

# Locked down



A story by Claire Schepers, illustrated by Juliana Joly – illustrations  
Translated by Caroline Curtis

Lately, a virus attacked the world.  
At first, it was not too bad.  
You just had to stop hugging your friends.  
Daddy had shown me how to wash my hands carefully while singing.  
Mummy kept telling me to cough in my elbow.



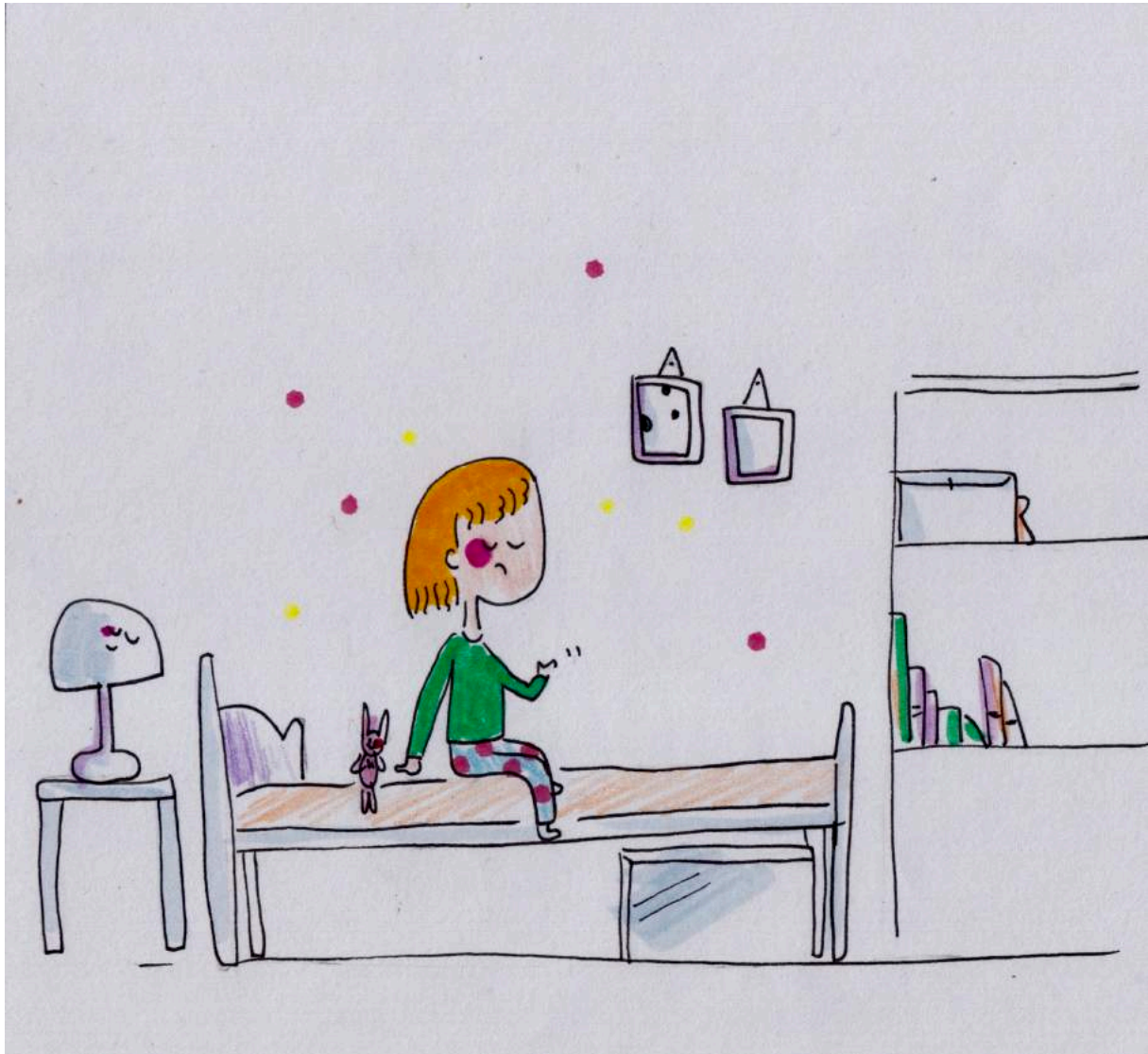
But now, it's getting crazy!  
It's all people talk about.  
The bad coronavirus that jumps really fast from someone to someone else. The sick people, and the very sick people in the hospital.

Creches and schools are closed.  
And we have to stay at home.



At first, I have to say, I found it pretty cool to stay at home: it was like a weekend, everyday!

But thinking about it, no, it's not cool at all.  
I'm not allowed to see my friends, to go to the park, to have  
lunch at granny's, to practise football.  
I'm angry and sad.  
And i'm a little bit scared of this virus that even worries the  
serious adults.



Also, it's not like a weekend at all.  
Mum and Dad have to work, even at home.  
With their laptops, they're grumpy too.

There it is: to tell you the truth, I'm bored, and I'm mad at the virus.



Mum said: “You can play, but don’t make too much noise, I have to join meetings”.

Dad keeps saying: “I’ll play with you later”, looking at his laptop.

I'm frustrated, and I want to scream, cry, and hit something.  
I kick the laundry basket that's been lying around in the living  
room.

It rebounds and make the brooms and clotheshorse fall in a big  
noise. OOPS!

But...



Here is a perfect pirate ship!  
Mateys, hoist the main sail!

How beautiful is our galleon!  
Time to sail towards the treasure island...

Here we are.  
It's so nice here.  
The sun, the sand, the exotic fruit...

But there must be ferocious animals too.  
We'll need to build a hut for the night.



There, we feel good here....  
Actually, it's nearly a castle!

But we also need a watchtower to see the enemy coming.  
Let's pick the tallest tree.  
This one seems strong enough.



No ship approaching, for now, we're incognito.



Now that the camp is set up, it's time to go dig up the treasure...

This jungle is really intimidating, but we're not scared of anything, let's go!



Woohoo!! Down there, well hidden, here it is...

...And here are mum and dad, looking annoyed.  
They look at the living room, not at all convinced to have in front of them the theatre of my great adventures.



I'm a bit worried...  
Am I going to be in trouble?  
But I have an idea!

I decide to invite them in my hut-castle to eat some cakes.



Finally, mum laughs.

Dad smiles and says: “You know, tomorrow is the weekend, and we don’t have to work”.

Mum adds: “We still have to stay at home...”

...but tomorrow, we can live great adventures, the three of us!



After all, in these difficult times, we're saving people by staying at home... so we could be superheroes wearing pyjamas!"