

The officer

I HAD SEEN HIM EARLIER.



ISN'T HE THE ONE WE SAW AT THE DEMONSTRATION?



HE'S THE ONE.



I WAS STARTING TO GET SERIOUSLY FED UP WITH MY JOB.



THEY DIDN'T WANT US BEHAVING
LIKE A POLICE FORCE ANYMORE...



NO, MA'AM.

BUT LIKE A BUSINESS.



HE DISAPPEARED.

IT WAS ALL ABOUT NUMBERS. ANY REASON WAS GOOD
ENOUGH TO STOP AND CHECK SOMEONE.

TOO BAD, OFFICER. BUT I'M SURE WE'LL
BE SEEING HIM AGAIN SOON.



WE WERE UNDER PRESSURE TO MEET OUR EXPULSION QUOTAS.
WE'D ARREST PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BE IN
PLACES WHERE STRANGES WOULD GATHER.

HE'S HARD TO MISS.



THERE WERE TOO MANY STRANGES IN THE CITY, BUT WHO HAD DECIDED? AND WHAT WERE THE CRITERIA? I WAS SICK OF IT.



YOU KNOW, IT SCARES THE RESIDENTS WHEN THEY SEE GANGS OF THEM IN THE STREETS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT.

YES, COMMISSIONER.

Kader

AFTER TWO HOURS OF WAITING, THEY CRAMMED TWENTY OF US INTO THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK, ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER.



I WAS AFRAID OF FALLING,
SO WERE THE OTHERS.



OUR LEGS DANGLED OVER
THE SIDES.



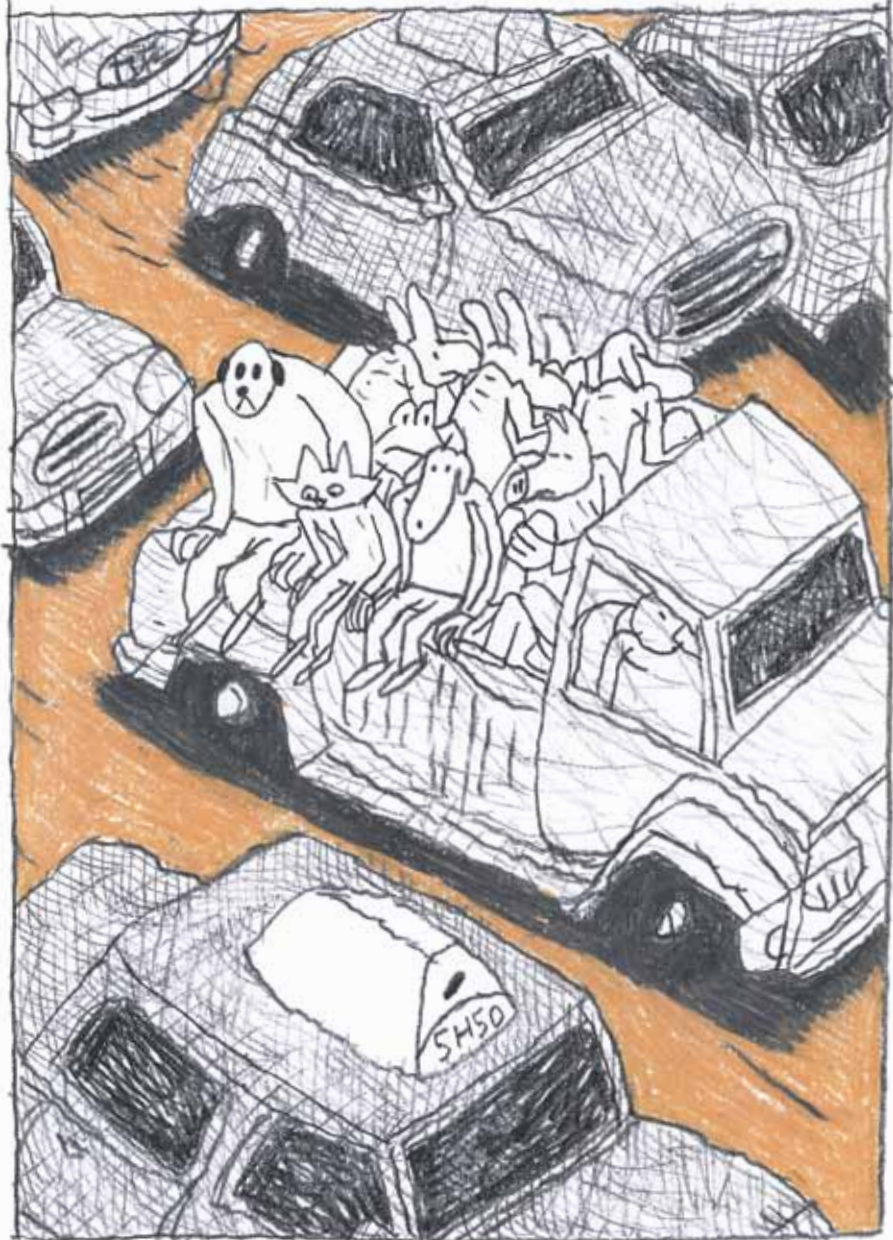
BUT DESPITE ALL THE SHOVING, NOBODY TOUCHED HIM OR
TRIED TO TAKE HIS PLACE. I MANAGED TO WEDGE MYSELF
IN NEXT TO HIM.



THE OTHERS THOUGHT WE WERE TOGETHER AND LEFT ME ALONE.



THE PICKUP TOOK US OUTSIDE THE CITY...



TO THE NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE.



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GET FIFTY TO EIGHTY FOR A DAYS WORK,
BUT SOMETIMES IT'S ONLY THIRTY.



NORMALLY, CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS GET 140.



HEY...THERE'S A CAR
COMING.



SHIT! AN INSPECTOR!



THE COMPANIES OFTEN GET CHECKED.

QUICK, WE GOTTA SCRAM!

LADDERS,
EVERYBODY!

WHEN THERE'S AN INSPECTION, WE ALL HIDE UP ON THE ROOF.

THEY'RE COMING!

LET'S GO!

C'MON, WE'LL
WAIT OVER THERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THEY NEVER BOTHER TO CHECK
THE ROOFTOPS.



The crow

THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM, I WAS PERCHED ON A GARBAGE CAN, WAITING FOR A QUIET MOMENT TO PECK AT SOME SCRAPS.



SO OF COURSE I WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE SHOWED UP...



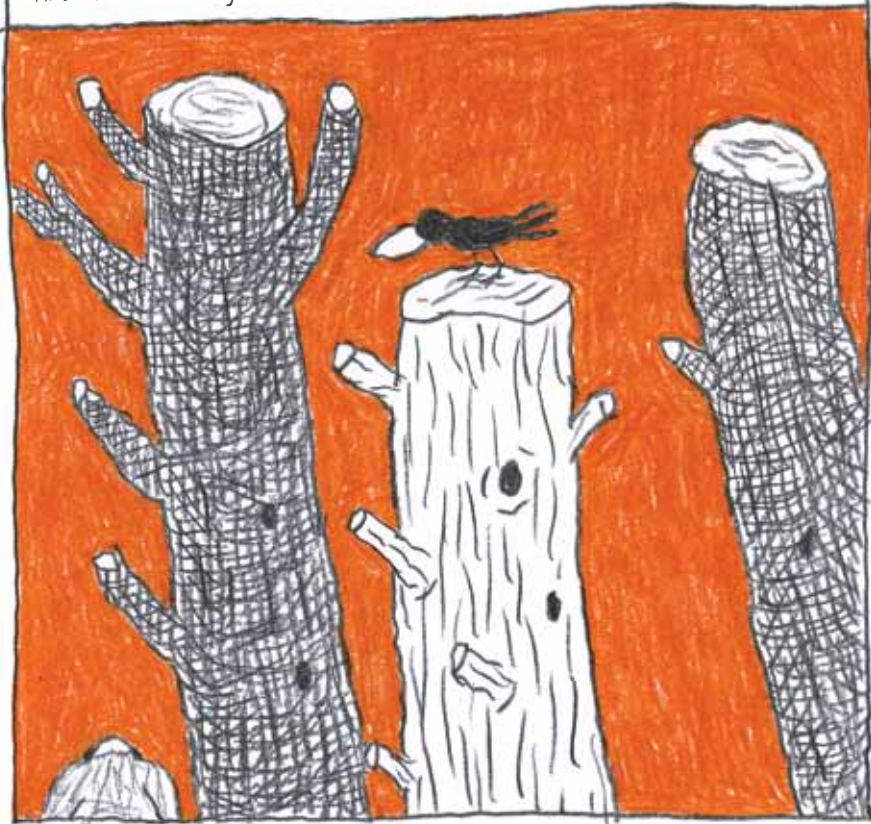
AND STARTED RUMMAGING FOR SCRAPS AS WELL.



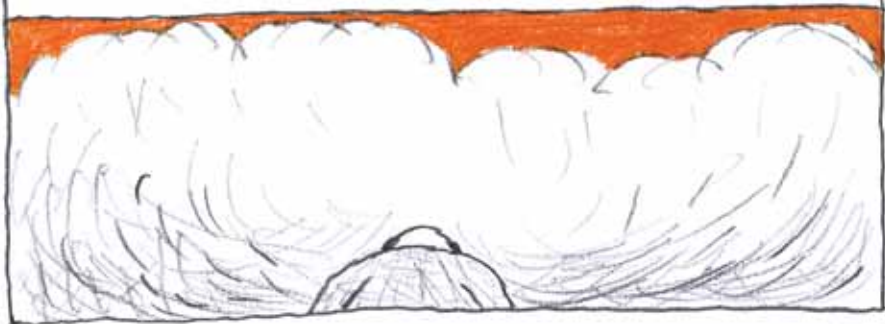
I LET HIM HELP HIMSELF. THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.



AND ONCE AGAIN, I FOLLOWED HIM.



HE HEADED FOR THE WOODS BEHIND THE CHAIN STORES...



OUT PAST THE EDGE OF TOWN, INTO THE SO-CALLED JUNGLE.



I SAW THAT HE HAD JOINED A
GROUP OF STRANGES...



WHO'D SET UP CAMP THERE,
SHELTERED BY THE TREES.





LOOKING AT THEM, I
WONDERED IF THIS GROUP
OF STRANGES...



STILL BELONGED TO THE HUMAN
RACE AT ALL.



