## THE LOVERS' TREE By Romane, Iris, Lilou J

A long time ago, there was a girl with long, curly blond hair. Her name was Li. She was the prettiest in her whole village. she was really nice, and she loved helping people, as well as animals. Everyone loved her. Her father was the chief of the village, he was called Koupatana. Li was in love with a handsome and courageous boy, called Niaou. One day they got married. Everyone was very happy for them, and their village had a party. The village was decorated and a big fire was organized.

However, in the village, there was a boy named Tool. He was very jealous and he didn't approve of this wedding because he was crazy in love with Li. To stop this union, he decided to use the big fire to burn a tree, which began to spread. Using this as a diversion, Tool tried to take Li away with him. But she wanted to stay to help the villagers and did not follow him. Alas, the flames invaded the village, burning habitations. The people of the village screamed and ran in all directions. Everyone was extremely scared. Li was soon trapped.

Seeing his lover in danger, Niaou entered the fire to save her, but they were immediately surrounded by the huge flames and could not get out. Seeing that his daughter was in danger, Li's father asked the strongest witchdoctor of the whole village, to protect them. The witchdoctor then cast a spell on the two lovers who then transformed into a unique tree. The flames burnt down the whole village, and soon everything there were only ashes. One thing was still standing, Li and Niaou's tree. The tree was made of many strong layers, therefore the flames didn't burn the middle of the tree. Sadly, many people died in the fire, even the witchdoctor. The spell could not be undone.

Li's father was devastated and he proclamed their tree to be sacred. He named it the Niaouli tree by combining the two lovers'names together. And this is how the Niaouli tree was created. The tree has beautiful yellow flowers, because of Li's blond hair. It is also said that the tree's leaves can help healing thanks to Li's kindness, because she wanted to keep helping her village, and that the bark can resist the flames thanks to Niaou's strength.

