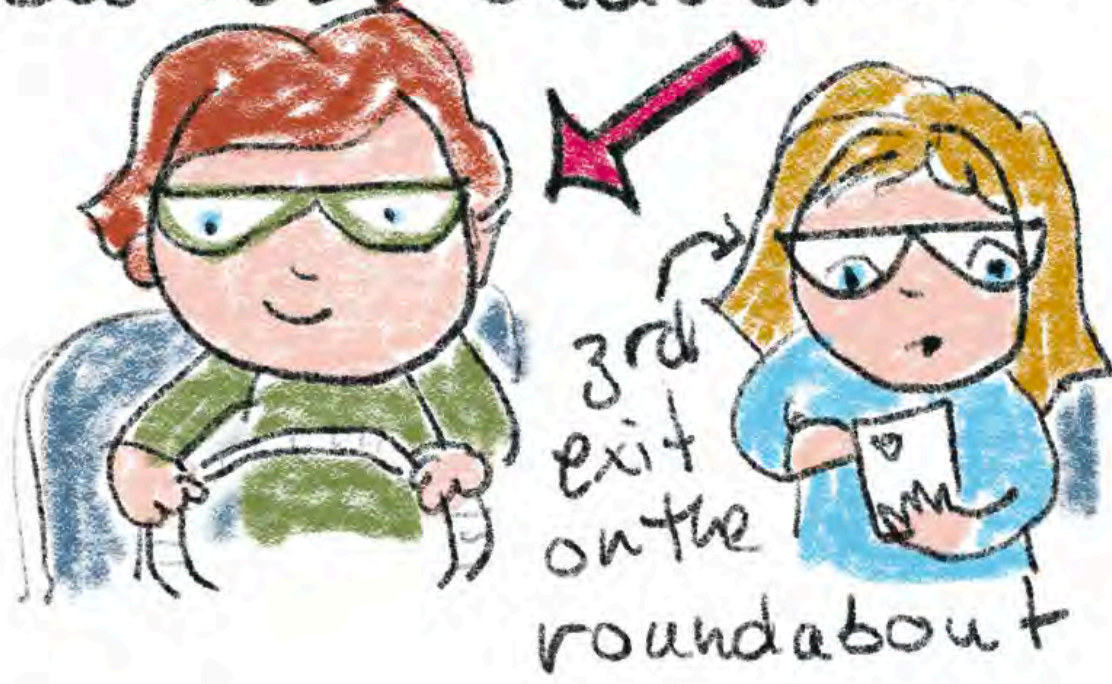


Tintinhull House. January 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday  
2020

Ahh..... unexpected visit to Winchester

Cathedral on the way to Tintinhull

Fearless Claudia - Driving. Me in the



Navigator seat

We stop drive drive  
drive around &


and around & around in circles - to find

parking - Claudia & Adele try

for 20 minutes to feed the

parking meter. And

gather a crowd.

Who finally inform them that  
their money is too OLD.  Sheesh.

The iPhone is indispensable for walking & driving

directions. We find our breakfast spot to find

that breakfast is over. But they have egg-y

things & we are happy.

Sing our way over to Winchester  
Cathedral. Tour, & back out in the pouring rain.

It keeps spitting our  
money back to us!!!





Race to the car & we are off to Tintinhull. Rainy, dark, jet lagged - but chatty & cheerful. Stop at the Tesco for eggs, coffee, back bacon, wine & Jack Daniels. Pull into Tintinhull at 5-ish. by the light of the

Full moon



Oh Joy! A tray

awaits on the kitchen table with tea & coffee pots - cups and the kitchen

**WARM**



after a cold & rainy disembark from the car loaded down with bags.

And there is MORE!



In the dining room are beautiful flowers in a

vase. JUST FOR US ❤️

We explore - scatter to our bedrooms, and reconvene to discuss dinner plans. Lambs Inn - CLOSED - Crown & Victoria? just up the road. Claudia says it isn't cute -



Should we try it? - Hunger, exhaustion & availability decide. We traipse there & adorable Ricky lights a fire for us and puts up with at **LEAST** a million Questions.

And the place

**IS**

cute. And friendly. And Ricky is adorable

(did I say that?!) And we leave by

8:00 with full tummies & droopy eyes.

And stumble off to our 17<sup>th</sup> century rooms. Thankfully updated with nice pillows & a down comforter too.



Burger Med. Salad? No fries. Mayo?

no sticky onions

I need a cushy seat

Lots of cold water with ice please

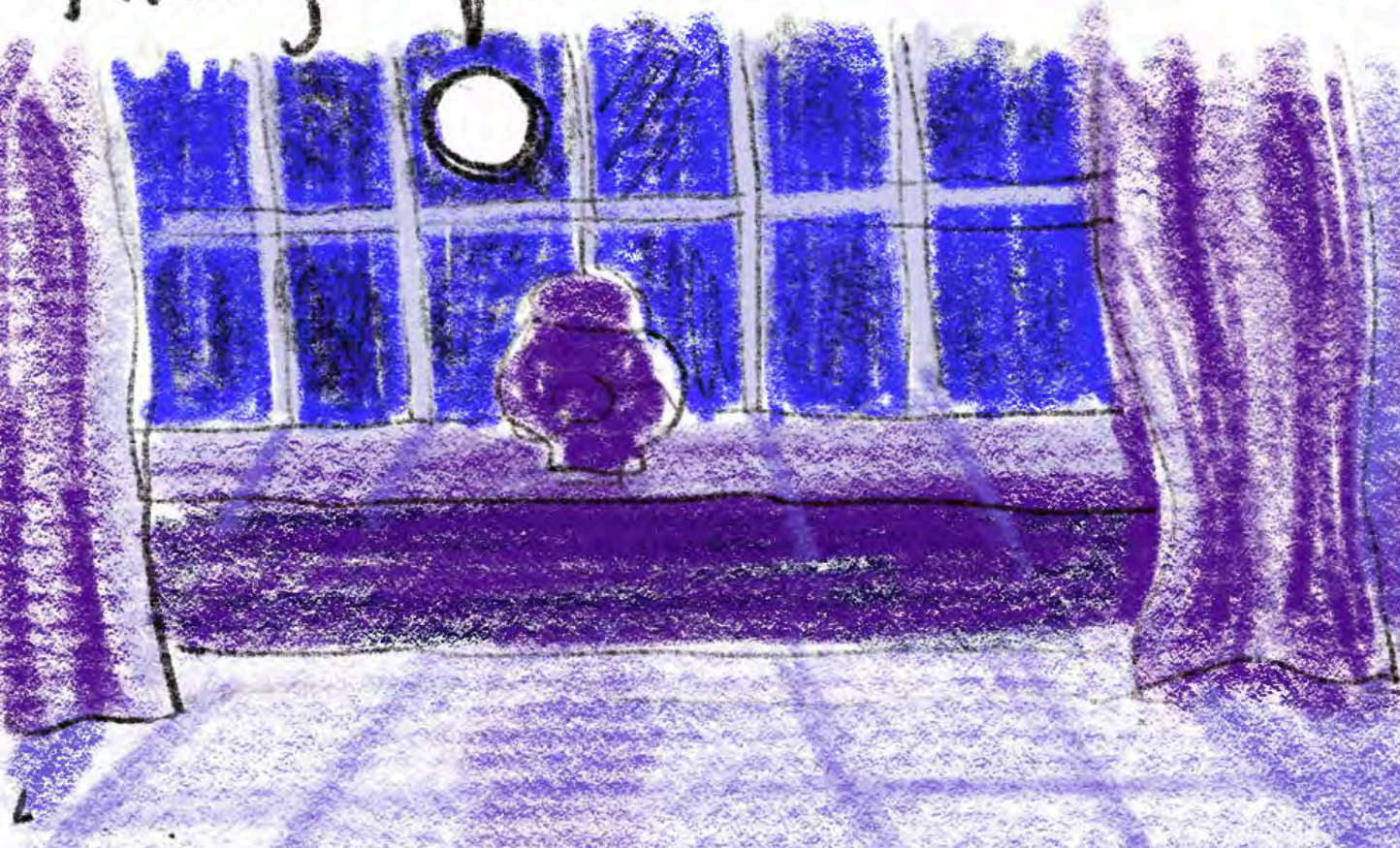
no onions

May we have this dog to pet please?

Vodka? Soda? no onions. I'll take her tomato

Rare burger please ketchup NO tomato or lettuce. just meat & a bun

SEPARATE checks please!



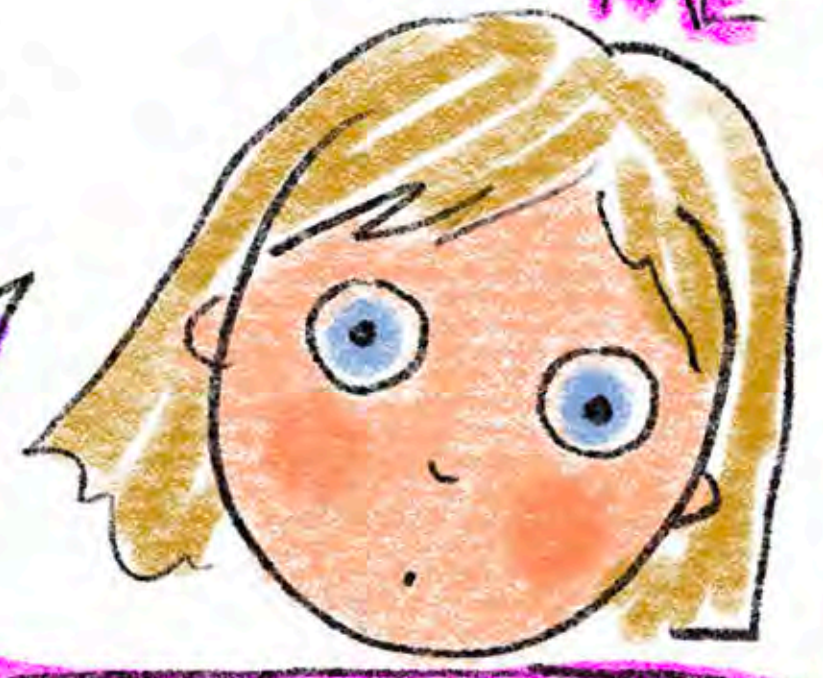
Goodnight Tina! Well. Goodnight full moon in my window





Friday **JAN 10** - 2020

ME

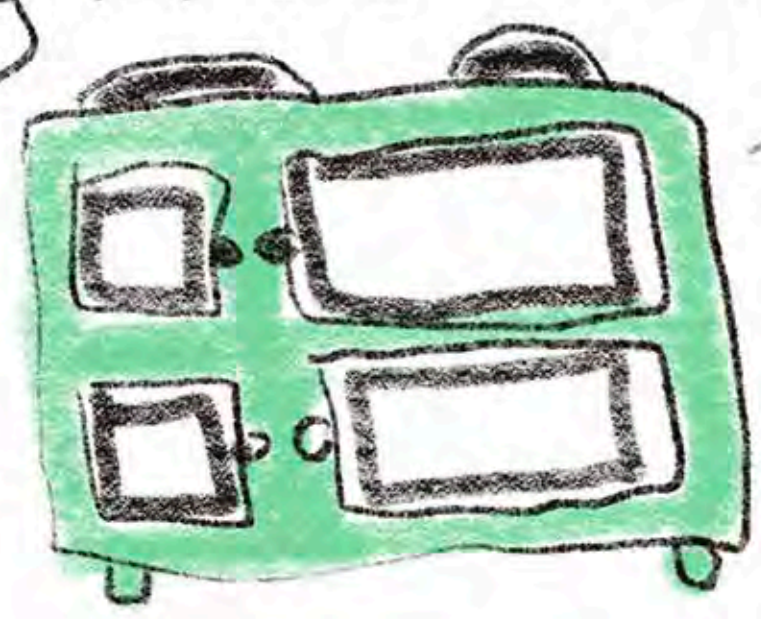


which is fine because I love my alone time & I don't want to

UP at 5:30 A.M.

**MISS** a SINGLE THING. It's dark outside

warm & cozy in the downstairs kitchen - with the AGA Stove - chilly in the rest of the house -



- Brrrrrrrr



and I am ready to

explore. **SUNRISE!** starting! I race upstairs for shoes and a coat & I'm out in the muddy morning to see a most spectacular

across the muddy fields. Sigh As it fades I turn & meet Wendy and her milk cows.



150 head. ♥

Check back at Tintin hall for stirrings.



Nah. it's only 7:30 - so I'm off to explore the village on foot.



I see St. Margarets church, then explore the gardens at T. n. h. hull - pack inside & (O! my companions have roused! We indulge in a lazy morning & are out by 1:00.



Puffy coat  
hand warmers  
camera  
iphone  
binoculars

Ploughmans lunch at Ilchester - then on to Hamwall for the murmuration! We get the LAST parking place & find that the starlings have moved.

If we walk about 1.5 miles down the path we "might" see them. So we do. Walk that is. It is lovely-backlit marshes filled with and Grebes and herons & ducks.



**BUT** the starlings are elusive.

We see Wayyyyyyyyyyyyy far away - a few flocks, dive straight down into the reeds. Sigh.




**BUT** it was a beautiful walk in nature at sunset & now we know where they'll rise at **DAWN**.



dinner in Glastonbury at The George & Pilgrim



Ghost Stories at the table. **THIS** very Inn is the site of Claudia's visit from the hanged

Monk. Many years ago. We brave the stairs to gawk at the scene. Not so scary with  of us & Hall lights, and no Stephen King. Home to Bed with plans to rise before dawn.



SATURDAY. **JAN 11**.

Wheels up at 6:30. To Hamwall at 7:15. To the roosting site by 7:45 with a sunrise behind us and setting moon above. Serene. Lovely. We are in the exact same spot as yesterday. And just like yesterday....





we see a few flocks rise & disappear. Sigh.

Don't they **KNOW** that we traveled ALL the way from America JUST to see them?!

If they knew I'm sure they'd murmurate.

BUT it is beautiful and the rain does not begin until we hit Glastonbury for breakfast.



we talk about climbing it. But it's ~~WINDY~~ and cold & rainy & besides there is



a Clarks Factory Outlet in this town - so we opt to shop. Waste 2 hours &

drive to Wells. The Cathedral is


Magnificent  
Choir master?



The adorable monk?  
← who looks like Frodo invites us to Evensong

which will be a special epiphany carol concert.



We eat late lunch at The CROWN. And show up at 5:30 for the concert. Oh my. It is  stopping. Punctuated with readings and a candle lit procession in which we all take part.



We are invited for wine afterwards.   
Blown Away. Tearful. Moved,  
Claudia drives us home. Dinner at the Crown  
& Victoria. To bed.



SUNDAY. January 12, 2020

Highclere! The day begins by watching  
a documentary about the castle. Adele  
prepares breakfast deliciousness with  
back bacon & poached eggs & crispy  
toast. Double cream in the coffee. Yum!



We dress up in our  
finest duds  
because after

all-one doesn't visit a castle every day.  
We leave by 10:00 and Claudia drives.  
drives. drives in the rain for 2.5  
hours. We arrive early at Highclere.



It is **WINDY** = Windstorm Brandon  
has struck England & we are blown into  
the gift shop where we PRE-Shop  
for very cute items



AT **1:00**



We are escorted in to our  
private tour. 25 in a group.

Oh my. In every room there are large  
posters of the Downton Abbey scenes.  
It all comes alive for me. The house  
is cozy, accessible - surprising that  
a mansion/castle is so home-like.

We end the tour in the  
basement with replicas of  
Lord Carnarvan's Egyptian  
collection. And who is



down there but **LADY** Carnarvan  
excitedly telling us stories about



The collection is her husband's ancestor.  
She CLEARLY has a passion for Egyptology  
is has authored a couple of books on the subject

It was kind of a shock to see  
her in person after watching  
her on video that morning!



They served  
us tea in the carriage  
house - which was more  
like a full meal. Yum.

Then we re-visited the  
Gift shop where the Lady HERSELF  
Gave us signed coffee table books  
and advised Adele on habadashery.  
We left with many gifts & necessary  
items.

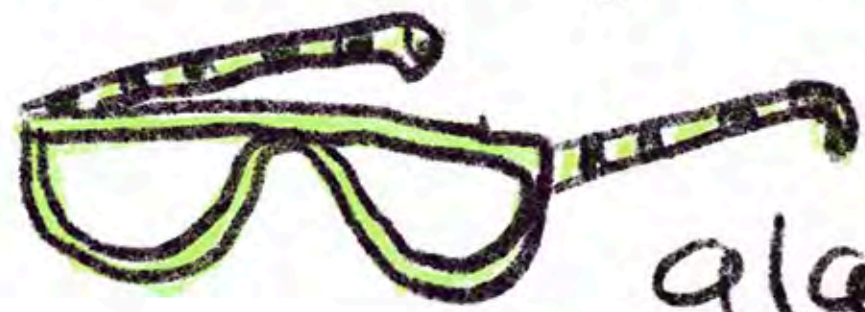


**AND**

an EARL Carnarvon Sighting as he patient-  
ly waited on his wife to finish signing books.



we head for the parking lot where I lose my



favorite pair of reading glasses. ever. sigh. And begin

the long dark, windy, drive home in

the rain. Almost **3** nerve wracking

hours later we arrive back at

Tintinhull,



only to find

Victoria is



That The Crown &

we are stuck at cheese, leftovers,

vodka & Jack Daniels.

Claudia Bover DJ. and she &

Adele have some smooth



dance moves that get increasingly fun &

loose as the night goes

on & the vodka & Jack Daniels flows.

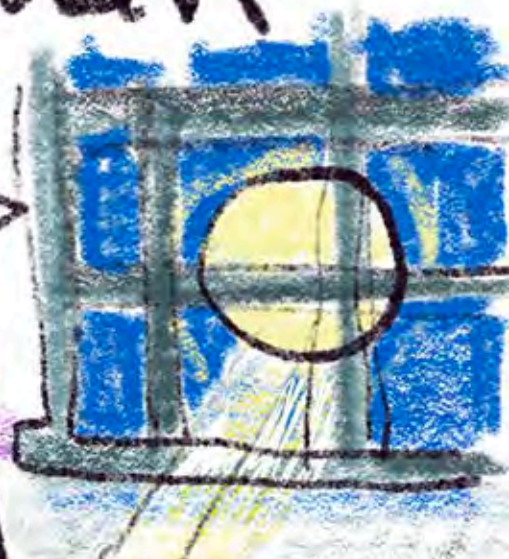


sheep pajamas



The night ends with a stumbling trip up the stairs and the details shall go unreported because

Full moon →



What happens at Tintinhull  
**STAYS** at Tintinhull

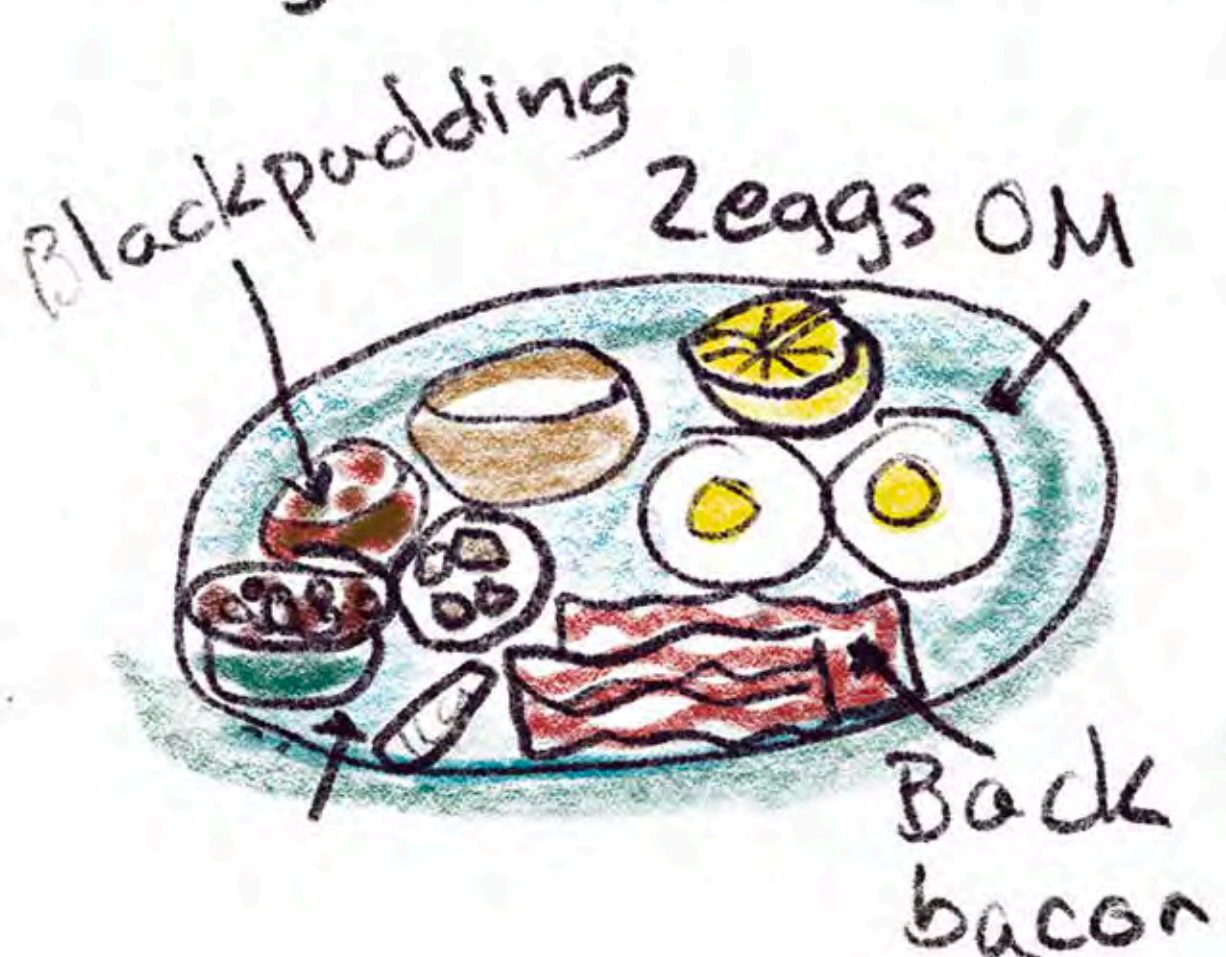


**MONDAY**



JANUARY 13th

Slow start. Plans to drive slowly through the country side. Late breakfast in Yeovil at the Pen Mill Hotel. Yummy Full English breakfast complete with

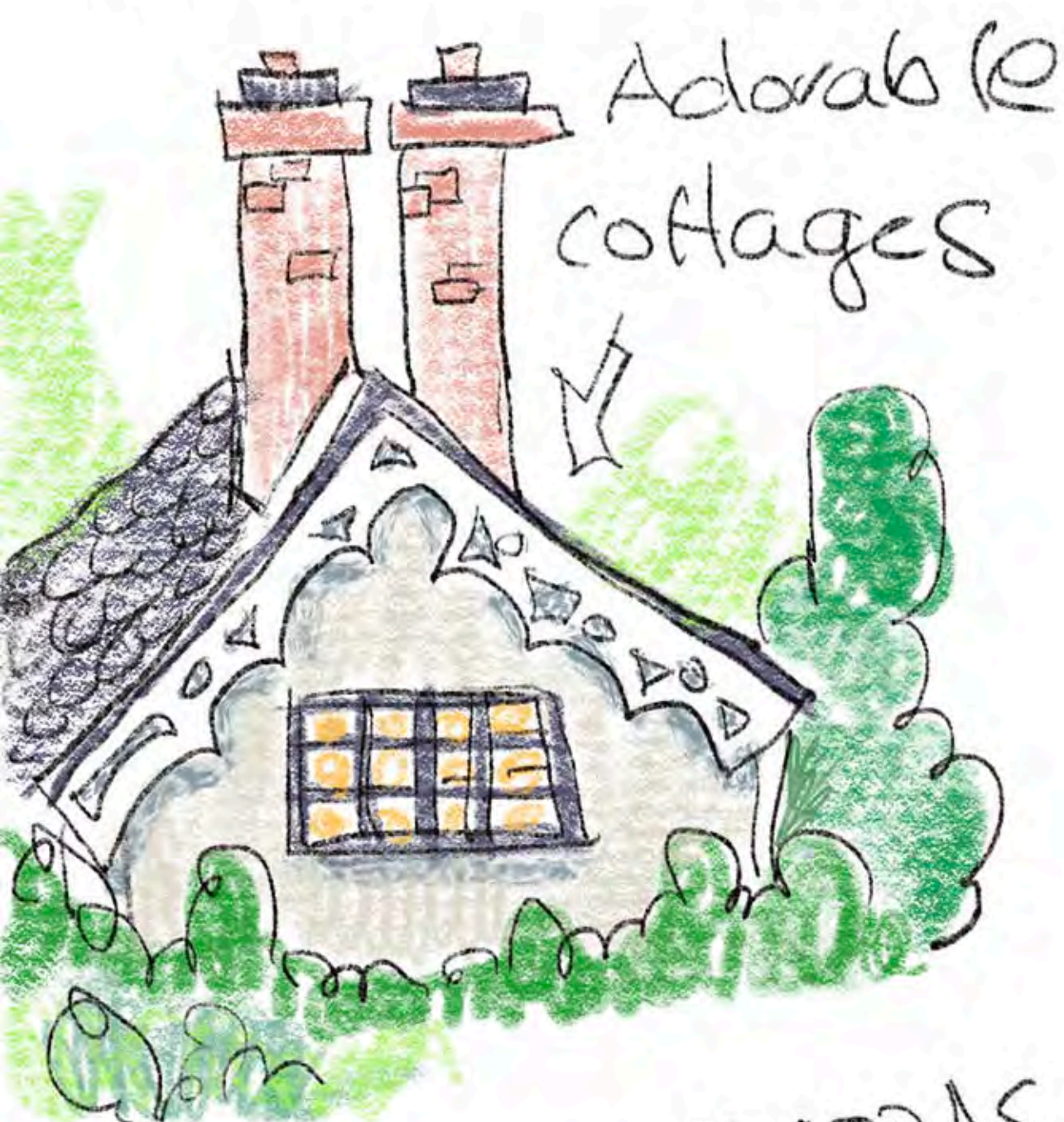


George the Pub dog





Melbury Osmond, Cerne Abbey, Cerne Abbas  
Giant. Thatched roofs = Ancient



Adorable  
cottages



Ancient  
graveyards



CERNE ABBAS

GIANT

And a truck  
full of  
Sheep dogs



Talking Sheep



Sydling St. Nicholas

verdant  
pastoral

