

**Kenzie**

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**Girl By The River**

Once there was a little girl who was full of excitement. She couldn't keep it together, she just wanted to run free. She lived in a dry area but not far from forest and river.

One day she went out to gather some water for her family. She wandered for about 25 miles before finding any water. When she got there, she took the pail that she was carrying and threw it in the water, then jumped into the water to follow it. The girl felt guilty for playing when she was supposed to be working. But she soon forgot why she was there in the first place and started splashing around in the water.

Meanwhile the god above looked down on her and decided to punish this girl for all the sins that her people had done. He blew on the river so that the water would pick her off of her feet, then suddenly she found herself drifting slowly downstream. She panicked and tried to swim to land but the current was too strong. The river was now pulling her faster downstream, she was getting really scared now. She tried to grab trees that passed by her but to no avail. It was then that she realized what her faith would be. She screamed wildly and desperately tried to stop before she reached the waterfall. She was so fatigued and scared that she fainted.

When she woke up she found herself softly floating up to shore. Surprised and happy at the same time she crawled onto dry land. After she

curled up into a ball under a tree to rest. She was so out of it that she didn't even see it getting dark. When it got dark other animals came out to hunt so she climbed up a tall tree to stay for the night. When it was light enough to see white wool from a baobab tree. She walked and walked until she saw a plain. She knew that there would be elephants and lions here. She walked along the forest walls far enough into it so that she would be safe, but close enough to still be able to see the open plain. When she was walking she had time to think about how her parents would react when she got home. She was scared that her parents would be mad at her so she decided that she would stay two extra days in the wild just in case.

Because she would be staying a little longer than she thought that she should set up camp for her overnight stay.

She gathered her materials and got to work. By the time the sun started setting she was almost done. After a day or two she started running low on resources and decided to go home. She walked pass the villages border with shame. She was afraid that she would be punished for getting distracted. She slowly crept into the opening to her house and to her surprise no one was there. She walked to her friends house and when she went inside there was her family. That night her friend explained to her that everyone in the village went looking for her and after realizing that she was fine and safe her father and mother forgave her. From this experience she learned that she shouldn't always expect the worst from people.