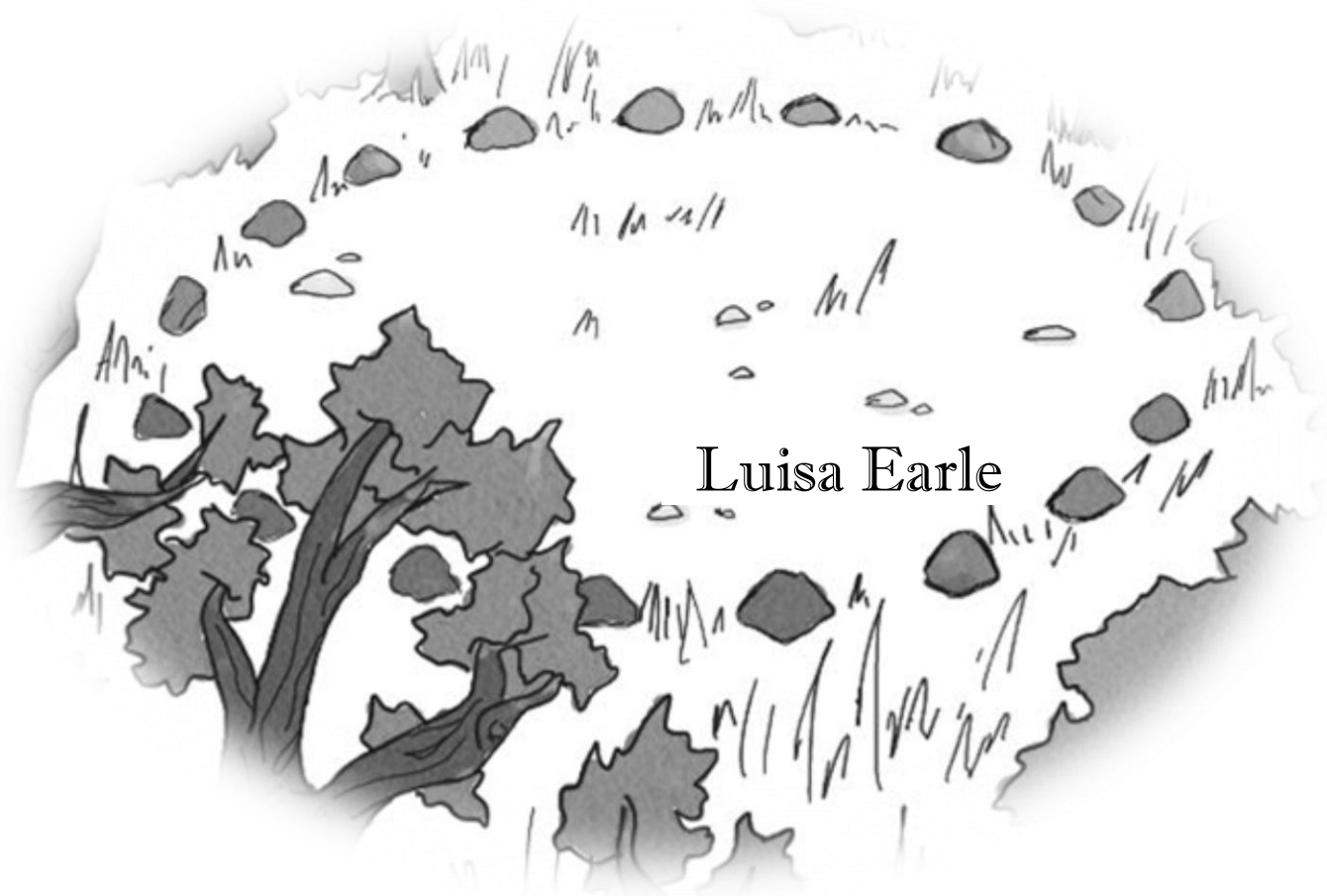
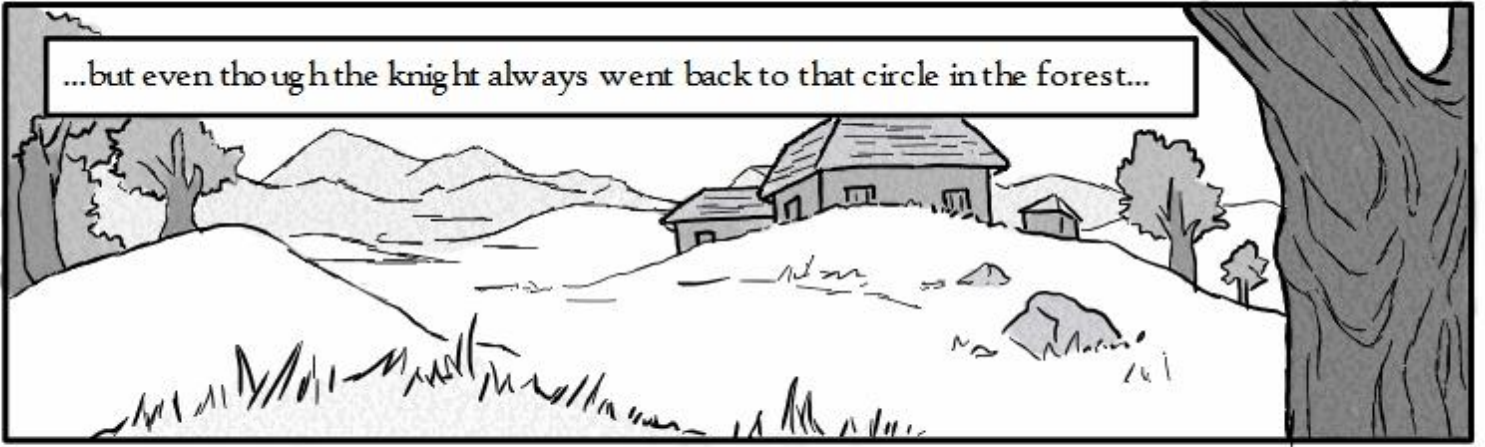


The Secret Circle



Luisa Earle

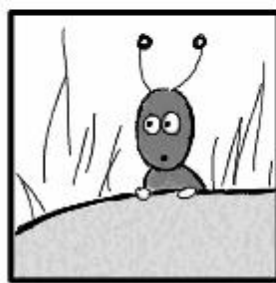
...but even though the knight always went back to that circle in the forest...

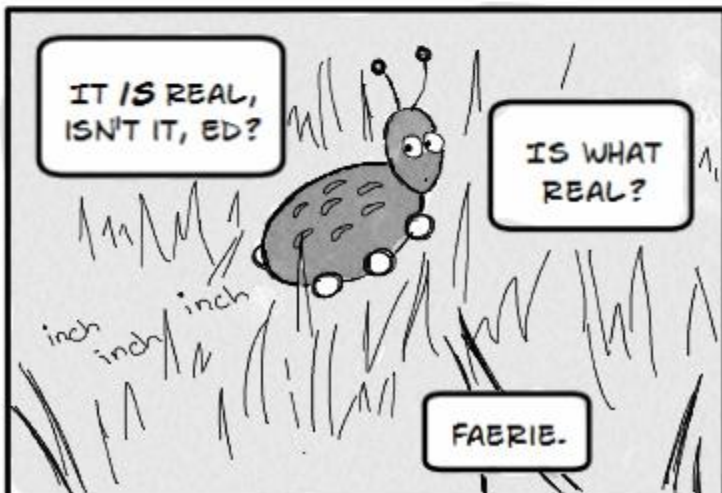


...he never again found the secret door...



...or saw the glimmering lighted land that was Faerie.







BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED.

SOMEONE DISAPPEARED IN THE VILLAGE...

...AND EVERYTHING CHANGED.



ONE DAY, ED TOOK ME
TO A PLACE FAR BACK IN
THE FOREST.



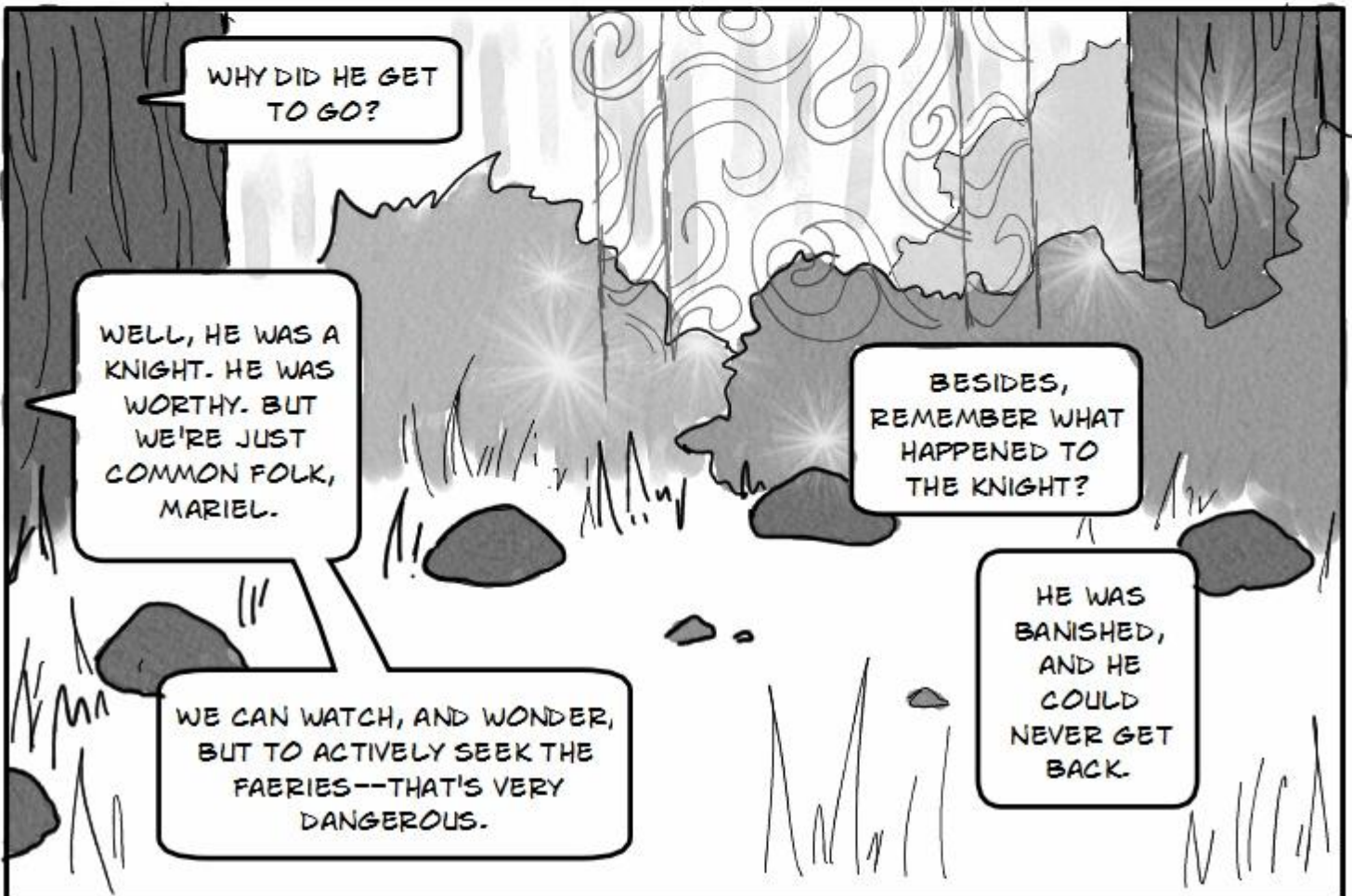
WHAT IS IT?



A FAERY RING.







AFTER THAT, I WENT BACK TO THE FAERY RING AS OFTEN AS I COULD WITHOUT MOTHER WONDERING WHERE I WAS. IT WASN'T TOO HARD IN THE BEGINNING; OFTEN ED WOULD COME WITH ME, AND AFTER SITTING THERE FOR A WHILE WE WOULD WANDER MORE, AND HE WOULD POINT OUT DIFFERENT HERBS AND FLOWERS, AND WHAT THEY COULD BE USED FOR. MOTHER HAD TAUGHT HIM HERBLORE WHEN HE WAS ABOUT MY AGE.

...SHE HAD TRIED TO TEACH ME, TOO, BUT SAID I WAS TOO FICKLE TO BE A GOOD STUDENT.

IT WAS A FEW WEEKS LATER WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS DOING SOMETHING WRONG.



THEN, ONE DAY, I HEARD MOTHER AND ED ARGUING.

YOU KEEP TELLING HER THOSE STORIES--IT'S DANGEROUS! THEY'RE NOT **REAL!**

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER! **SHE** HAS TO BELIEVE IT.



YOU HAVE TO TELL HER IT'S NOT REAL.

I RAN.



IT'S NOT REAL.

IT'S NOT REAL.



AND THEN... I FELL ASLEEP.

