

Written By

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Based on the short story by Eleonora Fusco

### FADE IN:

#### EXT. PAIMPONT FOREST - DAY

Sunlight peeks through the various assortments of trees creating a yellow glow which seems to endlessly bounce of everything in its path.

Footsteps of someone SCURRYING through the forest. The RUSTLING of the trees. The WHISTLING birds. The cool, sweet breeze, and soft PANTING.

CLOSE UP on that person's dirty white trainers as they stop and kneel down, pressing their knees into the grass at the edge of a still pond.

A beat... then CLICK.

FOCUS on a Polaroid camera, as the undeveloped picture slides out. She removes the camera from her face to reveal a fairy tale like appearance.

Sophie [9], freckled faced, pale skin, green eyes.

Sophie crosses her legs, drops her leather dispatch bag on the floor, and slides out a vintage looking photo album. Still fanning the photo she flicks through the album.

Every two pages has identical pictures, but not in the sense that they are the same, but rather in the same place, just at a different moment in time.

Sophie adds the newly developed photo of the pond, but comparing this one to the other one in the album, the scene is different.

The pond is lighter, weeds are slightly peeking through, a couple of plants have moved position, and some flowers have bloomed.

Sophie flicks through the album, until she reaches a specific photo. The picture is of an area in which stands an oddly shaped tree of massive proportions.

Sophie slides the picture out, and puts it in her pocket, closes the album, stuffs it in her bag, and starts running.

Birds softly WHISTLE and hiss through the bright blue cloudless sky covered by tall trees. Sophie jumps on some rocks that are poking out of a small stream of water. She comes to a halt when she realises she is where she needs to be.

The grass is light green, flickering in the sunlight. The bush is throwing glistening light all around, its berries like red eyes in the emerald sea of leaves. The grass seems to run towards her, where the tree proudly stands.

Sophie removes the picture away from her sight, and the same area is shining in front of her. She frowns her forehead in complete confusion. She puts the picture back in front of her eyes, then back away.

# SOPHIE

Huh.

Sophie puts the picture back into her pocket, and runs towards the tree. The tree has dramatically changed. A new root is visible, and protruding outwards in an arc like shape, dipping its end into the grass.

She slides on the floor, almost tripping over her shoe laces in complete awe as she touches this new extension.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) How did you grow so fast?

Sophie begins to stroke it ever so gently, and begins to CHUCKLE. She hears faint RUSTLING, but she takes no notice of it because she is still in amazement.

A beat... then a shadow runs across her face above her, causing heavy RUSTLING. She flings her head back, looking up towards the direction it came from.

A small black something disappears through the leaves, towards the light blue sky.

Whatever it was, was too fast for her to catch full sight, but she knows it was some sort of bird, she just doesn't know what one.

Sophie looks back down and notices that the root begins to tint a greyish colour. She plunges both her hands down onto the root, sliding them up and down.

A cluster of weeds lie between the new root and the tree. She pulls out her camera and... CLICK.

Two oval blobs appear in the wood. Wide open to the child looking at them. A tremendous rumble shakes the ground, causing the birds above to fly away with fear.

Whatever it is, starts to peal itself away from the tree, raising what seems to be arms from its side. It starts to blink, but instead from top and bottom, it's left and right.

Something begins to rise from the ground which throws her off, sending her rolling and in doing so the thing hobbles away into the deepest darkest part of the forest.

Sophie didn't catch a glimpse, but we did.

Sophie follows the thing into a sea of shadow born from a tangled roof of trees. It doesn't seem to threaten Sophie, she just happily runs after it.

Calm and out of breath, Sophie finds herself standing in complete darkness. Her eyes begin to adjust. Though it is still dark, it's now a tinted green.

Sophie tilts her nose up towards the sky and is towered by a circle of trees higher than any building she has ever seen.

Sophie has never seen this place, so she takes out her camera and... CLICKS.

Those same blobs suddenly become visible in the distance.

A beat... then Sophie steps forward, and in doing so scares away the thing. A sudden SHRIEK frightens the sleeping birds and other forest creatures which begin to scatter.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Hey, wait!

Sophie rushes after it with the undeveloped picture in hand, stepping over some rocks and plants. She begins to look around, noticing that she's not really going anywhere, or at least it appears that way.

Sophie comes to a halt to catch her breath when a small tear like object appears in front of her. Floating around her.

Another beat... then Sophie sticks out a finger to touch it and it speeds away. She then begins to run after it deeper and deeper into the forest.

Sophie comes to another stop when she notices that she is surrounded by a bed of blue plants. Plants unlike any other. She puts the picture into her pocket.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Wow.

Now many tears of lights glow around her. They dance around, and she starts to dance with them. Spinning and twirling, and HUMMING a sweet melody.

ANGLE on something through the bushes, watching her. It's obvious to us that it is the creature.

It watches as Sophie prances around, HUMMING that enticing melody.

ANGLE back on her, dancing. When she notices that one of those blue plants have dropped a petal. It's of a pale blue colour and distorted in shape. She stops dancing and walks towards the plant, touching it. Almost feeling as sorry as you would if a loved one had died. Sophie begins to HUM that same melody, gently stroking the petal. ANGLE on her face as she looks down at it, when her hair starts to softly move. She can feel a soft breeze against the side of her face.

She looks to the left and there it is. Sitting right beside her, and assuming the same crossed leg position as she.

# SOPHIE (CONT'D) Beautiful isn't it?

Sophie turns towards the creature and is immediately lost in its blob like eyes. If I had to compare them to any known animal, it would be that of a horse. Her face is reflected in its eyes, distorting her like a spoon.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Wow!

The creature tilts its head to an angle, and blinks sideways. Sophie laughs, because her face looks funny. She suddenly sticks out her hand, startling the creature.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) My name is Sophie.

The creature nears towards her hand and sniffs it with its four nostrils. Sophie starts to laugh because its nose tickles her hand.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) This is how we say hello.

A beat... then its wrinkly, tentacle like hand raises and touches her hair. Her hair begins to form into a floral pattern, weaving in and out of each cluster. Sophie's eyes widen and her hand moves to the back of her head, touching the shape the creature has just made out of her hair.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) What else can you do?

The creature moves its hand towards the dead petal which is still cupped in her hand. A bunch of small tentacles begin to touch it, and before she can realize it, the petal is consumed by the creature.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

No! No.

She begins to cry, raising to her feet and running away.

Sophie stops somewhere far from where she was. She goes into her bag and grabs out her photo album.

Flicking through the pages until she comes to a blank one, and sticks in the photo she previously took.

The sun shines again above her and reflecting in the plastic of the album is her face. She can now fully see the floral pattern the creature has made out of her hair.

Sophie looks to her left where the creature again is sitting. It sticks out its hand and reveals the same petal it took from her, but this time all healed. It is alive, and flourishing with a blue glow.

Sophie begins to laugh in relief, when the creature hands it back to her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She takes the petal from the creature and gently puts it into the album next to the photo.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) These are photographs.

The creature tilts its head.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) You can take a picture of something you like and it will never get away.

Sophie flicks through the various pictures she has taken until she comes to a house in the middle of a rundown village. The creature stops her, pointing at the photo.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) This is my home.

Sophie shivers in the small cool breeze which has just come over her. She looks up at the creature with her pale green eyes, which are still wet from crying.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) Where is your home?

The creature stares at her, and begins to raise its arm high into the sky. Pointing at the endless lake of clouds.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Oh, wow.

Sophie's eyes begin to burn, because she has stared too long at the blue sky and sizzling sun.

A beat... then she nods at the creature.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) I am alone too.

ZOOM into the creatures eyes, almost sending chills down our spines. The beauty in its eyes is wordless to say the least.

Sophie sticks out her hand and grabs hold of the creature's, and stands up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) Come, I want to show you something.

The creature stands up and follows her hand in hand.

CUT TO:

### EXT. PAIMPONT FOREST - LATER

A stream of glistening water holds a bunch of fish and tadpoles. PANNING out to see the creature and Sophie sitting on the edge of the stream.

> SOPHIE These are called tadpoles.

The creature blinks.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) And one day they will grow up and become frogs. I've read it in a book.

Sophie sticks her hand in the stream and watches as the fish scatter.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) Do you know what a book is?

The creature just looks at her, slightly shaking its head.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) I will show you tomorrow and maybe these tadpoles will become frogs.

Sophie looks at the creature.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) Do you know what a frog is?

The creature sticks its hand into the stream and those same tentacles emerge, extending into the water. A blue light begins to shine, growing in size. The water starts to bubble and the tadpoles start to speed in evolution growing into frogs in a matter of seconds.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) Yes! Yes these are frogs.

All different types of frogs pop out, and start jumping around. Sophie goes for her camera and... CLICKS.

As soon as the photo pops out, the creature grabs it.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) Wait! It's not ready yet. Do this.

Sophie tilts the creature's hand turning the photo upside down. Helping it develop.

FOCUS on the creature's eyes as the reflection is of the photo beginning to come into prominence. Its eyes widen as wide as they can go. The creature is confused as how this can happen, it starts to twist and turn it, not understanding.

Sophie begins to laugh and takes the picture from its hand.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) I told you, this is what a picture can do.

The creature gazes at her.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) This way I'll never forget.

Sophie flicks through the pages of the album and puts it in next to that same stream, before there were any frogs. She smiles with excitement.

She flicks back to a photo of an area that is what she believes to be the most beautiful place in the forest. It has a small waterfall, and various plants. But one thing is most precious to her. The porcelain mushroom.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) Come on lets go.

Sophie rushes off, but notices the creature is just sitting there. She comes back to it.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) Are you okay?

The eyes of the creature meets her's. We get completely lost in-between their gaze.

A beat... then her hand touches it on its shoulder.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) It's getting dark, we'll miss it.

The creature takes quite some time to get up, but does. They walk off, but we stay with where he was sitting and realize a part of it is left on the floor, and slowly fades.

Disintegrating into the earth.

### EXT. PORCELAIN MUSHROOMS, PAIMPONT FOREST - LATER

Sophie pushes away some leaves and reveals the hidden place filled with Porcelain mushrooms, big and small. She runs towards one where it has grown bigger than most. She sits down next to it and begins to stroke it.

# SOPHIE

Hey look.

The creature soon appears beside her and kneels down. She takes its hand and they stroke the mushroom head together.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) See, its beautiful isn't it?

The creature touches the ground where no trees have grown before. The ground stars to rumble. She is lifted up in the air by roots. The roots twist and turn into a tree, which she dangles from. The tree has imbedded into it thousands of Porcelain Mushrooms. The tree goes high into the almost sun set sky.

As Sophie hangs down in front of the standing creature their eyes meet once again, but she is upside down.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) We call this friendship.

A beat... then she points to her heart, then the creature's.

Another beat... then the creature points to her heart, then to its own.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) I've never had a friend before.

Sophie smiles.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. PORCELAIN MUSHROOM TREE - MOMENTS LATER

The creature is climbing to the very top, with Sophie piggy backed behind. CLOSE UP in on her as she hugs it dearly and smiles.

CUT TO:

#### MOMENTS LATER

The creature is sitting at the top, with Sophie sitting beside it, watching the sun set into the distance. A brush of purple light tints the sky.

Sophie slowly reaches for the creature's hand and grabs onto it. The creature looks at her, almost human in that moment.

Then the creature looks back into the distance, breathing very slowly.

A beat... then Sophie starts to cry, holding onto the creature. The creature looks back at her. She digs into her bag and takes out a tissue. Just before she is about to wipe her eyes, the creature snatches it from her.

SOPHIE

No, wait!

The creature looks at the tissue, twisting and turning it. It then pulls it apart, letting it float off.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) No, silly. This doesn't make you cry.

The creature looks at her again.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) You cry because you're happy or sad. (beat) Look...

Sophie slowly reaches into her bag to get another tissue, and slowly wipes away her tears.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

See.

They stare at one another, when the sun in-between fades into the distance. She looks over at the night sky.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) I have to go now.

Sophie takes out her camera, sticking out her arm so the camera is facing them.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Smile.

CLICK...

The photo pops out and she fans it.

SOPHIE (CONT'D) This way you'll always have this moment forever.

Sophie gives it to the creature. The creature pauses for a moment waiting for the picture to develop. The creature turns to Sophie, and opens his hand.

blue light, her hair floats back, and the spherical object is now ready.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Wow!

The creature hands it to her. Sophie stares deeply into it, and can see many beautiful things, but one of which is the creature's deserted planet, and sitting on top of a tree is the creature. Watching its two suns, set into the night sky.

CUT TO:

### EXT. PAIMPONT FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The creature and her walk hand in hand back towards where she came from. They come to a stop, and she jumps onto it, hugging it as tight as she has ever hugged anyone before.

SOPHIE

Thank you.

Sophie starts to cry again. The creature slowly puts his arms around her. CLOSE UP on its reflecting eyes, glazed as if it was crying too.

> SOPHIE (CONT'D) I'll come back tomorrow, and I'll show you all the books I have.

Sophie leaves the creature, slowly letting go of its hand.

She walks off into the distance as seen from the creature's reflective eyes.

FADE TO:

#### INT. SOPHIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sophie creeps up those wooden steps that are infested with mold and dirt. She closes her bedroom door behind her, drops her bag and sits down on her bed.

Surrounding her is a wall of pictures taken over the years. She goes into her bag and flicks through her new pictures, smiling. She takes out the spherical object the creature gave to her.

Her door kicks open.

MAN

Where the fuck have you been?

Sophie looks up at her drunk and filthy father.

SOPHIE

I'm sorry.

He slowly walks towards her and notices that Sophie is clenching something in her hand.

FATHER What the fuck is in your hand?

SOPHIE

Nothing.

FATHER Don't lie to me.

He walks towards her with his hand out.

FATHER (CONT'D) Give it to me.

SOPHIE

No!

He raises his hand to her and smacks her so hard she falls to the floor, dropping the sphere, TRACKING it as it rolls into the corner.

FATHER (O.S.) Fucking bitch!

It starts to glow a blue light, highlighting shadows of her father beating her.

THE CAMERA CONTINUES TO ZOOM INTO IT.

Beautiful lights, and shapes all intertwining into the creature's planet.

More sounds of her being beaten are heard off-screen.

The creature is sitting on a tree gazing out into space.

MATCH CUT TO:

# EXT. PORCELAIN MUSHROOM TREE - SAME

Facing the back of the creature as it is looking at the picture that Sophie gave to it. Its skin starts to slowly dissolve into blue dust, scattering into the night sky.

TRACKING the picture as it is the last thing left, floating away into the everlasting distance.

FADE TO BLACK.

"We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Only through our love and friendship can we create the illusion for the moment that we are not alone"

-Orson Welles