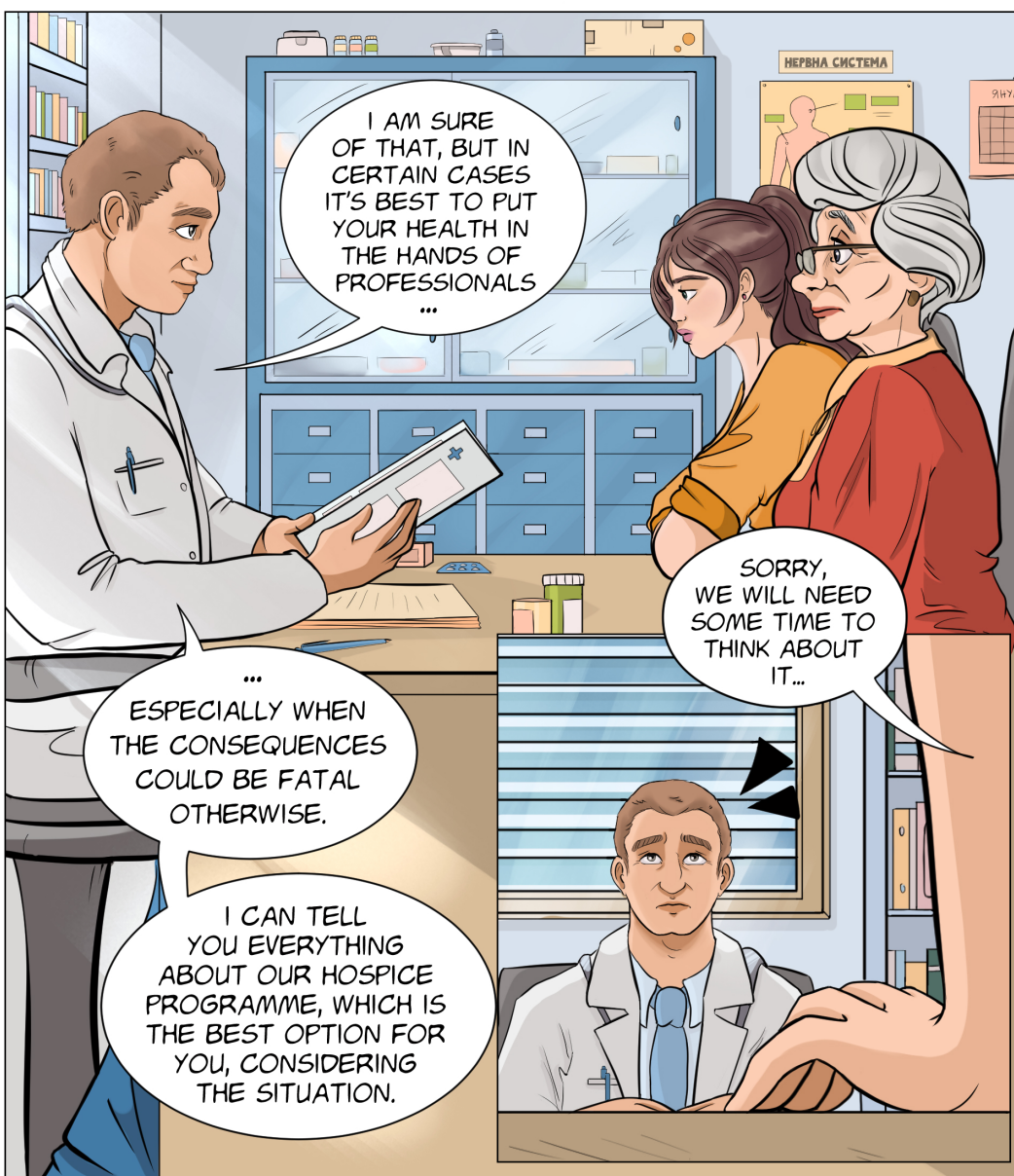
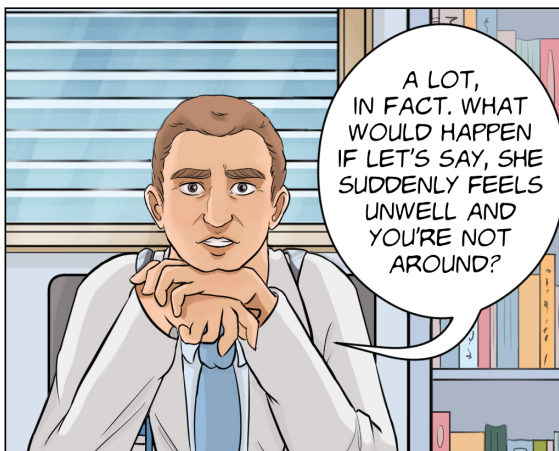


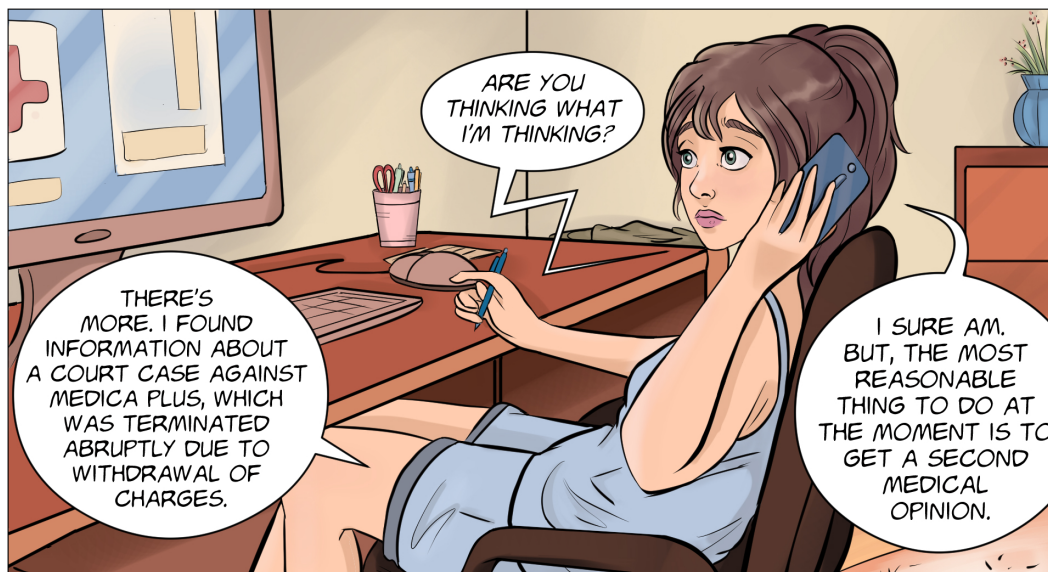
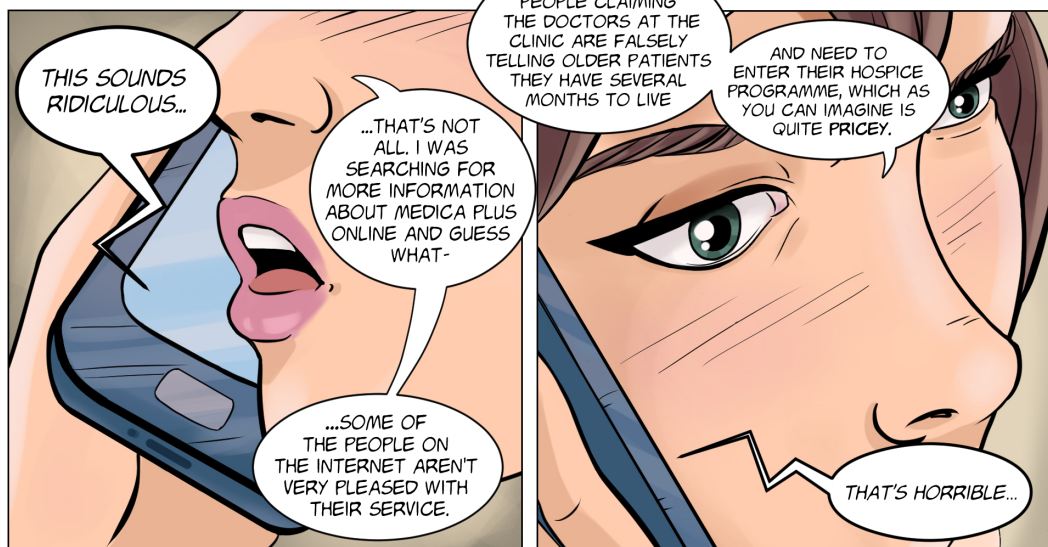
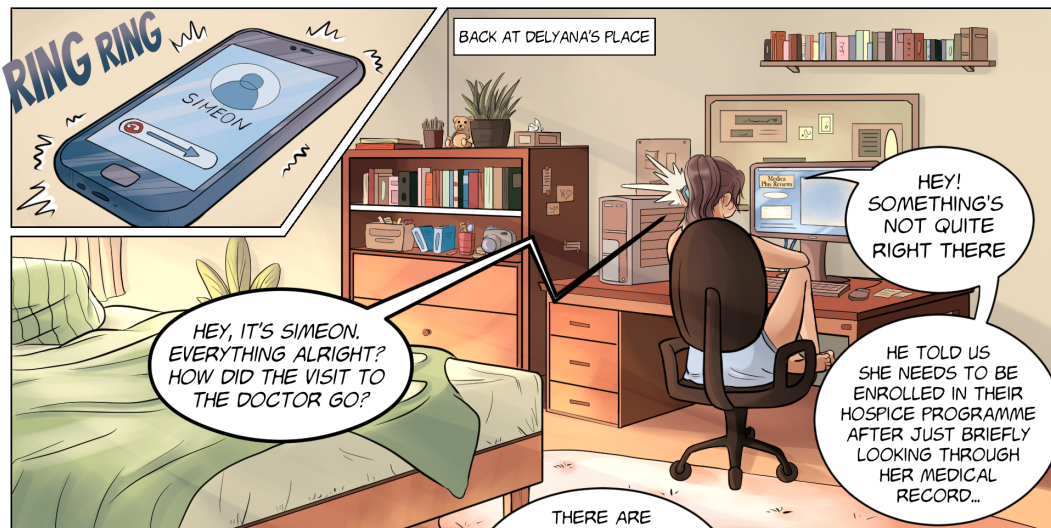
TWO WEEKS LATER...

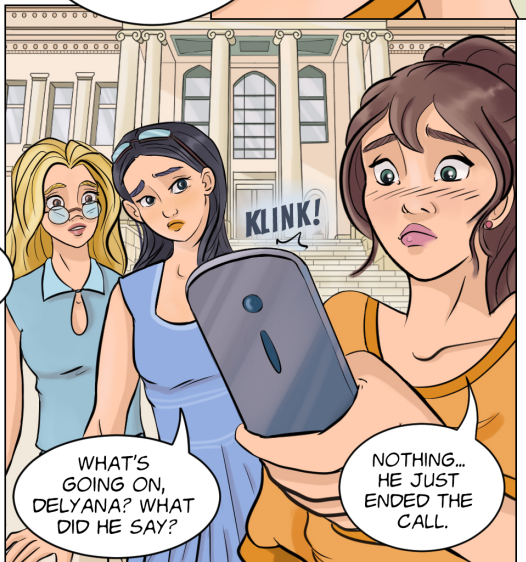
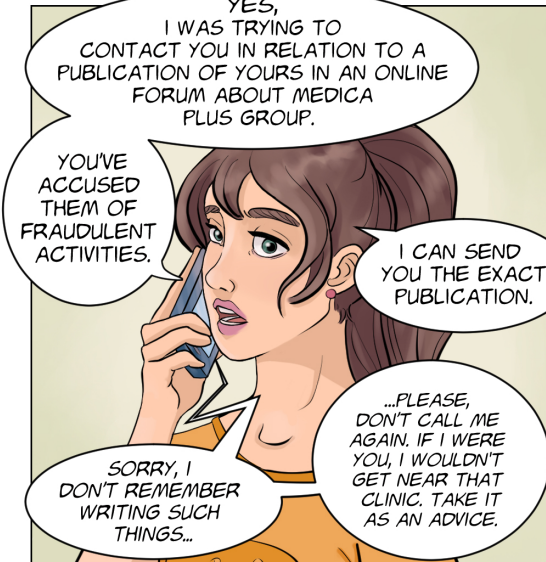
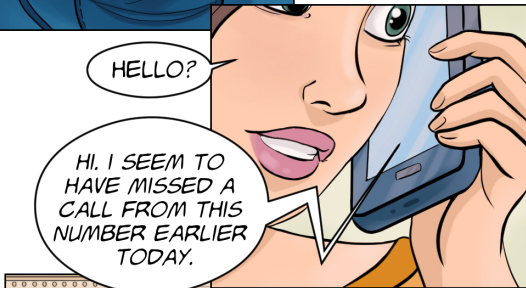
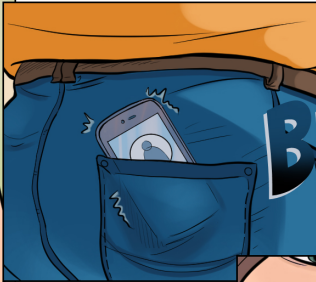
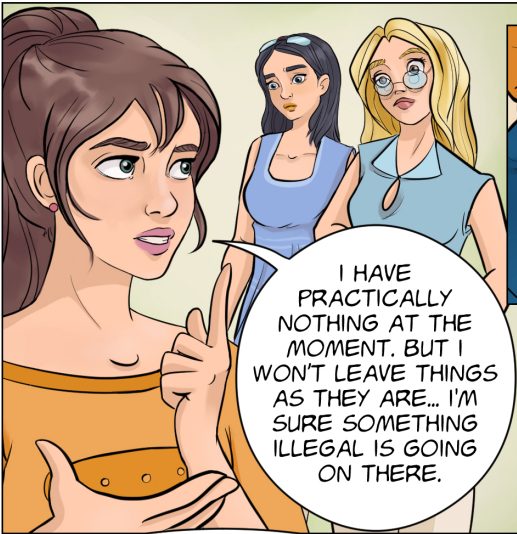
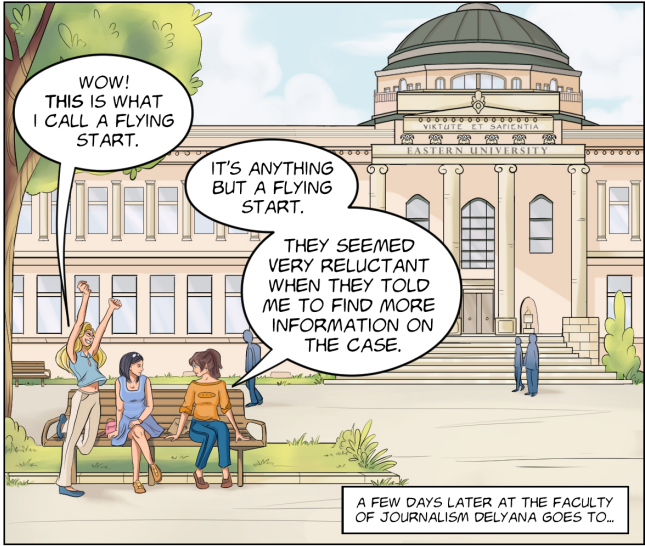
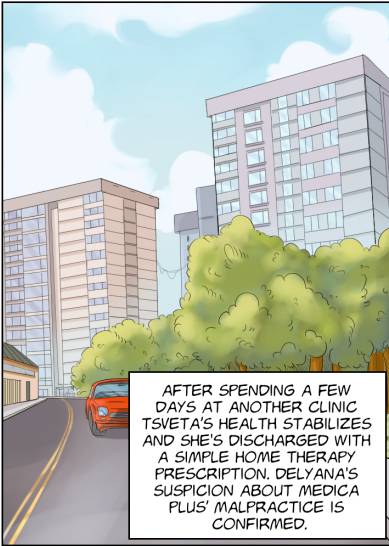
THE DAILY WATCHER

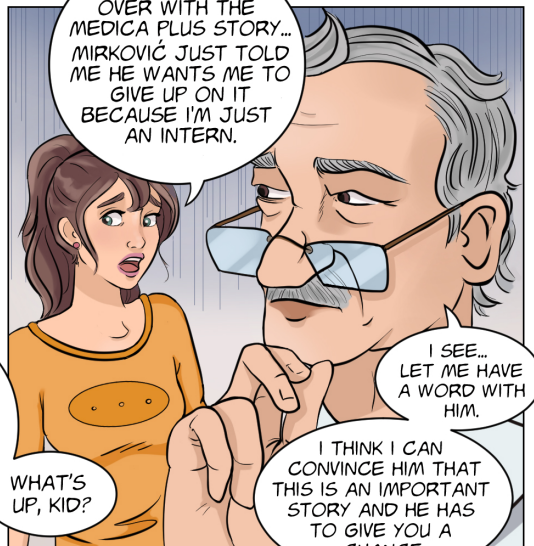
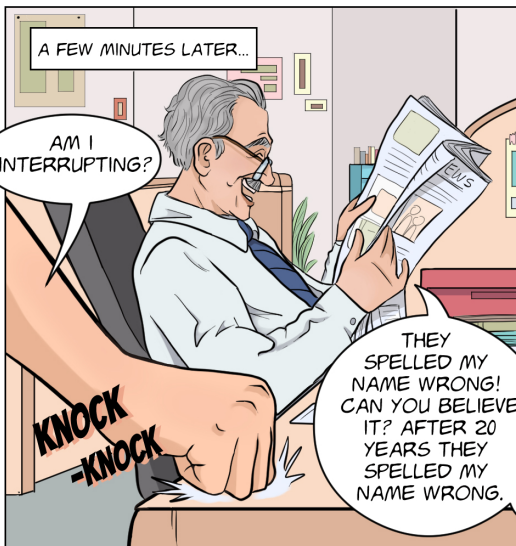
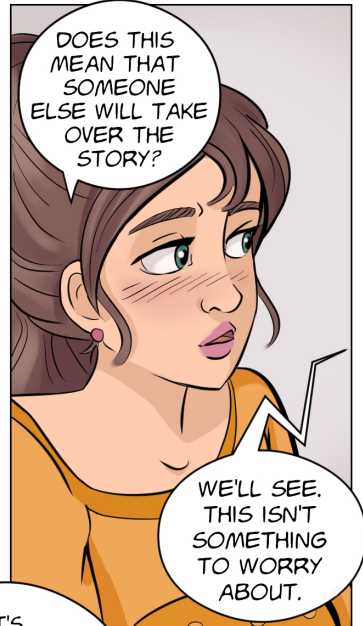
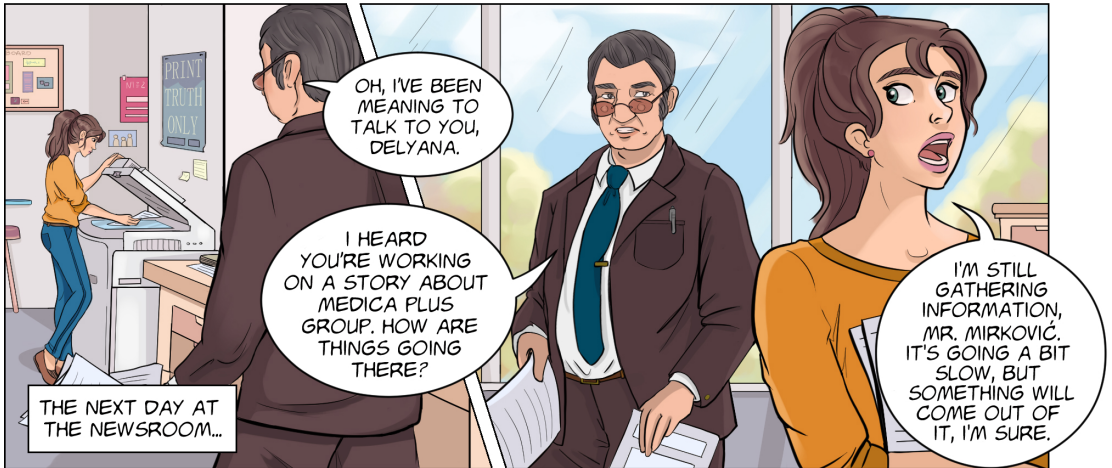


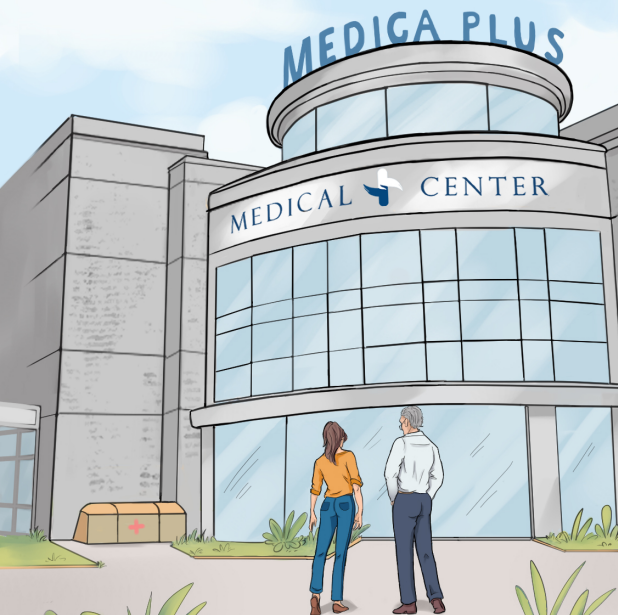




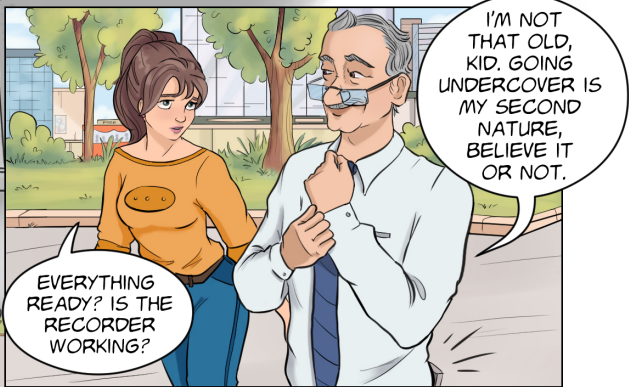






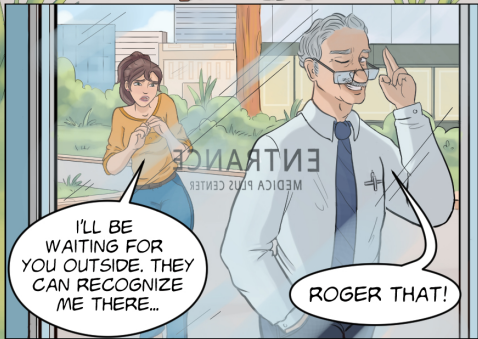


SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, THE CHIEF EDITOR ALLOWS SIMEON AND DELYANA TO TEAM UP IN WRITING THE MEDICA PLUS GROUP STORY. WHAT THEY FIND INDICATES THAT THE CASE PROBABLY GOES DEEPER THAN THEY HAVE EXPECTED...

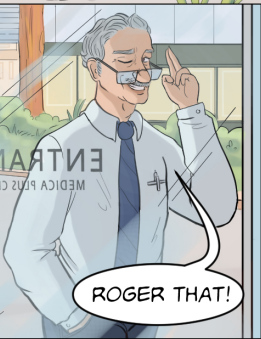


EVERYTHING READY? IS THE RECORDER WORKING?

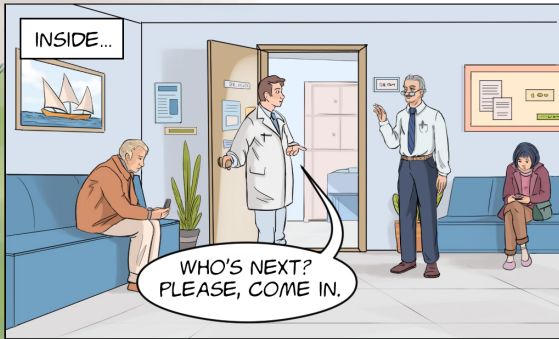
I'M NOT THAT OLD, KID. GOING UNDERCOVER IS MY SECOND NATURE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.



I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE. THEY CAN RECOGNIZE ME THERE...



ROGER THAT!



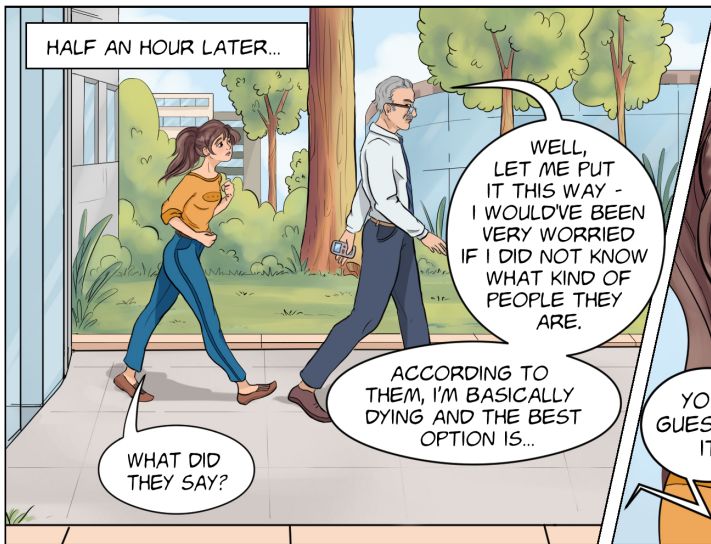
INSIDE...

WHO'S NEXT? PLEASE, COME IN.



I'VE BEEN EXPERIENCING THIS SHARP PAIN IN MY ABDOMEN FOR SOME TIME NOW.

THAT DOES NOT SOUND GOOD. PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

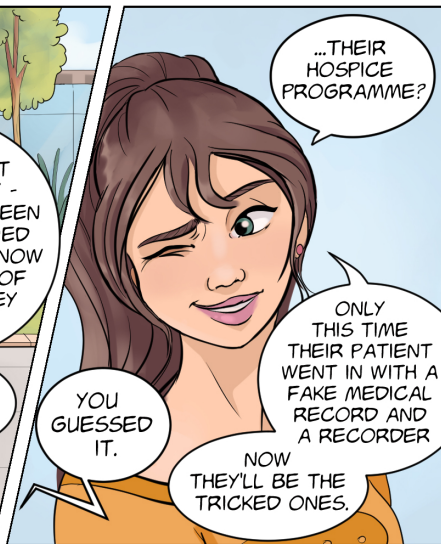


HALF AN HOUR LATER...

WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY - I WOULD'VE BEEN VERY WORRIED IF I DID NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY ARE.

ACCORDING TO THEM, I'M BASICALLY DYING AND THE BEST OPTION IS...

WHAT DID THEY SAY?



...THEIR HOSPICE PROGRAMME?

YOU GUESSED IT.

ONLY THIS TIME THEIR PATIENT WENT IN WITH A FAKE MEDICAL RECORD AND A RECORDER

NOW THEY'LL BE THE TRICKED ONES.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PICK UP! DON'T HANG UP THE PHONE LIKE THE OTHER NURSES...

BACK AT THE DAILY WATCHER NEWSROOM, DELYANA IS TRYING TO GET CRUCIAL INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE LINKED TO MEDICA PLUS. SHE FINDS OUT THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF SEVERAL NURSES AND A DOCTOR, WHO WORKED FOR THE HOSPICE CARE CENTER FOR OVER TEN YEARS WERE ALL TERMINATED SIMULTANEOUSLY.



HELLO?

HI. AM I SPEAKING TO LENA KOVAČEVIĆ?

YES, THIS IS HER.

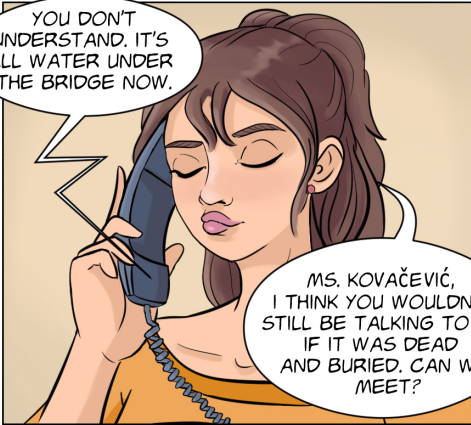


I'M CALLING FROM THE DAILY WATCHER. WE'RE WRITING A STORY ON MEDICA PLUS AND I BELIEVE YOU CAN TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE GROUP.

WELL... I'M NOT WORKING THERE ANYMORE.

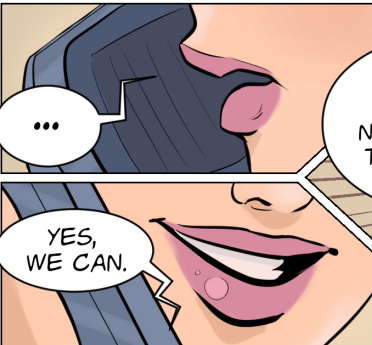


EXACTLY!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW.

MS. KOVAČEVIĆ, I THINK YOU WOULDN'T STILL BE TALKING TO ME IF IT WAS DEAD AND BURIED. CAN WE MEET?



YES, WE CAN.

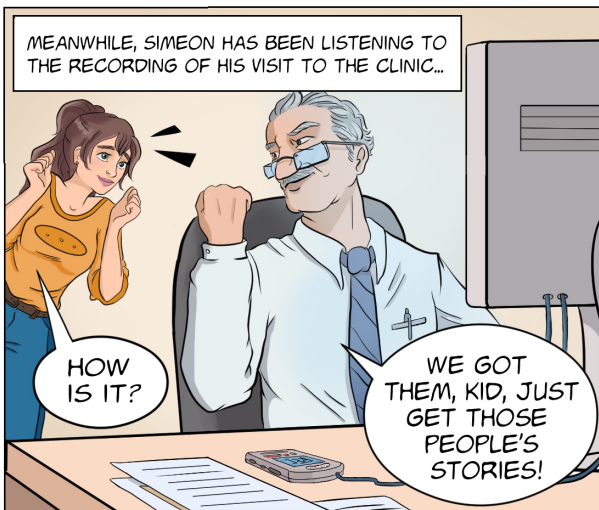
AT LAST, SOME REAL PROGRESS! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CALL THE DOCTOR.



THE CONVERSATION WITH THE DOCTOR IS EVEN MORE INTERESTING. AFTER HE AGREES TO TALK WITH DELYANA IN PERSON, HE ENDS THE CALL WITH THE WORDS...



...I WAS WONDERING WHEN ANY OF YOU PEOPLE WERE GOING TO START SNIFFING AROUND THAT PLACE.



MEANWHILE, SIMEON HAS BEEN LISTENING TO THE RECORDING OF HIS VISIT TO THE CLINIC...

HOW IS IT?

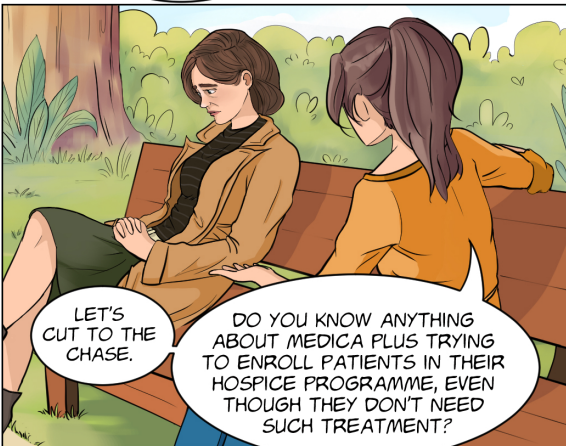
WE GOT THEM, KID, JUST GET THOSE PEOPLE'S STORIES!

DELYANA AND LENA MEET LATER THAT DAY IN THE PARK.

I CALLED YOU
BECAUSE WE
NEED YOUR HELP,
LENA.

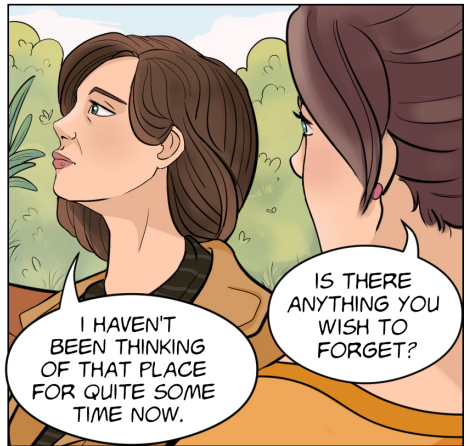
WE THINK
MEDICA PLUS HAS
BEEN IMPLEMENTING
SOME ILLEGAL
PRACTICES IN ITS WORK
AND SOMETHING TELLS ME
THAT THIS STATEMENT
DOESN'T COME AS A
SURPRISE TO
YOU.

WHY AM I
NEEDED HERE
IF YOU CAN READ
MY MIND?



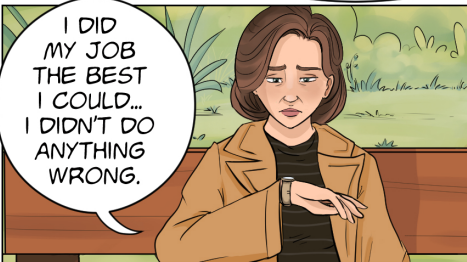
LET'S
CUT TO THE
CHASE.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT MEDICA PLUS TRYING
TO ENROLL PATIENTS IN THEIR
HOSPICE PROGRAMME, EVEN
THOUGH THEY DON'T NEED
SUCH TREATMENT?

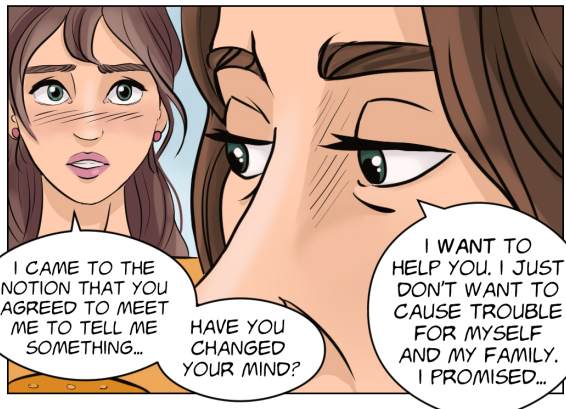


I HAVEN'T
BEEN THINKING
OF THAT PLACE
FOR QUITE SOME
TIME NOW.

IS THERE
ANYTHING YOU
WISH TO
FORGET?



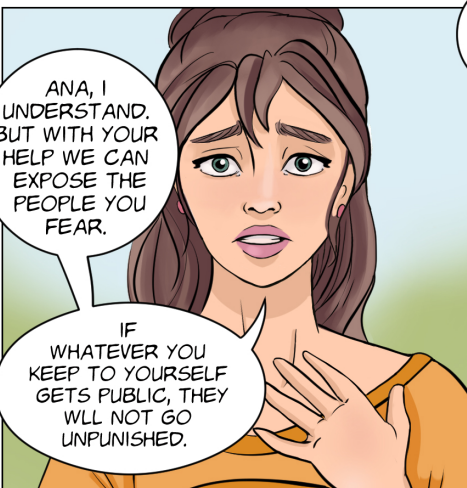
I DID
MY JOB
THE BEST
I COULD...
I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG.



I CAME TO THE
NOTION THAT YOU
AGREED TO MEET
ME TO TELL ME
SOMETHING...

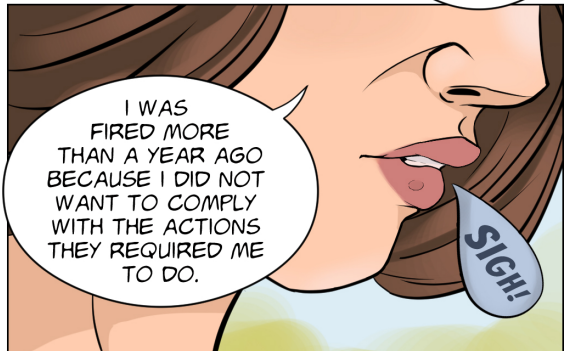
HAVE YOU
CHANGED
YOUR MIND?

I WANT TO
HELP YOU. I JUST
DON'T WANT TO
CAUSE TROUBLE
FOR MYSELF
AND MY FAMILY.
I PROMISED...



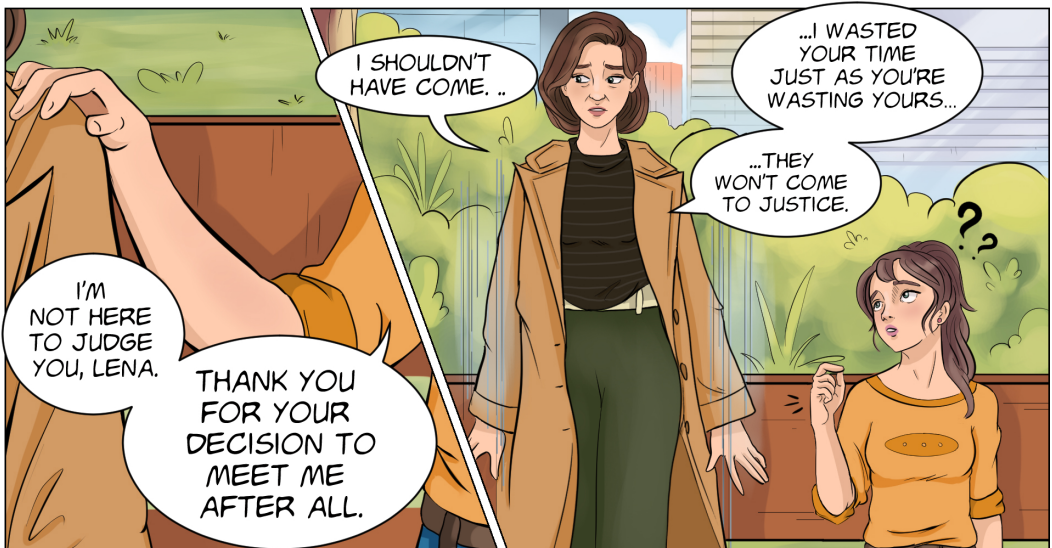
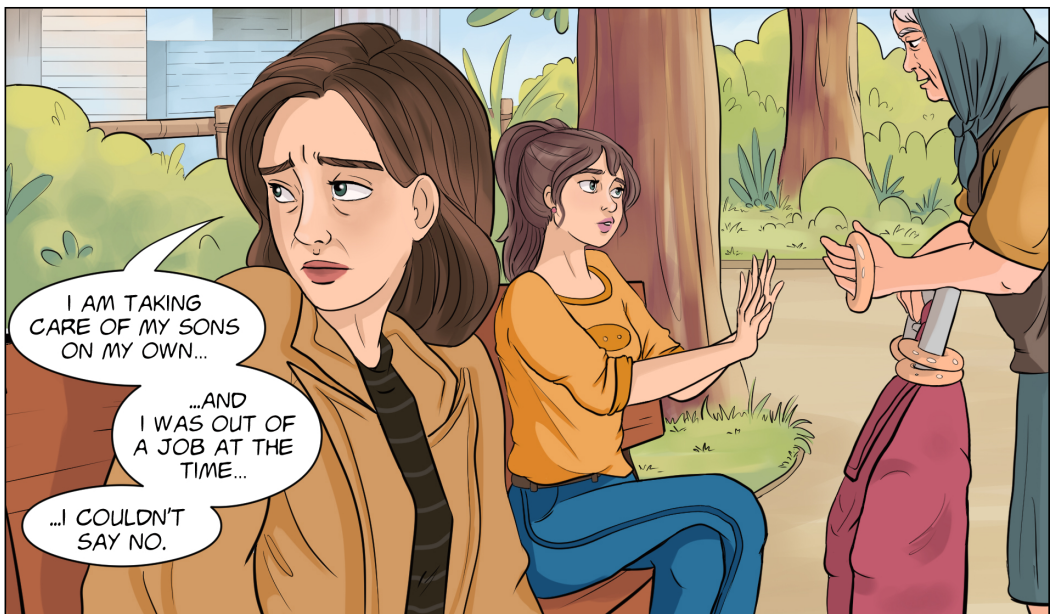
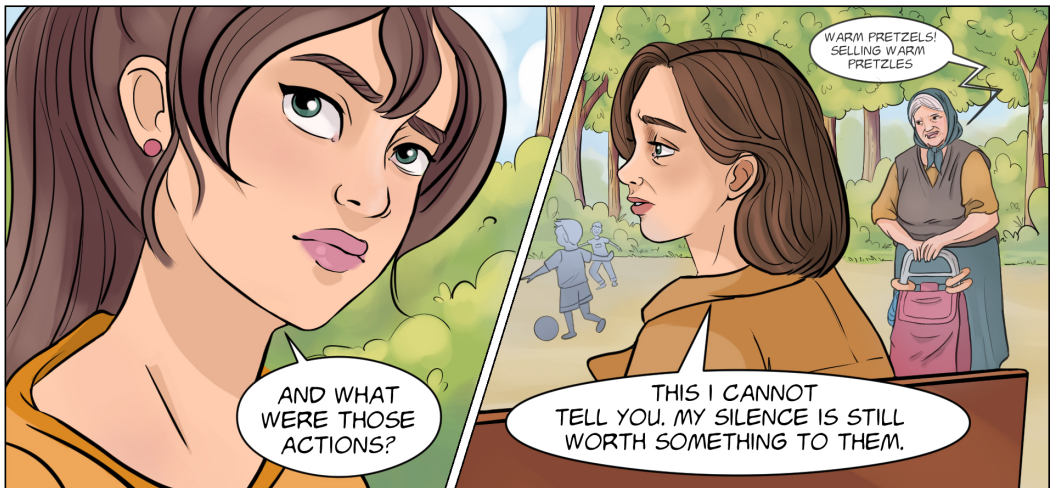
ANA, I
UNDERSTAND.
BUT WITH YOUR
HELP WE CAN
EXPOSE THE
PEOPLE YOU
FEAR.

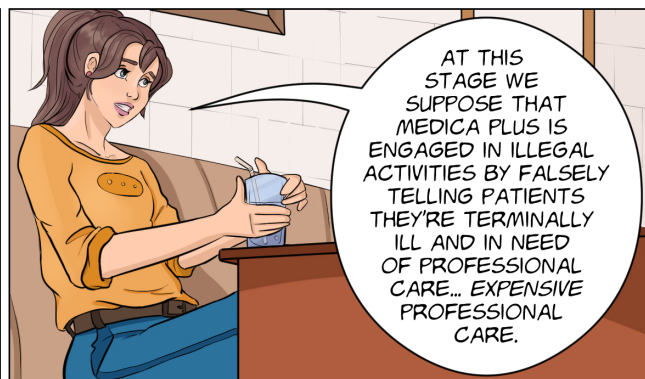
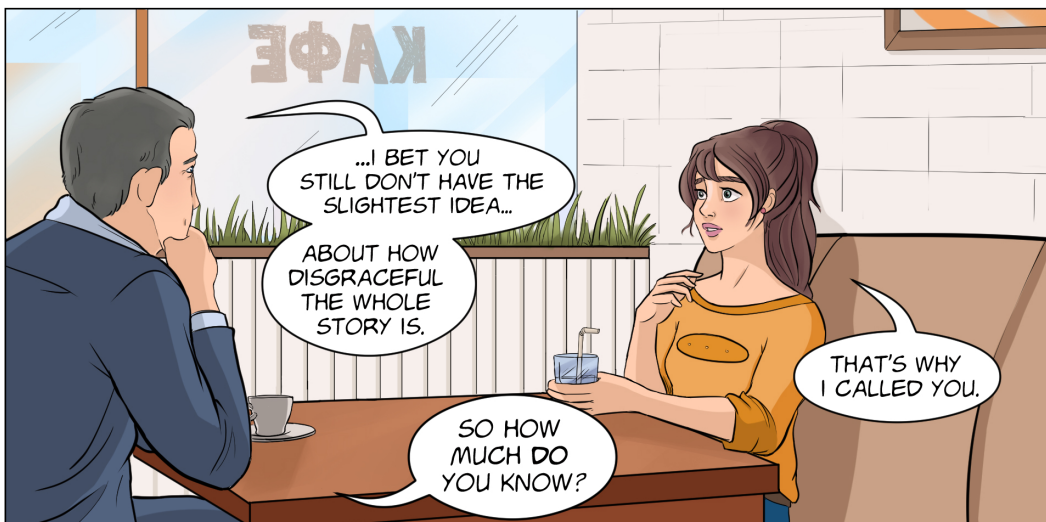
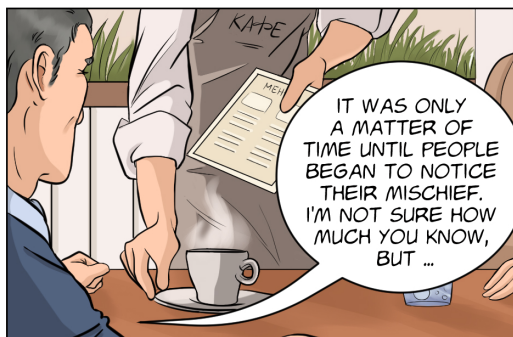
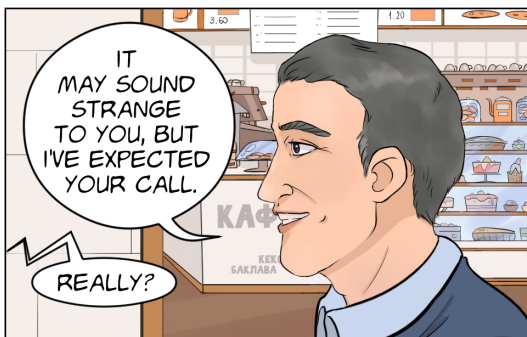
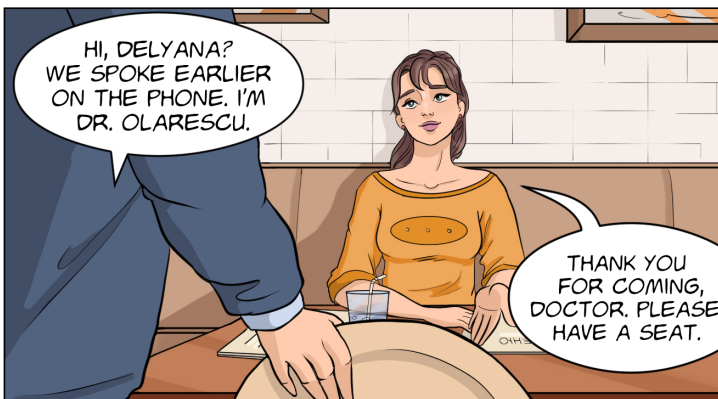
IF
WHATEVER YOU
KEEP TO YOURSELF
GETS PUBLIC, THEY
WLL NOT GO
UNPUNISHED.

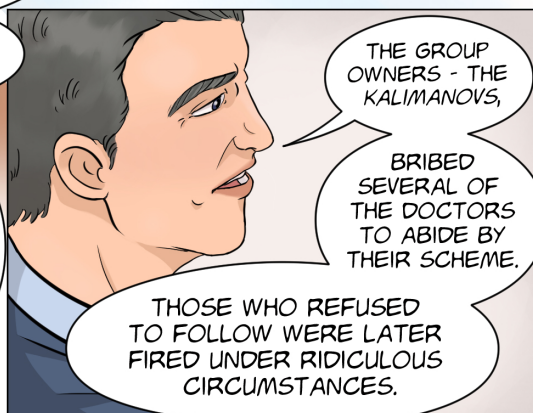
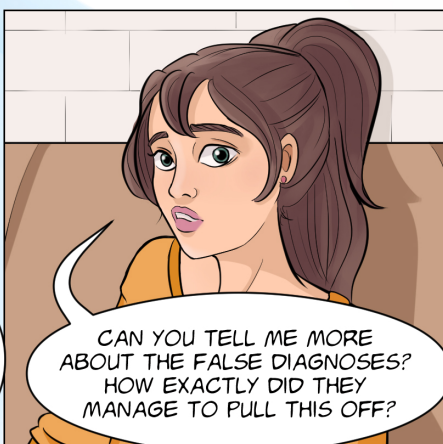
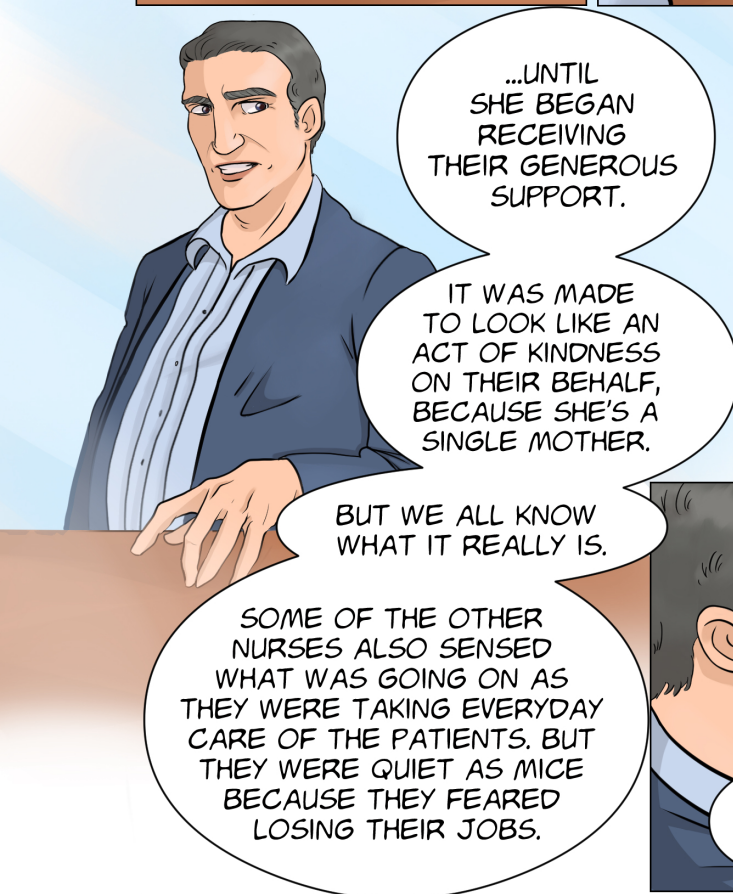
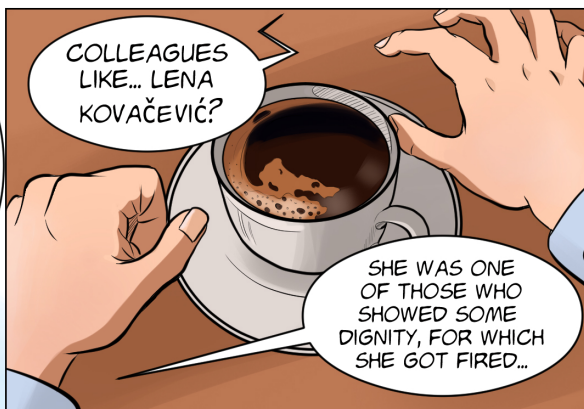
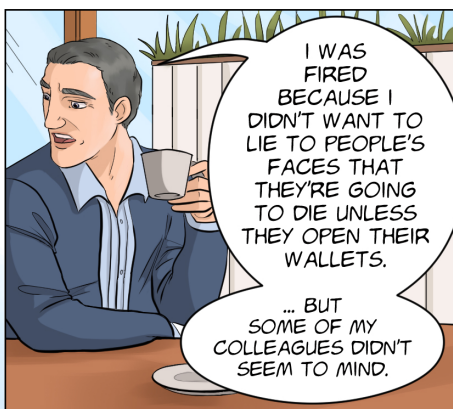
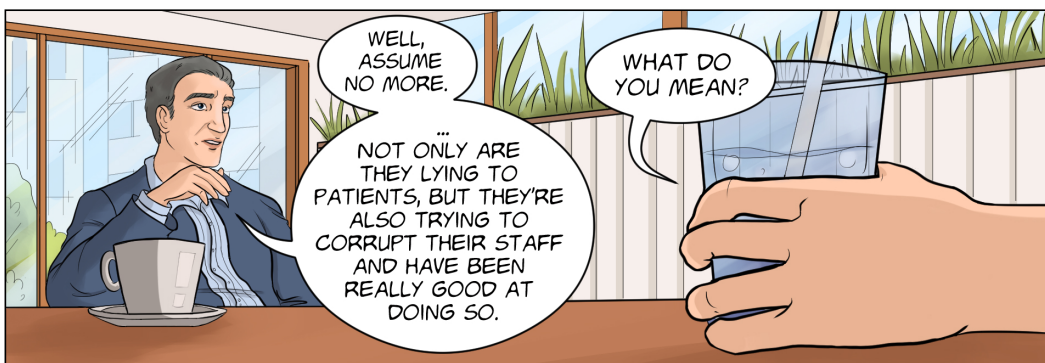


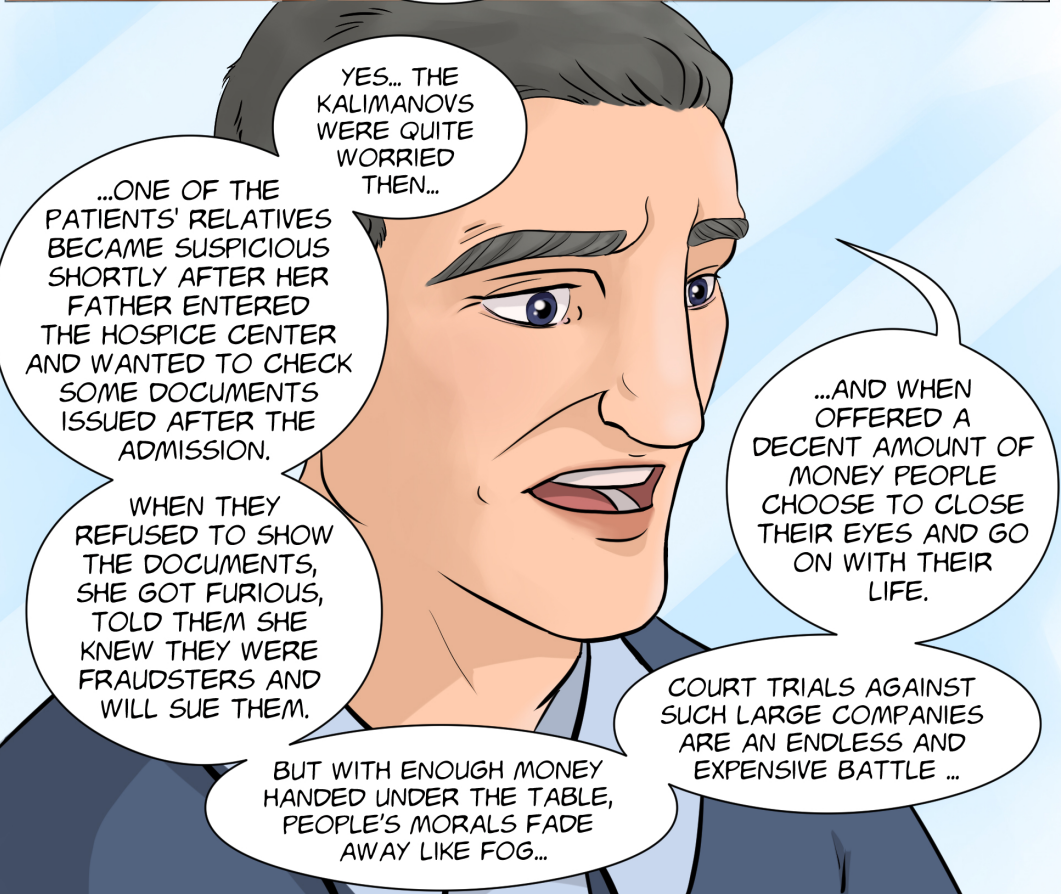
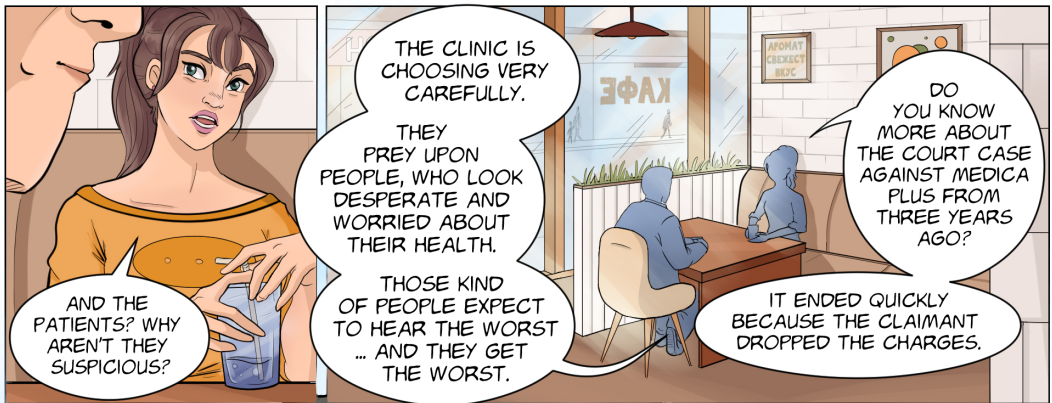
I WAS
FIRED MORE
THAN A YEAR AGO
BECAUSE I DID NOT
WANT TO COMPLY
WITH THE ACTIONS
THEY REQUIRED ME
TO DO.

SIGH!



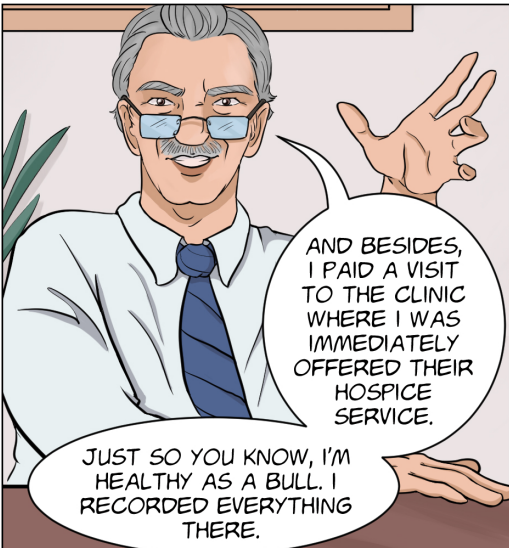
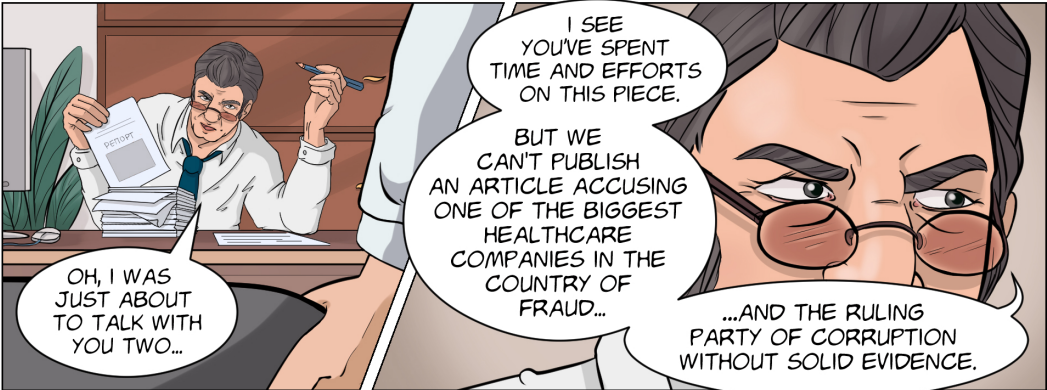


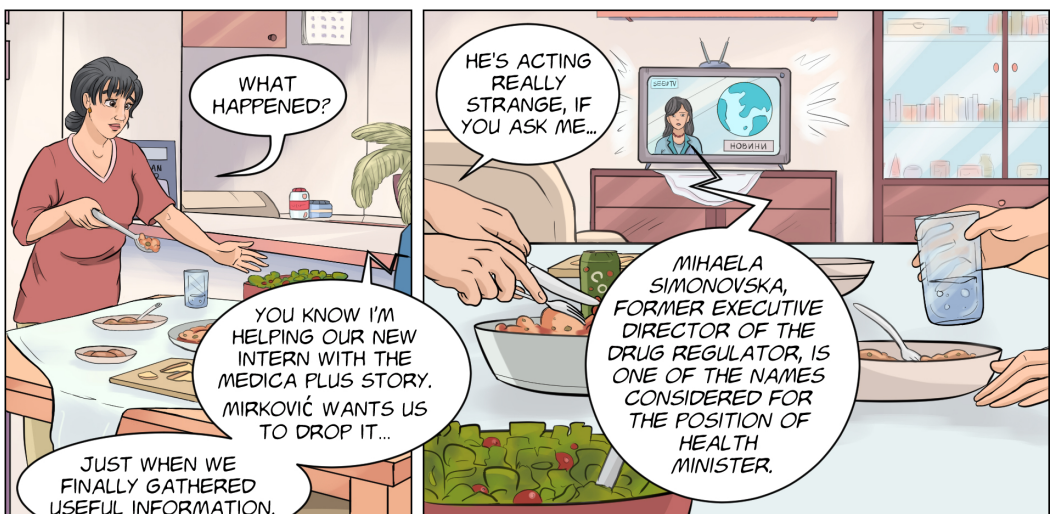
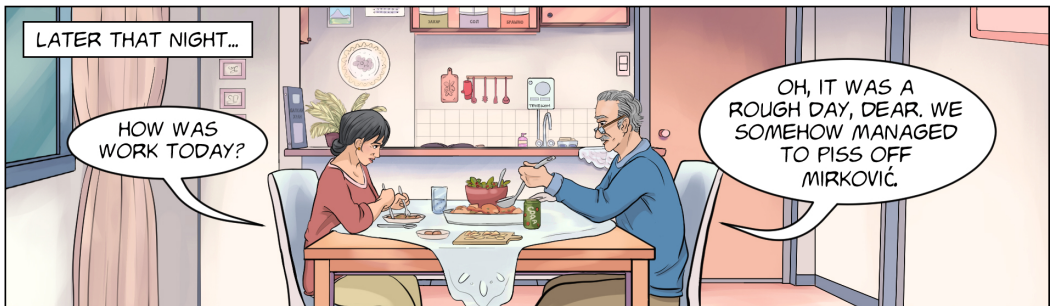
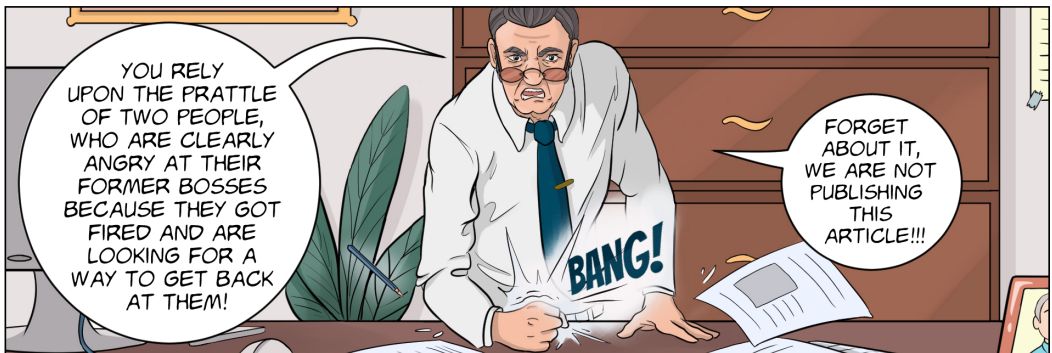
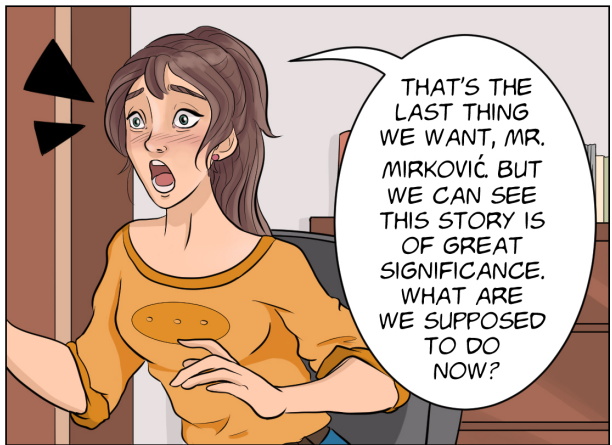
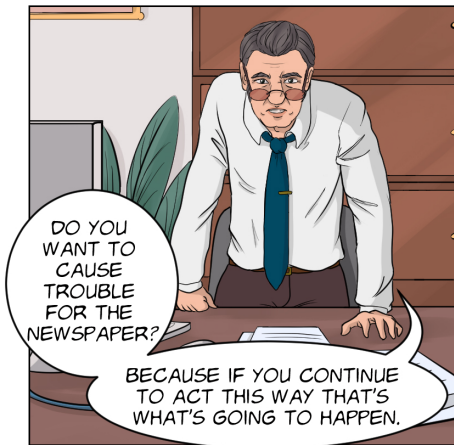


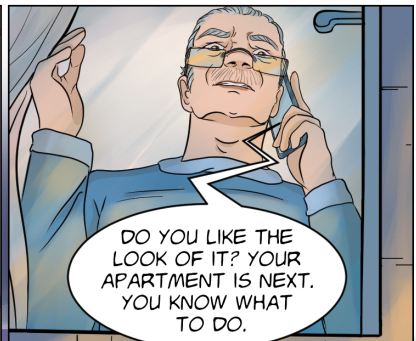
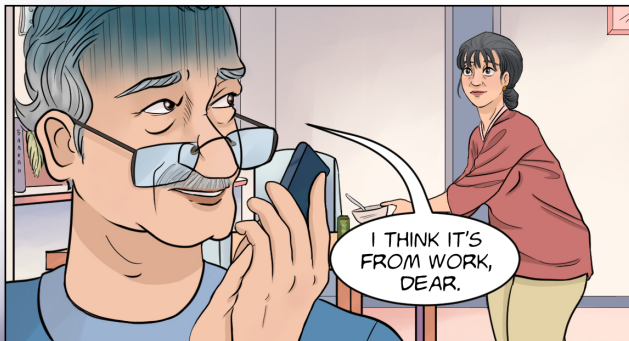
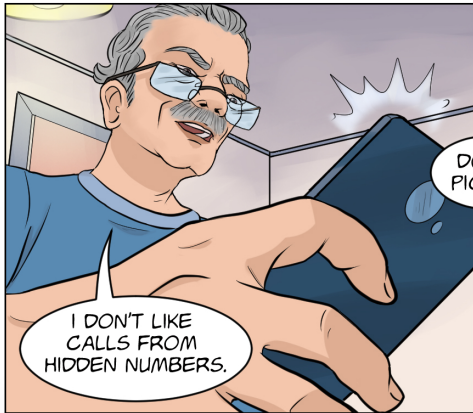
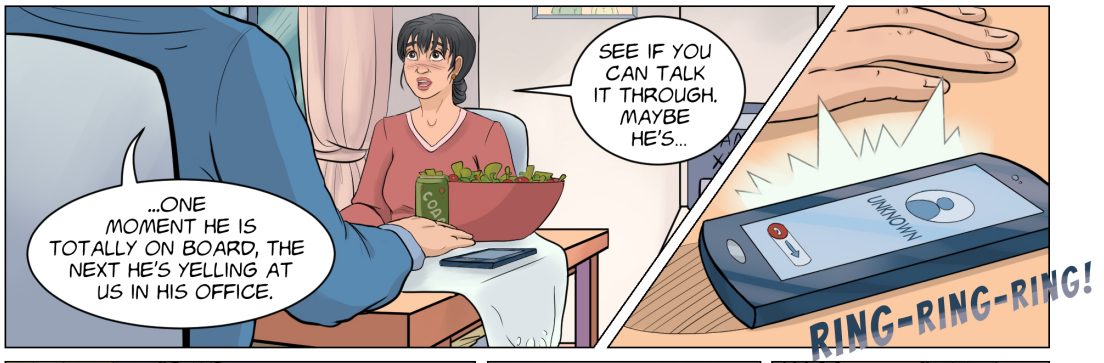


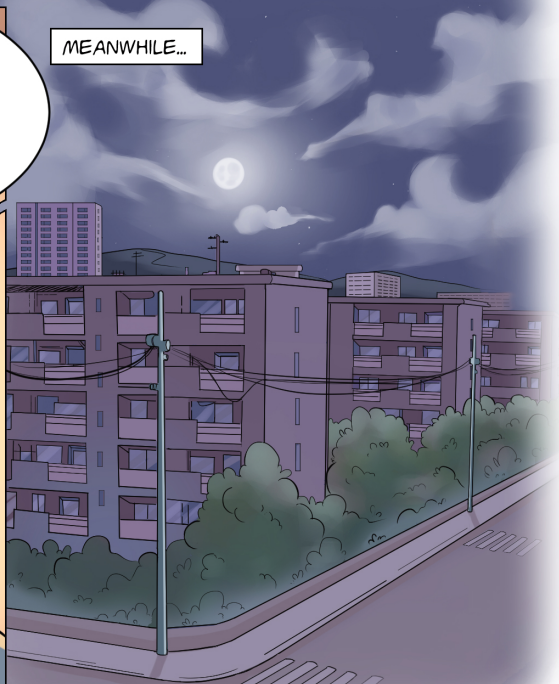
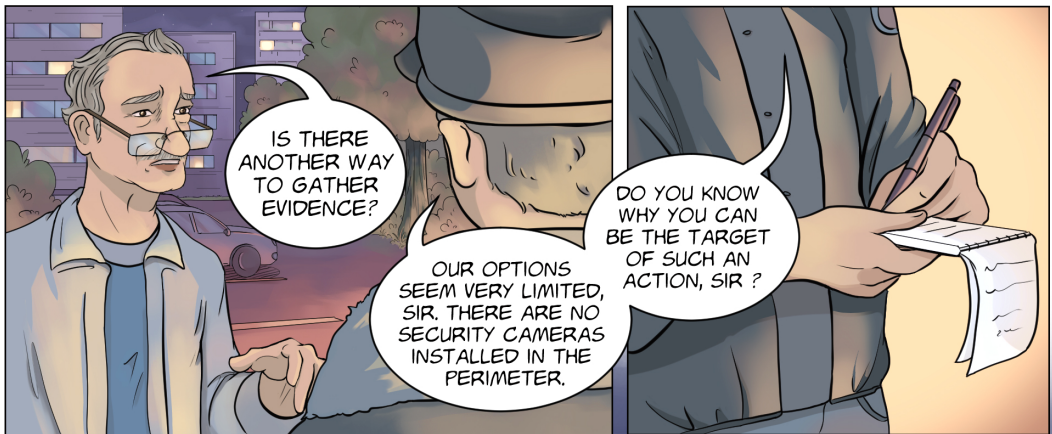
DELYANA RETURNS TO THE NEWSROOM TO TELL SIMEON ABOUT HER FINDINGS FROM THE DOCTOR AND THE NURSE.

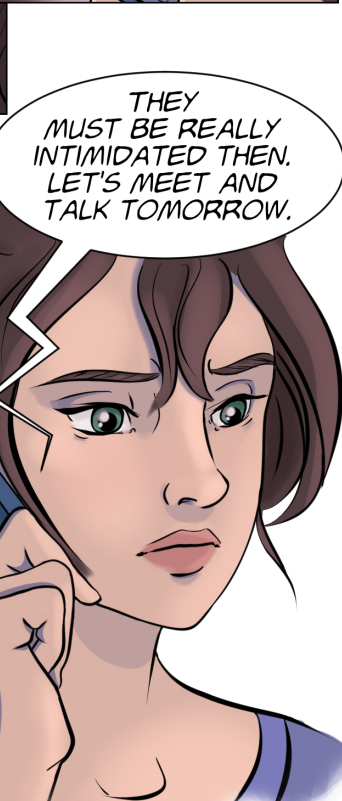
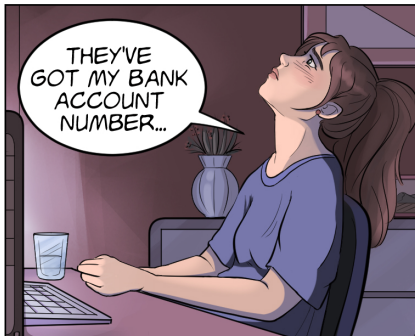
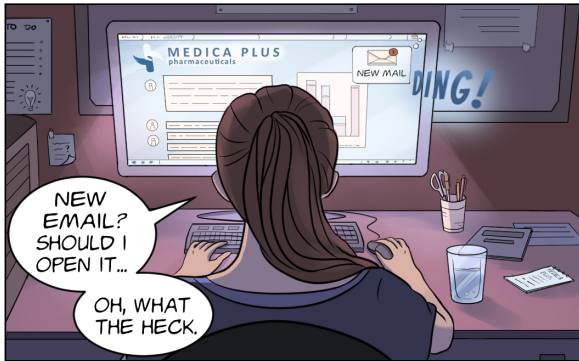
THE TWO GO TO MR. MIRKOVIĆ'S OFFICE TO UPDATE HIM ON THEIR PROGRESS, BUT THEY FIND HIM IN A BAD MOOD...

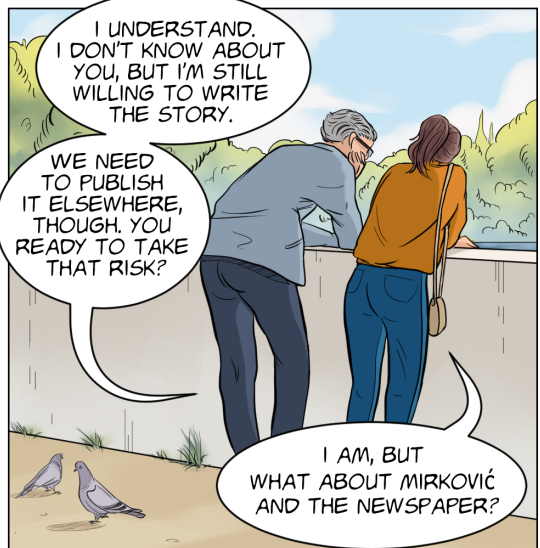
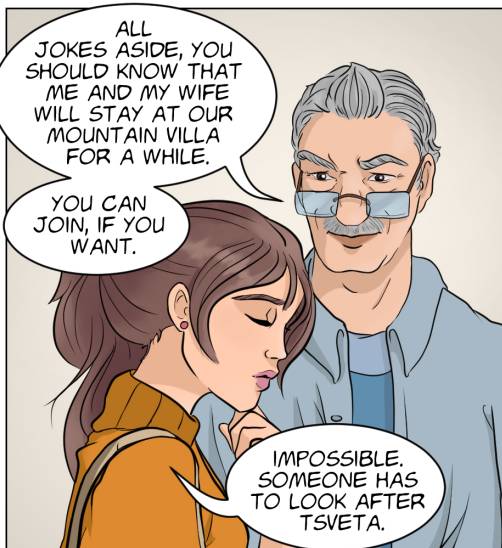
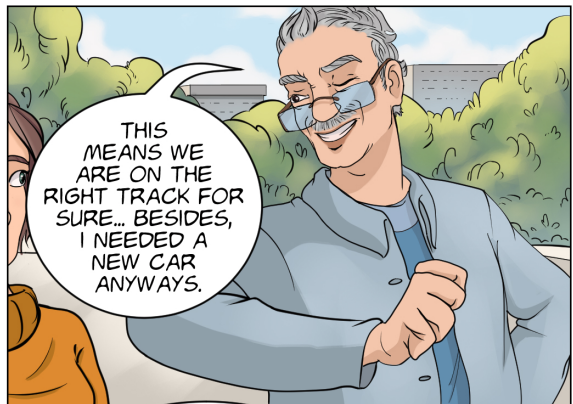
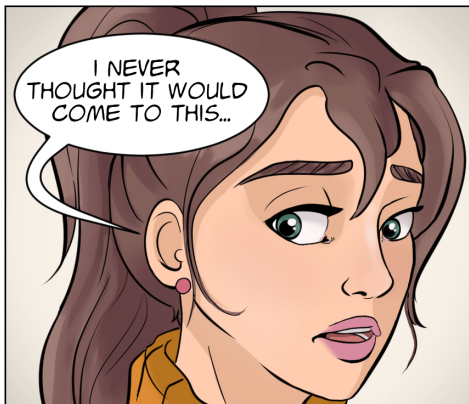
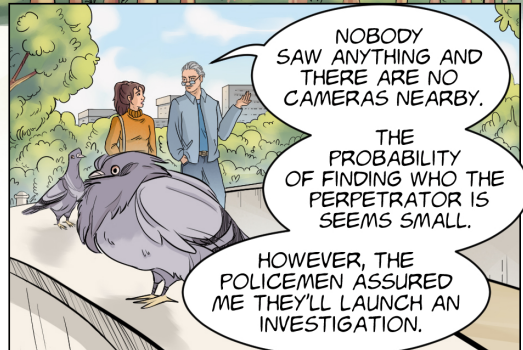
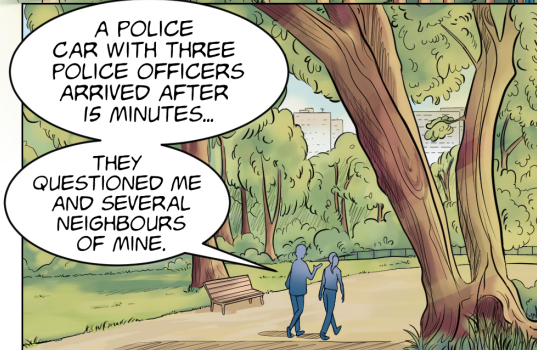
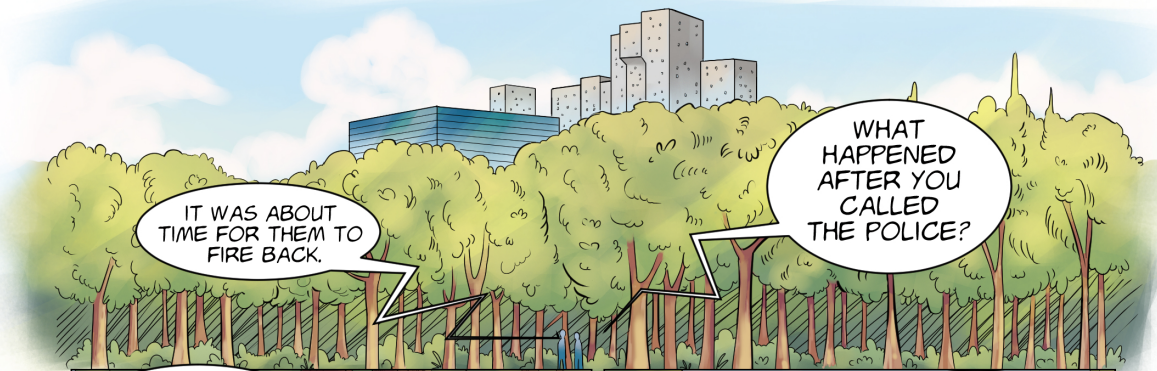


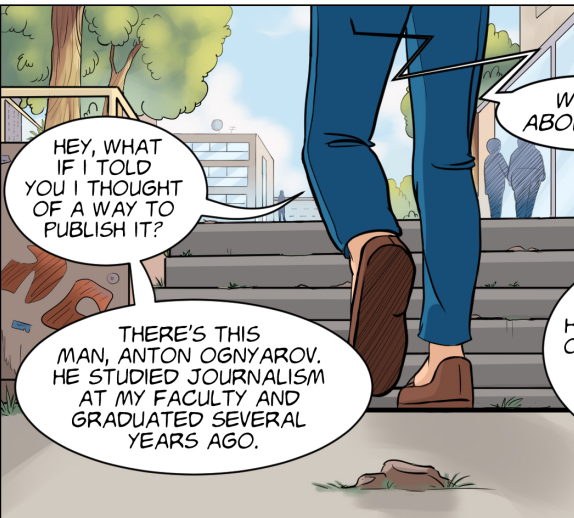
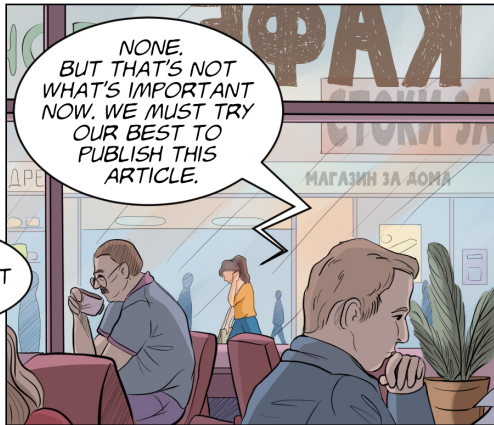
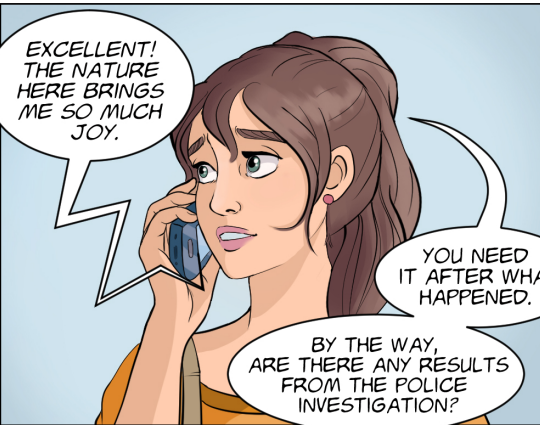
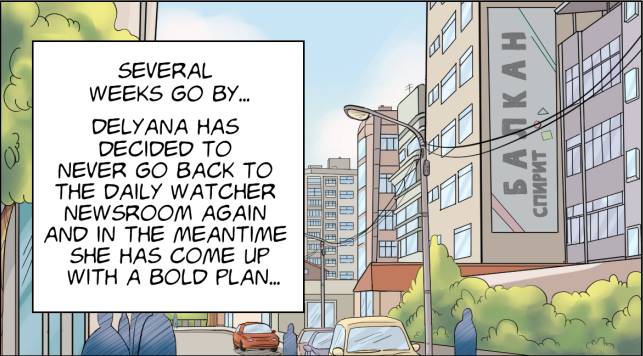
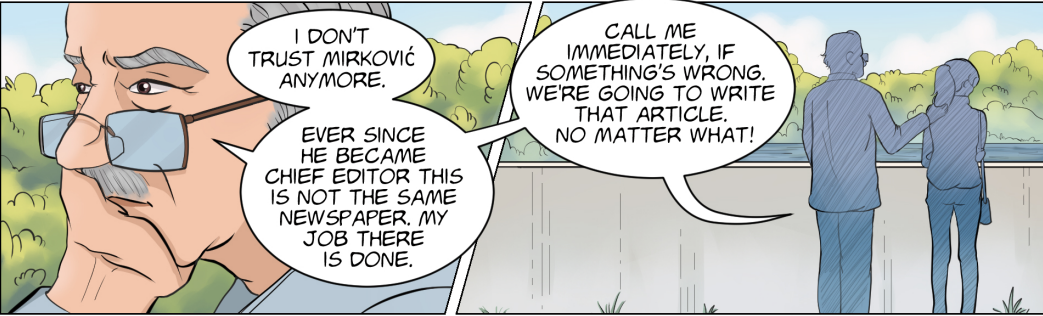


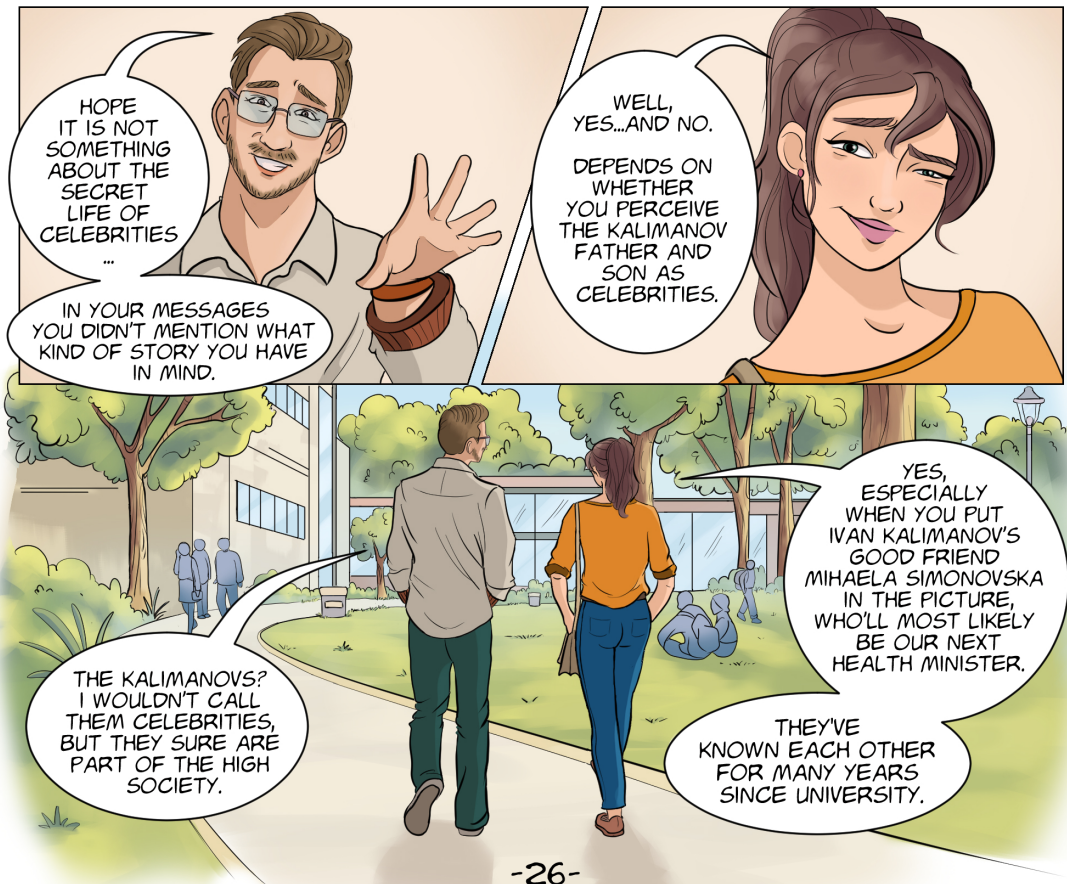
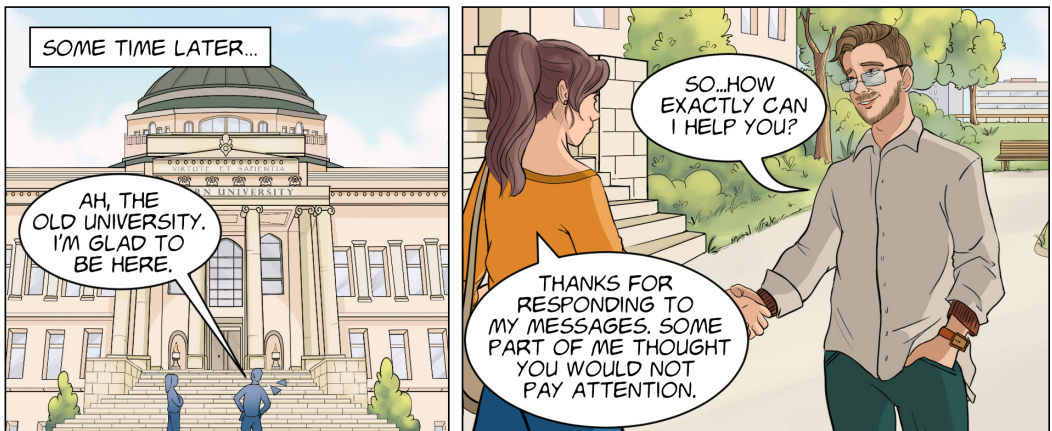
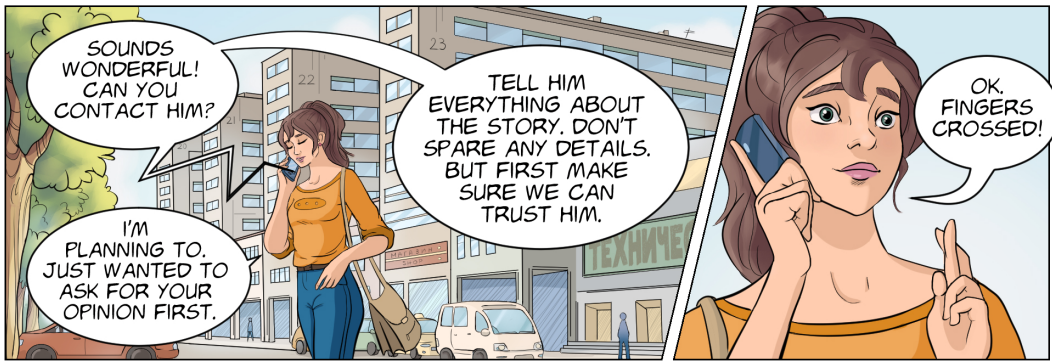


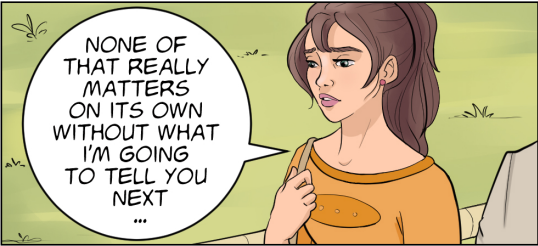




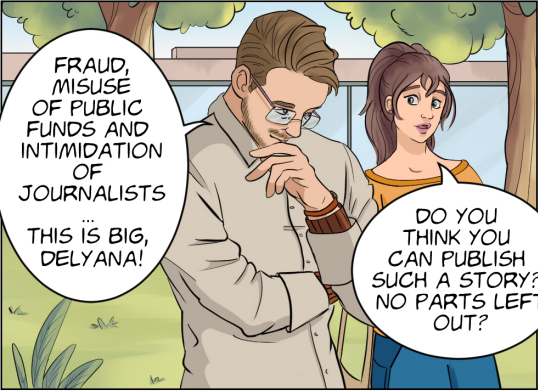
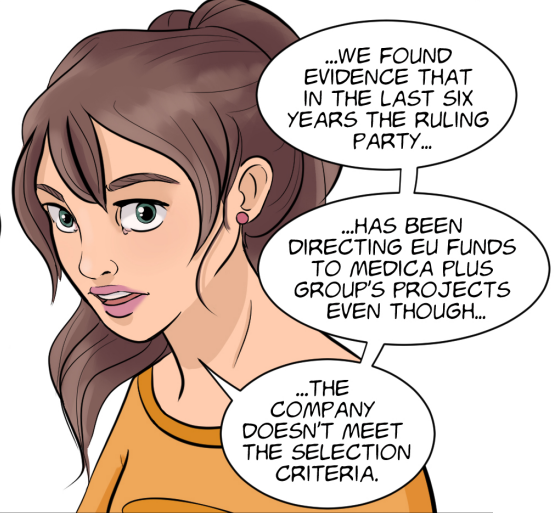
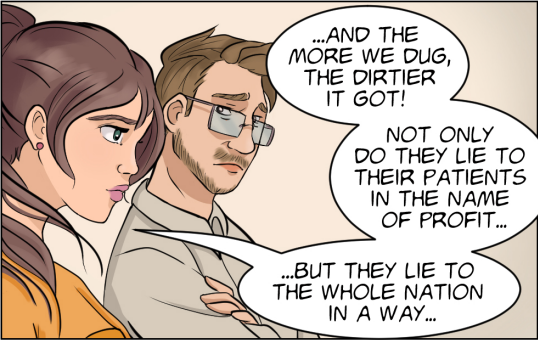






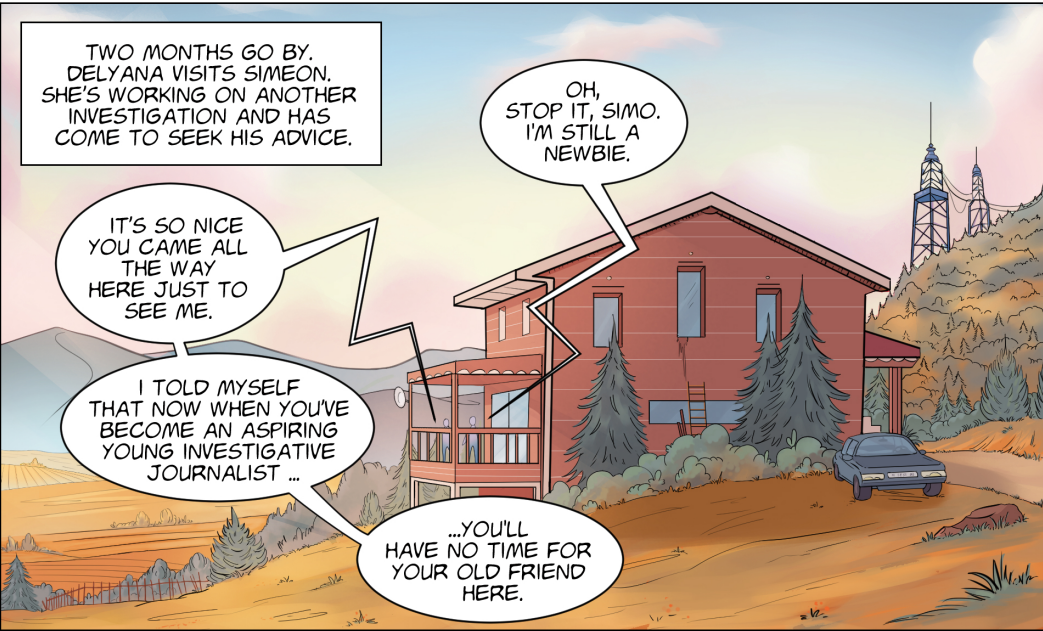
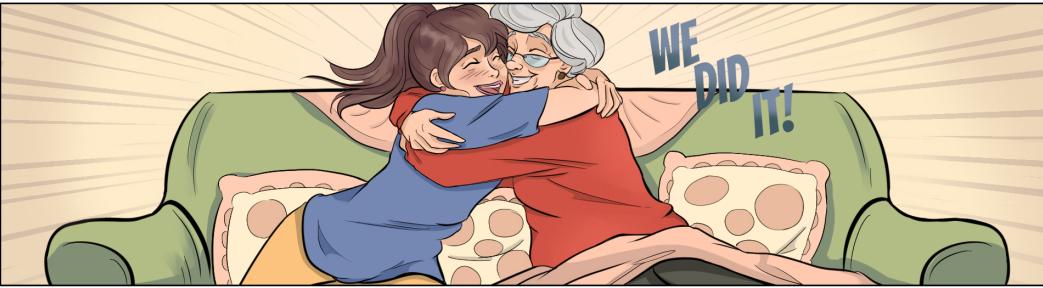
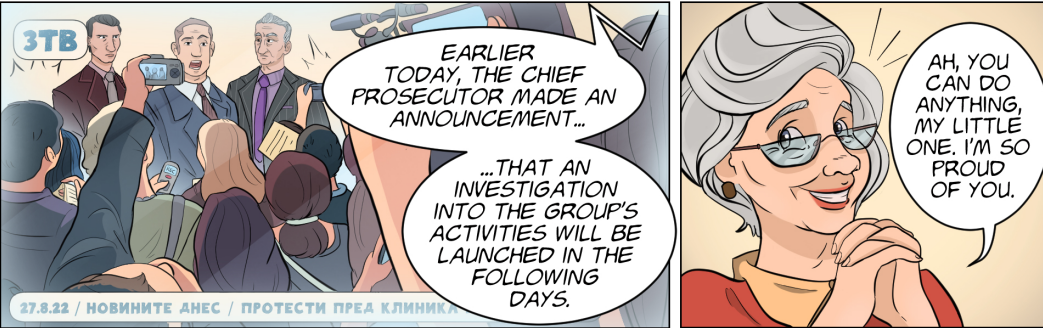
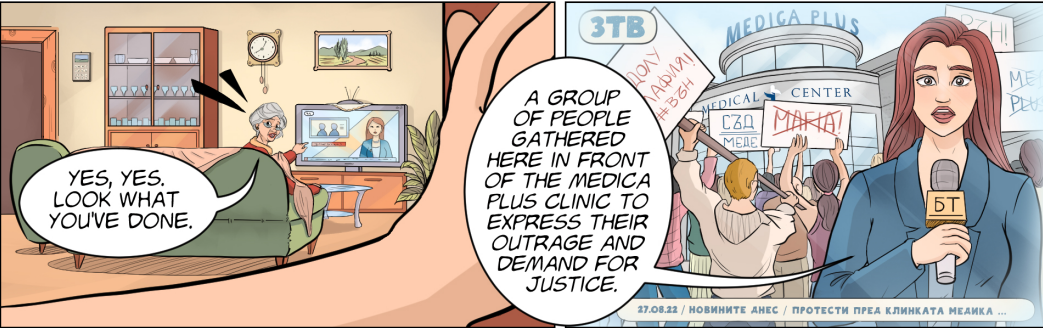


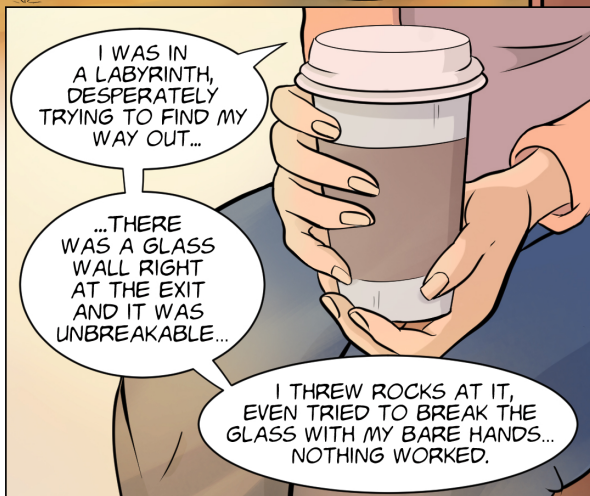
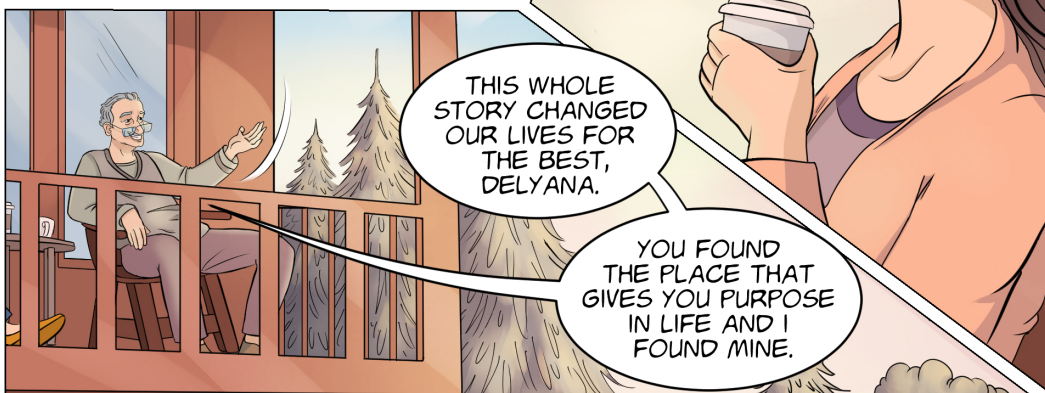
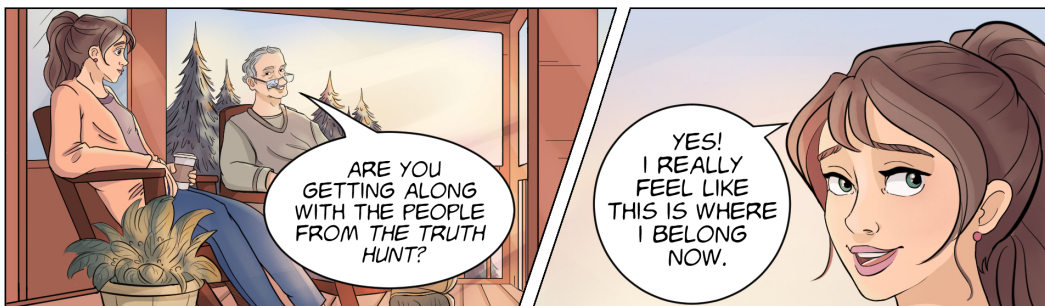
DELYANA TELLS ANTON EVERYTHING SHE AND SIMEON FOUND OUT ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF IVAN KALIMANOV AND PLAMEN KALIMANOV, FATHER AND SON, WHO RUN THE MEDICA PLUS GROUP.



THE NEWS ABOUT THE WRONGDOINGS OF THE KALIMANOV SPREAD LIKE FIRE. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATIONS THE TRUTH HUNT HAS EVER PUBLISHED.







THE REALLY STRANGE PART IS THAT I LOOKED LIKE A MEDIEVAL SUPERHERO...

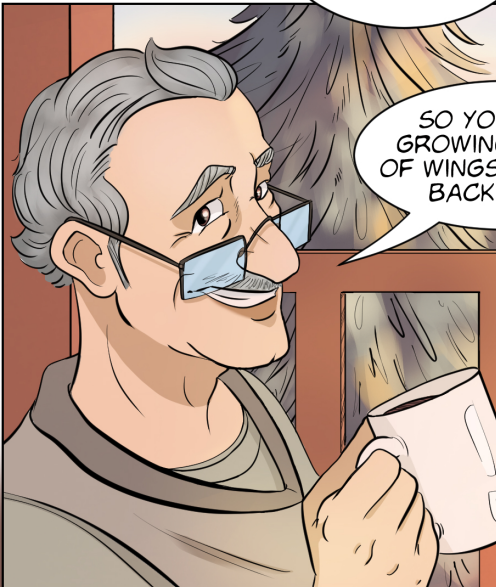
AND I HAD WINGS ON MY BACK. I PLUCKED A FEATHER OFF ONE OF MY WINGS AND TRIED TO CUT THROUGH THE GLASS WITH IT.

IT WORKED. THE GLASS SHATTERED INTO TINY PIECES AND I WOKE UP.



SO YOU CALL GROWING A PAIR OF WINGS ON YOUR BACK REAL?

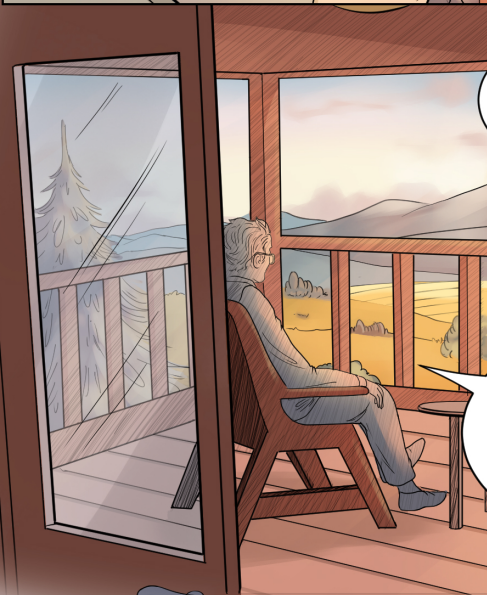
I'M NOT THE SUPERSTITIOUS TYPE, BUT I MUST ADMIT THIS SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THOSE DREAMS THAT PREDICT YOUR FUTURE.



YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT THIS WAY...

I WAS WONDERING WHAT IT MEANT, BUT I UNDERSTAND NOW. SOMETIMES WORDS ARE THE ONLY FORCE YOU NEED.

LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING... BUT BE HONEST. ARE YOU READY TO BE THAT GIRL FROM YOUR DREAM?



A MOMENT OF SILENCE...

HOWEVER,
IT TURNED OUT
SUPERPOWERS
DON'T EXIST.

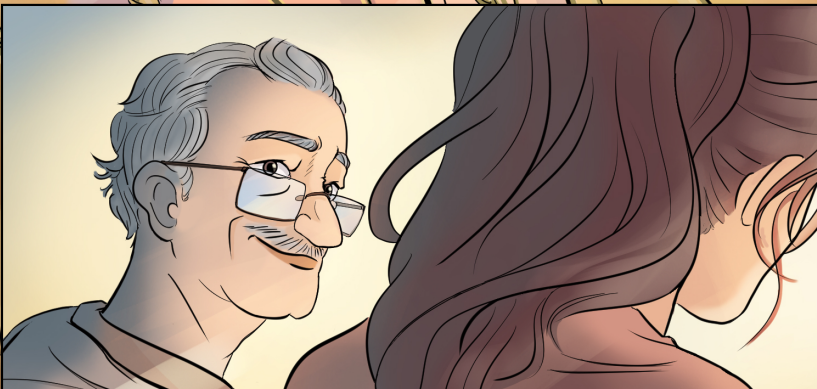
ALL I KNOW
IS THAT I WAS FIVE
AND DREAMING OF
POSSESSING ANY
KIND OF SUPERPOWERS.
INVISIBILITY, TELEPORTING,
FLYING... YOU
NAME IT.

WHAT I DO
NOW IS THE CLOSEST
I CAN GET TO POSSESSING
SUPERPOWERS IN A
WORLD THAT DOESN'T
SEEM TO BELIEVE IN
SUPERPOWERS.

BUT I NEED
TO BELIEVE IN
SOMETHING. I NEED
TO BELIEVE THINGS
CAN BE CHANGED FOR
THE BETTER IF ONLY
THERE IS SOMEONE
READY TO TAKE THIS
CHANCE.

SIMEON SMILES AS HE
LISTENS TO DELYANA TALKING.

HE UNDERSTANDS HER,
SO HE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING...



THE END.



Publisher: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.
Media Programme South East Europe

The Truth Hunt
A Dangerous Investigation in the Balkans

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