



ELLEN

and the Very
Important
Suitcase



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Come on, come on urged Ellen. She was sitting on her suitcase, trying to get it to close properly. It was bulging with the amount that she had packed. She felt excited. Today was the day she was due to knit her cocoon and transform. How weird, she thought to herself. She was about to turn into a butterfly, yet she felt like her tummy was already full of butterflies.





Ellen and her heavy suitcase headed off to the Cocoon Branches. These were the best branches in a nearby tree for cocoons. They were the safest and had the best bark to attach to. To help out the nervous and excited caterpillars at the Cocoon Branches was a very kind and warm hearted butterfly called Jin. Her job was to provide support and advice for caterpillars ready to change into butterflies.



Ellen arrived at the Cocoon Branches. Her excitement had turned into jangling nerves. She felt hot and suddenly quite unsure. Perhaps she should come back tomorrow she thought. She glanced over at a sign that read 'Please leave your bags here.' This made her hang onto her suitcase even tighter.





Jin came over and smiled. "Ellen?" she enquired looking straight at Ellen. Ellen panicked. "Um, nope, that's not me. I think she went to the toilet." Jin nodded. "Ok" she said soothingly. "I'll come back again a bit later." Ellen watched Jin flit off and slumped onto her suitcase. She didn't know what to do. She really wanted to become a butterfly. She had been dreaming about this day for so long, and now it was here, all she wanted to do was go home and hide.



Jin came back. "Ellen?" She enquired once more. Ellen looked up into her beautiful face. "She was here, but she needed to duck out for a sandwich" said Ellen. "Ok. I'll come back" said Jin.

Ellen felt completely mixed up. She looked down at her suitcase and then over to the bag drop area.



Once more Jin landed on the branch next to Ellen. "What's in your suitcase?" she asked. "All the things that are important to me" replied Ellen. "Gifts from friends, and things that I have collected from around the tree." Ellen opened the case. She held up some of the contents and lovingly told Jin about each item. "They mean a lot to you" said Jin. Ellen glanced over at the bag drop area again. "No one told me I couldn't take my suitcase with me. I don't think I'm ready to leave these things behind. They are important. I don't know how I'll be without them."



"Take a big breath and close your eyes" encouraged Jin. Ellen did so. "Can you see the things that are most important to you in your mind's eye?"

"Yes. I can see old Possum dancing in the moonlight, me and my best friend playing hidey, and Sweetie the sugar glider taking me for a ride around the tree." Ellen smiled.

"It seems to me like the most important things are very safe. How could you lose them?" enquired Jin. The pair sat for a while together.



After a while Ellen got up and put her suitcase with the others. Then she followed Jin along a branch. It was quiet and beautiful there. The air felt warm, and smelt sweet. Ellen was ready. She realised that while there was lots that was going to change about her, there were also important things that could never be lost.



Some-time later Ellen the Butterfly emerged from her cocoon. She unfurled her wings for the first time and looked over her shoulder in astonishment. She hadn't left all of her old self behind, it would always be a part of her. Ellen had grown new parts, and she felt excited to begin learning about how all these parts, old and new, were going to be together.





What kind of big changes or transformations have happened in your life?

How have they been for you?

Has there been anyone to help you at times of change in your life?

Have you ever looked forward to something, only to feel like you aren't ready when the time arrives? What happened then?