Another World in the Woods

If I could live anywhere, I would live in a forest. A forest is its own world. Unlike a city, it has no people, no buildings, no cars, no Internet, and no phones. A forest is an exciting place full of unusual plants, animals, and surprises everywhere you walk.

First, I imagine living in a large, dark cave at the center of the forest. My cave is slightly damp, but it stays at the same cool temperature all day. Rock formations in the walls look like monsters guarding my cave. A small opening to the cave is hidden by trees. It’s large enough for me to squeeze through but small enough to keep out fierce creatures, such as bears and wolves. To others, my cave seems spooky. To me, it’s like a castle.

I wake up to the warm smell of wet grass and leaves. My alarm clock is a bright red cardinal singing on a branch near the cave. For food, I eat fresh berries from a thick bush. They’re delicious! I go fishing in the calm, clear stream just to the left of the cave. The stream has many different kinds of colorful fish. They swim by and look at me with suspicious eyes.

The stream flows into a quiet lake to the north of it. Sunlight shines on the lake. Tall trees catch a wavy reflection of themselves in the water. The crisp air smells fresh, and the soft breeze makes the leaves gently rustle.
Throughout the day, most of the forest animals find their way to this part of the forest. A beaver is busy at work, building a dam near the end of the stream. Next to him, two deer sip fresh water. A traffic jam of ducks honks at each other as they swim around the lake. Birds poke the moist ground with their beaks and search for slimy worms. Behind them, squirrels chase each other from tree to tree. Even with all the activity, time still seems to move more slowly in the forest than in the city.

In a forest, even a thunderstorm is different from a storm in the city. The thumping of rain is louder, and flashes of lightning are brighter and bigger. In only a few seconds, sheets of rain soak the ground and trees. The stream becomes a raging river, and the lake turns into a roaring ocean. Then, the storm ends. There is a long silence like the forest sighing in relief. Finally, the birds start chirping, and chipmunks start sprinting about looking for food.

Every day is an adventure in the forest. New parts of the forest are always waiting to be discovered. In the city, you always know what to expect. You know where the mall is, where the movie theater is, and where the best restaurants are. However, a forest is its own world with surprises for me around every corner.