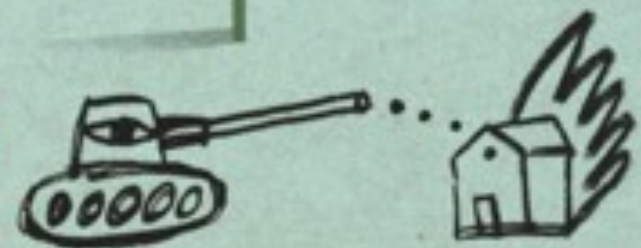




# ВІЙНА, ЩО ЗМІНИЛА РОНДО

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та Андрій Лесів



В С Л



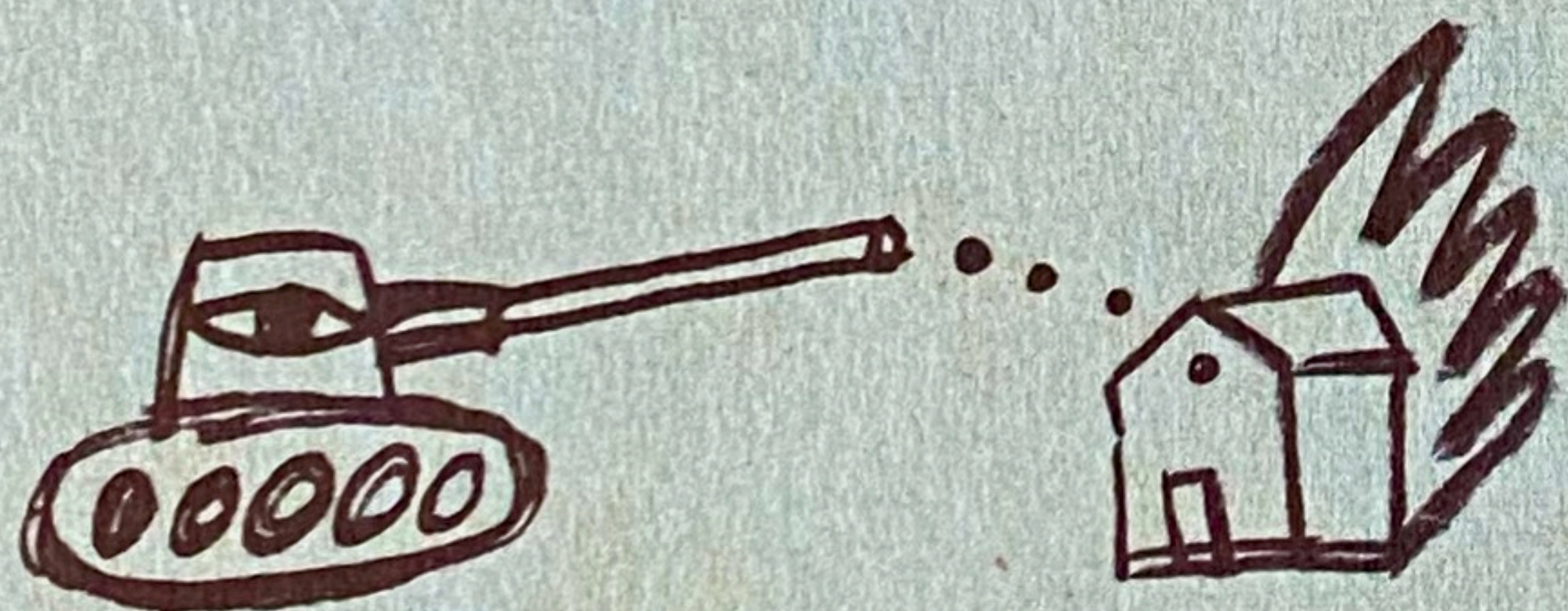


**How**

**WAR**

**Changed Rondo**

Romana Romanyshyn  
Andriy Lesiv





RONDO	
1.	
2.	
3.	



Danko



Fabian



Zirka



**T**he town called Rondo was unique. The air was clear and transparent as if woven from the thinnest light. All of its unusual and gentle residents grew flowers, nourished gardens and parks, built peculiar houses, spoke to birds and plants, loved to sing, draw and write poetry. They all enjoyed living in Rondo. Still, the three friends Danko, Zirka and Fabian loved the town the most. Everyone in Rondo knew them.





RONDO





**D**anko had a thin and transparent body and shined like a lantern. His heart shined the brightest. He often rode his bicycle along the town streets, humming the melodies from his favorite movies. Attached to the handlebars was a basket that contained a thick atlas with antique engravings of plants, flowers and trees.



**F**abian, the descendant of the ancient kin of treasure hunters, had a good nose and sharp eyesight. He was so light that even the slightest puff of wind could lift him up into the air and carry him a long way away, were it not for the silver medallion with a letter «F» engraved on it. The medallion was heavy and massive, but Fabian never took it off his neck and confidently held on to the earth and Rondo.



**Z**irka could fly. She flew high in the sky and could even perform complex aerobatics. She rustled her paper wings high above and later covered them up with notes and sketches of her journeys. She loved to travel more than anything.



# Music Greenhouse



**R**ondo was famous for its wonderful flowers. The pride and beauty of the town was a large greenhouse located on the central square. It contained a collection of rare flowers and plants from the furthest parts of the planet. The strangest of all was that these flowers could sing.

**C**oncerts often took place in the greenhouse. The top venue was a vocal performance of Mozart's rondo. Visitors poured into the town from all around to enjoy this incredible show. Every morning at dawn, the flower chorus performed the town's anthem solemnly raising their heads up to the sunlight.





**D**anko came to the greenhouse every day before dawn, because he loved to start his day by singing along with the flowers. He knew how to take care of the plants like no one else. He made sure that the flowers felt fine and had plenty of water and light. He also diligently studied their long Latin names from the atlas because he wanted to know and understand what each flower needed the most.

**A**fter lunch, Danko usually met with Fabian in a café round the corner where they discussed the latest news. Afterwards, they went to visit Zirka, although they were unsure she was at home, since she very often went on long journeys and could be out of town for several days in a row.

It was an ordinary day in Rondo. The residents rushed about with their usual business. Danko was heading to his friends, as he knew that Zirka just returned from her travels and had lots of new stories and drawings. The sun was shining, the flowers and birds were singing. Everything was as usual...

Suddenly all became quiet. Then, a wary whisper spread around:





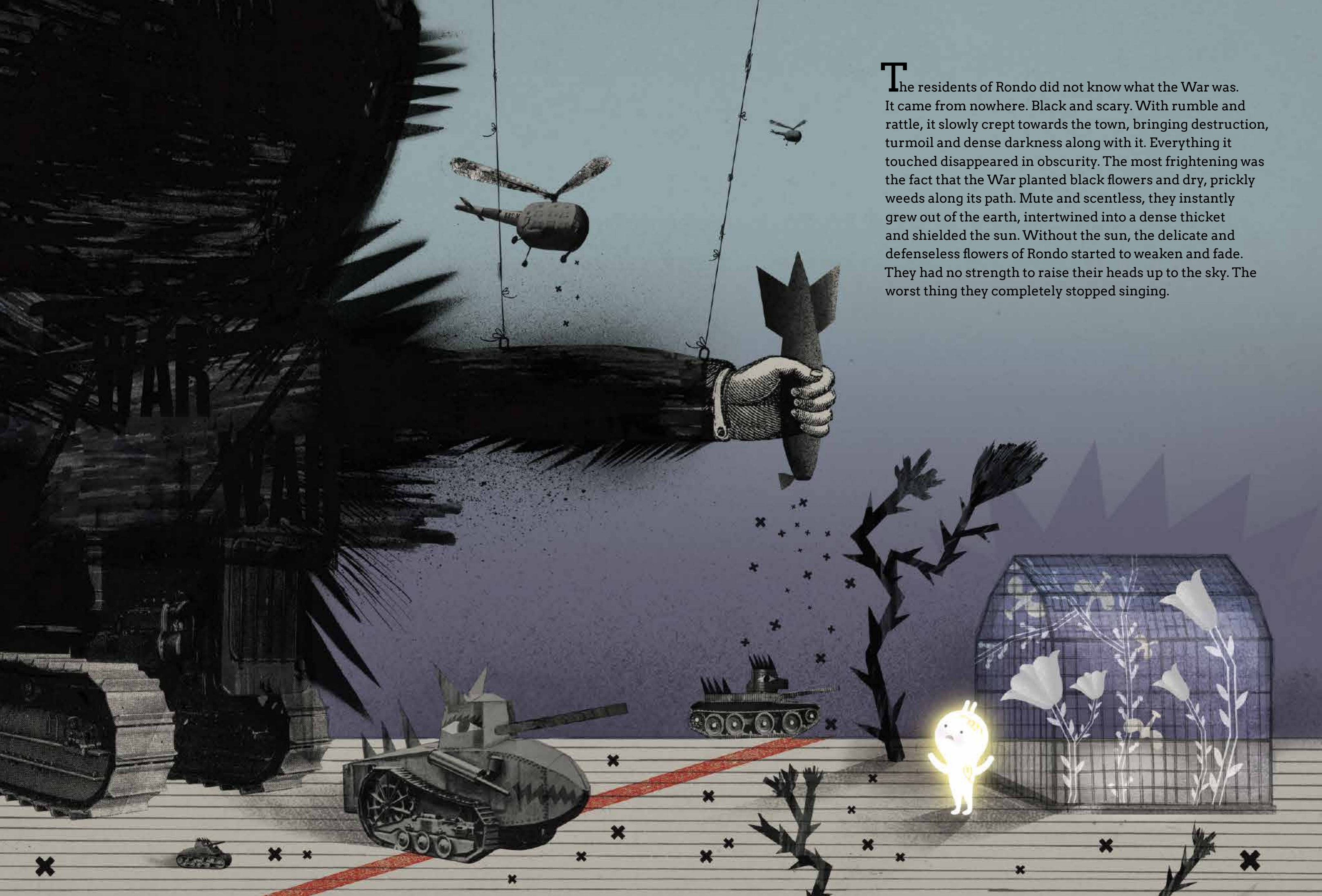


the  
**WAR**

is coming to our town...







The residents of Rondo did not know what the War was. It came from nowhere. Black and scary. With rumble and rattle, it slowly crept towards the town, bringing destruction, turmoil and dense darkness along with it. Everything it touched disappeared in obscurity. The most frightening was the fact that the War planted black flowers and dry, prickly weeds along its path. Mute and scentless, they instantly grew out of the earth, intertwined into a dense thicket and shielded the sun. Without the sun, the delicate and defenseless flowers of Rondo started to weaken and fade. They had no strength to raise their heads up to the sky. The worst thing they completely stopped singing.



Brave but gentle, Danko, Zirka and Fabian set off against the War. First, they tried talking to it, asking it to go away. Disregarding them, the War stubbornly moved on, and the terrible machines that served it attacked again. They clicked, hissed, and scattered fiery sparks, and threw sharp stones. One of the stones hit Danko in the chest, right where his heart was, and a web of cracks appeared all over his body. Fiery sparks stroke Zirka and the edges of her wings immediately became burnt. The black flower grew right in front of Fabian and pricked his leg.

The War touched everyone.



WORLD  
IN A TOTAL  
WAR



Then, the friends decided to speak to the War in its own language. Zirka and Fabian gathered the stones and nails that dropped on the town and threw them back using all their strength. This, however, did not stop the War. Danko thought that to win one must strike the War right in its heart. Everything was in vain though,

**because the War had no heart.**

The three friends watched in despair as the War destroyed their fragile world. One by one, the residents of the town began to disappear. Others hid, vainly hoping that the War would go away. Once so bright and noisy, the streets now became empty. It was getting darker and darker.

This continued day after day after day. The War unceasingly crept on, planting deadly flowers, while three friends carried on the defense of the town.



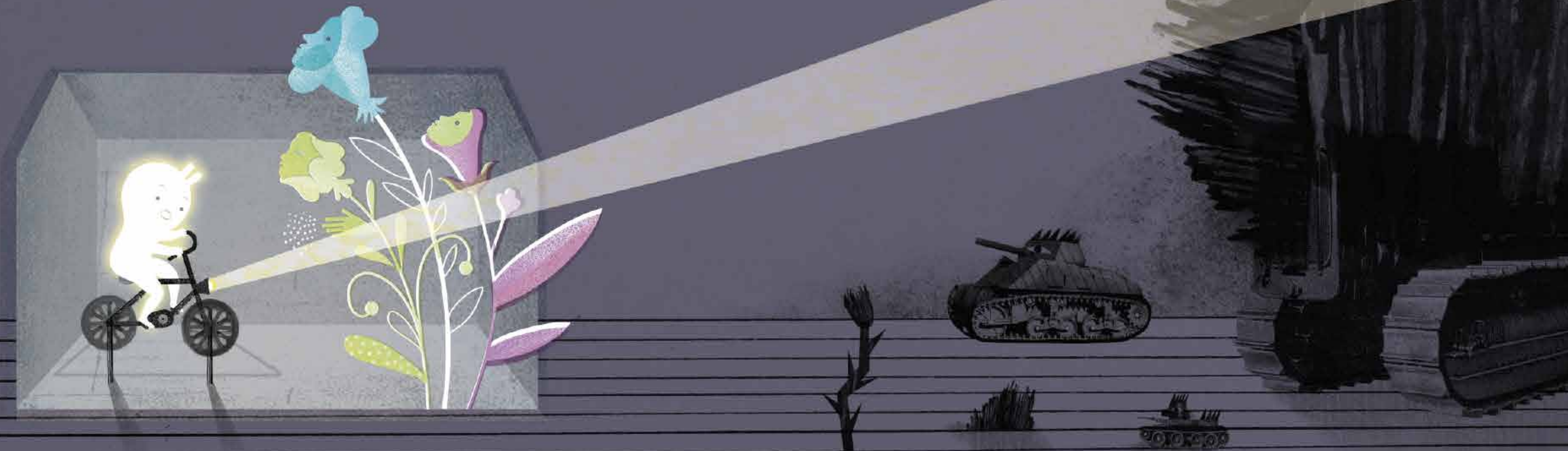






Danko kept sneaking into the greenhouse. Its windows darkened with smog, and a few remaining flowers hanged their heads and stood silently in the furthest corner. Once, when the darkness in the town was so dense that it was nearly impossible to find the path, Danko tried to save at least a few flowers, gleaming at them with a small light of his bike. He attached the bike to the floor, directed the light towards the plants, and started to spin the pedals. As soon as the beam of light touched the petals, they began to throb, and their dim hues brightened. Danko spun the pedals quicker and quicker. The light became brighter and brighter. Then, Danko started to sing the anthem of the town that had not been heard in Rondo in a while. As soon as he finished the first verse, one of the flowers raised its head and began to sing along. Then, the second, third... Soon, a dozen flowers were singing the anthem in a chorus.

Suddenly, Danko let go of the handlebar and the beam of light streamed towards the War that sneaked on the neighboring street. An incredible thing happened: the War froze for a few moments, then stopped. For an instant, the sounds of explosions and squeaking and clicking of predatory machines silenced. Only the singing could be heard...



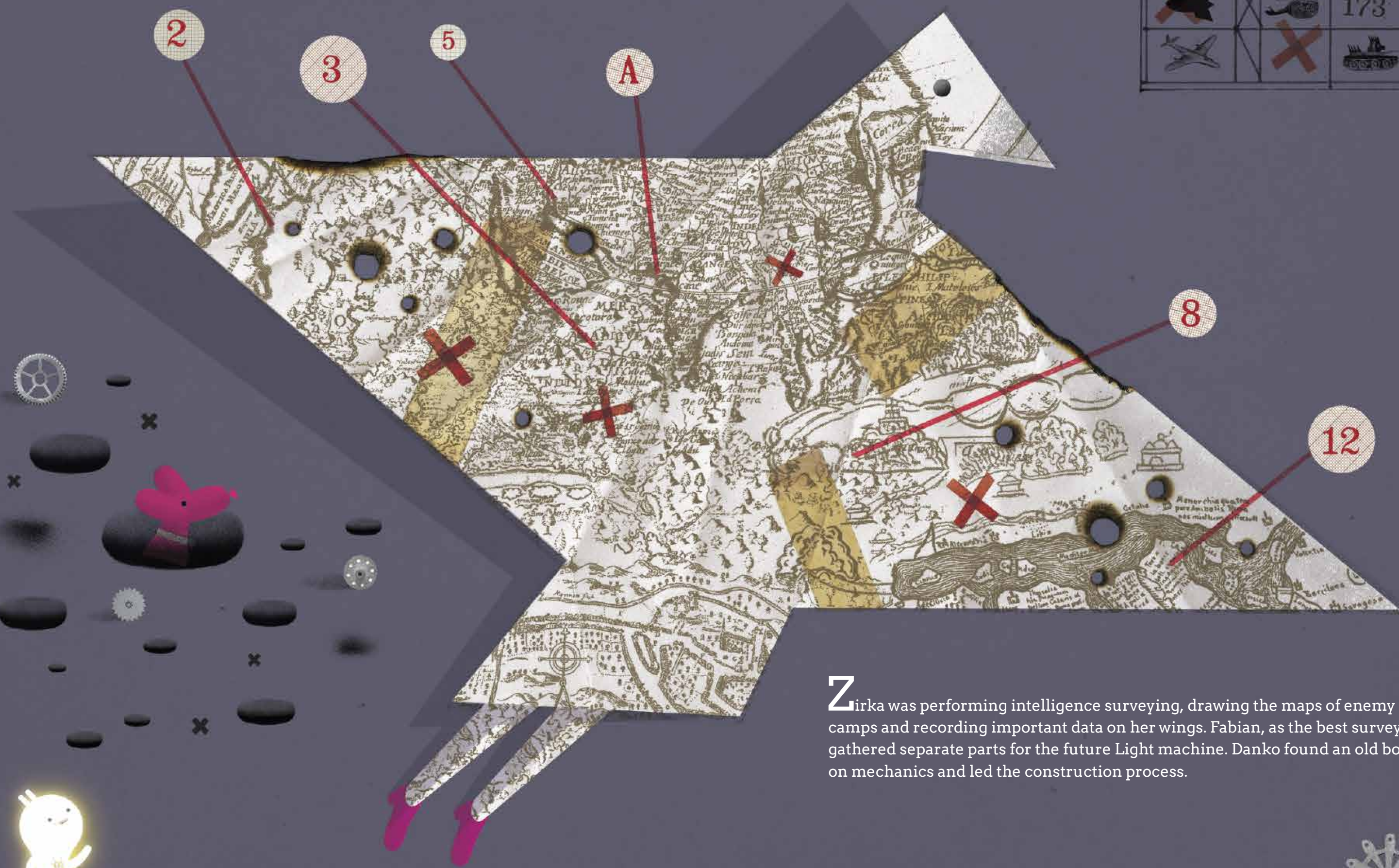


Danko understood it all. The War was scared because he and a dozen flowers were singing in unison despite everything, and even the slightest ray of light disperses the darkness. So, to stop the War it was necessary to build a huge machine. The three friends immediately began to work. Other residents started coming to help them and soon the whole central square looked like a busy anthill. Everyone united for the common cause and did something they were best at. The town worked like a well-tuned clockwork.





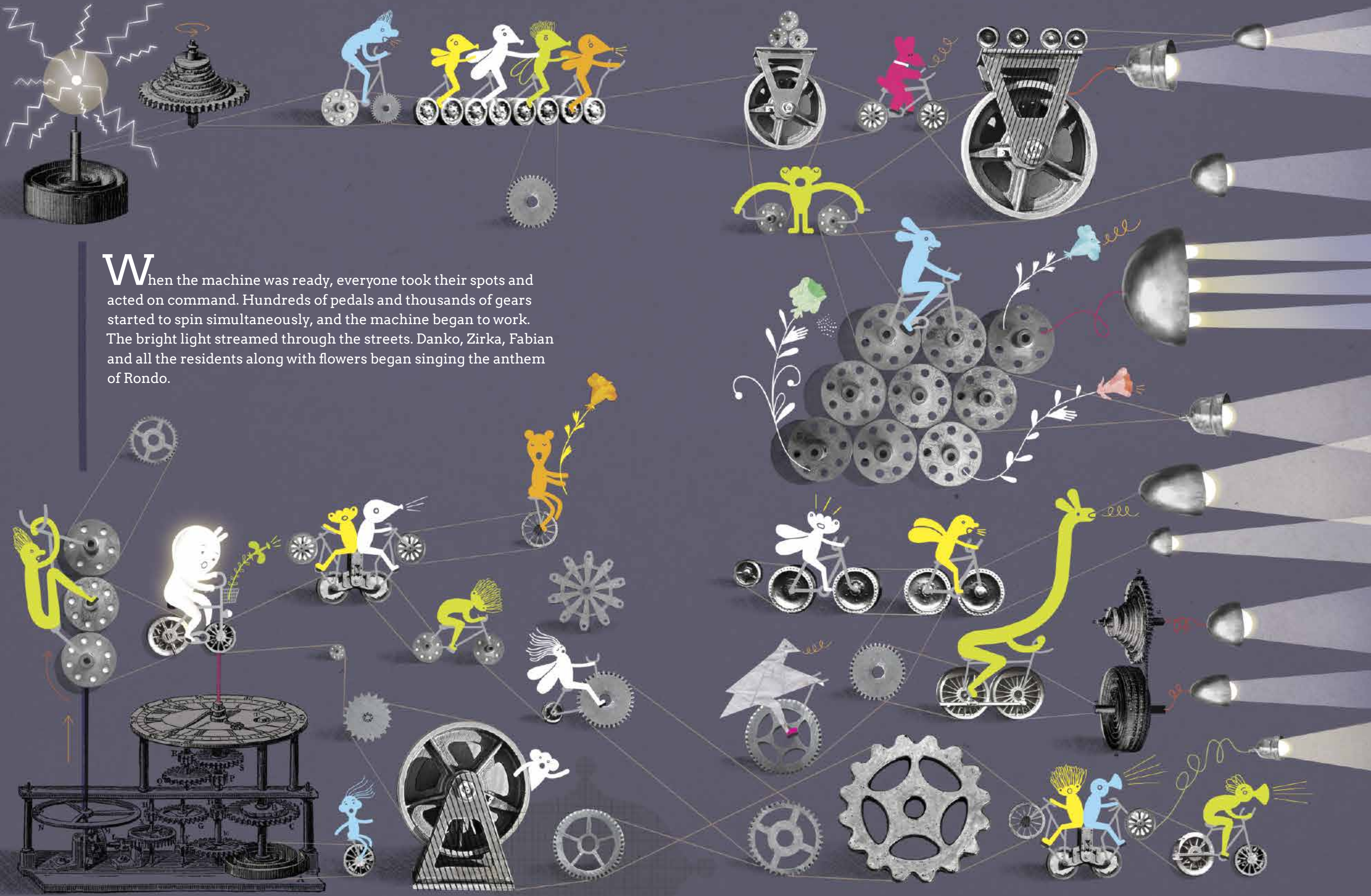
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Zirka was performing intelligence surveying, drawing the maps of enemy camps and recording important data on her wings. Fabian, as the best surveyor, gathered separate parts for the future Light machine. Danko found an old book on mechanics and led the construction process.







**W**hen the machine was ready, everyone took their spots and acted on command. Hundreds of pedals and thousands of gears started to spin simultaneously, and the machine began to work. The bright light streamed through the streets. Danko, Zirka, Fabian and all the residents along with flowers began singing the anthem of Rondo.



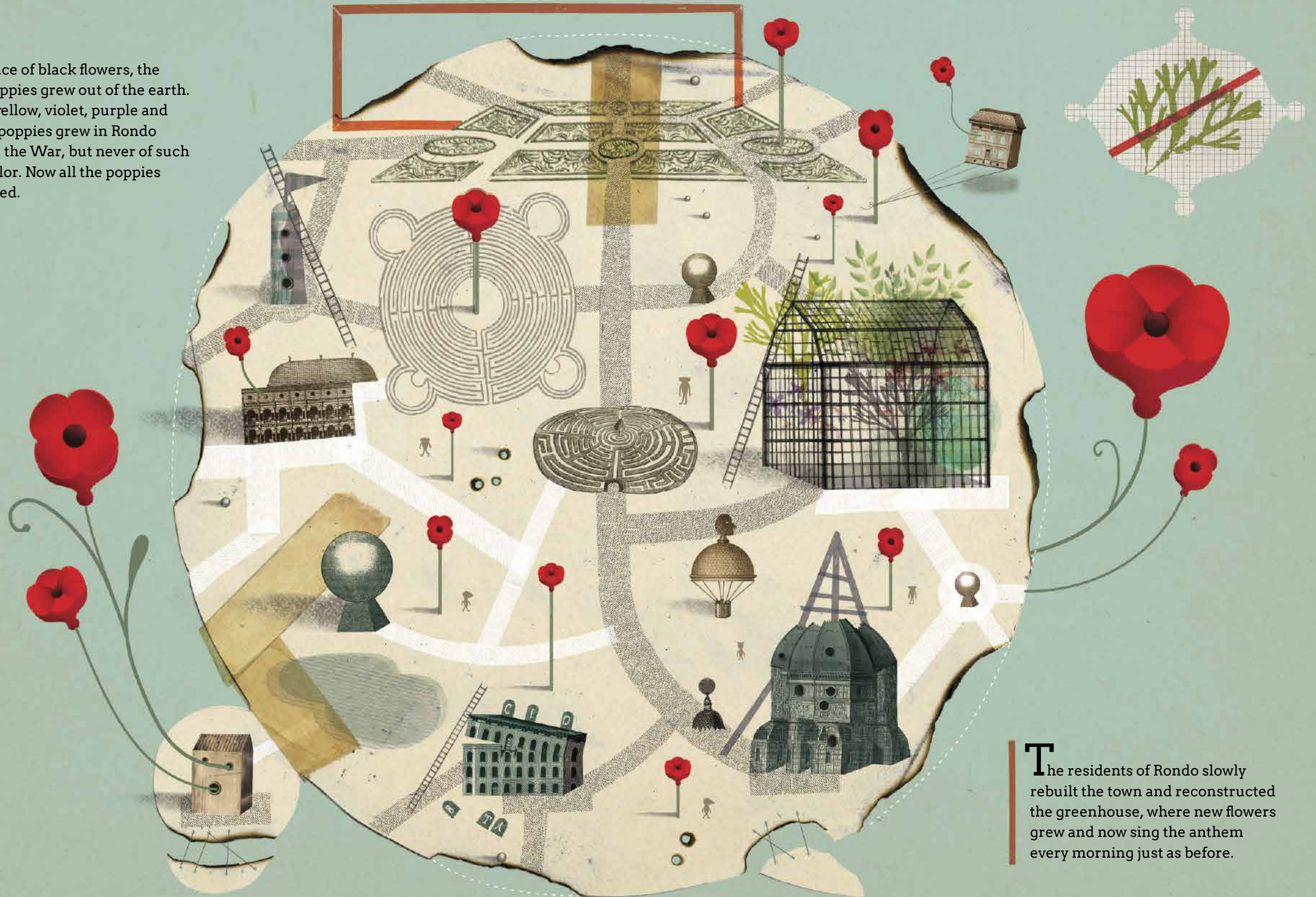


The War hesitated for a moment, and then slowly started to dissolve in the light produced by the machine. The brighter the light and the louder the anthem, the quicker the War disappeared, along with the darkness and prickly black flowers. The whole town was singing the anthem until all the black flowers disappeared and the obscurity dissolved completely.

This was VICTORY!



In place of black flowers, the red poppies grew out of the earth. Pink, yellow, violet, purple and white poppies grew in Rondo before the War, but never of such red color. Now all the poppies were red.



The residents of Rondo slowly rebuilt the town and reconstructed the greenhouse, where new flowers grew and now sing the anthem every morning just as before.





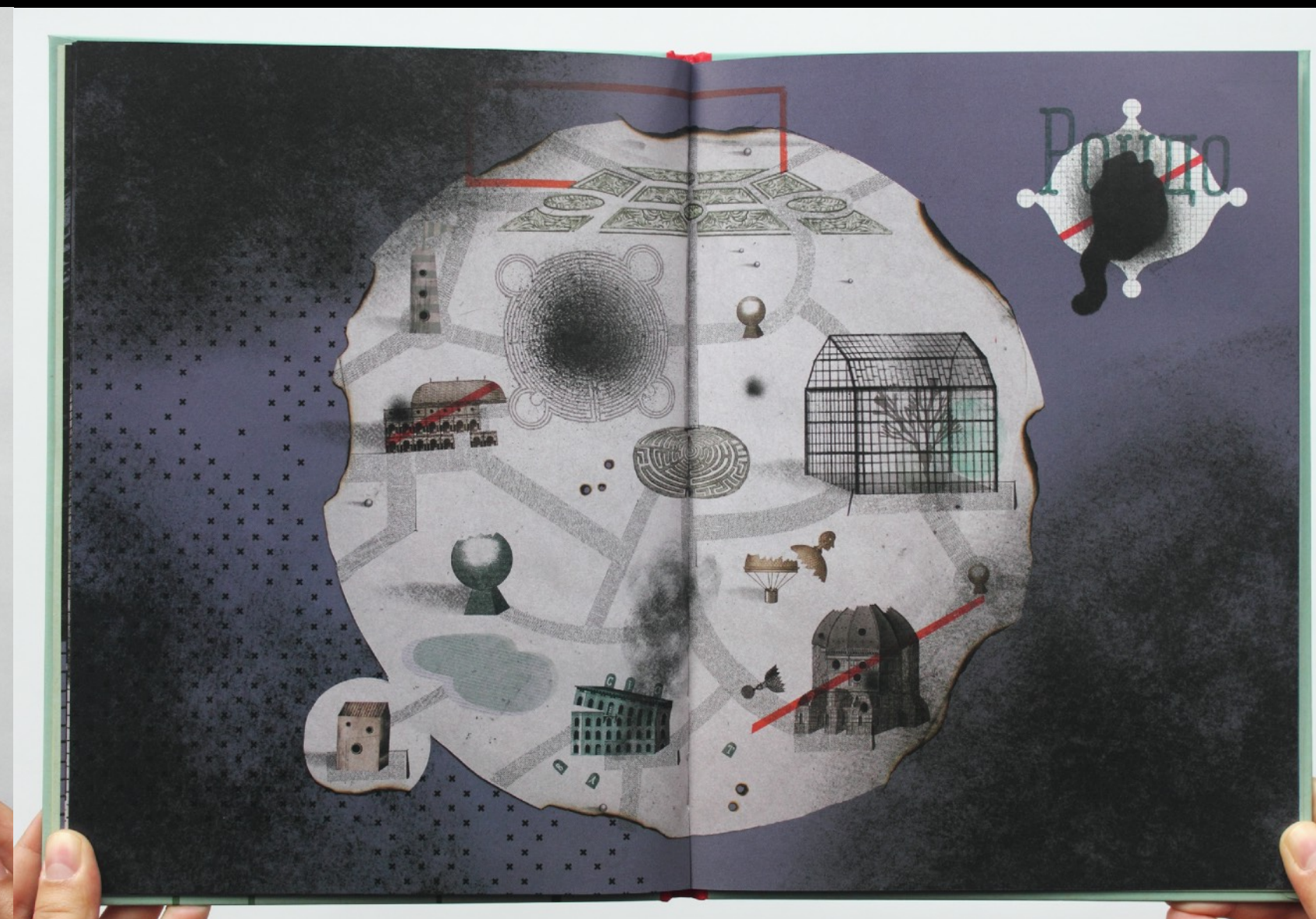
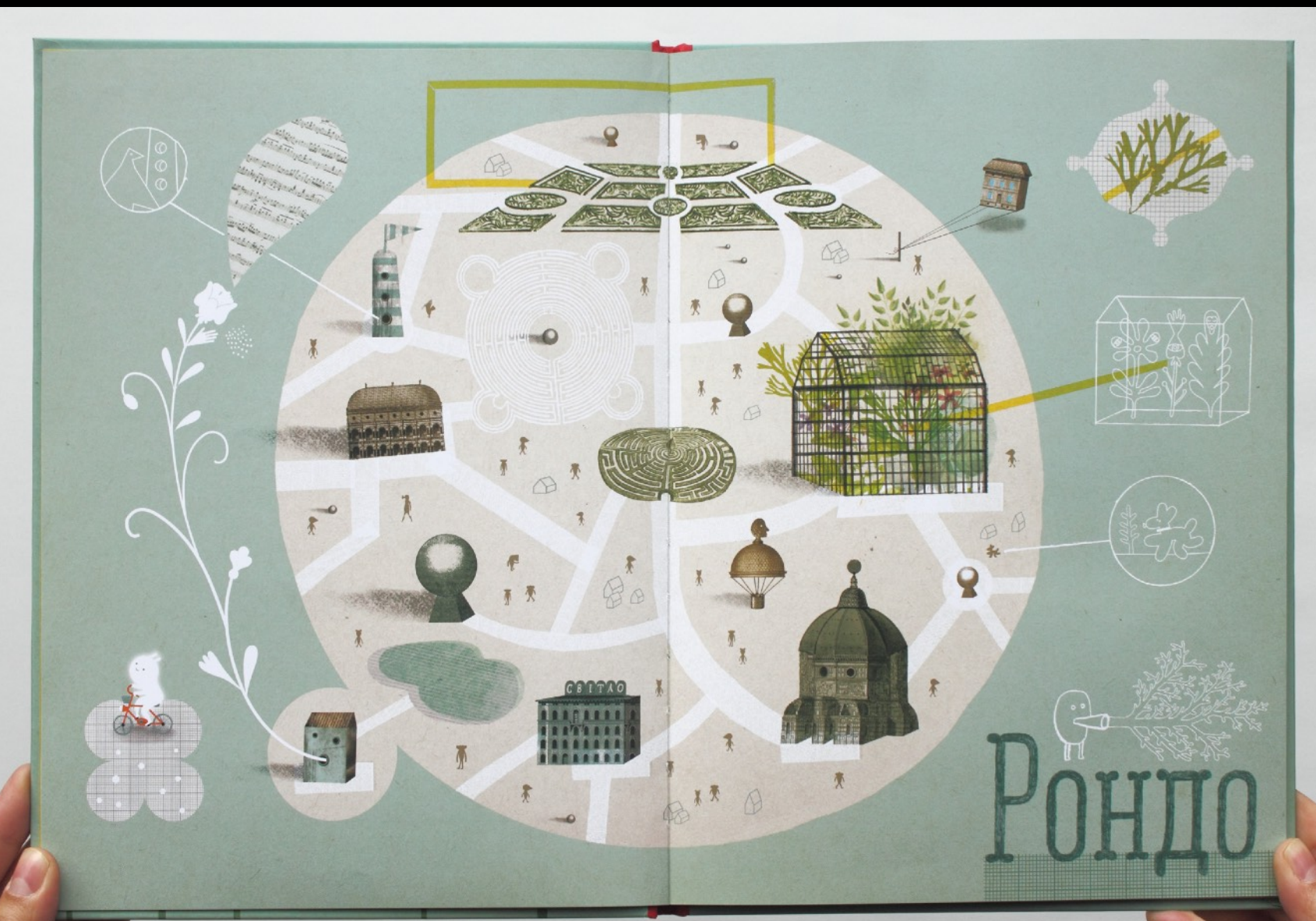
Unfortunately, it is impossible to renew everything. The transparent body of Danko still has a web of cracks near his heart, the edges of Zirka's wings remained burnt, and Fabian is limping on the pricked leg.



The residents of the town changed. Each of them has sorrowful memories of the War that changed Rondo forever. Now, there are also many red poppies growing all around the town\*.

\* A poppy is an international symbol of commemorating the fallen during the war, beginning with 1914.





Замість чорних квітів із землі виростили червоні маки. До війни у Рондо росли маки різних кольорів – рожеві, жовті, фіолетові, пурпурові, білі, але таких червоних не було ніколи. Тепер усі маки були тільки червоні.

Мешканці Рондо потроху відбудували місто, відновили оранжерею, де знову розрослися квіти і щоранку, як колись, виспівують гіми.











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За мотивами однойменної книги  
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