

# Bradl

## Vol. 1-3

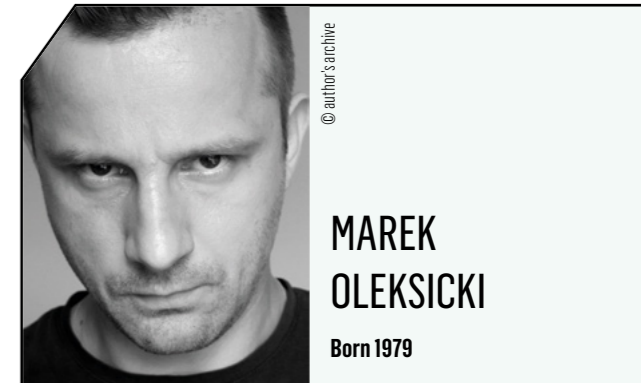


### Members of the Polish resistance clash with Nazis in the noir style

The eponymous name *Bradl* is one of the many pseudonyms of Kazimierz Leski, an ace of Polish counterintelligence during World War Two. His wartime biography is full of daring missions carried out throughout Europe. The first two volumes of the graphic novel by Marek Oleksicki and Tobiasz Piątkowski recount the beginnings of Leski's underground journey against the background of a Warsaw occupied by the Germans. In the context of other comics devoted to the 20th-century history of Poland, *Bradl* distinguishes itself by its page design and the artists' innovative approach to the subject. The difference is immediately signaled by the cover art, which connects to recognizable pop culture conventions – from horror to American superhero fiction. In fact, both artists tend to lean toward the noir style, creating a portrait of a mysterious Warsaw, atypical for Polish conditions, bathed in shadow, where members of a special unit of the Polish Underground State mercilessly clash with the ruthless forces of the occupier.

In addition to Leski, there is a gallery of equally colorful and diverse characters, who constitute the core of the "Musketeers" intelligence organization, methodically unraveling the actions and intentions of the Germans toward the Polish nation. We wander with them through Warsaw's nightclubs, run through secret passages in the sewers, and prepare clever traps for enemy agents hunting the conspirators. The comic also includes beautiful, determined women and a classic, dark character, whose scar-covered face menaces us from the cover of the first volume. Oleksicki and Piątkowski prove that one can present this painful period of history in an appealing way. *Bradl* is also a visual feast full of expressive panels as well as a historical story whose uniqueness lies in the skillful manipulation of pop cultural patterns.

Tomasz Miecznikowski, translated by Peter Obst



#### *Bradl* (volumes 1-3)

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**Marek Oleksicki** has illustrated such works as *Odmieniec*, *Ursynowska Specgrupa od Rozwałki*, and for US publishers: *Frankenstein's Womb*, 2009  
*28 days later*, episode 5, 2010  
*Zero*, episode 14, 2015  
*The Darkness: Close Your Eyes*, 2014

**Tobiasz Piątkowski** is the writer of such comic books as *Status 7* series, *48 stron*, *Rezydent*, *Koszmary zebrane*, *Pierwsza brygada*, *Nowe przygody Stasia i NeI*, and many others.