

A Trip to Tralfamadora

a Missan & Vovve adventure

by

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the second installment of Eira's Saga

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The Story So Far

Eira grew and grew. One day when she had been out of Andrea's tummy a whole year, Nicholas spoke with Missan and Vovve.

It was a very long conversation. But Eira slept right through.

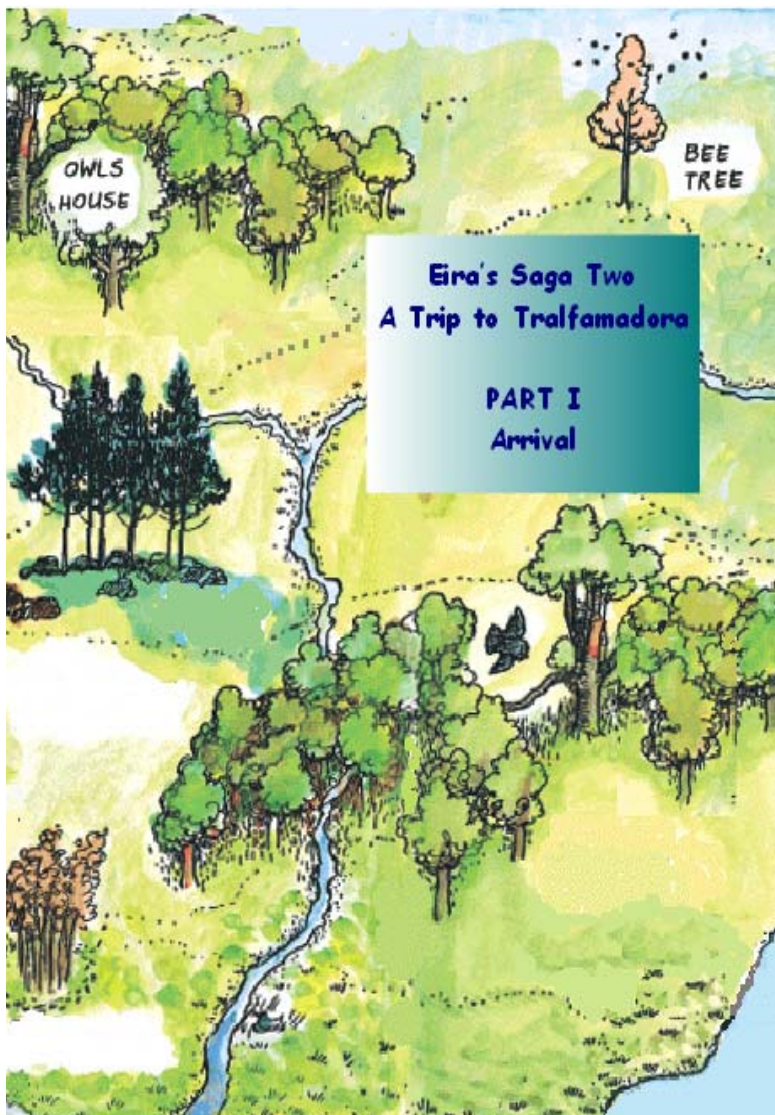
In the dead of night when everyone was fast asleep, Missan and Vovve crept inside a very large handbag.

In the morning the handbag had vanished. And Missan and Vovve were nowhere to be seen. They had vanished too. Where had they gone?

They were back that afternoon. They felt they had been away a very long time. They had missed Eira. She had missed them too.

Missan and Vovve explained everything to Nicholas. It was another very long conversation. Nicholas needed a drink.

From Episode One of Eira's Saga





1 Noddy at the airport

"How very odd," said Noddy to Tubby Bear. "They're not here."

"Strange," said Tubby Bear jumping into the cockpit.

Noddy heard a scuffle as Tubby Bear jumped out the other side.

"Here they are," said Tubby Bear. "Landed on them. They are behind you." And Tubby Bear was right.



2 Missan & Vovve arrive

On the tarmac, smiling up at Noddy & Tubby Bear, were Missan and Vovve.

"Hello," they said. "We came as quickly as we could."

"Hello," said Tubby Bear. "Sorry I jumped on you."

"Hop in the car," said Noddy. "We'll be there in no time."



3 A Busy Day

Noddy had got up very early. No sooner had he finished his breakfast than Mrs Tubby arrived.

"It's market day," she said. "Can you drop me off on your way back from the airport?"

"I'll be back for you at tea-time, Tubby Bear," said Noddy. "Will you have cleaned the plane by then?"

"She'll be sparkling in the sunshine," said Tubby Bear. "Spick & span and ready for take-off."



4 At Owl's House

Badger was staying at Owl's house for the night. Pooh had come by for a bite to eat.

"Anyone home?" asked Pooh a little nervously. "I can hear my tummy rumbling."

But it wasn't his tummy. It was Noddy's car pulling up. Vovve and Missan hopped out.

"With you in a jiffy," said a voice behind the door. "A slow jiffy. I'm not as young as I was."



5 Pooh visits Badger

The door creaked on its hinges. Pooh pushed it open and anxiously put his head round the door.

"Oh dear," said Pooh. "I'm quite sure I left a jar of honey here. Owl must have found it."

True enough. But Owl had given it to Piglet to give to Pooh. And Owl was away.

"Aunt Tawney tripped and fell," Owl had explained. "She needs back up. I may be gone a little while."



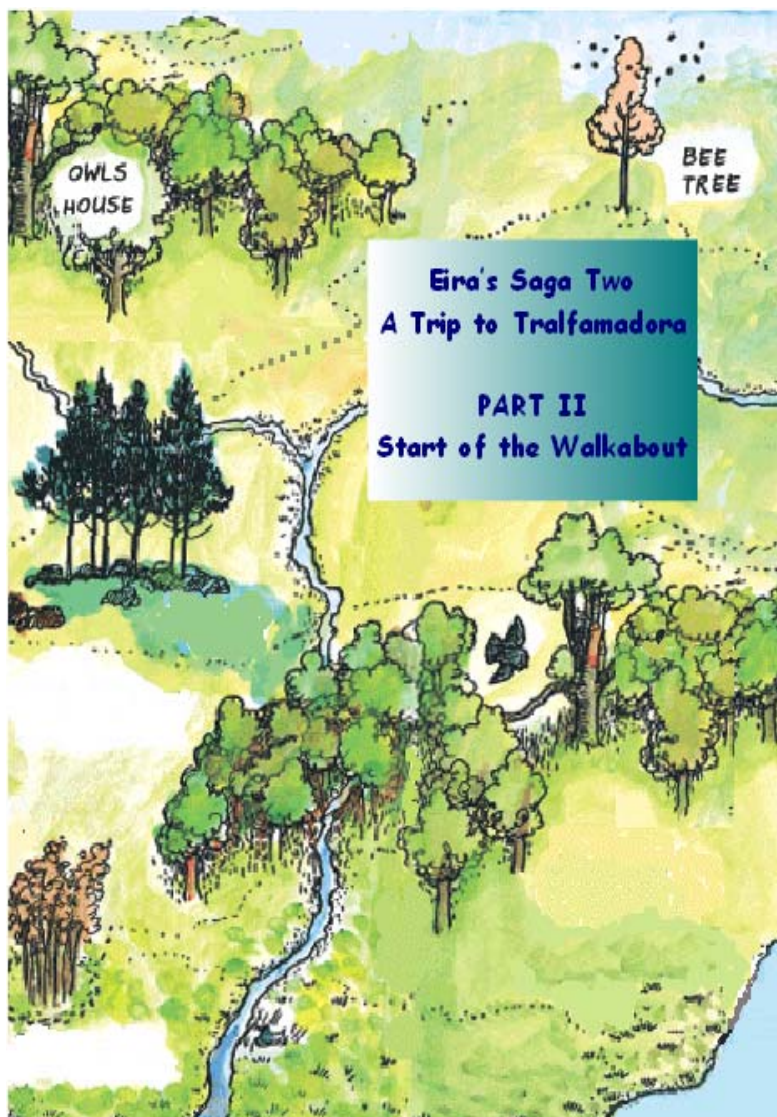
6 Seven of This and Seven of That

"Must go," said Noddy. "Aborigines have seven directions," said Old Tom. "So don't get lost."

"North, south, east, west, up & down," thought Pooh. "And inside, where my honey ought to be, but isn't."

"A soul needs seven birthmates to be born a human," Old Tom said to Missan & Vovve from the kitchen.

"Eira has five birthmates on Tralfamadora," Badger explained. "You'll meet them all before going home."





7 Bees & Honey

Spot was out taking Old Tom for a walk. "Woof," said Vovve wagging his tail. "Woof, woof!" said Spot.

Thomas and Piglet were playing Balloon Sticks. It was like Pooh sticks but with balloons tied to the sticks.

"When Piglet finishes his game," Pooh said to Old Tom. "I'll ask him where Owl put my jar of honey."

Old Tom took out a hazel bob and some string. "We'll find it with this!" he said. "The rate for honey is 29."



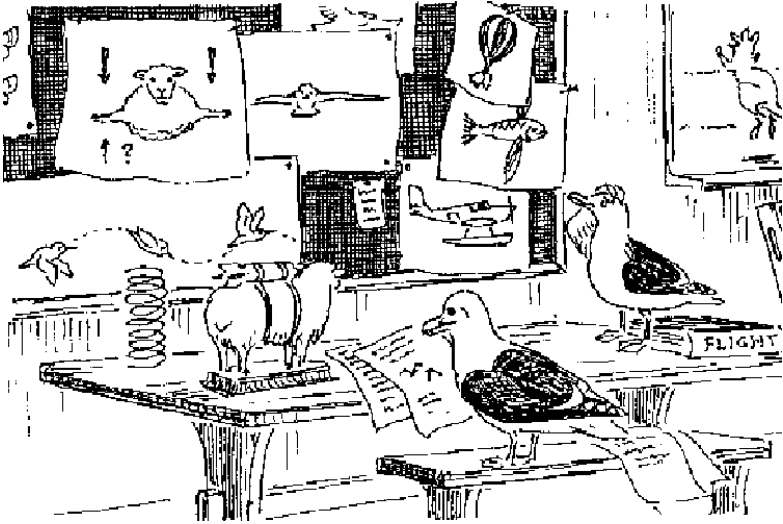
8 Pooh's Balloon Ride

Pooh found honey. But not his jar of honey. Pooh found where his honey came from: a bees' nest high up in a tree.

"Bloon! Pooh! Help! Help! Blew! Blue! Help!" cried Piglet as he rushed into Villa Villekulla.

"Don't worry!" said Pippi. "Harold's a clever sheep. But I'll give chase on my flying bicycle."

Pooh was hanging on for grim life. A long way below, looking up at Pooh, was Piglet.



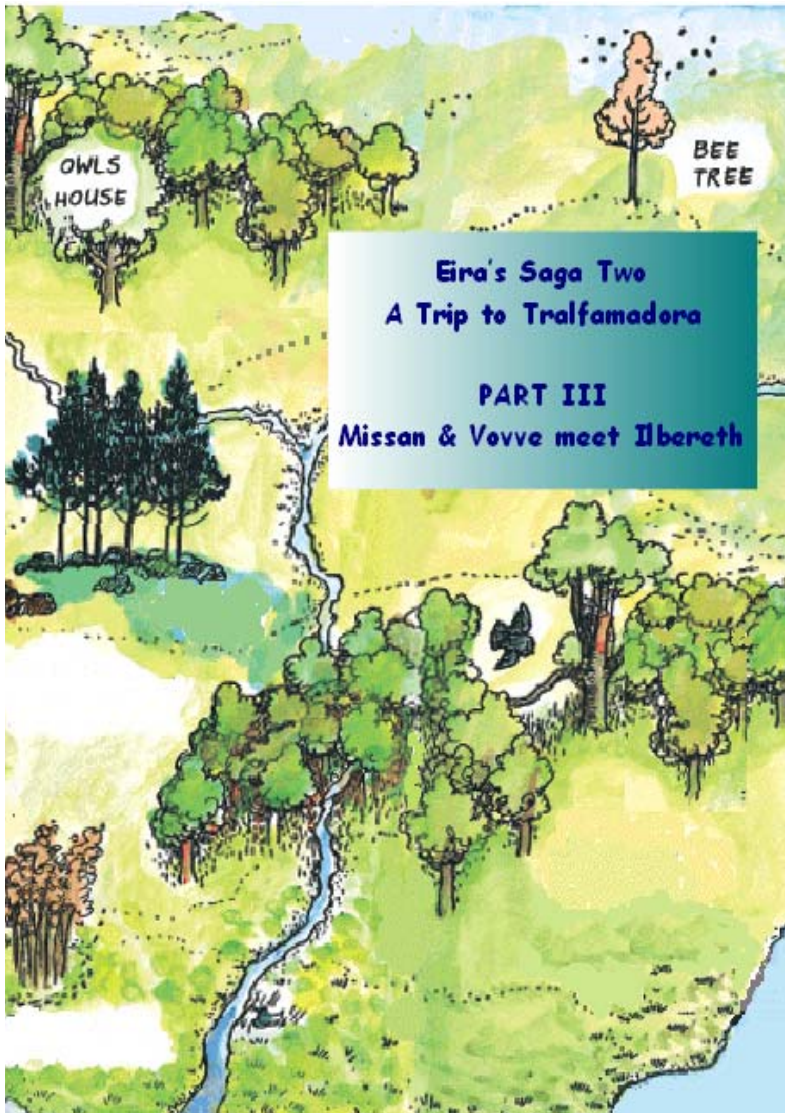
9 Harold to the Rescue

Just as Pippi reached Pooh there was a bang and Harold sailed up into the air flapping his front legs.

There was a mighty 'krrasch' as Pippi, Pooh, balloon, bicycle & Harold collided in mid air. "Ouch!" said Harold. "Such fun!" said Pippi.

The balloon floated gently down to earth with Pooh holding onto the balloon and Pippi holding onto Pooh.

"Harold always thinks of something," said Pippi.





10 Mats of Time

They caught up with Old Tom at the barn. "Golly! A gypsy caravan," said Thomas. "Is that Freya's?"

"Yes. She'll fetch it some day," said Old Tom. "It came from Mamaia. Been here nearly 70 years."

"Freya's people wove mats from the threads of time. The caravan was piled high with half-woven mats."

"Here Spot! Good dog! Go fetch Eira's mat and take it to Pippi! She'll get it to you later, Vovve."



11 Twinning Talk

"Right! Down to business! Vovve, go help Spot find Eira's mat. Now Missan, what's on your mind."

"Nicholas wants twins," said Missan. Old Tom removed his glasses. "Hmm! That's a job for Ilbereth."

"And that's not all," said Missan a little nervously.

"Nicholas wondered if you could twin the twins twice."

"Eight conceived together?" Old Tom asked. "Yes," said Missan. "In the middle of September."



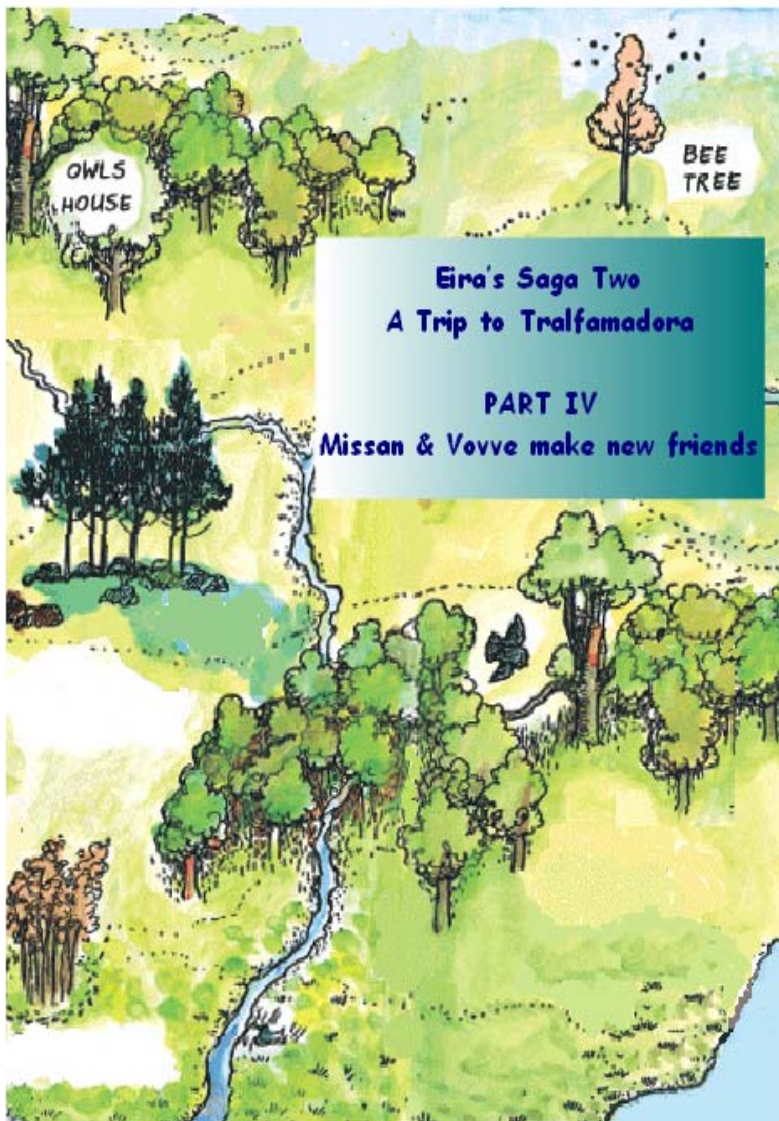
12 Sacred Geometry

There was a knock at the door. "That'll be Ilbereth. Let's see what he has to say about this!"

"Well, Ilbereth," said Old Tom, hanging up his coat on the hook behind the door. "Here's a challenge for you!"

"Forty birthmates for four sets of twins born within minutes of each other. Can we arrange that?"

Ilbereth stroked his beard. "Geometry," he said. "Tetrahedrons have six edges & four corners. Maybe."





13 Preservers

A flash of colour startled Missan. Her paw swiped the air. "Ooooh!" Petalwing squealed. "You'll need every one of your nine lives if you do that again!"

Petalwing glared at Missan. "Skywise! Protect me from this nasty hairy brute!"

Pippi burst in. "I see you two have met," she said laughing. "Missan! Petalwing is one of Eira's birthmates. Be nice to her!"

"Pippi is too," said Thomas. "So am I. We're taking you to meet the other two in Eira's karas later."



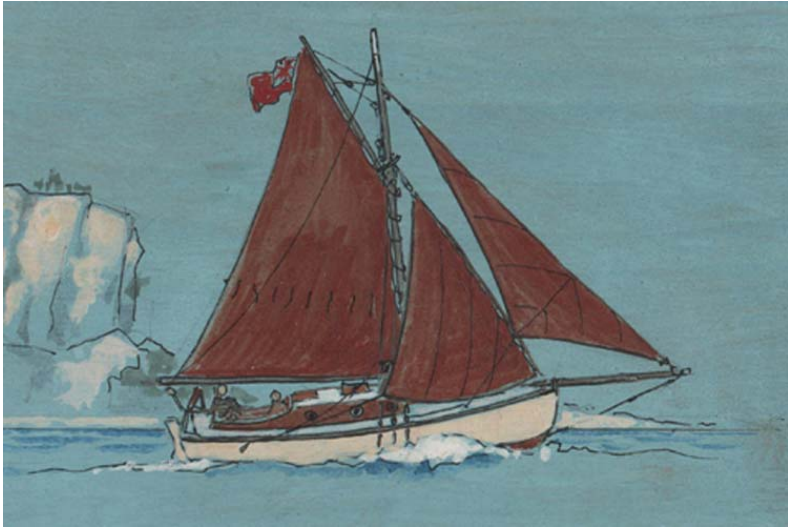
14 Elfquest

"Connie's waiting at the quay," said Old Tom.
"Vemara will be afloat. Time & tide wait for no man."

Thomas led them down Rope Walk. "Les gives Eira loyalty and Ruth gives her empathy," said Ilbereth.

"And Eira's fertile imagination comes from Petalwing because she's immortal," said Skywise."

Pooh looked perplexed. "Preservers are indestructible and don't have gender," Skywise explained.



15 Partytime!

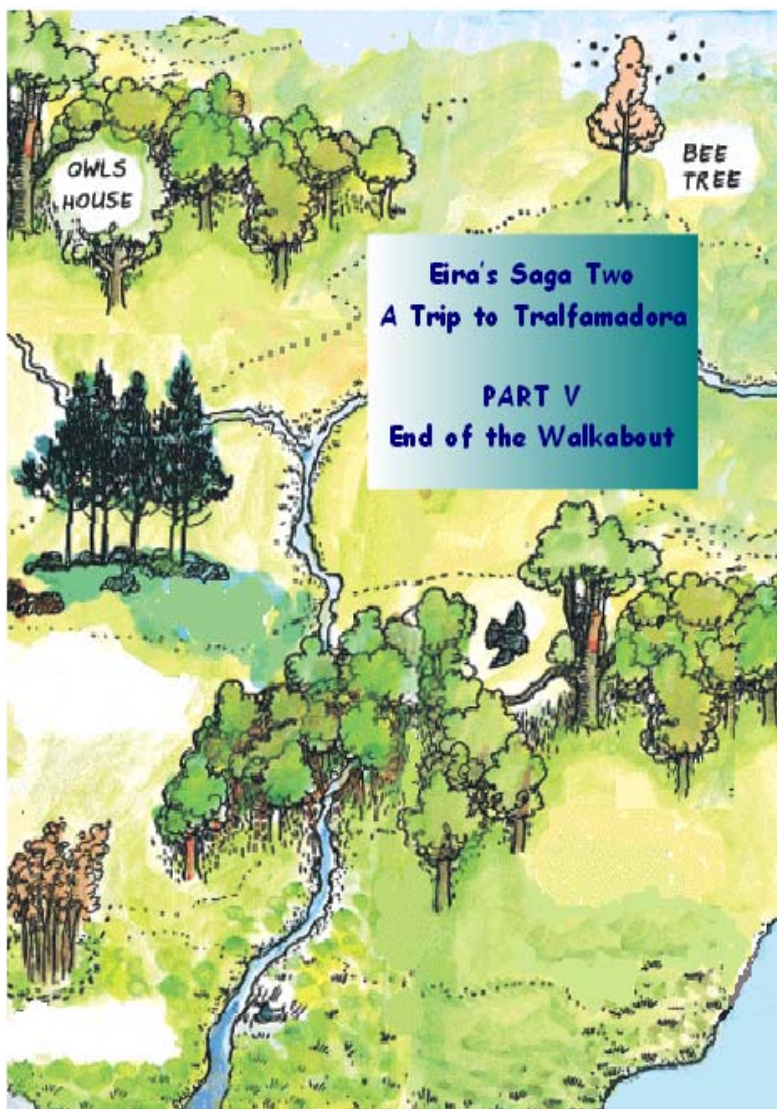
"All aboard!" Connie said. "Thomas, start the engine! Fend off everyone! Skywise! Into the current!"

"Staysail out, Pippi! Thomas, help me raise the mainsail! Lose that crease! Keep right, Skywise!"

They were away. In no time they were there. "Into the wind, Skywise! You're our brake! Anchor away!"

Harold & Marley were waving from the shore.

Swimming out to meet them was Sven Ripemovsky.





16 On the Beach

"Hello!" said Missan and Vovve as Connie landed them on the beach in Vemara's dinghy.

"Hello!" said Kooka & Kanga, Kyllikki & Annikki, Roo & Aslak, K.F. Breed & Mervin. "Glad you could come!"

Spot appeared at the top of the dunes. "Who's that with Spot?" Thomas asked. "That's Les," said Ilbereth.

"Can't stop!" Connie shouted from the dinghy. "More deliveries. Must catch the last of the tide."



17 Ancient Mysteries

They had a grand time by the bonfire. Kooka spoke of aborigines & celts, meis & leys, runes & barrows.

Ilbereth told of elves & unicorns, angels & fairies, dragons & witches; shaman & shape shifters.

Old Tom joined them while Les was talking about megaliths & standing stones. He had walked along the shore.

"Seeing is believing," Old Tom said. "Let's visit the stone circle. Spot will show you the way!"



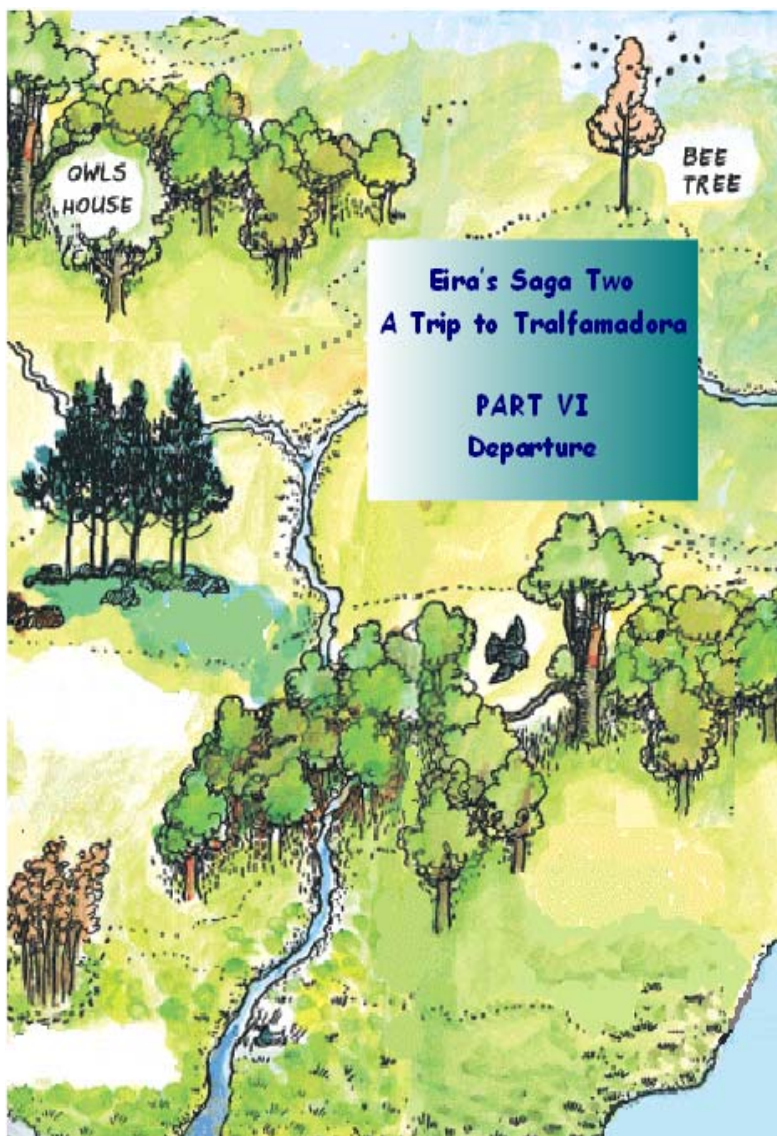
18 The Good Life

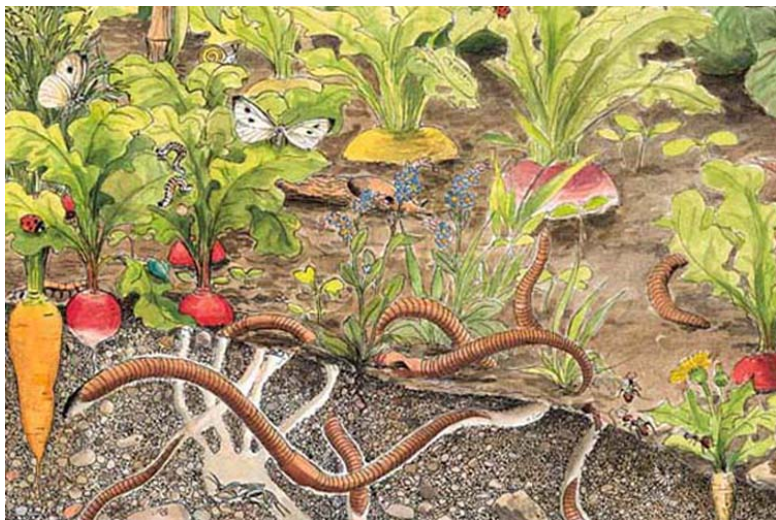
"Our walkabout is coming to an end," said Ilbereth.
"Last stop, Rasta. Missan & Vovve to lead the way."

They came to a sign saying 'Folkets Park'. There
they met Ruth & Margit out gathering berries.

"Enough for today," said Ruth. "My back is aching.
Come back to the cottage. Ethel & Elsa are baking."

They stayed long enough for Pooh to eat some cake.
Then they left with Ilbereth in the lead and Pooh
muttering "Nice cake! Wrong bridge!"





19 Stars & Centipedes

When they got back, Badger was frowning. "If time comes unstuck," he said, "stars will look like spaghetti."

"And," said a voice from the kitchen, "books will have no beginning, middle and end."

"Just lots & lots of marvellous moments all at one time," said Pooh, thinking very hard.

Pippi giggled. "What fun" she said. "We will all be centipedes. Short legs at the front. Long legs at the back. Or is it the other way round?"



20 Present for Eira

"Enough thinking for today," said Badger. "We must get you home in time for tea."

"This is for Eira," said Pippi, handing Vovve a blue packet covered with silver stars.

A sudden movement made Missan jump. "Owl's eggs," she said. "They'll be chicks when we come back."

Badger got up from his chair grumbling. "Packing to do," he said. "Can't sit around all day."



21 Lots to Do

But Badger didn't pack. He went over to talk to Old Tom. "Have you a spare hazel bob?" Badger asked.

"We're off to Villa Villekulla," said Petalwing.

"Tommy and Annika want to make pancakes."

"I'm off with Pooh to find his jar of honey," said Thomas. "He left it at the other bridge."

All of a sudden Owl's house was quite empty. "Aah," said Badger. "Peace and quiet." But not for long.



22 Time to Go

"Parp! Parp!"

"Here comes Noddy," said Badger. "And he has Owl and Aunt Tawney with him."

Missan & Vovve started to say their goodbyes.

"Don't forget your mat," Old Tom reminded them.

"And don't forget to come back for me," said Badger to Noddy. "Have you made a note?"

"Don't make notes," said Noddy, tapping his head and making his bell ring. "I keep everything in here."



23 Fond Farewells

"Remembering is better than noting," said Old Tom.

"And listening is not as hard as thinking," said Pooh.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star," said Missan for no reason in particular. "How I wonder what we are."

"Row, row, row the boat gently down the stream," answered Vovve. "Life is but a dream."

"And a merry one at that," said Old Tom. "See you in three moon-turns at the twins' conception."



24 Noddy Returns to the Airport

"My goodness, Tubby Bear. What a good clean," said Noddy. "No ginger beer in the tank, I hope."

"All aboard!" said Tubby Bear, as Vovve jumped aboard. "Turning the propeller...NOW!"

Up jumped Missan, clutching the blue package with its silver stars. Inside was Eira's mamayamat, but only you know. Can you keep a secret?

"Parp! Parp!" said the yellow & red car. "Vroom!" said the red & yellow aeroplane. Whoosh! It was gone.

"I hope they were sitting comfortably," said Noddy. "Come on Tubby Bear. Mustn't keep Badger waiting!"



Eira's Saga

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