

The Red Duvet

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I saw the night sky while lying down. I could do this because our house had no roof. We had only one room where I lived with my siblings and my mom. When it rained, we slept under some cloths that my mom would put up, and since there were always uncovered parts, I could see the darkness illuminated by the stars. I listened to the sounds of the wind, the stream that passed nearby, the trees and their leaves moving, birds, and other beings walking or flying outside and inside my house. I fell asleep with their stories. I had a red duvet to cover me that had belonged to my grandmother, my mom told me. When it rained and it became damp, my duvet gave off unknown fragrances and I would bury my cold nose in it, trying to warm up and thinking that maybe this was how my grandmother had smelled. The red duvet was mine, and since I was the youngest and sickliest in the family, my mom had said that this duvet was just for me. At night, in my dreams, my wild friends from the forest would arrive, and with them we would go on adventures to unknown worlds, always guided by the scent of my red duvet. One cold night, I was curled up under my duvet when someone knocked on our door, and my mother opened it. When I peeked out, I saw a woman holding something wrapped in a blanket. Sounds of crying came from the bundle. I saw my mother approach the woman to see what she was carrying. She took the package very carefully. As she stepped back, she began to whisper. I couldn't understand what she was saying. I only saw the woman lower her head and leave crying. My mother came to me with the little bundle and said: "Daughter, we are going to take care of it, feed it, and protect it from the cold. Make a space for it under your duvet and be very careful, it is very weak." I obeyed her, and she placed the little package on my bed. The bundle was crying. I covered it. There, under the sky, the stars, with the sounds of birds and forest animals, I sensed a new fragrance. I carefully opened the little package. The eyes of a wild little fox looked at me.