



Nodak and the Silver River

DON PREDI



Nodak stood at the edge of the Whispering Woods, where he first spotted the strange, glowing trail of the Silver River. Unlike any stream he had ever seen, its waters shimmered with a soft, bioluminescent light that beckoned him closer.



To his amazement, Nodak watched as a fallen leaf drifted not downstream, but upward toward the mountain peaks. The water seemed to dance against the pull of the earth, swirling in elegant, gravity-defying loops that sparkled under the canopy.



Deep within the forest, the trees began to hum a gentle melody that matched the rhythmic pulsing of the flowing water. Nodak followed the winding path, feeling a sense of peace and curiosity he had never known before.



Suddenly, a magnificent fish made of pure starlight leaped from the water, its scales reflecting the colors of the rainbow. The guardian of the river looked at Nodak with ancient, wise eyes, sensing the kindness in his heart.



The Star-Fish flicked its tail, and a giant, glowing lily pad drifted to the shore for Nodak to step upon. With a deep breath, he climbed aboard, and the magical leaf began to carry him up the liquid staircase through the trees.



They ascended a towering waterfall that looked like a curtain of falling diamonds, yet the ride was as smooth as a dream. Nodak reached out to touch the mist, finding it felt like cool silk against his skin as they rose higher into the sky.



At the very top of the highest peak, they reached a hidden grotto where a massive crystal floated in the air. This was the Heart of the River, the source of all the magic that kept the forest alive and vibrant.



As Nodak approached the crystal, it pulsed with a warm light, showing him visions of how the river nourished the land from the clouds to the roots. He understood that the river was the lifeblood of the world, connecting the earth to the stars.



Nodak noticed a small, dark stone blocking the crystal's glow and carefully moved it aside to restore the natural flow. The river brightened instantly, and a wave of pure joy rippled through the trees, the water, and the air.



With the balance restored, the leaf gently carried Nodak back to the forest floor as the sun began to set in a blaze of gold. He walked home with a glowing heart, knowing that the Silver River would always be there, hidden and magical.