



Lost in the forest

Ada was being naughty that night because Mum would not give her more sweets.



“You’ve already brushed your teeth; you can’t have more sweets at this hour.” said Ada’s Mum.

Ada folded her arms. “I want sweets” she said, angrily.

“I’ve already said no. You will have nightmares if you continue with that attitude,” said Ma.

Furious, Ada pushed all her Teddy bears away as she climbed into her bed and fell asleep in a huff with folded arms.

The following day, Ada woke up in the forest. It smelled funny and there were grass and trees everywhere. She could hear sounds of wild animals, but she could not see them.

“Mummy, Mummy! Where are you?” she screamed. But there was no answer. She was all alone in the forest.

Ada began crying. She thought about how mean she had been to her mother the night before.

She heard something approaching, and through the undergrowth, a tortoise emerged.

“Do not be afraid. I am Nabe, the tortoise. I heard you crying. What’s wrong? Are you lost?” asked Nabe.

“My mother abandoned me,” sobbed Ada. “I was naughty and she left me here.”

Nabe studied Ada’s face, then asked: “you look so much like Nneoma, is she your mother?”

“Yes, that is my mother’s name,” replied Ada, surprised.

“Everybody knows Nneoma in the Forest. She is the sweetest human the forest has ever seen,” said Nabe, smiling.

“Really?” she asked, returning a smile.

“I know your mother very well. There is no way she has abandoned you. Hop on my shell, we’ll find the way to your house!” said Nabe.

Though tortoises are pretty slow, Nabe had to be the fastest one in the forest. She ran like the wind and Ada was enjoying the ride.

After a little while, Nabe got tired and wished to rest. They both sat down in the shade of a tree.

“Well, well, what do I have here?” said a menacing voice above them.

“It’s Agu the leopard,” said Nabe, scared.

“How kind of you to deliver my lunch!” said Agu with glee, perched on the branch of a baobab tree, above Nabe and Ada.

“You can’t...you can’t eat her. She’s Nneoma’s daughter,” said Nabe, trembling.

“Nneoma? Are you sure of what you’re saying, Nabe?” growled Agu.

“Ye...yes,” said Nabe.

“If you are really Nneoma’s daughter, I will let you leave. She is the kindest human the forest has ever seen. But if you’re lying, I will eat you both, right here, right now.”

The leopard added: “if you are her daughter, you have to sing. Nneoma always sung the best songs to help me sleep.”

Singing? That was easy. Her mother sang to her all the time. Ada started singing one of her mother’s favourite songs. Both Nabe and Agu were so charmed by Ada’s voice that they didn’t want her to stop.

“I am convinced now that you are Nneoma’s daughter, I will let you both be on your way,” said Agu.

Ada and Nabe kept on marching until they got thirsty. They stopped by the river to drink some water. Aguiyi the crocodile jumped out of the water to surprise them.

“Who gave you permission to drink my water?” snapped Aguiyi.

**“Apologies, Aguiyi. We were thirsty,”
replied Nabe.**

**“This young girl looks familiar. Who is
she?” asked Aguiyi.**

**“My name is Ada, I am Nneoma’s
daughter,” replied Ada.**

**“Nneoma? Be careful young lady! She’s
the most precious human the forest has
ever seen,” said Aguiyi.**

“She’s telling the truth,” said Nabe.

**“Well, she will have to prove it! Nneoma
used to be such a great dancer. She
could move to any tune. Ada, let’s see if
you are who you claim to be.”**

**Dancing? That was easy. Ada and her
mother danced together all the time.
They could dance to any type of music.**



Nabe found some sticks and a stone to play the drums. Ada recreated some of the dance moves that her mother had showed her. She was dancing so well that Aguiyi came out of the water to copy her moves.

Aguiyi was pleased. He wished them well and let them be on their way.

Ada and Nabe kept on marching until they were hungry. Nabe spotted a tree that had the juiciest fruits in the forest. Ada wanted to try. As she reached out to grab one, she heard a voice: “Who are you? And why are you stealing our fruits?”

A giant gorilla came down from the tree.

“Ozodingba, we are sorry to disturb your peace. We were just hungry,” said Nabe.

“This does not mean that you must steal from me,” boomed Ozodingba the gorilla.

“Ada is looking for her mother, Nneoma and we have been travelling for so long,” said Nabe.

“Are you Nneoma’s daughter? She’s the most beautiful human the forest has ever seen” said Ozodingba. “I need to make sure that you’re not lying.”

Ada opened her teary eyes. She was back in her bedroom and it was the morning. Her mother opened the door.

“Did you have a bad dream, my princess?” asked her mother.

“I thought you abandoned me in the forest,” said Ada, through teary eyes

“I will never do that! Even if you get lost, the love that I have for you will always find a way to bring you back,” said her mother, as she took her in her arms.

“I love you Mommy,” said Ada.

“I love you my princess,” replied her mother.

The love of your mother will always help you find your way home, even when you think you’re lost.





THE END



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