

Stranger Dreams



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Once upon there was a princess who lived in a big castle with her family. She was happy. She had friends at school but didn't think she would ever need anyone else.

Life was good.





Princess, your new lady-in-waiting is my friend. I hope you will love her as much as I do.

Don't worry, your highness, all will be well..

Sweet dreams, Mookie.

Her mommy, was excited to introduce Princess Marley to her new lady-in-waiting but Marley wasn't. The woman was a stranger even if she was mommy's friend and Marley didn't like strangers.



The princess loved stories but said nothing.


When she woke up the princess wasn't in her bed any more. She didn't remember leaving the castle. She didn't even remember falling asleep or getting dressed.



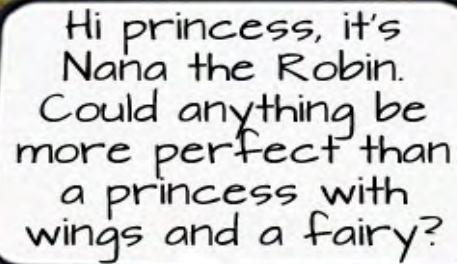
The princess had wandered the woods around the castle but had never seen this place.



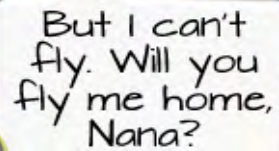
The bird who appeared felt familiar but how could she know a bird?



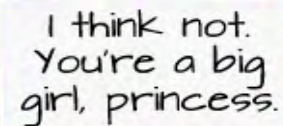
Hi Nana.



Hi princess, it's
Nana the Robin.
Could anything be
more perfect than
a princess with
wings and a fairy?



But I can't
fly. Will you
fly me home,
Nana?



I think not.
You're a big
girl, princess.




She was about to cry in frustration to demand what she wanted when another oddly familiar bird appeared.



The princess finally did cry in frustration but the fairy did nothing in response, so she stopped.



Before she could react or respond, two large beasts arrived. She wanted to hide in fear but there was nowhere to hide.

A scene in a lush green forest. On the left, a large lion with a thick, light brown mane stands facing right. In the foreground, a leopard with a spotted coat is walking towards the right. In the center, a fairy with large, translucent, yellow and orange wings and a red face looks towards the right. On the right, a princess in a white, ornate, Victorian-style dress with a large white flower on the bodice and a long pink sash stands looking towards the left. The forest floor is covered in green grass and small red flowers.

No worries, princess,
we won't hurt you. I'm
Aaron the Lion.

Lo loves lion.

Lo loves leopard.

Princess, it's me,
Lydia the Leopard.

What are you
doing here?
Why is
everyone I love
someone or
something else?

She was too stunned to think or feel as the cats slinked away.



Lo loves kitties.

Why are they cats and you a fairy?


Because.

Because why?

Because gaa gaa goo goo.

I can't get an answer from you. You're still a baby and can't even talk yet.

The princess was getting very cranky. However, the raccoons were so goofy she couldn't help but smile.



Marleeee, let's parteeeee.
I'm Doobie the
Raccoonie and this is my
beloved. Wanna play?

Doodoo? Can you
tell me what's
going on?.

No can doodoo.
That's for you
to figure out.

But I can't.

Can't is for
party poopers.

zzzzzzzzzz

Disappointed, the princess wanted to pout and sulk when a puppy leaped up and licked her face.



The princess couldn't stand it any longer and finally broke down in tears.



When she opened her eyes, the princess was no longer in the forest and she could see her home floating on a lake.



The princess was confused. She was comforted by the creatures but couldn't understand why the lady-in-waiting was even there..



The princess clenched inside, held tight and took shallow breaths as everyone but the goddess left her on the shore.



The princess was glad everyone left. She had a plan, that is until the fairy arrived.



The princess ignored the fairy and took the boat out on her own. She was fine until the boat rolled over.



The princess was too ashamed of her failure to face the Goddess, the fairy or the other creatures.



Woot woot
patootie
woot!

Tweet Tweet
periwinkle
tweet!

They're mad
because they
were afraid
for you.

Chitter
chit chit!

Roar roar
wrong.

I don't
care. I
want to
go home.

Grrrrr
grumble

Ruff ruff
bad doggie!



What did I do wrong? Isn't mommy worried about me? Doesn't my family care that I'm not there? Why am I all alone?

You're not alone.

Am too.

I'm here.

You don't count

Do too. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10.


8. You missed 8.

You're right. Care to join me for lunch?

The lady-in-waiting opened the picnic basket which had all of the princess' favorite foods - chicken, bread, salad and chocolate. The princess was starving and ate everything.

The princess did feel better after eating and she wanted to go home but she didn't want to admit it, nor did she know why.





You know I am wise,
princess. Believe
when I say that yes,
you can.

We will always
be close by.

You will make
your mommy
very happy.

Perhaps
you'll see
them again,
brave girl!

Go bye
bye..

Go for it!

Okay, I'll
go. But I'll
miss you.

We'll roar
from the
shore.

A roar
of love.

Poopy loves
princess.

The princess didn't remember falling asleep on the boat, but when she woke up, she was back in her bed.



Good morning,
Mookie..

Mommy! I'm
so happy to
be home!

The princess surprised her mother by hugging the lady-in-waiting when she entered the room.



Did you go somewhere?

I went to a forest and you were a goddess.

Thank you for bringing me home.

But it wasn't a dream.

You know children and their dreams - turning family into animals and fairies and such.

Of course, princess

The princess was happy to be home, but also knew her world was getting bigger which included new people to meet and new foods to eat. This made her happy.

Life was even better.

