

The Never-ending Chase

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FADE IN

EXT. A BEAUTIFUL FOREST - SUNRISE

SALLY, 12, naturally charming, races through a sunlit forest, in a state of panic. She dodges tree roots and thorns, desperate to get away from the beastly OGRE running after her.

SALLY

Help! Somebody please help me!

OGRE

Come back here, you little girl. You can run all you want, but I will still catch you.

At this point, Sally can hardly breathe, but she manages to outrun the monster. She finds shelter next to a shady tree and rests for a little while.

As she looks ahead, she sees the forest witch, MINDISTRA, picking a variety of flowers from a nearby field. Sally quickly gets up and runs to the woman.

SALLY

(panting)

Please, you have to help me! A monster is out there trying to get me!

Mindistra angrily turns to face Sally. We see she has a pointy nose and long fingers with sharp nails that curl at the ends. She is wearing a black hooded dress that reaches all the way to the ground.

MINDISTRA

(croaky voice)

Hold your horses there. Who do you think you are, interrupting me at work. Can't you see that I am busy here?

SALLY

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to bother you. It's just that --

MINDISTRA

(cuts her off)

For I am Mindistra, the all-powerful forest witch, and no one crosses my path. Now hurry along before I put a spell on you.

SALLY

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But I don't know where else to go.  
The ogre is going to catch up with  
me. He wants to kill me, I know he  
does.

MINDISTRA

Of course he does. That's what ogres  
do, they kill little girls.

At this point, Sally begins crying.

MINDISTRA

Oh don't start crying. I hate it when  
people get mushy. What are you doing  
all alone in the forest anyway? Don't  
you know it's dangerous?

SALLY

(melancholic voice)

I was not alone when I first got  
here. You see, I lost my mom and  
while I was looking for her, this  
beast showed up and was after me. If  
this beast catches me, I will never  
see my mom again. In fact, I'll never  
see anyone again.

Sally looks up at the sound of a rustling branch.

SALLY

I better get going. Sorry to have  
bothered you, ma'am.

As Sally starts to leave, Mindistra grabs her shoulder.

MINDISTRA

Here, take these yellow flowers,  
close your eyes, and sniff them for  
about five seconds. This will put you  
into a state of peace and harmony  
that no evil can penetrate.

Desperate, Sally takes the flowers and sniffs them. When she  
opens her eyes, birds begin to chirp, rainbows start glowing  
and deer are present. A big smile is present on Sally's face.  
Suddenly, Sally hears thumping. As the thumping grows louder,  
Sally hears someone chanting her name.

OGRE

(deep, creepy voice)

Sally, you little rascal, where are  
you headed to? For when I catch you,  
I will strangle you. You know that I  
am very mighty and have never been

beat, so when I catch you, you'll be  
dead meat.

This shakes Sally out of her reverie. More frightened than  
ever, she takes off again.

MINDISTRA

Hmmm. I wonder if I gave her enough  
flowers.

(shrugs)

Oh well, better luck next time.

EXT. A BEAUTIFUL FOREST, NEAR A RAPID RIVER

As Sally continues running, she trips on a rock, and her arm  
starts bleeding. Because the ogre is on her tail, she  
continues running

SALLY

Help me somebody please. There is a  
monster out and he's out to get me!

As Sally continues to run, she spots a river. Looking back,  
and seeing that the ogre is no where in sight, she goes to the  
river to wash her arm. Suddenly, she comes across a tall,  
skinny, middle-aged SORCERER wearing a red cape and carrying a  
sword. At present he's primping in a mirror.

SORCERER

Well, hello little lady. How are you  
today?

SALLY

Not so good. You see, there's a  
giant ogre chasing after me. Is  
there anything you can do to help me?

SORCERER

Well, you've come to the right  
person. I just happen to be  
strongest, bravest, handsomest person  
in this forest. Just look at my guns.

He points to his weak-looking biceps.

SALLY

(sarcastic)

Oh wow, you really are strong. So  
could you please help me?

The sorcerer returns to looking at himself in the mirror. He  
starts posing and makes kissy faces at his reflection.

WIDEN to reveal the ogre hiding in the bushes nearby.

SORCERER

You know, when you look as good as me, it's hard to stop talking about yourself. Anyways, why are you all by yourself? Where's your father?

SALLY

(In a hollow voice)

Um my father, I don't know where he is. The last time I remember, he was drunk and in a very bad mood. When he drinks, it's as if he is a whole different person. you know, like a devil or even a beast.

SORCERER

Well, in that case, put this on your head. If you keep it on, no harm can be done to you.

The sorcerer hands Sally a goofy looking hat, embellished with little bells hanging from it. Desperate, Sally puts the hat on. The Sorcerer smiles in appreciation.

SORCERER

Wow, those bells really work for you. Here, check yourself out.

He holds up the mirror for Sally to see. Just then, the sorcerer freezes as he sees the ogre creep up behind Sally. She lets out a GASP as he joins her in the reflection.

OGRE

Poor, poor Sally. You actually trust that puny, conceited sorcerer?

At once, the "brave" sorcerer takes off screaming in terror. The ogre yanks the hat off of Sally's head and stomps on it.

SALLY

AAAAAAAH.

Just as the ogre is about to hit Sally with his big stick, she flees again.

OGRE

(chanting)

Come back! Sally, you little rascal, where are you headed to? For when I catch you, I will strangle and crush you and eat you for dinner. You know

that I am very mighty and have never been beat. So when I catch you, you will be dead meat.

EXT. A BEAUTIFUL FOREST-EVENING

Sally is out of breath and out of hope. Running and running, she falls to the ground in exhaustion. She buries her head in his arm and softly cries. After a few moments --

QUEEN (V.O.)

Sweetie, what's wrong? Why are you crying?

Sally looks up to see a beautiful, regally dressed QUEEN is standing before her.

SALLY

It's the ogre, he won't stop chasing me.

QUEEN

Maybe he is chasing you because he sees that you are all alone. You haven't any mother to look after you, do you?

SALLY

I don't know where my mother is. In fact, I don't know where anyone is. I am completely lost and on my own. No one seems to love me anymore.

QUEEN

Oh, don't say that now. You know, I always wanted a daughter -- a little princess of my very own. What do you say, honey? Would you like to come live in the palace with me?

The queen bends down and wipes away Sally's tears.

SALLY

You really mean it?

QUEEN

Of course, a queen never lies.

SALLY

And I'll be safe and protected.

QUEEN

There's no place safer.

SALLY

But wait a minute. What about the -

The queen cuts her off.

QUEEN

You mean, that one-eyed ugly creature who is more wretched on the inside than he is on the outside? Please, he isn't frightening at all if you know how to deal with him.

SALLY

What do you mean?

QUEEN

Here, grab my hand, and we will both fight the monster together.

Sally grabs the queen's hand.

QUEEN

O.k. Now, when the ogre shows up, stare him right in the eye, and show him you're not afraid. Trust me, the ogre is more scared of us than we are of him.

The ogre approaches. Sally takes a deep breath and stands next to the queen. They both stare the ogre right in the eye. Sure enough, this confuses him..

OGRE

Why are you guys looking at me like that. What's wrong? Is there something on my face?

Sally and the queen continue staring at the ogre. His confusion quickly turns to fear.

OGRE

Cut it out, all right? Stop looking at me like that! I said stop it!

Sally and the Queen step forward. The ogre steps back. And back. And back...

OGRE

Get away from me! I mean it! Don't come near me!

Suddenly, the ogre turns to flee, only to bump his head on a

tree. In a daze, he trips and falls into a nearby river. As he swims away in terror, Sally and the Queen share a merry laugh and hug.

SALLY

Thank you. You saved my life.

QUEEN

No, Sally, you saved yourself. Like all bullies, the ogre feeds on other people's fear. When you stood up to the ogre, the ogre became confused because no one ever stood up to him. You are the real hero.

SALLY

I guess I am. I couldn't have done it without you, your highness.

QUEEN

(corrects her)

You mean, "mom."

Sally smiles up at her as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CEDAR'S SINAI HOSPITAL

Sally slowly awakes and finds herself in a hospital bed. She is wearing a bandage around her head and her arm is connected to an I.V unit.

SALLY

Where am I?

AUNT MARTHA (V.O.)

Your in the emergency room, sweetie.

WIDEN to show Sally's AUNT MARTHA sitting right next to her. She just happens to be the spitting image of the Forest Queen. In the background, a skinny, middle-aged DOCTOR (the Sorcerer) and a serious-looking female ANESTHESIOLOGIST are also present in the room.

SALLY

Just a moment ago, I was in a forest. And you were there Aunty Martha...

(to doctor)

... and so were you...

(to anesthesiologist)

... and you were there too. You guys were all trying to protect me from this mean ogre. He was trying to get

me, and I was really scared.

Then as Sally lifts her arm, she sees bruises all over.

AUNT

The nightmare's over. Trust me  
sweety, you will never see the ogre  
again. I will always be right by  
your side. ok? Now relax, because  
you are safe now.

Aunt Martha tucks her in a blanket. She kisses her forehead  
tenderly. And on this loving image, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL

A middle-aged man is sitting in a cell all alone burying his  
head in his arm. His cell is covered with new clippings:  
"FATHER GETS TWENTY YEARS FIOR KIDNAPPING AND ATTEMPTING TO  
BEAT HIS DAUGHTER TO DEATH."

The man lifts his head and we see that he wears an unkempt  
beard. We also see that it is the beastly ogre from the  
forest in human form.

As we take a closer look at him, we see that he is holding a  
picture of a young girl.

MAN IN JAIL

My poor baby... What did I do? What  
did I do?

The photo falls from his hands to the ground. On closer  
inspection, we see that the girl in the picture is Sally.

THE END.