

Tram 5

KAROLINA SZEJDA

Thomas is a somewhat dull, washed out landlord. When he turns 50, he starts buying fitness apparatuses and wearing hip shirts all of a sudden. When he realises this isn't making him any happier, he comes up with the ingenious idea to live out his childhood dream of becoming a tram driver. His daughter Elise, who is also searching for a fulfilling future for herself, observes her father with love and compassion.

Karolina Szejda (b. 1995) was born in Poland, but has lived in Brussels since she was six. In 2019, she graduated from the LUCA School of Arts in Brussels. She makes illustrations and comic strips that are usually based on her own life and offers drawing lessons to children.

“This semi-autobiographical story is set in Belgium, but because of the universal values and emotions she describes, it could have been anywhere in Europe.”

Cutting Edge

“The joint search of father and daughter escapes anecdotal predictability because of its loving optimism, and the poetic note with which the story is told”

Knack Focus





Mijn papa is een serieuus man.



Hij wordt elke dag bedolven onder contracten, mappen en spreadsheets.

En hij heeft het altijd druk.



Maar dat is normaal. Hij is de baas.



En een doorzetter!



Ik weet niet precies wat hij allemaal doet als huiskraas.



Maar hij doet het goed.







Papa was moeit goed op school.

Alsjeblieft.



Dank u.



We gaan het even natellen, meneer Adelaige.



Maar waar hij wel goed in was



Huh?



was hoofdrekenen.

Da's niet genoeg.



Hoer niet genoeg?

35 euro te weinig.

Echt? Bent u zeker?

Ja, en ik ben er zeker van dat u vorige maand uw huur ook niet volledig heeft betaald.



Ziet u, de school is weer begonnen en mijn zoon had nieuwe spullen nodig en...



Dat begrijp ik, maar zelf heb ik ook een dochter voor wie ik moet zorgen.

Het zal niet meer gebeuren, ik beloof het.



Elke avond hoort hij wel iets nieuws.

En toen bleek dat het muntje dat ik had gekocht toch niet zo zeldzaam was en nu is heel mijn investering om zeep...

STOOOOOP!

En zo, stil!

Ahaa.

MAMAAAAA

En is het altijd druk.

Zo'n natuurlijke kaarextensions zijn echt niet goedkoop, hoor.

Helaba!

Komen jullie jullie mama vergezellen?

Nee, wij ruiken koekjes!

En zo, geef!

Ahaa...

Maar uiteindelijk komt het allemaal op hetzelfde neer.

Wie heeft er zin in koekjes?

Sorry papa, maar ik heb geen geld...

Nochtans was het een muntje uit de negentiende eeuw.

WJEU WEE HEJEWEJEU JEWEE

Da's door die lastige mensen van het OCMW!

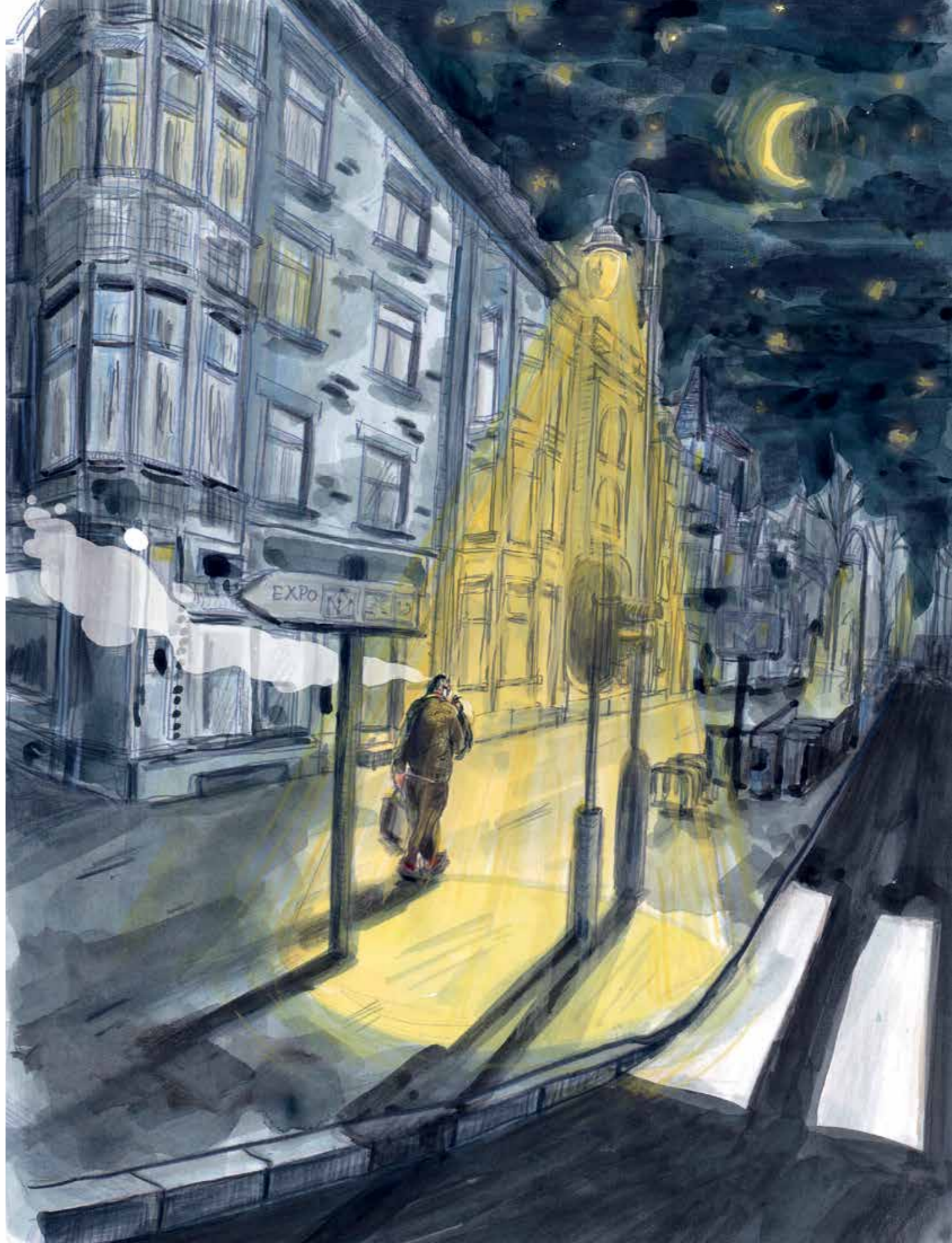
Ja, graag!

Bolleke, toch.

IKKE!!

AAA AH







My dad is a serious man.

Every day he gets buried under piles of contracts, folders, and spreadsheets.

And he is always busy.

But that's only normal. He is the boss.

32 new messages

Sigh

And he never gives up!

Time for a power nap.

Tummy rumbling...

I'm not entirely sure what exactly it is he does as a landlord.

But he does it well.

Ten o'clock!

38 new messages.

Pff.

There is nothing he would rather do.

What do you mean 'I can't pay my rent today'?

When I grow up I want to be my own boss too.

Three months behind on the rent. Incredible.

I think it would be incredibly...

O O G A C H T E N D



Exciting!

Pffff...

Sometimes I worry about him.

DAD!

He works too much.

What?

Sleeping on your desk is bad for your back.

I'm meditating!

Don't worry, napping is healthy!

All old people do it.

OLD PEOPLE?

He also forgets important stuff. Luckily, I'm there to remind him of everything.

Come to think of it, your 50th birthday is coming up! How will we celebrate?

O O G A C H T E N D



To tell you the truth, It's all taken care of.

Or no! It'll be a surprise!

Clap clap clap

We'll dance till the night grows old too!

Yay

Too?

You only turn half a century old once, right!

Sigh

Do all old people nap?

I'm going to do my homework. See you later.

What do you mean, bad for my back?

Nonsense!



Dad was never good at school.

There you go.

Thank you.

We'll just recount that, mister Adelayo.

But what he was good at

Huh?

Was mental arithmetic.

That's not enough.

Not enough how?

35 euros short.

Really? Are you sure?

Yes, and I'm sure that you didn't pay your rent in full last month, either.

You see, the schools started again and my son needed new things and...

I understand, but I have a daughter to take care of myself.

It won't happen again, I promise.

O O G A C H T E N D



He hears something new every night.

So then it turned out the coin I bought was in fact not that rare and now my whole investment is down the drain...

Right.

Stoooooop

Enzo, quiet!

Muuuuuuuum.

And it's always busy.

Such natural hair extensions don't come cheap, you know.

Right...

Hey there!

You've come to join your mother?

No, we smell biscuits!

Enzo, give meeee!

But in the end, it all comes down to the same thing.

Who wants biscuits?

Yes please!

Sorry dad, but I have no money...

That's on those darned people at the OCMW!

Apparently it was a coin from the 19th century.

Oh honey.

ME!



Sometimes he is way too nice.

Next month I will pay everything back daddy!

Erm

Alright

Next.

Yes!

My dear friend! How is everything?

Yes, yes, take a seat.

But that love does get repaid.

They don't call him 'daddy' for nothing!

I've got good news, daddy!

Alright?

Yes, I can finally pay back everything I owe you this month!

It is all in notes of 5 and 10 euros...

I've already recounted it for you.

That's nice of you.



Oh my, it feels good not to have any debt. I don't want to be a bad tenant, but sometimes life is so unfair. Especially for hard-working people like you and me, eh?

Ay, have you lost count?

I will start over.

You know, I'm very happy to have lived here for 4 years already. You are a very patient landlord, daddy.

Really?

Really. You've taught me so much about Belgium. You have a lot of great things here!

Great things? Like what?

Canned tomatoes, yummm!

My grandma always asks me to bring some when I visit. The whole village loves her soup.

Oh...

See you next month, daddy!



'I've recounted it thoroughly, daddy.'

Sure.

Sigh

Finally.