

AVERY  
and the  
FAIRY CIRCLE



Rowan Kingsbury



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This book dummy was made for my thesis  
project at PNCA in Fall, 2021

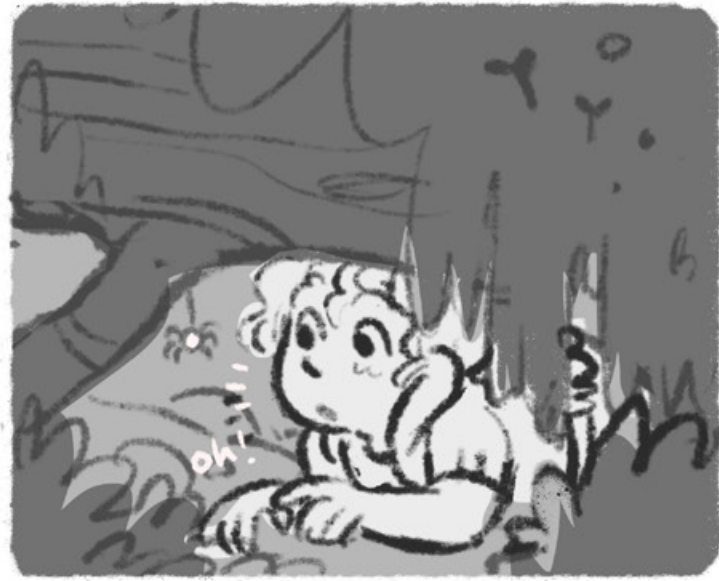
Avery lived in a rolling valley surrounded by hills of evergreens.



In the summertime she enjoyed exploring the woods, and today she was heading out on a quest!



She crawled over and under logs,



Across the creek,



Through spiky devil's club and blackberry thickets.



Until at last she thought she spotted a bush of huckleberries through the trees!

Avery headed straight for it, but in her hurry she stumbled!



And landed in a strange clearing.



It just so happened that today was the summer solstice, when the magic of the forest was at its most powerful.



And Avery had found herself in a rare fairy circle.



Before she knew it, the magic of the mushrooms had shrunk her down to the size of a blade of grass!



Just when she was beginning to really worry, Avery heard a strange sound.



Suddenly, a girl came stomping out of the undergrowth!



But she was no ordinary girl...



Woah, a human!



Um... yes, but what are you?



A fairy, of course!

My name's Birch, what's yours?

I'm Avery...



Gathering duties?

Ugh, yeah.

But don't worry, it's just collecting some plants.



But my parents ran out of the ingredients they need for the feast, and now I have to go get them.

They said it was 'an important job' but that's just another way of saying BORING.



Hold on..

Aren't humans supposed to be..

Big?



I was just trying to get huckleberries and now I'm like this.

I can't even see them from here!



It's the solstice today and my whole village is preparing for the festival.



With your help,

I can get this over with and get back to the party faster!



Hmm, okay...

I guess that sounds fair.

As long as you promise to show me the berries after.



Oh, that's easy, I know where to find the BEST huckleberries.

How about we make a deal?

A deal?

If you help me get my gathering duties over with

Then I'll show you where to find your berries!



I swear.

PAT



Now let's go!

Ah, wait up!

Birch led Avery confidently through the forest floor.



So, what are we looking for?

Well, first we need to find some licorice fern.



Licorice?

Like the candy?

No, it's a fern, silly!

You use it to make tea.

It's good for sore throats but it's also just fun to chew on.



And I know just where to find it.

At the top of the log, they approached the ferns.



Do you just.. eat the leaves?

Of course not!

This is what we need.

The root?

Yep! Now just hold this open for me.



Up there!

Woah. That's kind of high.



Race you to the top!

Hey, wait for me!



Too slow!



Here, try some!



Woah,

it does taste kinda like licorice!



Now!



But it was too late. Birch was flying off again, eager as ever.



Avery thought quickly, and before she could think twice, she jumped!







Now-

Oh, I know this one!

They're salmonberries,

Not as good as huckleberries, but still tasty!



You think?



For sure, just stick with me!



Now, can you hold this?

We should get picking.



You're right!

My mom makes the best berry pie out of them.



But I think they make better hats!

Ha Ha

When they had enough, rather than rushing off, Birch offered Avery her hand.



Huh.

I guess I'm too small to get home now,

My mom is probably going to worry.



Oh, well, my mama knows all about magic.

I'm sure she can turn you back!



With Birch's guidance, they arrived at a small forest of stinging nettles.



Birch took the nearest leaf and tucked it's spiky underside away.



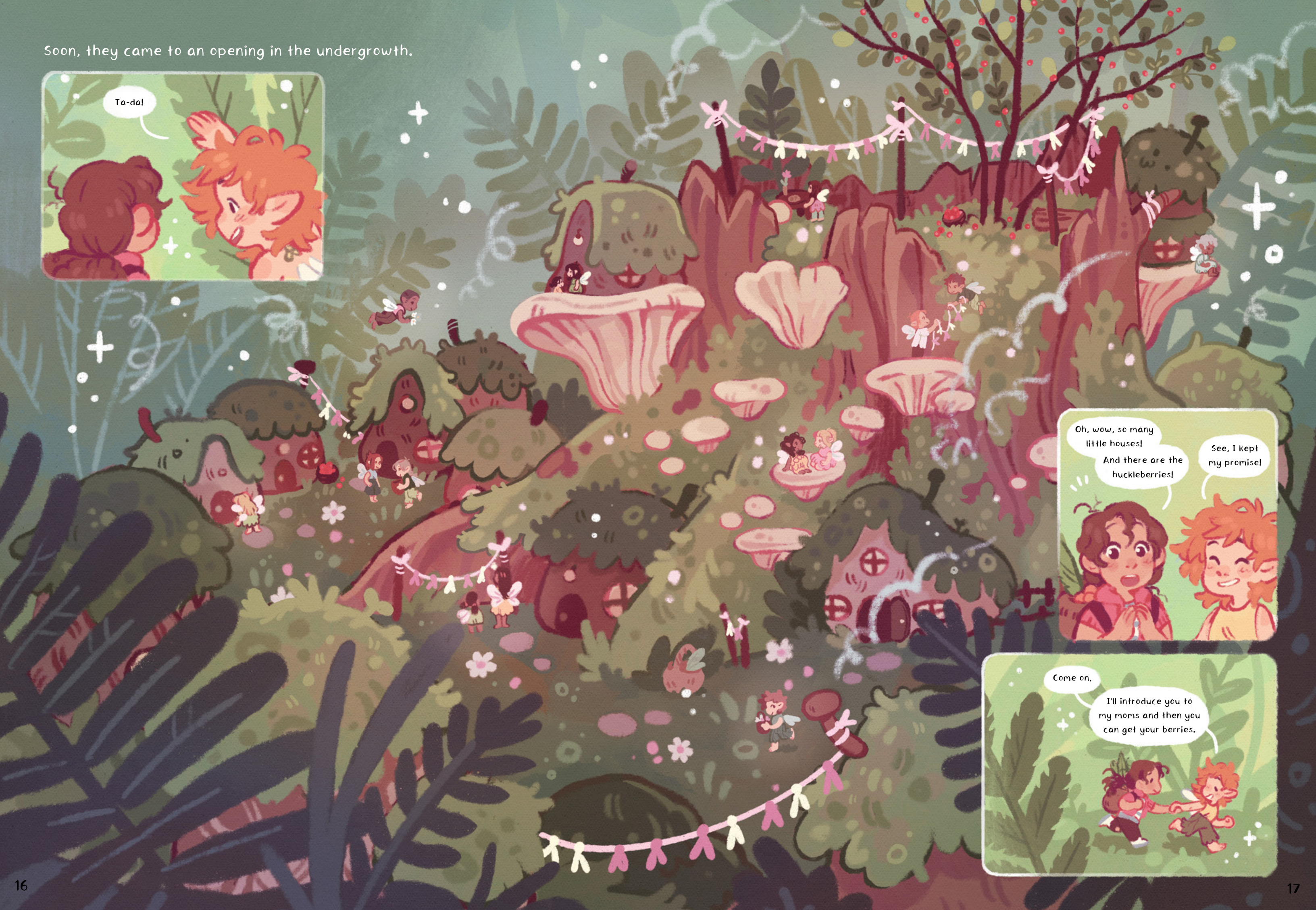
Then she showed Avery how to carefully cut it off its stem.



With all of their gathering done, it was time to head to Birch's village!



Soon, they came to an opening in the undergrowth.



Tucked away at the base of the stump was Birch's house.



Oh, a human!

Birch, I hope this isn't your doing.

And did you make her do your chores for you?



Well...

It's okay miss, I had fun!



Ah, but it is so nice to see Birch making a new friend!

Come in, come in!



Actually, um, Birch said you might be able to help me change back.

To my regular size I mean.



Birch is back!



Thank goodness, Quickly now we are running late.



Oh yes.

The right potion will get you back to normal in no time.



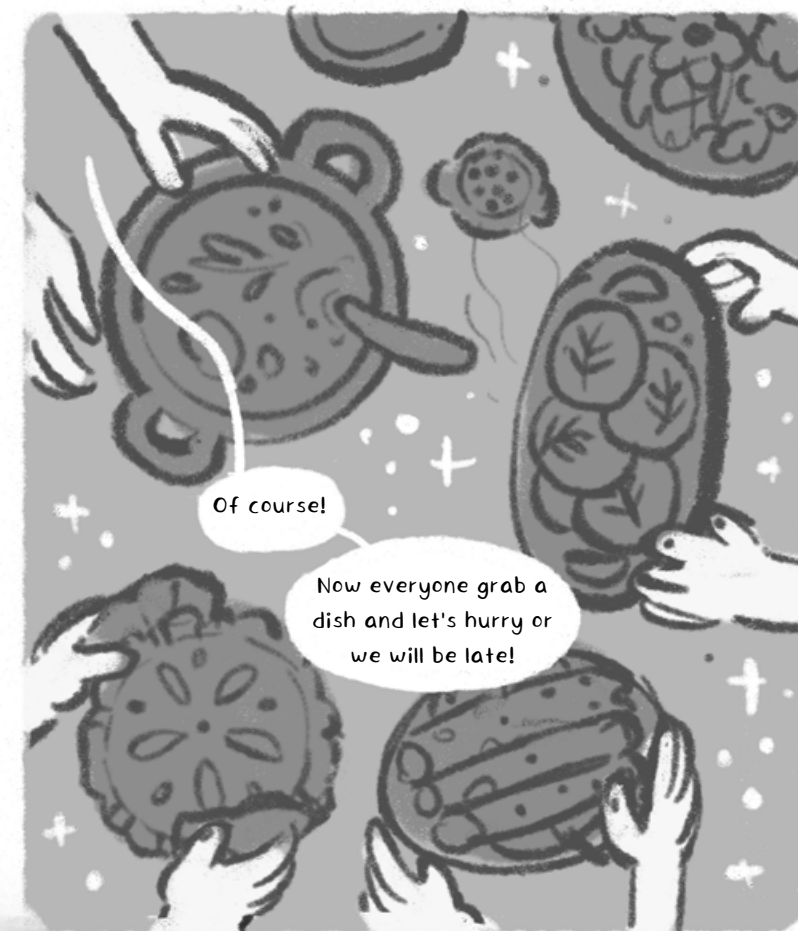
I think I remember the recipe,

Would you two get me some rowan berries, cedar leaves, and devil's club, please?

The two girls carefully retrieved the herbs from the towering shelves.



Mama added the last ingredients, some fresh water and a dash of fairy magic.



And so, their arms laden with the finished dishes, Avery and all of Birch's family headed up to the top of the stump.

When they arrived, they saw a lovely spread of food from the forest laid out, the entire village was gathering and the stump sparkled with fairy magic.



Woah, it's all so pretty!



Just wait till you try the food!

As the festival started there was dancing, food, and fun for all to enjoy.  
And Avery and Birch were sure to do a bit of everything.



Eventually, though, the celebration came to an end.



And here, the huckleberries you came for!





And with that,  
they said their farewells.



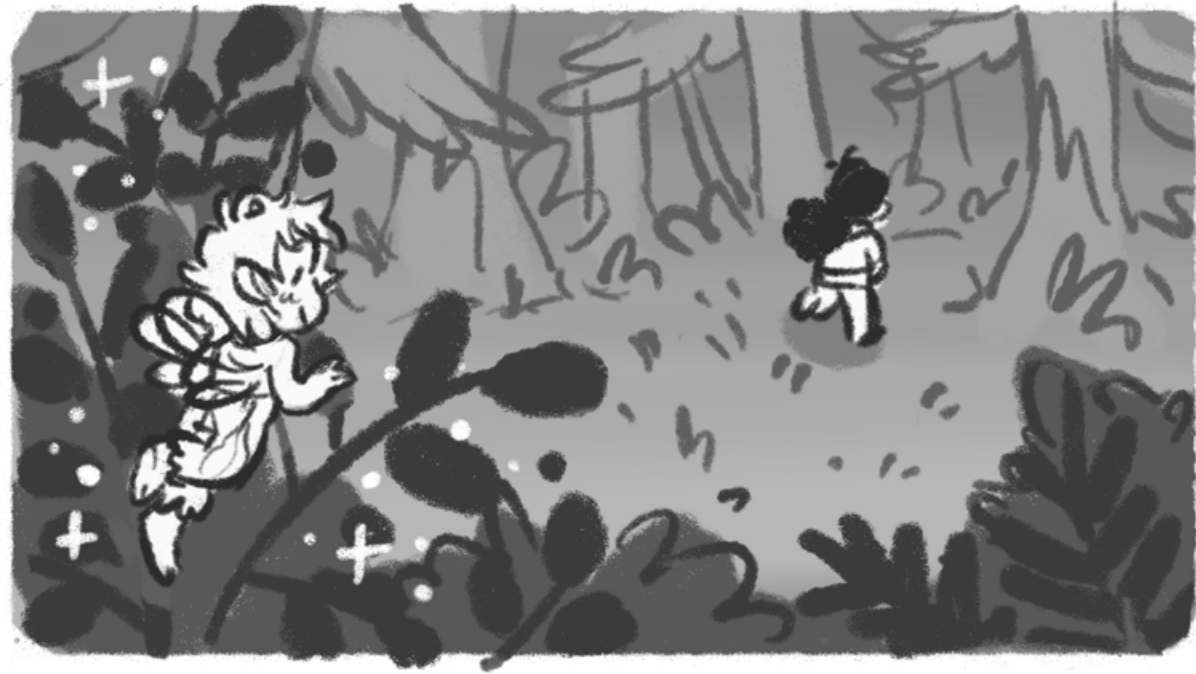
Before she knew it she was awake back in the mushroom circle,  
once again the size of a normal girl.



She would think it was all a dream, if it weren't for the small  
basket of huckleberries she found lying next to her.

Then Avery tipped the bottle and took a sip of the enchanted potion.





THE END

# BIRCH'S GUIDE

To the plants of the Pacific Northwest

## LICORICE FERN

- o Found on mossy trees, logs, and rocks.
- o Chew the roots or make them into tea!
- o Good for colds and sore throats.



## SALMON BERRY

- o A tasty orange berry. Related to raspberries!
- o Good in pies, jam, and muffins.



## STINGING NETTLE

- o Leaves can be cooked up and eaten, or made into tea!
- o Helps with seasonal allergies.
- o **WATCH OUT!** It has spikes that will sting you if you aren't careful.

## ROWAN BERRIES

- o From a tree also known as a "Mountain Ash"
- o protective against magic.
- o Birds love them!





## CEDAR

- o Leaves smell great!
- o Known to be protective and purifying.

## DEVIL'S CLUB

- o Another spiky one!
- o Also good for negating magic, as well as many other uses.



Author's Note: This book exists as a book dummy created to clearly convey and pitch this story and my artistic and narrative style. It is intentionally a work in progress for the purpose of allowing it to evolve on its journey to becoming an officially published work.