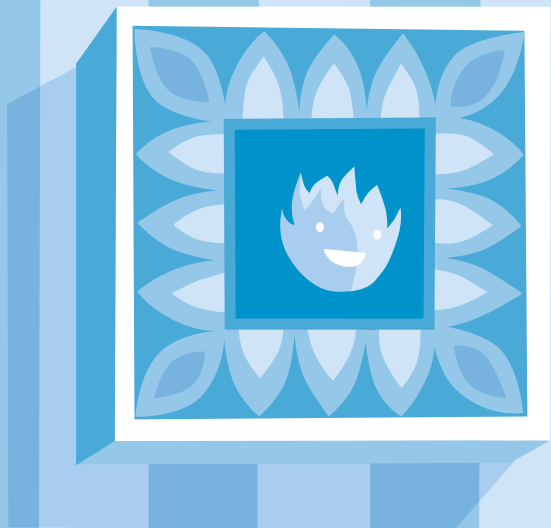


Ara & the Fox of Friend- ship





Ara & the Fox of Friend- ship

jfml





One night Ara
awoke to find her
companion the Fox of
Friendship gone. And
the window was open. Had
he been kidnapped?
Ara decided to
investigate.




She put on her cloak and gently tapped against her lamp to wake up the fire elemental inside and fed it some coals.





On her way she passed the statue of the sleeping Buffalo God, dreaming of the monsoon.


Sleeping at the god's feet gives you her protection and people would not dare to shoo you away.

A whimsical illustration of a city at night. A giant, pink, dragon-like creature with a long neck and a large eye serves as a bridge over a chasm. A young girl with dark skin, wearing a blue shirt and a pink skirt, stands on the bridge, holding a glowing yellow lantern. In the background, a city with various buildings and towers is visible, some with smoke rising from them. A small orange airship floats in the dark, starry sky. The scene is lit with a warm, orange glow from the lantern and the airship.

Did the
Fox of Friendship
come this
way?

Yes, I let him
cross a while ago.
He went into
the city.






Sparrowguard!
Catguard! Have
you seen the Fox
of Friendship?


Yes, he was
heading to
the Labyrinth
of Books!

The Shadow Queen,
who is the guardian,
archivist and librarian of
the countless books in
the labyrinth, walked with
Ara the same route the
fox had taken.






The Shadow Queen
brought Ara to Three
Sisters Gate, where
Jahnja was keeping
watch.



Not many
people go through
this gate because you
have to answer a
riddle to pass:

You feed it,
it lives, you give
it something
to drink, it
dies.

...
It's fire!



Behind the
gate was the grove
of the White Hare where
it was always winter.
Suddenly Ara heard
a great crash!



O dearest
fox! Are you
hurt? And what
are you doing
here?

Hello Ara!
I'm fine,
I just got
stuck.

And I'm the
Fox of Friendship,
it's my calling to roam
city & country at night
to look for people
who are lost.



But what
are we going to
do? I don't think
I can lift this
tree.

You
poor thing!
Let me help
you!






The lady looked a bit scary but she had just helped to save the fox, so they went back to her camp and she told them her story.

My name is Nin. Some time ago I lost my home because the Fire Rooster decided to sit on my roof making my house burn down. I tried to rescue my most favourite stones. That's where I got my scars. I'm a geologist, you see.

Thank you for helping my friend, I'm Ara.

So you don't have a home? There is a treehouse in the garden behind our house. You could sleep there tonight.



A stylized illustration of a night scene. A large, dark brown tree with many branches dominates the center. Numerous purple and pink owls are perched on the branches. In the foreground, a boy with dark hair, wearing a grey tunic and blue trousers with an orange sash, is running towards the right. A girl with dark skin, wearing a blue top and a pink skirt, is running towards the left, holding a glowing lantern. A white wolf is running in the bottom left corner. The background is a dark blue night sky with small white stars. There are some purple and orange flowers on the left side. Two speech bubbles are present: one in the top right and one in the middle right.

Because it had been some time since Nin had slept under a roof they set off. On the way home they tip-toed past the Parliament of Owls.

(The Owl Thieves Guild has a permanent seat in the Owl Parliament.)



They had
breakfast with Ara's
parents the next morning
and decided that their
house could be Nin's
base to return to from
her geology
expeditions.





