

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.

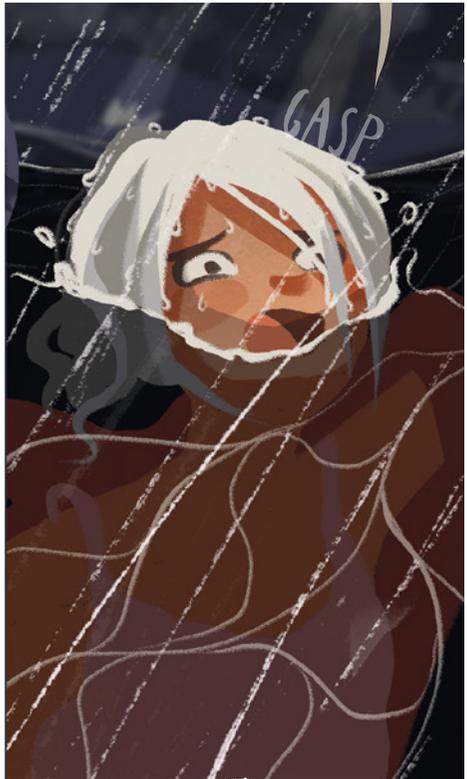
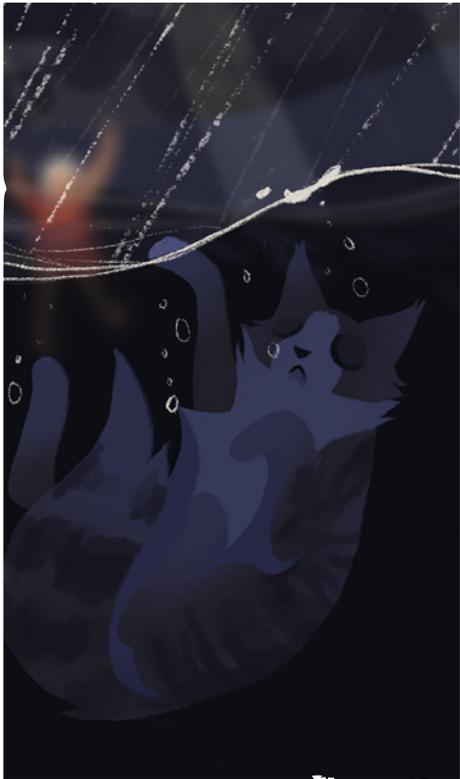


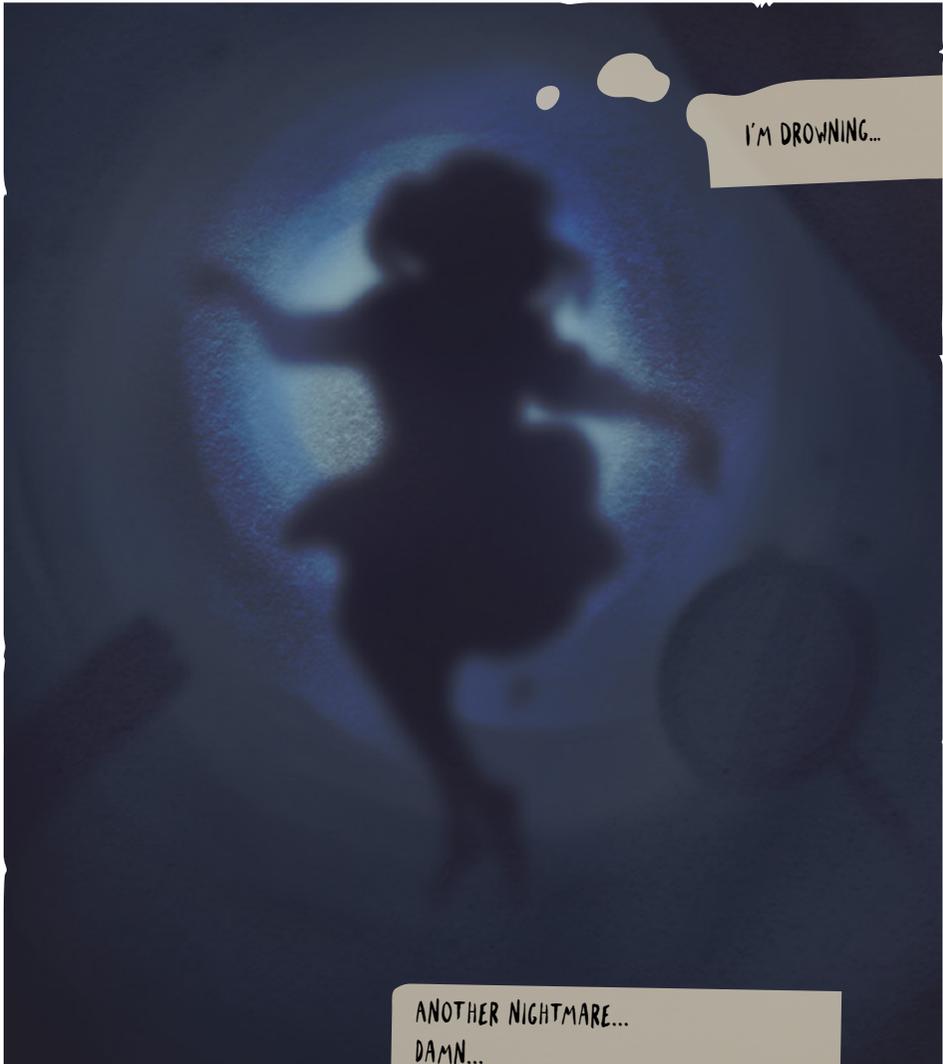
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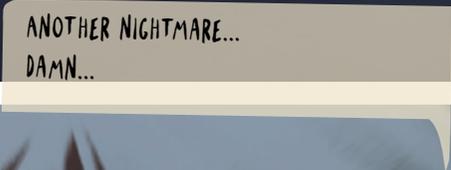
BJØRGEN!!! PLEASE,  
YOU HAVE TO SWIM!!!! BJØRGEN!!!







I'M DROWNING...



ANOTHER NIGHTMARE...  
DAMN...



UHHH





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.



WHY CAN'T  
THEY THINK  
AHEAD  
A BIT?



THEY PAVE EVERYTHING OVER  
AND THEN COMPLAIN  
WHEN IT FLOODS.



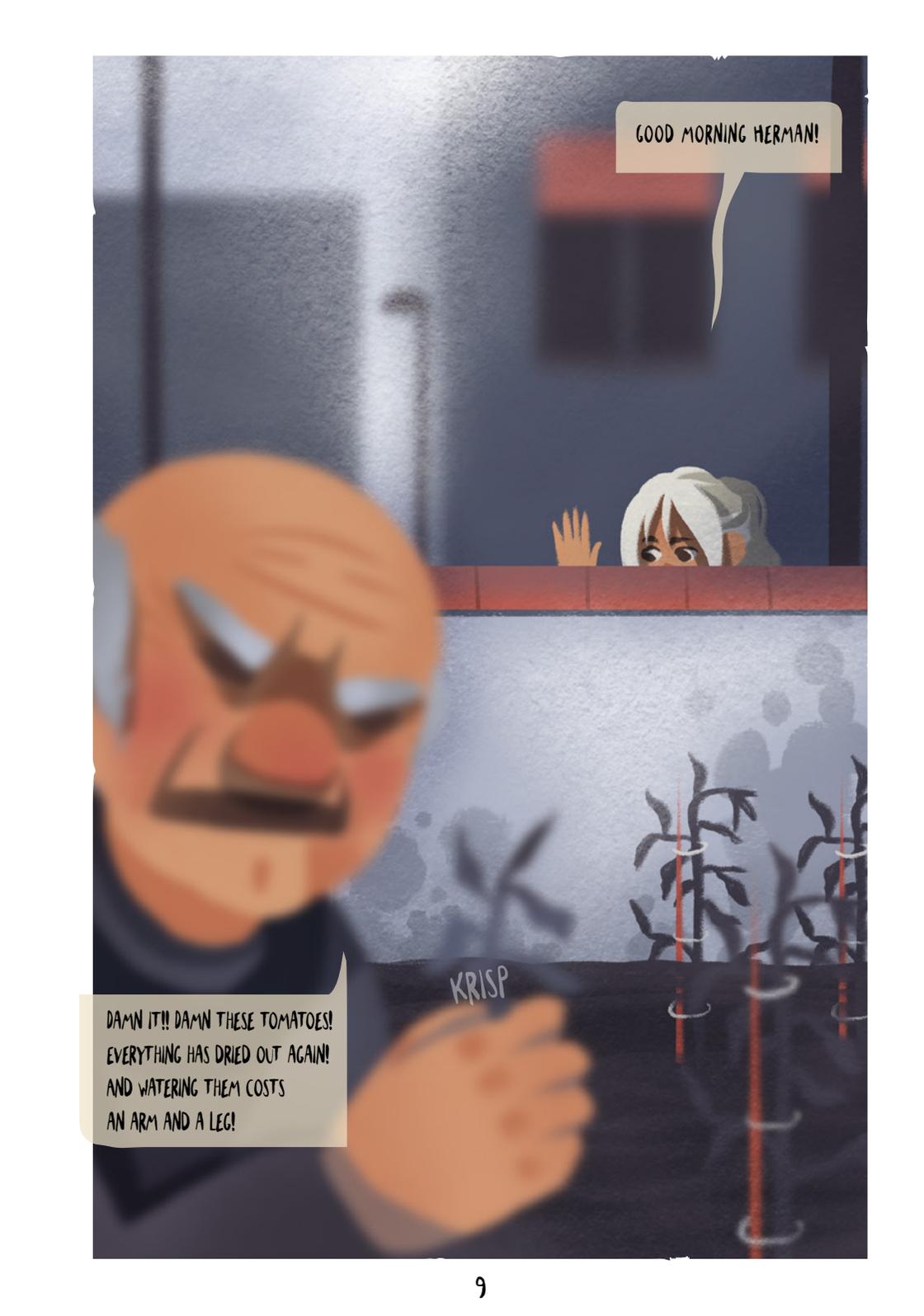
BJØRGEN, WAKE UP!  
I'M LEAVING!



UURGHHAUM...



DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT!



GOOD MORNING HERMAN!

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

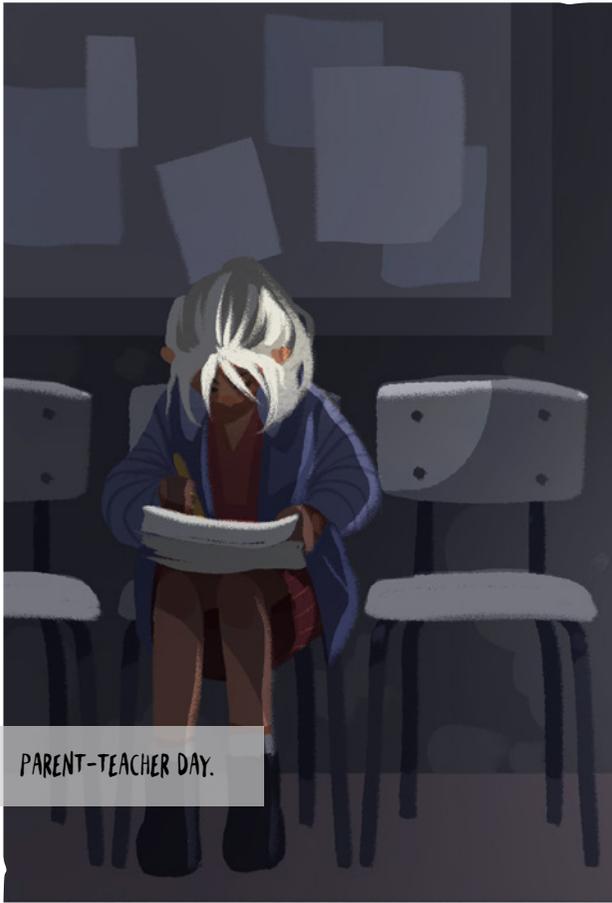
KRISP



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







PARENT-TEACHER DAY.

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

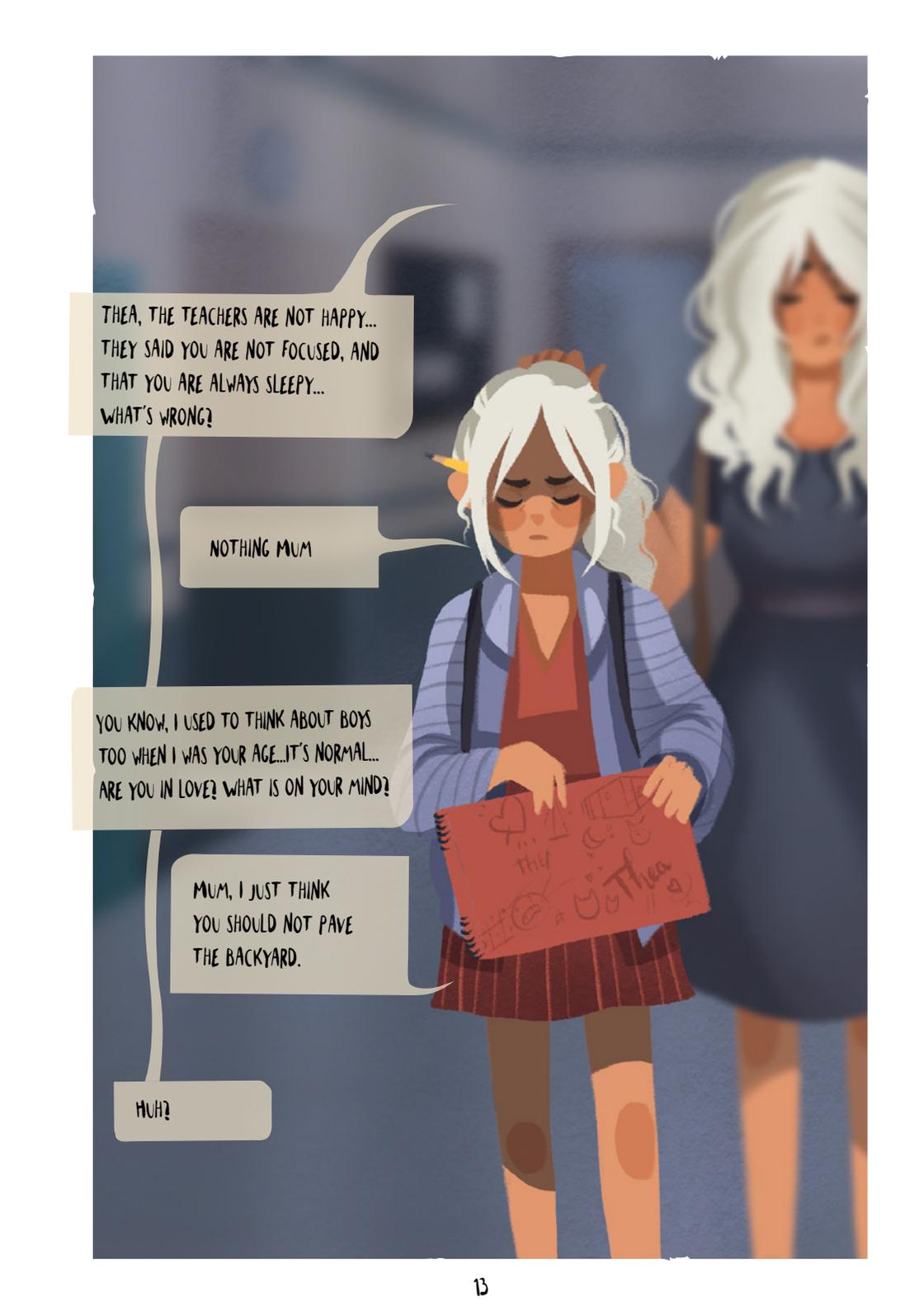
PROFESSOR, MAYBE WE PICKED THE WRONG SCHOOL... SHE WANTED TO STUDY ART...

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 underwater, rendered in a dark, moody style. The person's eyes are closed, and their expression is one of distress or fear. The water is dark blue-grey, and several bubbles of varying sizes are scattered around the face. The word "GLUB" is written in a white, hand-drawn font near several of the bubbles. Four light-colored, torn-edge text boxes are overlaid on the image, containing text related to nightmares and drowning. The overall atmosphere is somber and evocative of a nightmare.

NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT.

GLUB

GLUB

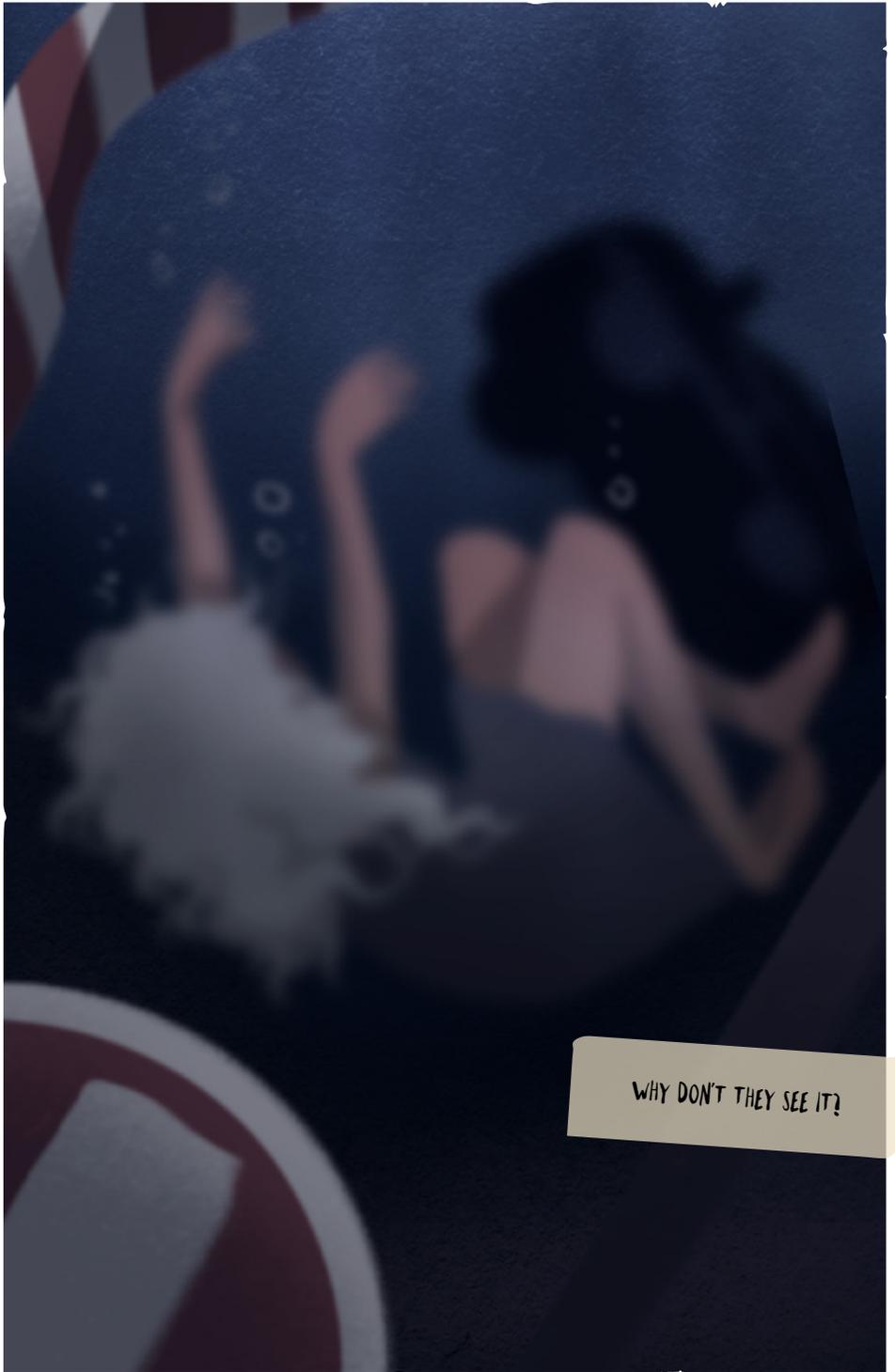
GLUB

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO  
PREVENT THIS?

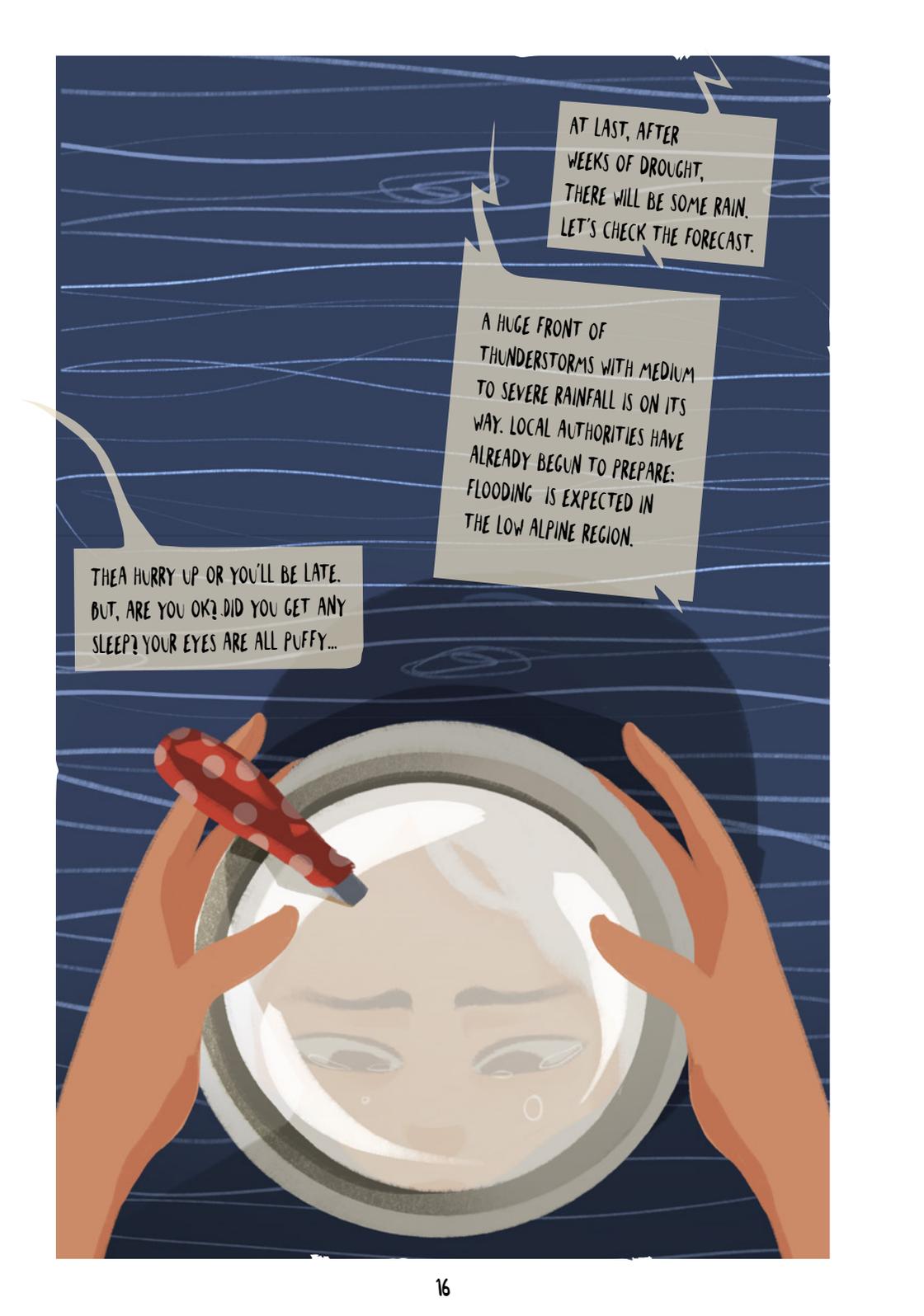
I AM AFRAID OF DROWNING.  
I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

GLUB

GLUB



WHY DON'T THEY SEE IT?

A person with light skin and dark hair is looking into a mirror. They are holding a red pen with white polka dots in their right hand, touching it to their forehead. The background is a dark blue wall with white wavy lines representing rain. Three speech bubbles contain text about a weather forecast and a reminder to hurry.

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

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.

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.







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.

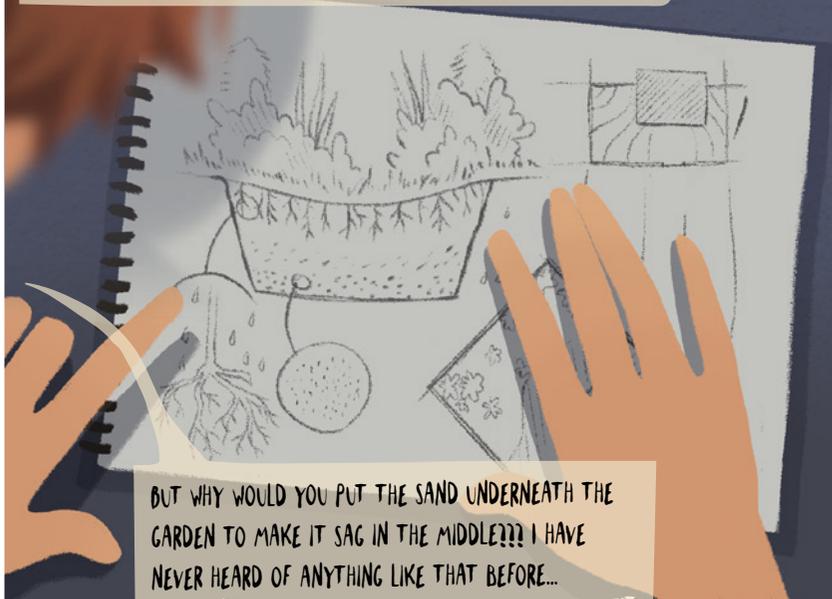
YOU ARE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER ASK ME THAT.

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!

A hand with a ring on the ring finger points to a circular diagram on a blueprint. The diagram shows a cross-section of a rain garden with layers of soil and plants. A speech bubble is positioned above the hand.

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

A hand points to a diagram on a blueprint. The diagram shows a cross-section of a rain garden with layers of soil and plants. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the hand.

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.

A hand points to a diagram on a blueprint. The diagram shows a cross-section of a rain garden with layers of soil and plants. A speech bubble is positioned below the hand.

HUH?

A woman with white hair in a bun and a blue shirt points to a diagram on a blueprint. The diagram shows a cross-section of a rain garden with layers of soil and plants. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of the woman.

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

MEOOOW  
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....

ANNA

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

GIU

BRAVO THEA!

ANTO

NICE WORK!

IGOR

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

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.

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



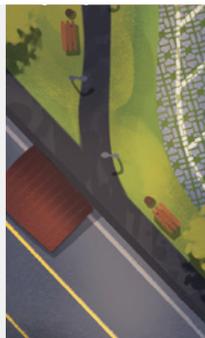
**BJØRGEN** Thea's cat is a "Norwegian Forest cat"; cats of this breed are famous because they are not afraid of water. **Bjørgen** is not like the others though. He has another problem: he suffers from

**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?

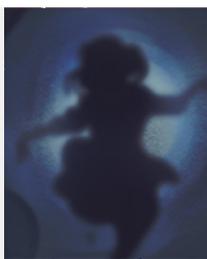
**SANARAM** The fictional town where **Thea** lives was named after **Santorso** and **Marano Vicentino**, the municipalities where the **LIFE BEWARE** project was born.



**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.

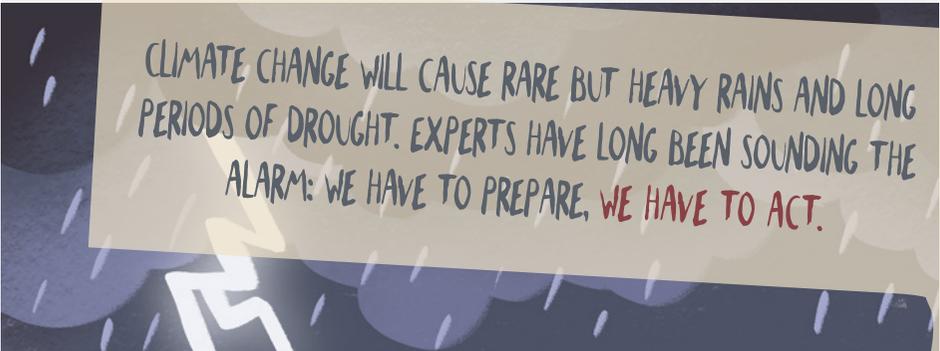
Her creative and technical contribution would be crucial in many projects financed by the **European Union**, aimed at redefining urban spaces according to innovative criteria and adaptive to the changes imposed by the climate. **Thea's** story will inspire many young people.

## 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

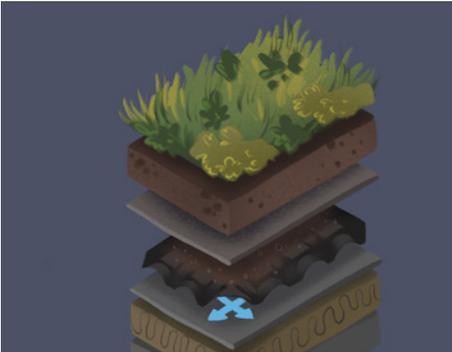
### PERVIOUS PAVEMENT

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.



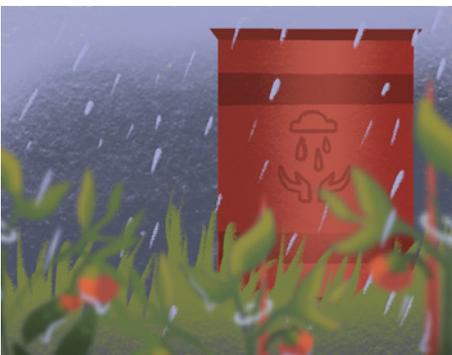
### RAIN GARDENS

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 THEM  
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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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

TESAF

VENETO  
AGRICOLTURA

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European Association  
for Local Democracy

ALTA PIANURA VENETA  
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