

THE WOODS

Written by

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Inspired by "Child in Forest" 1951 by Wynn Bullock

Draft #4
July 14, 2020

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EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

GIRL (7), cheerful, playful, and full of curiosity sneaks out of her house through her bedroom window.

She checks her surroundings, then giggles at her "escape" before running towards...

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Girl enters the woods, wonder in her eyes as she takes it in. A group of fireflies float around her before leaving deeper into the woods.

Girl follows them.

MONTAGE

- Girl dances in a sea of clovers and leaves
- Girl sits on top of a tree
- Girl hears a wolf HOWL and howls back at the moon

EXT. WOODS - LATER

After hours of playing, Girl, tired and cold starts to walk home. The fireflies follow her.

Girl walks for a long time, but can't find her way out of the woods.

Exhausted and freezing, Girl lays down in the sea of clovers and leaves and closes her eyes. The fireflies never leave her side.

THE CAMERA PANS OUT OF THE WOODS.

TIME LAPSE

The village next to the woods, that Girl is from, changes and grows with the passage of time.

A fence is built around the village blocking it from the woods.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY - YEARS LATER

BOY (8), brave, adventurous, sits on top of a fence looking at the woods.

He looks around before getting up, ready to jump over.

Before he can, the VILLAGE LEADER, (40's), lifts Boy up by his shirt and points at the sign that says "NO ENTERING WOODS"

Boy pouts as he crosses his arms. Village Leader puts him down and points Boy away from the fence.

Boy walk away, his head lower but he has a mischievous smirk on his face.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Boy sneaks out the back door of his house and makes his way to the fence.

With more confidence than he should have, he climbs the fence and goes towards

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Boy enters the woods, standing tall and confident.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

After wandering the woods, he realizes that he is lost and the woods start to turn scary to him, with HOWLS, wind rustling the leaves, and a HOOING of an owl.

Boy runs and hides behind a tree. Then he hears SINGING. Boy looks around the tree and sees Girl, now SPIRIT (Still 7), floating by.

A group of fireflies float around her illuminating her ghostly form with a light yellow glow.

Boy can't believe his eyes. He takes a step backwards: SNAP! He lands on a twig, breaking it.

Spirit turns her head and sees Boy. Boy quickly hides behind the tree. Spirit gasps excitedly and quickly flies over to Boy.

Boy puts his arms up for defense. Spirit waves her arms around and shake her head. Boy lowers his arms and looks at Spirit.

Spirit smiles and offers her hand.

Boy pauses for a moment to look at the hand then up to Spirit. Boy isn't scared anymore. He smiles then takes her hand.

Spirit beams and drags Boy to

EXT. DEEPER IN THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Spirit and Boy come into an opening that is lit up by glowing mushrooms, fireflies, and the moon shining down on them.

Boy is at awe.

MONTAGE - BOY AND SPIRIT PLAYING

- Hide and seek
- Trying to catch fireflies
- Spirit picks Boy up and flies him to the top of a tree
- Spirit and Boy howl at the moon and laugh

EXT. WOODS - LATER

After a night of playing, Boy, tired and cold wants to go home. Spirit frowns and shakes her head. She doesn't want Boy to leave.

Spirit crosses her arms as she stare downs Boy. Boy pleads with his eyes, holding himself as he shivers from the night air.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Spirit finally makes her way to the end of the woods, but she can't leave.

Spirit pushes against the invisible barrier that keeps her in the woods. She looks at the village and sees her home.

MOM (27) is on her porch calling for Spirit, but Spirit can't hear her.

A tears falls down Spirit's face. The fireflies hover around her as if they are trying to comfort her. Spirit goes deeper into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - PRESENT

Spirit wipes a tear away and offers her hand. Boy looks at it.

A moment.

Boy takes her hand.

Spirit leads Boy out of the woods.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF WOODS - MORNING

Boy and Spirit stand at the edge of the woods. Boy leaves the woods and waves for Spirit to follow him.

Spirit gives a sad smile and shakes her head. She pushes on the force field to show that she can't leave the woods.

Boy's eyes go wide and he rushes back to give Spirit a hug. He backs up then he holds his pinky up with determination and a smile.

Spirit blinks as she looks at it before beaming and connects her pinky with his making a promise that he will return.

Boy lets her go then runs back to the village.

Spirit smiles and watches him go, eyes watery before returning to the woods.

A few of the fireflies follow boy while Spirit isn't looking.

FADE TO BLACK.

CREDITS

While the credits roll we see still-images of Boy come back to play with Spirit, the fireflies leading the way. Then he brings more kids to play, then the adults find out and they all become friends.

It ends with a wide shot showing that the fence is gone.

Spirit is no longer alone.