

Little Nø and Smallest Mo

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It's the same old story with those elephants. They are huge and they love to talk about how big they are, and how heavy they are, and how they can flatten a coconut with just one toe. Right now, they are on their way out into the jungle to break off some really thick branches and eat the delicious leaves that are all the way at the top of the trees.

"Wait. I want to come," says Little Nø.

"This is just for the big guys," say the elephants.

"We're talking about branches as fat as elephant thighs, buddy," says one of the big elephants. "Come back when you've grown big and enormous."

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"I AM big," says Smallest Mo.

"Ha? Sure! Big enough to look after Smallest Mo while we are gone," says the big elephant. "And no playing in the river, okay? If you play in the river, the big river monster will come."

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Okay. Go ahead and ask if anyone wants to listen to that nonsense? The answer is NO. There is no such thing as a river monster, that's something the big elephants have made up. And no way is Little Nø going to look after Smallest Mo. Little Nø wants to come along to break thick branches.

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"We could play roll in the mud," says Smallest Mo. "No, thanks. I'd prefer not to," says Little Nø.

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"We could play termite mound," says Smallest Mo. "No, thanks. I don't play termite mound," says Little Nø.

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"We could play bus," says Smallest Mo. "I don't play at all. I'm too big for that," says Little Nø.

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"What about the river monster?" says Smallest Mo. "You don't play that; you are it."

"There's no such thing as a river monster."

"But we can pretend."

"We're not allowed to play in the river," says Little Nø.

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Everyone knows that...

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"Bye!" says Smallest Mo.

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"It doesn't have to be in the river. We'll just play next to it," says Smallest Mo.

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Smallest Mo is nowhere. There's just water flowing along quickly.

Little Nø turns around and races back into the jungle.

That's where the big elephants are.

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"Oh, there you are. What are you playing?" asks a big elephant.

"Nothing," says Little Nø.

"That sounds boring," says the big elephant. "We've been out finding some gigantic trees with a lot of green leaves at the top. Boy, have we been breaking branches. It feels great to be so big and strong!"

"And where is Smallest Mo?" asks another elephant.

"Uhm. Is there really such a thing a river monster?" asks Little Nø.

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The elephants laugh loudly.

"That's just something we say, so you don't go down there!"

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"Smallest Mo broke off a very big branch," says Little Nø.

"That's great. Super! Smallest Mo is definitely going to grow big and extremely strong," says the big elephant.

"But we were down by the river," says Little Nø.

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“By the river?”

“Kind of,” says Little Nø.

The sound of a herd of big elephants thundering through the forest down towards the river is very loud.

Little Nø is very quiet.

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Little Nø hears someone coming. There’s rustling. Then it’s quiet. Then there’s more rustling. Then it’s quiet.

Little Nø looks around to all sides. There’s nothing to see. But now there’s more rustling. Now it’s quiet.

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Suddenly a huge monster breaks through the thick bushes.

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So there really is a river monster after all!

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“Did you get really scared?” asks Smallest Mo.

“Of course not. I was just pretending,” says Little Nø.

“I broke off a really fat branch, says Smallest Mo. “Next time we can come along when they go out to break off branches. Now we are huge just like them.”

“They are all out looking for you,” says Little Nø.

“Why? I’m right here,” says Smallest Mo.
