

S  verine Vidal

Louis Thomas



# The Coat



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Séverine Vidal  
Louis Thomas

*For Fantine,  
who never looks away*  
S. V.

*For all who need a coat . . .*  
L. T.

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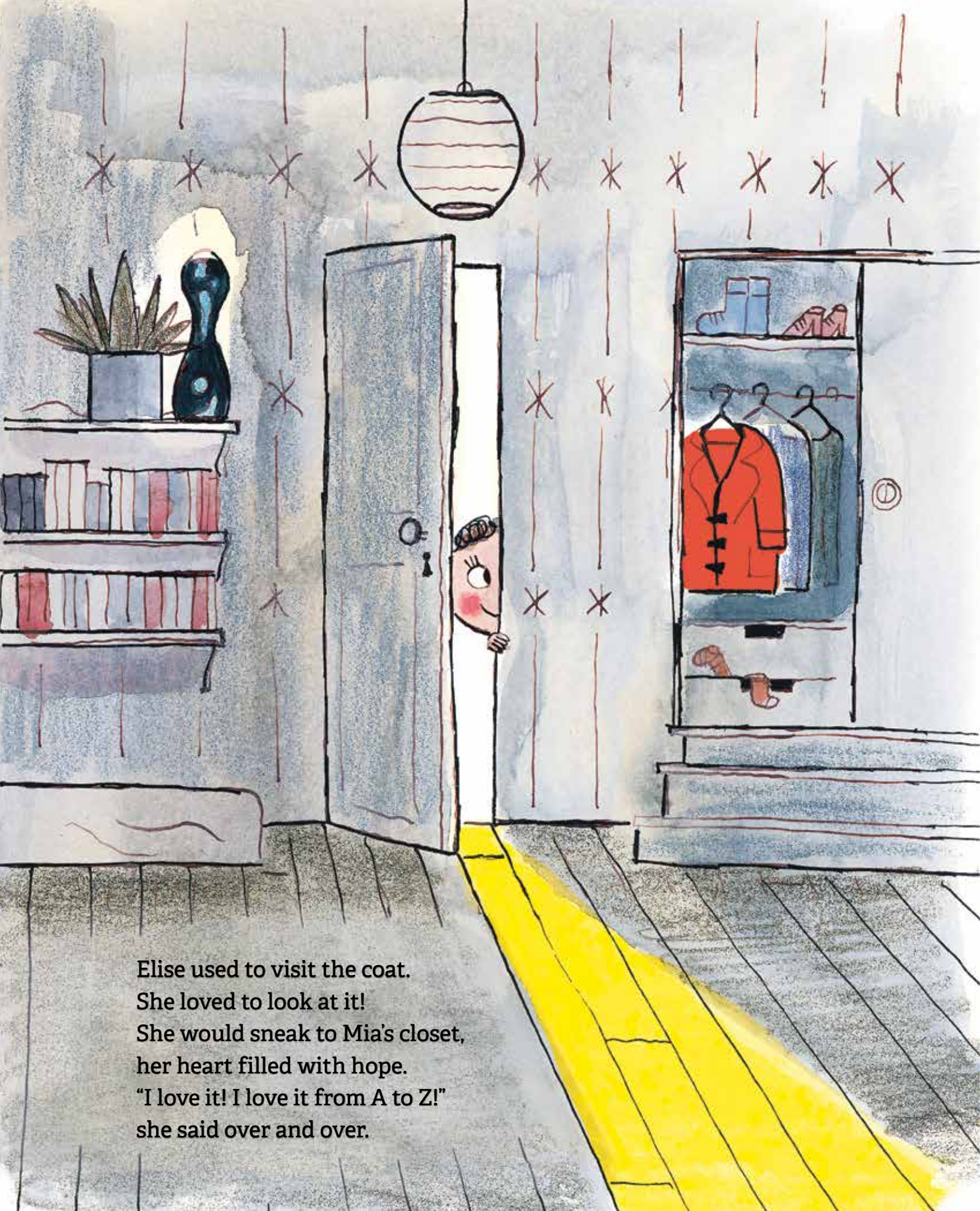
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It was as red as a poppy.  
Elise looked at the coat with a smile.  
She'd been waiting for this moment for weeks.

Until yesterday, the coat had been her big sister's.  
Mia wore it forever. At least it seemed like forever!  
Elise had dreamed of growing big enough to have it.  
She longed to wear it to school, walking proudly  
with her hands in its pockets.





Elise used to visit the coat.  
She loved to look at it!  
She would sneak to Mia's closet,  
her heart filled with hope.  
"I love it! I love it from A to Z!"  
she said over and over.



One night at dinner, Elise asked when she could have the coat.  
Soon? Or would she have to wait a thousand years?  
(Elise was not a patient little girl.)  
"You can have it when it's too small for me," said Mia.  
Mom said with a smile, "It's still too long for you. Wait a bit."

Elise walked back to her room, heavy with sadness.  
*I wish I could have it NOW!* she thought.