

# Lost Girl

Written by:

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The woods are spinning like a tornado destroying a town. The leaves are airplanes and their propellers are tearing at my face. The moon is dark and ominous. The ground is disappearing beneath my feet. I'm lost and afraid, but my family doesn't even care. My life is turned upside down and I'm on the verge of tears.

I thought life was supposed to be happy and loving, that you were supposed to live life to the fullest. Just a few days ago, my older sister, Vanessa, started acting a little strange. She used to play with me all the time but now she always has her ear glued to the phone talking to her boyfriend. She could care less if I ran away, which I did. My mom has been a wreck ever since my dad lost his job. She's been taking longer shifts at work and sleeping in late. My dad's not very happy that he lost his job either, he used to be a police man, but now he stays at home stressing about how he's going to provide for our family. The money has been going down and the bills going up. But, I guess since I'm gone it's one less person to pay for. My parents probably didn't even know I left. They were probably too busy arguing to notice. Is this what the world has become, or is it just me?

The light shining in my face was bright, almost blinding. Where am I? Is this a dream? "Hello?" My voice cracked, my throat is dry and my face is sticky. I rubbed my ice-cold hands across my face. There's tree sap under my chin and on my nose. My vision is now clear and I see trees surrounding me for at least a mile or two. I guess I really did run away, it wasn't a dream. I can only make out a few things from yesterday.

My mother dropped me off at school. She didn't know what I had planned to do. She didn't even say, "goodbye," like she used to. As soon as I got out of the car, I walked towards the school, looking behind me at the car, waiting for it to leave. When I saw it a good distance away I ran to the city park meadow a few blocks away. The tall grass tickled my legs and the flowers filled the air with a beautiful scent. I could hear the cars honking in the distance and the sirens of firetrucks going to rescue people from a horrid fire. If only they could rescue run-away children from their despair. The sound of footsteps caught my attention and I hid behind a bush. The clearing of bright flowers was invaded by two dark shadows. Immediately I recognized it was just the park officials. They only walk in the clearings. They wouldn't dare go into the woods beyond the meadow, unlike me who hurried into it as soon as they were gone.

The sound of my stomach growling woke me from my memories of yesterday. As I walked through the forest looking for a berry bush, something caught my eye. Water! I slowly bent down and cupped my hands like a bowl and drank. The water was cold and refreshing, nice to have on a day as hot as this. A rock a few feet away caught my attention and I slowly bent down to sit on it. Now that I think about it, I was acting really childish when I ran away. I could have handled the situation much better than I did, and I really miss my parents and Vanessa telling me what to do. It's better than having no company at all, except for the fish, birds, and nasty mosquitoes! You know I think I'll give my family another chance, after all they did raise me and I'm just a child, what was I thinking?

My feet suddenly lifted and I started walking back the way I came from. With each step I took my feet grew heavier, and my body sweatier. I sat down on a rock next to a bush. Surely it wasn't that long coming here. Unless I went the wrong way coming back! I feel so dumb! How could I mistake one path for another?

Unexpectedly a big bush started wiggling and knocked me off my rock. A big, furry, brown head slowly lifted from the bush. It's teeth as sharp as ten knives. It's breath as horrid as the vomit wrestling to break free in my stomach. A bear! Somehow my feet were glued to the ground. My breathing stopped. I couldn't move. It's nose started sniffing my neck. My eyes started to water. I WANT MY MOMMY!!!