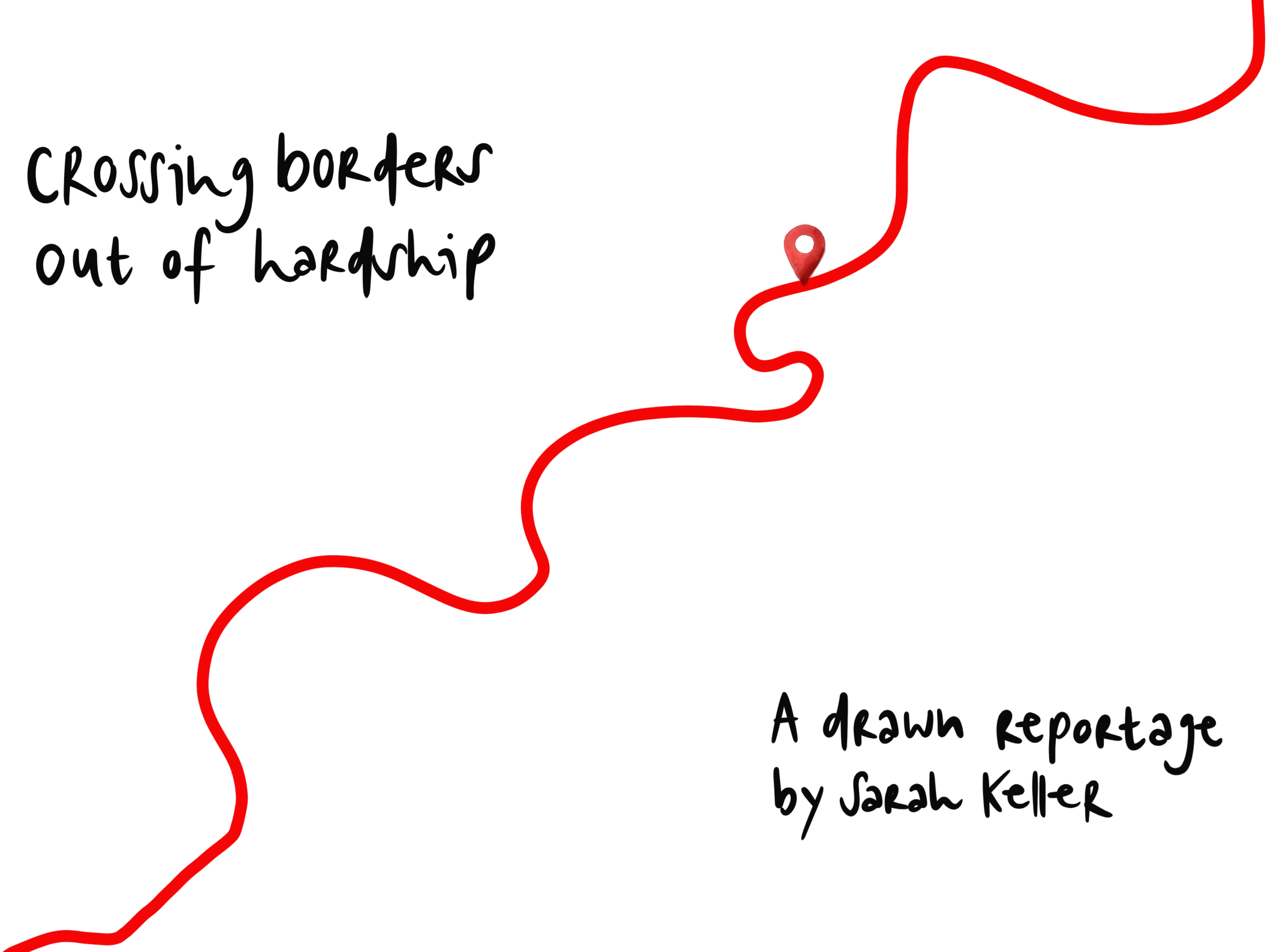


# Bordertown



Crossing borders  
out of hardship

A drawn reportage  
by Sarah Keller

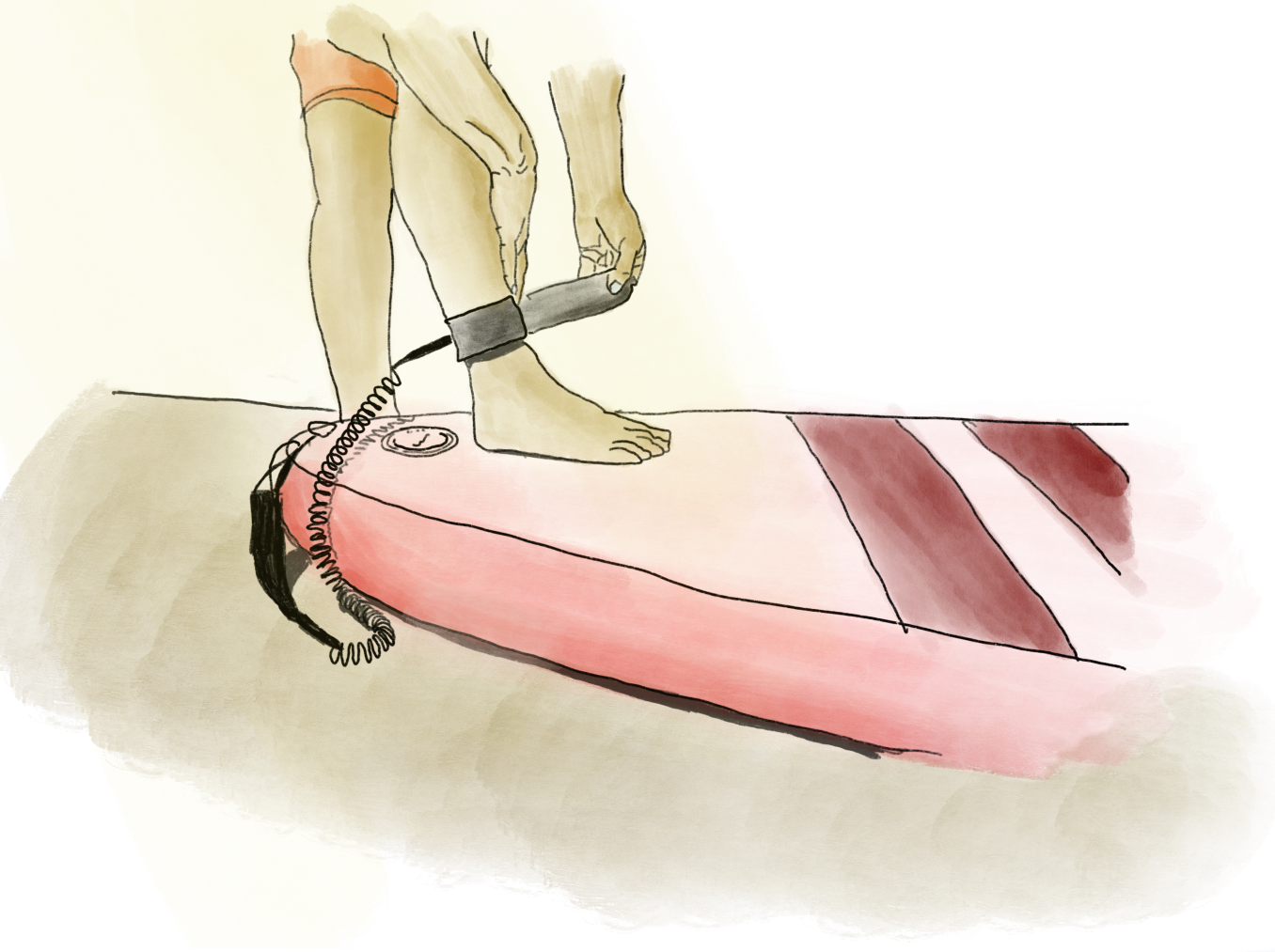


## Canton Schaffhausen

Mid-March 2020. Because of the coronavirus the borders around Switzerland are closed. This poses a number of challenges for those living in Schaffhausen.





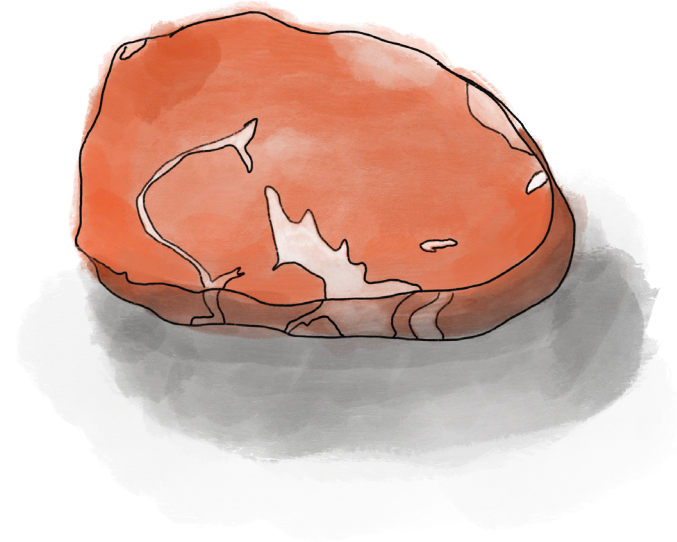


Nevertheless, a young man does not let his shopping tour in Germany be ruined. He crosses the border on the River Rhine on a stand-up paddle, pretending to be a recreational sportsman and nature lover.

Often the shortest route to someone's workplace in the same canton leads across the German border. Shopping in Germany is also no longer possible. Even the green borders, which often only exist on paper, are suddenly sealed off and guarded.







## Gailingen

Especially meat is very cheap in Germany compared to Switzerland. The young man buys 20 Kilograms of beef and then paddles back to Switzerland.



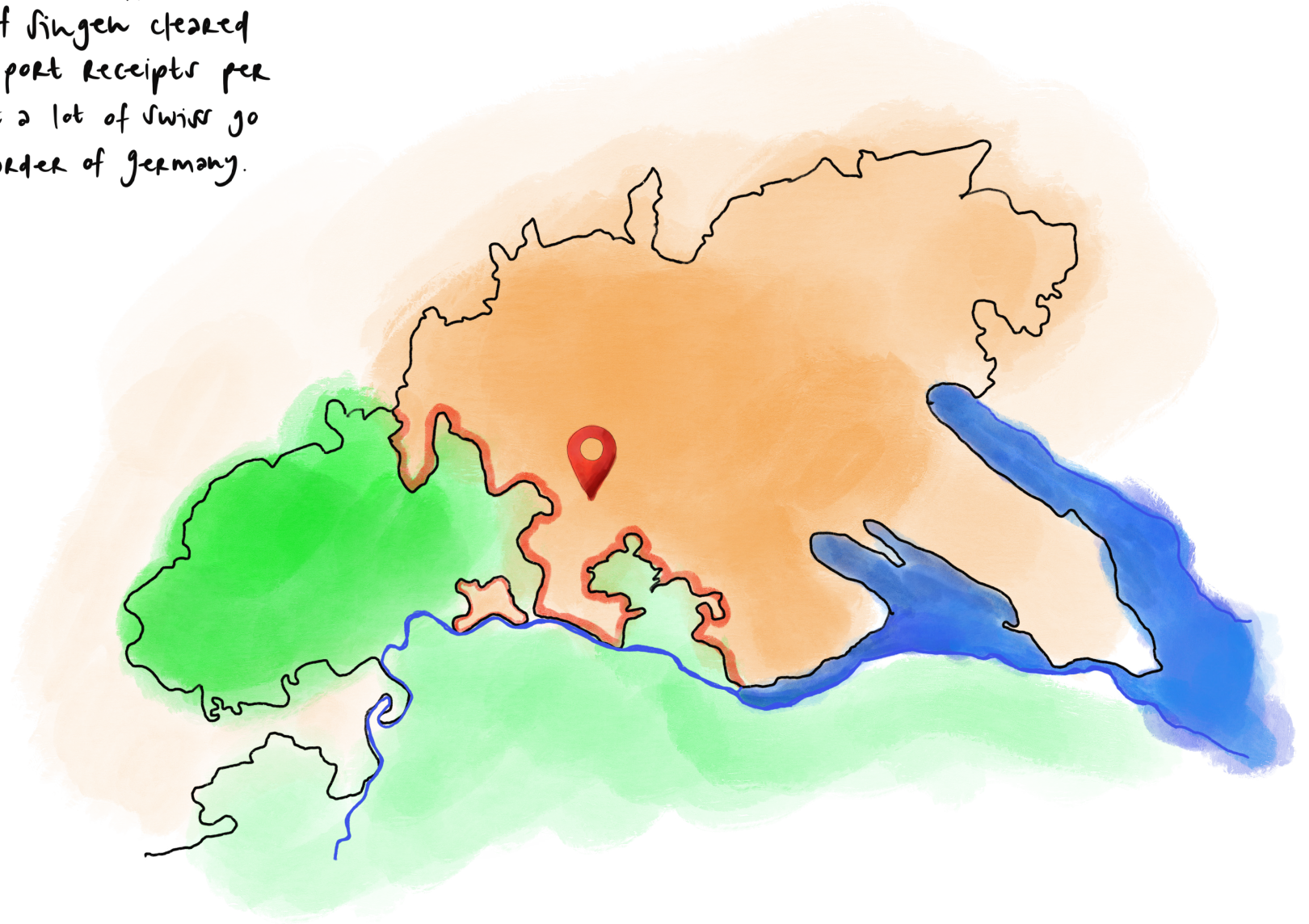






However, the border guards catch him on his way back. At the moment it is not only forbidden to bring 20 kilograms of meat across the border without paying duty on it. Because of the coronavirus it is also illegal to leave Switzerland and to enter Germany at all. Therefore, he is now threatened by a hefty fine.

In the past years the custom officers in the main custom district of Singen cleared around 10 Million export receipts per year. This shows, that a lot of Swiss go shopping across the border of Germany.



Some for a reason.





660'000 people in Switzerland are affected by poverty.

133'000 people are poor despite working. They are dependent on cheaper food from Germany.



Mid-June 2020. The borders are open and the cars are queuing up at the border crossing again. Swiss not only buy food, but also electrical appliances, clothes and drugstore articles cheaply in Germany. But is that really always necessary?



The End

Sarah Keller  
mmp19 | c2  
Schaffhausen (SH)  
Bordertown, June 2020