



**THE FOOL**  
**A philosophical tale**  
 Lucie Mandeville

**Reality is not what you think it is; existence is not what you believe it to be; this you will learn on the day of your death.**

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This is the tale of a fool who, having committed a crime, leaves his home and wanders into the wilderness. What is this crime? We don't really know, but Éloïse – whom he met in hospital and who had accompanied him to the mountain a few days earlier – has disappeared. During his surprising journey, the fool will learn, through contact with nature, the points of view of the infinitely small and the infinitely large. At the end of the tale, the fool will meet up again with Éloïse, whom he had lost. But, like everything else, she was not what he thought she was...

This is an initiatory fable, both playful and profound, for everyone, fool or not, who questions life.

**Strong points**

- In very simple and easy-to-read language, the author manages to explain philosophical concepts and the fundamentals of our existence.
- A touch of surrealism makes the tale playful – for example, the conversations between the fool and certain elements of nature.
- Line drawings complement the text.
- The end is surprising and makes us reflect on our often incorrect perception of reality and life.

*A professor in the psychology department at the Université de Sherbrooke, Lucie Mandeville directs a research team focussing on humanist and positive psychology. Her career is based on the belief that practical experience and scientific knowledge are two separate universes and that knowledge alone is therefore not enough. Currently, she lives with her son and partner in Estrie, in a natural paradise.*

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