

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

Oh hi! Welcome back. Don't worry you 1
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.)

I might be biased but the Forest of 2
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

At one point the zig zagging path 3
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)

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

COLIN

(frustrated)

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

NIA

Colin... 6

COLIN

Nothing makes any sense here, Nia! 7
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	
Maybe it's gay.	8
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)	13
...lies madness.	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.	19
(beat)	
Anything on the map?	20

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

COLIN
That good huh? 22

NIA
Come look at this. 23

We hear the sound of Colin's footsteps.

COLIN
Is that a river? 24

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

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

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

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

NIA
(laughs)
Unicorns need water right? 29

COLIN
Smart lady, you are. 30

DANIELLA (V.O.)
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 - 31

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

2 EXT. MAGICAL TREES

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Oh dear. Poor Colin didn't notice the 33
 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

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

COLIN

What the hell! Booby traps?! REALLY? 35

NIA

You must have stepped on something! 36

COLIN

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

NIA

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

COLIN

I don't really have a choice! 40

DANIELLA

Nia moved quick, looking everywhere 41
 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

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

OLD OAK

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

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 49
rather 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 50
one...

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 52
mean.

What?	OLD OAK	53
Mean.	YOUNG OAK	54
Ah. She was mean. They <i>both</i> were.	OLD OAK	55
I remember. It's a shame. Do you they will-	MIDDLE AGED OAK	56
Remember? Remember...	YOUNG OAK (sung)	57
Remember... Remember...	MIDDLE AGED OAK (staggered with Young Oak - sung)	58
They will...in time.	OLD OAK	59
Hey, can I shake him?	YOUNG OAK	60
Uhh...	MIDDLE AGED OAK	61
I wanna shake him.	YOUNG OAK	62
....Why?	MIDDLE AGED OAK	63
If he giggles, then I will let him go. Agreed?	YOUNG OAK	64
Agreed.	MIDDLE AGED OAK	65
Yes, agreed!	OLD OAK	66
What the...! Stop shaking me!!!	COLIN (yelling)	67
Oh my god, Colin hang on!	NIA	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.	70
Can you believe it? That's so sad.	
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
I do! 84
(singing)
I sense it, too. I will let him down. 85

OLD OAK
But first they must speak from their 86
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
It stopped, it stopped. You're okay. 87
Whew. All right, I can't see any
lever... Colin do you have a pocket
knife?

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

NIA
I don't have one either. (beat) It's 89
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
There's got to be some kind of 90
contraption or something somewhere...
(beat)
Maybe I can try swinging to grab the 91
base of the tree.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
It was a sight poor Colin, wiggling 92
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	
Woah woah woah! Stop! Stop! Stop!	93
NIA	
Oh my god, HELP! HELP! SOMEONE HELP!	94
COLIN	
Okay! It stopped, it stopped again. Crap. Uh, you know what maybe I shouldn't move.	95
NIA	
Yeah, yeah. I guess it doesn't like it when you do that.	96
COLIN	
It? You mean the tree?	97
NIA	
That's what's holding you.	98
COLIN	
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.	99
NIA	
Colin.	100
COLIN	
What?	101
NIA	
Think about what you just said.	102
COLIN	
That it's a trap?	103
NIA	
Tree's don't just grab people.	104
COLIN	
They don't.	105
NIA	
In our world. And where are we?	106
COLIN	
(beat. Groans.) Oh for the love of..... you stupid tree put me down!	107

NIA
Probably not how you should talk to the tree that's got you suspend above the ground. Just a thought. 108

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 125
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...

NIA
Figure things out. 126

COLIN
Yeah. 127

NIA
(beat)
I miss you too. 128

COLIN
Yeah? 129
(beat)
Well, how could you not, I am clearly 130
a catch, judging by how this tree is
treating me.

NIA
(bursts into laughter)
How are we going to get you down? 131

COLIN
(deep sigh)
I don't know. Ask nicely? 132

NIA
Okay. Go for it. 133

COLIN
Me? 134

NIA
Yes. It's got you. Talk to it. 135

COLIN
Just... talk. To a tree? 136

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?... 149
Please?

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

COLIN
See? Not working. 151

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

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

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

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

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

COLIN
Fine. 157

NIA
Fine. 158

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

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

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

NIA
(beat)
What kind of magic, do we use in this 162
magical forest...
(beat)
Colin... I know you don't like to 163
talk about it but... what was that
song you made for Ethan when he
couldn't sleep?

COLIN
Nia... 164

NIA
Didn't it go something like... 165
(starts humming)

DANIELLA (V.O.)
The moment the soft tones of Nia's 166
humming filled the air, the leaves on
the branches began to glow.

NIA
Did you see that! 167

COLIN
What? See what? 168

NIA
Did you have your eyes closed? 169

COLIN
I'm getting a headache being 170
suspended like this.

NIA
You have to open your eyes. What was 171
the song?

COLIN
I don't do that anymore, Nia. 172

NIA
Colin, please. Just... one bar. Hum 173
it.

COLIN
 Fine. Fine. 174
 (beat. Colin starts humming)

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 And this time there was no denying 175
 it, the leaves on the tree's began to glow again, brighter this time.

COLIN
 Oh my god... 176

NIA
 (laughing)
 It worked! You see! It's music. Colin 177
 you have to sing to it.

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

NIA
 Do you want to get down or not? 179

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

5 INT. MUSICAL NUMBER

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

COLIN
 This can't be happening. 183

NIA
 It is happening. Try it. Please. 184

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

NIA
 Why? 188

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

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

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

COLIN
(singing)
Tell me what does it say about me, as a dad, as a husband if none of this is a dream. (As a person). There are things I thought I let go. But seeing this, I don't know. 192

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. 204
The tree's gently swaying to the music Nia and Colin created. And once more, gently, far more gently than 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.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
When was the last time dear listener 205
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.)
It's okay Colin, I got you. I got you. 206

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.)
A short while later, after Nia and 207
Colin had a moment to collect themselves, they began their quest again.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 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
 What's funny? 208

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

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

NIA
 (laughs)

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

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

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

NIA
 Oh really? Still in denial? 214

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

NIA
 Yet. 216

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 Colin didn't answer but there was a 217
 very suspicious smile on his face.
 (MORE)

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

NIA
 Do you hear that? 218

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

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 223
 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. 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 226
 field was the weekly meeting of
 Imaginary Friends. It was a very
 important meeting!
 (MORE)

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

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 229
 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...

(crying)
 ...They won't talk to me anymore. 230
 It's like they can't hear me!

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 All around the group there were 231
 sympathetic expressions, and small
 nods of agreement.

TEDDY BEAR
 Friends unfortunately when we do work 232
 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.

STUFFED PIG
 It's not fair! Just because some 233
 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!

TEDDY BEAR

I know, I know. It's a sad day, but 234
you have to think of the good times.
You have to remember them before they
lost their imagination and stopped
believing in you.

STUFFED PIG

(wails)

We had so much fun together. 235

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Even after everything that happened 236
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.

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 241
interrupt. Are you Allie's, Allie's
Croft uh, friend?

DANIELLA (V.O.)

Colin and Nia were unprepared for the 242
fearful expressions that appeared on
every single stuffed animals face.
Some clutched at each other, they
were so afraid to see the pair.

COLIN

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

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

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

COLIN
We were just following the path- 246

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

COLIN
Uh... me? 248

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

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

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

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

TEDDY BEAR
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. 253

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

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

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

COLIN
Wait. How did you know my name? 257

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

NIA
She talked to you about us? 259

STUFFED PIG
Duh. Friends tell each other 260
everything.

COLIN
What did she say about us? 261

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

COLIN
Leave? 263

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

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

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

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

TEDDY BEAR
Usually. 268

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

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

NIA
He... returned? 271

TEDDY BEAR
He said he wanted to watch you grow 272
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.

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

TEDDY BEAR
(beat. Sympathetic)
I'm sorry, if he never came here and 274
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.

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Poor Nia. A truly devastated 275
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.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 And there was a old, child like ache
 in his heart as Colin wondered what
 happened to his friend too.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 I know, I know dear listener. You're 276
 an adult. There's fact. And there's
 fiction. But even you need someone to
 believe in you. 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 277
 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.

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. 281
 Please.

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

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

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
So, where are you two going? 287

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

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

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

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

TEDDY BEAR
Yup. 292

COLIN
Can you tell us? 293

TEDDY BEAR
Nope. 294

COLIN
Why? 295

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

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

COLIN
 (more curious now
 than anything)
 How? How can they just disappear? 298
 It's... wild.
 (beat)
 Hey... you okay? 299

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

COLIN
 You didn't know, Nia. 301

NIA
 Maybe I did. Maybe on some level we 302
 all do 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 303
 offered 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 307
have 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 308
any tracks either, not that I know
what Unicorn tracks look like.

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

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, 310
and a pensive, almost troubled look
appeared on her face. Colin, was
quick to notice.

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

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

COLIN
What do you mean? 313

NIA
Don't you see? We've never once asked 314
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.

(MORE)

NIA (cont'd)

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.

COLIN

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

NIA

We taught them how to navigate it but 316
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.

COLIN

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

NIA

Aren't we? That's all we aspired for, 318
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.

COLIN

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

NIA

Oh, Colin. You and I... our family 320
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.

(MORE)

NIA (cont'd)
 The problem got too big, and we
 thought we could vote it away, or
 whatever other excuse we made.

COLIN
 (beat)
 What else we're we suppose to do? 321

NIA
 (beat)
 I don't know. I don't. But just 322
 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?

COLIN
 (beat)
 Zigzag huh.... 323
 (chuckles)
 Gayly forward. 324

NIA
 (laughs)
 Right. 325
 (beat)
 Do you ever play the piano anymore? 326

COLIN
 (beat. Hesitant)
 Sometimes. Not recently. It's been 327
 busy at work.

NIA
 I loved listening to you play. You 328
 shouldn't have stopped.

COLIN
 It wasn't going to pay the bills. 329

NIA
 You don't know that. 330

COLIN
 I couldn't get up on that stage, Nia, 331
 I just couldn't.

DANIELLA (V.O.)

She looked at him, and when Colin met 332
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.

NIA

Yes, you could have. Your fear would 333
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.

COLIN

(beat)

I wasn't ever unhappy with you. You 334
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.

NIA

(beat)

You weren't the only one that gave up 335
on your dreams.

COLIN

I found your story. The one you threw 336
away.

NIA

Did you? 337

COLIN

I read it. It's good. It's really, 338
really good.

NIA

Thank you. I... 339

(ruefully)

It wasn't going to the pay the bills. 340

COLIN

(smiling)

You don't know that. 341

NIA

Yeah... you're right. 342

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. 343

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. 344

NIA
 What are you doing? 345

COLIN
 Page twenty-two. 346

NIA
 (laughs)

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 The story she'd written. There was a scene... Nia laughed again, but this was delighted, emotional laughter. 347

NIA
 (laughing)

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 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. 348

Super magical music for dancing in a forest goes here.

NIA
 This doesn't happen to us. 349

COLIN
 (amused)
 Which part? 350

NIA
Dancing in a magical forest. 351

COLIN
And yet... 352

NIA
Here we are. 353

DANIELLA (V.O.) 354
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. 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. 355

DANIELL (V.O.) 356
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. *Anything.* 357

DANIELLA (V.O.)
Even a world like yours. 358

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 359
 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.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 All throughout the night they slept, 360
 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.

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
 But as the dawn broke, they were 361
 woken by a terrible, terrible noise.
 The sound a Unicorn makes when it's 362
 being captured. 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 363
 out of their peaceful sleep. It was
 Nia who instinctively realized what
 was happening first.

NIA
 Colin, I think that's the unicorn! 364

DANIELLA (V.O.)
 She sprang to her feet, and Colin was 365
 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.

(MORE)

DANIELLA (V.O.) (cont'd)
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, smiling in pure malice,
were carbon copies of Colin and Nia.
Oh dear.

366