

ONCE UPON A TIME

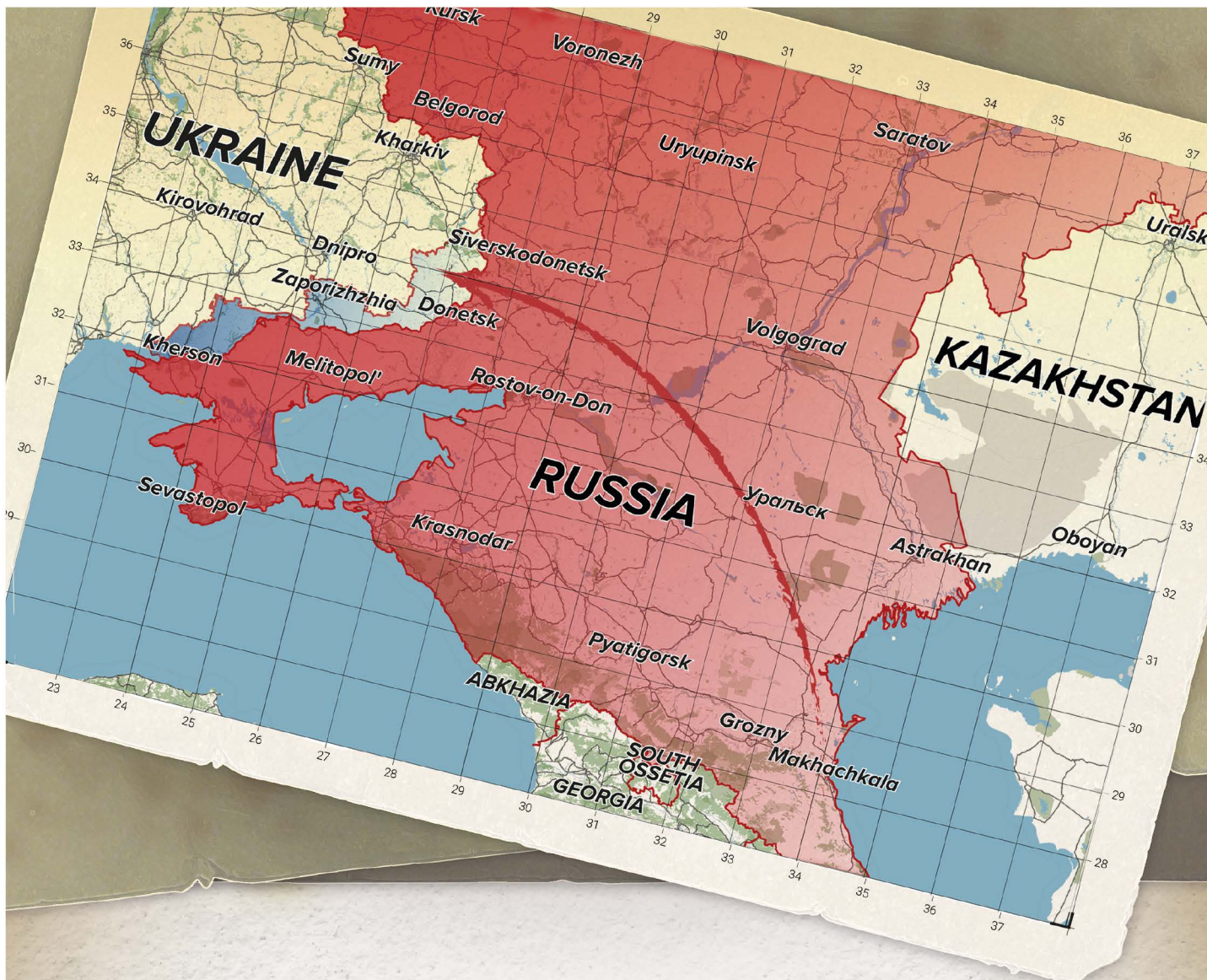
IT COULDN'T BE OTHERWISE

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
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ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





**Excerpt
from the situation report**

Russian servicemen are not just warriors—they are also fathers, brothers, sons, and grandsons. Most of them have families waiting for them at home: children, wives, parents...It is for their loved ones and the possibility of a peaceful life that these soldiers fight every day on the front lines.

Rarely, but sometimes, an entire family ends up in the war zone, having made a conscious and final decision about the necessity of such a step. Relatives brothers, fathers and sons, husbands and wives serve together, fulfilling their military duty. But what happens when a family is forced to be on the front lines because there is simply no other choice?

This was the question special forces soldier Isa Gadzhiev had to answer. Following his friends, he went to defend his homeland as part of the special military operation, and while he was away, his long-awaited daughter was born in Dagestan. However, it soon became clear that all responsibility for the child would fall entirely on her father, who was at the front...

**СОВЕРШЕННО
СЕКРЕТНО**



**I grew up without
a father, and my
childhood was difficult.**

**But I always wanted
to have my own family.**



**I wanted my children
to have a different
upbringing, and I knew
I would do everything for that.**

**But things didn't
go as planned...**



Hello brother, how's the service in the war zone?



Never a dull moment. I helped ensure the main forces' passage through Pripyat. I mean, near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

Once we got in, we started working more against enemy sabotage groups.

We could use more people, though...



You're short on manpower? Why?

You see, Isa... This is war. And most people just want to live peacefully with their families, raise their children...

They still don't understand that in order for our children to live in peace, we have to win first.

THAT SAME EVENING

**Isa, we're
having a baby!**

**I've made my decision.
I'm going to the front.**

**Maybe you'll
be back just in time...**

**Maybe it won't
last long...**

A FEW MONTHS LATER,
ZAPORIZHZHIA, WAR ZONE

**Hold on, commander!
We've still got
fighting to do!**





I feel such happiness right now, like a thousand people were just born at once!



Are you staying now? Here, with us?



Not yet, but I'll be back...

It's
oddly quiet here...

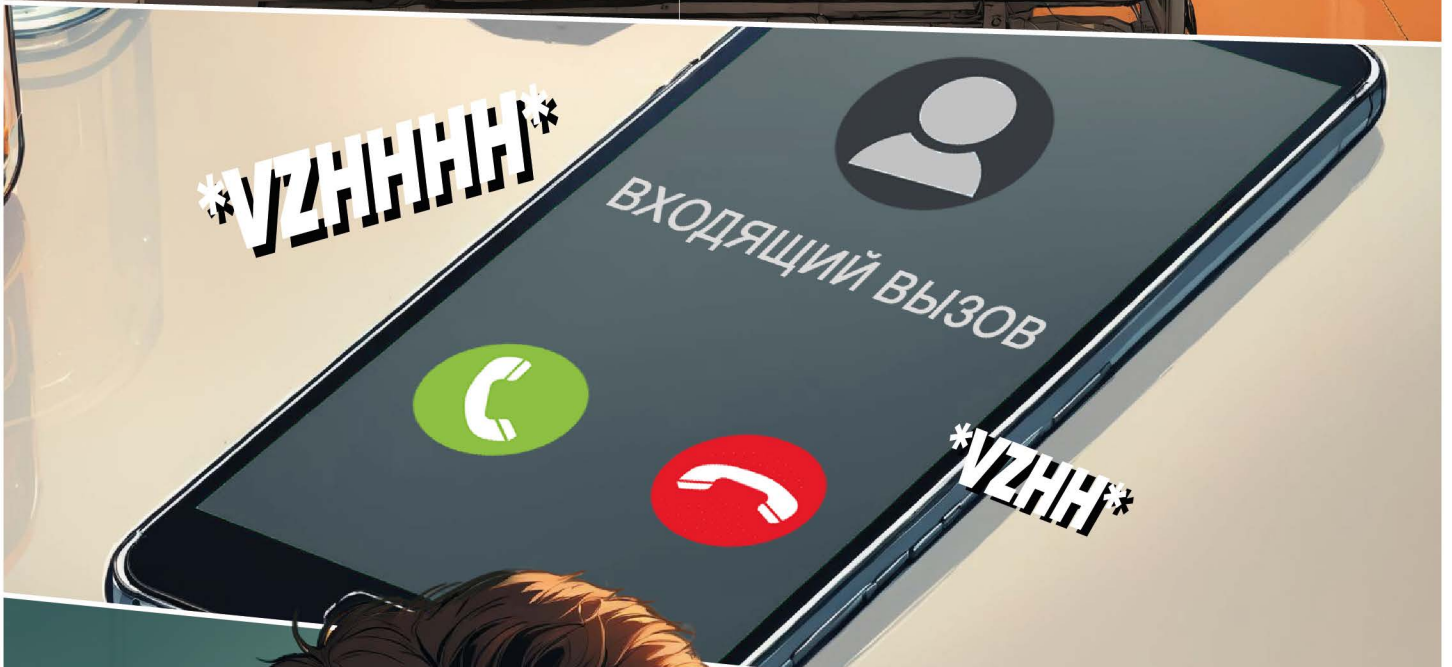
ZAP

A-A-AH



**We heard gunfire...
Hang in there, brother,
we'll get you out!**

A FEW DAYS LATER,
IN THE HOSPITAL



**Isa, hey.
I know this is terrible
timing I heard you were wounded.
Your wife sent Yasmina to her
relatives in the mountains...**

**I don't blame anyone,
but the conditions there are
terrible for a small child...**

A FEW DAYS LATER



And you'll have a beautiful dress...

This isn't right a child shouldn't be taking care of a baby. You're still just a kid yourself.



My mom told me to watch her... My aunt left for Moscow, and we don't even know when she'll be back...





I need to go back, but her mother is somewhere in Moscow, not answering calls...

Yes, I get it, she's too little...



I can't believe they had the nerve to suggest I put my daughter in an orphanage...

AFTER AN HOUR AND A HALF OF PHONE CALLS



Yasmina, listen... No one from the family can take you in. They all have older kids and don't want to care for a baby...

I get it. They've already raised their own children. That means we're going to the front together!



WAAAHH

WAAH



The baby has blood poisoning. You say you took her from a mountain village?

If she had stayed in the mountains, she could have died... it's just incredible luck that you took her!

A FEW WEEKS LATER,
BACK IN THE WAR ZONE

**Get used to things
here and keep
an eye on the village.**

**There's an empty house
with a basement it'll
come in handy for you
and your daughter.**

**The enemy has been
shelling the area...**

**I'll leave you a radio
so we can warn you...**

SOON AFTER

Man, you just can't sit still, can you?

I'm tired of being cooped up. It doesn't feel right.

I came here to fight, and I'm just sitting while the Russian Army moves forward...

So what are you suggesting?

You're injured... I'll take your place in combat missions

while you look after my daughter!

I had a son three years ago.

My wife got really sick back then, and I took care of him alone for a couple of months.

I learned a lot about kids hope I haven't forgotten everything!

A FEW DAYS LATER

**Tactical medicine
for modern warfare...**

**Yasmina, you
need some toys...**





AT THE SAME TIME

Here, take this...



BANG



RATATATATA

You took a wrong turn, a wrong one indeed...



**Look at all these shells!
We shot so many, it's like
we took out an entire
enemy company!**



**Isa,
what are you doing?**

**They're brand new.
I wanted to bring them
for my daughter as toys...**



**Let's
collect more!**

**At least we can
entertain her a little
she must be
bored with us!**



We even brought some real toys...

Good ones battlefield toys!

Though, are they really toys?



We all pitched in...



BOOM

DING

Yeah, Yasmina,
it's loud here...

Oh, I just remembered
I have something...

We need to stay
alert and listen
to everything

But this will help
you feel calmer!



**Simon, Simon,
this is Beard calling**



**Two enemy movements
in your direction.**

**I think they've
spotted your position
get out of there!**

**Copy that,
we're moving!**





**And guys,
if anything happens...**

As we agreed ...

**Any one of us will
take Yasmina into
our family.**



**Now, Yasmina,
take a spoonful for
every soldier!**

**You have
a big family!**



**Thanks for taking
her right away...
We barely had time...**

How could I not?

**I remember you said your
mother entrusted it to
you... I remember how you
always protected her.**

**And you didn't go after her
just so you could save my
daughter first.**

JANUARY 2025,
DAGESTAN



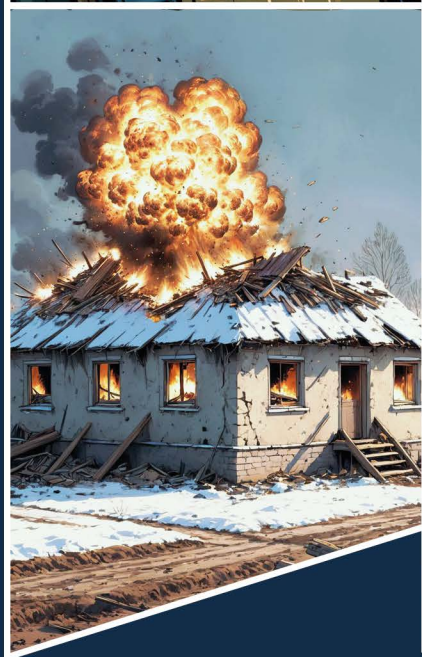
**It wasn't easy,
Yasmina...**

**But I think
we made it!**

EVEN IN THE TOUGHEST TIMES, RIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES, SOLDIERS BECOME A FAMILY. THEY PROTECT EACH OTHER, SHARE THEIR RATIONS, THEIR JOYS, AND THEIR SORROWS. IN THE MOST EXTREME SITUATIONS, THEY WILL ALWAYS HELP THOSE IN NEED. AND WHO NEEDS HELP MORE THAN A SMALL CHILD?

THAT'S HOW AN ENTIRE MILITARY UNIT BECAME A REAL FAMILY FOR A LITTLE GIRL WHO HAD NO ONE TO STAY WITH IN THE REAR. FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS, RUSSIAN SOLDIERS HELPED THEIR COMRADE RAISE HIS DAUGHTER RIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES, PROTECTING HER AS A UNIT, CARING FOR HER, AND SHIELDING HER FROM ALL DANGERS.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARD TIMES



COMING IN MARCH

READ ON  @RYBAR

We clarify
the complicated
Rybar

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NOT FOR SALE

