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“Incredibly carefully thought-out, refined, perfectionistic and subtle, but also unbearable and heart-breaking”

Bruzz

“The topics from [Hubert], the eye for detail, the slow pace, didn’t only stay present, but found their place in a story that is even better suited to them, bringing them to full fruition.”

The Herald Scotland

Aaron

BEN GIJSEMANS

Over summer **Aaron** has to study for exam retakes, but he can’t manage to concentrate. He reads his superhero comics and looks through the window at the square outside, where a boy who lives nearby often plays football. In contrast to his comic book heroes, Aaron lacks a talent for witty one-liners, breath-taking courage and a woman in need of rescue. As the summer slowly passes, he is forced to confront something he would rather not face: he’s attracted to little boys.

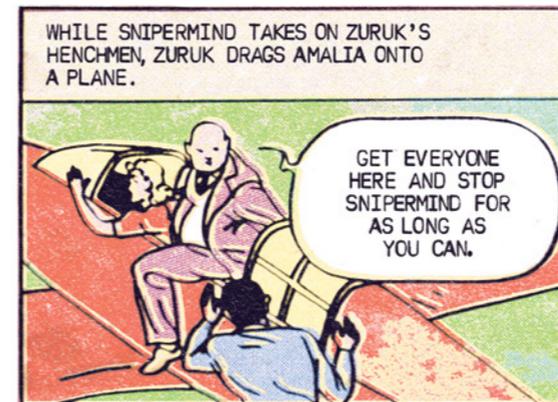
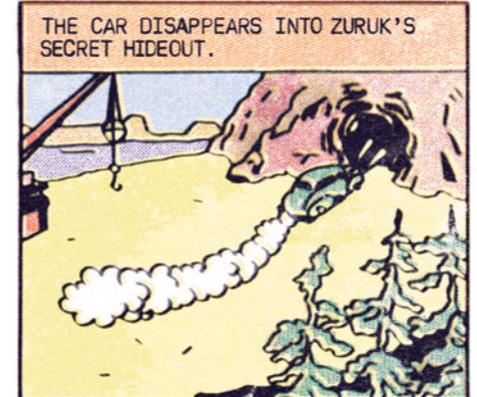
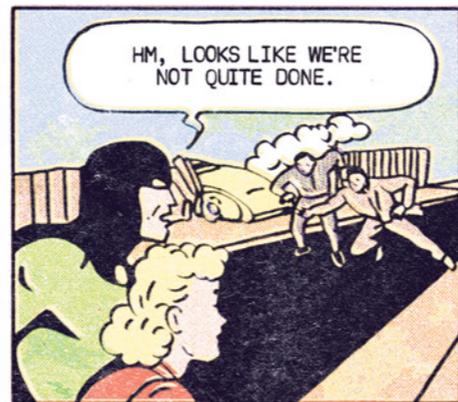
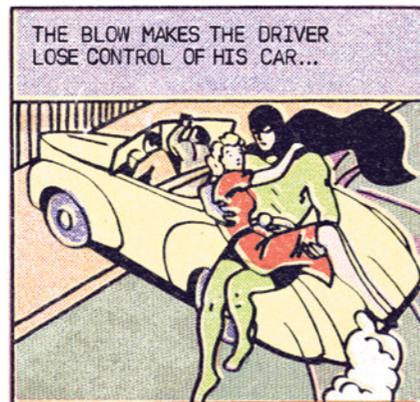
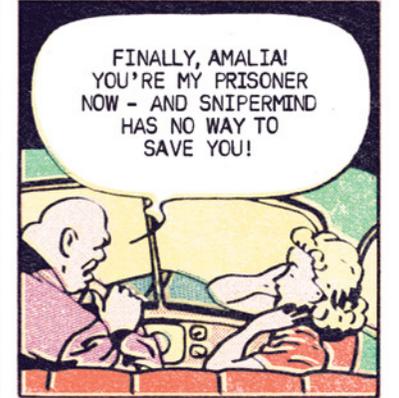
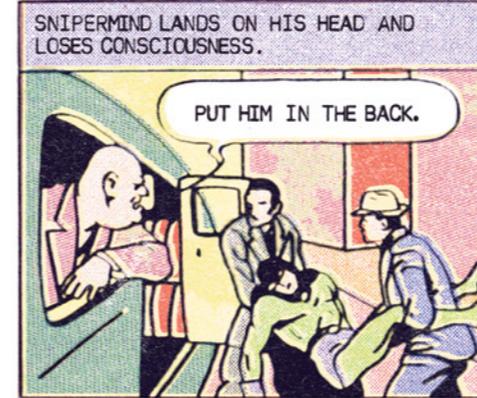
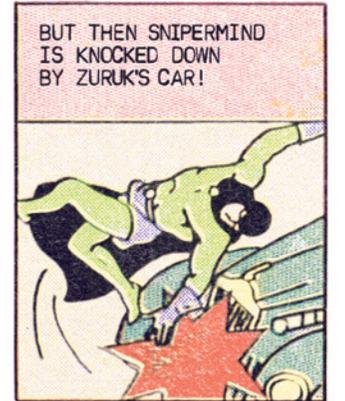
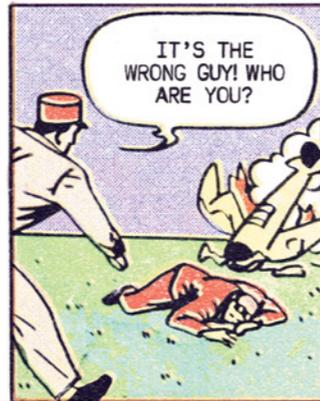
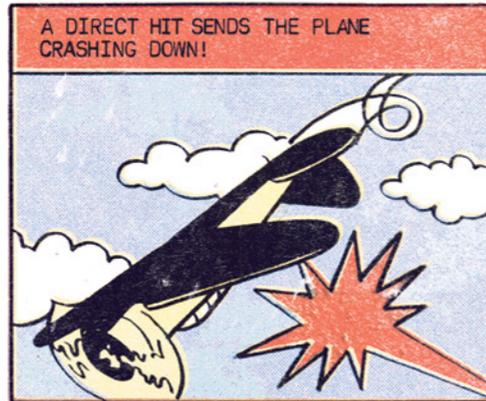
Ben Gijsemans (b.1989) studied audiovisual arts and comics in Ghent and Brussels. The first chapter of his debut Hubert was his thesis. It was very well received at home and abroad. Gijsemans’ drawings are incredibly detailed, and more often than not depict loners who feel out of place among other people.

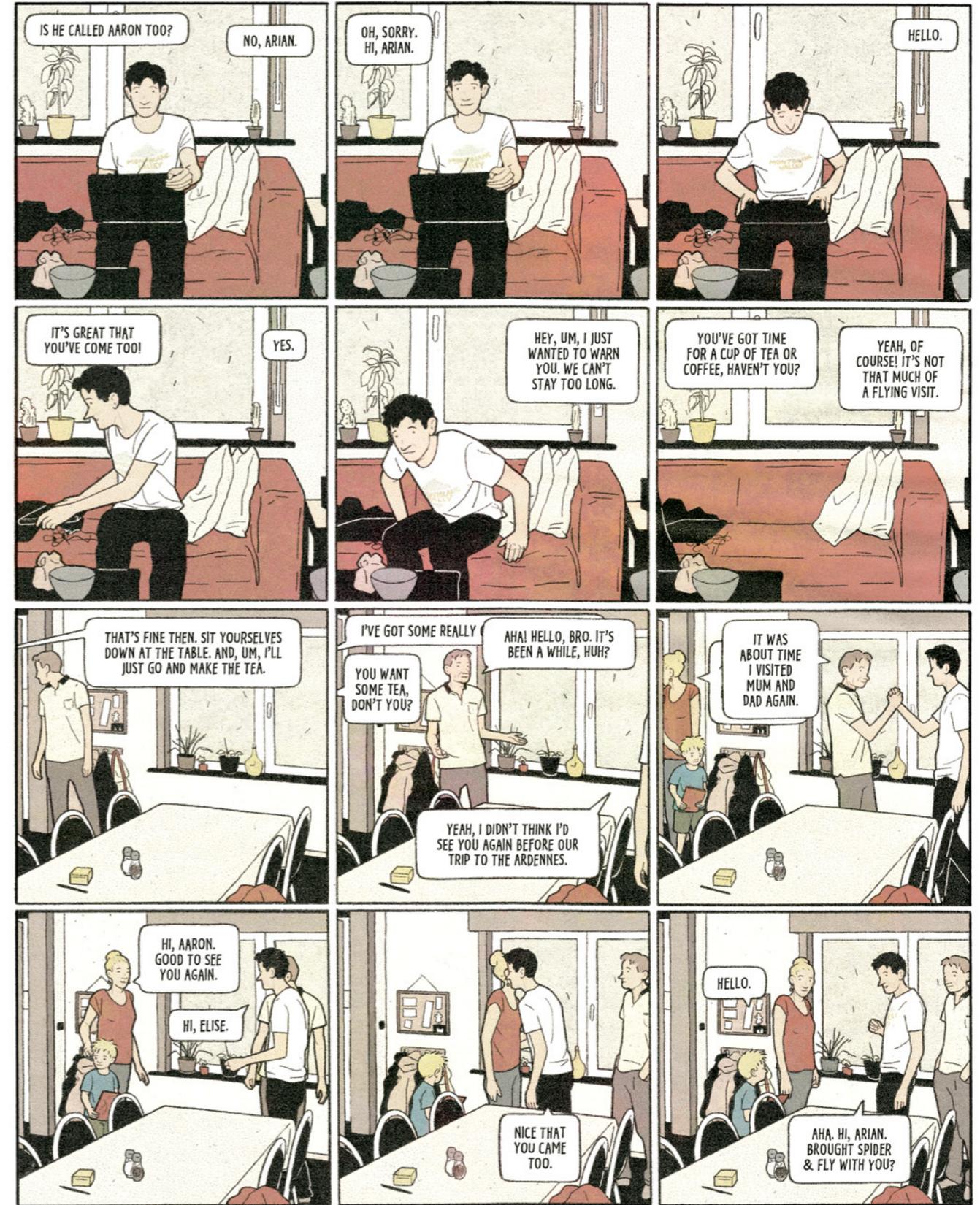
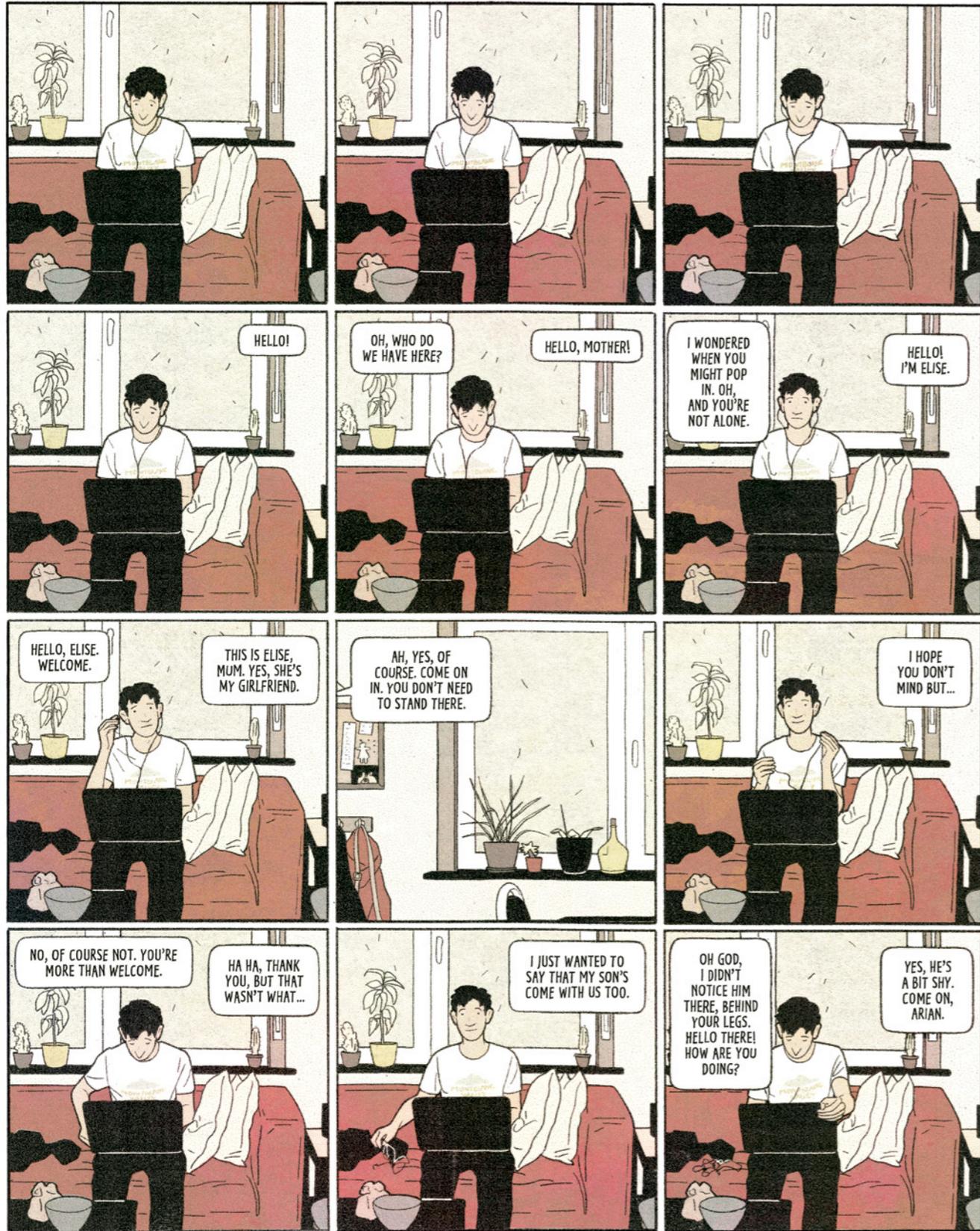


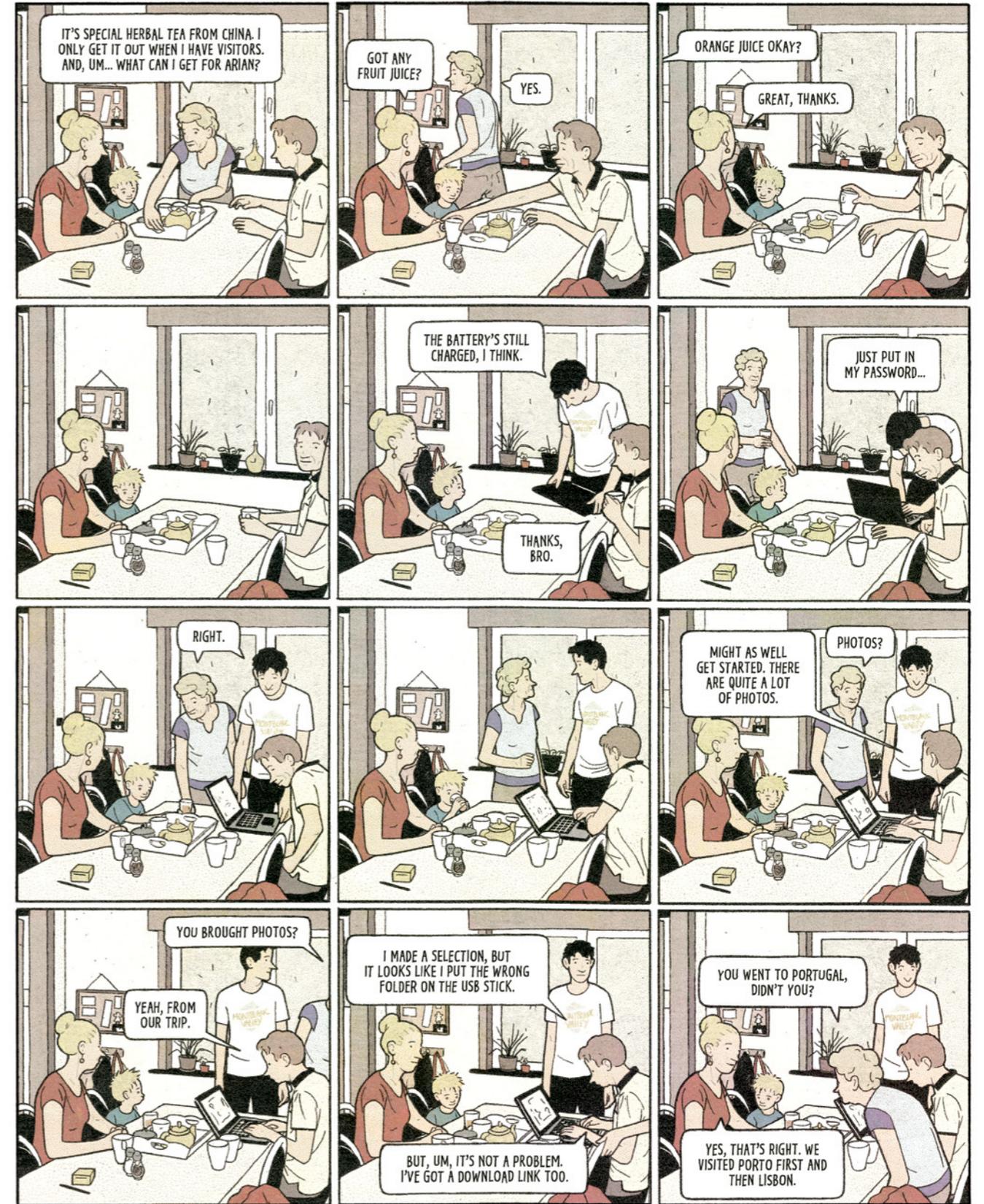
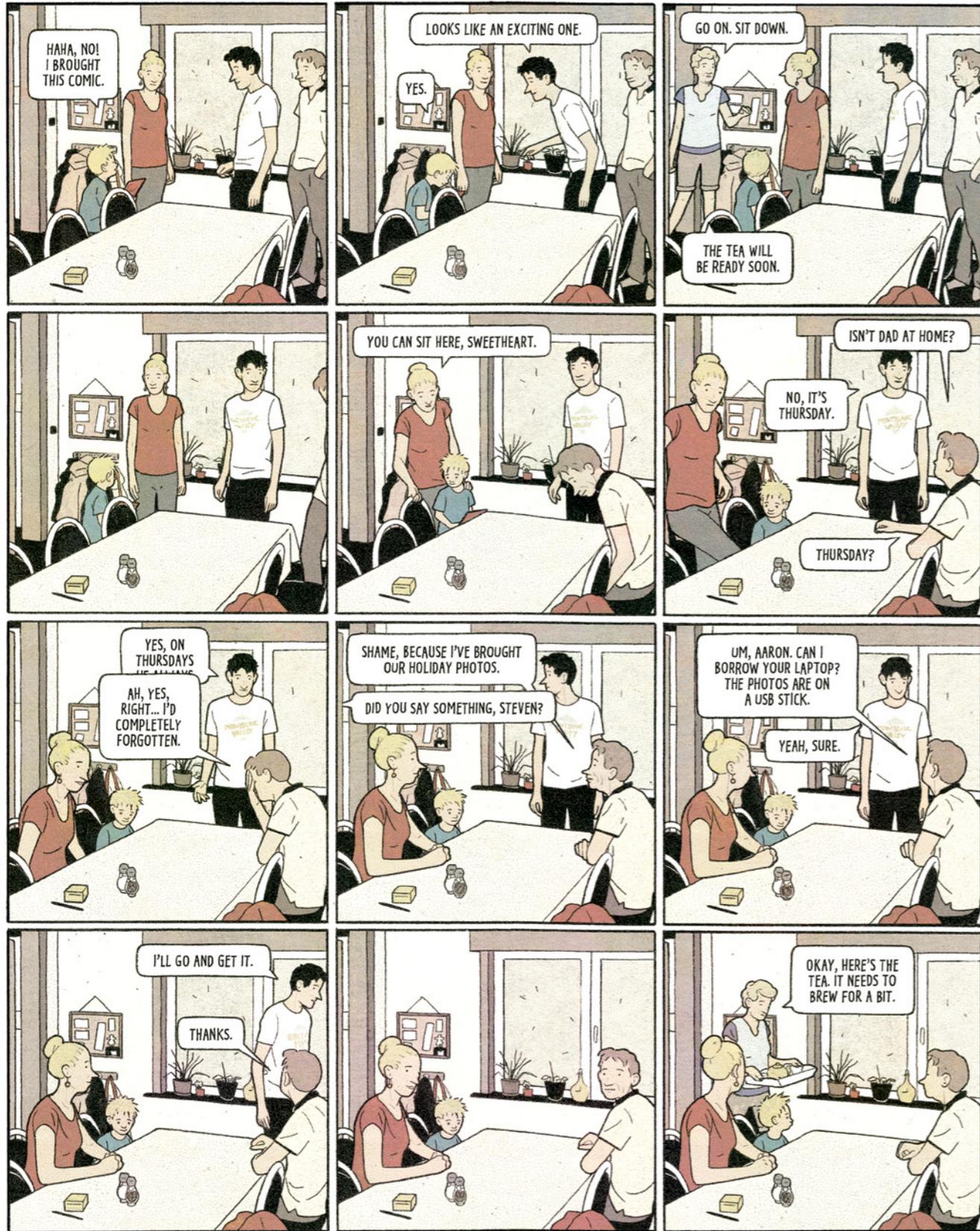
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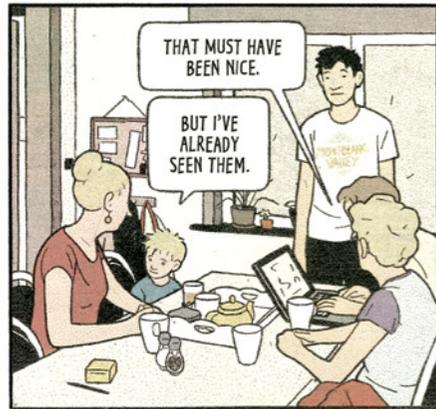
Original title : Aaron (Oogachtend, 2020. Hardcover, 22x27cm, 192 pp.)

Rights sold : French (Dargaud), Italian (Coconino), German (Edition Moderne)









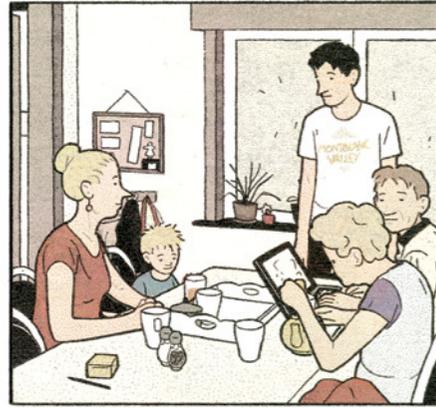
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN NICE.
BUT I'VE ALREADY SEEN THEM.



YES, SWEETHEART, BUT STEVEN'S MUM HASN'T SEEN THEM YET, HAS SHE?



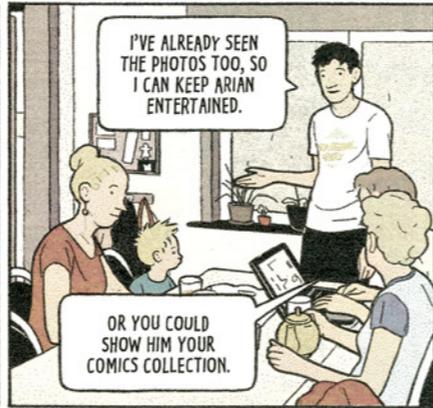
DO I HAVE TO SEE THEM AGAIN?
NO, YOU DON'T. YOU CAN READ YOUR COMIC INSTEAD.



WHY DON'T WE GO AND SIT IN THE ARMCHAIR, ARIAN?



I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE PHOTOS TOO, SO I CAN KEEP ARIAN ENTERTAINED.



OR YOU COULD SHOW HIM YOUR COMICS COLLECTION.



MY COMICS COLLECTION?
YOU KNOW, THOSE COMICS OF YOURS. IN YOUR ROOM.



DO YOU STILL COLLECT THEM?
YES... WELL, I MEAN... NOT LIKE I USED TO.

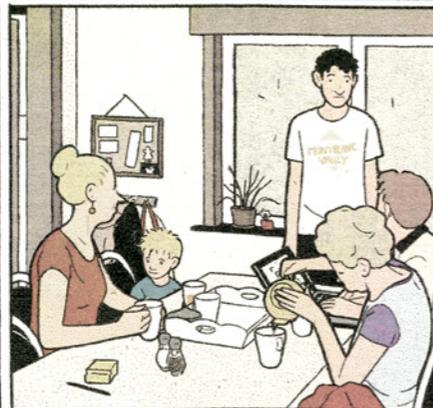


I'M JUST TRYING TO KEEP MY COLLECTION OF SUPERHERO COMICS COMPLETE. BUT, UM...

THANKS.



BUT THEY'RE IN MY BEDROOM.



SO, IS THAT A PROBLEM? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

NO. JUST... SAYING.



IT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME. IF ARIAN WANTS TO HAVE A LOOK.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SWEETHEART? WANT TO GO WITH AARON AND LOOK AT HIS COMICS?



YES.
FOLLOW HIM THEN.



THE PHOTOS ARE READY. WE CAN GET STARTED.

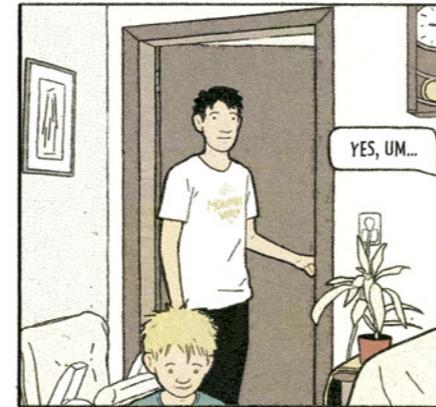


ARIAN.

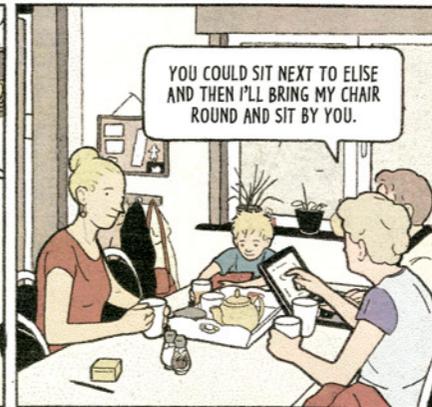


DON'T YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK FIRST?

MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE.



YES, UM...



YOU COULD SIT NEXT TO ELISE AND THEN I'LL BRING MY CHAIR ROUND AND SIT BY YOU.



BECAUSE YOU'D BE BEST IN THE MIDDLE, EH, WITH THE LAPTOP?

THEN I'LL MOVE OVER THERE. SEEMS LIKE THE EASIEST OPTION.



OH, I CAN MOVE.

NO, NO, YOU STAY WHERE YOU ARE. IT'S FINE.



OKAY, AND WE'RE OFF.

