

WILL THEA MANAGE TO  
OVERCOME THE PITFALLS  
OF HER WORLD?

# DROP BY DROP



THIS COMIC BOOK  
IS DEDICATED TO  
ALL THOSE WHO FIGHT  
FOR A BETTER WORLD EVERY DAY.



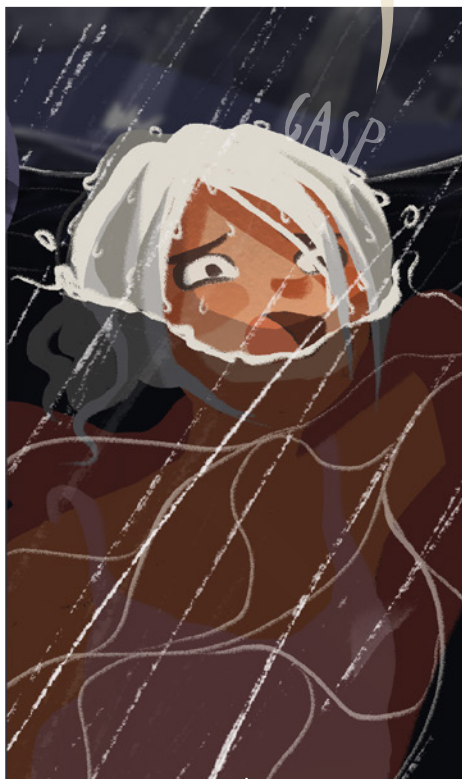
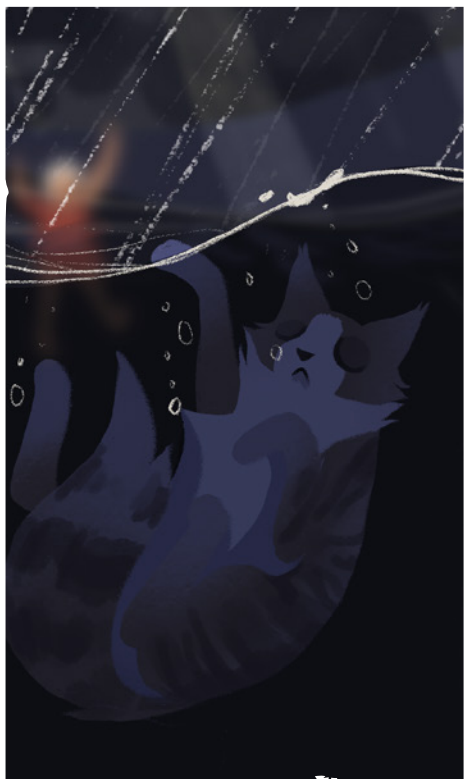
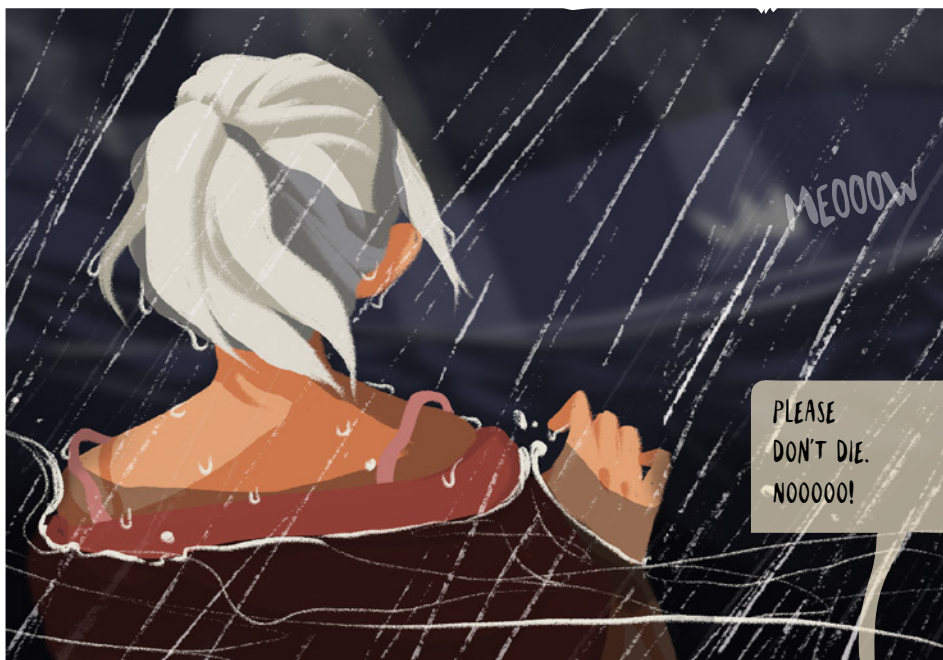
Co-funded by the LIFE Programme  
of the European Union

BJØRGEN!!! PLEASE,  
YOU HAVE TO SWIM!!!! BJØRGEN!!!

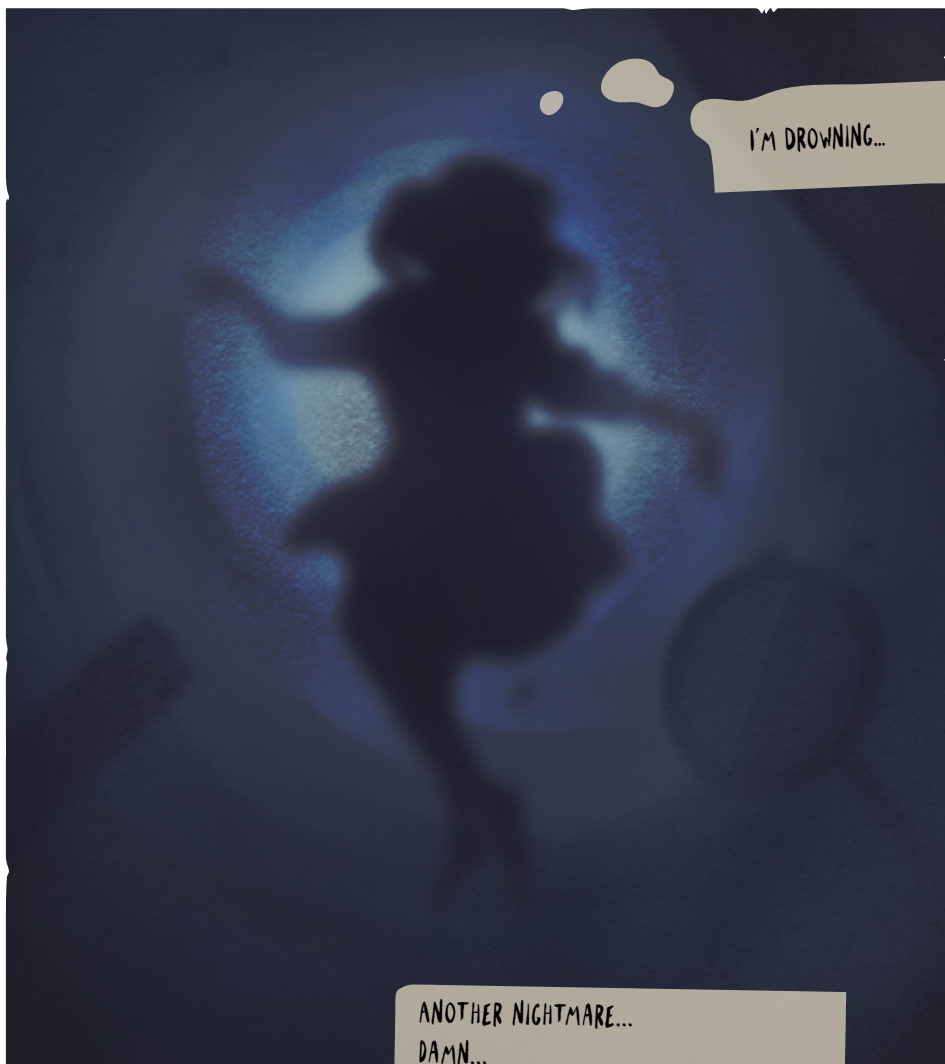


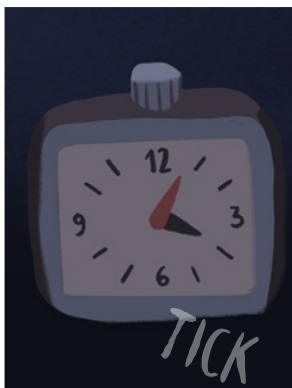
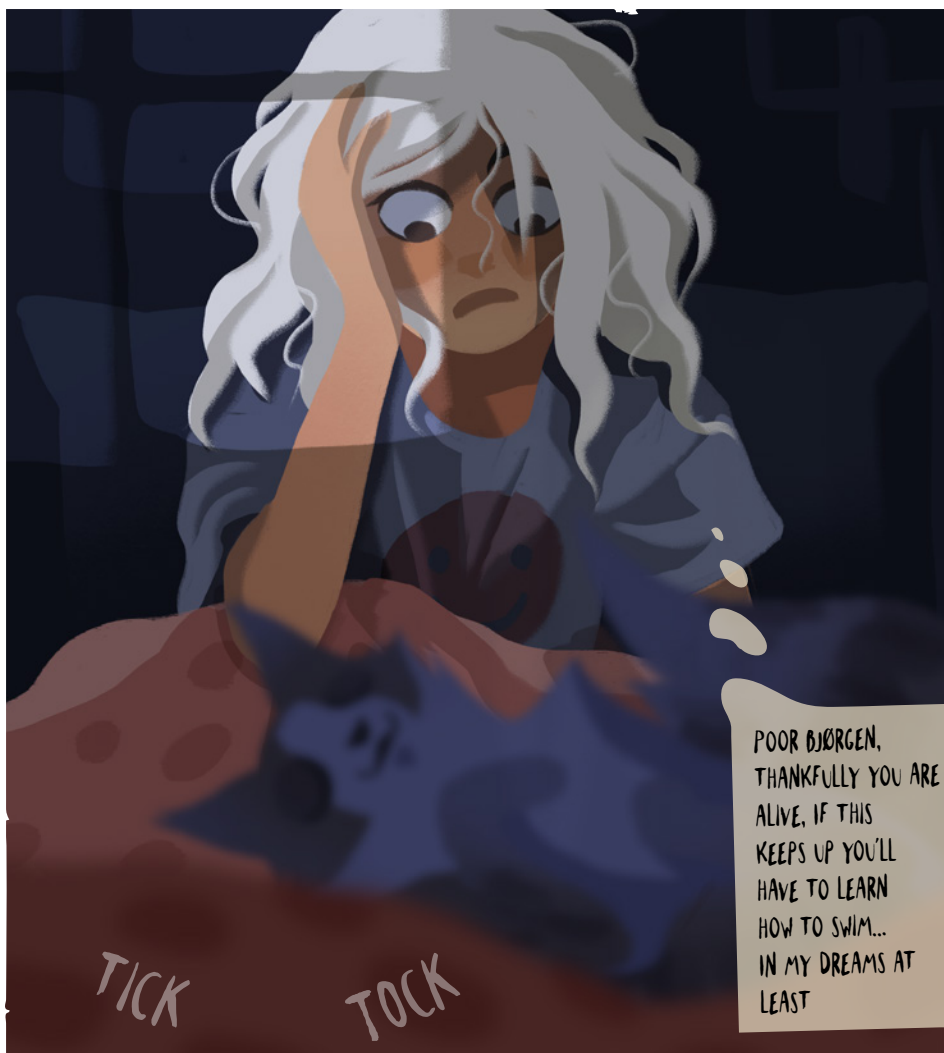
MEOW













An illustration of a young girl with white hair and a red jacket pouring milk from a carton into a grey bowl. She has a sad expression. The table is messy with a plate of toast, a spilled glass, and a strawberry. In the background, a blurry figure of a man is visible.

HUGO, THE GARDEN IS  
A MESS. WE HAVE TO  
SORT IT OUT.

I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES:  
WE SHOULD PAVE IT OVER, THAT  
WAY WE WON'T HAVE TO WASTE  
TIME MOWING THE LAWN.

A close-up illustration of a grey bowl containing a face with large, sad eyes. A red polka-dot spoon is stirring the contents. Hands are visible around the bowl.

WHY CAN'T  
THEY THINK  
AHEAD  
A BIT?





THEY PAVE EVERYTHING OVER  
AND THEN COMPLAIN  
WHEN IT FLOODS.



BJØRGEN, WAKE UP!  
I'M LEAVING!



UURGHHAUM...



DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT!

A comic book page with a dark, moody background. In the foreground, a large, out-of-focus orange face with a mustache and a grumpy expression is visible. In the background, a character with white hair and a headscarf is peeking over a red brick wall. A speech bubble from the character in the background says "GOOD MORNING HERMAN!". In the bottom left, a speech bubble from the orange face says "DAMN IT!! DAMN THESE TOMATOES! EVERYTHING HAS DRIED OUT AGAIN! AND WATERING THEM COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG!". In the bottom center, the name "KRISP" is written in a stylized font. The overall scene suggests a humorous or dramatic interaction between the two characters in a garden or farm setting.

GOOD MORNING HERMAN!

DAMN IT!! DAMN THESE TOMATOES!  
EVERYTHING HAS DRIED OUT AGAIN!  
AND WATERING THEM COSTS  
AN ARM AND A LEG!

KRISP



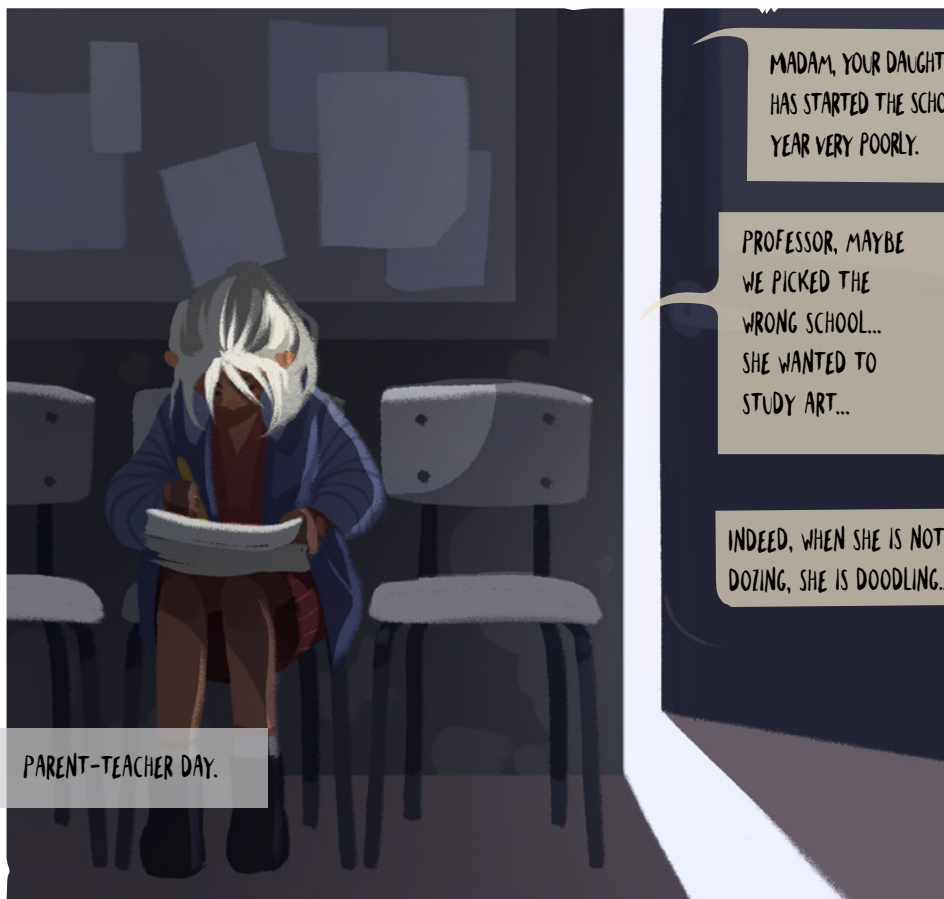
HERE COMES  
THE BUS.  
YOU GO BACK  
HOME TO SLEEP.







THEA, WOULD YOU WAKE UP!!!!  
I'M TALKING ABOUT LITERATURE AND  
YOU HAVE GOT YOUR HEAD IN THE  
CLOUDS. TONIGHT, WE WILL SEE  
WHAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE TO SAY!



PARENT-TEACHER DAY.

MADAM, YOUR DAUGHTER  
HAS STARTED THE SCHOOL  
YEAR VERY POORLY.


PROFESSOR, MAYBE  
WE PICKED THE  
WRONG SCHOOL...  
SHE WANTED TO  
STUDY ART...

INDEED, WHEN SHE IS NOT  
DOING, SHE IS DOODLING...



I WONDER IF BJØRGEN  
IS STILL SLEEPING...

GRAVEL... AND THEN  
ONE LAYER OF SAND...  
AND SOIL. WOULD  
TWO- THREE CUBIC  
METERS BE ENOUGH?



THEA, THE TEACHERS ARE NOT HAPPY...  
THEY SAID YOU ARE NOT FOCUSED, AND  
THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS SLEEPY...  
WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING MUM

YOU KNOW, I USED TO THINK ABOUT BOYS  
TOO WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...IT'S NORMAL...  
ARE YOU IN LOVE? WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND?

MUM, I JUST THINK  
YOU SHOULD NOT PAVE  
THE BACKYARD.

HUH?




An illustration of a person's face and hair submerged in dark water. The person's eyes are closed, and their hair is dark and flowing. Several white bubbles of different sizes are rising from the mouth. The background is a dark, textured blue-grey. Four light-colored rectangular text boxes are overlaid on the image, containing text about nightmares, drowning, and the future. The word 'GLUB' is written in a white, hand-drawn font near several of the bubbles.

NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT.

I AM AFRAID OF DROWNING.  
I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO  
PREVENT THIS?



An illustration of a person's face inside a white bowl, held by two orange hands. A red, spotted object is on the left side of the bowl. The background is dark blue with white wavy lines representing rain. Three text bubbles are present: one at the top right, one in the middle right, and one on the left. The top right bubble says 'AT LAST, AFTER WEEKS OF DROUGHT, THERE WILL BE SOME RAIN. LET'S CHECK THE FORECAST.' The middle right bubble says 'A HUGE FRONT OF THUNDERSTORMS WITH MEDIUM TO SEVERE RAINFALL IS ON ITS WAY. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO PREPARE: FLOODING IS EXPECTED IN THE LOW ALPINE REGION.' The left bubble says 'THEA HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE. BUT, ARE YOU OK? DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP? YOUR EYES ARE ALL PUFFY...'.

AT LAST, AFTER  
WEEKS OF DROUGHT,  
THERE WILL BE SOME RAIN.  
LET'S CHECK THE FORECAST.

A HUGE FRONT OF  
THUNDERSTORMS WITH MEDIUM  
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THE LOW ALPINE REGION.

THEA HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE.  
BUT, ARE YOU OK? DID YOU GET ANY  
SLEEP? YOUR EYES ARE ALL PUFFY...





I WANTED TO DO  
SOMETHING, BUT IN  
THE END MY STUPID  
DRAWINGS ARE USELESS.





EHH... HI, MY NAME IS OLE.  
I THINK YOU DROPPED THIS  
AT THE BUS STOP.



HEYHEY! WHY ARE YOU CRYING?  
DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'S  
RAINING ENOUGH ALREADY?

YOU SEEM LIKE A TOUGH GIRL TO ME.

IF YOU SAY SO...

MAYBE I'M WRONG...

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW  
ABOUT ME? MY NAME IS THEA,  
I HAVE A NARCOLEPTIC CAT THAT  
HATES WATER, I'M ANTLOPHOBIC\*,  
I HAVE NIGHTMARES, I DON'T  
GET ALONG WITH MY PARENTS,  
I'M STRUGGLING AT SCHOOL, NO  
ONE NOTICES THAT I EXIST AND  
I'M ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS  
BREAKDOWN. IS THAT ENOUGH?






SO... I THINK THE MOST SERIOUS ISSUE  
IS YOUR CAT'S NARCOLEPSY.  
ANYWAY, YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO  
ME WHAT ALL OF THESE THINGS YOU  
HAVE DRAWN IN YOUR ALBUM MEAN.


YOU ARE THE FIRST PERSON TO  
EVER ASK ME THAT.

THIS IS MY GARDEN,  
OR RATHER, WHAT IT COULD BE  
IF MY PARENTS DON'T PAVE  
OVER IT.



WITH A LITTLE DIGGING WE COULD BUILD A FLOWERBED  
AND FILL IT WITH A SANDY WELL-DRAINING SOIL MIX TO  
PLANT SOME EVERGREEN HEDGES AND OTHER ORNAMENTAL  
PLANTS.

THIS IS THE CROSS-SECTION. IT SHOWS YOU WHAT YOU WOULD SEE IF  
YOU COULD CUT IT IN HALF WITH A KNIFE. SEE HOW THE GARDEN HAS A  
CONCAVE PROFILE?



BUT WHY WOULD YOU PUT THE SAND UNDERNEATH THE  
GARDEN TO MAKE IT SAG IN THE MIDDLE??? I HAVE  
NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE...

IT IS VERY SIMPLE. WHEN IT RAINS A LOT, THE GARDEN COLLECTS THE WATER AND LETS IT DRAIN INTO THE SUBSOIL, INSTEAD OF FORCING IT TO RUN OFF ONTO THE ROAD AND CAUSE FLOODS, WHICH IS WHAT IS HAPPENING MORE AND MORE.


WOW! HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THESE IDEAS?

I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE MY FEARS AND NIGHTMARES MAKE ME SEE THINGS THAT OTHERS CANNOT...

AND WHAT IS THIS?  
A GIANT CAN?

NO, NOT A CAN! A RAINWATER TANK: IT COLLECTS RAINWATER FOR WATERING THE GARDEN. I DESIGNED IT FOR MR. HERMAN, MY NEIGHBOUR. HE CAN USE IT TO SAVE THE WATER COMING DOWN HIS GUTTERS TO USE WHEN IT DOESN'T RAIN.


WOW!



I RECOGNIZE THIS:  
IT'S OUR BUS STOP.  
RIGHT?


YES! HERE, I NOTICED  
THAT THE PAVED AREA IS  
TOO BIG AND IT IS NOT  
ALL USED AS A PARKING.  
SO I THOUGHT THAT  
IT COULD BE PARTIALLY  
TRANSFORMED INTO  
A RAIN GARDEN.

HUH?



THAT'S HOW THEY ARE CALLED.  
IT IS THE SAME AS WHAT I DREW  
FOR MY HOUSE BUT WITH LAYERS  
OF GRAVEL TO COLLECT MORE  
WATER. A RAIN GARDEN SPREADS  
THE WATER THROUGH THE SUBSOIL  
AFTER HEAVY RAIN.





THESE ARE GOOD, THEA. YOU  
ARE REALLY TALENTED. HAVE  
YOU EVER SHOWN THESE PLANS  
TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE  
INTERESTED?

NO. I HAVEN'T HAD  
THE COURAGE...

HMMM ....  
MAYBE I HAVE  
AN IDEA.







EIGHT O'CLOCK NEWS. THE RENOVATION WORKS IN OLDEMOR SQUARE HAVE JUST BEGUN. AT THE LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT, THE MAYOR EXPLAINED: "EVERYTHING STARTED THANKS TO AN ANONYMOUS SUGGESTION SENT TO THE TOWN HALL. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO PROPOSED THESE EXCELLENT SOLUTIONS.







TWO MONTHS LATER...

MUM, I'M GOING OUT! I AM TAKING BJØRGEN!

OK, DON'T BE LATE!

GOOD MORNING HERMAN!

HI, THEA! TELL YOUR MOM TO COME AND  
GET A COUPLE OF TOMATOES.

TAP TAP

MEOWW  
MYAWN



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?  
A FEW MONTHS AGO, ALL OF  
THIS WAS JUST A FEW DRAWINGS  
AND NIGHTMARES.





I FEEL LIKE I HAVE WON SOMETHING.  
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T  
DO ANYTHING AT ALL!

ACTUALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE  
OF YOU: I HAD STOPPED  
BELIEVING IN MY IDEAS.

I THINK THAT THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.  
PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU....

MYAOWN

ANNA

THEA YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING  
AMAZING, THE SB IS WITH YOU!

GIV

BRAVO THEA!

IGOR

SUPER THEA! MY GRANDFATHER  
FOLLOWED YOUR IDEA, AND YOU  
MADE HIM HAPPY!

ANTO

NICE WORK!

LORY

WOOOO, NOW THAT YOU'RE  
FAMOUS, DON'T FORGET ABOUT  
YOUR FRIENDS!





EACH OF US CAN MAKE BIG  
THINGS WITH SMALL GESTURES.  
IT IS UP TO US, WE MUST SET AN  
EXAMPLE. IT SOUNDS CRAZY BUT  
IT IS LIKE THAT.

zzzzzzzz

GOOD MORNING LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN,  
MY NAME IS THEA  
ROSSI, I AM HONOURED  
TO BE HERE.

MY ROLE TODAY,  
IS TO TELL YOU ABOUT  
AN EXPERIMENTAL  
PROJECT WHICH WAS  
BORN FIVE YEARS AGO  
AT SANARAM, MY  
HOMETOWN.



United Nations  
Climate Change



I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THE BIG PROBLEMS  
CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE  
HAVE BEEN MITIGATED THROUGH MICRO  
INTERVENTIONS, MOSTLY CARRIED OUT  
BY THE CITIZENS THEMSELVES.





# BACKSTAGE MAKING OFF & CURIOSITIES



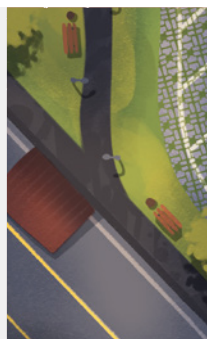
**BJØRGEN** Thea's cat is a "Norwegian Forest cat"; cats of this breed are famous because they are not afraid of water. **Bjørgen** is not like the others though. He has another problem: he suffers from

**narcolepsy**, which is the tendency to frequently fall asleep and sleep much more than normal. Is **Bjørgen's** condition perhaps a way to establish a bond with his owner?

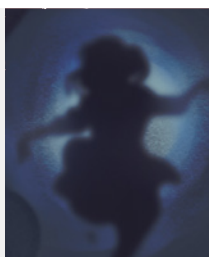
**SANARAM** The fictional town where **Thea** lives was named after **Santorso** and **Marano Vicentino**, the municipalities where the **LIFE BEWARE** project was born.



**OLDEMOR** There is a square in the town of **Santorso** called Piazza **Aldo Moro**. In Norwegian, **Oldemor** means **Great Grandmother**. More than ever, the respect for our "old mother earth", our home, is a value to hold high.



**\* ANTLOPHOBIA**  
(pag. 20)  
Fear of **floods**.



## MORE ABOUT THEA

**Thea Rossi**, after a difficult adolescence spent feeling out of place at high school, found her feet and her passion studying **architecture**. Nevertheless, her time at high school would prove useful, if only for having met **Ole**, who would become a close friend for life.

Her creative and technical contribution would be crucial in many projects financed by the **European Union**, aimed at redefining urban spaces according to innovative criteria and adaptive to the changes imposed by the climate. **Thea's** story will inspire many young people.



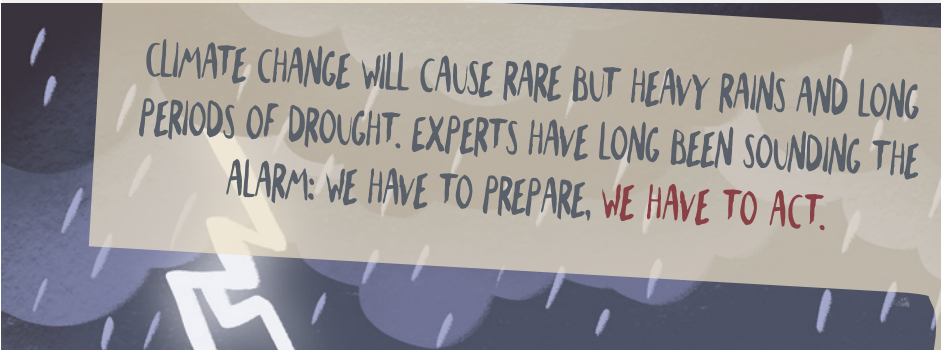


## WHY LIFE BEWARE\*\*?

(\*Better Water Management for Advancing Resilient Communities in Europe).

In many countries **rainfall, floods, and landslides** have become increasingly common. These meteorological phenomena are more extreme in urban and rural areas, where the reduction of vegetation contributes to the increasing temperatures. This situation is

compounded by excessive paving and the increasing consumption of soil, **compromising the effectiveness of the natural system of water infiltration**. These are just a few of the consequences of a phenomenon that is now in the public eye: climate change. The LIFE BEWARE project is committed to action by spreading best practices, starting from the territory of Altovicentino.

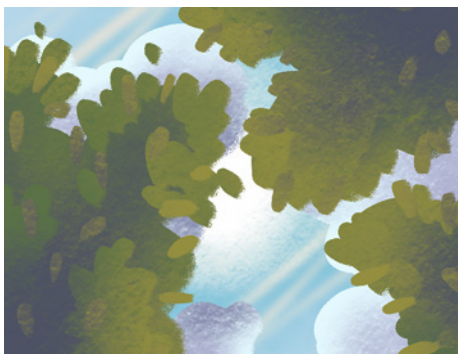


CLIMATE CHANGE WILL CAUSE RARE BUT HEAVY RAINS AND LONG PERIODS OF DROUGHT. EXPERTS HAVE LONG BEEN SOUNDING THE ALARM: WE HAVE TO PREPARE, **WE HAVE TO ACT.**

## WHAT DOES LIFE BEWARE DO?

The objective of the project is to implement a strategy for flood risk and climate change adaptation in urban and rural areas, through the active involvement of local communities, still unprepared to deal with these phenomena.

To improve the hydraulic safety of the territory, LIFE BEWARE activates a participatory process which involves professionals, farmers and citizens together with institutions – as municipalities and schools – that play a relevant role in adopting good practices which benefit the entire community.



## WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO?

Through the active participation of citizens, shared actions can be identified that improve the safety and liveability of the territory. Another fundamental issue is staying informed because knowledge allows us to avoid repeating past mistakes in territorial planning. This knowledge can be passed on, so that best practices in the management of natural resources spread.

## EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE MEASURES

### PERVIOUS PAVEMENT

It is a specific type of pavement created using hollow bricks with high porosity or laid down in such a way to facilitate the infiltration of rainwater into the subsoil. Furthermore, these systems filter out a portion of the polluting substances draining into the soil.

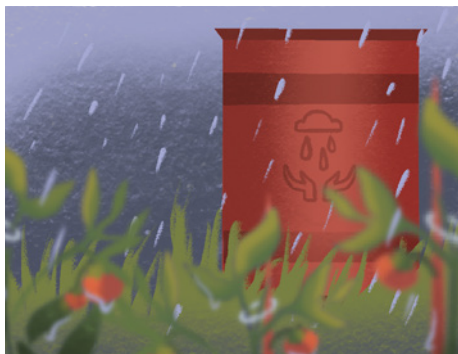
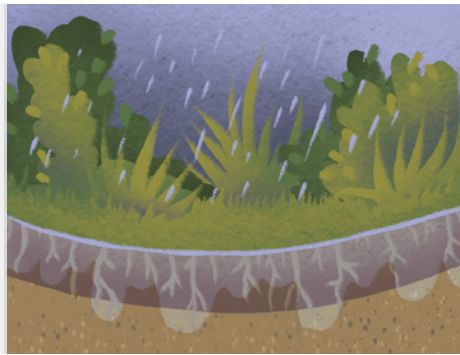


### GREEN ROOFS

Green roofs living vegetation installations applied on flat or sloping roofs of buildings or other infrastructures (roofs, garages, shelters). They are composed of a multilayer structure in which each layer has a specific function. Intensive green roofs, which people can access as if they were conventional gardens, are distinct from extensive green roofs, which are inaccessible and covered in small plants.

### RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are flower beds, small parts of larger gardens, that replicate the slowdown, accumulation, purification, and infiltration of rainwater that occurs naturally in the soil. To the untrained eye, they look like any normal flower bed but beneath the surface, they are designed to manage rainwater runoff from impermeable surfaces (roofs, car parks, asphalt square, etc.).

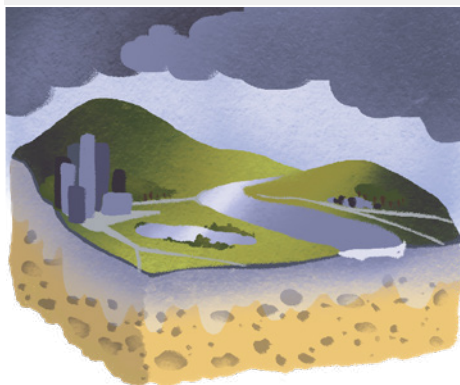
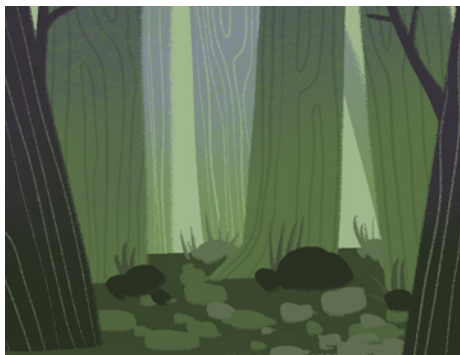


### RAINWATER TANKS

Rainwater tanks are cisterns that collect rainwater from roofs and impermeable surfaces. Rainwater is then used as non-potable water for irrigation, fire fighting, toilet cisterns, washing machine, etc. At their simplest, they consist of a barrel that collects rainwater from a drain-pipe for future use in irrigating gardens and vegetable patches

## WHY THIS COMIC-BOOK?

This comic was designed for you and your future: with this publication, we want to encourage reflection upon the importance of taking action to respond to climate change and minimising its impact on the Earth. The fate of this wonderful Planet as well as the lives of those who share it with us, depend on your actions. Thea represents each of us: we can all do a lot for the environment, each in his or her own small way, starting from simple everyday actions.



## CONCRETE ACTIONS

There are many opportunities for action and ideas that will help expand the possibilities for improvement. LIFE BEWARE is committed to improving water safety and good water management in urban and rural areas through natural water retention systems. These systems facilitate the accumulation and infiltration of rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding, and their extensive vegetation offer a number of external benefits such as phyto-purification, reduction of the “heat island” effect, and greater aesthetic value. These systems include rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavements, water tanks, and more. A widespread distribution of these small interventions can help transform urban centres into ‘sponge cities’ that retain water, reducing the risk of flooding and allowing the precious resource of water to be used more efficiently.

For further information:  
[www.lifebeware.eu](http://www.lifebeware.eu)  
[info@lifebeware.eu](mailto:info@lifebeware.eu)



TOGETHER WITH THEA  
WE CAN SAVE THE PLANET.

LET'S NOT FORGET THAT THE SEA IS  
MADE OF MANY TINY DROPS.



Comune di  
Santorso



Comune di  
Marano Vicentino



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VENETO  
AGRICOLTURA

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ALTA PIANURA VENETA  
  
CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA



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**BEWARE**   
WATER. RESILIENCE. TERRITORY

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