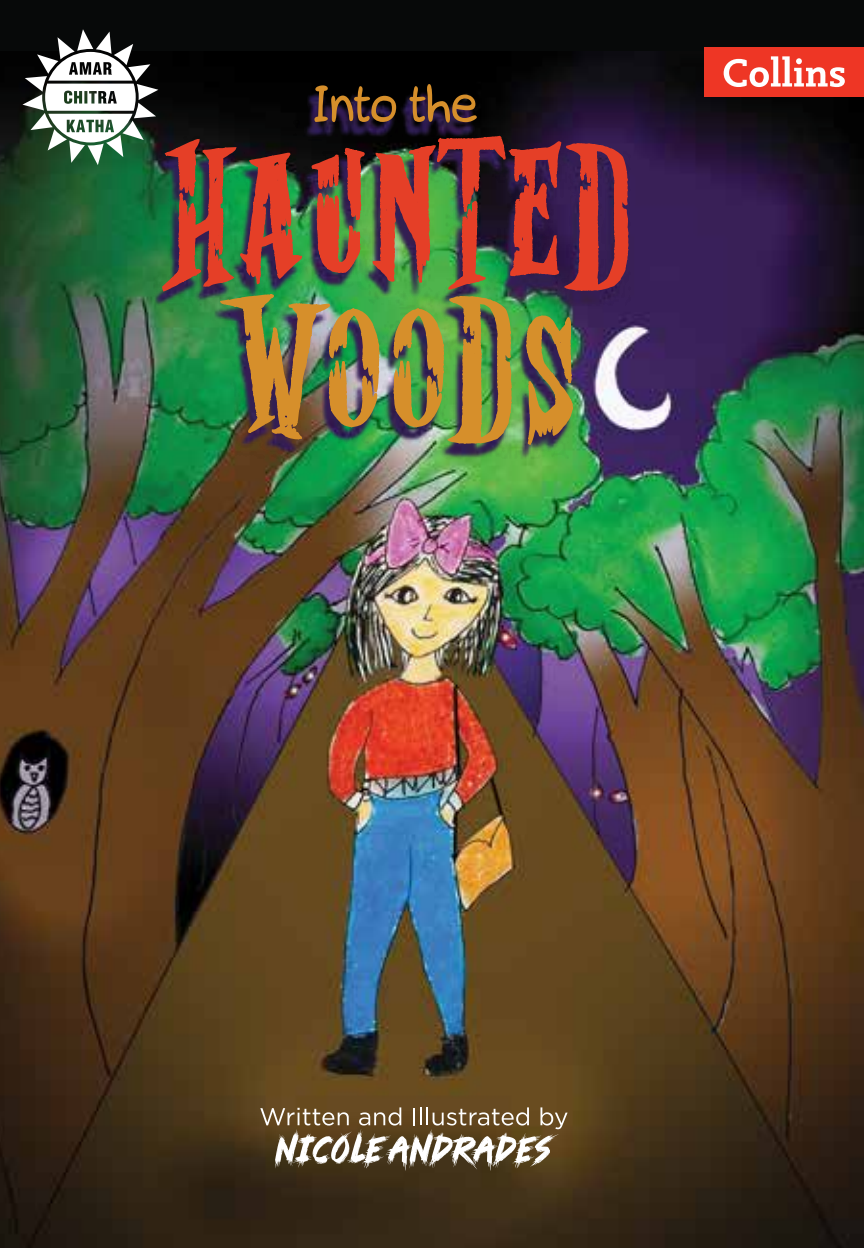




Collins

Into the  
**HAUNTED  
WOODS**



Written and Illustrated by  
**NICOLE ANDRADES**

Into the  
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**WOODS**



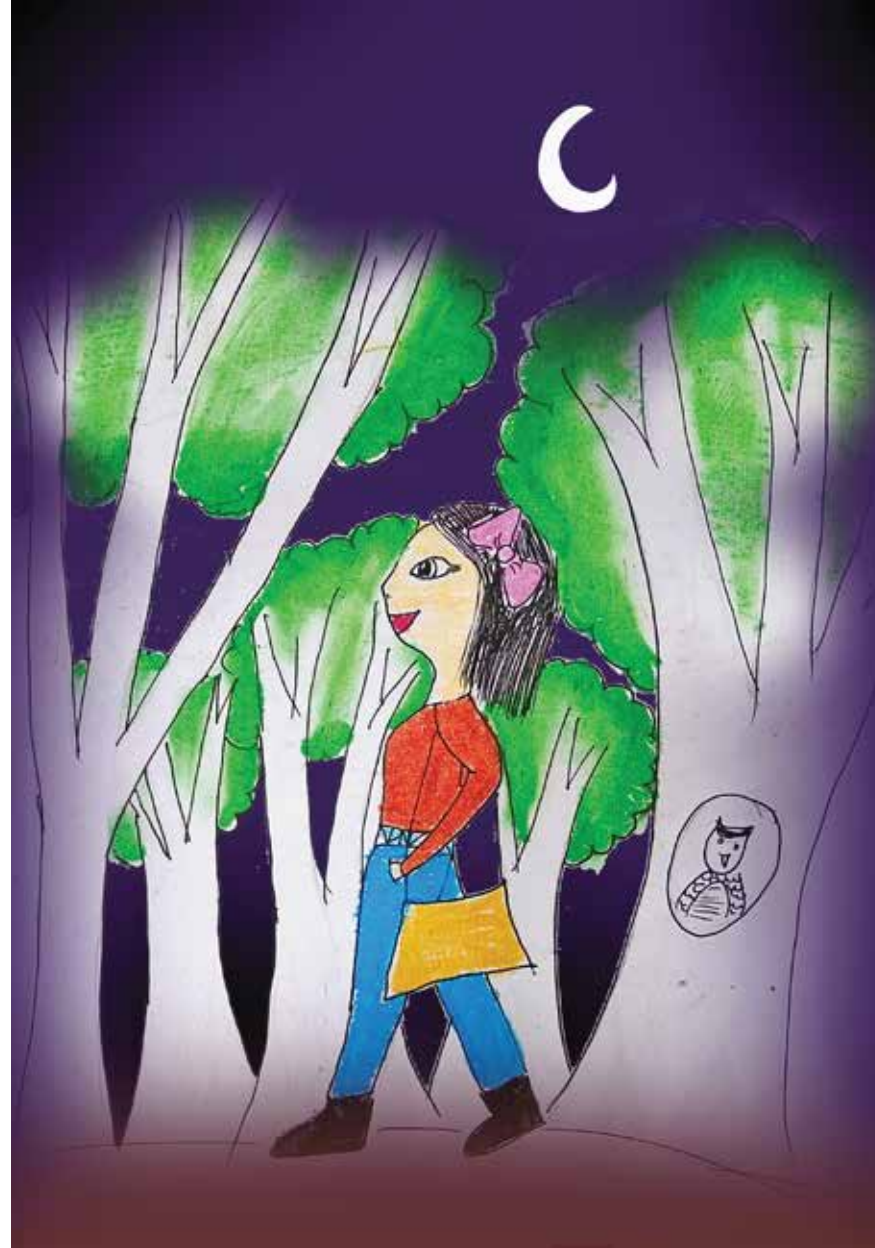
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Miles away from the bustling city of New York, were golden fields of wheat shimmering in the sun under the blue summer skies and rustling in the warm summer breeze, meadows of exotic flower grew from every corner as it's scent filled the like an aromatic perfume and glade of soft emerald velvet grass covered the ground with sprouting dark leaf oak trees. In this picturesque scenery was a small town named WhiteBridge.

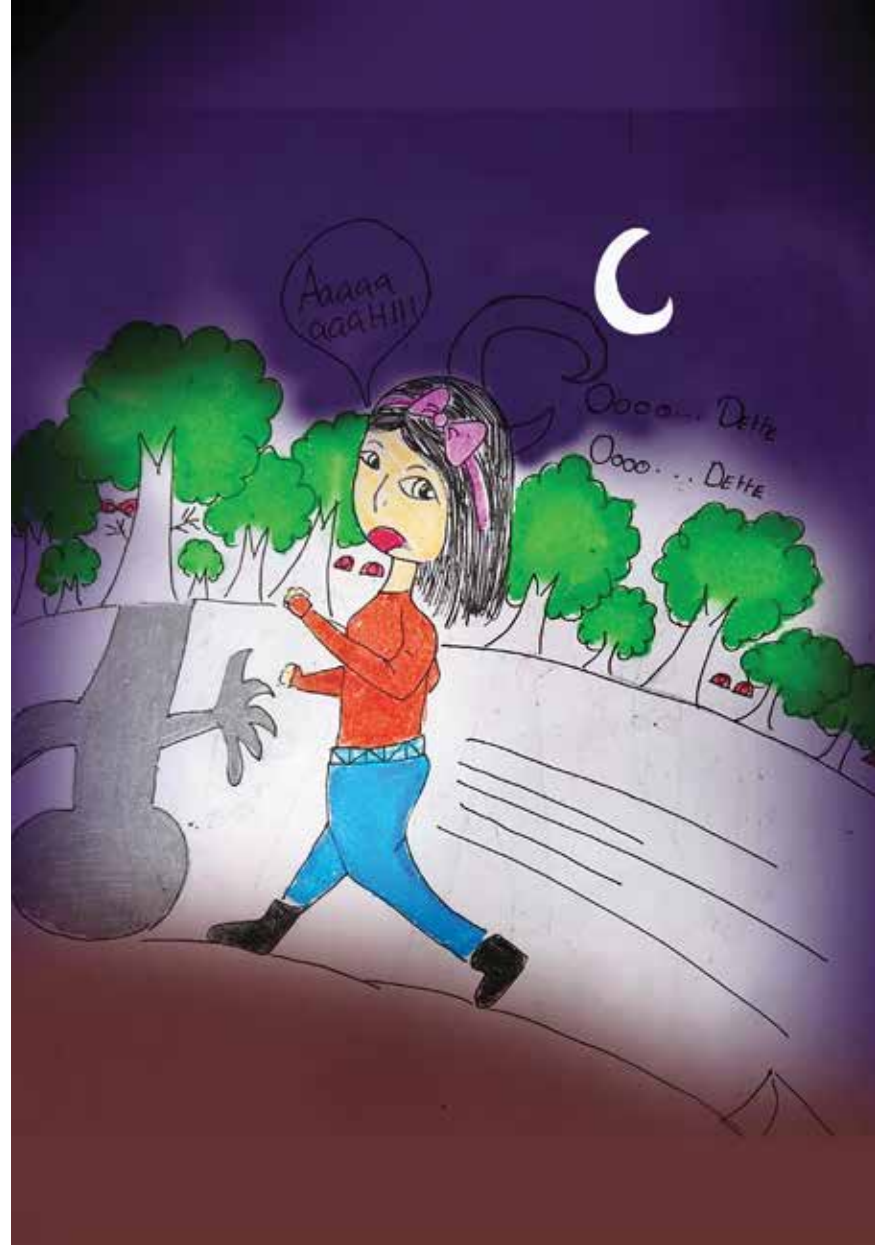
In this quaint town lived a girl named Odette. She had brown short straight hair which curled at the end and a pink bow tied to the top of her head. She had huge light blue eyes, long eyelashes and thin eyebrows, she had thin pink lips that grew into a warm smile. She wore a brown woollen sweater under her checkered shirt and dark blue denim pants and big boots. She was an intelligent, kind hearted and sensitive girl. However, she had a peculiar fear of everything and hence many children would bully her. She had a friend named Caroline who would treat her well.



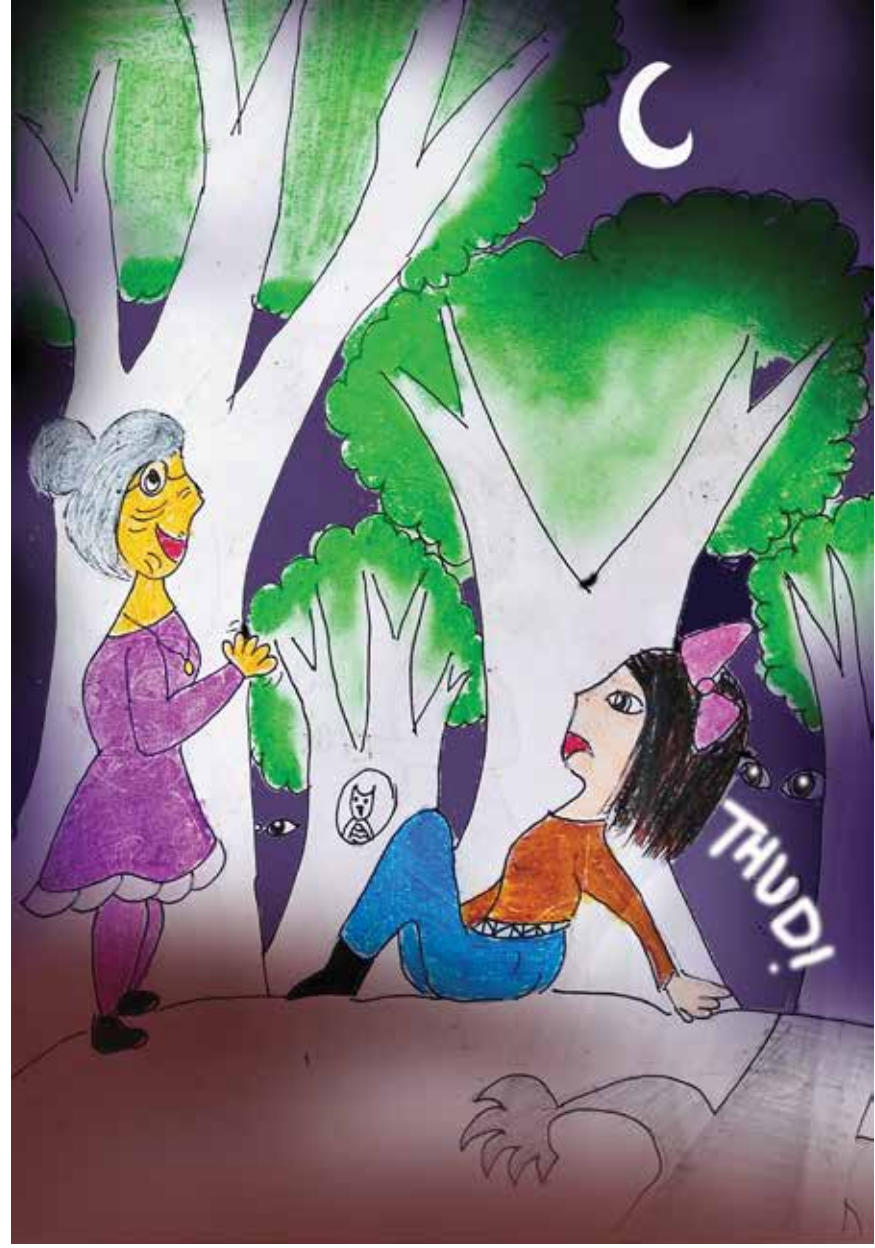
One evening, Odette had gone to her friend Caroline's house to study. At twilight, she left for home walking on a narrow dirt path with a bag of books. After an hour of walking, she reached the woods which seemed deep, dark and dense. The moon soon rose and the trees were drenched in the moon's bright light.



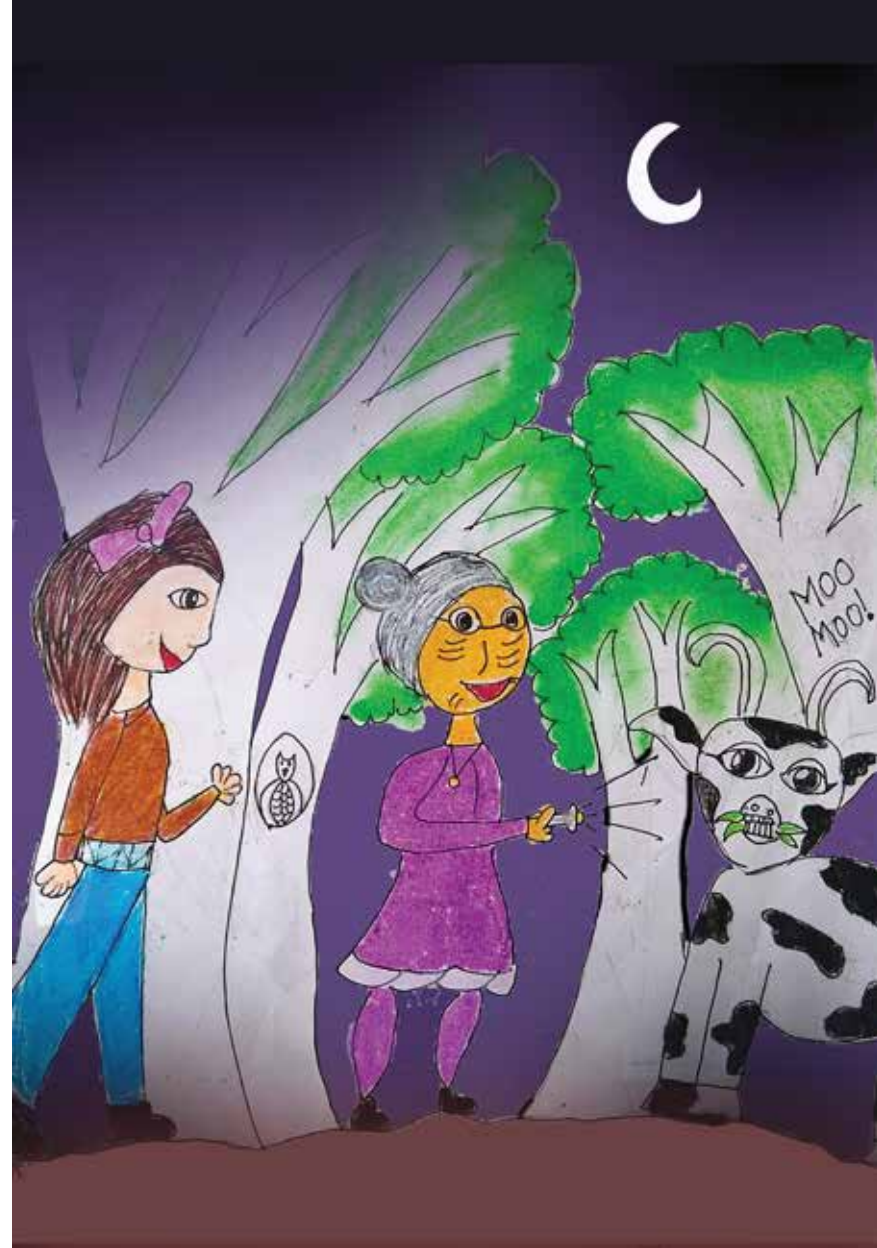
As she walked in she was caught between the light of the moon peeking through the tree's dark leaves and the unknown darkness that laid right before her eyes. She suddenly heard a huge howl coming from the darkness, she spun around in fear and bumped into an oak tree, and in another moment a huge colony of vampire bats sprung out chasing the moon. As she walked deeper into the wood, she heard a terrorising sound bellowing from the heart of the forest, "O...dette O...dette." She stared at the darkness and a huge pair of red eyes stared at her and as the moon cleared itself from a cloud, a huge shadow of a monster reflected on the ground as its claws reached out for Odette.



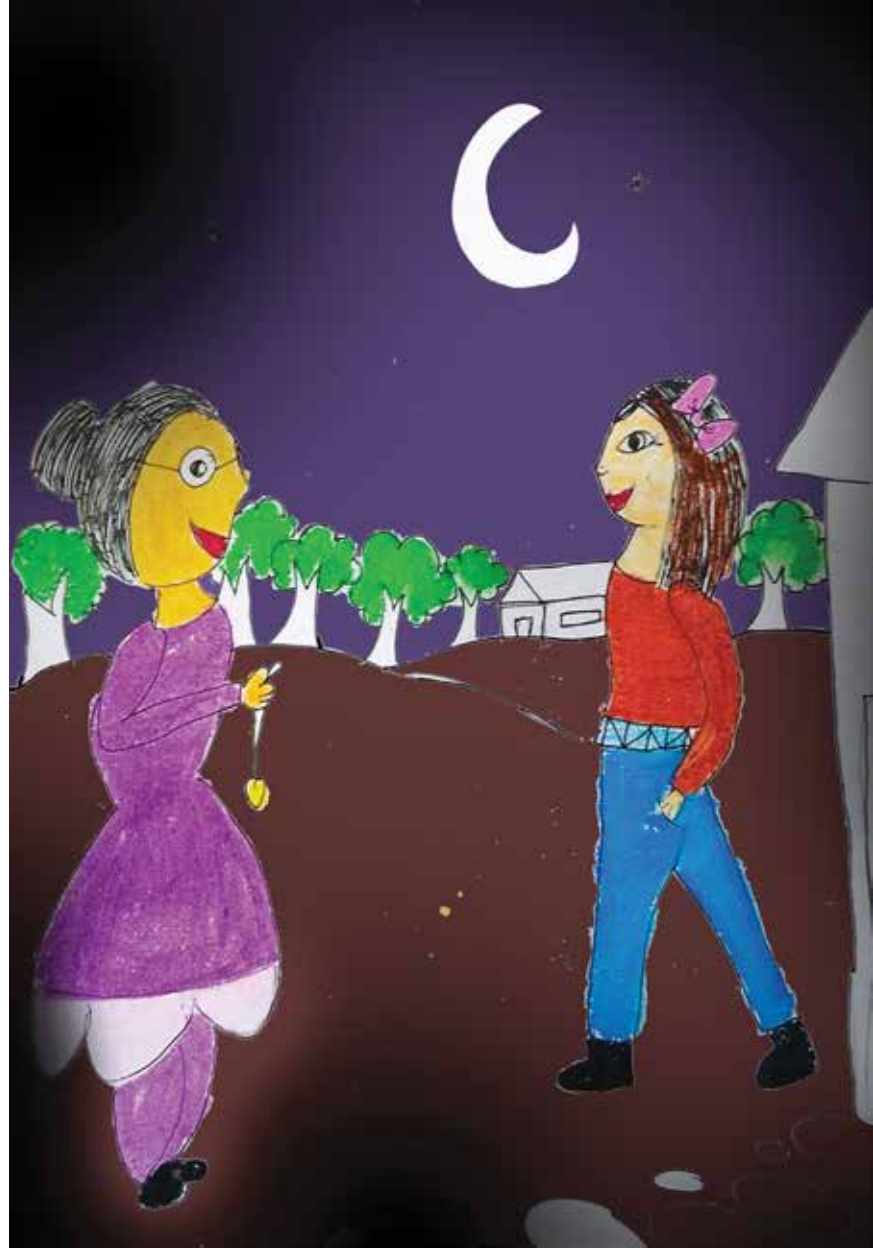
Odette ran with all her might away from all her terrors. Suddenly Odette fell to the ground with a big THUD, as she bumped into something. She looked up in a dazed expression and saw an old woman. She had straight white hair which was tied into a bun. The old lady had huge brown eyes which were covered by her overlapping wrinkles and her huge spectacles. She wore a purple night gown with light puffy purple pants. The old lady asked in an inquiring tone, "What happened my dear? Is something wrong?" Odette was so scared that she just blurted out all the terrors she had seen in the woods. The old woman just smiled at her and said softly, "There are no monsters here, it's just your mind playing tricks on you!"



The old lady showed Odette, with her flashlight, that the red eyes were just eyes of a cow eating grass and that the huge shadow of the monster was just the shadow of a dead tree swaying in the breeze and that the scary noises was just an owl hooting in the background. Odette seemed to think that her fears and terrors were stupid and there was no such thing as a ghost. She thanked the old woman for her help. The old woman told her to come visit her as she lived close by.



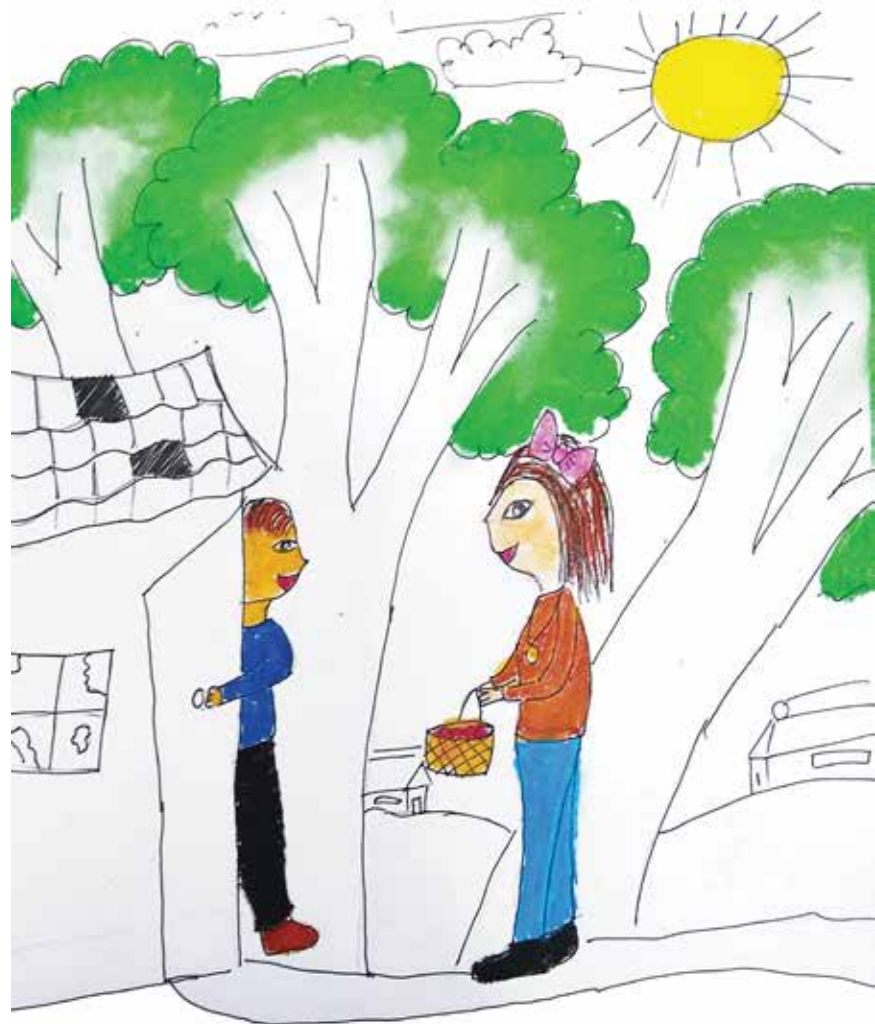
As a parting gift, the old woman gave Odette her locket. Then the old lady smiled and helped Odette find her way home. She said goodnight and went away. The next day, Odette journeyed to the old woman's house wearing her locket. She saw her house was old and broken with cracked windows and holes in the doors.





She knocked on the door and a young man answered. She asked him if an old woman lived in this house and he replied in a raspy tone, "If you are talking about my mother, then she died a week ago. She was wearing her purple night gown, light purple pants and her favourite locket. When I understood that she was dead, I could not find her locket anywhere."  
The man then shut the door softly behind him.

Odette was in a state of shock. Sweat started to drip down her neck and her face turned pale. Shivers went down her spine as she realised that....she had just spoken to, a ghost.



## About the Author

Nicole was born on October 10th 2010 in Mumbai, India. She likes to paint, write stories and poems and plays the piano. Her favourite books are Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys and books by Enid Blyton. When she grows up she wants to be either an Architect, an Artist or an Author.

## Mentor

Poonam Dasilva  
Dhanashri Ubhayakar

Into the  
**HAUNTED**  
**WOODS**

When a brown-haired and blue-eyed girl named Odette experiences a horrific time in a deep forest with horrors and monsters everywhere. She finally gets relief when she meets an old lady in the woods, but something is fishy about this lady.....  
Read more to find out!

