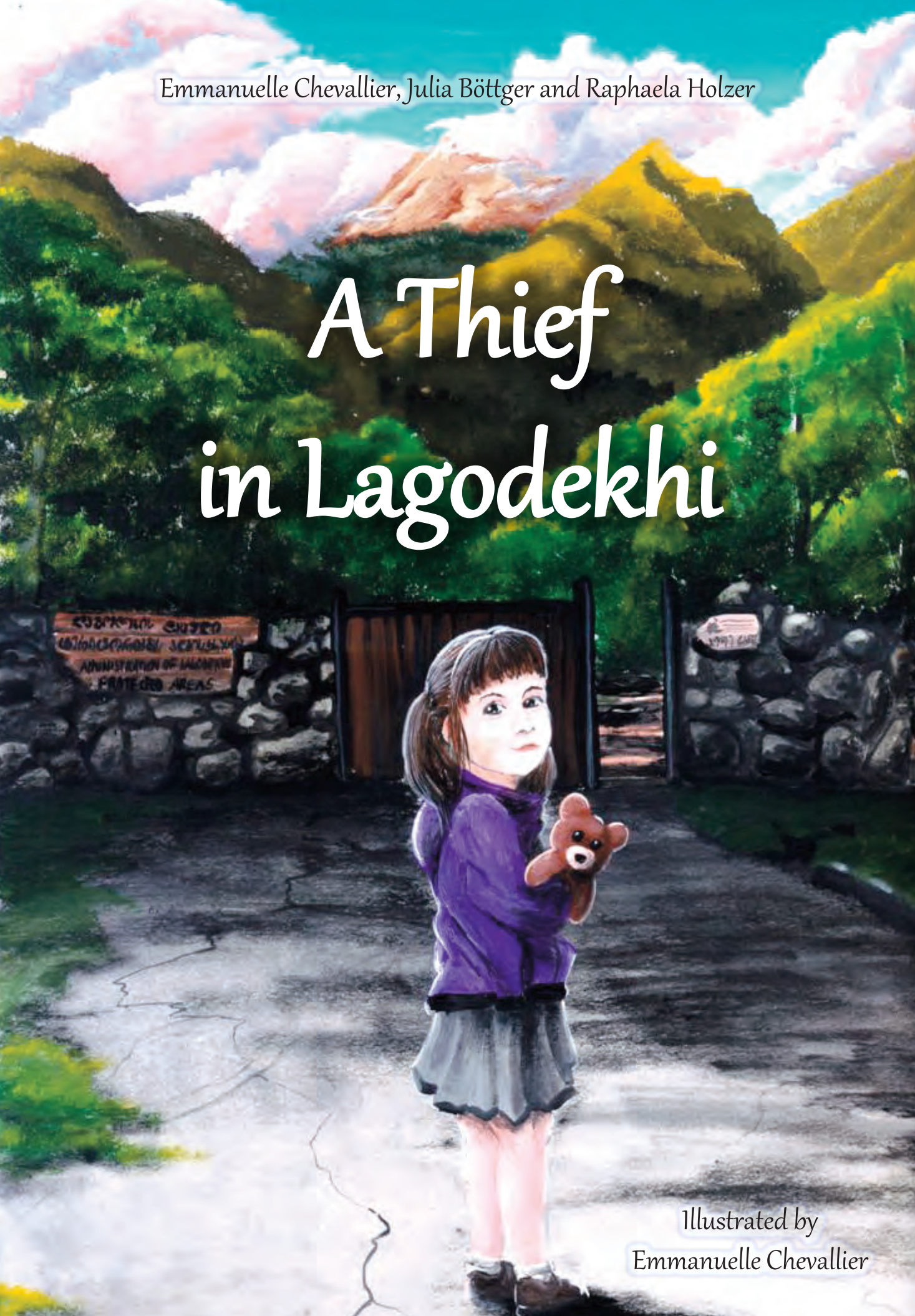


Emmanuelle Chevallier, Julia Böttger and Raphaëla Holzer

A Thief in Lagodekhi



Illustrated by
Emmanuelle Chevallier

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A Thief in Lagodekhi

Written by Emmanuelle Chevallier, Julia Böttger and Raphaela Holzer
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Lagodekhi Local Action Group

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FUNDACIÓNTEA
PARA EL DESARROLLO Y LA COOPERACIÓN 

*Dedicated to the wonderful wildlife of Lagodekhi
and to the people
who fight every day to protect it...*

“Teddy Bear is gone!” shrieks Nino.

Just a few minutes ago, she had left him near the stream of the Black Grouse Waterfall. In the morning, she and her parents walked along the path to the waterfall in Lagodekhi Protected Areas. There, they sat down to eat and enjoy the beautiful view. But it became much warmer and so she took Teddy nearby the stream where it was cooler. But now he was gone.

“Someone must have taken him!” Nino thinks.



But look!

*“There are footprints in the mud
not far from the place where Teddy sat!”*



James

"I am going to find the thief. He can't be far!" thinks Nino.



Determined to find her friend, she enters the forest. Slowly she begins to notice some eaten tree buds, some missing bark on the tree trunks and piles of small oval excrement.

"A Red Deer! Maybe he is the one who took Teddy?"



She listens carefully.

Yes, there are definitely sounds of a battle not far from here!

Following the sounds, she walks a bit further.

Suddenly the forest opens and a small glade appears.

And there he is, fighting a second deer.

The noise of their colliding antlers is so loud! Nino has to scream to make herself heard.

"Gentle Red Deer, I'm looking for my Teddy Bear! Have you seen him? I only know that the thief has long fingers and curved claws."



Surprised, the deer interrupt their fight.

"I'm sorry little girl," the first deer says, *"look at our hoof prints! It cannot be us."*

But you should ask the Bearded Vulture!

He lives in the mountain near the lake where the earth touches the sky.

He knows everything, for he can fly and see further than anyone else."



James

"Alright," Nino decides, "I will go to the lake and ask this Bearded Vulture if he knows who has taken my Teddy Bear."

But once again she spots something on her way.
The ivy-covered beech trees have claw marks on their trunks and there is thinly shaped excrement on the ground.



*"A Lynx!
Maybe he is the one who took Teddy?"*

Suddenly she hears a hoarse mewling.
It sounds so funny!
But she knows that it's only the lynx's call for a female.

She follows the sounds to a small stream. The Lynx is sitting there.

She asks again,
*"Gentle Lynx, I'm looking for my Teddy Bear! Have you seen him?
I only know that the thief has long fingers and curved claws."*

The lynx mews,
*"I'm sorry little girl, look at my paw prints!
It cannot be me.
But you should ask the Bearded Vulture!
He lives in the mountain near the lake where
the earth touches the sky. He knows everything,
for he can fly and see further than anyone else."*





"I really need to talk to this Bearded Vulture."

Nino thinks.

But as she resumes walking,
she spots even bigger claw marks on tree trunks,
trashed anthills and excrement containing
seeds and leaf fragments.



"A Brown Bear!

Maybe he is the one who took Teddy?"



A low growl is coming from a den. *"So there he is!"*

She carefully enters and murmurs,

*"Gentle Brown Bear, I'm looking for my Teddy Bear! Have you seen him?
I only know that the thief has long fingers and curved claws."*

*"I'm sorry little girl," the Bear growls, "look at my paw prints!
It cannot be me. But you should ask the Bearded Vulture!
He lives in the mountain near the lake where the earth touches the sky.
He knows everything, for he can fly and
see further than anyone else."*





flame

Once again, she returns to the path towards the lake. Suddenly, the forest ends and she finds herself walking through open fields.

"The lake isn't far now!" she thinks.

But look, there are small round excrement and tufts of hair caught on the brambles along the way.



"An East Caucasian Tur!

Maybe he is the one who took Teddy?"

Walking next to the cliffs, she hears the echo of falling rocks.

She lies on her stomach and looks down.

The Tur is here and climbing toward her!

"Gentle Tur, I'm looking for my Teddy Bear! Have you seen him?"

I only know that the thief has long fingers and curved claws."



"I'm sorry little girl," the Tur bleats,

"look at my hoof prints!

It cannot be me.

But you should ask the Bearded Vulture!

*He lives in the mountain near the lake
where the earth touches the sky.*

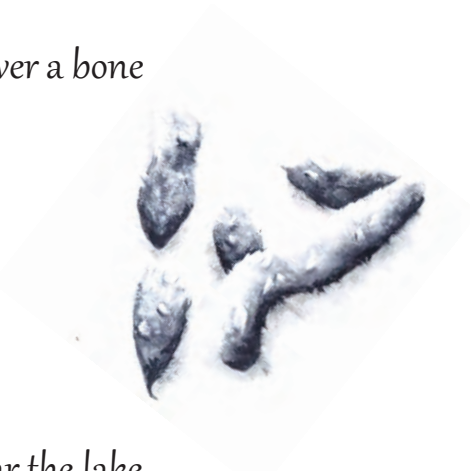
*He knows everything, for he can fly
and see further than anyone else."*



Nino finally reaches the lake. In the quiet water, she sees the reflection of all the stars in the sky. *"How beautiful!"* she thinks.

But as she gets closer, she almost stumbles over a bone which is lying on the ground. All around it, she discovers odd looking excrement.

*"Wolves!
Maybe they are the ones who took Teddy?"*



At that moment, she spots them howling near the lake. She is a bit afraid but she knows that Wolves are not as bad as everyone thinks. She follows their voices bravely.

And here they are, sitting together and howling at the sky.
"Gentle Wolves, I'm looking for my Teddy Bear! Have you seen him? I only know that the thief has long fingers and curved claws."



*"We are sorry little girl, look at our paw prints!
It cannot be us."* the Wolves howl together.
Then the leader of the pack points his ears toward one of the mountain peaks.
"Mhh!" he begins to brood,
*"But you should ask the Bearded Vulture who lives just there where the earth touches the sky.
He knows everything, for he can fly
and see further than anyone else."*



It is very late now and Nino is a bit tired. But the idea of sleeping without her Teddy Bear keeps her awake.

She starts to climb up the mountain. As she reaches the peak, she spots the Vulture's nest lying on a rocky platform. It is very high and surrounded by clouds.

"The earth touches the sky!" she thinks.

Carefully, she crawls toward the nest. The Vulture is here, sitting on his eggs. He is huge! Nino is very impressed.

She whispers,

*"Gentle Bearded Vulture, I'm sorry to disturb your sleep.
But I'm looking for my Teddy Bear. Someone must have stolen him.
Everyone told me that you see everything, in Lagodekhi
and even all over Georgia."*

"Do you know who might have taken my Teddy Bear?"





The Bearded Vulture
stays silent for a long time,
staring at her with his deep amber eyes.
Then, he gets up and lowers his head.

*"I'm so sorry little girl, I'm the one who has to apologize. It was me who took your
Teddy Bear. It is so lonely up here, waiting for my eggs to hatch. I should not have
taken him. You can have him back now!"*

Nino is really happy to see Teddy again! She hugs him warmly.

But she also feels sad for the Vulture.

At home she has a lot of friends to play with and at night her mother tells her stories to help her fall asleep.

So she slowly puts Teddy back into the nest.

"You can keep him, gentle Vulture! I can see that you need a friend."

"Oh!" the bird murmurs, *"Thank you so much, Nino!"*

You are a really special girl. But I can see how tired you are now.

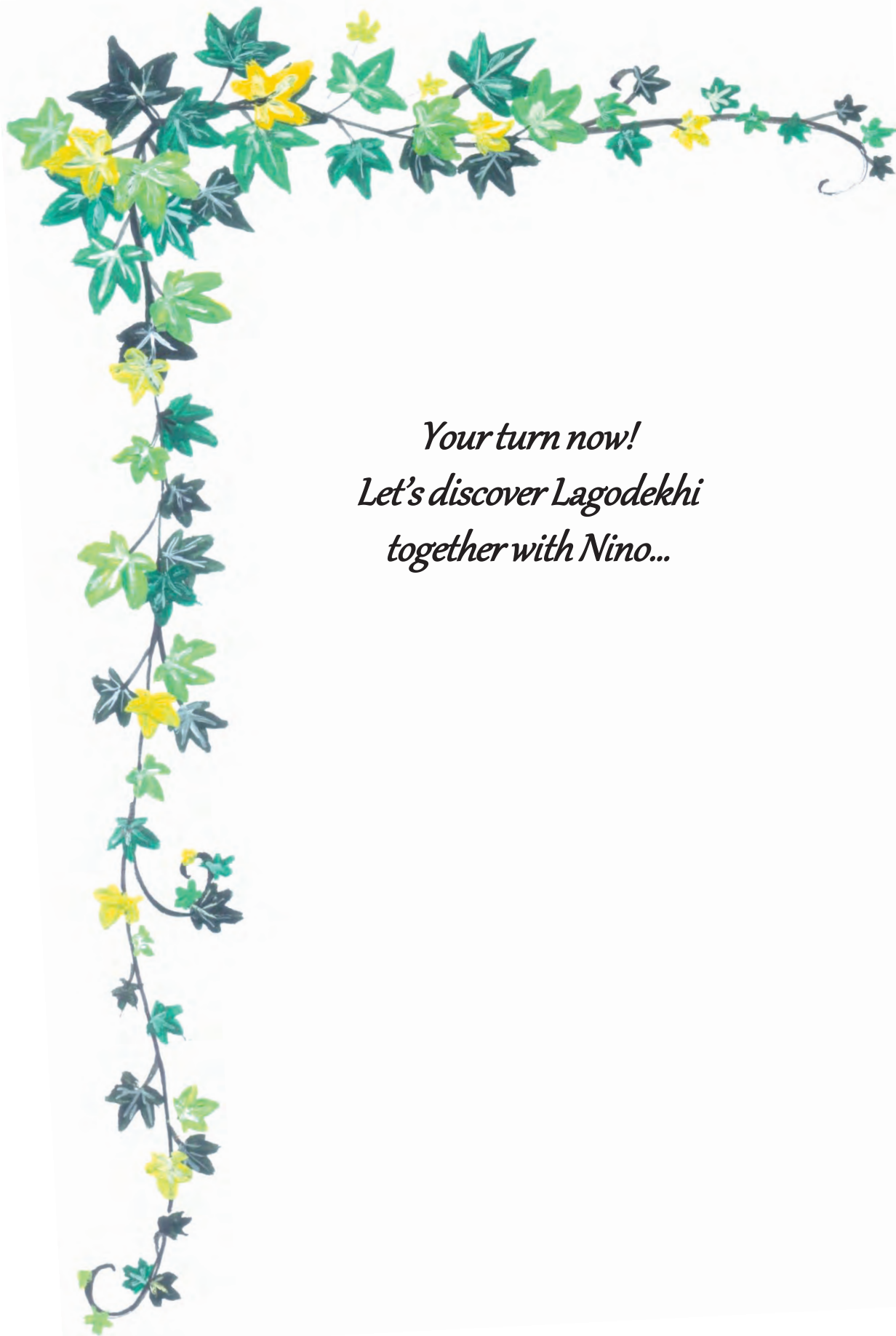
It must have been very exhausting to come up this way all on your own.

Climb on my back! I will carry you home!"





Janne



Your turn now!
Let's discover Lagodekhi
together with Nino...

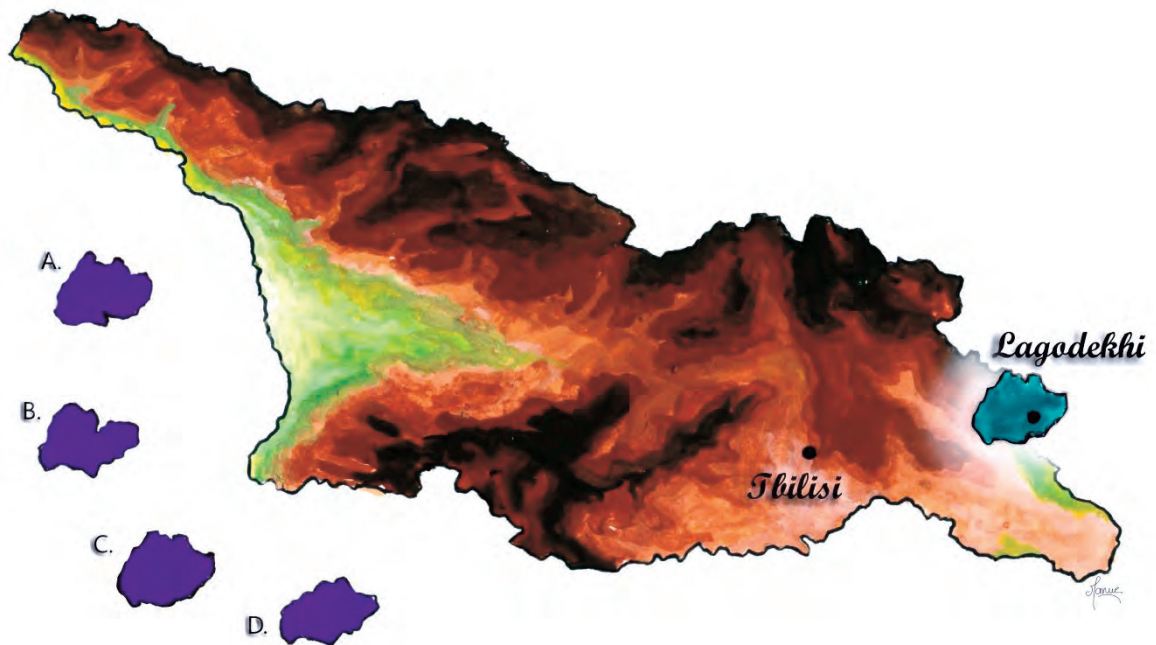
Here you can see a map of Georgia. Look how big the country is as compared to the municipality area of Lagodekhi (in blue)!

You see its outlines in the north-east of Georgia directly located in the Southern Caucasus region and next to the border of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan.

Are you able to help Nino find the shape which fits the area of Lagodekhi?

Choose A, B, C or D to indicate which shape you think is Lagodekhi.

Circle your answer!



Nino finally arrived in Lagodekhi!
She now wants to go from the minibus station to the entrance of Lagodekhi
Protected Areas.

Can you help her find her way through
the streets of Lagodekhi?

On your way, you might see
the market place 🍎,
the central square 🏛️,
the museum 🏛️
or the church 🏛️!

*Draw a line from
the minibus station
to the entrance 🌳!
But be careful because
you cannot enter those
streets marked
with the 🚫 sign!*



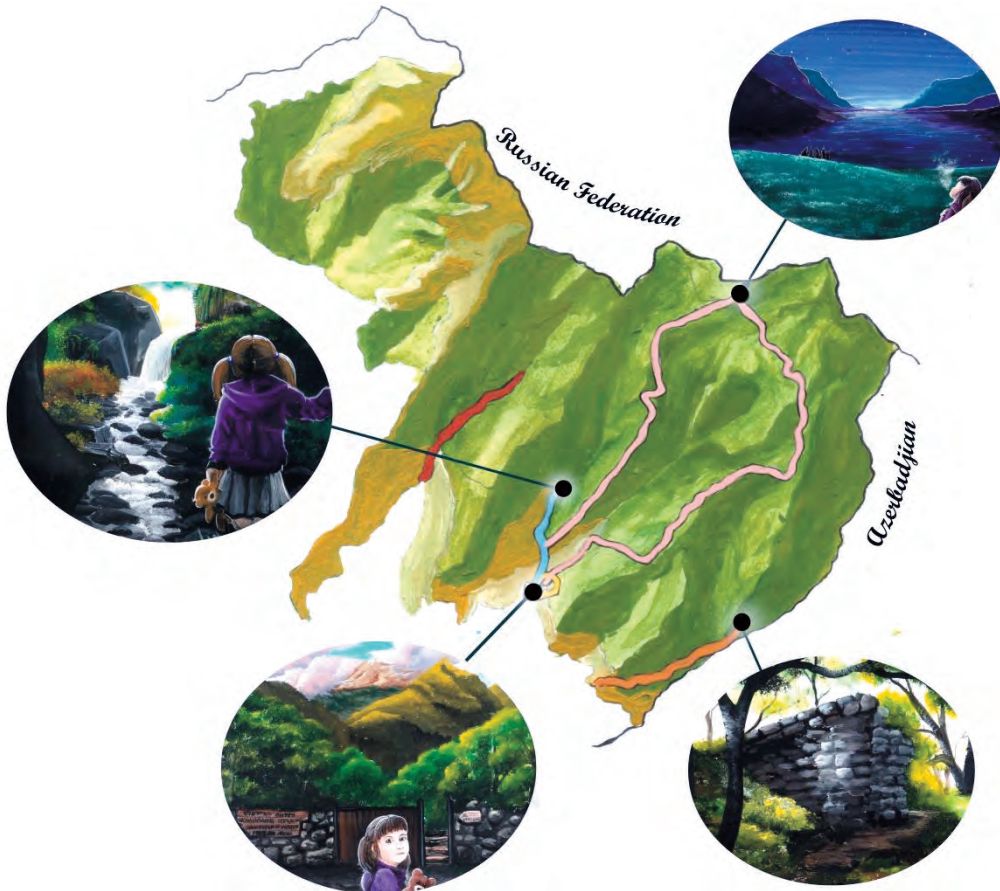
Congratulations!

Nino has reached the Administration Building. There, she learns that Lagodekhi Protected Areas offers five trails.

The trail colored in blue is the Black Grouse Waterfall trail where she lost Teddy!

The pink-colored Black Rock Lake trail is where she met the Bearded Vulture.

There is also a red trail leading to a bigger waterfall, Ninoskhevi, an orange trail going to the Machi Fortress and a short yellow Nature Interpretation path near the Administration Building.



It is too hard to choose only one trail so let's do them all!

For her first hike, Nino has chosen the Black Grouse Waterfall. She tells the rangers at the Administration Building and they caution her, *“The end of the trail is very steep! Don’t take too many things with you.”*

Among these 10 items, circle the 4 that Nino should take with her!



Nino now wants to go to the Machi Fortress trail.
She has been riding all the way! Now she is standing in front of the ruins
hidden in the forest... It's beautiful.

But wait! Don't you think that it looks a bit different than the picture
from the Administration Building?



Find and circle the seven differences between the two pictures!
Hint: It seems like someone left garbage on the way...

With her friend the Bearded Vulture, Nino talked about the garbage she saw on her way.



*All of this pollution is poison for us and for the Earth.
It takes a long time for everything to disappear. You don't believe me?
Well then, you should try this small experiment on your own.
Take an apple, a tea bag and a plastic bag and bury them in a pot of earth.
Wait for four weeks and then watch what happens to them.
I promise you will be surprised!*



If you also want to discover what happens to waste left in nature, you can ask your parents to do the Bearded Vulture's experiment with you.
Let's see what happens!

It's so hot and sunny now! Nino has decided to go to the bigger waterfall, Ninoskhevi. Maybe she can swim in the fresh water...

But look, she isn't the first one there!
There are many footprints left in the mud.

Follow the lines carefully to find out which footprint belongs to the bear, the wolf and the lynx!



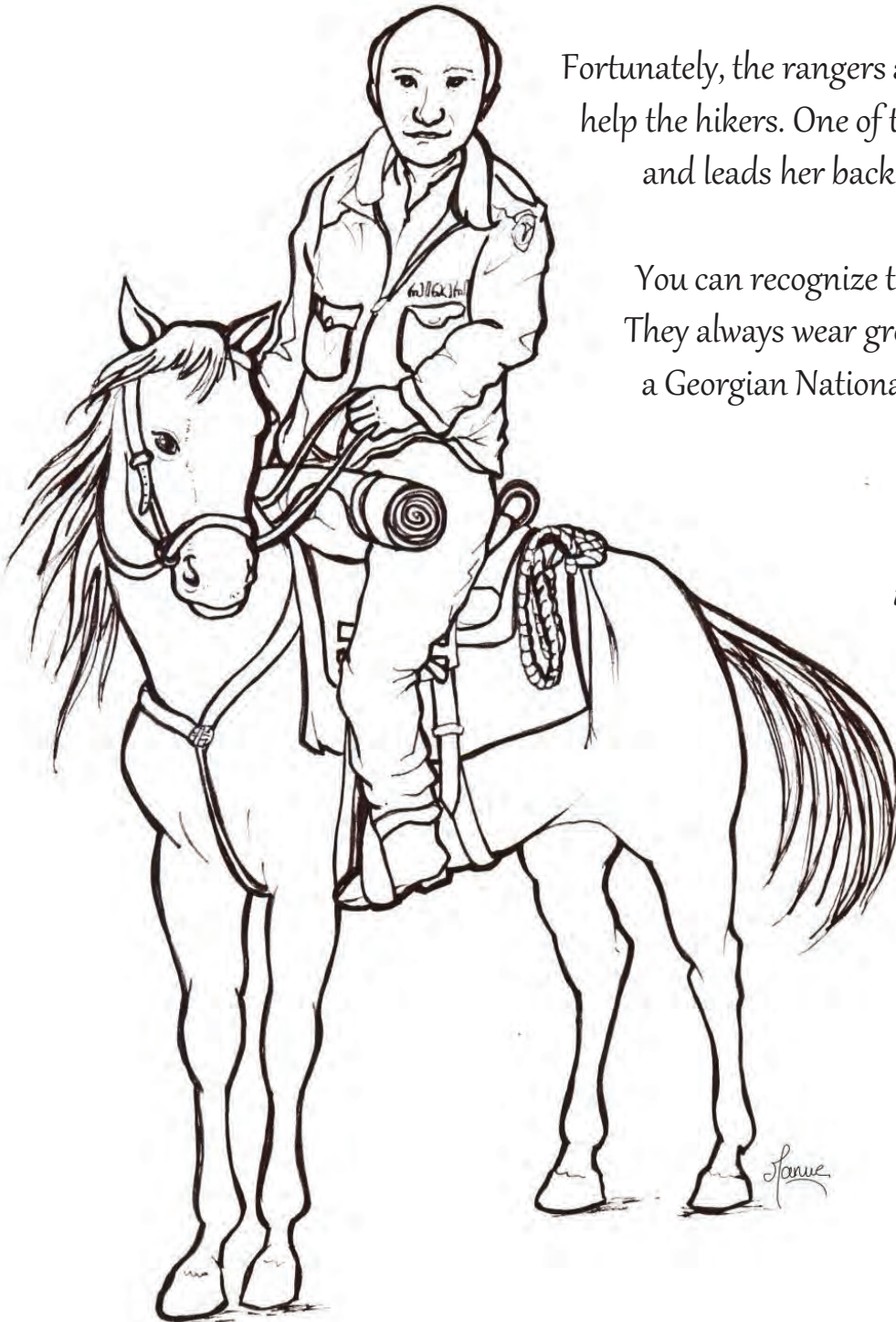
With all that Nino has learned about nature and hiking, she now feels well prepared to do the three-day trail to the Black Rock Lake. It's easy to follow the trail marks. But on the way back to the Administration Building, she suddenly hears a strange sound and leaves the marked path.

Oh, no! Now she is lost!

Fortunately, the rangers are always here to help the hikers. One of them hears Nino and leads her back to the trail.

You can recognize the rangers easily. They always wear green uniforms with a Georgian National Parks emblem.

*Color in
this drawing
of a ranger!*



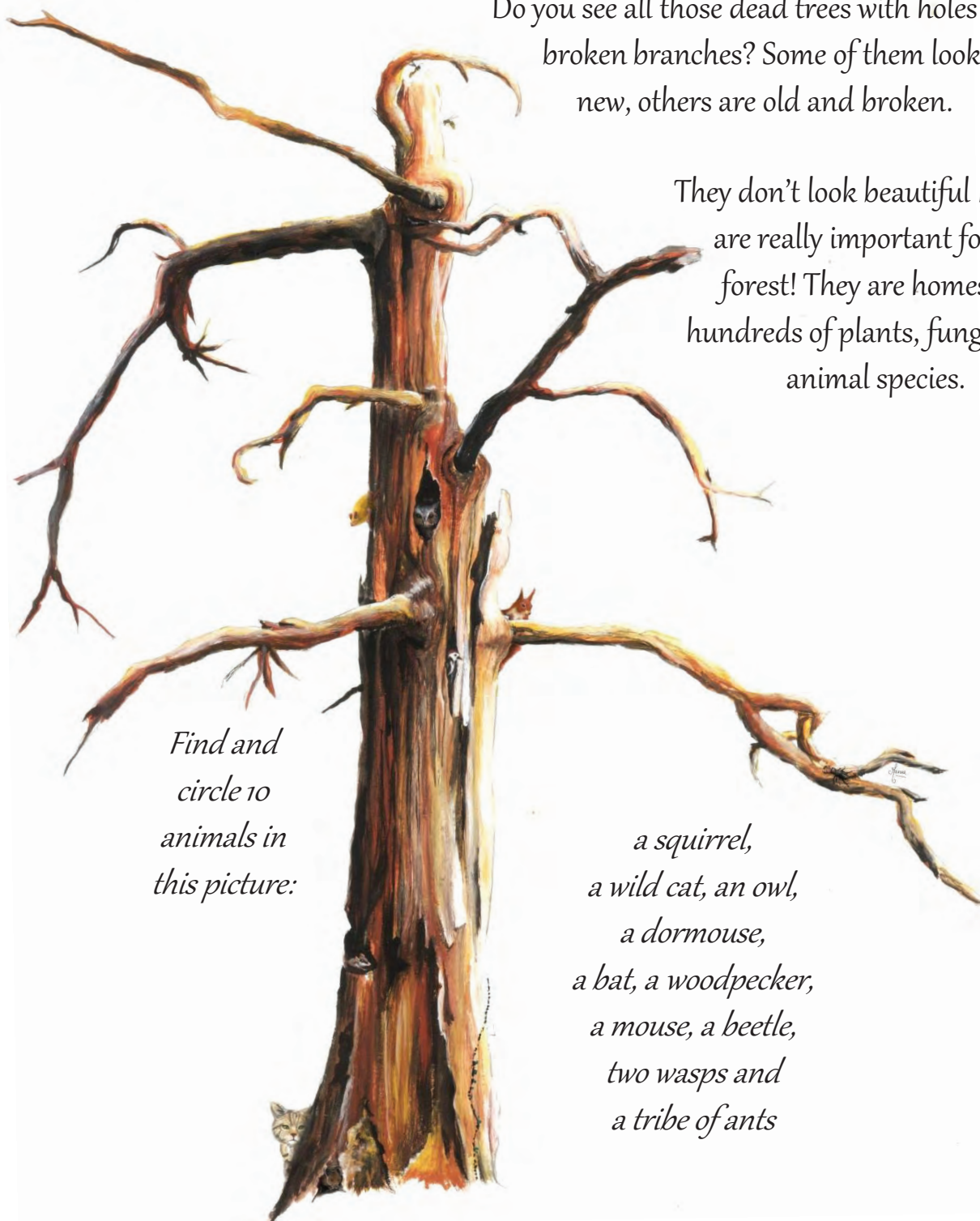
Well, all this walking has been exhausting. Nino would love to do something easier. Let's go to the Nature Interpretation path!

Do you see all those dead trees with holes and broken branches? Some of them look new, others are old and broken.

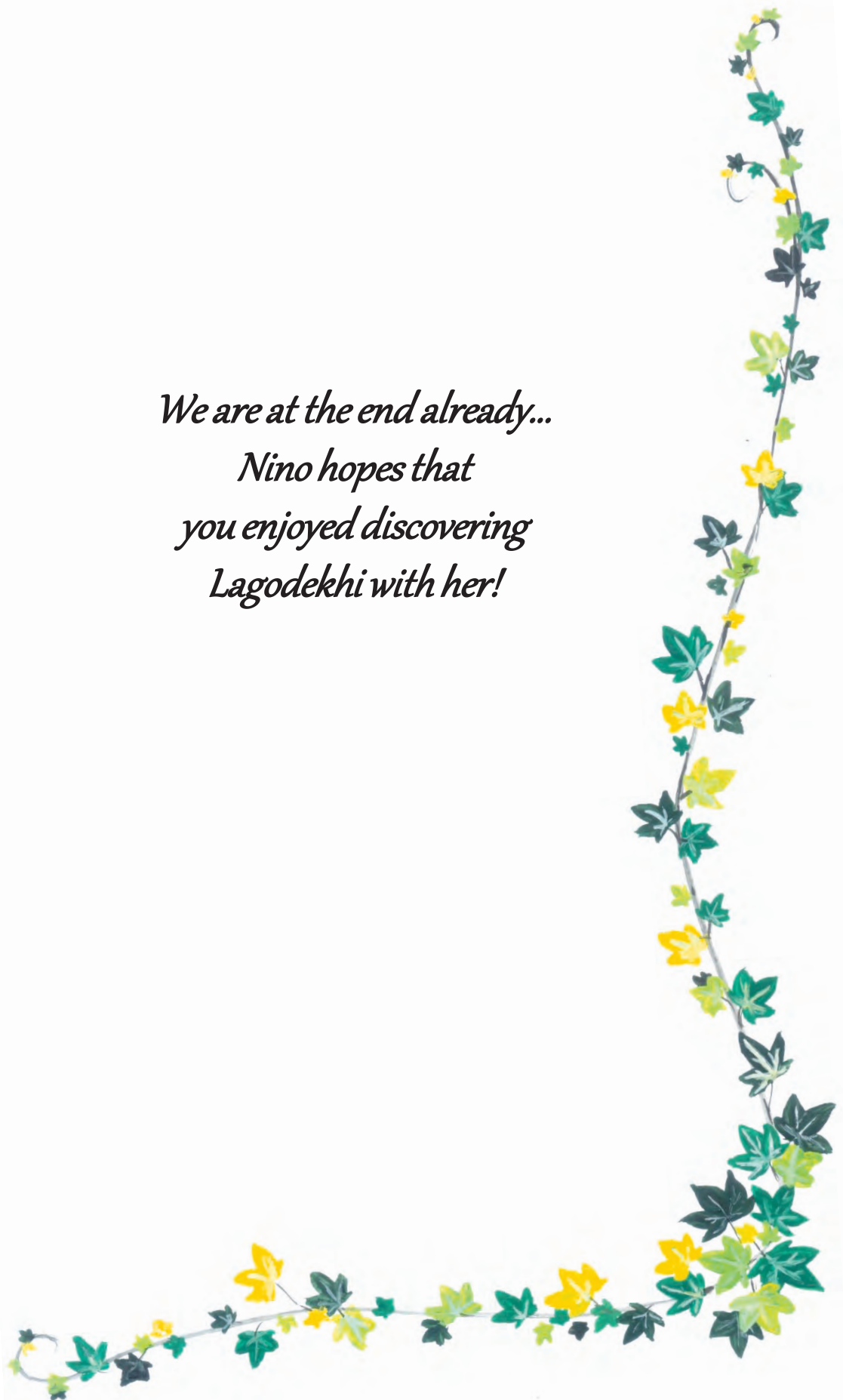
They don't look beautiful but they are really important for the forest! They are homes for hundreds of plants, fungus and animal species.

*Find and
circle 10
animals in
this picture:*

*a squirrel,
a wild cat, an owl,
a dormouse,
a bat, a woodpecker,
a mouse, a beetle,
two wasps and
a tribe of ants*

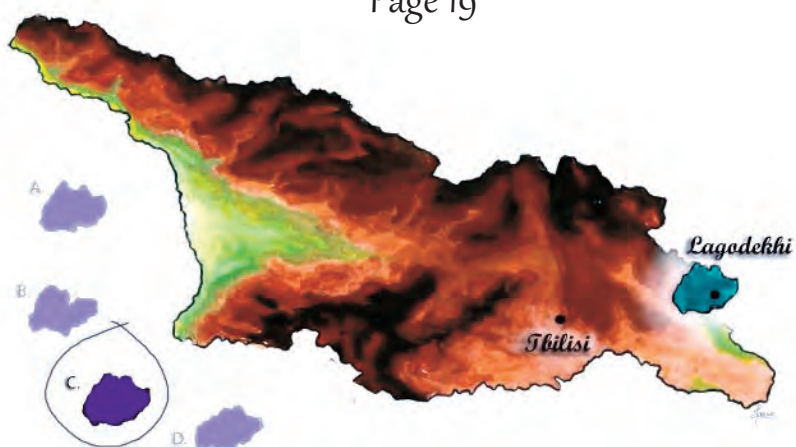


*We are at the end already...
Nino hopes that
you enjoyed discovering
Lagodekhi with her!*



Here you can find the answers to the games:

Page 19



Page 20



Page 22





*After four weeks you will notice that the apple is completely gone.
To get that far, the tea bag will need another three months.
It will take 400 years for the plastic bag to disappear.
Incredible!*



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Thanks to everyone who helped us with this project.

To the Local Action Group of Lagodekhi “LAG” who are dedicated to the development of their municipality. The people of CARE International for making this project possible, who believed in us and made us believe in ourselves. The European Union for supporting development in the regions of Georgia and in Lagodekhi.

To the staff of Lagodekhi Protected Areas and, particularly, Giorgi Sulamanidze, Thea Shalvashvili and Aleksandre Loladze who helped us from the very beginning and are fully dedicated to the protection of Lagodekhi’s beautiful nature.

To Nicole Maurin, Jeff Morski, Antonia Argentier, Alexander Korff, Manana Shalvashvili, Tamara Revasishvili and Pari Ludin who read through our story and gave us advice.

And last but not least: to our families and all those who supported us in Georgia and all over the world and whose names we have failed to mention here.




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ONE EUROPE
ONE WORLD!

This book was created during an internship at Lagodekhi Protected Areas which could not have taken place without the passionate work of the GLEN members (Global Education Network of Young Europeans).



“Teddy Bear is gone!” shrieks Nino.
But look! The thief has left some
footprints.

This is how Nino’s adventurous journey to
find her friend gets its start. Enter the
mystical forest and follow the tracks with
her. Meet the animals and
discover the wonders
of Lagodekhi. Teddy
can’t be far away...

