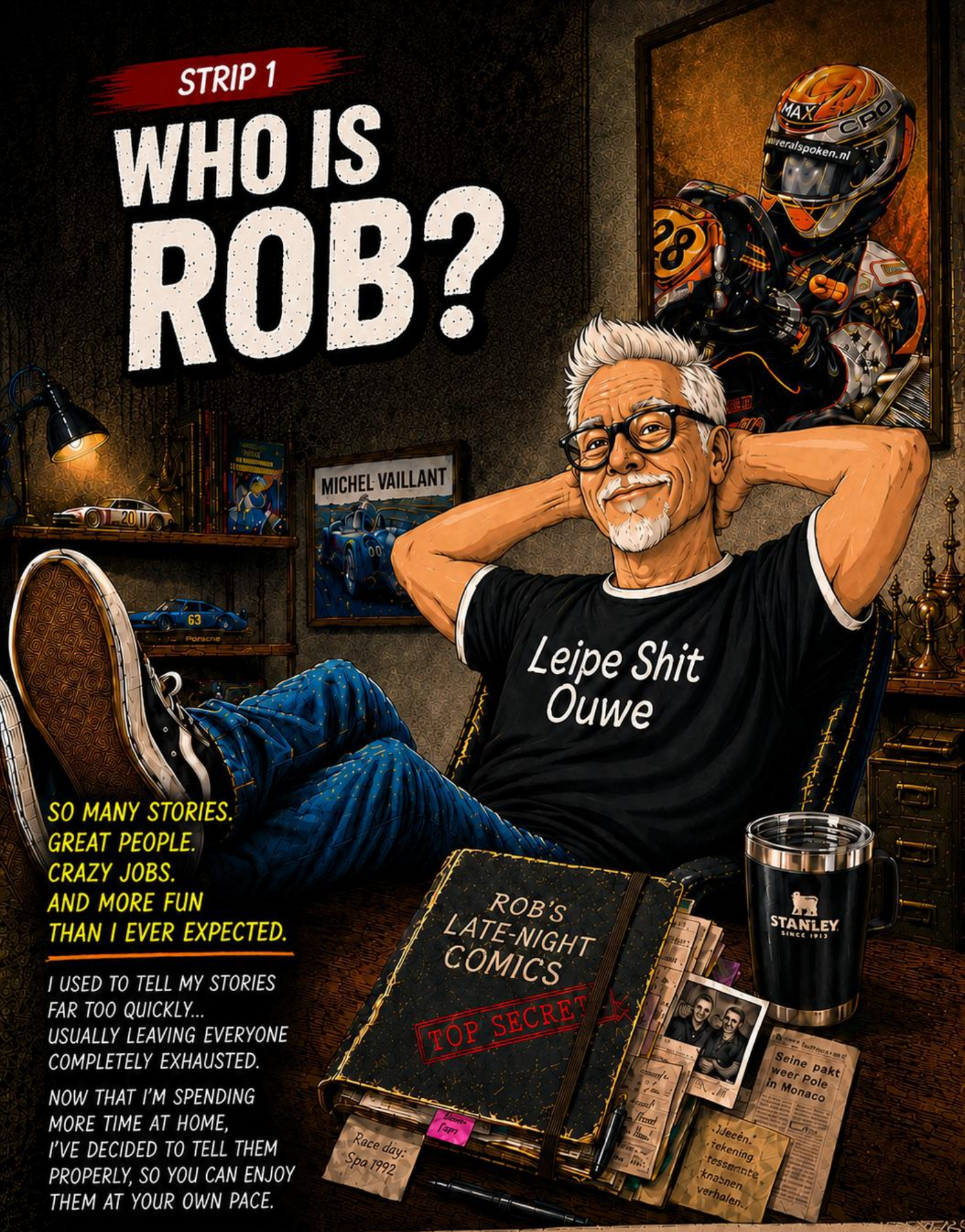
STRIP 1

WHO IS ROB?



SO MANY STORIES.
GREAT PEOPLE.
CRAZY JOBS.
AND MORE FUN
THAN I EVER EXPECTED.

I USED TO TELL MY STORIES FAR TOO QUICKLY...
USUALLY LEAVING EVERYONE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

NOW THAT I'M SPENDING MORE TIME AT HOME, I'VE DECIDED TO TELL THEM PROPERLY, SO YOU CAN ENJOY THEM AT YOUR OWN PACE.

FOLLOW MY ADVENTURES ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK AND X.
WHO KNOWS... YOU MIGHT EVEN POP UP IN ONE OF MY STORIES SOMEDAY.

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STUCK AT HOME AND OUT OF ACTION. GREAT. ADHD AND NOTHING TO DO — THAT REALLY WON'T WORK... HAHA.

SO I THOUGHT: WHO CAN I TALK AT NOW? CHATGPT, OF COURSE!

THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED HOW MUCH FUN MAKING COMICS IS — AND WHAT A GREAT DISTRACTION IT CAN BE. SO THIS IS WHERE I'LL SHARE MY EXPERIENCES, BLUNDERS, SPECIAL ENCOUNTERS AND FUN MOMENTS IN SHORT COMICS.

FEEL FREE TO FOLLOW ME. WHO KNOWS... YOU MIGHT EVEN APPEAR IN ONE OF MY STORIES.



WHEN I WAS ELEVEN, MY FATHER TAUGHT ME THE FIRST MOVES OF CHESS SO I COULD ENTER A SCHOOL TOURNAMENT. AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT HE WAS ONLY TEACHING ME CHESS. YEARS LATER, I REALISED HE HAD GIVEN ME SOMETHING FAR MORE VALUABLE: LOGICAL THINKING, LOOKING AHEAD AND FINDING SOLUTIONS. THE THREAD RUNNING THROUGH MY LIFE.

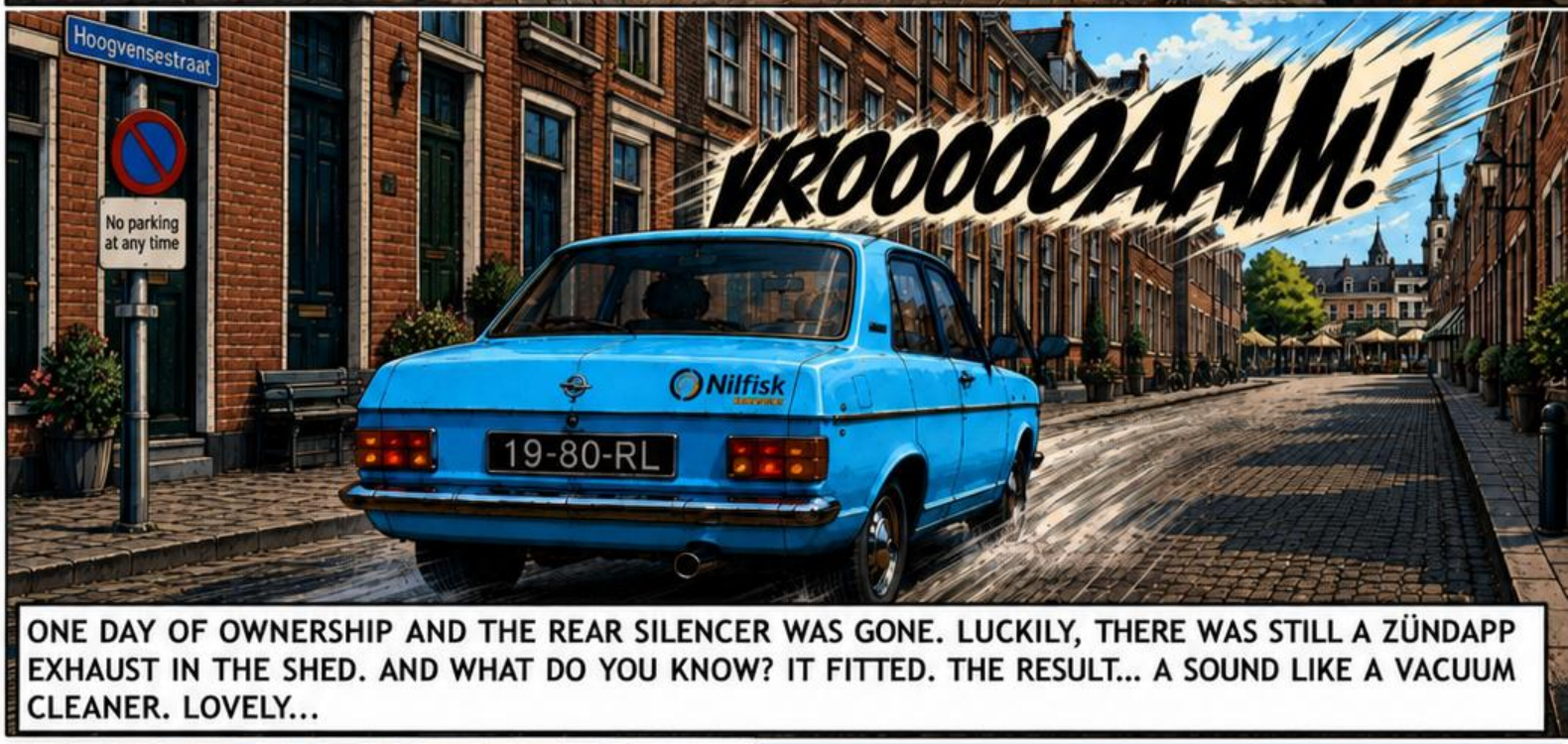


THEN YOU TURN 18.

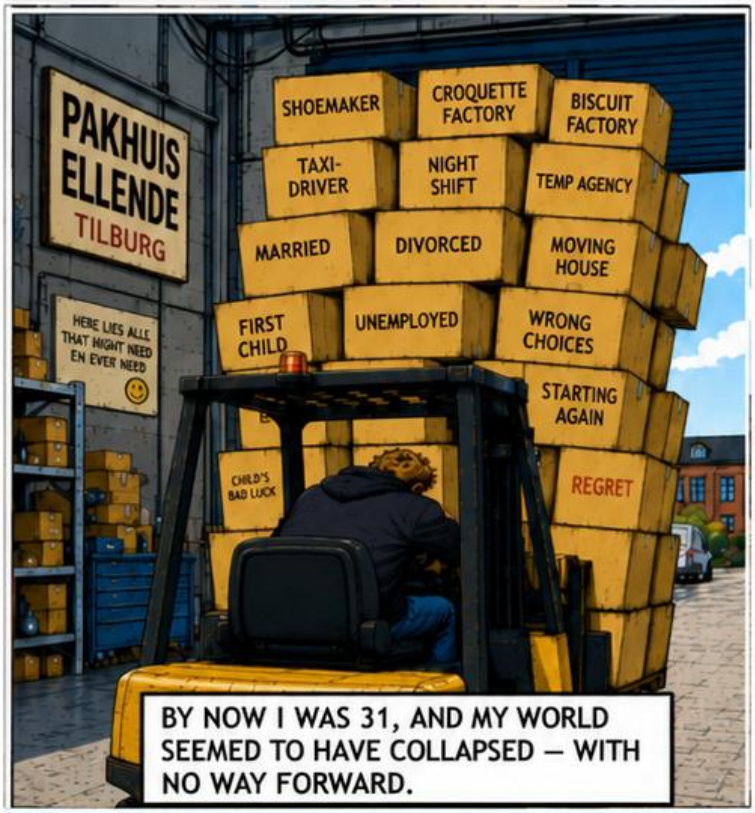
TIME FOR A DRIVING LICENCE.

PASSED BOTH DRIVING TESTS, BOUGHT MY FIRST CAR — AND IT WAS EVEN WITHIN BUDGET.





ONE DAY OF OWNERSHIP AND THE REAR SILENCER WAS GONE. LUCKILY, THERE WAS STILL A ZÜNDAPP EXHAUST IN THE SHED. AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT FITTED. THE RESULT... A SOUND LIKE A VACUUM CLEANER. LOVELY...



BY NOW I WAS 31, AND MY WORLD SEEMED TO HAVE COLLAPSED — WITH NO WAY FORWARD.



IT COULDN'T HAVE BECOME MUCH DARKER.

FORTUNATELY, THE LIGHT COMES BACK ON FOR ME ON PAGE 3.

NEXT PAGE

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, A DEAR FRIEND WOKE ME AT TILBURG-WEST STATION. HE WAS SHOCKED TO FIND ME LYING THERE. WE AGREED TO SPEND THE FIRST SATURDAY TOGETHER IN THE HAGUE.

JUST A DAY AWAY FROM ALL THE MISERY.



THAT AFTERNOON, WE ENDED UP ON THE TERRACE AT THE BIG BELL. THERE, I UNEXPECTEDLY MET LUCILLE. WE ONLY EXCHANGED PHONE NUMBERS.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, I WAS DROPPED OFF AT MY MOTHER'S. THERE WAS A LETTER FROM THE HOUSING ASSOCIATION.



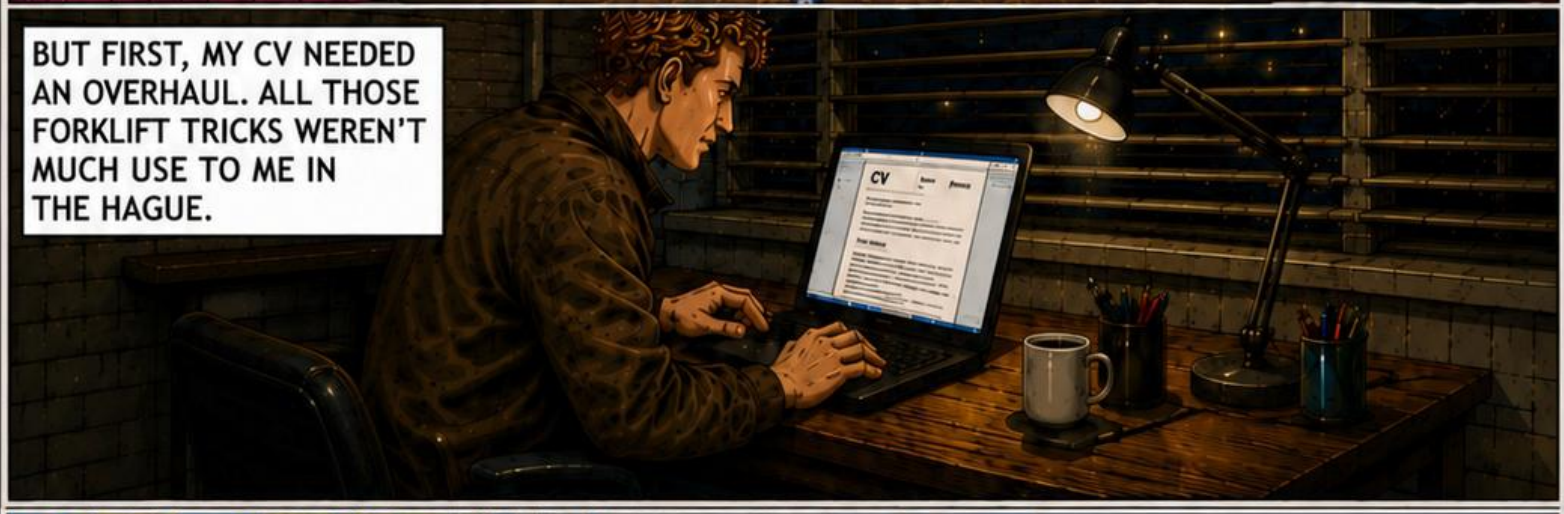




LUCILLE SAW MY SITUATION AND, BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD MOVED TO VOORBURG WITH EVERYTHING I OWNED.

AND THERE I WAS. A HOUSE FULL OF WOMEN — AND NURSES AS WELL.









NEXT PAGE

THEN ANOTHER TEMP AGENCY OFFERED ME A JOB.

A THREE-MONTH ASSIGNMENT: ARCHIVING AT THE PALACE OF JUSTICE.

AT LAST, A JOB WHERE I DIDN'T HAVE TO GET MY HANDS SO DIRTY.

MY BRAIN WAS ALLOWED BACK TO WORK.

THOSE THREE MONTHS EVENTUALLY BECAME A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT.

WHEN MY YEAR-LONG CONTRACT ENDED, I WAS OUT OF WORK AGAIN.

I WALKED IN AND ASKED:

"DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY WORK?"

PART-TIME, FULL-TIME... I DIDN'T MIND.





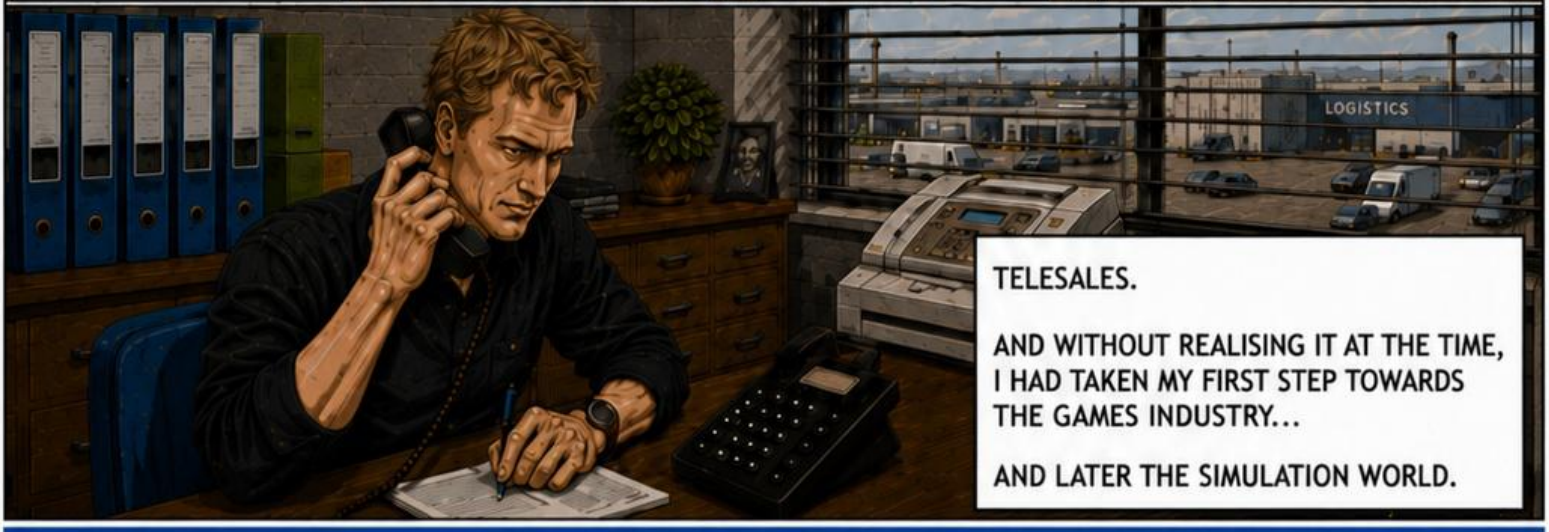
I WAS GIVEN THE ADDRESS OF NEW MEDIA GUIDE AND WENT STRAIGHT THERE.

I THOUGHT:

DON'T OVERTHINK IT. JUST RING THE BELL.







TELESALES.

AND WITHOUT REALISING IT AT THE TIME, I HAD TAKEN MY FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE GAMES INDUSTRY...

AND LATER THE SIMULATION WORLD.



2 CHILDREN LATER...

DOZENS OF NEW FRIENDS LATER...

22 YEARS OF MOTORSPORT LATER...

1,001 MEMORIES LATER...

HUNDREDS OF PROJECTS LATER...

FAR TOO MANY GREY HAIRS LATER...

283 UPS & DOWNS LATER...

READ MY STORIES IN THE NEXT COMICS...





THAT GIFT TURNED OUT TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL: A VOICE-CONTROLLED CHESSBOARD. WHEN THE PIECES STARTED MOVING BY THEMSELVES, I HAD AN IDEA.



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FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA

EEN NIEUW IDEE

EN WAAR ZIJN ZE DAN, AL DIE ONLINE SCHAKERS?



MEER DAN **1.000.000** NEDERLANDERS HEBBEN EEN ONLINE SCHAAKACCOUNT.

ONGEVEER **20.000** SCHAKERS ZIJN GEREGISTREERD BIJ DE KNSB.

HET IDEE!

TEGENSTANDER
IEDERE WEEK ZOEK IK ONLINE TEGENSTANDERS DIE HET LEUK VINDEN OM MET WEBCAMS EEN PARTIJ TE SPELEN

YOUTUBE
DEZE PARTIJEN STREAM IK OP MIJN YOUTUBE-KANAAL.

PODCAST
DE TEGENSTANDERS DIE IK ONLINE ONTMOET, NODIG IK UIT OM IN MIJN MAANDELIJKSE PODCAST EEN MINI-TOERNOOI OP EEN ECHT BORD SPELEN,

GESPREK
TUSSEN DE PARTIJEN DOOR PRATEN OVER SCHAKEN, PERSOONLIJKE ERVARINGEN EN VERHALEN MET EEN FLINKE DOSIS HUMOR.

HEB JIJ NOG NOOIT OP EEN ECHT SCHAAKBORD GESPEELD?
MISSCHIEN BEN JIJ WEL MIJN VOLGENDE TEGENSTANDER!

VOLG HET AVONTUUR OP:

YOUTUBE.COM/
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