

A Fairy Tale Episode 3

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Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

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1 EXT. FOREST

Colin and Nia are following a narrow path that's zig zagging through a thick, beautiful, forest.

DANIELLA 1
Oh hi! Welcome back. Don't worry you haven't missed much. Colin's footsteps aren't quite so stompy now. But the silence between the Crofts isn't comfortable and the path the Crofts are walking down, doesn't make much sense... to them.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 2
I might be biased but the Forest of Stormal is one of the most beautiful places, ever. Trees of all shapes and sizes, though most are tall, and majestic, their canopy's thick, and colorful. They've been a part of this world for eons, oh yes, they are that old. But, back to this trail...

DANIELLA 3
At one point the zig zagging path looped all the way around a tree, and then another tree, for no discernible reason before it continued on deeper into the forest. You can just imagine what that did to Colin's expression.

DANIELLA (cont'd) 4
A little over an hour later Nia stopped, leaning up against one of the tree's to take a break and consult the map.

COLIN 5
(frustrated)
They didn't even give us any supplies. How long is this going to take?!

NIA 6
Colin...

COLIN 7
Nothing makes any sense here, Nia! The path that loops around the trees? I mean look at this, why is it weaving? Why? Why doesn't it just go straight?

NIA 8
Maybe it's gay.

DANIELLA
Colin stopped his pacing and arm flailing
and looked at his wife. She slowly raised
her eyes from the map to meet his gaze.
And then...

9

COLIN
(can't help it, bursts
into laughter)

NIA
(chuckling)

COLIN
I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I just... I don't
understand how we're here or how any of
this is real.

10

NIA
Well... we're in a different dimension, and I
don't know how to begin to wrap my head
around that.

11

COLIN
You're handling it a lot better than I am.

12

NIA
I'm... focusing on the problem. On what I
can because the other way...
(kind of amused)
...lies madness.

13

14

COLIN
Don't go crazy, not here. The Mad Hatter
might be appear.

15

NIA
Did you just make a joke?

16

COLIN
Yes, I did. But also... not ruling that out
because this place is...

17

NIA
Weird. Yeah.

18

COLIN
Yeah.
(beat)
Anything on the map?

19

20

NIA 21
My map skills are admittedly rusty, and
this looks like it was drawn by one of the
kids.

COLIN 22
That good huh?

NIA 23
Come look at this.

We hear the sound of Colin's footsteps.

COLIN 24
Is that a river?

NIA 25
Maybe? So this is the stone circles. Where
we came in.

COLIN 26
And this is the trail we've been taking
because you took the path on the right.

NIA 27
So that means we're... kind of close to the
river?

COLIN 28
If we continue gayly forward yes. I think
so.

NIA 29
(laughs)
Unicorns need water right?

COLIN 30
Smart lady, you are.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 31
Nia smiled at Colin, and Colin smiled back!
Oh, they even held each others gazes!
Slowly, Nia looked away, rolling the map
back up. Colin cleared his throat, took a
step forward -

COLIN 32
I wonder if we'll get looped around another
tree for the heck of i- AAAAAH!!!

2 EXT. MAGICAL TREES

DANIELLA (V.O.) 33
 Oh dear. Poor Colin didn't notice the tree branch on the ground, the one that was inching closer to them. The branch wrapped itself around Colin's leg, and hoisted him into the air, about ten feet above the ground.

NIA 34
 Oh my god! Colin! Oh my god, are you all right?

COLIN 35
 What the hell! Booby traps?! REALLY?

NIA 36
 You must have stepped on something!

COLIN 37
 The ground! I stepped on the ground!
 (struggling) 38
 Is there a lever or something somewhere?

NIA 39
 I don't know, I'll look. You just... you just... stay there.

COLIN 40
 I don't really have a choice!

DANIELLA 41
 Nia moved quick, looking everywhere she could think of for a switch, or a lever, or something. She was also mindful where she was stepping, paying closer attention to the ground, and the trees around them. What neither of them could hear (yet) was the very loud conversation the tree's were having.

3 EXT. TREE'S MUSICAL NUMBER

YOUNG OAK 42
 What's this? What's this! Ooooh. It's a human.

OLD OAK 43
 (trying to recall)
 Human.... Human.... Hu

MIDDLE AGED OAK
(singing)

A Human! 44

OLD OAK

A human! Ah yes! I remember! With our 45
leaves and deep within our roots we heard!
These two are on a quest...
(beat)

They are on a quest to find the... 46

YOUNG OAK
(singing bada ba)

OLD OAK
(singing Ooooooh)

MIDDLE AGED OAK
(sung)

The unicorn! The unicorn! They don't 47
deserve to see the unicorn!

YOUNG OAK
(sung)

Maybe? Maybe not! 48
(start singing next line
then transition to
speech)

I heard some things I would have rather 49
not.

MIDDLE AGED OAK
(singing backing
harmonized oohs)

OLD OAK
(singing backing
harmonized oohs)

OLD OAK (cont'd)
(sung)

The other one? What about the other one... 50

MIDDLE AGED OAK
(staggered with Old
Oak. Spoken)

Tell us. Tell us about the other one. 51

YOUNG OAK
(a few beats. spoken)

She's pretty. I like her, but she was **mean.** 52

OLD OAK

What? 53

Mean.	YOUNG OAK	54
	OLD OAK	
Ah. She was mean. They both were.		55
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
I remember. It's a shame. Do you they will-		56
	YOUNG OAK	
(sung) Remember? Remember...		57
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
(staggered with Young Oak - sung) Remember... Remember...		58
	OLD OAK	
They will...in time.		59
	YOUNG OAK	
Hey, can I shake him?		60
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
Uhh...		61
	YOUNG OAK	
I wanna shake him.		62
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
....Why?		63
	YOUNG OAK	
If he giggles, then I will let him go. Agreed?		64
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
Agreed.		65
	OLD OAK	
Yes, agreed!		66
	COLIN	
(yelling) What the...! Stop shaking me!!!		67
	NIA	
Oh my god, Colin hang on!		68
	COLIN	
There's nothing to hang onto!		69

	MIDDLE AGED OAK (provides backing harmonized ooohs)	
	YOUNG OAK (singing)	
He didn't giggle? He didn't laugh. Can you believe it? That's so sad.		70
	OLD OAK	
He's grown up don't you see?		71
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
What?		72
	YOUNG OAK	
What?		73
	OLD OAK	
Sometimes, they live in misery.		74
	YOUNG OAK (spoken - somewhat shuddering)	
Ooooh/Woah...		75
	MIDDLE AGED OAK (spoken - somewhat shuddering)	
Oooh/Woah...		76
	OLD OAK (sung)	
But wait! There's something else!		77
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
Yes!		78
	YOUNG OAK	
I sense		79
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
A laugh!		80
	OLD OAK (sung)	
I feel it in my roots!		81
	MIDDLE AGED OAK	
Me too!		82
	OLD OAK	
And you?		83

YOUNG OAK 84
 I do!
 (singing)
 I sense it, too. I will let him down. 85

OLD OAK 86
 But first they must speak from their
 hearts, lest they want the unicorn to run
 away when it sees them...and they become
 trapped her... forever.

END TREE'S
 MUSICAL NUMBER

4 EXT. MAGICAL FOREST

NIA 87
 It stopped, it stopped. You're okay. Whew.
 All right, I can't see any lever... Colin do
 you have a pocket knife?

COLIN 88
 Nope, left it in the damn car. What's
 funny?

NIA 89
 I don't have one either. (beat) It's not
 funny, but (giggles again) you kind of just
 got flung around by a tree. We've been
 here – how long? – and I still am so
 confused. A tree, Colin. (some more little
 giggles)

COLIN 90
 There's got to be some kind of contraption
 or something somewhere...
 (beat)
 Maybe I can try swinging to grab the base 91
 of the tree.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 92
 It was a sight poor Colin, wiggling around
 like fish out of water, trying to generate
 some kind of momentum to move himself.
 As soon as he tried, the Young Oak tree, a
 playfully mischievous one, began shaking
 Colin again.

COLIN 93
 Woah woah woah! Stop! Stop! Stop!

NIA 94
 Oh my god, HELP! HELP! SOMEONE HELP!

COLIN	95
Okay! It stopped, it stopped again. Crap. Uh, you know what maybe I shouldn't move.	
NIA	96
Yeah, yeah. I guess it doesn't like it when you do that.	
COLIN	97
It? You mean the tree?	
NIA	98
That's what's holding you.	
COLIN	99
It's got to be a trap, attached to some kind of lever. Someone has to be here, doing this. Tree's don't just grab people.	
NIA	100
Colin.	
COLIN	101
What?	
NIA	102
Think about what you just said.	
COLIN	103
That it's a trap?	
NIA	104
Tree's don't just grab people.	
COLIN	105
They don't.	
NIA	106
In our world. And where are we?	
COLIN (beat. Groans.)	107
Oh for the love of.... you stupid tree put me down!	
NIA	108
Probably not how you should talk to the tree that's got you suspend above the ground. Just a thought.	

COLIN
(sighs)
You know what I'm so done with this nonsense! Just leave me here. Go find the Unicorn or whatever. 109

NIA
I'm not going to leave, Colin. 110

COLIN
You already did it should be easy. 111

NIA
Excuse me? 112

COLIN
You know what forget it. 113

NIA
Hey, we both agreed to this break. We agreed for ourselves, for the kids... 114

COLIN
Six months is a pretty long break, Nia. 115

NIA
Yeah, it is, glad you noticed. 116

COLIN
You think I didn't notice? 117

NIA
I... I don't know what I thought. You didn't come after me. 118

COLIN
What? You wanted me to chase you? 119

NIA
That's not, no, that's... childish, that's not what I wanted okay. I wanted... I don't know, to feel like, my absence mattered... that we really were better together and not apart...but I didn't... I don't know how to fix anything. Not you stuck in this tree, not our marriage... I don't... I don't know. 120

COLIN
(beat. Quiet. Vulnerable)
Do you still want too? 121

NIA
What did you say? I can't hear you. 122

COLIN
(beat. Louder)
Do you still want too? Our marriage? Us? 123

NIA
I... do you? 124

COLIN
I mean... yeah. If you do. I... know the
fighting got not fun, not like we usually are
but... I notice when you're not there, and I
miss you, and I'm... I'm sorry if you thought
I was okay with you being gone. I was just
trying too... 125

NIA
Figure things out. 126

COLIN
Yeah. 127

NIA
(beat)
I miss you too. 128

COLIN
Yeah? (beat)
Well, how could you not, I am clearly a
catch, judging by how this tree is treating
me. 129

NIA
(bursts into laughter)
How are we going to get you down? 130

COLIN
(deep sigh)
I don't know. Ask nicely? 131

NIA
Okay. Go for it. 132

COLIN
Me? 133

NIA
Yes. It's got you. Talk to it. 134

COLIN
Just... talk. To a tree? 135

NIA
You act like you've never played make believe before. 137

COLIN
That wasn't my deal when the kids were little, it was yours. 138

NIA
Right but when you did play you were good at it. 139

COLIN
That's what fathers do. 140

NIA
Not all fathers have the kind of imagination you use to have. 141

COLIN
Entertaining the kids is a whole lot different than talking to a tree. 142

NIA
Well, what else is there? I mean... you use to play the piano. 143

COLIN
(defensive)
Let's not bring that up. 144

NIA
Fine. But we have to try something. So you just need to... lean into it. Whatever this is, this world we're in. It's... it's magical, it wants us to teach the kids about magic, whatever that means. You can't logic your way out of this. 145

COLIN
When I find whomever is controlling this tree, through a perfectly logical mechanism, I'm going to give you the biggest I told you so. 146

NIA
I'm not holding my breath waiting for that. 147

COLIN
(another frustrated sigh)
Fine. FINE. 148

(beat)
Hi... tree. Can you put me down?... Please? 149

DANIELLA (V.O.) 150
It was a good attempt but nothing happened.

COLIN 151
See? Not working.

NIA 152
You can't just say one thing and give up.

COLIN 153
What do you want me to do make it rhyme?

NIA 154
Do I look like the expert in getting the magical tree in the magical forest to let my husband go?

COLIN 155
Yes, actually, you're the one who use to be a writer.

NIA
(defensive) 156
Let's not go there, either.

COLIN 157
Fine.

NIA 158
Fine.

COLIN
(beat) 159
Here in the Forest of Stormal... the tree's know all.

NIA
(laughing) 160
That's so bad...

COLIN
(laughing at himself) 161
Yeah not my best work.

NIA
(beat) 162
What kind of magic, do we use in this magical forest...

(beat) 163
Colin... I know you don't like to talk about it but... what was that song you made for Ethan when he couldn't sleep?

Nia...	COLIN	164
Didn't it go something like...	NIA	165
(starts humming)		
The moment the soft tones of Nia's humming filled the air, the leaves on the branches began to glow.	DANIELLA (V.O.)	166
Did you see that!	NIA	167
What? See what?	COLIN	168
Did you have your eyes closed?	NIA	169
I'm getting a headache being suspended like this.	COLIN	170
You have to open your eyes. What was the song?	NIA	171
I don't do that anymore, Nia.	COLIN	172
Colin, please. Just... one bar. Hum it.	NIA	173
Fine. Fine.	COLIN	174
(beat. Colin starts humming)		
And this time there was no denying it, the leaves on the tree's began to glow again, brighter this time.	DANIELLA (V.O.)	175
Oh my god...	COLIN	176
(laughing)	NIA	
It worked! You see! It's music. Colin you have to sing to it.		177

COLIN 178
I... I'm not singing to it.

NIA 179
Do you want to get down or not?

COLIN 180
I... I... don't know what to say, I never wrote any words to that song.

5 INT. MUSICAL NUMBER

NIA 181
Okay... okay... umm...
(beat. Singing)
Tell me what you see... Hey...just...look at me. 182

COLIN 183
This can't be happening.

NIA 184
It is happening. Try it. Please.

COLIN
(beat) 185
Okay. (pause for a phrase)
Tell me what all of this means. There's... 186
magic... in the trees?
(frustrated)
No... I can't... 187

NIA 188
Why?

COLIN
(feeling defeated) 189
I can't do this.

OLD OAK
(singing, curious) 190
Human... why do you resist belief?

NIA
(whispering) 191
Oh my god... they... talk.

COLIN
(singing) 192
Tell me what does it say about me, as a dad, as a husband if none of this is a dream. (As a person).
(MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)

There are things I thought I let go. But seeing this, I don't know.

NIA

It's okay... just... breathe. 193

DANIELLA (V.O.)

As his words were carried to the trees - gently, so gently, Colin was lifted upright, so he could see. 194

COLIN

(emotional)

Nia... it's glowing. I... I can hear them. 195

NIA

(joyous)

Yeah... yeah me too. 196

COLIN

(singing)

Tell me what all this means... tell me how they're could be magic, in these trees. 197

MIDDLE AGED OAK

(singing)

You have the answers you need. 198

YOUNG OAK

You always did. 199

OLD OAK

And you always will. 200

COLIN

Is this what happens when you believe? 201

NIA

Do you believe 202

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Do you believe? 203

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Around them the forest was alight. The tree's gently swaying to the music Nia and Colin created. And once more, gently, far more gently then he was scooped up, Colin was placed back on the ground. Nia immediately hugged him, and Colin hugged her back, tightly, so tightly, tears running unchecked from his eyes. 204

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd) 205
 When was the last time dear listener you
 sang to your plants? To the nature you
 journey through. When was the last time,
 you wrapped your arms around a tree and
 listened to it's song? What's stopping you?

Overlaid on the sound of the forest we hear the gentle piano of the
 song, and the quite sound of a man crying whose just realized magic
 might be real.

NIA
 (tears in her own eyes.
 Whispers.) 206
 It's okay Colin, I got you. I got you.

6 EXT. FOREST TRAIL

Let the music play for another beat, then slowly fade out to just the
 sounds of the Forest. After a moment the sound of a couple walking
 together.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 207
 A short while later, after Nia and Colin had
 a moment to collect themselves, they
 began their quest again. The tree's were
 no longer glowing but, Nia and Colin were
 positive they could hear the soft singing
 whispers all around them as they walked.
 And they're walking hand in hand!

NIA
 (chuckles to herself)

COLIN 208
 What's funny?

NIA 209
 I'm just wondering, do the tree's in our
 world sound like this you think?

COLIN 210
 (beat)
 I... have no idea, and it's really weird to
 entertain that thought.

NIA
 (laughs)

COLIN 211
 We know tree's can communicate via their
 root system. So...

NIA
... whose to say they're not singing to each other? 212

COLIN
If this is a ploy to get me to sing to tree's when we get home it's not happening. 213

NIA
Oh really? Still in denial? 214

COLIN
I... don't know what I am, but I am not ready to give the forest a concert. 215

NIA
Yet. 216

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Colin didn't answer but there was a very suspicious smile on his face. Still hand in hand might I add, Colin and Nia continued down the zig zagging, sometimes looping path until they heard the faint sounds of conversation and maybe even someone crying? 217

NIA
Do you hear that? 218

COLIN
Yeah... I don't think that's the trees. 219

NIA
Someone in trouble? 220

COLIN
Maybe? Anything goes here apparently. 221

NIA
C'mon. 222

7 EXT. IMAGINARY FRIENDS MEETING

DANIELLA
Slowing their pace, and being a bit more cautious, Colin and Nia moved closer to the sounds until abruptly, a clearing appeared. One moment there were trees and trees and more trees, the next, as if someone simply pulled aside a curtain, a beautiful clearing appeared. (MORE) 223

DANIELLA (cont'd)

The grass was wavy, though not too tall,
 an abundance of butterflies fluttered
 about, the smells of honeysuckle and
 wildflowers carried on the playful breeze.

COLIN

Nia is that... are those...

224

NIA

I... think so....

225

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Sitting in a circle in this beautiful field was
 the weekly meeting of Imaginary Friends. It
 was a very important meeting! It was run
 by Sparks The Teddy Bear, a wonderful
 old bear, who was missing one eye, and
 looked a little rough around the edges, but
 Sparks still had all they're stuffing so
 don't you worry. Seated with Sparks was a
 stuffed rabbit, with a long ear that looked
 chewed on, and a small stuffed pig wearing
 a crown so clearly it was a princess, and
 sitting next to the Princess was what
 looked to be an old cougar.

226

STUFFED PIG

I'm just so sad!

227

TEDDY BEAR

Your feelings are valid.

228

STUFFED PIG

They don't talk to me anymore! All I do
 now is sit on the shelf and get dusty. I
 really miss them and I'm worried about
 them too! Their parents are separated.
 They're coming out as non-binary. I want
 to be there for them, but they won't...

229

(crying)
 ...They won't talk to me anymore. It's like
 they can't hear me!

230

DANIELLA (V.O.)

All around the group there were
 sympathetic expressions, and small nods
 of agreement.

231

TEDDY BEAR

Friends unfortunately when we do work
 over there, we know one day this will
 happen. The day they no longer believe
 they can talk to us or that they can hear
 us.

232

STUFFED PIG

It's not fair! Just because some stupid
adult tells them to grow up, they cast us
aside. I was there for them when they
cried at night, when they were scared. I
played with them! They were my friend
too, and they just stopped being my friend
and they didn't even say goodbye!

233

TEDDY BEAR

I know, I know. It's a sad day, but you have
to think of the good times. You have to
remember them before they lost their
imagination and stopped believing in you.

234

STUFFED PIG

(wails)
We had so much fun together.

235

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Even after everything that happened so
far, this was still very strange to Colin and
Nia. But the longer Nia looked at the
stuffed pig, and heard the emotional
words, the more it began to jog something
in Nia's memory.

236

NIA

(whisper)
Oh my god...

237

COLIN

(whisper)
What?

238

NIA

(whisper)
I'm gonna go talk to them.

239

COLIN

(whisper)
What? Why? Nia wait...

240

NIA

Hi! Hi. Um, I'm so sorry to interrupt. Are
you Allie's, Allie's Croft uh, friend?

241

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin and Nia were unprepared for the
fearful expressions that appeared on
every single stuffed animals face. Some
clutched at each other, they were so
afraid to see the pair.

242

COLIN 243
We're so sorry, we didn't mean to scare you. We promise we won't hurt you.

TEDDY BEAR
(gathering up their courage) 244
We don't usually see Adults at these meetings.

NIA 245
I know, actually, I don't know, but I'm sorry if we're not suppose to be here.

COLIN 246
We were just following the path-

STUFFED PIG 247
I know you! You did this! You made Allie not talk to me anymore!

COLIN 248
Uh... me?

STUFFED PIG 249
Yes! You were mad at her and I quote "When are you going to start acting your age!" And then she did and now...
(bursts into tears)

COLIN 250
I... damn. I'm... I'm sorry. Really.

NIA 251
Where we come from, we didn't think, we didn't know that-

COLIN 252
I mean you're alive over here sure, but you can't be alive over there... in my world... right?

TEDDY BEAR 253
Well, that depends on whether or not you believe we are. Over there, when your young, and the world looks the way it's suppose too, with your minds open to everything, even things you folks might think impossible, you can hear us and we can hear you and everything's wonderful. But after a few years it... stops. Because you stop believing.

COLIN 254
That can't be right. Magic isn't real over there.

STUFFED PIG 255
You don't get to tell me I don't exist! Not here you don't! You're mean and I don't like you!

TEDDY BEAR 256
Easy now, Princess. Look Mr. Colin, magic is real everywhere. It just has different rules in some places. But it's real. As real as you and me.

COLIN 257
Wait. How did you know my name?

STUFFED PIG 258
I told them all about you, because Allie told me all about you!

NIA 259
She talked to you about us?

STUFFED PIG 260
Duh. Friends tell each other everything.

COLIN 261
What did she say about us?

STUFFED PIG 262
Friends don't snitch either, Mr. Grumpy pants. And I'm mad at you because you're the reason I might have to leave!

COLIN 263
Leave?

TEDDY BEAR 264
Princess means they have to return here, and soon, because Allie doesn't believe in them anymore.

COLIN 265
Oh... Does, Allie know you're leaving her?

STUFFED PIG 266
Oh now you care Mr. You have to grow up?

NIA 267
So when kids stop believing... you come here.

Usually. TEDDY BEAR 268

NIA
I... use to have a frog. I named him Bee. Did he come here? 269

TEDDY BEAR
Let me think... oh! Yes! I remember. Only once. Then he returned. 270

NIA
He... returned? 271

TEDDY BEAR
He said he wanted to watch you grow up and it didn't matter that you didn't believe in him anymore. He said he loved you, and he wanted to be there in case one day you changed your mind. 272

NIA
But I... I never changed my mind. What happened to him? 273

TEDDY BEAR
(beat. Sympathetic)
I'm sorry, if he never came here and you stopped believing in him over there he likely passed on. It's hard for us to exist in a place that doesn't believe in us. Same as it is for you. But for us, eventually we just... fade away. 274

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Poor Nia. A truly devastated expression came to her face, and she sank down in that grass. And because it's what they do, what they love to do, the circle of imaginary friends stopped being afraid and instead came closer to Nia, a little closer still, until every one of them was hugging some part of her. Colin sat behind his wife, and while this was still hard for him, he couldn't help but remember a friend he'd had what felt like so long ago. And there was a old, child like ache in his heart as Colin wondered what happened to his friend too. 275

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
I know, I know dear listener. You're an adult. There's fact. And there's fiction. But even you need someone to believe in you. 276
(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.)(cont'd)

And maybe you know the pain when no one does. And that doesn't mean that you have to believe in everything for it to exist, but there are some things, some very, very important things, that small, gentle parts of you wishes you could experience again. You could, you absolutely could if you just.. believed.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Welcomed into the group now, Colin and Nia sat with the imaginary friends for the rest of their meeting. They listened, they laughed, they even cried (yes, even Colin!), as the imaginary friends told their stories of friendship, and loss, of fun and laughter, and the sadness they feel when it eventually stops. When the meeting was over, one by one the imaginary friends took their own paths into the forest. Some to stay in Carsteim, others to return in hopes their friends will believe in them again one day. 277

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Do you know where your friend is? 278

NIA

Princess. 279

STUFFED PIG

Yes? 280

NIA

Don't give up on Allie yet. Not yet. Please. 281

STUFFED PIG

I'd never leave, Allie. She's my friend. 282

COLIN

Thank you, Princess. And look... I'm, I'm sorry. I didn't know how it all worked. 283

STUFFED PIG

You mean you forgot. 284

COLIN

Uh... yeah. Maybe I did. 285

STUFFED PIG

Well do better Mr. Adult! Hmph. 286

We hear the sounds of Princess the Stuffed Pig marching off.

TEDDY BEAR 287
 So, where are you two going?

NIA 288
 We don't really know. We're trying to find the Unicorn.

COLIN 289
 We think if we start down by the river we'd have better luck.

TEDDY BEAR 290
 The Unicorn? Oh... the quest. Good luck!

NIA 291
 That's it? Do you know where it is?

TEDDY BEAR 292
 Yup.

COLIN 293
 Can you tell us?

TEDDY BEAR 294
 Nope.

COLIN 295
 Why?

TEDDY BEAR 296
 Because you only see the Unicorn when you're ready. And well... maybe you are. We'll see. Good luck!

DANIELLA (V.O.) 297
 With a tiny wave of their stuffed arm Sparks the Teddy Bear, disappeared.

COLIN 298
 (more curious now than anything)
 How? How can they just disappear? It's... wild.

(beat) 299
 Hey... you okay?

NIA 300
 Yeah. I was just thinking about... Bee.

COLIN 301
 You didn't know, Nia.

NIA

Maybe I did. Maybe on some level we all do³⁰²
and we ignore it. You know what never
mind. Let's just try and find the river.

8 EXT. RIVER CLEARING

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Nia stood up, and once again Colin offered³⁰³
his hand! Without hesitation, Nia took it,
and once more the Crofts followed that
nonsensical path through the forest. They
walked in silence, and were disturbed no
more by the magical beings of the forest.
It wasn't until abruptly (well for them,
time is an odd thing in Carsteim) night once
more fell over the land. Luckily for them,
tiny glow blows fluttered about, and
brightly colored mushrooms dotted the
path, making it easy for them to see. Their
map reading skills were proven correct
because the peaceful sounds of a river
announced it's presence before they saw
it.

COLIN

Think we could drink from it?³⁰⁴

NIA

In a magical forest?³⁰⁵

COLIN

What could go wrong?³⁰⁶

NIA

(chuckles)

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Don't worry dear listeners, you don't have³⁰⁷
to hold your breath, nothing goes wrong!
(yet). Colin and Nia took handfuls of the
crisp, cool, water, and drank to their
hearts content.

COLIN

I don't see a Unicorn. I don't see any tracks³⁰⁸
either, not that I know what Unicorn tracks
look like.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Nia didn't respond. Her gaze wandered over the forest, and she laughed when a tiny glow bug landed on her nose, winked at her, then fluttered away. 309

NIA
(laughs)

Over lay the sound of Nia's laughter with Daniella's VO line above.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

But her laughter died off quickly, and a pensive, almost troubled look appeared on her face. Colin, was quick to notice. 310

COLIN

What's wrong? Oh god, is it the water? 311

NIA

No. I'm fine. Except... I'm not fine. Colin look at this place. They're right. Raziel.... God, Kris Kringle... they're right. 312

COLIN

What do you mean? 313

NIA

Don't you see? We've never once asked those kids what their vision is. We've never taught them how to manifest it or whatever the hell that even means. We just push them into a system we know is rotten, and sometimes it's downright evil. We don't show them a better way, because we don't even know. And we're too proud and tired to look because we're the adults after all. 314

COLIN

The system is in place, Nia, they've got to exist in it. What else are we suppose to do? 315

NIA

We taught them how to navigate it but we didn't encourage them to make it better. To make it different. We never said, yes it is bullshit, it's all crap, and we'll help you find a way to change it. Why didn't we say that? Are we that arrogant we can't admit we've allowed this, this monster to be created and we've made a terrible mistake. 316

COLIN

C'mon what does that say about the life we've made? That's it all shit? That we're mindless drones? 317

NIA

Aren't we? That's all we aspired for, a lousy mundane reality. It doesn't look anything like this forest. But couldn't it? I had dreams, they were vivid and exciting and it had nothing to do with spending eight, god sometimes ten hours a day in a box watching adults act like mean, bratty, spoiled.... adults. 318

COLIN

We did what we had to do for them. For our children. Those boxes pay the bills, they're... There's nothing wrong with the life we built. 319

NIA

Oh, Colin. You and I... our family it's good, it is. I love them. I love you, but we settled... not with each other, with everything else. We settled because we didn't know what else to do, and we didn't look for the answer. We were too busy. The problem got too big, and we thought we could vote it away, or whatever other excuse we made. 320

(beat) COLIN

What else we're we suppose to do? 321

(beat) NIA

I don't know. I don't. But just because we don't have the answers it doesn't mean they're not out there. Someone does. And at the very least we've got to encourage the kids to be better. Not us. Better. I don't want them to just exist in the systems of our world I want them to go... zigzag and we've got to help them build something that works. I mean isn't that what we're suppose to as the adults, instead of just... reinforcing the thing that's broken? 322

(beat) COLIN

Zigzag huh.... (MORE)

COLIN (cont'd)

(chuckles)
Gayly forward. 323

NIA

(laughs)
Right. 324

(beat)
Do you ever play the piano anymore? 325

COLIN

(beat. Hesitant)
Sometimes. Not recently. It's been busy at work. 326

NIA

I loved listening to you play. You shouldn't have stopped. 327

COLIN

It wasn't going to pay the bills. 328

NIA

You don't know that. 329

COLIN

I couldn't get up on that stage, Nia, I just couldn't. 330

DANIELLA (V.O.)

She looked at him, and when Colin met her gaze he couldn't get his breath. It is startling, scary even, when you see in someone eyes how much they believe in you. Especially if you don't believe in yourself. 331

NIA

Yes, you could have. Your fear would have made you better. It did make you better. It gave you presence, and when you forgot you were afraid, you were breathtaking to watch. 332

COLIN

(beat)
I wasn't ever unhappy with you. You know that right? I love you, Nia, and maybe your right. Maybe when you stop doing the things you love to do, and all there is, is what you think you have to do... what's left? What happens to... you. 333

(beat) NIA
 You weren't the only one that gave up on
 your dreams. 334

COLIN
 I found your story. The one you threw
 away. 335

NIA
 Did you? 336

COLIN
 I read it. It's good. It's really, really good. 337

NIA
 Thank you. I...
 (ruefully)
 It wasn't going to pay the bills. 338
 339

COLIN
 (smiling)
 You don't know that. 340

NIA
 Yeah... you're right. 341

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 Colin slowly looked around the forest. He
 could still hear the tree's and their quiet
 songs. He swallowed the lump in his throat,
 and drew his eyes back to his wife. In that
 moment, in a forest of colorful
 mushrooms, and tiny glowbugs, and singing
 tree's, and imaginary friends, she'd never
 looked lovelier to him. 342

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Colin grinned as an idea came. He held out
 his hands to her. Nia looked at him
 curiously but she put her hands in his. Colin
 pulled her into his arms, felt the soft
 intake of her breath, and heard her little
 gasp, the one that comes from being
 pulled into a warm embrace. 343

NIA
 What are you doing? 344

COLIN
 Page twenty-two. 345

NIA
(laughs)

DANIELLA (V.O.) 346
The story she'd written. There was a scene... Nia laughed again, but this was delighted, emotional laughter.

NIA
(laughing)

DANIELLA (V.O.) 347
She pressed closer to him, and laid her head on his shoulder. Colin curled one arm snugly around her waist, pressed a little closer and began dancing with her.

Super magical music for dancing in a forest goes here.

NIA 348
This doesn't happen to us.

COLIN
(amused) 349
Which part?

NIA 350
Dancing in a magical forest.

COLIN 351
And yet...

NIA 352
Here we are.

DANIELLA (V.O.) 353
You may think the colors that suddenly lit up the forest were some sort of magic, existing only because Colin and Nia are in a world that is "different" from yours. But that is not why a simple forest, with tree's, and grass, and brush and uneven earth came to life. It wasn't "magic" that made the fairies feel safe enough to expose themselves to the humans, giggle quietly and watch. It wasn't "magic" that made the trolls stop arguing and come out of the shadows, or the dwarves stop working and open their hidden doors in the trunks of trees. It wasn't "magic" that made the bugs stop pretending they were "stupid", turn their heads and smile.
(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.)(cont'd)

It wasn't "magic" that made the leaves,
and the plants, and the moss suddenly
glow in vivid, translucent rainbow colors.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

It was love.

354

DANIELL (V.O.)

It was Nia and Colin's pure, utterly child-
like expression of love. You've heard it
your entire life, yet you've never believed
it could do this. But it can. It can. Watch
them dancing and tell me it isn't so. Love
is powerful. It has a color, an energy like
everything else. And if you thrust it
outwards from that amazing alchemical
chalice known as your heart it can
transform anything.

355

356

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Even a world like yours.

357

The magical soundtrack continues to play here, then slowly fades out
into the soft sounds of a forest at night.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Soon, (but not too soon) the exhaustion of
the day's events caught up with them and
the dancing turned to sleep. The tree that
Nia leaned against earlier shifted, its roots
retreating so the ground wasn't so rough
and made sleeping more comfortable. Nia
curled into Colin, wrapping her arms
around him, as he wrapped his arms
around her. The feeling they'd created
didn't fade, but the lights in the forest did
dim. They were trying to sleep after all, it
was only polite.

358

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

All throughout the night they slept,
tangled in each others limbs, closer than
they'd ever slept together and deeper
than either of them had in a very long
time, maybe ever. Only they know such
things.

359

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

But as the dawn broke, they were woken
by a terrible, terrible noise.

360

The sound a Unicorn makes when it's being
captured.

361

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.)(cont'd)

It is a horrific sound, a cry, and a scream,
and fierce defiant neigh all at once.

Work your magic here, Pixel. Unicorn capture sounds and go!

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Colin and Nia bolted up right, ripped out of 362
their peaceful sleep. It was Nia who
instinctively realized what was happening
first.

NIA

Colin, I think that's the unicorn! 363

DANIELLA (V.O.)

She sprang to her feet, and Colin was 364
close on her heels. He grabbed her hand
and they ran towards terrible sounds.
When they emerged in the clearing, Colin
and Nia got the shock of their lives. The
Unicorn was beautiful. Strong and majestic,
it's fur black as night, it's horn glowing the
translucent colors of the rainbow. But it
was in great distress. Two gargoyles
wrapped chains around the Unicorn's neck
and horn, viciously yanking it forward. A
third gargoyle held a flaming torch to the
Unicorn's backside, forcing it to run away
from the pain. And while all that was
horrible it wasn't the cause of the utterly
confused, frightened, disbelieving
expressions on the Croft's face.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Standing there, watching the Gargoyles, 365
smiling in pure malice, were carbon copies
of Colin and Nia. Oh dear.