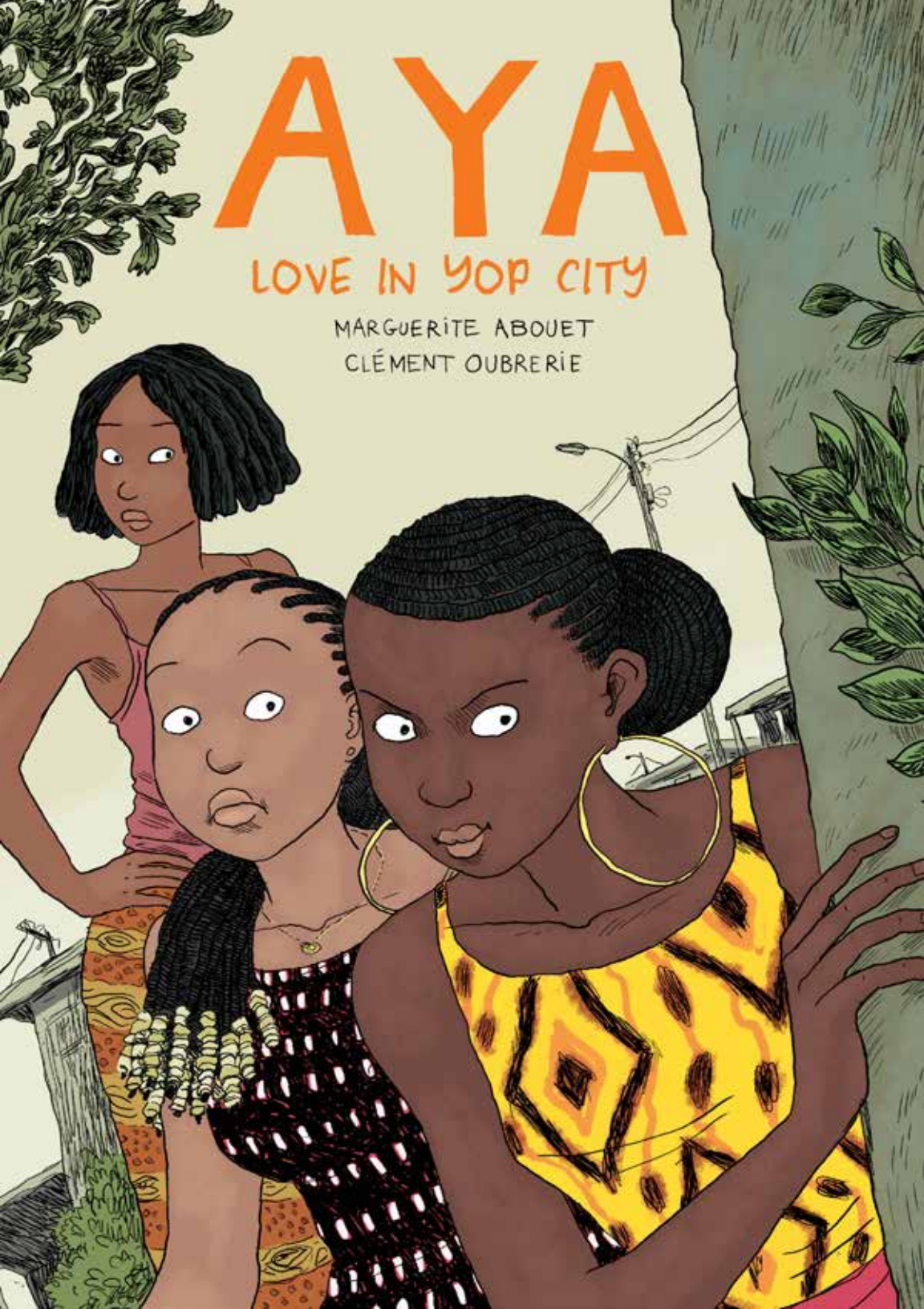


# AYA

LOVE IN YOP CITY

MARGUERITE ABOUET  
CLÉMENT OUBRERIE

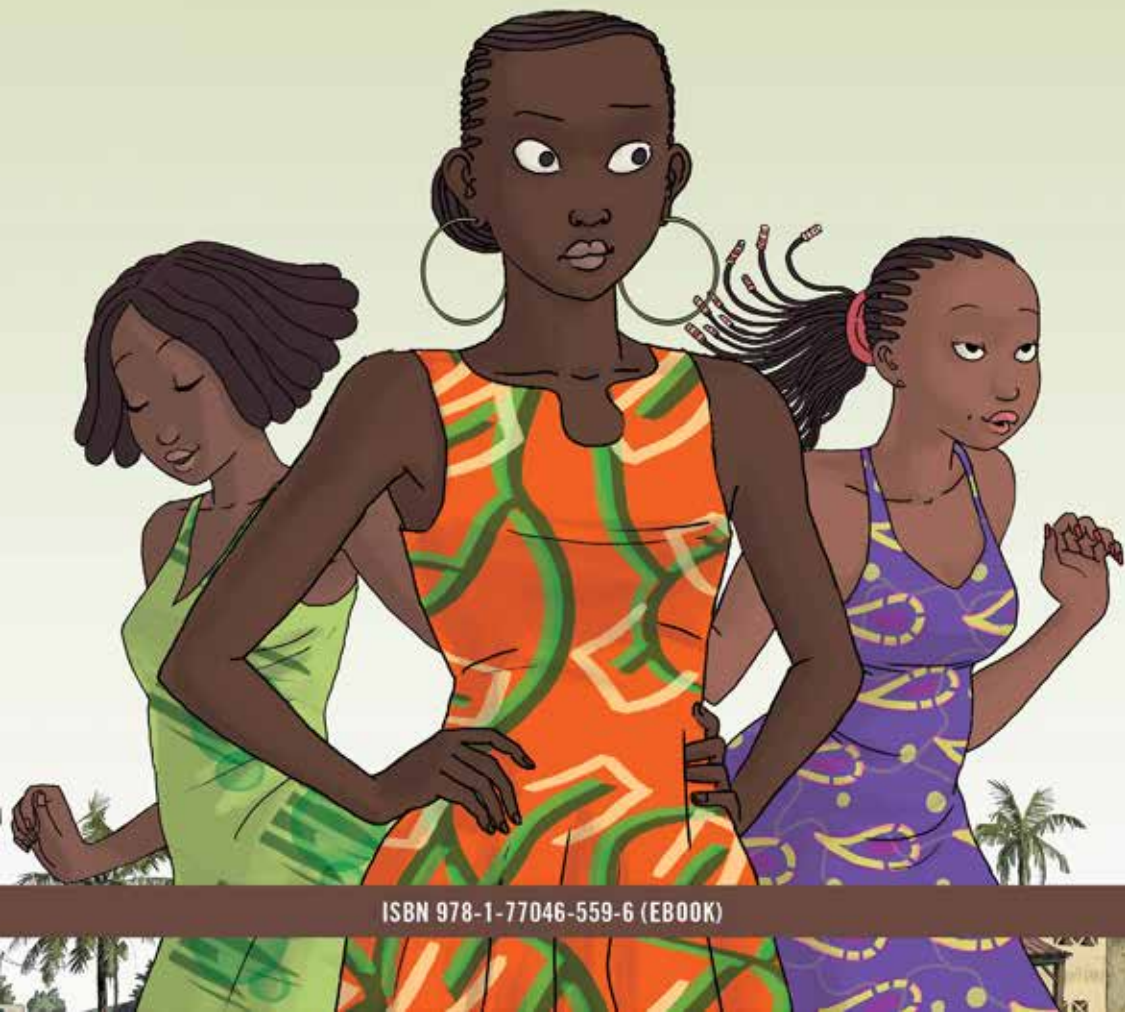


# AYA

## LIFE IN YOP CITY

**ENJOY PART ONE OF THE AYA SERIES IN ONE ACCESSIBLE COLLECTED VOLUME!**

Set in 1978 during a golden time for Ivory Coast, when the nation was an oasis of affluence and stability in West Africa, *Aya: Life in Yop City* is loosely based on Marguerite Abouet's youth. The story follows the adventures of the studious and clear-sighted 19-year-old Aya, her easy-going friends Adjoua and Bintou, and their meddling relatives and neighbors. It's a wry, breezy account of the simple pleasures and private troubles of everyday life in Yop City.



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And, lastly, our gratitude to Hyppolite B. for the music!

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MARGUERITE ABOUET

CLÉMENT OUBRERIE

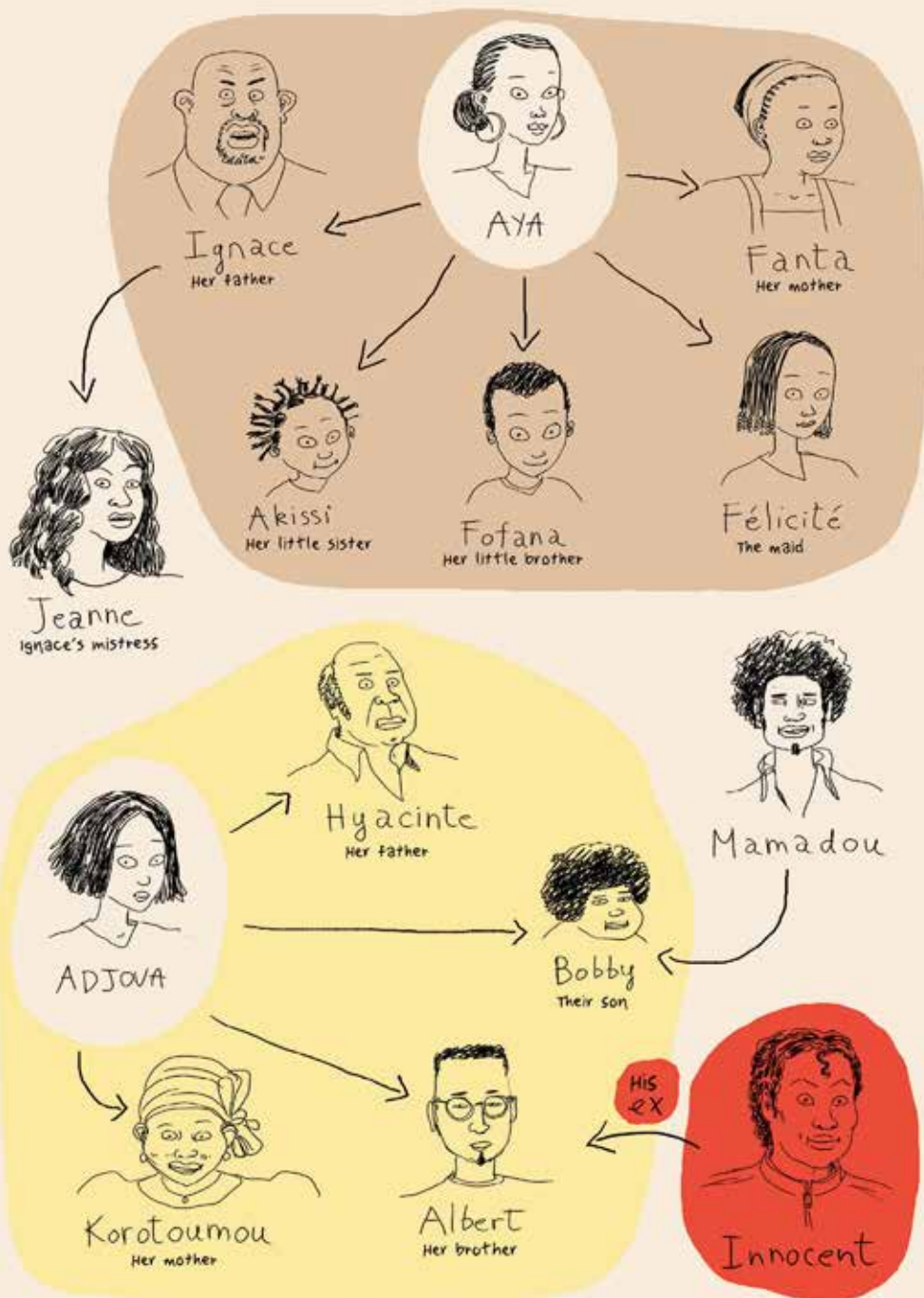
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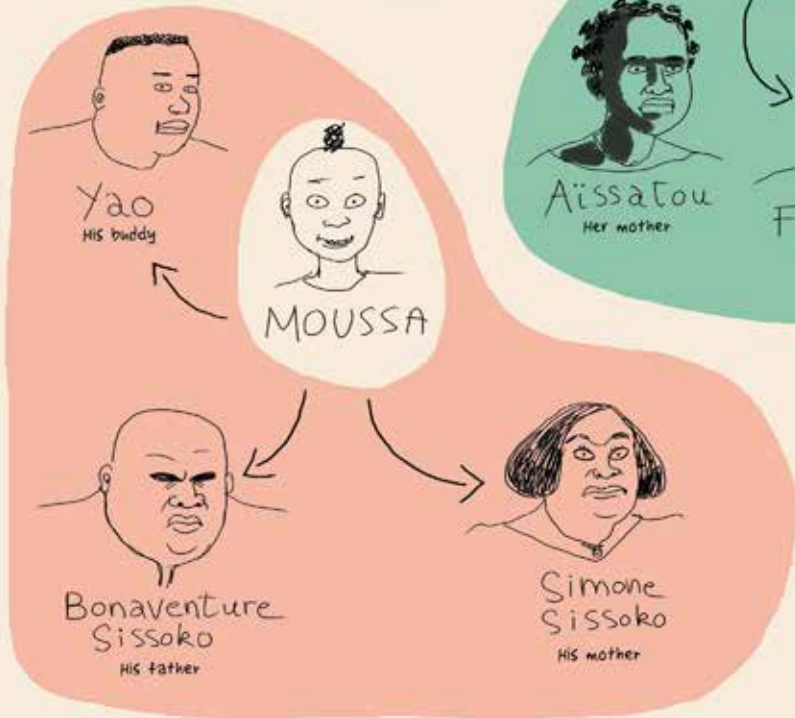
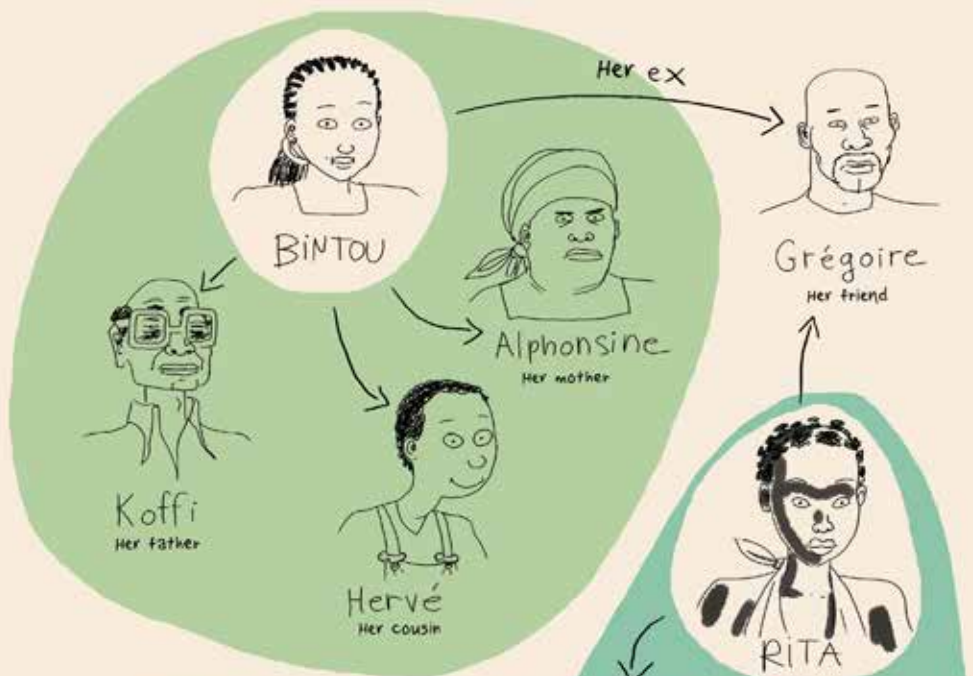
LOVE IN YOP CITY



DRAWN & QUARTERLY  
MONTREAL

# The characters

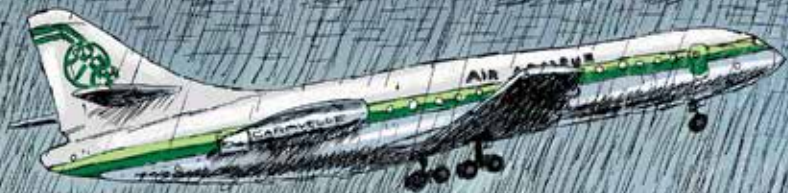




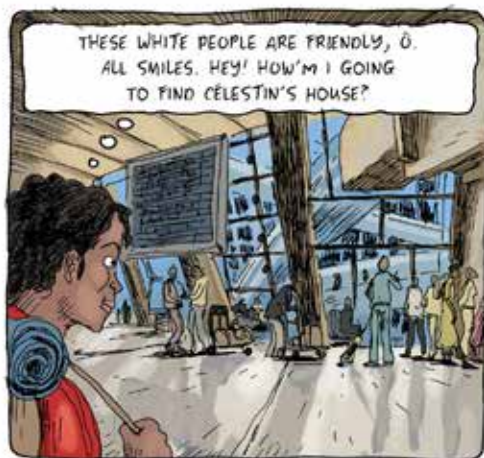




LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE  
LANDING AT PARIS-ROISSY AIRPORT.  
THE TIME IS 6:30 A.M. AND IT'S 53° F  
OUT. THANKS FOR FLYING AIR AFRIQUE.











Some 4,000 miles away, in Abidjan.



ISN'T THAT ZÉKINAN'S DAUGHTER, FÉLICITÉ?

WHY YES IT IS! SHE TURNED OUT PRETTY, Ô!



HEY, YOU KNOW THAT GIRL? SHE'S A STAR IN ABIDJAN, DÉH! SHE'S EVERYWHERE, EVEN ON TV!

NO KIDDING! SHE WAS JUST ANOTHER BAREFOOT KID IN THE VILLAGE.



GOES TO SHOW—ANYBODY'S LUCK CAN CHANGE!

I BET IT'S CHANGED FOR HER PARENTS, HUH?



HER PARENTS? I DON'T THINK THEY KNOW. I SAW THEM IN THE VILLAGE THIS MORNING, LOOKING MISERABLE AS USUAL.

THAT'S SAD, Ô.



YOU SAID IT. I BET HER GUARDIANS ARE SPONGING OFF HER, THOUGH.

BUT THAT'S GONNA CHANGE TODAY. ZÉKINAN IS IN FOR SOME NEWS.

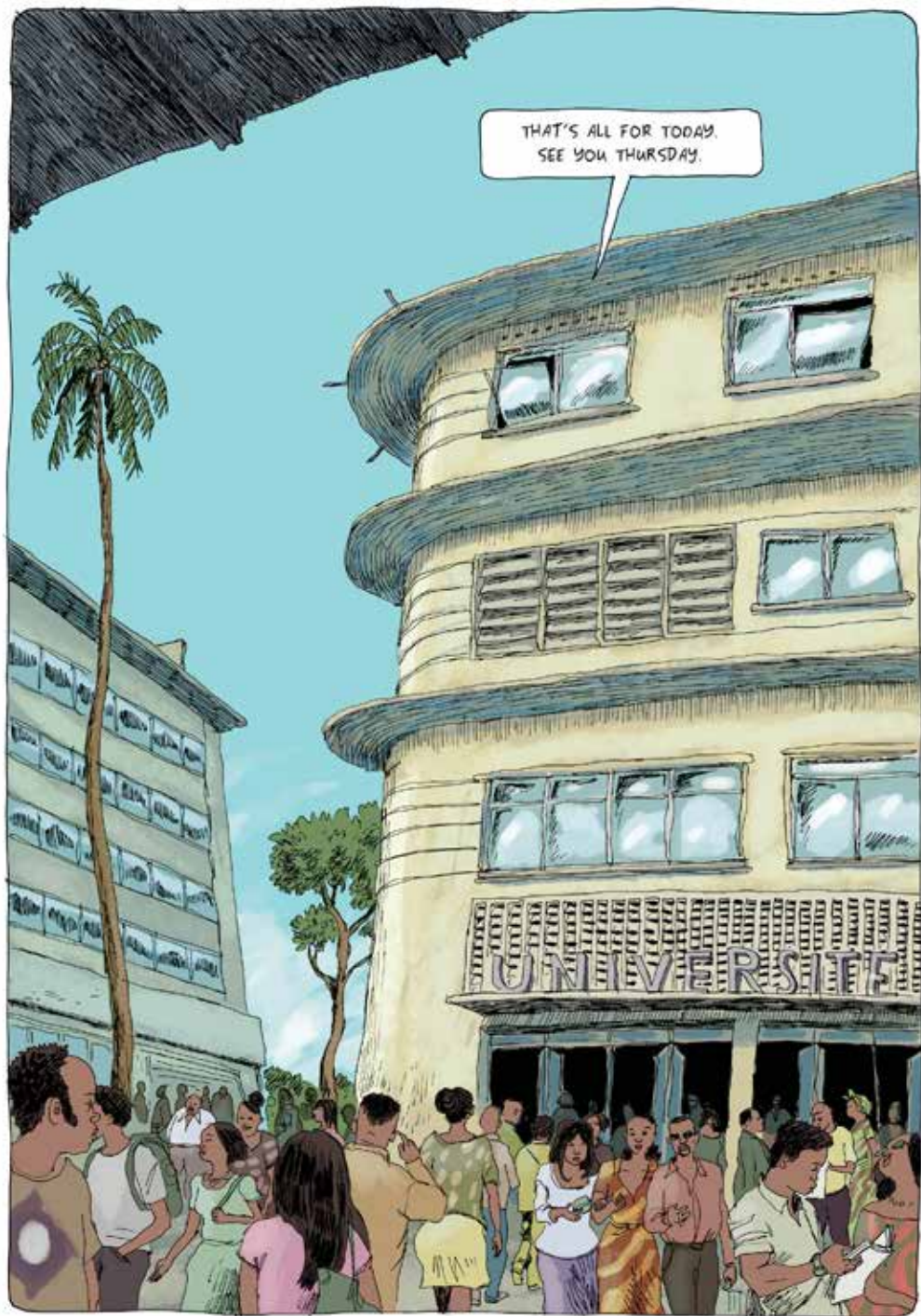




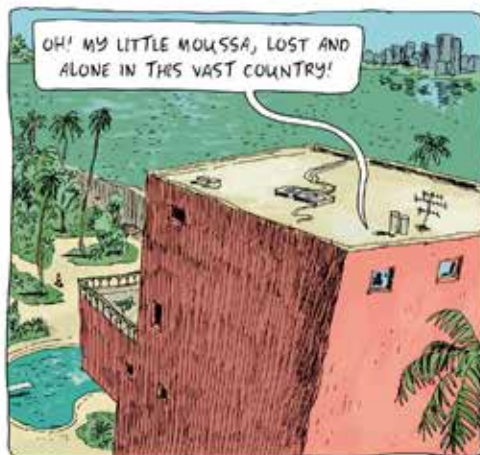




THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.  
SEE YOU THURSDAY.









SIGN BINTOU - BOYFRIEND ADVICE



HEY BINTOU!  
YOU'RE UP EARLY!  
ARE YOU SICK?

HERVÉ, DON'T WASTE MY  
TIME. HAVEN'T YOU GOT  
ANYTHING ELSE TO DO?



SURE, BUT I WANTED TO CHAT. IT'S NOT  
LIKE I BUMP INTO YOU EVERY DAY.

FINE, BUT MAKE IT SNAPPY. AS YOU CAN SEE,  
I HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO NOW.



YEAH, I CAN SEE YOU'RE UP TO  
SOMETHING. WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?

CONSULTING. THANKS TO MY  
ADVICE, THE GOS AROUND HERE  
ARE GOING TO WISE UP SOON.



SO YOU'RE A  
MARABOUT WOMAN  
NOW, IS THAT IT?

HERVÉ, C'MON,  
GET TO THE POINT.  
I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY.



OK, MARABOUT  
BINTOU, TELL ME AM  
I EVER GONNA HOLD  
A GO IN MY ARMS?

HERVÉ, YOU GOTTA USE  
YOUR SENSES. JUST OPEN  
YOUR EYES, AND YOU'LL  
SEE THE GOS ARE LINED UP  
AND WAITING FOR YOU.



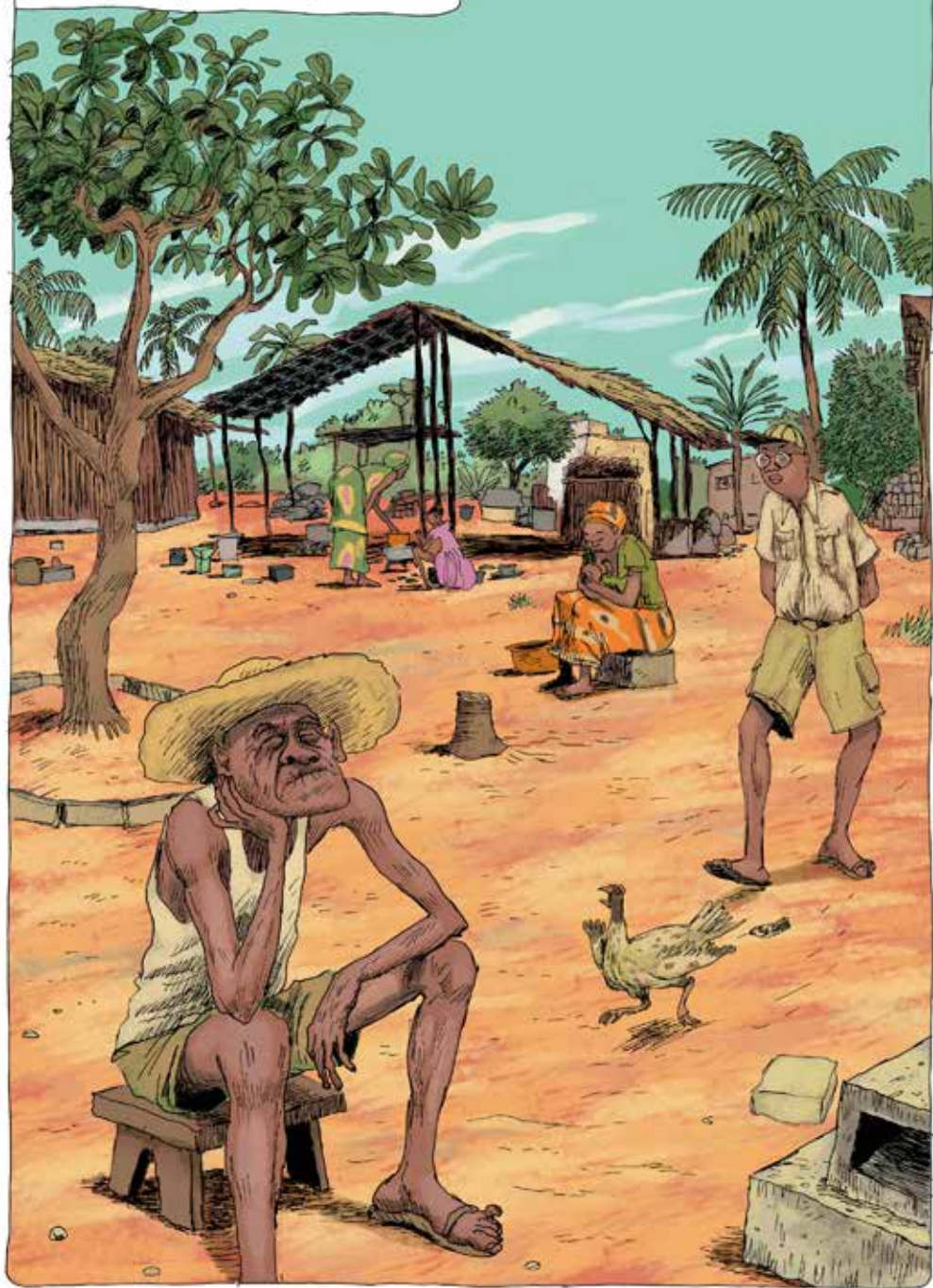


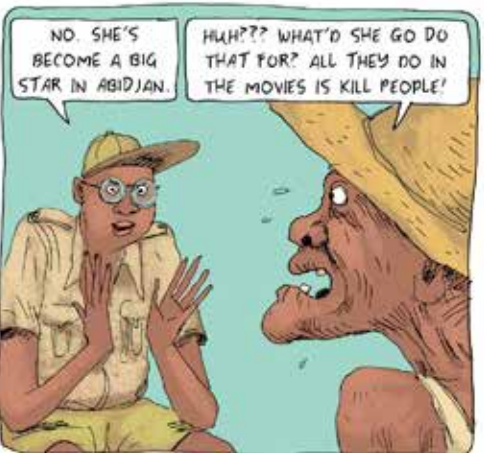


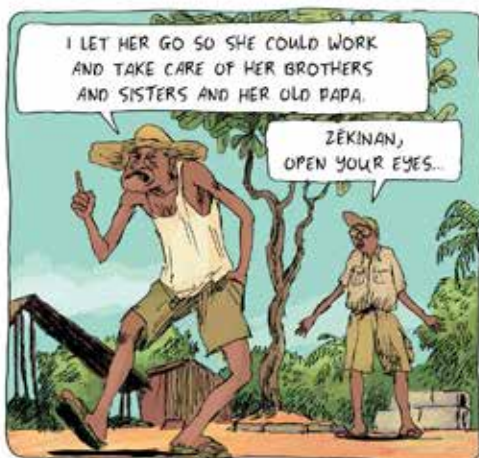
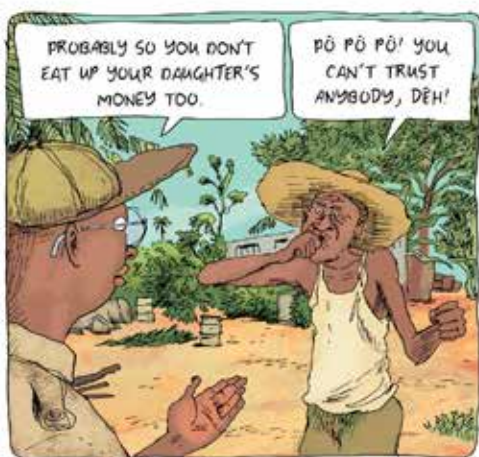




One early morning, in the village of Domolon.









And in another hotel, 250 miles from there.

GOOD EVENING, I'M DETECTIVE KONAN JR., FROM KONAN AND KONAN.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?



OH, YEAH... THIS IS THE AMERICAN.  
THAT'S WHAT HE CALLS HIMSELF.



IS HE HERE?

NO, SORRY. HE LEFT A FEW DAYS  
AGO. A REAL BIG SHOT, SHOWING OFF  
EVERY NIGHT. BUT HE'S GONE NOW.

TOO BAD! ANY IDEA WHERE TO?



NO. BUT HE DID SAY HE HAD BIG PLANS. HE WAS  
GONNA GO VISIT ALL THE NICE SPOTS IN THE COUNTRY.

WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN.

AW, TOO BAD.  
THERE'S GONNA BE A BIKINI  
CONTEST HERE TONIGHT.



REALLY? SO WHO'S GOING TO BE IN IT?

SOME BOBARAGAS.

HM, WELL IT IS GETTING A BIT  
LATE TO BE DRIVING AROUND...



SO, MICHELINE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS: I'VE BEEN GOING OUT WITH ÉMILE FOR SIX MONTHS. AT FIRST I WASN'T READY FOR SOMETHING SERIOUS, BUT THEN MY SISTERS ENCOURAGED ME AND I WENT ALONG WITH IT...

At the start, my guy was sweet, attentive...  
It was love with a capital L.

Émile, my love



Baby, I'm gonna take you to Mono Gaga next weekend!

Except now he's started cheating on me. I've even found bras in our bedroom that don't belong to me.



Émile, whose is this?

Micheline, who's do you think? Probably yours. Since when do I wear a bra?

Well, it's not mine. My woman's intuition tells me you're cheating on me, and I won't put up with it.

Friends told me to drop it, and I did, since I had no other proof. But now my baby's changed. He's drifting away from me, and nothing I do to win him back is working.



I'm going out. Don't wait with supper.

But...I've made your favorite dish!

I love him, but I'm losing him.  
I don't know what to do anymore.

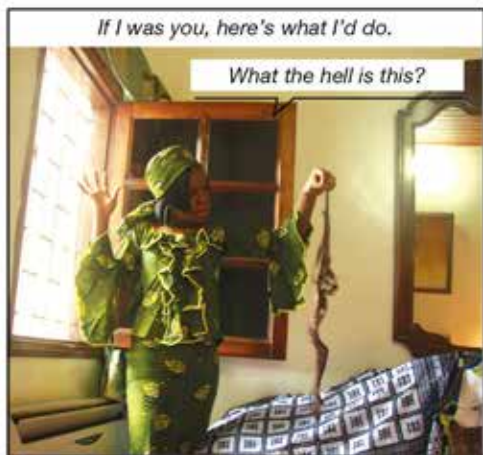


Boo hoo hoo

I WANT TO MAKE THINGS THE WAY THEY USED TO BE, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW. HELP ME, BINTOU.



MY DEAR, I'M SORRY...











SIGN FACULTY LOUNGE



AYA! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.

HELLO, SIR. AM I EARLY?  
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?



THEY ALL CANCELLED. THEY  
COULDN'T COME TODAY.

OH. WE CAN MEET  
SOME OTHER TIME IF  
YOU PREFER, SIR.



NO, NO. HAVE A SEAT. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.

THANKS, SIR. I BROUGHT  
MY LAST ASSIGNMENT  
TO REDO WITH YOU.



WAIT, WE'RE IN NO HURRY.  
WOULD YOU LIKE A SODA?

UH... NO.  
THANKS, SIR.



SORRY, SIR, BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, AYA.  
DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED.



