

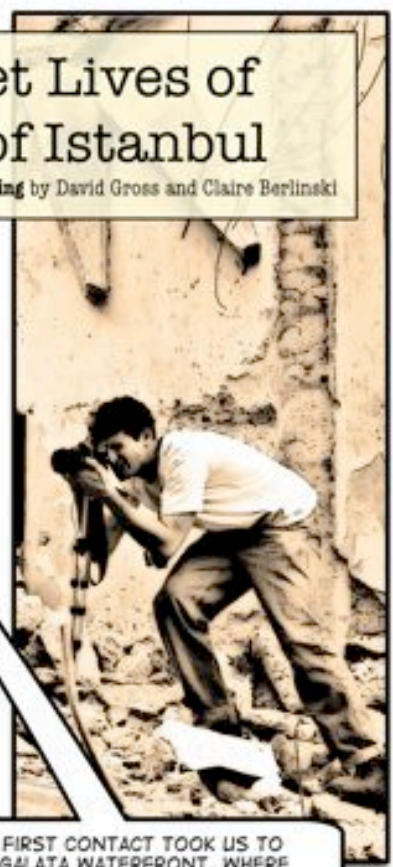
SPECIAL REPORT

The Secret Lives of The Cats of Istanbul

a creative project with original reporting by David Gross and Claire Berlinski



OUR DESCENT INTO ISTANBUL'S FELINE CITY WAS A RISK WE HAD TO TAKE, AND WE WENT...ALONE. NO TRANSLATOR, NO FIXER. JUST GUTS.



AHEM. WE JOURNALISTS HAVE A TERM FOR JUMPING INTO A FOREIGN CULTURE WITH NO PREPARATION. WE CALL IT...PARACHUTING.

OUR FIRST CONTACT TOOK US TO THE GALATA WATERFRONT, WHERE WE ENCOUNTERED THIS ETHNICALLY DIVIDED NEIGHBORHOOD...PERHAPS ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR.

THAT'S RIGHT, DAVID. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME CLAN RIVALRY HERE AT THE HOTLY CONTESTED GARBAGE DUMP...HAVE TO WATCH OUT...THE MOOD CAN CHANGE QUICKLY WHEN FOOD'S INVOLVED...



...OH MY GOD, THAT WAS CLOSE! THESE SKIRMISHES ARE TENSE INDEED. IT LOOKS LIKE THE DOGS HAVE WON THE DAY...FOR NOW. BACK TO YOU, DAVID.



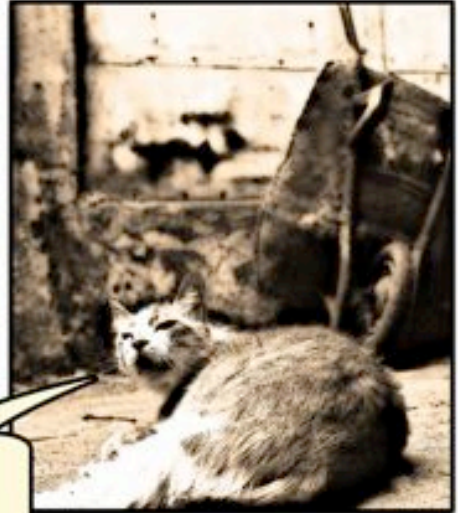
...ANCIENT ETHNIC HATREDS...

EVERY EVENING, AT DUSK, WE WENT OUT TO STUDY THEM. ISTANBUL, WE DISCOVERED, WAS TWO CITIES -- THE CITY OF TURKS AND THE CITY OF CATS...

SLOWLY, WE WON THE CATS' CONFIDENCE. THEY BEGAN TO TELL US THEIR SECRETS...



I CAUGHT A LUCKY BREAK WITH THIS ABANDONED BUILDING. IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY. NO KIDS, NO DOGS. NOT TOO COLD.



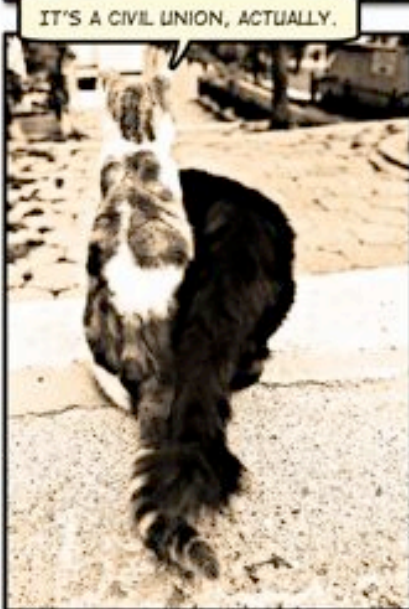
THIS PIECE OF SIDEWALK'S BEEN MINE FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW, I HAD TO CHEW SOME GUY'S EAR OFF FOR IT ... BUT NOW THEY GIVE ME *RESPECT*.



THE DOGS ON THIS STREET AIN'T TOO BAD...THEY MOSTLY JUST SLEEP.



MY NAME IS RED.



IT'S A CIVIL UNION, ACTUALLY.



THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD DUMPSTER, YOU GET SOME CHICKEN SOMETIMES, CAUGHT A *GREAT* MOUSE HERE TWO NIGHTS AGO...

