

Imagine there was no Lockdown
I wonder if you can. No needs for separation and laws for
being well.
Imagine all the people just sitting in a restaurant, living life
in peace.

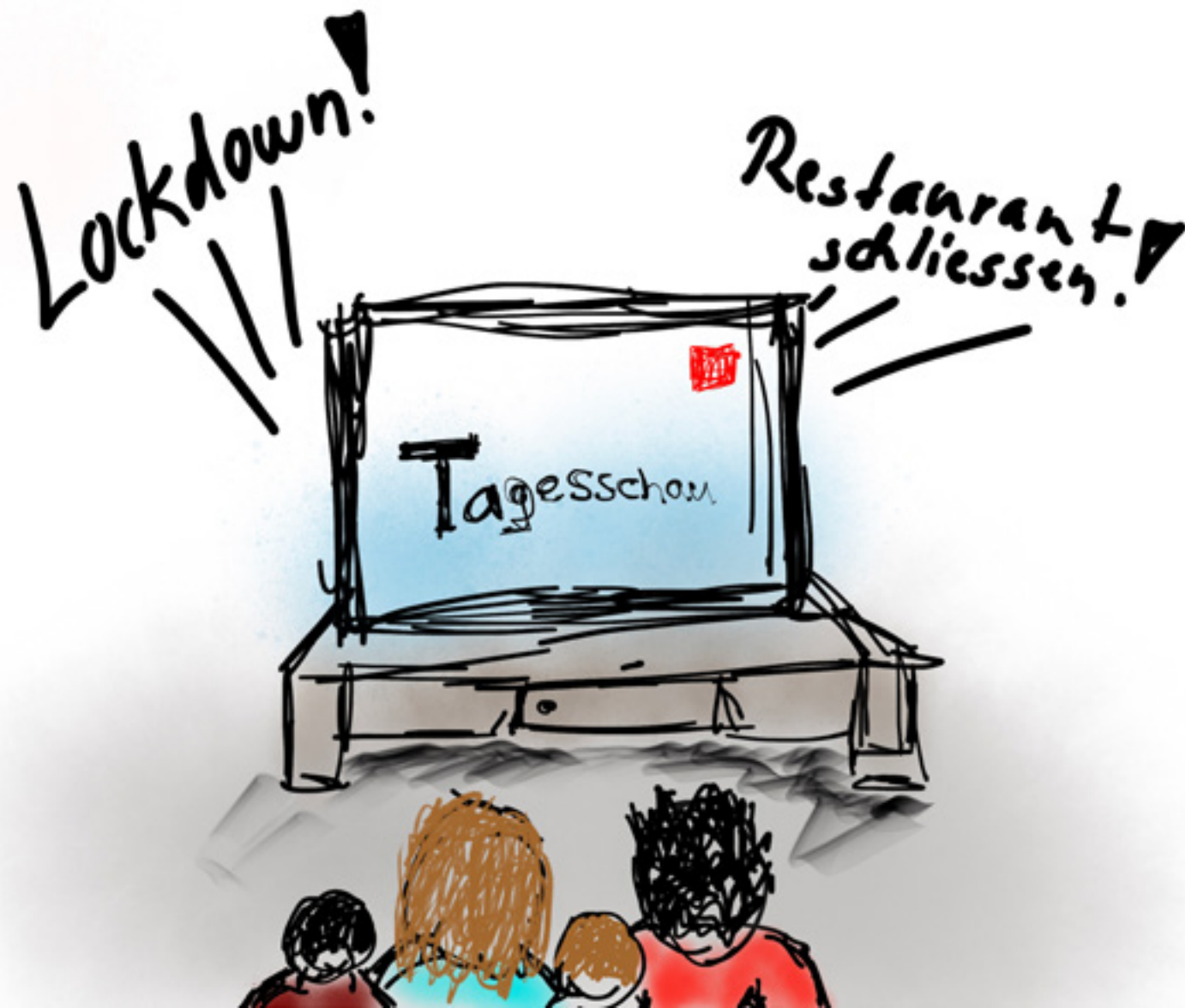


My Story starts in the livingroom of family Nussbaumer. They are living in a house somewhere in the countryside of Zurich.

Eveline Nussbaumer runs her own restaurant in a village nearby and her husband Bernd works as an IT-Specialist.

The two children attend primary school.

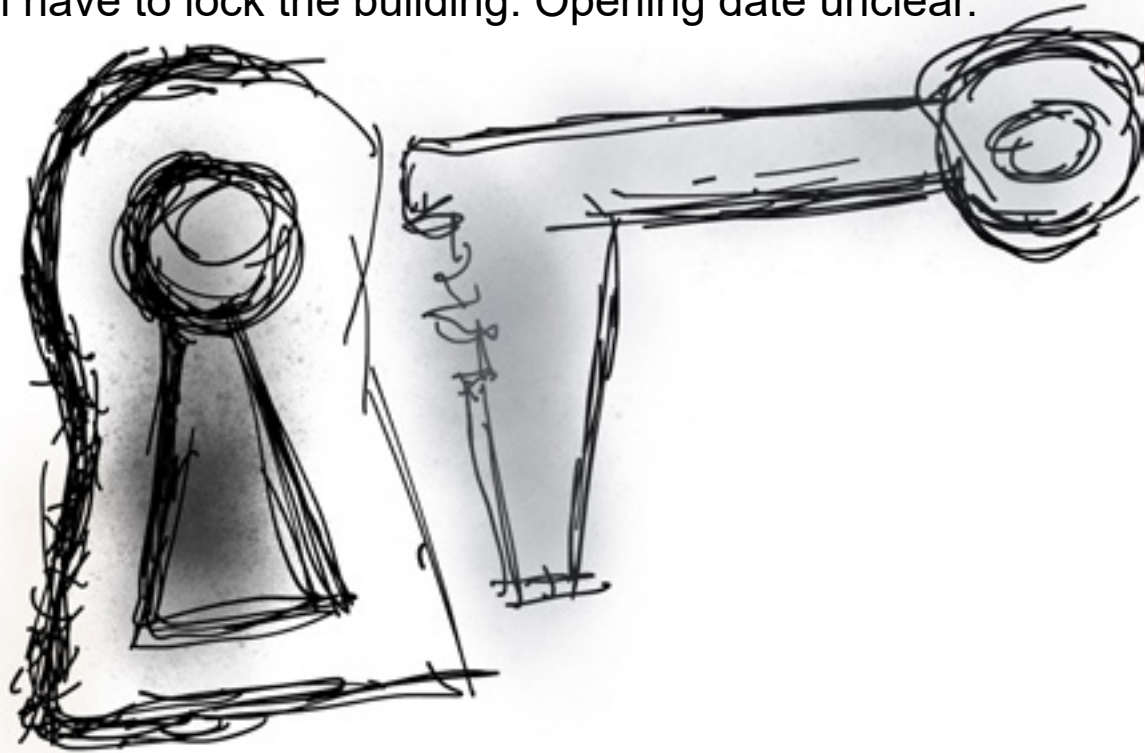
It's half past seven on March 16, 2020 and they are watching the news on television. Suddenly they hear about the "Lockdown": Restaurants must be closed immediately. They are shocked.



Some minutes later, Mrs Nussbaumer is close to tears, because she began to realise in which difficult situation the family suddenly is. She had already ordered delivery of food the next day, which must now be cancelled or thrown away. In addition she will not be able to earn money until she can reopen her restaurant.

Bernd realises the misery Eveline is in and comes to comfort her. Fritz, one of their children is with him. He has a glass of water in his hands.

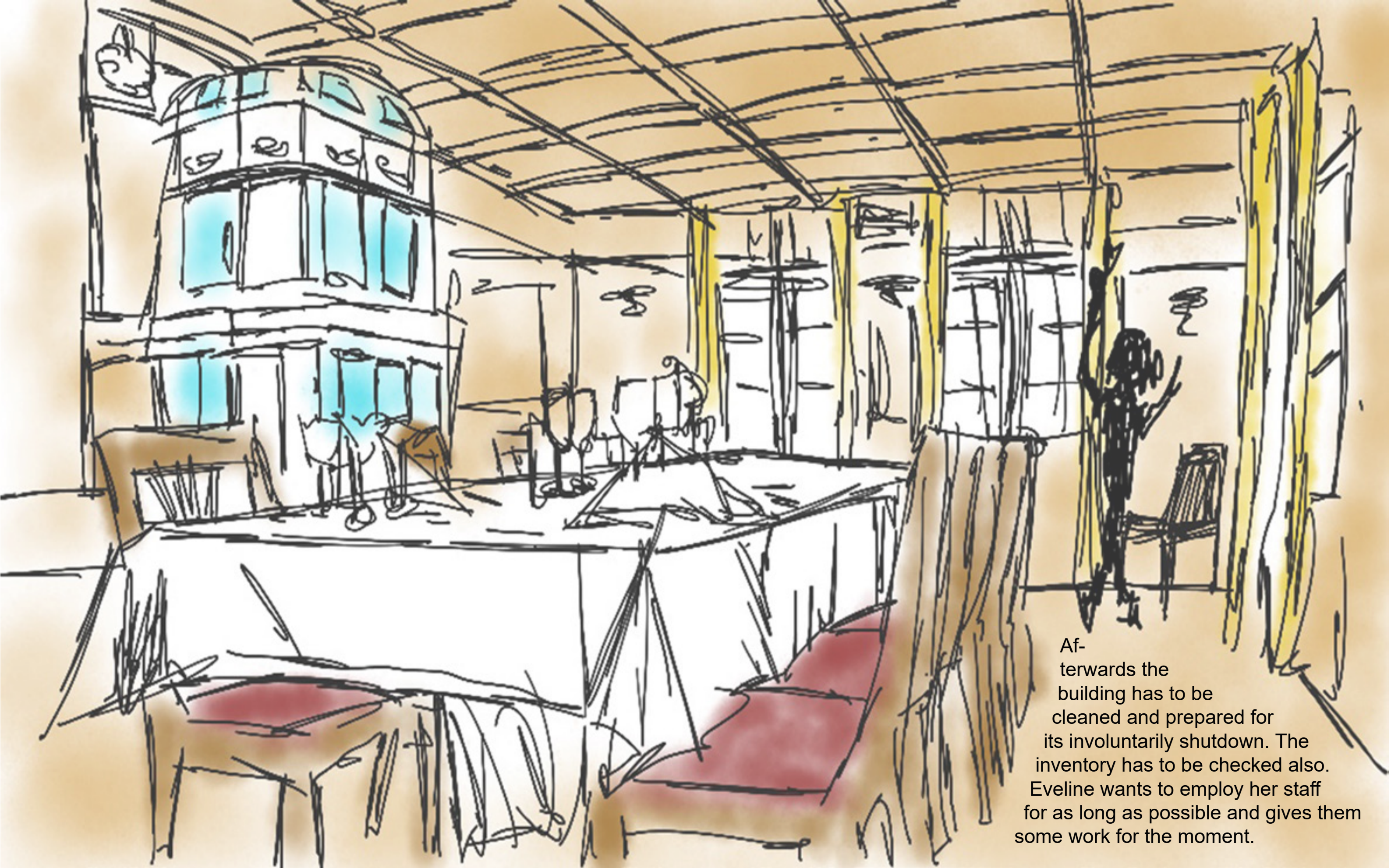
The next Morning, Eveline goes to work. It will be a short day, because she'll have to lock the building. Opening date unclear.



As she arrives, the supplier is already waiting with his truck full of pernicious food. She tells him that he must take it back because she is no longer allowed to serve food due to corona. "You could have told me earlier!" he replies. "Didn't you hear about corona and the lockdown last night?"



The driver has left for good. Meanwhile Eveline and her staff are throwing away the remaining food since they have no space left to store it properly.



Af-
terwards the
building has to be
cleaned and prepared for
its involuntarily shutdown. The
inventory has to be checked also.
Eveline wants to employ her staff
for as long as possible and gives them
some work for the moment.

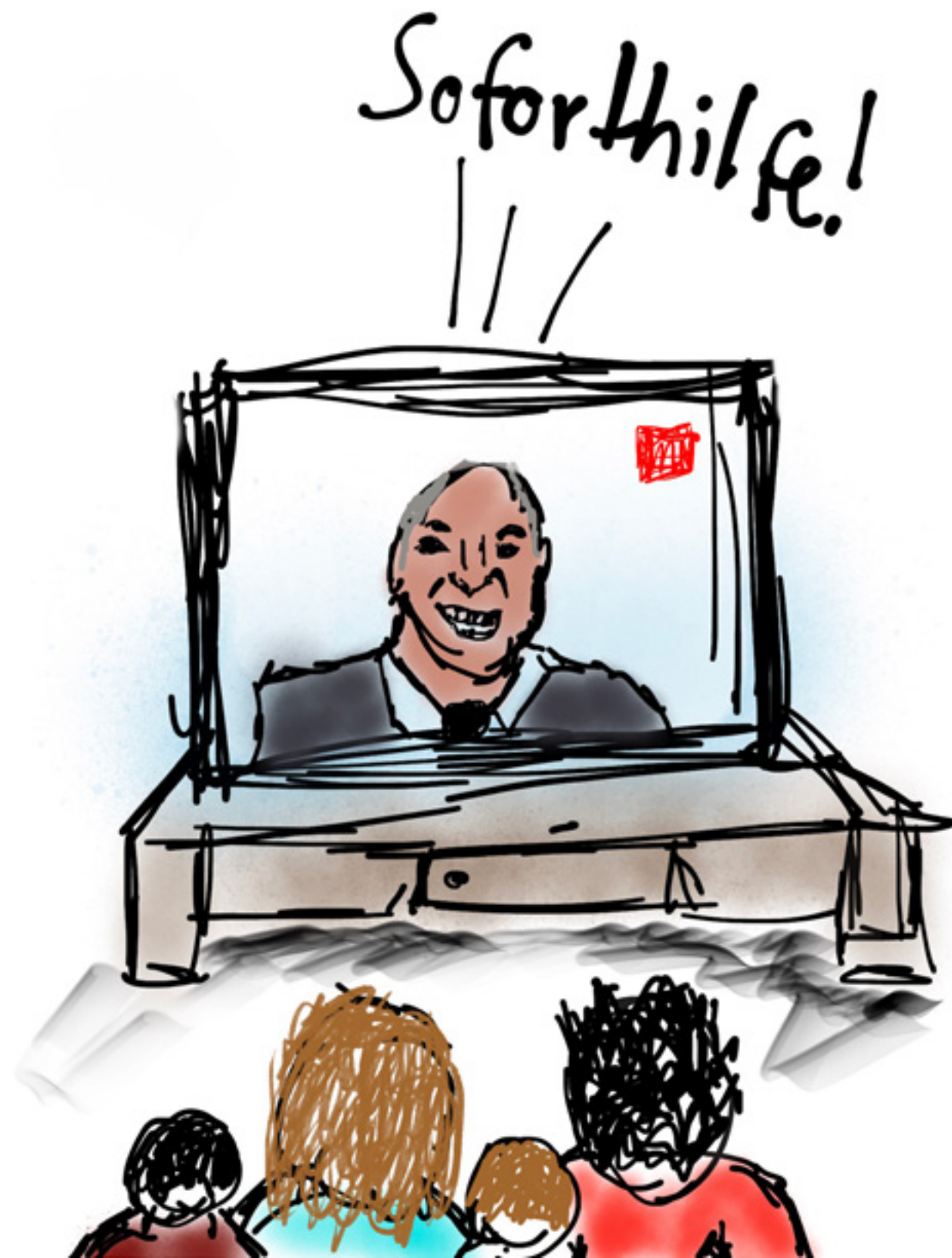


A few days later, Eveline and Bernd are discussing their finances intensively in the living room. “Bernd, I am afraid we cannot afford so many employees anymore if the lockdown continues for much longer.” “You are right, we have to do something about it. But we have to make sure to be able to run the business properly, when we can open again.”

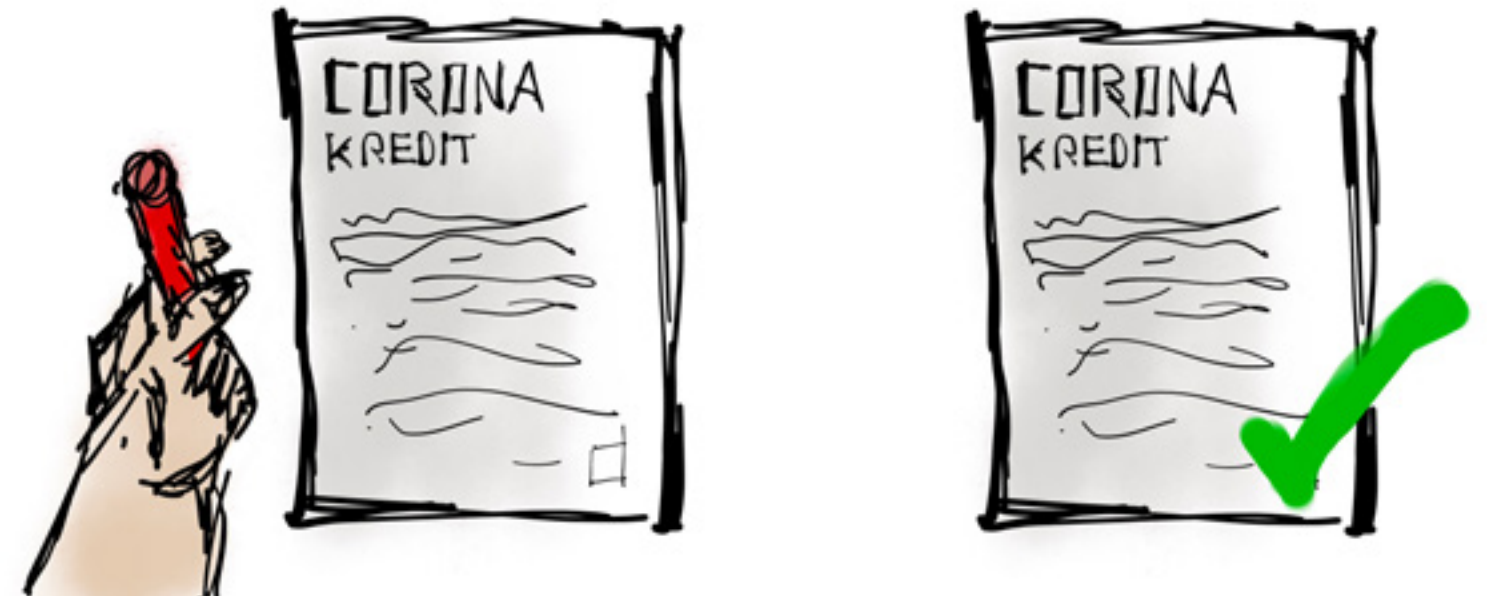
The same night, Eveline has a nightmare. The dream starts with her crying and with employees walking away from the restaurant. She must have fired them.



It is the end of March. The Nussbaumers are watching the news. The government announces the increase of the corona loans for local businesses. Maybe they could also apply for one?



After a brief discussion they decide to fill in the form. And mail it the very next day.



Several days later the loan is finally approved. The Nussbaumers are happy, at least for now.



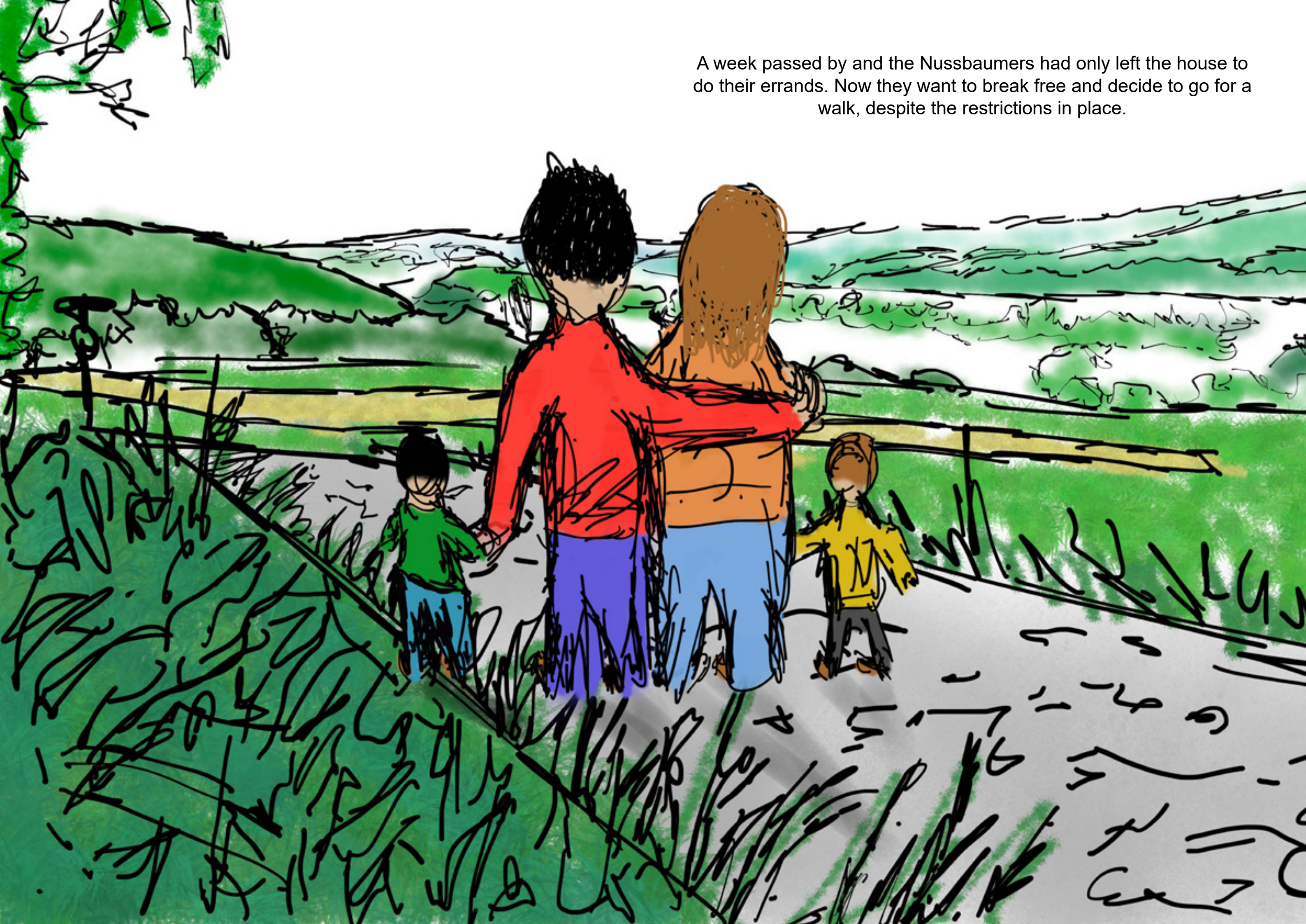
The situation seemed better; the urgent problems solved but Eveline thinks far ahead. She knows that the loan must be paid back some time, realizing that she's now in debt.

Meanwhile her husband stays also at home too because he is on "home office". The whole family is now there because schools are also closed.

But where there is darkness, there is also light. The past few years Eveline had hardly any free time for herself. Bernd was at home more often than her and looked after the children. And now she has time to spare and the family to share it with.



A week passed by and the Nussbaumers had only left the house to do their errands. Now they want to break free and decide to go for a walk, despite the restrictions in place.

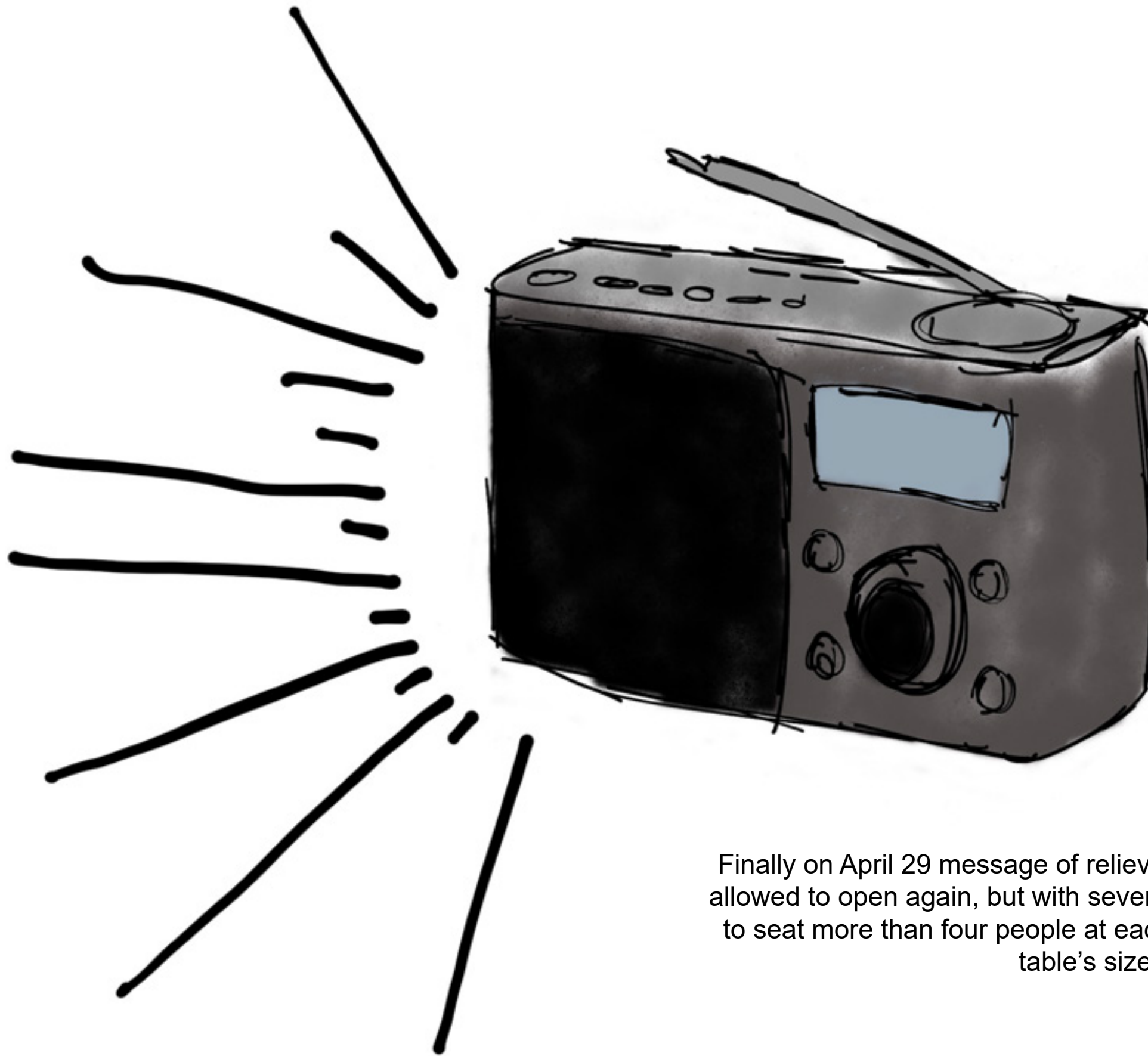


The outing was a great success, everyone was happy. So Bernd and Eveline decide to go outside, but this time on their own, to get some rest from the children. But they do not get far: A police car stops nearby and a officer yells at them:

“You are too close, the law says 2 meter distance from each other!” “But we are married and live in the same..” “That does not matter. The law is the law, I will have to fine you for this.”



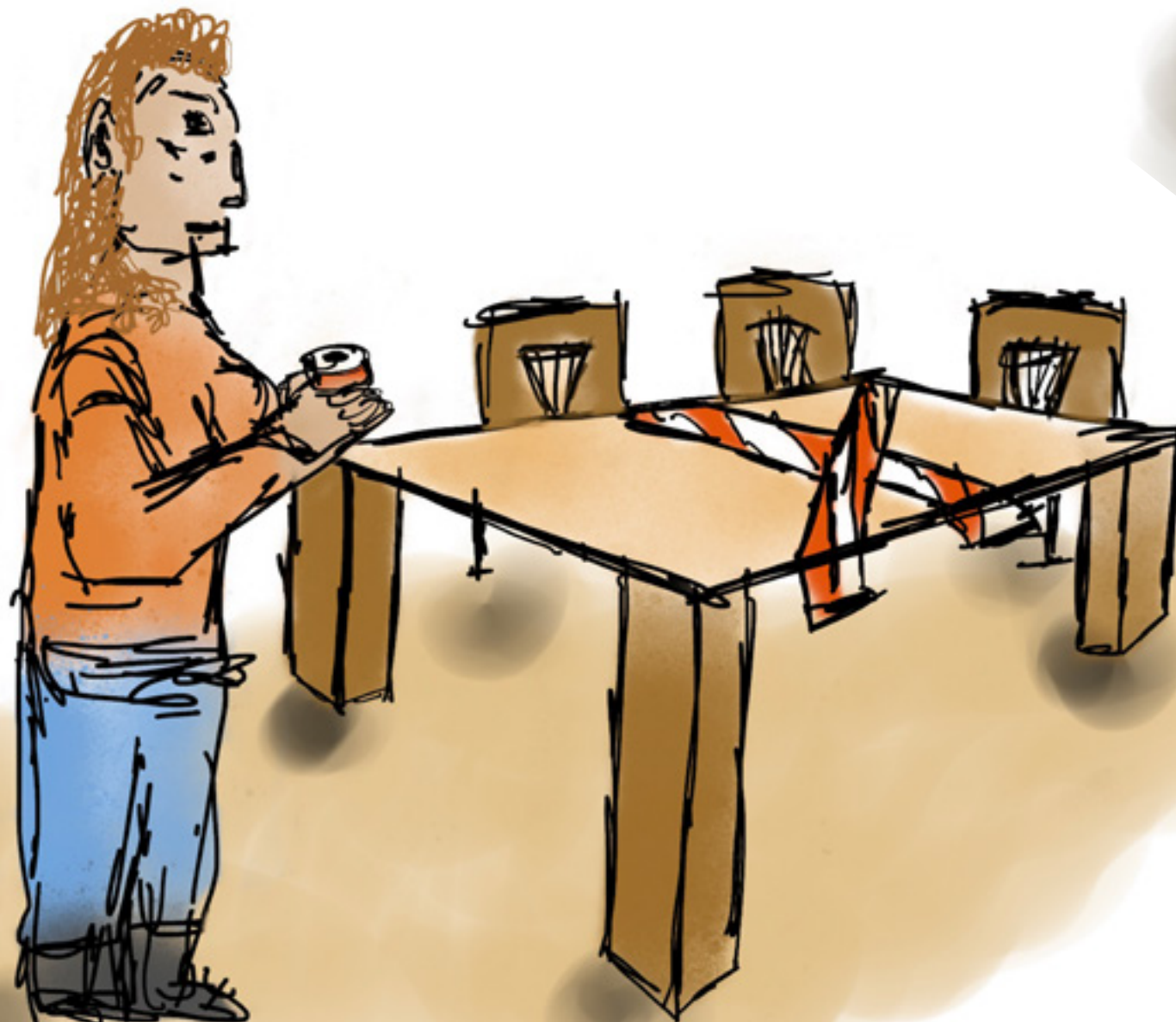
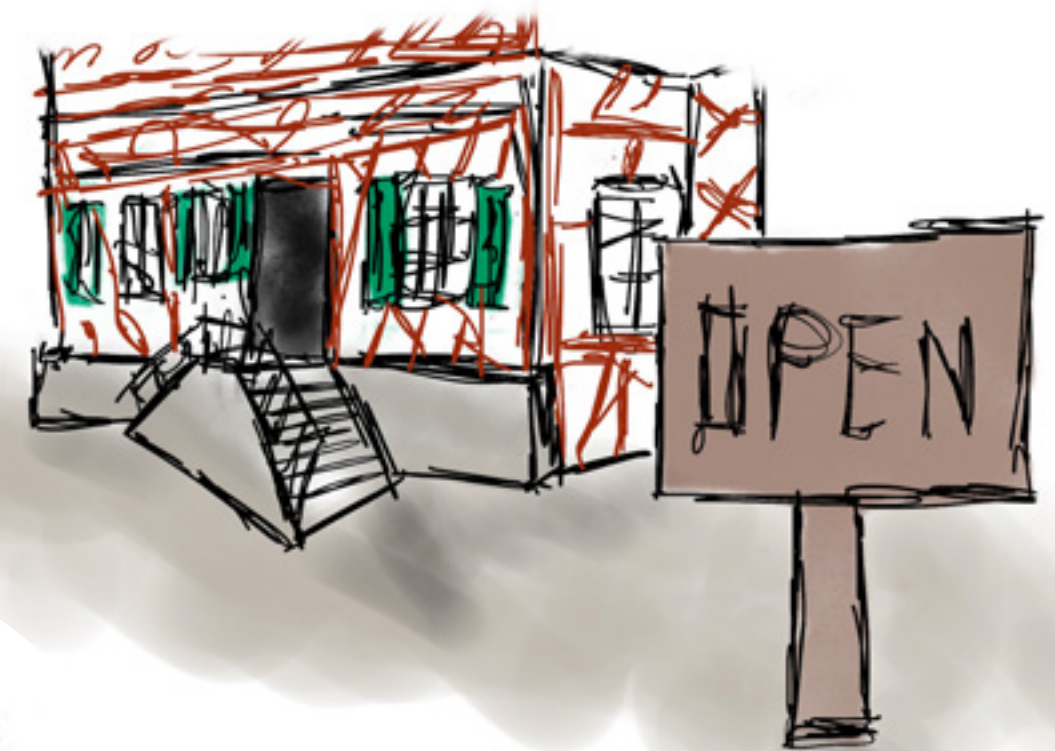
On April 16 the couple is once again watching the news. They had heard that this evening the government would announce some relaxations of the harsh corona rules. They do, but the restaurants are not mentioned at all. Pure frustration and harsh words fall.



Finally on April 29 message of relieve comes! Restaurants are allowed to open again, but with severe restrictions. It is forbidden to seat more than four people at each table, regardless of the table's size.

The next day Eveline goes straight to her restaurant and checks whether she can implement the regulations. Yes, she can, however with seating's reduced by more than fifty percents she will not be able to run a profitable business.

Nevertheless, she decides to open and give the local population a venue to meet and socialize again.



The first guests arrive and with them the first problem: This family of six is not allowed to sit at one table, reluctantly Eveline has to separate them.



After the first day back at work it is clear that this season will not be an easy task. Eveline is tired but also glad to work again. It is always difficult to predict the future, but this year it is even more so.

