



*The Story of the Night Sky*



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The night sky is a picture that changes with the seasons. These pictures describe beautiful stories. Follow me, let's go into the magical world of the night sky, and let me tell you the stories of that world.

Shhhh— — — Here we are. Here is the world of the night sky.





Spring is a large grassland in the sky.

You can see a hunter named Bootes, hunting the bear using his spear. See, the bears are running to the north.





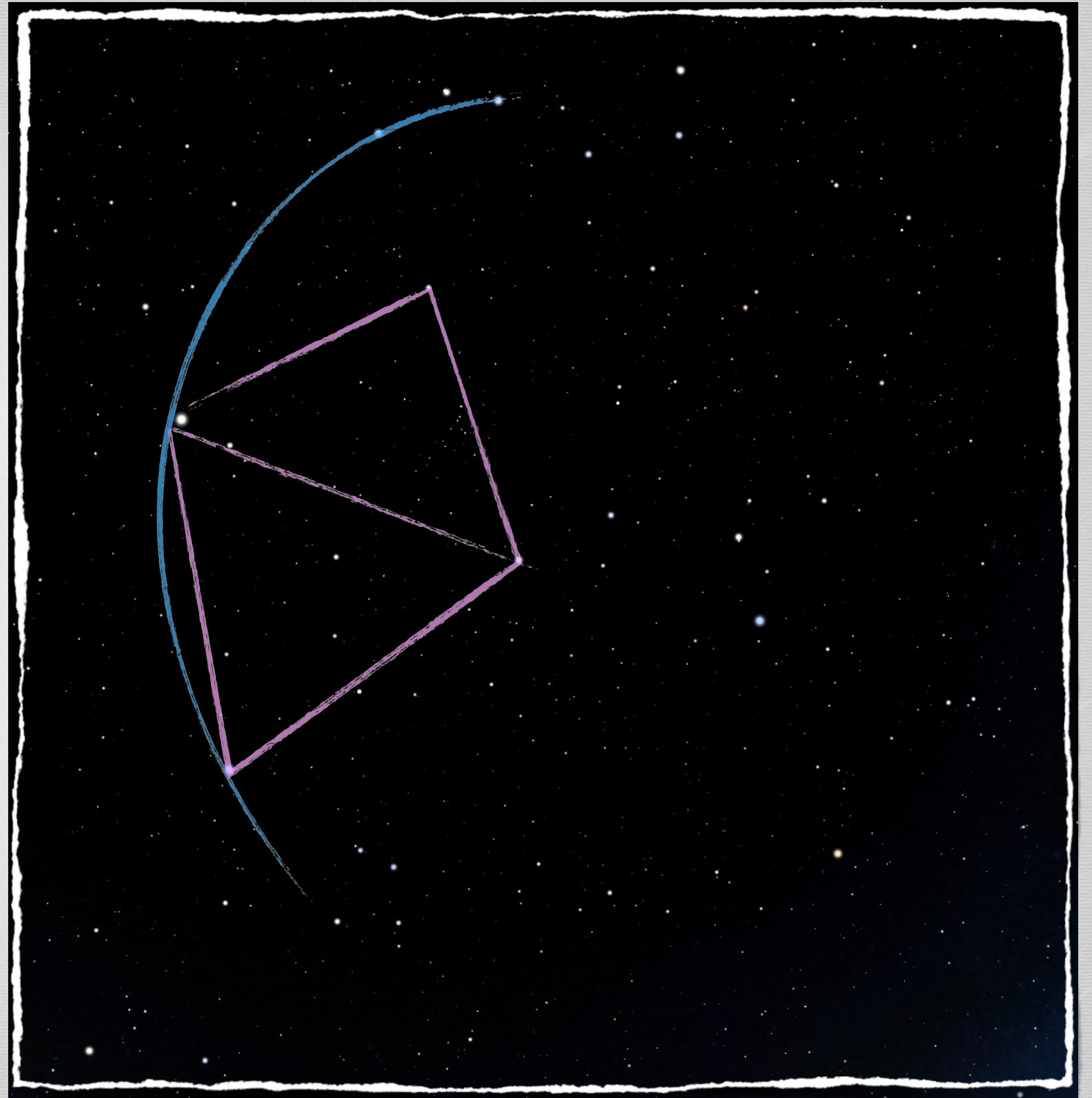
In the southern grass, a long snake is hiding. A father lion and his son are finding the snake in a shrub. Shhhhh, don't scare the snake.

Ah, we are lucky. See, the goddess, Virgo, living in the grassland is there. Let's say hello to her.



Come on, it's time to go. Don't be afraid to leave, let me tell you how to come back to Spring's grassland.

Look: four stars connect to a beautiful curve across the grassland. Beside the curve, you can find a shiny diamond, which is the treasure of Spring.





If you want to come back to this grassland, try to find the curve and the diamond in the night sky. They will take you to the hunter, the goddess, and the animals living there.







Summer is the kingdom of eastern and western legends.

Look over there, he is the great hero Heracles. And over there, the man aiming at a scorpion with a bow, is Heracles's teacher, Chiron.





In ancient China, people believe that there was a cowherd and a girl dressmaker who loved each other, but they are on two sides of the long, wide river—The Milky Way.

Shhhh, be quiet. Don't scare the magpies. They come here to help the boy and the girl across the river, on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.



It is time to go to see Autumn.  
There are more interesting stories  
there. But now, let me tell you how  
to come back to Summer first.

See, the brightest three stars in the  
night sky here become a triangle.  
Laying on the triangle, a big cross is  
pointing toward the Milky Way.





When you want to come back to the legends of Summer, try to find the triangle and the cross in the night sky. They will be your roadsigns, helping you find the magical land of the heroes and of the young couple.



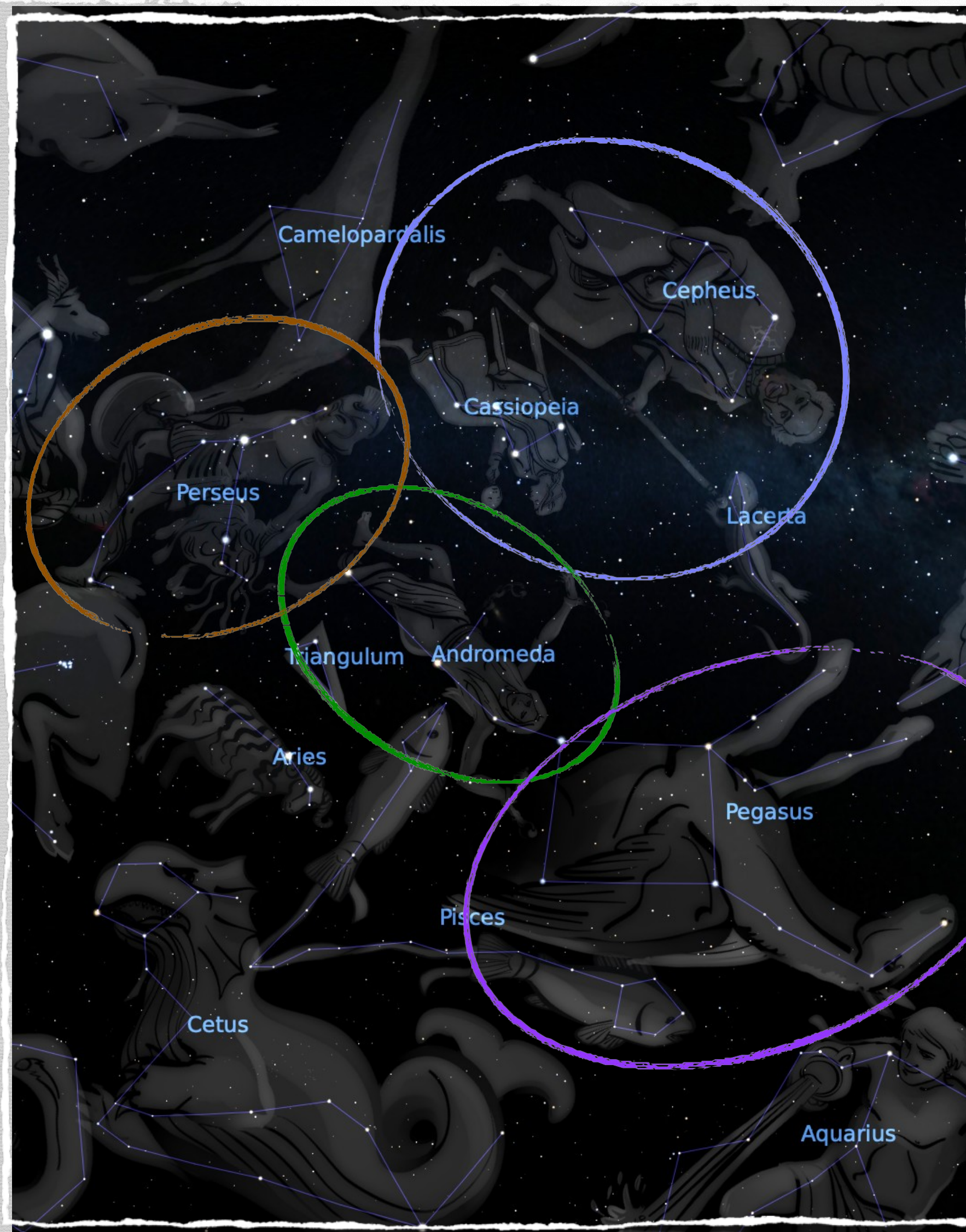




Autumn is a seaside city belonging to fairytales.

Do you see the splash on the sea? That is the breath of a big whale living in the sea. Beside the whale, fish swim happily.





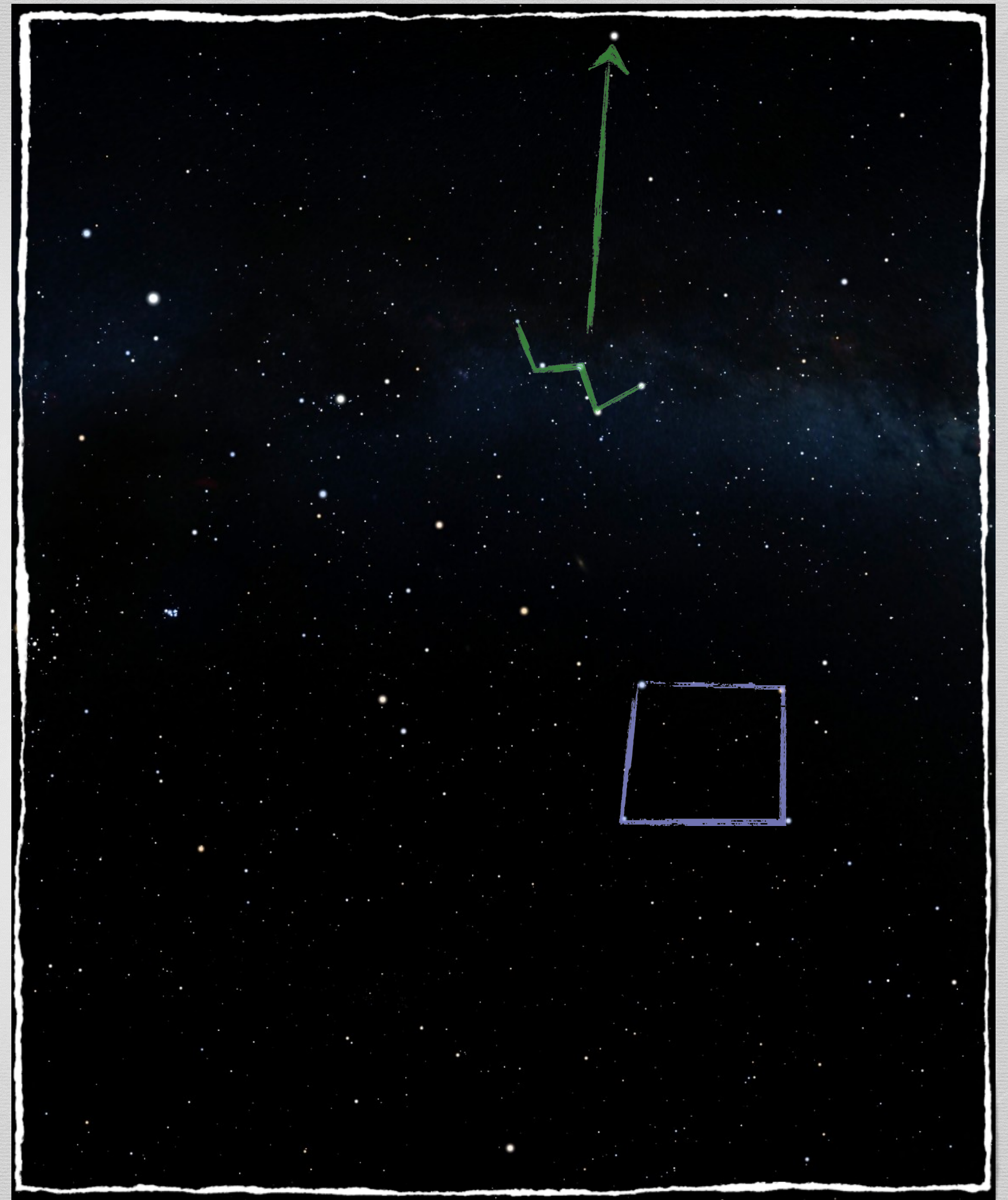
On the coast, there is a beautiful castle. The king Cepheus and the queen Cassiopeia live there with their daughter Andromeda.

Look: it is the princess's husband, the great hero Perseus. His horse is flying over the castle.



Ah, we are out of time. Let's go to the next season. Before we go, let me tell you how to come back to this beautiful seaside town.

See, there is a square hanging in the night sky. That is the door plate of the castle. On the other side, there is a letter "W" pointing the North Pole, which is the sign of Autumn.





When you want to see the fish, the whale, or the people living in the castle, find the square and the letter "W." They will help you reach this beautiful town on the coast once again.



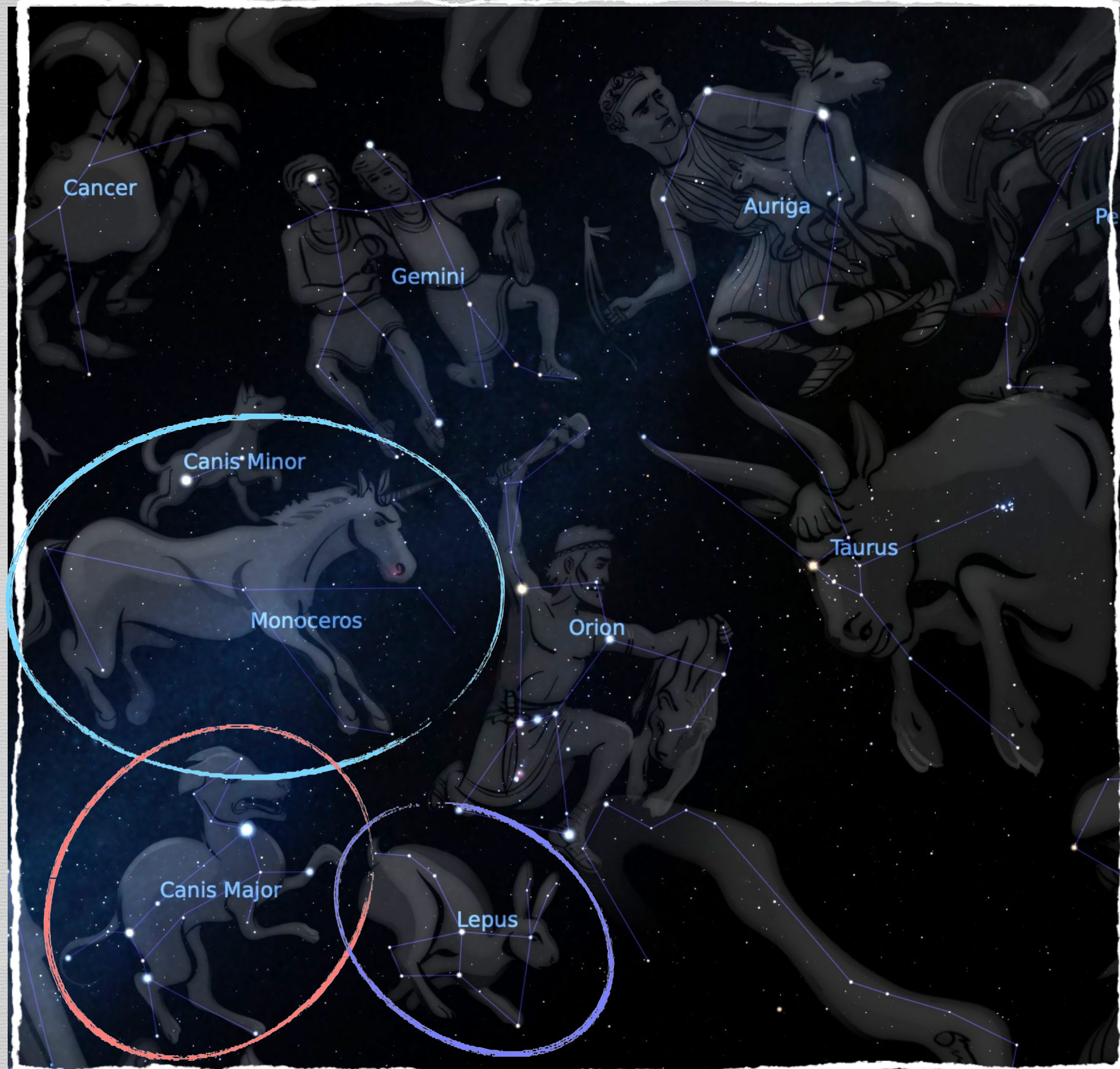




Welcome to Winter—the forest in the night sky.

Look, it's the famous hunter Orion. He is helping two brothers run away from a crazy ox.





How lucky we are! That is the mythical animal—Kylin. Kylin is a kind of magical animal that is as powerful as Loong (the Chinese dragon) in ancient China. Be quiet, don't scare the beautiful animal.

In the woods on the other side, Orion's hunting dog is catching a rabbit. See how fast he is.



Isn't this forest amazing? I bet that you want to come back again! Let me tell you how to avoid getting lost in this large forest.

Do you see the hexagon made up of six bright stars? That are roads in the forest. Looking carefully, there is a red star at the center, like a lighthouse. It can help you find the way.





If you want to come to this magical forest again, try to find the red centered hexagon in the night sky. When you see that hexagon, you will see the people and animals living in that big forest again.





This is the end of our trip; it is time to say goodbye. Don't be sad, because this will not be the last time you come to this beautiful, shining world in the night sky. We will meet again, I believe, when you travel among the stars in the near future.



At last, I want to tell you something that you might not understand now, but you should remember it:

*"Astronomy is not complex nor forbidding, and it is beautiful: it is built upon fairytales."*

I believe you will understand this in the future.



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Publisher: The Celestial Press

Images Copyright: Stellarium;

Pixiv (Artwork ID: 77120159)

ISBN: 978-1119201815



9781119201815