

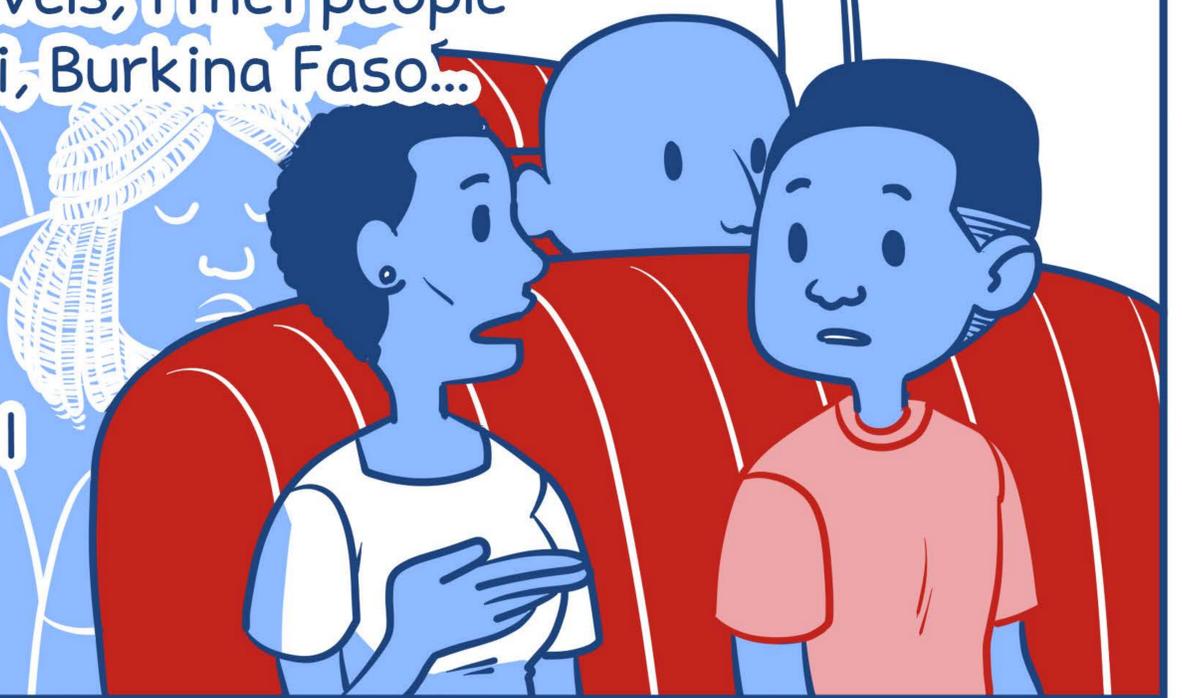


My journey was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. I left without a word to my family or friends, but it was necessary.

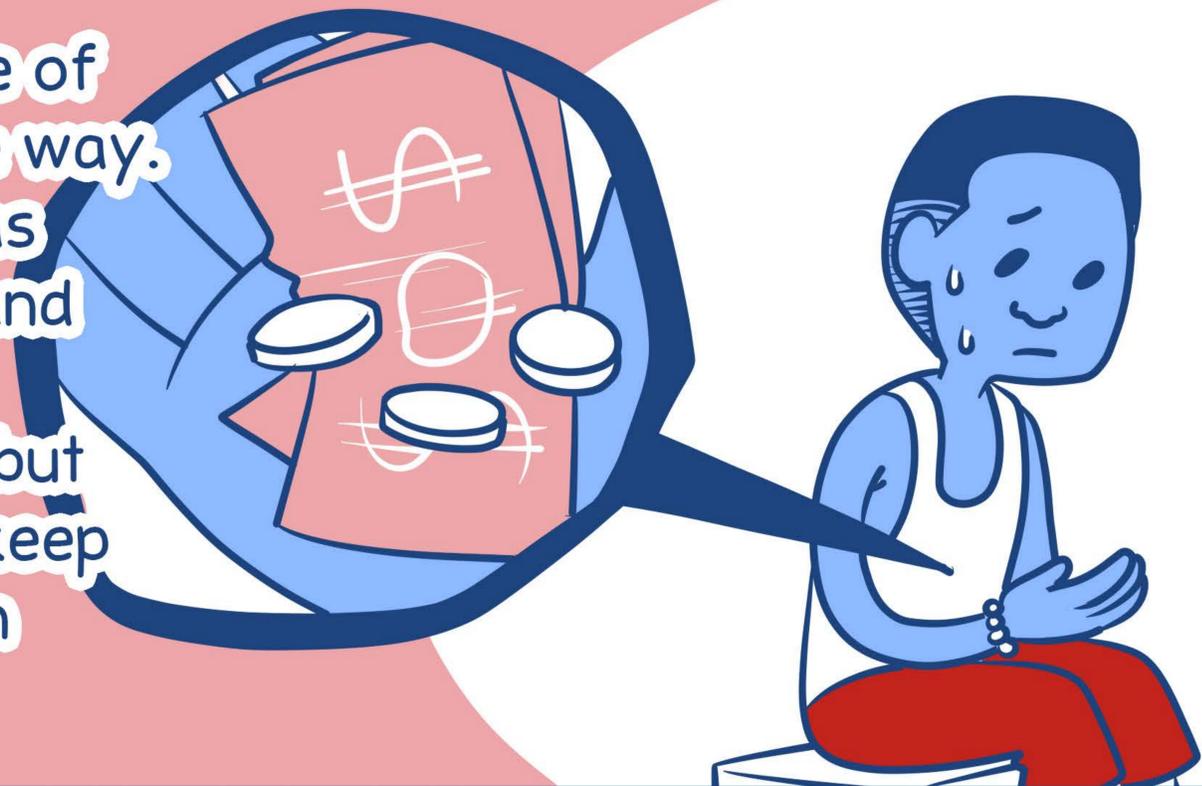


Throughout my travels, I met people from Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso...

I had to use every single survival skill I had to get to my destination.



I did a couple of jobs along the way. The work was never easy and the pay was never good, but I needed to keep in touch with my family.



Crossing the Sahara was the worst.

I spent nights sleeping on the ground, thirsty, hungry, weak and stressed. As always, the thought of seeing my family again was my strength.





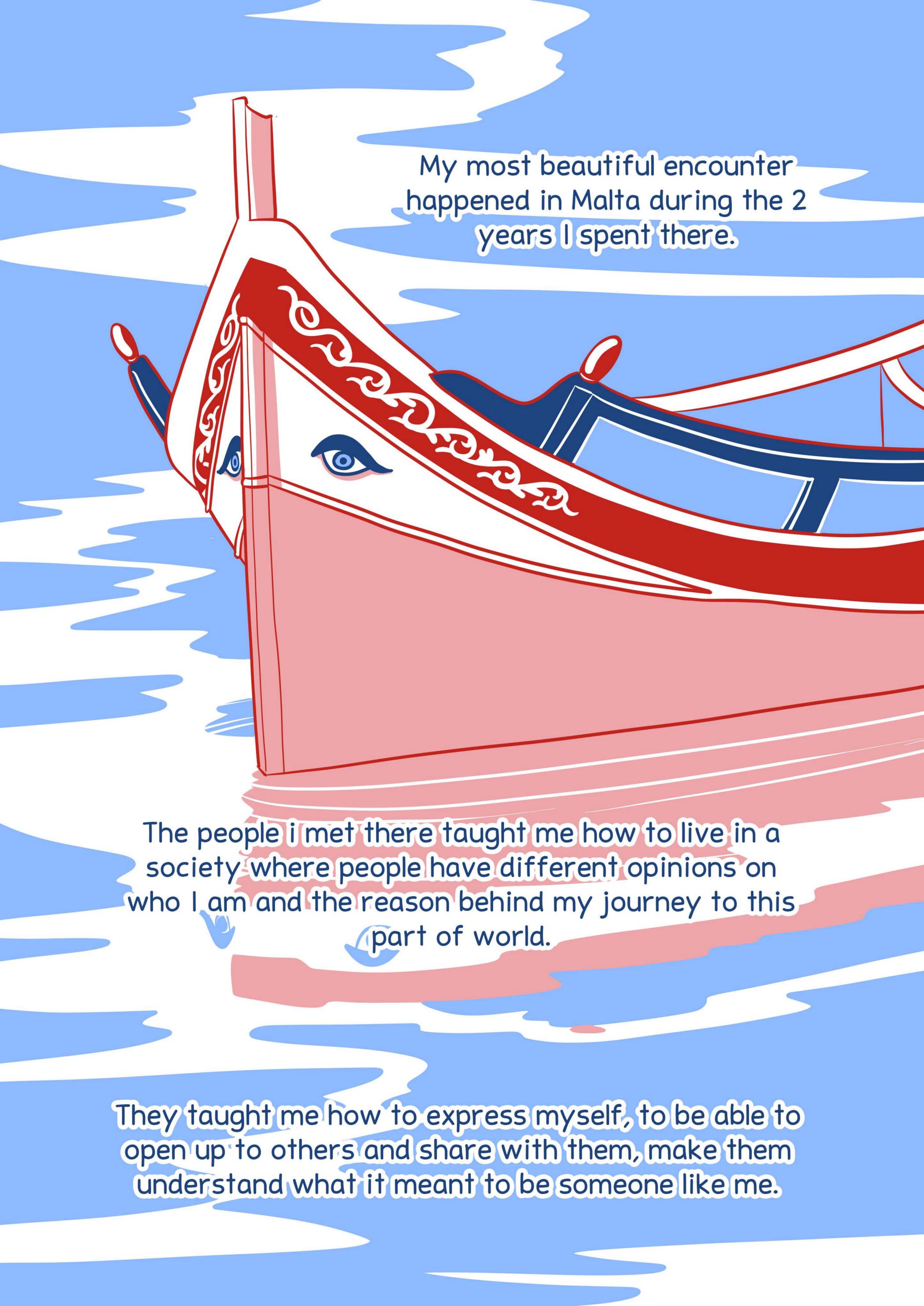
I arrived at Crotone as a minor.

I was taken to a reception centre for adults in the south of the country near Potenza, where I spent a month before being transferred to the Casa Famiglia centre for minors.



I spent a year there going to school.

It helped me learn a lot about Italy, its people, society, and other things which helped me start my new life.



My most beautiful encounter
happened in Malta during the 2
years I spent there.

The people I met there taught me how to live in a
society where people have different opinions on
who I am and the reason behind my journey to this
part of world.

They taught me how to express myself, to be able to
open up to others and share with them, make them
understand what it meant to be someone like me.

Of course, not everyone is so understanding.

What I really find absurd is people assuming that migrants are all the same when something goes wrong.



Name calling, racial abuse, people judging you because of someone else's wrong doing. Religious and criminal stereotypes are my biggest headache.

Still, something I've noticed in quite a few European countries is how multicultural they are, while still doing what they can to create a peaceful, loving environment for everyone.





I think the most difficult thing for many migrants is integration.

If both migrants and the citizens of their countries of residence help each other through integration it'll be a major factor in improving everyone's lives.

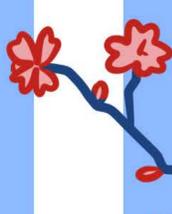
More projects that bring locals, immigrants, and refugees together will open new doors to improving their lives so they'll feel safe and welcome,

which makes integration easier and helps when get a fresh start.

I hope someday things will change for the better and I can be reunited with my loved ones, even though I'm very much settled here in my new country and life is going well.



The desire and hope of seeing my family again and my memories are what keep me going, from day one til today.



I pray that no one goes through what we've experienced, but I also believe that as humans, we're stronger than we believe.

