

Lou



STEFFI FROSSARD

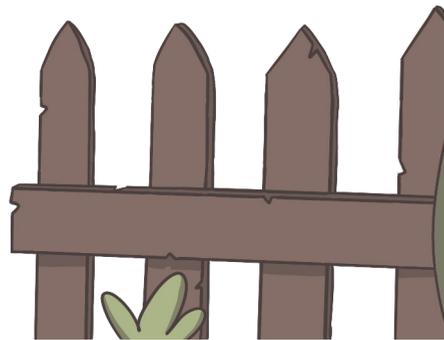
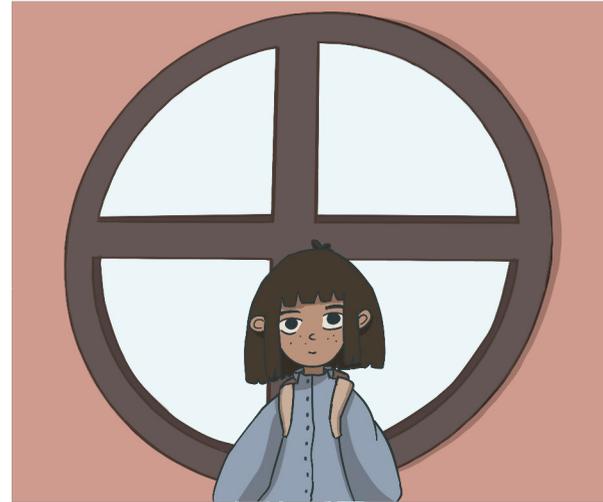
Lou

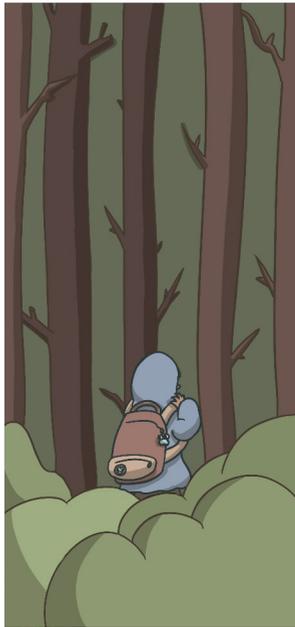


Lou has always been enthusiastic about adventures. She packed binoculars, a snack, a pocket knife and lemonade into her backpack. She opened the window of her room and took a look outside. The fresh morning air met her face. Finally, the time had come. Her grandmother's amulet was safely hidden under her jacket. She took a deep breath, it was time to go.



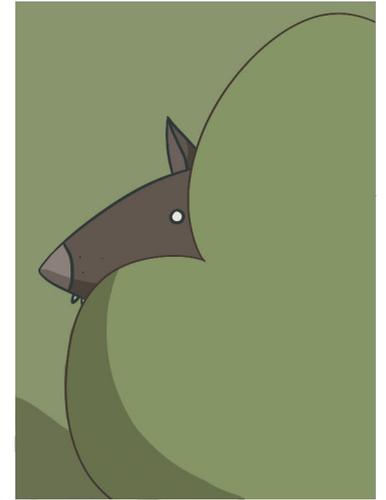
The weather was perfect. Lou stealthily climbed out the window and carefully jumped onto the small canopy below. She took one last look into the garden to make sure that no one could see her. Then she climbed carefully, with the help of the support beam down into the garden. finally she was outside.

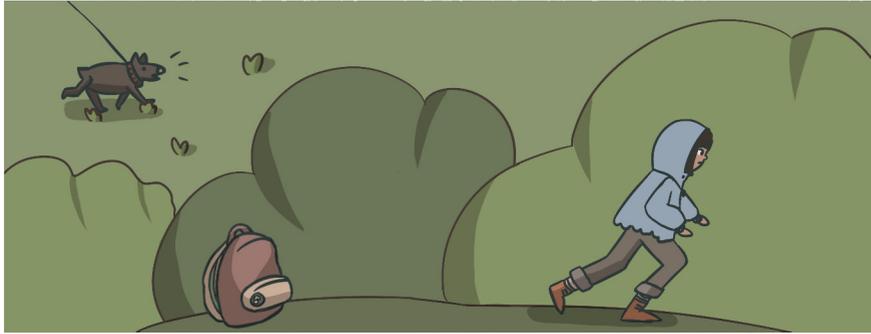




Lou immediately put on her hood and turned around the corner into a thicket of trees. »*Gruu, crunch, chirp.*« The cheerful Sounds of the forest caused Lou to suppress a small tear. She looked determinedly at the object in her hand and paused. She had had the amulet since she could think. Now it showed her the the way to the meeting place.

Before she could continue on her way, she heard a noise in her immediate vicinity. She could perceive footsteps in her direction. Quickly she hurried in the opposite direction. It was certainly not her intention to be caught. Deftly she slipped through dense undergrowth and hid in the thicket. The smell of her food must have given her away. As quietly as possible, Lou put her backpack down. With a strained breath, she pressed herself deeper into the bushes.

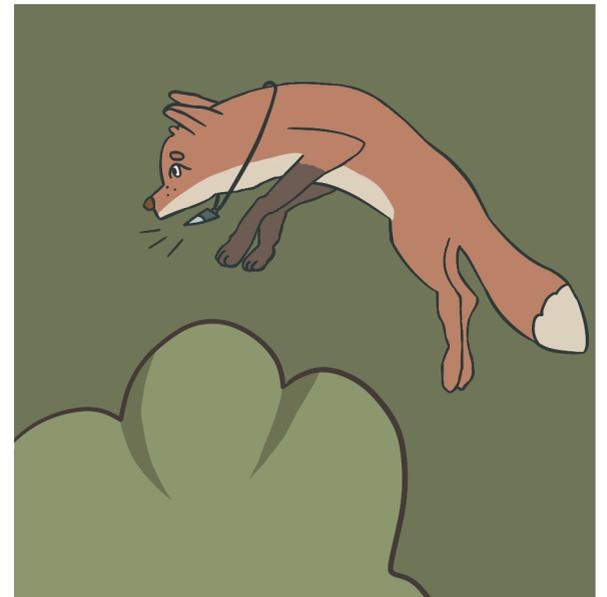
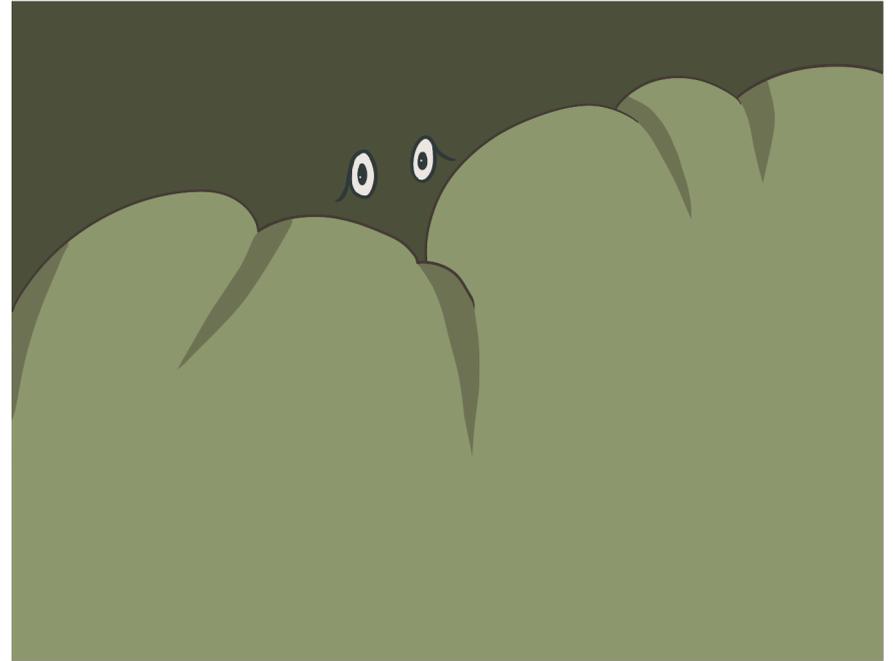
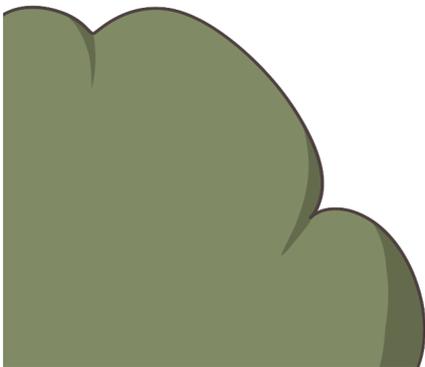


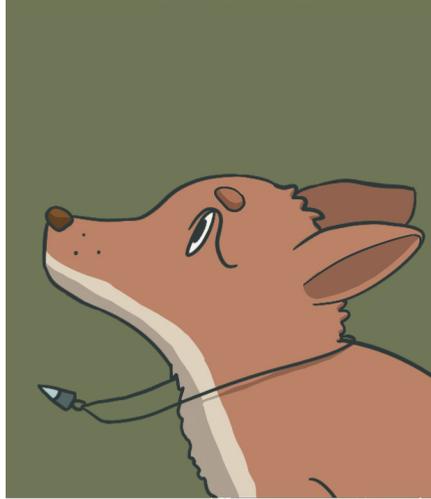


She couldn't get caught, because breaking the curfew would result in severe punishment, but she couldn't abandon her friend. No time to think, the backpack had to serve as a distraction. As she struggled through the thicket, the barking in the distance faded, the dogs had found her backpack. After she finally reached her rendezvous point at the edge of the clearing, everything lay still before her.

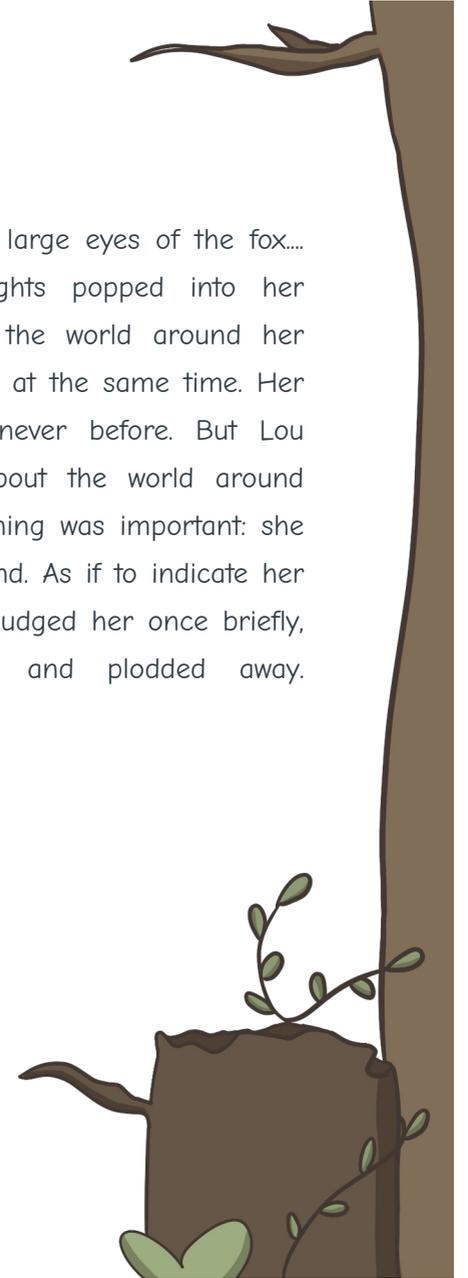


Lou looked nervously around at the edge of the forest. She took off her hood to make herself recognizable, when she spotted two glowing eyes inside the thicket, staring straight at her. Suddenly, the figure jumped out of the bushes straight toward her. In front of her stood a red fox, who also wore an amulet around his neck. With cautious steps and a beating heart she approached him.



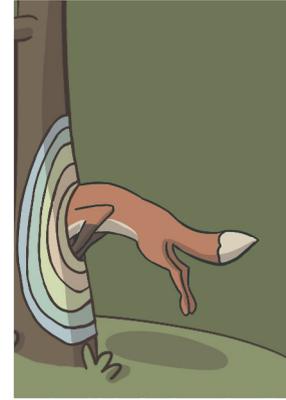
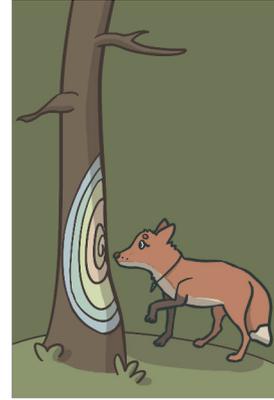


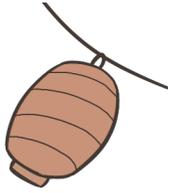
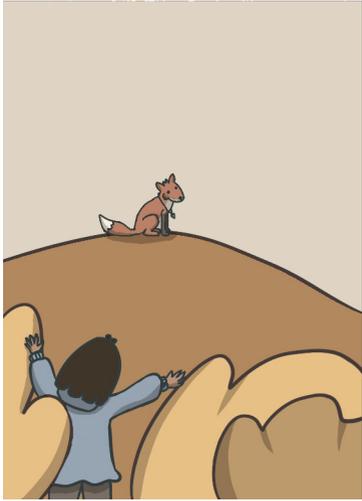
She looked into the large eyes of the fox... Thousands of thoughts popped into her head. It was as if the world around her raced and stood still at the same time. Her amulet shone like never before. But Lou no longer cared about the world around her, now only one thing was important: she had to help her friend. As if to indicate her to come along, he nudged her once briefly, then turned away and plodded away.



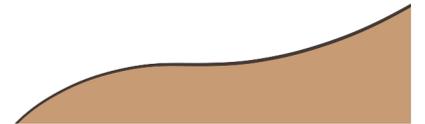


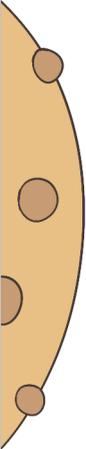
After the fox touched the trunk of a tree with its nose, Lou saw a colorful glow. The fox paused briefly, then disappeared into the portal. Lou bit her lip. Where could the Portal lead? She heard barking in the distance. She had to decide now. Without thinking, she threw herself through the trunk of the tree. Suddenly it was bright and she felt as if she was flying. Lou felt herself plop down on something rustling. When her eyes adjusted again to the light, she could see the orange-yellow foliage that had cushioned her fall.



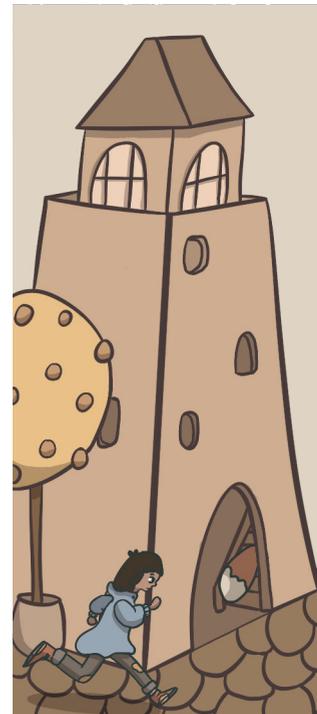
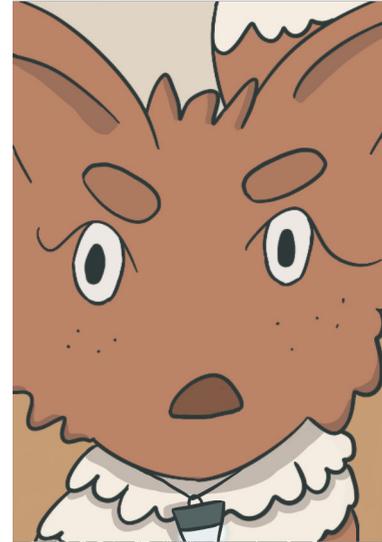


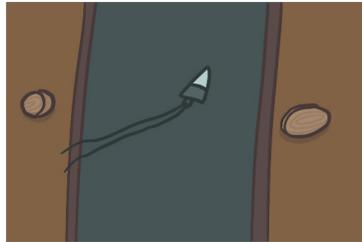
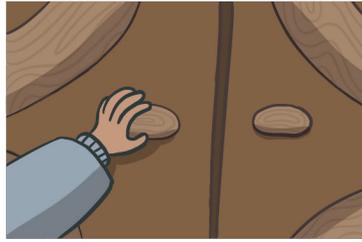
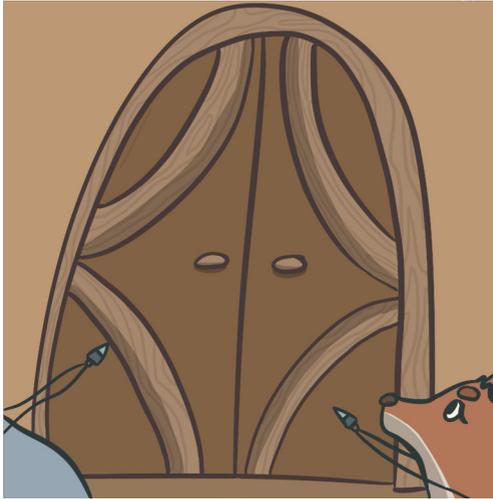
Quickly Lou picked herself up and saw that she was on a hill. She spotted the fox already waiting for her at the beginning of a narrow path. Together they trudged briskly down the steep path, straight toward the small town that stretched out before them in the valley. Cheerful music, boisterous laughter and muffled, distant voices reached Lou's ears, her eyes fell on paper dragons gliding along the edge of the town on gentle gusts of night. *»This is the city of a thousand lights.«* a soft calm voice sounded behind her, bringing her out of her thoughts.





»We must reach the top of the tower before the fifth gong strikes! The city needs the amulets, otherwise it will go out and never shine again. They use the Curfews to get to them. The guard patrols were after the amulet, not you.«
Lou was now certain that this was more than a simple mission. They hurried on to the tower.
»Your amulet is different Lou. You need it to...«
The third gong interrupted the fox. Lou's heart began to beat faster and faster »Quick! We're out of time! We have to hurry!«





When they finally reached the top, they suddenly found themselves in front of a strange door. Lou moved her hand to the golden knob to open it. The fifth gong sounded. She turned the knob, the door popped open and the amulet flew out of her hand into the room. »Come“ said the fox. She entered the room and had to chatch her breath. Scattered on the floor were thousands of Amulets like hers. Only a narrow path led from the door, between the amulets, to a large large damaged crystal bell. In the middle of the room she recognized her amulet by the broken chain.



»Whew! Just in time!« sounded the voice of the fox behind her. A bright beam of light formed around the crack in the crystal bell. As if by magic, all the amulets were drawn, into the dazzling light. Together they sealed the damaged area and the shimmering crystal bell began to ring. »Well done Lou! The amulet has been returned and the city can continue to shine!« echoed Lou's ears. Together they looked down at the bustling city.

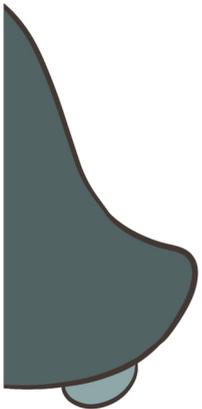
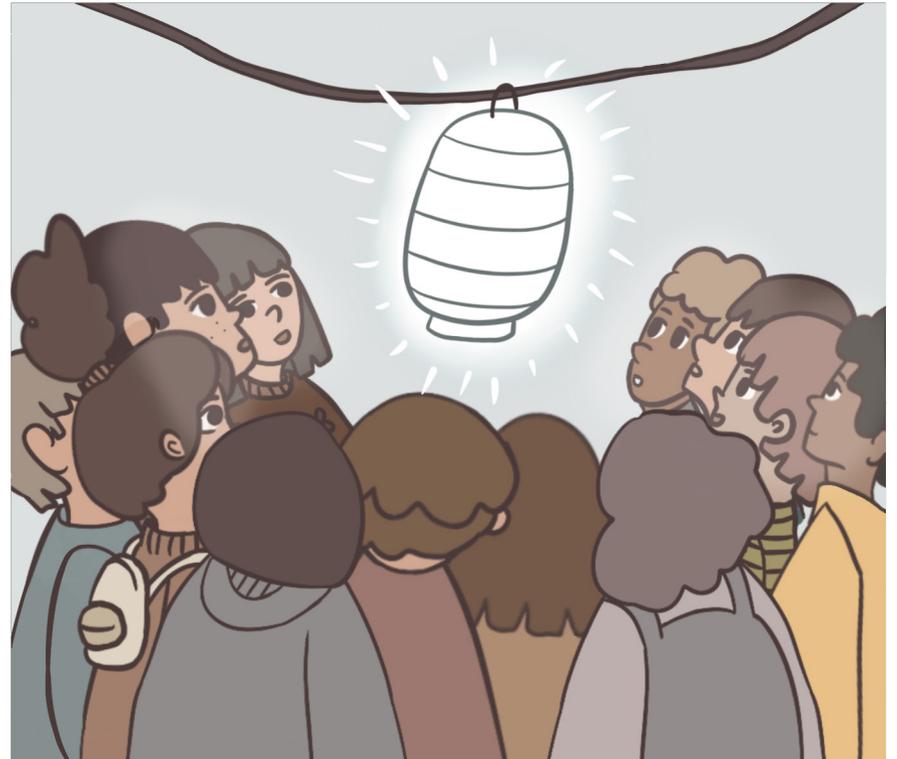
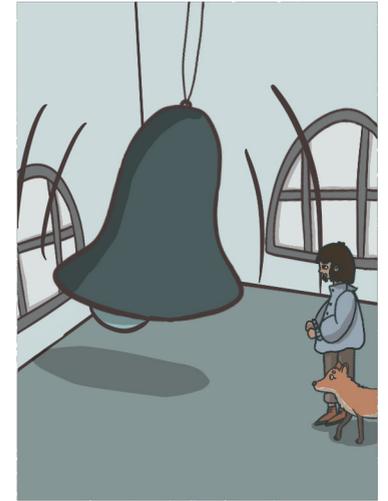




Illustration
& Layout

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The text for »Lou« was created with the help of 19 people. They each contributed three to seven sentences and thus wrote an unpredictable story one after the other.

