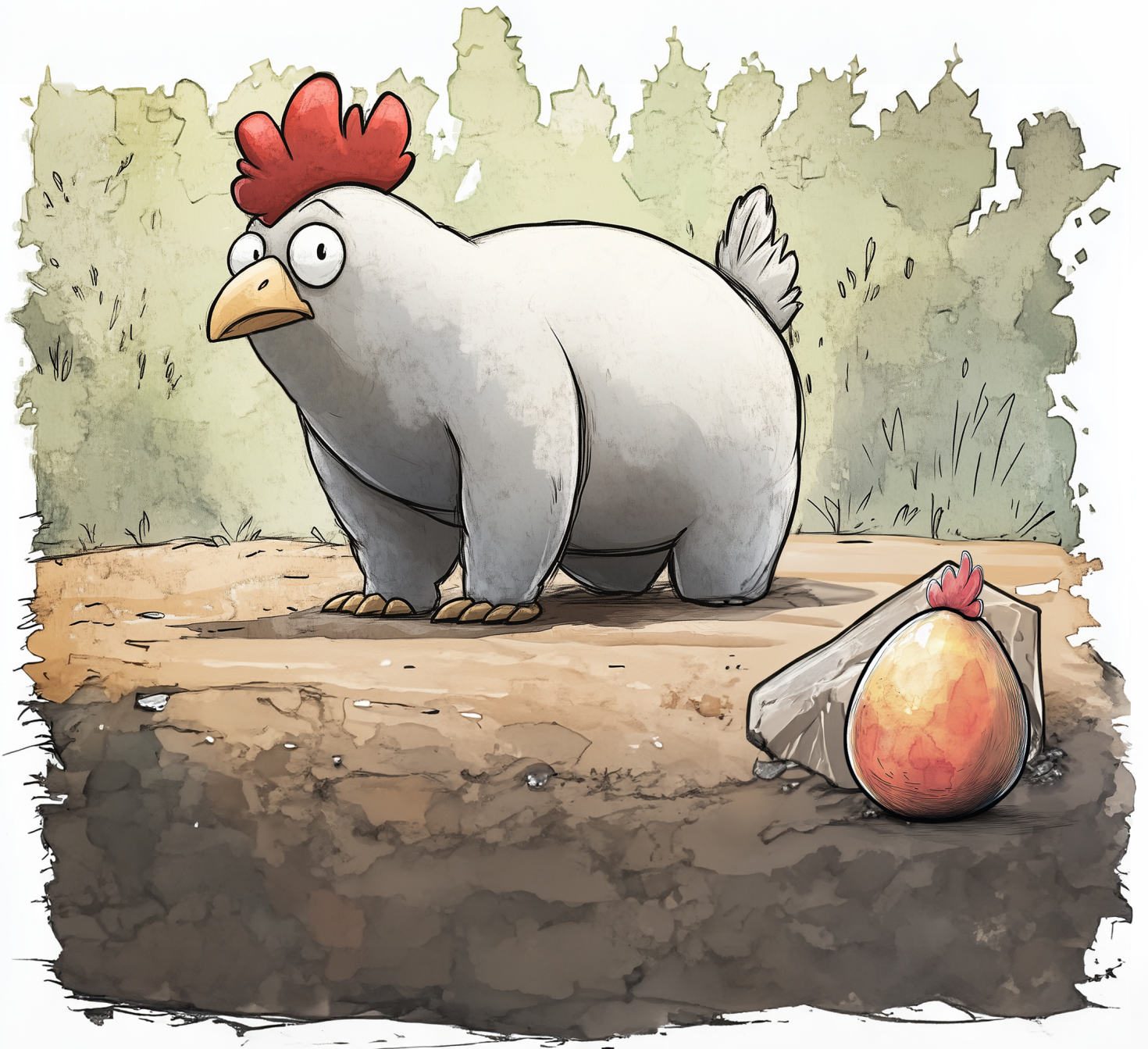


THÉOPHILE CHAMPALOUX

DENIS MARTIN

ETIENNE'S INCREDIBLE EGG HUNT



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For Olympe.

Cerberus Collective
15 rue de la Villette 69003 Lyon

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Written by: Théophile Champaloux
Cover and illustrations by: Denis Martin
Edited and translated by: Victor Galmard

Étienne's Incredible Egg Hunt
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Etienne is the most handsome bhen of all.



It goes without saying.

But above all, he's the only bhen with a pet knight.



And not just any knight:
it's George, the knight with stinky feet!

Etienne is a really gifted bhen:



he can search for beehives,

peck honey,



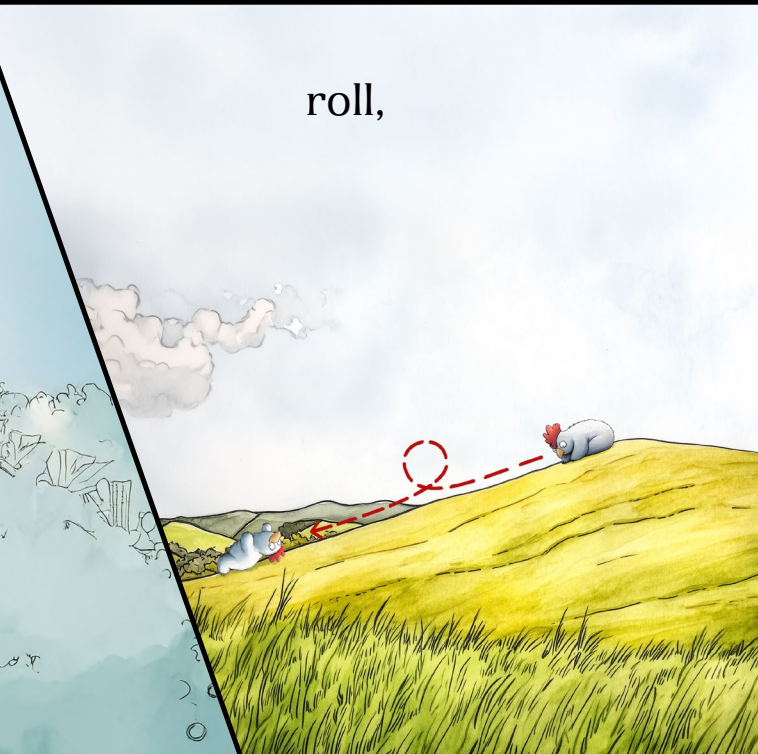
squint without getting stuck,



scratch his shoulder blades like no other,



roll,



Happy Endings

or sing in the morning
as the day rises,
or sets, depending
on your point of view.

And sometimes he even sings
the National Bhenthem at dawn.

Will he shut up,
I've had enough
of this!

The Bhen is a patriotic
animal from time to time.

This morning, Etienne is worried.
He's convinced he's laid an egg,
but he just can't get his paws on it.



Maybe someone stole it?
But who would be vile enough
to want to steal his egg?!

The real question: who'd be
muscular enough... that
must weigh quite a bit.



Here's Etienne in search of the thief, his keen sense of smell activated.



He follows tracks with great focus.



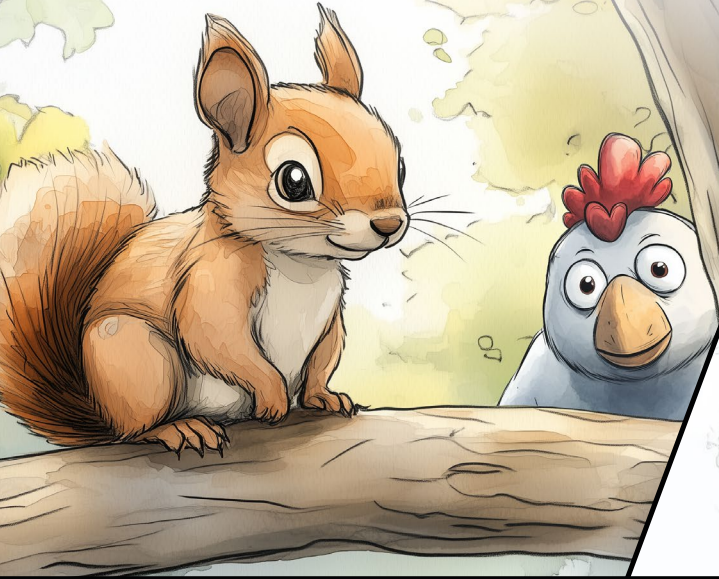
Along the way, he smells a beehive. He turns away from his quest for just a moment.

Upon reaching it, he pecks at a piece of honey or two, and then with a full belly, sets off in search of a tree to scratch his back.



To be perfectly honest, Etienne has a bit of ADD, but since it's trendy, it's cool.

He meets a squirrel
and decides to run after it.



He climbs up a tree after it but to no
avail.



At least he found a good trunk
to scratch his back on.



After a pleasant moment of scratching,
he decides to continue on his way.

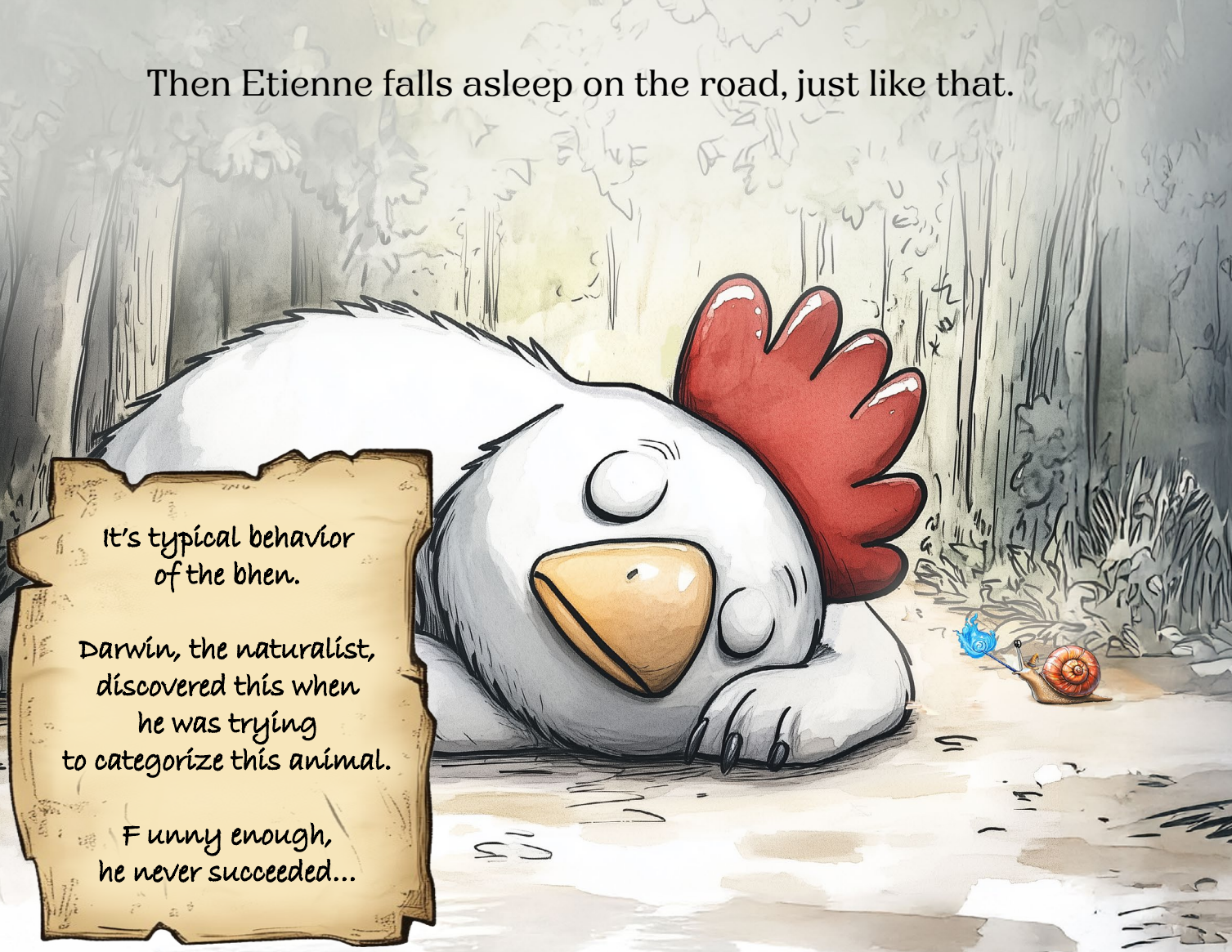


At a bend in the road, he meets a snail with a sun on its shell, a wizard's robe, and a magic wand that repeats over and over: "*Maggot Posternum*".



How... Strange...

Then Etienne falls asleep on the road, just like that.



It's typical behavior of the bhen.

Darwin, the naturalist, discovered this when he was trying to categorize this animal.

Funny enough, he never succeeded...

When he wakes up, he wonders why he's so far from home.



He looks left,



then right...



then right*.



He cannot remember exactly where he is going or why. He looks left again,



**But in the other direction.*

He spots a panda
staring at him.



The panda finishes its bite and asks,
“What are you looking at, platypus?
Are you lost?”



Etienne replies: “To tell you the truth,
I’m not sure, but I think it’s a story about an egg...
And thank you for not comparing me to those
strange animals... I am a proud *Ursicus poulux*, sir!”



It was the great
Sir David Attenborough who found
a solution to the classification problem.
Safe to say it made the Bhen
very cocky...

The panda points towards the forest and says:
“If you’re looking for Fabergé, it’s this way!
Otherwise, you’ll have to...”





The panda doesn't finish his sentence and eats again.



Etienne looks at him, waiting for the next part...



The panda chews...



And they stay like this for a very...



very...



very...

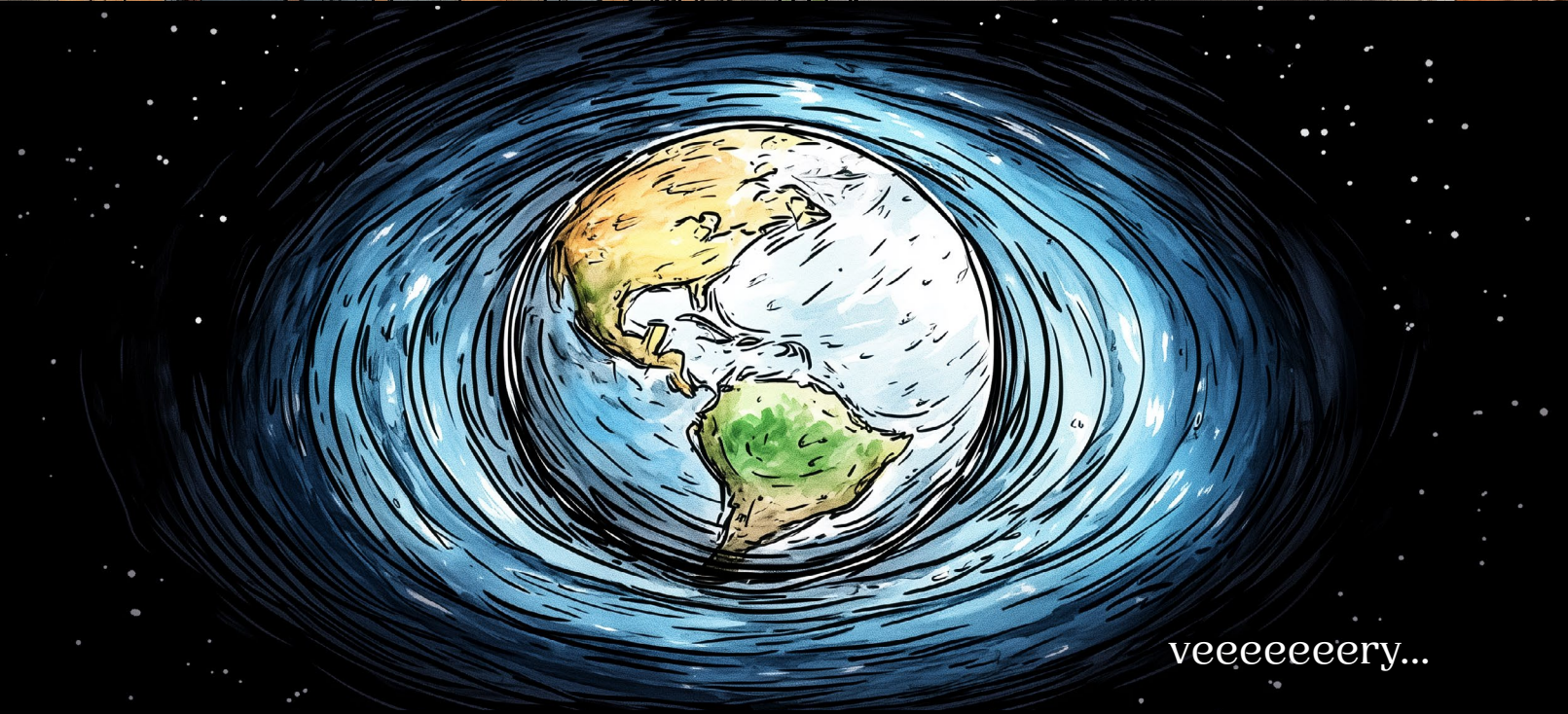


very...





very...



veeeeeery...



very long time...

After a moment that lasted several pages, Etienne gave up and took his leave. As for the panda, he's still eating his bamboo.



It should be noted that pandas have quite a character and behavior of their own we could call them "goofy" if we were a tad critical.

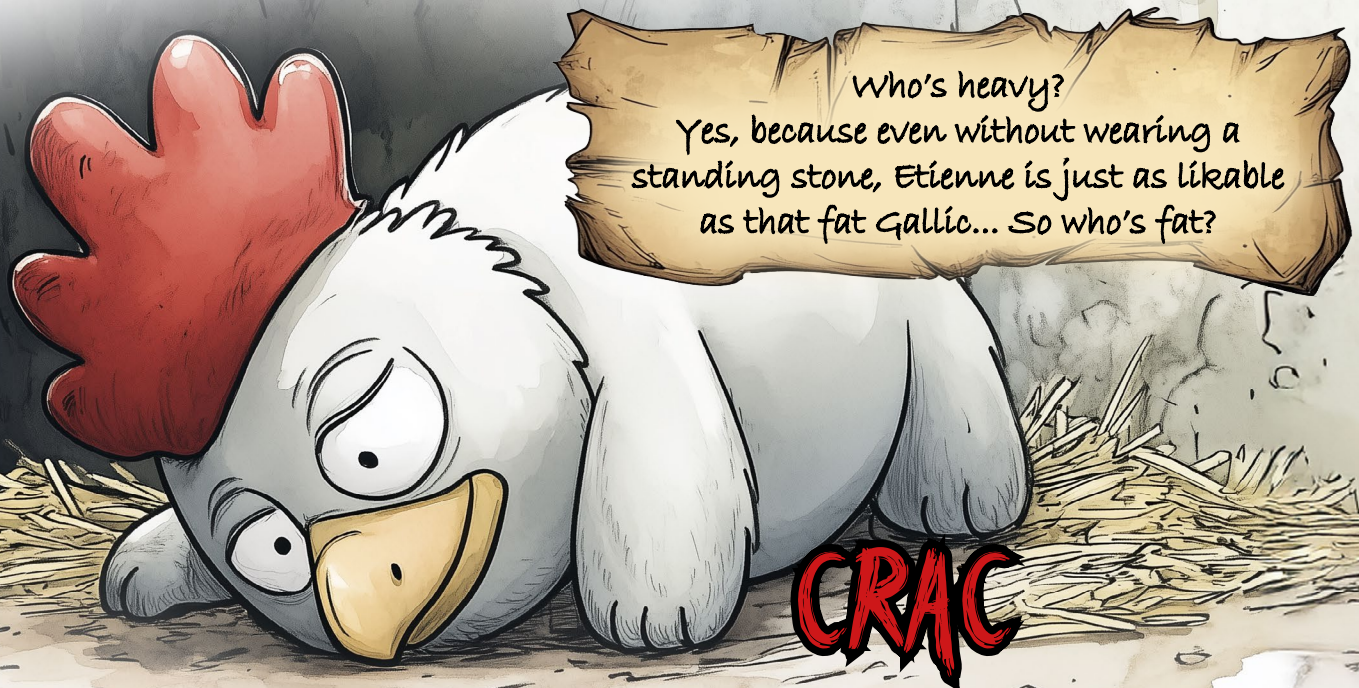
After a few hours of wandering around, Etienne finally sees his cave, and he's very happy. He's finally back home.





He rushes off inside and slumps onto his straw bed, exhausted by the day.

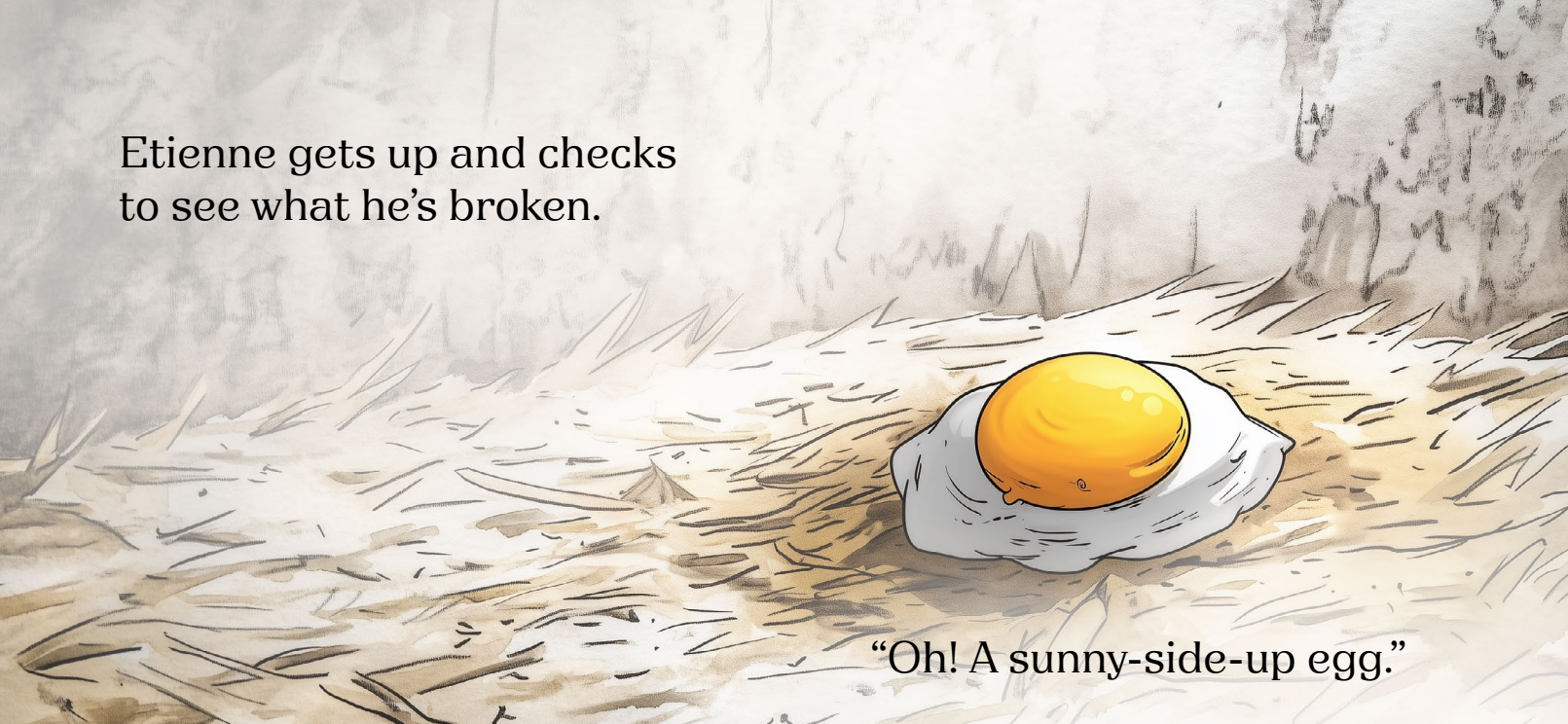
Just as his “heavy” body hits the straw, he hears a loud CRACK!



Who's heavy?
Yes, because even without wearing a standing stone, Etienne is just as likeable as that fat Gallic... So who's fat?

CRACK

Etienne gets up and checks
to see what he's broken.



“Oh! A sunny-side-up egg.”



Etienne pecks at it once,
“It’s so tasty!!!”

And starts devouring the egg.



Now the meal digested, he wonders
who the egg might have belonged to.

The *Ursicus poulux*, while magnificent in all its forms, is not particularly bright...



Etienne will be back soon
in the next adventures of
FLAKOR



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WHO CAME FIRST, ETIENNE OR HIS EGG?

**This unique and adorable creature is a bhen.
A cross between a valiant hen and a clumsy bear.
And this one is Étienne, the faithful steed of a brave, if
odorous, knight. And this morning, our little bhen is
troubled: he can't find his egg. Someone must have
stolen it! So he sets off on an incredible journey through
the forest, full of surprises, to find his precious egg.**

**A story packed with tongue-in-cheek humor and quips
that will delight little ones and parents alike, as they
spend some quality time together as a family
and learn to always tidy up their things!**

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