

The Hidden Jungle

Introduction

I am here to tell you the story of Mirah Tompkins. You are probably sitting there, wondering, who is this Mirah? Actually, I'm here to tell you.

Chapter 1

It was a humid day in Nevada. It smelled of pine, with a hint of rain. There were 2 Tompkins inside, cooking grilled cheese sandwiches.

"Mirah," asked Mirah's grandfather, A.J. " Would you like your sandwich with or without tuna?"

"With tuna, please," answered Mirah, her mind elsewhere.

You see, when Mirah was a young child, she was brilliant. She is still very smart today, but her grades keep shrinking.

Mirah tries to use her imagination extremely carefully. Instead of doing Algebra, Mirah is floating off to another galaxy.

Mirah was an only child. She didn't have a brother or sister to push her around, annoy her, or interrupt her thinking. She was used to having all the attention and getting her way.

Well, this was about to change. Mirah's mother was pregnant.

"Mirah, your mother is coming home with your new baby brother," said A.J. "Why so blue?"

He got no answer, and as usual, he asked again. This went on for quite a while until he just gave up and went about his daily business.

Mirah, on the other hand, had just heard strange voices coming from outside- well, at least she *thought* she did.

Suddenly, Mirah got an urge to go outside and start digging. Mirah always goes with what her mind tells her to do, and right now, her mind was telling her to go and start shoveling dirt out of the ground.

Before you knew it, Mirah was outside making a 5-foot hole. Once she reached the exact 5-foot mark, she hit something hard. Then Mirah started clearing the dirt away with her hands so she could get a good look at it.

It was a door, but it was inside the ground. Mirah reached down and found a brass knob. She slowly turned the brass knob and opened the door. Light flooded in from the other side. She didn't know what to think.

Chapter 2

Mirah carefully jumped into the doorway. It felt like she was falling for hours but it was really only a few seconds. She hit the bottom hard and she thought she heard two voices coming from behind a tree.

"Wh-who's there?" Stammered Mirah "Hello?" Said a lady's voice. "We're not going to hurt you. You can come out now." Mirah thought that this voice was coming from a woman's mouth. She was wrong. Mirah stood up on her wobbly legs and walked over to the tree. She nearly fell over when she saw what the voice *was* coming from. A hedgehog! "Oh, Rose." Said the male hedgehog. "I don't think she's ever seen a talking hedgehog before." "Uh..." Mirah's voice trailed off. She couldn't speak. A talking hedgehog? Was she dreaming? Mirah had never heard of one. This is really weird because Mirah has thought of many creatures but never a talking hedgehog! "I'm Mirah. Could you tell me where I am and how to get out?" Mirah was desperate. Desperate enough to talk to a hedgehog. "Oh, Sorry sweetie. We don't know." replied the female hedgehog. "We've never tried." Mirah was devastated. How was she supposed to meet her brother? "My mom will get so worried!" exclaimed Mirah. "Don't worry. Human time stops when you come in here. Another human came in here and..." he stopped. Mirah could tell he wanted to change the subject. "Hey, I never got your names." "I'm Mrs. Pinely and that is Mr. Pinely. Now, if you really want to get back, go and see the grand panda. He knows everything."

Chapter 3

Mirah was excited. She had never gone on a real adventure before. Once Mr. Pinely had told Mirah how to get to the grand pandas castle, she was off! The temperature dropped a lot and it started to snow. Mirah was not dressed for this weather because it was summer back in Nevada. She was freezing. She hoped she would find shelter soon. She saw a cave up ahead. But she had no time to rest. She thought she could see the castle up ahead. *Wow.* Thought Mirah. *That was quick.* She walked into the castle. "Whos there?" said a voice. Then a panda came into view. He held out his hand and everything started to fade. It was dark. Mirah woke up in her bed. She looked out the window and saw a hedgehog. It winked at her and jumped into a hole.

The end