



Mariah was an ordinary young girl. That is, as ordinary as a girl can be when her best friend is a wise and gentle lion.





One day the lion took Mariah to a big meadow surrounded by trees. There was no breeze to keep her cool, and Mariah was very thirsty.

When she heard the splashing of a nearby brook, she walked over to get a drink. All of a sudden, out of the water popped a girl's head.

"This is Brook," said the lion.