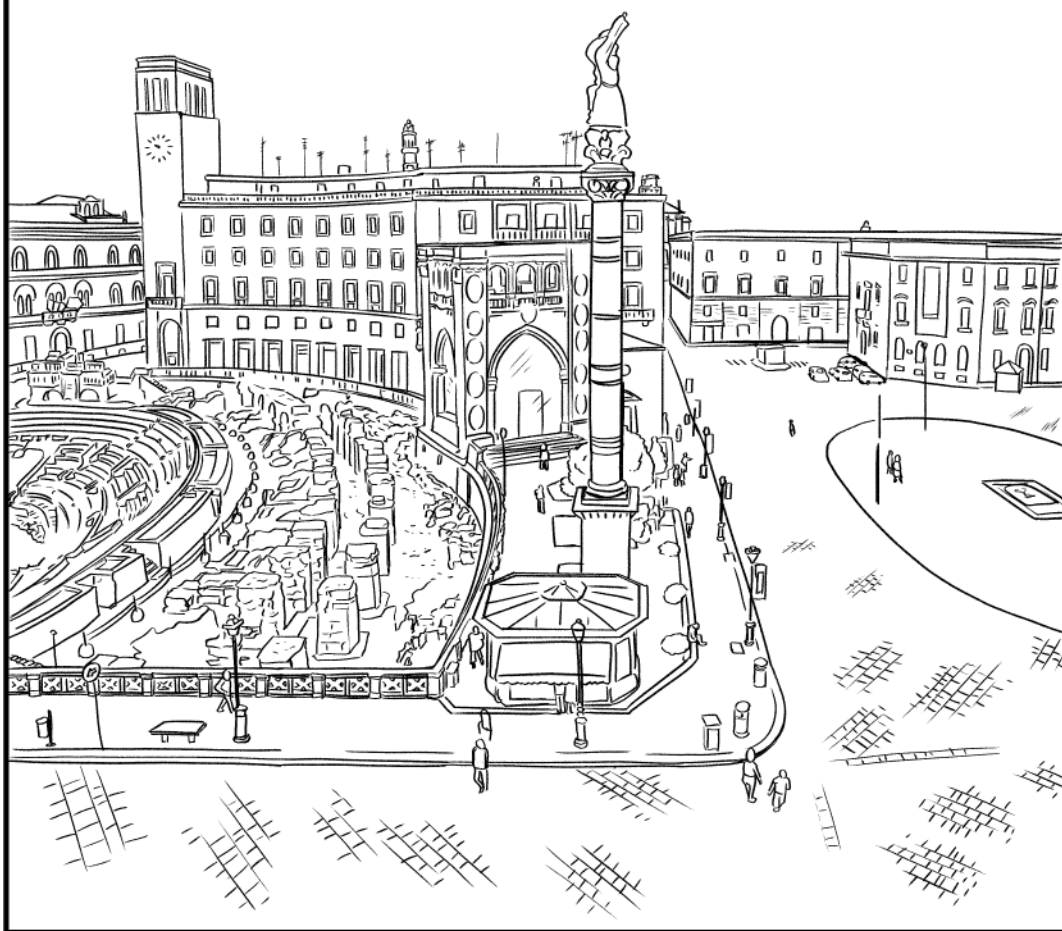
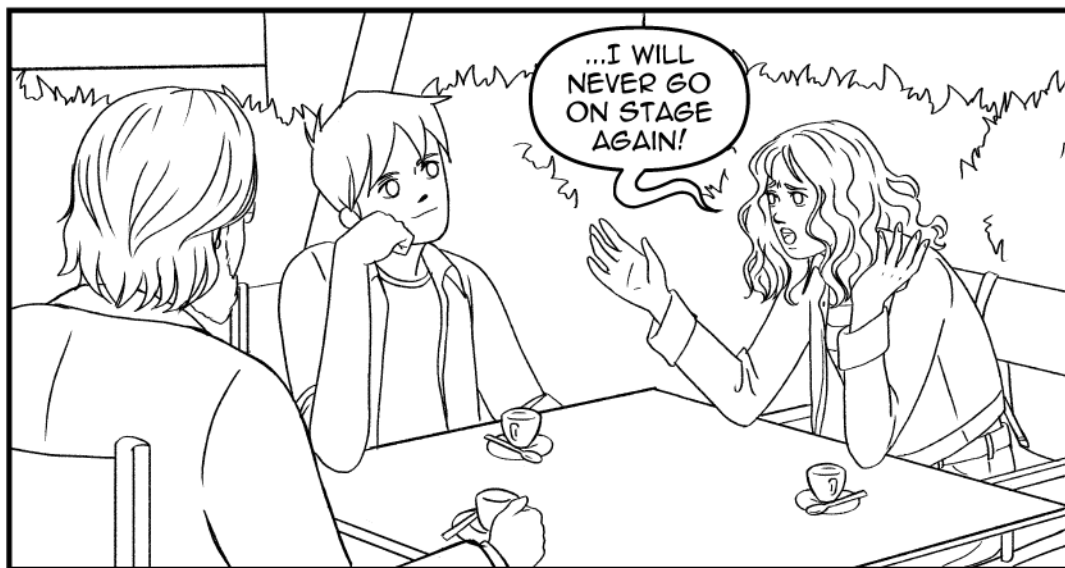
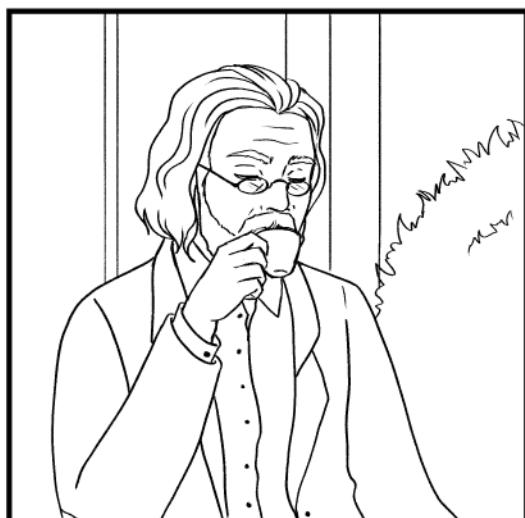
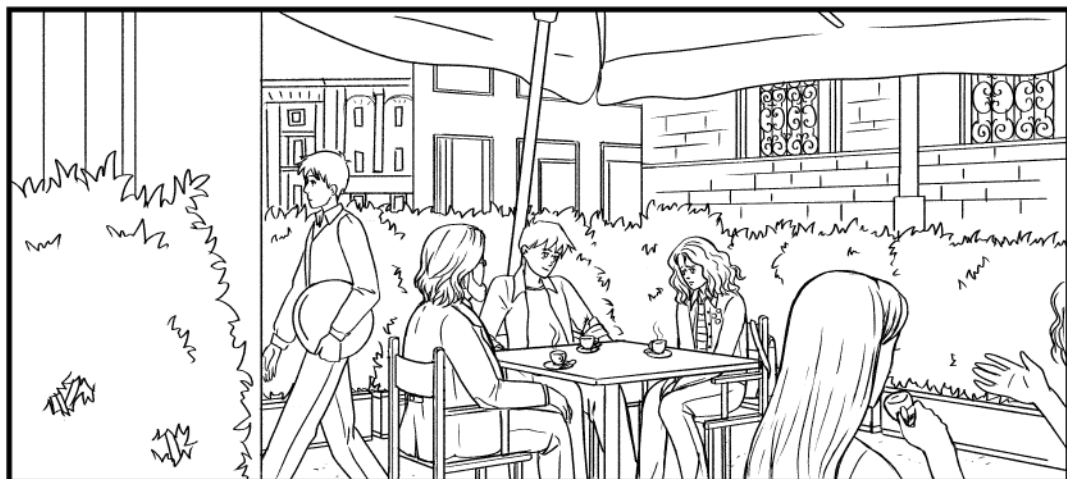


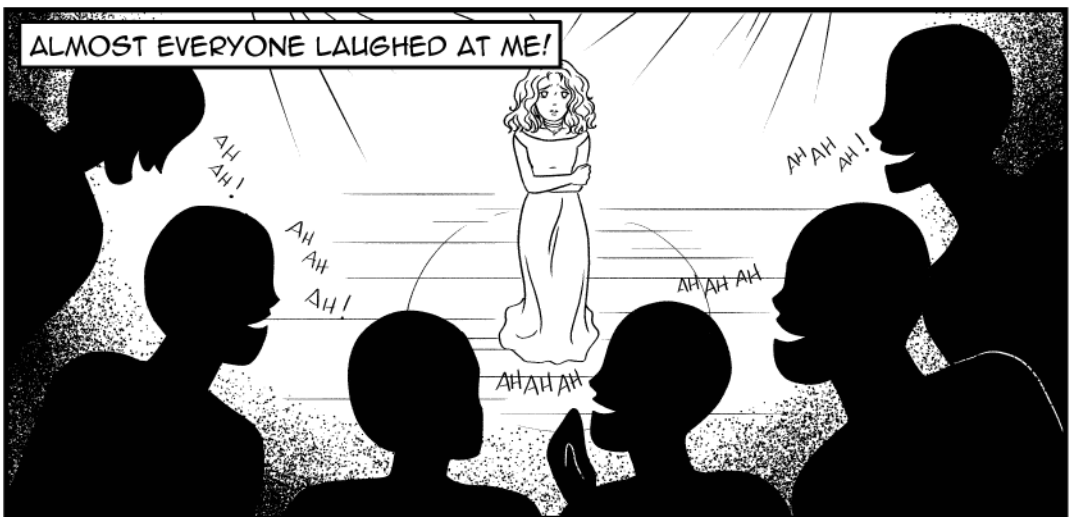
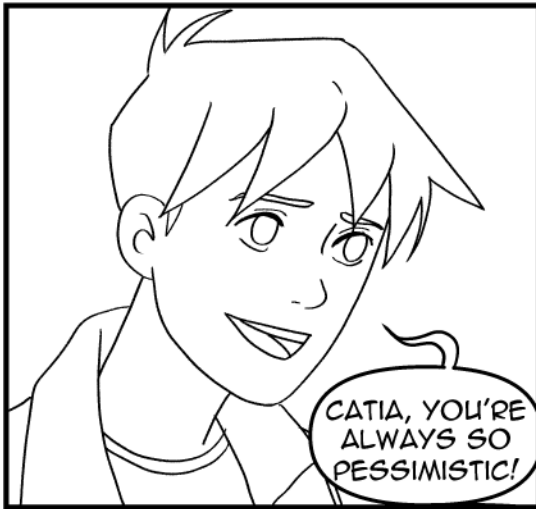
*Lecce gentile e beddha ògghiu cu cantu
quiddhu ca me sta sentu intr'a lu core
nnu paradisu 'nterra si' pe' mie
tuttu me pare beddhu a'nturnu a tie
cantu nna beddha strìa ca' passa e tice:
"Rusciuli russi, ci òle rusciuli"...*

LECCE, THE CITY OF BAROQUE.

*...oh Lecce
t'amu tantu e su' felice...*







SINGING IS EVERYTHING TO
ME. MUSIC IS MY LIFE...



...YET, IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE
EYES, MY HEART RACES WILDLY.
MY MIND GOES BLANK!

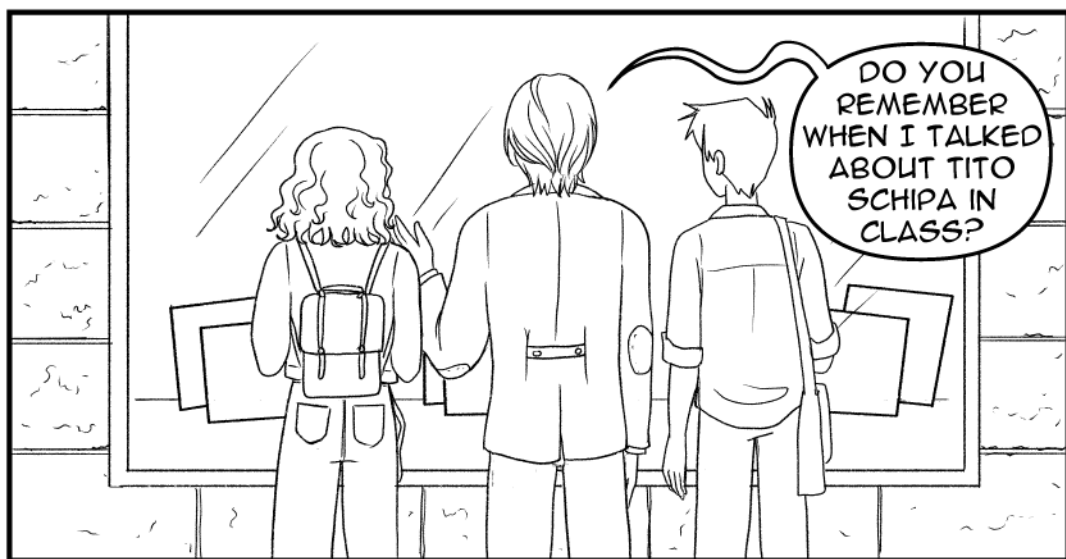
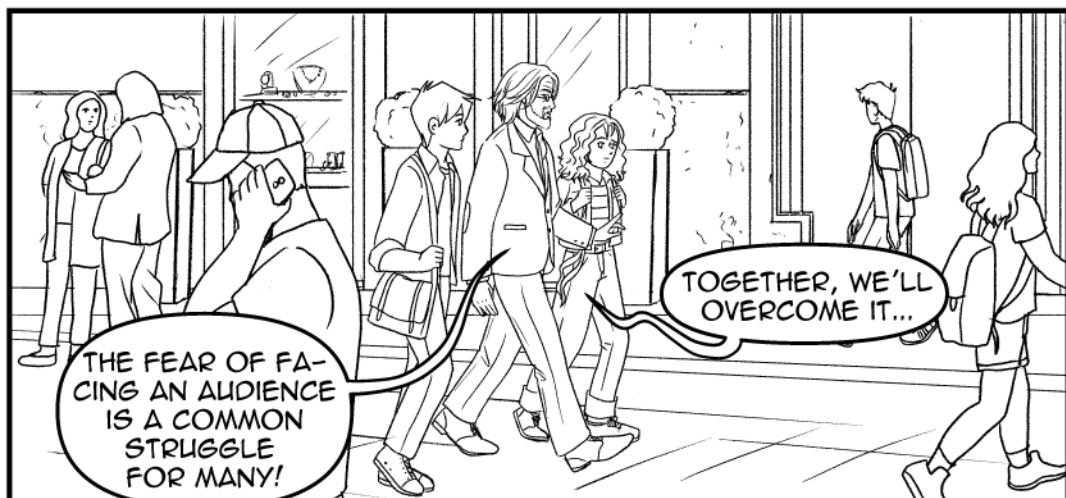
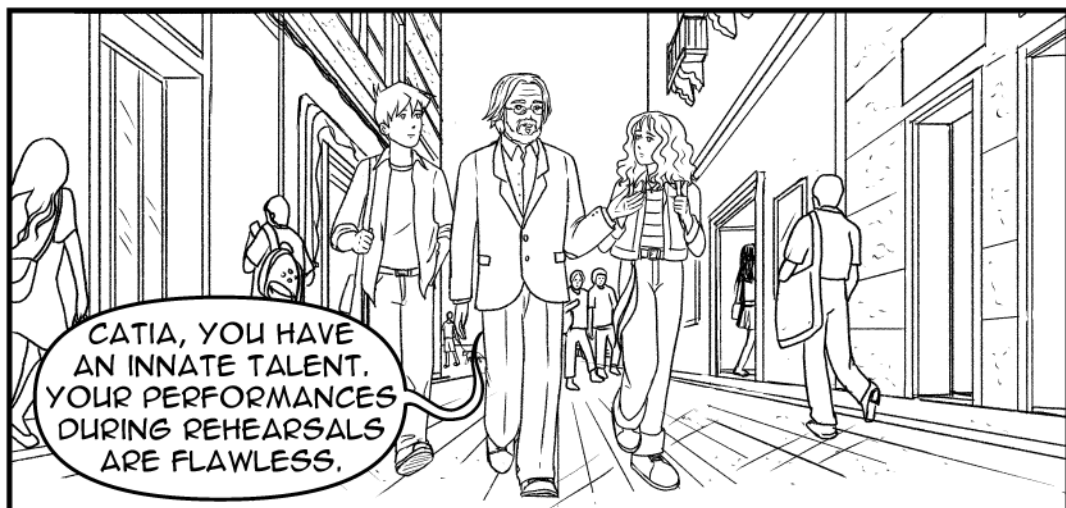


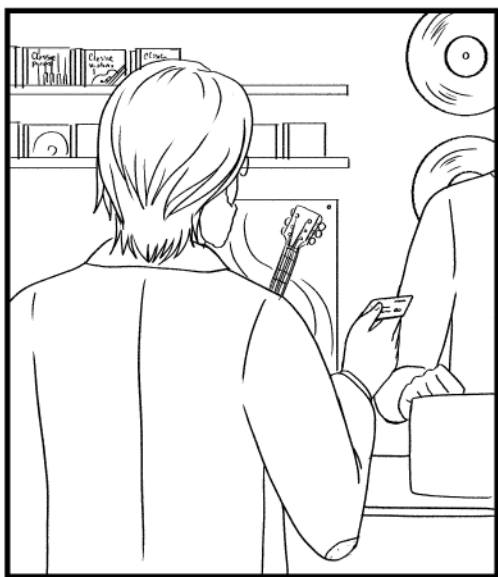
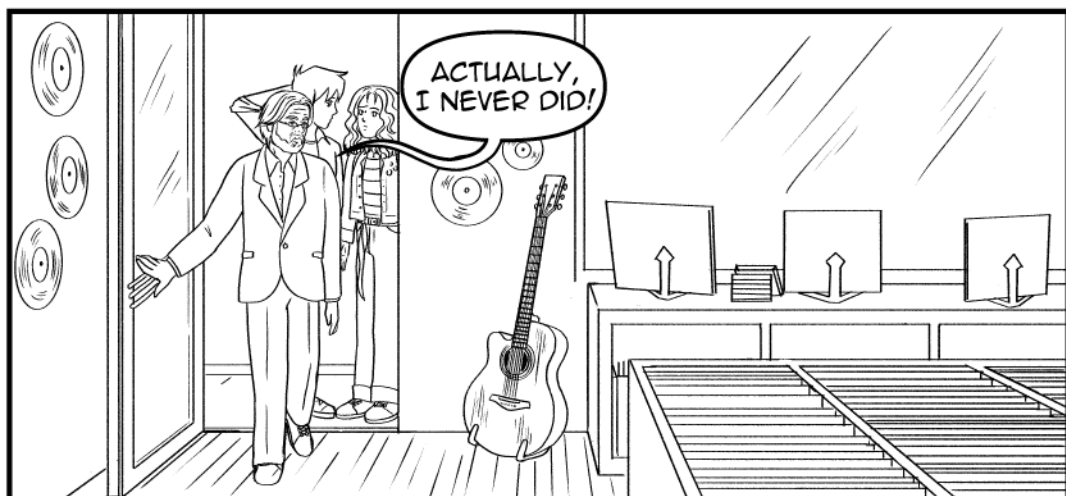
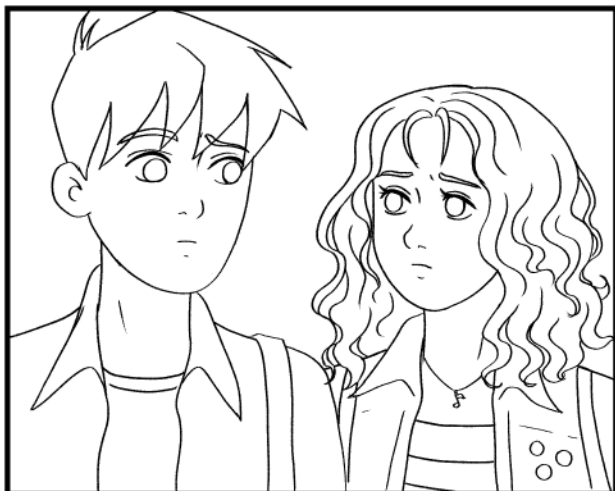
I WON'T SING
AGAIN, NOT FOR
OTHERS!

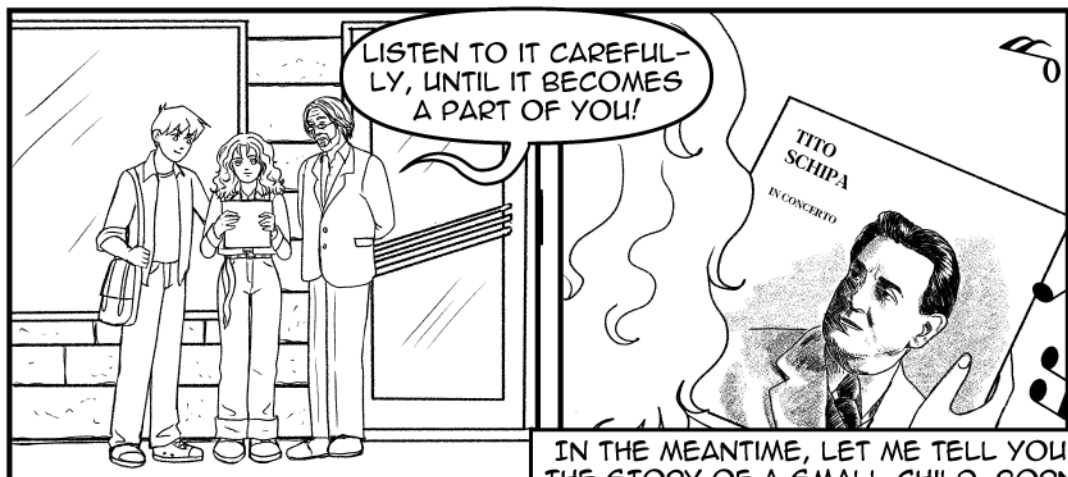


YOU WILL,
YOU'LL SEE!









IN THE MEANTIME, LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF A SMALL CHILD, BORN IN A BEAUTIFUL CITY IN THE SOUTH...

TITO
SCHIPA
L'USIGNOLO DI
LECCE BEDDHA



LECCE, SALENTO, 1888



NUMBER 6, VICO DEI PENSINI

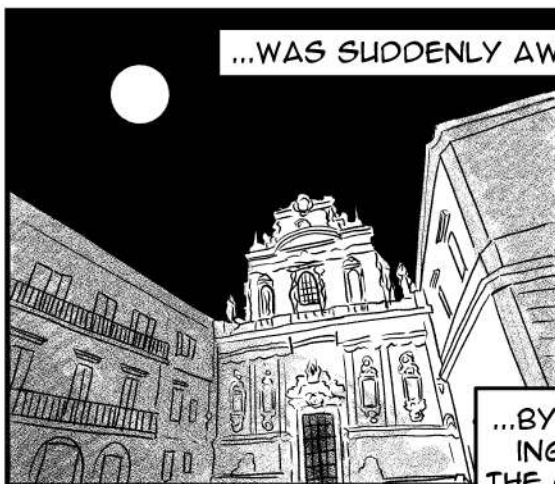


IT WAS DECEMBER 27TH...

...WHEN THE ENTIRE
SCALZE NEIGHBORHOOD...



...WAS SUDDENLY AWAKENED...



DIN
DON

...BY THE JOYOUS RING-
ING OF THE BELLS OF
THE CHURCH OF CARMINE.

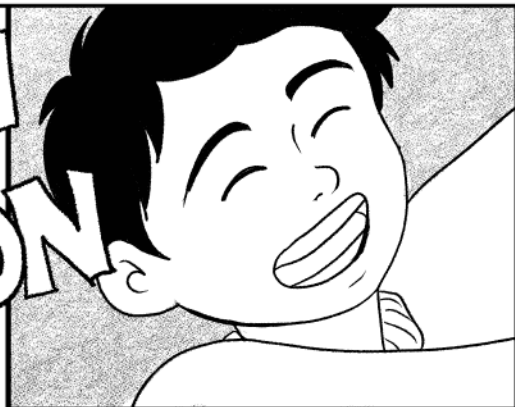


A BOY NAMED UMBERTO HAD SNEAKED UP TO THE BELL TOWER.



DIN
DON

AS TRADITION DICTATED, HE WANTED TO ANNOUNCE TO EVERYONE THE BIRTH OF HIS LITTLE BROTHER!



RAFFAELE ATTILIO AMEDEO SCHIPA. THAT WAS HIS REAL NAME!



HIS PARENTS, LUIGI SCHIPA AND ANTONIETTA VALLONE, WERE HUMBLE AND HARDWORKING SOULS.





SMALL, YES, BUT WITH A VOICE
THAT COULD CROSS ANY BOUNDARY!

THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD SOON NOTICED
IT. HE WAS ALWAYS CRYING. HE SCREAMED
DAY AND NIGHT, WITHOUT PAUSE.



FORTUNATELY, ONE DAY,
IT ALL STOPPED...

...AS IF BY MIRACLE!

Waaaa!

WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, LITTLE SCHIPA!

EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY SCHIPA?

YES, THE FAMILY HAS ALBANIAN ORIGINS.

THE LAND OF EAGLES! I HAVE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES...

WHY DOES HE CRY SO MUCH?

THE DOCTORS SAY HE'S SICK. THIS CHILD WILL BE OUR BURDEN!



AFTER THAT MYSTERIOUS ENCOUNTER,
TITO TRULY STOPPED CRYING.

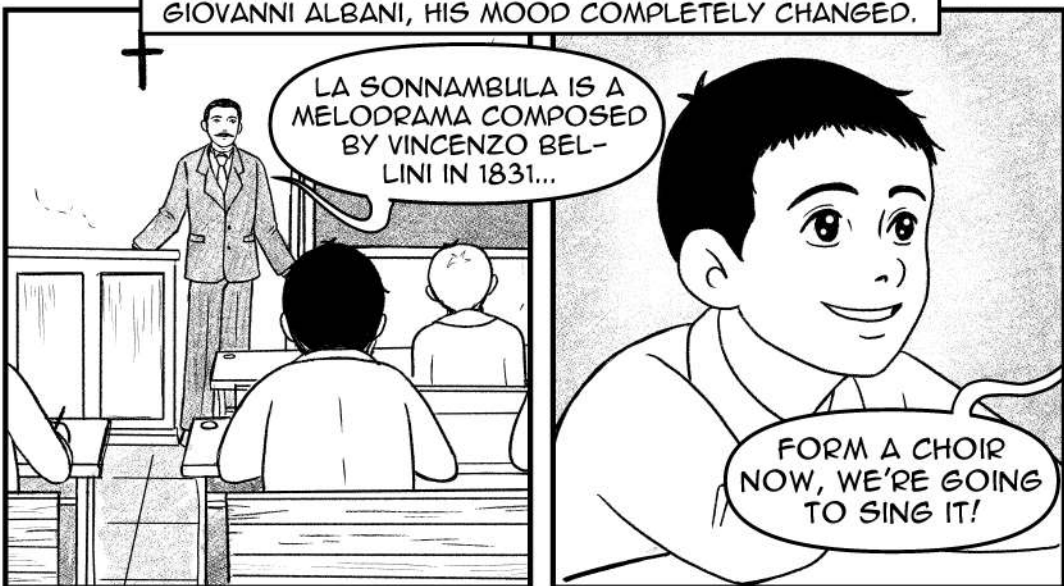


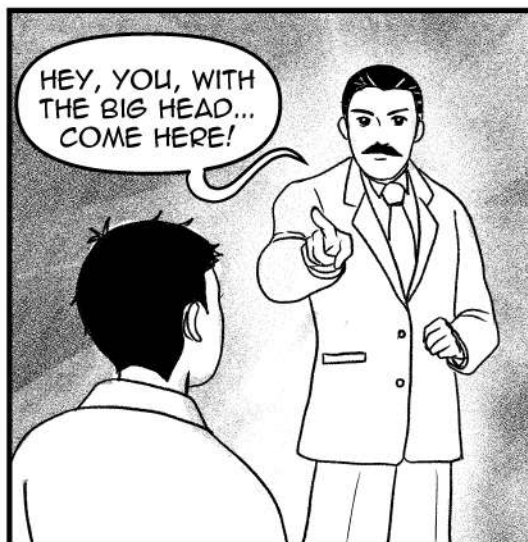
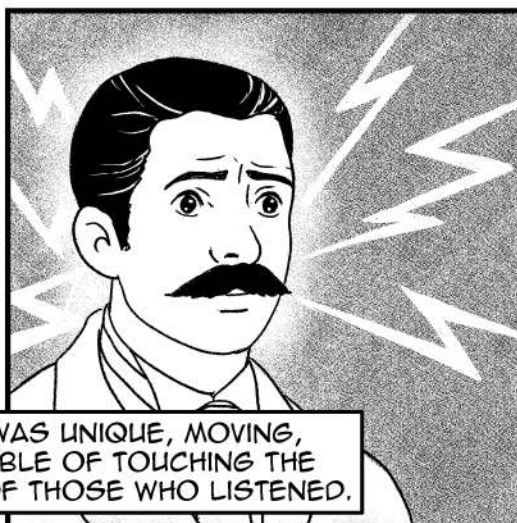
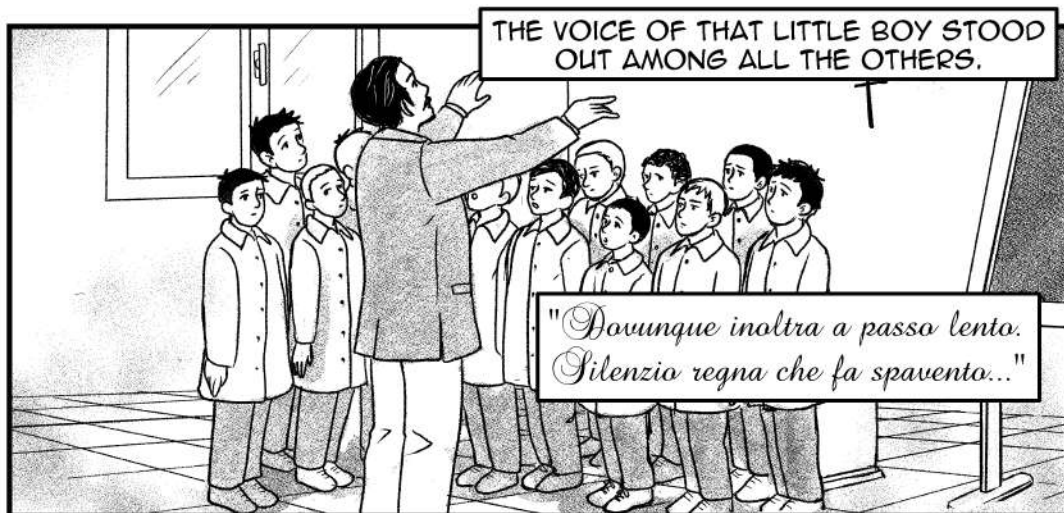
AND THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD
BREAHEAD A SIGH OF RELIEF...

AS A CHILD, HE WAS NOT PARTI-
CULARLY INCLINED TO STUDY.



BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR MUSIC WITH MAESTRO
GIOVANNI ALBANI, HIS MOOD COMPLETELY CHANGED.





JULY 29, 1899.

HE CHOSE HIM AS A SOLOIST FOR AN
EVENT IN HONOR OF THE TEACHING STAFF.

*"Dalla tomba mentre tace
l'urlo querulo del vento
grazie, grazie grideranno
non e' spento il nostro amor"*

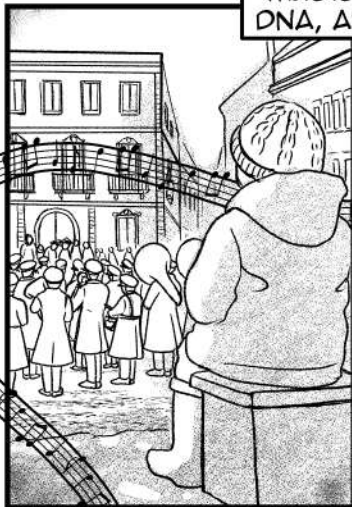
IT WAS RAFFAELE ATTILIO AMEDEO
CHIPA'S FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE.
HE WAS JUST TEN YEARS OLD!

HIS SOLO WAS MET WITH ENTHUSIASM BY ALL
PRESENT. THE LOCAL PRESS ENDED UP
PRAISING HIS EXTRAORDINARY TALENT.

"ABOVE ALL, THE GENERAL
ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO A
SOLO SUNG BY THE STUDENT
SCHIPA RAFFAELE, WITH A CON-
FIDENT, PLEASANT, AND WELL-
PITCHED VOICE, REVEALING
EXCELLENT SINGING POTEN-
TIAL THAT SHOULD BE
CULTIVATED IN TIME."
(LA PROVINCIA DI LECCE)

La Provincia di Lecce

MUSIC FLOWED THROUGH THAT CHILD'S DNA, AND HE FOLLOWED IT EVERYWHERE.

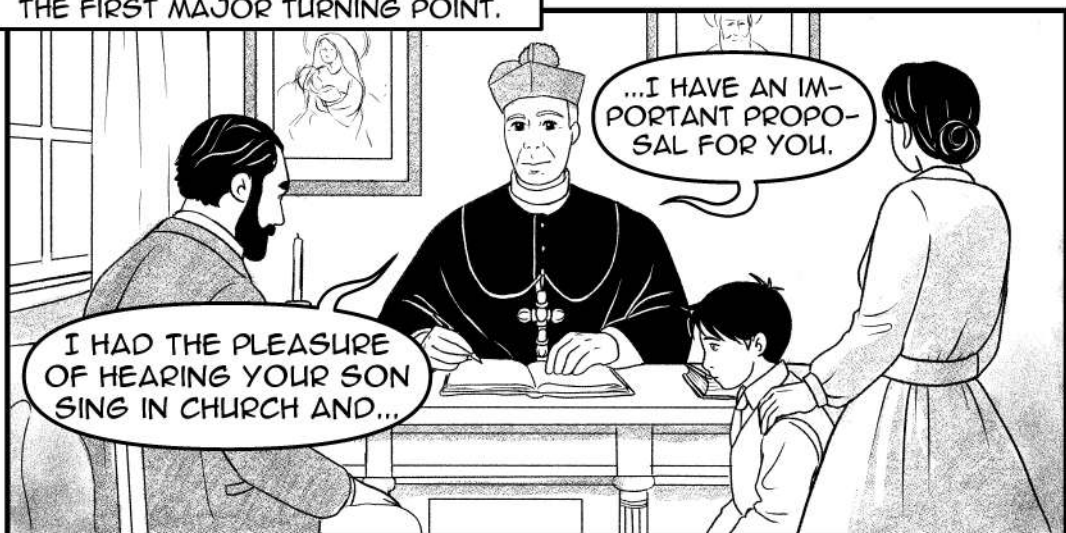


"BE QUIET NOW, THE LITTLE ONE IS GOING TO PLAY!"*

DECEMBER 22, 1901.



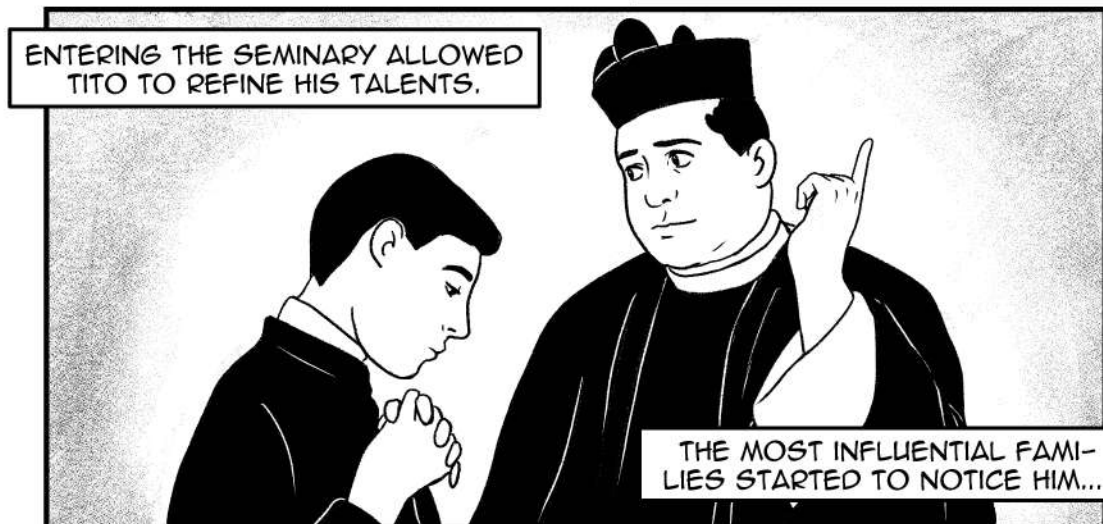
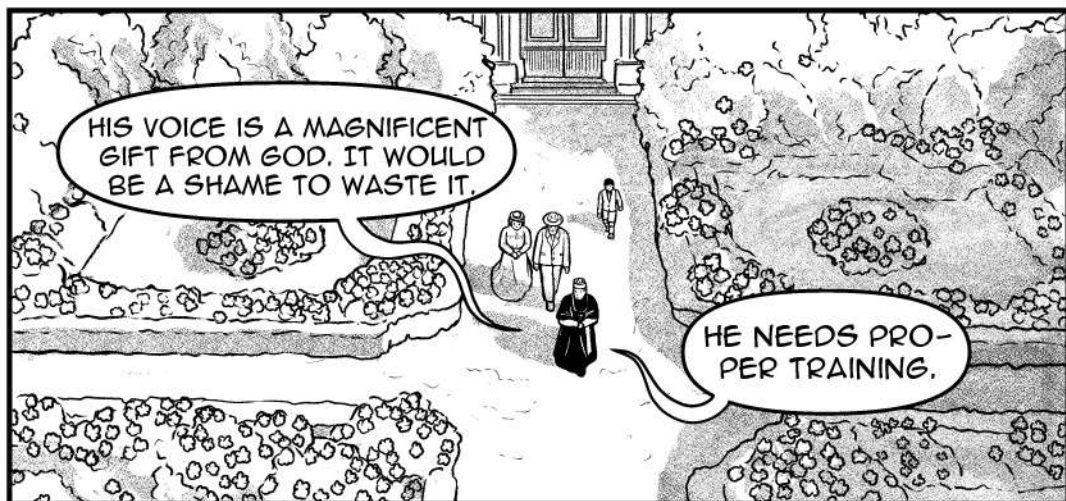
THE APPOINTMENT OF DON GENNARO TRAMA AS BISHOP OF LECCE MARKED THE FIRST MAJOR TURNING POINT.



I HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING YOUR SON SING IN CHURCH AND...

...I HAVE AN IMPORTANT PROPOSAL FOR YOU.

***STATEVI ZITTI ADESSO, CHE DEVE SUONARE IL PICCOLETTO" (IN SALENTINO DIALECT)

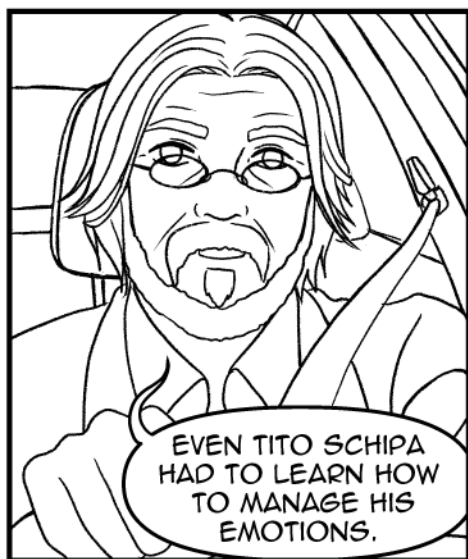
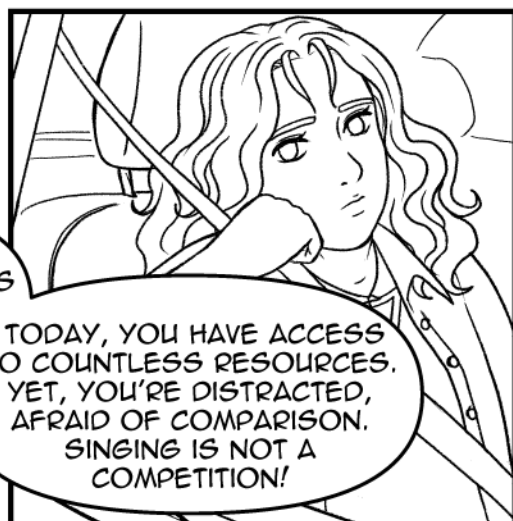
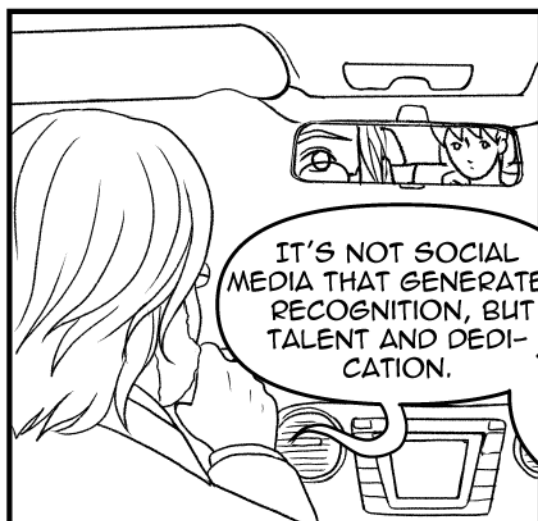
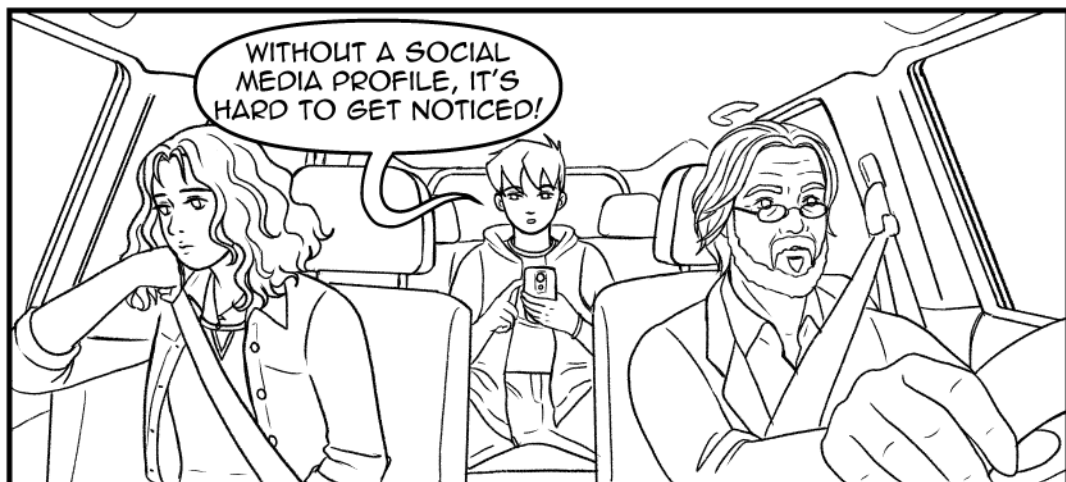


A NEW STAR WAS BEING BORN!

COULD IT BE THAT
THEY LOVE MY VOICE
MORE THAN THEY
LOVE ME?

HOWEVER, EVEN THE GREATEST
MUST FACE THEIR FEARS...



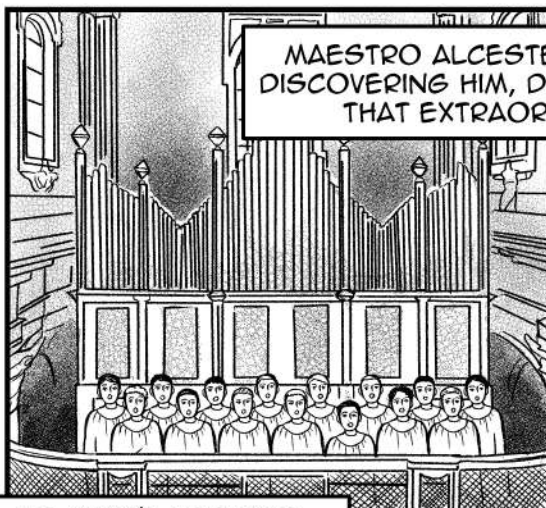


1903, EASTER SUNDAY.



TITO ENTRUSTED HIMSELF TO STRICT TEACHERS, HUMBLY LEARNING FROM THEIR GUIDANCE.

MAESTRO ALCESTE GERUNDA, AFTER DISCOVERING HIM, DECIDED TO NURTURE THAT EXTRAORDINARY VOICE.



HE DIDN'T HESITATE TO SLAP HIM WHEN HE MISUSED HIS VOICE.



GERUNDA IGNITED IN HIM A PASSION FOR COMPOSITION.



HE UNLEASHED HIS CREATIVE...

TEACHING METHODS THAT, FORTUNATELY, HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND!

...AND EMOTIONAL POTENTIAL.



HE EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT
EMOTIONS ENRICH ART,
GIVING IT AUTHENTICITY

IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT
TITO MET EMILIA CESANO...



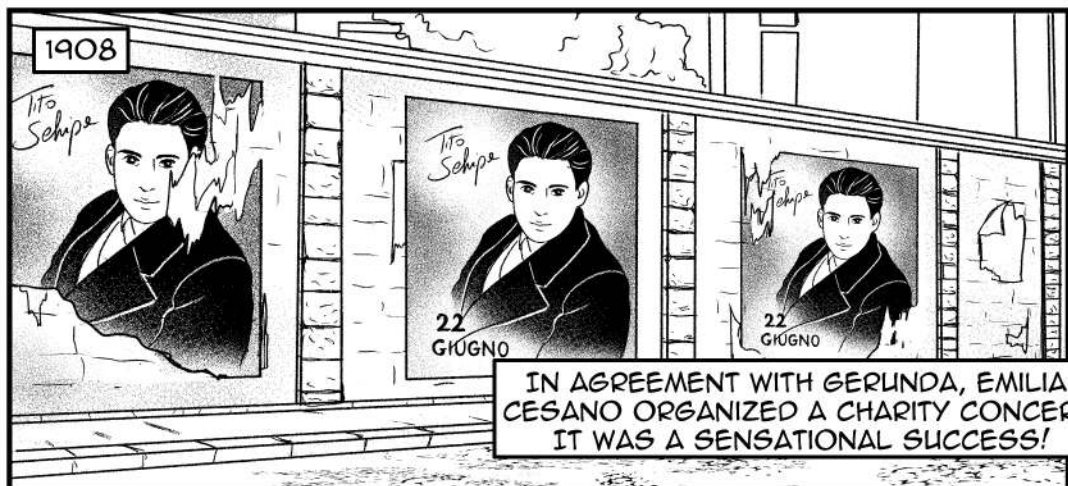
HIS FIRST MUSE.



BUT IT WAS ANOTHER "EMILIA" WHO
GAVE A DECISIVE PUSH TO HIS CAREER.



EMILIA BERNARDINI MACOR, THE
UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF SOCIAL
INITIATIVES IN LECCE!



THE MONEY RAISED WAS USED TO FUND TITO'S MOVE TO MILAN.

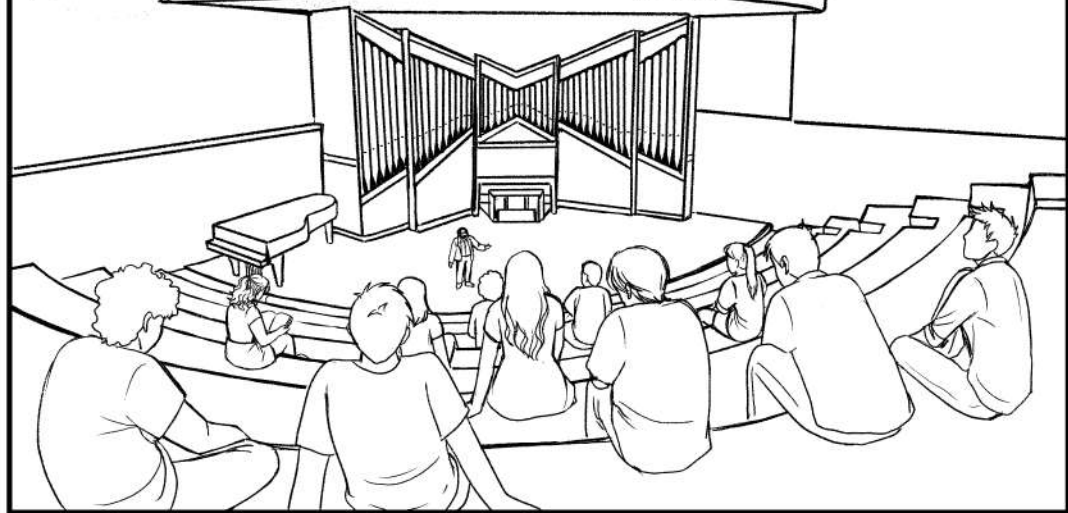


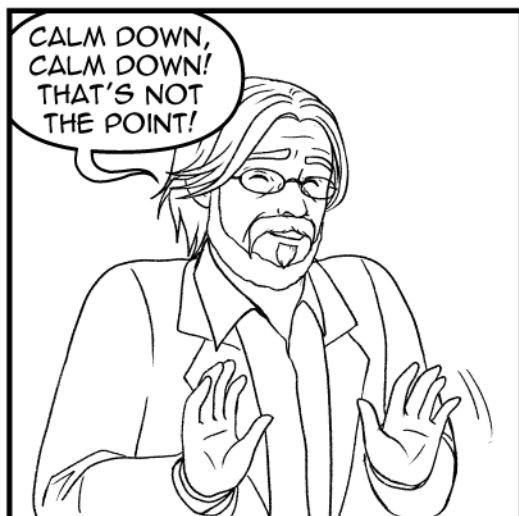
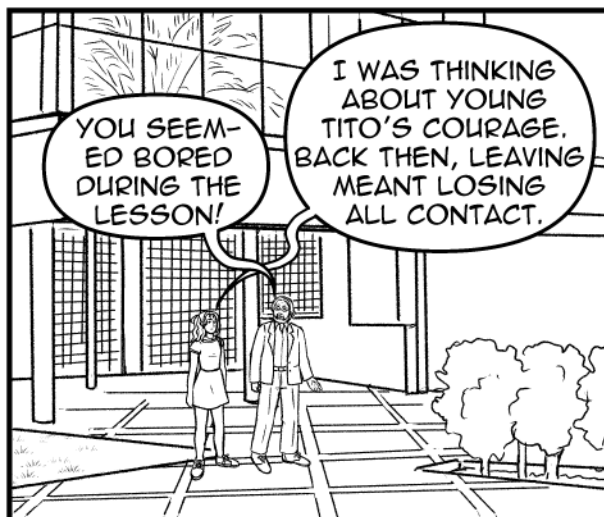
FAR FROM HIS HOMETLAND AND HIS LOVED ONES...

THERE, WITH THE RIGHT TRAINING, HE WOULD FINALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE FLIGHT.

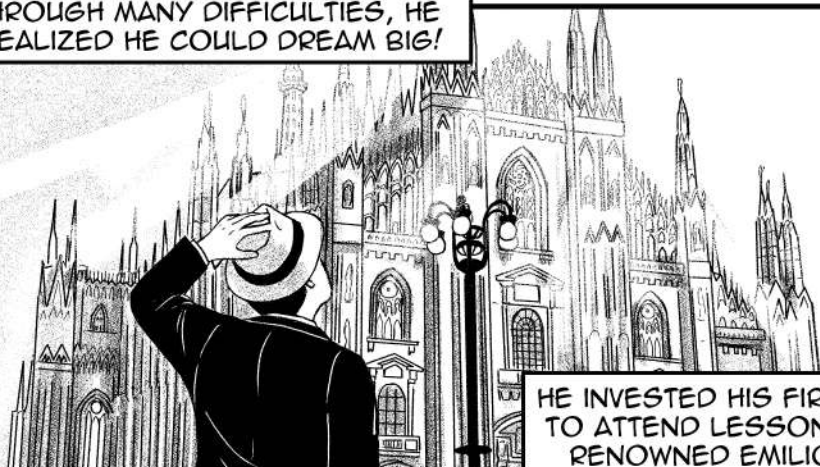


LECCE. TITO SCHIPA CONSERVATORY.



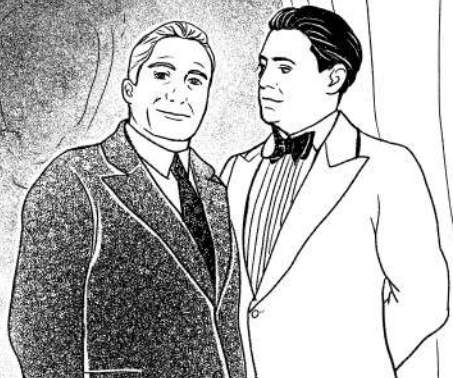


THROUGH MANY DIFFICULTIES, HE
REALIZED HE COULD DREAM BIG!



HE INVESTED HIS FIRST SAVINGS
TO ATTEND LESSONS WITH THE
RENOWNED EMILIO PICCOLI.

"EMILIO"—A RECURRING NAME
IN HIS LIFE. "PICCOLI"—
JUST LIKE HIS NICKNAME.
FATE CAN BE IRONIC!



HE, TOO, USED OUTDATED
METHODS. SHARP PINCHES ON
THE LEGS FOR EVERY MISTAKE.

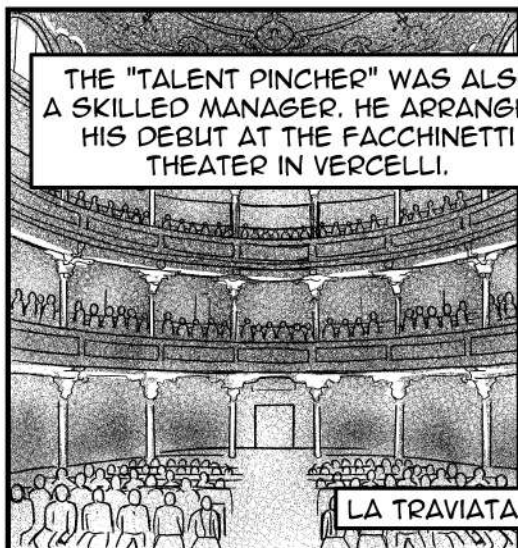
HIS NEW MAESTRO WORKED
INTENSIVELY ON HIS VOICE,
BRINGING IT TO A HIGHER LEVEL.



THE "TALENT PINCHER" WAS ALSO
A SKILLED MANAGER. HE ARRANGED
HIS DEBUT AT THE FACCHINETTI
THEATER IN VERCELLI.

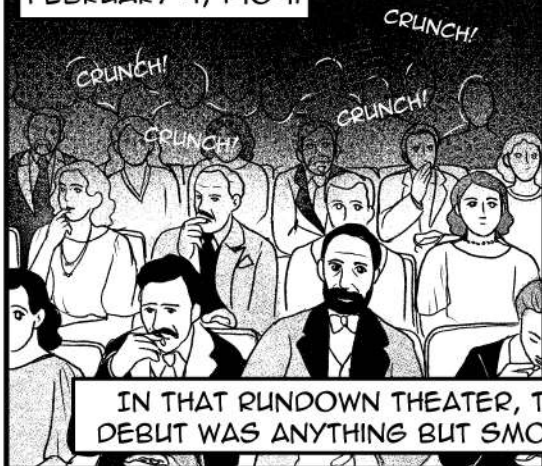


NOT QUITE
THERE YET!

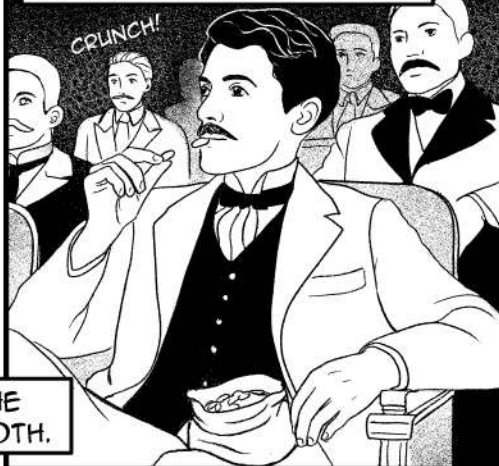


LA TRAVIATA.

FEBRUARY 4, 1909.



THE AUDIENCE WAS MUNCH-
ING ON PUMPKIN SEEDS.



IN THAT RUNDOWN THEATER, THE
DEBUT WAS ANYTHING BUT SMOOTH.

DESPITE THE CONSTANT CHATTER
AND SEEDS SCATTERED EVERY-
WHERE, TITO MANAGED TO
ACHIEVE MODERATE SUCCESS.



NEVER GIVE UP!

AMONG THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES OF THE TIME WAS GIUSEPPE BORBONI, AN OPERA IMPRESARIO FROM TRENTO.



DON'T LOOK FOR ME. I WILL FIND YOU!

WHEN ASKED TO EVALUATE TITO...

...NOT ONLY DID HE TRACK HIM DOWN, BUT A DEEP CONNECTION GREW BETWEEN THEM. TITO CAME TO SEE HIM AS A SECOND FATHER.



FROM 1910 ONWARDS, TITO SCHIPA BEGAN TO GAIN RECOGNITION BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS.



IL RIGOLETTO, MIGNON, IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA, IL DON PASQUALE, LA TRAVIATA, LA SONNAMBULA, LA FAVORITA...

NAPLES, 1914. TEATRO SAN CARLO.

HIS FIRST TRUE TRIUMPH.

TITO SCHIPA MADE HIS MARK WITH A MEMORABLE TOSCA, CONDUCTED BY MAESTRO LEOPOLDO MIGNONE.

THE CONDUCTOR WAS FAMOUS FOR NEVER ALLOWING ENCORES.

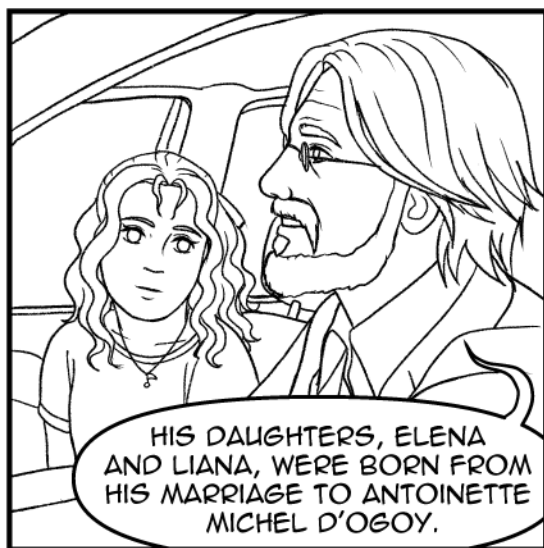
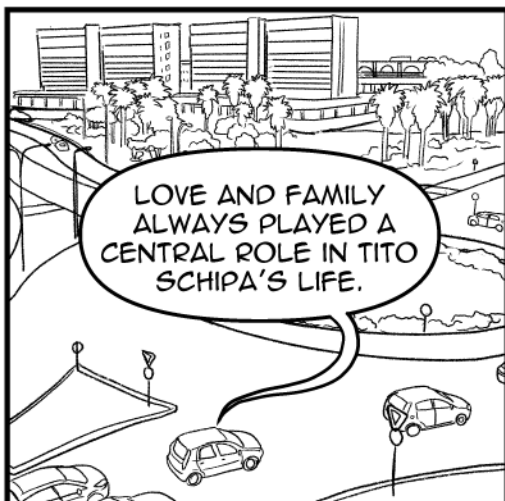
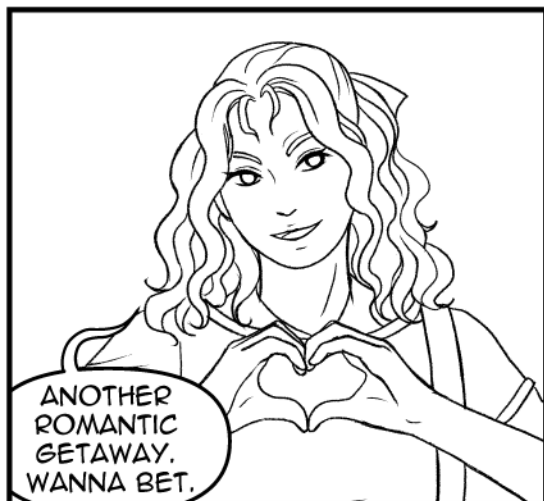
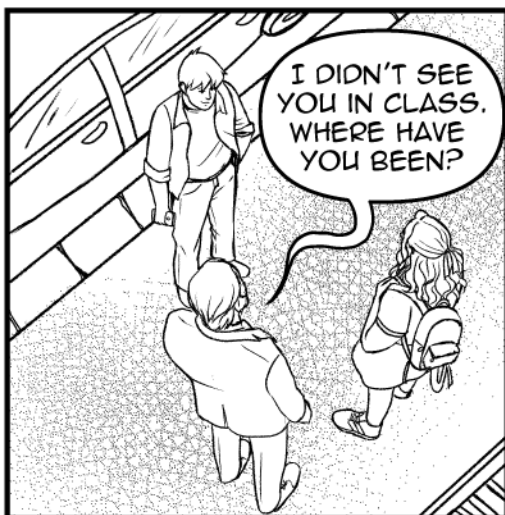
ALBANIAN,
ONE MORE
TIME!

BUT THAT NIGHT, HE MADE AN EXCEPTION. HE INSISTED ON IT!

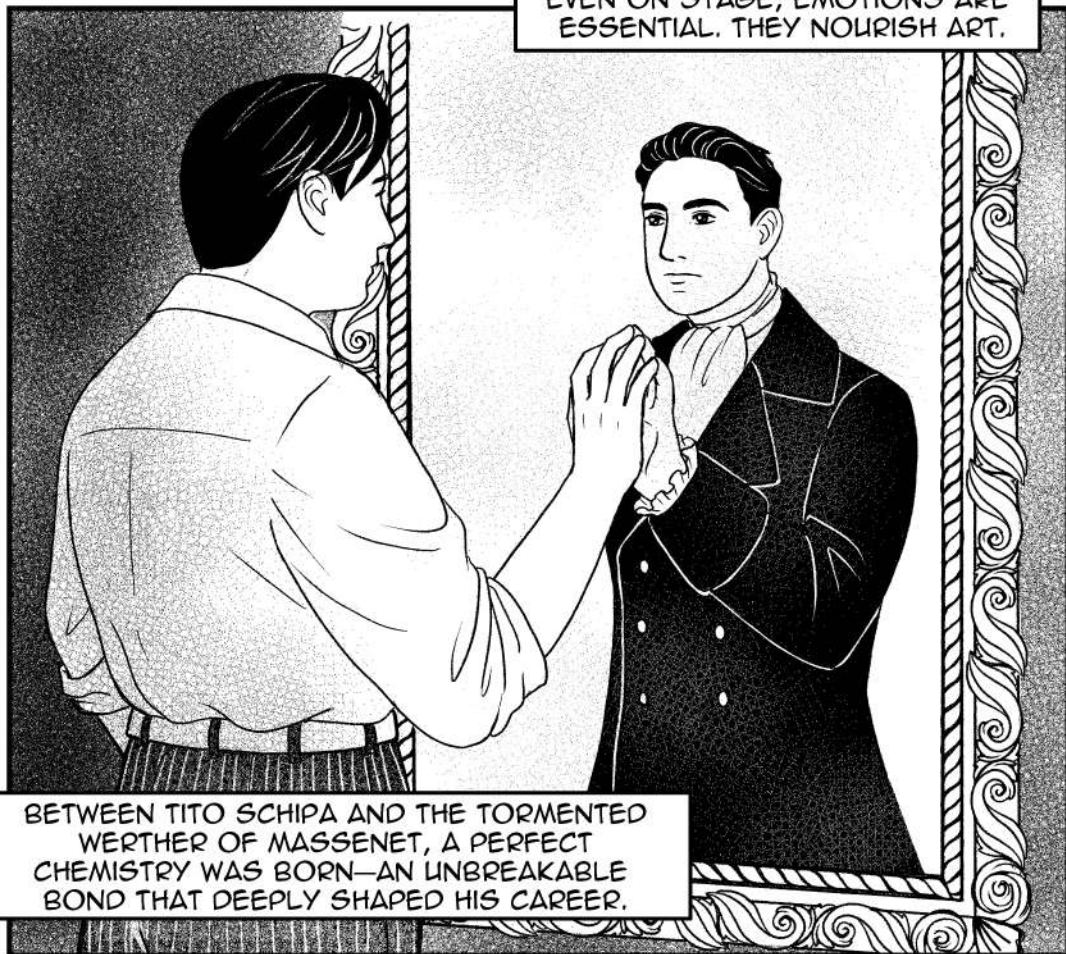
NOT FOR
THEM

BUT FOR
ME!

*ALBANESE...UN'ALTRA VOLTA. MA NON PER LORO. PER ME!

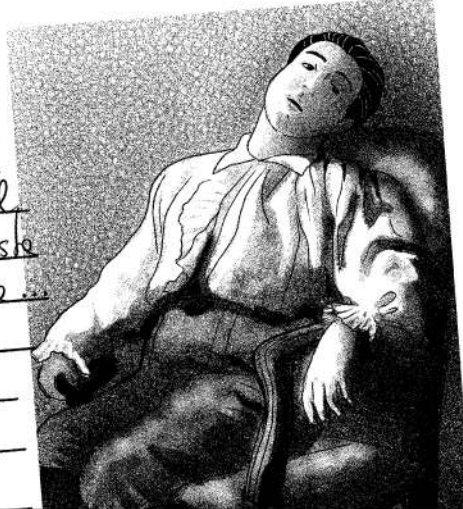


EVEN ON STAGE, EMOTIONS ARE
ESSENTIAL. THEY NOURISH ART.



BETWEEN TITO SCHIPA AND THE TORMENTED
WERTHER OF MASSENET, A PERFECT
CHEMISTRY WAS BORN—AN UNBREAKABLE
BOND THAT DEEPLY SHAPED HIS CAREER.

Werther fu messo nelle mie
mani io rilessi il romanzo
e mi concentrar su di esso
finché non mi impadronii
della cornice psicologica del
protagonista, del suo punto di vista
e del suo sguardo sull'esistenza...
Quando fui ricorso di lasciare
Werther intimamente parrai
al pianoforte...



"TITO WASN'T SUPPOSED TO SEEM LIKE WERTHER
OR EVEN BE HIM. WERTHER HAD TO BE TITO SCHIPA."

THERE, HE COLLABORATED WITH MAJOR FIGURES SUCH AS SCOTTISH SOPRANO MARY GARDEN AND IMPRESARIO CLEOFONTE CAMPANINI.

IN THE FALL OF 1919, TITO LANDED IN NEW YORK. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF HIS GOLDEN AMERICAN DECADE.

TITO DOESN'T FEAR COMPETING WITH ENRICO CARUSO'S FAME.

THE AMERICANS WILL LOVE HIM!

DECEMBER 4, 1919, CHICAGO, AUDITORIUM THEATER.

WITH HIS PERFORMANCE IN VERDI'S RIGOLETTO, HE REACHED ULTIMATE STARDOM.

WHILE THE PRESS SHOWERED HIM WITH PRAISE, HIS EARNINGS STARTED TO RISE AT A DIZZYING PACE.



...ARE DOOMED TO FAIL FROM THE START!



IN HIS WORK, TITO WAS A TRUE PERFECTIONIST.



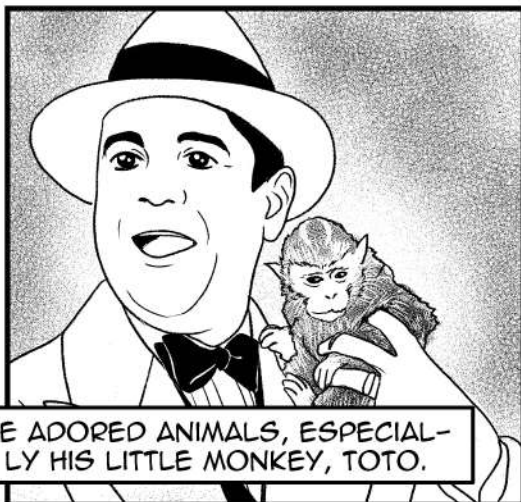
HE TOOK CARE OF HIS VOICE WITH ALMOST OBSSIVE DEDICATION, EVEN STAYING SILENT FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE A PERFORMANCE.



HE WAS A HYGIENE FANATIC, A HEALTH-CONSCIOUS MAN. HE DIDN'T SMOKE, DIDN'T EAT RED MEAT, AND AVOIDED RED WINE AND STRONG ALCOHOL.

IN HIS OWN WAY, HE WAS A MAN OF SIMPLE TASTES. HE LOVED THE RADIO, CINEMA, AND JAZZ—WATCHING UP TO THREE FILMS A DAY.



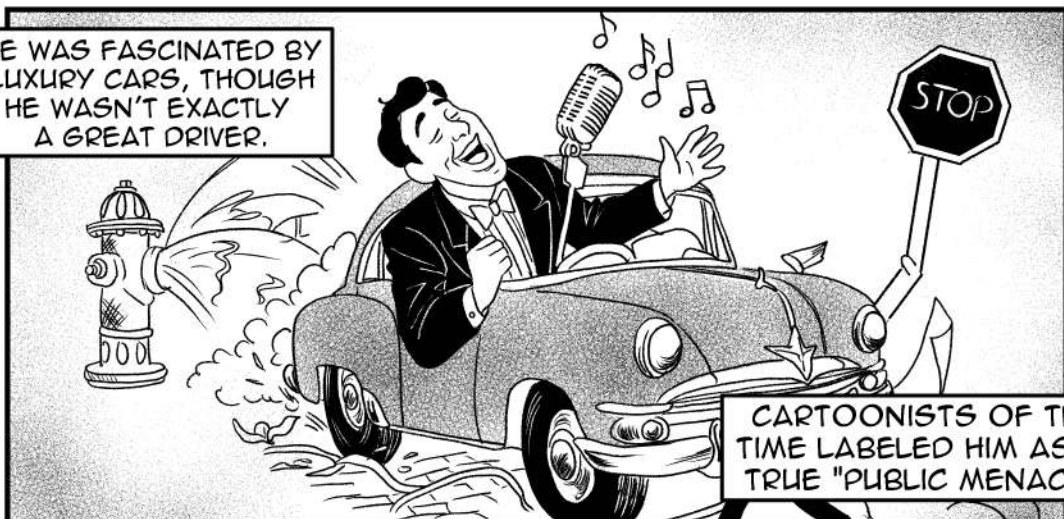


HE ADORED ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY HIS LITTLE MONKEY, TOTO.

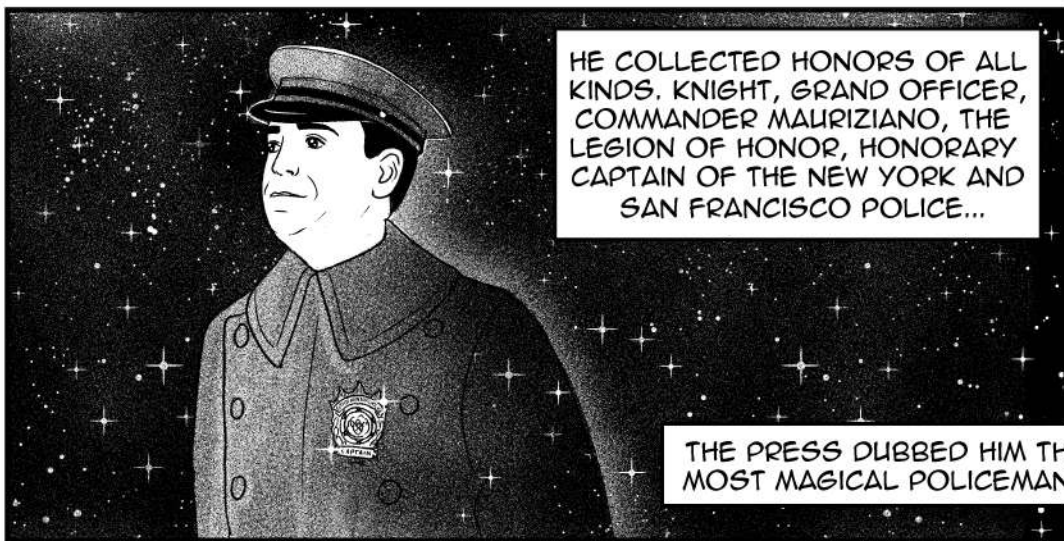
HE EVEN THREATENED TO CANCEL HIS PERFORMANCES IN THE UK WHEN THEY PUT TOTO IN QUARANTINE!



HE WAS FASCINATED BY LUXURY CARS, THOUGH HE WASN'T EXACTLY A GREAT DRIVER.



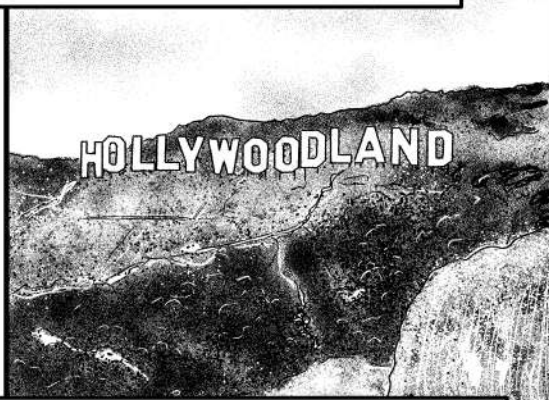
CARTOONISTS OF THE TIME LABELED HIM AS A TRUE "PUBLIC MENACE."



HE COLLECTED HONORS OF ALL KINDS. KNIGHT, GRAND OFFICER, COMMANDER MAURIZIANO, THE LEGION OF HONOR, HONORARY CAPTAIN OF THE NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO POLICE...

THE PRESS DUBBED HIM THE MOST MAGICAL POLICEMAN."

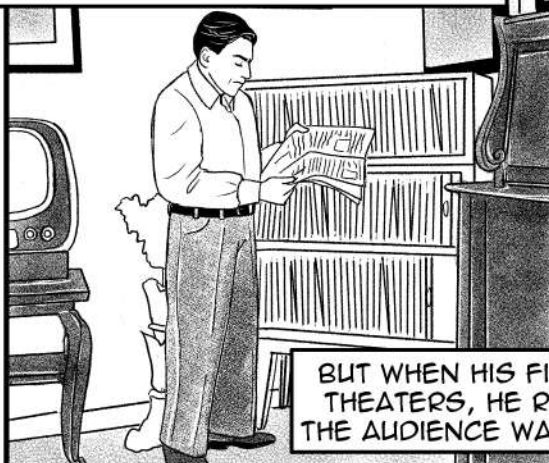
HE EVEN MANAGED TO FULFILL HIS GREAT DREAM OF ENTERING THE WORLD OF CINEMA.



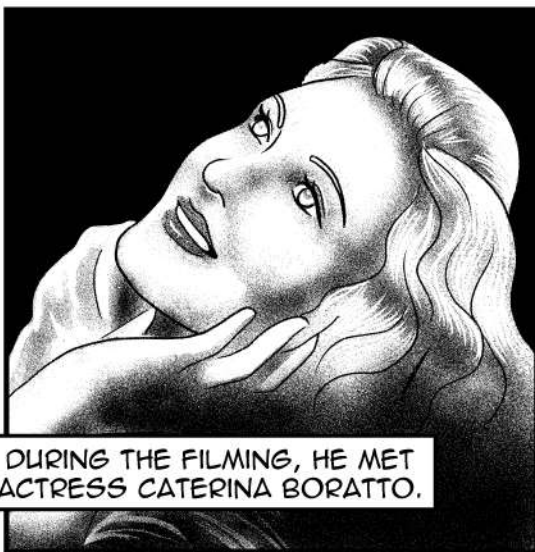
IN 1932, MARIO BONNARD CHOSE HIM FOR TRE UOMINI IN FRAC. HE ACTED ALONGSIDE THE DE FILIPPO BROTHERS.



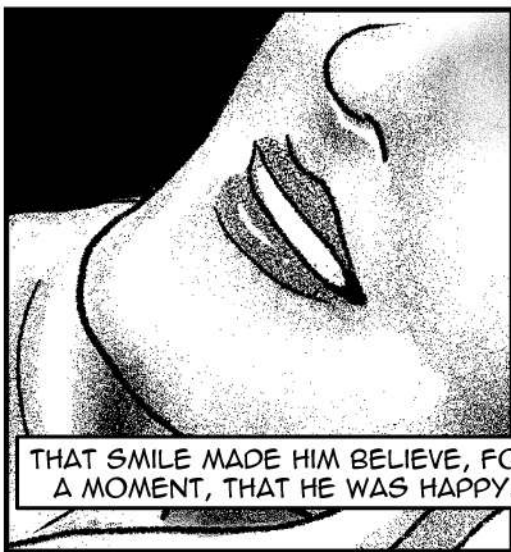
INEVITABLY, THE PRESS BEGAN TO EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT A POSSIBLE DECLINE IN HIS VOICE.



BUT WHEN HIS FILM VIVERE! HIT THEATERS, HE REALIZED THAT THE AUDIENCE WAS ON HIS SIDE.



DURING THE FILMING, HE MET ACTRESS CATERINA BORATTO.



THAT SMILE MADE HIM BELIEVE, FOR A MOMENT, THAT HE WAS HAPPY.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS, TITO SCHIPA FOUND HIMSELF ALONE,
DISTANT FROM HIS FAMILY, WITH A BROKEN HEART.

THINGS IN LIFE DON'T
ALWAYS GO AS WE HOPE.

BONDS BREAK,
DREAMS SHATTER.

THANK GOODNESS, IN THE MIDST OF
STORMS, ART BECOMES A SAFE HARBOR!

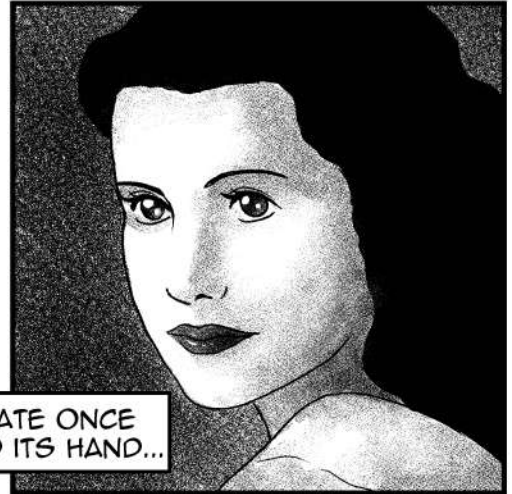




PEACE RETURNED TO
TITO'S HEART ONCE AGAIN.



ACTUALLY, FATE ONCE
AGAIN PLAYED ITS HAND...

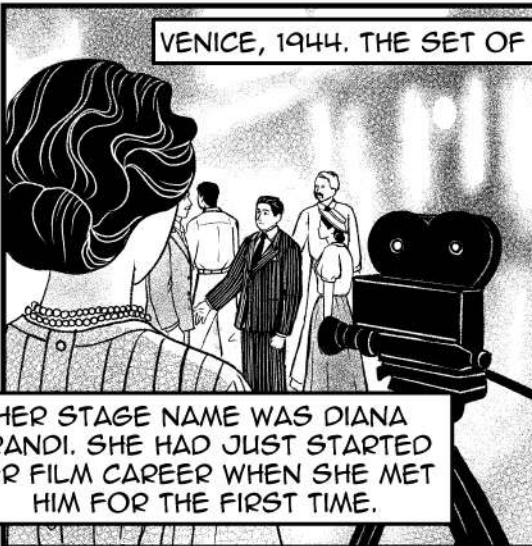


JOLANDA BORENA WAS
ONE OF HIS YOUNG FANS.
SHE CAME FROM GENOA...

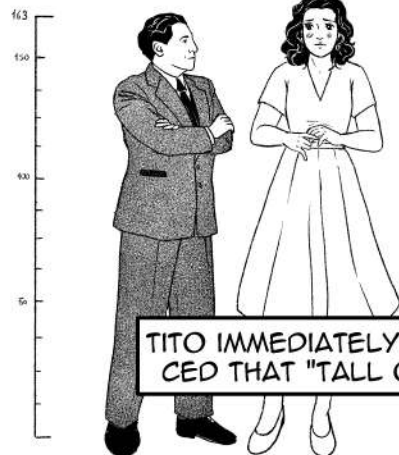


...AND SHE WAS MADLY
IN LOVE WITH HIM.

VENICE, 1944. THE SET OF THE FILM ROSALBA.



HER STAGE NAME WAS DIANA
PRANDI. SHE HAD JUST STARTED
HER FILM CAREER WHEN SHE MET
HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME.



TITO IMMEDIATELY NOTI-
CED THAT "TALL ONE!"

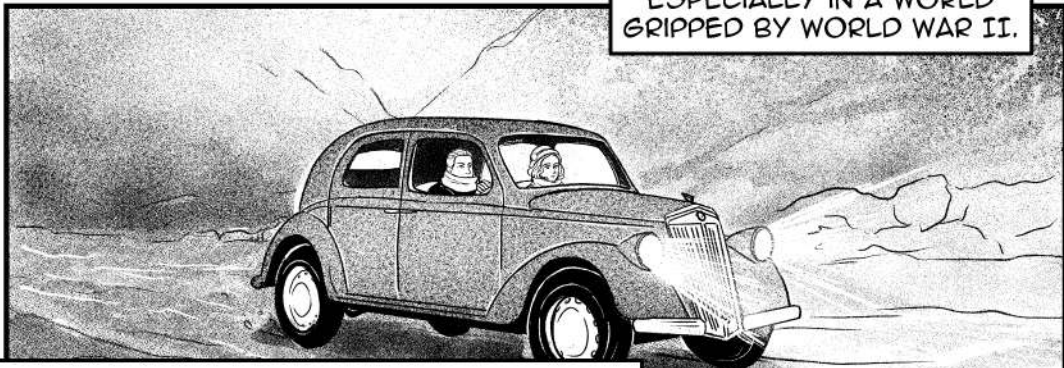
A DEEP AND INTENSE BOND
FORMED BETWEEN THEM.



DIANA BECAME A CONFIDANTE,
A SUPPORT, A PARTNER IN
ADVENTURE... A GREAT LOVE.



AND LOVE REQUIRES
COURAGE AND SACRIFICES,
ESPECIALLY IN A WORLD
GRIPPED BY WORLD WAR II.



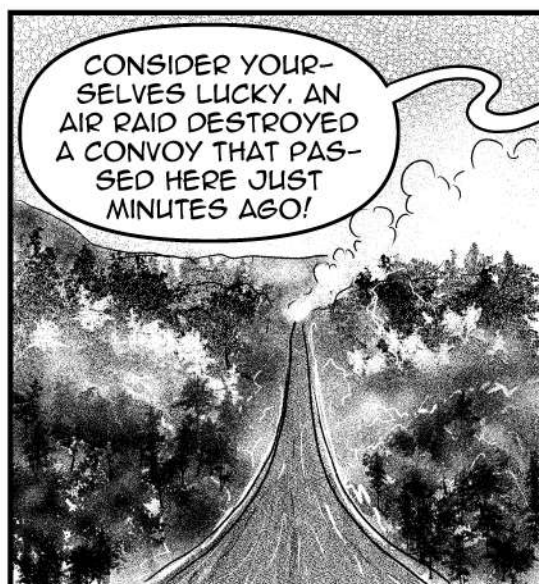
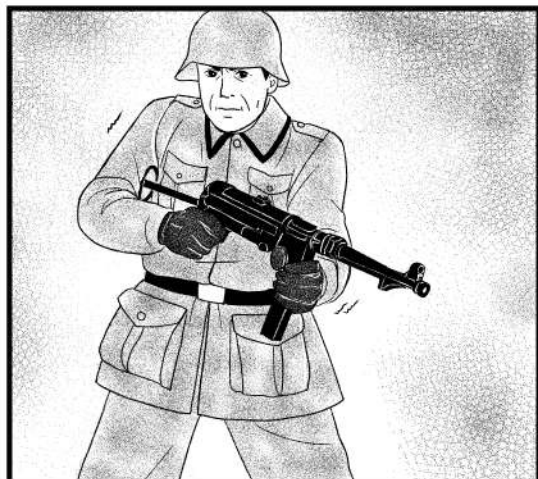
TO REACH THEATERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, TITO
AND DIANA FACED ALL SORTS OF DANGERS.

THERE WERE CHECKPOINTS
EVERYWHERE, GUARDED
BY GERMAN SOLDIERS.



SHOW ME YOUR
DOCUMENTS!







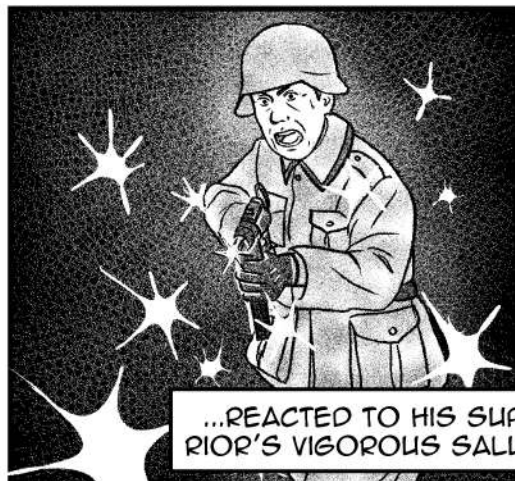
VIEL GLÜCK,
HERR SCHIPA*



SOMETIMES, ALL IT TAKES IS A
SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING TO
TURN LIFE UPSIDE DOWN...



A YOUNG SOLDIER, STILL
SHAKEN BY THE BOMBING...



...REACTED TO HIS SUPER-
RIOR'S VIGOROUS SALUTE.



HE OPENED FIRE
ON THE CAR.

THINKING IT WAS AN
ESCAPE ATTEMPT!

*GOOD LUCK, MR. SCHIPA.

TITO AND DIANA WERE UNHARMED. THE BULLETS WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE CAR'S GAS TANKS. JUST LUCK?



LIVING IN AN ERA WITHOUT GREAT CONFLICTS IS A PRIVILEGE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE.

LISBON.



SPEAKING OF MIRACLES, ON APRIL 18, 1946, TITO JR. WAS BORN. WITHOUT A DOUBT, HIS FATHER'S BIGGEST FAN!

FACING CRITICISM IS A NECESSARY STEP FOR EVERY ARTIST, EVEN THE MOST TALENTED.



TITO SCHIPA WAS TORMENTED FOR YEARS BY A FIERCE ENEMY WHO TESTED HIS PATIENCE.

THE RADIO COMMENTATOR WALTER WINCHELL SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIS PUBLIC IMAGE.



HE ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT HIS CONCERTS. HE ACCUSED HIM OF BEING ANTI-AMERICAN.



HE PAINTED HIM AS A PUBLIC MENACE.

THAT DISGRACEFUL SITUATION ATTRACTED ALL KINDS OF OPPORTUNISTS.



TWO ITALIAN-AMERICAN GANGSTERS APPROACHED TITO...

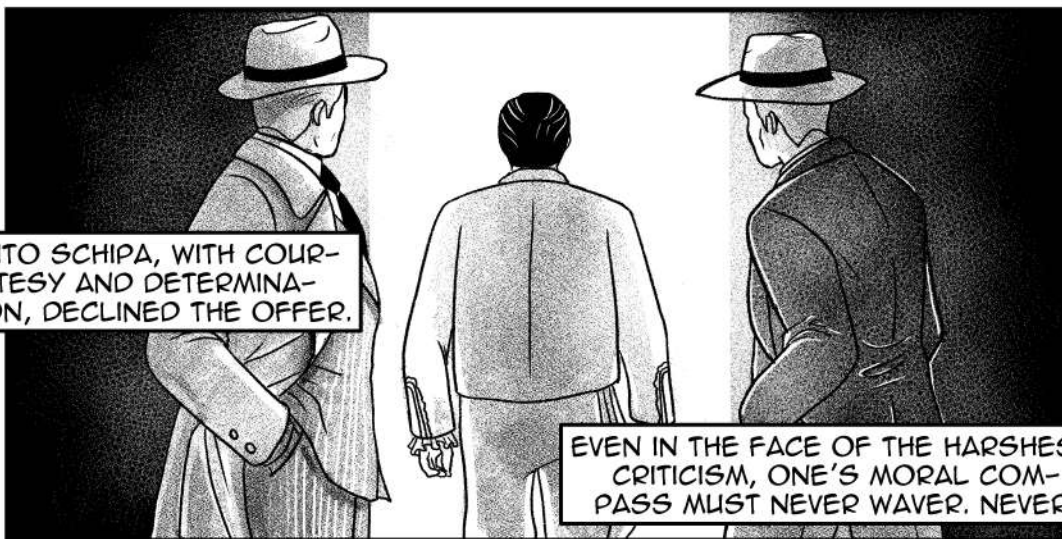
...OFFERING AN EXTREME SOLUTION
IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY.



BUT A BULLET
MOVES MUCH FASTER
THAN ANY JOURNALIST
CAN RUN.



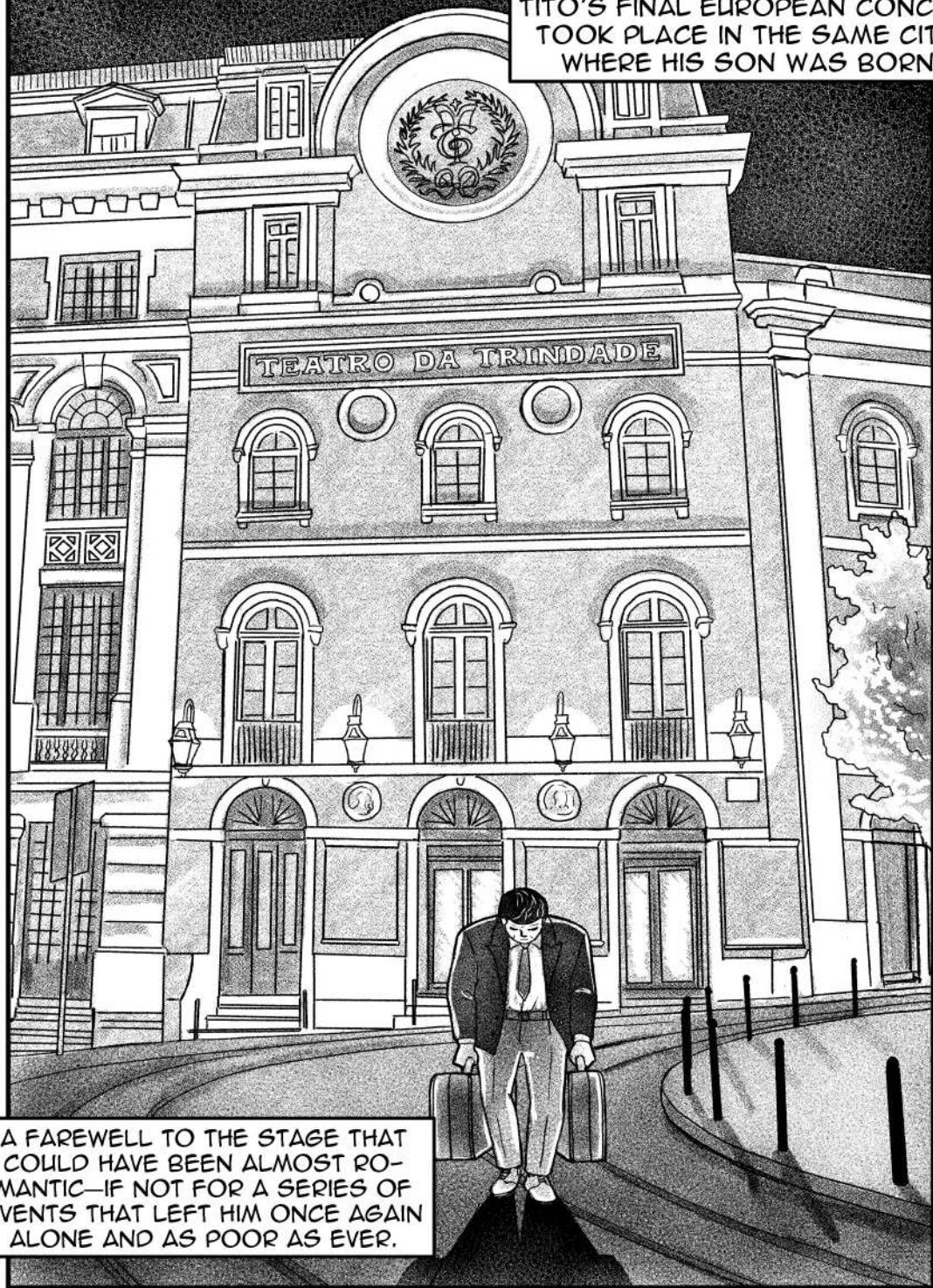
TITO SCHIPA, WITH COUR-
TESY AND DETERMINA-
TION, DECLINED THE OFFER.



1963, LISBON, TEATRO DA TRINDADE.

TITO'S FINAL EUROPEAN CONCERT
TOOK PLACE IN THE SAME CITY
WHERE HIS SON WAS BORN.

A FAREWELL TO THE STAGE THAT
COULD HAVE BEEN ALMOST RO-
MANTIC—IF NOT FOR A SERIES OF
EVENTS THAT LEFT HIM ONCE AGAIN
ALONE AND AS POOR AS EVER.



DECEMBER 16, 1965, NEW YORK...



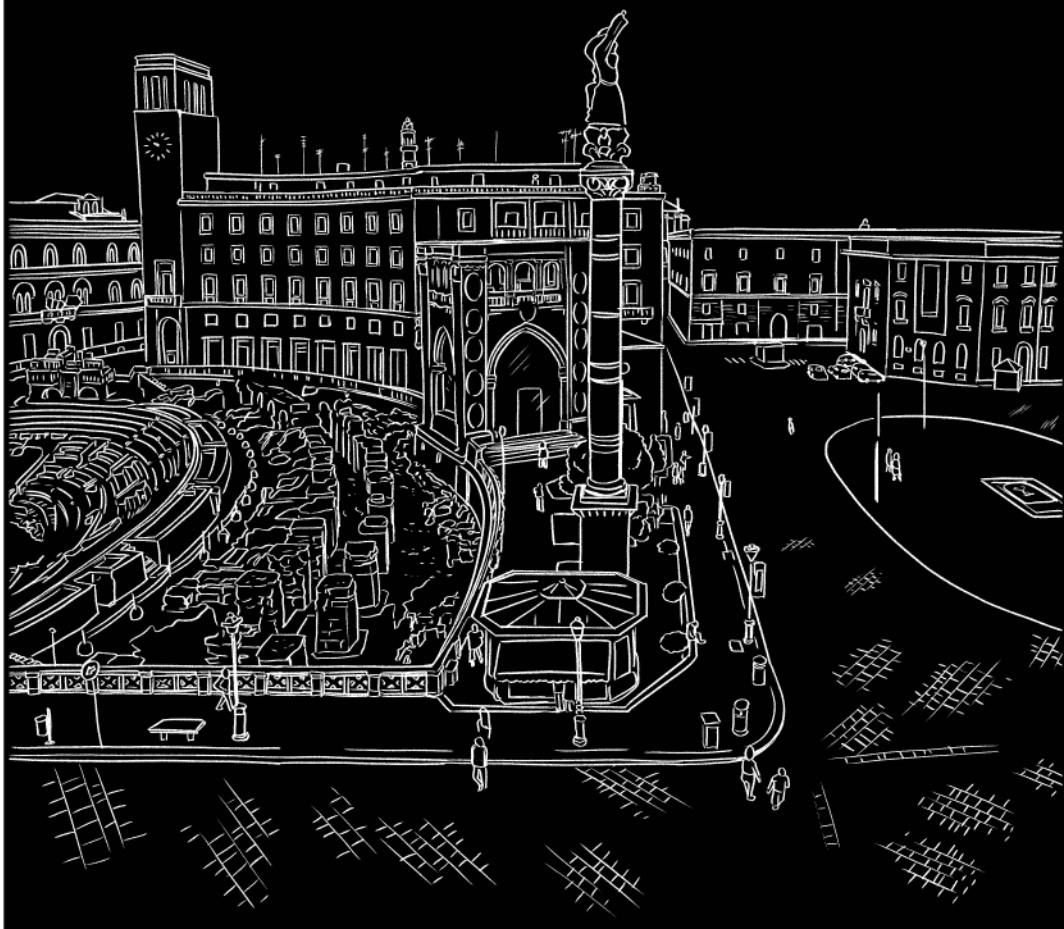
...TITO'S HEART SANG
ITS FINAL MELODY.



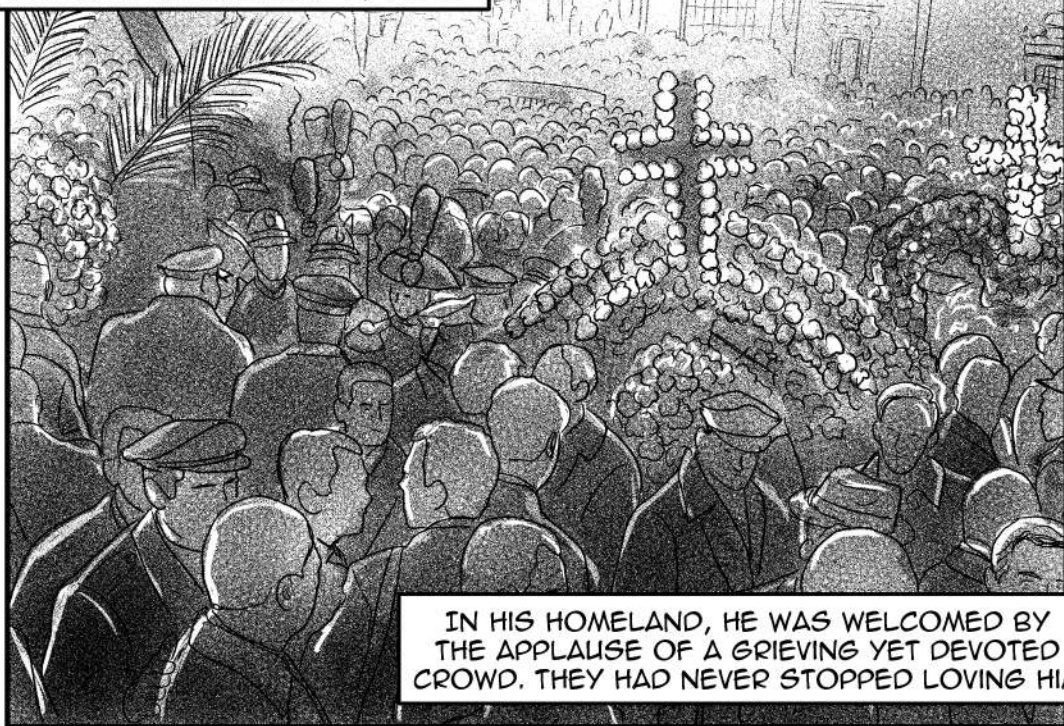
[illegible]

*Luna ca' uàrdi, ìentu ca' sienti
erba te campu stelle lucenti
rose te màggiu ca' frische 'ndurati
comu li àsi ca iddha m'à dati
'nc'ete nnu core pacciù t' amore...*

*Lecce gentile e beddha ògghiu cu cantu
quiddhu ca me sta sentu intr'a lu core
nnu paradisu 'nterra si' pe' mie...*



TITO'S MORTAL REMAINS ARRIVED
IN LECCE ON JANUARY 3, 1966.



IN HIS HOMETOWN, HE WAS WELCOMED BY
THE APPLAUSE OF A GRIEVING YET DEVOTED
CROWD. THEY HAD NEVER STOPPED LOVING HIM.

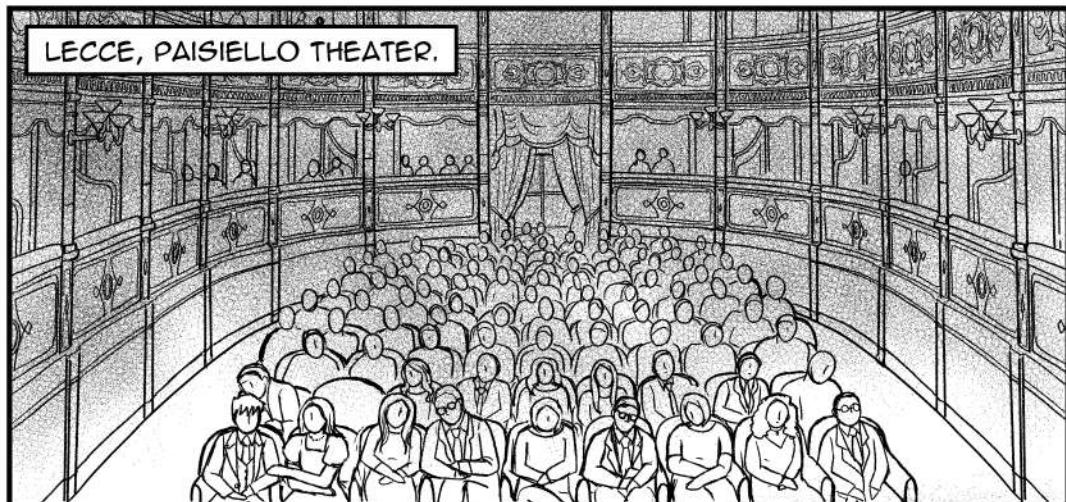
HIS LECCE BEDDHA CONTINUES TO
CELEBRATE HIM AT EVERY CORNER.



IN QUESTA CASA NEL 1888
NACQUE IL TENORE
TITO SCHIPA

TITO
SCHIPA

LECCE, PAISIELLO THEATER.



WHY ALL
THIS
DELAY?



COME ON,
CATIA, THIS
IS NO TIME
TO GIVE UP.



LECCE
SCORED
A GOAL!

TURN
THAT
THING
OFF!

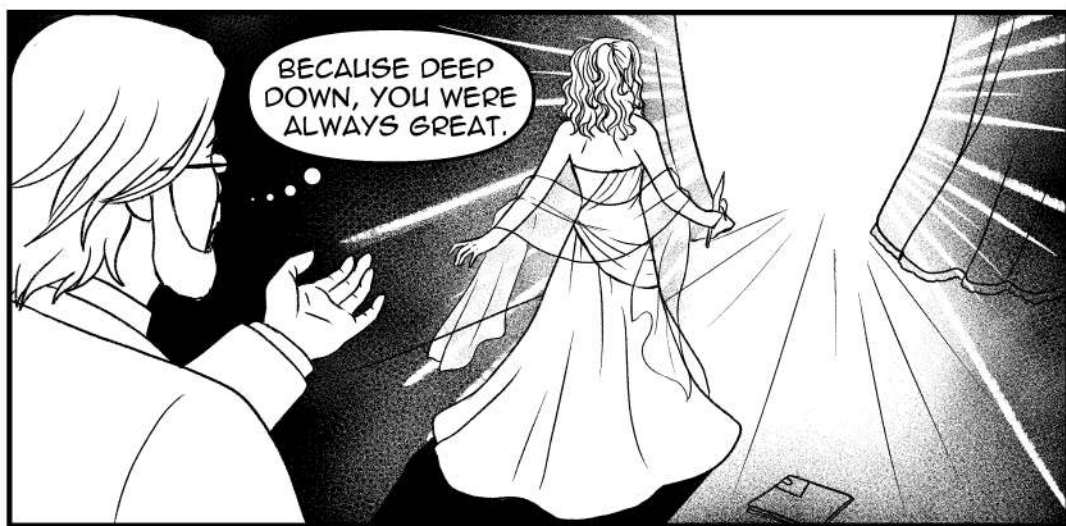
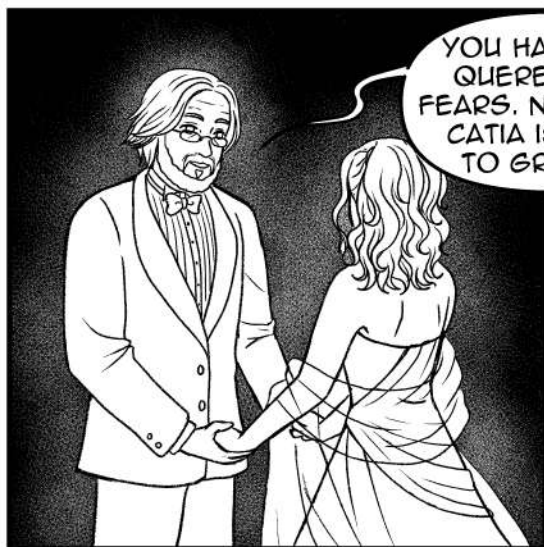


I CAN DO THIS,
I CAN DO THIS.
I CAN D...

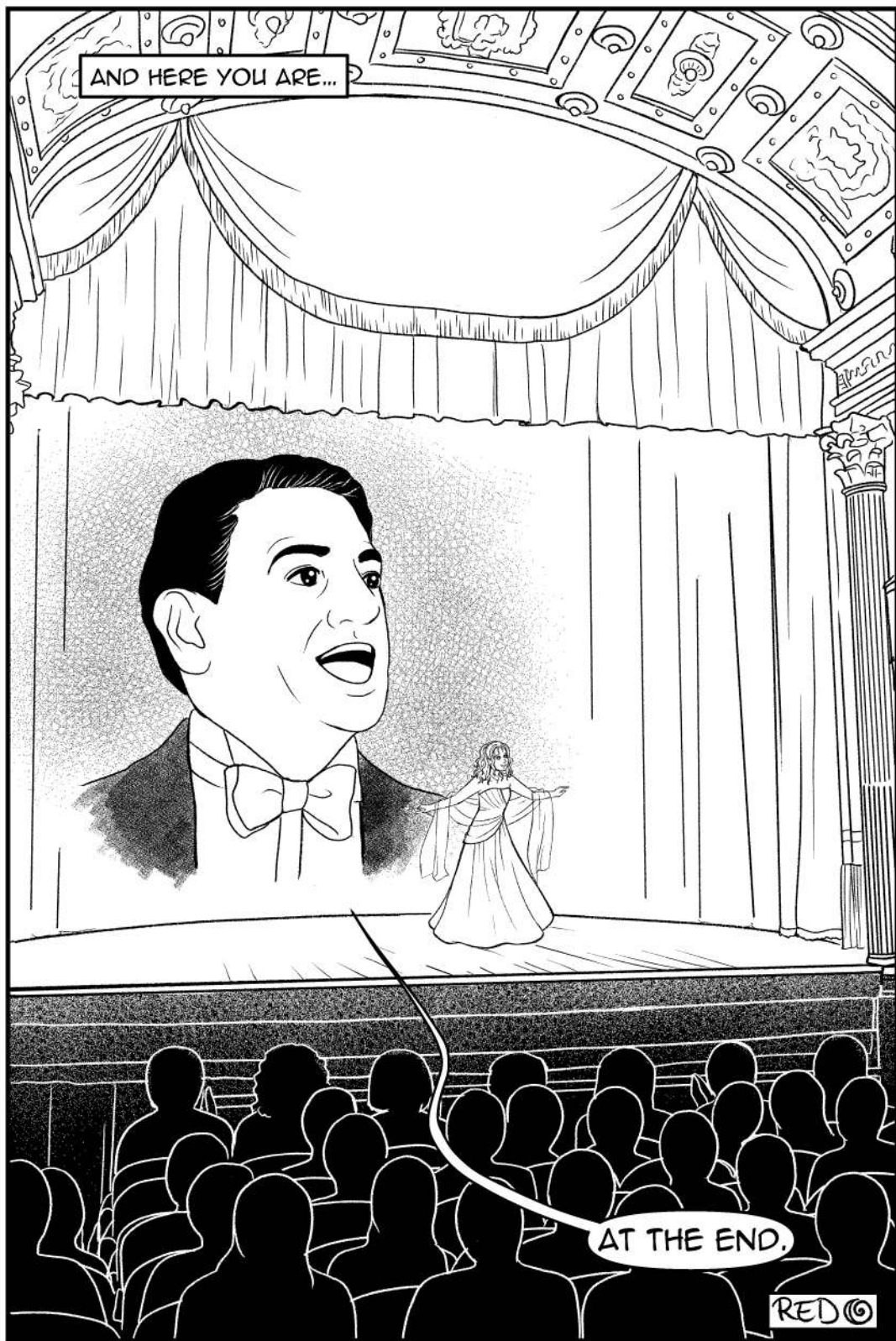


YOU CAN
DO IT, NO
DOUBT
ABOUT IT!





AND HERE YOU ARE...



AT THE END.

RED ©