



*Enchanted  
Ring of  
Fairies*

This book belongs to:



On the South West coast of Africa there is a magical place called Namibia.

My family and I are travelling there for our vacation.



Namibia is like a land that time has forgotten.

The land has been untouched for so long, many people believe it has turned magical.

For example, the Welwitschia, is like a living fossil -A plant that may have been alive for over a 1000 years! Yet only has two leaves.



. ...That's kind of magical.

Or the wonderful colours of the desert, which change with the changing light of the day.



Some of the highest dunes in the world are there.

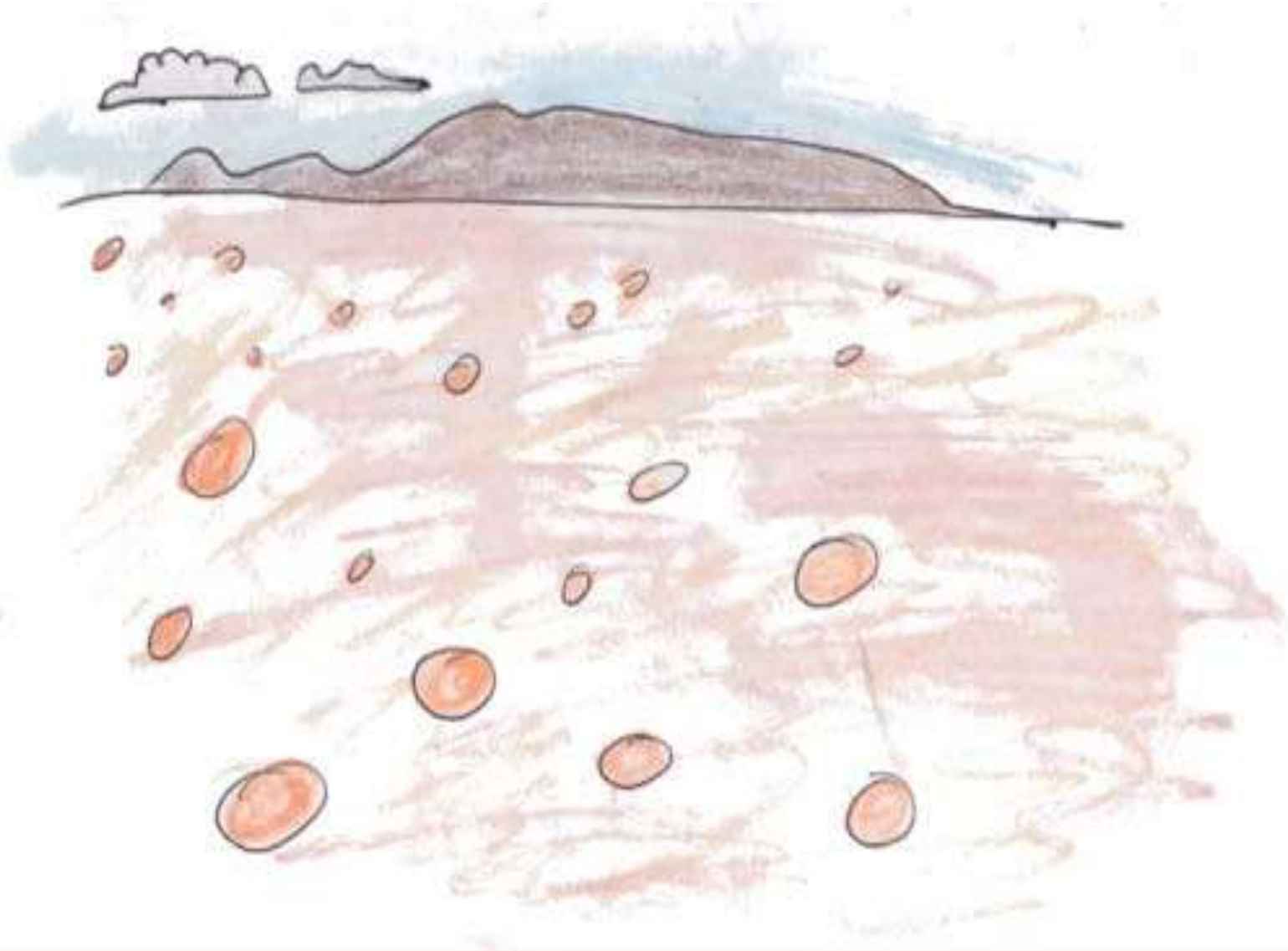
The desert itself is one of the oldest, which is why it is such a deep red in places.

There are the Tsaris mountains, that seem to show the many layers of the earth's crust.



There is a place where the Swakop River carved spectacular moonscapes in the granite rock around 450 million years ago.

And then, there are the **FAIRY CIRCLES**.



They dot the Namib Desert like a spotted handkerchief.

Scientists think these circles may be created  
by termites,

...or perhaps by fungi.

(a fungi is a little bit like a mushroom, or, that is to say  
a mushroom is a type of fungi)



But they don't know for sure.



I think they are created by fairies.



After all, why else would they be called "Fairy Circles?"



Fairy Circles only occur in the Namib Desert, in the west of Namibia, on the edge of the escarpment where the desert's rain fall is highest.

Perhaps this is because the fairies choose to only hold their magical fairy conferences in the Namib Desert, since it is such a special magical place.

Or perhaps it is because there are lots of big open spaces with very few people, or even animals, in the Namib Desert.

Do you think they dance in the day or night?

I bet they choose to dance on the plains of the desert in the small hours of the morning.

Or perhaps they dance during the day time when no one is looking.



Wherever and whenever they dance, they leave the perfectly formed fairy circles. Where nothing grows inside, only around the edge.

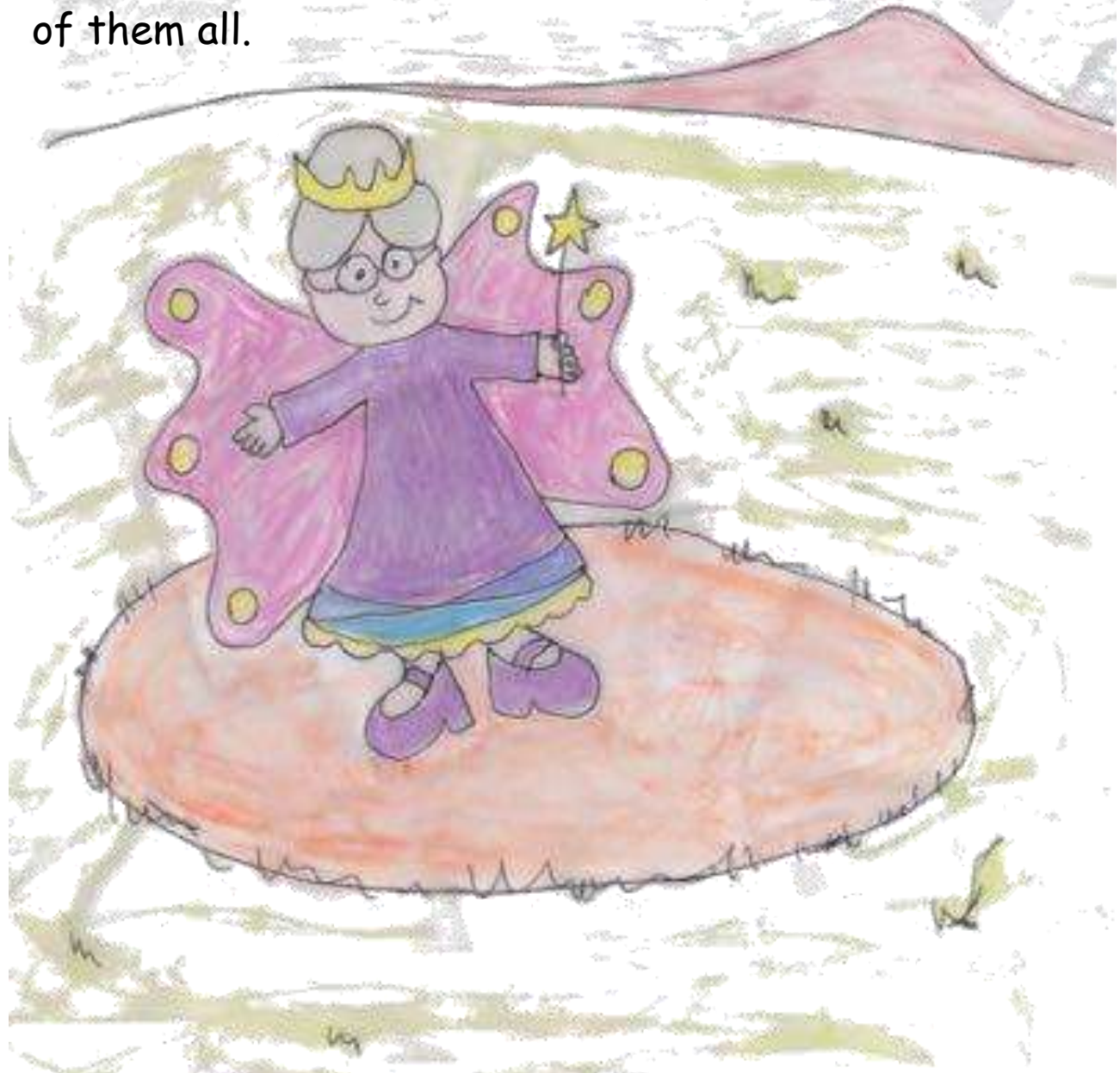
Fairy Circles come in lots of different sizes. Most are a few metres wide. Some are very big, big enough to hold a small herd of goats or calves; Others are very small, so small you can hardly see them.

Fairy Circles may be less than 1 metre, up to as big as 30 metres wide!



Perhaps the big ones are made by big fairies, and the small ones are made by small fairies.

Perhaps the big giant ones, like this one, are made by a Giant Queen Mother fairy, who is the biggest fairy of them all.



Perhaps she has many minion fairies with her to help with the dances.

The first ever symposium about Fairy Circles was held in 2015. (A symposium is a big meeting where lots of experts get together).

They held it in the Namib Desert - of course!

I bet they had lots of fun and learnt a lot.



....But.... they all agreed, they are still not sure what causes Fairy Circles.

When we get to see the Namib Desert, I want to ask Mum and Dad if I can get up really early;



To see if I can catch a glimpse of the fairies dancing.

What do you think causes Fairy Circles?

I still think it is fairies, and I really hope I will see some, so then I can tell you for sure.





With or without the fairies help,  
if we all do our part to help look after the  
environment, the fairy circles will be around for a long  
time, ←↕△all of us to enjoy!





