

LEO

and the
MISSING ROAR



Leo the Lion and the Missing Roar

Zuly Viviana

A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP,
KINDNESS, AND FINDING YOUR VOICE



Leo the lion cub sat on a grassy hill in the sunny savanna, feeling a bit left out. Below him, all his friends – Zola the zebra, Gerry the giraffe, Ellie the elephant, and Koko the monkey – were playing a noisy game of catch with a bright red ball. 'I wish I could play, but I can't roar like they can,' Leo thought sadly, hugging his knees.



The friends on the savanna were having so much fun, they didn't even notice Leo was gone. 'Your turn, Ellie!' yelled Gerry, tossing the ball high into the air. 'Oops!' giggled Ellie, the ball sailing far beyond her trunk, landing near a thick cluster of acacia trees.



Looking for the ball, Zola noticed Leo still sitting alone, staring at the grass. 'Hey guys, where's Leo?' she asked, feeling a little concerned. The others stopped playing and looked around. 'He's been sitting up there all by himself for a long time,' said Gerry, tilting his head.



Koko, the fastest monkey in the trees, scrambled up the hill and perched on a branch near Leo. 'Leo, why are you sitting here all alone? The game is so fun!' Leo looked up with big, sad eyes. 'I... I can't roar as loud as you guys,' he whispered, 'Nobody can ever hear me.'



Koko felt a pang of sadness. He understood now. He hadn't realized how lonely Leo must feel. He slowly climbed down and sat beside Leo, gently placing a hand on his paw. 'I didn't know, Leo,' Koko said softly. 'That makes me sad too.'



When Koko told the others why Leo was sitting alone, they all felt bad. Ellie, Zola, and Gerry huddled together, whispering excitedly. 'We have to make Leo feel better!' said Zola. 'What can we do?' Ellie waved her trunk thoughtfully.



Ellie, Zola, Gerry, and Koko worked together, gathering smooth, flat stones and colorful flower petals from around the savanna. They carefully painted small, happy drawings on each stone using bright mud and crushed petals. 'Leo will love this!' cheered Ellie.



Leo was still on the hill, but now his friends were waving at him from below, gesturing for him to come down. They all pointed to a beautiful path they had made using the painted stones. 'For Leo!' they shouted together, their voices filled with warmth.



Leo slowly walked down the stone path, his heart swelling. His friends gathered around him, not roaring at him, but whispering kind words and gentle hums. 'We missed you, Leo!' giggled Ellie. 'We made this special 'Quiet Roar' path just for you,' added Zola, smiling broadly.



That afternoon, the friends didn't play their noisy game. Instead, they all sat together on the hill, sharing stories and quiet laughs as the warm sun dipped below the horizon. Leo realized that a true friend doesn't need a loud roar to hear you; they only need a caring heart to understand.