

Milo, the River explorer!

In a quiet forest in Navarra, where the rivers sing and the trees dance with the wind, lived a small, chocolate-brown animal named **Milo**. Milo was a **European mink**, one of the rarest animals in the whole world!

Milo had bright eyes, soft fur, and two tiny white spots—one on his top lip and one on the bottom. He loved swimming in the clean, sparkling rivers. Every day, he played hide and seek with frogs, raced with fishes, and sometimes nibbled on crunchy river crabs.

But Milo wasn't just any animal. He was very, **very special**.

Long ago, there were lots of European minks like Milo all across Europe. But now, only a few are left. Most of them live in places like Russia, Romania, and a very special corner of Spain and France. In fact, **Navarra**, where Milo lived, had more minks than anywhere else in that region!

Milo's river was clean and full of life. "That means the river is healthy!" said Milo proudly. "Animals like me only live where nature is strong and happy."

One day, while Milo was exploring, he saw a big, unfamiliar animal near the riverbank.

"Who are you?" asked Milo politely.

"I'm Max, the American mink," said the bigger creature. "I came from far away."

Milo tilted his head. Max was nice, but he liked the same food, lived in the same places, and was much stronger. Wherever Max's family moved in, **Milo's family had to leave**.

"Oh no," thought Milo. "If too many like Max come here, there might be no room left for my kind!"

Luckily, the people of Navarra loved nature. They planted trees by the rivers, cleaned the waters, and built cozy hiding spots for animals like Milo. Scientists also helped by making sure Max didn't take over the whole river.

Milo was safe—for now.

Each night, under the stars, Milo would whisper to the moon, "Thank you for my river. I'll protect it, just like it protects me."

And so, little by little, with love and care, the forest stayed wild, the river kept flowing, and Milo the European mink lived happily in his home—one of the last in the whole wide world.