

The Magic in the Woods by Aleena Hussein

It was the last day of the summer holiday, Lily was feeling worried. Mum said "I bet it is because you feel nervous about your first day back. But don't worry, I bet all the children will be feeling the same. You will also get to see all of your friends."

To cheer Lily up Mum decided to take Lily to Snipe Clough for a walk. Mum said "there's magic in the woods", but Lily was not sure, she did not believe in magic. Lily had fun chasing butterflies, learning the name of all the plants and looking under rocks for insects.

Mum saw her friend. "Lily why don't you play near the trees and look for leaves, we can make a picture when we get home." Lily ran up the path towards a forest of trees. Lily started picking up some leaves from the bottom of a really big tree when she suddenly saw something scurry fast. She thought it must be a squirrel or a mouse but saw a small man in a green hat collecting stones. "Hello my name is Stix, I'm a woodland elf. What's your name?" "I'm Lily, what are you doing with those stones?" The elf smiled, "Lily, you are named after one of my favourite flowers. These stones are for the river fairies, they need them to help keep the river bank strong. The stones are like bricks and the mud is like the cement".

Stix explained that woodland elves have an important job of looking after the land. "Lily would you like to meet a river fairy?" Lily beamed, "yes please!", Lily could not believe she was going to meet an elf and a fairy in one day. "Mum I'm just going to look for leaves near the river". Her Mum shouted back "ok but don't go near the edge." Lily followed Stix towards a small river in the forest.

Stix pulled out a small wooden pipe necklace, he blew into it making a whistle noise. All of a sudden a red haired girl in a purple dress and sparkly wings flew through the grass and landed in front of Lily. "Hello, I'm Amber a river fairy, my sisters and I look after the rivers and streams. Thanks for the stones Stix." Lily watched Stix and Amber mend the river bed.

Lily helped Stix and Amber help a baby bird into her nest after she stumbled off a branch. Amber and Stix explained why it was important to look after the wild life and how people can help keep the area tidy. After some time Lily heard Mum calling. Lily had a wonderful day, "Goodbye Stix and Amber, I will miss you". Stix smiled and said "Good luck with school tomorrow I'm sure you will have lots of fun." On the drive home Mum asked Lily how she was feeling, Lily said "I can't wait for school, I'm so excited to see everyone." Mum grinned, "see? That's the magic of the woods".