

# JUMBAR'S STAR

ILLUSTRATOR: ALEKSEI IORSH.

STORY: SERGEI MURASOV



FAR AWAY IN THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS OF ASIA - BUT NOT SO FAR THAT HE COULDN'T SEE RED SQUARE - LIVED JUMBAR, A HUMBLE SHEPHERD. HE WAS FROM A POOR FAMILY, AND COULD NOT EVEN DREAM OF A COMFORTABLE LIFE.



BUT WHENEVER HE LOOKED HARD INTO THE DISTANCE, HE COULD SEE THE KREMLIN STAR ON THE HORIZON. THAT STAR WOULD NOT LEAVE HIM BE. AND SO, ONE DAY, HE DECIDED TO SET OFF IN SEARCH OF HIS DREAMS.



I DON'T KNOW ANYONE THERE. I'LL BE COMPLETELY ALONE.

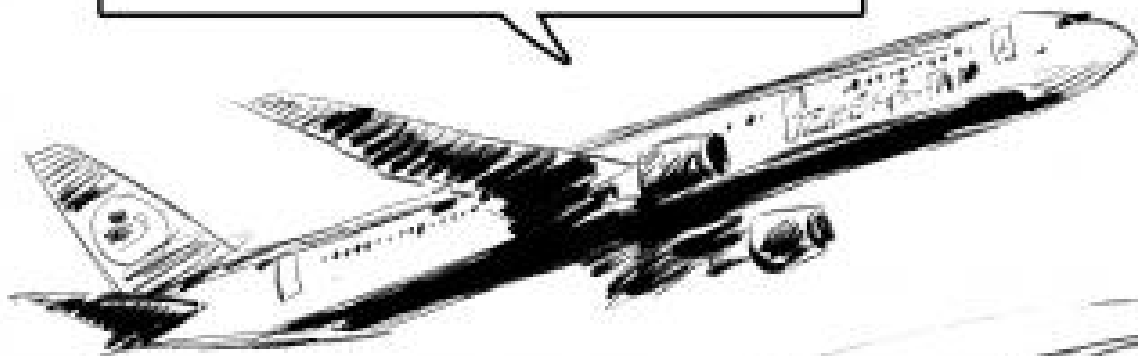
DON'T WORRY JUMBAR! MANY OF OUR BROTHERS ARE THERE - THEY'LL LOOK AFTER YOU!



JUMBAR FELT BETTER WHEN HE HEARD THIS, AND KNEW FOR CERTAIN THAT HE HAD TO GO TO MOSCOW.

I PROMISE I'LL COME BACK SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS ARE THERE, AND THEY'LL LOOK AFTER ME.

FAREWELL, DEAR HOMELAND!  
I AM FLYING TO A COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT AND BETTER LIFE.



THE PLANE LANDED SAFELY. IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE HE  
WOULD BE FACE TO FACE WITH HIS DREAM.

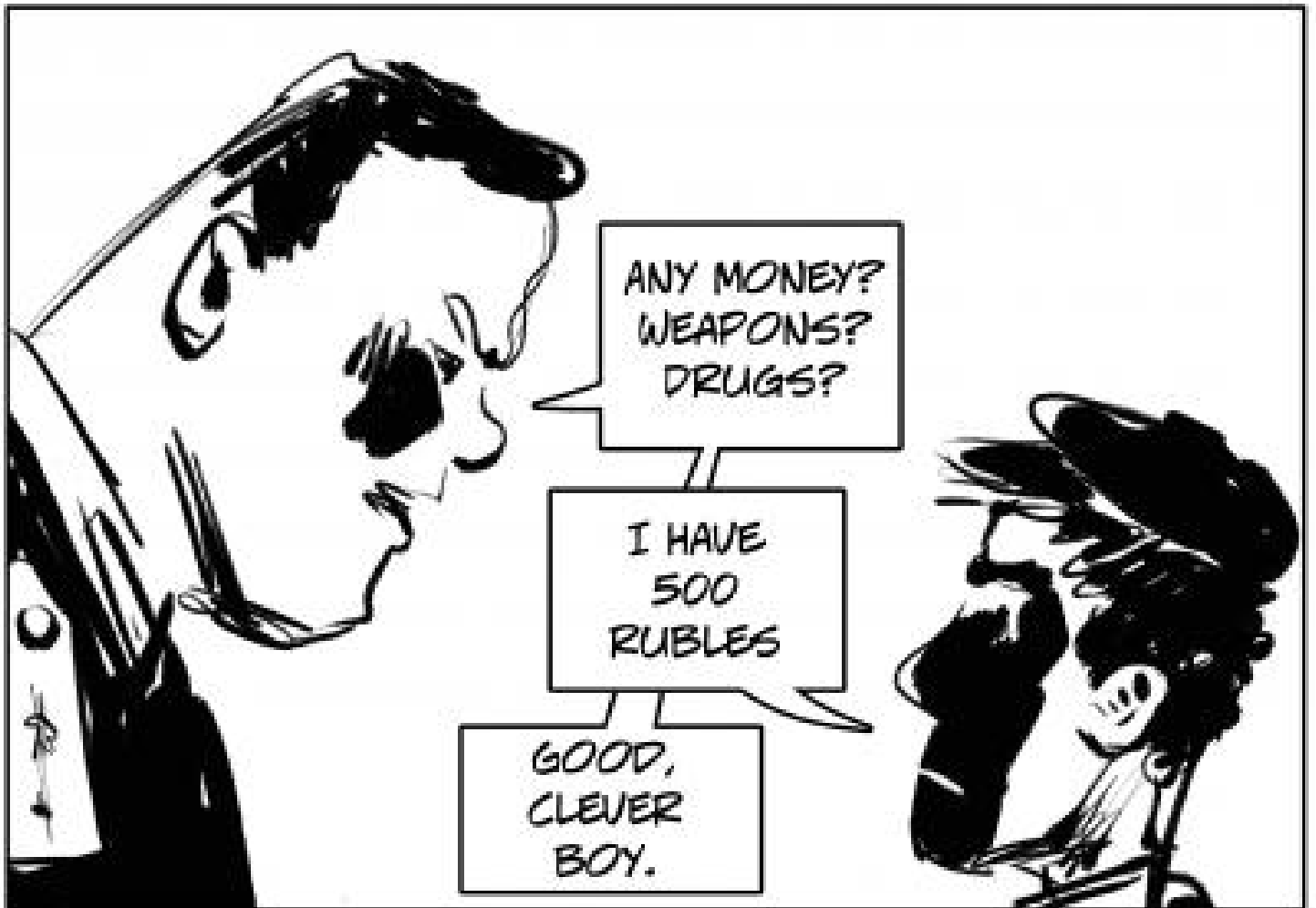
П А С П О Р Т Н Ы Й  
К О Н Т Р О Л  
P A S S P O R T  
C O N T R O L



WELCOME  
TO MOSCOW

COME  
SLOW



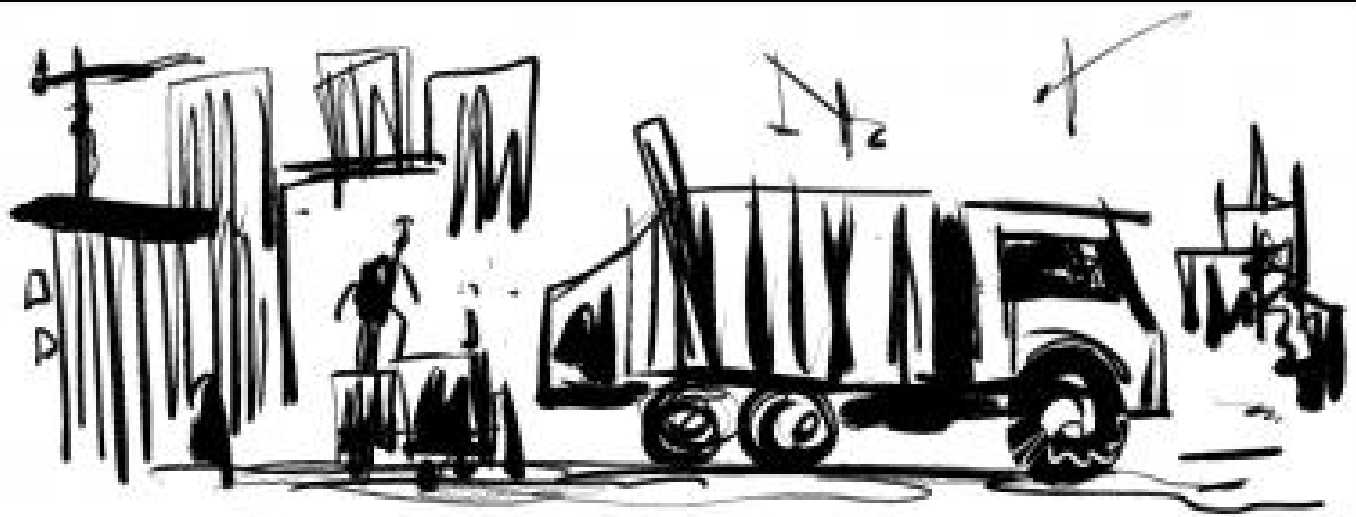


RUSSIA HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPE, AND THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER IN THE WORLD AFTER THE USA. EVERY YEAR, MORE THAN 2 MILLION FOREIGN CITIZENS COME TO WORK IN MOSCOW; LESS THAN 300,000 FIND OFFICIAL JOBS.

(ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA)

31.03.2009)





THEY WORK IN THE HEAVIEST AND LOWEST-PAID JOBS - ON BUILDING SITES, IN BUILDING AND YARD MAINTENANCE AND AS RUBBISH COLLECTORS. THEY DO THE JOBS THAT RUSSIAN CITIZENS WOULD RATHER AVOID.



THE TALLEST AND MOST IMPRESSIVE BUILDINGS IN MOSCOW WERE BUILT BY THEIR HANDS; TO THEM WE OWE OUR CLEAN STREETS AND COURTYARDS.



ARE YOU REGISTERED? THEY'LL FINE YOU IF NOT. I CAN DO IT FOR 500 RUBLES - OTHER PEOPLE CHARGE 1500. GIVE ME YOUR PASSPORT AND I'LL GET IT DONE QUICKLY.

OK, I TRUST YOU. WE'RE BROTHERS, AFTER ALL.







MIGRANT WORKERS ARE TREATED LIKE SLAVES BY THEIR EMPLOYERS; OFTEN THEY HAVE NO DOCUMENTS, NO WORKERS' RIGHTS, AND NO SOCIAL PROTECTION.



THEY LIVE IN TERRIBLE CONDITIONS, IN TRAILERS, SLEEPING ON BUNKS AND PREPARING FOOD ON MAKESHIFT STOVES.



FIRES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CLAIM DOZENS OF LIVES.

ONE MAN BENEFITS FROM ANOTHER'S SUFFERING. EMPLOYERS PROFIT FROM THE ILLEGAL WORK OF IMMIGRANTS BY AVOIDING THE USUAL SOCIAL PAYMENTS AND TAXES.



IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO FIRE AN ILLEGAL WORKER, LEAVING HIM STRANDED ON THE STREET WITHOUT THE MEANS TO LIVE.



CAKES  
PROFITEROLES  
PASTRIES

SUDDENLY, A FIRM  
HAND LANDED HEAVILY  
ON JUMBAR'S  
SHOULDER

YOUR  
DOCUMENTS!

I'VE ONLY JUST  
ARRIVED AND GAVE MY  
DOCUMENTS TO  
SOMEONE - HE'S  
BRINGING THEM NOW.

SO,  
NO REGISTRATION,  
NO PASSPORT...

Dok  
Reg  
Perm

CAKES  
PROFITEROLES  
PASTRIES





A POLICE CAR CARRIED JUMBAR AWAY INTO THE UNKNOWN.



WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?  
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?  
WHERE'S MY PASSPORT?  
WILL I SEE MY FAMILY AGAIN?  
HE KNEW NO ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS.

ONCE ON THE STREET, IMMIGRANTS ARE  
SOMETIMES FORCED TO RESORT TO CRIMINAL



MEANS -  
STEALING,  
BREAK-INS,  
DRUGS  
TRADE -  
NEVER WITH  
HAPPY RE-  
SULTS.

THE CULTURAL ISOLATION OF IMMIGRANT  
COMMUNITIES LEADS TO ETHNIC CONFLICTS.



THIS CONFLICT  
IS USED BY  
RADICAL POLITI-  
CIANS FOR THEIR  
OWN ENDS.





THAT IS WHY MIGRANT WORKERS NEED PROPER SUPPORT FROM THE AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

DEAR JUMBAR! WE HOPE THAT YOU FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION. THE WORLD IS NOT WITHOUT KIND PEOPLE, AND EVERYONE HAS HIS OWN STAR.

