





Little Beechnut, Little Acorn Cher and Ry and the twins lived in the city park.

During the day when the playground was full of children chatting and running about, they were hiding under a hazel bush. Someone could have easily stepped on them without knowing as they were so tiny.



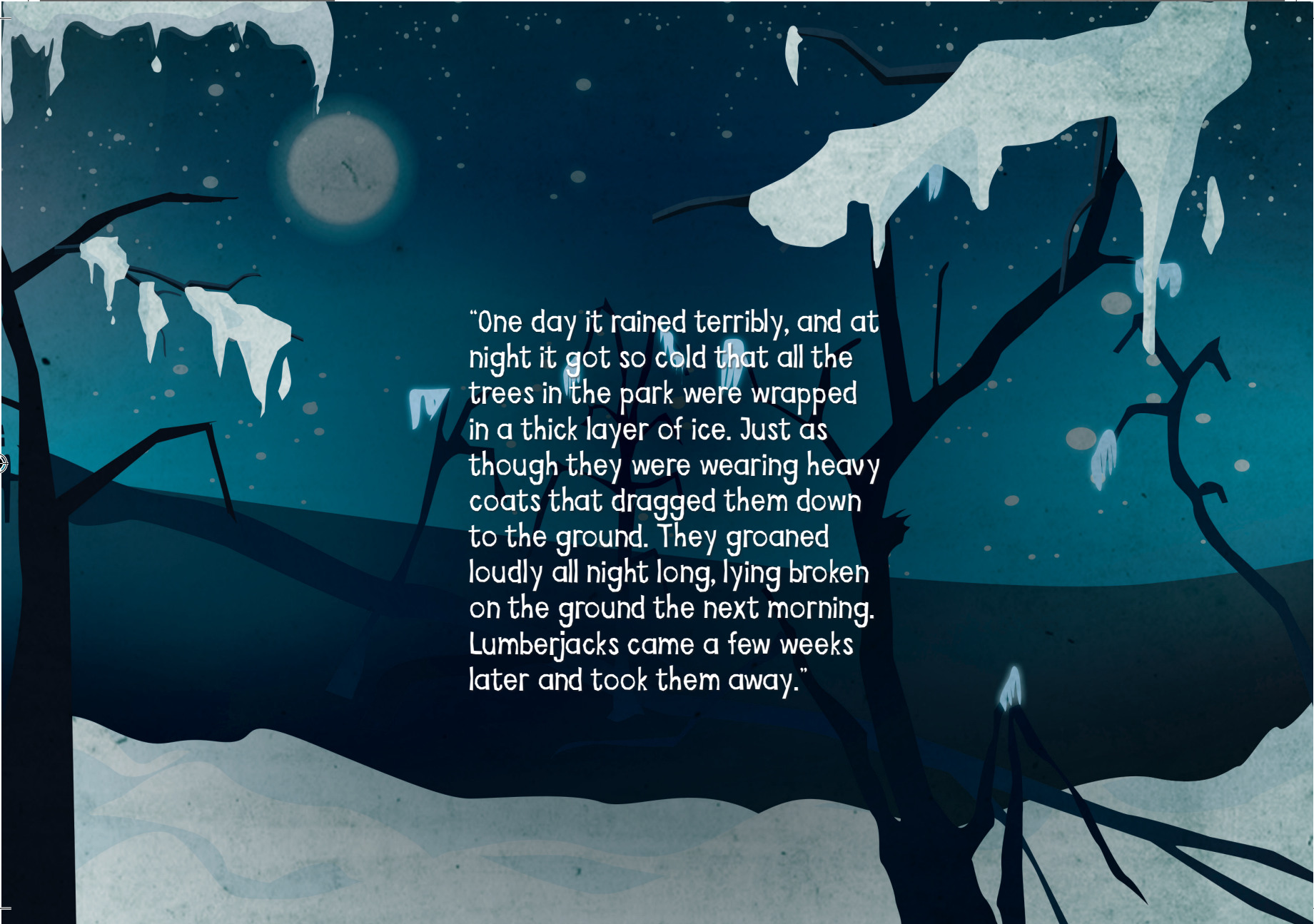
When the children ran home for dinner in the evening,
they crawled out into the open.
Little Beechnut loved riding a small skateboard which had
fallen out of a boy's pocket. Little Acorn kept sliding down
the slide over and over again. Cher and Ry played
in the sandpit inside the sandcastles
that had been made during the day.





They slept in a cookie tin where
they made themselves a soft bed.
"Tell us a stow, pwetty pwease,"
the youngest Little Acorn begged Little Beechnut every night.
"The scary one, about the big ice!"
demanded Cher and Ry in unison.
"OK, fine!" Little Beechnut sighed and began,





"One day it rained terribly, and at night it got so cold that all the trees in the park were wrapped in a thick layer of ice. Just as though they were wearing heavy coats that dragged them down to the ground. They groaned loudly all night long, lying broken on the ground the next morning. Lumberjacks came a few weeks later and took them away."





"Who will provide us with shade during the summer?" the mothers asked.
And where will the birds make their nests?" the little children worried.
While the dads reasoned that the city had lost its ..."
"Brains!" Cher interrupted.
"No, its heart!" Ry corrected her defiantly.





"Lungs is the correct answer," Little Beechnut burst out laughing, so the twins turned away, offended, each in their own direction. "Tell us more," Little Acorn asked kindly. And Little Beechnut continued. "Then spring came and new trees were planted: oak, beech, wild cherry, linden trees," he listed. But the others had already fallen asleep.



In the morning, they were woken up by the shouting voices of children. Still sleepy, they looked out from under the bush and crashed straight into some glass through which they could see an enormous eye was blinking. Little Acorn started sobbing from fear, the twins held each other tight, and Little Beechnut squeezed his hand bravely to a fist.







He gently placed them onto a large Ficus leaf in his room in order for them to feel more at home.

"Don't be afraid! I'm in the forest every day, but I haven't seen creatures like you before!"

"Have you already been to the big forest?!" Little Beechnut got up the courage to speak up first.

"Of course, it starts right behind our house," Simon explained to him.

"Could you take us with you once?" Cher and Ry wiggled their feet from excitement.





They set out the very next morning.
"Oh, the trees are so tall!"
They could not believe their eyes when they stepped into the forest.
"The oldest among them are five hundred years old. My great grandmother
with her ninety years is a baby compared to them," joked Simon.



"And what is this?"
they were astonished by the fern as they only knew the asphalt and grass in the park.
Suddenly, the undergrowth opened and they saw two scaly faces!
"Forest monsters!" the twins screamed and hid in Simon's sleeve.
"These are pine and fir cones. There are a few trees
of this kind there," Simon pointed with his finger.



"How strange they are! They have needles instead of leaves," Little Beechnut said.
"Yes, these are coniferous trees. And you grew up on deciduous trees,"
the boy explained to them.
"Can I touch you?" Little Acorn could no longer hold in his curiosity.
"You are so coawse and bumpy and wough," he exclaimed.
"And you are smooth and soft," the cones warily touched them back.





They soon overcame their shyness. The fir and the pine revealed to their guests that forests can actually be enormous playgrounds. Little Beechnut climbed high into the treetops, Little Acorn sailed down the nearby stream in a small boat made of bark, while Cher and Ry preferred swinging in the branches.





Simon taught his little friends how to make a whistle and built them a water mill. He set out home when it started getting dark. Little Beechnut, Little Acorn and Cher and Ry decided to stay in the big forest together with their new friends in the company of its mighty trees.





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