

Running around the streets of town with my friends Rosie and Lillian I paused to catch my breath. Then I heard it. The alarm rang through the streets of our tiny town. It could only mean one thing. Bandits! "What's wrong Evelyn?" Rosie called to me. "Bandits!" I called back. I dodged into an alleyway. My friends followed. Rosie climbed the wall and let down the knotted rope for me and Lillian to climb. As soon as we got onto the rooftop we ran. We were dodging arrows left and right! They stopped as soon as we reached the outskirts of town. I leapt off the last roof in a dive roll. As my friend landed beside me I drew in a shaky breath. We were alone.

I knew I could survive without food for a few days but we needed shelter. The sun was pretty low and we got to work right away. We all had our own ideas. Mine was to make a lean to and find something better in the morning. Rosie and Lillian wove vine tents and hung them over low branches I finished my lean to as they finished their tent. I was exhausted! I crawled inside and fell asleep right away.

In the morning I woke up early and dashed out to look for shelter. The sun was barely rising and most animals were asleep. I reached the town and froze. It was gone. The bandits had burned it! I turned around not wanting to see any more. And that's when I realized something. There was a cliff near the town and I looked through the trees at it. If I could find a cave in it we could live there! I ran as fast as I could towards the campsite. I gasped for breath but explained my

idea as fast as I could. We walked towards the cliffs and when we reached them we examined them. Suddenly Lillian shouted "I see one!" She pointed at a hole in the cliff. It was high enough on the cliff that we would have to climb. I eyed it doubtfully but I couldn't see any more caves so I knew it would have to do. We approached the cliffs and Rosie immediately started climbing. She hoisted herself into the cave easily. I tried my best. The rocks were a bit loose after Rosies climb and each one felt treacherous like it would come loose in my grasp. I had made it most of the way when I started to slip. I clutched at the rocks desperately. Rosie grabbed my arm and hoisted me up .I lay panting for a second before jumping up and helping Lillian up. We looked around. It was medium sized and fairly smooth. "Well" I said "I guess this is our home now." I jumped down and looked around. There were a bunch of large rocks laying around and I ran over to them. While Rosie and Lillian were still looking at the cave I hoisted rocks over and built a staircase."There I said, satisfied.

We wasted no time in going out to find food. I looked high and low but I couldn't find anything!!! Then just as it was getting dark Lillian ran to some bushes. "I found some berries!" she cried. Me and Rosie ran over and started gathering them. When we got back to the shelter we devoured them. We hadn't had any food for a couple of days. We ate every single berry! As I drifted off to sleep I felt content.

In the morning I got up early and went back to what used to be the village. I searched and searched for . . . well . . . I didn't really know what I was looking for. But anyway I found it. A basement that hadn't been burned! Inside there were lots of tools. It took a while but I managed to get them back to the shelter. Then I went out looking for sticks and rocks to make arrows. I finally found enough and set to work. After I made the arrows I went out and found a long bendy stick and used a length of thread from the tool kit to make a bow. This would be good for hunting! I went out into the forest looking for animals. I saw a bird and froze, grabbed an arrow, and aimed. I fired and missed. Ugh! I retrieved the arrow and crept through the forest until I found another bird. This time I had a sense of how the bow worked so I was able to hit it. I shot two more and ran back to the cave gathering sticks along the way. When I got to the cave I searched for a place to make a fire. When I found one I piled all but three long sticks in the corner and grabbed the firelighter from the tool pile and built a fire. Then I sharpened the sticks I had set aside and jammed them into the birds. I cooked mine. We have food, I thought smiling.

Well we're still trapped in the wilderness but we're learning new things every day! Things like how to weave a vine hammock and how to walk quietly through the forest. We have shelter, food, and tools. I'm beginning to think that life here isn't so bad after all. We may never find our parents again but we can survive.