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Into the Woods

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Just a leaf, crisp and dry on this November chilly day. Clinging on to the tree, that I have grown accustomed to. Jenny is to blame for my current plight. Just because I wouldn't agree to marry her. She had certain talents and gifts. I saw her use them and it scared the crap out of me. I never believed in magic or witchcraft before I met her.

Met her on the internet. That was my first mistake. With the ever-evolving world, my sister bugged me into creating a dating profile. Met a few women that seemed a little unhinged, but I kept thinking the next one can't be that bad. What are the chances that the next one would be emotionally distraught or have some kind of dependency on substances, alcohol, smoking, drugs, still stuck on their exes. Oh, the stories I heard. The women I met.

I was just about to cancel my subscription to the site and then Jenny messaged me. She seemed so normal, nice, funny and witty. I thought for sure I was being catfished. Was expecting her to ask me to send her money, but nope. Jenny appeared to be normal. We met, and dated for a few months, it was a year after we had our first date that she began hinting that we should get married.

She had never been married, whereas, I had two ex-wives and wasn't looking for a third. Jenny kept reassuring me that things were different. We were different and I was fretted over nothing. I couldn't see her vision.

Looking back on it, perhaps I should have taken her more seriously. I should have taken the time to see it from her eyes. Would it have spared me this outcome? Maybe? Maybe not?

Maybe after meeting Jenny my days were just numbered. Wife number one told me that someday I would get my karma for treating her so poorly, she wanted to be around when that happened. She was. She just didn't know what happened.

On one of Jenny's visits, she mentioned my ex-wife was looking for me. Probably because I missed an alimony payment. Wow, being a tree doesn't give you much flexibility to get to your day job and pay your bills. Jenny found some humour in the whole situation. I'm glad one of us did. I wanted to know if Jenny could reverse this shit? She keeps evading the questions.

Either she is evading, or she doesn't really understand me. Jenny is a smart lady but communicating with trees, it could be beyond her scope. Why would you turn your boyfriend into one if you couldn't talk to him and understand him when he talked back! Way to go Jenny!

Sighing heavily, getting angry at Jenny wasn't going to help anything. No, he really couldn't do much to the woman. She was the dealer with all the cards. His only hope was that she was just letting him stew for a while and she would turn him back into a human once she felt he had learned his lesson.

The cool breeze blew through tickling his bark and shaking his leaves. It felt good. He could hear her car parking in the distance. Please be Jenny, he quietly prayed. And then he could smell her. Yes, trees could smell humans. The crunching of leaves as her feet brought her closer.

"Well, well Malcom, how are you doing today?"

'Not so great! Change me back! Please.'

She reached over and caressed his trunk. "Well, buddy I wish I could."

She understood him! *'Jenny, I'm sorry. We can get married whatever you want.'*

"Oh Malcom, I wish I could believe you."

'You can. Just give me a second chance. You won't regret it! I promise.'

“Malcom, I would love to. But if I were in your shoes. I would never be able to forgive you.”

‘Jenny just give me a chance. Let me prove myself to you.’

“If I reverse this spell, and you try to double cross me. I will do something ten times worse and will never turn you back again. Do you understand?”

‘Just give me a chance Jenny, that’s all I’m asking for.’

“Fine. Tonight, when the moon is full, undo all that I did before. Return Malcom to what he was once before.” She sprinkled some sparkling dust on him.

If he had eyes, he would have held them shut as well as his breath. Counting to ten, nothing had happened. ‘Wait Jenny I’m still a tree.’

“I know you must wait until tonight. I’ll see you in the morning Malcom.” She hugged his trunk and walked away.

The night air felt cool and crisp. If the spell needed the moon to be out, then he was shit out of luck. It was cloudy for most of the day and all evening long. He was going to be stuck this way forever. Deciding to give up and sleep on it, he settled his leaves and hunkered down for the evening.

Waking up the cold air was biting his skin. Coming out of a deep sleep, he lifted his head. Then wide-eyed he looked around and down at himself! He was human again! Naked but human. He was so elated he didn’t hear Jenny walking up on him.

“I told you it would work.”

He let out a yelp and spun around. Looking her in the eyes she smiled back at him.

“Hello stranger.”

“Good morning.” He felt hesitant.

She smiled wider; they handed him some clothes. He took them from her and slipped them on. "I have so many questions for you."

"I'm sure you do. Let's talk over breakfast." She nodded towards her car. He followed her out of the wooded area.