

# The River Girl

“Mom, come on, hurry up!” Yelled Phoebe. “Wait, your mom is getting her backpack” replied Phoebe’s dad. “Okay, I’m ready!” Phoebe’s mom came down the stairs with a big, heavy backpack and she was carrying one bag in each hand. Phoebe realized at that very moment that the trip she’s been waiting was about to start, with the old tent, sleeping bags, and a dusty smell coming out from the bags.

When they arrived at their camping destination four hours later, Phoebe groaned “Ugh, finally!” “Hey, look over there!” Phoebe pointed to a treeless, dry and bug free, gigantic spot. “What a perfect place to put the tent!” Phoebe’s dad walked to the spot, kneeled down, and swiped his hand across it. They set up their tents and got ready for dinner. The meal around the fire pit was relaxing and well deserved. Night fell fast and they were ready to go to bed. “Good night Phoebe” Everybody went to sleep.

She was peacefully asleep when she heard a vague noise outside. Phoebe opened her eyes. *It’s probably my father putting out the fire* Phoebe thought. She heard it again. This time, the noise said something. *Okay now I’m sure it wasn’t my dad.* Phoebe got up, and went outside. She turned around and saw a blueish smoky but odorless shape. She rubbed her eyes just to make sure that she was seeing clearly and realized the strange shape was still there. Phoebe never saw something like that before and she was curious to follow it.

The shape was leading to the ground, and then suddenly disappeared inside a hole. She looked around, grabbed the closest stick she could find and started digging

with it. As she was digging, she felt that her arm was disappearing inside the hole, turning into a texture like water. After her arms the transformation continued in her legs and then her whole body!

Phoebe found herself in a river. She could see the water around her and she could see through her body. "I'm transparent," she whispered to herself. She felt wobbly and loose. "I'm water!" Phoebe could see the little fish swimming by, and the rocks at the bottom. She tried to take a step. "Whoa" she said when she was trying to balance on a rock. She took another step. Nothing happened. Phoebe took a couple more steps. Still, nothing happened. *Now, I'm going to try to swim*, she thought while she was doggy paddling in the water. Then she was doing freestyle in the water. "This is so cool!"

After swimming for a while, she reached a camping spot near the lake. She saw a little boy with his family. "Mommy can I go swimming?" the little boy asked his mom.

"No Tommy, you're too small to go in by yourself," his mom replied. "Can I go with Daddy?" Tommy asked. "No, your dad is working on his tent", "Okay, fine." Tommy said. Phoebe was watching the family. *Can the people see me?* She thought to herself. Phoebe yelled out, "Hey over here, can you see me?" The family didn't hear her. "Hello." Phoebe said. But no one looked on her direction. Frustrated, she continued swimming away until she saw loads of bubbles in front of her face. She heard a splashing noise and more bubbles! Phoebe turned around and saw a human shape. "He looks familiar," she gasped. "It's Tommy!" Phoebe started swimming toward him. "Where is Tommy?" Tommy's mom shouted while looking around. Phoebe tried to rescue the little boy pulling him out of the water. After several attempts, Phoebe created a wave of water strong enough to push him out. Tommy was finally on the land, soaking

wet, and coughing. “Mommy,” Tommy cried. “Honey, why are you so wet?” Said Tommy’s mom very worried. “I fell in the river!” he said. “How did you come back out?” “She saved me,” Tommy turned around and pointed where Phoebe was. “I don’t see anything honey,” she said looking at the river. Phoebe heard. “She’s probably gone,” Tommy said sadly, and Phoebe kept swimming and smiled.

After joyful hours of swimming, Phoebe realized that it started to rain. “Where can I go?” she said in a worried tone. Then a few drops of water turned into heavy rain. Suddenly, a very loud noise shook her, it was a thunderstorm and at the moment...she woke up.

The water was nothing else but rain coming through the old tent and was hitting her face while she was dreaming. She felt somehow relieved.

The next day, the sky was blue and the sun was bright. Phoebe’s family packed and they hit the road back home. Phoebe was thinking about the dream she had last night. Looking out the window, she saw ahead a family packing and to her surprise, the little kid of the family was waving at her. The little kid was Tommy. He yelled out happily: “Goodbye River Girl!”.

## The End!