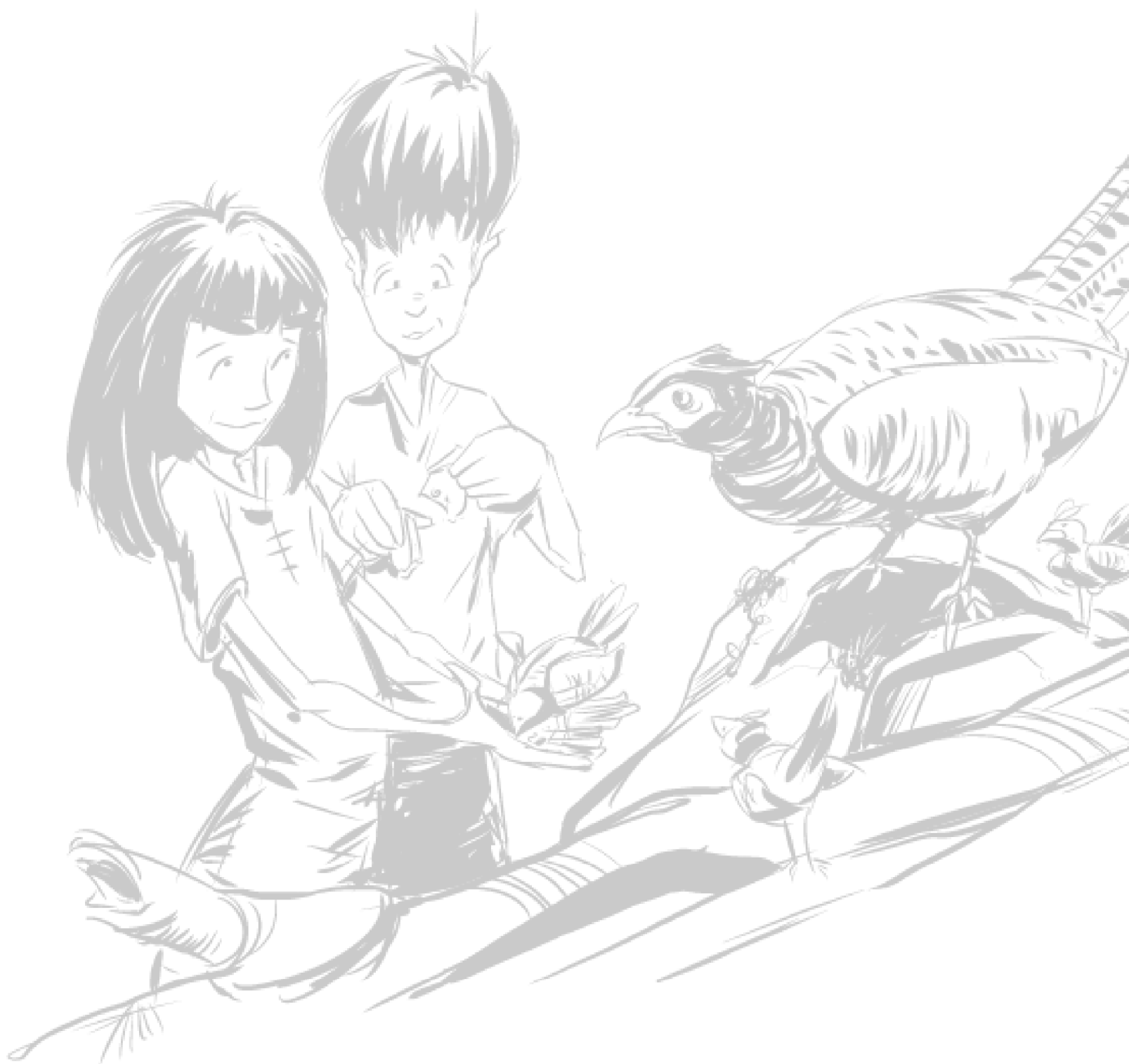


COSMO'S APPLES



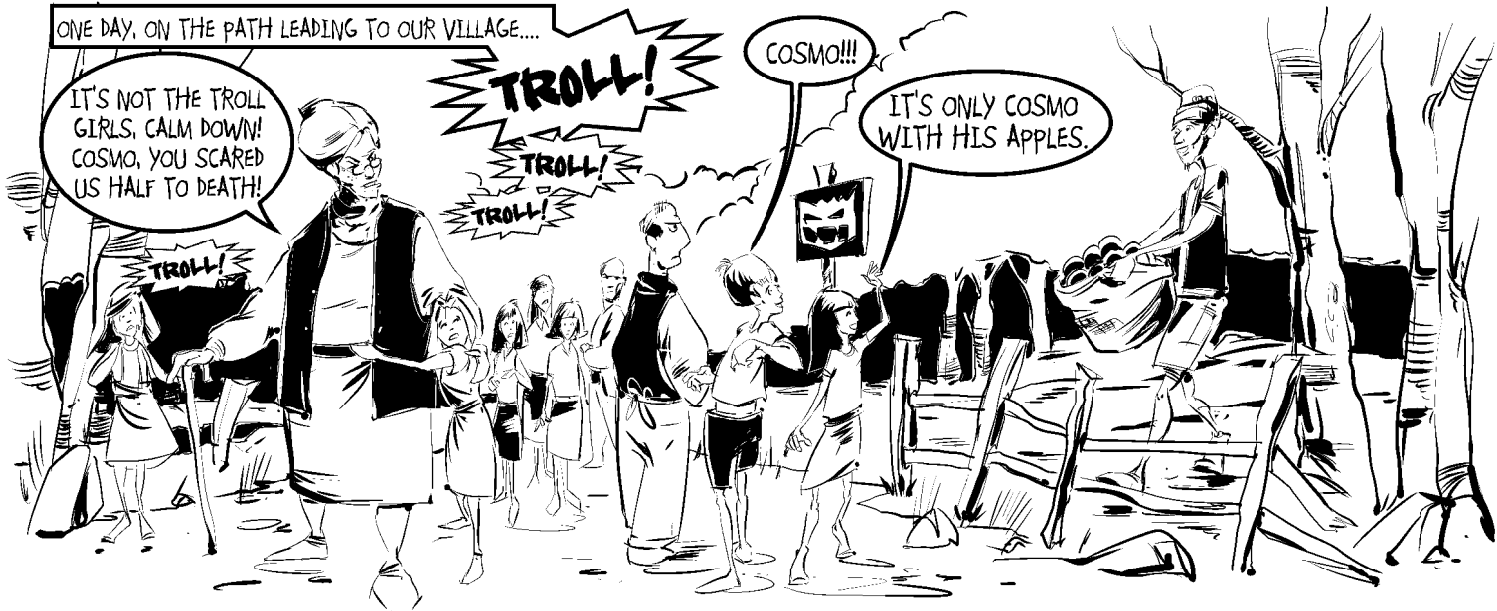


COSMO'S APPLES

story and illustrations by Ethan, Natalie and John Bleau



ONE DAY, ON THE PATH LEADING TO OUR VILLAGE...



IT'S NOT THE TROLL GIRLS, CALM DOWN! COSMO, YOU SCARED US HALF TO DEATH!

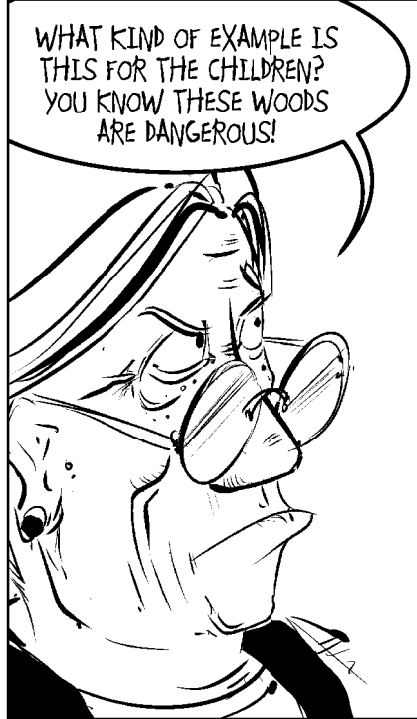
TROLL!

TROLL!

TROLL!

COSMO!!!

IT'S ONLY COSMO WITH HIS APPLES.



WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE IS THIS FOR THE CHILDREN? YOU KNOW THESE WOODS ARE DANGEROUS!



IT WASN'T COSMO'S FIRST SCOLDING...

ARE THOSE APPLES WORTH GETTING CAUGHT BY A TROLL?



LADY ELLIS JUST WANTS US SAFE.

POOR COSMO, HE MEANS WELL.



LADY ELLIS HAS BEEN TELLING CHILDREN HER STORY ABOUT A TROLL LIVING IN THE WOODS FOR YEARS.

THE EVIL TROLL CHASED ME THROUGH THE FOREST, TRYING TO CUT OFF MY HAIR FOR HIS STEW!

COSMO NEVER SEEMS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT TROLLS...

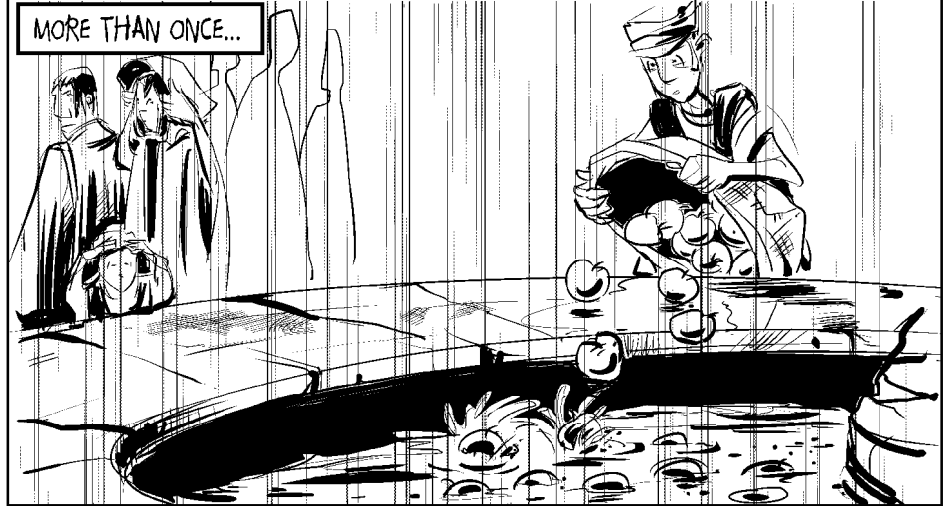
COSMO ISN'T AFRAID. HE GOES INTO THE FOREST ALL THE TIME FOR THOSE DELICIOUS APPLES.



HE NEVER SEEMS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT MUCH OF ANYTHING.

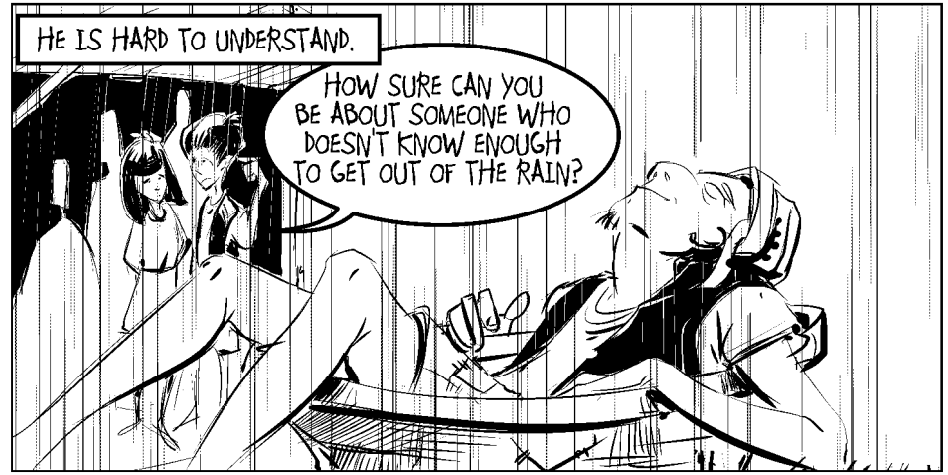


MORE THAN ONCE...



HE IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

HOW SURE CAN YOU BE ABOUT SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN?



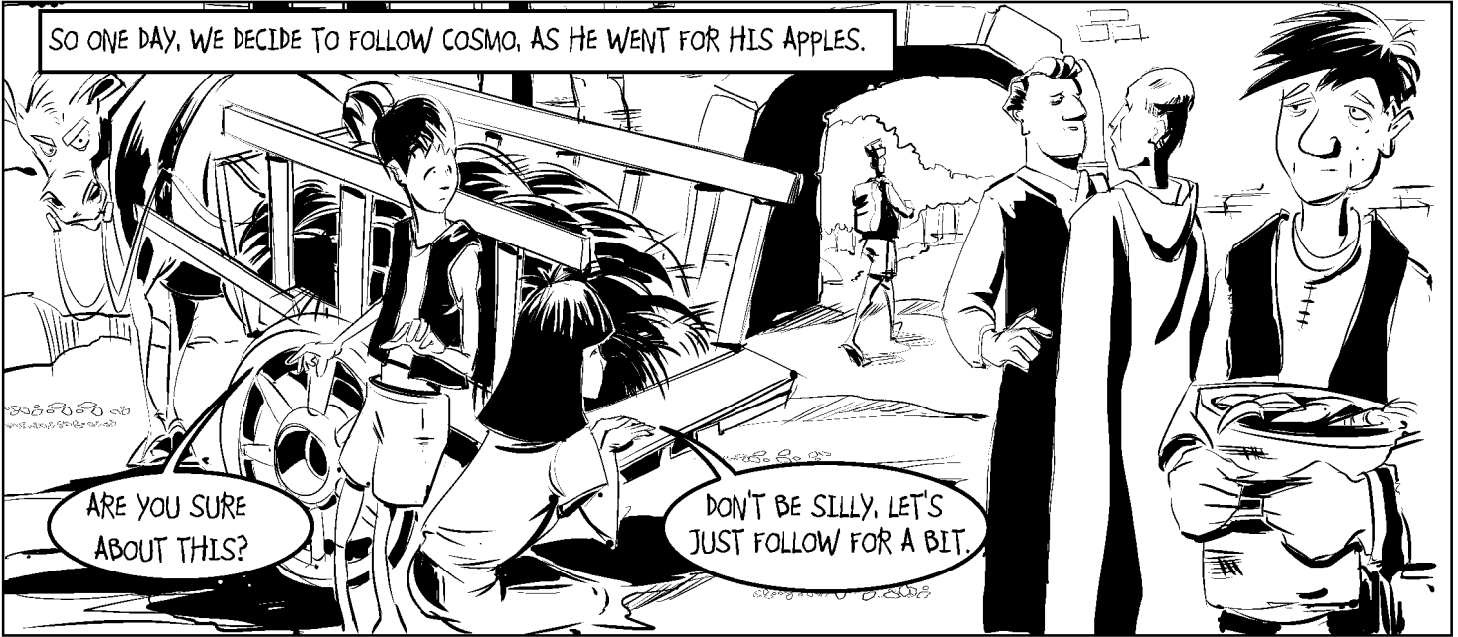
IN FACT, THE TOWN THINKS COSMO IS QUITE ODD...



MAYBE HE'S A BIT FOOLISH, BUT HE'S NOT AFRAID OF OLD STORIES.



SO ONE DAY, WE DECIDE TO FOLLOW COSMO, AS HE WENT FOR HIS APPLES.



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

DON'T BE SILLY, LET'S JUST FOLLOW FOR A BIT.

PAST THE WARNING SIGNS...



AFTER A LITTLE COAXING WE FOLLOW HIM.

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS HOW COSMO GETS HIS APPLES? I THINK HE KNOWS WHERE THE TROLL LIVES.



DEEP INTO THE WOODS.





WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE TROLL LOOKS LIKE.

I'LL BET COSMO DOES!



THERE ARE MANY TWISTS AND TURNS, BUT MY BROTHER WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW COSMO'S TRAIL.

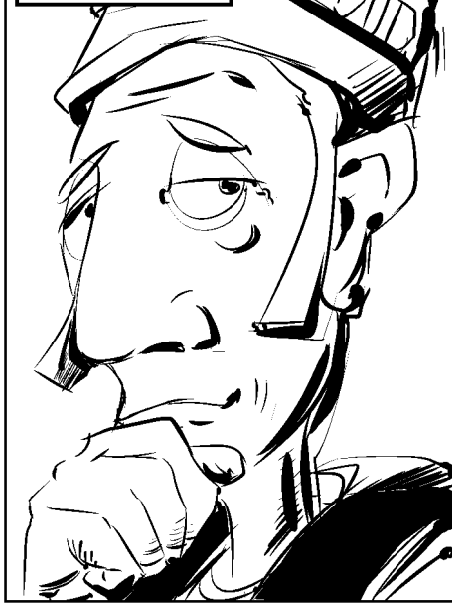
FINALLY, COSMO LEADS US TO A HUGE STONE WITH AN APPLE TREE HIGH ON TOP. I WAS SURE, THIS MUST BE WHERE THE TROLL LIVES. IF WE WERE PATIENT, QUIET, AND STILL, HE WOULD SOON APPEAR.



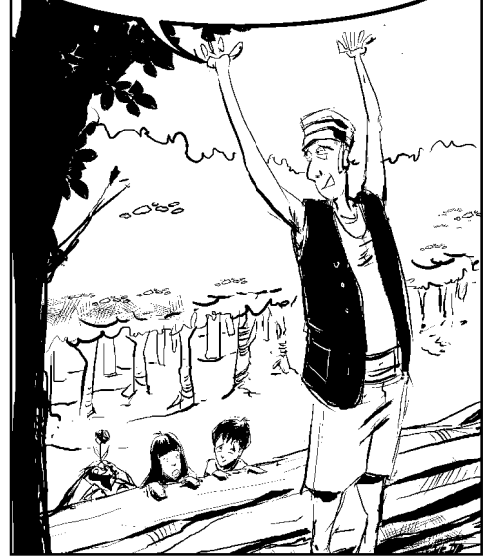
WE STAY HIDDEN AND SILENT.



THEN SUDDENLY....



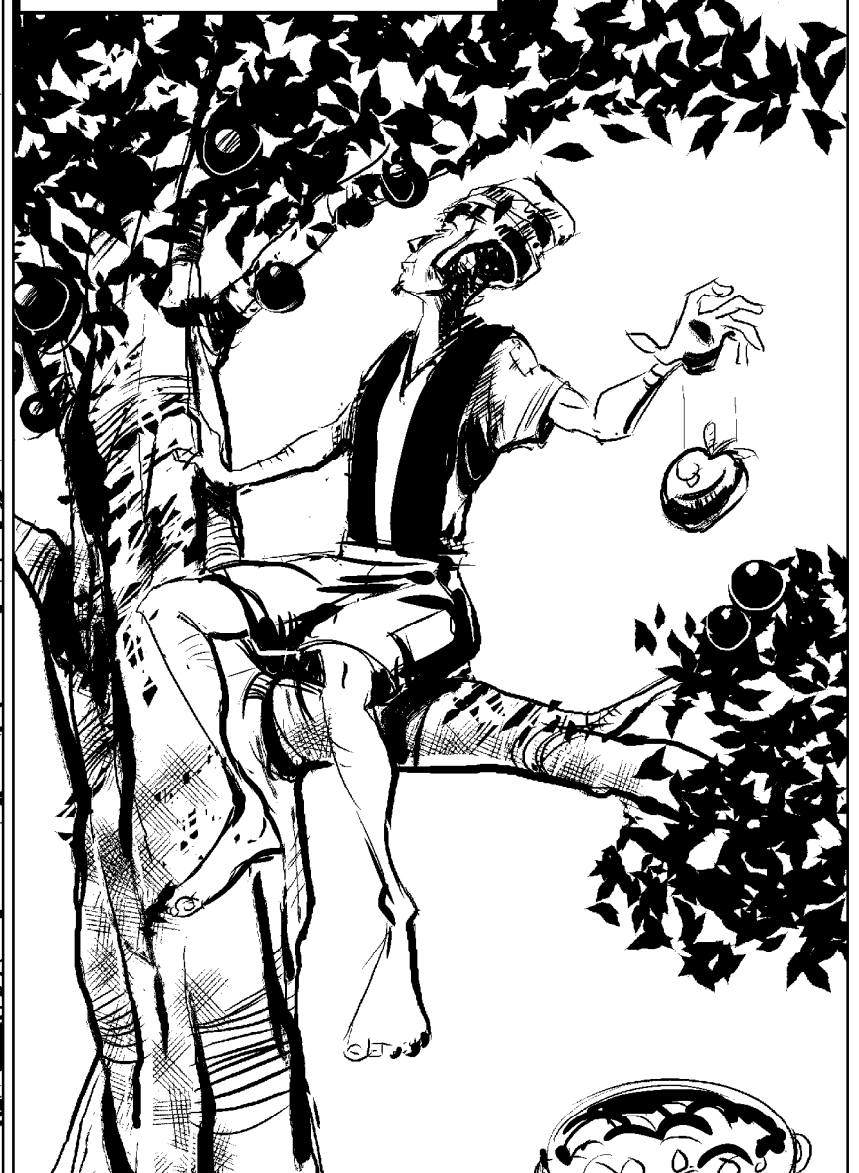
OH GREAT AND POWERFUL TROLL OF THE WOOD... PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PICK YOUR WONDERFUL APPLES.



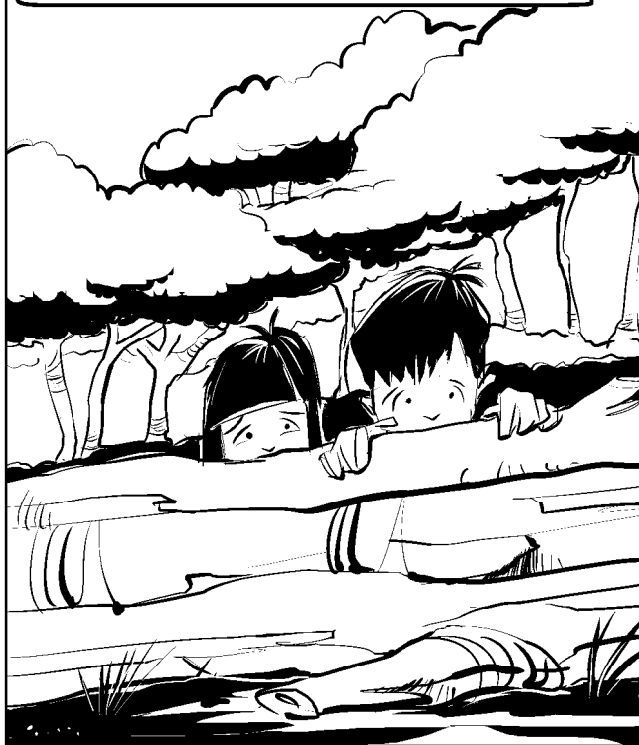
THE MASSIVE STONE IS STILL AND SILENT AS WE WATCH COSMO CLIMB.



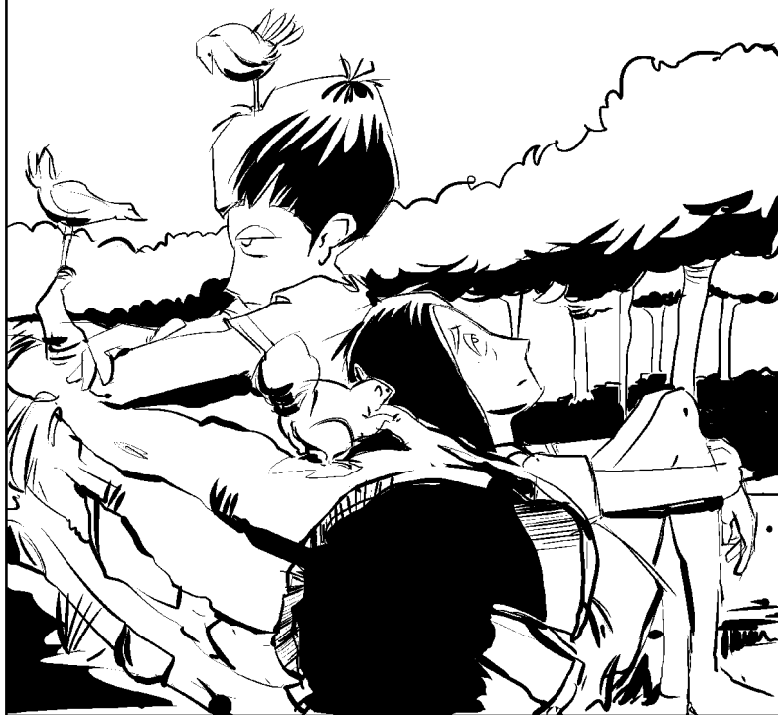
HE FILLS HIS BASKET WITH APPLES.



SO WE SIT AND WATCH, HOUR AFTER HOUR...



... DAY AFTER DAY, BUT NO SIGN OF THE TROLL.



SOON WE FIND OURSELVES DISTRACTED BY ALL THE INTERESTING CHARACTERS IN THE FOREST.

THE LONGER WE STAY QUIET AND STILL, THE MORE THE FOREST CREATURES SEEM TO FIND US.



THE BIRDS COME FOR THE APPLE SEEDS.



THEN THE LARGE AND SMALL ANIMALS VISIT OUR HIDING PLACE BEHIND THE LOG.



SOON WE FORGET ALL ABOUT THE TROLL, AND ARE HAPPY FEEDING THE FOREST CREATURES.





THEN ONE DAY...

WE'VE SAT HERE ALL SUMMER WATCHING COSMO TALK TO A TROLL THAT NO ONE CAN SEE.



HELLO

THERE IS NO TROLL IN THE WOODS! YOU PRETEND HE'S HERE TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM YOUR APPLES, DON'T YOU?

SORRY FOR SPYING ON YOU



ARE YOU AND LADY ELLIS TRYING TO SCARE US? WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING!



HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING? EVERY DAY YOU SIT WITH THE TROLL AND HIS FRIENDS.

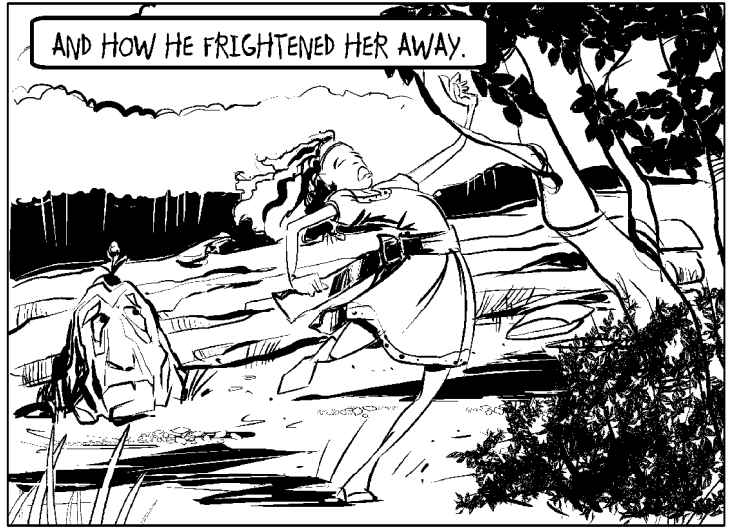
COSMO SMILES AS A NEW VOICE SPEAKS TO US FROM BELOW.

HELLO, PLEASE DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THIS FOREST FOR SO MANY YEARS, BUT PEOPLE STOPPED WALKING IN MY WOODS AFTER THE LITTLE GIRL RAN AWAY.



HE TOLD A STORY OF LITTLE GIRL PICKING FLOWERS IN THE WOODS

AND HOW HE FRIGHTENED HER AWAY.



HER HAIR BECAME TANGLED IN THE BRANCHES AND THE STORY BEGAN...











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