

People gather all around. Dad clears his voice and looks down to the casket in front of him.

DAD

Laura was a daughter, a wife, a sister, an auntie, a friend and the most amazing mother. Laura was a light shining bright in all of our lives. She always had a smile on her face. Laura...

Brynn's head is slumped down, she holds her father's hand as he speaks, but the words he's saying start to sound like muted gibberish in the background.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Brynn and her Mom are crouched down by a blueberry bush, both wearing hats to escape the hot sun. They pick blueberries one by one and place them in a basket.

MOM

They are the juiciest and most delicious on a hot day like today.

Brynn looks up at her Mom, face and fingers stained blue.

Mom breaks into laughter and Brynn jump attacks her with a hug, they fall back into the grass together, laughing.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Brynn's day dreams abruptly end when her father grabs her by the hand to lead her away from the front of the casket to a car waiting nearby.

BRYNN

What happened to Mom?

DAD

She's gone now Brynn.

BRYNN

No, we need to keep looking for her.

DAD

She's really gone Brynn, there's no point in searching.

Brynn pulls her Dad's hand back toward the casket.

BRYNN

Show me!

DAD

Not happening, let's go.

Dad tugs back on Brynn's hand as she drags behind him looking back toward the casket the entire time.

The two get into the car and the funeral procession drives away.

EXT. BRYNN'S HOUSE - DAY

PEOPLE cycle in and out of the house, carrying food and offering condolences in a small line up to Brynn and her father.

TONY

Brad, Brynn.. I'm so sorry about
Laura.

(under their breath)

So sorry about Brynn too.

DAD

Thank you.

Brynn seems to be the only person who heard the second comment, her eyes wide. The next person comes up to them. Brynn is exhausted.

TINA

So sorry about your loss, folks.

(under their breath)

If it wasn't for Brynn.

DAD

Thank you.

Again Brynn seems like the only one who has heard this secondary comment, her eyes even wider now, fearful.

The rest of the people in the room seem to have their eyes on Brynn, secretly saying things to one another that she knows are about her and can hear loud and clear.

SAM

What a bad kid, how could she do
that to her mother?

ADULT #4

Laura didn't deserve this.

The words coming out of the characters mouths, hitting Brynn like giant marshmallows.

Brynn moves to the edge of the room, the marshmallows of words following her there, where she crouches in the corner, crying, hoping it will stop.

TONY

You know it was Brynn who started
the fire?

TINA

Someone needs to control this
child.

Brynn puts her hands over her ears and continues crying, looking around her. All the people gather around her, they stand tall and strong compared to tiny her crouched on the floor.

It's too much to handle. Brynn jumps up higher than all the people around her, spreads her arms wide and runs off out the front door.

EXT. BACKYARD/FOREST - DAY

Brynn runs through the grass to the perimeter of trees lining the yard. She is looking for comfort, for warmth. She shakes her head.

BRYNN

That was weird!

She finds the blueberry bush that her Mom and her used to pick blueberries from and she crouches down, tears still rolling down her cheeks.

Brynn wipes her tears away.

She takes a blueberry and puts it in her mouth. Then another and another, until her mouth is filled with blueberries. Cheeks bulging like a chipmunk.

She lays back into the grass as she chews the blueberries.

BRYNN (CONT'D)

Yum!

Brynn's head falls to the side and she looks at the plants from ground level. They all seem to be moving slightly, quietly, softly. Then she notices something else.

A GLOWING LEAF -- stuck behind the blueberry bush. She crawls over to look at it and once she pushes the blueberry bush aside she notices that there is a whole GLOWING PLANT.

BRYNN (CONT'D)
OOOOOOOOOO, so pretty!

Still on her hands and knees she crawls further into the forest entrance, discovering more glowing plants scattered between the regular ones. It draws her further into the forest.

Deeper in the forest than she has ever been, she is now surrounded by tall trees, plants covering the forest floor. Glowing plants still very present.

Brynn inspects each of them and takes samples for her scientific research. Placing them in her pocket.

There is some rustling in the bushes in front of her that refocuses her attention to that spot, she sees the plants moving then she sees a tail poke out from behind a tree, and another and another.

The tails are all deep red with white covering the tips. RUBY slowly pops his head out of the bush, standing tall on all fours, he looks like a mix between a fox and a coyote with three tails trailing behind him.

Brynn falls onto her back as she sees him approaching her.

BRYNN (CONT'D)
Hi, who, who are you?
(a beat as he moves
closer)
Get away!

Brynn stands up with her arms out in front of her.

The mystical creature with three tails continues to approach her. He walks right up to Brynn with no hesitation and rubs his face against hers like a cat showing affection.

RUBY
I'm Ruby, I'm not here to hurt you,
please follow me!

BRYNN
I can't. But you're so pretty!

Brynn breathes out each word fearfully. Ruby walks swiftly around Brynn in a circle as she speaks.

His tails softly brushing Brynn's body and tickling her, she can't help but laugh.

Ruby runs off behind a tree and pokes his head out to the side to look at Brynn.

RUBY

C'mon!

He disappears behind the tree again, the plants rustle on the ground and then Brynn sees his head poke out from behind another tree even further into the forest.

Brynn laughs.

BRYNN

Where are youuuuuuu?

Brynn runs to the tree she saw him at but when she arrives she sees his head poke out from behind another tree.

Brynn gets very involved in the game and follows Ruby further and further into the dark forest.

She stops as she notices the magical glow of the plants around her, the trees a vivid bright green with purple trunks taller than the eye can see, the dim sparkle that passes through the air, the swaying flowers and weeds, the warm buzzing of life all around her.

RUBY

Have you been here before?

BRYNN

No, what is this place?

RUBY

Welcome to the Forest of Dreams. It is beyond anything you could have imagined.

Brynn's eyes widen.

RUBY (CONT'D)

It is a place where the lost are found and dreams come true.

BRYNN

My mom is lost, do you think she is here?

RUBY

We can't be sure until we try our best to find out, right?