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**The Journey of Artemis**  
**by Ellington Halprin**

Once upon a time,

There was a beautiful girl named Artemis (Ar-ti-mis). She was a huntress with long bronze hair and a smooth bow and arrow. When she was young, she decided to live in the woods so she could be with animals. One day, she wanted to see her mother Leto (Le-to), and her brother Apollo (A-pol-o) who lived in a small cabin in the deep woods. Artemis was walking through the forest and smelled berries and fresh flowing water and...rot and muck? She stopped walking as she saw two small figures in the path in front of her. One was greasy blue and about two feet tall. It had three horns like a triceratops, a long spiky tail, and a toothy grin. Artemis thought that its pale green eyes were way too close together. The other figure was about the same size but was maroonish. It had two antennas, a stubby tail, and two tusks. He had two pointy ears as big as an elephant's.

“Ugh, something smells terrible!” she said, covering her nose.

“Tell me about it,” a voice said from behind her.

She turned around and saw a suspicious looking figure leaning against a tree.

The figure spoke with a deep voice. “Hi, I’m Hades.” (Ha-de-s) He slowly turned around, and with a smirk said, “You know, nobody comes around here often.”

Artemis's stomach filled with butterflies - the deep voice scared the heebie-jeebies out of her. “Wha-what do you mean?”

“I’M SAYING IT’S DANGEROUS OUT HERE!!!” Hades yelled. The birds above were startled and flapped away. “And that you should come with me to safety,” he said to Artemis, grinning wickedly.

“No thanks,” Artemis replied nervously, “I'm going to my family's house so I'll be safe, but thank you for offering.”

Furious, Hades stomped away. The two little figures trotted after him and brought their stink with them. But when they got past a tree Hades wondered, *What if I follow her? She'll show me her family, then I can destroy them and make them my slaves!* Now if you didn't know, Hades was the God of the Underworld, where all of the dead souls are brought for eternity. His smelly servants, Rot and Muck, were his ugly little demons.

Anyway, Artemis continued along, this time walking just a little faster than before. She started to feel scared. *What if he wants to come after me?!* she worried.

The squirrel in the tree above sensed her fear and came down to make sure she was okay. "I'm ok, just a little scared, Sophie." Artemis said as the squirrel climbed up her arm. Artemis was the Goddess of Hunting and protector of animals, and she was friends with all of the animals, too. She continued walking with Sophie riding on her shoulder when they heard a BOOM of thunder and saw the clouds darken above a small area in the forest. Artemis froze in fear when she realized the clouds were over her family's cottage. Artemis ran to where the sound was coming from. Panting, she arrived at the little cabin and saw Apollo and Leto running out of the wooden front door.

"Artemis, honey we missed you," Leto smiled, "but we have someone in our house. I think he said his name is Hades?" There was another sudden BOOM of thunder and out walked Hades, with his little demons following him.

"I, Hades, will destroy you ALL!" Hades screamed loud enough to shake the earth. Artemis looked at Apollo and Leto. Apollo mouthed the words "What?!" and Leto looked confused. Hades saw the look on Leto's face, and with a sigh explained, "You know . . . I'm the God of the Underworld." Hades slowly raised his hands, revealing the dead souls rising from the ground on his command.

Leto turned to Artemis and yelled, "Run!" But Artemis stood still and then - WHIIISSTLLLEEE! Artemis's beautiful whistle echoed through the trees. A few moments later, THOMP THOMP THOMP THOMP THOMP! All of the animals in the forest came running towards Artemis.

"Ok guys," Artemis whispered, "GO GET HIM!" The animals ran towards Hades, Rot, and Muck. "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!" Hades, Rot and Muck screamed. The birds flew into Hades' hair, the moose tried to stomp on the little demons, the chipmunks ran up Hades' shirt and bit him and the squirrels climbed up the tree behind Artemis and started throwing acorns at the three bad guys. "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH, OUCH OUCH OUCH!" Hades screamed crazily. Hades, Rot and Muck all ran away into the deep dark forest.

"That will take care of them." Artemis said to Leto and Apollo. Leto and Apollo took Artemis into their cottage and lived happily ever after.