

Chapter 4

In Trier, the kids took a bus that brought them to Luxembourg. As they did not have a map of Luxembourg, they just got out of the train, when they saw a beautiful place with a big castle. This town was called Vianden.

Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit went uphill to that castle. They made a little walk through the castle and suddenly they heard strange noises. Aila asked: "What kind of noise is this?" They were a little bit scared and continued their tour running. A few minutes later, they arrived in the garden of the castle and saw lots of people. A big medieval festival was held in the castle. Aila suggested to participate and to discover things from former times. There were many stands where knights organised different activities. The kids and Várjjalit wanted to do all the activities. First they tried a knight's armour. Afterwards they watched a knights' fight. This was very fascinating, but Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit continued their walk. They bought some souvenirs: games and great heads. They watched all these objects from the medieval times: swords, arms, canons, towers, bows and pictures of the evolution of the castle. Then, Niilá asked a knight if he could tell them some medieval stories. Afterwards, Aila and Niilá were even allowed to ride a horse. They made a very nice ride through the woods of Vianden and then they went back to the castle. They participated to all the activities of the festival and they loved that experience.



Aila went to a girl that had more or less her age and asked her, what else they could do in Luxembourg. The girl replied: "Go to that place called Kockelscheuer. There is an ice skating stadium where you can have a lot of fun." Aila replied: "That sounds good!" Aila and Niilá climbed on Várjjalit's back and Niilá asked: "Várjjalit, are you ready? Let's ride to Kockelscheuer!"



Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit arrived at the Kockelscheuer. They had never tried ice-skating before. They were very excited and they are a little bit scared to hurt themselves. Before they could start, they had to borrow the ice skates.

Then, the exciting part could start: they put their feet on the ice rink. Also Várjjalit went ice-skating, but he did not need special shoes. Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit immediately made a race. They were very good and fast and they nearly felt like in Lapland where they were used to see a lot of ice. But suddenly the speed became too high; they slipped and banged against the wall.

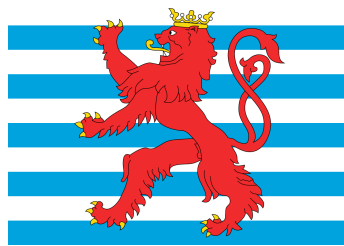
Aila and Niilá laid on the floor and whined of pain. Also Várjjalit hurt himself and screamed like a bear.

But after a few minutes the pain was forgotten and they continued ice-skating. They decided to make artistic figures on Várjjalit back. They had a lot of fun until the Kockelscheuer closed its doors.

Niilá asked a 12 year-old boy: “Hey! What’s your name? We don’t know what to do now. Do you have an idea?” The boy replied: “My name is Carlos and I am in the National team of football in Luxembourg. I have to go to training in Stade Josy Barthel now. Do you want to join me?” “Fantastic idea”, answered Niilá, “football is amazing! Aila and Várjjalit, do you agree?” Everybody wanted to see the stadium and together they took the bus to Stade Josy Barthel.



They entered the stadium where they met the Red Lion who asked Carlos what the kids would be doing here. Carlos explained: "I met these kids and their reindeer and I suggested them to participate to our training." The Red Lion replied: "Carlos, I am sure that your coach won't be happy about your idea because you have to train seriously today, as your team will have an important game next weekend. If you want, I can look after your friends and play football with them." That was a good idea. Aila asked the Red Lion: "What are you doing here all alone?" The Red Lion answered: "I am the mascot of Luxembourgish sports teams and today I want to play football. Do you want to play with me?" Aila and Niilá were very excited. They played football for half an hour. Suddenly Niilá realized that it was already late and they stopped playing. The Red Lion was astonished and asked: "Are you already leaving?" Aila answered: "Unfortunately we have to go, but the stadium is amazing." The Red Lion explained: "Indeed. Stade Josy Barthel is my favourite stadium. I come very often here to play football." Niilá exclaimed: "I would do exactly the same if I would live here. I love playing football."



Aila, Niilá and Várjialit went to Carlos' team to say goodbye. But the coach said: "Carlos told me about you. Please stay a little bit longer and watch the game of our National team against France. I offer you the tickets." Aila replied: "That is very kind of you. We would love to stay here for the game. Unfortunately, we don't know where to sleep tonight." Carlos interrupted Aila: "Don't worry! You can sleep at my place. I call my mom to ask if she allows me to bring guests overnight. When I will go to school tomorrow, you will join me and then you will walk to Esch/Alzette, which is the second biggest town in Luxembourg." A phone call later, they decided to watch the big game between Luxembourg and France. The Luxembourgish player Mutsch scored the first time for Luxembourg. The Luxembourgish fans celebrated the goal like never before. But after twenty minutes, the French Benzema scored the first goal for his country and all the French fans jumped of happiness.

Immediately after the draw, Benzema took back the ball from a Luxembourgish player and scored another goal. Again, the French fans were very happy. The Luxembourgish

coach was extremely angry, because his team did not play well. Before the game, he had watched Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit while they were playing football with the Red Lion and their talent amazed him.

He shouted: "Play better now! If you continue playing football like this, I will have to substitute." This speech did not change anything and Luxembourg continued playing badly. The coach whistled and called Aila, Niilá, Carlos and Várjjalit. The four weakest players had to leave the court and the three kids and the reindeer replaced them. Immediately when Aila touched the ball for the first time, she scored a goal. The team, the coach and the fans were surprised of Aila's goal and everybody was jumping and singing of happiness. After the kick-off, Niilá took away the ball from the French superstar Ribéry, passed it to Carlos and when the ball arrived next to Várjjalit, who was standing in front of the goal, Várjjalit scored again for the Luxembourgish team.

In this moment the game was over and Luxembourg was happy. All the fans did not stop jumping, singing and dancing and Aila, Niilá, Carlos and Várjjalit were celebrated like heroes. Luxembourg won 3:2 against France. That was a sensation.

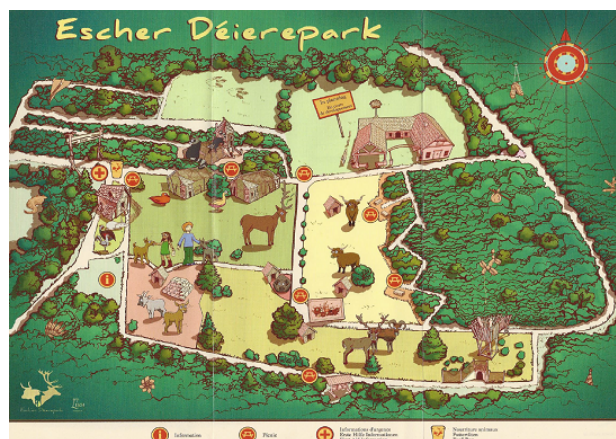
After they enjoyed a long celebration, Carlos' mother brought home to Schiffange her son and his new friends. After such a long and exciting day full of impressions, Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit were very happy to go to bed.

The day after, they had to wake up quite early, because Carlos had to go to school. He took his three new friends with him to the Albert Wingert School. He showed them the school and presented to them the pupils of cycle 4.2. Sheryl, one of the pupils said: "I love coming to this school because I have many friends here." Chiara explained: "Yes, we come along very good together. Last year we even went on ski holidays with our classmates and our teachers. And this year we will go to visit Paris." Erol exclaimed: „Yes! We can't wait to go to Paris, because it is an amazing city." They continued chatting until the Luxembourgish pupils had to enter the school.



Carlos suggested Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit: “Go to Esch/Alzette! There, you can eat an ice-cream and you can do many other things.” He explained the way to Esch/Alzette to his new friends, they said goodbye and they left Schiffflange.

When they arrived in Esch/Alzette, Aila and Niilá saw a supermarket and decided to go in to buy a drink. Of course, Várjjalit had to stay outside. Unfortunately, Aila and her brother took a little bit longer in the supermarket because they had problems to understand the cashier. When they came out of the supermarket, they saw a big white truck with a huge logo on it. A tall man full of muscles got out of the truck and ran in Várjjalit’s direction. Aila and Niilá did not understand what this man was doing. They found out that the man was an animal catcher from the animal park in Esch/Alzette. The man thought that Várjjalit escaped from the animal park. Aila and Niilá explained to him that Várjjalit is their pet and that they came from Lapland. The man liked the kids’ story and brought them to the animal park where he showed and presented to them all the animals: deers, wild boars, ducks, donkeys and many others.



Várjjalit was happy to meet so many animals. He told them, what he already experienced in Europe and in Luxembourg. The animals could not believe what they were hearing. They would have loved to travel with Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit. Suddenly the deer made a very loud noise. A few minutes later, a fox arrived. The deer presented his friend, the fox, to the kids and to Várjjalit: “This is my friend, Futz. Futz is a fox and he is not scared of anything.” The fox replied: “That’s true. Just tell me, where you want to go and I will bring you there.” Aila was amazed by the fox’s courage: “Oh, I would love to visit Luxembourg city. That city must be wonderful.” Futz said: “No problem! We just need to get out of the woods, we will run down the street and then we will be at the train station, where we will take the train to Luxembourg City.” They said goodbye to the animals,

followed the fox and arrived at the train station. A few minutes later, they were on their way to Luxembourg City.

When they arrived in Luxembourg City, the fox immediately brought them to the cathedral. The kids were astonished to see such a beautiful building. Niilá suggested: “Let’s go into the cathedral!” Inside, Aila was amazed: “Wow! Have a look at these wonderful coloured windows and these fantastic patterns on the ceiling! I have never seen such beautiful windows. And look at all these candles!” The fox interrupted her: “Shh! In a cathedral, you need to be quiet. In here we are just allowed to whisper.” Várjjalit said: “Listen to the music!” Futz explained to them, that this music was played on a huge organ and that one can only listen to that instrument in a church.



After the visit of the cathedral, the fox continued explaining: “You haven’t seen the most amazing thing in Luxembourg. Are you hungry and are you ready to have a lot of fun?” Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit replied in a chorus: “Yeeeeees!” “Great! So follow me! We will walk to the Schueberfouer!”

When Aila, Niilá and Várjjalit saw the entrance of the Schueberfouer, they did not believe their eyes. Niilá stuttered: “What is this? Are all these things games?” Futz replied: “Yes! The Schueberfouer is a huge fun fair. It is open only 3 weeks a year and you can have a lot of fun here. Now, I will show you the nicest games of the Schueberfouer.”



They went on the roller coaster and had an amazing time. "Now, I am very hungry", whined Várjjalet. The fox replied: "Don't worry! We are going to eat Luxembourgish sausages, popcorn and cotton candy. These things are so tasty!" Aila, Niilá and Várjjalet started eating and they could not stop, because the food was so amazing. Várjjalet enthused: "Wow! The food was so good!"

After this delicious meal, they went on the big wheel. On the top of the wheel they had a fantastic view over Luxembourg City. Várjjalet was scared of the height. Aila even had to throw up, because she ate too much. After the ride on the big wheel, they went together on a wild water slide, where they became all wet.

Afterwards they tried out the bumper cars, where they had a lot of fun, as well.

At the end of their stay at the Schueberfouer, Niilá wanted to go in a haunted house, but Várjjalet was too scared to join him. That was the reason why Aila and her brother went on their own in the haunted house. Meanwhile, Várjjalet went for a ride on a carousel horse with his friend, the fox.

After an amazing day at the Schueberfouer, everybody was happy. Futz asked: "What else have you done in Luxembourg?" Aila answered: "Up to now, we visited the castle of Vianden, we went ice skating to the Kockelscheuer, we watched a football game in Stade Josy Barthel and we saw the Albert Wingert School in Schifflange. Then we visited the animal park in Esch/Alzette and came with you to Luxembourg City." Futz replied: "Well, so you have had a lot of fun in Luxembourg. Have you ever been to France?"

Niilá answered: "No, but I would really love to go to Paris. A pupil from Albert Wingert School told us that Paris is a wonderful city." "You want to go to Paris? There is nothing easier than this! Come on! Join me to the train station! There, you can take a very fast train, called TGV that will bring you to Paris." Aila exclaimed: "Wow! That's a fantastic idea!"

The 4 friends walked back to the train station, where Futz showed them the right train. Aila, Niilá and Várjjalet said goodbye to the fox: "Thanks for your help! Without you, our stay in Luxembourg would only have been half as nice. Bye bye!"