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# Cherry Tree

By Brendan McCarthy

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- Yeah that's,  
yeah, that's really good.

And you, you like  
being a hockey coach?

- Yes.

The girls love to play,  
and if they're happy, I'm happy.

- Mm.

- Can be tricky, though.

- I pity the boys  
trying to date them.

But on the pitch  
they're actually great.

- Getting out all their  
frustrations...

I suppose.

- Something like that.

I, I can't.

I'm sorry.

It's so good to see you.

I, I'm gonna go.

Ah!

- I reject the good.

I reject the light.

I embrace the dark.

I embrace the night.

Beneath this magic tree  
given to the first witches  
by the Prince of  
the Underworld...

we will bleed this  
body of its life.

We reach out to his realm  
with this special gift.

Enchant this fruit and  
grant us your familiars.

They will be our bond  
with the world beneath.

Give us that power.

Give us your favor.

Death is the beginning  
of everything.

Death is the beginning.

Death is the beginning.

- Orchard got its name because it's located in a fruit farming area. The town is also founded by a Utopian cult which was later linked to witchcraft.

The most famous witch was Eleanor Young.

She was said to have been given an enchanted Cherry Tree as a gift from the underworld.

The roots of the tree were nourished by the blood of human sacrifice which, in turn gave her the power to use its magic.

She also used its wood and fruit to perform her spells and glamours.

The story goes that she was arrested and convicted of witchcraft but... when they tried to burn her at the stake the fire wouldn't light.

- Ooh, nice block.

- All in a day's work.

- Eventually she was banished from the town.

- Hold it, Brian.

Is there something going on?

I asked a question.

Okay, carry on, Brian.

- He's not bad, is he?

- Thank you, Miss.

- Shame about the hair, though.

Eleanor Young's legend features strongly in local folklore but there are, in fact, no records that exist to prove she ever lived

and, well,  
no one's ever found  
the magic tree.  
But many people in  
the 16th century  
were accused of witchcraft  
and communing with evil spirits.  
They were often  
burned at the stake  
with little proof of guilt.

- Communing?

Isn't that like an orgy?

- You know, I think that  
does mean 'orgy', yeah.

- People, please.

Can we just concentrate  
on folklore.

- Fuck-lore.

- Faith. Amy.

I'll see you both after class.

- Okay, girls, line up!

My name is Sissy Young  
and I'm your new coach.

Now I know the loss  
of Miss Hunt last year  
must have been very  
difficult for all of you  
and things will  
never be the same.

But I know that she wouldn't  
want you to live in past.

She would want you to train hard  
and play to the best  
of your abilities.

So, let's honor her memory  
and play every game  
this year to win.

I have two places  
available on the senior team  
for the match on Friday.

Let's see you play.

- Ah.

- Sorry.

Hey, comedians, cut it out.

- What's your name?

- Faith Maguire.

- Okay-

Let's go!

- That's not where your  
sani-pad goes, Faith.

- Can I have your attention,  
please?

I've made my decision for  
the senior team line-up  
for the game on Friday.

Caroline St John

and Jennifer Engels,

you will captain the team  
as usual.

- What a shame,  
the fifteen year old  
virgin didn't make it.

- Shut up, Caroline.

- I'm not finished, ladies.

I like to reward talent,  
so I'm pleased to announce  
the first place on the subs  
bench will go to Faith Maguire.

- You know Brian has  
a huge crush on you.

- Brian Kelly?

- He's cute.

- Well, you go out  
with him then.

- That's my plan.

- Are you gonna help me or what?

- Because I'm a mechanic now?

- Oh, fucking whatever.

Just come and help me.

Lift that up.

- Well done, Faith.

Best hockey player  
to never get a match.

- Oh, just piss off, will you?

- Congratulations  
on not making the team.

Virgins and retards  
tend not to fit in.

- Hey, no, no, no.  
- Alright, girls, that's enough.  
- Save it for the hockey field.  
Shake hands.  
Jennifer, Caroline, I'm sure  
you've got somewhere to be.  
- Come on, let's go.  
- We have another  
senior match on Friday.  
Will you play'?'  
- Love to.  
Come on.  
Hey.  
- Hey, Faith.  
- Where's dad?  
- He's just...  
' Dad?  
Have you taken your meds  
since this morning?  
- Thank you.  
I'm fine.  
I'm fine, come on.  
- Well we've got a hearse  
waiting outside, if you need it.  
- Very funny, smartass.  
Shouldn't you be learning stuff  
or something?  
- I have news.  
- Yeah?  
- Got put on the senior  
hockey team today.  
- That's amazing.  
- No fags.  
Come on, Dad, at least try  
and look after yourself,  
I'm worried about you.  
- Don't be,  
don't think about it.  
Think about your birthday.  
Let's have a party.  
- Bye.  
- See you.  
- She's always going on at me.  
- Hey, Faith.

Faith!

Hey.

- Hey, Brian.

" What's up?

I was looking for you  
after class.

- You were?

- Yeah, urn,

I was just wondering like,  
if you've got time or whatever,  
D'you wanna go see a film  
or get a pizza or something?

- I just don't think Amy  
would be very happy with that.

" So?

She's not...

My girlfriend.

- Yeah, but she's my friend  
and she likes you so, sorry.

- Cool, yeah.

- Sorry.

- No.

- That's my dad.

That's our house.

- Okay, cool.

- I am very flattered.

- Well, look,

if you change your mind  
I'll be standing right here.

Dad?

- You alright?

- Dad, are you okay?

- Dad, can you hear me?

Thanks, Brian.

- Alright.

See you.

- He is going to need a lot of  
care over the coming days.

Yeah, yeah, I know.

Took a bit of a dive there,  
didn't I?

- Hey, Dad.

How are you feeling?

- Yeah, fine.

Doctor Slater.

- Faith called me.

You're going to need  
to take some rest  
for the next few days.

I'll see you soon.

- Faith.

- Mm.

- They're calling me.

- What?

- I have to go.

' Dad?

Dad?!

Dad?

Dad?

- Save me.

- Remember you have a doctor's  
appointment this morning.

- I know.

- You are going?

- Yeah.

- Good.

Wish me luck for my big match.

- Break a leg.

Preferably not one of yours.

- Bye.

- This leukemia therapy  
was a long shot, Sean.

It was working.

The balance between  
the red and white cells  
had been restored.

- But not any more.

- I'm sorry.

- How long?

- Three months.

Probably less.

I can arrange counseling.

Sean.

- Good luck, Faith.

- Good luck, Faith.

- Jennifer. Faith!

Come here.

You're on the same



team today, okay?  
Alright, let's go.  
Kill, kill, kill...  
Orchard, Orchard, Orchard...  
- Faith?  
' Dad?  
- Hey-  
- Dad, why are you here?  
- I just thought I'd come  
and see you play.  
I am the boss,  
I can do that, you know.  
- What did Doctor Slater say?  
- You know, the usual stuff.  
- Faith.  
- Look,  
let's talk after. Okay?  
It's fine.  
- Come on, Faith.  
- Go on,  
you're holding the game up.  
Talk to you after.  
Okay?  
- Ah.  
- Hey, Ref, come on!  
- Faith?!  
- What the fuck, Faith?!  
- Claire, it's me.  
Is everything okay there?  
Yeah, I'm on my way.  
I've just got a bit of  
a thing with Faith.  
I'll see you soon.  
- Sorry.  
What did she say?  
Okay.  
- We're gonna fight it  
all the way.  
- Mm.  
- Faith.  
- Coach?  
- Are you okay?  
- It's, er, my dad.  
I thought he was better.

- I'd like to show you something.  
It might help.  
Come.  
- This is quite a house.  
- Hmm.  
It's been in the family a long time.  
This way.  
My great aunt.  
We were very close.  
Do you believe in magic, Faith?  
- I don't know.  
That's a very strange question.  
- It's a very strange world.  
Not all of it benign.  
Beautiful in its own way.  
- I can't believe this is under your house.  
- Hmm, I knew you'd like it.  
- I don't like it.  
What's it for?  
- It's a haven for people like me.  
At its heart is a Chamber where we're safe to practice our craft.  
Nothing can enter from heaven or hell unless we allow it.  
This place is a gift from the Lord of the Underworld.  
Here we serve him and we celebrate his glorious reign.  
And in return he rewards us with his dark powers.  
But he demands complete devotion, and if you defy that...  
He draws down his terrible rage.  
We're nearly here.  
There are forces in nature that people rarely see.

Some call it magic.

It is sacred and righteous.

- Fuck.

- These are nature's familiars.

They help us to reach  
from this realm to the other  
and use the power  
that lies there.

Watch.

You see?

Death is the beginning  
of everything.

- You can cure him?

- That's why I showed you.

- Will you?

- Power comes from desire.

How strong is your desire  
to save your father?

He's all I have.

Will you help me?

- I'd like something in return.

I want you to have  
a baby for me.

- What?

I, I'm fifteen. I...

- Well, think about it.

- What if I have this baby?

- I'll cure your father.

- And the baby?

What will happen to it?

- It'll be mine.

- And my dad, he'll be cured?

- Everything is connected.

Everything has to be  
tallied and paid for.

If you give,  
you will be given to.

Your father's going to die,  
and if you want to change  
the course of nature...  
you have to honor that cycle.

It's your choice.

- I have no choice.

- I've never done it.

Who would I do it with?

- Oh, come on, there's  
nice young men everywhere.  
You're young and beautiful.  
What's wrong with that?  
Your birthday's coming.  
That's the time.

- Hi.  
- Happy birthday.  
- Thank you.  
- It's good to see you.  
- Jeremy.  
- Happy birthday, Faith.  
- Thank you.  
- Many happy returns.  
- How are you?  
- Good.  
- How are you?  
- Very well.  
- I'll see you in there, okay?  
- Okay, darling, see you in there.  
- Jeremy, how are you?  
- Hello, how are you?  
- Hi, sweetheart.

Happy birthday.

- Thank you.

Champagne?

- Er, Sicilian lemonade.

Nice try.

There you go.

- Oh, thank you.  
- Hello.

Jennifer mentioned

it was your birthday.

I wanted to give you this.

- Oh.

Thanks.

- Save them for later.

I'm Sissy, by the way.

- Sean.

Nice to meet you properly.

- Small world.

- Yes, it is.

Ah, this is Jeremy.

- Jeremy, hello.  
- Sissy, nice to meet you.  
- Excuse me.  
So are you having fun?  
- Mm. Yep.  
You are a terrible liar.  
Terrible.  
Well, you'll be glad to know  
this isn't your real party.  
- Really?  
- Really.  
- Amy's gonna take it from here.  
- And Brian.  
- And Brian.  
- It's all been arranged.  
Go out and have a good night.  
- Love you.  
- And I'll see you later.  
- I love you.  
- Mm, yes.  
- Alright, happy birthday, sweetheart.  
- Bye.  
- See you.  
- Alright, bye.  
- Thank you.  
- Take care.  
- Oh, cheeky.  
- Where are we going?  
- Okay, watch your step,  
watch your step.  
Alright, alright,  
just through here.  
Two seconds.  
Okay.  
Are you ready?  
- Okay, are you ready?  
- Yes, yes, yes.  
- Are you ready?  
Are you sure?  
- Yes.  
- Happy birthday!  
- My humble abode.  
- Hey.  
- Hi.

- Are you alright?  
- Yeah.  
- It's nice out here, isn't it?  
Sorry, I'm way too good at  
ruining special moments.  
Unless, you know, you  
want me to keep talking.  
I can also do that  
'cause I got plenty to say.  
If that works for you,  
I don't know, maybe.  
Maybe not.  
- Hi, Brian.  
Having a good time?  
- Uh...  
- You bitch.  
Amy.  
- Sorry, I...  
- It's fine.  
Walk me home?  
- Yeah.  
- Shh.  
Quietly.  
Shh. Shh.  
It's nice.  
- Faith.  
- Oh God, Mrs. Fincher.  
- Sissy is here.  
- I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
Come amongst us now.  
Take our brother's hand.  
Though today he falls,  
tomorrow he will stand.  
- Faith!  
- Dad.  
No, no, no!  
- I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.

I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
- Dad.  
- Hey.  
- That's a lot of food.  
- Yeah.  
Feel a bit hung-over  
after the party.  
It's good I've got  
an appetite, though.  
You have fun?  
- Yeah, it was great.  
- Faith.  
You're sick.  
- Yeah.  
- That's good.  
Take this, pee on it.  
Tell me what it says.  
- Sean.  
What D'you think you're doing?  
- Changing a bulb.  
What's it look like?  
- Sean?  
Sean!  
- You're both part of this.  
That's fucked up.  
- If you say so.

- Well, you can give her this.

Tell her I'm pregnant.

- You should be happy,  
your dad is cured.

- Listen.

How can I be pregnant so soon?

- I know, right?

Where's the fun in that?

Amy.

Amy.

Amy, please, come on.

- I suppose you're  
looking for Brian?

I haven't seen him, so  
you should go fuck yourself.

- Hey, Claire.

What's up?

What?

You tricked me.

My dad is still sick.

He was taken to hospital today.

- Come in, Faith.

- I'm pregnant!

- Your father is cured,  
I promise you.

You have to trust me.

- I need the bathroom.

- It'll be over in six weeks.

- And then another  
seven months of...

- No, you're going to  
give birth soon, Faith.

- How is that possible?

- You'll see.

- What am I gonna tell my dad?

- Nothing.

For now.

Understand?

- He better be cured.

- Excuse me, can I just...

- Just one second, please.

- Faith.

- Dad.

- I'm alright.



- I'm alright, really.  
It's just some sort  
of dizzy spell.  
I did some blood tests  
and it's alright.  
Come on, let's get out of here.  
- You alright?  
- Faith, listen.  
There have been reports of a  
madman escaped from an asylum.  
He was last seen driving  
up the Orchard Road  
in an old red car.  
- You're a dick.  
- I've got news.  
The hospital just called.  
My last blood test shows  
no sign of leukemia.  
I'm in remission.  
- Hey, Faith, great  
news about your dad.  
- Yeah, it's incredible.  
Are you joining us?  
- No rest for the wicked.  
- Faith.  
Look who I bumped into.  
- Hey, Faith.  
- I'd like to make a toast.  
To life.  
It never fails to surprise us.  
Cheers.  
- Cheers.  
- Mm.  
- Sean.  
- Faith.  
Faith.  
I'm sorry.  
- Sit down.  
- I don't know what to say.  
I'm, I'm just feeling  
so good lately.  
- I'm pregnant, Dad.  
- Is this a joke?  
You wanna tell me about it?

- There's nothing to say.  
I'm pregnant, I just  
thought you should know.

- You're sixteen, Faith.  
Who's the boy?  
Are you gonna tell him?

- No.

- I'm recovering from  
a serious illness, Faith.  
What if it comes back?  
What if I die?

- That won't happen.

- You don't know that.

- I do.

- I need to think about this.

- You shouldn't have told him.

- You shouldn't have fucked him.

- You know, Sean is a,  
he's a wonderful man.  
Be heartbreaking if he  
were to get ill again,  
wouldn't it?

- And what D'you think would  
happen to the baby then?  
I'll do what I want.

- Alright, Faith.  
Have a look at this.

- It's Brian.

- Mm-hmm.

- You did this?

- When you two were together  
he was possessed  
by another being.  
Tends to be an  
overwhelming experience.  
The thing is he's gone.  
Sean was dead.  
For him to be alive again  
someone else had to die.  
It's the way it works.

- You said if I had a baby...

- I did, didn't I?

- But before you get  
too upset about it,

remember this is  
what you wanted.

Let's stick to the plan  
from now on, shall we?

- Hey, Faith.

Is everything okay?

- Well, no, not exactly.

- Can I help?

- Um, could you  
come over tonight?

I need to talk to you  
about something.

Okay, great.

Thanks.

He should be back soon.

Never strays too far from  
home on his day off.

D'you want some tea?

Thanks for coming over.

I wanted to ask you  
if dad and I went away,  
would you look after  
the restaurant?

Probably heard I'm...

- Yeah.

None of my business.

She's an obstetrician.

- Thanks.

- Is there someone...

- It's time to go now.

- I'm staying here, thanks.

- Are you threatening her?

You've no right to be here.

- It's unfortunate that  
you're here, Claire.

I want you to know  
that I'm truly sorry.

- No.

No, no!

No, no, no, no!

No!

Get off me!

- You're halfway  
through your term, Faith.

You need to sleep now.

- Dad.

Dad, wake up.

Dad.

Dad, please.

Please, wake up, please.

Dad, I have to go for help.

Okay?

I'll come back for you, I swear.

- Jeremy, downstairs.

That's not what I asked.

Jeremy, everything is ready.

I mean, every single  
thing is ready.

No, no.

That's not good enough.

You go back, you check  
everything and you come back  
and you tell me that  
everything is in place.  
Six weeks, six days, six hours.

We have to be ready.

She is very close and  
she is going to wake soon.

- Mrs. Fincher, can I go  
to the bathroom, please?

- Two minutes.

- Where the fuck have you  
been for three weeks?

And how come you're pregnant?

- Three weeks?

- How come you're pregnant?

And where's Brian?

- Amy, I'm in trouble.

- No kidding.

- Please.

- Faith, you're my friend.

Here, put this on.

How D'you know I was  
gonna be in detention?

- Smart guess.

- Shit.

- Fuck.

Amy.

Amy!  
- Come on.  
Go, go, go.  
- Amy, Amy, Amy.  
Get off the bike.  
No, get off!  
Go.  
- Amy, fuck!  
Fuck! Fuck.  
- Oh, Amy, the baby's coming.  
The baby's coming.  
I have to push.  
I have to push.  
[Ewing, groaning]  
- Okay.  
Lay down.  
Are you okay?  
- Water.  
Get me some water.  
- Water.  
- Water.  
- Damn.  
- Get me up, get me up,  
get me up.  
- Okay-  
It's alright.  
Give me your weight.  
- I need to push, I need to push.  
- Okay, okay, okay.  
- Take my pants off,  
take my pants off.  
- Okay, okay.  
Good girl, okay.  
I'm here.  
I'm here for you.  
I'm here, Faith.  
I'm here, Faith.  
Again, again, again.  
- Oh my God.  
Just keep pushing.  
- Keep pushing, Faith.  
- I can't.  
- Come on, keep pushing.  
Come on.

Hang on.

I need to get some stuff  
to look after you.

If I go to the shop,  
will you be okay?

- Thank you.

- It's nothing.

Be back soon.

- Faith?

Faith?!

Faith!

We had an agreement, Faith.

I cured your father,  
now you have to give me the baby.

If I kill him, it's for good.

Have it your way.

' Stop!

- Good girl.

Oh, Faith.

- Dad.

Dad, are you okay?

Did they hurt you?

Dad?

Dad, it's gonna be okay.

It's gonna be okay.

- Here is our future.

- Our key to the dark life.

- Get off.

- Dad. Dad.

Get up.

- His blood will set us free  
and bring the Underworld  
to our service.

Our time has almost come.

- Dad, are you okay?

Dad!

- We must make  
the final sacrifice.

- Jeremy, no!

Jeremy!

- Jeremy, what are you doing?

Jeremy, no!

- Oh, fuck!

- Get out.

- Dad... Dad...

- Faith.

She cheated us, Faith.

She cheated you and me.

And now she plans

to kill the child.

Don't let her do it.

I can enter the realm

but not the Chamber.

You can.

You can save him.

You must save him.

- Brothers and sisters,

tonight we end the journey.

When I came back among you,

you reached down to the world

beneath and drew up its power,

its familiars.

They served us

and we served their master.

I reject the good.

I reject the light.

I embrace the dark.

I embrace the night.

I bleed this body

to free ourselves

No more mortals, weak and cowed.

We will walk the night,

strong and proud.

Death is the beginning

of everything.

Death is the beginning

of everything.

Death is the beginning

of everything.

I embrace the dark.

I embrace the night.

I reject the good.

I reject the light.

I embrace the dark.

I embrace the night.

I reject the good.

I reject the light.

I embrace the dark.

I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
- We're gonna bleed you  
and your baby.  
You fucking bitch.  
- We gave him his child  
and now I sell myself.  
I will drink his child's blood  
and I will transform.  
I will become Queen  
of the Underworld.  
Join me, and let our  
bodies rot and die.  
And in the first rays  
of the coming day  
our new skin  
will change forever.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I reject the good.  
I reject the light.  
I embrace the dark.  
I embrace the night.  
I bleed this body of its life  
to free us of what  
we used to be.  
No more mortals, weak and cowed.  
We will walk the night,  
strong and proud.  
- Death...  
- is the beginning  
- Death...  
- is the beginning.



- Death...  
- is the beginning.  
- Death...  
- is the beginning.  
- Death...  
- is the beginning.  
- Death...  
- is the beginning.  
- Death...  
- is the beginning.  
- of everything.  
- Bleed, bleed, bleed, bleed...  
- No! No!

No!

- Why aren't you dead?  
Are you stealing my property?  
- How could you kill a baby?  
- The child's blood is imbued  
with the power  
of the Underworld.  
When the sun rises,  
the process will be complete.  
We will renew, and the day  
and the night will be ours.  
We will be the greatest  
of witches.  
Unrivaled.  
Immortal.  
The child's remains must stay  
inside the Cherry Tree.  
Give it... back!  
Stop her!

- Faith.

Faith.

You have to return  
to the Chamber.  
You can save him.

Faith.

You cannot save the child  
without the fruit  
of the Cherry Tree.  
You have to return

to the Chamber  
and face the witch.

- Faith.

I knew you'd come back to me.

- You can't leave here, Sissy.

He's out there...

waiting.

- I know you're afraid, Faith,  
but we did this together.

You asked me to cure  
your father and I did.

If you had obeyed me,  
things would be so  
much better for you.

They still can be.

Talk to him.

- Why would I do that?

- You have everything to gain.

I admit I...

misjudged things.

But I've come to...

I've come to truly admire you.

Together...

we could do anything.

We could have everything.

He's withdrawing

the gift of my familiars.

You can stop him.

- You've taken away  
everything I've ever loved.

I'm just taking it back.

Enjoy Hell.

- Come on, let's call here.

- But it's haunted, remember?

That's why we've got to, right?

Come on, it'll be cool.

- Trick or treat.

- Wow.

Don't you all look so scary.

Would anybody like a carrot?

No? Well, maybe I have  
something else inside.

I'll have a look.

Who's that?

- That's Sally.

She's too scared to come in.

- Well, that's a shame, Sally,  
'cause I'm all out of carrots  
but I do have some chocolate.

Here, try some.

It's homemade.

Cherry flavor.

- Are you a witch?

- No.

But my son is the Devil.