



The river has gone!



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One morning, a loud cry woke the whole village, "The river is gone!" All the villagers rushed to the edge of the river. There was no water left. Not even a puddle or a drop of water. "What are we going to do?" The villagers said, in a worried voice. "Let's wait," The chief of the village replied, "The stream will come back."

The days went by but the water did not come back. The villagers they all panicked, "Our animals are thirsty. The fields and gardens are drying. And we will soon have nothing to eat..."

A mother, hugging her children, burst out crying, "It's the same for us," she said, "We cannot live without water!"



The parents of Liz were so worried too. They thought about moving elsewhere. But Liz did not want to leave her hometown. She wanted to find out why this happened. “There must be something wrong,” she said, determined, “and I will find it out!”

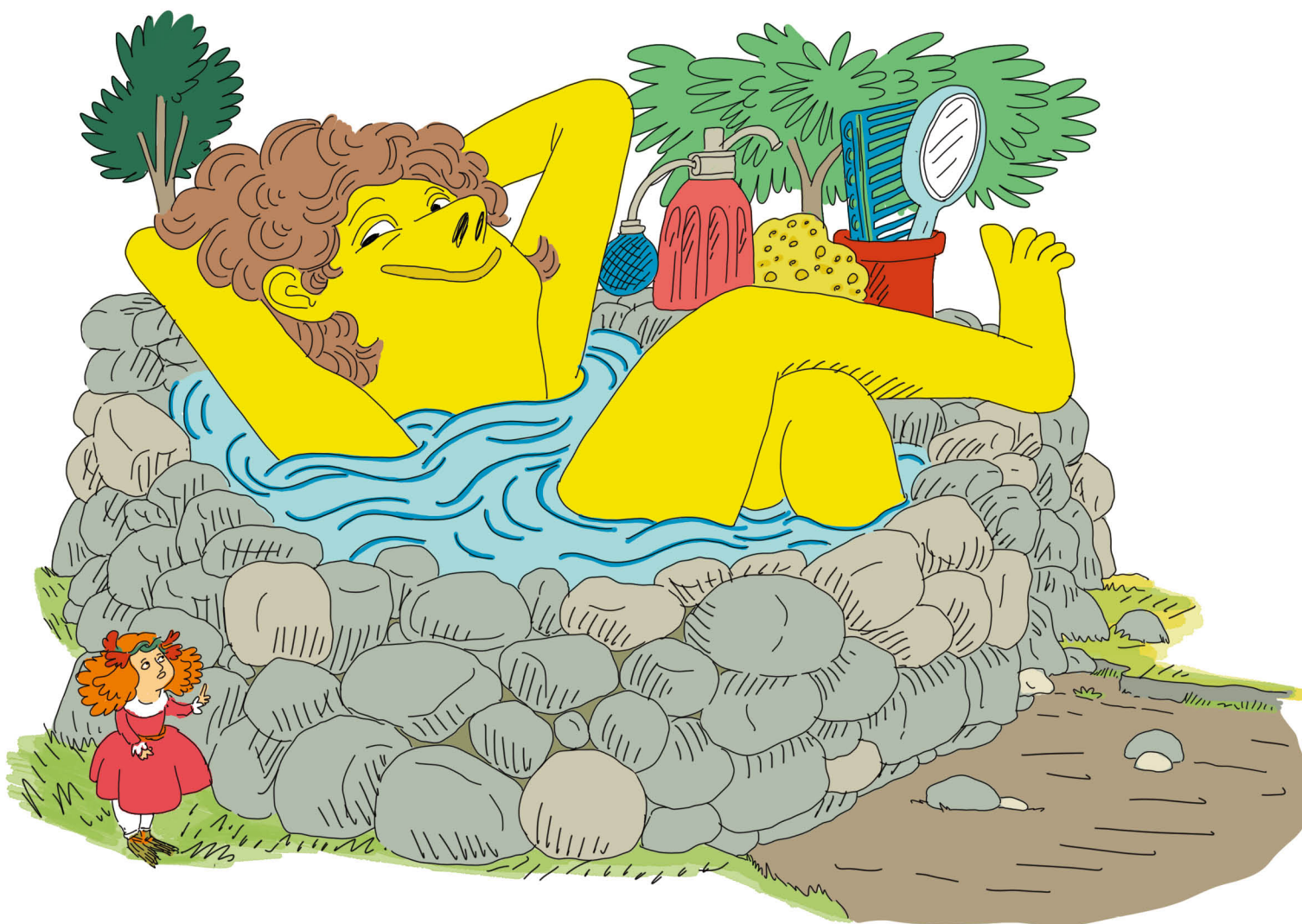
Liz took the path along the dry river:

She walked for a very long time. At last, she arrived in front of a huge stone wall that cut the river:

Above her head, a loud voice spoke up, “What do you want, little fly?”

Liz looked up and jumped in surprise because she saw the head of a giant.

It was not a wall, but a gigantic stone bathtub filled with all the water from the river!





Liz shouted, "You took all the water. My village is going to die of thirst! "

"So," replied the giant, "what do I have to do with this?

I'm taking a bath and I don't like being disturbed. Go away!"

"The water belongs to everyone! You bossy boots!" Liz yelled.

She picked up a stick and started hitting the wall with all her might.

The giant sneered. Then he threw his **comb**  at her and shouted, "Go away now!"

The huge comb crashed very close to Liz. He almost hurt her.

Liz walked away, clenching her fists in anger. That was when she heard someone crying.

She discovered a small elf with pointy ears sitting on a mushroom.

And there was a guitar near his feet. "Hello. Who are you?" asked Liz.

"My name is Flynn," the elf replied. "I am a water elf. But the river has disappeared... I am desperate!"

"Yes," Liz said in a sad voice, "that selfish giant stole all the water for his bath."

Flynn moaned, "What will I do without the river? And without my fish friends? I loved talking and playing music with them so much."



Liz thought for a while. Suddenly she said,
“If the giant has taken the whole river, it is sure that he has taken all you fish friends too.
They must be in his tub!”

Suddenly, Liz has an idea! She told her plan to Flynn. He had hope again!

The little elf walked closer to the stone tub while Liz was hiding in a bush nearby.

Politely Flynn said, “Hello, Mr. Giant. Can I play some music for you?”

“With pleasure!” replied the giant, “that makes me happy.”

Then, he relaxed his whole body in the tub.

Flynn grabbed his little **guitar** , and started singing in a language that Liz didn't understand.





The giant growled, "What are you singing? What are these weird words?"
In the tub, all the fishes heard the music, and they understood what Flynn was singing. Flynn asked them ... to tickle the giant's toes and bite his bottom!
They started to nibble the giant right away. **Crack, crack, snap, snap!**
The giant wriggled, shouting, "Ouch, ouch! Hee hee! Stop it now! "
The fish went on. **Crack, crack, snap, snap!**
"Stop!" The giant yelled.
He struggled so much that he kicked the edges of the tub with his giant feet.
Boom, boom! The tub cracked and a hole appeared.
And then another, and another. Suddenly, **CRAAAACKK!** And splaaaash!
The water in the tub gushed out everywhere!
The giant started crying, "Ouch, ouch! Help! Help!"
Liz and Flynn burst out laughing.

Back in the village, someone cried out,
"The riverwater is back!"
All the villagers ran to the river's edge.
They were very surprised to see a naked giant floating by.
Fortunately, the river carried him far, far away.
And he was gone forever.

THE END

