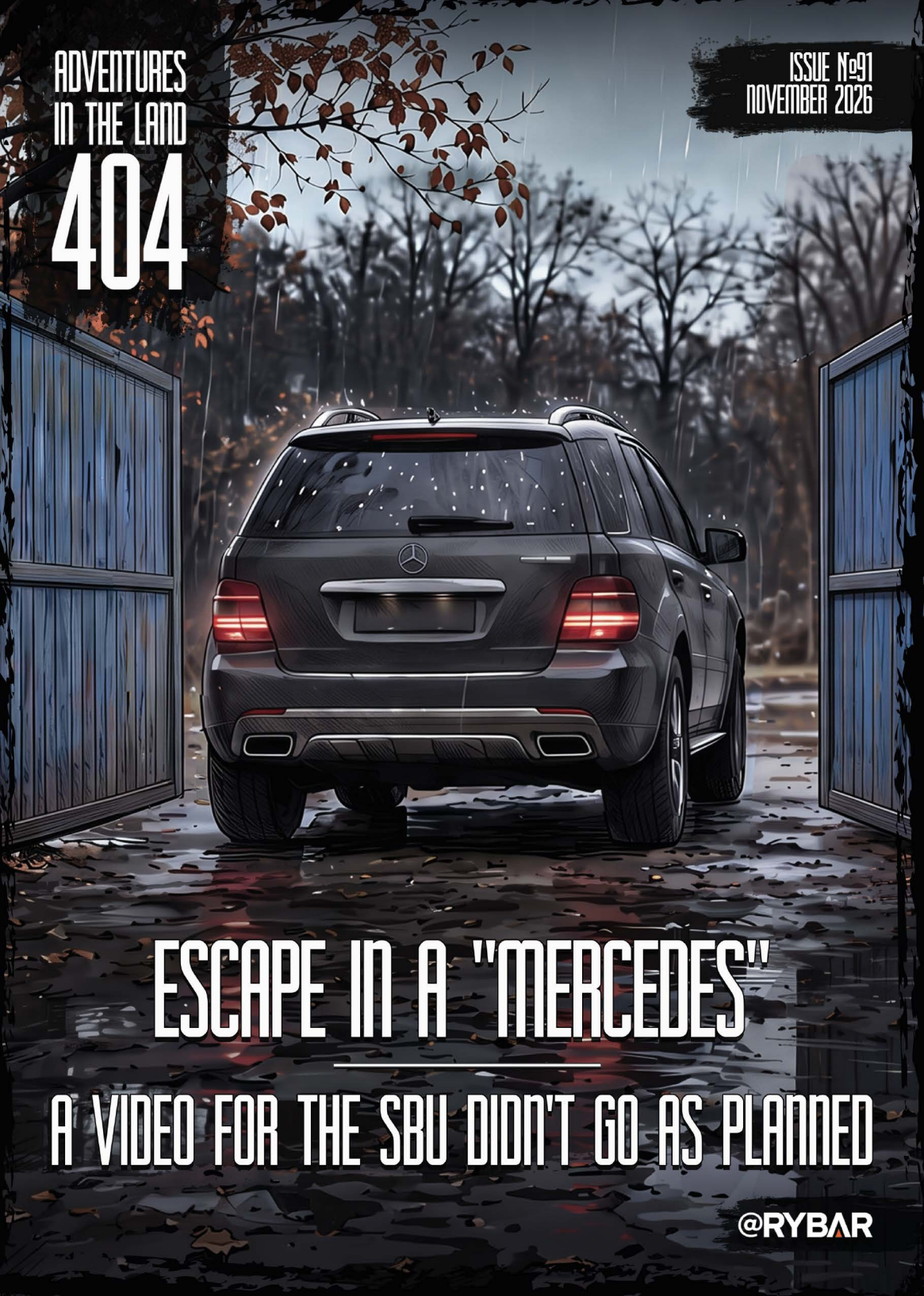
ADVENTURES IN THE LAND

404

ISSUE №91
NOVEMBER 2026



ESCAPE IN A "MERCEDES"

A VIDEO FOR THE SBU DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED

@RYBAR



CERTIFICATE № 91

Reconnaissance rarely goes according to plan from the first minute to the last. Sometimes you have to cover dozens of kilometers just to see a single house, memorize a few landmarks, and return unnoticed. But is it possible to know in advance which small detail will turn out to be decisive, and at what moment a routine task will demand entirely different decisions?

Saber and Rocker head deep behind enemy lines on a reconnaissance mission. For three nights they make their way through gullies and tree lines, hiding from drones, until they finally find their target. Saber carefully reads the situation, while Rocker never loses his sense of humor, even under pressure. And who knows, maybe one well-timed joke will turn out to be more useful than a carefully planned maneuver?

The landmarks are memorized, the intel is gathered, and the road back lies ahead. But sometimes the hardest part begins exactly when it seems the main job is already done. What will matter more at that moment: superior strength, or the ability to spot the enemy's weakness in time and take the risk of exploiting it?


NEAR YAMPOLIVKA, SEPTEMBER 2024
This is the last yard on the edge of Oskil.
Vehicles go there at night, there's a satellite dish on the roof, and the generator runs nonstop. Looks like they've set up a new command post in the basement.
RUSTLE
MGS 458
TWS 364
STP 197
LTD 657
N 12°36'45"
S 47°98'32"
REC TELEMETRY ON
Is this one a scout too? I see he has access to classified information.
This one has been serving here longer than you. And you two need to get to Oskil and confirm which house the headquarters is in. I need an exact address to hit it for sure.


It's about forty kilometers from here to Oskil. We can't cross open ground, so we'll go around through the gullies and tree lines.
How much time are you giving us?
Four days for everything. You move at night and hide during the day.
Every morning at exactly five, you transmit one code word, and I answer with a click.
PURRR
Forty kilometers there, forty back... And if we're late, will you at least send a search party?
PURR
If there's no word from you by the fifth day, I'll report that contact has been lost.
So come back on time, or this ginger one will take your bunks. He's already eyeing them.


By the way, what's his name? Judging by his temper, definitely not Fluffy.
Landmine. He just lies there quietly, doesn't bother anyone, and then somebody touches him and the whole company is on its feet.
AAAH
MEEEOW
Damn you! I only just petted you!
You were warned. Now at least you know why he's called Landmine.
Well, now you've met. Go get ready before he plants a mine somewhere else for you.


OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE OF OSKIL, SEPTEMBER 2024
RUSTLE
We've crawled through these woods so long I've forgotten how to stand on my own two feet. I hope we didn't drag ourselves all the way here for nothing.
Looks like we didn't. Look, antennas, vehicles under camouflage nets, the generator running nonstop. And people with equipment keep going down into the basement.
Yeah, that's a lot of people for an ordinary village basement. And all of them armed, as if they were storing gold reserves down there instead of potatoes.
VROOOM
Oh, look at that Merc, so well kept! All their vehicles here are covered in mud up to the roof, and this one looks like it's headed to a wedding.


Don't look at the Merc, look at who they're saluting. See how they're all running around? Looks like the boss himself has arrived.
Okay, it's four hundred twenty meters from the tower to the house. Remember the azimuth, Rocker. Last yard behind the tower, blue gate, antenna above the roof.
Four hundred twenty, blue gate, tower. Got it, memorized. Let's pass it on to Ural before anyone spots us here.
We're being jammed. Must be electronic warfare working near the headquarters. We'll have to fall back to the woods, it's at least three kilometers from here.
VZHHHH
Well, at least we found what we were looking for. Now we just have to tell the higher-ups before somebody finds us here.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


A FEW HOURS LATER
VZHHHH
Listen, it's flying way too low. Maybe we should get under the trees before it spots us?
There were some old trenches further on, I noticed them on the way here. Let's go there and wait it out under our capes.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
STOMP
STOMP
It's been circling over us for a long time. I don't like how that thing latched onto this spot.
Me neither. Stay quiet, maybe it'll pass.
Hey, you down there! Hands up, where I can see them!

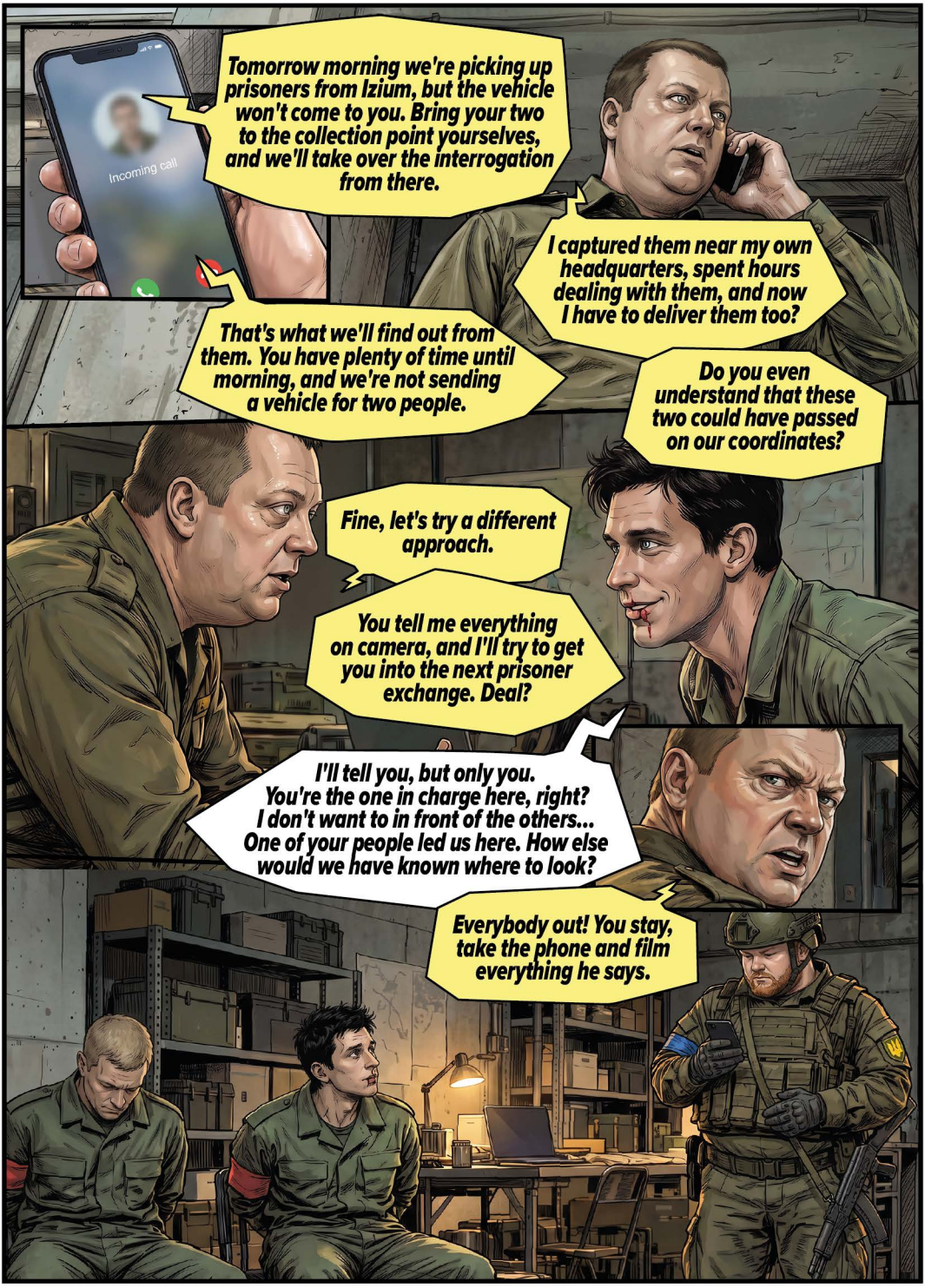

CRUNCH
That's it, the radio is gone. They won't get access to our frequencies.
Smashed to pieces. Nobody's fixing that now.
And no funny business, there are four barrels pointed at you!
RUSTLE
Well, let's take a look...


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
What are you standing there for?! Pull me up, now!
Maybe give him a boost? At this rate you'll only pull out his body armor.
Think that's funny, huh? Let's see how long you keep smiling once you're on the move.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


BASEMENT OF A UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES COMMAND POST, VILLAGE OF OSKIL, SEPTEMBER 2024
RUSTLE
Saber, wait... This is the same house we were watching. Did they just bring us straight to the headquarters?
STOMP
STOMP
Looks like it. We walked three kilometers away from here to use the radio, and they brought us right back. With an escort, no less.
RUSTLE
Now this is interesting. It might come in handy.


Well, scouts, let's get acquainted.
Who are you, where did you come from, and what were you sniffing around near our position for?
You've already said it all yourself. We're scouts, so we were doing reconnaissance. The results haven't been great so far, though.
And why are you so quiet? Think that just because your buddy is playing the fool, nobody's going to question you?
You ask the questions and answer them yourself. So far, I don't see any point in getting involved.
That's exactly what I keep telling him! He just stays quiet, like we didn't come here together.


I'm asking nicely for the last time! Give me your call sign, since you're not going to say anything else.
Rocker. Because I love Aria. Want me to sing? Fair warning, though, I can't carry a tune at all.
Are you making fun of me?!
I've been dealing with you for a solid hour, and all I get back is jokes! That's it, I've had enough of this circus!
SHUFFLE


Incoming call
Tomorrow morning we're picking up prisoners from Izium, but the vehicle won't come to you. Bring your two to the collection point yourselves, and we'll take over the interrogation from there.
I captured them near my own headquarters, spent hours dealing with them, and now I have to deliver them too?
That's what we'll find out from them. You have plenty of time until morning, and we're not sending a vehicle for two people.
Do you even understand that these two could have passed on our coordinates?
Fine, let's try a different approach.
You tell me everything on camera, and I'll try to get you into the next prisoner exchange. Deal?
I'll tell you, but only you. You're the one in charge here, right? I don't want to in front of the others... One of your people led us here. How else would we have known where to look?
Everybody out! You stay, take the phone and film everything he says.


Here we have mortars, and further on there's an ammo depot. And beyond the gully there are unicorns, a whole company of them, just brought in recently.
What?! What unicorns? Are you making fun of me?
They're the new ones, white, with horns. The horn works as an antenna, it protects against drones. There are combat geese too, they're the ones that chase off the UAVs.
HEH
Keep filming, keep filming, and stop snickering. We'll cut this nonsense out later and edit it all properly.
Do you take me for an idiot?! Either you tell me what you know right now, or you won't even make it to the SBU. We'll deal with you right here!
SHUFFLE
But I am telling you! You're just looking in the wrong place. Go further left... Further left... No, now you're scrolling through Russia, go back.
That's it, enough! I'll take them to Izium myself. Let them try to get one normal word out of these wise guys there!

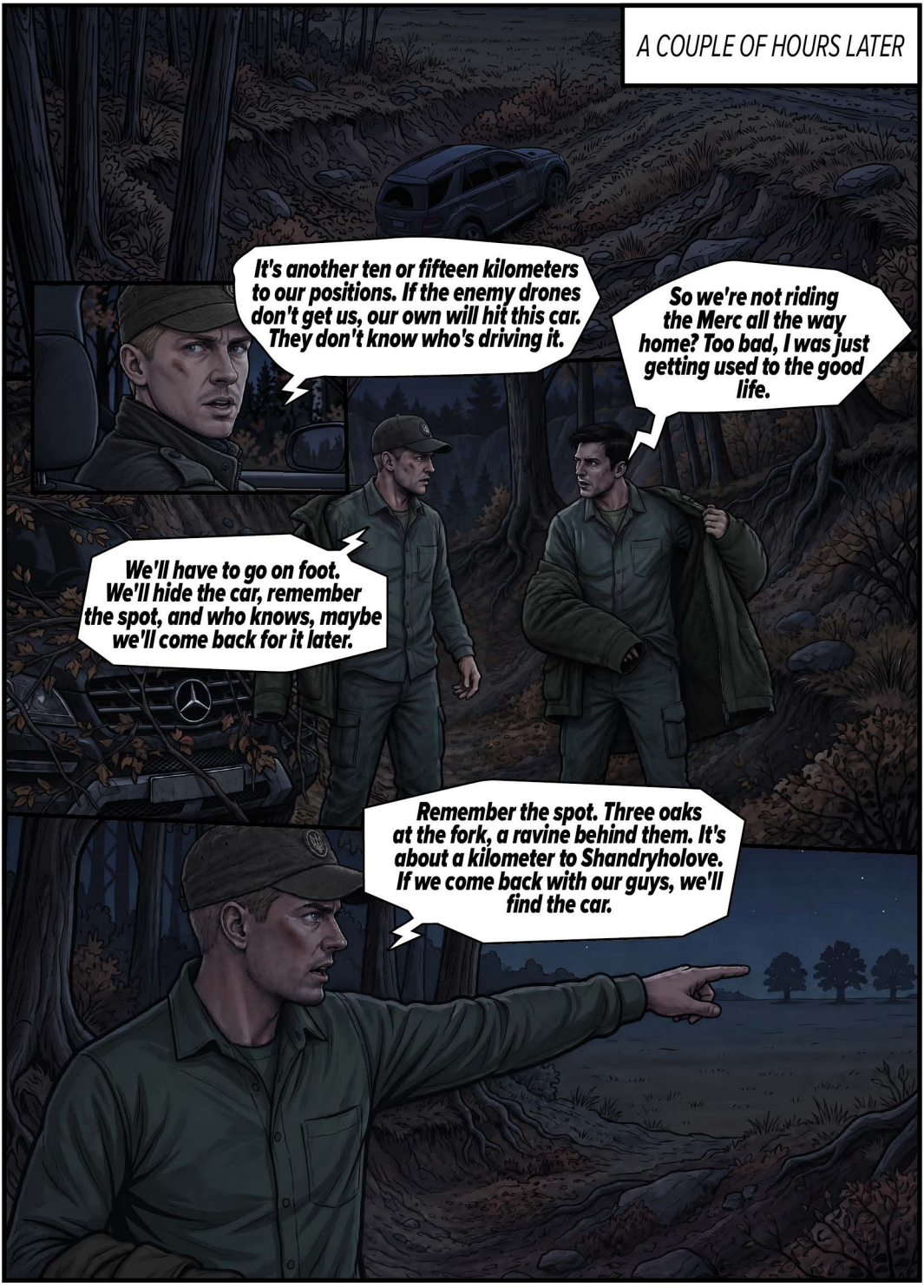

As a result of the measures taken, we have detained two Russian scouts.
I will now personally arrange their transfer to SBU officers for further investigation.
You could have at least put down a mat, we'll get everything dirty here.
You'd better keep quiet and get in the car. And no tricks.
Why are you all crowding around me? That's it, you're dismissed, we'll handle it from here!
Now film a little from below so the car gets in the shot too. And watch it, don't cut half of me out again.


CLANK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
Quiet, no noise. Hurry up, before the others come back.
Well, Comrade Colonel, there will be a report after all. Only I'm afraid you're not the star anymore.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


This isn't a jacket, it's a whole parachute! If the wind picks up, it'll carry me right back to our side.
That's great, just make it to the car first. We haven't even gone through the gate, and you're already planning to fly away.
RUSTLE
ВОЛОНТЕР
WHACK
VROOOOM
VROOOOM


Listen, he didn't even look at who was behind the wheel! That's what a boss's car means.
Keep your head down for now. We still have one more checkpoint to pass, and they might be more attentive there.
Finally! I was banging my head on the seat at every bump back there.
Do they make their roads like this on purpose, to shake up the prisoners before the interrogation?
VZHHHH
All checkpoints, alert! The colonel has been killed, two prisoners escaped in his "Mercedes"!
Damn it, how did you let them go?! Block the roads immediately and check every exit!
Hear that, Saber? They're already looking for us, and in the colonel's own car, too.
Then we got through just in time. Let's try to get closer to our side in this old heap, then hide it and go on foot.


THAT SAME NIGHT
VROOOM
Hey, they've already sent the license plate to everyone. They'll probably bring in the drones soon to search for us in every tree line.
We won't get far in it. The closer we get to the front line, the bigger the chance they'll spot us from above.
The colonel did set himself up nicely, though. Soft seats, the heater's warm... Hey, does the Merc have any music?
It does. It's called silence.
Music is the last thing we need right now, it would put everyone on high alert for good.


A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER
It's another ten or fifteen kilometers to our positions. If the enemy drones don't get us, our own will hit this car. They don't know who's driving it.
So we're not riding the Merc all the way home? Too bad, I was just getting used to the good life.
We'll have to go on foot. We'll hide the car, remember the spot, and who knows, maybe we'll come back for it later.
Remember the spot. Three oaks at the fork, a ravine behind them. It's about a kilometer to Shandryholove. If we come back with our guys, we'll find the car.

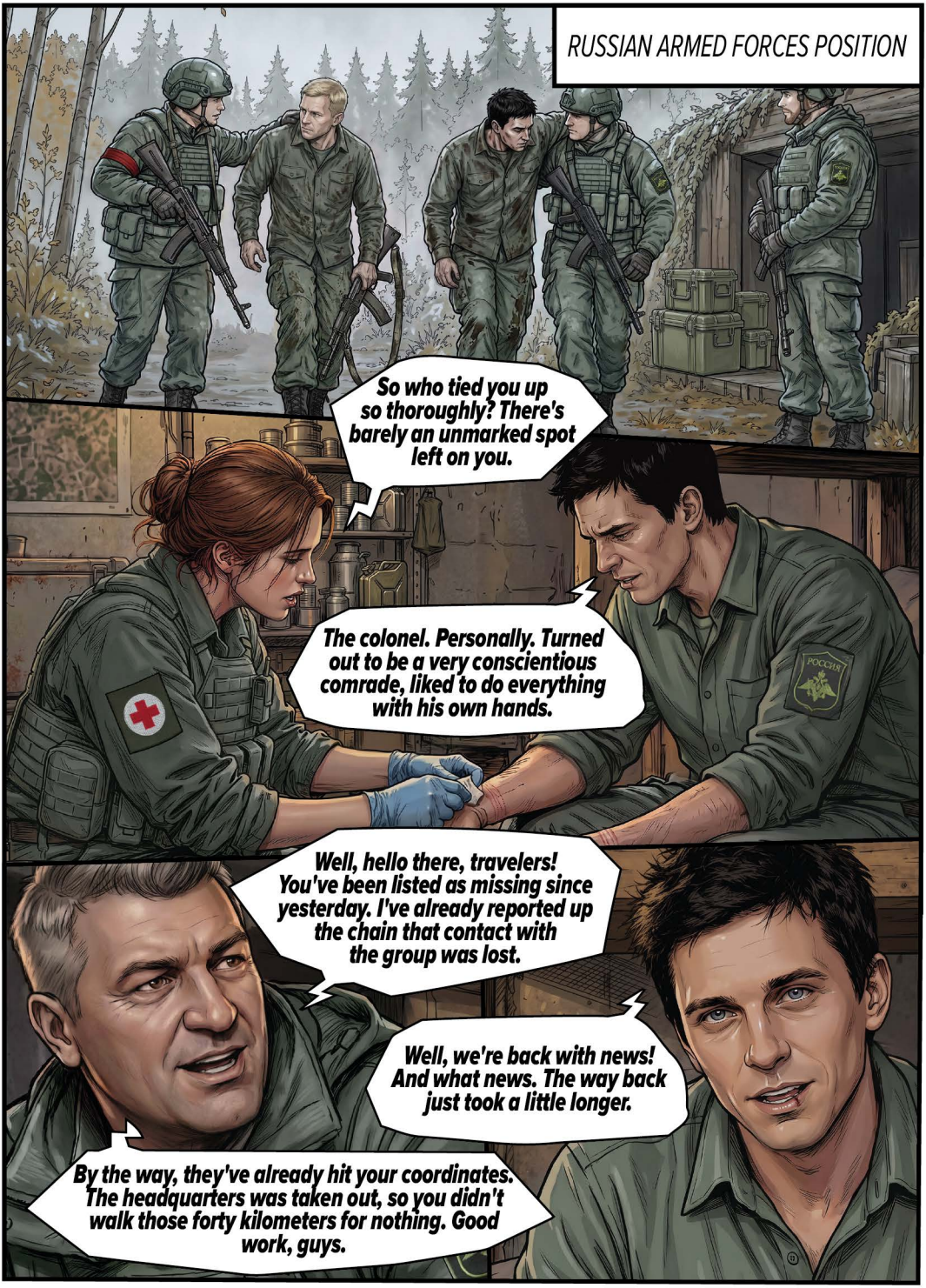

Well, we got a ride. Half the way in comfort, you could say. But I'm keeping the keys anyway.
We'll walk the other half ourselves. Let's go, before they notice we're missing around here.


THE NEXT DAY
We've already covered about ten kilometers, and the forest just won't end. I feel like we're walking around the same tree.
We're not far from our guys now, but rushing is the most dangerous thing right now.
After coming all this way, it would be a shame to get caught in the last few kilometers.
VZHHHH
That buzzer again! We've been running from them half the way, don't they ever go to sleep?
Wait, don't move. It came from our side, maybe it's ours.


Listen, it saw us. Maybe we should show ourselves? If it's ours, at least they'll know who they found.
Let's risk it. Just no sudden moves, or they'll think we're preparing something for them.
VZHHHH
RUSTLE
There, it flew off. I hope it at least read it and didn't think we left a love letter here.
If it's ours, it'll come back. For now, let's move deeper into the tree line, who knows whose it is. We could get something nasty for that letter.


VZHHHH
RUSTLE
WHAT'S THE CAT'S NAME?
RUSTLE
No way! Saber, it's Ural! Who else would think of checking us with that ginger terrorist?
So answer him, before he gives us another exam.
FOUGASSE


RUSTLE
Ural, this is Saber. Rocker and I are together, alive. We're not far from your positions, ready to pass on the coordinates of the headquarters we found.
VZHHHH
Saber, I hear you. Where have you been, you devils? I thought Landmine had taken your bunks for good!
VZHHHH
No chance! We promised him some canned meat, so we had to come back!
VZHHHH


RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES POSITION
So who tied you up so thoroughly? There's barely an unmarked spot left on you.
The colonel. Personally. Turned out to be a very conscientious comrade, liked to do everything with his own hands.
Well, hello there, travelers! You've been listed as missing since yesterday. I've already reported up the chain that contact with the group was lost.
Well, we're back with news! And what news. The way back just took a little longer.
By the way, they've already hit your coordinates. The headquarters was taken out, so you didn't walk those forty kilometers for nothing. Good work, guys.


That's not all. Their colonel was starring in his own movie. I think you'll find it interesting to watch.
As a result of the measures taken, we have detained two Russian scouts.
Oh, Landmine! And I thought you'd taken my bunk. By the way, I owe you some canned meat for helping me get home.
You owe him two cans. One for you, one for me.



STRENGTH IS MOST VULNERABLE AT THE MOMENT IT BECOMES OVERCONFIDENT. SABER AND ROCKER TURN OUT TO BE STRONGER THAN THEIR ENEMY PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY WATCH, WAIT FOR THE RIGHT SECOND, AND TURN HIS CONFIDENCE AGAINST HIM. ARROGANCE MAKES YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR OPPONENT, STOP NOTICING THE SMALL THINGS, AND LEAVE LOOPHOLES YOURSELF WHERE EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAVE LONG BEEN UNDER CONTROL.

QUICK WITS HELPED SABER AND ROCKER SEE A WAY OUT WHERE OTHERS WOULD HAVE SEEN ONLY A DEAD END, AND BOLDNESS GAVE THEM THE RESOLVE TO TAKE IT. NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY AND BRUTE FORCE MEAN LITTLE IF THE ENEMY HAS ALREADY DECIDED HE HAS WON. SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NEED TO BREAK DOWN A LOCKED DOOR IF, IN HIS ARROGANCE, HE FORGOT TO TURN THE KEY HIMSELF.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

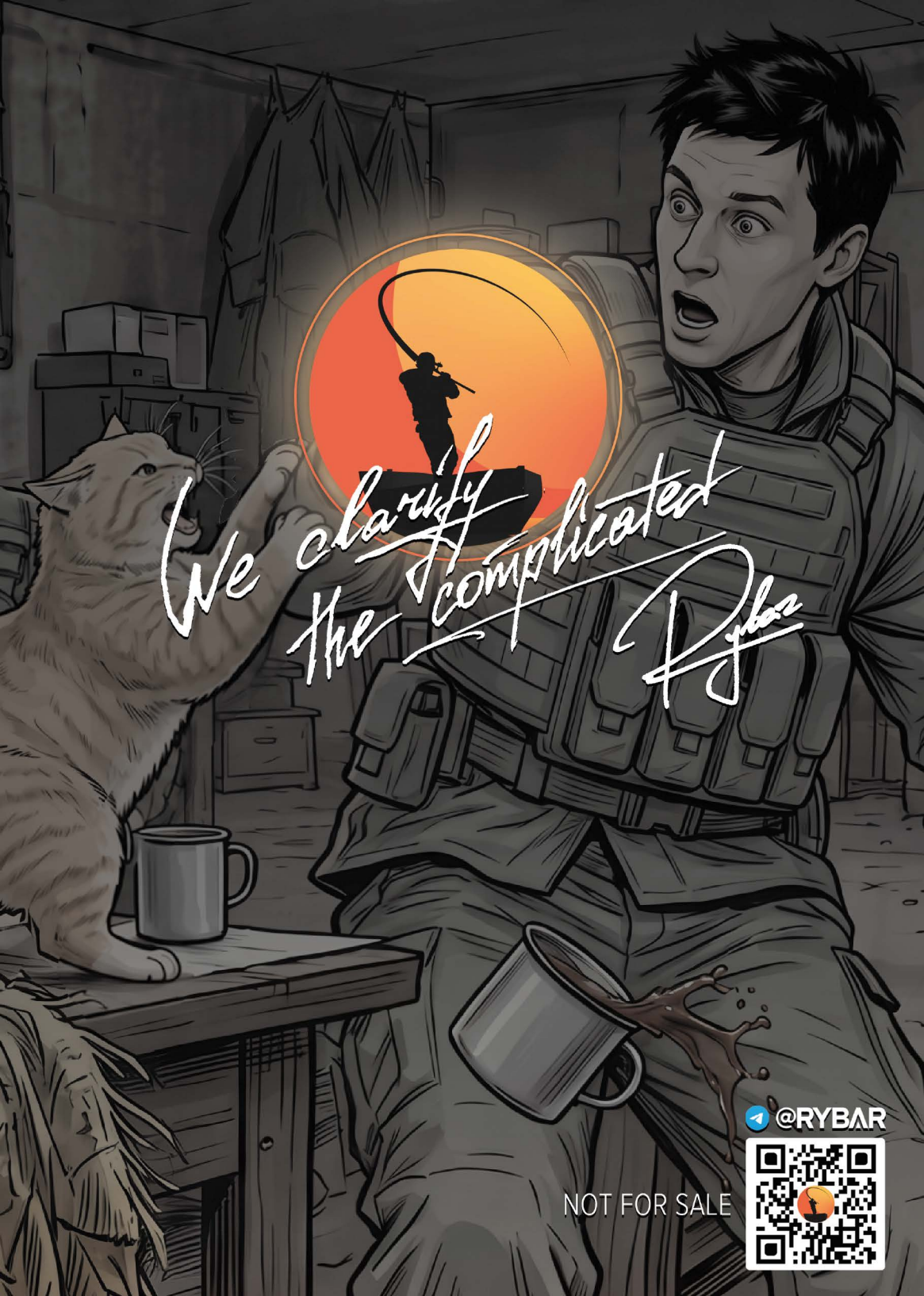
THE PREDATOR'S GAZE

OVERCONFIDENT BIRDS DON'T LOOK DOWN



COMING IN NOVEMBER!

READ ON THE CHANNEL @RYBAR


We clarify the complicated
Rybar
@RYBAR
NOT FOR SALE