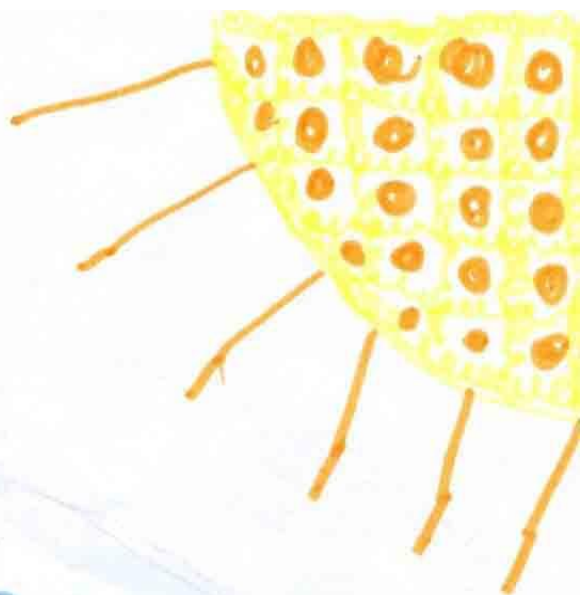


# RAINBOW falls

By Marnie



I had heard the legend of Rainbow Falls. But more than ever I wanted to see them with my own eyes. Now I am 15. I hope to do what I have dreamed my whole life.

On Monday morning I asked my mom for permission. She told me the falls weren't real, like I believed that. But if I didn't have permission, I guess I'd have to sneak out.

Finally I had packed everything: father's map (he went and never came back), some rope, a change of clothes, and a pocket knife. I also had more than enough food. I was ready to leave tomorrow night when the clock struck 12.

That night I couldn't get any sleep, so I decided to stay up until it was time to leave. A while later I fell asleep and was woken by a big dong, it was time to go. My heart was pounding in my chest. Did I have the courage?

Stop being so scared I told myself. Do you want to see the falls or not? I stepped out the front door and closed it behind me. I took a deep breath and started walking down the lane.

This is it I told myself feeling proud to try and fulfill my dream. I reached the end of Huckleberry Lane and came into a village. I checked the map, I was in Forgotten Village. All the huts were deserted. It was surely forgotten. I should be going to Crooked Bridge next, but then I realized the map was missing a part. It didn't show how to get to Crooked Bridge. What would I do now?

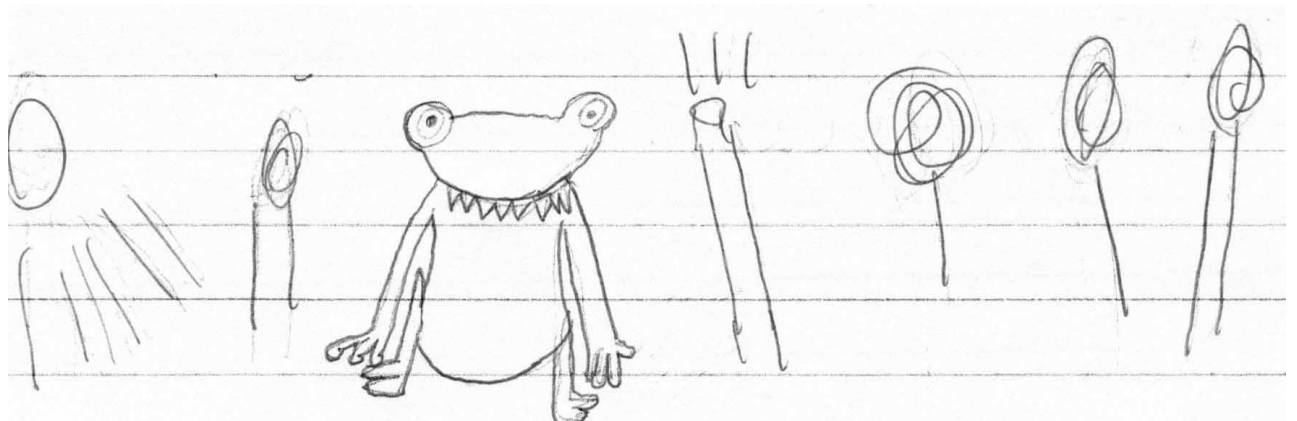
There must be a way. I knew it, but I just had to find it. I walked to the other side of the village. There were two roads, left and right. The one on the left led into an open prairie and the one on the right into inky blackness.



I took the one on the right. I got about a mile down the road when I decided I needed to sleep. I was in a rainforest. So I lay down on a soft bed of moss and soon fell asleep.

I woke up to bright sunshine spilling through the canopy over head. There wasn't time to laze around, so I had a quick breakfast of cold pancakes I brought with me. Then I was on the move.

I had been walking a while when I heard a rustle in the bushes. Out came a giant poison dart frog! But this wasn't any poison dart frog, it had the biggest teeth I had ever seen.



I thought the best thing to do was run. But when I did, I realized I needed to hide. I saw a hole in the ground and dived into it.

That wasn't a smart idea because inside was a family of rabbits who were snapping their vicious jaws. Above ground, the poison dart frog dug me out and picked me up in his sticky hands.

Suddenly, I realized he had been trying to be my friend all along. I asked him for a ride to Rainbow Falls. He nodded happily.

The next day we arrived at the falls. When I saw them I was speechless. It was the most beautiful view I had ever seen. Then the frog dived off the cliff and splashed into the lake below.

The frog and I had fun the rest of our lives and invited my family to come live with us. I wished my father could have been there, but that's a story for next time.