

June

Nary a soul would have thought that the crown they discovered would hold so much power. Why, who knew how many travellers had crossed over the bridge before the children and had not seen the slightest glimmer of the treasure hidden deep below. "Whose crown was it?" the children wondered. "How did it get to be in this place?" "How long had it been here?" They had so many questions!

The day the crown was found started simply as another beautiful summer morning. The hazy light shone from the east as the girl left her little house in the valley to go to the river. She liked to visit the river to collect stones and watch the small toads hop about. As she stepped in the cool water she would speak to the toads and confide in them all her thoughts and wishes. On the path to the river she passed near the fields with flowers of purple and yellow, and past the small cottage in which some thought a good witch might live, and then past the sheep grazing in the field. As she walked she sang softly to herself, songs of rainbows and butterflies. The path led her into the wood. She knew to stay on the path and if it ever forked, to always stay to the right.

The boy left his house on the top of the hill at dawn and went slowly along the path toward the river. He liked to visit the river to collect stones and to watch the small toads hop about. As he stepped in the cool water he would speak to the toads and confide in them all his thoughts and wishes. He walked by the windmill and near the pond where he saw mama duck leading her new ducklings into the water. He passed by the home of the grandmother, who some thought might actually be a good witch, and past the fields of greens being nibbled upon by a family of rabbits. As he walked he sang softly to himself, songs of sunshine and rain. The path led him into the wood. He knew to stay on the path and if it ever forked, to always stay to the left.

Soon, the girl and the boy were both approaching the bridge from either side. As often as they each visited the river, the stones and the toads, they had never met each other before. Suddenly, they both stood at the top of the bridge, and as they looked at each other in surprise, a glimmer caught both their eyes from below. They peered at the shining object deep in the pool beneath the bridge. Being very good swimmers, the children soon had retrieved the shining object. It was a crown! And this is how their adventure begins...

