THE RIVER

BY: MOIRA ORTON

What monsters are lurking down there? I thought as I looked at the dark, cold, water. My stomach did a flip, I imagined slimy arms reaching up out of the water and wrapping around my legs. I shuddered.

"What?" asks my sister Ellie when she sees my goosebumps "Are you cold?" I ignored her "Dad are there any big fish down there in the water?" I ask. But before he could answer, my four year old brother Clark interrupts "sharks and octopus!" my sister rolls her eyes.

Even his humor can't make me laugh right now. But what if He's right? I thought. NO silly me where on a boat on the columbia river! No where near the ocean! But as much as I try to calm myself, it would not work. Suddenly the boat stopped.

"Yay!" my sister squealed "swimming!" How can I get out of this!! I thought franticly my brother was young and for some reason hated boats and he cried till he got what he wanted and the rest of the family loved jumping of the boat and swimming. I had told them that I loved, and was going to swim in the river and I did not know that I was terrified of the river and I didn't want to admit it!

I dangled my feet in the water. Sweat dripped down my back the hot sun beat on my head and my head pounded as I try hard to think of a idea. "I'm Going in whos coming with me!" asks my great uncle. "Me!" Ellie immediately says "and Moira," "what!" I whisper to Ellie "you promised!" Ellie hissed! Opps! I forgot about that! What do I do?! What do I do!?

"come on let's go my sister called I walk across the small motorboat to the back where we would jump off, I stood on the edge, and then sat down and dangled my feet in the cold water, I looked at the shore it was lush with green trees and bushes. A summer breeze blew my thoughts away and sort of calmed me down, but it was interrupted by SPLASH!! My sister jumped in, splashing me with cold water "hey!" I yelled "come on in scardy cat!" Ellie tanted. Oh how I hated being called a scaredy cat!

Something grabbed my leg! My body froze with shock. MY life jacket felt tighter, than just cold. It was so fast that I almost took a breath before I realized I was under the water. My life jacket cared me back up to the surface. Ellie was back on the boat and laughing, I started yelling things like "WHAT!! WHERE!! WHEN!! WHY!!" at her. But all I could think was wet. "Oh." I realized "I'm in the water, in the river." "yes! Now will you jump in with me?"she asks "yes!" I Answered. The river did not seem so scary any more! Maybe it was the summer breeze but probably my sister Ellie.

I got over my fear of the river and now I love swimming and I learned that sometimes you have to take risks especially when you have a sister like Ellie. ;)

(the columbia river is in richland washington USA. look it up on a map)