

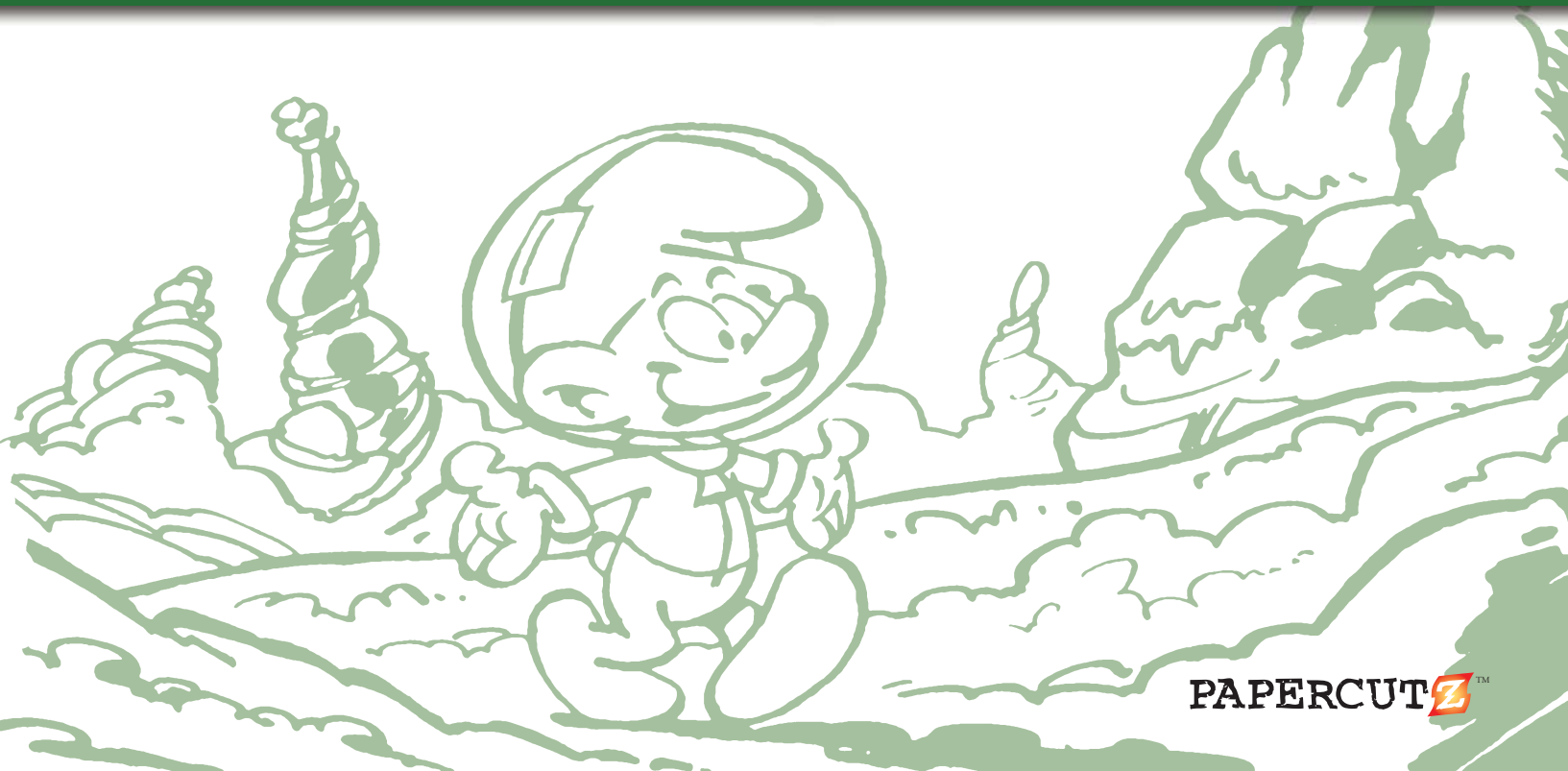


Peyo



the SMURFS

ANTHOLOGY



PAPERCUT 

DREAMY: A SMURF UNLIKE THE OTHERS, BUT MADE UP OF MANY

BY MATT. MURRAY, SMURFOLOGIST

A great philosopher* once asked: "Why are there so many songs about rainbows, and what's on the other side?"

As this philosopher alludes to in the rest of his text, one of the main themes that have run through fiction dating back to the origins of storytelling has been the pursuit of "the other" — that elusive goal which exists outside of the scope of normal vision, and *just* beyond the reach of those gifted enough to see it. For some fictional characters, this "other" manifests as a personal ideal or code of ethics — think Don Quixote's "Impossible Dream" — for others, it's a place — like Dorothy's Oz, or Shangri-La in James Hilton's *Lost Horizon*.

Knowing of Peyo and his collaborators' penchant for incorporating well-worn literary tropes into their comics, it should be no surprise to Smurfologists that a similar thread runs through a number of stories in THE SMURFS canon. It may seem odd on the surface, as the structure of THE SMURFS appears to be spun out of the need for sameness and properly fulfilling one's assigned role in order for society to properly function, but in these SMURFS comics — like "*Un Schtroumpf pas comme les autres*," which is translated for English speaking audiences in the following pages — there are SMURFS whose function is to go against the mold... to be that character who wishes for more, who dares to venture out into the great unknown... not only to show the Village and the reader all of the wonders that lie

beyond the confines of "normality," but to remind everyone that in many cases there really is no place like home.

What's truly intriguing about Peyo's comics is not that these stories and characters exist within the SMURFS canon, but there are so many of them. Taking the stories at face value, and assuming that each one deals with an individual, different SMURF, the comics introduce us to (amongst others): Aerosmurf (the Flying Smurf), Astromurf, and the aforementioned "Smurf Unlike the Others," which previous translations have identified as Travelling Smurf, the Wandering Smurf, and even Thankful Smurf (due to the story's resolution.) By the time the animation team at Hanna-Barbera began their process of adapting these characters for their popular Saturday morning cartoon, there were so many of these SMURFS "unlike the others"



* FROG, K.T., ET AL. "RAINBOW CONNECTION"
BY PAUL WILLIAMS AND KENNETH ASCHER, 1979.

THE SMURFS AND THE HOWLIBIRD

