

CHILDREN OF THE FOREST

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAIL, DAY 1

We open on an open trail within a forest. Two young girls STELLA AND VIVIAN, ages 11 and 8 respectively, run by. They are playing in the forest, just enjoying the nice weather.

2 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAIL, DAY 2

Eventually, they hear a noise from somewhere in the forest. Stella, being the brave older sister she is, goes to explore where the source of the noise is coming from.

She tells Vivian to stay put but Vivian refuses and goes with her.

3 EXT. DEEP FOREST, DAY 3

They find the source of the noise and it turns out to be a sleeping BEAR-LIKE FIGURE. The children, obviously scared, turn and start to run away but that only wakes the Bear up.

The children freeze, Vivian hiding behind Stella, as the Bear walks over to them. They stare at it, shivering in fear.

The Bear gets close to them, bends down and puts a little flower behind Stella's ear. The children relax as the Bear turns around and goes back to sleep.

Stella looks at Vivian and there's a mutual understanding that they should leave.

4 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAILS, DAY 4

Continuing on with their forest adventure, the children explore the scenery around them. As they are exploring, they start to notice something following them.

They stop in their tracks as we see a WOLF-LIKE FIGURE following close behind them. Stella turns around and when she does the Wolf quickly hides behind a tree. She turns back around and the Wolf starts following them again. Repeat of her turning around and the Wolf hiding.

The third time this happens, Vivian is the one to turn around, which catches the Wolf off guard and it doesn't have time to hide. It laughs and claps. It then motions to them that it's their turn to hide, turns around and starts to count.

Stella and Vivian turn to each other, smile and then run off and hide.

5 EXT. DEEP FOREST, DAY 5

\*Begin montage\*

Stella running and hiding

Vivian running and hiding

The Wolf looking for them

\*End montage\*

6 EXT. DEEP FOREST, DAY 6

Eventually, the children run into each other and hide together behind a tree. The Wolf sneaks up behind them and taps them on the shoulder. They all laugh.

7 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAIL, DAY 7

The Wolf leads the children back to where they were walking before. The children hug the Wolf. The Wolf waves goodbye.

8 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAIL, DAY 8

The children are walking along the trail when they spot a FOX-LIKE FIGURE in the distance. Curious, they walk over to it and it reaches out its hand.

Vivian decides she wants to take a crack at being brave so she takes its hand. To her surprise, the Fox spins her around and she laughs.

The Fox then starts to dance and urges the children to do the same.

9 EXT. FOREST, OPEN TRAIL, DAY 9

\*Begin montage\*

The girls dancing

The Fox dancing

All of them dancing together

\*End montage\*

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EXT. DEEP FOREST, EVENING

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It's getting late so the children decide it's time for them to go home. They start walking towards the forest's exit but before they can get very far, the Bear from earlier steps out from behind the trees. They are surprised to see it but aren't afraid like they were before.

They hear a noise to their right and see the Wolf from earlier also stepping out from behind the trees.

Finally they turn around to see the Fox standing behind them. It steps forward and reaches out both hands. The girls look at each other, then at the Fox, then down at its hands. They each take a hand and the fox leads them to the middle of a clearing in the forest.

He lets go of their hands, the girls take one more look at each other, smile and then grab each other's hand. The other animals move in closer to the girls.

When we see them again, the girls are adorned in white dresses. The camera pans down to the ground and when it comes back up, the girls are gone.

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EXT. DEEP FOREST, EVENING

11

There is a moment of silence as the animals stare at the space where the girls were. The Bear turns and walks back into the woods, followed by the Wolf.

The Fox stands there for a minute, walks over to the spot where the girls were, bends down and picks up the flower that the Bear had given Stella in the beginning of their journey.

He stares at it for a second and then walks back into the woods, waiting to help the next group of children pass on.

FADE OUT.

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