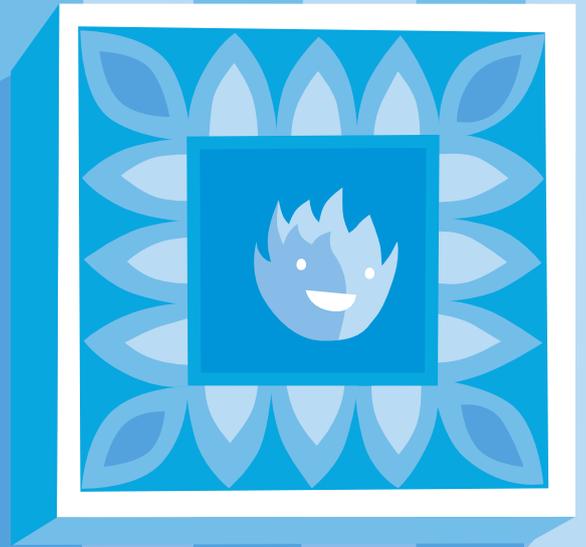


Ara & the FOX of Friend- ship





Ara
& the
FOX of
Friend-
ship

jfml





One night Ara awoke to find the Fox of Friendship was not on her bed. And the window was open. Had he been kidnapped? Ara decided to go and find out.



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





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

The god protects
anyone who rests
at her feet – no
one would dare
shoo them away.





Catclock!
Have you seen
the Fox of
Friendship?

You
should be
in bed.



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,
the guardian and librarian
of the countless books in
the labyrinth, walked with
Ara to show her which
way the fox had gone.





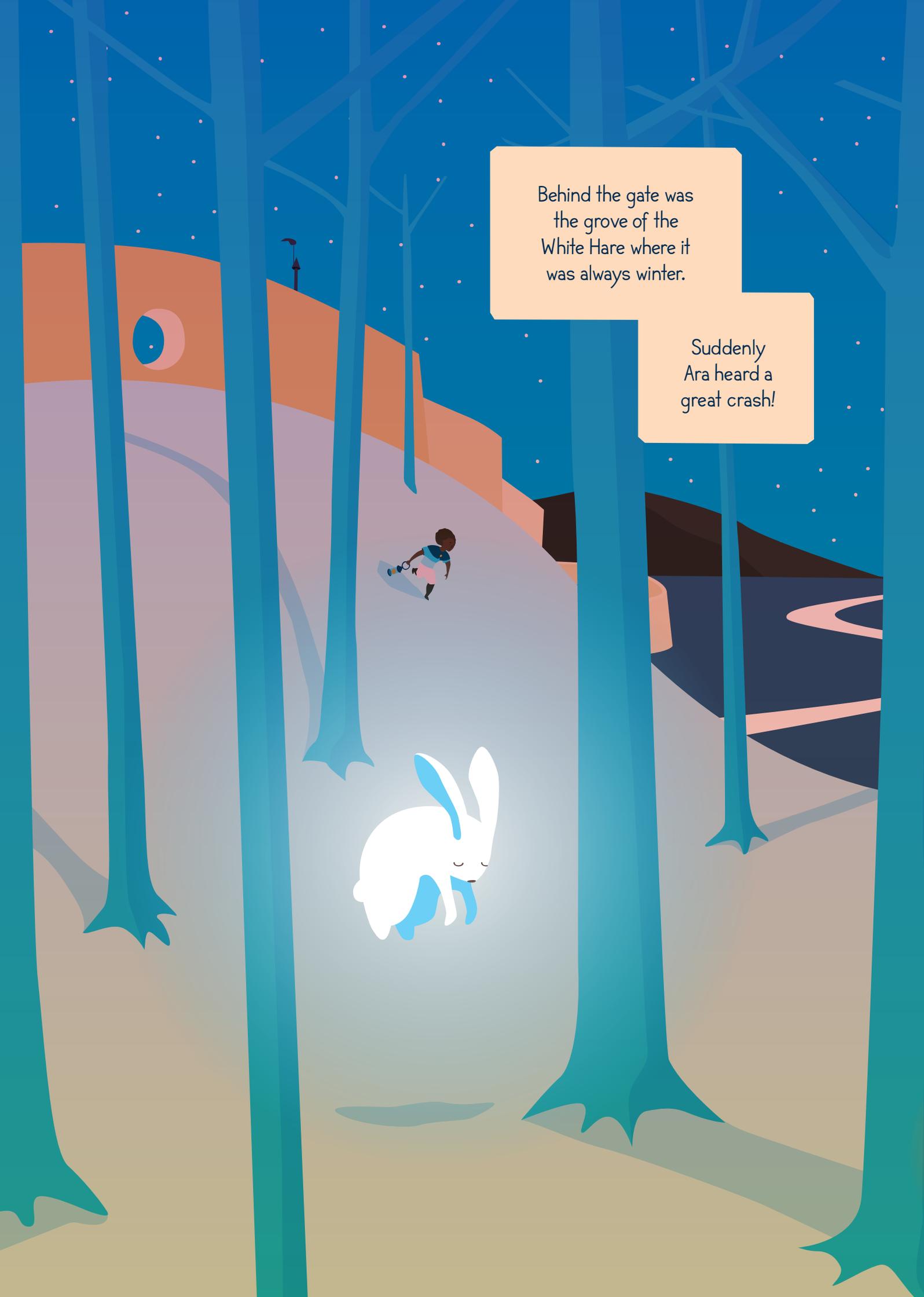
The Shadow Queen
brought Ara to
Three Sisters Gate,
where Jahnja was
keeping watch.

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

If you feed it, it lives. But if you give it something to drink, it dies. What is it?

...
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, but my
tail got trapped
when the tree
fell.

You know
I'm the Fox of
Friendship! I must
roam city and 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 woman 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.
I'm a geologist - I go all over the world to find interesting rocks. But when the Fire Rooster came and sat on my roof, my house burnt down. I tried to rescue my most favourite stones. That's where I got my scars.

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

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





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

Nin had not slept under a roof for a long time so she was glad to come. On the way home they tip-toed past the Parliament of Owls.

They took the ferry back into the city,
not knowing that a
surprise was waiting
for them at home.



Ara's parents were awake and they had a midnight feast! They decided that their house could be Nin's base to return to from her geology expeditions.

So Nin would not have to sleep in the treehouse after all but could slumber in a cozy bed.

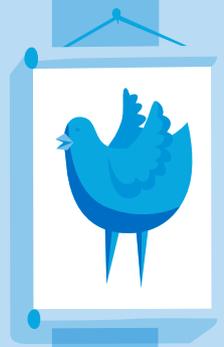




After they finally all went to bed, the fox fell asleep last. He could hear Nin snoring quietly in the room next door. It had been a successful night for the Fox of Friendship!









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The Fox of
Friendship has gone missing!

Follow Ara on her search through the
nightly city full of strange creatures
and wonderful places.

Will she find him? And what is he
doing out and about in the
middle of the night
anyway?