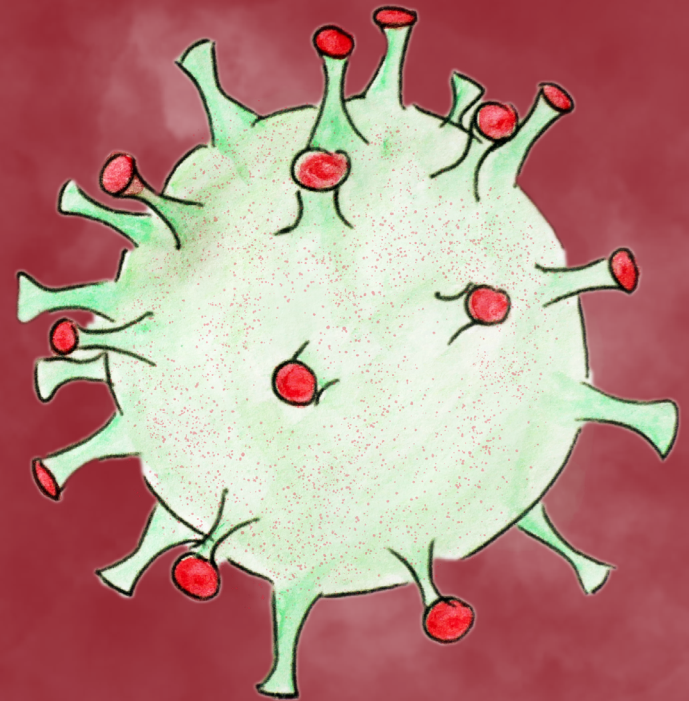


# Searching love during the COVID-19 pandemic

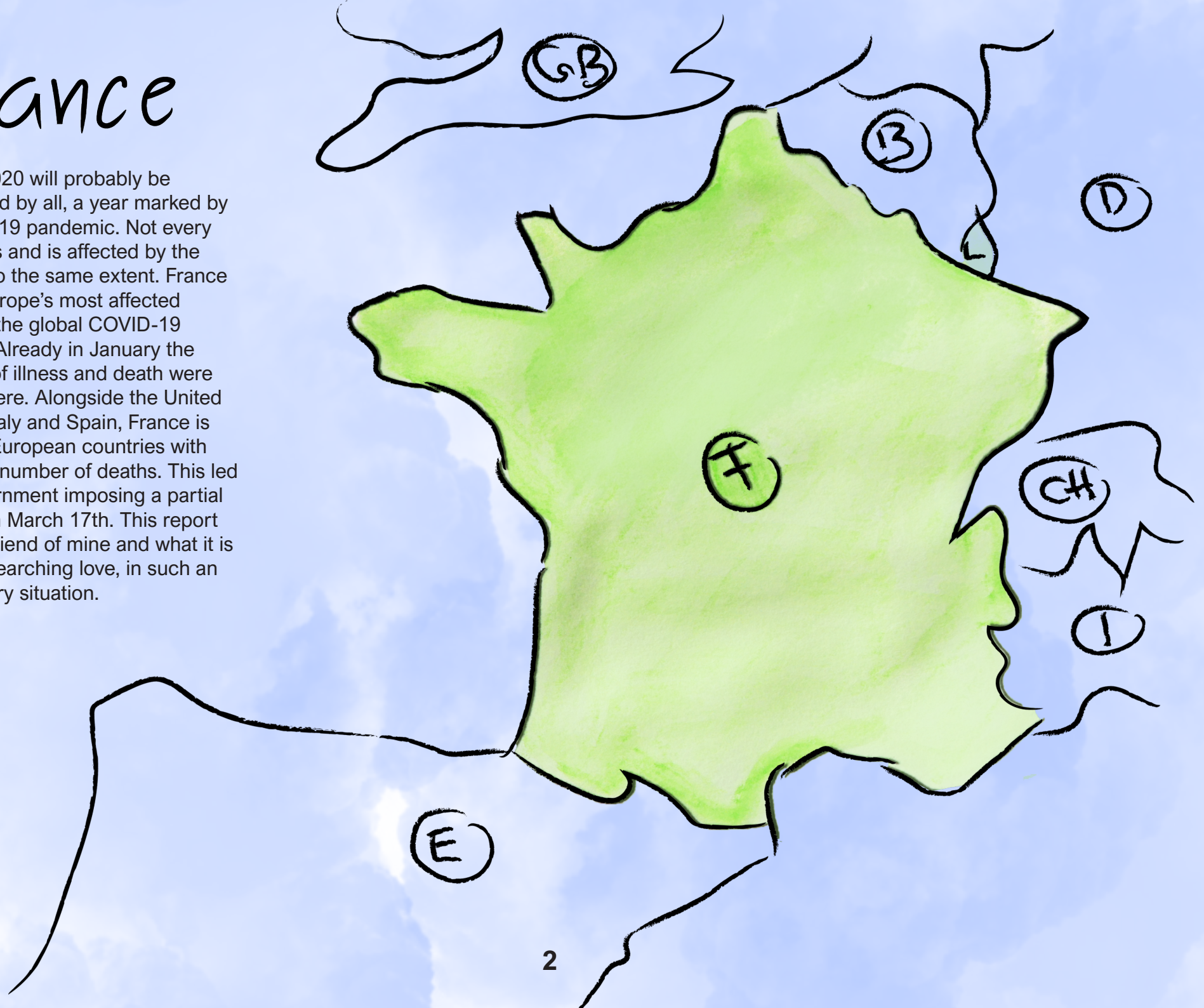


VS



# France

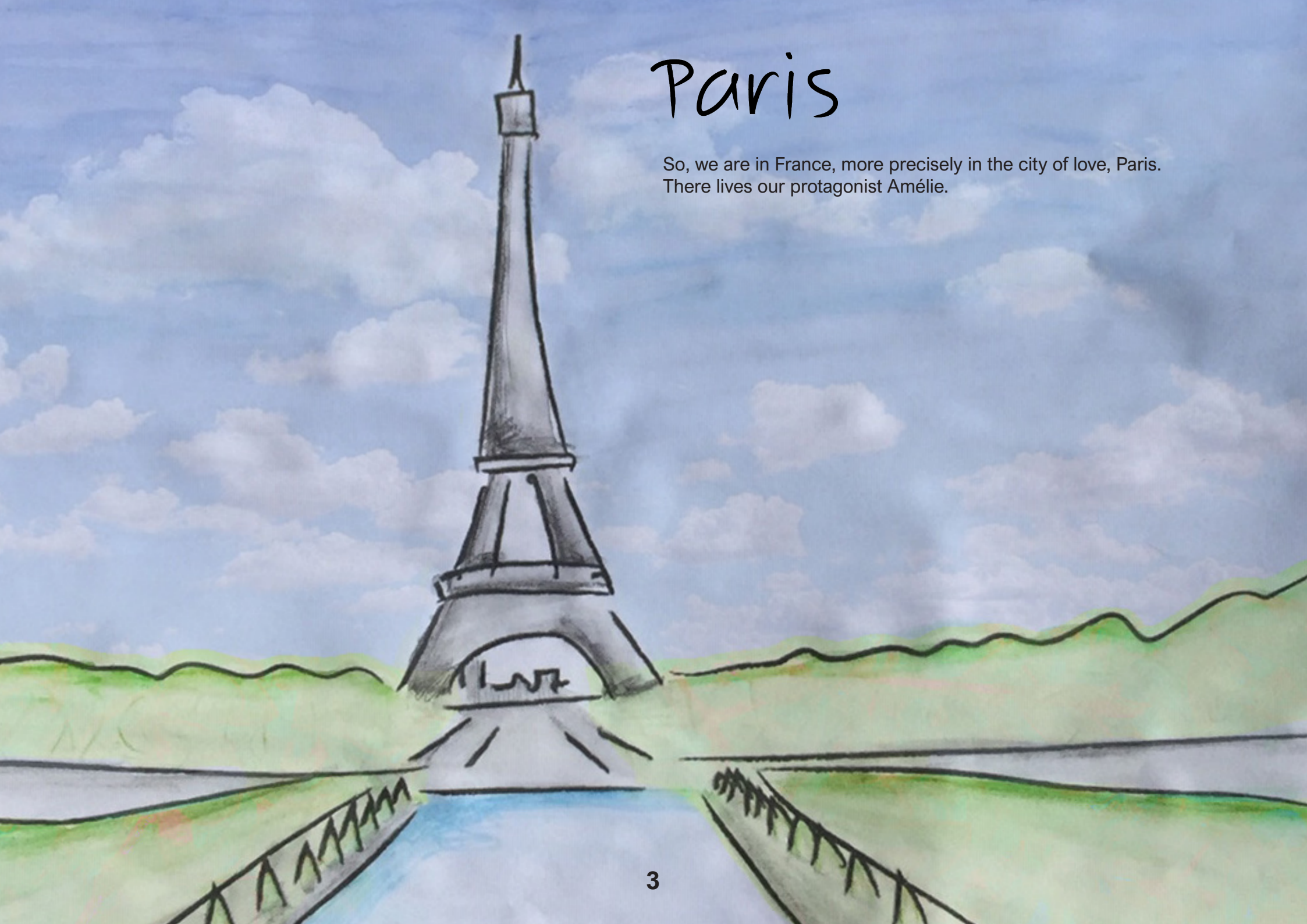
The year 2020 will probably be remembered by all, a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Not every country was and is affected by the pandemic to the same extent. France is one of Europe's most affected country by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Already in January the first cases of illness and death were reported there. Alongside the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain, France is one of the European countries with the highest number of deaths. This led to the government imposing a partial curfew from March 17th. This report is about a friend of mine and what it is like to be, searching love, in such an extraordinary situation.





# Paris

So, we are in France, more precisely in the city of love, Paris.  
There lives our protagonist Amélie.





# Amélie

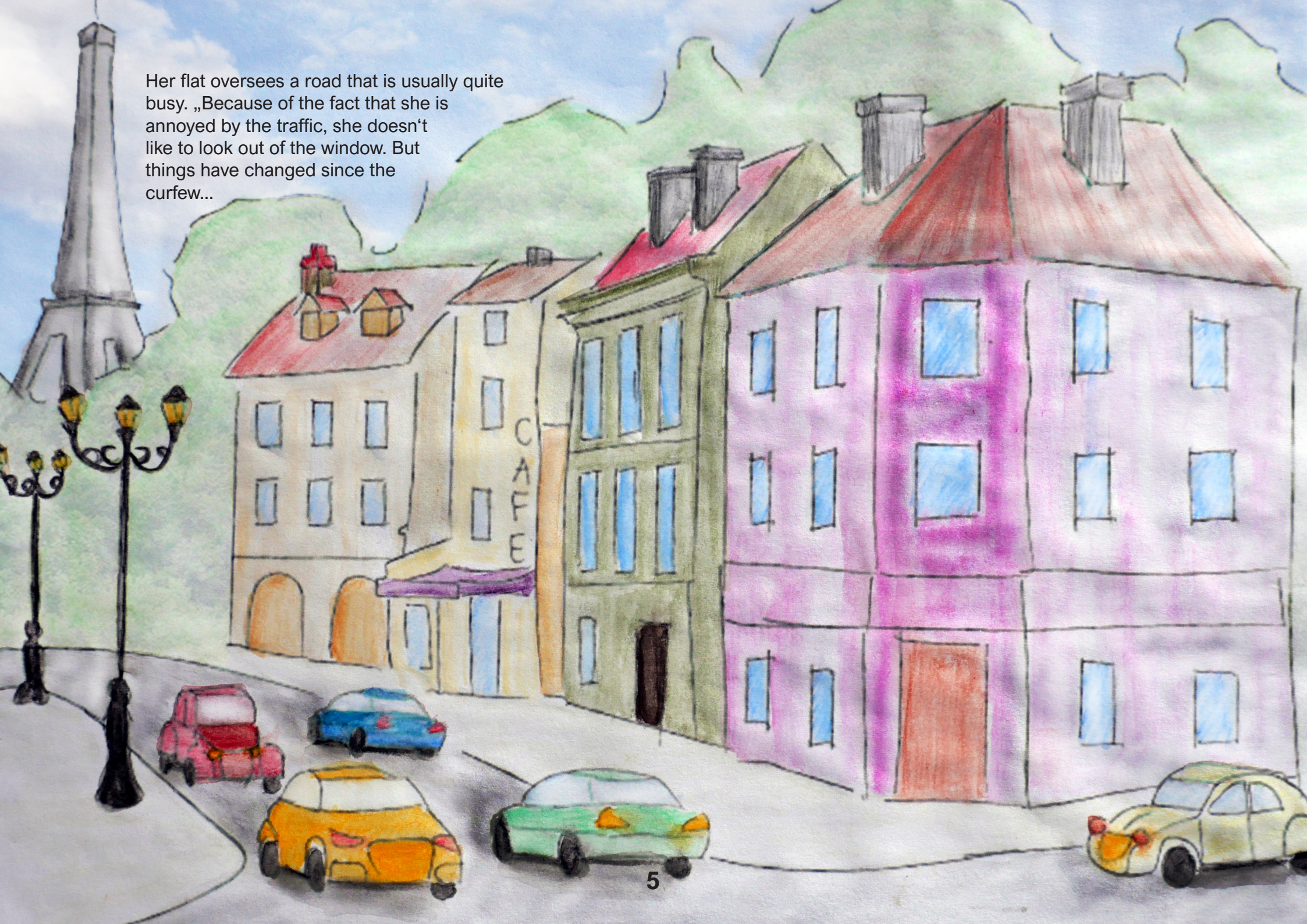
Amélie is 23 years old and studies art at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris. She has been single for some time and is looking for love. Due to the curfew she hasn't left the house for 3 weeks now except to go shopping, therefore she lacks social contact. Amélie lives alone in a small 2.5-room flat. She feels lonely and wishes for someone to spend the curfew with.

Amélie is so desperate for social contact and love that she downloaded Tinder, which she has been resisting for years. But she told herself that special situations require special measures. Unfortunately, Tinder did not result in more than a few nice conversations. Because of the curfew, more would have been impossible. Amélie was disappointed and uninstalled the app.





Her flat oversees a road that is usually quite busy. „Because of the fact that she is annoyed by the traffic, she doesn't like to look out of the window. But things have changed since the curfew...







The street is now empty,  
there is almost no traffic.  
The animals are taking back  
over the roads.



# Animals on the street

Since the curfew, Amélie loves looking out of the window. She watches everything that moves past her window. She already saw birds or even a deer that ventured into the city because of little traffic.







Every day she sees her neighbour James walking past her window when he goes to work. She has noticed how pretty he seems to her and starts pining over him.

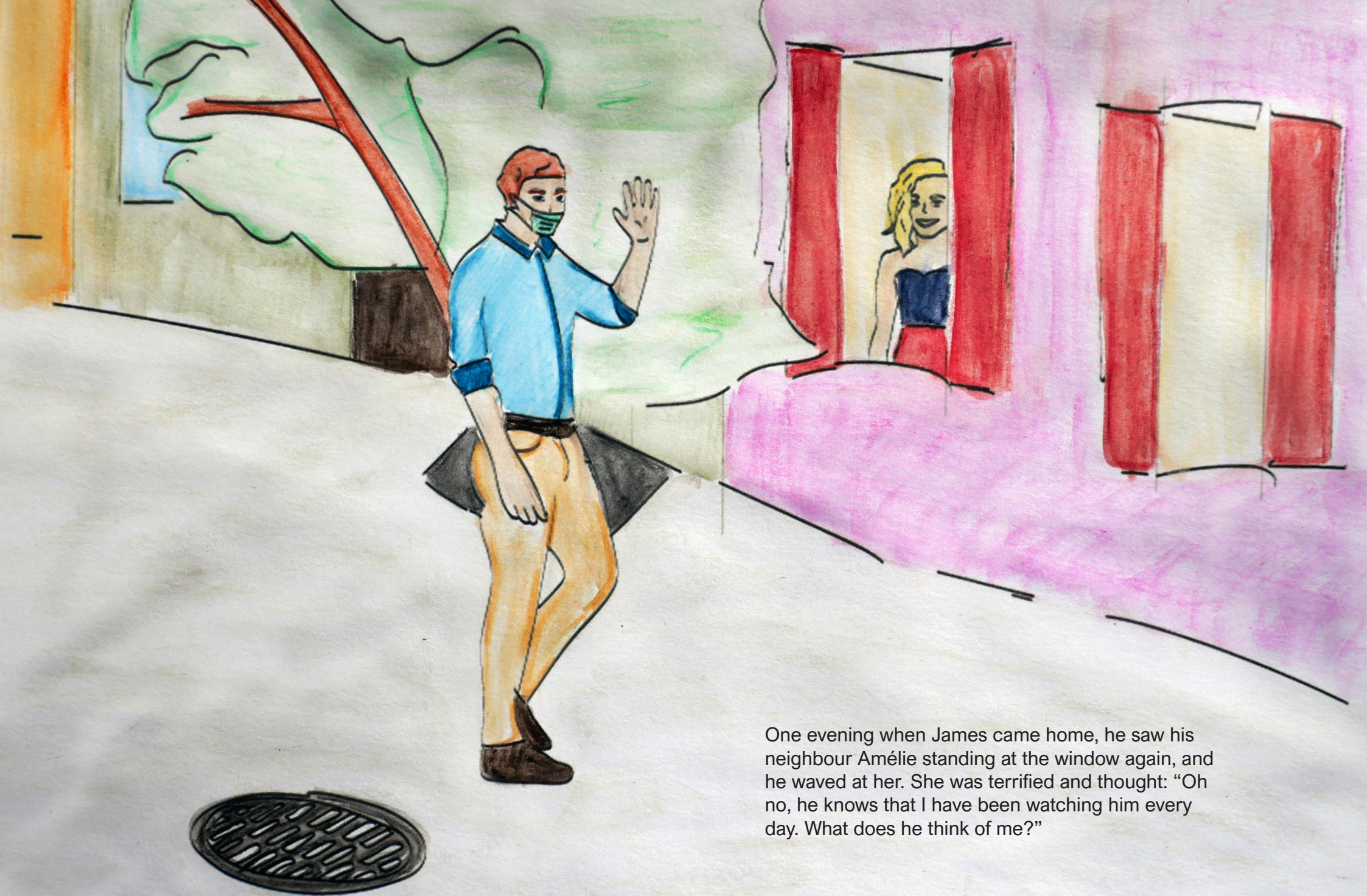


# James

James is 25 years old and a professional nurse in a hospital. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, he has to work every day and is therefore very exhausted. Especially his private life suffers from this, he hasn't seen anyone except his patients and co-workers for weeks. Something that James has noticed since the curfew is, that he sees his neighbour standing at the window every day. He has often wished he could stay at home like her, but he knows how important his job is and enjoys doing it.

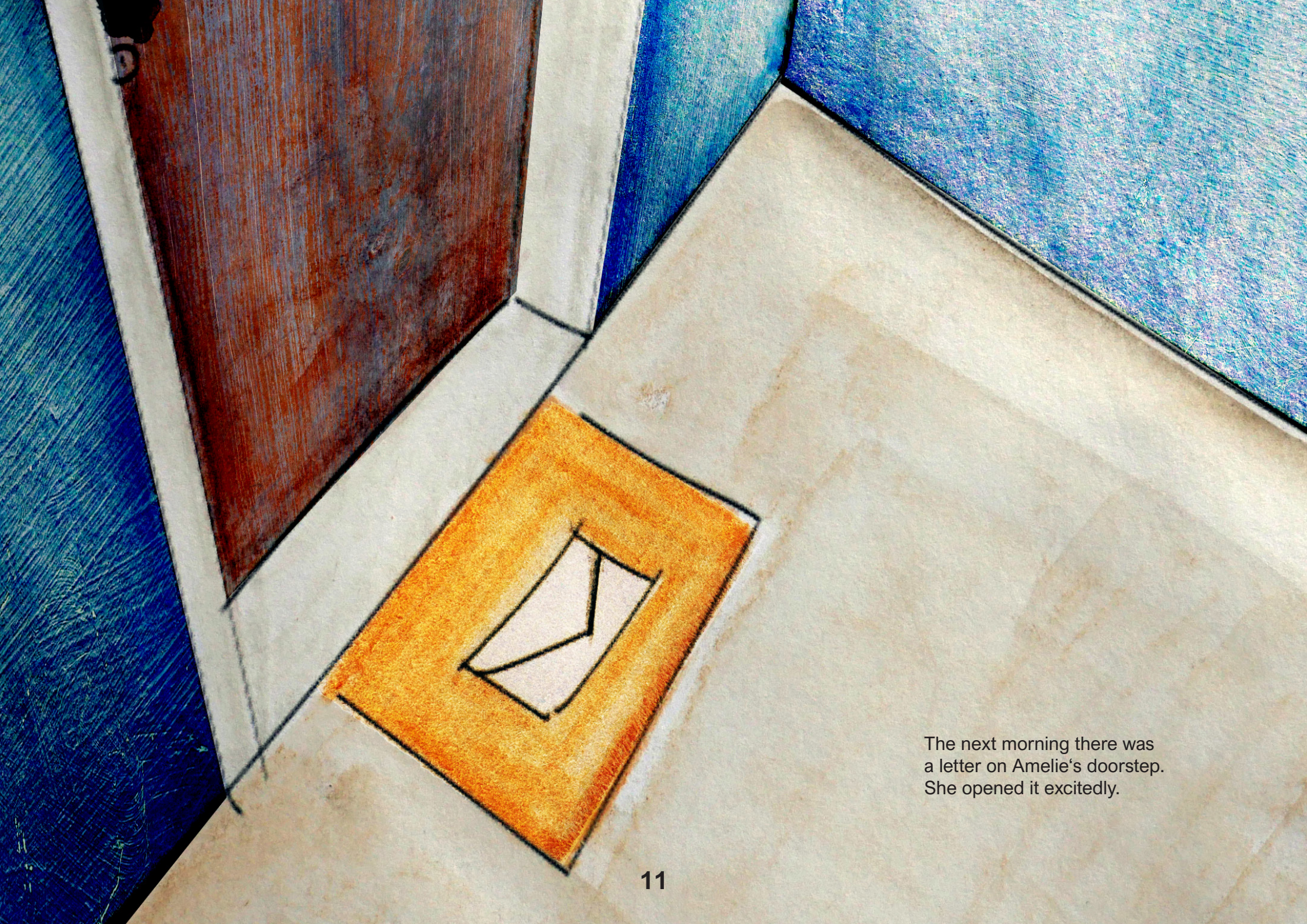






One evening when James came home, he saw his neighbour Amélie standing at the window again, and he waved at her. She was terrified and thought: "Oh no, he knows that I have been watching him every day. What does he think of me?"





The next morning there was  
a letter on Amelie's doorstep.  
She opened it excitedly.



The Letter was from James. She was touched that he wrote her a letter. She's a little romantic and has wanted exactly such a letter all her life. Of course, she complied with his request and met him at her window.

Dear Amelie.

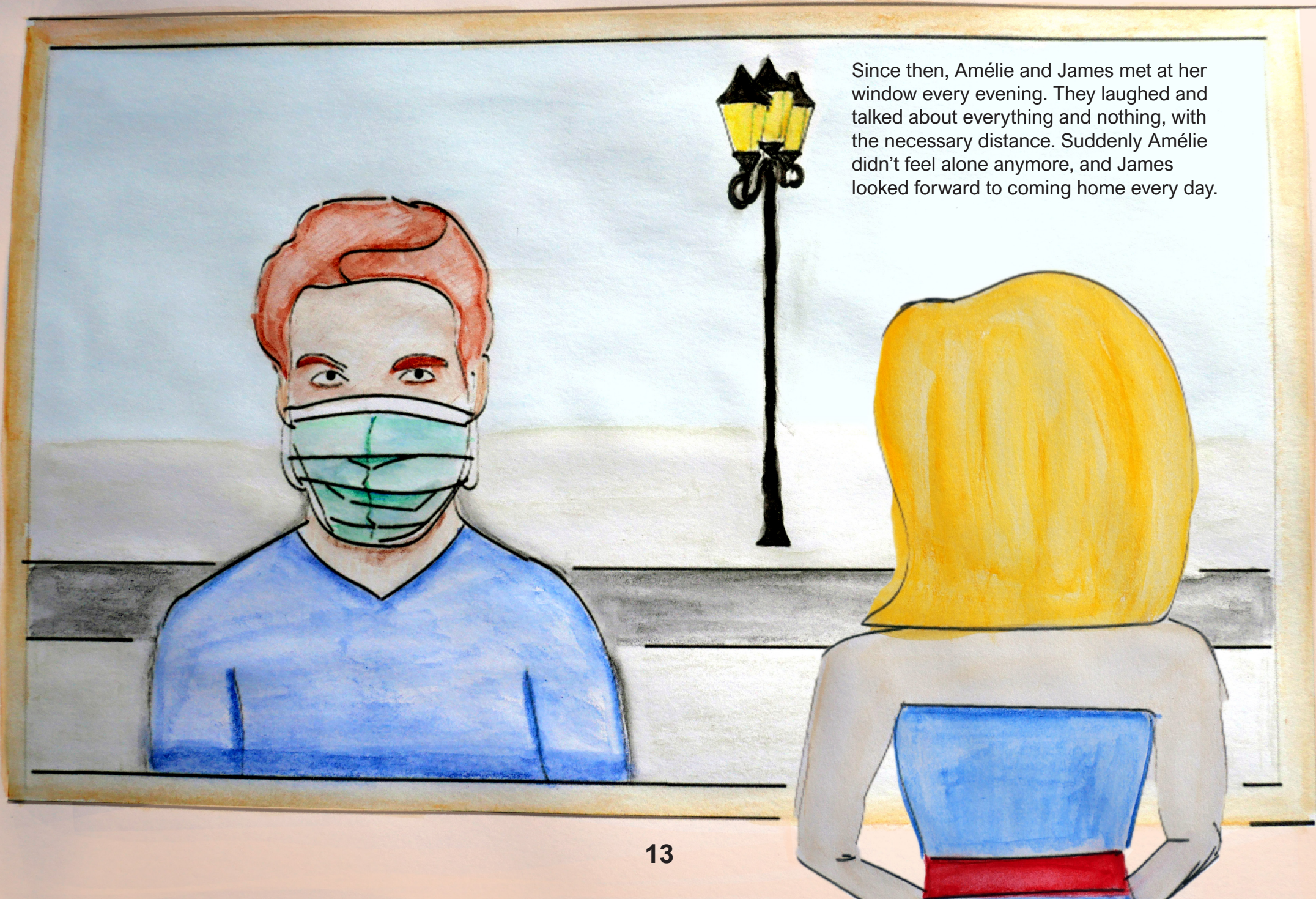
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I see you standing at your window every morning and evening. Your beautiful eyes are always looking for some entertainment. Since I cannot meet you personally in this difficult time, I wrote you this letter and wanted to ask you to meet me at your window tonight.

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With love  
James





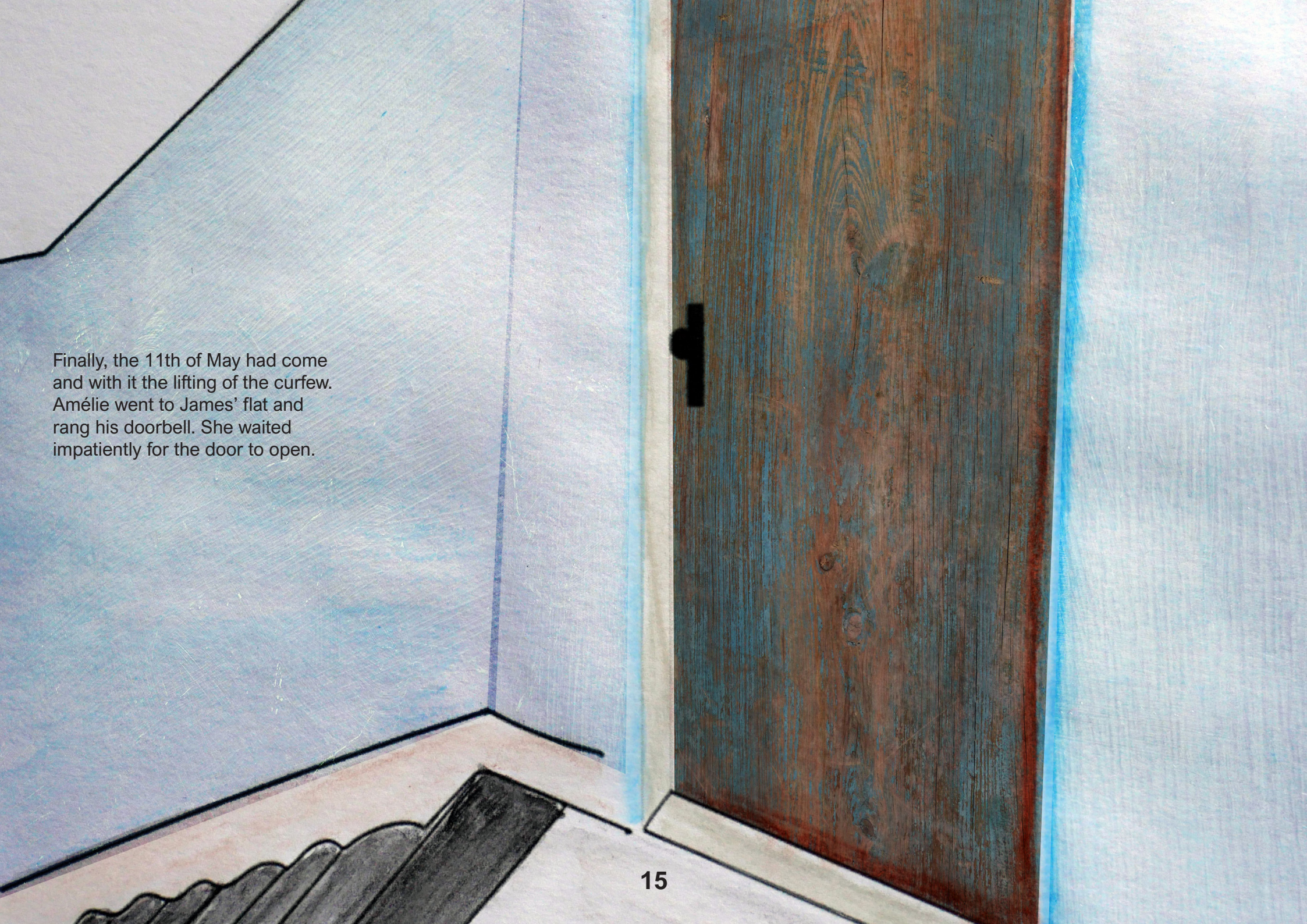
Since then, Amélie and James met at her window every evening. They laughed and talked about everything and nothing, with the necessary distance. Suddenly Amélie didn't feel alone anymore, and James looked forward to coming home every day.



But one day, James suddenly stopped showing up. Days went by and James never came to Amélie's window. This made Amélie very sad. She was in love with James, although she had only seen him through her window. Several weeks passed and Amélie still hadn't heard anything from James. But because of the curfew, her hands were tied. She feverishly awaited the lifting of the curfew to finally find out what had happened to James.

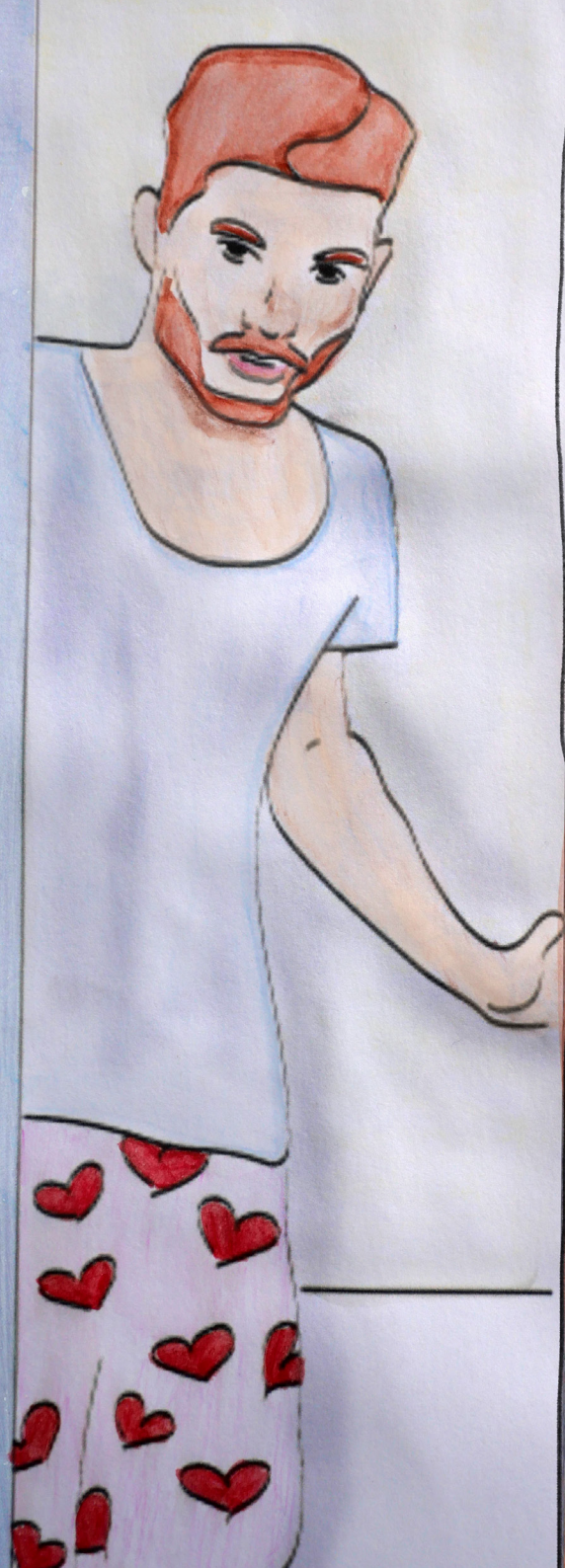






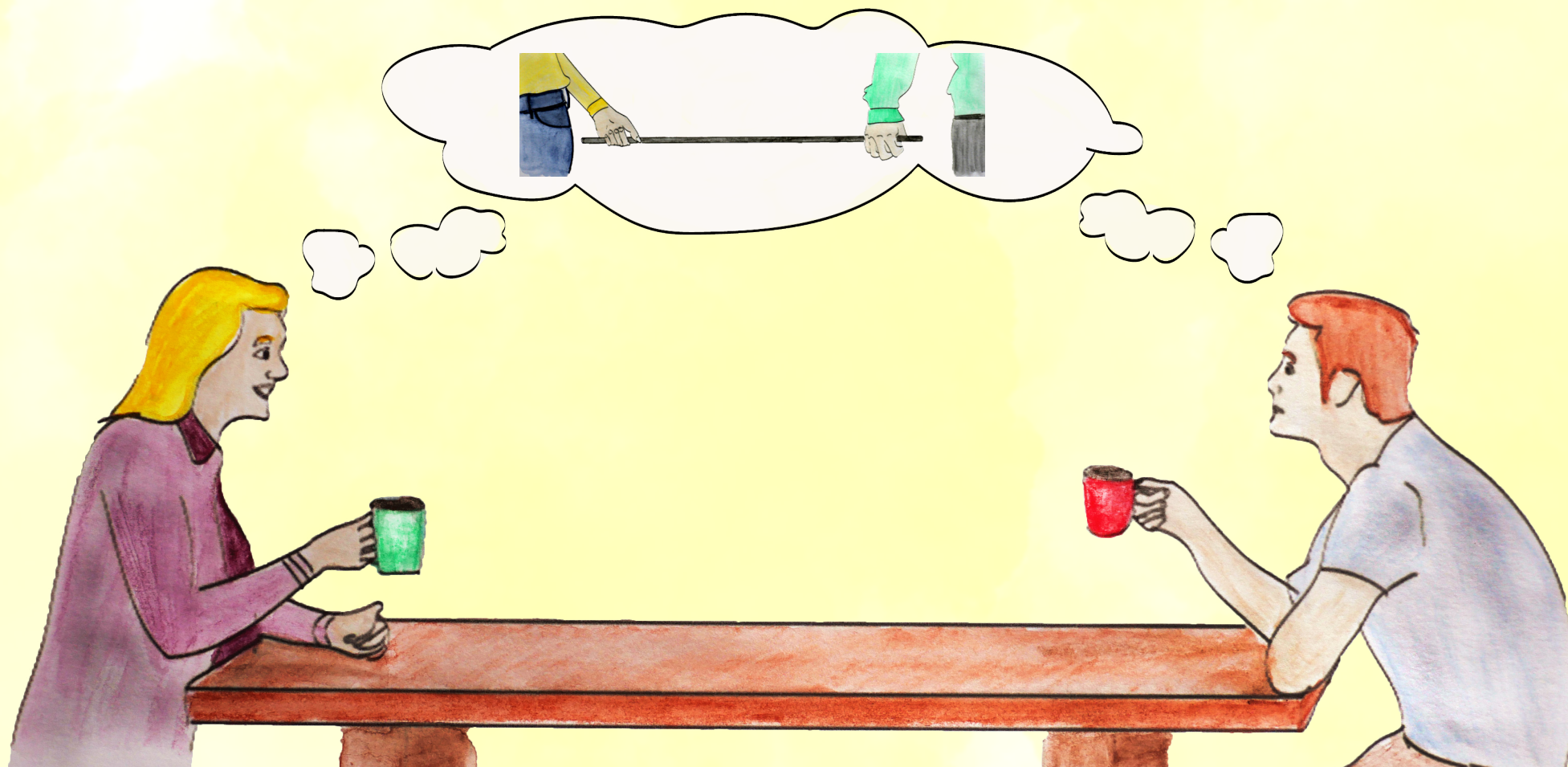
Finally, the 11th of May had come  
and with it the lifting of the curfew.  
Amélie went to James' flat and  
rang his doorbell. She waited  
impatiently for the door to open.





James opens the door in his pyjama. "What's going on", he asked sleepily. "I was worried because you didn't come to the window", Amélie replied. "I've had to work at night for several weeks now and slept during the day", he explained. Relieved, Amélie wanted to return to her flat, when James suddenly asked: "Would you like to have a cup of coffee?"





They both sat down at the table in James' flat, as far away from each other as possible, although they would have preferred to be very close. Both dreaming of taking a walk as a couple. (Of course with enough distance between them.) This is the story of how Amélie found her great love in a time of quarantine and loneliness.

Mara E.  
St. Gallen  
2020