

TREE WITCH

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INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

JOHN, 35, and MARY, 30, stand over the top of KYLE, 6, who wiggles about in bed. Pale faced and eyes tightly shut he's in pain.

Mary puts a hand in front of her mouth, cries.

MARY

We have to do something, I can't watch him die. This isn't fair.

JOHN

Then we go and see her, but no one can find out.

MARY

She did this. Every child in the village is like this.

JOHN

Then she can reverse it.

MARY

How is she still alive?

JOHN

Because we didn't kill her.

MARY

But she's been chained up for months, all alone. She has to be dead.

JOHN

Then let's go and see.

Mary returns to Kyle, drops down onto her knees and places her hands gently onto him.

MARY

I can't leave him, I have to stay.

John heads for the door.

JOHN

If I don't get what I want, I'll cut this bitches head off.

INT. WOODS - DAY

John pushes his way through the dense trees and bushes until he gets into a small clearing.

WITCH, 19, is chained up to the base of a huge tree, dirty with large black rings around her eyes. She's dressed in rags.

She sees him and starts to laugh.

WITCH

Come to see me haven't you? Left me here to die, you and the others.

JOHN

You poisoned my child. Along with every other child in the village.

WITCH

Come to beg me, threaten me?

JOHN

I've come to make you see sense. My son did nothing to you. You take away the cruse and I'll free you.

WITCH

Who says I want to be freed?

JOHN

You'll die here.

She whispers a spell into her closed hands, and then opening them she's suddenly holding onto an apple which she then takes a big bite out of.

WITCH

My magic keeps me alive. You'll have to do better than that.

JOHN

What is it that you want?

WITCH

A blood oath, you swear your life to me, we become connected. If I die, you die. Then I'll heal your child.

John doesn't hesitate. He takes out a pocket knife. Cuts the palm of his hand deep, comes over to the witch and cuts her hand, pushes their two palms together. Performing the blood pack.

JOHN

Now free my son.

WITCH

Go home, see for yourself.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

John rushes inside and is met by Mary. She happily throws herself at him, kissing him.

John relaxes, holds Mary in his arms.

JOHN
Did it work?

She nods.

MARY
Doesn't even remember anything been
wrong with him.

JOHN
Let me see him.

He tries to move towards the staircase, but she holds onto him.

MARY
Wait, there's something you must
know first.

JOHN
What?

MARY
I don't know how they found out, I
haven't left the house.

JOHN
Tell me.

MARY
All the other children are still
sick. Their fathers, they're all
upstairs.

John's face falls, nervous.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

John enters the bedroom, sees seven angry looking MEN and his son sat up, looking perfectly healthy.

The men all turn to face John.

John nods, he understands.

JOHN
I'll take you all to her. You do
exactly the same as I did and your
children will be fine.
(a deep breath)
You'll all need a knife.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

John returns with the seven worried fathers. They're all gathered around the chained up witch. She laughs at them.

WITCH

A blood oat is what I need. And all of you shall swear it to me. For your children to be saved, you'll give me what I want.

John takes a step backwards, suddenly gripped with fear.

JOHN

Remember. Exactly as I did.
Remember what I told you all.

The seven fathers all take out a knife and each cuts the palm of their hands. All seven then approach the witch at the same time.

John watches them in shock.

JOHN (CONT'D)

One at a time I said. Just as I did!

Then seven fathers all rush to the witch, racing one another to get to her first.

They struggle and start cutting and stabbing her. All trying to get their blood oat. It's a frenzied attack. The witch screams in pain.

John runs over and tries to pull them away.

JOHN (CONT'D)

No, you fools!

The seven fathers continue to stab and slash.

The witch's head flops over to one side, she's dead.

John staggers backwards, as the seven fathers continue in vain, John collapses to the ground. As the witch dies, so does he.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END.