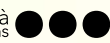




# FUNNY BIRDS

animated TV Special film  
directed by Charlie Belin  
screenplay by Charlie Belin and Mariannick Bellot

doncvoilà  
productions



CL  
camera lucida

# FUNNY BIRDS

Animation TV Special - 26 minutes

directed by **Charlie Belin**

screenplay by **Charlie Belin & Mariannick Bellot**

coproduced by **Doncvoilà productions & Camera Lucida productions**  
with the participation of **France Télévisions**

with the support of **Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée, Région Pays de la Loire, Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Département de la Drôme/Valence Romans Agglo and Procirep-Angoa**

distribution and international sales by **Miam!**

Video link

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6304658>

Password : **oiseaux**

- Full animatic
- Animated sequences (WIP)
- Excerpts from previous Charlie Belin films

**Note**

The voices are final, as well as part of the soundscapes. However, there is no sound effects or mixing.

doncvoilà  
productions ●●●

Virginie Giachino  
virginie@doncvoila.net  
+33 6 26 53 35 98

CL  
camera lucida

Jean-Stéphane Michaux  
jsmichaux@cameralucida.fr  
+33 6 03 13 15 71



# Synopsis

Ten and a half years-old, Ellie is entering secondary school in Saumur. Shy and fascinated by nature, she spends her time with books, especially ones on ornithology. Ellie draws the attention of Anna, the school's librarian, a mysterious woman with whom she forms a mysterious bond. The day when Ellie must absolutely return a book to Anna, she finds the school library closed. Ellie decides to take it back to Anna's home, a few miles from school, on an island on the Loire River. An island full of birds...





# Screenplay

## Scene 1.

The camera follows an osprey as it flies above the Loire River. It then continues over the city of Saumur.

## Scene 2. In the kitchen

View of a window, on a gray morning, a bird passes through the sky.

A hanger with a lace vest drying on it is on the window's handle.

On the page of a book are the shadow outlines of flying birds in flight: The Tawny Owl magazine sits open next to a bowl.

Nearly 11 years-old, Ellie is immersed in her reading. She is small, her hair dyed with henna and reddish. There is still something very child-like about her.

The apartment is small and very colorful, with objects all around.

While Ellie is having breakfast, her mother Manue, 34 years-old, is whirling around in a Chinese nightgown. She puts a glass of orange juice down next to Ellie.

## MANUE

Here, my sweetie pie.

I won't be home until 7.30 tonight. Would you prefer that I pick you up from Wahid's? Or to come straight home? You'll tell me?

Ellie continues to read while drinking her orange juice. She turns the page.

## ELLIE

Yes, yes.

Manue goes to finish dressing herself.

## MANUE (off)

Will you want more toast?

## ELLIE

...

## MANUE

Which scarf should I wear... the joyful one or serious one?



From the stairs, she shows two scarfs that she tries on around her neck.

Ellie lifts her nose out of her book.

**ELLIE**

I like them both.

**MANUE**

Well, then I'll wear them both!

They laugh.

Manue pulls on her coat and wraps a scarf around her neck. She takes the book out of Ellie's hands and puts it down on the edge of the chimney.

**MANUE**

Off we go! And this stays here...

Ellie puts on her shoes while her mother goes back upstairs.

**MANUE (off)**

Umm... What did I do with my bag? I left it upstairs...

There it is!... Off we go!

Ellie takes her book and backpack. They go out.



**Scene 3. In the street.**

Outside the front door, Manue searches through her bag. She has the joyful scarf around her neck, but she's stuffed the serious one in her bag. Ellie has her nose back in her book. Manue takes the book out of Ellie's hands and stuffs it into the mailbox.

**MANUE**

You won't have time to read!

**ELLIE**

I will, during the break.

**MANUE**

You know, you can't always have your nose stuck in a book like that. Wait, Ellie, I can't find my bus pass! What have I done with it?... There it is!

Ellie takes advantage of this commotion to discreetly get her reading back and hide it in her bag.

They walk in the street.

**MANUE**

Don't you prefer to do things with your friends during the break?

**ELLIE (untruthfully)**

I don't have any friends.

**MANUE**

Ohh! And little Rapunzel? No, Rapunzel's not her name, she's called...

**ELLIE**

Cassandra.

**MANUE**

There! Cassandra, she's your friend...

**ELLIE**

Bof...







They pass in front of a convenience store. They wave to Wahid, the grocer, who is serving a line of clients.

**WAHID**

Hi ladies!

**MANUE**

Hi Wahid!

**ELLIE**

Hi Wahid!

**WAHID**

Will you come to see me after class?

**ELLIE**

Yeah!

At the corner, Manue kisses Ellie on the head.

**MANUE**

Well, have a good day my little sweetie.

**ELLIE**

Have a good day, mom.

Manue watches Ellie moving away.

#### **Scene 4. On the way to school**

In the sky, there's one bird, then two, then three perched on a streetlamp. They chirp. Ellie walks while looking to the sky, keeping an eye on them.

#### **Scene 5. On the way to school, the bridge**

Ellie crosses a bridge that passes over a narrow branch of the Loire. Ellie spots a heron with its feet in the water, motionless. It's hunting, hidden slightly by the low morning light as cars hurry by on the boulevard. The heron drags its feet through the silt very slowly... Time seems to stop. Standing still, Ellie looks at the bird's outline visible in the bridge's shadow. She's fascinated.



**Scene 6. Street in front of school**

Elle is walking as Cassandra approaches, a girl from Ellie's class with long, beautiful blond hair.

**CASSANDRA**

Hi Ellie!

**ELLIE (almost inaudible)**

Hi Cassandra.

**CASSANDRA**

Are you ok? I so don't feel like going to class. I went to bed super late, because you know what I did last night? I gave myself a manicure? Doesn't it look great?

Cassandra shakes her nails decorated with little diamonds in front of Ellie.

**CASSANDRA**

Actually, I'd done pink first, but I think blue is better...

**Scene 7. School**

Cassandra and Ellie enter the school and show their hall pass to the monitor..

**FEMALE SCHOOL MONITOR**

Good morning! Come on, get moving!

They walk up some stairs amid other students. Cassandra goes on with her monologue about the manicure.

**MALE SCHOOL MONITOR**

Good morning! Come on, get moving!

They reach the school courtyard where they meet up with a group of girls.

**CASSANDRA**

HI!

**GIRLS (together)**

Hi!

**CASSANDRA**

You well?

**GIRLS (together)**

Yeah, and you?

**ELLIE (in her quiet voice)**

Hi...

The group of girls chat. Lina comes up.

**LINA (calling out)**

Hey ladies! Hi Ellie.

**GIRLS (together)**

HI! How are you?

The school bell rings.

**CASSANDRA**

What class do we have now?

**GIRLFRIENDS (together)**

We've got French.

**CASSANDRA**

Oh pff...

The students move unenthusiastically towards the stairs. Cassandra starts on her manicure monologue.

**CASSANDRA (girlishly)**

Have you seen them? The new nails are good, right? Not too flashy?

**GIRLFRIENDS (together)**

No, no...

**Scene 8. Classroom**

Ellie is sitting at a table near the window. The students must color a map. Ellie is enjoying arranging her pencils in the order of a rainbow. In front of her, Chahinez is swinging in her chair and leans back.

**TEACHER (off)**

Chahinez, please turn around!

Ellie carefully draws a woodpecker drumming at a tree. Her nearest neighbor is shaking her Tipp-Ex. Ellie watches her, looks at her own drawing, comparing the bird pecking and the sound of the Tipp-Ex. Through Ellie's imagination, we can hear the real sound of a woodpecker mixing with shaking the Tipp-Ex.



**Scene 9. In the courtyard**

Ellie is sitting on a bench, fascinated by a little snail advancing very slowly: she puts it on her hand, watches it unfold, shrink again, grow in confidence and move forward.

**LINA (curious)**

What's that? Oh, can I take it in my hand, please?

Ellie puts it on the back of Lina's hand.

**LINA**

Ah, it's gross! It's all sticky!



Suddenly, three adolescents come up to Lina, looking for trouble.

**GIRL (aggressive)**

Why are you telling stories about me?

**LINA**

Euh, what stories did I tell about you?

**GIRL**

Are you joking?

**LINA**

What joke? You're just crazy!

**GIRL**

Why are you talking about me at all? Why are you saying things about me...

**LINA**

And who are you anyway? What do you want?!!

**GIRL**

Why do you go talking behind my back?

The argument continues.

**GIRL (off)**

Can you settle this once and for all?

Meanwhile, Ellie has stood up and is watching the argument, not sure what to do. She looks from the little snail to the fight, back to the snail, and finally walks away. Reaching the library, she puts the snail down in a bush.

We can still hear the fight in the distance. Ellie goes into the library.





**Scene 10. In the school library**

In the library a few students are studying, others are taking out books... Ellie takes a book from the shelves, she slides down the wall and sits on the blue carpet. We can hear the argument and noises from the courtyard.

**A 3rd YEAR** (passing by)

You're not allowed to sit on the floor.

She stands back up. But absorbed by her book, she slides back down easily. The outline of another student passes by, Ellie automatically stands up, then lets herself slide back to the ground without even taking her eyes from the book.

Anna, the librarian, has spotted Ellie's act. A sneaky look passes through her eyes. From where she is, Anna can see that the librarian, who always wears a beret, has her feet out of her shoes and is in her socks... The librarian winks at her and wiggles her toes. Ellie acts as if she hasn't noticed and dives back into her book.

The bell rings and a few students leave. Ellie's class comes noisily into the library and settles at the tables.

**Scene 11. At the library with Ellie's class****FRENCH TEACHER**

Hello! Class, please come in!

Are you alright Kadidja? What's this all about!

Come on, let's go...

Go, sit Ellie, find your place, there.

So today we are going to talk once again about adventures.

First question: I'd like to know if you've already had an adventure...

Yacine.

**YACINE**

There were two big dogs... Then I walked...

Then they sniffed me, they could see that I was scared. I ran, and they chased me.

**STUDENT**

So, we were on a trapeze and at one point, we had to fold our legs to stay on then, and I didn't fold them, I straightened and suddenly I fell, and I slammed to the ground!

**FRENCH TEACHER**

But why did you do that?

**STUDENT**

I don't know. I think it was hurting... I can't remember very well...

**FRENCH TEACHER**

It hurt to bend your leg?

**STUDENT**

Yes...

**FRENCH TEACHER**

But falling from the trapeze was ok?

Ellie is daydreaming. She looks out the window at the birds in the courtyard trees.

**FRENCH TEACHER**

Sarah, your turn.

**SARAH**

When we were small, with my cousin, her mother was vacuum cleaning, and euh...

There was a fish and by mistake she vacuumed the fish!

The students laugh.

**SARAH**

And so the fish... well, there you go!

**THE CLASS**

It died.

**ANNA, THE LIBRARIAN** (deep, calm voice)

I was a young cook on a cargo ship. And back then, when you went to the toilet, you needed to fill a bucket with sea water to flush. So I went to throw the bucket overboard to fill it, and just then the ocean became completely grey around the ship. There was a huge sperm whale passing under the ship, so close to the water's surface that you could almost touch it... And let me tell you, it's an odd sensation!

The students listen in a relatively attentive silence. Ellie is fascinated.

**POPEYE**

Right, I get it!





**FRENCH TEACHER**

Ellie, so for you, what's an adventure?

Ellie sits up, surprised.

**ELLIE**

Well... The migration of storks.

Everyone laughs, even Anna.

**POPEYE**

Huh? I don't get it!

**ANNA**

She's right.

**STUDENT**

What's a stork?

Laughter.

Ellie is as red as a tomato. Anna looks at her, smiling.

**STUDENT**

A... with a black beak!

The bell rings. The students immediately stand up, move their chairs, pick up their things.

**FRENCH TEACHER**

Each of you go to the shelves and borrow a book.

Easy! Easy, please. Thank you!

The students register their book with Anna.

**ANNA**

Remind me of your name, what's the name again?

**LINA**

Lina!

**ANNA**

Lina...

Ellie waits for her turn. She notices a little dish of rose hips on Anna's desk.

**ELLIE**

Do you have a book about birds?

**ANNA**

Go look in the row over there.

Ellie moves away.

**ANNA**

So, did you find anything?

**ELLIE**

Not really...

Anna comes closer. Ellie notices that Anna has written a reminder on her hand.

**ANNA**

We have one or two books about the region. I was hoping there'd be something in them about the local fauna and flora...

Let me see your book?

Ellie shows her *The Tawny Owl*.

**ANNA**

Ah! *The Tawny Owl*! I used to read that when I was young. Do you read it every month?

**ELLIE**

Yes, I have a subscription.

**ANNA**

You must know a lot about birds then!

**ELLIE**

Yes.

**ANNA**

Do you know what they call the place where I live?

**ELLIE**

No.

**ANNA**

Bird Island.

Ellie's imagination drifts off...



**Scene 12. Convenience store**

Wahid's convenience store is the local hangout. Ellie is sitting at a little table as Wahid is teaching her to write in Arabic.

**ELLIE**

And an N?

**WAHID**

The N, is this one. The one I did, you see? The N is the little stick with a dot above. And when it's a feminine noun, there's always a T at the end...

**WAHID (to a client)**

Hello Miss!

**CLIENT**

Hello!

Wahid talks to his clients.

Wahid holds out a box of dates to Ellie.

**WAHID (to Ellie)**

Ellie! A little date.

Ellie takes a date.

**ELLIE**

Thanks.

**WAHID**

They're like raisins.

**ELLIE**

Do you know Bird Island?

**WAHID**

Bird Island? No, I don't know it.

**WAHID (louder)**

Caron! Caron? Monsieur Caron!

Caron is an old fisherman and regular client who is buying cat food. He turns around.





**CARON**

Hold on a moment, I'll put my hearing aid in because I don't hear well.

The old man tinkers around with the earpiece.

**WAHID (quietly, to Ellie)**

He unplugs it to avoid being bothered.

**CARON**

What were you saying?

**ELLIE**

Do you know Bird Island?

**CARON**

Do you mean Souzay Island? I fish around there every day.

**ELLIE**

I would like to go on the Loire!

The old fisherman shows Ellie what he has in his bucket: little fish that are swimming in circles.

**CARON**

Here!

**ELLIE**

Will you eat them?

**CARON**

Well, no, I won't eat them. I'll give one or two to the cat. But the others are for fishing.





**Scene 13. Bathroom**

Ellie is wrapped up in a big towel. She's huddled like a chick, with a book open at her feet.

**ELLIE**

I don't feel like going to school tomorrow.

**MANUE**

You're right, me neither... Let's go on strike.

**ELLIE**

My throat hurts too.

**MANUE**

Ooh, my poor little red robin!

Manue rubs Ellie while she reads her book, clearly happy, cradled.

(Laughter)



**ANNA**

Listen, normally it can't leave here. But I trust you.  
Bring it back tomorrow, no fail... Because it really shouldn't be taken out.

Ellie nods.

**Scene 15. Outside of school, parking lot**

Ellie leaves the school, putting away a book. She sees Anna on the school's parking lot. She goes towards her. Anna is tying books onto her motorcycle's rack.

**ELLIE**

Do you really live on an island?

**ANNA**

Well, yeah.

**ELLIE**

How do you get home?

**ANNA**

I take a rowboat.

**ELLIE**

Is it dangerous?

**ANNA (laughing)**

No, but I have fallen into the water on the way to school.

**ELLIE (laughing)**

What do you do then?

**ANNA (teasing)**

I go back home, change itn dry clothes, and get here late.

Ellie watches Anna as she rides away. Anna waves.



**Scene 16. At Wahid's**

Evening is coming. Ellie is more absorbed than ever by her book. Around her, the world is filling up with the sounds of bird calls and melodies.

**Scene 17. Int. school courtyard**

The students cross the courtyard, Ellie changes course, towards the library, as the group moves towards the school gates.

**Scene 18. In front of the library**

In the courtyard, at the library, whose doors are closed.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Ellie, Ellie, there's no point. The library lady is not here today, ok?

**ELLIE**

But... I have a book of hers to give back!

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

It's no big deal, you can give it back tomorrow. Ok?

**ELLIE**

Ok...

Ellie looks at the book, the closed library door, and smiles....

**Scene 19. Bus stop**

Ellie and an old lady wearing a fur hat are looking at the map of Greater Saumur.

**LADY IN THE FUR HAT**

Can you tell me what's written there?

**ELLIE**

That's the terminus of line 34.

**LADY IN THE FUR HAT**

Oh no, that's not right, I'm getting muddled here...

**ELLIE**

Line 1 is there.

**LADY IN THE FUR HAT**

There it is! Well, I couldn't see it. Yes, it's there, that's right.

You know, as they say where I'm from: never ask your path from someone who knows it -- you won't be able to get lost...

Ellie looks at her, a bit worried.





**Scene 20. In the bus**

Through the bus window, Ellie looks out at Saumur, then the Loire.

She writes an SMS to her mother.

**ELLIE**

We - finished - early - I - am - going - to give - a book - back - to the librarian - then - I'll - go home.

**Scene 21. Dock**

Ellie gets off the bus, crosses the road, and finds the dock below. She looks around: a little path goes down into the water, completely swamped. Barely rising out of the water is a sign that reads “Souzay Island.” The island appears both near and far, visible and mysterious, the current is strong. She sees Anna’s motorbike.

Ellie goes onto the dock and draws near the motorbike. She sees a fisherman on a boat further away on the river and recognizes the old man from the convenience store.

**ELLIE**

Mister! Mister!

He doesn’t move. Ellie’s voice doesn’t travel very far. She tries calling out more loudly.

**ELLIE**

Sir!

Ellie throws a stone at the fisherman with all her strength.



**CARON**

Heh!?

**ELLIE**

Sir, please!

**CARON**

Ah, I know you!

He rows towards her and docks.

**CARON**

There. What is it you want?

**ELLIE**

I would like to take her book back to Ms. Shell who lives on the island.

**CARON**

The biker?

**ELLIE**

Yes, do you know her?

**CARON**

I know her. It's the house with the blue shutters.

**ELLIE**

Can you cross me over?

**CARON**

Here, give me your hand! Hop!

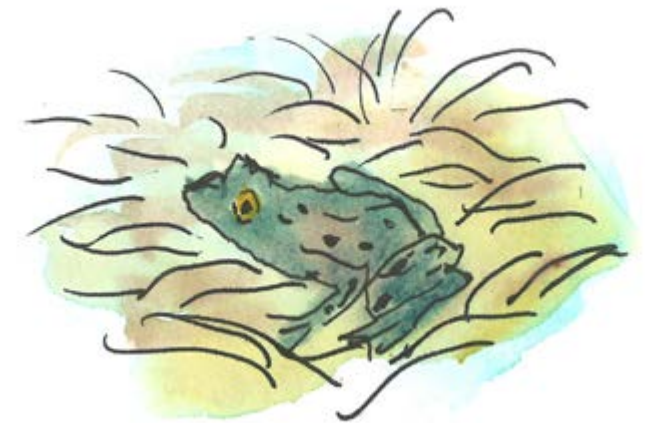
She gets into the boat, which sways a bit. She sits down.

**CARON**

Hey, don't move. Ok?

**ELLIE**

Ok.





**Scene 22. The crossing**

The boat moves slowly, pushed on by the long wooden sculling oar that the fisherman uses to shove off on the river's bottom. The river is high, it's flooding. Trees are submerged. Ellie looks at the fishermen's wooden box on the floor in front of her: hooks, weights, fishing lines... and a whole array of colorful baits.

Suddenly, she sees a whole school of fish passing under the boat. She looks at their silverish reflections.

**CARON**

Do you see them? They're everywhere!

**ELLIE (delighted)**

Yes!

The boat keeps moving forward. Caron looks up and spots rabbits on the tree branches, nibbling at the bark.

**CARON**

There, look at those rabbits!

**ELLIE (surprised)**

Yeah! Rabbits can climb high!

**CARON**

They have to climb up there. They're saving themselves from the rising water, the flooding.

The boat glides gently amid the submersed grasses, finding its path between the patches of land.

Suddenly Caron spots ears just above the high grasses.

**CARON**

There, look!

**ELLIE (surprised)**

Whaa!

On a little isle of a few tufts of grass rising out of the water, three bunnies are climbing on one another and their mother's back to form a pyramid. The old fisherman brings the boat closer. Ellie leans over to look at them.

**CARON**

They can't move any more!

Take that board next to you. Put it across. Go on... go on... go on...

Hop!

She takes a board from the bottom of the boat and has the bunnies climb onto it. They jump one by one into the boat.

**ELLIE**

There's still a big part in the water!

**CARON**

Grab it... Grab it! Don't be scared, do it! Did you get it?

**ELLIE (wearily)**

Yes!

Ellie leans a little bit forward. The boat sways lightly. She reaches out and grabs the fat rabbit. It's heavy. Ellie has a hard time lifting it up. She puts it down in the boat, a little scared by the animal.

**CARON**

There...The big rabbits go on the bottom. The water comes up and starts getting them wet.

But the little ones stay dry as long as possible.

Well, let's go put them back on the island now.

The fisherman bails out some water from the bottom of the boat. He hands the pole over to Ellie.

**CARON**

Here, can you take the pole for a moment?

You go to the back and push the boat towards the... Push! There!

Ellie sculls, a bit unskillfully. She's not very good at directing the boat. She pushes it into the reeds.



**CARON**

Where are you going like that?

**ELLIE**

You told me to push!

**CARON**

Well, look where you're going.

**ELLIE (surprised)**

Aah!

Realizing that she's dragging the boat into the grasses, she plunges the oar down on the other side and manages to send it back in the right direction.

**CARON (watching her)**

On the other side now, to give the boat some speed... There... Yes, that's good!

**CARON**

Well, I'll let you dock!

She pushes the pole down into the water and proudly brings the boat towards solid land. The boat reaches the shore. Caron gets down to help Ellie maneuver.

**CARON**

There... A gentle landing.



**Scene 23. On the island, shore**

The boat lands easily on the shore. Ellie jumps to the ground, her feet sink into the mud.

**ELLIE (smiling)**

Thank you!

Caron grabs the rabbits huddling at the bottom of the boat and places them back on land. The rabbits run off into the high grasses under Ellie's bemused watch.

**CARON**

And call if you need me to get back across! There, see you soon!

**ELLIE**

See you soon!

The fisherman leaves. Ellie waves and turns towards the island.

Big poplar trees line the riverbank. The autumn colors reflect off the water. Ellie looks, fascinated by the grass that runs on as far as the eye can see. The vegetation resonates with bird calls.

**Scene 24. On the island**

Ellie walks along a dirt path through the countryside. The wind blows. She grabs a stick and has fun sculling with it. She spots a rose hip bush; the same that Anna had. She picks a few. Atop an electricity pole, a big nest towers over the path.

She can hear the “tac tac tac” of a woodpecker hammering at a tree trunk. Ellie looks for it. The sound comes from the forest on the other side of the field upon which she’s walking. She gets her birdwatching guide out of her book and looks at the trees. She hears the pecking again.

Ellie leaves the path and passes under a barbed wire, seeking out the woodpecker in the forest.





An old black cat walks ahead of her, weaving through the high grass.

The woods and island are full of delights: a squirrel jumps from branch to branch before disappearing into the tree trunks; a tree climber runs up a tree trunk. A flock of goldfinches flies away in a burst of color. In the sky, titmice fly together creating complicated and unpredictable shapes.

Ellie is attuned to every little detail, she leafs through the book to recognize the birds. She finally spots the woodpecker.

A jay is planting acorns in the ground. Ellie watches it go about its business. She squats nearby as the gaunt black cat comes out of the high grasses, also tracking the bird with its eyes. Ellie and the cat glance at one another. The cat leaps and the jay flies away with a flap of its wings. Suddenly, both cat and bird have disappeared.

The sky grows darker.

### **Scene 25. On the island, towards the end of the island**

Ellie reaches the tip of the island. She finds a blue (jay) feather that she slips into the book. There is nature all around her on every side. The storm is rumbling.

Suddenly a huge bird of prey breaks through the sky, diving like an arrow into the Loire to catch a fish. It's an osprey. It then uses its powerful wings to land atop a tree. Time seems to have stopped. Thunder rumbles. The bird of prey meets Ellie's eyes -- fascinated by this encounter. Rain starts to fall and Ellie grows afraid.





**Scene 26. On the path to Anna's house**

Ellie turns back and runs as the rain falls.

She gets out of the forest and is frightened by a herd of cows blocking her path. Going around them, she slides under the barbed wire to return to the cleared path.

She sees smoke coming out of an old building with blue shutters.

She reaches the house, which has a shed and chicken coop nearby. She hears noise coming from the shed.

**Scene 27. Int. shed**

Ellie reaches the doorway. Anna is hammering away at a board on the floor of her shed. She's hot and has left her scarf and beret nearby. She's taken advantage of the solitude to bear her bald head.

Ellie watches her. Ellie takes the hidden book out from her anorak. She suddenly feels intimidated and grips on to the atlas.

**ELLIE**

Hello!

Anna takes a few seconds to recognise Ellie standing there, dripping with rain...

**ANNA**

Ellie?! What are you doing here?

Anna quickly passes her hand over her bald skull, a bit uncomfortable being seen without a beret, then gets a hold of herself.

**ELLIE**

I came to give you back the book.

**ANNA**

The book?

**ELLIE**

The Atlas... of birds...

**ANNA**

Ah, right...

How did you get all the way here?

She grabs her beret.

**ELLIE**

I took the bus.

Ellie holds out the book.

**ELLIE**

And I crossed over with a fisherman that I know.

Anna hands back the book as she puts on her coat.

**ANNA**

We'll go warm up. You'll tell me about it and we'll call your mother.











Anna puts on her coat, and flips the hood over her beret, getting ready to leave the shed. Ellie slips the book into her bag to protect it from the rain.

**ANNA**

It's nearby. Ready? One, two, three!

### **Scene 28. Anna's kitchen**

Ellie is sitting comfortably in a chair by the fireplace, a big shaggy dog has its head against her knees.

Anna comes over with a tray.

**ANNA**

You're not too hot there?

**ELLIE**

Nooo...

Anna puts the tray down on a coffee table and looks, surprised, at the dog resting against Ellie.

**ANNA**

Well, well, seems like this dog adores you!

The storm still thunders on. We see Anna's kitchen, the earthenware floor, baskets and pots hanging from the ceiling, watering cans in a corner... The rain whips off the windows and the sky is so dark outside that it seems like night.

**ELLIE**

Is it possible that the island end up covered in water?

**ANNA**

You know, in 1852 it rose up to the first floor. Here, look, there's still a mark on the stone.

Anna stands up to show the mark on the stone. Ellie follows her. The mangy black cat that had followed Ellie in the forest meows and scratches at the window. Anna opens for him and he slinks into the house.

Ellie sits back down comfortably by the fire. The dog puts his head on her knee and Ellie scratches him behind the ears. The black cat jumps on her knees and rolls up in a ball against her. Anna looks at her, both surprised and amused. Ellie smiles at her.





**Scene 29. Crossing back across the Loire**

Anna has lent Ellie an old anorak that covers her up. Ellie and Anna cross in a boat.

Far off on the island, Ellie can see the silhouette of the osprey come to rest in a nest atop an electric pole.

**Scene 30. Street, in front of Ellie's building**

Manue is waiting in front of the building. She motions for Anna's motorbike to park on the sidewalk. Anna gets down from the bike and takes off her helmet.

**ELLIE**

Hi mom!

Ellie hands the helmet and jacket back to Anna, and gives Manue a kiss, who is looking at her with fresh eyes..

**MANUE**

Hi Ellie! Say, you were on a motorbike? You weren't too scared?

**ELLIE**

No, it's ok!

**MANUE (to Anna)**

In any case, thanks a lot!

**ANNA**

My pleasure.

**Scene 31. In Ellie's room**

Manue is sitting on the bed, while Ellie is in perpetual motion.

**MANUE**

...and it's called "sculling"?

**ELLIE**

Yes.

**MANUE**

I thought it was called "rowing".

**ELLIE**

No, because rowing is with two oars. While when you have just one oar, you scull.

They laugh.

**ELLIE**

I saw pikes... and mullets too. And I saved some rabbits! I also saw an osprey at the tip of the island. It was catching a fish in the river.

Ellie opens her bag and starts putting away her things as she's talking.

**ELLIE**

Oh! The book is still in my bag!

## MANUE

But it's not really a problem, you'll bring it back tomorrow!

The bright blue striped feather is stuck between two pages.

### Scene 32. On the way to school

On the way to school, Ellie walks quickly, lightly; her eyes seem bright. She's put the blue feather in her hair.

Ellie looks at herself in a mirror for a moment and smiles.

At the school's entrance, Ellie goes towards Yacine, Laura, Cassandra, and her other classmates, smiling and sure of herself.

