

DO Catalunya presents Vinòmics
The memory of glass

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MY MUM'S ABILITY THROWING STONES WAS MEMORABLE. MY DAD USED TO TELL HER SHE WAS AS GOOD AT THROWING STONES AS THE MOROCCAN WOMEN. YOU SEE, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 60S, WHEN I WAS AT THE MILITARY SERVICE IN IFNI, THE LOCAL WOMEN USED TO WELCOME THE NEW RECRUITS BY THROWING STONES AT THEM. THAT'S WHERE MY DAD'S COMMENT CAME FROM. WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW IS HOW MY MUM DEVELOPED THAT SKILL...

NOT BAD, SON, BUT IT'S NOT MIND-BLOWING...

BUT DON'T SWALLOW IT ALL AT ONCE, YOU HAVE TO ENJOY WINE WITH ALL YOUR SENSES. LOOK AT THE COLOUR, SMELL IT, TAKE A SIP...

COME ONE!
DON'T BE SO SYBARITE!

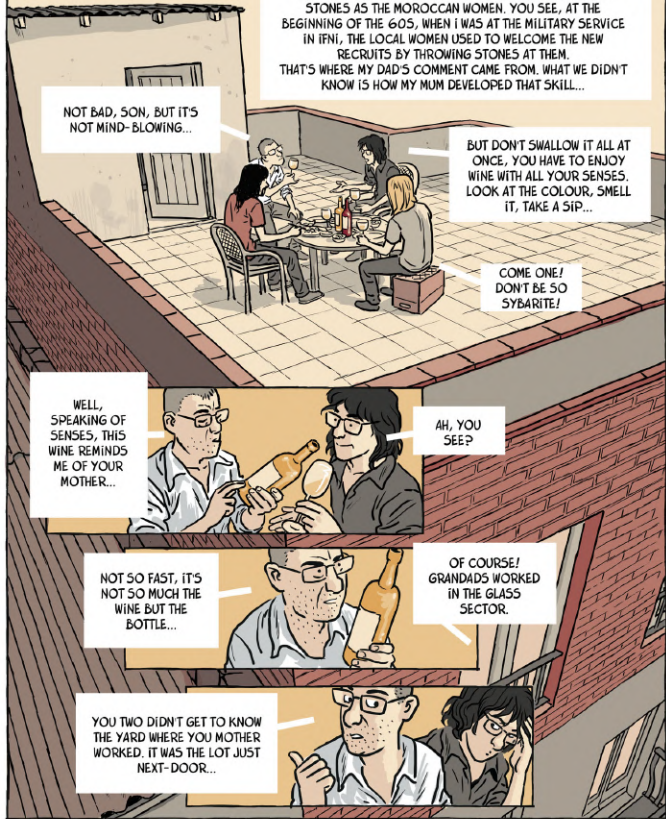
WELL,
SPEAKING OF
SENSES, THIS
WINE REMINDS
ME OF YOUR
MOTHER...

AH, YOU
SEE?

NOT SO FAST, IT'S
NOT SO MUCH THE
WINE BUT THE
BOTTLE...

OF COURSE!
GRANDADS WORKED
IN THE GLASS
SECTOR.

YOU TWO DIDN'T GET TO KNOW
THE YARD WHERE YOU MOTHER
WORKED. IT WAS THE LOT JUST
NEXT-DOOR...

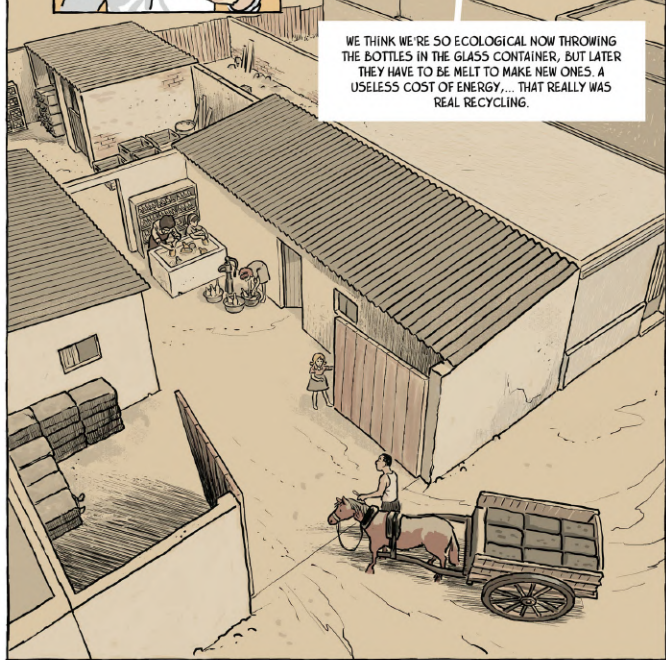




THE YARD WAS BOTH THEIR HOME AND THEIR SHOP. YOUR MUM AND HER FAMILY WOULD BUY THE GLASS JARS TO THE TRASH COLLECTORS, CLEAN THEM UP AND SELL THEM AGAIN TO THE CELLARS.

BOTTLES OF WINE, OF COGNAC, OF ANISE, OF CHAMPAGNE, OF COLOGNE, LITTLE BOTTLES OF PERFUMES, JARS OF NAIL POLISHES,...

WE THINK WE'RE SO ECOLOGICAL NOW THROWING THE BOTTLES IN THE GLASS CONTAINER, BUT LATER THEY HAVE TO BE MELT TO MAKE NEW ONES. A USELESS COST OF ENERGY, ... THAT REALLY WAS REAL RECYCLING.



THEY WERE SOAKED INTO WATER AND LATER THEY HAD TO WASH THEM. THEY USED A SCRUBBER FOR THE SURFACE AND A LONG SCRUBBING BRUSH FOR THE INSIDE.

IN WINTER, THEY HAD TO FILL THE SINK WITH BOILING WATER TO AVOID FREEZING THEIR HANDS. IT WAS A TROUGH JOB.

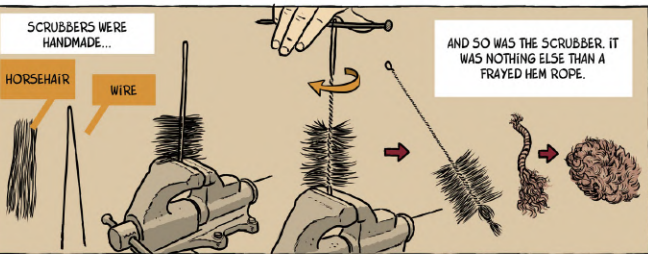


SCRUBBERS WERE HANDMADE...

HORSEHAIR

WIRE

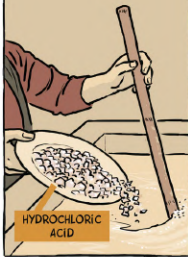
AND SO WAS THE SCRUBBER. IT WAS NOTHING ELSE THAN A FRAYED HEM ROPE.



SOMETIMES, THERE WERE SOME TEAR-DROP SHAPED SPOTS WITH OIL RESIDUES, AND THEN THE SCRUBBER WAS IMPREGNATED WITH ASH AND ANY DIRT LEFT WAS REMOVED.



IF THERE WAS STILL A SOLID RESIDUE, THEY WERE SOAKED INTO WATER AND LYE, OR WITH HYDROCHLORIC ACID.



WHEN THEY WERE CLEAN THEY WERE LEFT TO DRY UPSIDE DOWN IN WOODEN BOXES. THEN THEY WOULD CHECK THEM AND PUT THE CLEAN ONES IN A BAG TO BE CARRIED IN A CART TO THE SELLING POINT. IF, THERE WAS STILL A DIRTY BOTTLE IN THE BAG, NEXT WEEK IT WAS RETURNED TO THE GRANDDADS AND DEDUCTED FROM THE PRICE.



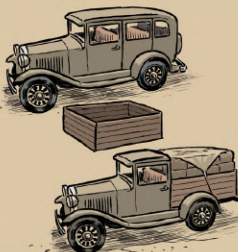
WHEN THEY STARTED THE BUSINESS, RIGHT AFTER THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, YOUR GRANDAD CARRIED HIMSELF THE BOTTLES IN A SMALL CART. HE CROSSED BARCELONA FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER WITH THE CART FULL OF BOTTLES.



WHEN THEY HAD ENOUGH MONEY, THEY BOUGHT A HORSE AND A BIGGER CART. AND THE BUSINESS WAS GOING WELL.



THEN THEY STARTED TO GO OUTSIDE THE CITY TO START SELLING THE BOTTLES TO THE CELLARS IN SANT SADURNI. THEY BOUGHT AN OLD CAR THAT I FIXED IT MYSELF INTO A ESTATE CAR. I WORKED WONDERS WITH THAT CAR...



EVENTUALLY, NEW BOTTLES APPEARED, VERY VALUABLE, LIKE THE ONES WITH PENICILLIN, ABOUT THE YEAR 45... THEY WERE IN GREAT DEMAND.

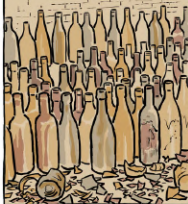
THE BOTTLES HAD A RUBBER STOPPER AND AN ALUMINIUM TRIM. ALL THIS WAS SEPARATED AND SOLD SEPARATELY. SEPARABA Y SE VENDIA A PARTE.



SODA BOTTLES WERE ALSO PAID WELL, BECAUSE THEY HAD SILICONE BUNGS. IF THE BOTTLE WAS BROKEN, THEY KEPT THE BUNG AND SOLD IT SEPARATELY.



SOME BOTTLES DIDN'T HAVE ANY VALUE. THOSE WERE SOLD BY WEIGHT. THEY WERE SORTED BY COLOURS AND BROKEN TO BE PUT IN A BAG.



YOUR MUM HAD A LOT OF FUN THROWING THE BOTTLES AGAINST THE WALL. SHE HAD SUCH AN AIM!

TELL US ABOUT THAT...



SHE PREPARED A SPACE THAT LOOKED LIKE AN OLYMPIC SHOOTING COURT.



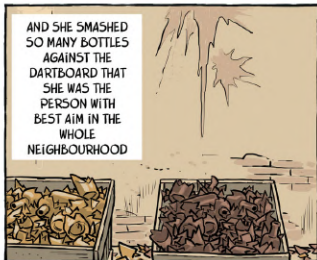
AND SHE DIDN'T LET ANYONE ELSE BREAK THE BOTTLES.



THAT WAS HER THING.



AND SHE SMASHED SO MANY BOTTLES AGAINST THE DARTBOARD THAT SHE WAS THE PERSON WITH BEST AIM IN THE WHOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD



THE SAME AIM MOROCCAN WOMEN HAD, BECAUSE WHEN I SERVED FOR THE MILITARY SERVICE IN...



...YOU ALREADY TOLD US ABOUT THAT MANY TIMES.

I'M GOING TO THE CONTAINER.

