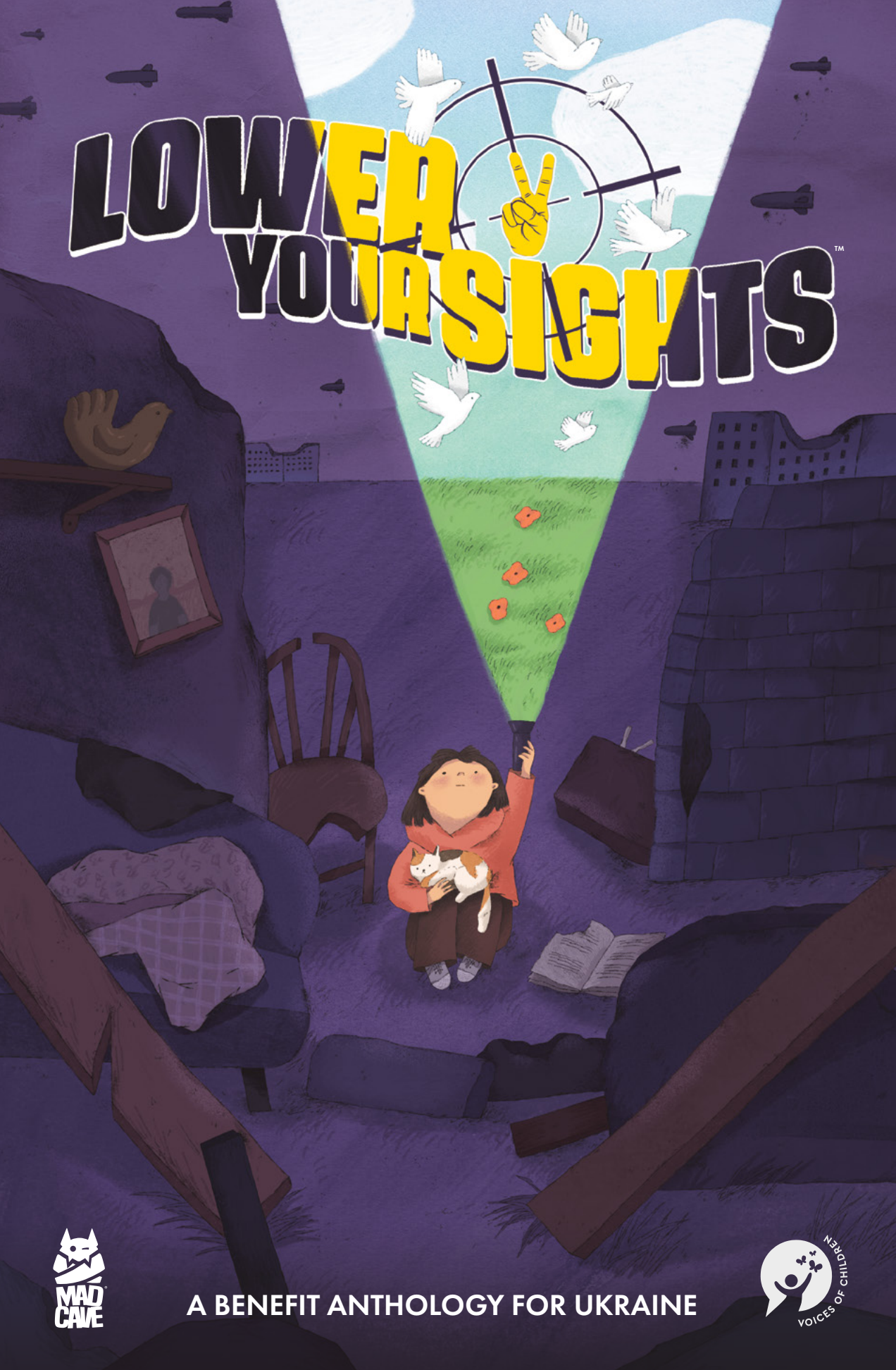


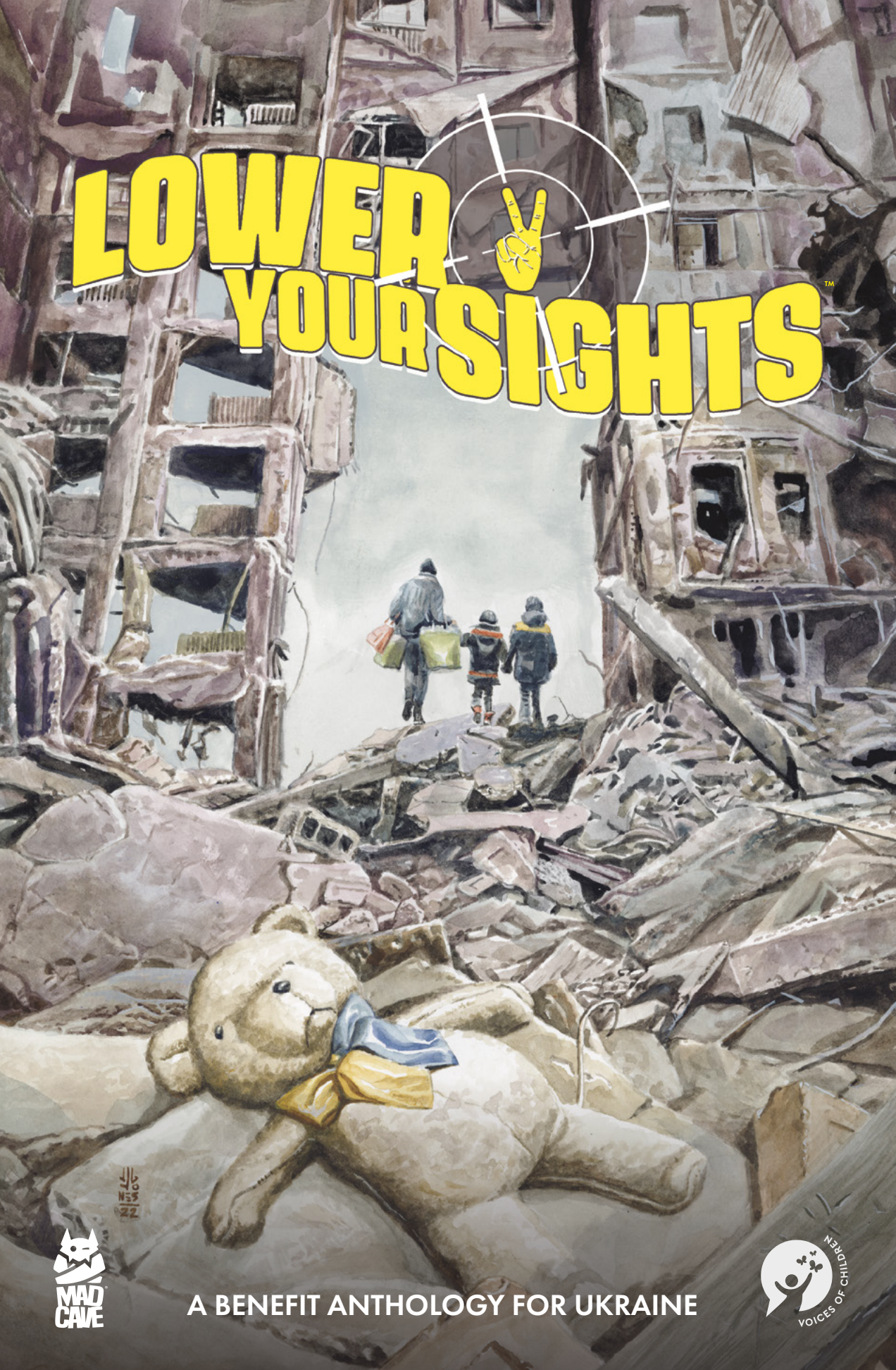
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David Andry & Tim Daniel
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Logo: Tim Daniel

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Andriy Lesiv from Art Studio Agrafka,
Marta Koshulinska, Inna Vjuzhanina,
Polina Khrystoieva, Andy Ivanov,
Kateryna Kosheleva,
Yev Haidamaka, Gexis





BLOOD, SWEAT, AND INK: AN INTRODUCTION

Anger, sadness, and frustration are very real and extremely valid emotions toward the horrific events continuing to take place in Ukraine. For some, the constant bombardment of tragic details deeply rattles within your bones and urges you to do something--anything, really.

Thankfully, I come from a publisher whose entire staff felt that call. Being sequential storytellers, we planned to assist with our weapons of choice: pencils and keyboards.

We quickly set out to create a comic book anthology highlighting **industry greats, indie darlings, rising stars, and, most importantly, numerous Ukrainian creators.** Our goal was to curate a collection of powerful and poignant tales for an anthology where all proceeds would be donated to a Ukrainian foundation. Upon discovering Voices of Children, we quickly realized we found the perfect collaborator for this endeavor.

Voices of Children provides psychological and psychosocial support for children affected by war. Their targeted humanitarian aid also ensures basic necessities, shelter, relocation assistance, educational options, and various forms of rehabilitation. In these dark times, they act as a ray of light to ensure the proper development and support of children.

With our goal and foundation locked in, we got to work. All collaborators were given **one month** to craft their tales. It was a very tight deadline, but everyone knew its reasoning and rose to the challenge. They donated their time and talent pro bono.

It goes without saying that this book would not be possible if it weren't for their contributions. A warm thanks to them all. Every word, pen stroke, and splash of color brings forth layers of emotional resonance that will stay with readers for years to come.

- Thanks must also be given to the entirety of Mad Cave's staff, but specific employees deserve individual call-outs: Allison Pond and Maya Lopez's marketing push ensured the book found its rightful audience, Miguel A. Zapata's excellent design skills cemented a gorgeous book, Giovanna T. Orozco's production management secured all behind-the-scenes processes in a timely manner, and Mark Irwin's insights and infinitely deep Rolodex opened the door to many new collaborators and friends.

- A heartfelt thanks to Lena Rozvadovska, Olena Ermolenko, Azad Safarov, Tanya Vovk, and the rest of the Voices of Children foundation. We sincerely hope we did you proud.


- Tim Daniel's multiple logo variations ensured that each variant cover of this anthology felt beyond appropriate.

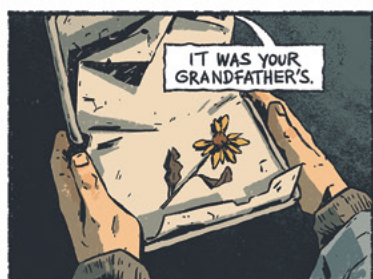
- We also thank you--the reader. By supporting this book, you're benefiting the Voices of Children foundation and their efforts. It means the world to us all.

With the above in mind, we invite you to dive into these tales. We did our best to let creators go wherever their heads and hearts took them. Naturally, this brought forth varied tales about history, heartbreak, and hope. We start off with some powerful shorts, transition into historical stories, spice things up with unique takes and fables, and follow up with tales that inspire strength. Most importantly, we close out the book with art pieces and write-ups from numerous Ukrainian illustrators. By the end of the book, you'll rediscover **the power of resiliency and community.**

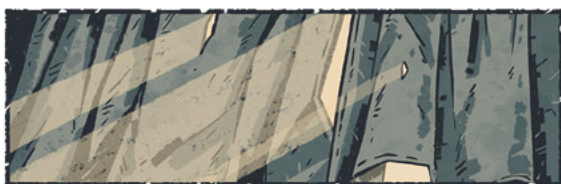
Just remember: whether you live on the frontline or view things from afar, you can make a difference. **Together, we can overcome anything.**

- Chas! Pangburn, Editor











THE WAIT

STORY AND ART BY: ENNUN ANA IUROV
COLORS BY: ANNA PAPADOPOULOU

