

TODAY I AM A RIVER

Kate Coombs

illustrated by
Anna Emilia Laitinen

For my sister Loni
— K.C.

For my godchildren Panha, Fiona, and Viljami
— A.E.L.

I can be anything—
reaching high,
curling small,
leaping, whirling,
stopping to see—

I can be anything,
everything.



Sounds True
Boulder, CO 80306

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Illustrations © 2023 Anna Emilia Laitinen

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River

Today I am a river.
Here I come!

I ride down a mountainside,
flow boldly
across a wide valley,
explore a canyon
written in cursive—

I reach rocks and stones,
stumble and rumble,
leap and bound,
tumble around.

But still I flow.
Fast or slow, I find my way.

Inside I know
where I want to go.

I head for the sea. The be of me.
The big blue heart and soul of me.

Today I am a river.
Here I come!



Tree

Today
I am a tree.
Sun catcher,
Heart healer,
message of tomorrow
written on my leaves.

I feel the coming and going
of wind and birds,
rustle of green in summer,
shiver of gold in fall,
reach of bare branches
in winter.

I hold up the world
with my growing hands.
I breathe
for many lands.
Today I am tall.
Troubles
have become small.

I am a tree.

Wind

I am the wind.
Sometimes I rage!
I slash through forests,
stamp over mountains.
I am a giant, an ogre, a troll—
I kick the treetops,
yell, bellow, and roar!

But after awhile
I begin to slow.

I walk here and there,
touching flowers
with a fingertip.
I tremble leaves,
I shimmer a lake.

I breathe in and out.
Out and in.
I am the wind.





Spider

A fox blunders into my web.
I repair it.

Strong winds tear my web.
I repair it.

A falling branch breaks my web.
I repair it.

A fly tangles in my web.
I wrap the fly up
and save it for later.

Then I repair my web,
my well-drawn spiral.
My good craft.

Those of us
who are makers know:

building a thing
isn't enough.

You must repair it.