

THE GIRL IN THE VILLAGE

Elif DOĞRU

Once upon a time,
in a small village by the sea, there was a girl named Cassie.
Cassie was known for her plain looks, with greasy red hair,
crooked teeth, and a face that no one would want in the
village. She was always overlooked and ignored by her peers,
and even her own family didn't seem to take much care of
her.

Despite her appearance which was accepted as ugly,
Cassie was a kind and thoughtful girl. Also, she had a love
for nature which was unexplained by the villagers. She spent
most of her time wandering through the woods, collecting
flowers and medicinal plants, and communing with the
animals which lived there.

One day, while wandering through the woods, Cassie
encountered an old woman. Cassie was terrified at first
because the old woman was a witch, but the old woman
quickly reassured her that she meant no harm.

"You are a kind girl, I can see that in your soul" the
witch said, "and I also can see that you have a pure heart. I
can help you become beautiful if you wish." Cassie wasn't
sure about this offer, but the thought of finally being noticed
and appreciated was too tempting to resist. She accepted the
witch's offer.

The witch gave Cassie a potion to drink, and within few seconds, she felt a strange feeling, which she could not describe, all over her. When she looked at the reflection of her own face on the surface of a nearby pond, she was stunned to see that her appearance had changed. Her hair now had a shining golden color, her teeth were straight and gleaming, and her face was so beautiful that she would remind everyone of angels.

When Cassie returned to the village people there hardly recognized her. She suddenly became the most beautiful girl in the village, and everyone wanted to be her friend. Cassie was shocked by their sudden affection to her. At first, she liked to be listened, but then she realized people weren't actually listening to her. They were just standing next to her, looking at her and trying to show people that they were friends with the most beautiful girl in the village.

Cassie soon understood that her newfound beauty didn't turn out to be helpful for her. The people who had previously ignored her were now fawning over her. She missed the days when she could wander through the woods alone, without anyone paying her any attention.