

WOODLAND GIRL

Written by

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EXT. FOREST - DAY

The blade of his axe glistens in the sunlight. FRANCIS, 40, handsome and big pushes away branches, thick with trees the grass comes up to his knees.

He stumbles across an old dead rotting tree that has fallen.

He smiles, positions himself next to it and holds the axe behind his head ready to swing.

A young girl's voice calls out.

GEORGIA

That axe looks sharp, it looks dangerous.

Dropping the axe startled, Francis looks all around him trying to see where the voice came from but there is no one.

FRANCIS

Who is it, who's there?

GEORGIA, 7, cute and with a big smile giggles, suddenly appearing in front of him as if by magic.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

What are you doing here, a little girl like you shouldn't be in a place like this.

GEORGIA

Well what are you doing here?

Francis picks up his axe and shows it to her.

FRANCIS

I'm here to work.

GEORGIA

Work what kind of work can you do here?

Francis gestures with his axe towards the tree.

FRANCIS

I'm going to chop it up, collect it as firewood.

GEORGIA

Nobody does that anymore.

FRANCIS

Well I do. There, I've told you now it's your turn. What are you doing here?

GEORGIA

I'm here all the time, my name is Georgia and I never normally see a soul.

FRANCIS

Where are your parents?

GEORGIA

I don't have any, I live here.

FRANCIS

Come on kid you don't have to lie, you're too young to be out here on your own.

GEORGIA

I'm not as young as you think but I don't think you would believe me if I told you how old I really am.

FRANCIS

Oh is that a matter of fact, so you're not a lost little girl then?

GEORGIA

No, I only took on this form because it's what your heart most desires.

Francis is stunned for moment he is speechless.

FRANCIS

What my heart most desires?

GEORGIA

I suppose you would know me as a fairy, as magic.

FRANCIS

What is this. Why are you doing this? Why are you trying to trick me?

GEORGIA

No tricks just watch.

Georgia blinks her eyes tight, she disappears only to reappear right behind him.

She taps him on the shoulder, Francis turns around to face her but again she disappears only to reappear behind him. Again tapping him on his shoulder she laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Skips and sings, Georgia leads the way out of the forest.

Francis with his axe slung over shoulder also now carries chopped up firewood in a large tarp bag.

He follows on behind her, he's slow and walks with a limp.

She skips around him full of energy watching his limping leg curiously.

GEORGIA

Does it hurt, your leg, it looks like it does?

FRANCIS

No it's fine. I've had it for a very long time.

GEORGIA

But don't you wish it didn't do that?

FRANCIS

It's fine I'm used to it. It's one of the reasons I come here to this forest for firewood, it's hard for me to get a job people see my leg and think I'm not fit. But if I didn't have this limp I never would've come here and I never would've met you. Before today I never would've believed magic was real.

Georgia reaches for his limping leg with both hands, Francis recoils back from her.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

GEORGIA

I can help you, I can fix it.

He point at her a single finger, warning.

FRANCIS

No you hear me I don't want you using your magic on me so don't ask again. I mean it.

GEORGIA

What's the matter?

FRANCIS

It's a waste. I have this limp for a reason and I'm keeping it.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

A Kettle boils on an old stove, Georgia sits at the table alone and waits.

She watches Francis at the counter making them both a cup of tea, milk and sugar, a lot of sugar.

FRANCIS

This is the way my Gran used to have hers, I like it this way too.

Georgia looks around the clean and tidy kitchen.

GEORGIA

Do you live here all on your own?

FRANCIS

You ask an awful lot of questions.

GEORGIA

You do though don't you. It's a big house, but you're here all by yourself.

FRANCIS

Look, you must be hungry. You've still got to eat I'm assuming? Let me cook you something.

GEORGIA

That's fine thank you, I'm okay I can't eat the kinds of foods you eat anyway. For Fairies. It's different, it's a little more complicated.

FRANCIS

I'm a good cook, honestly I am. My wife used to love my food, she said it was one of the main reasons she agreed to marry me in the first place. My daughter loved my cooking too.

GEORGIA

What happened to them?

FRANCIS

I lost them both. We were driving home and some guy who was drunk crashed right into the side of us, killed himself and both of them. My daughter was so young.

(points at Georgia)

Same age as you. You look so much like her.

(turns away unable to look at her tears in his eyes)

I've never told anyone about that before, you're the first person I've said it out loud to.

GEORGIA

How does it feel to open up?

FRANCIS

To you, it felt good.

The sound of knocking against the door suddenly echoes around the room.

Georgia's eyes get big, scared. She slumps down into her chair.

Glances over towards the closed door to the kitchen, suspiciously .

He considers.

GEORGIA

Don't answer it, just stay here.

FRANCIS

I've got to see who it is.

Francis moves towards the door, the knocking continues.

Georgia leaps up out of her chair.

GEORGIA

Please no, just ignore it don't answer it.

FRANCIS

Don't worry okay, you're safe here with me.

Francis exits.

Georgia watches him go with clenched fists and gritted teeth she is furious

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Tall, blonde and with piercing blue eyes JULIET, 30, is truly beautiful.

Francis opens the front door to her. He can't help but blush a little.

JULIET

I'm so sorry about this, I truly am.

FRANCIS

What's the matter, has something happened?

JULIET

Oh yes of course I should really have checked first.

(She turns and points at an old beaten up rust covered car)

Is this yours. It's parked right outside your house so I just guessed the owner must be inside.

FRANCIS

Yeah it's mine.

JULIET

Do you mind if I come inside I would feel much better talking about this sitting down. I won't be long, can I come in?

FRANCIS

What is this, what's going on here. You want to come inside my house, what is it that you want?

She holds up her hands as though surrendering.

JULIET

Okay time to own up, I was reversing didn't see your car bumped into it. There's a dent, some of the paint work has gone too. Part of me just wanted to drive away, I feel just awful. I want to pay for the damages. It's my fault and I wanna do what's right.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gestures to the table Juliet follows Francis inside the kitchen.

Francis looks around but there's no sign of Georgia. He has a quick glance under the table.

JULIET  
Is everything okay?

Francis pulls a chair out for her.

FRANCIS  
Yeah everything is fine. Please  
have a seat, would you like  
something to drink?

She's sits down.

JULIET  
Yes I would love one but it should  
be me offering you something.

FRANCIS  
No it's fine, you're in my house.

Francis goes to get tea bags out of the jar but it's empty. He moves over to the cupboard opening it up Georgia is sitting inside. She holds onto a box of brand-new tea bags but holds it out of Francis's reach.

GEORGIA  
Get rid of her.

Francis make sure to keep his voice low.

FRANCIS  
What are you doing in here what's  
going on?

GEORGIA  
I want you to get rid of her, do it  
now.

Francis snatches the box of tea bags from her and slams the cupboard closed.

He comes back to the table and makes the tea.

JULIET  
It's a lovely family home that  
you've got yourself here.

FRANCIS  
Thanks, but I live alone.



JULIET

Me too, I used to have a lovely family home and then one day after work I find out that my husband had been cheating on me. I thought we had such a beautiful marriage, such a perfect life but it was all a lie. Broke my heart, that happened to me such a long time ago and it still hurts.

Francis reaches across the table, places his hand over hers .

FRANCIS

I'm so sorry that happened to you, I know how a broken heart feels and it's horrible.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

Cluttered with boxes and paperwork Francis rummages through his desk.

Georgia sits on the swivel chair, watching him.

GEORGIA

I'll help you if you want me to.

FRANCIS

It's fine I'll find it.

GEORGIA

What is it that you're looking for?

FRANCIS

Paperwork, car insurance trouble is I haven't driven that car in years. So I don't know where any of it will be. I forgot I even had a car it's just been left out there for so long.

Georgia clicks her fingers together and paperwork magically appears in her hands. She flicks through it showing Francis.

GEORGIA

I found it, and you didn't even say please.

Francis goes to snatch it from her.

But again with magic she makes it disappear.

FRANCIS

Now come on how is that fair?

Georgia gets out of the chair, takes a couple steps away from him. Again clicking her fingers paperwork magically reappears.

GEORGIA

Are you sure you don't want my help?

Once more Francis storms over reaching for the paperwork only for Georgia to again make it disappear just before he can grab it.

Francis grabs a hold of Georgia instead.

FRANCIS

Alright, alright you win.  
(he wrestles with her playfully. Swings her around the room)  
Would you please help me find it and you can use magic if you like.

GEORGIA

Alright but first you have to say pretty please pretty please with sugar on top.

He laughs swings her around the room again this time with a lot more force.

There is a knock at the door, both Francis and Georgia turn to face it.

The door slowly begins to open. Juliet sticks her head in, just before she can see inside Georgia disappears.

JULIET

Who were you talking to in here? I heard another voice.

Francis can't help but laugh to himself.

FRANCIS

Don't worry about it.

JULIET

No go on who was it?

FRANCIS

Honestly it doesn't matter and I don't even know how I would explain it.

JULIET

So was there another person in here. I don't get it, you weren't talking to yourself were you?

FRANCIS

I said it doesn't matter. You don't  
have to worry about it.

He looks down and now in his hands appearing out of nowhere  
his car insurance paperwork.

JULIET

You know you can tell me anything  
I'm pretty trustworthy.

FRANCIS

Why is this so important to you?

JULIET

There was someone in here with you,  
so why not just admit it?

FRANCIS

It's too hard to explain.

JULIET

It was a young girl wasn't it. I'm  
right aren't I, I can see what your  
heart wants too. Go on say her name  
I know she told it to you I want to  
hear you say it and say it as loud  
as you can.

FRANCIS

Who are you?

JULIET

I said say her name.

FRANCIS

No, not until you tell me who you  
are.

Her eyes turn pitch black.

JULIET

Say her name.

FRANCIS

No.

She reaches out towards him, Francis grabs onto his throat  
with both hands suddenly struggling to breathe.

JULIET

You know I was telling you the  
truth when I said my husband broke  
my heart. But that was nearly five  
hundred years ago now. I got  
revenge. I always get what I want.  
Now, say her name.

Francis grimaces in pain, shakes his head.

Juliet opens up a hand and in the same moment Francis's mouth opens too, clearly against his will still struggling to breathe.

FRANCIS

Georgia.

Juliet smiles.

JULIET

Again, louder.

Shouting at the top of his lungs.

FRANCIS

Georgia.

Georgia suddenly appears in between Francis and Juliet she launches herself forwards both hands outstretched slamming them into Juliet's stomach. Knocking her down to the ground.

Francis is released from her magical grip.

GEORGIA

Francis are you OK?

FRANCIS

Run, get away from here, it's you that's she's after.

Juliet picks herself up from the floor, she reaches a hand out and takes control of Georgia.

Georgia freezes and brings her hands up to her throat, struggling to breathe.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

Get off of her, let her go.

JULIET

I want her magic, that's all I want.

FRANCIS

You can't have it, you'll only use it for bad, you're evil. I can't let you have it.

Georgia urns to Francis.

GEORGIA

Run, quick get as far away from here as fast as you can save yourself before it's too late.

FRANCIS

I'm not going to leave you here  
with her.

Georgia's eyes close and her whole body becomes limp  
collapsing to the floor.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Lent against the front door his axe, Francis runs over to it  
limping hard. Picking it up holding it in both hands. Slings  
it over shoulder and heads back to the kitchen.

INT. FRANCIS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Charges full speed, even with a limp he's fast Francis swings  
his axe as hard as he can and chops Juliet down.

She falls to the floor in a haze of blood.

Georgia's eyes snap open, sitting up gasping for breath the  
same moment Juliet's lifeless body hits the floor.

Francis let's go of his blood soaked axe, he scoops up  
Georgia cradling her in his arms.

Francis looks down at Juliet's mutilated body and gasps  
breaking down in tears.

FRANCIS

I killed her, oh my god what am I  
going to do. They're both dead two  
dead bodies what am I supposed to  
do now? This is all so insane.

Juliet's body dissolves into the floor, leaving behind a  
thick black puddle. Francis watches it in absolute horror.

He looks down at Georgia still in his arms. Crying his tears  
splashed onto her face.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

No please, don't do that, don't let  
the same happened to you.

He kisses her forehead.

Her eyes open, she looks up at him and smiles.

GEORGIA

There's not enough people like you  
in this world.

He's taken aback.

FRANCIS

What do you mean?

GEORGIA

People who are willing to love,  
there's not enough of it.

(out of his arms he places  
her back down to the  
floor)

I have to say goodbye I have to go  
back.

FRANCIS

Can't you just stay here with me, I  
can look after you.

GEORGIA

I know you can and I know I will be  
happy here. After all, despite all  
the magic it was your love that  
saved me and your axe.

FRANCIS

I don't want to have to say  
goodbye.

GEORGIA

But I can't stay please you have to  
understand. You've done so much for  
me I want to leave you with a gift  
OK. Sit down, close your eyes and  
relax. It's important, don't argue  
with me.

They share a smile, Francis does as he is told.

Georgia reaches out both hands towards his injured leg, her  
palms glowing magic pouring out of her. Her glowing hands now  
become his glowing leg.

Out of breath drenched in sweat she rolls her shoulders back  
and smiles up at him.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)

OK you can open your eyes now.

FRANCIS

What did you do?

GEORGIA

Okay now stand up.

He stands up and walks around, he instantly feels his leg has  
been fixed.

FRANCIS

You didn't have to do this.

GEORGIA

But I wanted to. That car crash  
wasn't your fault. You don't have  
to punish yourself anymore.

Closes his eyes, crying he wraps his arms around her hugging  
her tight.

FRANCIS

Thank you so much, I'm so glad that  
I met you.

As he opens his eyes and wipes the tears away she's gone.

Looks around the empty room and smiles.

**FADE TO BLACK**

**THE END**