

THE LITTLE GIRL AND THE LANTERN MAKER

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EXT. WOODED AREA

We open under the cover of NIGHT. Ahead between the darkness a beacon of light shines from a solitary window of a WORKSHOP.

NARRATOR

This story begins like most others
with once upon a time. Now back
then, before the internet...

Just beyond the workshop is the end of the Earth. We PASS
over a gigantic waterfall.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...when the world was still flat...

A DRAGON appears from underneath the waterfall and back over
the WOODED AREA to the...

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

...and dragons lived along side
man...

EXT. WORKSHOP

As we push in closer, a LITTLE GIRL runs passed us and
towards the lit window.

NARRATOR

...When magic. Well, when magic was
more real than you'd ever believe.
There lived a little girl and her
father, the lantern maker.

A hammer KNOCKS as we peak over her shoulder and into...

INT. WORKSHOP

...where her FATHER leans back revealing a RICKETY
contraption. In it's center a SPARK. The contraption falls
apart, and the Spark dances off and fizzles out.

The roofless workshop falls into darkness lit only by the
moon and millions of stars where it seems to almost float.

FATHER

This isn't going to work.

Behind him sits a PILE of unfinished projects and a
smoldering fire pit.

FATHER (CONT'D)
At least not tonight.

The Father tosses down his hammer and goes to pour some tea.
The tea has run cold.

FATHER (CONT'D)
So you've given up too, my friend?

The Father looks into the reflection of a BRASS POT and sees
the Little Girl standing in the window. The Little Girl
shakes her head, "No."

LITTLE GIRL
I'll never give up on you.

FATHER
Shouldn't you be in bed?

LITTLE GIRL
Shouldn't you?

FATHER
Inventors don't sleep, Princess.
But little girls do. So off you go.

Off in the distance, a CASTLE. In front of that, a SHACK.

INT. SHACK - LITTLE GIRL'S BEDROOM

The Little Girl stares at the Castle from her window. She
wears a makeshift crown and holds a scepter.

The Father tucks the Little Girl in. He inspects her little
feet.

FATHER
Did you know your foot is the size
of my big toe?

The Little Girl holds up her thumb and closes one eye.

LITTLE GIRL
Your eye is the size of my thumb.

The Father kisses the Little Girl's thumb.

INT. WORKSHOP - DAY

The Father is hammering a new project. This time it's micro
in size. TINK, TINK.

FATHER
Think, think, think.

The Little Girl appears next to him.

LITTLE GIRL
Do you ever stay asleep to finish
your dreams?

FATHER
I try to finish them while I'm
awake.

SUNDIAL: The time reads "Lunch."

FATHER
It's about that time.

The Little Girl nods and runs from the workshop.

NARRATOR
But time was limited.

INT. CASTLE - MAIN HALL

At a throne, entertainers try to cheer up an unimpressed
QUEEN.

NARRATOR
For you see, today was the Queen's
birthday. The lonely Queen's
birthday.

INT. WORKSHOP

The Father holds up a note: TO THE QUEEN ON HER DAY OF BIRTH.

EXT. TOWN

Beneath the castle, the Little Girl runs passed a BLACKSMITH
whose fire is being stoked by a DRAGON.

INT. BAKERY

LITTLE GIRL
Alo.

The BAKER hands her some fresh bread and off the Little Girl
goes.

EXT. CASTLE

The Little Girl runs home but stops. Hanging out the window of the Queen's bedroom, a BIRDCAGE...

IN THE NEST: An EGG-SIZED DIAMOND flickers in the sun.

EXT. CASTLE - DRAWBRIDGE

A SOLDIER looks through BASKETS full of BIRTHDAY GIFTS as the Little Girl sneaks by.

INT. CASTLE

In the NEST, the diamond is gone.

The Little Girl runs down the hall, through the KITCHEN where a large CAKE is being iced and around the people with boxes. Through the...

INT. CASTLE - MAIN HALL

Where the flicker of the diamond in the Little Girl's hand catches the Queen's eye.

EXT. TOWN

The Little Girl runs passed the Blacksmith and his Dragon and around the corner.

Following closely behind a HOARD OF QUEEN'S SOLDIERS, KITCHEN EMPLOYEES, MIMES, JESTERS, PEOPLE WITH BOXES, and even the Queen herself who is followed by a PRIEST.

SUNDIAL: The time reads "HOURS LATER."

INT. WORKSHOP

FATHER

What took you so long? I was worried, Princess. No bread?

The Little Girl shakes her head "No" and reaches into her pocket; pulls out the diamond.

The Father stares at it and his face glows. Suddenly he runs back to his work table and begins to work. Outside...

EXT. WORKSHOP

All the people are halted by the Little Girl who holds a finger over her mouth.

LITTLE GIRL

Shhhhhh.

Everyone stops and parts like the sea allowing the Queen to pass.

The Little Girl waves her forth towards the window and points inside...

INT. WORKSHOP

Where the Father leans back uncovering the Diamond holding the Spark clasped by a ring. The Father chuckles to himself.

FATHER

Finally.

The door CREAKS open behind him and the Father turns.

In the doorway, the Little Girl stands alongside the Queen.

The Father frantically looks around, before wiping his hands on his apron.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Umm. Your majesty.

The Queen passes him and walks to the work table. She reaches for the RING. But it SHOCKS her.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Wait. Just wait.

The Father grabs the RING, which comes off the jig flawlessly.

The Father stands eye to eye with the Queen. The people GASP.

PRIEST

Knees. Your knees, peasant.

FATHER

Sorry. Right.

The Father gets on one knee and holds the ring to the Queen. The Little Girl smiles. The Queen tears and smiles. The crowd cheers.

NARRATOR

And that's the story when once upon
a time a little girl and her father
the lantern maker captured the
heart of the lonely Queen and--

LITTLE GIRL

What about the magic?

NARRATOR

I was getting to that. And the
magic. Yes, when magic still
existed and love ruled the land.

INT. SHACK - LITTLE GIRL'S BEDROOM

Reveal Father as Narrator.

Outside the Castle gleams under the moon.

FATHER

It's getting late.

LITTLE GIRL

Are you going to sleep?

FATHER

Inventors don't sleep but--

The Father pokes the Little Girl she laughs and hides under
the sheets.

The Little Girl's MOTHER (the Queen) enters and blows out a
candle.

MOTHER

Good night, Princess.

The Little Girl sneaks out of the covers and looks at the
Castle. She walks to the window and watches...

Her Father walks to his WORKSHOP. Overhead...

A Dragon flies over the workshop, pass the wooded area and
over the flat world's waterfall into the starry night.