

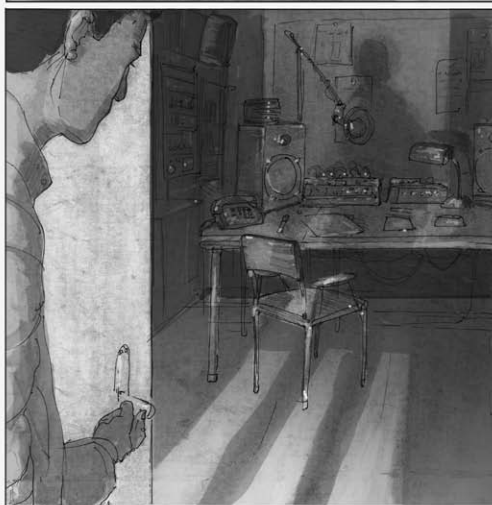
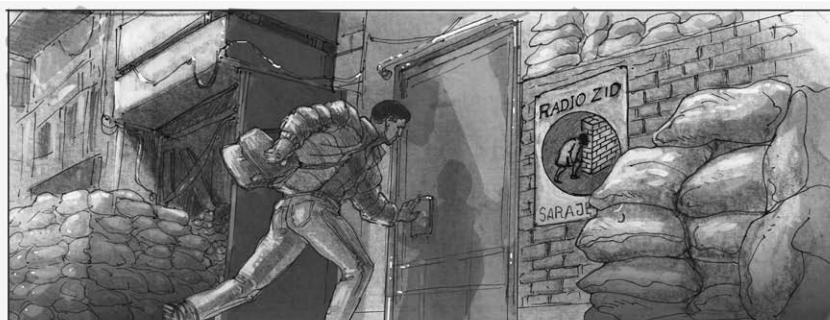
THE SECRET OF
NIKOLA TESLA

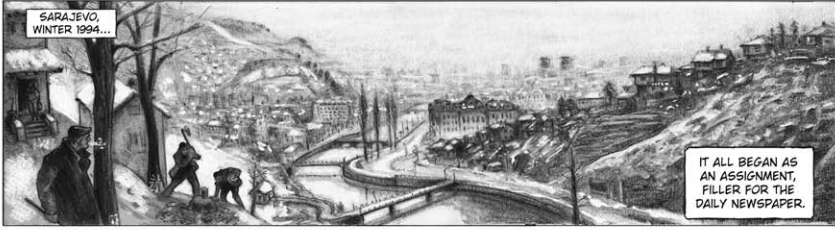
**ALEKSANDAR
BREZAR**

BASED ON A SHORT STORY BY
**KARIM
ZAIMOVIĆ**

**ENIS
ČIŠIĆ**

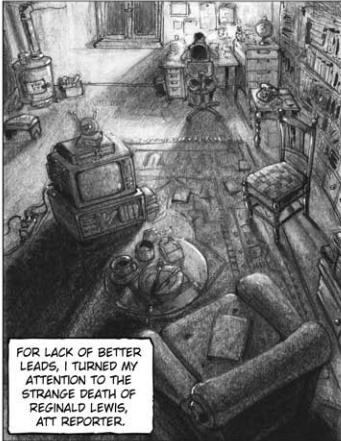






SARAJEVO,
WINTER 1994...

IT ALL BEGAN AS
AN ASSIGNMENT,
FILLER FOR THE
DAILY NEWSPAPER.



FOR LACK OF BETTER
LEADS, I TURNED MY
ATTENTION TO THE
STRANGE DEATH OF
REGINALD LEWIS,
ATT REPORTER.



I WAS PUZZLED BY THE
GENERAL LACK OF INTEREST
FOR THE MYSTERIOUS DEMISE
OF THE LONDON-BASED
SCOTSMAN.



MAYBE NO ONE CARED
BECAUSE SO LITTLE
WAS KNOWN ABOUT
HIS DEATH...

...OR BECAUSE DEATH
WAS A PART OF
EVERYDAY REALITY
HERE.



I WAS ALMOST
READY TO
GIVE UP ON
THE STORY,
FIGURING THAT
THERE WAS
NOTHING ELSE
TO IT...



BUT A FEW DAYS LATER,
I MET WITH A GROUP OF
FOREIGN REPORTERS.
THE INFORMATION
THEY SHARED
SHONE A NEW AND
UNEXPECTED LIGHT
ON LEWIS'S DEATH.



DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
REGINALD WASN'T
A REPORTER;
HE WAS MI6.

MY PROFESSIONAL
CURIOSITY PIQUED,
THE NEXT STEP WAS
TO GET IN TOUCH
WITH MY CONTACTS
IN LINPROFOR* AND
THE LOCAL POLICE.

*LINPROFOR = THE UN PROTECTION FORCE



I ALSO USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ZAGREB AND LONDON VIA A SATELLITE PHONE.



FURTHER DETAILS CAME THE NEXT DAY AFTER CALLS TO PARIS AND GDANSK.



REGINALD LEWIS'S REAL NAME WAS RAYMOND MANILOW.



HE WAS AN EXPERIENCED OPERATIVE WHO PLED HIS TRADE IN HONG KONG AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE BRITISH DIPLOMATIC CORPS REFERRED TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN SARAJEVO...



...AS A MISSION OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.



BUT THERE WAS NOT MUCH ELSE, AND I PROBABLY WOULD'VE REACHED A DEAD END...

...IF AN UNUSUAL COINCIDENCE HADN'T PROVIDED ME WITH A FRESH PERSPECTIVE.



A FEW DAYS LATER, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM LONDON. IT WAS EDMUND MICIĆ, THE FAMOUS REPORTER FOR SUNDAY EXPRESS...

...AND A LONGTIME FRIEND OF MINE; THE TWO OF US HAD WORKED TOGETHER ON A SERIES OF REPORTS BEFORE THE WAR.



SORRY FOR NOT BEING IN TOUCH LATELY. I HAD A FEW THINGS TO ASK YOU...

CLICK



ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, ED.

THE MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW



HE WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF FOREIGN OPERATIVES WHO HAD RECENTLY COME TO SARAJEVO...

...UNDER THE GUISE OF REPORTERS AND FOREIGN AID WORKERS.



MY SOURCES ARE SAYING THAT THEY ARE ALL SCRAMBLING TO GET THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

SOMETHING TO DO WITH A MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERY OF SOME SORT.



IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAR.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY? SHOULD WE BOTH LOOK INTO IT?

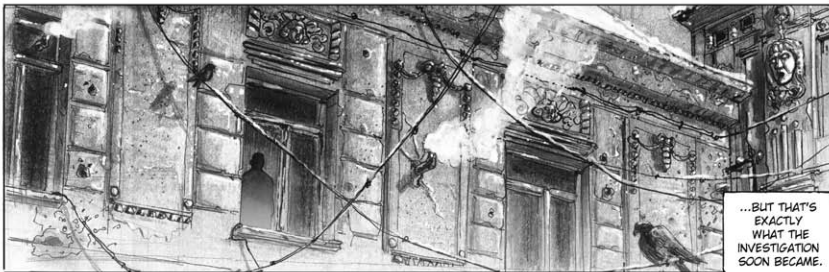


YOU BET! I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

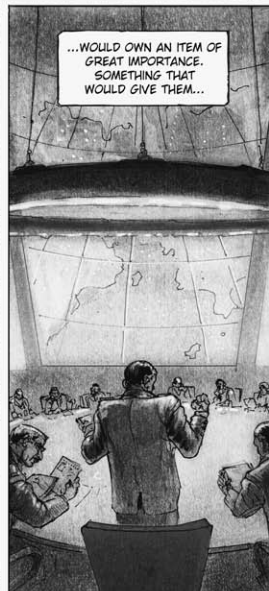


IF I'D KNOWN WHERE OUR INVESTIGATION WOULD LEAD US, I'M SURE I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH IT.

I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO PUTS HIS LIFE IN DANGER...



...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE INVESTIGATION SOON BECAME.







MICIC CALLED BACK. HIS SOURCE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE "SARAJEVO DOCUMENT" CASE...

CERTAIN NEO-NAZI GROUPS WERE ALSO ON THE HUNT.

...COULD BE TRACED BACK TO SOUTH AMERICA.



THAT MADE IT VERY SERIOUS. THE NEO-NAZI ANGLE DREW MICIC IN FURTHER...

...BECAUSE HIS ENTIRE FAMILY HAD PERISHED IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS.



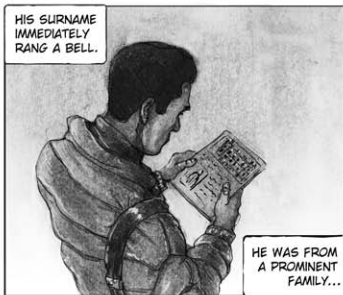
MICIC FINALLY GAVE ME A NAME TO KICKSTART MY INVESTIGATION.



IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS DESCENDANTS FROM POTENTIAL BACKLASH...



...I'LL SIMPLY REFER TO HIM AS NENAD D.



HIS SURNAME IMMEDIATELY RANG A BELL.

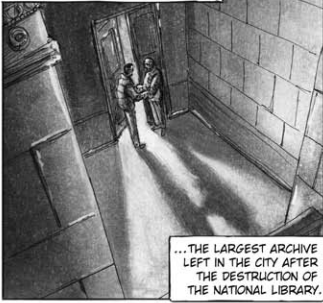
HE WAS FROM A PROMINENT FAMILY...



...THAT USED TO OWN A WELL-KNOWN BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN SARAJEVO.

TODAY, THAT BUILDING WAS NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER RUIN IN THIS CITY.

THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO SEE MR. TURKOVIC, WHO LET ME USE HIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVE...



...THE LARGEST ARCHIVE LEFT IN THE CITY AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

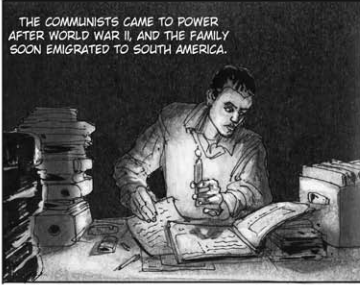
GOOD EVENING, MR. TURKOVIC.



NENAD D.'S FAMILY HAD BEEN VERY WELL RESPECTED, AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR WEALTH.



THE COMMUNISTS CAME TO POWER AFTER WORLD WAR II, AND THE FAMILY SOON EMIGRATED TO SOUTH AMERICA.



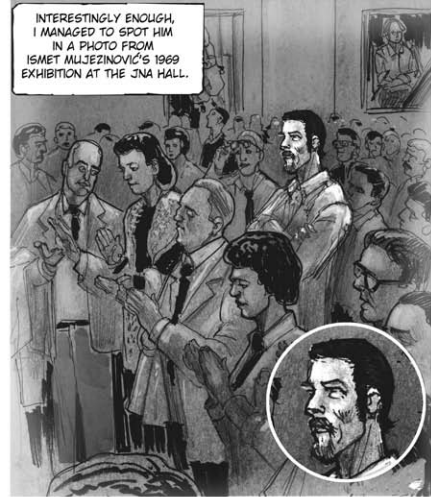
NENAD D. CAME BACK TO SARAJEVO IN HIS LATE 30S. HE WAS A FOREIGNER, A CITIZEN OF A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY.



THOSE WHO MET HIM DURING HIS TIME IN SARAJEVO SAID THAT HE SEEMED LIKE A MAN ON A MISSION.



INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, I MANAGED TO SPOT HIM IN A PHOTO FROM ISMET MUJEZINOVIC'S 1969 EXHIBITION AT THE JNA HALL.





VERY SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, HE STARTED HANGING OUT IN WELL-KNOWN CIRCLES.



HIS FRIENDS DESCRIBED HIM AS VERY STINGY DESPITE HIS WEALTH.

EVERY TOWN HAS ITS RUMORS: A STORY REGARDING THE TRUE REASONS FOR HIS VISIT SURFACED A FEW YEARS LATER.



ALLEGEDLY, BEFORE THEY LEFT, HIS FAMILY HAD HIDDEN A PORTION OF THEIR RICHES IN THE BASEMENT OF THEIR BUILDING.

SEALED BEHIND A FALSE WALL, THERE WAS SUPPOSEDLY SILVERWARE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE.



IT TOOK HIM YEARS TO GET THE COURTS TO GRANT HIM ACCESS TO THE BASEMENT.



HE FINALLY OPENED THE SEALED SPACE IN FRONT OF POLICE OFFICIALS.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THEY FOUND THERE, AND ALL RECORDS WERE LOST EITHER BEFORE OR DURING THE WAR.



I WONDER IF NENAD D. TOOK ALL OF THOSE OBJECTS WITH HIM. MAYBE HE WAS GIVEN AN EQUIVALENT IN CASH?



ANYWAY, HE DISAPPEARED FROM SARAJEVO AS QUICKLY AS HE HAD APPEARED.



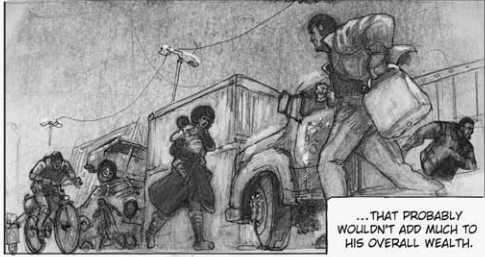
HE NEVER CAME BACK TO THIS CITY.



THE STORY OF NENAD D. DIDN'T ADD UP. IT WAS STRANGE THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS RICH...



...WOULD SPEND A FEW YEARS OF HIS LIFE TRYING TO GET HIS HANDS ON SOME SILVERWARE....



...THAT PROBABLY WOULDN'T ADD MUCH TO HIS OVERALL WEALTH.



NENAD D. MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING MORE VALUABLE THAN SILVERWARE.

MAYBE THE OTHER RUMORS WERE TRUE. HE COULD'VE BEEN A FOREIGN SPY.



NO, THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY. THE AUTHORITIES WOULDN'T TOLERATE HIM BEING AROUND FOR THAT LONG.





I TOLD MIČIĆ ABOUT MY DISCOVERIES IMMEDIATELY. HE SOUNDED VERY EXCITED, AND LESS THAN TWO DAYS LATER, MY PHONE RANG.



LISTEN UP, THIS STORY IS BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT.

IT MIGHT EVEN GET US A PULITZER!



NENAD D. WAS A SPY AFTER ALL. HE HAD WORKED FOR A U.S. AND ISRAELI-OWNED SOUTH AMERICAN CORPORATION.



AFTER HE WENT BACK TO SOUTH AMERICA, HE BECAME EXTREMELY WEALTHY.

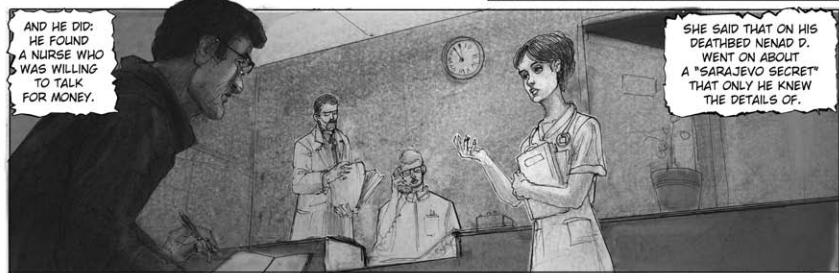
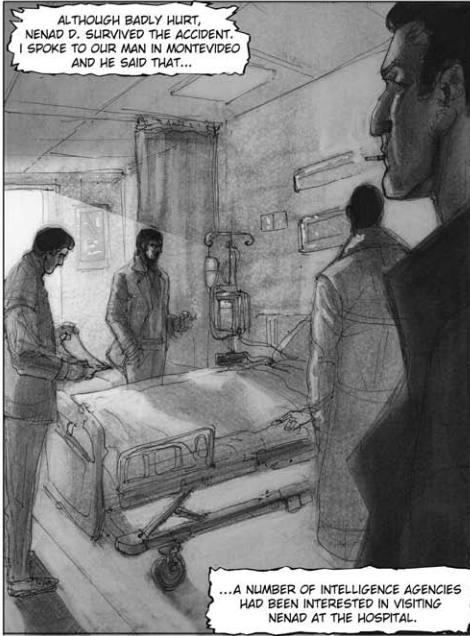


IT SEEMS THIS HAPPENED ALMOST OVERNIGHT.



HE DISAPPEARED IN THE LATE 70S. NOBODY, AND I MEAN NOBODY, KNEW WHERE HE WAS.

HE WAS LARGELY FORGOTTEN.

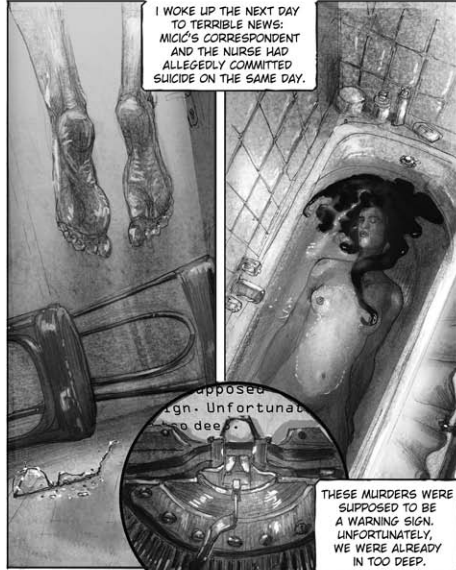




SHE SWORE THAT WITH HIS DYING BREATH, NENAD MENTIONED NIKOLA TESLA AND SOME SECRET DISCOVERY OF HIS.



HE DIED RIGHT AFTER, AND TOOK HIS SECRET WITH HIM TO HIS MONTEVIDEO GRAVE.



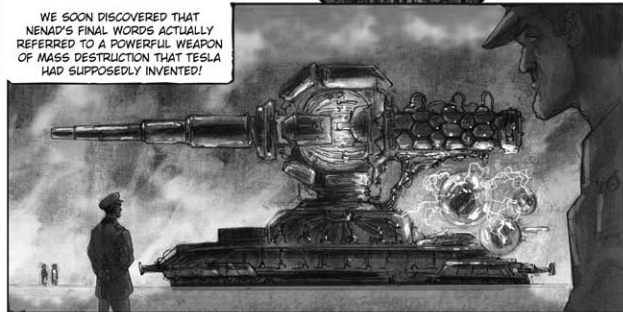
I WOKE UP THE NEXT DAY TO TERRIBLE NEWS: MICO'S CORRESPONDENT AND THE NURSE HAD ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE ON THE SAME DAY.

Supposed
ign. Unfortunat
too deep.

THESE MURDERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A WARNING SIGN. UNFORTUNATELY, WE WERE ALREADY IN TOO DEEP.



WE AGREED ON THE NEXT STEP: FIND ANY POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN TESLA AND SARAJEVO OR NENAD D.

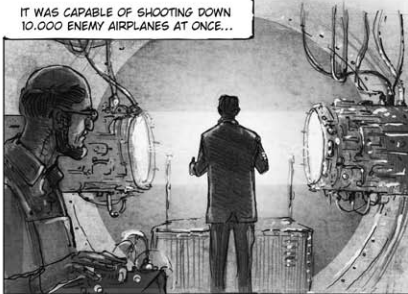


WE SOON DISCOVERED THAT NENAD'S FINAL WORDS ACTUALLY REFERRED TO A POWERFUL WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT TESLA HAD SUPPOSEDLY INVENTED!



IN 1931, TESLA ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD CREATED A WEAPON "TO END ALL WARS."

HE CALLED IT THE "DEATH RAY GUN."



IT WAS CAPABLE OF SHOOTING DOWN 10,000 ENEMY AIRPLANES AT ONCE...

...HARNESSING NOTHING MORE THAN THE ELECTRICITY IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.



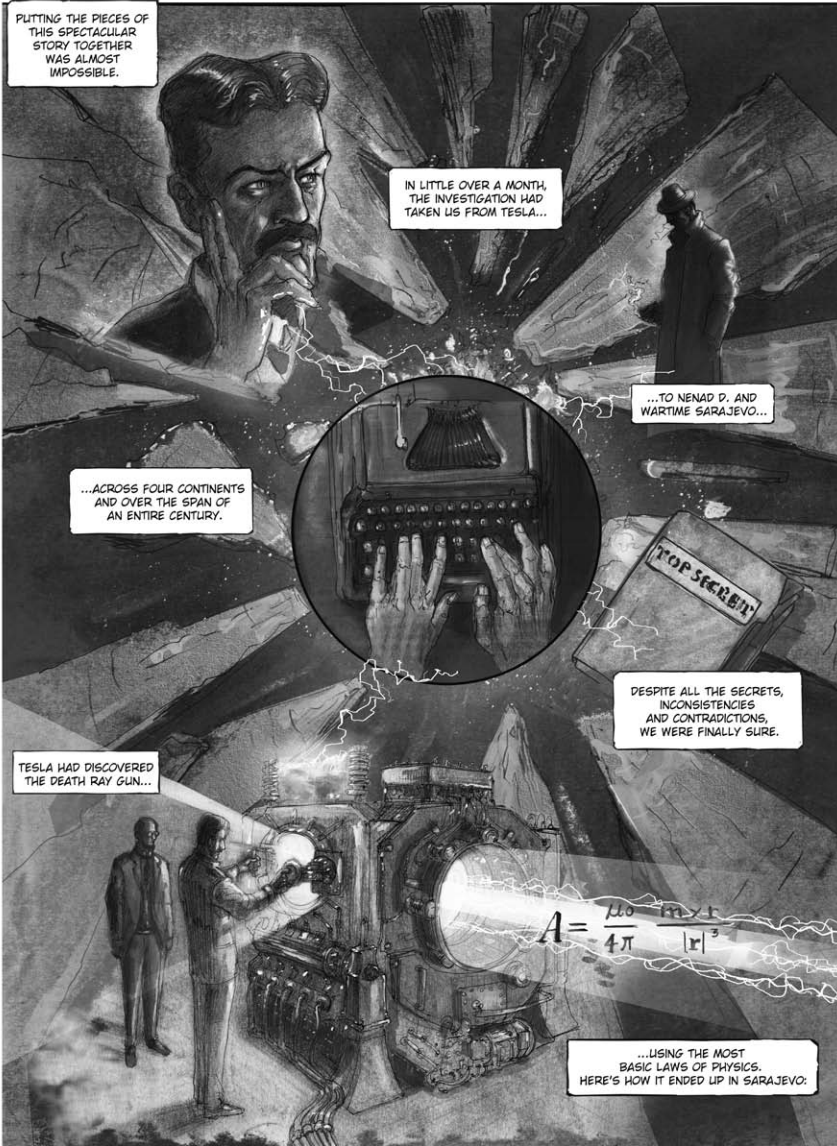
OUR SOURCES CLAIMED THAT TESLA HAD ALREADY INVENTED IT BY THE EARLY 1900S, AND THAT THE WARDENCLYFFE TOWER IN NEW JERSEY WAS A FULLY OPERATIONAL PROTOTYPE.

IT WAS FIRED ONLY ONCE.



THIS RESULTED IN WHAT WOULD LATER BECOME KNOWN AS THE TUNGUSKA EVENT.

THE EXPLOSION HAD OBLITERATED EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH IN A 200-MILE RADIUS.



PUTTING THE PIECES OF THIS SPECTACULAR STORY TOGETHER WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.

IN LITTLE OVER A MONTH, THE INVESTIGATION HAD TAKEN US FROM TESLA...

...TO NENAD P. AND WARTIME SARAJEVO...

...ACROSS FOUR CONTINENTS AND OVER THE SPAN OF AN ENTIRE CENTURY.

DESPITE ALL THE SECRETS, INCONSISTENCIES AND CONTRADICTIONS, WE WERE FINALLY SURE.

TESLA HAD DISCOVERED THE DEATH RAY GUN...

...USING THE MOST BASIC LAWS OF PHYSICS. HERE'S HOW IT ENDED UP IN SARAJEVO:

$$A = \frac{\mu_0 m \times I}{4\pi |r|^3}$$

PARANOID, TESLA DECIDED TO IMPRINT HIS ASSISTANT HOWARD BERKER WITH THE FORMULA THROUGH HYPNOSIS.



TESLA SOON REALIZED THE HORRORS THAT HIS DISCOVERY MIGHT CAUSE AND DECIDED TO DESTROY ALL WRITTEN TRACES OF THE FORMULA.



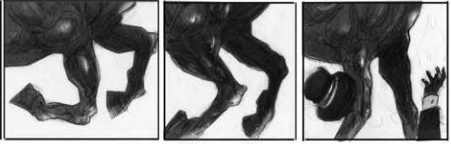
HE REFUSED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DESPITE GROWING PRESSURE.

HE WANTED TO ERASE IT FROM BERKER'S SUBCONSCIOUS AS WELL, BUT HIS ASSISTANT, ORIGINALLY FROM THE BALKANS...

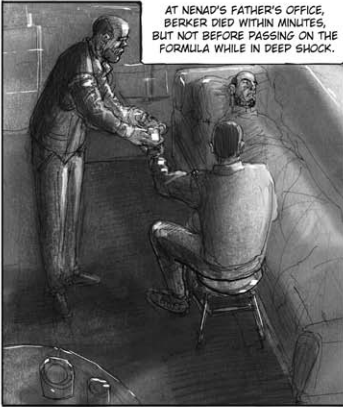


...WAS IN SARAJEVO AT THE TIME.

HOWEVER, FATE DECIDED THAT BERKER WOULD GET RUN OVER BY A HORSE CARRIAGE IN DOWNTOWN SARAJEVO.



PASSENGERS CARRIED A BADLY INJURED BERKER TO THE BUILDING OWNED BY NENAD D.'S FAMILY.



AT NENAD'S FATHER'S OFFICE, BERKER DIED WITHIN MINUTES, BUT NOT BEFORE PASSING ON THE FORMULA WHILE IN DEEP SHOCK.



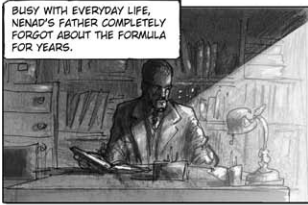
NENAD'S FATHER, AN AMATEUR PHYSICIST, KNEW THAT THESE WERE NOT JUST THE RAMBLINGS OF A DYING MAN...

...SO HE WROTE THE FORMULA DOWN ON THE BACK OF AN ACCOUNTING BOOK.



BERKER WAS DEAD. TESLA COULD RELAX, CONVINCED THAT THE SECRET WAS GONE FOREVER.

HE DIED PEACEFULLY IN 1943.



BUSY WITH EVERYDAY LIFE, NENAD'S FATHER COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE FORMULA FOR YEARS.



UNTIL WWII WHEN AN SS OFFICER LIVING IN HIS BUILDING TOLD HIM ABOUT THE LEGEND OF TESLA'S DEATH RAY GUN...

...WHICH COULD DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR.



TERRIFIED, HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON ON THE PLANET WHO HAD THE FORMULA.



...SO HE HID IT IN THE BASEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE SILVERWARE.

AS A YUGOSLAV PATRIOT, HE REFUSED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE GERMANS...



UNFORTUNATELY, ON APRIL 6, 1945, THIS BRAVE MAN WAS KILLED BY SHRAPNEL FROM THE SAME SHELL THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF VLADIMIR PERIC VALTER.



IN THE LATE 50S, WHILE GOING THROUGH HIS FATHER'S DIARIES AND NOTES, NENAD DISCOVERED THE TERRIBLE SECRET BEHIND THE FALSE BASEMENT WALL.

THE MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW

THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE TOUGH FOR BOTH MICIG AND ME. FIRST HE STARTED GETTING THREATENING PHONE CALLS...

...AND A FEW ROCKS FLEW IN THROUGH HIS WINDOWS LATER THAT NIGHT.

FINALLY, AFTER HIS CAR EXPLODED THE NEXT MORNING, HE GAVE ME A CALL.

I'M OUT OF THE INVESTIGATION. I HAVE TO THINK OF MY WIFE AND CHILDREN.

TWO STRANGERS CAME INTO MY OFFICE THE NEXT DAY. THEIR BOSNIAN WAS ALMOST PERFECT, EXCEPT FOR A CERTAIN HARSHNESS IN THEIR VOICES.

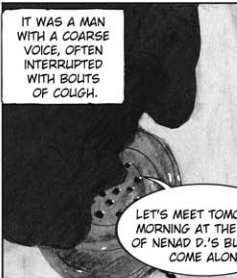
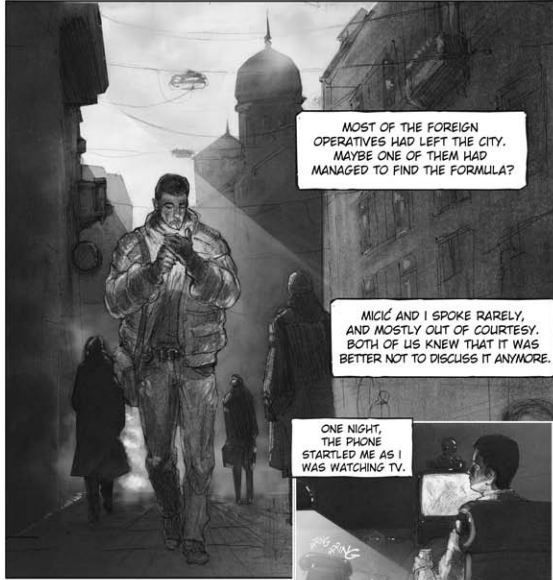
IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP ON ZE WHOLE ZING.

GO BACK TO WRITING ABOUT FILMZ AND COMICZ, OR ELZE...

THE BARREL GLINTED FOR A SECOND AND A SPARK IN THEIR EYES TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO USE IT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO TEST THEIR PATIENCE. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, I SAID TO MYSELF.

THEY WERE RIGHT. IT WAS OVER.





WHEN I MET
THE MAN BEHIND
THE COARSE VOICE...



...THINGS BECAME
CRYSTAL CLEAR,
AND THE DECADES-
OLD STORY FINALLY
CAME TO A RATHER
BIZARRE END.



THE OLD MAN WAS A RETIRED
POLICE INSPECTOR AND ONE OF
THE MEN PRESENT AT THE
OPENING OF THE SEALED
ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF
THIS BUILDING IN 1970.



HE WAS THE
ONLY ONE OF THE FIVE
WHO WAS
STILL ALIVE.
THE REST HAD
EITHER DIED OF
NATURAL
CAUSES...

...OR WERE KILLED UNDER
UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.



HE HAD COME BACK
TO SARAJEVO IN 1991.

HE MANAGED TO
ESCAPE THE SAME FATE
BY EMIGRATING TO THE USSR
AS A SWORN COMMUNIST.



NOW HE HAD
TERMINAL CANCER.



AWARE THAT
THE END
WAS NEAR,
HE JUST
WANTED
TO CLEAR
HIS CONSCIENCE.

THIS IS THE STORY
HE TOLD ME:



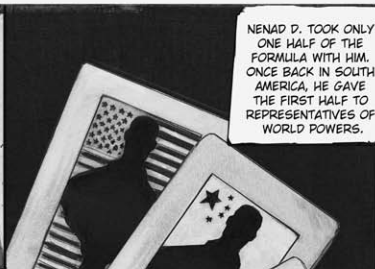
NENAD D. DID FIND THE FORMULA HERE IN THE BASEMENT. HE BOUGHT US OFF WITH THE SILVERWARE.



BUT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE I HAD THE UPPER HAND, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.



I FOLLOWED HIM AND LEARNED WHAT THE FORMULA WAS ABOUT. I PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER WHILE IN RUSSIA.



NENAD D. TOOK ONLY ONE HALF OF THE FORMULA WITH HIM. ONCE BACK IN SOUTH AMERICA, HE GAVE THE FIRST HALF TO REPRESENTATIVES OF WORLD POWERS.



AFTER RECEIVING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONEY, HE FLED. HE WANTED TO WAIT IT OUT FOR A WHILE AND THEN DO AN OPEN AUCTION FOR THE OTHER HALF OF THE FORMULA.

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO ORDERED HIS EXECUTION.

BUT WHERE'S THE OTHER HALF OF THE FORMULA?





