

Maribel Is Snatched By a Lion

Story Based on A Long
Walk To Water by Linda
Sue Park

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Use this table to guide you through Mariel's difficult journey through the savanna

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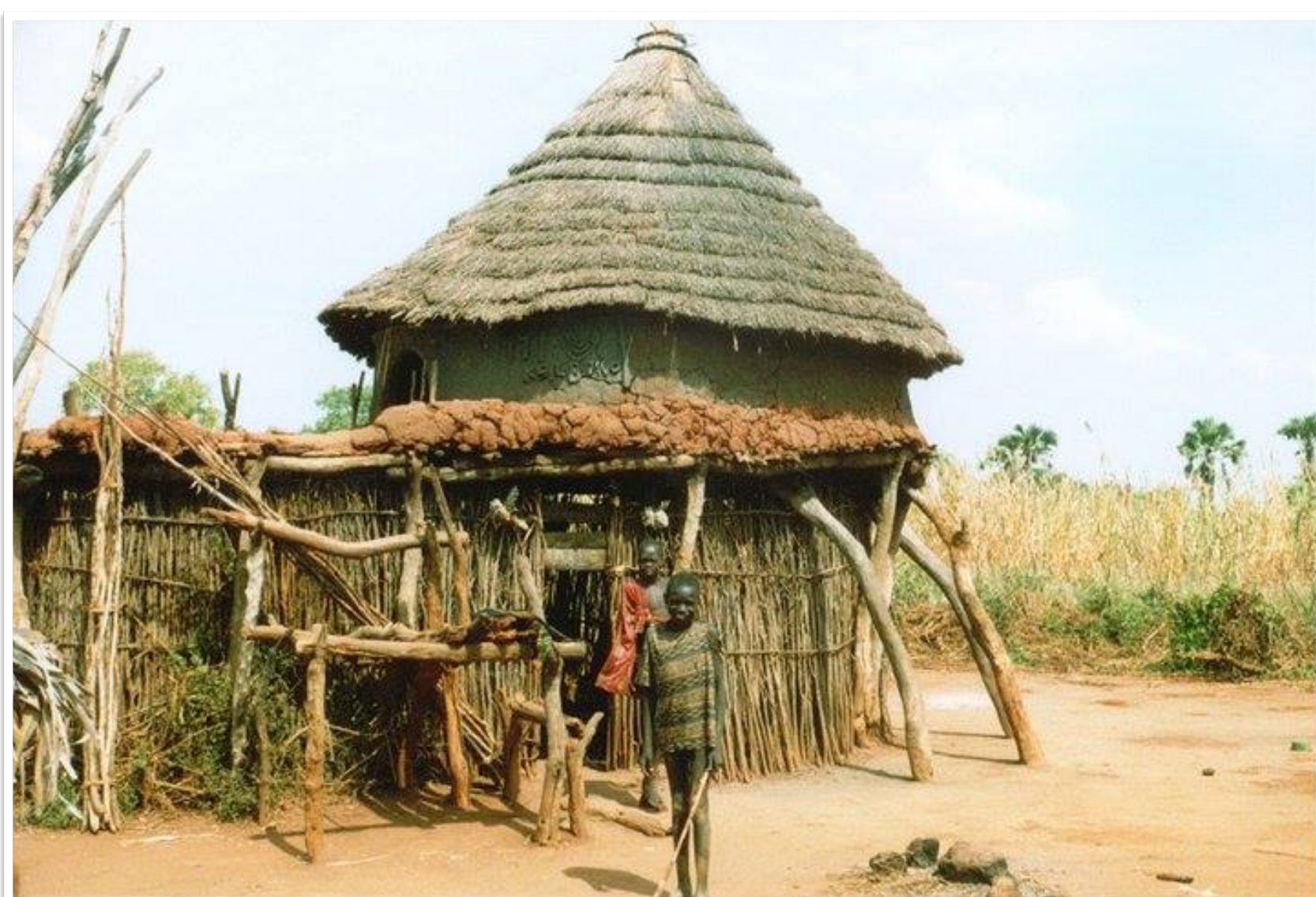
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Marial Was Taken

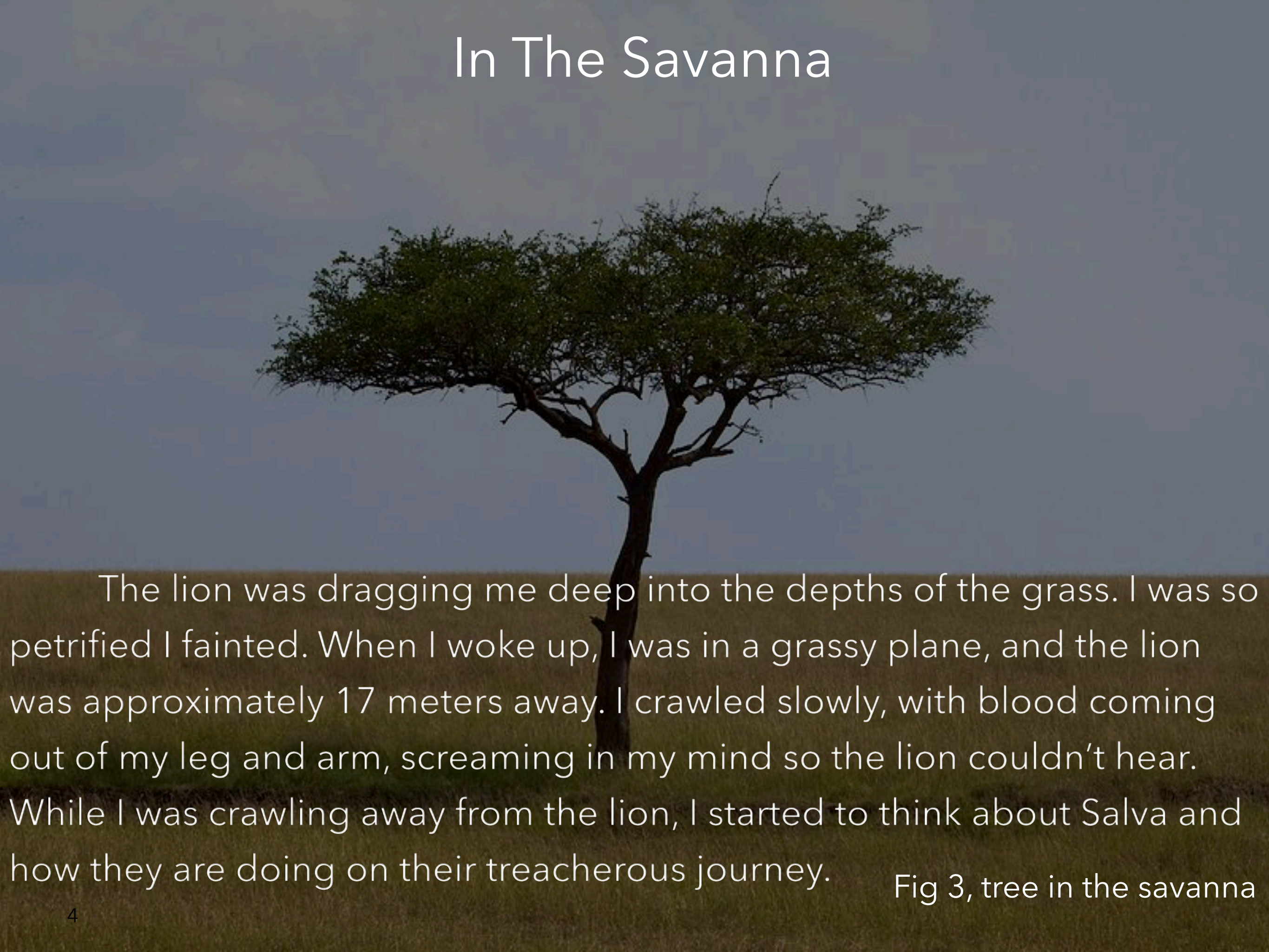
It was the middle of the night and chilly on the savanna. I was laying in the grass trying to get comfortable because my grass pillow had fallen apart. I started to hear something breathing right behind me. The weird thing is I was sleeping next to the tall grass, and no one slept in the tall grass. I started to crawl away slowly when suddenly a lion pounced on me! I was screaming, but no sound came out of my mouth.



why lions attack

Fig 2 person near a village house

In The Savanna

A photograph of a savanna landscape. In the center, a single acacia tree with a flat-topped canopy stands against a pale, overcast sky. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass. The text of the paragraph is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

The lion was dragging me deep into the depths of the grass. I was so petrified I fainted. When I woke up, I was in a grassy plane, and the lion was approximately 17 meters away. I crawled slowly, with blood coming out of my leg and arm, screaming in my mind so the lion couldn't hear. While I was crawling away from the lion, I started to think about Salva and how they are doing on their treacherous journey.

Fig 3, tree in the savanna

He Fixed His Wounds With Grass



While I was thinking of Salva, the pain from my wounds continued to grow. I needed to do something about it, or I would die. First, I noticed some grass that I could tie around my wounds so it would stop the bleeding a little bit. Second, I had to make it far enough away from the lion, so he couldn't smell me. Third, I had to keep walking.

Fig 4, first aid sign

Salva's Journey

If you were wondering what Marial's route was (because the route is based off the book A Long Walk To Water) click this link.

Salva's journey

He Found a Village

It was sundown, so I had to find shelter. I found the perfect tree with long branches and many places to sleep. I climbed as far as I could up it until my arms and legs couldn't move any more. I laid myself on a big branch for the night. When I woke up, I climbed down the tree and started walking. After a bit, my stomach started to grumble. I needed to eat. I walked for what seemed like forever and at last found a watering hole. It was pretty muddy, but desperate I drank some and felt re-energized but still hungry. I kept wandering and found a moon-like crater in the earth with a village in it, it seemed abandoned.

Fig 5, Sun setting

Marial Wasn't Alone

I headed down to the village to check things out. The first thing I needed to do was to see if the village had any signs of life. I found nothing but live cows. It was getting late I thought, so I had to find shelter, but lucky me there were houses all around. Once I found a house to stay at, I fell asleep quickly. After a while, I woke up to whispering all around me, and I was scared out of my heart. Could it be another lion or worse, could it be the Rebels?

Click here to learn about the south Sudanese [war in South Sudan](#)

I was spiraling out of my mind thinking how they found me, but when I started to listen to the talking, it didn't sound like men. It sounded like children talking to the cows. I was thinking how are there children if it was abandoned?

Marial Wasn't Alone (continued)



Fig 6, cows walking through a village

People Cared For Me

I went out to check, they stared at me, and I stared back. Soon they called to their parents, and their parents came out and asked if I was ok. I couldn't speak because I was in shock, surprised that there were people there when it was supposed to be abandoned. Millions of questions filled my head, but the people of the village gathered around me asking if I was injured. After I could speak I said, "Kuring dibawa ku singa dina saré kuring," which is, "I was taken by a lion in my sleep," in the Sudanese language. I also asked for some food, and they gave me some beef from the cows they have raised.

There Is a Beast Coming

When I was full from milk and beef, the men started talking and running towards the top of the crater! There was word of a colossal lion on the hunt for food, "Could it be me I thought?" No, it can't because he didn't notice me, but still the lion was coming towards the village and swiftly. Some of the men that stayed behind grabbed spears and traps to help fight against the lion, although they were no match for the beast that was hunting our scent.

About the Author

My name is Max Sanford, and I'm the author of the short story "Marial Was Taken". I am 5'7" inches, and my favorite food is sushi. Also, I have one brother and sister. My hobbies I do are paper route, walking around town, playing with friends/family in the sun, basketball, football, and baseball.

Reflection

Some things I learned from doing my own e-Book was responsibility because I had to stay on track and focused. It is my first time doing an e-Book, and my friends helped edit it. There were mistakes, and they fixed them. This story connects to A Long Walk To Water and Salva because it is based in South Sudan, and Marial was thinking about Salva and his journey. When I was younger my close friend lost one of her uncles and her dad, one to cancer and one to Covid. She lost her dad to cancer when she was about 11, and it was sad because he meant a lot to my dad and my family. Then, she lost her uncle to Covid, and when we had his funeral, we got on boats and put his ashes in the ocean next to the cannery because he worked there.

Works Cited

Park, Linda Sue. A Long Walk To Water: Based on a True Story. Thorndike Press, a Part of Gale, a Cengage Company, 2020.

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fig 2 someone near a village : <https://www.rescuesouthsudan.org/storyoflionmakoi/>

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