

TITLE

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INT. VILLAGE HUT - MORNING

A storybook opens and the pages flip.

ELMER

(voice over)

Legend goes, that in a place not so far from here, a dark evil exists, hidden deep within the forest. For centuries, little girls and maidens were the subjects of concern in many surrounding villages, for it is said that a handful of them have harnessed strange powers, powers that village chiefs deemed as witchcraft. Many tried to keep their powers hidden, but as time went on, it only grew stronger. Protecting the village from them, they decided that whoever is caught with powers unknown to man, will therefore be banished deep into the forest, away from the village. Some have said that witches still live in there, conjuring creatures and evil no man can ever do. But one thing is for sure, that if you ever encounter a witch or its creatures in the forest, don't ever be lured by it, for its evil is unspeakable and the consequences dire.

Elmer closes the book and looks at Kayden, who is looking back at him with wide eyes and a curious look.

KAYDEN

(Enthusiastically)

Wow! Tell me more! Tell me more!

ELMER

(Chuckles)

I think that is enough story for one day. Here, let me give this to you.

Elmer hands over the book to Kayden, who is beyond happy to receive this. He messes Kayden's hair and walks out of their house. Kayden admires the book and flips through it one more time.

ELMER (CONT'D)

Kayden! Come on! We don't have all day. The ingredients for dinner aren't going to collect themselves.

EXT. VILLAGE - MORNING

Kayden hurriedly puts the book into his rucksack and slings it on his shoulders, running out of the house. Kayden runs to Elmer's side and follows him excitedly.

ELMER

(crescendo and playful)

When we go into the forest later,
just stay close to me. Don't go on
wandering on your own, for if you
do, you might meet a witch and she
will have you for dinner!

Elmer tickles Kayden.

KAYDEN

(giggles)

Stop it.

They reach the edge of the village, where the forest begins. They look at each other smile. Elmer holds his hand out and Kayden holds it.

ELMER

(reassuring tone)

It'll be fine.

Kayden nods his head. They both cross that boundary together, venturing into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Kayden and Elmer swing their hands as they explore the forest together.

ELMER

What's first on the list?

Kayden lets go of Elmer's hands and searches through his rucksack bag. He takes out a list of things that they need to find in the forest.

KAYDEN

The mushrooms!

ELMER

Mushrooms it is. Stick close to me
alright.

Kayden nods his head as the both of them starts to look for the mushrooms by the trees around them. Distracted by his task at hand, Kayden unknowingly wanders off slightly more than he would have wanted. He spots the mushroom at the bottom of one of the trees and runs up to pluck it. In his excitement, drops the list that he was holding on to.

KAYDEN

I found it!

There was silence. He looks around, realizing that Elmer was no longer in sight.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Elmer? Where are you? I found it.

He puts it in his rucksack and at this moment, he hears the leaves rustle in the bushes near him. He freezes, recalling the cautionary tale his brother told him right before they entered the forest.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

El...Elmer. Is that you?

The bushes rustle again. He musters his courage and walks towards the sound. Kayden carefully peers behind the bushes, careful to not make any sound and behold, a creature unlike any other was right before him. He saw it, right there in front of him. It was smaller and less sinister than he imagined it to be. He observes the creature as it forage for food, all the while not noticing that it has an uninvited guest spying on it. He quickly takes out the book that is in his bag and flips to a page with the creature. Looking at it, he lifts it up and wants to compare it with what is before him, but realizes that the creature has already left.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Shoot. Where is it?

Seeing it in the distance, Kayden makes his way pass the bushes and follows the creature in the background. Distracted by his pursuit and new found goal, he drifts further and further away from his brother, venturing deeper and deeper into the mysterious forest.

He carefully follows the creature, making sure to not make a sound. Just then, the creature walks into a slightly sinister looking path, with tall trees towering over making a parted pathway and in the distance, he saw a treehouse.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh. It is real.

He looks back and with a deep breath, he takes a step into the pathway, following the creature.

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Elmer wanders around the forest.

ELMER
(distraught)
Kayden! Kayden! Where are you?

While calling out, he stumbles upon the list that Kayden dropped. Panicking, he looks around and calls out even harder.

EXT. TREEHOUSE - MORNING

Kayden reaches the top of the treehouse and with his heart racing, he hides right beside of the entrance, afraid that he would be spotted. Kayden attempts to peer in and while doing so, sees a huge shadow figure appear on the wall inside of the treehouse. He quickly retreats back, this time even more anxious than before. He decides to leave before things get out of hand but just as he was about to leave, the creature exits the door, spotting him. Both Kayden and the creature jump, running back into the treehouse.

KAYDEN
No no no. Shhh I don't mean to
scare y...

INT. TREE HOUSE - MORNING

As he was about to finish his sentence, he notices a figure in the opposite side of the room. The creature is by her side and as she turns around swiftly, Kayden freezes and is in shock. Right in front of him was a little girl, Penelope, not much older than him.

PENELOPE
(scared but firm)
Who are you and what do you want?

KAYDEN
I...I... I'm so sorry, I just found
your little friend there in the
forest and followed it here. I
don't mean any harm. Please just
don't kill me! I will leave and
won't ever te...

PENELOPE
Kill you?

KAYDEN
Uh...I... Um...

Kayden takes out his book and shows it to her from a far.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
Witches. Witches in the forest.
Aren't you one?

Penelope steps forward, wanting to take the book from him to get a closer look but Kayden flinches and steps back.

PENELOPE
May I?

Kayden, though still slightly frightened nods his head and steps closer to hand it to her. Penelope browses through the book and hands it back to him. She turns away and starts to sob.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)
I'm not dangerous you know. I would
never do that to anybody.

Kayden, feeling slightly embarrassed and guilty keeps the book in his rucksack and walks over to her.

KAYDEN
I'm sorry I didn't mean to say
those things. I just thought...
What is your name? I'm Kayden.

PENELOPE
(sniffles)
Penelope.

The creature walks up to Penelope, rubbing its head on Penelope's hand, comforting her. She giggles.

KAYDEN
What's this little creature's name?

PENELOPE
Munro. I created him.

KAYDEN
You created him?

PENELOPE
Mmmmmhmmmm.

Wiping away her tears, she gets up and walks towards her paper and pencils. The creature walks beside her while Kayden follows behind carefully, still slightly skeptical of the situation. He looks over as Penelope bends over to draw a toy on the piece of paper. In a matter of seconds, Kayden starts to see it come out of the paper it was drawn on. Kayden gasps in awe as he witnesses her power. Seeing that his reaction is not hostile, Penelope smiles and hands him the toy and he receives it cheerfully.

EXT. FOREST - LATE AFTERNOON

Meanwhile, Elmer is wandering in the woods looking for Kayden. Worried that he might not find his way back out of the forest, he marks the trunks of the trees as he goes along.

ELMER
(shouts)
Kayden! Kayden!

ELMER (CONT'D)
(whispers worriedly)
I should have never asked made him
tag along!

As he wanders deeper and deeper, he notices the same path of sheltered trees that leads to a treehouse in the distance. Looking around and seeing that there is a better chance going in that direction, Elmer makes his way towards the treehouse.

EXT. TREEHOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Carefully, he makes his way up to the treehouse and as he reaches the top, he hears the laughter and giggles of children. He peers in and sees Kayden but just as he was about to shout his name, he notices Penelope and witnesses what she can do. He spots the creature sleeping in a corner and in that moment knew what he had to do. He needs backup.

EXT. VILLAGE - EVENING

Elmer runs back into the village.

ELMER
(shouting)
Hey! Hey! Help! It's Kayden. He is
in trouble.

Elmer catches his breath as the villagers come out of their huts with a concerned look. An older village member hurries to Elmer's side and puts his hand on his back.

VILLAGE MEMBER 1

Elmer. Breathe! Breathe. Tell us what happened slowly. Take your time.

ELMER

Its Kayden! I was out with him in the morning to collect some mushrooms and before I knew it, I lost him. I was searching high and low for him and when I finally did, he was in a treehouse. He... he was with a witch.

The villagers start whispering among themselves.

VILLAGE MEMBER 1

What? Are you sure about that?

ELMER

I saw her use her powers! She is just a small girl but who knows what she can do and what spell Kayden is under. Oh please. We need to help Kayden!

VILLAGE MEMBER 1

Do you remember how to get there?

ELMER

I do! I marked the trees on my way in. I can lead us back there. Oh please, help me.

VILLAGE MEMBER 1

(nods his head)

Of course we will.

The village member turns to the rest of the crowd and rallies them.

VILLAGE MEMBER 1 (CONT'D)

You heard Elmer! We need to save Kayden. Gather everything we need and meet back here in 5 minutes. Tonight, we burn the witch!

The villagers disperse and runs around the village collecting anything and everything that will be helpful to defeat the witch.

Once they gather, Elmer leads the group of them with their torches and weapons, crossing into the forest.

EXT. TREEHOUSE - NIGHT

Both Penelope and Kayden are playing with the creations that Penelope has created, not realizing that it is already nightfall.

KAYDEN

This is amazing Penelope. Your power I mean.

PENELOPE

(blushing)

Thanks Kayden. I told you, I am no witch.

KAYDEN

I...I'm sorry Penelope. For calling you that. I didn't mean to. But if you don't mind me asking, why are you here? Where are your parents?

PENELOPE

Well, the book didn't get everything wrong. My parents saw what I could do and got scared I guess. But they left me here one day and I knew they didn't want me to find them.

Tears well up in Penelope's eyes.

KAYDEN

Well, I am glad I found you.

PENELOPE

(giggles)

Thanks Kayden. That means alot.

KAYDEN

Hey! Maybe you can go back with me, to my village. I am sure my brothe...

He turns and realizes that it is night.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness. I am so dead. Its so late, my brother must be worried sake. Penelope!

(MORE)

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Come with me, I will bring you back
 to the village, you can show them
 what you can do. They will love it.

Just as Penelope is about to respond, they hear a distant shouting, that becomes clearer and clearer. The voices grow louder and the name clearer. It is Kayden they are calling for.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Elmer! He must be searching for me.
 Come on Penelope, I can introduce
 you to him.

Penelope looks hesitant and slightly nervous.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)
 Don't worry, I will protect you.

Penelope nods her head and carries her creature, following Kayden as he picks up his rucksack.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Elmer and the villagers approach the treehouse as Penelope and Kayden gets down from it.

ELMER
 Kayden!

KAYDEN
 Elmer!

Elmer runs to Kayden and gives him a tight hug. He pulls him away from Penelope.

ELMER
 This is her! The witch I was
 talking about.

Penelope tightens her grip on the creature and takes a step back.

KAYDEN
 Hey no no! Penelope is not a witch,
 she is my friend. You've got it all
 wrong.

ELMER
 (shakes his head)
 She has gotten you under her spell
 hasn't she?

(MORE)

ELMER (CONT'D)

Oh I should have never let you come to the forest with me. This is all my fault Kayden.

PENELOPE

I...I...

KAYDEN

Listen to me, she is not a witch. She has powers but she isn't evil or harmful.

Despite the desperate pleas from Kayden, the villagers inch closer and closer to her, ready to attack. Penelope starts to back away, afraid and nervous. Elmer hugs Kayden preventing him from moving.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

Hey stop! Stop! I'm telling you she is not a witch. Leave Penelope alone!

But the villagers ignore him and continue advancing towards Penelope. Kayden wriggles out of Elmer's grip, running to protect her. With his arms out, he stands his ground.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

I said stop.

The villagers stop.

ELMER

Kayde...

KAYDEN

No. Stop. All of you stop. What makes you think Penelope is a witch?

VILLAGE MEMBER 1

Elmer said he saw her display her powers and that you were in danger?

KAYDEN

(turns to Elmer, confused)
Is that true?

ELMER

Ye...yeah I did. I came looking for you and found you in that treehouse. And I saw what she could do. I...I...

KAYDEN

(slightly annoyed and
betrayed)

But she wasn't doing me any harm.
In fact, we were having such a good
time, I didn't realize it was night
and I was just going to bring her
back into the village. But you all
got to us first.

VILLAGE MEMBER 2

So why is she in the forest all
alone?

VILLAGE MEMBER 3

Yeah! Why? She must have bewitched
Kayden.

VILLAGE MEMBER 4

He is under her spell!

KAYDEN

Well, her pa... Penelope! Tell
them.

Penelope backs away slowly, looking confused and scared.
Kayden walks up to comfort her and places his hand gently on
her back.

KAYDEN (CONT'D)

(reassuring)

Hey, hey, Penelope. Its okay. Just
tell them, I am here.

For a moment, Penelope felt the comfort and warmth that has
been missing in her life, the reassurance that came from
Kayden's words and gesture. But that is short lived.

VILLAGE MEMBER 2

Take Kayden away from her! He is
too deep into the spell

All the villagers cheered and their chantings grew louder.

VILLAGERS

Kill the witch!

The villagers march forward toward Kayden and Penelope.
Afraid, both Kayden and Penelope back away, with Kayden in
the front, protecting her. In this moment, Elmer swoops in
and carries Kayden away from Penelope, leaving her
defenseless.

ELMER
(whispers)
Sorry.

KAYDEN
(screaming)
Penelope! Elmer stop! Penelope!
Run!

Carried on the back of Elmer, Kayden sees the angry villagers approaching Penelope and towering over her, obstructing Kayden's view on what is going on. Kayden screams and cries, struggling on Elmer's back.

In that moment, Kayden hears the screams of some people, coming from where they were just at. Kayden looks up slowly as a giant shadow towers over them all.