

© Davvi Girji 2021
Original title: Geaidnostállu
1. edition, 1. print
Text: Marit Alette Utsi
Illustrations: Sunna Kittí
Graphic design: pikelus.no

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English translation: Kirsten Pope and Martin Pope

ISBN 978-82-329-0163-0

www.davvi.no

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Marit Alette Utsi – Sunna Kitti

The Road Stállu*



* A stállu is a gigantic figure in Sami folktales

Piera has already seen **ONE** at Granny and Grandad's house.

Urre and Mirre are having breakfast and then going out to play. Before disappearing out of the front door Granny shouts:
– Be careful playing on the road!

– There's no danger. We'll look out for cars, won't we Mirre? answers Urre.

– But remember there are other dangers as well as cars, Granny warns.



Jovna and Kájsá are waiting outside for Urre and Mirre.

- Come on, let's play football, they shout.
- That's so BORING! Mirre says. Can't we play hopscotch? I've learned how to play it at school and I'll teach you.
- OK, later on! Jovna and Kájsá agree.
- But later on we're also going cycling, Jovna says.
- Then let's play on the road where it's flat and easy to draw a hopscotch diagram, Urre suggests.

They find some chalk in Grandad's outhouse and draw the diagram.






- I don't want to! You're always the one to go first! Kájsá complains.

- Let's say Eeny, meeny, miny, moe to see who goes first, Mirre suggests.

- I can go first, Jovvna says.



Urre starts: - Eeny, meeny,
miny, moe, Catch a tiger by the toe. If he
hollers, let him go, Eeny meeny miny moe.
- There, it's your turn to start, Urre says
pointing at Kájsá.

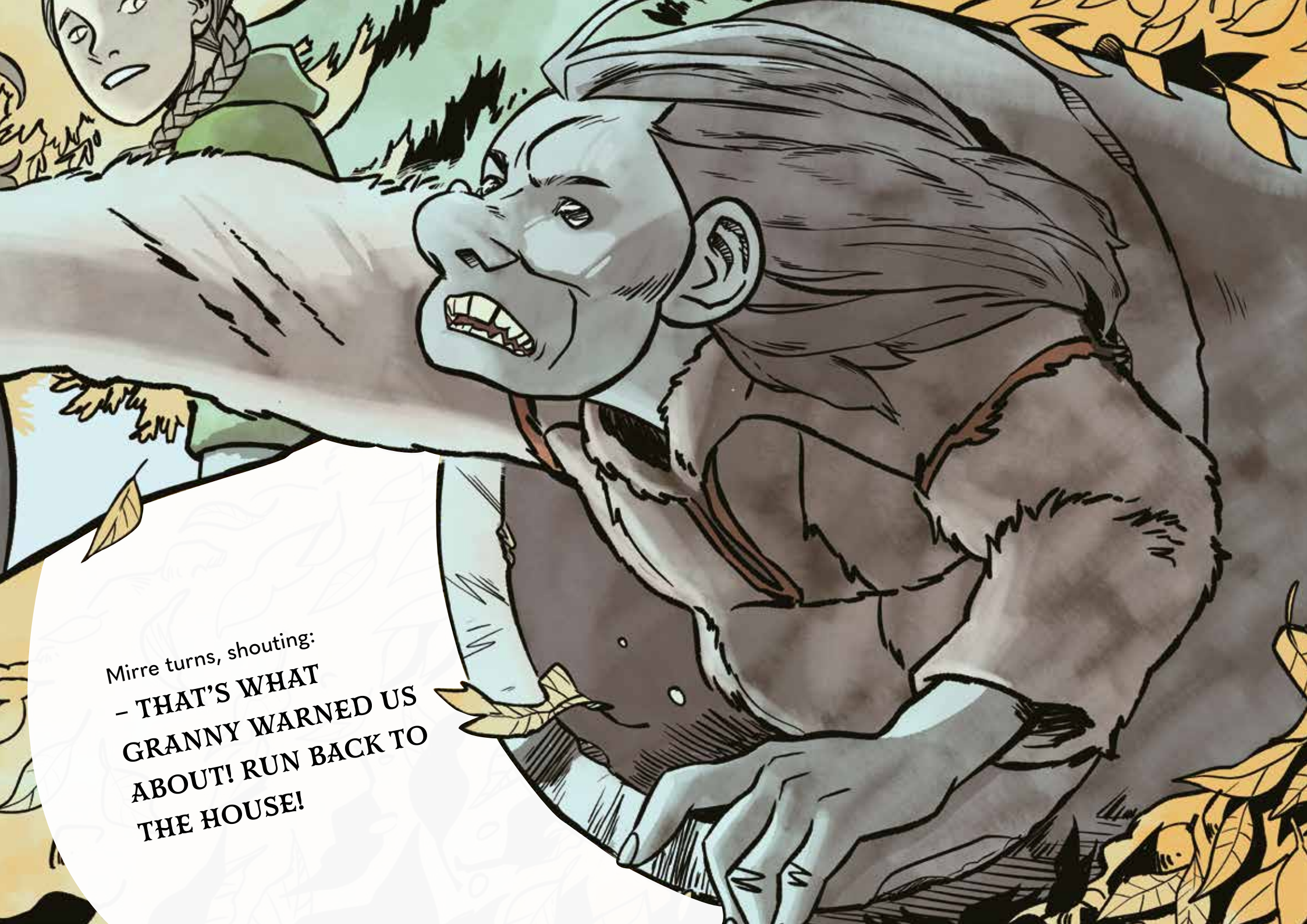
- Throw the stone onto the first square, hop over it and hop onto the other squares, Kájsá explains.
Mirre, Jovvna, Urre and Kájsá are all playing hopscotch. They don't notice what is coming towards them. First a huge head appears. Then a walking stick, a hand ...





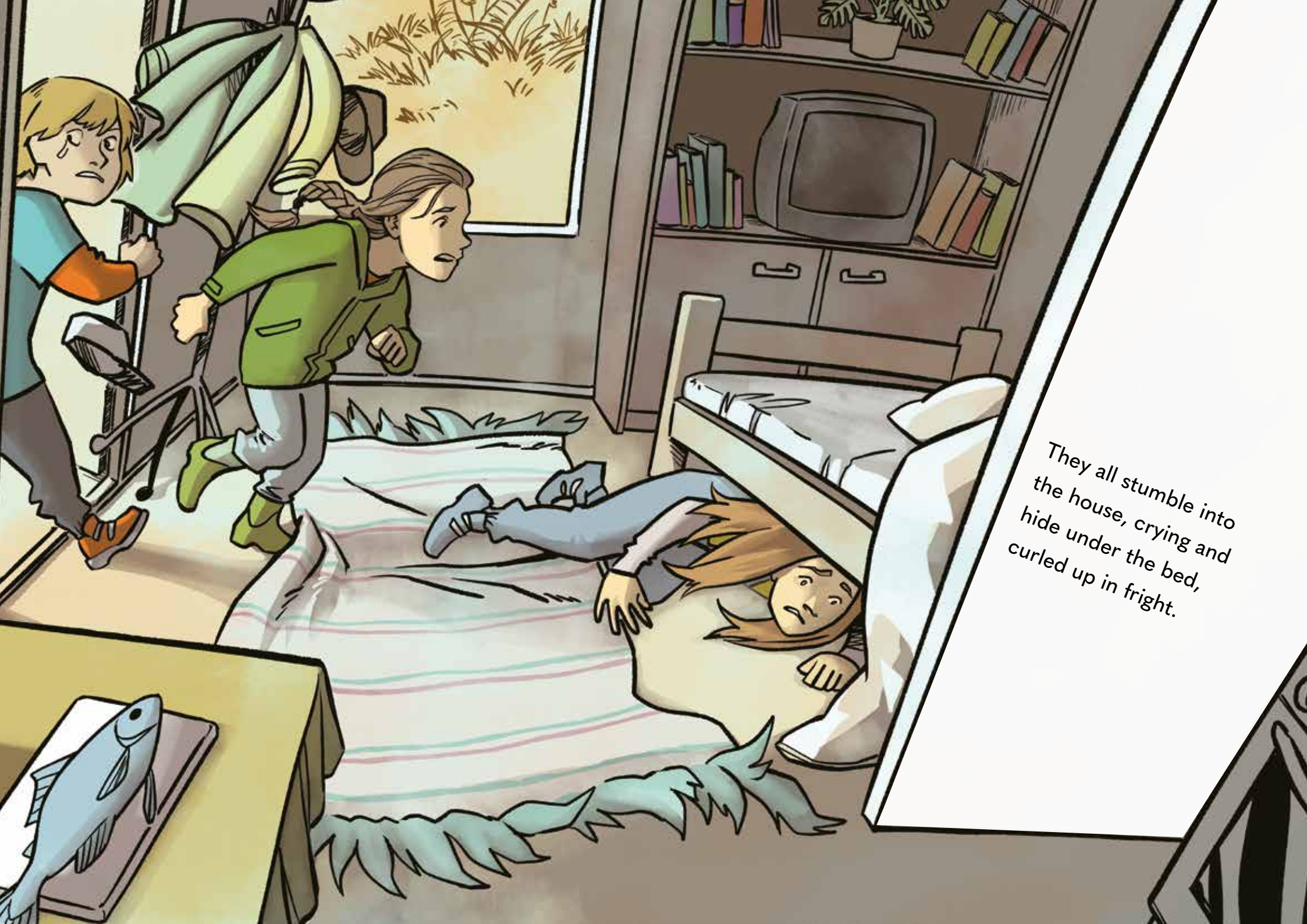


- LOOK! shouts Urre,
who has seen something strange
appearing from under the road.
He's usually a dare-devil but now
he's really frightened, his voice
breaking up as he shouts out.



Mirre turns, shouting:
- **THAT'S WHAT
GRANNY WARNED US
ABOUT! RUN BACK TO
THE HOUSE!**





They all stumble into the house, crying and hide under the bed, curled up in fright.





They don't dare speak to each other in case the monster hears where they are. They lie quite still under the bed. Then there's a knock at the door.

- Oh no! Has it heard us? whispers Mirre.

- Hush! Stay completely still, Urre whispers.

The door opens.

- What's going on here? Mum asks.

- Something appeared from under the road while we were playing hopscotch. We don't know what it is, Mirre sobs.

- That's not possible. But what can it be? Mum wonders.

Then Granny also comes. From the doorway she sees the children hiding under the bed. – Are you playing hide-and-peek? she asks.

– Don't be silly!, Urre answers, half in anger because she doesn't realise how frightened they are.

– And it-it w-was h-holding y-your w-walking s-stick! Mirre stammers.

– Indeed? Granny says. – My walking stick? I've lost it.

Mum explains to her why the children are so frightened. While they were playing hopscotch on the road something strange appeared from under the road.

– Indeed! says Granny again. – Is it the road stállu you saw?

– The **ROAD STÁLLU**? What kind of a troll is that? say the children together, surprised to hear Granny speak of a stállu.

– Listen, and I'll tell about Piera. He was playing on the road when he was snatched away by the road stállu, and Granny starts to tell the story.





One day the road stállu was really fed-up and angry with the noise of children playing on the road:
– **WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON NOW? THEY'RE SHOUTING AND SCREAMING OVER MY HEAD AGAIN**, the road stállu complains.

– Now **I'LL SHOW THEM** whose home this is! Every day there's screaming and noises over my head. They give me no peace to do as I like.

When the road stállu came out from under the road he saw children laughing and jumping around.

He was so quick that the children has no chance to see him. He grabbed the boy and disappeared back under the road.

