



Red Rat Strips TRANSLATION

“***De avonturen van Red Rat*** (‘The Adventures of Red Rat’) part one, about the crowning of Beapix, that had first appeared as a supplement with (the fanzine) *Raket* no. 14, was received with open arms. In April 1981 part one and the new part two about squatting appeared together as a comic, with a poster, in an edition of 4000 copies that sold out rapidly. In the comic, rats came up against pigs. Red Rat flitted to and fro in all the stories, more like a spectator than a hero and always profoundly confused. More double editions followed. I drew ten parts all together, in five comic books. They were about the actions against a nuclear power station in Dodewaard, about Breda 30 April 1981, the ammunition trains, Berlin, men and women, the left-wing movement, the office and the Basque Country. A Red Rat button appeared and some posters. Red Rat became popular and his likeness popped up everywhere. On walls, T-shirts, in school papers and fanzines. He started to lead his own life and no one knew who drew him. He was even translated. There were three translations into German and there are rumours about English, Italian and Danish versions. The comic publisher’s Oberon called and offered us a contract for Red Rat. We weren’t interested.”

(taken from *Rondos - A black & white statement*, p. 80-81)

07. **the adventures of REDRAT histories**

08. ... eh, every resemblance of the comics figures with existing persons is purely coincidental.

09. **history 1**
rondoloo house

11. *there!*

yes, there is redrat. he's in search of the real punk-life...

and in rondoloo house live real punks, it is said. he rings...

12. redrat asks if they have a spare room. "sure, in the attic," pim says...

once inside, pim explains what punk is.

- *look, we simply do everything ourselves...*

- *oh...*

redrat also meets the other residents, such as jan...

- *look, i always simply say "destroy what destroys you"...*

- *indeed...*

13. and martin...

- *look, private school or public school, it simply makes no difference...*

- *well, no...*

and jantina...

- *look, communism is simply doing things together...*

- *oh, really...*

and ollie...

- *look, punk basically simply started with dada...*

- *well...*

14. and also with rinus. punk is quite difficult, it turns out, and redrat cannot yet totally understand it all...

- *look, i simply don't give a shit about the whole fucking bourgeoisie...*

- *oh...*

only the famous frenk is kind of easy to understand...

- *look, playing in a band is simply a dream come true, and i think that making music is simply fun and inspiring...*

- *yes, right...*

by the way, in the cellar there's peter. he's a real artist...

- *look, i simply feel very connected with the art of painting...*

- *aha...*

15. redrat is happy with his new friends, and with his new room! now the real punk-life can begin. he just can't wait...

- *can you turn that noise down, please!!*

but first there's dinner! geez, there's plenty...

and then watching tv's... what a life...

16. out of bed early in the morning, because redrat is part of the stencil-team...

he does his very best, of course...

the whole day long...

17. at the end of the day it's cleaning-time. that's part of the job too...

then fortunately it's dinner-time again...

plus watching tv's... to relax is important after a long day of struggle against the system...

18. redrat also has interesting conversations with the visitors of rondoloo house, such as jan's parents...

- *no, my son really has quite a fine ear for music... just like me... he got it from me...*

- *oh, really...*

and gert and twinkle of the tändstickorshocks...

- *plenty! mad!*

- *eh...*

- and also job and harry of the ex! although it's not always very clear to redrat what they exactly mean...
 - *mcdonna... ha ha ha ha gherkin!*
 - *help...*
19. but the singer of ketchup he really likes the most of all...
 - *hi...*
 - *hi... eh... great band, cutchap... eh... ketchup, i mean...*
- and dinner again...
 and watching tv's...
20. out of bed early again...
 as there is so much to do...
 like stencilling, for instance...
21. redrat has a sore back. he didn't know that being punk was so exhausting...
 and all that eating starts to nauseate him a little...
 but alas, no tv's tonight. redrat has to make up for some lost time. far into the night. alone...
22. redrat learns quite a lot from the discussions among his friends...
 - *it's about time that we simply destroy what destroys us...*
 - *yes i agree, because i simply don't give a shit about the whole fucking bourgeoisie...*
 - *well, we simply do everything ourselves...*
 - *yes, but dada simply already did that, too...*
- although he doesn't always really get the clue...
 - *private school or public school, it simply makes no difference...*
 - *of course not, you can simply do things together...*
 - *ah, they simply do mean really well, really...*
- (meanwhile in the cellar...)
 - *wow, i simply feel really connected again with the art of painting...*

23. today redrat has mopping-duty...
 and he isn't really hungry...
 and tonight he has to do the dishes once again...
24. but in the morning early out of bed again...
 because the struggle continues...
 and so does the stencilling...
25. then again scrubbing... redrat starts to wonder if this in fact is really punk at all...
 he grabs his things. redrat has had enough! no fun! it looks goddammit like a labour camp!...
 and at breakneck speed our hero flees from rondoloo house and he's off ... (to be continued)
26. ... honest, every resemblance of the comics figures with existing persons is really purely coincidental.
27. **history 2**
chaos house
29. *there!*
 yes, there is redrat. he's still in search of the real punk-life... he knocks at the door of chaos house, but nobody answers.
 outside he bumps into bertie. there might be a spare room in the attic...
30. once inside, bertie explains to redrat what punk really is.
 - *punk is just fun, you know...*
 - *really?...*
punk is not dead
- redrat understands it straightaway...

- sure, all that bullshit... just make fun... do what you wanna do...
everything is going to pieces anyway...
- that's true, yes...

bertie is a really friendly guy...

- hey... but eh... can i borrow some money? for beer... you'll get it
back tomorrow...
- sure...

31. redrat is happy with his new friend, and with his new room! now the
real punk-life can begin. he just can't wait...

at last, simply fries again. and beer for bertie. redrat's treat.

together they make it cosy. far into the night...

32. fortunately redrat doesn't need to get up early. finally he can stay in
bed till late...

then he walks the streets a bit, with bertie...
- hey, piece of meat!

and in the evening they go see a bile concert...

33. at night they wander through town...

then for a chippie to uncle dick's. bertie is a regular there...

and then till the early morning again a cosy time with bertie in chaos
house...

34. the next day redrat can stay in bed till late. nothing to do, anyway...

then hang out in the streets a bit with bertie...
- jerk!
buy more... and do vote by all means

and then in the evening to another concert, this time by the vomits...

35. afterwards a bit of lounging about...

- hey asshole! you want your face slapped?...

and to uncle dick's...

and then again cosily in bertie's room...

36. redrat can really use a day of sleep...

but in the afternoon he's already on the streets again with bertie...
- fuck off to your own country!...
buy as much as possible and vote for us

and in the evening there's one more concert, by the throw-ups.
and there's someone wearing the wrong buttons. well, then you've
asked for it...

37. after the concert they head for uncle dick's...

there they meet an old friend of bertie's, henky...

together they eat some fries...
full is full... rabbits, fuck off!

38. the next day they go to visit henky. he lives with his parents and has
a nice room...

- look, the white race has actually always determined the culture!

and he's a smooth talker...

- and those rabbits have always excavated us... therefore full is full!...

that evening they go to see the pukes. but it is not as cosy as
before.

39. redrat feels a bit sad, and the fries start to nauseate him a little...

henky invites bertie and redrat to a meeting...
- and see, the white race has actually always determined the
culture!... my dear compatriots...

where dr. hatemate speaks...

- and the rabbits tribe has always excavated this... and therefore i
say... full is full!...

40. after the concert they set out. redrat doesn't really grasp what
dr. hatemate is referring to...
- *rabbitfucker... grab him!...*

but henky and bertie do, so much the better...
full is full!... own rats first!

they run off hastily. redrat is frightened to death...
ça sucks

41. by all means he tries not to show it...
- *do you know them?... they're communists!*
- *eh, no... not really...*

but preferably he'd like to disappear...
- *they want to build up a red army...*
- *and they favour the rabbits...*
- *and they are also subsidized...*
- *we'll grab them!...*
- *smash the windows!...*

but he doesn't want to desert bertie...

42. rondoloo house is fast asleep...

but suddenly everybody gets startled by a heavy shattering of
glass!...

43. the living room of rondoloo house looks pitiful...

and the residents search for an explanation...
- *they simply don't wanna do things together...*
- *they simply hold a grudge...*

(but meanwhile in the cellar life simply goes on as always...)
- *oh yes, today also i simply feel very much connected again with
the art of painting...*

THE END