

Story

Emma returns to her childhood village, Campoverde Foggiano, after many years. The rural village, once vibrant and full of life, is now a shadow of its former self: abandoned farms, closed markets, and a steadily declining population. Emma's grandmother warmly welcomes her and takes her on a walk through the village, explaining how many families were forced to leave, unable to sustain themselves economically due to a lack of innovation and resources. The overgrown fields and "For Sale" signs on once-thriving farms weigh heavily on Emma's heart, but her grandmother's quiet hope ignites a spark within her.

The situation becomes more troubling when Emma comes across a distressing headline in the local newspaper: "Salvatore Scagliozi: Architect Plans to Buy Campoverde Foggiano." Scagliozi, a wealthy and ruthless entrepreneur, intends to turn the village into a luxury resort, disregarding its agricultural roots. Her grandmother reveals that some desperate farmers have already sold their land to Scagliozi for a pittance. Outraged, Emma vows to fight for the village's future.

At a village assembly, the mayor and residents express their despair over an uncertain future, fearing that Campoverde may disappear entirely. Emma proposes applying for European funds, specifically through the initiative "A Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas – Towards Stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous Rural Areas by 2040." Her proposal is met with skepticism from some residents, wary of the lengthy and complex bureaucratic process, but Emma reassures them, offering to personally lead the application process. Her determination rekindles a new hope in the community.

While Emma and her grandmother work tirelessly on the challenging task of preparing the funding application, Scagliozi spreads false information, claiming that European funds are unreliable and cannot save the village. His propaganda shakes the confidence of some residents, but Emma, bolstered by her grandmother's unwavering support, refuses to give up. After weeks of hard work, an initial rejection, and revisions, the European funding is finally approved. Emma announces the news with excitement, and the village erupts in joy.

Shortly after, Emma receives an invitation to represent Campoverde at the prestigious European "Organic Day" competition in Brussels. Seeing this as a chance to showcase the village's potential, Emma and her grandmother create an innovative recipe: panzerotti, made with organic wheat and locally grown tomatoes. Despite setbacks, such as equipment failures and last-minute challenges, Emma's presentation at the competition wins over the judges. The recipe takes first prize, bringing international fame to Campoverde Foggiano.

With the funding and newfound recognition, the village begins to transform: solar panels and irrigation systems are installed, abandoned farms are restored, and the once-empty market square comes back to life. Tourists start visiting Campoverde to enjoy its organic food and rich cultural heritage, while younger generations begin to see a future in staying rather than leaving.

Defeated, Scagliozi leaves the village, while the community celebrates their victory and a fresh new beginning.

Pages ideas draft

Page 1: Arrival at Campoverde Foggiano

Panel 1:

- Scene: A train arrives at the small, quiet Campoverde Foggiano station. Fields surround the area, some overgrown and unkempt. Emma steps off the train, holding a trendy backpack and wearing ripped jeans, a hoodie, and sneakers.
- Caption: "After years away, Emma returns to Campoverde Foggiano, the village she once called home."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma gazes at the quiet landscape, her expression a mix of curiosity and sadness. The empty street stretches ahead.
- Emma (thought bubble): "It's so quiet... what happened to this place?"

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Grandma, wearing a shawl and traditional clothing, waves excitedly from the platform.
- Grandma : “Emma! Over here, dear!”
- Emma : “Grandma! I’ve missed you so much.”

Page 2: Walking Through the Village

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma and Grandma walk through the village. They pass abandoned houses with faded paint and “For Sale” signs. The streets are empty.
- Emma : “Where is everyone?”
- Grandma : “Most people moved away. There’s no work left here.”

Panel 2 (Flashback):

- Scene: A vibrant Campoverde from years ago. Children play in the square, the market is bustling, and the fields are green and thriving.
- Caption: “Emma remembers how the village once was—full of life and joy.”

Panel 3 (Present):

- Scene: The same square, now empty and run-down. The stalls are closed, and weeds grow through the pavement.
- Emma : “I can’t believe it... it’s like a ghost town.”

Page 3: The Market Visit

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Grandma takes Emma to the remaining market. A few small stalls sell vegetables, but it’s quiet compared to the flashback.
- Caption: “The heart of the village is barely beating.”

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma picks up a wilted tomato from a stall. The vendor, a tired-looking farmer, shakes his head apologetically.
- Emma : “Why are they like this?”
- Vendor : “The irrigation system is too old. We can’t grow enough.”

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Grandma squeezes Emma’s hand as they leave the market.
- Grandma : “Without money or innovation, we can’t compete.”

Page 4: Exploring the Abandoned Farms

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma and Grandma walk past rows of abandoned farms. Each has a “For Sale” sign on the gate. Weeds cover the paths.
- Caption: “The dreams of Campoverde’s families, left behind.”

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma stops in front of an old gate, recognizing it as her childhood home. The fields are overgrown, and the barn looks ready to collapse.
- Emma : “This was our farm... I can still remember how alive it was.”

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Grandma rests her hand on Emma’s shoulder.
- Grandma : “We tried to hold on, but there wasn’t enough to make a living.”

Page 5: The Village Assembly

Panel 1 :

- Scene: The village hall is half-empty, with a mix of farmers, shopkeepers, and elders sitting quietly. A banner hangs loosely, reading: "Save Campoverde Foggiano."
- Caption: "The village gathers to discuss its uncertain future."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: The mayor speaks at the front, holding a microphone, visibly tired and worried.
- Mayor : "We're running out of options. There's no money to invest in innovation. If we don't act, Campoverde Foggiano will disappear."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma raises her hand, her eyes determined.
- Emma : "What about European funds? Specifically, the 'Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas – Towards Stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous Rural Areas by 2040'? It supports villages like ours."

Panel 4 :

- Scene: The villagers murmur among themselves, some skeptical, others intrigued.
- Villager 1 : "Isn't that program for big towns?"
- Villager 2 : "It sounds complicated..."

Page 6: Introducing Salvatore Scagliozi

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma and Grandma sit at the dining table that evening. Grandma serves Emma a bowl of pasta as Emma flips through a local newspaper.
- Emma : "Let's see what's happening in the area."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma freezes, staring at a bold newspaper headline: "Salvatore Scagliozi: Developer Plans to Buy Campoverde Foggiano."
- Caption: "A wealthy developer with a notorious reputation is targeting the village."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: The article shows a photograph of Salvatore Scagliozi, a sharply dressed businessman with a smirk. A quote reads: "This village has potential for luxury estates and resorts. Its agricultural future is over."
- Emma : "This can't be happening..."

Panel 4 :

- Scene: Grandma looks worried, sitting down across from Emma.
- Grandma : "Salvatore Scagliozi has been eyeing the village for years. He wants to buy up the farms for pennies and build resorts."

Page 7: Conflict with Salvatore

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma reads the rest of the article, which highlights that Scagliozi has already convinced some farmers to sell their land.
- Caption: "Some villagers, desperate for money, have started selling to Scagliozi."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: A flashback of Scagliozi meeting with a farmer, shaking hands. The farmer looks defeated while Scagliozi grins confidently.
- Caption: "He thrives on desperation and promises riches that never come."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma clenches her fists, her eyes filled with determination.
- Emma : "We can't let him win. We have to fight back."

Panel 4 :

- Scene: Grandma nods, holding Emma's hand.
- Grandma : "If anyone can stand up to him, it's you, Emma."

Page 8: Emma's Proposal at the Assembly

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Back at the village hall, Emma presents the "A Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas" project on a projector. The villagers listen attentively.
- Emma : "This program supports innovative farming, renewable energy, and connecting rural communities by 2040."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: A skeptical farmer raises his hand.
- Farmer : "But how do we know we'll get the funding? Scagliozi already has cash in hand."
- Emma : "We can't give up just because it's difficult. This is our chance to rebuild."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: The mayor speaks up, looking at Emma.
- Mayor : "If you lead the application, Emma, we'll all stand behind you."

Page 9: Scagliozi Interferes

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma works on the application at her grandmother's kitchen table. Suddenly, there's a knock at the door.
- Grandma : "Who could that be?"

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Salvatore Scagliozi stands at the door, flanked by two assistants in suits. He holds a briefcase and smirks.
- Scagliozi : "Good evening, ladies. I hear you're trying to save the village."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma crosses her arms, glaring at him.
- Emma : "We don't need your help, Mr. Scagliozi."

Panel 4 :

- Scene: Scagliozi leans in slightly, his voice calm but threatening.
- Scagliozi : "You think European funds will save this place? That's a pipe dream. Sell to me, and I'll make sure you live comfortably."

Panel 5 :

- Scene: Emma's eyes narrow.
- Emma : "We're not selling. Leave."

Page 10: Rallying the Village

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma gathers villagers in the square, showing them progress on the EU application.
- Emma : "We're stronger together. We don't need Scagliozi. We just need to believe in Campoverde's future."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: A farmer nods, his confidence growing.
- Farmer : "Let's do it. Let's save the village!"

Page 11: Scagliozi's Sabotage

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Scagliozzi is in his sleek office, speaking on the phone with a smirk. Behind him are blueprints for luxury estates labeled "Campoverde Development Plan."
- Scagliozzi : "Spread the word: the EU funding is a bureaucratic nightmare. No one will get a cent in time to save their land."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: A group of worried farmers stands in the square, reading a flyer Scagliozzi distributed. The flyer reads: "EU grants: Delays, Denials, and Dead Ends!"
- Farmer 1 : "He might be right... how can we trust this will work?"
- Farmer 2 : "Maybe selling is the safest option."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma storms into the square, holding the EU application papers.
- Emma : "Don't let him scare you! The EU funding is real, and we're closer than ever to approval!"

Panel 4 :

- Scene: A young farmer steps forward, skeptical but hopeful.
- Farmer 3 : "If you're so sure, Emma, then prove it."

Page 12: Application Approved

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma sits at her grandmother's kitchen table, refreshing her email. Her face lights up as she reads: "Application Approved."
- Emma : "Yes! We did it!"

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma bursts into the square, waving her phone.
- Emma : "The EU approved our funding! Campoverde is officially a part of the Long-term Vision for Rural Areas!"

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Villagers cheer, hugging one another.
- Farmer 1 : "This is the hope we needed."
- Farmer 2 : "Thank you, Emma!"

Page 13: Organic Day Competition Invitation

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Emma receives a formal envelope at Grandma's house. She opens it, reading aloud.
- Emma : "We've been invited to represent Campoverde at the Organic Day Competition in Brussels!"

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Grandma beams with pride.
- Grandma : "This is your chance to show the world what Campoverde can do."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma stands in front of a map of Italy, pointing to Brussels. Villagers gather around, ready to help.
- Emma : "Let's create a product that represents the best of Campoverde!"

Page 14-15: Preparations for the Competition

Montage Panels:

- Panel 1 : Emma and a group of villagers brainstorm ideas. A whiteboard reads: "Local Ingredients + Innovation."
 - Villager : "What about a new pasta recipe with organic wheat?"
- Panel 2 : A farmer harvests fresh wheat, while Emma inspects the grains.
 - Emma : "This is perfect!"
- Panel 3 : Grandma stirs a pot of sauce in the kitchen while Emma rolls out dough.

- Grandma : "This reminds me of when you were little."
- Panel 4 : Emma looks tired but determined, working late at night on the competition presentation.
- Emma (thinks): "This has to work."

Page 16: The Organic Day Competition

Panel 1 :

- Scene: A large exhibition hall in Brussels. Stalls from rural areas across Europe display organic products. Emma sets up a booth with the Campoverde logo.
- Caption: "The day of the competition arrives."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Judges approach Campoverde's stall, where a platter of pasta and sauce is beautifully arranged.
- Judge 1 : "This looks incredible. What's the story behind it?"

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma speaks confidently, gesturing toward a screen showing Campoverde's fields.
- Emma : "This recipe uses ancient grains and local tomatoes, grown sustainably thanks to EU innovation funding."

Panel 4 :

- Scene: Judges taste the pasta. Their faces light up.
- Judge 2 : "The flavor is outstanding. It's simple yet unique."

Page 17: Winning the Competition

Panel 1 :

- Scene: The stage is set for the awards ceremony. A presenter stands at the microphone.
- Presenter : "And the winner of the Organic Day Competition is... Campoverde Foggiano!"
- Caption: "Emma and her team achieve victory."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Emma holds up the trophy, tears in her eyes.
- Emma : "This is for everyone back home!"

Page 18: Campoverde's Revival

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Tourists explore Campoverde's revitalized square. Shops have reopened, and a new market bustles with activity.
- Caption: "Campoverde Foggiano becomes a model for rural innovation."

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Farmers install solar panels on barns, smiling as they work.
- Farmer : "We're finally moving forward."

Panel 3 :

- Scene: Emma helps a group of children plant trees near the school.
- Child : "This is fun!"

Page 19: Scagliozi's Defeat

Panel 1 :

- Scene: Scagliozi stands in his office, crumpling the Campoverde Development Plan blueprints.
- Scagliozi : "That village was supposed to be mine!"

Panel 2 :

- Scene: Scagliozi drives out of Campoverde, defeated, while villagers wave him off.
- Villager : "Good riddance!"

Page 20: A New Dawn

Full-page spread:

- Scene: A panoramic view of Campoverde Foggiano. The village is vibrant and alive: clean streets, flourishing farms, and happy families. Emma and Grandma sit on a bench overlooking the village.

- Grandma : "You brought this village back to life, Emma."

- Emma : "We did it together, Grandma. This is just the beginning."