



APPENDIX 1

BACKGROUND STORY

Once there was a big and powerful tree. The tree had already grown for 500 years, its roots went deep into the ground and its branches spread out high into the sky. This tree was like a small world, an ecosystem - among its leaves, on the bark, and elsewhere, various creatures lived. The inhabitants of the tree took care of the tree and the tree took care of the creatures, giving them food and drink and shelter.

The creatures living in the tree are different - bark creatures live on the trunk, root creatures in the soil, fruit creatures inside the fruits, leaf creatures in leaves – some are sun creatures and some shade creatures. All inhabitants of the tree have their own tasks and activities in taking care of the tree. In return they consume the tree's resources, nectar and fruits.

The tree itself is also alive and communicates with its inhabitants, singing from time to time songs in the rustle of leaves, either just to cheer up the residents or to convey its moods and wishes.

The creatures are happy and friendly, their lives have been good. The tree has borne enough fruit and there has also been leaf nectar for everyone. The creatures often organize parties and festivals. They invite each other to visit and share good food and drinks. Everyone has their own beautiful home either between the leaves, in the fruit, on the bark or under the roots. Prosperity and abundance have accompanied several generations.

But lately something has been wrong, and life has gotten significantly worse. The sap moving inside the tree has a bad smell and smelly mushrooms have formed on the trunk, there is not as much sweet nectar as before, the fruits rot and fall off, the leaves have also started to dry and shrivel up, offering no more protection from sun and rain.

The creatures are not happy, their bellies are not full, it is too hot or too cold, there is not enough nectar to party. The creatures have become unfriendly towards each other, everyone thinks that someone else is to blame for the situation. The tree's songs have become sad, the tree is also obviously sick.

Something must be done, and the tree creatures have come together for a great meeting to discuss what's wrong and how to make life good again.

