

The Other Side Of The Fence

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

Moonlight. ELERA (17) kneels next to a small dug up hole in the ground. In that space lies a folded white silk cloth that conceals a small object within. Elera holds a stainless steel trowel. Holds it up towards the night sky.

She digs into a loose pile of dirt. Buries the cloth.

OAK TREE - NIGHT

Elera leans back, watches the house on the other side of the fence. She occasionally glances to the ground beside her as she draws circles in the grass with the trowel's edge.

High in the branches, a great horned owl watches with her.

INT. ELERA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A typical teenage girl's room, with a color palette of light browns and green. Fan of bands that favor Celtic themes. On her bed, Elera lays out a selection of Tarot cards. Turns over the Empress.

EXT. ELERA'S HOUSE - DAY

Elera, blue jeans, white sweater and an emerald pendant. Cheap purse, a set of car keys, fantasy dragon keychain.

Across the street, attractive blonde ANDIE (16) spots her. Looks both ways before crossing. Elera waits for her. Andie's eyes sad.

ELERA
Everything alright?

ANDIE
I'll be alright, Elera. It's
nothing.

ELERA
Don't look alright.

ANDIE
Let's just go.

INT. ELERA'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Andie texts while Elera drives. A tear trickles down Andie's face. She sees a few teens outside, waving the girls as the car passes. Andie puts down her phone, fishes in her purse. Slicks on a pair of sunglasses.

Elera gazes to her friend. Andie waves her off.

ANDIE

I'm okay. I'll be fine.

ELERA

I'm here, Andie. You want to talk -

ANDIE

David broke up with me.

ELERA

We'll drive around the block, wake him up, set him straight.

ANDIE

No, I don't want to see him right now.

ELERA

I was kidding.

ANDIE

I wasn't. Besides, it's alright. It's my fault. I should have seen it coming, I let him get away -

ELERA

Alright. Out with it. Who's the bitch?

ANDIE

That's not going to make feel better.

ELERA

Don't want to see Dave, fine. We'll find her, wake her up...

ANDIE

No...

ELERA

Wake her butt up real good. Run her down to Chinatown.

ANDIE

Cut it out.

ELERA

Under my wheels.

ANDIE

Paris Dayson.

ELERA

Dirty wench has a name.

ANDIE

Blonder than me. Boob job and no tits.

ELERA

Now you're making me laugh.

ANDIE

What's he see in her that he doesn't see in me?

ELERA

A dick.

INT. THRIFT STORE - DAY

Elera and Andie fish through discount fashion items and T-shirts.

MRS. VICKS (50s) joins them on the search for something useful. One shirt design disgusts her. She ruffles past it. Elera looks at it next, smiles.

ELERA

Andie. Check this out.

The shirt design reads "*CRESCENT MOON AND MAGICK STORE*". The lettering is rune-like, an owl in front of a full moon within the design. On the back of the shirt is a pentagram.

ANDIE

What's that?

ELERA

Collector's item.

MRS. VICKS

It's the occult. Like Harry Potter and Twilight.

ELERA
Nothing like it.

MRS. VICKS
There's a reason why someone didn't
want it anymore.

ANDIE
Grew out of it ?

MRS. VICKS
Or grew up. You wouldn't catch my
daughter wearing that new age-y
thing.

ELERA
It's a guy's shirt.

MRS. VICKS
Just as bad, skulls and bones.
Leave it alone, moths got to eat
too.

The Mrs. Vicks digs in her purse. Steps up to the two girls.
She gives Andie a small pamphlet that reads

INSERT

YOU HAVE GOD'S WORD ON IT - DANGERS OF HELL

BACK TO SCENE

ANDIE
My parents are Catholic. I'm
Catholic.

MRS. VICKS
Going to church on Sunday isn't
going to get you clean.

ELERA
Why don't you just go away?

MRS. VICKS
Trying to save your souls. Don't
you care about your soul?

A SECURITY GUARD (40s) approaches.

SECURITY GUARD
Mrs. Vicks, we asked you before to
not -

Mrs. Vicks points in Elera's face.

MRS. VICKS
 You'll burn in the lake of fire
 with billions of others who believe
 we came from the ape.

The Security Guard blocks her from the girls. Mrs. Vicks spits as she speaks, turns on Andie.

MRS. VICKS
 Going to church every Sunday isn't
 going to help you. You must know
 Jesus.

ANDIE
 I do know Jesus. Thank you very
 much. And we're just looking at a
 shirt, we don't have to buy it.

MRS. VICKS
 Bet you don't even read out of New
 King James -

ANDIE
 Shut up, you old bag!

SECURITY GUARD
 Okay. Enough.

MRS. VICKS
 Get your hands off me!

SECURITY GUARD
 (to the girls)
 Sorry about this. Let me take that.

Andie lets him have the tract. She opens her mouth to say something to the guard. Elena bumps her, Andie closes it. Security Guard escorts Mrs. Vicks out of the store.

The two girls watch the continued commotion. Aisles obscure the Security Guard and Mrs. Vicks, but they are tough to miss.

MRS. VICKS
 (loud)
 And The lion shall lie down with
 the lamb -

A door opens. Bells ring.

SECURITY GUARD (O.S.)
That's it. You don't step foot in
here again.

MRS. VICKS (O.S.)
I understand you're only doing your
job, but I'm doing the Lord's
work...

CASH REGISTER - MINUTES LATER

Elera lays down the shirt in front of the CASHIER (20s).
Andie, uneasy, stares down at the shirt.

ANDIE
Four dollars for that?

ELERA
You aren't rattled by that Vicks
lady, are you?

ANDIE
A little bit.

ELERA
Don't. Crazy bird needs meds or
needs to get off them. Bet she goes
to same church as Mallory's mom.

INT. ELERA'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Radio cranks out the noise. Andie turns it down. Flips up the
air conditioner.

ELERA
Don't like the music?

ANDIE
Just want you to know. Not all
Christians are like that.

Elera gets a sour look. Not her favorite subject.

ELERA
Most Christians I know, present
company excluded.

ANDIE

Your brother. You went to church
with him few times.

ELERA

A few. It just isn't for me. I've
been out of "church" for almost two
years now.

ANDIE

I didn't know that. I just thought -

ELERA

I don't boast about it, but I guess
now's a good time as any. Andie...
I'm a witch.

ANDIE

Get out.

ELERA

Been active in Wicca for the last
year or so.

ANDIE

For real?

ELERA

Yeah. It's for real.

EXT. ELERA'S HOUSE - DAY

Andie gets out of the car. Elera, shopping bag in hand, on
her way to her front porch.

ELERA

Stay right there. I'll only take a
minute.

ANDIE

How come?

ELERA

It's a surprise.

Elera enters.

Andie shrugs, looks around the suburban street. One DOG OWNER
(40s) strolls across the street, man's best friend by his
ankles. The mutt stops, lifts his leg, showers a mailbox.

ANDIE

Hey!

The man shoots a smile back to her. Laughs.

DOG OWNER

Dog does what a dog does.
(to pet)
Come on, Gambit.

ANDIE

That's my mom's house. Get a leash
for that thing.

Dog Owner waves, not giving a damn. Andie stomps towards him ready to rant. Elera taps her on the shoulder. Andie jumps.

Elera holds a small plastic container filled with colored chalk.

ELERA

What was that all about?

ANDIE

Just more adventure to another
exciting day. You spooked me.

ELERA

I did? I mean, I didn't mean to.
Not the surprise I had in...anyway -

ANDIE

This is it?

ELERA

Picked the color of chalk, and drop
it, I'll do the rest.

ANDIE

You're going to prove to me you're
a witch?

ELERA

You don't have to do it if you
don't want.

ANDIE

This is crazy.

Andie picks a light red. Smirks, drops it on the ground. The chalk breaks in two, both roll into the street. Elera follows both pieces.

They stop. One part rests against the other. Elera squats down in the road. Closes her eyes.

ANDIE
What you doing?

ELERA
Small or big chalk?

ANDIE
Insane.

ELERA
Humor me.

ANDIE
Big.

Elera picks up the big piece, scribbles in the pavement. She ends with an arrow diagram that points ahead. Opens her eyes.

ELERA
Your new boyfriend will become your future husband. First name starts with L, or maybe the last. Could be an initial.

She grabs both pieces of chalk, stands up. Looks in the direction of the arrow.

ELERA
He owns something that's red or close to red, like magenta, but not pink. He lives down this street.

Andie's face goes pale. She backs away from her friend.

ELERA
You know who I'm talking about?

ANDIE
Lyle? Lyle Cerise? Are you sick?

ELERA
Know him?

ANDIE
That waste of human tissue? Nobody likes him. He's invisible to the naked eye!

ELERA
Mother Earth points his way.

ANDIE

Mother Earth picks one of the unpopular guys at school. A total nerd reject...I break up with the hottest guy, and you suggest a go out with Mister Geek? Are you nuts!

ELERA

Don't worry about it. He'll ask you out. You probably will humor him first, but then you'll realize he's less likely to dump you.

ANDIE

Gee, thanks. Just...just stay away from me for awhile, okay?

Andie walks off.

ANDIE

Go cast a spell on the neighbor's dog, mutt's peeing all over my yard.

EXT. ELERA'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

Elera by her tree, makes a text on her cell. Nearby, the spot where she buried the cloth, now dug out.

ELERA (V.O.)

I'm really sorry what happened. Can you come out?

She waits...

A 17 year old man in a Varsity jacket walks up on the other side of the fence. Elera gets to her feet and meets him there.

Gaze into each other's eyes. Elera takes out the cloth, opens it. A silver ring with a dragon and rune design. She gives it to the boy, who puts it on.

An owl watches them.

ELERA (V.O.)

David.